

Who is Ada Hayden

Personal Life: 1884 to 1950

Ada Hayden was born on a farm about two miles north of Ames on August 14, 1884 in the general vicinity of Top-O-Hollow and Hoover Avenue. Hayden's parents owned part of the land that is currently known as the Ames Quarry. The entire area was her childhood "playground". Hayden used her family prairies as the reconstructed site will be used in 2003 and beyond:

"Her interest in wildlife was in harmony with that of her parents who maintained on their farm several acres of virgin prairie for the sake of preserving the native flora. During her youth and most of her college days, this area was an outdoor laboratory for her classes in systematic botany, ecology, and other college courses which she taught."

(Quotation from JOHN N. MARTIN, Ada Hayden 1884-1950).

Education:

1904 -- Ames High School Graduate

1908 -- Iowa State College graduate -- Bachelor of Science degree in Botany

1910 -- Washington University (St. Louis) graduate -- Master of Science degree

1918 -- Iowa State College Graduate -- Doctor of Philosophy degree

First woman to receive a Ph.D. (and only the 4th of either gender) from Iowa State College.



Professional Life/Accomplishments

- 1910 to 1918 -- Instructor of Botany, Iowa State College
- 1919 -- Proposed setting aside prairie areas as preserves
- 1919 to 1950 -- Assistant Professor in Botany and Plant Pathology, Iowa State
- 1919 to 1950 -- Studied and inventoried native prairies throughout Iowa
- 1934 -- Hayden was appointed Research Assistant Professor on the Agricultural Experiment Station. (This appointment took her to the lake regions of Iowa to study the vegetation of lakes, marshes, and border areas in relation to the feeding and nesting of wild waterfowl and shore birds.)
- Hayden completed considerable research and published numerous papers. (Her special studies and teaching experience had made her familiar with the classification, structure, and habits of practically all groups of plants.)
- Authored or co-authored of 20 publications on Iowa's plants and ecology.
- By 1944 she had surveyed the best remaining prairies in Iowa and proposed 22 for purchase by the State
- 1947 -- Named Curator of the ISU Herbarium. (A herbarium is a plant library that contains dried and pressed plants.)
- During her time at ISU she added more than 40,000 specimens to the Herbarium.
- 1967 -- Inducted into the Iowa Conservation Hall of Fame.
- 1988 -- The Herbarium was named the "Ada Hayden Herbarium" in her honor.
- The Department of Natural Resources State Preserve System traces its legacy to her efforts.
- Hayden was instrumental in having 26 native prairie areas formally preserved by the State of Iowa.