

The Baldwin Sisters

Greenfield, Hancock County

Margaret Baldwin was born in 1876; Vernie Baldwin was born in 1879; and Nelle (Nellie) Baldwin was born in 1882. They were three very active women in the Greenfield educational community. Vernie ran the library, Margaret was the principal of the grade school and Nellie was a teacher.

During the 1930's they were known as the 'Brain Trust' of Greenfield. Vernie promoted many library programs that expanded the literary circles of Greenfield to the point that almost every woman of the time was in a literary club. She also worked with Andrew Carnegie to bring a Carnegie Library Building to Greenfield. Prior to the completion, the library was located in the high school. Margaret became known as one of the first women to lead a school in the county's history.

Nellie was the adventurer of the group. She is one who volunteered for WWI along with the guys, although not in the Army. She served in the Red Cross in Paris and on the front lines and later returned to Greenfield to instruct generations of students in classical studies of Latin particulars. Nellie's Red Cross dress that she wore can be viewed in the Hancock County Historical Society Museum. Each summer Nellie would travel abroad and would write of her adventures which would be published in the Greenfield Reporter Newspaper.

Margaret passed away on February 27, 1955. Nellie passed away on June 19, 1962. Vernie passed away on December 11, 1970.

This profile was written by Joe Skvarenina, Hancock County historian.

References will be published at the end of Women's History Month.



As a Business Aid

Many persons visit the Greenfield library to obtain advice on decorating, operating or managing a business. Here head librarian Miss Vernie Baldwin assists Mrs.

David Fisher and son Stevie in locating material on the preparation and care of an aquarium which they plan to use as an attraction in their restaurant. The Reporter Photo, John Foster.

Photo Courtesy: Hancock County Historian

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