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## Founder of W.C.T.U.

Georgia Hopley

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## FOUNDER OF W. C. T. U.

***Mrs. Mattie McClellan Brown, of Cincinnati, held that Distinction--The First Convention was Held in Columbus at Her Call in 1874.***

[From Ohio State Journal, March 15, 1898.]

Mrs. Mattie McClellan Brown, of Cincinnati, has come into prominence as the founder and originator of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The opinion has prevailed that Frances Willard was entitled to this honor, and at her death the press reiterated the statement. Investigation proves the idea Mrs. Brown's. The plans of the work as prepared by her were adopted subsequently and copyrighted.

Miss Willard always accorded to Mrs. Brown the honor of being the founder of the organization. At the national meeting at Cleveland four years ago, and at Baltimore the following year, Miss Willard in her gracious way introduced Mrs. Mattie McClellan Brown to the convention as the originator and founder of the organization.

Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens, Miss Willard's successor as vice-president at large, learning of the statement accrediting the founding of the organization to Mrs. Brown, sent out a prompt, sharp denial, with rather disparaging remarks concerning Mrs. Brown.

Investigation and research among the minutes of the organization and printed matter in newspapers and magazines, reveals the fact that the

### FIRST CONVENTION

was held at Columbus, Feb. 24-5, 1874. Mrs. Brown made all the arrangements for a popular convention. She secured the City hall for two evening meetings and the Town Street M. E. church, now the Public School library building, for the day meetings. She also secured a hearing before the joint committee of the house and senate on the subject of temperance.

Dr. Dio Lewis was anxious to join in a call for a convention. Mrs. Brown advised him to call the new workers, and she would call the Templars of whom she was then state chief. A state league was organized with Mrs. C. H. McCabe of Delaware as president. The new work had not yet reached any great city.

History incorrectly gives the convention later in March held at Cincinnati, as the first convention. In August, 1874, Mrs. Brown crystalized the movement into a national organization at the first Chautauqua assembly. In company with Mrs. Simpson, wife of Bishop Simpson, and supported by Mr. Lewis Miller, she overcame the opposition of the manager, Dr. Vincent (now Bishop) and secured a temperance

meeting for women. At this meeting she made the speech of the hour, moved the appointment of a committee on organization, and named a chairman to avoid parliamentary

#### APPOINTMENT OF HERSELF.

She realized she was on the crossroads of public sentiment as a woman suffragist, and many then timid temperance women feared her leadership.

The committee appointed at this time was Mrs. Jennie Willing, sister of Bishop Fowler, chairman; Mrs. W. B. Ingham, of Cleveland and Mrs. Emily Huntington Miller, of Chicago. Only these met in committee at Chautauqua with Mrs. Brown.

Mrs. Brown had previously prepared the plan of organization, which was adopted, including the financial plan, which has been attributed to another. The plan was copyrighted, and there the proof, if necessary, may be found, dated Jan 12, 1875.

By personal correspondence with temperance people throughout the United States, Mrs. Brown secured a large attendance at the first national convention of the W. C. T. U., held at Cleveland in November, 1874, having a wide acquaintance through national Templary, as she was at that time an international officer. For the same reason she

#### DECLINED THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

of the National W. C. T. U., and has never at any time held an office.

It was at this convention that Miss Willard first became identified with the work and was elected secretary, with Mrs. Annie Wittenmeyer president.

Following the national convention at Cleveland, Mrs. Brown inaugurated municipal campaigns for better local conditions. She sent speakers into the field, one of whom was Mother Stewart of Springfield.

Mrs. Brown is also the author of the movement which secured Bible lessons for temperance on the International lesson leaves; the author of the temperance questions in the Methodist Episcopal church discipline for quarterly conference, and originator of the Temperance Cadet movement for children.

Mrs. Brown has never been anxious for prominence. She never cares who carries out the plans suggested by her, or who is credited with the work. The copyrights were obtained only as historical data.

The following are the first officers: President, Mrs. H. C. McCabe of Delaware; secretary, Miss Kate Gardner of Columbus; vice presidents, Eliza J. Thompson (Mother Thompson), Hillsboro; Mrs. Rosa Stewart, Cedarville; Mrs. M. G. Carpenter, Washington, C. H.; Mrs. Amanda Clark, Newark;

Miss Kate Dwyre, Greenfield; Mrs. Rev. Wyant, Mt. Vernon; Mrs. Rev. Dr. Hatfield, Cincinnati; Mrs. Maria Harrison, London; Mrs. John Walker, Logan; Mother Stewart, Springfield; Mrs. Runyan, wife of Rev. Mr. Runyan; Mrs. Z. T. Walker, Marietta; Mrs. Thomas Ewing, Lancaster; Mrs. Granville Moody, Ripley; Miss Kate Shallerars, Gallipolis; Miss Virginia Copeland, Zanesville; Mrs. Shurr, Bellefontaine; Mrs. L. C. Allen, Tiffin; Mrs. E. C. McVilley, Mrs. Mayo, wife of Judge Mayo, McArthur; Miss Rebecca Rice (professor at Antioch college) Yellow Springs; Mrs. Joseph Choakey, Middletown; Mrs. Henrietta Moore, Marion; Mrs. Wm. Jones, Findlay; Mrs. David Spangler, Mrs. Brown, Athens; Mrs. Hortensia Beeman, New Lexington; Miss Maggie Beatie, Ashland; Mrs. A. W. Swapel, Dayton, and Mrs. William Herr.

Advisory committee, Mr. A. A. Stewart, Hon. Chauncey N. Olds, Hon. E. E. White, all of Columbus, Executive committee, Mrs. Maria Bates, Mrs. R. A. S. Janney, Mrs. A. E. Tremaine, Mrs. L. Deselm and Mrs. John Galloway of Columbus.

Mr. W. E. Cadwick offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

“Resolved, That this association shall be called the Woman’s Temperance Association of Ohio.”

#### MRS. BROWN’S CAREER.

Mrs. Mattie McClellan Brown, born at Baltimore, wife of Rev. W. K. Brown, D. D., is the mother of six children, five married, all vigorous, active, intelligent workers in educational, literary, Christian and social engagements. These are her trophies of love and life; all else is contingent and gratuitous for humanity’s sake. Graduated from a Pennsylvania college, her scholarship and powers were recognized by two unusual literary degrees from Pennsylvania colleges in 1882 and 1883—Ph. D. and LL. D.—being the second woman who was honored with the latter title.

By the earnest solicitation of a committee of gentlemen in Greensburg, Pa., she was introduced to the public as a lecturer on national topics in Music hall, Philadelphia, in the winter of 1864.

Identified with Good Templary, her platform work for temperance was unique for six or seven years, being the only woman on the public platform in Ohio, and being called abroad and in extensive council. She was chief of the order for two terms and in the executive board for seventeen years, during which time she lectured in the principal cities of nineteen states. Her official duties, correspondence, decisions, plans of work and bureau of propagation were methodical, masterly, far-reaching.

From 1868 to 1876 she was

## EDITOR OF A WEEKLY

political paper in Alliance, O., and everywhere by her presence, her speeches, her conversations and her pen she held woman's equal position in professional and business life, against the fiercest opposition, by a spirit of quiet womanliness always superior to malice.

In the spring of 1869 Mrs. Brown agreed to go into the organization of the Prohibition party movement on the condition that it should stand for woman's full suffrage. She held her equal position in every respect, speaking, writing, presiding, serving as secretary in great conventions, calling and managing great conventions, in everything promoting that party until 1896 at Pittsburg, when the party adopted the single plank, and Mrs. Brown stepped out of the organization.

Long identified with collegiate educational work in Cincinnati, her stimulating influence is felt by hundreds of women whom she inspires rather to think for themselves than to build around her personality. She is

### WIDELY SOUGHT FOR ADVICE

and plans in philanthropic enterprises. Without the least disparaging men, she is a devoted lover of women and their work. A very ready platform talker on all current questions, a charming lecturer on art, literary topics and travels, and a philosophic thinker and pleasing writer, in fact a noble, cultured, classical all-round woman, "whose glory of life is to love and triumph of love is to live." Few reformers have witnessed such a tide of results for their cause as 30 years have brought about in Mrs. Brown's special fields—woman's education and advancement, and the general acceptance of temperance principles.

In 1873, she represented the Good Templars of Ohio at the London convention. While in England she lectured in many of the cities of the provinces. The Glasgow, Liverpool, Edinburgh and London papers spoke of her in flattering terms. A year ago last summer she was a delegate from the Prohibition party to the international convention to Berne, Switzerland, where her speech was published in the German reports. She has been invited to go to England next summer and deliver a course of lectures.

She is vice president of the Cincinnati Wesleyan college, dean of the School of Art, and teacher of criticism of art, literature and oratory. A happy wife, a devoted mother an unswerving friend to humanity.

GEORGIA HOPLEY.