

Alice M. Alt Pickler

Born: November 1848, Iowa City, Iowa

Died: March 1932, Mission TX (while visiting daughter Dale)

John Alfred Pickler

Born: January 1844, Salem, Indiana

Died: June 1910, Faulkton SD

John served as a soldier in the Civil War with the Third Iowa Cavalry. John and Alice got married in 1870. Alice went to university in Iowa and trained as a teacher. John went to law school in Michigan. In 1883, John and Alice homesteaded in Dakota Territory near Faulkton.

Alice was a steady leader of the suffrage movement for decades. By 1885, she led the franchise department of the Dakota Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.). She advocated for suffrage at the legislature and the convention that was writing a new state constitution. At the 1885 legislature in Bismarck, Representative John Pickler introduced and worked for a bill for equal suffrage. It passed both houses but was vetoed by the governor. He was cheered on by suffragists but was mocked in some newspapers.

When a suffrage amendment was put on the 1890 ballot, Alice helped found the S.D. Equal Suffrage Association (E.S.A.). She continued to promote suffrage from Washington D.C. when John was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Alice gave speeches at state fairs and Chautauqua events, did advocacy work at the state legislature, and helped collect petition signatures for suffrage. She also attended and spoke at many national suffrage conventions from 1885 to 1909. She was president of the S.D.E.S.A. from 1900 to 1909. In 1912-1914, she was vice-president of the new S.D. Universal Franchise League. She kept promoting suffrage through the W.C.T.U. too.

Alice and John were also active in the Civil War veterans' organizations, the Grand Army of the Republic and the Women's Relief Corps. Alice held many state leadership offices and was national chaplain in 1896.

Alice Pickler & John Pickler

Based on photos in C.H. Ellis: History of Faulk County (1909)



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