Clara Colby

Clara Colby was born on August 5, 1846 in Gloucester, England. She and her family immigrated to Wisconsin in 1854. In 1869, although initially denied the right to graduate, Colby was valedictorian of her class at the University of Wisconsin where she was hired on as an instructor the same year. However, left the school after receiving pay unequal to that of her male colleagues. In 1872, she married her husband, Leonard, and the couple moved to Beatrice, Nebraska. In 1878, she invited Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony to Beatrice and began touring as a national woman’s suffrage speaker herself. Colby helped to organize the Woman’s State Suffrage Association in Nebraska and served as its president from 1885 to 1898. In 1883, she created the Woman’s Tribune, the first women’s daily newspaper to be edited and published by a woman. The publication served as the official journal of the National Women’s Suffrage Association between 1886 and 1889. However, the newspaper ended publication in 1909 due to lack of funds. She died on September 7, 1916 in Palo Alto, California. She did not live to see the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment granting universal suffrage.

Primary Source

*The Ballot and Bullet Theory* by Clara Colby

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