Pima Past: Anna Moore Shaw, A Life Dedicated to Social Justice and Women's Empowerment



A Pima Past by Anna Moore Shaw

★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5

Language : English



File size : 9406 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 262 pages



Anna Moore Shaw was a trailblazing American suffragist, minister, and social reformer. She dedicated her life to fighting for women's rights and social justice, leaving an enduring mark on the nation's history.

Early Life and Education

Anna Howard Shaw was born on February 14, 1847, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. Her family immigrated to the United States when she was two years old, settling in Big Rapids, Michigan. Shaw's early life was marked by poverty and hardship. Despite these challenges, she exhibited a strong determination and a thirst for knowledge from a young age.

Shaw attended Albion College in Michigan, where she excelled in her studies and became an active member of the school's literary and debating societies. After graduating in 1875, she taught school for several years before deciding to pursue a career in ministry.

Ministry and Social Activism

In 1878, Shaw enrolled at Boston University School of Theology, becoming one of the first women to study for the Methodist ministry. After graduating in 1881, she was ordained as a minister and began her lifelong journey of social activism.

Shaw quickly emerged as a powerful voice for women's rights. She joined the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and became a leading advocate for Prohibition, believing that alcohol abuse was a major obstacle to women's freedom and well-being.

In 1889, Shaw joined the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), becoming one of its most prominent leaders. She traveled extensively, giving speeches and organizing rallies to demand the right to vote for women. Shaw's charismatic personality and passionate oratory inspired countless women and men to join the suffrage movement.

Presidency of NAWSA

In 1904, Shaw was elected president of NAWSA, a position she held for seven years. Under her leadership, the organization grew significantly and became a major force in the fight for women's suffrage. Shaw worked tirelessly to build alliances with other organizations and individuals, including labor leaders and politicians.

Shaw's presidency was marked by major victories for the suffrage movement. In 1910, Washington became the first state to grant women the right to vote in presidential elections. By 1913, nine states had extended suffrage to women. These victories paved the way for the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which granted women the right to vote nationwide.

Later Years and Legacy

After stepping down as president of NAWSA, Shaw continued her work for social justice. She remained an active advocate for women's rights, peace,

and social welfare. Shaw also served as the president of the National Council of Women from 1910 to 1912.

Anna Moore Shaw passed away on July 2, 1919, at the age of 72. Her legacy as a pioneering suffragist, minister, and social reformer continues to inspire generations of activists and advocates. She is remembered for her unwavering dedication to women's empowerment and her tireless efforts to create a more just and equitable society.

Pima College Connection

Anna Moore Shaw has a special connection to Pima College. In 1905, she delivered a lecture at the college, then known as Manual Training and Commercial High School. Her visit was part of a nationwide speaking tour to promote women's suffrage. Shaw's lecture inspired many students and helped raise awareness about the importance of women's rights.

In honor of her contributions and connection to Pima College, the college established the Anna Moore Shaw Scholarship in 1981. The scholarship is awarded annually to a female student who demonstrates academic excellence and a commitment to social justice. The scholarship helps to support the education of future leaders who are dedicated to making a positive impact on the world.

Anna Moore Shaw was an extraordinary woman who dedicated her life to fighting for social justice and women's empowerment. Her tireless efforts and unwavering dedication left a lasting impact on the nation. She is an inspiration to all who believe in the power of activism and the importance of working towards a more just and equitable world.



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