



2024 LEGISLATIVE MOMENTS

KENTUCKY'S OLD STATE CAPITOL

Pauline Helm Hardin

To manage the library at the Old State Capitol, the Kentucky Legislature selected a state librarian to oversee the collection.

In 1898, the state-appointed Pauline Helm Hardin. The daughter of Mordecai Robert Hardin, a judge on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, Hardin proved a popular selection. She would eventually win two more terms in what had become an increasingly partisan environment in Frankfort.

Hardin created several catalogs of the library collection. After winning her third term, Hardin married Solomon Lee Van Meter in 1904. How the two met is unknown, but Van Meter had recently served a single term in Frankfort as a representative from **Lexington**.

Hardin was the sixth woman to hold the position of state librarian.



Pauline Helm Hardin Van Meter, Kentucky Historical Society; Graphic 2_FB73_FF058

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