



*Leona Dix Wilbur*

## *Dakota Images*

Leona Adelaide Dix was born in 1865 in Baraboo, Wisconsin. She came to Dakota Territory with her parents in 1870, settling in Hutchinson County, where they lived in a dugout until 1872, when they moved to Yankton. The family lived in Yankton until 1880. Then they moved to Mitchell and operated a hotel at their residence until 1903 when they moved to Aberdeen.

Dix was probably, if not the first, one of the first women to practice dentistry in Dakota Territory. She and two of her brothers received most of their dental training from their father, who was also a dentist. She began the practice of dentistry in Yankton in 1883 and practiced there and in Mitchell for twenty years with her father. Their advertisements were entitled George P. Dix and Daughter, Dentists, and included very reasonable price lists. Extracting one tooth cost twenty-five cents and cleaning was fifty cents. A full set of "best" teeth cost eight dollars and gold fillings were one dollar. A written guarantee came with all work. She moved to Aberdeen in 1903 and practiced there until she married. Her office was equipped with the most modern appliances including electricity-for running all machinery.

On 25 February 1914 Dix married Henry Wilbur. She cared for her grandmother and her father in her home all the remaining years of their lives. She was also active in the Womans' Relief Corps, the Townsend Club, and the Congregational church. After the death of her husband, she set up a dentist office in her home, but as she grew older, she had to give up her practice.

After spending most of her last three years in the hospital, she died on 16 December 1950 at the age of eighty-five. She was buried in Mitchell.

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