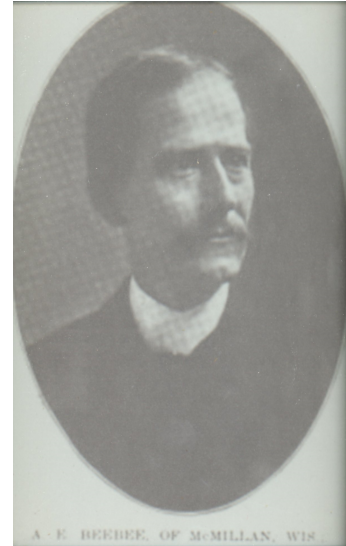


Amander E. Beebee
Nominated by Natalie Kruse

The Legacy left by Marshfield resident Amander Beebee may not be known to many of this community. The term legacy in its most literal definition means an amount of money or property left to someone in a will. And that is exactly what Amander did with his will when he passed. But his generous contributions to the people and city of Marshfield still reverberate today.

This phrase in the musical *Hamilton* says this about the term legacy, “*Legacy, what is a legacy? It’s planting seeds in a garden you never get to see.*” Mr. Amander Beebee planted seeds in the garden of Marshfield many years ago knowing he would never see the fruits of his labor, but he was assured in his belief that his gift would take root; especially in the children of our community for generations to come.



Amander Beebee was born on a farm at Constable, New York on April 13, 1864. He received a B.A. from Dartmouth College in 1890, then moved to Wisconsin and settled just north of Marshfield. Soon after coming to Wisconsin, he joined his brother-in-law, B. F. McMillan, as manager in a successful lumber business, McMillan Enterprises, which was a leading lumber firm in the state. Mr. Beebee also served as a member of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors, a post he held for more than thirty years. He was also village treasurer for the village of McMillan for thirty-four years.

Mr. Beebee and his wife moved to a house in Marshfield in 1925 when he retired. He was characterized by his associates as an avid reader and a quiet, unassuming man who was hardly known to many of the local citizens of his day. The Beebee home, located at Second and Cherry Avenue, was in close proximity to the Marshfield Public Library, which at the time was located at the old City Hall building. As an educated man who loved books and learning, Amander was a frequent patron of the library. Mr. Beebee recognized the overcrowded conditions and inadequate space of the facility as the library continued to grow in materials and patronage each year.

Throughout the years, Amander donated over one thousand volumes to the Marshfield library from his personal collection. In addition to his generous contributions to the library, he also established an annual scholarship for seniors at Marshfield High School who had shown the greatest academic progress their Junior year.

When Mr. Beebee died on March 26, 1939, he left his entire estate in trust to the Marshfield Free Library Board to be used for library purposes, with the understanding that his wife, Cynthia, and his niece, Christine Beebee, would receive income from that fund during their lifetimes. Upon the death of both his wife and niece, the trust fund became the property of the library board.

That trust fund made possible the new library building which opened to the public in its new location on April 18, 1960. The formal opening of the Marshfield Free Library was Sunday, July 17, 1960. The library was located on the north side of East 2nd Street between Maple and Cedar Avenues and was a contemporary style, one story structure with a full basement. The gathering space in the basement was named for Mr. Beebee and was large enough to seat two hundred people. Because of Mr. Beebee's thoughtfulness and generosity, the residents of Marshfield have benefited throughout the years by having a vibrant, continually growing library presence in the community.

It has been said of Mr. Beebee that even though he had no children of his own, he gave his money where it would be the greatest benefit to the future generations of children in the community. He truly left a legacy that continues to enrich our community to this day. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his foresight. Truly the best kind of legacy; one that continues to live on not just in the physical sense of a building, but planting the seeds of education, opportunity and literacy for future generations.