

Julia Annette Elizabeth Dafoe

Loyalist forebears:

- **John Ernst Dafoe, Daniel Dafoe** of Hossick, Rensselaer, New York Province

Elizabeth Dafoe was born in Montreal in 1900 to John W. Dafoe and Alice Parmalee. In 1901 the family moved to Winnipeg where John W. Dafoe became Editor-in-Chief of The Winnipeg Free Press.

Miss Dafoe obtained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Manitoba in 1923. She studied Library Science at the Library School of the New York Public Library, now part of Columbia University, and at the Graduate school of the University of Chicago.

She joined the library staff at the University of Manitoba in 1925 and in 1937 was appointed Chief Librarian, a post she held until her death.

Miss Dafoe was a tireless champion of public libraries and served on the National Advisory Board and the Manitoba Library Advisory Board. She was a founding member of the Manitoba Library Association.

She stressed the importance of rigorous collections management and was a guest lecturer on Library Science at the University of Toronto.

Miss Dafoe promoted the concept of a "National Library" and helped define the mandate of the Library and Archives of Canada.

Elizabeth Dafoe died on the 25th of April, 1960 and is buried in the family plot in Elmwood Cemetery, Winnipeg.

The main library at the University of Manitoba was renamed the Elizabeth Dafoe Library in recognition of her contribution to its development.

Sources:

- The Library and Archives of Canada
- The Manitoba Historical Society Website: "Memorable Manitobans"
- The Winnipeg Free Press, April 1960, "Miss Elizabeth Dafoe, University Librarian, dies" The Winnipeg Free Press, "Obituary", April 21h, 1960

Mary F. Steinhoff, Secretary, Manitoba Branch UELAC