

March 16, 1992

Tim Siebert
Portage County Historical Soc.
PO Box 672
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Dear Tim:

Following is a short biography of Margaret Elizabeth Ashmun (sometimes misspelled as Ashman).

Born July 10, 1875 in village of Rural, Waupaca County. She attended grade school in Rural, High School in Waupaca and completed the two-year program at Stevens Point Normal School (now UW-SP). Ms Ashmun taught at Marshfield before continuing her education at UW Madison. After getting her BA she taught high school one year at Helena, Montana, then returned to Madison where she taught at the University while working on her Masters. In 1912 she went to New York to pursue serious literary work.

Margaret Ashmun wrote several textbooks, many short stories and verse which appeared in magazines. She authored six children's books, the Isabel Carlton series for teenage girls and four adult novels. A best-selling author of her day, Miss Ashmun wrote mostly about rural and small town life. A Margaret Ashmun Literary Club was founded at the Stevens Point college in 1923 and continued until about 1932. Miss Ashmun never married but did adopt a small girl in the early thirties. The little girl died in 1937 and Margaret died in 1940. Both are buried in Forest Cemetery, Stevens Point.

Use as much or as little as you wish of the above. If you need more information let me know. I'm really looking forward to the discussion evening.

Please give me directions to the school where this event is to take place. I'm not well acquainted with the city so a map would be beneficial. Thanks.

Donna Rickel

