

## **Cobb, Beatrice** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Cobb, Beatrice**

By T. Harry Gatton, 1979

**13 Nov. 1888–11 Sept. 1959**

Beatrice Cobb, newspaper editor and publisher and Democratic party leader, was born in Morganton, the eldest of six



"Beatrice Cobb (1888-1959) sits at her desk at The News Herald office." Photo courtesy

daughters of Theodore Gettys and Martha of The News Herald.

<sup>[2]</sup>Kincaid Cobb. Educated first in

the local schools, she enrolled at [Asheville Normal School](#) <sup>[3]</sup> in 1907 and was graduated in 1909. She taught school in Hickory from 1909 to 1913, when she returned to Morganton to begin a newspaper career on the [News-Herald](#) <sup>[4]</sup>, becoming owner and publisher at the time of her father's death in 1916. She also established the [Valdese News](#) <sup>[5]</sup> in 1938.

One of the pioneer women leaders in the [North Carolina Press Association](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, she served as its secretary-treasurer from 1922 until her death. From 1934 until 1952 she held the office of Democratic national committee-woman from North Carolina. She gained distinction in national Democratic circles and was the only southerner on the five-member committee to advise President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940 on a successor to James A. Farley, party chairman. Beginning in 1928, she was a delegate to several Democratic National Conventions.

[The University of North Carolina](#) <sup>[7]</sup> awarded her an honorary LL.D. in 1949. She was a Methodist and an honorary member of the [Morganton Kiwanis Club](#) <sup>[8]</sup>. Many of her writings dealt with her world travel experiences; after she became ill with acute leukemia she took a month's trip to Europe, from which she returned to enter Duke Hospital in Durham, where she died.

#### **References:**

*Charlotte Observer*, 12 Sept. 1959

*History of the North Carolina Press Association* (1973)

*Morganton News-Herald*, 11 Sept. 1959

*Raleigh News and Observer*, 12 Sept. 1959

*Who's Who of American Women*, vol. 1 (1958–59)

#### **Image Credit:**

"Beatrice Cobb (1888-1959) sits at her desk at The News Herald office." Photo courtesy of The News Herald. Available from [http://www.morganton.com/news/beatrice-cobb---the-legacy-of-a-newswoman/article\\_5d3a55b2-4e1a-5dae-99e4-9b0dbcbba6ed.html](http://www.morganton.com/news/beatrice-cobb---the-legacy-of-a-newswoman/article_5d3a55b2-4e1a-5dae-99e4-9b0dbcbba6ed.html) <sup>[2]</sup>accessed (April 10, 2012).

#### **Subjects:**

[Biographies](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

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[Women](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

#### **Authors:**

[Gatton, T. Harry](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

#### **Origin - location:**

Burke County <sup>[13]</sup>

**From:**

Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.<sup>[14]</sup>

1 January 1979 | Gatton, T. Harry

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**Source URL:**<https://ncpedia.org/biography/cobb-beatrice>

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