
125th Anniversary

Celebrating One of Springfield's Hidden Treasures!



King's Daughters
ORGANIZATION

SERVING SENIORS SINCE 1893

1893-2018

The Rich History of the King's Daughters Organization	4
Historical Perspective.....	4
The Beginning: Even Before 1893.....	4
King's Daughters Migrate to the Midwest	5
The Incorporation of The King's Daughters	6
A Last Look.....	12
Keeping King's Daughters Alive.....	15
Kings' Daughters Today.....	19
Organizations Supported through Volunteer efforts.....	19
Organizations in the Community Supported through Gifts and Grants	19
List of Grantees	20
Circles of Friendship.....	27
The History of the Current Circles.....	27
Friendship.....	27
Grateful Daughters	29
Margaret Garfield	30
Marjorie Post-Nightingale.....	30
Mary A. Lawrence.....	32
Mary Blackstock	33
Polly Roesch.....	34
Progress	34
Willing	35
Picturing King's Daughters.....	37
Historical List of Circles of Friendship	45
Past Presidents	49
Post Family History	51
The Significance of The Post Family	51
Awards and Recognition.....	55
Special Events to Celebrate the 125th Anniversary	56

In Memory of Barbara Sturdy Burris, Willing Circle Historian.

Barbara "Barb" Sturdy Burris was born in St. Louis County, in Kirkwood Missouri. She graduated from Kirkwood High School and attended St. Louis University. Barb married Dr. Stanley A. Burris on April 6, 1950 in Kirkwood, MO. and they moved to Springfield in 1959.

Shortly after their move to Springfield, Barb joined The Willing Circle of King's Daughters in 1960. She remained an Active member until she passed away suddenly and peacefully in her home. Barb held the title of "Historian" for the Willing Circle and took that responsibility very seriously. She loved the history of King's Daughters and was very proud of the history of the Willing Circle. There were pages and pages of hand written notes at Barb's home when she passed, and her family passed those along to KDO.

Barb began her life of volunteerism at age five (5). She was president of her church's Sunbeam Band. She could not write in cursive at that time or add, which would eliminate the offices of secretary and treasurer. Barb was always generous, a wonderful story teller and an avid volunteer, devoting her time and energy to helping others. As well as her membership in King's Daughters, she was a 59 year member of Central Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school for 15 years, Vacation Bible School, and held various other leadership roles within the church. Barb served on numerous boards and until her death, was an active member of the Sangamon County Medical Society Alliance, Book Review Club, HSHS St. John's Samaritans, Springfield Garden Club and the Springfield Art Association. She was also a charter member of both the St. Louis 1904 World's Fair Historical Society and the Carillion Bells, a 49 year member of P.E.O. (Chapter EO), and a member of the Illinois State Questors. Barb was a card carrying member of the Girl Scouts, led classroom tours of the Carillion and presented "Art Outreach" in classrooms. She founded the Grandparent Program at HSHS St. John's Hospital. For her selfless and tireless dedication to her community, the YWCA honored her as Woman of the Year in 1986.

Barbara was devoted to uncovering the history for this booklet and hosted several KDO Historical meetings in her home over the months and even in the days leading up to her passing. One of the last was a lunch meeting. Barb shared stories from her memory regarding King's Daughters with Cathy Schwartz and I while we ate lunch. She shared stories and memories from the "early" days of KDO and the fun the women had in social settings while serving the women at the King's Daughters' Home. We listened and laughed as she reminisced. But what really stands out from lunch that day, is the way she glowed with pride as she pointed to each picture on her refrigerator and told us about her family and the role they played in her life. For all of her volunteer efforts and selfless devotion to the community, it was clear she was most proud of her role as "Mom". I only knew Barb personally for a short time, but I felt a real connection with her and was truly inspired by her beautiful spirit.

This booklet is dedicated to Barbara Burris, for her kindness, generosity and endless support of King's Daughters and the Willing Circle. She will forever be an inspiration.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Teresa McElwee

The Rich History of the King's Daughters Organization

Historical Perspective

The year is 1888. Springfield's population is 23,000. Grover Cleveland is President. Franklin Life Insurance Company, St. John's Hospital, and Myers Brothers Department Store are part of Springfield's city center. The State of Illinois was only 70 years old! Before the existence of Social Security, retirement accounts, or even Mother's Day there was a King's Daughters Organization.

The King's Daughters Organization's rich history has ties to Abraham Lincoln, The Dana-Thomas House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, The Brinkerhoff Home, General Foods, Mar-a-Lago, and many more. King's Daughters has had over 50 circles of friendship with membership exceeding 1,500. Leaders and members include such names as Herndon, Converse, Dana, Lanphier, Weber, Palmer, Dubois, Brinkerhoff, Orendorff, Bunn and Enos, to name a few.

The Beginning: Even Before 1893

The International Order of the King's Daughters Organization was founded 1886 in New York City at the suggestion of Reverend Edward Everett Hale. Hale was an American author and Unitarian minister. He assisted in founding the Christian Examiner, Old and New in 1869 and became its editor. The Story "Ten Times One is Ten" (1870), with its hero Harry Wadsworth, contained the motto : Look up not down, look forward and not back, look out and not in, and lend a hand." This motto was the basis for the formation of Lend-a-Hand Clubs, Look-up Legions and Harry Wadsworth Clubs for young people. Out of the romantic Waldensian story "In His Name" (1873) another idea was sparked within Hale to encourage women from his church to form a charitable group to elevate the status of women and girls and to create a sisterhood among women; a "sisterhood of service". Reverend Hale asked a devout parishioner Margaret Bottome to recruit additional members and oversee the charitable work. Mrs. Bottome was a Methodist minister's wife known for her drawing room talks of the wealthy, Bible studies, and prayer meetings.

Mrs. Harriet J. Walker, the first President of the Springfield, Illinois King's Daughters Organization from 1893-1896, wrote of the beginning in *The Early History of the King's Daughters Home for Women, Springfield Illinois*:

"The order had its first inception in the loving heart of Mrs. Margaret Bottome of New York City.

As she walked the deck of one of the great ocean steamers on her homeward voyage from Europe, just above, amid the rigging of the vessel, swinging to and fro, she saw a small boat in which rested all that was mortal of one who had embraced with them on the homeward bound trip. During the night his summons had come and the young man was anchored in a safe harbor. Mrs. Bottome learned that during the last night of his life, he had moaned piteously for his Mother. Mrs. Bottome wished she were a member of some organization whose badge of service might have permitted her being called to the bedside of this young man, that the sad privilege might have been hers to help him in his last hours, taking a mother's place beside him.

Several months after, this unspoken wish, which had slumbered in her mind, was aroused by meeting Edward Everett Hale, who said to her, "Mrs. Bottome, I have read with interest and pleasure of your successful work in the drawing rooms of the wealthy, why do you not form a sisterhood to help your more humble sisters?" Acting upon his suggestion, on January 13, 1886, she gathered nine other Christian women in her home, true and loyal to the work to which they might be directed, and here was organized the King's Daughters. "

The International Order adopted the system of Edward Everett Hale's "Ten Times One is Ten" clubs. A Central Ten around which should form other tens of workers. They decided that the goal of the order should be the breaking down of barriers between the rich and the poor; that the membership should include women and girls of all classes and conditions. To raise initial funds, the small circle of women relied on donations from church parishioners and membership dues paid by circle members. The first group of ten women held fundraisers and encouraged other church women to form circles. This first group of members came to be known as *The Central Ten*.

The order decided a small Maltese Cross of silver tied with purple ribbon, the color of royalty as the badge of service. The watchword was "In His name." I.H.N. was inscribed on the cross and the significant date, 1886. The mottoes for action were, Look forward and not back (Hope) Look out and not in (Charity) Look up and not down (Faith) — Lend a hand (Fraternity).

King's Daughters Migrate to the Midwest

In January of 1888, Reverend F.W. Clampett came to Springfield from New York City to be the rector of Christ Church. Members of his church in New York were connected with The Central Ten and he brought with him the enthusiasm for the organization. It was his wish to continue the good work started by Rev. Edward Everett Hale. On Sunday evening, June 24, 1888, ten women received the little Maltese cross tied with purple ribbon. This first small Springfield Group was led by Harriet Walker. The first circle, Whatsoever, was born. Their work was to aid and give sympathy to the sick in homes and in the hospitals. Word of the or-

and it was impossible to secure for the women the quiet restfulness so necessary for persons of advanced years. The King's Daughters Home was the perfect answer for the women.

The following information regarding the Home of the Friendless is transcribed on a plaque located in the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield:

The Springfield Home for the Friendless was established on President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, 1863, at the height of the Civil War. Modeled on facilities in the east, the home was intended as a temporary refuge for Union War widows and orphans. In 1864 Springfield Resident Elijah Iles donated property at the northwest corner of 8th and South Grand, and with community support, construction of a permanent facility began. In January 1865 under supervision of Rev. Francis Springer, Post Chaplain at Fort Smith, Arkansas, more than 300 refugees from war-torn Arkansas arrived in Springfield, many of them children. Suffering from exposure and illness, many died en route. Those who survived lived at The Home For the Friendless; others were taken into the homes of local residents. Some fared well; others did not. The Home for the Friendless continued to receive refugees and orphans after the war. Later, abandoned infants and children who were victims of neglect and abuse and indigent mothers all found their way to the home for temporary or permanent relief. For some it offered a new life. For others it was the last stop. More than 200 children from The Home for the Friendless are buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Misfortune visited the King's Daughters' Home in January 1902. A fire nearly destroyed the entire structure and the residents had to be moved to temporary quarters on Edwards Street behind the Congregational Church on Fifth Street. C.W. Post gave \$5000 toward the costs of remodeling and another \$5000 to the Endowment Fund. Because of this gift and the fact that it had formerly been his home, the corporation voted to name the building "The Carrie Post King's Daughters' Home for Women" However, this was not made official until legally changing the name with the State of Illinois in 1953. The Home reopened later that year with twenty bedrooms.

At the 10th Annual Corporation Meeting held on May 4, 1903, the Home was completely out of debt and the entrance fee for a resident was \$250. As a point of interest, Mr. C.W. Post had a suggestion for a business venture for the Home. The suggestion was delivered by Mr. Converse of the Advisory Board. The suggestion was that a rug manufacturing plant be installed at the Home, with proceeds derived from the sale of rugs to help meet expenses of the Home. It was suggested that any "inmates" (terminology used at the time for the residents) who were able should work as many hours as possible a day. President Harriet Walker cautioned delegates that this action would necessitate the relinquishment of their present character and a new type of corporation would cause them to pay taxes, etc. Further meetings were held for consideration, however, there was not a member of the board who thought this idea was worth pursuing.

In 1916 the King's Daughters' Home for Women purchased four lots in Oak Ridge Cemetery Block #25 for the residence of the Home who did not have other arrangements. The original deed was signed by the Mayor of Springfield, Charles Baumann. The price was \$280. Other lots were purchased in 1922 and 1962. A trust fund agreement with the cemetery was created in 1918 whereby the care of all lots in Block #25 would be assured. This resulted in payment of \$3000. In 1994, an additional sum of \$1600 was paid to insure that appropriate flowers would be planted in the urn for Memorial Day and Christmas, and that said urn would be painted each year. This was the perpetual care agreement.

The 25th Annual Meeting in 1918 was held at the First Christian Church. A "war-time" luncheon was served at a cost of 25 cents per person. There was no special 25th celebration held, probably due to the Country being at war. It was voted to purchase a \$300 Liberty Bond and to recognize this war year as "Child Welfare Year". Each circle was asked to donate to a newly formed clinic that was one of eight in Illinois. This clinic was to care for Infantile Paralysis victims. Some interesting notes from the Annual Treasurer's report included that a cow had been purchased for \$117 and the yearly cost for the cow and a chicken was \$433.

In 1920 it was determined that the Home needed more space as there were 18 women on a waiting list for residency. Nineteen aged women were living in the Home. A \$50,000 fund drive was held April 12-19, 1920. The plea written on the brochure distributed for the drive was: "The young woman of today is the aged woman of tomorrow - help us provide a home for deserving women."

The circle women raised \$40,000 and Marjorie Post Hutton of New York donated \$10,000 for the project. By 1921 The King's Daughters' Home had completed the addition and there was room for forty women.

In May, 1943, the King's Daughters' Home was at 50 years of service. There was no special celebration due to the Country being at war. However, a war-time project was established as King's Daughters' Cookie Tuesday. Every Tuesday, one circle would send cookies to the U.S.O. Food rationing was on at this time, but the Home had a beautiful garden that supplied many wonderful fresh vegetables. In September 1944, it was noted that the janitor, William Smith, won a \$25 War Bond for the best garden by the "Citizens Tribune". The "Citizens Tribune" was a weekly newspaper published from September, 1936 until 1956. The article in the Tribune said this:

Mr. Smith, the first place winner, is the caretaker at the King's Daughters Home and has a beautiful garden of 175 by 200 feet. Many of the produce used at the home was grown by Mr. Smith who has devoted much time and care in its cultivation. The prize will go personally to Mr. Smith, not to the home because it was due to his individual effort that the garden was such a success.

Another Building Fund Campaign was held in April of 1948 to raise \$50,000. This time the plea was: "Your subscription will make possible the new heating plant, the necessary plumbing, new roof and other repairs necessary to keep the Home comfortable." Again, the circles, community, and friends responded to make this Campaign successful.

In 1953, the King's Daughters' Home for Women celebrated its 60th Anniversary. A lawn party and tea was held at the Home on June 6. It was noted that Tobin Jewelers lent the organization a silver coffee urn for the occasion. All charter members were honored at this time. That same year, C.W. Post's mother, Carrie died and the Home was named the beneficiary of a \$100,000 trust fund. Although the Home had been referred to as the "Carrie Post King's Daughters' Home for Women" since C.W. Post requested it with his donation in 1902, the name of the Home was officially and legally changed in 1953. Connecting property to the west with 80 feet of frontage was also purchased this year.

In February 1960, the Home was licensed under the "Home for the Aged Licensing Law". Many improvements were made, and fire regulations were rigidly followed. In 1964 a "Fire Detection System was installed". At the time, this was described as a "unique system that gives the Home the quickest possible response from the fire department in that, when the alarm rings at the Home, it rings simultaneously at the nearest fire station. Occupants of the Home and firemen alike are very proud of the 2 1/2 minute complete evacuation made on the latest fire drill."

Unfortunately, in the summer of 1966 an undesired change was made to the Home. Due to the deteriorated condition and the high cost of reconstructing, the cupola of the bell tower had to be removed. This made an unwelcome change in the appearance of the original front of the Home.

On June 6, 1968, the Carrie Post King's Daughters' Home for Women celebrated its 75th Anniversary. There were 50 Circles and a membership of 1454 women. The 75th Annual Corporation Meeting was held on June 6, 1968 with a special anniversary program. The residents of the Home were honored, 50 year members, past presidents, and the Advisory Board were also honored. An anniversary tea was held in the Fellowship Hall of Westminster Presbyterian Church immediately following the Corporation meeting.

For many years the hospital room, or "sick ward" was maintained and there was a physician who volunteered services for the residents. In March 1973, with the advent of licensing and major legal requirements for residents, the Department of Public Health declared that King's Daughters' Home did not need to be licensed as the Home was a "Residence". Because of this, the hospital room had to be eliminated.

Throughout the 1970's the Home struggled to admit new residents because many could not afford the admission fees. The Circles raised their membership fees and conducted fundraisers to help maintain the Home. Circle members worked with the Advisory Board, Executive Board, and the Board of Directors to help establish special funds to assist ladies with admission to the Home. A newly created Admission Fund helped low income women with entry fees to the Home. Other specific funds were also created including the Nursing Home fund to provide care for women once residing at the Home who needed more extensive care than the King's Daughters Home could accommodate.

Requirements for admission changed many times through the years. When the Home first opened in 1894, a resident had to turn over all her assets and she was guaranteed lifetime care. At one time, a minimum amount had to be given. Later, after an entrance fee was met,

the resident could retain the remainder of her assets. However, any monthly income she received, including Social Security, had to be divided with the Home. Lifetime care was still guaranteed. Later, a resident could choose a rental fee with no lifetime care, or, with a deposit and by paying a monthly fee, could have lifetime care.

The last major remodeling on the Home was in 1988. Although the Home had always been lovely, the needs of the women were changing and some modernizing needed to be completed. An \$850,000 remodeling was done. Some smaller rooms were combined and all rooms were given a private bath. Twenty-six women could now be accommodated. Great care was given to the entire house to make it truly beautiful. The grounds were also improved and a large memorial garden with walks, benches, flowers, towering shrubs, and trees was enlarged in the back of the Home.

In 1994 there were 22 circles with a membership of about 650. All 26 rooms at the Home were occupied. In the year 2000, Barbara Archer, who was First Vice President of the Executive Board at the time, wrote a lovely article in the "ILEARN" publication by the Illinois Educators Advocacy & Retirement Network, Inc. In the article entitled "Springfield's Hidden Treasure", she described the Home in this way:

At King's Daughters Home each resident has her own room with private bath. All meals, housekeeping and laundry are included. A large outdoor porch stretches the length of the east wing; a small, open porch with umbrella table and chairs rests on the northwest side; a screened porch overlooks the property, Lincoln Park and the Brinkerhoff home from the second floor on the southwest; an enclosed porch on the main floor completes the porches. The first floor has a television room, a sitting room, the offices and staff room and a most lovely dining room decorated with antique Victorian furniture. In the basement are the boardroom (a large room for parties, games, etc.) the laundry room, and the beauty shop. Stretching behind the Home are our lovely memorial gardens, be speckled with trees planted as memorials for members and residents and flower gardens. These beautiful memorial gardens provide a most peaceful, pleasant and satisfying area where many of the ladies stroll, sit in the swing and talk, or just sit on a bench to read.

A resident's room is her own. She may use furnishings provided by the Home, or she may decorate with her favorite furnishings from home.

By the end of 2002, occupancy had been as low as 14, but with an organized advertising campaign to get the name of "the best kept secret in Springfield" in front of the public, occupancy increased to around 20 to 21.

Throughout the years, as a not-for-profit organization King's Daughters sought to provide quality, affordable living to the residents in a caring and nurturing environment. Circles contributed their money, services, and attention to the ladies and the Home. Circle members always responded beyond their assigned obligations. Throughout the twentieth century

the King's Daughters continued its mission of providing lifelong care for women who desired what the Home had to offer.

By 2005, as expenses continued to increase more rapidly than income, operating costs were subsidized more and more heavily by the corporation's endowment fund. With increased expenses to keep the aging Home maintained and emerging competition from modern retirement facilities in Springfield, the Circles knew something must be done to keep the organization alive.

Under the leadership of Donna Jean Gibney, Executive President and after many, many hours of discussion, with heavy hearts, the membership voted to close the Carrie Post's King's Daughters Home for Women while the endowment was sufficient to permit King's Daughters to continue with a new mission. This decision ended an era but opened the door to a new, vibrant and impactful future.

President Gibney activated the following special committees to help ensure that every detail was considered and attended to: Inventory Committee, Co-Chairs; Barbara Archer and Jone VanWinkle, Land Sale Committee chaired by Donna Jean Gibney, Long Range Planning/Transition Committee chaired by Donna Jean Gibney, and the Mission Search Committee Co-Chaired by Donna Jean Gibney and Jeannie Madden.

The mission for the Carrie Post's King's Daughters Home for Women stated, "...we are dedicated to providing spiritual, social, and emotional support with love and understanding." Forever true to the women they served, plans were made to assist the nineteen residents still living at the Home find new living accommodations and make their transition as smooth as possible. The last of the residents moved from 541 Black Avenue on May 12, 2006. Many moved to The Illinois Presbyterian Home — Fair Hills Residence. The Circles continued to support them with love and attention.

After 111 years of ownership, King's Daughters' sold the Home to Springfield College/Benedictine University on September 1, 2006, fittingly for a women's residence hall. It was renamed Mueller Hall and opened in the fall of 2007. The name was chosen to honor long time history professor and college president Grant Mueller.

A Last Look

In 2007, Barbara Archer, Co-Chair of the Inventory and Transition Committee, wrote what it was like that last day in the King's Daughter's Home for Women:

A Bittersweet Day to Remember

June 26, 2007: Moving Day

First thing this morning, we found Tim (KDH's former cook) in the kitchen packing sandwiches and salads for lunches to take to SCI and Ursuline. That is not what he was accustomed to preparing in that kitchen.

The moving van arrived - then the Pepsi truck. Shawn (Sodexo cafeteria manager) had the soda unloaded and brought in the front door since the movers were in the driveway...and as usual, the moving van could only get part way into the back parking lot because of that "low hanging telephone cable".

The nurses room stands empty - one lone file cabinet. The cabinets and sink are gone - a pink wall looms where the cabinets once were anchored - new plumbing protrudes from the wall, and the area awaits the dishwasher that sits in its crate down the hallway near the elevator - the east side, once the home of crossword puzzles "in progress", sports a big ice machine, and a lone cabinet awaits its move to Amanda's new office. The old bathroom, sans all of the amenities, is the "staff" bathroom - it certainly lacks the long time feminine touch and comfort.

Mable Nestler's room at the west end of the hallway is almost empty; the boxes stacked on boxes on top of boxes and crowded so much that one could barely squirm to a box on the far wall are gone - some storage, many tossed after the records were shredded. A few await transportation to SCCF or Amanda's office. The rest of the items might fill six boxes.

The staff break room by the back entrance, once filled beyond belief with boxes and boxes of KDH belongings sits quietly and nearly empty - the refrigerator and white cabinet stand labeled and ready to go to Amanda's with a couple of boxes of worthwhile items. The stale coffee and creamer should not find a new home, but the plastic spoons need one. The room is a special commodity - the only one available with soap, toilet paper, and paper towels.

Myrtle Rusciollelli's room is now vacant having housed the historic records. Gary Stockton of the ALPLM took most of it to the library; the rest went to our historian's garage. The history committee - now minus Shirley Stoldt- will have the information readily available.

The TV room seems so barren - a dining room annex, it is stuffed with little square tables and straight backed chairs.

The dining room sports the hot food line ready with new dishes and flatware. Small square tables sit on the west side of the room - each bearing a table cloth and set with paper napkins and generic condiments. The east end of the south wall houses new juice and coffee machines, but a sizable hole awaits the soft drink machine.

The clock from the hallway wall, now resides at the SCCF office, along with the brown marble top table, the brass lamp, and the upholstered side chairs from the library that give their waiting room a new look. The last to go to that new home is the crystal vase used for our Annual Memorial Service.

The rest of the files, the one dropped by the mover (bulging but not emptied) reside along the east wall of the Myers Building basement storage room.

The big old desk remains in the secretary's office along with the shredder (the most used piece of equipment this year) and one lone, feeble straight kitchen chair for visitors. The last of KDH is nearly ready to leave 541 Black Avenue. The copier was moved to Senior Services of Central Illinois on Monday. No more copying! Hard copy or files have to go the SCCF secretary for copying. Sure hope Amanda gets the job of picking them up at their eighth floor office. There will be no more last minute hand-outs printed. Directors will have to learn to take notes again.

Amanda will finish packing tomorrow, move to the new office Friday, and turn in her keys.

The back gardens look very nice - a reception/open house held June 20th for campus organization officers prompted the clean-up. One of the attendees related that the party was nearly a bust - very few came.

Leftovers: the fountain - a bird bath - and memorial plaques that will be retrieved later when we find a home for them. Mary Vienna/Eshter's angel fountain was to go to Fair Hills...but it is damaged beyond repair.

In spite of watching our belongings hauled into the moving van and rooms becoming emptier and emptier, the Home still reveals its graciousness and open arms. Is it anticipating the teenage students who will arrive in a few weeks? Oh yes! Those walls will still hear stories but this of younger women. What a shock they may have.

The halls and rooms were --- oh, oh so quiet. I could see Ruth's cats, hear Velma's piano strains, and waited for the big clock in the sitting room to strike eleven.

The raised bed garden that again overflows with orange mint, unwanted vines, and blank spaces is disquieting. The peacefulness and serenity is gone. It no longer resembles the comforting, beautiful place of solitude where our ladies enjoyed sitting in the shade on the memorial benches and could reach out and touch and smell the flowers and herbs without bending or reaching.

Today the back gardens are manicured and still reflect the simplicity of beauty and solitude. One can almost see our ladies smelling the flowers, touching the trees, and just relaxing and enjoying one more day in this world as they slowly, carefully traverse the shade garden walks and enjoy the many birds the bird feeders attract.

The Homes last "visitors": Our former residents - I am glad I missed their visit in some ways. On the Progress Circle's Trolley ride for the Fair Hills residents, Diana Dedrick asked the Trolley driver to drive by the "Home" on the way to Lincoln Park. She called Amanda from the Trolley and told her to look out and wave. Look and wave! No way. Amanda trotted out to the Trolley with her big smile to greet the ladies and their smiles were even bigger.

It was a beautiful setting, love exuded from the home, walls, residents, and for many, many, of its years a staff that loved them and cared for them.

Those to whom it is so dear will never forget the old Italianate mansion at the "upper end of Sixth Street".

The era of King's Daughters' Home is gone. The era of King's Daughters Organization is in its infancy. King's Daughters' Home held an unequalled record in Springfield as a loving, caring, beautiful home for elderly women. It held a long, respected position in the history of Springfield although it was often said that it was "the best kept secret in Springfield". Although it does not qualify for the historic site list, we did receive historic recognition in 2007 at the Mayor's Awards for the 100+ years we maintained a loving home for elderly ladies.

Our organization will grow again. We will continue to make our mark by making life better for the elderly.

Keeping King's Daughters Alive

With the sale of the Home came many questions: What is to become of the King's Daughters? What should be done with the endowment fund? Should the endowment be used to

make one impactful donation for seniors in the community? Is it possible to purchase another building to be a home for seniors? Should King's Daughters consider supporting other groups in need besides seniors?

The year from May 2006 to April 2007 was one of transition as the organization sought to redefine its purpose and goals. Donna Jean Gibney agreed to stay as Executive President for a third year to help guide the membership through the transition. Many hours were spent meticulously considering every option suggested by Circle members, community leaders and the King's Daughters Advisory Board.

After many thoughtful hours, The King's Daughters' Home for Women became The King's Daughters Organization (KDO). A new mission was decided! The mission statement is:

Our Circles of Friendship are committed to the support and well-being of the elderly in our community.

The KDO decided to continue its tradition of serving the elderly and chose as its purpose "to charitably aid the elderly in our community". That would be accomplished through both direct community volunteering efforts (including, but not limited to, the continued spiritual, social, and emotional support of our "King's Daughters Ladies" wherever they may reside) and financial efforts through both grants and donations.

At the 114th Annual Corporation Meeting on May 14th, 2007, the King's Daughters Organization presented its first community donation to Senior Services of Central Illinois. This donation was in the amount of \$30,000 for the purchase of a van for the Springfield Senior Center.

The King's Daughters Organization also decided that it would like to use their endowment fund for grants to community not-for-profit organizations that support the elderly. Rather than take on this responsibility on its own KDO decided to avail itself of the knowledge and expertise of the Sangamon County Community Foundation (now known as the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln or CFLL) in conducting the financial support portion of its mission.

On June 6, 2007, exactly 114 years to the day of its incorporation, King's Daughters established the King's Daughters Organization Fund, a donor advised fund in the amount of \$2.6 million with the Sangamon County Community Foundation. A Grants Committee was established with one representative from each Circle led by the First-Vice-President, who would also serve as Mission Committee Chair. This Committee would be responsible for deciding each year who would receive grant awards. The awards would be presented at the Annual Corporate Meetings held in May. The amounts to be awarded each year vary, depending on the value of the endowment fund and the financial requirements of the other areas of the KDO mission.

The first King's Daughters Organization Grant Awards were presented on May 12, 2008 at the 115th Annual Corporation Meeting held at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The total awarded was \$60,000. Those receiving these grants were the American Red Cross, Contact

Ministries, Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, Kid's Hope United-Hudelson Region, Loami Area Community Pantry, Memorial Medical Center, Rehabilitation Services, and the Springfield Fire Department.

In 2014, King's Daughters were contacted regarding taxes due on land in Barber County Kansas. After much research and consultation with our legal advisor, Patrick Sheehan, it was discovered that King's Daughters owns an undivided half interest in the mineral rights of the property.

Secretary notes recorded in September 1954, state that a meeting was called at the Illinois National Bank jointly with the Advisory and Executive Committees of the Carrie Post King's Daughters' Home for the purpose of reading the portion of the Will of Mrs. Ira B. Blackstock which had been written in 1921. Mary Hardtner Blackstock was a member of the Willing Circle and served as president of the King's Daughters Board from 1931-1940 and she and her husband were prominent citizens in Springfield. He owned the ice and cold storage company and was active in the construction of railroads in the southwestern United States. Mary inherited land in Illinois and southwest Kansas and her father was one of the leading developers of downtown Springfield. The Home was bequeathed 170 acres of farmland in Kansas. After much consultation with King's Daughters attorney and Advisory Board member, Clifford Blunk, Board President Mrs. Margaret Garfield, along with agreement from the Executive Board, sold the 170 acres of land and received a check in the amount of \$27,000.74. However, they decided to keep an undivided half interest in the mineral rights. It was recorded in the Secretary's minutes that Mrs. Garfield noted that, "...she thought King's Daughters could hope, although we had been given no encouragement from the Geologists making the survey.", that gas and oil would be found.

In 2012, Vaughn Good Oil Company began oil and gas production, entitling KDO to royalty revenues, which the Organization began receiving in April 2015. After much research, many meetings and planning, it was decided that KDO would place all earnings from the mineral rights in the KDO donor advised fund at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln (CFLL). This decision would make it possible to increase our ability to financially aid the elderly in our community. Subsequently, the Blackstock Grant Committee was formed in 2016.

The Blackstock Grant Committee immediately began the grant process with the assistance of CFLL. This grant process is different from the process that began in 2008 in that KDO is proactive with grantees rather than reactive and the grant cycle is multi-year instead of one year. True to the history of the King's Daughters' Organization, the committee wanted to choose an area of focus that was near and dear to the hearts of members and where there is a great need and would have a great impact in the community. Several meetings and discussions took place and polls were taken at the monthly Circle meetings to help decide on the proactive focus.

The first two organizations received grant awards during the Annual Corporation Meeting, May 15, 2017, totaling \$50,000 to focus on dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The recipients of the first proactive Blackstock Grant awards were SIU School of Medicine - Center for Alzheimer's disease and Related Disorders and the Alzheimer's Association Greater Illinois

Chapter. The SIU School of Medicine would focus on replicating the Minds in Motion program that was originally developed in Champaign, IL and begin the Opening Minds through Art program in Springfield. The Alzheimer's Association was to expand the Springfield Alzheimer's Support & Resources Initiative Project, which included three components - lunch and learns, veterans programs and a family retreat.

Volumes could be written about the history of King's Daughters members, advisory boards, residents and the property located at 541 Black Avenue and those connected to it. After functioning as a charitable organization for 125 years, the King's Daughters Organization has a secure place in the history of Springfield. The mission of KDO lives on with nine Circles of Friendship and a total of 357 members. Along with aiding the elderly financially through grants and donations, members continue to dutifully volunteer to assist numerous nonprofit organizations' activities and programs that assist the elderly in Sangamon County.

King's Daughters Today

The King's Daughters Organization (KDO) continues to be a group of vibrant Circles of Friendship - talented, compassionate women whose mission is to charitably aid the elderly in our community. The organization is managed by a Board of Directors comprised of members who represent each of the Circles, as well as a volunteer Advisory Board of professionals in the community. The members bring the mission to life through personal volunteerism with a wide variety of organizations serving the elderly and by continued support of our "King's Daughters' Ladies and Men". Members also actively support the expansion of our endowment fund, ensuring the mission's life for years to come.

Organizations Supported through Volunteer Efforts

The King's Daughters Organization Circles of Friendship members visit, provide assistance, schedule activities and outings for our ladies/gentlemen. Currently, Circles have "adopted" ladies at Illinois Presbyterian Home — Fair Hills Residence. This includes, but is not limited to Birthday celebrations, monthly visits, monthly activities and entertainment for all residence, monthly bingo, Christmas Bingo, and a St. Patrick's Day Party.

Members also contribute to the well-being of the elderly by volunteerism throughout the community. KDO sponsored volunteer efforts include Daily Bread Delivery for the Senior Service Center on Monday and Friday, Meals on Wheels Delivery, and volunteering with the Alzheimer's Association and SIU School of Medicine.

Organizations in the Community Supported through Gifts and Grants

As of the 125th Annual Corporation Meeting held, May 14, 2018 KDO has presented 149 Grants (including grants from the Blackstock Grant Committee) totaling \$1,325,000. In addition, direct donations from KDO have been given totaling nearly \$80,000. This includes donations for a van at the Senior Service Center, Senior Fitness Park for the Springfield Park District and an emergency donation of \$4000 to the Senior Service Center for the Meals on Wheels program. In grants and donations, this brings KDO's total gifted to several not-for-profit organizations to support the well-being of the elderly in our community to just over \$1.4 million.

List of Grantees

2008

American Red Cross, Meals on Wheels Program
Contact Ministries
Greater all Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ
Kid's Hope United Foster Grandparent Program
Loami Area Community Pantry
Memorial Medical Center

2009

American Red Cross, Meals on Wheels Program
Contact Ministries
Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ
Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc.
The Salvation Army

2010

American Red Cross, Meals on Wheels Program
Chatham Fire Department
Contact Ministries
Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ
Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation
One Hope United Hudelson Region
Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc.
Serving Jesus Willingly Urban Ministries
Springfield Fire Department
The Parent Place

2011

American Red Cross - Illinois Capital Area Chapter
Catholic Charities
Comfort Living and Associates
Contact Ministries
Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ
Land of Lincoln Honor Flight
Loami Area Community Pantry
One Hope United Hudelson Region
Sangamon County Veterans Assistance Commission
Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc.
Serving Jesus Willingly Urban Ministries
Springfield ARC, Inc (SPARC)
The Parent Place
WUIS Radio Information Service

2012

American Red Cross - Illinois Capital Area Chapter
Catholic Charities
Comfort Living and Associates
Contact Ministries
Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ
Illinois Symphony Orchestra
Land of Lincoln Honor Flight
Loami Area Community Pantry
Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc.
Springfield ARC, Inc (SPARC)

Springfield Municipal Opera Association (The Muni)

Springfield Park District

The Parent Place

The Salvation Army

2013

American Red Cross - Illinois Capital Area Chapter

Catholic Charities of Springfield

Chatham Fire Department

Comfort Living and Associates

Contact Ministries

First Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons/ Food Pantry

Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ

Jewish Federation of Springfield, Illinois

Loami Area Community Pantry

One Hope United

Prairie Art Alliance

Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc.

Springfield Municipal Opera Association (The Muni)

Springfield Park District

The Salvation Army

YMCA of Springfield

2014

American Red Cross - Illinois Capital Area Chapter

Catholic Charities of Springfield

Comfort Living and Associates

Contact Ministries

First Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons/ Food Pantry

Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ

Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County

Loami Area Community Pantry

One Hope United

Prairie Art Alliance

Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc. (Food/Wellness)

Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc. (Senior Olympics)

Springfield Municipal Opera Association (The Muni)

The Jewish Federation

The Parent Place

2015

Contact Ministries

Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ

Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight

Loami Area Community Pantry

One Hope United

Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc. - Meals on Wheels Program

Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc. - Emergency Funds/Wellness programs

The Food Pantry of First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

The Salvation Army

The Springfield Municipal Opera Association (The Muni)

Williamsville Public Library and Museum

2016

Alzheimer's Association, Greater IL Chapter

Catholic Charities
Chatham Area Public Library
Comfort Living and Associates
Contact Ministries
Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ
Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County
Home Instead Senior Care Foundation
Illinois Pickleball Association
Land of Lincoln Honor Flight
Loami Area Community Pantry
One Hope United
Senior Services of Central IL, Inc. - Daily Bread, Meals on Wheels
Senior Services of Central IL, Inc. - Senior Fitness, Emergency
The Springfield Municipal Opera Association (The Muni)
St. Joseph's Home of Springfield
The Food Pantry of First Presbyterian Church

2017

King's Daughters Organization Blackstock Fund

SIU School of Medicine - Center for Alzheimer's disease and Related Disorders
Alzheimer's Association - Greater Illinois Chapter

King's Daughters Organization Fund

Catholic Charities
Comfort Living and Associates
Contact Ministries
Greater All Nation Tabernacle Church of God in Christ
Habitat for Humanity

Hoogland Center for the Arts
Illinois Symphony Orchestra
Land of Lincoln Honor Flight
Loami Area Community Pantry
One Hope United
Senior Services of Central IL., Inc. - Daily Bread and Meals on Wheels
Senior Services of Central, IL, Inc. - Transport/Emergency funds
Springfield Municipal Opera (The Muni)
The Food Pantry - First Presbyterian Church
The Parent Place
The Salvation Army

2018

King's Daughters Organization Blackstock Fund

SIU School of Medicine - Center for Alzheimer's disease and Related Disorders
Alzheimer's Association - Greater Illinois Chapter

King's Daughter Organization Fund

Animal Protective League
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois
Catholic Charities of Macon County to pilot a program in Sangamon County
Comfort Living and Associates
Contact Ministries
First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry
Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry
Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ
Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County
Helping Hands of Springfield

Illinois Symphony Orchestra

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight

Loami Area Community Pantry

Sangamon County Community Resources

Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc. - Daily Bread

Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc. - Senior Transport and Emergency fund

Springfield Muni Opera

St. Joseph's Home

The Parent Place

Circles of Friendship

King's Daughters Organization currently has nine Circles of Friendship with a total of just over 335 members. A "Circle" is the organizational and functional building block of the KDO. Much like other organizations which have different "Lodge" numbers or branches, KDO has Circles. Each circle consist of a group of ten or more KDO members who have joined together to serve the mission of the organization.

Just like the organization itself, each Circle has a rich history in the Springfield community. They supported many charities in the early and even later in the years financially, sewing clothes and linens for them, and in other ways. Some of the organizations supported in the early years include: Anti-Tuberculosis Society, Lincoln Colored Home, Social Welfare, an Infantile Paralysis clinic The Day Nursery, Traveler's Aid, YWCA, the Home of the Friendless, the Springfield Hospital and of course the King's Daughters Home. There were also notes that clothes were gathered and sewn for in need families and even the digging of a well for a family. Circle history documentation has been left to each Circle to preserve. While some Circles have a deeper history that has been well documented, each is equally important in its service to the King's Daughters' Home and the elderly.

The History of the Current Circles

Friendship

The Friendship Circle of King's Daughters was organized in the fall of 1920. Mrs. Ida Prather was President of the Carrie Post King's Daughters' Home for Women at the time. The intention of the House Board of Directors was to have every room in the Home sponsored and cared for by its own circle.

Mrs. Prather made the request to form a circle of friends to Mrs. Alva Shepard and Eva Northcutt Barber. Mrs. Barber was closely associated with the Home since early in 1900. Mrs. Prather and Mrs. Council, Alva Shepard's mother, were members of the Willing Circle and were greatly interested that a group of younger women form a Circle of their own, instead of going into their Mother's Circles.

The first five who would accept an office were selected: Mrs. Millicent Seifert Taylor, wife of Dr. Percy Taylor and close friend of Mrs. Shepherd, agreed to be the first President of Friendship Circle. Mrs. Bess Council Shepherd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Council agreed to be Vice President. Mrs. Gertrude Canham accepted the office of Treasurer.

Mr. Canham was a member of the Jewelry Firm of Canham and Tobin. Mrs. Harriet Van Meter Barber was Secretary. Mrs. Eva Northcutt Barber was the first board member and remained on the board as House Chairman for twelve years.

In 1920 Mrs. Sidney Breeze, wife of a well-known attorney was the "organizer" of the King's Daughters. The first five selected to form the circle met at her home on South Fourth Street to plan, name and select a membership. Membership was limited to thirty. The first five asked five friends to join. After about two years the membership was completed to thirty. Three hostesses would serve together for the ten months pledged to meet. The hostesses were chosen alphabetically. A tea and refreshment period were planned after the meeting at 1:00 p.m. This arrangement did not work too well, because it ran too closely to the dinner hour. All of the members had families to look after as well. Soon it was changed to a lunch menu instead of tea and the lunch was to be at 1:00 p.m.

The rooms at the Home when the Friendship Circle originated were limited. Several of the rooms were cared for and furnished by individuals as memorials for certain especially interested people or donors. So in 1920, the Circle was organized with aims to aid where help and money were most needed. Once a small room was redone for the private use of the Matron of the Home. Another time a much neglected, old dark, dank cellar was cleaned by the Friendship Circle. Another time, much time was spent cleaning and rearranging in a business like attic.

Friendship Circle has always been a dependable prop for any chore assigned at the Home. Teas were hosted for many occasions, the Home decorated for the Holiday Seasons, Circle members worked on improving the grounds and always kept the room in good condition. Many birthday parties were held through the years for the Circle Lady. Often chicken, oysters, apples, vegetables and canned goods for special days, like New Year, Easter and Christmas were furnished by Friendship Circle.

Historic Note of Interest: One of Friendship Circle's members was Charlotte Ide Jess (January 31, 1887- December 11, 1993) Mrs. Jess (widow of Robert Emmit Jess) is buried in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery. Her obituary reads in part like this:

"Mrs. Jess was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and the Friendship Circle of King's Daughters. In addition to being a homemaker, she enjoyed painting and was an amateur artist, and displayed several of her works in her home.

The daughter of a prominent Springfield family, Mrs. Jess grew up in a sprawling white house at Fifth Street and Keys Avenue. Her grandfather was Albert Ide, an inventor and personal friend of Thomas Edison. Ide developed the Ideal engine - a high-speed automatic engine used in producing electricity. The engine, marketed worldwide, brought the family a sizable fortune.

Mrs. Jess, in her youth, attended parties at Susan Lawrence Dana's Home and dances at the Leland Hotel. One of her lasting memories was when Charles Lindbergh flew the first load of air mail into the city."

The Circle has been able to trace back a two-generation membership in Friendship Circle: charter member Mrs. Harry (Alice Watts) Luehrs and her daughter, Margaret Luehrs Summers (November 27, 1920- April 24, 2002). Margaret always jokingly considered herself a "charter member" of Friendship Circle since she was born the year the circle was formed. Margaret was a very active member of Friendship Circle for many years.

Another noteworthy mention is current member Maryann Walker. She joined Friendship Circle in 2005 after having served as Administrator of the King's Daughters' Home from September 11, 1989-November 16, 2003.

At this time, there are 11 Active members; 3 Sustaining members; and 1 Honorary member (Beth Gillian, joined 1977). Circle meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the following months: September, October, November, February, March, April, and June. The location is decided at the current meeting for the following meeting and reservations are made by the Vice leader.

Grateful Daughters

Grateful Daughters Circle of The King's Daughters Organization formed in 1893 and is next to the oldest circle in existence today. Mrs. James W. Patton, one of the first invited members, suggested the name of Grateful Daughters which expressed their gratitude in being the daughters of their distinguished pioneer mothers.

When the King's Daughters' Home first opened, the Circle helped furnish the kitchen and two of its members furnished one of the rooms. There was a time when the membership consisted of mothers, daughters, daughters-in-law, etc. The governor's wife was always asked to be an honorary member. This ended after the George Ryan administration.

Over the years, various fund raising activities have been done such as children and adult style shows and salad luncheons with bake sales. In 1985, because Circle membership was dwindling, a motion was made to increase the dues and no longer have a fund raising project. Any surplus is given to the Community Foundation of the Land of Lincoln King's Daughters Organization endowment fund.

At the present time there are 39 active members, 1 honorary member and 10 sustaining members. Meetings are held from September through April, excluding January, with the May meeting being the Annual Corporation Meeting. Members are encouraged to attend and help with the Progress Circle Benefit.

In 1914, Mary Hansel was the Circle's first of ten ladies. In 2008 Leda Thorpe became the Circle's lady, and sadly, Grateful Daughters Circle lost Leda on December 24, 2016. Leda attended many Circle meetings as well as the Annual Corporate Meeting. Four Circle members took her to church every Sunday for four years. She was remembered with gifts and special greetings on her birthday and Christmas.

Food is collected for the First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, a recipient of a grant in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The Circle also writes notes of appreciation for those participating in Honor Flight. Grateful Daughters members are involved in a variety of volunteer projects outside of King's Daughters. The Circle motto for action, adopted in 1886 when "The King's Daughters" was named, is "Look forward and not back (Hope), Look out and not in (Charity), Look up and not down (Faith) and Lend a hand (Fraternity)," seems to hold true today.

Margaret Garfield

On Monday, May 2, 1955, The Margaret Garfield Circle was presented for membership in the King's Daughters' Organization. Mrs. Melvin (Margaret) Garfield was President of the Corporation at this time. Margaret Garfield served as President from 1952-1958. She attended many of the first meetings of the Circle with her namesake. Today, the Margaret Garfield Circle continues to meet for a monthly lunch meeting September - May (except January). Most meetings are held in members' homes.

The Margaret Garfield Circle was formed by those members of the Georgiana Post Gardner Circle who preferred to meet in the afternoon rather than in the evening. Georgiana Post Gardner served as President of King's Daughters from 1940-1942. Some Circle members who were in the original Circle include Betty Boardman, Barbara Greening (GK), Nancy O'Keefe, Ruth Robert, Phyllis Collins, Doris Boardman, Marjorie Newton and Mary Turner. Ruth Robert has been a member of King's Daughters since 1949 and is a current member of Margaret Garfield Circle. Barbara Greening was also an Active member until her death December 26, 2017.

Many members have served on the board with six serving as Executive President of King's Daughters. Over the years the Margaret Garfield Circle made contributions to the Carrie Post King's Daughters' Home which included contributions to the redecoration of the second floor sun porch, the TV room, and the front parlor. The Circle sold pecans for many years in the fall as a means of fundraising. Members also supported many women of the Home through visits and friendship. Currently, contributions to the fulfillment of the mission of King's Daughters Organization include a monthly bingo game, for which cash prizes are provided, Daily Bread Deliveries, an Annual St. Patrick's Day Party, a planned activity/entertainment at least once a year, and friendship and support to our "adopted" senior at the Illinois Presbyterian Home - Fair Hills Residence.

Marjorie Post-Nightingale

The story of the Marjorie Post Nightingale Circle is a tale of three Circles of Friendship. The Circle is proudly named after Marjorie Post, an iconic figure in history, and the Nightingale

Circle, which formed from the Esther Circle.

Marjorie Merriweather Post, daughter of Charles William and Ella Letitia Merriweather Post, was born March 15, 1887, at the Post family home at 541 Black Avenue in Springfield, IL. The Post home later became known as the Carrie Post King's Daughters' Home for Women. Marjorie was greatly known for her philanthropy and, through the years, generously contributed to the King's Daughters Home.

Marjorie's last journey to Springfield was in June 1966. She visited the King's Daughters' Home, visited with the residents and was their special guest for Sunday dinner. She died September 12, 1973, at her Hillwood Manor in Washington, D.C. Upon her death, the King's Daughters' home was named beneficiary of a \$100,000 Trust Fund.

In 1937, Georgiana Post Gardner, Marjorie's second cousin, became President of the King's Daughters' Home. On October 27, 1937, a meeting was held to organize a new circle. The circle's first meeting was held on November 10, 1937. Ms. Gardner suggested the circle be named in honor of the granddaughter of Carrie Post. By unanimous vote, the name Marjorie Post was adopted.

The Nightingale Circle was formed in September of 1956, by the daughters of the Esther Circle. The ladies of the new circle wanted to meet in the evening because some of them worked during the day and others had young children and needed their husbands to babysit. The first meeting was held at the home of Lois Koenig. Lois is still a member of the Marjorie Post Nightingale Circle. The first duty of the Circle was to develop an apartment for the custodian of the King's Daughters' Home. Members were also responsible for meeting the needs of their lady residing at the King's Daughters' Home, including furnishing her room, if necessary, providing linens and visiting her.

The Nightingale Circle found its numbers dwindling due to the aging of its members. As their sisters had done throughout history, this circle of sisters found a way to survive and thrive. They joined with the Marjorie Post Circle. The Marjorie Post Nightingale Circle emerged strong and vibrant.

Today, the Marjorie Post Nightingale Circle has 17 active members, one sustaining member and one honorary member. Meetings are held at various private clubs in Springfield, on the second Wednesday of the month for nine months out of the year. Activities of the Circle include assisting in Christmas events and providing entertainment at the Fair Hills Illinois Presbyterian Home in Springfield, writing notes of appreciation for those participating in the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight and greeting the veterans when they return to Springfield.

The mission of The Marjorie Post Nightingale Circle, echoing the mission of the King's Daughters Organization, is to be steadfast in our commitment to the support and well-being of the elderly in our community.

Mary A. Lawrence

The Mary A. Lawrence Circle was started in 1904. It is named in honor of one of Springfield former leading community members. Mrs. Lawrence, wife of Rheuna Lawrence for whom both Lawrence Avenue and Lawrence school are named, was also the mother of Susan Dana. She and her daughter Susan hosted many events to help the Springfield community in their beautiful home on South 4th Street designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, now known as the Dana Thomas House, a state historic site.

The first officers of the Mary Lawrence circle were: Leader - Mrs. D. Logan Giffin, Vice Leader - Mrs. John O. Garm, Treasurer - Mrs. Henry Luers, Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. H. B. Hill, and Board members - Mrs. J. Hall and Mrs. Arthur Gottschalk.

The original mission of Mary Lawrence was to care for the kitchen. There were many circles and not enough ladies at the Home to go around. The Mary A. Lawrence Circle cared for the kitchen for 58 years. Major appliances were purchased when they needed replacing, paid repair bills, supplied kitchen linens, paid for painting and redecorating, and bought Christmas gifts for the kitchen workers.

In 1990, Mary Lawrence Circle was thrilled to get its first "lady". Her name was Fern Zuck-erworth and she was already over 90 years old. She was a very energetic lady who had worked at Roland's Department Store for many years. She had a step-daughter out of town, but no family in Springfield, so we had a wonderful time taking her into our hearts and homes. She loved going to lunch and dinner at members' homes. Also she loved going out to eat and preferred MCL Cafeteria over Illini Country Club. Fern loved pretty clothes and going shopping. She was always thrilled with the clothes we bought her at Christmas time. Circle members were saddened when she passed away at the age of 97 after a short illness. She died Feb. 3, 1995. At the end of 1993 the Circle got a second lady, Helen Rossi, whose family lived in Springfield. She was a sweet woman and enjoyed the Circle members. Not much attention was required for Helen because she had family in Springfield. In June of 1995, four months after Fern died, the Circle got another lady, Mabel Nessler.

In the old days, the Circle members had many style shows and rummage sales. The money raised went toward kitchen expenses. One year, style show proceeds went toward the new elevator. There is interesting commentary about those style shows in Mary A. Lawrence Circle notes. Compared to today, styles were quite high fashion. In 1997, there was a free will offering for extra money. In 1998, The Circle sold a book written by past president, Barbara Archer. It is entitled "A Kitchen Garden Primer" and features the Rutledge Tavern Culinary and lower garden at Lincoln's New Salem where Barbara was a master gardener and hearth cook.

Today, Mary A. Lawrence members volunteer with Red Cross Meals on Wheels and Springfield Senior Services Center Daily Bread Program. Canned goods are collected for the Loami Food Pantry as needed.

Mary Blackstock

The Mary Blackstock Circle was originated on February 22, 1936 at the home of Miss Jenkins who served as the first leader. Mary Hardtner Blackstock and her husband, Ira Burton Blackstock, were prominent citizens in Springfield. He owned the ice and cold storage company and was active in the construction of railroads in the southwestern United States. She inherited land in Illinois and southwest Kansas, and her father was one of the leading developers of downtown Springfield. They were amply able to be philanthropic leaders in the city. Their greatest interest was the First Methodist Church and its affiliated institutions. However, Mrs. Blackstock served as president of the YMCA for many years and was president of the King's Daughters' Home for eight years as a member of Willing Circle. Seeing the need for more circles, she asked Miss Emma Louisa Jenkins, a young lady in the church, to do so.

Miss Jenkins invited some friends with whom she had grown up and were also members of Powder Puff Club, a social one, to join her. The first officers elected were: Leader, Miss Jenkins. First Vice Leader, Mrs. Locke. Second Vice Leader, Mrs. Shuster. Secretary, Mrs. White. Treasurer, Mrs. Brunk. The first members were as follows; Mrs. Heaton Buckley, Dorothy Jan Brunk, Mrs. Robert Locke, Ruth Nuess, Mrs. Francis Shuster, Polly Souther, Mrs. Otis White, Jane Dixon, Mrs. A.P. McMinn, Myra Locke, Mrs. Richards Irwin, Marjorie Sprinkle, Mrs. William Van Meter and Ruth Wanless.

The first fundraiser was a card party and style show held at the Leland Hotel. The newspapers were generous in publishing pictures of the committees to encourage attendance and as social news. A few of those photos remain in a scrapbook. The following Christmas the group had a dance and carnival at the Knights of Columbus Hall. For several years a Derby Day Party featured dancing and style shows. The latter sometimes showed styles of yesteryear or even just hats of new and old vintage. Musical highlights were always presented as there were some talented singers in the circle. The Leland Hotel and Illini Country Club were among the favorite locations for the events. Proceeds were the source of the donations to the King's Daughters' Home.

At the 61st Annual Open House of the King's Daughters Home, the Circle presented a beautiful silver coffee urn in honor of Mrs. Blackstock. Mrs. Williams, the resident in the room at the Home, was pictured in the Illinois State Journal receiving the first cup of coffee served from the urn.

Ira and Mary Blackstock left land in Kansas to the King's Daughters' Home which the home inherited in 1954. In 1956, while Margaret Garfield was Executive President, the land was sold for \$27,000.75, however, the mineral rights were kept by King's Daughters. Today the King's Daughters Organization receives deposits for the oil and gas mined from the land. A Blackstock Grant Committee was created under the leadership of Executive President Suzie Sables Duff, current member of the Mary Blackstock Circle. At the Annual Corporation meeting in 2017 the first Blackstock Grant was awarded in the amount of \$50,0000 to SIU School of Medicine - Center for Alzheimer's disease and Related Disorders and the Alzheimer's Association - Greater Illinois Chapter.

Today the Circle has 43 active, 4 sustaining and 3 honorary members. Circle members drive for Meals on Wheels each month and visit, assist and love the remaining "Lady" that was a resident at the King's Daughters' Home, Joy Beath, who is so much like her name, a Joy.

Polly Roesch

The Polly Roesch Circle is the newest circle and was founded October 2013 by Sue Shevlin and Linda Younkin. The Circle name was chosen to honor Mrs. Polly Roesch, a longtime King's Daughters Organization member who also sang in the choir at Christ the King Church. Since many of the current members sing in the choir, it is a fitting tribute to a wonderful woman who was a great patron of the arts. Poly married Walter Roesch in 1934. During WWII, she held her first presidency at the New Berlin Woman's Club before she and Walter moved to Springfield. Polly began her life of philanthropy after Walter's death in 1977 and continued to support many causes through volunteerism and donations until her death at the age of 102.

The Polly Roesch Circle supports the Springfield King's Daughters Organization focus of providing services to the elderly in the Land of Lincoln region, such as participating in the delivery of meals for Daily Bread, providing entertainment at The Illinois Presbyterian Home—Fair Hills Residence, welcoming veterans who have traveled on the Honor Flight, and being a personal shopper for residents at Fair Hills Residence. In addition, members have created and donated handmade warm fleece blankets, cooked and delivered meals to people from our parish, and become Communion Ministers to shut-ins. The Circle meets once a month in the evenings.

Progress

Based on an old newspaper clipping from 1957, the Progress Circle was founded in 1907.

"It was in 1907, just 50 years ago that a portentous drama was enacted at the home of Mrs. George Thomas Palmer. Mrs. John Deal Sr. organized a group of young ladies into Progress Circle of Kings Daughters with Mrs. Palmer their first president."

Some of the Progress Circles Charter Members include: Mrs. V.Y. Dallman Sr., Mrs. George E Keys, Mrs. Robert C Lanphier Sr., Mrs. George T. Palmer, Mrs. V.Y. Dallman, and Mrs. Charles L. Patton. Records indicate that a member paid 10 cents if she missed a meeting, and that first year they raised \$25 of the upkeep of the King's Daughters' Home.

The Progress Circle is very proud of the many multi-generational members that have been a part of the organization.

In 1946, the Progress Circle began the still standing tradition of the Progress Circle Annual Luncheon and Style Show as a way to fundraise for the King's Daughters' Home. For many years the Circle members have organized and hosted the event and it has become a much anticipated social event in the community every year in the month of October. Many thousands of dollars have been raised for the organization. Today all of the active Circles take part in the wonderful tradition. Since the Home on Black Avenue has been sold, each year the majority of the funds raised has been placed in the endowment fund at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

Progress Circle meets at noon on the third Wednesday of the month, September through April (except December), at Illini Country Club. As well as hosting the Annual Luncheon and Style Show, the members volunteer as personal shoppers at the Illinois Presbyterian Home - Fair Hills Residences and deliver meals for Senior Services Center Daily Bread Program and Red Cross Meals on Wheels. Today there are 80 members of the Circle.

Willing

The Willing Ten Circle of King's Daughters was organized March 3, 1890 at the home of Kate Black on South 6th Street with Mrs. Alex Pringle presiding. Mrs. P.F. Kimble was chosen first Leader. No definite plan of work was decided upon except to care for the sick and needy, especially elderly ladies. In April, 1891, it was advised to change the name to Willing Circle because it had far exceeded the limit of ten. This remains the name of the Circle today. The name was suggested by Ephesians 6:7: "With good will, down service as to the Lord and not to men." Circles were later named in honor of members of the Willing Circle, such as Mary H. Blackstock Circle and Margaret Garfield Circle.

The Willing Circle is the oldest circle that has existed continuously of the remaining Circles of the King's Daughters Organization. Invaluable history has been meticulously recoded and

preserved through the years for the Willing Circle and the organization. In March of 1973, Bernice Walter relayed some historical facts regarding Willing Circle:

“At present we are paying \$10.00 per year dues, payable in May. In 1943, when I became a member, we were paying \$5.00 and 65 cents for lunch at the Elks Club.

During Margaret Garfield’s presidency of the Corporation, times were very hard for them, and she suggested that we - her circle - double our dues, which we did. But we tried other ways of raising money. Mrs. Winning sponsored Memorial Teas, and Mrs. Garfield and Mrs. Shriner gave teas, but in the end the most satisfactory was just to pay higher dues - and one time \$12.00. Mrs. Winning moved that we have no limit on the number our membership and that has been a big help. At one time we gave quite a large sum of money to be used on a memorial garden.

In 1943 Mrs. Blackstock and a committee were compiling the 50 year history of Willing Circle. They gave one copy to Mr. Paul Angle to place in the State Archives. He complimented them highly on it. Two copies were turned over to the secretary of the Circle - one to be kept as a permanent record, one to be joined to new members to read. At the end of each ten-year period a resume has been written of that period. Mrs. Shriner, when Leader, said we needed an historian and asked me to serve. The hardest part of that job was to be sure none of the records were lost.”

In 2018 with fifteen members strong. Willing Circle meets at noon on the first Tuesday of the month, from September through May (except January), at Illini Country Club.

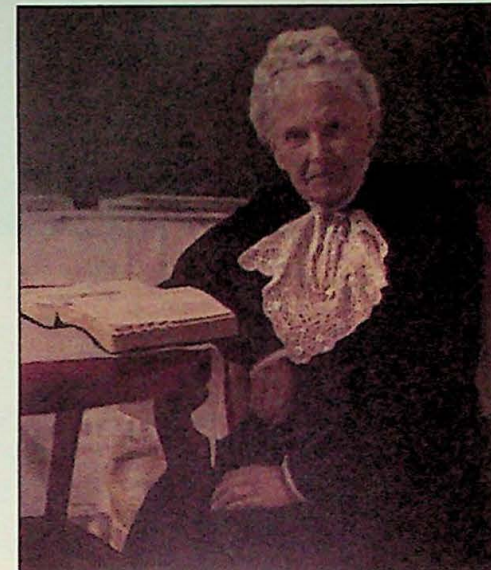
Members volunteer with St. John’s Hospital Third Age Living and with the Senior Services Center for its Holiday Baskets and Daily Bread Program meal delivery.

Willing continues to honor its history as it welcomes another 125 years of service to seniors.

Picturing King’s Daughters



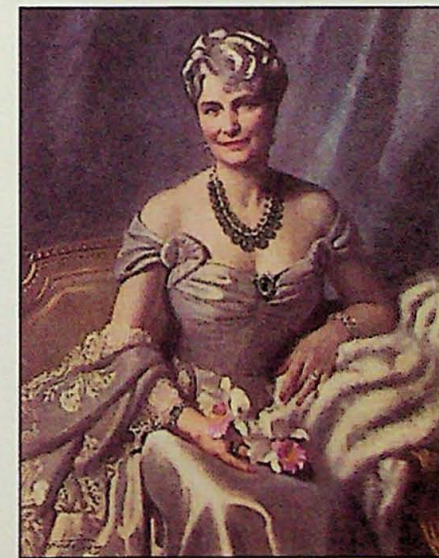
Margaret Bottome
*First President of the National
King's Daughters*



Carrie Post



C.W. and Marjorie Post



Marjorie Merriweather Post



Marjorie Post
Palm Beach Styles
Royal Jewels



Marjorie Merriweather Post
visiting the Home in June 1966, for the
last time before she passed, standing in
front of a portrait of her grandmother,
Carrie Post



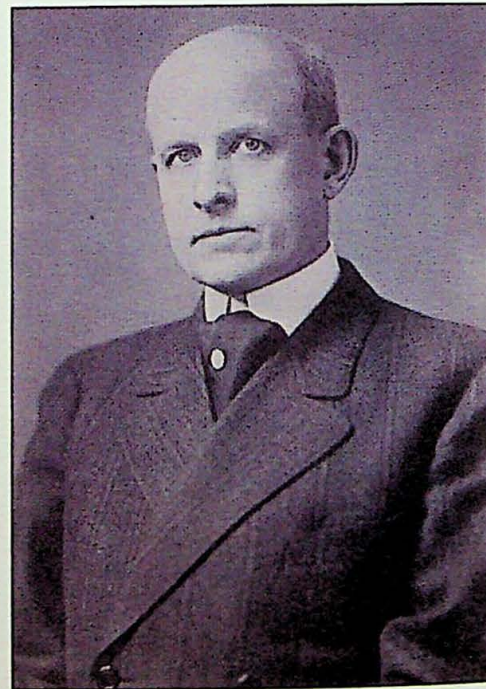
Susan Lawrence Dana
in front of Dana-Thomas House



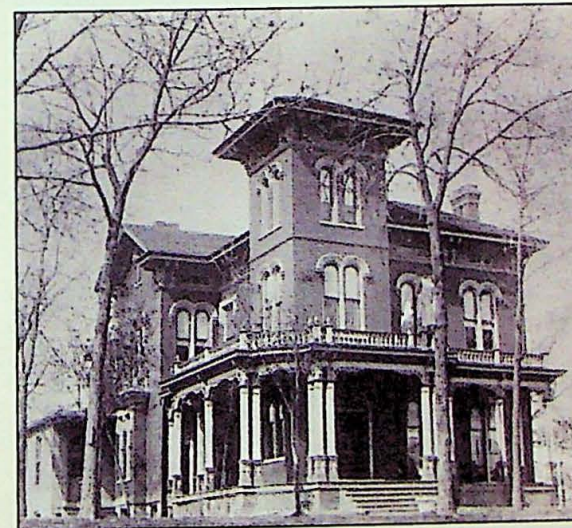
Mary Agnes Lawrence



Marjorie Post
at her home, Mar-a-Largo



C.W. Post



The Home at 541 Black Ave.
before the fire in 1902.

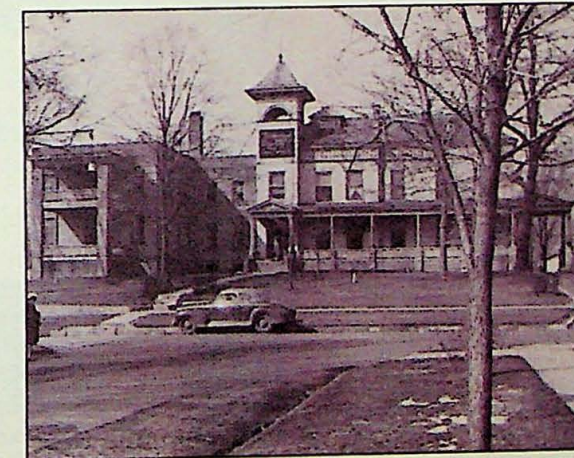
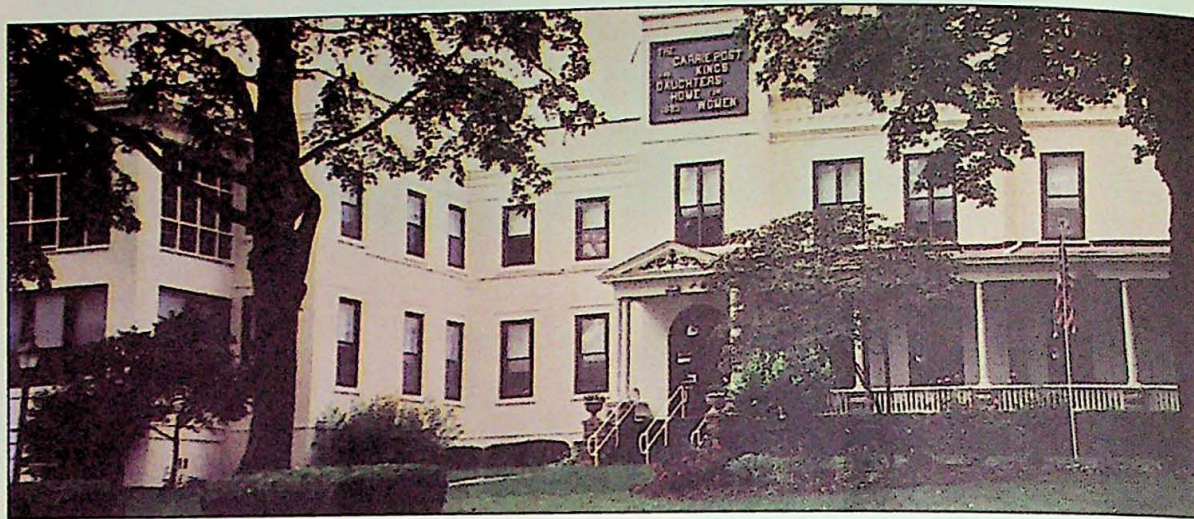


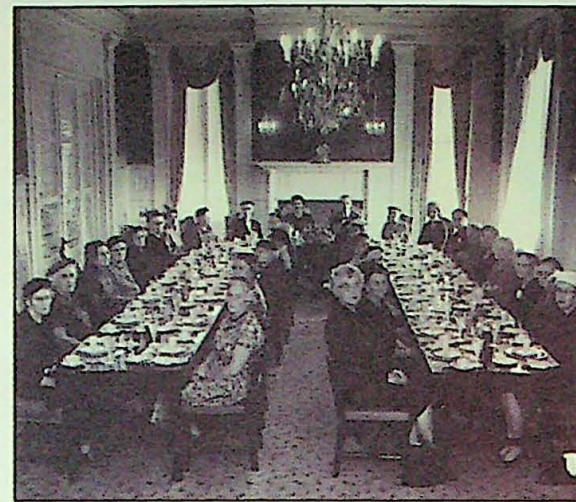
Photo was taken in 1949, after the addi-
tions of the west wing in 1920 before the
two sun porches were enclosed.



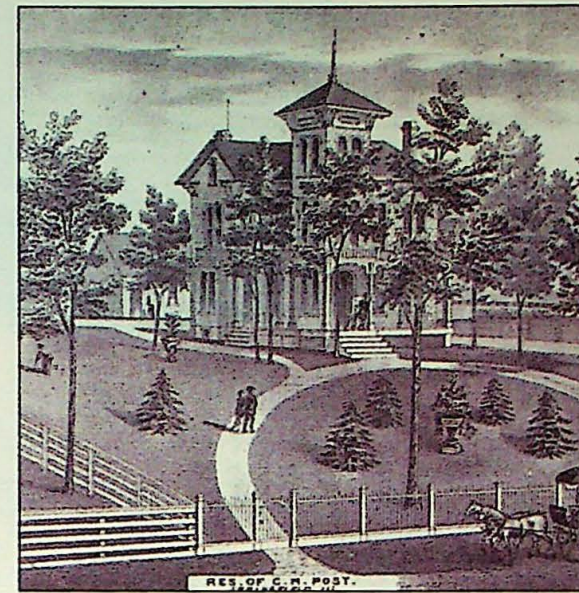
Most recent picture of Home before the Sale



Post card of women in front of Home



King's Daughters members invited to the Governor's Mansion during William G. Stratton term.



Artist Rendition of Post Home located at the "Head of North 6th Street"



Centennial Award - October 1, 1999
Palmer House, Chicago, IL

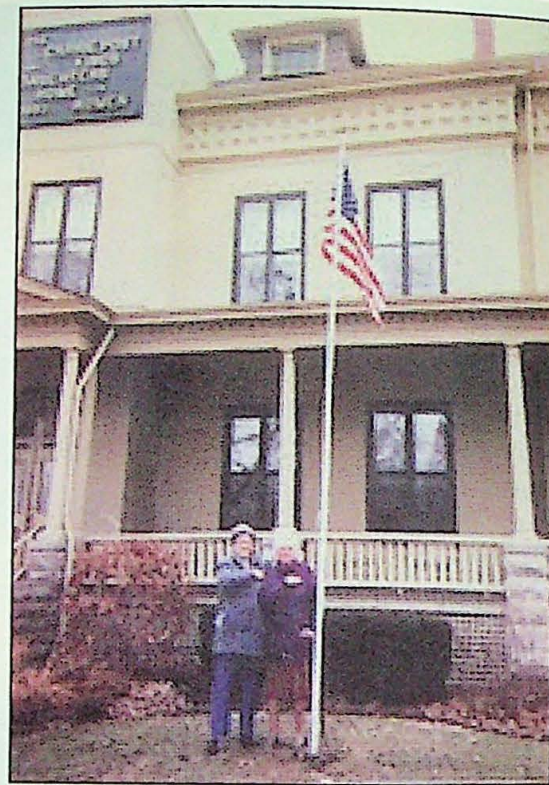
Norman Berger, Awards Program Chair
Cynthia Lash, Exec. President,
King's Daughters
Barbara Posadas, President,
Illinois State Historical Society



Maryann Walker, Administrator
Cynthia Lash, Executive President
Sharon Hohimer, Historian



Standing (L to R):
 Mrs. Walton A. McCree, Mrs. Carl D. Franke Jr.,
 Mrs. William S. Paine, Mrs. Arthur Gottschalk.
Seated (L to R):
 Mrs. D. H. Dickinson, Mrs. Charles F. Eberle



Willing Circle
Row 1 (L to R): Jan Knuckey, La Verda Wenzel, Evelyn Farris, Jeanette (Jan) O'Brien, Mina Bentsen,
 Velma McGee, Barbara Farris. *Row 2 (L to R):* Helen Lambert, Myrtle Brady, Gladys Gewe, Fern
 Bryden, Marge Kirschner, Merle White, Anna Mae Goss, Donna Dormie, Barbara Burris, Joan Hall,
 Lowanda Medley



Barbara Burris in period clothing for a historical presentation for the Post Family created by Sharon Hohimer



Members of the Gertrude McKelvey Circle attending the Annual Corporation Meeting



Progress Circle
Row 1 (L to R): Patricia Cross, Molly Becker, Marie Beck, Julie Noonan, Ethel Lefler, Nancy Hahn,
 Muriel Butler, Dian Hoffee. *Row 2 (L to R):* Sally Martin, Sally Graham, Amy Perrin, Florence Wel-
 lons, Mary Forsyth, Ann Gay, Sula Mae Roberts. *Row 3 (L to R):* Mary Perkins, Suzanne Hamm,
 Marilyn Bidwell, Sara Stevens, Nancy Segatto, Julie Evans, Karen Reyhan, Char Barker, Millie Prath-
 er, Sallie Schanbacher, Barbara Budinger, Pamela Reyhan, Jodie Grimes, Elizabeth Reyhan.



Margaret Garfield Circle Members at monthly meeting September, 2010



Members receiving the Governor's Unique Achievement Award, 2012
 Sitting (L to R): Suzie Sables Duff, Susan Beard, Teresa McElwee.
 Standing (L to R): Susan Fulks, Cathy Schwartz, Cindy Denby,
 Judith Barringer, Sue Shevlin

Historical List of Circles of Friendship

As previously mentioned, there have been many Circles of Friendship throughout the organization's 125 years. Circles have come and gone for one reason or another but have always been the organizational backbone to the King's Daughters. Many Circles have been named for members who gave extraordinary service to the organization and/or the community. The following is a list of the known Circle names gathered from history documents. When available, the year of origination is included and the year the circle disbanded. If the Circle is still active today, that is noted, as well. The first ten circles have their "purpose" listed. These circles were formed before King's Daughters in Springfield all united under one single purpose, to fulfill the need for a home for women, especially for aged women.

The First Ten Circles - These circles came together to form the Sangamon County Union of the International Order of King's Daughters and Sons

- Whatsoever (First Circle, June 24, 1888) members received the Maltese cross tied with royal purple ribbon. The sick, those in trouble or affliction received substantial aid and tender sympathy
- L-O-A-N-I - 1888 "Look out and not in."
- Bible Class Ten of Christ Church- 1888 - study the King's message
- Pastor's Ten of the Congregational Church- 1888 - Handmaidens at work
- Chautauqua Willing Band- 1888 - Public School Teachers
- Tongue Guard-1888 - St. Agatha School - 26 girls guard that "unruly member" the tongue
- Charitable Ten- 1888 - Think no evil
- Inasmuch- 1888 - worked among the newsboys and bootblacks hoping to inspire them
- Opportunity - 1888 - work to increase interest in temperance and welcome stranger to the city - disbanded 1968
- Lend-a-Hand - 1888 - disbanded 1978

The following Circles were formed after April 1880 following an enthusiastic delegation which returned home from a state meeting in Bloomington, soon however three of the son's circles disbanded. The listing is alphabetical.

- Abide in Me
- According to our Power Circle of Grace - Grace Lutheran - 1890 helped the pastor
- Alice Gottschalk
- Ann Clark - disbanded 2007
- The Badge of the Princess - 1914 - disbanded 1994 due to aging members
- Bertha M. Nicholas - disbanded 1974
- Capitol
- Carrie Post
- Cheerful Worker- originated as According to our Power Circle of Grace -disbanded 1969
- Dorcas - 1890 - disbanded 1957
- Elizabeth Downing
- Elizabeth Rose - 1942
- Esther - August 1943
- Etta May Johnston - originated 1963, disbanded July 13, 2003
- Faith - disbanded 1986
- ✳ **Friendship - December 1920— ACTIVE 2018**
- Garden - disbanded 1974
- Georgiana Post Gardner - disbanded 1963
- Gertrude McKelvey
- Golden Hour - disbanded 1973
- Golden Rule
- Good Samaritan - March, 1892
- Grace
- ✳ **Grateful Daughters - 1893 ACTIVE 2018**
- Growth
- Hannah Lamb Palmer
- Helen Gross - disbanded 1971
- Helping Hand - 1893
- Hope - October 1919

- Ida Prather - June 1926
- Industrial - 1890 - worked for the poor girls, teaching them to sew and such
- Infant Jesus of Prague
- In His Service - 1968? - disbanded 1973
- In Memory of Me - Christian Church 1890
- Irene Smith - 1956 (named for Mrs. Bonnie Irene Smith, matron 1944-1958)
- Jane Gray
- Jane Gray/Good Samaritan - merged 1973
- Julia Lindley
- Kathryn Eberle - 1968?
- Kindergarten - 1890
- Lincoln - disbanded 2007
- Loyal - disbanded 1976
- Madonna
- ✳ **Margaret Garfield Circle - 1956- ACTIVE 2018**
- Marjorie Post
- ✳ **Marjorie Post/Nightingale - ACTIVE 2018**
- Mary Vienna
- Mary Vienna/Esther - 1968?
- ✳ **Mary A. Lawrence - ACTIVE 2018**
- Mary E. Merchant
- Mary Grummon
- ✳ **Mary H. Blackstock - 1936 - ACTIVE 2018**
- Nan Hudson
- Nancy Jane Mackie - disbanded 1949
- Neighborly - at least at incorporation
- Nightingale
- Noblesse Oblige - 1890
- Pope John
- ✳ **Progress - 1907 - ACTIVE 2018**
- ✳ **Polly Roesch - 2013 - ACTIVE 2018**
- Quiet - 1890
- St. Monica

- Seven Keys
- Sophia Marsch
- Sunshine - disbanded 1973
- Sunset Ten - 1890 - old ladies interested in any good work
- Third Day
- Whatsoever of 2nd Presbyterian Church - 1890
- Worthy Workers- 1920 - disbanded 1976
- Workers In His Name
- ***Willing Ten - 1890 (Changed to Willing in 1891) ACTIVE 2018**
- Watchful - 1890
- Wayside Gleaners - 1890
- Work Together - 1890

Past Presidents

It is evident in the history of King's Daughters that there have been many strong, resilient leaders, members and advisors who have been instrumental to the successful survival of this organization for 125 years. While the King's Daughters have had many active and upstanding members who have guided and supported the Home and organization throughout the years, it is for historical reasons that the following list of Past Executive Presidents is included. The Circle of which the president was a member while serving is listed if the information has been discovered in historical documents. As an explanation to the years served: The term of the President begins at the Annual Corporation Meeting held in May at the beginning of the King's Daughters fiscal year.

1893-1896 (3 years) - Harriet J. Weeks Walker, Whatsoever Circle

1896-1897 (1 year) - Vesta Rogers Torrey, Opportunity Circle

1897-1898 (1 year) - Adelaide Ide, Circle unknown

1898-1903 (5 years) - Hannah M. Lamb Palmer, Willing

1903-1904 (1 year) - Katie Stacy Hazlett, Circle unknown

1904-1910 (6 years) - Hannah Palmer, Willing

1910 - 1931 (21 years) - Ida Prather, Willing

1931-1940 (9 years) - Mary J. Hardtner Blackstock, Willing

1940-1942 (2 years) - Georgiana Post Gardner, Willing

1942-1943 (1 year) - Jennie Williams Gray, Circle unknown

1943-1947 (4 years) - Gertrude McKelvey, Circle unknown

1947-1952 (5 years) - Kathryn Roloff Eberle, Circle unknown

1952-1958 (6 years) - Margaret D. Garfield, Willing

1958-1959 (1 year) - Alice M. Gottschalk, Margaret Garfield

1959-1961 (2 years) - Bette H. Franke, Willing

1961-1963 (2 years) - Pauline Paine, Circle Unknown

1963-1965 (2 years) - Evelyn McCree, Circle Unknown

1965-1967 (2 years) - Mary Ann Dickinson, Circle Unknown

1967-1971 (4 years) - Claribel Deruy, Irene Smith Circle
 1971-1972 (1 year) - Etta Mae Johnston, Circle unknown
 1972-1974 (2 years) - Berniece Paris, Circle unknown
 1974-1976 (2 years) - Caroline Heath, Circle unknown
 1976-1978 (2 years) - Marjorie A. Lyons, Margaret Garfield
 1978-1981 (3 years) - Florence M. Gibson, Circle unknown
 1981-1983 (2 years) - Darlene D. Nordlund
 1983-1985 (2 years) - Marjorie Strano, Grateful Daughters
 1985-1986 (1 year) - Claribel Deruy
 1986 - 1988 (2 years) - Nancy Cochran, Margaret Garfield
 1989-1990 (1 year) - Mina Bentsen, Willing
 1990-1991 (1 year) - Pat Cross, Progress
 1991-1993 (2 years) - Chris Parr, Margaret Garfield
 1993-1995 (2 years) - Shirley Stoldt, Lincoln
 1995-1997 (2 years) - Norable Russel, Marjorie Post
 1997-1999 (2 years) Karen Barber, Mary Blackstock
 1999-2001 (2 years) Cindy Lash, Friendship
 2001-2004 (3 years) Barbara Archer, Mary A. Lawrence
 2004-2005 (1 year) Jean McLain, Progress
 2005-2008 (3 years) Donna Jean Gibney, Margaret Garfield
 2008-2010 (2 years) Cathy Schwartz, Mary Blackstock
 2010-2012 (2 years) Sue Shevlin, Progress (Founder of the Polly Roesch Circle)
 2012-2014 (2 years) Teresa McElwee, Margaret Garfield
 2014-2016 (2 years) Suzie Sables Duff, Mary Blackstock
 2016-2018 (2 years) Cindy Denby, Progress
 2018 - Present, Brenda Staab, Mary Blackstock

Post Family History

The Significance of the Post Family

The Post family played a very significant role in the history of The King's Daughters' Home for Women. Many would say that the Home at 541 Black Avenue was just as important to the Post family as it is to King's Daughters.

Charles Rollin Post, a native of Vermont, came to Springfield in 1853 with his wife Carolyn (Carrie) Lathrop Post. He had been part of the gold rush of 1849. He and his brother Herbert had established themselves in Springfield during the 1850's as agriculture implement salesmen and counted among their various business endeavors the operation of a flour mill with business partner Asa Eastman. The business was known as "C.R. Post and Sons" and was located at the corner of Adams and Tenth Streets, between Adams and Monroe. Stories have been told of his acquaintance with Abraham Lincoln. Real estate development was also part of their growing list of entrepreneurial endeavors. C.R. Post became partners with George Brinkerhoff and Asa Eastman in creating suburban tracts including the Eastman, Black and Keys subdivisions. Brinkerhoff's Italianate style home was among the first built on Fifth Street and others soon followed. C.R. built his home near Brinkerhoff at 541 Black Ave. in 1872. The 1882 Babeuf's Springfield City Directory notes the family lived at the "head of North 6th". C.R. and Carrie had three sons, the oldest, Charles William was born in 1854.

Charles William Post grew up in Springfield. At the age of 15, in 1869, he enrolled in college in Urbana. He married Ella Letitia Merriweather. Ella was said to be acquainted with Walt Whitman. The collapse of C.R. Post's business adventures in Springfield led to the family's departure in 1886.

Though the rest of the family moved to other locations, Charles (C.W.) and his wife, who was pregnant, stayed in Springfield. Their only child, Marjorie Merriweather Post, was born in Springfield, on March 15, 1887, in the Post Family Home on Black Ave. The room where she was born was later used as the library at The King's Daughters' Home for Women. C.W. suffered from many ailments in his life, but was a mechanical genius and quit eccentric. He invented a blade that was widely used for the common plow in the early years. When Marjorie was nine months old, the family moved to Battle Creek, Michigan as Charles continued his search for something to improve his poor health.

The search for healthy food products prompted the creation of Charles W.'s Postum Cereal Company, Ltd. With his inventions of the coffee substitute Possum and Grape Nuts (the first known breakfast cereal), and Post Toasties cereals, the Possum Cereal Company generated one of the largest fortunes of the early 20th century.

C.W. continued to suffer from ill health and had numerous breakdowns during his life. He and Ella divorced in 1904. When Marjorie was 17, her father remarried. C.W. took his daughter everywhere with him including business meetings and introduced her to art

through trips abroad and his own collections. When Marjorie was 27, in 1914, Charles William shot himself when he was 60 after many years of poor health. Their cereal industry was worth twenty million dollars by this time. Marjorie became the sole owner of the Possum Cereal Company. Due to Marjorie's efforts and along with her second husband E.F. Hutton, General Foods and the frozen food industry was established. She was married four times in her lifetime. She was a dedicated benefactor to the home. In the 75th Anniversary Program for the Annual Corporation Meeting, this was written about Mrs. Merriweather Post's generosity:

Mrs. Marjorie Merriweather Post has been a constant benefactor of the Home which was her birthplace. Her gift of \$10,000 in 1920 contributed to the success of that \$50,000 fund drive. She gave to the 1948 Building Fund Drive and again a very generous \$22,356 to the Elevator Fund in 1967. Fruits and Jellies are sent at Christmas time as well as a gift of money to each lady and staff member. Several items and furnishings in the Home have belonged to the Post family. The portrait of Carrie Post that has hung about the mantle for many years was painted by a cousin of Mrs. Post, Natalie Green of Kansas City, in 1915. A sofa belonging to Mrs. Post as a newlywed, graced the living room at the Home for many years. The need for a smaller and more comfortable sofa was met by the purchase of a new one in 1966 by Progress Circle. Because of its intricate design, unusual structure, and excellent condition, the old sofa was presented to the Illinois State Museum for display.

Marjorie Merriweather Post, along with her second husband, E.F. Hutton, built Mar-A-Largo Estate in Palm Beach Florida which was purchased by Donald Trump in 1985. Marjorie lived a lavish life and used much of her fortune to collect art, buy beautiful clothes, throw wonderfully exciting parties, and travel. But she always remembered her past and those she met along the way. When Mrs. Merriweather Post died September 12, 1973, she left \$100,000 to the King's Daughters' Home.

Poems by Carrie Post

Carrie Post loved to write verses for friends and family and often would give them as gifts or informally to family and friends. Many times they were given anonymously. C.W. Post loved his mother very much and thought very highly of her poetry. C.W. gathered many of the verses written by Carrie, and published a book entitled "Aunt Carrie's Poems". Mrs. Post was referred to as "Aunt Carrie" by most of her acquaintances she met in Springfield and generally by the whole community. A copy of this book was kept at the Home and the poems were often shared with the residences and Circle members. The book is now at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum along with several boxes of historical documents from the King's Daughters' Home. Aunt Carrie wrote the following poem for King's Daughters. It was enlarged and framed in 1996 to be displayed at the Home:

The King's Daughters' Home for Aged Women

Chambers of peace and beds of rest,
Grant, gracious Father, to each guest.
Here may the sunshine of thy love
A soothing balm in sorrow prove.

Wearied and sick and sore bereaved,
With many earth-woes sadly grieved,
Here let the aged find repose
And calmly rest until life's close.

Be Thou Guardian, Thou the Guide,
Chief to direct o'er all beside.
Turn every somber shade to bright
At thy command-"Let there be light."

Bless Thou the "Daughters of our King,"
Who daily ministrations bring.
Bless Thou each helper and each gift,
With holy power their souls uplift.

Here let the doors be "Gates of Praise,"
Leading to life's most holy ways.
Here let thy benediction fall,
Resting in love o'er each and all.

Another verse was shared in Mrs. Post's obituary after her passing October 17, 1914 at the age of eighty-nine. This was a short five months after her beloved son, C.W. took his own life on May 9, 1914. The following is an excerpt from her obituary where a verse was shared that gave some insight into a mother's deep sadness after the loss of a beloved child.

There had been some uneasiness as to how the mother, now in her 90th year, and in frail health, would receive the news of the death of her son, C. W. Post. The answer came in a poem from his mother's hand, whose strength and beauty and spiritual vision have made a profound impression upon all who read it. The concluding verse reads:

Dead! Do they think and say?
Thy mothers faith - nay; those his eyes be holden, that I cannot see
I feel thine eyes encircle me
O'er the strange, mystic "Border Land"

There seems outstretched an angels hand.
And when thy spirit free had flown
There came oft whispers all thine own-
"God is my life, I am not dead, Mammy be comforted."

Awards and Recognition

During recent years, the King's Daughters Organization has been recognized by various groups for the contributions and support the organization has given to seniors in the community.

The membership has graciously accepted the following awards:

2000 - The Centennial Award

Given by the Illinois State Historical Society commemorating King's Daughters contributions to the social, cultural and economic heritage of our great state for over 100 years.

May 2007 - Mayor's Award for Historic Preservation

Presented by the Springfield Historic Sites Commission.

November 2008 - National Philanthropy Day Award for Outstanding Service Organization

Presented by Association of Fundraisers Professionals IL, Capital Area Chapter

September 2010 - Atta Girl Award

Presented by the Women for Women of Springfield

February 2012 - 2012 Civic Organization Award

For meritorious contribution to our community presented by the NAACP Springfield Area Chapter

October 2012 - The Governor's Unique Achievement Award

Awarded to organization that give assistance to seniors, presented by Illinois Department on Aging

September 2013 - Best Community Friend Award

Presented by Senior Services of Central Illinois (SSCI) for assisting SSCI over the past several years to reach their goals and fulfill their mission.

Special Events to Celebrate the 125th Anniversary

Several special events were planned and organized to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the incorporation of the King's Daughters Organization.

125th Anniversary Committee

Chair: Judith Barringer

Barbara Archer

Sally Cadigan

Laura Carmody

Kim Cochran

Cindy Denby

Suzie Duff

Jo Ann Fenton

Susan Fulks

Teresa McElwee

Karen O'Beirne

Brenda Staab

Cathy Schwartz

Jone Van Winkle

Unveiling of updated Logo

Designed by Bridgette McElwee Waldau, sister-in-law of member
Teresa McElwee

May 11 - Golf Outing, Rail Golf Course

Co-Chairs: Audra Burks and Kim Cochran, members of
Progress Circle

June 6 - 125th Anniversary Gala, Illini Country Club

Committee: Sally Cadagin, Susan Fulks, Teresa McElwee,
Jone Van Winkle

June 26 - Ice Cream Social, Douglas Park

Chair: Laura Carmody

October 4th, 5th and 6th - Alzheimer's Conference, Westminster Presbyterian Church and Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation

Co-Chairs: Cathy Schwartz, Susan Vono Cain and Greg
Kyrouac (Representing SIU School of Medicine - Center for Alzheimer's
Disease and Related Disorders)

October 14 - Sangamon County Historical Society Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk, Will include Carrie Post Family Plot

History Sources and Acknowledgment

Much of the information in this booklet came from information now kept at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library. Historical documents are also kept at the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library. Excerpts from Secretary's minutes, Organizational Annual Reports, Scrapbooks, miscellaneous letters and notes, newspapers, etc. were reviewed and information verified to the extent possible. Obituaries and grave sites were searched using the internet. Information from documents written by past King's Daughters Historians and members was also used. Many documents written by King's Daughters Historian Sharon Hohimer were referred to, as well as information from King's Daughters Newsletters.

Below is a list of actual documents (if not noted previously in the text of this booklet) and the authors, if known:

- "The Early History of the King's Daughters Home for Women, Springfield, Illinois" - written by Harriet J. Walker, Continued By Georgiana Post Gardner
- "Happiness is Giving to Others" Polly Roesch - King's Daughters Organization Newsletter, written by Barbara Archer and Nancy Watson
- "A Short History of The Carrie Post King's Daughters' Home for Women in Springfield, Illinois" - written by Lola M. Walsh
- "History of Friendship Circle" - written by Eva Northcutt Barber in 1970 and updated by Cindy Lash, 2018
- "Grateful Daughters Circle History" - written by Mary Lou Booker
- "History of Polly Roesch Circle" - written by Sue Shevlin
- "Brief History of the King's Daughter Home and The Margaret Garfield Circle" - written by Marj Lyon, 1994, Updated by Donna Jean Gibney, 2003
- "Mary H. Blackstock Circle of the King's Daughters Organization" - originally written by Willa Jean Wanless Jones, 2001
- List of Grant Awards - The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln (CFLL)

Information for "The History of the Current Circle" was provided by various Circle members and submitted by: Cindy Lash; Friendship Circle, Grateful Daughters; Mary Lou Booker,

Margaret Garfield Circle; Donna Jean Gibney and Teresa McElwee, Marjorie Post-Nightingale Circle; Karen O'Beirne, Mary A. Lawrence; Nancy Watson, Cathy Schwartz, Mary Blackstock Circle; Suzie Duff, Cathy Schwartz, Polly Roesch Circle; Sue Shevlin, Progress Circle; Susan Fulks, Willing Circle; Barbara Burris, Judith Barringer

2018 Historical Standing Committee

Chair - Teresa McElwee, Mary Lou Booker, Barbara Burris, Connie Bussard, Sally Cadagin, Jo Ann Fenton, Christie Goleman, Sharon Heflin, Cindy Lash, Karen O'Beirne, Judith Barringer, Cathy Schwartz, Maryann Walker, Honorary Member - Barbara Archer

Special Thanks to Cathy Schwartz, Karen O'Beirne, and Judith Barringer for serving as Editors for this historical booklet.