

## The Cheerful Workers Circle of the International Order of King's Daughters

Volume: 1 box 2 ½" X 15"

Processed by: Beth Shetter  
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**Provenance:** The items in this collection come from the records of the Cheerful Workers Circle of the International Order of King's Daughters. They were donated by Rebecca Cowan. The collection is mainly comprised of record books; it also contains articles and miscellaneous items

**History:** The International Order of King's Daughters began in New York City on January 13, 1866 when Mrs. Margaret Bottome gathered nine other women in her home with the intention of forming a women's group that would break down barriers between rich and poor. It is a non-denominational Christian organization; members are part of circles, which make up the larger organization. Early in its history, King's Daughters circles were comprised of 10 members, but as membership grew, this limit was soon found impractical and it was abandoned.

King's Daughters came to Springfield by way of the Reverend F. W. Clampett, who had come to Springfield from New York City in 1888 to be rector of Christ Church. He had been made aware of the organization through members of his New York congregation who had been part of the original circle; he, therefore, suggested the formation of a group in Springfield. This first group took as their name the Whatsoever Circle; their first meeting was on June 24, 1888. By 1890, there were ten circles in the city; together, they formed the Sangamon County Union of the International Order of King's Daughters and Sons.

The organization continued to grow throughout the city; by 1892, there were 26 circles and a membership of 379. In an effort to unite their charitable efforts, the decision was made to work toward the establishment of a home for aged women. Toward that end, and after many fundraisers, a home at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Black Avenue was purchased. Repairs and upgrades were made and on October 8, 1895 the residence was formally opened. Most circles assumed responsibility for one room and one resident of the home.

The Cheerful Workers Circle of King's Daughters was one of several circles begun in the early years of the 1900s. This collection is a record of meetings, as well as individual members of the circle.

**Conservation:** Newspaper clippings were photocopied on 11 X 17 archival paper; originals were kept as well. Other items, such as correspondence and miscellaneous items were placed in archival folders.

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish materials from the collection must be submitted in writing to the director of the Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library.

## Contents

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Correspondence	Thank you notes
2	Newspaper articles	Miscellaneous articles
3	Newspaper articles	Photocopies of articles
4	Newspaper articles	Miscellaneous articles
5	Newspaper articles	Photocopies of articles
6	Miscellaneous	The Early History of the King's Daughters Home for Women, Springfield, Illinois; Admission ticket – 1900; Receipt – 1957; Constitution and By-Laws of the Cheerful Workers Circle (2); Receipts list; Disbursements list; Name list
	Record book	1939 Directory; Minutes 1933-1943
	Record book	Minutes 1943-1950
	Record book	Minutes 1950-1961; Attendance 1950-1961