

New Hampshire State Library



New Hampshire Branch and Concord City Union
of the International Order
of the King's Daughters and Sons:
Records and Scrapbooks 1898-1993



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Finding Aid
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Scope and Content Note: The collection contains the reprinted writings of Margaret Bottome (founder of the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons), the records of the New Hampshire Branch, and the records of the Concord (N.H.) City Union of the King's Daughters and Sons. Included are scrapbooks, records of meetings and conventions, and treasurer's ledgers. The collection also contains the *Silver Cross* magazine, the official publication of the order, from 1907-1976; these have been separated from the rest of the collection and classed in the library's periodical section.

Organization Background of the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons: The International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons is an interdenominational Christian service organization.

"The Order began on January 13th, 1886 in the New York City home of Margaret Bottome, a Methodist minister's wife. Margaret was well-known for her drawing room talks, Bible studies and prayer meetings. Dr. Edward Everett Hale, originator of the Lend-A-Hand movement, had planted the idea for a "sisterhood of service" before Mrs. Bottome invited several of her friends to an organizational meeting.

"Mrs. Irving, an educator in New York City, suggested the name, The King's Daughters. For the badge, a little silver Maltese cross was chosen. In the early days, those who could not procure a cross wore a purple ribbon to proclaim their membership. ... In 1887, men and boys began seeking admission to the Order, and the name of the organization changed to The King's Daughters and Sons in 1891."

[The above information is excerpted from the website history written by Sue Buck.]
<http://www.iokds.org/history.html> (last accessed 03/06/2013).

The organization adopted the watchword "In His Name", and the motto:

Look up and not down,
Look forward and not back,
Look out and not in,
Lend a hand.

Members are organized into "circles" of three or more members, with the right to elect their own officers and choose their own work. Circles choose names that reflect their particular emphasis, values, or Scripture passage, such as "Vigilant", "Never Idle", and "Whatsoever". There are also junior circles for young people under the age of 18. Several circles in one area or town can organize into city or town unions. Chapters consist of 50 or more members. The collective groups in a state comprise a branch. A convention of the Order is held annually.

The order moved its headquarters from New York City to Chautauqua, NY in 1972 and is currently active, with branches in 22 states.

Organizational Background of the New Hampshire Branch of the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons:

Founded in 1898, the New Hampshire branch was formed to "develop spiritual life and to stimulate Christian activities", as well as "to promote union among its members in the State of New Hampshire that they may carry out the aims and purposed of the Order in their local work and in the world more fully than would be otherwise possible" [from the 1898 constitution).

Works of the New Hampshire branch circles included raising funds to support American Indians, children with disabilities, and students aspiring to ministerial careers. In 1903 the "Whatsoever Circle" of Newport published a cookbook.

Currently (2013), it appears that the New Hampshire Branch of the International Order of the King's Daughter and Sons is no longer active. It is not listed on the International Order's website.

Organizational Background of the Concord City Union of King's Daughters and Sons:

With 22 circles active in the Concord area, a Concord City Union was formed on May 8, 1923. Over the years, the City Union raised funds for several causes, including support for visiting nurses, a charity kitchen, summer camp expenses for underprivileged children, the children's home in Nashua, aid for victims of natural disasters, and donations to the international Order.

The secretary record books reveal the gradual decrease in memberships as one circle after another voted to discontinue, and the amount of funds raised dwindled accordingly. By May of 1961, there were only four circles remaining and within two years, the remaining circles had joined the Merrimack District of the New Hampshire Branch.

[Information taken from "City Union Story" by Ruth Taylor, May 1970, and from secretary's records.]

Provenance: Most of the items were donated to the New Hampshire State Library by Ruth W. Sanborn - then of 23½ Pine Street, Concord, NH, and president of the NH Hampshire Branch, 1960 - in two installments. The first was donated on October 28, 1977 and consisted of four scrapbooks of the NH Branch (covering 1915-1966, 1931-1932, 1933-1934, 1947-1975), and sixteen wrapped bundles of the Silver Cross magazine. (The magazines have been classed separately into the New Hampshire State Library's periodical section.)

The second Sanborn donation was made on September 21, 1983 and contained the NH Branch's annual attendance ledger, 1930-1976, the treasurer's ledger, 1960-1981 and the special edition of Margaret Bottome's writings.

The collection also includes three volumes of secretarial records of the NH Branch (1898-1916, 1916-1933, 1933-1944) but the library's accession information does not specify a donor. A fourth volume of the NH Branch, from 1986-1993, is in a 3-ring binder and

contains the minutes and reports of secretary Mary E. Johnson; there is no accession information for this volume.

There is also no accession information for the Concord City Union materials, although they appear to have been donated together (there is one depository card for the 4 ledger books).

Span Dates: 1898-1993.

Collection Strengths: Fairly thorough record of the organization of the New Hampshire Branch and Concord City Union, including photographs of presidents, officers, and members, minutes of Executive Committee meetings, reports delivered at annual conventions, and financial information; important now for historical purposes because neither of these groups is currently active.

Collection Size: The collection consists of two letter-sized Hollinger boxes, 1 half-width letter-sized Hollinger box, 1 legal-sized Hollinger box, 1 large wrapped scrapbook, and 1 folio.

Copyright Status and Access: The collection is owned by the New Hampshire State Library and may be viewed at the library upon request.

Subjects, People, Names:

Bottome, Margaret	Concord, New Hampshire service clubs
Christian charities, New Hampshire	New Hampshire charitable organizations
Christian service clubs, New Hampshire	Sanborn, Ruth
Concord City Union of King's Daughters and Sons	Taylor, Ruth

Arrangement and Description: The materials were delivered to the New Hampshire State Library, at different times, in envelopes and tied bundles. As mentioned earlier, the bundles of the Silver Cross magazine were classed separately.

Original order was unclear although it appears that the Concord City Union material arrived together. These materials are classed together as Series V.

A scrapbook of the New Hampshire branch, 1915-1966, was wrapped but not placed in an archival box. The scrapbook pages were too large for any available box or folder. Removing the binder and placing the pages in archival envelopes would have made the contents less accessible and more easily damaged.

The contents of another smaller scrapbook of the New Hampshire Branch, covering the period 1947-1975, were removed from the binder and divided into two folders (folders 7 and 8).

The collection is organized into 6 series.

Container List

- Box 1 Series I: Record books of secretary of the New Hampshire Branch
Folder 1. 1898-1916 (includes Constitution and By-laws)
2. 1916-1933
3. 1933-1944
4. 1986-1993
- Series II: Scrapbooks of the New Hampshire Branch
1915-1966 [wrapped and shelved between Box 1 and Box 2]
- Box 2 Folder 5. 1931-1932
6. 1933-1934
7. 1947-1968
8. 1968-1975
- Box 3 Series III: Treasurer's ledger, New Hampshire Branch
Folder 9. 1960-1981
- Series IV: Annual convention attendance record book
Folder 10. 1930-1976
- Box 4 Series V: Records of the Concord City Union
Folder 11. Constitution
12. Prayer of the Order
13. "City Union Story" by Ruth Taylor, May 1970
14. First book: 1923-1937
15. Second book: 1938-1959
16. Third book: 1960-1970
17. Treasurer's book of City Union, 1923-1970
- Folio Series VI: Margaret Bottome writings (reprint)

Internet Resources (websites viewed on March 21, 2012)

Buck, Sue. *A brief history of the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons*
<http://www.iokds.org/history.html>

McCrillis, Herbert O. *The story of the King's Daughters*. New England Magazine, v. 35, 1906, pp. 549-564.

http://books.google.com/books?id=bAVAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA558&lpg=PA558&dq=kings+daughters+benevolent+association&source=bl&ots=ffLVZm-gMh&sig=4Uoi4AiCCe6bnvGnQkbSsd4a_wo&hl=en&sa=X&ei=piI-UZO4NqmMQQH6roHADQ&ved=0CEwQ6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=kings%20daughters%20benevolent%20association&f=false

"Whatsoever Circle" of Newport, N.H. *King's Daughters Cook Book*. Newport, NH: Barton & Wheeler, 1903.
<http://books.google.com/books?id=EIAEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA127&lpg=PA127&dq=New+Hampshire+branch+of+the+International+Order+of+the+King's+daughters+and+sons&source=bl&ots>

[=7m7kudSrYe&sig=DjYygPmVmVyHcojxEdmejoCmedI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=MBw-Uc-MH8S80gHy6oG4Dw&ved=0CE4Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=New%20Hampshire%20branch%20of%20the%20International%20Order%20of%20the%20King's%20daughters%20and%20sons&f=false](http://www.bizapedia.com/nh/KINGS-DAUGHTERS-BENEVOLENT-ASSOCIATION.html)

Related Organization: (websites viewed on March 21, 2012)

Kings Daughters Benevolent Association, Nashua, NH., founded in 1893.

<http://www.bizapedia.com/nh/KINGS-DAUGHTERS-BENEVOLENT-ASSOCIATION.html>

"Day nursery has been established by the King's Daughters Benevolent Association". Nashua Telegraph, Jan. 14, 1907, p. 4.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2209&dat=19070114&id=FBRAAAAIBAJ&sjid=LqQMAAAAIBAJ&pg=1583,5357906>

"District #1 Schoolhouse, Nashua, New Hampshire"

http://nashuaschoolhouse.com/Plan_Your_Visit.html

[Educational programs for 4th graders, sponsored by the King's Daughters Benevolent Association]

"Symphony NH Concerts in Schools"

<http://symphonynh.org/community/concerts-in-schools/>

[Credits the King's Daughters Benevolent Association with sponsoring musical ensemble visits to New Hampshire schools.]