

## Information Sheet

**R**      **Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem. Pleiades White Shrine No. 1**  
**491**    **(Springfield, Mo.).**  
          **Scrapbook, 1939-1940.**  
          **One volume.**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

This is a "Memory Book for Worthy High Priestess, Bessie Spencer, of Pleiades White Shrine No. 1, arranged by Bertha Graham, Worthy Chaplain." The White Shrine of Jerusalem was an affiliate of freemasonry. The membership consisted mostly of wives of Master Masons. This volume covers activities of the Springfield chapter from March 1939 to April 1940.

Pleiades White Shrine No. 1 was organized at Springfield, Missouri, on 12 March 1914 by Mr. and Mrs. John W. Kastler, who had been members of Nazareth Shrine No. 20 in Chicago, Illinois. The chapter was "instituted" on 4 April 1914. Membership consisted largely of female relatives, usually wives, of Master Masons. Men were also allowed to join, although their participation appears to have been limited, and they held no offices other than "Watchman of Shepherds." For the membership year 1939-1940 Bessie B. Spencer served as "Worthy High Priestess" and Bertha Graham, who compiled the scrapbook, served as "Worthy Chaplain" of the Springfield chapter.

On 2 March 1939 Pleiades White Shrine No. 1 elected officers for the forthcoming membership year; installation took place on 6 April. The chapter held regular monthly meetings, except during July and August, and occasional special events, such as parties and dinners, sometimes restricted to certain members and/or officers. In May 1939 many of the chapter's leaders and members attended the "Supreme Session" of the society in Cincinnati, Ohio. A list of major activities can be found on the "Shelf List." Occasionally the chapter would hold "Ceremonial Sessions," when candidates were accepted into membership. A high point of the year was the "Silver Jubilee Banquet," celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the chapter, held in May. Mrs. Spencer presented an annual report for her leadership year at the regular membership meeting on 7 March 1940. Her term of office ended on 4 April 1940.

The scrapbook was compiled on loose leaves and held in a three-ring binder. The pages have been numbered in pencil for the convenience of researchers. Deaths of members, or "Sojourners," were noted, although there is a full obituary only for one.

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*21 September 1992*

*Mark C. Stauter*

*Gift*

## Shelf List

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<u>Page(s)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
6	2 March 1939	Regular meeting; officers elected for 1939-1940.
10	17 March	"Tacky Party"
11	6 April	Installation of officers.
51-52	24-25 April	Rotary International district conference; chapter provides meal service.
53-55	30 April	Open House at 538 Stanford (Spencer residence).
59-62B	4 May	Silver Jubilee Banquet.
63-69B	8-11 May	Supreme Session, Cincinnati, Ohio.
73	5 June	"Weenie Roast"

74-78B	8 June	Regular meeting; report on Supreme Session; "woman-less wedding."
79-82	15 June	"Silver Jubilee Ceremonial"
83	24 June	Banquet for Rainbow Girls.
86	25 June	Banquet for Grand Cross of Color.
88	29 June	No-host dinner.
91	13 July	Covered dish dinner.
92	20 July	Shrine Picnic, Phelps Grove Park, Springfield, Mo.
95	7 September	Regular meeting.
96	14 September	"School of Instruction"
97A	29 September	Officers Club (second party).
98A-B	5 October	Regular meeting.
99	19 October	Party for "Sojourners."
100	31 October	Officers Club (third party).
102	2 November	"Family Night"
103	6 November	Meeting of Shepherdess Guards.
104-105	16 November	Second Silver Jubilee Anniversary ceremonial session.
106	30 November	Officers Club (Thanksgiving Party).
107	7 December	Regular meeting.
108	21 December	Officers Club (Christmas Party).
110	4 January 1940	Meeting of Shepherdess Guards.
113	1 February	Regular meeting.
114-115	15 February	Ceremonial Session.
116	29 February	Officers Club.
117-120	7 March	Regular meeting; annual report of W.H.P.
121	17 March	Officers Club (last meeting).
122	20 March	Meeting of Shepherdess Guards (first day of spring).
125	4 April	Installation of new officers.

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### **Index Cards**

Baldwin, Kittie Gilmartin.  
Bowman, Earl.  
Bruton, Helen.  
Bush, Ada May.  
Cadwell, Florence A.  
Carl, Ben.  
Casselman, Fannie.  
Delo, Walter.  
Freemasonry.  
Graham, Bertha.  
Graham, George.  
Grand Cross of Color.  
Greene County (Mo.).  
Hans, Mary.  
Hind, Lydia.  
Johnson, Robert.  
Kastler, John W.  
McCall, Verda.  
McIlvin, Ida.  
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Order of Rainbow for Girls.  
Rotary International.  
Snow, Minnie V.  
Snow, Susan.

Spencer, Bessie B.

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Steele, Aileen.

Upchurch, Hobert.

Upchurch, Ora.

Vinton, Elizabeth.

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Windle, Hazel.

Women—Societies and clubs.

Wommack, Gladys.

Wommack, Ruel.