

Accession #2008-25      Location: Rg. 41 Sec. 7

Clarissa C. Cook Home for the Friendless

Employee Timeline – Information abstracted from Board Minutes Record Book, Census records and Davenport City Directories

Prepared by kmo for photo identification and general information

1880 Board of Managers consisted of John F. Dillon, Edward E. Cook, Daniel B. Shelley, Ira Cook and four ladies selected by the four men (who were appointed per C.C. Cook's will) included Mrs. Agnes French, Miss Harriet Rogers, Mrs. Mary E. Wing, Mrs. Charles B. Bills. F. H. Griggs named treasurer.

1882 Clarissa C. Cook Home for the Friendless opens in October.

YEAR	MATRON	ASST. MATRON	NURSE	OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST
1882	Bickford, Lile F.			Bickford began 25 August with annual salary \$400.
1883	Bickford, Lile			Jan. 12 Jennie McCowen apptd. Regular physician, Dr. L. French consulting physician.
1884	Bickford, Lile		Meacham, Electa L. (Lettie) October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Per Board minutes received \$25/month. Bickford's salary raised to \$500/year.
1885 CENSUS	Lile Bickford, age 30	Lettie Meacham, age 33	No nurse listed	Housekeepers Bertie Lawson (28) and Anna Louisan (42). Seamstress May Santry (19). Domestic Eva Beckman (56). Hired man Ernst Leberman (31).
1885	Bickford, Lile	Miss Schell appointed to position after Meacham leaves?	Meacham, Electa L.	Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup> regret Meacham departs, asst. matron

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1886	Bickford, Lile		Meacham, Electa L.	<p>Dec: Lile Bickford, Lettie Meacham, Dr. Jennie McCowen &amp; 2 other women form the Lend-a-Hand Club.</p> <p>Mrs. Mary Olligshlager is employed (capacity?) April 16, 1886-Dec. 27, 1888. She is in her 20's with a young son Emil Alfred. Became ill Dec. 1888 – Feb. 2, 1889 when she went to the hospital. Emil stayed at Cook Home under Matron's care until March 25 when he was taken in charge by Fr. Neirman of St. Joseph's church. Mary returned to CCC Home July 21, 1889 and became employee again until May 1890.</p> <p>1892 she had another child, "Bessie". The 1894 city directory lists Mary as a seamstress. Mrs. Olligshlager eventually moved to New York state to live with Bessie (Elizabeth Friedank) and her family (1920 census).</p> <p>Emil is listed as an actor in the 1910 census. He married Florence in 1906 but is living with Mary and Bessie in 1910. His WWI draft registration lists Florence however, and he is also in Suffolk Co. NY.</p>
1887	Bickford, Lile		Meacham, Electa L.	<p>Anne Stent arrives in the U.S. from England. She has been widowed since 1871 according to her obituary. Likely came with nephew George Innes.</p>
1888-89	Bickford	Meacham, Electa L.		

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1890	Bickford	March-Miss Norton resigns May 1 <sup>st</sup> Miss Emma Higbee promoted to 1 <sup>st</sup> assistant to matron and gets \$20/mo plus board		Mrs. N. E. Maines listed as seamstress at ISOH in city directory  Meacham not listed in city directory under "M" – perhaps in Woodward, IA at Woodward State Hospital [Davenport Daily Leader, April 27, 1892, page 4]
1891	Bickford; resigns May 25 & goes to Chicago area to work in School for deaf children.  Miss Lizzie L. Woodward chosen as successor	Miss Higbee leaves October 1 <sup>st</sup>		Miss Nancy Morgan (inmate) dismissed from home for insubordination. She was evaluated and determined to be sane before release.
1892	January: Woodward resigns. Miss Cody is employed.  May: appoint Meacham, Electa L.	Miss Alice P. Mead of the Orphans Home assists  May: Miss Eliza Clinch assumes assistant duties		Bickford is superintendent & matron of Hadlai Heights Womens Hospital in Davenport. This is a Lend a Hand Club business venture. Dr. Jennie McCowen is the hospital's chief physician  Nannie Maines is likely in Cedar Rapids for Nurses Training and then in Dubuque at Lamb Hospital until 1898
1893	Meacham	Miss Alice Brown 2 <sup>nd</sup> assist. resigns Mrs. M.T. Plank is apptd 2 <sup>nd</sup> asst. to matron		Mr. Fejervary resigns from the Board of Managers due to deafness.

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1894-95	Meacham, Electa L.			Bickford VP of "Home Cooking" business – another Lend a Hand business and resides at Hadlai Heights [Davenport Daily Republican 15Dec1895 pg.3]
1895 CENSUS	Electa Meacham	Eliza Clinch		Mary Plank (44), Bertha Witt (30), Annie Sheller (22), Sophia Sheller (20), Dora Hoffman (19) all listed prior to the inmates.
1896-97	Meacham, Electa L.	Nov. 1896 Miss Clinch resigns. Mrs. M.E. Maines fills the position of 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor matron		Miss L. F. Bickford of Hadlai Heights has returned home from Colorado where she has spent the last six months. She is much improved in health. [Davenport Sunday Leader 26July1896]  Bickford VP of "Home Cooking" business  Earliest possible date for the images identified as taken in the parlor.
1898-99	Meacham, Electa L.	Maines, Nannie	Stent, Anna S. [wid Wm.] 1 <sup>st</sup> time appears in city directory	
1900 CENSUS	Electa L. Meacham (49)	Nannie Maines (44)	Anne Stent (56)	Cook – Ellie Kandiz (58) Asst. Cook – Mattie Martin (21) Laundress – Annie Webb (33) Janitor – August Smith (42)
1900-01	Meacham, Electa L.	Maines, Nannie	Stent, Anne	1900 - Lile Bickford goes to Denver, CO to care for her mother, Charlotte, age 76. Lives with sister & brother in law 1901 - Dr. Jennie McCowen sells Hadlai Heights Women's Hospital for \$7600

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1902	Meacham, Electa L.	Maines & Stent		
1903	Meacham	Oct. Maines resigns as assistant matron and Miss Elsie Aiken takes her place		
1904			Nov. Mrs. Stent leaves for winter and Miss Hoffmeier replaces but she doesn't show. Meacham and Aiken perform her work.	No Davenport City Directory Available for 1904-05
1905	Meacham in IA state census as Matron CCC			Nannie nor Anne are listed in census. Think Nannie Maines goes to Idaho until 1910 to work in hospital in Pocatello
1906-07	Meacham, Electa L.	Mrs. Street		Anne not in CD Eban Smith's salary is increased
1908	Meacham, Electa June: Miss Elsie Aiken acting matron	Anne Stent		June 23: Miss Meacham's resignation not accepted. Gets 6 months vacation and half salary.
1909	Meacham, Electa L.	Anne Stent		

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1910	Electa Meacham (58) as of April 22 census	Maines, Nannie (55)	Stent, Anne (66)	No location yet for Bickford-Nelsons are in Luna Co. New Mexico but she is not. E. L. Meacham letter of resignation in 2013-17; read 3 Nov. 1910 mtg, effective 1/1/1911  Miss Julia E. Sanders improved after being treated for morphine habit in Iowa hospital.
1911	Maines, Nannie		Stent, Anne	Letter of resignation [2013-17] states moving to Kansas to be with her sister.
1912	Maines, Nannie		Stent, Anne	
1913	Maines, Nannie			Mrs. Stent is no longer listed in the Davenport City Directories.
1914	Maines, Nannie			
1915	Maines, Nannie			
1916	Maines, Nannie			
1917	Maines, Nannie			
1918	Maines, Nannie			
1919	White, Mrs. Anna			

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1920	Horn(e), Miss Mary A. (48)  Meacham, Lettie (68)	Ida Ficke (57)	Helen Scott (40)	Anne Stent lives Moline-no occupation  Nannie Maines lives Davenport-no occupation  Lile Bickford lives in New Mexico with sis & bro-in-law with no occupation  Laundress – Alvina Hildebrand Cook – Emma Pettigrew Fireman – Louis Verwelgun
1925	Horn, Mary A. (51)	Carrie N. Pullock (66)	Helen C. Scott (45)	Janitor – Gustave Petersen (27) Waitress – Clara Myer (19) Cook – Ida Lingard (48) Laundress – Sarah Gordon (56)
1926				May 7 <sup>th</sup> Electa L. “Lettie” Meacham dies in Sterling, Whiteside Co. IL. Her obituary states she died in the Sterling Hospital, having lived in Sterling for the last ten years. (Doesn’t quite seem accurate.) Mentions body will be brought to Davenport crematorium for incineration.
1930	Horn, Miss Mary A. until her death. June 21 <sup>st</sup> she is replaced by Miss Grinshaw			Nannie MAINES lives in Peoria, IL
1931	June 23 <sup>rd</sup> Grinshaw is elected matron			

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1933				Anne S. STENT dies Buried Riverside Cemetery, Moline IL
1939				Nannie MAINES dies in October in Peoria, IL-buried Pine Hill Cemetery, Davenport next to Patrick.

Per info in 2013-17 Sophie Toller was at one time matron.

**Electa L. "Lettie" MEACHAM** [b. Massachusetts ca 1848 – d. ???]

One of the five ladies who founded the Lend a Hand Club. She, along with Lile Bickford, Dr. Jennie McCowen, May Santry and Anna McCrum started the Club in December of 1886. A section of Sharon Wood's book *Freedom of the Streets* documents Electa's early life and her connection to Dr. McCowen. Lettie and McCowen met at Mt. Pleasant Iowa State Hospital for the Insane before 1877. She left there in 1878 and worked in a paper mill until 1882 when McCowen suggested she come to Davenport and work at the Clarissa C. Cook Home for the Friendless.

1892 *Davenport Daily Leader* article on April 27, page 4, indicates Miss Meacham returned to the Cook Home to become Matron after a year spent in Woodward – possibly at Woodward State Hospital, Woodward, IA.

Appears in several photos in this accession. Also an earlier image of her appears in Sharon Wood's book *Freedom of the Streets*. [also in 2013-17]

Meacham is listed as the matron in 1910 and 1920 census. She died in Sterling, Whiteside County, IL on May 7, 1926 and was brought to the Davenport crematorium for incineration. One obituary stated she had lived in Sterling for the last ten years. (Obituaries: *Daily Times* Sat. 8 May 1926, *Democrat* 9 May, 1926 page 17.)



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**Nannie Emeline (GRAY) MAINES** was married to Patrick McCullough Maines in 1873. They moved to Clinton, IA in 1876 then lived in LeClaire, Rapid City and Princeton. They are listed in Princeton, IA in the 1880 census with son William Ripley MAINES, who went on to become a successful lawyer and district court judge. The couple did not stay together, but no divorce record has been found as of yet. By 1890 it seems they are no longer living together as Nannie is listed as a seamstress for the Iowa Soldiers Orphans Home.

Patrick, a steamboat engineer, went on to marry and divorce a second time in Davenport-only to die in 1909 while living with son William at 726 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Court documents state he lived with second wife Mary B. until 1901 when he deserted her. He is charged with desertion and nonsupport with the divorce granted in 1904.

Nannie went on to study nursing in Cedar Rapids and then work at a hospital in Clinton, IA from about 1892 until 1898. She is listed as assistant matron at the Clarissa C. Cook Home for the Friendless from 1898 until 1905. Between 1905-1910 she appears to have gone to Pocatello, Idaho to work as a nurse. She returned to Davenport as Assistant Matron for CCCook Home in 1910 and then served as Matron from 1911 until 1918. [Photos in 2013-17 w/brothers, sisters, Miss Meacham, Helen Maines](#)

Her life continued in Davenport for a bit, as established in the 1920 census, then in Peoria, IL per 1930's census. Nannie's life ended there in 1939. Her body was brought back to Davenport to be buried at Pine Hill Cemetery next to her former husband, Patrick,

Several images are identified as Mama Maines, and William R. Maines is also identified.

[2013-17 child identified as Helen Maines](#)

**Anne S. STENT**, widow of William H., emigrated from England - arrived about 1887 in the U.S. according to the 1900 federal census. There is no evidence of residence in Davenport prior to 1898 when she is listed in the Davenport city directory as a nurse at the Clarissa C. Cook Home. She appears several more times as employed at the CCCook Home. Then in the 1920 census she is living in Moline with nephew George Innes and his wife. By 1930 she is listed as an "inmate" at the CCCook Home. Her obituary in the Davenport Democrat on April 30, 1933 states she died at the Cook Home following a short illness. She married Mr. Stent in about 1860 and he died in India in 1871-a sea captain according to her obituary.

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She was of the Episcopalian faith. The only survivor listed was nephew George Innes. He and Judge William R. Maines joined two other men as casket bearers for Anne Stent's funeral. Her burial was in Riverside Cemetery in Moline, IL.

Stent is identified and I also wonder if the item id'd as "Aunty KENT" might perhaps be her.

**Lile F. BICKFORD** is not listed as being in any of the photographs, but plays a part in this group. She was born "Eliza" in New Hampshire ca 1854. She evidently worked in several care facilities before coming to the Cook Home when it opened in 1882. She served as Matron for nine years, during which time she helped to establish the Lend a Hand Club in Davenport. One of the businesses that grew from the LAH Club was the Hadlai Heights Women's Hospital. Dr. Jennie McCowen was the chief physician and Miss Bickford served as matron and superintendent, and the two women maintained a close relationship. In 1894 Bickford also took on the vice presidency of Home Cooking business – an early catering venture again sponsored by the Lend a Hand club – while residing at Hadlai Heights Hospital. By 1900 she was needed in Denver, CO to care for her 76 year old mother, Charlotte, and lived with her sister and brother in law Mary S. and John Bartlett Nelson.

Lile's whereabouts in 1910 is still a mystery, but the Nelsons are living in Luna County, New Mexico in both 1910 and in 1920 where we again find Lile living with the couple in 1920.