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.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.
Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem. Pleiades White Shrine No. 1 (Springfield, Mo.). Scrapbook, 1939-1940

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.

21 September 1992    Mark C. Stauter
Gift

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