



City of Cambridge

R-56.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 30, 2001

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Edith Blair Staton on July 7, 2001 at the age of 104; and
- WHEREAS: Edith was born in the Blair House in Washington on September 6, 1896, granddaughter of a member of President Lincoln's cabinet; and
- WHEREAS: As a young woman, Edith was interested in children and concerned that girls could not join the Girl Scouts until age twelve; after learning about English programs for younger girls while on a trip to England, she founded, with two companions, the Brownie Scouts, and she served as a local and national leader for many years; and
- WHEREAS: When she was in her seventies, Edith moved to Cambridge to help raise her eight grandchildren after the death of their mother, Edith's daughter; and
- WHEREAS: At the age of ninety-five, Edith's concern to truly live the values of her religion led to her decision to make a contribution to resolving the race issues we all face; and
- WHEREAS: Edith, who could not participate in large meetings because of hearing difficulties, used her apartment as a place to invite students, mixed groups, many from Africa and other countries, for dinner and conversation, and for mutual learning; she often used a video "Healing the Heart of America," about an effort in Richmond, Virginia, to bring people together; and
- WHEREAS: Edith's extraordinary life was filled with contributions to her family, friends, community and country; and
- WHEREAS: Edith's passing will leave a void in the lives of all her surviving friends and family, her three granddaughters, Kate Sapin, Louisa Ellis and Anne McCaben; her five grandsons, John, Matthew, Daniel, Alexander and Peter; and her eleven great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS: Edith will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Edith Blair Staton at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Staton family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council July 30, 2001.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy:

D. Margaret Drury

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

MS
AG

RES

MS

AG

P. 96

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of

Edith Blair Staton on July 7, 2001
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INSERT

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the lives of all of ~~his~~ her surviving friends and

family, her three granddaughters Kate
Sapin, Louisa Ellis and Arlene McCabon; her
five grandsons, John, Matthew,
Daniel, Alexander and Peter, and her
11 great-grandchildren; and

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of Edith Blair Staton at this time of such personal
be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably

copy of this resolution to the Staton family on
the entire City Council.



City of Cambridge

3.

INSERT

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 29, 1996

VICE MAYOR BORN

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that ~~Edith Blair Staton~~ will celebrate her One Hundredth Birthday at a special celebration at Christ Church on September 8, 1996; and

WHEREAS: Edith was born in the Blair House in Washington on September 6, 1896, granddaughter of a member of President Lincoln's cabinet; and

WHEREAS: As a young women, Edith was interested in children and concerned that girls could not join the Girl Scouts until age twelve; after learning about English programs for younger girls while on a trip to England, she founded, with two companions, the Brownie Scouts, and she served as a local and national leader for many years; and

WHEREAS: When she was in her seventies, Edith moved to Cambridge to help raise her eight grandchildren after the death of their mother, Edith's daughter; and

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WHEREAS: Edith, who could not participate in large meetings because of hearing difficulties, used her apartment as a place to invite students, mixed groups, many from Africa and other countries, for dinner and conversation, and for mutual learning; she often used a video "Healing the Heart of America," about an effort in Richmond, Virginia, to bring people together; and

WHEREAS: Edith's extraordinary life has been filled with contributions to her family, friends, community and country; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record wishing ~~Edith Blair Staton~~ a very happy One Hundredth Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to ~~Edith Blair Staton~~ on behalf of the entire City Council.

TO Paula
FR Michael
DATE 7-7-01
RE ORDERS

Please put the following orders
in for me.

1. on the death of
Agnes T. Simmons ✓
2. on the death of Eugene
Thrape
3. on the death of Edith
Blair Stuten ✓

-article 5/6/20 7-7-01

R. So

Edith Blair Staton, at 104; fought racism, aided Scouts

By Szymon Twarog
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Edith Blair Staton of Cambridge, a humanitarian whose causes ranged from ending racism to starting the Girl Scouts' Brownies organization, died Saturday at her home. She was 104.

The last person to be born in the Blair House, the Pennsylvania Avenue mansion in Washington that now serves as the president's official guest house for visiting kings, prime ministers, and other foreign dignitaries, Mrs. Staton was a descendant of a prominent political family whose ties reached from the nation's capital to Boston.



1996 GLOBE FILE PHOTO

Edith Blair Staton, with some of the 100 roses given to her on her 100th birthday.

She was the first pupil ever at the now famous Potomac School, which was founded by her mother, Edith Draper Blair, herself the daughter of Massachusetts Congressman William Franklin Draper.

Mrs. Staton grew up on her family's 200-acre estate in Silver Spring, Md., a city her family founded. Among her early influences was her other grandfather, attorney Montgomery Blair, who represented Dred Scott, a slave, in the controversial 1857 Supreme Court case that perpetuated slavery.

Another person who greatly affected Mrs. Staton at a young age was Dee, a former slave who helped Mrs. Staton's mother raise her seven children.

"I loved Dee. She was wonderful, but I inherently knew somehow people saw her as different," Mrs. Staton said in an interview with The Boston Globe on the celebration of her 100th birthday in 1996. "I remember her eating in a separate room. You couldn't avoid noticing the relationship" between races, she said.

Mrs. Staton spent much of her life working to improve that relationship, especially among young people.

She helped build an anti-delinquency group for black youths in urban Washington, D.C., and served as a counselor to pregnant teens. After moving to Cambridge, she worked through programs with the Episcopal Christ Church to raise awareness of racism. Even into her late 90s, she continued the fight.

Another of Mrs. Staton's causes was the Girl Scouts program, which she became involved in through her only child, Lucy. Mrs. Staton said she noticed girls would bring their younger sisters to the meetings and activities, although they weren't old enough to be members. So she lobbied the Girl Scouts organization to start a group for younger girls.

By the late 1930s, she was leading a Girl Scouts committee that drafted the US Brownie constitu-

tion.

Following the death of her husband, Adolphus, she moved to Cambridge to be near her daughter, Lucy McCabe, who herself was a well known activist in the civil rights movement.

For the remainder of her life she gave generously to many charities, religious and secular, as well as many needy individuals.

However, racial tolerance continued to be Mrs. Staton's goal. On her 100th birthday celebration, after a memorial celebration at Christ Church, she proceeded to Cambridge City Hall, where she was presented with a proclamation saluting her years of devotion to public issues.

She leaves three granddaughters, Kate Sapin of Manchester, England, Louisa Ellis of London, and Anne McCablen of Brooklyn, N.Y.; five grandsons, John of New York, N.Y., Matthew of Warwick, R.I., Daniel of Teaneck, N.J., Alexander of New Rochelle, N.Y., and Peter of Brooklyn, N.Y.; and 11 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday July 20th at Christ Church in Cambridge.

July 7
Boston Globe

To: Paula X4269

from: Cambridge Public Library
X4026

=== COVER PAGE ===

TO: _____

FROM: CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY

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COMMENT:

07-09-01 13:30

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P.01

Obituaries

Edith Blair Staton, at 104; fought racism, aided Scouts

By Szymon Twarog
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

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She was the first pupil ever at the now famous Potomac School, which was founded by her mother, Edith Draper Blair, herself the daughter of Massachusetts Congressman William Franklin Draper.

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A memorial service will be held

Ruth Heindel, 87; founded publisher, wrote dining books

By Szymon Twarog
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Ruth Noble Heindel of Harrisburg, Pa., a former publishing company executive with a special interest in foreign affairs, died Monday at her home. She was 87.

Born in Portland, Maine, Mrs. Heindel held degrees from Wellesley College and Columbia University.

In Boston, she was founder and editor-in-chief of Berkshire Publishing Co. She was co-author of the preliminary memoranda for the Conference on International Cultural, Educational, and Scientific Exchanges in 1947. She also wrote "The Guide to New England Dining" and "Ruth Noble's Guide to Distinctive Dining."

She was a member of the National Trust Historic Preservation, the American Association of Museums, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the World Affairs Council, and the American Booksellers Association.

Mrs. Heindel moved to Harrisburg in 1969 and produced radio and television programs titled "Great Decisions" for the Foreign Policy Association of Harrisburg.

She was chairwoman of the annual reception for the International Fellows of the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., and was on the board of directors of the Compulsive Gambling Center in Baltimore. She was also the founding member of Capitol Campus Women's Faculty Club, a member of the Junior League of Harrisburg, a member of the National Association of University Women, and a past president of the Friends of Fort Hunter.

Mrs. Heindel traveled abroad frequently on trips sponsored by



MARGOT TAYLOR FANGER

Margot T. Fanger, psychotherapist; 71

Margot Taylor Fanger, a nationally known psychotherapist and teacher, died of cancer Monday in her Newton home. She was 71.

Born in Berkeley, Calif., Ms. Fanger earned a bachelor's degree in history, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Berkeley in 1951. She earned a master's degree in social work at the university in 1956.

Ms. Fanger worked for 26 years as a clinician at Harvard Pilgrim Health Plan in Cambridge. She also worked at the Boston Veterans Administration Medical Center from 1956 to 1958 and at the James Jackson Putnam Children's Center in Roxbury from 1970 to 1976. She received the Joseph L. Dorsey Award in 1985 and a Mental Health Recognition award in 1996, both from Harvard Pilgrim.

Ms. Fanger taught intermittently at Smith College and the Boston University School of Social Work, at the Boston College School of Social Work for 11 years, and at the Simmons College School of Social Work for seven years, and was an instructor in the patient-doctor communication course at Harvard Medical School.

2001 JUL 10 A 9:37
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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1036 R

Resolution #56

Resolution on the death of Edith
Blair Staton.

**Councillor Sullivan, Mayor
Galluccio and entire membership**

In City Council July 30, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED