



1209

N O T E S

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Leaving a Legacy: E. JOAN MILLER PhD

A pioneering geographer from the Midlands to the Ozarks

Edith Joan Miller (Girton College 1941), a passionate student of geography, left her mark on her field and students. As a career geographer, she taught students field research skills and advocated fiercely for women in geography.

Born Edith Joan Wilson on March 2, 1923 in the English Midlands, her interest in geography started early. After A-levels, during her “leisure hour” at school, she “did field work on my bicycle, made maps, wrote a text, bound the pages, and made a potato cut design for the cover” instead of the more popular pastimes of knitting or cooking. This first foray into local geography was the start of her calling to geography, which she followed enthusiastically throughout her life.

At eighteen, during World War II, she began her studies at Girton College from 1941-1944. She earned a bachelor’s degree with honors in geography followed by a master’s degree. She chronicled her Girton experience during the war period when there was “little social life” and “paper and pencils were hard to find.” Nevertheless, she

completed her thesis fieldwork, worked on local Ordnance Survey maps, and received her degree.

After teaching geography for many years in England, in 1957, she moved to the United States to lecture in geography at Indiana University where she met her husband, Dr. George Miller. She earned her PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The Millers moved to Normal, Illinois in 1962, where she taught Geography at Illinois State University for 31 years. Miller relied on folk materials to document historical geography. She conducted her dissertation field work in the rural Ozark Mountains, a pioneering choice for a woman at the time.

Her work was published in foremost journals in the field—the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* and the *Professional Geographer*—and recognized with accolades, including selection by her colleagues to deliver the prestigious College of Arts and Sciences Lecture in 1975. At Illinois State University, she advocated fiercely for women, never afraid to speak her mind and making



the geography Department a more welcoming environment. She was a devoted educator, who taught students interview skills for their fieldwork, many for the first time. After retiring in 1993, Dr. Miller returned to teaching and mentoring as an adjunct, which she continued until she was physically unable.

She often returned to England to explore various parts of the country with a geographer friend, mapping trails and gathering information from residents. One of her favorite interview techniques, according to colleague Dr. Michael Sublett, was to sit in a public space sketching in her notebook and strike up conversation with passers-by who were curious about what she was doing.

Dr. Miller passed away in 2021, leaving a generous bequest in her will to Girton College for the Emily Davies bursary, to fund undergraduate students who are most in need of financial support. Through her legacy, Dr. Miller will continue to advocate for talented scholars to follow their passions at Girton.

RECENT ESTATE GIFTS

Cambridge in America is grateful to the generous alumni and friends who remember Collegiate Cambridge in their estate plans. In this section, we highlight a sampling of recent estate gifts received:

*Dr. James Longley (St Catharine's 1946)
and Helen Longley (Newnham 1947)*
provided \$953,526.24 for St Catharine's College,
Newnham College, and Cambridge in America

Professor Norbert Samuelson
provided \$58,212.25 for Clare Hall

A further \$429.87 from the *Estate of Douglass
C. North (Girton 1981)* for Girton College

A further \$2,387.50 from the *Estate of
Harry E Schulman TD MBE
(Trinity Hall 1930)* for Trinity Hall

A further \$100,000 from the *Estate of Sir David
John KCMG (Christ's 1959)* for Christ's College

WHY YOUR *Legacy Gift Matters*

Cambridge in America and Collegiate Cambridge are very grateful for your thoughtful planned gift. But what makes legacy giving different?

LEGACY GIFTS...

① Focus on the future.

The support we receive from annual gifts each year is critical. But a legacy gift is a support system we can count on to help us continue our work for generations to come.

② Do not affect your current finances.

You can take care of your top priorities—yourself and your loved ones—now, while providing for Collegiate Cambridge in the future.

③ Honor the role of the University in your life.

If Cambridge has had a significant impact on your life or the life of someone you love, a legacy gift is a heartfelt way to honor that relationship.

YOU WILL DO AMAZING THINGS

Through your legacy gift, you have a special chance to reflect the caring person you are today far into the future. If you or someone you know would like further information about how your kindness becomes your legacy, we would be honored to hear from you. Please contact Gabrielle Bennett at 212.984.0960 or plannedgiving@cantab.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAM continues to plan regional and exclusive events for The 1209 Society so please watch out for email invitations from us. We look forward to seeing you in person and thank you for your support!

- **November 2, 2023 - San Francisco, CA:**
Charitable Estate Planning at the Capital Group Office

Visit our events site for more information:
cantab.org/events



A NOTE FROM US

We hope you enjoy this latest issue of *1209 Notes*. The mission of Collegiate Cambridge is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

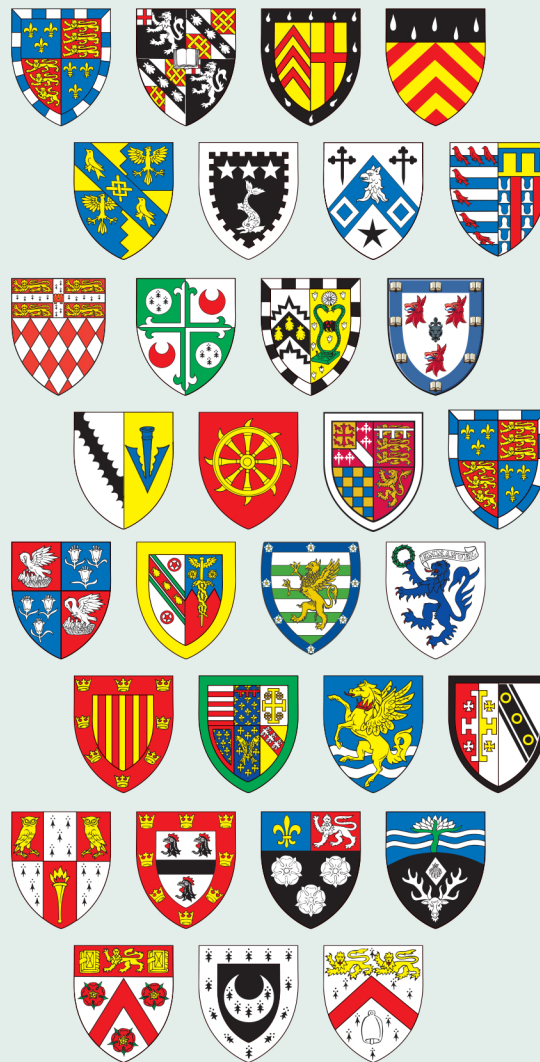
Planned giving is often an effective way to make a tax-efficient and significant gift to benefit the important causes that matter most to you. Your support and engagement, combined with the generosity of other alumni and friends, means that Cambridge can continue to fulfill its mission.

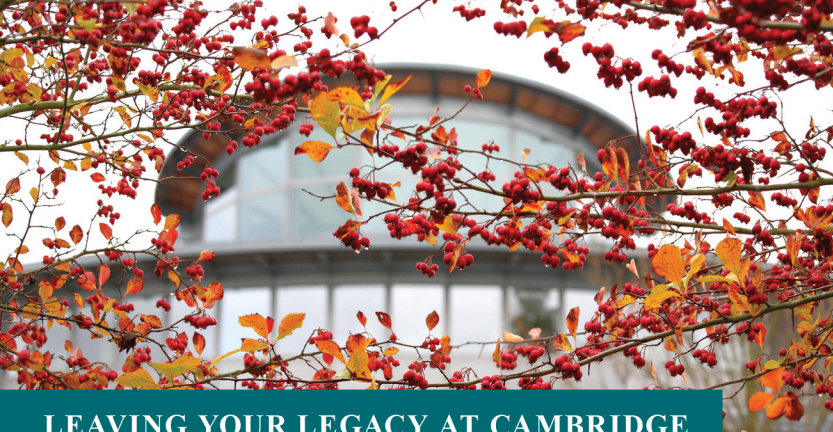
Cambridge in America's planned giving team provides the highest level of service to ensure an excellent experience for donors to Collegiate Cambridge. We assist alumni and friends who plan and complete gifts of all kinds—including bequests. To learn more about such gifts, and the potential tax benefits associated with them, we invite you to contact us. We are always delighted to hear from you, and to answer any questions you may have.

With thanks for your generosity,

Gabrielle Bennett

Executive Director
Cambridge in America





LEAVING YOUR LEGACY AT CAMBRIDGE



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[*cantab.org/plannedgiving*](https://cantab.org/plannedgiving)

To update your address,
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or email [*mail@cantab.org*](mailto:mail@cantab.org)

Thank You to all of you who have chosen to include Collegiate Cambridge in your estate plans. Planned gifts are a crucial source of support for Cambridge and its Colleges. Documenting your bequest—by providing further details such as the purpose, the amount, and structure of the gift—helps us keep a record of your intentions, inspires others, assists with our long-term planning efforts, and gives us the opportunity to thank you! Documentation does not make your gift irrevocable or binding. To update your bequest, please contact [*plannedgiving@cantab.org*](mailto:plannedgiving@cantab.org).

1209 Notes is published by the Cambridge in America Office of Planned Giving. Please direct any comments to the team at [*plannedgiving@cantab.org*](mailto:plannedgiving@cantab.org) or 212.984.0960.



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