

Last holder of 'Kleinstuck' name dies here

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Mary Kleinstuck, whose family name has been a legend in Kalamazoo for more than a century, died in her home Monday at age 95.

She was the last person bearing the name of Kleinstuck, a name associated with Kalamazoo pioneers, banking and commerce, city government, women's education and the 48-acre Kleinstuck Preserve in the city, a haven for bird-watchers, joggers and nature lovers.

She was one of the founding members of the Service Club, which grew into the Junior League. That group's support of Pretty Lake Vacation Camp was in part her initiative, and she remained until her death an honorary member of that organization.



A native of Dayton, Wash., and the eldest of nine children, she made what was in the early part of the century an arduous journey east to attend and graduate from Smith College in Northampton, Mass.

In 1919, she married Carl Hubbard Kleinstuck, an attorney who became president and board chairman of First National Bank & Trust Co., served on the city commission, was a founder of Pretty Lake camp, and was a director of the Kalamazoo Paper Co. and several other firms. He died in 1975.

The family name originally was spelled Kleinstueck, but Carl adopted a simplified spelling that has remained with the Kleinstuck Preserve.

His mother, Caroline Hubbard Kleinstueck, was the first woman to receive a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and remained active in promoting women's education after she moved to Kalamazoo. A dormitory wing at U-M bears the Kleinstueck name in her honor.

It was Caroline Hubbard Kleinstueck who donated 48 acres of land off Sterns Avenue, just behind the present YMCA, as a nature preserve. She gave the land to the state Board of Education in 1922 after the death of her husband, Carl G. Kleinstueck.

The late Irene Kleinstuck, Caroline's daughter, also served on the city commission. Silas Kleinstueck, Caroline's father-in-law, was a pioneer here.

Mary and C. Hubbard Kleinstuck had two daughters, Mary "Kay" Humphrey, who died in 1986, and Carolly Gluek of Kalamazoo. Six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren also survive.

The Kleinstuck family home at 1572 Spruce once marked the boundary of city property. Streets in the area, such as Howard and Stadium Drive, were once bridle paths where the family loved to ride.

Dickie Drive, behind the family home, is named after the favorite horse of Paul Todd, who developed much of that area and who was a close friend of the Kleinstucks.

The body of Mrs. Kleinstuck has been cremated. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Mountain Home Cemetery. Joldersma-Klein Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.