



# Eastern Regional HISTORY

When Marion Stubbs Thomas shared her intention to develop a club that would bring their children together in a close social and cultural relationship, it was met with great enthusiasm from her family and friends. Since there were more children than a home could comfortably accommodate, the children met once a month at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). It soon became necessary to make special plans for each gathering; therefore, the mothers deemed it wise to have a "Mothers" Meeting for this purpose. Such was the humble beginning in South Philadelphia.

## 1939-1940, 1944

### (New York and Washington, D.C.)

The second Jack and Jill group to organize was the New York Chapter in 1939. The Washington, DC Chapter was started by Marguerite Green in March 1940. Four years later, the success of Jack and Jill programs in Washington, Philadelphia, and New York picked up momentum. The enthusiasm and interest in the concept of such an organization began to spread.

## 1945 (Buffalo, New York)

Following the shadows of Pittsburgh, a group of mothers of Buffalo, New York were nurturing the same idea. The first group of prospective Jack and Jill members met in September 1945 to organize. The charter membership of twelve elected Edna Seay as their first Chapter President.

## 1948

The Eastern Region expansion had been phenomenal from the beginning and now Atlantic City, New Jersey and Springfield, Massachusetts were being added to the roster. Nathalie Johnson initiated the move to organize the North Jersey Chapter. The North Jersey Chapter officially joined the National Organization in June 1950. Because of the rural aspects of North Jersey, it was impossible to limit membership to a particular town; instead it was limited to a mileage radius.

## 1944 (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

Toki Schalk Johnson, presented to a group of Pittsburgh mothers the idea of forming a similar club. Marjorie Butler became Pittsburgh's first president. Under her capable guidance began one of the most successful chapters of Jack and Jill.

## 1944-1946

The Eastern Region tentacles were in a continuous growth pattern during this three year period with the chartering of chapters in Baltimore, Maryland and Boston, Massachusetts. A national organization committee was mobilized representing these seven Eastern Region chapters and three additional chapters in the Mid-Atlantic, Central and Mid-Western Regions. The committee met in Philadelphia on June, 1946 to make plans for bringing these groups together as one body.