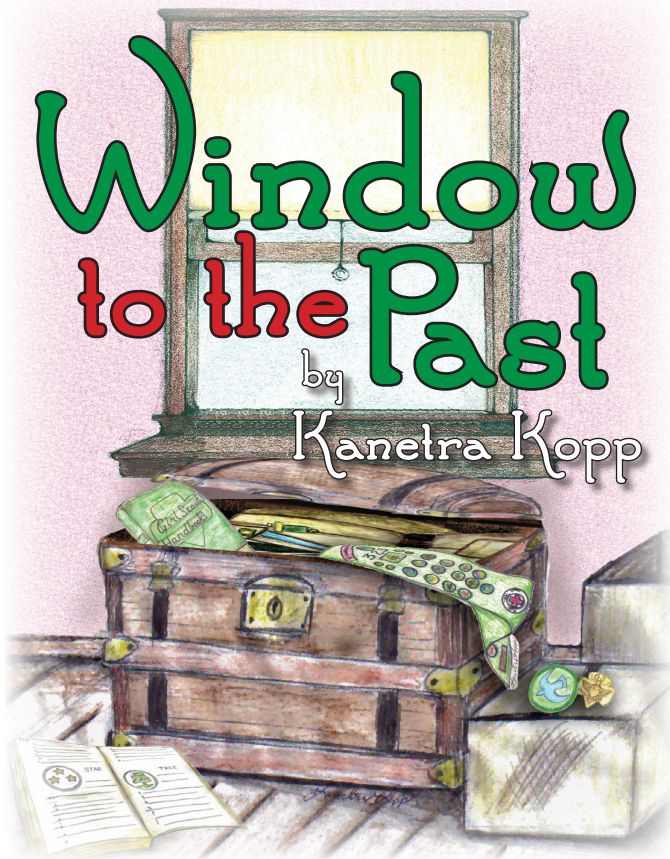


Window to the Past

by
Kanela Kopp



Chapter Six: Girl Scouting in America

Jenny's grandmother continued her story of how Juliette started Girl Scouts. "Well, when Daisy lived in Europe she had lots of friends. And one of her friends was Sir Robert Baden-Powell. He was the founder of Boy Scouts. Did you know that when he held a Boy Scout rally in England that 6,000 girls signed up, too? They had registered using just their initials so no one would know they were girls."

"Really? Why did they do that?" Jenny asked.

"Well, in those days, girls weren't taught how to camp or things like that. They were mainly taught how to sew and serve tea and keep house. The girls weren't sure they would be allowed in Boy Scouts," Grandma explained.

"What happened?" Jenny asked.

Grandma replied, "Well, Sir Baden-Powell convinced his sister Agnes to start a group just for girls. They were called Girl Guides. And Daisy helped Agnes with the Girl Guides.

Daisy led guide troops in Europe and then decided that girls in America should learn about Girl Guides, too. So that's when she moved back to America and made the now famous telephone call to her cousin in Savannah."

"What did she say?" Jenny asked.

"She said, 'I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world. And we're going to start it tonight!'" Grandma exclaimed.

"Was she talking about Girl Scouts?" Jenny wondered out loud.

"That's right, Jenny. And that's how Girl Scouts got started way back in 1912. First they were known as Girl Guides, just like in Europe. But the American girls insisted they wanted to be known as Girl Scouts just like the boys were known as scouts. And so Juliette soon changed the name of the group to Girl Scouts. She always said that whatever her girls wanted to do was what was most important," Grandma replied.

"And Juliette kept Girl Scouts growing all by herself in the beginning, too. I remember one story of how Daisy sold her pearl necklace to raise money to keep Girl Scouts going. Do you know what she said about that?" Grandma asked.

Jenny shook her head.

"Juliette said, 'My girls need the money a lot more than I need these pearls.' So she

sold the pearls and the Girl Scout organization was able to continue."

Jenny's grandmother picked up the diary and flipped through it. She pulled out a small card. Jenny saw that it said 'Memorial Service' across the top. "What's that, Grandma?"

"This is the note card from Juliette's memorial service. She was only 66 years old when she died from breast cancer. I've always thought she was a remarkable woman who did amazing things with her life." Grandma replaced the card, closed the diary and said, "Did you know that people can now visit the home where Daisy grew up in Savannah, Georgia? Would you like to do that sometime, Jenny?" Grandma asked.

"I think that would be fun, Grandma. We should definitely do that." Jenny found herself wanting to learn more about Daisy, especially since her great-great-grandmother had been friends with her.



Things to Think About and Do

Look through your newspaper and find articles to complete a diagram of overlapping circles identifying activities with boys, activities with girls and activities that both participate in together. Be sure and look in the Sports section. Have things changed from



when Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Guides?

GLEs: R1H, R1I

Learn more about the Girl Scouts of the USA by visiting www.girlscouts.org

Next Week:
Chapter Seven:
A Night Under the Stars