

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BLANCHE L. REYMANN STATE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Blanche Louise Keating from Whitman, Massachusetts taught elocution and physical education at Grove City College, in Pennsylvania before her marriage to Paul O. Reymann.<sup>1</sup> She would go on to become a charter member of the Wheeling Chapter, serving as the Chapter Regent from 1923-1926, and State Regent WVDAR from 1931-1933. Due to the depression and construction of Constitution Hall at that time she did not have a state project, so she focused her administration on “Education in West Virginia”. Following her death, the Blanche L. Reymann Memorial Student Loan Fund was established in her memory by personal monetary contribution from her three daughters: Elizabeth Spillers, Paula Steger and Nelda MacCorkle.

The West Virginia State Society voted in 1967 to award the scholarship annually to a female student in the upper one-third of her class academically and in need of financial support. The recipient must be entering her senior year in one of West Virginia’s private colleges.

Currently, a recipient is selected on a rotating basis from one of the following members of the West Virginia Independent Colleges and Universities Organization:

1. Appalachian Bible College, Beckley, WV
2. Bethany College, Bethany, WV
3. Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, WV
4. University of Charleston, Charleston, WV
5. West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon WV
6. Wheeling University, Wheeling, WV



In 1968, the first scholarship awarded was for \$100. Changes to the amount of the Scholarship award have been approved over the years. In 1973 the award was increased to \$150. In 1984, the award was increased to \$200 and then to \$300, and in 1994 it was increased from \$300 to \$500. Most recently, the scholarship award was raised to \$1000 in 2008.

Since the scholarship began, the WVDAR has played an important role in offering financial support to students to assist them in the completion of their education. This important work is solely funded by the generous support of individual donors and Chapter contributions. What started as a loving gift to honor one WV Daughter continues to serve as a testament to the commitment of all WV Daughters to “Education in West Virginia.”

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Reymann was the President of the Ayrshire Breeders Association (1921-1923) and donated Cacapon Farms (now known as the Reymann Memorial Farm) and his herd to the West Virginia University in 1917. The Reymann Memorial Ayrshire Herd at West Virginia University is conceivably one of the oldest continuous Ayrshire herds in the nation.