

A House for Kate

Augusta York gave birth to her daughter Kate in 1877. Kate was one of four daughters in the York family. Since she was a little girl, Augusta had always sung and played music and Kate soon followed in her mom's footsteps. Her angelic voice and adept skills on the keyboard began to blend in with others. Kate enjoyed playing music instead of playing with dolls or makeup. It was her life. Due to her love of music, she was determined to attend Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

When Kate was 15 she was performing at a funeral and while waiting in line her eyes caught the eyes of a handsome older man gazing at her. He wasn't easy to impress, but something about her voice made him drawn to her. Kate knew who this man was, he was Doctor William Campbell. She had seen him many times before at her house treating a cold or an illness. At first William felt guilty of the thoughts he was having about Kate because she was so much younger than he was. There was a time when William came to her house to speak to her parents and he didn't even look at her while he was there. Soon after that the time came for Kate to leave and go to school. She was 16 and when she returned back home, she was a more sophisticated woman. William had come to her house one day for a meeting and Kate answered the door. It was then that he knew he would have to fight a battle in his head over her. The two of them eventually fell in love and after many objections from her parents about him being older than her, they got married. On November 8th, 1893, at 16 and 31 years of age, Kate and William got married.

Before the wedding Kate's mother began to design a house and decided to give it to Kate. The house had rooms for a private doctor's office, a large foyer that led to the main staircase, a living room and library. The house had a large wrap around porch because Kate loved porches and she one day hoped to be able to rock a child in a rocking chair. The third floor of the house had an extra bedroom for future children or guests. Also, there was a hidden staircase that led to a loft where people could go for privacy or enjoy the view of the river. The house had two towers, one on the left and one on the right that allowed them to have additional living space as well.

Today, the house still sits in the same place across from the city park in Pikeville, KY. The only difference is, is that it looks different. Years after the Campbell's left the house, the owners had changed the way the house looked. One of the towers had been removed and so had the wrap around porch. Many years later the house was bought by Frank and Gail Bailey in Pikeville. It was said to quote "look like you walked into a 70's style house". They decided to restore the house to its original state. The tower that was once removed from the left side was

rebuilt and a stain glass window was added. The porch that Kate loved was also rebuilt. The siding of the house was tore off and replaced with tin. The inside of the house was remodeled as well. The walls had been redone and patched up. The floor was taken up and replaced and the staircases were built back. The rehabilitation of this house opened up many job opportunities to people in the area. For example it provides jobs for carpenters to help rebuild the structures. In addition it brought jobs to local masons. Painters were also hired to help with the painting of the outside and inside.

The Kate York Campbell House is known today as the Historic Mansion Bed and Breakfast. Each room of the house is named after someone in Kate's family or someone from the community. On the third floor of the house a museum can be found. The museum features the furniture and relics that came from the original house. Luckily the furniture was stored in a relative of Kate's house for over century. Today the Bed and Breakfast today is run by one woman and has opened up numerous opportunities to the area. Not only is it a museum but it offers a place for people to sleep when they visit Pikeville, Ky. During the annual Hillbilly Days Festival people come from all country visit Pikeville and area hotels book up fast. The Bed and Breakfast gives visitors somewhere to stay where they can feel like they're at home. Doctors who come to Pikeville Methodist Hospital for conferences often stay here as well, in addition to performers who come to the East Kentucky Exposition Center.

Pike County and the city of Pikeville have begun to tear down many historic buildings such as the Pinson Hotel and the Weddington Theater. The Kate York Campbell house is one of very few left historical places in the area. Preservation of these historic buildings is important because it keeps history alive. It gives people a chance to see what their ancestors were like and allows others to experience what life would have been like almost 200 years ago. Fortunately money made from visitors staying in this home will allow for continued restoration of the home and other historic buildings in the area and allow us to keep our heritage alive for many more years to come.

Works Cited:

I. June Johnson - The John Dils, Jr. Family Legacy in Pike County