“What monument, no matter whether of brass or marble, can endure and perpetuate a deed like this! Instead of sinking into a grave like a brute, here is something that will live and exhale an aroma, reminding those of ever after ages of one who lived for more than self - who lived in deeds, and not in the professions of charity”

- The Daily Ledger Standard
  May 6, 1873
New Albany During the Civil War

Patriots your country needs you!
The Union forever!

Wanted--25 Men
To fill the ranks of the “Indiana Snake Killers,” in Colonel Scribner’s Regiment at Camp Noble, New Albany.
Enquire of
John Sexton, Captain,
John Curry, 1st Lieutenant,
G. W. Windell, 2d Lieut.
Camp Noble, Aug. 30th, 1861.
The Plight of the Widow

"Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow."

- Deuteronomy 27:19

Cornelia Minerva Nevins Warner Eggleston Culbertson

B. August 27, 1832
D. October 18, 1880

Married Guilford Dudley Eggleston December 14, 1854

Widowed January 12, 1858

Married William January 11, 1867
Rules for the Culbertson Widows Home

Most rules were “Common Sense” rules such as “be of good moral character”, respect the authority of the matron, appear promptly at meals, etc.

However, some were more specific:

Rule #6: “As the Institution is not sectarian or Denominational, therefore the Inmates are forbidden to indulge in Doctrinal or Political discussion. Such discussions do no good, but on the contrary, create ill feelings, and have a tendency to produce insubordination”.

Also, some rules were to the benefit of the Home, such as Rule #7: “All those who are able will be expected to render all the assistance they can, in doing the work on the Institution”.

This created more of a home-like atmosphere, where everyone had an equal role and purpose.
Application Process

- On each application, no matter the year, the following information was required:
  - Place and date of birth
  - Religious denomination
  - Marital status
  - Have they ever been divorced?
  - Any living children?
  - Current health status

- Entrance fees varied upon the year of admittance. After 1947 the fee was $350.00

- On the application was a notice that all admission begins with a 6 month probationary period.

- Application notified them that all furnishings they bring with them to the Home becomes the Homes property thereafter.

- Applicants had to submit to a health screening before being accepted.
Terms of Admission

- Applicant must be of good character, not less than 65 years old.
- Admission fee is required.
- Each applicant must make a truthful statement of her name, age, residence, and the amount of property she owns.
- No person of "mental derangement" shall be admitted as a member of the Home.
- Any guest desiring to withdraw from the Home after 6 months residence shall be allowed to do so and their admission fee refunded.
- All members are placed on an equal basis, regardless of their previous social or financial standing.
- Members physically able are expected to take care of their own rooms and render other service in the interest of the Home.
Bylaws

- Article 1: name of the home, board member churches, when the annual business meeting is, who the board can appoint.

- Article 2: duties of the board members and matron

- Article 3: application process, admission process, etc.

- Article 4: property of the applicants becoming property of the home, procedures for property/financial refunding upon leaving or dismissal from the home.
Duties of the Matron

- Worked directly under the Board of Trustees
- Lived on the premises
- Managed the cook and housekeeper
- Main duties:
  - Enforce the rules and regulations of the house
  - Be present at meals and see that they are properly served
  - Keep a book with a list of all furniture, linens and other articles belonging in the house
  - Go through the Home and see that all unnecessary lights and fires are extinguished at 10 o’clock at night
  - Observe any improper conduct and report to the Investigating committee
Miss Mary Baldwin, a daughter of Captain Baldwin, Sr., will be matron, and the selection of this lady was very proper, on account of her many estimable qualities besides her good judgment in household matters.

History of the Ohio Falls Cities and Their Counties, p. 162
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emma Baldwin</td>
<td>Nov. 1909 - June 1911</td>
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<td>Mary Kerlin</td>
<td>June 1911 - May 1921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Althea Shanks</td>
<td>May 1921 - November 1922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Wright</td>
<td>June 1923 - August 1925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennie Masters</td>
<td>August 1925 - September 1932</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Moore</td>
<td>October 1932 - March 1938</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ella Grigsby</td>
<td>May 1938 - April 1939</td>
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<td>Lucy Farris</td>
<td>May 1939 - February 1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Wright</td>
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<td>Katherine Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennie Masters Bennett</td>
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<td>Augusta Cox</td>
<td>August 1944 - April 1946</td>
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<td>Mrs. Glen Wright</td>
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<td>Emma Hiestand</td>
<td>September 1946 - October 1946</td>
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<td>Bernice Brunnemer</td>
<td>October 1946 - June 1948</td>
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<td>Jennie Jenkins</td>
<td>July 1948 - March 1949</td>
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<td>Bertha Doan</td>
<td>April 1949 - May 1949</td>
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<td>Margaret Belden</td>
<td>June 1949 - January 1951</td>
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<td>Serina Browning</td>
<td>July 1952 - July 1957</td>
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<td>Mildred Cooley</td>
<td>July 1957 - September 1957</td>
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<td>Myrtle Karns</td>
<td>October 1957 - March 1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Baumgarten</td>
<td>April 1959 - May 1960</td>
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<td>Lucille Scott</td>
<td>Sept 1960 - December 1962</td>
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<td>Martha Harlan</td>
<td>December 1962 - August 1964</td>
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<td>Harriet Hopkins</td>
<td>October 1964 - Dec. 1964</td>
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<td>Mrs. McCoy</td>
<td>December 1964 - May 1966</td>
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<td>Serina Browning</td>
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<td>Mrs. Hawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Sloan</td>
<td>April 1968 - ?</td>
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</table>
Original members from the first 1922 board:

- Mrs. Helen Barth (President)
- Mrs. Josephine Graf (Vice-President)
- Miss Lila Jewett (Secretary)
- Mrs. Nelle B. Rowe (Treasurer)
- Mrs. Mary Ellis
- Mrs. Eva Groh
- Mrs. Catherine Hedges
- Mrs. Edna Shrader

**House Committee**
- Organized repairs of the home
- Oversaw any room rearrangement needs (if women didn’t get along and wanted to room with someone else)

**Investigation Committee**
- “Investigates” women applying for entrance in the home
- “Investigates” issues happening in the home. (Inmates v. Matron, Matron v. Employees etc.)
Closing of the Culbertson Home for Old Ladies

Photos from 1963
Sources:

2. New Albany Tribune. Various Dates. Microfilm @ New Albany-Floyd County Public Library.
4. Images: http://nafclibrary.pastperfectonline.com/search