

Juliette Gordon Low

Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon was born in Savannah, Georgia, USA, Oct. 31, 1860.

Juliette was called "Daisy" from the beginning. Growing up she was educated in all the finest boarding schools and exhibited aptitude in sculpting and an interest in animals. When she was about 25 years old, Juliette had an ear infection which was treated with silver nitrate. This damaged her ear and caused her to lose a great deal of her hearing in that ear.

In 1886, Daisy married William Mackay "Willy" Low, a British heir. For most of their nineteen years of marriage the Lows resided in Willy's native Great Britain. They were in the process of divorce when William Mackay Low died suddenly in 1905. She spent the next several years globetrotting through Europe and India.

While attending a luncheon in England in 1911, she met Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the British Boy Scouts, through whom she became keenly interested in the Scouting Movement. During that year she organized a troop of Girl Guides among poor girls at her estate at Glenlyon, Scotland, and then founded two more troops in London.

Then on March 12, 1912, Daisy established the first troop of Girl Guides in the United States in her native Savannah. Through her steadfast promotion, the Movement grew rapidly, becoming the Girl Scouts of America in 1913. The organization was incorporated in 1915 with the national headquarters at Washington, D.C., with Daisy serving as president until 1920 when she was bestowed the rightful title of founder.

For fifteen years Daisy devoted her time, energy, and finances to the movement. She elicited major support and contributions from communities all around and was a frequent guest at campfires. In an attempt at expanding her organization she tried to merge with the Campfire Girls, however, this failed to materialize due to administrative disputes.

Daisy oversaw the composition of the Girl Scout handbook 'How Girls Can Help Their Country' and in 1919 she was naturally the representative at the first international meeting of Girl Scouts and Guides.

She was instrumental in organizing the world Girl Scout camp in the United States in 1926. Less than a year later, on 17 January, 1927, Juliette Gordon Low died of cancer in Savannah, at the age of 66. She was buried in the uniform representing the organization she founded which to this day continues to change the world.

The Scouting Movement owes its success to many historical figures, one of the foremost of which is Juliette Gordon Low. Her vision, benevolence and fortitude has enabled thousands of girls to grow up into fine upstanding citizens.