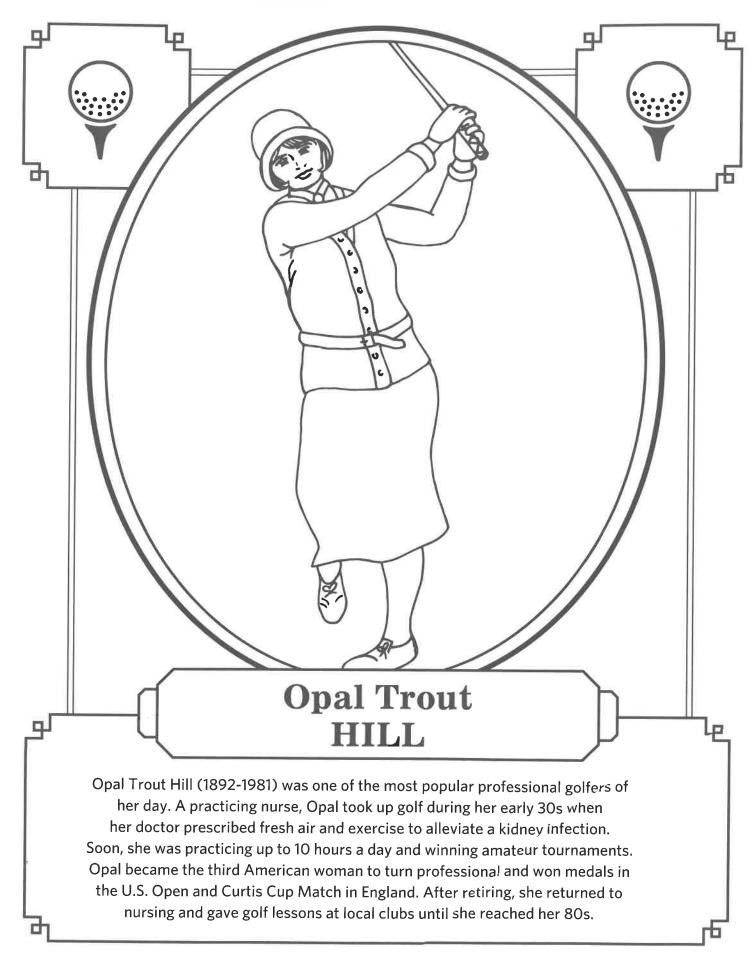
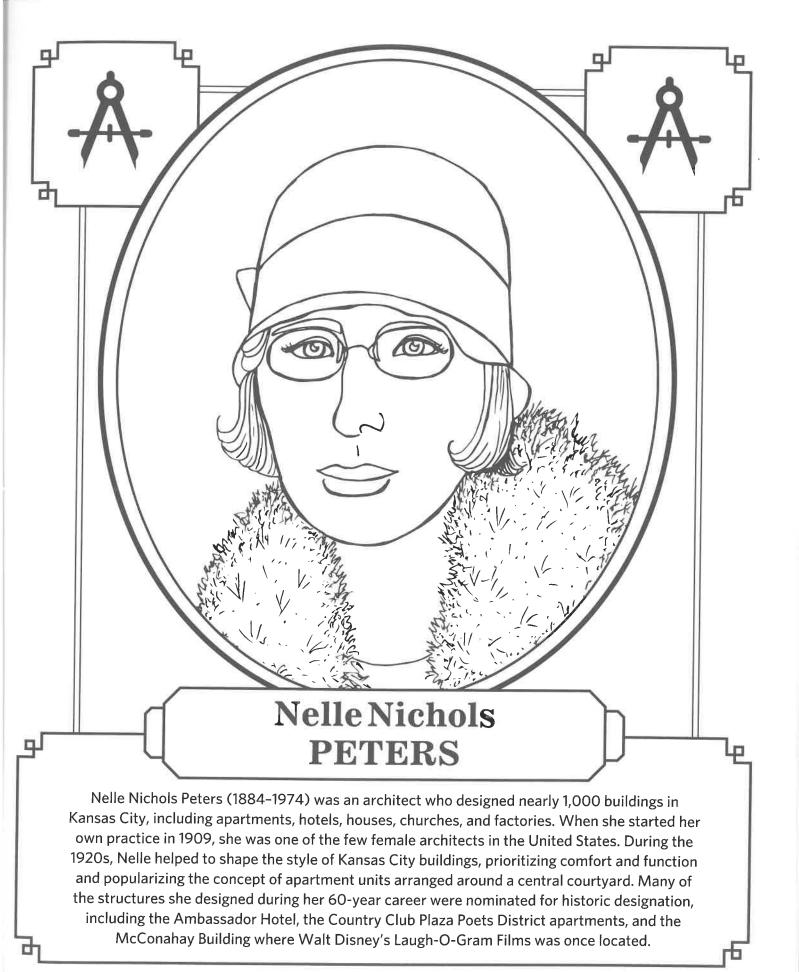
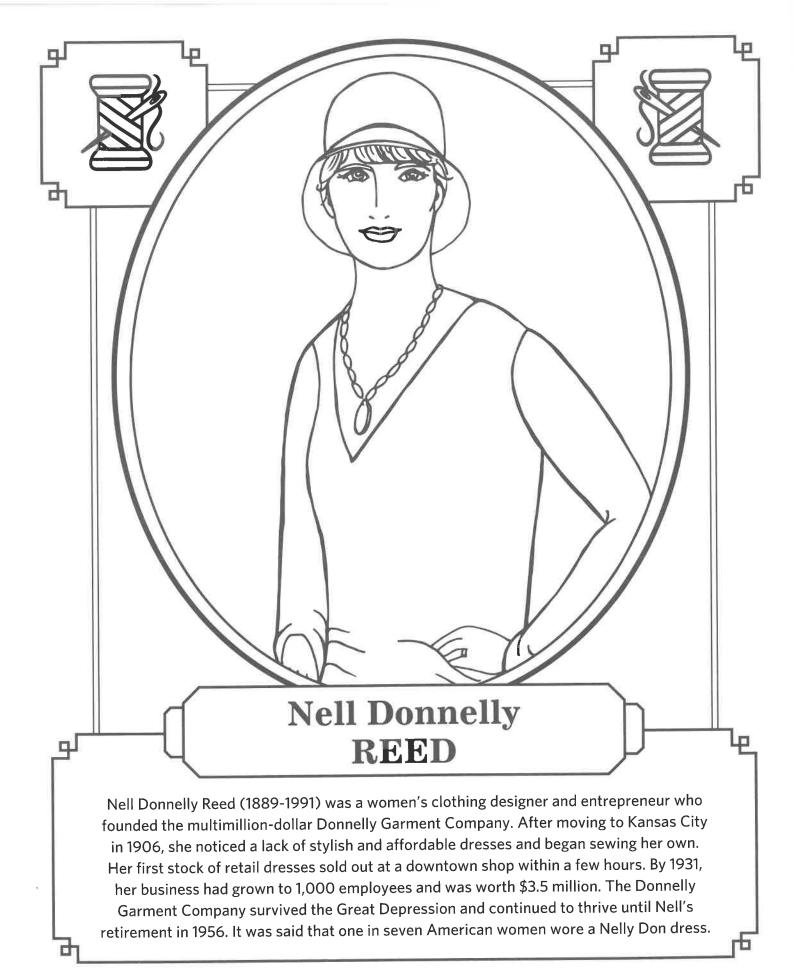


Eliza "Lyda" Burton Conley (ca. 1869-1946) was a member of the Wyandot Nation and is thought to be the first female lawyer of Indian descent in the United States. She pursued a law degree after her ancestors' burial grounds were threatened despite their protected status from an 1855 treaty. Lyda graduated from the Kansas City School of Law in 1902 and was admitted to the Missouri and Kansas bar associations. In 1910, after several years of fighting efforts to sell the cemetery land, Lyda became the first Native woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Though she lost that battle, more followed, and today the Huron Indian Cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tatiana Dokoudovska (1921-2005) was a professional dancer, teacher, and founder of what would become the Kansas City Ballet. Born and raised in France by Russian parents, Tatiana trained in Paris and danced for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. In 1939, she moved to the United States to join the American Ballet Theatre. After leaving New York for a role at Starlight Theatre, Tatiana was invited to create a dance program at the University of Kansas City's Conservatory of Music. Her work at the Conservatory and with the Kansas City Ballet, which she founded in 1957, attracted a variety of dancers and cultivated an audience for ballet in Kansas City.











Josephine Silone Yates (ca. 1859-1912) was a renowned teacher, writer, and outspoken advocate for racial equality. A native of New York, she moved to Jefferson City, Missouri, to teach at the Lincoln Institute. Josephine later married and moved to Kansas City, where she became active in the women's club movement and taught at Lincoln High School. In 1893, she co-founded the Kansas City Women's League, which eventually merged with the National Association of Colored Women. Josephine used her platform as the NACW's president to uplift her fellow women, and she published articles on a variety of topics ranging from economics to Russian literature.



Illustrations

Joanna Marsh, Special Collections Librarian

Research and Content

Missouri Valley Special Collections Staff

Production and Publication

Kansas City Public Library Public Affairs Department



Projects such as this are made possible through the generosity of supporters of the Library and members of the Missouri Valley Room Club.

Learn more about ways you can help the Library preserve and share Kansas City history:

MVR Club, Development Office Kansas City Public Library 14 West 10th St. Kansas City, MO 64105

kchistory.org/content/donations 816.701.3518

