



---

## Fountain for Waco.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS.

Waco, Tex. Oct 26.—The fountain donated to the city by the National Humane Alliance of New York, which has arrived, will very likely be placed in position on the plaza this week. It is intended to have some formal dedication of the gift in the near future. The fountain was secured for Waco primarily through the efforts of Miss Kate Friend, well known in Texas women's club circles.

---

**BREAKING** Boeing stops producing 737 Max airliner involved in deadly crashes

---

[https://www.wacotrib.com/news/government/kate-friend-fountain-donated-in-flowing-again-outside-city-hall/article\\_1eb73b96-bfa3-511d-9e3e-d0d36bb06347.html](https://www.wacotrib.com/news/government/kate-friend-fountain-donated-in-flowing-again-outside-city-hall/article_1eb73b96-bfa3-511d-9e3e-d0d36bb06347.html)

## **Kate Friend Fountain, donated in 1909, flowing again outside City Hall**

By PHILLIP ERICKSEN pericksen@wacotrib.com Feb 3, 2019

1 of 3



The Kate Friend Fountain outside City Hall, donated to the city in 1909 to provide water for horses, is fl

Staff photo – Rod Aydelotte

---

A historical fountain in front of Waco City Hall became functional again in late December.

The Kate Friend Animal Fountain was presented to the city in 1909 by the National Humane Alliance to provide water for horses and dogs.

Kate Friend, born in 1856, came to Waco in 1869 and helped organize the Waco Women's Club, according to the city. She founded Waco's first animal shelter and parks system.

Friend donated the money for the fountain. In the 1930s, the fountain was removed and later misplaced for decades, according to the Historic Waco Foundation.



The Kate Friend Fountain outside City Hall, donated to the city in 1909 to provide water for horses, is flowing once again.

Staff photo – Rod Aydelotte

Waco resident Francis Sturgis found it, and it was later restored and placed on the lawn of City Hall in the early 1980s.

It had to be fixed again before it received more attention when Heritage Square plaza opened in 2000.

Interim Parks and Recreation Director John Rose said the fountain had not been functional for two or three years before its last repair. Parks staffers updated the plumbing design, and it started pumping water once again on Dec. 26.

Rose said the fountain is turned off when a freeze is expected.

> **Read more:** All God's creatures, great and small: Miss Kate Friend loved them all

## FIND A GRAVE



## Actions

- [Begin New Search](#)
- [Refine Last Search](#)
- [Cemetery Lookup](#)
- [Add Burial Records](#)
- [Help with Find A Grave](#)

Find all **Friends** in:

- [Oakwood Cemetery](#)
- [Waco](#)
- [McLennan County](#)
- [Texas](#)
- [Find A Grave](#)

[Top Contributors](#)[Success Stories](#)[Discussion Forums](#)[Find A Grave Store](#)[Log In](#)

Advertisement



## Kate Harrison Friend

Memorial

Photos

Flowers

Share

Edit

[Learn about upgrading this memorial...](#)

Birth: Nov. 29  
Alabama, USA

Death: May 14, 1949  
Waco  
McLennan County  
Texas, USA

Added by: [TxNewswoman](#)

A "community organizer" before the term was even coined, Kate Harrison Friend of Waco truly lived up to the label of "tireless crusader." Her interests were myriad, her reach vast. And for more than 60 years of Waco's history there were few causes in which she did not invest her time, talent or treasure.

The tireless town activist — like many modern residents — was not born in Waco, but got here as quick as she could. Born in Boligee, Ala., around 1856 to Dr. Nathaniel and Araminta (Harrison) Friend, the lass known to all as "Miss Kate" was a descendant of famed Indian princess Pocahontas on her father's side, and on her mother's side she was related to President William Henry Harrison.

For more than 60 years of Waco's history there were few causes in which Kate Harrison Friend did not invest her time, talent or treasure.

For more than 60 years of Waco's history there were few causes in which Kate Harrison Friend did not invest her time, talent or treasure.

Her parents moved to Cuero, Texas, shortly after her birth. After her father died in 1877, Friend and her widowed mother visited friends in Waco about 1885, and found the city so much to their liking they stayed and opened a private school here. Years later, Miss Kate was able to find work as a principal for Waco Independent schools.

Starting in 1902, Friend made waves in town through her agitation for animal rights. Her fans recalled that during the horse-and-buggy days of Waco, if she would encounter a starving or mistreated horse or mule, she would command the driver release the beast from harness.

"Maybe its back would be raw, or its bones sticking almost out of the skin," reported the Times-Herald, in its obituary of the grande dame. "And if that driver didn't do as Miss Kate said, she'd get a policeman and force him to obey her. She put many a horse in a shelter and fed it and had it cared for."

The 1949 president of the Waco Humane Society, James R. Jenkins, recalled that she "had a will of iron" behind her sweet-spirited demeanor, especially when battling for the helpless or hopeless.

And her kindness and quest for social justice didn't end with the four-legged unfortunates of her adopted home.

Added by: [TxNewswoman](#)Added by: [TxNewswoman](#)Add a photo  
for this personRequest  
A Photo

There is 1 more photo not showing...

[Click here to view all images...](#)

Photos may be scaled.  
Click on image for full size.

"Down in Waco, Texas, there is no more sincere friend of homeless and friendless children — both black and white — than Miss Kate Friend," lauded The National Humane Review in a 1919 issue. "Miss Friend is doing all she can to encourage humane education among the youth of her city and county." Indeed, in the early 20th century, "humane" organizations weren't solely concerned with animal welfare, but also the treatment of abused women and neglected children. Societies of do-gooders, such as the Texas Humane Society, founded in the 1890s in Waco and lead by folks like Miss Kate, concerned themselves with trying to preserve families or rescuing the most oppressed from their tormentors.

For several years in the 1920s, Miss Kate and her colleagues published The Texas Humane Review, a monthly periodical, for annual subscriptions of \$1. Friend also lectured extensively throughout Texas and around the nation through the years for her "pet" causes.

In 1909, the National Humane Alliance honored Kate Friend with a fountain in the center of Waco, cleverly designed to give free-flowing water to cart animals on one level and small, free-roaming dogs and cats on the lower tier.

The pink granite base, decorated with lion spouts, had a large ring trough and four diminutive basins at the base.

The fountain was a fixture of the old downtown until 1930, when it was moved to the primitive animal shelter on Circle Road when city fathers decided to raze City Hall. It remained at that location for more than 50 years until it was rediscovered and restored in 1981 through the efforts of William Darden of Darden Building Materials.

With restoration by Dietz Memorial Co. and the finesse of Frances Sturgis of Waco Beautification fame, the Kate Friend Animal Fountain was returned to a place of honor on the lawn of Waco City Hall in March 1982. Meanwhile, Miss Kate's fame grew in animal welfare circles: a 1935 speech she gave in Washington, D.C., urging the establishments of shelters for homeless companion animals led to a \$6,000 gift from a California matron, Marguerite Ravenscroft of Santa Barbara. The grant (worth about \$93,000 in modern dollars) resulted in the construction of the community's first proper animal shelter.

She worked with the Waco Humane Society for more than four decades and was its secretary from 1924 until her death on May 14, 1949. Survived by only two cousins — Nat and Norman Smith of Waco — Miss Kate left her estate instead to the Waco Humane Society, which recently became the Humane Society of Central Texas. Her admirers erected a grand tombstone to her at Oakwood Cemetery (and trimmed a decade off her years to boot), next to the far humbler stone she erected for her mother (1841-1931).

Some family trees offered by online genealogists give differing birth dates as well, such as 1870 (on a passport application) and 1872 and as late as 1874. But the Times-Herald maintained she was 93 when she died.



- Rita Balentine Hogan

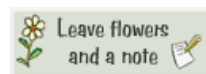
Added: Jan. 31, 2011



All God's creatures, great and small: Miss Kate Friend loved them all!

- Terri Jo Ryan

Added: Jan. 29, 2011





Burial:  
[Oakwood Cemetery](#)  
Waco  
McLennan County  
Texas, USA  
Plot: Lot 47, Block 11

Created by: [TxNewswoman](#)  
Record added: Jan 29, 2011  
Find A Grave Memorial# 64859362

Advertisement

**Vital Records Found For Kate Friend in Texas**



**1 Death Certificates**  
found for **Kate Friend**



**9 Marriage Certificates**  
found for **Kate Friend**



**3 Birth Certificates**  
found for **Kate Friend**



**2 Divorce Certificates**  
found for **Kate Friend**

**15 Vital Records for Kate Friend**

Sponsored by **Ancestry**

[Privacy Statement](#) and [Terms of Service](#)