

# The Butterfield Library Bicentennial Writing Contest

## Middle & High School Prompt Sheet

### **Julia L. Butterfield Biography:**

Julia Lorillard Butterfield was born on December 19, 1823 in New York City. She moved to Cold Spring in 1852 with her first husband Frederick James. Up until her death, she spent a large portion of her time at her beautiful Cold Spring residence known as Cragside.

Julia Butterfield was a singular woman of great moral and social conscience. Most of us recognize her name from the public library, but her legacy in Cold Spring continues to touch our lives in countless ways.

Mrs. Butterfield was an early patron and loyal member of the Putnam Historical Society (as the Putnam History Museum was originally known). So dedicated was she that when too ill to attend a meeting, she sent flowers and cakes as a show of her good wishes.

She was also engaged in her faith community. She and Frederick James not only contributed money to help build St. Mary's Church in 1868, but also donated the gray granite used for its walls and bell tower. The granite was from a quarry on their property.

Mrs. Butterfield's last wishes included a total of \$60,000 for the construction and equipping of a public library, which was opened and dedicated to her in 1924. The library is still located in the original building and continues to be vital to the Cold Spring community today.

Julia Butterfield's largest bequest gave Cold Spring a hospital at a time when few rural communities had such immediate access to a wide range of medical services. Julia bequeathed \$150,000 to build The Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Hospital, which opened in 1925 and served generations of citizens in the area.

*Adapted from an essay by the Cold Spring Historic District Review Board.*

### **Writing Prompt:**

Imagine you were Julia and you were presented with a world problem today. How do you think she would handle it? Consider her character, values, and accomplishments.

**Paragraph 1:** Present and explain the world problem

**Paragraphs 2 & 3:** Briefly describe Julia Butterfield. Explain what she would think of the problem and how she would handle it.

**Paragraph 4:** Summarize the main points of your essay.

### **Optional Artwork:**

If you would like, you can create a piece of artwork to accompany your essay. It could be a painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, or anything else!

## Brainstorming Worksheet

**Step 1:** Record five world problems below. They should all be issues that you care about, and could be local, national, or international.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2:** Circle the problem that you would like to write about!

**Step 3:** Record 3 - 4 adjectives that describe Julia, using her biography to guide you.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Step 4:** What would Julia have to say about this problem? How might she tackle it? Jot down your ideas here. Bullet points are fine!

## Rough Draft Essay

Directions: Write a rough draft of your essay in the space below.

### **Paragraph 1**

Present and explain the world problem.

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### **Paragraph 2**

Briefly describe Julia Butterfield. Explain what she would think of the problem and how she would handle it. You will expand on this in paragraph 3!

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**Paragraph 3**

Continue to write about how Julia would handle the problem.

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**Paragraph 4**

Summarize the main points of your essay.

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