



**Katharine
BERRY
RICHARDSON**

&

**Alice
BERRY
GRAHAM**

Katharine Berry Richardson (ca. 1858-1933) and Alice Berry Graham (1850-1913) were the founders of Children's Mercy Hospital. The two sisters became doctors at a time when it was rare for women to do so. With encouragement from their father and support from each other, Alice became a dentist while Katharine pursued a doctor of medicine degree. In the mid-1890s, the sisters moved to Kansas City to set up a practice. Their passion for helping the ill and unfortunate inspired them to establish a free children's hospital in 1897, a time when poor children had very few options for medical treatment. As their reputation for helping people grew, so did their practice. In 1904, they secured funding to build a new hospital named Children's Mercy. Today, the institution is recognized as one of the best children's hospitals in the country.