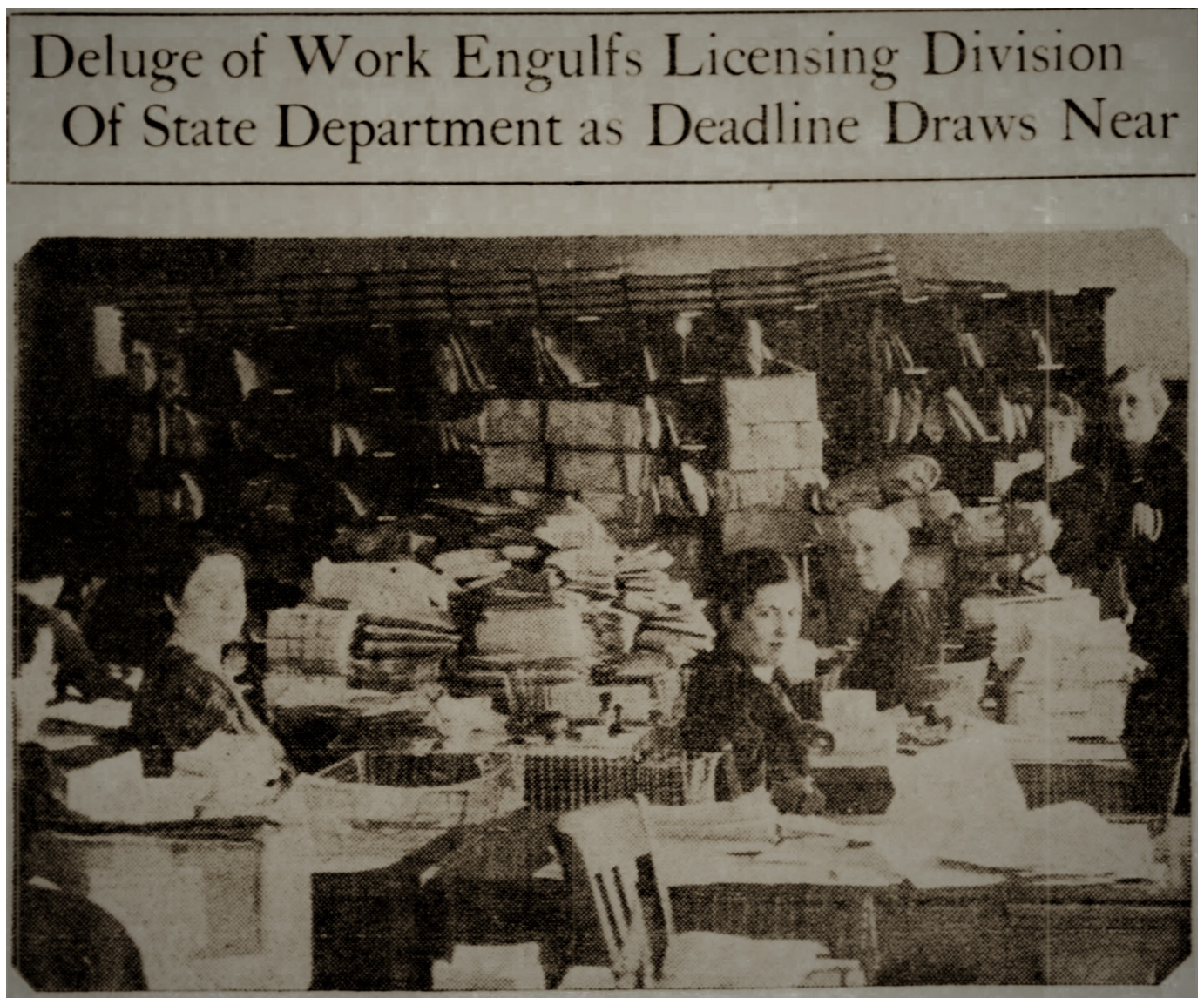


Edna Belle "Belle" Kirk, daughter of Henry William (1841-1901) and Estella (Olin) (1857-1943) Kirk, was born 8 July 1876, Ingham County. Belle, as she was called by her friends, never married. Her father was a Civil War Union veteran having served as a Private with the Company H, 26th Michigan. After the war he settled in Okemos, married and had a daughter. Unfortunately, his young wife died. Henry married Estella Olin and Belle was their first-born child. Henry had been a farmer in the Okemos (Wheatfield) area before the war.

Belle attended the Okemos school house as a child. The highest-grade level at Okemos in this particular year was 8th grade and was considered graduation. Because of her July 8 birthday, we believe she started 1st grade in 1881. Thus, Belle Kirk graduated at age 13 and is in the Okemos Class of 1889. Belle stayed close with her Okemos classmates. [One such gathering was featured in the *Lansing State Journal*, June 7, 1951. <click this area to read "The Circle of Friends">](#)

Her adult employment career started off with dressmaking but by 1910 she was employed in a Lansing bank. According to the 1920 US Federal Census Ingham County she was stenographer for the State of Michigan, later working as an auditor for the State. Belle took several years off, living in Florida, to care for her elderly, later ailing, mother who died in 1943, Pinellas County, Florida. Belle returned to Lansing and resumed her career with the State of Michigan. She lived at 1409 Sheldon, Lansing for many years.

Lansing State Journal, March 9, 1935 Belle Kirk Second from rt



Belle died 31 July 1972, Lansing and was interred Glendale Cemetery, Okemos.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Wednesday 2 August 1972

MISS E. BELLE KIRK

1409 SHELDON

Age 96, died July 31, 1972 at a local nursing home. Born July 8, 1876 in Ingham County, Miss Kirk had been a lifelong resident of Ingham County except during World War II. She was a former auditor with the Secretary of State office and active in Republicans Women's Club. She was a member of the First Church of Christ Scientist of Lansing, and the Mother Church in Boston, Mass. Surviving are nephews, nieces and cousins. Funeral services will be held Thursday, 11:30 a.m. at the Gorsline-Runciman Lansing Chapel with Herbert N. Barrett reader of the First Church of Christ Scientist officiating. Interment Glendale Cemetery.

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