Miss Evelyn Sarah Hall was a member of Wellesley’s first graduating class in 1879. A trailblazer in her own right, she moved after graduation to Chicago (then thought to be a part of the great West) to assume a teaching position. Four years later she was to return to Massachusetts to take the post of principal at Northfield Seminary for Young Ladies, founded in 1879 by the evangelist Dwight Moody. As its first principal, Miss Hall realized that many young girls could not afford the required $100 per year tuition and board. Recalling Wellesley’s Student Aid Society, she helped establish a similar society at Northfield. Throughout her 25 years as principal and headmistress, the seminary achieved unexpected success.

In addition to becoming Northfield’s first principal, Miss Hall also created the first annuity at Wellesley. Wanting to establish a reliable income stream for her two younger sisters, Amelia Avery Hall and Harriet Hall, both members of Wellesley’s class of 1884, Evelyn funded a gift annuity naming her sisters as the income beneficiaries. In doing so, Miss Hall became the first of Wellesley’s many donors to provide meaningful financial benefits for family members and loved ones. When both sisters passed away, the value of the invested assets were added to Wellesley’s permanent endowment.

Over 100 years later, many people are still following in Miss Hall’s footsteps, creating their own life-income gifts at Wellesley. If you would like to take advantage of a similar gift arrangement, you can lock in your guaranteed annuity rate today with a gift of $10,000 or more in cash or stock, before our upcoming annuity-rate decrease on July 1.

For a financial proposal tailored to your circumstances, please contact Patricia Galindo, director of planned giving, at 800.253.8916 or pg@wellesley.edu.