The Helen Seeley-Ada Seeley Barton Scholarship is in memory of these two ladies who were sisters. Their relationship with Illinois State University is somewhat unique in that they each had rooming houses for female students for a period of time approximating forty years. Miss Seeley’s house was at 217 North School Street, Normal, Illinois and Mrs. Barton’s house was across the street at 208 North School Street, Normal, Illinois.

Miss Seeley and Mrs. Barton housed nearly 1,000 students over this period of time. A real home away from home was created as they were always available for help and counsel. Close personal relationships were formed which lasted many years after graduation and even up to the time they passed away. Miss Seeley passed away December 19, 1974 and Mrs. Barton approximately one month later, January 20, 1975.

Miss Helen Seeley received a two-year diploma from ISNU in 1904 and was an elementary education teacher for many years. Mrs. Barton was one of the early registered nurses and also had a great interest in art and home economics. Because of these interests it is preferred that this scholarship be awarded in one of these areas.

Close friends of Miss Seeley and Mrs. Barton have made this scholarship possible, with Miss Martha Keaton and Dr. Anna Keaton taking the initiative in making this memorial a reality. (Dr. Keaton is the former Dean of Women at Illinois State University.)

The basic criteria for this annual scholarship are that it be based on need and should be awarded to a female student preferably living off campus and in one of the areas of student previously mentioned. This student should have promise of success which would entail above average grades with an interest and activity in student affairs.