

Woods Hole Historical Collection  
P. O. Box 185  
Woods Hole, MA 02543

**REGISTER**  
Warbasse Family Collection  
1870 – 2010

2 boxes

## Warbasse Family Collection

### Biographical Notes

Agnes Dyer Warbasse, the wife of Dr .James P. Warbasse, was the only child of Henry Knight Dyer and Carolyn Price Dyer (a descendent of Samuel Adams). Henry Knight Dyer was born in New York City in 1846 or 1847, attended public schools in Brooklyn, NY, began working at Dennison & Co. as an errand boy in 1859, and became its president in 1892. Dyer first came to Woods Hole in the early 1890s with his business partner, Charles Dennison, who had a house in Chappaquoit. As a result of his visit, Dyer purchased land on Penzance Point where he built his summer home, The Anchorage, in 1895. In Woods Hole he was a founding member of the Woods Hole Yacht Club and the Woods Hole Golf Club as well as a member of the committee formed in 1910 to erect the Woods Hole Library. Dyer died at his Brooklyn home on December 14, 1911.

Agnes Louise Dyer was the only child of Carolyn and Henry Dyer. Born in Brooklyn, NY on April 4, 1877, she graduated from the Packer Collegiate Institute of Brooklyn in 1897. She then attended Columbia College, specializing in music and sociology. In 1903. Agnes married Dr. James Peter Warbasse. The couple had six children: Henry Dyer, James Peter, Richard Northrup, Eric, Agnes, and Vera.

With Warbasse, Agnes continued her study of social and economic conditions. In 1915 at their home in Brooklyn, the two organized The Cooperative League of the United States, a national federation of consumer cooperative associations. Agnes was its Educational Secretary until 1928. During that time she attended international as well as the national congresses of the Cooperative League. She also lectured on cooperation for the New School of Social Research and the Rochdale Institute in New York and was the author of magazine articles and pamphlets on the topic.

James Peter Warbasse was a surgeon, sociologist, teacher, and author. Born in Newton, NJ, he graduated from Newton Collegiate Institute and 1889 from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. Warbasse practiced surgery in Brooklyn, NY for 30 years. In 1918 he retired from surgery to become a sociologist. In addition to being the president of the Cooperative League of the United States, Warbasse lectured on sociological problems at colleges around the country.

In 1940 James and Agnes Warbasse left Brooklyn to live year round at their Woods Hole summer home, Gladheim. They had built the home in 1912-1914 on Penzance Point on land acquired next to The Anchorage. Agnes died there on February 3, 1945. After Agnes's death, James continued living there until 1953 when Gladheim was sold. He then built a small home on Quisset Ave. in Woods Hole where he died on February 23, 1957.

## Warbasse Family Collection

### Scope 1870 - 2010

Box One of this collection contains the photograph album of Agnes Dyer Warbasse. Its photos span the years 1895 – 1915. The photos are primarily of the Warbasse family and friends taken during their summers in Woods Hole. Pictures of their home, Gladheim, and the family boats can be found here as well.. In addition to the album itself, the box contains negatives, copy photos, and Xerox copies of the album's photographs and pages. Memoirs by family members, obituaries, and newsclippings provide information on Gladheim and family members.

Box Two of the Warbasse Family collection contains the writings of Vera Warbasse Spooner, the daughter of Agnes Dyer Warbasse and Dr. James Peter Warbasse. These writings are memoirs of her Woods Hole summers as a girl and young woman.. Topics include the family home, Gladheim, and that of her Gandfather Dyer, The Anchorage; the family spritsail *Explorer*, and Vera's early sailing experiences in Woods Hole. Of interest may be the many photographs of Gladheim and the three pages from Vera's photo album with snapshots taken during her college years.

**Warbasse Family Collection  
Register**

**Box 1  
Agnes Dyer Warbasse**

- 1.1. Photograph Album of Agnes Dyer Warbasse. 1895-1915. 1 original.
- 1.2. Warbasse, Agnes Dyer.
  - a. Memorial Booklet: "Agnes Dyer Warbasse, 1877-1945." A brief biography along with remembrances by friends about different periods in Agnes' life. 1 original.
  - b. Remembrance: "A Nostalgic Memory of the Explorer" by Vera Warbasse Spooner(daughter of Agnes Dyer Warbasse). 1 typed photocopy.
  - c. Photocopied pages of Agnes Dyer Warbasse's 1895 photo album.
- 1.3. Booklet: "Poems of the Family Circle" by (James) Peter Warbasse, son of Agnes Dyer Warbasse.
- 1.4. Warbasse Album: Xerox copies of pages having pictures which could be used for 1985 Woods Hole Calendar, Dyer correspondence, and *Explorer* newspaper clippings.
  - a. Correspondence between H. K. Dyer and the Hon. William Howard Taft concerning the "attractiveness and healthfulness" of Woods Hole and encouraging Taft or his brother to consider purchasing land here. December 1908. 1 carbon copy of each letter.
  - b. Notes regarding pictures to be used in the 1985 Woods Hole Calendar along with the Warbasse Album pages which may have possible pictures. 1 page of original pencil notes and photocopied album pages.
  - c. Correspondence regarding donations of ephemera to the Woods Hole Historical Collection. Vera Warbasse Spooner to Tom Ratcliff. September 17, 1974. 1 original. Tom Ratcliff to James P. Warbasse. October 9, 1974. 1 original with envelope.
  - d. Newspaper clippings: 3 pages of photocopied news articles about the spritsail "Explorer" once owned by the Dyer/Warbasse family. *Maine Coast Fisherman*. May 1960. . *Falmouth Enterprise*. May 23, 1978.
  - e. Photograph of Woods Hole Historical Museum's text for its Woods Hole Sprisail Boat exhibit.
- 1.5. Warbasse Album: Copy photos and photocopies of album pages with pictures of the young Agnes Dyer and her father Henry Knight Dyer.
  - a. Obituary of Henry Knight Dyer. Brooklyn *Eagle*. October 20, 1911. 1 photocopy.
  - b. Photograph of Henry Knight Dyer. 1898. 1 photocopy of 2 pictures.
  - c. Photocopy of a miniature of Agnes Louise Dyer. 1902-03 ?. 1 copy.
  - d. Picture of Grandmother Dyer and two grandchildren, Henry and Agnes. 1 photocopy.
  - e. Album pages with pictures of Agnes and friends on her father's boats, Henry Knight Dyer, the Dyer naphtha launch, spritsails, and the Woods Hole Yacht Club. 1895. Photocopies and copy photos.

- 1.6. Warbasse Album: Mr. & Mrs. Henry K. Dyer and children, Woods Holl '98, and Correspondence.
  - a. Photograph negatives of album pages.
  - b. Copy photos of Dyer family, friends, and boats. 15 copy photos.
  - c. Woods Holl '98: 7 Xeroxed album pages.
  - d. Obituary of Dr. James P Warbasse and related newsclippings. 1 original page. 2 photocopies.
  - e. Correspondence from Mrs. Franklin A. Park to Agnes Warbasse Burgher requesting information on several houses on Penzance Point to help with the libraries search for information about houses in the village. September 21, 1974. 1 original. January 7, 1975. 2 copies.
  - f. Photograph of "The Anchorage." 1 original.
- 1.7.. Warbasse Album: Copy Prints.
  - a. Small packet of copy prints of photographs owned by Agnes Warbasse Burgher: Agnes Dyer on Bob, "Gladheim", family at play, WHHM exhibit text on "Gladheim".
  - b. 34 copy prints of Warbasse Album pages.
- 1.8. Warbasse Album: Agnes Dyer Warbasse and Children.
  - a. Copy prints (25) of children/family/friends pages as well as views of "Gladheim" and Woods Hole.
  - b. Photocopies (9) of children/family/friends pages and "Gladheim".
- 1.9. Warbasse Album 1895: Xerox copies of various pages.
  - a. At the Fish Commission. 1 copy.
  - b. Woods Holl. 1 copy.
  - c. "Gladheim". 1 copy.
  - d. Warbasse children. 1 copy.
- 1.10. Warbasse Original Photographs.
  - a. Sprintsails racing. 1895? 1 original photograph.
  - b. Original Anchorage pier and float with sprintsail. 1896? 1 original photograph.
  - c. The Breakwater Hotel. nd. 1 small page with a photo on the front and back.
  - d. Envelope with James P. Warbasse's return address. 1 original.
- 1.11. Warbasse Family Information.
  - a. E-mail correspondence between MP Barry and Susan Witzell , WHHM archivist. Contains information about descendants of Henry and Carolyn Dyer, the Dyer Garage in Brooklyn, a copy of a letter by James Peter Warbasse, Jr.(age 9), and Dennison Manufacturing. September 30, 2010. 4 pages.

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**Box 2**  
**Vera Warbasse Spooner**

*Note: Mrs. Spooner does not wish any of the following writings to be reproduced or republished in any way without her knowledge and an opportunity to edit them.*

- 2.1. Warbasse and Dyer background information based on conversation with Vera Warbasse Spooner. 1 typed copy. 3 handwritten note cards.
- 2.2. Henry Knight Dyer: The Story of His 1870 Ledger. (Blog by Benjamin Feldman) Dyer was Vera Warbasse's grandfather. 12 pages downloaded from Feldman's blog.
- 2.3. Papers and Writing of Vera Warbasse Spooner: 'Seek the Truth.' Includes copies of photographs of the stone with this family motto.. .
- 2.4. Papers and Writing of Vera Warbasse Spooner: The *Explorer* and How my family acquired her. Includes a copy of a photograph of Agnes Dyer with *Explorer*.
- 2.5. Papers and Writing of Vera Warbasse Spooner: "The Anchorage" and "Gladheim"( Dyer and Warbasse homes). Also includes April 12,1991 Cape Cod Times article "Fire guts historic Woods Hole home", as well as copies of Vera Warbasse's wedding photos and a photo of Agnes Dyer on her horse, Dolly.
- 2.6. Papers and Writing of Vera Warbasse Spooner: My Early Sailing Days at Woods Hole. Includes a copy of a photograph of young Vera and Eric rowing and another of the *Whitecap*.
- 2.7. Papers and Writing of Vera Warbasse Spooner: Memories of "Gladheim" and the "Anchorage" and of Sailing (1920 – 1930).
- 2.8. Papers and Writing of Vera Warbasse Spooner: The "Adams Cup", Woods Hole Yacht Club Team. Also copies of September 1935 newsclippings.
- 2.9. Woods Hole, Massachusetts, US Coast & Geodetic Survey Chart 348, 1898 (first published 1857).
- 2.10. Postcards and photocopies of Warbasse family and "Gladheim" (house and grounds) photographs.

- 2.11. "Gladheim" (Warbasse home on Penzance Point): Correspondence, information about and photocopies of "Gladheim" house and grounds photos. Includes original 1940 real estate brochures.
- 2.12 Vera Warbasse Spooner Photos: 3 album pages with small snapshots of Bard Hall, Medical School, First Year, P&S, Columbia University; Snapshots of *Explorer*, *Haprev*, *Whitecap*.
- 2.13. "Gladheim" photograph: aerial view of house on Penzance Point as well as much of Penzance Point, Great Harbor and Buzzards Bay. 1 original. 4 copies.
- 2.14. Photographs.
  - a. *Whitecap*, a NY 40 class sailboat, photographed in 1927.
  - b. Agnes L. Dyer and "Bob" (or Dolly) (Vera Warbasse's mother on horseback in front of "Gladheim")
  - c. Large photo of central section of "Gladheim": terrace in front of the Music Room, pink guest room above it.
  - d. Large photo of "Mother's Garden", looking towards Sunset Point and Buzzards Bay.
  - e. Large photo of "Mother's Garden" and high privet hedge (wind break).
  - f. Pine grove looking towards Martha's Vineyard.
  - g. Negative: aerial view of "Gladheim" and its boathouse on Great Harbor, Woods Hole.
  - h. Large photocopy-print of the above aerial view 'Gladheim'.