

Family Photo Albums: Digitized Images from the Archives

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For the past four years the Woods Hole Historical Collection has been digitizing photographs from the archives. We see this project as having multiple benefits for our collection. The first is preservation. Using the digitized images for research allows the originals to remain safely stored away from the damaging effects of handling. We can store duplicate archival quality compact discs off site, a precaution in the unlikely event that the original image or repository is damaged or destroyed. Another benefit is that the digitized image is readily accessible and makes a better research tool. By enlarging the image on the computer screen, we can look deep within the photo and discover details we had never seen before. Finally, the quality and ease of using these photographs for our publications is greatly enhanced.

At each stage of this project we have applied for a grant; when it was awarded we sent a group of photographs to Macy Lawrence, who grew up in Woods Hole and now lives and works in Woodstock, Vermont. Using his state-of-the art computers, he scanned and digitized the photographs very carefully at high resolution, making a computer file of the image. Then the photographs would come back to us along with CDs of the images and notebooks containing laser copies of the photos to use as a handy reference. At this point we have digitized about 3000 photographs, most recently from family albums and about a third of the general photo collection.

We have twice been awarded grants from the Friendship Fund and the Woods Hole Foundation, and once from the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation. The first grant was for digitizing our photographs by Baldwin Coolidge. Out of this initial project came the award-winning book *New England Views, The Photography of Baldwin Coolidge (1845-1928)* published by WHHC in 1998.

Last year we turned to our membership to ask for funds to finish the digitizing project. Thanks to their generosity, we have been delighted to receive the enthusiastic support of many individuals as well as another local foundation who have all made this fund-raising a great success! Our new equipment for viewing and printing the images is in place and the rest of the photographs, in increments, are on their way to Woodstock.

Since we have been working with the family albums in our collection, we have been charmed and delighted with their moments of fun and formality. We knew that you too would enjoy seeing them, so we are offering a sample from the family albums and a few images from the general collection to the readers of *Spritsail* as a holiday treat. So, savor them, look in your own attic for your family albums, and again, many thanks to all of you who have contributed to the digitizing project.

From the Gulesian/Fish Collection

Eliel Fish married Harriet Owen Davis of Woods Hole whose family had built a house on Woods Hole Road facing Little Harbor in the 1700s. In 1875 Eliel built a large Victorian house on Butler's Point (later Juniper Point) and rented out the Davis home. Most of the photos in the collection were taken around the house on the Point. The family sold the

Victorian house to the Kidder family in 1923 and moved back to the Davis homestead on Woods Hole Road. The unmarried sisters Josephine and Florence Fish lived there and established a tea room in a sunroom addition. Their cousin Minnie Fish who married Paul Gulesian inherited the house (the present Woods Hole Research Center).



Children and young adults of the Fish family in the 1880s with tennis racquets. It is probably the Fay rose gardens behind the trees and Larkspur Cottage (now WHOI's Director's residence) in the far background right of center.



In this photo we see that two of the proper young Victorian ladies who appeared with the tennis group are smoking or pretending to smoke! Note the water barrel on wheels for watering the rose gardens.



An unidentified child of the Fish family, almost eclipsed by giant cannas. From a cabinet card².

From the Molly Willett Collection

Amerton Yale with his daughter May Valentine when she was probably about a year old, in 1871. Amerton Yale was born September 24, 1843 in West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard and died in Montclair, New Jersey on June 13, 1876. He was Leroy Milton Yale, Jr.'s younger brother. He married Mary Elizabeth Valentine in New York in 1867. Their only child, May, was born September 15, 1870. From a cabinet card in the Molly Willett Collection.



Another cabinet card with a photo of May's cousin, Maria Yale Fish, when she was probably about two years old. Maria was born May 3, 1874, the daughter of Thomas Dunham Fish of Quissett and Albina Daggett Yale, the youngest sister of Leroy Milton and Amerton Yale. Albina died a few weeks after giving birth to Maria and the child was raised by her aunt Sarah Smith Boardman Yale Carey (another of the Yale siblings and wife of Stephen W. Carey) in Montclair, New Jersey. The photo was taken in nearby Newark. Molly Willett Collection.



Maria Yale Fish Morse with her three oldest children, ca.1902 or 1903. Maria spent her summers at the head of Quissett Harbor with her uncle and aunt Stephen W. Carey and his wife Sarah Carey at their home Petrel's Rest. Her father, Thomas Dunham Fish, had been born across the harbor at the Fish Homestead. He was a successful shipping agent in New York and it is not clear how often he saw his daughter or whether he came home to Quissett when she was there. As a young girl she wrote letters to him wishing he would visit her. Maria married Arthur Metcalf Morse in January 1898 in Montclair, New Jersey. From left to right: Arthur Metcalf Morse, Jr., born in 1898 (later known as "Metty," he changed the name of the Fish Homestead to Hurricane Hall); Albina Yale Morse, born in 1901; Maria Yale Fish Morse and Carey Yale Morse, born in 1900. Cushman Crowell Morse, not pictured, was born in 1903. From a cabinet card in the Molly Willett Collection.

From the Marshall-King albums

Three albums of family life from 1897 to 1955 have been on a long term loan to the Woods Hole Historical Collection from the King family descendants of James Marshall.

The brothers James Gifford Marshall and John Marshall were born in Kirkcudbright, near Solway Firth and the English border in the southwest part of Scotland. James came to the United States when he was 19, with a letter of introduction to a New York Wall Street stock brokerage. He was hired as a clerk but because of his quick learning of the skills involved, he soon was a stock trader. John came over later to join him. Henry Harris was a business associate and perhaps this is the way that James Gifford Marshall met his future wife, Maria Louise Harris. John Marshall married Nellie Harris (perhaps "Eleanore," being the source for this name which has been passed down through the family).

The brothers established their homes along Quissett Avenue with the families and siblings of James' wife Maria Louise Harris, as well as business associates from their Wall Street brokerage in adjacent houses. Mr. Spader, who, with his family, appears in the albums as often as the Marshalls themselves, was a business associate. The Spader family were very close friends of the Marshalls; they lived in the summer in the original Marshall house that had been moved in 1902 across Quissett Avenue from its former position on the Buzzards Bay side of the road above Muddy Cove. This house was later passed on to the Marshall descendants. Helen Spader, the oldest daughter, was Margaret Gifford Marshall's best friend for her entire life.

James Marshall built a larger house on the same spot above Muddy Cove (which is now the National Academy of Sciences) and his brother John built a smaller house up the hill. There was a carriage house, stables with many fine horses and two rustic beach houses as well as elaborate gardens and tennis courts below the house.

The albums are large (approximately 11 x 15 inches) with leatherette covers and black album pages; most photos are annotated in white ink. Two of the albums concentrate on the years 1906 to about 1910 and it is from those albums that the following photos have been selected. These two albums are in fragile condition, the page edges crumbling and the binding coming unglued. A great deal of moisture has gotten into the supporting black paper, causing the paper and the prints glued to them to be wrinkled. Probably the albums spent the damp Quissett summers on tables in the family houses to be enjoyed by one and all.

Some of the photos were done in professional studios and are in an 8 x 10 inch or even larger format. The local photos, typically in a 4 x 6 inch format, appear to have been done by a professional photographer or a very skilled amateur with a good eye for composition and exposure. Some members of the family believe that it was family employee John Miles who was the one who took most of these photos, perhaps with a camera provided by James Marshall. He is shown in a 1907 photo with the camera in the midst of setting up a photo of John Marshall, Jr., Eleanore and Margaret Marshall.

All persons are identified from left to right.



Margaret Gifford Marshall sitting in the round cutout in the lattice at the carriage house and her sister Eleanore Louise Marshall standing below, about 1910.



Painting model boats, 1909. Looking on is Margaret Gifford Marshall and a smiling Helen Spader while John Marshall, Jr., is painting the hull of a model boat on what appears to be an Oriental crate.



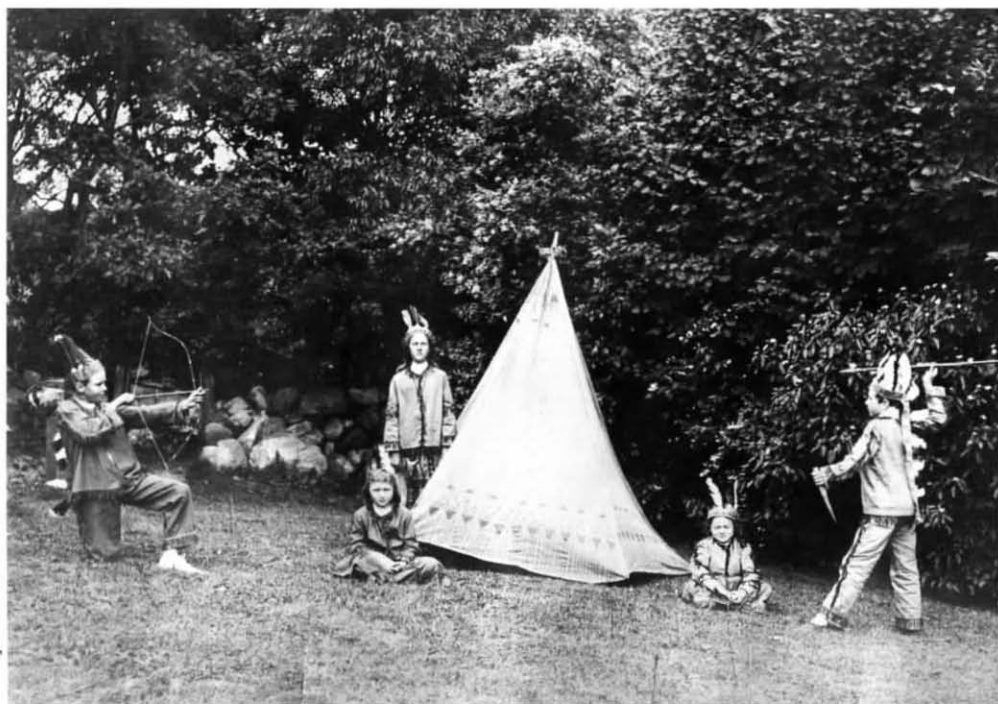
Jane Spader, Jimmy Marshall and Alice Bladlestore (or Beadlestore – the writing is not clear) at the beach house.



Jane Spader on Major Mac, 1909.



Jane Spader in her
cowboy suit at the
beach house.



Playing "Indians,"
1907.



Eleanore Louise Marshall in a riding outfit, about 1910.



John Marshall, Jr., his uncle James Gifford Marshall, James' daughters Eleanore Louise Marshall and Margaret Gifford Marshall, and Helen Spader on horseback in the driveway with the second Marshall house (now the National Academy of Sciences) in the background, 1909.



Some of the neighborhood cousins and friends in 1909. In the front row: Mabel Webster, Katharine Marshall, Edwin Webster (in the sailor suit), Harry Harris and Roger Pierce. Behind them are Frances Webster, Margaret Gifford Marshall, Nellie Burke (the waitress), Eleanore Louise Marshall, John Marshall, Jr., unknown and Helen Spader.



Jack Fay, Margaret Fay and Martin Fay, 1909.

At the beach house on Quisset Harbor. In the back are Marie Bradley and a Miss Stagg. In front are Katharine Marshall and her mother Nellie Marshall (John Marshall's wife). The man at the left was identified on the album page but the writing was not legible.



Drinking soda, 1908. In the front row are Roger Pierce (whose family owned "Red Oaks" on Quisset Avenue towards Woods Hole), Harry Harris and Marguerite Shea. In the back row are Tommy Shea, John Marshall, Jr., Helen Spader, Eleanore Louise Marshall and Margaret Gifford Marshall.



Morgan Harris and his cousin, Jimmy Marshall, with a mako shark at the Marshall stables, ca. 1908. A mako is a great game fish, usually found in deep ocean waters, that feeds on bluefish, squid and mackerel.



The grooms at the Marshall stable with the mako shark. John Marshall, Jr. is holding the fin, ca. 1908.



Eleanore Louise Marshall and her bridesmaids, May 1918.
Eleanore married Boylston A. Tompkins, known as Tommy.



Margaret Marshall King and her
first child, Franklin King, Jr.,
1920 or 1921. Margaret married
Franklin King in October 1919.



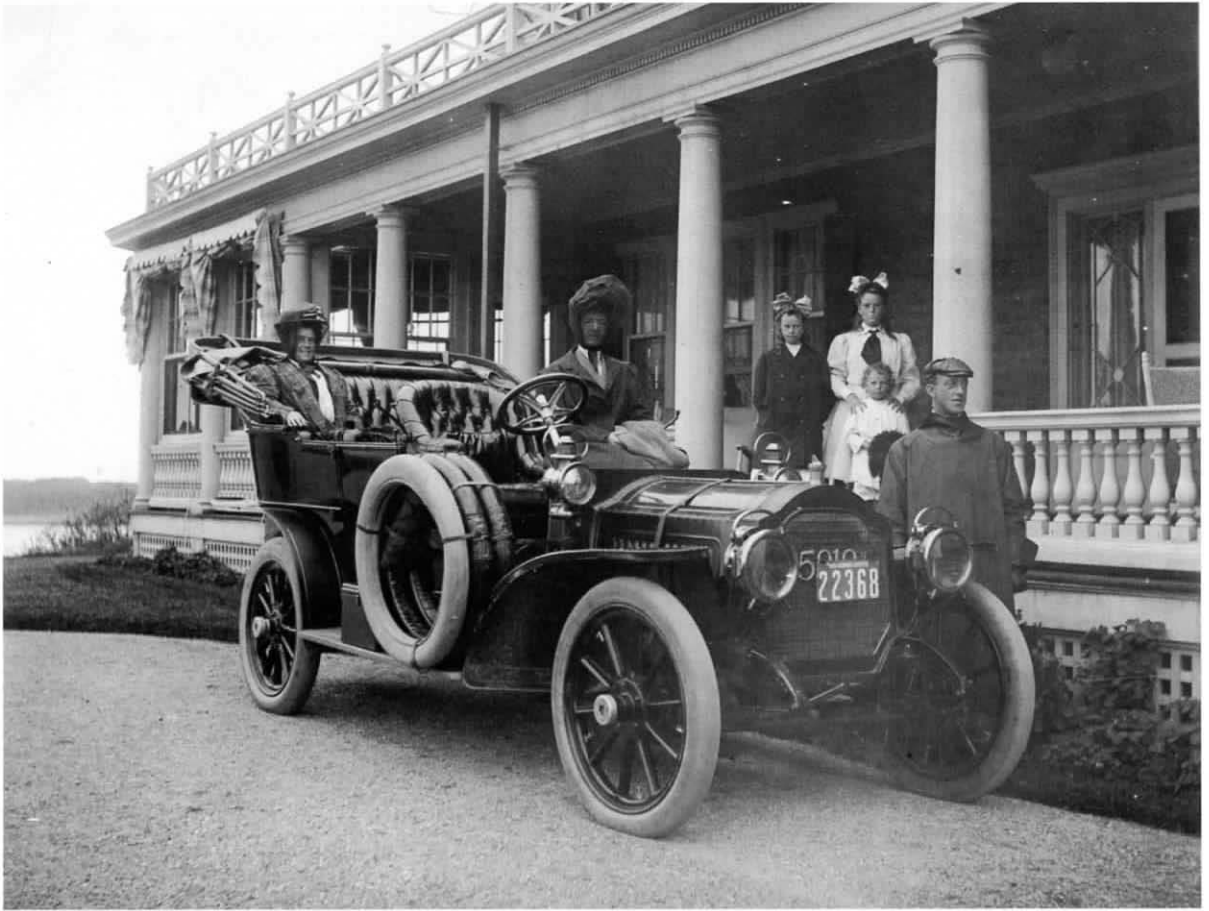
Family and friends in furs and tweeds, Quissett, Winter 1908. Back row, left to right: Mr. Spader, Mrs. Spader, Helen Spader, John Marshall. Middle row, left to right: Pat Gifford, John Marshall, Jr., Eleanore Louise Marshall, Margaret Gifford Marshall, Nellie Marshall, Maria Louise Marshall and James Gifford Marshall. Front row, left to right: Jimmy Marshall, Katharine Marshall, Jane Spader and Romeo, the poodle.



John Marshall, Jr., Jimmy Marshall, Jane Spader, Eleanore Louise Marshall and Margaret Gifford Marshall with a Christmas tree, Quissett, winter 1908.



Jane Spader and Jimmy Marshall in their winter coats, playing with a miniature pony cart, ca.1908.



All set for a drive in the family Packard, 1909. In the back seat is Maria Louise (Harris) Marshall (Mrs. James Gifford Marshall) and standing next to it with her face completely covered with a veil is Alma Cohen. On the porch are Margaret Gifford Marshall, Eleanore Louise Marshall and Jimmy (James G. Marshall, Jr.). The chauffeur Scott is at the right.



John Miles, photographer, posing John Marshall, Jr., Eleanore Louise Marshall and Margaret Gifford Marshall on the house steps with croquet mallets and a straw-hatted doll, ca. 1907. If he is working, then who took the photo?



A self-portrait or portrait of John Miles, the photographer, ca. 1907-1908.

From the Fay Collection

Here are some scenes from the Fay Collection, including three beautiful and artistic photos taken in the early 1900s by the talented daughter of Joseph Story Fay, Sarah Bryant Fay (1855-1938). Miss Fay probably used one of the early Brownie box cameras as well as a small panoramic camera.



Winter in Woods Hole at the edge of Little Harbor. On the left is a house built by the Old Colony Railroad's Dude Train conductor Augustus Messer in the 1870s or 1880s on the site of Naushon House which had burned in 1858. Across the road is a building originally built as small store by Eliel Fish over the edge of the harbor and housing at various times the Post Office and the Woods Hole Social Library; by this date it had been remodeled into a house. The next building is the Fay boatshed, also used by Sarah Bryant Fay as a painting studio. The Fay Homestead is just visible through the trees above the railroad cut which ran behind the boatshed. Photograph by Sarah Bryant Fay, early 1900s.



A view looking down Woods Hole Road towards the village with Little Harbor on the left. The center of the road has been plowed but the edges left for sleigh traffic. In the center a sleigh drawn by a white horse is coming up the road. On the right is the Davis-Fish house, later The Little Harbor Tearoom, run by Misses Josephine and Florence Fish (presently the Woods Hole Research Center). Photograph by Sarah Bryant Fay, early 1900s.



Catboats preparing to race, Little Harbor. The Fay's dock is on the right. This quiet silvery view has the beauty of a luminist painting. Photograph by Sarah Bryant Fay, early 1900s.



The "Cottage" at the Fay Farm, Falmouth, ca. 1917, still standing. The Fays had a professional dairy farm with 30 to 40 cows located on what is now Elm Road and including the hillside above developed by them as The Moors in the 1920s. They graciously loaned the Cottage to Emmanuel Church in Boston for its Roxbury Mission Vacation Camp and "Old Ladies Meeting." In the distance behind the house is Salt Pond and Vineyard Sound.



Lizzie, the cook at the Fay Cottage at the Farm, ca. 1917. She would take her time off to go fishing in Oyster Pond where there were many yellow and white perch and other small fish.

From an album in the Cahoon Collection

Sam Cahoon and Mrs. Kate Harrison in a catboat, 1890s or early 1900s. Kate de Forest Sheldon Harrison (1851-1935) was the daughter of William Crawford Sheldon, president of New York Bankers Trust and a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. In 1872 she married Alfred Craven Harrison (d. 1927) of Philadelphia whose family was in the sugar refining business in Cuba. In 1892 Harrison sold his company (Harrison and Frazier) and in 1894 the family, which included five children, came to Woods Hole as summer residents. Eventually, they purchased the beautiful estate of Mahlon Ogden Jones on Church Street overlooking Little Harbor; the Shingle Style house had been designed in 1888 by the prominent Boston architect Edmund Wheelwright. Kate and Alfred were avid sailors and belonged to the Corinthian Yacht Club of Philadelphia. Their Little Harbor neighbors, Lunette and Walter Luscombe, Henry and Ann Fay and Cornelia and Charles Crane, welcomed them to the social round of croquet, tennis, golf, swimming and sailing. Kate was a wonderful hostess. She added to the pleasures of sailing by giving picnics, chowder parties and trophy dinners. Alfred Harrison was addicted to racing sailboats and organized the Little Harbor catboat and Sprintsail boat



res. Sam Cahoon was his boat captain for 19 years and both Kate and her son William Frazier Harrison raced with Sam. The feeling of a race day can be seen in Sarah Bryant Fay's photo of catboats in Little Harbor. The family returned to Philadelphia for good before World War I and the estate was eventually bought by Newcomb Carlton.

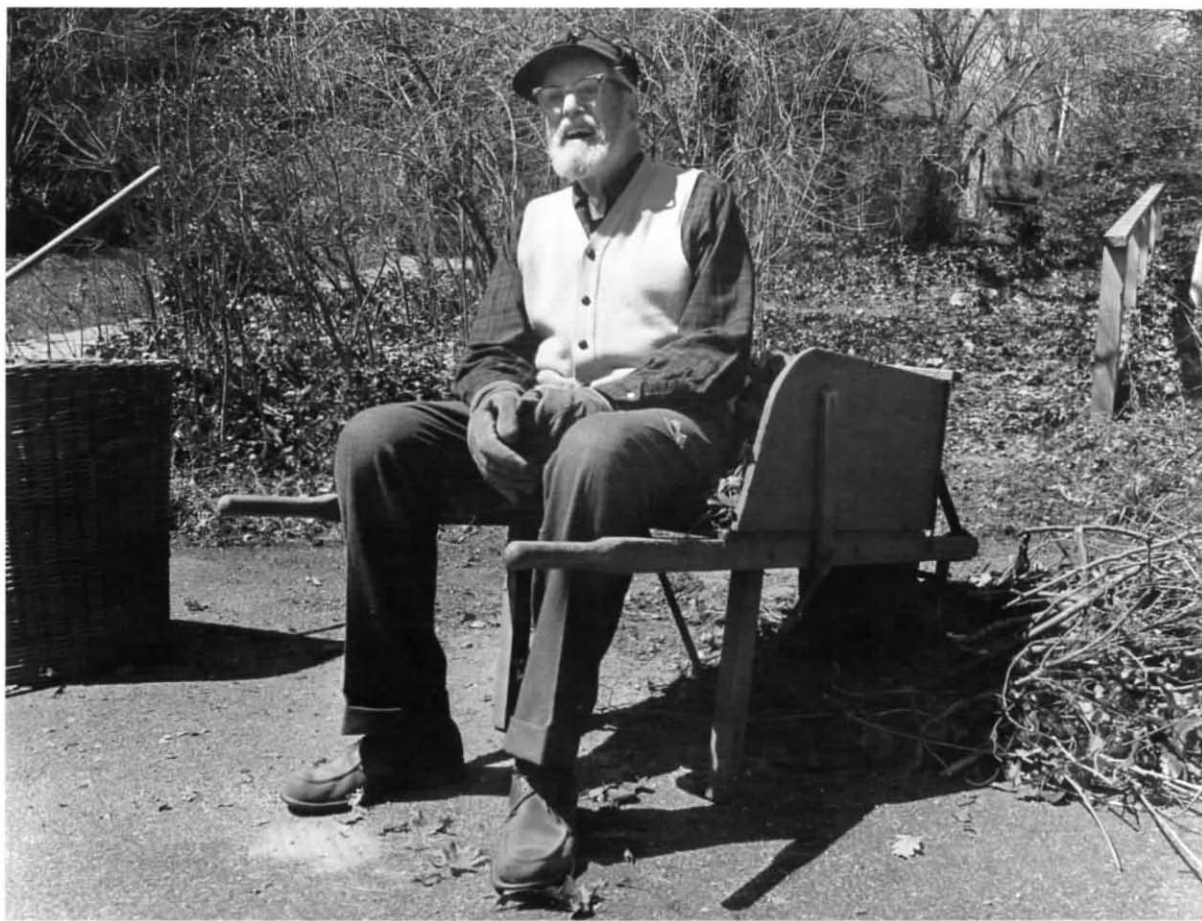
Three photos from the general collection



T.E. Howes' delivery wagon on Luscombe Avenue. The young man on the left is Eugene Young, Sr. The Woods Hole Inn is in the background with laundry drying in the constant Woods Hole breeze.



Allen W. Clowes (1917-2000), left, and George Clowes (1915-1988), right, probably about 1920 or 1921. Both boys were born in Buffalo, New York and moved with their family to Indianapolis, Indiana in 1919. This photo was probably taken in front of the family house on Broadway, Indianapolis. Their father, George H.A. Clowes, came to Woods Hole in 1918, accompanied by his wife Edith and the two boys, to do research at the Marine Biological Laboratory with Ralph Lillie and Robert Chambers. He continued to do research there every summer until his death in 1958. In 1919, George Clowes was hired as a research chemist at Eli Lilly & Company in Indianapolis and became director of research there in 1920. He is best remembered for the accomplishment of mass production of insulin which was first marketed by Eli Lilly & Company in 1923. George Clowes, Jr. became a surgeon and did research into the body's response to trauma and shock. He married Margaret G. Jackson in 1942 and became the father of five children. Allen, who was married briefly in the 1960s, became an investor and philanthropist. They both came to Woods Hole every summer.



Dr. Alfred Redfield (1890-1983) taking a rest from garden chores in 1978 in a wheelbarrow near his house on what is now Maury Lane. Dr. Redfield's garden was on land which had been part of the Fay family rose gardens where ramblers were developed by Michael Walsh. Dr. Redfield was one of the eight original staff appointments made to the staff when the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution was founded in 1930. He was Professor of Physiology at Harvard at that time and spent his summers in Woods Hole and taught at Harvard during the academic year. In 1942 he was appointed Associate Director of WHOI and moved to Woods Hole where he became an inspiration and guide to a generation of leaders in biology and physical oceanography. He and his wife Martha were generous to the Woods Hole community, donating land on School Street for the moving of the Methodist Church (now Endeavor House) from Water Street and also Shiverick House, originally on the corner of Water and School Streets, which was eventually replaced by an Institution building named in his honor. He retired in 1956 from active teaching but continued to research, write and publish. Photo by Frank Medeiros, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

About the Authors

Susan Fletcher Witzell was born in New York City and grew up in Summit, New Jersey. After graduating with a B.A. in Art and Art History from Milwaukee-Downer College in 1962 and doing graduate work in Art History and English at S.U.N.Y.-Buffalo, she worked as an art and photo editor at several major publishing companies in New York. She moved to Woods Hole in 1972 and worked as an engineering draftsman at WHOI for many years. She is co-author with Jane A. McLaughlin and Mary Lou Smith of *New England Views, The Photography of Baldwin Coolidge (1845-1928)* published by the Woods Hole Historical Collection in 1998. She has been a volunteer in the Collection's archives since 1992 and is currently the curatorial assistant to Jennifer S. Gaines. She and her husband Nick have made their home in the Racing Beach section of Quissett since 1977.

Jennifer Stone Gaines first started as archivist of the Woods Hole Historical Collection in 1982. Since then her responsibilities have expanded to encompass all aspects of the museum. As a result, her title was elevated to Curator in 1994. She occasionally writes small articles for *Spritsail* and the *Mainsheet*, in addition to writing many grant proposals for the museum. Besides working two days a week as curator, she also works as an assistant librarian at the Woods Hole Public Library.

Jennifer grew up in a coastal Rhode Island town where her forbears had lived for eight generations. In fact she, her mother, her grandmother and her daughters were all born on the same road. History was a part of life there. She studied literature and botany at Pembroke College and the University of Rhode Island, receiving a B.A. in 1969. After five years of teaching environmental education with the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, she returned to the University to take graduate courses and earn a teaching certificate in science education. In the past few summers she has renewed her love of teaching nature studies by joining the faculty of the Woods Hole Children's School of Science.

She is married to Arthur G. Gaines, a scientist with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. They first came to Woods Hole in 1977 when he was appointed chief scientist with the Sea

Education Association and sailed on the *Westward*. They have two exceptional daughters: Sarah, who just graduated from Princeton University with a degree in geology, and who now holds the family record for world travel, and her sister Hannah who is in close competition, now studying in Germany in a semester program with Bates College. Sarah will reclaim the lead when she takes her position of a fellowship at Capetown University in Capetown, South Africa in January.

Acknowledgments and Bibliography

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Notes

1. "A stereoscope is an optical instrument with two eyeglasses for assisting the observer to combine the images of two pictures taken from points of view a little way apart and thus to get the effect of solidity or depth." Stereoscopic photos are pairs of photos mounted on cardboard. When the card is inserted into a stereoscope, one image is produced. Sets of stereo cards and stereoscope made of wood were very popular in the late 19th century and were to be found in many home parlors. Firms such as the aforementioned Kilburn Brothers sent photographers all over the United States and into foreign countries to capture spectacular views of stereo sets.
2. A cabinet card was one of the popular standard cardboard mountings for photographs on paper from the 1870s to about 1905. A cabinet card was $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches and mounted on thinner cardboard. Both these types were produced from glass plate negatives.