



**"...the most important institution of its kind in the world."**

**~ Shoghi Effendi**



The History  
of  
GREEN ACRE BAHÁ'Í  
SCHOOL



©2007 Eliot Baha'i Archives



"[Greenacre] was established, as Thou knowest, to reveal to men the Kingdom of God, which is love, joy, peace, within the individual heart and then to give them a synthesis of the great world movement which is so rapidly making for peace among nations."

- Sarah Jane Farmer

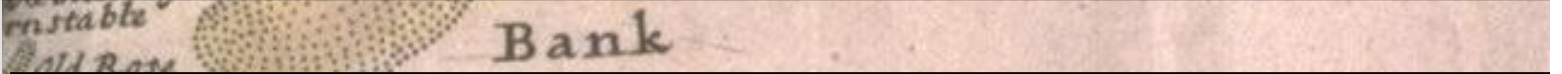




Today, Green Acre, an historic international Center of Baha'i Learning, inspired by the presence and example of 'Abdu'l-Baha, fosters spiritual transformation and promotes the oneness of humankind, world peace, race unity, and the equality of women and men.







Green Acre's history is inter-woven with the history of the town of Eliot. Its location is significant because of its association with some of the earliest peace negotiations among Native American tribes. Green Acre is a noted landmark in town and a source of pride for its residents. Its founder, Sarah Farmer and her family, were a leading force for change and growth in the town.



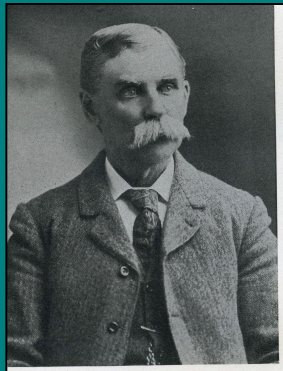
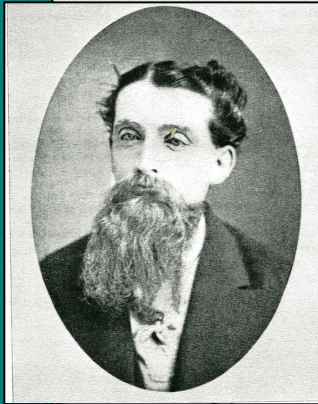
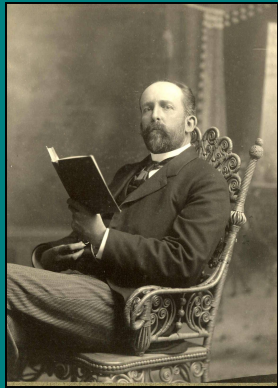




Along its shores, in front of the now Sarah Farmer Inn, was the site of the Hanscom Shipyard, which operated from 1847 to 1855. Its most famous clipper ship launched there was the "Nightingale".





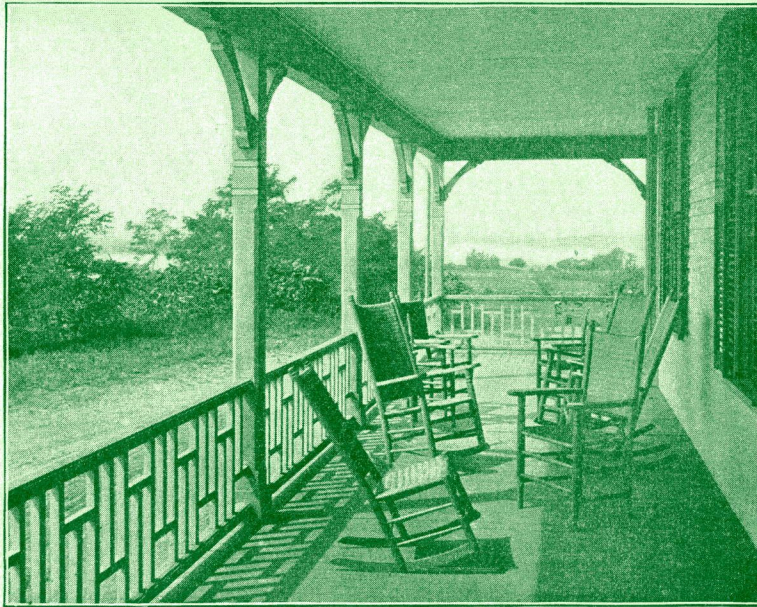


**GREENACRE,**  
 A Charming Summer Resort.  
 Beautifully located on the Piscataqua River. Boat-  
 ing, bathing, fishing and driving. Table unexcelled.  
 Terms reasonable. Carriages at Eliot Depot.  
 L. W. KELLEY, Manager, Eliot, Me.

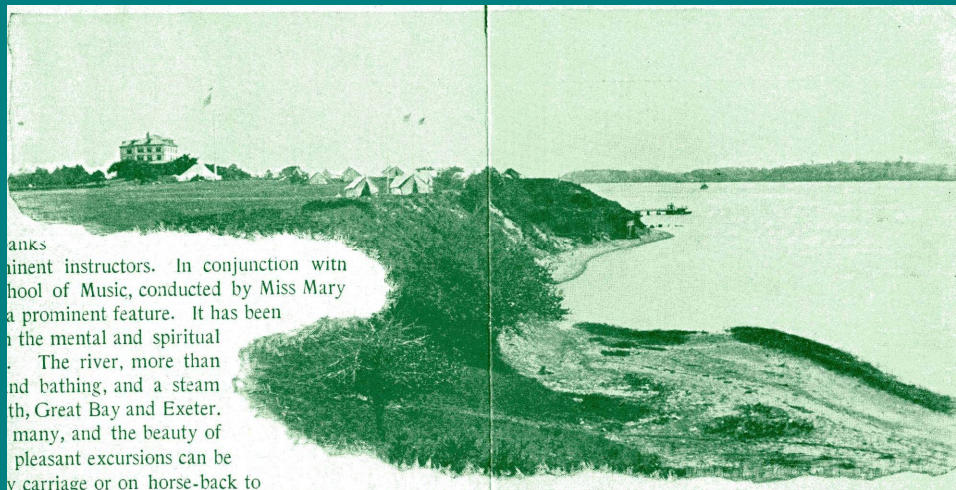
**Greenacre on the Piscataqua.**  
 One of the daintiest announcements of the season is that of the new "Green-acre" at Eliot. Situated on one of the loveliest spots of Nature's lavish creation, its location is emphasized with a bit of Shillaber's graceful poetizing, which does full justice to the dreamy loveliness of the neighborhood and creates a taste for the alternate sentiment awakened by the resistless flow of the current, in the magnificent "Long Reach" as it courses on to the sea or returns in stately volume to disappear among the inland bays and hills. The very thought of the lovely spot almost makes a poet of a commonplace editor. A practical feature of the Green-acre is the managerial presence of Miss M. Daniell, of the Boston Cooking School.

And here, in 1890, the Eliot Hotel was opened - a venture embarked upon by 5 prominent personages of the town: Dr. J. L. M. Willis, who bought the property, Francis Keefe, Martin Parry Tobey, George E. Hammond and Sarah Jane Farmer.





GREEN-ACRE,  
*August 15<sup>th</sup> 1890.*  
 DINNER.  
 SOUP.  
*Consommé with Macaroni*  
 FISH.  
 ROAST.  
*Beef Lamb.*  
 BOILED.  
 ENTREES.  
*Summer Apple Sauce -*  
 VEGETABLES.  
*Potatoes, Corn, Sauces*  
 DESSERT.  
*Old Apple Pudding, Blueberries, Raspberry Sauce, Charlotte Royale*



anks  
 nent instructors. In conjunction with  
 hool of Music, conducted by Miss Mary  
 a prominent feature. It has been  
 n the mental and spiritual  
 . The river, more than  
 nd bathing, and a steam  
 th, Great Bay and Exeter.  
 many, and the beauty of  
 pleasant excursions can be  
 v carriage or on horse-back to

At this time, it was unusual for a woman to be part of such an enterprise. Yet, were it not for Sarah Jane Farmer there would be no Green Acre Baha'i School today.





The extended campus contains approximately 266 Acres of land.



The main, historically significant areas of the extended campus are:

•The Inn and main campus



Rogers Cottage. Moved up from the river in 1870. Abdu'l-Baha took a nap in the right front corner room.



Ole Bull Cottage. Built in 1896 as a music studio by Mary Burnham, later bought and given to Sarah Farmer by Mrs. Sara Bull.



Kelsey Center resides on the former site of Baha'i Hall (r) and the Great Tent.







•Staples (Rogers/Flynn) House,  
Schopflocker House...

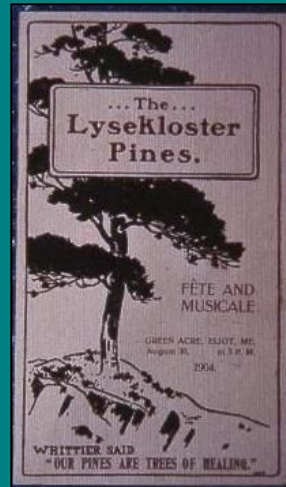


Schopflocker House, originally called Ball Cottage was a private residence, later a health center and until 1994 provided supplemental housing. Now provides housing for staff.

At Staples House, on August 20, 1912, Abdu'l-Baha gave his Unity Feast from the porch to those at Green Acre and the Eliot townspeople. Originally built by the Rogers family it was passed down through the family by way of the Flynn and Staples descendants before being acquired by Green Acre (1971). In 1925 it became the first office of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States and Canada which was elected at Green Acre that year.



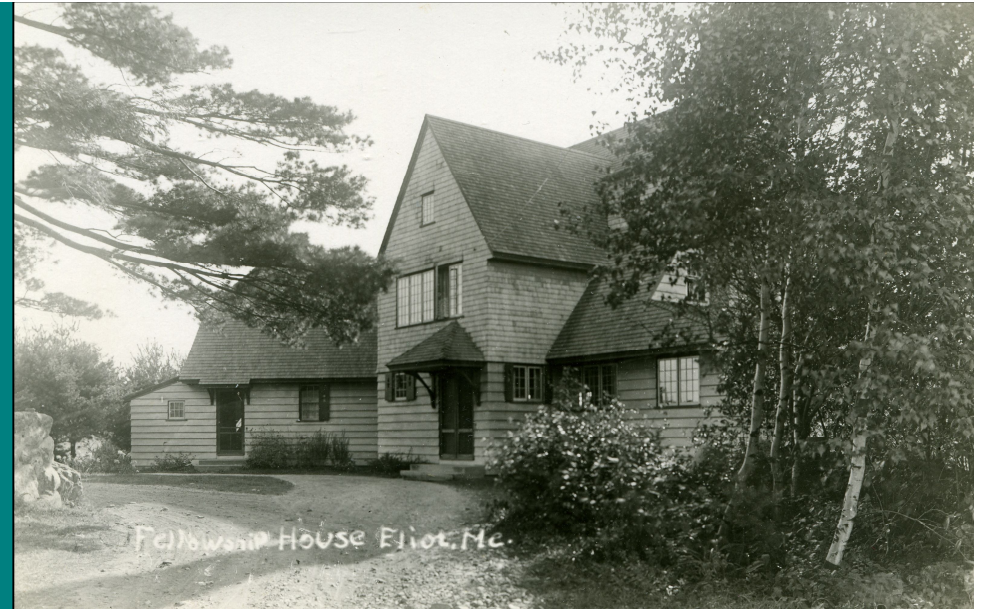
## and *The Pines*...



Where the sessions of the Monsalvat School for the Comparative Study of Religions, prayer gatherings and special commemorations were held. 'Abdul-Baha and Mirza Abul-Fadl spoke here.



## • Fellowship House



Built with monies and furnished by a gift from Helen Ellis Cole of New York, it was originally housing for teachers.



Later, under the care of Knight of Baha'u'llah Emma M. Rice, it became a meeting place for Eliot organizations. Before the Kelsey Center was built children's classes were held here as well as providing housing for guests. It is used by the Eliot Baha'i Community for events and is the location of the Eliot Baha'i Community Archives.

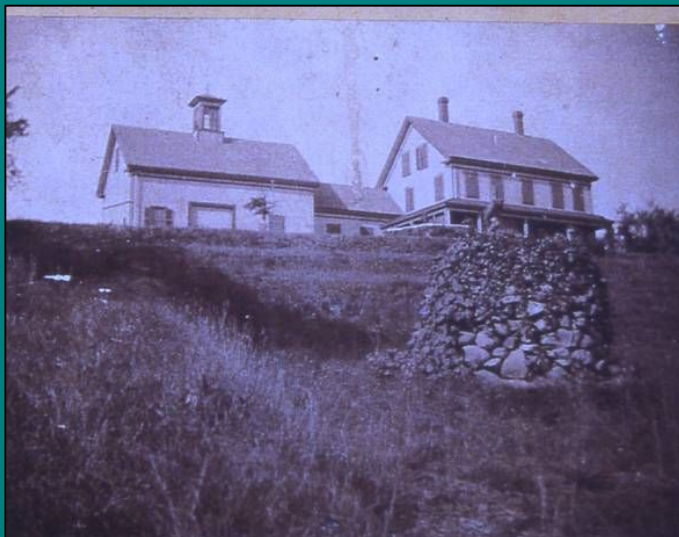
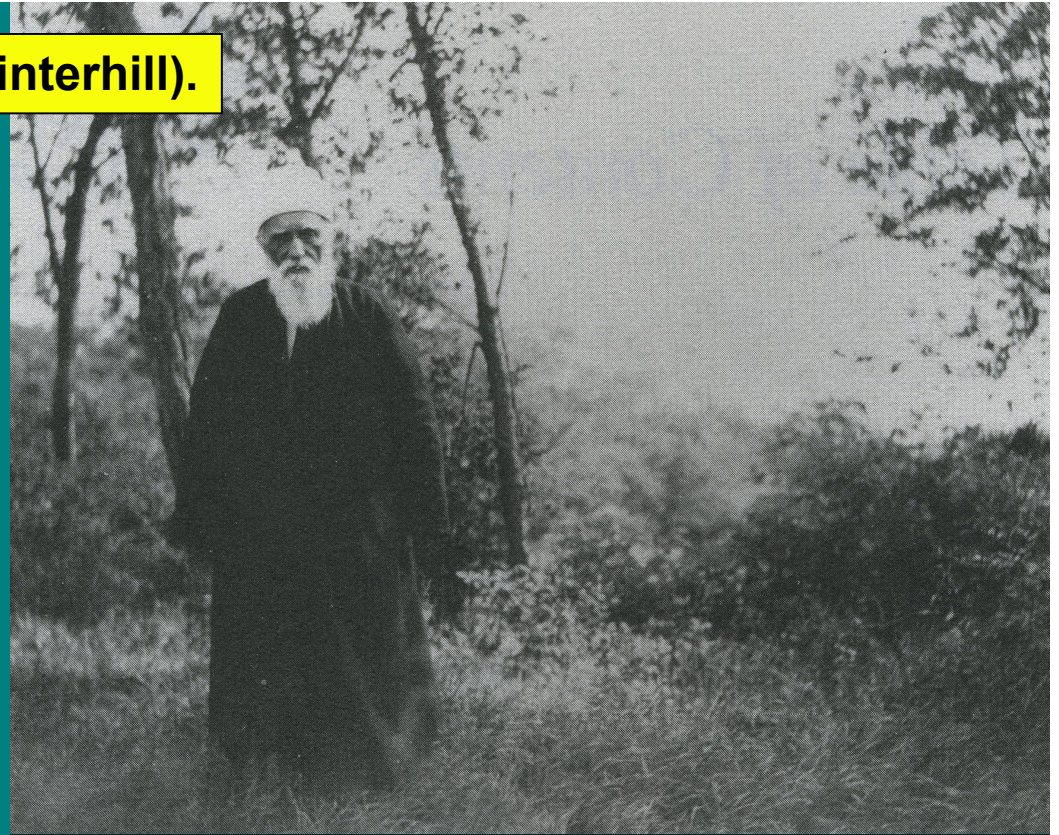




## Monsalvat and the Prime House (Winterhill).



Harry Randall  
near where  
'Abdu'l-Baha  
spoke



Abdu'l-Baha spoke to a gathering on Monsalvat and visited here with Sarah, confirming her vision for Green Acre and setting it as the site of the first Baha'i University and second House of Worship in America. He attended a dinner at the Prime house, hosted by the Inglis family of Canada.



**SARAH JANE FARMER  
AND  
FAMILY**



Sarah Jane Farmer was the daughter of Hannah Tobey Shapleigh and Moses Gerrish Farmer. She was born in Dover, New Hampshire on July 22, 1847. Her mother, Hannah was from Eliot, Maine and her father from Boscawen, New Hampshire.



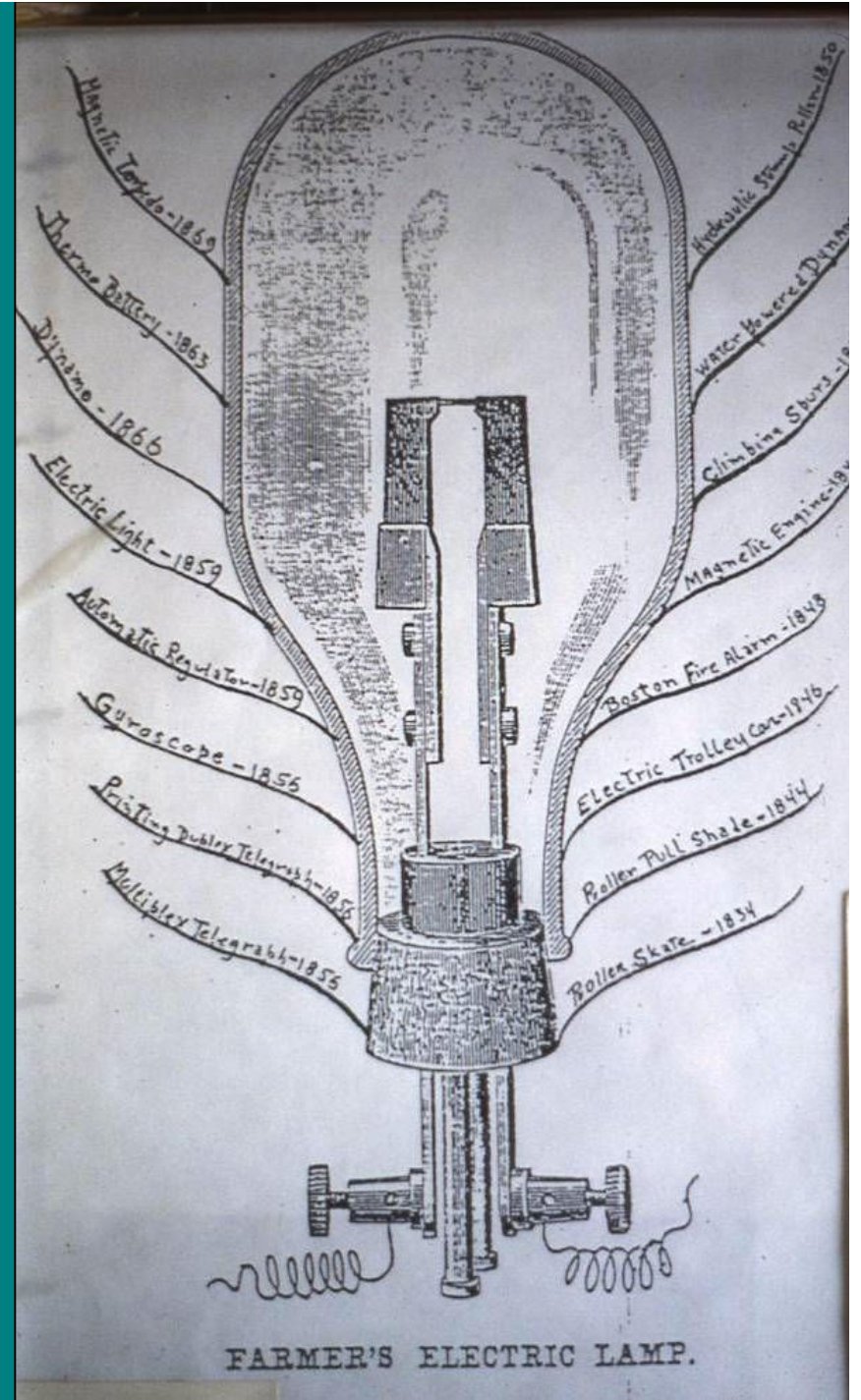
At the time of Sarah's birth Moses was an instructor at the Belknap Academy in Dover, NH.



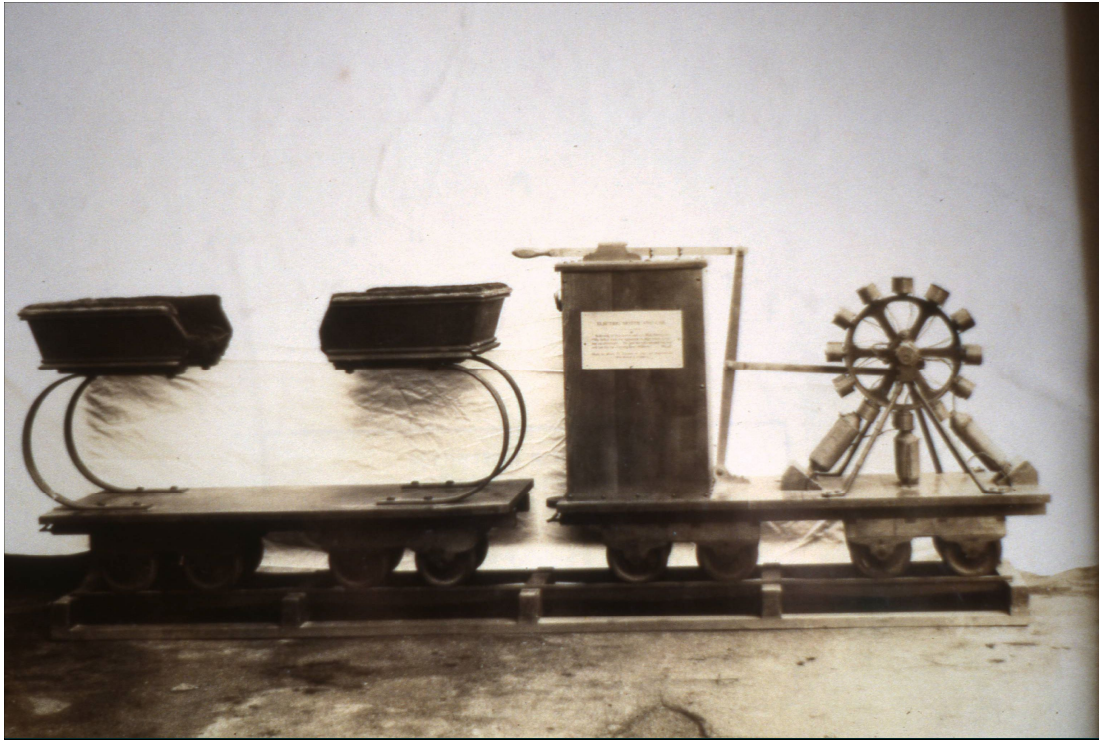




Sarah's father Moses was an accomplished musician and poet but is best known as an electrical genius and pioneer inventor. Over 130 inventions were credited to him. Farmer often served as a consultant to Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) and Thomas Edison.







In 1847, the year Sarah was born, he demonstrated the prototype for the first electric streetcar in the Town Hall at Dover, NH.



He served as telegraph operator in Salem and Framingham, Mass. and invented the fire alarm pull box, which is still in use today. With Dr. Channing he invented a fire alarm system initially installed in buildings around Boston and later sold nationally (Gamewell).

**ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ENGINE & RAIL-ROAD.**

Messrs. M. G. & J. P. FARMER,  
Will exhibit on *Wednesday Evening* at *Lefferts HALL*.  
A BEAUTIFUL MODEL OF THEIR NEWLY INVENTED

**Electro-Magnetic Engine,**  
To which they have adapted a Miniature  
**RAIL-ROAD AND TRAM CAR,**  
Which will be driven by the *LIGHTNING* current.

A variety of interesting **EXPERIMENTS** will be performed, with Remarks, illustrating the power of  
**ELECTRO-MAGNETISM.**

Among these a **BAR of IRON**, will remain suspended in the Air without a table support, in opposition to the **LAW of GRAVITATION.**

**THE MAGNETIC RING,**  
Which will defy the strength of any **TWO MEN** to separate its halves, when under the influence of **ELECTRICITY.** The operation of the

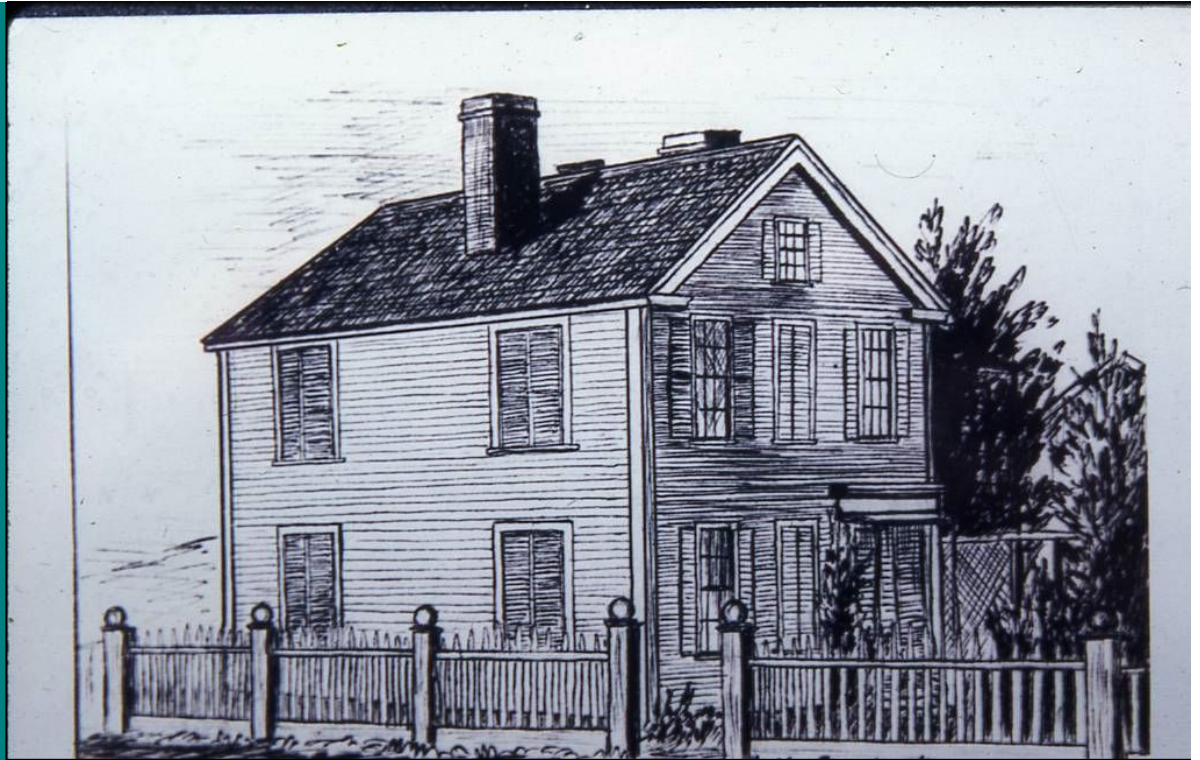
**TELEGRAPH,**  
Will be illustrated by a small model. The **SUBMARINE BATTERY** will be introduced, showing the safety with which **TRAVEL** can be made up and down a **SHALLOW** channel.

**THE VIBRATING MAGNETO ELECTRIC MACHINE,**  
The medal in the case of **Cholera** Diseases will be introduced, and a  
**\$5 GOLD PIECE**  
will be placed in a dish of water, which any person may have who will take it out when properly connected with the Machine. All the Lectures and Experiments will be given with **COMPLETION** and **PERFECTION.**

Doors open at **7 1/2**. Lectures will Commence at **8 o'clock.**  
**TICKETS 25 CENTS.**

W. H. Southwick & Co. Printers and Stationers.



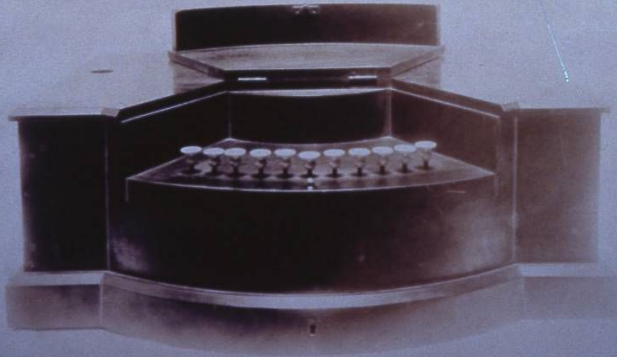


The family moved to Salem Massachusetts in 1849 where Moses worked as telegraph operator. Moses invented what was the first incandescent lamp. In the first demonstration of electric lighting in America, he illuminated his home at 11 Pearl St. in Salem in 1859 with his battery-powered incandescent lamps. Thomas Edison, who perfected the invention of the electric light bulb for mass use, was the same age as Sarah at the time – 12 years old!



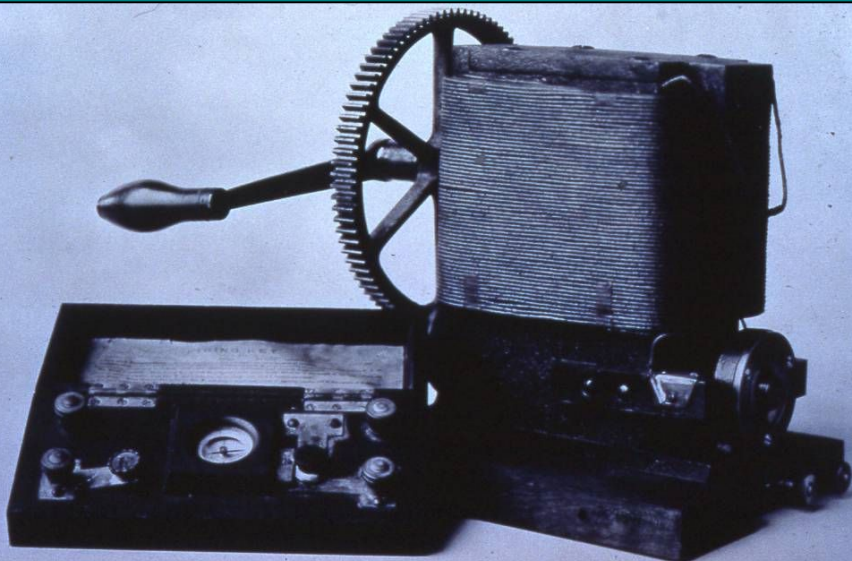


Other inventions included roller skates, magnetic torpedo, printing telegraph, stump puller and dynamo and key.



Printing Telegraph

Dynamo and Key



## THE HERCULES STUMP-PULLER,

Patented August 9th, 1859.

The most powerful machine of the kind in the world! Just the thing that farmers, who have land to clear, need. There are two sizes, one with a single lever, the other with two levers.

The machine enables a person to lift about one hundred times his own weight; two or three men can pull any of the stumps ordinarily met with; six men with the large machine can lift about forty tons. The machine is durable, not liable to get out of order, and readily handled by two or three men. They are offered at a price within the reach of every one who cultivates a farm.

Reference may be had to any of the following gentlemen:—

Capt. James Tobey;  
William Hammond, Esq.;  
John H. Rogers;  
Charles W. Rogers;  
John E. Hammond;  
James F. Johnson;  
Joseph Hammond;  
Chauncey Smith, Esq.;  
Erwin Rogers;  
Joseph D. Sadler, of Salem, Mass.  
William P. Sadler, of St. Louis, Mo.

of Elliot, Maine.  
of Boston, Mass.

Territorial rights for sale for the States of Maine, and New-Hampshire, by John H. Rogers, of Elliot, York Co., Maine.

For the States of Missouri, and Iowa, by William P. Sadler, of St. Louis, Mo.

### MOSES G. FARMER,

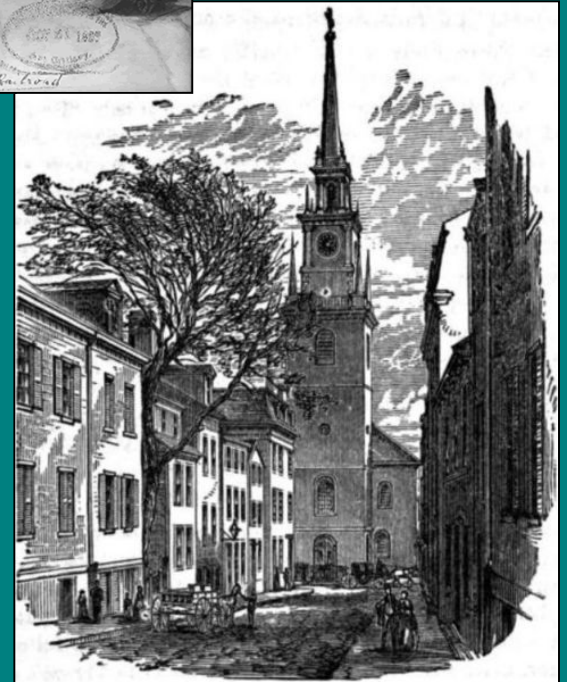
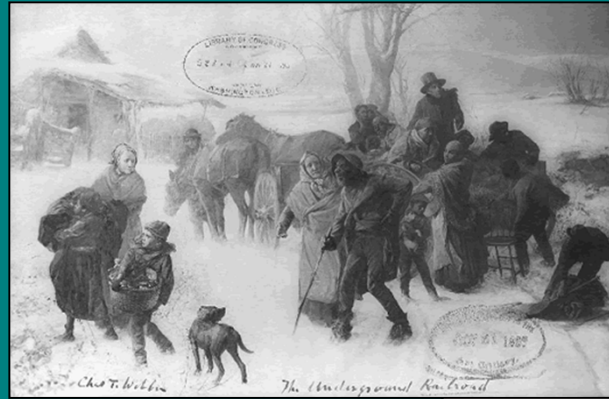
PATENTEE AND PROPRIETOR,

156 Washington Street, Boston,

AND 12 PEARL STREET, SALEM, MASS.

Hatchinson & Co. Printers, Salem.

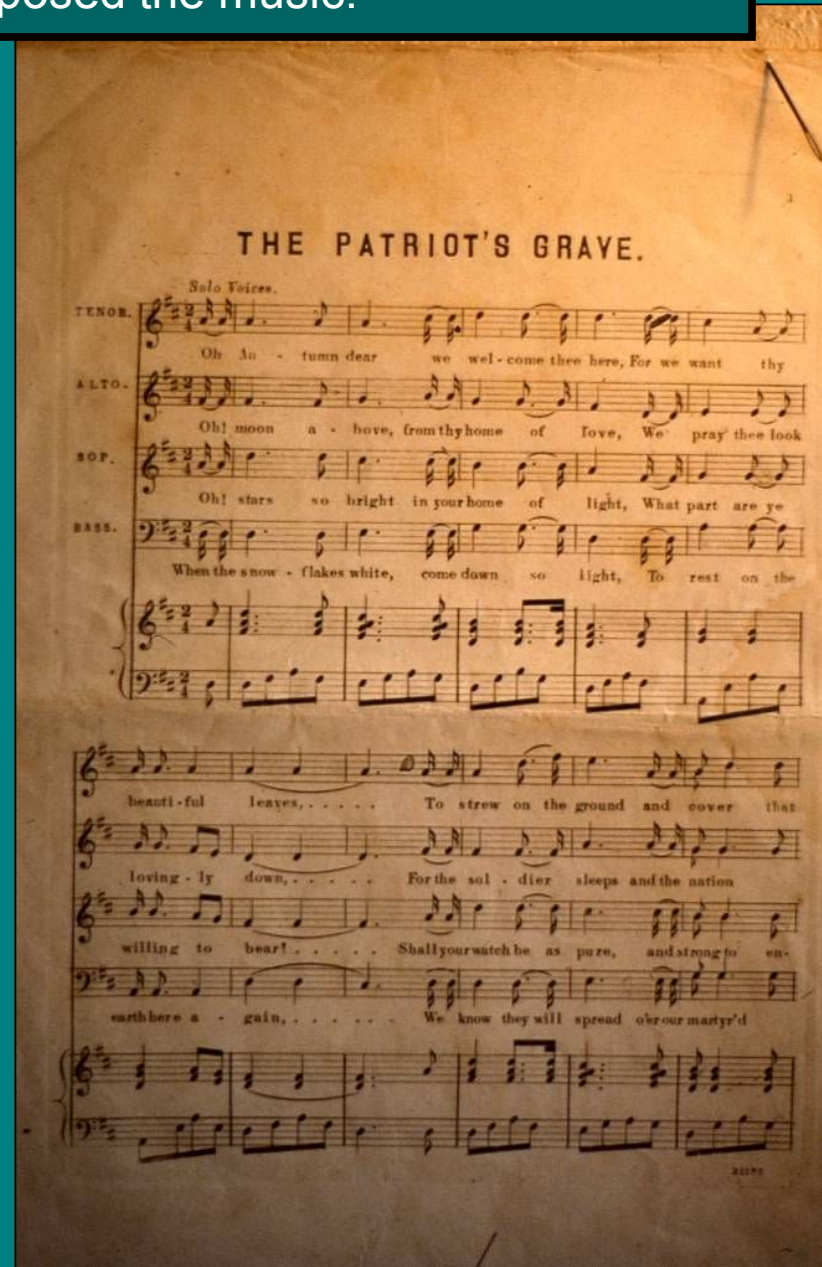
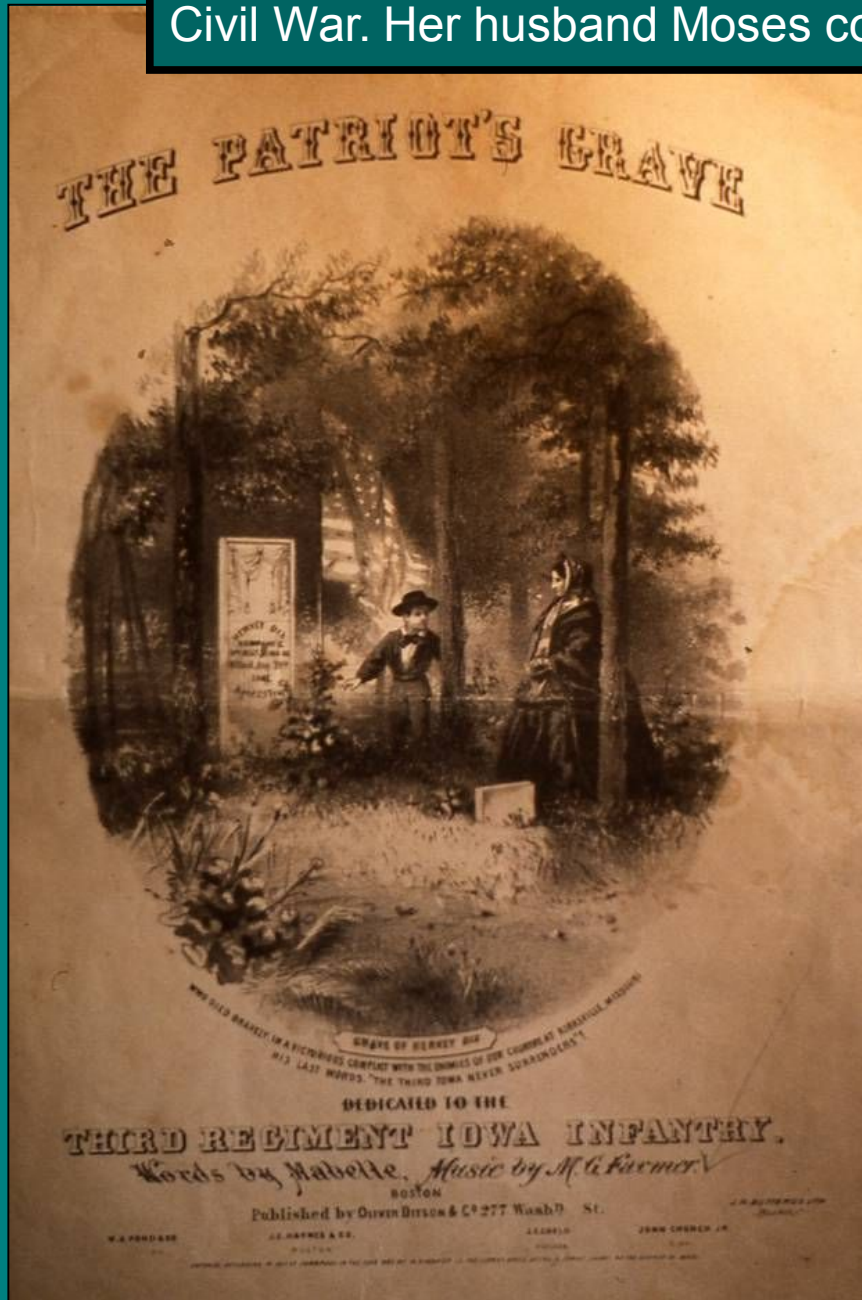




Hannah, Sarah's mother, was an activist. Concerned with others, the Farmer's first home in Dover, NH, on Fifth Street, became a stopping point for the Underground Railway and thus the family helped to free slaves. Hannah raised money for the hospitals in the South during the Civil War and worked to save the old North Church in Boston from being demolished. To those in need she always was ready and willing to lend a helping hand.

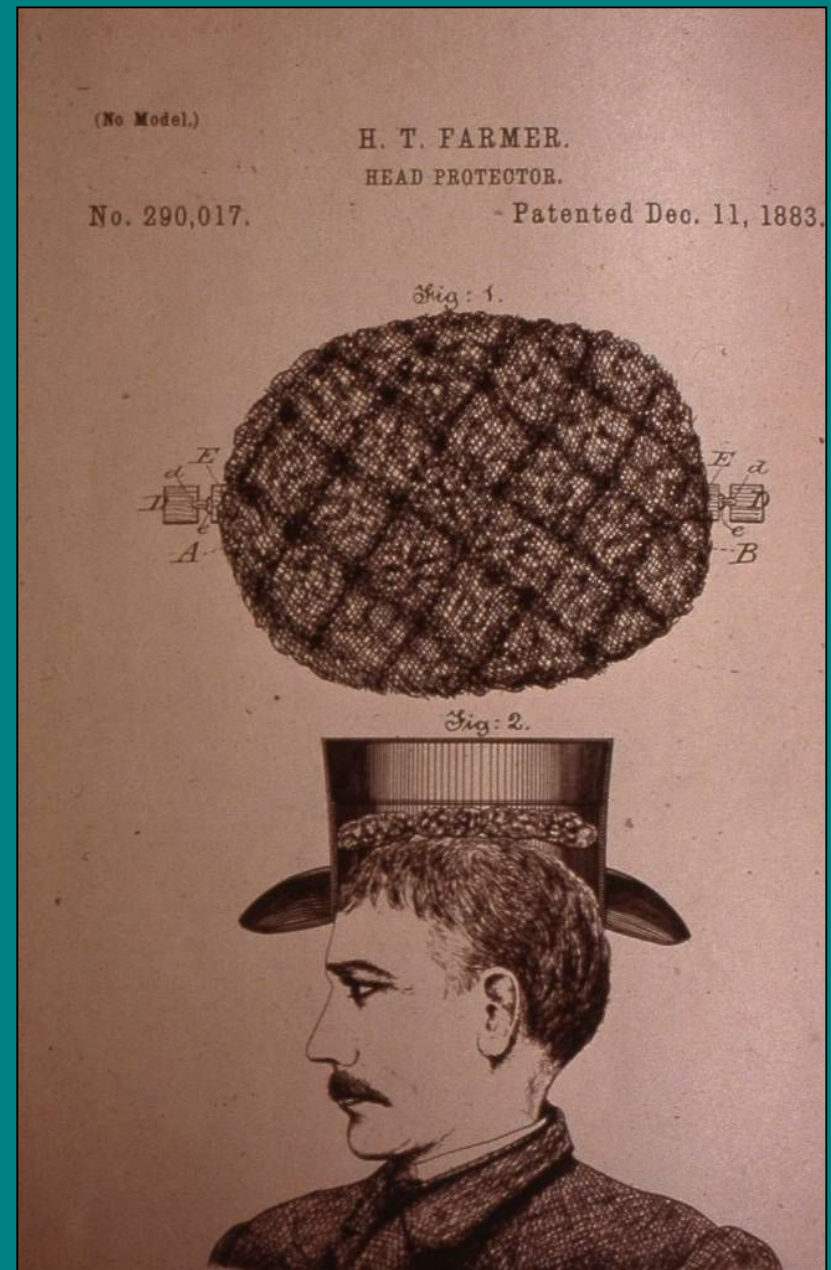


She also was a poet going by the name of "Mabelle" and wrote many verses including one for a young friend of the family who died in the Civil War. Her husband Moses composed the music.

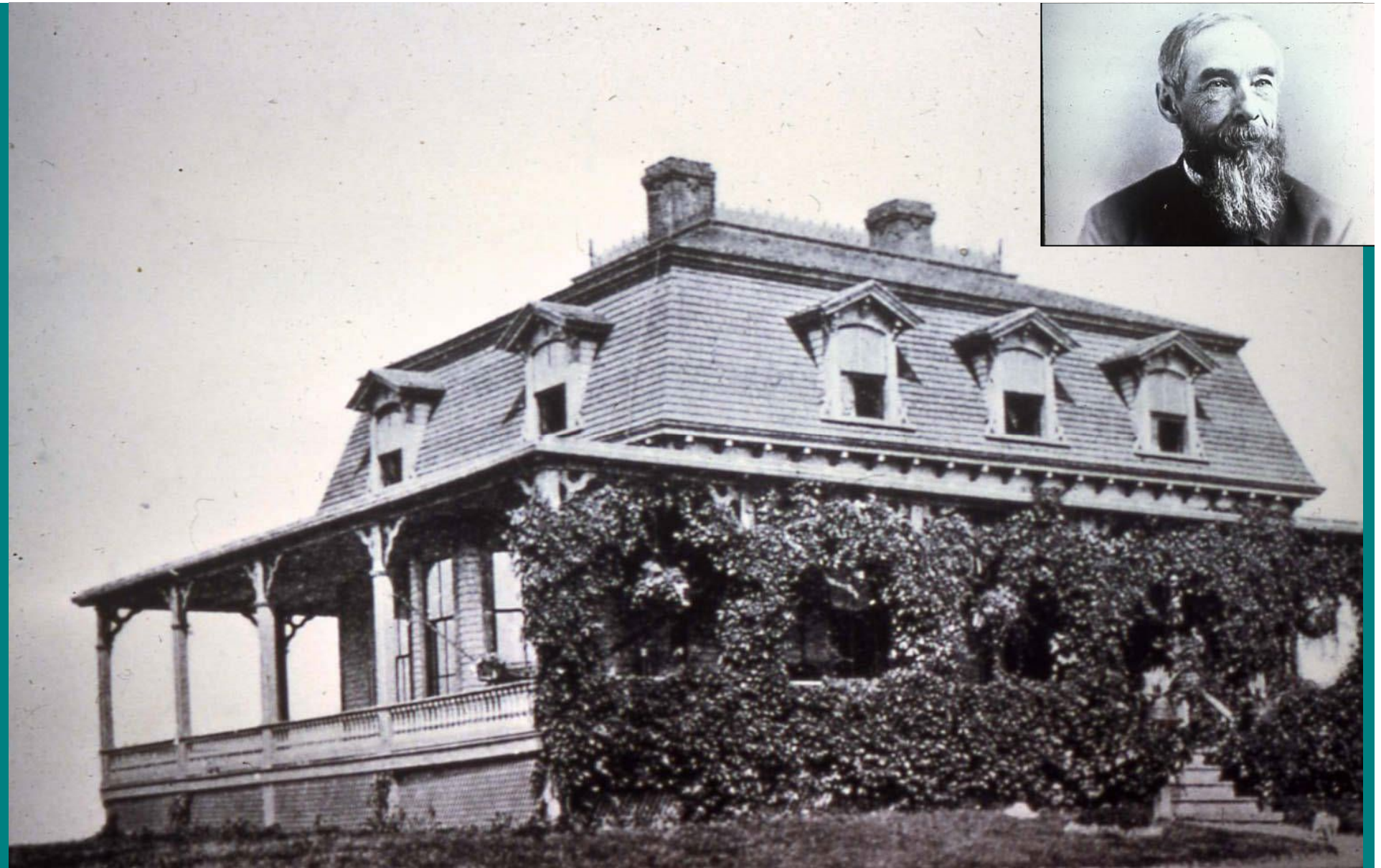




She also patented at least one invention as shown by this HEAD PROTECTOR in 1883. This device was invented to protect ones head from what might be falling from above, a precursor of the hard hat?? Remember this was back in the days when, in the cities with their tall buildings, washing water and other refuse was thrown out the windows landing on anyone happening to be walking by below!







In his later years, Moses was chosen as the electrical instructor at the US Torpedo Station in Newport RI where he continued to work on his inventions until ill health forced the family to return to Eliot in 1881.





The family returned to Hannah's home in Eliot which they named "Bittersweet" Previous to returning Moses had the home enlarged and a workshop built where he continued his electrical experiments.







The original Bittersweet burned to the ground in 1904 and was rebuilt for Sarah in 1908 by the Green Acre Fellowship. Moses' workshop, located to the rear of this home, was later moved closer to the street on State Road. It is now a private home.

There is a plaque on the granite post outside the home honoring Moses Gerrish Farmer and his inventions.





Hannah Tobey Shapleigh Farmer,  
from painting by F.H.Thompkins



Here in Eliot, Hannah opened *Rosemary Cottage* where poor children and mothers from the inner city would come for rest, proper diet and exercise to regain their health.



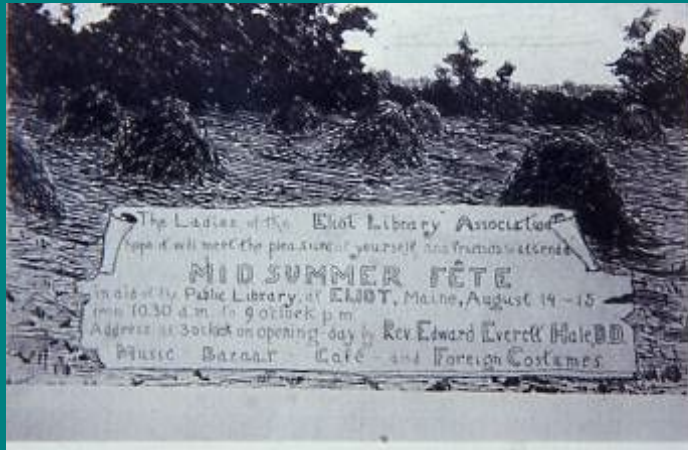


Here we see daughter Sarah with a group at *Rosemary*. They would come up from the train depot at the end of the road, by carriage.



Hannah turned the property over to the Boston Missionary Society for its **Fresh Air Fund** which is still in existence today. *Rosemary* operated until 1941.

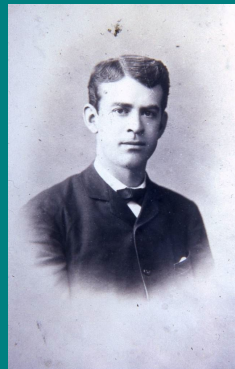




It was always the wish of Hannah's father, Richard Shapleigh, to have a public library in Eliot.

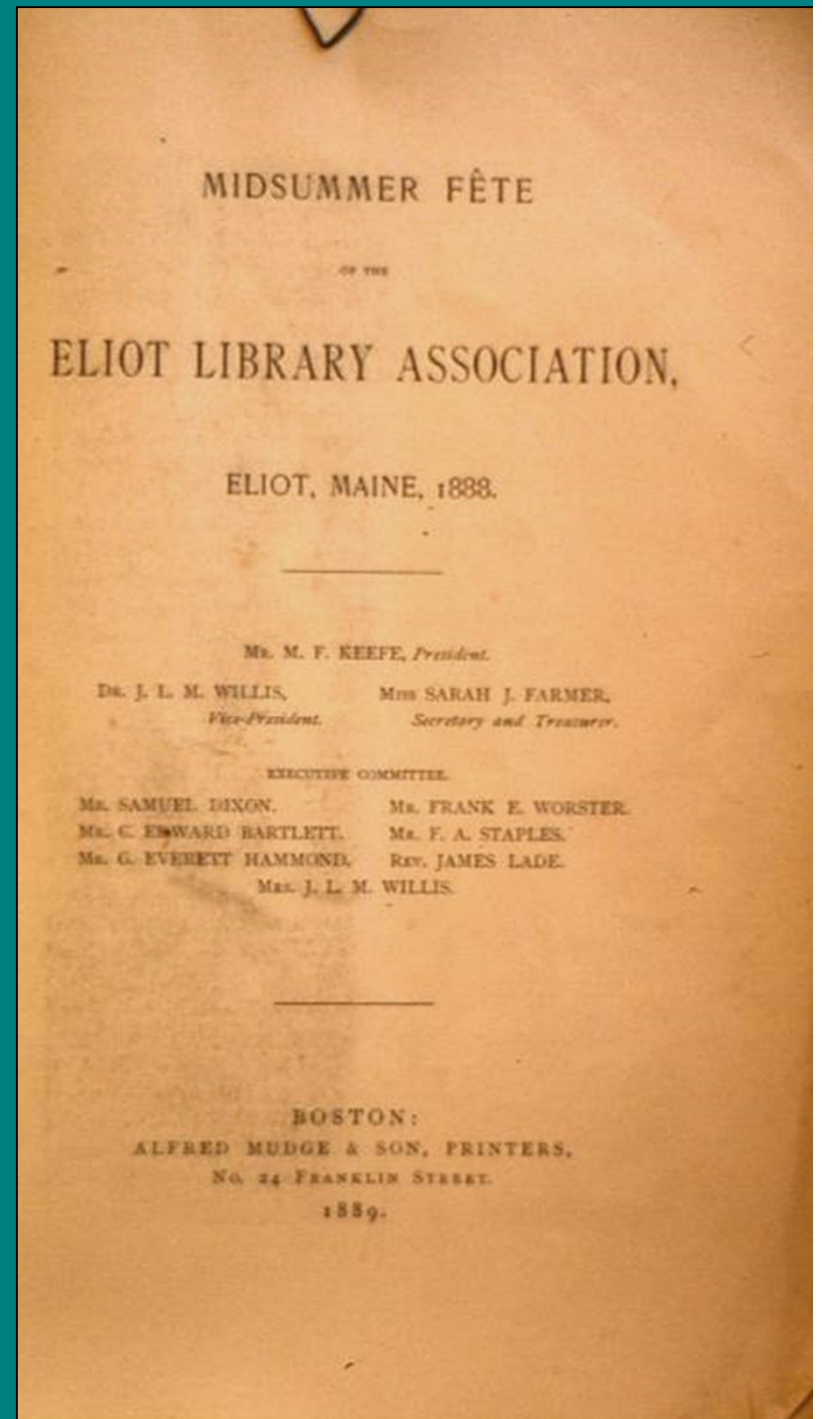


Richard Shapleigh

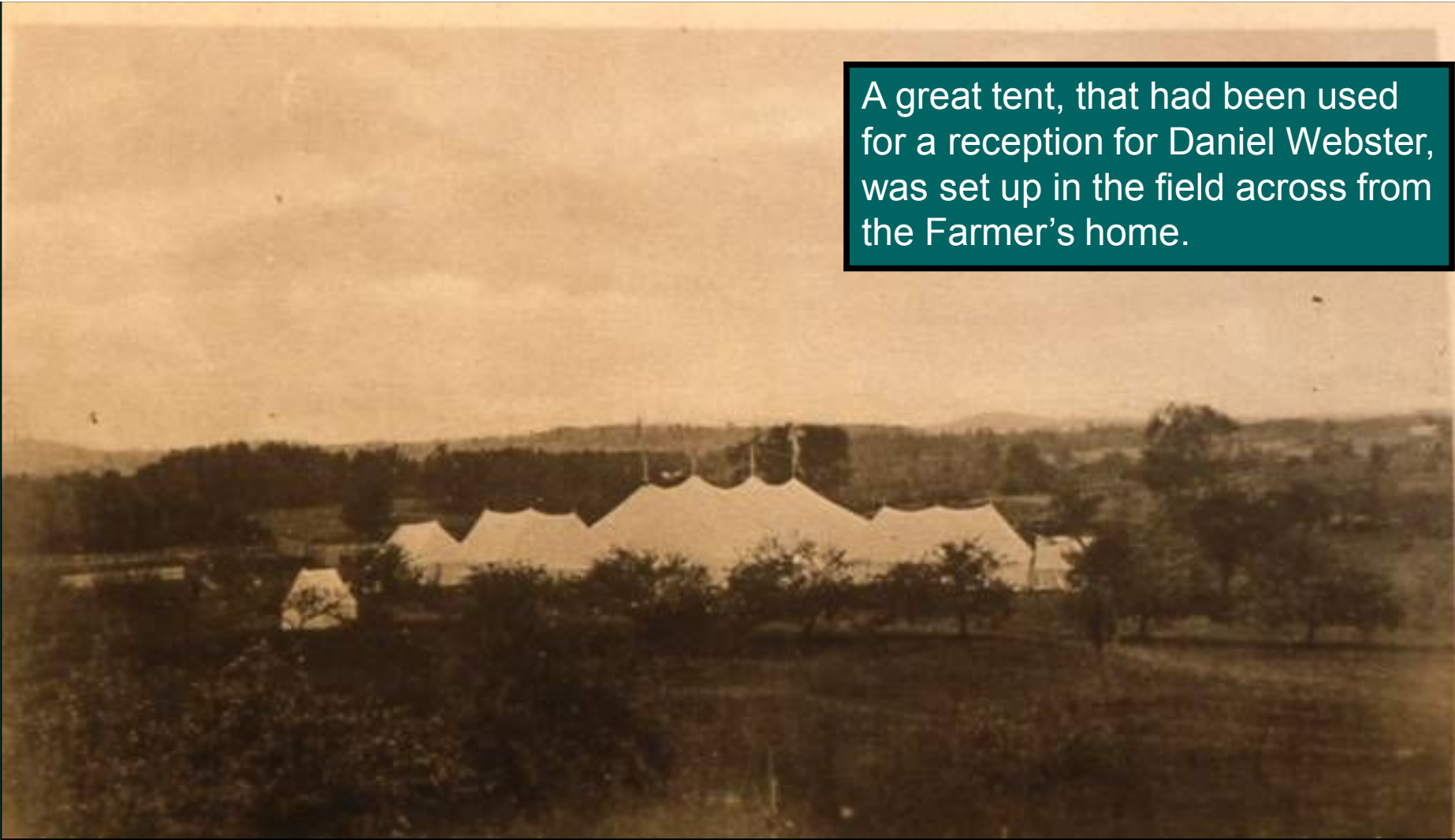


Francis Keefe

Daughter Sarah, reviving the Eliot Library Association, was assisted by good family friend Francis Keefe in producing two summer Fêtes to raise the money for a public library in 1888 and 1889.







A great tent, that had been used for a reception for Daniel Webster, was set up in the field across from the Farmer's home.

Edward Everett Hale writes: "Here is the Pavilion. How pretty it is and how large it is! This annex is for eating and drinking. There is somebody to take care of the horses, there are a dozen people to shake hands... - why there must be a thousand people wandering about and enjoying each other's company and pretty arrangements which have been made for the fete. ..."





“Here are pretty girls in the Norwegian costume, in Hungarian costume, in dresses of Japan and India. Here are the booths of Norway and Hungary and all the rest of them, and here are things to be sold as at any pretty fair, only these have been sent from all quarters of the globe.

The band is on a platform in the middle. We talk with each other, we felicitate each other, we drink good coffee and eat good ice cream, we listen to the music, we see the pretty national dances which the young people join in on the platform.” Edward Everett Hale, “Tarry at Home Travel”, The New England magazine. / Volume 7, Issue 2 .





Mrs. Ole Bull [Sara], a good friend of Sarah Farmer brought her Norwegian ponies for the event for guests to ride.





Painting by F.H.Tompkins, c. 1887

In 1907 Eliot's public library was realized. Dr. John S.H. Fogg bequeathed the monies in a trust in memory of his father. The William Fogg Library was dedicated on May 21, 1907.



Sarah was to be present on the speaker's platform to represent the Eliot Library Association but was in Boston recovering from a serious fall.

In 2005 the "Sarah Farmer Room" was dedicated at the William Fogg Library. Sarah's portrait hangs in this room.





# SARAH'S VISION



As we said previously, in 1890 Martin Parry Tobey, George Hammond, Dr. John L.M. Willis, Francis Keefe and Sarah Jane Farmer formed the “Eliot Hotel Company” and opened a hotel on the bluff overlooking the Piscataqua River.





It was given the name *Greenacre* by the New England poet, and friend of the Farmer family ~ John Greenleaf Whittier. The Hotel was meant to capitalize on the growing summer tourist trade.

Unfortunately the venture did not prove to be successful, but under the leadership of Sarah Jane Farmer it took a new turn.

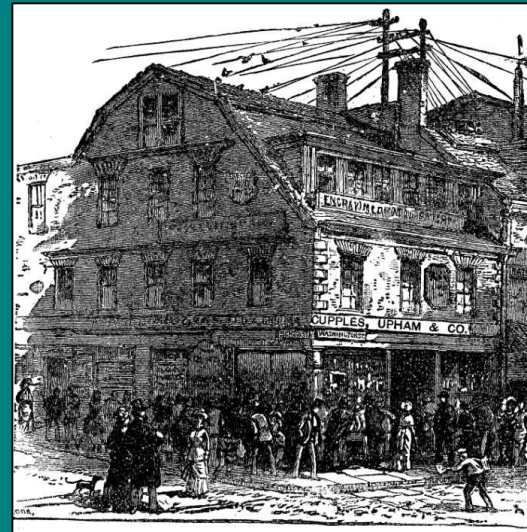


This change came in 1893 through a series of events beginning with what Sarah calls her “vision” for Green Acre.





Sarah describes Green Acre as an original conception. The vision came to her as she was attending a talk in Boston in 1892. The room was full to capacity and the day hot. Through the open window the noise of traffic almost drowned out the speaker's voice and yet the people were so eager to hear what the speaker had to say that they sat patiently though the two hour lecture. Sarah goes on to say that ...

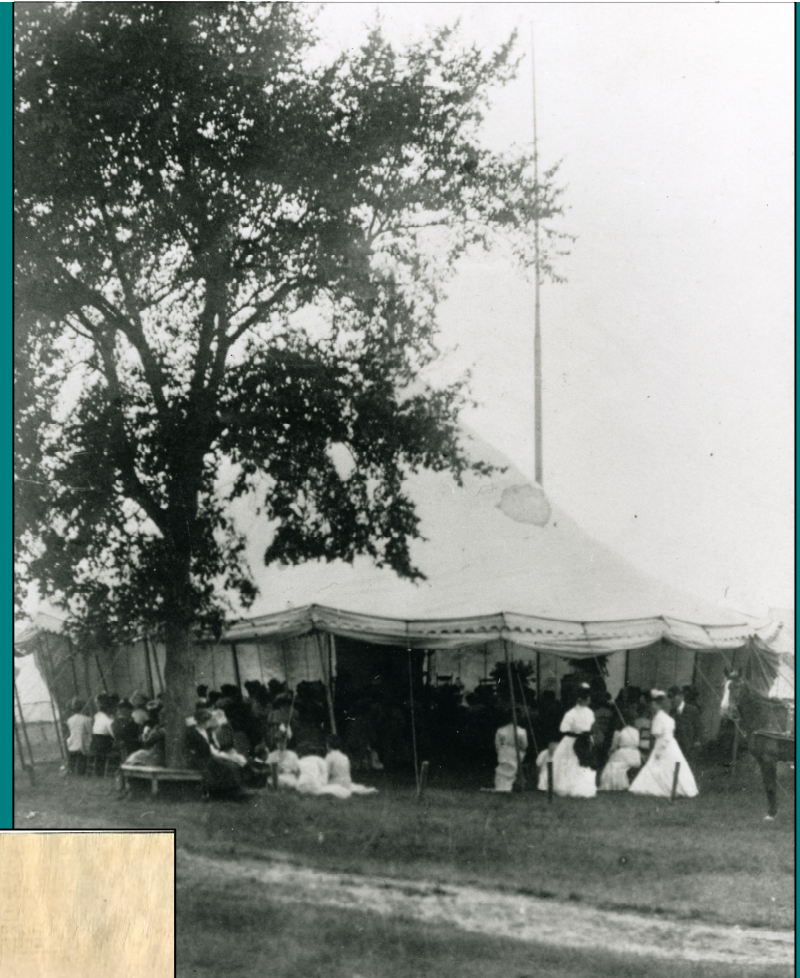




"I looked at them and thought of the spot Whittier loved and found so restful - *Greenacre-on-the-Piscataqua*..."



"... and saw them seated in a large tent on the green bank of this beautiful river, the cool breeze from the water fanning their cheeks, and I realized how much more receptive the mind and heart would be if the body were in such a cool and healthy environment..."







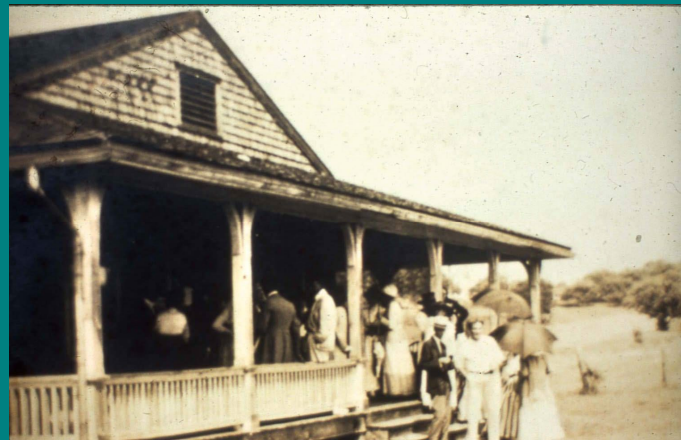
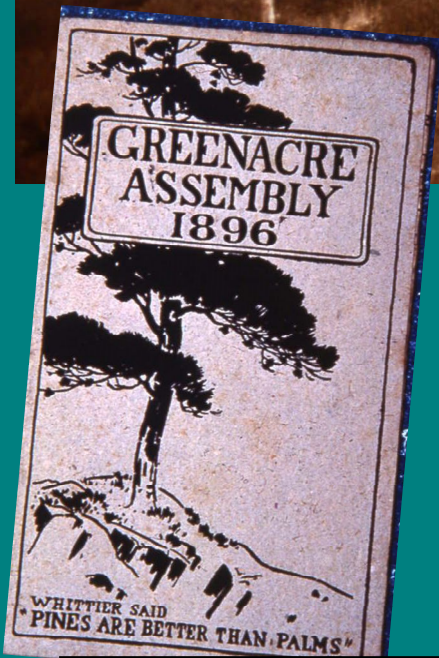
“... and I realized, too, how much more good would come from a summer vacation if instead of being burdened with the effort of finding amusement for leisure hours, one’s mind and soul could be refreshed by helpful thoughts,...”





“...under spreading pines, in green pastures, beside still waters. The details of the work came quickly before my mind, and before we left the audience room, I had it all.”





Sarah later wrote : "... for the promise connected with the Green Acre work when it was put into my hands was that it should reach to the uttermost ends of the Earth . . . my father believed that invention was inspiration. I so regard Green Acre in all it's several branches ...



... the Monsalvat School is but one of them. Only a glimmer as yet has been revealed of what that school will embody, but it will be preeminently a school to train people to live in the Kingdom of God..."



*FOR this day is no other than the end of the ages; no other than the illumination of the horizons of earth, both east and west, with the Lights of the Forgiving Lord; no other than the changing of darkness into light, and of sorrow into joy and gladness; where-by hearts are cheered, souls are tranquilized, eyes are consoled and breasts are dilated. This is the Day of God. MIRZA ABUL FAZL*

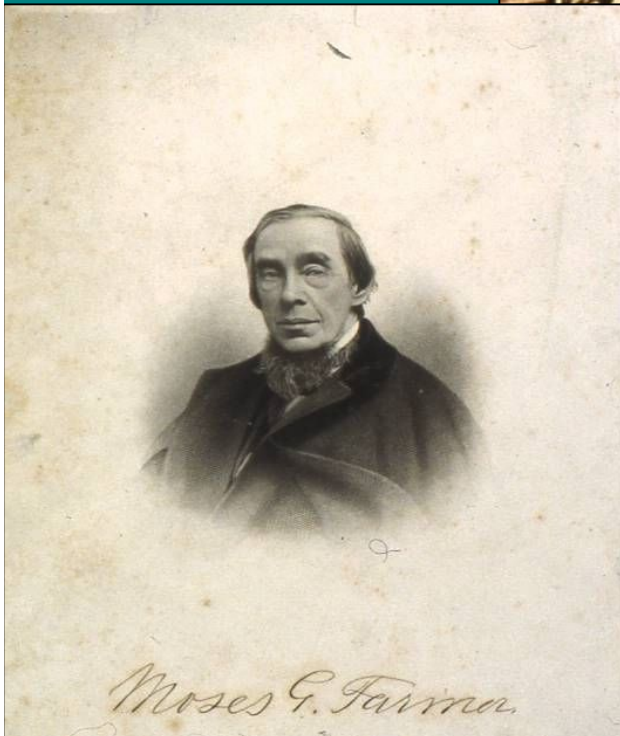


LECTURERS  
OF  
The Monsalvat School for Comparative  
Study of Religion.

✠

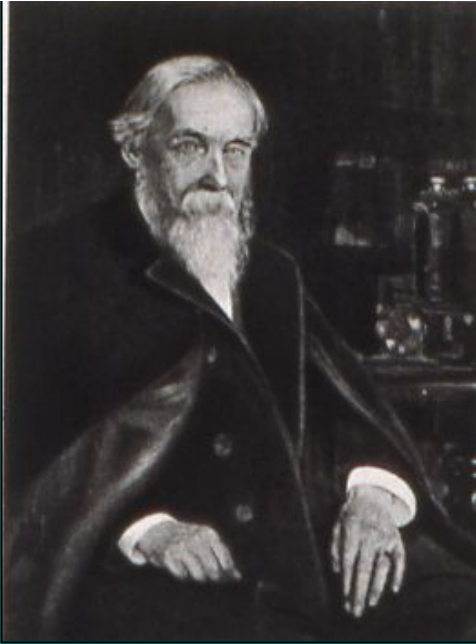
DIRECTOR  
AND  
LECTURER ON DIETETICS,  
DR. FILLMORE MOORE, New York,  
LECTURER ON EASTERN RELIGIOUS TEACHERS AND LEADERS,  
MR. CHARLES JOHNSTON, M. R. A. S.,  
LECTURER ON THE REVELATION OF THE BAB AND BEHA' 'U' IYAH,  
MIRZA ABUL FAZL, Gulpaygan, Persia.  
LECTURER ON THE PERSIAN REVELATION,  
MIRZA ALI KULI KHAN, Persia.  
LECTURER ON PSYCHOLOGY, ETHICS AND ANALYTICAL PHILOSOPHY,  
THE ANAGARIKA H. DHARMAPALA,  
Bombay, India.  
LECTURER ON MUHAMMEDANISM,  
PROF. M. BARAKATULLAH,  
Bhopal City, India.  
LECTURER ON EDUCATION,  
MR. HEZEKIAH BUTTERWORTH,  
Boston, Mass.  
LECTURER ON SOCIOLOGY—THE ART OF LIVING,  
MRS. HELEN CAMPBELL, New York.





The missing pieces that would help to make this "vision" a reality came in 1893 through a series of events beginning with Moses Farmer's invitation to Chicago to display his dynamo engine and other electrical inventions at the Hall of Electricity at the Columbian Exhibition World's Fair and to throw the switch that would light up the fair!





Moses Farmer from painting by F.H. Thompkins



Sarah went with him to help set up the exhibit but unfortunately he contracted pneumonia and died before the Fair opened. There was a service for Moses in Chicago and one in Eliot. He was buried behind the family home at "Bittersweet".





In 1897 Moses was honored at a gathering of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. They were invited by Sarah to hold their annual meeting at Green Acre. Among the speakers were Charles Proteus Stienmetz and Frank Sprague. The model of his electric railway car was brought, on loan, from the Smithsonian Institute.





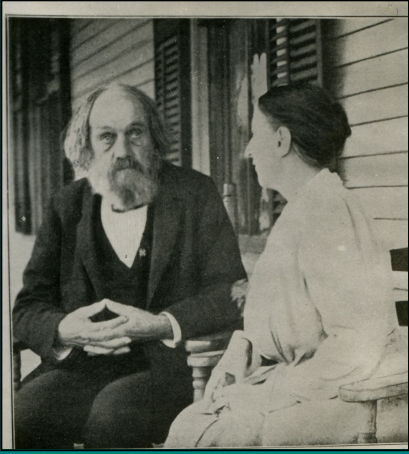
Display set up in the Eirenon, honoring Moses Gerrish Farmer

... and an exhibit of over 500 photographs relating to electrical innovations was set up.



After burying her father in Eliot and a period of mourning, Sarah returned later that year to Chicago to dismantle the display and also attended the closing sessions of the World Parliament of Religions and met with its founder, Charles Bonney. It was at this World Parliament of Religions that the Baha'i Faith was mentioned for the first time in North America.



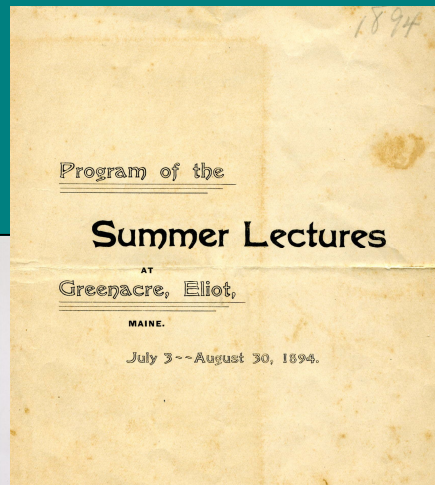


Edward Everett Hale and Sarah Farmer

Sarah invited some of its participants to lecture at Green Acre the following year (1894) at what she termed "The Monsalvat School for the Comparative Study of Religions".



Actor Joseph Jefferson, Swami Abhedananda, M.H. Gulisian of Armenia, Lewis G. Janes, Sarah



She erected a great tent where the lectures could be held. To open the first session in 1894, Sarah dedicated the Green Acre Conferences to the advancement of peace and raised the first known Peace Flag in the World.



She explained: "In looking for an emblem we wanted something that would be a call to everybody.... And we felt that the message that had been brought to the world by Prophet after Prophet was the message of "Peace". So we have put on a large banner over our heads --- "Peace". With this choice, Sarah was acting in accordance with the first principle of the Baha'i Faith which is the obligation of everyone to investigate reality for him or herself.

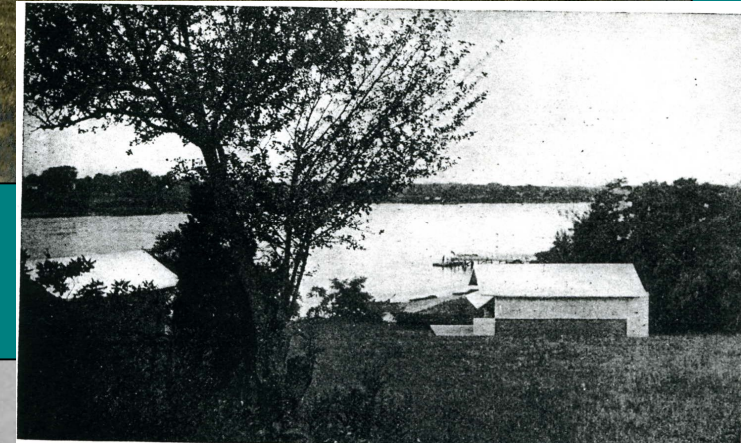


The first peace flag was 36 ft. long, with green letters on a white background. It hung on an 85' flagpole that was once a ship's mast. Here are two views of the peace flag raised by Col. Henry Culver in 1926 which give you a closer view of its size.





TENTING AT GREEN ACRE



The summer sessions, "The Green Acre Conferences" as they were called, became so popular that the Inn overflowed and tents were set up to house the guests. The programs always included peace among topics such as education, evolution, nature, sociology, art, child study, psychology, comparative religion and more.





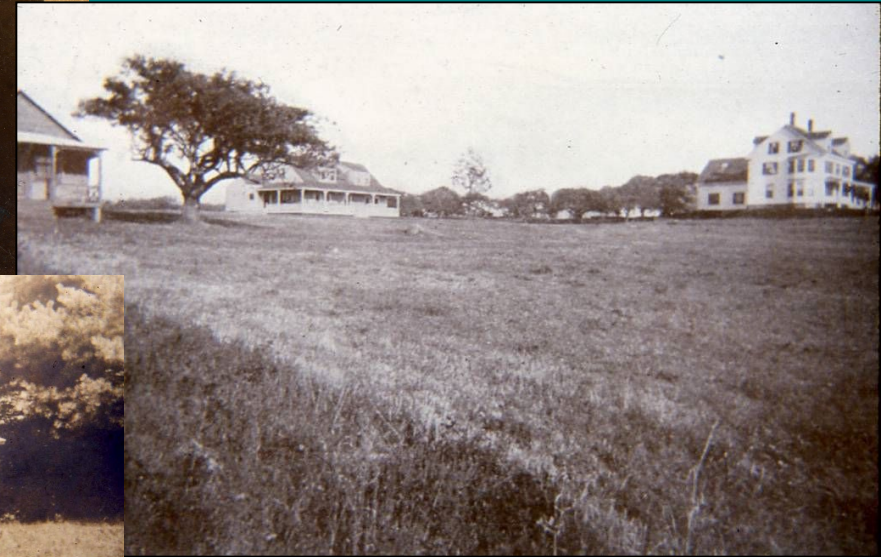
"Tobey's Retreat"



The Oaklea



Bungalow Camp



Adlington Cottages

Eliot residents, seeing a need and opportunity, also helped to supply housing. Martin Parry Tobey, one of the builders of the Green Acre Hotel, ran a boarding house; another, the *Oaklea*, was located on Clark Road and then there was *Adlington Cottages* and Fillmore Moore's *Bungalow Camp* which was located near Green Acre's present-day campground.



Those early participants came by train, ferry boat, stage coach, boat, and even the electric trolley which was invented by Moses Farmer and made its debut in Eliot in 1902 on the 55th Anniversary of its first demonstration.

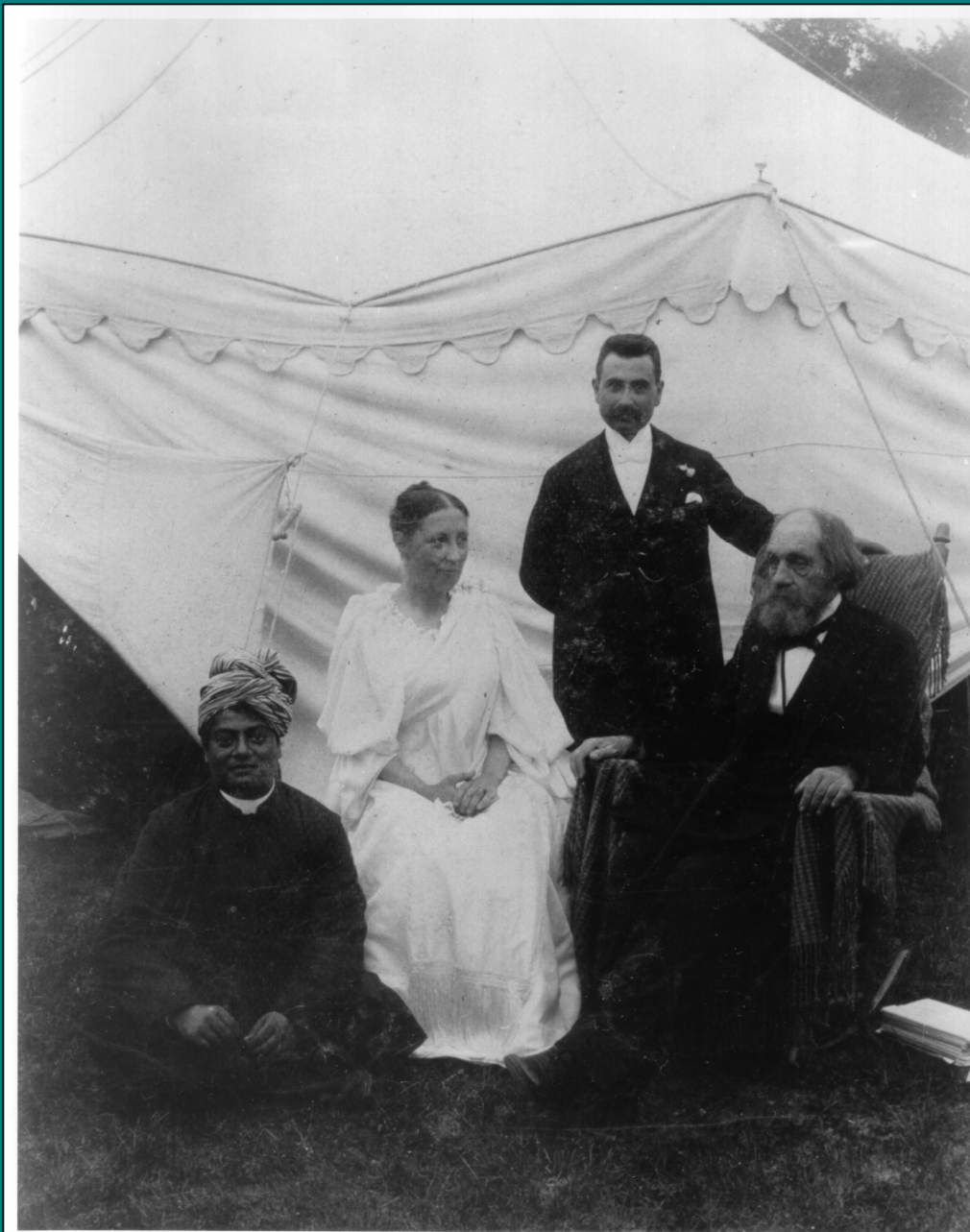






It is indeed a unique experience to be one of a throng of people gathered on the hill at sunset, while the Parsee chants a native hymn, or someone reads from one of our own poets. And after one has heard Emerson expounded underneath the pines, or listened to the Swami setting forth in his quiet way the venerable doctrines of Vedanta, one is ready to exclaim that there are no such woods anywhere outside of Greenacre. – *Horatio Dresser*





Sarah traveled throughout North America as well as Europe and brought together prominent writers, philosophers, musicians, performers of all kinds, social activists, and religious leaders to lecture at the summer sessions.

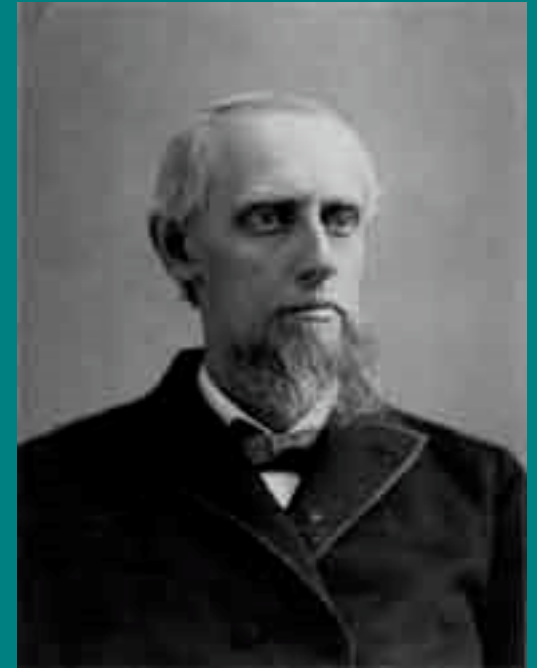
Among those lecturing were Swami Vivekananda, shown here with M.H. Gulisian of Armenia and Edward Everett Hale.



Sarah had a range of interests and invited leading people in many fields to speak on such topics as : Electricity and It's Applications; Chemistry; Woman's Rights; Education; Temperance...



May Wright Sewall



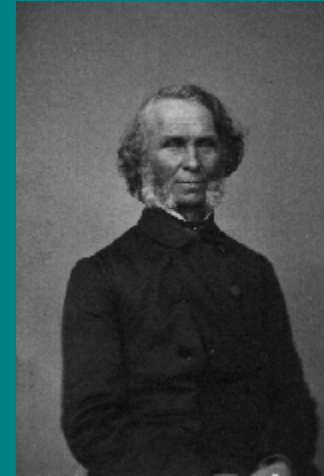
Amos Emerson Dolbear



Annie Besant, 1897



Cyrus Fogg Brackett



Neal Dow

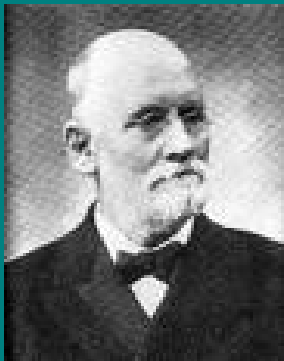
Hannah  
Johnston  
Bailey



Clara Bewick Colby



Rev. Ida C. Hultin



William Torrey Harris



Medicine; Emerson;  
Literature; Art; Music;  
Theatre; the Manual Arts...



Charles Malloy, Swami Saradananda, Ralph  
Waldo Trine, Charles Brodie Patterson

**The Monsalvat School for the Comparative Study of Religion.**

Held LYSEKLOSTER PINES (Aug. 2—Sept. 2).

Dr. LEWIS G. JANES, M. A., Director, assisted by  
THE SWAMI SARADANANDA, of India.  
THE ANAGARIKA H. DARMAPALA, of Ceylon.  
Mr. JEHANGHIER D. COLA, of Bombay.  
Rev. F. HUBERTY JAMES, of England.  
Mr. VIRCHAND R. GANDHI, B. A. M. R. A. S., of Bombay.

**A School of Literature (July 8-31).**

Mr. CHARLES MALLOY, of Waltham, Director, assisted by  
Rev. WILLIAM NORMAN GUTHRIE, of Cincinnati, Ohio.  
The SWAMI SARADANANDA, of India.

**A Nature School for Boys and Girls (July 6—August 26).**

Mr. MELVIN G. DODGE, Librarian of Hamilton College, N. Y.,  
Director, with able assistants.

**A School of Applied Metaphysics (July 6-28).**

Conducted by Mr. HORATIO W. DRESSER, of Boston, as-  
sisted by Miss ELLEN M. DYER, of Philadelphia.

**Landscape Photography.**

Mr. W. B. SWIFT, of Wellesley Hills, will conduct a class in  
Landscape Photography.



Emma Thursby,  
(standing)



Arthur W. Dow



Geraldine Ferrar



Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell

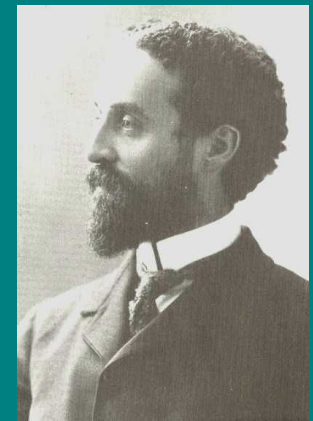


Marion Jack

Social Reform; the protection of children and the poor; diplomacy and world events; Home Economics; the New Thought Movement; Abolition...



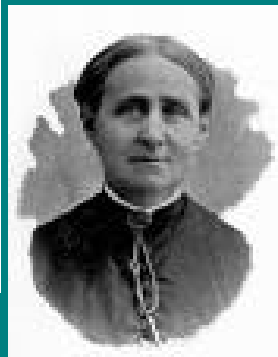
Florence Kelley



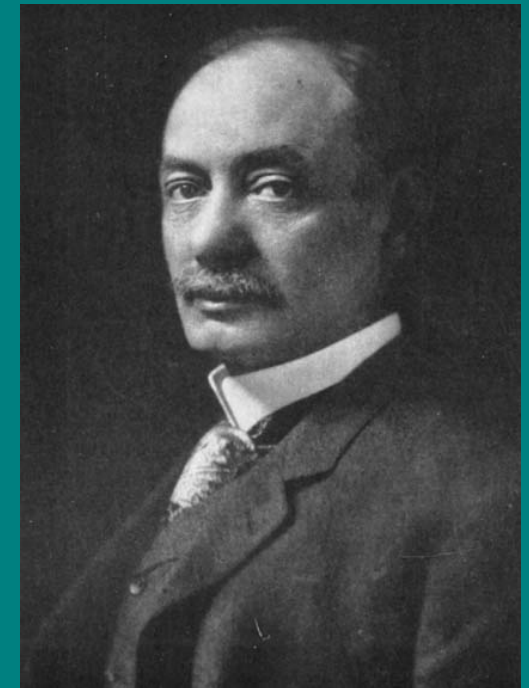
Horatio Dresser



Helen Campbell



Rev. Antoinette Blackwell



Walter H. Page



... the Teachings of the Religions of the World and foremost on her mind ~ the subject of World Peace.



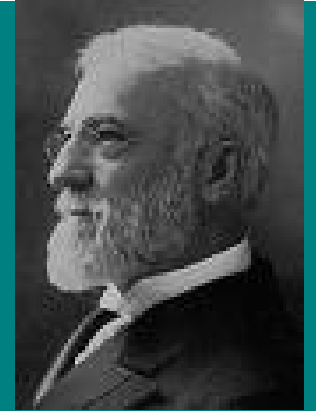
Barkatullah



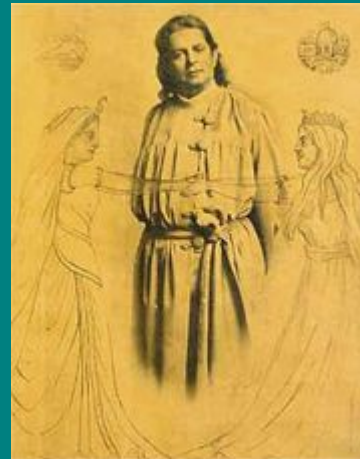
Dr. Livingston/ Swami Ram



Abdu'l-Baha



Edwin Ginn



Baba Bharati



Sarah w/Japanese Peace envoys, 1905

Sarah w/peace singer and activist John Hutchinson

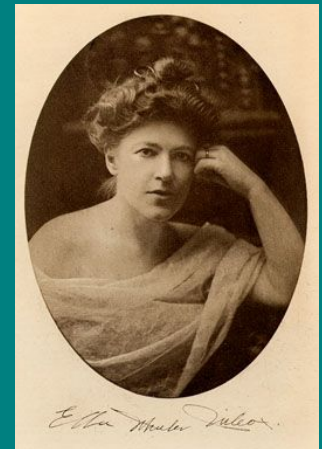
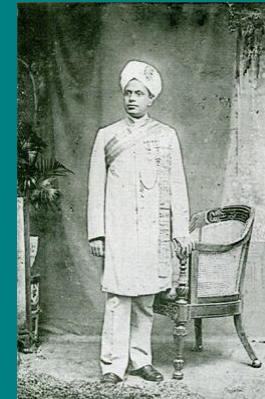


Mirza Abu'l-Fazi

Sir P. Ramanathan



Vivekananda



Ellen Wheeler Wilcox





Lectures were held in the Pines and in the Great Tent. The Eirenion, built in 1897, provided more indoor space during bad weather.





Sarah's good friend Mrs. Sara Bull, widow of Norwegian violinist Ole Bull, bought for Sarah the **Lysekloster Pines**, where the Monsalvat School lectures were held. The acres of virgin pines reminded Mrs. Bull of her home in Norway at Lyseon.

Sara and Ole Bull



Lyseon, Norway





We are not certain when Sarah first heard of the Bahai Faith. However, the first mention of the Bahai Faith in the U.S. occurred in 1893 at the World Parliament of Religions and Ibrahim Khayru'llah, an early teacher of the Bahai Faith, was listed as a possible speaker in the footnotes of the 1894 program. Phoebe Hearst, the mother of William Randolph Hearst the famous publisher and an early Baha'i from California, provided financial support to Green Acre and sent money for additional housing which resulted in the construction of the three Chalet Cottages in 1897.



- Wednesday, August 22.** Mrs. MARY W. CHAPIN, of Boston.  
**Spiritual Healing.**  
Mr. E. M. BISHOP, of Boston.  
**The Law of Correspondence in its Relation to Life.**
- Thursday, August 23.** Mrs. FANNY M. HARLEY, of Chicago, of *Universal Truth*.  
**Demonstration.**  
Mrs. ANNA W. MILLS, of Chicago.  
**The Search for Truth.**  
Mrs. SARA A. KING, of Baltimore.  
**Divine Healing.**
- Monday, August 27.** Rev. GEORGE LEWIS, of South Berwick.  
**Prophets and Prophecy.**  
Rev. T. ERNEST ALLEN, of Grafton.  
**Is Spiritualism Worth While, if True?**
- Tuesday, August 28.** Mr. S. P. WAIT, School of Philosophy, Port Edwards, N.Y.  
**The Soul and its Possibilities.**
- Wednesday, August 29.** Mr. EDWIN D. MEAD, of *New England Magazine*.  
**Immanuel Kant.**
- Thursday, August 30.** Miss JOSEPHINE C. LOCKE, of Chicago.  
**The Symbolic Woman.**

These lectures will be given at 3 o'clock p.m., and will all be free.  
In addition to the above, lectures are promised from Swami Vivekananda on "The Religion of India," also by Dr. Janes on "Evolution," Dr. Probst on "The Summit of the Nineteenth Century" and "The Philosophy of Wit and Humor"; by Mr. B. O. Flower on "Whittier," Mr. Colville on "Vibration" and "New Light from the Great Pyramid," Miss Josephine C. Locke on "Woman in Mythology and Art," Miss Shids Mori, of Yanagawa, Japan, on "Japanese Dress and Home Life."  
Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, of England, will contribute a paper on "Christian Scientific Methods in Biology."  
Dr. Ibrahim G. Kheiralla, of Egypt, is expected to be present, and speak on "The Truth and the Oriental Philosophy of the Occult Science." Miss Virginia Vaughan will speak on "Oriental Poetry."  
Private classes to study the above subjects will be held by competent teachers, information concerning which can be obtained of Miss Farmer, the Secretary.  
The music will be in charge of Mrs. Ole Bull, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Allen, a pupil of Letchitzky, of Vienna, Mr. Edward T. Barker, Mr. Harry W. Eliot, and Mr. Stephen S. Townsend, of Boston. A rare opportunity will be given for pupils to continue their musical instruction during the summer.





The Republic  
**Thursday, August 31, 3.15 P.M.**

The SWÂMI ABHÉDÂNANDA of India.  
Spiritual Influence of India in the West.

**Friday, September 1, 3.15 P.M.**

Rev. E. J. PRESCOTT, of Salem, Mass.  
Christianity in Apostolic Days.

**Saturday, September 2, 8 P.M.**

MISS SARAH J. FARMER of Greenacre.  
Closing Words.



We desire but the good of the world and the happiness of nations . . . that all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened; that diversity of religion should cease, and difference of race be annulled. . . . Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his country; let him rather glory in this, that he loves his kind. — *Behá of Persia.*

The 1899 Program included a quotation from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, which reads:

*“We desire but the good of the world and happiness of nations . . . that all nations should become one in faith and all men as brethren; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened; that diversity of religion should cease and differences of race be annulled . . . let not a man glory in this that he loves his country let him rather in this that he loves his kind.”*



We do know that Sarah left on a cruise with Maria Wilson, Elizabeth Knudson and Josephine Locke in January 1900 which through a series of events would lead to a visit in Akka with 'Abdu'l-Baha.



House of  
Abdu'l-Baha. Akka

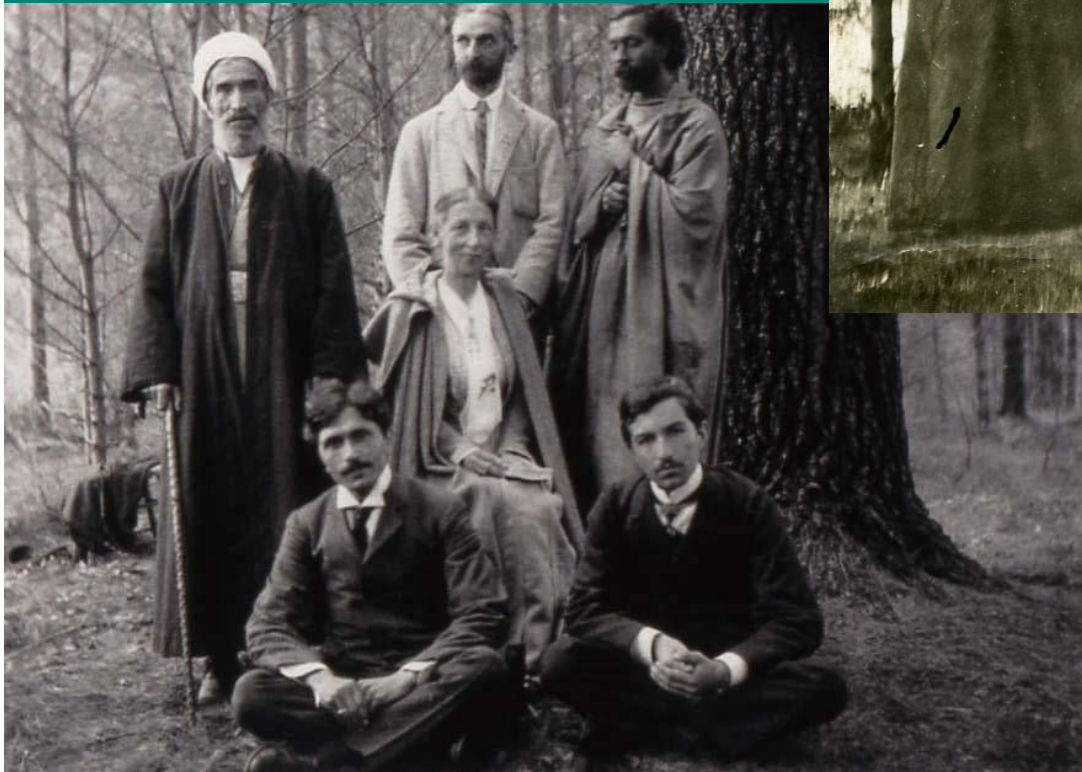




Before she returned home, she studied the Baha'i Faith in Egypt with its most noted scholar, Mirza 'Abu'l-Fadl.

In fact Mirza 'Abu'l-Fadl gave classes at the Monsalvat School from 1901-1904.

Sarah w/ Mirza "Abu'l-Fadl, Dow, Dharmapala, Ali Kuli Khan and Ahmad Sohrab



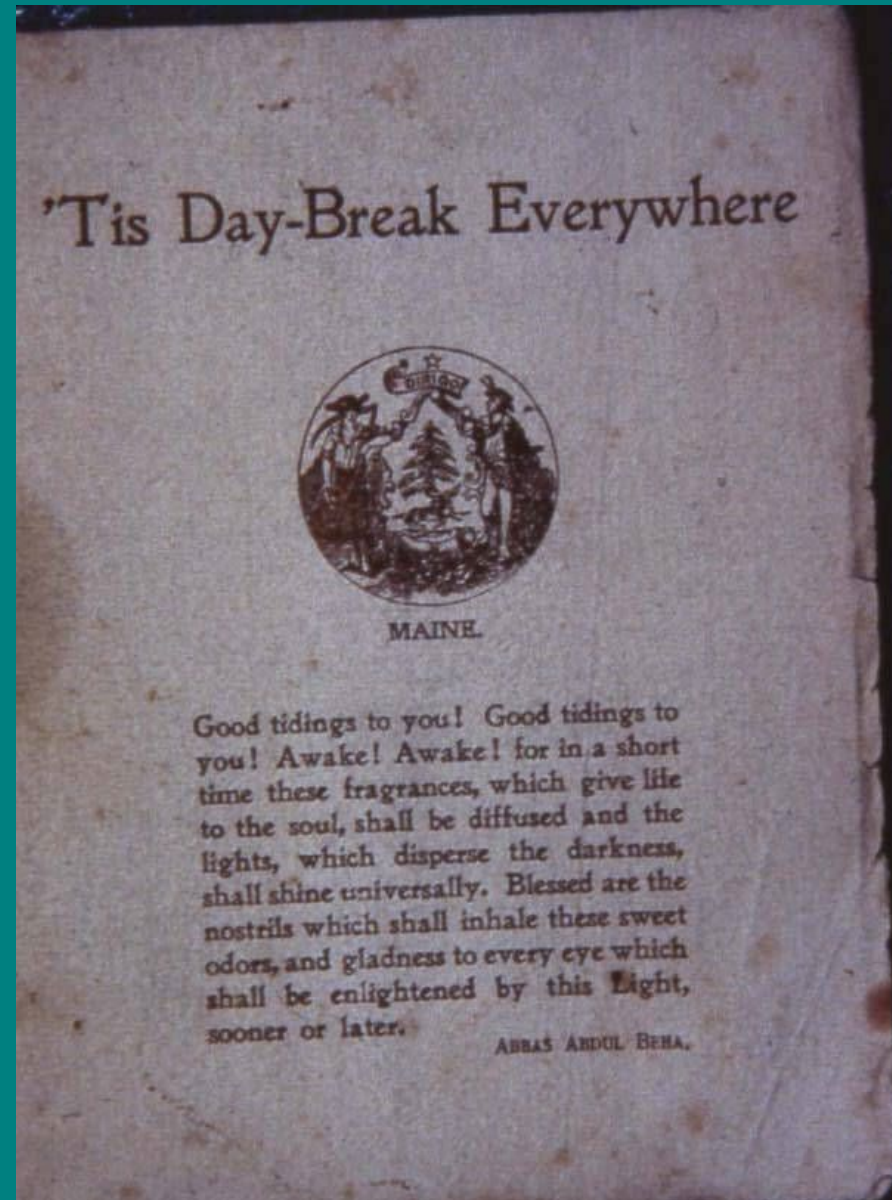
Mother Beecher, Howard McNutt, Mirza Abul-Fadl, Mary Moody Brown, Mirza Ali Kuli Khan, Ameen Fareed, Helen Cole, Mary McNutt, Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, 1903



In 1901, Sarah, now a declared member, returned to Green Acre and proclaimed the Baha'i Faith on the program cover with a quotation from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha.

*“Good tidings to you! Good tidings to you! Awake! Awake! For in a short time these fragrances, which give life to the soul, shall be diffused and the lights, which disperse the darkness, shall shine universally....”*

Sarah, offered to give private instruction on what was referred to at the time as the "Persian Revelation", while still maintaining an open platform.





Gradually, through Sarah's influence, Green Acre became the gathering place for the growing American Baha'i Community... and Sarah continued to bring people from all over the world with much of the programming and other duties assumed by Baha'is working under her guidance.

**Green Acre Conferences**  
SEASON OF 1920  
The 1-  
Greenacre Conference  
MISS SARAH J. FARMER, Director  
(July 21-27)  
MONDAY, JULY 21  
10:30 A. M. Madame de Blasky Pipes

**GREEN ACRE**  
AFTERNOON CHAT  
GENERAL VIEW  
NEW FROM GREENACRE  
Eliot, Me.  
"Rest, quiet, beautiful scenery, pine groves, delightful walks, lectures, concerts, music, sea-bathing, fishing, motor boating, table supplied with poultry, eggs, milk, cream, butter, vegetables, etc., from own and neighboring farms."  
Rates, routes, and other information on request.

**Green Acre Inn**  
AND COTTAGES  
ELIOT, YORK COUNTY, MAINE.  
Open June 28 to September 10, 1906  
WHITTIER SAID  
"Our Pines are Trees of Healing."

AT  
**GREENACRE-**  
**ON-THE-PISCATAQUO**  
ELIOT, YORK COUNTY  
MAINE  
July First to September Second  
MDCCCXCIX

**ROOMS AT GREENACRE.**  
Those interested in Greenacre will be glad to know that the much needed addition to the Inn has been so far assured by the generous gift of a friend that work has already been begun, and it is expected to have at least a part ready for occupancy by July 1st.  
The kitchen and the dining-room of the old Inn are to be so enlarged and equipped as to insure a wholesome cuisine and good service.  
The Casino, also, is in process of erection and will be finished before the first of July.  
All these improvements, however, are likely to prove inadequate to meet the anticipated large increase in the number of those desiring to find accommodations during the approaching season.  
It has been suggested that this juncture of events offers the opportunity to help the movement desired by many of its friends who have little, or no money to give outright, but who can make advances for accommodation to be provided during the coming season. To this end it is proposed that an advance of \$50.00 in cash now will insure the erection in the grounds, near the

**Eliot Centennial Anniversary**  
August 7th to 13th  
1810 1910  
Green Acre  
Eliot, York County, Maine





Among those early Baha'is who came to Green Acre to teach and some who stayed include:



Disciple of 'Abdu'l-Baha **May Maxwell** (center) shown here with friends Mrs. Ferguson and Mary Coristine, who was also an American married to a Canadian and whose family eventually settled in Eliot.

**William H. Randall**, shown here on Mount Salvat, who was entrusted by Sarah with continuing the work of Green Acre when she died.



**Marion Jack**, who first came to Eliot in 1910 and built a home here before her final pioneering post in Bulgaria.



Hands of the Cause **Louis Gregory** and **Siegfried Schopflocker** of Canada shown here with **Janabe Fazel** and **Horace Holley**, the first paid secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly;



Hand of the Cause **Dorothy Baker**, shown with daughter Louisa;

**Agnes Alexander**



**Curtis Kelsey**



**Martha Root**, whose work brought Lydia Zamenhoff - the daughter of the founder of Esperanto to Green Acre;



**Juliet Thompson** (L) shown here with May Maxwell;



**Harlon Ober**, shown here with Nathalie Mitchell. He met his first wife Grace Ober here and later pioneered to South Africa. Grace is buried here in Eliot;



**Edward and Carrie Kinney**  
Edward served as music instructor for several years;



Hand of the Cause **Paul Haney**

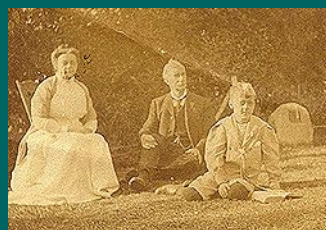
Among those early Baha'is who are also buried here in Eliot's Mt. Pleasant Cemetery are Hand of the Cause **Louis Gregory and wife Louisa**;



Author and social activist **Helen Campbell**;



The first western woman believer **Kate C. Ives**



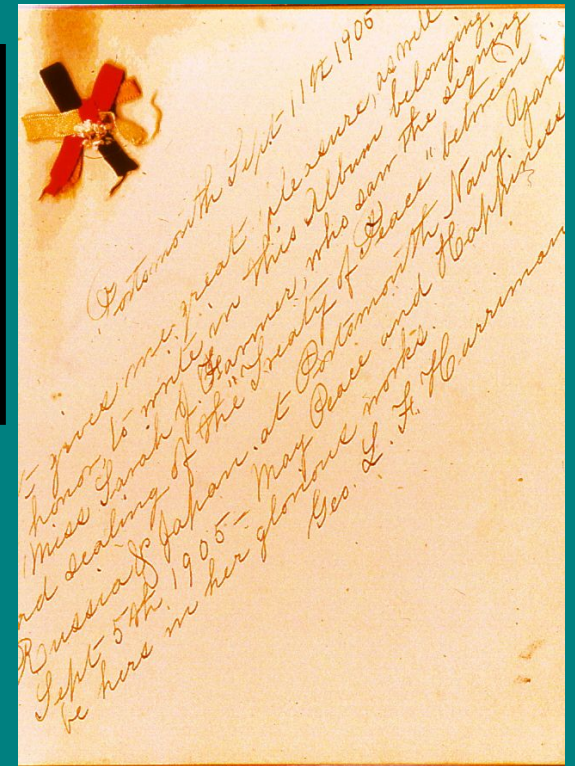
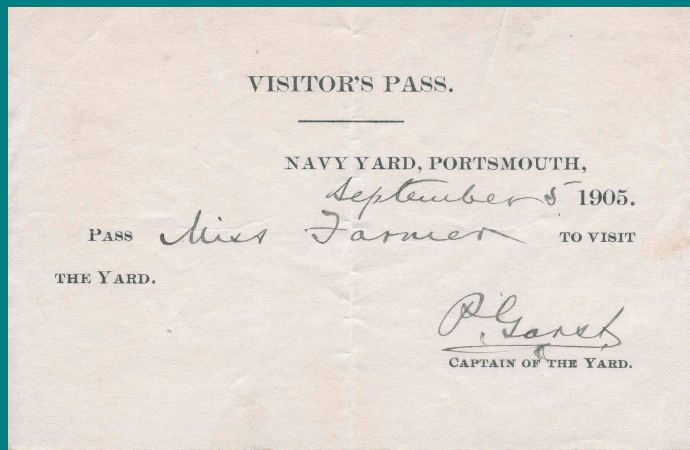
**Col. Henry Culver**, his wife **Mary** and daughters **Dorothy (Cress)** and **Mary Louise**. Col. Culver was U.S. Consul to Ireland and one of the first Baha'is living in Ireland.



**Dr. Glenn Shook**



Each year, on opening day, Sarah raised the peace flag, held conferences on the subject of PEACE and in 1905 invited the delegates from the signing of the Russo-Japanese Peace Treaty to Green Acre. The Japanese, shown here with Sarah, accepted. She was also the only woman present to witness the signing of the Treaty.



**'ABDUL-BAHA'S  
VISIT TO GREEN ACRE**





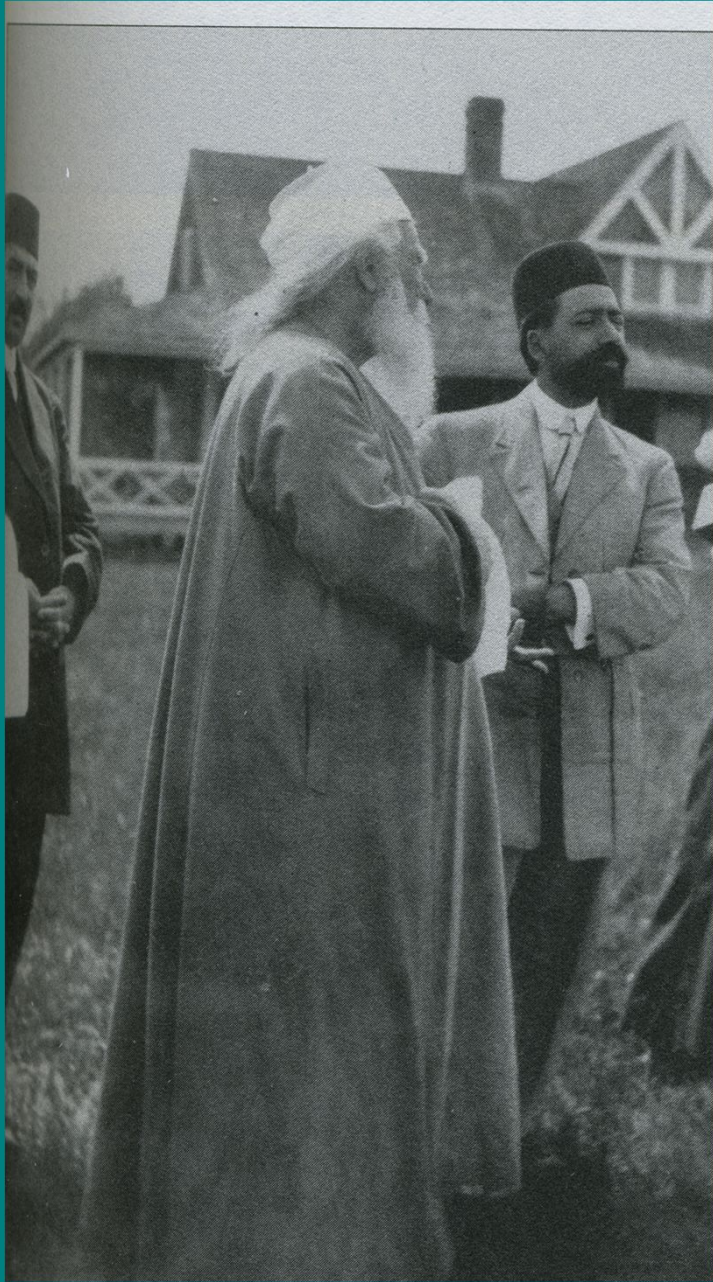
One of the great joys of Sarah's life came when 'Abdu'l-Baha returned Sarah's visit on his trip to the West. At the age of 68 and newly released from nearly a lifetime of imprisonment, 'Abdu'l-Baha stayed at the Inn from August 16-23, 1912.



The trolley stop was His first sight of Green Acre.

Thus, Green Acre became the only Baha'i School to be visited by the son of Baha'u'llah, the Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith.





Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Baha'i Faith, in *God Passes By* (pg. 288) wrote that 'Abdu'l-Baha's stay at Green Acre . . . "ranks among the outstanding functions associated with His visit to the community of the American believers . . ."





Let's stop for a moment and consider what happened to Sarah in the dozen years between her visit to Akka and 'Abdu'l-Baha's visit to Green Acre ~

Sarah was continuously embroiled in controversy as others criticized her for emphasizing the Baha'i Faith at Green Acre. Her family home was burned to the ground in 1904 and later a smaller home built for her by the Green Acre Fellowship. In 1907, while trying to get on a streetcar in Boston, the force of a crowd pushed her to the ground and her spine was injured. This added crippling to her already delicate health.



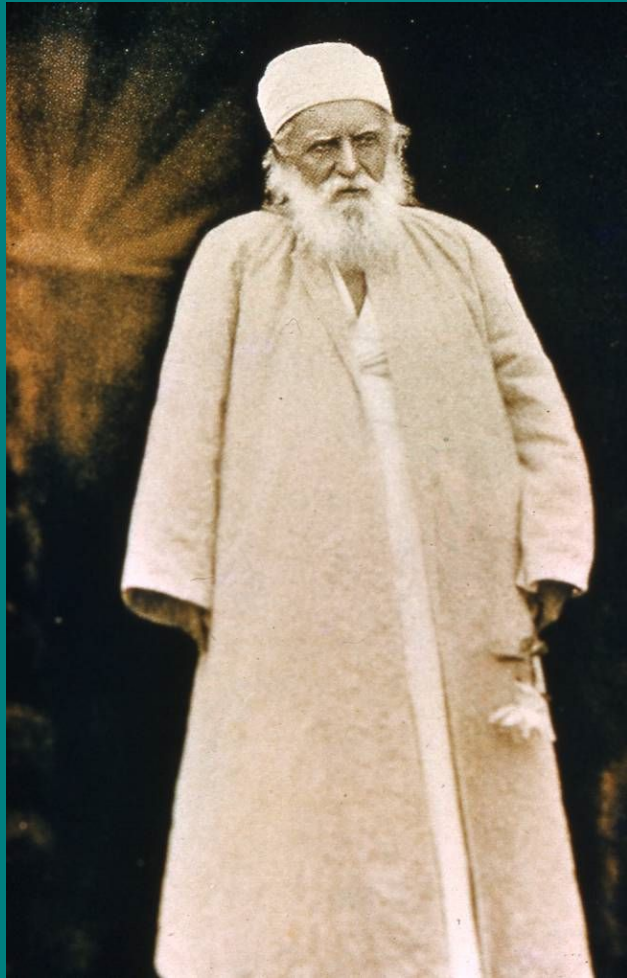
McLean Hospital, Waverly/Belmont, MA



Cowles Sanitorium, Portsmouth, NH

In 1909, following a particularly vicious verbal attack from people at Green Acre, who were trying to force her to sell the property, Sarah committed herself to McLean Hospital in Waverly/Belmont, MA. Later, well-meaning friends placed her in a private institution in Portsmouth, NH. One legal guardian was appointed in NH and another in ME and the battle for custody received much attention in the press.





During this time, 'Abdu'l-Baha addressed at least twenty-eight letters to Sarah, sending words of solace, encouragement, inspiration and direction. Most of these tablets may be found in *Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha Abbas*, Vol. 2, pages 277-304.



In one of these tablets, He wrote: "O Maid-Servant of God! Verily opposition will wax fierce upon thee and denial and unbelief will day by day increase. People will arise to oppression and people will torment thee for thou has believed in God . . .





...Opposition shall surely pass away . . . and the lights of the Covenant shall shine forth . . . At that time your value shall appear among the nations of the world and tribes and people will arise to praise you.”



By the time 'Abdu'l-Baha arrived in 1912, Sarah had been placed in the care of a nurse in a private home in Portsmouth, NH and had been locked in a padded room.

Finally, she was placed in a private institution under the care of Dr. Edward Cowles where she received many drugs, electrical shock therapy, and was locked in a room in the basement with bars on the window.



Sarah's room in the basement at Cowles

Dr. Cowles didn't trust 'Abdu'l-Baha so he came with Sarah on her outing to Green Acre.





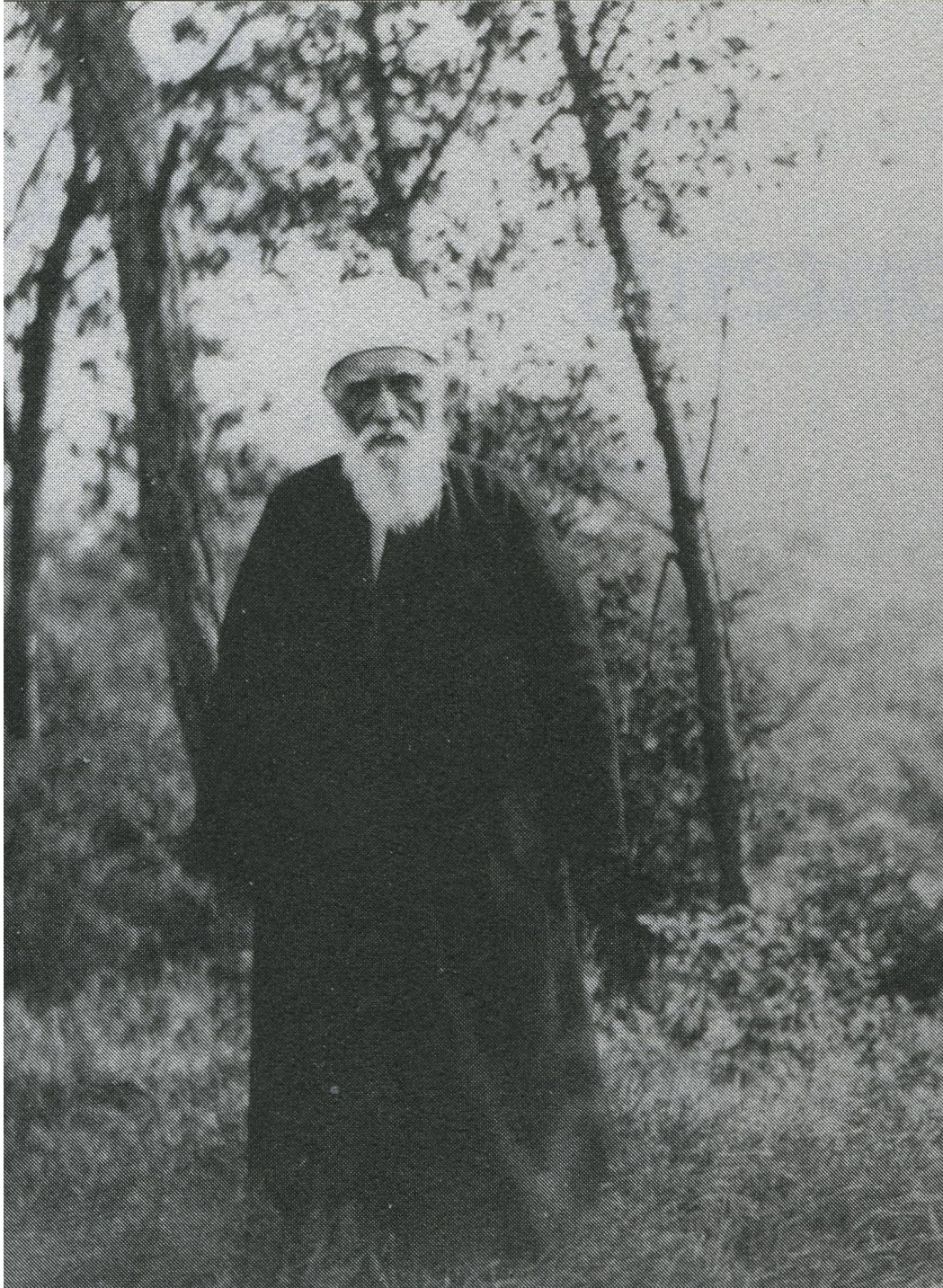


On Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> 'Abdu'l-Baha visited Monsalvat with a number of the friends, including Ivy Edwards who tells of that visit – “He drove as far as the old well, then he dismissed the carriage. He walked from there to the beech grove and offered a prayer, near a large boulder. Then He walked through several fields, talking as he went, waving his hands, first to the right and then to the left, as he talked, returning just below where the people were gathered. Then he turned and asked Mr. Lunt to take a photograph of them. While he was taking a photograph I was thinking about Miss Farmer’s ideals and visions about Monsalvat and ‘Abdu'l-Baha turned to me and said, ‘You may tell Miss Farmer that her visions and ideals of Monsalvat will be realized. I do not give this as a prophecy, it is already a fact.’”

Old well on Monsalvat







'Abdu'l-Baha accompanied by Sarah and again with a larger group gathered on Monsalvat, where Sarah envisioned her university, the Monsalvat School. Ivy Edwards relates that "Julia Culver, Miss Klebs, Sarah Farmer and I went on a carriage ride with the Master. He said it was important that Sarah Farmer visualize the great university her efforts had made possible. He drove us all over Sunset Hill, twice pointing out certain trees to Sarah Farmer. She seemed to understand what He was telling her and frequently shook her head in assent. When they were almost at the top of the hill, 'Abdu'l-Baha took Miss Farmer's hands in his, and said very loudly, 'This is hallowed ground made so by your vision and sacrifice. Always remember this is hallowed ground which I am pointing out to you.'"



They rode in Martin Parry Tobey's carriage to the top of the hill. Continuing, Ivy Edwards relates: 'Abdu'l-Baha stopped the carriage and directed Sarah Farmer to take his hand. He led her around the area for about five minutes talking to her all the time and frequently pointing his finger in one direction or another. Each time, Miss Farmer would smile and shake her head. We could not tell what was said and Miss Farmer never told us. When they came back to the carriage. 'Abdu'l-Baha said to all of us. 'This is where the first Bahai University will be built.' He extended his arms to show that the whole top was to be involved.'



Martin Parry Tobey and his "surrey with the fringe on top".



View from top of Monsalvat c. 1930



“Then he said, pointing to a spot in the center of the area, ‘This is where the second Baha’i Temple in the United States will be raised. In reality, all this has been built and is right now ready to become a material reality whenever the Supreme Concourse finds mankind purified enough to bring about its consummation.’

Then he turned to Miss Farmer and said, ‘You will be revered above all American women one fine day, you will see.’”





On August 20th He gave a Unity Feast for hundreds of Eliot residents at what is now Staples House, the office. 'Abdu'l-Baha confirmed Sarah's vision for Green Acre, commended her for her enormous sacrifice, and prophesied a glorious future for the school. He gave a number of talks, many at the Eirenion, a lecture hall built in 1897 and destroyed by fire in 1926. Among the things he said were:

**GREEN ACRE CONFERENCE**  
**Eliot, York County, Maine**  
**AUGUST 16-25, 1912**

"O Son of Spirit, my Lamp art thou; my Light is in thee, therefore be illumined by Me; seek no one but Me. I created thee rich, why dost thou make thyself poor? Noble have I made thee, why dost thou degrade thyself? Turn thy sight into thyself; then thou shalt find Me standing within thee, powerful and supreme."  
 —"Hidden Words."—BAHA ULLAH.

ABDUL BAHA ABBAS, the illustrious Persian teacher, who is visiting America, is expected to arrive at Green Acre on Friday afternoon, August 16. A Reception will be held in his honor Friday evening, in the Eirenion. All the people are welcomed.

ABDUL BAHA, during his visit to this part of the country, will address the people daily, and it will be seen that he is announced to speak on many occasions. The program, however, is subject to change as exigencies arise, though such changes will be duly announced. His interpreters are constantly on hand, and those seeking private interviews will be cordially welcomed.

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS!

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 16**

9.00-9.30 a. m. (Tent) Devotional Service.  
 10.30 a. m. (Pines) MR. WALTER HAMPDEN, of New York  
 Tragedy and Service  
 3.00 p. m. (Eirenion) Eliot Day. Music by MISS WIELAGER  
 MISS HAMILTON  
 MRS. REIMER  
 MR. FRASER

Reading by MR. HAMPDEN  
 ABDUL BAHA will speak, it is hoped

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17**

Morning (Hour to be announced) ABDUL BAHA will speak

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18**

Early Service (Tent) ABDUL BAHA will speak  
 10.30 a. m. (Pines) The Eternal Quest:  
 I. Aspiration, the Germ of Evolution  
 DR. HERBERT E. PECKHAM, of Boston  
 3.30 p. m. (Tent) ABDUL BAHA will speak

**MONDAY, AUGUST 19**

Early service (Tent) ABDUL BAHA will speak  
 10.30 a. m. (Pines) MRS. ANNA STURGESS DURYEY of Boston  
 The International Consciousness  
 3.30 p. m. (Eirenion) Social Gathering

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 20**

Devotional Service  
 The Eternal Quest: DR. HERBERT E. PECKHAM  
 The World Kind Has Fought For.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21**

Devotional Service  
 Announced  
 at  
 Smith College, Pianist, and a Violinist

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 22**

Devotional Service

*Handwritten notes:*  
 "I was under the  
 name of Abdul Baha  
 then August 1912  
 on Regis College"  
 "1912"





"We must be loving to all the people of the world ... know and recognize all as the servants of the one God."

"In Green Acre you must concentrate your forces around the one all-important fact --- the investigation of reality. Expend all your thought on this that the union of opinions and expressions may be obtained."







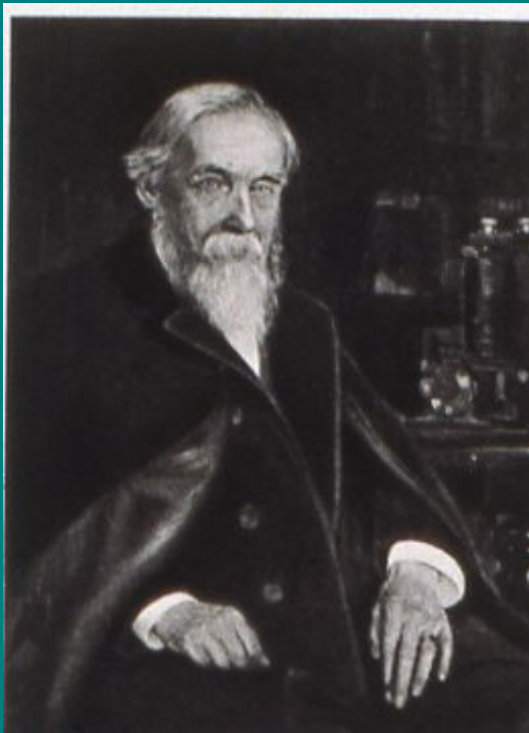
Gertrude Hammond with 'Abdu'l-Baha,  
interpreters and Francis Keefe at Bittersweet,  
August 22, 1912

"In the future, God willing, Green Acre shall become a great center, the cause of the unity of the world of humanity, the cause of uniting the hearts and binding together the East and the West. This is my hope."



When 'Abdu'l-Baha left Green Acre, he stopped in Portsmouth to say good-bye to Sarah. He told the Baha'is that she was was not insane but in a state of exaltation. That she must be gotten out of this institution but in a legal way.





In August 1916, despite a court order, Dr. Cowles got into a fist fight and car chase when the Baha'is went to obtain Sarah's release. Sarah was greatly relieved to return to her home, to be among her familiar family things and to see the painting of her father once more. On a chilly November day, Sarah collapsed while walking in what she called "the garden" ~ the family cemetery.





Sarah died on November 23, 1916 at the age of 69, just three months after obtaining her freedom. Her funeral was attended by mourners from all parts of New England. At the service her friend Kate Ives said, “Miss Farmer’s mission in life was to make others happy. It was her great universal love that made her so dear to others”.



**GREEN ACRE  
FOLLOWING  
SARAH FARMER'S DEATH**



"The Lady in Grey smiled as I am sure the angels must smile."

OF  
**Green Acre Fellowship**

"STATE OF MAINE

Certificate of Organization of a Corporation, under Chapter Fifty-five of the Revised Statutes, and Amendments Thereto.

The undersigned, officers of a corporation duly organized at the residence of Sarah J. Farmer in the town of Eliot, York Co., State of Maine, on the 29th day of August, A. D. 1902, hereby certify as follows:

The name of said corporation is The Green Acre Fellowship.

The purposes of said corporation are to bring about better conditions of living by the dissemination of knowledge pertaining to the development of a higher and richer life for humanity, by means of conferences of an art, educational, scientific, literary, musical, charitable, social, ethical, religious and other character, under the name of the Green Acre Conferences, and to acquire by purchase, gift, devise or bequest, any real or personal property necessary or convenient for the purposes for which this Fellowship is incorporated, with permission to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the same, as provided therefor in Chapter 55 of the Revised Statutes.

Said corporation is located in the town of Eliot, County of York, State of Maine."

BY-LAWS AS AMENDED AT ANNUAL MEETING

AUGUST 11, 1912

*Paid 9.25*  
*Sustaining Membership*  
**Green Acre Fellowship**  
MEMBERSHIP CARD

This card of membership entitles  
*Mrs. Mary L. Lucas.*

to all the privileges of membership in the Green Acre Fellowship  
~~for the year ending June 30, 1920~~, it appearing that the  
conditions of membership as provided in Sec. 1 of Art. II of the  
By-Laws, have been duly complied with.

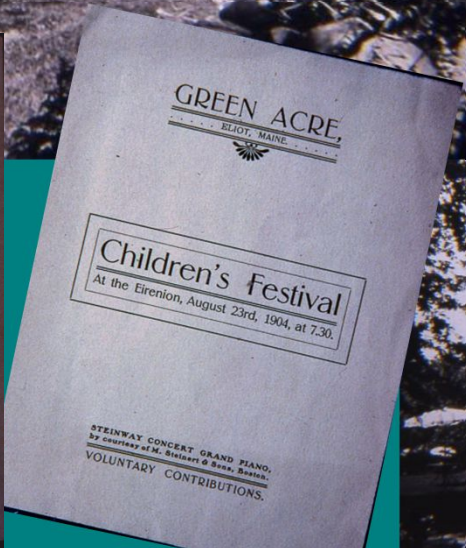
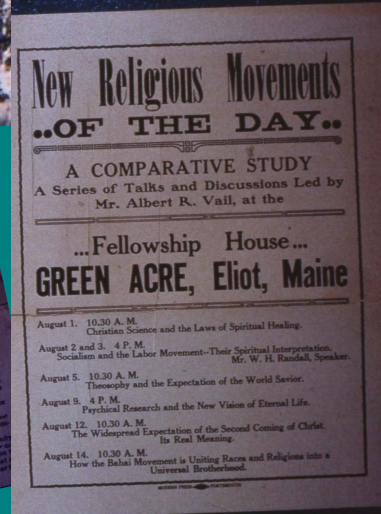
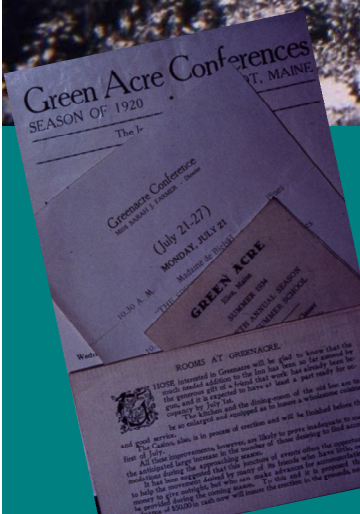
For the BOARD OF TRUSTEES,  
*Wm. H. Randall* Treasurer

Eliot, Maine, *May 19-25*

Following Sarah's death the Green Acre Fellowship, established by Sarah in 1902, with its growing number of Baha'i members, continued the work Sarah had begun. Among those taking the lead in the work of Green Acre were William "Harry" Randall who was charged by Sarah before her death with taking care of Green Acre and Alfred Lunt.



The Baha'is took a leadership role in the programming with emphasis on the Baha'i Teachings and also added to the features at the school. Roger's Cottage was transformed into the "Golden Cock Tea Room", where guests and passersby could be refreshed.







...and surrounding it  
beautiful cut flower gardens  
were developed.







Paul Haney

Louis Gregory

Roushan Wilkinson

Stanwood Cobb

Louisa Gregory

Dr. Yungis Khan

Mrs. Roger Boyle

Barbara Fitting

Marion Jack

Nayan Cobb

Doris Lohse

Dr. Susan Moody

Laurel Schopflocher

Mary Maxwell

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL  
CONVENTION AND CONGRESS  
OF THE BAHÁ'IS OF THE  
UNITED STATES AND CANADA

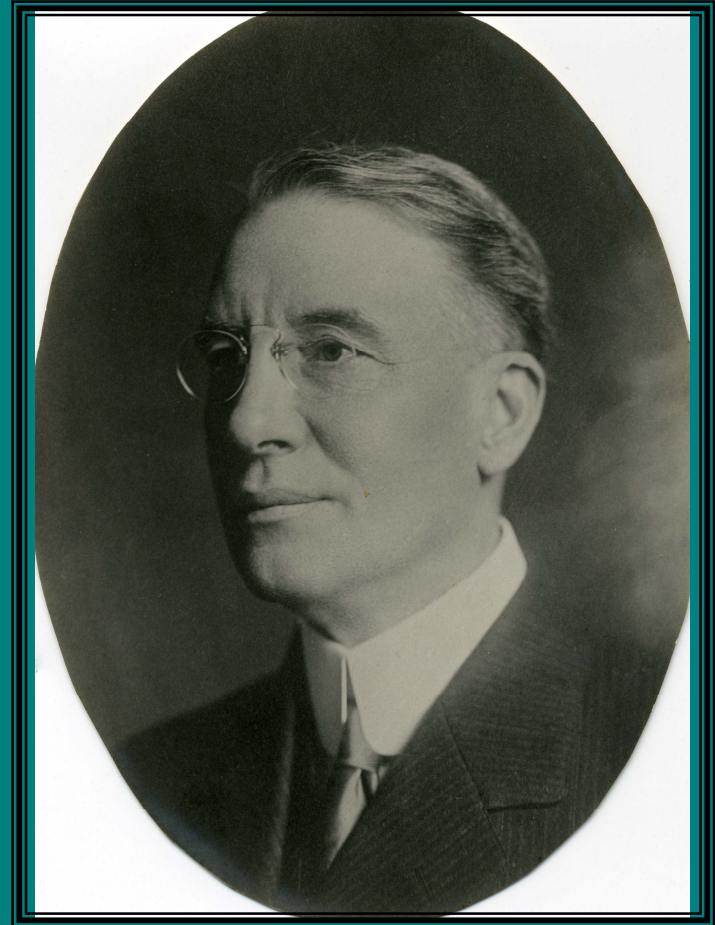
GREEN ACRE  
ELIOT, MAINE

July 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th  
1925



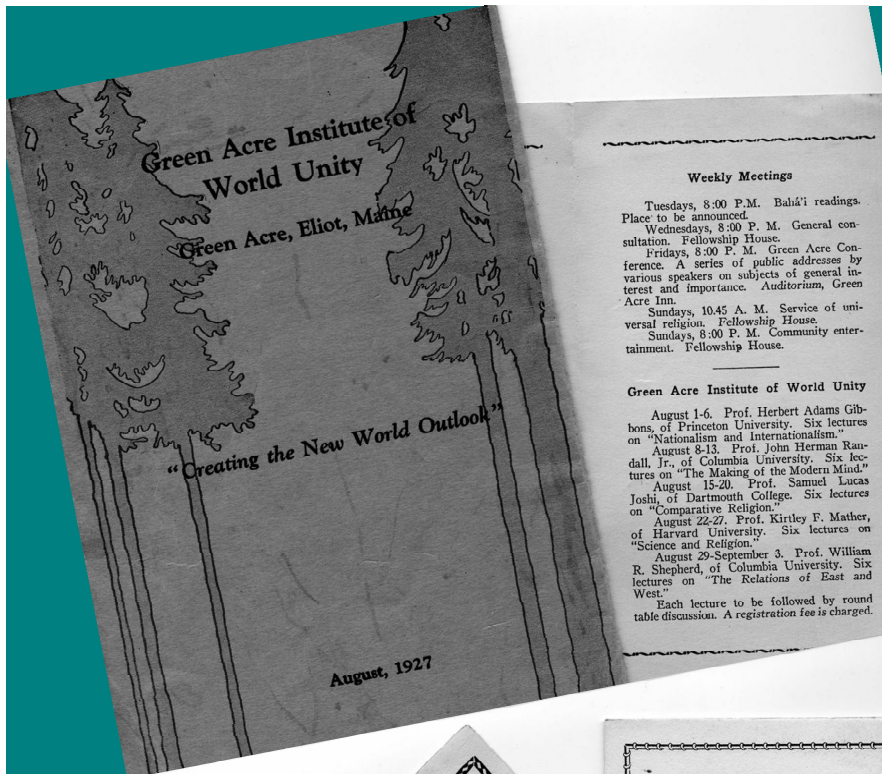
*"The heart of the world is enkindled with  
the Divine world." —BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.*

In 1924, the Green Acre Fellowship voted to place Green Acre under the jurisdiction of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States. In 1925 the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States and Canada was elected in a convention held at Green Acre, and its first office opened here.



In 1926, Green Acre came under the direct supervision of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S.. Both Sarah Jane Farmer and her successor administrator of Green Acre, William Henry (Harry) Randall, were named Disciples of 'Abdú'l-Bahá by Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith.





**Weekly Meetings**

Tuesdays, 8:00 P.M. Bahá'í readings. Place to be announced.

Wednesdays, 8:00 P. M. General consultation. Fellowship House.

Fridays, 8:00 P. M. Green Acre Conference. A series of public addresses by various speakers on subjects of general interest and importance. Auditorium, Green Acre Inn.

Sundays, 10:45 A. M. Service of universal religion. Fellowship House.

Sundays, 8:00 P. M. Community entertainment. Fellowship House.

**Green Acre Institute of World Unity**

August 1-6. Prof. Herbert Adams Gibbons, of Princeton University. Six lectures on "Nationalism and Internationalism."

August 8-13. Prof. John Herman Randall, Jr., of Columbia University. Six lectures on "The Making of the Modern Mind."

August 15-20. Prof. Samuel Lucas Joshi, of Dartmouth College. Six lectures on "Comparative Religion."

August 22-27. Prof. Kirtley F. Mather, of Harvard University. Six lectures on "Science and Religion."

August 29-September 3. Prof. William R. Shepherd, of Columbia University. Six lectures on "The Relations of East and West."

Each lecture to be followed by round table discussion. A registration fee is charged.



Also at this time, in 1926, the first in a series of *World Unity Conferences* were held and in 1927 Green Acre's first *Race Unity Conference* was held and organized principally by Louis Gregory

From its platform the country religious

Mr. [unclear] her a Ba

BA

July

The aim of the culcate, by classes with informal discus universal spiritual pa Bahá'u'lláh for the reg society and the unificatio true Faith. In their univ Bahá'í Teachings apply to problem—the reconciliation of religion, the fundamental onces revealed religions, knowledge of G racial amity, economics, internationa and world order.

**COUNCIL OF INSTRUCTION**

Mr. Stanwood Cobb, Miss Genevieve Coy, Mr. Louis G. Gregory, Mrs. Elizabeth Greenleaf, Mr. Glenn Shook.

**COURSES**

The following course will be held from 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon at Fellowship House, beginning July 5, 1932.

to the above

**CONFERENCE FOR RACIAL AMITY**

Arranged by the National Interracial Amity Committee of the Bahá'ís of the United States and Canada

Green Acre, Eliot, Maine

August 20, 27 and August 28

All Races

**CONVENTION FOR INTERRACIAL AMITY**

Arranged by the National Interracial Amity Committee of the Bahá'ís of the United States and Canada

Portsmouth, N. H.

AUGUST 21

Green Acre, Eliot, Maine

AUGUST 22 and 23

1931

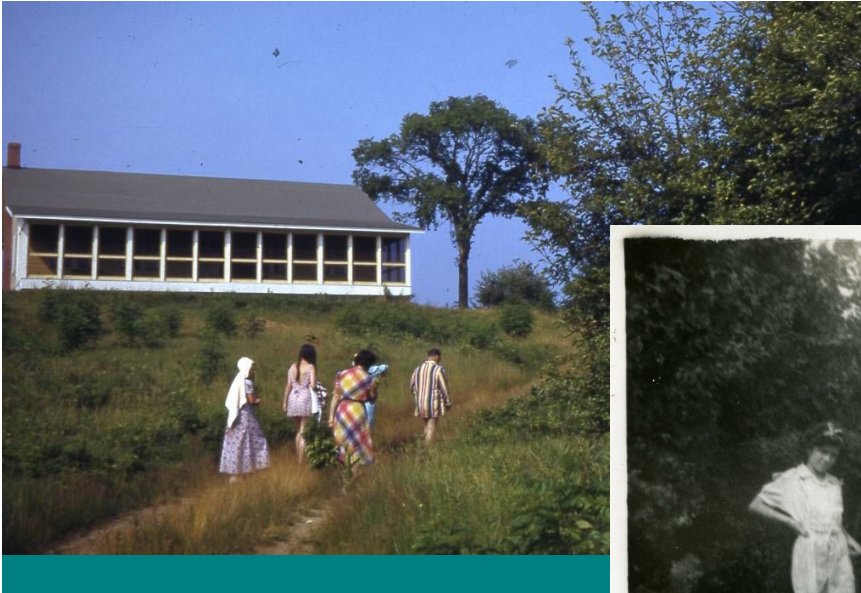
"O ye wise men among nations! Turn your eyes away from foreignness and gaze unto Oneness, and hold fast unto the means which conduce to the training and security of the people of the whole world. This spacious world is but one native land and one locality. Abandon that glory which is the cause of discord and turn unto that which promotes harmony." — Bahá'u'lláh.





In the 1930's the Bahai community focused on the building of the House of Worship in Wilmette, IL. At Greenacre "Temple Teas" were held to raise monies for the Temple Fund. The class format changed to a more formal study class focusing on the training of Bahai teachers. The recreation room (now the main dining room) and later *Baha'i Hall* were the site of dramatic presentations, musicals and travel stereopticon presentations as well as Saturday night dances. Dr. Glenn Shook would entertain with his color organ and Alice Tobey would play the piano.





1942- Class w/ Polly Marlowe



Arts /Crafts building and kiln



Green Acre received its present name - *Green Acre Baha'i School* - in 1941 and during this time the *Green Acre Inn* was renamed the *Sarah Farmer Inn*. In what was then the *Arts and Crafts Building* there were classes and a gift shop. Outside was a kiln for the making of pottery, utilizing the clay from the shores of the Piscataqua River. For recreation there was a tennis court and the woods and fields for walking and exploring and the beach.





In the winter of 1947 the first winter sessions were begun by Emanuel (Manny) and Janet Reimer at *Rogers Cottage* where they were living at the time.

Shoghi Effendi closed Green Acre for two years in 1949 and 1950 as part of an austerity program while the House of Worship in Wilmette was being completed.





Bahiyih and husband Harry Ford



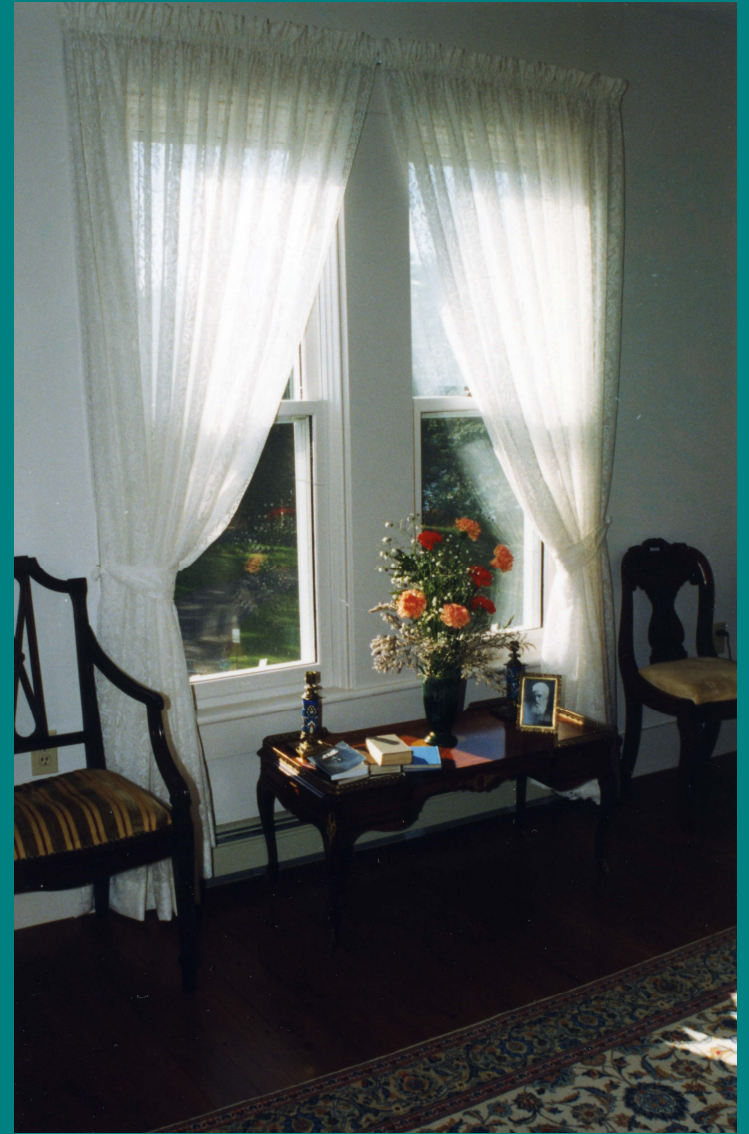
In the late 1930's and early 1940's Bahiyih Randall Ford Winkler did extensive research on the life of Sarah Farmer, gathering much of the reminiscences, photographs and mementoes that we have now. She conducted interviews in person and by questionnaire of those who would have known and worked with Sarah Farmer. This information would prove invaluable to future researchers.







In 1952 Abdul-Baha's room was set aside for prayer and meditation





Emma, center with Mrs. Fatheazam, Janet Reimer, William Sears, Manny Reimer, Mr. Fatheazam



In 1962 Knight of Baha'u'llah Emma Rice became the first live in year round caretaker of Fellowship House. She had charge of the bookstore which was at Fellowship House in the winter and at *Baha'i Hall* during the summers at Green Acre. During her time here she made a point of inviting Hands of the Cause and scholars who were teaching at Green Acre to meet with the Eliot Baha'is and especially the youth.

The first Green Acre Bahai School Council (now an Advisory Committee) was established by the National Spiritual Assembly in 1964 and the first fulltime staff person – Stuart Rhodes – was hired.



In the 1970's Green Acre had its own vegetable gardens and much work was done on the various buildings including the Lucas and Rogers Cottages.



Kakine and Robert McLaughlin and Hand of the Cause Zikrullah Khadem

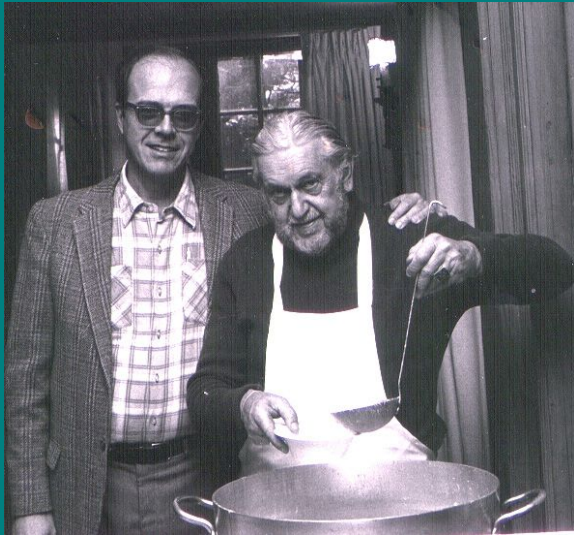
Lucas Cottage





In 1975 the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Election of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States was commemorated at Green Acre. In attendance were the members of the National Spiritual Assembly.

Richard (Dick) Grover was hired in 1977 as Green Acre's first School Administrator, he was followed by Ray Labelle (1986), who was Director of Operations and oversaw the restoration of Green Acre. Presently Green Acre has Co-administrators ~ Jim and Jeannine Sacco.



Dick Grover w/ Manny Reimer



Ray LaBelle



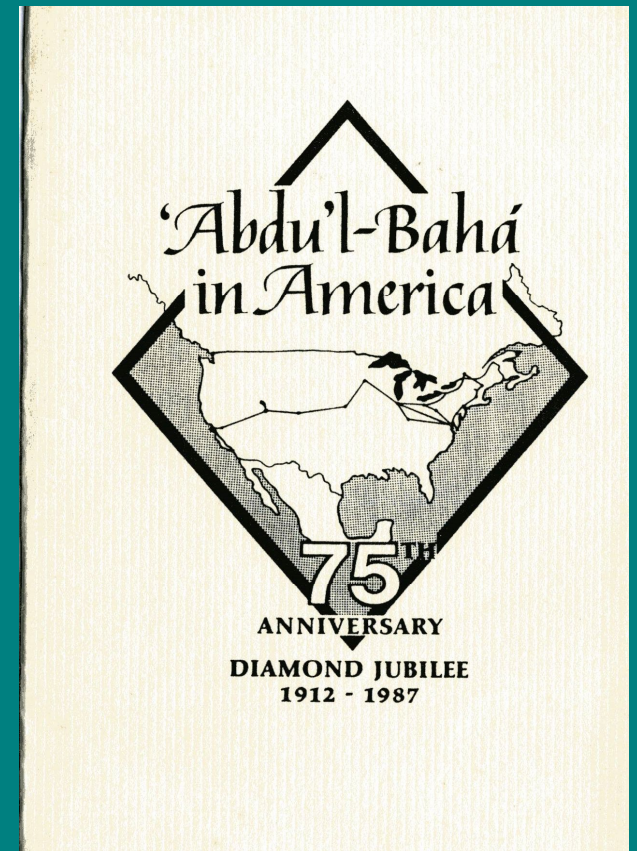
Jim and Jeannine Sacco



With the financial backing of Mildred Mottahedeh a centennial publication was produced: *Green Acre on the Piscataqua* in anticipation of Green Acre's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.







In 1986 the National Spiritual Assembly set the restoration of Green Acre as one of the goals of the Six Year Plan. The next year a restoration project and fundraising for the Sarah Farmer Inn was launched beginning with the Baha'is of the Northeast at their District Conventions. A documentary video "Blessed is the Spot", on the history and impact of Green Acre, was produced on the 75th Anniversary of the Visit of 'Abdu'l-Baha to the United States. The Eliot Baha'i Community and Green Acre celebrated with displays, a recreation of 'Abdul-Baha's Unity Feast and the town helped to place a banner across the road at the entrance to Green Acre. This visit is commemorated each year at Green Acre.



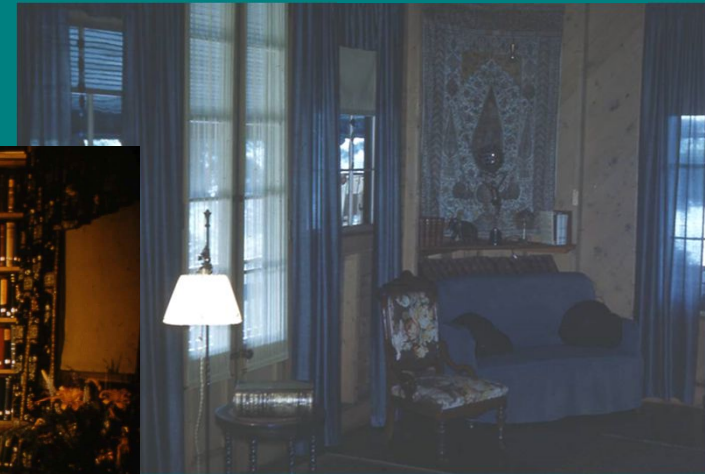


During the late 1980's and early 1990's, as part of the restoration, the Chalet Cottages were repaired and updated making room for the bookstore and coffee house and classrooms for children until children's classrooms were added to the lower floor of Fellowship House, its kitchen remodeled, and the building interior updated.





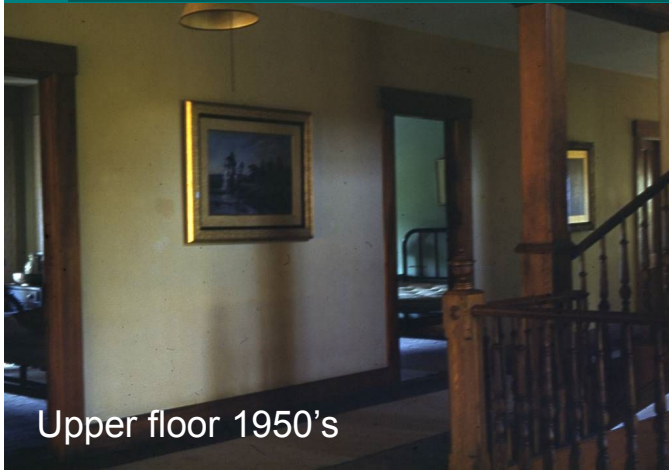
Ole Bull Cottage



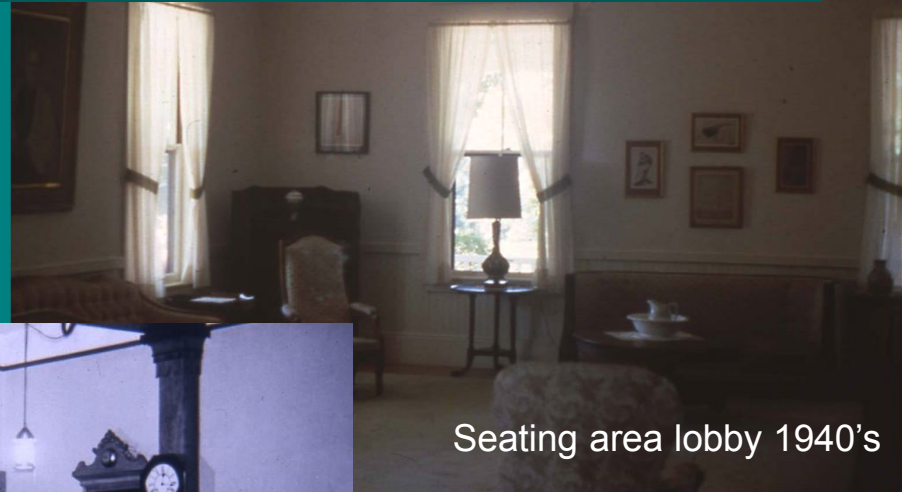
Ole Bull Cottage, originally the site of a music studio, was later the Green Acre Library. During the restoration it was reconfigured/ repaired and updated with handicap accessible guest rooms added to the downstairs. Rogers Cottage was refitted to become the present Green Acre Library.



The restoration was completed in 1994 making Green Acre a year-round facility.



Upper floor 1950's



Seating area lobby 1940's



Front desk 1950's



Sarah Farmer Room 1940's



Sarah Farmer Room 1994





Hundreds attended the re-dedication and opening of Green Acre on the 3rd of July. Green Acre and The Eliot Baha'i Community publicized the occasion throughout the year with a special postal cancellation, booth and display at September's *Eliot Festival Days*. The *Green Acre Chorus*, organized by Liz Labelle and composed of children from Eliot, the Baha'i Community, and the surrounding towns sang for the opening ceremony for *Eliot Festival Days*. There were numerous newspaper articles written.



Green Acre's newest building ~ the *Curtis and Harriet Kelsey Center* ~ was built with funds from the Kingdom Project in 2001/ 2002 replacing Bahai Hall. Its large auditorium was named *Manny Reimer Hall*. The complex was built on the site of the historic "Great Tent".



During the September 21<sup>st</sup> ceremony Steven Beckert, chairperson of Eliot's Board of Selectmen, looking back over the century said, "Green Acre is a crown jewel for the town of Eliot, an integral part of town history....Green Acre is part of the way life should be and should continue to be".





# GREEN ACRE TODAY



Today, as an international center of Baha'i learning, Green Acre attracts people from all over the World and is host to a number of national and international Baha'i events and it receives guests from around the world.

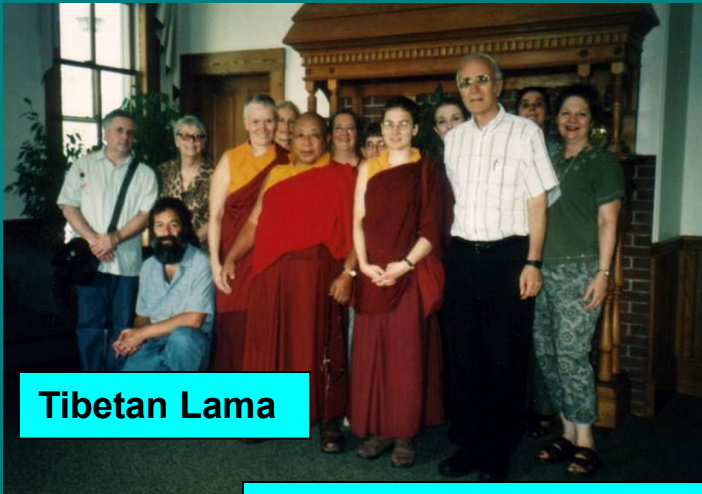
Gathering of representatives of National Assemblies



Masaki Kawaguchi Consulate General of Japan



Tibetan Lama



Ghana Chiefs Nana Takyi and Nana Amponeh



Pravrajika Prabuddhaprana of India with Manny Reimer at the "Swami Pine"







It is host to meetings and events sponsored by Baha'i and non-Baha'i groups and institutions.



Melinda Armstrong and 2007 recipient Burt Cohen

Please join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sarah Farmer Peace Award Ceremony  
*presented to*  
**The Teaching Peace Conference at Oyster River High School in Durham**  
**Kelsey Center, Green Acre Bahá'í School and Conference Center, Rte 103 in Eliot, Maine.**  
**Thursday, September 21, 2006 7-8:30 pm**  
**United Nations International Day of Peace**  
 Sarah Jane Farmer was a turn-of-the-century heroine dedicated to the promotion of peace. The award acknowledges individuals or groups who demonstrate a deep commitment to bringing together individuals and groups of diverse backgrounds and ages, with a focus on teaching and learning about peace-making. The Teaching Peace Conference is an annual event for educators, researchers, community organizers, parents and students. Governor Lynch proclaimed April 15-22, 2005 "Teaching Peace Week"  
 Presented by the  
**Bahá'is of the Greater Seacoast Area**  
*Featuring the music of Charlie Jennison, Leona Hosack, Brett Hartenbach and Dawn Boyer*  
 Press contact: Marty Quinn at (603) 659-5239 or 988-7107



Association for Baha' Studies

**Annual Sarah Farmer Peace Award**



Modern Japan:  
 A SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS OF:  
 \*World history  
 \*American history  
 \*Literature  
 \*Art  
 \*For grades 4-12  
 The study of Japan between 1854 and 1944 plus education

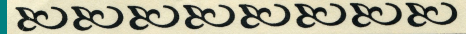
Teacher's Workshop

**Sarah Farmer Woman's Center/Green Acre : 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Emancipation of Women**

Sarah Farmer Women's Center  
 in collaboration with  
 Green Acre Bahá'í School  
 presents

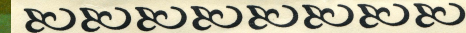
**A 150th Celebration OF THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN**

- The Seneca Falls Women's Conference •
- The Conference of Badasht •
- Sarah Jane Farmer's First Birthday •



**THE PLAYERS**

- Hannah Farmer ..... Phyllis Ring  
 Tahirih. .... Mahtab Mahmoodzadh  
 Elizabeth Cady Stanton ..... Allison Grover  
 Frederick Douglas ..... Jay Green  
 John Greenleaf Whittier ..... Bill Rix  
 Sarah Jane Farmer ..... Diane Iverson  
 Louis Gregory ..... Roger Pratt  
 Harry Randall ..... Jim Sacco  
 Narrator ..... Chris Remignanti
- Music ..... LouAnn Hightower  
 Script ..... June Remignanti  
 Editor ..... Rosie Buzzell  
 Recording ..... Larry Hosack  
 Refreshments .. Cheryl Emory and Eleanor Davis



**Birthday cake, beverages and GENERAL MERRIMENT to follow the dramatic presentation**







**Black Men's Gathering**







In its outreach to the larger community it participates in local events, hosts venues open to the public and collaborates with various organizations...

Eliot Festival Days – Annual Turkey Dinner



Steve Thompson as Charles Malloy



Gertrude Hammond

## Mother's Day Dinner

Sunday, May 9th 1:30 - 4:00 PM

**Sarah Farmer Inn**  
Green Acre Bahá'i School  
Main Street

Buffet Dinner : Turkey/Stuffing/Whipped potato/Peas/Corn/Cranberry  
Sauce/Rolls/Salad/Pumpkin/Apple Pie

Adults: \$7 Seniors: \$6 Children under 12: \$5  
Reservations appreciated 439-7200

*"O ye loving mothers, know ye that in God's sight, the best of all ways to worship Him is to educate the children and train them in all the perfections of humankind; and no nobler deed than this can be imagined."* Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá



Co-sponsored by Green Acre Bahá'i School and the Eliot Bahá'i Community

Annual Mother's Day Dinner



**Annual commemoration of Russo-Japanese Peace Treaty**



**Erica Toussaint, The Honorable Ryozo Kato, Japan's Ambassador to the United States, and Foad Katirai**



**Annual Peace Flag Raising**



**Green Acre "Picnics on the Piscataqua"**







## Green Acre is host to historical and cultural events...



Pontine Theatre presents...



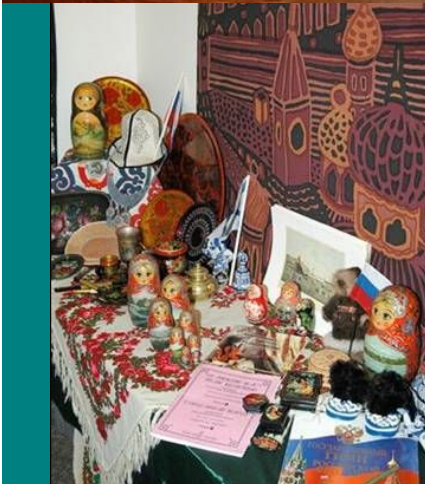
## The PEACE of PORTSMOUTH

Pontine Theatre presents an original play based on the Portsmouth Peace Treaty of 1905. Using period newspaper articles, historical photographs, and turn-of-the-century music & staging techniques, Co-Artistic Directors Marguerite Mathews and Greg Gathers explore this international diplomatic event from the viewpoint of the local citizens. THE PEACE OF PORTSMOUTH provides a glimpse of Portsmouth as it was in the summer of 1905.

Monday, August 22 at 7:30 PM  
Green Acre Baha'i School, Kelsey Center

(For directions, see [www.greenacre.org](http://www.greenacre.org))  
No admission charge; open to the public

*Sponsored jointly by Green Acre Baha'i School and the William Fogg Library*







... and serves as the site of Weddings, Commemorations and Celebrations...







*You, your friends, and family are cordially invited to attend a Birthday Fête in honor of Sarah Jane Farmer'*



*Date: Monday, July 21, 1997*

*Time: 7:30 - 9:30 pm*

*Place: Bahá'í Hall at Green Acre Bahá'í School, Eliot, Maine*

*Refreshments will be served!*

*All are welcome to come in time period costumes (1890) or ethnic dress.*



*As befitting any properly celebrated birthday, presents will be accepted in the form of donations to the William Fogg Library.*

## Annual celebration of the birthday of Sarah Farmer







... and the staff joins the Eliot Bahá'í Community for Feasts and Holy Days, service projects and other community events.



Eliot Festival Day



Ayyam-i-Ha



Ridvan



Talent Show



Feast Day





**Hands of the Cause Remembrance**



*"When the sun rises, no matter from what dawn-point on the horizon it appears - northeast, east, southeast - the haze and mist disperse, and we have clear vision of its glory mounting to the zenith; similarly, the nations have been directed to the dawn-point of the Sun of Reality, each to a particular rising place from which the light of religion has become manifest."* Baha'i Writings

The Eliot Bahá'í Community and Green Acre Bahá'í School invite you to attend a

## **World Religion Day Brunch and Program**

Sunday, January 17, 1999  
at Green Acre's Sarah Farmer Inn

**Brunch will be served from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
\$6/adults \$5/ seniors \$4/ 12 and under

Proceeds will benefit the William Fogg Library

Buffet menu features scrambled eggs, spinach and seafood quiches, potato pancakes, bacon, sausage, fresh fruit, muffins, baked apples, cold cereal, juice, tea and coffee.

**The slide program "Green Acre: A Historical Perspective"**

by Rosanne Buzzell & Diane Iverson will begin at 1 p.m.  
Included will be a selection of readings from the world's religions.

Program is free and open to all. Reservations for brunch appreciated and may be made by calling (207) 439-7200.  
Green Acre is located at 188 Main St. (Route 103) in Eliot, Maine.  
Handicapped access is available. Please call for assistance and information.



**Trick or Treat for Unicef**



**Cleaning Sarah Farmer Cemetery**



**Free Car Wash service project**









The proprietors of this popular Inn take pleasure in calling to it the attention of all in search of a quiet resting place.

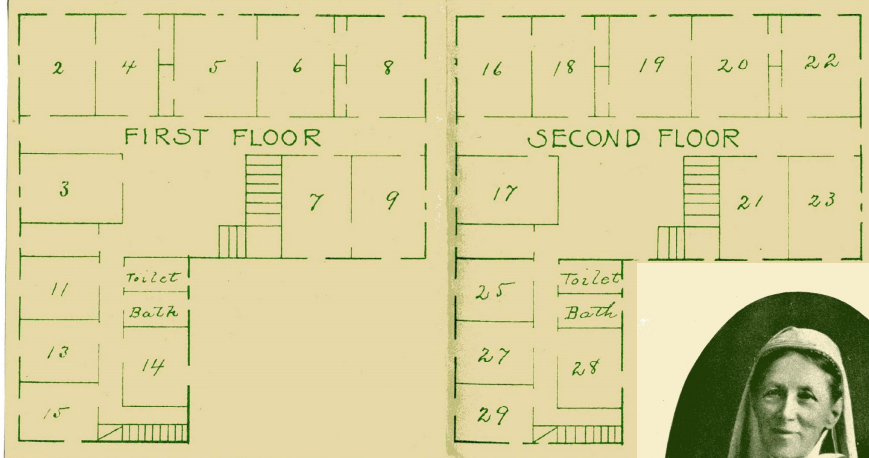
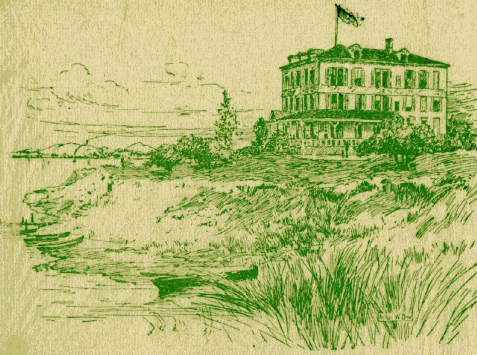
"Beautiful for situation on the banks of the Piscataqua," Greenacre, with its air of comfort and refinement, its attractive surroundings, its grand views, its beautiful river views, and its facilities for boating, bathing, fishing and driving is unexcelled.

The manager, Miss M. Daniell, is a graduate of the Boston Cooking School, which insures the excellence of the table. Terms from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per week.

For further particulars address,

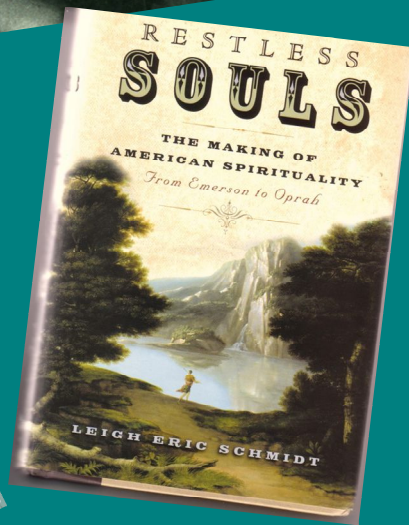
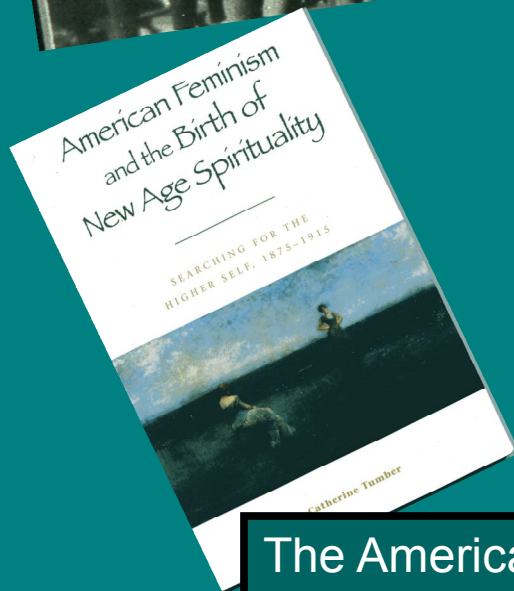
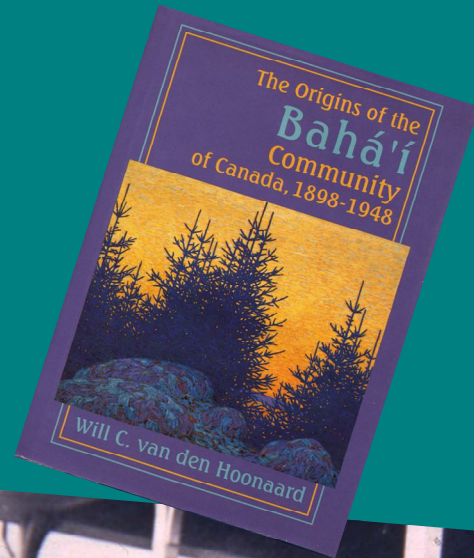
Green-Acre-on-the-Piscataqua,

Eliot, Me.



As dear friend and past Green Acre school administrator Richard (Dick) Grover wrote in 1991: "And so Green Acre was conceived, was born, grew and flourished. Sarah Farmer's vision had transformed a small country hotel into a great center for learning."





The American and Canadian Baha'i communities were forever changed, and scholars will in time recognize the profound effect Green Acre has had on their society and culture at large.





Those who arose to assist Sarah now appear to us as giants from a distant heroic age.

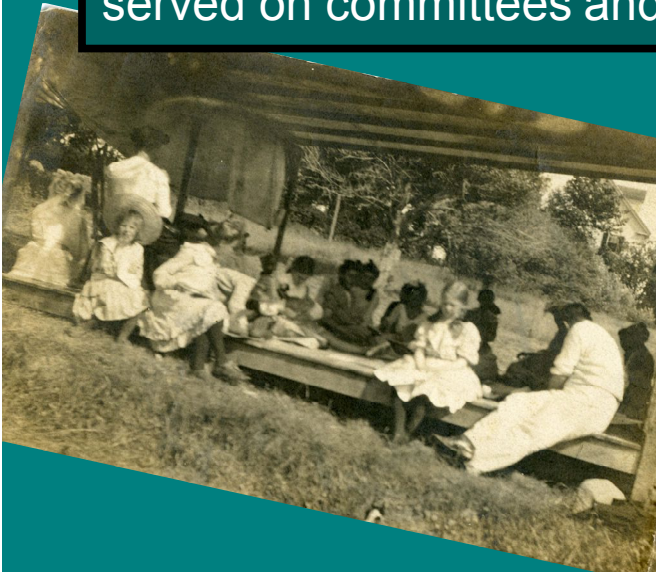
Few are yet living who knew them and can tell us about them; so we look deeply into their faces in old photographs and read the accounts they left for us, trying to understand the reality of those early days.







Green Acre has endured for 100 years - an entire century - because of the countless people who have walked up and down the road to the Inn, who have told their friends about the school, who have cooked and washed windows and served on committees and taught children's classes,







who have driven long distances to be on the campus for a few precious days, who have loved and supported the school... who have been changed by Green Acre and always see it in their mind's eye and carry it in their hearts.







Many, though not all, of these people have been members of the Baha'i Faith, but almost everyone of whatever race, religion, or culture has left Green Acre with a heightened awareness of the world of the spirit and with a deeper appreciation of their own membership in the human family.



Just as Sarah had envisioned...







**"...the most important institution of its kind in the world."**

**~ Shoghi Effendi**



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