

# Rose Standish Nichols

## Landscape Clients

This list contains commissions that are solidly attributed to Rose Standish Nichols as well as some that are probable jobs, but with little information available about the work. These latter names were culled from the extensive Nichols family papers. Where the letters show evidence of plant orders for clients, we have considered that to be a job, although no other information may be available and the extent of Miss Nichols's work unknown. Many checks made to Rose Nichols indicate payment for her landscape work. Evidence that she was a guest in a private home in areas where she worked is circumstantial, since that was her accustomed approach to site work. The clients are grouped in the following areas: New England, New York, and Pennsylvania; the South; the Midwest; and the West.

That so few Nichols business papers are available makes the compilation of her client list a bit of a guessing game. Recent research, however, has uncovered several previously unknown clients attributed to Rose Standish Nichols, and the hope is that further research will add to the list. If you would like to share information about Nichols's work, please email the museum at [info@nicholshousemuseum.org](mailto:info@nicholshousemuseum.org).

## The Northeast

Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Nichols  
Cornish, New Hampshire  
Mastlands

**Date:** 1895.

**Extent of work:** Master plan; this was Rose Nichols's first garden.

**Source of attribution:** Nichols family archive; various published sources.

**Notes:** This was Rose Nichols's first executed design and was for Mastlands, the summer home of her parents Dr. Arthur and Elizabeth (called Lizzie) Nichols. Beyond the elegant piazza that the Nicholises added to their summer home and across a grassy terrace, Rose laid out a formal garden enclosed with low stone walls. The focal point of the garden was a venerable apple tree that spread its graceful arms over a low pool and curving benches. An early assessment of this first garden noted the lovely color schemes and the "half-careless grace" of the plantings. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and Her Family* for more details.

**Known images:** The Nichols House Museum Archive, Boston, Massachusetts; Guy Lowell, *American Gardens* (1902); Frances Duncan, "The Gardens of Cornish," *The Century Magazine*, May 1906, 3-19.

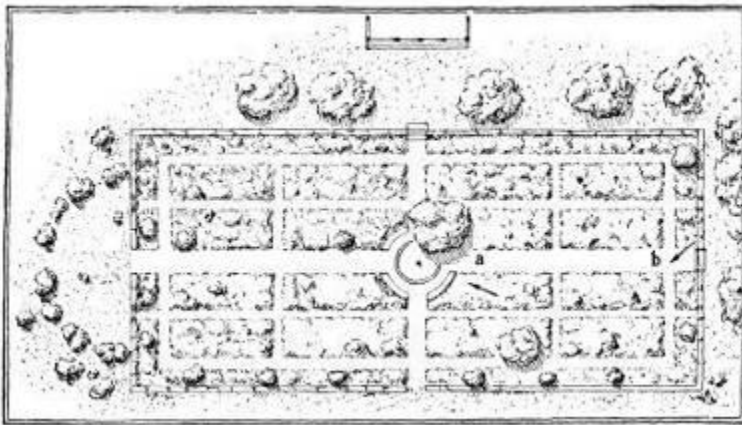
**Selected images (4):**



Courtesy: The Nichols House Museum archive in Boston, Massachusetts.



Credit: Frances Duncan, "The Gardens of Cornish," *The Century Magazine*, May 1906, 3-19.



Credit: Plan of Mastlands Garden in Guy Lowell, *American Gardens* (1902).



Credit: Two views of Mastlands in Guy Lowell, *American Gardens* (1902).

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Mr. and Mrs. Copley and Mary Forbes (Russell) Amory  
Walpole, New Hampshire  
Homestead Farm

**Date:** 1899.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** Elizabeth Nichols letter to Arthur Nichols, October 23, 1899.

**Notes:** Copley Amory (1866-1960) was a member of the prominent Amory family in Boston (his father was Arthur Amory) and graduated from Harvard College in 1888. Mary Forbes Russell was born in 1870 to a well-to-do Milton, Massachusetts family (her father was Colonel Henry Sturgis Russell) and was

educated in private schools in Milton and in Boston. In 1889 she married Copley Amory at Home Farm, her family's residence in Milton. The couple had six children.

The Amorys purchased a stock and dairy farm in 1890 that they called Homestead Farm. The house on the property, at one time a stagecoach inn, was built in 1762 by General Benjamin Bellows, the founder of Walpole. In addition to Homestead Farm, the Amorys, who were listed in the Social Register, owned an old Hudson Bay trading post in eastern Quebec that they had rebuilt as a summer home. Mary Amory wrote a letter to Rose in October 1899 saying, "I am told that you will plan a garden and are doing it as a business. If this is true, will you not come up and see mine and advise as to the coming year?" At the end of the note, Mrs. Amory invited Rose "to pass the night with me" and gave the train schedule. Rose accepted the commission. She continued to fine-tune the Amory garden, and family papers reveal that she ordered nursery stock for Mrs. Amory in 1905.

The Amorys were Nichols family acquaintances, and Mrs. Amory felt comfortable asking Elizabeth Nichols, in April 1901 if she could hire Mr. Sears "for some work....this spring." Mr. Sears was the supervisor for the Nichols's Mastlands estate, their summer home. The Amorys were house guests at Mastlands in both 1905 and 1906.

**Known images:** None found.

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Miss Ellen Mason  
Rhode Island Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island,  
(now St. Michael's Country Day School)

**Date:** 1902-1903.

**Extent of work:** The original Mason landscape was planned by Ernest W. Bowditch, a civil engineer, and the F. L. Olmsted firm in Boston. The original house was designed for Robert Mason by Seth C. Bradford in 1852. After Mason's death in 1879, his daughters, the Misses Ellen and Ida Mason, asked Henry Hobson Richardson to update the house in 1883. When this structure burned in February 1899, California architect Irving Gill designed a new house in a style that Rose Nichols described in her 1905 article as Mexican-Spanish Mission architecture. The estimated cost at the time was

\$150,000.00, about four million dollars in 2010. Ellen Mason hired Rose to plan the garden for the new house and Rose said that she laid out “four garden spaces.” See the April 1905 *House and Garden* for the Nichols article, “A Newport House and Garden.” For over two decades Rose continued to fine-tune the Mason estate.

The original nine acres of the Mason property were modified during 1920-1921. By right of eminent domain, Newport claimed land for Memorial Drive, which replaced the smaller Bath Road, along the seaside boundary of the Mason land. A tall stone wall was built to retain the high bank at the new road edge. Museum records indicate that Rose worked at the Mason garden, both in 1923 and 1925, possibly to make some of the adjustments

necessitated by the new property line. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and Her Family* for a detailed description of the Mason garden.

**Source of attribution:** Rose Standish Nichols, “A Newport House and Garden,” *House and Garden*, April, 1905; George Taloumis interview (*Boston Sunday Globe*, September 16, 1956) in which Rose stated that this garden was her “first professional job;” Albert N. Marquis, *Who’s Who in New England*, First Edition, 1909, 685-686.

**Notes:** Miss Ellen (1846-1930) and Miss Ida (1856-1928) Mason resided at One Walnut Street on Beacon Hill, one block from the Nichols household. The Masons lived abroad extensively. Fragile Mrs. Sarah Ellen Mason was urged to travel for her health and the family stayed in Europe for long periods of time between 1859 and 1865, the year Mrs. Mason died in Dieppe, France. The wealthy sisters were noted philanthropists and, like the Julius Rosenwalds, also Nichols clients, they supported the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

It was not unusual for Rose to shop in Europe for clients, and an Arthur Nichols letter, dated June 26, 1903, describes a “large and exclusive” sundial for Miss Mason “with a motto engraved around its border,” which had arrived that day with Rose’s luggage on the wharf in Boston. This is the sundial that Miss Brayton saw in the center of the Mason rose garden. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and her Family* for Miss Brayton’s account of her visit to the Mason garden.

It is interesting that Rose Nichols’s “first professional job,” ca. 1902, involved collaboration with Irving Gill, an architect born in Tully, New York and

trained in Chicago with modernist Louis Sullivan, and the man often credited with bringing modernism to California architecture. Gill wrote in *The Craftsman* in May 1916, “We should build our house simple, plain and substantial...then leave the ornamentation of it to nature.” The plain stucco walls, arches, and covered porches of the Mason residence, designed by the young architect, hint of Gill’s mature work in southern California. Esther McCoy reported in her important architectural history, *Five California Architects*, that Frederick Law Olmsted’s sons introduced Gill to the Mason sisters at the popular Hotel del Coronado in Coronado, California, where well-to-do Easterners avoided frigid winter temperatures.

The style of the Mason residence was a topic of considerable conversation among the neighbors and in the local newspaper. McCoy called it “a sensation in Newport, for thousands of feet of redwood were shipped to Newport to be used for the interiors.” Rose was careful to write that it was a style “suitable for many modern requirements” and that Gill designed a house in which every window took advantage of the site and the views of the sea. Rose’s friendship with Gill is underscored by his visit to Mastlands as a house guest from June 22 to 24, 1904. The Mason estate is now home to St. Michael’s Country Day School.

**Known images:** Rose Standish Nichols, “A Newport House and Garden,” *House and Garden*, April 1905; Rhode Island Historical Society in Providence, Rhode Island; two images at the Loeb Library, Harvard University School of Design.

**Selected images (5):**



Credit: Rose Standish Nichols, "A Newport House and Garden," *House and Garden*, April 1905



Courtesy: Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, Rhode Island.



Courtesy: Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, Rhode Island.





Courtesy: Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, Rhode Island.



Courtesy: Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, Rhode Island.

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Mrs. Jacob Crowninshield (Elizabeth Peabody) Rogers  
Peabody, MA  
Oak Hill (summer residence)  
Also Boston at 231 Commonwealth Avenue

**Date:** 1903.

**Extent of work:** Not known, although images of the gardens show a round water basin and border plantings with a sun dial that are similar to many known Nichols designs.

**Source of attribution:** In a letter dated June 1903, Elizabeth Nichols speaks of Rose going to “Mrs. Rogers’s place in Peabody”; that September she recorded that “Rose is to spend Monday and Tuesday nights with Mrs. Jacob Rogers in Peabody.” Rose was there again in 1910.

**Notes:** Jacob Rogers was a lawyer and financier in Boston (died Jan 3, 1900) and his wife, Elizabeth Peabody Rogers, was from a prominent New England family. Jacob inherited Oak Hill, an early nineteenth-century estate, from his father, Richard S. Rogers. The property included 100 acres and was a working farm with a dairy that produced 80 pounds of butter weekly for the Boston market. The large wooden house had been built for Elizabeth Derby, a daughter of Elias H. Derby, and her husband, Nathaniel West, ca. 1800. Oak Hill was the Rogers’s summer home. It was distinguished by interior details designed by the renowned architect and craftsman Samuel McIntire of Salem. Portions of the Oak Hill interiors were sold to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in 1955.

In her 1914 book, *Historic Homes of New England*, Mary Harrod Northend describes the gardens at Oak Hill. Her account of formal gardens embellished with a sundial could well be from the hand of Rose Nichols; especially intriguing is her mention of “the most wonderful feature of the place” which was a large lotus pool. Just a few months earlier, Rose had designed a lotus pool in Newport for Miss Ellen Mason.

Jacob C. Rogers built two houses in Boston’s new Back Bay, 89 Marlborough Street in 1867 and 231 Commonwealth Avenue in 1885.

**Known images:** The Peabody Institute Library, Peabody, Massachusetts has images of the Oak Hill Estate, including the entrance gate, views of wide lawns with mature trees, a round water basin with low stone coping, and a

flower border with sundial. Interior views of the house, now razed, exist. The North Shore Shopping Mall occupies the site of the Rogers estate.

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Mrs. Walter John Clemson (formerly Mrs. Sparks)  
Née Harriet A. Mason  
Taunton, Massachusetts

**Date:** 1903.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** A letter from Elizabeth Nichols to her husband, September 21, 1903, reports that “Rose is to spend Monday and Tuesday with Mrs. Jacob Rogers and she is also going to Taunton to give advice about a garden there to Mrs. Clemson, formerly Mrs. Sparks.”

**Notes:** Walter Clemson was a London-born composer and organist who came to America in 1884. He married the widowed Mrs. William Eliot Sparks of Taunton in 1888.

William Sparks was a mechanical engineer, who studied at Harvard and MIT. He was the son of Jared Sparks, a noted historian and president of Harvard College, 1845-1853, and Mary Crowninshield Silsbee of Salem, Massachusetts. William grew up in Cambridge and married Harriet A. Mason of Taunton, Massachusetts in 1875. Harriet was the daughter of William Mason, a mechanical genius who was a pioneer in the building of locomotives. The couple had two daughters. William Eliot Sparks died in 1886 and Harriet Sparks married Walter Clemson two years later.

An account of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Taunton in 1889 reveals that the Clemsons were important figures in that town and that they were well-to-do, illustrated by Walter’s underwriting of the American Guild of Organists’s Gold Medal award in 1897. Walter was apparently an avid gardener, and a 1904 account reveals that he won second prize at Horticultural Hall in Boston for his sweet peas. He continued to participate in musical programs and sang in a concert at the Harvard Music Association on Beacon Hill in 1912 and again in 1913.

**Known images:** None found.

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Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Murray and Arria Sargent (Dixwell) Howe  
3 Fayerweather Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Date:** 1903.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** Nichols family papers: letter from Mrs. Archibald Howe to Rose Nichols. "Miss Nichols, Having heard of you from my friend Mrs. Ted Robinson I write to ask if you can come out and give me some advice about planting some shrubs about my house. Mrs. Archibald M. Howe." The letter is dated April 24, 1903.

**Notes:** Archibald Howe (1848-1916) was a Harvard-educated lawyer from Northampton, Massachusetts and married Arria Sargent Dixwell, born in 1850, the daughter of Eps Sargent and Mary Ingersoll (Bowditch) Dixwell of Cambridge, in June 1881.

The archive at the Cambridge Historical Society holds two images, dated 1900, believed by the archivist to be the Howe residence. However, the address is listed as 11 Fayerweather Street, possibly explained by the street being renumbered, although that is not confirmed.

Was Mrs. Ted Robinson herself a Nichols client? In a letter to Rose, Elizabeth Nichols wrote on April 24, 1902 that "Mrs. Robinson called this afternoon." It is possible that Mrs. Ted Robinson was the wife of the director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Edward Robinson (1858-1931). A classical scholar from Harvard, he married Elizabeth Gould in 1881 and lived at 200 Beacon Street, near the Nicholises. He was first a curator in classical antiquities at the museum, located at that time in Copley Square, and in 1902 was appointed director of the museum. Rose had pursued art instruction at the museum and may have known the Robinsons from her time there.

**Known images:** None found.

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Mr. and Mrs. Sidney and Sarah Morris (Fish) Webster  
Newport, Rhode Island  
Pen Craig (summer residence)

**Date:** Before 1909.

**Extent of work:** The extent of Rose Nichols's work at Pen Craig is not known, but the attribution for this commission is a solid one. Harriet Phelps writes in *Newport in Flower* that the Websters updated both the old house and the gardens. Many of the elements in the Webster garden reflect Nichols's other designs, including an arbor vitae hedge, an evergreen garden near the piazza centered with a lily pool, containered hydrangeas, and extensive beds of roses.

**Source of attribution:** Albert N. Marquis, *Who's Who In New England*, First Edition, 1909, 685-686.

**Notes:** Sidney Webster (1828-1910) was from Gilmanton, New Hampshire. He was private secretary to President Franklin Pierce. In 1860 he married Sarah M. Fish, the daughter of Senator Hamilton Fish, a member of President Grant's cabinet. The Webster family acquired Pen Craig about 1900, "an informal timber-framed summer cottage" located on Harrison Avenue overlooking Newport Harbor, according to Paul Miller in *Lost Newport*. Originally, this residence was the summer home of Edith Wharton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Jones, who built the house in 1865. Edith and her husband, Edward Wharton, summered for a short time in Pen Craig Cottage, a guest house on her parents' property.

The senior Websters had a town house at 245 East 17<sup>th</sup> Street in New York and summered at Pen Craig, as did their only child, a son, Hamilton Fish Webster, and his wife Lina (Post) Webster. See Paul Miller, *Lost Newport*, 121, who reports that Pen Craig was demolished in the 1950s prior to the construction of a residential subdivision. He notes that a "circa-1900 brick and clapboard carriage house survives."

**Known images:** Images of the entrance and front garden, ca. 1920s, recorded by Townsend Studios, are at the Newport Historical Society; three images of the Webster garden by Edward Van Altena, made from his hand-painted glass slides, are in Harriet Jackson Phelps's *Newport in Flower*.

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Mr. and Mrs. Franklin and Emily Sherrill (Eames) MacVeagh  
Windmill Hill Road, Dublin, New Hampshire  
Knollwood, (summer residence)

**Date:** before 1909; Elizabeth reported to Arthur in September 1904 that Rose "will go to Dublin on Thursday to stay over Sunday with the MacVeaghs."

Since Rose often stayed with her clients when she was doing site work, perhaps the MacVeagh work was ongoing in 1904.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** Albert N. Marquis, *Who's Who in New England*, first edition, 1909, 685-686.

**Notes:** Franklin MacVeagh (1837-1934) graduated from Yale and Columbia Law School. He was secretary of the treasury under President William H. Taft (1909-1913) and a wealthy businessman and lawyer. He married Emily Sherrill (Eames) of Chicago in 1868; in 1897 they were living at 103 Lake Shore Drive. An oil portrait of Emily MacVeagh ca. 1861-62, by Francis B. Carpenter, is in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution.

The architects for Knollwood, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, were Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge, Boston (now Shepley Bulfinch). Shepley Bulfinch has the original drawings for the house, reference files, and contemporary photographs taken in the autumn of 2000. The Georgian Revival, shingle-style house was constructed about 1900 and sited on elevated land at the end of “a long winding wooded driveway planted with specimen trees” (from the Dublin, New Hampshire Historic Resources Inventory).

The MacVeagh's home in Washington, D. C., known as the Pink Palace, was at 2600 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW, and is now offices for the Inter-American Defense Board. Emily MacVeagh secretly commissioned the house as a surprise birthday gift for her husband. The architect is reported variously as either George O. Totten, Jr. or Nathan C. Wyeth. The house cost \$250,000.00, approximately \$10.5 million in 2010.

Rose met the MacVeaghs in August 1896 in Dublin and explained to Marian that “Mr. MacVeagh is a brother of our ambassador at Rome and offered to give me letters to his brother and niece for next winter. Mrs. MacVeagh seemed to take it for granted that I would want to be presented, etc. I am going to have the letters include you and mama for I think that it would be a great opportunity for us to see a little real society for which we are unusually well equipped in being able to speak French and Italian. Mr. MacVeagh says that the season begins in January and lasts until Lent, six weeks or so.” Rose added that “the ambassadorial MacVeaghs” were reported to be “charming cordial people.” She ended by urging Marian to “consider this plan seriously” for it “would be of great benefit to you.” Rose was “intensely anxious” to be

presented and believed that it would “counteract the effect of too much Boston.” The MacVeaghs were guests at Mastlands in September of 1898. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and Her Family* for other details.

**Known images:** Dublin Historical Society, Dublin, New Hampshire.

**Selected images (2):**



Courtesy: Dublin Historical Society, Dublin, New Hampshire.



Courtesy: Dublin Historical Society, Dublin, New Hampshire.

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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. and Hildegard (Sterling) McKittrick

Dublin, New Hampshire  
Oak Ledge (summer residence, ca. 1907)  
and Stonehenge (summer residence, ca. 1919)

**Date:** Before 1909.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** Albert N. Marquis, *Who's Who in New England*, first edition, 1909, 685-686; Elizabeth Nichols letter to Arthur Nichols, October 2, 1901, "Rose is going to Dublin today at the request of Mrs. McKittrick who has asked her advice regarding a garden" and later, October 1902, a letter from Elizabeth to Arthur, "Rose comes from Dublin today."

**Notes:** The McKittricks were listed in the Social Register. Hildegard Sterling was born in St. Louis in 1865 and married Thomas McKittrick (born in 1864) in 1888. A report in *New Hampshire Agriculture, a Report of the Board of Agriculture* (1907) describes Dublin as the "most aristocratic, the most expensive, and the most exclusive of all the summer places in New Hampshire." The report notes that most of the houses cost from \$100,000 to \$250,000 (\$2.5 million to \$6 million in 2010 dollars) and often occupied several thousand acres of land. Included in the "Finest Places near Dublin" entry are the summer homes of Thomas H. McKittrick of St. Louis and Franklin MacVeagh of Chicago, both clients of Rose Nichols.

**Known images:** None found.

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Mr. and Mrs. Walter Franklin and Carolyn J. (Fish) Cobb  
500 William Street (now 500 Williams Street)  
Pittsfield, Massachusetts  
Hillcroft House

**Date:** early 1900s.

**Extent of work:** The images of this garden are strikingly similar to those of the Spoor estate, with lattice enclosure and low plantings of what appear to be both annuals and perennials. Rose wrote in a 1909 *House Beautiful* article that a brick terrace edged one side of the garden and connected to a piazza at the house. It is fair to assume that the Cobb garden was planned by Rose, since she documented it with photographs, although, to date, there is no paper trail.

**Source of attribution:** This attribution is supported by visits the Cobbs made to Mastlands in 1907 and as house guests in 1909, August 25-28.



**Notes:** Pictured in the 1909 article are images of Walter and Carolyn (Carrie) Cobb's garden. Carrie Cobb was a niece of Charles P. Kellogg of Chicago (whose company was one of the oldest manufacturers and wholesalers of clothing in the American West). She married Walter Cobb in 1877. Cobb, born in Vermont, was also a co-owner of the W. T. Baker Company in Chicago, grain and provisions merchants. The Cobbs were listed in the Social Register and were friends and Pittsfield neighbors of the Spoors, documented Nichols clients. The two families socialized at dinner parties during the season in this fashionable Berkshire enclave. The Cobbs sold Hillcroft House in 1914; information provided by the Berkshire Athenaeum reveals that the house was demolished around 1938.

The Cobbs had a home and garden, La Casa De Mariposa, in Montecito, California (see image in Louise Shelton, *Beautiful Gardens in America*), where Rose worked for Esther Hammond and possibly for Edward and Mary Ryerson.

**Known images:** Rose Nichols, "A Plea for Small Gardens," *House Beautiful*, March 1909.

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Mr. and Mrs. William Lee and Mary Lewis (Strong) Cushing  
Westminster School, Simsbury, Connecticut

**Date:** before 1909.

**Extent of work:** A terrace garden (about 50 by 20 feet) that adjoined a piazza shaded by colorful striped curtains and framed in flourishing vines. There was a "fountain gently splashing into a marble basin surrounded by pansies and forget-me-nots" and cordons of dwarf apple trees.

**Source of attribution:** Albert N. Marquis, *Who's Who in New England*, first edition, 685-686; Rose Nichols article, "A Plea for Small Gardens," *House Beautiful*, March 1909; letter to Rose, ca. 1908 from M. L. Cushing. This attribution is buttressed by the Cushings' appearance at Mastlands as house guests in 1908, July 29-31, and a letter in the museum archive from Mary L. Cushing, dated January 9, 1908.

**Notes:** William Cushing, born in Phippsburg, Maine, was an educator and the founder and headmaster of the Westminster School. He married Mary Lewis Strong (b. 1849), of Hartford, Connecticut in 1876. The couple had four sons and one daughter.

The garden was at the headmaster's home and was similar to both the Spoor and Cobb gardens. The school still exists but has no information about the garden except that they believe it would have been under the care of Mrs. Cushing. The letter to Rose from Mary Cushing in 1908, inquired, "Did we say anything about cordons and dwarf fruit trees when you were here?" Mary Cushing asked Rose if she should order the plants herself (she wanted dwarf apple trees) and then noted that she would prefer to buy large plants for "an immediate effect rather than get such little ones as Mrs. Dodge had, and wait." (Plants grown as cordons are espaliered and grown flat against a wall or support system.)

**Known images:** Rose Nichols article, "A Plea for Small Gardens," *The House Beautiful*, March, 1909 has three views of Mary Cushing's garden at the Westminster School.

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Mr. and Mrs. John Alden and Frances (Samuel) Spoor  
Pittsfield, Massachusetts  
Blythewood Farms (summer residence)

**Date:** 1905.

**Extent of work:** The upper garden, described in Rose's 1909 article, "A Plea for Small Gardens," was enclosed with lattice and fencing, and included parterres of grass and flowers intersected with long, wide gravel paths. The borders by the paths were planted with perennials and the inner beds, cut out of the grassy spaces, were planted with annuals including poppies, asters, and snapdragons. Views of this formal garden show the eighteenth-century lead Cupid holding a sundial that Rose said was originally outside the Blue Coat Boy's School in London (a charitable school that taught poor children to read and write and provided clothing, including blue coats, for the students). Standard plants and pyramidal trees are also visible in the lushly-planted Spoor garden.

**Source of attribution:** Albert N. Marquis, *Who's Who in New England*, first edition, 1909, 685-686; George Taloumis, *Boston Sunday Globe*, September 16, 1956.

**Notes:** John A. Spoor (1851-1926) was born in Freehold, New York and married Frances Samuel, who was from St. Louis, in 1887. The Spoors lived in Chicago at 1526 State Street. Spoor was the president of the Union Stock

Yard and Transit Company. The couple bought Blythewood in 1905. The expansive house had been designed in 1890 by H. Neill Wilson, a local architect, for Chicago lawyer Wirt D. Walker. The estate of almost 500 acres had numerous outbuildings, including several barns, a coach house, a gatehouse (for the gardener), a superintendent's residence, a hothouse and grapery, a boathouse (on Lake Onota), and other buildings. The Spoors sold Blythewood Farms in 1924. At his death in 1926, Spoor was worth \$1.4 million, about \$17 million in 2010. Additional information on Blythewood Farms can be found in a sales brochure for the property, with images, ca. 1940s, at the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield.

Frances and John Spoor liked Rose and gave a luncheon for her at Blythewood about 1906. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and Her Family* for other details.

**Known images:** Photos in 1909 Nichols article "A Plea for Small Gardens;" also at The Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

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Mrs. Arthur Murray Dodge (née Josephine Marshall Jewell)  
Simsbury, Connecticut

Wanakawin (i.e., "the Wigwam Place"), in Weatogue (a farm and country estate)

**Date:** 1907.

**Extent of work:** A letter to Rose from client Mary Cushing (1908) reveals that the Dodge garden had cordons of dwarf apple trees. (See the Cushing quote in the entry for the William and Mary Cushing garden.) Rose ordered and installed a marble-edged "lily tank" in the Dodge garden. An account in Dunnan and Dodge, *The Jewells and the Dodges, An American Saga, 1635-1928* reveals that, in addition to the lily tank and the dwarf apple tree cordons, Josephine Jewell's garden had a lattice and fence enclosure, containered plants, and numerous roses, all favorite Nichols design elements. See page 189 for a picture of Josephine (Nanny) Dodge, and a small boy, probably her grandson, and the marble-edged lily tank.

**Source of attribution:** Albert N. Marquis, *Who's Who in New England*, first edition, 1909, 685-686; a letter to Rose dated February 4, 1907 in the family papers, from the Vermont Marble Company in Proctor, for an "order for marble coping for lily tank to be shipped to Mrs. A. M. Dodge, Weatogue,

Connecticut, to be of our 'B' grade Rutland Building marble, sand finished and boxed." The price was \$40 (about \$1,000 in 2010).

**Notes:** Arthur M. Dodge (1852-1896), the son of William Earl Dodge, a philanthropist and successful businessman, was from an old Hartford, Connecticut family and attended Yale. A successful businessman himself, Arthur owned a large lumber business and was head of the Phelps Dodge Company. He married Josephine Marshall Jewell (1855-1928) in 1875; the couple had six sons. The Dodges' permanent home was in New York City, at 72 East 34<sup>th</sup> Street, where they were noted philanthropists. They "built the famous Dodge House at Waubaushene" (Ontario), owned both a steam yacht and a sailing yacht, and enjoyed a summer cottage on Present Island near Waubaushene. Arthur Dodge died in 1896 and was buried in Simsbury.

Josephine (Josey) M. Jewell Dodge "grew up in extreme luxury" (Dunn and Dodge) in a prominent Hartford family. Her father, Marshall Jewell, was the United States minister to Russia and postmaster general under President U. S. Grant. Josey attended Vassar for three years and ran away from Poughkeepsie (literally...she slipped away unnoticed and arrived at home in Hartford to amazed parents) to accompany her father to Russia. She was a major voice for the day-nursery movement in the United States and established the Jewell Day Nursery in Hartford, which became a model for other nurseries across the country.

The Cushing family of Simsbury, also Nichols clients, was said to be "among the favorite friends" of Josephine Dodge. Josey was a contemporary of Mae Cushing, a daughter of William and Mary Cushing of the Westminster School.

The Dodge estate is now part of the Ethel Walker School, founded in 1917 to provide rigorous academic studies for young women. The original Dodge residence burned in 1933 and was rebuilt in 1934.

**Known images:** Simsbury Historical Society, Simsbury, Connecticut; Nancy Dunn and Pauline Dodge, *The Jewells and the Dodges, An American Saga 1635-1928*, 187, 189.

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Miss Upham

Further identification (or location) uncertain

**Date:** 1908.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** Elizabeth Nichols letter to Rose Nichols, February 10, 1908: "Miss Upham sent a note a few days ago asking you to lunch with her and talk over garden matters." Another letter to Rose from her mother, June 1, 1908: "I have telephoned to Breck and changed the order for Miss Upham."

**Notes:** Miss Margaret Upham signed the Mastlands guestbook August 18-20, 1898, June 5-9, 1899, September 29-30, 1901, and August 21-22, 1906. It is not known if this is the same Miss Upham.

The best clue found to date exists on a 1918 postcard from Elizabeth Nichols to Rose. Elizabeth and Marian were touring in Marian's car and had visited "the Uphams in Claremont." Also, Elizabeth reported to Arthur in July of 1920 that "George B. Upham's son is ill." Research reveals that one Margaret Ruth Upham (born in Boston in 1879), whose parents, George Baxter and Cornelia Alice (Preston) Upham, had a residence in Claremont, New Hampshire, married Porter Edward Sargent (1872-1951), a publisher and educator, in Rome in 1907.

The Uphams, Margaret's parents, resided at 74 Chestnut Street in Boston, and were neighbors of the Nichols family (both Upham parents graduated in 1874 from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York). If this is the correct family, why Elizabeth Nichols would refer to "Miss" Upham in 1908, several months after Margaret's marriage to Sargent the previous year, is curious.

**Known images:** None found.

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Miss Cornelia Lyman Warren  
265 Beaver Street, Waltham, Massachusetts  
Cedar Hill

**Date:** 1910.

**Extent of work:** If executed, not known.

**Source of attribution:** A letter from Arthur Nichols to Rose Nichols, July 8, 1910: "As I am writing I am called to the telephone by Mr. Fiske Warren who wants you to lay out a garden for his sister at their mills. I told him you expect

to be back in Boston in early August.” The Warren paper mills were in Westbrook, Maine. In 2010, the mill’s historian found no evidence that there was ever a garden at the mill.

**Notes:** Cornelia was the only daughter of Samuel Dennis Warren (1817-1888), a Boston paper manufacturer, and Susan Cornelia (Clarke) Warren (b. 1825). The parents left a huge fortune to their four children and Cornelia, unmarried, inherited Cedar Hill, a Warren property at 265 Beaver Street in Waltham, Massachusetts. She was known for her philanthropy and her successful farm and dairy operation at Cedar Hill. When Cornelia died, she instructed her trustees to apportion Cedar Hill to organizations that would preserve the land for public education and pleasure. It is possible that Rose Nichols worked with Cornelia in Waltham if this commission actually materialized.

**Known images:** None found.

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Mr. and Mrs. George Alfred and Edith (Tucker) Cluett  
Williamstown, Massachusetts  
Green Meadow Farm (summer home)

**Date:** 1911.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** A letter from Arthur Nichols to Rose Nichols, July 3, 1914, records a payment from Mrs. G. A. Cluett of \$45.50 (about \$1000 in 2010).

**Notes:** George Alfred Cluett (1873-1955) was the son of Robert Cluett, a wealthy shirt manufacturer from Troy, New York. George graduated from Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts in 1896 and married Edith Tucker (d. 1950). Williamstown was then a popular summer resort, and Robert Cluett had built a Georgian revival home at the top of Gale Hill that the family called Southfield. When his father died, George became president of Cluett, Peabody, and Company, which grew to be “the largest company of its kind in the world.” Several members of the large Cluett family had homes in Williamstown.

According to an online essay on “The Families of Gale Hill” by the Williamstown House of Local History (est. 1941), George Cluett “raised Guernsey cattle, Clydesdale horses, and Norwegian Elkhounds,” and became

a discerning collector of antiques. He bought examples of the work of the finest cabinetmakers, including three McIntire sofas, two signed Seymour tambours, and a signed Lannuier pier table. He also owned the “outstanding representation of Duncan Phyfe [furniture] anywhere today,” this from an article in the November 1954 issue of *The Magazine Antiques*. This issue was entirely devoted to the homes of seven distinguished collectors, including the “outstanding collection of American Federal furniture” owned by the George A. Cluett family. Helen Comstock, who wrote the piece on the Cluett collection, noted that the “the house is a work of art in itself,” and provided the perfect backdrop for the rarities that Mr. Cluett collected. The images in *The Magazine Antiques* confirm this observation and show Cluett’s treasures arranged in beautifully detailed rooms, surrounded with fashionable scenic wallpaper, elegant curtains, and oriental rugs.

In 1960, Cluett’s children, George Alfred, Jr. and daughters Emily and Edith, loaned to Historic Deerfield almost 90 pieces from their father’s furniture collection. Other pieces may be seen at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

**Known images:** *The Magazine Antiques*, November 1954, 382-386, Helen Comstock, “The Summer Residence of George A. Cluett, Williamstown, Massachusetts.”

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Mrs. Francis Greenwood Peabody, neé Cora Weld  
Milton, Massachusetts  
Highfield (summer residence)

**Date:** Prior to 1910; in a letter, dated July 1910, to Marian Nichols, Rose stated that she had been “obliged to go home to look after Mrs. Peabody’s garden. Nothing seems to have been done about it in my absence notwithstanding many promises from the contractor and Mr. Chandler.”

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** George Taloumis, *Boston Sunday Globe*, 1956.

**Notes:** Mrs. Peabody’s husband was the Boston theologian Francis Greenwood Peabody (1847-1936). The couple were married in West Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1872. They lived at 13 Kirkland Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Reverend Peabody was pastor of the First Parish Church

in Cambridge. He was acting dean of the Harvard Divinity School in 1885-1886.

Mrs. Peabody (1848-1914) was a guest at Mastlands in 1911. A letter to Rose in September 1911 from Elizabeth Nichols includes the following: "I hope to hear from you soon about those tulips which were sent to Mrs. Peabody, I mean the case of 1,000 from Holland. Have not found any reference to them in your books." This is an interesting bit of information in that it is one of the very few references to any of Rose's business records. The only other reference to her records found to date is in a 1929 letter where Rose requests her mother to "please write all payments in my book." Since she traveled extensively, it is reasonable that she would have had records, not only for her own use, but for her mother's or her secretary's use, in her absence. Whatever the format for "Rose's books," they have not been found.

**Known images:** None found.

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blair and Frances MacDonald  
Southampton, Long Island, New York  
Ballyshear

**Date:** 1913.

**Extent of work:** Rose Nichols designed two walled gardens and a beautifully planted grape arbor at Ballyshear. The walled winter garden was planted almost entirely with evergreens and sited near the house. Beyond was a flower garden for the warm months with "old fashioned annuals and perennials accented with standard roses and lilacs" and sculptures, according to Dr. Cynthia Zaitzevsky. A "lower garden" contained an elegant wooden arbor, lushly planted with many of Rose Nichols's signature plants (including iris and hollyhocks edged with white alyssum) and crowned with grape vines.

**Source of attribution:** Zaitzevsky, *Long Island Landscapes*, 200-202.

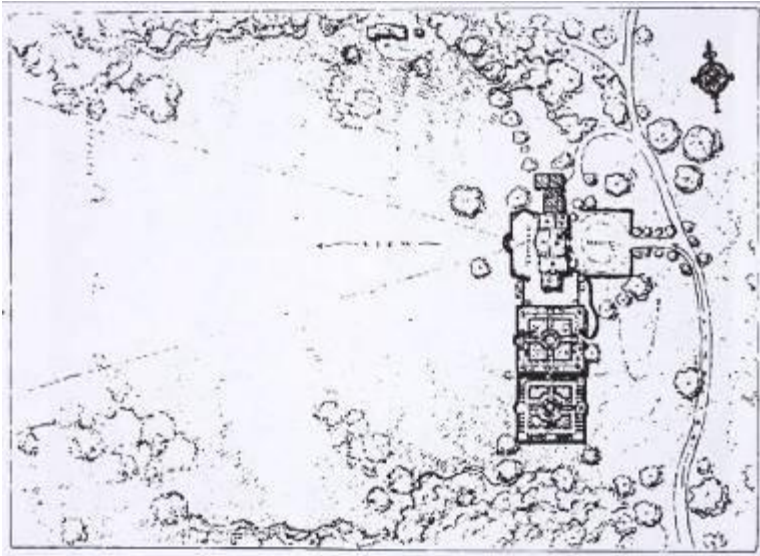
**Notes:** F. Burrell Hoffman, Jr. designed a brick Georgian-revival house for the site, overlooking a golf course that MacDonald, an ardent golfer, and engineer Seth J. Raynor planned. The MacDonalds had ties to Lake Forest, where Rose Nichols was well known, since in 1895 MacDonald had designed the golf course at the Onwentsia Club located at 300 North Green Bay Road. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and her Family* for more details.



Ballyshear was purchased in 2011 by Michael Bloomberg, the mayor of New York City, for a reported \$20 million.

**Known images:** Excellent images of this garden, including the two walled “rooms,” one the winter garden, and the other for summer viewing, and the grape arbor, are archived at the Nassau County Museum, Roslyn, New York, photography by the talented Mattie Edwards Hewitt. A plan of the Ballyshear landscape is in Samuel Howe, *American Country Houses of Today*.

**Selected images (3):**



Credit: Samuel Howe, *American Country Houses of Today* (1917).



Courtesy: Nassau County Museum, Roslyn, New York.



Courtesy: Nassau County Museum, Roslyn, New York.

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Mrs. William B. (Esther) Hoyt  
1150 Amherst Street, Buffalo, New York

**Date:** 1915 or earlier.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** Elizabeth Nichols wrote to Arthur Nichols in September 1915 noting that Rose's address was then 1150 Amherst Street in Buffalo, where she was staying with Mrs. William B. Hoyt (Rose was often a guest in her clients' homes when she did site work).

**Notes:** William B. Hoyt (d. 1915), a graduate of Cornell University, was a lawyer for the Pierce Arrow Car Company and a director of several other successful companies. William and Esther Hoyt bought the John C. Glenn mansion at 1150 Amherst Street in 1910. The Glennys had moved this Georgian-style house, ca. 1828-1831, from its original location at Main and High Streets in Buffalo to the nine-acre site on Amherst Street about 1891 or 1892. They hired George Cary, a Buffalo architect, who designed an addition to the old house. After her husband died, the widowed Esther Hoyt lived on at 1150 Amherst Street until her death in early October 1945. The house was razed about 1955.

**Known images:** Images of the front of the house, as it appeared when owned by the Hoyts, exist online. Any description of the landscape is limited to an article in the *Buffalo Evening News* (1946), which reported that the house “nestled among large trees, some estimated to be 400 years old.”

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Mr. and Mrs. Grace, New York  
No additional information is now known  
about this family’s name or address

**Date:** Possibly between 1914 and 1925.

**Extent of work:** Not known

**Source of attribution:** A letter dated July 9, 1914 by Arthur Nichols records a check from Mr. Grace “for \$280.11 as per bill,” or more than \$6,000 in 2010 dollars. Elizabeth Nichols’s 1923-27 journal reveals that in early November 1925 Rose traveled to New York to “attend to garden work for Mrs. Grace.”

**Known images:** None found.

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Mr. and Mrs. Preston and Emily (Bedford) Davie  
Tuxedo Park, New York

**Date:** 1925.

**Extent of work:** The Davies’ Tuxedo Park property was described in great detail in the March 1930 *Arts and Decoration Magazine* and the residence was said to be “a Tudor house in simplified Tudor style.” Rose Nichols is acknowledged as the designer of the gardens, with the notation that “Mrs. Davie worked with ...the landscape architect in planning the gardens of the estate.” The garden spaces were closely related to the house and “the planting of this garden was very carefully thought out so that there is an air of luxurious color and an ever changing beauty from early spring to late in the fall and even in the winter there is still the outline of formal design which has been achieved through the evergreens.” The article mentions the “air of friendly intimacy” in the landscape and notes the “beautiful vistas...with glimpses of circular pools and sun dials and marble seats against clumps of evergreens.” It is summed up as a “far-reaching and appropriate garden” with views out to green hills beyond.

**Source of attribution:** This is a solid attribution from *Arts and Decoration Magazine*, which contains an image of the garden. This attribution is supported in a letter Rose wrote to her mother in September 1929 noting that she had “managed to plant all the annuals in three of Mrs. Davie’s gardens” that day. She added that the garden “was the one that I originally laid out for Mrs. Wanamaker.” Elizabeth Nichols’s 1923-27 journal reveals that in March 1925 Rose was in “New York, Tuxedo, Lake Forest, and Winnetka, Illinois to attend to gardens.”

In an undated letter, Rose Nichols wrote to her sister Marian and reported that “I must go to see Mrs. Bedford Davie at Tuxedo Park, New York. I am tired and longing to get home [she was on board a ship returning from Europe], but I suppose I must put through some of this work first.” As Rose said, she was tired and likely mixed up her client’s name. She meant the Preston Davies. Bedford Davie was Emily and Preston’s son, born in 1913.

**Notes:** Tuxedo Park on Tuxedo Lake was developed by Pierre Lorillard IV in 1885 as a resort for wealthy families. Preston Davie (1881-1967) was a lawyer from Louisville, Kentucky and a graduate of both Harvard College and Harvard Law School. Preston and his first wife, Emily Bedford, who was from New York and had money from Standard Oil, were married in 1910 and summered at Tuxedo Park. They lived at 740 Park Avenue in New York for several years. Emily and Preston were divorced sometime before 1930 and Davie married the wealthy Eugenia Mary Ladenburg (1895-1975) in May of 1930.

**Known images:** *Arts and Decoration Magazine*, March 1930. Some images exist online of a garden identified as the Preston Davie garden (Hudson River Valley Heritage site) in Tuxedo Park, New York.

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Mr. and Mrs. Gifford and Cornelia (Bryce) Pinchot  
Milford, Pennsylvania  
Grey Towers

Now a National Historic Site located in the Pocono mountains  
of northeastern Pennsylvania

**Date:** 1937.

**Extent of work:** Rose did a planting plan for a pool surround that was never installed. The pool was raised and enclosed in a pergola with stone piers.

**Source of attribution:** Judith Tankard, *Arnoldia*, vol. 59, 1999-2000.

**Notes:** Richard Morris Hunt was the architect for Grey Towers, which was built by Gifford Pinchot's parents as a summer home and completed in 1886. After Cornelia and Gifford were married, Grey Towers became their primary residence. Cornelia Bryce (called Leila) married Gifford Pinchot, often considered the father of American forestry, in 1914.

In 1937, when Rose was 65 years old, Leila Pinchot invited her to come to Milford, Pennsylvania to draw up a planting plan for the Pinchot swimming pool. Possibly because of their shared and determined social activism, Rose told Leila, a fiery, red-headed rebel who hailed from Newport, Rhode Island, that no travel charges would be necessary. Rose would also have been drawn to Leila, one of the founders of the Garden Club of America (1913), for her devotion to gardening.

**Known images:** Images of Grey Towers are online at [www.fs.fed.us/gt/](http://www.fs.fed.us/gt/).

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Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rodman and Fernanda Antonia (Henry) Wanamaker  
Tuxedo Park, New York  
Tivoli

**Date:** Not known: Fernanda Wanamaker died in 1900.

**Extent of Work:** Not known.

**Source of Attribution:** This is as solid attribution. Rose wrote to her mother from Tivoli, Tuxedo Park, New York, in September 1929, where she was working for Mrs. Preston Davie, and explained that "it is the one [garden] that I originally laid out for Mrs. Wanamaker and [it] is looking very well now."

The *Arts and Decoration Magazine*, March 1930 (pp. 69-71) contains an image of the garden at the time of the Davie ownership. Elizabeth Nichols's 1922-27 journal reveals that in March 1925 Rose was in "New York, Tuxedo, Lake Forest and Winnetka, Illinois to attend to gardens."

In her 1952 *Horticulture* article, "Rhythm and Punctuation in Design," Rose recalled, "I shall never forget how sentimental Mr. Rodman Wanamaker forbade my favorite combination of blue delphinium with Madonna lilies because even the fragrance of their lovely white blooms brought back sad recollections of funerals."

L. R. Wanamaker married Fernanda Henry (1863-1900) in 1886. Fernanda Antonia Henry had roots in both Philadelphia and France. She died when she was 37 years old, and left her husband with three young children, doubtless the source of Wanamaker's discomfort with the fragrance of Madonna lilies. He built the Lady Chapel at St. Mark's Church on Locust Street in Philadelphia as a memorial to her.

**Notes:** Lewis Rodman Wanamaker (1863-1928) was a Princeton graduate. He owned a town house on Spruce Street in Philadelphia and multiple other homes, including a summer place in Tuxedo Park, New York, a country home in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania near his father's estate, and a winter home in Palm Beach built by Addison Mizner. He was the second son of John Wanamaker, the Philadelphia department store founder.

**Known images:** None found from the Wanamaker era.

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Mrs. Philip Sears  
No further identification

**Date:** Not known.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** Judith Tankard, *Arnoldia*, volume 59, 1999-2000.

**Notes:** This client may have been Mrs. Philip H. Sears, who was Sarah Pratt Lyman, a member of an established New England family. Sarah and her husband were neighbors of the Nicholises at 85 Mount Vernon Street. Philip H. Sears was born in Dennis, Massachusetts and graduated from Harvard Law School.

In 1883, Sarah Sears purchased the elegant freestanding Bulfinch house at 85 Mount Vernon Street from the estate of her aunt, Mary Pratt. The couple, who had five children— three daughters, Annie, Evelyn and Mary, and two sons, Richard and Francis P.— extended the house with a two-story wing at the rear.

Sarah died in 1911 and left the house to her three unmarried daughters. It seems unlikely that Rose would have worked at 85 Mount Vernon Street on its restricted city lot, and no evidence was found of a summer home for the Philip Seares, although their financial standing and social position would seem to dictate one.

A second possibility is that Rose's client was Mary B. (Higginson) Sears, who was Mrs. Philip S. Sears and lived near the Nicholises in the Back Bay of Boston. The Philip S. Seares, who married in 1897, had a summer home in Pride's Crossing, Massachusetts that they called The Pines because of its location on a wooded, pine-filled property. Mr. Sears listed himself as a sculptor. Mary was the daughter of Boston banker Francis Lee Higginson.

The January 1908 issue of *American Homes and Gardens* (published by Munn and Co. in New York and now online) has a lengthy article by the editor Barr Ferree on the Sears's summer home, together with 11 images of the property. Simple in style, the residence was of yellow or buff stucco with white trim and green shutters. The focal point of the façade was a beautifully designed doorway that opened to a vaulted entry hall. At one end of the house was a library with glass doors leading to the garden, which was apparently a simple space with formal beds edged in brick (not pictured). A terrace with a covered porch and colorful awnings, outfitted like an outdoor living room, completed the outdoor spaces. This is certainly a possible client for Rose Nichols and the time frame for the summer home falls easily into the time frame for her local early jobs.

A third candidate is Mrs. Philip M. Sears. In 1902, a *New York Times* article reported that "Mr. and Mrs. Philip M. Sears are at Pride's Crossing, occupying their new house on the Paine estate." Mrs. Sears, née Bartlett, was the daughter of Francis Bartlett, a wealthy lawyer, art lover, and philanthropist from Boston and Pride's Crossing. His obituary in the *New York Times*, September 1913, states that he was "for many years a director of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts." This is also a possible client, and the family's new home in 1902 is within the time frame of Rose Nichols's first jobs.

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Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. and Mary Louise (Curtis) Bok  
Merion, Pennsylvania  
Swastika

**Date:** Not known.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** On February 16, 1911, Bok wrote to Rose from The Homestead, Hot Springs, Virginia and requested “a list of wichuriana roses.” Rose wrote of *Rosa wichuriana*, the "memorial rose," in several of her articles. It is a species of rose that makes a hardy climber or ground cover and blooms with fragrant white flowers late in the growing season followed by red hips.

**Notes:** Bok (1863-1930), born in Holland, was a writer (he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1921 for his biography *The Americanization of Edward Bok*) and the editor of the *Ladies' Home Journal* (1889-1919). Mary Louise Bok (1876-1970), the only child of Cyrus Curtis, who owned the *Saturday Evening Post*, the *Ladies' Home Journal*, the *New York Evening Post*, and other publications, married Edward Bok in 1896. In 1924 she established the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia to honor her father. She was the sole heir to her father's estate, and inherited an estimated \$18 million to \$20 million when he died in 1950 (more than \$300 million in 2010).

The Boks named their home Swastika during the time that Bok was publishing Rudyard Kipling's work. They thought of the symbol only as a religious image, often seen in India. After the Nazis adopted the swastika as their own, however, the Boks renamed their estate. Several years after Bok's death in 1943, Mary Louise Bok married Efrem Zimbalist, then the director of the Curtis Institute.

A bit of oral history suggests that Rose Nichols published an article on needlework in the *Ladies Home Journal*, although research to date has not identified it. If this is true, Rose also knew Bok as her publisher.

**Known image:** An online image of the Bok house, ca. 1910, shows an ornate stucco and timber structure. All of the windows are shaded with striped awnings and a generous covered porch is surrounded by heavily planted gardens.



## The South

Mr. and Mrs. Henry (Harry) Parsons and Susan (Coleman) Crowell  
Augusta, Georgia, 2248 Cumming Street  
Green Court (winter residence)

**Date:** 1922 or earlier.

**Extent of work:** Unknown, although a brief in a letter from Annie Rush in the Nichols archive includes the following: “[Mr. Crowell wants] the planting changed round the old tennis court” [and the area at the fountain]

“opened...up with the rest of the grounds. There are other things he wants to talk over too. So we will be happy to see you.” This letter also indicates that Nichols’s initial work for the Crowells predated the Rush letter. Elizabeth Nichols’s 1923-1925 journal reveals that Rose was in Augusta to work on the Crowell garden again in March 1924 and also in April 1925. See *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933* for a description of the gardens ca. 1933, a time frame consistent with Nichols’s work for the Crowell family. Also see *At Home on Beacon Hill* for other details.

**Source of attribution:** The Nichols family papers hold a letter to Rose (dated with a question mark 1918) from Annie Rush, who inquires about a date for Rose to come for garden work. This may be Annie Rush, née Crowell (born in 1883), Crowell’s daughter from his first marriage, in 1882, to Lillie Augusta Wick (she died in 1885). (Annie was reared by her Grandmother Wick after her mother’s death.) In this letter Annie Rush refers to the recent loss of Susan Crowell, who died in 1922, which suggests that the letter was written after 1918.

**Notes:** Henry Parsons Crowell (1855-1943), born in Cleveland, Ohio, was the founder of the Quaker Oats Company and several other successful businesses. He married Susan Coleman (1860-1922), his second wife (also from Cleveland and a Vassar graduate), in 1888. They lived in Chicago at 167 Rush Street and were generous philanthropists, particularly in support of religious causes. They had one son, Henry Coleman Crowell, who graduated from Yale and married Lucy Perry Kimball in 1920.

When Susan Crowell’s health declined, they sought relief from the fierce northern winters and in 1909 purchased the former Augusta, Georgia residence of Charles J. Jenkins, a Georgia governor. They named their winter home Green Court, built an addition to the house, and expanded the gardens, which were viewed from generous verandas. Joe Musser writes in his

book *The Cereal Tycoon* (1997) that the Green Court garden had “a vast area of azaleas and other shrubs and trees.”

Harry Crowell knew Julius Rosenwald, another Nichols client. Rosenwald and Harry Crowell, together with industrialist Harold Swift and *Chicago Tribune* publisher Medill McCormick, were important figures in the movement, at the turn of the century in Chicago, to clean up prostitution, loan sharking, and the rampant crime in that city.

**Known images:** *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933*.

**Selected images (1):**



Credit: *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933* (1933).

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Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Severin and Harriet (Hattie) Louise (Barnes) Bourne  
Augusta, Georgia, 606 Milledge Road  
Morningside (winter residence)

**Date:** 1920-1926.

**Extent of work:** This is one of Rose Nichols’s largest and best-documented commissions. She renovated the existing garden at the vintage house and did original planning for the additional acreage that the Bournes purchased. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and Her Family* for extensive information about this garden. Also see *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933*

for a lengthy account of the garden, ca. 1933, as it was planned and planted by Rose Nichols.

**Source of attribution:** Elizabeth Nichols noted in a letter dated December 4, 1928 that Rose was on her way to Augusta where “she has charge of the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Bourne, Jr.” The ‘Jr.’ attached to Alfred’s name in Lizzie’s letter is curious and raises the question of whether it was Hattie and Alfred’s son, Alfred Severin Bourne, Jr., and his wife who were Rose’s clients. The entry about this property in the Georgia garden history account lists Rose’s client as Mrs. Alfred S. Bourne. This account names Rose as the landscape architect and acknowledges her extensive work for the Bourne family.

**Notes:** Frederick Gilbert (1851-1919) and Emma (Keeler) Bourne lived in Oakdale, New York, a Gilded Age enclave. Frederick was the founder of Singer Sewing Machine Company and left a huge fortune to his children, including Alfred Severin Bourne (1883-1956).

Alfred Bourne and Harriet Louise Barnes married in 1905. They had three children, Alfred Severin Jr., Kenneth Barnes, and Barbara Louise, and lived at 1817 Fifth Avenue in New York City. In 1920 they bought the F. H. Denny home in Augusta, erected in 1916 at 606 Milledge Road. They added ten acres to the original six acres and preserved the house and gardens but made “various alterations and additions.” *Garden History of Georgia*, published in 1933, notes that plans to update the original acreage as well as “ten more acres added recently [have] been devised by Miss Rose Standish Nichols, and [are] gradually being carried out under her supervision.” It is clear that the images in this book reflect the Nichols plan.

**Known images:** Smithsonian Archive; *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933* for images recorded in a time frame consistent with Rose Nichols’s work for this family.

**Selected images (5):**



Courtesy: Smithsonian Institution, "Archives of American Gardens,"  
<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.



Courtesy: Smithsonian "Archives of American Gardens,"  
<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.



Courtesy: Smithsonian "Archives of American Gardens,"  
<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.



Credit: *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933* (1933).





Credit: *Garden History of Georgia, 1733-1933* (1933).

## The Midwest

Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor and Sophie Skirving (Hunter) Pirie  
930 Rosemary Road, Lake Forest, Illinois

**Date:** 1903-1904.

**Extent of work:** Not known beyond the statement in Coventry *et al.* that Rose Nichols was the sole landscape architect for this property.

**Source of attribution:** Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*; Smithsonian Archive.

**Notes:** Benjamin H. Marshall was the original architect for the John T. Pirie residence. Pirie (1861-1922) was the chairman of the board of Carson Pirie Scott, Retailers, in Chicago.

Coventry *et al.* records that Rose Standish Nichols was the landscape architect for the grounds. Sophie Pirie was one of the founders of the Garden Club of Lake Forest, an indication of her devotion to gardening. According to Edward Arpee (*Lake Forest, Illinois: History and Reminiscences 1861-1961*), the Lake Forest club was “one of the pilot organizations of the country-wide movement” to establish the Garden Club of America. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and her Family* for additional details of the Pirie commission.

**Known images:** The one image in the Smithsonian archive dates the garden as 1904 with the image date 1930.

**Selected image (1):**



Courtesy: Smithsonian Institution, Archive of American Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection.

<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.

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Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ellsworth and Josephine (Knowland) Laflin  
1007 North Hawthorne, Lake Forest, Illinois  
Ellsllloyd

**Date:** 1907.

**Extent of work:** “The grounds, landscape, and garden were the creation of Rose Nichols, a gifted designer” says Coventry *et al.* A plan of this estate was drawn by Ralph R. Root in 1919 for a tour of selected Lake Forest gardens by members of the Garden Club of America at their annual meeting. The Root plan is now in the Lake Forest Garden Club Archives at Lake Forest College. The Laflin property was demolished.

**Source of attribution:** Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*; the Nichols family papers contain a bill sent to Rose Nichols from the Framingham Nurseries, Framingham, Massachusetts, in the summer of 1914, for an order for Louis E. Laflin; the amount was \$6.50 (about \$145.00 in 2010).



**Notes:** Lewis Laflin (1861-1922) was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He grew up in Chicago in the wealthy family of George Hinman and Mary M. (Brewster) Laflin, whose fortune was made in the paper business in Chicago. Lewis graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York in 1882 and studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He married Josephine Knowland in Plainfield, New Jersey in 1885; the couple (who had four children) were a Social Register family in Chicago. Prior to building their Lake Forest home, the Laflins summered at The Gables in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Lewis collaborated with Architect Robert Kohn, a fellow École student, on the design of the Lake Forest house that they called Ellsloyd, a brick, U-shaped residence with a dressed-stone central entrance. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and her Family* for more details.

**Known images:** Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Historical Society; Louise Shelton, *Beautiful Gardens in America*; *A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois*.

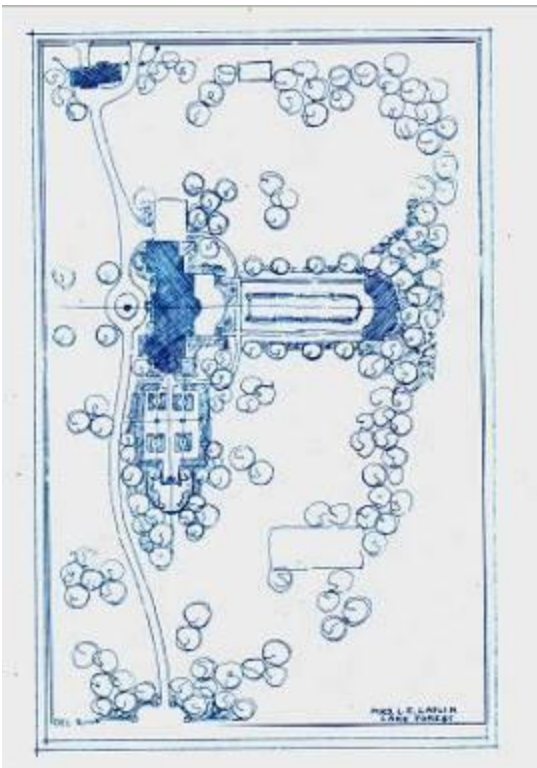
**Selected images (4):**



Courtesy: Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Historical Society.



Courtesy: Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Historical Society.



Credit: Louise Shelton, *Beautiful Gardens in America* (1915).



Credit: *A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois* (1991).

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Mr. and Mrs. Leverett and Alice W. (Poole) Thompson  
788 East Woodland Road, Lake Forest, Illinois

**Date:** 1907.

**Extent of work:** Rose Nichols worked for the Thompsons with her Cornish, New Hampshire neighbor, architect Charles Platt. Ralph R. Root's 1919 *Garden Plans* records the "landscape plan by Charles Platt: planting by Miss Nichols." Arthur Miller, archivist for the Special Collections, Donnelly Library, Lake Forest College, credits Rose with "the planting...of the formal garden west of the house."

**Source of attribution:** R. R. Root, 1919 *Garden Plans and Notes for the Annual Meeting, Garden Club of America* (in Lake Forest); Elizabeth Nichols's 1923-1927 journal records a visit to Mastlands by Mrs. Leverett Thompson from Lake Forest, who arrived "on the noon train to spend Sunday. Rose telephoned to have the automobile meet her..."

**Notes:** Leverett Thompson, born in Chicago in 1869, was a Harvard-educated Chicago banker and lawyer who married Alice W. Poole in 1901. Alice was the daughter of the Abraham Pooles, a wealthy and accomplished Chicago family who came to Lake Forest in 1884. Alice's brother, Ernest Poole, won the Pulitzer in 1917 for his novel, *His Family*. According to the 1991 *Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest*,

Illinois, Howard Van Doren Shaw was the architect for the Thompson house, although the structure may have included “an auxiliary structure from the 1884 Abraham Poole estate, Elsinore, one of the first lake-front mansions in Lake Forest.” David Adler designed later renovations. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and her Family* for additional details.

**Known images:** The Nichols-era garden was demolished, but the preservation guide noted above contains images of the 1907 house.

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Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Johnston and Mary Eliza (Campbell) McBirney  
81 West Laurel Avenue, Lake Forest, Illinois  
House of the Four Winds

**Date:** 1908-1909.

**Extent of work:** In 1919 when R. R. Root drew a plan of the McBirney garden for the Lake Forest meeting of the Garden Club of America, he wrote that Rose Nichols did “the planting.” Information at The Art Institute of Chicago lists her as the landscape architect for the McBirney residence. A walled garden on two levels contains a central water feature with two long pools connected by a water channel that flows under a footbridge. Rose played up the Moorish flavor of the garden with pointy arbor vitae that stood in for Spanish cypresses. She softened the walls with flowering vines and planned roses and annuals for the boxwood-edged beds. This garden has been restored.

**Source of attribution:** Smithsonian Archive; Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*.

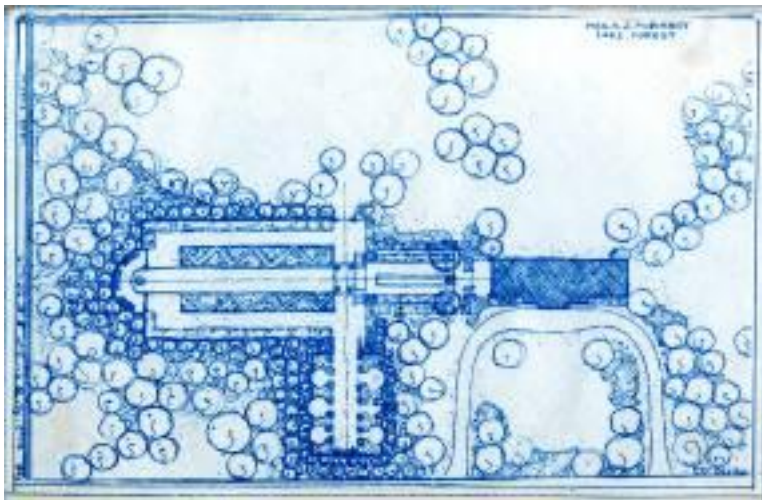
**Notes:** Hugh McBirney (1853-1926), born in Cincinnati, Ohio and a graduate of Yale University, married Mary Eliza Campbell (born 1858 in Galena, Illinois) in 1885. The McBirneys lived on the then elegant Prairie Avenue in Chicago, where Hugh was president of the National Lead Company. Their townhouse at number 1625 was designed by Francis M. Whitehouse and built in 1889 (razed in 1937). See online *Chicago's Historic Prairie Avenue*, William H. Tyre (p. 40) for a photo of this house. The McBirneys had two daughters, Annie Lawrie and Isabelle. Annie married into the wealthy Ryerson steel family.

Howard Van Doren Shaw designed the McBirney summer home, a long stucco house with trellis work ornamenting the façade and an entrance

protected by a graceful metal canopy. Shaw connected the McBirney home to the garden by arranging the public rooms as an enfilade with a view of the gardens at the end. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and her Family* for more details.

**Known images:** Smithsonian Archive; vintage images in Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*; Art Institute of Chicago has eight online images; *American Country Houses of Today: An Illustrated Account of Some Excellent Houses Built and Gardens Planted During the Last Few Years*: Samuel Howe, 1915, p. 99-101, three images (online).

**Selected images (7):**



Credit: Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest* (2003) page 137.





Courtesy: Smithsonian Institution, Archive of American Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection

<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.



Courtesy: Smithsonian Institution, Archive of American Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection

<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.



Courtesy: Smithsonian Institution, Archive of American Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection

<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.



Courtesy: Lyn and Bill Redfield; The Cultural Landscape Foundation

<http://tclf.org/albums/house-four-winds>.



Courtesy: Lyn and Bill Redfield; The Cultural Landscape Foundation  
<http://tclf.org/albums/house-four-winds>.



Credit: Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest* (2003) page 136.

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Mr. and Mrs. Orville Elias and Ellen (Walsh) Babcock Jr.  
 395 North Green Bay Road, Lake Forest, Illinois  
 Two Gables



**Date:** 1910 to 1912.

**Extent of work:** Rose Nichols planned “gardens south of the house on the side opposite to the entrance.”

**Source of attribution:** Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*.

**Notes:** Babcock, an investment banker, a stockbroker, and a Yale graduate, was born in Chicago in 1872. He died in 1951. His father, a Civil War general, was from Franklin, Vermont and his mother, Annie Eliza Campbell, was from Galena, Illinois. Orville married Ellen Walsh (born in Illinois in 1882) in Chicago in 1901. In 1911, the couple lived at 147 Lincoln Park Boulevard in Chicago. The 1926 *Who's Who in Chicago* lists other Chicago addresses for the Babcocks as well.

The Babcock residence was the first Lake Forest commission for New York architect Harrie T. Lindeberg (born in New Jersey and a former McKim, Mead, and White associate) whose partner at that time was the well-connected Lewis Colt Albro. Albro had also been an associate at McKim, Mead, and White and was born in Paris of American parents. In 1910 Lindeberg and Albro designed a brick English manor house with half-timbering and a tile roof on about eight acres of land for the Orville Babcocks.

Rose Nichols and Jens Jensen were the landscape architects for the property. The Babcocks lived in the house only a short time before they sold it in 1913 to Laurance H. Armour of the famous meat-packing family. See the entry for the Armour family.

**Known images:** No landscape images from the Nichols era were found.

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Mr. and Mrs. Octavius S. and Mary O. (Jones) Newell  
and daughter, Miss Madeleine Newell  
750 North Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, Illinois  
Littlecote (or Little Cote)

**Date:** 1911.

**Extent of work:** Not known

**Source of attribution:** A letter from Elizabeth Nichols to Rose Nichols, dated September 11, 1911, reports a query from Madeleine L. Newell to Rose about peonies for the Newell garden.

**Notes:** The Newell garden is linked to Rose by a 1911 letter in the museum archive in which inquiries from the Newell family in Lake Forest were made “about the number of peonies to be planted in the Newell garden.” Octavius S. (born in 1837 and a Yale graduate) and Mary O. (Jones) Newell (daughter of Daniel A. Jones, a director of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad) were married in 1866. Octavius’s parents were from New England.

They built Littlecote or Little Cote in 1909. The house was designed by Richard E. Schmidt, of the firm Schmidt, Garden, and Martin in Chicago, to resemble an English country cottage, in what is sometimes called the Cotswold style. The Newells were Social Register folk with money from Octavius’s successful lumber business. Unmarried daughter Madeleine lived at 750 North Sheridan Road with her parents. She was the family member who queried Rose about the planting plan for peonies at Littlecote.

**Known images:** None found.

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Mr. Donald Roderick and Katherine Cole (Noyes) McLennan  
1345 North Lake Road, Lake Forest, Illinois  
Stornoway

**Date:** 1912.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** Cited by Arthur Miller, Lake Forest College library, as a “possible” Nichols client.

**Notes:** Donald McLennan (1873-1944), born in Duluth, Minnesota, was the cofounder of the insurance brokerage firm ultimately known as Marsh and McLennan. In 1906 he married Katherine Cole Noyes, born in 1883 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and a 1905 Smith College graduate. The couple had six children, three sons and three daughters. The 1909 Chicago *Blue Book* notes that the McLennans lived at 920 Lincoln Park in Chicago and had a summer home in Duluth, Minnesota.

Howard Van Doren Shaw was the architect for the Lake Forest residence, a 21 room Italian-style mansion with an impressive center entrance, reached through three arches, and a back terrace that looked out to a bluff above Lake Michigan. It is believed that McLennan named his home Stornoway to recall

the port town on the Isle of Lewis (in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland), that was his ancestral home.

An early description of the landscape by Marian White depicts a typical Nichols garden. She noted “the well-thought out garden arranged like an Italian parterre combined with English features” and added that large trees provided “a mosaic of sun and shade.” Modern aerial views show “the well-arranged entrance drive” that White described and the broad terrace with views out to the lake.

**Known images:** Marian A. White, *Second Book of the North Shore Homes, Gardens, Landscapes, Highways and Byways Past and Present; A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois* and a slide at the Smithsonian in the “Archives of American Gardens” collection, dated 1930.

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Mr. and Mrs. Clayton and Anna Lareau (Griffith) Mark  
999 North Lake Road, Lake Forest, Illinois

**Date:** 1913-1914.

**Extent of work:** Rose Nichols planted a sunken garden on the lake or east side of the Mark mansion, sheltered by the enclosing arms of the house and accented with seats and a pool. She embellished the long, broad space with containered and planted arbor vitae and clad the adjacent house walls with thick lashings of vines. Coventry *et al.* suggests that this Shaw commission may have had input from David Adler and points out that the sunken garden is characteristic of other Adler lakeside residences.

**Source of attribution:** Coventry *et al.* lists Rose Nichols as the landscape architect.

**Notes:** Clayton Mark (1858-1936) was born in Fredericksburg, Crawford County, Pennsylvania and moved to Chicago, where he established a successful steel fabrication business. He married Anna Lareau (or Larue) Griffith (1862-1915) from Delaware County, Iowa in 1880. The couple had nine children.

Howard Van Doren Shaw designed the Mark residence in a style identified on a photograph deposited at the Art Institute of Chicago as classical revival. Stretched along the lakefront, the huge house, necessary for the large Mark

family, featured an impressive entry through a central, recessed porch supported by Tuscan columns. The lake or east side had a covered porch and generous French doors, design elements that Shaw often specified to unite the public rooms with the garden spaces.

After Shaw designed the Mark residence (he had also designed a residence for Clayton Mark's father in Evanston, Indiana), Mark hired Shaw to plan a company town in Indiana for the Mark factory workers. Shaw's planning for the company town was so successful that Mark Town has endured and is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Known images:** Coventry et al., *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*; Art Institute of Chicago (online); *A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois*.

**Selected images (2):**



Credit: *A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois*. (1991).



Credit: *A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois* (1991).

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Mr. and Mrs. Edward Larned and Mary Pringle (Mitchell) Ryerson Sr.  
955-1075 East Ringwood Road, Lake Forest, Illinois  
Havenwood II

**Date:** 1912-1914.

**Extent of work:** At the terminus of a broad allee of trees north of the entrance court to the house, Rose Nichols designed a garden that included a fountain and a pool embellished with four sixteenth-century statues that architect Howard Shaw had purchased in Verona, Italy for his clients. This attribution is supported by an article in the January 1935 *Country Life*, which reports that Ryerson himself “devised the general landscape scheme,” with the help of experts whom he called in to help him. This account notes that Howard Shaw designed “the architectural features” of the garden with Jens Jensen adding “the native trees and shrubs.” According to this article, “Rose Standish Nichols planned and planted the sunken walled garden.” A detailed description of the plantings is included:

“The garden is divided by broad grass cross-paths into quarters, with a flagged walk of bluestone surrounding the outside, itself edged by brilliant yellow flower-borders accented with standard lilacs next to the wall. At the end of the wider grass walk the vista from the house is terminated by a stately wall-

fountain, below seventeenth century, lichen-covered statues of the four seasons standing out against a mass of dark Red Cedars [*Juniperus virginiana*]. Two of the four compartments are reserved for roses, salmon-pink and buff shades predominating, edged by pansies and forget-me-nots. The other two are devoted chiefly to annuals- phlox drummondi, asters, zinnias, and the like, in soft pastel shades supplemented by a border of luxuriant white petunias overhanging the flagged walk. Buddlejias and heliotrope coaxed into standard shape furnish outstanding accents. Each of these sections centers around a circular fountain-basin punctuated by the lead figure of a child above whom rises gracefully a jet of water.”

Rose described her design to her friend George Taloumis in 1956: “This was a very beautiful garden, laid out in four quarters. Accents were provided by pyramidal evergreens and [there were] standard heliotropes and roses. Along with a definite color scheme, emphasis was placed on contrasts of sunlight and shadow.” On the west side of the house, Rose planted a terrace centered with a square fountain at the dining room porch. In his 1919 account, Ralph Root noted that Jens Jensen planned both the wooded park and the graceful drive that wound through it.

**Source of attribution:** George Taloumis, *Boston Sunday Globe*, September 16, 1956. Both the 1919 plan that Ralph Root drew of the Ryerson garden and the January 1935 *Country Life* article acknowledge Rose Nichols’s work for the Ryersons.

**Notes:** Edward Ryerson (1854-1928), from Chicago, graduated from Yale in 1876 and in 1879 married Mary Pringle Mitchell (b. 1855), from New Haven, a daughter of Donald Grant Mitchell. He was a famous essayist who used the *nom de plume* Ik Marvel. Mitchell traveled widely, worked as a landscape architect, and designed his home, Edgewood, in early Stick Style, on Forest Road in New Haven. The house is extant but the grounds were destroyed. Mary’s mother hailed from a well-to-do Charleston, South Carolina family. Edward Ryerson entered his father’s steel business and ultimately became president of the firm Joseph T. Ryerson and Son. Edward and Mary were prominent Chicagoans and lived at 31 Banks Street in a town house designed by Chicago architects Henry Ives Cobb, born in Brookline, Massachusetts, and Charles S. Frost.

Howard Van Doren Shaw was the architect for the Ryerson’s Lake Forest summer homes. Havenwood was the second residence he designed for them

(the first house, built in 1907, was also called Havenwood). Shaw designed Havenwood II in the manner of an Italian villa with numerous porches, balconies, and terraces to facilitate connection between the interiors of the house and the surrounding gardens. Arthur Miller, Lake Forest College Library, believes that the Ryersons may have built Havenwood II to accommodate Edward Ryerson's expanding garden interests, interests so sophisticated that he often sent his gardener to Kew Gardens in London for updates on the latest in horticulture and new plant introductions. The January 1935 account of Havenwood II in *Country Life* records that this property consisted of about 20 acres. The main house at Havenwood II was razed in 1979.

The Ryersons were in Montecito, California in February 1913 and the following month Edward bought land on Pepper Hill. Santa Barbara architect Jose Luis Curletti designed an Italian villa for the couple using reinforced concrete. Work began the summer of 1913 and the Ryersons moved into the new winter home that they called El Cerrito in October 1914. David Myrick writes in *Montecito and Santa Barbara, The Days of the Great Estates*, vol. 2 that the German landscape architect Otto Niedermuller created the El Cerrito garden but, considering the close and longstanding friendship between Rose Nichols and Mary Ryerson, it is more than possible that Rose worked there as well. Rose had additional connections to both Montecito and Jose Curletti for she had worked on the gardens at the Curletti-designed house that Emily Hammond bought in 1911 in Montecito. See Myrick (p. 349-350) and Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest* (p. 178) for images.

Mary Ryerson visited Mastlands in Cornish in 1909 and both Edward and Mary were there in August of 1912. This visit coincided with two major building projects for the Ryersons, Havenwood II and El Cerrito. Rose Nichols's work at Havenwood II is documented; it is difficult to imagine that the Ryersons did not ask her to help with El Cerrito. The Nichols family archive notes a 1917 check from Mary M. Ryerson to Rose for \$277.89, more than \$4,500.00 in 2010 dollars. A fair question might inquire what work Rose was doing in 1917 for Edward and Mary that was so expensive. Havenwood II and grounds were demolished. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and her Family* for more details.

**Known images:** Smithsonian Archive; University of Chicago Library, Special Collections; The Art Institute of Chicago (online); Louise Shelton, *Beautiful Gardens in America*, in color (1915).

**Selected images (8):**



Courtesy: Smithsonian Institution, Archive of American Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection

<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.





Courtesy: Smithsonian Institution, Archive of American Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection

<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.



Courtesy: Smithsonian Institution, Archive of American Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection

<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.



Credit: Louise Shelton, *Beautiful Gardens in America* (1915).



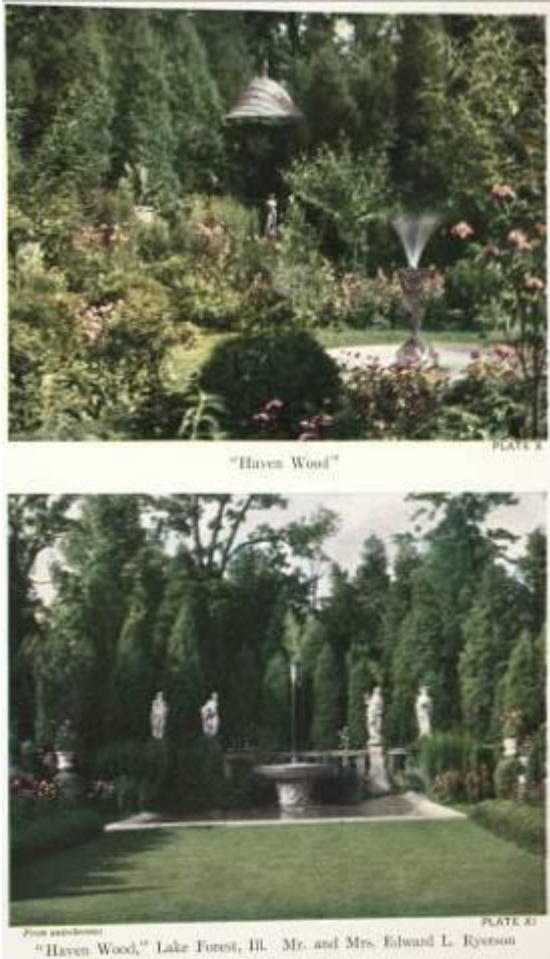
Credit: Louise Shelton, *Beautiful Gardens in America* (1915).



Credit: Louise Shelton, *Beautiful Gardens in America* (1915).



Credit: Louise Shelton, *Beautiful Gardens in America* (1915).



Credit: Louise Shelton, *Beautiful Gardens in America* (1915).

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Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Helen (Swift) Morris  
4800 South Drexel Boulevard  
Kenwood, Illinois

**Date:** 1913-1914.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** The University of Chicago Library (the abstract for the *Guide to the Edward Morris House Collection* notes that “the landscape plan for the gardens has been attributed to Rose Standish Nichols”); Susan Benjamin and Stuart Cohen, *Great Houses of Chicago, 1871-1921*. The Nichols family papers record a 1914 check paid to Rose Nichols for \$792 from Mrs. Edward Morris (about \$17,800 in 2010 dollars). This ample payment signals a significant commission, but specific details of Nichols’s work for the Morris family are unknown.

**Notes:** Edward Morris (1866-1913) was president of Morris and Company, meat packers, and Fairbanks Canning Company; his businesses were estimated to be worth \$40 million (about \$900 million in 2010 dollars). In 1890 he married Helen Swift Morris, daughter of the founding family of Swift and Company.

Howard Van Doren Shaw designed the Morris residence, constructed on the south side of Chicago, in the English Tudor style. The large brick and stone mansion, built close to Drexel Boulevard, was enclosed by a wrought iron fence supported by square brick posts. The main entrance was marked by stately cut-stone pillars ornamented with crown-shaped finials. Behind the house, this generously-sized suburban lot contained a coach house with servants' quarters, a conservatory, tennis courts, and a spacious lawn with large trees.

The formal garden was embellished with a teahouse, designed by Shaw, and a pergola standing on meticulously designed posts with rounded heads carved into a series of concentric rings. Trimmed hedges outlined the garden beds, which were accented with pyramidal arbor vitae. A collection of 40 photographs in the University of Chicago archive records both interior and exterior views.

This house was completed in 1913, the year of Edward Morris's death. Helen Morris married the British statesman, Francis Neilson, in 1917. The Morris house and grounds were ultimately demolished.

**Known images:** University of Chicago Library collections; Susan Benjamin and Stuart Cohen, *Great Houses of Chicago, 1871-1921*.

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Mr. and Mrs. Laurance Hearne and Frances Lacy (Withers) Armour  
395 North Green Bay Road, Lake Forest, Illinois  
Two Gables

**Date:** 1914.

**Extent of work:** Formal summer and autumn gardens; details not known

**Source of attribution:** Griswold and Weller, *The Golden Age of American Gardens*, p. 258.



**Notes:** Laurance Armour (b. 1888 in Jackson County, Missouri) inherited \$920,000 (\$24 million in 2010 dollars) when his father, Kirkland Brooks Armour, the Kansas City meat packer, died in 1901. Frances Lacy Withers (b. 1888) was also from Jackson County, Missouri. Her wealthy family schooled her at the Ogontz School near Philadelphia and at the Finch School on the expensive Upper East Side of New York City. Frances married Laurance Armour in 1911. The Social Register for that year lists them as living at 920 Lincoln Parkway in Chicago.

Architects Harrie T. Lindeberg and partner Lewis Colt Albro had designed Two Gables (1910), a brick and half-timbered English manor house on about eight acres of land, for Orville Babcock. Babcock sold the property to the Armours in 1913. After a serious fire in the late 1920s, the Armours hired David Adler, who extensively redesigned the structure. Since Rose Nichols had worked for the Babcocks on the original gardens, she was a logical choice to help the Armours make changes and improvements when they purchased the estate. Two Gables is extant and some restoration work has been carried out in the landscape.

**Known images:** Griswold and Weller, *Golden Age of American Gardens*, p. 252; image of the exterior of Two Gables ca. 1928.

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hogdon and Laura Field (Shedd) Schweppe  
405-429 Mayflower Road, Lake Forest, Illinois  
Mayflower Place

**Date:** 1915.

**Extent of work:** Perennial borders and a rose garden.

**Source of attribution:** Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*

**Notes:** Architect Frederick Wainwright Perkins, born in Wisconsin and a graduate of MIT, had designed a house for Marshall Field and Company chairman, John G. Shedd, in the 1890s. When Shedd's daughter Laura married Charles Schweppe, he commissioned Perkins to build a home for the young couple as a wedding gift. A grand residence with 27 rooms, this brick and stone English Tudor-style country house is supported by a concrete and steel infrastructure and looks out to direct views of Lake Michigan. The house has been restored, after being unoccupied for more than 40 years, but portions of the extensive original property have been sold.

Edward Arpee described the gardens at Mayflower Place in his 1963 *Lake Forest, Illinois: History and Reminiscences 1861-1961*. He wrote that “one long vista led to the knoll-top fountain copied from one in the Villa d’Este in Italy. The French gardens, with clipped hedges, were reminiscent of Versailles. A rock garden and a swimming pool completed the picture.”

Mayflower Place was surrounded by a landscape that received the attentions of several designers. Rose Nichols was part of a team that included Pray, Hubbard, and Company, a Boston landscape firm, James Roy Allen, who designed the main entrance and fence, Samuel Yellin, a master iron craftsman who executed the entrance gates, and landscape architect Fletcher Steele. Steele (1885-1971) was a student of Fred Olmsted, Jr. at Harvard and apprenticed with Warren Manning. He is known for his Art Deco designs, as exemplified in the famous Blue Steps at Naumkeag, the summer home of the wealthy Choate family in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The *Preservation Register Guide* for Lake Forest records that the Boston landscape firm of Rudolph Wendell designed the swimming pool and bathhouses.

Rose Nichols remained friends with Laura Schweppe for many years, perhaps an indication that her influence for portions of the garden was quite significant. A letter in the Nichols archive records that Rose ordered in Europe a custom-made table cloth and napkins for Laura about 1931, long after her initial work for the Schweppes.

**Known images:** Smithsonian Archive; Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*; Louise Shelton, *Beautiful Gardens in America*; *A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois*.

**Selected images (4):**



Credit: Louis Shelton, *Beautiful Gardens in America* (1915).



Courtesy: Smithsonian Institution, Archive of American Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection

<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.





Courtesy: Smithsonian Institution, Archive of American Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection

<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.



Credit: Coventry, Kim, et al. *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design 1856-1940* (2003).

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Mr. and Mrs. Finley and Grace (Witbeck) Barrell  
747 East Deerpath Road, Lake Forest, Illinois

**Date:** 1916.

**Extent of work:** Coventry *et al.* points out that the beautiful garden gate (extant) at the Barrell home is interesting for its resemblance to two drawings in Rose's *English Pleasure Gardens*, "one of an Italian doorway and the other, an English variant on the same style." They suggest that Rose Nichols possibly collaborated on this commission.

**Source of attribution:** Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*.

**Notes:** Finley Barrell was a Chicago grain dealer together with his father and his brothers. Grace Witbeck Barrell was the daughter of John H. Witbeck, vice president of the Lincoln National Bank in Chicago. Frederick W. Perkins was the architect for the Barrells' 1916 brick Georgian-style residence, their second Lake Forest home, set amid huge trees from the preexisting Durand landscape. The Barrells built this house on the Henry C. Durand estate after a fire destroyed that residence in 1912. Accessed by a curving drive to the front door, the façade that Perkins designed was enhanced with a leaded glass porch under a parapet with a balustrade at the roof line.

At approximately the same time, Rose Nichols was working at the Schweppe estate, also a Frederick Perkins commission. This timing lends credence to the possibility that she worked at the Barrells' Deerpath Road home.

The authors of *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest* write that Rose replanted for the new owners, sometime in the 1920s, the first Barrell home at 855 Rosemary Road. An image on pages 168-169 shows the formal gardens, surrounding a pool and viewed from the house, certainly a space where Rose Nichols's particular skills would have been valuable. This brick English-style manor house was designed by Howard Shaw, 1909-1912. Images of this property are archived in the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society and appear in Coventry *et al.*, and in *A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois*.

**Known images:** *A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois*.

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Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Alvord and Alice Elizabeth (Keith) Carpenter Jr.  
745 Barberry Road, Lake Forest, Illinois

**Date:** After 1906 and before 1919.

**Extent of work:** “Informal with formal entrance court and gardens” is the description of this garden provided by Ralph R. Root. He noted on his 1919 plan of the Carpenter property that the gardens were “by Miss Nichols and R. R. Root.” This plan shows a circular entrance court that was accessed from the corner of the property and large open lawns accented with a series of gardens heavily enclosed with trees and shrubs.

**Source of attribution:** Plan drawn by Root, 1919.

**Notes:** A Chicagoan, Augustus A. Carpenter, Jr., a wealthy businessman born in 1868, began his career with Kirby Carpenter Company (lumber) as general manager and ultimately was vice president of Ayer and Lord Tie Company and a director of five local banks. He married Alice Keith, also from Chicago, in 1897. The couple lived at 1708 Prairie Avenue, where many of Chicago’s most prominent families lived in the last decades of the nineteenth century. The Carpenter residence in Lake Forest was designed by Howard Shaw and built in 1906. The house, including the four porches and the blue stone terraces, has been restored.

Carpenter had strong ties to New England through his mother, Elizabeth Kempton, who was from New Bedford, Massachusetts. According to *The Book of Chicagoans* (1905), the Carpenters summered at Rye Beach, New Hampshire (where Dr. Arthur Nichols was for many years the summer physician) before they built the Barberry Road property in 1906.

**Known images:** None found.

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Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. and Carrie C. (Peterson) Waller,  
Kewanee, Illinois

**Date:** 1920.

**Extent of work:** “The planting was designed by the writer,” Rose reported in her 1922 *The House Beautiful* article about the Waller property and “the out-of-door living room” laid out by architect Howard Shaw. She planted this outdoor terrace, located east of the house and viewed from the living room. She installed tulips and forget-me-nots for the spring and used perennials that were “well-tried old friends” (columbine, iris, peonies, delphinium, lilies, phlox, anemones, and asters). The annuals she chose were “familiar favorites” and included alyssum and ageratum for edging with snapdragons, petunias, and zinnias to fill out the beds. For the pyramidal form Rose favored, she

used *Juniperus virginiana*, var. *glauca* (Eastern Red Cedar), clipped, she said, into shape. Architectural features included a fountain, blue stone paths, and a simple stone bench.

**Source of attribution:** Rose Nichols article, *House Beautiful*, November 1922.

**Notes:** According to Rose Nichols in the 1922 article, Howard Van Doren Shaw remodeled an existing farmhouse, “one of the oldest in that part of the country,” for Peter Waller (1868-1932), the Swedish-born president of Boss Manufacturing Company, in Kewanee, Illinois. Rose noted that the house was only 30 feet from the road with a “white wooden fence, a few trees and a belt of shrubs” to screen the property. She wrote that the driveway was semicircular and that the plantings in front of the house included lilacs and hemlocks. Rose evidently admired the Waller property and ended her article with the observation that the property was “big, simple and restful; everything expresses the owners’ good taste, their fondness for animals, their love of nature.”

**Known images:** 1922 Nichols article in *The House Beautiful*.

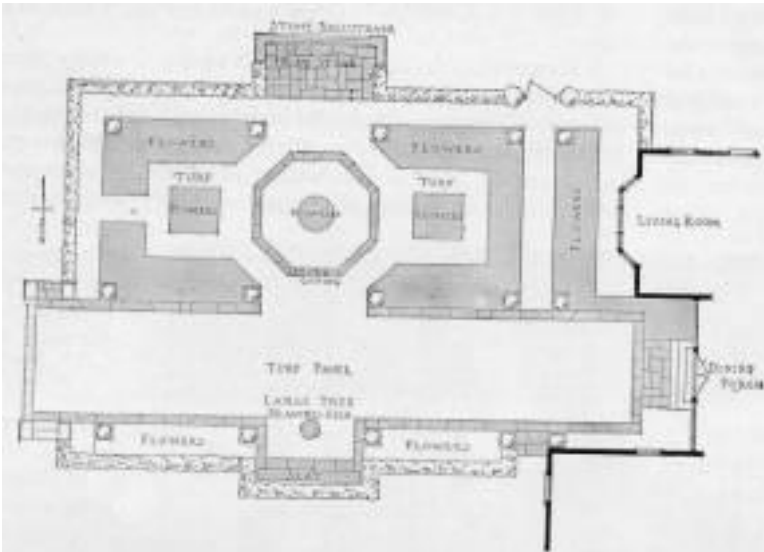
**Selected images (4):**



Credit: Rose Standish Nichols, “The Small Garden Largely Planned, Designed for P.A. Waller, Kewanee, Illinois.” *House Beautiful*, November 1922.



Credit: Rose Standish Nichols, "The Small Garden Largely Planned, Designed for P.A. Waller, Kewanee, Illinois." *House Beautiful*, November 1922.



Credit: Rose Standish Nichols, "The Small Garden Largely Planned, Designed for P.A. Waller, Kewanee, Illinois." *House Beautiful*, November 1922.



Credit: Rose Standish Nichols, "The Small Garden Largely Planned, Designed for P.A. Waller, Kewanee, Illinois." *House Beautiful*, November 1922.

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Mr. and Mrs. William E. and Margaret (Sarver) Clow Sr.  
900 North Green Bay Road, Lake Forest, Illinois  
Wynwold

**Date:** after 1920.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** W. E. Clow letter to Rose Nichols.

**Notes:** W. E. Clow was born in 1860 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and married Margaret A. Sarver in that city in 1882. The couple was in the Social Register in Chicago and lived at 50 Buena Avenue in 1905.

Clow wrote to "Miss Nichols" a letter (on a business letterhead from James B. Clow and Sons, Chicago), dated July 26, 1920, and inquired about the charge for "making a complete plan for planting in our sunken garden, and should you care to undertake the work [a] plan [for] the entire place." He noted that Howard Van Doren Shaw was the architect for their summer home and that the house was completed in 1917. He added, "the gardens which you have planned for some of our Lake Forest friends are so attractive we should like very much indeed to have you plan ours." The letter ended with an invitation to Rose from Mrs. Clow to stay in their home when she was next in Lake

Forest. Margaret Clow was a house guest at Mastlands, the Nichols summer home in Cornish, New Hampshire, in September 1922.

Clow wrote that their house “is fairly well illustrated in the June issue of *The House Beautiful*.” He said that the original landscape work was by “Messrs. Shaefer and Hornal.” Arthur Miller, Lake Forest College Library, reports that Otto G. Schaffer and his partner, Mr. Hornal, worked in Lake Forest in 1915, for Mrs. Laurance Armour, and also at the Lake Forest Triangle Park site in 1917. Schaffer was a professor at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign).

Although the photographs in *The House Beautiful* article predate Nichols’s work, there are three images of the garden as it existed in 1920. Both a photograph and a rather bare-bones plan of the sunken garden are included, as well as a view of the entrance with a circular drive. The spare simplicity of the plantings as they appear in this article suggests why the Clows wanted Rose to work for them, since they obviously had seen the lush plantings Rose was famous for in their friends’ gardens. Clow also asked Rose to “undertake a plan for the entire property,” a clear indication that the Clows were not satisfied with the garden as planted by Messrs. Shaefer and Hornal. In addition, the article includes three interior views of the large house, described as mostly English in style, but a house clearly edging toward the sparseness of modernism. Looking out over the sunken garden and pool are two large, covered porches, labeled the living porch and the dining porch, the classic Shaw arrangement that united his residences to the surrounding landscape. Also see *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and Her Family*.

**Known images:** One image from the Smithsonian archive is labeled ‘Clow Garden,’ with the garden dated 1911 and the image dated 1933. The garden date of 1911 does not agree with Mr. Clow’s 1920 letter and the invitation to Rose to work for them at their Shaw-designed home completed in 1917. Images of the house and garden ca. 1920 appeared in the June 1920 *The House Beautiful*.

**Selected image (1):**



Courtesy: Smithsonian Institution, Archive of American Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection

<http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research/aag.html>.

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Mr. and Mrs. Noble Brandon and Dorothy Forster (Patterson) Judah  
111 West Westminster, Lake Forest, Illinois

**Date:** 1923 or earlier.

**Extent of work:** Not known, but Arthur Miller, Lake Forest College Library, believes that a 1923 Nichols plant order for Mrs. Judah would have been for the first phase of the Judah home, when David Adler designed a half-timber and brick “carriage house/staff lodge,” completed in 1924. The Judahs lived in the lodge until the main house, French Norman in style, designed by architect Philip Lippincott Goodwin, was built between 1925 and 1928. According to Miller, the long “east-west arbor” (which was south of the yet-to-be-built main house), was planted in the early 20s, and Rose may have been working there.

**Source of attribution:** An entry in Elizabeth Nichols’s 1923-1927 journal, dated May 18, 1923, noted that Rose ordered plants for the Noble Judah estate (at Green Bay Road and East Westminster) in Lake Forest from Farquhar Nurseries in Dedham, Massachusetts. In an undated letter,



Elizabeth Nichols details a plant order from Andorra Nurseries, Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, for Mrs. Judah (“standard wisterias, tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*), and standard pink dogwood”).

**Notes:** Noble B. Judah was a prominent Chicago attorney and Ambassador to Cuba. He married Dorothy Forster Patterson in 1917 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dorothy’s mother, Katharine Dudley Beck, was from Brookline, Massachusetts. Her father was the founding president of National Cash Register, and just before his death in 1922, he willed \$500,000 (\$6.5 million in 2010) to his daughter Dorothy, and \$500,000 to her husband Noble Judah. Most of the remainder of Patterson’s huge fortune was given to various philanthropic causes, with special attention to education for needy children.

Umberto Innocenti is noted as the landscape architect for the 31-room residence that Goodwin designed for the Judahs before the stock market crash. Coventry *et al.* assesses the residence as one of the largest houses in Lake Forest, but “set so masterfully” into the landscape that it did not seem overlarge. Whether Rose Nichols worked for the Judahs once the main house was built is not clear.

**Known images:** Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*; A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois.

**Selected images (3):**



Credit: Coventry, Kim, *et al.* *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design 1856-1940* (2003).



Credit: Coventry, Kim, et al. *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design 1856-1940* (2003).



Credit: Coventry, Kim, et al. *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design 1856-1940* (2003).

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Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd R. Smith  
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
 Sopra Mare  
 (now Villa Terrace Art Museum)

**Date:** 1926 or earlier.

**Extent of work:** Rose Nichols collaborated on the design of the terrace garden and its adjoining water stair, probably adapted from the layout of the sixteenth-century (1530-1559) Villa Cicogna-Mozzoni landscape that she described in her book, *Italian Pleasure Gardens*, published in 1928.

**Source of attribution:** Elizabeth Nichols's 1923-1926 journal notes that Rose was at the Smiths ("for whom she is planning a garden") in April of 1926 and again in November that year. In their Adler biography, Benjamin and Cohen acknowledge that Rose Nichols worked at the Smith residence and cite the "similar sensibilities" of Adler, Platt, and Nichols, as revealed in their "informal adaptation of European models to the American country house."

**Notes:** Lloyd Smith (1883-1944) was president of a successful family business that produced at that time most of the automobile frames in America. David Adler designed the Smith residence, completed in November 1924, with "finishing and decorating in progress," according to the construction records. The structure is asymmetrical and wrapped around a central courtyard in the style of an Italian villa but sitting on a terraced, landscaped bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, in northern Wisconsin. Deeded to Milwaukee County by Smith's widow (Mrs. John Jacob Curtis of Darien, Connecticut) in 1966, the property now houses the Villa Terrace Museum of Decorative Arts.

**Known images:** Water stair image online at Villa Terrace Art Museum; views of the house and landscape in Benjamin and Cohen, *Great Houses of Chicago*, 1871-1921.

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Mr. and Mrs. Dexter and Emilie A. (Hoyt) Cummings  
1460 North Lake Road, Lake Forest, Illinois

**Date:** 1929.

**Extent of work:** Coventry *et al.* lists Rose as the landscape architect for the grounds around this formal French manor house with an impressive central doorway framed with dressed limestone. The formal entry courtyard, enclosed on the right with the service wing of the house and on the left with a wall, was edged with trees that were pollarded (pruned annually) to retain a prescribed shape and size. No additional information is now known about this commission.

**Source of attribution:** Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*.

**Notes:** Just as the stock market was collapsing, architect Harrie T. Lindeberg designed a large mansion for the wealthy attorney Dexter Cummings (a Yale

graduate and a passionate golfer) and his Chicago socialite wife, Emilie Hoyt Cummings. Cummings and his sister Edith were both skilled tennis players, their exploits often appearing in the sports columns of their day. Research to date does not indicate whether Emilie A. Hoyt was related to Nichols's Buffalo client, Mrs. William B. (Esther) Hoyt.

**Known images:** Coventry *et al.*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*; A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois: Lake Forest College Library, Harrie T. Lindeberg, Architect, Collections, 1910-1930s.

**Selected images (2):**



Credit: Coventry, Kim, *et al.* *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design 1856-1940* (2003).



Credit: Coventry, Kim, *et al.* *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design 1856-1940* (2003).

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Mr. and Mrs. Julius and Augusta (Nusbaum) Rosenwald  
4901 Ellis Avenue and 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Highland Park, Ravinia, Illinois

## Rosewood

**Date:** Not known.

**Extent of work:** Not known. The Rosenwalds lived first in Hyde Park on the south side of Chicago where, according to Robin Karson in *A Genius for Place*, the landscape was by Jens Jensen. When the Rosenwalds built the estate they called Rosewood, now in Highland Park, Jensen was again hired. However, Benjamin and Cohen (*Great Houses of Chicago*) note the “more traditional formal garden” at the 49<sup>th</sup> Street home. In fact, Robin Karson reports that Jensen’s layout for the 49<sup>th</sup> Street garden was so spare that Rosenwald “did not see any design at all and playfully challenged [Jensen] about the high fees he charged for his work.” It is likely that Rose made a significant contribution, as suggested in the 1920 Rosenwald correspondence, and that the formal garden was her work.

The Rosenwalds also had a home in Winnetka, and based on information in some of Elizabeth Nichols’s letters (that Rose was in Winnetka for garden work), it is possible that she worked at the Winnetka property as well.

**Source of attribution:** A letter in the Nichols family archive from Mrs. Julius (Augusta N.) Rosenwald, dated August 17, 1920 from Ravinia, Illinois, asks Rose to “let her know” when she is in Chicago in September.

**Notes:** The Rosenwald residence was designed by Nimmons and Fellow in 1903, with flat, unadorned brick walls under a low roof with broad eaves.

Mr. Rosenwald, a self-made man, was chairman of the board of Sears, Roebuck and Co. He was committed to underwriting educational projects and promoted and financed education for black children. He was a major backer of Booker T. Washington’s efforts to build Tuskegee Institute and visited Tuskegee, Alabama several times, traveling there in his private railway car. The Rosenwalds visited in Lake Forest and were guests of the Louis Laflins in 1912 at a reception for Washington, an early black educator and author. Benjamin and Cohen relate in their Adler biography that “because of his philanthropy, Rosenwald is remembered as “one of the greatest men in the history of Chicago.”

When Augusta Rosenwald died in 1929, Julius married Adelaide Rau. Adelaide was from New York and outlived Julius, who died in 1938. The second Mrs. Rosenwald died in 1949.

**Known images:** Bentley Library at the University of Michigan.

## The West

Mrs. Gardiner Greene (Esther Fiske) Hammond  
Montecito, California  
Bonnymede

**Date:** After 1911.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** George Taloumis, *Boston Sunday Globe*, September 16, 1956.

**Notes:** The Gardiner Greenes had six children during their marriage but were divorced in 1912. Bonnymede became Mrs. Hammond's western home, although she lived intermittently in Boston with her brother, Reverend George S. Fiske, at 121 Commonwealth Avenue and had a summer home in Maplewood, New Hampshire, ca. 1910. She was the granddaughter of the enormously wealthy James Madison Beebe, the owner of Jordan Marsh Company, a large chain of department stores.

As early as the 1870s, the Santa Barbara/Montecito area was being touted as a health resort and a destination for wealthy Americans. Development began in earnest after the railroad reached San Francisco in 1901 and travel from the east coast was possible by either ship or rail. In 1911 Mrs. Hammond purchased Bonnymede, built and named by the original owner William H. Davidson and designed by Jose Luis Curletti, a local architect. The house site was spectacular, with wide ocean views and the cachet of an expensive neighborhood. The house, not pretentious, was a large, wooden structure with generous windows and wide porches, ideal for Esther Hammond's large family.

Despite her enormous wealth (she owned part of an Australian opal mine and occasionally gave her guests polished opals as gifts), Mrs. Hammond expected her children to work on the estate, helping with the stables, the extensive vegetable gardens, and a dairy and poultry farm. She initiated projects, like the Blue Bird Garage, Stables, and Taxicab Service, which had a philanthropic component. Begun in 1918, the Blue Bird Garage provided jobs for local soldiers returned from World War I and lessons in responsibility for the six Hammond youngsters.

Mrs. Hammond's estate ultimately contained about 64 acres. An aerial view in mid-1930 reveals rolling lawns, a separate beach house, a golf course, and an air strip (for son George's airplane). The caption for the view points out the formal gardens left of the main house, doubtless the site of Rose's work for her long-time Boston friend who had been a guest at Mastlands in October 1901. Nothing additional is known about the extent of this commission, but that Rose did work for Esther Hammond was established by George Taloumis in his September 16, 1956 *Boston Sunday Globe* article.

Esther Hammond's portrait, ca. 1903, by John Singer Sargent, is in the Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts. See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and her Family* for other details.

**Known images:** David F. Myrick, *Montecito and Santa Barbara*, volume 2.

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Miss Florence L. Pond  
Near Speedway and Wilmot on the East Side  
Tucson, Arizona  
Stone Ashley

**Date:** Possibly mid-1930s.

**Extent of work:** Not known.

**Source of attribution:** George Taloumis in *Boston Sunday Globe*, September 16, 1956.

**Notes:** Miss Pond's home, Stone Ashley, was named for her father, a successful lawyer from Detroit. Grosvenor Atterbury (from New York) was the architect for the 17-room residence with 20 acres of gardens and about 200 acres of natural desert (now the Mountain Oyster Club). See *At Home on Beacon Hill: Rose Standish Nichols and her Family* for more details.

This commission is different from all of the Nichols jobs identified to date. Here Rose designed a garden on a sandy mesa surrounded by the Rincon Mountains in surely one of the driest plant environments possible. This dictated a specific plant palette, probably unlike any other plant list that she produced. Atterbury and his associate, John Tompkins, designed a state-of-the-art cooling system for this large desert home that also served to irrigate the plantings and ornament the outdoor spaces, which included a swimming pool, a bathhouse, and a games lawn.

A 1938 *House and Garden* article mentions some plants used at Stone Ashley and includes an allée of Japanese privet trees [*Ligustrum japonicum*], as well as orange and grapefruit trees, which merged “with the natural desert growth of greasewood [*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*], cactus, and palo verde [*Parkinsonia*] bushes.”

**Known images:** Rose Standish Nichols. “Desert Country,” *House and Garden*, vol. 74, #6, December 1938, 58-61.

**Selected images (10):**



Credit: Rose Standish Nichols. “Desert Country: ‘Stone Ashley.’ Miss Florence L. Pond’s estate rises from the sandy mesa near Tucson, Arizona.” *House and Garden*, December 1938.





Credit: Rose Standish Nichols. "Desert Country: 'Stone Ashley.' Miss Florence L. Pond's estate rises from the sandy mesa near Tucson, Arizona." *House and Garden*, December 1938.



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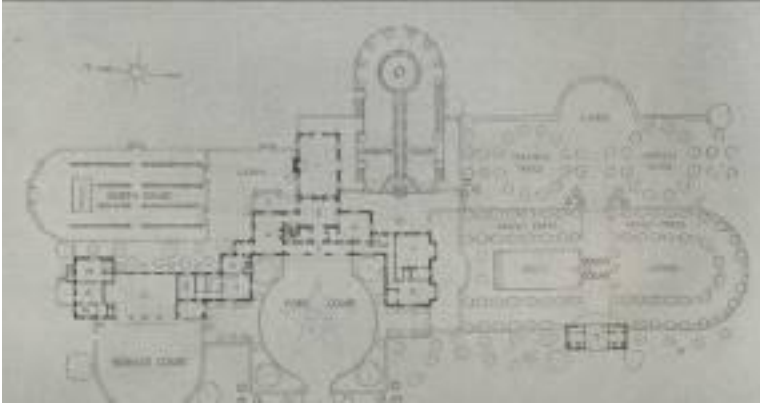
Credit: Rose Standish Nichols. "Desert Country: 'Stone Ashley.' Miss Florence L. Pond's estate rises from the sandy mesa near Tucson, Arizona." *House and Garden*, December 1938.



Credit: Rose Standish Nichols. "Desert Country: 'Stone Ashley.' Miss Florence L. Pond's estate rises from the sandy mesa near Tucson, Arizona." *House and Garden*, December 1938.



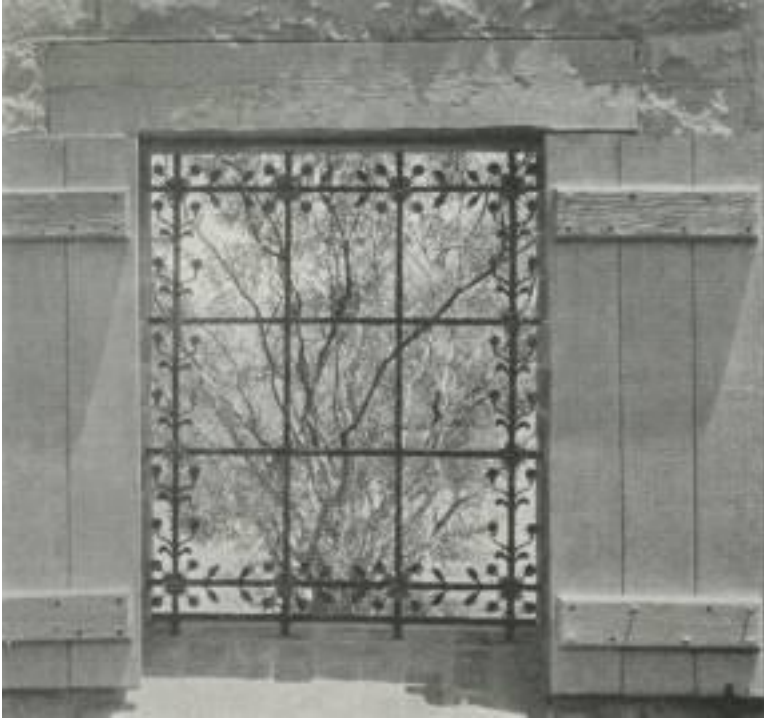
Credit: Rose Standish Nichols. "Desert Country: 'Stone Ashley.' Miss Florence L. Pond's estate rises from the sandy mesa near Tucson, Arizona." *House and Garden*, December 1938.



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Credit: Rose Standish Nichols. "Desert Country: 'Stone Ashley.' Miss Florence L. Pond's estate rises from the sandy mesa near Tucson, Arizona." *House and Garden*, December 1938.

[Unconfirmed Commissions]  
Possible Landscape Clients  
Drawn from material in the Nichols family papers

- On December 27, 1908, Elizabeth Nichols wrote to Rose Nichols c/o Miss M. E. Wood, 457 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York. Rose usually stayed with her clients when she worked for them, which suggests that Miss Wood may have been a client.
  
- A letter from Elizabeth Nichols to Arthur Nichols, September 28, 1915: “Apparently Rose will not get back for some time yet. She is to be in Pittsburgh, the last of this week, then in Buffalo, and possibly go to Stockbridge, Newport, etc. on her way home. Her address in Buffalo will be care of Mrs. William B. Hoyt, 1150 Amherst Street, and she may arrive there next Sunday.” Rose Nichols’s travel details, as mentioned in the family papers, give clues to the location of her commissions. Her Pittsburgh stops may have been to carry out work for Edward Bok and Rodman Wanamaker.
  
- In a letter, March, 1925, Elizabeth Nichols wrote: “Rose is in New York, Tuxedo, Lake Forest and Winnetka, Ill. to attend to gardens.” Who were her clients in New York? Was one of them Miss M. E. Wood (above)? And who were her clients in Winnetka?
  
- A letter from Elizabeth Nichols to Arthur Nichols, October 1902: “A lady in Petersham has written to inquire as to terms in regard to some advice concerning her garden.” One possible candidate would be poet and women’s rights activist from Petersham Emmeline B. Wells (1828-1921).
  
- A letter from Arthur Nichols to Rose Nichols, July 3, 1914 records payments to Rose from Frank Hibbard for \$144.43 (\$3,250 in 2010 dollars). Research reveals that one Frank Hibbard built a Mediterranean-style stucco house in the Deerpath Hill Estates near the Onwentsia Club in 1903. It was designed by Arthur Heun, who later worked on Mellody Farm, the huge estate of J. Ogden Armour. Hibbard was a partner in Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett, and Company, which became the True Value hardware chain.

In response to a query about the Hibbard gardens, Arthur Miller, co-author of *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest*, said, “It is certainly believable that Rose

Nichols could have been the designer,” but he was not aware of any documentation. Paul Bergmann, who nominated the Hibbard Estate for registration on the National Register of Historic Places, agreed. Bergmann noted that the house, as built in 1903, was published in *Western Architect* in 1906 and said that “the photos show a brand new house and the grounds unfinished.” The property was significantly altered in 1929. Bergmann reported that Hibbard also built a house in 1930, which he called Out of Bounds, on the seventeenth fairway of the Shore Acres Country Club near Lake Bluff.

A second possibility is found in a book by Robert E. Grese, *Prairie Gardens of Simonds and Jensen*. Grese describes “the Hibbard garden in Winnetka, Illinois” (p. 112). Whether this was the Frank Hibbard who paid Rose Nichols \$144.43 is not established, but this does reflect Elizabeth Nichols’s comment in 1925 that Rose was in Winnetka for garden work.

- Another possible early client is Rose’s good friend, Jeanne N. (Guth) Colt. Jeanne Guth, from Peoria, Illinois, married lawyer James Denison Colt on June 30, 1896. They built a summer home in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, James Colt’s birthplace. On January 19, 1896 Jeanne wrote to Rose (she was overseeing the building of the country place in Pittsfield prior to her marriage) and suggested, “After we are in our country home, I hope you will be a most frequent visitor, and that when I am getting settled you will be near so you can come out and make suggestions.” The Colts’ city home was in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. Jeanne Colt was one of Rose Nichols’s valued friends and the two women remained in touch for many years. Jeanne was a guest at Mastlands in September 1906.

## POSSIBLE SOURCES

For further information about Rose Standish Nichols's commissions, the following collections may contain original drawings, manuscripts, correspondence, etc., or in some way refer to work by Rose Standish Nichols.

Ames, IA: Iowa State University, School of Design. Warren Henry Manning Archives.

Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan. Jens Jensen Papers.

Brookline, MA: Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. Frederick Law Olmsted and others archives and files.

Cambridge, MA: Harvard University, Frances Loeb Library. John Charles Olmsted Collection.

Chicago, IL: The Art Institute of Chicago. David Adler Collection, 1860-2003 (bulk 1925-2001).

Chicago, IL: University of Chicago. Edward Larned Ryerson Papers.

Chicago, IL: The Art Institute of Chicago. Howard Van Doren Shaw Collection, 1875-1996 (bulk 1896-1925).

Chicago, IL: Chicago History Museum. Shaw-Wells Family Papers, 1792-1977.

Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania State Archives. Mattie Edwards Hewitt Photograph Collection, no 380.

Lisle, IL: Morton Arboretum Library Special Collections. Jens Jensen Papers.

Lowell, MA: University of Massachusetts-Lowell. Jens Jensen Papers.

Newark, NJ: The New Jersey Historical Society. Mattie Edwards Hewitt Negative Collection.

New York, NY: Columbia University. Grosvenor Atterbury Papers and Photographs, circa 1900-1994.

New York, NY: The New York Historical Society. Mattie Edwards Hewitt and Richard A. Smith Photograph Collection.

New Haven, CT: Yale University Library. Franklin MacVeagh Papers.

Santa Barbara, CA: University of California, Architecture and Design Collection of the University Museum. Irving J. Gill Archive.

Washington, DC: Library of Congress. Frederick Law Olmsted Papers.

Washington, DC: Library of Congress. The Olmsted Associates Papers.

Washington, DC: The American Society of Landscape Architects Papers.