

God's Pocket and The Field House Notes

Prepared by Jenna Jandreau, April 2023.

Please excuse the ephemeral nature of web links.

Rachel Lyman Field:

- From Carl Little's intro in the *God's Pocket* reprint:
playwright, illustrator, children's book author, poet, novelist.
Born in 1894 in New York City.
Moved to Massachusetts in 1895.
Attended Radcliffe University as a special student, 1914-1918
[from Robin Clifford Wood: In 1918, Rachel directed a group of Sutton Island children in a performance of her play, "Three Pills in a Bottle." Fifteen minutes before showtime, the child playing the part of the scissors grinder "fell ill with mumps," and Rachel had to play the part.]
1929: *Hitty: Her First One Hundred Years*
Newbury Medal: First to a woman
1934: *God's Pocket*
["[Something Told the Wild Geese](#)" poem, printed in Childlife Magazine, 1934.]
["[Snow By Night](#)" poem, printed in Childlife Magazine, November 1934.]
1935: novel *All This, and Heaven Too* made into 1940 movie starring Bette Davis
1935: *Time Out of Mind*, which "evokes the last days of the clipper ships" in Bucksport, received the first-ever National Book Award.
1935: She marries Arthur Pederson
[Rachel Field, Arthur Pederson, Cranberry Isles, 1935 with inscription:
<https://gcihs.digitalarchive.us/items/show/1962>]
1939: adopted daughter Hannah
March 15, 1943: Rachel dies in Los Angeles, age 47

Visited Sutton Island every summer since she was 15.

Bought "The Playhouse" on Sutton with royalties from her first book of plays.

Field was given Captain Samuel Hadlock Jr.'s journal to read by her grandson, Samuel Sanford (1852-1933).

Majority of the local Rachel Field collections are at Islesford Historical Society and Great Cranberry Island Historical Society (path leads to Sammy Sanford's house; Hitty's Cafe)

Islesford:

Copies of a broadside advertising the appearance of Eskimaux George Niagungitok in London:
<https://ihs.digitalarchive.us/items/show/668>

Copies of her books

GCI:

Large Hitty Doll: <https://gcihs.digitalarchive.us/items/show/1336>
[Navigation chart of Norway](#), likely belonging to Samuel Hadlock, Jr.

German pocket dictionary from 1823. Inscribed on first page "Mrs. Caroline Hadlock her book"
According to the deed of gift this dictionary originally belonged to "The Prussian Lady", wife of Samuel Hadlock Jr. The book was given by Sammy Sanford to Barbara Shaw Weickent (sp?) (W.K. Shaw, Jr.'s daughter) and Gordon H. Shaw. <https://gcihs.digitalarchive.us/items/show/1067>

[Early Hadlock papers, contains references to the *Minerva*](#)

Samuel Hadlock Jr. and *God's Pocket* (1934)

The reprint: 1999 reprint by Northeast Harbor Library, GCI Historical Society and Islesford Historical Society

Preface by Robert Pyle

Intro by Carl Little

Dedicated to Sammy Sanford

Samuel Clark Sanford, Great Cranberry Island, ca. 1930

<https://www.mainememory.net/artifact/82300>

Acknowledgement: William Sawtelle, Islesford Museum

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P. 3: "The tide was in, and the small cove so full of sea that the spruces on the sheltering point were almost wading in their own reflections."

P. 8: "Samuel Hadlock and his four brothers were Island-born and had been bred to boats from the cradle."

The Cranberry Isles were more populated and busy than MDI at that time.

SHJ was more into the Arctic than the Caribbean ventures.

Married Amah Richardson of Bass Harbor in 1812.

They had three children before Amah died.

SHJ takes off for Europe with three indigenous people, one an infant.

[Portrait of Samuel Hadlock Jr.](#)

Hadlock's journals: "Many of the pages are missing"

Hadlock's journals. Team effort by Marie Yarborough (NPS), Julia Gray (for Friends of Islesford History), and Maureen Fournier. Julia Gray: He makes very little reference to the Inuit family (or the later Romany substitutes) in these journals, which is really remarkable to me.

England, Wales, and Ireland, 1822-1823:

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/ACAD/SearchResults/albumid/a5457759-46de-4c38-baaf-8cd3825f1f06>

Europe, 1824-1826:

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/ACAD/SearchResults/albumid/45b67eb2-f155-4f1e-b6d2-da91ca693547>

Nautical Chart of Ireland with annotations

<https://gcihs.digitalarchive.us/items/show/2328>

1824: Samuel Hadlock Jr., Silhouette done in London (age 32) done by Edward Ward Foster.

Hadlock writes of "prostitutes," Napoleon, but barely about the "Esquimaux."

Prussian lady: "prettiest woman on any of the islands"

Sammy Sanford, according to RF, only spoke critically of his grandfather once, and that was for never taking his grandmother, “the Prussian lady,” back to her native country as he said he would.

Samuel Sanford’s mother was born to Samuel Hadlock Jr. and the Prussian Lady in 1826.

“The Preble House” was built by Samuel Hadlock Jr. and his brother.

1829: Took command of the *Minerva* crewed by Maine men
The fate of the *Minerva*: the Cranberry Isles worst maritime tragedy

Robin Clifford Wood wrote a ghost story, "The Ballad of Hadlock, the Seal Hunter Showman," was produced as part of an audio series in Penobscot Theatre Company's 2020/2021 season, "Digitus Theatrum." here’s an audio version: https://youtu.be/VyGla-s_N8Q.

Jane Matilda Hadlock Sanford, Great Cranberry Island, ca. 1855

<https://www.mainememory.net/artifact/82284>

Sammy, his mother, and grandmother “The Prussian Lady” are all buried in SWH.
Lori Boynton from Book Club: “Years ago, my sister and I were determined to find these stones after reading the book!” After exploring several cemeteries, we found them. (sent along numerous photos)

“The Field House” by Robin Clifford Wood

[Carl Little’s review of *The Field House*](#) by Robin Clifford Wood. Carl mentions that Field’s bathing suit is at the GHMM in Northeast Harbor.

NewsCenter video on Robin Clifford Wood and *The Field House*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heK1NDkKCUE>

P. 12: “All of her novels and much of her poetry include elements of history, often her own family history, including conflict around the breaking of social barriers.”

P. 106: “‘People become welded to places,’ Rachel was quoted to say. ‘As Willa Cather is welded to her prairie towns, I am fused with the coast of Maine. It doesn’t matter whether I write Maine books in Maine or New York. The feeling of Maine is always with me.’”

P. 114: Rachel’s Scottie things, such as a Scottie-shaped candle snuffer, hooked rug of a girl holding a Scottie on a leash, etc. The fact that stuff remains because of the island’s remoteness.

P. 199: Rachel writes to Louise of how she got Hadlock’s journals while visiting Sammy Sanford with Rosamund

P. 206: Rachel loved to visit Gotts Island. She describes Miss Peterson’s house! And used it as the setting for “Delphinium” in *Points East*

Additional Resources:

“Beyond God’s Pocket” booklet
By Hugh Dwelley, president of Islesford Historical Society

“A Cabin in the Woods: A Story of Sammy Sanford and Rachel Field,” by Wini Smart (2011)
Samuel Sanford Photo: <https://gcihs.digitalarchive.us/items/show/2327>

“Ye Old Gods of Somesville” by Rachel Field, reprinted by MDI Historical Society, copies still available.

Chebacco 2005: [Hadlock’s Eskimos](#) by Hugh Dwelley

“This paper, although unsigned, appears very likely to have been written by Professor Sawtelle. In this paper, Sawtelle places Hadlock first in the context of his Cranberry Island family and subsequently in the historical and cultural settings of the old European cities he visits and so admires. This paper and GOD’S POCKET take note of how little is said in Hadlock’s journal about the Eskimos who accompanied him and who were the primary feature of his show. Recent research in Labrador, the United States and Europe has revealed a great deal more about the Eskimos which will be presented in the next issue of this Journal.” Sent to R. Pyle by Hugh Dwelley. (include’s a photocopy of George’s death certificate) <https://nehl.digitalarchive.us/items/show/852>

Misc.:

[Photos](#) of “An Evening with Rachel Field” with play about Rachel and Sammy written by Hugh Dwelley

[Letter from Rachel Field to Sawtelle](#), in NEHL collection. Field wishes him luck with his “museum.” <https://nehl.digitalarchive.us/items/show/493>

Friends of Hitty ladies with Bruce Komusin: <https://gcihs.digitalarchive.us/items/show/845>