

Abbe Museum - Sieur de Monts Establishing Dr. Abbe's Museum in Mr. Dorr's Park

by Ronald H. Epp Ph.D.

For nearly fifty years (1881-1928) the paths of two prominent Bar Harbor residents intersected repeatedly. Dr. Robert Abbe (1851-1928) and Mr. George B. Dorr (1853-1944) were moving independently in the same direction, aligned with other summer and permanent Hancock County residents, toward improving the quality of life on Mount Desert Island (MDI). In the last six years of Dr. Abbe's life, Dorr and Abbe would share the path that led to a glade beside the Springhouse at Sieur de Monts in Lafayette National Park. At this site a museum of native American artifacts was being erected that would bear Dr. Abbe's name. Unfortunately, he would not witness its dedication nor oversee its early development.

In 2003 the Abbe Museum celebrated its 75th anniversary; the same year marked the 150th anniversary of Mr. Dorr's birth. The intersection of the interests of Dorr and Abbe, the exercise of their distinctive areas of expertise, and their shared values would prove to be very important for the development of the Island. Their collaborative effort was a deliberate attempt to create scientific and cultural instruments that both preserved the beauty and health of the Island as well as the remains from pre-European settlement. A timely

assessment of their relationship will deepen our appreciation of the unique dynamic that shaped the genesis of Acadia National Park, the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, and the Abbe Museum.

Many people who are steeped in the traditions of MDI are acquainted with the basic biographical details of these two rusticators. Robert Abbe was born in New York City, educated in its public schools and graduated from both the College of the City of New York and the College of Physicians and Surgeons. A friend and biographer of Dr. Abbe referred to "his exactness of thought, his precision of action, his deftness of hand...his sympathetic spirit, his courage and imagination which drove him into the great and vital calling of a surgeon."² In the last two decades of the 19th century he pioneered techniques at St. Luke's Hospital and other metropolitan medical centers that yielded new procedures in cranial, spinal, and intestinal surgery that remain standard procedures to this day. During this period Abbe adopted Bar Harbor as his summer retreat. Attracted to the non-invasive potential of newly discovered radium, in 1904 he visited the Paris laboratories of Pierre and Marie Curie. After returning to America, Dr. Abbe introduced this new therapy to his colleagues and for the remainder of his life experimented with its applications. The aplastic anemia that took his life in 1928 may have resulted from experimentation with a radioactive substance of uncertain properties.

Like Dr. Abbe, George Bucknam Dorr's origins were cosmopolitan and he too traced his ancestors back to early 17th-century English origins. Dorr's parents were affluent Boston Brahmins who sent their two sons to Harvard College and traveled widely as a family on the Continent and to Mediterranean countries. Shortly after the death of their eldest son they journeyed to Bar Harbor and were sufficiently impressed with the area to purchase seventy acres of land facing Compass Harbor. With no strong economic incentive to pursue a profession, George Dorr's involvement with the Harvard scholarly community grew as its Philosophy Department, under the leadership of William James, entered its Golden Age.

At the same time Dorr's involvement with the new Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association (BHVIA) intensified, especially

in horticultural and trailblazing endeavors. Beginning in 1901 Dorr found his "profession" in executing the mission of the newly formed Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations (HCTPR), "an endeavor to preserve for public enjoyment the scenic and historic sites of Mount Desert." A lifelong bachelor, Dorr's sustained romance was with this place, a decidedly non-cosmopolitan island in Frenchman Bay. Over four decades he assiduously assembled tracts of land, negotiated the donation of this land to the people of the United States, and administered the first national park east of the Rocky Mountains for twenty-eight years until his death in 1944 at 90 years of age.

What led Dorr, Abbe and other notable rusticators to steward this small island, a place to which none were wedded by family ties or economic necessity? In these times when we journey to a locale for recreational pursuits, few of us entertain the vexing question so important to these summer residents: how might this island be improved and protected from forces that would degrade it or segregate it from public use?

The Culture of Bar Harbor

Most of us have more than passing familiarity with the 19th century benchmarks of MDI development. The discovery of the natural splendors of the Island by the artists of the Hudson River School and the ease of movement to the Island from metropolitan areas by steam-powered ships and railroad resulted in the post-Civil War discovery of the island by Boston, Philadelphia, and New York families whose wealth was largely a product of the Industrial Revolution.

We know from hotel registry lists published in the *Mount Desert Herald* that Dr. Abbe first took rooms in the Belmont Hotel in 1881, and thereafter routinely summered in Bar Harbor as the community rapidly prospered. Following his marriage he and his wife Catherine purchased Brook End abutting Frenchman Bay beside Duck Brook.

Although the documentation of the first decade of the Abbe's involvement in Bar Harbor culture is minimal, the evidence for the Dorr family's activities is substantial. Charles and Mary Dorr began

to summer in Bar Harbor in the early 1870's. Like the Abbes their lives were rooted in the Gilded Age cities where they could hobnob with prominent citizens like the celebrated publisher James Fields; his close friend Charles Dickens was invited to a Christmas eve dinner at the Dorr's Boston residence.⁴ In Bar Harbor they designed a state-of-the-art cottage which was winterized for year round occupancy. Built in 1878, Old Farm and its bountiful gardens became a social nexus under the careful direction of Mary Dorr, where family, friends, literary, scientific, and political notables were invited. Her guest book is one of the most cherished possessions of the Bar Harbor Historical Society Museum. It documents the intellectual environment afforded young George Dorr in Bar Harbor although the intellectuals in Cambridge provided him with a scholarly environment more to his liking.

The earliest documented interaction between Robert Abbe and George Dorr occurs early in the 20th century when Catherine Abbe, his wife, contributed financially to establish the Building of the Arts, Bar Harbor's first cultural icon. As President of the Building of the Arts Founders Committee, George Dorr sought "to increase not only the love for music but the desire for whatever is excellent in art."5 In 1905 Catherine Abbe, George W. Vanderbilt and others joined Dorr in purchasing land adjacent to the Kebo Valley Club and funded the initial architectural design of this new facility. According to the obituary in the Bar Harbor Times, both Dr. and Mrs. Abbe "were among the moving spirits whose vision and energy resulted in the [1907] completion of the Building of the Arts." For more than thirty years the Building of the Arts Associates would offer Island residents performing artists of international renown, due in no small part to Catherine Abbe's continuing involvement until her death in 1920.

Improving and Protecting Life

During the first decade of the 20th century Dorr and Abbe deepened their formal involvement in the development of the Island. George Dorr and his parents were active in the local village improvement association from its inception in 1891. The BHVIA minutes provide extensive documentation of the involvement of Mary and George Dorr in the diverse committees that were responsible for

community quality of life in the absence of a centralized town government structure that we now take for granted.

One key BHVIA concern was public health issues which were the

responsibility of the sanitation committee. In an era when little was known about bacteriology and disease transmission, the Island's village improvement societies were the sole investigative, corrective, and preventative agents to the threats posed by contaminated water, milk, and a host of pestilences. The BHVIA annual reports contain recurring news of efforts to mitigate malaria, typhoid, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, and other afflictions. In 1907 Dr. Abbe founded the Sanitation Committee and worked closely



Dr. Robert Abbe

with Dorr and other committee members to develop public health policies and procedures.⁷ Following his death in 1928, the BHVIA minutes would memorialize Dr. Abbe as "a lover of nature, a man of artistic sensitiveness, a scientist, a surgeon, a gentleman of distinguished attainments, and a rarely lovable friend."⁸

In time Abbe became interested in the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations (HCTPR), an organization that grew from the vision of Harvard University President Charles W. Eliot. Formed in 1901 through the efforts of eight incorporators (including Eliot, Dorr, John S. Kennedy, and Luere Deasy of Bar Harbor), the Trustees became the key agent in changing resident perception about the importance of the unique natural beauties of the Island. On January 1, 1903 the Trustees were incorporated by the state of Maine "to acquire, hold and maintain and improve for free public use lands in Hancock County which by reason of scenic beauty, historical interest, sanitary advantage or for other reasons may be available for the purpose."

In 1910 Dr. Abbe's name first appeared on the HCTPR membership list. This date also signaled the first documented interaction between him and Dorr. Its consequence would have dramatic implications for the Island. Dr. Abbe sent a letter to Dorr, who was the land acquisition agent for the Trustees, identifying land development on the shores of Eagle Lake that threatened the purity of Bar Harbor's water supply. Relying as well on Seal Harbor physician William T. Sedgwick (whose recent monograph on public water supplies was regarded as authoritative), Dorr used this latest sanitation threat to mount a formidable campaign in the State capital. His intent was to protect the public from the self serving interests of land developers.

In short order he secured the power of eminent domain for the Trustees from the State of Maine. With one mighty stroke Dorr revealed the political astuteness that would grow in the decades ahead. The authority embedded in the legal concept of eminent domain not only protected Bar Harbor health in the short run but also enabled the Trustees to realize more easily their long range conservation objectives for MDI.

The magnitude of Dorr's achievements as executive agent for the Trustees is well documented in correspondence between President Eliot and John D. Rockefeller Jr. Dorr's aggressive acquisition of protected land prompted both men to express to one another their concern that too many properties were acquired at the expense of Dorr's personal fortune. Of the 129 properties acquired by the Trustees in its first 38 years, an astounding 53 properties (from small parcels to tracts of more than a thousand acres) were executed by Dorr during a brief eight year period between 1908 and 1915. Two small parcels west of Duck Brook were deeded to the Trustees by Dr. Abbe in September 1919; no documentation identifies the motivation for the gift but it is hard to believe that Dorr was not involved.

Outside the Trustee framework, Abbe allied himself with Dorr's land acquisition activities. Following the death in 1914 of the famous Philadelphia physician S. Weir Mitchell--who summered in Bar Harbor--residents discussed at length a suitable memorial for this beloved gentleman. Since marine biology was one of Mitchell's

interests, Dorr thought that his name should be associated with a living memorial where scientific research was pursued. Once a suitable site was identified, he asked Abbe to draft an appeal for funds to purchase the old Emery Farm in Hulls Cove. Within another five years the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory (MDIBL) would be established in there due in no small part to this alliance.¹² These activities clearly show development of the skills required for

creation and management of institutional enterprises.

Mapping the Island Both Abbe and Dorr trekked the trails and memorial paths of the Island. For more than three decades Dorr constructed footpaths and supervised trail development that went well beyond Bar Harbor. Repeatedly traversing cross-island carry trails established by the Wabenaki, pathfinders recognized that many routes provided access to inland ponds and marshes utilized for hunting and gathering of



Park Superintendent George Buckman Dorr

consumables.¹³ Dorr was also attentive to the subtle topographical variations that would prove essential in orchestrating Trustees land acquisition. The complexity of Dorr's geographically centered mental landscape was critical to the property demarcation issues involved in the development of Lafayette National Park as well as his new collaboration with John D. Rockefeller Jr. in carriage and motor road construction.

During the period 1914 through 1919 Dorr was entirely focused on the federal government processes involved in legally transferring more than 5,000 acres of Trustee land to the United States. Although President Wilson created from this donated land the Sieur de Monts National Monument in 1916 a far more complex deed

validation process was involved to secure Congressional approval to establish Lafayette National Park in 1919.¹⁴ It is not unreasonable to suppose that Abbe's interest in mapping the Island would aid this process. A letter in the National Archives provides one indication of the scope of the relationship between Abbe and Dorr. David H. Morris, a Bar Harbor summer resident and friend to both Abbe and Dorr, wrote to Secretary of the Interior Franklin Lane in August 1917 regarding the renaming of Island geographical features. Morris' letter cites four reasons--credited to Dr. Abbe-- for renaming Dry Mountain (also known as Flying Squadron Mountain) as Dorr Mountain.¹⁵ At a time when government policies prohibited naming geographical features after individuals who were still alive, Abbe's high regard for his colleague flew in the face of convention.

At the same time Abbe began creating the widely celebrated Champlain Map of Mount Desert Island. Several of these relief maps survive--in the Abbe Museum and the Bar Harbor Historical Society Museum. First designed in 1915, successive versions of this map were produced and widely distributed over the next decade. "Under the direction of Mr. Dorr," the map was photographed and from plates attractive note card maps were distributed as Christmas greetings in 1925. 16

As both men approached their seventh decade their mapping efforts were curtailed by age and failing health. Governor Ralph Brewster articulated the concerns of Dr. Abbe's friends for the "weariness, the fever, and the fret" that he endured, requiring repeated hospitalization and frequent transfusions. 17 Both men had reason to be concerned for each other's health. Dorr who was hospitalized during this period following a narrow escape from death when he was struck by an auto in Boston. As an avid hiker and trailblazer, Dorr might reasonably fear that his legs would fail him as he aged. In the end, it would not be his legs that would betray him, but his eyes. The glaucoma that had restricted his reading ability since his Harvard College years and would ultimately lead to blindness--and diminished capacities--in the decade following Abbe's death.

The Vision of the Museum

In his 1935 memorial essay, Reverend William Lawrence acknowledges that at 71 years of age, Abbe's "work seemed to be finished; his health was failing and invalidism to his life's end was certain." ¹⁸

However, the sight of the native American stone implements that lay behind F.E. Sherman's china store window on Cottage street revitalized Abbe and presented him with a new challenge. In The Beginnings of a Museum, Abbe recalled this moment as inspiration for the park museum: "When I saw these implements...I was filled with a desire to possess and study them." Abbe purchased the stones and after returning to New York "the idea of utilizing them as a nucleus for a local museum possessed me." At the 1928 museum dedication Judge Leure Deasy remarked that "hundreds of us cast a glance at [these stones] and passed on." Only Abbe grasped their significance and anticipated their museum applications.

The realization of this vision required both local and national support. Although the details are unknown, within two years Dorr would bring Secretary of the Interior Hubert Work to Brook End to meet Dr. Abbe.²¹ He viewed the artifacts and Abbe sketched his museum project. He recalls that Secretary Work "was enthusiastic ...and showed me a telegram...conveying a gift of \$60,000 from the Laura Spellman Rockefeller Foundation for a similar museum for the Yellowstone Park."²² The MDI artifacts were also displayed locally at the Jesup Memorial Library. John D. Rockefeller Jr. wrote to Dr Abbe that his "boys" will appreciate seeing them there.²³ Dorr continued to play a key role in fostering public awareness of this growing collection of artifacts by writing to National Park Service Director Stephen Tyng Mather that "my old friend, Dr. Robert Abbe of New York, has become deeply interested during this past summer, in the establishment of an Indian museum in connection with the Park."²⁴

At this juncture we should pause to inquire about the extent of Dorr's interest in native American culture. The only clear evidence is a 1919 letter in which Dorr states his intent to publish a series of papers focused on native and European interactions.²⁵ Though we may judge his scholarly interest in native cultures as slight, his commitment to realizing Abbe's vision was not.

The Scope of the Museum

Although Dorr's inherited wealth supported many of his conservation enterprises, Abbe required financial support in order to realize his museum vision. Since Abbe was inexperienced in fund raising, he relied on others for advice. Following the significant initial \$25,000 endowment from Mrs. Walter G. Ladd, Reverend Lawrence offered Abbe nothing less than a short course in fundraising involving community education, publicity, and extensive glad handing. One important potential donor had already been approached; in April 1926 Abbe sent John D. Rockefeller Jr. both the newest relief map and a sketch of the proposed museum. Even though the sketch was returned, the seed had been planted and Mr. Rockefeller contributed \$10,000 in his name and another \$5,000 as a memorial to Dr. Cornelius Woelfkin, a physician and friend. 27

October 11th, 1926 marked an important milestone when Museum President Dorr signed the papers incorporating the museum within Lafayette National Park; curiously, Abbe's name is absent from these legal documents. Correspondence between Dorr and Abbe now center on the establishment of a museum organizational structure, committee assignments, and finalization of the incorporator list required by the State of Maine. Over the winter months Dorr and Abbe planned the construction of the museum although it is unclear what roles each assumed. What is clear is that Dorr sought to expand Abbe's familiarity with museum curatorship by introducing him to William Otis Sawtelle, founder of the Islesford Historical Museum.

Philadelphia architect Edmund B. Gilchrist was commissioned to design the structure. In April 1927 Dorr writes to Abbe in New York City of his daylong meetings with Gilchrist discussing site and museum design as well as topics from grades of quarried stone to shades of roof tiles. Dorr was clearly pleased with the architectural parallels between the Sieur de Monts Springhouse and the proposed museum, an affinity recognized by landscape architect Beatrix Farrand.²⁸ Architect Gilchrist wrote to Dorr that at Abbe's suggestion architectural invoices would be sent to Dorr to ensure payment by museum treasurer, Judge Deasy. Work began on June 12, 1927 with granite stone for the structure footprint secured from a quarry

owned by Dorr.²⁹ To this day the foundation of the park museum rests on granite provided at Dorr's personal expense.

Despite Dorr's monumental efforts to develop a constructive relationship between the Island and the federal government, there were problems between the museum and the new National Park Service (NPS). Dorr's failure to report the use of Lafayette National Park resources for museum purposes in his monthly superintendent reports to the NPS is highly provocative. Without his silence on this matter, museum construction may have been handicapped by governmental accountability concerns.

The Vision Realized

Dr. Abbe did not live to see his museum completed. His death in March 1928, received worldwide news coverage. While the obituaries were similar, one claim is curious as well as misleading. The New York World refers to Dr. Abbe as a "prime mover" in the establishment of Lafayette National Park whereas The New York Times refers to Dr. Abbe's "role" in its creation. No surviving documents support these claims although the Bar Harbor Times announcement of Dr. Abbe's death cannot be easily dismissed. "A notable trio" is the phrase used to describe Eliot, Dorr, and Abbe in the establishment of Sieur de Monts National Monument and their subsequent efforts to create Lafayette National Park; this claim echoes an earlier editorial which claimed that Dorr was "closely identified with Dr. Abbe's work, as Dr. Abbe was with Mr. Dorr's founding of Lafayette National Park." 30

The August 14, 1928 dedication of the museum was a commemoration of the life of Dr. Abbe, although it would be another nine years before the museum formally adopted Abbe's name. The newspaper report of the dedication acknowledged the 72 donors who supported the museum, but directed attention to Dorr who had "much to do with the Museum, especially since Dr. Abbe's death, carrying out the doctor's wishes."³¹

Compelling evidence of the Dorr/Abbe relationship is revealed in events after Abbe's death. The telegram from Abbe's relatives that informed the Bar Harbor community of his death.was sent to Old Farm in care of Dorr, his friend for nearly half a century.³² When

the Abbe estate was settled, the largest single bequest (\$50,000) went to May Moon in recognition of her 32 years of service as secretary and caregiver of Dr. Abbe. The only significant gift to someone who was not a relative, employee, or an organization was the \$10,000 bequest to George B. Dorr. Sixteen years later Dorr reciprocated when his executors directed one quarter of his estate to the Abbe Museum.

Everything That Was Best

Dorr continued to provide leadership as one of the museum directors for more than a decade following Abbe's death-even as he distanced himself from issues of control. In 1931 he encouraged Dr. Warren K. Moorehead, the leading authority on Maine archaeology, to continue his fieldwork on behalf of the museum and to prepare a publication on the "Indians of Mount Desert Island." ³³

Dorr's interest in the dynamics of museum purpose, ownership, control, and financing was complex, especially since the NPS was only beginning to develop its own museum policies. Two key issues affected the development of the museum. Tension exists when any private non-profit corporation is legally situated within a public organization. John D. Rockefeller Jr. wrote in 1930 that it was "part of Dorr's contract with me" to effect the "transfer of the Abbe Museum and its endowment to the Park, to be owned and operated by the Park."³⁴ As late as 1944, a Museum board meeting was still struggling with the issue of transferring Museum ownership to the NPS; for nearly two decades board members disputed the recurring park service claim that the 2.3 acre museum property was "under complete [NPS] operative control".³⁵

The other issue involved the nature and control of museum educational activities. A 1929 NPS. publication for administration of educational programs stressed that the park visitor should be provided with the story of the park as a whole even as specialized exhibits were still informally discouraged.³⁶ In a letter to John D. Rockefeller Jr. the following year, Kate Ladd--who provided the keystone endowment for the museum--expressed her growing concern that national policies were interfering with local control.³⁷

These administrative issues are of small consequence within the

context of the life histories of Abbe and Dorr. Their relationship was not exclusively professional; to the contrary, their professional associations were based on a personal relationship that was deep and broad-- a friendship based on shared values sustained over decades. They both were guided by an urge for permanency evident in the preservationist motive behind Abbe's museum and implicit in Dorr's effort to conserve on the Island its enduring beauty.³⁸

The benchmarks are their own words, their sustained actions to conserve "everything that was best" about Mount Desert Island, and their collaborative effort to create a museum that would continue to inspire future generations.

One final document speaks to the impact of their friendship. Dr. Abbe was honored on his seventieth birthday with hundreds of birthday wishes. Expressions of affection were written by friends and professional colleagues; they had been gathered in two handsome volumes and preserved in the Abbe Archives. Dorr's note is deserving of special mention because it employs uncharacteristic religious imagery to convey an implicit message of enduring affection. Dorr states that he feels honored to count himself "among your friends. It is a credential that I shall present to St. Peter at the Heavenly Gate; and St. Peter will open wide! But should I get there first I shall not feel that it is all they've cracked it up to be until you come!"39

As we know, Dr. Abbe would predecease Mr. Dorr by sixteen years. We do not know whether Dorr's "credential" was sufficient to "open wide" the Heavenly Gate. We do know with certainty that the Earthly Gate into Acadia was opened wide to all because of their collaborative efforts.

ENDNOTES:

The following archival archival repositories were consulted:

AA: Robert Abbe Archives, Abbe Museum Archives, Bar Harbor, ME

ANP: Acadia National Park Archives, History of Park Management Records, Bar Harbor, ME

BHVIA: Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association Minutes, Jesup Memorial Library, Bar Harbor, ME

DP: Dorr Papers, Jesup Memorial Library, Bar Harbor, ME

HCTPR: Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations Archives, Woodlawn Museum, Ellsworth, ME

NARA: National Archives & Records Administration, RG 79, Acadia National Park, College Park MD

RAC: Rockefeller Archive Center, Rockefeller Family Archives, RG2, Sleepy Hollow, NY

- 1. This article expands a slide program delivered September 14, 2003 at the Abbe Museum (Bar Harbor, Maine) in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Abbe Museum, an event co-sponsored by the Bar Harbor Historical Society.
- 2. ANP. Box 32, File 18. William Lawrence. Robert Abbe (1935). Pg. 3.
- 3. HCTPR. File 1901, Samuel A. Eliot, A Brief Record of the Origin and Activities of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations (Bar Harbor: 1939).
- 4. M.A. DeWolfe Howe's Memories of a Hostess (Boston: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1922) provides a vivid introduction to Annie Fields, Boston hostess and friend of Mary Dorr.
- 5. RAC. OMR. III.2.I. Box 63, Folder 632. G.B. Dorr, A New Building for Music at Bar Harbor (1905).
- 6. Bar Harbor Times, September 12 & 19, 1928.
- 7. AA. Case VIII. File 8.
- 8. BHVIA. 1929.
- 9. HCTPR, F. 1901, Ibid.
- 10. E.O. Jordan et. al. A Pioneer of Public Health: William Thompson Sedgwick (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1924) tracks Sedgwick's career in this mongraph, noting the influence of the 1905 on Standard Methods of Water Analysis that provided microbiological authority for Dorr and Abbe's claims.
- 11. RAC. OMR. III.2.I. B. 59, F. 441. February 25, 1915 letter from Charles W. Eliot to John D. Rockefeller Jr.
- 12. Franklin H. Epstein (ed.) A Laboratory by the Sea: The Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory 1898-1998 (Rhinebeck, NY: River Press, 1998). This centennial volume contains several important essays (pp. 1-63) on the origins of the Salisbury Cove facility.
- 13. ANP. Margie Coffin Brown. Historic Hiking Trail System of Mount Desert Island (Bar Harbor: National Park Service, Acadia National Park, 1999). Draft. Pp. 11-16.
- 14. George B. Dorr. The Story of Acadia National Park (Bar Harbor: Acadia Publishing, 1985).
- 15. NARA. RG. 79. Acadia. Miscellaneous Reports. F. 12.2, pt. 2.
- 16. Bar Harbor Times, January 13, 1926.
- 17. AA. Case III. Correspondence 1924-26. F. 9/10. Extract of August 21, 1925 letter to Dorr from Brewster.

- 18. ANP. B. 32. F. 18. William Lawrence. Robert Abbe (1935). Pg. 7.
- 19. AA. C. II. F. 2.
- 20. Bar Harbor Times. August 15, 1928.
- 21. Bar Harbor Times. July 16, 1924.
- 22. AA. C. II. F. 2. See also Bar Harbor Times, July 16, 1924.
- 23. AA. C. III. F. 8.
- 24. NARA. RG79. Acadia. 1907-39. November 14, 1924.
- 25. United States Geographic Board. Washington, D.C. April 9, 1919 letter from G.B. Dorr to U.S.G.B. Chairman Frank Bond.
- 26. AA. C. III. F. 2. Letters of August 28, 1926 & September 26, 1926.
- 27. AA. C. III. F. 8. September 15, 1927 letter from John D. Rockefeller Jr. to Dr. Abbe.
- 28. AA. Facilities. C. I. F. 1. May 20, 1927 letter from Beatrix Farrand to G.B. Dorr.
- 29. Bar Harbor Times. November 2, 1927.
- 30. Bar Harbor Times. July 11, 1928.
- 31. Bar Harbor Times. August 15, 1928.
- 32. Bar Harbor Times. March 7 & 14, 1928.
- 33. Bar Harbor Times. March 31, 1928.34. RAC. OMR. III. 2. I. B.74.F.760. July 8, 1930 letter to Fred Lynam.
- 35. AA. C. III. F. 9. April 29, 1944 letter from NPS Director Newton B. Drury to Fletcher T. Wood.
- 36. National Park Service. Harpers Ferry Center Library. Historical Collection. RG19. Box K1810. Reports & Recommendations from the Committee on Study of Educational Problems in National Parks, January 9 & November 27, 1929.
- 37. RAC. OMR. III. 2. I. B. 74. F. 760.
- 38. Judith S. Goldstein lucidly expands on the power of landscape in satisfying Dorr's "urge for permanancy" in her Majestic Mount Desert (Mount Desert, ME: Somes Pond Press, 1966).
- 39. AA. Robert Abbe Seventieth Birthday Correspondence. Two Volumes. April 12, 1921 letter from G.B. Dorr.