



Belle Smallidge Knowles, Boston University graduation, 1899.
Courtesy of the Northeast Harbor Library

Belle Smallidge Knowles, Before Her Time

Brook Ewing Minner

As schoolchildren, we hear about a handful of famous, groundbreaking women who challenged the thinking of their time and paved the way for future generations to live with increased equality: the suffragettes Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, for example, or Jane Addams and her Hull House enterprise. But of course there were numerous women throughout American history who bucked tradition and lived life on their own terms, many of them now forgotten or known only to their own families. Occasionally, there was a woman whose legacy is inseparable from her community. Lilla Belle Smallidge Knowles was one of these women.

Belle Smallidge Knowles lived a life that varied quite radically from most of the women in her time. She left her home in the Town of Mount Desert to attend a private prep school. She graduated from Boston University at a time when very few women attended college. She returned to Mount Desert Island to work as a librarian but, by a rather random set of circumstances, opened a cottage rental business—the first of its kind on the Island. She went on to significantly expand her successful business and continued to work professionally after having children. She returned to college at the age of sixty-nine to become a professional real estate appraiser. Along the way, Belle founded the Northeast Harbor Woman’s Literary Society to educate other women and provide an all-female academic experience. She raised a family and built a business that endures today.

Belle was born in 1870 in the Town of Mount Desert, the second child of Asa and Phebe Rich Stanley Smallidge.¹ The exact date of her birth is not known because, the story goes, a fire at the town hall destroyed various records, her birth certificate included. However, a speech by Belle’s son, delivered to commemorate the installation of a plaque at the Northeast Harbor Library, states her birth date as October 17, 1870.² Asa was a sea captain and his daughter inherited his brave and bold ways. When Belle was just three years old, she wanted to attend school with her older sister, Minnie. In an attempt to discourage her, her mother gave her a pair of boots that were much too large and tied them to her feet with rags. Belle was undeterred. Not only did she make her way to school that day, but she successfully recited the alphabet to an impressed teacher. From then on, Belle was allowed to continue to attend school, for despite her initial reluctance to let the three-year old go, Belle’s mother was generally very supportive of women’s education.³

By all accounts, Belle was a brilliant student. Schooling was not easy to obtain in the late nineteenth century. Weather and work on the family homestead often prevented students from regularly attending school. But Belle persevered and at age seventeen, she was asked to take a teaching position on Cranberry Island. The next year, she taught in Northeast Harbor. By then, her sister Minnie had died and only Belle was left to help care for her parents.

Belle's earnings as a teacher allowed her to enter the Eastern Maine Conference Seminary in Bucksport, a private secondary school, in 1890, when she was eighteen. The curriculum at the seminary was rigorous; Belle took classes in Latin, algebra, physiology, physics, and geometry among other subjects, and also studied music. She graduated with honors and was asked to deliver an essay at her commencement in 1894, for which she also played Mozart's Fantasia E Sonata Opus XVIII.⁴ It was at the seminary, too, where Belle learned to paint.⁵

While Belle was attending secondary school in Bucksport, the village of Northeast Harbor was beginning to change. In a letter to Belle dated October 15, 1899, her mother wrote, "There are quite a number of cottages going up in this place this winter. Manchester is building a good sized [*sic*] one it sets on the west side of the road just below where the sargent road turns off. . . . Smallidge has commenced one just to the South of his mother.



The old Northeast Harbor Library on South Shore Road.
Courtesy of the Northeast Harbor Library

S.D. Sargent is building one just to the west of the library. There is one at the head of the harbor and they say two more on Hannah [*sic*] Point.”⁶

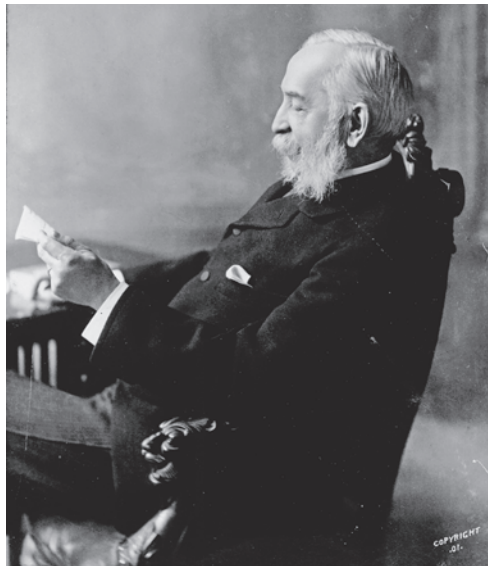
While still attending the seminary, Belle received a letter offering her the position of Librarian at the newly-formed Northeast Harbor Library. Dr. A. F. Chase, President of the Eastern Maine Conference Seminary, advised Belle to take the job.⁷ This position was to be a turning point in Belle’s life.

The library opened in 1892 as a seasonal, private library on the South Shore Road. It contained about six hundred books in 1893 and while it was a small, rural library, it was run by a sophisticated group of people, including Daniel Coit Gilman. From 1856 to 1865, Gilman had served as librarian of Yale College. He became the second president of the University of California in 1872 and in 1876 the first president of Johns Hopkins University. He went on to be the founding president of the Carnegie Institution. Gilman was a revolutionary educator in America. Taking his cue from the German system of higher education, he advocated for many changes, including the inclusion of women at universities.

Gilman had first come to Northeast Harbor in 1885 as a guest of President Eliot of Harvard University. Beginning in 1886, Gilman and his wife

spent their summers at a hotel in Northeast Harbor, eventually buying their own house, “Over-Edge.”⁸ Northeast Harbor was home to many esteemed academics at the time, including Charles William Eliot of Harvard, Andrew Dickson White of Cornell, Charles Kendall Adams of the University of Wisconsin, and Seth Lowe of Columbia University,⁹ and it was decided that the village needed a proper library. Many people subscribed fifty dollars each and events were held to raise sufficient funds to construct the library building on land donated by Captain Smallidge.¹⁰ Gilman served on the Board of Directors and became a major influence in Belle’s life.

Not only did Gilman begin to advise Belle—both on library



Daniel Coit Gilman, 1901. Inscribed on the back: President Eliot, with the grateful recollections of twenty-five years, 1876-1901. D.C. Gilman.

Courtesy of the Northeast Harbor Library

matters and, later, on her career options—but he was apparently a very good boss. One summer, there was a debate about whether to close the library on the Fourth of July in order to give Belle a day off. Gilman felt that some patrons might especially appreciate the quiet atmosphere of the library on this otherwise boisterous day, so he gave Belle the day off and staffed the library himself.¹¹ Gilman’s approach to operating the library, like his approach to education generally, was somewhat radical for the time, and he worked to balance the collection between theological texts and those dealing with scientific and literary pursuits. He employed an assistant and began expanding library hours.¹²

Gilman was a vocal supporter of women’s education. At his inaugural address at Johns Hopkins University, he said:

The relation of this University to the higher education of women has not been as yet discussed by the Trustees, and doubtless their future conclusions will depend very much upon the way in which the subject is brought forward. I am not at liberty to speak for them, but personally have no hesitation in saying that the plans pursued in the University of Cambridge [England], especially in the encouragement of Girton College [England’s first residential college for women], seem likely to afford a good solution of a problem which is not without difficulty, however it is approached. Of this I am certain, that they are not among the wise, who depreciate the intellectual capacity of women, and they are not among the prudent, who would deny to women the best opportunities for education and culture. I trust the day is near when some one, following the succession of Peabody and Hopkins, will institute here a “Girton College,” which may avail itself of the advantages of the Peabody and Hopkins foundations, without obliging the pupils to give up the advantages of a home, or exposing them to the rougher influences which I am sorry to confess are still to be found in colleges and universities where young men resort. For the establishment in Baltimore of such a hall as Girton I shall confidently look.¹³

In the late nineteenth century, there were few women who attended college. The “cult of domesticity” of the early 1800s was still very much the norm and women were expected to shape their lives around their families and home-based endeavors.¹⁴ Popular culture reflected the opinion that

women's lives should stay firmly centered in the home, not the academy. In 1896, *Life* magazine published a story about the man of the future who "sits darning socks while 'two noisy, sturdy girls, as aggressive as became their sex, romped merrily about.'"¹⁵ "Meanwhile, 'their gentle little brother sat quietly by his father's side, studying pictures in an old book' that showed men actually wearing the pants in the family."¹⁶

However, women did start attending college, as early as the 1870s. Not surprisingly, there was controversy about their presence in the academy. In 1873, Dr. Edward Clarke of Harvard Medical School declared that women who expended their vital energies on school would endanger their "female apparatus."¹⁷ While some had doubts about women's ability to fully participate in society, others were publicly arguing for equal rights. In a 1892 speech entitled "The Solitude of Self," Elizabeth Cady Stanton said:

If we consider her as a citizen, as a member of a great nation, she must have the same rights as all other members, according to the fundamental principles of our Government. . . . The strongest reason for giving woman all the opportunities for higher education, for the full development of her faculties, her forces of mind and body; for giving her the most enlarged freedom of thought and action; a complete emancipation from all forms of bondage, of custom, dependence, superstition; from all the crippling influences of fear—is the solitude and personal responsibility of her own individual life.¹⁸

No one knows if Belle read Stanton's speech, but what is clear is that she was not deterred. After spending two summers as Librarian in Northeast Harbor she left in the fall of 1895, at age twenty-three, to attend Boston University. She continued to work as Librarian in the summers while attending university. Her family believes she may have been the first woman from Mount Desert to attend college.¹⁹ In 1900, only 2.8 percent of American women attended college; Belle was clearly an outlier.²⁰

Due to her interest in library work, Belle was appointed Assistant Librarian at Boston University, a position she held for three years. In order to graduate, Belle completed a senior thesis focusing on the Boston newspaper boys. She took a great interest in the boys, securing them boxing gloves and physical education lessons from fellow students. The boys, entranced by this kind young woman, began following her around campus, even escorting her home after dates with other young men.²¹ Belle's college

career was interrupted when she was forced to return to Northeast Harbor to care for her parents, but in 1899, she graduated from Boston University after mailing in her thesis.²² She traveled to Boston to attend the ceremony, at which the address was given by Daniel Coit Gilman.²³

After Boston University, Belle resumed her work at the library, and it was there that, quite by happenstance, her future was forever altered. Belle received two letters on the same day with similar themes. One letter suggested that someone start a real estate company on Mount Desert Island. The other letter was from a summer resident seeking rental accommodations in Northeast Harbor for the following year.²⁴ Real estate, as a profession, was a relatively new phenomenon. Beginning around 1900, men in some of the larger urban areas who had worked as land brokers and developers began to organize themselves and establish local real estate boards.²⁵ However, it was highly unusual for a woman to operate her own real estate business; once again, Belle's life and choices put her at the forefront of her time. By 1910, ten years after Belle started her business, there were still only about three thousand female real estate brokers in the United States, roughly 2 percent of all real estate professionals.²⁶

Belle did find that first client a place to rent, receiving a 5 percent commission on a rental of \$1,500.²⁷ Many homeowners were reluctant to use a broker to arrange for the leasing of their property; many had been handling the arrangements themselves for years. However, it became increasingly clear that using Belle as a broker had definite advantages over renting directly to friends or acquaintances. Many homeowners were willing to rent only to the "right" people and having Belle serve as a go-between allowed the dealings to be more discreet and tactful. A 1901 letter to Belle from Mrs. Richard G. Davenport illustrates the preferences of many homeowners. Regarding the rental of her home, she says, "It would really depend so much upon who the people are whether I would rent to anyone with a boy of ten. My rule is no children but, of course I can make an exception if the tenant is a very desirable one. I might not decide until you tell me their name and address and whatever you may know about them."²⁸ This reliance on Belle's judgment continued well into the twentieth century. A March 3, 1920 telegram to Belle from John S. Melcher says, "I accept tenant if responsible and Christian. Please write details and I will prepare lease."²⁹ Belle responded that while she had no doubt the tenant in question was responsible and Christian, she could not "make a positive assertion [*sic*] of the facts."³⁰ She went on to give the family's background, address in Haverford, and family connections.

During 1901, Belle's rental and real estate business grew, and she took



Interior of the old Northeast Harbor Library on South Shore Road.
Courtesy of the Northeast Harbor Library

an office in the Joy Block in Northeast Harbor. Her success was helped by members of the burgeoning summer colony who wished to attract other successful, like-minded summer people to Northeast Harbor. They gave Belle the names and addresses of friends and acquaintances they thought might like to rent or buy property in Northeast Harbor and she contacted them directly. A letter dated April 10, 1901 from Lee W. Haggin said, “I have met two ladies recently who would like to go to North East Harbor if there were a quiet, nice, clean inexpensive farmhouse, where they could be made comfortable. Do you know of such a place? . . . They are both women of refinement, but perfectly willing to live in the simplest possible manner, with good country food. . . .”³²

In addition to finding rental and real estate business through friends and acquaintances, Belle pursued properties to sell and rent. On August 26, 1901, Belle wrote to a Mrs Harrison, “It has occurred to me that you might be interested in the purchase of the lot of land in front of your cottage. Should a cottage be built on the lot in front of you it would greatly injure your view. . . . You may not be interested, but if not I trust that you will pardon the intrusion of this letter.”³³

Remarkably, Belle started work in insurance almost immediately after opening her real estate business. In an April 5, 1901 letter to Bert E. Clark of Bar Harbor, she said:

Yesterday I had a letter from the firm of Field and

Cowles offering me commission to solicit insurance in the Royal Insurance Company. I will add that I feel quite complimented, for I have heard that other agents about here had been refused this office. The letter is a good one, and I have written practically accepting the terms offered. . . . Now tell me do I need a license, and if so how am I to procure it, and what will be the cost?³⁴

Belle used her thriving real estate business to build the insurance business. On July 16, 1901, she wrote to Mrs. Lawrence Lewis to say, "I am taking the liberty of writing to you in regard to the insurance on your cottage. You will undoubtedly wish to place some insurance upon it immediately after the contractor's insurance has expired and perhaps before. I should be glad to insure you in the Royal Insurance Company of Liverpool, England, which is as you probably know, the oldest and strongest company in the world."³⁵

Belle's role as community Realtor and insurance broker also made her an essential contact for almost anyone wanting to conduct business in Northeast Harbor. A letter dated August 5, 1901 from Mary A. Carroll asks Belle to help her find a job.³⁶ On May 24, 1901, Belle wrote to Mr. S. J. Clement seeking a piano for Mrs. Alfred Walter of New York for her summer rental in Northeast Harbor.³⁷

In 1901, an attorney named Jerome Henry Knowles took an office adjacent to Belle's in the Joy Block and the two began sharing a telephone. Jerome Knowles was born August 22, 1870 in Town Hill. He was the first child of Osborn Billings Knowles and Janet B. (Salter) Knowles. Jerome attended Cobrun Classical Institute in Waterville and then Brown University from 1895 to 1897. He was admitted to the Maine Bar in 1900 and practiced law for one year in Bar Harbor before relocating to Northeast Harbor.³⁸ Jerome and Belle were married on November 2, 1903, at Belle's home.

Belle and Jerome had two sons, Jerome H. Knowles Jr., born May 24, 1906 and Asa Smallidge Knowles, born January 15, 1909. Almost unimaginably, Belle continued to work after marriage and children. She considered quitting the business and staying home, but said "people kept at her" to continue with her business and so she did.³⁹ In 1900, only 6 percent of married women worked outside the home. A study of labor patterns in America from 1900 to 2000 found that married women who had young children and worked outside the home were so rare, they were statistically insignificant. Such women were either married to blue-collar husbands who were unemployed, or were widows.⁴⁰ Belle—the wife of a

successful attorney, no less—was not concerned with the proverbial “they” who judge people. She just carried on, raising a family and building a successful business along the way.⁴¹ Belle’s granddaughter, Kathryn Knowles Suminsby, says that she does not have any sense that Belle’s contemporaries judged her for continuing to operate her own business after having a family but, Kathryn adds, Belle does appear to have inherited her own mother’s steadfast and determined ways.⁴²

Though there were almost certainly people who disapproved of Belle for her professional choices, there was also a great deal of admiration. Not only did Belle build a successful business that helped establish Northeast Harbor as one of the most exclusive summer colonies of the time, she also forged new ground for professional women. Belle was the first Realtor on Mount Desert Island, male or female. In the course of her real estate career, she helped form the Maine Real Estate Association and the Bangor Real Estate Board. She was also the first director of the Eastern Maine District Real Estate Board.⁴³



Jerome Knowles.

Courtesy of the Northeast Harbor Library

Belle’s participation in local real estate boards once again put her at the forefront of her female colleagues. Throughout the first part of the twentieth century, as numbers of female real estate brokers grew, they remained mainly absent from professional boards. The Chicago Real Estate Board actually refused to allow women to join until 1950. The Board finally relented—notwithstanding member Pierce Jones’ argument that the “board’s headquarters was the ‘favorite bath’ of male Realtors, supplying members with such facilities as Turkish baths, barbershops, and smoking rooms.”⁴⁴

Membership in real estate boards meant more than just acceptance by one’s colleagues. Realtors who did not possess board membership often lacked access to “increasingly important multiple-listing services, the crucial information-gathering functions of local boards, and the educational programs and more general networking opportunities that board membership facilitated.”⁴⁵ At the 1937 National Council of Real Estate Boards meeting held in Milwaukee, a national Women’s Council of Realtors was created and thirty-seven women

were chosen for membership. Belle joined the Women's Council and by 1938 had become its vice-chairwoman. Along with Madeline Spiess, the chairwoman of the group, Belle presented a list of ten goals for the council. They included Belle's assertion that "women Realtors should 'demand the same recognition for ability that is accorded the men of the profession,' and should work to 'secure general recognition of the importance of women in the real estate profession.'"⁴⁶ Belle also believed that the Women's Council should "aim to make some contribution of its own towards the scientific understanding of real estate," asking the Council, "Is it too much to hope that women [R]ealtors may find aesthetics a fifth factor [of selling real estate], and so add something to the science of real estate?"⁴⁷

Despite Belle's success and leadership, her accomplishments sometimes went unnoticed compared to those of male business owners. *The Island of Mount Desert Register with Cranberry Isles from 1909-1910* lists "Professional Men" on Mount Desert Island, including Belle's husband Jerome. There is no mention whatsoever of Knowles Real Estate or Belle's work.⁴⁸

Jerome Knowles died on August 22, 1933. At the age of sixty-three, with her children grown and a successful real estate career, Belle might have thought of rest and retirement. Instead, when she was sixty-nine, Belle returned to school to once again make her mark. In 1940, she enrolled in a program at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana to become an "MAI"-designated real estate appraiser, only the third women in the country—and the first person in Maine—ever to be so designated by the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers. In fact, Belle had been giving informal appraisals of local real estate since the beginning of Knowles Company. One such example appears in her letter to Dr. George G. Hayward of Boston dated December 4, 1901. "With reference to your Main Street property," she wrote, "I beg to say that in my opinion your front lots, with the possible exception of the one next to the stable property, will bring forty or forty-five cents per foot in the course of the next few years . . . depending on the growth and activity of the village."⁴⁹ Belle returned to Northeast Harbor from New Orleans and incorporated appraisal work into the real estate company; the appraisal business eventually became a very successful aspect of the Knowles Real Estate Company. Belle's son Jerome Jr. joined the family business, which went on to conduct large-scale appraisals all over Maine and New Hampshire.⁵⁰

Belle was a national leader in the field of real estate and was also a local leader in women's education. She founded the Woman's Literary Club of Northeast Harbor in January 1908, with her friend Stella Hill. The club

met every two weeks on Tuesday evenings from October through April each year to discuss books, arts, current affairs, and politics. A program booklet was produced annually to outline the topics of the upcoming year's meetings.⁵¹ The members wrote research papers to present to one another, conducted debates, constructed tableaux of famous dramatic scenes, and held celebrations and dinners at various members' homes. Belle was the club's first president. The club's motto was "Duties assigned, cheerfully assumed."

The 1908 program of the club illustrates its academic rigor. The members began with two sessions focusing on "the beginnings of New England." They went on to study Longfellow, George Eliot, and Robert Lewis Stevenson. In some years, they focused entirely on one subject; in 1910, it was Shakespeare. Not only did they read various Shakespeare plays out loud, they also put on "impersonations" and "oral sketches" of the characters. Titles of papers presented that year included "Compare the Caesar of history with the Caesar of the Play" and a "Comparison of characters of Brutus, Cassius and Macbeth in relation to their murders."



Charter members of the Woman's Literary Club of Northeast Harbor, 1940. Standing, left to right: Belle Smallidge Knowles, Lina MacLean Wilson, and Caroline Turner. Seated: Stella J. Hill. *Courtesy of the Northeast Harbor Library*

Some of the members of the club, like Belle and Stella Hill, were college-educated, but many were not. Yet, under Belle's leadership and guidance, they endeavored to teach themselves and one another about a wide range of topics. The back cover of the club's 1908-09 program says, "When we educate a man we educate an individual. When we educate a woman we educate a whole family." The group did not avoid controversial issues. At the October 17, 1912 meeting at the home of Mrs. E.W. Ober, "The discussion of current politics was closed by a debate on Woman's Suffrage. The disputants were: Affirmative, Mrs. [Belle] Knowles; Negative, Mrs. Richardson. A vote upon the merits of the debate resulted in an unanimous vote in favor of the

negative.”⁵² Not all the work of the club was literary or political in nature. In 1914, members worked with the Village Improvement Society to carry out a “successful campaign against the house fly.”⁵³

All members of the Woman’s Literary Club were required to be married according to the club’s by-laws. There is no mention in the notes and minutes of their husbands’ opinions of the club, but there was an infamous evening that occurred during the club’s first year. The members chose April 27, 1908 as the first ever “guest night,” inviting their husbands as guests. The author of a 1933 history of the club provides this description:

I am inclined to believe that men were not then quite converted to Women’s clubs, but however that may have been I have yet to learn of a man that accepted with pleasure, and in the end every man that attended went under protest. The husband of the hostess, compelled either by business or a desire to escape the ordeal, left town. Sedition [*sic*], privy-conspiracy and rebellion were in the air. When the meeting [*was*] called to order, the men were all on one side of the room and the women on the other. The president, in an endeavor to relieve the situation, said in her most gracious manner: ‘This reminds me of an old fashioned contra dance.’ Then using the vernacular of the time she said: ‘First and every other couple cross over.’⁵⁴

As with everything she did, Belle quickly assumed a leadership role for women’s clubs throughout Maine. After the Literary Club sent a delegate to the State Federation of Women’s Clubs’ midwinter meeting in Augusta in 1910, Belle began service on the Civics Committee of the Federation and then went on to serve as Chair of the State Conservation Committee of Women’s Clubs. As such, she was asked by The National Park Committee to conduct a publicity campaign for the creation of what eventually became Acadia National Park. In April of 1915, Belle helped to distribute letters to the women’s clubs of Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Waldo, and Washington Counties advocating for the development of a national park and a bird sanctuary on Mount Desert Island. The minutes of the Woman’s Literary Club meeting on April 1, 1915 indicate that Belle read the letter to the club and that the club voted to endorse “the movement recommended by Mrs. Knowles’ letter and do all in its power to further it.” At the same meeting, Belle read a portion of an article published in the July 1914 issue *National Geographic Magazine* entitled “The Unique Island of Mount Desert.”⁵⁴

The records of the Woman's Literary Club sometimes reflect Belle's playful side. At a meeting during the 1921-22 season, the club surprised Mrs. Adelma Joy with a celebration of her eighty-fourth birthday. The record of the evening states,

After refreshments, Mrs. Knowles made a speech on telepathy, telling us of a race of people said to be in some part of South America who had no need of speech, being able to communicate without it. She wished to make a test to see if we might not have that gift, so she asked the question whose birthday we were about to celebrate; not very successful as everyone answered differently, she then said she would try again, and everyone, except Mrs. Joy was of one mind, helped perhaps by Mrs. Hill and Mrs. McBride bringing in a large cake with 84 blazing candles. . . . Mrs. Knowles carried a large bag which she said came all the way from South America, and the contents were for Mrs. Joy into whose lap she emptied the bag. They were presents of all kind.⁵

Belle Knowles was a formidable woman, standing proud and erect even as she entered her seventies. She took on challenges that almost no women of her time would even consider and, along the way, she cleared paths for other women to follow in her footsteps. It could not have been easy to be the "first" in so many aspects of her life. A letter written by Belle to her granddaughter in October 1951 seems to capture her perspective in life. She said, "I have thought many times of the blessings of not knowing what was coming, but living day to day, meeting responsibilities as they are presented."⁶

Notes

¹ Kathryn F. Knowles, "The Life of Belle Smallidge Knowles," (senior thesis, Gould Academy, 1952), 4. Kathryn F. Knowles, now Kathryn Knowles Suminsby, is the granddaughter of Belle Smallidge Knowles.

² Asa S. Knowles, "Remarks on the Occasion of the Ceremonies Erecting a Plaque in the Northeast Harbor Library in memory of Belle Smallidge Knowles," July 11, 1976.

³ Kathryn Knowles Suminsby (granddaughter of Belle Smallidge Knowles) in discussion with the author, October 16, 2013.

⁴ *The Ariel*, Bucksport Methodist Seminary, May 18, 1893.

⁵ Kathryn F. Knowles, "The Life of Belle Smallidge Knowles," (senior thesis, Gould Academy, 1952), 7 (hereafter, "Knowles thesis").

⁶ Asa Smallidge to Belle Smallidge [Knowles], October 15, 1988, Asa Smallidge genealogical collection, Northeast Harbor Library.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 7.

⁸ Fabian Franklin, *The Life of Daniel Coit Gilman* (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1910), 416.

- ⁹ “Northeast Harbor Guests,” *New York Times*, July 31, 1898.
- ¹⁰ Asa S. Knowles, “Remarks.”
- ¹¹ Franklin, *The Life of Daniel Coit Gilman*, 418.
- ¹² Franklin, *The Life of Daniel Coit Gilman*, 54.
- ¹³ Daniel C. Gilman, “Addresses at the inauguration of Daniel C. Gilman as President of the Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore: J. Murphy & Co., 1876), 53. Accessed January 14, 2014, https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7236627M/Addresses_at_the_inauguration_of_Daniel_C._Gilman.
- ¹⁴ Dorothy W. Hartman, “Women’s roles in the late 19th century,” Connor Prairie Interactive History Park, accessed November 26, 2013, <http://www.connerprairie.org/learn-and-do/indiana-history/america-1860-1900/lives-of-women.aspx>.
- ¹⁵ Gail Collins, *America’s Women: 400 years of dolls, drudges, helpmates and heroines* (New York: Harper Collins, 2003), 281.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 292.
- ¹⁸ Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “The Solitude of Self,” *The Women’s Journal*, January 23, 1892, accessed November 26, 2013, <http://www.elizabethcadystantonhometown.org/speeches.html>.
- ¹⁹ Knowles thesis, 10.
- ²⁰ “Early College Women: Determined to be Educated,” St. Lawrence County, New York branch of the American Association of University Women, accessed November 26, 2013, <http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw/college.htm>.
- ²¹ Knowles thesis, 14.
- ²² *Ibid.*
- ²³ *Ibid.*
- ²⁴ *Ibid.*, 15.
- ²⁵ Jeffrey M. Hornstein, *A Nation of Realtors: A cultural history of the twentieth-century American middle class* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), 1.
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, 157.
- ²⁷ Knowles thesis, 15.
- ²⁸ Mrs. Richard G. Davenport to Belle Smallidge [Knowles], March 20, 1901, Knowles Company Correspondence, Northeast Harbor Library.
- ²⁹ John S. Melcher to Belle Smallidge Knowles (hereafter, “BSK”), March 3, 1920, L. Belle Smallidge Knowles and Jerome S. Knowles Documents of their community and occupations, Northeast Harbor Library.
- ³⁰ BSK to John S. Melcher, March 5, 1920, L. Belle Smallidge Knowles and Jerome S. Knowles Documents of their community and occupations, Northeast Harbor Library.
- ³¹ Asa S. Knowles, “Remarks,” 15.
- ³² Lee W. Haggin to BSK, April 10, 1901, Knowles Company Correspondence, Northeast Harbor Library.
- ³³ BSK to Mrs. Harrison, August 26, 1901, Knowles Company Correspondence, Northeast Harbor Library.
- ³⁴ BSK to Bert E. Clark, April 5, 1901, Knowles Company Correspondence, Northeast Harbor Library.
- ³⁵ BSK to Mrs. Lawrence Lewis, July 16, 1901, Knowles Company Correspondence, Northeast Harbor Library.
- ³⁶ Mary A. Carroll to BSK, August 5, 1901, Knowles Company Correspondence, Northeast Harbor Library.
- ³⁷ BSK to S. J. Clement, May 24, 1901, Knowles Company Correspondence, Northeast Harbor Library.
- ³⁸ “The Knowles Family” genealogical files of the Northeast Harbor Library.
- ³⁹ Knowles thesis, 16.
- ⁴⁰ Ben Wattenberg, “Working Women,” *The First Measured Century: An Illustrated Guide to Trends in America, 1900–2000*, accessed December 2, 2013, <http://www.pbs.org/fmc/book/2work8.htm>.

⁴¹ Knowles thesis, 5.

⁴² Kathryn Knowles Suminsby in discussion with the author, October 16, 2013.

⁴³ Knowles thesis, 25.

⁴⁴ Hornstein, *A Nation of Realtors*, 165.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 163.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 179.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 180.

⁴⁸ Lawton, Jordan & Maddox, *The Island of Mount Desert Register with Cranberry Isles* (Auburn, Maine, 1909), 53.

⁴⁹ BSK to George G. Hayward, December 4, 1901, L. Belle Smallidge Knowles and Jerome S. Knowles Documents of their community and occupations, Northeast Harbor Library.

⁵⁰ Kathryn Knowles Suminsby in discussion with the author, October 16, 2013.

⁵¹ The program booklets are in the collection of the Northeast Harbor Library.⁵² Belle Smallidge Knowles, "Minutes of the Woman's Literary Club of Northeast Harbor," October 17, 1912, Northeast Harbor Library.

⁵³ "GFWC Centennial Gift to the Nation/World," Woman's Club of Northeast Harbor, 1990, Northeast Harbor Library.

⁵⁴ Belle Smallidge Knowles, *1908-1933 History of the Woman's Literary Club Northeast Harbor, Maine* (Northeast Harbor Library, 1933), 5.

⁵⁵ Stella Louise Hill, "Minutes of the Women's Literary Club of Northeast Harbor," April 1, 1915, Northeast Harbor Library.

⁵⁶ Belle Smallidge Knowles, *1908-1933 History of the Woman's Literary Club*, 23.

⁵⁷ BSK to Kathryn F. Knowles, October 1951.