

Somes Sound Looking South, 1893

HENRY L. RAND

PHOTOGRAPHER & VISUAL DIARIST

Massachusetts and Mount Desert Island, 1890-1915

MEREDITH HUTCHINS

During the summer of 1866, Edward and Henry Rand, two little boys from Dedham, Massachusetts, took the steamboat to Southwest Harbor with their parents, Edward and Jennie Rand. The family made an overnight stop in Somesville at the Mount Desert House, then continued on to Bar Harbor the next day, where they put up at Albert E. Higgins's "Little Harbor House" on the village green.

As Higgins's grandson, Albert L. Higgins, wrote in a *Bar Harbor Times* article in 1934, to reach Bar Harbor the Rand family came in a springless wagon "over the narrow road that crossed Newmans Hill [later called McFarland's Hill] near Eagle Lake, the most precipitous and dangerous hill of any on the island."¹

Despite the difficulty in getting to Bar Harbor, I think we can safely assume that the family enjoyed its summer vacation, for on October 10, 1868 the boys' father purchased from Edward and Zena Higgins Brewer a cottage and four acres of land on the south side of Albert Meadow.

Albert Higgins noted that Mr. Rand "at once had the cottage moved back from Main St., a few hundred yards toward Balance Rock . . . had it enlarged [and] sent painter and paper hangers from Boston and the cottage, with its artistically decorated nursery and other rooms, with the splendid exterior, was at that early date, in striking contrast to other buildings nearby."

The nursery was most likely fitted up for the boys' little sister, Margaret Arnold Rand, who was born on October 21, 1868. In 1872, a fourth child, Percy Arthur Rand, was born to Edward Sprague Rand, Jr. and his wife, Jane Augusta "Jennie" (Lathrop) Rand. Percy died in 1884.

Edward Lathrop Rand, *Older Brother, Lawyer, Botanist*

Until recently Edward Rand, born in 1859, has figured more prominently in Mount Desert Island history than Henry. Edward graduated from Harvard College in 1881 and Harvard Law in 1884, and practiced

law on State Street in Boston. But his avocation in life was botany, and he was quite serious about it. A member of the Champlain Society founded by landscape architect Charles Eliot, Edward was an indefatigable hiker, rower, and discoverer of new botanic specimens on Mount Desert Island. He and J. H. Redfield wrote *The Flora of Mount Desert Island, Maine*. With Waldron Bates and Herbert Jaques, Edward also compiled path and road maps of the island.

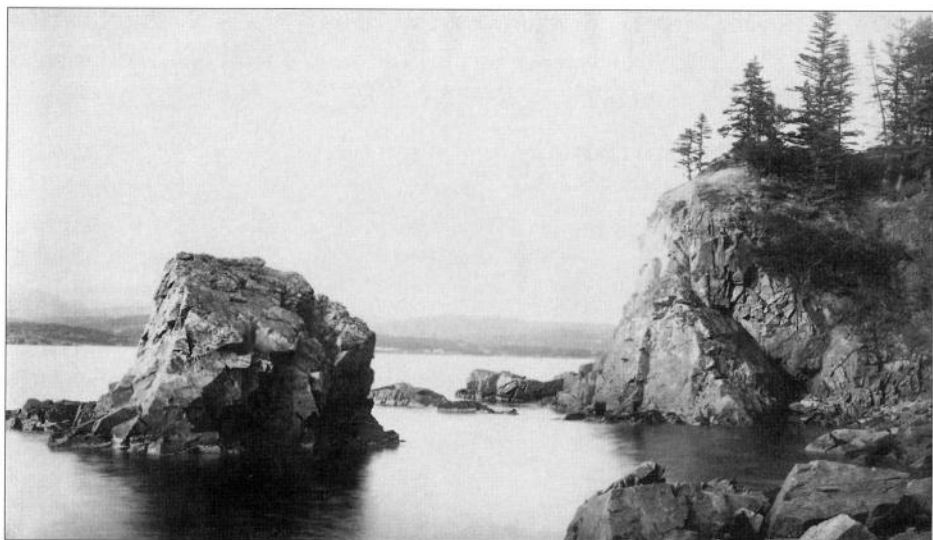
Henry Lathrop Rand, *Photographer*

Edward Lothrop Rand's achievements are considerable, but this article is concerned with the life and photographs of his younger brother, Henry Lathrop Rand, who was born January 1, 1862. (For some reason the brothers chose to spell their middle names differently.) Between 1890 and 1915 Henry took more than 1400 photographs, which he preserved in sixteen volumes. They show that he was both an artist and a visual diarist of his times.

Henry was a founding member of the "Old Cambridge Photographic Club," which was active between 1890 and 1903 and included such Cambridge luminaries as William H. Pickering, Professor of Astronomy at the Harvard College Observatory, architect Lois Lilley Howe, and innovative photographers ("photo-secessionists") Mary Devens and Charles and Jeanette Peabody. The members of the club experimented with subject, metaphor and light, held exhibits, and entered into competitions with other camera clubs. They also went on photographing expeditions to places such as Gloucester and Magnolia, Massachusetts in search of suitable subject matter.²

After Henry's death at his home in Southwest Harbor on May 24, 1945, his collection remained in the possession of his second wife, Dorothy (Pearson) Rand, who bequeathed it to the Southwest Harbor Public Library upon her death on December 15, 1973. There the photographs lay undisturbed until Weston Naef, who was vacationing in Southwest Harbor, discovered them. Naef, at that time Curator of Photography at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and John Wilmerding of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. selected eight of the Rand photographs for an exhibition at the National Gallery.

This exhibit, *American Light: The Luminist Movement, 1850-1875, Paintings, Drawings Photographs*, ran from February to June 1980. On page 144 of the catalog Wilmerding described Rand as "technically very able and inventive [and] almost certainly familiar with his luminist predecessors."



Sutton's Island - Cloisters and Isolated Rock

One of the photographs from that 1980 exhibition, “Somes Sound Looking South,” was recently on view at The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in the exhibit *Expanding Horizons: Painting and Photography of American and Canadian Landscape, 1850-1918* and later at the Vancouver Art Gallery.³

The Rand Family in Cambridge

By 1877, when Henry Rand was fifteen, the family had moved from Dedham to 16 Quincy Street in Cambridge. Edward, the eldest son, lived at home while he attended Harvard. Jennie Rand is listed in an 1887 Cambridge city register as “head of household and married.”

Jane Augusta “Jennie” Lathrop Rand (1837-1918) had grown up in Dedham, where Lathrop family members still lived on Court Street. She was descended from the Reverend John Lathrop (1740-1816), minister at the Second Church, Boston. In 1887 Jennie built a Dutch Colonial-style house on the corner of Francis Avenue and Kirkland Street in Cambridge. Henry took many photographs of his mother’s fine new house and the surrounding ones in their prestigious neighborhood.

Unlike other family members, Henry Rand did not go to Harvard. He worked as a treasurer and accountant on State Street in Boston at offices near those of his brother, Edward. Their uncle, Colonel Arnold A. Rand (1837-1917), had served in the Civil War and was a prominent Boston lawyer with offices nearby. He later became general counsel of the John



Jane Augusta "Jennie" Lathrop Rand's Home in Cambridge

Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. ⁴

The Rand family had become quite comfortable since the first family members, Robert and Alice, arrived in Massachusetts about 1635. Their son, Thomas Cordwainer Rand, was a "cowherdman," but seven generations later, Henry's great-grandfather, Edward Sprague Rand (1782-1863), had become a prominent man in Newburyport and served in the State legislature. ⁵ In 1821 he and others purchased a woolen mill. He became its president and developed it into Salisbury Mills, which "was one of the conspicuous industrial plants in New England in the middle decades of the nineteenth century and he became a recognized leader in industry and finance." ⁶

Henry's grandfather, Edward Sprague Rand II (1809-1884), graduated from Harvard College in 1828, became an attorney and "filled a high and honorable position in Boston." ⁷ He, his wife Elizabeth, son Charles Arthur and wife Jeanette, and daughter Mary perished when the steamship *City of Columbus* was wrecked off Gay Head in 1884. ⁸

Henry's father, Edward Sprague Rand, Jr., was born in Boston in 1834. A graduate of Harvard, class of 1855, and Cambridge Law School in 1857, Edward Sprague Rand practiced law in Boston but devoted a good deal of his time to horticulture. He cultivated orchids and rhododendrons at "Glen Ridge," his estate in Dedham, and wrote a number of books on

horticulture, including *Flowers for the Parlor and Garden* (1863), *The Rhododendron and American Plants* (1871) and *Orchids* (1876). In 1859, the year after he married, he published *Life Memories*, a volume of poetry.

Edward Sprague Rand did not accompany the family when they moved to Cambridge. Apparently he had mortgaged “Glen Ridge” to the hilt and made use of family money that had been left in trust by his grandfather for the benefit of other relatives. In April of 1877 he was arrested on the suspicion that he might flee the country. He managed to get released from jail, obtain a passport and sail to Brazil. According to a report to the Department of State by the U. S. Consulate in Para, Brazil, “Edward Sprague Rand, an American citizen . . . died on the morning of September 28, 1897. He had been sick a long time and finally ended his sufferings by taking a dose of strychnine.”⁹

The Rand Family on Mount Desert Island

In 1886, Jennie Rand, who owned the family’s Bar Harbor cottage, sold it to George W. W. Dove. However, she and her daughter, Margaret, continued to visit Bar Harbor, where in 1892 they were listed as guests at the Newport House.¹⁰

Meanwhile Edward and Henry were busy with friends and avocations. The brothers were well-connected members of the upper middle class, at home on Mount Desert Island and in Cambridge and Harvard society. Both were club members and gentlemen, with respectable but not onerous professions.

Edward seems to have been more focused and more driven, while Henry may not have felt the need to excel before the world. For example, Edward and Margaret Rand have listings in the 1909 edition of *Who’s Who in New England*, but there is no Henry in the space between them.

Henry Rand marched to the beat of a different drummer and we are glad he did. The photographs he left behind are precious cultural and historical documents. Like his father and his brother, Henry took his passion – photography – seriously. He kept detailed and meticulous records of his work in three little leather notebooks where he noted dates, identified subjects and locations, weather conditions, length of exposure and the time of day, and numbered each album page. Two of the three notebooks accompanied the albums to the library. The fact that the middle notebook



Maine Central Ferry Landing at Bar Harbor, from the Newport House Piazza

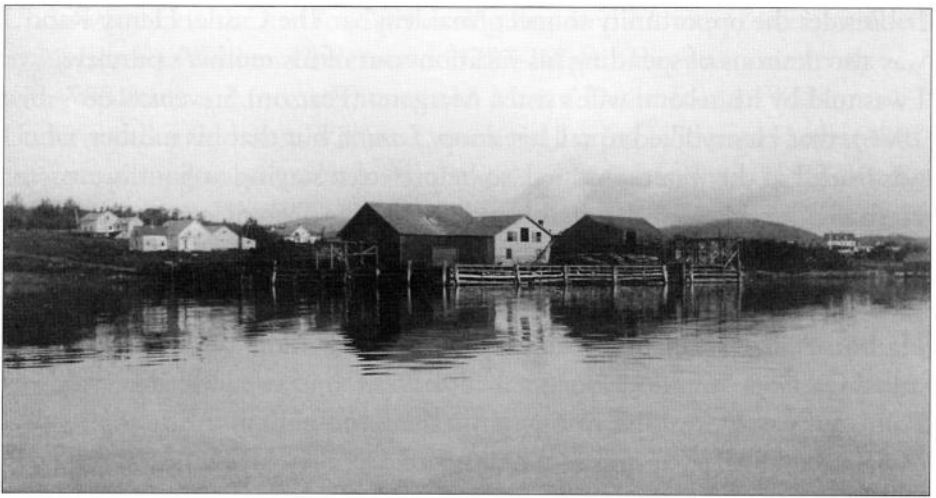
is missing lies like a wound in the hearts of Henry Rand researchers and historians. Its absence has caused much vexation.

Because Rand's glass plates were dumped in Somes Sound and the photographs themselves remained quietly in his widow's possession until 1974, there has been little duplication of his work and few people have seen it.¹¹

He took more than 300 photographs of Southwest Harbor, plus over a hundred of other parts of Mount Desert Island and the outlying islands. There are 47 images of steamships and sailing vessels, as well as pictures of friends and acquaintances. One volume documents a trip he made to Baddeck, Nova Scotia in 1894. Another illustrates an 1896 trip to Europe. There are 179 photographs of Cambridge, a few pictures taken at Lake Saranac, N. Y. and in New Hampshire, and the remainder chronicle Dedham and other Massachusetts locations such as Gloucester, Rockport and Magnolia. Rand also photographed Victorian interiors, which makes his work a prime reference tool for students of interior design, and he was especially adept at portraits of children and young women of his acquaintance in their beautiful dresses.



In 1883, Edward spent the summer with the Champlain Society at "Camp Asticou," located in Mr. Savage's field in Northeast Harbor. This was also the summer when he met his wife-to-be, Annie Matilda Crozier, although the couple did not marry until 1893.¹²



Freeman's Wharf, Southwest Harbor, 1890

Henry, though still a member of the Champlain Society, deserted the group for Southwest Harbor where he stayed at the Pemetic Hotel, nicknamed "The Castle." The roof of the building was a great place from which to take photographs. In 1911 The Castle, located on Dirigo Road, was moved down the hill to become the dining room of the Claremont Hotel. It was demolished in 1978 and a new hotel dining room built.¹³

An anonymous poem entitled "A Memory," which was probably written by Edward Rand after the summer of 1883,¹⁴ refers to a "Harry, who says, 'I don't approve of camping, I will stay here with the girls!'" "Harry" is underlined and someone, perhaps Dorothy Rand, has written in the margin "Henry L. Rand." Presumably the place Harry and the girls are staying is The Island House or The Castle, which at the time was an Island House annex.

"A Memory" describes a banquet held at the end of the summer for the members of the Champlain Society and illustrates how difficult it was for these young men, just out of college, to concentrate on botany or geology when members of "the fair sex," as they put it, hove into view. It speaks of:

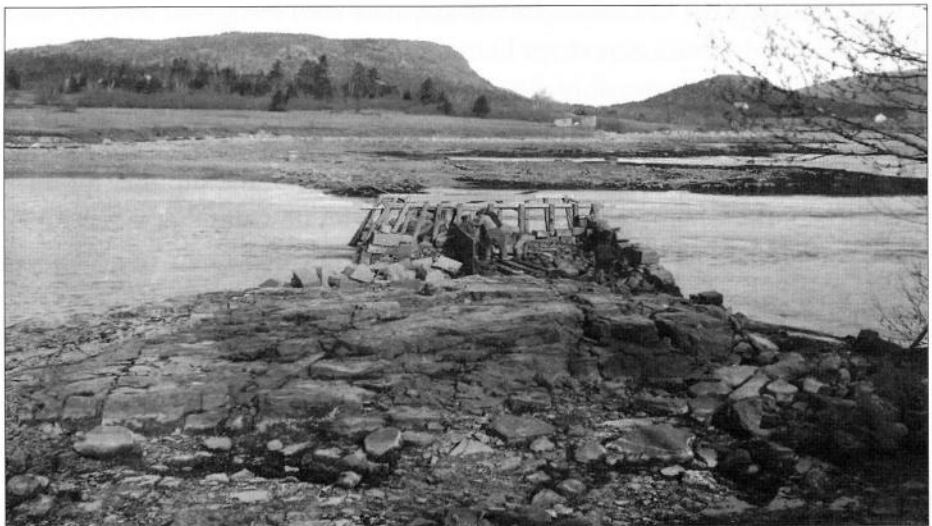
"Fairest Portia, welcome to thee, idol of the Castle halls,
Who will never go star-gazing on the roof when darkness falls . . .
Such an evening at the Castle, nor upon Mt. Desert's shore
Costumes, supper-cards, and supper, dancing in the Castle hall,
Well our maidens earned their laurels, for to them we owe it all.
Then with songs, with cheers, and laughter, part we for the summer's done,
Homeward most of us are going with the morrow's rising sun."

Besides the opportunity to meet “maidens” at The Castle, Henry Rand was also desirous of spending his vacations out of his mother’s purview. I was told by his second wife’s sister, Margaret (Pearson) Stevens (1887-1976), that Henry liked to sail his sloop, *Lanita*, but that his mother, who was fearful of the water, objected, so he preferred staying in Southwest Harbor. Considering what had happened to *The City of Columbus* in 1884, it is not surprising that she was concerned.

At any rate, in 1899 Henry bought land at Norwood Cove in Southwest Harbor.¹⁵ This shore-front property at the end of Norwood Road (then called Garfield Avenue) was named “Fox Dens” and overlooked Fernald Point, Bear and Greening islands. In 1901 Rand built an Adirondack-style cottage, designed by Cambridge architect Lois Lilley Howe. According to family lore, after purchasing the land, he had a financial setback and had to make it smaller than he had planned.

The property contiguous to “Fox Dens” was owned by William Lawrence Underwood.¹⁶ Underwood’s “Squirrelhurst,” also designed by Lois Lilley Howe and now demolished, was a typical turn-of-the-century Maine cottage and the summer home of Underwood’s mother, Caroline (Luyster) Underwood, and his three maiden sisters, Sophia, Mabel and Mary.

The “Squirrelhurst” Underwoods were the grandchildren of James Underwood (1802-1841). James was briefly associated with the William



Causeway Dam construction at Southwest Harbor, 1901, near “Fox Dens”

Underwood Co., the first food preserving firm in the United States, founded by his brother, William Underwood (1787-1864). This was a company with important commercial interests on Mount Desert Island. William Underwood's grandsons, William Lyman and Loring Underwood, were avid amateur photographers, who loved the state of Maine and would visit the company factories in McKinley and West Jonesport whenever possible.¹⁷

In the 1880s, when the tourists began to come to Southwest Harbor, people objected that the odoriferous Underwood lobster cannery, located near the steamboat wharf, was bad for business. When the Underwood Company wanted to enlarge its operation, the owner of The Island House, Deacon H. H. Clark, refused to sell the adjoining land. So the company moved to McKinley, now Bass Harbor, and built a new factory there. The Southwest Harbor lobster factory building was taken down in 1932, and in 1935 the Clark heirs sold the wharf to the United States Coast Guard.¹⁸

According to Southwest Harbor resident Lena Mitchell (1897-1992), who worked for the Underwood sisters as a maid, Henry was engaged to marry Miss Mabel Underwood. But he fell in love with Miss Marion Quincy Winslow on the steamboat bringing them both from Boston to Southwest Harbor.¹⁹

Quincy, or "Q" as Henry came to call her, had been born in Boston on October 9, 1868. The couple was married on June 2, 1904 at Q's family home, 71 Perkins Street, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, by Unitarian minister and Southwest Harbor summer resident Rev. Charles F. Dole. Henry was forty-two and Q not quite thirty-six. His first photograph of her, on the piazza of their camp in Southwest Harbor, is titled "Mrs. Henry L. Rand, 7 days old."

That same day he also photographed the camp with a first addition completed in time for the honeymoon. Thereafter, Rand called the camp a "bungalow". A second addition was built in 1906. "Fox Dens" survived until 1981, when it was replaced by a modern year-round house. In 2007-08 a new owner tore down the modern house and erected a third house on the site.

After their marriage, Henry and Q lived at 51 Eliot Street, Jamaica Plain, in an old house that still exists. Q's parents, William Henry and Elizabeth (Kempton) Winslow, lived nearby. There were four sons, but Q was the only daughter.

I had been told that Henry Rand worked for a Winslow on State Street in Boston, and for years I had wondered if it might be William Henry Win-

slow or his brother Erving, both commission merchants in Boston. Rand had a photograph of his office, Room 17, 50 State Street, now demolished. His obituary noted that he had been a treasurer and an accountant, and at least one city directory listed his occupation as bookkeeper, but I could find no corroboration for my surmise.

Not until 2009 was the mystery solved, thanks to research done by Charlotte R. Morrill in connection with the Southwest Harbor Public Library photograph project. Henry Rand had worked as a treasurer for Arthur Winslow (1860-1938), a gold and silver mining engineer and president of several mining companies. Winslow was a grandfather of the poet Robert Lowell, and Q was a second cousin once removed to Charlotte Winslow, who was Robert Lowell's mother and Arthur Winslow's daughter.²⁰



Camp with New Addition, "Fox Dens," 1901

We do not know if Henry and Q were already acquainted with each other when they met on that steamboat to Southwest Harbor, but they did have some sort of connection, enough surely for conversation at sea while cruising the coast of Maine. And there is no question that they were very happy to have found each other. The number of photographs Rand took of Q testifies to the intensity of their love. In June 1908 he writes, "4 yrs 1 day old" below her picture, and on July 2, 1908 he photographs her seated in front of the bedroom hearth at "Fox Dens." Q's back is to the camera. She wears a long white nightgown and a large bow in her long dark hair, which



"Baby on Rug"

is streaming down her back. He calls the photograph "Baby on Rug."

Four more years go by and then, in September 1912, we see a photograph of Q with a Miss McCarthy, who wears a nurse's uniform. After ten years of marriage, Henry took the final picture of his beloved wife in June 1914, although she did not die until May 25, 1915, at age 46 yrs. 7 mos. 16 d. The death certificate lists as chief cause of death "carcinoma of the breast, metastasis to brain & cutaneous tissues 1 yr 10 mos. Carcinoma of breast removed 18 mos. ago." Q was buried at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge.

Henry Rand was fifty-three years old and he stopped taking pictures after that. The final photograph is taken at Jamaica Plain, "From our south-erly window, 51 Eliot St. Dull 6 P. M. July 9, 1915." ²¹

By 1920 he had returned to Cambridge and Kirkland Street, where his unmarried sister, Margaret, still lived. Jennie Rand had died October 5, 1918. Edward followed on October 5, 1924, three years after the death of his wife, Annie, in 1921.

Summers, Henry and Margaret returned to Southwest Harbor, where they are listed in *The Redbook* (Mount Desert Island's "Social Register") as residing at "Fox Dens" from 1918 to 1930. And then on April 2, 1930 this headline appears in *The Bar Harbor Times*: "Miss Margaret Rand Dies in



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lathrop Rand at "Fox Dens" (1906)

Boston, Widely Known Massachusetts Woman, Long Southwest Harbor Summer Resident." Margaret Rand had been an artist and horticulturalist. Her death certificate lists the date of death as March 17, 1930 and the cause as pneumonia. We do not know how long she was ill, but her nurse, Dorothy Pearson (1889-1973), became Henry Rand's second wife.

Dorothy and Henry were married within a month of Margaret's death.²² Henry was then sixty-eight and Dorothy was forty-one. They lived winters in Cambridge and summers at "Fox Dens." In 1939 they purchased a cape on the High Road and moved permanently to Southwest Harbor. On May 24, 1945, Henry L. Rand died there "after some months of failing health though confined to his room only a few days," according to his May 31 obituary in *The Bar Harbor Times*. He left everything to Dorothy. There were no nieces or nephews, no children.²³

The service was at St. John's Episcopal Church, Southwest Harbor, where it was said that "Both . . . entered into the church and social life of the village and Mr. Rand has served as auditor of the finances of St. John's . . . His love of flowers was evidenced by the gardens and grounds of his premises which he tended with meticulous care. He was a courteous, kindly gentleman, who had the love and respect of all who knew him."²⁴



"Daisy"
(Margaret Arnold
Rand)
at Tea,
1895

The obituary does not mention Rand's photographs, but at last everyone will be able to see them. In June 2010 the Southwest Harbor Public Library will debut its photographic collection, which, in addition to Rand's work, includes work by G. A. Neal, C. A. Townsend, W. H. Ballard and others. While not every item has yet been scanned, the entire catalogue of more than 5000 photographs will be available to the public on a dedicated computer at the Library.

Henry Rand's 1400-plus photographs with their documentation will form a major part of the collection. Private gentleman that he was, I think he would have been surprised by the attention. I also think he would have been gratified to know that, sixty-five years after his death, his work has survived to be appreciated in the twenty-first century.



Living Room and Fireplace at "Fox Dens"

I began researching Henry L. Rand and his photographs soon after they were given to the Southwest Harbor Public Library in 1974. At that time, except for his obituary, the Higgins piece, and my earlier acquaintance with his widow and her sister, there was not a lot of information about Rand to be had. I did gather a few more details in Boston and Cambridge and wrote letters to various individuals and organizations, but in the days before the Internet transformed research, progress was slow and haphazard.

Much of the information in this article would not have come to light without the formidable Internet research skills of my colleague in the Southwest Harbor Public Library photograph project, Charlotte R. Morrill. If there is information out there, she will find it.

I am also indebted to librarian Lynne Birlem of Quincy, Massachusetts, who grew up in Southwest Harbor. Year after year, she has assisted this project with research, has provided me with a place to stay and cheerfully driven me around Boston.



Meredith Rich Hutchins is a native of Mount Desert Island, where her family has lived for over 200 years. A former director of the Southwest Harbor Public Library, she now volunteers as curator of the Library's old photograph collection. Her essays, short stories and poems have been published in numerous magazines and newspapers. Her article "Northeast Harbor Delivered: Provisioning the Carriage Trade" appeared in the 2008 issue of Chebacco.

NOTES

¹ Albert L. Higgins wrote in his column "The Good Old Days" (*The Bar Harbor Times*, December 26, 1934) that "the conveyance was an olden time 'thorough-brace' wagon, long before the advent of the 'buckboard.'"

² James A. Wells, *A Short History of the Old Cambridge Photographic Club* (Boston: Alfred Mudge & Son, Inc. Printers, 1905). I am indebted to the staff of the Cambridge Public Library for calling this pamphlet to my attention.

³ *Expanding Horizons: Painting and Photography of American and Canadian Landscape, 1850-1918* was on exhibit at The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts from June 18 to September 27, 2009. The exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery was on display October 17, 2009 to January 17, 2010.

⁴ "Henry L. Rand" in the *Cambridge City Directories, 1887-1890*, and "Edward Lothrop Rand" and "Arnold Augustus Rand" in *Who's Who in New England, 1909*. After the war, Colonel Rand and General Albert Ordway, who both collected war memorabilia, bought a duplicate set of Matthew Brady's Civil War negatives. They offered to sell them to Congress but were turned down, and the negatives were eventually purchased by John C. Taylor of Hartford, CT. Robert Taft, *Photography and the American Scene, 1839-1889* (Mineola, NY: Dover, 1964), p. 244.

⁵ Florence Osgood Rand, *A Genealogy of the Rand Family* (New York: Republic Press, 1898).

⁶ *Dictionary of American Biography* (date unknown).

⁷ Rand, *op.cit.*

⁸ Arnold Augustus Rand obituary, *Boston Transcript*, 12/24/1917. George A Hough, Jr., *Disaster on Devil's Bridge* (Mystic, CT: The Maine Historical Association, Inc., c. 1963).

⁹ *Boston Daily Advertiser*, April 19, 1877. Passport Application, Boston, Massa-