



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library  
370 Beach Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

### **Manuscript Finding Aid**

Title: The Mabel Osgood Wright Photograph Collection

Collection #: Ms 54

Dates: ca. 1890-1920, 1998

Size of Collection: 2.5 linear ft (1 box; lantern slides; 3 oversize items)

Accession Number: L83 June 5

Donor: Mr & Mrs Frederick Sturges III; found in collections

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Martha Rockwell; additional processing by Barbara Austen

Date: February 1991; August 1998

Related collections: Fairfield Public Library has large letter book (referred to as Autograph Album) index at rear of this finding aid.

#### Biographical/ historical note:

Mabel Osgood Wright, the daughter of Unitarian minister, scholar and writer Samuel Osgood, was born and brought up in New York City, but spent her summers at the family "estate" in Fairfield, Conn. The summer home, called Mosswood (and also known as Waldstein), was built on 8 acres of land, the current site of the Mosswood Condominiums off Unquowa Road. Mabel was introduced to nature and gardening at Mosswood, an introduction that led to her avocations as an adult.

When Mabel married book collector and dealer James Wright, the couple moved to Fairfield. Here she pursued her interests in photography, nature conservation and writing. Mabel became a noted author of bird and nature studies; helped found the Connecticut Audubon Society; was instrumental in building the Birdcraft Sanctuary on Unquowa

Road for the protection of song birds; actively participated in the Fairfield Garden Club; and took photographs of “historical” and pastoral Fairfield which were published in her own books and in those of other authors.

Scope and content note:

The collection primarily consists of photogravures, mounted on cardboard, that were donated by Frederick Sturges. These images are supplemented by copies of photographs by Mabel that are in a private collection; black and white prints attributed to her; a photo album also attributed to Mabel; copies of articles written by Mabel; research materials gathered while developing an exhibit in 1998; and 8 boxes of glass lantern slides and glass plate negatives.

WRIGHT, MABEL OSGOOD, 1859-1934  
Collection, ca. 1890-1920, 1998

Folder A photogravures on cardboard

- “Colonial House” (2)
- “Pulpit Rock (Union Rock) Waldstein” (2)
- “The Osborn House” (4)
- “Village Elms” (St. Paul’s Church)
- “Beach”
- “Grover’s Hill”

Folder B photogravures on cardboard

- “The Verna Herd” (2)
- “Evening Shadows, Greenfield Hill” (2)
- “Middlebrook’s Bridge”
- “Wilson’s Mill” (2)
- “Timothy Dwight’s house”
- “Perry’s Mill-dam”
- “Our Ancestors” (headstones)

Folder C photogravures on cardboard

- “Sheepfold, Verna”
- “The Hemlocks” (2)
- “Fern Glen” (2)
- “Aspetuck Mill”
- “The Watering Place”
- “Black Rock Point”

Folder D photographs and photogravures on cardboard

- Post Office/“Ice Cold Soda!”

Folder E photogravures on cardboard, black and white photographs

- “Many Years Ago” (woman spinning)
- “The Courtin”
- Betts store, Post Road, ca. 1880 (2)
- “View from Gould’s Bridge”
- gardens at Mosswood

Folder F Photographs of Frederick Stuges’s estate, ca. 1909-1910

WRIGHT, MABEL OSGOOD, 1859-1934  
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- Folder G      Photographs attributed to Mabel Osgood Wright
- Folder H      Negatives and contact sheets of photographs in private collection
- Folder I      Photograph album attributed to MOW
- Folder J      Christmas cards from MOW, 1917-1929, with her photographs; The Connecticut Hymn of the Flag written by MOW; envelope to F. Sturges to MOW
- Folder K      photocopies of articles by MOW
- Folder L      photocopies of letters between MOW and George Brett; originals at New York Public Library
- Folder M      Newspaper clippings about MOW
- Folder N      Book cataloging information
- Folder O      Copy photographs and negatives
- Oversize Item A      Map of MOW's property, 1913 (O/S Mss box 1)
- Oversize Item B      Photographs: The Courtin', Bird Study Group