

MARGARET BAXTER NICHOLS HARDENBERGH

Autobiographical Sketches

Written in spring-summer
1971

CONTENTS	Page
Biographical facts	1
Singing	2
Art	3
Exercise	4
Acting	5
Sewing	6
Brain Work	7-8
Travels	9-11
Relatives	12-13
Appendix I - History of Concordia	14-18
Furniture	18-19
Railroad	19
Victorian Intervale	20-22
Appendix II - Songs Sung by MBNH	
Appendix III- Notes and Additions by Others	



Granny, as she was know to her 14 grandchildren, at 66 Groveland Terrace

A few years ago, my husband heard Helen Hayes say on the T.V. that when she retired she would write her autobiography for her grandchildren. So he immediately told me that's what I should do.

First, a quotation from a C.J.Wright of Didsbury College, England: "A man's own life is a vital entity. A biography is most true when it enables us to discern the directing mind of its hero, and convey the impression of dynamic thought, emotion and activity."

So tho' not a "hero", perhaps a few pages about my thoughts and activities would be of more interest than "born, married, and died." But just for the record, I'll put that data here:

July 29, 1882	Born Brunswick, Maine; parents: Rev. Harry Peirce Nichols and Alice Shepley N.
1883 - 1892	Lived in New Haven, Conn.
1892 - 1899	Lived in Minneapolis, Minn.
1900 - 1909	Lived there in Harlem, New York City.(no blacks then) Attended Brearley School. Bryn Mawr College, 1901-1905.
Oct.28, 1909	Married to, Clarence Morgan Hardenbergh
1911 - 1929	Lived in Minneapolis two years. Lived in Kansas City, Mo.
1929 -	Returned to Minneapolis.



Four children:

Alice Lee (Clark)	b. in M'pls.	1911
Collis Morgan	b. in K.C., Mo.	1912
Esther	b. " " "	1915
Mary Nichols (Dethier)	b. " " "	1921

Now, I'll try to carry out Clarence's request, while I still have my wits (or some of them) and tell you of my good fortune and my pleasures.

Who, at age 88 still has her spouse of 90? Maybe he can see with only one eye, but he has just finished 3 handsome little tables, with red, blue, or brown legs, and put out 2 cold-frames, and prepares food and drinks for his retired friends' afternoon bridge games.

Also, who else is lucky enough to have 20-20 vision? all her own teeth? I am deafish and arthritic, but I can still put my right leg into my underwear without support, (left leg too, once in a while). And who is fortunate enough to have 4 wonderful progeny, increased by rare in-laws and young grands, and even 2 great grands?

SINGING

One thing I have always enjoyed is singing, not as a soloist, but a joiner-inner, or a collector. One summer Avis and I could sing a song in 7 languages. The first song I recollect I must have learned from the Irish maids we had in New Haven: "Little Annie Rooney". Grandma Shepley asked me to sing it to her, but suddenly, as I remember, I wouldn't show off. But I have been showing off ever since. They also taught me "Down went McGinty".

The first hymn I remember is "There is a Happy Land": It has been unpleasantly parodied into "There is a Boarding House not far Away". While on the subject of songs, one of the advantages of public school at recess was unsupervised singing games... out on the dingy grounds of Jefferson School, Minneapolis...

King William was King William's son,
Upon the royal race he run,
Upon his breast he wore a star
Pointing to the pickle jar

(What do you suppose could have been the origin of that?) or...

Go in and out the windows
As we go round the levee..
I kneel because I love you.'
I brought my love to show you"

(all repeated and with action)

Elsie Hardenbergh taught me songs, both funny.."She hit him with a shingle, and she made his trousers tingle" and "Oblige A Lady" or sentimental.."Sometimes between long shadows on the grass".

--Tau Kappa Phi songs in Minneapolis Central High

--Don and Shep taught me college and Groton songs. Recently someone recalled C.M.H. and me singing "Abdul ah Bulbul Ameer" at a picnic.

--Bryn Mawr College, senior singing, both inside on Merion stairs and outside on Taylor steps. Orals songs, class songs, May Day songs. Our freshman play "Borumora" (Floradora was then the vogue in New York) was anti coeds at B.M.C.



c.10 yrs. Flower girl for Auntie Katie,
Grace Church Church, Salem (p.18)

ART

I have always enjoyed various kinds of Art:

My first paint box was superior to present-day ones; it had names of the colors..madder brown, cobalt and prussian blue, crimson, vermillion.

At Central High we were assigned "Draw a corner"; I went out and sat catty-corner across from the old Berkley Hotel on First Ave. South (it is still there as an apartment house) on a bank of grass and drew it.

--Took lessons of Agnes Harrison in the old library; we drew marble busts in black and white charcoal.

--At Brearley School made a rug design

--Sketch books often taken on trips and to Intervale

--A few oil painting lessons since living in Minneapolis

Should Guiding at the Institute of Arts be considered under art? That was a great pleasure to me..1961-1970 explaining its treasures to visiting groups, both school children and adults. Sometimes they knew enough themselves to scare me. E.G. once I was a bit hesitant about a new Marc Chagall and one of my listeners had recently seen his whole collection in Jerusalem. Another time I was telling that the silver-smith, John Coney, used as his "signature" a little cony, an animal that is mentioned in Psalm 104; a girl in the group pulled a prayer book out of her pocket to check on me..luckily I was right.



1933 workclothes & tools for Concordia work day.

EXERCISE

Exercise has always been part of my life. Even now people at St. Marks say to me, "Did you WALK?" I still do, tho' assisted by my "3rd leg", a cane.

The first walking I remember was holding on to the baby-carriage in which the nurse was pushing baby Don, in New Haven, around the Green and past the old State House (now gone) or up toward Hillhouse Ave. --or walking alone up to the R.R. bridge and spitting down on the freight cars--or walking to Miss McFarland's little school and wondering why a certain store window on the way there should spell comical "commercial".

My first climb or hike was with my Dad along the ridge of Mt. Carmel near New Haven; and my last was in the summer of my 80th birthday - 3 little mountains new to me: Israel, Dome Rock and Blueberry (opposite Baldface),

Tennis began in Intervale in 1900. At Bryn Mawr College.. field hockey and preprandial "jogging" (you'd say now) and once trudging to Valley Forge (renting a horse and cart and taking turns riding or walking) ending with a picnic lunch, cooling our feet by the stream at Washington's Headquarters.

--In Kansas City, May Egan and I tried to start field hockey, but it came to naught.

--Gardening in Intervale with H.P.N. and gardening in Salem with Aunty Ellen, where there were box-bordered flowerbeds (I can still smell it) and both colors of cherries on the trees. Gardening a little in K.C. and Ferndale and up and down the terraces in Minneapolis with Clarence.



ACTING

Now, should acting come under Exercise? or Art?

In New Haven, Aunty Ellen had us act in charades, which we continued at Christmas time in Minneapolis 40 years later.

--Dumb Crambo in Intervale summer after summer

--Bryn Mawr: "Canterbury Tales", "Borumora", a May Day play about witches.

Mrs. Merriman's woods in Intervale provided a natural setting for outdoor Shakespeare plays, put on by the Freeman girls. I was Sylvius in "As You Like It" and Flute the Bellows-mender in "Midsummer Nights Dream".

In Kansas City I was in "At Mrs. Beam's" and both Clarence and I were in the Comedy Club's Gilbert & Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance".

In H.T.C. in Harlem I was in a Gilbert & Sullivan ("The Dutchess of Plazatoro"). -- Helped Gogo (Mildred Sargent) put on Tennyson's "Princess" with her Sunday School class.

--At St. Marks in Minneapolis, 1937, "Rummage to Rhythm": I suppose it was a kind of acting to entertain the Church Home ladies and the St. Marks "Confab Club" with my "New England Monologue". It gave me a chance to tell "Thar She Blows" and make them sing "Twas a Friday Night when we set Sail". Addressing up in my Yucatan dress, I treated them to Christmas customs in Many Lands; and at Nora Hersey's request, I did the same for Emerson School kids.

In Minneapolis I was also in a Spanish language play at the College Club.



Midsummer Night's Dream.. Freemans: Constance, Ethel
?, Nichols, Carrie F., Janet Allen. Merriman woods.

SEWING

I have always enjoyed sewing, learned not from my mother who was left handed, but from Aunt Ellen who often visited us in New Haven. She had me make a square of outline embroidery. When I visited in Salem I would go with Aunt Ellen to the "chiffle wukkers" and I over-handed pieces of patchwork together there.

At H.T.C. (Holy Trinity Church) there were good Saturday a.m. sewing classes where I helped teach the kids the stitches which were taught us by the superintendant at special after-school sessions.

In Kansas City at St. Paul's Church we made pajamas for French refugees during World War I ... Marion Jones was the boss,"Leave the bastings in, they need the thread in France." She had a sewing club for Esther and other girls of that age, so I started one later for Mary and her friends. I made the bridesmaids' embroidered dresses for Ellie Jones and Esther for Margie Jones' wedding. Margie taught me to knit in W.W. I.

In Minneapolis I taught sewing to kids at Wells Memorial, tho' the kids preferred my reading aloud (esp. "Little Black Sambo"..those were the days when you could still be funny and familiar about "the colored"..e.g. "Didya evah see a cullud baptism--in de ribba--how dey shibba--").

I have made bright-colored p.j's and nightgowns right up to the present for children and grands..reminds me of my childhood, as "gramma" A.A.A. Nichols always sent me a white flannel n.g. at Xmas. Aunt Sarah Shepley taught me hem-stitching.

I have made aprons: "half-aprons for a part-time cook", double-pocketed aprons and "Panty-shoebags" for St. Marks' Gift Day Sales.

In England when my mother was laid up with a broken leg, I was taught smocking for 2 shillings and later made smocked dresses, sometimes for cash.

Needlepoint..one of the "Thoosday Club" women taught me; I made covers for our ottomans and chairs; I made a piece 45 inches long, designs of Church symbols, for the National Cathedral in Washington (you can see it on a stone bench in the North Transept).



BRAIN WORK

The first thing I remember reading to myself were the "Dotty Dimple" books and "Grimm's Fairy Tales" in Salem, and the Brownie books. One of the oldest books that I still own is "Greek Heroes" given me by Lloyd Deming, one of the students we had as boarders in our big house in New Haven; another boarder was Amos Eno Pinchot.

H.P.N. read aloud to us of an evening, lots of Dickens; and I have read aloud to our children, to Agnes Hallowell, Bessie Jones, and of late to Clarence.

The best Sunday School teacher I remember was Mrs. Passmore (the mother of "itemized Passmore" (now Fan Lowe) as we called her in the little shop at B.M.C. that I helped in. Then there was Mr. Sanford, also a S.S. teacher in old St. Marks, at whose wedding his S.S. scholars were bridesmaids. (I wonder why) in 1895 or so.

St. Marks S.S. under my father made an event of Lent mite boxes. He was nicknamed "Mite-box Harry".. Easter afternoon there was a special mite-box service.

On Holy Innocents Day there was a special S.S. Xmas party; in the 1890's not long after the big panic, there were few parties, and the S.S. party was a big event. I remember H.P.N.'s glee at leading one game, "I go a'fishing"..everyone was seated and he went around whispering to each person, "You are a fishing rod, you are a worm for bait...or a picnic basket, a trout, a stream, a fish line; etc. Each one was to jump up and follow the fisherman when his appellation was called. So then H.P.N., as the fisherman, walked around and round, telling a long tale, and at the right call, each one followed him. Meantime, one chair had been sneaked away. So when the fish was finally caught, and each one was to dash back to his chair, of course, the slowest one had no chair, and he had to be the next fisherman.

At St. Marks I taught a Bible class of teen-age girls; they said, "Let's study cathedrals" and that gave me a chance to talk about the saints they were named for: St. Paul's in London or St. Stephens in Vienna. As the Intervale dressmaker said, "You can do most anything by contrivin." More recently, I found it a pleasure to give Bible talks to groups of women in summer at Blanche West's house. Was it then that I talked about the Apocrypha?

The first "papers" I had to give were for the "Owlets" club that Helen Griffith's sister evolved--a little club of Central High girls and boys; we studied Greek mythology. I was Ceres seems to me. The "Owlets" met at different homes and had refreshments after the "papers". Elsie H. made the favorite hostess afterward, when it was Clare's turn.

--For some 35 years it has taken hours of brain work to do book reviews for the Tuesday Club annually and to pursue a given topic for the Peripatetics.

--Since 1908 I have enjoyed being class collector for the Alumnae Fund of Bryn Mawr College.

TRAVELS

We moved from New Haven to Minneapolis in 1892 when my father became rector of St. Marks Church. On Feb. 14th, our first Sunday in Minneapolis, "Momma" as we still called her, had to stay in the hotel at 9th and Nicollet with baby Shep so I walked to St. Marks with my Dad, down Nicollet Ave., past Plymouth Church and Chapmans grocery and past Westminster Church, and turned toward Hennepin Ave. on 6th St. where St. Marks was then. (There is a tablet at the entrance to the Dyckman Hotel, commemorating the fact.) At the entrance stood the Senior Warden to greet us.. "Welcome to Minneapolis, Mr. Nichols; I hope you will be happy here; I see your little girl is with you; she can sit with my family." (Catch question, what was the Senior Warden's name?) The church service was followed by Sunday School at which my father was introduced, "Children, this is your valentine, Mr. Nichols." He made his parish calls on foot or on his bicycle.

Things new to me in Minneapolis were finding that "tonight" meant after school; that "ug-hugh" and "ung-ungh" meant yes and no. (In New England "yes" was "ayah" and "no" was "nope".) The dry climate gave you an electric shock upon touching metal. In Minneapolis grocery deliveries etc. were made on big sleds or sleighs, horse-drawn, along the snowy streets. A favorite amusement: run along and jump on the rear runner for a free ride. The smaller wagons had narrower runners so I preferred, say, a lumber delivery sled with wide runners. We called it "catchin' on bobs". In Salem it would be goin' pungen'. (Anybody remember the word "pung"?)

I went to Jefferson School, 7th St. and First Ave. North. The 4th grade teacher used methods that now would be called "eachoone teach one" or "far out." She had us teach each other; a boy came and sat by me in one of those double seats, because I understood diagramming a sentence better than he did; a musical girl stood up in front and taught us all to sing "Silent Night." But my brother, Don, came down with typhoid and I was removed to private school, Mrs. Cleveland's, on Nicollet Ave. and 18th Street.

We lived in a frame house where the Foshay Tower now is. The house had a big back yard where we all played games in the afternoon - "Run, Sheep, Run" for instance. Milicent Hosmer of the librarian family, the Garland boys of candy-store family and "Clare" Hardenbergh.

In 1911 we moved to Kansas City, Mo. with baby Alice. When Don went to war in 1917 we took his 2 little sons, so with Esther and Collis, we had 5 kids. In K.C. we had a Thanksgiving dinner picnic outdoors with other New Englanders. A group of us had a sort of evening club, the "Marionnettes."

Intervale

If course there were many trips to Intervale where "Concordia Hut" was built in 1889, and this year, 1971 it is housing the 6th generation of our family. See p. 12 Relatives and Appendix I, History. (But I bet I didn't include the sign in the old Intervale R.R. station, which read "Gents Walk".)

Salem

We went often to Salem, my father's home town, usually on the way to Intervale. Grampa and Gramma Nichols were so hospitable, taking in all the family, including sometimes Elsie Hardenbergh and Florence Harrison. This was in the house at 37 Chestnut St. with its ample garden of box-bordered flower beds...not in the famous Peirce-Nichols house at 80 Federal Street where the Aunts lived. In 1890 I had a special visit in Salem, long enough to go to school, where the children bribed me to say "work"; being from New Haven, my natural pronunciation was "woik". One day I came home from school and Aunty Ellen said, "Guess what, I had a letter from your mothr, and you have a new baby brother." (That was Shepley; he was drowned in W.W. I - swept off a torpedo boat chaser.) I admired the picture on the wall of "The Seven Ages of Man", I liked the squirrel dish on the sideboard--we now have it in Minneapolis. Do you know what I mean when I say that I sometimes had "brown bread brewis" for supper? or "jumbles"? Sometimes I was sent around the corner to the store, "Ham & Friend". Gramma played "Halma" with me.

Charlestown

Grandma Shepley lived in the Hotel Waverley in Charlestown, Mass. Having moved from Fitchburg after her husband died. When my mother took me there to visit, I was allowed to have tea in the hotel dining room; and there was an elevator. Grandma Shepley had false hair, quite different from the mod wigs; Aunty Gee (short for Eugelia) came across the hall where she and Uncle Charles Shepley lived, to put "it" on, as Grandma had a paralyzed arm. Uncle Urancis Bas,;er Shepley took me on walks to see the Bunker Hill Monument. In Grandma's living room there was a pile of Scribners magazines which I liked to pour over because there were jokes at the back of each copy. Francis was claim agent for the Fitchburg R.R.

Europe

Trips with my parents and brothers:

1896 England and St. Beatenberg, Switzerland.

1903 England; my mother broke her leg descendin slippery grassy Helvellyn and we stayed in Keswick

1908 England; attended the Anglican Congress reception at the Bishop of London's garden.

1936 With Clarence to England, Scotland Amsterdam, Paris. 1967 With Maisie and Charlie to Ireland,. Scotland, England.

Vacations in U.S.

1910 Second honeymoon canoe trip to Cass Lake.

1919 Glacier Park with Clarence and H.P.N.

1923 Green Mountain Falls, Colo. and Grand Canyon.

1926 Haha Tonka, Mo. 1928 Estes Park, Colo.

1930 Canadian Rockies in the "Sage Mouse" with Collis, Lawry and J.D.N. Jr. to meet H.P.N.

Winter Trips with Clarence

One day I said to Clarence, "Why do Mr. Goodell (the President of Commander-Larabee, whom Clarence succeeded) and others go on late winter trips, not we?" So in 1935 we began our winter trips to the Caribbean. We became quite an authority making 18 trips between 1935 and 1966 to the Caribbean, Bermuda, Mexico and Florida - usually by boat. We also made three winter trips to California and one to Hawaii.

What a lot of grand trips! And my little "travel books" are full of new flowers, constellations, people, doings.



RELATIVES

No wife ever had such a dream of a husband as I have had for 61 years! Think of all the disasters he has stood up to with wisdom, efficiency and kindness: he went to my mother's funeral at the same time as Esther's birth, went to comfort Agnes when Penrose died, he took on Don's boys during W.W.I (one of the reasons besides making "essential" flour that he did not volunteer), coping with the smallpox that afflicted the 5 children's nurse, Lily, managing for us after the fire that destroyed our K.C. home -- to mention some.

My father, Harry Peirce Nichols, the preacher, who said his celery was more famous than his sermons, who led all 6 grand-children up Mt. Washington different years.

My mother, who liked to quote Browning and Emerson and was the unforgettable hostess of Concordia - Alice Martha Shepley Nichols.

My brother, John Donaldson Nichols, Don - who married the Dutch countess Beatrice Henriette Suzanne Victoria Wilhelmina. Their two sons, Lawrence van Bylandt Nichols and (Col.) J.D.N. Jr.

(Other siblings: Katherine died of meningitis aged 4;
Shepley, a Groton school joker, drowned W.W.I.
baby Lawrence died in England)

Don and Shep both attended. Groton and Harvard.

Grandma Nichols, our Salem hostess, Amelia Ann Ainsworth, wife of Grandpa, Charles Saunders Nichols. (Charles' sisters Lydia, Mary Jane, and Lizzie were "the aunts" of 80 Federal Street. Charles' only brother, George, is ancestor of most of our other Nichols relatives. Charles' father, George, was the Salem Shipmaster.)

(Amelia Ann had alliterative sisters and one brother, Joseph Fessenden Ainsworth. His two daughters, Mabel and Gertrude, were Harry's first cousins and Mabel was the only one who dared to tease Harry - so her story went. No Ainsworth descendants.)

Aunty Ellen, the maiden aunt, gardner, camper, gamester -Ellen Amelia Nichols, older sister of Harry. Younger sister was Katherine who married F.W. Bartlett, older brother was:

Uncle Charles Fessenden Nichols, homeopathic M.D., father of Cherry (whose 4 daughters we still see) and of Fez and Bennie.

Grandma Shepley, partly paralyzed, shared Intervale expenses, Martha Millicent Harvey Shepley, married Stephen Shepley who kept a bookstore in Fitchburg, Mass.

Aunt Sarah Shepley, great aunt, sister of Stephen, a teacher in New York; she watched the stock market and left me some stocks or bonds.

Uncle Francis Baxter Shepley, who once promised that I was to be his housekeeper but got married instead, brother of my mother, Alice. (He married Charlotte Allen, lived in Concord, Mass. - two children, Ruth and John.) Alice's other brother, Charles married Eugelia. No descendants of these Shepleys.

Four children, 14 grandchildren, 2 great-grands.

Son-in-law, Lincoln Clark, Bridgeport Univ. professor.

Son-in-law, Charles Dethier, Haverford School professor.

Daughter-in-law, Nancy, calls me "Maf, pleasantly daft".

END



The way to keep healthy to a ripe old age is to have a husband that spoils you and to have plenty of interests.

In my time, of course, I have dutifully filled such offices as President of the Visiting Nurses Association and Secretary of the American Association of University Women and President of the Womens Auxiliary of St. Marks (maybe it was still called the Ladies Aid, but now it is merely called the Women of St. Marks).

I took on new activities at a fairly advanced age: guiding at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, playing the auto-harp, the aforementioned needlepoint, learning Spanish which amuses the S. Marks Cubans when we exchange Spanish jokes at the Sunday coffee hour. 4 I fear I have never done anything noble to help the world along. So I'll just have to be contented with Cronkhite's biographer: "He could enjoy himself under almost any sort of condition, and feels that retirement, when and if it occurs, will cause him no difficulty at all."



1960 cousins -4 children, 3 in-laws
12 of 14 grandsChalmers & David missing



Family (Mpls. '69) in front of portrait of MBN (p.22)

APPENDIX I

History of Concordia Hut, Intervale. N.H. as recollected by M.B.N.H. 1959

1888 Rev. Harry Peirce Nichols and Alice Shepley Nichols came to visit the M.M.Hurds of Hurd and Houghton, at Intervale, know-ing Richard and George Hurd in New Haven. (His house now the "White Mules") He took H.P.N. "to see a pasture up behind his house." H.P.N. wanted a "modest summer cottage", so Mr. Hurd advised the present site, as the lot nearer the road where the Brown House (R.Davis) now is, "ought to have an imposing house because seen from the road." Of course, both locations had superb views all around, then.

1889 House finished. H.P.N., A.S.N., M.B.N.(almost 7), J.D.N. (5) and Katherine (3) plus maids, Katy and Jennie, came for the summer. What I remember best was the downstairs lavatory! Living room, stairs, fireplaces, lavatory, and wide piazza were same as now. But front door was where picture window now is, and driveway circled in front of it. No den, no screens. We ran our tricycle and velocipede from railing at E. end of piazza to railing at end of dining porch. Dining room had same french doors, but was shorter, its S. wall at dining porch rail. No back stairs; in that entry was icebox and wood pile. No butler's pantry, kitchen same length as D.R., kitchen pantry as now. Maids slept in attic..that bedroom was two rooms. Upstairs. Blue room as now, but there was a window at S. end, as it was a corner room. No Salem room. Where liner closet and hart of hall are now, was a corner guestroom (one of its windows now in linen closet). Hall bathroom was oblong, no ell, no set tub, but a round tin tub; toilet in same place as now, bowl next it. Historic pull chain still in place. The big bedroom was over whole of living room, thus included red or strawberry room and that little hall and fireplace now in yellow room (of course, not the part over den, there being no den)..no bath of its own, no porch. Opening off it was a small part of yellow room, mine, which had same connecting door to blue room. Big room held parents' bed, cot for Don, and crib for current baby (still occasionally used).

1890,91,92,93 Katherine died, Shepley was born, family moved to Minnesota from New Haven. We had villages in Cathedral Woods. H.P.N. took us strawberrying and blueberrying, up Moat and Kearsarge, Hurricane, probably Thorn. Brown House built by Col. Deering of Portland, and we played in the foundations; later it was bought by the Merrimans and rented. Played with Burroughs children..Mr. Burroughs our gardner ("I'll be snumbed"). Lennox Lodge was the home of Rev. and Mrs. Currie, she was mother of C.C.Zantzinger and grandmother of our playmates, Carol and Alfred Watts. Our grandma Shepley often stayed in what we now call the Blue room and took me on rides in the Bellevue buckboard driven by Mr. Barnes..around the Ledges, or to the Mineral Spring near Redstone.

1894 Elsie Hardenbergh spent summer with us, A.S.N. thought it good for her health. First camping trip, into Tuckerman's Ravine--a log cabin, not the later leant° open camp, and, of course, long before the A.M.C. camps.

1895 We stayed in Minneapolis. Lawrence born. Concordia rented to Watts (?)

1896 Family in England and Switzerland. Lawrence died. House rented to Dean Slattery.

1897,98 D.R. and kitchen lengthened, kitchen porch added. Maids were N.H. girls, Vinnie Nute and Emma Seavey; they washed clothes on that porch, red papier tubs, dumped water in the road--how pretty it looked with bluing in it. Yellow room lengthened W. and sleeping porch added. Salem and Green rooms over D.R. and kitchen, but no "boys room" nor bath yet. Elsie H. and Florence Harrison long visits. Big climbs, Northern Peaks. A Dennison family in Brown House (a grand-daughter, Meg, and her husband, Les Brown, now run "House of Color"). Don and Ned Dennison broke windows in house on top of Kearsarge, bad boys. Screens put around dining porch. Front door moved to present site, porte-cochere added, and drive changed to go under it. Where front door had been, there was put a 3-sided bay, its seat cushion, brown velvet, is on cot bed on E. porch now. (I know, I fixed that corner patch.) Skylight put into porch roof, and porch ceiling painted white to lighten the living room.

1899 Big camping trip in "Perch" and "Cascade camps". C.M.H. visits on way to M.I.T. Many of these years the Richards family was at "The Langdon", later Yankee Pedlar.

1900 Addition of Den at E. end of big porch. Mrs. Merriman designed the stained glass window...that room has had varied history... first for A.S.N. and her own desk, then game room where Miss Eckert had the young folk play bridge, then play school where Nancy Grace Snow had little Clarks etc., now Clarence' tools. Tennis court built. Don's Groton school friends visit these years.

1902 My B.M.C. college friends begin to visit, Avis Putnam first.

1903 Family in Europe. House rented to a Miss Richards (not related to W. Richards).

1904 H.P.N.'s Doctor of Divinity. H.P.N. shaved moustache. First guest book. See those, and photograph volumes for people and events. George Nichols White here.

1905 New E. wing added, "boys room" and bath where shower now is, for Don, 21 yrs. birthday. Also bedroom off kitchen, and probably bathroom in cellar. Electricity put in, I think. Back stairs as now, after vicissitudes of a) none; b) a try at coming right into kitchen by stove (probably those mysterious steps in boys room closet are remnant of that) and c) twisting down somewhat as now, but in place of boys room there was a store room. Now "suicide stairs" (Lura).

1907 British Embassy rented several houses. Lord Bryce at Stone-hurst, other officials in Worcesters, Brown and Red houses (red now Woodard's). When Mrs. Merriman returned in the fall and was inspecting things with Mr. Pitman, who had been in charge, he said as they passed the Red House, "Eeyah, here's where the dooks and the caounts lived, 'n when it come time to go, one of 'em give me a dime, 'n I didn't hev no change, 'n so I kep it all."

1908 House rented to Mallet-Prevost. Helen Freeman and I cleaned. See poem.

1909 Blackcap had ben burned in 1908, making it a fine viewpoint, so we made path. Living room woodwork painted white, picture window placed as now. Janet Allen lettered the "quotation" and stencilled the birds on the wallpaper frieze. My visit-ing, friends hem trousseau napkins while Dr. Currie reads aloud "The Little Minister". .B.N. married C.M.H.

1911 J.D.N. married Beatrice Henriette Suzanne Victoria Wilhelmina van Bylandt.

1912 Grandchildren begin to visit.

1914 Rented to Slattery.

1915-18 Porch and bath added for A.S.N., but she died in 1915. Beatrice died 1917. Shepley died in World War I. 1918-1935 or so The 6 grandchildren climbed, worked, played, made villages with Noyes, Browns, Loomises, Emersons. Collis and Jan became A.M.C. hutmen. H.P.N. still famous climber. Wide E. porch narrowed to present size. When was heat put into cellar? Once there was hot air, then steam heat, which no one could work but David Crouse ("Well, this next generation is gettin' wiser 'n weaker.") You can see filled-in squares and holes here and there in floors and ceilings. Radiators were finally sold to Robt. Davis (1942?) who had moved into Brown House. Wooden floor terrace by dining porch replaced by rubble, 1927. Driveway curve changed. Kitchen drive went around apple tree, changed to go around clothes line, 1929(?) 1928 B. Whites in Concordia. H.P.N. at Bellevue 1930 - Coolidges in Concordia. H.P.N. at Pendexter 1931 Guy Saunders paints floors. M.N.H. in Concordia, July H.P.N. at General Convention, Denver. 1932 - Dining room newly papered. William Ichabod Nichols and Mary at Concordia. 1934 Simonds rent Concordia. H.P.N. at Ravine House, Randolph. 1935 - Mrs. Lamb is Concordia cook. 1936 - March, Alice skis in N.H. Ernest Hardenbergh died Jan. E.A.Nichols moved to 83 Federal St.

1938 Alice married in D.R. to Lincoln H. Clark. (Too rainy for ceremony in cathedral woods.) H.P.N. and Ben Washburn officiating, music was Bretton Woods choir boys. (Aunty Ellen, "Would you still call him Ben when he is a Bishop?")

1940-44 H.P.N. died fall 1944. His nephew, Rev. Fessenden Nichols, had the Episcopal church and his wife did war work in Hospital and her daughter, Catherine, was born there. 1941 Chas. Deems rented.

1945 Katrina H. Clark born in Memorial Hospital, North Conway. Don remarried and later they put in the pyrofax stove, tho' keeping wood-burning stove. (The original one had a water tank at one side and you dipped out the hot water.)

1950 C.N.H. retired and began to add modern improvements..stainless steel sink in place of old black iron one, automatic water heater, new pantry sink to replace one that was full of Deems' icepick holes. New roof, asphalt, to replace the shingle roof H.P.N. had paid for with stamp collection; new gutter spouts. David P. Dethier born in Memorial Hospital. Don died Nov. 1950.

1951 Electric refrigerator in kitchen, old icebox was in back entry and now C.M.H. used that space to make closet for maid's room. Later made bath for the room.

1952 Charles Brock Dethier born here too. New heating plant put into cellar by Mr. Bunker and C.M.H. after the big digging project (Charlie) to drain spring water out of cellar to go down under rootd, where it comes out as "Minnehaha" in a wet spring. Cellar bath removed. Back drive turnaround changed to a "Y" and grape arbor moved nearer tennis court.

Furniture Salemroom bed labeled F.W. Bartlett. He married H.P.N.'s younger sister, Katherine Fessenden Ainsworth Nichols. N.B.N. was flower girl at her wedding in Salem, 1892(?). She died in a few years, perhaps when Salem room was built and so the furniture, pictures etc. came here(?). The canopy of the bed is now ball-fringed curtains in Salem room. (But where did that remarkable piece of printed flannelette come from that is closet curtain in downstairs bedroom?) Salem room blankets are apparently handwoven, cross-stitched "A" for Ainsworth, presumably H.P.N.'s "grandma Ainsworth" who was married in 1809 and lived in Bethel, Vt. A handsome white quilt has same letter "A", and linen pillowcase - they are on top shelf in linen closet. M.B.N.H. made the pillowcase out of the last linen sheet (handwoven?). On same shelf are cotton ruffles

that were tacked around base of bed; also a pillow sham embroidered "A.M.S." The bureau was "Unky Peirce's".. he was husband of Catherine Calista Ainsworth--that alliterative family..Amelia Ann, Catherine Calista, Ellen Elizabeth, Martha Miranda, Calvin Chamberlain, but Joseph Fessenden , all of Bethel.

Otherwise the best pieces are the Sheraton sofa from Bethel, the narrow sofa (I don't know whence), the candlestand, the tiptop table labeled by H.P.N. as 'elonging to Pierrepont Foster, presumably of New Haven. H.P.N. wanted each grand-child to have something nice from Concordia. So Alice now has the mahogany highboy, J.D.N. Jr. a lowboy, Lawrence a Bethel bureau, Collis some coffee spoons and shell pattern forks, Mary the Ballard spoons, and Esther the windmill-tiled table. I think the only Shepley piece is the table be-hind front door (inlay). The big footstool upholstered in red.. I remember turning over in New Haven for a doll's house.

The greenish stained furniture in big bedroom was probably bought for the big bedroom of 1889; also a reddish set dates from then, some of it now in kitchen bedroom. Oak D.R. set from Minnesota 1899. Original D.R. set is now kitchen table, and sideboard, cut down, is C.M.H.'s tool holder. Six dining porch chairs are from Bethel. One curiosity..in kitchen low cupboard under bread boxes are 2 iron sort of clamps above, and 2 pulleys below; they were to swing out the half barrels of flour and sugar. Above sink at left, a metal holder for oil lamp.

Railroad This year 1959, the first year no passenger trains go through Intervale, is an appropriate time to mention the importance of the R.R. to us. In 1888 A.S.N. was willing to build here rather than Randolph (no R.R. then) or Waterville. In the early days we would stop off at Salem to visit Nichols relatives. I remember once we got off B.& M. train at platform between North Conway and Intervale and awaited Maine Central train

for rest of trip. From Minnesota we came by Soo Line and Montreal, fine sleepers etc. on those trains. In early climbing days there was a 7 a.m. train which took us to trails up Willard, Willey, Webster, Avalon, Washington.. returning late train. Also an early train south, used for reaching Chocorua. A 10 a.m. train to North Conway, Maine Central station for Peaked and Middle. Guests came by train; the boys got tips carrying bags, by hand or wheelbarrow. Of late years, trains a big event for automobile-bred grandchildren.

Name from Concordia Hlitte on the Jungfrau. H.P.N. chose the name as it indicates the starting point for a climb.

Of course H.P.N. was the life of Concordia through his 90th birthday in 1940. His 6 grandchildren were all his companions climbing Mt. Washington at one time or another. His "millionth of guethth" were a notable characteristic, and so were his Bible readings.

For more, see photograph books and guest books.

VICTORIAN INTERVALE (Memories of M.B.N.H. written 1967)

Can you picture Intervale in the days when there were trains, trains, trains., no cars, no telephones, miles of paths through the Cathedral Woods and the Merriman woods pine trees, and several big hotels! The Intervale House stood where Mr. Cannel's "Intervale Motel" now is. (You can still see the cement walk that leads from near its n.e. corner...that was where the Intervale House porter pushed the guests' luggage over to and from the station.)

The Intervale House Saturday evening "hops" were gay; we cottagers could go and dance. I learned the schottische and the lancers. On certain mornings we'd take our embroidery and sit on the long piazza and listen to the orchestra. The Intervale P.O. was there, run by Ted Drew's grandfather, Reuben Weeks.

The store near the present P.O. (now empty) had everything to sq,11. One day Don Nichols went there to buy some sneak-ers from Bill Drew who said, "Dawn, you've got awful big feet." Don said, "Have you ever seen Roger Merriman's?" "Well, I've seen pabts of 'em."

If you had shopping to do in North Cawnway, there were plenty of trains to both the B.&M. and the Maine Central stations. (Those two R.R.'s united between N.C. and Intervale.. when you walk the tracks you can see the junction.) You could go at 10 a.m., 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. and return at 11, 3, or 6.

But almost everything was delivered at the door: the fish man, Mr. Harriman who sparked the Irish cook brought from New Haven; the meatman, Mr. Thurston, who greeted Mother, "How's your man? is he rugged?"; the veal lady (Henry Hatch's mother) who killed the "crittur" up on Thorn Hill road; Mr. Brock from Davis' general store in No. Conway to take your order and bring it another day.

The Bellevue House (where Clarendon Motel is now) was not so gay as the Intervale House, but the Barnes Bros. who ran it would rent us a buckboard or a "mountain wagon" for an occasional picnic and sell us a steak in a crisis. The Lang-don House

(where the Yankee Pedlar is) was where our Salem friends stayed; Taskers, beyond the present Peter Limmer's was where the Jacob Washburns stayed.

Our native playmates were the Burroughs who lived across the tracks...the grandson is now an important citizen of Conway, Mr. Burnham Davis. The youngest Burroughs was "Mynie" who ran away with the N.C. Episcopal incumbent mini-ster! to London. Mr. B. (our faithful gardner for years) went over and brought her back. "Miz Nichols, London is an AWFUL place!" I forgot to say, when Mynie was still a school girl she said one day that she liked the school in Kearsarge because they gave you "2 hours noonin", her mother chided her, "Mynie, don't say noonin'..it sounds so countrified." The gala event was the Coaching Parade; all the hotels and boarding houses decorated their stage coaches and mountain wagons with bright bunting and drove through town shouting their cheers..."3range and blue, orange and blue, we're from the Intervale, who are you?" ... or "vuddaveevo, vivo vum, boom get a rat trap bigger'n a mouse trap, chicka licka.. siss boom bah!"... ti On Sundays, often we went to a.m. church in North Conway and afternoon church in Kearsarge village, walking thro' the Cathedral woods. Sometimes to a.m. service, Swedenborgian, in Dr. Worcester's chapel, still there on the Worcester Hill. He was such a charming gentle soul with blue eyes inherited now by his daughter Margaret Briggs. Sunday afternoon sometimes a walk to the cemetery to put flowers on little Katherine's grave.

In 1893 we up to pick up to live there it and loaned Loomises etc.

watched the Brown House a'building, running bits of lumber. Col. Deering of Portland was but he died shortly and Mrs. Merriman bought or rented it to various Freemans, Browns, She had also bought the Red House (where Roddy Woodard now lives) and some Walkers, Lawrences lived there.

At an early age we began climbing Kearsarge. The J. Washburns put a fine path up it over Bartlett, but now you must go from Kearsarge Village. We climbed Moat, often for blue-berries, and always by fording across the Saco. Usually climbed Mt. Washington by the Crawford path, taking an early train thro' the Notch and spending night on Summit.

To swim in the Saco, you undressed in the poison ivy down beyond Merriman Farm, until the Intervale Improvement Society put a pontoon footbridge and bath houses down that road across the fields which starts just before highway crosses track.. That footbridge was washed out about 1908 (?).

Concordia was the last of the summer cottages to be built on the hill, 1889. The Merrimans lived in Stonehurst; the Hurds in the present"White Mules"; the Currys in Lennox Lodge. (I'm wrong, the little house was built by Miss Alice Hurd about 1915.)

On the main road, the Fettes, Migret's grandparents, lived in their house 1880. The Schoulers lived where Kendrick now lives, their nephew was Glover Allen; the Aliens lived in small house, now Mr. Noel's. Hoffmans was then the Merriman farm; Don used to carry a gallon can of milk thence home to Concordia.

In 1900 H.P.N. built our tennis court, tho' the west half of it was on Merriman land, and Don & Shep were in various tournaments. In 1907 Stonehurst was British soil, Ambassador Bryce and H.P.N. were congenial over "asplenium fontanum" etc. In 1908 after a fire had denuded Blackcap of its forest, we built the path up it. In 1909 various visitors at Concordia hemmed my trousseau napkins while Dr. Currie read aloud "The Little Minister". Mrs. Merriman painted my portrait. The Rev. William Richards family were often climbing and camping with us; they stayed probably at the Langdon. He assisted at my wedding.

APPENDIX III Notes and Additions by Others p.2 Avis is Avis Putnam Dethier, BMC classmate and mother of Charles Putnam Dethier who later married daughter Mary.

p.3 Elsie Hardenbergh was Clarence Morgan Hardenbergh's next older sister - by 3 years. She often did not attend school because of poor health - but was a close friend of "Clare's" and of MBNH. Other older siblings of CMH were: Ernest, Fred (father of Raymond and Helen), Bessie H. Jones (mother of Lee and J. Willis), and Agnes H. Hallowell (mother of Penrose). Agnes Harrison, later Mrs. John Lincoln; her brother, John Harrison of Mpls. The rug design is extant in black box of upstairs hall at 66 Groveland Ter.

p.4 May Egan was BMC, father in R.R. business. Later married J. Stogdell Stokes, Phila. - daughter Mrs. John S. Price, BMC '47, '60. Ferndale - name of area where Hardenbergh house on Lake Minnetonka is located - lived in at that time by Agnes.

p.5 Mrs. Merriman - was a Bigelow of Worcester - big carpet company. Mr. Bigelow built Stonehurst in 1873. She married Mr. Merriman, a minister. Son Roger (Fritzie at Harvard as professor) sold house and all cathedral woods to Ela, a lumberman. House bought by Nitchelms in about 1948, sold to Eakers in 1970. When the Merrimans lived in Stonehurst they entertained aristocratically, had Sunday eve. hymn sings for friends and neighbors, ran their own farm across the highway from entrance drive. (n the south side of the entrance drive was a sort of natural amphitheatre where they had the Shakespeare. The Freeman girls were: Carrie, Ethel and Helen, nieces of a Miss Harriet Freeman who rented the Hurd house and had Edward Everet Hale and sister as guests. The nieces "rented" the blue room in Concordia. Holy Trinity Church, N.Y.C. was where HPN was rector from 1900 to 1920. Mildred Sargent - Gogo - was a sort of executive secretary for HPN at HTC. Later married UN's assistant rector, Guy Beaver King. Visited Intervale often and was Alice Hardenbergh's godmother. Nora Hersey, daughter-in-law of Mrs. Hersey who was one of the "picnic special" group of friends of MBNH in Minneapolis. Others were Mrs. Charles Deems and Mrs. Harry Grace. Marion Jones & Henry Jones lived across Warwick Blvd. Three children: Margie (married Bontecou), Hal and Ellie" (married Ragsdale, then Lovitt). The bridge playing and

p.15 Dean Slattery was Charlie Slattery, Dean in Faribault, Minn. and later Bishop of Massachusetts.

p.16 Miss Eckert lived in small house (now Kaddy's antiques) down in woods southeast of the Knowles-Noyes-Fette house. Nancy Grace Snow - daughter of Mpls. friend, Marian Grace. George Nichols White - MBNH's 2nd cousin, visited Concordia one year

and taught her the song "a spoon that is full of little holes through which the juice may drip". Mallet-Prevost later built on the West side road Janet Allen, sister of Glover Allen (p.22). p.17 Noyes. Mr. Atherton Noyes (prof. at Harvard?) married Gertrude Fette whose family had built the house on W. side of highway. Children: Atherton, Eliot (architect) and Margaret (Migret) Knowles. Emersons. Mr. Eugene Emerson (prof. psychology Harvard) and wife had four children: Mary (m.Stevens), Ashton (Dr. in Jackson), Patricia (m.Andrews Warming) and Eugene. Lived in Red House later Roddy Woodard's. David Crouse succeeded Mr. Burroughs as gardner. Guy Saunders lived on Dinsmoor Road. Son, Forest(Ben) went to Bowdoin with JDN Jr., now runs White Mt. Oil. Ben•Washburn was rector at St. Pauls in Kansas City. He and wife, Henrietta, son Seth summered in Concordia once, and in Kearsarge, and then built in Randolph. Later a Bishop in Orange, New Jersey.

p.18 Charles Deems, rector of St. Marks during 1930's. Don remarried Janet Tyler(her two boys, Terry & Clark Tyler). Salem fringe curtains fell apart in summer '71.

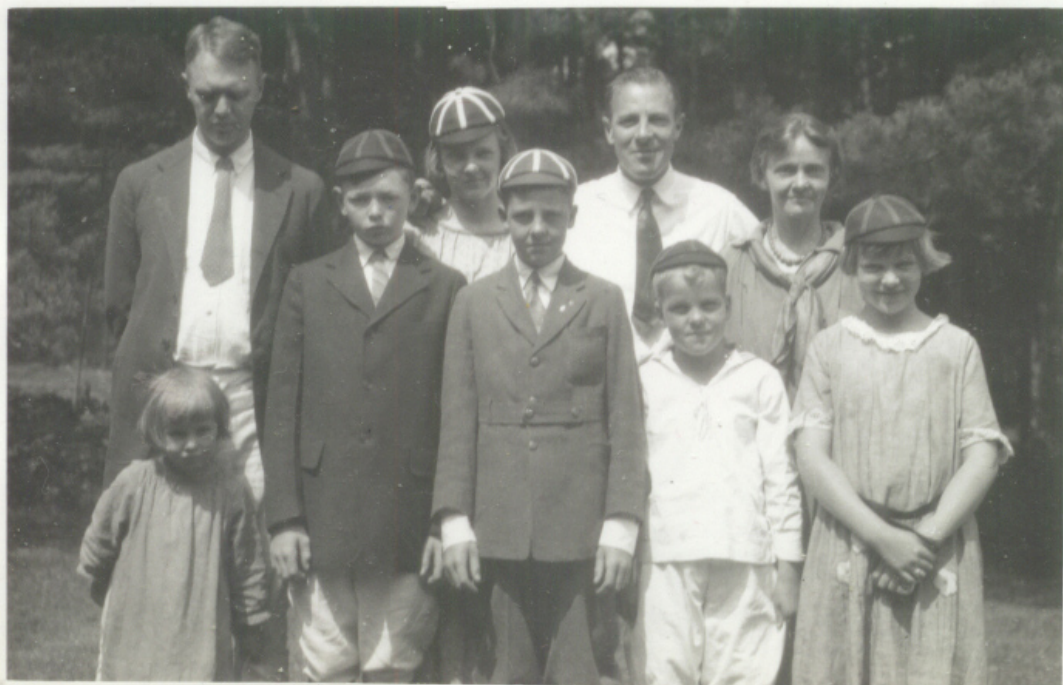
p.20 imillionth of gueththtth"- some lispig child saying millions of guests. All guests and grandchildren ate breakfast to-gether at 8 a.m. followed immediately at the table by the Bible readings. There were enough Bibles, of various translations, for everyone to have a copy. Each person read a verse in turn, as some gospel or other book was read through gradually in the course of the month. Variations in text were commented upon. Bill Drew, father of Ted Drew, current Postmaster

p.21 Henry Hatch had farm on West Side Rd., one of HPN's "boys". In 1920's and 30's the grocery man was Mr.Kennison from No. Conway grocery store where the enlarged IGA now is. Jacob Washburns - climbing friends. Helped make paths up Bartlett and Black Cap.

p.22 Most recent house on the south side of Neighbors, Row near Davis was built by Noel Wellman and in late 1960's bought by R. Davis' sister and husband the Robert von Bernuths. On the highway the Schouler-Kendrick house is the large house opposite bottom of Neighbors Row and the White Mules house.



BMC class team..note long skirts. Top center: Nichols & Putnam..



Cousins that grew up together in 1920's. CMH,

Alice, Uncle Don, MBNH, Mais, Coggie, Lawrie, Jonny Estie.



1933 workclothes & tools for Concordia work day.



note Intervale postoffice
MBN favorite clothes--- 2 stories high c. 1900.

Thanks to Maisie, Mary Hardenbergh Dethier for reproducing the original!



Granny's 14 grandchildren: Front: Helen Reid H., Kelsey C, Trijntje (Katrina), Sheppy C, Megan D., Nicky H. (Nancy Nichols), Terry Clark,
Back: Chalmers Morgan H., David Putnam D., Andrew Collis H., Brock D., Marylee H., Jan Charles Hardenbergh, Deborah Dethier
[ed = jch, YON - Jan C. Hardenbergh, grandchild #14] final with all pictures 2016-02-27

Converted using <http://www.onlineocr.net>