



Photographer Biography

Rand - Henry Lathrop Rand (1862-1945)

Birth recorded as Henry Arnold Rand, but Rand used Henry Lathrop all his life.

Henry Lathrop Rand was a distinguished amateur photographer and one of Southwest Harbor's earliest summer residents. He documented parts of Mount Desert Island in detail. The Southwest Harbor Public Library owns sixteen volumes of his photographs and his notes.

Henry Rand and his family were members of a large, closely knit and congenial segment of Cambridge society. The group was composed of people who were largely wellborn, well educated and comfortably "well-off."

As was the case with many neighborhood societies, Southwest Harbor among them, the proximity of their homes and intermarriage between the various families contributed to the form of the societal structure.

The lives of this group were centered around Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges and their supporting institutions. Harvard president and Rand neighbor, Charles William Eliot (1834-1926) and his son, Charles Eliot (1859-1897), were friends and, in the Champlain Society, associates. The Rands and their friends had inquiring minds, were interested in "nature" and botany, believed in the benefits of fresh air and outdoor pursuits. They enjoyed amateur play-acting, performing scenes and tableaux.

The 1477 photographs in the Henry L. Rand Collection illustrate the life led by this segment of the Cambridge population at the end of the nineteenth century.

Father: Rand - Edward Sprague Rand III (1834-1897)

Mother: Lathrop - Jane Augusta (Lathrop) Rand (1837-1918)

Birth Date: January 1, 1862

Born at: Dedham, Massachusetts

Significant Siblings:

Rand - Edward Lothrop Rand (1859-1924)

Rand - Margaret Arnold Rand (1868-1930)

Significant Education:

Childhood Home:

Jane Augusta Lathrop Rand House

MA – Cambridge - Kirkland Street – 049

Childhood Summer Home:

1866: See: The Rands Come to Eden – Circa 1866.pdf

Spouse Name: Winslow - Marion Quincy (Winslow) Rand (1868-1915)

Spouse Parents: William Henry Winslow (1840-1917) and Kempton - Elizabeth Ryerss (Kempton) Winslow

Wedding Date: June 2, 1904

Wedding Place: Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

2nd Spouse Name: Pearson - Dorothy (Pearson) Rand (1889-1973)

2nd Spouse Parents: William Osgood Pearson (1851-1900) and Helen Rhett (1857-1896)

2nd Wedding Date: October 1926

2nd Wedding Place: Cambridge or Dedham, Massachusetts

1st Winter Home:

From at least 1930:

Jane Augusta (Lathrop) Rand House

MA - Cambridge - Kirkland Street - 049

2nd Winter Home:

Henry L. and Marion Quincy Winslow Rand House

MA - Jamaica Plain - Eliot Street - 051

3rd Winter Home - from 1939 to 1945:

Henry Lathrop Rand House

ME - SWH - High Road - 024

Summer Home:

Fox Dens

Henry Lathrop Rand Cottage

ME - SWH - Norwood Road - 062

Occupation: Bookkeeper and treasurer for a mining company

Springfield Merg Reduction Company: Henry L. Rand, Treasurer, filed for bankruptcy, September 5, 1916.

Avocation - Photographer

Death Date: May 24, 1945

Death Place: Southwest Harbor, Maine

Cemetery: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts

See also: Henry L. Rand - Photographer & Visual Diarist.pdf

Henry Lathrop Rand - Photographer

Henry Lathrop Rand (1862-1945) was a distinguished amateur photographer and one of Southwest Harbor's earliest summer residents. He built his cottage here in 1884 and retired to Southwest

Harbor in the 1930s. His widow, Dorothy, gave the 1,400 photographs of Mr. Rand as a bequest to the Southwest Harbor Library in a 16-volume set in 1974. The Library is the sole repository for this work.

These photographs represent an outstanding record of turn-of-the-century photography as well as a visual history of the period. Each 5x7 photograph was taken by Henry Rand, and printed and catalogued by him. He compiled the volumes between 1890-1915, stopping at the death of his first wife. The volumes remained in storage until given to the Library in 1974. There is very little duplication of Mr. Rand's work, one reason being that the glass plates were apparently thrown away in Somes Sound many years ago.

Of particular significance to the importance of this collection is Mr. Rand's record-keeping system. Each picture is numbered and cross-referenced to his field notebooks. In these he noted the specific location, date, time, weather conditions and shutter speed of each photograph. He also recorded the names of vessels and identified most of his subjects. We know who and what we are looking at, when in history, and precisely where the scene was captured. There is no guesswork. Mr. Rand quite carefully preserved his world for us.

The Rand Collection consists of:

209 photographs of Southwest Harbor (excluding those of his home)

107 photographs of scenes around Mt. Desert Island

30 photographs of Maine locations

47 photographs of identified steamships and sailing vessels

The balance is of locations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Nova Scotia and Europe.

Mr. Rand's work is historically significant for many reasons. He captured the shifting landscapes and styles of Mt. Desert Island. Many of his photographs are of vistas that have changed over the years and are important records of what used to be. There are photographs of the wooden bridge near Flying Mountain; the long-gone fish wharf in Southwest Harbor and the building of the Causeway Club Dam. There are views of Bass Harbor Marsh in 1909; Mr. Higgins, a blacksmith, at work in Somesville; and Deacon Clark in his horse and buggy. Deacon Clark was the proprietor of the Island House and a highly esteemed member of the community. There are still a few residents here who remember working at the Island House, which was torn down after Mr. Clark's death. The Old Harmon House still stands in Southwest Harbor, somewhat different now than when Mr. Rand photographed it in 1898.

There are 47 photographs of sailing vessels depicting the commerce and recreation of the era.

The collection includes exceptional portraits of women in period formal dress taken in well-appointed Boston drawing rooms of the 1890s. They are art and are also an incredible historical reference. His series of interiors is a history lesson in interior design. One can feel the dampness of the fog along the coast. You can "see" the colors in his black and white or sepia floral arrangements.

There are many photographs of family members and friends, individually and in groups, taken in Massachusetts. Mr. Rand lived at 49 Kirkland Street in Cambridge prior to his marriage to Marion Quincy Winslow (who died of cancer in 1915). They later wintered at 51 Eliot Street in Jamaica Plain and came to Fox Dens in the summer. The collection includes several self-portraits of them in Maine and elsewhere. These pictures tell us a story about Mr. Rand's personal life, his pastimes, as well as record the formality of the era with groups of happy picnickers propped on the rocks in what Mainers would call their Sunday best.

The non-Maine collection tells us the other half of Mr. Rand's story. His love of the coast around Rockport, Gloucester and Marblehead, his fascination with architecture (the old Custom House, H.C. Rand & Co., Christ Church and St. John's Memorial Chapel, and the Wayside Inn) is illustrated by his photographs. Many of his shots are of the waterfront along Boston and the North Shore and tell a story of a bygone time.

Henry Lathrop Rand's photographs have been shown at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and have been used to illustrate several books.

Henry Lathrop Rand's Life

1884: When Henry's and brother, Edward L. Rand's grandfather, Edward S. Rand II, grandmother, uncle, Charles, and his family were lost in the wreck of the steamer "City of Columbus" off Gay Head on January 18, 1884, Edward and Henry's uncle Arnold was the representative of the family who journeyed to the Cape to preside over the search for remains. "Conspicuous among them, for the crowding weight of his bereavement...was Colonel Arnold [A.] Rand..."

As the search wound down and sad rows of coffins were assembled he was quoted in the newspapers, "For my part,' he said, 'I earnestly hope my loved ones will never be seen again. I hope they will rest where it has pleased God to place them - if it was the providence of God, though carried out by the negligence of men.'" - "Disaster on Devil's Bridge" by George A. Hough, Jr., published by The Marine Historical Association, Inc., Mystic, Connecticut, 1963, p. 28, 34, 83, 91, 93, 118, 128 and 145.

"Mr. Edward S. Rand [II] was one of the oldest, if not the oldest, conveyancer in the city [of Boston], and at one time had a very lucrative practice in this branch of the law. His knowledge of titles to estates, and his high reputation for integrity and ability, made his services as trustee in great request. Voluntarily relinquishing a large part of his fortune on the failure of his eldest son [Edward Sprague Rand III] several years ago, he continued in the practice of his profession, and retained to the last the esteem and confidence of the community. A zealous churchman, he was one of the trustees of the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, and his advice and cooperation were sought in general church matters. Genial and dignified in manner, and kindly and benevolent in disposition, Mr. Rand was at once respected and beloved." - Boston Daily Advertiser, January 21, 1884.

Edward Sprague Rand II (1809-1884)

Elizabeth Arnold (1810-1884)

Rev. Charles A. Rand (1843-1884) and family

See: City of Columbus Wreck – 01-18-1884.pdf