

A Budding Artist

by Lynne Belluscio

This week we were given a collection of six small botanical drawings. They had been purchased on Ebay from a seller in Wilson, New York. The Ebay description read: "This is a lot of 6 paintings done by girls that attended Inaham (Ingham) University in Leroy, NY around the 1870's". Purchased at a local estate sale, these came with a note from the family member explaining their origin. The note reads as follows and will be included with the paintings. "These flower paintings were done by girls at Ingham University - Leroy NY. Grandmother Mary Raymond Moulthrop went to school there - lived in Elba, NY 1870's." And so, luckily, the six small floral paintings came to the Historical Society, quite by accident. They will be included in this summer's exhibit of Ingham student art at LeRoy House.

Today we spent some time trying to discover more about Mary Raymond Moulthrop. The search has proven frustrating ... First I found her name in the "white notebooks" referred to as "Saul's notes" about people in Genesee County which confirmed that her family was from Elba and that she married "professor" Moulthrop, and they moved to Rochester, but there was no other information. We found reference to a Mary P. Raymond who taught music at Ingham in 1864 and a Mary P. Raymond from Elba who was a student at Ingham in 1868.

I looked in a couple of books about Elba and found Mary Raymond of Elba who was born on July 29, 1847 who was married



to Samuel Moulthrop. Her middle name was Adaline. So she would have been listed in the college catalogue as Mary A Raymond, not Mary P. Raymond - unless someone made a mistake. The other question is whether Mary Raymond, born in 1847 would have been teaching music when she was only seventeen. The best bet would be Mary P Raymond,

the student in 1868, was listed in the catalogue with a mistake in her middle initial.

I did a google search for Mary Moulthrop and came up with a twenty page article written by Rochester City Historian, Blake McKelvey in 1957. Moulthrop was involved with progressive education throughout his career. He founded one of the first scout

troops in Rochester and was involved with the YMCA. He invented an adjustable school desk. He was born in Wisconsin in 1848 and moved back to Western New York where he attended school in Gaines and the Cary Institute in Oakfield. He married Mary Raymond in Elba on October 2, 1873 and soon moved to Rochester. They had two children.

Their daughter, also named Mary, collected copious genealogical material which is in the collection of the University of Rochester. Their son, Harry, was an engineer for the City of Rochester. (I suspect that the author of the note that came with the collection of paintings is a child of Harry since his sister never married.)

Mary A. Moulthrop died two years after her husband in 1936. I do not believe that Mary was the artist of the paintings. One is signed with the initials L.E. P. which we believe is Lucy E. Perkins who attended Ingham in 1867, 1868 (during the semester that Mary Raymond attended.) and 1869. The paintings are exquisite: the vibrant bittersweet; trailing arbutus with dark background dated 1874; pink oxalis dated 1872; velvet mullen. The details are very fine.

Lucy Perkins is not included in the alumnae list which means she did not graduate. Her residence is listed as Cortland and York. As far as we can tell, she is not related to any of the Perkins family in LeRoy and we do not have any more information about her but she was truly a gifted artist.

The Clean Sweep Cleaning Service

- Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
- Spot Cleaning & Odor Removal
- Tile & Wood Floor Cleaning & Waxing
- Braided & Area Rug Cleaning
- Complete Janitorial Services

9300 Warsaw Road, Le Roy, NY

John M. Joy • Call 768-8497



cow

RAY SISSEL *Electric & Plumbing*

17 Hilltop Drive, LeRoy, NY 14482

Office (585) 768-8525 • Cell (585) 356-1309

Residential • Commercial

**NEW SERVICES - REPAIRS - TROUBLESHOOTING
GENERATOR TRANSFER SWITCHES**

Wiring For - New Homes, Additions, Shops etc.

Free Estimates • Fully Insured • No Service Charge On Calls!

tfn