Women's History in the Digital World

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The Ledger

Linda Hocking  
*Litchfield Historical Society*

Jessica Jenkins  
*Litchfield Historical Society*

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The Ledger: A Nineteenth Century Social Network

Litchfield Historical Society

Linda Hocking, Curator of Library & Archives
Jessica Jenkins, Curator of Collections
History of the Schools

Litchfield Female Academy
1792-1833

Litchfield Law School
ca.1774-1830
Previous Scholarship

Litchfield Female Academy

- *Chronicles of a Pioneer School* by Emily Noyes Vanderpoel (1903)

- *More Chronicles of a Pioneer School* by Emily Noyes Vanderpoel (1927)

- *Sarah Pierce’s Litchfield Female Academy 1792-1833* by Lynne Templeton Brickley (1985)

- *To Ornament Their Minds* by Litchfield Historical Society – exhibition and catalog (1992)
Goals of the Project

- To create an accessible, user-friendly research tool focused on the two schools and the students who attended
- To allow users with pertinent information to submit research for inclusion in database
- To create a prototype for other institutions who are looking to merge information normally held in separate compartments – archives, libraries and museums
- To raise awareness about an often overlooked period in American history
- To decrease staff time in repeatedly answering research requests by providing information in an accessible format
- To expand our audience
Funding

- Connecticut Humanities Council Planning Grant $34,525
- Connecticut Humanities Council Implementation Grant $72,500
- IMLS Grant $99,500
- Supplement to CLIR Hidden Collections Grant $40,000
- Seherr-Thoss Foundation $25,000
Organizing the Information

CHRONICLES OF A PIONEER SCHOOL
FROM 1792 TO 1833
BEING
THE HISTORY OF MISS SARAH PIERCE AND HER LITCHFIELD SCHOOL

COMPILED BY
EMILY NOYES VANDERPOEL
Vice-President of the Litchfield Historical Society
Author of "Clogs Problems"

EDITED BY
ELIZABETH C. BARNEY BUHL, A.B.

PRINTED BY THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, Mass.
1903

Mary E. Deming
Kinderhook, NY 1824
Mary was born in 1809 and attended the Academy from Kinderhook, NY in 1824. Mary's sister Clarissa also attended the Academy. Mary died unmarried in 1889.
Mary's father was Asa Deming.
Mary's mother was Clarissa Lyon.

Mary Gleason Deming
Litchfield, CT 1823-1830
Mary was born May 8, 1815 and was a student at Litchfield Academy from 1823 to 1830. Mary's sisters Clarissa and Clarissa, and Champion cousins, also attended. She married Sidney Green from New York.
Mary's father, Frederick Deming (1787-1837), was the son of Julius (1755-1836) and Mary Deming, who were married in 1781.
Mary's mother, Mary Gleason, was the daughter of Prudence (Brainard) Gleason. Mary Gleason married Frederick Deming.

Minor R. Deming
Litchfield, CT
Minor was born February 24, 1810 and attended the Academy in 1823 and 1824. Minor's sister Clarissa also attended the Academy. Minor married Sarah Buel of OH in 1836. Minor died in 1846.
Minor's father, Stephen Deming (1780-1824), was a merchant in CT.
Minor's mother, Sarah Buel (1784-1877), died October 23, 1877.

To Ornament Their Minds:
Sarah Pierce's Litchfield Female Academy 1792-1833
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Primary Name</th>
<th>Other Name</th>
<th>Maiden Name</th>
<th>Spouse's Name</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Years at EFS</th>
<th>Race and Board</th>
<th>Family Members Who Attended EFS</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Surname's Home - State</th>
<th>Surname's Occupation</th>
<th>Marriage Date</th>
<th>Other Education</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Charitable</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>Source - Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>Sigmund Dohmen Borden</td>
<td>Borden</td>
<td></td>
<td>Borden</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>9122</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>204</td>
<td>Gertrude Borden Schreiber</td>
<td>Schreiber</td>
<td>Eliza Fiedel Schreiber</td>
<td>Borden</td>
<td>Fema</td>
<td>8131, 8181</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 205 | Louis Borden Low | Low | Low | Borden | Males | 9231 | | | | | | | | | | | | |)
| 206 | Noreen Borden | Borden | Fema | | | 930 | | | | | | | | | | | | |}
| 207 | Mary Ann Borden | Borden | Fema | | | 935 | | | | | | | | | | | | |}
| 208 | Mary Currado Borden | Borden | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Laura Maria Wolcott Rankin

Born: August 14, 1811
Died: 1857
Father: Frederick Wolcott, 1767-1837
Mother: Betsey Huntington 1774-1812
Attended Litchfield Female Academy: 1822-1827
Married: March 30, 1831
Spouse: Robert Gozman Rankin (hyperlink)
Attended LLS 1827
Businessman; Railroad engineer; Regent of the New York State University

From the Collection of the Litchfield Historical Society:

- 20th Century Photograph of Oliver Wolcott, Sr. House (childhood home of Laura Maria Wolcott Rankin)
- Sewing Box Paper Mache
- 1825 Journal of Laura Maria Wolcott Rankin

Note: Portraits or photographs of the student should be displayed first; museum objects second; photographs third, documents or transcriptions fourth.

Relatives who attended LFA: (hyperlinked)
Siblings:
Charles
Frederick
Mary Ann
Elizabeth
Hannah
Joshua Wolcott

Cousins:
Laura
Elizabeth Wolcott

Relatives who attended LLS:
Father:
Frederick Wolcott, 1767
Uncle:
Oliver Wolcott, Jr.
Cousin: Oliver Soughton Wolcott

Biographical notes:
Laura and Robert had eleven children. She was the granddaughter of Oliver Wolcott, signer of the Declaration of Independence and Governor of Connecticut.

Quotable:
“I am sorry to say that in the beginning of the afternoon I behaved very improperly, but I felt cross. I have felt sick all day and that is all the apology I can offer.” Laura Maria Wolcott Rankin, Journal, 1825

Related materials in other repositories:
Photo of Wedding Dress w/ link to details page
Collection of the Museum of the City of New York (link to Web site)

Contact us about this student (hyperlink to contact)
Final Design

Mary Ann Delafield DuBois

Other Name: Mary Ann Delafield
Gender: Female
Born: November 6, 1813
Died: October 27, 1888
Home Town: New York, NY
Later Residences: New York, NY
Marriage(s): Cornelius Dubois (1810-1882) (6 Nov 1832)
Biographical Notes: Born in England on November 6, 1813, Mary Ann Delafield DuBois was a prominent American philanthropist. She was the daughter of John Delafield and Mary Roberts Delafield. Mary Ann attended the Litchfield Female Academy in 1824, and on November 6, 1832, she married Cornelius Dubois, a former Litchfield Law School student and lawyer and businessman in New York. During the course of their marriage, Mary Ann and Cornelius had ten children.

Mary Ann was also active in many benevolent activities and societies during her life. In May 1854, she and Anna K. Emmett (the wife of a specialist in women's and children's diseases) founded the New York Nursery and Children's Hospital. The hospital became the first institution in the United States devoted primarily to day care, taking in the children of working women as their mothers, including...

Education
Litchfield Law School

Tapping Reeve (1744-1823)

James Gould (1770-1838)
Litchfield Female Academy

Sarah Pierce (1767-1852)  
John Pierce Brace (1793-1872)
CATALOGUE
OF THE
Members of the Female Academy,
Litchfield, (Conn.) for the Summer of 1816.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Brown</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Adams</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann White</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lee</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Clay</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Taylor</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Connecticut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Smith</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Illustrations:
- Landscape painting
- Portrait of a girl
- Page from a book with illustrations
Connecting Objects and Archives to the Research

Lucy Sheldon Beach

Charlotte Newcomb Benedict
What Types of Materials Did We Include?

- Portraits
- Items Made by Students
  - Needlework & Embroidery
  - Mourning Pictures
  - Paintings
  - Maps
- Clothing & Textiles
- Furniture
- Personal Artifacts
- Diplomas
- School Catalogues
- Personal Papers & Manuscripts
- Published Works
- Journals & Friendship Albums
- Teaching Tools
- Buildings
- Trade Signs
- School Records
- Household Accessories
- Tools of a Profession
- Correspondence
- Lecture Notes
- Obituaries
- Newspaper articles/Advertisements
Challenges
Merging curatorial and archival methodology

Curatorial
- Chenall’s Nomenclature

Archival
- Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus for genre terms
- Library of Congress subject headings for subject terms

Examples:
- creator vs. maker vs. author
- size vs. extent vs. dimensions
- Cm or inches?
Archivists follow library practice in assigning an authorized name heading to each individual. Curators do not do this.

- **Library of Congress Authority files** for names
- *Describing Archives a Content Standard (DACS)* for forming names that are not in LC
Selecting what to include

- Archives are described as collections, not individual items. Sometimes, items about a particular student were not described individually.
- Some items have multiple creators
- Finding aids are still a work in progress
- Some items that have been described have been scanned or photographed and are already in an online finding aid database—when do we duplicate the work?
- How do we find everything?
Working with others

- Requesting images, information, etc. from other repositories/ descendants/ private collectors
- Legal historian’s project to transcribe Litchfield Law School notebooks
- **Documents Compass** people of the founding era project
- **Family Tales** social networks in the early republic
Questions?