

Summer Vignette Depicts Two Prominent Americans from Another Era

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Hidden from view for 109 years, a photograph of two Americans well known in their time but largely forgotten today evokes another era. Discovered by the Copyright Office Junior Fellows, the photograph was registered for copyright in 1899 by Anna Josephine Ingersoll and shows Edward Everett Hale (1822–1909) and Sarah Farmer (1844–1916) in conversation while seated on the porch of the Hotel Piazza at Greenacre in Eliot, Maine.

The great nephew of Nathan Hale, the Revolutionary War patriot executed by the British, Edward Everett Hale graduated from Harvard at age 17. A prolific writer of stories, magazine articles, and other works, he was a Unitarian minister and social reformer and became chaplain of the U.S. Senate in 1903. His best known fiction today is probably the touching short story “The Man without a Country,” which tells the story of Philip Nolan who, on trial with Aaron Burr, cries out that he wishes never to hear the name of the United States again. Exiled to a ship for the remainder of his life, Nolan becomes a patriot.

Sarah Farmer, the only daughter of socially progressive New England parents whose home was a stop on the Underground Railroad, founded the public library in Eliot and became a peace activist. She initiated the Greenacre Conferences in 1894 at a hotel in Eliot in which she was a part owner. The conferences served as a summer retreat for social reformers, theologians, artists, and others where they could freely exchange ideas. Farmer was the only woman to attend the signing of the 1905

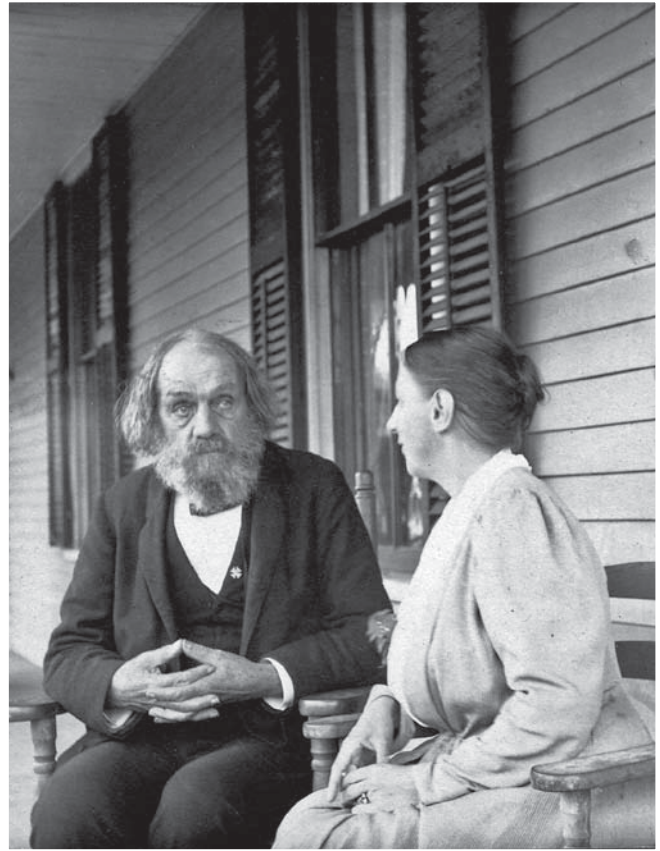


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Edward Everett Hale and Sarah Farmer

Portsmouth Peace Treaty, which ended the Russo-Japanese War.

Ingersoll, the unseen copyright claimant who photographed Farmer and Hale, wrote *Greenacre on the Piscataqua*, a description of the conferences. A native of Minneapolis, Ingersoll was a world traveler who wrote on Eastern religions. In 1909 she survived the collision at sea of the RMS *Republic* with the Italian steamship *Florida*.

Tara Neely and Kandice Newren, the two 2008 Junior Fellows working in the Copyright Office, are creating a catalog of deposits from 1899 that were retained with their application materials. ©