

HAWTHORNE
Fine Art

ELIZABETH E. CASE (1867-1951)

Elizabeth Edith Case was born in Philadelphia to Mary E. (Kline) and Rev. Dr. William Wickham Case. A graduate of Bucknell University, her father served in the 28th Pennsylvania Emergency Militia during the Gettysburg Campaign in 1863 and later as chaplain of the 195th Pennsylvania Infantry¹. In 1901, he was honored with a Doctor of Divinity degree from Bucknell.² Case was the great granddaughter of Phebe (Meeker) and William Wickham, pioneers of Orange County, New York.³

An 1891 graduate of the School of Design for Women at the Cooper Union,⁴ Case also studied at the Art Students League, the National Academy of Design, and at the Shinnecock Hills Summer School of Art under William Merritt Chase. She studied under several notable artists including J. Alden Weir, W.L. Metcalf, George De Forest Brush, Will H. Low and Marshall Fry, Jr.⁵

Following her three years of study at the Cooper Union, Case began teaching art in 1892 at the Baptist Female College in High Point, N.C.⁶ The following year, she was an art teacher at a Baptist college in Keachi, Louisiana.⁷ In the years that followed, Case lived in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York working as an artist, art teacher, and designer. She headed the fashion department at Gatchel & Manning, a prominent Philadelphia photoengraving and illustrating firm for a period of five years.⁸

In 1900, Case was residing in Rutherford, New Jersey where she exhibited works in oils, watercolor, and china at the Peoples' Bank building.⁹ She began offering weekly art classes and

¹ "Celebrates Anniversary," *The Times Leader* (Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania) Fri, Nov 7, 1913, 5.

² "Rev. W.W. Case, D.D. 50 Years in Ministry," *The Monmouth Inquirer* (Freehold, New Jersey) Thu, Nov 6, 1913, 1.

³ "Going and Coming," *The Times Herald Record* (Middletown, New York) Wed, Jul 26, 1933, 7.

⁴ "Miss Case will Teach Art," *Monmouth Democrat* (Freehold, New Jersey) Thu, Jun 11, 1891, 5.

⁵ "Art Exhibit Next Week," *Passaic Daily News* (Passaic, New Jersey) Saturday, October 20, 1900, 4.

⁶ "Miscellaneous," *The Monmouth Inquirer* (Freehold, New Jersey) Thu, May 5, 1892, 1.

⁷ "Personals," *The Keyport Weekly* (Keyport, New Jersey) Sat, Sep 9, 1893, 3.

⁸ Florence N. Levy, *American Art Annual Volume XXVI* (For the year 1929) (Washington, D.C.: The American Federation of the Arts, 1930) 540.

⁹ "Art Exhibit Next Week," *Passaic Daily News* (Passaic, New Jersey) Saturday, October 20, 1900, 4.

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charged tuition of \$3 per month.¹⁰ By 1913, Case was working as an artist and illustrator in Brooklyn.¹¹

More than a decade later, Case was residing on West 15th Street in Manhattan. During this time, Case was working as an art teacher in the New York City school system.¹² A member of the Catherine Lorillard Wolf Art Club, she was elected Corresponding Secretary in 1929.¹³ She spent the summer of 1937 in New Castle, Delaware, painting its historic architecture. Her watercolors featuring homes and street scenes were displayed in the home of local New Castle residents Mr. and Mrs. George Williams.¹⁴

A history enthusiast, Case lectured on historic homes at many women's club events which she illustrated with her paintings including the Woman's Auxiliary of the State Island Institute of the Arts and Sciences in 1945.¹⁵ In 1946, she gave a talk on historic Brooklyn homes to the '76 Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Brooklyn. This talk was also accompanied by a display of her paintings of Brooklyn homes.¹⁶ That same year, she used her watercolor paintings in a discussion of historic homes in New Jersey and Delaware at the Fort Washington Chapter of D.A.R. of which she was a member and one-time regent. She also discussed the Poe Cottage in the Bronx and the Dyckman House in Northern Manhattan, among others.¹⁷

During her lifetime, Case was a member and chairman of art for the Women's Press Club of New York, a member and regent of the Fort Washington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a member and president of the Catherine Lorillard Wolf Art Club.

¹⁰ "Professional," *Passaic Daily News* (Passaic, New Jersey) Thursday, November 8, 1900, 3.

¹¹ "Rev. W.W. Case, D.D. 50 Years in Ministry," 1.

¹² "Going and Coming," *The Times Herald Record* (Middletown, New York) Wed, Jul 26, 1933, 7.

¹³ Florence N. Levy, *American Art Annual* Volume XXVI (For the year 1929) (Washington, D.C.: The American Federation of the Arts, 1930) 540.

¹⁴ "Painter Exhibiting New Castle Scenes," *The Morning News* (Wilmington, Delaware) Fri, Aug 27, 1937, 23.

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"Institute Auxiliary Elects Mrs. Flatow," *Staten Island Advance* (Staten Island, New York) Thu, May 24, 1945, 6.

¹⁶ "Miss Elizabeth E. Case To Give Talk On Old Boro Homes," *The Brooklyn Citizen* (Brooklyn, New York) Mon, Mar 18, 1946, 10.

¹⁷ "Historic Homes Topic of D.A.R. Meeting at Philipse Manor Hall," *The Herald Statesman* (Yonkers, New York) Sat, Feb 2, 1946, 7.



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She exhibited locally, including at the Monmouth County Fair where she was awarded premiums for her work.¹⁸ In 1940 she exhibited at the Grand Central Art Galleries for the benefit of Herbert Hoover's National Committee on Finnish Relief and in 1941 at the Eight Street Gallery.¹⁹

¹⁸ "Miscellaneous," *The Monmouth Inquirer* (Freehold, New Jersey) Thu, May 5, 1892, 1.

¹⁹ "To Help Finland," *The Art Digest* Vol. XIV No. 9 Feb 1, 1940 (New York: The Art Digest, Inc., 1940) 12.; "Flowers in the Spring," *The Art Digest* Vol. XV No. 3 Apr 1, 1941 (New York: The Art Digest, Inc., 1941) 20.