



# HAWTHORNE

## Fine Art

### **Edith Page (1855-1916)**

Edith Page was born in Boston, Massachusetts to Susan Haskell (Keep) and Dr. Calvin Gates Page. Her father, a prominent physician, served for three years as a surgeon with the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry during the Civil War.<sup>1</sup> His premature death, at the age of 39, was due to exposure to disease during the war.<sup>2</sup> Page's maternal grandfather was Dr. Nathan Cooley Keep, a founder and the first dean of Harvard University's Dental School as well as the first president of the Massachusetts Dental Society.<sup>3</sup>

Page attended the Museum of Fine Arts School in Boston and was a member of the Boston Art Student's Association, a precursor to the Copley Society.<sup>4</sup> In 1891, an exhibition was organized by the Student's Association with the purpose of raising funds for the new Grundmann studio building. Page served on the committee in charge of the exhibition which included works by notable watercolorists including Childe Hassam (1859-1935), Emil Carlsen (1853-1932) and H. Winthrop Peirce (1850-1935).<sup>5</sup>

In 1895, Page attended the opening reception of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of the Boston Art Student's Association. The works in the show were judged by a committee that included Arthur Dow, H. Winthrop Peirce and others. Also in attendance was Marie Danforth, a fellow student, who would later marry Page's youngest brother, Dr. Calvin G. Page.<sup>6</sup>

Page's artistic talents extended to her brother Hollis Bowman Page. Four years her junior, Hollis studied at the Normal Art School in Boston and later in Germany. He taught geometric and mechanical drawing in the Polytechnic School of Washington University in St. Louis.<sup>7</sup> In 1890, Hollis had a studio in the Harcourt building in Boston where he exhibited his paintings of Boston's Back Bay. A critic for the *Boston Post* said, "Mr. Page draws very well and has a vivid

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<sup>1</sup> "Rostor of the Regimental Surgeons & Assistant Surgeons during the War of the Rebellion," *Western Reveille* (Winfield, Kansas), Thu, Sep 1, 1892, 3.

<sup>2</sup> "Tributes to the memory of the late Dr. Calvin G. Page," (Boston: Harwick Press, June 10, 1869.

<sup>3</sup> Henry Fitz-Gilbert Waters, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 58, (Boston: N.E. Historic Genealogical Society, 1904) lxxii.

<sup>4</sup> "Funeral of Miss Edith Page Held This Morning," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts), Fri, Jul 28, 1916, 14.

<sup>5</sup> "Water Colors Exhibited," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts) · Mon, May 18, 1891 · Page 8

<sup>6</sup> "Works of Merit on Exhibition," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts) · Tue, Nov 19, 1895 · Page 8

<sup>7</sup> Henry Fitz-Gilbert Waters, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 58, (Boston: N.E. Historic Genealogical Society, 1904) lxxii.



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sense of color. He paints our picturesque Bay vistas with the same enthusiasm that he would bring to the glories of Venetian skies and architecture.”<sup>8</sup>

Page’s brother Calvin was a doctor like their father. He graduated from Harvard in 1890 and received his medical degree from the school in 1894. He went on to become a professor of bacteriology at the school. He married Page’s classmate Marie Danforth who had a notable career as a portrait painter.<sup>9</sup> Danforth’s first teacher was the artist Helen Mary Knowlton (1832-1918). Her work was criticized by the artist Frank Duveneck (1848-1919) who also made a study of her<sup>10</sup>. A portrait by Danforth of Dr. Nathan Cooley Keep was unveiled in Vanderbilt Hall at Harvard Medical School to honor the founder of the first university school of dentistry.<sup>11</sup>

Little is known about Page’s artistic life beyond her schooling. An illness left the artist incapacitated for several years during which time an interest in agriculture led her to purchase Derby Farm in Dublin, New Hampshire. The move to New Hampshire restored Page’s health as she delighted in the management of her fields, orchards and barns.<sup>12</sup>

Page died at Derby Farm in Durham, New Hampshire on July 25, 1916. She was 61 years old.

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<sup>8</sup> “Fine Arts Notes,” Boston Post (Boston, Massachusetts), Wed, Apr 16, 1890, 9.

<sup>9</sup> “Dr. Calvin G. Page,” The Boston Globe (Boston, Massachusetts), Mon, Feb 26, 1951, 15.

<sup>10</sup> “Beginning Young,” The Boston Globe (Boston, Massachusetts), Mon, Sep 3, 1934, 14.

<sup>11</sup> “To Honor Dental Pioneer,” The Brattleboro Reformer (Brattleboro, Vermont), Thu, Apr 2, 1936, 6.

<sup>12</sup> “Old Times and New in Dublin, New Hampshire,” *New England Magazine*, Vol. 20 (Boston: Warren F. Kellogg, 1899), 756.