



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

Alicia M. Keyes (1855-1924)

Alicia M. Keyes was a painter as well as art teacher and lecturer. She was born in Concord, Massachusetts on June 13, 1855. She was the daughter of John Shepard Keyes and Martha Lawrence Prescott Keyes and sister of Annie S. Keyes (Mrs. Edward Waldo Emerson), Florence Keyes (Mrs. Charles Walcott), and Prescott Keyes. When the Keyes family lived in Boston in the winter of 1862 (during the tenure of John Shepard Keyes as U.S. Marshal), Alicia lived with the Emersons, under the particular care of Ellen Emerson.

Following the Civil War, the Keyes family lived in the Bullet Hole House on Monument Street in Concord. After attending boarding school in Belmont, Alicia returned to Concord, where she studied with Mary Wheeler and later studied with May Alcott. Having suffered illness and emotional instability, she left in 1884 with companion Alice Curtis for Europe (England, Holland, Belgium, Germany, France, and Italy), where she continued her art studies. They travelled for three years and returned to Concord. She was an instructor in art at Wellesley College, 1899-1902, a regular lecturer in art at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston between 1911 and 1924. Alicia Keyes had numerous friends and acquaintances (many through her teaching and lecturing activities), including John Singer Sargent and Isabella Stewart Gardner. Deeply religious, she was a member of the First Parish in Concord. She died in Concord on June 1, 1924, and was buried in Concord's Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

The Concord Free Public Library Art Collection includes two paintings by Alicia M. Keyes.

Information from the Concord Free Library.