



## HAWTHORNE Fine Art

### **Elizabeth A. Webb (1864-1954)**

Elizabeth W. Webb was born in 1864 in Skowhegan, Maine to George S. and Vesta (Lord) Webb. Her father owned a local grocery store on Madison Avenue.<sup>1</sup> Webb and her sister Gertrude, 7 years her junior, were raised on Pleasant Street and attended the local schools.<sup>2</sup> Her paternal grandfather, James H.K. Lord was a blacksmith and a devout Baptist known locally as “Deacon Lord.” He raised his family of 10 children on the banks of the Kennebec River in a Greek revival cottage. In 1939, the cottage was restored by Louise H. Coburn, a descendant of Governor Abner Coburn, and became known as the Skowhegan History House.<sup>3</sup> The Skowhegan History House Museum remains open to the public to this day.

Active members of the Skowhegan Sorosis Club for Women, Elizabeth and Gertrude often performed musical numbers together at club events. In 1903, Webb was elected a director of the Sorosis Club along with Mrs. Mary Colby, Mrs. Lois Patten and Miss Clara Verney at the annual meeting for the election of officers. During the same meeting, Gertrude Webb participated in a literary reading.<sup>4</sup> In 1907, Elizabeth helped organize an evening of entertainment at the Annual Fair of the Congregational Society. Gertrude performed in a vocal trio with two other women at the event.<sup>5</sup> The same year, the Sorosis Club had a program honoring American poet John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) in what would have been his 100<sup>th</sup> year. Gertrude sang during the event accompanied by Elizabeth on piano.<sup>6</sup> The sisters performed together again at a meeting of the Town Improvement Society held in the parlors of the Skowhegan Free Public Library in 1909.<sup>7</sup>

According to Federal Census Records, Elizabeth worked as a bookkeeper in her father’s store in 1910. She later worked as a clerk and a saleswoman at J.N. Smith Music Store.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Miss Elizabeth Webb,” *The Bangor Daily News* (Bangor, Maine), Tue, Mar 30, 1954, 12.

<sup>2</sup> “Miss Elizabeth Webb,” *The Bangor Daily News*

<sup>3</sup> “Little History House” Unusual Skowhegan Historical Museum,” *The Bangor Daily News* (Bangor, Maine), Sat, Nov 4, 1939, 19.

<sup>4</sup> “Skowhegan,” *The Bangor Daily News* (Bangor, Maine), Sat, Apr 25, 1903, 8.

<sup>5</sup> “Skowhegan,” *The Bangor Daily News* (Bangor, Maine), Thu, Dec 5, 1907, 8.

<sup>6</sup> “Skowhegan,” *The Bangor Daily News* (Bangor, Maine), Thu, Dec 19, 1907, 8.

<sup>7</sup> “Skowhegan,” *The Bangor Daily News* (Bangor, Maine), Mon, Mar 15, 1909, 8.

<sup>8</sup> “Miss Elizabeth Webb,” *The Bangor Daily News*



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In addition to the Sorosis Club, Elizabeth was a member of the Federated League, and a member of the C.C.C.C. Club. She was a member and treasurer of the Congregational Church which later became the Federated Church.<sup>9</sup>

Elizabeth and Gertrude never married and lived together for the entirety of their lives. Elizabeth Webb died in 1954 in Skowhegan, Maine. She was 90 years old.

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<sup>9</sup> “Miss Elizabeth Webb,” *The Bangor Daily News* (Bangor, Maine), Tue, Mar 30, 1954, 12.