



# HAWTHORNE

## Fine Art

### **Sarah E. Harvey (1834-1924)**

Sarah E. Harvey was born in Colebrook River, Connecticut in 1834. She was the eldest of six children born to Selomy Wilcox and Franklin Harvey.<sup>1</sup> While little is known of Harvey's life she was a prolific artist whose subjects included landscapes, seascapes, animals, and still lifes.

In 1854, Harvey attended the Charlotteville Seminary in Charlotteville, New York where she likely received teacher training. Although Harvey's studies did not include art, she began painting while at the seminary.<sup>2</sup> Her first oil painting was completed in 1855 and entitled *Landscape*. More than six decades later, Harvey added an inscription to the verso of the painting that read, "First oil painting done by Sarah E. Harvey when at Charlotteville Seminary in New York. Have no instruction. Am 84 years this 1919, and have painted 1,000 pictures in intervening 64 years. Am painting yet. Have given to people 900 pictures."<sup>3</sup>

In 1863, Harvey married Count Jules Fred Lawrence DeCroy in Washington, D.C. The couple had a daughter named Lulu born the following year in Tolland, Massachusetts. A Civil War veteran, DeCroy died shortly after the war. Harvey married a second time in 1869. She and her husband, Edward M. Horrigan, had a son, Frank Harvey Horrigan in 1871 in Colebrook River, Connecticut.<sup>4</sup>

In 1966, the town of Winsted honored the late artist with an exhibition of her work. The exhibition *Sarah E. Harvey Days* was held at the Winchester Historical Society. The show was comprised of 66 works by the artist loaned by local residents and her descendants. Many of the works provided a glimpse into 19<sup>th</sup> century Connecticut.<sup>5</sup>

Today, the work of Sarah E. Harvey can be found in the collection of the Princeton Museum of Art.

Sarah E. Harvey died in Connecticut in 1924. She was 90 years old.

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<sup>1</sup> Heslip, Colleen Cowles, and Charlotte Emans Moore. "Catalogue of the Collection." *Record of the Art Museum, Princeton University* 57, no. 1/2 (1998): 46. Accessed April 6, 2021. doi:10.2307/3774774.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> "19<sup>th</sup> Century Winsted Seen in Oil Painting," *Hartford Courant* (Hartford, Connecticut), Thu, Feb 23, 1967, 10.

<sup>4</sup> Heslip and Moore. "Catalogue of the Collection."

<sup>5</sup> "Residents to Honor Late Artist," *Hartford Courant* (Hartford, Connecticut), Fri, May 27, 1966, 63.