



## **Inventory of the Arundel Casino Collection (Collection #36)**

The Brick Store Museum  
Kennebunk, Maine

Compiled by J. Butler, Manuscript Curator  
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### Physical Description:

This collection is comprised of the treasurer's records of the Arundel Casino of Kennebunkport, from 1886-1929, as kept by Sarah P. Bancroft. Miss Bancroft was one of the founders of the Casino, a social organization, and a staunch supporter and hard worker at the club for many years. These papers came via the estate of her long-time companion, and eventual heir, Ellen Sheehan Eldridge (Mrs. John Eldridge).

The collection is largely treasurer's reports, cancelled checks, "Charge Books" (records of charges made by members), and other financial records, but also includes a few copies of local summer newspapers, a few Director's Reports, and a few printed invitations and tickets to Casino functions and events at its sister organization, the Arundel Golf Club, which was also founded by Miss Bancroft.

The collection is stored in nine full and one half box, the ledgers separate, with the newspapers with the newspaper collection as noted in the box and folder breakdown.

Its acquisition number is 83.9.

Box and Folder Breakdown:

Box 1:

- Folder 1: Cancelled checks, 1909-10
- Folder 2: Cancelled checks, 1913
- Folder 3: Cancelled checks, 1914
- Folder 4: Cancelled checks, 1915
- Folder 5: Cancelled checks, 1916
- Folder 6: Cancelled checks, 1917
- Folder 7: Cancelled checks, 1918
- Folder 8: Cancelled checks, 1919
- Folder 9: Cancelled checks, 1920
- Folder 10: Cancelled checks, 1921
- Folder 11: Cancelled checks, 1922

Box 2:

- Folder 1: Cancelled checks, 1923
- Folder 2: Cancelled checks, 1925
- Folder 3: Cancelled checks, 1926
- Folder 4: Cancelled checks, 1927
- Folder 5: Cancelled checks, 1928
- Folder 6: Cancelled checks, 1929

Box 3:

- Folder 1: Cash book, 1925
- Folder 2: Financial records, 1912, including list of subscribers, as reported in "1st half 29th report."
- Folder 3: Financial records, 1914, including list of subscribers, as reported in Report #30 and 1st half of Report #31.
- Folder 4: Financial records, 1915, including list of subscribers, as reported in Report #31, 2nd half.
- Folder 5: Financial records, 1915, including list of subscribers, as reported in Report #32, 1st half. Also, Report #32, 2nd half, 1916.
- Folder 6: Financial records, 1916, including list of subscribers, as reported in Report #33, 1st half. Also, Report #33, 2nd half, 1917.

- Folder 7: Financial records, 1917-1918, including list of subscribers, as reported in Report #34.
- Folder 8: As above, 1918-1919, Report #35.
- Folder 9: As above, 1918-1919, Report #36.
- Folder 10: As above, 1920-1921, Report #37.
- Folder 11: As above, 1921-1922, Report #38.
- Folder 12: As above, 1922-1923, Report #39.
- Folder 13: As above, 1923-1924, Report #40.
- Folder 14: As above, 1924-1925, Report #41.
- Folder 15: As above, 1925-1926, Report #42.
- Folder 16: As above, 1926-1927, Report #43.
- Folder 17: As above, 1927-1928, Report #44.

Box 4:

- Folder 1: Treasurer's Report #1, 1887-88, with vouchers. Also secretary's report, 1886-87.
- Folder 2: Treasurer's Report #2, 1887-88, with vouchers.
- Folder 3: Treasurer's Report #3, for year ending Aug. 11, 1888, with vouchers.
- Folder 4: Treasurer's Report #4, 1888-89, with vouchers.
- Folder 5: Treasurer's Report #5, 1889-90, with vouchers, including those for new el on Arundel Hall.
- Folder 6: Treasurer's Report #6, 1890-91, with vouchers.
- Folder 7: Treasurer's Report #7, 1891-92, with vouchers.
- Folder 8: Treasurer's Report #8, 1892-93, with vouchers.
- Folder 9: Treasurer's Report #9, 1893-94, with vouchers.
- Folder 10: Treasurer's Report #10, 1894-95, with vouchers.
- Folder 11: Treasurer's Report #11, 1895-96, with vouchers. Also, Report, Chairman of the Building Committee.

Box: 5:

- Folder 1: Vouchers for Report #12, 1896.
- Folder 2: Treasurer's Report #12, 1896-97, with vouchers for 1897.
- Folder 3: Treasurer's Report #13, 1897-98, with vouchers.
- Folder 4: Treasurer's Report #14, 1898, with vouchers. Treasurer's Report #15, 1898-99, with vouchers.
- Folder 5: Treasurer's Report #16, 1899-1900, with vouchers.
- Folder 6: Treasurer's Report #17, 1900-1901, with vouchers.
- Folder 7: Treasurer's Report #18, 1901-02, with vouchers. Also, Director's Report, 1902.

Folder 8: Treasurer's Report #19, 1902-03, with vouchers.

Folder 9: Treasurer's Report #20, 1903-04, with vouchers.

Box 6:

Folder 1: Treasurer's Report #21, 1904-05, with vouchers.

Folder 2: Treasurer's Report #22, 1905-06, with vouchers.

Folder 3: Treasurer's Report #23, 1906-07, with vouchers.

Folder 4: Treasurer's Report #24, 1907-08, with vouchers.

Folder 5: Treasurer's Report #25, 1908-09, with vouchers. Also, Director's Report, 1909.

Folder 6: Treasurer's Report #26, 1909-10, with vouchers. Also, Director's Report, 1910.

Folder 7: Treasurer's Report #27, 1910-11, with vouchers.

Box 7:

Folder 1: Treasurer's Report #28, 1911-12, with vouchers.

Folder 2: Treasurer's Report #29, 1912-13, with vouchers.

Folder 3: Treasurer's Report #30, 1913-14, with vouchers. Also Director's Report, 1914.

Folder 4: Treasurer's Report #31, 1914-15, with vouchers.

Folder 5: Treasurer's Report #32, 1915-16, with vouchers.

Folder 6: Treasurer's Report #33, 1916-17, with vouchers.

Folder 7: Treasurer's Report #34, 1917-18, with vouchers.

Box 8:

Folder 1: Treasurer's Report #35, 1918-19, with vouchers.

Folder 2: Treasurer's Report #36, 1919-20, with vouchers.

Folder 3: Treasurer's Report #37, 1920-21, with vouchers.

Folder 4: Treasurer's Report #38, 1921-22, with vouchers.

Folder 5: Treasurer's Report #39, 1922-23, with vouchers.

Box 9:

Folder 1: Treasurer's Report #40, 1923-24, and report.

Folder 2: Treasurer's Report #41, 1924-25, with vouchers.

Folder 3: Treasurer's Report #42, 1925-26, with vouchers.

Folder 4: Treasurer's Report #43, 1926-27, with vouchers.

Folder 5: Treasurer's Report #44, 1927-28, with vouchers.

Box 10:

- Folder 1: By-laws and Rules of the Arundel Casino, 1909; "Furniture for 1 pair of [Bowling] Alleys;" Tax regulations pertinent to the Casino.
- Folder 2: Miscellaneous financial records.
- Folder 3: Printed invitations to various Casino events.
- Folder 4: Printed invitations to various events at the "Gold Club."
- Folder 5: Printed invitations to events at Arundel Golf Club and tickets for events at the Casino.
- Folder 6: Petition, etc., concerning junior membership in the Arundel Casino, 1907.

Also the following:

Newspaper Box V:

- Folder 15: *High Tide*, summer newspaper, August 21, 1937, and July 2, 16, 30, and August 6, 13, and 20, 1938.
- Folder 16: *High Tide*, June 29, July 6, 13, 20, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 1940.
- Folder 17: *Kennebunk Star*, July 22 and 29, August 5, 12, 19, 1938.

Bay #2, Section #4, Shelf #2 *The Ways*, 1891 and 1892, bound.

Ledgers:

- Treasurer's Book, 1886-1907
- Treasurer's Book, 1908-1920
- Treasurer's Book, 1921-1928
- Arundel Casino, Subscribers, 1892-1907
- Arundel Casino, Subscribers, 1907-1923
- Charge Book, 1921
- Charge Book, 1922
- Charge Book, 1923
- Charge Book, 1925
- Charge Book, 1926
- Charge Book, 1927

625-80  
+ news

# Cameos



by Joyce Butler

## Sarah P. Bancroft

"Miss Sarah P. Bancroft is again occupying her elegant cottage near the Cliff House. Miss Bancroft has always been a leader in all social matters and a season without her presence would indeed be a dull one."

*The Wave*, July 8, 1893

Sarah Bancroft was thirty-nine years old in 1882 when she first came to Kennebunkport — a handsome woman, Massachusetts born and bred, the unmarried daughter of a Harvard-educated doctor. She came to Maine by train to visit friends who were summering at Proul's Neck. It was probably on her return trip to Boston that she expressed to the conductor a wish to find a suitable place somewhere in Maine to build a summer cottage. "Miss Bancroft," he said, "Why don't you stop at Kennebunkport?"

Leaving the train at the Kennebunk depot, Miss Bancroft took the stage to

the Bayes House, a small boarding house on Cape Arundel just a stone's throw from the grand Ocean Bluff Hotel (which stood on the site of today's Colony Hotel) and the new Cliff House.

Cape Arundel was still relatively undeveloped when she came. Only two or three architecturally modest cottages had been built on the bluff bordered by the ocean and the Kennebunk River. Miss Bancroft liked what she saw of Cape Arundel with its wildflower-filled fields, stone walls, and pasture gates. We can imagine her deciding, "Yes, there are possibilities here." She bought a piece of land from the Kennebunkport Sea Shore Company, a group of men who envisioned Cape Arundel as a select cottage colony that would turn Kennebunkport into a thriving watering place. Miss Bancroft, more than anyone else, would be responsible for furthering that dream.

She built Bancroft Cottage, a small but elegant house with a tower, narrow stained glass windows, and verandas, that set a new architectural standard for Cape Arundel. She spent her summers there for the next fifty years, arriving each spring from her winter home in Boston's Copley Plaza Hotel, lingering into September.

Miss Bancroft's choice of Kennebunkport for her summer home influenced her friends and acquaintances to do the same. Once here they, like others who had discovered Kennebunkport on their own, looked to Miss Bancroft for guidance socially. As one of the earliest supporters of the Arundel Casino (a hall for musical, theatrical, and literary entertainments); the Kennebunk River Club, which sponsored nautical and sporting events; and the Arundel Golf Club, they respected her status. So too, trusting her breeding and taste, they did not pursue any social enterprise without first finding out what Miss Bancroft thought.

Sarah Bancroft was not, however, simply a socialite. She was an intelligent, energetic, in many ways progressive, woman. (As one admirer liked to point out, "Miss Bancroft is in the patent book." She designed, patented, and manufactured a candle-shaped fixture that when inserted into a candlestick, filled with oil, and its wick lighted, would burn for seven hours.) At Kennebunkport her interest and influence extended beyond the social. She was, for example, instrumental in bringing electricity to Cape Arundel.

Perhaps this is why even as an old woman she was known and respected. She died at Bancroft Cottage on September 23, 1934, at the age of 91, and even though she had largely withdrawn from active social life, the community noted her passing with regret, saying, "Miss Bancroft was the making of Kennebunkport."

Subject Headings (Local businessmen represented in vouchers. List not alphabetical.)

Vouchers, 1887-1900:

Maling, W. H., K'Pt.

Wells, A. M., K'Pt.

Eastern Star Print, K.

Jackson, John F., plumber, K'Pt.

American Express Co., K'Pt.

Larrabee, G. W., hardware, K.

Tuck, Fred B., K'Pt.

Cole, C. H., insurance, K.

Norton House, K'Pt.

B. and M. R. R., K'Pt.

Clark, H. P., architect, K'Pt. and Boston

Miller, Ed. C., druggist, K'Pt.

Chase, Ed., ice, K'Pt.

Carll, G. B., stoves, etcl, K'Pt.

Emery, Wm. H., labor, K'Pt.

Larrabee, John and Son, carriage supplies, K.

Hall, Geo. H., shipsmith, K'pt.

Kennebunk Steam Laundry

Cousens Express, K.

Perkins and Seavey, painting and supplies, Lower Village

Citizens Ice Co., K'Pt.

Kennebunk Savings Bank

Walker, Chas. H., wood, grain, etc., K.

Twambly, P. A., groceries, K'Pt.

*The Wave*

*The Open Sea*

Ocean Bluff, K'Pt.

Hall and Littlefield, stable, K'Pt.

Walker, W. F., Lumber, K'Pt.

Hooch, Hobbs, Footwear, Lower Village

Norton, R. W., confectioner, K'Pt.

Luques and Dennett, groceries, K'Pt.

Perkins, Louis M., hardware, K.

Mousam Water Co., K.  
Perkins, H. F., K'Pt.  
Mousam Manufacturing Co., leatherboard, K.  
Walker Express, K'Pt.  
Cawthorne's Express, K.  
Emery, Wm. H. and Son, groceries, K'Pt.  
Williams, Geo. W., mechanic, K.  
Hoff, B. A., lime, cement, etc., K'Pt.  
Bonser, Geo., and Son, clothing, K.  
Cloudh, Geo. W., groceries, K'Pt.  
Perkins, Chas. H., painter, K'Pt.  
Hoff, C. W., blacksmith, K'Pt.

Supplemental, 1900-10:

Jones and Clark, contractors, West Kenn.  
Wells and Jackson, plumbers/tinsmiths, K'Pt.  
Lunge, Harry E., hardware, K.  
Kenn. Electric Light Co.  
Nason, C. W., contractor, K.  
Bartlett, Wm., lumber/grain, K.  
Quint, Wm. E., trucking (?), K'Pt.  
Enterprise Press, K.  
Welch, A. M., dry goods, K'Pt.  
Smith E. E., street sprinkler, K'Pt.  
McCabe, James, street sprinkler, K'Pt.  
Eldridge, John F., real estate, K'Pt.  
Dennett, Henry B., hardware and groceries, K'Pt.  
Ocean Ave. Stables, K'Pt.  
Clark, Geo. D., contractor, K'Pt.  
Ashworth and Welch, electrical contractors, K'Pt.

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