

# NEWSLETTER



Holderness Historical Society

Fall 2016

Volume XXXII

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## John Nicolay

John Nicolay and his daughter, Helen, came to Holderness in the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to escape the stifling heat of Washington, DC and to rejuvenate their souls in the fresh New Hampshire mountain air. In the late 1880's the Nicolays discovered the Asquam House overlooking beautiful Squam Lake from its perch on Shepard Hill, and stayed for six weeks.



John Nicolay was at that time a biographer and writer. As the former personal secretary to President Abraham Lincoln and retired from his position as Marshal to the US Supreme Court, he spent most of his time dedicated to writing the biography of the sixteenth United States President with fellow presidential secretary John Hay. This was serialized in *Century Magazine*, and later published as a ten volume work.

While John Nicolay was only in his sixties when he and his daughter first visited Holderness, the senior Nicolay suffered from crippling pain and undiagnosed ailments.

John was born the youngest of five in Rhenish Bavaria in 1832. John was the frailest among his siblings, ill-suited for manual labor, but he found his strength in art and in writing.

An orphan at age 14, John became an apprentice in a country newspaper where he thrived and grew into a successful journalist. He eventually became editor, publisher and owner of the paper. John's ill health was a constant companion throughout his life. Undeterred, he threw himself head first into national politics, and became an early champion of Abraham Lincoln for the presidency.

John subsequently served as Lincoln's personal secretary during the Civil War, the most turbulent and violent period in United States history. He was Lincoln's only staff member during his campaign, paid out of Lincoln's own pocket, until the November election of 1860, when John Hay joined the White House staff as an additional secretary. Nicolay and Hay were tasked with managing the president's schedules, communicating with the press and inquiries from the general public and assisting with White House functions.

It is said the traditional role of a presidential secretary has always been as an aide and advisor to the president. While this may have been somewhat the case with Hay and Nicolay, it is more likely the two young men were trusted to take on tremendous responsibility under the observation of a benevolent boss. As Helen Nicolay writes in her book about her father, *Lincoln's Secretary*, "These 'mere boys' did look very young, and not at all formidable, but those who tried to oppose them found that the President's secretaries usually carried their point."

*Continued, page 3*

## The President's Corner

This summer, partnered with the Holderness Library, we presented three very well-attended programs. The schedule for 2017 programs will be listed in the spring newsletter.

This summer the museum had a special exhibit titled *School Days*, which featured pictures of Holderness schools of yesterday, class pictures and artifacts from the era of one room school houses.

Cataloging of our books and pamphlets in our research/library area to make researching families, cemeteries, camps, and other historical events and places simpler continues. Please check our website [www.holdernesshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.holdernesshistoricalsociety.org) for programs, exhibits, museum hours, etc.

Your continued support by way of membership dues and contributions helps preserve our town's history and maintain our building, which is in need of a new roof. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please use the enclosed envelope to do so. We hope that more of our members will become more active in the historical society. We always welcome your ideas, help, and suggestions. Please contact me, or any other member of the board, if you can help or for more information.

Linda Foerderer

[FPLinda@aol.com](mailto:FPLinda@aol.com)

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## Exhibit of Helen Nicolay's Paintings

On July 15, 2017 there will be an exhibit of Helen Nicolay's oil and watercolor paintings that have been stored under a bed (some for over 50 years). She authored over twenty books and her artwork was displayed at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington Water Color Club (now Washington Water Color Association, National Museum of Woman in the Arts, National Academy of Design, Whistler Museum (solo exhibit) and the Old Print Barn (solo exhibit).

This event will be a fundraiser to benefit the Holderness Historical Society and the Holderness Free Library. It will be held at the former home of John and Helen Nicolay. John Nicolay was the personal secretary to Abraham Lincoln and built the cottage 'Tannenruh' on Shepard Hill in 1895. Thanks to the generosity of Kathryn and Mitchell Drew, current owners of the Nicolay property, we will be hosting this exhibit at their home.

In addition Ann Marie Maguire and/or her son John will be sharing stories from their soon to be published book on the life of Helen Nicolay. It tells of a childhood immersed in art, literature and national politics in the decades following the Civil War and her growing up in a household solely dedicated to the memory of President Abraham Lincoln. She left a significant body of art illustrating her travel in the world and authored more than 20 books on history, many of which were written to educate young people. This book on the life of Helen Nicolay is a tribute to a woman who quietly contributed to society through a number of causes and is part memoir for those few today who remember her as Aunt Helen. Wine and cheese will be served. The cost per person will be \$25 for advanced tickets. After July 1<sup>st</sup> tickets will be \$35 per person. The first five people to purchase tickets will receive a copy of "Lincoln's Boys" a book that chronicles John Nicolay and John Hay's experiences in the Lincoln White House. Only fifty tickets will be available. Tickets will go on sale on or about May 1, 2017. Details will follow in the Spring Newsletter.

This fundraising event is the result of HHS director Patty Sue Salvador's desire to honor her mother, Mary Elizabeth Nielsen by donating a painting by Helen Nicolay. Mrs. Nielsen previously donated Nicolay memorabilia to HHS. Leslie Benoit was only willing to sell her entire collection of 56 oils and watercolors. Leslie's mother, Barbara Benoit, was Helen Nicolay's goddaughter. She also wanted to honor her mother so reduced her asking price to make the purchase possible. Mary Elizabeth and Barbara were lifelong best friends and cherished many fond memories of a very dear Aunt Helen.

## Treasurer's Report

We are pleased to serve as fiscal agent for the Summer Celebration Committee. Several local businesses and 64 families donated for this year's events.

While we are currently in the black, we have been reminded by our insurance appraiser that we should be getting a new roof. Our current roof dates back from 1994, the year the building was moved from Perch Pond Rd. to Curry Place. Estimates indicate we will need about \$8500 to re-roof. Please consider an extra donation to help us with this project. Thank You!

M. Mason



## Summer Celebration

The historical society joined with the Town to celebrate the 255<sup>th</sup> year of the founding of Holderness with a street parade and an antique boat parade on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The Mattatuck Fife and Drum Band participated in the boat parade and street parade and then held a concert before heading back to Connecticut. They are America's longest continually serving band, having played during the British surrender at Yorktown on October 19, 1781.

The celebration continued with a Postage Due concert followed by fireworks and music by the Baker Valley Band on Little Squam on September 2nd. The fireworks barge was provided by Squam Docks and the band was ferried by the Science Center.

We thank those of you who supported the celebration with contributions. Plans are to keep the tradition going with another Summer Celebration next year.

In addition to managing schedules and communicating with the press, John Nicolay was tasked with being the president's liaison and gate-keeper. A quiet, but stern young man, John had at one time been referred to as "the bull-dog of the ante-room." (1)

After his first term and as a reward for their service, Lincoln gave Nicolay and Hay posts in Paris. Nicolay served for three years before being recalled. Once home he briefly edited the *Chicago Republican* and in 1872 served as Marshal to the US Supreme Court. In 1881, John Nicolay wrote *The Outbreak of Rebellion*, which was his contribution to a series published by *Century Magazine* titled "*Campaigns of the Civil War*." He stayed in his position as Marshal of the Supreme Court for 15 years and then retired, dedicating the remainder of his life to the biography of Abraham Lincoln.

Following the death of his wife, Therenia, John and Helen spent some time traveling. They visited the Isles of Shoals and Bethlehem, New Hampshire to meet with Hay and Richard Watson Gilder, editor of the *Century Magazine* where they made plans for serializing the Lincoln biography. The much cooler air at the seaside New England resort and just north in the White Mountains provided refreshing retreats from humid Washington, which in summer months John described as being "too hot for all but cats and congressmen."

Hay and Nicolay also traveled for a number of years to Crystal Park, near Colorado Springs, for vacation. John remarked that he enjoyed the area, as it reminded him of his childhood home in Bavaria, but travel there had become difficult. Hay's wife Clara was a city girl, not acclimated to the long train ride and journey by donkey up in the mountains to Crystal Park, but they did stay at a comfortable resort called "The Antlers" in Colorado Springs.

Helen had been taking art lessons at Deerfield Academy and New Hampshire was a cheerful alternative much closer to home. Their trips to the Isles of Shoals gave young Helen the opportunity to meet several famous artists and writers of that era.

Their connection to Holderness, New Hampshire began purely by chance. As Helen writes in her book about her father, they packed up and left the stifling heat of Washington, DC one hot August day after spending considerable time proofreading the Lincoln manuscript. Without a plan in mind, they boarded a train and left the city behind. As Helen had said, "We only knew that we must seek a cooler spot."

John Nicolay wrote in a letter to Gilder from Holderness: "We went to the Shenandoah Valley, where it was too hot. Then to the Isles of Shoals, where we couldn't get in. Next to Plymouth, where we didn't like it; and finally we landed here on top of a hill between a trio of charming lakes, and in the midst of a complete circle of beautiful mountain scenery."

Helen and her father enjoyed Holderness so much they eventually purchased a parcel of land on Shepard Hill. They had a cottage built that was within walking distance through the woods to the small chapel, St. Peter's on the Mount. They named their summer retreat here in Holderness, "Tannenruh," which takes its meaning from a German phrase for, "peace in the pines."

John Nicolay had lived in the Midwest and in Washington, DC for most of his adult life. He represented Lincoln and the federal government in treaty negotiations with the Dakota tribes in the western territories. He served as US Consul to Paris and had traveled over much of Europe. But they returned to Holderness faithfully while John was alive. He was only able to visit Holderness for five years, but it was forever remembered as a place close to their hearts.

John Nicolay's final trip was a winter journey up the Nile in a boat much like those of the pharaohs. After that trip, his poor health caught up with him and he was unable to return to his beloved Tannenruh the following summer. John Nicolay died in Washington in September, 1901.

Helen kept the family retreat in Holderness and returned to Tannenruh year after year until her own death in 1954. Throughout her years staying in Holderness, Helen Nicolay became a good, close friend to many people in the area, and "Aunt Helen" to some who still remember her today.

John Maguire

(1) W. Stoddard-"White House Sketches," Inside the White House in War Times, M. Burlingame



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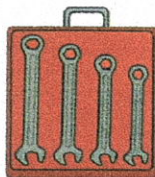


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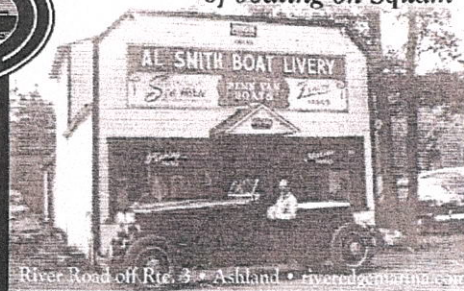


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## Tink's Notes

### \*\*\*More Archaeological Findings From "The Pond of Gold"\*\*\*



During the annual meeting of the NH Archaeological Society held at PSU Oct. 29, state archaeologist Dr. Boisvert (seated in picture on left), no stranger to Holderness, reported on last summer's findings from a second dig on the Nielsen property. He was here a year ago. As his research has just revealed, and from Carbon 14 dating by lab tests done in Colorado, charcoal fire

remains found one meter below the surface date to 7,440 years BP (Before Present). So these Natives are undoubtedly our town's first summer residents!

It is not hard to envision scores of Natives gathered along either side of Squam River camping and on the lookout for fish swimming between the two lakes. Or for other game. Shad, land-locked salmon, maybe smelt, caribou, beaver and moose. Fish were speared, scooped in nets and trapped in weirs. Another encampment on Science Center property with as many as three fire pits and some human skeletal remains was discovered in 2001, next to Weirs Beach, the most significant find in all of the Lakes Region.

Also retrieved from Nielsen's were stone fragments left from making projectile points and tools, and pottery fragments. While investigators were busy in the village others ventured over to Livermore Falls, New Hampshire's newest state park where similar findings were recorded.

It is hoped that such discoveries will continue to be made here. It seems Holderness was a major location site for these earliest Americans. Now the Society has its first collection of Native artifacts thanks to the Nielsen family. Those treasures have now been identified and catalogued by several experts and will soon be on display.

### \*\*\*Livermore Falls

The day after the national election - November 9 - at the Holderness Public Safety Building - members of the Friends of Livermore Falls, now a state park, will meet to take up a busy agenda.

Among the items to be discussed will be who owns the historic once 263-foot long *Pumpkinseed* wrought iron bridge spanning 103 feet over the gorge there, constructed in 1885 by Campton, Holderness and Plymouth for \$7,021. In 1959, when it was abandoned by the three towns to all traffic, the eastern-most span was cut loose and dropped into the gorge where it remains today. Then the entire bridge was sold for junk but never removed.

Ownership must be determined before it can be included in any plan for what to do with it. Among the suggestions: conversion into a foot bridge for the spectacular perspective it affords up and down one of the state's most spectacular geographical formations. It is believed to be the only remaining bridge of its kind left in the United States.

### \*\*\*RFD Mail Delivery

With a proposal to establish an RFD mail delivery along Route 113 into Sandwich, memories of Mailboat service along Squam's north shore are recalled.

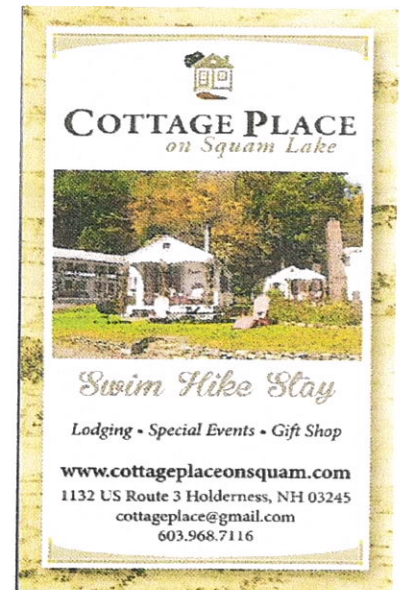
For many years, despite calls for such an RFD, 113 residents were told they already had access to mail via the Mailboat to Kesumpe Point, Glen Cove, Mooney's Point, Preston Point, Arcadie, Flint's, Carne's Island, Camp Algonquin, True Farm and on to Rockywold-Deephaven Camps and Pine Needle Point.

Now with mailboat delivery ended, the RFD proposal is back!

## Flowers on the Bridge

We appreciate all the wonderful compliments on the bridge flowers this summer. Many people wanted to know what they were. The red were Zinnia Profusions and the white was Lobularia Snow Princess. Both were chosen for their longevity and hardiness. Thank you for your support!!

Liz Greason & Cynthia Murray



## Membership Report

It is time to renew your membership! Your support is much appreciated and it enables your society to preserve the history of Holderness as well as present historical programs.

The yearly membership fee is: \$15.00 (individual) and \$25.00 (family).

Thank You!

Cynthia Murray



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## 1903 Winter Trip to Holderness

George K. Sabine, Jr. of Brookline, MA enjoyed his visits to the Pipers and wrote letters home. When he was 13 years old he spent part of Christmas vacation with his friends Toll and Pres Piper. Toll was the father of Mary Elizabeth Nielsen. His family lived in what is now 450 US Rte 3. The pond he refers to is White Oak Pond, the Mill Brook is the pond's outlet to Squam Lake. Bruce Piper lived at the southwest corner of the pond in what is now the Levin house.

George was an Army Captain in WW1 and died of influenza in January 1919. He was the great-uncle of Selectman Woodie Laverack.

1903

### WINTER TRIP TO HOLDEARNES

SAT.

{ 26<sup>th</sup>

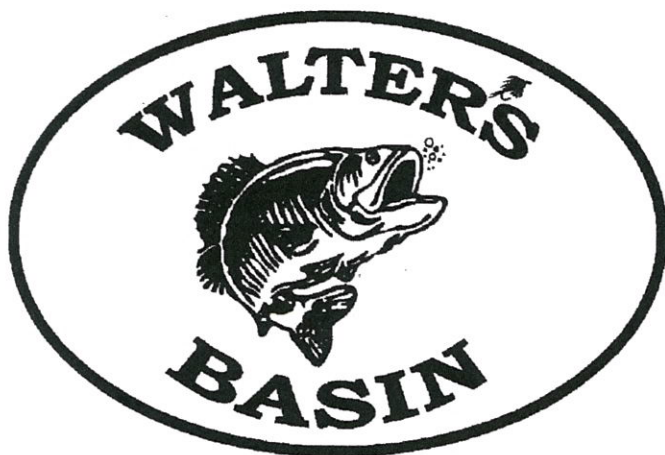
1903 }

On Saturday December 26<sup>th</sup> 1903 I drove in town with Catherine & saw her on her train & then I went on to mine. The train left at 1 o'clock from the North Station & I arrived at Meredith at 5.15 o'clock. Mr. Piper & Toll were there to meet me in a sleigh and the thermometer was way below zero & the wind was blowing hard. On our way up we stopped in at Mr. Hentress's house & got a little to eat & we arrived at the Pipers about 7 o'clock. I ate supper and then I gave the presents to the different members of the family & went to bed pretty early. I slept in the room off the sitting room with Toll.

SUN.

Mr. Piper went over to a island for some muskrats

and Pres, Toll and I walked across the pond & over by Fred Shaw's & followed a lumber road quite a little distance & then Toll and myself stationed our selves for the come of some rabbit and Pres went off with Pont to start one it was not long before he had one going. And it was not long before the rabbits ran passed us and I had given my gun to Toll so I could get warm & he missed him & then Toll went back to F. Shaws to get warm & I stayed out a little longer and saw two otters but did not fire & Pres hit one & he got away. Then I started for F. Shaws & Toll & I waited there until Pres came. And when he did come he said he had hit one twice but did not get it. So we all walked over as far as Bruce Pipers and went in there for a little while & got something to eat. Then we went right home from there across the Pond. And then went up in Levett's to see if we could get a shot at a partridge. Pres fired at one & did not get it but the day before Pres & Toll got four. So we went home & had supper & played Pit & then we went to bed. 11:30 (Mon. 28<sup>th</sup> 1903) We started out pretty early & got to the other side of the pond on Merrels Cove in about 20 minutes with a sleigh. And then we put in nine holes & we only got one or two pickeral so we went back home & got the horse & drove across the pond over to the lumber camp again. We did not start anything but on our way home we came across a flock of partridges but nobody fired. And then we came home & ate supper & played Pit, Chesender & Halma until pretty late in the evening & then we went to bed. I slept with Toll just the same as usual & we had great fun with Pres. When we were over in the lumber camp I shot a red squirrel with my little single barrel shot gun that mother gave me on Christmas. (Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> 1903) We started out pretty early toward Merrel's Cove and when we arrived we put in twelve holes & we stayed there all day & caught about 14 nice ones between 1½ to 3 pounds. We built a little fire & sat around it & when Frank came out he brought out an apple pie. Toward night we came home & we all went down in the marsh to try for a rabbit but we did not get a shot at one. And so we came home & ate our supper & after supper we played games. And had some cider & went to bed about 12 o'clock. We had great fun with Pres. He slept on the sofa in the next room to us & we put the cat in his face & etc. And we kept him awake until pretty late. (Wed. 30<sup>th</sup> 1903) We all went over in the marsh to try again for rabbits but without success but when we were just coming home we heard a fox hound & we stationed ourselves for a little while & Pres went off & we came home by the way of Talbots pasture. And Toll shot a red squirrel there. Then we came home & Pres came home pretty soon after we did & he said he saw the fox. After getting something to eat we all started for cooneys & we went up in Levetts & we got one and when we got down to where it was, the rabbit got away. Then we went down through the woods in Dunn's and Pres shot two chickerdees & Toll shot one in



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*History of Holderness* by George Hodges \$15

*Abbreviated History of Holderness* by Susan B. Keith & Margaret A. Howe \$3

*A History of Public Schools in Holderness 1789-1949* by Doris Graton \$15

*Around Squam Lake* by Bruce Heald, Ph.D. \$15

*Spring Sounds* by Sid Lovett \$2

Fire Department Auxiliary Cookbook (originally published 1980) \$3

1903 Squam Lake Map suitable for framing 36x31 inches

Plain paper \$35

Laminated \$40

Concord & Montreal RR Map of Squam Lake & Vicinity 20 1/4x15 1/2 inches \$15

Laminated Placemats with map of 1761 land division \$3

Benefiting Celebrate Holderness:

Holderness 03245 T-shirts (50% polyester & 50 % cotton)

cream color adult M \$8

Navy & gray child L \$8

Call 968-3334 (M. Mason) to order. You can pick up or items will be mailed to you (postage extra).

### **Recent Gifts to HHS**

--**Cookie Anthony** donated 13 Squam postcards and a key fob from the Asquam Hotel.

--**Earl Hansen** donated two banners from the Holderness 200<sup>th</sup> celebration in 1961.

--**Rose Zimmer** donated photos of the big Pemigewasset floods in '36 and '38 as well as a ladies hat collection, a wool bathing suit from the 20's, a boy's frock coat and a pair of high button shoes.

--**Tink Taylor** donated two photos of the Smith Piper Store in the 30's.

--**Deborah Cross** (a Reuben Whitten descendant from Maine as well as a descendant of Shaws and Eastmans) donated a three volume collection of documents relating to the descendants of Aquilla D. Eastman, Sr. and Dolley Peasley.

--**Sophia Neel Koontz** donated a book about Camp Owl's Nest, Red Lodge Rd., 1962-2015.

--**Jeanne Gordon Demers** donated many family papers passed to her by her parents, Richard and Gladys Gordon, who were charter members of the historical society. Some are letters and papers of her ancestors, the Sargents, who owned what is now the Inn on Golden Pond. There is an 1825 ledger from Russell Cox who built the lovely brick house on Rte. 175, a mortgage record from 1843 to 1846 with documents signed by Town Clerk J.H. Thompson, some flax weavings dating from 1824 which were products of the Carr Farm, a silhouette of the Rev. Robert Fowle, Holderness; first minister, and a milk can.

We thank all of them for enriching our collections.

*Continued from page 7*

The morning. After both T. & P. firing at it about six times. Then we came home & we cleaned our fish & played games & got to bed about 12:30. Pres began to grunt & make noises & we slugged boots & rubbers at him until we got a fight. Which ended about 1 AM o'clock. I took all the photographs I did take in the middle of the afternoon before going hunting. Toll & I went down to the mouth of brook to try for pickeral but we could not catch any. We put in about seven or eight lines. Pretty soon Pres came down and suddenly he discovered that the smelts were running & we hurried up to the house & got the nets ready & came down again and they were all gone so we went back to the house & Mr. Piper took up the reels for us. After dinner Toll & I went down on Jone's shore & put in eight of ten lines. I caught four & Toll three & they were all good sized ones. I got one that weighted 2 1/2. While we were down in the stream we saw some fresh mink tracks so Pres & I went down & he set a trap for it. We left our lines in all night in the pond. I took three or four good pictures after all. After supper we played some games & ate pork & cookies & partridges. And had some fun with Pres. Before we went to bed. Scottie went every where with us he was almost full grown & awfully pretty & he knew me the minute he saw me.

(Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> 1904) Pres & I went down to see if there was anything in the trap but there was not. Then we came home & ate breakfast & after breakfast we fished for pickeral just a little while & then we went down to the mill stream & found smelts there so we got our nets & caught about half a bushel & in the afternoon we cleaned them & some pickeral then we ate our supper & played out of doors. We hid from Pres behind a rock in the Piper's field & he tried to find us by making us think he was a fox but after a while we went out & we all went down to the H. Thompsons & were going to play cards but there were not enough so we went up to Hen. Hall's & stayed there a while & then we came home & played cards & the other games & we did not get to bed until about 1:30 A.M. We sat the New Year in & at midnight we drank to the health of our families in cider but Toll did not sit up he went to bed about three minutes before twelve & got up about ten minutes after.

(Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1904) In the morning we went down & took up our lines in the pond. Toll & I & Pres went down to see if we had anything in our trap but we did not so we came up & I got ready & packed up & ate dinner & Frank, Toll & I drove down to Meredith & got there about ten minutes before the train went & I told Toll to be sure & come down Easter time & he said he would. Then I telegraphed down to Brookline & took the train & got into Boston 5:00 o'clock & then I checked my trunk & came out. I brought down all my pickeral which amounted to about 23 or 24 which I had kept frozen so as to keep. Scott went with us every where & he knew me in an instant after he saw me & we had a great time together. I got about a dozen pictures in all. And almost all turned out well. I saw four white rabbits & I shot the first thing I ever shot, up there (a red squirrel with the little single barrel which mother gave me on Christmas.) (Sun. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>) I unpack my things & my fish & they were all right & I melted them.....& we had pickeral for two weeks. The smelt were the first we ever tasted that we had caught. END.

*Keep up the Good Work!*

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Reprinted from Lakes Region Trader,  
Wednesday, February 19, 1975

**HELEN NICOLAY**, daughter of John G. Nicolay, chief secretary to President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, as she appeared in her last years. In 1895 her father built a cottage in Holderness, where she enjoyed over 60 summers. She was a well known author, artist and linguist, and lived in Washington.

At Holderness

## Cottage of Lincoln's Secretary Favorite Vacation Retreat

By **ARIA C. ROBERTS**

**HOLDERNESS** — Anything pertaining to the life and activity of Abraham Lincoln usually commands wide attention, and as the 166th anniversary of his birth is at hand, there is of course interest in a little cottage which was built by John Nicolay, his chief secretary at the White House during the Civil War years.

It was built before the turn of the century and his daughter, Helen Nicolay, author, artist and linguist, spent more than 60 summers there from her residence in the National Capital. She died in Washington in October, 1954. Not long after her death the property was sold, and it has since been the vacation retreat (summer and

winter) of several members of the clergy from the Bay State. The modest cottage, a veritable shrine because of its indirect associations with Lincoln, still peers from its secluded spot on the brow of a hill, and Miss Nicolay would be proud to know of the keen interest the present owners have had in retaining its simple beauty. Sheltered by firs and birches, the cottage commands a beautiful view of Asquam Lake and vistas beyond to Chocorua Mountain in the distance. The cottage cannot be seen from any highway.

Miss Nicolay, who probably knew more about President Lincoln than any other living person before her death, came here with her father as a girl in her late teens and saw his dream of a summer home come true after seeking a desirable spot at other points in the nation. John Nicolay chose New Hampshire! In fact they started coming to New Hampshire following her

mother's death in 1885. They made a stop in Holderness, intending to stay but a day or two, but remained for several weeks.

That was the beginning of a longer stay. In 1892, John Nicolay made a first purchase of land, and began designing his dream house. It was built in 1895. And there, in subsequent summers until his final illness in 1901, he completely enjoyed this haven on a hill, writing in his studio, receiving visitors in the vicinity and from Washington. Among visitors from the National Capital was John Hay, another secretary of President Lincoln. Nicolay collaborated with Hay in a gigantic piece of work in several volumes, "Life of Lincoln," and it was Nicolay's daughter Helen who first served as her father's secretary in this work, and then completed the last volume on which her father was working at the time of his death.

Near the cottage is a structure where Miss Nicolay spent many happy hours. This was her art studio, and here she painted in oils and water colors. Visiting her one afternoon, this writer was shown the studio, saw her easel with an unfinished portrait upon it. On the walls were paintings in a wide variety of subjects, and all full of life even though executed in soft tones. A staircase at one side of the room led to an open balcony. The fireplace below, and choice pieces of furniture added to the charm and comfort of the studio she sometimes entertained her friends and neighbors at tea instead of at the cottage.

What has happened to the studio? It has become a beautiful little chapel.

The only person living today who remembers seeing John Nicolay, is Mrs. Susan Bacon Keith, who has been a local resident for many years. Her father, Nathaniel T. Bacon, began coming here in the late 1870's—and it was with her father that Mrs. Keith, as a small girl, paid a visit to John Nicolay. She still remembers that meeting and the man's

friendliness, his very quiet manner and solemn facial expression.

Like President Lincoln, John Nicolay was born in February — on the 26th, in 1832, in Essingen, Bavaria. He came to this country with his father in 1837, lived for some time in Cincinnati where he attended public schools, then moved to Illinois. He went to Springfield, Ill., in 1857 as an assistant to the Secretary of State, and remained there until he became chief secretary for Lincoln. From 1865 to 1869 he served as consul at Paris—and it was there, in 1866, where his daughter Helen was born. He was marshal of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1872 to 1887.