

ELEANOR GRACE GODDARD DANIELS (1889-1981) c.1912 (?)

Oil on canvas

33 ½ x 28 ½"; 85.1 x 71.5 cm. (framed)

Gift of Bruce Daniels and Eleanor Daniels Bronson-Hodge, 2001

Ex.Coll.: Harry W. and George Grace W. Goddard to their daughter, Eleanor Grace Goddard Daniels to their daughter, the sitter, to her children, the donors

Hewes Number: 56

Eleanor Goddard was the elder of the two daughters of Harry and Georgia Goddard. Born in Spencer in 1889, she moved to Worcester as a small child and attended Worcester public schools, where one of her high school teachers encouraged her to consider going on to college. She did, and graduated from Smith College in 1911. There, she kept a scrapbook in which she saved a record of her busy social life. On June 2, 1915, she married F. Harold Daniels, who had also grown up in the Salisbury Street neighborhood. They had two children, Eleanor and Bruce.

In Worcester, Eleanor Daniels was a member of the Second Church of Christ, Scientist, the Center for Crafts, Friends of the Public Library, the Tatnuck Country Club, the Worcester Club, the Woman's Club, Citizens Plan E Association, Higgins Armory Museum, the Salisbury Mansion Association, Worcester County Horticultural Society, Worcester County Music Association, Worcester Children's Friend Society, Worcester Garden Club, Preservation Worcester, the Mechanics Association. She was a benefactor of AAS, Clark University, the Home for Aged Men (Goddard House), Smith College, Worcester Academy, Worcester Art Museum, Homestead Hall, and Worcester Polytechnic Society. She was a director of Faith House, a trustee of Old Sturbridge Village, and a member of the National Board of the Worcester Area Council of Camp Fire Girls. She received the Wohelo award from the Camp Fire Girls in 1943. She also donated 500 acres of marshland on Petit Manon Point in Steuben, Maine, to the state of Maine to be used as a waterfowl management area.

Her husband was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1956 and served on the Council from 1959 until his death in 1967. Several years afterwards, Mrs. Daniels made arrangements to deed the home at 190 Salisbury Street to the Society. This wonderful gift that came to AAS at her death in 1981 has benefited AAS in many ways. The house is a residence for the Society's fellows and on weekdays is the office space for the departments of outreach and of scholarly programs. The Society's fellowship program is noted for its collegiality, greatly facilitated by the gracious surroundings in which the fellows live. Many people still recall seeing Mrs. Daniels walking around the neighborhood, even on cold days, bundled up in a warm coat.

This portrait is unsigned and is without a date. Possible dates might be either 1912, the same time as the portrait of her sister Marion, or 1915, at the time of her marriage.