

Hidden in Plain Sight

Sarah J. Eddy in Portsmouth, Rhode Island



Marjorie Webster and
Gloria Schmidt
Portsmouth Historical
Society

Discovering Sarah

- ◆ “Lost to Time” - Theme for Historical Society 2014 Annual Exhibit
- ◆ Grandma Burke Painting
 - ◆ Social Studio
 - ◆ Bristol Ferry artist colony
 - ◆ Artist: S. J. Eddy



Uncovering Sarah

- ◆ Finding Postcards on Ebay
- ◆ Articles on Social Studio
- ◆ “Who was Sarah?”



May Queen, Social Studio, Bristol Ferry, R. I.

"All men's good be each man's rule, and universal Peace
Lie like a shaft of light across the land."

This is a picture of the May Queen in the procession of the May Party.

The Social Studio was erected as a social meeting place for the neighborhood, to bring all together for work and recreation, for increased friendly acquaintance and mutual helpfulness. The teaching of kindness to every living creature is made a prominent part of the work.

The Social Studio welcomes every one. Over the door an inscription reads, "Peace and Joy be with all who enter here."

For duplicates and prices, address SOCIAL STUDIO, Bristol Ferry, R. I.

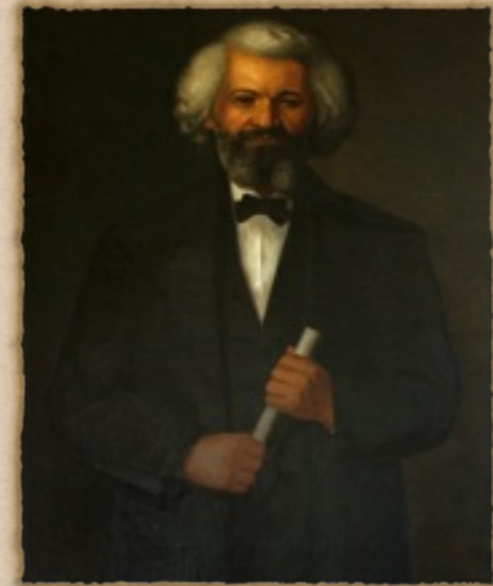


The great fireplace in the social studio.
By permission of R. J. Eddy

Article from "Good Housekeeping" - 1906

Connecting with Other Researchers

- ◆ Lisa Struckmeyer
 - ◆ Frederick Douglass Painting
- ◆ Joanna Doherty
 - ◆ Sarah's House - John Borden
- ◆ All researching Sarah at the same time for different reasons.
- ◆ Different puzzle pieces come together.



About Sarah James Eddy

- ◆ Only picture of Sarah
- ◆ Little biographical information - humble
- ◆ No children
- ◆ Artistic biographies best
- ◆ Physical description from passport



MRS. SARAH J. EDDY

Her Family

- ◆ Understand family background and their influence on her causes
- ◆ Grandfather Jackson
- ◆ Mother Eliza
- ◆ Father James
- ◆ Her causes influence her artwork



Her Art was Her "Passion"

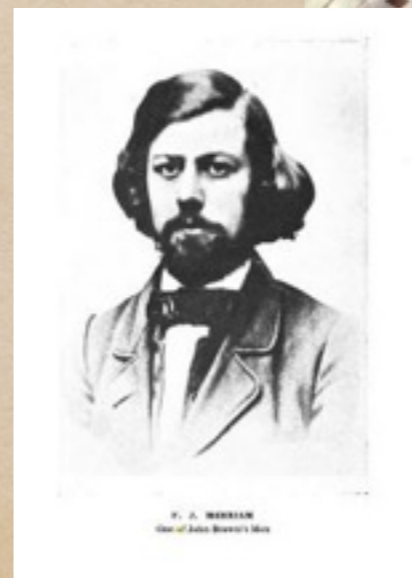
- ◆ Trained at Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
- ◆ Painter throughout her life
- ◆ Pioneering woman photographer
- ◆ Sculptor



Abolition/Civil Rights

- ◆ Grandfather Jackson and her mother were deeply involved in abolition
- ◆ Sarah hosted dinner for “Aged Colored Home” for about forty years

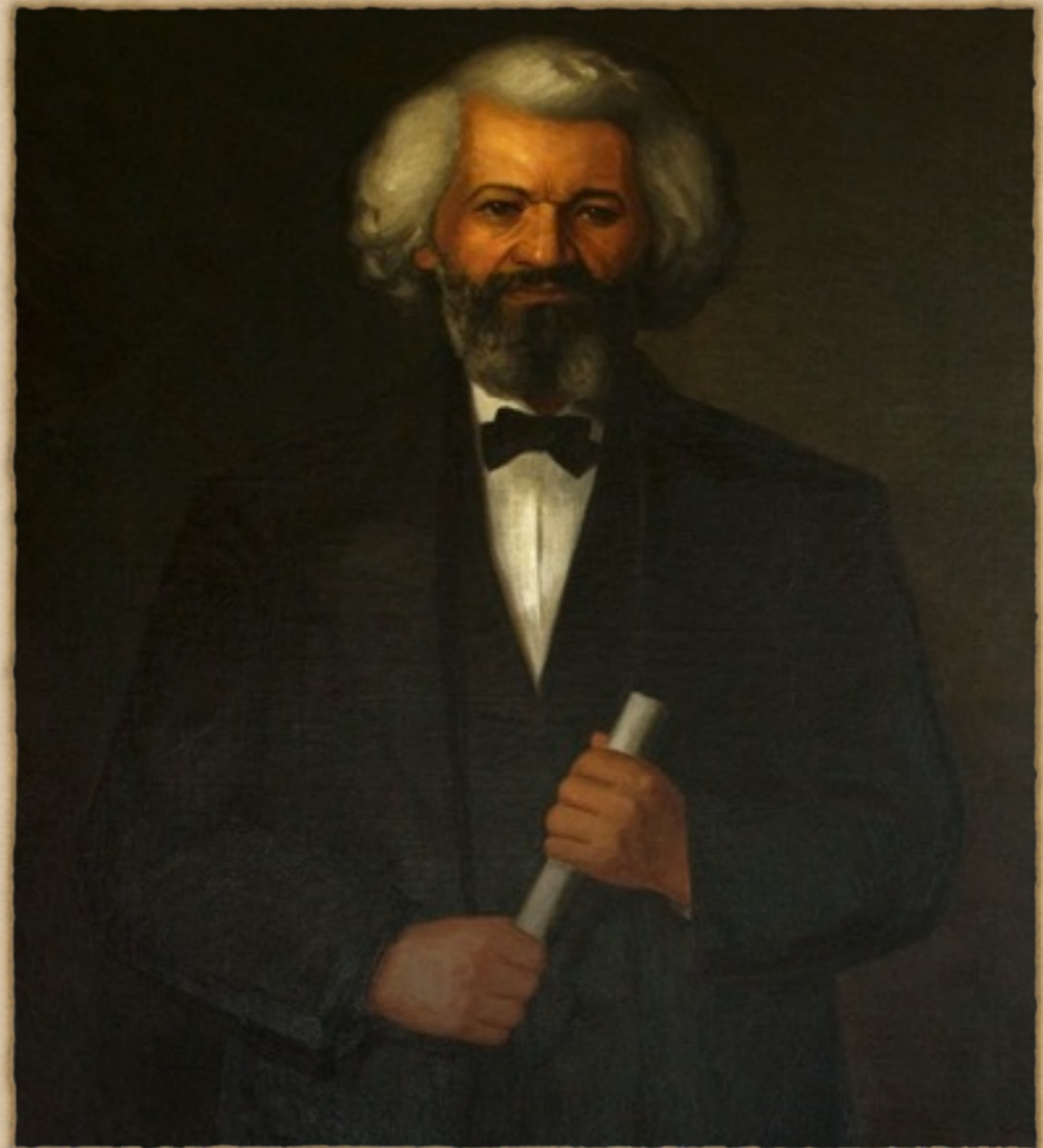
Sarah's Mother had this Abolition Quilt



Sarah's Stepbrother was part of John Brown's Raid

Frederick Douglass Portrait

- ◆ Douglas sat for this portrait in Providence
- ◆ Now at Frederick Douglass' Home - National Site
- ◆ Another copy was in Sarah's Portsmouth home and was given to W. E. B. Dubois - now missing



Women's Suffrage

- ◆ Lifelong member of National American Women's Suffrage Association.
- ◆ In 1918 she protested paying taxes in Portsmouth when not represented



Photo by Sarah

Susan B. Anthony in Portsmouth

- ◆ From Susan's Letters



Susan B. Anthony Portraits



Susan B. Anthony
ca. 1902, oil on canvas

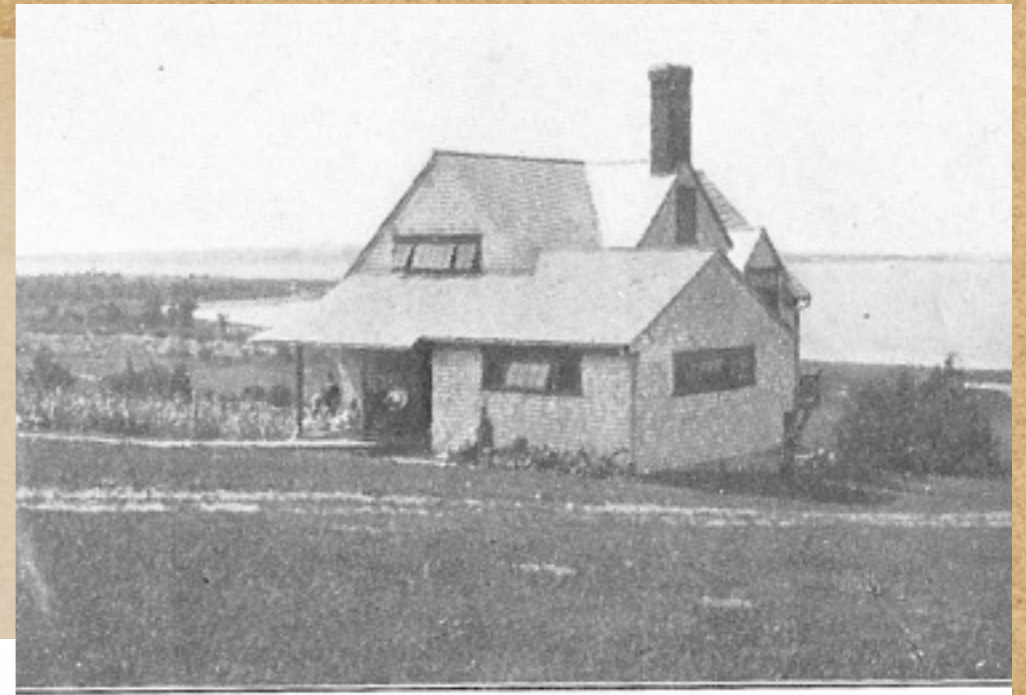
Collection of Smithsonian Institution/National Museum of
American History



At Bryn Mawr College

Cultural Education

- ♦ Social Studio
 - ♦ Located on Bristol Ferry Road opposite her home.
- ♦ Library, Art Lessons, Sewing, Protection of Animals, Stage



Social Studio, Bristol Ferry, R. I.

“ All men's good be each man's rule, and universal Peace
Lie like a shaft of light across the land.”

Sewing Class.

Useful garments as well as fancy work are made at the Studio and placed where they will do good.

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**SOCIAL STUDIO, Bristol Ferry,
R. I.**

Philanthropy

- ◆ Christmas Parties and Gifts for up to 200 People
- ◆ Hosted fundraisers and gave to every church in town
- ◆ Photograph was a way of meeting people to help them
- ◆ Motto: "All men's good be each man's rule"
- ◆ Believed in healing power of art (artascope)



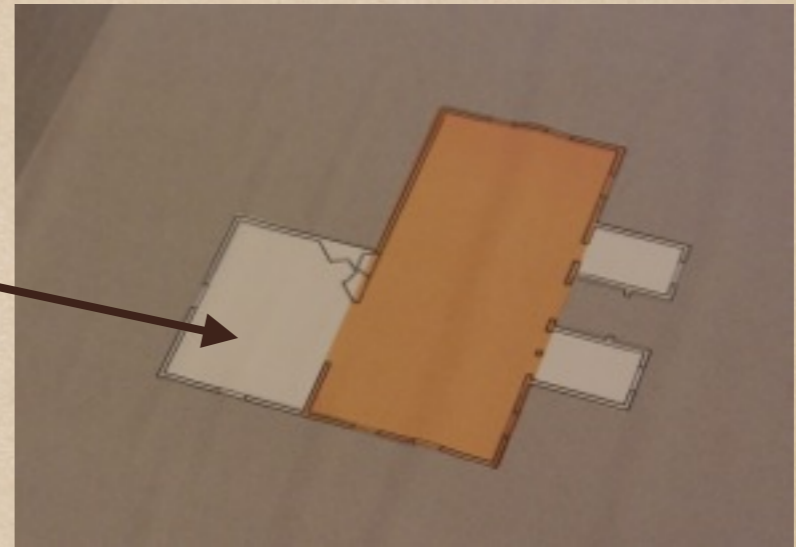
May Party, Social Studio, Bristol Ferry, R. I.

"All men's good be each man's rule, and universal Peace
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Generous to the Portsmouth Free Public Library

- ◆ Donated the Children's Room
- ◆ Art Room and Artworks



Humane Treatment of Animals

- ◆ Something she lived - even a vegetarian
- ◆ Even concerned about killing crickets when lawn was mowed.
- ◆ Active nationally in American Humane Society.
- ◆ Brought teaching Materials to Island Schools
- ◆ Called out inhumane treatment as she saw it.
- ◆ Wrote and illustrated books for children won care of animals



Children and Lamb, Social Studio, Bristol Ferry, R. I.

"All men's good be, each man's rule, and universal Peace
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The lamb Billy was one of the favorite playmates of the children and made frequent visits to the Studio.

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ALEXANDER AND SOME OTHER CATS



Can You See Her Now?

- ◆ Books
- ◆ Artworks



- ◆ Photography
- ◆ Home/Studio
- ◆ Public Library



- ◆ Traces of Sarah are around if you look for them.



