

# Helen Thayer collection, 1848-1950

## HIST 929.9 THAYER

### EXTENT:

12 boxes total

1 box 2 1/4W x 11 1/4L x 2 3/8H

1 box 16 1/2W x 20 1/2L x 3H

3 boxes 6 1/8W x 9 1/2L x 3H

3 boxes 8 1/2W x 12L x 3H

4 boxes 5W x 12 1/4L x 10 1/4H

### ORGANIZATION AND ARRANGEMENT:

The collection is arranged into three series: I. Professional Life, II. Personal Life, and III. Oversized Items. Thayer's professional papers, photos of students and colleagues, and personal papers have been arranged chronologically. The glass Kodachrome slides, photographic prints, and photographic negatives have remained as true as possible to their original order, sometimes relying on accession numbers to reconstruct events and creation dates. These accession numbers are found on photos that were part of a digitization project and will either contain the letters "cb" or will begin with the number 8. Many of these images can be found on Digital Commonwealth. Materials from Series I and Series II that are too large to be housed in the appropriate boxes are listed in Series III, where the corresponding series and subseries for oversized are notated.

### BIOGRAPHY:

Helen Augusta Thayer was born June 18, 1889 in Cambridge, Massachusetts to Arthur S. Thayer, an organ tuner, and Sophie (Austrum) Thayer. She had an older sister Gertrude, who also was a teacher, and older brother Alfred. Thayer attended Roberts Grammar School until 1902 and graduated from Cambridge English High School in 1906. Four years later, she graduated from Boston University and went on to teach science and French at the Hitchcock Free Academy in Brimfield, Massachusetts. In 1920, Thayer began teaching math and science at Watertown High School. Thayer was beloved by her students; the many notes and portraits she received over the course of almost four decades, even after they had graduated, are a testament to her talent for and love of teaching. Although Thayer never married, she spent much of her life traveling the world with friends and family, documenting her adventures with her camera. She was an avid photographer, even advising the student camera club at Watertown High School. Many of those photos she took are included in this collection and indeed make up a large part of the Helen Thayer Papers. She ended her teaching career at Watertown High School in 1958 and died in Cambridge in October, 1976.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This collection contains the professional and personal papers of Helen Thayer, one of the earliest woman math and science teachers in the area. The collection of student portraits and photos are extensive, beginning with Thayer's teenage years and ending in the 1950s when she retired—a span of

nearly fifty years. These photos and their inscriptions offer a personal look at the lives of the area's young people and Thayer's relationships with her students.

Also of note are a collection of vivid 1940s era Kodachrome glass slides.

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:

**Series I. Professional Life:** Documents and papers found here comprise Thayer's class notes, written in her own hand, from her time as a student at Cambridge English High School and Boston University; pamphlets distributed by Boston University; Hitchcock Free Academy catalogs, which function both as yearbooks and informational pamphlets for prospective students; lesson plans written for the trigonometry and biology classes she taught at Watertown High School; lists of names, probably of students; correspondence via V-Mail from a former student addressed to Thayer. Portraits and photos of Cambridge English High School classmates, Boston University classmates, Hitchcock Free Academy colleagues and students, and Watertown students are also included here. This series is divided into the following subseries :

- a. Thayer as Student
- b. Thayer as Teacher

**Series II. Personal Life:** Photos, photographic negatives on safety film, and Kodachrome glass slides document Thayer's travels to Canada, Cuba, and various parts of the U.S., and other special events in her life. Personal papers comprise records of a land sale belonging to a Charity Vance; report cards for Thayer's sister Gertrude from 1895-1898; and a letter from the donor. This series is divided into the following subseries:

- a. Glass Kodachrome Slides
- b. Personal and Vacation Photos
- c. Photographic Negatives
- d. Personal Papers

**Series III. Oversized Items:** Thayer's grammar school diploma is the only document here corresponding to Series I. Relating to Series II are a mounted print from Thayer's travels; a portrait of an unidentified man; a bond from Charity Vance; a deed from Arthur S. Thayer; and an expense book inscribed by Helen Thayer to her father.

## SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:

Andee Rubin

## ASSOCIATED MATERIALS:

Digitized images from this collection can be viewed on the Digital Commonwealth website at [https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search?f%5Brelated\\_item\\_host\\_ssim%5D%5B%5D=Helen+Thayer+Collection](https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search?f%5Brelated_item_host_ssim%5D%5B%5D=Helen+Thayer+Collection)

## PROCESSED BY:

Processed and described by Adriene Galindo. Digitized images inventoried and described by the staff of the Watertown Free Public Library.

## ITEM LIST:

### Series I: Professional Life

#### a. Thayer as Student *[9 items]*

##### *Papers [9 items]*

BU 1910 math notebook

Cambridge English High School harmony I notebook

Cambridge English High School harmony II notebook

Undated literature notebook

Boston University 1906-1907 algebra/botany notebook

Boston University 1906-1908 German notebook

*Bostonia* 1921: pamphlet magazine founded in 1900 and published quarterly

1910 Phi Beta Kappa souvenir pamphlet: published for new members of the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity describing the organization's history

Undated math notebook

#### b. Thayer as Teacher *[169 items]*

##### *Papers [8 items]*

Hitchcock Free Academy Catalog 1916-1917: lists Thayer as science and French instructor for 15-16 school year; includes academic calendar; admission procedures; course descriptions; photos and cast lists of drama productions; scholarship winners; names of students, graduates, alumni, instructors, and trustees

Hitchcock Free Academy Catalog 1920-1921: does not mention Thayer; includes academic calendar; admission procedures; course descriptions; photos and cast lists of drama productions; scholarship winners; names of students, graduates, alumni, instructors, and trustees; required textbooks; and honors alumni who served in World War I (with names and photos)

Hitchcock Free Academy Alumni Association 1921: certifies Thayer's membership of the Alumni Association

Student names 1921-1931: lists of students found in Watertown biology notebook

Watertown High School biology notes [1922?]

Watertown High School trigonometry notes 1930-1938

Student correspondence V-Mail 1944 letter with envelope to Helen Thayer from former student Walter, asking for film

Two envelopes with handwritten list of names, possibly identifying students from photos, no date

*Photos of Students & Colleagues undated, 1900s-1910s [43 items]*

*Cambridge English High School classmates [13 items]*

8436 "grace [?] Helligan C.H.S. '06" on back

8439 "Frances Wilson C.E.H.S. '06" on back

8440 "Thomas [?]kins C.E.H.S. '06" on back

8442 "A.J. Myerson C.H.S. '06 Your companion in troubles" on back

8444 "Mary E. Hynes" inside, on back of photo

126-cb (3 copies, 2 matted)

195-cb portrait of young woman

Cb-77 "Lena F. Webber C.E.H.S. '06" on back

Cb-78 "Louise Forrest C.E.H.S. '07" on back

Cb-79 "Helen Augusta Henderson C.H.S. '06" on back

Cb-82 "Ethel M. S. Smith C.E.H.S. '06" on back

Cb-83 "Annie C. Trelegan C.E.H.S. - 06" on back

Cb-84 "Haz[?]l Ida Stubbs C.E.H.S. 1906" on back

*Boston University Classmates [10 items]*

8520 "Laura Gertrude Smith, Boston University 1910" inside, on back of photo

123-cb "Helen Barnard Green. A.B. Boston University 1910" inside, beneath photo on mount

Cb-60 "Louise S. Wilbur Boston University 1910" on back

Cb-63 "Sally E. Batehelden B.U. 1910" on back of mount

Cb-64 "Alice [?] Taylor B.U. 1911" inside, on back of photo

Cb-65 "Edith W. Melehen. B.U. '19 Lynn" inside on mount

Cb-66 "Charles A. Kew" inside, on front of photo

Cb-73 "Raymond Hill" on front of photo

Cb-76 "Mary A. Moran B..U. Class of 1910 inside, on back of mount

Cb-80 "Sadie [?]hirst '10" on back

#### *Hitchcock Free Academy Students and Colleague [8 items]*

182-cb dated 1916 on front of photo

194-cb portrait of young woman, probably fellow teacher; "To Helen from Stella Christmas, 1919" on back

173-cb dated 1916 on front of photo

175-cb dated 1916 on front of photo

CB-61 "As ever, your friend, Gladys W. Estabrook Hitchcock Free Academy '17" inside, beneath photo on mount

201-cb - 246-cb images of students and Brimfield, Massachusetts area 5.5x7 black paper photo album, "Brimfield," 16 pages. Several photos seem to have been removed from last pages.

199-cb from class of 1916 production of King Lear see page 33 of Hitchcock Free Academy Catalog 1916-1917 in Series I Subseries b. for alternate photo and cast list

170-cb from senior production of Tennyson's "The Princess," 1917 see page 38 of Hitchcock Free Academy Catalog 1920-1921 in Series I Subseries b. for cast list

#### *Colleagues or Students, Undated [6 items]*

197-cb portrait of young woman

142-cb portrait of young woman seated

8441 portrait of young woman leaning on chair

8445 portrait of girl

200-cb group shot of young men and women with instruments, probably a student music group, conductor seated in center

176-cb studio portrait of girl standing at window with basket of flowers

#### *Hitchcock or Watertown students, Undated [6 items]*

Portrait of young man

Portrait of young man; "Paul W. Brown" on inside card

125-cb action shot of young man jumping in air outside

181-cb portrait of young man

191-cb portrait of young man

8518 unidentified male student

[Photos of Watertown Students undated, 1920s-1950s \[118 items\]](#)

[Undated \[45 items\]](#)

portrait of male and female student at school dance

8438 young man in military uniform holding cigarette; "Best Wishes to Miss Thayer from Pvt. John Poor" on front of photo

8455 portrait of young man

8459 from side: young man seated

8519 Richard Mastrangelo; "Miss Thayer Richard" on front of photo

122-cb portrait of young man

124-cb portrait of young man

127-cb portrait of young man

131-cb "Bill" on front of photo

132-cb portrait of young man and woman holding hands, woman's face slightly blurred

135-cb portrait of young man

136-cb portrait of young woman

137-cb portrait of young woman

138-cb portrait of young man

139-cb portrait of young man

140-cb portrait of male and female student at school dance

141-cb young man in military uniform standing in front of sign; "I don't know why I send this one" on back

155-CB young man in military uniform leaning on bridge, Eiffel Tower in background

172-cb portrait of young man leaning

174-cb portrait of young man

179-cb black and white portrait of boy

193-cb portrait of young man

CB-2 four young men in chef's attire with arms around one another; "This shot was taken several months ago but was never processed till recently. (maybe it would have been just as well if it never was processed.) From l. to r.: Breese, 3<sup>rd</sup> cook; Zornitzky, salad-man; yours truly, 2<sup>nd</sup> cook; Massaro, 1<sup>st</sup> cook." on back

CB-3 (postcard) young man handling camera

CB-4 two young men at desks in classroom, one working, one relaxing

CB-5 unidentified male student

CB-6 unidentified male student in glasses

CB-7 unidentified young man CB-8

CB-9 unidentified young man at desk

CB-10 young man in glasses seated outside

CB-11 students at desk reading

CB-12 young man with Japanese woman in geisha attire "This was taken in the most famed Teahouse of August Moon in Japan This girls name is Kako, whom [sic] is called a Geisha Girl. P. S. Dont [sic] show this to my girlfriends, ha ha. I wish there was more I could show you of the insides of the Tea House It was just fabulous." on back

CB-13 group photo, five students, half of photo torn off, missing?

CB-14 young man with glasses and curly hair looking down, possibly at grand piano

CB-16 young man with pointer at blackboard

CB-17 two young men with newspapers in library

CB-43 Don Vickers

CB-67 portrait of young sailor

CB-68 young man in military uniform with large camera "Taking pics of the ship from our motor whale boat. The camera is an F-8 (aerial)" on back

CB-69 young man standing in front of dark room with camera "Call it what you may!" on back

CB-71 unidentified male student in front of W.H.S.

CB-74 unidentified male student

CB-75 portrait of female student

CB-81 male students writing at desks

CB-85 male student in drag wearing sash: "Miss Understood"

*1920s [35 items]*

**C. 1920s**

8467 three male students working in chemistry lab

86-cb male student working in chemistry lab

87-cb male student working in chemistry lab

128-cb female student in apron working in chemistry lab

129-cb two girls, one man outside

130-cb 15 people outside, same three people as 129

154-cb students in classroom

**1921**

CB-40 John Quilan

**1922**

CB-72 Albert R. Bernado

**1923**

CB-1 Arthur Avakian

8461 boy working with equipment in chemistry lab, two girls in background

8462 Wilbur Bernie one of four boys forming pyramid outside; "Bernie, Wilbur (far left)" on back

8463 four young men posing, another behind them

**1924**

8460 boy with bowtie

**1925**

CB-58 Alice Bean

CB-21 Massis Toomassian

**1926**

CB-28 "John Ingerson '26" on front of photo

198-cb portrait of two young women in matching dresses; "Affectionately Anahid & Sal[f]i" on front of photo

**1927**

CB-54 "For Auld Lang Syne Robert French" on front of photo

CB-27 Albert Rodd; "Albert '27" on front of photo

CB-53 Hebbert Stanley; "H. Stanley '21" on front of photo

CB-15 two young men with wheelbarrow, rake

CB-18 portrait of young man

**1928**

CB-22 "John Kelly '28" on front of photo

CB-50 "Sincerely Ellsworth Lundgren 28" on front of photo

8453 Albert Nelson is one of five boys posing outside; "Nelson, Albert Top row, right" on back

8457 portrait of two boys posing; " Nelson Albert on left, Ralph on right" on back

**1929**

8448 group photo: seven young women, 18 young men posing outdoors

8449 boy posing in chemistry lab

8450 two young men in sweaters posing

8451 young woman in chemistry lab

8452 boy posing with horse and carriage

8454 portrait of boy

8456 two young people posing, young man with pipe

CB-29 Mardiros Wolohojjar; "Sincerely 'M. Walohojjar '29" on front of photo

CB-39 "Best Wishes Joel Stevens" on front of photo

*1930s [16 items]*

**1930**

CB-38 Warren Bjorn; "[?]Byorn '30" on front of photo

CB-62 "H.A.J." "Who never appreciated my chemistry. Paul - 30" on front of photo

**1934**

CB-30 Leo Bamford; "To Miss Thayer, Lots of luck, Leo" on front of photo

8447 (with envelope marked "Bamford") five young men in bathing suits on boat

CB-32 (with detached frame) William A. Wilke; "With Best Wishes 'Will' '34" on front of photo

CB-25 Joseph E. D'Angelo; "To Miss Thayer Just to Remember Joe '34" on front of photo

CB-31 "Norair Hagopian '34" on front of photo

**1935**

CB-48 Edward Flaherty; "Miss Thayer The best Teacher I Ever Had 'Ed'. '35' on front of photo

CB-34 Harry E. Kennedy, Jr.; "'35 Harry" on front of photo

CB-35 William F. Condon III; "Best Wishes 'Bill' 35" on front of photo

**1936**

CB-70 "Miss Thayer Bob -"36" on front of photo

CB-46 "Alice '36" on front of photo; "Alice Hallajian?" on back

**1937**

CB-49 "To Miss Thayer from Edith Kenney" on front of photo

**1938**

8521 Hugh O'Brien; "Class of '38" on back

CB-44 "Elizabeth Earle WHS '38" on back

**1939**

CB-51 Ernest L. Earle, Jr.; "Miss Thayer Best Wishes 1939 Ernest" on front of photo

*1940s [19 items]*

**1940**

CB-42 (with detached frame); Emmett John Ryan "Miss Thayer: A 'topnotch' teacher. Emmett '40" on frame

CB-19 Eleanor Hallajian; "To the grandest teacher and club sponsor Miss Thayer, a small token of remembrance Eleanor '40" on frame

8446 Walter A. Coyle; "Miss Thayer—Here's to bigger and better camera clubs. Walter—'40" on frame

#### **1941**

CB-47 Roy Benson Carpenter, Jr.; "To Miss Thayer 'The Best Teacher and friend' From Roy Benson Jr. '41" on frame

#### **1942**

8516 "Miss Thayer To a Swell Friend Charley Chiochios '42'" on frame

CB-20 William Dawson; "Miss Thayer A Grand friend and teacher I'll never forget 'Bill' '42'" on frame

#### **1943**

CB-41 Nancy Eleftherion; inscription on inserted paper in Greek

#### **1944**

CB-59 Marilyn Russo; "To Miss Thayer From Marilyn "44"" on frame

#### **1945**

CB-33 "To Miss Thayer Keep that lovely personality always and also your good work in the camera club. Best of luck always Eleanor Faye '45' W.H.S." on frame

CB-24 "Best Wishes To Miss Thayer Don Vickers '45'" on frame

CB-23 Zoe Chiochios; "Sincerest Wishes Zoe '45" on frame

8517 James Cannalunga; "to Miss Thayer the best teacher I ever had—lots of Luck Jimmie '45'" on frame

#### **1946**

CB-37 students seated in classroom (classes of '46, '47); on back of photo:

"Robert P Rose (1st row, far left) '47

Ted [Wachos?] (1st row, 2nd from left) '47

Anthony 'Moore' [Cirillo?] (1st row, 3rd from left) '46

Robert H Smith (1st row, far right) '46

Annie Fitzpatrick [2nd row, 2nd from left) '47

Sally [Linehan?] (2nd row, far left) '47

Lydia [Deliandis?] (2nd row, far right?) '47

Paul Andrews (3rd row, far left) '47

Thomas Rice (3rd row, 2nd from left) '47

William Bakalow [Ane?] (3rd row, 2nd from right) '47

M.G.M's OWN \*Ed Horhorouny\* (3rd row, far right) '47"

#### **1947**

CB-55 "Miss Thayer To the best teacher in W.H.S. Bob Sanasarian '47" on front of photo

CB-56 "Edgar Horhorouny H." on front of photo

CB-55A (with transcription) "Miss Thayer My fondest memories of school was right in your class because you have ma last and final year, a joyous one. I'll always remember you no matter where I am Good luck always Don Weldon '47'" on frame

### 1948

CB-26 "Gabe Nahigian Class of 48" on front of photo

TH9 "CAMERA CLUB" on border of photo; on back:

"Watertown High School Camera Club 1948 Annual Yearbook"

"Front Row:

Joan Schofield  
Dorothy Keats  
Joanne Hynes  
Carol Landry  
Raphel Ayvazian  
Helen Fulton  
Abram Robert Kaloosdian  
Danny Del Papa  
Gabriel Nahigian"

2<sup>nd</sup> Row:

Sally Chilingarian  
Joan Cole  
J Sanasarian  
E. Arekelian  
Lucia Mastrangelo  
Janet Anderson  
M. Kilpatrick  
Cynthia Nye  
Miss Thayer, Sponsor and Chemistry Teacher

3<sup>rd</sup> Row:

R. McLeod  
Emmanuel Fantasia  
Frank Fitzpatrick  
Roy Lindgren  
Donald MacInnes  
Ernest Colacito"

### 1949

CB-57 John H. Bazarian; "Best wishes, (H) Johnny '49" on front of photo

1950s [3 items]

### 1950

CB-45 Thomas Koehan; "Tommy 50" on front of photo; paper insert: "Miss Thayer: A true friend and swell teacher a pupil can have. May you have the best of everything in the future. (including a chemistry student like me) Your A+ student, Tommy '50"

**1953**

CB-36 Sunny Ng

**1954**

CB-52 Sam Kim

## Series II: Personal Life

### a. Glass Kodachrome Slides *[85 items]*

#### *Port le Havre [13 items]*

White building (church?) in field in front of water

Group of people standing on dock

Scene of buildings in front of water

Island in distance

large crowd on dock; "Lan" on frame of slide

(Very faded, nearly transparent) two people in foreground, water in back

Scene of shore, buildings from water

Shore in foreground, hills and trees in background, people near water

Woman milking cow, children to left

Three adults with children (eskimo/inuit?) in front of white buildings

Children hanging on fence

(Writing on frame very faint, illegible) white ship with people working

Sunset over water

#### *Havre St. Pierre [26 items]*

Group on street in front of white building; "Eskimos, Hatute St Pierre" on frame of slide

Crowd in front of boat; "Harve St Pierre" on frame of slide

Creek and farm; "Brook Harvre St Pierre" on frame of slide

Sea view; "St Anthony NFLD" on frame of slide

Dog by creek; "Dog Hatute St Pierre" on frame of slide

Beach, dock, and houses

Line of people on boat

Two children on deck overlooking beach

Eskimo/Inuit family

Children standing on dirt road near farm; "Children Harvre St Pierre" on frame of slide

Goats in field; "Goats Harrington" on frame of slide

Person standing by stairs of white house; "[...]ore Harrington" on frame of slide

Two women in the distance standing on dirt road near wooden fence

Cliff and sea

Goats in field; "Goats Harrington" on frame of slide (second copy)

Children sitting in row boat on water, one boy standing up on the front

Crowd standing on dock

Clothes hung over tree trunk near beach

Pine trees on lakeshore and cliff

Four puppies

(Very faded, nearly transparent) woman in front of open door, shore and pine trees in distance

People in lounge chairs on boat overlooking water

Tall cliff and trees over water

Group of children, some barefoot, standing by corner of building

Two children, one boy and one girl, dress in suit and white dress, third man standing in background

View of water with three hills in background

#### [Worden-Walker \[6 items\]](#)

274-cb woman seated on beach; "Mrs Worden" on frame of slide

(Monochrome in photo sleeve, no glass) group of women standing and seated in front of white arbor

275-cb woman standing on front stairs of house holding flowers; "Thayer" on frame of slide

276-cb woman holding hat, standing amongst flowers; "Nellie" on frame of slide

277-cb woman in pink seated amongst flowers; "Mrs Worden Hingham Garden" on frame of slide

278-cb woman in hat, standing in front of house and flower box; "Nellie" on frame of slide

#### *Social Aid (Hull) 1945 [17 items]*

(Monochrome) eight women outside eating

(Monochrome) group of women turning towards camera, outside

(Monochrome) group of women outside, white arbor in background

257-cb five women standing, red flowers in hand, outside; "Social Aid Hull" on frame of slide

258-cb six women seated in front of yellow flowers; "Social Aid Hull" on frame of slide

259-cb two women standing with arms around one another, outside in front of white arbor

260-cb fourteen women seated outside

261-cb five women standing outside in front of yellow flowers

262-cb six women, one man, standing outside

263-cb six women standing outside

264-cb group of women, most seated

265-cb fourteen women seated outside

266-cb three women seated on grass

267-cb four women standing close in front of yellow flowers; "Thayer" on frame of slide

268-cb six women, one man, seated at table outside

269-cb seven women seated, seven women standing outside

270-cb beach scene, woman seated on log in distance; "Nora at Lake Ontario" on frame of slide

#### *School Party [10 items]*

247-cb four children in front of fire place; "Jane & Verna Mae Kenzie Mary Sheehan" on frame of slide

woman sitting reading to two young girls

248-cb two children laying on sleds in snow

250-cb group of 11 girls seated

251-cb four girls seated in front of fireplace (very dark); "School girls by firehouse" on frame of slide

252-cb group of girls waving in front of car; "Goodbye" "Verna - Jane Evon Ruth - Mary Rose" on frame of slide

253-cb six people standing in front of car; "Girls arriving Mr. Mac Kenzie and the bunch" on frame of slide

254-cb white clothed table; "Party table April 1948 Ann Hathaway Cottage" on frame of slide

255-cb dressed table; "Party table 1948" on frame of slide

256-cb five girls standing in a line outside building; "In line Verna – Ruth – Evon – Jane – Mary Rose" on frame of slide

#### *Chautauqua [8 items]*

285-cb woman standing with dummy; "Nora & Arthurs batting suit" on frame of slide

286-cb sunset, tree silhouette; "Sunset Chautauqua" on frame of slide

287-cb two children sitting at fountain; "Chautauqua" on frame of slide

288-cb woman in blue dress standing in front of trees, water; "Chautauqua" on frame of slide

289-cb exterior of church; "fish-shape-Church" on frame of slide

290-cb interior of church; "Inside Sanctuary" on frame of slide

291-cb two children leaning into fountain; "Chautauqua" on frame of slide

292-cb scene of park, people seated in benches reading, talking; "Chautauqua" on frame of slide

#### *Chatham, N.J. Gladys Bryant [3 items]*

282-cb woman in black coat waving in front of row of white houses; "Gladys on the lawn Chatham, N.J." on frame of slide

283-cb man standing in front of car, woman inside car waving; "Mayberry & Gladys in Auto" on frame of slide

284-cb woman in black coat standing at front door of white house; "Gladys at the door Chatham, N.J." on frame of slide

#### *Scanlons, N.J. [2 items]*

280-cb boy in red jumper in front of stairs, white building

281-cb woman, girl in blue skirt, boy in red jumper in front of white building

## b. Personal and Vacation Photos [126 items]

[35 items]

156-cb portrait of unidentified older woman (5 copies)

157-cb same woman as 156, with bird on shoulder

90-cb 4x5 man in smock at grocery store

91-cb 5x5 duplicate of 90

92-cb 5x5 same man as 90 in store

93-cb black dog sitting on chair

94-cb grocery store—vegetables and cereal

95-cb woman in smock at same grocery store

96-cb three people in grocery store, same man and woman

8514 two boys sitting on counter at store

TH2 portrait, profile with silhouette stamped “Unfinished Proof Bachrach”

TH3 portrait (4)

TH6 Thayer with student at desk “Miss Helen Thayer Chemistry & Math teacher Watertown High School Massachusetts” on back of photo

TH7 Thayer with three students at blackboard “Miss Helen Thayer, chemistry & math Teacher Watertown High School, Massachusetts” on back of photo

TH8 Thayer with students, 3 rows; “Camera Club” on border of photo

180-cb tri fold matting by Alfred Brown, portrait of baby, inscription on matting in Spanish: “Con todo mi cariño para mis queridas y buenas amigas Sra. Sophie Thayer e hijas Helen y Gertrude de Leonor Cambride, marzo 1936” (translation: “With all my love for my dear and beautiful friends, Mrs. Sophie Thayer and daughters Helen and Gertrude from Leonor Cambridge, March 1936”) inscription on back of photo: “[Laeledo?]”

**“Views of Nantasket Beach and Vicinity” [12 items]** Corresponding negatives can be found in Subseries

c. Photographic Negatives Box #1

107-cb scene of sailboats

108-cb view of island “Views of Nantasket Beach, and Vicinity” on front of photo

109-cb rolling fields “Views of Nantasket Beach, and Vicinity” on front of photo

110-cb dock, boat with name Twilight on side

111-cb view of pier

112-cb pier and dock

113-cb field, wooden fence, white building

114-cb pier, dock sailboats

115-cb rowboats

116-cb view of water, island from hill

117-cb view from beach

118-cb sail boat on beach

*[91 items]*

**88-cb, 119-cb, 120-cb, 171-cb, 8458, 8464 – 8467** *[9 items]*

88-cb photograph of buffalo

119-cb photo of cliff and water

120-cb blank postcard of hills and trees, water in background

171-cb three figurines in front of sheet music

8458 view of dirt road, trees and hill in background

8464 front view of buildings, stairs, with young woman to the right and water in background; no parking sign

8465 partial view of front of house and white fence

8466 view of side of house from road

8467 steps and gate leading into garden

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**8468 – 8478** *[11 items]*

8468 view of houses, flowers from street

8469 view of side of house with white gate, trees

8470 view of house, possibly from back

8471 fountains with tower in background

8472 closer view of tower in 8471

8473 man in uniform by palm trees

8474 view of yard, trees, porch in background

8475 man in hat at gate

8476 view of road with trees and Spanish moss on either side

8477 man sitting in chair in yard

8478 three women in hats standing among palm trees

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**8479 – 8487** [9 items]

8479 four people at stone tower with American flag

8480 woman standing among palm trees on beach

8481 single palm tree on beach

8482 palm trees on hillside at beach

8483 palm trees at beach with white building in background

8484 trees with Spanish moss, water in background

8485 marshlands, woman out of shot on left

8486 steps up stone building

8487 miniature house displayed with snow

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**8488 – 8499** [12 items]

8488 view from above of storefronts (“La Estrella” and “La Nueva Esperanza Abarrotes”) and shacks

8489 view of highway

8490 three unidentified women standing in front of old car

8491 Japanese style building and water

8492 view of road among cliffs

8493 waterfalls over river

8494 trees amongst river, waterfalls

8495 palm trees in front of water, pier

8496 very large palm tree

8497 view of building from street corner

8498 palm tree, plants in front of building with arches

8499 palm tree, water in background

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**8500 – 8513** *[14 items]*

8500 waterfall and trees

8501 view of cliff through trees

8502 view of road winding through cliffs,

8503 view of road between two stone walls

8504 canyon with two unidentified people in foreground

8506 desert and rock formation

8507 sky and hills

8508 walking bridge and trees

8509 building with sign “oldest school house”

8510 tree with Spanish moss

8511 pagodas in garden

8512 view of field or desert, probably from moving car

8513 front of house with white gate and trees

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**99-cb - 106-cb [8 items]**

99-cb woman in rocking chair on patio

100-cb dirt street in front of houses

101-cb cruise ship coming into shore

102-cb people waiting as ship embarks or disembarks

103-cb blank postcard, image side of valley

104-cb woman looking out of window

105-cb dirt alleyway

106-cb seven women with arms around one another outside

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**143-cb – 153-cb “Sample Pictures” from original envelope [7 items]**

143-cb blank postcard of white house

144-cb row of small white houses, [British?] flag

145-cb man holding fish

146-cb view from street of house to right and [church?] to left

147-cb woman and man at flower shop on street

148-cb fireworks above water

149-cb back of man and woman looking out from boat

150-cb woman standing by blooming tree in front of building

151-cb view of beach and houses in distance

152-cb view from sidewalk, house on right, boat in distance

153-cb image of lightning storm in progress

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**158-cb – 169-cb “Havanna” [sp] from original envelope [12 items]**

158-cb view of outdoor market with fruit

159-cb horse/mule pulling cart

160-cb canal between two buildings

161-cb horse/mule and man

162-cb view of outdoor market with fruit

163-cb canal/creek boy on left

164-cb stone building, water in background

165-cb scene of square, man seated at bench

166-cb man selling at street cart

167-cb outdoor tables, chairs, restaurant

168-cb alleyway, three people on left

169-cb driveway/entryway to house

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**183-cb - 185-cb, 187-cb – 190, 192-cb, 196-cb [9 items]**

183-cb image of dining room, white clothed table

184-cb long wooden walking path along water, people walking in distance

185-cb houses and trees on hillside, American flag

187-cb building mid construction

188-cb same building as 187, further on in construction

189-cb same building as 187 and 188, construction completed

190-cb person in sailboat on water

192-cb blank postcard, woman feeding deer on image side, no location identifier

196-cb image of sail boat on still water

c. Photographic Negatives [440 items]

[9 items]

Three people walking out front door of house, one woman standing inside

Four buildings, perhaps wood slat

Portrait of older woman (print can be found in Personal and Vacation Photos item 157-cb)

Men and women seated in auditorium

**Envelope “Barbie’s Wedding” [5 items]**

Staircase

Two tables set with table cloths, candle

Man and woman posing with cake

Two women and two men posing with cake or flower arrangement

Three women and two men posing with cake or flower arrangement

[27 items] EXHIBITING VINEGAR SYNDROME (corresponding prints noted and can be found in Subseries b. Personal and Vacation Photos)

**“Views of Nantasket Beach and Vicinity” 107-cb—118-cb [14 items]**

Sailboats on water corresponding print: 107-cb (1/2)

Sailboats on water 107-cb (2/2)

View of water and with dock and bay in the distance 108-cb

View of fields and hillside 109-cb

Steamboat Twilight on the water 110-cb

Pier and dock 111-cb

Pier and dock with steamboat in distance 112-cb

Grassy field and wooden fencepost with white building in background 113-cb

Similar image of 112-cb 114-cb

Three rowboats in foreground and dock in background 115-cb

View of water from grassy hillside 116-cb

View of water from beach with sailboat in distance 117-cb

Sailboat on beach 118-cb

Rowboat parked at dock

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**“Old Hull copies”** from original envelope *[13 items]*

View of house from the road

View from road of houses and hillside

Large building with three stories of outdoor patios

View from road with house to right

View of house from opposite side of the road

Row of houses

Two people walking along road

People sitting on front porch of house with shed to left

Steamboat with horse and carriage to left

View of pier (exhibiting moderate cockling)

View of Queen Anne style house on clifftop

Perhaps a train stop shelter

People marching, perhaps in a parade, with American flags

*[404 items]*

**Folder 1**

“Marion” 1944 from original envelope *[29 items]*

**Folder 2**

“Biff & Ted copy” from original envelope *[1 item]*

“Niagara” from original envelope *[7 items]*

“Dixville notch” from original envelope *[3 items]*

“Wolfeville & Grand Pre 1947” from original envelope [19 items]

**Folder 3**

“West to California” from original envelope [57 items]

**Folder 4**

“At Roys” from original envelope [17 items]

**Folder 5**

“Nantucket” from original envelope [14 items]

**Folder 6**

“Wilson’s at Biddeford Church Biddeford” from original envelope [8 items]

**Folder 7**

“Eula’s” from original envelope [32 items]

**Folder 8**

“Eula in Winthrop” from original envelope [9 items]

“Eulas House & Digging the Pond” from original envelope [12 items]

**Folder 9**

“Oaklahoma” from original envelope [5 items]

**Folder 10**

“Grand Manan” 1945 from original envelope [8 items]

“Gaspé” from original envelope [2 items]

**Folder 11**

“Europe” from original envelope [26 items]

**Folder 12**

“Bermuda” from original envelope [27 items]

“Puerto Rico” from original envelope [17 items]

**Folder 13**

“From the Air” from original envelope [4 items]

“Cuba” from original envelope [17 items]

“Florida” from original envelope [8 items]

**Folder 14**

“Our House at Hull” from original envelope [4 items]

"Provincetown" from original envelope [4 items]

"Chicago Fair" from original envelope [9 items]

"Marblehead, Marion" from original envelope 1944-1945 [12 items]

#### **Folder 15**

"Prince Edw Island" from original envelope [16 items]

"Spring St" from original envelope [1 item]

"Piazza" from original envelope [1 item]

Unidentified [3 items]

#### **Folder 16**

Canada [37 items]

#### **d. Personal Papers [6 items]**

1848 entitled "Description of Lands in Western Virginia" with envelope, describing state and value of Charity Vance's land

December 23, 18[76?] letter with envelope regarding land sale

Report card 1895-6 for Gertrude S. Thayer (card in two pieces where folded)

Report card 1896-7 for Gertrude S. Thayer

Report card 1897-8 for Gertrude S. Thayer (card in two pieces where folded)

Letter with envelope dated 2/1/83 donating more items for Thayer collection

#### **Series III: Oversized Items [6 items]**

Series I Subseries a. 1902 grammar school diploma for Helen Thayer

Series II Subseries b. 8437 mounted print from "Views of Nantasket Beach and Vicinity"

Series II Subseries b. 178-cb mounted portrait of unidentified man

Series II Subseries d. Bond from Charity Vance to Lucy Helen Thayer 1867

Series II Subseries d. Deed from Arthur S. Thayer to Augusta M .Kirby 1887

Series II Subseries d. 1904-1905 expense book; "To Papa From Helen" on front flyleaf (with newspaper clipping "Rev. R.F. Holway Retires")

On first page:

"Index:  
 Texas Money Loans  
 Trading Stamps &c  
 Texas Money Bank Fund  
 Help in Hard Times 1897  
 Kregal Debt  
 Cost of Old Camp House  
 Cost of [Duary?] 1904  
 Cost of Alfies Cat Boat Sis  
 Hull Cottage Payments 1905  
 Hull Cottage Morgage [sic]  
 Stock & Cost of Hull Cottage  
 Old Camp House Lumber used  
 Running Expenses of Hull Cottage"

## BOX LIST:

This table shows how the boxes are physically organized and labelled in the Watertown Free Public library. Label titles are general representations of the contents of each box.

In this table, box labels are listed beside page numbers and other identifying information to help the user reference information included the finding aid item list.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Corresponding Series and Subseries</b>	<b>Page #</b> <i>[When necessary, cb # range and other identifying information have been included in brackets for photographs and negatives.]</i>	<b>Box Label</b>
<b>1</b>	Series I: Professional Life a. Thayer as Student -Papers	<b>3-4</b>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Thayer as a Student: Journals, Papers and Ephemera</b>

<b>2</b>	Series I: Professional Life a. Thayer as Teacher -Photos of Students & Colleagues undated, 1900s- 1910s	<b>4-6</b>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Photographs of Thayer's Classmates, Students and Colleagues, 1900s-1910s, n.d.</b>
<b>3</b>	Series I: Professional Life b. Thayer as a Teacher -Photos of Watertown Students undated, 1920s-1950s	<b>6-13</b>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Photographs of Thayer's Students and Colleagues, 1920s- 1950s, n.d.</b>
<b>4</b>	Series I: Professional Life b. Thayer as a Teacher Papers	<b>3</b>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Thayer as a Teacher: Papers</b>
<b>5</b>	Series II: Personal Life a. Glass Kodachrome Slides	<b>13-16</b>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Glass Kodachrome Slides</b>
<b>6</b>	Series II: Personal Life b. Personal and Vacation Photos	<b>17-18</b> <i>[156-cb – 118-cb]</i>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Personal and Vacation Photographs #1</b>
<b>7</b>	Series II: Personal Life b. Personal and Vacation Photos	<b>18-22</b> <i>[88-cb – 196-cb]</i>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Personal and Vacation Photographs #2</b>
<b>8</b>	Series II: Personal Life c. Photographic Negatives	<b>22-23</b>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Photographic Negatives #1</b>
<b>9</b>	Series II: Personal Life c. Photographic Negatives	<b>23-24</b> <i>[Exhibiting Vinegar Syndrome]</i>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Photographic Negatives #2</b>
<b>10</b>	Series II: Personal Life c. Photographic Negatives	<b>22-26</b> <i>[Folders 1-16]</i>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Photographic Negatives #3</b>

<b>11</b>	Series II: Personal Life d. Personal Papers	<b>26</b>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Personal Papers</b>
<b>12</b>	Series III: Oversized Items	<b>26</b>	<u>Helen Thayer Collection</u> <b>Oversized Items</b>