

THE SCOTTS OF MAPLEWOOD ROAD

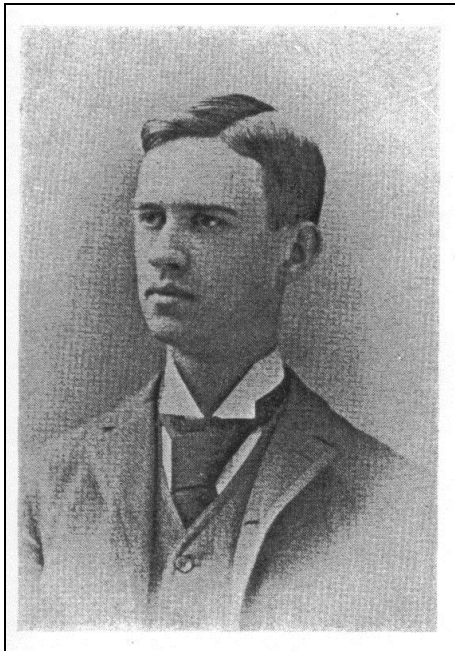
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2014

Preface

This essay was originally intended to be part of a longer work on the neighborhood in which the Scotts resided, known as *Lenox*. Parts of the Scott story were to be included in each of three chapters about the development and evolution of *Lenox*. That work, long in the draft writing stage, is still in progress, and although it is expected to be completed in 2015, it seemed preferable to convert the story of the Scotts to stand-alone format rather wait for the completion of the larger work. As a result of its origins in the *Lenox* account, there is more discussion here of their home and neighborhood than might otherwise be expected.

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In 1912, Edmund D. and Sarah H. Scott and their children moved into their new home, a two-story cross-gable house with dark-stained shingles at 13 Maplewood Road in the new residential district known as *Lenox*. For the past seven years they had been living on the campus of Worcester Academy where Edmund was a member of the faculty, initially bearing the title of instructor, and, since 1910, Master in Classics.



Edmund D. Scott at Yale, ca. 1889
Source: Yale College, Yale University,
Class of '89, Quarter-Centennial Record,
1889-1914, by the Class Secretary, p.233.

Edmund Daniel Scott was born in 1866 in New Haven, a member of the eleventh generation of the Scott family in Connecticut, the original immigrant having come from England to Hartford in 1634.¹ After completing high school in New Haven, he attended Yale, where he excelled in the classics, was Phi Beta Kappa, and an editor of the *Yale Courant*. He took his bachelor's degree there in 1889 and a master's degree in 1892.

After teaching a few years at the Connecticut Episcopal School at Cheshire, Edmund traveled to Europe and studied at the American School for Classical Studies in Rome during the school year 1896-97.² On his return he was awarded the position of head of the classics department at Holyoke High School, where he remained until 1905 when he departed for Worcester Academy.

In 1899, Edmund married Sarah H. Rogers, of Webster, Massachusetts, who was also on the faculty at Holyoke High as a teacher of German. She was an 1891 graduate of Boston University. Upon her marriage, Sarah left her public school

¹ Source materials on the Scotts, applicable here and in subsequent locations in this narrative, include several published or online sources listed below, but by far the most important regarding Edmund is Mr. Frank Callahan, class of 1971, Director of Planned Giving, and unofficial historian of the academy, in interviews and email communications in 2009. Without his assistance, this account of the Scotts would have been threadbare. Sources, some of which came through Mr. Callahan, include various U. S. Censuses, Worcester City and House Directories, obituary notices, the Quarter-Centennial Record of the class of 1889 at Yale, yearbooks of Worcester Academy and other secondary schools in Worcester (cited subsequently in context), the *Worcester Academy Bulletin* (now known as *The Hilltopper*), and the student publication, the *Vigornia*.

² From Edmund's application for a passport for travel abroad, dated November 10, 1896, found at Ancestry.com, comes an illustration of how one can occasionally discover unexpected (but not necessarily very important) facts about a person in unexpected places. The form's "description of applicant" field tells us that Edmund Scott was five feet 8 ½ inches tall, had a high forehead with gray eyes and dark brown hair, a light complexion, and an oval face, and that his date of birth was February 6, 1866.

teaching career, as was the norm at that time, and their first child, Elizabeth Rogers Scott, was born in 1900. Shortly before the move to Worcester in 1905, their second daughter, Charlotte Harrington, was born in Holyoke.

The Scotts resided for seven years on the Academy campus, in Davis Hall, where other faculty members and their families resided as well. Besides his classroom responsibilities, Edmund served as counselor to students for curriculum planning in preparation for the colleges of their choice, and as faculty advisor to the student newspaper, *The Vigornia*. During this period of life on campus, their only son, Edmund Gilbert Scott, was born, January 20, 1908. In 1910, Edmund was appointed Master of Classics, a promotion amounting to tenured status.

In April, 1912, Edmund and Sarah purchased lot number 185 in Lenox from the O'Connell Real Estate Company: 12,500 square feet on the uphill side of the road, about a third of the way between Chamberlain Parkway and Colonial Road. Two months later, Edmund signed as the owner for a building permit for a two-story house for one family, to be constructed on the lot by E. Gulberg and Son. Later that year the Scotts and their children, ages twelve, seven, and four, moved from the academy campus on Providence Street into their new home. Here they enjoyed electric lights, gas appliances for cooking, a coal-fired furnace in the basement driving a modern steam radiator system, and telephone service, as well as water and sewerage. The position of the house on the westerly slope offered an unimpeded view of the hills to the west, and this is known to have been a very important amenity of the site for Edmund. It would later be said of him that "... he feasted on the Tatnuck Hills and their magnificent sky line, as seen from the porch of his home."³

In January, 1914, the Scotts acquired the lot adjacent to their home and had a house built on it, becoming 9 Maplewood Road, which they let for rent, beginning in 1916. At that time, five houses stood in a row along the street, from the two-family at the corner of Chamberlain through the Scotts at number 13. To the south of the Scott residence lay an empty field of about 300 feet - four houselots - before the next house, number 27. The lots on their side of the street were on land sloping from the rear down to the street, a drop of ten to twenty feet. The only house standing at this time on the downhill side of the lower end of Maplewood was number 6, a large two-family structure, and at the upper end stood numbers 28 and 32 at the corner of Colonial Road. The Scotts were feeling anything but crowded in the early years of the neighborhood's development.

In recollections of Scott's life some time later in the *Worcester Academy Bulletin*, Headmaster Daniel W. Abercrombie placed considerable emphasis on Edmund's interest in the fine arts. A frequent traveler to Europe during summers since the 1890s, according to Abercrombie, Edmund extended and complemented his classical studies through his interest in the arts. "He had a keen eye for objects of rare artistic merit, discovered them in the most unexpected places, and his home was rich in gleanings from his travels." Scott also lectured on matters of art and related topics, and was a connoisseur of oriental rugs, with which it seems safe to assume the Scott home was well appointed. On one of his several summer excursions to Europe, this one in 1912, he took his daughter Elizabeth, then eleven, and is said to have enjoyed "watching her developing appreciation of the things that were so dear to him."

³ This and all other quotes in this section are taken from *Worcester Academy Bulletin*, Fall, 1917, pp. 244-248.

It is apparent from these perspectives on the Scotts and their home that there was financial affluence well beyond the salary of a faculty member at Worcester Academy. While we know nothing of the sources of such wealth, Mr. Abercrombie alluded to Edmund's business interests "which were considerable...."

For his daily commute to and from Worcester Academy, Mr. Scott could walk to the trolley on Pleasant Street in the morning: down Maplewood to Chamberlain, then down the parkway along sites of new houses under construction, to the trolley stop at the pavilion on the parkway. Returning in the afternoon he might have preferred South Lenox Street, which offered a more level path than the lower part of Chamberlain Parkway. Small but growing sugar maples lined the walker's path along the granolithic sidewalks in both directions. No doubt there was a lot of mud at times on the unpaved streets, and there was plenty of noise from construction activity in nearly every direction, but the views were magnificent and life in the neighborhood must have seemed promising.

We can't know whether Mr. Scott tipped his hat and said "good morning, good neighbors" as he passed the various ladies and gentlemen on the walkways in this glamorized post-Victorian setting, but a good bet is that he did. On the whole, life in Lenox must have looked good to the Scotts and to most of the other families that had taken up residence there by 1916.

* * *

At the close of the school year in 1917, Edmund Scott traveled to New York in regard to his obligations as a reader in Latin for the College Entrance Examination Board. Afterward, he returned home and planned to take care of a few personal matters, including the tending of his garden and some business-related matters, before joining his family at their summer home in Scituate. While packing for the trip in early July, he was afflicted with a sudden illness – the term used in a newspaper account was "stricken." Upon examination at Memorial Hospital, surgery was determined to be necessary. While awaiting the operation, Edmund penned a note to a colleague at Worcester Academy saying, "I expect I am in for a considerable rest here. I shall be glad of the rest but I had many things to do this summer."⁴

His period of rest did not turn out to be as long as he had anticipated. In the operation performed on July 19, doctors found what was described as a "new growth of hepatic flexure of the colon,"⁵ a condition of unexpected seriousness. It was colon cancer in an advanced stage, and it had spread too far to leave hope for recovery. For eight days Mr. Scott remained in a semi-conscious state before death overtook him on July 27.

Memorial tributes heaped praise upon Scott for his personal traits, his strong orientation to family, and his love of teaching. It was said that "he was dedicated to his family and gave them his

⁴ *Worcester Academy Bulletin*, Fall, 1917, memorial tribute to Scott, p. 244, unsigned, but probably written by Principal Daniel W. Abercrombie.

⁵ "Edmund D. Scott Dies Following Operation," *Worcester Telegram*, July 26, 1917.

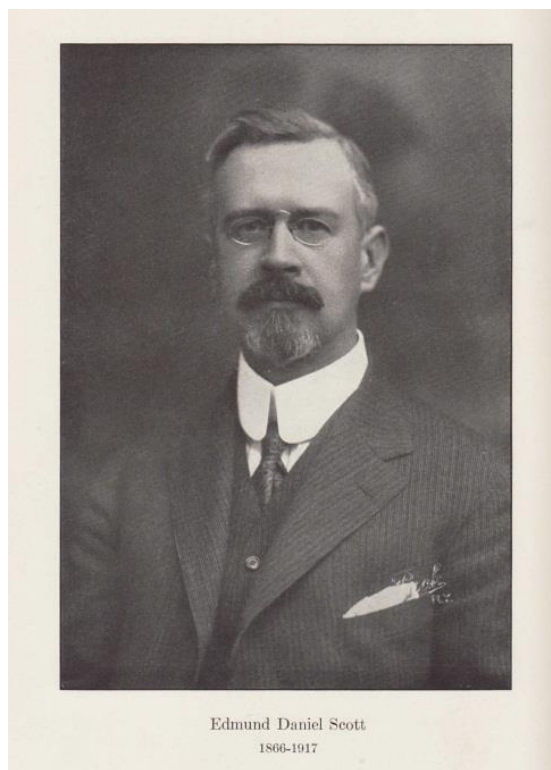
best. The education of his children was his constant thought.” His defining characteristic seems to have been his immersion in the realm of art and culture, leaning strongly toward the classics, and this outlook was expressed in his approach to teaching.

He was not satisfied to teach the day’s lesson, or to cover the year’s requirements; he showed the connection of the formal curriculum, through the spirit of its content, with literature, with art, and with life. He loved to invite members of his classes to visit the Worcester Art Museum with him, and when he was to be in New York City at Christmas, he would make appointments with boys, who he knew were to be there at that time, to go with him to the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts where he would be their mentor as he traced the roots of painting and of sculpture to their classic soil. ⁶

A memorial in *The Vigornia*, the school paper for which he served as faculty advisor, said that his pupils

... will remember that, though a strict disciplinarian, he showed a lively and sympathetic interest in their work and a generous willingness to give his time to those who needed help.... Many a fellow now in college has Mr. Scott’s training to thank for his good work there. To many a fellow he opened up a new outlook on the life and literature of the ancient world. To those who were willing to receive he gave of his best, and caused to grow in their hearts a sense of gratitude and personal indebtedness that will always stay with them. ⁷

Regarding another aspect of Scott’s persona, it was said that with his other qualities “*he combined a systematic and minute care for the daily routine, caring for his business interests, which were considerable, with a shrewdness unusual in one of his profession.*” The results of this trait would prove uniquely important to his family in the ensuing years.



Edmund’s death left Sarah Scott a widow with four children, the oldest a senior in high school, the youngest, at four, not yet having started school. Sarah Harrington Rogers was born in Brookfield

⁶ *Worcester Academy Bulletin*, Fall, 1917, memorial tribute to Scott, p. 247.

⁷ *The Vigornia*, student paper at Worcester Academy, vol. XXV October 6, 1917, pp. 1-2.

in 1867, daughter of Charles and Susan (Harrington) Rogers. The 1870 census showed her at age three, in the the family of her father, age 30, who was employed in a boot and shoe factory, the family residing in a residence hotel in Brookfield with other factory workers and their families. In the 1880 census, Charles Rogers was listed as a night watchman, living with his wife and two of their children on Chandler Street in Worcester, but Sarah was not with them. Now age thirteen, she was living in Webster with an aunt and uncle, Cyrus and Elizabeth Spaulding, an apparently childless couple in their forties. Cyrus was a hardware dealer, and the family appears to have been considerably better off financially than was Sarah's own family, as is suggested by the family business, as well as the fact that the Spauldings, according to the census, had a live-in domestic servant from Ireland in their home. Why Sarah was living with the Spauldings is unknown, but the fact that she was may well have been responsible for her enjoying unusual educational opportunities, especially for a woman. After graduating from Boston University in 1891, she took a position on the faculty of Holyoke High School, teaching German, and it was there that she met fellow faculty member Edmund Scott.

Sarah's teaching career having ended when she married Edmund, she was, at the time of the family's relocation to Worcester, the mother of two girls - five-year-old Elizabeth and the infant Charlotte.⁸ At Worcester Academy, Sarah likely played something of an unofficial house-mother role in Davis Hall, she being one of only a small number of women residing on campus, and her husband being a headmaster of the dormitory.

The 1920 census found the Scott family of five still at 13 Maplewood Road, Sarah as head of the family, with all four children in school. The oldest, nineteen-year-old Elizabeth, known as Betty, at least among her friends in high school, had graduated from North High in 1918 and, it is believed, then attended the Walnut Hill School in Natick for a year in preparation for admission to Vassar College.⁹ Some small sense of Betty as a high school student among her contemporaries can be drawn from her senior yearbook, the *Aftermath*, particularly in the remarks accompanying her photo. As was the norm, these comments included some playful teasing. She was called "a greedy devourer of books," and "an insatiable reader... well informed upon a large variety of subjects," ready to provide "an argument upon any subject whatsoever." It was also said of her that she "draws well, and is always cheerful."¹⁰ It sounded as if she was taking after her father to a great extent. The remark about her drawing would prove to be prescient.

Charlotte, age 15, was a rising sophomore at the Bancroft School on Sever Street. Sarah's only son, Edmund Gilbert, turned twelve that year and in the Fall entered North High in the seventh grade. The youngest daughter, Esther, turned seven in 1920. Apparently, Sarah and her family had been left financially secure at Edmund's passing, as the census showed her having no occupation outside the home, not having been forced to take a paying job. In Edmund's absence, the Scott family continued into the 1920s in the privileged and cultured manner to which it was accustomed. Sarah Scott, the daughter of a night watchman, university graduate, and former high school teacher,

⁸ This writer has no knowledge of any single-only rule in public teaching, but it appears that almost all women teachers in the schools were single, and that such a rule probably existed.

⁹ The *Aftermath*, Yearbook of the Class of 1918, North High School.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 74.

had come a long way and was used to enjoying, with her family, the finer things of life. She showed no signs of letting that slip away from her or her children in the absence of her husband.

In 1919, for whatever reason, financial or otherwise, Sarah sold the house next door, 9 Maplewood, which she had previously been letting out for rent. Lots on the other side of the house and to the rear on Tahanto, as well as the other side of Maplewood Road, remained vacant. The street was still unpaved, the house was heated by coal delivered by one of the city's many coal suppliers, cooking was by coalgas piped in from the Worcester Gas Company plant, and the view to the west was still enviable.

* * *

Aside from the absence of Sarah's late husband and father of her four children, the good life continued for the Scott family into the 1920s. Since 1912 or earlier, Sarah had been a member of the Hall Club, an organization of women founded in 1898 in the Clark University area, named after the college's president, G. Stanley Hall. The club, which still exists, and celebrated its centennial in 1998, began with a focus on child psychology and child-rearing practices, as was in keeping with the early orientation of the college. According to club historian Beverly Osborn, Sarah Scott was a member for fifty years and served as president of the organization, 1920-1922.¹¹ She was also a long-time member of the Worcester Women's Club, and served as its treasurer in the mid-1920s.¹²

After a year at the Walnut Hill school in Natick, Elizabeth attended Vassar College, graduating in 1922 or 1923.¹³ Not listed in Worcester city directories for 1919 through 1922, she was again listed in the 1923 directory residing at 13 Maplewood Road and was identified as a student. After Vassar she studied art at the school of the Worcester Art Museum, where she received a diploma in May, 1925.¹⁴ In a judging of the works of the students, she was awarded second prize for her rug design, and was one of two students in the department of metalwork and jewelry whose entries the museum offered to purchase, amounting to a kind of "honors" distinction. Why the city directories continued listing her as a student through 1927, and whether she was in fact still a student in some capacity, are unknown. Finally, in 1928 the directory gave her occupation as "commercial artist," her address still on Maplewood Road.

Charlotte graduated from the Bancroft School in 1923, where she had played tennis, basketball, and hockey, had parts in school plays in her third and fourth years, been nicknamed both "Charles" and "Scottie," and had her future occupation predicted in the yearbook's "slamming table" as an

¹¹ Personal conversations, January and February, 2010. The author is grateful to Mrs. Osborn for her helpful comments and efforts involved in gathering materials pertaining to the Hall Club and Sarah Scott.

¹² From club membership lists in various city directories.

¹³ *The Vassarion*, yearbook of Vassar College, 1922, at Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010, *U.S. School Yearbooks* (database online).

¹⁴ *Bulletin of the Worcester Art Museum*, vol. XVII, April, 1926, p. 55, listing the graduates of the school for that year.

English teacher at Bancroft. Her intended direction after graduation, however, as was noted next to her senior picture, was “to art school,” and that is what she did. Upon leaving the Bancroft school, she took up the study of art at the School of the Worcester Art Museum, in the department of painting, drawing and design. In 1927, she earned the distinction of having her entry in the presentation of the works of students selected for purchase by the museum. It consisted of a decorative panel entitled “Fish and Seaweed.” At dates that are unknown, but probably after completing her studies in Worcester, she continued her study of art in Europe, including two years in Paris, a year at Hofman Atelier in Munich, and a summer at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Fontainebleau, France, and also spent some time at the Copley School of Art in Boston.¹⁵ Charlotte’s career as an artist, specializing in painting, was in ascendance. Worcester city directories continued to refer to her as a student through 1933, after which she was said to be an artist.

After two years at North High, what would now be called his junior high years, Edmund Gilbert Scott entered Worcester Academy in September, 1922, at the age of fourteen, as a first-year student. In his four years there he concentrated in English, Latin, Greek, history, and math.¹⁶ In effect, he seemed to be following in his father’s footsteps, emphasizing the classics in a possible journey from Worcester Academy to Yale. At the academy, he was known to his friends as “Scotty,” and, like his sister Charlotte, he played tennis and soccer. He lived on campus his first two years before moving back home to 13 Maplewood Road, a change which led to some playful speculation in the yearbook commentary with his picture: “The reason for this change has been deeply investigated. Some say that there is one girl and only one that did the trick, but at the same time others insist that the night life of this busy metropolis had a tenacious grasp upon him.” One can only guess what that might have been about. The yearbook editor also noted that “*Scotty* is a fellow whom you can’t help liking.”

Edmund graduated from Worcester Academy in 1926, receiving with his diploma what was called “certification,” a higher level of standing as a candidate for university education granted by the Academy. He was accepted at his father’s alma mater and entered Yale that Fall.

Esther, the youngest of the children, attended the Bancroft School for a time but withdrew in 1928 and enrolled at Classical High, where, like her brother and her sister, she was a member of the tennis team. Presumably she graduated somewhere, about 1931, but she was not listed in the school yearbooks of 1930 or 1931. Unfortunately, we have very little information concerning her early years.

¹⁵ *Worcester Evening Gazette*, October 28, 1963, p.1.

¹⁶ Edmund’s student record at Worcester Academy, a viewing provided by Frank Callahan.



Three of the four Scott children: *left*: Elizabeth Rogers, North High School senior yearbook, 1918; *center*: Charlotte Harrington, Bancroft School senior yearbook, 1923; *right*: Edmund Gilbert, Worcester Academy senior yearbook, 1926. No photograph of Esther could be found.

On the whole, the Scott family appeared to be in good shape, financially and otherwise, during the 1920s. Sarah did not have to work, the children were able to attend expensive private schools, and, of course, they remained in residence at 13 Maplewood Road.

Things took a turn for the worse for the Scotts in the Summer of 1928. After completing two years at Yale, Edmund traveled with some friends to Europe during the summer vacation period. On August 20, the *Worcester Evening Gazette* reported that he had been killed on the 18th in Paris “from injuries suffered in an accident.” The source for the *Gazette* story was Edmund’s uncle, Sarah’s brother, Charles M. Rogers of Cambridge, who had received a cable from the American consul in Paris.¹⁷ Mrs. Scott was said to be planning to “leave immediately for Europe to take charge of the body.”

In view of what we know about Charlotte’s European art education, it is possible, perhaps likely, that she was in Paris, if not some other place in Europe, at that time, and that Edmund may have visited with her and his friends before the accident. Accompanied by her oldest daughter, Elizabeth, then 28, Sarah Scott sailed to France and by late September had completed the unpleasanties in Paris and returned to Worcester with her son’s body. On October 2, Edmund was buried at Hope Cemetery in the family plot with his father. No mention was made of Charlotte in press accounts.

Three days later, in a special cable to the *Gazette*, it was reported that the Paris prefect report on Edmund’s death, filed with the department of state, said that he had died “from fractured skull

¹⁷ *Worcester Evening Gazette*, August 20, 1928. This article, as well as one in the *Gazette* of October 5, referred to Sarah’s brother as T. M. Rogers. Actually, his name was Charles M. Rogers, as is clear in various census and other sources.

suffered in jumping from a hospital window.”¹⁸ The reason for Edmund’s being in the hospital in the first place, according to the *Gazette* writer, “could not be ascertained today.” For his mother, who undoubtedly had learned of the suicide while in Paris, this revelation in the local press must have caused considerable further anguish. But even this was not the end of her ordeal.

Shortly after Sarah and Elizabeth had arrived in Paris, Elizabeth was stricken with pneumonia. When her mother returned to the United States with her brother’s body, she was forced to remain in a Paris hospital, and on or about October 5 she died as a consequence of the disease. Her death came six weeks after that of her brother, in the same European capital, on or about the same day that the *Gazette* published the cause of his death. Elizabeth’s body was returned to Worcester and she was buried with her father and her brother on October 25.¹⁹

These were, to say the least, difficult times for Sarah Scott and her daughters, Charlotte and Esther.

* * *

In July, 1929, the three surviving Scott women, then ages 62, 24, and 16, visited Paris, the city of so much family tragedy the year before. This is known from an article written by Sarah for the *Worcester Academy Bulletin*, published in 1931, in which she described her memories of the world famous music composer and performer, Cole Porter, who attended and graduated from the Academy, class of 1909.²⁰ As a boy of fourteen, Porter came to Worcester Academy in 1905, the same year as the Scotts, from his home in Indiana, already with the intention of preparing for application to Yale University. Edmund Scott, a graduate of Yale, served as his advisor, as well as one of his principal teachers, in his pursuit of classical studies. Also, as houseparents in Davis Hall, Edmund and Sarah knew the gifted young talent well, probably more than most students because of the rare and exceptional abilities which brought so much attention to the young prodigy.

Sarah began her article on a personal note:

To find relaxation after a day of strenuous sightseeing in Paris by listening to a popular music revue is a common experience of Americans in the French capital. But to find in the author of such a revue one who lived four years as a boy with you in your boarding school, whose genius in playing and in improvisation you recall so well, and who learned the Greek and Latin required to enter your husband’s college under your husband, is a thrill that is seldom experienced. Such an evening, such a thrill came to me in July, 1929, as I witnessed in Paris, with my daughters, Charlotte and Esther, the popular revue, “Wake Up and Dream,” a production full of life and brightness, abounding in the hits of the day. This author, whose name counts today for so much in the musical world, was Cole Porter, Worcester Academy 1909.

¹⁸ *Worcester Evening Gazette*, October 5, 1928, p.1.

¹⁹ *Worcester Evening Gazette*, October 19, 1928.

²⁰ “The Achievers,” *Worcester Academy Bulletin*, April, 1931, pp. 45-47.

We can only imagine the underside of the experience of being in Paris after what had happened there the year before. As was noted earlier, it seems likely that Charlotte was residing there at the time, or in Munich or Fontainbleu, based on what is known about her art studies in Europe. If true, then Sarah may have traveled with Esther in 1929 to see Charlotte, as well as to visit the French capital under distinctly more pleasant circumstances than had obtained the previous year.

A few months after the sojourn in Paris came the stock market crash of late October, and in all likelihood, trouble for the Scotts. Edmund appeared to have left his family in good financial shape when he died twelve years earlier, but most likely all or a considerable portion of the assets were in market securities, and few if any of them would likely have been as robust after the crash as before. It was more than the market crash itself, of course. More damaging was the country's cascading decline into full-blown economic depression, with years of hardship ahead, instead of weeks or months, and a slow and weak recovery by the market. For Sarah Scott and her daughters, who were accustomed to living with all the comforts and benefits of affluence, there is ample evidence that financial difficulties were in fact on the horizon. Nevertheless, it appears that Charlotte continued her studies in Europe, which must have been a drain on family finances.

In August, 1934, for failure to pay the 1933 property tax bill of \$343.44, the Treasurer of the City of Worcester put the Scott property on Maplewood Road at auction, and when no one bid on it (at two auctions, held August 3 and 7), the City purchased the property itself.²¹ The Scotts, however, were not forced to vacate the premises – at least not immediately - under circumstances not made clear in the documents found. The following Spring, the City restored ownership to Mrs. Scott upon payment of applicable taxes and accumulated expenses by her mortgagee, the Worcester County Institution for Savings.²² This action consolidated Sarah's liabilities for taxes and mortgage payments with the bank, and solved her problem with the City, but it merely bought her time. Near the end of that year, the bank finally moved on foreclosure, placing advertisements of auction of the house in the *Evening Gazette*, and on January 22 purchasing the property itself for \$5,000.²³ Thus, Sarah Scott and her daughters were forced to vacate 13 Maplewood Road before the formal possession of the house on January 22. A lot had happened since the young Scott family moved from Davis Hall at Worcester Academy to the new house on Maplewood Road at Lenox in 1912.

Late in 1935 or early in 1936, Sarah, Charlotte, and Esther moved into an apartment in a three-family house at 120 Elm Street. The bank-owned house on Maplewood remained vacant for more than four years, finally being sold in 1940 to three brothers, Reuben, Vahra, and Zareh Martin, who had grown up one block away, on Westview Road. Two of the brothers then moved into the

²¹ Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 2619, Page 109, recorded August 24, 1934.

²² Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 2639, Page 516, recorded May 8, 1935.

²³ Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 2660, Pages 136-138, recorded January 24, 1936. Possession of the property occurred also on January 22, as recorded in Book 2660 Page 40, recorded January 24, 1936. Language of the 1912 mortgage (Book 2010 Page 274) made clear that in case of foreclosure and sale, the mortgagor, Sarah Scott, would receive any surplus from the sale after all remaining mortgage principal, taxes, and related expenses were paid.

Maplewood house with their families. Reflecting the effects of the Great Depression, the property sold for considerably less than the Scotts had paid for it a generation earlier.²⁴

The 1940 census showed the three Scotts at 120 Elm, apparently on the third floor, with Charlotte, age 35, identified as the head of the household, and as a teacher in the public schools with an income of \$1100 for the year. Esther, 27, was listed as a secretary in the building construction industry with an income of \$720. Sarah was said to be age 73, a widow, not employed.

For the next few years, Esther continued living with her mother and her sister on Elm Street, and during this time was listed in the City Directory as a saleswoman, a clerk, or a bookkeeper each year through 1941, the year she turned 28. That year she married Louis Hamblin, a partner in the Bowker-Hamblin Tire Company on Mechanic Street, and they settled in Paxton where they remained until their respective passings: Louis in 1970, Esther in 1980. Her obituary notice said she was a daughter of Edmund and Sarah Scott; that she was the wife of Louis Hamblin, a long-time member of the Paxton Board of Selectmen; and that she left four female cousins. There were no children.

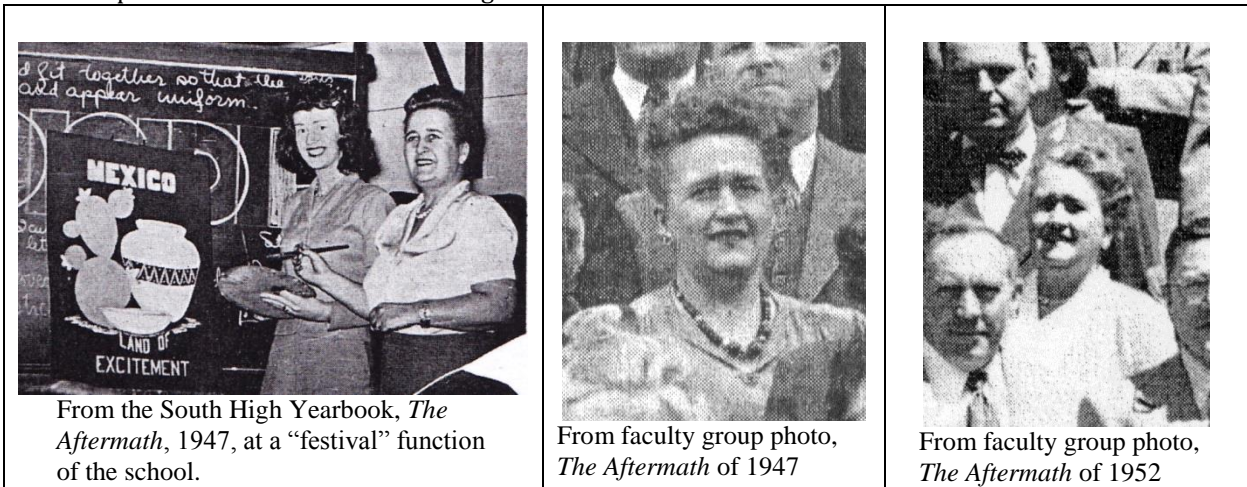
City directories listed Charlotte as an artist through 1938, and in 1939 as a teacher at South High School, which implied that she started teaching there in 1938. To get a permanent appointment, however, she needed coursework and presumably a degree in education to supplement her training at the School of the Art Museum and in Europe. Accordingly, she took courses at Clark University, under some form of "special student" status, since women were not admitted to Clark until 1942, and in 1941, at the age of 36, was awarded a bachelor's of education. She then received a formal appointment to the faculty of South High. The faculty page in the school yearbooks for 1939 and 1940 identified her as teacher of "Mural Decoration," and the description of her education might have seemed extraordinary to the careful reader: "Worcester Art Museum, Ecole de Beaux Arts, Paris, and Hofman Atelier, Munich." Charlotte remained at South for nearly two decades, leaving after the 1959-60 school year. She then began serving Worcester Public Schools as a "roaming" instructor of art in the elementary schools.²⁵

Charlotte continued her art work, presumably throughout her career with the school system. She was later said to have exhibited in prominent museums, including the Worcester Art Museum, to have been known for her murals, and to have taught courses in drawing from nature at the Worcester Natural History Museum. Locations of her murals included the children's ward at City Hospital, the Paxton Town Hall, and the chapel of the Women's Reformatory at Framingham. Two examples of her paintings made available by the Worcester Art Museum are shown below.

²⁴ Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 2789, Page 388, recorded August 17, 1940. A mortgage with W.C.I.S. recorded on the same page gave a mortgage amount of \$5800, leaving unknown any amount made as a down payment.

²⁵ These and other facts concerning Charlotte are known from the notice of her death in the press at a later date, cited subsequently.

Yearbook pictures of Charlotte at South High



Charlotte and Sarah Scott continued residing at 120 Elm Street, according to City Directory listings, into the year 1957. That being the year Sarah turned ninety, it is likely that Charlotte was serving, at least to some extent, as her caretaker while teaching at South High and probably struggling to find the time to maintain an adequate pace in her artwork. From information in city directories it is impossible to be certain of the course of events, but it appears that in 1957 Charlotte and her mother relocated to 24 Dean Street where at least Charlotte, if not both of them, remained over the next few years. Sarah’s name was no longer given in the directories, but her obituary notice gave her address as 24 Dean Street. The Dean Street address is only a short walk down a path behind the house to the Art Museum on the next block. by the mid-1970s that address

was listed in the House Directory as “apartments and artist workshop.”

Sarah Scott died October 31, 1962 at the age of ninety-five. Her obituary notice in the *Evening Gazette* said of her that she had once served as treasurer of the Worcester Women’s Club, and that she was a fifty-year member of the Hall Club.



MRS. SARAH H. SCOTT

Worcester Evening Gazette, November 1, 1962, p. 33



Sadly, the family gravestone at Hope Cemetery, erected for the senior Edmund, and revised for Edmund G. and Elizabeth, was never updated for Sarah, Charlotte, or Esther. (Photo by author)

After her mother’s death, Charlotte relocated to 36 Somerset Street, an attractive district of predominantly single-family residences built in the early 20th century, between Highland and William Streets, near Elm Park. At this time, and since 1960, her job with Worcester Public Schools had been that of roaming instructor in art for the elementary schools, and it seemed that after many years of taking care of her mother and working, she might now have more time to spend as she chose. But things don’t always work out as one would hope.

On October 11, 1963, Charlotte was admitted to City Hospital for an unknown medical problem, and on the morning of the 28th she died. She was fifty-eight. The notice of her death was on page one of the *Gazette* above the fold, an honor received by few. Apparently, her value to the community had been recognized.²⁶

²⁶ *Worcester Evening Gazette*, October 28, 1963, page one..