

A Trip to the Blandford Fair from Middlefield – 12 September 1912

One of my prize family possessions is this five-page scrap book commemorating a trip to the Blandford fair by horse and wagon by three Middlefield school teachers and three young men, one of them my grandfather John Ferris. My grandmother, Helena (Drozd) Ferris, gave the scrap book to my mother and in turn to me.

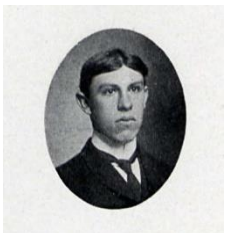
I recently discovered eight homemade albums of random photographs taken by Philip Mack Smith and so wanted to add this to the study of his work. Philip took these three photos and I believe he had his own photographic lab and dark room at Maplecroft to develop and reproduce them. I suspect the teachers prepared six of these scrap books, one for each participant, with construction paper and tied with a ribbon bow through punched holes.

I often wondered who these people were and what happened to them after this random get together on a sunny early fall day over a hundred years ago.



John Walter Ferris was living at the ex-Ferris farm on West Hill that was sold to John Drozd in 1911. The Charles Ferris family had moved to Wyben and I believe John stayed behind in Middlefield to operate the farm for the newcomers. John was [born](#) 28 Dec 1889 at Middlefield. He married Helena Drozd, John Drozd's only daughter, on 3 Jul 1918. John died of pneumonia 14 Apr 1932. [Find a Grave link.](#)

John and Helena bought the Wheeler place (95 Town Hill) 9 Apr 1921. They had 5 children.



Philip Mack Smith took the three pictures in this album. He and his brother Edward were the authors of the 1924 Middlefield History. He graduated from Amherst in 1905 and by 1910 was living in Washington, DC with his mother and sister. They returned often to their family home on Town Hill Road – Maplecroft. Philip was born 1 Jan 1883 at Worcester, MA. He died 24 May 1951 at Washington, DC. He never married. [Find a Grave link.](#) (1905 Graduation Photo)



Cora M. Coffil was [born](#) 17 Apr 1892 at Somerville, MA and died 22 Jun 1975 at Williamstown, MA. She graduated in 1912 from North Adams Normal School. She must have just started teaching at Middlefield at this time of the 1912 Blandford Fair. An early 1913 newspaper article stated she was teaching at the Factory Village School. She never married. (1912 Graduation Photo)

**Jennette E. Abbe,
Was City Teacher**

Miss Jennette Elizabeth Abbe, 69, of 127 Sumner Ave., died Friday night at Springfield Hospital. She was born in Enfield, Conn., Nov. 23, 1891, the daughter of Herbert A. and Elizabeth C. (Bridge) Abbe. She was a teacher in the Springfield public schools, having taught at Armory Street School, Robert O. Morris School and Washington School. She retired in 1953. She was a longtime summer resident of Middlefield, and had a deep interest in the activities of that community. Miss Abbe was a member of Faith Congregational Church, the Church Guild, the Springfield Woman's Club, Mercy Warren Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Springfield Teachers' Club. The funeral will be held at the Dickinson-Streeter funeral home Monday at 4 p. m. with organ prelude at 3.30. Rev. David E. Weinland will officiate, assisted by Rev. Yessu Rathnam. Burial will be in Enfield Street Cemetery, Enfield, Conn. There will be no visiting hours. Contributions may be made to the Faith Church Memorial Fund.

Jennette E. Abbe was born 23 Nov 1891 at Enfield, CT. She died 31 March 1961 at Springfield. She and her family owned 162 Skyline Trail at the Center from 1900 until 1961. She was a lifelong teacher and never married. [Find a Grave Link](#)

Frances M. Bugbee was born 19 Dec 1889 in Vermont. She married W. S. Wright on 18 Sep 1916 at Bonneville County, Idaho. They had several children. She died 11 Apr 1975 at Blackfoot, Idaho, [Find a Grave Link](#). Her twin sister Florence was a nurse and with her in Idaho. Frances was teaching at the Middlefield Center School in June 1911 with 22 students.

Sydney Hoyt Upham was a summer resident. His father was a physician from Brooklyn, NY. He was born 18 Jul 1886 at Dartmouth, MA. He married Nellie Lund in 1923 and had one son. He died 5 Jan 1968 at Alexandria, VA. The Uphams owned the John Bryan house on the south-east corner of today's intersection of Bryan Road and Skyline from 1908 to 1921. The house is gone and the property incorporated into the Suriner estate at 196 Skyline.

their sister, Mrs Eugene Bates, Monday. Dr. Roy Upham, Sydney Upham and two friends of Brooklyn, N. Y., are spending several days at the "Upham" cottage. Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Johnson of Springfield.

Aug 1912 Springfield Republican

Ferris Transportation Co.

Middlefield

To

Blandford Fair.

S. H. Upham,
Gen'l Mgr.

F. M. Budgee,
Passenger Agt.

Train No. 23.

- School Teachers' Special. -

Runs only on September 12, 1912.

Two locomotives and one combined observation and smoking car.

No dining car. Ten stops allowed on return trip for fodder and water.

Soup kitchen in the Dry Brook Lot.

Feed bags furnished free of charge.



"Come, come, come, come, let us start."



— Autographs. —

Philip Mack Smith.

Coran M. Coffill.

Frances M. Kupper.

John W. Sterns

Jennette E. Sterns

Sidney H. Upton



"We're here because we're here."