

The Annal  
of  
Cornelia Root Ginn

1877--1937



*Cornelia Root Ginn, by Karl Anderson (1937)*

transcribed and edited by Nicholas Root Jones

Berkeley, California, 2025



The Annal  
of  
Cornelia Root Ginn

1877—1937



*Cornelia Root Ginn, by Karl Anderson (1937)*

transcribed and edited by Nicholas Root Jones

Berkeley, California, 2025



# Introduction

My grandmother Cornelia Winifred Root Ginn kept the records of her life in a small leather-bound notebooks. This notebook, untitled, lists the main events of each year; I have called it her "Annal"—that is, her year-by-year account of her life.

The journal centers on Cornelia's family: her father, mother, and two brothers (Frederick and Walter), and sister Mary; her nephews and nieces, her husband Frank Hadley Ginn ("Hal"), and their four children, Francis, Marian, Alexander (Sandy), and Barbara.

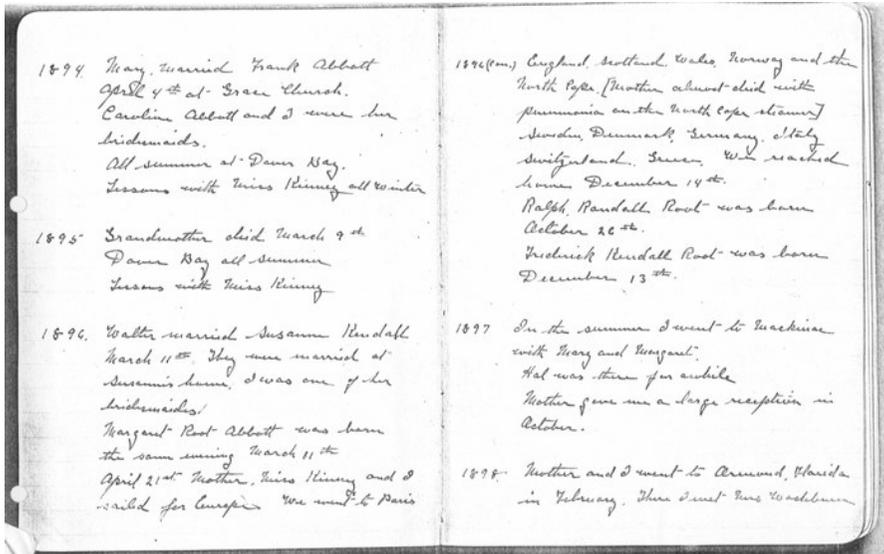
A frequent subject is the family's recurrent illnesses. In the days before antibiotics, infections were much more prevalent than today, even in a privileged household; these illnesses seriously debilitated Cornelia and her family.

Yet they were both very busy people: Cornelia gardening, managing a busy household and farm, teaching Sunday school and maintaining an active religious life, and Hal as a corporate lawyer and philanthropist in the turbulent years of Cleveland's industrial growth.

Among other topics, the Annal outlines their extensive travel—long trips "up the Lakes," to the West, to the East Coast, and to Europe. I am grateful to my cousin Peter Griesinger for his question to me about grandmother's travels, a question that led me to dig out my copy of her notebook and to study and transcribe.

I have read and re-read this Annal looking for insights about my grandmother's life. I have found many interesting facts, but my deeper questions remain unanswered: What was it like to live through these many illnesses? How did Cornelia organize her working day? How did she relate to the men and women who lived in her house and on her farm? What did she feel about her husband's public and exhausting career? What excited her about her travels? What did she read, and why? These insights are what we might glean from a full biography or a novel—but they are absent here. She was not writing for us, but for herself, and of course, she knew the answers to all these questions. We can only speculate about the answers, filling the empty spaces of the Annal with our own imaginations of the life of this particular woman in these particular circumstances, in this particular life.

—Berkeley, California, June 2025



Two pages from the Annal

## 1877–1889: Beginnings

*Because of a missing first page, the account omits the first nine years of Cornelia's life. The handwriting in the original does not look like that of a child, so I assume that these early entries are retrospective (that is, not written in the year of the events).*

*Cornelia's first entries are typical of the journal as a whole in that they give very little detail and almost no sense of emotion. They simply recount what happened--in this case, illness, travel, and her father's death.*

*Cornelia Root was born in Cleveland in 1877 (150 years ago next year). She was the child of Ralph Randolph Root and Anna Younglove Tubbs Root. Her father was 54 when she was born, and her mother, 15 years younger, was 39. The Root family in America dates to the early 17th century, when John Roote emigrated from Badby, Northamptonshire to Farmington, Connecticut. His son Thomas moved to western Massachusetts. Cornelia's father Ralph had been born and raised in Cooperstown, New York. In Ohio, Ralph Root attended Oberlin College, then worked as a printer, eventually going into retailing textiles (generically called "dry goods" at the time) in a business called Root & McBride.*

*Cornelia's mother, Anna Younglove Tubbs, was also from a long-time New England family; Annas's great-grandfather John Younglove had fought in the Revolutionary War in the area between New York and Vermont. By the later 19th-century, Anna Tubbs' family had settled in Cleveland. Cornelia grew up in a large and well-furnished mansion on Prospect Avenue in the fashionable near East Side of the city. She was the fourth and last child; there were two brothers, Fred and Walter, and a sister Mary, eight years older. The prosperity of the family is evident in the number of trips in these early years—to Florida, probably because of Ralph Root's illness, then East one summer and, after his death, a trip (with her grandmother and namesake Cornelia Tubbs) "up the lakes"—a term for a steamer cruise north on the Great Lakes.*

## 1886

[the earliest nine years are missing] . . . to California. Father was very ill with pneumonia and this illness was the beginning of his tuberculosis.<sup>1</sup>

## 1887

To Florida with Father and Mother in January.<sup>2</sup>

## 1888

Again to Florida for spring.

The summer in Nantucket and the White Mountains.

## 1889

Father died January 26th.

In the summer I went up the [*Great*] Lakes with Grandmother.<sup>3</sup>



*Young Cornelia*

---

<sup>1</sup> Cornelia's father was Ralph Randolph Root—b. 1823, Cooperstown NY, d. Jan 26, 1889. Founder of Root & McBride, dry goods, Cleveland.

<sup>2</sup> Mother: Anna Younglove Tubbs Root, b. 1838

<sup>3</sup> Grandmother: Cornelia's maternal grandmother, Cornelia Payne Tubbs, b. Bennington VT, 1811.

## 1890–1897: Debutante

*At 17, Cornelia was confirmed in the Episcopal Church. She had "lessons" with a private tutor (young girls from rich families did not go to school in those times). All three of her older siblings married, and a child was born to each of the couples. After several summer vacations in the United States—two in the West, and three at the new compound of Dover Bay on Lake Erie just west of Cleveland, Cornelia was taken by her mother and governess on an eight-month "Grand Tour" of Europe, followed by a "reception"—that is, a debutante party, probably at the Root home. Somewhere in all of that, she met "Hal"—my grandfather, Frank Hadley Ginn.*

### 1890

I was confirmed by Bishop Leonard March 6th in Grace Church.<sup>4</sup>

Mother, Mary, Walter and I spent the summer travelling through the northwest—Yellowstone Park, Alaska and Colorado.<sup>5</sup>

### 1891

Fred and Mary Crawford were married January 12th.<sup>6</sup>

Walter was very ill with typhoid fever all summer.

In the fall mother, grandmother, Mary, Walter and I went to Manitou, Colorado.<sup>7</sup>

Paul Crawford Root was born November 7th.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> William Leonard, 1848–1930, appointed Episcopal Bishop of Ohio, 1889. Grace Church in Cleveland was the site of the diocese of Ohio until the construction of Trinity Cathedral, which Cornelia later attended.

<sup>5</sup> Walter Sabin Root, Cornelia's older brother (b. 1873); Mary Loomis Root (later Abbott), her older sister (b. 1869).

<sup>6</sup> Frederick Payne Root, b. 1865, Cornelia's oldest sibling.

<sup>7</sup> Manitou was a resort featuring mineral hot springs, founded 1870.

<sup>8</sup> Paul Crawford Root, first son of Fred and Mary.

## 1892

Mother rented Mr. Will Ely's house at the end of Washington Ave., Elyria for all summer.<sup>9</sup>

## 1893

Mother built the house at Dover Bay and we were there all summer.<sup>10</sup>  
Lessons with Miss Kinney through the winter.<sup>11</sup>

## 1894

Mary married Frank Abbott April 4th at Grace Church. Caroline Abbott and I were her bridesmaids.  
All summer at Dover Bay.  
Lessons with Miss Kinney all winter.

## 1895

Grandmother died March 9th.  
Dover Bay all summer.  
Lessons with Miss Kinney.

## 1896

Walter married Suzanne Kendall, March 11th. They were married at Suzanne's home. I was one of her bridesmaids.  
Margaret Root Abbott was born the same evening, March 11th.  
April 21st Mother, Miss Kinney and I sailed for Europe. We went to Paris, England, Scotland, Wales, Norway and the North Cape (Mother almost died with pneumonia on the North Cape steamer), Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Greece. We reached home December 14th.

---

<sup>9</sup> William Arthur Ely, 1860–1946. Elyria is about 30 miles west of Cleveland.

<sup>10</sup> Dover Bay Park Association on Lake Erie was a resort developed in the late 19th century just west of the center of Cleveland.

<sup>11</sup> I think "lessons" means basic education; Miss Kinney is perhaps a governess.

Ralph Randall Root was born October 26th.

Frederick Kendall Root was born December 13th.<sup>12</sup>

## 1897

In the summer I went to Mackinac [*Michigan*] with Mary and Margaret. Hal was there for a while.

Mother gave me a large reception [coming-out party] in October.



*Cornelia sewing*

---

<sup>12</sup> Ralph was the second son of Frederick and Mary Root. Frederick was the son of Walter and Suzanne Root.

## 1898-1899: Marriage

*Engagement, wedding, and honeymoon were the expected events for a privileged young heiress like Cornelia Root. In the summer 1897, she entertained her suitor at Mackinac, a resort in northern Michigan—with, of course, her older married sister Mary as chaperone. A little more than a year later, in October of 1898, they were engaged. There followed a whirlwind—a wedding at noon, the same day an overnight train trip to New York City, and two days later departure on the SS Statendaam for three months in Europe.*

*Hal—my grandfather—was Frank Hadley Ginn (1868–1938). He was born in the town of Clyde, Ohio, about 70 miles west of Cleveland. Hal's grandfather Arthur Ginn had emigrated from County Antrim in northern Ireland in 1800. Arthur's son Francis Marion Ginn was born in Ohio, but seems to have retained an Irish accent, since in Clyde he was known as "Irishman Ginn." He was a teacher and eventually superintendent of schools in Clyde, and Hal and his older brother Arthur grew up in a cultured and prosperous home, enough to send Hal to Kenyon College. He graduated in 1890, then went on to "read law" with a judge in Cleveland—an alternative to law school, passing the Ohio Bar in 1892. In 1899 when he was married to Cornelia, he was in the first year of practice with two associates in the firm Blandin, Rice and Ginn.*

*On Cornelia and Hal's return from Europe, they settled in her sister Mary's house, then in Cornelia's mother's home at 579 Prospect Avenue. They apparently had enough money to buy their own home in the country. This "old neglected fruit farm" was on the western edge of the valley of the Chagrin River, in the village of Gates Mills (a site of old water-powered mills from the earlier 19th century) about 16 miles east of Cleveland. The home they built on this land was to be their home, at first for summers, and eventually year-round. They called it "Moxahela"—Algonquin for Bear Creek, which ran through a deep ravine on the south edge of the farm.*

*Cornelia was "ill all winter." Based on what my mother told me—and from hints she gives in her "garden journals"—this may well have been a pregnancy that ended in miscarriage—which may have happened several times before her first child Francis was born ten years later.*

## 1898

Mother and I went to Armand, Florida, in February.<sup>13</sup> There I met Mrs. Washburn and Avis Sibley her niece.

In May I went with them and Miss Sibley to England: London for June, then the Isle of Wight, Devonshire, etc. Walter went over with us just for the trip—three days in London and home. My friends stayed all winter. I came back with Dr. and Mrs. Babcock in September.

Hal and I were engaged at Dover Bay October 16th.

## 1899

Hal and I were married on Wednesday June 21st at Grace Church at 12 noon by Mr. Worthington. Mary Childs was maid of honor, Effie Childs, Grace McBride, Julia Cobb, Eda Sherwin were bridesmaids. Herbert Noyes was best man, Mr. Bayer, Mr. Beacon, Mr. Landers and [*indecipherable*] were the ushers.

We left at 6:00 for New York and sailed on Saturday for Europe on the Statendam—Holland Line.<sup>14</sup> We landed at Boulogne, went to Paris (Hotel Meurice<sup>15</sup>, Rue di Rivoli), then to Switzerland, [?], Italian lakes, Holland, London. Reached home September 21st.

Mother, Mary, Margaret, Frank and Aunt Lizzie were in England that summer.<sup>16</sup> We were together in London.

Our first housekeeping at Mary's, 741 N. Logan, until she [*Mary*] came home. Mother made over the rooms on the 1st floor [*at the Prospect Avenue house*] she and Father had for us.

I was ill all winter.

In the fall we bought our own home on the hills above Gates Mills—an old neglected fruit farm of 50 acres.

---

<sup>13</sup> St. Armand's Key on the west coast of Florida.

<sup>14</sup> SS Statendam, launched 1898.

<sup>15</sup> Hotel Meurice was a luxury hotel opened in 1815.

<sup>16</sup> "Aunt Lizzie" was Elizabeth Tubbs, the wife of Cornelia's uncle Frederick Henry Tubbs—Cornelia's mother's older brother.



*Hal and Cornelia at their wedding breakfast*

## 1900–1909: Waiting for Motherhood

*The decade from 1900 to 1909 seems to have involved both un-settling and re-settling. There was a lot of moving of houses: Mary and Frank building a new house in Cleveland Heights; Cornelia's mother selling the Prospect Avenue house downtown and moving out to a new house near them; and Cornelia and Hal building their summer house in Gates Mills and their Cleveland townhouse for the winters on 71st. Street, 3 miles east of downtown. There were trips on a steam yacht in the Chesapeake with George and Anna Bishop; and a boat trip on the St. Lawrence River—when, perhaps, her first child was conceived.*

*There was the death of her niece, Mary's daughter Margaret, in 1907. Cornelia felt this deeply. I remember my mother feeling it, too, though she was not yet born—she said that she grew up with Margaret's toys and books, and even a little playhouse of Margaret's, and felt her presence through them.*

*Finally, after ten years of marriage, Cornelia's first child, Francis was born. Even in the terse entries of this record, her joy shines through. I've written about this event earlier in a pamphlet called "A Path toward Home," using Cornelia's garden diaries to articulate her feelings about the event more fully.<sup>17</sup>*

### 1900

Effie Childs and I went to Hot Springs, Virginia in February.<sup>18</sup>

Lakeside Hospital in March.

Lived all summer at Gates Mills with Mrs. Hunnister [?] and had our meals at Mrs. Lamoreaux's. "Moxahela" was being built [*the summer home in Gates Mills*].

All winter with mother at 579 Prospect [*Avenue, Cleveland—her mother's house*]

### 1901

Mother and Aunt Lizzie started South in March. Aunt Lizzie was ill with pneumonia and died in Atlanta GA in a few days.

---

<sup>17</sup> "A Path toward Home" is on my website, NicholasRJones.com, under "Family History."

<sup>18</sup> Hot Springs is a mineral spa in the mountains of western Virginia. Effie Childs (1879–1956) was one of Cornelia's bridesmaids. In 1900 she is listed as living in Cleveland with her mother Mary Childs, and sister, also Mary Childs, Cornelia's maid of honor.

We moved into our own home [*Moxahela*] May 22nd.  
Lived with mother at 579 [*Prospect Avenue*] all winter.

## 1902

Virginia Beach with Mother and Mary in February.<sup>19</sup>

Moxahela all summer.

In October to Texas on a business trip with Hal and Mr. and Mrs. Bishop;  
home by way of New Orleans.<sup>20</sup>

Ill at Christmas time. 579 all winter.

## 1903

Mary and Frank built their new home on Ambler Parkway.<sup>21</sup>

Mother and I went to Aiken in February.<sup>22</sup>

May [*that is, Mary Crawford Root, her brother Fred's wife*] died in March.

The city grew so noisy and dirty [*that*] Mother could not live there and sold  
the old house where she and father went to housekeeping to [*stayed  
with?*] Mr. C. S. Hickox and built next to Mary out on the hills out on  
the hill.<sup>23</sup>

Mary and Frank and Margaret went to California in November for all  
winter.

Hal and I lived with Mother in the house [*Mary and Frank's*] until Mother's  
[*new house*] was finished.

## 1904

Moved into Mother's new home the last of January.

Went to New York with Hal for 10 days in February.

---

<sup>19</sup> Virginia Beach, VA--a resort developed in the 1880s.

<sup>20</sup> George T. and Anna Bishop; he was a major developer of electric railway systems, which Hal Ginn was also involved in.

<sup>21</sup> Cornelia's sister Mary Abbott: the home was in the then-newly developed suburb of Cleveland Heights east of downtown Cleveland.

<sup>22</sup> Aiken, South Carolina, was a popular resort for northerners.

<sup>23</sup> The "old house" is the Root family home on Prospect Avenue in downtown Cleveland. The new house is on Ambler Parkway in Cleveland Heights (see above).

Moxahela all summer except a few days in August at Algonac [*Michigan*] near Detroit with Hal, Frank Poole, Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm and Mr. Williams.

The winter with Mother on the hill [*that is, in Cleveland Heights*].

Walter Sabin Root Jr. was born June 25th.<sup>24</sup>

## 1905

Went with Mother, Mary, Margaret and Paul to Atlantic City in March.<sup>25</sup>

Had a few days with Hal in New York and Baltimore the last of March.

Moved to the country [*Moxahela*] April 12th.

In June we were with Mr. and Mrs. Bishop and Mr. and Miss [?] on their steam yacht the "Indian" going from Washington down the Potomac to Old Point Comfort and up the Chesapeake to Baltimore, being gone about 10 days.<sup>26</sup>

Moxahela all summer but I was ill most all the time.

In October Mother and I went to Cooperstown, Father's birthplace, for 10 days.<sup>27</sup>

In May Fred and his boys went to live with Mother.<sup>28</sup>

In September we engaged an apartment for the winter—the Sheridan on Dunham Ave. (E 66th St.).

## 1906

Hal spent much time in Baltimore through the winter. I was with him twice for a week or ten days, a few days in New York both times.

In February we were godparents to Karl and Helen Anderson's baby girl Alice Melissa.<sup>29</sup>

---

<sup>24</sup> Walter Root (1904–1973) was another cousin of Cornelia.

<sup>25</sup> Paul was Cornelia's nephew, the 14-year son of brother Frederick.

<sup>26</sup> Old Point Comfort: where the James River meets Chesapeake Bay.

<sup>27</sup> The Root family had moved from Cambridge NY (near Vermont) to Cooperstown, NY in the late 18th century, then further west to Cleveland in the 1830s.

<sup>28</sup> Fred's wife Mary ("May") had died two years earlier. The boys are Paul and Ralph.

<sup>29</sup> Karl Anderson (1874–1956) was a painter who had grown up with Frank Hadley Ginn (Hal) in Clyde, Ohio. Karl's brother was Sherwood Anderson who wrote *Winesburg, Ohio*. He painted a number of portraits for the Ginns (see below).

Mother, Mary and Frank, Margaret and Polly sailed February 3rd for Europe.<sup>30</sup> Fred and Paul and Ralph sailed the first week in April to meet the rest in Rome.

We moved to Moxahela April 20th.

Reverend Mr. [Edward W.] Worthington died Easter morning April 15th.

The 1st of June we went again in the Indian [*a steam yacht*] with Mr. and Mrs. Bishop starting from Old Point Comfort and going up the James River to Richmond, branching off up the Appomattox to Petersburg and also up Pogan Creek to Smithfield and back up the Potomac to Washington. Stopped at Lower Brandon, Shirley, Westover and at Jamestown. We were gone eight days; it was one of the most delightful trips I have ever had.

I was taken ill the last of August and was in bed about two months with pain in my side.

Mother, Fred and the boys came back in June. Hal and I went on to New York to meet them.

In July Mother fell and injured her arm dreadfully.

We moved to town the 7th of November.

Thanksgiving I went with Mother to New York to meet Mary, Frank and Margaret.

In December I bought a Columbus Electric.<sup>31</sup>

Lived at the Sheridan all winter; both of us were very well.

## 1907

In March I went East alone and visited Margaret and Arthur Claflin at Beverly, Mass, and then to visit Avis Sibley Burnett in Providence.<sup>32</sup>

We rented our apartment to Mr. and Mrs. Chittenden for the summer.

Moved to the country [*Moxahela*] Monday April 15th.

Visited May Childs [*from*] Cleveland in Cincinnati a few days.

Went up the Lakes with Mother in July just for the rest and air.

A quiet uneventful summer at home.

---

<sup>30</sup> I am not sure who Polly is—perhaps a maid.

<sup>31</sup> An electric car made by the Columbus Buggy Company in Columbus, Ohio.

<sup>32</sup> Margaret Root Claflin and Arthur Bucklin Claflin (1852–1923). Margaret was Cornelia's cousin, the daughter of her father's older brother Elias Root.

Margaret [*Frank and Mary Abbott's daughter*] was taken ill in October and the precious life was taken away from us the fifth of November.

We lived again at the Sheridan all winter, I only taking a short trip to New York in December with Mother to see the oculists, but they could not help her.<sup>33</sup>

A busy winter but such a sad one.

## 1908

Moved to the country the 24th of April. Re-rented [*that is, sub-let*] the apartment to Mr. & Mrs. Daly of New York.

Mary and Frank went to England for the summer sailing the 22nd.

Frederick and Walter Root were baptized in May. I am Walter's godmother.

We spent a quiet summer at home, an unusually hot dry summer.

In August Hal and I went down the Saint Lawrence to Quebec, were gone about 10 days.

September and October I spent in bed lying very still but so happy I did not mind.<sup>34</sup>

We moved to town the 15th of November and lived very quietly at the Sheridan; the days were very comfortable and easy happy ones.

## 1909

Came back to the country the first day of April.

Francis<sup>35</sup> was born on Wednesday May 5th and baptized in Trinity Cathedral Aug. 11th. Mary and Frank Abbott and Arthur Ginn are his godparents.<sup>36</sup> He was baptized by Dean du Moulin.<sup>37</sup>

The summer was a very quiet one. Baby was perfectly well day and night and so merry always; I was not very strong for I nursed him almost 6 months.

---

<sup>33</sup> The oculists may be the practice of William Bates (see below, 1921).

<sup>34</sup> Because she is pregnant.

<sup>35</sup> Francis (1909–1983).

<sup>36</sup> Arthur Pope Ginn (1861–1933), a physician, was the brother of Frank Hadley (Hal).

<sup>37</sup> Trinity Episcopal Cathedral was consecrated in 1907. Frank du Moulin, then Dean of the Cathedral and later Bishop of Ohio.

We began building the townhouse I think in June; we were promised it by the middle of November, but it was not done.<sup>38</sup>

We stayed here at Moxahela until the 15th of December, then took Dr. Hayden's furnished house, 11401 Bellflower Ave.

For three months I went to Atlantic City with Mother in November for two weeks.

Fred and Ralph [*her nephews, now 13 years old*] came for Thanksgiving Day.



*Cornelia with baby Francis*

---

<sup>38</sup> The townhouse was on East 71st Street in Cleveland.

## 1910–1913: Family

*In these four years, Cornelia gave birth to two babies after Francis—Marian and then Alexander (known as "Sandy")—with Miss Metzger (perhaps a nurse?) temporarily caring for her and the newborns. Electric light was put in—the original house had used gas lighting from a well to the south of the house. The two houses, "townhouse" and "home" (Moxahela) were expanded and renovated to make room for the growing family.*

*It is rarely mentioned here that Cornelia and Hal had a staff of servants to support all this work—probably a cook, a nursemaid, a farmer or gardener, and a chauffeur to maintain and drive the new cars. By 1913, too, there was a pre-school, with "Miss Barber"; as I remember from my mother, it took place in the big room on the third floor. Francis would have been four, and Marian three; neighbor children rounded out this Montessori classroom—only a year after the Montessori method had started to be used in the United States.*

*Hal's work had prospered—and was beginning to consume him. The assassination of his law partner William L. Rice must have been a major incident for the firm, with front-page newspaper coverage that must have been just the wrong kind of publicity for an intensely private person like Hal Ginn. His two-week illness with a tooth infection was just one of the many debilitating sicknesses that spread around the family. At this point, too, Hal started to travel a great deal for work: he specialized in corporate law, setting up new firms in the boom of early-20th-century Cleveland manufacturing and expansion. His trips to Baltimore and New York will recur in Cornelia's notes in later years.*

*The Impressionist painter Karl Anderson and his family were close to Cornelia and Hal. Karl had grown up in Clyde with Hal. Karl's older brother, the novelist Sherwood Anderson, recalled years later that the Ginn library in Clyde was his best literary education, Hal's father having given him open access to all his books. He also remembered the elegance of young Hal's cloak at a skating party in Clyde in the late 1880s.*

### 1910

We moved into the new house, 1909 E 71st St. (the old street name was Giddings Ave [*Cornelia's note*]), February 9th. This house shall be called "townhouse"; Moxahela is "home." We love to live in it [*that is, the townhouse*] and I hope for many years it will be our winter abiding place.

The last of February I was sick with grippe and having three attacks of it; it was late in the spring before my strength came back. Everyone had it, Francis too, his first illness. A week he was ill with fever and a bad throat. Hal was quite sick.

We did not move to the country until the 20th of May, and I have sworn not to see town again until we go back for the winter. I shall need all the health and strength I can find to give little sister who is promised in the fall.<sup>39</sup>

The 15th of July Walter [*her brother*] was operated on for appendicitis; everything was most successful, and he was out in two weeks.

The 6th of July I fell and hurt my elbow, so my arm was in splints for a week; it is perfectly recovered and my guardian Angel saved me from any awful injury.

Mr. Rice was shot the night of August 5th.<sup>40</sup>

We moved to town the last week in September.

My baby girl<sup>41</sup> was born Tuesday October 25th at 8:00 in the evening; my sweet Marian, God bless you. Miss Metzger<sup>42</sup> stayed 5 weeks and I got up feeling wonderfully well and strong. Baby was baptized Marian Root for Mother Anna and Mary, the two women I love best.<sup>43</sup>

## [1911]<sup>44</sup>

The winter passed uneventfully; we were all well.

Sue [?] was in Lakeside for an operation in February.

All during the winter Moxahela was being made big enough for a big family; a new bathroom was added and about 12 feet built on to the West End, making lovely nurseries; the whole house was repapered and electric light put in. We moved the 19th of May.

A terribly hot summer.

In June I went to Gloucester, Mass., with Mary for three weeks; Mother came on later with Frank in their machine [*that is, car*]; Avis Burnett came down for a week.

---

<sup>39</sup> She is pregnant again.

<sup>40</sup> Frank Hadley Ginn's law partner William L. Rice was beaten and shot to death in Cleveland Heights. The case was never solved.

<sup>41</sup> My mother, Marian Root Ginn (1910–1998).

<sup>42</sup> A nurse, I think.

<sup>43</sup> Anna Younglove Root and Mary Root Abbott, Cornelia's sister.

<sup>44</sup> The manuscript does not indicate the new year 1911, but it is implied in the text.

Everyone very well all summer; Hal away a good deal.

The 1st of October Helen, Karl and Melissa Anderson came; they stayed three weeks. Karl painted a wonderful picture of Francis and worked on the Pierrot picture in the garden.

The 15th of October I went with Hal to New York for three days and then to Saranac Lake to see Mary Moss [?].

October 14th, we had to have dear old Scotch [*a dog*] put to sleep; he was ten years old, and he snapped once at Francis.

Moved to town October 31st.

Mary and Frank sailed for Europe November 8th for all winter.

A busy cold winter; everyone well.

## 1912

The second New Year's party.

Karl [*Anderson*]'s exhibition in January; we bought one of his pictures, A Woman with a Lantern.

To Saranac and New York 29th of January.

Arthur Ginn [*Hal's brother*] visited us in February.

The firm is now "Blandon Hogsett & Ginn" instead of the old name "Blandon Rice & Ginn"

A fearful cold winter, many days below zero and so much suffering in the city.

Frank and Mary home April 6th, Easter evening.

Hal quite ill for two weeks with severe inflammation from a tooth.

Moved to Moxahela May 9th.

My new Baker Electric [*car*] will give us so much pleasure all summer; the road to town [*Cleveland*] is so fine we go in in an hour.

A long quiet summer at home. Again, the promise is given me and the great blessing; I am well and so content.<sup>45</sup>

Poor little Topsy [*a dog*] had to be sent to join Scotch in September; she was old, and the joy of life was all gone.

Mary Moss died October 3rd; I believe her life has begun not ended.

---

<sup>45</sup> Cornelia is pregnant again.

We moved to the town house October 24th. The larger room on the 3rd floor has been divided; one room is the children's bedroom and one the play and schoolroom.

## 1913

Baby Alexander<sup>46</sup> came a few hours after New Year's Day was passed; a big boy fine and strong. Dr. Bill and Miss Metzger cared for us, so all was well. How proud we are to have two sons.

The children have had their first school this winter; we began in November. Miss Barber comes every morning and five little neighbor children, and they are taught after Dr. Montessori's plan.

New Year's party after Easter.

In April the children, Francis and Marian, had their tonsils and adenoids removed; Dr. Leuker came to the house to operate. Miss Metzger cared for them a few days afterwards. Their throats were in a bad condition and the operation was very necessary; it was successfully done and, in a few days, both children were quite well again.

Hal's firm is again changed and is now "Tolles Hogsett Ginn & Morley".

Moved to the country the 7th of May.

I was quite tired out and the 1st of July, Ethel Poole and I went up the Lakes in the SS Juniata.<sup>47</sup>

All at home except a short visit with Francis in Clyde [*with Grandfather Ginn*].

In September I went up to visit Mary and Frank at Somesville, Mount Desert [Maine]; I stayed three weeks, Ethel and Frank Poole keeping house for me. I was not well; I could not feel rested even in that wonderful air. Met Hal in New York for a day or two before going home.

Moved to townhouse October 28th.

A fearful snowstorm came in November; all city traffic stopped for several days. At Moxahela the snow was level with the tops of the clothes poles. We lost many hemlock trees in the woods.

---

<sup>46</sup> Alexander Ginn (1913–1999), later known as "Sandy".

<sup>47</sup> Later known as the Milwaukee Clipper, the Juniata went as far north as Duluth, Minnesota, on Lake Superior.

This summer we built Gray Lodge.<sup>48</sup>

A busy winter— school for the children with Miss Barber as last year.  
Arthur [*Hal's brother*] and Eve came at Christmas time for a short visit.



*Cornelia on shipboard*



*Hal on shipboard*

---

<sup>48</sup> "Gray Lodge" was a small stone one-room lodge on the edge of the precipitous ravine of Bear Gulch, just downhill to the east of Moxahela—used like a hunting lodge, not a residence. It still exists on the property of my cousin Peter Griesinger.



*Cornelia's mother, Anna Younglove Root, with Francis,  
Marian, Sandy*

## 1914-1918: The War

*The "terrible European war" was one of the few world events that join the domestic accounts in this Annal, beginning with the guns of August 1914, and continuing with Cornelia's young nephews Ralph and Fred Root becoming aviators—Ralph was captured only six weeks before the end of the war. In October 1918, Cornelia moved her family away from the city because of the "Spanish influenza" that killed hundreds of thousands in the US and many more around the world.*

*The world still revolved around home and children for Cornelia. Early in 1917 came the fourth and last of her children, Barbara (Bobby). In 1914, Francis started first grade at Laurel School--a private school mostly for girls, but with boys accepted in the youngest grades. Sandy joined him there in 1918. In the meantime, the illnesses so prevalent before vaccines: mumps, measles, chicken pox, whooping cough (we know it as pertussis), grippe (that is, influenza), and the removal of adenoids and tonsils—adenoids not once, but twice—an indication of a lot of respiratory problems. Cornelia's brother Paul was seriously ill with pneumonia—the disease that had taken her own father and her Aunt Lizzie years earlier.*

*Cornelia's sister Mary Abbott and her husband Frank traveled a great deal, recovering from the early death of their daughter Margaret. Cornelia stayed closer to home, but there was still time (and liberty, given the presence of servants) for trips to Atlantic City, and a big trip to New Orleans to see their friend Mary Margaret Anglin, a noted Broadway actress, in *Lady Windermere's Fan*; one of the many unknowns in my research is how Cornelia got to know this dynamic stage presence.*

*Hal and Cornelia went to New Orleans with George and Anna Bishop—Hal and George must have worked closely together, as Hal was involved in the development of Cleveland suburbs (dependent on electric railways that became the Cleveland-Shaker Heights Rapid Transit), and George's business was electric railways—he is most known as the founder of railways in Baltimore. Bishop was one of many entrepreneurs who do not appear in Cornelia's manuscript—such as John D. Rockefeller, the Cleveland (then New York) magnate who clearly was a colleague of Hal's: my mother used to speak of her father's overnight train trips to New York with Rockefeller.*

*In 1918 Beth Vopalecky appeared in the record, a nursemaid for the children, who had grown up in a family of Bohemian immigrants to Cleveland—her father ran one of the many foreign-language newspapers in the city. Many*

*years later, I knew her as my nursemaid as well, since she stayed on at Moxahela when my mother and father began to live on the farm.*

*Hal's parents in Clyde were failing: there were a lot of visits, bringing the grandchildren to the little town a couple of hours drive west of Cleveland. By the end of 1918, his father died.*

## 1914

New Year's party again this year; Abbie Wing [?] played.

Went to New York for a week with Hal in January.

In April Francis, Marian, Sandy [*baby Alexander*] and I all had mumps.

In April Karl Anderson and Helen came—not being afraid of mumps—and when Marian was quite well, he painted her portrait as a companion to Francis's picture — a picture of spring.

Mr. Fenton has sold his house to Mr. Fred Perkins.<sup>49</sup>

In April Paul Root announced his engagement to Eleanor Kingsby of Montclair, New Jersey.

Moved to the country May 15th.

Our crystal wedding day [*15th anniversary*], June 21st, we spent with Mother and Father Ginn in Clyde, going in Hal's new car—a Lozier.<sup>50</sup>

Mary and Frank are again in Somesville [*Maine*] for the summer.

In July, Karl Anderson came and painted a lovely portrait of Mother on the porch.

Aug. The horrible European war has begun.

Oct. 20th Moved to town.

Francis at Laurel School—1st grade.

Nov. 13th Went to Asheville, North Carolina, with Mrs. Bourne for a month; I don't know how to rest at home. Hal went with us but only stayed over Sunday. Came home very well the middle of December.

For Christmas we gave to each other the Victrola.

Mary and Frank moved into their new home on Carlton Dr. just before Christmas.

---

<sup>49</sup> I don't know what this refers to.

<sup>50</sup> Loziers were luxury cars.

## 1915

New Year's party in January.

Hal and I went for over [*overnight?*] a Sunday to Clyde.

The 1st of February Hal and I went with George and Anna Bishop to New Orleans; Mary Margaret [*Anglin*] and Howard Hull were there playing in *Lady Windermere's Fan*.<sup>51</sup> We had a wonderful good time. Our Sunday we spent on Dauphin Island. We were gone 10 days.

Came home to find Mother and the children had all been sick.

Paul and Eleanor's wedding day February 2nd.

Gertrude Chisholm died February 17th.

Mary [*sister Mary Abbott*] has had great trouble with her eyes all winter. In May she was in Lakeside [*Hospital, Cleveland*] suffering awfully for two weeks from the pulling of two wisdom teeth that perhaps had caused the trouble in her eyes.

Moved to Moxahela May 12th.

June 5th Took Marian for a little visit to Grandfather's [*in Clyde*].

June 14th Dr. Leuker has cut a piece of bone out of my nose that has kept me from breathing as I should. I stayed at Mary's for a week for she and Frank were away and I could be alone.

Mother is much better. Mary is better but her eyes she cannot use as yet.

Summer cold and very rainy.

Took both little boys later in the summer to Grandfather's (September) [*in Clyde*].

The last of June, Eve came with Millicent<sup>52</sup> [*Eve and Arthur Ginn's daughter*] leaving the little girl with us while she went to New York. Later she came back to have her tonsils removed by Dr. Leuker.

Moved to town October 22nd.

In December, the first week, I went to Atlantic City with Mary but was called home in a week, for Francis was very ill with gripe, but he recovered soon and was well by Christmas.

---

<sup>51</sup> Mary Margaret Anglin (1876–1958) and her husband Howard Hull (b. 1880) were professional actors. *Lady Windermere's Fan* is a comedy by Oscar Wilde. I do not know how Cornelia and Hal became acquainted with them.

<sup>52</sup> Millicent Ginn (later Hastings; 1905–1994), daughter of Eve Stafford Ginn and Arthur Ginn, Hal's brother.

## 1916

The last of January Paul [*Root*] was taken very ill and lay at death's door for many weeks with septic pneumonia in Huron Rd. hospital. Paul Crawford Root Jr was born March 16th.

Moved to the country May 10th.

Paul at last regained his health and took his little family to Asheville for the summer.

Went up the [*Great*] Lakes with Hal and Francis in August.

Town September 9th.

Francis in Bolton School; Marion in Laurel<sup>53</sup>

To Atlantic City with Gertrude Bourland in November for two weeks.<sup>54</sup>

In December the three children had measles.

Mother very ill at Christmas.

1917

All the children had gripe in January.

Barbara<sup>55</sup> was born Wednesday February 7th—the little sister so long wanted.

In March Marian was exposed to whooping cough and to save baby she went to Aunt Mary's; she had it and was very ill. Miss Empky[?] and Mary cared for her, and she was there two months.

Both boys had chicken pox in March.

Moved to the country May 17th. Everyone very well and so glad the hard winter is passed.

April 5th. The United States entered the World War

Ralph has gone into aviation; Fred working in an aviation field in Texas.

Home all summer.

Ralph and Ann Lincoln married October 8th. Ralph sailed for France October 26th.

Spent October in Atlantic City.

Hal Twelve limousine and touring cars.<sup>56</sup>

---

<sup>53</sup> Bolton is a public elementary school; Laurel is a private girl's school (with boys accepted for early years--Francis attended).

<sup>54</sup> Ben Bourland was a professor of Romance Languages at Western Reserve University. He was godfather to my mother (Marian Ginn).

<sup>55</sup> Barbara Root Ginn (later Griesinger, 1917–1990)—known as "Bobby."

<sup>56</sup> I don't know what this means: that he had 12 cars?

## 1918

To Atlantic City in March with the three older children and Beth<sup>57</sup>; Marian very ill.

War terrible!

Children again operated on for adenoids.

In April bought the hill property from the Ranney estate.<sup>58</sup>

Home all summer; very hot.

Town middle September.

Sandy at Laurel.

Terrible influenza epidemic in October, so we moved back to the country and stayed until the middle of November; Nikolai Sokolov was with us and later Lydia and Boris.<sup>59</sup>

Ralph fallen in enemy country, September 27th; wounded and a prisoner.

Armistice Day November 11th.

Grandfather Ginn died November 22nd.

---

<sup>57</sup> Beth Vopalecky, nursemaid (1880–1968).

<sup>58</sup> Perhaps this property is what is later referred to as the Cedar Hill property—just south of Cedar Road in Gates Mills/Hunting Valley.

<sup>59</sup> Nikolai Sokoloff was the first conductor of the newly founded Cleveland Orchestra, beginning in 1918. Lydia was his wife, Boris their son.

## 1919-1924: Art and Music

*With two houses now—"townhouse" and Moxahela—Hal and Cornelia started to collect art in earnest, and to take up classical music as listeners and patrons. Central to that was the building of an addition to Moxahela—a large music room and library with oak paneling and built-in bookshelves and a grand fireplace, begun in 1920 and apparently finished the next year. The first art for the room mentioned in these pages is a Monet landscape, hung there on Hal and Cornelia's 25th wedding anniversary, but there were many other pictures bought during this period and more that she chronicles later in these pages (I have assembled images and descriptions of most of these online in "The Ginn Art Collection," on my website [[NicholasRJones.com](http://NicholasRJones.com)] under "Family History").*

*In the music room was a baby grand Steinway piano and two carved music stands (each for two players)—to support the musicales that Hal and Cornelia began to host. Though neither of them (to my knowledge, at least) were active musicians, they had begun to love and become knowledgeable about classical music, largely through attending concerts at the new Cleveland Orchestra and hosting its conductor Nikolai Sokoloff. Regulars at these musicales were members of the orchestra who also constituted the Cleveland Quartet, as well as friends and faculty at the Cleveland Institute of Music, such as pianists Beryl Rubenstein and Arthur Loesser. The first of these was held in May of 1922, with another in honor of a visit from sister Mary in September 1923. Eventually the musicales would include visiting artists like Myra Hess and Maurice Ravel (who heard his string quartet played but did not himself perform). Hal and Cornelia amassed an extensive library of chamber music for these performances. These and many other musicales were recorded in a guest book that my cousin Peter Griesinger now cares for (with the Steinway piano). My mother told me that the late-afternoon music was followed by supper—always chicken pie, green salad, and white wine.*

*With four children in the house, illness continued to plague Cornelia's family—and perhaps the servants as well, though this is not mentioned. She was now in her mid-40s, but still dealing with infants and toddlers, and growing schoolchildren. There was pneumonia, colds, the constant struggle with tonsils and noses, grippe (influenza), a serious colitis for Bobby, ear and throat infections, and then whooping cough again, first for Francis and then for the rest of them. Sister Mary suffered serious bouts of sickness, as well.*

*In 1921, Cornelia and Marian both went to New York for help with their eyes—specifically, severe myopia. Dr. William Bates was internationally known*

for his success in dramatically improving eyesight with exercises; perhaps the most famous adherent of the "Bates Method" was author Aldous Huxley, who turned his experiences into a book (*The Art of Seeing*, 1942). The method itself has been discredited since the mid-20th century, but it obviously did good things for Cornelia and Marian, if only temporarily.

Amid the children's problems, something even more intense seems to have struck Cornelia, who went for a three-week hospital stay in 1920. In 1919, her mother Anna Younglove Root died, and her widowed mother-in-law Millicent Pope Ginn left her home in Clyde to live with Arthur and Eve in Nebraska, only to die a few months later. In a reference to the biblical story of the young prophet Elisha, who took up the cloak (the "mantle") of his mentor Elijah (2 Kings 2): "The dear fathers and mothers are all gone; can we carry their mantle?"

One central part of Cornelia's life is her religious faith, though it is rarely made explicit. At first, she attended Trinity Cathedral at first (where there is now a stained-glass window in her name) and then worked to establish an Episcopal church in Gates Mills. She taught Sunday School classes regularly, writing out twelve chapters of "Bible Stories Retold," with illustrations by family friend and artist Karl Anderson. In her garden journals, she wrote passionately about natural growth and beauty as a reflection of God.

Nor do we see any indication of her reading—about which I know little beyond the large collection of contemporary detective novels at Moxahela, including first editions of most of Dorothy Sayers and Agatha Christie.

## 1919

A warm winter; lovely music in February.<sup>60</sup>

Francis had pneumonia but made a perfect recovery.

Ralph home April 27th and seems perfectly well and whole with only the scar across his cheek to tell the terrible story.

Mary very ill in Mackinac [*Michigan*].

Mother very feeble.

Home most summer except going to Clyde [*to see Grandmother Ginn*] with Marian and Bobby [*Barbara*].

Mother died September 12th.

---

<sup>60</sup> Probably concerts at the Cleveland Orchestra.

Mary and Frank have adopted Michael.

To Atlantic City for November.

Mary and Frank have gone to La Jolla, California, for the winter.

Mother Ginn<sup>61</sup> has left the old home [*in Clyde*] and gone to Arthur and Eve in Nebraska City.

Francis in Lee Rd. Heights School—5th grade; Marion and Sandy at Laurel — 4th and 2nd grade.

## 1920

A quiet winter at home; many wonderful symphonies.<sup>62</sup>

Children well except for colds.

Ralph Randall Root Jr born April 21st.<sup>63</sup>

Hospital for three weeks under Dr. Sawyer and Dr. Harriston in May; the promise now of much better health.

Mother Ginn died May. The dear fathers and mothers are all gone; can we carry their mantle?

Country in June; built the cellar by the cottage.<sup>64</sup>

Mary and Frank and Michael here for the summer to break up the Carrollton Road house and move to Santa Barbara [*California*] because of Mary's health.

Sandy at Lee School with Francis.

Began the north wing of Moxahela.<sup>65</sup>

Millicent at Mrs. Layman's, a junior.<sup>66</sup>

To town in November.

Atlantic City until after Thanksgiving.

Beautiful symphonies.

---

<sup>61</sup> "Mother Ginn" is Hal's mother, Millicent Ophelia Pope Ginn (b. 1835).

<sup>62</sup> At the Cleveland Orchestra.

<sup>63</sup> Ralph Randall Root (1920–1985), son of Ralph Root, Cornelia's nephew.

<sup>64</sup> A cellar below the cottage on the north side of Moxahela, by Old Mill Road, for wine and apples.

<sup>65</sup> The extension that became the music room/library.

<sup>66</sup> Millicent was the daughter of Hal's brother Arthur Ginn and his wife Eve. It appears as if she is living with Cornelia and Hal.

First wine pressed October 3rd.<sup>67</sup>

## 1921

Sold Cedar Hill property to Mr. Bascom Little.<sup>68</sup>

Mild winter.

Francis' nose operation by Dr. Lang; Barbara's tonsils out May 13th.

Moved to the country end of May.

Barbara very ill with colitis.

Marian and I went to New York June to see Dr. Bates for her eyes.<sup>69</sup> We stayed 10 days and both she and I have thrown our glasses away and we see! I have worn glasses since I was about 14, Marian since she was 5.

Hot summer.

Mary Lincoln Root [*born*] September 18th.<sup>70</sup>

Quiet summer because of Barbara's illness and the confusion of building. I took Francis, Marian and Sandy to Niagara Falls Aug. 28th.

Nov. 13th Sunday— the first fire in the [*fireplace in the*] new library.

Barbara at last well again.

Town Dec. 7th.

Francis studying cello with Mr. de Gomez, chairman of children's concerts.<sup>71</sup>

## 1922

The old wing of Moxahela is being painted and the living room paneled.

Gypsy [*a dog*] has come to live with us.

Country the middle of April.

Francis confirmed by Bishop Leonard May 28th at the cathedral.

---

<sup>67</sup> Wine from their own grapes.

<sup>68</sup> Perhaps the property bought in 1918.

<sup>69</sup> Dr. William Bates, originator of the [Bates method](#) of eye exercise.

<sup>70</sup> Daughter of Ralph and Ann Root.

<sup>71</sup> Victor de Gomez, cellist in the Cleveland Quartet and Cleveland Orchestra.

May 27th. We had a party to welcome our friends to our new music room; Cleveland Quartet played.<sup>72</sup>

June 16th. Francis and I went to New York for a few days—took the boat down the Hudson from Albany.

Karl Anderson with us most of the summer. Helen and Melissa came in July. Barbara's portrait is being painted.

End of July up the Lakes with Marian and Sandy on the Canadian SS Naronic.

Party for Nikolai Sokoloff in October; Mary Margaret Anglin-Hull came for over Sunday.<sup>73</sup>

October 12th Sandy and I went by the Santa Fe to the Grand Canyon to see Aunt Mary [*in Santa Barbara*]; we were gone about two weeks.

Town December 8th.

## 1923

Daddy [*Hal*] and all four children ill with grippe in January.

Feb. To New York for a week; bought Lucas van Leyden's Four Seasons tapestries (Bullock castle tapestries).<sup>74</sup>

Francis changed from Lee School to the University School.

To Washington and Easter vacation March 23rd with Hal and Francis and Marian for a few days.

Country middle of April.

Marian confirmed April 22nd by Bishop Leonard in the cathedral.

May 11th Francis at Saint Luke's [*Hospital, Cleveland*] for operation by Dr. Leuker on his nose.

Party for Adella Hughes June 24th.<sup>75</sup>

Madame Schmidt for French three days a week all summer.

Francis to Culver [*Military*] Cavalry Summer School [*Indiana*] July 1st. Hal and I went to see him in Culver July 19th.

---

<sup>72</sup> The first of many musicale parties at Moxahela.

<sup>73</sup> See above, 1915.

<sup>74</sup> These tapestries now in the Cleveland Museum of Art, and have recently been restored; see the entry on the museum's website.

<sup>75</sup> Adella Prentiss Hughes was the founding manager of the Cleveland Orchestra.

In September Mary Abbott came for a long visit; we had a party for her with music by the [*Cleveland*] Quartet.<sup>76</sup>

Virginia Root was born October 17th.<sup>77</sup>

To town first week in November.

I went to Atlantic City for a little time, home for Thanksgiving.

In December Francis began to cough with whooping cough.

## 1924

All the first part of the winter was miserable with whooping cough—Francis, Sandy and Barbara and Hal; Marion having had it escaped this time.

In February Francis shot a blank cartridge into his hand—Lakeside Hospital where Dr. Burge operated very successfully. He was there about a week and no bad scar even followed.

Country after Easter.

Middle of April Hal and I went to Tarrytown [*New York*] to see Hackley School for Francis.

In the fall the 100th commencement at Kenyon in June.<sup>78</sup>

June 21st Silver wedding; a lovely party—quartet music and a punch bowl. We hung Monet's painting of water lilies in the library.

June 28th Francis and Marian had a dancing party at the Mayfield Club—the night of the cyclone in Lorain but the party was a success.<sup>79</sup>

July 5th To Estes Park Colorado—the children, Beth, Hal and I. Mary and Frank were there. Hal only stayed a few days; the rest of us stayed four weeks.

Sep.

Marian ill with an infection in her ear and throat. All the others caught it. Sandy had pleurisy—whole household ill for many weeks.

Francis went to Hackley; Marion a freshman at Laurel

---

<sup>76</sup> The Cleveland String Quartet

<sup>77</sup> Third child of Ralph and Ann Root—later Virginia (Ginny) Izant. Her husband, a pediatric surgeon, operated on me for a strangulated hernia at 3 months old in 1947.

<sup>78</sup> Kenyon College was Hal's alma mater.

<sup>79</sup> A catastrophic tornado swept from Sandusky to Lorain, with many deaths and destroyed houses.

Mary Abbott at the Alcazar, very frail.<sup>80</sup>

Metta Maxwell [?] died September 13th.

Oct.

East to see Francis. He is very happy.

To New York with Marian to see Dr. Bates about her eyes. The pain of her illness brought back the strain in her eyes. Dr. Bates soon cured them.

Francis came down from school for over Sunday. To Atlantic City for a week.

Dec.

26th. Mary at Charity Hospital<sup>81</sup>— very ill but lived!



*Cornelia reading in the new library*

---

<sup>80</sup> The Alcazar was a residence hotel in Cleveland.

<sup>81</sup> now St. Vincent Charity Hospital.

## 1925–1929: Gardens and Schools

*The gardens at Moxahela were the objects of much of Cornelia's creativity, all documented in her extensive garden journals. The grapes and winemaking were, I believe, Hal's interest rather than Cornelia, but she does comment that in 1925 there were no grapes to harvest, though she gives no reason. Not mentioned in the Annal was Prohibition (1920–1933)—I remember hearing that in 1920 Hal and friends quietly bought up the wine cellar of Cleveland's Union Club and transferred it to their own homes. Nor is the stock market crash of 1929 recorded here, in part because Hal must have seen it coming.*

*By 1925, Moxahela had become Cornelia's year-round home, with the old townhouse on 71st Street sold (there was still one more addition to Moxahela to come in 1930). The Ginns added an antique table and chairs to the dining room, and paintings by Manet, Renoir, and Gauguin.*

*Every September, Cornelia records where the children are in school—Marian and Barbara at Laurel School and Sandy at University School. Francis changed school often. Marian graduated from Laurel in 1928 and was accepted to Bryn Mawr College. Instead, she went to New York City for two years at a finishing school. This must have been something of a drama: Cornelia's version is that Marian "decided not to go"; my mother's recollection was quite different, telling me many times that her father had intervened and made the decision for her. I wonder if (apart from its obvious statement about women and higher education) the decision also had to do with the notoriety of the college's president M. Carey Thomas, an avid feminist and as open a lesbian as one could be in those days and in such a position.*

*There were more illnesses during these years. Some were temporary like Marian's mastoid with her "successful and quick recovery." Others lasted longer and were more ominous. Though Cornelia continued to travel, a 1926 trip to New York brought on heart disease and a winter in her room. In the summer of 1928, the couple went on to France for six weeks even though Hal was "exhausted and ill" from a tooth infection and came back still not well. The next summer—not long after her dear sister Mary suddenly died in Santa Barbara—Cornelia went to Europe for two months, was hit hard by a throat infection, and apparently barely made it home. She ends the account of the trip with "all safe and well"—a phrase I remember my mother uttering gratefully every time she came home from travelling.*

## 1925

In March Marian hurt her hip and had to be quiet for 10 days and then crutches for a while. It might have been serious but wasn't.

To the country March 28th. Sandy confirmed at Cathedral.

June 29th. The awful earthquake in Santa Barbara. Mary and Frank were not hurt and did such wonderful service.

No more red electric cars to the city!<sup>82</sup>

Kenyon gave Hal an honorary degree of L.L.D.

Mlle. Simon for French with Marian and Barbara.

Francis and Sandy in Culver.

Marian, Hal, and I to Saint Louis in July to see Margaret Anglin in Electra.<sup>83</sup> Stopped at Culver on the way home.

Boys home in August well and happy.

Sept.

Francis back to Hackley; Sandy to University; Marion and Barbara at Laurel.

No grapes!

John Root born September 7th.

To Atlantic City for 10 days.

Children's pictures by Clifford Norton.

Birthday party for Marian (15).

Thanksgiving Hal and I in New York with Francis; the other three were asked for dinner at Lydia Sokoloff's.

Decided to stay at Moxahela all winter.

Snow before Thanksgiving. Lovely Christmas— deep snow and very cold.

## 1926

New Year's party again

Renoir landscape.

---

<sup>82</sup> The Cleveland interurban rail system had a stop just outside Moxahela. The interurban system was being gradually demolished in the 1920s.

<sup>83</sup> A famous role for Mary Margaret Anglin (see earlier, 1915).

California 18th of Jan to 7th of February with Mary [*Abbott*] in Santa Barbara.

Winter in the country has been such a success have decided to sell townhouse [*on 71st Street in Cleveland*]. We are bringing the real treasures and giving away the rest.

Bishop Rogers has appointed me president of the Girls' Friendly Society in Ohio.<sup>84</sup>

Gypsy and Topsy [*dogs*] came in the spring

Williamstown in June to see Walter Root graduate [*from Williams College*].

July

Gambier summer conference.<sup>85</sup>

Francis and Sandy in Culver; Francis graduated.

Marian and Barbara with Hal and me to Culver; Marian had terrible pain in her ear, and we came right back. It was operated upon by Dr. Lang for mastoid at Charity Hospital Friday the 13th of August — successful and quick recovery but sensitive for long time.

Sept.

Francis in Hackley again; Sandy a freshman at US; the girls at Laurel

Oct.

Cottage by SW gate built for Joe and Suzanne[?].

New York in November; came home ill with tonsillitis which affected my heart and stayed in my room nearly all winter.

Hal bought in New York the new old [*that is, new to them; they were 18th-century pieces*] dining room table and chairs by William Kent—yew and walnut; Manet picture—Dog Seller.<sup>86</sup>

New drive[*way*], [*flower*] beds, and new shingles all over the house.

## 1927

A quiet winter.

Francis changed from Hackley to Roxbury School at Cheshire CT.

April

---

<sup>84</sup> Girls' Friendly Society was an Anglican-based charitable organization

<sup>85</sup> The conference in Gambier, Ohio (site of Kenyon College) was probably an Episcopal Church function, perhaps involving Cornelia's work in the Girls' Friendly Society.

<sup>86</sup> Manet, La Femme aux Chiens.

Barbara and I went to Santa Barbara. Bad throat again while there so went to the Cottage Hospital and had my tonsils taken out. Before I was well Barbara came down with a very bad attack of chicken pox.

Home end of May.

Francis' horse Silver King.

June

Frank Abbott and Michael came to visit.

Aug.

To Marblehead [Massachusetts?]. Marian and Barbara and Graziella Sheppard; Francis for few days.

Sandy visited the Andersons at Westport.

Sept.

Francis at Roxbury; Marian a senior at Laurel; Sandy sophomore at US; Barbara 5th grade Laurel

Arthur and Eve for a short visit through to Ireland and London.

## 1928

New Year's party.

Mary Abbott came at Easter time— a wonderful visit.

June

Francis graduated at Roxbury School; Marian graduated at Laurel School and took College Boards for Bryn Mawr.

Hal's heart affected by bad teeth, but doctor thought we should carry out our plans just the same.

27th sailed from Quebec for France on the SS Empress of Scotland— Canadian Pacific line. Hal exhausted and ill.

July

Landed at Cherbourg July 4th. Gave up the plan of a motor trip and went direct to Paris. We stayed at the Hotel D'Allee [?], Champs Elysees and Ave. George the 5th. Frank Poole was wonderful to us. Saw Rheims and the battlefields and Champagne country, one day to Chartres. Weather very hot.

Drove a great deal all about Paris and saw the city but went no place else. Hal better but not well. Sailed for home from Boulogne on SS Volendam—Holland American line—Thursday Aug 1st. Home August 12th.

Sept.

Francis to Kenyon College; Marian to French School, 17 E 86th St. New York. She passed and was accepted at Bryn Mawr but decided not to go; Sandy a junior at US.; Barbara 6th grade Laurel School, the first year in the new building.

Nov.

Everyone at home for Thanksgiving.

Dec.

Christmas Marian and I ill with flu.

## 1929

No New Year's party

Feb.

Walter Sabin Root Jr., Elizabeth Neubauer married at Saint Paul's February 16th

Marian operated on for appendicitis by Dr. Bancroft at 5th Ave. Hospital Sunday Feb. 24th. Hal and I got to her on Monday. All went very well.

That same week Mary Abbott suddenly very ill with pneumonia in Santa Barbara.

Mar.

Mary died on Wed. March 6th.

Marian at home a cold brought [*indecipherable*] trouble until the 5th of May

April

Mary buried at Lake View April 27th.<sup>87</sup>

May

Marian home May 25th— very well.

First service in the remodelled Saint Christopher's Gates Mills. Bishop Leonard came, and Barbara was confirmed.

---

<sup>87</sup> Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland.

June

Peirce Hall at Kenyon dedicated June 17th given to the college by Hal and Mr. Cromwell.<sup>88</sup>

Tam O'Shanter came—Barbara's collie.

June

Sailed from New York on SS Olympic—White Star line.

July

Reached London July 4th; stayed at Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, for a month, a wonderfully happy month. Francis went to Paris for a few days with Frank Poole, flew back to London safely.

Saw Oxford with the Joe Littles and Shepherds. Went to Canterbury and drove a great deal in London and all the country about.

Paul Root married to Marianne Lathrop.

Aug.

Took the train for Brussels— Palace Hotel for three days. Drove to Louvain, Bruges, Ghent. Saturday by train to Amsterdam— Amstel Hotel. I was very ill with acute infection in my throat and glands. The children went sightseeing with Mr. Goswick—Volendam, Marken, The Hague and Leyden.

Wed. I was well enough to make the journey to Rotterdam to the boat. Sailed for home Aug. 7th on SS Rotterdam.

Home Aug. 18th—all safe and well.

Oct.

Francis sophomore at Kenyon; Marian at French School; Sandy senior at US; Barbara 7th grade at Laurel

Nov.

End of family connection with father's business—Root and McBride Company.

Hung the Renoir pastel of Madame Renoir and Pierre and Gauguin's The Swimmer we bought in London.<sup>89</sup>

---

<sup>88</sup> Peirce Hall is the dining hall commons at Kenyon College. Frank Hadley Ginn's portrait by Karl Anderson hangs there. The other donor was New York lawyer and Kenyon alumnus William Nelson Cromwell.

<sup>89</sup> The pastel is in collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art (probably not Mme Renoir). The Gauguin is now known as "In the Waves," donated to the Cleveland Museum of Art by my parents.

## 1930–1934: Graduations, Engagement, Renovations

*In 1930, Marian finished her studies at the French School in New York, and, like Cornelia years before, had a "coming-out" party. By 1933—despite her traumatic scalp burns in 1932—she was engaged and then married to my father, William Powell Jones, a professor at Western Reserve University, who met my mother through his roommates, young associates at Hal's law firm. My brother Hal was born in 1934, and remembers, as a toddler, being dressed up for afternoon teas in his grandmother's garden.*

*Sandy graduated from high school at University School, and was off to Princeton, Oxford, and Yale Law. He would go on to join his father's law firm (later known as Jones, Day, Cockley and Reavis—and now, simply Jones Day). In 1932, Francis graduated from Kenyon College, studied architecture at Columbia, then went to Harvard Business School for a year; he came back to Cleveland to work at Richman Brothers, a clothing store. Eventually Uncle Fran (as I knew him) became a dairy farmer, first in Gates Mills and later in Maryland. In these years, Bobby continued to live at home and attend Laurel School—with at least one summer at a New England camp and a well-chaperoned "grand tour" trip to Europe in 1934.*

*Earlier, in 1927, Cornelia had mentioned Francis' horse "Silver King," and in 1931 two hunter-jumpers were bought for Marian and Bobby. A stable had been built at Moxahela—perhaps in the 1920s. A Scottish groomsmen took care of the horses—my memory is that he was named Andy Blakely, to be succeeded later by Bill Swann.*

*Cornelia and Hal continued to expand Moxahela with a further addition beyond the music room and library—another big room, this one primarily a "gallery" to display the tapestries they had bought almost a decade earlier, as well as the newer acquisitions—two Renaissance paintings from Catalonia and a French statue of the Virgin and Child. Beyond the gallery was a greenhouse—which prompts Cornelia to mention her gardener, the Scotsman James Gibb. Below the gallery was a billiard room, unhappily flooded almost right away—and many times since then.*

## 1930

May

Marian graduated at French School.

June

Sandy graduated at University School cum laude and with the scholarship medal from the alumni — college boards for Princeton.

Marian's debut ball Thursday June 19th at the Kirtland Club.

July

Barbara at Camp Wabasso, Bradford NH.<sup>90</sup>

Sandy and Jack Diellhem [?] in the Ford to see Princeton and "Points East."

Addition to the house begun—and greenhouse.

Aug.

Hootman the Scotty [*a dog*] came to live with Marian.

Francis and Marian drove east in Francis's car to bring Barbara home.

The 26th Marian went to Woods Hole to visit Winnie Davis Lang.

Francis in Saint Luke's—operated upon by Dr. Sandford for an ulcer in his groin. All went well but took long to heal.

Sept.

Francis a junior at Kenyon; Marion at home housekeeping—French and music; Sandy a freshman at Princeton; Barbara 8th grade at Laurel

Arthur and Eve here for a visit.

Bishop Leonard died September 22nd.

I have a painful arm from an infection in the pleura near the shoulder.

Oct.

Greenhouse finished— James Gibb gardener.<sup>91</sup>

Splendid vintage of Catawba grapes.

Swimming pool made into a rock garden.

Nov.

Every one home for Thanksgiving.

Dec.

I in my room for rest cure all winter.

---

<sup>90</sup> Camp Wabasso on Saranac Lake.

<sup>91</sup> Francis James Gibb, b. 1892 (Scotland), d. 1968).

New rooms finished—gallery for the tapestries and game room.

## 1931

No New Year's party.

Graham property bought— "point" — South of the gorge.<sup>92</sup>

Feb

5th. Severance Hall dedicated.<sup>93</sup>

Topsy killed by a fall in the gorge.

April

Daddy gave the girls their horses— "Brast" a thoroughbred 3-year-old for Marian; "Golden Pillar" a thoroughbred mare for Barbara —"Lord" and "Lady" for short.

May

Trouble in my eyes began.

June

The great storm and flood in the billiard room and greenhouse.

Home all summer.

Wonderful harvests.

Dec.

Old Gypsy [*the dog*] was killed— "on the High Road with his boots on".

## 1932

New Year's party.

Mary Zack left the kitchen after nearly 20 years.

Feb.

To Atlantic City for five weeks; Betty Ruth stayed with me three weeks in an apartment in Ventnor.

Mar.

---

<sup>92</sup> This was a wooded property bordered by two branches of Bear Gulch that flowed together at the east end of the "Point" between the two streams.

<sup>93</sup> Severance Hall was the new home of the Cleveland Orchestra. Frank Hadley Ginn chaired the Building Committee.

9th Marion was terribly burned about her head and face by an explosion of celluloid combs in her hair; at the Clinic Hospital for two weeks, then home a while, and again in the hospital for skin grafting on her head; home and well May 16th. A miraculous recovery, no scars on her sweet face.

Rastus and Remus, daddy's black cockers, came as busy puppies in the spring

June

20th. Francis graduated at Kenyon.

Aug.

22nd. I went to Charity Hospital for an *[word?]* operation.

Sep.

Barbara a sophomore at Laurel; Sandy a junior at Princeton; Marian at home; Francis at Columbia College—School of Architecture  
Beautiful Tam — died.

Oct.

Mr. and Mrs. Keeney McDowell came to St. Christopher's.<sup>94</sup>

Nov.

Atlantic City for two weeks.

Dec.

The 13th-century statue of the Madonna has been placed in the gallery.<sup>95</sup>

## 1933

New Year's party.

Francis did not go back to Columbia but in February went to Harvard Business School in Boston.

Mar.

Franklin Roosevelt President. Terrible world conditions. Bank holiday, closing of Union Trust Company—"men's hearts failing them for fear" *[quoting Luke 21]*.

Marian engaged to William Powell Jones.

---

<sup>94</sup> J. Keeney McDowell, Kenyon graduate, young rector of the Gates Mills church.

<sup>95</sup> The Virgin and Child was given to the Cleveland Museum of Art, but is no longer in their collection.

Barbara has Rob Roy—a collie puppy.

Apr.

4th Arthur Pope Ginn died in Los Angeles and was buried there.

June

21st Wed. Marian and Peter married at Saint Christopher's by the River, Gates Mills—their wedding journey in their automobile north as far as Quebec and the Gaspé, then south along the coast to Cairo, Georgia, Peter's home.

July

2nd. Sandy to Munich Germany for the lectures at the university.

Barbara and I to Nantucket for three weeks. Daddy at home superintending the making over of the dining room and porch. Francis in Boston.

Aug.

17 Everyone at home again.

Sept

21st First dinner in the beautiful new room. Mr. Walker was the architect and has given us a treasure.<sup>96</sup>

Oct.

Hal ill for several weeks.

Eve Ginn visited us for three weeks then went back to Los Angeles by boat.

Wonderful music—the orchestra under Arthur Rodzinski.<sup>97</sup>

Nov.

3rd Marian's housekeeping day in her own new home across the gorge on Berkshire Rd.<sup>98</sup>

In August Francis went to work at the Richman Brothers Company;<sup>99</sup> Sandy's senior year at Princeton; Barbara junior at Laurel.

---

<sup>96</sup> Frank Walker of Walker and Weeks, architect of Moxahela's additions and renovations.

<sup>97</sup> Artur Rodzinski, second music director of the Cleveland Orchestra, 1933–43).

<sup>98</sup> "Housekeeping day" may mean moving-in day, or more likely an open-house day for the new bride.

<sup>99</sup> Richman Brothers, a Cleveland men's clothing firm; Hal Ginn was on the board of this company.

## 1934

A fine New Year's party began the year—bitter cold in February— 20° below zero— many old apple trees split with the cold and box bushes killed.

### June

Sandy graduated Princeton June 19th.

Barbara sailed for Europe in SS Paris, June 30th with Mrs. Irwin, Martha Eaton, Francis Walker, Betty Ann Forbes and a Ford to tour through France and go to Oberammergau [*for the Passion Play*]; arrived back home safe and sound August 29th.

### Aug.

Peter Hadley Jones born Tuesday August 14th; a perfect baby and all is well.<sup>100</sup>

Bought two Spanish pictures—Catalonian school of about 1480.<sup>101</sup>

### Sept.

Sandy sailed for England to study in Oriel College Oxford "modern greats"; Barbara a senior at Laurel; Francis climbing up the ladder at Richman's.

### Nov.

Baby Hal [*Peter Hadley Jones*] baptized at Saint Christopher's, Nov 4th.

Wonderful music and opera under Rodzinski.

### Dec.

Sandy operated on for appendicitis at Radcliffe Infirmary [*Oxford, England*], December 10th— All well—Thank God! Left hospital December 29th.

Francis and Esther Taylor announced their engagement, December 29th.

---

<sup>100</sup> Peter Hadley (Hal) Jones, first grandchild (Marian's oldest son, my brother).

<sup>101</sup> The two pictures are in the collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art, given by Cornelia's children in memory of their parents.



*At the opening of Severance Hall, 1932. From left, Hal, Cornelia, Marian, Bobby, Mrs and Rev. McDowell*

## 1935–1936: A Final Voyage

*This is the final year and a month of the Annal. In 1935, Cornelia went to Europe for a two-month voyage to the Mediterranean, including the Middle East, which she would have known as "the Holy Land." Again, "home. . . All well—Thank God." She traveled with the young wife of Mr. McDowell, the Kenyon graduate who had just become the rector of her church in Gates Mills. An added benefit to the trip was the chance to see Sandy, either in London or in Oxford, where he was studying before going to Yale Law School.*

*The ominous entries about Hal's health at the end of 1935 lead us, with the extreme cold, into the abrupt end of Cornelia's Annal. I know little about 1936, but it must have been a hard time for her. She died of colon cancer in mid-January 1937. Hal died just over a year later in February 1938, of a heart attack.*

*Sometime in that year, Karl Anderson painted a posthumous portrait of Cornelia, based on a photograph. The painting is now in Florida with Justin Miller, Francis's grandson. The matching portrait of Hal Ginn was given to the Cleveland Orchestra and hangs in the Ginn Suite in Severance Hall.*

*Of the children, both Francis and Marian were married and living in Gates Mills. After Cornelia and Hal's deaths, Sandy married Helen Vilas in June 1938, and they moved into Moxahela with 21-year-old Bobby. When Bobby married Frank Griesinger (I believe in 1940) and Sandy and Helen moved out of Moxahela, my mother and father moved back to Moxahela from their house just across Bear Gulch, where they lived for the rest of their lives, and where I grew up.*

### 1935

Jan.

Fine New Year's party

Sandy sailed on SS Excambian from Marseille January 6th—  
Mediterranean cruise—arrived back in Oxford January 26th—  
writes he is very well again and very happy.

Mar.

Sandy's spring vacation in Europe.

I sailed with Mrs. McDowell [*the rector's wife*] on the Aquitania Saturday March 9th for a Mediterranean cruise Madeira— Gibraltar— Algiers—Barcelona and Montserrat—Villefranche—Athens— Istanbul—Rhodes—Haifa (March 26th)—By automobile to Baalbek—Damascus—Jerusalem—Lydda [*now known as Lod, near Jerusalem*].—By train to Cairo (March 31st). Sailed from Port Said to Sicily and Naples April 4th. There we left the ship, going from Naples to Rome, Florence and Milan by train; then Paris April 25th. London May 1st, at Hyde Park Hotel—Sandy well and happy. King George Jubilee May 6th.

Hal came on the Majestic May 9th. Sailed for home on the Berengaria May 22nd, home May 30th. All well—Thank God.

Marian and Peter took little Hal in the spring to Cairo, Georgia, to visit his grandparents.

#### June

Barbara graduated at Laurel School; Sandy home from Oxford.

Everyone home all summer except Marian and Peter went to Georgian Bay for two weeks.

#### Sept.

Sandy entered Yale Law School.

Fireplace built in playroom.

#### Oct.

Barbara to the French School in New York.

Hal has bought a piece of land in Gates Mills for Francis and Esther — the old gristmill site. Mr. Walker is to draw plans for their house.

Hal not at all well; the years of constant work are taking their toll.

#### Dec.

Hal ill with a throat infection which became bronchial pneumonia. Christmas he was better but not up and could not go to the wedding a real grief.

Francis and Esther were married at Saint Paul's Church, Columbus Saturday December 28th at 4:30 o'clock. Dr. Scott and Mr. McDowell performed the ceremony. The trip was in their car to Pompano, Florida.

## 1936

Jan.

Francis and Esther reached home the 25th. They will live with us while their house is being built.

Hal well again but not out because of the extreme cold—many zero days; one, 17 below.

*This was the final entry.*



*Cornelia's children: Sandy, Bobby, Fran, Marian*







Cornelia Root Ginn lived in and near Cleveland, Ohio, from 1877 to 1937. She kept a record of her life in a small leather-bound notebook, of which this is a transcript. She grew up in a well-to-do family, the daughter of a successful dry-goods merchant. Privately educated, she married a young lawyer, Frank Hadley Ginn, and raised four children at their home in Gates Mills, 15 miles east of Cleveland. This Annal records her travels and visits, the birth and schooling of her children, and the many illnesses that plagued the family.

Cornelia Root Ginn's hand-written record has been transcribed and edited with commentaries by her grandson, Nicholas Root Jones, a retired professor at Oberlin College ([NicholasRJones.com](http://NicholasRJones.com)).