PURPOSE & EXPECTED OUTCOME

Frederick C. Hicks was law librarian at Yale Law School from 1929-1945. In 1936 Hicks purchased a home in Wellfleet MA. Hicks retired from librarianship in 1945 but continued to visit his Wellfleet home until his death in 1957. The Wellfleet Historical Society contains information on Hicks life outside of law librarianship as well as resources relating to the last 12 years of his life. These personal aspects of Hicks life have not yet been explored in the current literature regarding Frederick Hicks.

For the past two years, I have been researching Frederick Hicks, law librarian at Yale Law School from 1929-1945. I have been collaborating with another Hicks scholar, Doug Lind (Southern Illinois University School of Law), to write a biography and bibliography of the seminal law librarian, entitled The Leaven of Sympathy. The Leaven of Sympathy is an annotated “bio-bibliography” which aims to provide the most thorough accounting of Hicks’ works to date as well the most detailed biography of Hicks to date. We submitted the draft to legal publisher William S. Hein & Co. Hein accepted our proposal and will be publishing the book.

Although Hicks is one of the seminal figures in law librarianship, little is known of his life outside of what is contained in in a few memorial pieces written at the time of his death. In researching Hicks, my co-author and I discovered that Hicks had a summer home in Wellfleet, MA on the Cape that provided him with much joy. Hicks was an avid painter and photographer and had a studio on his Wellfleet property. Some of his photographs were even purchased by Boston-based postcard manufacturer, Tichnor Brothers, which used them to produce linen postcards. Hicks scholars today generally presume that Hicks stopped writing after his stroke in 1947. However, through contact with a Wellfleet historian, we discovered that Hicks continued to write even after his stroke.

My co-author and I have mostly completed the biography of Hicks. However, there may be further information about Hicks that I would be able to uncover only by visiting Wellfleet. Because Leaven of Sympathy will contain the definitive biography of Hicks, it is important that we be as complete and thorough as possible in our research. Pam Tice, a Wellfleet-based
historian, has offered to show us the Hicks house and perhaps introduce us to the current owners of the house.

Pam Tice is a part-time citizen of Wellfleet who blogs about Wellfleet history. She is not a librarian, an archivist, or a professional researcher. There is a Wellfleet Public Library but their archives are very limited and do not include information on Fred Hicks. The Wellfleet Historical Society is open from June 26 through August 31, 2019 and even when they are open, they tend not to reply to emails. Therefore, there is no local researcher who can do this research for me.

Through Pam, the current owners have been kind enough to let us publish, as an appendix to Leaven of Sympathy, a 1952 essay by Hicks that they found in their house. This essay is noteworthy to Hicks scholars because it is was written several years after the last known writing by Frederick Hicks. The 1952 essay thus sheds light onto Hicks’s interests and avocations in his later years. The essay might also be interesting to non-Hicks scholars for its colorful portrayal of local short story writer John Cheever. I have been told by a law librarian on the Cape that Wellfleet is a town of “old timers.” Without talking to the people of Wellfleet, I can’t be certain that there isn’t more information on Hicks. I don’t know what I don’t.

In legal research we often talk about the search for nothing. This visit to Wellfleet might end up being part of a search for nothing. However, because I have written the authoritative biography on Frederick Hicks, it is important to me that I leave no stone unturned. If Pam hadn’t blogged about Hicks’s 1956 essay, it likely would have been lost to Hicks scholars forever. I feel obligated to make sure that nothing else gets lost.

While it is possible that my trip to Wellfleet will result in no new biographical information, Hein is also open to including as many images as possible in Leaven of Sympathy. A visit to Wellfleet would allow me to collect images, better annotate the images that I have already collected, and possibly take photos that would be of interest to Hicks scholars.

Methodology

- A 3 day trip to Wellfleet would give me the opportunity to meet with local historians, to take photographs and find historical images related to Hicks, and to visit the Wellfleet Historical Society and the former Hicks home. Research at the historical society and a visit to the Hicks home will likely take an entire day. In capturing Hicks’s life on the Cape, it is important that I provide as much color and detail as possible. For this reason, I also want to have enough time to talk to the locals and to walk in Hicks’ footsteps as much as I can. If the visit only allowed be enough time to visit the Hicks house and Historical Society, and then leave, I would miss out on the very thing that most endeared Hicks to Wellfleet “a community the members of which were worth knowing for their own sake.” 2 nights and 3 days in Wellfleet will ensure that, even if I uncover no new biographical or bibliographical information, I will be able to add richness and depth to my portrayal of Hicks’ life on the Cape.

• Day 1: Drive from New Haven to Wellfleet. Meet Pam Tice to discuss her research on Wellfleet and Hicks.
• Day 2: Visit the Hicks house in Wellfleet. Visit and conduct research in the Wellfleet Historical Society.

• Day 3: Meet with local historians. Visit local sites that Hicks photographed in order to be able to put photos in context in (e.g. “The photo of the dunes donated by his longtime friend and Yale Law Library cataloguer Katherine Warren represents the view from…” Or perhaps, “Although the cranberry pickers and turkey farms are all gone, the church remains.”) Drive from Wellfleet to New Haven.

Timeline

The draft manuscript for Leaven of Sympathy has already been submitted and accepted for publication by William S. Hein & Co. Hein wishes to publish the book in FY20. A July or August visit to Wellfleet will allow my co-author and I to update the manuscript with additional biographic details so that we will have a final draft completed for Hein by September.

• July-August 2019: Visit Wellfleet. Although Summer is the most expensive time to visit Wellfleet, a summer visit will ensure the greatest access to the historical society and to local historians. Hein, the publisher, will be publishing Leaven of Sympathy in FY20 and wishes to have any final edits as soon as possible. A July or August visit will allow us to incorporate any new discoveries into the final publication.

• August-September 2019: Submit final draft with increased biographical information to Hein for publication.

Estimated Expenses
Following is a complete list of all anticipated project expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Travel by car to/from Wellfleet - 414 miles RT ($.58/mile)</td>
<td>$240.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
<td>2 Nights Lodging in Wellfleet, MA ($192/night)</td>
<td>$384</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Diem</td>
<td>First and Last Day of Travel = $53.25 1 full day = $71</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Benefit

- The legacy of Frederick Hicks looms large over the Law Librarianship profession. Hicks was the driving force behind law librarianship becoming recognized as a profession with its own scholarly and administrative needs. At a time when the Library of Congress’ classification of the law was but a dream, Hicks was instrumental in organizing and classifying legal information. In an age when academia was dominated by men, Hicks recognized the contribution of women in law libraries. When the law school curricula was dominated by doctrinal courses, Hicks championed professional skills and the importance of legal research for law students. Morris Cohen, a Yale Law Librarian from 1981-1991 and a luminary in the field of legal bibliography in his own right, labelled Hicks as “certainly the most distinguished American law librarian.” It is my hope that the forthcoming publication will highlight the life and accomplishments of Hicks for a larger audience. By being able to infuse the bio-bibliography with further information on Hicks robust life in Wellfleet, my co-author and I hope to paint a well-rounded portrait and tribute to a man who did so much for Yale Law Library.

- The book on Hicks will be published on HeinOnline. It will also likely become part of Hein’s American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Publication Series, which means that it would be purchased by nearly every member library of AALL. The project will contribute to the Yale Library Community by ensuring that the legacy of one of our own is preserved and shared throughout the library community. It will contribute to the broader library community by making available information on Hicks that has long been hard to find. Although Hicks is primarily known among law librarians, his writings on cataloging, research instruction, and preparing the next generation of law librarians would likely be of interest to all types of librarians.