

TALK IN HONOR OF LOUIS AND FLORENCE MARSHALL

Many thanks to the Council for honoring my grandparents, Louis and Florence Marshall. We never met, since Louis died 2 years before I was born, and Florence 13 years earlier.

The story I am proud to tell is a story of love. It starts with Louis' parents, Jacob and Zilly Marshall, my great grandparents, who began as indigent, first generation Americans, living in Syracuse.

Louis' Mother, who was self educated, decided that their first son, Louis, should have a formal education instead of working in the family's struggling business.

His basic education got him into a local law office, then to one in New York City, where he enrolled in Columbia Law School. He completed the two year course in one year by taking second year courses in the morning and first year courses in the afternoon. He was able to remember each case studied, complete with page number in the text book, amazing his instructors.

Louis Marshall's many endeavors included Corporate and Constitutional Law, Civil and Jewish Rights, and Conservation, especially as related to the Adirondacks. He was a founder of the New York State College of Forestry in Syracuse, of which he was Chairman of the Board. When the Bill establishing the forestry school was languishing on the Governor's Desk, he went into Governor Sulzer's office, handed him a pen and told him to sign it; and he did!

In addition to an education, his parents gave him love, an attribute he shared with his wife Florence and his children, James, Ruth, Robert and my father, George.

The day his beloved Florence died, Louis wrote the following in the frontispiece of her Bible:

"This doubly sacred book is a precious legacy from my beloved Florence, accompanied as it is, by words of praise of which I feel all too unworthy, but which are truly indicative of the profundity of her wondrous love and of the saintliness of her life, in which all the virtues strove for the mastery and produced human perfection."

Louis loved his children. During the school year, in New York City, he would walk with them across Central Park to school. Bob and George were interested in Baseball, and when Louis came home at night he would give them the statistics of the games of the day before, which they added to the information already memorized. They would go up on the roof of their home and replay games and pick all star teams to play each other from memorized statistics. You must remember that in the early 20th Century there were no electronic distractions. They could read and read and play memory games to keep busy after schoolwork was done.

Knollwood was important to the family. They went there when school was out and back as late as possible when school started up. With the family at Knollwood, Louis had to work in the City. He would take the train to Saranac Lake Friday, and upon arrival took a coach to Ampersand Bay, where Bob and George would row his Guide, Herb Clark, to meet him; and Herb would row Louis back to Knollwood while the boys would run the

3-1/2 miles back home. By this time the two older siblings, James and Ruth had left the family nest.

Herb Clark was Louis' fishing Guide. Louis loved to fish, but fishing was probably the least successful case in his life! He trusted the boys to Herb's care. They learned all the elements of woodcraft and navigation in the woods, and oh, yes, they learned to climb, and climb they did. When they were otherwise on their own, they had activities such as having potato bug races across their bedroom floor.

After his death, Louis' interests lived on with his children:

James went on to the Law, conservation, education, photography and Wilderness;

Ruth, unfortunately died while raising a family;

Bob went to Forestry School in Syracuse, went on to earn a doctorate and worked to promote wilderness values in both Interior and the Forest Service. These were the initial thoughts behind the Wilderness Act. Bob and six of his professional friends, including Benton MacKaye and Aldo Leopold, founded the Wilderness Society.

George, my father, earned a PHD in Economics and was very active in early Civil Rights activities; and Conservation. He was the only person who was Board President of both the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society.

Of the six members of what I will call "Generation four", four of Louis and Florence's six grand children are living. Cousin Ellen and I are here, with our parents' love of the Adirondacks and Wilderness. Ellen has been and continues to be Amazing!

I have been involved in various conservation activities including Wilderness Protection, especially Eastern Wilderness and the Adirondacks.

Generation five includes Ellen's children, Linda and Steve; and mine, George, Lars and Lise. Hopefully they, too, will continue the family tradition as their kids get out of the nest.

Generation six includes Liza, who has been continuing her great, great grandfather's legacy. Hopefully there will be more to join her with upholding the family legacy of Adirondack and Wilderness protection and preservation.

Roger Marshall, 7/12/14