

A. D. Woodbridge, "Thoughts Over the Daguerreotype," July 1853

(keywords: Miss A. D. Woodbridge, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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THOUGHTS OVER THE DAGUERREOTYPES.

WRITTEN UPON LEAVING BROOKLYN.

BY MISS A. D. WOODBRIDGE.

How can I leave you, dear ones! It would seem
That, by this precious gift, ye fain would draw
Still close the mysterious, thrilling chain,
That binds your hearts to mine.

And can I turn
From those bright faces I have loved so long,
Those living flowers that grew along my path—
Ah! can I turn from these, nor feel my heart
Swell with the fulness of its garnered love?
One moment, through these tears, oh! let me gaze
Upon you all, beloved ones! Let me meet
The smile that ever welcomed me at morn—
The lingering look that blessed the weary eve.
And yet, once more, oh! let me bear the tones
To which my spirit has become attuned;
Let the warm breath again fall on my cheek,
And press once more the fervent lips to mine!
Ah! ye are parted from me, but e'en now,
I see you as the pitying sunbeams caught
The living image and transfixed it here.
Thus hath fond Mem'ry shrined you in my heart;
Full oft I'll gaze, as now, and breathe the prayer
That One, our Father, may embrace you all!

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Two of Woodbridge's poems are included in Thomas Buchanan Read, *The Female Poets of America* (Philadelphia: E. H. Butler & Co., 1855): 406-408 which also provides the following information:

Miss Woodbridge is a native of Penobscot county, Maine. She resided during her youth in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and at the present time is a resident of Brooklyn, New York.

Two poems and biography are also provided in Caroline May, *The American Female Poets* (Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1853): 207-209.

Another brief biography of Woodbridge, along with four poems, appears in S. Herbert Lancey, edit., *The Native Poets of Maine* (Bangor: David Bugbee & Co., 1854) 199-206.

See also the following: "Gertrude," in *The Jewel, or Token of Friendship. An Annual for 1843* (New York: R. P. Bixby & Co., 1843): 97-98. The content of this volume was subsequently published as *The Juvenile Forget-me-not: a Christmas and New Year's Present* (New York: Leavitt and Allen, ca. 1858); Miss A. D. Woodbridge (lyricist); I. N. Metcalf (composer), "Little Eddie! A Ballad" (Oliver Ditson & Co., 135 Washington St., [n.d.]

See also a 6 July 1841 letter from Ralph Waldo Emerson to Woodbridge in Joel Myerson, edit., *The Selected Letters of Ralph Waldo Emerson* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997): 254-255. Emerson, assisting in the publication of the *Dial*, politely declines Woodbridge's submitted verse as being "conventional."

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