

Mary's granddaughter, Linda Nakamura, generously donated one of her grandmother's paintings to The Fanny Dwight Clark Memorial Garden, Inc. The painting is proudly displayed in the Mary Mountford Gift & Garden Shop in her honor.



Mary Mountford with
granddaughter Linda Nakamura
at Clark Botanic Garden



Grenville Clark with
Henry & Mary Mountford
and their daughter Eileen

The Town of North Hempstead's
Clark Botanic Garden is open daily
with seasonal hours and free
admission. Call 516-484-2208
or visit clarkbotanic.org
for more information.

SHOP HOURS
April - December
Everyday except Tuesday
11AM - 3:30PM
January - March - Closed
(except for special events)



Clark Botanic Garden
193 I.U. Willets Road
Albertson, NY 11507
www.clarkbotanic.org
follow us on Facebook

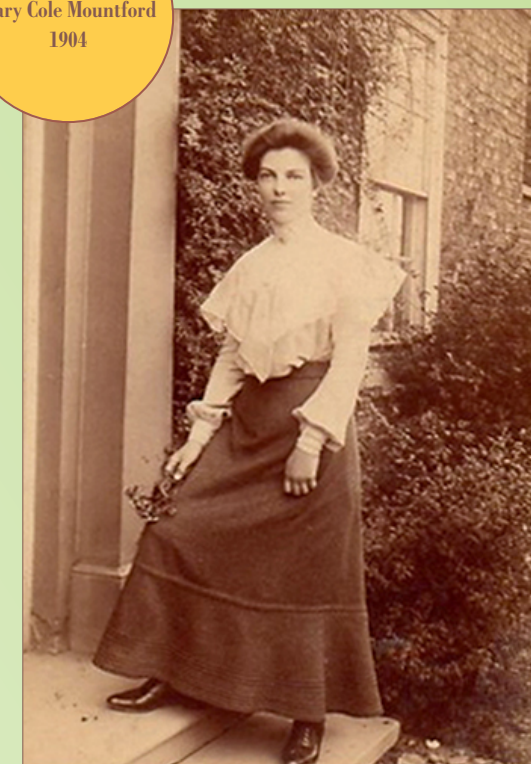


Judi Bosworth
Supervisor

The Mary Cole Mountford Story



Mary Cole Mountford
1904



The Mary Cole Mountford Story

Based on reflections by her granddaughter Linda Nakamura

Mary Cole was born in 1886 on Mayfield Farm in England. After her father's death in 1892, she moved with her mother and siblings to Whitby, England. Mary attended secondary school including Millinery and Art school which is where she met her husband Henry Mountford, a lithographer from Darlington, England. She loved painting, especially views of England in watercolor. Her five grandchildren inherited her works.

Henry and Mary married in 1913 and, that same year, immigrated to Canada before settling in the United States with their two children and becoming American citizens.

In the mid-1930s, during the Depression, Mary Mountford was hired by the Clark family as a cook. The current Clark Botanic Garden gift shop, named for Mary Mountford, was originally a large kitchen where Mary prepared the

family meals. Later, Mary's husband Henry was hired on by the Clark family and together they became caretakers of the Clark property. Mary loved her job at the estate. She took pride in cooking, gardening, and caring for the house.

Mary's granddaughter, Linda Nakamura, was born and raised at Clark Garden until she was three years old. She has many fond childhood memories of the Clark family and their kindness to her grandmother and her family. Linda lost her mom when she was only nineteen and recalls visiting and bonding with her grandmother spending many wonderful moments in the kitchen where Mary would prepare and share meals with her as well as assign her grandchildren chores! Mary worked hard and passed along this sense of responsibility to her family. Linda remembers washing windows, doing dishes, whatever needed to be done

around the house. She also remembers playing in the attic with Clark family toys, running to see the train and buying candy with her grandfather across the street from the Clark estate. Linda also recalls how her grandmother cared for an ailing Fanny Dwight Clark.

After Fanny Dwight Clark's death, Grenville Clark gifted Clark Botanic Garden to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in 1969. Grenville assured Mary Mountford she could live on the property until her death. Mary enjoyed a full, happy life at Clark Garden until her death in 1981. She was ninety-four. The Mary Mountford Gift & Garden Shop's opening celebration and dedication was June 12, 1981.

