

Clara Jamieson Weld



Clara Jamieson in her lab, about 1909

Clara was born in 1879 at “The Homestead”, Richwood Farm south of Moline, Illinois. After her father, Alexander Jamieson, died in 1889, the family moved to Moline where she attended school. She entered the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1897. During this period her mother and her sisters Nora and Grace moved to Ann Arbor and the girls all attended the University of

Michigan. They had a large house and took in University students as boarders. She earned an M.A. degree in 1905.

After teaching botany and zoology at Lansing High School for three years, she was hired in 1908 as an assistant in pathology at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. at a salary of \$1,200 per year.

In 1909 Clara and her mother Norah Helen traveled to England and Scotland where they visited family and Clara gathered information for “family charts”. Clara collected family information throughout her life and produced family trees for both the Jamieson and Murphy families.

Clara married entomologist Lewis H. Weld in 1915, and they lived in Evanston, Illinois until 1919 when Lewis was hired by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Entomology. They moved to Washington, D.C. and eventually purchased a home in East Falls Church, Virginia where they lived for many years. They had a large garden where Clara specialized in peony culture for which she won many awards. She also provided nature training to Girl Scout leaders.

They traveled frequently in the Western United States, Europe, South America and the Orient in connection with entomological work. In 1922 Clara published findings of a new species, "Studies on chalcid-flies of the subfamily leucospidinae, with descriptions of new species" in the Proceedings of the United States National Museum.

Clara and Lewis had no children. She died in 1971, seven years after her husband. They are buried in the West Ridgeway Cemetery near Medina, New York, his boyhood home.