

## Herbert Wendell Gleason's Rambles in West Concord

Fowler Branch Library is hosting a new exhibit featuring a selection of Herbert Wendell Gleason's photographs of locations in and around West Concord. Gleason (1855-1937) was a leading early twentieth century American landscape photographer. His work took him to locations ranging from his home base in New England to as far away as Alaska and the Canadian Rockies, but Concord certainly held special significance to him. A graduate of Williams College, he trained for the ministry at the Union and Andover Theological Seminaries, serving after his ordination as the pastor of the Como Avenue Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. But in 1899 he made a major life change, retiring from the ministry and taking up photography as his livelihood. Shouldering his heavy equipment, Gleason spent the next 38 years photographing landscapes—both tamed and untamed, east and west. He was often accompanied by his wife, Lulu Rounds Gleason, who also served as his colorist.

A century later, the craftsmanship and clarity of his images continue to amaze.

A lifelong Thoreauvian, Gleason spent a great deal of time photographing the landscapes of Thoreau's Concord, returning to the same areas over the years and across the seasons. The result was a deeply meaningful body of work created as he traced Thoreau's footsteps, documenting the locations mentioned in his *Journals* and other writings.

The exhibit is open during Fowler library hours through August.

