

**Helen Kate: Portraits of Life**  
**Presented on October 22, 2022**  
**by Woody Johnson at the Helen Kate Furness Free Library**

**Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JV2EJYFXYGc>**

Hi everybody. Good afternoon. Thank you for coming to today's event. This is one of many this year celebrating the 120th anniversary of the Helen Kate Furness Free Library. The actual date of the library's founding is yesterday, the 21st.

My name is Molly Deustch and I am the Technical Services and ILL coordinator here at the Helen Kate Furness Free Library. I am very pleased to introduce today's speaker, Woody Johnson. Woody is not only on the library board of directors but also the board for the Nether Providence historical society. He oversees important projects and initiatives such as the annual appeal and book sale here at the library.

We are excited to have him here today to speak about the library's history and its namesake, Helen Kate Furness. This is a subject in which we should all be very interested because of our mutual love for the library and our community. Please join me in welcoming Woody Johnson.

Thank you Molly.

I'd like to thank everybody for coming today. Thank you Molly for the nice introduction. As Molly said, this is the 120th anniversary of the founding of the library. One of the things we've been trying to do this year is to raise \$120,000 for the library through our fundraising activities. The total budget for the library is something around \$350,000 so we're raising a substantial amount of that of our own accord and I think we'll make it. I think we're going to make \$120,000 before the end of the year. I see a number of our donors. I want to thank you all for having supported the library in so many different ways for such a long period of time.

So, it's the 120th anniversary, so let's just talk before we start to talk about Helen Kate Furness, let's talk just a little bit about the founding of the library. One of the better known residents of the township was Horace Howard Furness who was a Shakespeare scholar. We'll learn a little bit more about him later, but he was well known as a Shakespeare scholar in his day. In fact, one of his books is over on the table and people can look at, if they'd like to afterwards.

In 1902, a bunch of citizens, as citizens do, got together to create a library named the Horace Howard Furness Library. It was a library, that meant it had books, but it had no building, so it was a collection of books that were housed at Wallingford Elementary School which had been recently built. The library operated as the Horace Howard Furness Library until Horace's death in 1912. At his death in 1912, he left \$5,000 for

a building for the library. So the library's founded, but just as a collection of books, and as an institution. In 1912 Horace gives money for it.

In 1915, Horace and Helen Kate's son, William Furness, left an acre of land. This is the very western edge of the Furness's estate called Lindenshade. Then in 1916, the room that I think of as being called the Front Room of the library, or as the reference room, that's facing Providence Road, was the original 1916 building of the library. Then there have been two or three expansions I suppose since then.

So then, as I myself thought, I don't really know much about Helen Kate Furness, but it turns out that she has left us (in the Front Room being positioned facing Providence Road) but it turns out that Helen Kate Furness, through her writings and in her portraits, has left us quite a bit of information about herself. My hope for today is to just let her speak in her own words, so I'm going to be talking from her own letters, some of Horace's letters, and a couple writings from Frederick, Maryland. Through her portraits- there have been a number of portraits left which the library has been really blessed to receive- we have several of those within our own small library's collection.

So, who was Helen Kate Furness? What was her maiden name? It was Rogers. She was born Helen Kate Rogers in 1837. This photograph, which is a daguerreotype, is on the table over there. It's just a marvel of 19th century photography, but how old is Helen Kate in this picture? I don't know- how old do you think this little girl looks? [seven to ten] 8-10? So this is in about 1847 to 1850. This is early- and part of that is because this was a well-to-do family. The Rogers were a wealthy family.

One of the things I would like you to do through this is try to get a sense of the people they were- that her mother, her father, and Helen Kate herself, as you hear the words that they wrote and as you see the images of them. I myself have formed an impression about what her mother was like, what her father was like, and what Helen Kate was like, and I'm hoping that you are able to do a bit of the same.

Her parents were Evans Rogers, a well-to-do hardware merchant in Philadelphia, and his wife Caroline Fairman Rogers. Caroline Fairman- the name Fairman runs through this family on and on. Her father was a well-known engraver in Philadelphia. They were married in the First Unitarian Church at around 20th or 21st and Chestnut Streets, and that's very important. They were married in the First Unitarian Church by Horace's father William Furness. So Evans and Caroline are the parents- look at them, remember those faces. And then Helen Kate's dear brother, who she called **Fair** (Fairman Rogers), four years older than herself, deserves his own lecture in his own right. But there's a very close relationship, which you'll see in the letters, between Helen Kate and her brother Fair.

This talk is kind of organized in phases of her life, so we're going to start with her birth, and we're going to let her birth be represented by this book. It's a beautifully bound book in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and when you open the book, you see that it's a gift of the Helen Kate Furness Free library in 1986. In one way I wish it were still here, but in another way they could care for it much better than we are able to. And what is in this book is like a baby album, kind of like a scrapbook. But some later family member has taken information through drawings and writings by Helen Kate herself, so it's all about Helen Kate Furness. And when you open the book, you open to this page where you see how there are items of different sizes bound together. And the first thing your eye would fall on is the little note in the middle which says at the bottom, upside down, "Kate's first letter, 1843." She's six years old or so at this moment, and what does her family call her? They call her Kate. She's always "Kate" in all these letters. There's some variants on that, but she's always Kate. And who is she writing to? Mrs. Rogers- she's writing to her mother at the age of 6. Think of your own handwriting at the age of six...

But then we switch to [next photo in slideshow "AWWW"] It's wonderful the way the words don't end at the ends of lines. There's no sense of things being a word:

*My dear Mother*

*I am going to be a very good girl for I want to get that [ ] next week*

*This is all I can write*

*Your dear affectionate daughter*

*Kate*

That's always what she writes here at the age of six to her mother. "My Dear Mother, I'm going to be a very good girl for I want to get that [a word that I can't read]..." It could be bib? bible? Let's go with Bible or bib- use your imagination.

There could be more words- some of the letters are lost in the margins- so let's go with "Bible" Thanks, I appreciate your help.

She writes "I'm going to be a very good girl for I want to get that Bible next week. This is all that I can learn. Your dear af-fec-tion-ate daughter, Kate."

*Philadelphia dec 10*

*My dear Mother*

*I am sorry I did not please you yesterday but I mean to employ myself better. I mean to draw and sew and read some. I think that if I do something for you you ought to spare me an orange*

Just a few years later, she writes "My dear Mother, I am sorry I did not please you yesterday, but I mean to employ myself better. I mean to draw and sew and read some. I think that if I do something for you, you ought to spare me an orange."

[laughter]

So you're going to learn that... she's very sweet, as she evolves into an adult. But there's also just this little bit of "I'll do something for you but I expect as much in return." Just a little tiny bit of that. She also writes a note to Mr. Rogers:

*My Dear Father*

*I thought I would write you a letter and lay it by your watch. I cannot write it with a quill pen very well for I am not used to it but mother has not got any steel pens and so I have to write with a quill. I have been down in the yard all the morning seeing Fair cleaning the bunny's cage, he gave it a good scolding before he got the hay in the cage both the bunnys stuck there noses in and got them pricked. This is all I can write just now..*

*Your affectionate daughter*

*Kate*

"My dear father, I thought I would write you a letter and lay it by your watch. I cannot write it with a quill pen very well, as I'm not used to it. But Mother has not gotten steel pens, and so I have to write with a quill. I have been down in the yard all the morning seeing Fair [Fairman] cleaning the bunny's cage. He gave it a good scolding before he got the hay in the cage. Both the bunnies stuck their noses in and got them wet. This is all I have to write to you now. Your affectionate daughter, Kate."

I have a very nice feeling about her relationship with her father, based on that letter. And there are some more drawings that kind of look to me like an imaginary Lincoln's cabin, I'm not sure, maybe it was the schoolhouse? I doubt it- she was in Philadelphia. But there are drawings contained in here as well. Another note to her mother undated, so hard to say, but a very nice little ornament at the top - a kind of bugle ornament in color, and she writes:

*Dear Mother,*

*You have always said that this paper was too pretty to write on but I think it is not too pretty for you. I hope you like my presents. I thought the little box would be nice to keep some of your bracelets in and the little shoe to keep in your morning pocket. I am very glad Christmas is here. Chicky told me he would be very much offended if you did not get him something very elegant for christmas. Your little Kitten*

So we know a little bit about what school because she left us a list of her classmates at Miss Gibbon's School in Philadelphia. Judging by her handwriting, she's perhaps 15 years old or let's just guess at that moment in time. In 1846 when she was 10, from just I think the same year- I'm not sure about the year, but around the same time, these are the kinds of things that are in that book. And then I had said that she seems especially close to her

brother. I don't see a lot of evidence that the family traveled a lot, but she writes here on a voyage to the Caribbean with her family: (She's 12 or 13)

*Dearest Dearest Brother*

*We have arrived here safe at last. I suppose mother has told you about going to Barbadoes and all the other islands so I won't say any more about it. At Barbadoes there was a little monkey the smallest one I ever saw in my life, it was only 6 inches long without its tail which was twice as long as its body. There was also a monkey at Antigua not so small but a great deal more interesting. He was very tame and let me pat his head.*

We're going to leave this phase of her childhood with an image that I just love. You know there's just the dress, the way she stands, the applause, the earrings, the daguerreotype looks like snow falling, the expression on her face- it's just a great favorite of mine. And I do believe that she's holding a bird? And this picture is one of the items set out on the table that was gifted to the library, and has been here for some time.

So you have an impression now- whatever your impression is, you have an impression of Helen Kate.

[I just want to ask about the sound quality: am I scratchy, loud? Alright]

So the next phase we're going to go is this person that I think was a very sweet, caring person with just a little bit of gumption, not a lot, just a little bit of gumption. We're going to talk about her family:

Kate's father Evans Rogers was sometimes described as an iron master, sometimes described as a hardware merchant. But he was a very successful businessman, along with his brother. Just as today, people are always curious about the wealthy, so when Kate was 10 years old in 1846 in Philadelphia, a merchant of Philadelphia published a book called "Hey, Who are the wealthy people in your city? An autobiography of some of the wealthy citizens of Philadelphia, with a fair estimate of their Estates, founded upon a knowledge of facts." So under "R" we find Evans Rogers, made his money in the hardware business with his brothers, now retired. Property and real estate, stocks, bonds and mortgages, is a much esteemed and honorable citizen."

If you look at the other wealthy people, there are, you know, fifty thousand dollars or one hundred thousand dollars whatever, but Evans Rogers was in the top seven of the wealthiest people in the second largest city in America in 1846. He was a millionaire in 1846. So I don't like it when people say that's the equivalent of so many dollars today, but what I can say is that you could have bought whatever you wanted with a million dollars- anything that you

wanted. And I find **none** of that sense in Kate, that she felt privileged, or that she was growing up... You can draw your own conclusions.

Her brother Fair and she inherited great wealth, eventually, that remained in the family. Fair became a civil engineer and taught civil engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, became a philanthropist, a very wealthy man of his own accord.

He was (for a Frank Furness kind of a connection here) Frank Furness's early Architecture Firm was starting to build a Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts building, in the 1880's or so, and Fair Fairman was on the board at that moment, and he brought Eakins- Thomas Eakins- to the institution to be a professor there. This painting of "The Fairman Rogers Four-in-Hand" is a glory of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, so I'm really glad it will always be on display unless it's on loan, but it's a large and glorious picture in all ways. It's a really important picture in the history of art, because Eakins had become interested in motion and how you translate motions into a two-dimensional work. And so the way the horses' walking is drawn was Eakins trying to represent scientifically accurately the way horses walk. There's a lot more to the story about painting as well, but if you know about the kind of things happening at that time Eadweard Muybridge was publishing photographs of things like human motion, animal locomotion, and this is all happening at that same moment through the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

We see Fair Fairman and his wife, and four guests, and then the two children (?) standing on the back of the carriage, and this is Fair himself.

So then back to Helen Kate- I want to share some of her letters from her as an adult, so we're going to talk about her spirit, as expressed in her letters. Here in the library against that wall is a drawing of Kate by Horace's brother, to make it simple, by Horace's brother William Furness, who was a talented artist in his own right. And we're so lucky to have such a beautiful picture of Kate drawn by her future brother-in-law here at the library. So we kind of start her adult life with this. I'm going to ask you again how old is she in this picture? [18 or 21?] She married at 23, so our thought is that she was not married yet. She married Horace, who has had his own lecture many times, but this is clearly much later. Horace's father was a Bostonian, who was brought to Philadelphia to be the pastor for the First Unitarian Church at 21st and Chestnut or so. Like his father, Horace was educated at Harvard, became a lawyer, and then increasing deafness meant that he wasn't able to practice law. He became a great Shakespeare scholar at a time when it was difficult to be a great Shakespeare scholar in America, because the great scholarship was taking place in England. He became a great Shakespeare scholar. So we have them marrying in 1860 at the First Unitarian Church. The Rogers family and the Furness family who were both pew owners at the First Unitarian Church all through this time. Presumably Kate knew Horace as

she was growing up, so we're now in the year 1860. And at the time of this letter Kate has only been married to Horace for a few months. She writes to her cousin Carrie:

*Oct 28 1860*

*My dearest Carrie,*

*I have just returned from a walk in the square with Horace where we have been rustling through the dry leaves and chirruping the bushy-tails. It is the dreariest kind of an afternoon, thoroughly autumnal: the ground is perfectly strewn with the cast off garments of the summer. Nature has got on her old dun-colored wrapper and is only waiting until it is time for her to put on her beautiful white winter [garments]*

The square I think would be Washington Square. A year after their marriage, they had their first child Walter. And then a few months after Walter's birth, she writes again to Carrie, because Carrie had recently married.

*Sweeping day 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 1861*

*Well my dear Carrie,*

*The honeymoon is over and I suppose after this vinegar will be in the ascendancy tomorrow, you give up sugarplums to take to pickles. Have you got quite accustomed to "Mrs. Warren" yet or does it still sound strangely in your ears? It is only within the last few months that I have grown familiar with my name ...*

And now we have a letter from Horace, written from Frederick Maryland on October 11, 1862. Does anybody know what was going on in Frederick, Maryland in 1862? The Civil War and specifically, the Battle of Antietam- the largest loss of life in the history of American warfare. So Horace, who was unable to practice law, he had deafness, so he was unable to serve during the Civil War. And so he became involved with the movement called the U.S. Sanitary Commission, which sounds like a governmental authority, but in fact, it was a volunteer organization. And the Civil War -you know, caught everyone by surprise and the intensity of it, and what a Civil War was really like, or what warfare was really like, at that moment. And the populace didn't realize the conditions that the soldiers were living in, or what happened when they were injured, or what are the patients in the hospital, and there was a very large movement to support the troops through this volunteer organization called the U.S. Sanitary Commission. And that's what Horace is doing in Frederick in 1862:

*September 19, 1862*

*My own darling – while I'm waiting for the wagon of the Sanitary Commission which is to convey me to Frederic, I shall talk a few minutes to you, almost face to face, doesn't it always seem so darling, when we write to each other? Ah, well-a-day, we're ever so many miles separate.*

*Frederick Oct 11 1862*

*My darling Katie, I have only a few minutes this evening to tell you that I am very well and that I am very tired, so tired that I know I would be pleasing you the most, should I clip off my letter and clip into bed.*

*My day has passed among the hospitals the condition of some of which depressed me and others cheer me. Against two or if not three I design to make a regular attack, they are filthy, ill-ventilated and under incompetent management, into some of the rooms the sun never shines, and scarcely daylight penetrates, of course, gloom as pervades the whole building has its effects on the invalids and more die there than in proportion to anywhere else*

A couple years later, we have the Helen Kate Furness's monogram writing from Lindenshade. Lindenshade was the property that Horace had begun in about 1870 or so, but she was there before that in the 1860s. The house wasn't built yet, so I'm not sure exactly what she means by Lindenshade in 1865, but she's in Wallingford at this moment. And she writes to Carrie her cousin:

*Lindenshade, Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 186x, Sunday Evening*

*Most precious & dear Carrie,*

*I have as you justly assume a whole budget to write to you and I am sitting down in the nursery with two lamps, a whole stack of pens and plenty of paper and ink very much delighted with the prospect of having a long chat with you oh that I could be face to face instead of through the medium of this cold insensate paper ... first and foremost dear creature how can I thank you enough for sending me that lovely pattern, I never knew anything so sweet ...*

This is the Lindenshade- I don't know the date- but let's say before 1900 or so, between 1875 and 1900. Horace and Kate had three sons and one daughter. We've met Walter before, his two brothers, and we're going to talk about Caroline. Writing again from Lindenshade she writes to an unnamed person:

*Lindenshade, June 5, 1868*

*You dear, kind, thoughtful, darling child! to think of me so soon after your return and send me that precious bundle of clothes! They are a perfect treasure ...*

I didn't cherry pick off the things that make Kate seem sweet, but that's my sense of her as a person- very much unaffected by the wealth of her family, but there was also that -not sharpness in her- but I'll let the next letter speak to herself. Carrie had married Mr. Warren- we saw a few minutes ago- she was getting used to the name. She [Kate] writes, without any greeting:

*Philadelphia April 2<sup>nd</sup>*

*It is not very much to your credit, Mr. Warren sir, that your wife is ashamed to show her face to her relations, as soon as I received the photograph enclosed in your letter, I turned it over to see*



*if there was not a black eye on the other side but found that you had cunningly concealed it with a piece of innocent looking white paper. My dear cousins let me entreat of you not to fight any more*

This was her cousin's household, and what would it take to write that letter? To your cousin-in-law?

This portrait hangs above the circulation desk. It was a gift from a family member about 15 years ago. It was painted by an artist named Anna Lea Merritt. I just want to take a minute to talk about Anna Lea. She was trained by William Furness, Horace's brother, and she painted this in 1873 or so, when Kate was 40. She became a [society] painter but she studied in Philadelphia with William Furness. And then she trained in England among well-known painters. She was from a wealthy family in Philadelphia. She became quite well known because really of this picture. So I mean I wish I had time just to let you kind of look at this picture and think about "What do we have here..."

I'll tell you that Anna Lea married Henry Barrett when she was about 30 years old or so, and it was in July. And by October he was dead, so they were only married for three months, and she never remarried. Fifteen years or so later she painted this picture, and the title of it is "Love Locked Out." In her own words and briefly, she tells us what we're looking at here. Recall that she's writing about her relationship with her dead husband.

*Love is waiting for the door of death to open and the reunion of the lonely pair.*

It was exhibited at The Royal Academy in 1890, and it became the first picture by a woman artist, of any nationality, in any of the British national collections. It's in the Great Gallery.

Returning to the portrait of Kate, we see it hanging over (this is the portrait that Horace chose to use in his library, very important to him), but this is the portrait shown in its place in the library at Lindenshade. (The library at Lindenshade, [next slide] the library at Lindenshade.) So this is about a block from here. It stands at Two Furness Lane, I think, is the street address. And it was built after the original Lindenshade, because Horace's books were **so valuable** that- I mean, I often think of this- if Horace had just left the library ONE book, we wouldn't have to do any fundraising! But for some reason, he gave them all to the University of Pennsylvania. So it's the Furness Library..., because of Horace's Shakespeare collection. This is the only structure, I think, that's arised from Lindenshade (I'm looking at Angela [in the audience]), because she knows this stuff a lot better than I do. And the interior looks very much like it does here. It was built to be a fire safe building- not to be pretty- but to be a fireproof building. And Horace's books had several levels, lining the interior of the building today.

I found the people there to be very nice, Greg and Gabrielle, lived there in 2019. There's a different family there now in that house. It's interesting to see and I'm not really the books from Horace and Kate's and you're there have survived.

Horace was this great Shakespeare scholar, and it's noted many times, and in reflecting on Kate, that she shared that interest to the extent that, as Horace was writing a whole volume or even two volumes about a single Shakespeare play with lots and lots of critical notes, (what is meant by THE? what is meant by TO BE OR NOT TO BE) in his Kate wrote a concordance to Shakespeare's poems. So where Horace's books are criticism and critical writing about the plays, Kate assembled a list of every word in the poems, every word, the line that it appears in, the play that it appears in, and then there's a count of how many times the word **A** appears in Shakespeare's poems, or **the** or **disdain** So it's a useful thing, it's a useful tool, but it wouldn't have been much fun to put together. But this was her literary contribution, and it was regarded as a real literary contribution.

As Kate was dying, Horace was at her side, and he had this very cheap little tablet and a pencil to write with. And I don't remember exactly how long, I might be exaggerating, but let's say over a period of weeks, he would write often in this little tablet about what was happening. So this is the sample of a grieving man, as he's sitting next to his dying wife. Just one line from this - I'll just say that he also sketched her- as she lay dying.

*The last night was one of intense suffering, not a joint of her body that was not wracked with pain, distressing nausea with continually shortening breath.*

And then a week after she died Horace wrote:

*One week ago tonight! Oh my darling, my darling. It is heavier now than ever. The waters have gone over my head, I am just heartbroken. I keep up before the children and the world but when bedtime comes and I am alone in my room – our room – my agony is greater than I can bear. Why can't I die. Dear God grant it, grant it. Give her to me or me to her. My life is utterly shattered. Deafen my ears and blind my eyes but only once more let me feel her – only touch the tip of her finger. Only one week ago! Millions of years cannot pass more slowly.*

A later commentator just commented on the kind of relationship between them:

*In 1860 he married Helen Kate Rogers. Happiness, such as graced the marriage of these two, is vouchsafed to few on earth; companions were they in every deed of every day.*

You have some sense of that through the effort that she put into the concordance of poems, from Horace's words at her death. They're buried together in Laurel Hill Cemetery. It's very unusual to have the date of your marriage on your tombstone. It was something that, as I

said, it's not very common to do, and it's written almost the way a marriage register would be written rather than what you might expect to find on someone's tombstone.

And then their daughter, I will ask you to note, Caroline Furness, married Horace Jayne (j-a-y-n-e), and Caroline Furness Jayne died at the age of 36. Yes? That is right? And there are the four of them buried together at Laurel Hill Cemetery.

I'm going to talk a little bit now about the Furness family, because I have to. So I had told you that William Henry Furness was the Bostonian, Harvard-educated was invited to be the powerhouse pastor at the First Unitarian Church, a powerhouse Church with a lot of very wealthy people. Evans Rogers may or may not have been the wealthiest person in the congregation, but a powerhouse in the church and a powerhouse of a teacher, a preacher, a pastor, and a noted abolitionist. I'm gonna restrain myself from talking about that right now, but a noted abolitionist was a very interesting activity as a result of that. So he's the pastor at this church [photo in slideshow], and this is the church five years or so ago. A Unitarian Church designed by Frank Furness - there's that connection. And like many Unitarian churches very committed to Black Lives Matter, as a movement. And I took this picture so that you could take a look at that thing that looks a little bit like a rose window in the church above it, like a medieval church might have, or it **would** have.

So I was there in the morning, the church is committed to the local community and the impoverished, and those in need of it, so it's not the easiest church to get into - it's basically guarded. I had an appointment to get into it in the early morning, and from the outside it's you know, a nice enough looking building, and so I walked in by myself into the darkened church and then looked behind me, and this was behind me [photo in slideshow]. It was just one of those moments of such experiencing such beauty, that I can still feel what I felt when I turned around and saw this piece of stained glass:

"Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God."

It's the First Unitarian Church is at 20th and Chestnut. First Tiffany-stained glass to be installed in that church. This window makes sense at a church, because it is a religious-themed stained glass, but it's in memoriam to a wealthy sugar merchant of Philadelphia. Other stained glass in the church include what you might expect to find in a church: a figure of Christ.

"I am the way, the truth, the life" is I believe what it says - imagery you would expect to find in a church.

But what you would NOT expect to find in a church is a stained glass to a mortal.

So this is a stained glass of Helen Kate Furness, after she had died. The glass maker, instead of being Tiffany, was a far superior glass maker - Henry Holiday in London- who was just head and shoulders above the rest. You can draw your own conclusions about that. I can't quibble with the beauty of the setting of this Tiffany's, but the difference in quality of glass is night and day. And Frank Furness had a relationship with Henry Holiday in London and brought the stained glass, the best stained glass that could be made in the world into the...

So here we have Helen Kate Furness memorialized about 30 years I guess after her death. And running along the bottom is this inscription: "Helen Kate Furness 1837 to 1883" I'll just give you a better sense of what it looks like [zoom in on slideshow]. And then recall that their daughter Caroline had died at the age of 36. So I do believe that it's opposite this stained glass is this one, which is one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen. So this is their daughter Caroline in 1910 - she died in 1909 instead of...

So a year later, Horace, who died in 1912 himself, but in 1910 he commissioned this again from Henry Holiday "Caroline Furness" and then her vital statistics. It's just breathtaking! And they are opposite each other.

So this is the end of the talk today. I kind of have two hopes for you out of this:

1) As I said at the beginning, I'm hoping that you have a sense of who Kate Furness was. You know through what she wrote, how she was admired, the relationship with her husband, how the wealth that was a part of her didn't seem to impact her or her relationship with her husband, just the sort of person that she was.

2) Just as equally a hope, is that I hope you have the opportunity to walk into the First Unitarian Church sometime and just see what you feel like when experiencing something so beautiful. It can't be unexpected, what you're looking for, but...

I'm going to stop here and give people the chance to ask questions, which Angela will answer. [laughter] And then I want to talk to you a little bit about the things that are on the table, give you the opportunity to welcome to look at those things, the number of daguerreotypes that I show are there, and I'll talk about in just a second.

Q: What was the cause of Helen Kate's death and of her daughter's death?

A: I don't know about her daughter, but Helen Kate's death certificate... the doctor wrote "dropsy." Dropsy is edema, that's swelling. It doesn't really mean anything, it's a symptom of something rather than a disease or something. I don't know, you sound like you know more about these kinds of things. [congestive heart failure] Also the death certificate says "anemia" and then a word after that I can't read which I think is probably Latin. "Anemia

*something*" and then it says "change of life." So it was interpreted, and was taken to be somehow related, so without the doctor...

And Caroline I should know, but I don't.

Q: In Furness Park there are the remains of Lindenshade and another house that they built for Caroline, "Sub Rosa".

[another audience member] I discovered that when the park opened, and I started walking in there. I think I had asked, it was something online, that someone was able to respond, and had some photographs. So that was something I was going to ask today- about the connection between that house.

A: So Lindenshade was Horace and Helen Kate's house, and they built I think there were properties there for their sons and for Caroline and the Jaynes- and for Horace (and Caroline) Jayne. So this is not my area, I think there were three houses there at some point, which have all been demolished since.

Q: Can you describe where in Wallingford now are the outlines of their estate?

A: As far as I know, it's associated with the library - so that's Providence Road to Turner, straight across parallel to the railroad tracks.

Q: Where the new park is?

A: Yeah, Furness Park.

You can see there's a gate opening that would be I'm assuming that was the way in?

They built a gate from the train tracks to their house directly for...

That's the thing I know- about Horace inviting someone to stay with them and said "get off the train, walk across the train tracks and up the hill, and you'll be at our house."

And that corresponds to the house with the library at Two Furness Lane today, but that's always been a slightly...

Q: Was this town called Wallingford all through this history?

A: Yep. So she [Helen Kate] died and the death certificate said that she was in Wallingford.

Q: The gates that were for the people getting off the train that was still Peck's property that those gates were on.

A: Okay yeah, Bill Peck was very much involved in the library.

[audience member] And I believe they might have been stolen at some time.

Q: I calculated that Evans Rogers retired at age 58 - is that a normal age for a person in that time period to retire?

A: I don't know. I'm 65 - I'm still trying to figure out when to retire (laughter) personally!

He had made his fortune though. [inaudible] I don't really know that much about the Rogers family. I haven't found a source about the Rogers family. But I suspect that the Historical Society of Pennsylvania there's a good chance that the Rogers' papers are there.

Q: Did Helen Kate just write that one book?

A: Yeah (I thought there was a second one) Not that I know of.

And then someone asked about [the pronunciation of] Fur'ness or Furness':

A number of years ago, I believe, the Nether Providence Historical Society sponsored a talk by Wert Thompson, who's approximately the great grandson of Helen Kate? \_\_\_\_, approximately the great grandson. He was about 160 years old during that talk! (laughter) [audience member said] "Oh, Wert was 160 years old since the day he was born!"

And someone asked him "How do you pronounce his last name?"

He said "Well, you have a thing in the basement that heats your house, and How do you pronounce that? If you pronounce that **fur nace'** then you pronounce my name **Fur' ness**.

So the thing you have in your basement is the way they pronounced the name itself, so that was pretty powerful, so we say **Fur' ness** now.

Any other questions? There's refreshments here, there's Linden tea, a nice touch by the library staff... [recording stopped]