

# Woolson and Her Contemporaries



## Fourteenth Biennial Conference of the Constance Fenimore Woolson Society

Glidden House

Cleveland, Ohio

April 7-9, 2022

*Special Thanks to the Following Supporters:*

Kimberly Emmons, Oviatt Professor of English, Case Western Reserve University

Dennis Dooley, Coordinator, Celebrating Our Past Masters

Angie Lowrie, Director, Cleveland History Center

Kathleen Fernandez, Zoar Guide

Kathleen Diffley, Local Arrangements Chair

Mischa Renfroe, Program Chair

**Thursday, April 7**

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**3:45-5:00 Hay-McKinney Mansion Guided Tour**

Meet at Hay-McKinney Mansion, Western Reserve Historical Society  
10825 East Boulevard (ten-minute walk from Glidden House)

**5:30 Conference Registration, Guilford House (Parlor)**

**6:00 Announcements, Founders Awards, and Welcome Dinner**

Location: Guilford House (Parlor), 11112 Bellflower Road

Kathleen Diffley, Celebrating Member Success

Sharon Dean, Founders Awards Committee Chair

**6:30 Dinner**

Guilford House (Dining Room), cash bar

**8:00-9:00 Roundtable: Beyond Woolson Scholarship**

Chair: Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa

Cheryl Torsney, past president of the Constance Fenimore Woolson Society  
Mischa Renfro, site director of the Rebecca Harding Davis Collected Works  
Jacquie Justice, senior editor of *Inland Seas*  
Sharon Dean, author of *Death of the Keynote Speaker*  
Katherine Swett, author of *Voice Message*

**Friday, February 22**

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Complimentary Breakfast Buffet, Glidden House

Unless otherwise noted, sessions will convene in Guilford House Dining Room, CWRU

**8:30-9:45 American Narratives: Race, Region, and Gender**

Chair: Etta M. Madden, Missouri State University

Kathryn McKee, University of Mississippi  
“Illustrating Race and Region in Woolson’s *For the Major*”

Karen Tracey, University of Northern Iowa  
“‘I am afraid we shall not be able to gratify you in that way just now’: Reshaping an American Narrative in *East Angels*”

Kris Comment, Independent Scholar  
“Mediums, and Spirit-Rappers, and Roaring Radicals”: Spiritualism’s Cultural Backlash in William Dean Howells’s *The Undiscovered Country* and Henry James’s *The Bostonians*”

**10:00-11:15 Woolson and Civil War Memory**

Chair: Caroline Gebhard, Tuskegee University

Lisa West, Drake University  
“From Glimmerglass to Nowhere”

Sharon Kennedy-Nolle, Mercy College  
“Performing Grief Work of Love: Woolson’s Reconstruction Poems and their Lost Cause Counterparts”

Tim Sweet, West Virginia University  
“‘Rodman the Keeper’ and the Uses of Poetic Quotation”

**11:30-1:00 Lunch**

Location: Guilford House

**1:15-2:30 Artist Figures and Unreadable Texts**

Chair: Katherine Swett, The Brearley School, New York City

Robin L. Cadwallader, St. Francis University  
“‘The ignorant fingers of genius’: Solomon Bangs, Hugh Wolfe, and Life’s Horrible Beauty”

Shelia Teahan, Michigan State University  
“‘Unnatural Courses’: Speech Acts in Henry James’s ‘Louisa Pallant’”

### **3:15 Keynote Address**

Location: Baker Nord Center for the Humanities (Clark Hall, Room 206)

Keynote and Sadar Lecture: Anne Boyd Rioux, NEH Public Humanities Scholar, Professor of English  
University of New Orleans

“Constance Fenimore Woolson: The Story of her Revival and Why the Recovery of Nineteenth-Century Women Writers Matters”

### **4:30-5:30 Reception**

### **8:00 Dinner**

Location: L’Albatros  
11401 Bellflower Road (near Glidden House)

## **Saturday, April 9**

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Complimentary Breakfast Buffet, Glidden House

### **9:00-10:15 Woolson’s Zoar**

Location: Guilford House

Chair: Mischa Renfroe, Middle Tennessee State University

Kathy Fernandez, Independent Scholar  
“Thy Delights, Enchanting Zoar”

Aaron J. Rovin, Ohio Humanities  
“Woolson’s Folkloric Imagination in Zoar”

Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa  
“Gardenhaus Invaded: Woolson’s ‘Wilhelmina’ and Ohio’s Egypt”

### **10:30-11:45 Business Meeting and Lunch**

### **12:10-5:30 Excursion to Zoar National Historic Site**

12:10 Meet in Glidden House Lobby and depart by bus for Zoar National Historic Site and a guided tour with Kathy Fernandez

### **6:30 Dinner**

Location: Glidden House, Mansion Dining Room (cash bar)  
Mini desserts served at 8:30 in the Loggia