

Thetford Historical Society  
M37  
A 46 - Camp Hanoum Plaque  
A 76 - Farnsworth Uniform  
BV 197-199, Bound Photo Albums  
FF Oversized mounted photographs

CAMP HANOUM  
COLLECTION

8 Boxes

Provenance: Marjorie Wentworth (Willum) Traut

Related Collections: OP 4 - Betty Clark Hanoum Photos  
OP 5 - Clara Sipprell Photos  
A 46 - 1909 Camp Hanoum Plaque  
M 38 - Charles Hubert Farnsworth papers

Processed by: Dolly Adams, 1990  
Martha Howard, 2004

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH:

Camp Hanoum was the inspiration of Charles and Charlotte Farnsworth, as a place where young women could gain strength, confidence, and practical skills, while enjoying an exceptional natural setting. In its first year, 1909, the camp was simply an outing of a dozen or so students from Horace Mann School at Columbia Teacher's College, who summered with the Farnsworths in Thetford. Farnsworth had been brought up in Turkey by his missionary father, and the camp always had a Turkish flavor. The Camp's name, "Hanoum" is a Turkish word meaning "gracious lady". Charles Farnsworth was known as "Chelebe" (Master) and Charlotte Farnsworth was affectionately known as "Madama" (Mistress).

In subsequent years, the Camp expanded from its original location on Houghton Hill Road to the shores of Mud Pond (Lake Abenaki), and formalized its offerings to an eight-week program that included nature study, swimming, canoeing and water safety, crafts, and hiking. Music also played a large role in camp life, and Camp Hanoum was known locally as "the singing camp", with instructors and professional musicians who summered in Thetford and taught at the Camp. Hanoum publications are also full of personalized songs, many written by campers themselves.

Camp Hanoum was an important part of summer life in Thetford. In the early years the girls arrived in town by train, and were transported to camp by local hired cars, including those from Charles Vaughan's taxi service. The campers frequented Vaughan's Store on the corner of Academy Road and Route 113, and participated in the Fair held each summer on the Thetford Hill Common. Campers were a familiar sight to local residents, either hiking through the area, or canoe camping along the Connecticut River, where it was common for campers to spend the night in local barns or fields. The Hanoum Inn, located in a Thetford Academy dormitory building south of the Common on Academy Road, was also operated by the Camp as local summer lodging for camp visitors. The building burned with other Academy buildings in 1942.

The girls were involved in the Thetford Pageant in 1911, and it was after this event that Mrs. Farnsworth pursued her idea for an organization specifically for girls, set around camping. She spoke to the head of the Boy Scouts of America, who agreed that there was a need for such an organization, and who encouraged her to continue. She proposed calling her group the "Camp Fire Girls", and Camp Hanoum operated as a Camp Fire camp for several years, before assuming the Farnsworths' format. The Camp Fire program was adopted by Mrs. Luther Gulick, Mr. Farnsworth's sister, the founder in 1905 of the Camp Aloha group on Lake Fairlee and Lake Morey, who is often credited as the founder of Camp Fire.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Hanoum continued through the first half of the 20th century under the leadership of the Farnsworths, expanding both their offerings and their camping sites. In 1916, the number of participants had grown to the point that the older and younger campers were separated, with the younger girls remaining on Houghton Hill, and the older girls 1 mile to the west, on the water, at the newly established Lake Camp. A trail was cut from the Lake Camp to the Hill Camp in 1919, uniting the two sites.

During the first World War, the girls were active volunteers in the effort, making bandages for the Red Cross. During World War II, the girls grew vegetables in Victory Gardens, and raised funds for aid to war refugees in Europe. The camp hosted girls from Europe during the war, and a number of Hanoum staff were directly involved in the war effort, returning to Hanoum when their service was finished.

The Farnsworths eased out of an active management role in the late 30's, but were still an important part of camp life. Actual management fell to Marjorie Wentworth (Willum) Traut, the donor of this collection. The Camp put out an annual report to campers entitled "The Mektub", which always included a special message to campers, present and former alike, from the Farnsworths. As the camp aged, the publication evolved from a report of the year's activities to more of an alumnae magazine, where, in addition to news, engagements, marriages and births were announced. The Camp seemed to inspire strong loyalties, and campers kept in touch with each other for years, both personally, and at reunions. A number of camp members and families followed the Farnsworths and moved to Thetford, both as summer and full-time residents.

Following the death of Charlotte Farnsworth in 1946, the camp was under new ownership and management of sisters and former campers Helen Joiner and Martha Hightower. They continued as joint managers until 1959, when the camp was transferred to the Girl Scouts, and renamed Camp Farnsworth. Camp Farnsworth remains in operation as a day and session camp for girls.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This collection consists of 8 Boxes, including camp brochures and publications, numerous photographs, scrapbooks and albums, and business ledgers. In addition, there is a complete Camp Hanoum uniform, and three bound photograph albums.

## Box and Folder Listing

### Box 1

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| Folder 1:  | 1910                |
| Folder 2:  | 1911                |
| Folder 3:  | 1915                |
| Folder 4:  | 1916                |
| Folder 5:  | 1921                |
| Folder 6:  | 1924                |
| Folder 7:  | 1927, 1928          |
| Folder 8:  | Brochures 1910-1919 |
| Folder 9:  | Brochures 1920-1929 |
| Folder 10: | Brochures 1930-1939 |
| Folder 11: | Brochures 1940-1944 |

### Box 2

|            |                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| Folder 1:  | Brochures 1945-1949             |
| Folder 2:  | Brochures 1950-1952 and undated |
| Folder 3:  | "The Mektub" 1916-1920          |
| Folder 4:  | "The Mektub" 1921-1925          |
| Folder 5:  | "The Mektub" 1926-1929          |
| Folder 6:  | "The Mektub" 1930-1948          |
| Folder 7:  | Hanoum Inn, Hill Camp, Lodge    |
| Folder 8:  | Honors Books                    |
| Folder 9:  | History, Letters                |
| Folder 10: | Intercamp Frolic                |

### Box 3

|           |                                        |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|
| Folder 1: | People                                 |
| Folder 2: | Farnsworth Publications                |
| Folder 3: | Deeds & Legal Documents                |
| Folder 4: | Reorganization after Farnsworths       |
| Folder 5: | Camp Farnsworth                        |
| Folder 6: | Performances                           |
| Folder 7: | Songbooks                              |
| Folder 8: | Counselor and Camper Lists - 1924-1956 |

#### Box 4

- Folder 1: Photo Albums - 1910 and 1911
- Folder 2: Photo Albums - 1915
- Folder 3: Misc. Photos
- Folder 4: Misc. Photos
- Folder 5: Misc. Photos, Negatives
- Folder 6: Misc. Pamphlets
- Folder 7: Campfire Girls

#### Box 5

- Folder 1: 1913 Album
- Folder 2: 1916 Album
- Folder 3: 1937 "Breakfast Gems"
- Folder 4: 1941 Albums (2)
- Folder 5: 1942 Albums (2)
- Folder 6: 1918 Magazine "The Touchstone" with article on Summer Camps.

#### Box 6

- Folder 1: Willum Traut's Scrapbook - 1923-1942
- Folder 2: Hanoum Photo Album, Tan woven cover, orange background, undated.

#### Box 7

- Folder 1: Photo Album, Black textured cover, undated.
- Folder 2: Photo Album, Tan cover, 1920's, 'Dr. Ludy's'
- Folder 3: Hanoum pictures, stories - 1912

#### Box 8

- Folder 1: Hanoum Stock Books - 2
- Folder 2: Stockholders' Minutes - 1941-1954
- Folder 3: Hanoum Corporation Minutes - 1911-1939

A 76:

1. Uniform - Tan cotton bloomers, matching tan cotton middy blouse, orange triangular kerchief, orange cotton tie for middy blouse.

2. Accessories:

Hanoum Felt Patch

Circle of Friendship Patch

Red Tents Patch

Frog's Legs Patch

Silver Poplar Patch

Hanoum Pin

Orange woven counselor's tie with blue woven design, 5 1/4" wide.

Two woven orange ties with different colored designs, one is 5" wide, one is 6" wide. Weaving probably done by Florence Cathcart Fowle.

3. Breadboard given by General Khrabroff to celebrate the dedication of the Khrabroff Trail August 11, 1918.

BV 197, 198 and 199:

Bound photo albums of Camp Hanoum.