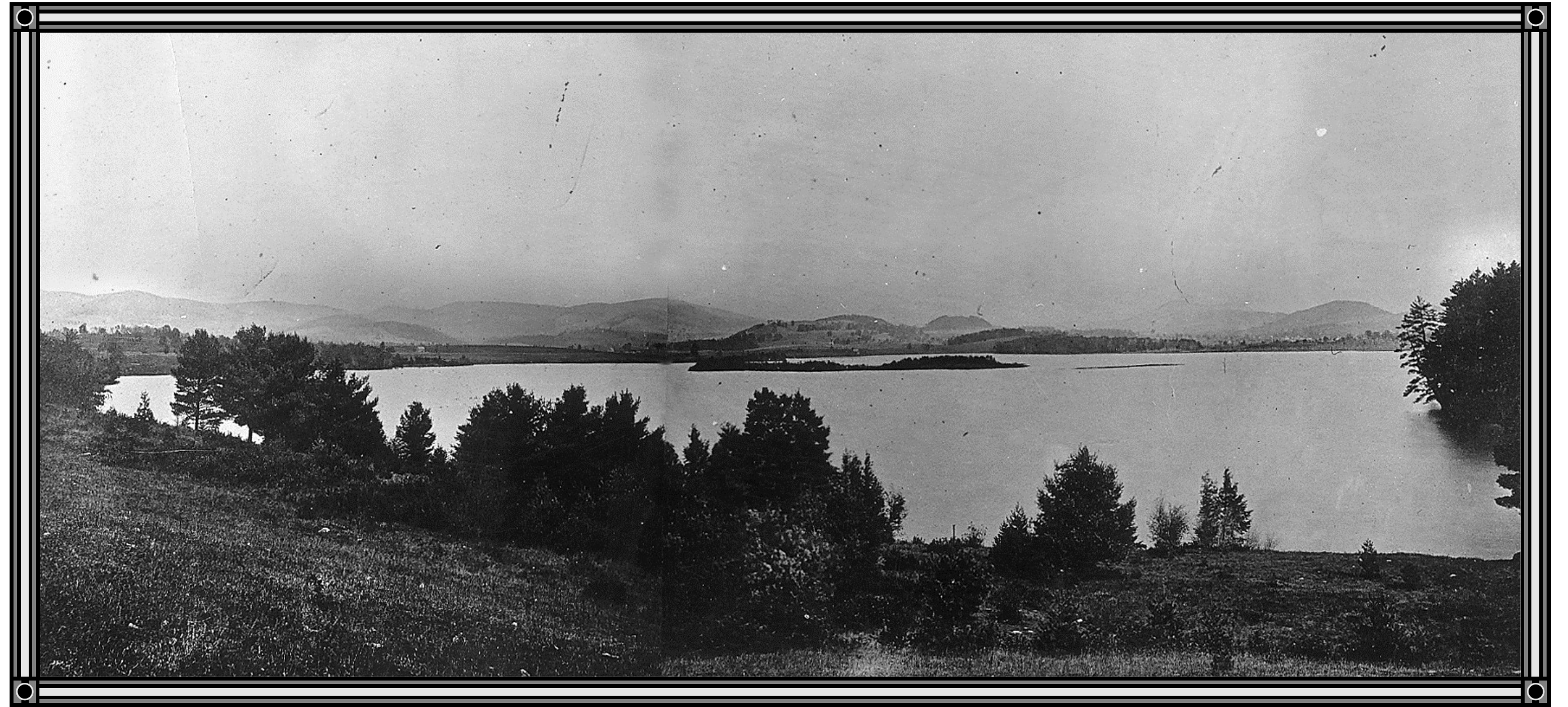


## *The Kimball-Salisbury Women: Chicago to Tor Court, 1890-1930*

### Introduction

When Evaline Kimball and Warren Salisbury decided to make Pittsfield their summer home in 1908, they joined other wealthy and fashionable Chicago families who found the growing city a perfect setting for a country retreat. Some had been born in Pittsfield or nearby towns and wished to reestablish their ties to the area, while others followed on the heels of friends and associates who had recently made a successful move to the Berkshires for the summer season. Although many wealthy New Yorkers chose neighboring Lenox or Stockbridge for their cottages, Pittsfield offered its own charms as an attractive respite from the grit, clamor and summer heat of the Windy City. Spectacular near and distant views of picturesque lakes and bucolic hills rivaled others throughout the county, and the city's train station was the central hub of rail transportation for the Berkshires, making travel to and from Chicago convenient and comfortable.



Onota Lake, 1890s



Gown by House of Worth, ca. 1900-1925  
Gift of Gay Kimball Gamage and David Kimball

The nineteen evening gowns, tea frocks, and everyday dresses from the Kimball-Salisbury Collection provides a glimpse into the lives of a Gilded Age Chicago family through the lens of fashion. Whether at their Pittsfield cottage, Tor Court, or in Chicago, the women of the Kimball-Salisbury family, like all high-society women of their day, were always sure to step out in high style.

The exhibit traces three decades of fashion history, from the waning days of high Victorian style, through the Edwardian Era and the roaring 1920s. Formal dresses with large puffed sleeves, narrow belted waists and flaring skirts gave way to looser dresses with shorter hemlines, dropped waists and an allover slimmer silhouette.

The Berkshire Historical Society wishes to thank:

Gay Kimball Gamage and David Kimball for the donation of the dresses and gowns.

Patricia Purdy, guest Curator

The exhibit volunteers:

Glenda Anderson	Ursula Ehret-Dichter
Peri Caverly	Marilyn Manning
Barbara Fuchs	Mary Catherine Murphy
Alice Jonas	Nancy McGill

And a special thank-you to Gay Gamage for answering many questions about the history of her family.

