



**Ada Brewster
(1842- 1929)**

What is known about Ada Brewster comes mainly from her 1929 obituary and is paraphrased below:

Brewster was born in Kingston on May 25, 1842, the daughter of Elisha and Elizabeth Bartlett and a direct descendant in the sixth generation from Elder William Brewster. Brewster was born in “Woodside” built circa 1690 by Joseph Holmes, the son-in-law of Major William Bradford. “Woodside” stayed in the Brewster family for over two hundred years and is the home to which Ada Brewster returned to in her later years and eventually died there.

As a child Brewster was known for her artistic talents and she eventually studied as a pupil of the Crayon Artist Samuel Rose. Brewster took a break from art when she

enrolled with her two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, as a nurse during the Civil War. She was stationed at the Portsmouth Grove Hospital in Rhode Island, where she remained until the end of the War.

After the War, she returned to art, maintaining a studio in New York and later in St. Petersburg, Florida. She also served as an adjuster in the Mint at Carson City and actually weighted the first trade dollar coined by the United States Government. Ada Brewster was known as an author, historian, naturalist and collector.