

Olive A. Wadsworth. U.S. poet & writer.
(pen name for Katherine Floyd Dana)
b. January 21, 1835; d. April 6, 1886
Birthplace: Mastic, Long Island, New York .

A multi disciplined fine artist and illustrator
artist in both drawing and literary fields. She
wrote short stories and children's nursery
rhymes.



Writing was not an approved avocation for a modern 19th Century Woman,
according to the leading "12th century" minds of men of the day.

Because it was not considered proper for a woman of Katherine Floyd Dana's social position to be known as a "writer," she wrote under the carefully chosen pen name Olive A. Wadsworth, often signing her manuscripts with the letters O. A. W. which to her inner circle really stood for "Only A Woman." Think of how many leading financial moguls of that gilded age would have reacted if they only knew she was secretly helping her husband William B. Dana write his Commercial & Financial Chronicle. The "Chronicle" was the leading paper of the day for all things that dealt with commerce and big money. Many large financial decisions were based on what appeared on the pages of the Chronicle.

Katherine Floyd Dana was the great granddaughter of William Floyd, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. She spent her childhood years at the Floyd Estate in Mastic and returned there with her husband William Buck Dana (1829-1910) in the 1880's where she lived on the Dana estate known as "Moss Lots". She was a multi talented artist, author and mother of three adopted children.

Through her art Katherine documented the life and nature of the Mastik River (now known as the Forge River) area in the 19th century. Without her artwork, we can only read few scarce details of what Mastic looked like during that time.