

Laura Catherine Redden (Searing) (1839-1923)
Writer, poet, journalist

Quote: “Do you not all love your mother tongue? Then why should not the mute prefer his own language to any other? The language of signs...(is) a language built up like any other...” (1858)



*Nineteenth Century American poet Laura C. Redden, circa 1871.
Photo from Ellis Library, University of Missouri.*



LAURA C. R SEARING.

[above left from: <http://alaskamininghalloffame.org/inductees/mcginn.php>; above right from: Moulton (1893)]

Birth: 9 February 1839*

Somerset County, Maryland

(*most biographies state 1840, family papers indicate 1839 and still other records state 1846 or 1848)

Death: 10 August 1923 (aged 83)

San Mateo, California

Holy Cross Cemetery

Family of Origin:

Lyttleton J. D. Redden (Father) Wilhelmina Elizabeth Waller (mother) both from England.

Involvement and Contributions to the Deaf Community:

Deaf at age 13

Graduate of Missouri School for the Deaf

Wrote articles for *Silent Worker* and attended Convention of America Instructors of the Deaf (CAID) conference (1886)

Created a poem, "The Gallaudet Centennial" in honor of the unveiling of the statue of Gallaudet and Alice (1889)

Interesting tidbit: Laura Redden (Searing) moved to California in 1886 and lived by the light house in California where Douglas Tilden's grandfather was a keeper. Tilden and d'Estrella used to visit her. (*Silent Worker*, 1924)

Schooling:

1852 St. Louis Female Institute

1855-1858: Missouri School for the Deaf

1870: Clarke Institute

1870s: Whipple Home School (Mystic, Conn)

Professional Experiences:

Wrote articles/poems for *The Silent Worker*

Reporter on the Civil War for the *St. Louis Republican*

Columnist and Assistant Editor: *The Presbyterian*

Editor of *Our Union*

Interviewed President Lincoln and General Grant (via writing)

1868: staff at the *New York Evening Mail*

Interesting tidbit: Redden wrote in 1861 about the injustices of unequal pay related to men and women teachers in St. Louis public schools.

Honors/Recognition:

1872: Glyndon, Minnesota named in honor of her pen name (Howard Glyndon)

1995: Glyndon, Minnesota dedicated a "Laura C. Redden, Poets Garden" in the city park.

1984: Building at the Northwest Gallaudet Campus named in her honor

1997: Dormitory at Missouri School for the Deaf named in her honor

Personal Information:

1876: Married Edward W. Searing, a Hearing lawyer

1889: US Census on Deaf Marriages notes "they have parted" related to Laura Redden and her husband

Had one daughter, Elsa Searing (McGinn)

Personal friendships/interviews with President Lincoln and General Grant
Learned to write and translate works from French, German, Italian and Spanish
while living in Europe after the Civil War and working as a war
correspondent
After 1886 lived with her daughter in California and Fairbanks Alaska (1900-1910)

List of original documents/links by Laura Redden (Searing) (she often published under the pen name Howard Glyndon): :

Redden, L. (1858). A few words about the deaf and dumb. *American Annals of the Deaf*, 10 (3), 177-181.

Searing, L. R. Disarmed (poem). <http://www.bartleby.com/248/881.html>
(from Stedman, E.C. (1900). *An American Anthology, 1787-1900*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin).

Books:

- Glyndon, H. (1862). Notable Men in the House of Representatives, 1840-1923. New York: Baker and Godwin (online at: http://archive.org/details/gu_notablemenhou00glyn)
- Glyndon, H. (1865). Idyls of Battle. New York: Hurd & Houghton. (online at: <http://archive.org/details/idylsofbattlepoe00inglyn>)
- Glyndon, H. (1873). Sounds from Secret Chambers. Boston: J.R. Osgood and Company. (online at: http://archive.org/details/gu_notablemenhou00glyn)
- Glyndon, H. Of El Dorado. (1897). San Francisco: C.A. Murdock and Company. (see google books).
- Glyndon, H. and McGinn, E.S. (1921). Echoes of Other Days. San Francisco: Harr Wagner Publishing Company (online at: http://archive.org/details/gu_echoesotherda00glyn)

Other writings by Laura Redden (Searing)(she often published under the pen name Howard Glyndon):

Journals/Newspapers her articles appeared in:

The Silent Worker
American Annals of the Deaf
Missouri Republican
The Presbyterian and Our Union
St. Louis Republican (news reports and poems)
Missouri Record
The New York Times
The New York Sun
New York Tribune
Evening Mail and Express
Harpers Magazine
Galaxy

Atlantic Monthly
Putnam's Magazine
Arena
Alaska-Yukon Magazine

Note: her archived papers are housed in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

References and Books/Articles /Links about Laura Redden(Searing):

Braddock, G.C. (1975). Notable deaf persons. Washington, DC: Gallaudet College Alumni Association.

Clark, J. L. (2006). Melodies Unheard: Deaf Poets and their subversion of the "sound" theory of poetry. *Sign Language Studies*, 7 (1), 4-10.

"Death of Mrs. Searing" (1924) *Silent Worker*, 36 (4) 190.

Gallaudet, E. M. (1884). The poetry of the Deaf. *American Annals of the Deaf*, 29 (3), 200-222.

Gallaher, James, E. (1898). *Representative Deaf Persons of the United States*. Chicago: James E Gallaher Publisher.

Gannon, J. R. (1986). "Searing, Laura." In J. V. VanCleve's (ed). *Gallaudet encyclopedia of Deaf people and deafness*, Volume 3 (pp.11-13). New York: McGraw Hill Book Company.

Jones, Judy Yaeger (1995). On signing and appeal. In M. D. Garretson (ed.), *Deafness: Life and Culture II: A Deaf American Monograph*. (pp. 63-66). Silver Spring, MD: National Association of the Deaf.

Jones, Judy Yaeger (1999). Some private advice on publishers: Correspondence between Laura C. Redden and Samuel L. Clements. *Missouri Historical Review*. XCIII (4), 386-396.

Jones, Judy Yaeger, and Jane E. Vallier (Eds) (2003). *Sweet Bells Jangled: Laura Redden Searing*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

Krentz, C. (2000). Laura Redden Searing. In C. Krentz, *A Mighty Change*, (pp, 129-135). Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

Lang, H.G. and B. Meath-Lang. (1995). *Deaf persons in the arts and sciences: A biographical dictionary*. Westport,CT: Greenwood Press.

Luck, Jessica Lewis (2013). Lyric Underheard: The Printed Voice of Laura Catherine Redden Searing. *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*, 30 (1), 62-81.

Moulton, C. W. . "Laura C.R. Searing", *The Magazine For Poetry* (1893), (6)1:178

Searing, Laura Redden—Columbia Missourian: Women in Journalism.

<http://www.columbiamissourian.com/media/multimedia/2007/pages/women/searing.html>

Searing, Laura Redden. (See John McGinn)

<http://alaskamininghalloffame.org/inductees/mcginn.php>

Searing, Laura Redden. The Searing Family Blog.

<http://blog.searingfamily.com/2007/12/24/laura-redden-searing-1839-1923/>

Other information/documents/images:



Photograph of Author and her daughter, Elsa S. McGinn

[Above from:http://archive.org/details/gu_echoesotherda00glyn)]