

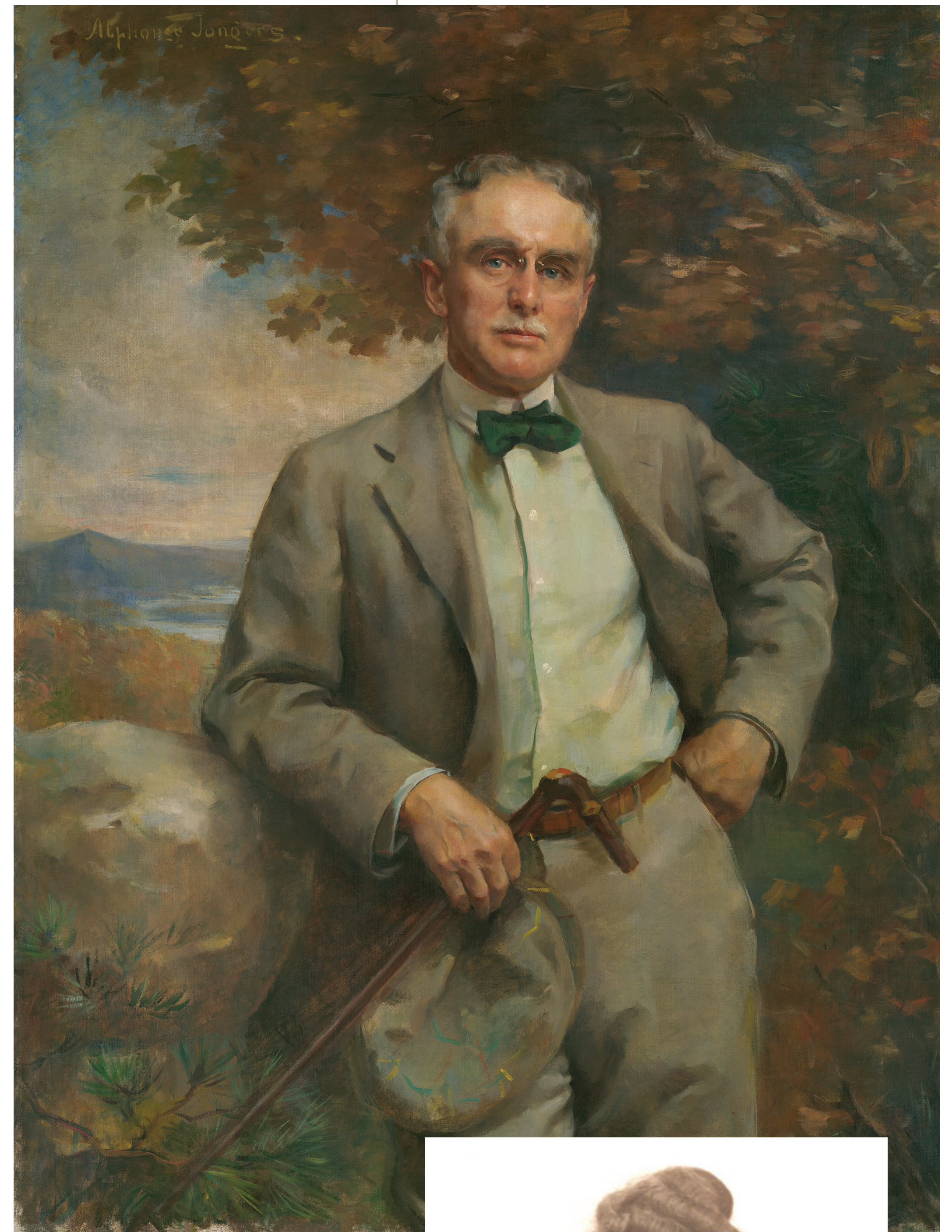
Discovering the History Behind Plant's Castle

Thomas Plant once said that his choice of location for his country estate Lucknow was greatly influenced by his niece Amy, who was particularly fond of the exquisite natural beauty of "Ossipee Mountain Park" in New Hampshire. Nestled into the slopes of the Ossipee Mountains and looking down over Lake Winnepesaukee, this dramatic location would set the tone for the design and construction of the estate's various buildings, as well as the active lifestyle that Thomas Plant and his wife Olive Dewey Plant would enjoy during their 27-year residence here.

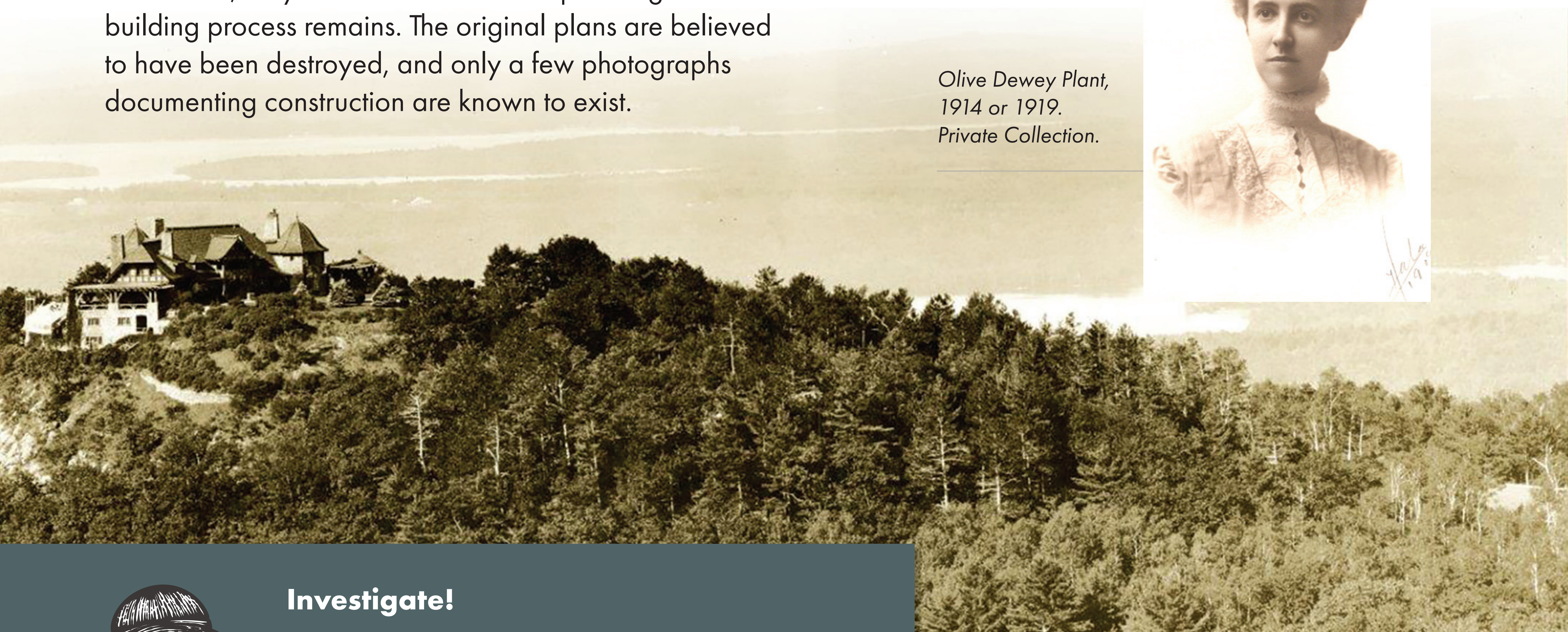
Once the Plants had purchased their property, they worked with Boston architects J. Williams Beal & Sons to design the mansion, stables, gatehouses, and farm buildings on their 6,300 acres. Such a massive project would require unique architectural design, smart engineering, an awesome amount of manpower, and a vast amount of money. Thomas Plant wrote that he spent upwards of \$1 million to build his dream home (roughly \$25,000,000 in today's money).

Although the estate buildings are historical documents themselves, very little evidence of their planning and the building process remains. The original plans are believed to have been destroyed, and only a few photographs documenting construction are known to exist.

Thomas G. Plant portrait painted by Alphonse Jongers around 1914. Courtesy of Plant Home, Bath, ME.



Olive Dewey Plant, 1914 or 1919. Private Collection.



View of Lucknow Estate as photographed by George Perry probably between 1917-1924. Courtesy of the New Hampshire Historical Society.



Investigate!

Examine the historical sources below to see if you can find any clues about why the Plants chose this remote area in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire for their dream retirement estate.