

# Forest History Society



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## Guide to Biltmore Forest School Images, ca. 1890s - ca. 1988

Collection of twenty-two black-and-white and color images of the Biltmore Forest School, the first forestry school in the United States. Dr. Carl Alwin Schenck (1868 - 1955), manager of forests on George Vanderbilt's (1862 - 1914) Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, founded the school in 1898 and served as its sole director until the school closed in 1913. The collection includes images dating from the 1890s to the late 1980s, as well as some undated images. The earliest photographs depict school activities; buildings and structures associated with the school; a 1908 forest fair organized by Schenck and held on the Biltmore Estate; Biltmore Forest School students and alumni; and Carl Schenck. More recent photographs depict the establishment and development of the Cradle of Forestry in America historic site in Pisgah National Forest near Asheville, North Carolina, which commemorates the history of the Biltmore Forest School and the origins of forest conservation in the state of North Carolina.

**2003**

## Guide to Biltmore Forest School Images, ca. 1890s - ca. 1988

### Descriptive Summary

**Collection Title:** Biltmore Forest School Images, ca. 1890s - ca. 1988

**Creator:** Unknown

**Extent:** 22 photographs in 1 file folder; ca. 1 inch

**Location:** For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Forest History Society Archivist/Librarian, Cheryl Oakes (coakes@duke.edu)

**Processed By:** Michele A. Justice

**Date Completed:** June, 2002

**Encoded By:** Michele A. Justice

### Information for Users

**Restrictions to Access:** This collection is open for research.

**Provenance:** Unknown

**Preferred Citation:** [Identification of Item], Biltmore Forest School Images, Forest History Society Photograph Collection, Library and Archives, Forest History Society, Durham, North Carolina.

**Copyright Notice:** The Forest History Society owns copyright to this collection. Individuals obtaining materials from the Forest History Society Library and Archives are responsible for using the works in conformance with United States copyright law as well as any donor restrictions accompanying the materials.

**Processing Information:** Thumbnail images displayed in this guide were scanned at 75 dpi with a maximum pixel size limitation of 300 pixels imposed. Digital surrogate images were scanned at 150 dpi with a maximum pixel size limitation of 700 pixels imposed. Supplemental descriptive data about images appearing in this guide and with the digital surrogates was drawn from the Forest History Society's Image Database, which contains catalog records for images in the Society's collections. Information presented in [square brackets] indicates that the cataloger supplied the data. The original images are housed in the Forest History Society's Photograph Collection.

### Historical Note

Dr. Carl Alwin Schenck (1868 - 1955) founded the Biltmore Forest School on George Vanderbilt's (1862 - 1914) Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, in 1898 and served as its sole director until the school closed in 1913. The school's curriculum focused on providing practical forest management field training supplemented with traditional classroom lectures in silvicultural theory. To provide the practical training, Schenck took his students on extended field trips to various regions of the United States and Europe so that they could observe firsthand different types of silvicultural operations and methods of forest management. Students usually attended the school for a one-year term, and upon completion of their studies most students sought employment with private lumber companies. The Biltmore Forest School closed in 1913 due to declining interest in the program.

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In the 1910s the Vanderbilts sold portions of land comprising their Biltmore Estate in Asheville, and parts of the forested tracts were later incorporated into the Pisgah National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service dedicated in 1966 a tract of the forest's Pisgah Ranger District to commemorate the birthplace of forestry in the United States and the establishment of the Biltmore Forest School on the Vanderbilts' North Carolina estate. In 1968 an act passed by the U.S. Congress established the Cradle of Forestry in America national historic site on this dedicated tract of national forest land. At the site, rehabilitated and reconstructed buildings form part of a living history exhibit. Forest trails meander among managed forestry plots illustrating nursery techniques, tree planting practices, and selective harvesting methods from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The site also has a number of interpretive museum exhibits that trace the history of forest management and forestry education on the Biltmore Estate in Asheville and more generally in the southern Appalachian Mountain region of the United States.

### Scope and Content Note

The Biltmore Forest School Images collection contains twenty-two black-and-white and color images dating from the late 1890s to the late 1980s, with several undated images. The images show scenes of students in the field; events associated with a three-day forest fair Schenck organized in 1908 on the Biltmore Estate for the purpose of demonstrating the accomplishments and possibilities of practical forestry; former students gathered for an alumni event in 1966; buildings on the Biltmore Estate that were associated with the school; and structures comprising the Cradle of Forestry in America historic site near Asheville, North Carolina.

### Organization of Collection

This collection is comprised of a single series labeled [Biltmore Forest School Images](#). The "Detailed Description of Collection" section of this guide includes a thumbnail digital representation of each image along with a link to a [Digital Surrogate] that displays a larger version of the digital image and supplemental descriptive information. Also available for browsing is a complete [Photo Gallery](#) consisting of index pages that display thumbnail images with links to pages containing larger digital images and descriptive data.

### Online Catalog Headings

Biltmore Estate (Asheville, N.C.)

Biltmore Forest School -- History.

Foresters -- United States -- Biography.

Forestry schools and education -- North Carolina.

Forests and Forestry -- United States -- History.

Historic sites -- North Carolina -- Cradle of Forestry in America.

Schenck, Carl Alwin, 1868 - 1955.

Vanderbilt, George Washington, 1862 - 1914.

## Detailed Description of Collection

### Series I: Biltmore Forest School Images, ca. 1890s - ca. 1988

#### Scope and Content Note

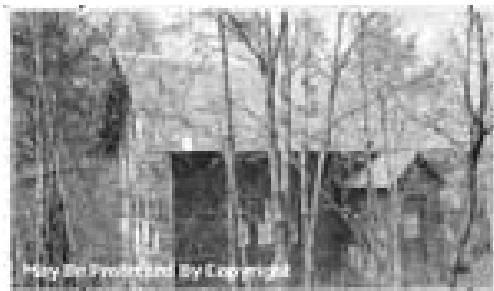
Thumbnail digital representations of images depicting people, places, and structures associated with the Biltmore Forest School are presented below along with brief descriptive information. The [Digital Surrogate] links to a larger digital image with more complete cataloging information associated with each photograph.

**Image ID:** FHS248th    **Image Date:** [no date]  
**Image Title:** [Biltmore Forest School clubhouse.]



[\[Digital Surrogate\]](#)

**Image ID:** FHS263th    **Image Date:** [no date]  
**Image Title:** [Biltmore Forest School clubhouse.]



[\[Digital Surrogate\]](#)

**Image ID:** FHS272th    **Image Date:** 26 December 1936  
**Image Title:** [Carl Alwin Schenck's home on the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina.]

**Guide to Biltmore Forest School Images, ca. 1890s - ca. 1988**



**[Digital Surrogate]**

**Image ID:** FHS273th **Image Date:** July 1915

**Image Title:** Pisgah Forest.



**[Digital Surrogate]**

**Image ID:** FHS274th **Image Date:** [ca. 1890s - 1910s]

**Image Title:** [Biltmore Forest School schoolhouse.]



**[Digital Surrogate]**

**Image ID:** FHS275th **Image Date:** 1911

**Image Title:** [Biltmore Forest School students.]



**[Digital Surrogate]**

## Guide to Biltmore Forest School Images, ca. 1890s - ca. 1988

**Image ID:** FHS276th **Image Date:** 26 July 1966

**Image Title:** The alumni of the Biltmore Forest School.



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS277th **Image Date:** 18 August 1904

**Image Title:** A mountain home of the better class.



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS278th **Image Date:** 1912

**Image Title:** Buildings -- North Carolina: Biltmore Forest, Transylvania County.



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS279th **Image Date:** 1905

**Image Title:** Dr. C. A. Schenck's Biltmore Forest School class of 1905.

Guide to Biltmore Forest School Images, ca. 1890s - ca. 1988



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS280th **Image Date:** [no date]

**Image Title:** [Biltmore Forest Fair, 1908.]



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS281th **Image Date:** [1908]

**Image Title:** [Biltmore Forest Fair, 1908.]



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS282th **Image Date:** [1908]

**Image Title:** [Biltmore Forest Fair, 1908.]



[Digital Surrogate]

**Guide to Biltmore Forest School Images, ca. 1890s - ca. 1988**

**Image ID:** FHS283th **Image Date:** [1908]

**Image Title:** [Biltmore Forest Fair, 1908.]



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS284th **Image Date:** [1908]

**Image Title:** [Biltmore Forest Fair, 1908.]



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS285th **Image Date:** [1905]

**Image Title:** [Biltmore Forest School picnic.]



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS286th **Image Date:** [no date]

**Image Title:** [Bucking logs on the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina.]

Guide to Biltmore Forest School Images, ca. 1890s - ca. 1988



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS287th **Image Date:** [1964?]  
**Image Title:** The restored Biltmore Forest School.



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS288th **Image Date:** [1964?]  
**Image Title:** Cornerstone at the Cradle of Forestry Visitor Information Center.



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS289th **Image Date:** [1964?]  
**Image Title:** Exhibits at the Cradle of Forestry in America.



[Digital Surrogate]

**Guide to Biltmore Forest School Images, ca. 1890s - ca. 1988**

**Image ID:** FHS290th **Image Date:** [1988?]

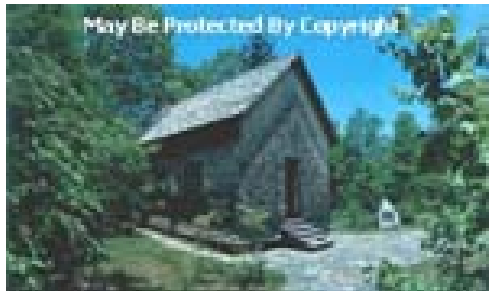
**Image Title:** New Era Celebration -- Cradle of Forestry in America -- June 25, 1988.



[Digital Surrogate]

**Image ID:** FHS291th **Image Date:** [no date]

**Image Title:** [Biltmore Forest School schoolhouse replica.]



[Digital Surrogate]