

11/5/2025

Rosen House Summer Research Fellowship: Collection and Archives

2026 Theme: Flora (Bigelow) Dodge Guest (1869–1964)

Intended for a graduate student, advanced undergraduate, or recent college graduate considering advanced study, the Caramoor Summer Research Fellowship allows for a short-term, sustained period of study at a highly unique historic site, situated in Katonah, New York. A stipend of **\$3,500** is offered (payment to be made in installments). The theme of the fellowship in 2026 is the life and correspondence of Flora Bigelow, later known as Mrs. Charles Stewart Dodge and as the Honorable Mrs. Lionel Guest. In 2024 a previously unknown portrait of Flora (Bigelow) Dodge by the artist Amanda Brewster Sewell was discovered in the Rosen House collection, leading to many more questions about this smart and adventurous woman, the mother of Lucie Bigelow (Dodge) Rosen, one of Caramoor's founders. Raised in an intellectually stimulating home as the daughter of John Bigelow and Jane (Tunis) Bigelow, Flora married young, then sought a divorce in the "Divorce Colony" of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, before remarrying into an aristocratic English family and witnessing the events of the second World War from her home in England. Approximately 200 letters from Flora to her daughter Lucie and other family members survive in the Caramoor archive, many of which have not been previously studied.

The 2026 fellow will examine and transcribe Flora's letters in the Rosen House archive with a goal of creating a more complete biography of this remarkable woman. The fellow will have access to the archives at the Rosen House and work closely with Jessa Krick, Director of Interpretation, Collection and Archives. Research will be carried out in person, during a period of three months (ideally June-August 2026), on a schedule to be worked out by the research fellow and staff at the Rosen House. Some additional travel to other collections/libraries may be necessary.

This opportunity is well suited to an advanced student with knowledge of and interest in social history, archives, women's studies, and the history of New York City and London, England, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition to transcriptions of Flora's letters, the project outcomes are a timeline of Flora's life, two social media posts (300-500 words) and a final report (approximately 2,500 words). A presentation to members of the Rosen House Committee and other staff will be required in September 2026.

Strong research and writing skills are an asset for applicants, as is the ability to read manuscript letters. Familiarity with the PastPerfect database is helpful but not required.

Requirements for application:

- Letter of interest, including reason for application and description of relevant study and/or topics of special interest.
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Short writing sample (approximately 300-500 words)
- Two letters of reference from recent professors and/or relevant work supervisors

Deadline for applications: January 16, 2026

Application materials to be sent to personnel@caramoor.org

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. Top candidates will be invited to interview over Zoom before a final decision is made.

About the Rosen House:

The former home of Walter (1875–1951) and Lucie Rosen (1890–1968), music patrons and art collectors who established a legacy of music performance at the site which has been ongoing for 79 years, the Rosen House at Caramoor Center for Music & the Arts is a unique setting for a collection of art ranging from Italian Renaissance painting to Qing Dynasty jade carvings. The collection includes examples of paintings, sculpture, ceramics, and textiles, plus garments and accessories from Mrs. Rosen. Displayed in period rooms outfitted with architectural elements and wallcoverings such as 17th-century Italian carved paneling, French painted cabinetry of the 1700s and Chinese export wallpaper, the collection represents the eclectic eye of Walter and Lucie in outfitting their country home for themselves and for their guests. The extensive archive contains correspondence between members of the extended Rosen family and a wide circle of their friends and acquaintances in the fields of art, music and business, as well as supporting materials, including diaries, datebooks and photographs.

Project outcomes:

1. Transcription of approximately 200 letters, with data entry in the PastPerfect database.
2. Two social media posts suitable for a general audience (300-500 words each). One post due midway through fellowship period.
3. A biography of Flora (Bigelow) Dodge Guest (approximately 2,500 words), informed by her letters in the Rosen House archive and additional research.
4. Short presentation to select staff and Rosen House Committee (September 2026).

Eligibility:

Only U.S. citizens, noncitizen nationals of the U.S., lawful permanent residents, or aliens authorized to work in the U.S. may apply.

Long-Distance Applicants:

Unfortunately, no onsite housing is provided at Caramoor for the duration of the fellowship. If necessary, fellows are encouraged to obtain housing based on local availability.