

CAROLINE KELLER LOUGHLIN



Caroline Keller Loughlin was born in New Orleans in 1940 to Charles Keller Jr. and Rosa Freeman Keller. She attended Isadore Newman School, where she was an award-winning debater. In her senior year she was one of three named as First Honor Students in an unusual three-way tie for first place in her class of thirty-eight. She won the prize for excellence in public speaking and a National Merit Scholarship.

After graduating from high school in 1957, she entered Cornell University, the only Ivy League school that admitted women at that time, where in her first semester she was on the Dean's List and a varsity debater in the Cornell Debate Association. She won several awards for debating, and in 1961, she was the subject of a syndicated newspaper story about her debating skills. She graduated from Cornell in 1961 with a degree in mathematics. She was hired by IBM and trained to program business computers,

which were just becoming available. Of the eighteen people in her first training class, only two were women.

In 1962, she married Philip H. Loughlin III, her former Cornell classmate and debating partner. That year they moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where Phil served three years of active duty as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. Caroline immediately was hired by the Florida Department of Public Welfare to program computers and do systems analysis and design, and she soon headed the Division of Planning and Programming.

In 1965, Caroline and Phil moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where Phil took a civilian job. Their family grew: Philip Henry Loughlin IV was born in 1967, and Thomas Keller Loughlin was born in 1968. Caroline focused on family life and, when she had time, volunteered where she could use her skills to pursue new goals. Before long, she bought one of the very first personal computers that came on the market—the Apple II—for use in her everyday life, including her volunteer work.

She joined the Junior League of St. Louis. The Junior League promotes volunteerism for women. It was because of the opportunities offered by the Junior League that Caroline eventually began to focus on the preservation of historic landscapes. Through the Junior League, she volunteered at the St. Louis Zoo located in Forest Park, the largest park in St. Louis and became an officer and director of the Zoo Friends. She joined a Junior League project to research the history of that park. After 10 years of research and writing, she coauthored with Catherine Anderson, another Junior League member, the book *Forest Park*, the first definitive history of the park. This was the start of Caroline's interest in historic landscapes. The book was published in 1986 by the Junior League

and the University of Missouri, and it became a best-seller in the St. Louis area. Caroline and Catherine were invited to speak at more than 100 organizations. Caroline was invited to be a founding member of the new park support group, Forest Park Forever, and became president. In 1992, she received the Hiram W. Leffingwell Award, given to persons or organizations that have substantially benefited Forest Park.

While in St. Louis, she was active with other organizations and was an officer and director of the Junior League. She served on the board of the Women's Society of Washington University and was president for one term. She was one of the organizers and a director of the Butterfly House, established in 1995, which became a division of the Missouri Botanical Garden. She joined the Association of St. Louis Area Archivists, where she

studied ways to manage large archives. When Phil retired in 1999, they moved to the Boston area, where Caroline focused exclusively on historic landscapes.

Impressed with Caroline's work in historic landscapes, the National Association for Olmsted Parks Board of Trustees invited her to join in 1989. During her tenure with NAOP, she held several offices including two terms as co-chair of the board, and she worked on several related projects.

Caroline participated as a copy editor for *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted*, the twelve

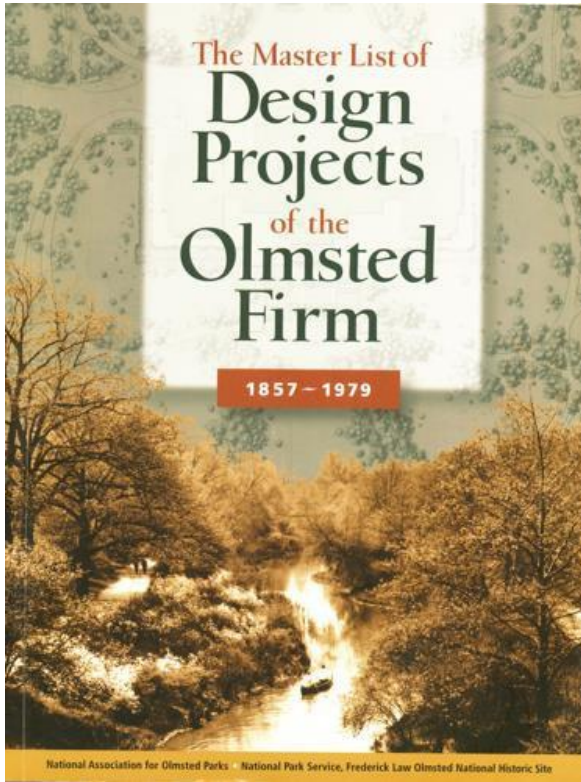
volume series of Olmsted's most significant writings. She was copyediting volume 9 at the time of her death. The series editor, Charles E. Beveridge, said that in approaching her job as copyeditor, she read all the published volumes in the series "which gave her an appreciation of...the richness of Olmsted's thoughts and writings. She is one of the very few people who have read all eight volumes we have published."



The Junior League presented a copy of *Forest Park* to the mayor of St. Louis. From left to right: Caroline Loughlin, Mayor Vincent Schoemehl, Jr., President of the Junior League Schuyler Herbert, and Catherine Anderson.

She volunteered at Fairsted in Brookline, Massachusetts, the site of the former Olmsted firm and now the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site of the National Park Service. She served as a member of the Olmsted Archives Advisory Group at Fairsted, which organized over 1,000,000 items relating to the Olmsted firm that were there. Caroline helped found Friends of Fairsted, the private support group, and she was elected president. Caroline was both a contributor to and an editor of the revised edition of *The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm 1857–1979*, published in 2008. *The Master List* received

awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Foundation for Landscape Studies, and the Boston Society of Landscape Architects.



Caroline was part of the collaboration between NAOP and the National Park Service that created the Olmsted Research Guide Online (ORGO). This electronic database provides access to records relating to the landscape design and planning work of the Olmsted firm. Caroline's extraordinary contribution to the Olmsted legacy became apparent to all, and in 2005 the NAOP board established the Caroline Loughlin Volunteer Service Award "in recognition of extraordinary dedication and commitment," and presented the first award to Caroline.

In 2011, Caroline was elected to the board of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, which works to restore and maintain the park system in Boston and Brookline designed by Olmsted. Caroline's keen interest in historic landscapes led her to

volunteer at Mount Auburn Cemetery in 2000, where she served in the Historical Collections Department for 13 years. As she gained a broader understanding of the Cemetery, she was selected to be co-chair of the Cemetery's 175th Anniversary Committee. In 2006, she became a trustee of the Cemetery's support group, the Friends of Mount Auburn. In 2010, she became a trustee of the Cemetery.

In 2012, twenty-three years after she first started work with NAOP, Caroline was named by *VIEW*, the magazine of the Library of American Landscape History, as its Preservation Hero for that year. *VIEW* cited her work at NAOP, Fairsted, and Mount Auburn Cemetery, and described Caroline as "among the country's most active stewards of the [Olmsted] firm's landscape history."

Caroline died in 2013 at her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her ashes were inurned at Mount Auburn Cemetery.