

Thistle



Vol. XXIV

May 1998

“Castles Along the Hudson”

with Louise Devenish



The original Racquets Club

Historical society members and their guests are cordially invited to join us for free refreshments and a lecture at our annual meeting, at the Racquets Club on Thursday, June 4th, at 7:00-9:00 pm. The historical society was very fortunate to be able to engage the dynamic decorative arts consultant and lecturer, Louise Devenish. Through a slide-illustrated lecture, all the joys of an American summer's day in the nineteenth century can be enjoyed by a vicarious steamboat trip up the Hudson River to visit some of the most beautiful and romantic historic Hudson homes.

We dock first at Tarrytown, to visit the magnificent Gothic Revival villa of Lyndhurst, designed by foremost architect Alexander Jackson Davis (1803-1892). From Lyndhurst, we will travel north to Garrison, in the heart of the romantic Hudson highlands, to visit Boscobel with its outstanding collection of New York Federal furniture. We end our journey in the old whaling town of Hudson, to view the most breathtaking sight, of Olana, a Moorish villa and the home of Frederick L. Church, designed by Calvert Vaux.

Ms. Devenish is a gallery director and consultant for Lee Calicchio, Ltd in New York, specializing in 18th and 19th century antiques. She is also an adjunct professor of antiques and interiors at Marymount Manhattan College. Ms. Devenish has coordinated numerous lectures and events, including the following: “Designers’ Night” at the Plaza Hotel (1998), “The Works of Louis Comfort Tiffany” (1997), “Nineteenth Century America”, including lectures on the Harter Brothers (1997), “Rural and Urban-The Enduring Appeal of the American Country Style” (1997) and “Great Woman Designers and the Stylish Interiors they Created” (1996).

If you've never come to an historical society event, this is one you won't want to miss! Seating is limited, however, so please call the society at (973)564-9519 and leave a message with your name, phone, and number of people you are bringing.

President's Message

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you my thoughts on my initial term as president.

Thanks alone cannot express our gratitude for your continued financial support and for the countless hours spent by those members who have volunteered their time at the museum.

Needless to say, the task of organizing and cataloging the material is a tremendous undertaking. I would like to invite any interested members to help us with the work of putting the archives in order. The experience is educational, rewarding - and fun!

We expect to have the furniture, which was purchased from the NJ Historical Society, in place next month. We are in the process of preparing it for the move. These pieces, along with the Tiger Hardware pieces generously donated by Sebastian Cupo (owner of La Strada in Millburn), constitute the bulk of our museum furnishings.

We would like to welcome new trustees Karen Eastman-Bigos and Monique Hoogenboom-Steiner. Their enthusiasm and spirit inspire us all and we are excited to have them on board.

We are also excited to be planning a regular lecture series for our members, which we hope we can begin this fall.

We have begun work on a soon-to-be-published book of historical photos of our town. Many of these photos are from our archives and have not been published before. I

would like to thank Owen Lampe for his tireless efforts on this project.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone again on Thursday, June 4th at our annual meeting. We have planned a very special evening and I would like to encourage you all not to miss this very special event. The Racquets Club will host and cater the meeting and we greatly appreciate their support.

Sadly, we have all experienced a great loss when a very special, long-time society member and Millburn resident, Herbert Marshall, passed away in 1997. Shortly before his death, Mr. Marshall visited the museum and identified the women in one of the society's most popular photos, that of his mother's wedding party. Elsewhere in this newsletter we have included delightful excerpts from an oral history interview with him, when he reminisced about life in Millburn when he was a young man.

In the back of this Thistle we have provided a part of the page for your memories suggestions, or communications. You may also use the sheet to volunteer for any of the society's projects - perhaps to give or assist with an oral history interview, for which we could always use help! After all, the town's history belongs to us all and the memories which you hold dear will provide enjoyment to everyone for years to come!

See you on June 4th!

Michelle

Wanted: Local Cookbooks

Did your church, your children's school or classroom or your favorite local group publish a cookbook? The historical society is trying to assemble a collection of local cookbooks to be added to our archives and to use for a exhibit ("Good Taste in Millburn and Short Hills"). Once our furniture is finally in place and our papers are safely stored in it, we would like to prepare an exhibit of early cooking items - and to prepare refreshments from recipes culled from local cookbooks. We have a small collection right now, including: *Christ Church Cook's Book*; *Cookbook of the Stars (Paper Mill Playhouse)*; *Culinary Treasures (Wyoming Presbyterian Church)*; *Drexel Club of Short Hills, NJ*; *St. Rose of Lima Cook Book*; *A Taste of Love - White Oak Ridge Road Chapel*; *What's Cooking at Short Hills School* and the 1924 *Calendar of Dinners* that belonged to Julia Denman.

We are hoping for donations of any of the following local cookbooks: *Add a Little Love (St. Rose of Lima Ladies' Auxiliary)*, *Cooking Without a Grain of Salt*; *Culinary Treasures*

From Short Hills Kitchens (Women's Guild of Community Congregational Church), *Far Brook Cook Book*, *Recipes From the Kitchen of Community Congregational Church*, *Sharing*

Our Best (Pilgrim Congregational Church), and any of *Ruth Macpherson's* books.

If you are aware of any that we have not included here, please let us know and we'll add it to our wish list!

For a sample of what we hope is coming, we would like to share a recipe from Peggy Arnold, from *Christ Church Cook's Book*:

Hot Crab Dip

1 8 oz. pkg cream cheese
1 T. milk
1 or 2 6½ oz cans flaked crabmeat
2 T. chopped onion
½ t. horseradish
¼ t. salt
dash pepper
⅓ c. slivered almonds

Blend well. Spoon into oven-proof dish. Sprinkle with slivered almonds. Bake at 375° for 15 min. Serve with crackers.

Fifteen-Year Faithful Guardians

The town and historical society are fortunate to have had the foster home services of the Scuilli family, for the past fifteen years! According to a 1983 article in *The Item*, a cannonball, which "probably came from a British gun aimed at Short Hills from somewhere in Millburn during the 1776 Battle of Springfield", had been found decades before on the grounds of the former Hobart Avenue Short Hills School, by former resident William Deane Wright. In 1983, Mr. Wright sent the cannonball to the historical society. Since the society had no headquarters at the time, the cannonball was faithfully looked after by Fran Scuilli, then chairman of the society's archives. Mrs. Scuilli brought the exciting find to the museum last week and it will soon be displayed in our "new" glass-topped display case. Please stop by to see it! Thanks so much to the Scuillis for faithfully guarding our treasure for all these years!

Museum Update

The museum furniture which the society purchased from the NJ Historical Society in Newark is being readied for moving. Board members have made a few trips to NJHS' former site, in Newark, to disassemble the beautiful, heavy, wood storage pieces. The pieces are expected to be moved before the end of May. With these pieces, and once the remaining pieces donated by Mr. Sebastian Cupo, from the site of the former Tiger Hardware, are restored, the society anticipates finally being able to safely store the maps, newspapers, photos, etc. that are presently sitting on tables and benches, awaiting a place to put them. We will also be getting a new lateral filing cabinet, to replace older, temperamental ones in the office area (the old ones will go across the tracks for storage of non-essential papers).

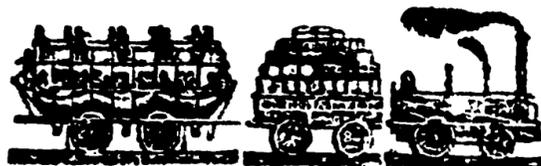
Once the pieces are finally in place, we can also use them to exhibit photos and maps from our collection. We are also exploring costs for having any of our photos reproduced, should a society member like a copy of any of them.

Two additional projects remain for organization of the museum: a small kitchenette, to enable the society to easily host meetings for our members and other local groups, and metal shelving, for supplies, for the utility closet. As soon as these last projects are complete, the society will tackle the exhibits and programs that have been planned for months. Your patience with these preparations has been greatly appreciated! Organizing and cataloging twenty years worth of the society's collections is a project that requires everyone's patience and care. If you have ideas, needs, or suggestions, please call us at the museum at 564-9519 and share them with us.

The museum is presently open on Tuesdays from 10:00-1:30 and Thursdays from 2:30-5:30 (but please allow us an extra half hour for opening, in the event that we are delayed - which we inevitably are). As of June, we are also open from 2:00-4:00 pm on the first Sunday of the month. Visitors are always welcome to browse or to jump in and share the pleasure in unearthing (and frequently stopping to read) marvelous items that still need to be filed, sorted, labeled, etc.

Although we have generally been able to adhere to this schedule, modest staffing has meant an occasional divergence from these hours, so if you are planning a special trip here, please consider calling the museum first. We look forward to seeing you!

**MORRIS & ESSEX RAIL-ROAD.
NEW-YORK, NEWERK & MORRIS-
TOWN.**



Recent Acquisitions

The society is very grateful to receive artifacts from generous residents and/or members. We are happy to be able to preserve, share and use for reference, these relics of Millburn-Short Hills history.

Our sincerest thanks to the following people for enriching the lives of all residents by their donations:

- From Dr and Mrs Charles T King, a 1955 MHS yearbook and 1952 commencement program
- From Mr and Mrs W Owen Lampe, an old school desk and ephemera from the estate of Hope Lampe's father, Schuyler Harrison, including newspapers, magazines, etc
- From Gail Engelschjon, two area maps, 1950's-era phone books, postcards, much ephemera
- From Patricia Williams (nee Oakes), three Glenwood maps, incl. photos of homes in Glenwood, and 1928 and 1929 MHS yearbooks
- From Thomas Rung, two early postcards from Millburn and two early receipts from the Denman estate

- From Jo Welt, 1988 centennial issue of The Item
- From Richard (Mickie) Gray, Wittkop Liquor Dealer tax stamps
- From Mr and Mrs Harry C Nissen, of Pulaski, VA, a box of wonderful early photos from the Wyoming area, early MHS memorabilia, other early ephemera, from the estate of his cousin, Louise Lord (Woolsey family)
- From Audrey Zavitch, principal of Glenwood School, courtesy of Carol D'Alessio, an album of 1952-53 photos of Glenwood School
- From an anonymous donor at an (E) Sale estate sale, paperback copy of the Millburn bicentennial book. *Donor: Please call us and tell us your name!
- From James Loynd, three early, framed photos of homes in the Wyoming area

In the excitement of receiving and savoring donations, we may forget to record them here. PLEASE, if your gift was not acknowledged here, PLEASE contact us at 564-9519.

A 1921-1926 Short Hills Diary

(The following excerpts are taken from the 1921-26 diary of Edward Layng, son of Edward Layng, builder and architect of some of Stewart Hartshorn's historic homes. The Layngs lived at 28 Forest Drive and the author here chronicled his efforts to assist in the remodeling of the family home, which was built in 1881. At that time, Layng lived in the house with his father -the "Boss"-, his mother, and his sisters Gertrude, Josephine, and Marjorie - also often referred to as G, J. and M. Josephine was apparently a hat maker and had a small building on the property for her use in that occupation. The "shade rollers" often referred to in the diary are the wooden dowels -and flat wooden slat at the bottom-used in roller window shades. The roller window shade mechanism was invented by Stewart Hartshorn and the wooden parts of the shade were used by the Layngs to panel the lower half of the living room, dining room, and hallway walls.)

April 22, 1926 Just hear old Todd estate is sold for real estate development.

Thursday: Beautiful, windy, warm & dry - The daffodils bloom by the hundreds - All in just a day. I do not believe that there were a half dozen of them out yesterday - crab apples start; bushes by back stairs start - Magnolia below shows signs of starting.

April 24, 1926 Saturday -Paint back of siding - Clean up yard generally. Sift old ash heap by barn and obtain 3/4 barrel of ashes. Sweep garage. Bath and nap.

Movies with G and J - Millburn - Good. "The Beautiful Cheat"

Ma pays Skipper \$66 and Coddington \$66.

Magnolia tree below rapidly blossoming - One above is alive - Crab apple tree starting to bear leaves.

April 25, 1926 Sunday: Changed tire on car - Puncture -

Mrs. Spicer calls and gets daffodils. I let out canaries in blue room for some time

Short ride with Boss late PM before supper -> White Oak Ridge and around usual lap up Parsonage Hill Rd & stopped to visit Robin Hood's cottage - well built & attractive. Price \$22 T. Real estate office for a few years.

Music after supper.

April 26, 1926 Monday - First day of day light saving time - Both Sk. and Coddington late.

Take paint off (burning) old back door and its frame. Remove old oak sill from inner door - Paint old floor to protect it from ants. Cut tin strips to keep rain out to go above window frame just made. Get #100 Atlantic White Lead paint from Tiger's.

All trees now budding or starting to bud - Tulip buds coming up. Lonergan says Spring is now 4 weeks late.

April 27, 1926 Tuesday: Betty Basset stops & Jo & she go to Betty Jane Tea Room in Madison for lunch - see movie stars performing.

Skipper's father & brother stop to leave off a spare tire for Sk who has a "flat"
Take Boss to Millburn to buy a smoke & paper

April 28, 1926 Wednesday: Let canaries out in room for exercise.

Leland Rhodes arrives home at Newark 10 AM from China - Family are to meet him with car.

May 2, 1926 Beautiful day, almost hot - like Summer. Sat out in shade from crab apple tree - in high backed rocker taken from Jo's house & read Schopenhauer's Essays.

Leland & Eleanor called while out walking. They see house & admire it.

Took Boss To ride from Farmer's Hotel to Spgfld Ave trolley track, over new 7 Bridge Rd & returned via Millburn - stopping at Fruchtman's for Pratt's chloride & tobacco
Bee in my window sash enlarges his "diggings"

May 4, 1926 Help make stair treads by ripping material out of old window trim.

Visitors: Mr. Lauderdale; Miss Jordan; Mrs. Gordon; & Ma's "Little Old Man", Mr. Sanchez, who leaves a bag full of gladiola bulbs.

Miss J. does not approve of the green & red colors in our choice for wallpaper because they detract from colors (of) in pictures & furnishings

May 7, 1926 Friday: Ice box moved

May 8, 1926 Saturday: C. works on staining sliding doors from hall.

Take Jo & Jean to meet tube at Newark

Sun porch set comes & I think it's punk

May 12, 1926 Wednesday: Mow remainder of lawn not covered by Coradi's men who worked an hour or so here by mistake, thinking himself at Lauderdale's. (This while Donald Wilson stops with fine new Packard car).

May 14, 1926 Friday: Sk. Repairs blinds; raises cement by pulley etc to me in Bird Room

Tommy Allen calls. Fording. Leaves for Greenland Sunday

Leaves on maples now practically full grown - Dogwoods & Japanese apple trees in full bloom - Beautiful - Tulips in full bloom - Also Primroses

May 16, 1926 Fritz Lueders visits Jo for some time, necessitating my passing time in kitchen so as not to be seen - However I finally go upstairs.

Had straw-berry short cake for supper.

Excerpts From an Oral History Interview With Herbert Marshall Jr

Interviewed by Alicia Roman, July 1977

Alicia: And how long have you been a resident of Millburn?

Mr. M.: All my life. Since 1908.

Alicia: Let's go on and talk about Wyoming.

Mr. M.: Well, Wyoming was started by a land company of which my great-grandfather was the head. And there were three farms that were purchased to make the development. And they ran from what's now Millburn Avenue up on the side of the mountain. One of the farm houses is still there, which is now the Hessian House (*Editor's note: The Hessian House is 155 Millburn Avenue-near Vaux Hall Rd*). A second farm house is gone and is now Lord & Taylor (*Ed. note: Now the site of Freshfields and The Home Place*). A third farm house is gone and used to be, as far as I know, on the corner of, I guess, Ridgewood Road and Millburn Avenue. This was about 1872. And the development started with, mostly, I would think, speculated houses. They built a few houses to attract people, I suppose, and I think were built by speculators. Before the development had gotten too far advanced, we had the Depression that took place, I think, under the term of Grover Cleveland. And the thing came to an abrupt stop. Finally it ended up with a lot of the lots being auctioned in a big sale, of which the brochure is in the hands of the Millburn Public Library or someplace. If not, I have one at home.

Alicia: Is that why the sudden rate of tower houses were built?

Mr. M.: Those were among the first. There were other houses just as old that are still there. They were built at the same time, but the tower houses were amongst the first houses built.

Alicia: Didn't I hear you say at one time that you remember cows coming down Wyoming Avenue?

Mr. M.: Well, this will go into this business of Wyoming being just a dirt kind of a path. There's a street in Maplewood now, known as Collingwood Road, or Collingswood Road. It runs off Wyoming Avenue. It's so named because at that particular place in Maplewood there was a very large dairy farm. And those cows were grazed in what is now South Mountain Estates. There was nothing in South Mountain Estates at all, just what cows would love - pastureland. So, I don't know how many times during the year the cows were driven from the farm off Wyoming Avenue down to South Mountain Estates. Probably grazed there most of the summer, then they were driven back for the winter. Could say it was almost a cattle drive that took place through Wyoming at least twice a year.

The anecdote you want me to recall is that they used to bring the cows up Myrtle Avenue, which was another grade crossing, and up past our home, up Chestnut Street to Wyoming Avenue, then up to the farm. This one particular day, they were driving the cows up and there was a calf that was being transported in a little buggy - in the back of the buggy - and the buggy was at the rear of the herd. Apparently they were trying to drive the mother of the calf at the head of the herd.

Alicia: Oh, boy!

Mr. M.: And that particular cow was constantly trying to turn and get back to the buggy driving the calf. They'd gotten up to probably about Cedar Street and this cow continued to try to get back to the rear of the line...finally stampeded the whole herd. So, people were playing tennis at the Wyoming Club and these cows all come tearing down. I suppose instinctively they wanted to go back to their pastureland, so they ran all over the porch of Martell's house on the corner of Wyoming Avenue...has a big porch you know...down across the tennis courts, down across our yard. Tennis players, by this time, were all out running after the cows, chasing them with tennis racquets, trying to get them back into shape again. And I guess they finally got them all rounded up somewhere. But that was...the calf back to the mother.

Alicia: When was this? What year? About when?

Mr. M.: Oh, I don't think I could have been more than about 12 years old or something.

Alicia: I remember you saying you were afraid of them when they were...

Mr. M.: Oh, I was scared of cows for the rest of my life! Everybody said cows were so docile...that's such a wonderful expression. As far as I was concerned, they were going to eat me up! From that experience I thought cows were the worst thing that had ever been born.

(Discussion of the railroad overpass at Wyoming Avenue)

Mr. M.: ...I remember the bridge when it was built over the railroad. The same time they built the bridge over the railroad they built the underpass at Cypress Street. They took the dirt that they dug out to go under the railroad at Cypress Street, and they had one of these little dinky engines and small cars and they built a railroad track from Cypress Street to Wyoming Avenue and they'd take the dirt out of Cypress Street and cart it up and dump it at Wyoming Avenue. And one of my great thrills was after everybody had gone home and there was a little steam up still in the dinkies, and I used to go down and run them as far as they would go before - they had big chains on the wheels but there was a little slack on the chains - so you could go ahead a few feet, then back up a few feet. That was fun.

Alicia: When did the actual establishment of Millburn Avenue as a commercial area...begin? I remember that marvelous picture of the house where Lord & Taylor is now and the bicycle races that went up and down Millburn Avenue...

Mr. M.: That was my family in the picture, you know.

Alicia: Yes. That was where the Marshall's lived?

Mr. M.: I lived where my mother's family lived, the Williamsons.

Alicia: Was this the only house on that particular stretch?

Mr. M.: No. Of course, the Hessian House was there. The commercial establishment - the property that's being argued about, the Reeve property, that was a chicken farm and people bought eggs from Mr. Reeves. His nickname was "Chicken Reeves". And then on the - across from Reeves, on the other side of Ridgewood Road, was a saloon...I think it was called Collidge (?), which is now where the vet is...that was a saloon. And then the next thing, I guess, was the Hessian House, and then there were dwellings. No commercial at all. There was no commerce on the other side of Wyoming Avenue where those stores are now.

Alicia: So, when you wanted to go grocery shopping from Wyoming, you went to Millburn center?

Mr. M.: No. Wyoming was identified in every way with Maplewood, not with Millburn. We had...our post office was Maplewood, our phones were South Orange exchange, our grade school graduates went to Columbia High School and most people shopped in Maplewood.

Alicia: Now, was Wyoming a part of Millburn Township, or was it part of Maplewood?

Mr. M.: Always...part of Millburn. But because it was as close as it is to the Maplewood line, most people did their shopping in Maplewood. Our family shopped in Millburn for meats and groceries at least, and there were two big grocery stores, really general stores. You could get practically anything in those stores. One was D.J. Mundy, which occupied the property that Kaiser's Drug Store is on, and McCollum Brothers, which was on the opposite corner, which is now a dress shop, or something. McCollum would call our house on the phone, or we would call McCollum, and tell them what we wanted and it would be taken down over the telephone and delivered. And Lonergan was the butcher and you called Mr. Lonergan up and told Mr. Lonergan what you wanted and Mr. Lonergan delivered. So that you - as far as shopping went - unlike today, never went to the market.

Mr. M.: Oh yes, vegetables...used to be a man...used to come out from Newark, Mr. Fink, and he had fruit and vegetables on a wagon. He had his route and he would stop in front of the house and the housewife could go out and look over his stock, pinch the vegetables, squeeze the melons, and what not, and take what they wanted and pay him and he'd go on to the next stop. And Sandy brings up the Charlotte Russe man. We used to have a man that used to come around, probably only in the summertime, but he'd carry the box on his head and call out..."Charlotte Russe, Charlotte Russe" and everybody'd come out and if they wanted it, that's how they got it...And there used to be a woman's hair dresser, for instance. I think her name as Lottie Chambers. And he used to ride a bicycle and she'd have regular places that she would go to...

(Note: More excerpts from Mr. Marshall's interview will appear in the next Thistle. If you enjoyed this and would like to help with oral histories, the society would love to hear from you! We have many more names on our list of people we would love to talk to, than we have interviewers! We also have tapes that have not yet been transcribed, so please call us at 564-9519 if you would like to help with this fun project)

Searching for...

The historical society regularly gets requests for help with searches for information on early residents of Millburn and Short Hills. It is hoped that some of our readers may also have information about the "missing people". If you do, please call 564-9519 and we'll pass on the information...

Kauffman - In preparing for an exhibition on Louis Comfort Tiffany, the Metropolitan Museum of Art uncovered a reference to a commission for a fireplace from Tiffany, ordered by a prominent Short Hills resident, Louis B. Kauffman. The museum would like to know if the Kauffman house still exists and whether the fireplace was ever completed and installed in the house. Mr. Kauffman is listed in early directories on Montview Ave. Do you have a Tiffany fireplace in your house???

Dean Emery - Society member and former long-time Short Hills resident Tom Collins is searching for information on the whereabouts and name of the daughter(s?) of Mr and Mrs Dean Emery, to help him with his life-long search for information on the artist Derrick.

Baird/Bayard - Tom Collins is also searching for additional information on a Short Hills family named Baird or Bayard.



If you would like to volunteer to help with any of the many activities in which the society is presently engaged, or if you would like to share your memories with the society (either here or in person), please let us know below. Just complete the section below, with your name and address, then tell us what you would like to do or share, in the blank space after that. The sheet can be mailed to the society at: PO Box 243, Short Hills, NJ 07078.

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