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The Challenge

PRESERVATION • RESEARCH • EDUCATION

The Philadelphia Area Architecture of Horace Trumbauer

Presented by Mr. David Rowland

Thursday, September 17th, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Bethlehem Pike & East Mill Road in Flourtown, PA

Architect Horace Trumbauer (1868 –1938) is well known for the wide range of residential, commercial, and civic structures he designed in and around Philadelphia. His works can be found along Old York Road and the Main Line, as well as in Philadelphia and Springfield Township, Montgomery County. During the American renaissance in architecture, Trumbauer masterfully interpreted the classical styles, designing many of the area's most notable structures.

Please join us as the Springfield Township Historical Society hosts Mr. David Rowland, author and President of the Old York Road Historical Society, as he presents us with a look into the beautiful works of this local and nationally renowned architect. Drawing from research and photographs from his recent book, "The Philadelphia Area Architecture of Horace Trumbauer" (co-authored with Rachel Hildebrandt/Old York Road Historical Society and published by Arcadia Press), David will share his information on many of Trumbauer's creations, along with stunning exterior and

interior photographs of some of the architect's most significant works, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Keswick Theatre, the Widener Building, Whitmarsh Hall, Lynnewood Hall, and Ardrossan.

David Rowland is in his 14th year as President of the Old York Road Historical Society. With the society, he has co-authored many works of local history including, "Abington, Jenkintown and Rockledge," "Willow Grove Park," and "The Morelands and Bryn Athyn" (all published by Arcadia Press).

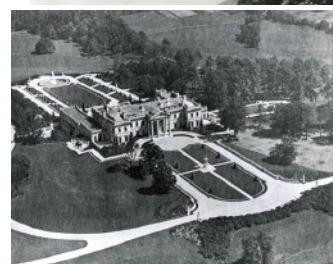
This promises to be an exciting and educational program that focuses on the Gilded Age splendor of Philadelphia history. The public is invited to attend, and there is no charge for admission. Reservations are not required. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information call 215-233-4600



◀ *Lynnewood Hall, Elkins Park, Horace Trumbauer, architect.*

▶ *Two views of Whitmarsh Hall, formerly in Wyndmoor, Horace Trumbauer, architect.*



President's Corner

It's hard to believe it's been five years since my brother, Charles, and I published our last book (Whitemarsh Hall: The Estate of Edward T. Stotesbury). During the course of our research we were introduced to numerous people descended from and associated with the Stotesburys and "Whitemarsh Hall." Yet, for all the digging we did back then to uncover as many sources of information, pictures, and stories as possible, I'm still amazed how much more is still out there to discover. Just recently I had the pleasure to speak with Mrs. Maquita (Santa Maria) Driscoll, who lived on the "Whitemarsh Hall" estate for nine years and personally knew the Stotesburys.

Mrs. Maquita Driscoll is a very pleasant and sharp woman of 99 years, who shared with me her stories of living in the Gilded Age. Her family's association with the Stotesburys began when her mother, Marie Santa Maria, was hired as Eva Stotesbury's social secretary. At this time the Stotesburys were still living on Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia. Once Whitemarsh Hall was built, Eva asked Marie to serve as her head of household, responsible for sixty-five servants working in the mansion. Marie felt she was too old at that time to assume such a demanding job, and suggested Eva hire her eldest daughter Elena for the role. Elena was offered and accepted this position, and brought her younger sister Maquita to live with her on the estate, in a home still standing on Paper Mill Road.

Mrs. Maquita Driscoll brought the Stotesburys and Whitemarsh Hall to life in our discussion. No longer were Eva and Ed just black and white pictures to me, but real people. Eva was "sweet and caring" and "darling to me." Ed was "the fussy type" and "a small man, very pleasant, very nice." The Stotesburys treated the Santa Marie sisters very well, and they were invited to parties at Whitemarsh Hall as well as their other mansions in Bar Harbor, Maine and Palm Beach, Florida. Mrs.

Driscoll tells of one social event at Whitemarsh Hall, which was a party for Louise Cromwell Brooks (Eva's daughter from her first marriage). It was a June night under a full moon, and all the fountains were lit up. Guests included the Atwater Kents, the Arthur Newbolds, and the John Dorrances. Two orchestras were playing, and everyone enjoyed themselves throughout the night. The event concluded with breakfast served in the main house, and Mrs. Driscoll headed home at 8 o'clock in the morning. What a memorable event!

Eva would tell Mrs. Driscoll that "the place (Whitemarsh Hall) is yours" when they would leave for the winter. She would then invite her friends over for sledding and skiing on the grounds. When the Stotesburys were in residence, Mrs. Driscoll would occasionally sit in as resident artist. Eva had drawings done of each piece of her wardrobe, so that she could review her collection in a book each night, and select the next day's outfits in advance. These are just a few of the entertaining stories shared with me over the course of a couple of hours.

My interview with Mrs. Maquita Driscoll has been preserved electronically on CD, and stored in the Historical Society archives for others to access and enjoy. I encourage you to explore the Society's archives and to take advantage of what it has to offer. We are currently located at 8428 Germantown Avenue in Chestnut Hill, while we await the move to our permanent home in the Black Horse Inn in Flourtown.

My sincere thanks goes out to Joanne Dhody, Mrs. Driscoll's niece, for introducing me to her aunt, and of course to Mrs. Driscoll for allowing part of her life story to be recorded and shared.

Keeping the past in the present,

Ed Zwicker

RECENT DONATIONS

Earlier this summer, Montgomery Newspapers generously donated microfilmed copies of The Sunnybrook Sun which became The Springfield Sun and The Colonial dating from the 1940s through the 1990s. The Sunnybrook Sun took its name from the Sunnybrook Country Club which was the course now known as the Flourtown Country Club. These newspapers will undoubtedly prove useful to future generations of researchers interested in local history. STHS extends its thanks to Montgomery Newspapers for their foresight and generosity.



**Look for STHS at COMMUNITY DAY
Sunday, September 13th at Cisco Park.**



STHS at the Chestnut Hill Garden Festival, from left: *Andy Logan, Ellie Hamilton, Christine Smith and Joan Dessureau.*

Carol and Joseph Van Sciver represented the Springfield Township Historical Society in Wyndmoor's Memorial Day Parade by driving their 1909 Hupmobile.



STHS Logo — *History and Representation*

Since this is our first edition of “The Challenge” to be distributed in e-newsletter format, many readers may be seeing the STHS logo for the first time in full color. Visitors to Chestnut Hill may have noticed the logo depicted on our new sign in front of the STHS archives on Germantown Avenue. We thought it timely to include some background and history on our now familiar logo.



In the 1990s, local resident, architect, and former STHS board member, Kes Lukas, designed the STHS logo. The design was intended to echo the general look of the Springfield Township seal, while depicting elements specific to the township's history. The coat of arms shield represents the combined family crests of the Penn and Springett families (William Penn and his wife Gulielma Maria Springett) who founded our township. Symbolically, the metallic shield and the colorful banner above it are representative of an established society with the strong social structure and manufacturing capabilities. The oak leaves represent the virgin American forests that existed when the area was first settled and the oak tree is closely linked to William Penn's legacy here in Springfield. The shield, overlapping the leaves, represents the arrival of established society. The acorns at the sides represent the seeds of a new civilization planted by the Penn family and those who followed. As an Historical Society, we preserve that link to those original seeds and this logo is our symbol of that connection.

From the Archives... Why Enfield?

The Enfield Elementary School is located at Paper Mill and Church Road. Ever wonder why the school was named “Enfield?”

The name Enfield can be traced back to a man by the name of J.H.Dulles (Joe) Allen. The Allen family owned the farm at Paper Mill and Church Road. According to family lore the name Enfield was given to the farm by Joe's grandfather who had come to Philadelphia from Enfield, Connecticut and before that from Enfield, England.

In the area called Five Points where Church Road, Paper Mill Road and Oreland Mill Road meet there were great deposits of iron ore and clay. Joe became interested in using the clay to make artistic pottery and tiles. In 1905, Joe started a small business which he named Enfield Pottery.



Stone House used as the office for Enfield Pottery and Tile Works, Paper Mill and Church Roads

While he started making pottery, it was the tile business that would have the greatest success. The first major commission was tiles for the Pan American building in Washington, DC. Notable contracts for tiles included the Bok Carillon Tower in Florida and the Delaware River (now Benjamin Franklin) Bridge. Locally there are Enfield tiles in buildings at the Carson Valley School.

The stone house that was used as the office for Enfield Pottery was located at the corner of Paper Mill and Church Roads. Because of the postal activity created by the tile business, a post office named Enfield was opened in the same building. The building still exists in private ownership across from the elementary school.

Around the time of the great depression the pottery and tile business declined. In 1930 the government closed the post office and soon after the business was shut down.

So, when you are traveling through the Five Points intersection and see the stone building across from the Enfield Elementary School take a second to remember Joe Allen and his Enfield Pottery business.



◀ *Enfield Tiles from 1928 catalogue, Enfield Pottery and Tile Works, Price List of Floor and Wall Tiles.*

Oral History Initiative

STHS is looking for volunteers to form a committee to lead an oral history initiative.

The committee would be responsible for formulating a methodology for documenting oral history and would then identify and work with local residents who are willing to share their memories of Springfield Township.

Documenting oral history is a valuable means of gathering information on the day-to-day life in our community; information that will be lost as generations pass. Anyone interested in helping with this important project should call STHS at 215-233-4600.

History Award



Evan Studenmund (left) was presented with the Springfield Township Historical Society's History Scholarship Award, by historical society president **Ed Zwicker**. The award is given to a graduating senior of Springfield Township High School who plans to major in history or a related field and for scholastic achievement. The historical society established the award to recognize the importance of education about the township's past. Evan plans to attend Elon University in North Carolina.

Become a Friend of STHS

This issue of *The Challenge* is the last issue that will be distributed to former STHS members. Readers must sign up as a Friend to continue to receive our newsletters, either in paper format or our new e-newsletter.

As a Friend, you will help to support our mission of "Research, Preservation and Education," and you will receive:

- Four issues of our newsletter, *The Challenge*.
- Discounts on programs and activities (bus trips, tours, etc.).
- Discounts on gift items such as books, maps, prints and tiles.
- Recognition of your contribution in our year-end issue of *The Challenge*.

Members contributing at the William Penn level will also be invited to attend a year-end party held at an historic Springfield home.

To sign up as a Friend, please visit our website:

www.springfieldhistory.org

*Reserve
the Date*

Thurs., Sept. 17, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

***The Phila. Area Architecture
of Horace Trumbauer***

A Presentation by
Mr. David Rowland



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