

Florham

Third Annual Gala a Success

We could recount all of the courtly ballroom dances immortalized by novelists throughout the centuries, but can only say that the real thing – dining and dancing in the elegantly restored Lenfell Hall of the Mansion – surpasses fictionalized narrative. With a slight shift in the calendar from December to May, the Friends hosted their annual fundraising event on May 20. Well over 100 people attended the Spring Gala, which raised a substantial \$20,000. Tradition and experience appear to be the keys to success: the Gala was chaired once again by Barbara Keefauver, Linda Meister, and Phyllis Conway, with Mrs. William Y. Dear playing her customary role as Honorary Chairman of the Benefit Committee. All funds from the event will be directed toward the Friends’ initiatives for restoration of the Great Hall of the Mansion.



FDU President Dr. J Michael Adams escorts Honorary Chair Thelma Dear into Lenfell Hall at Friends’ Spring Gala

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Memories Of a “Florham” Workman’s Son

This newsletter’s announcement in the fall of 1997 of the Friends’ effort to restore Florham’s Italian Gardens included this sentence: “The Friends plan to have the restoration celebrate not only the vision of the Twomblys and their landscape architects but also the creative labor of the anonymous workmen employed by the founders of Florham.”

Conspicuously representative of those workmen was Salvatore Luciano, who

came from Italy to New Jersey in the 1890s, just as “Florham” was being built. Like many of the other immigrants newly arrived in Hoboken, the then young Mr. Luciano was met at dockside by a labor contractor who signed him up for and transported him to his work on the Twomblys’ estate then being created.

Mr. Luciano’s first assignment, his descendants recall, was assisting his fellow immigrants in digging the trench for the footings of what was to become the Mansion.



Fairleigh Dickinson University

A Voice From the Past

A couple of months ago when checking my telephone messages, I heard a voice saying, "This is Arthur Herrington." I immediately recognized this name as that of the Twombly's head gardener from 1896 to 1910 during the formative years of Florham's gardens and grounds. From whence did this voice arise?

The call turned out to be from Arthur Herrington's grandson, Arthur Clarke Herrington, a resident of Potomac, Maryland. Curiously, he had heard about the Friends of Florham and its search for the Herrington-developed daylily from his daughter, who had picked up the information in England where she was attending Cambridge University.

Arthur Clarke Herrington has fond memories of his grandfather, and often visited his house in Madison (still standing several blocks east of Florham on Fairwood Avenue.) He remembers him as a man of great vigor, intensity, and good humor, and one who endeared himself to the local garden club ladies with his charm. In one of the many anecdotes that Herrington shared with me, he described how his grandfather commandeered him to help him trench his own garden—a physically demanding task for a man in his 70's—and how he competed in cutting tall grass with the older man who could wield a scythe with great speed and proficiency.

Arthur Clarke Herrington also described the collection of medals which were awarded to his grandfather, mainly during his years at

Florham, for plants and flower arrangements shown at various exhibitions. These medals, fifteen in number, will be polished up, and photo records will be sent to the Friends of Florham for the archives. Horticulturist Herrington was frequently noted at the turn of the century in the local Madison paper for his achievements and awards at important national flower shows, as these few excerpts illustrate:

Prize winner at Madison Square Garden & Boston Shows (Nov. 1897)

Prize winner; mums, NY show (Nov. 1900)

Prize winner at Newport (Sept. 1903)

Boston show winner: mums (Nov. 1904)



*Arthur Herrington (1866-1950)
Appointed Superintendent/Gardener of
the newly established Florham Gardens
in 1896*

Following Hamilton Twombly's death in 1910, Herrington resigned from Florham and became extremely active in the national and international fields of horticulture and landscape design. He also managed many of the leading garden shows in the county, including a twenty-five year stint as manager of the International Flower Show of New York, the foremost show of its kind in the nation. We look forward to further contacts with Arthur Clarke Herrington and discussions about his highly talented grandfather.

Richard C. Simon

A Preservation Primer

For budding preservationists, restorers of historic homes, and readers generally interested in the art and/or science of preservation, we include a highly selective starter kit of basic resources culled from web sites and library reference works:

Web Sites

Although preservation in cyberspace seems like a contradiction in terms, the Internet actually offers a comprehensive guide to government, state, and local preservation groups; legislation updates; articles on the progress of the preservation movement; and information on a variety of funding sources. (Lest we be considered discriminatory, we have also included traditional contact information: addresses, telephone, and fax numbers.)

National Trust for Historic Preservation (<http://www.nthp.org>) The major objectives of this 51-year old national non-profit organization chartered by Congress are to provide leadership, education, and advocacy, and encourage public participation in the preservation of historic sites and buildings. This comprehensive web site, with its diverse hyperlinks to speeches, transcripts, funding sources, related laws and public policy, historic sites, and the highly regarded *Preservation* magazine, collectively provides a valuable history, with specific insights, into the progress of the preservation movement in the United States.

Addresses: National Office, 1785 Massachusetts Ave, N.W. Washington, DC 20036; (202) 673-4000; Northeast Field Office Representative, P.O. Box 18889, Philadelphia, PA 19119; tel. (215) 991-5778; fax (215) 991-5780.

Preservation New Jersey (<http://www.preservationnj.org/>). This non-profit organization, founded in 1978, seeks to protect and promote the state's historic resources. Among its various capabilities, Preservation New Jersey is an advocate for historic preservation issues at all levels—local, state, and federal. It conducts tours to historic sites, organizes lectures to educate the public about historic resources and related issues, and publishes an annual list of the 10 Most Endangered Historic Sites in New Jersey. In addition to the “endangered” list, the web site includes a calendar

of events and links to related preservation resources. Address: 30 S. Warren St, Trenton, NJ 08608-2002; tel. (609) 392-6409; fax (609) 392-6418.

Department of Environmental Protection, Historic Preservation Office (gchidley@dep.state.nj.us) The Historic Preservation Fund provides grants for historic resource surveys and preservation planning and pre-development projects of Certified Local Governments (CLG), county and municipal agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit institutions. Funding comprises 60% federal/state and 40% local matching funds. Address: P.O. Box 404; 501 East State Street; Trenton, NJ 08625-0404; tel. (609) 292-2023.

New Jersey Historic Trust (<http://www.njht.org>). Created by the state legislature, the NJHT, a non-profit organization affiliated with the Department of State, encourages cooperative preservation efforts between public and private agencies. This web site is extremely well-furnished with links to funding programs—national, state, regional, and local; contact information for various national organizations; corporate and private foundations; and a compendium of preservation-related publications resources. Address: P.O. Box 457, Trenton, NJ 08625; tel. (609) 984-0473; fax (609) 984-7590.

Reference Books

Northeast Preservation Sourcebook: The Definitive Guide to Historic Preservation, Services and Products. (Vienna, VA: Preservation Publications, 1999). An extensive repository of regional research, planning, design, construction, architects, contractors, and specialized materials such as doors, windows, and furnishings. Preservation Publications also produces other regional guides, using a similar approach. Address: P.O. Box 1329, Vienna, VA 22180; tel. 800-707-4330; fax (703) 255-6803. Web site includes listing of all publications and online ordering capabilities (<http://www.preservationweb.com>).

Preservation Yellow Pages. (National Trust: John Wiley & Sons, 1997). A useful guide to all things

President's Letter

As the Friends of Florham begin their eleventh year, we look back on a year of enjoyment and accomplishments--and we look forward to the challenges of our current projects with continued enthusiasm. Although much of our progress during the year is discussed in this newsletter, let me briefly mention some of the highlights.

In May, we held our annual fundraising dinner dance in the beautifully restored Lenfell Hall, which raised much of the money for the restoration of the Great Hall of the Mansion, our most recent project. We also made a wonderful and educational trip to the Scalandre factory on a memorably rainy day in June. The visit was of particular interest to us because Scalandre had created specifically for the Lenfell Hall draperies a beautiful gold-toned cotton-damask and silk-trimmed material, and we were able to see how these were made from start to finish. On that day of torrential rains, we were particularly grateful to FDU's new president, Dr. J. Michael Adams, who

generously provided us with transportation, and to his wife, Carol, who accompanied us on the trip.

During the summer, the Friends also planted on each side of the entrance to the Mansion a holly tree in memory of Kenneth W. Dougherty, the husband of our Board member, Kim. We are most grateful to those good friends of Ken who felt that the trees would be a fine way to honor the memory of a man devoted throughout his life to gardens, plants, and trees.

I want to thank all of the wonderful Friends of Florham board members who have helped in so many ways to make our activities successful. I also want to encourage all of our readers to continue their efforts to help us. The Friends are indeed grateful to our members and supporters.

Emma Joy Dana
President, Friends of Florham



One of two hollies planted in memory of Kenneth W. Dougherty at the Mansion entrance by the Friends last summer is eased into place by FDU's groundsmen. The project was supervised by Shannie Doremus, Jack Fritz, Kim Dougherty, and Gary Jaworski, members of the Friends Tree Committee.

A Preservation Primer (continued from page 3)

preservation: from architects and contractors to providers of interior supplies, hardware, specialty tools, and lighting fixtures.

If These Walls Could Talk: an easy guide to tracking your house's genealogy.

M.D. Houck (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 1999). A step-by-step guide to decoding the history of individual houses : from court records, transfer deeds, land, census and tax records, historical societies, and style determination to placing homes on historic registers.

Memories Of a "Florham" Workman's Son (continued from page 1)

Each day, the contractor deducted as a commission ten cents from Mr. Luciano's seventy-five-cents-a-day wage. To save up enough money to pay for his wife's trip from Italy to the U.S., the brand-new American citizen therefore had to take on a second after-hours job, cooling off horses for two hours each evening for local equestrians. After two years of this far from lucrative "double dipping," he had enough to cover his bride's trans-Atlantic fare and to begin his family in his new country.

A direct line to these early days of Florham and its workers like Mr. Luciano is his son, Pasquale, who turned 95 last April 24. Pat, as his family and friends know him, is something of a living source of local history. He recalls vividly the adversity faced by his parents and other working families of Madison in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Not a little of that adversity undoubtedly resulted from the perception longer-established residents had of their more recently arrived neighbors. Such a perception is unmistakably and distressingly revealed in a *Madison Eagle* article of April 21, 1911, reporting on the arrival of yet another group of newcomers:

"Fifty-five swarthy Italian laborers," the article began, "arrived in Madison Monday morning and have been industriously at work since on the lower end of Main Street, preparing to lay tracks for the Morris County Traction Company. ... The Italian laborers reached Madison at 7:48 o'clock from a New York city employment agency and an hour later were divided into squads and marched down Main street to Union avenue, where they were put to work with pick and shovel. ... The Italian workmen brought here for the job are an interesting lot. They attracted considerable attention Monday morning on the Green & Pierson lot adjoining the D., L., & W. tracks, where they were herded until taken to the scene of operations. They are all dark little fellows, the majority being small of stature but stockily built and fully capable of the hard physical labor they will be subjected to daily. ... Each Italian carried a bundle containing what little clothing he had brought with him. There were very few suitcases and no trunks. The most conspicuous were the large bundles with blankets or sheets for coverings, although all the belongings some had were contained inside a large colored handkerchief. The men will be quartered in the large shanty erected by Contractor Charles Ippolito on Burnet road close to North street for his sewer employees. It is said that between 300 and 400 Italians can be quartered in the large room this building affords for sleeping and living quarters all in one. Bunks are erected along the walls and here the men sleep, huddled together like so many cattle. ..."

While Salvatore's son Pat recalls the severely challenging circumstances confronting his family in that era—his early boyhood home was a house lacking electricity, central heat, and an indoor toilet, and life in general was often difficult—he has also an endless supply of happy memories of his father's steady rise from "Florham" laborer to farmer and landowner. He can happily remember, also, his own successes as a grocery-store employee who became a food merchant and eventual owner of three Main Street buildings now housing at least eight businesses.

Some of his fondest recollections are of images of the Madison of long years ago, when the Twomblys' stately country home his father helped to build was in its brightest new days: children sledding undisturbed by traffic on what is now Maple Street, Main Street horse races on weekends, the YMCA located in the second floor of what is now a central Madison store, a gated street-level railway crossing in the center of town, a boggy morass where the Early Trades and Crafts Museum now is, the trolley that ran down Main Street and Park Avenue, and riding it with his wife more than six decades ago to see the premier presentation of "Gone With the Wind" at the newly opened Community Theater in Morristown.

Many of these recollections Pat views through the blue haze of the cigar smoke that is virtually a permanent wreath around his head as he sits on most fine days on a bench or chair outside his Main Street apartment. He has smoked—but never inhaled—five six-inch cigars a day since he was 15, he recently confessed. When told that, at that rate, he has gone through approximately 9.8 miles of cigars, he laughed and said that he is going to have engraved on his tombstone the message that the cigars "kept the germs away."

The distance Pat Luciano's cigars would span if laid end to end is indeed considerable. But it is little more than a few small steps compared to the strides made by the workers who, like his father, helped build not only the Twomblys' magnificent home and estate but also the country chosen as a new homeland by the sort of people whom the Friends had gratefully in mind in restoring the Italian Gardens.

Become a Friend

Join the Friends of Florham. Participate directly in our efforts to preserve the architectural history of Florham, and support our informative program series. Your support will make a difference.

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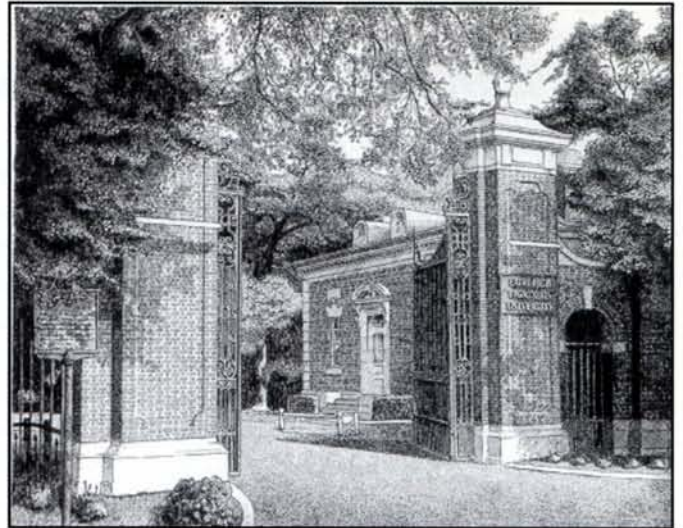
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Madison, NJ 07940



This drawing of the Gatehouse at FDU is one of a series of the historically important structures on the campus drawn by Professor Floyd Gellerman (Department of Visual and Performing Arts, FDU-Madison), exhibited at the Library from September 24 to October 20, 2000.

Friends of Florham

The Library
285 Madison Avenue
Florham-Madison Campus
Madison, New Jersey 07940

Co-editors:

**Carol Bere and
Walter Savage**

