

DUBLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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HISTORIC LANDMARK BURNS

by W. L. Bauhan

Dublin lost one of its major architectural landmarks Sunday, January 12, when "High Wells", A. B. Wolfe's massive hillside Shingle-style house above the old Harrisville Road burned to the ground. The fire, apparently electrical in origin, burned nearly all day before it could be brought under control. Lack of a water source nearby and the steep, narrow driveway hampered the efforts of the Fire Department, which responded immediately to a call about 8 AM from the house's tenants, Eric and Roshan Swope. Luckily, Mr. Wolfe was not home at the time.

The Historical Society extends its sincerest condolences to our former Trustee, Abe Wolfe, on the loss of a home he treasured and had carefully preserved since he bought it in 1952. Fortunately the carriage house, which had been converted to living quarters, was unharmed by the fire.

"High Wells" was built in 1899 at the height of the



This photo, by Henry D. Allison, was taken shortly after the house, "High Wells," was built in 1899.

Dublin summer resort era and was remarkable as a virtually unaltered example of turn-of-the-century period architecture. When placed on the National Register (1983) it was described as an "imposing, 3-story shingle covered 'cottage' with overhanging second story, curved walls, oriel bays, pediments, porches and semi-octagonal stair tower...complete with picturesque massing and a variety of textures and materials," and the interior was noted for its' elegant detail-

ing in mahogany and other hardwoods, heavy bulls-eye glass, Gothic arch interior doors, and a 1 1/2 story oval music room."

Despite much research, the architect's identity remains a mystery, although Abe Wolfe believes it was probably designed by Lois Lilley Howe, an early 20th century Boston architect, who later designed the nearby Meath House in 1916.

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According to the National Register history, the house was built by Eugenia Mifflin Frothingham, a member of the Houghton-Mifflin book publishing family, who called it "Monadnock Hall." Mrs. Frothingham (d.1925) later leased the house to summer tenants including Count Speck von Sternburg, a German ambassador to the U.S., for the 1907 season and possibly others. Mariana Griswold van Renssalaer (1851-1934), a noted biographer of the famous architect H. H. Richardson was also an occupant for several summers after 1900. Caroline E. G. Schurmeir of St. Paul, MN, the owner from 1925 to 1952, gave the house the name "Holy Wells," and did extensive road, terrace and garden renovations.

A. B. Wolfe, owner since 1952, is a well known attorney and a trustee emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He gave the house the name "High Wells." The name is derived, in part, from the many dug wells on the ridge on which the house is situated.

RECENT GIFTS TO THE ARCHIVES

Lillian Russell Carter has given us about 150 slides taken by her late mother,

Mrs. Otis T. Russell, between 1955 and 1975. Over 100 of these are of Dublin gardens, and are a most welcome addition to our collection of Garden Club Records.

Tom Seaver has given us a sign announcing on of Joseph Lindon Smith's productions at Loon Point. The play was "Daedalus W. Wrong or The Wrong Mr. Wright". The date (July 23rd) is given, but no year. Does anyone remember this play?

From Charles Winchester comes another much appreciated gift: an annotated catalogue of the Brewster sale at "Morelands" in 1964. This was accompanied by an auction flier for the sale of Mrs. Brewster's effects in New Haven and several related clippings.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

To celebrate the schoolhouse anniversary, the Archives Department (Nancy Campbell and John Harris) published two indices in pamphlet form.

One is a general index to Dublin Days Old and New by Henry D. Allison (1950). Many Dublin residents own this entertaining and informative book, but its useful-

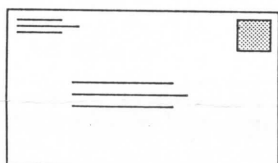
ness for reference has been hampered by the lack of an index. Our index is based in part on an earlier one by Bill Bauhan. Copies may be ordered at \$7.50.

The other is an index of subjects covered in The History of Dublin (1920). This supplements the excellent index of persons at the back of the History itself. The price for this one is \$5.00. The pair, at \$10.00, would make a good New Year's present for any scholarly friend.

In the course of the year, we have also prepared a complete transcript of births, marriages and deaths recorded in the Town Records since 1760. This not only simplifies the job of historical research, but allows the Town Clerk to respond more readily to requests for the records. Copies of this volume have been given to the Historical Society of Cheshire County, the State Archives in Concord, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and the Genealogical Library of the Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Archives Department has recently undertaken to revise and update the archives of the Dublin Community Church.

Finally, The Archives Department is in need of a four drawer metal filing cabinet. If anyone can help fulfill this "wish", we would be very grateful.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sirs:

I greatly enjoyed Linda Bastedo's article in the August newsletter about women's work, but there was one statement which I would like to correct. "The arrival of a grist mill in Dublin in 1838," implies that there wasn't one before that.

There were, in fact, at least two. The earliest was Eli Morse's at the outlet to Dublin Lake, which was built in the early 1760's. The second was Samuel Twitchell's on Stanley Brook, near the present entrance to Stonewall Farm, which was in operation in 1768. (see the Town History, p. 6.)

Sincerely,
Nancy F. Perkins

(Thanks for this additional information. ed.)

Just A Reminder!
Final Notice for Dues!
Please Don't Forget Us Even
Though Times Are Hard.
In Order to Continue to Stay
on Our Mailing List—Send
Those Dues in Today!!

DRIVING IN DUBLIN: NEVER AN EASY TASK

As you slip and slide along the local roads on these blustery winter days, turn your thoughts to the Historical Society's Annual PotLuck Supper. The meeting's featured speaker will be Dublin's Fire Chief and well known restorer of antique cars, Michael Worcester. Mr. Worcester will entertain us with tales of the beginning of the automobile in New Hampshire and the trials of the early days of driving in Dublin. He will also display some of the automobile memorabilia he has collected over the years. This year's Supper will be held on Friday, February 7, 1992 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dublin Community Church. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert and come prepared for a fascinating evening.

POTLUCK SUPPER

FEBRUARY 7th
@ 6:30 p.m.

PEOPLE TO CONTACT

The new Board has been hard at work since September on a variety of interesting projects.

The following is a list of Board members. Please feel free to contact any of them with your thought and comments on any of the Society's activities.

Linda Bastedo
William Bauhan (563-8020)
Terry Dwyer (563-7188)
Cornellia Montgomery (563-8757)
Laura Scott (563-8205)
Lucy Shonk (563-8837)
Elliot Snow (563-8718)
Bernie Vigneault (563-8718)
Tom Wright (563- 8435)

COMMITTEE

From time to time , we think that it is important that the members be aware of the number of things going on behind the scenes of the Historical society as reflected in the many committees that are hard at work on a variety of projects. New members to these committees are always welcomed. We urge all members who have a particular interest in a subject to contact the committee chairperson.

Archives—John Harris
Cemetery—Laura Scott
Program—Cornelia Montgomery
Archives Bldg.—John Harris
Curator—Linda Bastedo
Nominating—Mary McKee
School House—George Bogosian
History Preliminary—Lucy Shonk
Membership—Nancy Perkins
Nat. Register—Bill Bauhan