

FRIENDS OF ROCKWOOD FALL NEWSLETTER 2010



*You are invited
Join us for a Friends of Rockwood Member
Family Holiday Party*

*Sunday, December 12, 2010 5:30pm-7:30pm
Museum tour at 5 pm*

Enjoy fine food and drink while experiencing Christmas of yesteryear
Bring the children and grandchildren - photos taken with Santa

Please RSVP by December 8, 2010

If you cannot attend, please pass this invitation onto a
friend, neighbor or family member

info@friendsofrockwood.org

or

302-762-2075





The volunteers, docents and board members recently visited the Porter's Lodge and Carriage House.

Gardener's Cottage



Porter's Lodge or Gate House



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These are NOT the original gates.

< These are the originals and they were put into the area near the Porter's Lodge in the Memorial Garden.

The Gate House was built in the style of the mansion by Thomas and James Dixon, Baltimore architects, in 1855. Evidently Shipley did not approve of the plan the George Williams, architect of the mansion, designed.

David Shaw, Shipley's coachman, was the first resident. Shaw, a Scottish immigrant, came to the U.S. In 1852 when he began to work for Shipley. He lived in the gatehouse with his wife, Anne Pool, a Welsh Immigrant (married in 1856) and they had seven children.

They moved out in 1881 to a ten acre farm on the Philadelphia Pike, at Penny Hill. Shipley left him \$500 in his will.

Bessie pleaded with her father in 1892 to have a family without children move in remembering with disgust "the entire wardrobe of the Shaw children hung out to dry by the front gate. No matter what the garment!"

COSTLY FOR THE IMPORTERS.

JOHN GALT SMITH & CO. WILL HAVE TO PAY ADVANCED DUTIES.

John Galt Smith & Co. of 44 White Street, importers of Irish linens, crases, and Hollands, and the agents in this country for William Kirk, the famous Irish linen goods manufacturer, are liable to be out about \$7,000 or so, all through a difference of opinion as to the foreign market price of linen.

The firm recently imported \$35,000 worth of closely-woven linen goods. Alfred C. Dutcher, the Government expert in linens at the Appraiser's Stores, found that, in his judgment, the goods were undervalued on the firm's invoices from 10 to 20 per cent. The importers appealed to the United States General Appraisers. They showed that they could buy the same goods outright in Scotland and Belgium cheaper than they were invoiced by Kirk. They also argued that the valuations of experts on the goods in question differed as much as their own valuations and those of Mr. Dutcher.

General Appraiser James A. Jewell, however, agreed substantially with Mr. Dutcher, though he cut down a good many items, and in several instances sustained the invoice prices, lowering the total advance to about 12½ per cent. John Galt Smith & Co. will not make a further appeal to the full Board of General Appraisers, but will pay the heavy penalty usual on such cases of undervaluation, whether intentional or unintentional.

Navy Yard's Annual Money Crisis.

The fiscal year of the Federal Government ended yesterday, and the authority for Government expenditures at the Brooklyn Navy Yard came to an end.

Commandant Erben said that he was afraid he would have to close the yard and throw 1,600 men out of employment.

"I have telegraphed to Washington," he said, "in regard to a resolution before Congress authorizing a continuance of the appropriation until July 15."

The same trouble arises at the navy yard every year at this time, and a resolution similar to the one now before Congress is annually introduced. It is a makeshift to enable the laborers to continue work until the regular Appropriation bill can be passed.

"I never knew of but one failure to pass it," said Engineer Asserson, "and I am sure it will go through all right."

Robert Shaw was born January 10, 1859 and had a twin brother and seven other siblings, only two who married. He got sick as a child and spent a lot of time drawing. He was crippled and could never again work without crutches.

His family moved out in 1881 to 239 Philadelphia Pike so his large family would have more room. He traveled to England and Wales during 1885 and 1886 and Paris 1897-98.

In the 1880's, he had a studio at 8th and Market St. In Wilmington, drawing and painting in oils. He moved to the carriage house behind his parents' home where he lived until 1912.

He made etchings on a metal plate, called engraving, which made use of chemicals, varnish and turpentine.

Edward Bringhurst, III came to see his etchings at the Chicago Exposition in 1893 when Shaw and Howard Pyle were asked to exhibit at the Delaware State Building.

He became too blind from cataracts in 1906 but had an operation that restored his sight in 1908. He began to do watercolors in 1911. He died in 1912 at the age of 53.



Piedmont Geology presented on Friday, May 20, 2005 to the Friends of Rockwood
By Sandy Schenck, of the Delaware Geological Survey which is a research unit for the state and with
the
U of D <http://www.udel.edu.dgs>

The piedmont rocks are over 415 million years old.

Brandywine Hundred is part of the Eastern Appalachian Piedmont; we are on the northern edge of it.

The Atlantic Coastal Plain is very flat and continues offshore to the continental shelf.

There is rock way below the coastal plain. 6000' of sediment under Selbyville before the rock starts.

The Fall Line divides the two and basically follows Kirkwood Hwy.(east to west) Water falls off the piedmont, that's why so many mills were built along the Brandywine

The Fall Line is where most of the major East Coast cities are built from Boston to Alabama, along rivers where commerce was active.

Igneous – formed by volcanic lava & heat – Bringham Gabbros

Sedimentary – deposited by wind & water – coastal rocks, loose sand, & gravel

Metamorphic – heated and squeezed igneous & sedimentary

Piedmont is igneous and metamorphic.

Brandywine State Park is the dividing line and both kinds of rock can be observed there as well as in Bringham Woods along the Shellpot Creak. Bringham Woods and Iron Hill is Blue Rock, metamorphic Blue Rock is over 476 millions years old when it was 11 kilometers below the surface of the ocean. Eroded away – these are crinkled and deformed, unlike Gabbros which is the hardest rock.

Gabbros, true igneous and Blue Rock, Blue Gneiss, metamorphosed rock

Rockwood is on top of Bringham Gabbros, very hard black rock and black igneous that contains white and black crystals.

Blue Rock – igneous, black and white crystals in rock

Boulders that were dug up to build the restaurant row on 202 next to Kohl's were huge and placed all over the Woodlawn Trust Land behind it. They're so hard, that they couldn't be pulverized.

They are so hard because they were formed at 850 deg. C.

Rockwood had its own quarry – the cliffs that we see driving up the winding road on the right.

Penny Hill Quarry and all of Wilmington were built from Blue Rock, called Brandywine Blue Granite and it could be cut. There were quarries up and down the fall line, lots of green quartz in Blue Rock & Jasper in Iron Hill.

Blue Rock on the façade of Rockwood is charcoal gray, a fine sugary finish.

Gabbros has crystals, black when cut then dull with feldspar, shiny gray that turns white. The barn has both.

The Kitchen History

Gail Winkler, a Philadelphia historical interior design consultant, did the research in 1988, was consulted this past summer for an update so we can install the proper kitchen.

There have been many changes since 1852. The decision will be made on just which of the changes to interpret. The area to be used is the food service area now for the “Butler’s Pantry”. At one time, Rockwood had many rooms for the kitchen area: a family dining room in the lower level, a kitchen where the cash area is now, a scullery where the coffee is prepared currently, a summer kitchen (the 1st parlor) and a cold storage area that has been removed for the enlarged entrance. How do we interpret all of this into just one room?

Shipley’s kitchen was on a lower level than the main part of the house with a fireplace and range on the west wall, cabinets and or shelving along the south wall under the window. The small room along the north wall was called the Cook’s Pantry with built in shelves for cans and food supplies. (This area is currently being used by the “Butler’s Pantry” for preparing coffee and food.) To the west of this area was the scullery where the wet, messy work of food preparation and dish washing. Rockwood had a storage pantry for tableware across from the dining room and a serving alcove with shelves just outside the butler’s room. Only the food would be brought from the kitchen. The basement was used as a cold storage area, a root cellar, wine cellar, and coal storage.

This arrangement did not work and in 1856, George Williams was asked to expand the service wing. A new family or daily dining room was established in the former kitchen and a new kitchen was added onto the west end. This new dining room had a marble fireplace and light oak-grained baseboards

In 1892, the butler’s room and storage was moved into the former kitchen, its floor raised to the level of the main house. In 1961, the rest of the kitchen floor was raised and elements of the Shipley family dining room were left below that.



**The Friends of Rockwood
610 Shipley Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19809**

HELP US SAVE POSTAGE.....

We would like to have your e-mail address so we may send you notices about upcoming events and the Newsletter.

If you no longer wish to receive this Information, e-mail Beth Morgera, Membership Chair, ETMorgera@msn.com or the Friends address on this newsletter.

Please put FOR in the subject box.