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A page in Time...From Diaries, Memories & Social Clippings

September 1886... Tuxedo Park Opens:

On a gray September day in 1885, Pierre Lorillard and his architect, Bruce Price were on a train bound for Buffalo. Pierre Lorillard opted for departure in Tuxedo to explore his ancestral acreage. Although a soaking rain was coming down, they hopped a farmer's wagon and proceeded to go beyond the outer limits of steep hills and winding paths that wound around Tuxedo Lake.

"We will go up the old lumber trail to the lake," ordered Mr. Lorillard. The driver of the wagon protested that the road was too rough. Shrugging, Mr. Lorillard took the reins himself. An hour later, after three miles of boulders and thickets through which the wagon barely squeezed, they reached the top of the winding ascent and halted on a ridge overlooking a lake. This would have been at the top of what is now Tower Hill Road. At the north end were some cleared fields and a hut. Pointing there, Mr. Lorillard said to Bruce Price: "That is a good site for the clubhouse. Don't you think so? And we can have a row of cottages between there and here"





By the end of that day Lorillard hired Bruce Price to build a premiere fishing and hunting club, surrounded by a private community with roads, sewer, water, and mansions (cottages). He envisioned this beautiful playground wrapped around the pristine Tuxedo Lake. The Tuxedo Club was to be an exclusive "social club" and many acres, for a sports haven.

They decided to return to the city and hold a dinner party for 150 like-minded friends who would appreciate the proposition.

Such was the beginning of Tuxedo Park. Two weeks later, Bruce Price had an army of men on the spot, and eight months after that, so swift was the work, the clubhouse was ready for its opening on May 30th, 1886.

An article from May, 1886, a Nyack newspaper wrote: "Exclusive Tuxedo Park to open"....." The gamekeepers have turned out 2,600 quail, 200 English pheasants, 100 herd of deer and the fish hatcheries released trout and black bass on the streams. The clubhouse will be in entire readiness for use by the end of this month." The next day three special trains with 700 guests sped up from New York. The run was supposed to take an hour and a half, but the exuberant engineers made it in forty minutes, to the alarm of the passengers, many of whom were so frightened by the way the rickety old coaches careened on the narrow-gauge track that they refused to return until the engineers had promised to go at the slow normal rate. Despite the quick trip, they arrived safely at the Tuxedo station and were met by coaches and wagons painted brightly in the club colors of yellow and green.

1903

THE HORSE SHOW AT TUXEDO PARK



Miles of horseback riding trails wound through the rich forestland in Tuxedo Park. The sport was very popular and all eagerly anticipated the horse shows. The amazing equestrian skills displayed, were unequally matched in the state.

The grand turnout for the 1903 horse show was proof of the sportsmanship in the park.

The early part of the week in Tuxedo was full of excitement, and many cottagers entertained guests for the event. Heavy rains came Friday and Saturday and caused much damage throughout the park. The guests who arrived for the horseshow were not able to leave due to the flooding damage. The railroad washouts were so bad that trains could not run until Tuesday and then, only one each way from Tuxedo to the city.

The horse show that was to have taken place on Friday and Saturday of that week was postponed until Monday. Despite the condition of the track, there was a large crowd present and everything went smoothly.

The warm weather brought out all of the fine points in the horses.

The showground and grandstand were artistically decorated, and the boxes were filled with a large gathering. Many distinguished visitors were in attendance. A famous New York tailor brought in 3 manikins dressed in the latest equestrian riding habits, for Tuxedo Park residences and guests to view the latest styles for their wardrobes.

There were numerous luncheon parties at the Tuxedo Club, which was also in fine décor for the occasion. Although deprived of electricity, the cottagers entertained as usual. The judges of the horse show dined at Mr. And Mrs. Frelinghuysen's on Monday evening; many residents were invited to this special dinner and a general excitement prevailed as everyone toasted one another's achievements in the show.















Fox Hunting in Orange County NY

Fox hunting in Orange County has a rich history starting in the spring of 1900 when Edward Harriman, F. Gray Griswold, John Townsend and Dr. J.O. Green decided to start a drag hunt in Goshen, NY.

Not having any hounds or horses, they called on Mr. P.F. Collier who was hunting his own pack in Monmouth County, NJ. He was kind enough to loan them 10 couples of hounds, a huntsman, a whipper-in, a kennelsman & 6 horses for the staff.

Thus the Orange County Hunt was established and hunting began later that fall. In the spring of 1901, the new English foxhounds arrived in the kennels in Goshen.

By 1903, the Orange County hunt expanded to warmer temperatures in Virginia; however, the Glen Arden Hunt sponsored by the Harriman family remained active in the early 20th century.





Spencer Trask , Tuxedo Park Resident backs Thomas Edison

Spencer Trask had his estate, "Trayaddo" built in Tuxedo Park in 1900. A stone and timber mansion that would eventually be sold to fellow financier, Alfred Loomis, who made a portion of it the famed Loomis Laboratories where ground-breaking scientific research was conducted.

Prior to living in Tuxedo Park, the Trask's purchased a 400-acre estate in Saratoga Springs, New York. Later, upon the premature death of the Trask's four children, Spencer Trask decided to turn the estate into an artist's retreat as a gift to his wife.

The retreat he called "Yaddo" eventually became a popular artist's and writer's community in all of its beauty. He was an American financier. а aenerous philanthropist, venture capitalist and a leading patron of the arts. Mr. Trask was born in 1844 in Brooklyn, New York. His Father was a direct descendent of Captain William Trask, who was a leader in the formation of The Massachusetts Bay Colony. Upon graduating from Princeton University he joined his uncle to form the investment firm "Trask and Brown" which later became Spencer Trask and Company.



He married Miss Katrina Nichols, a famous author of her time. He was the largest owner and president of the New York Times. Around 1896, Adolph Ochs, who became the publisher of The New York Times, came to meet with Spencer Trask and his chief associate George Foster Peabody.

Peabody and Trask were leaders of an investment group that had then bought the New York Times, which was near bankruptcy at the time. With Ochs as publisher and Trask as the financier, the New York Times succeeded greatly with the motto, "All the news fit to print."

Spencer Trask was also a frequent supporter of new inventions while they were in their experimental stages. He foresaw the potentials such as the Marconi wireless telegraph, the telephone, the trolley car, the phonograph and the automobile. He gave to all of these inventions his money, time and judgment.

The inventor of the light bulb, Thomas Edison, was financed and supported by Mr. Trask and for over twenty years, Trask was president of The New York Edison Company, later known as Consolidated Edison, one of the world's first electric power companies. He was also part of the Edison illuminating business throughout the country and one of the original trustees of The Edison Electric Light Company, the predecessor to the General Electric Company and a member of its executive committee.

Spencer Trask was also a director in the Rio Grande Western Railroad and his partner, George Peabody, was vice president. Trask was also president and largest stockholder in the company that owns the Bowling Green Building in New York City.

Truly, this was a man who moved many forms of progress, that moved Wall Street.

Jay Gould's influence on Tuxedo Park

American Financier and Railroad Builder. "One Of The Shrewdest Businessmen In American History."

During a time when well-moneyed families such as the Astors, the Morgans and the Vanderbilts controlled fortunes of Wall Street, there was also a railroad tycoon who blended in with the rich tapestry of the gilded age.

Jay Gould, a man whom the press portrayed, like so many other business magnates, as evil, corrupt, or robbers. At the time these men operated, there were no laws against their tenacious methods. They knew the angles of obtaining wealth and acted in many cases before anyone else did.

Around 1867, Jay Gould fought Commodore Vanderbilt for control of the Erie Railroad and won. It was known as the "Erie War" and captured the attention of the entire nation.

When Gould attempted to corner the gold market in 1869, it caused a massive depression lasting several years. Jay Gould controlled the communications of the United States through the ownership or control of Western Union and several other telegraph companies. Independent newspapers depended on Gould's telegraph, as well as businessmen, bankers, brokers and stock exchanges. It is said that he controlled over 10,000 miles of railway track in the United States. He began as a speculator in the stock market, and at the end he was building railroads.



Jay Gould's early life began in Roxbury, New York as the son of John Gould and Mary More. He came from humble beginnings as a farmer's son who was also a storekeeper. Jay Gould realized that farm work was not to his liking and he did receive some education in a local school. Later, while working in his father's store, he taught himself surveying and mathematics at night.

He started a survey business at age sixteen, and between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one he helped prepare maps of New York's southern counties. At twenty-one he invested five thousand dollars, enabling he and a partner to open a business tanning leather in Pennsylvania. Gould then moved to New York City where he became a leather merchant, although it wasn't long before he found his place on Wall Street as a speculator.

In 1867 he was on the board of directors of the Erie Railroad which at the time was having financial difficulties. He wanted to control the railroad and push its lines as far as Chicago in an effort to defeat Cornelius Vanderbilt's interest in acquiring this potential competitor.

In the "Erie War" with Vanderbilt, Gould issued about one hundred thousand shares of new Erie stock. Through creative moves and shrewd dealings, Vanderbilt eventually realized he had met his match and settled, receiving about one million dollars and leaving the Erie Railroad to Gould.

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The Erie began to expand and vastly increased its debt. Gould traded in Erie stock and made a lot of money before the railroad went out of business due to financial problems around 1875. Although before this happened, as part of the Erie's move westward, Gould obtained control of the Wabash, a railroad that carried wheat.

To improve the fortunes of the Wabash, he exercised an idea of pushing up the price of gold. He ran the price up to where it was in September of 1869, now known as Black Friday. For it was a day that saw a financial emergency. A panic hit Wall Street, sending the price of stocks down. Gould had not only speculated in gold but also in stocks, and then he lost a fortune.

When he was once again a man of money through his shrewd business dealings, Gould moved his operations westward into the Wabash, the Texas and Pacific, the Missouri Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroads. With a couple of these railroads, Gould bought their stocks when the prices were low during the depression of 1873.

It was once said by biographer Julius Grodinsky that Gould was changed "from a trader into a business leader of national proportions."

Upon Jay Gould's death in New York in 1892, he left the management of his properties to his son, George Jay Gould who resided in Tuxedo Park. By Tuxedo Park Publications

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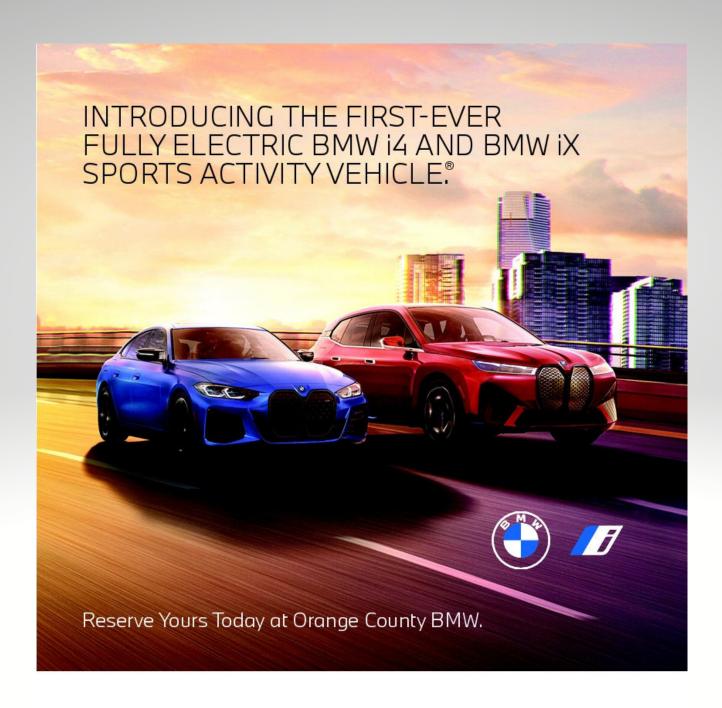


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Saddle River Day School

When kids are toddlers and preschoolers, they have so many questions. But as they grow, those endless questions often slow and then stop. It sometimes seems as if school-aged kids are too busy learning and memorizing facts to take the time to ask, "Why?" or "How?" Unless they're Middle School students at Saddle River Day School. "How" and "Why" are some of our favorite and most used words around here. Because encouraging intellectual curiosity is how we achieve our goal of turning students into scholars and adolescents into successful adults.

Middle School is a time of developmental transition and change rivaled only by the first six months of a child's life. This gives SRDS teachers and staff the opportunity to encourage our students to, Do More, Try More, and Be More during these pivotal years.

At Saddle River Day School, the rigorous curriculum is bolstered by academic innovations like cross-curricular projects that engage our students creatively, academically and analytically. Capstone projects begin in the 5th grade with ageappropriate skills that build a solid foundation so that as 8th graders our students present a fully researched, scholarly paper.

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Our small class size and proximity to the SRDS Upper School means students can customize their educational experience by accessing honors and high school classes like "computer Science Principles and "Business and Entrepreneurship." These opportunities to get ahead in their studies supplement our Middle Schoolers' academic course load and set them up for success in college, while giving them the chance to think deeply and critically about topics of interest to them.

SRDS students are growing and changing in ways other than academics. They are making decisions about their interests and how they want to spend their after school and free time. Our Middle School offers a robust roster of enrichment opportunities that support the diversity of interests represented in our students. Students practice leadership by conceiving of and running clubs, hone their skills through participation in National and Extracurricular competitions and competitive athletics, and build expertise in public speaking and stage presence through our unique TED Talk Elective and our Middle School Theater program. Original programs give our Middle Schoolers insight into future career options with internship opportunities and the chance to solve real world problems through our Immersive STEAM labs. At SRDS, we help students prepare to lead with confidence and compassion in a rapidly changing world.

If you ask our Middle School students what's most important to them, you'll get answers as varied and distinctive as they are. But all of them would tell you that they feel 'known' at Saddle River Day School. A staff of teachers and administrators who will, as of the 2022-2023 school year, be led by longtime SRDS educator Stasia Kelly as our new Middle School Head, make it their business to know each of our students as individuals. We know this acceptance and understanding supports social emotional growth and serves to motivate and inspire our students in a way that reaches far beyond their time on campus.

Ms. Kelly and the Middle School team have big plans to continue our tradition of student-centered instruction, enhance existing programs, and create new ones in response to the needs and demands of our ever-changing student body. To learn more about Saddle River Day School, or to schedule a visit or a tour, please schedule an individual campus tour: saddleriverday.org/visit. We're looking forward to meeting you!

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Breakfast in the formal gardens

Across the broad sweep of lawn, a balustrade of granite and brick graced the horizon. Just beyond, stone benches played audience to a fountain where the figure of a young boy playing a flute bathed in a pool lined with Venetian tiles. The early dew lay heavy on the climbing roses, and their fresh scent pushed into the corners of a beautiful day. People spoke in hushed tones as they rested on stone benches soaking up the splendor of the formal gardens.

Upon entering these gardens, one appreciated the care, imagination, and skill devoted to them. Carefully tended beds of colorful perennials and rich green herbs nestled within stone borders that meandered carefree along the pathways. The sweet scent from the flower petals mingled with the mild haze rising from the garden path, creating a soft and mellow mood.

A short way down the garden path, vines laden with the promise of Concord grapes wove themselves through trellises in the small vineyard. Their deep purple fruit, whether pressed as jelly between warm slices of bread or blended into a chill-chasing glass of wine, played an important part on linen draped tables.

It was a grand time of year to breakfast outdoors. The gardens were serenely quiet, when in the distance; the shrill cry of a red-tailed hawk announced its approach. Its shadow glided across the nearby ridge, and its expanse of wings pressed against the rich blue of the young June sky.



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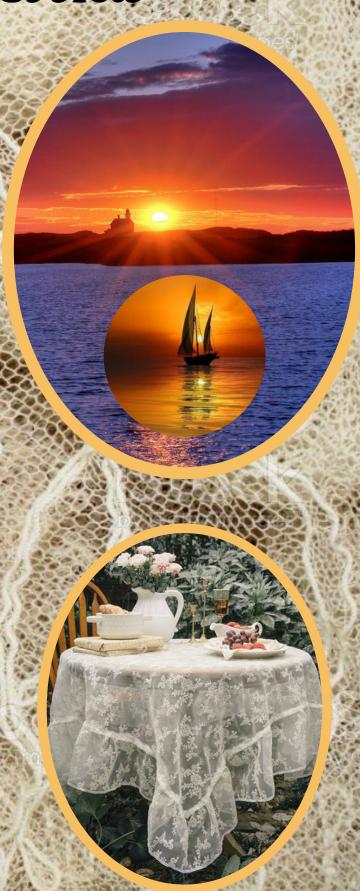
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Hunting on the estate Autumn 1909

Through my bedroom French Doors I could hear the excitement of the hunting dogs from the kennels housed on the lower road. Our Springer Spaniels were being readied for the first autumn hunt that year on the estate.

Quail and pheasants populated the fields on the south side of the vineyard orchards that swept the skyline with rich foliage. Morning dew dripped from the birch trees as the October sun stretched across their faces of vibrant color.

Our horses were saddled and brought up from the stables by a tall groomsman who tied their reins to the ornate iron rings situated by the main foyer door of the mansion.

A picnic brunch was prepared for us of hearty sandwiches on warm, freshly baked bread, coupled with spiced cider tucked into whicker brown baskets.

We began our decent across the lawn where we picked up the trail below the formal gardens. The beauty of the woods mingled with the silent morning and was interrupted only by the flurry of wings being flushed from the fields as the pheasants stirred from their nesting ground.

The bridle paths that seemed to waltz through the estate grounds around the rhododendrons and wild blueberry bushes eventually came upon a crystal clear lake. The silence there, settled so serenely in the late October sunshine as it reflected off of the ripples that were being pushed across the lake's mirrored surface.

Park

