

Tuxedo Park Lifestyle

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Tuxedo Park Visits Newport 1889



Post cards
from
Tuxedo
Park late
1800's

SOUTH SHORE

WEST LAKE DRIVE

GARDENS & RESIDENCE OF H.W. POOR ESQ



Greetings from
Tuxedo Park.



John Jacob Astor's Newport Home, Beechwood Estate

Beechwood was first built as a marine villa for Daniel Parish, a clothing merchant, whose operations extended to Southern cities. Being a nephew of Thomas Powell who was a steamboat magnate from Newburgh, Daniel Parish commissioned the design of his estate from Andrew Jackson Downing and Calvert Vaux, whose office was based in Newburgh.

Downing's trip to visit the building site with Parish in July 1852 never occurred; he died in a steamboat accident before reaching New York. Vaux completed the house in 1853 with a "Palladian spirit" and published it in his book *Villas and Cottages* (1857). After a fire in 1855, it was rebuilt in 1856 based on the original plans with Vaux superintending the construction.

In 1880, Beechwood was purchased by William Backhouse Astor Jr. He had married Caroline Webster Schermerhorn, who would be known as "the Mrs. Astor".

Between 1888 and 1890, Mrs. Astor hired architect Richard Morris Hunt to do many renovations, including the addition of a ballroom to fit the famous "Four Hundred". The house also boasts a library, a dining room and a music room with wallpaper imported from Paris. Beechwood became the showplace for many of Mrs. Astor's dinner parties.

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When Mrs. Astor died in 1908, Beechwood was left to her son, John Jacob Astor IV, who married his second wife Madeleine in its ballroom in 1911.

John Jacob Astor died on the Titanic in 1912. Although he had the first opportunity to a life boat, he bravely made certain that women and children, regardless of their social rank, made it safely to the lifeboats before he did. In doing so, he saved the lives of hundreds.

By Tuxedo Park Magazine



Astor Mansion in Manhattan



John Jacob Aster with his wife, Madeleine



Madeleine Astor

Edith Wharton, from Newport to Tuxedo Park

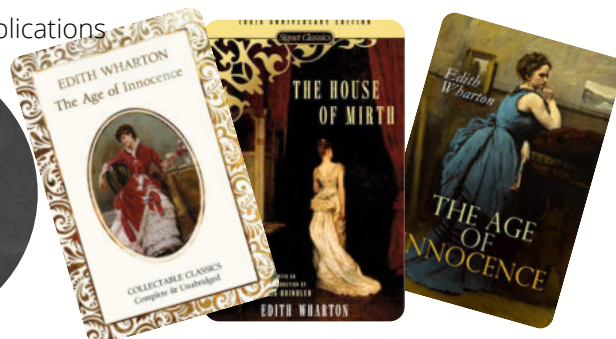


Edith Wharton's home in Newport

Edith Newbold Jones Wharton was an American novelist, short story writer, and designer. Wharton drew upon her insider's knowledge of the upper class New York "aristocracy" to realistically portray the lives and morals of the Gilded Age. In 1921, she became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize in Literature, for her novel *The Age of Innocence*. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1996.

A frequent visitor to Tuxedo Park, where she based her novel, "*The House of Mirth*". Wharton's paternal family, the Joneses, were a very wealthy and socially prominent family having made their money in real estate. The saying "keeping up with the Joneses" is said to refer to her father's family. She was related to the Rensselaers, the most prestigious of the old patroon families, who had received land grants from the former Dutch government of New York and New Jersey. Her father's first cousin was Caroline Schermerhorn Astor. She had a lifelong friendship with her niece, the landscape architect Beatrix Farrand of Reef Point in Bar Harbor, Maine. Fort Stevens in New York was named for Wharton's maternal great-grandfather, Ebenezer Stevens, a Revolutionary War hero and General.

Between 1880 and 1890, Wharton put her writing aside to participate in the social rituals of the New York upper classes. She keenly observed the social changes happening around her, which she used later in her writing. Wharton officially came out as a debutante to society in 1879. She was allowed to bare her shoulders and wear her hair up for the first time at a December dance given by a Society matron, Anna Morton. She also attended many balls in Tuxedo Park. Tuxedo Park Publications





Tuxedo Park Residents Survive The Titanic: 1912

Mr. Frederic Oakley Spedden was born in New York City January 1867, the son of Frederic Spedden and Susan Douglas.

He lived at Wee Wah Lodge, Tuxedo Park, with his wife Daisy and son Douglas. The Speddens were wealthy and devoted their lives to their son, their travels and their hobbies. Mr. Oakley loved to sail.

In late 1911 the Speddens sailed for Algiers on the Caronia. They were accompanied by two servants, Daisy's maid Helen Alice Wilson and Douglas's nanny Elizabeth Margaret Burns. From Algiers, the family moved on to Monte Carlo and then to Paris.

In April 1912, at the end of their European holiday, the Speddens and their servants boarded the Titanic at Cherbourg for the return home to Tuxedo Park. Mr. and Mrs. Spedden Occupied cabin E-34. Father Francis Browne had time to take a picture of Mr. Spedden, when he was watching his son, Douglas playing a spinning top on board the ship.

Frederic and his wife were awakened by the collision with the iceberg. They noticed that the ship was tilting, so they woke Douglas and the servants. They made their way to the starboard boat deck, where the women and children were loaded into Lifeboat #3. After all the women and children had been loaded, Mr. Spedden, along with about 20 other men, were also allowed to board the lifeboat. At dawn, Lifeboat #3 and the survivors were picked up by the Carpathia. The Speddens were remembered by their fellow survivors for many acts of kindness.

Whilst returning to New York on the Carpathia, Frederic Spedden and some other survivors such as: Frederic K. Seward - Chairman, Karl Howell Behr, Margaret Brown, Mauritz Björnström-Steffansson, George Harder and Isaac Frauenthal formed a committee to honor the bravery of Captain Rostron and his crew. They would present the Captain with an inscribed silver cup and medals to each of the 320 crew members.



Young Douglas

Mr. & Mrs Spedden with son Douglas in Tuxedo Park



Grand stairway on the Titanic

After the Titanic tragedy, the Speddens carried on much as before. They continued to divide their time between Tuxedo Park and Bar Harbor.

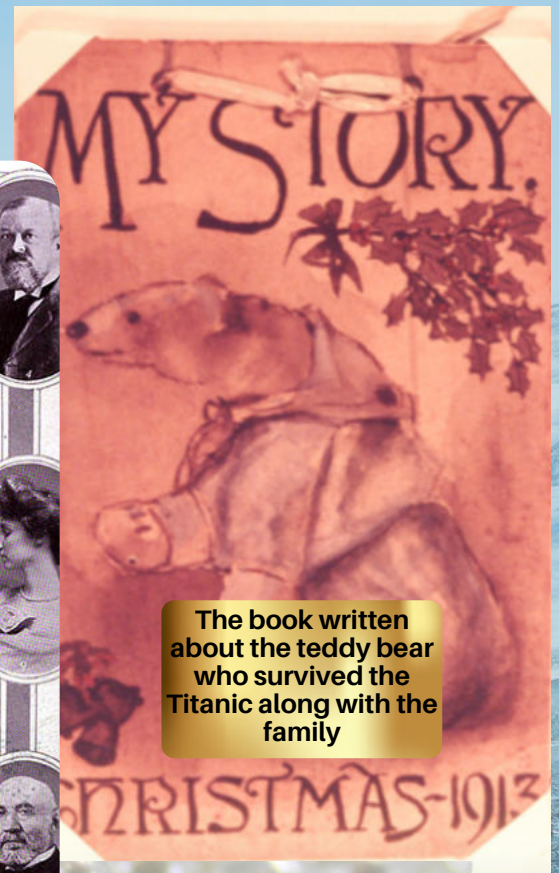
Sadly, their only child Douglas, who survived the Titanic, was struck by a car on 6 August 1915 near Grindstone Neck, Winter Harbor, near the family's summer camp in Maine. It was one of the first recorded automobile accidents in the state. He died two days later from the concussion he sustained. He was only 9 years old. Cont next page

The award winning true story of a Steiff toy bear that survived the Titanic by Daisy Spedden was Written from the perspective of a toy bear called Polar, who recalls his birth in the Steiff Toy Factory in Germany, immigration to F.A.O. Schwarz toy store in New York, his adoption by then seven year old Douglas Spedden, the only child of Daisy & Frederic Spedden of Tuxedo Park New York, and of his harrowing escape from the Titanic. The book is illustrated by award wining artist Laurie McGaw, accompanying her historical scenes are period photos and ephemera from the Spedden family albums.

Polar describes his first four years with Spedden Famliy and their passion for travel.

On the night of the Titanic disaster, Polar the teddy bear, is tucked under young Douglas's arm as the Speddens are lowered down the side of the Titanic in a lifeboat. After the sinking, the survivors are swung up the side of the rescue ship. But Polar finds himself forgotten in the empty lifeboat...until a sailor rescues him and returns him to the Spedden family.

Some of the first class passengers



The book written about the teddy bear who survived the Titanic along with the family



First Class Passenger, Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon, who was accused of bribing the crewmen in his lifeboat not to return for survivors. Duff-Gordon, a Silver Medalist at the 1906 Olympics in Fencing, never lived down the scorn and derision placed on him for the bribery.

Tuxedo Park Magazine

EXTRA, TUESDAY, MAY 14

SAVED FROM THE TITANIC

ECLAIR'S WORLD SENSATION

MISS DOROTHY GIBSON, a survivor of the sea's greatest disaster, tells the story of the shipwreck, supported by an all-star cast, on the film marvel of the age ■ ■ ■ ■

THE 14 SEASONS OF THE ECLAIRALS ARE READY

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Tuxedo Park Snubs Newport 1884

It all began in 1884 over lunch in New York City at the genteel Union Club. Pierre Lorillard (1833-1901), heir to the Lorillard Tobacco Company, makers of Newports, Old Gold, and other cigarettes, complained to his lunch mates that he was sick to death of Newport, R.I., the snooty seaside community where American aristocrats such as himself then summered. Lorillard's thoughts soon turned to the 7,000 acres his family owned in upstate New York and he decided to build a resort community for himself and his friends, one more low-key and less flashy than Newport.

Construction began in earnest the following year, and Lorillard even built two villages to house the 1,800 Italian and Slovak builders and their families who he hired to build out the infrastructure. The first water, sewer, and telephone systems outside a major city were installed, and when the Tuxedo Club opened on June 16, 1886, close to 5,000 acres had been planned, 30 miles of roads had been laid, and 40 buildings were complete. These improvements were soon joined by a boathouse, a school, a racetrack, a golf course — the second oldest in the country, and indoor tennis courts. There was also a game preserve and breeding ponds, a swimming pool, an electrified toboggan run, and miles of bridle trails.

Though originally intended to be used primarily during the fall and spring hunting and fishing seasons, Tuxedo Park — its name a corruption of a local Native American word, was soon popular with the beau mode year-round. And yes, the enclave's name became synonymous with the simplified men's formal evening suit first seen on Lorillard's son Griswold at a ball in Tuxedo Park in 1886.

The Most Prestigious Club In NYC...The Union Club



The houses were typically spacious and rustic in style, designed almost to look as if they were rising out of the land. Chunky stones and wood shingles complemented the rugged terrain of the area, which is known for dramatic stone outcrops. Gardens and landscaping were kept as natural as possible; even the roads follow the terrain in a loose, natural way.

Rusticity, for the wealthy, was a new and fresh idea in the 1880s. Newport, with its increasingly ostentatious summer mansions, was fussy and manicured, exactly the opposite to what Lorillard wanted. One of the architects, Bruce Price, father of etiquette writer Emily Post, who built a number of cottages at Tuxedo Park, including one for himself, became known for his picturesque, rustic houses. His house for Pierre Lorillard V, the founder's son, though demolished and now known only through photos, is an icon of American architecture. He was asked in 1899 to state the essential principles of country-house design. He responded, "Not going in opposition to nature." To a question about picturesque design his answer was, "Whatever is picturesque in design should be accomplished by the exigencies of the site rather than deliberately made. A picturesque effect should be the last thing to be thought of."

By Tuxedo Park Magazine

Several
homes that
grace
Tuxedo
Park



The Food Style Of Fortune

The "Gilded Age," a term coined by American author and satirist Mark Twain, was in many ways an era of stark extremes in our nation's history. Ninety percent of the nation's families earned less than \$1,200 per year by the height of the period in 1890, while an elite 10% earned above it .

The most affluent of American society enjoyed the luxury of newly invented conveniences like electric lights, sewing machines and phonographs, while most Americans lived in abject poverty—crowded into squalid and crime-ridden tenements or living in rural areas.

Dinning in the Gilded Age was no different—if you were lucky enough to exist in the wealthiest sets of society, your dinner table would hold a vast array of the most expensive and delicious cuisine around. If you did not live and travel within the wealthiest circles, however, food was often scarce. Although the quantity of food produced in America increased tremendously during the Gilded Age, many poor Americans suffered from hunger and malnutrition. In the new modern market economy, it was the inability to afford food that caused hunger as opposed to a lack of it.

The fine dining extravagance of the privileged classes was exemplified in popular women's magazines of the day, like Godey's Lady's Book, which offered detailed instructions for throwing a proper dinner party, among other pursuits. The magazine set the standard for etiquette and its influential editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, was regarded as a connoisseur of all things fashion, cooking, literature and morality for the middle and upper class woman.



The dining room was the center of socializing and entertainment in the Gilded Age home and was expected to dazzle guests with its sumptuous elegance. "The most fashionable as well as pleasant way in the present day to entertain guests is to invite them to evening parties, which vary in size from the 'company,' 'sociable,' 'soiree,' to the party, par excellence, which is but one step from the ball," declared Godey's Lady's Book.

In preparation for the dinner party the lady of the house would send out invitations two days to two weeks in advance of the gathering, depending on how elaborate the event was. A reply was always expected. In regards to this important phase of planning, Godey's proffered, "In writing an invitation for a small party, it is kind, as well as polite, to specify the number of guests invited, that your friends may dress to suit the occasion.

To be either too much or too little dressed at such times is embarrassing." Etiquette and dinner party fashion dictated that guests arrive between 7:30 and 8:30pm (8 o'clock was the most popular time for dinner). Guests had to be punctual and etiquette books of the time admonished being more than 15 minutes late. Guests dressed formally and the attire for gentlemen consisted of black pants, waist-coat and jacket, white tie, shirt and gloves; while the ladies wore formal evening dresses with accessories. As guests arrived, the hostess (lady of the house) received them and after gathering in the parlor prior to dinner, they would all be called to dinner.

"Be dressed and ready to receive your guests in good season, as some, in their desire to be punctual, may come before the time appointed," instructed Godey's. "As each guest or party enters the room, advance a few steps to meet them, speaking first to the lady, or, if there are several ladies, to the eldest, then to the younger ones, and finally to the gentlemen. Do not leave the room during the evening.

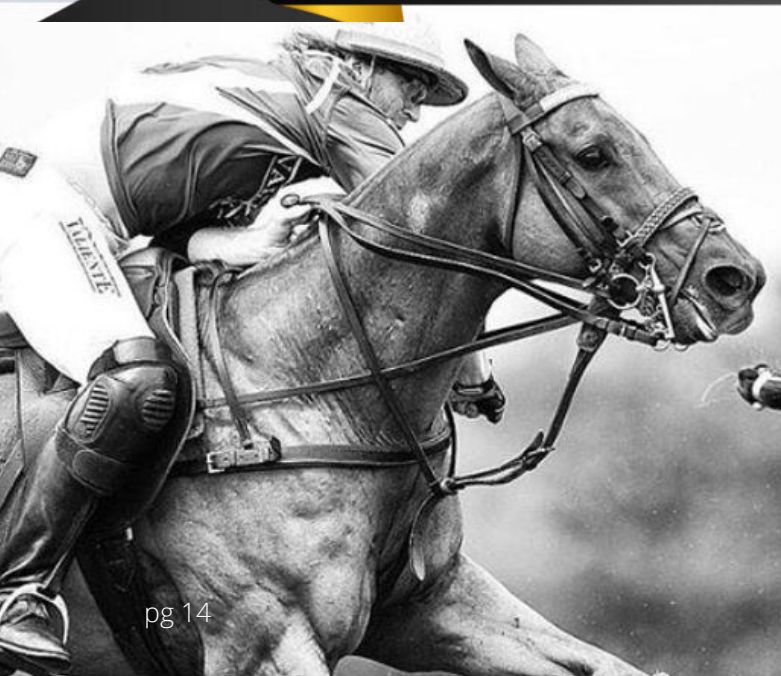
To see a hostess fidgeting constantly going in and out, argues ill for her tact in arranging the house for company. The perfection of good breeding in a hostess is perfect ease of manner; for the time, she should appear to have no thought or care beyond the pleasure of her guests." Godey's had specific instructions for dinner courses, "Bread should be cut in thin slices, and laid on a napkin on the left of each plate.

Place glasses at the right of each plate. Commence dinner with raw oysters, then a choice of one or two soups. Follow the soup with fish, then the meat entree and the salad last. Cheese, bread and butter may be served with the salad course. Then comes dessert and or/fruits and bonbons. Coffee can be served in the drawing room or the parlor. No more than two vegetables should be served with each entree and potatoes should not be offered with fish."

The Wealth of Polo



Tuxedo Park



Mounted nomads in Central Asia played a version of polo that was part sport and part training for war, with as many as 100 men on a side. The game followed the nomads' migration to Persia (modern Iran) some time between 600 B.C. and 100 A.D.

In Persia, polo became a national sport, played by the nobility and military men. The game was formalized and spread west to Constantinople, east to Tibet, China and Japan, and south to India.

Modern polo originated in Manipur, a northeastern state of India. The Silchar Polo Club was founded in 1859 by British military officers and tea planters, after Lieutenant Joe Sherer saw the locals playing polo and said, "We must learn the game!" From India, polo spread as fast as its enthusiasts could travel, appearing in Malta in 1868, England in 1869, Ireland in 1870, Argentina in 1872 and Australia in 1874.

On a trip to England, James Gordon Bennett, publisher of the New York Herald, saw his first polo game. Early in 1876, he returned to New York with mallets, balls and a copy of the Hurlingham rules. The first game was played at a city riding academy; in the spring they moved outdoors to a field in Westchester County. That summer, the New York players took polo to Newport, R.I. Soon the galloping game was being played across North America.

Over the years, polo in the U.S. has evolved from a society sport to include a far broader base of polo enthusiasts - men and women - as well as professional players.

The first club in the U.S. was the Westchester Polo Club, formed in 1876. By 1890, there were seven clubs in the U.S.; they formed the Polo Association (today's USPA) to standardize rules. The number of clubs grew to 12 in one year, and by 1900 there were twenty three.

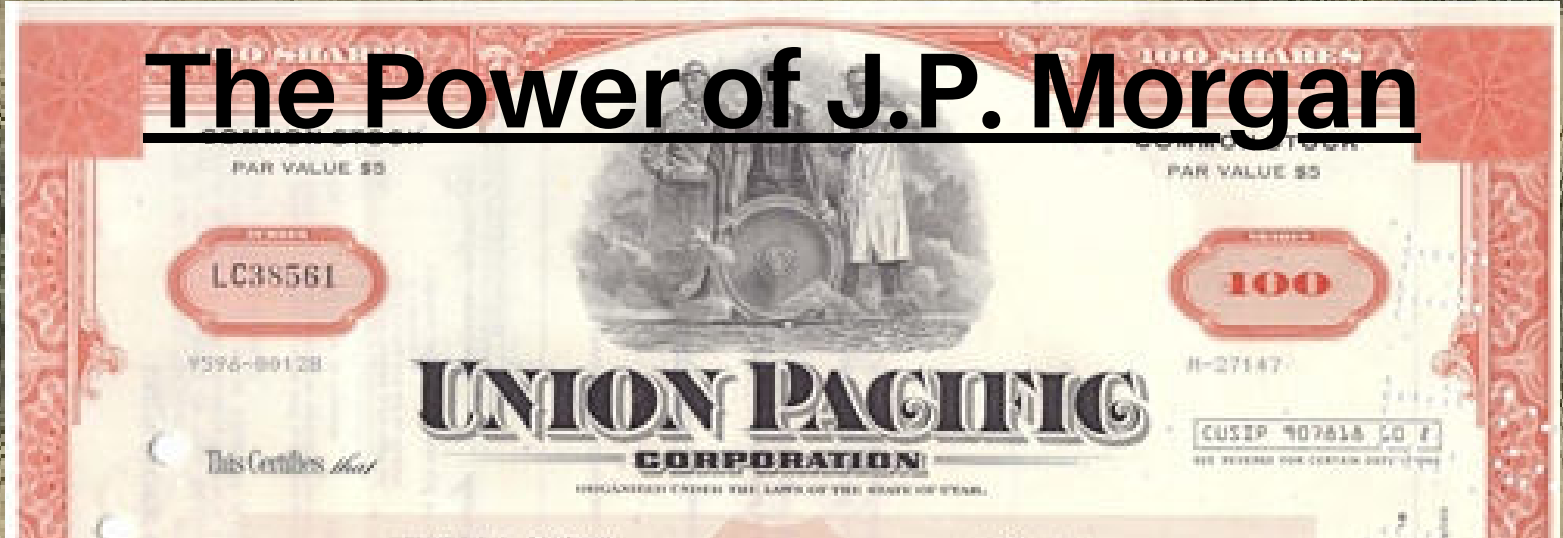
The Meadow Brook Club in Westbury, N.Y., was the epicenter of the Golden Age of polo and the site of historic matches. World War II diminished the number of players and clubs, but in the 1950s and '60s, polo began to grow again.

Today, there are more than 275 USPA member clubs with more than 4,500 players.

Tuxedo Park Publications



The Power of J.P. Morgan





Among Tuxedo Park Club's First Members

John Pierpont Morgan was an American financier and investment banker who dominated corporate finance on Wall Street throughout the Gilded Age. As the head of the banking firm that ultimately became known as J.P. Morgan and Co., he was the driving force behind the wave of industrial consolidation in the United States spanning the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Over the course of his career on Wall Street, J.P. Morgan spearheaded the formation of several prominent multinational corporations including U.S. Steel, International Harvester and General Electric which subsequently fell under his supervision.

He and his partners also held controlling interests in numerous other American businesses including Aetna, Western Union, Pullman Car Company and 21 railroads. Due to the extent of his dominance over U.S. finance, Morgan exercised enormous influence over the nation's policies and the market forces underlying its economy. During the Panic of 1907, he organized a coalition of financiers that saved the American monetary system from collapse.

As the Progressive Era's leading financier, J.P. Morgan's dedication to efficiency and modernization helped transform the shape of the American economy. Adrian Wooldridge characterized Morgan as America's "greatest banker".

Morgan was born and raised in Hartford, Connecticut, to Junius Spencer Morgan (1813–1890) and Juliet Pierpont of the influential Morgan family. Pierpont, as he preferred to be known, had a varied education due in part to his father's plans. In the fall of 1848, he transferred to the Hartford Public School, then to the Episcopal Academy in Cheshire, Connecticut (now Cheshire Academy), where he boarded with the principal. In September 1851, he passed the entrance exam for The English High School of Boston, which specialized in mathematics for careers in commerce. In April 1852, an illness struck Morgan which became more common as his life progressed: Rheumatic fever left him in such pain that he could not walk, and Junius sent him to the Azores to recover.

He convalesced there for almost a year, then returned to Boston to resume his studies. After graduation, his father sent him to Bellerive, a school in the Swiss village of La Tour-de-Peilz, where he gained fluency in French. His father then sent him to the University of Göttingen to improve his German. He attained passable fluency within six months, and a degree in art history; then traveled back to London via Wiesbaden, his formal education complete.

Morgan went into banking in 1857 at the London branch of merchant banking firm Peabody, Morgan & Co., a partnership between his father and George Peabody founded three years earlier. In 1858, he moved to New York City to join the banking house of Duncan, Sherman & Company, the American representatives of George Peabody and Company. During the American Civil War, in an incident known as the Hall Carbine Affair, Morgan financed the purchase of five thousand rifles from an army arsenal at \$3.50 each, which were then resold to a field general for \$22 each.

Morgan had avoided serving during the war by paying a substitute \$300 to take his place. From 1860 to 1864, as J. Pierpont Morgan & Company, he acted as agent in New York for his father's firm, renamed "J.S. Morgan & Co." upon Peabody's retirement in 1864. From 1864 to 1872, he was a member of the firm of Dabney, Morgan, and Company. In 1871, Anthony J. Drexel founded the New York firm of Drexel, Morgan & Company with his apprentice Pierpont.



After the death of Anthony Drexel, the firm was rechristened J. P. Morgan & Company in 1895, retaining close ties with Drexel & Company of Philadelphia; Morgan, Harjes & Company of Paris; and J.S. Morgan & Company (after 1910 Morgan, Grenfell & Company) of London. By 1900 it was one of the world's most powerful banking houses, focused primarily on reorganizations and consolidations.

Morgan had many partners over the years, such as George W. Perkins, but always remained firmly in charge. He often took over troubled business and reorganized their structures and management to return them to profitability, a process that became known as "Morganization". His reputation as a banker and financier drew interest from investors to the businesses that he took over.

Bonds of the New Jersey Junction Railroad Company, issued in 1886, the reverse side had signatures of John Pierpont Morgan and Harris C. Fahnestock as trustees. In his ascent to power, Morgan focused on railroads, America's largest business enterprises. He wrested control of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad from Jay Gould and Jim Fisk in 1869; led the syndicate that broke the government-financing privileges of Jay Cooke; and developed and financed a railroad empire by reorganization and consolidation in all parts of the United States.

He raised large sums in Europe; but rather than participating solely as a financier, he helped the railroads reorganize and achieve greater efficiency. He fought speculators interested only in profit and built a vision of an integrated transportation system. He successfully marketed a large part of William H. Vanderbilt's New York Central holdings in 1883. In 1885 he reorganized the New York, West Shore & Buffalo Railroad, leasing it to the New York Central. In 1886 he reorganized the Philadelphia & Reading, and in 1888 the Chesapeake & Ohio. After Congress passed the Interstate Commerce Act in 1887, Morgan set up conferences in 1889 and 1890 that brought together railroad presidents to help the industry follow the new laws and write agreements for the maintenance of "public, reasonable, uniform and stable rates". The first of their kind, the conferences created a community of interest among competing lines, paving the way for the great consolidations of the early 20th century. In addition, J P Morgan & Co, and the banking houses which it succeeded, reorganized a large number of railroads between 1869 and 1899. Morgan also financed street railways, especially in New York City.

A major political debacle came in 1904. The Northern Pacific Railway went bankrupt in the great depression of 1893. The bankruptcy wiped out the railroad's bondholders, leaving it free of debt, and a complex financial battle for its control ensued. In 1901, a compromise was reached between Morgan, New York financier E. H. Harriman and St. Paul, MN railroad builder James J. Hill.

Cont next page

To reduce expensive competition in the Midwest, they created the Northern Securities Company to consolidate the operations of three of the region's most important railways: the Northern Pacific Railway, the Great Northern Railway, and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.

The consolidators ran into unexpected opposition, however, from President Theodore Roosevelt. An energetic trustbuster, Roosevelt considered the giant merger bad for consumers and a violation of the (until then) seldom-enforced Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890. In 1902, Roosevelt ordered his Justice Department to sue to break it up. In 1904 the Supreme Court dissolved the Northern Security company and the railroads had to go their separate, competitive ways. Morgan did not lose money on the project, but his all-powerful political reputation suffered.

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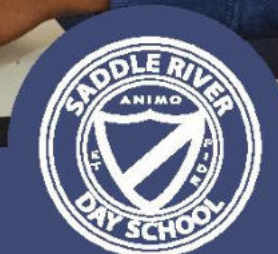
Saddle River Day Offers College Advising Done Right

by: Geoff Bowman, Director of Admissions

Georgetown, Penn, Brown, University of Virginia, Wesleyan, Middlebury, and NYU. The Class of 2022 at Saddle River Day School has fantastic college choices. But like most everything in the last two years, today's high school graduates were confronted with significant change when it came time to apply to colleges. In a process that was already mystifying and stressful, many of the traditional metrics shifted as schools, families, and colleges did their best to adapt. Application numbers went way up, acceptance rates plummeted, and even the old stalwart of the SAT is slated to go through significant changes starting in 2023.

It was a challenging time and many families across the country were left stunned at decision time. Despite all of this, Saddle River Day School Students continued to stand out in the world of highly competitive college admissions. They have benefited from the wonderful advising from our Office of College Counseling, which met these challenges head-on with student-focused advising that helped increase options and alleviate stress.

A hallmark of the college advising experience at Saddle River Day School is building a personalized and well-thought-out list of schools. Applications across the most selective schools increased significantly over the past two years, and students and families had to adapt to find new ways to stand out in this increasingly crowded and competitive pool. Colleges like Colgate University in Hamilton, NY saw over a 100% increase in applications over the past two years.



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SaddleRiverDay.org/Today

Boston College's Class of 2025 had an acceptance rate below 20%. Harvard, Yale and Princeton shrunk to a microscopic acceptance rate of 3% and under. The significant jump in applications, coupled with over 1,900 colleges and universities employing a test-optional policy meant that many colleges had to rethink their application requirements. In short, the world of college admissions is vastly different from what it was 5 years ago and is light-years away from what it was a generation ago.

The guiding principle for Karen Ferretti, Saddle River Day's Director of College Counseling and Robert Kettlewell, Associate Director is to "always think of the students first and always see them as individuals." Students are encouraged to build an ambitious academic schedule of Honors, AP and College Prep classes that will be both challenging and fulfilling. As Ms. Ferretti says, "Nothing replaces the transcript. Success in the classroom is critical." High achieving students are also encouraged to apply to the SRDS nationally recognized Gateway Honors Diploma Program. Students in this program develop college-level research projects in high school and learn how to speak passionately and persuasively about their individual topics.

But success these days requires more than a high GPA or SAT. Colleges are looking for different ways to measure and predict student success. Having student clubs and extracurricular activities built into the school day ensures all SRDS students begin building their resumes with leadership positions as early as 9th grade. College advising begins in 9th grade, too, and by 10th grade, students are attending a weekly college workshop. It is here where they learn that it is essential not only to put in the work in the classroom but to do so in the college process. They learn the importance of self-advocacy, they build relationships with admissions representatives, they take tours, do essay writing and interview workshops, and they spend a great deal of time thinking about who they are and what they want to be.

This last point is incredibly important because it widens the focus past just discussing the undergrad experience. Lists are created deliberately with an eye toward career choice and graduate school work. "We want students to think about where they will be in 10 years, not just where they want to go next year," says Ms. Ferretti. "We strive to find not just one fit - the proverbial dream school - but multiple fits that make sense and excite the student. By elongating the process, we have more time to explore the idea of fit and discuss goals. Students accomplish more earlier so they aren't crushed by the perfect storm of rigor, expectations, and applications. In the end, this reduces stress and anxiety and leads to happier graduates." Saddle River Day School students know that they are cared for in many ways: we consider their hopes, dreams, and where they are going to find the most success in their college years. We know they are far more than a transcript and test scores. Our students leave campus ready to be the next generation of innovators, thinkers, and leaders.

Strong advising leads to excellent choices and happier students. That is college counseling done right.

By Geoff Bowman-Director of Admissions

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