

TUXEDO PARK MAGAZINE

Issue # 122 netuxedo123@gmail.com

www.tuxedoparkmagazine.com

TUXEDO PARK'S OPERA WAR 1880'S

From Tuxedo Park Magazine

Publisher-Nanette Studios www.tuxedoparkmagazine.com

Tuxedo Park during the Gilded Age was very active in the opera scene in New York City. The opera houses became a prominent social event, especially for the wealthy elite.

The fact that the Tuxedo Jacket originated in Tuxedo Park and was later worn in the dress circle of the Metropolitan Opera House, further illustrates the connection between this exclusive community and the world of opera.

Tuxedo Park at that time, attracted affluent members of society, most of whom were also prominent figures in New York's opera world. Initially, the prestigious opera house in New York was the Academy of Music. However, box seating at the Academy was limited and tightly held by the "old money" families, leading to frustration among the newly wealthy, who wanted access to this crucial social sphere. As a result, families such as the Vanderbilts, Morgans, and Goulds, who were active in Tuxedo Park society, funded the construction of the Metropolitan Opera House. This act represented a significant shift in New York society, where the "new money" established their own prominent cultural institution, effectively challenging the "old money" establishment at the Academy of Music. It's clear that the individuals who comprised Tuxedo Park society were deeply involved in the opera world of the era, notably in the "Opera Wars" which led to the creation of the Metropolitan Opera.

The opera was where residents from Tuxedo Park were seen in their finest gowns, furs, jewelry, and yes, their Tuxedos. It was where their children were courted, and society became morphed into a carousel that moved gracefully within the correct circles of power.

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Many of the first residents of Tuxedo Park had social lives and agendas in common, their social seasons, debutante balls, education, and sports. Their sporting interests included polo to the extent of strong competition throughout the circuit or on private estates where many sporting challenges took place. During the Gilded Age, many had estates large enough to include their own polo field. Others had to compromise with the common polo grounds. Tuxedo Park had its own polo grounds, where the residents strongly up-held traditional competitions and gatherings during the polo season.

Pierre Lorillard, the founder of Tuxedo Park, enjoyed this sport immensely, but his son, Grizzy, took it even farther up the ladder of general competition. Grizzy's father, Pierre Lorillard IV, was the head of a tobacco company that had been thriving since 1760. Grizzy was named for Nathaniel Griswold, his great-grandfather.

Pierre Lorillard kept horses for racing, hunting, coaching and polo in New Jersey and Tuxedo Park. His son Grizzy, was a member of the New York Coaching Club. At a steeplechase on Long Island, Griswold won both of his races and went on to excel on the polo fields. His fine talent was displayed especially in Tuxedo Park and its neighboring estates with private polo fields of which there were several. Grizzy had been blessed with every advantage except good health. Two years after setting the wheels of sporting history in motion, he died of consumption. He was only 24 years old.



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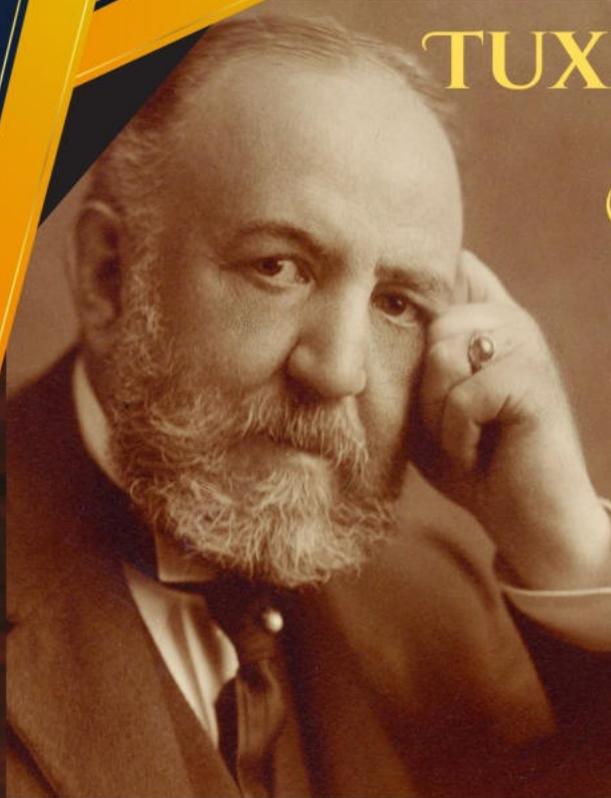
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TUXEDO PARK'S SPENCER TRASK

FINANCED THOMAS EDISON

From Tuxedo Park Magazine

Publisher Nanette Studios-www.tuxedoparkmagazine.com

Spencer Trask was the president of New York Edison and was the largest stock-broker in the country. He lived on the highest hill available in Tuxedo Park. Trask was the American financier who backed Thomas Edison.

Mr. Trask was born in 1844 in Brooklyn. His Father was a direct descendent of Captain William Trask, who was a leader in the formation of The Massachusetts Bay Colony. Trask was one of the leaders of an investment group that bought the New York Times which was near bankruptcy at that time. With a good friend of his as publisher, and Trask as the financier, the New York Times succeeded greatly with the motto,

“All the news that’s fit to print”. Mr. Trask was often a supporter of new inventions while they were in their experimental stages. He foresaw the potential 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 as well as one of the original trustees of the Edison Electric Light Company. His home in Tuxedo Park was sold to fellow financier, Alfred Loomis who made a portion of it into the famed Loomis Laboratories where Loomis conducted ground breaking scientific research for WWII.

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THE MAGIC OF TUXEDO PARK'S BLAIRHAME ESTATE



Excerpt from Tuxedo Park Magazine

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Completed in 1915 for John Insley Blair and his wife Natalie, their 65-room mansion including 20 bathrooms, was designed by Carrère & Hastings. The entire attic of their mansion in Tuxedo Park was divided into private "museum rooms" given over to their spectacular collection of art and Americana. Mrs. Blair began looking for art and antiques to fill Blairhame's 65-rooms. It was her analytical and logical approach toward these acquisitions that saw her become, "the earliest woman collector of Americana".

Mr. John Blair was educated at the Browning School in New York City and at Princeton University. From 1913, he made his home at Blairhame. He was Chairman of the governing committee of the Tuxedo Club, a keen golfer, tennis and racquet player. He and his wife became known as major art collectors of Americana, much of which was eventually donated to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In 2006, the remaining 100-or-so pieces of Natalie's collection that had been kept in the family, were put up for auction at Christie's. They sold for just over \$32 million, becoming the highest single-owner sale of Americana at auction.

This grand home which housed priceless antiques, edged footprints of history throughout every corner. As you enter the grand hall and glance up the heavy, dark paneled staircase, the feeling of many yesterdays encapsulate the present moment, taking you on a journey of its past, and all of the antiques with their boundless mysteries.



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WALL STREET, THE BEGINNING

Excerpt from Tuxedo Park Magazine - Publisher - Nanette Studios

There was a wall built in 1644 on the lower end of Manhattan by Dutch settlers to protect themselves against attacks from pirates, outlaws, and other dangers to them at the time. When the defensive wall was gone, the road alongside remained, and was called Wall Street. Prior to our financial center known as Wall Street, Boston was the financial center of America, as well as Philadelphia who founded their exchange around 1790. Bonds for projects of roads, canals, and bridges, as well as contracts for commodities, were bought and sold mostly by Boston dealers.

Belgium established their exchange in 1531 and Amsterdam soon followed.

In the early 1600's under the Amstel Bridge, shares of the East India Company were bought and sold. Money was raised there to finance the pilgrim's trip to America. The Pilgrims sailed to the "new country", where it was only a matter of time that America would organize formal stock and bond trading. In 1792 when organized, Wall Street was New York's center of commerce, it was only a few blocks long, not paved nor lined with cobblestones. There were warehouses for goods from all over the world. Wealthy businessmen, along with their ordinary trade, would sell lottery tickets, bonds and shares of stocks in new banks that were forming. Until 1792, a person wishing to buy or sell an investment would either advertise, or spread the word among associates and friends. Some of the first men on Wall Street were Leonard at 16 Wall Street, and Sutton at 20 Wall.

On a single day, 100 shares actually changed hands. The first organized stock exchange was created under a Buttonwood tree in Battery Park. John Sutton, Benjamin Jay, and about 22 other financial leaders signed an agreement of rules, regulations and fees. The organization was originally called The Stock Exchange Office, being a very exclusive organization, allowing only the elite of New York's financial community to join. The New York Stock and Exchange Board was formally organized in the early 1800's. The exchange rented a room at 40 Wall Street, and every morning the president, Anthony Stockholm, read the stocks to be traded. Due to the exchange being a private organization, new members were required to be voted in, and a candidate could be black-balled by three negative votes.

Full article on our website-www.tuxedoparkmagazine.com

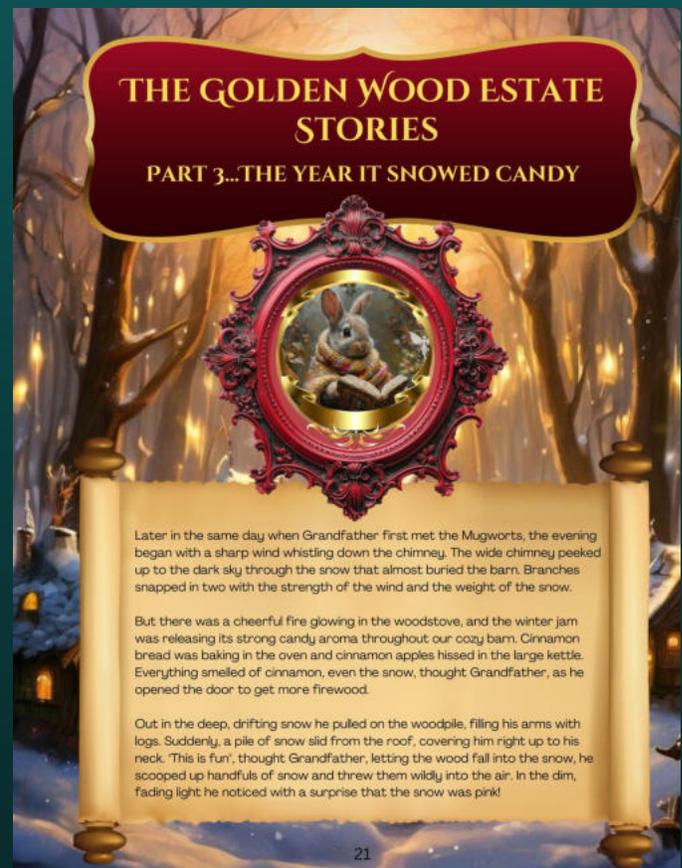
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Tuxedo Park Resident's Society Ball That Threatened Wall Street...1905

**From Tuxedo Park Magazine-Published by Nanette Studios
www.tuxedoparkmagazine.com**

It all began with a very wealthy socially prominent young man from Tuxedo Park, who after weeks following his father's death was elected first vice president of the Equitable Life Insurance Company. James Hazen Hyde had enormous business power that he controlled, and his inflated habits of spending, made him stand out among his peers making many jealous. Many wanted to see him fail so they could acquire his shares of the insurance company at a bargain price.

Financiers and industrialists wanted to be by his side financially. When the investment pocket of the Equitable insurance company was almost \$400 million, financiers were in a market of mergers and acquisitions looking for capital. Men who influenced Wall Street wanted to mingle with the power that his majority of shares gave him.

In 1905 when James was twenty-eight he gave one of the most lavish balls in New York during the Gilded Age. The cost was a staggering \$200,000. The day following the ball, harsh rumors echoed through the city that he had charged the cost of the ball to the Equitable Life Insurance Company, basically stealing the money from policy holders. The Hyde ball scandal started a business brawl that entangled well known financiers, railroad entrepreneurs and industrialists, and they claimed that James Hyde was too frivolous to run the sacred trust of a life insurance company.

Causing concern and panic on Wall Street because if the Equitable failed, it would have caused a loss of confidence in the economy. A major Life insurance company's collapse had the potential of harming many institutions. In 1905, half of all Americans had savings held in life insurance or annuities. The panic of its actual failure could destroy the confidence of millions. The scare to Wall Street was extremely serious, insurance companies at that time were among the most important backers of American corporations.

James was forced to step down, and sold his 400-acre estate, his prize horses, carriages, his private railroad car, and yes, his majority interest in the Equitable Life Insurance Company. Following a long investigation, the Government established that James Hazen Hyde paid for the ball himself. This incident was known as, "The Society Ball That Threatened to Destroy Wall Street"

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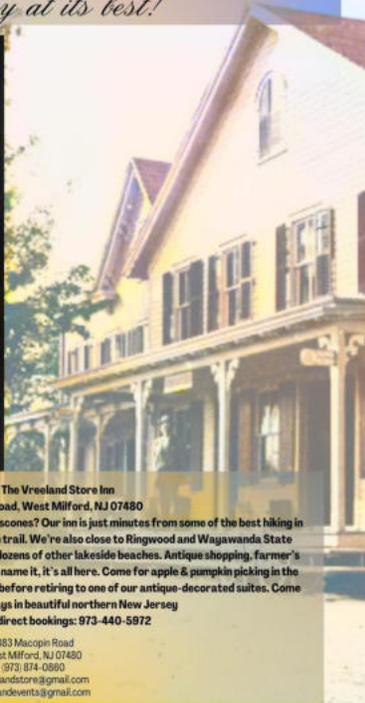
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Lights, Camera, Learning: Inside the Saddle River Day School Video Production Intensive

This fall, seven Upper School students from Laura Hollis's videography class participated in the third annual Video Production Intensive, traveling to Las Vegas and Los Angeles for an immersive, real-world exploration of the entertainment industry. What may have sounded like a dream opportunity was, in fact, a rigorous and carefully structured learning experience focused on professional exposure, preparation, and networking.

Students spent long days engaging in VIP visits and meaningful conversations with directors, producers, writers, casting agents, and editors who shared their career journeys, current projects, and insights into the future of the industry. One student noted that a highlight was "meeting so many people—especially the industry dinner at Bucca di Beppo and the day on the set of Happy's Place."

The trip began in Las Vegas, where students attended a screening of *The Wizard of Oz* at The Sphere. In true SRDS fashion, the experience extended beyond entertainment. Students analyzed the advanced technology behind the venue while enjoying the beloved classic, with one student describing the experience as "unique and magical."



Continued next page

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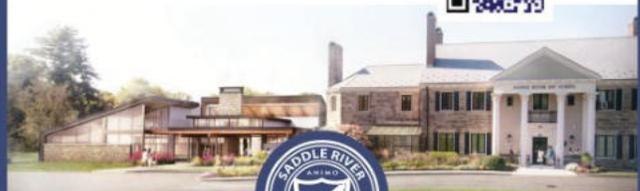
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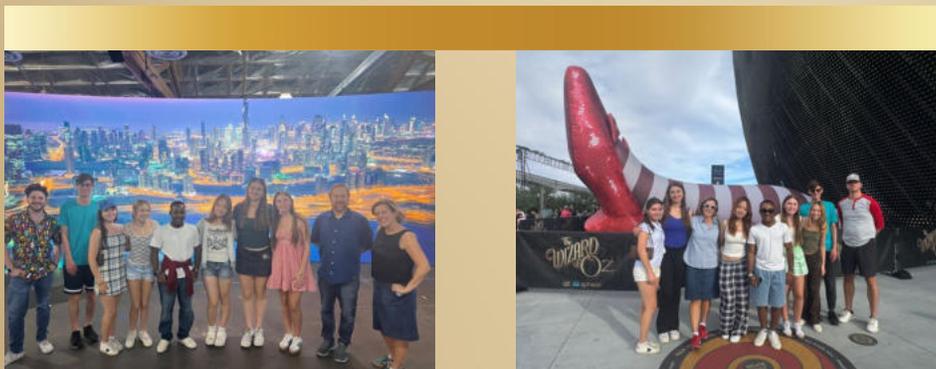


In Los Angeles, the pace intensified. Students spent a full day on the set of Reba McEntire's Happy's Place, observing rehearsals and speaking with crew members about their roles. They also visited the sets of The Masked Singer and The Jennifer Hudson Show, gaining insight into a range of production styles and workflows.

Through Ms. Hollis's industry connections, students met with Janssen Riofrir, second assistant director on Happy's Place, who arranged a dinner with the cast and crew, as well as John Beck, co-creator of Liv & Maddie; Kevin Mock, director and writer for Legends of Tomorrow and The Flash; and Deb Weinstein, editor for Alias, Brothers & Sisters, and The Fosters. Students toured working sets, met with directors, learned how professional camera systems operate, and explored how Liv & Maddie was filmed with one actor portraying twin characters. "Seeing how much work goes into every show was incredible," one student reflected.

The experience was further enriched by time spent with SRDS alumni working in Los Angeles, including founder and CEO of HANSENHOUSE – a full-service post-production studio – Jack Hansen '17, Davis Pennell '20 who is working in L.A. as a Freelance Media Production Assistant, and rising popstar Natalie Jane '22 who is currently signed to Capitol Records. In addition, students attended a screenwriting class at USC led by Michael Pasenchuk '24, an SRDS alumnus who participated in the Video Production Intensive last year.

Back on campus, students are now collaborating to produce a documentary of their trip, applying the technical, creative, and teamwork skills they developed. Looking ahead, Ms. Hollis continues to expand the program—integrating AI, virtual production tools, and emerging technologies—to ensure SRDS students are prepared to thrive in a fast-paced, ever-evolving creative world.



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Part 2:
M.C.Migel & His Storybook Estate

Arden House carpenters create Migel's estate

From **Tuxedo Park Magazine**
Published by Nanette Studios



Helen Keller

Mr. Migel

Today, Mansion Ridge Golf course occupies the Monroe estate of Major M.C.Migel. Set among rolling hills bordered by forests, sat the Georgian Harvard brick mansion built on the highest point of this property in the early 1900's. The structure, more than 145 feet long, was designed by Louis Colt Algo, a talented architect who had studied under Stanford White. He also furnished the designs for the barns, stables, and many other fine outbuildings on this estate. The construction of these, were built on contract by the Harriman Industrial Corporation, a business created by E.H.Harriman (a close friend of Mr. Migel), to provide continuing work for the carpenters formerly employed in building "The Arden House". The Migel estate was operated as a working farm, which rendered it self sufficient in many respects. In addition to the large, stone dairy barn, the property boasted a variety of other outbuildings including the 1800s farm house of which Helen Keller was a frequent guest. In his capacity of the founder, funder, and president of the Foundation For The Blind, (pls see part I),

Helen and many of her friends were guests of the Migel's very generous hospitality. This farm house was where they stayed prior to Mr. Migel building Rest Haven, also in Monroe, which schooled and housed the blind. Also housed on the glorious storybook estate, was an icehouse, corn crib, dog kennels, a canning house, and a potting shed where William Pyde, the original caretaker, supplied the formal, terraced gardens with tender, prideful care.

William Pyde's sister taught in the one room schoolhouse on Orange Turnpike, originally built for the children from the iron mines, also on Orange Turnpike. A pet cemetery was situated just beyond the formal gardens on the estate, where rested precious family pets within this sun drenched piece of property. A marker carrying an engraving for one of their hunting dogs read, "Pause, a greater friend than you lies here". A clear indication of their devotion to not only people, but all they cared for and considered friends. A small pond graced the estate just beyond the north entrance. Here, the dairy herd drank when grazing in a leisurely fashion on this far corner of the estate. Only the occasional clang of a cow's bell would disturb the pastoral peacefulness of a warm summer's afternoon.

Continued in part 3

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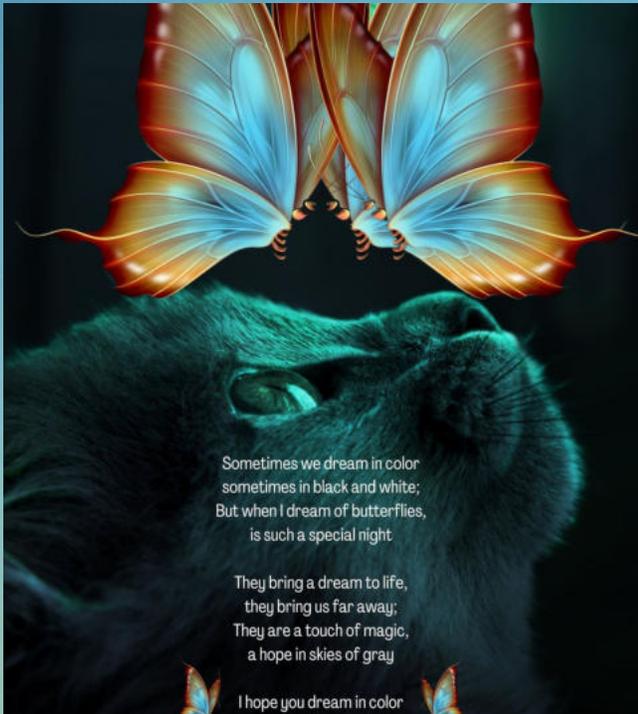
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HUNTING ON THE ESTATE 1909

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 groomer 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 wicker brown baskets. We began our descent 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.



The long chorus of crickets sounded from the lake's shoreline, where the bull frog's throaty calls captured the ear sweetly. The manor house stood proudly behind the pine trees that balanced on rock ledges. Hickory trees were beginning to drop their bounty onto the soft green moss below them, and the scent of honey emanated from the acres of wheat, dimpled with goldenrod swaying in the October breeze. An age-old wisteria vine wrapped its arms around the gardeners' shed affording us shade and fragrance to enjoy our picnic. The sun was dipping behind the fields, now bright orange with its reflection. We led our horses back to the barns once we bagged several pheasants for cook to prepare that evening over the kitchen hearth. Following the delightful dinner, we sat on the veranda in front of the outdoor fireplace. It blazed brightly chasing both the chill and the evening shadows away. The sweet smell of apple wood mingled with the scent of forest moss, delighting us, with the sensation of bliss, and contentment.

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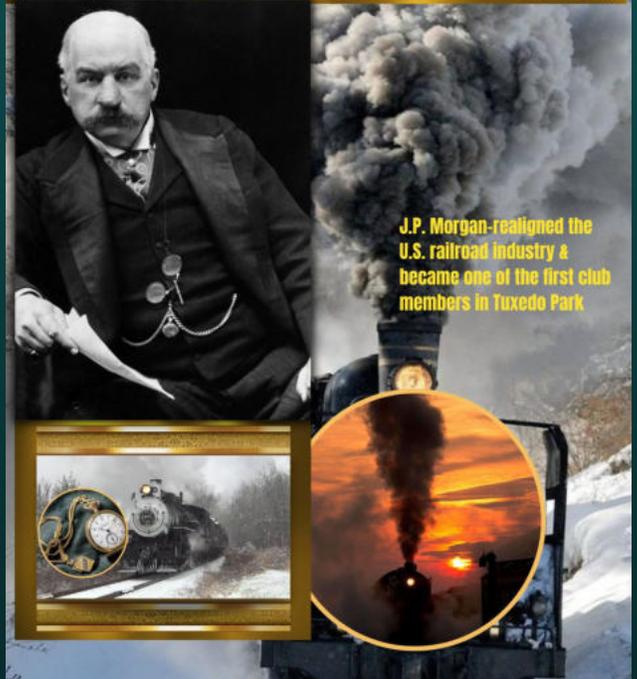
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170 year old shoes found in a wall

From Tuxedo Park Magazine
Published by Nanette Studios



A Tuxedo Club member during the Gilded Age, invested in a large tract of land not far from Tuxedo Park. An old farmhouse existed on part of this property. Many years later, eight shoes, some more than 170 years old, were discovered while the home was being renovated. The mysterious find which lay resting behind century-old plaster and lath led to a whirlwind of intrigue and historical research. These shoes ranged from children's to adults, curled with age and torn from use. Years of dust rested on rock-hard leather and dirt still clung to the soles. The research began by corresponding with those educated in the field of what is known as "Concealed shoes in buildings". One primary source of information was Brian Hoggard who ran a premier website in England, along with the curator of "The boot and shoe collection, also in England". Photos of the shoes with a precise description of each shoe were sent to them. They responded the next day claiming it was the largest discovery of its kind in the U.S. until that time. From the photos, and accurate descriptions, they were able to date each shoe.

It was discovered that concealed shoes began as a ritual dating back to the 1300's in England. Shoes, being very expensive in earlier times, were repaired as much as possible before being discarded. When the shoe was no longer fit to wear, it provided a unique record of the wearer's individual foot. It was believed that such a shoe, if placed in an outside wall, would trap any "witch-spirit" by luring it into the shoe.



The shoe retained enough of the human to entice the witch into a dead end, thereby preventing the witch from entering the actual dwelling.

A thorough investigation began of the old farmhouse's history. Oddly enough, years earlier, prior to the shoes' discovery, a few diaries were also found on the property. The owner turned them over to a local historical society (right down the road from the farmhouse). The investigation discovered the diary's whereabouts and studied them. Through them, the home's history unraveled, and the dates of the shoes corresponded with each member of the family. The diaries depicted everyday life on the farm. Visits made to family members, sleighrides enjoyed and crops planted and sold. The weather was mentioned on every page, and the lives of the family members unfolded, allowing a glimpse at the very people who wore the shoes. The legend birthed in superstition entered into this farmhouse for us to discover...the footsteps of a family.

Original article researched & written by Nanette & John Bieber



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- From Salem to West Milford NJ
- The estate caretaker from 1912 still roams the grounds
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