
The Knox Summer Estate



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BUFFALO
THE BUFFALO NEWS
DECORATORS'
SHOW  HOUSE

Knox Farm State Park

437 Buffalo Road, East Aurora, New York

Saturday, April 27th to Sunday May 19, 2013

Introduction

The 2013 Junior League of Buffalo/ The Buffalo News Decorators' Show House

is centered on the

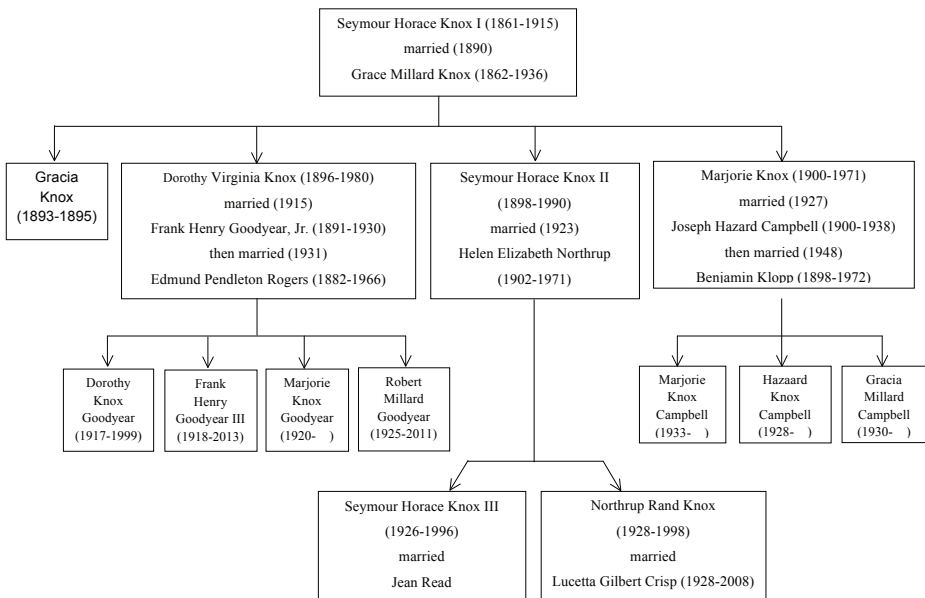
Main House at the Knox Farm State Park

Knox Farm State Park was purchased by New York State in July 2000, the newest among seventeen state parks in the Niagara Region. In April 2012 Knox Farm State Park was designated as one of the 'Seven to Save' properties in New York State.

This History describes the Main House and takes a wider look at the surrounding property, the family who purchased and nurtured the estate, the architects and landscaper who designed some of the buildings and grounds, plus the key contributions and achievements many of those players made in our community and elsewhere.

Knox Family Tree

The Children and Grandchildren of Seymour Knox I



HISTORY OF THE BUILDINGS

The Main House at The Knox Summer Estate

When Seymour H. Knox I purchased the property in the late 1890s, the original main house was located alongside the stone wall on the Buffalo Road. Here Seymour I and his family spent their summers. He began training racing standardbreds and carriage horses, eventually naming the property Ideal Stock Farm after his best stallion, 'Prince Ideal'. The farm became known as E.S.S. K.A.Y. Farm, nicknamed 'S-K' Farm, for the initials of its original owner.

The current Main House was designed by the Cleveland architects **Frank Bell Meade** and **James Montgomery**

Hamilton. For more information see *Architects of the Main House*. The house was built c. 1916-17 and was commissioned by Seymour I's son-in-law, Frank Henry Goodyear, Jr. and Frank's bride Dorothy Virginia Knox. It was built as a 14,400 sq. ft. two-story summer home in the Colonial Revival style. The young couple, aged 24 and 20, chose a simple classic design exuding restrained elegance. The rooms are well proportioned and light and airy, conducive to long relaxed summer days.

Later the Goodyears built an elaborate house close by called Crag Burn. In 1929 the Main House at Knox Farm was acquired by Dorothy's brother, Seymour H. Knox II, now 31 years old, for his summer home, where he and his wife Helen entertained frequently. Helen died in 1971, aged 69, but Seymour II used the house

until his death in 1990. Sons Seymour III and Northrup and families also summered there. Over the years the house fell into disrepair, until Seymour III and his wife, Jean Knox, decided to make the property their year-round residence. They lovingly renovated the house adding personal touches, including many pieces of fine art. To the Buffalo News in January 2013, Jean Knox recalled: "It was a very harmonious house; everything just flowed." In April 2013 the house was redecorated for the *Junior League of Buffalo/The Buffalo News 2013 Decorators' Show House*.



Main House

The house has approximately 2,270 panes of glass, multiple fireplaces and various ceiling styles including barrel and pitched. The architects' original plans included a Carriage Porch with a wood floor and ceiling at the front entrance. Principal

rooms on the first floor are spacious. The Middle Living Room opposite the entrance has a large fireplace and huge picture window with an uninterrupted view of the glorious countryside. To the right is the End Living Room, with another large fireplace and a pair of full-height recessed book shelves which pivot to open on to the enclosed sun porch area beyond, and the patio. Until recently, the walls were decorated with a decades-old hammered silver paper handmade by Charles Gracie of New York. The formal Dining Room to the left has an elaborate fireplace and is adjacent to the Breakfast Room with more views over the grounds.

Across the Corridor was the Billiard Room, known as the Ping Pong Room/Den, as it originally contained a ping pong table. The wall panels were produced by the Eastman

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Kodak Company of Rochester for Seymour II and incorporate several enlarged photographs of him and his family, depicting their love of horses and polo. The scenes show Seymour II playing polo, followed by one of Seymour III as a young boy on his pony, and another of him on a horse with his mother, Helen, taken around 1928. Beyond is Seymour II posing on his horse after winning a Gymkhana Equestrian Event, and a photograph of Seymour III and his brother Northrup as children at the family's winter home in Aiken, South Carolina, and another shows Helen Knox, a very fine equestrienne, participating in a hunt, again in the 1930s. Next to the Ping Pong Room is the Den, with another huge fireplace. Behind the Den are Service areas including a Butler's Room with Bathroom, the Butler's Pantry and the Kitchen - formerly papered in a lively pansy design. There is a large pantry with a big Jewett refrigerator and an adjoining room with a safe door for storing the silver, and a Maids' Dining Room and Kitchen porch.

Upstairs above the Kitchen area and off the Service Corridor were four Maids' Rooms and a Bathroom; on the other side of the corridor was a Sleeping Porch. The servants' quarters were delineated from the Family's sleeping area by a doorway and a few steps up to a spacious Main Hallway, off which were five Bedrooms, three with Bathrooms and two sharing. The bedroom above the Ping Pong Room was the Sports Room. After polo the players used this room to change, and there were built-in drawers designed for polo paraphernalia and

riding boots. One bedroom had its walls decorated with a Bibliotheque design wall covering, convincingly mimicking shelves of books in a library. On the door frame leading to the attached bathroom are markings recording the heights of many generations of Knox children. Inside, the bathroom cabinet is lined with the original wallpaper. A Private Hall led to a huge master suite with Closets, Bathroom and Dressing Room, and an enormous Bedroom. Later the area beyond the Bedroom and above the Sun Porch was enclosed and became a summer sleeping



Main House

area off the master bedroom.

Among the Knoxes' many visitors were President George H.W. Bush and his wife Barbara - he once took a nap in the long guest room above the kitchen; New York State Governor George Pataki; Lieutenant Governor Betsy McCoy; Senator Alfonse D'Amato and also Bernadette Castro; Henry Moore, the sculptor from England; and Clyfford Still, the artist. The family entertained a lot and held parties at the house including the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Team's end of year dinner and a New York State Parks Annual Summer Meeting and dinner.

In 1934 the garages and dog kennels were added and an addition to the Main House, including the playroom, was built. This room was accessed beyond the downstairs powder room area to the right of the main entrance.

The Guest House

Seymour II built the nearby four bedrooms and four bathrooms guest house for

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visiting polo teams who stayed there during matches. In 1953 it was remodeled with additions on each end to include a porch, living room, master bedroom and a garage. Seymour II's son, Northrup, and his wife Lucetta and their family lived there for fifty years until Northrup died in 1998 after a lengthy illness, aged 69 years, and then Lucetta moved a mile or two away, outliving her husband by ten years.

The Squash Court

*T*he squash court was built in 1934 by **Frederick C. Backus**. It is a single court with a viewing platform upstairs and a partial skylight roof. In the summer squash was played as an alternative to tennis when it rained. Seymour II, III and IV were all excellent squash players. Until the 1980s hard-ball squash, considered the "American" version of the sport, used a hard, rubber ball which played very fast, and was virtually the only form of the game played in North America, compared with the "British" or international version, with a softer ball. Seymour IV said when the court was cold the ball would play even harder making the lob style serve very effective. See *Architect of the Squash Court* in this History.

The Gardens

*T*he first gardens were laid out when the Main House was built in 1916-17. In 1931, Seymour H. Knox II and his wife Helen commissioned the pre-eminent landscape architect **Ellen Biddle Shipman** to redesign the gardens and grounds. Helen derived much pleasure from Shipman's work here and at their property in Aiken, South Carolina. Shipman's design was extremely detailed with herbaceous borders full of flowering perennials, specifically for the summer months. In keeping with Shipman's design principles, the landscaping

complemented rather than competed with the wonderful views from the house.

Seymour II and Helen enjoyed Shipman's gardens for nearly forty years. Apart from Shipman's layout and some trees, today little remains from the original plantings. The exquisite garden which she created required a great deal of regular maintenance. Inevitably some plants perished because of the weather, and over the years the landscaping evolved to a more low-maintenance design.

During the summers in the 1960s and 1970s, **The Albright-Knox Art Gallery** loaned the family British sculptor Henry Moore's *Reclining Figure No. 1*, a 1959 bronze and Moore's *Two-piece Reclining Figure No. 4*, a 1961 bronze, which The Seymour H. Knox Foundation had given to the Art Gallery. The sculptor knew Seymour II and Seymour III, having exchanged visits to Knox Farm and Moore's home in England.

After Seymour H. Knox III's death in 1996, his widow Jean commissioned artist Manny Neubacher to create the Water Sculpture as a tribute to her late husband. The Zen Garden is modeled after a Japanese tea house. The large rocks came from a quarry in Lockport. The metal sculpture between the fountain and swimming pool, Steel Rose, represents life and has many hidden faces, created by the same artist. Another piece entitled 'Conversation' is composed of two beams from an old barn on the farm, and is a memorial to the 911 Twin Towers. Original plans and drawings of Shipman's historic work are on display on the property. See also *Ellen Biddle Shipman – Landscape Architect* later in this History.

The Polo Stables

*I*n 1927 a 36 stall stable was built on the Estate to house trotters, hunters and polo ponies. It incorporated part of an existing stable. The second floor had apartments for employees. The style is eclectic based on the romantic tradition of English Country Estate outbuildings. The architect was **Harvey Staring Horton**. See *Architect of the Stables*.

Seymour Knox II was a polo enthusiast and polo became one of the most significant uses of the farm. His mother requested his polo ponies be kept separately from her hunters, so he built a small white stable for the ponies. Later the main stable housed the polo ponies in the summer and the white wooden stable was used for visiting ponies. The tack room, displaying the names of every hunter and polo pony ever owned by the Knox family, holds the kit. During fox hunts, participants used to gather around the large fireplace after a day's hunting with the hounds.

The first family pony for young Seymour II and his two sisters was 'Beauty', a strong-willed animal. Seymour II could handle her and was rewarded with his own pony, a small chestnut mare named 'Stamp', after her original owner, a postman. She was purchased for \$75 including a western saddle and bridle at a wild-west show at the Erie County Fair in Hamburg. With some of his father's trotters who had been racing at the Fair, Seymour, aged ten, rode the twelve miles back to the Farm. Stamp had two foals named 'Parcel' and 'Postage'. The pony string later increased to

four with the addition of 'Abe Kinney' by 'The Abbe', his father's best known race horse.

Years later Seymour II's sons had 'Pompano' as their first riding and driving pony. Another talented all-round pony named 'Betsy' was ridden in the East Aurora Hunt and the Aiken Drag in South Carolina and was also used by Northrup for playing polo. Of hunting, Seymour II wrote: "fox-hunting, drag hunts and horse shows all require horses with good manners, jumping ability and class. Again, Helen and I



East Aurora Hunt

were fortunate to be well-mounted in our hunting days", and he listed eleven such favorite hunters of Helen and ten of his own "who carried us safely and well". Seymour's first polo pony, purchased in 1921, was named 'Mardot' after his two sisters, Marjorie and Dorothy.

The Greenhouse

*T*he greenhouse was designed and built in 1927 for the Goodyears by **Frederick A. Lord** and **William Addison Burnham**, a noted American boiler and greenhouse manufacturer and builder of major public conservatories in the United States. The glass enclosed portion of the greenhouse was once double the length that it is today. Two full-time gardeners took care of it. They encouraged the pigeons to live in the tower of the greenhouse because firstly, the pigeon droppings were sent down into a still and used as fertilizer. Secondly, pigeon or squab could be used for sport hunting. Seymour II's wife particularly loved the greenhouse. It enabled the family and

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staff to have fresh produce all year. Helen grew tomatoes, carrots and beautiful flowers there. More information about Lord and Burnham can be found under *Architects of the Greenhouse*.

The Gardener's Cottage

This cottage, located near the greenhouse, was built for the head gardener. It was later used as a home for the farm manager. An extension was added when Northrup's cook lived there.

The Sheep Barn

The sheep barn originally housed cattle and was rebuilt following a fire in 1951. The hay elevator is still in use. A small flock of Southdown sheep "provide roast lamb and lamb chops". Sheep were kept on the lower level of the barn to enable easy access to nearby pasture. Chickens were raised on the top floor, hens on one side and chicks on the other. Seymour II had a fondness for brown eggs so Rhode Island Reds were raised. They have good egg laying abilities, producing up to 200 a year, and are noted for both their brown eggs and for being the state bird of Rhode Island. As a joke, a family friend gave Seymour II a Chilean Araucana chicken which lays blue eggs. The friend then presented a basket of blue Araucana chicken eggs and "gold eggs", the Knox polo team colors.

The Milk House

Milk from the dairy barn was brought into an old, foot-operated milk churn where cream would be separated from the milk.

The eggs were boxed here and shipped south on trains. The milk from large, black and white Holstein cattle was used by Knox Farm employees for their families, and Guernsey dairy cattle milk was used by the cook for baking because of its high fat content.

The Ice House

The Ice House was in the rear of the Milk House. In winter ice blocks were cut from the Knox Farm ponds with a hand ice saw, and brought through the snow by horse and sleigh to be stored in sawdust on the dirt floor of the ice house, to preserve the milk for processing. The ice was packed so tightly it

remained frozen all summer. Later, the dirt floor was replaced by a yellow hardwood pine floor as electric refrigerators came into use. The upstairs of the Ice House contained living quarters for farm employees.

The Farm Office Barn

The Farm Office Barn was first built as a repair shed for horse drawn vehicles. The small barn next to the Milk and Ice House used to be the farm manager's office. Northrup directed farm operations from here. The inside of the office is lined with wood from other demolished Knox Farm buildings.

The Dairy Barn

Seymour I purchased the old Wallenwein Dairy farm which included a pre-Civil War dairy barn. Here about twenty milking



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cows were kept – Ayrshire red and white cattle. Milking was by hand, and later by machine. Eventually the herd was replaced with Aberdeen Angus beef cattle. Originally built on the ground, the dairy barn was later rolled onto its fieldstone foundation. It was built with a peaked roof which was later changed to a gambrel roof. In the center of the barn was a mill for milling grain. The mill was powered by horses that walked round in circles.

A device to keep barns warm in winter was to paint them red to absorb sunlight. Originally the red paint was made from materials the farmers had on hand. The recipe was skimmed milk, iron oxide and lime. The mixture adhered to the walls and expanded and contracted with the barn as the temperature changed. This barn also has a fieldstone foundation which is very unusual for barns of this period. The stones were collected from the fields after plowing.

The main business of the farm was to breed Aberdeen Angus cattle and a small herd of brood cows were carefully selected for this purpose; the bull calves usually became 4-H Club steers. The breeding program “never hit the big league”. The most renowned heifer was ‘Ess Kay Maid of Bummer 32’ – sold to the Ankony Farm which produced the Grand Champion Bull in Chicago, ‘Ankony Projector,’ in 1966.

The Bull Shed

The bulls were prized Aberdeen Angus cattle and were kept here all year. They were black and hornless, originally from Scotland, and bred for beef. With only three walls it was

a cold place for the cattle to live in winter, but the design of the barn was that the back wall was positioned on the north side to allow some protection from the winds in the winter. The bull shed barn is directly connected to the dairy barn, an example of continuous American architectural barn construction, which enabled the farmer to travel from barn to barn without exposing himself to the elements. The bulls were kept in stalls made of two inch diameter pipe.

The Show Barn

The show barn was first used by the East Aurora Hunt Club for their fox hounds. Helen Knox and Mrs. Reginald B. (Cecilia “Peach”) Taylor were joint masters of the East Aurora Hunt. The Hunt Club existed from 1931 until 1942. Dog kennels with dog doors in the barn’s foundation can still be seen. There used to be shade trees on one side of the barn which kept the hounds cool in the summer. The barn was used in later years to get cattle ready for fairs, shows and sales.

The Heifer Barn

The heifer barn, for young cows that had not given birth to a calf, was the last barn built on the Knox Farm in the 1940s. The interior was finished with good quality wood as this is where visitors would come to inspect and purchase breeding Angus cattle. Often in the 1940s and 1950s visitors would travel to Knox Farm via single engine airplanes, landing on the Knox Road Polo Field.



Aberdeen Angus Bull

The Buffalo News

THE KNOX FAMILY

Seymour Horace Knox I

Seymour Horace Knox I (1861-1915) came to Buffalo around 1888 when he opened his first 5 & 10 cent store at 409 Main Street. This store marked the beginning of the Knox family's rich and influential history in Western New York.

Seymour I was born in Russell, St Lawrence County, New York. His parents, **James Horace Knox** (1834-1894) and **Jane Emily McBrier** (1837-1891) were married in 1855 and had three sons and a daughter, Seymour I being the oldest. On his paternal side, Seymour's forebears came to Massachusetts from Belfast, Ireland in 1737; his mother's parents, the McBriers, came from County Down in Ireland in 1827, settling in Rodman, Jefferson County, New York. Jane McBrier was the seventh of eight children. The family genealogist described Jane as: "a very competent woman. She managed the household and business affairs of the family most successfully. She was a source of power in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was always foremost in every good work in the village, taking the responsibility of leadership in many good causes and movements."

The McBrier family connection was to prove key to young Seymour's future. Two of his mother's elder sisters, Esther and Fanny, married cousins, Seth and John Hubbell respectively, from the Woolworth family. The surviving child from Esther and Seth never married. Fanny

and John had sons named **Frank Winfield Woolworth** (1852-1919) and **Charles Sumner Woolworth** (1856-1947). Frank rose to fame founding F.W. Woolworth and was Seymour's first cousin, his senior by nine years. **Albon McBrier**, a favorite uncle, was to foster a lifelong affinity with horses leading to Seymour's later purchase of a farm.

Seymour received his education in the Russell village school in the Old Arsenal building. At the time the length of the school term was determined by "the state of the farm work and the size of the winter woodpile." Country schools had two twelve-week terms and an extra ten-week term was available

for a fee, which Seymour's father paid. Upon completing his schooling, Seymour, aged sixteen, obtained a license and taught one term but had no inclination to repeat the experiment.

Seymour often visited the dry goods store of **William Moore** in Watertown, where Frank Woolworth received his training prior to venturing into the 5 & 10 cent store business. A visiting wealthy McBrier uncle would tell stories of opportunities awaiting young men in the West, firing the imagination of the teenage Seymour. Having had a little experience in the local general store of Mr. Treglown, Seymour was "given a chance" by his cousin O.W. Knox to work in his store in Hart, Michigan. Seymour then moved on to Grand Ledge, Michigan, and was re-employed by Mr. Treglown who had moved there

from Russell.

Meanwhile, Frank Woolworth and brother



Seymour H. Knox I



**Seymour I's mother
Jane Emily McBrier Knox**

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Charles were launched on their retailing careers experimenting with different store ideas. It was a time of success and failure with the "5 & 10 cent store" winning out. By 1884 two such stores were in profitable operation. During this time Seymour and cousin Frank Woolworth had been corresponding about their store experiences. Seymour visited Frank in New York and his store in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Exhilarated by this meeting, they pushed ahead to form a partnership to open a new store with \$2,000 capital, each contributing half, with Frank loaning \$400 to Seymour who only had \$600 in savings. A mere few weeks later the cousins opened a new "5 & 10 cent" store together in Reading, Pennsylvania, which proved successful. While Seymour managed the store, Frank opened other stores, but without Seymour as his partner.

Two years later in May 1886, Frank and Seymour opened another store in Newark, New Jersey with the hope of turning a bigger profit. High overheads and a poor location at the new store resulted in a loss maker, and a big disappointment for Seymour. A regular correspondent with his loving and very supportive mother, he confided the trials and tribulations of his business ventures. She worried that he had insufficient funds for his personal needs, and one day Knox opened a letter from his mother sympathizing with his loss in Newark and enclosing a money order for \$40, her entire savings.

Undeterred, the veteran Frank immediately found a new location for them in Erie, Pennsylvania, which fortunately proved a winner from its opening some months later. With great results in Erie, Seymour was now on the road to success, initially with Frank Woolworth in partnership, and then later on his own with other investors. He opened stores in Lockport then Buffalo in

1888 at **409 Main Street** and then another at **549 William Street** in 1891.

In 1889 Seymour teamed up with **Earl Perry Charlton**, a traveling salesman, who was also a keen businessman. Charlton often came to the Buffalo store and was an excellent source of product knowledge. This relationship lasted six years during which time they expanded westwards to the Rockies and Canada, into locations which did not have any 5 & 10 cent stores. In 1895 this successful partnership ran its course and ended in a friendly split, with the men dividing the stores between them. In 1899, not long after he had purchased the farm in East Aurora, Seymour had fifteen stores, just 14 years after he started in Reading. Success continued apace and by 1912 Seymour operated 98 stores in the US and 13 in Canada.

Seymour's city-center formula for stores proved particularly successful. Frank Woolworth, who had not had much luck with city stores early on, focused more on smaller town or rural stores. Seymour showed him that by creating a department store atmosphere, city residents could also enjoy a bargain. Success was measured not by selling a few things at high prices, but many things at a low price. When Seymour and his cousin opened their first store together in 1884, 5 cents was the equivalent of about \$1.25 today.

The headquarters for Seymour's stores was at the 409 Main Street location and later in the Prudential Building, formerly called the Guaranty Building. Tragedy struck in December 1893 when a fire destroyed the Knox headquarters and 409 Main Street store. Within four days another smaller store on Main Street was quickly opened. Thereafter, because of the risk of the wooden store floors burning like timber, a fire bucket with water was placed at each counter.

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In 1906 Frank Woolworth, his brother Charles, cousin Seymour, Earl Charlton and Fred Kirby, all owners of a chain of 5 & 10 cent stores, banded together to form a Buying Consortium called the “**Friendly Rival Syndicate**”, in order to share ideas and common merchandise. In 1911 at Frank Woolworth’s suggestion the five men and Mr. Moore, who had employed Woolworth in his Watertown store back in 1875, merged their chains of stores to form a company of 5 & 10 cent stores across the United States and Canada with the name **F.W. Woolworth, Co.**, made up as follows:

F.W. Woolworth & Co	318 stores
S.H. Knox & Co	112 stores
F.M. Kirby & Co	96 stores
E.P. Charlton & Co	53 stores
C.S. Woolworth	15 stores
W.H. Moore	2 stores

Although Frank Woolworth insisted the new company carry his name, each of the founders would be Directors and Senior Vice-Presidents. Woolworth required that the new company be managed from New York City, so Seymour insisted that a District Office be located in Buffalo. The newly named company raised a total of over \$65 million, \$15 million more than anticipated. Each of the men received their portion of this venture in both cash and stock, making them even wealthier than expected.

At this high point Seymour retired from all executive and managerial responsibility. His health had not been good and he looked forward to a well-earned rest, spending more time on his farm in East Aurora, purchased in the late 1890’s, and enjoying his private passion for horses and farming. The 1915 appraisal of his estate listed 30 horses, 41 cows and 8 pigs. In Seymour’s Will he bequeathed his 292 acre farm, valued at \$24,000, to his son

Seymour II. Grace also gave the East Aurora property which she owned to her children. A fuller description of the farm is in the *History of the Buildings*.



Buffalo Store

Years earlier in 1890, Seymour had married **Grace Millard** (1862-1936) of Detroit, the daughter of Charles and Sarah Avery Millard. Grace met Seymour when she came to Buffalo on vacation. He saw her frequently during her stay, and not long afterwards they married. Grace’s father had died earlier that year, so her mother moved to Buffalo after the marriage. The family genealogist said that Grace: “... was born and reared in an atmosphere of culture and refinement. She was a woman of accomplishments, and a leader in the circles of her choice. She took delight in rendering assistance to worthy individuals and needy families that came under her observation, making their welfare her personal responsibility. Grace was a woman of courage and strong personality, and perhaps these qualities left their greatest impression on her friends.” Grace’s fondest pleasure was to be surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

Grace had grown to share her husband’s love of horses, and became an avid fan when her son took up the sport of polo. When the new Peace Bridge between Buffalo and Canada opened in August

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1927, Grace hosted a large luncheon at her home. Included among the guests were Vice President of the United States Charles G. Dawes and Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin and his wife from England. Grace loved to travel and after her husband's death remarked: "If I were forty five today, there would not be a place in the world that I wouldn't see." She travelled extensively in America and also in Europe and the Orient. Grace was buried beside her husband and infant daughter, Gracia, in the family mausoleum at Forest Lawn.



Grace Millard Knox

Seymour and Grace made their home in Buffalo, living first at 414 Porter Avenue and by 1896 at 467 Linwood Avenue. In 1905 their residence was listed as 1045 Delaware Avenue (now 1035); today this home is the Blessed Sacrament RC Church Parish Office. At the time of Seymour's death, a new larger home on Delaware Avenue was in the planning stages. Grace built 806 Delaware Avenue (now 800) after his death. Today it is the corporate headquarters of a computer programming services company.

Grace and Seymour had four children. Their first daughter, **Gracia**, was born in 1893, but died two years later. Their second daughter, **Dorothy Virginia** (1896-1980) was followed by their only son, **Seymour H. Knox II** (1898-1990), and another daughter, **Marjorie** (1900-1971). Interestingly, Seymour Knox II appears to have been named Earl Russell Knox according to the 1900 federal census, perhaps after his father's business

partner and hometown of Russell. At some time after 1905 his name was changed to Seymour Horace Knox.

Although the development of his "5 and 10 cent" stores occupied most of his time, Seymour had other business interests. In 1901 he became a stockholder in the Columbia National Bank, and then first Vice President of the bank in 1903, and after its merger with the Marine National Bank, Seymour became Chairman of the Board. Seymour could now add "banker" to his other title of "merchant". Seymour was also a stockholder in many other businesses in Buffalo, and an investor and director in the United States Lumber Company, the Great Southern Lumber Company and the Mississippi Central Railroad. Seymour was also involved with the artistic and cultural development of Buffalo. He served on the Boards of the Buffalo Philharmonic and the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, and donated art to the Albright Gallery.

In 1911 Seymour returned to Russell with his friend and former fellow student, Wilson Lewis, by now a Methodist Bishop, and vowed to do something of service to the townspeople. In 1912 Seymour made his last journey to Russell, to lay the cornerstone for a new school, and in 1913 the town of Russell was provided with the architecturally superb Knox Memorial High School, replacing the Old Arsenal. Three Tiffany windows were installed on the first landing of the double-width staircase. The inscription placed there reads: 'This building is erected by Seymour H. Knox in memory of his mother Jane E. Knox.'

The family genealogist described Seymour as: "a genial, whole-soled man, with the heart of a boy. His inner circle of friends was not large, but he was the soul of good fellowship among them. He had many business acquaintances among whom he was

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highly regarded. Though he never shrank from the larger social events if he was interested in them, he did not seek nor care for fashionable social life. He was modest, unassuming and genuine." On May 16, 1915, Seymour Horace Knox I died at the age of fifty four from kidney failure.

Initially, Seymour was interred in the **Goodyear Mausoleum** in a hermetically sealed casket at **Forest Lawn Cemetery** with his daughter's father-in-law, Frank H. Goodyear, Sr., who had died in 1907, until the **Knox Mausoleum**, authorized in his will at a cost of no more than \$50,000, was erected. The Knox and Goodyear Mausoleums stand side by side at Forest Lawn. At his funeral there were ten pallbearers, all business leaders like himself. Of the twenty-four honorary bearers thirteen were millionaires, including **John J. Albright** and **Anson Conger Goodyear**.

After Seymour's death, he was described as a simple man, having just one watch and few other personal belongings. All the furnishings in his home were said to have belonged to his wife, Grace. His Will showed him as a man of wealth and generosity, both to his family and community. He set up trusts for his wife and three children, and his three siblings: Carrie Ethel Knox Fowler (1863-abt.1936), Burtis Lorenzo Knox (1869-1929), and Henry Danforth Knox (1876-1934), and their children, and his wife's cousin. All household servants who worked for him in Buffalo and East Aurora and had been employed for not less than a year, were given \$100 for each year of service; about \$2,300 for each

year in today's dollars. To Benjamin White, the Superintendent of his Ideal Stock Farm, he gave five horses, five bridles and two sulkies of his choosing. The value of this bequest was \$5,180, or almost \$120,000 in today's dollars. A mortgage owed to him by his employee, William T. Damon, was cancelled. The farm, summer home, barns, buildings, and stable and farming equipment, were left to his son, Seymour II. The home on Delaware Avenue and personal belongings went to his wife; his other real property, much of which housed the former S.H. Knox 5 & 10 cent stores, he divided among his children's trusts. Bequests were given to the Home for the Friendless, the Charity Organization Society of Buffalo, the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, and the Methodist Episcopal Church in his hometown of Russell. His estate was valued at \$15 million.



Woolworth Founders

After his death, Grace Knox pledged \$500,000 in her husband's name for the establishment of a "department of liberal arts and sciences" at the University at Buffalo, which was a private institution at the time. The University had recently formed the College of Arts and Sciences in 1915 to expand its educational programs beyond medicine, pharmacy, law, and dentistry. The initial gift was \$100,000 for the purchase of what would become Townsend Hall on what is now the University's South Campus. The remainder of her pledge was to establish an endowment in her husband's name to support the department. The endowment in the name of Seymour Horace Knox I was the University's first endowment.

Junior League of Buffalo

THE GOODYEAR CONNECTION

Frank Henry Goodyear, Jr. and Dorothy Virginia Knox Goodyear

Frank Henry Goodyear, Jr. (1891-1930) married **Dorothy Virginia Knox** (1896-1980), elder daughter of Seymour H. Knox I and Grace Millard Knox, on October 23, 1915. This was a marriage which linked two of Buffalo's wealthiest families.

It was Frank and Dorothy who built the main house on Knox Farm as a summer home in 1916-1917. This is the 2013 *Junior League of Buffalo/Buffalo News Decorators' Show House*. Frank was twenty six years old and Dorothy was twenty one when the house was constructed.



Frank Henry Goodyear, Jr.

Frank Goodyear Jr. was the only son and youngest of four children of **Frank Henry Goodyear, Sr.** (1849-1907) and **Josephine Looney** (1851-1915), the daughter of a well to do lumber merchant, and the nephew of **Charles Waterhouse Goodyear** (1846-1911). Frank Senior founded a lumber business that, under his energetic and innovative leadership, particularly tying railroads into lumber production, made him exceedingly successful and wealthy. It also wore him out, at which point his brother, Charles, a high-achieving lawyer, took over and continued their creation as lumber and related business barons. Upon Frank Senior's death

in 1907 from Bright's disease, he left an estate worth in excess of \$10,000,000. His brother, Charles, died four years later. Their entrepreneurial story is fascinating in its own right.

Frank was handsome and friendly and financially very well off as a result of his father's and uncle's endeavors. Born in Buffalo, he graduated from the Pawling School and attended Yale. His marriage to Dorothy Knox produced four children: **Dorothy Knox Goodyear Wyckoff** (1917-1999), **Frank Henry Goodyear III** (1918-2013), **Marjorie Goodyear Bacon Wilson** (1920-), and **Robert Millard Goodyear** (1925-2011). Frank and Dorothy lived in the palatial Goodyear Mansion at 762 Delaware Avenue and Summer, which he inherited when his mother suddenly died of a heart attack at the Exchange Street Station in 1915, a few months after the death of his wife Dorothy's father, Seymour H. Knox I.

In 1919 Frank and some other wealthy Buffalonians formed the Ellicott Motor Service Corporation, an agency for Goodyear tires (no relation) and Ward La France trucks. Two years later he and a partner formed the Goodyear-Wende Oil Company, and acquired the rights to sell Texaco products in Western New York through their chain of service stations. In addition, he was a director of the New Orleans Great Northern, a railroad company, the Bogalusa Paper Company, and Chairman of the Board of the Marine Trust Company in Buffalo. Through his father he inherited large quantities of stock in the Great Southern Lumber Company.

Frank enjoyed the good life of the twenties. He was a great athlete and played many sports, including tennis, polo and squash like his brother-in-law, Seymour H. Knox II. He was a fine yachtsman, and

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had built many yachts, which were all named Poule d'Eau, meaning 'moorhen', an aquatic bird. He was also a special deputy, an excellent bridge player and his garage held a dozen cars. When Frank and his wife, Dorothy Knox, moved into the Goodyear Mansion after their marriage in 1915, he made extensive alterations to the stables, adding an indoor tennis court, squash court, dressing rooms, and a large upstairs living room and kitchen used for entertaining. Their winters were often spent at the Goodyear Cottage at the Jekyll Club, a winter retreat for the rich at Jekyll Island, Georgia, inherited from his mother. Frank and Dorothy spent their summers in East Aurora where they built their summer home on her family's land. In 1929 they transferred the home to her brother, Seymour Knox II, when they decided to build a more elaborate English Country style house on 113 acres of land on the west side of North Davis Road, with stables, polo fields, and bridle paths on 222 acres on the east side of North Davis Road. The house was designed by **John Russell Pope** and called "**Crag Burn**".

The Crag Burn house was not completed when Frank met an untimely death on October 13, 1930, when he was fatally injured in a car accident on Transit Road in Cheektowaga, between Broadway and Genesee. Frank was driving his Rolls-Royce with his wife and two weekend guests as passengers. When attempting to pass a slower car, his car collided with another going in the opposite direction. His car then hit a tree and overturned. Dorothy was able to extricate herself from the wreckage, but Frank died in an ambulance on his way to hospital, at age 39. He left a young wife and family.

Frank's estate, compared with that of his father-in-law, Seymour H. Knox I, showed a man with a very different lifestyle. He

had many personal belongings, including quantities of jewelry, silver, art, and numerous cars. Although his life was short, it appears that he lived and enjoyed every moment of it to the fullest. He was a generous man. On Jekyll Island in Georgia he purchased a cottage and donated it to the Jekyll Island Club to use as an infirmary in his mother's name. In his Will he provided funds for many of his employees and for his mother's charity, the **Josephine Goodyear Convalescent Home**, in Williamsville, New York, established in memory of his sister who had died at age thirty, when Frank was in his early teens. Frank Henry Goodyear, Jr. is buried in his family mausoleum at Forest Lawn.

Dorothy, Frank's widow, who was called "Dot", married Edmund Pendleton Rogers (1882-1966) of New York City and Westbury, Long Island, a year later. Dorothy knew him from vacationing at the Jekyll Island Club in Georgia, where her first husband was a member. Rogers was President of the Fulton Trust Company and had been a childhood friend of President Franklin Roosevelt in Hyde Park, NY. His first wife, Edith Elliott, whom he married in 1916, died three years later, at the age of 23, after the birth of their second child. Roger's brother Herman had been a close friend of Wallis Simpson before she met the future King Edward VIII of England, and it was Herman who gave the bride away in 1937 when, after the King abdicated, he married Wallis Simpson in France.

In 1939 Dorothy and Edmund Rogers purchased Rye Patch, a ten-acre estate in Aiken, South Carolina, near Hopeland Gardens. Her brother, Seymour II, had honeymooned at Rye Patch with his wife Helen Northrup in 1924. Previously he had come to Aiken in 1922 to purchase polo ponies. Both he and his wife and his sister Dorothy were skilled equestrians. The Rog-

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ers expanded the estate house by adding a wing and the outer buildings; they also developed the beautiful gardens. They used this as their winter retreat and entertained many guests, including the now Duke of Windsor and his new American wife, Wallis Simpson.

Dot and "Eddie" were married for thirty five years before he died in 1966. After her death in 1980, Dorothy's family gave the estate of Rye Patch to the City of Aiken, where it is now used as a venue for meetings and events; it has a carriage museum and a rose garden.

In 1969, part of Dorothy's estate in East Aurora became the **Crag Burn Golf Club**. The Goodyear stables were transformed into the clubhouse. Dorothy's son, **Bobby Goodyear** (1925-2011) was involved in the development of the golf course, enlisting the help of his sister and brother-in-law, **Dottie** and **Clint Wyckoff**, and their family. The course was designed by **Robert Trent Jones, Sr.**, and is consistently ranked as one of the best courses in New York.

Dorothy died in 1980 and is buried with her first husband and his family in the Goodyear Mausoleum at Forest Lawn.

Marjorie Knox Campbell Klopp

*M*arjorie Knox (1900-1971) was the youngest child of Seymour and Grace Knox, and was of petite stature. Marjorie traveled to Europe, Africa, and the Far East, sometimes with her mother. The grand ocean liners of the time were a popular way for the wealthy to travel.

It was on one such ship that Marjorie met her future husband, **Joseph Hazard Campbell** (1900-1938) of Providence,

Rhode Island. He was the cruise director for a steamship line and met 27 year old Marjorie aboard. At the end of the cruise in 1927 they were married. They returned to Buffalo and lived at the family home at 806 Delaware Avenue, with her mother. Marjorie and her husband also had a home on Willardshire Road near the summer home of her brother Seymour II. Campbell was brought into the Knox family banking business, working at the Marine Trust Company of Buffalo. They had three children: **Hazard** (b. 1928), **Gracia** (b. 1930), and **Marjorie** (b. 1933).

On August 23, 1938 Lieutenant Commander Frank Hawks, who was a famous speed flyer, was seeking Campbell's backing for a small plane, the Gwinn Aircar. Just after takeoff from her sister Dorothy's estate at Crag Burn, the plane struck some wires and crashed. Both Campbell and Hawks were pulled from the fiery crash, but never regained consciousness. Marjorie and two of her children witnessed the crash from the polo fields. Now both daughters of Seymour and Grace Knox had lost their husbands in tragic accidents. J. Hazard Campbell is buried in the **Knox Mausoleum** in Forest Lawn.

Ten years after Campbell's death, Marjorie married Buffalo native, widower Benjamin Klopp (1898-1972), a partner of Phillips Brothers Basket Company. The Klopps lived at the Knox family home at 806 Delaware until Marjorie's death in 1971. Benjamin Klopp died in Naples, Florida in 1972.



806 Delaware Avenue

Seymour Horace Knox II

Seymour H. Knox I set the scene financially, commercially, socially and opportunistically wise for his progeny to blossom. He took the risks that enabled forthcoming Knox generations to thrive, and so they did.

When his father died in 1915, **Seymour Horace Knox II** (1898-1990), nicknamed "Shorty" because of his height, was still sixteen years old. He became the recipient of a large inheritance at a young age, including the farm at East Aurora. Fortunately he proved to be very adept financially and as a result the family fortune continued to grow.

Seymour II was born in Buffalo on September 1, 1898. He attended Nichols School, graduating in 1915, and then went on to the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut. Seymour II graduated from Yale University in 1920.

At the age of 21, as stipulated in his father's Will, Seymour II was appointed one of the executors of the Will and one of the trustees of every trust created within it. The following year he became a director of the Marine Trust Company of Buffalo. In 1926 he was elected a vice-president by the Board, and chairman from 1943-1970. At the time of his death he was chairman emeritus of what had now become Marine Midland Bank. Concurrently, Knox was appointed to the F.W. Woolworth board in 1926, and was chairman from 1943-1971, when he reached the mandatory retirement age. Seymour II's business career involvement was particularly diverse, not only covering banking but interests in numerous local and national companies. His experience at senior directional levels,

while still a very young man, was clearly valued.

Seymour II's leadership also influenced other fields, such as education. Seymour II was one of the earliest members of the University at Buffalo Council, and became chairman of the Council in 1949. He was also named chairman of the University Committee on General Administration, and served in that post until the merger of the University with the state system in 1962. Seymour II then became one of the first members of the new Council of the **State University of New York** and remained a member until his death in 1990.

Seymour II was also the beneficiary of great generosity from his mother, Grace. It is understood that in 1921, anticipating his 23rd birthday, Grace wished to give her son a substantial present in the form of a new car, distinguishable from the grand automobiles his friends were driving. During a visit to New York she found the ideal present, and commissioned a magnificent Rolls-Royce 40/50 hp Silver Ghost Gentleman's Roadster, constructed by Rolls-Royce America on a limited British 1920 High Speed R-R chassis. The car, which he christened 'Seymour,' was clearly very much appreciated by Seymour II, its namesake, who kept it for nearly seventy years until his death in 1990. The car was garaged in East Aurora, and as he became older he drove it only on the estate. The well-worn but undamaged car, still with its original paintwork, was sold to a motoring enthusiast who decided to totally restore it. In 2011 it was purchased by its third owner, at auction, for \$435,000.

In 1923 Seymour married **Helen Northrup** (1902-1971). Later they had two sons, Seymour III and Northrup. In 1924 construction began on a new

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Georgian Revival style home at 57 Oakland Place, another gift from Seymour's mother. The architect, **C.P.H. Gilbert** of New York City, was known to the family, having designed the Knox mansion at 806 Delaware Avenue a few years before. A covered walkway led to four other buildings, including his mother's property. For the rest of their lives, 57 Oakland Place remained the Buffalo home of Seymour II and Helen, where they lived in a grand fashion.

In 1924 Seymour II and Helen went to Aiken for a month's honeymoon at Rye Patch. In 1928 they bought five acres opposite Rye Patch and engaged **Julian Peabody** (1881-1935), of **Peabody, Wilson and Brown**, to design their new home. **Ellen Biddle Shipman**, who had worked on the grounds of other homes built by Peabody, was the landscape and garden consultant. Later Shipman undertook a complete redesign of the Knox Farm gardens in East Aurora.

Aside from business, the two significant directions that occupied Seymour II's energies were sports, especially polo, and the arts. His wife, Helen, often accompanied him as he pursued his interests in Europe and Argentina as well as in the U.S. She also was a very fine horsewoman and was Master of the Aiken Hunt in South Carolina and also Joint Master of the East Aurora Hunt in 1932. Their two sons, Seymour III and Northrup, took the sports dedication to great heights as presented later in this History.

Seymour II's contribution to the arts is con-

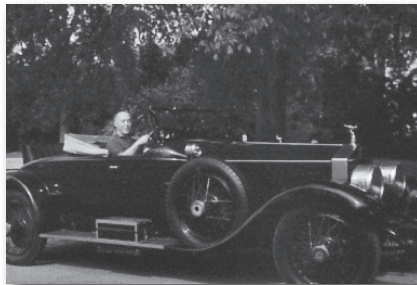
sidered perhaps his greatest gift to the community, culminating in 1986 at a White House ceremony where he was awarded the **National Medal of Arts** by President Ronald Reagan. The medal, created by sculptor **Robert Graham**, was instituted by the U.S. Congress to honor artists and patrons of art. History says that it was **Anson Conger Goodyear**,

the cousin of his sister Dorothy's husband, Frank, Jr. who sparked what became a passion for modern art. Conger Goodyear and the Rockefellers later founded and presided over **The Museum of Modern Art** in Manhattan, New York.

Seymour II purchased millions of dollars-worth of art for the **Albright Art Gallery**, making it a nationally renowned site for modern art. In 1962 he funded the building of a new wing at the Art Gallery, designed by the architect **Gordon Bunshaft**. This generous gift to the Gallery was recognized by changing its name to the **Albright-Knox Art Gallery**.

The list of painters' names whose work Seymour II helped fund in contemporary art included household names such as **Picasso, Matisse, Mondrian, Beckmann** and **Braque**. He then went on to gift abstract expressionist painters' work, including those of **De Kooning, Gorky, Rothko, Hofmann, Motherwell** and **Clyfford Still**. Other gifts include works by **Jasper Johns, Alexander Calder, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, Anthony Caro** and **Henry Moore**.

Seymour II's art largesse for the benefit of



Gentleman's Roadster

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others as well as the encouragement of many artists, is considered to be little short of stunning. Seymour is attributed to have said: "Art should be acquired to be seen and enjoyed, not to be stored in a warehouse."



Helen Northrup Knox

Life was clearly busy for Seymour II. In 1929 he took over the Main House at Ess Kay Farm from his sister and had also purchased his winter retreat in Aiken, South Carolina. These two homes satisfied the sports passion throughout the year, whether on polo fields, tennis or squash courts, on the ski slopes, on horseback, riding with the hounds, shooting or fishing.

Seymour II died in 1990. After his death, the following remarks were made by the **Honorable Bill Paxon** on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives:

"At the age of 92, the passing of Seymour H. Knox, Jr., brought to a close a long life of vision, passion, and generosity. The impact Seymour Knox has on our community is extraordinary. As a banker, an educator, and a philanthropist, Mr. Knox left us a legacy that will remain long, long after he is gone."

Seymour H. Knox III and Northrup Rand Knox

Seymour H. Knox III was born on March 9, 1926 and his brother **Northrup Rand Knox** on Christmas Eve 1928, both in Buffalo. They attended Aiken Preparatory School and then St Paul's School, a

private boarding high school in Concord, New Hampshire.

Seymour III served in the Army for a few months during World War II, and majored in Sociology at Yale, graduating in 1949. He also attended graduate school at Columbia University. Northrup graduated from Yale in 1950 and attended Cornell University to study agriculture. Seymour and Northrup shined as sportsmen at school and university, to the pleasure of their father.

Northrup at 21 married **Lucetta Crisp**, sharing a common interest in tennis, horseback riding and the outdoors. They had two children, **Linda** and **Northrup Junior**.

Seymour III married **Jean Read** of Purchase, New York in 1954, the sister of one of his former classmates. Seymour III and Jean had three sons and a daughter: **Seymour IV**, **Read**, **Avery** and **Helen**.



Northrup, Helen and Seymour III

The early part of their adulthood had Seymour III working in banking and Northrup farming, but both of them also focused a significant part of their energies on sports of many varieties. They rose to levels of excellence in their chosen or shared activities, most of which had roots in the Knox Farm. Commentators describe Seymour III as the diplomatic elder brother enjoying socializing while Northrup was more private and perhaps more competitive.

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The brothers' recognition beyond what could be called elite sports came when they, with attorney Robert Swados, brought a National Hockey League expansion team to Buffalo, the **Buffalo Sabres**. This did not occur overnight; there were two attempts prior to acceptance. The brothers now had a new demanding responsibility as well as growing involvement in the business and charitable world as their father withdrew. Playing sports themselves started to take a back seat to managing sports and leading business.

Seymour III was inducted into the **National Hockey League Hall of Fame** in 1993 and Northrup into the **Polo Hall of Fame** in 1994. Both were elected into the **Sabres Hall of Fame** in 1996.

Seymour III and Jean took over the Main House in 1990 when Seymour II died and then lived in the house year round from 1993 to 1996. After Seymour III died in 1996, Jean continued living there until 2000 when New York State purchased the house. Northrup lived in the guest house on the estate for fifty years until his death in 1998. Lucetta remained in the house until she purchased another home in East Aurora where she resided until her death in 2008.

POLO

*F*or many decades the Knox family has been closely associated with horses, for both breeding and recreational purposes. Seymour H. Knox I had grown up on his father's farm in Russell, New York and during his teenage years his passion for training horses grew. His Uncle Albon, who lived nearby, was a successful farmer who bought, bred and transported cattle and horses, but he most enjoyed working with horses. He trained carriage horses, a common form of transport at the time. When

the young Seymour was not helping his father he would go and exercise the horses at the McBrier farm, and he studied how to become a qualified trainer.

When Seymour I was in his late twenties he often visited East Aurora, which was known as the 'Trotting Capital of the World'. Trotters were horses that were trained for harness racing. This was a horse race with pacers or trotters harnessed to light two-wheeled vehicles, known as sulkies, which could seat one person. Pacers were trained in a mode of stepping whereby the legs on the same side are lifted together. The Hamlin and Jewett horse farming families helped to establish Aurora as a nationally known horse breeding center. Cicero J. Hamlin, whose grandson became President of the Buffalo Museum of Science, had more than seven hundred horses on his Hamlin Stock Farm. Hamlin owned the champion 'Mambrino King', who attracted more than 16,000 visitors to East Aurora just to see him. One weekend he was led in and out of his stall 170 times to be shown to horse lovers.

Henry C. Jewett owned a mile covered, salt based race track in 1885 for racing in the winter months, the only one of its kind in the country. It was thirty feet wide and had windows on both sides. The track was torn down in 1918 and its windows were used in many homes in town. Today the East Aurora Driving Society organizes an Annual Carriage Drive and Competition in July each year, the route of which is through the grounds of **Knox Farm State Park**.

East Aurora was the perfect place for Seymour to pursue his passion. He bought a farm around 1898 and named it the Ideal Stock Farm after his best stallion, 'Prince Ideal'. He increased his acreage, constructing barns and a stable and a private training track for his horses. He later de-

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scribed the farm as providing him with his "happiest moments". He trained racing standardbreds and carriage horses. Knox's best known race horse was 'The Abbe', a champion 3 year old trotter. At 4 'The Abbe' became a pacer and won many races, getting a mark of 2:04. At stud 'The Abbe' was a great success.

Not long after Seymour I passed away, his widow Grace and their teenage son Seymour H. Knox II exchanged the trotters and hunters for polo ponies. Polo is a team sport played on horseback, and the objective is to drive a ball into the opponent's goal using a long-handled mallet. It is fast paced and played on a grass field 300 by 160 yards. Each team consists of four riders and mounts. A game lasts about two hours and is divided into periods known as chukkas. The game was first played in Persia around the 5th century BCE. It became an Iranian national sport, played by men and women, until the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979 when its popularity sharply decreased. The modern game of polo came from Manipur in India where it was known as 'Sagol Kangjei' or 'Pulu'. The British are credited with gradually spreading polo worldwide. It is now an active sport in seventy seven countries. British settlers took the game to Argentina, which has now become the undisputed leader in the polo stakes, having the largest number ever of 10 goal handicap players in the world.

In the United States the first polo match was held in New York City in 1876, and

the same year the Westchester Polo Club was founded. In the early 1900s polo became a high-speed sport, differing from the game in England where short passes were the order of the day. Although the mounts are referred to as 'polo ponies' they are full-sized horses. The horses respond to single-handed rein control and the rider's constantly changing leg and weight movements for forward, turning and stopping directions. A horse may contribute 60 to 75 per cent net worth to his team. Each player



Northrup

can rotate between or even during chukkas. The number of ponies in a player's 'string' will vary from 2 or 3 ponies per player to 4 or yet more. Each of the four team members has different responsibilities with Number One and Number Two primarily covering offensive positions, Number Three being the tactical leader, who is

required to be a long powerful hitter, and Number Four is the primary defense player. Usually Number Three is the best player and holds the highest handicap.

Seymour II was an eight-goal polo player, his son Northrup was also an eight-goal player, and Seymour III was a five-goal player. Players are rated on a scale from minus-2 to 10. The former indicates a novice player, while a player rated at 10 has the highest possible handicap. Handicaps of five goals and above generally belong to professional players. The handicap indicates the worth of the player to the team, not the number of goals a player might score. In handicap matches the handicaps

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of all the players are added together and compared with the opposition, the difference being given to the lower rated team. Given the large investment in top quality ponies and their training, and the time commitment of the players, it is not surprising that polo is referred to as "The Sport of Kings", and is synonymous with wealth and social position. Upon his father's death Seymour II was fortunate that he could devote much time and energy in growing his stable of polo ponies. Although the history of polo in Buffalo goes back at least to the 1870s, it was not until the 1920s that matches were held at Knox Farm three times a week, and between 1922-1930 the sport flourished at the Country Club of Buffalo.

Seymour II quickly became hooked by the game and his brother-in-law, Frank Goodyear, also took up the sport. Matches took place between the Buffalo Country Club and the Toronto Polo Club on their fields at the Old Woodbine Racetrack. The ponies from East Aurora were transported by truck to Lewiston and then by boat to Toronto. The players went by rail or boat, by automobile or by flying boat which was in service for a few years between Buffalo and Toronto; in Seymour II's words: "the trips to Toronto, Montreal, Dayton and Cleveland were laced with luncheons, dinners and dances." In later years matches were played at Ess Kay Farm where there were three polo fields, and also on a field at Crag Burn, the new home of Dorothy Goodyear Rogers, Seymour's elder sister.

From 1923-1953, the 'Golden Age of Polo', the most important national event was the annual Open, which was held at Meadowbrook on Long Island. The Westchester Cup was a match between the United States and England, and during the 1920s and 1930s was the most anticipated event on the sporting calendar in America.

The Buffalo News

Whilst much of the world was trying to survive the Great Depression during the 1930s, Seymour II put energy into pursuing one of his favorite sports, and the pleasures which accompanied it. In 1932 Seymour II together with his wife Helen made their first trip to Argentina as official chaperones of the US Polo squad. Their sea journey took seventeen days to reach Buenos Aires, and they enjoyed fine hotels and clubs, great excursions to estancias outside the city, sailing trips and lots of parties. Seymour wrote: "My first impressions of the Argentines at the parties were favorable. They were good looking and well dressed. Seemed to drink less than the Americans at home. And how the Argentine men and girls like to dance! They danced us ragged. I played five games of polo the first week in B.A., but in the same week I believe I covered more mileage on the dance floor than I did on the polo field."

The two month polo tour was successful and the US polo team won La Copa De Las Americas Series as they had in 1928, although Seymour II was not playing on the team in this Series.

In 1933 Seymour II was invited to compete in the US Open Championship at Meadowbrook. Seymour II, described as "the wiry little banker" put together a team under the banner of the East Aurora Polo Club. The Auroras, Seymour II's team, displaying great skill and tenacity, held on for a 14-11 win and took the US Open.

In February 1934 Knox was invited by Louis Stoddard, chairman of the U.S. Polo Association, to captain a team to play during the English season, which began in May. At short notice he had to assemble a team of players prepared for a three month sojourn in England. A trainer, Tommy Nelson, was persuaded to take on the role of caring

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for and managing the 35 ponies and 17 grooms. The Aurora team horses, plus blue and yellow tack trucks, plus automobiles including a station wagon, a Ford sedan and a Lincoln limousine set sail on the *Banker* on April 6th. On April 21st Seymour II, his wife Helen and sons and a mountain of luggage set sail on the *Bremen*.

After a month of training and conditioning for both horses and riders, the Knox family moved to an apartment at 18 Hyde Park Garden in London, and took full advantage of the myriad of sightseeing and social engagements. The Championship Cup at Hurlingham had been competed for since 1876, but never won by a team from the United States. In spite of being knocked unconscious during their second match, one of their team, Billy Post, competed with the Auroras in the final, which Aurora took 7-3 and for the first time in its 58 year history, an American team had won the Champion Cup. The Cup was presented to the team by Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone.

Seymour II's memoir, "Aurora in England", made many references to the activities they enjoyed other than purely athletic ones: "Lady Violet Astor's dance, Lord Decies luncheon, The Roehampton Club luncheon, The Hurlingham Club dinner and Aurora ball. Mrs Lawson's tea after the Roehampton Open, Ambassador and Mrs Bingham's dinner at the U.S. Embassy, Mrs George Lockett's dinner, Major Astor's luncheon in the London Times office, The British Sportsman's Club luncheon at the Savoy, Col. Parker's luncheon, The Smith-Bingham's dinner, Lady Zia Wehrner's party. Weekends at Major Harrisons, the Holland Martins and at Cowdray. A Sunday with Col. And Mrs Lockett when we went to the Wellington and Eton schools, the Sunday at the Duke of Sutherlands – all are a large part of our happy memories of England."

There were sightseeing visits with his two sons to see the Trooping the Colour, a ceremony to mark the official birthday of the reigning monarch, King George V; the Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace, Derby Day at Epsom Racecourse, The Royal Meeting at Ascot Racecourse and the Aldershot Military Tattoo.

In 1937 the Aurora team was invited by the Argentine Polo Association to play in their Open Tournament. Once again, for their three months away Seymour II and Helen took along their two young sons, aged 11 and 9, and Bella "an excellent companion nurse", along with Colonel Howard Fair, who was "an accomplished violinist, dancer, fox hunter, polo player and all around horseman" as a part-time tutor for the boys and substitute for the polo team. Unfortunately, the team lost 8-3 in the semi-finals.

In 1956 Aurora was defeated in the Finals of the US Open Championships at Oakbrook, and again in 1959. In 1966 Aurora was narrowly defeated at Santa Barbara but the William Hartman Trophy for the best playing pony was awarded to 'Rotalen', an 8 year old mare belonging to Northrup. The same year Argentina was celebrating its 150th year of Independence, Northrup, now an 8 goal player, was selected as part of the squad to represent the U.S. Polo Association in Buenos Aires. By now an overnight flight had replaced the 3 week sea voyage of their first visit in 1923. Northrup, at 37, was now the U.S. Captain and the newly elected chairman of the U.S. Polo Association, as well as a former Yale hockey star and world open-court tennis champion. He said: "We came down here with a pickup team to gain experience and do the best we could. That we lost was not entirely unexpected. What we gained from this trip was renewed interest in big-time polo in the States."

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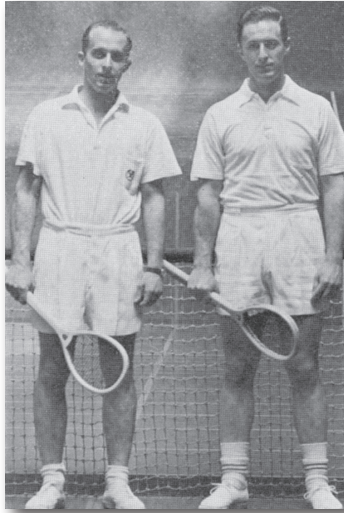
In 1969 the U.S. Polo Association challenged the Argentinian Polo Association. Northrup Knox, Chairman of the U.S. Polo Association, with his eight goal handicap, was selected as Captain of the U.S. Team. Although they lost, Seymour II wrote: "The U.S. team played hard and never gave up trying, but their young opponents seemed to get to the ball and man faster, and hit exceptionally well. It was a fine display of fast polo by a great team." Northrup noted there were two factors which marked the difference in caliber of the two teams: age and experience. The average age of the Argentinian team was fourteen years younger than the Americans. He also pointed out that being older does not necessarily equate to more experience.

Lewis Smith, who played for the United States in the 1950 International Polo Match in Argentina, and was a nine-goal polo player, ran the stables at Ess Kay Farm and trained the horses for many years. The East Aurora polo jerseys were colored blue and gold, as were the silks of Seymour I's trotters. This is the reason why Seymour III chose blue and gold as the uniform colors for his new Buffalo Sabres hockey team.

SQUASH & TENNIS

*I*n 1934 Seymour II engaged Frederick C. Backus to build a squash court modeled after one he saw on a private estate in England. Here Seymour II's young sons learned to play the game. In 1940 the U.S. Squash Racquets Team of 1935, on which Sey-

mour II had participated, held a reunion in East Aurora. Two tournaments were held; one with the softer English ball and racquet and scoring, the other with the American hardball version. "The festivities included a stag dinner, complete with speeches and stories of the trip to England five years before, attended by some of the leading squash players in Buffalo." In the field of sports Seymour II held the positions of past president of the U.S. Squash Racquets Association and the Skillman Associates of Yale University, an association providing financial support and improvements to the Yale hardball squash program, and Governor of the U.S. Polo Association.



Seymour III and Northrup Knox

Seymour III and Northrup devoted time to games because they enjoyed them, they could afford to play them, they were

both very athletic and very good at games, and because their father had indoctrinated them with his conviction that sports and sportsmanship are important ingredients in life and, along with life's other responsibilities, are to be taken seriously. Seymour III won his first cup at the age of 3 for horsemanship. At the Aiken Preparatory School he and Northrup won some 30 athletic trophies, including one for bicycle polo. "That," said Seymour III, "is really a game."

At St. Paul's, both of them captained the squash team, and Northrup won the school championship three years running. He also earned a spot on the hockey team as goalie. Northrup played on Yale's squash racquets team, and won the intercollegiate doubles. Later, in 1959 he won the City

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of Buffalo squash racquets Championship and the City Doubles for four years.

The Knox vacations and school holidays were spent playing golf or squash, on horseback or on the Aiken court tennis court. At the start of his Sixth Form year, Seymour III snapped his right leg playing football and his leg had to be reconstructed with steel plate. Seymour still made the squash team, and went on to pitch, play first and captain his club baseball team.

Marriage had no more effect than business in slowing down Knox sporting campaigns. During two family trips to Cabo Blanco, Peru, in the 1950s, Northrup caught a 730-pound black marlin and a 400-pound big-eyed tuna; Lucetta caught a 720-pound black marlin; Jean caught a 336-pound big-eyed tuna.

Northrup especially excelled at real tennis. Real tennis is the original racquet game, and along with polo is sometimes called "the sport of kings", from which the game of lawn tennis is derived. In England it was known as 'royal tennis', and in the US as 'court tennis'. It is estimated that there are about forty seven existing courts in total throughout the United Kingdom, Australia, France and the United States, with more than half in Great Britain. A real tennis court is enclosed by walls on all four sides and a lofted ceiling for high lob shots. The courts are doubly asymmetric with both the ends of the court and the sides differing in shape.

Northrup was taught to play tennis by Pierre Etchebaster, who was World Court Tennis Champion for twenty six years. Northrup won the U.S. Amateur Championship for six years; the Doubles Championship eight times with four different partners, and was World Champion for ten years. He won the British Amateur Court Tennis Championship in 1958 and the Bathhurst Cup twice, in

1958 and in 1960. The Bathhurst Cup is equivalent to the Davis Cup in Lawn Tennis. He was president of the U.S. Squash racquets association for two years, and from 1951 Seymour III was talented enough to help his brother win the U.S. national doubles for three years.

HOCKEY – BUFFALO SABRES

Seymour H. Knox III and Northrup R. Knox were the first owners of the Buffalo Sabres hockey team, established in 1970, when the National Hockey League was expanded to fourteen teams. On two different occasions before this the Knoxes tried to obtain an NHL team; once in 1967 when the NHL expanded, and again later when they tried to buy the Oakland Seals with the intent to move them to Buffalo. On ownership the Knox brothers immediately commissioned a *name-the-team contest*. The **Buffalo Sabres** was chosen by Seymour III who felt that a sabre could effectively be used on offense and defense. The team's colors, blue and gold, were directly chosen from the former Aurora polo team colors. At the time of their creation, the Sabres built their own American Hockey League farm team, the Cincinnati Swords. Also former Toronto Maple Leafs' general manager and head coach Punch Imlack was hired in the same capacity with the Sabres.

Gilbert Perreault was the first pick of the 1970 draft; he was also Buffalo's first pick as a team. Rick Martin joined the team during the second season and Rene Robert was acquired in a late season trade the same year. They formed one of the prolific scoring lines of the era and were nicknamed the 'French Connection' in honor of their French-Canadian roots and after the movie of the same name. During the team's third year in the league, 1972-73, they made the playoffs for the first of twenty-nine times.

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After his brother's death, Northrup Knox sold the team to the Rigas family of Adelphia Cable Communications in 1997. Tom Gollisano bought the team in 2003 and sold it to its current owner, Terrance Pegula, during the 2010-2011 Season.

ARCHITECTS

Frank B. Meade & James M. Hamilton - Architects of the Main House

The Main House, which was built c.1916-17, was designed by Cleveland architects **Frank Bell Meade** and **James Montgomery Hamilton**. Frank Meade (1867- 1947) was born in Norwalk, Ohio, the son of a lumber merchant, and grandson of an architect-builder in Ohio. By the age of 15, Meade had become second violinist with the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra. Following three years of 'professional playing', he enrolled in the Case School of Applied Science in Mechanical Engineering in Cleveland. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) graduating in 1888.

His artistic talents extended to exceptional skill in sketching, and he headed down the career path of architecture. Meade then moved to Chicago working as a draughtsman at Jenney & Mundie. Returning to Cleveland in 1894 he formed a partnership with Alfred Hoyt Granger from 1896 to 1898, and then joined Abram Garfield until 1904. Garfield was the grandson of President James A. Garfield.

Meade ran his own firm until 1911, and then formed an enduring partnership with

James Montgomery Hamilton. Hamilton (1876-1941) was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He also attended MIT in the late 1890s and moved to Cleveland in 1901. He travelled in Europe for two years to study architecture, and on returning to Cleveland he was hired at Meade and Garfield. The Meade partnership lasted until Hamilton's death. Never married, Hamilton was buried in Fort Wayne.

Meade's prominence was as a leading residential architect primarily in the Cleveland area. His designs first appeared among the mansions owned by the ruling classes along famed Euclid Avenue, where he also resided. Meade played a leading role in developing The Cleveland Group Plan of 1903,

when he filled a vacancy created by the death of **John M. Carrère** in 1911, and worked alongside the prominent landscape architect **Frederick Law Olmsted** of Boston and sculptor **Arnold Brunner** of New York City. Carrère had been the chief architect responsible for the Pan-American exposition in Buffalo in 1901, and his firm then designed the Senate and House Office buildings in Washington D.C. The



Architect

Cleveland Group Plan is the earliest and most fully realized plan outside of Washington D.C. and remains one of the best extant examples of the City Beautiful Movement. This began as a response to overcrowded conditions in tenement districts of major cities like New York, and promoted beauty not only for its own sake but also to encourage moral and civic virtue among urban populations. Designs followed contemporary Beaux-Arts and neoclassical architectures, emphasizing the need for order, dignity and harmony. In Cleveland, the plan

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called for Beaux-Arts style buildings to be arranged around a central Mall. Today no fewer than seven major architectural structures from the Group Plan remain vital parts of Cleveland's cityscape.

As the rich professional and industrial class in Cleveland prospered they migrated to the suburbs of Wade Park, Lakewood, Bratenahl, Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights, and Meade and Hamilton earned many commissions. Throughout their thirty year partnership their firm designed more than eight hundred homes between Buffalo and Dayton, Ohio and beyond in Detroit, Michigan and even Tacoma, Washington. In Detroit Meade and Hamilton designed a white stucco Mediterranean villa type mansion for Sebastian Spering Kresge, founder of the five-and-dime empire S.S. Kresge Corporation, which later became Kmart. They also designed Haddaway Hall in Tacoma, a magnificent Jacobethan mansion for John Weyerhaeuser, a lumber magnate heir, and his second wife, Anna Mary Holbrook. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and Charles Olmsted were the landscape architects with plantings by T.B. Morrow.

Known residences designed by Meade and Hamilton in Buffalo include the Walter P. Cooke House at 155 Summer Street. Of Tudor style, it was designed for Cooke, a lawyer and chairman of the board of the Marine Trust Company from 1928-31. In 1920 Cooke had recreated the University at Buffalo, and assumed responsibility for its destiny, by undertaking UB's first capital campaign. At the time, UB was a loosely organized group of professional schools with barely an arts and sciences college. The Knox Fund for the Department of Arts and Sciences, established by Grace Knox, Seymour H. Knox I's widow in 1916, was UB's only endowment. The schools lacked funds, the buildings and equipment were inadequate, and most of the faculty was

part-time volunteers. With just over 1,000 students UB had never had a full time chancellor. In the summer of 1920 Cooke orchestrated a large reorganization of the University Council and undertook UB's first capital campaign. Twenty-four thousand people subscribed to the university project, and more than \$5 million was raised in 10 days for an institution which, in its 74-year history, had been able to accumulate only about a million dollars' worth of assets.

In 1917 Meade and Hamilton designed an addition to 672 Delaware Avenue for 26 year old Frank Goodyear Jr.; the works comprised a brick multi-purpose building with an indoor tennis court, squash court, dressing rooms, second floor living room and kitchen – now used by the American Red Cross. The English Tudor house at 68 Rumsey Road, c.1926 was designed for Smith M. Flickinger, an international food wholesaler and distributor, founder of the Red & White private label and retail grocers' association of 8,000 independently owned stores across North America. Meade and Hamilton also designed the 1926 "Shinnecock" styled club house of the Wanakah Country Club in Hamburg, New York.

Meade's lifelong love of music and theatre led to his founding of The Hermit's Club in Cleveland. In 1904 he invited a group of friends to dinner to discuss the idea of creating a club similar to the famous Lambs Club in New York, America's first professional theatrical club, organized in 1874 by a group of actors and supporters of the theatre. Meade and Hamilton's Hermit Club was given recognition as a Cleveland landmark in 1976. The building encompasses the Jacobean revival style. Located in the heart of Cleveland's theatre district, it is reputed to be the nation's oldest continuously operating private club devoted to the performing arts.

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Meade married Dora Rucker in 1898 but the couple had no children. Meade died in Cleveland and was buried in Lake View Cemetery.

Frederick C. Backus - Architect of the Squash Court

The squash court adjacent to the Main House was added in 1934, and was designed by **Frederick Clark Backus**, the official architect for the City of Buffalo. Frederick C. Backus (1889-1969) was born in Trenton, New Jersey. He graduated from the Cornell University College of Architecture in 1914. After military service and working in various architects' offices in Buffalo, including Townsend & Fleming, Backus set up his own company in 1922. Nearly twenty years later he formed a partnership with **David B. Crane** and **Donald W. Love**.

Backus' earliest work was with the City of Buffalo. He became a member of Associated Buffalo Architects Inc., a collective which included E.B.Green, Duane Lyman, Max Beierl and Backus. The Association designed ten of Buffalo's Public Schools, including Bennett High School. In 1929 Backus designed the Ingleside Home, believed to be a home for unmarried mothers, and remodeled the home of Elbert S. Bennett at 110 Oakland Place. Bennett had been employed by the F.W. Woolworth Company. Backus also designed the Evans House on 100 Meadow, in a Mission Revival style. Over the years his firm completed several apartment buildings including Tudor Plaza Apartments at 731 West Ferry Street.

One of his most architecturally significant commissions was the construction of the **Willert Park Housing Project**, located on Buffalo's east side which opened in 1939. The site planner and landscape ar-

chitect was William E. Harries. Permanent, federally-funded public housing had been established in the United States in 1933 as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. The Wagner-Steagall Housing Act of 1937 required that for each new public housing unit created, a unit of sub-standard quality must be removed. Local authorities chose the location with the result that housing projects would remain racially segregated. The Act also set low maximum income requirements, but ultimately it had the unfortunate consequence of high concentrations of poverty within public housing projects. The first subsidized housing projects,



Seymour II

like Willert Park, or "the projects", as they are now often referred to, were influenced by European modernist ideas, but over time public housing became the housing of last resort.

At Willert Park Backus created one of the first garden/courtyard housing projects in the nation, and the only project in Buffalo to have a significant sculptural program. Although the neighborhood had a varied ethnic mix, Willert Park Courts were built expressly for African-Americans, in line with the "separate but equal" public policy of the time. By 1941 there was a waiting list of nearly 1,000 eligible tenants who had been denied available housing in other public projects around the city on the basis of their race. The low rise 172-unit housing project, opened in 1939, was owned by the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority, and operated by its first African-American

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senior district manager, Mr. A.D. Price, from 1939 until his death in 1968. The property was later renamed in his honor.

Of further significance is Willert Park Court's association with the Federal Arts Project (FAP) which operated between 1935 and 1943 under the Works Progress Administration (WPA). At the time the FAP employed numerous artists including **Jackson Pollock**, **Mark Rothko**, **Ben Shahn** and **Willem de Kooning**, (whose works have been exhibited at the Albright Knox Art Gallery), to create some of the nation's most significant public art of the era. FAP artists **Robert Cromback** and **Herbert Ambellan** created the impressive, allegorical bas relief plaques mounted on the buildings at Willert Park. The designs are executed in tinted concrete and depict African-Americans and celebrate the themes of work and working class life, and remain in very good condition today.

In 2010 the historic complex was in danger of being demolished and replaced with new construction. Because of its architectural, artistic and historical merits, The Preservation League of New York State named the property one of the Seven to Save, as they did with Knox Farm State Park in April 2012. The New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation designated the complex eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Backus, Crane and Love completed numerous architectural designs ranging from churches and public and private housing to factories and office buildings. Amongst their notable designs are the National Gypsum Company and Office Building, which was created in 1941 on the site of the former Calvary Presbyterian Church. The building still stands at 325 Delaware. The following year Backus Crane and Love

designed the Symington Gould Foundry in Depew, and also constructed the Josephine Goodyear Convalescent Home in Williamsville, New York. Josephine was the mother of Frank Goodyear Jr. who had married Dorothy Knox and built the Main House at the Knox Summer Estate.

In 1949, working for the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority, Backus, Crane and Love designed the Dante Place Housing Project. It was originally intended to have a 50/50 black/white occupancy but by 1956 the black population was 65% of the total, and in 1959 the BMHA gained approval to turn the apartment complex into its current middle income privately managed Marine Drive Apartment complex.

Harvey Staring Horton - Architect of the Stables

*H*arvey Staring Horton (1884-1965) was born in Silver Creek, 35 miles south of Buffalo, the son of a fruit grower. Horton attended the Cornell University College of Architecture, graduating in 1906, having been awarded the Clifton Beckwith Brown Bronze Medal for his high grades in architectural design. Horton then worked in New York City with the architectural firm of **Carrère and Hastings**. Carrère's firm designed the McKinley Monument in Niagara Square, Buffalo, erected in 1907 to commemorate the assassination of President McKinley during the Pan-American Exposition. Carrère also designed a home for Frank Goodyear, Sr. on Delaware Avenue, c. 1903. Dorothy Knox and Frank Goodyear Jr. moved into the Carrère-designed home in 1915 for a brief period following the death of Knox.

Horton then worked with **George Cary**, a Buffalo architect, whose buildings include the Buffalo History Museum, the only surviving building from the 1901 Exposition,

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and the neo-classical Forest Lawn Administration Building and the Forest Lawn Delaware Avenue Gate. This experience provided him with a solid background in the Beaux Arts stylistic school of architecture. He spent six months travelling throughout Europe studying architecture. In 1916 Horton set up his own practice in an office located in the Marine National Bank Building on Main Street. Later he relocated to the Prudential Building, also known as the Guaranty Building.



Stables

Horton designed many notable buildings in Buffalo, including the English Tudor style Saddle and Bridle Club (c.1922) on Amherst Street, the Pitt Petri Building (c.1923-25) on Delaware Avenue, and the Tudor Revival style home of William H. Bayliss, the Bayliss-Oishei House, the 2011 Junior League of Buffalo/ Buffalo News Decorators' Show House. Several Marine Bank branches were reputedly also designed by him, as was the Huyler Building of 1923-25.

In 1962 Horton was one of a group of architects who fought to save the façade of the Albright Art Gallery when a new addition was constructed in Olmsted and Vaux's Delaware Park before it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Horton was one of Buffalo's early preservationists. Seymour H. Knox II, himself a serious art collector, provided the funding for the physical expansion, and the newly combined buildings were named the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. This addition was designed

by Buffalo native Gordon Bunshaft, of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2012.

Horton passed away at the age of 83 in 1965, and was later interred in Buffalo's Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Frederick A. Lord and William Addison Burnham - Architects of the Greenhouse

*F*rederick A. Lord's company began in 1849 when he started to build wood and glass greenhouses for his neighbors in Buffalo as a sideline to his carpentry business. The company moved to Syracuse in 1854 as the greenhouse business expanded, then to Irvington, New York so that Lord was closer to his wealthy clients and their large estates in the lower Hudson Valley. In 1872 Lord's son-in-law, **William Addison Burnham**, joined the firm.

Lord and Burnham were inspired by the construction of the two largest conservatories in England; firstly the Palm House of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London between 1844-1848 by architect **Decimus Burton** and iron maker **Richard Turner**. They had been influenced by the pioneering work of **Joseph Paxton** (1803-1865) at Chatsworth from the 1830s onwards and by Paxton's design of the Crystal Palace in England for the First London International Exposition of 1851.

Aged 20, Paxton became head gardener at Chatsworth, the ancestral home of the 6th Duke of Devonshire, one of the finest landscaped gardens of the time. Paxton designed gardens, fountains, a model village and an arboretum. He experimented with a series of buildings with "forcing frames" for espalier trees. He designed a ridge and fur-

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row roof which would be at right angles to the morning and evening sun, with a frame design admitting the maximum amount of light. This was the forerunner to the modern greenhouse.

The next big development at Chatsworth occurred because of the *Victoria Regia* lily. A genus of water-lilies, the plant has extremely large leaves, up to 9 or 10 feet in diameter, which lie flat on the water's surface. Although the leaf is delicate its structure is such that if the weight is distributed across its surface it can support up to 70 pounds. Paxton considered the plant a natural feat of engineering and tested it by floating his daughter on one of the leaves. It held and Paxton realized that the key was the rigidity from the radiating ribs of the giant leaf connecting with flexible cross ribs, and ultimately the construction of the Great Conservatory at Chatsworth became the prototype for the London Exposition. Paxton's design at Crystal Palace was a vastly magnified version of the lily house at Chatsworth. Its novelty was its revolutionary, modular, prefabricated design and extensive use of glass. It was simple to build and remove and could be ready quickly. Originally erected in London's Hyde Park, the Crystal Palace was later dismantled and re-erected in Sydenham in south London, where it remained until it burnt down in 1936.

Lord and Burnham's first major commission was in 1876 for the Californian philanthropist and Gold Rush pioneer, James Lick, who hired them to create a 12,000 square foot conservatory similar to the one in Kew Gardens in London. After Lick's death it became the Golden Gate Park Conservatory of Flowers. It deteriorated over the years and in 1998 was placed on the 100 Most Endangered World Monuments List. The following year it was one of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's Millennium Council proj-

ects, and the next four years were spent rehabilitating the structure, which re-opened to the public in 2003.

Lord and Burnham also experimented with many different boiler types to heat their greenhouse. Plants and flowers were becoming increasingly popular for social events like parties, weddings and funerals, and house interiors called for plants such as ferns and palms. Greenhouses were desired by both large estates to stock their gardens, and then public parks and gardens for public use. Lord and Burnham furnished greenhouses for Delaware Park, but they are no longer there.

In 1897-99 they constructed the conservatory at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. When built it was one of the largest public greenhouses in the country. Soon after it opened the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo in 1901 brought thousands of visitors to South Park's conservatory and garden, and it soon gained national renown. The construction of the tri-domed glass, wood and steel building was based on the methods used at Crystal Palace and the Palm House of Kew Gardens. It is one of only two conservatories with the tri-dome design, the other being the conservatory at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. Other major works by Lord and Burnham include the magnificent 1893 Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the 1933 Conservatory at the United States Botanic Garden on the grounds of the United States Capitol in Washington D.C.

In 1927 Lord and Burnham designed the greenhouse at Knox Farm for Helen and Seymour H. Knox II.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Ellen Biddle Shipman

In 1931 the gardens and formal estate grounds at Knox Farm were designed by the trailblazing American landscape architect, Ellen Biddle Shipman (1869-1950), a pioneer in a field that had been dominated by men up to the 1900s. She was one of the most important landscape architects during the 1910s and 1920s, the great years of estate building in the United States. She briefly attended Radcliffe College, known as the Harvard Annex, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, until she left to marry Louis Evan Shipman, a young playwright. In 1894 they moved to Plainfield, New Hampshire, part of the Cornish Art Colony.

The **Cornish Art Colony** began with the arrival of sculptor **Augustus Saint-Gaudens** (1848-1907), known in Buffalo for his 1905 Caryatid Portico at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. The Colony's first residents were painters inspired by Mount Ascutney, a monadnock, the weathered core of an old volcano that once towered 20,000 feet into the air, now a mere 3,320 feet high across the Connecticut River near Windsor, Vermont. By 1905 forty families were resident some of the year. In time their ranks expanded to include novelists, journalists, playwrights, poets, critics, actors and patrons of the arts, as well as decorators, illustrators, architects and landscape designers.

Many architecturally significant buildings were constructed at Cornish. Ten were designed by Colony member **Charles Adams Platt** (1861-1933), better known as an architect and illustrator rather than a garden designer. The typical garden at Cornish was formal and symmetrical and adjacent to the house so as not to detract

from the natural beauty of Mount Ascutney and scenic vistas. Cornish residents strove to integrate and elevate the natural beauty of their surroundings in their art and their homes.



Ellen Biddle Shipman

Platt was a true proponent of this style, sitting gardens to maximize views of the natural landscape. Platt would later mentor and then collaborate with Shipman on many architectural and landscape projects.

In 1911 Platt designed two houses in Buffalo. The house of Tracy Balcom at 1193 Delaware Avenue once had an enclosed garden behind it. The other, at 1205 Delaware, was for Willis O. Chapin, a local attorney, who was the first president of the Society for Beautifying Buffalo. Both houses still stand. For professional help in surveying large-scale projects, Platt worked with the sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, the younger of whom helped Platt design the McMillan Park Reservoir in Washington D.C. - "a necklace of emeralds", large reserves of green space ringing the city and connected by trails. This park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in February 2013. Platt became known as "the man who could design both house and garden for a country estate."

By 1910, Ellen Shipman, the mother of three children, was left on her own when her husband, who in any event was "an unreliable source of income", took off for London with another woman. At the suggestion of Charles Platt, who thought she had

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a good eye for design, Shipman pursued her interest in landscaping and became a talented garden designer. Platt's assistants trained Shipman in professional drafting. Platt would turn to Shipman for detailed planting plans to fill his borders. Their collaboration was to their mutual benefit: Platt respected her for her extensive, practical knowledge of horticulture and design sensibilities, and Ellen needed Platt for his drafting and design expertise.

Shipman's creativity and originality as a landscape designer came from various influences in her earlier years, mainly from her grandparents' farm and the gardens of neighbors like Thomas Wilmer Dewing, Stephen Parrish, Augustus Saint-Gaudens and other artists at Cornish. Given the impecunious state of the Shipmans' marriage, she could not afford to tour the grand European gardens as many of her contemporaries did, but instead she read *House Beautiful* and *House and Gardens*, magazines which would in later years feature her own garden designs. In 1933, *House and Garden* named her the "Dean of Women Landscape Architects."

Shipman's style was Colonial rather than the European models favored by Platt and other landscape architects. Her designs balanced formality and informality, mindful of the relationship between house and garden and the ease with which to move from one to the other. With her practical gardening skills and extensive knowledge of plants, she transformed "the flower border into an art form by using carefully articulated compositions of flowers, foliage, and color." Her unpretentious designs provided the framework for her colorful plantings. One of her planting secrets was that she restricted herself to six to eight types of flowering plants in each design, allowing "each, in its season, (to) dominate the garden. For the time one flower is the guest of honor and

is merely supplemented with other flowers." She liked to surround the garden with an enclosing screen of trees using small flowering trees and shrubs and vines "to create structural notes and to cast shadows over the borders." She included accents like rose arbors, benches and pergolas and dovecotes which would reflect the architectural style of the house. Above all, she had a keen sense of the need for privacy: "Planting, however beautiful, is not a garden. A garden must be enclosed...or otherwise it would merely be a cultivated area."

By the early 1920s Shipman was well known for her garden designs. She could satisfy her clients' need for good taste and privacy, and each design was suited to their desires: "I feel strongly that each garden that I do is like a portrait of the person and should express their likes and dislikes." If her clients needed a gardener she would help them find someone to ensure the garden would always be well maintained.

In 1920 Shipman moved to New York City where she opened her own office. In 1927 Elizabeth Russell, writing in *The House Beautiful*, said that visitors to her office would observe "girls in blue smocks bending over drafting boards." She would hire graduates solely from the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture, Gardening and Horticulture for Women. Shipman probably wanted to help other women, as at the time most apprenticeships were open only to men, and she was mostly designing gardens for women clients. In 1938 Mrs. Shipman told the *New York Times* that "before women took hold of the profession, landscape architects were doing what I call cemetery work", whilst her generation were using plants "as if they were painting pictures as an artist." After 1929 commissions were scarce and her business lost money, but she maintained a few wealthy clients who weathered the stock market crash.

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One of Shipman's earliest collaborations with Platt was in 1913 at Fynmere, in Cooperstown, New York, the estate owned by the Cooper family, and they worked together on the courtyard gardens of Manhattan's Astor Court Building. Platt and Shipman also collaborated with **Warren Henry Manning** (1860-1938), who along with Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and his brother, co-founded the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899, and was a strong proponent of the National Park System. Manning's landscaping differed from the formalistic approach which was in vogue, and instead his style emphasized a more naturalistic route. Under the auspices of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., Manning worked on more than 125 projects, including the extensive municipal park system in Buffalo. Platt, Shipman and Manning worked together on the gardens at the Gwinn Estate in Cleveland, Ohio, where it is said the cost of the gardens equaled the cost of the mansion.

The walled English Garden at Stan Hywet Hall in Akron, Ohio, the home of Frank Augustus Seiberling (1859-1955), co-founder of The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, was a co-operative effort between Manning and Shipman. Seiberling's wife Gertrude grew tired of Manning's harsh color scheme and haphazard layout, so in 1928 he recommended Shipman to the Seiberlings: "I should be pleased to have you call Mrs. Ellen Shipman for this garden as I consider her to be one of the best, if not the very best Flower Garden Maker in America." Shipman duly presented a planting plan with a blue, yellow, pink, white

and lavender color scheme, which Mrs. Seiberling followed. Today it is one of the only remaining historically accurate gardens by Ellen Shipman open to the public.

During her 35 year career, Shipman designed nearly six hundred gardens. Her prolific output is partly attributable to her willingness to rework the designs of other landscapers, as at Stan Hywet Hall, and her work in 1925 on the Cambridge, Massachusetts garden of Alice Longfellow, who was immortalized as Grave Alice by her father Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his poem *The Children's Hour*. Shipman had to rejuvenate the garden by devising planting plans and plant lists without altering the overall design.



Shipman's Garden

Few examples of Shipman's work are accessible to the public, because most of her commissions were for private gardens. Her gardens were unusually plant intensive and therefore rather fragile, and in turn labor intensive, so many have not survived. Fortunately, Shipman's spirit lives on in the glorious public gardens she created at Longue Vue in New Orleans and at Chatham Manor in Fredericksburg, Virginia. In 1946 she sold her New York home and office, and thereafter divided her time between her home in New Hampshire and Bermuda, where she died of pneumonia on March 27, 1950. Shipman was also commissioned by Seymour H. Knox II in 1930 to work on the garden of his property in Aiken, South Carolina before she designed the gardens at the main house at East Aurora.

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BUFFALO
THE BUFFALO NEWS
DECORATORS'
SHOW HOUSE

Seymour
Horace
Knox I
1861 - 1915



Grace
Millard
Knox
1862 - 1936



First Knox 5 and 10 Cent Store
Reading, PA

Opened September 20, 1884



State Owned July 2000

Designated by New York State
as a "Seven to Save" Property
April 2012

SHOW HOUSE HISTORY

Jane C. Hamilton, Show House Historian

Marie-Cecile O. Tidwell, PhD, Historian Committee

Mary Falzone, Historian Committee

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