

HOURS OF OPERATION

Office
Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday Closed

Gates
May-October 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
November-April 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Public Mausoleums
Open Daily 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Quiet Reflections 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Phone: (412) 421-1822

Fax: (412) 421-1112

www.thehomewoodcemetery.com

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PITTSBURGH, PA

PERMIT No. 2567

WELCOME BACK!

THE HOMewood CEMETERY WALKING TOURS RESUME

After a hiatus of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund offered two of its popular walking tours throughout October, 2022.

Historical Fund. For 2022, Jennie Benford, The Homewood Cemetery's Historian, offered two different tours, both of which she developed. "Audacious Pioneers: The Ladies of Section 14" walks visitors past H.J. Heinz, H.C. Frick, and other famous men to tell the surprising stories of eight fascinating women. "In the Beginning," takes a close look at Sections 7, 5, and 3, the first sections developed and available for interments when the Cemetery opened in 1878, focusing on the years between the eve of Pittsburgh's industrial era through WWI.

Response to the Cemetery's 2022 walking tours was gratifyingly positive, with the majority of the tours--one offered on Tuesdays and one offered on Thursdays--being booked well in advance. The two years in which Cemetery tours were not offered experienced a significant rise in visitors who discovered the Cemetery grounds provided a safe, beautiful, outdoor space to explore during the Covid lock-down. Many of the new visitors took advantage of October's tours to learn more about their new favorite place.

Information about the next Walking Tour season will be forthcoming on The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund's Facebook page and on The Homewood Cemetery website (www.thehomewoodcemetery.com) in late Spring of 2023.



Detail of the Whetzel Family marker
(Section 5, Lot 52).

Walking tours of The Homewood Cemetery have been an annual offering for well over 25 years. The first tours were developed and led by Cemetery staff members Marilyn Evert and Janet Kettering, who were also responsible for starting The Homewood, the annual newsletter of The Homewood Cemetery



Section 14.

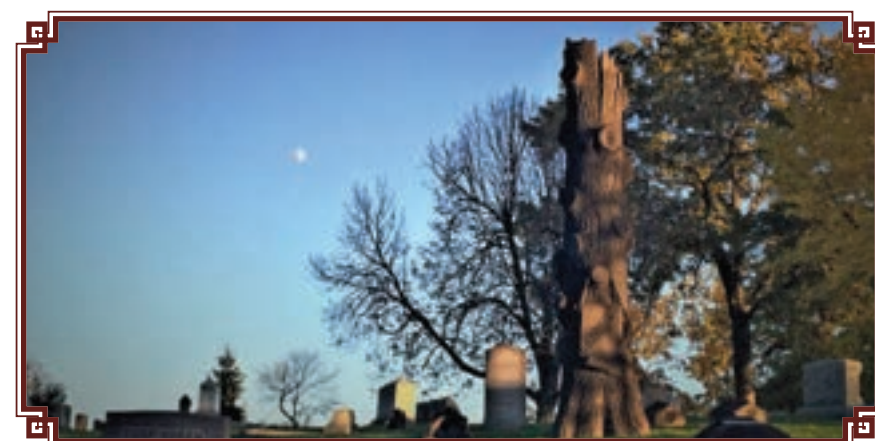
YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Yesterday's News will be an occasional feature where we share, word for word, historic newspaper articles pertaining to The Homewood Cemetery or the people therein.



(Section 8, Lot 131)

From The Granite News, Vol 1, No. 6, September 1896
P. Reinhalter & Co., Philadelphia, have recently erected in Homewood Cemetery, Pittsburgh, Pa., a unique monument for John Gilchrist, East End. It is of Petersburg, Va. Granite, and is...made to represent the trunk of an old storm blown tree, with broken limbs. It weighs 32 tons, stands 22 feet high, is 6 feet in diameter at the base and 3 feet 10 inches at the top. Projecting from the trunk are 22 broken limbs, on which eight [sic] monograms are carved with the names of deceased members of the family. Halfway up the trunk a granite spike is driven into the rough bark, and from it hangs a long scroll, bearing the word "Gilchrist"...



Section 8.

Princess...continued from page 2

This lack of marker troubled a niece of the Princess, Nancy Mercer Burig. She and her son, Bill Burig, commissioned a marker for the grave which Mr. Burig brought to The Homewood Cemetery for placement in September of 2021. The simple, tasteful marker for the Princess was carefully designed, ensuring her entire name—maiden name, married names, and her royal honorific—was correctly carved.



Princess Doris Farid-es-Sultanah Mercer Harden Kresge,
(Section 9-3, Lot 187).



Maj. Gustav Schleiter (Section 5, Lot 277).



Contents

Walking Tours Resume	1
A Message From Our President	2
Homewood Cemetery's Princess	2
An Equal Footing	3
Sebastian Mueller	4-5
Calling Dr. Carnegie!	6
Contributors	7
Yesterday's News	8

The Homewood is a publication of the
Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund.
© 2022 The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund



THE HOMEWOOD CEMETERY HISTORICAL FUND BOARD

Mary M. Unkovic Chair
Lisa Childs Laskow
Anne Molloy
Ellis L. Schmidlapp

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

David J. Michener
Editor
Chris Letzelter
Designer

CONTRIBUTOR

Jennie Benford
Claire Picone

The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund is a Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization established July 11, 1989 promoting the appreciation and preservation of the cultural, historical and natural resources of The Homewood Cemetery. Contributions made by individuals, corporations, or foundations to the Fund are tax deductible according to law.

The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund
Phone: 412-421-1822 • Fax: 412-421-1112
www.thehomewoodcemetery.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As we continue to navigate the difficult terrain of this unrelenting pandemic, we would like to take this moment to express our deepest gratitude to you for your essential and continual support of The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund. Although the past few years have presented a multitude of challenges, we have been fortunate to persevere through the generosity of our friends, neighbors, and the dedicated efforts of several local organizations.

It is through this generous support that we were able to accomplish critical repairs and improvements throughout the last year. Our vast grounds require a dedicated preservation program to maintain the historic buildings, infrastructure, tree canopy and roadways.

At The Homewood Cemetery, our mission of providing a beautiful,

respectful resting place for those who have gone before us, while serving as a living tribute to generations past, is paramount in our responsibility of stewardship. The Homewood Cemetery Historical Fund is a 501 (c)(3) certified organization, specifically developed for the historic preservation, conservation and restoration of our historical buildings, grounds and monuments. We thank you for your ongoing commitment and generosity which enables us to continue these crucial preservation efforts.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Unkovic

Mary M. Unkovic

November 2022



2021 FALL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRESENT

THE HOMEWOOD CEMETERY HISTORICAL FUND
MEMORY AND HONOR GIFTS

FOUNDATIONS & COMPANIES

The Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh

Anita A. Seifert Family Trust

The Henry Hillman Foundation

Catherine & Mark Loevner Family Foundation

James M. Schoonmaker II Foundation

Roy A. Hunt Foundation

IN MEMORY OF ...

Gail
by Asia Carpet & Decorating Co.

The Majzlik Family
by Dorothy M. Adam

Buzz Hutchison
by George & Meg Cheever

Wilfred E. Cleland
by Sigrid Cleland

Chris, Sophia & Jackie Carfas
by Louis & Theodora De Nino

Anita Arnd Seifert
by Harmar D. Denny, IV.

Mr. & Mrs. George H. Gilmore
by Harmar D. Denny, IV.

George & Helen Elkins
by Eleanor G. Elkins

Jerome Alan Jones
by Shelley L. Ferguson

James Kramer Bennett
by Eleanor H. Gard

Dorothy N. Getkin
by William & Deborah Getkin

Max & Grace Heppenstall
by Phyllis A. Grimshaw

The Huber Family
by William R. Huber

The Stadlander Family
by Barbara Stadlander Huber

"Those Who Made The Past"
by Arthur R. Lambert

George Washington Lonabaugh
by Wayne Lonabaugh

Barbara & Gary Katz
by Andrea & Jerry McCutcheon

Mary Anderson Sheehan
by Thomas E. Sheehan

Samuel & Lois Verner
by James & Liliana Verner

The Urling & Walker Families
by T. Urling Walker

James Robb Wilson Family
by Robert B. Wilson

Helen E. Eckels
by Margaret J. Wood

IN HONOR OF...

Henry Brown
by Sang Hui Brown

Charles T. Moore Families
by Charles & Audine Kenney

Elsie H. Hillman
by Catherine & Mark Loevner

James K. H. Su
by Yee Mo

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

Virginia Bergstrom

James M. Edwards

Mikhail Grinberg

Thomas & Christine Gillespie

Mr. & Mrs. Torrence M. Hunt, Jr.

Paul W. Jones

Lisa Childs Laskow

Mr. & Mrs. William Duff McCrady

Mr. & Mrs. Scott W. Reid

Thomas & Marlene Tobin

Mary M. Unkovic

Inas Alsalman

Annamaria Amenta

Todd Arenson

John & Barbara Bednarz

Perry K. Blatz

Bonnie & Vaughan Blaxter

Susan Curry Cadwalader

Seija L. Cohen

George B. Davis

Alice Doolittle

Richard & Barbara Ellsworth

Susan Fineman

Regine G. Fougères

Eliza Frazer

William E. Goehring

John R. Gorman

Gretchen Hachmeister

Sharon S. Hadley

Harry & Barbara Henninger

Leslie A. Hoffman

John K. Huot

Joyce Kozera

Mary J. Lenox

Gary Lewis

Barbara F. Lowe

Charles A. Lynn

Louise & Michael Malakoff

Raymond A. McGearry

David J. Michener

Donald & Nancy Middleton

Charles & Patricia Miller

Melvin Packer & Emily Deferrari

Dr. Charles C. Reel

John M. Rieck

Walter F. Rutkowski

Ellis L. Schmidlapp

Stephanie Smereka

Charles H. E. Succop, II.

H. Knox Watson, III.

Edward & Tracy Weller

Frances H. Wilson

A HEADSTONE FOR THE HOMEWOOD CEMETERY'S "PRINCESS."



Princess Doris Farid-es-Sultanah Mercer
Harden Kresge, c1930.

The grave of one of The Homewood Cemetery's most fascinating "residents" has been marked with a headstone almost 60 years after her death.

Mabel Mercer, born in 1889, was an acknowledged beauty with dreams of the stage. In 1907 her father, an East Liberty police officer, thwarted her attempt to elope with a neighbor boy. Soon after, the same young man helped her escape from the boarding school for "wayward girls," to which her family had sent her. Mabel insisted he drive her to New York state where, at 18 years of age, she would legally be an adult and thus safe from her father's attempts to drag her back home.

Mabel changed her name to Doris and worked as a chorus girl on Broadway. She married and divorced theatre critic, Percival Harden, and then married and divorced S.S. Kresge, founder of Kresge Dime Stores. Her third marriage, to Prince Farid of Sadri-Azam, a nephew of the Shah of Persia, made her a Princess—a title she refused to relinquish after that marriage was dissolved.

The Princess lived a jet-setting life but maintained contact with The Homewood Cemetery, arranging for the interment of her parents and care of their graves. Upon her death in 1963, she was laid to rest with them in Lot 187 of Section 9-3. As she had made no provisions for a headstone, her grave was left unmarked.

continued on page 8

CALLING DR. CARNEGIE! MUSEUM ELEVATOR ATTENDANT CHRIST HORNER AND HIS FRIEND

**Telegram From Andrew Carnegie
"Fixes Up" Sick Institute Guard**

Tells Veteran Not to Allow Knowledge of Age to Depress Him, Being Still Young, Only 14 Days Older Than Carnegie.

Christ B. Horner, veteran guard at Carnegie art galleries, has been sick off and on now for seven weeks. For the last few days he has been confined to his home, at 3111 Ellsworth Avenue, and his friends have been very apprehensive for him, for Christ is an old man now—just a few days over 54. Yesterday they called to see him. He sat in his room, reading a book, a broad smile wreathing his countenance.

"You're feeling much better today, are you not?" inquired one.

"Yes, it takes my old friend, Dr. Carnegie, to fix me up," said Mr. Horner. And he extended a yellow slip toward the visitor. It read:

"My dear friend Christ, you must not allow the knowledge of your age to depress your health. You are yet a young man, just 14 days older than I. Brace yourself. You are too good a man to yield to a slight physical complaint. (Signed) 'ANDREW CARNEGIE.'"

Andrew Carnegie's attention was commanded to Christ Horner first during the Civil War, when the iron master was superintendent of the Pennsylvania railroad, and the present Carnegie art gallery guard was a fireman on that road. He promoted him once, twice, three times, finally putting him into a position which yielded Mr. Horner a nice pension



Christ B. Horner

When he retired from the service of the railroad, several years ago.

When he retired he got a position as a guard in the Carnegie art galleries, through Mr. Carnegie. Then, two years ago, he went to New York in a private car as Mr. Carnegie's guest, and was wine and dined by the Lord of Edgemoor.

(Pittsburgh Daily Post, November 23, 1916).

Contrary to popular belief, Andrew Carnegie is not at rest in a Pittsburgh cemetery. Instead, he and his wife can be found in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, in the town of Sleepy Hollow, New York. Many of Carnegie's well-known associates can be found within The Homewood Cemetery, and so too can people who are not at all famous, but whose connections with the Industrialist/Philanthropist were deep and personal. One of these people was a man whose life ran in a strangely parallel fashion to that of his friend, Andrew.

Christ Horner was born in Cambria County, Pennsylvania in 1835. By the age of 18, he had moved to Pittsburgh and by age 22 was working as a brakeman for the Pennsylvania Railroad. During the Civil War, Horner worked as a fireman for the Pennsylvania Railroad, where he made the

acquaintance of another man born in 1835, Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie, at the time, was assistant superintendent for the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad and thus Horner's boss. Each man liked and respected the other and Carnegie moved Horner thru a series of promotions that resulted in Horner receiving, "a nice pension" [Pittsburgh Daily Post, November 23, 1916] upon his retirement sometime prior in 1901.

Carnegie also retired from business in 1901 when he sold Carnegie Steel to J.P. Morgan for \$480 million. This transaction allowed Morgan to create US Steel and made Andrew Carnegie the richest man in the world. Several years prior to his retirement, Carnegie "gifted" The Carnegie Museum of Art [1895] and The Carnegie Museum of Natural History [1896] to Pittsburgh, the

city where he started his career. A retired Christ Horner became a guard and an elevator attendant at The Carnegie Museum of Art.

The friendship of "Chris and Andy" became news in 1916 when Horner was seriously ill. After several weeks of infirmity, Horner's friends began to worry that his low spirits were hindering his recovery. None of the newspaper stories found state who contacted Carnegie about Horner, but Horner received a telegram from his old friend with the following message:

"My dear friend Christ, you must not allow the knowledge of your age to depress your health. You are yet a young man, just 14 days older than I. Brace yourself. You are too good a man to yield to a slight physical complaint." [Pittsburgh Daily Post, November 23, 1916].

Newspapers across the country picked up on the story of The World's Richest Man pep-talking a depressed old friend. Horner did, in fact, "brace himself," saying that he was felt much better thanks to, "Dr. Carnegie."

The friendship between the two men continued via letters until Horner's death in January of 1919. His friend, Andy, would die in August of that same year. Christ B. Horner and his wife are at rest in Section 13, Lot 191 of The Homewood Cemetery in Pittsburgh.



(Section 13, Lot 191)

"AN EQUAL FOOTING": ATTORNEY WALTER BILLOWS AND HIS DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT OF 1900

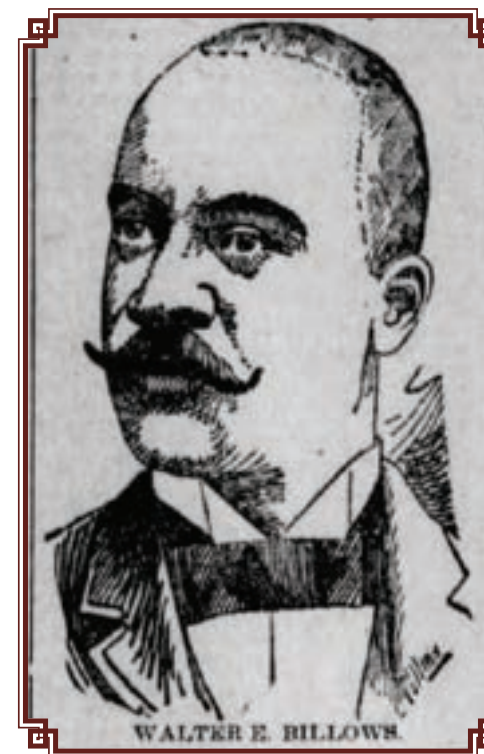
Walter Billows was born in Pittsburgh in 1869, the son of Archibald Billows, owner of a successful Pittsburgh barbershop. When Walter was a senior in high school his classmates unanimously voted for him to be the class orator. His "scholarly and eloquent oration" [Pittsburgh Press, December 1, 1895] resulted in his receiving an internship in the law office of Attorney Noah W. Shafer, and he was admitted to the bar in 1892. In 1899 he was appointed Clerk in the office of District Attorney Haymaker, making him the first African American in Pittsburgh to hold such a post. He was president of the "colored branch" of the Pittsburgh YMCA, and of the Loendi Club, the premier social club for Black men in Pittsburgh.

On November 2, 1899, Billows was hosting Congressman George H. White, who was in town to speak at a fundraiser. White, Representative for North Carolina and the only African American member of Congress at that time, was a nationally known figure and, like Billows, an attorney. Billows took his distinguished guest to a restaurant run by W.H. McCarthy. The gentlemen ordered oyster stew and McCarthy, citing "house rules," refused to serve them. What followed became national news.

The appointment of Walter E. Billows, Esq., a young Afro-American lawyer of Pittsburgh, Pa., to the position of clerk in the office of the District Attorney, at a salary of \$1,200 per annum, is a good piece of news and worthy of note, as it is the first appointment of like importance made in that district.

(The Appeal [St. Paul, MN], June 3, 1899).

"ATTORNEY BILLOWS SUES," was the headline in the February 2, 1900, issue of The Pittsburgh Gazette: "Attorney Walter E. Billows...has sued W. H. McCarthy, the Wood street restaurant keeper, to recover \$5000 damage for refusing to serve a dinner to the Plaintiff and Congressman George H. White of North Carolina..."



(Pittsburgh Press, December 1, 1895).

February 2nd saw similar headlines and stories in newspapers across the country, including Lexington, Missouri; Oskaloosa, Kansas; Baltimore, Maryland, and San Francisco, California. Many of these articles featured a specific phrase, explaining that while McCarthy had offered to serve them in a different area of his restaurant, the two men, "...would not take dinner there except on an equal footing," with McCarthy's white customers.

Congressman White was up for reelection and the timing of Billows' lawsuit proved to be detrimental. White's detractors, especially in the South, found much within the situation to use against him. The Charlotte News, from Charlotte, North Carolina, opened their story of the lawsuit with the following line: "George White, of the Second North Carolina District, the only negro in Congress, continues to make himself obnoxious wherever he goes." Two days after the Charlotte News ran their story, The Pittsburgh Press printed an update about the case, announcing that, "Mr. Billows will withdraw the suit if a public apology is made." [Pittsburgh Press, February 4, 1900.] A public apology was not

forthcoming, so Billows had his day in court. He won his suit, but instead of the \$5000 for which he had sued, the jury awarded him 6 1/4 cents.

Just as the filing of the lawsuit made national news, so did its outcome. Any newspaper with an inch of space to fill ran the story of the "small settlement." None of these stories mention of Attorney Billows' reaction to winning (and, financially speaking, losing) the case. Billows continued his legal and civic work—and, according to local papers, the now ex-Congressman White came back to Pittsburgh the next year with Billows reprising his role as host, suggesting there were no hard feelings between the two.

By 1904, Billows' health was such that he could no longer practice law, and research into his later years yields very little. In 1947, his death was discovered when a representative for the Allegheny County Bar Association came by to give him a "purse" of money for Christmas—something that the Association had been doing, quietly, since 1906. Walter E. Billows is at rest with his family in Lot 194/195 of Section 9 of The Homewood Cemetery, Pittsburgh.



(Section 9-2, Lot 194/195)

SEBASTIAN MUELLER

“Sebastian Mueller was a most unusual man, who through his Will, created a most unusual trust to continue his concern for others.”

--from *Sebastian Mueller; A Biography*, by Richard F. Herr

Born in Kallstadt, Bavaria in 1860, Sebastian Mueller survived an impoverished and troubled childhood. His alcoholic father abandoned the family when his two sons were quite young, leaving them and their mother destitute. The perseverance his mother showed and her love for her children made a lasting impression on Mueller, despite her early death when Sebastian was 9 and his brother Wilhelm was 11.

Essentially orphans, the boys were sent to live with family in the German countryside. Sebastian proved himself to be an excellent student, especially in Chemistry and English, but his career options in small-town Germany were limited. Seeing no future for himself in The Old World, 24-year-old Mueller came to America in 1884 where his cousin, Howard Heinz, had started a successful food production company. Mueller worked his way up from his starting position as a laborer in the Heinz Company's Second Avenue facility to senior vice president; effectively the “Right Hand Man” of H.J. Heinz himself. Mueller would work for The Heinz Company in this capacity for over 50 years.

In 1888 Mueller married Elizabeth Heinz, the youngest sister of cousin Howard, and within three years the couple welcomed two daughters, Alma and Elsa. In 1892 both girls contracted diphtheria, most likely from attending a birthday party, and died within a week of each other. They were originally laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery in Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania, but were relocated at the request of their parents to The Homewood Cemetery in 1905. In 1893, less than a year after losing their two daughters, the couple's son, Stanford, was born.

The death from scarlet fever of 18-year-old Stanford Mueller in March of 1912 was a devastating blow that rendered the Muellers, now in their 50s, childless. Loss



Portrait of Sebastian Mueller.

of his son seems to have moved Mueller to formalize plans for his estate. Mueller had always shown an interest in the hourly workers of the Heinz factory, the vast majority of whom were women. He respected the value of their work to the success of the company as well as the vulnerability of their

situations as hourly workers. At some point during his tenure at the Heinz company, Mueller began to cover medical bills and other emergency costs of women who worked hourly wage jobs at the Heinz plant. Mueller never stated his reasons for offering such support, but the poverty he, his brother, and mother endured after his father abandoned them may well have been a factor.

In 1912 Mueller purchased a substantial tract of farmland in Richland Township, Pennsylvania. Initially intended as a place to raise horses and to host Heinz company outings in a fresh-air, country setting, the Muellers christened this summer home, “Eden Hall Farm.” Another reason Mueller established Eden Hall Farm is outlined in a letter he wrote in 1913 to three of his associates in the Heinz Company to let them know he had appointed them to serve as trustees of his estate:

Having absolute confidence...that you will try to the best of your ability to carry out my wishes just as well as if I were living myself, I have appointed you in my last will and testament



Mueller and Heinz Employees at the 10th anniversary of Elsalma Terrace.



Sebastian Mueller Family mausoleum (Section 4, Lot 7).

as trustees to take charge of all my estate after the death of my wife. It was always my intention, if I should someday be able to do it, to establish a place of recreation for working girls and women, to which they could go during the summer months and get a few weeks rest and enjoyment in the country. I had this purpose in view when I purchased the two farms in Richland Township...

Mueller's progressive agenda for the women who worked for the Heinz company continued to evolve during his lifetime. In 1922 he purchased property in Glenshaw that would serve as a convalescent home for 8 patients, and he named the home “Elsalma Terrace,” in honor of his young daughters.

1912 also saw the erection of a family mausoleum on the Muellers' lot in Section 4 of The Homewood Cemetery. Made of Barre Gray granite and featuring a clean, almost Art Deco take on Egyptian architectural motifs, the Mueller family mausoleum is an impressive addition to the Cemetery's landscape. The Mueller's young daughters were moved from their 1905 resting

places into the mausoleum along with their brother, whose body had been placed temporarily in H.J. Heinz family mausoleum awaiting completion of his family's own. Elizabeth Mueller joined her children at rest in the mausoleum upon her death in 1934.

When Sebastian Mueller died in 1938, his will extended and reinforced the support systems he had put in place for those women whose work had made his family's success possible. Thanks to his generosity and foresight, women who worked at the Heinz plant were assured of an all-expenses paid week or two away from the smoky city at Eden Hall Farm every year. By 1959, Mueller's estate decided to offer the amenities of Eden Hall Farm to women employed by various schools and hospitals in Allegheny County. Over the years, a swimming pool was added to the Farm's facilities as were bowling lanes, a roller rink, and a tennis court.

The Will with which Mueller had established Eden Hall Farm as

a resort for Heinz women workers was written in such a way to give trustees of his estate the ability to update how his wishes could best be carried out. This included the option of closing down the vacation home operations of the Farm. In 1980, trustees of the Eden Hall Farm moved to do just that, succeeding the Farm's increasingly difficult to manage facilities with a strictly grant-making foundation. True to Mueller's wishes over a century ago, the Eden Hall Foundation, as described on their website, “view our work through a woman's lens to improve the quality of life for all people across our region. This perspective is unique, and our commitment to the betterment of the region is indisputable.” In 2008 the farm Mueller had established and endowed for the benefit of the women of the Heinz Company was gifted by the Eden Hall Foundation to Chatham University and is now The Eden Hall Campus, home to the Falk School of Sustainability and Environment.



All historic photographs provided by Chatham University Archives and Special Collections.



Heinz Employees lounge at Eden Hall Farm, c1950.