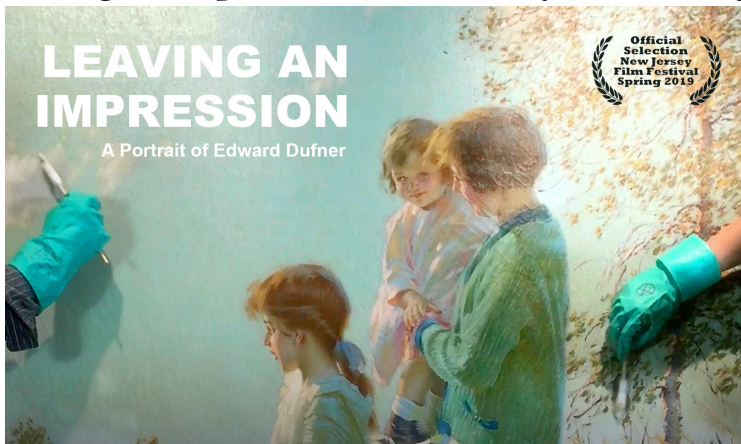


Please Join Us for Our Annual Meeting!

The Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society is very pleased to invite you to our
Wednesday, June 15, 2022 program at the Millburn Library:

Leaving An Impression- A Portrait of Edward Dufner



We will present a fascinating behind-the-scenes short documentary that follows the town's November 2017 restoration of the American Impressionist paintings by Edward Dufner, a Short Hills resident. These paintings are on permanent display in the Millburn Library.

Doors open at 7 pm. A short introduction at 7:15 pm. Documentary begins at 7:30 pm. Q and A with special guest and Executive Producer Laraine Brennan Barach to follow. Refreshments will be served.

About Laraine Brennan Barach:

Laraine has lived in Millburn/Short Hills for over 40 years with her husband Steven, where they raised their 3 daughters. She attended NYU for filmmaking and worked in the industry for many years. Laraine helped launch a film preservation movement with director Martin Scorsese, to whom she was married for seven years. Currently she is Chairperson of the Millburn Township Art Advisory Committee, where she has curated over 24 art exhibits.

TAYLOR PARK'S WALLBRIDGE ROSE GARDEN

In 1979, the Short Hills Garden Club established the Wallbridge Rose Garden in Taylor Park. Using a bequest from William Wallbridge in memory of his wife Mrs. Gertrude Wallbridge, a former member who also was a member of the Shade Tree commission, a gazebo and a four-quadrant rose garden with six variety of roses were created.

Since that time the club has maintained and enhanced the rose beds, along with many of the perimeter plantings. The club's ongoing spring, summer, and fall commitment to the garden includes pruning, weeding, replacing diseased/dead plantings and general clean up. The club donates over 100 volunteer hours to the maintenance and upkeep of the garden every year and has spent \$100,000 on the Wallbridge Rose Garden in the past 15 years.

The Short Hills Garden Club completed documentation of the Wallbridge Rose Garden for the Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Gardens in 2010.

The mission of the Short Hills Garden Club is to support Millburn Township's parks and open spaces into the future for the benefit and enjoyment of its residents and visitors.



THE DEVASTATING SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE

By: Ben Huang (MHS Freshman)

While I was interning at the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society in the summer of 2021, I was cataloging files and I came across a fascinating file about Mrs. Gertrude Wallbridge and the Great San Francisco Earthquake. Mrs. Wallbridge was a resident of Short Hills for over 50 years and was one of the first 40 families in Short Hills. Furthermore, she and her husband William K. Wallbridge lived at 11 Jefferson Avenue. She was also a member of Millburn's first Shade Tree Commission and helped develop the Neighborhood Association. In addition, she was one of the earliest members of the Short Hills Garden Club. Something even more shocking was that she experienced the Great San Francisco Earthquake firsthand. According to USGS, "The California earthquake of April 18, 1906 ranks as one of the most significant earthquakes of all time." Furthermore, Britannica also states that the earthquake had "a magnitude of 7.9" and that "San Francisco had experienced earthquakes in 1864, 1898, and 1900 but nothing like the 1906 event."

Mrs. Wallbridge gave an oral history about her experience of the Great San Francisco Earthquake, and she recalls that "On Easter Sunday the 15th of April[,] Mother and Father left the Ranch to go up to San Francisco by train, and early Monday morning Aunt Lena, Uncle Jamie and I started off in the motor car[.] [W]e stopped at Minturn for Tom and by half past eight were off on our two hundred mile journey to San Francisco."

Mrs. Wallbridge and her family stayed

at the Palace Hotel and she recounts that "I woke up on Wednesday morning at about four o'clock, and I was very much excited and a little sick as one feels sometimes before a thunder storm [...] The shock came with awful suddenness. There was no preliminary quivering that I was conscious of -- it seemed as if the whole room lurched from right to left, and there came a most appalling roar, plaster falling in the room, chimneys and walls falling outside, and I believe also there is a distinct roaring noise that comes from underground [...] There was a narrow passage between the rooms and I was thrown from side to side of this with great force."

Furthermore, Mrs. Wallbridge remembers the destruction of the initial earthquake's shock. "We went and looked at the Lick House, a hotel where Father was staying when he and Mother became engaged. It was wrecked as were most of the houses in that street, such a scene of desolation -- the Trolleys' wires down and the streets filled with fallen bricks and stone, and this was in the part of the city best built to resist the earthquake." The true destruction of the earthquake must have been even greater since the part of the city built to resist earthquakes still had buildings collapse and devastation everywhere.

Mrs. Wallbridge then goes to recount the fires that appeared after the initial shock. "We turned back to the hotel, and it was only then that we became aware of the fires. The air was thick with dust and plaster and now acrid with smoke. We looked up in the sky, and the sun was a round red ball [...] The Palace did

not burn down till five o'clock in the afternoon, but it was a curious freak of the fire which attacked the back of the hotel at eleven o'clock, burned past it, and eventually burned back and destroyed it."

She also uses personification to increase the intensity of the fire. "The fire was all this time eating its way up from behind us and at about four we saw another fire burning towards us on our left [...] All along Van Ness Ave. the havoc which the earthquake had wrought was frightful. There were many beautiful places there complete wrecks, the churches too were all frightfully shaken. In several places there were great fissures in the asphalt two or three feet wide with water from the broken mains running to waste in them. It seemed so cruel when there was no water to fight the fire with."

In addition, Mrs. Wallbridge also includes how frightened she felt during the fires. She said, "father and I sat on the piazza and every time I got up to look at the fire my knees shook so I couldn't stand upright. We heard the most terrific explosions all that night and we learned in the morning that by the most drastic use of dynamite and pumping salt water from the bay that they had controlled the fire sometime during the night [...] The dawn began and the Bay got all pink while I was watching the fire, and I never remember being so thankful in all my life."

Mrs. Wallbridge concludes her oral history by stating that "at nine the next morning we were safe at Fresno and after a bath and clean things and a good breakfast, I think we were the happiest, most contented and grateful three people anywhere in the world."



*Palace Hotel on fire, San Francisco, California, during earthquake and fire of.
Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/90709525/>.*



Chadwick, H.D., photographer. *San Francisco Earthquake of 1906: Ruins in vicinity of Post and Grant Avenue. Looking northeast.* Chadwick. Photograph. Retrieved from the National Archives, <<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/524396>>.



Genthe, Arnold, photographer. *Ruins after San Francisco earthquake.* Genthe. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/>

Bessie Kellogg's Collection

By: Emily Hounig (MHS Student)



Bessie Kellogg

Her diaries offer a fascinating glimpse into the daily life in Millburn from 1870-1928

Elizabeth (“Bessie”) Kellogg (1850-c. 1930s) and her husband Edward (1846-1908) were early residents of the Wyoming section of Millburn. Their extensive collection of ephemera, photographs, diaries and artifacts dating from the mid-19th century to the 1930s were carefully preserved in their house at 417 Wyoming Avenue until 2000, when the contents were offered to the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society.

“The New York Morning Post”, November 7, 1783, Vol III, No. 155, was part of a vintage newspaper collection belonging to Elizabeth “Bessie” Kellogg. “The New York Morning Post”, printed by William Morton and Samuel Horner, began in April 1783 and ceased in February 1785. It had multiple succeeding titles which collectively stretched from 1785 to 1792. Horner died in 1786, leaving the following newspapers to be listed solely under Morton, who later died in 1796 after all titles had ceased printing.

Elizabeth “Bessie” Lyle Young, who later married into the Kellogg family, was born January 6, 1850 in Brooklyn, New York, and passed away in the 1930s. Her father and mother, John Young and Susan Tucker, died 1896 and 1899 respectively. Their deaths, along with the passing of Bessie’s daughter, husband, and middle son, are detailed in her diaries, which range from 1870 to 1928. Also included in her diaries are accounts of daily life during the development of Millburn, where Bessie’s family owned the building on 417 Wyoming Avenue. The home was built in 1905, occupied by the Kellogg family in 1906, and passed onto the Oswald family in 1954.

STEWART HARTSHORN'S ENGINEERING NOTEBOOK

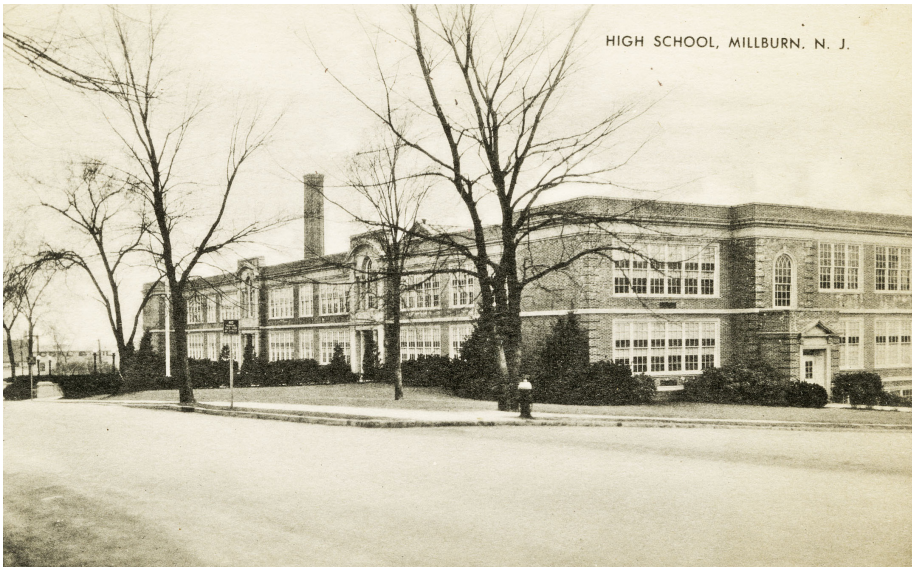
by Zubin Rekhi (MHS Senior)



While Stewart Hartshorn's engineering book was a groundbreaking discovery for me, the pages where he proves the physics behind the roller shade were especially interesting. Hartshorn's roller shade made him particularly famous, and the fact that he was proving his invention – among other mechanical tools – in the engineering notebook fascinated me. The math I discovered – from basic geometry and trigonometry to advanced calculus – was also deeply interesting, particularly when I compared the notation that I use in math today with Hartshorn's notation. Other parts of the engineering book seem less physics and engineering oriented, with articles on Wine Reduction and Juice Coat Baking often straying into the realms of chemistry and biology. At a time when scientific knowledge was considerably different from what is taught today, seeing Hartshorn's engineering book and analyzing his own methodologies in both subjects was thrilling for me.

A GLIMPSE AT MILLBURN'S CHANGING SCHOOL NEEDS IN THE 1950s & 1960s

Research by Amir Retzik (MHS Student)



Amir Retzik examined six documents in the collection tracking the development of the Millburn School Facilities. The period covered by these reports corresponds to a time of enormous change, marking the transformation of Millburn from a manufacturing town to a suburban community. This shift, which had far-reaching social and economic implications, also necessitated a complete reconsideration of the Millburn public school infrastructure.

The starting point for the studies was the sharp rise in elementary school enrollment during the post WWII decade, which increased by 41% and was poised to set off a ripple effect throughout the school district. Hoping to alleviate the burden of the already

overtaxed schools, the Millburn Board of Education commissioned a series of studies from The Institute of Field Studies, Teacher's College to estimate the future building needs of the district. Among the factors considered were: Changes in the zoning regulations for residential construction, the location and amount of available land for development, trends in population growth, and new educational standards.

Not surprisingly, the reports recommended expanding existing schools and the construction of new buildings to accommodate these changes. The locations of the new buildings were based on predications of where new residential real estate development would occur. This



Short Hills Elementary School, Hobart Avenue, Short Hills

method of gauging the future school needs for Millburn provided some measure of relief, it clearly did not go far enough. In 1958, the Hartshorn School was constructed in response to development in the area of White Oak Ridge Road and to alleviate overcrowding at Glenwood School. This relief was short-lived. Within a year, Hartshorn was already at maximum capacity and close to 50 students had to be transferred back to Glenwood School. In the meantime, residential development in Millburn township continued unabated as the Deerfield area began to grow. Whereas school enrollment had exceeded expectations during this period, changing curriculum standards and the introduction of new specialized subjects also brought a new set of demands for school space.

In 1959, the Millburn Board of Education commissioned a follow up report from The Institute of Field Studies. In addition to expanding the existing facilities, the study recommended the purchase of land in the Deerfield section, upon which Deerfield Elementary School would be built three years later.

These reports offer interesting insight into the process by which the Millburn Board of Education responded at an important historical junction to plan for the future educational infrastructure of the town.

A Treasure Trove of New Hartshorn Material

On November 6, 2021, MSHHS President Jeanne Weill and Museum Curator Dorothy Kelly received a generous donation of materials from Hartshorn family members Jennette Hartshorn Campbell and Joanna Louise Campbell Dellenbaugh.

Among the wonderful items added to the Museum's collection are:

- The printer's block for Stewart Hartshorn's personal art nouveau style bookplate
- A copy of "The Messenger" from April 1921, published by Christ Church and featuring Joanna Hartshorn's eulogy
- Stewart Hartshorn's copy of the 1894 Short Hills Fire Department By-Laws featuring Stewart Hartshorn's certificate of membership from 1898
- Photographs of the Hartshorn's family home at 163 Highland Avenue
- Four rare Hartshorn Roller Shade Company trade magazines from the early 1900s, featuring illustrations by renowned artists such as Charles Dana Gibson
- Genealogical Charts of the Randall family dating back to 17th century England
- Account books from the Hartshorn Roller Shade Factories in the United States and Canada.



Catherine and Stewart Hartshorn, Bachrach Studios, 1918

Historical Society Officers and Directors

President: Jeanne Weill

Vice President: Mary McNett

Treasurer: Michelle Miller

Recording Secretary: Carrie Ross Faenza

Corresponding Secretary: Sharon Petrucelli

Directors: Paul Boegershausen, Thomas Baio, Linda Eagle, Sandy Haimoff, Dorothy Kelly, Elisabeth Meyer, Andrew Permison, David Sorkin.

Director Nominee: Mara Epstein

Past President, Ex Officio: Deborah Frank

Advisors: Vic Benes, John Murray, Susan Newberry

The Society Welcomes Your Participation and Membership

The historical society is dedicated to the preservation of our community’s heritage. If you would like to join the historical society or have not yet renewed your membership, please use this form to do so and send a check made payable to **Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society** at P.O. Box 243, Short Hills, N.J. 07078, with the form below. Or, go to mshhistsoc.org for paypal option.

If you would like to volunteer to help with any of the many activities in which the society is engaged, or if you would like to share your memories with the society, please contact us at info@mshhistsoc.org

Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society Membership Form

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Annual Dues

_____ **\$15 (Senior/Student)**

_____ **\$100 (Patron)**

_____ **\$25 (Individual)**

_____ **\$250 (Sponsor)**

_____ **\$35 (Family)**

_____ **\$500 (Benefactor)**

_____ **\$50 (Supporter)**

_____ **\$_____ (Other)**

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION \$_____

_____ **I would like to volunteer to help.**

All contributions are fully tax-deductible. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

Donations of \$500 and up will be recognized on a permanent plaque at the museum.

Does the company you work for have a matching gift program? It **DOUBLES your donation!**



Return Service Requested

A Message from our President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our latest edition of the Thistle. I hope you enjoy the written articles by our summer 2021 Millburn High School interns.

I look forward to seeing you at our wonderful Annual Meeting in June.
Program details inside!

Happy Spring and happy reading!

Warm regards,
Jeanne