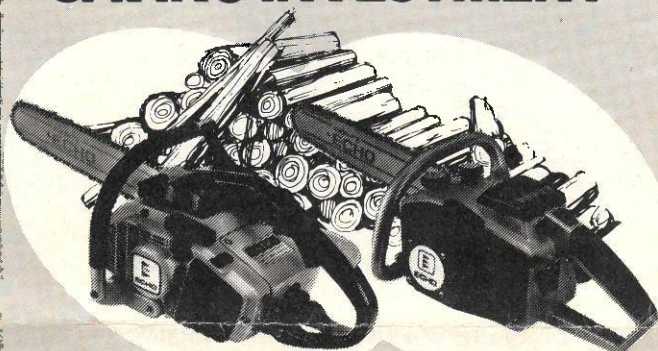


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ordained a Presbyterian minister before he became a lawyer, and the portrait shown today catches the intelligence and high character of the man. (Hayes Street is named for one of his sons, Henry Martin Hayes, who built a home called Ensworth, where the old St. Thomas Hospital stood.)

Oliver Bliss Hayes married a Franklin, Tenn., girl, the queenly Sarah C. Hightower, and Adelia was the second of their seven children.

There is no portrait in the St. Louis collection of any of Adelia's three husbands, but one of the earliest and finest in the collection is of the grandmother of Adelia's second husband, Joseph A.S. Acklen. His grandmother, Elizabeth Hunt, was the wife of John Hunt, founder of Huntsville, Ala., for whom the town was named.

But before Adelia met Acklen, tragedy had marked her life. At Rokeby, where she was born and grew up, she became engaged to a young Harvard law school graduate, Alfonso Gibbs. But he died of typhoid fever in 1834, shortly before they were to be married, and the heart-broken Adelia—17 years old at the time—said she would never marry.

But five years later, on July 2, 1839, she married one of the wealthiest plantation owners in the South, the 50-year-old Isaac Franklin, who lived in the handsome home near Gallatin that he called Fairview (now the home of Mrs. William We-myss).

Their happy marriage was filled with plans for their four children, but their only son died in infancy and Franklin himself died only seven years after their marriage.

Less than a month after his burial at his Sumner County farm, the two older daughters, Victoria and Adelia, died of bronchitis within three days of each other. Those little sisters—both less than six years old at the time of their death—left only their portraits as reminders of their beauty.

One portrait shows Victoria, the oldest Franklin child, in a dainty dress that could have been her christening dress. It was for her that Franklin had bought a cask of fine wine to be opened at her wedding.

One portrait shows the three Franklin children in a happy group, with baby sister Emma between Victoria and Adelia. It was for those little girls that Franklin had a playhouse built at Fairview (or Fairvue).

And even little Emma, the youngest of the Franklin girls, died as a little girl, in November, 1855, at Belmont. Her mother, Adelia, had married for the second time on May 8, 1849, three years after her first husband's death. Adelia and her second husband, Joseph A.S. Acklen, had traveled over Europe in the year following their wedding and collected an amazing number of paintings and statues.

Adelia's glamorous life at Belmont and in Europe tested her strength in war time and in family sorrows. Three of the six children she and Acklen had died young, and three enjoyed long life. It was for her only daughter who reached adulthood, Pauline Acklen, that Adelia built the home in Washington as a wedding gift.

And it was in that home that Pauline's children and grandchildren were born. From that home went numerous household furnishings and works of art—long ago put in storage—that were never afterward found.

When Pauline died in 1963, the family had just sold her "wedding present home" the year before. They had no idea how the picture of the Belmont mansion—stored in the attic trunk room—got left behind. Mrs. Kaiser said it was not there when the house was sold.

Artists who painted the portraits are not indicated, but it is known that Washington Cooper, Nashville artist, painted a portrait of Pauline. Adelia, painted in regal white, was by this time married to her third husband, Dr. William A. Cheatham.

It was Adelia who collected the 34 paintings and statues listed in that newspaper article—art works found in the main rooms of Belmont. That did not include the paintings and statues in the private art gallery and on the grounds. The seven family portraits shown here today are the ones the Kaisers will bring with them when they move to Nashville soon.