

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Ethan Bates Stanley of Beresford Dale: An Accomplished Man



Ethan Bates Stanley

Born in 1865, Ethan Bates Stanley attended public schools in Cincinnati and at age 18 (never having attended college), he went to work for the Alexander McDonald Company, which was later sold to Standard Oil Company. He then managed Standard Oil of Kentucky until 1902. That year Leonard Smith and he founded the Watkins Laundry Machine Company. By 1907, the company consolidated with other similar businesses to become the American Laundry Machinery Company. Stanley was Vice-President, then President in 1925, and Chairman in 1946. The company manufactured laundry machinery and eventually expanded from the USA to Europe, Australia, and South America.

In the 1920s, Stanley and some friends made the decision to move their primary residences. They persuaded other prominent Cincinnatians to engage in the development of a country settlement. After first considering Mt. Washington, they settled on Indian Hill because it had more available inexpensive farmland for sale. One of the founders of

the Camargo Realty Company in 1924, Stanley and the group took options on 12,000 acres of land. It was then sold to individuals for \$75 - \$100 per acre, and most purchases exceeded 25 acres.

Ethan Stanley acquired 60 acres on Shawnee Run Rd., 67 on Camargo Pike, and 30 on Kugler Mill Rd. His primary residence was the Shawnee Run parcel, where an old farmhouse and barn were moved to make room for a new domicile, new barn and garage. The architect, Charles W. Short designed the Georgian style edifice with its six large white pillars at the entrance. The estate was named Beresford Dale in honor of the ancestral home of his mother's family, Beresford Hall, in Staffordshire, England. A unique feature of the 1925 house was that it incorporated four stones and a piece of oak from the remnants of the English manor house. These were located in the east terrace and library respectively. According to Mr. Stanley, these items served to "link the present of the family with its illustrious past".



Beresford Dale

The new clapboard barn had an attached six car garage and an apartment upstairs. There was a stable, chicken house, one acre garden, the renovated old farmhouse, hay fields, corn fields, pastures, clay tennis court, and a full size dirt track for exercising the horses. A large staff was employed at Beresford Dale. There was a groom for the six horses and the team of draft horses. Three other men tended to the grounds – gardening, mowing, maintaining tractors and cars, and other tasks. Inside the estate home were a cook, houseman, butler/valet, maid, chauffeur and for a time, a governess.

Besides his career at American Laundry Machinery Company, Ethan Stanley led an active life "on the hill" and in Cincinnati. He was one of the 65 original signers of the Articles of Incorporation for the Camargo Club in 1925. He was involved with the founding of the Indian Hill Church, which actually held services at Armstrong Chapel from 1933-1952. He was a member of the Camargo Hunt. For several years, his son and two grandsons resided at Beresford Dale in the renovated farmhouse, where he saw them daily. He collected books and art, and later in life donated a magnificent Frishmuth sculpture to the Cincinnati Art Museum. Known for his business acumen, he served on several boards including the U.S. Playing Card Co., Fifth Third Bank, Children's Home, and YMCA.

