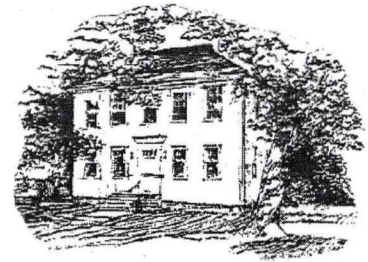


IMAGES

... *then and now*

From The Indian Hill Historical Society

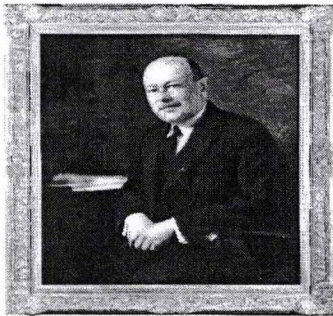


**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Remembering Arthur Morgan

During the estate era of Indian Hill history, many elaborate stately homes were built in the area. One was Seven Knolls, designed and constructed for Arthur Russell Morgan.

Morgan was born in 1868 in the Branch Hill neighborhood of Clermont County. The son of Robert J. Morgan and Emma Armstrong Morgan, he attended the University of Cincinnati where he studied chemistry. He took additional courses at Erlangen University in Germany for three years, and returned to graduate from UC College of Law, passed the bar, and began private practice in 1897.



His father had a distinguished career. After the Civil War, Robert Morgan and two other men formed a partnership, and purchased from the proprietors of the Cincinnati Enquirer what was then known as the Enquirer Job Printing Rooms. The printing company, Russell, Morgan, and Co., produced theatrical and circus posters, placards, and labels. The owners decided to manufacture playing cards, and expanded their operations to Race Street downtown. They produced about 1600 decks of cards a day throughout the 1880s. In 1891 the company renamed itself the United States Printing Company, and three years later, the United States Playing Card Company spun off from that parent company.

In 1909 Arthur joined his father's companies. He was in succession the Assistant Secretary, Secretary, and Treasurer of the printing company. Then he was elected a director of the playing card firm, where he also worked as Secretary.

Arthur married Edna Urban of Cincinnati, and they had two sons: Arthur, Jr. and Urban Morgan. The family home was Seven Knolls, an English style stone, stucco, and timber house, designed by Guy Burroughs and constructed in 1924. The house still stands on Old Indian Hill Road and is exceptional for its architecture and elegance.

Morgan became President of both the US Playing Card Co. and the US Printing Co. Both companies moved to a new 600,000 square foot factory in Norwood on a 30-acre campus. The Playing Card Co. acquired other card companies and became the largest manufacturer of playing cards in the world in the 1930's. *Congress* and *Bicycle* were popular brands that have been in continuous production since the 19th century. The card company also owned and operated the radio station WSAI in the 1920's, which broadcasted bridge lessons to an international audience until 1930 when it was sold to Crosley Radio Corporation.

Besides being President of two large firms, Morgan was active in community affairs. A Shriner and member of the Elks, he was one of the prime movers in the foundation of the Indian Hill Episcopal Presbyterian Church. Morgan was instrumental in the realization of the golf course at the Camargo Club, where he was a member. Other club memberships included Cincinnati Country Club, Queen City Club, Commercial Club, Commonwealth Club, and the Ohio Club of New York. A member of the Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts and director of the First National Bank, he was also President of the Franklin Typothetae of Cincinnati.

Dedicated to his alma mater, UC, Morgan was appointed to the Board of Trustees there in 1914 and was Chairman of the Board, from 1924 to 1931. During his term, the University of Cincinnati engaged in a major physical expansion plan, which ensured that UC ranked high among similar educational institutions. Respected for his honesty and directly stated opinions, Mr. Morgan died in 1938. This prominent resident of Indian Hill, who was a leading figure in business and civic activities, had a lasting impact in the Village and beyond.