

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Remembering Beatrice Shillito (1884-1964), Part 2 of 2



Beatrice had a wide range of acquaintances in Cincinnati and throughout Europe. Early in life she had traveled to Paris, France often with her father on buying trips. She knew the king and queen of Belgium, the duke and duchess of Manchester and likely Consuelo Vanderbilt. She attended the 1936 Olympics in Berlin and returned home to denounce Hitler to many Americans. Her niece recalled that Beatrice reported information to the FBI during World War II. Her circle of friends in Cincinnati included many prominent families including Nicholas and Alice Roosevelt Longworth.

During one of her many trips “across the pond,” Beatrice dined in Milan, Italy and requested a meal of spaghetti, but without garlic. The chef prepared a special dish for her, and she requested the recipe, which she brought back to Ohio so her cook could make it. The recipe combined bacon, green pepper, an onion, tomato juice or diced tomatoes, and Swiss cheese on top of pasta. It was one of her favorite meals, and the recipe was passed on to an employee, whose family has enjoyed it for decades. That recipe is now available [online](#).

Miss Shillito had a high level of involvement in national and Cincinnati’s civic affairs. She was the first woman board member of the executive board of the Red Cross during World War I. She served as a Liberty Loan drive captain then too, and during World War II, she was chairman of Indian Hill’s Aluminum Collection Drive to procure discarded metal which could be repurposed for defense purposes.

Beatrice lobbied against women’s suffrage and even wrote Warren Harding a letter explaining her opposition. She believed society would break down if women got the vote, thought it would double the cost of elections and increase taxes, and that states’ rights would be violated. The 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920, ending her activism for the anti-suffrage cause. But she continued to pursue other important activities. She became the first woman board member of Associated Charities in Cincinnati (now Beechwood Home). Other organizations with which she was associated were the Widow and Old Men’s Home, the Woman’s Club, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati chapter of the English-Speaking Union, Community Chest, Children’s Home, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Cincinnati College of Music. She served as President of Town and Country Garden Club and President of the Cincinnati Council for Campfire Girls.

In the 1930s, the Eden Park Greenhouse (now Krohn Conservatory) was in bad repair. Beatrice spearheaded the drive for funds to preserve it and its many rare plant specimens. A devoted follower of the Symphony Orchestra and the May Festival, she was instrumental in choosing the color of the paint for Music Hall. She contacted friends in Paris, France and found the exact mauve pink color used in their concert hall and persuaded the board to duplicate that shade here in the Queen City. She helped raise the money for the project and traveled to Music Hall daily to act as foreman for the job.

Beatrice Shillito’s great nephew remembered her as a very intelligent person “light years ahead of everyone else.” A brunette with flashing blue eyes, she was a philanthropic pioneer and fundraiser. Her Indian Hill house still stands, and its driveway is called Shillito Lane by old timers. She died in Hyde Park right before her 80th birthday. A member of a notable family, Miss Shillito’s admirable commitments to causes and charities were numerous; and her good works, devotion to family, and colorful lifestyle enhance her legacy.



Krohn Conservatory

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