

EVERGREEN

PLANTING FIELDS FOUNDATION / PLANTING FIELDS ARBORETUM, OYSTER BAY, NEW YORK SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

MR. COE'S BEDROOM NEWLY RESTORED

Story page 6



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SPRING IN FULL BLOOM IN OYSTER BAY

*Now is the time when the marshes ring
With the peeper's bell-like song of Spring
And the weeping willows begin to show
A green-gold fringe, and the pale shad blow
Stands like a ghost, in the Schoolhouse Woods,
And the skunk-cabbage shows its purple hoods,
And the sun dances over a laughing bay,
And I take my coat off when I play*

– Mary Fanning Youngs

Oyster Bay has long been home to the simple pleasures, remarkable old houses, the bay, and woods which bridge old time Long Island life to the present.

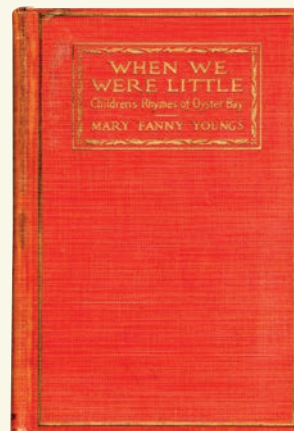
The above excerpt, from a poem by Mary Fanny Youngs, is one of many in her compilation *When We Were Little, Children's Rhymes of Oyster Bay*, written from fond memories that tell of the work and play of those living on Long Island in the early twentieth century.

Ms. Youngs, who grew up in Oyster Bay Cove, cherished the

home she was born in, one that stayed in her lineage for 260 years. Her poems were sent to Colonel and Mrs. Roosevelt, to 'amuse them and their grandbabies'. They were so taken by the rhymes that

Theodore Roosevelt wrote a forward for the book. In it he expresses his enjoyment of the changing seasons and that the old-fashioned country life was fundamentally a wholesome one.

Planting Fields boasts a glorious landscape in the spring, with the harmony of foliage colors and flowers blossoming anew that evoke the era of Mary Fanning Youngs.



Book, *When We Were Little, Children's Rhymes of Oyster Bay* By Mary Fanny Youngs
With an Introduction by the late Theodore Roosevelt
Copyright 1916 By E.P. Dutton & Company
Rhyme Title: *The Four Seasons I.Spring*
In the collection of Planting Fields Foundation.

FEATURED STORIES



6 MR. COE'S BEDROOM NEWLY RESTORED

To guide the curatorial selections in recreating the original 1921-1922 furnishings of William R. Coe's bedroom, there are, in the archives, four excellent photos of the room from this period.



20 GREAT OCEAN LINERS: 1900-1940

The exhibition examines the history of the White Star Line, owners of the *Titanic* and of Cunard, who owned the ill-fated *Lusitania*. Competition between the two lines is a focus of the show.



22 1916 LIFE WITH THE COE FAMILY

At the end of March 1916, William R. Coe and his wife Mai arrived back at Planting Fields after six weeks of winter travel that had taken them to Jamaica, the Panama Canal, and Palm Beach, Florida.



This year, the Italian Garden is one hundred years old.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR MEMBERS



Our December holiday weekend went off very successfully with many activities at Coe Hall, including making gingerbread houses, a program that attracts more and more families each year. We enrolled forty-five new members which is a record on a single weekend. The tropical greenhouse looked magnificent with its specially grown poinsettias.

The Foundation's Deck the Halls benefit was a splendid evening with the fireplaces lit in the gallery and the dining room. The house was decorated with nearly fifty trees and a glorious fifteen-foot tall fresh tree in the front entrance hall. Thank you to all our supporters who bought tickets for the party and to those who were sponsors. It is our biggest annual fundraiser.

In the New Year *Newsday* gave us the front page of their *Explore LI*, promoting our third annual Paradise at Planting Fields which is a weekend celebration of the tropical greenhouses. We had more visitors than ever before at the event. The Arboretum staff made the large tropical house look fantastic, and there were activities for children in the Main Greenhouse classroom and music at Coe Hall.

In February, we launched a new two-day festival to welcome the Chinese New Year. The Foundation co-hosted the event with the Long Island Chinese-American Association and had many special performances, including Chinese music, opera, and dance. A rare jade exhibition from the Foundation's

collection was featured on the second floor of Coe Hall. Demonstrations of Chinese calligraphy and painting were held in the Main Greenhouse classroom.

Our spring and summer exhibition, *Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940*, opened on April 2nd at Coe Hall and springs from the history of William R. Coe's career in marine insurance, it tells the amazing story of trans-Atlantic crossings in the age of great Cunard and White Star shipping lines. Members enjoyed a preview party on Friday, April 1st, and also were able to see Mr. Coe's bedroom restored as well as his valet's room.

Lastly, it is exciting to report the visitor parking lot has been completely rebuilt with a permeable pavement and bio-retention system. It opened the day before the Chinese New Year weekend celebrations, and was full all weekend long. The Arboretum staff did an amazing job of clearing the snow. This year we celebrate the centennial of the Italian Garden (see page 24). Please come and see how wonderful Planting Fields is in the spring and summer. The park really is one of Long Island's great treasures.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Henry Joyce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Henry B. Joyce
Executive Director, Planting Fields Foundation



Mr. Coe's Bedroom in 1928, photo by Mattie Edwards Hewitt.

MR. COE'S BEDROOM

NEWLY RESTORED

BY HENRY B. JOYCE

To guide the curatorial selections in recreating the original 1921-1922 furnishings of William R. Coe's bedroom, there are, in the archives, four excellent photos of the room from this period.

They were taken by Mattie Edwards Hewitt, a professional photographer who established her New York City

studio in 1913. She specialized in jobs for interior designers, architects, and landscape architects. She photographed extensively throughout the Metropolitan area, and her work has a significant place in the history of American architectural photography. In the Foundation's archives, there are over one hundred Hewitt photographs documenting the building of Coe Hall, the Italian

Garden, and the park. They are a remarkable resource.

Only two original pieces from Mr. Coe's bedroom have survived in the room: the mirror over the mantel with a carved and gilded William Kent style frame and a Chinese porcelain vase, now wired as a lamp on the gate-leg table in the center of the room. Both were donated to Planting Fields Foundation by



Newly restored bedroom in February 2016.

Michael D. Coe, Chairman.

Miss Hewitt made many visits to Planting Fields and photographed Mr. Coe's bedroom on at least two occasions, probably in the summer of 1921 as the room was just finished, and again, in 1928 as the bedroom's furnishings were fine-tuned with relatively small alterations and additions to finalize the decorative ensemble. There are also bills and

letters from the fashionable antique dealer and interior designer Charles Duveen, between 1921 and 1923. Duveen was the brother of the famous art dealer, Joseph Duveen, and for over twenty years they worked together in the family business in Paris, London, and New York. After World War I they separated the firm, thenceforth, professionally, Charles gave up the family name and began using "Charles of London" for his

antiques and interior design firm. For over three generations, the Duveen family created one of the largest international empires in art and interiors. Charles' sophisticated rooms at Coe Hall reflect this heritage; they were designed in the high style taste that American and English upper classes came to value.

Charles Duveen was born in Hull, England and worked in Europe as

Continued on next page



The Chinese vase as a lamp, about 1921.



The Chinese vase as a lamp today.

Continued from previous page

well as the U.S. with his father, uncles, and brothers, until he gave up the English part of his Charles of London firm in 1933 to concentrate on his many U.S. clients. He worked out of his elegant New York City gallery located at 52 East 57th Street. In Charles Duveen's 1940 obituary, the *New York Times* wrote that the gallery "was more like a museum than an antique store" and that "it was Mr. Duveen who introduced the Elizabethan period furniture to this country, especially English oak furniture and paneling."

Duveen had several clients on Long Island, including J. P. Morgan and W. G. Loew; today Coe Hall is the best surviving example of his work in the New York area. His business was immensely successful. He purchased a fine country house in England, a large apartment in Manhattan (he regularly rode in Central Park with his dogs following behind), and a weekend house in Hastings-on-Hudson where he was an enthusiastic yachtsman and was commodore of the Hastings-on-Hudson Yacht Club. He very much lived the life of a man of means and knew well the taste of others like Mr. Coe, who lived even more extravagantly than he did. In large measure, the Duveen family had been responsible for making it possible for families like the Coes to have exquisite English-style rooms and furnishings. Between 1890 and 1930 the British magazine *Country Life* promoted the building of new country houses in the Tudor and Elizabethan styles as appropriate

homes for wealthy businessmen. The weekly publication was the most influential high-style architecture and interior design magazine of its time. A copy can be seen on the center table in one of Miss Hewitt's 1930s photos of Mr. Coe's bedroom.

Continued on next page

Country Life image from 1928, shown on the center table in one of Mattie Hewitt's photographs.





Mr. Coe's bedroom in 2014.



Bob Coffey Draperies installing the new window treatments.

The interior design aesthetic featured in *Country Life* by its highly regarded architectural editor, Henry Avray Tipping, was that rooms look best with carved wooden furniture, mostly made of oak, evoking a sense of "Old" England and of the Renaissance period. Duveen and other decorators like him took this concept, and for their very wealthy clients like W.R. Coe, ramped it up with more luxurious additions, including gilded mirror frames, fine old prints, silk table covers, expensive upholstered seat furniture, and elaborate chintz loose covers. This is what we see so well formulated in Miss Hewitt's photos of Mr. Coe's bedroom. The design style that Duveen created gave the room a sense that it had been lived in for more than one generation and that, perhaps Coe Hall had been magically

transported directly from the English countryside lock, stock, and barrel to Long Island during the era of Queen Elizabeth I whose portrait still hangs prominently in the front hall. It must be remembered that W.R. Coe had been born and raised in England prior to coming to the U.S. with his parents and siblings when he was fourteen years old. It is not surprising that he wanted to create a sense that English history had come alive in the U.S.

Everything chosen for Mr. Coe's bedroom was of excellent quality and, as to be expected from an established decorator, cost a lot of money. From the Duveen bills, it appears that the most expensive piece of furniture was the carved oak bedstead, priced at \$1,500 (about \$20,000 in today's dollars). Now, oak furniture is distinctly out of fashion, and so the Foundation was able to purchase artifacts for the room at very reasonable prices. Again, the most expensive piece was the oak bed, which, two years ago, cost \$8,000 at an auction house in Pennsylvania, less than half its equivalent value in 1921 when such beds were more highly prized.

Charles of London continued to work on aspects of Coe Hall furnishings, including the master bedroom through the 1920s. In 1923, Mr. Coe wrote to Duveen, "the mattress on the bed in my room is very hard and uncomfortable. Mrs. Coe has on her bed the best mattress that I have ever seen. In my absence abroad won't you please take the mattress out of my room and try to have the upholsterer fix it in the same shape as Mrs. Coe's".

GUESTS FROM HUNGARY TOUR COE HALL

**On September 25th,
Planting Fields warmly
welcomed distinguished
guests from Hungary.**

First Lady Anita Herczegh accompanied by General Consul Members took a tour of Coe Hall, followed by a tour of the Italian Garden and Rose Garden.

The First Lady had a specific interest in historic homes in the Tudor Revival style and enjoyed Coe Hall's architectural features. She also took particular interest in the textiles around the house including the large Flemish tapestry over the main staircase, and Venetian lace over Mrs. Coe's bed. The group enjoyed learning about the Coe family and



H.E. Dr. Anita Herczegh First Lady of Hungary, Andrea Crivello the Foundation's Curatorial Assistant, H.E. Mr. Ferenc Kumin Consul General of Hungary.

how they used Coe Hall while they were living here in Oyster Bay. She also enjoyed the grounds at Planting Fields, particularly the Tea House and views of the Italian Garden. Overall

the visit lasted approximately three hours before she departed for her next appointment. We were honored that the government of Hungary chose to visit Planting Fields.

*Suzanne Ponzini
repairing settee trim.*



SETTEE REPAIR

Recently, Suzanne Ponzini reaffixed several pieces of trim that came loose on a fine needlework settee original to Coe Hall. She used tools that once belonged to her father, who was a professional upholster, to make the necessary repairs. Suzanne also added small fragments of needlework to replace missing pieces.

The settee is on exhibition in the Great Hall throughout the year.

HAPLOGROUPS AND JACKDAWS

THE DEEP HISTORY OF THE COES

BY DR. MICHAEL COE

Last year, out of curiosity about my ultimate ancestry, I decided to enlist myself in the National Geographic Society's Genographic program – already, almost 800,000 individuals around the world have done the same. This involved putting two cheek swabs in plastic tubes and submitting them for genetic testing. Eventually, the results came back.



Dr. Michael Coe



William Rogers Coe

On the first page of the report, I was informed that I was genetically 1.6% Neanderthal, but this caused me no surprise, as I stay up with the scientific literature. In the past two

decades, ancient DNA has been sequenced in Neanderthal skeletal remains, and there is now little doubt that a hundred thousand or more years ago, early modern humans in Europe and Asia (but not Africa) and our soon-to-be-extinct Neanderthal cousins had occasionally made love to each other, with obvious results. The Neanderthals have long been considered as stupid, brutal cave-dwellers, but their brains were on the average larger than ours (1600 cm³ vs 1400 cm³), so they can't have been as dumb as claimed!

Genetic ancestry testing, or genetic genealogy as it's sometimes called, usually involves testing Y-DNA (Y chromosome DNA) for the male line, and mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA) for the female one. As I learned in high school biology and later reading, the presence or the absence of the little Y-chromosome determines a newly conceived baby's sex; it passes relatively unchanged from fathers to sons, and so on down the male line. In contrast, the mitochondria are the organelles in our cells that convert food into energy; their DNA passes from mothers to offspring of both sexes.

One more definition: according to Wiki, a haplogroup is a genetic population group of people who share a common ancestor on the

patrilineal or matrilineal line.

My mtDNA haplogroup, inherited from my mother, Clover Simonton Coe, is the very common H1a1, which tells me unsurprisingly that my matrilineal ancestry is western European.

It's the DNA I got from my father William Rogers Coe that is far more interesting. Through this, I belong to the Y-DNA haplogroup labeled I-M253, which reaches its highest frequency today in Scandinavian countries, and to a lesser extent in the eastern counties of England facing the North Sea. It is strongly associated with the Danish Viking invasions of the British Isles, which took place in the 9th Century.

This immediately started me thinking about the English surname "Coe". It's long been known that the origin of this word is not really English, but has its roots in Norse—and more specifically in the Old East Norse dialect, the ancestor of modern Danish and Swedish. In that language, the word was *ka*, meaning "jackdaw", but as a family name during the Middle Ages in eastern England, *ka* came to be variously spelled Coe, Coo, Koo, Cawe, and Kowe.

The European jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) is a member of the crow

family—it looks like a crow, but has a distinctive grey nape. Jackdaws live in large flocks, and are perfectly at home in both rural and urban environments (I remember seeing jackdaws flying around the walls and towers of the Kremlin). This is a highly gregarious bird, but monogamous—and, like its crow cousins, noisy and intelligent. At one time the jackdaw had a reputation for thievery—the *monedula* in its scientific name refers to the probably baseless notion that it likes to pick up coins!

So our family name began as a nickname, perhaps for someone whose speech sounded like a jackdaw's—or who was a thief!

The first Viking raids began in eastern England in 787 AD, and continued into the next century. These Danish pirates were pagans—worshippers of the great gods, Odin and Thor—and had no problem pillaging unguarded Christian monasteries of their riches, and slaughtering the monks. After about 860 AD, however, these marauders began to settle down and till the soil, enslaving or expelling the native Angles and Saxons. The area subject to their rule became known as the Danelaw, and this included the low-lying eastern counties of Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, and Essex. It was not

until the end of the 9th century that the Saxon (and pious Christian) King Alfred the Great (849-899 AD) managed to retake those once English lands away from their Danish masters.

The highest incidence in modern times of the Coe surname is actually in the old Danelaw. For instance, I've checked the White Pages for the cities of Norfolk and Cambridge, and there are hundreds of Coes listed in both places, filling phone books the way "Smith" does in American ones. It's also a fact that the highest incidence of M-253 paternal haplotype in the British Isles is in the same area. I don't think that it's stretching a point to claim that one of these Viking-period settlers bearing the "jackdaw" name and the Y-DNA haplotype was my direct paternal line ancestor over the course of about 30 generations of Coes.

My paternal grandfather, William Robertson Coe (1869-1955), the founder of Planting Fields, was once awarded the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav—probably for some deed involved with his marine insurance business. Little did he know that a distant ancestor bearing his surname was a Viking! Back then such a claim would have been poppycock, but now, thanks to modern genetics, it's almost a certainty.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2016



FRIDAY, APRIL 1ST, 2016
Opening Night & Preview Party
Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940
Coe Hall, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Celebrate the opening of our new exhibition! Luxury liners were much more than a means of transportation. They were floating palaces; the ultimate icons of glamour, opulence, and romance. In the early 1900s passengers were transported across the oceans in great style.

Tickets: \$20 Non-Members / Members Free, (includes wine and cheese) for more information call Michelle Benes 516-922-8682 or email mbenes@plantingfields.org.

APRIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND, 2016

NEW EXHIBITION OPENS AT COE HALL

Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940

On view April 2nd – October 2nd, 2016

Open daily 11:30am-3:30pm at Coe Hall

Non Members \$5 Admission Fee / Members and Children Under 12 are FREE

Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940 portrays how luxury liners became symbols of modernity and national pride in the early twentieth century. Travelers boarded these ships for leisure, or business, while millions more traveled in search of a better life as they immigrated to America. Before the advent of widespread aviation, maritime travel was also vital in interlinking the world economy. Mr. Coe made extraordinary contributions to the marine insurance industry and he experienced luxury liners from both a business and leisure perspective. This exhibition explores the golden age of sea travel and the Coes experiences on some of the most famous ocean liners in maritime history, namely the *Titanic*, *Olympic* and *Lusitania*. For more information about the exhibition please contact Andrea Crivello at (516) 922-8688 or email acrivello@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND, 2016

Broadway Night at Coe Hall to Celebrate

New Exhibition Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940

Coe Hall / 7:00pm / Members \$40 / Non-Members \$50 / Reservations Required



On the evening of Saturday, April 2nd, Coe Hall will come alive with the sounds of Broadway, as sung by some of the greatest stars from Broadway's biggest shows. Performers will be accompanied by our 1913 Steinway grand piano played by pianist Jack Kohl, who has performed as Musical Director for over eleven years in the New York theater area, including countless concert appearances with Broadway actors. Join us after the show for a chance to meet the performers at a wine and cheese reception in the Dining Room of

Coe Hall. For reservations contact Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.



An evening on board the White Star Liner Britannic, 1931. Image courtesy of Getty from the Sasha Hulton Archive.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD, 2016

Children's Program at Coe Hall about the *Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940* Exhibition

Coe Hall / 12:00pm / Non-Members \$5 Admission Fee / Members and Children Under 12 are FREE

Come and learn the core essentials of model ship building. Build your very own wooden model *Titanic* to take home and decorate. This is the perfect hands-on event for families, and to visit the new exhibition *Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940*. All supplies are provided. Reservations are required please contact Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.

TWO SUNDAYS IN APRIL: SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD AND SUNDAY APRIL 17TH, 2016

THE LAP OF LUXURY: The Emergence of the Cruise Ship Industry: the Pioneers, Private Lives, Drama, Comedy, and the Grandeur of Today and Days Gone By

A READING IN THE STYLE OF RADIO DRAMA: ACTORS DIANA HEINLEIN AND DAVID HOUSTON

Coe Hall / 2:00pm -3:00pm / Non-Members \$5 Admission Fee / Members and Children Under 12 are FREE

The cruise-ship *Endeavor* as glorified in books, plays, memoirs and movies. Diana and David perform "in the style of radio drama" a touching tale about missionaries returning to a new life in America; romance, music, and comedy from Broadway—including a beautiful scene from Noel Coward's epic *Cavalcade*; and a ridiculously funny moment by Christopher Durang in which a ship's captain attempts to conduct a wedding and a burial at sea simultaneously. Underneath there's the lush symphonic music of Erich Korngold featuring music for *The Sea Hawk*. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678 or jlavella@plantingfields.org.



A performer on stilts,
Arbor Day 2015.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD &
SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH, 2016
ARBOR DAY
FAMILY FESTIVAL**

10:00am – 5:00pm / Rain or shine
\$20 per vehicle

The 2016 Arbor Day Family Festival features live musical shows by the crowd's favorites Peat Moss and the Fertilizers, performances by PLAY DATE, kid's tree climb by Wonderland Tree Care, petting zoo, face painting, National Circus Project performances and workshops, caricaturists, plant clinics, tree plantings with Smokey the Bear, FREE self-guided visits of Coe Hall. The festival is a collaborative effort between Planting Fields Foundation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. \$20 per car; once inside the park all activities are FREE! For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org. Snacks, sandwiches, desserts and drinks can be purchased from the Garden Café.

MAY

FRIDAY, MAY 6TH, 2016

Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940

Paint and Wine Night in the Cloister Garden at Coe Hall

Coe Hall / 7:00pm – 9:00pm / \$50 Non-Members / \$40 Members

Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

Join us for a fun and creative evening at Coe Hall to celebrate our new exhibition, *Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940*! Enjoy wine, light snacks and paint a nautical scene under the stars in the beautiful Cloister Garden at Coe Hall. All supplies are included. For reservations contact Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH, 2016

Concert in the Park: THE CLUSTERS

Coe Hall / 6:00pm – 7:30pm / FREE / No Parking Fee

No Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

Bring a chair, blanket, and outdoor picnic. The Clusters intensely contagious melodies will keep you singing and dancing to doo-wop all night long. Light snacks will be available for purchase at the concert provided by COFFEED, Inc. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 15TH, 2016

THE LAP OF LUXURY: The Emergence of the Cruise Ship Industry: the Pioneers, Private Lives, Drama, Comedy, and the Grandeur of Today and Days Gone By

Coe Hall / 2:00pm -3:00pm / Non-Members \$5 Admission Fee / Members and Children Under 12 are FREE

A READING IN THE STYLE OF RADIO DRAMA: Actors Diana Heinlein and David Houston

(See description on page 13)

For more information contact Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678 or jlavella@plantingfields.org.



SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 2016

Into the Garden: PLEIN AIR PAINTING with Annie Shaver-Crandell

10:00am – 3:00pm / FREE with \$8 Parking Fee / Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

Come be inspired by the gardens and landscapes at Planting Fields and paint with Annie Shaver-Crandell, member of the Salmagundi Club in New York. Materials are artist's choice (oil, acrylic, or watercolor) and space is limited to 20 participants. Bring a bag lunch or purchase snacks and refreshments at the Garden Café, provided by COFFEED, Inc. A list of suggested materials will be emailed to participants prior to the workshop. Reservations are required, please contact Andrea Crivello (516) 922-8688 or email acrivello@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 2016

Summer Theater in the Park Presents CAMELOT

Hay Barn Visitor's Center / 6:00pm / FREE / No Parking Fee

No Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

The musical classic, filled with elegant pageantry is based on the legendary story of King Arthur, Guinevere, and Lancelot. The fabulous score includes *If Ever I Would Leave You*, *I Loved You Once in Silence*, *The Lusty Month of May*, *How to Handle a Woman*, and of course, *Camelot*. Refreshments can be purchased at the garden café. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 15TH, 2016

Children's Program about the Great Ocean Liners Exhibition Program

Coe Hall / 12:00pm / Non-Members \$5 Admission Fee

Members and Children Under 12 are FREE

Come and learn the core essentials of model ship building. Build your very own wooden model *Titanic* to take home and decorate. This is the perfect hands-on event for families and to visit the new exhibition *Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940*. All supplies are provided. Reservations are required please contact Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH, 2016

Concert in the Park KENNY J's ORCHESTRA, RED WHITE AND BLUES

Coe Hall / 6:00pm - 7:00pm / FREE

No Parking Fee / No Reservations
Required / Rain or Shine



Bring a chair, blanket, and an outdoor picnic to enjoy great upbeat music and the beauty of Planting Fields. Light

snacks will be available for purchase at the concert provided by COFFEED, Inc. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or jlavella@plantingfields.org.

JUNE

SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH, 2016
Concert in the Park
CHRISTOPHER MACCHIO,
TENOR OF THE
21ST CENTURY

Coe Hall / 6:00pm – 7:30pm / FREE
No Parking Fee / No Reservations
Required / Rain or Shine

Bring a chair, blanket, and an outdoor picnic to enjoy great music and the beauty at Planting Fields. Light snacks will be available for purchase at the concert provided by COFFEED, Inc. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.

MONDAY, JUNE 6TH, 2016
PLANTING FIELDS
FOUNDATION'S
GOLF CLASSIC

Mill River Club, Upper Brookville

Join us for our 2nd annual Golf Classic at the Mill River Club! We begin at 10:00am with registration and breakfast, followed by a shotgun start at 12:00pm. Lunch will be served on the course, followed by cocktails, dinner buffet and raffle auction at 5:30pm. Contact Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678 or jlavella@plantingfields.org for more information and sponsorship opportunities!

SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH, 2016
Concert in the Park
THE HAMBONES

Coe Hall / 6:00pm – 7:30pm / FREE
No Parking Fee / No Reservations
Required / Rain or Shine

Bring a chair, blanket, and an outdoor picnic to enjoy great, upbeat music and the beauty at Planting Fields. The Hambones play a merry mix of pop, Blues, country and rockabilly from *The Classic American Songbook*. Dancing is encouraged!!! Light snacks will be available for purchase at the concert provided by COFFEED, Inc. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SUMMER 2016

SUNDAY, JUNE 19TH, 2016

Children's Program at Coe Hall about the
***Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940* Exhibition**

Coe Hall / 12:00pm / Non-Members \$5 Admission Fee
Members and Children Under 12 are FREE

Come and learn the core essentials of model ship building. Build your very own wooden model *Titanic* to take home and decorate. This is the perfect hands-on event for families and to visit the new exhibition *Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940*. All supplies are provided. Reservations are required please contact Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH, 2016

Family Fun Night, Play Date

Coe Hall / 6:00pm – 7:30pm / FREE / No Parking Fee
No Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

Bring a chair, blanket, and an outdoor picnic to enjoy great music and the beauty at Planting Fields. Bring the family out to enjoy this fun and interactive night! Light snacks will be available for purchase at the concert. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUMMER 2016

JULY

SATURDAY, JULY 2ND, 2016

Concert in the Park: SELDEN BRASS

Coe Hall / 6:00pm – 7:30pm / FREE / No Parking Fee

No Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

Bring a chair, blanket, and an outdoor picnic. Come see your local band with the Big Brass sound! Light snacks will be available for purchase at the concert provided by COFFEED, Inc. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email Jlavella@plantingfields.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 8TH, 2016

Summer Theater in the Park Presents

ALL SHOOK UP, TRIBUTE TO THE KING

Hay Barn Visitor's Center / 6:00pm / FREE / No Parking Fee

No Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

This musical is inspired by and features the music of Elvis Presley. It's 1955, and into a square little town rides a guitar playing hip swiveling roustabout who will have you jumpin' out of your blue suede shoes with such songs as *Hound Dog*, *Jailhouse Rock*, *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Don't Be Cruel*, *Can't Help Falling in Love*, and *Love Me Tender*. Light snacks will be available for purchase at the concert provided by COFFEED, Inc. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email Jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 9TH, 2016

Concert in the Park: THE GREG SMITH GROUP

Coe Hall / 6:00pm – 7:30pm / FREE / No Parking Fee

No Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

Bring a chair, blanket, and an outdoor picnic. The Greg Smith Group is a fun, high-energy, four-piece band that covers your favorite new and classic rock, pop, Top 40, folk and soul songs as well as performing original music. Far from simply delivering songs, they guarantee to move you all night long! Light snacks will be available for purchase at the concert provided by COFFEED, Inc. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email Jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 16TH AND SUNDAY, JULY 17TH SUMMER GARDEN FESTIVAL

2:00PM – 8:00PM / Rain or Shine / \$20 Per Vehicle

This new summer festival features live musical performances by Banjo Nickaru and His Western Schooches, family band, Strummin' & Drummin' and the roots-rock band the Hambones! Kid's crafts, jugglers, dance groups and environmental programs, FREE self-guided visits of Coe Hall. This festival is a collaborative effort between Planting Fields Foundation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email Jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SAVE THE DATES!

*The Planting Fields Foundation and
the New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Proudly Present*

NATURE SUNDAYS

Children's Education Programs

SUNDAYS, JULY 3RD – AUG. 28TH

12:00 PM (no program July 17th.)

Free admission with \$8.00 parking
fee / rain or shine

AUGUST

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5TH 2016

Planting Fields Foundation's 8TH ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE PARTY! Bringin' Motown Back!

7:00pm-10:30pm at Coe Hall / \$75.00
Members, Firefighters, Military, Police,
EMS/ \$100.00 Non-Member

Celebrate summer in the grandeur of the gardens at Coe Hall. Enjoy cocktails featuring plentiful hors d'oeuvres, savory desserts, champagne, wine, sangria and craft beer. Dance under the stars all evening to the energetic and fun Motown music provided by City Sounds Entertainment. Come join us celebrate the summer at this fun garden soiree! For more information or to purchase tickets contact Michelle Benes (516) 922-8682 or email mbenes@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 2016

Concert in the Park: 3 WEST

Coe Hall / 6:00pm – 7:30pm / FREE

No Parking Fee / No Reservations
Required / Rain or Shine

Bring a chair, blanket, and an outdoor picnic. 3 West is an acoustic duo, originally from New Jersey and is one of the most booked acts in the Tri-State area. Hear them perform live country and pop originals, acoustic renditions or some of the most current hits, as well as some favorites. Light snacks will be available for purchase at the concert provided by COFFEED, Inc. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email Jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20TH, 2016

Summer Theater in the Park Presents YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN

Hay Barn Visitor's Center / 6:00pm
FREE / No Parking Fee
No Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

Refreshments can be purchased at the
Garden Café, provided by COFFEED, Inc.
For more information contact Jennifer
Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email
Jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27TH, 2016

Concert in the Park VIVALDI, Performed by The Dolce Ensemble

Coe Hall / 6:00pm – 7:30pm / FREE
No Parking Fee / No Reservations
Required / Rain or Shine

Bring a chair, blanket, and an outdoor
picnic to enjoy beautiful Vivaldi music
and the beauty at Planting Fields. Light
snacks will be available for purchase at
the concert provided by COFFEED, Inc.
For more information contact Jennifer
Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email
Jlavella@plantingfields.org.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2016

FAMILY FUN NIGHT with Strummin' & Drummin'

Coe Hall / 5:30pm – 7:30pm / FREE / No Parking Fee
No Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

Bring a blanket, picnic dinner and glow sticks to Coe Hall for a night of family fun after dark! Light snacks will be available for purchase at the concert. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email Jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2016

Concert in the Park: TONY KELLY AND THE REAL DEAL

Coe Hall / 6:00pm- 7:30pm / FREE / No Parking Fee
No Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

Bring a chair, blanket, and an outdoor picnic. Tony Kelly and the Real Deal play an exciting blend of classic country, 1950s rock and rockabilly. Their high energy show and polished vocals have made them a club favorite throughout the New York Metropolitan area. Light snacks will be available for purchase at the concert provided by COFFEED, Inc. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email Jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2016

Summer Theater in the Park Presents A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

Hay Barn Visitor's Center / 6:00pm / FREE / No Parking Fee
No Reservations Required / Rain or Shine

Broadway's greatest musical farce is one of the funniest musicals ever written! The plot twists and turns with cases of mistaken identity, slamming doors, and a showgirl or two. The hit score includes *Comedy Tonight*, *Love I Hear*, and the hilarious, *Everybody Ought to Have a Maid!* Refreshments can be purchased at the Garden Café, provided by COFFEED, Inc. For more information contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email Jlavella@plantingfields.org.







CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

WERE HELD AT COE HALL ON FEBRUARY 13TH AND 14TH

This year marked the first time celebrations of the Chinese New Year at Coe Hall sponsored by Planting Fields Foundation and the Long Island Chinese American Association.

2016 is the year of the Red Monkey according to the Chinese 12-year animal zodiac cycle and is the 4,713th Chinese Year.

Coe Hall was decorated with over 500 red Chinese lanterns. In Chinese tradition, red is regarded as

a symbol of energy, happiness, and good luck. Red lucky envelopes with token money were given out to all the children who visited Coe Hall during this weekend festival. Decorative fruits and flowers traditionally associated with Chinese New Year celebrations transformed Coe Hall; oranges, which look like the sun and symbolize happiness, orchids which symbolize nobility, friendship and refinement were among the displays.

There were many performances of music and dance, including the dragon and lion dance which were immensely popular with visitors. Demonstrations of Chinese calligraphy by distinguished artists were enjoyed by many, and children took lessons in the techniques of traditional Chinese watercolor painting. An exhibition of fine Chinese jades from the Qing dynasty, drawn from Planting Fields Foundation's collection was featured at Coe Hall.

GREAT OCEAN LINERS: 1900-1940

BY ANDREA CRIVELLO

**Exhibition on view
April 2nd through
October 2nd, daily.**

William R. Coe made his career in the marine insurance business. He was Chairman of the Board of one of the largest insurance brokerage firms in the world, Johnson and Higgins.



Mai Coe with her sons, William, Robert and Henry on board the Holland-America Line S.S. "Rotterdam" in 1909.

The firm brokered the hull insurance on the *Titanic* which sank in 1912—the claim was settled in only thirty days. The exhibition examines the history of the White Star Line, owners of the *Titanic*, and of Cunard, who owned the ill-fated *Lusitania*. Competition between the two lines for the highest speed and profits on their trans-Atlantic crossings is a focus of the show.

In 1899, Mr. Coe travelled to London on Johnson and Higgins business on the S.S. *City of New York*. On board, he met Mai Rogers, daughter of Standard Oil partner and millionaire H.H. Rogers. William and Mai's marriage the following year brought significant and influential business contacts to Mr. Coe's work at Johnson and Higgins.

In the exhibition three vessels from each line are prominently featured; for the White Star it is the *Titanic*, the *Olympic* and the *Britannic*, and for the Cunard, the *Aquitania*, the *Lusitania* and the *Berengaria*. Posters, archival documents, ship models and memorabilia are included in the exhibition. The installation includes large-scale color photos of first class ocean liner public rooms to demonstrate the luxuriousness of first class quarters, and their design relationships with interiors at Coe Hall.

A hundred years ago ocean liners were triumphs of engineering that captured the world's imagination before the age of air and space travel.



Top: Vintage Postcard of the Olympic. Above: First Class Dining Saloon of the R.M.S. Lusitania.

1916

FROM THE ARCHIVES

LIFE WITH THE COE FAMILY

BY HENRY B. JOYCE
AND ANDREA CRIVELLO

At the end of March 1916, William R. Coe and his wife Mai arrived back at Planting Fields after six weeks of winter travel that had taken them to Jamaica, the Panama Canal, and Palm Beach, Florida. The two sailed in February, on the *Almaranti* from New York City for Kingston, Jamaica. From there they left for Panama and then on to Cuba. While traveling, Mr. and Mrs. Coe stayed at fine hotels. In Havana, they were booked at the Hotel Sevilla, which at the time was the best hotel in the city, now in its 108th year of operation. Its handsome façade, fine rooms, and central location made it

The Royal Poinciana Hotel & Grounds, PALM BEACH, Florida.

3154.



AT PLANTING FIELDS AND BEYOND

one of the most preferred places to stay. The last part of their month and a half-long trip was spent in Palm Beach, where the Coes stayed at Henry Flagler's famous and vast Royal Poinciana Hotel, a Gilded Age extravaganza that was once the largest wooden structure in the world, with 1,700 employees and accommodations for 2,000 guests. The wealthy could arrive at the hotel's entrance in their private railway cars. It closed down in 1934 and was razed the following year. Eventually, the Coes owned a Palm Beach house on the ocean. In 1916, even while traveling, Mr. Coe expected his son Robert, now 14, to write to his secretary, Mr. McVickar, on how he and William were doing at St. Paul's boarding school in Concord, New Hampshire. The two youngest children, Henry, 13 and Natalie, 6 were with their nurses, Miss Slade, and Miss Cornwall and went to Atlantic City for two weeks in March.

During 1916 the Italian Garden, a fashionable feature of grand country houses of the time, was built at Planting Fields; today it is still one of the best parts of the Coe's ambitious designs for the park. The Tea House, with its gorgeous murals with flowers and nymphs, had been finished the year before and looked out on a tennis

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Mr. W.R. Coe standing in the Italian Garden, about 1916.

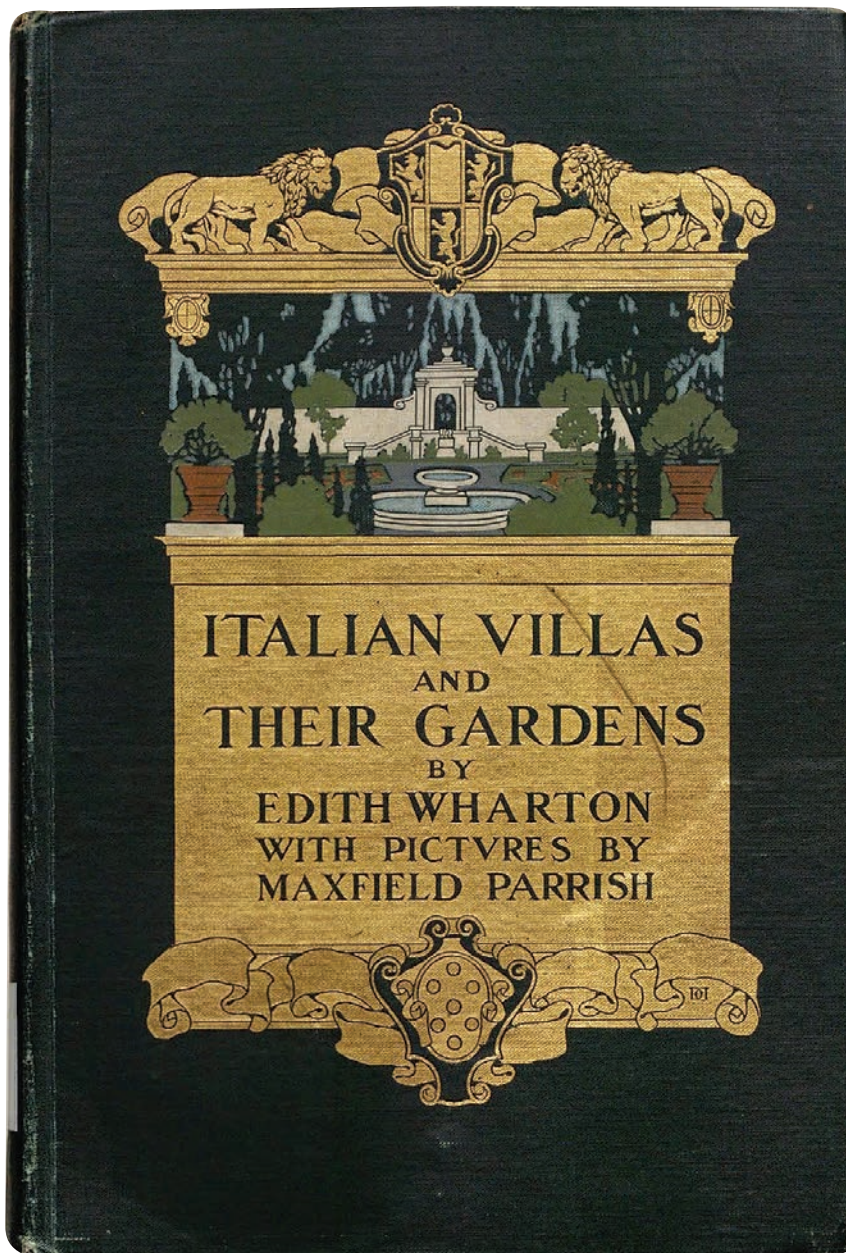
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court (built for the previous owners). The site was hollowed out to sink the new garden about 10 feet below the surrounding landscape. The rectilinear shaped garden pool became a space in the style of “giardino segreto” of Renaissance gardens in Italy, a “secret”, or more correctly a “secluded” garden; a place where

there might be more privacy than in the more open parkland. Sunken gardens get some protection from cold winds, and plants will often flower earlier in the spring in such a setting. The architects, Guy Lowell, and A. Robson Sargent, who had planned the Tea House and Main Greenhouse, were initially in charge of the Italian Garden; one of their plans, dated 1916, is illustrated on page 28. The drawing shows the large pool, with sculpture and water lilies along with lawns and borders for flowers, much as it survives today. A letter from Sargent to Mr. Coe reveals that the superintendent, Joseph Robinson, was supervising sixteen-day laborers, each paid \$2.25 per day to excavate 16,000 square yards of earth.

One of the main reasons for the prevalence of Italian gardens on large American estates a hundred years ago was the work of the famous American novelist Edith Wharton, who in 1903 authored a series of widely-read articles in *The Century Magazine* about the history of formal gardens in Italy. The articles were later published as a book, *Italian Villas and Their Gardens*, which was tremendously influential in the garden design world. Wharton built her garden, with an Italian style pergola at her country house “The Mount” in Lennox, Massachusetts. Through the 1920s, Italian gardens on grand estates were built all across the country, from Vermont to Florida, in the Mid-West, and on the West Coast. There were several on Long Island, but most are lost, which makes Planting Fields (restored and

Book cover of Italian Villas and Their Gardens by Edith Wharton, 1905.



reopened in 2010) particularly important. Gardens are often an arena for the display of prosperity; large parks like Planting Fields were intended to resemble old European “family seats” with their aura of great age through generations of ownership. This sensibility was what wealthy owners wanted to recreate in their new estates. The Coes visited England regularly and were quite familiar with fine old houses and gardens. They were also frequent readers of *Country Life* magazine which promoted the country house ideal, of which Planting Fields is a prime and rare surviving example.

The Coe family was based in New York City, which a hundred years ago, was the financial, social, artistic and intellectual center of American life, more so than today. On weekends, away from their busy lives in the city, they entertained friends at Coe Hall and the Italian Garden, specifically located close to the house was where Mrs. Coe could serve tea to her guests. The garden was designed to be used as an outside room with everyone wearing their finest tea clothes and enjoying the magnificent displays of flowers, with roses in June being a particular highlight. Mrs. Coe, beautifully dressed, posed for her photo near the garden gates (photo to right). Wealthy women who were interested in gardening—and it was a fashionable female pursuit – would visit and be entertained in each other’s gardens. It was these activities that partly prompted the creation of clubs, which led to the founding, in 1913, of The Garden



Club of America. By 1938, there were over 2,000 garden clubs in the U.S. Many important garden architects and writers were women, including Beatrice Ferrand, who built gardens on Long Island, and was Edith Wharton’s niece. She did not work at Planting Fields, instead, in the 1920s the Coes hired the Olmsted Brothers firm to design

Mrs. Coe standing in front of her roses in the Italian Garden at Coe Hall.

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and oversee the landscape here, including modifications to the Italian Garden, for which they designed a planting plan in 1920.

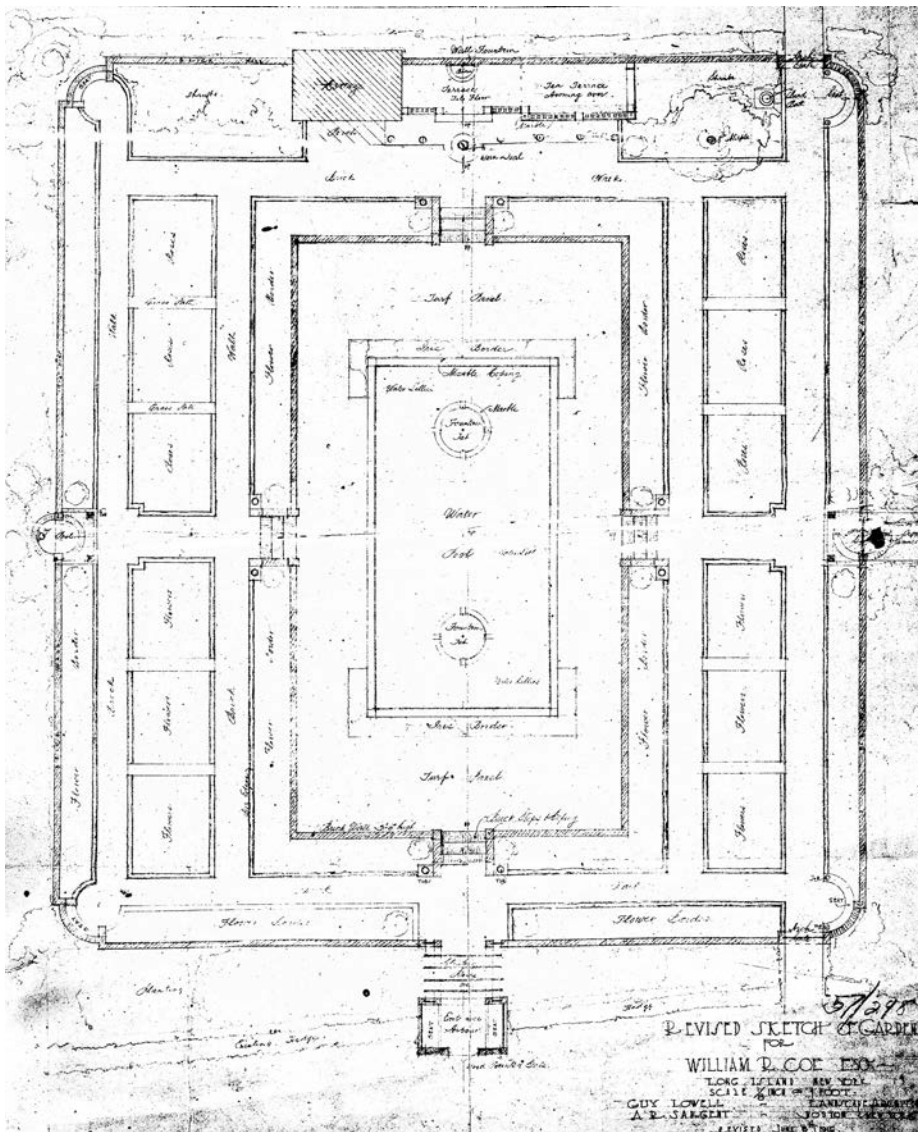
Mr. Coe's passion for gardening led him to compete in many flower shows where he exhibited specimens grown in his greenhouse. On November 10th, 1916 the *New York Herald* reported that W.R. Coe won "nearly half the prizes" having won twenty blue ribbons at the Oyster Bay Chrysanthemum Show. The

second highest winner only had seven blue ribbons. Upset came the very next day when it was discovered that thieves broke in and stole winning blooms. W.R. Coe's, E.F. Whitney's, and J. Stuart Blackton's were among those whose exhibits were stolen.

Mr. Coe was at Planting Fields in mid-June to admire the several thousand new rhododendrons that were coming into flower. Other improvements to the landscape at Planting Fields included the purchase of 5,000 red pines, and 2,000 oak seedlings, with several hundred dollars additionally, spent on peach trees, grape vines, magnolias and maple trees. He kept a close watch on the improvements to his other properties. The Irma Lake Lodge running expenses were \$9,803, expenses of their New York City residence were \$812, and the Oyster Bay expenses were \$64,135 for a combined total of \$74,751 or \$1,661,146 in today's dollars.

In early spring in 1916 Mr. Coe became ill. Correspondence between him and Robert indicates that he was sick for three months. He wrote that his eczema was acting up and that he was going for electrical treatments for what doctors thought was a nervous system relapse. His illness upset plans to visit the boys at school, and he hoped to recover so that the family could spend the summer as they usually did in the mountains of Wyoming. Mr. Coe's letters reveal his great concern for his children, as they had their own health scares at St. Paul's school; in fact, two of Robert's classmates had died from

Drawing for the Italian Garden in 1916 by Guy Lowell and A. Robson Sargent.



Mastoiditis and a third was now ill with the same condition. In 1916, there was a series of outbreaks that, due to modern medicine, are no longer life threatening. Over the course of that year, there was an epidemic of Mumps, Measles, Chicken Pox, Mastoiditis, and one of the boys at St. Paul's was sent to the hospital as the school infirmary was at full capacity. In March Robert wrote to this father "It is impossible to receive proper care". He had been released from the infirmary, before being fully recovered from his head cold.

Later in the year, Robert wrote his father that he had passed the College Board examination in history while William had not. In one letter Mr. Coe wrote William "I am sorry indeed to note that in your mid-term examinations you only stood 68 out of 90, but am glad you appreciate how rottenly you did, I am spending a lot of money on your education, and I do not propose to sit by and see it wasted. Unless this improves when you are home for the Christmas holiday there will be no hockey games, theaters, or moving picture shows. You will be "grounded" at Oyster Bay, and I will write Dr. Drury to forbid hockey at school". William did not write to his father nearly as often as Robert; however, he did make sure to send letters after improving in his studies and excelling at track stating that he completed the hundred yard dash in 11 $\frac{4}{5}$ seconds, with the world record being 9 $\frac{3}{5}$ at the time. In March four seats were purchased for "Pom Pom" at Cohan's Broadway theater. William wrote

Continued on next page



The Italian Garden in 2015.

Continued from previous page

Mr. Coe for permission to invite Jamee Jennings and her Governess, along with Robert.

For leisure William and Robert also traveled to Chicago to spend time with other family members, during which they stayed at a hotel with cousins Marion, Rowland, and Aunt Maude. William wrote to Mr. Coe asking for \$5 pocket money stating "I am completely broke". The boys were required to keep a log of spending on meals, taxis, and other miscellaneous expenditures. Mr. Coe admonished the boys stating

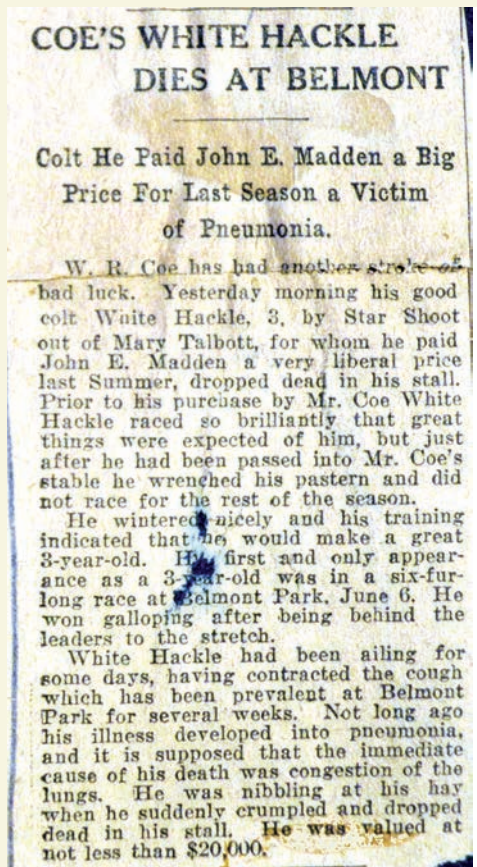
"you certainly were extravagant in your spending. I think \$4.85 for a magazine in Chicago was beyond all reason. The next time you go away, I will not give you so much money. I think it is about time you boys learnt the value of money".

Mr. Coe had a year full of highs and lows with his race horses. Mustard won a race and lost by a nose at Belmont. His horses did not do well at Piping Rock; however, horses Hauberk and White Hackle became the stars of the year, and of the media. White Hackle had been

purchased by Mr. Coe, from John E. Madden, for \$25,000 or \$555,555 in today's money. Those in the racing world at the time felt that Mr. Coe paid too much for a horse that would not live up to his buying price. Mr. Coe first ran his horse at Saratoga, and at three years old White Hackle raced in several big stakes. Newspaper articles began to report impressive winnings. A jolt came in June of 1916 when White Hackle died in his stall from Pneumonia. The horse had been ailing for a few days having contracted a cough that had been



White Hackle, bought by Mr. Coe in 1916.



prevalent at Belmont for several weeks. The illness developed into congestion of the lungs, which caused the sudden death. White Hackle had just won a six-furlong race at Belmont Park in the beginning of June and was valued at \$20,000.

The 1916 ledgers and correspondence in the archives indicate that the superintendent's house was being built, along with continued work on the farm buildings. In April, barn buildings that were being worked on near the White Cottage burnt down, and Mr. Coe expressed he was glad the cottage itself did not catch fire. The erection of the stables was taken on by Elliot & Brown Company and while in the midst of the work, Mr. Coe paid an extra \$12,668 to change to fireproof construction along with \$7,972 to change from shingle to slate. All of these changes cost \$20,640 or about \$458,666 in today's dollars. The work at Planting Fields was part of the overall plan which took many years, but which eventually fulfilled the Coe's ambition to make the estate the great showplace it is today.

In other business endeavors, Mr. Coe was elected Chairman of the Virginian Railway and a member of the board of the Scandinavian Trust Company newly formed that year, and one of the seven chosen as directors. The company became one of the largest institutions organized to meet the increased financial responsibilities of New York City, and which developed as a result of World War I.

TEA & SPLENDOR

GREAT ENGLISH AND AMERICAN HOUSES 2016 LECTURE SERIES

Next year's lecture series will highlight English Palaces.



NEWLY REFURBISHED VALET'S ROOM AT COE HALL



INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES GRANT TO PLANTING FIELDS FOUNDATION

Planting Fields Foundation has been selected to receive a Museums for America grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to create a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) database that links all plant related and historical information so that staff can more efficiently manage, track, care for and interpret our living collections.

As a former Gold Coast estate with a large historical collection, Planting Fields Arboretum faces numerous challenges at re-identifying historic plant material for which metal tags and interpretive labels have been lost or destroyed. This exciting project will allow Planting Fields to rediscover many historic plants, trees and shrubs.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums, and their mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovations, lifelong learning, cultural and civic engagement. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov.



NEW VISITOR'S PARKING LOT OPENED ON FEBRUARY 13TH TO WELCOME VISITORS TO CHINESE NEW YEAR



BY LILLY MCGURK

The newly renovated west parking lot is open for the season!

Last fall, Woodstock Construction Group began work on the west lot by replacing the 1971 asphalt with permeable pavement and a bio-retention system.

Alternative paving materials were installed to allow rain and snowmelt to soak into the ground through the new surface, significantly decreasing the amount

of nonorganic components seeping into the ground water supply, wetlands, and aquifers. Other advantages of this project are improvements for wheelchair accessibility, pedestrian and traffic circulation, new lighting, way finding signage, and a dedicated drop off area conveniently located at the new entrance pavilion.

This project was made possible through the New York State Green Innovation Grant Program.

CAMELLIA GREENHOUSE RESTORATION UNDERWAY

BY LILLY MCGURK

The restoration of the Camellia Greenhouse is an important preservation project at Planting Fields. Last fall, Mt. Olympus Restoration, Inc. began to rehabilitate the greenhouse's interior masonry buttresses, piers and steel stub columns, and the exterior stucco finish.

It was originally designed by the distinguished Harvard and Paris-trained architect, Guy Lowell (1871-1927), and built by the pre-eminent greenhouse manufacturers of their day, the William H. Lutton Company of Jersey City, New Jersey. The flanking east and west sections were added in 1922, under the direction of the Olmsted Brothers who followed Lowell's original design.



Crew from Mt. Olympus Restoration, Inc. restoring interior steel frame supports.

The Camellia House has become increasingly important during the winter months, drawing in a large number of visitors to the annual Camellia House Festival Weekend where visitors enjoy special lectures, concerts, classes and performances among the two hundred flowering plants covered with thousands of magnificent red,

white and pink blooms.

This project was made possible by grant funds to Planting Fields Foundation from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York and the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, totaling \$500,000 combined grant awards.



Camellia Greenhouse Interior.

DONATIONS 2015

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Children's Playhouse



PLANTING FIELDS
FOUNDATION'S

ANNUAL 2015 BENEFIT

Deck the Halls

The evening was very successful and the money raised from the benefit is an integral part of our annual fundraising efforts.



Co-Chair Meghan Hagedorn, Kristine Hagedorn, Co-Chair Carol Canter, Stephen Canter



Thomas J. Golon, Robert Foschi, Margaret Foschi, Janet Golon



The Gallery



Constance Haydock, Nina Haydock, Sarane Ross



Mary Ciullo, Hannah Burns



Amos Nevin, Andrew Nevin

ORKESTAI FARM AT PLANTING FIELDS

For the past three years the arboretum has hosted a small but impactful project in one of its less utilized back fields. An ecological farm and non-profit organization that is growing not only vegetables, but young minds and strong hearts.

Alethea Vasilas and Erin Staub manage Orkestai Farm and have formed a community of young adults who come from as far as Manhattan to work in the fields and meet other young farmers. Over the past three years Orkestai has grown by leaps and bounds. Erin and Alethea, both farmers and artists themselves, envisioned a place where these young adults, many with special needs, could give back to

their community by growing food for them, through their hard work and individual strengths. The farm is a place where the community could clearly see, and recognize these individuals for their abilities, and not just their dis-abilities.

On an average day, you will find these young adults actively participating in many of the traditional tasks associated with farming: planting seeds in trays in the greenhouse, transplanting the young plants out into the field, caring for them by watering and weeding, and mulching the rows to retain moisture and keep out pests. The resulting vegetables are then distributed throughout the community to a group of CSA members who come to the farm once a week to pick up their freshly-

harvested share. CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture and is a way for the neighboring community to support local farms and in turn receive incredibly fresh and nutritious produce. The members get to know these young adults and share in the pride for their amazing work.

This year the farm is increasing its creative programs by utilizing the varied and unique artistic talents of its farmers and infusing the season with a touch more whimsy! From classical piano to abstract painting, and from vegetable art to dancing through the tomatoes, look for some creative events and ways to get involved at this tiny farm that is making a big difference.

Learn more and donate at: www.orkestaifarm.org



GIFT SHOP

The Garden Gift Shop has recently acquired new and exciting gift items from the 2016 gift show at the Jacob Javits Center. Beautiful hand blown glass vases and little birds, bamboo cutting boards laser engraved with images of owls, cats, and dogs, handmade jewelry depicting images of leaves, branches, and acorns, and various items that support different causes throughout the world. You will also find a nice assortment of gift items relating to the upcoming exhibition, *Great Ocean Liners: 1900-1940*. For a limited time only, stop by and see handmade ceramic vases for sale by local artist and Planting Fields volunteer Stuart Rabeck. The gift shop is located inside the visitor's center and is open daily from 11:00am -4:00pm. Members receive a 10% discount.

THE GREAT GATSBY EDUCATION PROGRAM

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT COE HALL

BY ELSA EISENBERG

When F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote *The Great Gatsby* in 1925, he probably could not have imagined the impact that this now iconic book would have.

In fact, when it was first published, it was hardly a best seller; only 21,000 copies were sold that year. It wasn't until after his death in 1940 at the age of 44, that its popularity grew and was embraced by high school English departments throughout this country.

Four years ago the Foundation introduced the *Great Gatsby* Education program for high school students at Coe Hall, with references to the novel and how the history of the Coes and Planting Fields compares to the story of Jay Gatsby during that era on the north shore of Long Island, which became known as the Gold Coast. We contacted

high schools on Long Island to promote the program and each year we have had an increasing number of school groups joining in the project. One high school in particular, Carle Place High School, has consistently signed up every year. A few months ago, we offered a new *Great Gatsby* training program for our docents. A mailing to promote the program was recently sent out again to high schools and we hope to attract more classes in the future. We have also started contacting local libraries to see if we could possibly coordinate a *Great Gatsby* program with their patrons.

Planting Fields is such an integral and important part of our rich Long Island history. The *Great Gatsby* program is yet one more way for us to attract visitors to Planting Fields and to make the historical context of Coe Hall come alive.



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MISSION STATEMENT

Planting Fields Foundation collaborates with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to preserve and interpret Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park as a premier Long Island Gold Coast estate and arboretum by providing educational and enriching experiences.



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Chinese New Year performers in the Great Hall, the Monkey King (center) celebrating the year of the Red Monkey.