

EVERGREEN

PLANTING FIELDS FOUNDATION
PLANTING FIELDS ARBORETUM, OYSTER BAY, NEW YORK

SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER



ALL ABOARD!

A RAILWAY FORTUNE AT PLANTING FIELDS

This spring's exhibition, opening at the Manor House Saturday, April 6th, is about one of the last great chapters in the history of America's love affair with railroads, which began in the 1850s and changed the United States forever. It is the story of the Virginian Railway, built between 1907 and 1909 by robber baron H.H. Rogers, father of Mai Coe, Planting Fields co-owner with her husband W.R. Coe who gave the mansion and the park to the State of New York in 1949. Ten years after her father's death in 1909, Rogers' trust was released to Mai, and her shares of the Virginian were valued at \$6.8 million (\$167 million today).



SUE STURGES

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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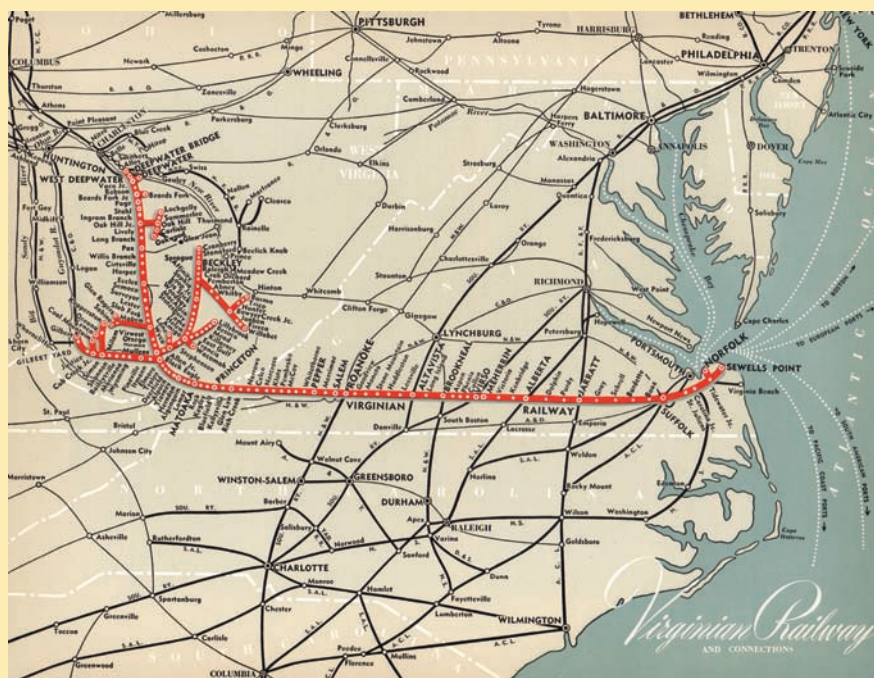
ALL ABOARD! *(continued)*

It was Mai's fortune that made it possible for the Coes to build such a luxurious house. For instance, the use of very expensive Indiana limestone for Coe Hall was an extravagance for what was essentially a spring and fall residence. No expense was spared inside the beautifully decorated mansion, or in the planning of the Olmsted Brothers' very large 409 acre park and its huge greenhouses, as well as other amenities, including the Carshalton Gates, brought here from England.



The Virginian Railway was built by Henry Huttleston Rogers as a business enterprise to haul coal from the remote West Virginia coal fields, nearly five hundred miles away, to the docks of eastern Virginia in Sewells Point. From that

location, it went by ship up north to New England, New York, and Canada, where coal was in great demand for use in industry as well as for domestic consumption. The railroad was most profitable in the first twenty five years of its existence, and used some of the most advanced equipment for its operations. Electrification took over partially in the 1920s and diesel in the 1950s. The Virginian Railway increased in power and productivity until 1959, when it merged with the Norfolk & Western Railway, which became a powerhouse in railroads for decades to come.



Map routes of the Virginian Railway, 1948, Planting Fields Foundation Archives



H.H. Rogers' son-in-law, William Robertson Coe, became a director of the railroad in 1912 and was appointed to the Executive Committee in 1915; he was elected Vice President in 1925 and Chairman of the Executive Committee in 1938. His son, William Rogers Coe (father of Planting Fields Foundation Chairman Michael D. Coe) was a member of the Board of Directors beginning in 1927 until the merger with the Norfolk & Western in 1959, and served as Vice-President and Treasurer from 1942 until his resignation in 1956.

H.H. Rogers' railroad pursuits were not just confined to the Virginian. He held Directorates in the United States Steel Corporation, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company, the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company, and the Union Pacific Railroad Company. He also largely owned the railroad on Staten Island before attempting his greatest effort of industry—the successful financing and construction of the Virginian Railway.

Rogers' involvement with railroads was largely due to the network of industrialists who were interconnected with his interests in oil, gas, copper, and many other industrial pursuits that thrived in the United States between about 1870 and 1910. There was not an industry that Rogers did not have a hand in, but his main claim to fame was as a partner of J.D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil.

H. H. Rogers, of sturdy frame with thick white locks of hair and a neat handlebar mustache, cane, and derby hat, possessed a striking figure. Women admired him and men often feared him. Called "Hell-Hound Rogers" for his sometimes scurrilous business practices, he built the Virginian Railway using \$40 million of his own money.

In 1907, the year construction started, there was a nationwide financial panic. Though his health was compromised and doctors warned him against involving himself too deeply, Rogers persisted. Trestle bridges of dizzying heights were constructed to open deep chasms in

Stationmaster; O. Winston Link, 1955, O. Winston Link Museum

This photograph shows Train No. 4, the last Virginian Railway passenger service train to operate. Its service was terminated in 1956. The Terminal Station in Norfolk, shown here, was later demolished.

ALL ABOARD! *(continued)*



O. Winston Link and George Thom with flash equipment, New York, New York, O. Winston Link, 1956, O. Winston Link Museum

Brooklyn born photographer Link took over 2,400 photos of the Virginian and Norfolk & Western Railways. His interest in photography stemmed from seeing the Long Island Railroad pass behind his workplace at Mineola's Columbia Instruments Laboratory.

the landscape; tunnels were blown out with dynamite resulting sometimes in terrible fatal accidents; coal mines were dug into the bowels of the earth; tracks were laid with steep grades up and down mountains. The 42 powerful locomotives purchased to haul coal were some of the mightiest of their time, and were engineered with special equipment for 8,000-10,000 ton loads. No expense was spared so that the Virginian could run efficiently as a new and profit-driven railroad. Mining towns sprung up overnight, and in those days of the railroad, coal was king. It provided the critical foundation for American industry and the railroad was responsible for assuring its successful transportation. The Virginian hauled coal, though it did maintain a modest passenger service for many of its years.

In April of 1909, the Virginian Railway opened with a lavish party in Norfolk, Virginia at the Monticello Hotel. H.H. Rogers' close friend, Mark Twain, was by his side. Within a month, Rogers had died, never to see the profits from his railway. After his death, the estate trust was willed to his children, including Mai Coe, making her an extremely wealthy woman.

Prior to the merger with the Norfolk & Western Railway in 1959, there was one last effort by the Virginian Railway Board to improve efficiency. In June 1956, the Virginian commissioned Jakobsen Shipyard of Oyster Bay to build a harbor tugboat. The 105-foot, 1500 horsepower diesel-electric drive tug, named "W.R. Coe", moved ships around Piers 1 and 2 at Sewells Point. The tug is now owned on Long Island and can sometimes be seen cruising the Sound in Oyster Bay and nearby.

Join us for the exciting new *All Aboard!* exhibition and immerse yourself in



this bygone era when the emerging railroad industry literally changed not only landscapes but also the economic, social, and cultural climate of America. Explore stories of the origin of the Virginian Railway and the people who built it; railroad advertisements, toys of the era as well as writers and artists who were inspired by the railroad's

new technologies. *All Aboard!* is comprised of objects and images from museums and private collections on the East Coast, including the collections at Planting Fields and a small-scale working model of the Virginian Railway made by the Trainmasters of Babylon club, which is sure to delight children and adults alike.

Built in Oyster Bay in 1956, the "W.R. Coe" tug passed through New York waters on its way to Sewells Point, Virginia. Photograph courtesy of Norfolk & Western Historical Society.

Trainmasters of Babylon (TMB) Create a Model of the Virginian Railway

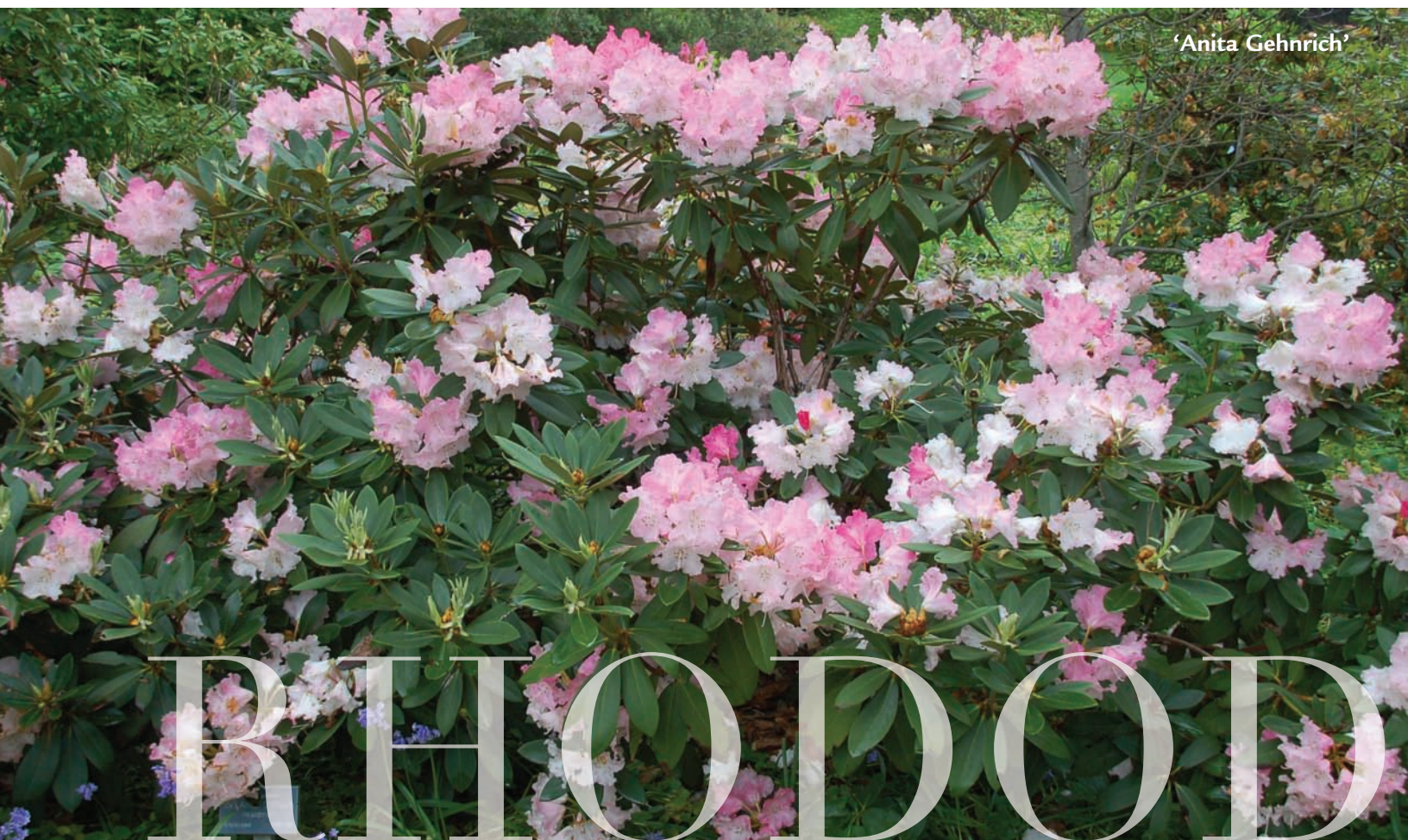


exhibition in the Manor House beginning April 6, 2013. Their model features many aspects of the unique coal country terrain of the Virginian, and will appeal to the young and young at heart.

Over the last few months, Trainmasters of Babylon members visited Planting Fields regularly, and could be seen working diligently on their O scale layout of the Virginian Railway as part of the *All Aboard!*

Formed in March 1994, the Trainmasters of Babylon (TMB) is an O gauge model railroad club based in Lindenhurst, NY. The club has operated a 3,000 square foot layout capable of running four trains independently on two different main lines. In addition to this permanent layout, the club also maintains a modular design that they transport to schools, hospitals, and home care facilities, where they educate and entertain groups of all ages.

TMB is currently in the middle of moving to a different location, but hope to be on track with the new space shortly. Please visit www.tmbmodeltrainclub.com for more information about club activities, events calendar, and membership.



'Anita Gehnrich'

Celebrating a Rich History at Planting Fields

BY VINCENT A. SIMEONE

Since the Coe family purchased Planting Fields in 1913, rhododendrons have been one of the signature plant collections of the estate. As Mr. Coe developed the gardens that we know and love today, rhododendrons were one of the main components used to create the expansive shrub borders and mass plantings. Mr. Coe's passion was to cultivate a diverse collection of rhododendrons which was an important part of the way estate landscapes were traditionally designed.

During the early 1960s the collection looked its very best. Although Mr. Coe had died in 1955, by that time many of his plants were mature and thriving. Most of the rhododendrons were located just east of Coe Hall in an area known as North Rhododendron Park. According to Everitt Miller, Mr. Coe's last superintendent before his death, Mr. Coe personally purchased and placed new acquisitions. Mr. Coe would point out exactly where he wanted them planted. The first arboretum director, Gordon Jones, further expanded the collection,

adding new species and hybrids to several areas of the garden including the South Rhododendron Park, Azalea Walks and the North Border. Visitors walking through the garden could enjoy walls of rhododendrons dripping with white, pink, red and purple blossoms.

When I began working at Planting Fields in spring of 1992, few of the original rhododendrons were left. Years of reduced resources and a broken down irrigation system had taken its toll on the collection until only about a quarter of the original



RHODODENDRONS

specimens remained. Once overflowing garden beds filled with healthy rhododendrons were now bare. In 1995 the park implemented a plan to restore the rhododendron collection to its former glory. Interns, volunteers and staff worked to research, document, acquire and plant new specimens. The Friends of Planting Fields (now combined with the Planting Fields Foundation) raised money to refurbish the irrigation system, which was vital to the restoration project. Part of the project was to implement a garden design provided by Don Garber, a member of the New York Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. The project highlighted rhododendrons hybrids and species as well as historic and modern varieties. The ARS and its members

provided financial support as well as donations of plants and expertise that was sorely needed.

Today, Planting Fields continues to cultivate a strong and diverse selection of rhododendrons. The collection is slowly and steadily growing into the size and stature of the rhododendrons that grew here fifty years ago.

One of the collection's main features are the Long Island Hybridizers, which consists of locally bred plants from members of the ARS. These plants offer a wide variety of flower colors and foliage types.

In October, Superstorm Sandy severely impacted the rhododendron collection and the hybridizer's garden, dropping tree limbs in every direction. But we have already begun the process of propagating and acquiring new plants that will replace damaged ones this spring.

While there are hundreds of terrific rhododendron hybrids displayed at the arboretum, among my favorites are 'Anita Gehrich', 'Cynthia', 'Fantastica' 'Landmark', 'Solidarity' and 'Taurus'. May is one of the best months to see the arboretum and marvel in the beauty and magnificence of the rhododendrons at Planting Fields. We hope you will join us this spring to enjoy the elegance of this beautiful garden favorite.

1913 *A Glimpse of the Coe Family One Hundred Years Ago*

BY GWENDOLYN L. SMITH, FRANK SMITH, AND CEQUYNA MOORE

In the winter 2012 Evergreen, we brought you the first installment of "One Hundred Years Ago." Now we happily present the second in a series that draws from account ledgers and photographic resources in our archives. Though an incomplete picture of daily life, nonetheless, it is a tantalizing glance into the Coes' private world. The archives have been maintained by Planting Fields Foundation since the 1970s and are continually added to.



The Byrne House, Planting Fields, 1913

The Coe family was living in a time of exciting political and cultural change that shaped early 20th century America and New York City. It is possible to imagine 1913 by looking at some of the highlights of the year and then to follow Coe family activities during this time.

President Woodrow Wilson was elected in 1912 and sworn into office March of 1913. The Federal Reserve Act was passed in December of 1913, which served to regulate the nation's banks, credit, and money supply, and is still used as a framework in government today.

Locally in New York, feats of industry abounded with the completion and opening of the Beaux-Arts style Grand Central Terminal. At midnight on February 2, 1913, the doors opened to 150,000 people who visited that first day. At a cost of \$80 million, it served as a statement that there was a commitment to offer train service to passengers throughout New York; subsequently many railway stations were modeled after it. It also served as a statement of New York's power as a grand and thriving metropolis. Grand Central Terminal had a new electric signal system, making it the only train station to have such an elaborate mechanism in the United States, as well as the longest amount of railroad electrification in the nation. Technology and the machine made it possible for Henry Ford to start his assembly line, which led to many of the characteristics of the modern workday that we know.

New York's grand skylines and architecture emerged further with the completion of the Gothic style Woolworth building, opened in 1913. Designed by Cass Gilbert, it was a towering 792 feet tall, and

became the tallest building in America, often called the “Cathedral of Commerce.” F.W. Woolworth wanted his building to be taller than both the Singer Sewing Machine building and the Metropolitan Life building. They were 612 feet and 692 feet, respectively. There would be a series of skyscrapers, which would be built during this period and into the ‘20s, many incorporating Art Deco elements. Walker & Gillette, who built Coe Hall, went on to design the Fuller building in 1929 on E. 57th Street. It represents an architectural expression of the industrial energy and creative dynamism of the first three decades of the 20th century.

The art world was significantly transformed in 1913 by the Lexington Avenue Armory Show, which featured artists such as Pablo Picasso and Marcel Duchamp. The latter, whose “Nude Descending a Staircase” is now considered canonical for art history texts, was disliked by many at its debut. Some American artists like Everett Shinn (who created oil paintings for the Tea House in 1915 and Mai Coe’s bathroom in 1921) were invited but declined to participate.

Back home at Planting Fields, the Coe family ledgers lend little commentary on such outside events, but instead, offer an intimate glimpse at the daily events and expenditures that revolved around the Coes’ lives. The days and evenings were filled with work for Mr. Coe, and the social conventions of parties at the Coe’s 6 East 83rd Street residence, dinners and events at their clubs, trips to their Irma Lake ranch near Cody, Wyoming, as well as shopping for clothing, household items, and antiques.

It was December 1913 when Mr. and Mrs. Coe purchased Planting Fields, having previously rented it since 1910. Today’s familiar features like the greenhouses and gardens did not exist yet. One of the main expenses recorded for Planting Fields was the servants, during the year, \$688.22 (about \$15,000 today) was spent by Mr. Coe to cover some of the servants’ wages.

In 1913, the New York Tribune reported a party in October that honored the Prince of Monaco, listing Mr. Coe as one of the guests. Many prominent New York residents, including Andrew Carnegie, attended this occasion. In February 1913, James Reese Europe, an African American orchestra leader, performed at the Coes’ Upper East Side home. Europe was paid \$50 for



Natalie on horseback, age 3



Buffalo Bill Cody & Mai Coe



*PIPING ROCK SUBSCRIPTION CUP
For Two Years Olds
Presented by the Glen Arden Hunt
Five and a Half Furlongs
United Hunts Racing Association Meeting
Belmont Park Terminal
October 25, 1913
Won By Piping Hot*

the event (about \$1,000 today). Two weeks later, Europe performed at Carnegie Hall for a benefit. In 1913, Reese also played for the Astors, the Vanderbilts, and the Stuyvesant Fishes.

The Coes enjoyed music, and Mai Coe played a piano that she often traveled with, or would ask for a piano to be provided for her when

staying in hotels. A Steinway was purchased in 1913, which is probably the piano still at Planting Fields today. The piano was later used by Natalie Coe. Mai Coe became interested in the works of composer Emerson Whithorne, and he eventually dedicated one of his compositions, a piano suite, to Mai entitled, "New York Days and Nights."

Mr. Coe belonged to a number of social clubs in 1913, totaling about two dozen at least. Piping Rock in Locust Valley (New York), the Marion Cricket (Pennsylvania), the Brooklyn Riding and Driving (New York), and the Rumson Club (New Jersey) were all visited by the Coes. Dues for the clubs varied; the New York Yacht Club charged \$75 in annual dues (about \$1650 today), and the Pennsylvania Fish and Game Club charged \$200 (about \$4,400 today).

Horses and racing were a passion for Mr. Coe. "Piping Hot" and "Election Bet" were purchased in 1913 for \$1500 (about \$33,000 today), with payments made in January and May. Mr. Coe had his horses compete in the June Subscription Final at the Piping Rock Club. This was the first year Mr. Coe entered the event, and his two new horses were about to be put to the test. *The New York Times* reported he won \$10,000 (about \$250,000 today) at the event. "Piping Hot" went on to win the Piping Rock Subscription at Belmont Park that October. Today, the silver trophy from that win is on display in the Entrance Hall of Coe Hall.

The Coes traveled for both work and leisure in 1913. As President of Johnson and Higgins, the insurance company, Mr. Coe was expected to attend to work across the country. In February, they headed to Chicago on company business. The cost of the train ticket was \$117 (or about \$2,000 today). In Chicago, they stayed at the Drake Hotel and spent \$127 (about \$3,000 today). Sometimes, while Mr. Coe was away

on business, Mrs. Coe enjoyed spending time in Atlantic City. She vacationed there at the Brighton Hotel during November 1913. Over \$260 (about \$5,800 today) was spent on this seaside respite. During these years, Mrs. Coe made several visits to Atlantic City, which was a popular resort in the early part of the 20th century. It was advertised as a healthful ocean retreat for those living in Philadelphia, New York, and neighboring cities, and with a railroad line leading visitors to its attractions, it was a surefire success.

The family's main travel destination was their ranch, Irma Lake, near Cody, Wyoming. They would usually depart for Wyoming in July just as the summer in New York heated up. Mrs. Coe was very active in furnishing their home at their ranch. Retailers such as Marshall Field and J.P. McHugh provided sofas, chintz chairs, and pillows. Fitting for a home in the west, Mrs. Coe purchased a buffalo head from Abercrombie and Fitch for \$154 (about \$4,000 today). Mr. Coe started an animal trophy collection at the ranch, and paid a taxidermist \$65 (about \$1,500 today) to mount an elk's head, which can now be seen in Coe Hall. By the end of 1913, Mrs. Coe had spent about \$8,000 (about \$180,000 today) on furnishings and decorations for their lodge.

When not travelling or socializing, the Coes enjoyed collecting art and antiques, and spent over \$10,000 on these purchases in 1913. At M.C.D. Borden Estate Auction, Mr. Coe bought terra cotta figures of



Detail of one of the Everett Shinn panels in Mrs. Coe's Bathroom

Aphrodite and Eros for \$525 (about \$12,000 today), and a lion rug valued at \$1,000 (about \$22,000 today). On the whole, however, Mr. Coe's interest was primarily in Western art, which recorded the vast landscapes of Wyoming.



In 1913, William, the eldest son, was age 12 when he received a bicycle from Spalding Brothers at a cost of \$29.50 (about \$650 today). William and Robert Coe attended St. Paul's School in New Hampshire, where tuition was \$1,192.95 (\$26,000 in today's currency). In 1913, brother Henry was six and sister Natalie Mai was three. Natalie was lavished with over \$1,300 (about \$30,000 today) worth of clothing and shoes. The Coes often shopped at B. Altman, Best & Company, and Saks & Company, all of whom provided the best clothes of the era. Mai purchased perfume and two kimonos from Gimbel's in October 1913. Robert and Henry were educated at home by Kate Bovee and took art lessons with her sister Eleanor Bovee. Robert would develop his talent for art and pursued oil painting and photography later in life to balance the demands of his career as a diplomat.

CALENDAR

COE HALL OPEN FOR THE SEASON – MARCH 30TH – SEPTEMBER 30TH, 11:30AM – 3:30PM

SELF GUIDED VISITS - \$3.50 FOR NON-MEMBER/FREE FOR MEMBERS · PARK OPEN EVERY DAY 9:00AM – 5:00PM



Mr. & Mrs. Pope watch the last steam powered train, 1957, O. Winston Link, O. Winston Link Museum

All Aboard! A Railway Fortune at Planting Fields Exhibition

Open Daily 11:30am – 3:30pm
at the Manor House
April 6th- September 2nd 2013

All Aboard! is about one of the last great chapters in the history of America's love affair with railroads, which began in the 1850s and changed the United States forever. It is the story of the Virginian Railway, built between 1907 and 1909 by the robber baron, H.H. Rogers, father of Planting Fields co-owner Mai Rogers Coe who was married to William Robertson Coe, who gave the mansion and park to the State of New York in 1949.

Free Admission (\$8.00 Parking Fee)

APRIL

OPENING NIGHT: THURSDAY,
APRIL 4TH AT 5:30PM – 8:30PM

Cocktail Preview Party at the Manor House for the Exhibition

All Aboard! A Railway Fortune at Planting Fields

Ride the rails at Planting Fields and join us for a lively celebration of the railway. Tour the exhibition and learn about the Coe family fortune and the Virginian Railway, the age of steam, coal and the romance and reality of transportation in a bygone era. Train inspired cocktails and savory hors d'oeuvres from recipes that were used on famous passenger trains of the past. Creative dress encouraged for this fun filled evening. Live music performed by Nickaru & His Western Scooches. Receive a 20% discount of railroad related merchandise at our gift shop.

Tickets: \$50.00 Non-Members /
\$30.00 Members. For more
information or to purchase tickets
please call Michelle Benes
(516)922-8682 or email
mbenes@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2013
10:00am – 3:00pm
(parking fee \$8.00 per vehicle)

French Toast and Trains at the Manor House to Celebrate the Exhibition

All Aboard! A Railway Fortune at Planting Fields



Bring the family to a fun and entertaining French toast breakfast and be amused by the enchanting storyteller

Jonathan Kruk and song-maker Andrea Sadler. Enjoy a ride on the Planting Fields choo-choo train, tour the *All Aboard!* exhibition and learn about the Coe family fortune and the Virginian Railway.

\$20.00 Non-Members, Adults &
Children / \$15.00 Members,
Adults & Children. For more
information or to make a
reservation please call Michelle
Benes (516)922-8682 or email
mbenes@plantingfields.org.



Model by Trainmasters of Babylon

OF EVENTS

APRIL-MAY 2013

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2013
2:30pm at the Manor House

Iron Horse: The Virginian Railway and the Age of Rail

Lecture by Gwendolyn L. Smith, Assistant Curator at Planting Fields Foundation and curator of *All Aboard! A Railway Fortune at Planting Fields*

The Virginian Railway was the most ambitious project to be funded by the fortune of one man, H. H. Rogers, father-in-law of William R. Coe. Come hear about challenges faced, the ultimate success story of this coal transporting empire, and a time when railroads changed the course of American history and culture forever.

Reservations required. Tickets \$10.00 Non-Members / Members FREE! For more information or to make a reservation please call



The Virginian Railway, Engine 472, Pennsylvania Railway Museum

Michelle Benes (516)922-8682 or email mbenes@plantingfields.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2013
2:30pm – 4:00pm
FREE with \$8.00 parking fee.

Concert at the Manor House Live Bluegrass Music: “Music from Appalachia”

Performed by Chamber
Players International

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2013
2:30pm at Coe Hall

Young Artists at Coe Hall Mansion Concert Series Amphion String Quartet

Violinists Katie Hyun and David Southorn, violist, Wei-Yang Andy Lin, and cellist, Mihai Marica.

Winner, 2011 Concert Artist Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition. The Quartet was also awarded First Prize at the Hugo Kauder String Quartet Competition in New Haven, CT, and First Prize in the Piano and Strings category as well as the Audience Choice Award at the 2010 Plowman Chamber Music Competition held in Columbia, Missouri.

For more information or to purchase tickets please call Lilly McGurk (516)922-8676 or email emcgurk@plantingfields.org. Tickets: \$25.00 Non-Member/ \$20.00 Member, Senior or Student.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH & SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH
10:00am – 5:00pm (Rain or Shine)

Arbor Day Family Festival

The 2013 Arbor Day Family Festival features a new and exciting canine comedy performances by Mutts Gone Nuts, new live musical shows by Pete Moss and the Fertilizers and Strummin N Drumming', kid's tree climb by Wonderland Tree Care, petting zoo, face painting, TR Sanctuary, local animal rescue organizations, new photo booth, caricaturist, plant clinics, tree planting with Smokey the Bear, FREE self-guided visits of Coe Hall and enjoy FREE admission to our new exhibition *All Aboard! A Railway Fortune at Planting Fields* on display at the Manor House through September 2nd. 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 load; once inside the park all activities are FREE! For more information, contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.



MAY

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013
Showtime: 7:00pm

All Aboard! Movie Night at the Manor House *North by Northwest*, Directed by Alfred Hitchcock

Join us for a free movie presentation of Hitchcock's classic suspense thriller, *North by Northwest*, and be captivated by the charming Cary Grant. Enjoy spirited cocktails and rail-inspired snacks available for purchase, provided by Periwinkle's Café. See the railway exhibition and learn about the Coe family fortune and the Virginian Railway, when railroad culture transformed everyday life.

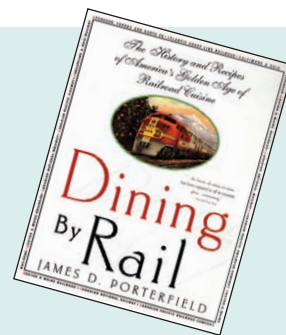
For more information please contact Lilly McGurk at (516)922-8676 or email emcgurk@plantingfields.org.



SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013
6:00pm – 8:30pm

Dining By Rail at the Manor House with James D. Porterfield

Hear author James D. Porterfield speak about his book, *Dining By Rail*, and the history of dining in style on the wheels. Have dinner under the stars and savor a specially prepared menu from Porterfield's book of rail recipes of famous passenger trains in America. Books will be available to purchase at the event and can be signed by the author. Ticket pricing \$55.00 Members/\$75.00 Non Members. Limited seating for this special event, for more information or to reserve a seat please contact Lilly McGurk at (516)922-8676 or email emcgurk@plantingfields.org.



FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013
6:30pm – 9:30pm

Bluegrass Party at the Manor House / Mark Silver and the Stonethrowers

Stomp your feet on over and listen to live blue grass music, enjoy rail-inspired hors d'oeuvres and cocktails while touring the railway exhibition about the Coe family fortune and the Virginian Railway.

Ticket pricing \$30.00 Members/\$50.00 Non Members. For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Jennifer Lavella at (516)922-8678 or email jlavella@plantingfields.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013
11:00am & 2:00pm at
the Manor House

Trackside Workshop: Making a Model Train Layout with the Trainmaster of Babylon Model Railroading Club

Join us trackside for a presentation and workshop from the Trainmasters of Babylon on how to lay the first

rails of your model train display, to question and answer problem-solving of model trains, scene making, and other fun challenges of model railroading. This dedicated group of model railroaders travel throughout Long Island bringing the joy of trains to all ages and abilities; from locomotive to caboose. Come with questions about your project to ask our experts!

FREE / Reservations Required. For more information or to make reservations please contact Gwendolyn Smith at (516)922-8680 or email gsmith@plantingfields.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2013
6:00pm-7:30pm

Memorial Day Weekend Concert at Coe Hall West Portico

"Red, White & Blues" Brass Ensemble. Performed by the Chamber Players International

FREE/ No Parking Fee

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Original bed, now lost, photo 1921



Newly constructed reproduction, photo February 2013

BY GWENDOLYN L. SMITH

Hand-drawn architectural drawing of a column and base. The column features a fluted shaft, a decorative capital, and a base. Dimensions and labels are as follows:

- Column Shaft:**
 - Top diameter: $2\frac{1}{4}$ "
 - Height of capital: $3\frac{1}{4}$ "
 - Shaft diameter: $2\frac{1}{2}$ " WIDE
 - Base diameter: $3\frac{3}{8}$ " WIDE
- Capital:**
 - Label: "HANDING LEAF DETAIL AS SURFACE"
- Base:**
 - Label: "SCULPTURE"
 - Height: $1\frac{1}{2}$ "
 - Bottom diameter: $3\frac{3}{4}$ "
- Overall Dimensions:**
 - Overall height: $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$
 - Overall width: $2\frac{1}{2}$ "
- Notes:**
 - "NOTE ALTERNATING ROSETTES - PETALS AS WELL AS CENTERS"
 - "CENTER TO CENTER OF ROSETTES $2\frac{3}{4}$ "
 - "* NOTE: START ROSETTES AS SHOWN EITHER (1) CG OF CENTER ADD $\frac{1}{8}$ " BRAD DETAIL VIEW IF NEEDED ON EDGES NEXT TO CORNER BLOCKS"
- Labels:**
 - "FOOTING"
 - "SCALE 1"
 - "OVERALL WID"

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Picking up the Pieces after Hurricane Sandy

BY VINCENT A. SIMEONE



Above: Camellia Greenhouse

Left: Weeping Silver Linden on Main Lawn

On October 29th, 2012 Superstorm Sandy blew into town with a fury like few other storms before it. Like most of the east coast of the U.S., the north shore of Long Island was not spared. Unlike previous tropical storms and hurricanes, Sandy was unique because traditionally hurricanes weaken once they reach the cooler waters surrounding Long Island. Some areas of Long Island experienced sustained winds of over 90 MPH. For trees, no matter what the species, this type of force for such an extended period of time proved to be catastrophic.

Since the Coe's became owners of the property in 1913, Planting Fields has gone through a myriad of severe weather. Sandy will probably go down in the history books as the most damaging in terms of tree losses. It is estimated that about 350 trees were either lost or damaged from the storm. These were not necessarily weak or diseased trees, but more often

perfectly healthy trees that could not withstand the storm's fierce winds. The damage was widespread with the most significant damage on the north and west sides of the property in both the garden areas and the woodland trails. The trees most affected by the storm were huge specimens of pine, spruce, fir, oak, maple and linden. As these giants fell, they also severely damaged under story plants such as dogwood, rhododendron and magnolia.

Among the greatest losses were the magnificent Weeping Silver Linden on the Main Lawn and the Nordmann Fir across the lawn in the North Border.

The Linden was a New York State champion tree estimated at 150 years old and the Fir was a perfect specimen close to 90' tall. The Coes planted both of these historic trees, and several others that were lost.

In addition to tree damage, the arboretum also suffered structural damage. A large pine tree fell onto the north side of the Camellia Greenhouse, breaking glass, twisting the steel frame and crushing the metal and brick supports that stabilize the greenhouse. Miraculously Coe Hall was not damaged in anyway.

But although this natural disaster has left Planting Fields and many other state parks with unprecedented damage, the response to offer help has been outstanding. Soon after the storm swept through, park staff quickly began to assess the damage and offer help where needed. Park administrators, park managers and maintenance staff from various parks shared resources including manpower, fuel and equipment to stabilize the worst hit areas. Arboretum staff and volunteers worked long shifts to keep generators fueled, clear debris and

make roads accessible. A tree crew from Green Lakes State Park was sent from the Central Region of the state to also help remove debris from the worst hit areas. In addition, a crew from the movie production “NOAH”, by Paramount Oversees Productions Inc., who was filming on the property, helped with the clean up effort and provided generators and fuel which were critical to keep facilities running. Long Island State Parks engineering staff mobilized contractors quickly to temporarily repair the damage to the Camellia Greenhouse so that the irreplaceable collection would not be impacted. I personally received many calls from green industry professionals, plant societies, former employees and friends just wanting to help in any way they could. All of these efforts helped tremendously in an attempt to stabilize the arboretum after the storm.

The plan moving forward is to continue the clean up process until spring and then start the rebuilding process. With most of the smaller debris now cleaned up, State Parks will soon provide a tree contractor to do the rest of the heavy lifting by removing all of the large trees, logs and stumps left by the storm. Plans are underway now to secure sources for new plant material to replace specific trees or shrubs that were lost. With the help of the local community as well as support organizations, we will start the rebuilding process in the spring. Members of the American Public Garden Association were quick to offer assistance to help with acquiring new plant material. This group of public garden professionals has a remarkable network of resources to help with this acquisition

process. In addition, members of the Planting Fields Foundation Board and staff have offered assistance by reaching out to the community for donations and to assist with future tree work and new plantings.

It is awe inspiring to witness so much generosity and kindness during one of the most traumatic events in recent history to Long

Island. While Sandy has changed the face of the landscape forever, it has not changed our resolve to maintain Planting Fields as one of the most special and unique former gold coast estates and public facilities in New York. We hope everyone will support the arboretum and the Planting Fields Foundation in our effort to gather the resources necessary to implement this extensive rebuilding process.

Garden Gift Shop Updates

Just in time for the opening of the train exhibition the garden gift shop now offers a wide variety of new merchandise for train lovers of all ages. Some items available include books and music highlighting the history of the railroad and the culture behind it, t-shirts, conductor hats, pocket watches, mugs, toys, and more. Stop in to see these and many other new gifts. *Don't forget members receive a 10% discount on all purchases!!!*



Sandy Fortmeyer will be Sorely Missed

Sandy Fortmeyer, who was a Coe Hall receptionist for 16 years, passed away on December 23rd. Sandy was the consummate volunteer, totally dedicated to her job here, rarely missing a Sunday during the season. And she was so good at what she did—efficient, professional, dedicated. One of her interests was cooking and whenever we had a volunteer covered dish event, she gave very serious consideration to what she was going to prepare. Shrimp was one of her specialties, but whatever she made, it was always delicious.

There will be a tremendous void this year when Coe Hall opens for the season and Sandy won't be there to meet and greet. She had her own family—children and grandchildren, whom she adored, but she was also an integral part of the Coe Hall family. She will be sorely missed.

Recent Events & Holidays

Fall Festival, 2012



Holiday Concert



Deck the Halls Gala, December 2012



Volunteer Luncheon, December 2012



Camellia
HOUSE WEEKEND



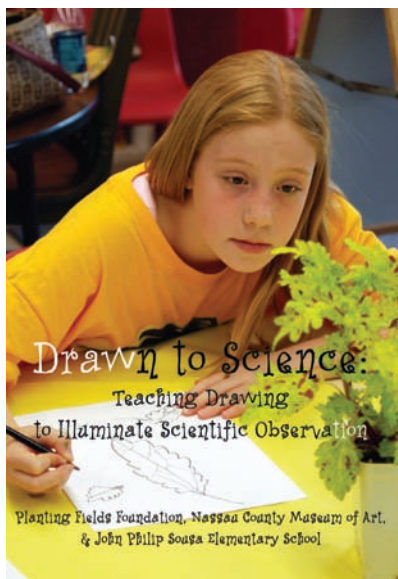


**2012-2013 New York State Council
on the Arts Grant Recipient**

Drawn to Science: Teaching Drawing Skills to Illuminate Scientific Observation

In partnership with John Philip Sousa Elementary School in Port Washington, Planting Fields Foundation is the proud recipient of a \$10,100 Empire State Partnership Award granted through the New York State Council on the Arts. The Drawn to Science program teaches students to observe scientific details through the formal study of drawing. The program is appealing to all students and allows them to utilize multiple intelligence skills to learn. Field trips to Planting Fields Arboretum occur throughout the year and fulfill the science curriculum for each grade level while two teaching artists and the Sousa Elementary art teacher work with students on drawing and illustrating their observations.

This program is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency. Planting Fields Foundation is also pleased to thank Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, State Senator Carl L. Marcellino and State Assemblyman Michael Montesano for making this grant possible.



Noah films at Planting Fields

BY LILLY MCGURK

Planting Fields welcomed Paramount Overseas Pictures Inc., to film the epic biblical movie *Noah*, starring Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connolly, Anthony Hopkins, Emma Watson and Ray Winstone. Construction of the set for this massive motion picture began in May of 2012. Part of a life-size ark was built on the grounds and filming immediately followed in August and continued through November. The movie set was located on the southeast corner of the property near the Mill River Golf Club in open grass fields.

During this period, *Noah* was one of the largest movie productions being filmed within the United States. One of the most elaborate scenes included a rain system that was comprised of 220 feet of multiple rain bars, tanks, compressors and pumps that showered the set with over 10,000 gallons of water per minute. The park had three full time employees to oversee the production at all times, and seamlessly managed one of the busiest days on set which included 280 crew members, 400 or more actors, to have approximately over 700 people.

Complete restoration of the filming locale is scheduled for this spring and Paramount will re-seed approximately 8 acres; and sod 1½ acres, removing any trace that there might have ever been an apocalyptic flood on the grounds of this historic park. Some of the gravel roads and other adaptations made to the fields will remain to facilitate parking and special events in this area. The movie is set to open in theaters in 2014.



The ark built for Noah

PHOTO: BILL BARASH

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Playhouse in the Spring

PHOTO: BILL BARASH