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Early Architecture of the Rappahannock Valley

IV. MARMION

By FRANK CONGER BALDWIN

IT IS strange that among the many authoritative volumes that have been written about the historic homes of Virginia, one finds no account of Marmion, which, by reason of its share in the traditions of the famous Fitzhugh and Lewis families, as well as its own unique and distinctive interest, merits a most particular attention. It is perhaps equally remarkable that Marmion should have escaped the wanton firebrand of the Indian, for, at the time it was built, it was at the outskirts of the civilization of the colonies, and its situation was in the very heart of the region of the Indian depredations and massacres which were partly the cause of Bacon's Rebellion.

Tradition and the surrounding circumstances would indicate that Marmion was built in 1674, by William Fitzhugh, whose will was probated in Stafford County in 1701, and who devised the estate to his son Thomas. From the latter it passed to one Hall and from him was purchased by George Lewis, a nephew of George Washington and son of Colonel Fielding and Elizabeth Washington Lewis. The estate has remained in the Lewis family to the present date.

George Lewis was a captain in Baylor's

regiment and commanded General Washington's life-guard. It was in his arms that General Hugh Mercer expired on the battlefield of Princeton. George Lewis retired to Marmion a few years after the Revolution, and died there in 1821. His younger brother, Robert, was private secretary to Washington during part of his presidential term. The Lewis family is one of those which largely created historic Virginia, and the present owners of Marmion are the direct descendants of the "Immigrant" General Robert Lewis who, in 1650, received a grant of 33,333 acres and who built the original family seat, Warner Hall, which was destroyed by fire in 1849. Mr. Henry Byrd Lewis, the present owner of Cleve Manor,* was born at Marmion.

Marmion's existence is apparently not well known today, except locally, for, though but eighteen miles from Fredericksburg, it is hidden away in remote and secluded dignity, amid its surrounding forest, in a sparsely populated section of King George County, and unless one knew of the treasures it contains one would be tempted to pass it by with slight consideration.

*See Journal for June, 1915

State Registration of Architects

By D. EVERETT WAID

A debatable point was brought out by the Committee on Legislation at the last Convention. The report assumed that a registration law must be based on the power vested in the state to protect the public against unsafe buildings. It further took issue with most of such state laws, at least as they are being enforced, by assuming "that public safety has no concern in those qualifications of the architect which enable him to practise a fine art, and that on such lines he should be no more subject to examination than is the painter or sculptor."

Whether the power which is founded on the right to protect life can be extended to protect the public against bad taste may be questioned, but such an attempt is made by refusing to admit to practice, all who have not, in the opinion of the Examiners, a proper knowledge of artistic design. That attempt is enforced by forbidding anyone except registered architects the right to file drawings and take out permits for building. Incidental abuses grew out of that law such as the case of a carpenter who, desiring to build a shed or shop, took his drawing to a licensed architect, secured the impression of his seal for \$5 and then was free to file his own drawing and obtain a permit.

That such a law is drawn on a wrong basis is indicated by the fact that the Illinois law is now imperiled by legislation sought by the engineering profession in its behalf. If they succeed in their efforts the architects may be in worse condition than if no license law whatever existed.

The New York law for registration of architects is drawn on a different theory. It is an educational measure and its most important or all-important object is to raise the standard of qualifications of

architects and thereby their efficiency and value to the public. Incidental to this purpose it prevents imposition on the public by providing that when it does employ an architect it shall be guaranteed some evidence that he is entitled to the name.

But the New York law does not interfere with the right of any carpenter, builder, engineer, contractor or owner, to plan and erect any building for himself or others, provided he does not use the title "architect."

The building laws and the Building Departments charged with the enforcement of the building laws should protect the public against unsafe construction. The architect must protect the public against bad design by the merit of his own. It is the only possible way. The profession has no right and should have no wish to legislate business into its control. If we cannot command the respect of the public without legislation and cannot sell our brains to willing purchasers then architecture is in a bad way indeed.

In order to answer one or two specific questions regarding the New York law for Registration of Architects it may be announced that the Department of Education at Albany will mail application blanks upon request. A portion of the blank filled out over an affidavit will secure the certificate for each architect who was established in practice in the state before April 28, 1915. Other portions of the blank together with the accompanying text of the law will indicate the requirements which must be met by all other applicants.

Applications should be filed before April 28, 1916, by those who wish to secure certificates *without* examination.

Obituary

Clinton Day

Clinton Day, whose death was announced in the Journal for February, was born in Brooklyn, N. Y. in 1847, and came of a family distinguished in American life. His father, Sherman Day, was at one time a California State Senator and also held the position of U. S. Surveyor-General for that State. He was identified with the founding of the State University, at that time known as the College of California.

His grandfather, Jeremiah Day, was president of Yale University for many years. Mr. Day went to California in 1855, and was graduated from the College of California in 1868. The Honorary Degree of L. L. D. was conferred upon him by the University of California in 1910. Mr. Day was identified with many important architectural undertakings in California and his good fellowship, sympathetic kindness and high principles had made him widely beloved.

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John Bacon Hutchings

John Bacon Hutchings, whose death was announced in the February Journal, was born in Louisville, November 25, 1859. In 1891, he associated himself with Mr. C. A. Curtin, a prominent architect of Louisville, under the name of Curtin & Hutchings, the partnership continuing until 1898. Mr. Hutchings then opened his own office, taking his son, Mr. E. T. Hutchings, into partnership in 1911. He designed many prominent residences in Louisville, and at his death was engaged upon a group of four buildings for the Young Women's Christian Association of Louisville.

The resolution spread upon the minutes of the Louisville Chapter records that "His genial and lovable personality was as the exterior of a beautiful building, incidental to the noble purpose for which the building exists. The foundation upon which his character rested was a sound sense of rectitude and honor, a keen sense of justice and fair play, leading to lofty convictions which could not be shaken. These qualities, together with a fine sense of humor, made him esteemed and beloved by all who came in contact with him, and an honor to the high profession of his choice."

Fernand Parmentier

Fernand Parmentier, Secretary of the Southern California Chapter, died fighting for France. His death was recorded in the February Journal and brought the tragedy of the present war in Europe directly home to the many members of the Institute who have hoped that their fellow member might not be sacrificed. The bravery and patriotism which inspired Mr. Parmentier, not robust in health, to enlist in the forces of his native land, when the war broke in upon his holiday in Europe are characteristic of the man and the race from which he sprang.

His father was an officer in the French army and fought in the Franco-Prussian War, later removing to Alsace, where Fernand Parmentier passed his boyhood. One likes to think of him as perhaps having been among that famous "Derniere Classe" of Daudet, and as a Frenchman whose allegiance could not be torn away by the hand of the conqueror. He was born in Paris in 1868. He came to America at the age of fourteen, studied in the Chicago schools, and

took up architecture in various offices in that city. He entered an office in Santa Barbara and then established himself in Los Angeles in 1897, where he had practised up to the spring of 1914.

During the first part of his army service, the Journal received letters from him, at intervals, always full of hope and confidence, and always expressing the hope that he might find leisure to write a brief account of some of his experiences. He was with the army that first penetrated Alsace, but was later transferred to the forces which sailed for the ill-fated expedition to the Dardanelles, there to meet his death. He had been made a corporal, and his last letter expressed his pleasure at the news of his advancement to Fellowship in the Institute. He described the Turkish trenches as being almost beyond endurance, but made no complaint. The news of his death was not received for many months afterward, but the long-continued silence had made us all fear greatly for his safety.

Thus passes, in the great sacrifice, a man and an architect. He leaves us the memory of unselfish devotion, loyalty to high principles and the willingness to die for a cause which he believed to be just.

Lawrence Gustave Hallberg

Lawrence Gustave Hallberg, notice of whose death appeared in the February Journal, was born at Wenerenas, Sweden, September 4, 1844. He was graduated from Chalmers Polytechnic Institute of Gottenberg, and after extensive travel entered the office of Sir Digby Watts, London. He located in Chicago in 1871, and has since practised there, forming a partnership with Mr. Meyer J. Sturm, in 1902, which continued until 1904. In 1913 he took his eldest son into the partnership of L. G. Hallberg & Co.

He built many residences, but his chief work was in reinforced concrete warehouses and factories. From the resolution adopted by the Illinois Chapter is quoted the following: "A genial personality, he was beloved by all who came in contact with him. Familiar, yet courteous in bearing; progressive, yet balanced in counsel; unpretentious, yet satisfying in his art; he held respect and maintained his honorable rank through a long and successful professional career."

H. P. Schnetzky

Admitted to the Institute in 1912

Died at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, February 21, 1916