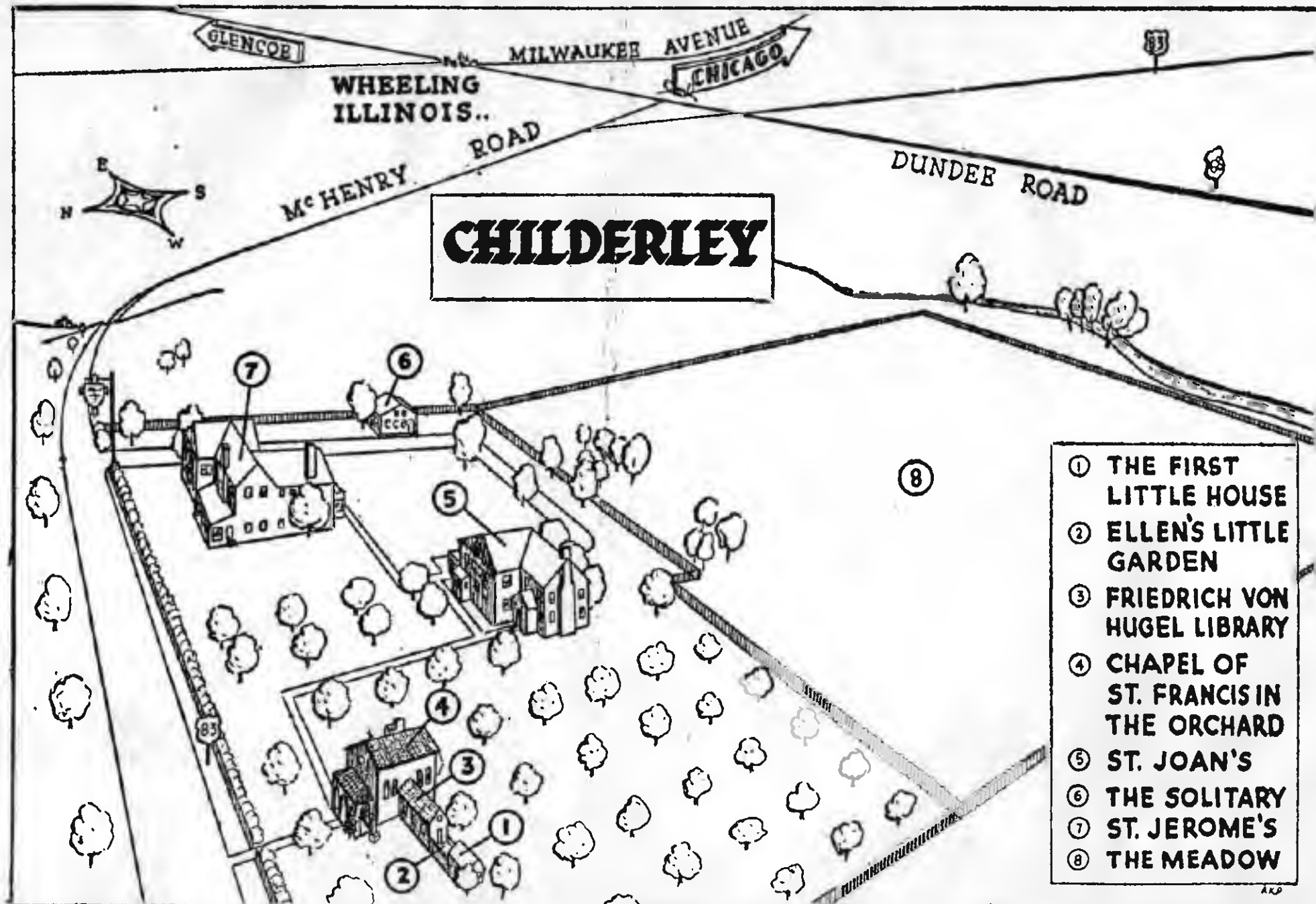
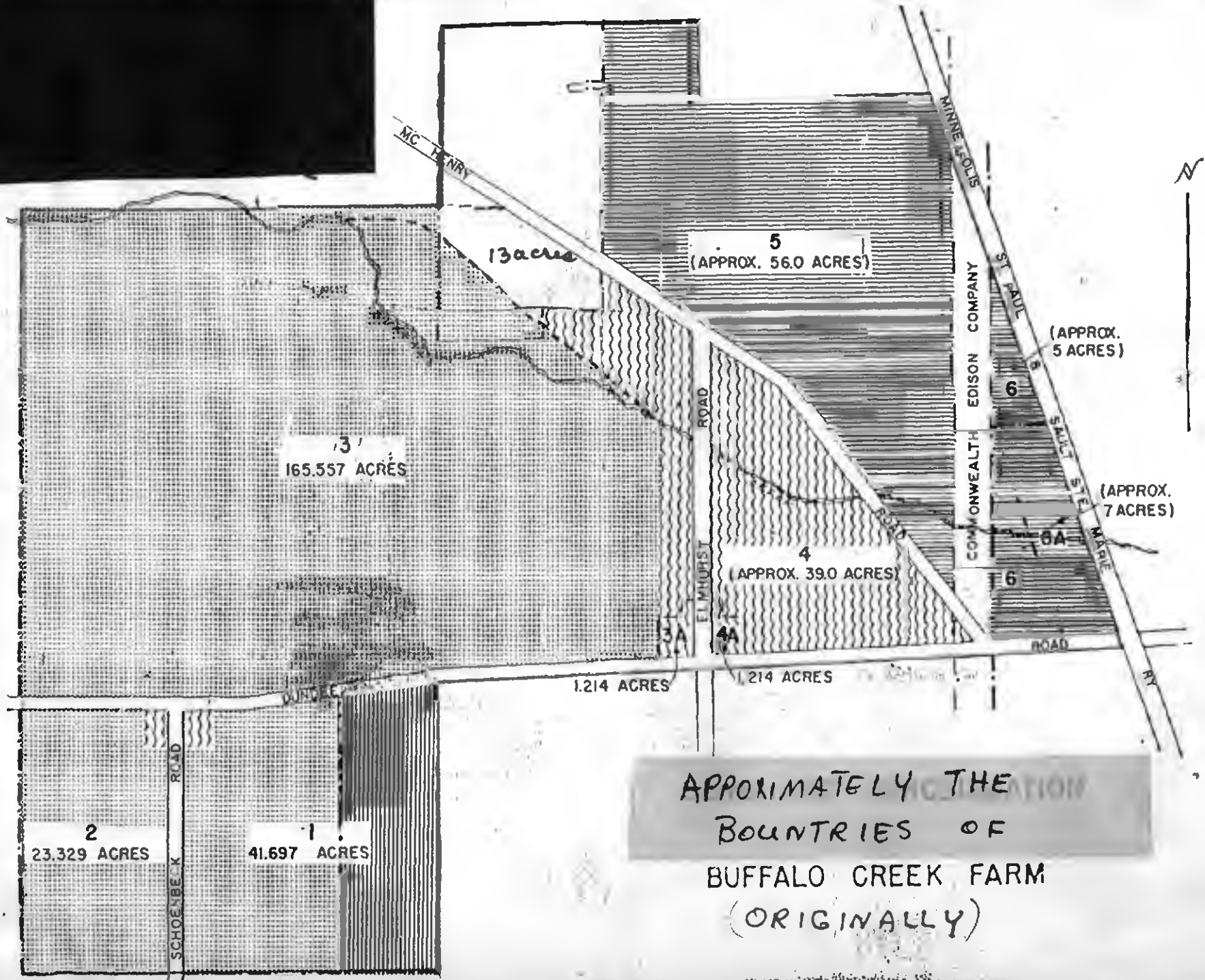


CHILDERLEY

PITCHERS





APPROXIMATELY THE BOUNDARIES OF BUFFALO CREEK FARM (ORIGINALLY)

HISTORY OF CHILDERLEY AND CRANE FUND FOR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN

(Written by Frank R. Lillie about 1913)

The work for widows and children was started by Mrs. Lillie on her farm at Wheeling, Illinois, in the summer of 1910. She was moved to do this by the grave plight of many widows with children who were practically separated from their children by the necessity of earning a livelihood, involving also neglect and danger to the children. The matter was the subject of serious discussion with her friend Elisabeth Port, as a result of which Miss Port agreed to undertake the supervision of the work. In return for this Mrs. Lillie agreed to ensure Miss Port's independence and enable her to carry out her personal plan of adopting and bringing up children. To realize this pledge Mrs. Lillie transferred a small parcel of Crane Co. stock to Miss Port, gave her an acre of land on the farm and built her a residence. Miss Port was also engaged as superintendent of the work at a salary of \$1,700 a year.

In their discussion of the subject Mrs. Lillie and Miss Port settled on a plan which has been consistently followed up to the present time. In brief, this was to take the most needy cases, implying a relatively large family and no means of support; but at the same time to take cases in which the moral standards and intelligence were as high as possible with consequent expectation of the ultimate rehabilitation of such families on a self-supporting basis. The mother was to be relieved of the need of working for support of the family. Each family was to have a small cash income, originally \$5.00 per month for each child, free milk and cream and vegetables, etc. It was also the original intention that each family should cultivate a garden and raise chickens; this was carried out in part, but on account of the inexperience of city families a ~~community~~ ^{community} garden was also established in which members of families worked.

The community thus established was in the country, and it has been necessary from the start to provide all community services, including housing, school, water supply, drainage, roads, sidewalks, lighting, etc., and it has been the cost of the community privileges, not the scale of living of the individual families, that has made the per capita cost relatively high. It was clear that if families were to be completely rehabilitated, school and health service had to be on a high plane, and everything must be done to avoid a mere charity attitude within the community and to cultivate a healthy condition of mind as well as of body.

The number of families that could be handled in this way has necessarily been relatively small, but there has been an extraordinarily large measure of success in rehabilitation. The families were generally kept until the average age of the children was about sixteen, and then they were helped to positions and watched after leaving the farm until their independence seemed secure. Data on families attached will illustrate this.

In 1910 four semi-detached cottages were erected, two by Mrs. Lillie and two by Mrs. Russell at a cost of \$12,959. Miss Port moved out to take charge in October, and the first three families were immediately established. The first one to move in was Mrs. Bowler, a Crane Co. widow with her mother and three children. Mrs. Andersen and Mrs. Berg with six children each moved out in November.

In 1911 Mrs. Lillie's father saw the work with the families and was so pleased with it that he left a memorandum to support the work, and this wish was carried out by C. R. Crane and R. T. Crane, Jr., although not mentioned in their father's will, by the establishment of the Crane Fund for Widows and Children shortly after his death in January, 1912.

In 1912, before the full establishment of the Fund, C. R. and R. T. Crane Jr. built an additional double cottage, a schoolhouse and a barn. Shortly after Mrs. Lillie deeded 32 acres of land to the Fund. Since then eight smaller cottages, a garage and hospital and a power house have been erected from income of the Fund.

The work that has since been carried on the farm under this Fund is a direct continuation of the policy established in R. T. Crane's lifetime, on a larger scale but no more extravagantly, so far as individual families are concerned.

The main difference has been that first choice has always been given to the widows of Crane Co. employees. This has not always resulted in such families moving out, for in a number of instances they did not wish to leave the city; and in one instance at least, perhaps more, the status of the family was not such as to give reason for hope that the family could be put on its feet. In such a case also the good of the families already there must be considered, that they be not unnecessarily exposed to mental and moral danger and to disease.

- 1907 - April, bought South farm.
- 1908 - March, bought North farm. Family there spring 1908.
Miss MacDowell had house for Settlement that summer.
- 1909 - Alice born. Ellen Starr had house that summer.
Porches built.
- Eng. Crane*
1910 - Chapel moved. Bowlers and Towers had North house.
Six cottages built. May contributed \$6,000.
October, Elsie came out and lived on South farm.
Andersons and Bergs came.
Strassenbergs - Gardiners
Glandts to come?
- 1911 - Elsie went to California to recuperate. Mary Chapman
substitute.
North house burned.
- 1912 - R. T. Crane died January.
C. R. Crane and R. T. Crane Jr. furnished funds pending
establishment of Crane Fund.
Port house built.
Schoolhouse built.
Old superintendent's house rebuilt for ourselves.
- 1913 - New North barn built.

- 1907 - April, bought South farm.
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Port house built.
Schoolhouse built.
Old superintendent's house rebuilt for ourselves.
- 1913 - New North barn built.

Dr. Lillie supplied these further notes and dates to accompany the map of Catholic Childerley.

No. 1 "The First Little House." This log cabin was situated on the South Farm when we acquired it in 1907. Presumably it was the first living house on that property, but was being used as a pig-pen. Mrs. Lillie decided to preserve it and it was removed to its present site in 1910, and repaired.

Shortly after the walled garden attached to it (No. 2) was set out.

No. 3 "The Friedrich von Hügel Library" was built in 1940-41.

No. 4 "The Chapel of St. Francis in the Orchard" was built in 1927. *1st mass 1929*

No. 5 "St. Joan's" was built in 1912 for Miss Port and was purchased back from her estate in 1940.

No. 6 "The Solitary" was built in 1930.

No. 7 "St. Jerome's." The north part was built before 1908, and we used it as residence for the farm superintendent until 1911 when we made a larger "addition" to it including the porches. The Lillie family used it occasionally until the whole was modernized in 1941.

The preceding dates are merely factual, a sort of skeleton, F.C.L. could add flesh and spirit to it. Perhaps she will do so.

When I asked Mrs. Lillie for some biographical notes about herself she said, very quietly:

"Industry can never restore a life, but industry can try to atone."

Then she sent me the following notes:

St. Francis of the Orchard - Baron von Hugel Library



Chapel built 1928 - February 1940-41





SMALL LOG CABIN BEING MOVED ACROSS PASTURE.
BUILT IN 1835 - FIRST USED AS A HOME - LATER A
PIG BARN. WAS TO BECOME 1ST CHAPEL AT
CHILBERLEY - MOVED IN 1910..

BARN IN PLACE IN ORCHARD. 1910



COWS FROM NEIGHBORING FARM. BEFORE FENCE.

GARDEN WALLS BEING ERECTED.



CHILDREN MAKE GREAT HELPERS

RENOVATED PIG BARN & ENCLOSED GARDEN



TREES PLANTED OUTSIDE - FLOWERS INSIDE 1910-11

INSIDE OF



WOODEN ALTAR IN 1913





1910-1911

DR. FRANK Lillie WITH DAUGHTER IN GARDEN



MRS LILLIE & EMILY ANN - 1910-1911



ELSABETH PORT-TEACHER



Mrs. Lillie

Mrs. Lillie and Children



GOOD TIMES AT SWIMMING POOL



AT CHILDERLEY

ON THE STEPS OF THE CHAPEL



EVELYN & LESTER ANDERSON 1912

A MAY FESTIVAL YEARS AGO



IN THE ORCHARD

TEACHER & SUPERINTENDENT (NOW ST JOAN'S) 1912



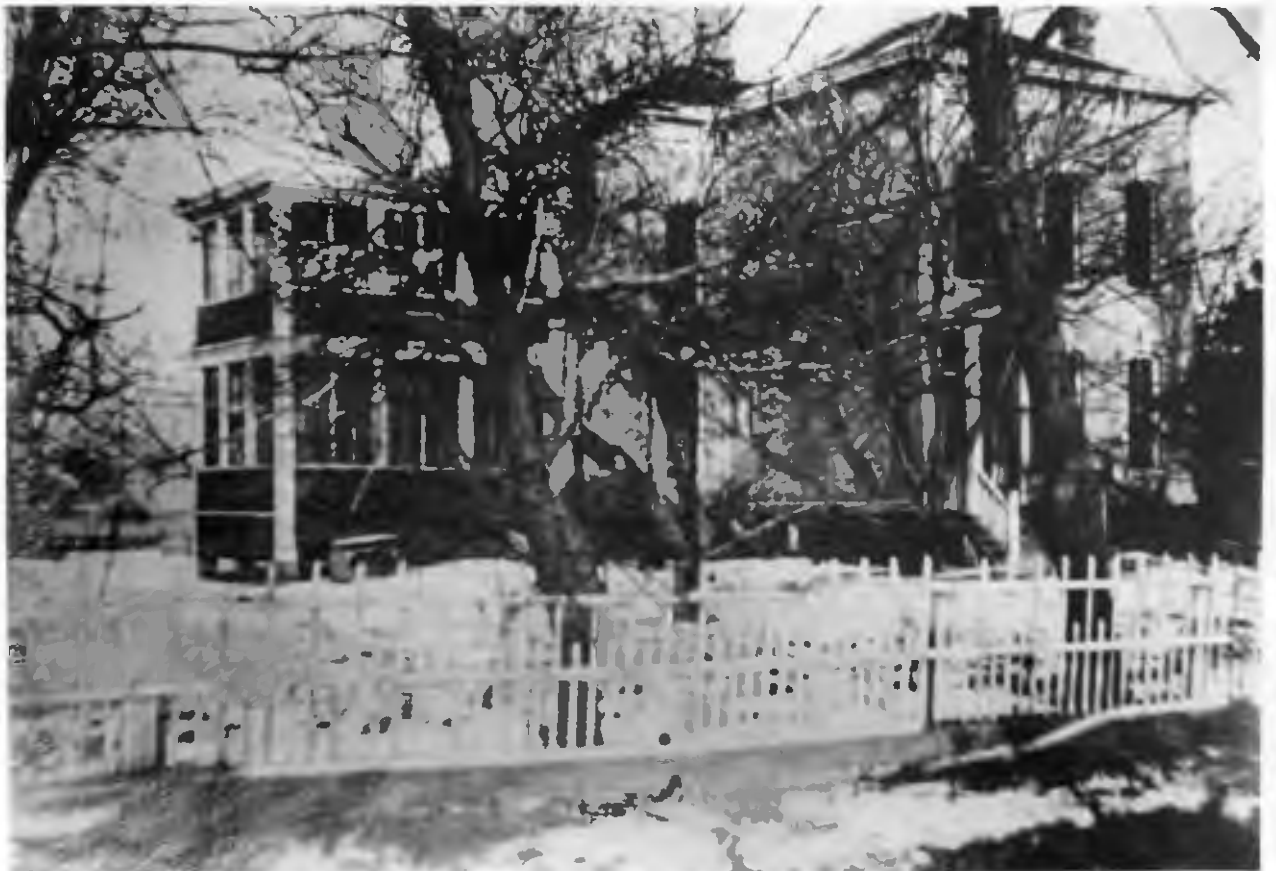
PORT HOUSE - BUILT FOR ELISABETH PORT & FAMILY

TORN DOWN DUE TO POOR CONDITION AFTER PARK PURCHASE



LILLIE HOUSE AFTER ADDITIONS IN 1913

NORTH FARM HOUSE OCCUPIED BY LILLIES UNTIL



FIRE IN 1912 - NORTH SIDE OF MCHENRY RD.

SCHOOL - LIBRARY - AUDITORIUM (2ND FLOOR) WAS BUILT



ON SITE OF NORTH FARM HOUSE (NOW PART OF VILLA BLOGS)

MEMORIAL BUILT TO HONOR THE



2 ELSABETH PORTS. TEACHERS (VILLA)



W. A. S.

Elizabeth Part, Jr



View at Chickerly - North side of McHenry



Duplex was along McHenry - Rebuilt

One of the first outcamps on north side



Boarding House about 1912

E School &



Anderson - 1912

Crane Farm - Chickerly Sheep Pen



later a garage 1912-13

Barn burned down by Wheeling Fire Dept.



in late 1950's to make way for Westbrook Farms.

MAY FESTIVAL 1920's.



UNKNOWN PARTICIPANTS OF A MAY FESTIVAL -
ALWAYS MUSIC, DANCING AND FUN.

MOTHERS CLUB OF THE CRANE FARM (CHILDERLY)



CHILDREN FROM CHILDERLEY HAVING FUN



IN BUFFALO CREEK. ABOUT 1913

MAR 29 1982

Chicago, Illinois
Feb. 21, 1982

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you for some historical information. Calvert House, the Catholic Student center at the University of Chicago, is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its founding this Spring. We are compiling a booklet of Calvert's history for the event. Much of our history is intertwined with that of Childerley Farm. Since Childerley was apparently bought by the Wheeling Park district, I am writing to you for any historical information you might have.

Let me tell you briefly what I do know of Childerley history. Could you then verify the accuracy of this data, and expand a little the parts where the history is thin? Anecdotes, photographs, personal reminiscences, names and dates - anything you have would be valuable. In particular, I know nothing of the period since Childerley was sold (1977).

1907 - Childerley and surrounding land rented by William Hill, Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, as an experimental plot.

1910 - Dr. Frank R. Lillie, Dean of Biological Sciences at the U. of C., buys the land. His wife Frances erected some cottages on the farm; her family, the Crane plumbing family, was to use the farm for widows and Children of Crane Company employees. (There was already a log cabin on the land, a holdover from pioneer days; Mrs. Lillie converted it to a chapel.)

1917 - 32 acres deeded to the crane Fund for Widows and Children, founded 5 years before.

1927 - Chapel of St. Francis of the Orchard erected. A mass was celebrated there in 1929 (Mrs. Lillie converted from Episcopalian to Catholic in 1920). Mrs. Lillie became acquainted with University of Chicago Catholics at this time, especially Miss Johanna Doniat, an alumna (1927) and Prof. Jerome Kerwin (1928).

1934 - A retreat was held at Childerley for University students and faculty. After a slow start, retreats and conference weekends for many groups (mostly but not exclusively Catholic) came to be the central feature of Childerley.

1939 - The Crane Fund is discontinued, and the land is deeded to U. of C. students. A year later, the non-profit Calvert Foundation was set up to hold the deed.

1961 - Cardinal Meyer celebrates the twentieth anniversary of Childerley in a gala event. All has not been so good, however - at least in the mid-fifties, operating funds ran low as plumbing and other needs made it difficult to run Childerley. The task fell mostly to Miss Doniat. Mrs. Lillie died in 1958.

1977 - After three decades of intensive service to the world Catholic community, it is not surprising that the buildings at Childerley fell into disrepair. The Calvert Foundation had to sell off the farm to the Park District. They invested the money to be able to assist Catholic students at the U. of C.

Johanna
Donica+

About two miles northwest of Wheeling, Illinois is a ten acre tract of orchard and meadowland, called Childerley. Motorists speeding by on McHenry Road can scarcely see its small white sign, half hidden by trees and a tall hedge.

In 1941 Mrs. Frank R. Lillie made a gift of Childerley to the Calvert Foundation of Chicago to be maintained as a place for informal cooperative co-educational retreats and conferences for students and alumni of the University of Chicago.

There were several houses on the estate, so equipped that one could be used as a dormitory for women and one for men. A smaller house could serve as a caretaker's lodge. About fifty students could be accommodated at one time.

Most important of all there was a simple, austere beautiful chapel, that would become the center and soul of Childerley. It was Mrs. Lillie's thought that the simplicity and seclusion of Childerley which she and her family had enjoyed for week ends for about thirty years, would be a great boon to young students often confused by the turbulent atmosphere of city or campus life.

Whether Mrs. Lillie had any real vision about it, or whether she had just a vague sense of its being a good idea, can hardly be determined. Certainly she must have been inspired to this generous move--certainly she responded to the inspiration. There was need, how great no one realized, for this sort of thing. There was a new use for buildings and setting that had outlived their original plan and purpose.

The development of Childerley, from a private estate into a unique place of student retreat, of national and international significance cannot be told as an orderly story. It grew too naturally for that. But because I have been associated with Childerley as a student project from the beginning, the Trustees of the Calvert Foundation of Chicago have requested me to tell the story--the story of God's Gentle Ways at Childerley.

TRANSITION

The Crane Fund for Widows and Children was becoming more than Mrs. Lillie herself could direct. She had had a terrific illness, and her good friends, the Ports, had died.

I called on Mrs. Lillie one afternoon during this illness, which had involved serious surgery.

"What do you think of St. Ignatius water?" she asked me.

"I'm not very interested in many of these special devotions," I answered. "Why do you ask?"

"Because this afternoon an old laundress of Ellen Starr's came to see me. She was a poor woman of great faith and generosity. The Catholic Church is very wise and kind, to take water, the most available thing there is, and asking God to bless it, make this common thing precious. This precious thing the poor woman brought to me, this afternoon. A priest had prayed over it--she had prayed over it: I'm not laying it on the open wound, but I am saturating some cotton with the water of St. Ignatius. I'm touching it, praying St. Ignatius to intercede for me."

A convert was giving a cradle Catholic an unforgettable instruction on sacramentals!

There had been some indications that the Crane Company widows, now about a dozen or so, might like to live near their old friends, some indication too that in an almost manless settlement of about seventy people there would be little opportunity for marrying again!

And so it was planned to give up Childerley as a community, and use the Crane Fund to pension the widows and children in suburbs of Chicago, or near their old homes. The special spot called Childerley, where the widows had lived, was sold to the Servite Sisters for a convalescent home.

I was with Mrs. Lillie at the last Childerley May party in 1939. After the party was over she asked me to come into the chapel with her. We prayed quietly, she wept quietly and then turned to me and said, "Can this be

the end?" Those past thirty years had been very important in her life.

"No, it can't be the end," I answered, but I hardly knew what I was saying.

On October 2, 1939, Cardinal Mundelein died.

The seventh Childerley student conference was held on November 4th of that same year. It was a Day of Recollection conducted by Father George Dunne, S.J., recently arrived at the University of Chicago to prepare for his Doctor's degree in International Relations.

Most of the Crane Company families had already left. The University students brought their own food this time. It was a great day.

A month later in December 1939, Mrs. Lillie offered five acres and the buildings on the south side of McHenry Road to the Catholic students of the University of Chicago. Her remodeled farm house would take care of boys-- Miss Port's house would be the dormitory for girls. A caretaker would occupy the Solitary and God would come to dwell with His people in the tiny chapel, now connected by a library wing with the walled garden and "The First Little House." It took about a year and a half to work out the details of establishing the Calvert Foundation of Chicago, which would hold the title to these acres and buildings.

How this came about will be described in a subsequent chapter.

LET ALL BE SONG AND REJOICING AND FESTAL MELODY

On December 22, 1939, Mrs. Lillie called me on the telephone. Mrs. Lillie's calls were apt to be surprising. You could never predict what would occur to her next, but you did know it would be unique and beautiful. She was sensitive about following the gentle lead of the Holy Spirit, and fearless.

"Do you know what I'm going to do with Childerley?" she asked.

"I certainly don't know."

"I'm going to give it to you. I'm going to give it to you and Dr. Kerwin for the Catholic students of the University of Chicago. You're not afraid of coeducation--you've dealt with it all your life in the public schools and Dr. Kerwin won't be afraid of it. He's had coeducational classes at the University for fifteen years. I'm giving Childerley to the two of you to manage for the Catholic students of the University." That was a thunderbolt! I'm not sure what I answered--I'm quite sure I never said "thank you."

When I had partially recovered from the shock I wrote an air mail special delivery to Dr. Kerwin, who was in Albany for the Christmas holiday. "We don't dare not take on this that God is giving us to care for, do we? We can't throw out a baby laid on the doorstep, can we?"

Early in January 1940, Archbishop Stritch of Milwaukee was appointed to the Chicago Archdiocese.*

On his return to Chicago in January, Dr. Kerwin took counsel from Catholic Alumni, from the Catholic students on campus, and from other public-spirited and generous Catholic laymen. In February 1940 Dr. Kerwin met the Chicago Archbishop-elect in Milwaukee. He told him of the great epidemic of converts on the campus of the University of Chicago. He probably did not tell

* I met a distinguished prelate shortly after the announcement. "How are we going to like our new Ordinary?" I asked him. "Five years from now you will say the kindest man in the world is our Archbishop!" It didn't take us five years to say that.

him that he, at this time himself, was being called "the Pope of the Midway."

"We shall have much work to do together, Dr. Kerwin, when I get down to Chicago," Archbishop Stritch said to him at parting. After that I sent the Archbishop some Kodak pictures and a little account of the seven meetings and retreats of the Calvert Club that had been held at Childerley. He responded with much interest and courtesy. Archbishop Stritch was installed in the Cathedral of the Holy Name, in Chicago on March 7, 1940. On August 14, 1940, the Archbishop invited President Hutchins, Mortimer Adler and Dr. Kerwin to dine at his home on North State Street.

About three months later, on November 5th, 1940 the Archbishop received a small group of University students whom I brought to him in his home. He was most kind and gracious. "You are my Benjamins," he said to them. Before we left he took us all into his private chapel to pray. No one will ever forget that exquisite hour.

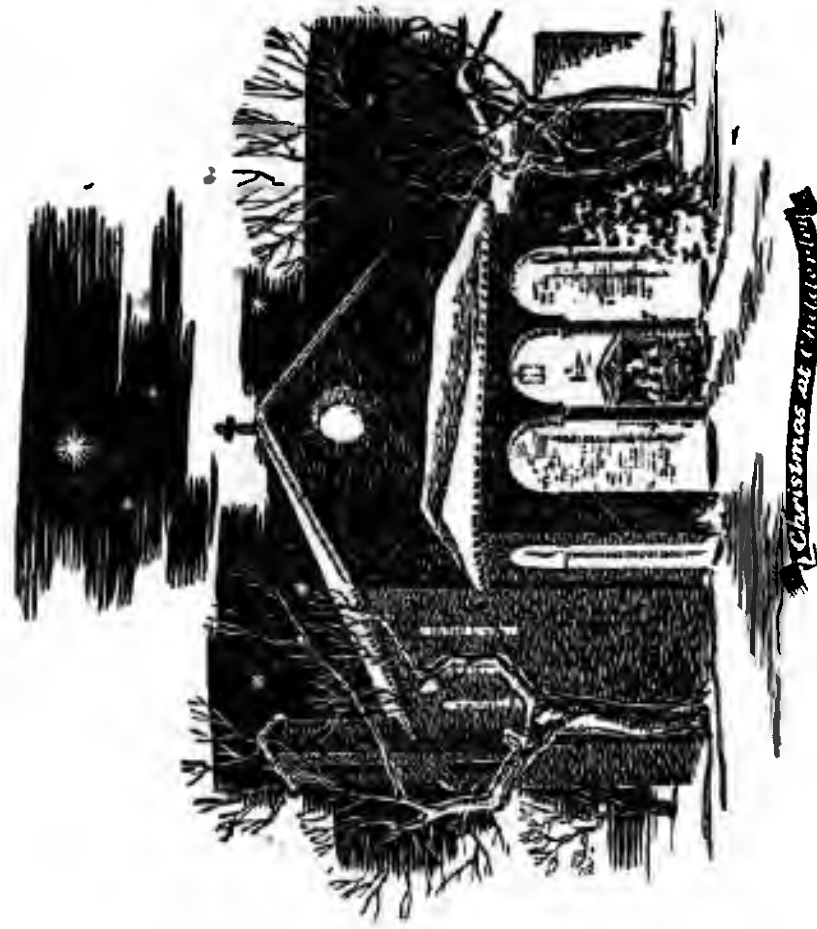
From then on there were many consultations and committee meetings. At a luncheon at the Quadrangle Club on Saturday, December 14th, 1940 a small group decided to organize as the Calvert Foundation of Chicago, to hold title to Childerley. After this luncheon Dr. Kerwin and I called on Mrs. Lillie and told her the name of the new organization. There were more meetings and deliberations. On May 1, 1941 the Calvert Foundation of Chicago was finally chartered as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Illinois. On Sunday, May 3, 1941, Feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross, Father George Dunne, S.J. dedicated the grounds and the houses and chapel to the service of God. It was a wonderful Calvert Club week-end. The young people out did themselves in song and liturgy. Professor Yves Simon, then of Notre Dame University, now on the faculty of the University of Chicago spoke. The Servants of Mary who had only recently moved into their new quarters - the former Crane Company holdings - prepared (for Mrs. Lillie) a wonderful tea

1941

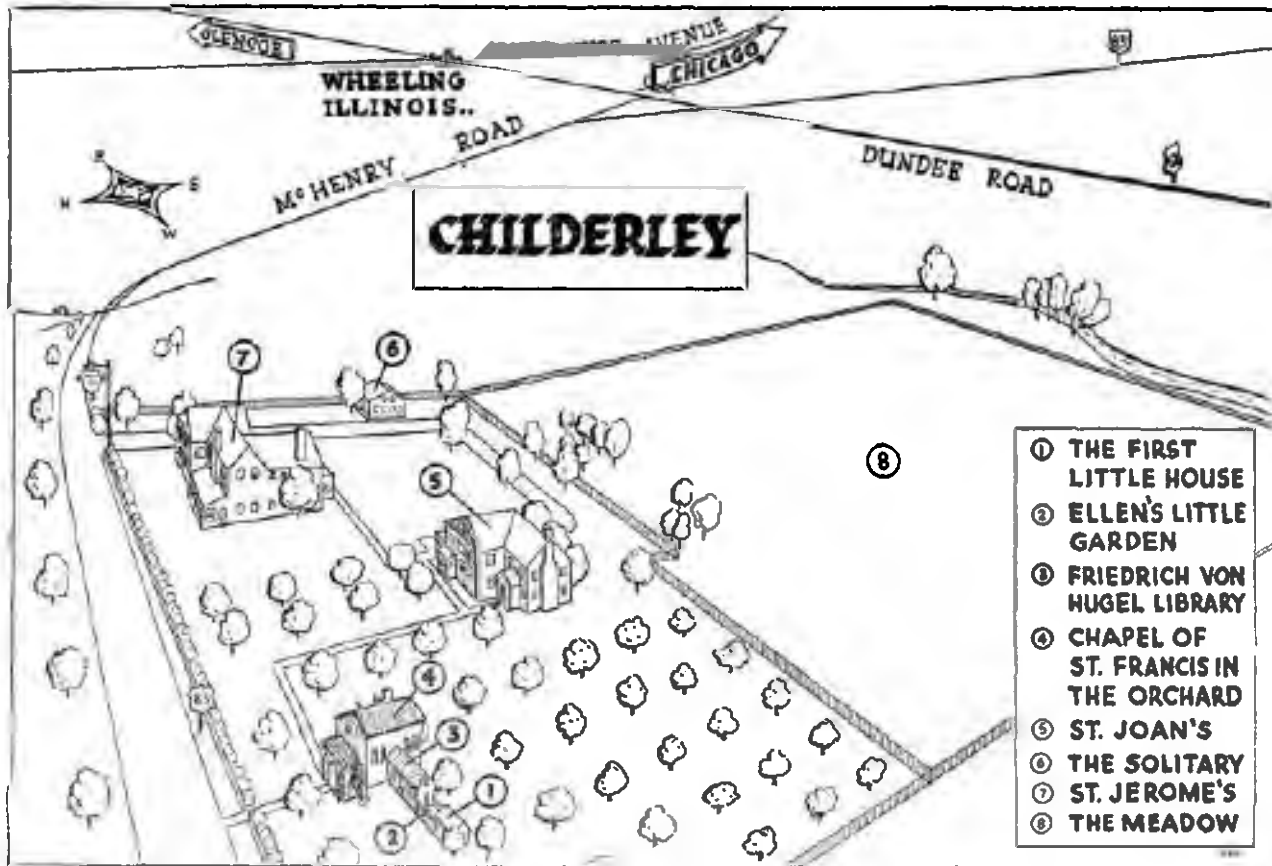
1951

CHILDERLEY

A UNIQUE CATHOLIC ADVENTURE



THE CALVERT FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO



Most adventure stories begin with "once upon a time there was . . ." and this one will prove no exception to the rule. More than forty years ago, Edward M. Kerwin, a young Catholic student at the University of Chicago, with some of his associates, organized his fellow Catholic students into a flourishing Brownson Club. It was named so at the suggestion of Archbishop Quigley; over a period of years it dwindled out of existence. Nevertheless, it had served a purpose and had left its imprint of good on the then young and growing University. This has proved to be an invaluable aid in promoting unique Catholic adventures which have continued into a new generation.

New situations call for new ways of meeting them. So twenty years later, when Professor Jerome G. Kerwin, Professor of Political Science (not related to Edward M. Kerwin) came to the University of Chicago, he found a new generation with its new customs and new problems. He came rich in the experience of a comradeship between professors and students promoted in the Dartmouth Outing Association of his alma mater. Here was a chance to promote helpful association for professor and student and at the same time emphasize the Catholic way of life. Here we find a member of the faculty reorganizing a movement begun twenty years before by a student and giving to it a new meaning and purpose. This is, of course, the way of all progress; also, it was the beginning of an even greater Catholic activity to come.

Out of this early ambition of Professor Kerwin's came first, the Newman Club, which was later named the Calvert Club—in honor of the Catholic colonizers of Maryland who were so effective in introducing freedom of worship into the tradition of the United States. This organized Catholic group on the campus has for over twenty-six years been doing a great work in promoting Catholic activity.

It was Dr. Kerwin's conviction that the Calvert Club would benefit immeasurably from informal coeducational weekend conferences. And now we have two new personalities entering the picture—Mrs. Frank R. Lillie, wife of the former Dean of the Division of Biological Sciences, and her friend, Miss Johanna Doniat, an alumna of the University. Mrs. Lillie, herself a convert, offered her five-acre estate, Childerley, near Wheeling, Illinois, for the use of the Calvert Club. Two large farmhouses, one used as a dormitory for men and one for women, a beautiful chapel and a library were equipped to accommodate fifty students for conferences, essentially spiritual and intellectual.

At Mrs. Lillie's invitation the first conference was held at Childerley in 1934. In 1941 Mrs. Lillie made a formal gift of Childerley to the Calvert Foundation of Chicago, which was established at that time to hold title to and administer Childerley, as well as to provide material support and moral encouragement to the work there.

Johanna Doniat was asked to act as Managing Director of Childerley. In the fall of 1941, His Excellency Archbishop Stritch of Chicago, appointed Father Joseph D. Connerton chaplain to the Catholic students at the University, and in 1942 established a Catholic center on the campus, De Sales House at 5735 University Avenue. Here Father Connerton looks to the needs and problems of the Catholic students, providing opportunity for daily Mass and for intellectual, spiritual and social life for the Calvert Club. In 1947 Father Thomas McDonough was appointed assistant to Father Connerton.

Childerley is maintained by the Calvert Foundation. Here the week-end conferences and retreats conducted by many different priests, secular and regular, afford additional and unique opportunities for Catholic communal life in the spirit of the Church. Members of many religious orders, as well as outstanding laymen have spoken at Childerley.

The students themselves, with supervision, plan and manage the Childerley conferences, including arrangements for programs, menus and transportation. Each student serves the group in one capacity or another, whether it be by wiping dishes, cutting logs for the fire, or reading aloud at meal time.

Some excellent traditions have already been established at Childerley, such as the Dialogue Mass on Saturdays, a Sung Mass on Sundays, the Angelus, silence within twenty feet of the Chapel and the Great Silence from Compline Saturday, to Sunday breakfast. Those who come to Childerley seem to bear away with them a new imprint on their souls that is almost sacramental.

In 1947 Mrs. Lillie made an additional gift of adjoining acres to the Calvert Foundation, so that Childerley now includes approximately ten acres of orchard and meadow land.

The adaptability of Childerley to various types of Catholic groups in some way affiliated with the Calvert Club or Calvert Alumni has led to a greater expansion and more frequent use of Childerley. There are now about a dozen Newman Clubs in and around Chicago, and Childerley to date has had 220 retreats and conferences. There is hardly a week-end in the year that Childerley is not in use.

Larger or smaller groups come out for work and study and prayer, and corporate Catholic living, always under the spiritual direction or with the approval of Father Connerton, Catholic Chaplain of the Calvert Club. There are no restrictions as to race, creed or color at Childerley.

There have been many Calvert converts, many Calvert weddings and a surprising number of religious vocations. Eight members of the Calvert Club have been ordained, thus far, and ten members of the Club are in seminaries, preparing for the Priesthood. Students and learned men have visited Childerley from many centers of learning in Europe, Asia, Africa and from every state and country in the western hemisphere.

Childerley is simple, ascetic, friendly, cosmopolitan; very strongly Catholic, very apostolic.

And so this adventure, modestly supported by the financial contributions of its friends has been the work of the Calvert Foundation, for ten years. Childerley now invites your interest and support for the greater honor and glory of God.

HISTORY OF CHILDERLEY AND CRANE FUND FOR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN

(Written by Frank R. Lillie about 1913)

The work for widows and children was started by Mrs. Lillie on her farm at Wheeling, Illinois, in the summer of 1910. She was moved to do this by the grave plight of many widows with children who were practically separated from their children by the necessity of earning a livelihood, involving also neglect and danger to the children. The matter was the subject of serious discussion with her friend Elisabeth Port, as a result of which Miss Port agreed to undertake the supervision of the work. In return for this Mrs. Lillie agreed to ensure Miss Port's independence and enable her to carry out her personal plan of adopting and bring^ging up children. To realize this pledge Mrs. Lillie transferred a small parcel of Crane Co. stock to Miss Port, gave her an acre of land on the farm and built her a residence. Miss Port was also engaged as superintendent of the work at a salary of \$1,700 a year.

In their discussion of the subject Mrs. Lillie and Miss Port settled on a plan which has been consistently followed up to the present time. In brief, this was to take the most needy cases, implying a relatively large family and no means of support; but at the same time to take cases in which the moral standards and intelligence were as high as possible with consequent expectation of the ultimate rehabilitation of such families on a self-supporting basis. The mother was to be relieved of the need of working for support of the family. Each family was to have a small cash income, originally \$5.00 per month for each child, free milk and cream and vegetables, etc. It was also the original intention that each family should cultivate a garden and raise chickens; this was carried out in part, but on account of the inexperience of city families a ~~community~~ ^{by the women} garden was also established in which members of families worked.

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The work that has since been carried on the farm under this Fund is a direct continuation of the policy established in R. T. Crane's lifetime, on a larger scale but no more extravagantly, so far as individual families are concerned.

The main difference has been that first choice has always been given to the widows of Crane Co. employees. This has not always resulted in such families moving out, for in a number of instances they did not wish to leave the city; and in one instance at least, perhaps more, the status of the family was not such as to give reason for hope that the family could be put on its feet. In such a case also the good of the families already there must be considered, that they be not unnecessarily exposed to mental and moral danger and to disease.

In a spirit of reverence for early settlers who had had to cut down trees to build a home, Mrs. Lillie converted the log cabin into a chapel and dedicated it to St. Francis in the Orchard. Ellen Starr and Mrs. Lillie spent many hours on week ends praying together in the log cabin chapel. They equipped it with an altar, made by a neighboring craftsman, they bought Catholic holy things, at Benziger's for the Episcopal Eucharist Service which was occasionally held out there by Father Hopkins. Together they recited the Divine Office, in the Marquess of Bute English translation. Friends and neighbors came to the little chapel, to be married, to pray.

The two friends wrote and read and talked about religion so much that they finally prayed themselves and each other into the Catholic Church; Ellen in the spring of 1920, (her spiritual odyssey was published in the Catholic World in 1924) and Mrs. Lillie, under the direction of the great English lay theologian Baron von Hügel, in the fall of the same year, while she was on a visit to England. Some of the correspondence between Mrs. Lillie and Baron von Hügel was privately printed in 1925.

Almost immediately after their conversions Mrs. Lillie became a Franciscan Tertiary and Ellen Starr an Oblate of St. Benedict. Presently, in complete and merciful ignorance of canon law, Mrs. Lillie built a more enduring chapel of brick close to the little log cabin. The log cabin altar was brought into it and Monsignor Shannon gave Mrs. Lillie an altar stone.

Here are some excerpts from historical notes which Dr. Lillie once jotted down for me concerning the early days on the farm.

LATER in BOOK -

CHILDERLEY, meaning Children's Meadow, and a farm on the banks of Buffalo Creek, were bought by Frances Crane Lillie and her husband, Dr. Francis Lillie, in 1907 with the intention of using the site as a retreat for their family.

Both were biochemists and protestant. Mrs. Lillie was the daughter of the owner of the Crane Plumbing Corporation and an activist in social causes. She was a friend of Ellen Starr who, along with Jane Addams, founded Hull House. Lillie and Starr picketed together in 1915 during the garment workers' strike and together they converted to catholicism. It followed naturally that Lillie soon began using the farm as a home for widows and orphans of the Crane Corporation employees. She constructed cabins, cottages and a school.

The original chapel on Childerley Farm was a log cabin constructed around 1834 - 1836 which Mrs. Lillie moved from its original location on what is now the Arlington Country Club Golf Course in 1910 for that purpose. The nature-loving Lillies dedicated the log cabin as the "Chapel of St. Francis."

In 1926 a small brick chapel and library was built and the wooden altar piece was moved into it from the log cabin chapel. The two buildings were connected by an old fashioned walled garden. Recently the log cabin had to be demolished after efforts to wall it in and preserve it failed.

When Lillie could no longer manage the Crane Fund on the estate, she pensioned the widows and children and sold the place in which they had lived to the Servite Sisters for the Addolorata Villa, a convalescent home. The original cottages still stand on the property.

Later the property, now known as Childerley Park, was donated to the Calvert Foundation, an affiliate of the University of Chicago. The foundation used the area as a retreat for Catholic students and constructed two homes to house them. One, St. Joan's House, still stands and is used for Wheeling Park District cultural programs and pre-school classes.

In the 1970's, the Calvert Foundation decided to sell the property and in 1977, roughly 12 acres of the Childerley property were purchased by the Wheeling Park District.

The brick chapel, built in 1926, was in need of restoration and became a project of the Wheeling Historical Society. The work of the Childerley Committee of the Society was directed by its chairperson, Alberta Klocke. She spent about six months researching the project and was well equipped to direct the volunteer workers who were members of the Wheeling Park Board and their families as well as members of the Historical Society. They stripped and stained woodwork, simulated stained glass windows, painted walls, refinished pews and kneelers, etc. A fund of \$3,100 was raised by Historical Society members, mainly through brat and beer festivals, to finance the restoration.

When the work was completed in June, 1981, the Chapel was rededicated as the Lorraine E. Lark Chapel of the Orchard in honor of the former Park District Commissioner who spearheaded the drive to protect Childerley from development and possible destruction. She died of hepatitis in September, 1981 after serving on the Park Board for 13 years, eight of them as president. She was also a charter member of the Historical Society.

Originally a Catholic chapel, it now is ecumenical, having symbols of Catholicism, Protestantism and Judaism. It holds a congregation of 35 and it is hoped that it will be used for small weddings or other ceremonies or meetings. Volunteers will keep it open on Sundays from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m.

ready to help you at any time you need anything of me. I am exceedingly anxious to have this idea worked out and see what can be made of it, as I think it is the most important charity that I know of. But you want to be careful you don't work too hard and neglect your family in doing this sort of thing. This you certainly cannot afford to do."

Shortly after his death in January 1912 his sons Charles R. and Richard T. Jr. announced the establishment of an endowment for a fund to support the work, to be known as the Crane Fund for Widows and Children; but the deed was not executed until June 11, 1914. In the meantime they furnished funds for building and operation on an enlarged scale. In 1917 Mrs. Lillie deeded 32 acres of land north of the Mc Henry road to the Fund together with all improvement on it. It is not clear when the name "Childerley" was first used, but in Wheeling it applied to the establishment for the widows and children originally. The name was borrowed from that of an English village. It means children's meadow.

Miss Port and Mrs. Port served together as superintendents until Miss Port's death in 1926. In 1928 Mrs. Larkin was appointed superintendent. In 1935 Mrs. Lillie became seriously ill, and could no longer take an active personal part in the affairs of the establishment. Mrs. Larkin served until the work of the Crane Fund at Childerley in Wheeling was terminated in 1939.

In the spring of 1940 the 32 acres of Wheeling property of the Crane fund was sold to the Servants of Mary for a Convalescent Home for women. They took the name "Addolorata Villa." The Crane Fund has since continued to operate in Chicago from the offices of Crane Company under new trustees, as a strictly Crane Company affair.

Chapel may be sole survivor of Childerley

By IRV LEAVITT
STAFF WRITER

Soon, the restored chapel may be all that remains of the historic, 650-acre Eden that sheltered widows and orphans in the "childrens' meadow" known as Childerley.

Last year, the Addolorata Villa nursing home tore down the dozen cottages that housed widows of Crane employees and others between 1917 and 1941.

Last week, Wheeling Park District bulldozed the crumbling "solitary," the tiny retreat home of Childerley founder Frances Crane Lillie. Shortly afterward, parks officials announced they would probably take down the St. Joan's House, the home of Miss Elisabeth Port and her five adopted children.

"Just because it's old, doesn't mean it's historic," said Parks Superintendent Karop Bavougian of the St. Joan's House, the first floor of which is used by the district as a preschool. "It's getting old and decrepit, just like the other one,"

said Bavougian. He said that after the district's new recreation center is finished, the preschoolers can be shifted there, and the house can come down.

"If it's in such bad shape, how can they let those precious children in there?" demanded Lorraine Haben, secretary of the Wheeling Historical Society. She wants the building saved for a public use, perhaps for seniors, who might appreciate its historical value.

Monday, Park Board President Tom Webber said, "Is it safe? Absolutely. Is it set up to have plenty of light, and room for kids? Not really."

He said the public will have plenty of time to express its wishes about the St. Joan's House, unlike the crumbling solitary, the fate of which was not discussed by the board, according to maverick member Edwin Klocke. The 14-year commissioner said Sunday he wanted the building to stay, as long as it was safe.

Webber said the house would likely be torn down in about six months, proba-

bly giving way to a picnic area behind the restored chapel. The church, once known as the St. Francis Chapel, was named for the late Parks Board president Lorraine Lark, who spearheaded the 1977 bond referendum that purchased the last 13 acres of the old farm along McHenry Road for Childerley Park.

It's restoration was led by Klocke's wife Alberta, who Sunday called the plans to knock down one of its sister buildings "a shame."

"They better not touch that house," she warned.

Foster Port, 82, also thought it a shame to lose the house, also known as the Port House. He's the last survivor of Elisabeth Port's five adopted children who lived in the house. So did several nuns, who stayed upstairs, where every room is named after a saint.

"I lived there all my life," he said Sunday, finding it hard to believe he might no longer be able to visit there.

Alice Lighthouse typically visits what's left of Childerley twice a year. She said



The St. Joan's House, the home of Miss Elisabeth Port and her five adopted children, is one of the last remaining structures of what was known as Childerley. The park district plans to demolish it.

Sunday, if the Port House goes, there will be very little reason to come. The cottage where she lived as a youth is gone, and all that would be left is the chapel and the fountain on Addolorata property, dedicated for Port's mother and grandmother, also named Elsa-

beth. The two women ran the well-equipped farm for Lillie, who financed it with funds from the Crane Plumbing Company family fortune.

"I don't think they cared too much about the heritage," she said. "I don't" (Continued on page 22)



"THE SOLITARY"

Mrs. Lillie's
PRIVATE PLACE

BUILT IN 1930

LATER CARETAKER'S
HOME & ENLARGED



JOHANNA DONIAT
SUPERVISOR OF
CALVERT CLUB.

(STANDING)

MRS. FRANCES LILLIE

DONOR OF

CHOLDERLEY

SEATED ON STAIRS

A WEEKEND.

RETREAT FOR
SOME UNIVERSITY
of CHICAGO
STUDENTS



STUDYING



IN THE LIBRARY



DISCUSSION IN THE GARDEN



REAR VIEW OF LITTLE HOUSE - ST. JEROMES

PORT HOUSE - ST. JOAN'S

CALVERT CLUB

FEBRUARY 18, 1944



The close faculty student comradeship, the weekend retreat conferences were the ideas of Dr. Kerwin. It was Mrs. Frank Lille, wife of the former dean of the division of biological sciences and convert to Catholicism, who offered her estate at Childerly to the club. The estate has been a

rural center to the club since 1934. In 1941 Mrs. Lille gave the property to the group.

At this same time the Calvert foundation was founded. Composed

of a group of prominent Chicago Catholic men and women, the Calvert foundation gives financial aid and support to the club. With the approval of His Excellency the Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch, the Archdiocese of Chicago provided St. Francis de Sales center, 5735 University ave., as a place for club activities and a

residence for Father Connerton, club chaplain.

Sponsors of a varied program for the spiritual, social and cultural enrichment of the students, the Calvert club is a vital part of a national movement inspired by Papal directives to serve the Catholic student in the secular university.

\$2 Million Left by Crane Kin

Mrs. Frances Crane Lillie, of 5801 Kenwood, daughter of Richard T. Crane, founder of the Crane Co., left an estate estimated at \$2 million.

Mrs. Lillie, widow of Dr. Frank R. Lillie, University of Chicago, research professor, died Nov. 5 at the age of 88.

Her will, admitted to probate Monday, leaves \$11,200 to three Roman Catholic organizations: St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 5472 Kimbark, \$5,000; the Catholic Church of Buffalo Grove, Ill., \$1,200; and the Calvert Foundation, \$5,000.

AN ADDITIONAL \$85,000 is to be divided among 28 friends and relatives, and 1,000 shares of Crane Co. stock was added to the previously established Frank R. Lillie Educational Fund, of which the Continental Illinois National Bank & Trust Co. is trustee.

The balance of the estate is to be placed in four separate trusts for her daughters — Mrs. Margaret Gildea and Mrs. Emily Cramer, both of St. Louis, Mrs. Mary Barrows, of Kentfield, Calif., and Mrs. Catherine Bacon, of Marion Station, Penn.

Lorraine Haben helps preserve chapel history

"Everybody's got history," says Lorraine Haben, "but if you let it go by, you're going to lose it."

Haben is the recently appointed chairman of the Lorraine Lark Chapel in Childerly Park, 506 McHenry Road in Wheeling. The Chapel, which has been standing on the site since 1928, has just this year come into more prominent view as the bushes and trees that used to hide it from the road have been cut away. Haben was appointed to the job by Wheeling Historical Society President, Frank Schnaitmann. Quoted as "a natural for the job," Haben lives two doors away from the chapel and is related by marriage to the unique Childerly community.

Unknown to most Wheeling residents and passersby, "Childerly" was at one time a summer residence for Dr. and Mrs. Lillie, the Mrs. being from the Crane family of Crane Plumbing in Chicago. Mrs. Lillie was a great philanthropist who sought to serve the needs of many of the widows and orphans connected with the Crane business. In the early 1900s, she started a charitable home for the needy women and children on the acreage that now houses Addolorata Villa.

"I'VE LIVED IN WHEELING for 60 years," explains Haben, "and I can remember the 'Childerly Crane Farm,' as they used to call it. It was like a self-contained town, with its own stores, pool, tennis courts, vegetable gardens — and the children went to school there. Mrs. Crane started out with only two cottages, but when her father died, he left her money to really do it big.

"The chapel itself was built in 1928, and before that it was just a small wooden chapel. It was actually an old pig barn that they had brought over from the main farm... The house which now stands on the property was for housing the teachers there. My mother-in-law was Virginia Haben, who was the daughter of Elisabeth Port, one of the teachers." According to the Historical Society, Virginia Haben and her siblings were raised in the Port House (now called St. Joan's House), which still stands on the Childerly property.

"What we'd like to do," says Haben, "is to really develop the little library which is connected to the chapel. We'd like to make it more of a historical museum, contact the people who lived there and see what they'd like to donate — pictures or books or whatever... Then I'd like to get a sort of book together, a sort of pamphlet, putting all of these things together into something that we could give to people.

"You know we're having the grandest time, my husband and I, going through all of these old papers and everything. It's fun for my mother-in-law, too. It jogs her memory, and she remembers a lot about it. Someone really did a fantastic job of keeping all of these pictures together. We even have a piece of wood from the original old pig barn."

HABEN, WHO WAS BORN AND bred in Wheeling — in fact, born in the Wheeling Hospital, a two-story building standing next to the Kolssak of Wheeling Funeral Home, in days quite a bit before the Ambulatory Care Center — tells that every once in a while there is a reunion for all of the children and their families who originally lived on the Childerly property.

Anyone interested in visiting the chapel may do so from 1 to 5 p.m. on any Sunday afternoon, "in good weather." Childerly Park is also a beautiful place for a summer picnic. For more information, contact the Wheeling Historical Society at 537-0654.

"To learn the worth of a man's religion, do business with him."
— John Lancaster Spalding



Moving to Chisholm across the Big
1917



1917





CHILDERLEY

WHAT IT IS



HOW IT BEGAN



WHO COMES TO CHILDERLEY



WHAT THEY DO HERE



THE VALUE OF CHILDERLEY





Childerley is a place in the country where young men and women come for Catholic conferences and retreats . . . two big old farm houses, a small brick chapel and a library, set in ten acres of orchard and meadow, near Wheeling, Illinois.

Childerley is a mood . . . of discussion and devotion . . . of discovery and prayer . . . a unique opportunity for intense personal participation in Catholic living.

Come back and keep still, and all shall be well with you; in quietness and in confidence lies your strength.

—ISAIAH 30:15



WHAT IT IS



HOW IT BEGAN



WHO COMES TO CHILDERLEY



WHAT THEY DO HERE

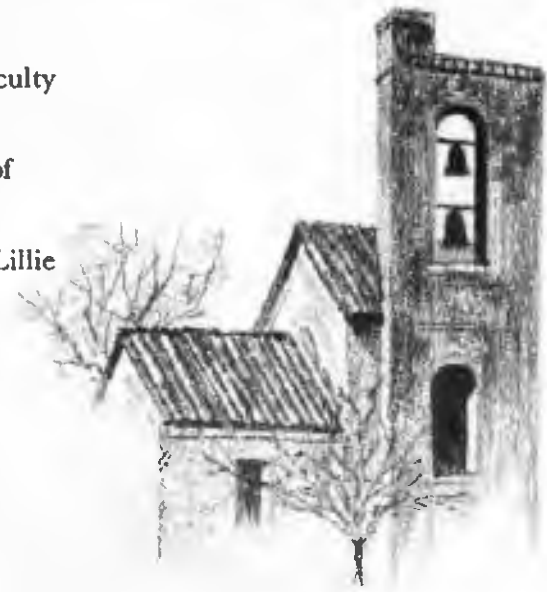


THE VALUE OF CHILDERLEY

C hilderley began in a log cabin . . . and in a woman's heart. Fifty years ago Childerley was part of a farm owned by Frances Crane Lillie. In the orchard was the cabin built by the pioneers who first settled there. Mrs. Lillie, then an Episcopalian, had the cabin made into a tiny chapel for prayers and private devotions. Those prayers and devotions led eventually to her conversion to the Catholic faith . . . and, later, to her building the Chapel of St. Francis in the Orchard. Here, in 1929, the first Mass was said at Childerley.



A new significance for Childerley began in 1934. That year, in May, a student-faculty group from the University of Chicago were Mrs. Lillie's guests for a week-end of discussion, meditation and prayer. More student week-ends followed. In 1941 Mrs. Lillie made a formal gift of Childerley, for the use of the Calvert Club at the University. To hold title to Childerley and operate it, a group of lay men and women were organized: the Calvert Foundation of Chicago.



HOW IT BEGAN

WHO COMES TO CHILDERLEY

WHAT THEY DO HERE

THE VALUE OF CHILDERLEY

Here, in their own words, is what they say about Childerley, the men and women who come here:

"I didn't even know I was a Catholic until I came to Childerley that first time."

"Childerley is a direct instrument of God's grace. You can't leave without experiencing a change in your spiritual attitude."

"The air of simplicity and silence—is very healing!"

"I leave Childerley hopeful of filling my place in society as a good Christian—an apostle."

"Only God knows what inner peace I have gained through this retreat."

"Love is the foundation of Childerley, and on this foundation we can build a greater love of God."

The Calvert Foundation's first responsibility is to the Calvert Club at the University of Chicago. Many of these students return again and again during their four years at the university, for the regular spiritual sustenance they find at Childerley. Childerley is also used regularly by the Newman clubs at the University of Illinois, Illinois Institute of Technology and Northwestern; by groups from Catholic colleges in and around Chicago; and by special Catholic Action organizations: Third Order groups—Dominican, Franciscan and Carmelite . . . Young Christian Students . . . Young Christian Workers . . . Friendship House (Childerley has always been inter-racial) . . . the Catholic Labor Alliance . . . the Christian Family Movement . . . the Peter Maurin Men . . . the Thomas More Association . . . and many more.



WHO COMES TO CHILDERLEY



WHAT THEY DO HERE



THE VALUE OF CHILDERLEY



Young men and women—married couples, too—arrive at Childerley almost every Friday in the year. With them is a chaplain who will lead them in a week-end retreat or other conference . . . planned to meet spiritual needs they themselves have felt.

They enjoy two days of discussions of religion, philosophy and relevant topical subjects . . . of simple work and rest . . . of group and private devotions.

Traditionally, during all conferences or retreats at Childerley, silence is observed within twenty feet of the Chapel, and Great Silence is kept from Compline Saturday until breakfast Sunday. Saturday Mass is a dialogue Mass and Sunday Mass is always sung.

They talk together, they learn, they pray—these young people who come to Childerley.



WHAT THEY DO HERE



THE VALUE OF CHILDERLEY



Childerley grew out of the need of one student group to meet the challenge of Catholic life today. How well Childerley has met that challenge may be judged by its proud record of conversions and vocations and enriched lives.

Childerley is the gift of a convert. The first student conference at Childerley was led by a priest who was a convert. Childerley has been instrumental in the conversions of many young men and women.



At least sixteen Calvert Club members have become priests. Thirteen more are now in seminaries or monasteries. And almost twenty young women have entered conventual life. Many of them found their vocation at Childerley.

For the largest number of young people who come here, the influence of Childerley is seen in their joining the vanguard of a strong lay apostolate. There are today many daily communicants, many Catholic families who discovered the mystery and power of the Church at Childerley.

Small wonder that Monsignor Reynold Hillenbrand once pointed to the door of the Chapel at Childerley and said, "That is one of the most important places in this country."



The Calvert Foundation of Chicago

Edward M. Kerwin, *President*

Robert L. Berner, *Executive Vice-President*

Peter Fitzpatrick, *Vice-President*

Mrs. Lorenz Koerber, Jr., *Secretary*

Miss Johanna Doniat, *Treasurer and Managing Director of Childerley*

Jerome G. Kerwin, *Faculty Sponsor, Calvert Club*

Trustees: Homer J. Buckley • Miss Lois Carroll • Mrs. Thomas Condon • Patrick F. Crowley
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Thomas W. Kivlan • James J. Lewis • Mrs. Frank R. Lillie • John P. McGoorty, Jr.
John Meade • Mrs. Charles Spencer

Operating Committee: Mr. and Mrs. Roger Ginger • Miss Marie Worland

In St. Jerome's and St. Joan's, the dormitories at Childerley, hangs this portrait of Samuel Cardinal Stritch. It is inscribed, "To the children of mine who visit Childerley, Blessings and a father's fond wishes."

The Calvert Foundation operates Childerley under the direction of the Rev. Joseph D. Connerton, Catholic Chaplain, University of Chicago, and his Assistant, the Rev. Thomas B. McDonough; and with the approval of Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago. Neither Childerley nor the Foundation is endowed.

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