

# Architect William W. Cordingley of Mendham, New Jersey: Brief Introduction to His Life, His Library, Two Letters, and Notes

by Robert D. Stevens<sup>1</sup>

## I. - Brief Introduction to His Life as an Architect

"The visible is to us the proportional measure of the invisible." - Roman Saying.<sup>2</sup>

"Polycleitus said 'Success in art is attained by exactness in a multitude of arithmetical proportions.'"<sup>3</sup>

"The truly classical is not foreign to anybody. It is precisely that part of tradition and art which does not alienate us from our own life or from nature - but reveals them in all their depth and nakedness freed from the fashions and hypocrisies of time and place. The effort to reproduce the peculiarities of antiquity is a proof we are not its natural heirs - we do not continue antiquity instinctively. People can mimic only what they have not absorbed. They reconstruct and make into an archeological masquerade only what strikes them as outlandish. The genuine intuition of a religion or art never dreams of reviving it. Its antique accidents do not interest them, and its eternal substance they possess by nature." - Santayana.<sup>4</sup>

"God is not to be called the infinite. But the measure of the infinite" - Plato.<sup>5</sup>

William of Mendham. He might have been so named had he lived in England some centuries ago, according to friend Robert T. Nichol. For William designed the greatest

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<sup>1</sup> This summary of William Cordingley's life would not have been possible without Buchanan Charles' interest. He obtained Cordingley's papers and library, and arranged many in files. I received them in estate settlements.

<sup>2</sup> At the beginning of Pocket Book 5 containing hand written measures, Alphabets, proportions and special numbers

<sup>3</sup> Pocket Notebook 2

<sup>4</sup> Quote inscribed by WWC from Santayana, a philosopher. Source: Pocket Book

<sup>5</sup> At the beginning of Pocket Book 5.

buildings in his town - a large convent and school. He also made plans for many local houses and house additions. He was a specialist in restorations of historic buildings. He had many roles in local public service, including building inspector and elected Justice of the Peace. Later he served as Mayor in 1935-36 and again in 1941-42; leading to participation in many community activities. In the mid-thirties he converted to the Catholic faith and later become a trustee of St. Joseph's church and a member of the Holy Name Society. This move shocked his relatives, most of whom were Episcopalians. Recognition as a regional historian came with his participation in founding and becoming first president of the Ralston Historical Association. How did this New Englander become a prominent citizen of Mendham, N. J.?

This brief introduction to William Cordingley's life will focus on his architectural work. Billy, born in 1885, was the eldest in a family of six, four sisters and baby brother Ronald. Three years separated him from his nearest sister. Billy's father was a successful woolen merchant in Boston. Father moved his family from Roxbury in 18?? to a new house at 1083 Boylston Street in the recently fashionable Chestnut Hill area, where trolley extensions allowed easy travel to downtown Boston. Billy's studious work at the Volkman School in Boston that included French and Latin was sufficiently outstanding to gain him entrance to Harvard College in the fall of 1903. He received his A. B. cum laude in 1907. (See figures 1, 2 and 3).

Upon graduation the "pretty-appearin' young man"<sup>6</sup> must have anticipated with great enthusiasm the Grand Tour that his father had promised. By the end of his liberal and classical studies at college Bill planned a graduate program in architecture at Harvard. So during his wide travels on the continent that summer he searched out many of the great buildings of Europe. He saw the fine architecture of the past in London and looked at the landscape and buildings at Hampton Court; Cambridge University; Guildford; Evesham;

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<sup>6</sup> See his mother's dedication in Dated Notes for 1908.



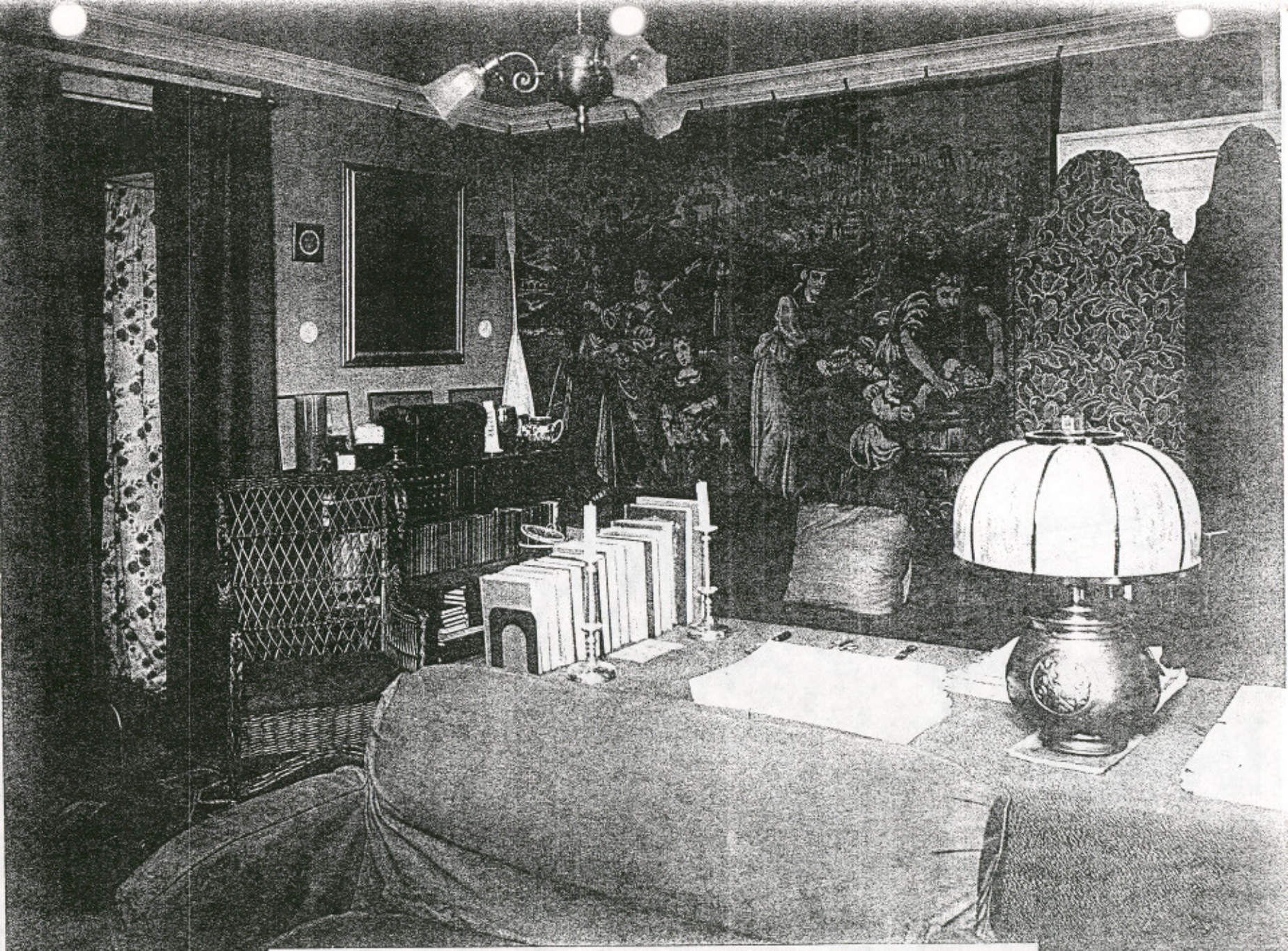


Figure 1. William W. Cordingley's Hollis Hall Room, Harvard College, about 1907. View of his desk and wall tapestry. Source: 8x10 photograph





Figure 2. William W. Cordingley's Hollis Hall Room, Harvard College, about 1907. View of the mantle and window. Source: 8x10 photograph





Figure 3. Portrait of William Wade Cordingley at graduation from Harvard, 1907.  
Source: Harvard College Class of 1907: Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Report, 1932.



Mansfield; Bath with its Roman remains and famous row houses; Canterbury and its great cathedral; Christchurch, Haunts; Wilton; and Salisbury and its Cathedral. In Stratford-on-Avon he put up at Avondene Private Boarding House which had a croquet ground on the back lawn. We can see the handsome young man enjoying a match there as he did on the family back lawn at home. Then on to Paris and Notre Dame Cathedral; to the Palace-Hotel, Milan, for an impression of the Cathedral, and finally to the glorious architecture of Venice.<sup>7</sup> He must have returned to Harvard with great buildings of the world shimmering in his head. However, after the first year Bill's architectural studies were interrupted for two years, perhaps to earn funds for further study. Then he returned to Harvard for another year but left in 1911 without receiving an advanced degree.

By 1912 he must have been employed by the architectural firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson with offices in Boston and New York.<sup>8</sup> For in 1913 William W. Cordingley was licensed to practice architecture in the State of New Jersey. This license must have been for the purpose of undertaking his first large project. In 1913 he also went to Europe again, probably to absorb more ideas for his project, the design of a large convent.<sup>9</sup> "He came here (to Mendham - ed.) in 1914 as an architect for the firm of Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson of Boston, Mass., one of the world's largest architectural firms engaged in the design of cathedrals and churches. Mr. Cordingley came here to design the convent of St. John the Baptist and settled in the borough."<sup>10</sup> In 1913 the corner stone of the Convent of St. John Baptist was laid and two years later the sisters ". . . moved into the Convent, which some consider to be the most beautiful specimen of Gothic

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<sup>7</sup> Shown by receipts and bills of his trip, see Bookcase Standard File I

<sup>8</sup> Buchanan Charles' biographical note entitled "Preface". This note was found at the beginning of the three ring loose-leaf binder (Book 9) containing correspondence between Billy Cordingley and Sumner Appleton. Buchanan Charles probably put this correspondence into the binder as he had worked with and was a friend of Sumner's and probably knew Cordingley when he was librarian at the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPENA).

<sup>9</sup> Pocket Sketchbook 4, p. 47.

<sup>10</sup> Daily Record, Morristown, N. J., November 22, 1965, page one.



architecture in America."<sup>11</sup> To complete the complex he designed a chapel, other outbuildings, gardens and a cemetery (Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7). The large modified Gothic-style complex with its chapel is a monument to William Cordingley's architectural point of view and skills.

In Boston before 1920 William Cordingley's architectural work included an historical restoration of the Abraham Browne House in Watertown (Figure 8). Sumner Appleton, Corresponding Secretary of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA), called it the "... Most accurate restoration so far made in New England."<sup>12</sup> He also worked on the historic Hingham Meeting House and made measured drawings and sketches of Otis House, Boston, and the Jeremiah Lee house for SPNEA. His deep interest in the Shirley Eustice House led to an article in October, 1921, in Old Time New England, "Shirley Place, Roxbury, Massachusetts, and Its Builder, Governor William Shirley."<sup>13</sup> In a letter addressed to Billy some years later Sumner Appleton said "You were the first to make an attractive restoration on paper, and you have apparently wormed out of the house the secret of the way it was originally intended to look, and you have perhaps even discovered the name of the architect as Peter Harrison"<sup>14</sup> The 1977 Study of Uses and Development, Shirley-Eustis House, refers to the Cordingley article nine times. During the First World War Cordingley's work was interrupted by service in the U. S. Army Engineers, 1917-1919. As a First Lieutenant he apparently made architectural drawings and inspections of army buildings.<sup>15</sup>

Billy's many travels prompted a New York City friend to ask in a letter "... what part of the world contained you - and when you would turn up here?"<sup>16</sup> Billy often took

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<sup>11</sup> "The Story of a Religious Community," in The American Church Monthly for July, 1930, p. 26.

<sup>12</sup> Sumner Appleton in a letter July 26, 1930. [see file folders].

<sup>13</sup> See Cordingley and Buchanan Charles papers sent to the Shirley-Eustice House Association in March 1996

<sup>14</sup> Letter from Sumner Appleton, SPNEA corresponding secretary to Wm. W. Cordingley, dated, 1929, see Appendix G.

<sup>15</sup> Commissioning certificate, wallet inspection card and Harvard College Class of 1907 reports.

<sup>16</sup> See Dated Notes for 1920.



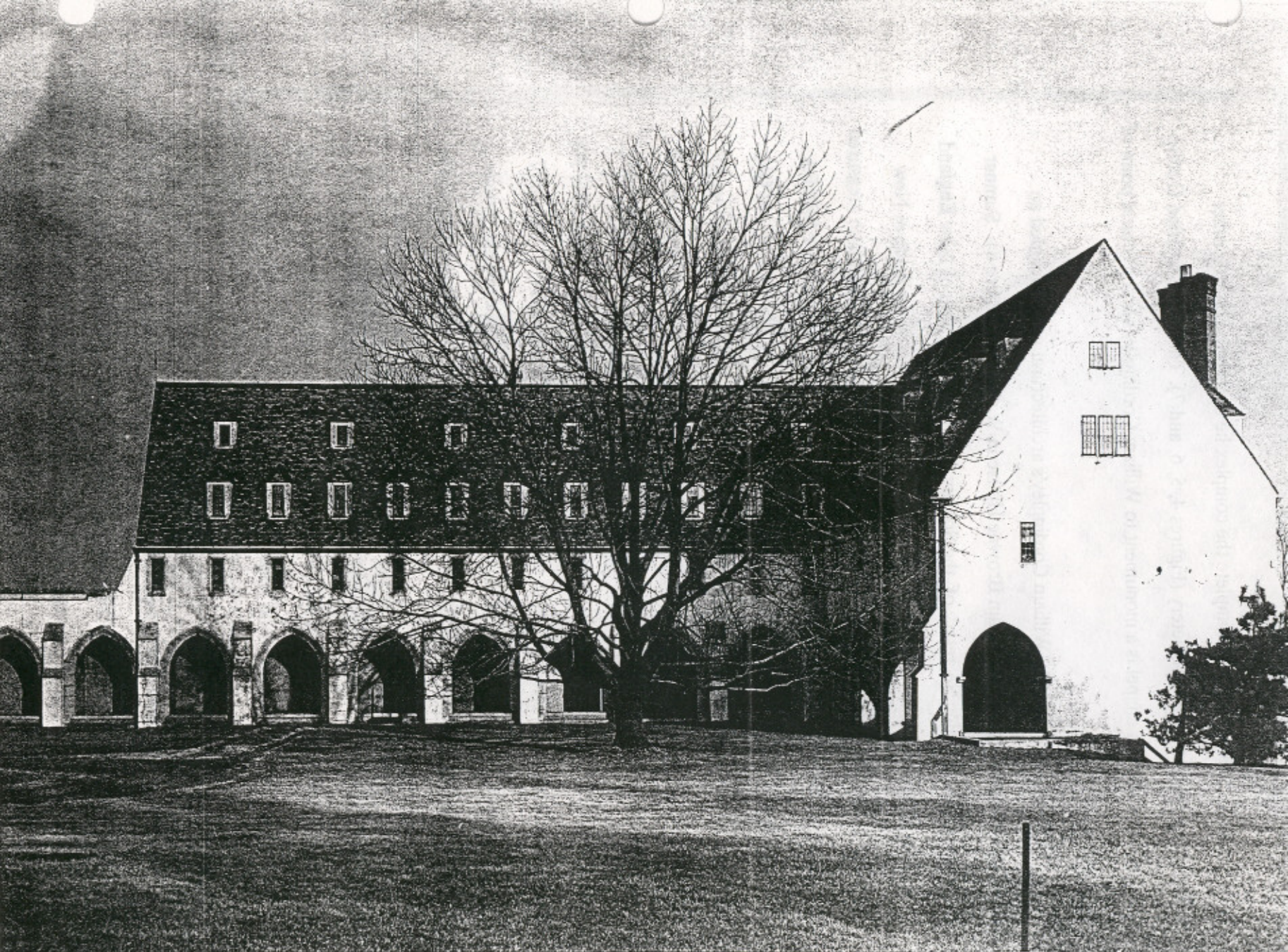


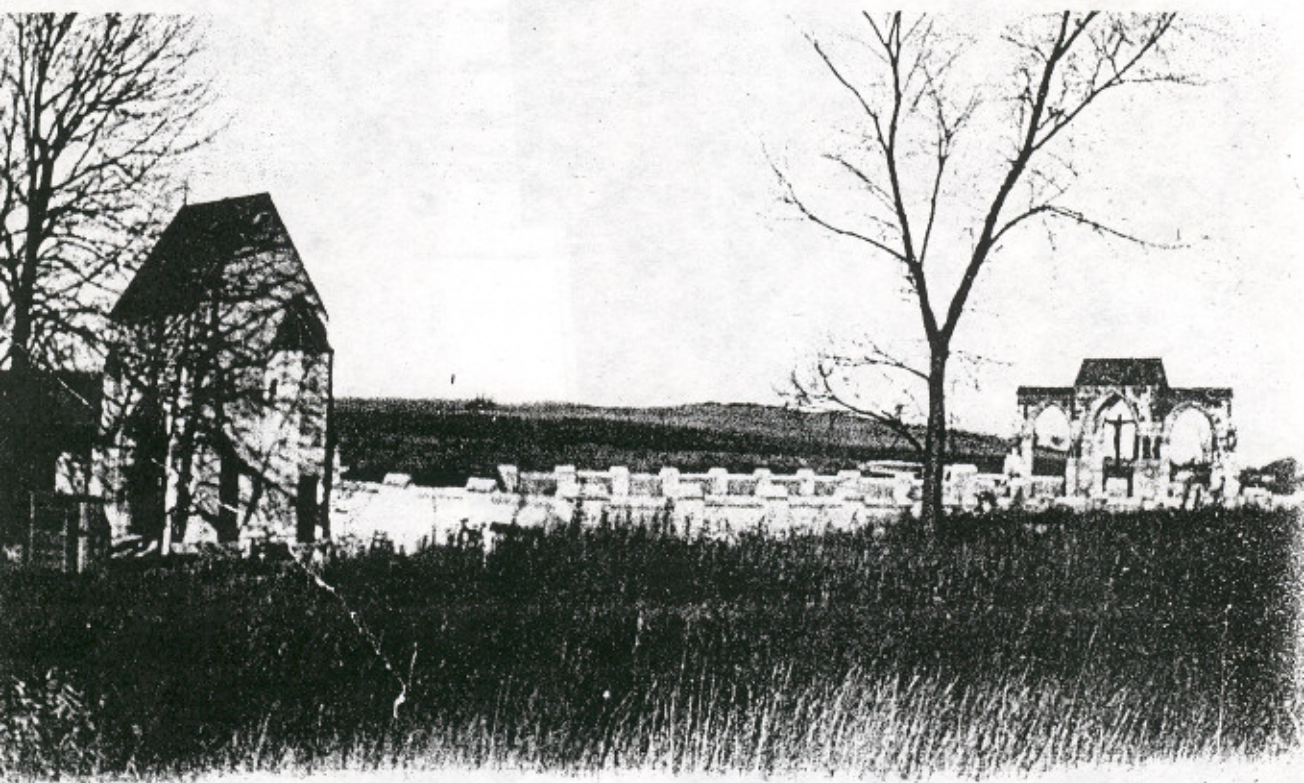
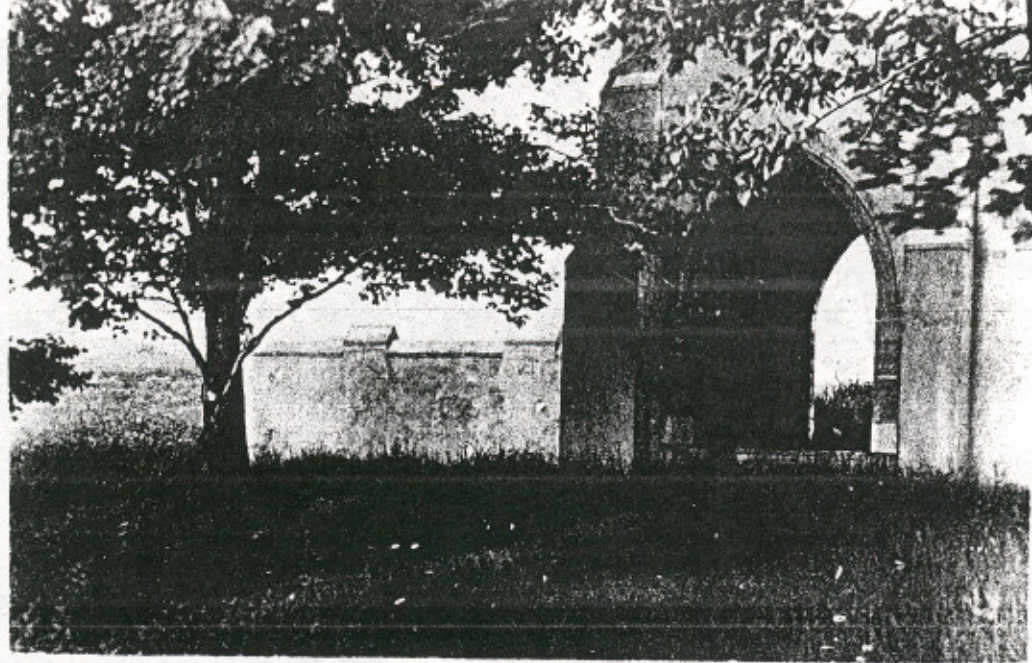
Figure 4. Convent of St. John Baptist showing cloister and tree, Mendham, New Jersey. Wm. W. Cordingley, Architect. Source: 8x10 photograph.





Figure 5. Convent of St. John Baptist showing attached chapel, Mendham, New Jersey. Wm. W. Cordingley, Architect. Source: 8x10 photograph.





Figures 6 and 7. Convent of St. John Baptist showing walls, arches and outdoor crucifix. Wm. W. Cordingley, Architect. Source: 2x 3 1/2 inch photographs.





**Figure 8. Abraham Browne, Jr. House, Main Street, Watertown, Mass.**  
Wm. W. Cordingley restoration architect for the Society for the Preservation  
of New England Antiquities. Source: 8x10 print from SPNEA negative no.  
4227-B.



the train to Boston and during the 1920s may have made more trips to Europe than this 1929 trip.<sup>17</sup> His architectural interests are indicated by the drawings in his pocket sketch books: of Restoration House, Rochester, Kent and of houses and streets in Essex, Kent, Middlesex and Sussex counties. He also compiled an index of the great houses of England to locate them in the books in his library.

By 1920 in New Jersey Cordingley had designed another large building for the Sisters of the Community of St. John Baptist. His drawing entitled "Convent School Dormitory for Saint John the Baptist School in Mendham" was published in the New York Sun in May, 1920 (Figure 9). "He then built (probably in 1923 - ed.) adjoining the convent lands, a house for himself designed in a distinctive style, with white stucco exterior, discontinuous floor levels, numerous small casement windows (some with diamond-shaped panes - ed.), and bookcase walls on pivots for access to a concealed staircase and secret rooms." (Figure 10)<sup>18</sup> In the summer of 1925 he was offered a different kind of experience. He was appointed Assistant Curator in charge of the Gardner Museum in Boston while Curator Morris Carter was abroad.<sup>19</sup> By the end of the decade his second large building had been finished when the St. John Baptist School building was opened in 1929 in Mendham. (Figures 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15)<sup>20</sup> As the introductory quotations which were found in his notebooks show, he was fascinated by questions about the proportions of structures.

In New Jersey over the years other architectural projects implied by his measured drawings and hand sketches included: Stone Cottage, Bernardsville; Farm School Chapel; a house for Dr. Banister, Ralston; an addition to the residence of J. P. Stevens, Plainfield, N. J; and the following projects in Menham: Nicholas Richard's House; Amzi Emmon's

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<sup>17</sup> He joined a London Masonic Lodge in 1925, see Dated Notes.

<sup>18</sup> Buchanan Charles' biographical note entitled "Preface".

<sup>19</sup> See carbon copies of letters WWC sent to Carter in Europe, fall, 1925. These letters were sent to the Gardner museum in March, 1996.

<sup>20</sup> "The Story of a Religious Community," in The American Church Monthly for July, 1930, p. 28. See Notebook 13



THE NEW YORK SUN, SATURDAY, MAY 8,  
PROPOSED CONVENT SCHOOL DORMITORY.

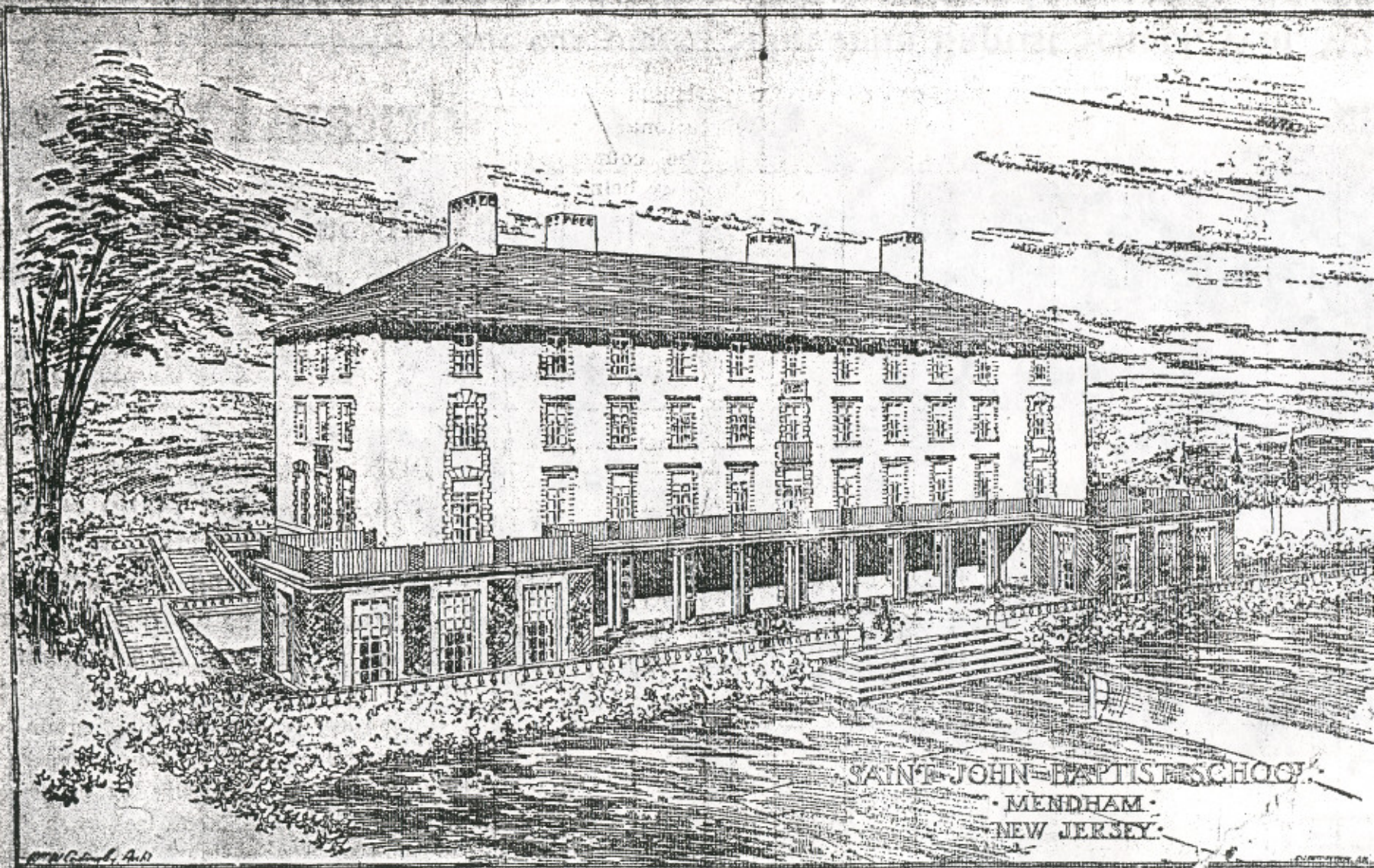
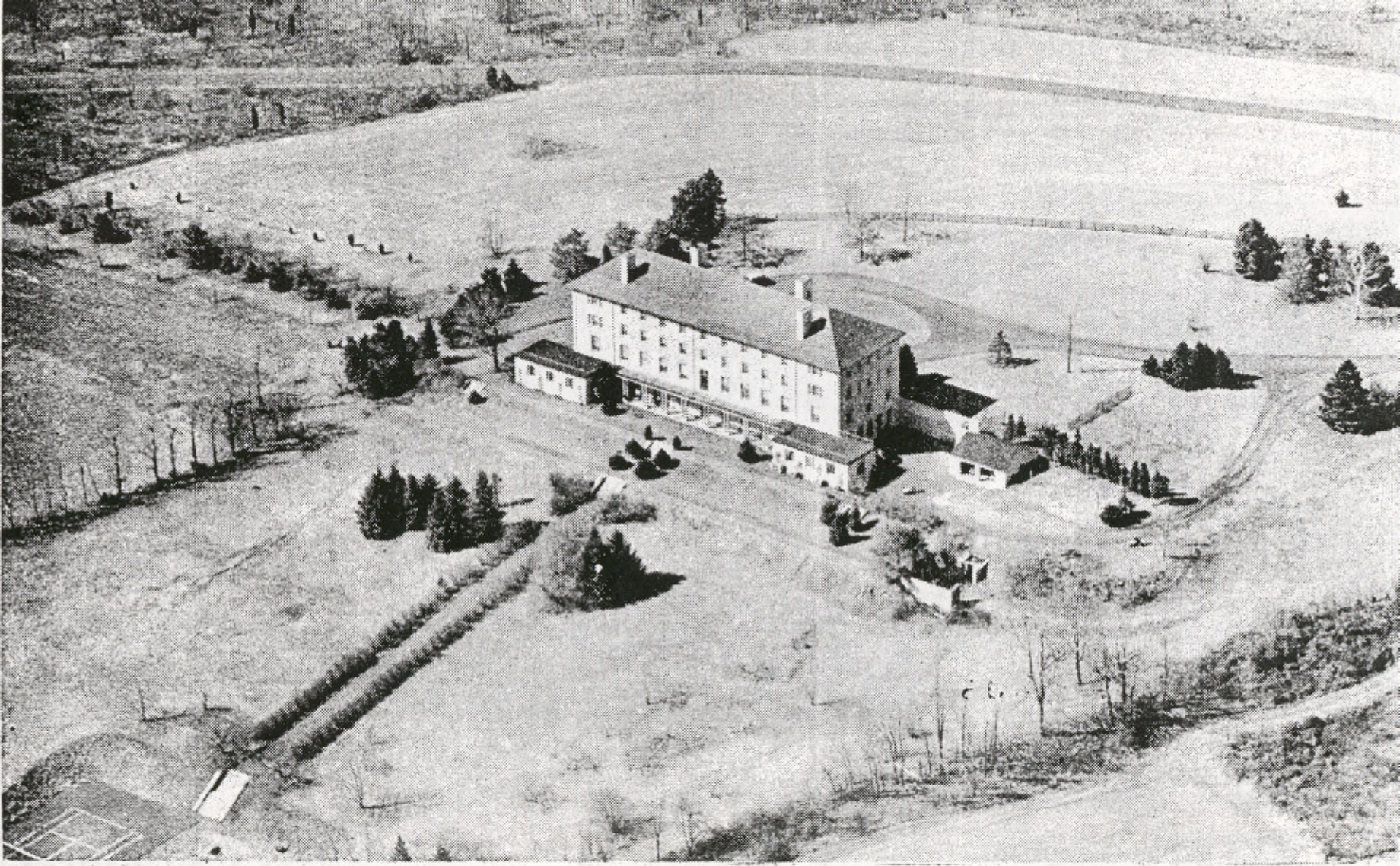


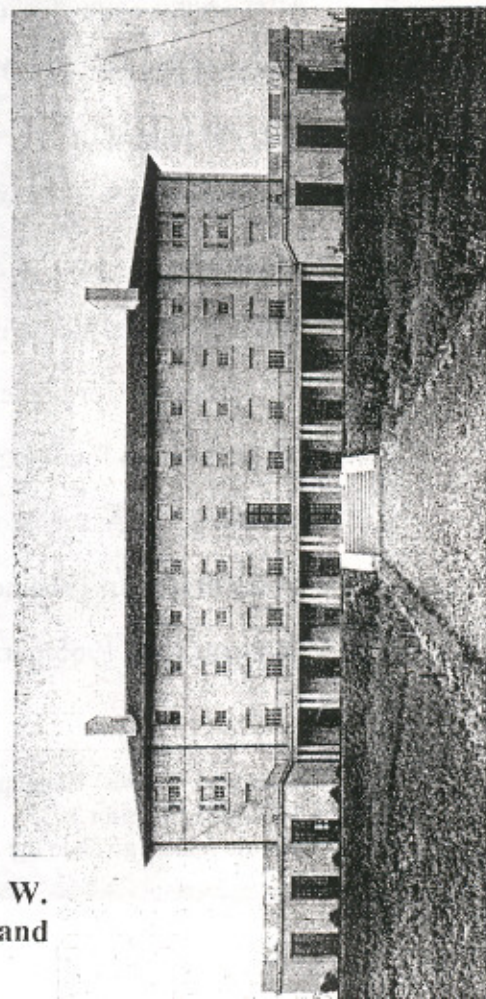
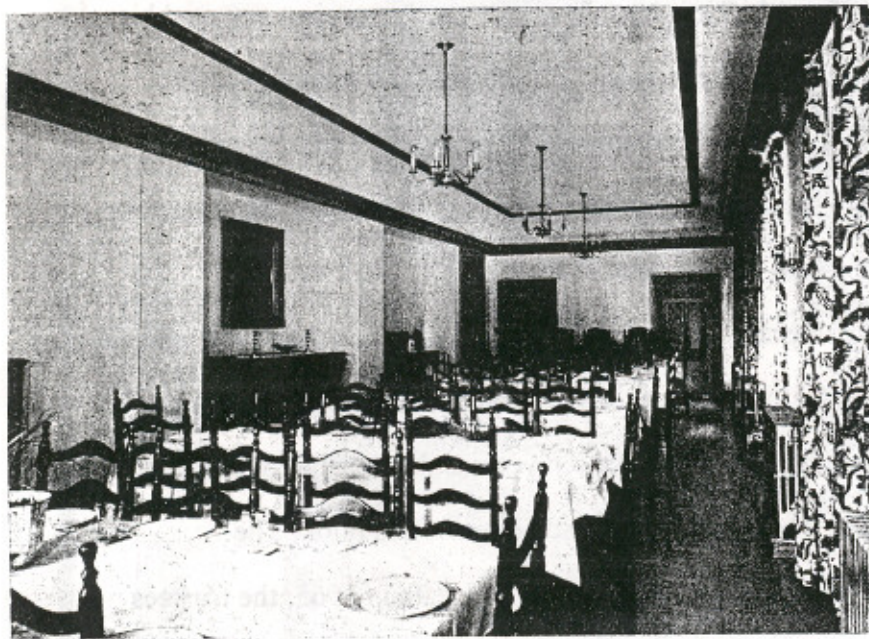
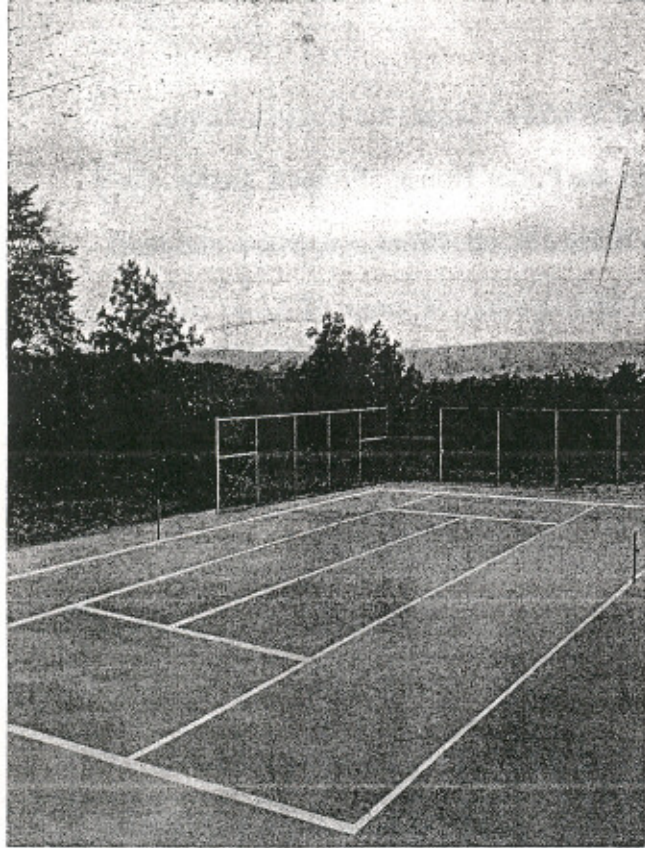
Figure 9. Plan for the Convent School Dormitory for Saint John Baptist School Mendham, N. J., 1920, by Wm. W. Cordingley. Source: Clipping from the New York Sun, May 8, 1920.





**Figure 11. Air photo of the completed Saint John Baptist School, Wm. W. Cordingley, architect. Source: 3 1/2x5 1/2 inch postcard, postmarked 1957.**





Figures 12, 13, 14, and 15. Photos of Saint John Baptist School, Wm. W. Cordingley, architect. Tennis courts, Main north door, Dining room and South elevation. Source: 3x4 ink prints from a brochure.



House; Old Borough Hall; a new Fire House; Old Watkins House; the Nursing Home; Hudson House; St. Joseph's Church Rectory; and the Potter House. Projects further afield were a house for his sister, Jessie Howe, at 164 Willard Road, Brookline, Mass. and work on the colonial part of the American Wing in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York<sup>21</sup> He also apparently designed several stage sets and may have been involved in making two parade floats.<sup>22</sup>

In the 1930's, projects outside New Jersey included the design and supervision of a major addition to a 1790 New England farm house in New London, New Hampshire, at the request of his father. In 1931-1933 Cordingley restored and expanded the house into a large mansion with a great dining hall and classical exterior porches with columns, while retaining three original rooms with their fireplaces (Figure 16). A wonderful summer home with space enough for two sister's families and enjoyed by all the Cordingley families over many years.

After seeing Samuel Eliot Morison's 1933 article on a "Conjectural Restoration of Old College of Harvard, A. D. 1638" in Old Time New England, another project engaged his mind. He judged that there were many likely errors in this report and therefore made many sketches (See, for example, Figure 17) and some draft text proposing alternative reconstructions. Letters indicate some correspondence with Morison about these matters. Apparently these alternative ideas did not see print.<sup>23</sup>

William Cordingley's involvement in local history and restoration increased when in 1941 he aided in founding the Ralston Historical Association. He was instrumental in maintaining the Association's building, president for ten years and a member of the Board until his death. In 1964 he wrote the chapter, "Our Old Homes". in a book, The Mendhams (See 1965 portrait, Figure 18). At the time of his death in 1965, the trustees

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<sup>21</sup> Buchanan Charles' Biographical note entitled "Preface".

<sup>22</sup> See Dated Notes for 1935.

<sup>23</sup> See file folders given to the Architectural Library of Harvard University, March, 1996



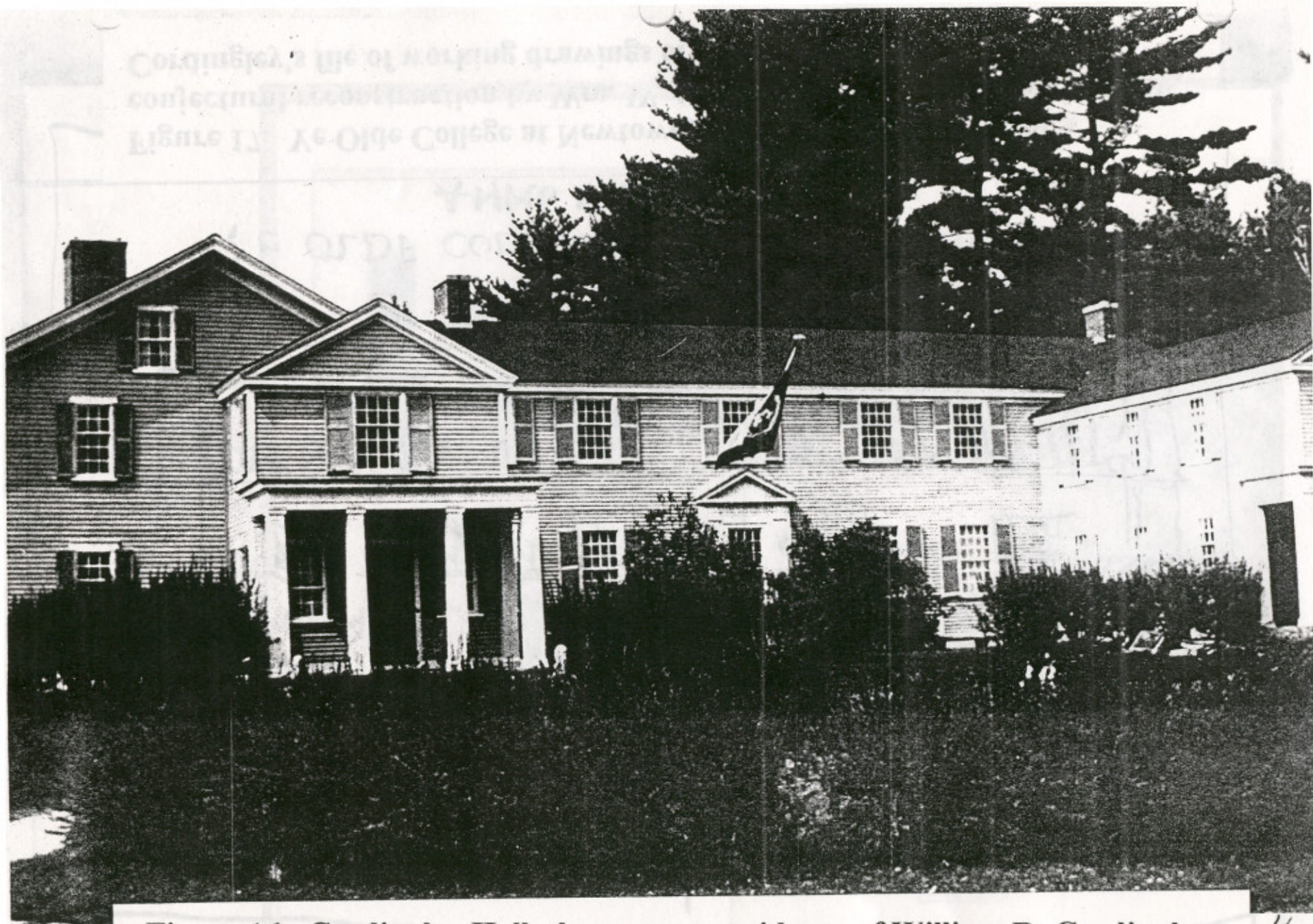
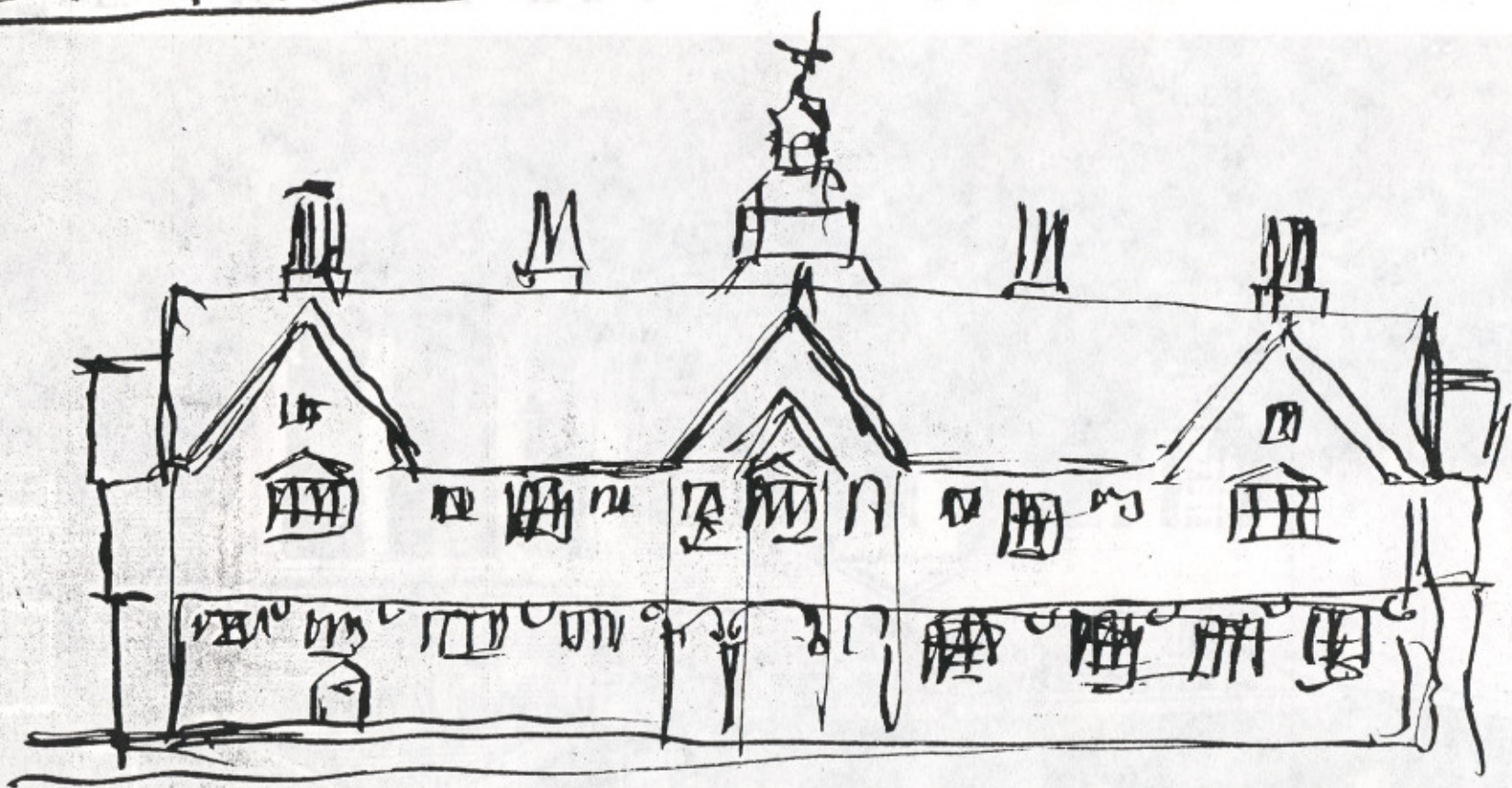


Figure 16. Cordingley Hall, the summer residence of William R. Cordingley and family, designed by son, Wm. W. Cordingley in 1931. Source: 5x7 color photograph by R. D. Stevens, 1971, Album 24, page 4.





YE OLDE COLLEGE AT NEWTOWNE  
ANNO DOMINI 1635

Figure 17. Ye Olde College at Newtown, 1636. An ink drawing of a conjectural reconstruction by Wm. W. Cordingley, 1933. Source: Wm. W. Cordingley's file of working drawings of Olde College.



of the Ralston Historical Association passed a resolution "...paying tribute to his memory in appreciation for his leadership and contributions to the preservation of the history of the Roxiticus area."<sup>24</sup>

## **II. - The William W. Cordingley Library**

William Cordingley enjoyed assembling an outstanding architectural and general collection of books. They gradually filled the library he designed in the third floor of his Mendham house (Figure 19). A significant step in augmenting the collection came with the acquisition of M. M. Teise's general library in the early 1920's.<sup>25</sup> Later Cordingley obtained some original publications of great renaissance and later European architects that are listed in Sections 1 and 2 of the Wm. W. Cordingley Library Book List. In particular "He devoted considerable study to Vitruvius, having in his library some twelve editions of that author's works, including the famous 'Como' Vitruvius. He also made a study of Palladio, and of the English Palladian architects Inigo Jones, William Kent, Colin Campbell, and others."<sup>26</sup> The organization of his library shows that his professional interests focused on classical and renaissance design, and the building styles derived from them (Appendix B). His books also show that he little noted, nor apparently was much interested in the "modern" architectural movements of the thirties, forties and fifties.

Upon his death in 1965 William Cordingley's library was bought by his brother-in-law, Buchanan Charles, and carried to North Andover, Massachusetts (See 1966 note in Appendix D). There it was arranged in a somewhat different fashion in the Carriage House (See Appendix B). In 1991 a complete list was made of all the books then in the Cordingley library. It had 2143 items. Then the three families inheriting the library selected some 350 volumes. In 1995 an additional selection of 143 architectural and other

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<sup>24</sup> Newark Evening News, Nov. 22, 1965, p. 32.

<sup>25</sup> See Dated notes for 1920 (Appendix D).

<sup>26</sup> Buchanan Charles' biographical note entitled "Preface".





Figure 18. Portrait of William Wade Cordingley almost 80 on Nov. 20, 1965.  
Source: 8x10 photograph, No. 159, R. D. Stevens photo lists.



books of special interest were made as gifts to the Rotch Architectural Library of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Boston Athenaeum. In 1996 the remaining 1650 books were sold.

### **III. Two Letters to the Editor**

As an child and young adult I saw Uncle Billy seldom, but I remember those meetings with pleasure, because of his wit that often sparkled in conversation. He told good stories. Bill Harcourt, a scouting friend, remarked in a letter, "I bet you would be able to beat 'Peyton Place'" (A melodramatic book and television series - ed.). Uncle Billy's humor and occasional sarcasm jumps from the following two letters.

#### **A. A Circus at St. Mark's Rectory**

LOCAL DRAMA (Editor's notes: Feeling that a circus which was staged on Saturday afternoon, August 12, in the back yard of St. Marks Rectory was worthy of chronicling, one of our readers has prepared and presented the following description of the events connected with the performance.)

We were attracted to the show by seeing one of the Misses Hall, voluminously arrayed in one of mother's gowns, seated at a ticket desk in the passage between the Rectory and Mrs. Diehl's Store. This foyer, as it were, was practically empty, but beyond, in the backyard, we could see Mr. John Hall vigorously addressing a seething mass of Mendham poppetry of all ages between five and fifteen, which was however on Mrs. Diehl's side of the wire fence, and obviously intending to use it as one big knot hole through which to see the show and to discuss it with the performers.

The only circus activity in sight was a side show sign, "Cherry Colored Kitten, 2 cents a look, \$500 to persons who can prove he is artificially colored." On the back porch was an audience of three or four being comforted with lemonade, perhaps after viewing the kitten, and like ourselves disturbed by the sight of so many deadheads at the fence.

Personally, when we go to the circus we want to see the show, and to get it started we asked about paying a group rate for the crowd. This was offered at 10 cents, not including lemonade. Expecting the crowd might increase heavily on the way in, we bought out the house for 30 cents, and the crowd lined up on the back porch, the bleachers, to see the act first. This was Mr. Hall, coiling and uncoiling himself around the swill ropes on a cherry tree.

Then the audience was invited to adjourn to the Pulley Club, the hoist to the attic in front of the Garage. In the meantime some of our more mature guests



had retired to the other side of the Diehl fence, stopping on the way to collect a number of ripe tomatoes for which Mr. Moeri had no further use. As soon as patrons of the pulley began to shoot up into the air, the tomatoes began to fly in their direction; the feature was promptly discontinued.

Then came a mortal combat with fists between Mr. Hall and a young gentleman who had started out with him as a business associate in the circus venture and then gone over to the enemy. Mr. Hall had an advantage from the first, toppling his opponent backward into the lilac bushes and then into the clothesline, which being neck high, made an excellent headrest while a few final touches of punishment were being laid on.

This impressive combat so aroused the fighting instincts of the audience that there was an uproar of offers to fight the winner, the loser, each other, or anyone else.

But just at this climax of the show, the transept door of the church suddenly opened and the Rev. Father Hall came solemnly forth in cassock and biretta. Those of the audience not versed in ecclesiastical getup suspected this of being the next act. Not at all. The Rev. Father comforted the fight victim and then told the rest of us to clear out. We all did.

Before taking to our heels we were able to purchase the kitchen poster for our dramatic files. We learned later from the ticket office that the gate receipts, including the kitten show, and we assume the net profits, were 52 cents." (Signed) William W. Cordingley.<sup>27</sup>

### **B. - Corrections Concerning Mendham History**

To the Editor of the Mendham Chester Tribune, Sir:

I have read the letter on the Byram family by Mr. Jacob T. Lewis in your issue of July 19th.

If those of us who have long taken an interest in the history of the neighborhood had realized earlier that Mr. Lewis, in addition to his multitudinous local activities, was setting up as an antiquarian, we might have the sooner taken him aside to warn him to know his country better before dashing out with the "Old Stuff" as news.

Nothing seems to kill the story that Mendham got its name from the fact that Ebenezer Byram said he was going to mend'em when he heard how some of the local toughs were cutting up in the region as he moved into it. If Ebenezer was the first settler on the lands now included in Mendham village, there would not have been anyone near enough to bother with, and as soon as there was a good crowd, Ebenezer took out a liquor license which may have cut out a little work for him along the selected lines. "His descendent Newt" of course is doing his bit for the Township in the matter of public order.

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<sup>27</sup> Mendham Chester Tribune, Mendham, N. J., Friday, August 18, 1939, Morristown.



Ebenezer did not, to judge from the records, get his license until well into the 1740's so I do not think he can be found as an innkeeper, with lodgings for new settlers. The settlers were grand old tightwads who never would have gone to a hotel. There were lodgings along the roads in those days, at taverns, and otherwise, but for years Ebenezer didn't live on the road to anywhere. People in these parts were traveling only north and south. If they came up the Raritan and wanted to get to Morristown, they branched off at Union School House and went towards Jockey Hollow. If they wanted to go further north they came up through Ralston and on along the Ironia Road. To turn up the hill at Ralston was to get to the few houses and the church near where Mr. Davis has his shop. That was then Roxciticus, which to judge by the Radio act the other day, we should pronounce Roxy-kite-us.

Beyond that was Mendham on a dead end road, until a way to Morristown was broken by getting to Jockey Hollow. When Mr. Byram and his neighbors decided to take a name, they chose it from a place in the that part of Massachusetts from which they had come, that is, Mendham. Mendham, Mass. now spells its name Mendon, while we stick to the English original, which is Mendham in Suffolk, England, and not Devonshire as the Radio talk announced it the other day.

Mr. Lewis makes the remarkable statement that Ebenezer Byram was the progenitor of Sussex County which looks like a tall order for father or grandpa. I have heard of a merry old grigg out in the Kentucky mountains who was said to be the father of half the county, and when asked by a social worker how that could possibly be, replied he had a bicycle. I think Lewis owes us more about Mr. Byram's founding of Sussex.

Mr. Lewis refers to the Byram's old hostelry, the Black Horse as still standing on the site in 1898. May I add that it is yet. I was there the other night, and as I came out it didn't seem to be moving a bit.

Yours for deeper research locally, Wm. W. Cordingley.<sup>28</sup>

File: 17wwcord2

March 29, 1996

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<sup>28</sup> Mendham Chester Tribune, July 26, 1940.) Source: Three ring binder No. 13.



## Appendix A - Brief Chronology of the life of William W. Cordingley

1885 - Born, Roxbury, Mass. December 8, son of William Robert Cordingley and Mary Oliver (Wade) Cordingley.

1903 - Volkman School, Boston.

1907 - Harvard A. B., cum laude (On parchment diploma in Latin) .

1907, summer. Trip to Europe (See card in Bookcase File I - Hotel and meal bills).

1907-8, 1910-11. Harvard Graduate School, Department of Architecture. See Alumni in Architecture of Harvard university, First Report, 1932 (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass, 1932, p. 51). The address in a book on practice in delineation is 302 Craigie Street, Cambridge, where he may have boarded (Library book 45, in section 2c[20c]).

1908-1910. No information on this period. Only hint is the following book by A Secular Priest, The Cistercian Order: Its Object and Rule. Cambridge, Mass.: The Riverside Press, 1905. In his handwriting inside the book, "W. W. Cordingley, Abbey of Our Lady of the Valley, June 1908."

1911? - By 1912 he must have been employed by the architectural firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson with offices in Boston and New York.<sup>29</sup>

1913 - Licensed to practice Architecture in the State of New Jersey (Certificate No. C-736). He may have moved to Mendham before this date.

1917 - August 8, commissioned 1st Lieutenant, Engineer Section, Officers' Reserve Corps of the Army of the United States (Certificate) He was detailed to Officers Training Camp, American University, (C/O Co. I, University Grounds - Address in library book 50, section 2a (20a), , D. C. Later he was assigned to the Overseas Supply Dept., General Engineering Depot, Wash. D. C. and detailed to Hoboken N. J., March 1918, for inspection duty. He was discharged the 6th March, 1919.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Buchanan Charles biographical note entitled "Preface"

<sup>30</sup> See also an I. D. card stating "First Lt. William W. Cordingley, Engrs. R(eserve) C(orps) is authorized to visit for purpose of Inspection such plants as may be indicated in letter of instructions to him." (Stamped official copy with WWC photo on it. (See a carbon copy of a letter from the Office of the Chief of Engineers.) His discharge is also reported in the Harvard Class of 1907, Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Report. This report includes the 1907 portrait from the 1907 Harvard Class Album, but not a 1932 portrait of WWC (Plimpton Press, 1932). Harvard College, Class of 1907 Reports. WWC did not reply in any of the following reports: 1922, 1926, 1932, 1937, 1942, 1947, 1957.



1925, May 1 - State of New Jersey certificate stating that Wm. W. Cordingley won election in the Borough of Mendham to the position of Justice of the Peace.

1925, Fall - Assistant Curator in charge of the Gardner Museum, Boston.

1931, May 1 - State of New Jersey certificate stating that Wm. W. Cordingley won election in the Borough of Mendham to the position of Justice of the Peace.

1935-36 - Mayor of Mendham.<sup>31</sup>

1935, April 19 - Appointed town representative on the New Jersey Emergency Relief Administration Mendham Municipal Committee. Concern was about indigent families.

1937 - Two page article on the History of the Town of Mendham by WWC in the Mendham Record, Jamboree 1937, pp. 4 and 5. (A scouting publication)

1940 - A long article by WWC, explaining the plans he made for a new Firehouse for Mendham (see p. 50 in the Borough File).

1941-42 - Mayor of Mendham. He was also chairman of the Local Defense Council.<sup>32</sup>

1942-46 - Chairman, Community Service Panel of Morristown, N. J., N. J., Rationing Board.<sup>33</sup>

1943 - August 20 issue of the Friday Flyer includes mention that WWC is a trustee of the Ralston Historical Association. The article also mentions trying to restore the Ralston Post Office, dating from before 1781.

1950s - Private architectural work, local historical activities, and community involvement.

1965 - Saturday evening, Nov. 20, died in Mendham while "... crossing the street in front of the Black Horse Inn, where he had just eaten dinner, when he was struck by a car ... He was walking toward his car that was across the street."<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> See obituaries in Morristown Daily Record, Nov. 22, 1965, p. 1 and Newark Evening News, Nov. 22, 1965, p. 32.

<sup>32</sup> See obituaries in Morristown Daily Record, Nov. 22, 1965, p. 1 and Newark Evening News, Nov. 22, 1965, p. 32.

<sup>33</sup> Source: Harvard College Class of 1907: Fortieth Annual Report (Cosmos Press, Cambridge, 1947)

<sup>34</sup> See Newark Evening News, November 22, 1965, page 32 and Daily Record, Morristown, N. J., November 22, 1965, first page and County News section.