

The Open Door: A Guest Book Visitors to Yorktown 1915-1945

Preserved by the Yorktown Preservation Society 2018

Conway Howard Sheild bought the house on Main Street in Yorktown for \$500 in 1901 just as Yorktown was recovering from the Reconstruction Period after the Civil War. The property has been continuously owned by the Shield family since then.



In 1921, the Virginia Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities designated Mrs. Sheild to organize a branch in Yorktown. During an evening meeting at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Conway Sheild on February 18, 1921, the Yorktown Branch of the APVA was created. Mrs. Sheild continued to direct it from 1921 to 1946. During that time, she acted as Yorktown's hostess by welcoming Yorktown visitors to her home and asking them sign her Guest Book. The Guest Book included the signatures of many distinguished visitors including President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, President and Mrs. Warren G. Harding, Franklin Roosevelt, President Herbert Hoover, Eleanor Roosevelt and Shirley Temple.



Mrs. Conway H. (Catherine S.) Sheild Directress of the APVA from 1921 to 1946

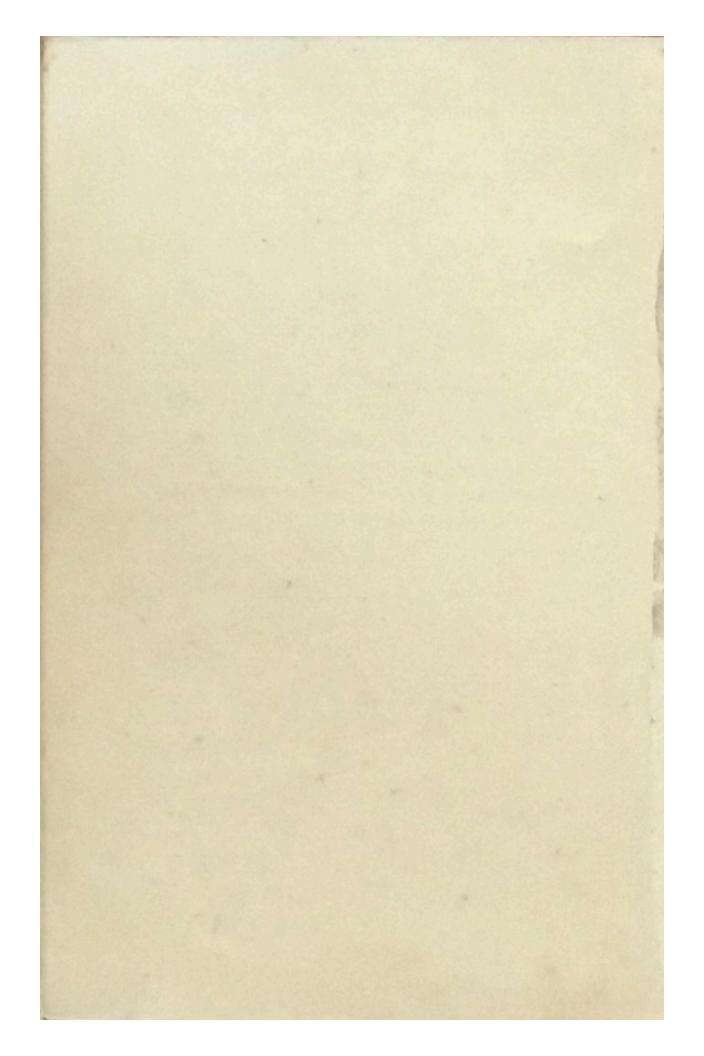
The home has been occupied by generations of Mrs. Sheild's family until 2015 when most of the items in the home were sold for auction, but Granddaughter Letty Best kept the Guest Book. Over 100 years after the first Guest Book entry, the Yorktown Preservation Society, a continuation of the APVA begun by Mrs. Sheild in 1921, has made the Guest Book available to historians who will now be able to see the names of those who visited Yorktown during WWI (the building of the Naval Weapons Station) and the beginning of WWII.

Yorktown has been well know for its history as a port colony during the colonial period, the site of the Victory in the Revolutionary War, and its occupation by Union Forces in the Civil War, but now Mrs. Sheild's Guest Book gives us evidence of the role that it played in the preparation for WWI and WWII as well.



The Open Door wherein every guest is recorded

Wherein every guest is recorded Designed by Cornelia Morton Weyburn Published by Barse & Flopkins NewYork COPYRIGHT, 1911, BY BARSE & HOPKINS Mat matters it - the door swings wide and free.



Record of Guests July 3 20 1915 Rosalie Hager, Knopville Jabelo M. Toon Murrell, / Tumesen Elizabet Chamme Brooks lorfold by Deplen Booth Wicking, 215 Have Robert S. Cowas Knowlle Tens allmanth Beard. Luner, colo Odus & allhy the ville Fran Geo. Blas. Kunsulle Jessie Hume M. Connack Ja Salle Ell Junice J. Bloom. Moncosta. Va.

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. July 31-1915. mis. J. D. Me Carrick Many Pary Taylor Accomack C. H. Va martha Lowry Lee Hampton, Va E lizabilh Hack ayres accomac C. H. Da. Hardenia Roger Fletcher, accornac, la Selden Ragland, Centralia, Va enne l'Iletoher accornac, la Katherine Melson accourace Va. Trances Felthy aresmae, Va Catharuse Mc Carricle, Posfolle, Va. France We Cowich Horfolk Va. horfalle Ya

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So long as we love we serve; so long as we are loved by others I would almost say that we are indispensable; and no man is useless while he has a friend. OBurn, Rew admiral. U.S.N. Forde a Todd, uss. Wal Am & & Milson Coffaing howary

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Friendship is love without wings My Truland Dais M & Clement mand Carles Clement Elizabeth Laurex Clement Rutleage C. Clement Cyrus HK. Curtis monanus Mey 10, 1925, Commenting Ford Eastin Va Emilie Kusler In Wann Gray 10, 1925 Fort Eustis, ha. Caleanie M. Manis M. Junder May 10 to 35 Seattle Wash w. R. Elear, May U.S. 45 amy Hendes by

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Personal Quotations Harry H. Woodning. Oct 19-1936

Personal Quotations

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January 1939

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Personal Sketches Commander Carriers and his Staff. 10/4/42 Esmewhorter, Rear admiral ush I Ballenline, Captain, Chief of Staff. Blum and Comadi O Paratimi 1 Delpuberger Comde Communications. J. S. More Rt. Combr. U.S. N.R. Material officer for Myso S. Matter H. Combr. U.S. N.R. Material officer for Myso Bhatter H. Combr. USN Hag Secretory Own Kewer. Lt. USNR Intelligence.

Notes Captain John J. Ballen The medical officer U.S.S. Bunker Hill July 14, 1943.

