



Educational Farm & Nature Preserve

Legacy Series

An ongoing series of articles recounting the history of the Stratford Ecological Center and the Warner family

Legacy Series: Part 3 April, 2011

Gale Warner: The Heart of Stratford's Founding



Gale Warner

On Gale's mother's side, all four of her great-grandparents either studied or lived in Delaware County! This issue will cover her mother's maternal grandparents.

Gale's great-grandfather, Fred Palmer Hills, was the son of Chauncy Hills and grandson of Judge Hosea Williams, mentioned in previous legacy articles. Seven of Fred's ancestors were passengers on the original Mayflower voyage. Born on Franklin Street in Delaware and educated in Europe, Fred returned home to join his father in the dry goods business. At the home farm, he bred cattle, sheep, Percheron horses, Welsh ponies and Angora goats. He helped organize the Delaware Savings Bank Company, serving as Cashier and President. Fred also was a Director of the Delaware Gas Company and the Delaware Ice and Coal Company, and Treasurer of the Citizens' Telephone Company. The Hills' family attended St. Peter's Episcopal Church, where Fred was a member of the vestry and Treasurer. At one time, he owned Greenwood Lake northeast of Delaware, a favorite "resort for picnics." The basement of the family home at 120 N. Washington Street in Delaware housed his impressive collection of Indian relics – sold for a pittance during the Great Depression.

In 1884, Fred married Mary Florence Pennock from Cardington, OH (Morrow County). Mary attended Vassar where she studied piano and became an accomplished musician. Her father, Isaac Pennock, was a physician, and her mother, Caroline Anna Clark, a prolific writer. A few of Carrie's beautifully preserved hand-written poems were avidly read many decades later by her young great-great-granddaughter, Gale Warner. Perhaps they ignited Gale's literary talent for creative writing?



Mary Florence Hills



Fred Palmer Hills



120 N. Washington Street
Delaware, Ohio