

Hamilton Farm



## HAMILTON FARM AND ITS HISTORIC STABLE AND CARRIAGE BARN

There is no more important monument in the Somerset Hills to the love of equestrian sport than the large and opulent stable and carriage barn built by James Cox Brady 100 years ago on his Hamilton Farm estate.

As stated in the National Register of Historic Places, the Hamilton Farm stable complex is historically significant in “illuminating the upper class fascination with horse breeding, carriage driving, and riding during the early 20th century. Of the hundreds of country houses and gardens built during the Country Place Era (c. 1880–1940) . . . few could claim the comprehensive, businesslike, and integrated enterprise exemplified by James Cox Brady’s Hamilton Farm. At over 5,000 acres, and maintained by a staff of hundreds, this vast agricultural showplace was renowned in its day and after.”



*Aerial image of part of Hamilton Farm. The Brady stable and riding ring can be seen in the distance at the upper right. Slightly above and to the left of the Brady mansion is the recreation building with its indoor pool and tennis and squash courts. Other structures include numerous barns, kennels, and greenhouses.*

The vast wealth necessary to acquire, develop, and maintain the enormous Hamilton Farm estate was primarily created by James Cox Brady’s father, Anthony Nicholas Brady.

## ANTHONY NICHOLAS BRADY AND THE BRADY FAMILY FORTUNE

Anthony Nicholas Brady was born in 1841 in Quesnoy-sur-Deûle, France, close to the Belgian border, to Irish parents, Nicholas and Ellen Mallon Brady. Nicholas, who had been engaged in the cultivation of flax for the manufacture of linen in Ireland, moved his family to France around 1830 due to a decline in Ireland's linen industry caused by the availability of less-expensive, machine-made yarns from Scotland and England.

Once in France, Nicholas appears to have changed his livelihood, as he was listed in the parish and civil registers at the time of Anthony's birth as a charpentier, or carpenter.

The Brady family traveled to the United States sometime in the mid-to-late 1840s to visit Ellen's Mallon relatives in Troy, New York. The record is not clear, but the family, or at least Nicholas, at some point returned to France or Ireland. Nicholas died around 1848 and was buried in county Tyrone, Ireland.

About a year after Nicholas's death, his widow, Ellen, moved with her children to be near her relatives in Troy. After marrying her second husband, Michael Delahant, Ellen and the family settled in Albany.

Anthony Brady, who received only an elementary school education, first gained employment, at age fifteen, in the Delavan House, a prominent Albany hotel.

At age nineteen, Anthony and his older brother, James, opened a tea store in Albany. They later opened additional stores until they effectively controlled the entire retail tea trade in the Albany and Troy, New York, market.

In 1867, Anthony married Marcia Ann Myers, of Pownal, Vermont. The couple had eight children, including James Cox Brady, the developer of Hamilton Farm.

Despite the success of the Brady brothers' chain of tea stores, Anthony was hungry for greater opportunities and turned his attention to the construction trade. Using profits from the tea business, he gained control over several large granite quarries and took on contracts for public paving and sewer construction in the Albany region. Although this work made Anthony a fairly rich man, it was his subsequent endeavors as an investor and manager in a variety of public utilities, transportation, and other businesses that led to his amassing of an enormous fortune.



Anthony Nicholas Brady (1841–1913), the father of James Cox Brady.

Though it may seem obvious to us now, Anthony Brady's business genius, beginning in the 1880s, was in the acquisition and consolidation of many small, often poorly managed, businesses into larger, more efficient enterprises. Having first experienced the benefits of consolidation in his humble tea and construction businesses, Brady saw the same potential in the consolidation of public utilities. It was essentially the same business model followed by John D. Rockefeller in oil, Andrew Carnegie in steel, and James B. Duke in tobacco.

Brady's first involvement in utilities was in the natural gas supply industry in Albany and Troy. He next branched out into the "traction," or street trolley, business, first in Albany and then in Providence, Rhode Island, before focusing on Brooklyn, New York, where he eventually became chairman of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company. His entry in the Dictionary of American Biography notes that, "more than any other 'traction magnate,' [Brady] influenced plans for the subway development of New York."

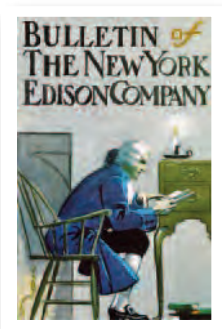
With a laser-like focus on business, Brady's only public office was that of fire commissioner in Albany, a position he held from 1882 to 1886.

By the 1890s, Anthony Brady had expanded his business interests into the emerging field of electric utilities. After first acquiring a controlling interest in a number of electric companies in the Albany region, he turned his attention to a much bigger market, buying up a number of small electric generating concerns in New York City, as well as the Excelsior Steam Power Company, which supplied steam to commercial buildings in lower Manhattan.

In 1898, Brady amalgamated all of his New York City utilities into his newly formed New York Gas and Electric Light, Heat and Power Company. Literally and figuratively, the growing power of Brady's and other electric companies in New York soon posed a serious competitive threat to the Consolidated Gas Company, which had been created in 1884 by the merger of six natural gas firms. This led Consolidated to purchase interests in Brady's firm as well as the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, which had been organized by Thomas A. Edison and financier J.P. Morgan, and the United Electric Light and Power Company, the third largest electric company in New York City, which had been founded by Henry H. Westinghouse, the younger brother of George Westinghouse.

In 1901, Consolidated Gas merged the Brady, Edison, and Westinghouse companies into the New York Edison Company, precursor to today's Consolidated Edison, Inc., more commonly known as Con Ed. Anthony Brady served as president and chairman of New York Edison until his death.

*A publication of the New York Edison Co., of which Anthony Nicholas Brady was president. The company eventually became Consolidated Edison, Inc., more commonly known as Con Ed. The cover art work was by Edward Hopper.*





Public utilities, however, were not Brady's only area of business interest. He had also been involved in the early days of the oil industry, becoming a competitor of Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company in the Chicago market. Brady was also a director of the U.S. Rubber Company and of James B. Duke's American Tobacco Company, of which Brady was one of the largest stockholders.

In 1913, at age 71, Anthony Nicholas Brady died in London while on a business trip. The three executors of his large and complex estate were his two sons, Nicholas Frederic and James Cox Brady, and the Central Trust Company of New York, of which Frederic Pepoon Olcott, Anthony's childhood friend from Albany—and prominent Bernardsville resident and benefactor—had been the president.

## JAMES COX BRADY

James Cox Brady, the creator of Hamilton Farm, was born in Albany, New York, in 1882. He was one of eight children, including two sons who lived to adulthood, born to Anthony Nicholas Brady and Marcia Ann Myers.

Like Nicholas Frederic, his older brother, James attended the Albany Academy, a military day school, then enrolled at Yale, from which he graduated in 1904. At Yale, he was elected to Scroll and Key, one of the school's "Big Three" elite "secret" senior societies.



*James Cox Brady (1882–1927).*

Managing their late father's estate and its vast and diverse business interests and investments became full-time jobs for Nicholas and James Brady.

For example, in the 1920s James Cox Brady played an important role in the creation of what became the Chrysler Corporation. James and his brother had been large stockholders and members of the board of directors of the Maxwell Motor Company, which by 1920 had become saddled with a large amount of debt and was near bankruptcy. The Bradys, who had come to know Walter P. Chrysler and had played a role in his previous appointment at the Willys-Overland automobile company, arranged for Chrysler to join Maxwell in what turned out to be a successful effort to turn the company around. A few years later, the Maxwell Motor Company became the Chrysler Corporation, and over the following years several members of the Brady family sat on the company's board of directors.

With his brother, James Cox Brady donated generously to Yale, including the establishment of the Anthony N. Brady Memorial Foundation and the Anthony N. Brady Memorial Laboratory at the Yale School of Medicine. In memory of his first wife, James founded the Elizabeth Jane Hamilton Brady Memorial School and Convent at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Bernardsville; and in memory of his second wife, he established Villa Victoria, the mother house of an order of Italian nuns at Trenton, New Jersey.

## JAMES COX BRADY'S WIVES AND CHILDREN

James Cox Brady was married three times and had five children, four girls and one boy. Sadly, his first two wives died in tragic ways.

His first wife, after whom Hamilton Farm was named, was Elizabeth Jane Hamilton, a daughter of Andrew and Jessie Reed (Walker) Hamilton of Albany. The couple married in 1905 and had three children.

The first born, in 1906, was Elizabeth Jane Hamilton Brady, who later married Frederick Strong Moseley Jr. The Moseleys' estate in Bedminster is now the Fiddler's Elbow Country Club.



*Elizabeth Jane Hamilton, the first wife of James Cox Brady, with her children, left to right, James Cox Jr., Ruth, and Elizabeth Jane Hamilton.*

The Bradys' second child was James Cox Jr., who was born in 1907.

To avoid confusion caused by the suffix "Jr.," which in the Brady family has sometimes been used and later dropped, hereinafter the son and namesake of the senior James Cox Brady will be identified as "(II)," and the grandson of the senior James Cox Brady will be identified as "(III)."

Like his father, James (II) graduated from Yale and was a member of the Scroll and Key senior society. James (II) was a joint master of the Essex Fox Hounds, president of the family's Brady Security and Realty Company, chairman of Purolator Products Incorporated, a director of Chrysler Corporation, chairman of the board of trustees of the New York Racing Association, and a trustee of what is now the Somerset Medical Center.

In 1929, shortly after his graduation from Yale, James (II) married Eliot Chace. The couple had two sons and two daughters. Their sons were James (III), who later served as New Jersey Banking Commissioner, and Nicholas Frederick. Nicholas was for eight months a United States Senator, appointed in 1982 by New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean to serve out the balance of Senator Harrison A. Williams's term; and from 1988 to 1993, Nicholas served as United States Secretary of the Treasury under presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Eliot and James (II) Brady's daughters were Elizabeth, who married Reuben F. Richards, and Eliot, who married Keith Highet.

The third child born to the senior James Cox Brady and Elizabeth Jane Hamilton was Ruth Brady, born in 1909. She was married twice, first to Michael Simon Scott, the younger son of the Viscount and Viscountess Encombe, and, after Scott's death, to Adams Batcheller Jr.

In 1912, Elizabeth Jane Hamilton Brady died in a tragic railroad accident in Westport, Connecticut. Her husband, who was also on the train, survived the wreck, but in addition to his wife, the dead included two of her sisters and one of his. The family had been returning to New York after attending a family funeral in Hartford.

Two years later, in 1914, the senior James Cox Brady married his second wife, Lady Victoria Mary Pery, daughter of the Earl and Countess of Limerick. Tragedy struck again, however, when, four years later, Victoria died in the influenza pandemic, leaving two young children.



*Victoria Mary Pery, daughter of the Earl and Countess of Limerick and the second wife of James Cox Brady.*

Her elder daughter was Victoria Mary Pery Brady, who later married John Knox Cowperthwaite and lived in the Cowperthwaite family residence, Lamington House, now the Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster.

The second child born to James and Victoria Brady was Genevieve, who was born in 1916. In 1937, Genevieve married Anderson Fowler and the couple resided at Glenelg, the Fowler family estate in Bedminster.

In 1920, two years after the death of his second wife, James Cox Brady married Helen McMahon. The wedding took place in London's Westminster Cathedral, the mother church for Roman Catholics in England and Wales.

Helen, who was born circa 1893 and raised in Queens, New York, was a daughter of John Timothy McMahon, a manufacturer of parquet flooring. Helen was described as a “statuesque blonde of striking appearance,” and in December 1913 was named the “Girl of To-day” in a full-page photographic spread in *The New York Times*. Judged the “most typical of the American girl,” McMahon was the winner of a juried competition based on photographs of young women submitted by hundreds of the *Times*’s readers.



*Helen McMahon, winner of the “Girl of To-day” competition, as featured in The New York Times issue of December 7, 1913. Seven years later, in 1920, she became the third wife of James Cox Brady.*

Only seven years after Helen’s marriage to James Cox Brady, he died of pneumonia, at the age of 45, at the couple’s New York City residence at 10 East 76th Street. The funeral was held nearby at the Brady family’s New York City church, St. Ignatius Loyola, on Park Avenue.

## THE CREATION OF HAMILTON FARM

In 1911, James Cox Brady made his first land acquisition in the Somerset Hills, a 190-acre farm in Bedminster Township adjacent to his friend, Charles Pfizer Jr.’s, Upper Kennels property, which is now the Willow School.

Named for Elizabeth Jane Hamilton, Brady’s first wife, Hamilton Farm eventually grew to 5,000 acres, reaching into Somerset, Hunterdon, and Morris counties and making it one of the largest working farms in New Jersey.



*Scene on the 5,000-acre Hamilton Farm estate.*



It has long been said that Pfizer, who had relocated what is now the Essex Fox Hounds to the Somerset Hills in the 1890s, introduced James Cox Brady to the area.

It is also highly likely that Frederic P. Olcott, Anthony Brady's close, lifelong friend from Albany, also played a role. Olcott, whose Bernardsville estate, Round Top Farm, is now the Somerset Hills Country Club, first brought Anthony and James Cox Brady to Bernardsville in 1900 to attend the dedication and consecration of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Olcott, though not a Catholic, had been a major benefactor of the church, paying for much of its construction cost and the elimination of its debt.

Construction at Hamilton Farm began in 1912 with the completion of what the family called the Lodge, a spacious but relatively modest house the family occupied for brief visits during the fox hunting season and while overseeing the planning and construction of the estate's first mansion and other structures.



*The Lodge at Hamilton Farm, built in 1912. The Brady family occupied the Lodge while the first mansion and several of the other estate structures were being designed and built.*

The first Brady mansion at Hamilton Farm, designed by Henry Otis Chapman of the New York architectural firm of Barney & Chapman, was completed in 1914. The mansion burned to the ground in 1923, under what many in the family consider to have been suspicious circumstances.



*The first Brady family mansion at Hamilton Farm, designed by Henry Otis Chapman and completed in 1914. The house burned to the ground in 1923.*

Near the residence, Brady constructed a large recreation building, complete with a squash court, fifty-foot tiled swimming pool, and indoor and outdoor tennis courts.



*The recreation building at Hamilton Farm featured a fifty-foot indoor swimming pool, squash court, and tennis court, as well as outside tennis courts.*

On the foundation of the original house, Brady soon built a new, Georgian-style brick mansion with sixty-four rooms, eleven fireplaces, and a private chapel complete with stained-glass windows and a pipe organ.

The architects of the new mansion were Montague Flagg, a nephew of prominent New York architect Ernest Flagg, and Christian F. Rosborg. About six years before, in 1917, Montague Flagg had designed the Peapacton residence on Larger Cross Road in Bedminster for Rutherford Stuyvesant Pierrepont and his wife, Nathalie de Castro. Since the 1950s, the property has been called Bindon Farm and an adjacent property has taken the name Peapacton.



*The second Brady mansion, built on the site of the first residence, was designed by Montague Flagg and Christian F. Rosborg. The house was gutted by fire in 1978, but was soon rebuilt within its original brick walls. It is now the clubhouse of the Hamilton Farm Golf Club.*



*The living room in the second Brady mansion at Hamilton Farm.*

Ellen Biddle Shipman, who has been hailed as “the dean of American women landscape architects,” was commissioned to design the grounds of the new Brady house in 1925, and was retained again in the 1930s to carry out additional landscape work.

Sadly, history repeated itself in May 1978 when the second Brady mansion was consumed by fire. Although the house was later rebuilt within the original brick walls, a tragic aspect of the fire was the death of James Cox Brady’s great-granddaughter, Jane Moseley Crawford.

In its heyday, Hamilton Farm was a vast operation, all managed with military efficiency by the long-time superintendent, Fred Huyler. A Peapack native and carpenter, Huyler was singled out by Brady to help him acquire the land that became Hamilton Farm; develop the property; oversee the construction of the many houses, barns, stables, and kennels; and buy, breed, and exhibit the estate’s many prize-winning animals.



*Fred Huyler, the Peapack native and long-time superintendent of Hamilton Farm.*

Something of a showman, Huyler spent a good deal of time traveling the country exhibiting the Brady Herefords, Jersey cows, Dorset sheep, Duroc-Jersey swine, chickens, and German shepherd dogs. There was often a festive, parade-like atmosphere as the cosseted animals were transported along the estate’s drives that led directly to the Peapack railroad station where they would be loaded onto specially outfitted railroad cars.

During Brady’s lifetime some 4,000 acres of the Hamilton Farm property were kept under cultivation. Corn, wheat, oats, rye, and hay were harvested, and on separate sections of the estate dairy and beef cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, ducks, and geese were raised; there was even a fenced deer park. The farm payroll ranged between \$4,000 and \$8,000 a month, at a time when only the farm manager and foremen earned more than two dollars a day. The effect of Hamilton Farm on the wider community was profound. Employment was provided for a generation of local people, and many area merchants prospered by the seemingly endless orders for farm equipment and supplies.



*Several of Hamilton Farm's prize-winning Dorset sheep.*

After James Cox Brady's death, in 1927, much of the estate's extensive farming operation was shut down and most of the prize animals were sold off. Over the ensuing years much of the acreage was also sold. The Brady mansion and surrounding acreage are today the private Hamilton Farm Golf Club.

## CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRADY STABLE AND CARRIAGE BARN

The historic stable and carriage barn at Hamilton Farm, designed by William Weissenberger Jr., was built between 1916 and 1917.



*The Hamilton Farm stable and carriage barn, circa 1917.*

Born in Jersey City in 1880, Weissenberger's father and grandfather were cabinetmakers. Due to widespread anti-German sentiment during the First World War, in 1918, not long after the completion of the Brady stable, Weissenberger Anglicized his family name to Whitehill. It was for similar reasons that the local community of New Germantown changed its name to Oldwick.

Starting at age fifteen, Weissenberger took night courses in architecture at the Cooper Union, in New York. At the same time, he was working days as a draftsman in the New York architectural office of Bradford Lee Gilbert, who specialized in railroad structures.

Gilbert is remembered today in engineering and architectural circles for having designed what many consider to have been the first tall building utilizing an early form of skeleton-frame construction, the basic technology behind all skyscrapers. Known as the Tower Building, it was designed and built between 1888 and 1889 on lower Broadway in New York. Despite its relatively modest height—at eleven stories—the Tower Building, which was demolished in 1914, holds an important place in architectural history.

In the Somerset Hills, Bradford Lee Gilbert designed the Bernardsville railroad station, which was constructed between 1901 and 1902.

After working for Gilbert, Weissenberger worked for Frank Colburn, a New York architect who lived in Morristown.



*Architect William Weissenberger Jr. (1880–1965).*

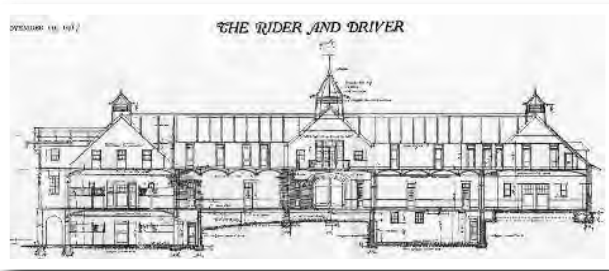
*Due to anti-German sentiment in the country during World War I, in 1918 Weissenberger Anglicized his family name to Whitehill.*

From 1900 to 1916, Weissenberger was employed as an in-house architect by the New York Edison Company, in which the Brady family held sway. Weissenberger designed the company's power stations, offices, and other commercial and industrial structures.

Weissenberger was also called upon to design alterations to Nicholas Brady's Fifth Avenue residence as well as the New York City boardroom and offices of the Anthony N. Brady Estate. Nicholas and James Cox Brady also engaged Weissenberger to design a five-story brick and limestone day nursery building for the Brady family's New York church, St. Ignatius Loyola. In the 1920s, Genevieve Garvan Brady, wife of Nicholas, commissioned Weissenberger (then Whitehill) to design an Adirondack-style summer camp at Pawling, New York, for the Carroll Club, a Catholic organization Mrs. Brady founded and endowed to serve young Catholic professional and business women.

In 1916, the same year Weissenberger began work on the Hamilton Farm stable, the senior management of New York Edison hosted what was billed as a "retirement" party for the then only 36-year-old architect. James Cox Brady was among the 65 people present at the Biltmore Hotel event.





*Elevation drawing of the Hamilton Farm stable, from The Rider and Driver magazine, November 10, 1917.*

The notoriety the architect received for the Hamilton Farm stable project—including a multi-page spread in *The Rider and Driver* magazine in 1917—allowed him to establish his own architectural office and broaden the scope of his work to include church structures, schools, commercial office buildings, and city and suburban residences.

At the same time Weissenberger was designing the stable, James Cox Brady commissioned him to design a parochial school and convent for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Bernardsville. Entirely funded by Brady (who also established an endowment for the school), the buildings were a gift of his children in memory of their mother, Elizabeth Jane Hamilton. Today, the buildings are part of St. Elizabeth's School.

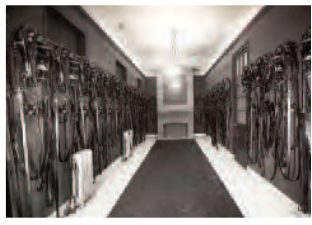
Construction of the fireproof brick, concrete, steel-framed, and stucco-covered Hamilton Farm stable began in April 1916 and was completed in early 1917.



*Construction of the Hamilton Farm stable and carriage barn, October 1916.*

At nearly 190 feet across the front and more than 160 feet deep at its west wing, the Brady stable was considered to be among the largest, most lavish, and functionally advanced structures of its kind in the country.

Designed in the form of a modified letter “H,” the stable portion was located in the west wing, with the carriage and coach barn in the east wing, which is the area now occupied by the United States Equestrian Team Foundation offices. Along the two corridors connecting the wings to the octagonal central crossing (often referred to as the rotunda) were located the stable office, separate show and work horse harness rooms, a blanket room, saddle room, feed room, bathrooms, and three stallion stalls.



*The stable's original harness room and office.*

The building featured a total of 50 box stalls, each measuring twelve feet square, to house Brady's hackney ponies, hunters, and Clydesdale and Percheron draft horses. There were 24 stalls on the main floor of the west wing, 3 stallion stalls along the corridor connecting the wing to the central crossing, and 23 stalls on the lower floor. Horse access between the two floors was via a convenient interior ramp.



*Some of the fifty box stalls on two levels in the Hamilton Farm stable. Each twelve-foot-square stall featured cork brick floors with central drains and self-filling water basins.*

Each stall was framed in cast and wrought iron with Georgia pine wainscoting, cork brick floors with central drains, self-filling water basins, and beautiful polished brass finials and fittings. The building's interior walls were of a handsome orange glazed brick, and the corridor floors were light, sand-colored brick.

The building's arched ceilings were constructed using a Catalan-style tile system that was patented in the United States in 1885 by Spanish architect and builder Rafael Guastavino. It is a technique that had long been used in Europe for constructing lightweight, self-supporting, yet extraordinarily strong arches using inter-locking layers of terracotta tiles with thin layers of mortar between.

Hundreds of buildings were constructed using the Guastavino tile system, including George Vanderbilt's Biltmore house in Asheville, North Carolina; the Ellis Island Immigration Station in New York harbor; and Grand Central Terminal. The largest complete dome ever constructed using Guastavino tiles is high above the central crossing of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York. Completed in 1909, the dome was initially intended to be a temporary roof.



The stable's octagonal central crossing, showing some of the building's Guastavino ceiling tiles, glazed brick walls, and the plate-glass oval floor of the trophy room above.

The second floor of the stable was, and remains, architecturally dominated by the trophy room, with its walnut paneling, glass-fronted display cases, quarter-sawn oak flooring, and the famous plate-glass oval floor through which the Bradys' guests could look down as horses and carriages were paraded through the central cross hall. Reportedly, for special events the horses would be walked through on red carpeting laid down over the brick floor. A leaded, stained-glass skylight executed by the prominent Montague Castle-London Company of New York dominates the trophy room ceiling.

At either end of the trophy room were French doors leading to outside balconies, one of which afforded guests a spectacular view over the large exercise and show ring.



*The stable's second floor trophy room features walnut paneling, glass-fronted display cases, quarter-sawn oak flooring, and a leaded, stained-glass skylight by the Montague Castle-London Company of New York.*

Adjacent to the trophy room were bathrooms, coatrooms, and kitchen and dining facilities for both guests and stable staff. Also located on the second floor were nine bedrooms for grooms and other stable hands and a large, so-called "amusement" room, with a pool table and the like for use by the staff. The second floor of the entire far west wing was a large hayloft.

Gracing each of the building's three cupolas were large, handcrafted copper weathervanes. The largest is of a four-in-hand road coach with a driver on the box and two passengers behind. The other two weathervanes show a two-wheeled buggy drawn by two horses in tandem; and the other is of a single horse reputed to be James Cox Brady's favorite hackney stallion, Hamilton Model.

It is said that Mr. Brady brought two Italian metal sculptors to the United States to execute the weathervanes. A 1961 article in the Newark Sunday News stated that Ted Williams, an Englishman who had worked for Brady for many years, was the model for the carriage drivers featured in the weathervanes. Reportedly, Williams said he was required to sit for hours while the sculptors worked.



*A meet of the Essex Fox Hounds at the Hamilton Farm stable in the 1920s.*

## HAMILTON FARM AFTER JAMES COX BRADY'S DEATH: THE CUTTINGS AND THE WORLD WAR II YEARS

Although most of the farming operations on the estate came to a screeching halt in the years after James Cox Brady's death, in the 1930s his son, James (II), started up the Hamilton Farm Dairy with 75 to 100 cows brought over from the Isle of Jersey. J. Malcolm Belcher, the mayor of Far Hills from 1938 to 1965, and Paul Spann cared for the cows and ran the milk route. During World War II the dairy's milk bottles were stamped, "Buy War Bonds and Stamps for Victory." The dairy ceased operations after the war.

In 1932, five years after the death of her first husband, Helen McMahon Brady married Charles Suydam Cutting in her Hamilton Farm home.



*Helen McMahon and her second husband, Charles Suydam Cutting,  
in a carriage on the Hamilton Farm estate.*

Born in 1889, Suydam Cutting was a son of Robert Fulton Cutting and Helen Suydam. He graduated from Harvard in 1912. An avid sportsman, he was a national champion in the old, and now rarely played, “sport of kings” known as court tennis or real tennis.

Though trained in college to be an engineer, and employed for a time by the M.W. Kellogg Company, Cutting soon became a naturalist and world explorer and was a trustee of the American Museum of Natural History.

In 1925, Cutting went on an extended zoological and hunting expedition to what was then known as Chinese Turkestan for the Field Museum of Chicago, accompanied on the trip by his friends Kermit and Theodore Roosevelt Jr., sons of the former president. During the following three years Cutting undertook explorations to Ethiopia, Assam in northeastern India, and Chinese Tibet. In 1930, he was part of a group of scientists and explorers who accompanied Vincent Astor on his yacht, the *Nourmahal*, on an expedition to explore the Galapagos Islands. Later trips during the 1930s took Cutting to the island of Celebes in Indonesia, Nepal, and Upper Burma (now Myanmar). To Cutting, however, the most significant of his expeditions were the three he made to Tibet, in 1930, 1935, and 1937.



*Helen and Suydam Cutting and their aides in the garden of their residence, Zara Linga, at Lhasa, during the Cuttings' 1937 expedition to Tibet.*

In 1935, on his second visit to Tibet, and after five years of complex negotiations and many gifts to the 13th Dalai Lama, Cutting was granted permission to enter the so-called “forbidden city” of Lhasa. Two years later, he returned to Tibet during a six-month expedition to that country and India, this time accompanied by his wife, Helen, who was said to be “the first white woman” allowed to enter Lhasa and the Dalai Lama’s winter palace, the Potala.

Suydam Cutting was the first to introduce the Lhasa Apso dog to the United States. Before the death of the 13th Dalai Lama, in late 1933, he gave Cutting five Apso dogs, which were later bred at Hamilton Farm. During the 1937 expedition, the Regent, who ruled Tibet for a time following the death of the 13th Dalai Lama, gave Helen Cutting another pair of the dogs. The American Kennel Club recognized the breed in 1935.





*One of several Lhasa Apso dogs given to the Cuttings by the 13th Dalai Lama.  
The dogs were later bred back at Hamilton Farm.*

Helen Cutting often traveled the world with her husband, and in 1940 helped write his travel memoir, *The Fire Ox and Other Years*, the title a reference to the Tibetan name for the year of the Cuttings' 1937 expedition.

In 1936, to memorialize her first husband, Helen McMahon Cutting donated the funds to build St. Brigid's Catholic Church in Peapack. The church was designed by the prominent New York architect, Francis Burrall Hoffman Jr. Hoffman received his architectural education at Harvard and the École des Beaux-arts in Paris, and apprenticed at the Carrère & Hastings firm in New York, before establishing his own architectural office. Hoffman is best known today for his design of James Deering's iconic Miami estate, Villa Vizcaya.

In the Somerset Hills, Hoffman had several design commissions, including alterations to a number of estate houses. Prominent Bedminster resident, Clarence Dillon, commissioned Hoffman to design two structures in memory of Dillon's wife, Anne McEldin Douglass: an imposing set of Georgian-style brick and limestone gates at the entrance to the Dillons' Dunwalke estate, and Anne's Chapel at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Peapack. Hoffman also designed a chapel at what is now the Gill-St. Bernard's School in Gladstone. Built around 1942, the chapel was given in memory of a long-time St. Bernard's trustee, Charles M. Chapin, by his widow.

Before the United States entered World War II, Suydam Cutting served as chairman of the American Committee for Defense of British Homes. The organization collected and shipped to England more than 40,000 civil defense-related items, including firearms, binoculars, steel helmets, and stopwatches, even a hunting rifle donated by the family of former President Theodore Roosevelt. During the war, Cutting served in the Army, stationed for a time in India, which he knew well from his earlier expeditions.

For her part, Helen Cutting was also active in supporting the war effort even before the United States entered the conflict. She turned the carriage wing of the Hamilton Farm stable into a canning center where some 130 local women canned fruits and vegetables grown on the estate for shipment to England during the Battle of Britain. By 1942, about 36,000 quarts of food had been shipped.



*The operating room in the stable building after its conversion, in 1942, into the "Hamilton Farm Base Hospital No. 1."*

Soon after the United States entered the war, in December 1941, Mrs. Cutting offered the stable for use as a hospital to handle overflow from regional health centers in the event of a disaster, epidemic, or possible direct attack by Japan or Germany. The conversion of the building into a medical facility—called "Hamilton Farm Base Hospital No. 1"—took about six months. Opening in August 1942, the hospital was operated by the United States Health Service and Office of Civilian Defense. The facility was complete with an operating room and was capable of accommodating between 200 and 250 patients. When fully functional, it had a staff of 15 doctors and between 75 and 100 other employees, including nurses and social workers.

By October 1942, it was determined that the greater need was for a convalescent and rehabilitation center for merchant mariners who were injured performing hazardous shipping duty in war convoys across the North Atlantic. Reorganized and renamed the "Gladstone Merchant Marine Rest Center," the Hamilton Farm stable became one of seven such facilities across the country operated by the War Shipping Administration and United Seamen's Service.



*A ward on the second floor of the Hamilton Farm stable after the building's conversion to the "Gladstone Merchant Marine Rest Center."*

In addition to receiving medical care and rehabilitation, the patients had access to all of the estate's many facilities, including the large swimming pool, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, squash court, and the gardens, greenhouses, and extensive grounds. The men even helped with farming in the estate's large Victory Garden. The Somerset Lake and Game Club granted the men access to that club's swimming, fishing, boating, and skating facilities at nearby Ravine Lake.

As part of their rehabilitation treatment, the men participated in an extensive arts and crafts program run by the Somerset Hills Chapter of the American Red Cross. The program featured such things as woodworking, bookbinding, leatherwork, painting and sketching, and papermaking. Paper made during the war at Hamilton Farm is today a rare and prized souvenir.



*Bookbinding was among the extensive arts and crafts programs provided through the American Red Cross for convalescing merchant mariners. Examples of the men's work was exhibited during World War II at the Newark Museum. Among the exhibit's visitors were the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, friends of Helen and Suydam Cutting.*

Before closing, in 1947, the Gladstone Merchant Marine Rest Center had cared for some 5,000 merchant mariners. In 1943, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, friends of the Cuttings, made a goodwill visit to the center in Gladstone and toured the exhibit of the seamen's arts and crafts work at the Newark Museum.

After the war the Hamilton Farm stable and carriage barn was little used. From the late 1940s until the mid-1950s, the building became office and materials storage space for North County Construction Company, a contracting operation run by the Brady Security and Realty Corporation to renovate houses on the Hamilton Farm property for rental.

Helen McMahon Brady Cutting died in July 1961, just months after it was announced that the Hamilton Farm stable complex had been leased to the United States Equestrian Team. Two years later, her widowed husband, Suydam Cutting, married Mary Pyne Filley, a friend of his from childhood whose first husband, Oliver Dwight Filley Sr., had died in 1961. Mary was the daughter of Percy Rivington Pyne and Maud Howland and had grown up on her family's Upton Pyne estate in Bernardsville.

## THE UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM

In 1961, eleven years after the founding of the United States Equestrian Team, the Brady Security and Realty Corporation leased the Hamilton Farm stable facility and some considerable surrounding acreage to become the team's first permanent home for the training and housing of both horses and riders.

The team had been organized in 1950, two years after the United States Army had largely disbanded its horse-mounted cavalry. The Army post at Fort Riley, Kansas, had previously provided the horses, riders, and training for the country's Olympic equestrian teams.

In 1978, Beneficial Management purchased about 500 acres, including the stable complex, from Brady Security and Realty, but continued to lease the stable to the equestrian team. In 1988, Beneficial generously donated the stable building along with some adjacent structures and acreage to the team.

In 2017, one hundred years after its construction, the Hamilton Farm stable was added to the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. In addition to being an appropriate recognition of the architectural importance of the iconic stable, the listing is also an acknowledgement of the significance of the Brady family, the Hamilton Farm estate, and the United States Equestrian Team to the rich history of the Somerset Hills.



W. Barry Thomson  
June 2017



THE BERNARDSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
WELCOMES YOU TO

# DISCOVER *Bernardsville*

UNIQUE SHOPS · GALLERIES · RESTAURANTS GALORE

## WHO WE ARE

We are an all-volunteer board of directors who work together to support current and new businesses. We organize several annual events to increase foot traffic, advocate dining and shopping in Bernardsville.

We provide a platform for business owners to network, build relationships, brand their business, develop leadership skills and collaborate with other professionals and business owners.

## ANNUAL EVENTS & ADVERTISING

Sounds Around Town

The Taste of Bernardsville and Beyond

Holly Days Events (Christmas tree lighting, Carriage Rides, Caroling, Ladies Night, Men's Night etc.)

Family Halloween Activities

Easter Bunny Event

Social/Networking Events for Members

Free Advertising and Discount Advertising



## GET INVOLVED JOIN OUR CHAMBER MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Call me, email me, get involved,  
and make a difference!

EILEEN LOUGHNANE  
eloughnane@bvillechamber.com  
or 908-642-8369  
www.bvillechamber.com

## WHAT'S NEW IN 2017

New Spring Time Chamber  
Fundraising Event  
New Marketing Consultants  
New Events  
More Educational Training Sessions  
More Advertising  
Chamber Champion Awards

## HOW YOUR BUSINESS CAN BENEFIT

Build Relationships with  
Other Business Owners  
Become a Leader  
in your Community  
Increase Visibility and Brand Recognition  
Network  
Free Advertising and Discount  
Advertising  
Promote your Business with  
Like-Minded People  
Give Back to Your Community  
Build a Better Bernardsville  
FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT:  
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# Music in the Somerset Hills

## 2017 - 2018 Concert Series



Glenn Miller Orchestra  
October 28



Canadian Brass &  
Somerset Hills Chorus  
December 2



OUTREACH CONCERTS BY  
Jill Crawford Ensemble  
Flute and Friends - January



Antioch Chamber Ensemble  
20th Anniversary Concert February



Donald Dumpson &  
Somerset Hills Chorus  
African American Music - March

Westminster Williamson  
Voices - April

Movie Music in the Park - June



Please visit  
**[MusicSH.org/Concerts](http://MusicSH.org/Concerts) for updates**

## SPECIAL THANK YOU TO TODAY'S MUSICIANS



John Zweig started playing guitar professionally in St. Louis at age 15 as a studio musician and accompanist, having performed with Lou Rawls, The Temptations, Frank Sinatra, Stan Kenton, and Oliver Nelson



Rick Crane is a world class bassist and international recording and touring artist, who has played with such greats as Billy Eckstine, Vic Juris, and Grammy lifetime achievement award-winning saxophonist Benny Golson. He recently released his own CD, 'Duality' with pianist Bob Himmelberger.



THE BERNARDS INN

PRESENTS

# *Vineyard* to Glass

A LOCAL WINERY & FROMAGERIE EXPERIENCE

Friday, June 30, 2017 at 7pm

Join us for a festive summer evening where you will sample some of the region's most intriguing wineries and vintages, enjoy fine locally sourced cheeses, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and live music in The Bernards Inn's exclusive Silver Vault and Wine Pantry.

**\$95 Per Person**

Standard admission includes taxes

**\$125 Per Person**

VIP admission includes early arrival time, upgraded spirits and hors d'oeuvres during one-hour preview tasting, and taxes

SPACE IS LIMITED & RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED  
PLEASE CALL 908.766.0002 OR INQUIRE AT THE FRONT DESK