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The Case's farm pond — now the Town Pool — looking toward the Woodland School. This pond was fed by springs and never froze solid. A second pond, just to the right of this photo, was used for skating and cutting ice. Horses were driven onto the pond and ice 12-14" thick removed to the Case's ice house which stood between the mansion and barn. A narrow strip of land between the two ponds was removed when the Town Pool was moved to this site in 1951.

THE CASE FAMILY LEGACY TO WESTON

The character of Weston as a pleasant, well-governed, residential town with significant recreation land and open space has evolved in part due to the contributions — of time, talent, land, and financial resources — of many residents. The "Case Estates" of the Arnold Arboretum — described by Richard A. Howard in a separate article below — "Case Park" between the Scout House and the intersection of School and Wellesley Streets, and the land upon which rest the Town Pool, the "Case House", and the Field, Country, and Woodland Schools represent a legacy from the family of James Brown Case. Mr. Case, a Boston merchant-banker, first purchased property in Weston in 1863 for the purpose of establishing a summer home. This article and the one which follows, outline the contributions of the Case family to the Town of Weston.

James Brown Case (1826-1907), born in Providence, Rhode Island, came to Boston as a young man, and married Laura Lucretia Williams (1833-1918), the daughter of Moses Williams of Roxbury. Mr. Case was for a time associated with Theodore F. Von Arnin in the dry goods commission business, selling fabrics for mills. Later he organized the firm of Case, Leland and Company which afterwards became known as Case, Dudley, and Battelle, and finally Battelle, Hurd, and Company — all in the dry goods brokerage business. He served as president of the Bates Manufacturing Company, the Lewiston, Maine textile manufacturer, and was an officer in the Edwards Manufacturing Company of Augusta, Maine, a firm producing shoe flannel. Mr. Case retired from active duties in his own firm but kept his interest in the business. Apparently he made a "career change" at this point. He was for several years president of the National Bank of Redemption and when this bank was consolidated with the First National Bank in 1904, he became a director of the First. The Boston Globe, upon his death, described Mr. Case as "widely known in banking circles." Mr. Case was a trustee for a number of estates. After his retirement, he maintained desk room in the

offices of James G. Freeman and Company — the husband of his daughter Caroline — at 55 Kilby Street in Boston.

Laura Lucretia Williams Case, daughter of a wealthy and prominent Boston family, particularly proud of her ancestry, had a “Williams” coat-of-arms embossed in a first floor fireplace in the house at 89 Wellesley Street. Her father, Moses Williams, was a descendant of the Revolutionary soldier, and a prominent Boston merchant. Her younger brother, a second “Moses Williams”, graduated from Harvard College in 1868 and became an Overseer of the college. Moses’ son — a third “Moses” — was a member of the Harvard Class of 1891. Laura’s sister, Sarah, married William Henry Slocum and, beginning in 1857, lived in the “Heath Hill” estate on Pond Street in Jamaica Plain. Sarah’s son, Thomas W. Slocum, a member of the Harvard Class of 1890, also became an Overseer of the college and founder of the Harvard Clubs of Boston and New York. Sarah’s daughter, Anna D. Slocum, founded the Children’s Museum in Jamaica Plain, of which Laura’s daughter, Louisa Case, was a trustee for many years.

James and Laura Case had four daughters, all born in Boston: Caroline Sumner Case (1856-1919), Mabel Case (1858-1883), Louisa Williams Case (September 10, 1862-October 9, 1946) — known as “Louise”, and Marian Roby Case (September 5, 1864-July 4, 1944). Mabel died in early maturity, and Caroline was the only one to marry — to James Goldwaithe Freeman — and lived for many years on Love Lane in Weston. Caroline’s daughter, Rosamond Freeman, died in youth. In 1928, Louisa Case, a trustee of the library from 1921-37, remodeled a room in the Weston Public Library and dedicated it to this niece. Caroline Case Freeman also had bequeathed \$10,000 to the library.

The story of the Case mansion begins in 1889, a time at which Boston was appropriately termed “the hub” of learning and culture. Benjamin Harrison had just won the presidency, and Montana, Washington, and both Dakotas were to join the Union in that year. Commonwealth Avenue was filling with newly built fine homes, and Mrs. Jack Gardner — Isabella Stewart Gardner — who at 49 was queen of the Back Bay, had just had her “scandalous” portrait painted by John Singer Sargent. Trinity Church in Copley Square, completed in 1877, had established the ascendancy of the Romanesque style of architecture and the fortunes of its architect, H. H. Richardson. Looking westward from Boston, Robert Treat Paine, chairman of the board of Trinity Church, was so impressed with Richardson that Paine persuaded him to remodel the interior and add a great wing onto Paine’s country home on the plateau north of Beaver Street in Waltham. Also in Waltham, across Beaver Street at the “Vale”, the Lyman family had just completed the remodeling of their magnificent country seat, designed by Samuel McIntyre of Salem in 1793, adding to it a library in the latest fashion.

It was against this background that James Brown Case of 468 Beacon Street, Boston, set out to build himself a summer mansion suitable to his position. Having purchased thirty acres from Charles White in 1863 and having summered in Weston for nearly two decades, during the 1880’s he acquired the Bunker lot, and the Robinson property for a total of about seventy acres in the center of Weston. Case also bought the General Darby property at the geographic center of town on which stood a frame house which he had dismantled. In 1889, the same year in which the present First Parish Church building was erected, Mr. Case engaged the Architect Ernest N. Boyden to design the mansion — then called “Rocklawn”, now called the “Case House” — a fine adaptation of the Shingle Style, beautifully situated at an angle to the curve of Wellesley Street, the third dwelling to stand on that site. The interior was filled with golden oak woodwork and carved mantels in the Romanesque motif. At the time it was built, this was one of the three most expensive houses in Weston, the others being the Blake and Hubbard estates.

The Case House is reported to be the third house to stand on the site, but we have been able to learn about only two of the houses. Information regarding uses of this land and the reasons why James B. Case purchased land in Weston, as opposed to some other community, is revealed in a letter from Emma F. Ripley in 1960. Whether the 1876 fire completely destroyed the house, and if so, where the Cases lived for the next 13 summers is not clear. Whether they lived in a different house on the same property, or temporarily rebuilt the burnt house, or lived elsewhere, we have not yet discovered:

In 1795, General Samuel G. Derby [also spelled “Darby,” Ed.] of Salem “bought several parcels of land in Weston.” One of these was the one hundred forty-six acre farm of Caleb B. Hall, with a beautiful gambrel roofed house that stood on the site of the present Case House, near the corner where Newton Street turns south from Wellesley. At General Derby’s death in 1843, his affairs were found to be somewhat involved, and the property was sold in 1845 to Mr. Charles White, a wealthy Boston merchant. In 1863, Mr. White sold the estate to another Boston merchant, Mr. James B. Case, whose wife was a niece of Mrs. White.

It was the Case summer home [for 13 summers], but one night in April, 1876 before the family had come from Boston [for the summer] the beautiful Caleb Brooks-General Derby house burned to the ground. The present Case House was built in 1889.

Although but a summer resident, Mr. Case took an active part in Town affairs. For example, at the Town Meeting of March 6, 1876, he was appointed to a committee of three to study the question of constructing a high school. For reasons which are not clear — but probably financial — a Town Meeting two weeks later dissolved the committee, but in any event, Mr. Case was an active and respected citizen. Prior to 1909, the Case family spent the winters in their home at 468 Beacon Street or traveling — to the Continent, Egypt, the Holy Land, and elsewhere. The chimney over the great fireplace on the first floor at 89 Wellesley Street bears the inscription “East or West, Home’s Best” — “East” signifying the Beacon Street home, and “West”, the summer home in Weston. The family, however, continued to remain active in Weston town affairs throughout the year. The *Waltham Free Press Tribune* of March 8, 1907, for example, noted that “Louise Case was chairman of entertainment for the International Party in Town Hall sponsored by the Friendly Society of First Parish.”

Mr. Case died on April 10, 1907, at his home on Beacon Street, the first in a series of events which profoundly affected the Case family. Marian, although forty-five, decided to embark upon the twin careers of farming and education — describing herself as a “farmerette”. In 1909, the family sold the Beacon Street home and Marian purchased a small farm on Wellesley Street, near the family estate. In the following year, Marian purchased additional property and moved permanently into 102 Wellesley Street — “Appletree Cottage”. Looking back upon her founding of the progressive agricultural and horticultural station — and haven of summer work for Weston boys, Marian wrote in 1929:

“Hillcrest Gardens was started in 1909 as a cure for bronchitis. Realizing that I could not continue to spend my winters among the east winds of Boston, I took a cottage in Weston for the winter, and, with horseback riding and other out-of-doors exercise, kept well. About this time the land next to our old family estate in Weston came into the market. I then felt that if I were to live in the country, it would be well to have my interest there, so I bought my first land of about 23 acres.”

When Laura Case died in 1918, her 113 acres were bequeathed to the three surviving children. Then Caroline died in 1919, and the estate was divided between Louisa and Marian, two exceptional and very different women. The mansion and surrounding land was inherited by Louisa — for Marian had been living in her own home for over a decade — who made this her home until 1942, continuing to live in the style of her parents. Louisa also established a winter home at 85 Commonwealth Avenue. Louisa, the prettier of the two sisters, was active in the Women’s Community League of Weston, the Weston Garden Club, the First Parish Church, the Chilton Club, the Republican Club of Boston, was a director of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the Massachusetts Civil League, the Copley Society, and a member of the visiting committee of the Arnold Arboretum. Louisa’s service as a Library Trustee is noted above. Apparently this was not an arduous task. The Trustees kept no records — and had to be urged by the Selectmen occasionally to hold a meeting! She used her greenhouses to propagate and grow flowers for cutting, kept a herd of Guernseys, a bull, and a team of driving horses — a “gentlewoman farmer”.

In 1942, Louisa gave the mansion and fifty-nine acres of land to Harvard University for use by the Arnold Arboretum — all of Marian’s land was willed to the



The Case House — originally known as “Rocklawn” due to the large boulder just out of camera range to the left — at the turn of the century. The view is from Field School toward the southeast. The mansion, built in 1889, was designed by Ernest N. Boyden as a summer home for the family of James Brown Case. This was originally the back side of the house, the current circle and driveway on the Field School side having been added in the 1950’s. The hexagonal room over the entryway was added about five years before the death, in 1918, of Laura Case — “Mrs. James B.” — as a sunroom for Mrs. Case. The only other structural changes have been the removal of the portecochere — under which carriages could drive — at the front (south) entrance and the “Kindergarten Addition” completed in 1952.

Arboretum upon her death in Weston on July 4, 1944. In 1946, the Town needed land for school construction. Louisa, just prior to her death in Weston on October 9 of that year, prevailed upon Harvard to sell forty-three acres, including the “Case House” mansion, a large barn, and greenhouses — the land upon which Country School and the new high school (now “Field School”) were to be built — to the Town for \$10,000, almost a gift. There was an expression of gratitude from citizens at the 1946 Town Meeting to Louisa for making this possible for the Town. The substantially built barn adjacent to the mansion burned in April, 1947, the proceeds of \$15,000 collected on the insurance for the barn more than paying the initial cost of this extraordinary nucleus for the future development of schools and a new Town Pool. The new high school opened in 1950, the new Town Pool in 1951, and the Country School in 1955. In 1957, additional land was needed and 32.5 additional acres — mostly Louisa’s original land — were taken from Harvard by eminent domain. The Woodland School was completed in 1959 — and added to in 1965 — and “Case House” was used for various school classes and the offices of the Superintendent of Schools. “Alphabet Lane”, the access road to the Town Pool and the Country and Woodland Schools, evolved at this time. In the era of the Cases, the road into that area was a narrow lane, now a one-way street, which leads from the Town Pool up to Wellesley Street. In addition to her bequests of real estate, Louisa left cash bequests of over a quarter-million dollars.

Many residents of Weston recall the Case sisters. Brenton Dickson wrote in *Random Recollections*:

“Perhaps the most impressive sight of a summer afternoon was watching the Misses Case drive by — Miss Marian and Miss Louisa. They had a beautiful black carriage drawn by perfectly groomed black horses. A black coachman sat on the elevated front seat while the Misses Case sat behind amid luxurious upholstery . . . Miss Marian was interested in photography and I, being a picturesque little Fauntleroy with long curly hair done up in ribbons, was taken down to her studio several times to be photographed . . . Miss Marian’s real interest, however, was taking pictures of flowers (“fowwahs”, she called them on account of a speech defect) and giving illustrated lectures. Once my mother had charge of raising money for a charity and asked Miss Case if she would provide entertainment with a flower lecture. Miss Case was delighted, and arrangements were made with the Winsor School in Boston to hold it in their auditorium. Then more pressing matters occupied my mother’s mind and she gave it no further thought until Miss Case telephoned, on the day of the lecture, for final instructions. My mother, suddenly realizing that she had done nothing about selling tickets, gathered members of her family and a handful of friends, about ten in all, and hurried them to the Winsor School. Except for two or three stray teachers who kept popping in and out at odd moments, this constituted the entire audience . . . Miss Case’s speech defect, or lisp, is perhaps best remembered by her remarks at a Town Meeting in Weston when a sewer system for the center of the town was under discussion. Somehow the subject got changed to Weston’s need for a new source of water and the inadequacy of the source of supply. Miss Case, desirous of keeping the discussion on the main topic, rose to her feet and said: ‘Mistah Modah-waiter - I thought we were twying to get wid of owah woe-tah.’ The audience burst into laughter, but Miss Case failed to see any humor in the remark and finally sat down, confused. She wisely decided not to pursue the subject.”

Margaret Mosher, a resident of 84 Wellesley Street since 1907, recalls that two farm-hands slept in the barn adjacent to the mansion. Cows were kept in the basement of the barn and hay on the top. A favorite — though forbidden — activity of neighborhood children was to slide down the hay chute. The carriages were kept at the end of the barn nearest to the mansion — the brown shed which still stands — and were washed continuously. Pigs and pigeons were housed on the main floor. The main house had, at least, a laundress, a cook, a second maid, and two men in the greenhouses — in addition to the two men in the barn and part-time help. The servant call-bells from the Case House are in the Society’s collection. Marian also had “help” at 102 Wellesley Street. Names of some of the workers come up in conversation. Mr. Weaver was Marian’s



The Case barn, March, 1947. The view is from the current playing fields at Field School, looking east up to Wellesley Street. The cement cow barn on the right still stands on Case Estates property, as does the carriage shed at the far left of the barn. The center and right-hand portions of the barn burned on Good Friday, April 4, 1947.



Remains of the Case Barn after the April 4, 1947 fire. The view is from Wellesley Street. The Carriage shed on the right is used today as the Buildings and Grounds Office of the school department. The Town obtained \$15,000 in insurance as a result of the barn fire, more than recouping the \$10,000 which Louisa Case persuaded Harvard University to charge the Town for the barn, Case House, and 43 adjacent acres in 1946. Miss Case had given her property to Harvard.



On May 20, 1933, Louisa Case, east of Wellesley Street, just north of the Music Committee of the town, the hobby show and baby show — Pole, and Ellen "Fuzzy" Brewster.



Pet and hobby show judges, seated on the bench, are (left to right): Olsen Field, Marian Roby Case, and Lyman Gale. Miss Mary Field, a cousin of Miss Case, stands at the left and a friend, Miss Hyde, is at the right.



Fashion show models included garden flowers from Case, trimmed with a strip of white muslin by the grass — and Betsy Byrd would have worn the dress, it was pretty" recalls Nat.



an all-day "May Party" on her land #84. The party, for the benefit of Fish Church, included a pet and es for all — a fashion show, May od as fortune teller.



"Pagliacci" pulling the donkey cart which Marian Case purchased in Italy during the previous winter. The cart became a regular feature of Weston parades. "Pagliacci" replaced "Jennie", a gift of Mrs. Brenton Dickson.



Coburn (left) wearing a silk dress eleine of Newbury Street — keep the dress from being stained ht). "I don't know where anyone pths of the Depression, but the rn.



Identifiable at the May Pole are: Bill Billings (third from left) and W. R. Dewey 3rd (fifth from left).

butler, Mrs. Weaver, the cook; and their son served tea in uniform — reluctantly. If you were invited there for Sunday dinner, the meal might have seven courses. “Freeman” was Marian’s chauffeur, and “Horrigan”, Louise’s. “Dorgan” was the horticultural man for “Mrs. James B.”. Tom Park was “superintendent” for Marian, following his father who was the family’s coachman. John Mele was Louisa’s gardener and Mary Maguire, her housekeeper. Marian had Lozier and Cunningham phaetons. Louisa often attended lectures in her Stearns-Knight automobile. She built a garage on the east side of Wellesley Street, just north of #84, where Horrigan would await her call on the new telephone. Other favorite pastimes recalled by Miss Mosher are walking in “Case’s Woods” — you were not supposed to climb the trees and signs cautioned against picking the wildflowers — and coasting on sleds down the farm road from Wellesley Street toward the farm ponds (which have been combined to make the present Town Pool).

Miss Mosher also recalls very clearly the period from 1942 to the time of Louisa Case’s death in 1946:

“When it became too much for her, Miss Case sold the stock and gave up the farm [to Harvard]. Then she spent the summers in the cottage at 80 Wellesley Street which she had owned for several years. Sometimes in the winter she would come from Boston to 80 Wellesley Street for a long weekend. That seemed to give her great pleasure. She would always have friends and a maid or two with her.”

Several persons recall Louisa Case as “pretty, but shy . . . ladylike, retiring” — although one person remembers that Louisa “circulated quietly, but a lot” — “conservative, someone who everybody listened to and respected” . . . and “down-to-earth, as opposed to Marian”. Marian, who frequently rode sidesaddle on her chestnut horse, is described as “exceedingly kind and helpful to others”, although her Hillcrest Gardens project is reported routinely to have provoked “knowing grins” from contemporaries who viewed her as “somewhat flighty” — and her dress as “mannish”. Yet, Marian was active in the Grange and Red Cross and respected for “holding her own” on the Standing Committee (governing board) of the First Parish Church. “Mr. Winsor and Mr. Sears (two of the other members) were men of very decided opinions, but Marian Case seldom came off second-best” recalls one person who knew Miss Case. Both sisters donated to charities anonymously and helped many local citizens and projects. They are remembered as “people who did not mingle a great deal”. Although Marian had a darkroom and enjoyed photography as her principal hobby beyond gardening, the sisters destroyed most of their photographs prior to their deaths. “They simply were very private people” recalls one long-time resident. Another, remembers that “none of the Case family ever did a great deal of entertaining . . . not big parties, anyway, just one or two couples at a time . . . most likely from among the John Paines, the Winsors, B. Loring Young, the Coburns, the Hubbards, the Blakes, Horace Sears, Dr. and Mrs. Wood, and Rev. and Mrs. Miles Hanson.” “Most of these people lived rather near the Cases” recalls another person, “you must remember that until paved roads and automobiles became so common, the distances in town seemed far greater than they do today . . . Kendall Green where the Hastings and Coburns lived seemed as far away as Waltham”. All of the Case family traveled occasionally during the winter, but Marian seems to have been the most traveled member of the family — often in search of new seeds or plants. Marian took the Woods to Egypt, the Hansons to the Holy Land, and Mr. Petty, the high school science teacher, to Africa. She made several trips to the West, to various locations on the Continent, and journeyed to Japan.

One anecdote, recorded by Phil Coburn in *Growing Up In Weston*, describes an incident one hardly would have predicted — and Marian Case’s response:

“In 1910 Miss Marian Case, who was a friend of my parents, invited me and my brother to come to work at Hillcrest Farm. In those days there were very few jobs for boys, such as mowing lawns or gardening because all the estate owners had their own men, some of whom lived in houses on the estates . . . When my brother, who was two years older, heard that the pay would be \$1 a week for six days of four hours a day, he got on his bicycle and went home. This figured to be four cents an hour, and he knew that he could make ten cents an hour working for Uncle Arthur Coburn’s

farmhand. During my first week, the six boys who had been invited to work decided to strike, even though one of the boys was the son of Miss Case's herdsman. We walked up Wellesley Street with hoes and rakes over our shoulders yelling, "Strike!" Miss Case followed us to "The Clubhouse" which is now 133 Wellesley Street, took us upstairs where the lectures were held and, sitting behind a table on a platform, she read very dramatically [Wordsworth's] "Happy Warrior" whose first lines are: "Who is the happy warrior, who is he that every man in arms should wish to be?" She kept us there for an hour or more and then told us to go back to work, which we did. From time to time there was more griping, but no more concerted action . . ."

Jack Williams, a Hillcrest boy of the 1930's, recalls the summers at Hillcrest with equal fondness and humor. Jack remembers boys shooting with a rifle at the bell which called them in from the fields — to the utter confusion of handyman Tom Park, who could not imagine why the bell had rung — and encouraging Tom to try his turn at bat, ending in a baseball smashing a window in the boarding house. Jack also remembers that Marian Case especially enjoyed the singing of the Hillcrest Song as the boys marched to the Labor Day exercises: "Weston has been famous for the kind of men it's bred / Weston boys will go where Weston men have led / Every Weston boy beholds a star of hope ahead . . ." But Miss Case had become a bit deaf, thus did not notice as the straight-faced boys substituted "a bar of soap" for "a star of hope" as they sang lustily.

For just over eighty years — from the purchase of a summer home in 1863 to Louisa's death in 1946 — members of two generations of the Case family resided in Weston. Yet as we walk their woods and fields, surveying the public good to which their two-hundred acres have been put — the Case Estates, Case Park (south of the Scout House, willed by Louisa to the Town), and the pleasant sites of three schools, the Town Pool, and adjacent playing fields — we acknowledge their beneficial effect upon our present lives. Professor Dallas L. Sharp, summing up the effect of Marian Case's Hillcrest Gardens school, made comments using choices of words that provide insight into the thought of the pre-WWII era:

"Born an aristocrat, you have achieved the genuine American democracy . . . You are here doing what Labor the world over is demanding to be done for it — giving it a chance not only to work and think and be happy but to live . . . You have solved the problem of Labor and settled the great social unrest." [To which Miss Case replied] "Is it not also the fulfilling of the old time spirit of noblesse oblige?"

Donald G. Kennedy

THE HILLCREST GARDENS

For thirty-three years, from 1910 until 1943, Miss Marian Roby Case conducted a practical school of agriculture and gardening on her estate in Weston for children of Weston and the surrounding towns. The activities of the school, with the exception of the last two years, as well as the development of the farm — now known as the Case Estates of the Arnold Arboretum — and bits of Miss Case's own philosophy, are recorded in the annual "green books", which thus comprise a history of the estate and a record of the land's use. The following brief history is intended as a tribute to Miss Case and a summary of a remarkable philanthropic enterprise.

Marian Roby Case inherited a small tract of land lying between Wellesley and Ash Streets and east of Newton Street. On this land, to become the original section of Hillcrest Gardens, was located the Dorgan House, occupied by a gardener and dismantled in 1935. In the spring of 1909 twenty-three acres of land adjacent to the Case family property came on the market. Miss Case bought this land, including the Barker House, later known as the Williams House or the Sentinels (101 Wellesley Street) on Memorial Day, of that year. A red barn next to the house was torn down and the first rose garden was established on the filled-in cellar. These properties surrounded a small amount of land on which was the Howard Cooper House (102 Wellesley Street). In

1910 Miss Case bought this property, renamed it Appletree Cottage for a famous set of apple trees surrounding it, and made the house her home.

The entire property was known as Hillcrest Farm, although the origin of the name cannot be determined from available records. In the first Hillcrest Farm booklet, published by Miss Case in 1911, she wrote: "Hillcrest is an experimental farm where we wish to work up the scientific side of agriculture as well as to employ boys of the town through their long summer vacation." The land was called Hillcrest Farms until the eleventh summer (1920), when the name was changed to Hillcrest Gardens. Miss Case attributed the change of name to the influence of Charles Sargent and John Jack of the Arnold Arboretum.

It is interesting to note that Miss Case's interest in horticulture and the development of Hillcrest Gardens never exceeded her desire to contribute to the boys who worked on the land, and, in fact, all children interested in nature.

In horticultural activities Miss Case was extremely active and used the developing gardens to this end. In the winters she frequently travelled the Mediterranean, partly for her health and partly for the horticultural interest of the area. She established many contacts in Italy, Sicily, Greece and Egypt, where she not only collected seeds herself but she had seeds of potentially useful ornamentals sent to Weston for trial. In 1924 Miss Case became a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society and received seeds from the Kew Gardens and similar sources. She was a life member of the Botanical Society of South Africa and received many packets of seeds from that area. Hillcrest Gardens became the first spot in New England to try many South African herbaceous plants as garden annuals. In addition, Mr. Chittenden, Director of the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley, was a personal friend and sent her some of the best plants grown at these gardens.

In New England her influence in horticulture extended to many areas. One of her most important roles came about as a result of her active participation in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Miss Case joined the Society with a life membership in 1911. In 1921 she was elected a trustee and so served for over a decade. She also served actively as chairman of the Children's Gardens Committee. She established the Hillcrest Medals for children's gardens and these were awarded from 1918 to 1933. In 1927, thirty-seven bronze medals were awarded to children who prepared outstanding gardens or exhibits. Other special awards or functions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society bore the Hillcrest name, such as a silver cup for the best collection of iris and the Hillcrest Gardens summer lectures sponsored by Miss Case. In 1926 Professor Sargent, on behalf of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, awarded a gold medal to Miss Case with the citation, "Since 1910, Miss Case has financed and energetically conducted a vocational gardening school for boys between the ages of nine and eighteen. Equipped with this knowledge in the art and practice of raising first-class flowers, fruits and vegetables and taught to appreciate the book of Nature, these boys go forth worthy, capable and practical. Miss Case's deep love of Nature has found expression in this most useful work and in her the art of garden craft has a staunch and generous friend." Miss Case was very proud of the award and its citation and it is only surprising that she did not mention the Centennial Gold Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society awarded to her in 1930 for her educational work within the Society.

Horticulture Magazine, now a publication of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, began publication in 1920 as a weekly, privately published journal with Edward Farrington as its editor. It came under the sponsorship of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in August 1923, and continued as a semi-monthly periodical. Apparently this magazine proved a financial burden to the Society and was the subject of much discussion at the meetings of the trustees. Professor Sargent and Miss Case were its strongest defenders, firmly anticipating its present success. Quietly, but not without official notice, Miss Case contributed generous financial support to meet its deficits. Miss Case regularly contributed articles and short horticultural observations, thirty alone in 1920, and sent many copies to her friends and correspondents abroad to make the publication more widely known internationally.

Miss Case was in close association with the Arnold Arboretum and the Botanic Gardens of Harvard University. She received many plants from the Arboretum for trial in Weston and today some of the outstanding specimens of plants introduced to American Horticulture by E. H. Wilson of the Arboretum staff are growing on the Case Estates. Miss Case was appointed a member of the Overseers Committee to visit the Harvard Botanic Garden in 1922, and in 1924 she sponsored a private viewing of these gardens. Tea was served and over 4000 invitations were sent, of which 3000 were accepted. Elsewhere in the Boston area the Benevolent Fruit and Flower Mission received her support with regular contributions of cut flowers and plants.

Miss Case was an active member of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association and served in many of its offices, including that of president in 1927-28 when this national organization met at Hillcrest.

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AN EXCURSION TO CHINA

Our annual charter anniversary dinner on May 7th at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, ran on an altered course from our traditional ones. In a daring gesture, our peerless leader Steve Riley opted for a topic as far from New England or the United States as possible. If some members had reservations about this, by the time the speaker finished his presentation, everybody was satisfied and happy with this milestone decision.

Lawrence Coolidge, trustee and treasurer of the Boston Atheneum, presented a slide lecture on his "Travels Through Inner China". The slides were magnificent, and so were the young speaker's comments that accompanied them. He and his wife were guests of the Chinese government for a tour to forbidden places in western China.

While more and more people journey to China, they see only the usual tourist attractions in the East, Canton, Peking and points in between. To get a glimpse of little travelled parts of that large country was definitely an eye opener and a treat. Most of us found it absolutely fascinating and wished to take off in the footsteps of our lecturer.

He retraced many a road where trade routes wound their way for over 2,000 years, where once lived people who conquered Romans, where Ghengis Khan and Alexander the Great once trod. This is the area usually referred to as "the silk route," which led through oases to the Roman Empire, where silk was so popular that half of Rome's gold and silver went to China for silk and spices.

Sinkiang Province in north-west China offers a varied landscape of snowcapped mountains and deserts. The people are Mongols, Turkic and Tibetans, and white visitors are a strange sight to them. Yet even here, portraits of Mao and Chou are on abundant display in the villages among the rolling hills or in the sparse settlements of the Takla Makan desert.

By train, car and jeep our travelers reached Dunhuang on the Tang River with its magnificent series of Buddhist caves. This was an important oasis city, but now little is left but mud walls; 6th Century towers stand silently as sentinels reminding us of the passage of time. In the caves are remnants of Buddhist paintings and statues, and allegedly thousands of ancient scrolls were discovered here about 1899 by a monk. Some found their way into the British Museum, others were taken later by the Japanese.

No words can describe the beauty of the scenery and the interesting faces of men, women and children, captured by the camera's eye and presented to us with the easily flowing and perceptive comments of Lawrence Coolidge. He might be a financial expert, but he certainly could fall back on his talents as photographer and lecturer!

As much as we love American history, including our local lore, it is refreshing from time to time to climb out of our oyster and widen our horizons with vistas from another corner of the world. Who knows, perhaps after visiting as armchair travelers other places, our own neck-of-the-woods would be the dearer to us.

A fabulous art book about this place was issued by the Dunhuang Institute for Cultural Relics: *Art Treasures of Dunhuang* (New York: Lee Publishing Group, 1981. Barnes and Noble is now selling this \$85 book for \$39.95!

Dr. Vera Laska

FROM THE EDITOR

Special thanks are due to Margaret Henderson Floyd of Ash Street who researched the circumstances surrounding the building of the Case mansion in 1889 and the transfer of Case property to the Town. Mrs. Floyd, an architectural historian, wrote the paragraphs describing the building of the mansion for a PTO publication several years ago. They have been adapted for this article with her permission. The piece by Richard Howard of Conant Road appeared in similar form in the December, 1960, *Arnoldia* and parallels a talk which he delivered at that time to our Society. Dick, a Harvard professor and for many years the Director of the Case Estates, feels that his life is intertwined with the life of Samuel W. Mead. Mead, the architect for the elaborate barn which still stands at 135 Wellesley Street adjacent to the house which Dick occupied as Director, also designed — as his own home — the house at 59 Conant Road into which Dick and Betty moved a couple of years ago. 59 Conant Road was recently given to Harvard by Mead's son, Charles. In the basement of the Conant Road house, Dick discovered drawings done by Samuel Mead while in Europe as the second recipient of the Rotch Travelling Scholarship of the Boston Society of Architects. Mead also designed the Wayland Public Library. In doing research on the Case family I encountered people who recalled that James B. Case was associated — probably in law practice — with his wife's brother, Moses Williams; and that Mr. Case or the Williams family also had interests in the wholesale liquor business. I could not confirm either of these points, thus I have omitted them from the article. I mention them here as they may be useful "leads" for some future researcher.

CORRECTION: Omitted from the article on Samuel Phillips Savage in the March, 1982 *Bulletin* (page 5, line 26) are the following phrases: "Savage records in his diary the details of the Boston Tea Party and of the angry reaction of . . ." Steve Riley's talk to the Society in March was witty and enlightening. Steve described the years of procrastination by Augustus Saint-Gaudens prior to his completion of the monument to Robert Gould Shaw.



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