

Squires Minutes 11/11/2024

To All Members of the Country Squires

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 11TH 2024

Garry Keane opened the meeting and introduced Art Scutro

Art wowed the gathered with stirring Words of Inspiration.

There was then a discussion of dues payers and those who are delinquent. A proposal to send invoices vs. emails to improve dues payments was tabled for the moment, though the problem of delinquency persists.

There followed the introduction of guests:

Art Rosen introduced Bill McKinley

Ted Jones introduced Tom Bates

Joe Watts introduced Paul Boserup

No action on membership was taken.

Dave Wood introduced David Bashaw and Paige Kingsley to discuss the life of John Hay and his estate, "The Fells".

David Bashaw presented an excellent, detailed portrayal of John Hay and his importance to American history. Hay was Abraham Lincoln's private secretary and after serving as a diplomat ended up as McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt's Secretary of State. From the Midwest, when it was frontier and educated at Brown, Hay was definitely a "Man of Letters". After college Hay eventually joined his uncle's law firm in Springfield, Illinois and through his friendship with John Nicolay joined Lincoln in Washington after the 1860 election. Hay became a valued assistant to Lincoln and acted as his emissary in dealing with military and political figures during the Civil War. After Lincoln's death Hay served in a number of minor diplomatic posts returning home in 1870. He subsequently became editor at the New York Tribune. In 1873 Hay married an heiress and his financial future was assured. Hay commissioned a mansion on Lafayette Square in Washington which evolved after his passing into the Hay-Adams Hotel. In 1891 He built the Estate in Newbury NH which was named the Fells. As a backer of William McKinley, Hay was rewarded with the appointment as Ambassador to the Court of St. James. Hay worked to repair the somewhat strained relations with the UK. For his efforts Hay was appointed Secretary of State in 1898. He served in this position until 1905, staying on with Roosevelt after the McKinley assassination. He was instrumental in China policy, the negotiations to develop the Panama Canal and the Perdicaris Affair in Morocco. Hay died in 1905, never having recovered from the death of his son and the depression it brought.

Paige Kingsley as new executive director of the Fells gave a great presentation on the current status of the estate, its volunteer program and the number of cultural events planned for this year. The maintenance and expansion of the estate by local volunteers was described. Paige encouraged the assembled to visit the estate and become involved in its many activities.

The members thoroughly enjoyed David and Paige's presentations.

The Executive Committee meeting was postponed.

Next Meeting on February 8th our speaker will be Father Timothy Danaher OP. the current Chaplain at Dartmouth College and the Catholic Center Director. Father Danaher will speak of his life path from Lifeguard, surfer, working in a Salmon Cannery in Alaska to his eventual duties at Dartmouth, an unusual life progression. Father Danaher is also an expert on The Shroud of Turin which I have asked him to work into his presentation. Father is a captivating speaker.

Submitted by: Tom Flynn, Secretary