

## Profile - York Harbor Cottage Owners



**Francis Lynde Stetson** (April 23, 1846–December 5, 1920) was an American lawyer. He was graduated from Williams College in 1867 and from Columbia Law School in 1869. He was admitted to the bar in 1869 and practiced in New York City. He devoted attention chiefly to corporation and railway law, becoming eminent in those lines. He became general counsel of the International Mercantile Marine Company, the Northern Pacific Railway, the Southern Railway, and the United States Rubber Company; also director in several railway companies and other corporations. In 1894, he formed the firm of Stetson, Jennings & Russell (a predecessor to the modern-day Davis Polk & Wardwell), which represented J. P. Morgan's United States Steel

Corporation; he was also Morgan's personal attorney. President Grover Cleveland was a partner in the firm between his two terms as President, and a close friend. Stetson also served as counsel for Samuel J. Tilden in the controversy over the 1876 presidential election. He was president of the New York City Bar Association from 1910-1911. (Source: Wikipedia)



**Thomas Nelson Page** (April 23, 1853 – November 1, 1922) was a lawyer and American writer. He also served as the U.S. ambassador to Italy during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson, including the important period of World War I. Born at Oakland, one of the Nelson family plantations he was a scion of the prominent Nelson and Page families, each First Families of Virginia. Although he was from once-wealthy lineage, his parents and their relatives were largely impoverished during Reconstruction after the Civil War. From 1873 to 1874, he was enrolled in the law school of the University of Virginia in pursuit of a legal career. He practiced as a lawyer in Richmond between 1876 and 1893, and also began his writing career. He was married to

Anne Seddon Bruce on July 28, 1886. She died on December 21, 1888 of a throat hemorrhage. He remarried on June 6, 1893, to Florence Lathrop Field, a widowed sister-in-law of retailer Marshall Field. In the same year Page gave up his law practice entirely and moved with his wife to Washington, D.C. There, he kept up his writing, which amounted to eighteen volumes when they were compiled and published in 1912. Page popularized the plantation tradition genre of Southern writing, which told of an idealized version of life before the Civil War, with contented slaves working for beloved masters and their families. Under President Woodrow Wilson, Page served as U.S. ambassador to Italy for six years between 1913 and 1919. His book entitled *Italy and the World War* (1920) is a memoir of his service there. He died in 1922 at Oakland in Hanover County, Virginia. (Source: Wikipedia)



**Russell A. Alger, Jr.**, (1873-1930) son of Michigan's Governor Russell Alger, became interested in the automobile industry and perhaps had more to do with the moving of the Packard Motor Car company plant to Detroit from Warren, Ohio, than anyone else. Alger became a key investor and Vice President of the Packard Motor Car Company.

The company was founded as the Ohio Automobile Company in Warren, Ohio by the two Packard brothers, James and William. When Henry Bourne Joy (another Grosse Pointer) and the others agreed to refinance the small company at a board meeting on October 13, 1902, they changed the name to Packard Motor Car Company. Russell Alger, Jr.

was the first associate of Joy to invest \$50,000 (Joy had also put in \$50,000) and was followed by Fred M. Alger with \$25,000 and Joy's brother, Richard P. Joy added \$10,000. Other investors were Truman H. and John S. Newberry - \$25,000 each, C.A. DuCharme, \$10,000; D. M. Ferry, \$5,000; Joseph Boyer, \$25,000 and Phillip H. McMillan, \$50,000. (all Grosse Pointers)

Beginning with a year-long stint (in the family lumber business) in Manistique, Alger quickly progressed to supervising a tract of timber in Canada. There he took Marion Jarves-daughter of pioneer Detroitter Deming Jarves-for his bride and they moved into their first home, a cabin. When it caught fire and burned to the ground, the young lumber baron learned a lesson. There is virtually no wood in his Lake Shore Drive home.

Near the turn of the century, Alger returned to Detroit at his father's request to become treasurer of Alger, Smith & Co., the family business. An energetic man with an uncommon interest in the world's activities, he epitomized the entrepreneurial spirit. Not only did he persuade the Packard Motor car co. to move from Warren, Ohio to Detroit, but he also helped finance the operation and became an active member of the company's board of directors. Intrigued by the possibilities of flying, he followed the Wright brothers to France to watch their exhibition and upon their return, invested money in the first commercial airplane. (Source: to be inserted here).



**John Codman Ropes** (1836–1899) was a lawyer and American military historian and was the co-founder of law firm Ropes & Gray. Ropes was born in St. Petersburg in 1836, the son of a leading merchant of Boston who was engaged in business in Russia. He graduated from Harvard University in 1857 and received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1861. With John Chipman Gray in 1865 he founded the firm Ropes & Gray. A spinal disability kept him from military service during the Civil War, and Ropes became interested in military history, particularly after his brother was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. In 1876 he founded the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts, which eventually became the repository for his collections of military books and memorabilia. His published works include "Story of the Civil War," an

unfinished book that chronicled the war's early years; "The Army Under Pope," which detailed the August to September 1862 Virginia campaign of General John Pope and helped restore the reputation of Fitz John Porter; and "The Campaign of Waterloo," one of the standard works on

Napoleon's "Hundred Days" and defeat by Wellington. In 1897 he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Harvard University. (Source: Bill McKern)



**Colonel Louis R. Cheney** (1859-1944) of Hartford, Hartford County, Conn. He was born in South Manchester, Conn, and was the son of George Wells Cheney and Harriet K. (Richmond) Cheney. He made his fortune in the family's Silk manufacturing business, and in real estate. His cottage in York Harbor was 'Tholassa' located on Eastern Point. He was elected the (Republican) mayor of Hartford, Conn. from 1912-14 and after his term became a member of the Connecticut state senate in 1915. He died on December 17, 1944 (age 85 years), and is buried at the East Cemetery, Manchester, Conn.

In 1838, six Cheney brothers established the Mount Nebo Silk Company in Manchester, CT. The company adopted the family name in 1843. Aided by booming national markets, a protective tariff, and innovative production methods, the company grew into the nation's largest and most profitable silk mill by the late 1880s. The company pioneered the wastesilk spinning method and the Grant's reel. At the beginning of World War I, the company employed over 4,700 workers. One out of every four Manchester residents worked at the Cheney Mills in some capacity. The company was an integral part of the community covering over 175 acres, including mills buildings, churches, houses, schools, recreation centers, utility companies, and even a railroad. The company was also known nationally for its benevolent system of welfare capitalism. It was one of the first textile mills to use Frederick Taylor's methods of scientific management.

The company reached its peak in 1923, after which it quickly declined due to industry wide overproduction and competition from new synthetic fibers such as rayon. Although it revived slightly during World War II, the family sold the company to J. P. Stevens and Company in 1955. J. P. Stevens quickly liquidated the equipment and the remainder was sold to Gerli Incorporated of New York. In 1978, the mills and surrounding neighborhood were declared a National Historical Landmark District. The mill was permanently closed in 1984. Most of the mill buildings were sold to developers who converted them into luxury apartments and offices.

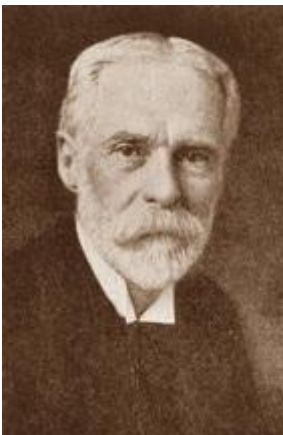
**Alexander Bliss** (1827 -1896) was assistant quartermaster general of the Union forces and a Colonel in the United States Army during the American Civil War. He was a staff officer under General McClellan. Colonel Bliss was born in Boston and graduated from Harvard College in the class of 1847. When retired, he served as Secretary of Legation in Berlin. He was married to Eleanor Taylor Albert and they had two children: William Julian Albert Bliss and Elizabeth Bancroft Bliss. His father, Alexander Bliss of Springfield was at one time a partner of Daniel Webster. His mother Elizabeth Davis Bliss, later married George Bancroft, the eminent American historian. The Colonel was a member of a committee collecting manuscripts which were to be included in a lithographed volume of facsimiles entitled Autographed Leaves of Our Country's Authors, to be sold by the Baltimore Sanitary Fair. The Fair was to provide assistance to Civil War soldiers especially those ill in hospitals. On Colonel Bliss's behalf, Bancroft asked

President Abraham Lincoln for a copy of the Gettysburg Address. The resulting copy of Lincoln's speech, known as the Bliss Copy, is one of only five known manuscript versions of the Gettysburg Address; it is preserved and on display in the Lincoln Bedroom of the White House in Washington, DC.

**Julian d'Este** (1849-1927) born in Cambridge, England, was a wealthy man from Salem, MA who owned the Boston Excelsior Company. Excelsior, also called 'wood wool', is a product made of wood slivers cut from logs. It is mainly used in packaging, furniture upholstery, erosion control mats, and as a raw material for stuffed animals. He owned the Boston Excelsior Company Mill in Milo, ME where he kept a stately house, and operated his business out of Boston, MA. Julian married Mary Coleman Locke and had 5 children.



**Lockwood de Forest** (June 8, 1850 – April 3, 1932) was a key figure of the American Aesthetic Movement who, as the designer, introduced the East Indian craft revival to America during the Gilded Age. As a young man de Forest first worked as a painter, taking the lessons of his Hudson River School contemporaries. In 1879 de Forest began his career in the decorative arts working at Associated Artists along with Louis Comfort Tiffany, before starting his own decorating business that he ran for thirty years. Upon his retirement de Forest moved to Santa Barbara where he returned to his love of painting while still taking design commissions from local patrons. In 1879, de Forest became a partner of the design firm Associated Artists, with Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933), Samuel Colman (1832–1920) and Candace Wheeler (1827–1923) where he directed the production of architectural woodwork. Associated Artists lasted only four years, however the firm was one of the most influential decorating companies in the 19th century and at the forefront of the American Aesthetic Movement emphasizing hand work, intricate color and texture, and tasteful but exotic design themes. (Source: Wikipedia). Lockwood built his cottage about 1904 on Eastern Point in York Harbor.



**Bryan Lathrop** was a real estate investor, a collector of prints and drawings, and Trustee of the Chicago Art Institute (1893/1894 - 1916), Chicago Symphony Orchestra from (1894 – 1898), Newbery Library (1896-1916) and the Guarantor of the Poetry magazine. Lathrop formed a collection of James Whistler's etchings, which he bequeathed to the Art Institute of Chicago. He moved to Chicago in 1865, where he was a member of the Caxton Club, the Orchestral Association. Lathrop was the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Vice-President from 1894 to 1898 and President from 1899 to 1916.



**Alexander Coburn Soper (1846-1930).** Following his graduation from Hamilton College in 1867, Soper moved from his native Rome, N.Y., to Chicago where he soon went to work for the Park & Soper Lumber Co., in which his father was a partner. In 1870, just one year before the Great Chicago Fire, the younger Soper organized a new company, Pond & Soper, to operate a planing mill. In 1883 he re-joined family members to form the Soper Lumber Co. The business grew to large proportions, their trade reaching from Massachusetts to Colorado. At the turn of the century, the Sopers joined with another timber-oriented family from Pennsylvania, the Wheelers, to form the Soper-Wheeler Co., which was moved to California where it operates today. Founded in 1904, Soper-Wheeler Company was the first California timber company to practice sustainable forestry. From the beginning, the company has managed its lands conservatively, providing for healthy forests, diverse habitat, long-term careers, sustainable forest products, and economic benefit to our local communities. (Source: Hamilton Alumni Review).



**Dr. William Palmer Wesselhoeft (1835-1909)** was born in Bath, PA. His father William Wesselhoeft brought his family to Boston in 1842, and was one of the earliest physicians to practice homoeopathy in Massachusetts. Dr. WP Wesselhoeft was educated in a private school in Boston until he was about 16 when he went to Germany with his cousin, the late Dr. Conrad Wesselhoeft, m '56. They returned to enter the Harvard Medical School. Dr. WP Wesselhoeft then began medical practice with his father, and became a leader in the homoeopathy school. He was one of the founders of the Mass. Homoeopathy Hospital and continued to serve it actively until about 1904, when he resigned from active service and was made consulting physician, which position he held until his death. Dr. Wesselhoeft held a particular position in the medical world. His reputation was a national one and his patients were from almost every state. He was for many years one of the most active of Boston's physicians, and numbered among his patients members of its most influential families. Not alone in his skills as physician, but his strong and enthusiastic personality and his optimism gained and held the confidence of his patients in a most unusual degree. Dr. Wesselhoeft leaves a son, Dr. WF Wesselhoeft and a daughter. (Source: The Harvard Graduates' Magazine, Volume 18 – 1909).

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**Joseph May** (1836-1918) the son of the Rev. Samuel Joseph May and Lucretia Flagg Coffin May, was born in Boston on January 21, 1836. He received an AB from Harvard in 1857. After several years in Europe, he entered Harvard Divinity School and graduated in 1865. He was ordained by the First Unitarian Church in Yonkers, N.Y., on September 14, 1865, and served this church until September 1867. From July 1868 to December 1875, he served the First Religious Society of Newburyport, Massachusetts. In January 1876, he became minister of the First Unitarian Church in Philadelphia, which he served for 25 years. After his retirement, he became pastor emeritus until his death on January 19, 1918. In 1886 he helped establish a community center for boys in Philadelphia known as the Evening Home and Library Association. He was a strong supporter of education for African Americans throughout his life. Jefferson Medical College honored him with an LLD degree in 1887, and he received the DD degree from Meadville Theological School in 1914. (Source: ANDOVER-HARVARD THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY, President and Fellows of Harvard College).



**Duncan Hunter** was born at 26 Carlton Villas, Maida Vale, Paddington, London, England, son of Archibald Hunter & Mary Jane Grahame (both of Scottish heritage). Duncan immigrated to the United States 1882 and settled in Helena, Montana. He met his wife, Abby Frances Lippitt, daughter of Gov. Henry Lippitt of Rhode Island, on board a train in 1892. Four daughters were born in Montana, and in 1900 Duncan and his family moved to his wife's family home, The Governor Henry Lippitt House, 199 Hope St., in Providence, Rhode Island.

OBITUARY: New York Times, September 26, 1902. YORK HARBOR, Me., Sept. 25. - Duncan Hunter, a New York banker and broker, although a resident of Providence, R. I., died to-day of heart failure, following illness from diphtheria. Mr. Hunter was born in Scotland forty years ago, and received his education there, later travelling through Europe and studying at different universities. He came to this country and first engaged in business in Helena, Mon., later moving to New York and becoming a banker. Ten years ago he married the youngest daughter of ex-Gov. Lippitt of Rhode Island.



**Hartley W. Mason** (1844-1925) was a local resident of York and worked as a haserdasher, a salesman of woolen goods, a shopkeeper and a real estate developer. In 1881 he purchased the first land and enterprises that comprised most of his local real estate holdings. Six summer cottages were built on the knoll overlooking the outer harbor of York. These cottages were named: Sunny Side, Hill Top, Overbank, Rocky Knoll, The Lodge and The Octagon. In addition, he owned a bathing pavilion on York Harbor beach and across York Street, two

retail businesses. His will specified that upon his death the land would be used as 'pleasure ground (park) forever'.



**Edward Octavius Emerson (EO) Emerson** (1834 – 1912), was a prominent lawyer and a businessman in the oil and gas in Titusville, PA. He was born in York, ME, attended Berwick Academy and Phillips Academy, Andover, MA. He was a cousin of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

When the American Civil War in 1861 broke out, E O as he was known enlisted as a Private in the 19th Wisconsin Infantry. He was promoted twice and left the service as a 1st Lieutenant. After the Civil War in 1865, he arrived in Titusville, PA interested in the oil and gas business. He secured interest in fields in PA, OH and WV. In 1881 he drilled in what was the greatest gas well in the world. From this well, he laid a pipeline to the City of Pittsburgh. In 1890 he was elected Mayor of Titusville, PA.

While his first successes were in the oil business, his most important success, with his business partner, Joseph N Pew, was in the natural gas business. Together they founded the Peoples Natural Gas Company. In 1903, Standard Oil's National Transit Co. acquired 100% of The Peoples Natural Gas Co. in Pittsburgh which quickly grew and became the Sun Oil Company, now known as Sunoco.