

Recollections of the Williamsons of Upper Lawn

by Marion Wallace Reninger

FOREWORD

This article could not have been written without the cooperation of Henry Williamson Ghriskey and his twin sister, Lillian Williamson Ghriskey Hartung, who loaned me several family scrapbooks to read. I am greatly indebted to them.

INTRODUCTION

The first time I ever saw Sue Williamson was at the wedding of Miss Harriet Bursk to Calvin R. Strickler of Columbia in 1894.

Sue and Lillian Williamson were both flower girls for their cousin in St. John's Lutheran Church. My cousin, Helen Hassler, was a bridesmaid, and another was Katherine McConomy of Philadelphia, who years later was to marry Helen's brother, Judge Aaron B. Hassler.

The Stricklers settled in Columbia, where they raised a family of four children. In later years, after Mr. Strickler's death, the family moved to Lancaster. Both Lt. General Daniel Bursk Strickler and his sister, Miss Katherine R. Strickler, are well-known residents of Lancaster to this day.

When Miss Stahr opened her private school in 1901, Sue and I formed a close friendship which lasted until her death in 1966. As a friend and companion of Sue's all my life, I went with the Williamsons on many trips to the shore, to New York, to local resorts. Even though I was married in 1917 and lived in Allentown thirty years, Sue and I had many pleasant trips together as well as visits.

After my mother and brother both died, Mrs. Williamson in her quiet, kindly way invited me to make Upland Lawn my home whenever I came to Lancaster. After my husband, Brig. General Henry A. Reninger, died in 1949, I decided to move back here. It was great to be living in Lancaster again after spending my married life in Allentown. Sue and I were in constant communication and spent many happy times together. So it is as a friend of the Williamson family that I am recording this little account of the Williamsons of Upland Lawn as I knew them.

THE WILLIAMSONS

It is interesting to note that Henry Stackhouse Williamson was not a native of Lancaster, but was born and grew up in Morrisville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. But it can be truly said that no other citizen in his time ever contributed more to Lancaster than he did. Among his interests and achievements we can list the following:

1. He gave Williamson Park to the city.

2. As a trustee of Franklin & Marshall College, he gave a large tract of land for an athletic field, which bears his name.

When the students needed any special fund for the gymnasium or for the sports activities, Mr. Williamson generously helped them out financially.

3. Always a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church, he served as Trustee and Elder and gave continuously to its every good cause.

4. The Recreation Commission, leading to the free playgrounds of Lancaster, was founded by him.

5. As a director of both the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A., his contributions to both were outstanding.

6. The Lancaster General Hospital benefited largely from his gifts.

7. To the A. Herr Smith Free Library, he was a constant contributor.

8. The Stevens Trade School for boys listed him as a member of its Board of Directors.

9. In 1910, Mr. Williamson invited a large group of Lancaster friends to Upland Lawn for an afternoon of recreation and refreshments. Here was organized the club known as the Pirates. He was elected as its first Chief. This group has continued up to the present day to be a recreational group, which several times a year meets and takes trips to nearby places of historic or contemporary interest. The gateway of Williamson Park was erected by this group after his death, as a memorial to Henry S. Williamson.

He spent his youth in Morrisville, Pa., with his parents, Jesse and Elizabeth Williamson, and two sisters and two brothers. As a young man, he went into the mercantile business in Harrisburg, Pa. There he built a large and very successful department store. Some years later, he decided to establish another Williamson Department Store, this to be in Lancaster. Finding the task of running two stores in different cities was becoming too much of a strain on his health, Mr. Williamson later sold out the entire large Harrisburg establishment to the firm of Dives, Pomeroy and Stewart. He also took a partner, Jordan R. Foster into the Lancaster store, and for some time it was known as the firm of Williamson and Foster. After Mr. Foster withdrew, it again became the Williamson Department store. After years of very successful merchandising, this large business was sold to the new firm of Foster and [Harry] Cochran. The same Foster formerly a partner was in the firm again.

Free from the restraints of managing his own large department store business, Mr. Williamson began a very active life as a philanthropist, traveler, and public benefactor of the city of Lancaster.

Mr. Williamson's bachelor uncle, Isaiah Williamson, had meantime amassed an enormous fortune as a business man. Besides numerous charitable bequests, his grand nephews and grand nieces were his beneficiaries. The Williamson Trade School near Media, Pa., which still functions successfully, was one of Isaiah Williamson's gifts to Pennsylvania boys.

After Henry Williamson's marriage to Miss Clara Brown in 1879, the Williamsons made their home at 240 East King Street, Lancaster. Here their two daughters, Lillian and Sue, were born. Mr. Jesse Williamson, in his old age, came from Morrisville and spent his last years there with his son and family. A bachelor brother, Franklin Williamson, also made his home there.

In 1893, Mr. Williamson decided to buy a tract of land west of Lancaster and build a large house on it. It included the whole area between Marietta and Wheatland Avenues, and from President Avenue to School Lane. The Wheatland estate was not included but kept separately. This was owned and occupied at that time and for years later by Mr. George Willson for whom the Lancaster County Historical Society Building is named. For years Wheatland had been the home of James Buchanan, Pennsylvania's only President of the United States. According to Sue Williamson's account, the name of their estate, Upland Lawn, a quotation from an Eng-

lish poem, was suggested to the family by Mrs. Blackwood, whose private school the little Williamson girls attended at that time.

The following is quoted from an article in the *Lancaster New Era*, October 29, 1893:

At the home of President Buchanan, many of the oaks have stood for more than a century and have attained immense size. These majestic trees were carefully preserved by Mr. George B. Willson, who [se mother] purchased the estate from Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnson, and were a point of great attraction to Mr. H. S. Williamson, who some time ago bought the greater portion of the Wheatland estate, including nearly all the wooded section. Mr. Williamson is about erecting a residence for himself on the highest point of ground of his recent purchase—a point commanding a view that is probably not excelled in this section of the country. He is a great lover of trees and his first move after obtaining possession of his purchase was to take steps not only to preserve the more than a hundred sturdy oaks and hickories now on the land, but to provide others, which should in time take the places of those which would inevitably yield to the storms of the centuries. In carrying out his plans for tree planting a happy thought occurred to him, which he immediately proceeded to carry into practical operation. To carry out his idea, he addressed a note to his intimate personal and business friends, asking them to suggest a variety of tree, which he would secure for planting at Wheatland and which would thereafter be known as the family tree of the person suggesting it. That the idea struck a popular chord was apparent from the number and character of the responses.

The contract for furnishing the trees was given to Mr. Daniel D. Herr, of the Fairview Nurseries, and their arrangement and location have been placed in the hands of Mr. Alfred R. Egerton, Landscape Architect and Engineer, in charge of these departments for David G. Yates & Co., proprietors of the Mount Airy Nurseries, 5774 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia. Mr. Williamson acted wisely in placing the arrangement of his grounds in the hands of such an experienced person as Mr. Egerton, who says the Wheatland plot, from its size and location is capable of such a project.

Here follows the list:

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| Mr. and Mrs. Frank F. Fonder-smith—Chestnut and Cedar | Dr. M. Motter—Purple Beech |
| Charles S. Gill—Weeping Willow | B. P. Miller—English Walnut |
| H. S. Gara—Copper Beech | A. A. McLeod, President |
| John S. Gleim—Chestnut | P. & R. R.—Oak |
| Wm. S. Gleim—Copper Beech | Rev. C. J. Musser, Norristown |
| J. M. W. Geist—English Walnut | Chas. F. Miller—Norway Maple |
| Rudolph Herr—Paragon Chestnut | Samuel M. Myers—Purple |
| John Hertzler—Moss-Cup Oak | Beech |
| J. L. Herr—Chestnut | B. J. McGrann ——— |
| Chas. A. Heinitsh—Heinitsh | Hon. Hugh M. North— |
| Cherry | Virgilia Lutea |
| John C. Hager—Copper Beech | George Nauman—American |
| H. W. Hartman—English Hazel | Poplar |
| J. H. Hershey—Paragon Chestnut | C. H. Obreiter—Lombardy |
| Allan A. Herr—Elm | Poplar |
| A. F. Hostetter, Esq.—Weeping | Governor Robert E. Pattison— |
| Beech | Hickory |
| John I. Hartman—Black Gum | Dr. H. B. Parry—Cumberland |
| Hon. W. U. Hensel—Elm | Seedling Cherry |
| Daniel D. Herr—Cottonwood | Miss Pennock's School—Silver |
| Chas. M. Howell—Walnut | Maple |
| Dr. A. J. Herr—Sweet Gum | Du Bois Rohrer—Elm |
| J. W. Hawley, Media—Sugar Maple | |



Henry Stackhouse Williamson

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|---|--|
| Abraham Herr—Buerre Anjou
Pear | Major A. C. Reinoehl—
Mountain Ash |
| John W. Holman—Orange Quince | Jacob Rathfon—Cut-Leaf Birch |
| Prof. Wm. M. Irvine—White
Mulberry | James Rose—Sweet Gum |
| Geo. M. Kline, Esq.—Purple Beech | John F. Reed—Elm |
| Geo. C. Kennedy—Norway Maple | R. M. Reilly—Locust |
| A. C. Kepler—Chestnut | Aug. Rhoads—Cumberland
Drug |
| M. D. Kendig—Sweet Gum | Dr. O. Roland—English Linden |
| Ed. C. Kappler—Silver Maple | Dr. Geo. R. Rohrer—Paper
Shell Pecan |
| Dr. E. O. Lyte, Normal School—
White Birch | Michael Reilly—Silver Maple |
| Daniel Logan—Liquid Amber | Mrs. M. E. Sener—Sener Peach |
| Hon. John H. Landis—Cottonwood | John Shelmire, Philadelphia—
Norway Maple |
| Chas. H. Locher—Linden | H. B. Swarr, Esq.—Horse
Chestnut |
| Jas. D. Landis—Norway Maple,
Shellbark, Chestnut | |

Grabill B. Long—Chestnut
 Hon. John B. Livingston—
 White Oak
 Samuel Levan—Cut-leaf Birch
 Judge David McMullen—
 Soft-shell Shellbark
 Dr. H. E. Muhlenberg—Black
 Walnut
 S.S. Martin—Norway Maple
 Prof. Geo. F. Mull—Elm
 Dr. J. P. McCaskey—American
 Elm, Sweet Gum
 H. C. Moore, Philadelphia—
 Pin Oak
 Wm. S. Moon, Morrisville,
 Pa.
 Owen Moon, Morrisville, Pa.
 Rev. Dr. J. Y. Mitchell—
 Mountain Ash

J. Fred Sener—English Elm
 D. P. Stackhouse—Linden
 A. C. Stamm, Harrisburg—
 White Elm
 W. D. Sprecher—Sugar Maple
 Francis Shroeder—English
 Linden
 John D. Skiles—Norway Maple
 Rev. Dr. J. S. Stahr—Mossy
 Cup White Oak
 W. A. Sener—Ash
 S. S. Spencer—Norway Maple
 Robert Slaymaker—Cultivated
 Persimmon
 Mrs. Robert Slaymaker—
 Rhododendron
 Miss Mary Slaymaker—
 Dogwood

In 1894, the construction of the Williamson house of 23 rooms, a stable and carriage house, gardens and greenhouses was begun. The estate was completed approximately two years later. It was the first house on School Lane.

Mr. Frederick K. Rogers of Barington, Illinois, while a student at Franklin and Marshall College prepared a paper about it for the course on Art History given by Professor Kenneth Ames. The subject was "The Williamson House" from which I quote the following excerpts:

The architect is unknown. The landscaping was supervised by Williamson himself. The grounds were planted in a natural and picturesque manner. The gardens behind the carriage house were more formal, but the property toward the Marietta Pike remained a natural daisy meadow for many years.

(I recall that in 1897 when I was a flower girl at the wedding of my cousin, Helen Hassler, to the Rev. Harry Nelson Bassler, Mr. and Mrs. Williamson kindly offered Helen and her friends the opportunity to pick all the daisies they wanted from this field for the wedding. So I carried my basket of daisies as flower girl, and the Hassler home at 26 North Lime Street was profusely decorated with quantities of these lovely field flowers.) Again I quote Mr. Rogers:

In a country house like this, there are no horizontal limits as in the city. It is more open and less formal.

The largest of the interior spaces of the Williamson house was the Living Hall. It occupied the most important position in the floor plan. Its dimensions 25 feet wide, 35 feet long, and two stories high are reminiscent of the Great Halls of England. The "specialized spaces" of secluded living and dining are easily accessible from the Living Hall. The parlor is adjacent to the Hall through 8-foot wide sliding doors. The dining room is reached through a 4-foot wide sliding door. The music room, study and dining room are all connected by wide sliding doors, so when opened, produce one continuous open space. The central position of the hall is emphasized by the balcony, which surrounds it on three sides. All the rooms on the second floor open onto the balcony, over-looking the hall, with the exception of

the service wing. The fireplace in the hall is of tile—a common feature of English prototypes. This fireplace is completely devoid of decoration. The other fireplaces, there are seven in all, have higher mantels in wood with tile facings and decorations of swags, columns, and urns. The first floor has paneled wainscoting in the English tradition. The woodwork is all darkly stained walnut or oak with the exception of the parlor which is a more formal white. (According to family records, the great central hall paneling was all oak, the dining room was cherry, the library was in walnut, the music room was in hickory and the parlor, which Mr. Rogers describes as being painted "white," was probably maplewood underneath.) The wall and ceiling



The Williamson Mansion at Upland Lawn

designs and the light fixtures in the first floor tower room and parlor are admittedly Victorian. The windows are large and frequent. Each window has a seat, giving an effect of an open and homelike atmosphere. The house spreads firmly out over the ground, rising in a pyramid of shingles. The use of stone and shingles reverts to the "Queen Anne" style often used in summer homes in Newport and other similar deposits of summer wealth. Towers, turrets, and steep gable ends were all sheathed in shingles, giving the exterior shapes a continuity. Attached to the roof of the Williamson house are four turret-like dormers, covered in shingles. Tucked beneath the roof is a lancet vent. An integral part of this style house is the veranda. The shingles from the roof extend down into the roof of the veranda giving it a substantial link with the house. At Upland Lawn there is a four-story tower. The Williamson house is the culmination of the style which gave birth to a more open and modern style, the products of which we live in today.

Into this fine mansion the Williamson family moved. They celebrated the event by giving a large reception to their many friends and neighbors.

The mistress of the house, Mrs. Williamson, was rather retiring. She did not care very much for large receptions and affairs which her husband liked to give in the house and on the grounds of Upland Lawn. But she was always beside him, a gracious hostess in all these affairs. There were groups from the church and organizations. The Shippen School for Girls presented several outdoor Shakespeare plays on the grounds.

Lillian was the older daughter. She was friendly and outgoing. In her teens she went away to school in Bryn Mawr and New York. The house parties she gave at Upland Lawn for her school friends made the rafters ring. The large central hall was the scene of dances and many small parties. There were a number of close friends from Marietta Avenue, the Fritchey girls, Annie and Katherine Watt, Lillian Raub, and Elizabeth Brimmer who frequently came to play cards or just to visit the Williamson sisters.

After finishing at Miss Stahr's School, Sue Williamson, the younger daughter, attended the Baldwin School at Bryn Mawr. I was then at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. After we had finished our education away from home, we came home to Lancaster. There were many drives I took with Sue in her Electric Runabout, the first, I believe, to be seen in Lancaster. Later she drove the more high-powered cars. Sue was an excellent driver up to the end of her life. She also used the services of the family chauffeur on many occasions.

As young ladies, we went to dances at Rossmere and the Iris Club. Our boy friends would often pick us up at my home on East Orange Street, and Sue would stay there with me over night after we returned there. Sue had a number of good friends among the boys and several serious suitors. Although she never married, her life was far from dull with travel and enjoyment of all sorts of entertainment.

In the great central hall of Upland Lawn, Lillian's wedding took place in January 1909. She became the bride of Mr. Charles Markley Ghriskey. He was a member of an old well-known Philadelphia family and an established business man in that city. The hall was decorated with palms, and swags of smilax were draped around the entire upper gallery, down the banisters, and over the fireplace, in front of which the ceremony was performed. The groom, with his attendants, waited at the side of the fireplace with the officiating clergyman, the Rev. Lewis Seymour Mudge. The orchestra seated by the dining room door started to play the wedding march; and the maid of honor, Miss Sue, in a light blue gown started to descend the stairway. She was followed by Mr. Williamson, escorting his daughter Lillian in a handsome white bridal gown with a train. At every step when she was descending the stairway,

the weights, sewed on her train to keep it in place, made a clinking sound quite audible to the guests below. The setting of the great hall with its majestic stairway ascending each side to the gallery above made a picture never to be forgotten.

The Ghriskeys lived on Spruce Street in Philadelphia. They had three children. Susan (later Mrs. William Coventry) was born in 1910. The twins, Henry Williamson Ghriskey and Lillian Williamson Ghriskey, were born two years later. Their mother died a few days after their birth. The twins survived, both being fine healthy children.

Every year, during their childhood and early youth, the three Ghriskey children stayed all summer at Upland Lawn. Their father would spend the weekends there with them. Grandfather and Grandmother Williamson left no stone unturned to make it a happy place. On the playground at Upland Lawn there was a substantial play house. With small furniture, it was a good place for little girls and their dolls to have tea parties. There were swings among the trees, and also a miniature merry-go-round. For little Henry Williamson Ghriskey there was a pony and cart. On rainy days they played upstairs in the house where a big play room contained toys and story books. Sometimes their Aunt Sue would take them, as she did my children, Helen and Jane Louise, on a tour up to the top of the house to the Tower. Here they could look over the countryside in the distance to the west and to Lancaster City in the east. The three children of the Williamson's daughter Lillian spent many happy summers here. As fall came on, their devoted father, who never married again, took them back to their home in Philadelphia. They all went to private schools. Later the girls both attended finishing schools there, and Henry Williamson Ghriskey graduated from Princeton University. Both Susan and Lillian were presented to society by their father at very special coming out parties.

In May 1917, Mr. Williamson died after a prolonged illness. He was 64 years old. His funeral service was held in the great hall of Upland Lawn. The attendance was restricted to the family and close friends. He sleeps in the Woodward Hill Cemetery in Lancaster. Here also is the resting place of Pennsylvania's only President, James Buchanan, whose house was next door to Upland Lawn.

The bachelor, Uncle Franklin Williamson, lived also at Upland Lawn until he married. He had moved to Lancaster from Morrisville in early manhood and for years was associated with his brother Henry in the mercantile business. After retiring from commercial life, he devoted his time to his private interests and works of community welfare. He was a member of the Board of the Lancaster Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. and chairman of the Finance Committee. With Mr. Henry C. Gibson, the General Secretary, he traveled to London to attend an International Convention of the Y.M.C.A. there.

In 1910, he was married to Miss Claribel Schaeffer, daughter of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nathan C. Schaeffer

and Mrs. Schaeffer. Their wedding took place in the Chapel of Franklin and Marshall College. The father of the bride performed the ceremony. John N. Schaeffer, later President of Franklin and Marshall, the bride's brother, gave her away. The Rev. Harry Nelson Bassler was the best man. The bride's sister, Mrs. Helen Schaeffer Huff, was maid of honor. Miss Sue Williamson and Miss Ellen Hill Byrne were bridesmaids.

Mr. Franklin Williamson built their family home on the northwest corner of President and Wheatland Avenues, a part of Upland Lawn Estate. They had two daughters: Anna, now Mrs. Franklin Witmer of Allentown; and Helen, now Mrs. Wayne Dumont, Jr., of Philipsburg, New Jersey. Mrs. Franklin Williamson survived her husband many years. She died in 1946.

My special friend, Sue Williamson, was the younger daughter of the family. She resembled her father both in appearance and disposition. Like him she loved children, nature, and all out-of-door events, such as the football games at Franklin and Marshall. As a girl she gave some very small dances at her home, but like her mother she did not care for large receptions or formal affairs. To her boy and girl friends she was always hospitable but enjoyed small affairs most.

Often I was invited by Sue Williamson to go with the family to special events. In the spring we usually went to Penryn to hunt for arbutus in the woods there. We went to the club house at Benton on the Susquehanna River on summer days for outings. Mrs. Williamson and Sue took my mother and me on many day trips where we had lunch at Galen Hall near Reading or at Accomac on the Susquehanna opposite Marietta.

Often on New Year's Day we watched the Mummers' Parade on Broad Street in Philadelphia. From our upstairs windows in the Hotel Bellevue Stratford we had a splendid view.

Sometimes I was Sue's roommate at the Marlborough-Blenheim Hotel in Atlantic City. From rolling chairs we saw the sights of that famous Boardwalk. We visited the shops and attended the auction sales along the way. The hotel orchestra played, to our great pleasure, during and after dinner in the lobby.

The Williamsons took me with them in October 1912 to witness the U.S. Naval Display of Battleships and Cruisers on the Hudson River in New York. This was an anniversary celebration of its discovery by Henrik Hudson. While we were there, Mr. and Mrs. Williamson were summoned to Philadelphia by the fatal illness of their daughter Lillian. She had given birth to twins, a boy and a girl, and lived only a few days afterwards. It was a terribly sad return to Lancaster. Many friends and relatives also mourned for this popular young woman and her untimely death. For a time their grief kept the family quietly at home at Upland Lawn.

In 1917, after the United States entered the First World War,

the 28th Division of the Pennsylvania National Guard was called into service. At a wartime wedding in June 1917 I was married to Major Henry A. Reninger of Allentown, Pa. The Chaplain of the 28th Division, the Rev. Harry Nelson Bassler, my cousin Helen Hassler's husband, performed the ceremony in the First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster. At Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia, the Division went into training for its part in the war overseas. We lived in Augusta over the winter.

During our time there, Sue Williamson came to visit me. She was with her cousin, Harriet Strickler, whose son, the young Lt. Daniel Bursk Strickler, was with the Division. Other friends from Lancaster County were: Dr. Charles P. Stahr, Dr. Henry B. Davis, Samuel C. Slaymaker II, Major Sanderson Detweiler, and Frederick Heinitsh, a brother-in-law of my brother, Allan Wallace.

Sue enjoyed seeing the life at Camp Hancock. We attended parades, band concerts, and meals at the Officers' Mess. There were over 3000 Pennsylvanians who were relatives or friends of the men of the 28th Division in Augusta that winter. It left for France in May, 1918.

As Sue's guest many, many times at the Bellevue Stratford and later at Hotel Barclay in Philadelphia, I enjoyed seeing the foremost entertainers of the time. I recall hearing Fritz Kreisler and Paderewski in concerts. We saw Isadora Duncan and Pavlova dance. Sue had season tickets for the Grand Opera and the Philadelphia Orchestra. We attended countless performances in the Academy of Music. The actress, Helen Hayes, was one of Sue's favorites; and we saw her in plays both in Philadelphia and in New York. Rarely did Sue miss seeing a play in which Katherine Cornell took part. Whenever the Barnum & Bailey Circus came to Lancaster, Sue Williamson would have her chauffeur take her out early in the morning to see the circus train unload, the tents put up, and preparations for the street parade begin. She enjoyed the circus performance too.

She loved nature. The old trees on her estate were her treasures. She fed the birds on her lawn who returned there, year after year. Flowers were her special delight. She always sent visitors home with a bouquet from her garden or greenhouses. Generous gifts of flowers were taken to sick or old friends very often.

In 1919 when the American Legion was organized in Paris, my husband, still in the Army in France, was present as one of its founders. In 1944, the annual convention of the American Legion was held in New York. My husband was specially invited to the formal dinner of the Founders. We invited Sue Williamson to go with us to New York and witness the big Legion Parade and the Legionnaires from all over the United States. As I came down to the lobby in the Hotel Astor, which was the headquarters of the Legion Convention, I looked around for Sue. She was talking to a soldier of private rank near the entrance. I wondered how she knew him. After we left she told me she didn't know him; but he talked

to her as they stood there and told her he was from Kansas and he had not been in New York since his return from the First World War. I noted that she talked to him just as casually, but with kindly interest, as she would have with an Amishman at the market in Lancaster. Of course, she never heard the last of our teasing her about talking to a strange Legionnaire in New York.

A few of her best friends went often to Sunday dinner with Sue. We were invited to dinner at Upland Lawn for most all of the holidays excepting Christmas, when all of us were with our families and she was with hers.

Sue enjoyed games, and we had many card games with six or seven players in the great hall. We played Halma and Parchesi. When Chinese checkers and Ma Jong were popular, we played them. There was always a table holding an unfinished jigsaw puzzle that she was working on in her house.

Sue was very fond of children and delighted in seeing them happy. Every Halloween before treats were the custom, and later too, she prepared treats for young visitors. Many children in costume from the whole western Lancaster neighborhood made calls at Upland Lawn. They were invited into the great hall. Sue and her employees would duly inspect and comment on every costume. Every child was given goodies. No one left empty-handed.

Even when we were older ladies, she would entertain my visiting grandchildren with as much enthusiasm and interest as she did her own contemporaries. Not only did she entertain children and close friends, but also the guests at the Ann C. Witmer Home at an annual luncheon.

Sue loved music. As a young girl she had played the violin, and Lillian played the grand piano. She listened with great pleasure to the band music of Sousa as well as the classical offerings of the Philadelphia Orchestra. On Saturday afternoons, for many years she enjoyed the radio programs broadcast from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

Every Sunday the Williamsons sat in the third pew from the front of the First Presbyterian Church where they were faithful members. After Mr. Williamson's death, Mrs. Williamson and Sue occupied a pew very far back in the church. In that very inconspicuous place, Sue continued to attend services regularly as long as she lived.

After her mother's death, she did not give any large parties. The grand piano which had been a regular part of the entertainment at Upland Lawn was hardly ever opened. Mrs. Williamson had presented a Tiffany Memorial Window in the First Presbyterian Church. The window is entitled the "Good Shepherd," and it was given in 1919 in memory of her husband Henry S. Williamson and their daughter Lillian Williamson Ghriskey. Mrs. Williamson also made a

splendid gift of a new pipe organ to St. John's Lutheran Church in memory of her parents, who were members there.

Mr. Williamson left a will with many charitable bequests to Lancaster institutions. The local institutions named in the will as beneficiaries were Franklin and Marshall College, Shippen School for Girls [now the Lancaster Country Day School], the Lancaster General Hospital, and A. Herr Smith Library [now Lancaster County Library]. He also left bequests to the Borough of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, for a park to be known as the Williamson Park, with an endowment for its maintenance.

After the death of Miss Sue Williamson in 1966, the whole estate was sold by her heirs to a developer. The mansion itself was torn down to make way for a series of large apartments on the tract. Much of the interior was salvaged and sold. Now nothing remains but fond memories of the Williamsons of Upland Lawn. It has been a pleasure, as their friend, to record these recollections.



williamson Pirates in 1905

At the annual Plank Shad dinner at Shurs Landing on the lower Susquehanna River. Front row, L. to R. George Rohrer, George Landis, John Bair, Christ, Engle, H. S. Williamson, Jno. Hetrich, Frank Coho, Scott Leinbach, Al. Moyer, and Sam. Bausman. Second row, Lon. Hemperling, Andy Rote, Thad. Helm, Hugh Fulton, Derry Eckman, Ross Esbenshade, Lonie Herr, Linc. Moyer, Charles Hoffmeier, Charles Souber and Bill Haldy. Back row, Christ, Stehman, Frank Williamson, Ed. Heitshu,