

# Cozy Brick Second Empire on Pleasant Avenue

CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE FARRELLY, MONTCLAIR TOWN HISTORIAN



**T**HIS CHARMING Second Empire house on Pleasant Ave. was built in 1877-8 by Ezekiel Jacobus for Sarah L. (Wilson) Swan. Sarah was the widow of sea captain, David B. Swan, who passed away in Brooklyn in 1869. Directories show that Sarah was still in Brooklyn in 1876. Around 1877 she bought about 6 acres from William Jacobus, a local real estate agent and developer. Ezekiel Jacobus built the house. There was some kind of problem (perhaps Ezekiel didn't finish the house) because in 1881 the Essex County Sheriff put a mechanic's lien on the house and Sarah was forced to sell the property (Ezekiel Jacobus died in January of 1880). She had already sold about 4 acres, so the house was sitting on 2 acres when she sold it. She moved back to Brooklyn and passed away in 1886.

A couple of years later (1884) Alonzo and Harriet (Tyson) Crawford were running a small farm on the property. They sold it in 1890 to a New York businessman, Joseph Y. Johnston, and his wife, Mae (Ellsworth) Johnston. Joseph ran a stationery store that specialized in legal forms on Murray St. in the City. Joseph defaulted on a mortgage that he obtained from a local woman, Mary S. Ward, who lived in East Orange, and had to sell in 1894. Mary bought the property and several others in the Montclair vicinity. She never lived in the featured house.

It is somewhat ironic that Mary "Ward" owned the property. The Ward family owned all the land in this part of town in the

18th century. Joseph and Melinda Ward owned this part of the South End in 1864 when Jacob Brautigam bought about 20 acres and cut Cedar Ave. through. Joseph and Melinda's children still owned the land on the other side of Pleasant Ave. going down to Orange Rd. William Jacobus bought about 15 acres along what is now Pleasant Ave. (including this property) as investment property. Mary was not related to the (Montclair) Ward family; at least not closely related. She was married to Henry A. Hickock, who had an engineering firm in Newark. Mary used her maiden name on most of the legal documents she signed but used the name "Hickock" for most other functions. Frank Ward, a descendant of the original (Montclair) Ward family (not related to Mary) who lived across the street from the featured house, bought the house and owned it for a short while around 1901. Frank was a real estate broker, but he raised cattle on the side. He probably needed a little more land for his cattle.

Around 1904 Irene (Matthews) Kitchell and her husband, James T. Kitchell, bought the property. They lived in Newark, where James had a dry goods store. They never lived in our featured house. The house passed into the hands of their daughter, Irene (Kitchell) Douglas, and her husband, George P. Douglas.



Photograph courtesy Mike Farrelly

Irene and George Douglas lived in Newark. They rented our featured house out and never lived there.

We will talk about one of the tenants, Louis S. Paulmier, and his (first) wife, Edith (Mitchell) Paulmier. Louis figures prominently in the house history later on. Edith's dad, James Mitchell, was chairman of the New York Stock Exchange. Louis Paulmier was the superintendent (manager) of the Metropolitan Life Insurance office in Bloomfield. Edith passed away in 1921. Louis accepted the position of superintendent at Met Life's offices in Bristol, PA. He married August "Eugenie" Atwell in 1925 in Pennsylvania. Eugenie passed away in 1927. Louis married again in 1928. He married Marian R. (Wilson) Scheffey. Marian (Wilson) grew up in Montclair and lived in Montclair with her first husband,

Merl Scheffey, for a while when they were first married. Merl passed away when they lived in Pennsylvania.

The 1924 Directory shows that the house was vacant that year. In 1925 George and Caroline (Werner) Arnold bought the house and moved in. George had been a barber with a shop on Orange Rd. He decided to go into the real estate business. He and Caroline lived on Orange Rd. before they moved into the featured house. In 1933 the Arnolds moved out and Margaret (Stuely) Innis, a private nurse, moved in. Margaret was the widow of Daniel W. Innis. They had lived on Washington Ave. Margaret and Daniel were African Americans, if you can call someone born in the Caribbean "American". Daniel was born in Nevis, BWI. Margaret was born in Virginia. Margaret was quite active in the (colored) YWCA when it was on Glenridge Ave. The "Y" building, the "Crane House", was moved to Orange Rd. in 1965.

Margaret only lived in the featured house for a couple of years because Louis Paulmier and Marion (Wilson) Scheffey Paulmier and her son, Merl Scheffey Jr., came back to New Jersey around 1936 and bought the house. Louis was now the superintendent of Met Life's main office in New York. The Paulmiers lived in the house until Louis' death in 1950. Marian moved back into the house she grew up in on Christopher St.

In 1951 Haim and Grace (Small) Barrow from Jamaica in the British West Indies (BWI) moved in. They lived here with Hiam's brother, Isaac. They lived in and owned the house until the mid-1960s. Hiam had a number of jobs throughout his career. Isaac was the doorman at a large New York apartment building on West 57th St. They all became US citizens and Hiam served in the 530 Engineers, a (colored) regiment attached to the Army Corps of Engineers, during WWI.

Hiam and Isaac's cousin, Capt. Richard Langley, became the aide-de-camp to Jamaica's 2nd governor-general (Sir Clifford Campbell) after Independence (1962), the first governor-general to be born in Jamaica. Hiam and Grace took an extended trip to Jamaica in 1964 to celebrate Jamaica's independence and the installment of Sir Clifford Campbell as governor-general. ■

## What are Montclairians Reading and Watching?

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- **ADULT FICTION**  
*Heart Bones*  
by Colleen Hoover
- **ADULT NONFICTION**  
*Spare* by Prince Harry
- **ADULT MEDIA**  
*Avatar: The Way of Water*  
(20th Century Studios)
- **TEEN FICTION**  
*We'll Always Have Summer*  
by Jenny Han
- **CHILDREN'S FICTION**  
*Dog Man: Fetch-22* by Dav Pilkey  
*Haunted Party* by Iza Trapani  
*Ollie's Halloween* by Olivier Dunrea
- **CHILDREN'S NONFICTION**  
*Autumn Leaves* by Ken Robbins  
*Walrus* by Colleen Sexton
- **CHILDREN'S MEDIA**  
*Lego Jurassic World: The Secret Exhibit* (Universal)  
*Minions: The Rise of Gru* (Universal)

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