

RICHARD FAY'S ESTATE



GATE KEEPER'S HOUSE (39 Fay's Avenue)

Prior to 1704 the land known as the Fay's Estate was owned by Elizabeth (Clifford) Allen (daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Clifford). It originally was 500 acres with part in Lynn, Salem, and Peabody.

John Casper Von Crowninscheldt (Crowninshield), a German physician from Leipzig, bought the land from the elder Elizabeth, after he married her daughter, Elizabeth, who he had healed from an illness. He was the son of George and Mary (Derby) Crowninshield. George had founded Crowninshield and Sons shipping business and built Crowninshield Wharf in Salem. Their two sons, John and

Clifford, inherited the land. They were successful merchants. Elias Trask, born in Salem in 1679, owned the adjacent farm.

Cotton Mather was entertained here. He was a New England Puritan Minister and an author of over 400 books. His writings influenced the Salem Witch trials. He wrote about the healing powers of the waters here. His father, Increase, President of Harvard College, took a lodging at Spring Pond to recover from an illness. He came here to the waters every morning. He wrote about it many times in his diaries.

If you go to Spring Pond, off Fay's Avenue, and look across Spring Pond toward Salem, you will see a hill. That is where the Crowninshield house stood in 1690. Half was in Lynn and the other half was in Salem. Around it were many King's arrow pine trees. They stood 240 feet high and many were marked by 3 slashes on the bark. This meant that they were destined to be cut down for the masts of the King of England's ships. If they were touched, it meant the death penalty.

In 1704 *The Boston News Letter* (newspaper) announced that "Lynn Spring Farm is to be sold on reasonable terms. It contains 20 acres enclosed with a stone fence, several parcels of land that are not fenced, good pasturage, good commonage, having thereon a good double house, 4 rooms on a floor, fit for an ordinary with a barn and accommodations." (see Postmaster of Boston, John Campbell for details)

Benjamin Williams Crowninshield was the owner of the rest of the land in the early 1800's. He was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1811, a member of the Massachusetts Senate in 1812, the United States Secretary of the Navy between 1815 and 1818, a four-term member of the United States Congress from 1823 until 1831, the first Director of the Merchant's Bank in Salem, and founder of the East India Trade Company in Salem. A naval destroyer, the U.S.S. *Crowninshield* was named for him.

In 1810 the Twin Springs Hotel (later called the Mineral Springs Hotel) was built near a spring recognized for its medical qualities. People travelled far and wide to drink from the rusty, iron-rich water. It was said to have a red color because of its strong iron content. It also had large deposits of sulphur that held healing properties, especially for pulmonary (lung) afflictions. The hotel catered to "nature lovers, fishermen, fowlers, and devotees of Bacchus (god of wine) and Venus (goddess of love)."



FRANCESCA DRIVE
(first street on right after Gate Keeper's House)

Francesca Drive came about in the 1980's when Mr. Tammaro had homes built here. Previously there was a municipal playground at the top of the hill for the Fay Estate children. Now, there are a number of homes that have been built. The street was named after Mr. Tammaro's granddaughter, Francesca Manzo.

LOWER FAY'S AVENUE AND EDMERE ROAD
(Facing Edgemere Road on the left)



Note the World War II Monument on the corner on the left. Richard Daigle and Raymond Scranton have streets named for them on the right as you continue up Fay's Avenue.



Across the street, on the right, is the site of a variety store that was here in the 1950's. It is long gone, replaced by this white house.

The Hotel fell on tough times. It was said that the worship of Bacchus and Venus upset the reputation of the hotel. The baser sort started to come.

Richard Sullivan Fay, Esquire, born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a resident and manufacturer of Boston and Paris, bought the hotel and the land that became known as Fay's Estate. He was an eminent agriculturist, merchant, and manufacturer. He changed the hotel into his own private mansion to be used as his summer residence, calling it *Lynnmere*. He imported hundreds of trees (many of them fruit) and plants from Europe. People came from all over to admire his arboretum of foliage. It is believed that the first tulips in the United States were found here. When the mansion was torn down and the land sold in 1916 for development, many of these trees were cut down and used as boxwood for the shoe industry.

In 1862, during the Civil War, Fay commissioned an army unit at his expense. It

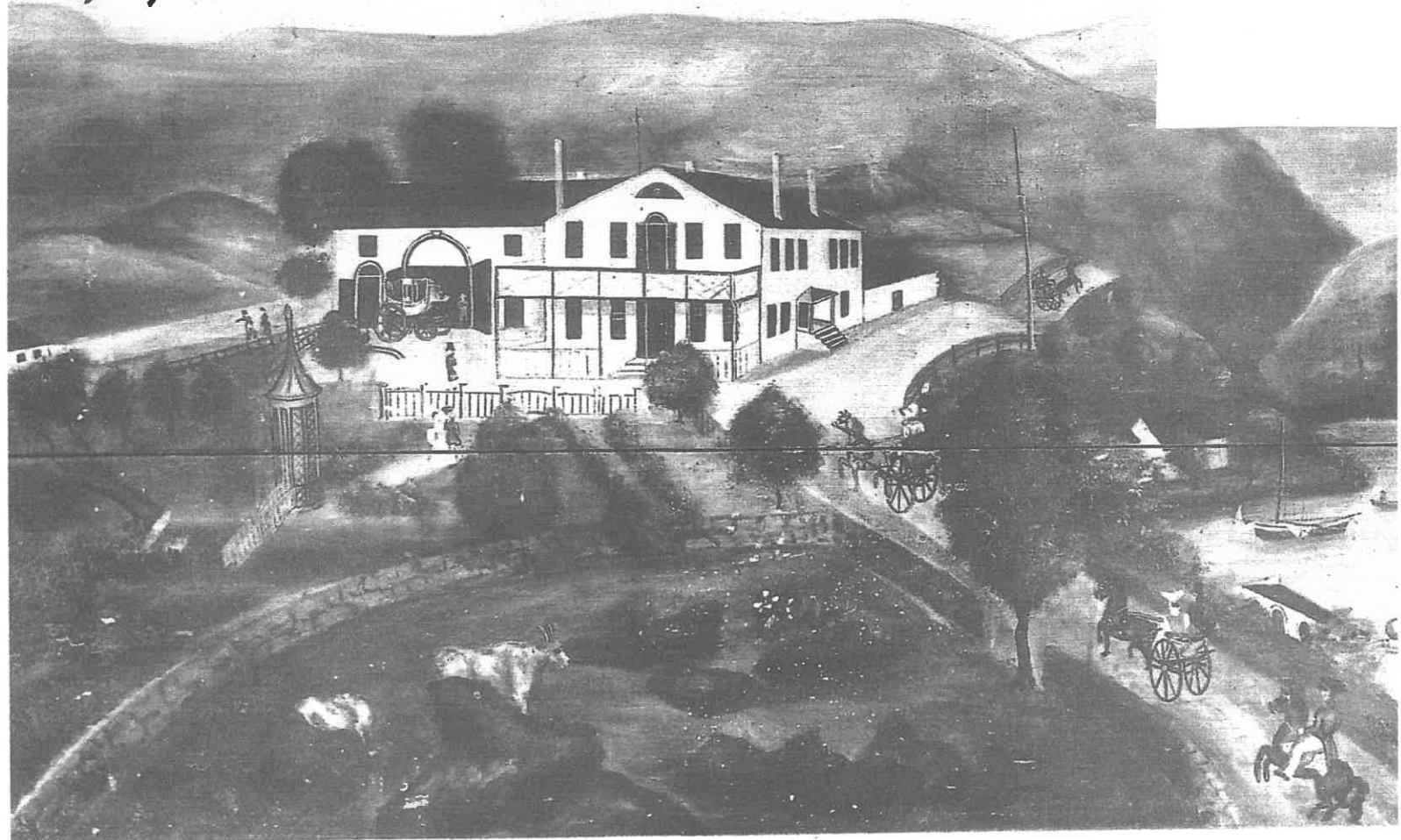
was the 38th Regiment of Massachusetts and called the Fay Light Guard. It was attached to the 39th Regiment of Massachusetts and fought battles at Port Hudson, Cane River, Mansion Plains, Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek. Richard died in England in 1865 and it has been said that his body was brought back to the United States for burial in a pickle barrel.

Mrs. Catherine Sanders Fay lived here after Richard's death. The mansion, it was said, resembled a British feudal castle. It had 23 rooms with a ballroom and private theatre. She opened the area up for everyone to picnic. She and Richard are buried in Pine Grove Cemetery.



Rich. T. Fay.
1847

Fay Estate



See Fellsmere Street on the left.

In 1912 there was a proposed railroad to be built to the Mineral Springs Hotel from Peabody to Boston. The sinking of the *Titanic* scuttled the project. Prior to this, the land had been sold to a private land company. The railroad was to go through this area, then called Rye Hill. It is where Fellsmere Street is today. This project was going to be financed by several wealthy Boston financiers. Several of them sailed home from Europe on the *Titanic* and lost their lives. The plan faced financial and legal technicalities, and the heirs of the financiers sold the land and the plan for the railroad was abandoned.

Walk up Fay's Avenue, past Daigle Road and Scranton Way (on the right) and go to John H. Cann Way, also on the right. This is the entrance to the Lynn Lion's Club Property. Camp Lion and Cairn Hill Nature Preschool are here.





This is Spring Pond. There is a marker in the pond that tells which city owns what area. Basically, the area called the Fay Estate is in Lynn. Spring Pond is Peabody's drinking water, and the rest belongs to Salem, including Camp Lion and WalMart, all the way to Danvers (Swampscott) Road. If you go to the edge of the water, you can still see where the docks, etc. were for the Mineral Springs Hotel. Some of the artesian wells are also visible near the stone house.



THE CARRIAGE HOUSE (255 Fay's Avenue)

This was the carriage house for the Mineral Springs Hotel. Note the upper door on the left-hand side. It is, now, a private residence.

Indians were known to encamp on the banks of Spring Pond, and many arrowheads were found into the 20th century.

Near here in 1676, Lo, a Native American, was killed by John Flint who said he was out shooting ducks in Spring Pond. Flint had previously fought in King Philip's War. It is believed that Lo was buried where he fell. It is said to be somewhere around where the Mineral Springs Hotel was later located. When Flint was put on trial for the murder, he admitted it saying, "I heard a dog bark, making a howling noise like an Indian dog. I was much afraid and presently the ducks rose out of the pond. Looking toward the Spring, I saw the dog coming toward me and as I thought it was an Indian dog whereupon I ran to my horse to ride away and then

there appeared an Indian as I thought coming crouching among the bushes with his gun in both hands toward me and as I thought about running into the pond, I spied the top of a tree blown off and crept into that and then lay in great fear, he came from tree to tree until he came very near me as I thought. He presented at me, whereupon I shot him and rode away fearing there had been more Indians." Flint was acquitted. It was said at the time that "Lo's body and bones nourished the beautiful shrubs and trees of the woods by Spring Pond." The next year, Flint killed a white man. This time he was found guilty.



THE SERVANT'S QUARTERS (268 Fay's Avenue)

This double decker was said to have been St. Joseph's Boys' Seminary in the 1940's for boys between the ages of 4 and 16, and there was talk about a scandal happening here. It was said that some of the boys suffered abuse at the hands of Mr. George Beck who ran the home. Beck was arrested for a "civil matter." It did not elaborate. However, the school only lasted one year. After that, during the late 1940's, it was a nursing home. Today, it has 2 private residences.



FENCE TO LEFT OF 205 EDMERE ROAD

Horse races were held at the Mineral Springs Hotel. Notice the shape of Edgemere Road and Fay's Avenue. It's an ellipse. This was the horse-race track. Also, riders with bright red coats vaulted over hedges in competition. This is where the horse barns were located.



THE LAUNDRY
(200 Edgemere Road)

This house was the laundry. Mayor Antonio Marino lived here for many years. It is a private residence, still, today.

Most of the houses you have in the Fay Estate were built in the 1950's.



LAWRENCE ROAD
(on the right)

(FORMER) MESERVE HOUSE/LAWRENCE ROAD
66 Edgemere Road



Walter Meserve , a Lynn Policeman in the 1940's and 1950's, owned a chicken farm here. He and his wife lived in this white house. The author's father, also, a Lynn Policeman and Walter's partner, used to bring her to the farm as a little girl to buy eggs. She was shocked to see the chickens running around with their heads cut off. This is true and not just a saying. She can attest to the truth of this. Mrs. Meserve lived in this house until she died sometime in the 1980's and was the author's neighbor.

Walter's son, also, Walter, nicknamed "Bud." was Ward 2 Councilor for a long time, as well as City Council President and Acting-Mayor. The author personally knew him and his wife, and they lived on Fellsmere Street, up the hill and in back of Walter, Sr. The land that is Maplewood, now, was the location of the chicken farm. The land was sold and developed in the 1980's. There was a neighborhood fight over it. Everyone thought it would be used by people as a short cut from Euclid Avenue to

Salem. To allay everyone's fear, they put a fence in back of the Maplewood development, so this cannot happen.

Prior to the opening of the Salem Turnpike (Western/Highland Avenues) in 1803, the entrance to the Crowninshield Farm was from Maple Street, It is still an entrance, but the main entrance is on Fay's and Western Avenues.