

# FAMILY DU PONT OF THE LEGACY

Working with his butler, he coordinated the china, glass, and custom-made linens to complement the floral arrangements. The visitors could experience different place setting for each meal. I saw some of those arguments and I am amazed how so many years ago he had such an amazing taste and ability to make perfect combinations of plates, linens and flowers.

Du Pont was changing seasonally the curtains and chairs, bed and sofa covers, so they can reflect the colors in the garden and the mood of the season. "One can look at the colors and objects chosen for the rooms and discover that the outside and inside blend into a

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complementary and singular aesthetic." Winterthur Museum opened in 1951. The museum has collection of more than 90,000 objects - it is a space where visitors can admire beauty and history. The home reflects H.F du Pontt passion for collecting unique pieces of art and gardening. In 1961 he was invited by Jacqueline Kennedy to oversee restoration of the White House

Henry lived there with his wife, Ruth, and two daughters. He had a passion for collecting historic American furniture, art, and decorative objects. When you walk trough the rooms in the museum today, you feel like you are get-

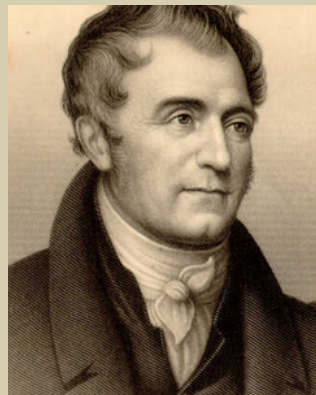
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ting transformed to different times and different places - there are so many old objects from all around the world.

Henry had a great sence of proportion, composition, and color. He mentioned that "I have always loved flowers and had a garden as a child, ...and if you have grown up with flowers and really seen them you can't help to have unconsciously absorbed an appreciation of proportion, color, detail, and material."

Today the museum, garden, graduate study programs, and a library that is recognized as a research center for material culture, are a legacy that provides constant beauty and insights into America past and present."

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Eleuthere Irene du Pont came from France to America and in 1802 and founded a gunpowder company in Delaware. The company expanded far beyond gunpowder and today is one of the most successful companies in the world. There are approximately 4,000 heirs of the Du Pont family. According to Forbes, they are the 17th richest family I America.

## Longwood Gardens

**Perre Samuel du Pont** was a remarkable man. He was head on two of America's most prosperous corporations - DuPont Company and General Motors. Pierre was the eldest son of Lammot du Pont, he was born in 1870.

At an age of 14, his father died in a chemical explosion and he took role of father to his brother and sisters. At age of 20 he graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at age of 23 he had been issued a patent as co-inventor of smokeless gunpowder.

When he discover that Peirce's Park is about to be destroyed, decide to

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purchase the land. And I know a lot of wealthy people today but it seems too me that most of them care about keeping the wealth or giving it to their kids but not contribute to the society or nature (unless is something they do for tax deduction purposes). So, what Pierree did was innovative and inspiring. So, to save the trees, on July 20th, 1906, Pierre bought Peirce's Park, soon to be known as Longwood Gardens. The purchase included 202 acres, a house, and farm buildings, for \$15,500. In 1907, he laid out Longwood's first flower garden, the 600 foot long Flower Garden Walk.

1915 the married Alice Belin. They began an ambitious program of improvements and expansions, building

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the massive Conservatory, numerous greenhouses, and tenant housing and recreational facilities or their expanding staff.

Over the years, he added thousands of trees and created many projects that reflected his chिल्dhood fascination with water.

He build spectacular water displays and in 1925 he began the Italian Water Garden, inspired by a garden see had seen near Florence, Italy.



## Coming to America

Everything begun in 1800 when Eleuthere Irenee du Pont (1771-1834), decided to immigrate from France to America so his family can escape political persecution. He arrived at Newport, Rhode island on January 1, 1800 with his father and his brother's family. His father, Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours (1739-1817) was a French-American writer, economist, publisher and government official. He had his own publishing house in Paris.

Interesting fact is that one of the reasons for the French Revolution was the American Revolution in which France in

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1778 took the side of the colonists and that converted the essentially been a civil war into an international conflict. The final outcome was that with the French help British surrender but that caused many problem in France. Shortly after his arrival, Irenee went to hunting trip in Delaware. He discover that the American refining process was poor and inefficient compared with the techniques he had learned in France. So, he went to France in the beginning of 1801 to get the necessary financing and equipment.

That was the beginning of one of the largest and most successful American corporations.

No other family has dominated a single state longer than the DuPonts in Delaware.

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## The company DuPont

By the mid-19th century, the company DuPont was the largest supplier of gunpowder to the U.S. military, and supplied as much as 40 percent of the powder used by the Union Army forces during the Civil War.

After the death of E.I. Du Pont in 1834, his sons, Alfred, Henry, and Alexis, took over as partners. They continue the legacy and expend the business. They took advantage of opportunities like he California Gold Rush, the construction of Western railroads, the Crimean War, and the American Civil War.

His grandson Lammot was a good

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chemist and understood that the dynamite production has big future. He created his own company "Repauno Chemical Company" but after 4 years he died in an accidental factory explosion.

DuPont acquired Repauno and incorporated their relative's vision into their own production line. DuPont chemists made their mark on the world by developing

revolutionary substances like the following:

Freon (1930) a substance for refrigeration

Neoprene (1931) a synthetic rubber

Lucite (1936) a clear, acrylic resin used for home furniture

Nylon (1937) a synthetic material used to replace silk stockings and in World War II parachute production

Teflon (1938) a lubricant and non-stick material

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DuPont's rising power also came from various mergers and acquisitions of other companies and become global power in the chemical innovation.

In 2015 DuPont company merged with Dow Chemical.

I am sure that if today Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours could see how much the company has grown, he would be very happy.

We are all trying to accomplish something in our lives that can last much longer after we are not here anymore, and is hard to achieve that but looking at the life of people like him, gives a hope and courage that things are possible - we just need two try harder and take advantage of opportunities in life.

We have to remember that nothing comes easy in life

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## Winterthur

In 1837 Eleuthere Irenee du Pont daughter Evelina married Jacques Antoine Bidermann and the couple purchased 450 acres from the fathers estate. The home that they build was names Winterthur - in honor of Antoine's ancestral home in Switzerland. Over the years they planted many flowers, fruits and vegetables

In 1867, their son James, sold Winterthur to Evelina's brother Henry du Pont, which in 1874 gifted the property to his son Colonel Henry Algernon (1838 - 1926) when he got married to Pauline Foster. They continued the farming and gardening traditions and also increased the size of the house.

His son Henry Francis du Pont (1880-

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1969) was born at Winterthur and, in his words, "always loved everything connected with it."

In his later years, H.F. du Pont wrote: "I sincerely hope that the Museum will be a continuing source of inspiration and education for all time, and that the gardens and grounds will of themselves be a country place museum where visitors may enjoy as I have, not only the flowers, trees and shrubs, but also the sunlit meadows, shady wood paths, and the peace and great calm of a country place which has been loved and taken care of for three generations." He took full responsibility for the place in 1906 and after that he developed and improved the garden area.

Before the world war II the was traveling often to Europe where he was studying the great gardens. By 1925 the property exceeded 2,500

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architect Marian Coffin, to design his garden.

Like many designers of that time, Coffin was inspired by the symmetry, proportions and architectural features of Italian Renaissance gardens. The reflecting pool on the back yard was a reflection of that trend. The twin bath houses was another example. They provided space for family members and weekend guests to change before and after swimming.

Behind the circular grillwork in the stone wall that connects the two houses was a stereo system. It broadcasted music for the people in the pool and around.

As a young boy, H.F. du Pont gathered flowers and other natural objects in the fields and woods of Winterthur for their beauty and form.

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