

The Seiberling Family

Franklin August "F.A." Seiberling (1859-1955)

F.A. Seiberling attended Heidelberg University for two years until he left to work at his father's company, The Empire Mower Works. He married Gertrude Ferguson Penfield in 1887 and founded Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company with his younger brother, C.W., in 1898. He was named president of Goodyear in 1906 and resigned in 1921 only to form the Seiberling Rubber Company that same year. He retired in 1938 and was succeeded by his son, Penfield, who then became president of Seiberling Rubber Company.

Gertrude Ferguson Penfield Seiberling (1866-1946)

Gertrude Seiberling attended LaSalle Seminary for Young Women and then later Buchtel College. In 1919, she founded the re-organized National Federation of Music Clubs and traveled across the country promoting it. By the 1930s and 1940s, she had established herself as a painter, and her works were displayed locally and nationally.

John Frederick Seiberling (1888-1962)

The first child born to F.A. and Gertrude Seiberling, Frederick attended Cornell University but didn't finish due to illness. He married Henrietta McBrayer Buckler, whom he met in El Paso, Texas, while he was serving in the military. He also served in World War I as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Upon his return, he became the manager of the Seiberling Rubber Company plant in Newcastle, Pennsylvania. Henrietta and he separated in 1935. They never divorced, although Henrietta moved to New York City in 1944. Frederick retired in 1953 and lived at Stan Hywet Hall until shortly before his death.

Irene Henrietta Seiberling (1890-1999)

Irene Henrietta Seiberling was the second oldest of Frank A. and Gertrude P. Seiberling's seven children. In November 1898, she turned on the first steam valve at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, thus formally marking the beginning of a new business and a new era for Akron, Ohio. As a youth, she traveled through France, Algeria, Italy and England. She attended Dana Hall Preparatory School in Wesley, Massachusetts and studied music for several years. In 1923, she married Milton Whateley Harrison and moved to Bronxville, New York, where Milton was a banker and a lawyer, and she became a political activist. After Milton's death in 1949, she moved back to Stan Hywet Hall, living in the Gate Lodge until her death at age 108.

Willard Penfield Seiberling (1892-1981)

Willard graduated from Princeton with a degree in economics and became the manager of Goodyear's Aeronautics Department. In 1923, he married Mary Harris Gerrish. An avid and talented photographer, much of Stan Hywet's historic documentation is owed to his black-and-white images. Willard flew in hot air balloon races and was responsible for restoring Cedar Lodge, the Seiberling summer residence in Michigan.

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James Penfield Seiberling (1898-1982)

Penfield graduated from Princeton and afterward attended the University of Michigan Law School, where he got his law degree. In 1923, he married Harriet Robinson Manton and eventually succeeded F.A. as president of the Seiberling Rubber Company. He was the family representative to Stan Hywet Hall until the time of his death.

Gertrude Virginia Seiberling (1899-1971)

Virginia graduated from Westover School in Middlebury, Connecticut, and married Jack Handy, a broker in the rubber and import business, in 1919. She collected 18th century American antiques and traveled extensively in the Far East.

Franklin Augustus Seiberling, Jr. (1908-1990)

Franklin spent much of his youth attending classical music concerts with his mother. Rather than taking up music, however, he studied art history at the University of Chicago, graduating in 1948 with a PhD. Before heading to Italy during World War II, he worked at the Toledo Museum of Art, where he met the woman who would become his wife, Nancy Pendleton Jackson. Upon his return from the war, he became an associate professor of art history at Ohio State University and then at the University of Iowa, retiring from there in 1976.

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