



Generations of Appleton Family Portraits

An Exhibition by The Trustees of Reservations

Appleton Farms, Ipswich, Massachusetts

Fall 2013



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Of Farm and Family:

Generations of Appleton Family Portraits

On behalf of The Trustees of Reservations, we are honored to celebrate the 375th Anniversary of the founding of Appleton Farms with a special exhibition of family portraits in our collection.

Appleton Farms is the oldest continuously operated farm in America and among the most influential in America's agricultural history. It also was home to one of the country's founding and most influential families.

At the heart of the farm is the Old House, where generations of Appletons—from a brigadier general who served in the War of 1812 to a 19th century entrepreneur to a 20th century Wall Street lawyer—lived and loved life at Appleton Farms. Our 375th Anniversary exhibition celebrates the men and women of the farm not only with their portraits, but also by sharing the human stories behind each of the sitters.

In addition, photographs and decorative arts objects in our collection have been integrated into the show to help bring these family members “to life.”

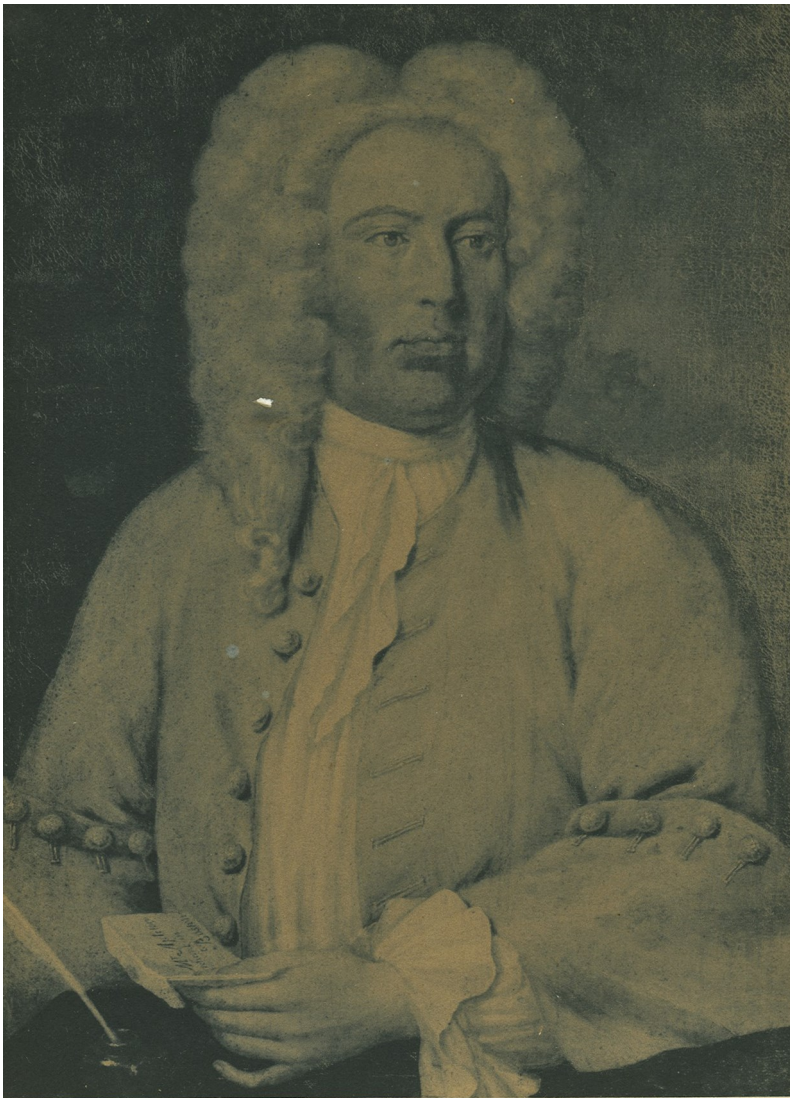
This important collection of family portraits also represents the work of some of America's leading artists of the 19th and early 20th century. Artists who captured the Appletons include Sir Alfred Munnings, Lydia Field Emmet, and Eastman Johnson, who was called “the American Rembrandt” of his time.

We hope that you will join us in celebrating this rich history and family legacy at Appleton Farms, a national treasure, now preserved and protected by The Trustees of Reservations for everyone, forever.



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Samuel Appleton (1624-1696)



Artist unknown

Date Unknown

Photo reproduction of an oil painting

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

AF.1117



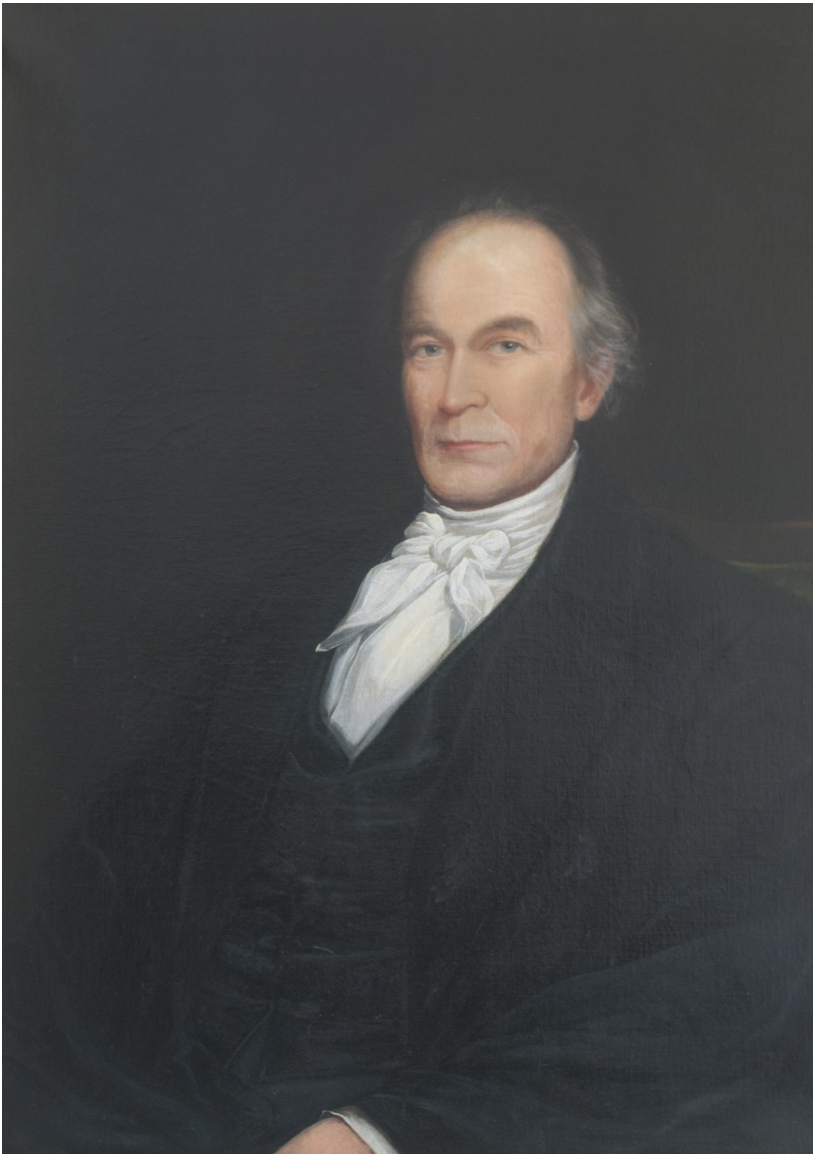
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The Samuel Appleton depicted here was the son of emigrant Samuel Appleton who founded Appleton Farms in 1638. Emigrant Samuel Appleton was born in 1586 in England. He arrived in Ipswich in 1635 with his new wife and five children. He would receive the original land grant for his farm in December of 1638.

This Samuel would convey the farm to his sons, John and Isaac, in 1688. Isaac's son, Samuel Appleton (1738-1819) married Mary White of Nantucket. They remained on the farm and had 12 children. It is presumed that they built a house at the site of the "Old House" when Isaac died in 1794.

Today, what was named "Mary White's Lane" is the path connecting the Waldingfield Road parking lot to the main farm driveway at Appleton Farms. At one time it served as entrance to the farm.

General James Appleton (1785-1862)



American, circa 1820-30

Attributed to Thomas Cole on early label

Oil on canvas

47"H x 39"W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

AF.1162

General James Appleton was born in Ipswich in 1785, and would live in Gloucester, Marblehead, and Portland, Maine, before returning to the farm in 1857. He was a Federalist and a Lieutenant Colonel for the Massachusetts Militia in the War of 1812. For these services, the Army later promoted him to the rank of Brigadier General. He also served as the official escort to Lafayette when he visited Boston in 1824.

In 1813, at the age of 28, General James was elected to the Massachusetts legislature. A practicing lawyer and politician, he moved to Portland in 1833 and was elected to the Maine legislature, becoming a candidate for governor in 1836. He was known as a “conspicuous advocate” of anti-slavery and prohibition. In 1837, he submitted a report on the evils of liquor that became the basis of the Maine Temperance Law of 1846. His grandson, Francis R. Appleton, Sr., once wrote that General James was called “The Father of Prohibition.”



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In 1861, during the Civil War, General James delivered patriotic speeches defending the Union. One such speech was an inspirational farewell given to the Ipswich regiment as it left for the front. A marker on Ipswich's North Green was given by the Woman's Relief Corps, named in honor of Gen. James Appleton, in memory of the unknown soldiers and sailors of the Civil War, 1861-1865.

In 1853, James' elder brother, Timothy Appleton, called upon James to help him manage the farm. General James bought out his father's surviving heirs in order to own Appleton Farm, and in 1857 returned to the farm. His younger brothers, Timothy and Samuel, had operated the farm until Samuel's death in 1852. General James was married to Sarah Fuller Appleton. They had 10 children and 36 grandchildren, leaving a great legacy at the farm. Their son, Daniel Fuller Appleton, would inherit the farm upon his death in 1862.



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A Cole or not a Cole?

Whether or not this portrait is truly by the famed Hudson River School artist, Thomas Cole (1801-1848), is currently under research. Cole emigrated from England to the United States in 1818, and was an itinerant portrait artist during the early years of his work. If done in the 1820s, as his costume seems to indicate, there is the rare possibility that it was painted by Cole.

The speculative attribution to Cole is due to the brass plaque on its frame. Where and when that label was generated is unknown, but we do know that the painting has been in the family for generations. Recent correspondence with Dr. Paul Schweizer, Director Emeritus of the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, and the curator of the forthcoming exhibition about Cole's famous painting series, *The Voyage of Life*, believes that a Cole provenance is unlikely but not out of the question, and worth our efforts to continue in the search.

Note: The exhibition, *America's Eden: Thomas Cole and "The Voyage of Life"* will open at the Taft Museum in Cincinnati in 2014, corresponding with the 175th anniversary of this 1840 series of paintings.

Sarah Fuller Appleton (1787-1872)



Artist unknown.

Oil on canvas

30-1/4"H x 25"W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

AF.209

Sarah Fuller Appleton was the daughter of Rev. Daniel Fuller, pastor of the West Parish Church of Gloucester for 50 years. She was later the wife of General James Appleton, with whom she had 10 children (three sons and seven daughters), three of whom became ministers or married clergymen. Their son, Daniel Fuller Appleton, named for her father, would become the next heir to the farm in 1862.

Transcribed below are writings by Sarah Fuller Appleton, c. 1800, perhaps written as a school paper:

"How are we to observe and understand the moral maxim 'always speak the truth.' To understand this maxim we must set a watch upon our tongue, and always consider well before we speak. We should suppress the first musings of the heart to deceive others... We may deceive Man, but we cannot deceive God." TTOR Archives



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Nicholas Phillips Randall (1779-1836)



Artist unknown.

Oil on canvas

30-1/2"H x 27-3/4" W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

AF.188

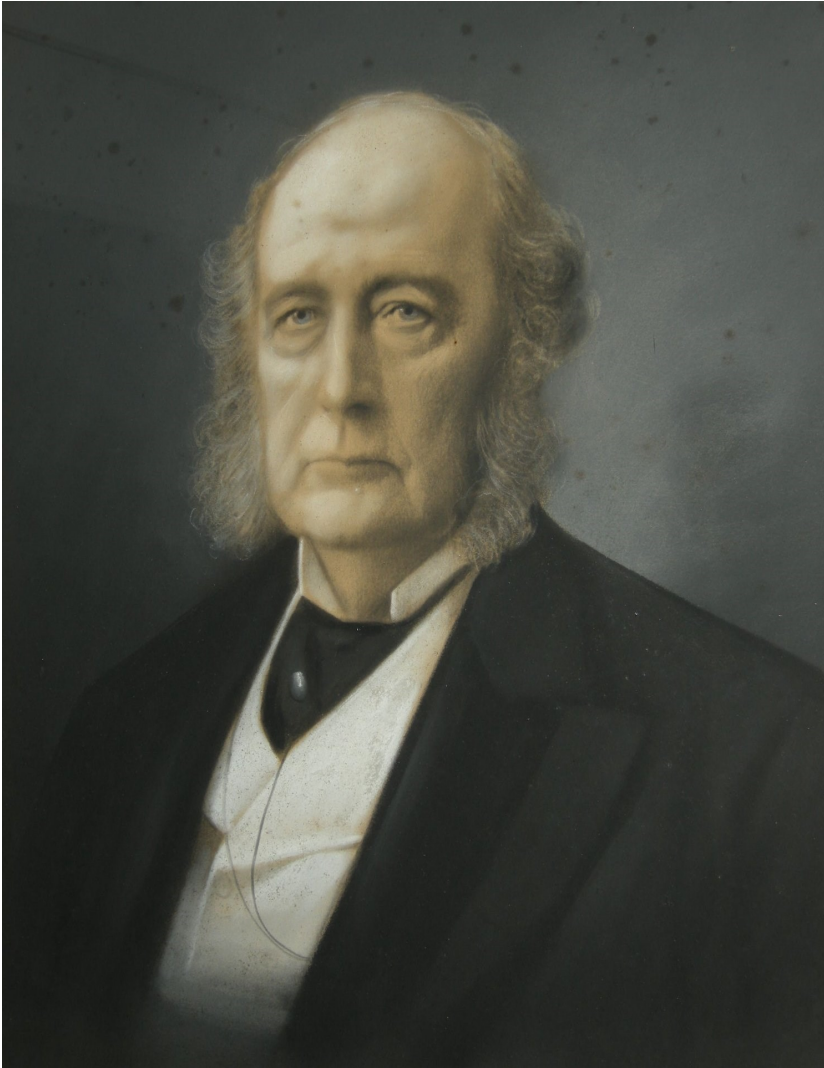
Nicholas Phillips Randall was the father of Julia Randall Appleton, first wife of Daniel Fuller Appleton. He was a lawyer in New York and leader of the bar of Onondaga County. He was a descendant of Matthew Randall, Mayor of Bath, England, in 1627. Nicholas was married to Sybil Dyer Randall. (Some of her letters now survive in The Trustees archives).

According to Randall family genealogy, "Nicholas Phillips Randall, at the age of fifteen, resolved upon securing the benefits of a liberal education. His father, with a large family and limited means, could aid his son but little in securing the desired blessing; and thus dependent upon his own resources he fitted for college and graduated with distinguished honor at Yale in the class of 1803."



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Daniel Fuller Appleton (1826-1904)



Artist unknown

Pastel on paper

23"H x 19"W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

AF.259

Daniel Fuller Appleton was a seventh-generation Appleton and his tenure would have one of the greatest impacts on the farm.

Born in Marblehead, Massachusetts, in 1826 to General James and Sarah Fuller Appleton, his family soon moved to Portland, Maine, where his father was a successful legislator. However, in 1847, at the age of 21, Daniel Fuller Appleton set out for New York to seek his own fortune.

Young and full of entrepreneurial promise, Daniel worked for watch importer Royal E. Robbins, which later became the firm of Robbins & Appleton. In 1857, the firm bought the watch works at Waltham, Massachusetts, and for more than 50 years led America in manufacturing clocks and watches. Daniel became the first Appleton to derive the largest sources of his income from his industrial career, rather than from the farm.



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Daniel married Julia Randall, daughter of the Honorable Nicholas Phillips Randall, in 1853. They had five children: three sons and two daughters. He became active at the farm soon after his father took over in 1857. Upon the general's death in 1862, Daniel bought out his siblings and heirs to the farm. Although Daniel and his family lived in Staten Island and Manhattan, they called Appleton Farms their summer home until his death in 1904. His was the first generation to hold primary residences elsewhere and use farm managers to run the farm.

Julia Randall Appleton died in 1886. Daniel remarried to Susan Cowles in 1890 at the age of 64. Miss Cowles' mother had for many years been the head of the Ipswich Female Seminary, and her father was the Rev. John P. Cowles.

In addition to being an entrepreneur and an innovative farmer, Daniel Fuller Appleton was highly civic minded. His son, Francis Randall Appleton, Sr., once wrote: *"Mr. Appleton, like his father before him, showed from his earliest years and all through his life a very great interest in public affairs. Whatever concerned his fellowmen concerned him. He loved his neighbor as himself."*

Daniel Fuller left a great impact not only on the farm but also on the town of Ipswich,

Massachusetts. In partnership with his brother-in-law, the Rev. John Cotton Smith, he helped organize the Episcopal parish of Ascension Memorial Church in Ipswich. He was a warden of the church from its founding until his death. A letter from Milo H. Gates of the Church of the Intercession, written at the time of Daniel's death in 1904, reads:

"I have often wondered since Mr. Appleton's death what Ipswich would have become if he had not lived there and taken that interest in the preservation of the fine old things intellectual as well as material of that place... I can see now several New England towns similar to Ipswich, but as unlike as possible because these have had no Mr. Appleton quietly in their background to inspire and to assist efforts like those which at Ipswich have revered and preserved the good of the past and thus made Ipswich to respect itself and to be respected and so become a place of pilgrimages."

Daniel Fuller was one of the founders of the Union League Club, organized by patriotic men during the Civil War. Always active in politics, he was a delegate at the first Convention of the Republican Party in 1856 and prominent at the Philadelphia Convention where Teddy Roosevelt was nominated for president. He was also president of the New England Society of New York and of the New York Jewelers' Association.



Daniel Fuller Appleton (1826-1904)

By Susie Ricker Knox, 1904

Oil on canvas

14-1/4"H x 11"W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

AF.190



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For Daniel Fuller Appleton, life was truly about farm and family. We find evidence of this both in his prolific correspondence with his eldest son, Francis, and in family photographs where family members gathered around the house or on the porch, in large groups and small, celebrating summer at Appleton Farms.

The Old House became the center of Daniel Fuller Appleton's homestead at the farm. During the 1860s and 1870s, Daniel made substantial changes to the Old House and outbuildings. At the house, he added a long porch, replaced the 1794 central chimney with two smaller ones in the sitting and dining rooms, and added the west wing and library.

Corresponding frequently with Francis about matters at the farm, he wrote "*The big old-fashioned chimney will be taken away and a wide hall will run entirely through the house and there will be a piazza on the side of it.*"

Francis Randall Appleton, Sr., wrote of his father in 1921: *“He was very fond of gathering his family and relatives about him. In this way there was created a patriarchal atmosphere, in which he was the center, holding the love and affection of his family and relatives and distant kin. To them all he bequeathed the example of a pure and blameless life.”*

In addition to expanding and upgrading the house, Daniel expanded the farm by reacquiring land. The farm had been broken up in the early 1800s, and it was Daniel's desire to reassemble all of the land belonging to the original land grant of Samuel Appleton in 1638. Between 1866-1890, he was able to purchase a significant amount of acreage. Land acquisitions continued as neighboring farmers aged and their heirs were no longer interested in farming. Daniel's son, Francis Randall Appleton, Sr., would inherit the farm and continue to acquire land into the mid-20th century.

Reacquiring the land from the original 1638 land grant would become Daniel's greatest legacy at Appleton Farms. He was also very interested in making the farm profitable, despite maintaining a successful career elsewhere. This is seen through the agricultural investments he made at the farm. He reclaimed acres of lowlands to extend the farming operations, and introduced new and

innovative farming techniques. His impact on the farm and its operations was exceptional, and today's Appleton Farms owes much to Daniel's tenure.

As a result of his farming innovations, Daniel won awards from the Essex Agricultural Society. Their report of 1871 describes Daniel's agricultural impact on the farm, describing that his drainage efforts resulted in increased crops: 75 tons of English hay in 1871 versus 6 tons in 1866. At the time of his death, the English hay crop had increased to several hundred tons. Daniel also brought Appleton Farms distinction with its fine herd of Jersey cattle. As early as 1869, he had a flock of Cotswold sheep as well as Kerry and Jersey cattle, which later became part of his “Agawam herd,” one of the earliest in America. His prize-winning cow, “Eurotissima,” was exhibited at the World's Fair: Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 for yielding the highest record, up to that time, for the amount of butter produced in a single year by one cow—945 pounds, 9 oz.

Daniel Fuller Appleton's entrepreneurial spirit and strong character are reflected in this quote from an obituary notice: *“Renowned as a merchant, respected as a patriotic citizen and beloved as a man, Mr. Appleton's career is one to inspire respect and deserve emulation.”*



Daniel Fuller Appleton (1826-1904)
By Eastman Johnson (Signed "E.J." lower left)
Oil on canvas
27"H x 22"W
TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection
AF.206



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A Rare Pair of Eastman Johnson Portraits

Why are there two seemingly identical portraits of Daniel Fuller Appleton? Is one a later copy? Are they both by artist Eastman Johnson? These are questions that visitors and staff alike want to know.

Authenticated in 2011 by art historian and Eastman Johnson expert Prof. Pat Hills of Boston University, we know that both portraits are by the renowned 19th century American painter. A founding member of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, Eastman Johnson (1824-1906) has been called "the American Rembrandt" of his day. He is best known for his genre paintings of New England life and his portraits of prominent Americans—from President Abraham Lincoln to literary figures such as Hawthorne, Emerson and Longfellow—as well as everyday men.

His later works, such as the 1884 portrait of Daniel Fuller Appleton, with its manipulation of light and dark, show the influence of 17th century Dutch masters whom he studied while living in The Hague.

Daniel Fuller Appleton would have been 58 years old in 1884. It appears that he was the premier patron of art and antiques in the Appleton family, and his own portraits exist both as paintings and a marble sculpture bust. Through archival research, we have found a letter indicating that the commission of a portrait of DFA was requested for the board room of the Waltham Watch Co. in 1903. Whether or not he provided the company with an earlier and second copy of Eastman Johnson's 1884 portrait, or whether he had the artist copy the portrait he admired when he was a younger man, or whether that later commission was by another artist entirely (such as the other two portraits reflecting a much older DFA) is unknown at this time. The Trustees are grateful, however, to have this rare pair of Eastman Johnson portraits in their permanent collection.



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Photograph (Copy of 1897 Original)

A Daniel Fuller Appleton family gathering at Appleton Farms, 1897. Daniel Fuller Appleton stands at far right

Courtesy of David Thayer



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Randolph Morgan Appleton (1862-1940)



By Catherine Priestly Richardson, 1930s

Oil on canvas

34"H x 27-1/4" W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Bird



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Randolph Morgan Appleton, also known as "Budd," was the second son of Daniel Fuller Appleton. Born on Staten Island in 1862, he grew up summering at the Old House and graduated from Harvard in 1884. In 1888, he married Helen K. Mixer of Boston and had three daughters: Madeleine, Julia and Sybil.

In 1889, Budd and Helen bought the Waldingfield Road property that had once been the Samuel Appleton homestead. They enlarged their estate by incorporating the existing early house into a large new house, and called it "Waldingfield" after the English town of Little Waldingfield from which the Appletons descended. That house was destroyed by fire in 1916. A new house was later built by his daughter, Julia, and her husband, Charles Bird.

Always the sportsman, Randolph Morgan Appleton played football at Harvard, introduced golf to Myopia, and served as Master of the Hounds at Myopia from 1883-1900.

Budd was also a man of good humor and amusing toasts. For example, he wrote and published, *“Posies and Poems: Penned, Prigged, Plagiarized and Put Together by Budd”* as a Christmas present for his nephew, FRA, Jr., in 1929. It included such tributes as *“Ancestor Sam,”* written for the unveiling of the farm tablet in the Great Pasture, in memory of 17th century emigrant Samuel Appleton, and *“A Myopia Toast.”*



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A Myopia Toast by “Budd”

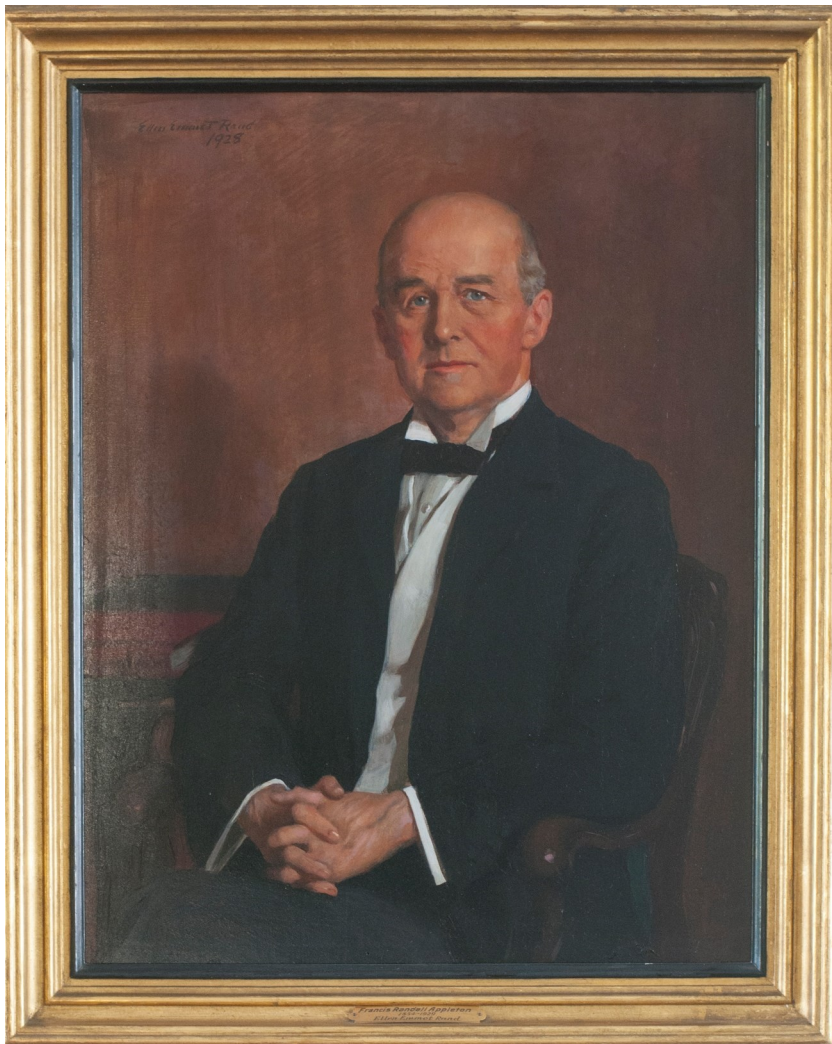
To each Myopia horseman,
Be he stable boy or swell,
If his heart be true, I care not
If he goes poor or well.

And may he ever gallantly
Our pleasant sport pursue,
If he takes his fences fairly too.

So fill your glass and drain it down,
Let not a drink be short.
The Myopia hunt - the best on earth,
Our Master, and the sport.

With a stout heart in adversity,
Through every ill to steer;
And when Fortune smiles, a host of friends,
Like those about us here.

Francis Randall Appleton, Sr. (1854-1929)



By Ellen Emmet Rand, 1925

Oil on canvas

30.6"H x 24.7"W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

AF.189



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Francis Randall Appleton, Sr. was the eldest son of Daniel Fuller Appleton and would be the next heir to Appleton Farms. Francis attended Phillips Academy and Harvard University, a proud member of the Class of 1875. He practiced law in New York and married Fanny Lanier Appleton in 1884. They had five children, including Francis R. Appleton, Jr., the last Appleton to live at the farm.

Correspondence between FRA, Sr. and his father shows that he was very invested in its operation from a young age. Even while a student at Harvard, he would take the train to Ipswich to oversee the farm. When Francis then wanted to quit school to run the farm full time, his father discouraged him from doing so, understanding the need for him to earn his livelihood elsewhere in order to support the farm. Though legal title was transferred to FRA, Sr. on his 21st birthday, he assumed official ownership in 1904 upon the death of Daniel Fuller Appleton. By this time, Francis and Fanny had built the 1890 New House on pastureland gifted to him by his father for his summer mansion.

FRA's first priority on the farm was to begin the repair and remodeling of all the farm buildings and their surrounding locations. By 1910, he retired from active business as a lawyer and devoted himself to advancing agriculture on the farm and to improving his estate, with an interest in increasing the value of the farm.

Landscape beautification also became a major focus for FRA, Sr., appreciating Appleton for its scenic and pastoral beauty. In 1912, he conceived and built what is perhaps his greatest legacy at the farm—"The Grass Rides." Created for recreational horseback riding, the Grass Rides is a web-like series of trails that convene at Rond Point. That same year, FRA, Sr., then the chairman of Harvard's overseers, was given the architectural pinnacles from Harvard's Gore Hall, which was being torn down to make way for the new Widener Library in memory of Thomas Widener who died on the *Titanic* in April 1912. The most prominent decorative elements in the landscape, these stone pinnacles have served as memorials beginning in 1921, with dedications to various family members carved into triangular marble panels.

Although he devoted a great deal of his time and energy to the farm, like his father, Francis

Randall Appleton, Sr., was also active in educational, civic and business affairs. He was an overseer of Harvard University, president of the Harvard Club in New York City, president of the New York Farmers, vice president of the Essex Agricultural Society, director of the Cape Cod Canal Corporation, and, following his father's tradition, vice president of the Waltham Watch Company.

Francis was also an ardent sportsman, passionate about fox hunting. He was one of the founders of the Meadowbrook Club on Long Island and a member of the Myopia Hunt Club, where his brother Randolph served as Master of the Fox Hounds. His Grass Rides allowed family and friends to enjoy horseback riding at the farm for sport and pleasure. Fitting to the occasion, their completion was celebrated by a hunt breakfast and a meet of the Myopia Hounds on Columbus Day 1912.



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The many poems, toasts and speeches in our archives also attest to FRA, Sr.'s intelligence, wit and charm. He loved sharing these with family, friends and his Harvard "brothers" from the esteemed Porcellian Club. In turn, we also find decades worth of poems and tributes written in his honor, be they for the Harvard Club dinners or to mark special occasions at Appleton Farms. The following poem was read at the Harvard Club in New York in honor of Francis Randall Appleton, Sr.'s 70th birthday.



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Escaping, if we may, alive,
The motors' homicidal drive,
And heartened, possibly, within
By bitters and synthetic gin,
We come to praise and to admire
Our F.R.A., the Essex Squire,
And looking at him seem to see
That pleasant world that used to be.

That world when folks were folks, and when
The horse ranked up right next to men.
When telephones were servant still,
And had not bent us to their will;
When bikes and trolley cars were new,
And gas gave light and rye gave rue,
And bathtubs all were made of tin,
And dry champagne was not a sin,
And verse was verse and not yet free,
In that old world that used to be.

I see that world, its table spread,
And, sitting at that table's head,
Is F.R.A., the Essex Squire,
A-twanging of a proper lyre,
A-filling up of cups and then
A-emptying of them again.
With grains in joy, but not beyond
What bounds to mirth were in the bond
That made the faithful bondman free,
In that old world that used to be.

And wondering, anxious, if and when
We'll get beneath a roof again
And see again a table spread,
And F.R.A. still at its head.

Fanny Lanier Appleton (1864-1958)



Mrs. Francis Randall Appleton, Sr. (Fanny Lanier Appleton)
and James W. Appleton

Pastel on paper

Circa 1905-10

30”H x 20 ”W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

AF.240

Fanny Lanier was born in New York City in 1864. At age 20, she married Francis Randall Appleton, Sr., a New York lawyer and eldest son of Daniel Fuller Appleton. They were married at her family’s summer home in Lenox, Massachusetts, and maintained their permanent home in Manhattan.

Fanny and Francis had five children, beginning with Francis Randall Appleton, Jr., followed by Charles, Ruth, Alice and James. Here she is depicted with her youngest son, James Waldingfield Appleton (1899-1915), who would die tragically young at age 16.

Fanny would continue to live a long life, surviving her husband and three of her five children, to the age of 93.



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Fanny and Francis left their mark at Appleton Farms by building their own large summer home referred to as “The New House,” completed in 1890. With grand proportions and elegant gardens, the New House would become the center of Appleton Farm’s social life for more than 60 years. An Italian marble fountain, purchased on a trip to London in 1906, was a proud feature of their garden. Moved to its current location many years later, today that fountain greets visitors to the Old House. It was conserved in 2013 as a tribute to Appleton’s 375th anniversary.

We are fortunate to have in our archives the well-worn recipe book of “F.L.Appleton,” dated September 1890. New England favorites such as codfish balls, corn bread and blueberry pudding reveal seasonal cooking traditions at Appleton Farms.



Photograph

Fanny and Francis Appleton with their children at the
New House, Appleton Farms

October 7, 1909

TTOR/Appleton Family Papers



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Ruth Appleton (1891-1943)



Ruth Appleton was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Randall Appleton, Sr., and older sister to Alice Appleton Hay. Ruth Appleton married William G. Wendell, son of Prof. Barrett Wendell of Harvard University.

Objects belonging to Ruth in our collection include an ivory portrait miniature of her, executed in Rome in 1894. In 1913, a needlepoint sampler “wrought by Ruth” was made for her father. In it, she depicts The New House at Appleton Farms, completed in 1890. The house is no longer extant, torn down in the early 1960s.

Portrait of a Girl (probably Ruth Appleton)

Signed “A. Heard”

Oil on canvas

Circa 1905-10

28”H x 22-1/2”W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

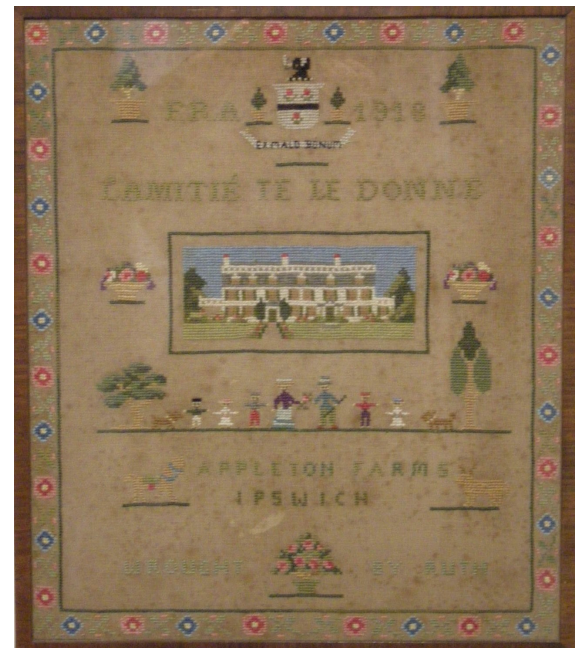
AF.187



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Ruth Appleton (1891-1943)
 Signed "Ventura dipinse / Roma 1894"
 Portrait miniature on ivory
 4"H x 2-1/2"H
 TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection
 Gift of Moyra Bryne (daughter of Adele Hay)



Needlepoint Sampler by Ruth Appleton (Wendell)
 1913
 Embroidery thread on linen
 TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection



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Alice Appleton Hay (1894-1987)



By John Singer Sargent

Photo reproduction of original charcoal on paper

1919

Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Wolcott

Alice Appleton was the younger daughter of Francis, Sr. and Fanny Lanier Appleton. Alice would later marry Clarence Hay, son of former Secretary of State John Hay, who was a Harvard classmate and friend of her older brothers, Charles and Francis, Jr. The wedding took place at Ascension Memorial Church on August 5, 1914, with a reception at Appleton Farms. Their wedding announcement in *The New York Times* described the society set. Alice had two children, Adele and John. Many happy family photographs show them enjoying the Hay summer estate in Newbury, N.H., known as “The Fells.”

Alice’s wedding day also marked the 60th birthday of her father, as well as the dedication of a new monument at Rond Point in the newly completed Appleton Farms Grass Rides.



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The monument at the Appleton Farms Grass Rides was the first of four pinnacles preserved from Harvard's Gore Hall library, razed to make way for the new Widener Library, and sent to FRA, Sr., in 1913. The first monument would later be dedicated in 1921, upon the death of Charles Lanier Appleton. The poem on his pinnacle was written by accomplished poet Helen Hay Whitney, sister of Clarence Hay.

Appleton descendant Oliver Wolcott wrote:

“August 5th, 1914, was perhaps the last truly happy day on the farm for some time. World War I had just begun, with Great Britain having declared war just the day before. The “Guns of August” were soon decimating Europe. Young Jimmie died of illness the following year in 1915. Brother Charles survived the war but died tragically in 1921.”



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James Appleton (1899-1915)



By Lydia Field Emmet

1905

Oil on canvas

72-3/8"H x 46-1/4"W

TTOR/Castle Hill Collection

Gift of Charles S. Bird

CHF.C.2

James Appleton was the fifth child and third son of Francis Randall Appleton, Jr. He lived in New York and enjoyed his summers at Appleton Farms, playing games in the field outside the New House, now known as “Jimmie’s Field.”

In April of 1913, young Jimmie was operated on for appendicitis, beginning a two-year battle with various blood disorders and ill health. This eventually led to his death in October of 1915 at the age of 16.

This portrait of Jimmie was painted by Lydia Field Emmet, one of the most successful female artists of her time. She lived among a family of women painters, including her cousin, Ellen Emmet Rand, who painted Francis Randall Appleton, Sr. With a style influenced by John Singer Sargent and her teacher, William Merritt Chase, Emmet frequently painted the portraits of society children. Lydia Field Emmet also painted young Cornelius and Florence Crane who summered at nearby Castle Hill.



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Memorials to young James can be found at Appleton Farms and in Ipswich. At Jimmie's Field, noted above, there is also a fountain and poetry plaque that reads, "*Here a boy he dwelt / Through all the singing seasons / And ere the day of sorrow / Departed as he came.*"

In Ipswich, there is a James Appleton Memorial fountain and public horse-watering trough on the South Village Green across from the Whipple and Heard houses.

This photo shows young Jimmie in his "Knickerbocker Grey" uniform. The Knickerbocker Greys, founded in New York in 1881, is the oldest after-school activity in the United States. It still exists as a non-profit leadership-developing corps for spirited boys (and now girls). The name "Knickerbocker" was derived from the knee-length pants that were known as knickerbockers, worn as part of the original uniform.

Many prominent families, such as the Appletons and the Vanderbilts, enlisted their sons into the Greys. Cadets would learn discipline, habits of orderliness, personal responsibility, etiquette, and leadership skills. During Jimmie's time in the corps, they met at the 71st Regiment Armory, now known as the Park Avenue Armory at 66th Street in Manhattan.



Photograph

Jimmie Appleton as a Knickerbocker Grey

1911

TTOR/Appleton Family Papers



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Charles Lanier Appleton (1886-1921)



By Howard Russell Butler, 1893

Oil on canvas

28 3/4" H x 23" W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

AF.239

Charles Lanier Appleton was born in 1886 to Francis, Sr. and Fanny Lanier Appleton. He attended Harvard with Francis, Jr. and graduated in the class of 1908. Although he served in and survived WWI, he died tragically of pneumonia in 1921 at the age of 35.

Charles was an avid hunter and wanted to start a “Cambridge Beagles” Club at Harvard. In addition to hunting, he was also a competitive horse racer. He actively raced before college; then FRA, Sr. asked him and FRA, Jr. to stop racing while in school. He resumed racing in 1911 and rode regularly in Meadow Brook races. In 1922, after his death, friends created the Charles L. Appleton Memorial Cup Steeplechase.



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However, Charles' most famous personal story is little often told. In WWI, Charles was major of the 1st battalion of the 367th Infantry, a “negro regiment” also known as the “Buffalo Regiment.” The 367th Infantry was commended for its work in the front line, of the sector west of Pont-a-Mousson, in meeting gas attacks, carrying on raids, and capturing prisoners.

On a snowy March 14, 1919, Charles was selected to return to the Union League Club of New York, for safe-keeping, the regimental colors which the club presented to the 367th prior to its departure for France. The president of the club paid high tribute to the regiment. On this occasion, Major Charles Appleton remarked, *“The honor of returning the colors has now fallen upon me and in doing so, I am able to say that under all conditions the 367th Regiment fought valiantly and have brought home a record of which we are all proud.”*



*Major C. L. Appleton on behalf of the 367th Inf.
returning to the Union League Club the colors
presented to his regiment on its departure for France
the previous year.*

Photograph

Major C. L. Appleton and 367th Infantry

March 14, 1919

TTOR/Appleton Family Papers



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After his death, his mother Fanny Lanier Appleton funded the Charles Lanier Appleton Scholarship at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Hampton, Virginia.

The school was described as “an undenominational industrial school founded in 1868 for Negro youth.” The school was built to train teachers and industrial leaders. From the Hampton Institute’s Journal, *The Southern Workman*, is a tribute written in 1923, recalling that late winter’s day when they returned the regimental colors.

“One of the young officers who stood there in the sleet on that memorable day (and there were five Hampton lieutenants in the regiment), when lamenting the untimely death of Major Appleton, spoke of him as the most popular officer of the regiment, always watchful for the comfort and happiness of others, human and compassionate, yet loving strong men - men strong in body, mind, and heart; encouraging athletic contests with regularly offered prizes from his own purse, from which same open source the best Christmas feast that war-ravaged France could provide was also furnished.

The Hampton boy who receives the Charles Lanier Appleton Scholarship, provided by Major Appleton’s mother in memory of her distinguished son, has a splendid ideal to live up to. For such examples of generous and unquestioning patriotism no American can be too profoundly grateful.”



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The following tributes convey the high regard held for Charles Lanier Appleton and his work with the 367th Regiment:

“In the death of Major Appleton the race, especially the colored soldier, has suffered a distinct loss. The major, who came of not only one of the most influential and well-thought of families in this country, whose ancestors date back to the “Mayflower,” was one of the most stalwart friends and supporters of the race in America. During the campaigns of the recent war, he was fairly adored by the men and officers of his regiment and particularly of his battalion. It is said of him that he was one of the few white officers of the 92nd Division who treated the colored officers as brothers-in-arms. What was his was theirs. He sympathized with the men and their problems and since his return from France has been instrumental in helping many of them into good positions and in the adjustment of domestic and everyday problems of life.” *The New York Times*, December 14, 1921

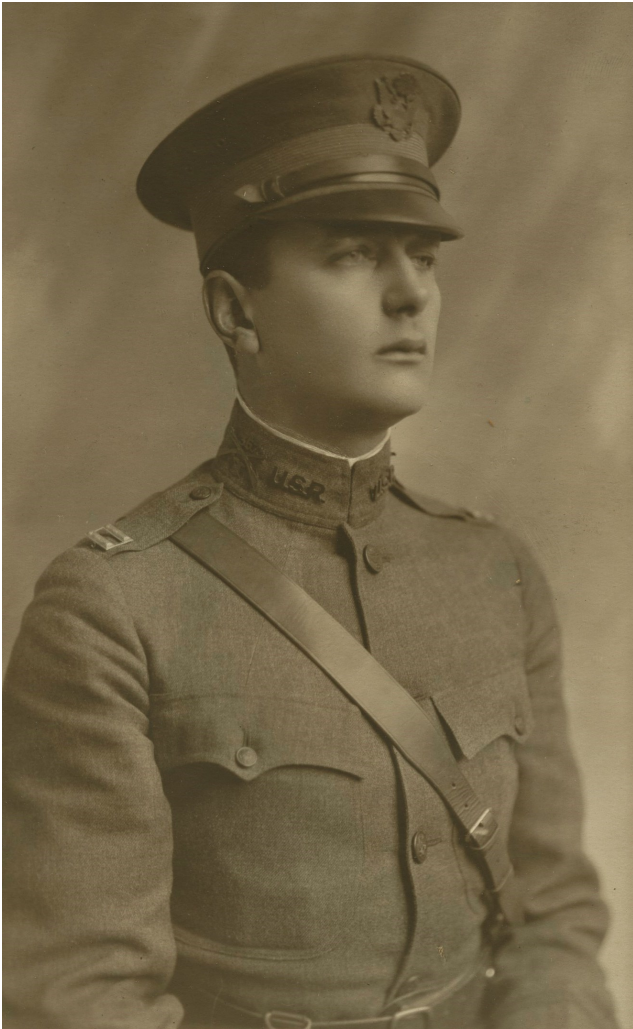
“Everyone loved Charles Appleton and whether it were in the hunting field, or on the battle-field, or on the stern field of life, they know him ever as loyal, ever manly and ever true.”

Dinner of the New York Farmers,
December 20, 1921

In reply, Charles’s father, FRA, Sr., wrote, *“But a father who loses a soldier must, himself, become a soldier.”*



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Photograph

Charles Lanier Appleton

Circa 1919

TTOR/Appleton Family Papers



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A memorial pinnacle in honor of Charles Lanier Appleton can be found in the Appleton Farms Grass Rides. It bears this poem in his name, written by poet and extended family member, Helen Hay Whitney:

C.L.A.

25 September 1886 – 7 December 1921

I thought that God would never let you die
You who loved life and laughter and the high
Wonderful things that lift men's thoughts. Your charm
Breathed like a prayer and kept our spirits warm;
We who were just a little tired of days
That are no longer Spring. Your bright wild ways
Your clean boy's beauty and your gentleness:
How could God take that from us! We can guess
Only that He had lent you for a space
And we must thank Him that he gave us grace
To be your friends awhile. Your soldier soul
Has passed on gloriously to its goal.
Let who are left remember to restrain
Their selfish tears: your triumph will remain.
'High over all the lonely bugle grieves'
The lovely lad we left beneath the leaves.

H.H.W.

Francis Randall Appleton, Jr. (1885-1974)



By Howard Russell Butler, 1892

Oil on canvas

28 1/4" H x 21 1/4" W

Appleton Farms Collection

AF.238

Born in 1885, Francis Randall Appleton, Jr., was the eldest son to Francis, Sr. and Fanny Appleton. He would be the final heir to Appleton Farms and the last member of the family to live in the Old House.

In 1896, at the ages of 11 and 12, he and his brother Charles began breeding fox terriers at the farm. They called their operation the "Barberry Kennels," housed in a small shed behind the Old House.

In 1898, the boys also began a small paper devoted solely to dogs called "The Kennel Review." The Barberry Kennels operated on and off until Frank's death in 1974. Throughout his life, Frank would be a prominent hunter and dog breeder. He was a member of the National Beagle Club, Meadow Brook, and New York Farmers, as well as a board member of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



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FRA, Jr. graduated from Harvard in 1907 and from Harvard Law in 1910. At Harvard, he was the captain of Class Trap Shooting Team, member of Harvard Gun Club, Porcellian Club, and Hasty Pudding. He would later serve as Lieutenant Colonel in WWI, stationed in France along with his brother, Charles.

The war was hard on the farm, with labor expensive and in short supply. Fannie wrote to FRA, Jr. in 1918, “Papa talks a great deal of giving up the farming business and I hope he will...” Alas, he did not, and the family farm business would thrive again.

FRA, Jr. was the ninth generation of the family to inherit Appleton Farms, by this time a well developed country estate as well as a prosperous farm. Like his father, with whom he was very close, FRA, Jr. pursued a successful law practice in New York City with the firm of Winthrop & Stimson. Later he practiced international law with the firm of Appleton, Rice & Perrin. All the while, he remained passionate about the farm, and would see it through the Great Depression and another world war.



F.R. Appleton, Jr. on 'Orme's Head' By F.B. Voss, 1928

Oil on canvas
28.5"H x 34.5"W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection
AF.269

Frank, also known as “the Colonel,” was an avid fox hunter, horse trainer, sheep breeder, and fox terrier breeder. His passion for horses can be seen in the vast collection of photographs and equestrian portraits, such as this one by well-known sporting artist Franklin Brooke Voss. “Orme’s Head,” “The Mugger,” and “King Cole” were some of the names that had pride of place on the farm and in the hunts.



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Joan Egleston Appleton (1912-2006)



Self portrait
1956

Pastel on paper

15-1/2"H x 13-14"W

TTOR/Appleton Farms Collection

AF.191



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Born in Great Britain in 1912, Joan Egleston Appleton had a great love of animals and farming. While in Ipswich visiting her friend, Angela Winthrop, in the early 1930s, Joan had a chance meeting with Frank after he had been thrown off his horse. She retrieved it for him. They married in 1935 in Ipswich. She was a second cousin of FRA, Jr.; both descended from Major Azariah Egleston from Lenox who was a Revolutionary War officer.

Joan and Frank lived at the Old House, and she remained active in directing the management of the farm. In 1940, she was part of the Women's Land Army, which helped keep the farm operating during WWII. She received an award for the contribution of food in the war effort. Throughout her time at Appleton Farms, Joan maintained the vegetable garden. During the war, she also began breeding goats and Muscovy ducks on the farm as ideas for suburban gardeners for food supply.

In 1945, Joan proudly volunteered with the American Red Cross in Europe. Her uniform bears her stripes and her pin. She also remained active in a variety of farm and animal organizations.

Joan was very invested in farming operations and kept a daily farm log book. Passionate about animals, in addition to the cows and horses kept at the farm, she also had turkeys, ducks, rabbits, sheep, pet parrots and, at one point, even monkeys.

Joan saw the farm as a place of peace and inspiration, which she was grateful to share with others. Her presence is sorely missed on the farm.



Photograph

Joan Egleston Appleton in Red Cross Uniform

Circa 1945

TTOR/Appleton Family Papers



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Photograph

Joan Egleston and Francis Randall Appleton, Jr.

on their wedding day

1935

TTOR/Appleton Family Papers

The future of the farm was very important to Joan and Francis Randall Appleton, Jr. In addition to their contributions to 20th century farming and the breeding of cattle, horses, and dogs, they were hosts to family, friends, and royalty, creating a showplace on the North Shore and continuing long-standing relationships with other prominent estate owners of their generation.

It was Colonel Francis Randall Appleton, Jr. and Joan Appleton who bequeathed Appleton Farms to The Trustees of Reservations with the intention that it be preserved and protected for public use. We can be thankful to generations of Appletons for 375 years of dedicated stewardship and for this scenic, historic and vibrant landscape.



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Of Farm and Family:

Generations of Appleton Family Portraits

Curators

Susan Hill Dolan

Cultural Resources Manager

Rebecca Gardner Campbell

Historic Resources Committee Member

Exhibition Website

<http://www.thetrustees.org/farm-family>

With special thanks to:

CCI Reprographics, Beverly

Daily Printing, Beverly Farms

FAE Enterprises, Boston

Fine Finishes Art & Frame Shop, Ipswich

Myopia Hunt Club

Sharon Spieldenner,

Graphic artist & archivist, Rockport

Davita Moyer

Intern, TTOR Archives & Research Center

Alison Basset, Miriam Spectre, Emily Oswald, Mark Wilson

Staff, TTOR Archives & Research Center

Rebecca Gardner Campbell

Mr. Peter Flitner Lamb

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