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ITEM OF INTEREST

History of the Scattergood-Thorne Property



Northern Virginia was a peaceful, rural area at the turn of the century, made up of small towns, bound together by country roads winding through large areas of farmland. This paper focuses on the history of one 32.2 acre parcel of land situated in Langley, Virginia, and known to us as the Scattergood-Thorne Property.

The history of Scattergood-Thorne, 6200 Georgetown Pike, would be incomplete without an introduction to its former occupants, Miss Margaret Scattergood and Miss Florence C. Thorne, who resided in the residence for more than a half century.

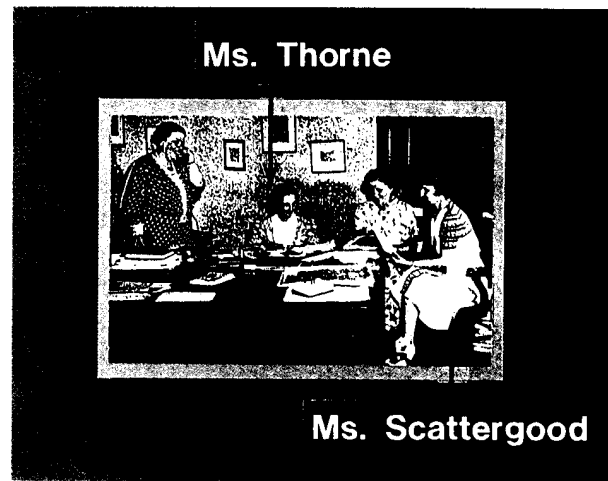
During a period in history when most women were limited to housewife/mother roles, Misses Scattergood and Thorne made their marks on society through worthy contributions in the fields of social and political reform. Pioneers in leading the way for women's rights, they obtained their college degrees and entered the business world at a time when women had not yet won the right to vote. Although their accomplishments are significant and notable, even by today's standards, neither considered herself a leader in the equal-rights-for-women movement.

The next several paragraphs will acquaint you with the two women for whom Scattergood-Thorne is named.

Born into a Quaker family in 1894, Miss Margaret Scattergood spent her entire lifetime striving to help humanity advance in the areas of racial equality and world peace. After graduating from Bryn Mawr College in 1917 at the age of 23, she proceeded to devote her energies to serving others and continued this practice throughout her life.

Miss Scattergood began her life of service to others by devoting the next nine years, from 1917 through 1926, to the newly formed American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker relief organization. In 1917 she went to Mareuil-le-Port, France, with AFSC in one of the first World War I relief units to assist in post-war rehabilitation projects. As the War was ending and French farmers returned to their land to find their homes and farms destroyed, the men of the AFSC worked to rebuild homes, while the women worked to provide the French families with beds, clothing and other supplies. She remained abroad, working with the AFSC for several years.

In 1926, Miss Scattergood began her career with the American Federation of Labor (AFL) in Washington, D.C., once again, as a volunteer. (This was prior to the AFL merger with the Congress of Industrial Organizations, making it the AFL-CIO.) She later became an employee of the AFL as a member of their first research staff. It was at this time that Miss Scattergood became acquainted with Miss Florence Thorne, who had been appointed Director of Research, AFL. This marked the beginning of their life-long friendship. Miss Scattergood spent the next 25 years of her life as a Research Assistant working side-by-side with Miss Thorne in the AFL Labor Research Department.



After retiring from the AFL in 1952, she continued to work tirelessly, crusading for racial equality and world peace by remaining active in the AFSC and by working for a McLean racial unity organization, Neighbors for a Better Community. In 1979 her work with Neighbors for a Better Community earned her the Fairfax County Human Rights Award.

Miss Scattergood was a founding member of the Langley Hill Meeting Quaker Church and she played an active role in the church until she was well into her eighties.

Although not of an aggressive nature, Miss Margaret Scattergood was strong in her own quiet way. Her real strength was her determination. This is evidenced throughout her life beginning with her acquisition of a college degree at a time when few women graduated from college and documented by feats accomplished consistently thereafter, such as venturing to Paris on her own in 1917, volunteering to perform research for the AFL in 1926, actively participating in founding the Quaker Church in Langley, and earning the Fairfax County Human Rights Award in 1979.

Miss Scattergood died on 7 November 1986 at the age of 92. She left no immediate family.

Miss Florence Calvert Thorne has a very colorful history which could easily fill the pages of a book. She was born in Hannibal, Missouri in 1877. Although the Thorne family originally came from New York State, her Grandfather Thorne went down to Georgia as a civil engineer for the Georgia Central Railroad, liked it there, bought land, and became a cotton planter. Her father was a native of Georgia and fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Her mother was a direct descendent of Sir George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore of Maryland.

Miss Thorne began her studies at Oberlin College, however, left college prior to graduating in order to teach high school. She taught history, English, and civics in the public school system in Hannibal from 1902 until 1912 and completed her undergraduate education through summer sessions at the University of Chicago, obtaining her B.A. degree in 1909.

During her last undergraduate session at Chicago, Miss Thorne was introduced to American trade unionism. She chose "The American Federation of Labor in Politics," as her thesis topic and during the research process managed to interview Mr. Samuel Gompers, founder and then president of the AFL. This interview resulted in the career opportunity of a lifetime! Her career with the AFL had been launched.

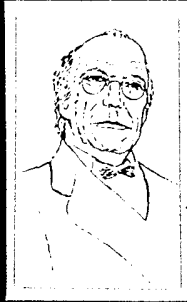
Mr. Gompers was so impressed with the research that she conducted for her thesis that he offered her the position of Assistant Editor of *The Federationist* publication. Miss Thorne accepted the position and served in this capacity from 1912 until 1917, becoming Mr. Gompers' confidential assistant, speech writer—and often ghost writer.



She left the AFL, much to Mr. Gompers' disappointment, when the U.S. entered World War I, in order to work for the Department of Labor, however, returned to the AFL when the War ended and resumed her work there. Beginning in 1919, she spent five years researching and ghost writing his autobiography. Mr. Gompers died in 1924, prior to the book's completion and Miss Thorne wrote and signed the last chapter. The book was published and her help in its preparation is acknowledged in the foreword.

After Mr. Gompers' death, Miss Thorne continued to work at the AFL under the new President, Mr. William Green. Mr. Green supported her interest in research, and in 1926 Miss Thorne put together a volunteer research staff which initiated the first

unemployment reporting by local unions. (Prior to this time no unemployment statistics were available.) In 1933 she was appointed Research Director of the first paid AFL research staff. Miss Thorne served in this capacity until her retirement from the AFL in 1952, shortly after George Meany became AFL president.



SAMUEL GOMPERS

American
Statesman

by Florence Calvert Thorne

In addition to her involvement in the writing of Samuel Gompers' autobiography, Miss Thorne authored her own book entitled *Samuel Gompers—American Statesman*. Miss Thorne is listed in the book, *Notable American Women* for her accomplishments with the AFL.

Miss Thorne died on 16 March 1973 at the age of 95.

Beginning in 1926, Misses Scattergood and Thorne developed a working relationship and friendship that lasted a lifetime. On 29 August 1933, seeking refuge from the long hours and demands of their days at the AFL, they jointly purchased a stately home on 21 acres of land located in Langley, Virginia. The house was built circa 1926. Two years after

acquiring the house, in 1935, Miss Scattergood purchased an additional 11.2 acres adjoining their property, giving them a total of 32.2 acres. Their home soon became known as "Calvert House" and the Calvert family crest adorned the main entrance for nearly half a century.

In addition to Calvert House, there is a tenant house, an office-apartment, a garage, barn, studio-type building, and another small structure which was possibly used for storage. The terrain consists of gently rolling slopes with tall, mature Pine and Oak trees and shrubbery that not only protect the house from the main highways, but offer almost total seclusion from the CIA Headquarters Compound.



Calvert was a gracious, accommodating home in the days of the younger Misses Scattergood and Thorne. The main house has four bedrooms and three baths, a large front porch extending the entire width of the house, and a comfortable library equipped with a fireplace. Many of the Scattergood-Thorne books now reside in the Georgetown University library, as does the lighted glass statue of St. Francis of Assisi which was given to Miss Thorne by the AFL research staff at a dinner honoring her in 1941.

An apple orchard, which produced enough fruit for marketing, remains on the stretch of land between the main house and the CIA entrance on Route 123. There is a beautiful barn boasting sturdy 8" x 8" supporting beams which provided shelter for farm animals. Miss Scattergood was a skilled horsewoman and spent many hours riding. Unfortunately, she suffered a horseback-riding injury which eventually led to the installation of an elevator in the main house to ensure mobility as she grew older.



On 3 May 1948, Miss Margaret Scattergood and Miss Florence Thorne conveyed their 32.2 acres of land to the United States Government. These two women confronted the United States Government with the requirement for a provision that they should have quiet and peaceful possession of their land for the remainder of their lives, which was in fact provided. This provision came to their rescue as their property, purchased for tranquility and seclusion, became surrounded

by a bustling hub of activity. For example, in 1958 the State of Virginia Highway Commissioner petitioned the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, for the right to construct a portion of Route 123, which would require taking approximately two acres frontage from the Scattergood-Thorne estate. Misses Scattergood and Thorne, the defendants, won the case based on their life-tenancy agreement with the U.S. Government.

The Bureau of Public Roads, Department of Commerce originally held the first right of possession to the Scattergood-Thorne property, upon the deaths of the tenants. The CIA was eager to acquire this land as part of a long-range plan for expansion and also to provide a buffer between the Headquarters Building and any public area. As early as 1958, prior to the construction of the original CIA Headquarters Building, Agency officials notified the Bureau of Public Roads and the General Services Administration of CIA's interest in the land. The CIA, however, did not obtain the Scattergood-Thorne property until January 1987, following the death of Miss Margaret Scattergood.

In February of 1987 the Scattergood-Thorne Property Use Committee began a study to determine possible uses for the property. Today, the tract is being developed.



A child day-care center has been constructed on a portion of the land situated between Calvert House and the CIA Main Entrance from Route 123. The center opened in September 1989 to approximately 100 dependents of Agency employees.

Calvert House remains standing. It is in the process of undergoing major renovations, including new windows, and electrical, heating and air conditioning systems.

Upon completion, the majestic doors at Calvert House will be reopened, this time to Agency employees as a CIA Conference Center. The house will contain a series of both large and small rooms suitable for conferencing and training. Calvert House, during the 1990s will once again be alive with activity as a steady stream of Agency employees seek refuge from the demands of the Headquarters environment to meet in seclusion and tranquility.



CIA Conference Center