

Walter Scott Stoy Dies at Age of 93; Pioneer Builder



WALTER S. STOY

Walter Scott Stoy, 93, an outstanding South Jersey pioneer builder who, among other things, founded and named Westmont died today.

Death came to the great worker for progress in a nursing home, 1247 Empire ave., where he has been since last September, and the care of a committee of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, of Collingswood, which he also helped form.

Mr. Stoy, whose home was 4 1/2 Stoy ave., Westmont, where he spent just five blocks away from the house which at one time stood on a part of a 150-acre farm known as the Stoy Plantation.

Among the many friends who Mr. Stoy had was Wack Whitman, Camden's first great poet, who lived on Crystal Lake in Westmont.

Stoy Avenue

The committee of the vestry and advisory council of Holy Trinity Church which had been looking after Mr. Stoy was headed by its rector, the Rev. Howard R. Miller. The committee consisted of George B. Standish, chairman; Walter J. Hurlingham, senior warden and retired business manager of the Camden Courier; John W. Purdon, junior warden; Edwin F. Miller, Stiller Frazier and William Plafie.

Mr. Stoy, and there is an acre in Westmont named Stoy, one time had to be personally named of the family homestead and "developed 226 lots for apartment" in what is now Westmont.

Mr. Stoy, the man with the strong carpenter's hands, told the story one time of how Westmont got its name. Among the names which were suggested were "Roundtown," as the section was known in those days.

The postmaster general in Washington, to whom Mr. Stoy had written asking for mail train service denied the request. Then the name of Glomwood was suggested. Then the name of Patriot also was turned down along with Glenwood. A committee, meeting in name the town, had written the name "Domony" when there was a commission on the stairs to the town, where the committee had meeting.

Result of Horse Bet

"Four young men swept into the town," Mr. Stoy said in later years, "and they laughed and shouted. It seems the men had been in West Chester, Pa., where they each had a \$100 bet on a horse named Westmont, a pacing horse which had failed to run in a race a certain time. The men prevailed on me to create 'Domony' and write in Westmont, and that's how our town was named. Shortly after that we got our mail service."

The name of Stoy is synonymous with Haddon Township history in which Westmont is located. Mr. Stoy established a free public library and helped found the Westmont Fire Company, 1, of which he was the oldest living charter member when he died.

Church Connection

Haddon Township itself was created out of Newton Township after Mr. Stoy's father, John, successfully petitioned the legislature for the split. After the split, Mr. Stoy's father headed the township committee for more than 30 years.

Mr. Stoy also played an important part in the founding of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Collingswood in 1880. He began the work as a member of Grace Episcopal Church of Haddonfield. The foundation for Holy Trinity Church had been started but when it was half completed, Mr. Stoy said funds ran out.

It was at this time that the name of Wack Whitman entered the picture in helping to finance the building of the church. Poet Whitman, who had become a great friend of Mr. Stoy, frequently borrowed Mr. Stoy's rowboat which he used to take out on Crystal Lake and there wrote much of his poetry. One day Poet Whitman offered to pay \$10 for use of the boat. Mr. Stoy refused to accept the money.

Church Got Money

Poet Whitman was disappointed and said he wanted to know what he could do to compensate for use of the boat. Mr. Stoy suggested that Poet Whitman read some of his works in Haddonfield, which he did. When the reading was over, Mr. Stoy sought to hand the poet a sum of money which had been collected.

Whitman, who was greatly moved, looked up at Mr. Stoy and said, "Now, Walter, you hold out your hands." The poet returned the money and said he wanted it used for erection of the Holy Trinity Church.

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