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Woodlawn Biography:
The Dale Mausoleum

The Dale Mausoleum has stood on Woodlawn Cemetery's Chestnut Hill plot since the death of Charles H. Dale in 1908. The structure was designed and created the following year by C.E. Tayntor Granite Co., with help from Dale's widow, Jennie L. Dale.¹ But Charles, or C. H. Dale, as he was commonly referred to, is not the only person to reside within the tomb. There are 8 burials in total, some for family and some for friends. Each resident of the Dale mausoleum has a unique story to tell, with a lifetime full of grand and heartbreaking experiences. Sadly, mere fragments of these stories remain, as only tales of death and big business make the front-page paper. Fortunately, the United States Rubber Company was plenty big at the turn of the century, so, many of C. H. Dale's affairs garnered public attention.

As one of the directors of the U.S. Rubber Co., C. H. Dale was incredibly wealthy. He and his wife, Jennie, lived a very comfortable life, with multiple homes, plenty of jewelry, and several house servants. But this way of life was not always the norm for the Dale family. Originally, Charles worked as a railroad conductor in Pennsylvania.² He then became a director of the Rubber Goods Company at its conception in Trenton, NJ, 1899.³ He climbed his way

¹ "WCA Major Monuments." Woodlawn Cemetery Records. Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library; CLIO. Accessed: Oct.06, 2020.

² "C.H. Dale Educates Caddies: Takes Them from Links to Prepare for Business Careers." *New York Times* (1857-1922), Jul 22, 1904.

³ "Industrial Combinations: Organization of the Rubber Goods Manufacturing Company Charles R. Flint Chairman of the Executive Committee and Charles Stewart Smith President--What the Company Has Acquired a Big Biscuit Industry Trusts to Be Asked for Information Plough-Makers May Combine." *New - York Tribune* (1866-1899), May 05, 1899.

through the ranks of the rubber industry to eventually become president of the Rubber Goods Manufacturing Company of New Jersey in April of 1905.⁴ A month later, the United States Rubber Company began pushing for the acquisition of the Rubber Goods Manufacturing Company majority shares.⁵ It was not long after this that C. H. Dale was elected one of the directors of the U. S. Rubber Co.⁶

There's actually more to this shifting ownership than simple business transactions. The rubber industry was entering a new era. With the discovery of Ebonite, or hard rubber, several decades before by Charles Goodyear (1860), the popularity of belt-using typewriters and rubber bottom shoes, and the growing interest in automobiles which needed rubber tires, the industry had never been more lucrative. So, when the U. S. Rubber Co. was formed in 1892 with a backing of \$50,000,000, they bought every competitor they could.⁷ Their influence over the rubber industry became so apparent, that the federal government launched a full-scale investigation into the cost change of their products over several years.⁸ And while C. H. Dale lost his position as president of the New Jersey company, becoming one of the directors of a national monopoly like U.S. Rubber was in many ways an upgrade. In fact, he remained quite wealthy and held his position as a director until his death in 1908.⁹

Before his death, Charles gave a considerable amount of property to employees and family. This way, he didn't have to feel bad about leaving his estate, or everything else, to his

⁴ "Rubber Goods Officers." *New - York Tribune (1900-1910)*, Apr 14, 1905.

⁵ "Rubber Purchase Contract: Agreement with Syndicate Shows Terms of Proposed Acquisition." *New York Times (1857-1922)*, May 16, 1905.

⁶ "United States Rubber: Special Meeting Will Be Held Today -- Contemplated Changes in Directorate." *Wall Street Journal (1889-1922)*, Jan 03, 1906.

⁷ "United States Rubber Company." *The Hartford Courant (1887-1922)*, Oct 25, 1914.

⁸ "Investigating the Trusts: Another Long Inquisition into the Affairs of the United States Rubber Company. Mr. Flint Again a Witness. President Henry Burn of the National Wallpaper Company Asked Many Questions About Crushing Competition and Reducing Wages of Workmen." *New York Times (1857-1922)*, Feb 20, 1897.

⁹ *United States Rubber Company Annual Report -- 1908*. ANN ARBOR: ProQuest Annual Reports, 1908.

wife, Jennie Lydia Dale. With an estate valued at \$2,500,000, Jennie had no problem constructing a beautiful Mausoleum for her late husband.¹⁰ Several years after her husband's death at their summer home in Larchmont, Jennie remarried. Her new husband was Charles Mangby Newcombe, vice president to the New York Stock Exchange, and so Jennie changed her surname to Newcombe. However, her second husband died in 1927, leaving her nothing because there was an understanding that she already had considerable wealth.¹¹ Her sister, Elizabeth H. Ward, who is also entombed in Dale Mausoleum, died in 1938 and left her around \$50,000.¹² Jennie died the following year in her home at 960 Park Ave., New York, NY.¹³ She is also entombed in the Dale Mausoleum.

Elizabeth's husband, James Ward, along with Estelle and Edward Tweedy, and Florence D. Mitchell make up the remainder of residents at the Dale Mausoleum in Woodlawn Cemetery. Not as much is known about these individuals, however, Estelle Tweedy was an important member of the Yonkers community. She helped organize events, such as the Flannel Hop, at the clubhouse of the Park Hill Country Club in Yonkers, NY.¹⁴ The other individuals may be extended family or friends, though this remains unclear.

One thing that was abundantly clear while researching about the early twentieth century was the importance of "societies". The Dales were big supporters of community gatherings and would often attend outings or gala events during long summer vacations. In 1896, the Dales purchased a cottage in Narragansett, Rhode Island.¹⁵ At the time, the town was a booming social

¹⁰ "C. H. Dale's Will Filed: Estate Valued at \$2,500,000 Goes to Rubber Magnate's Widow." *New York Times* (1857-1922), Aug 04, 1908.

¹¹ "C. M. Newcombe Left Estate to Children: Will of Stock Exchange Vice President Disposes of About \$1,000,000." *New York Times (1923-Current File)*, Nov 08, 1927.

¹² "Wills for Probate." *New York Times (1923-Current File)*, Oct 21, 1938.

¹³ "Obituary 8 -- no Title." *New York Times (1923-Current File)*, Aug 04, 1939.

¹⁴ "Westchester County: Yonkers Mount Vernon New Rochelle White Plains Port Chester and Rye." *New - York Tribune (1866-1899)*, Sep 08, 1897.

¹⁵ "Narragansett is Taking a Real Rest." *New York Journal. (New York, NY)*, Jul. 19, 1896.

hub for rich vacationers who flocked to the Narragansett Pier Casino. The town became so popular that the regular vacationers, who stayed months at a time, created the Point Judith Country Club to gather and hold events all summer long. However, the wealthy vacationers quickly disappeared after the “darkest day”, in 1900, when the Casino burned to the ground and destroyed much of the town as well.¹⁶

The Dales then became significant members of the Larchmont community in Westchester, NY. With close proximity to their home on West 119th, NY, the new summer home was ideal. Charles could captain his yacht and view the yacht races, host the championships at the Larchmont Golf Club, and attend large galas at the nearby Victoria Hotel.¹⁷ The community was also quite wealthy, attracting the attention of someone called the social highwayman, who would walk into the front door of summer residents’ homes, past the house servants, to steal valuable jewels.¹⁸ In fact, Jennie L. Dale had around \$4,000 worth of jewels stolen by this “social highwayman”.¹⁹

But as wealthy and privileged as the Dales had become, Charles still acted with respect towards the people around him. Or at least, that’s most likely what Dale would have wanted people to believe. The window in his Mausoleum depicts an angel with open arms. I believe that this is supposed to connect Charles’ charity and kindness with the grace and love of a Christian

¹⁶ “A Brief History.” The Narragansett Historical Society. Accessed: Oct. 09, 2020.

¹⁷ A- New York State Archives; Albany, New York; *State Population Census Schedules, 1905*; Election District: *A.D. 31 E.D. 20*; City: *Manhattan*; County: *New York*; Page: 2

B- “Fun in Water Sports: Big Yachts at Anchor Big Crowd Enjoys Ladies’ Day in Larchmont “Race Week”.” *New - York Tribune (1900-1910)*, Jul 24, 1907.

C- “Larchmont Golf Club.” *New - York Tribune (1900-1910)*, Nov 06, 1907.

D- “Annual Yachtsmen’s Ball: Guests Go to Larchmont in Yachts and Automobiles—Brilliant Scene at Victoria Hotel.” *New - York Tribune (1900-1910)*, Aug 02, 1902.

¹⁸ ““Social Highwayman” Busy: At Least Larchmont Thinks So – Two Daylight Robberies.” *New York Times (1857-1922)*, Oct 05, 1904.

¹⁹ “Mrs. Dale’s Jewels Stolen: Robber Apparently Entered Larchmont House at Midday.” *New York Times (1857-1922)*, Aug 08, 1904.

angel, or perhaps he perceived himself as a sort of “guardian angel” to all. In his life, Charles paid for two of his caddies to go to school and arranged positions at his company for them after they graduated.²⁰ He was a member of the Larchmont Volunteer Fire Department, also known as the Millionaire Fire Department, gave generously to his house keepers, and setup life-positions for nearly all of his office staff at the U.S. Rubber Co.²¹ He was, to the people around him, a very generous man. However, whether or not Charles was a good or bad man is perhaps more questionable than he himself would have liked to believe, seeing as most of his wealth came from the rubber industry. This means that while most of his factory workers were grossly underpaid and provided consistently unsafe working conditions, Mr. C.H. Dale was on his yacht, golfing, or “volunteering” for the wealthiest fire department in the country.²² Never-the-less, his mausoleum stands today, silently guarded by an angel, on Chestnut Hill, in New York’s beautiful Woodlawn Cemetery.

²⁰ “C.H. Dale Educates Caddies: Takes Them from Links to Prepare for Business Careers.” *New York Times* (1857-1922), Jul 22, 1904.

²¹ A- “Rich Men as Firemen: Annual Parade of Larchmont’s Millionaire Fire Department.” *The Baltimore Sun* (1837-1994), Aug 27, 1902.

B- “Widow to Get Millions: Late Head of Rubber Trust Left All His Estate to Her.” *The Washington Post* (1877-1922), Aug 04, 1908.

²² “Investigating the Trusts: Another Long Inquisition into the Affairs of the United States Rubber Company. Mr. Flint Again a Witness. President Henry Burn of the National Wallpaper Company Asked Many Questions About Crushing Competition and Reducing Wages of Workmen.” *New York Times* (1857-1922), Feb 20, 1897.



Dale Mausoleum – Woodlawn -Photo by Woodlawn Staff



The Norma 960 Park Ave., New York, NY. Built 1912, converted into a cooperative in 1915.
-Photo by City Reality



Dale Residence- 131 W 119th St., New York, NY. Built 1897-98 by Alfred Taylor.
-Photo by Harlem Lofts.



Larchmont Yacht Club, Ca.1910. Photo from Circle-7 Framing



Angel Window in Dale Mausoleum. -Photo by Woodlawn Staff



Parade for the "Red-Shirted Millionaires" -Photo by Larchmont Historical Society

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