

OF Hounds AND Horses

*The Fox River Valley Hound Heritage Foundation Continues
a Legacy of Land Preservation and Country Pursuits*



On October 1, 2017 at Barrington Hills Farm, members of the Fox River Valley Hunt gather to ride to hounds following the annual Blessing of the Hounds. In front, Highland Bagpiper Trey Higgins plays for the procession. MFH Tony Leahy leads with the Massbach Hounds and a field of mounted riders ready to follow.



George Washington hunts with his mentor, Lord Fairfax.

Born 285 years ago, George Washington was a sportsman long before he was a general or president. His physical stature—at six feet two inches tall—and displays of athletic prowess and fair play were essential to recognition in early Virginia society.

His reputation for rambunctious horse riding more than made up for what he lacked in formal schooling. Washington's noteworthy performances hunting in the countryside and later upon the battlefield formalize his contribution to modern ideas about athleticism, chivalry, and leadership.

Today, the best of the hunting tradition continues with the Fox River Valley Hunt—exercising the hounds, proper horsemanship, vibrant social and community gatherings, and direct stewardship for the land upon which its members ride—with the key difference being that it is no longer a live hunt, but instead a chance to preserve a unique part of American heritage by today's standards.

A reminiscence of George Washington as a huntsman written by the president's grandson, George Washington Parke Custis, appeared in the "American Turf Register" of September 1829. Custis recalled, 30 years after the death of his grandfather, that his favorite sporting activity was not fishing, not shooting, but foxhunting. Between 1759 and 1774, the colonel, as he then was, devoted himself to the pleasures of the chase, sometimes entertaining sportsmen from Virginia and Maryland for weeks on end.

Custis described "The Father of His Country" as always superbly mounted and in a sporting costume—a blue coat, scarlet waistcoat, buckskin breeches, top boots, velvet cap, and a crop with a long lash. Washington kept a kennel of the finest hounds, of English origin, and a stable of excellent horses. The kennels were only a hundred yards from the residence at Mount Vernon, and Washington inspected his hounds and horses daily.

Following victory in the Revolutionary War, in 1783, General Lafayette sent General Washington 26 couples of large French Staghounds which were used by Washington for foxhunting. The General's favorite mount, according to Custis, was a blue roan horse called "Buckskin" while "Billy" Lee the huntsman rode "Chinkling", a great jumper, and carried a French horn, which was presumed to be a compliment to General Lafayette.

Even after the War, the Eastern States, mostly settled by Europeans, kept some aspects of their former lives in their new surroundings. The settlers were from all walks of life, including the aristocracy, and continued their traditions of hunting on horseback with their packs of hounds, their quarry originally being the stag. It was the ordinary farmer who had pursued the fox, which, in the British Isles had no natural predators, and were considered vermin from which no chicken, duck, or goose was safe.

For the wealthy, their ships had brought the accoutrements of a comfortable life to the colonies, including furniture, fabrics, silver, and crystal, and, as time went by, hounds, horses, and even red foxes. Allen Potts, in his excellent history "Fox Hunting in America" published in 1912, and reprinted in 1998, recounts that in New York there was one pack at Hempstead, where Mr. John Evers was Master. This pack was brought over from England around 1770 together with horses and hunt servants. Colonel Washington was one of the subscribers, and the British officers and residents of New York were patrons of the sport.

THE FIRST ORGANIZED CLUB

Prior to the Revolutionary War, in Philadelphia, on December 13, 1766, the first organized hunt club in America was founded by citizens of the city and farmers from across the river in New Jersey. The Gloucester Fox Hunting Club had about 125 members, including many prominent citizens of Philadelphia and New Jersey. Present day hunts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey trace their origins to the Gloucester Fox Hunting Club.

Even before formal hunts were organized in America, the gathering of countrymen with their hounds was motivated not only by the chase, but also the opportunity for social interaction among folks, who, given the vast distances of the New World, were further removed from each other. Borrowing a cup of sugar was often a long ride away. These hunts were akin to the barn raisings and quilting bees that brought these new Americans together.

John Thomas Scharf, in a Foreword to the "History of Maryland" recalled the conviviality that surrounded the foxhunting of those early days and was in fact, to become a hallmark of organized riding to hounds to the present day. "When night would overtake them, they would be sure of a simple but hearty welcome at the nearest manor house, where, no matter how many guests there might be already, there was always room for more. Stabling was always to be had, and there would be plenty of pone for the tired hounds. In the evening there would be an abundance of old-fashioned punch for the men and dancing to the music of Uncle Billy's ever-ready fiddle. The next morning the bugle would sound, 'mount and away,' and refreshed, invigorated and full of pleasant anticipations, this gay party of happy young fox hunters would start out again to repeat the performance."



In 1921, the Barrington Hills Country Club was founded by equestrian pioneers, with H. Stillson Hart, George E. Van Hagen, and J. R. Cardwell as its first three presidents. Pictured here at the Hunt Ball, the social highlight of the season, are (from left) Paul Cook, Harold B. Smith, Paul Jones, S. L. Reinhardt, Robert Engleman, Thomas White, Percy Oliver, Frederick Gohl, Joshua Derry, John Bennett, Andrew Dallstream, Justin Webster, Dr. Ferdinand Seidler, and George Van Hagen.

Historical accounts also mention that even in those early years, ladies frequently rode to hounds, and often a dozen or more would ride in flowing habits, keeping up over fence and ditch with the best of the men folk.

ESTABLISHING A HOUND REGISTRY

Key to the success of the chase, and the reputation of any hunt club, is the quality and pedigree of its hounds. Over two and a half centuries have passed since the first hounds were imported from England. In 1907, the Master of Foxhounds Association was chartered, with its Mission to uphold the honorable and traditional practices of hunting by recognized member clubs, and to establish and keep the Hound Registry. The clubs were, and are sustained by subscription, with subsidies from members. The Master of Foxhounds heads the hunt staff and is responsible for the quality, training, and health of the hounds. He may be assisted by one or two huntsmen, and other staff according to the size of the pack.

That a club, following such long respected traditions, should be established in the mid-20th century, and survive into the 21st century in the Barrington countryside and Fox River Valley of Northern Illinois, can be attributed in part to one man. Sanford Peck was the Barrington realtor, who in 1905, opened an office in Chicago's Railway Exchange Building to market the sale of farms in the wide-open countryside west of the Village of Barrington, and stretching unbroken to Dundee and Algonquin.

His clients were the now wealthy and successful entrepreneurs of the railroads, and Sanford Peck was to show them the open fields of crop cultivation and dairy farming, punctuated by oak savannas, creeks, lakes, and marshland stretching west and northwest to the Fox River. Many of the second-generation farmers were willing to sell, and Peck had his contracts ready, famously collecting his clients at Barrington's station, and driving them at breakneck speed over the dirt and gravel roads in one of Barrington's early motor cars. Shaken, but recognizing the potential for creating a lifestyle that mirrored that of English country life and estate farming, they signed, before boarding the train back to Chicago.

FROM CHICAGO TO BARRINGTON

H. Stillson Hart, George E. Van Hagen, Spencer Otis, J.R. Cardwell, Henry Miller, and Edwin Seipp were among the earliest who built spacious country houses, surrounding them with beautiful gardens, which extended to stables and farm buildings that served their equestrian and agricultural interests. Often the original farmers went to work for them. Spencer Otis through his association with the University of Illinois Agricultural School planted experimental crops. Hart leased dairy cattle to the Borden Milk Company.

These families began to organize their social lives, culminating in 1921, when the Barrington Hills Country Club was founded with Hart, Van Hagen, and Cardwell respectively as the first three presidents. For their children, riding became part of everyday life. The distances between their properties made visiting on horseback, using their bridle paths, more fun than

From George Washington to Washington, D.C.

The tradition of foxhunting traveled from England to America with the Founding Fathers of this country. Some of the stated roles used today within our legislative bodies, that are believed to have originated from foxhunting terms, include Speaker of the House; and Majority Whip and Minority Whip for both the House and Senate.

Like the lead hound of a pack whose cry—referred to as when he “speaks”—proclaims that he has found a scent and thus sets direction for the entire pack, the House Speaker's official role is to oversee and lead organizational activity amongst representatives in the Chamber or the House. The term “Whip” is believed to be derived from the role of the “whipper-in” of a fox hunt—designated hunt staff whose duty is to prevent the hounds from wandering away from the pack.



PHOTO: HARK BACK TO BARRINGTON ©1993

MHF Edgerton A. (Edgie) Throckmorton and Honorary Secretary Virginia Cardwell.

riding those unmade roads. We might call them equestrian pioneers; instead of the horse disappearing from the Barrington scene as motor transportation became the norm of everyday life, the number of horses and equine related activities increased to become a hallmark of the Barrington countryside. Those private bridle paths were the nucleus of the extensive trail system that the Barrington Hills Riding Club, which was founded in 1937, maintains to this day. (See the Jan/Feb 2017 issue of "Quintessential Barrington" for the Riding Club History.)

There was polo in a field along Hart Road, horse and pony shows at the Round Barn, gymkhanas at Oak Knoll Farm under the auspices of J.R. Cardwell and his daughter Virginia Cardwell (Gina) Reinhardt, and the beginning of hunt activities. It was all very informal at first.

In 1938, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Johnson, who were briefly Barrington residents, brought four foxhounds with them from their previous membership in the Bridlespur Hunt in St. Louis. They invited Gina as she was known, to ride with them. Already a member of the Wayne-DuPage Hunt, and secretary of the Riding Club of Barrington Hills, she enjoyed riding with the Johnsons and their hounds, and they became an informal group calling itself the Barrington Hills Hunt. They were joined on weekends by Edgerton (Edgie) Throckmorton, whose farm, Hail Weston, was at the far end of Helm Road, now Carpentersville.

When the Johnsons left, Throckmorton wanted to acquire his own hounds, and on a trip to Maine bought Red and Betty, who turned out to be Virginia Redbone Hounds. By the fall of 1939, their offspring were hunting Throckmorton's land and that of his neighbor, Dr. Paul Magnuson of Pond Gate Farm. Red and Betty were the nucleus of a pack raised at Hail Weston.

Major Henry Bate had worked for Dr. Magnuson, and through him, knew Throckmorton. Bate now managed the Chicago stables of architect Denison Bingham Hull, who was Joint Master of Northbrook's Longmeadow Hunt, which was a drag hunt. He thought it would provide their hounds with a new experience to follow live fox across wide open country and one weekend they were brought out to Hail Weston.

For Hull it was a memorable day as the hounds became truly alive and went into full cry when they picked up the fresh fox scent. He and Throckmorton decided to join forces. Thus, the Fox River Valley Hunt was formed. Hull provided the hounds, and Throckmorton took care of paneling, an extensive undertaking to ensure safe fences and gates for hunters. Barbed wire fences abounded in the Barrington countryside then.

THE HOUNDS OF WAR

But a hunt must have hounds, and Longmeadow's already had their calendar, or fixture. By chance, Hull saw an extraordinary opportunity through an advertisement in "The Chronicle of the Horse". The Masters in England were faced with, for them, a heartbreaking choice. Because of the Second World War, the availability of feed for their packs was sharply reduced. Surplus hounds were being offered to American hunts. The contact was A. Henry Higginson, an expatriate American with a distinguished career as Master of old-established American hunts, and, from 1915 to 1931, when he left for England, President of the Master of Foxhounds Association in North America. In England he was Joint Master of the Cattistock and South Dorset Hunts. As the author of "The Unwritten Laws of Foxhunting", he wrote what is still considered the bible of organized foxhunting. He also authored and



MFH Denison B. Hull and staff hunt in 1941.

published a monumental work before leaving for England, the four-volume “English Foxhound Kennel Studbook of America”, which recorded the pedigrees of all entered hounds dating from 1884 to 1926.

Throckmorton wrote Higginson several times of his sincerity to acquire the best hounds for this fledgling Midwestern hunt. Finally, the news arrived that 13 couple (26) hounds were on their way across the Atlantic by destroyer! Two stallion hounds were from the Duke of Beaufort, who had one of the oldest and most prestigious hunts in England. Two couple came from the South Dorset, and 10 couple from the Tiverton Hunt. They came to Chicago by rail, as Hull was hastily building additional kennels at his stable in Northbrook. Their arrival signified that the Fox River Valley Hunt had the most important element to become a recognized hunt—quality hounds. The first official meeting was held at Hail Weston in May 1940. The founding officers were:

- MASTER OF FOXHOUNDS: DENISON B. HULL
- PRESIDENT: EDGERTON THROCKMORTON
- VICE-PRESIDENT: DONALD BATEMAN
- SECRETARY: VIRGINIA CARDWELL
- TREASURER: HAROLD BYRON SMITH

The latter was a ubiquitous presence in the civic, equestrian, and social life of the community, and later one of the founders of the Village of Barrington Hills.

THE RIDING CLUB INFLUENCE

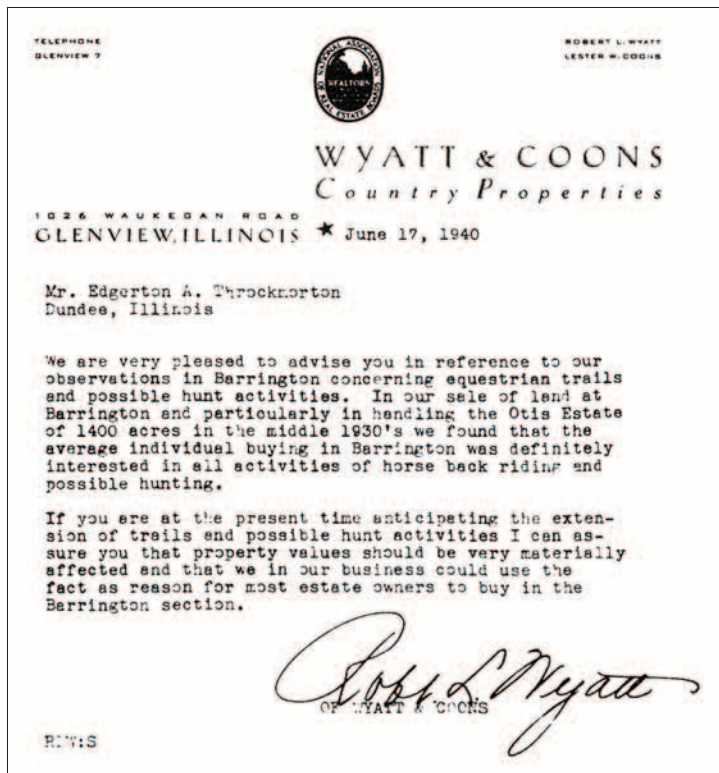
Membership filled quickly that first year, with four sustaining members and eight regular members, the remainder made up of Riding Club members. Then as now, many Hunt and Riding Club memberships were synonymous,

and the Hunt attracted many non-resident members including from Hinsdale, Lake Forest, Winnetka, Geneva, and even Oconomowoc, Wisc.

Registration by the MFHA is only granted after a provisional year in which the association ascertains that certain criteria are being met, a complicated recording task: A minimum pack of 12 couple of obedient and well-mannered hounds must be maintained; a breeding program in accordance with the standards of the MFHA; hunt a minimum of two days a week; record country with the MFHA and encourage good landowner relations; maintain adequate and proper kennels, as required by the MFHA, and provide a capable and reliable hunt staff.

Concerning good landowner relations, the example had been set by the Riding Club. At its formation, the Club had worked with all landowners to formalize the trail system which had grown out of those early bridle paths, and set rules that required riders to respect gates and paths on everyone’s property. The new Fox River Valley Hunt sent a proclamation to the Riding Club explaining that the emphasis of the club was on hound work and the sport of hunting foxes with a well-trained and thoroughly disciplined pack. It was noted that the formal hunt would have many followers on hacks, farm horses, or even on foot, thus broadening the involvement of landowners old and new. Good neighborly relations were a different matter for the Hunt than the Riding Club. When following a scent, hounds don’t always keep to prescribed trails and landowners were made aware of this.

The Hunt had sought the opinion of Chicago and local realtors about the impact on property values if organized equestrian activities were available to residents. The response was positive, and through the years, those activities have given the community its identity and social stability. That the Hunt was successful in its neighborly relations was evident in the autumn of 1940, when at the end of its first season, it held an official landowners thank-you party attended by 600 people. A barn dance was held at Jack Thompson’s green barn on Algonquin Road, later Twin Win Farm. The early landowners’



There were three real estate firms negotiating land deals in the Barrington area in the 1930s. In a June 17, 1940 letter from Robert L. Wyatt of Wyatt & Coons Country, the importance of equestrian activity is a focus of land buyers in Barrington.

parties brought people of completely different backgrounds together. Descendants of the 19th century pioneers, like the Helms and the Jacksons, still owned large tracts of land and lived in the homesteads built by their ancestors, while, as noted, some had gone to work for the new owners who had bought their land.

THE FRVH IS RECOGNIZED

By 1941, the Fox River Valley Hunt had met all the requirements for recognized status in the MFHA. Optimism was high and membership had tripled that of the first year. Its territory now extended over 60 farms, covering 45 square miles, reaching from County Line and Sutton Roads, south to Higgins Road and from Route 59 west to the Fox River. Plans for 1942 included increasing territory to 126 farms by expanding north to Northwest Highway, and other properties that now encompass Goose Lake. In 1941 the FRVH went out 18 times.

Hull became a student of hound pedigrees and breeding, which in 1941, resulted in six litters of puppies. He was dedicated to increasing the size of the pack through good foundation bloodlines. He also had enthusiastic new members, who needed to learn matters of manners, dress, and conduct in the field. Hull kept in touch with A. Henry Higginson who wrote eloquently of hunting across the Devonshire moors alongside tanks on maneuvers as war engulfed Europe. When America entered WWII, the FRVH hounds were still kenneled in Northbrook, traveling the 30 miles to Barrington in two woody station wagons for every Meet. But gasoline shortages, and some members leaving on war duty, required the formulation of plans to continue activities on a limited basis.



FRVH President Bryan Cressey and guests Carol and Doug Hancock of the Wayne-DuPage Hunt at the 75th anniversary of the Fox River Valley Hunt & Massbach Hounds Hunt Ball in 2015. The Hunt Ball is held every November at the Barrington Hills Country Club.

Fox River Valley Hunt Masters and Presidents

FRVH MASTERS

- 1940-1946 - Denison B. Hull
- 1946-1947 - Denison B. Hull & Edgerton A. Throckmorton
- 1947-1948 - Denison B. Hull
- 1948-1950 - Denison B. Hull & Harry A. Lowther
- 1950-1954 - Denison B. Hull
- 1954-1956 - Denison B. Hull & Thomas Cauthorn White
- 1956-1958 - Thomas Cauthorn White
- 1958-1959 - F. Donald Bateman
- 1959-1960 - Joshua D. Derry
- 1960-1964 - Mrs. S. L. Reinhart
- 1964-1967 - Mrs. S. L. Reinhart & Frederick H. Gohl
- 1967-1975 - Mrs. S. L. Reinhart and Lee Vance
- 1975-1980 - Mrs. S. L. Reinhart & Miss Charmian Jackson
- 1981-1982 - Clarence B. Dickinson & Mrs. Thomas Fitch
- 1985-1990 - Mrs. Thomas Fitch, Mrs. M. Johnson, & David Buckley
- 1990 -2001 - William McGinley
- 1990-2005 - Mrs. Thomas Fitch Joint Master with William McGinley until his death in 2001.
- 1996-2017 - Antony Leahy, Joint and Sole Master after Mrs. Fitch's death.
- 2017-2018 - Antony Leahy, Marilyn Heaton, & Garrick Steele, Joint Masters.

FRVH PRESIDENTS

- 1940-1957 - F. Donald Bateman
- 1958-1960 - Mrs. S. L. Reinhardt
- 1960-1964 - Frederick H. Gohl
- 1964-1967 - Lee Vance
- 1967-1980 - Owen Fairweather
- 1981-1990 - William McGinley
- 2017-2018 Bryan Cressey; Vice President/
Treasurer - Robert Heaton





MFH Tony Leahy rides to the hounds at Barrington Hills Farm in October 2017. The hounds' bloodlines date back several hundred years to an original pack in England.

MAINTAINING THE LAND

Help came when Thomas White of Sutton Road, who had joined the hunt in 1941, offered to kennel the hounds on his property. Some had been dispersed to other hunts, but the remaining pack could be exercised regularly and take part in a limited number of Meets. Of greatest importance through those war years was the maintenance of the hunt country, and keeping the over 200 panels, gates, and fixtures in good order, so that farmers and property owners would not remove them if they fell into disrepair. This remarkable feat was accomplished with the few members and volunteers who remained. As with the Riding Club, besides the pleasure derived from the ride and the chase, from horses and hounds, there has remained an ethic of conservation and care for the countryside. It is manifested in the hard, physical work needed to groom trails, to maintain gates and fences, and to keep good relations with property owners. Respect for the land, its flora and fauna, has long been a hallmark of Barrington's equestrian community.

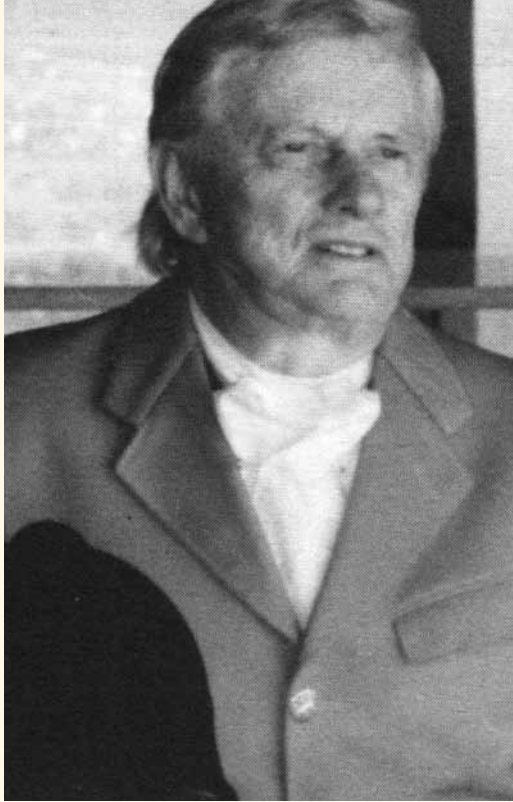
The hunt survived the war, with a nucleus of members, and a small pack of excellent English hounds. Social life, where Throckmorton continued to hold landowner and hunt member gatherings, was part of that survival. In

1946, Throckmorton became Joint Master with Denison Hull. They complimented each other. Throckmorton enjoyed riding and fostering landowner relations, while Hull, through study and contact with other Masters and Huntsman and Henry Higginson, strove to ensure the longevity of an outstanding pack of English hounds. Their partnership lasted until 1948, when Throckmorton died suddenly. He was succeeded as Joint Master by Harry Lowther and F. Donald Bateman became president.

As conditions improved after the war, the hounds were returned to Denison Hull's Northbrook stables and again brought out to Barrington at his expense. His pack had improved their speed and facility, but the requisite paneled country was not opening fast enough. Hull seriously considered resigning in 1947, when financial problems needed to be resolved. However, he offered alternatives for the future which finally brought the FRVH home. His proposal was accepted to hire a professional huntsman, and provide him with a house, kennels, and stables in the hunt country, at a cost of \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year. By 1948, there were other important developments.

Hull learned that the Longmeadow Hunt was losing their country, and was interested in merging with the FRVH, which it eventually did. With the

PHOTO: HARK BACK TO BARRINGTON ©1993



William McGinley, who owned and operated Horizon Farm, was both MFH and president of FRVH.

solution of hiring a huntsman, Hull had agreed to remain as MFH, and then went a step further for the future of the FRVH. A large farm was available on Donlea Road adjacent to the pioneer Jackson farm. Hull purchased Big Oak Farm, remodeled two houses on the property, built a kennel, and could offer a barn for hunt horses. Mostly, the horses of the former Longmeadow Hunt members were boarded there. He also took on financial responsibility for the huntsman as well as the pack, so all membership dues went to maintaining the country.

The decade beginning in 1949 was one of prosperity in every respect for the FRVH. There was a hunt committee of 12 people, and a large membership of both practiced hunters and those who enjoyed the equestrian social environment. The hunt continued to host the farmer's party, which grew in popularity every year. It was truly a community event. Jack Thompson donated part of his green barn on Algonquin Road for a clubhouse where breakfasts and other social events were held. The problem of maintaining the country was solved when members took responsibility for the area in which they lived. With an experienced professional, hounds were successfully shown at the prestigious Bryn Mawr Hound Show in Pennsylvania. In future years, FRVH hounds would have many successful entries in prominent hound shows. Function and form, health and stamina, temperament

and discipline were the result of the knowledgeable breeding programs developed by Denison Hull from his English foxhounds, rescued from the tumult of war.

In 1953, the FRVH hosted the Fourth Annual Hunter Trials, an outgrowth of popular local horse shows, and rotated between Chicago-area hunts. The sponsorship of horse shows increased the impact of the Hunt on the community as riders came from all over the Midwest.

FROM EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY TO VILLAGE

Prosperity was an increasing fact of American life in those post-war years. Corporations began an exodus to Chicago's collar counties, and with them came the transportation, shopping, and housing developments that turned rural crossroads into modern communities. In the early 1950s, developer Leonard Besinger purchased Curtiss Farms, one of the holdings of the Curtiss Candy Company, to build a Midwestern version of Levittown, with low-cost housing for veterans and people wishing to escape a declining urban environment. The pioneer Helm farm remained, but west of there, to the Fox River, hardly a trace was left of the magnificent woods that bordered the farms, the terrain was leveled. Elgin Road, now Route 25, became the spine for a crowded area of housing on 60-foot lots, with strip malls and shopping centers.

This was a catalyst for the equestrian community, led by the Hunt, to alert the Countryside Association. This civic group was founded in 1936 to oversee the country west of the Village of Barrington, and they helped form the Village of Middlebury in 1953. From the formation of Middlebury, community leaders emerged who, four years later, were instrumental in incorporating the Village of Barrington Hills. Their names are in the history books. They were Andrew Dallstream, a lawyer, secretary of the FRVH and chairman of the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals; Newton Noble, who lived along Bateman Road and was president of the Countryside Association; Harold Byron Smith, who was president of Illinois Tool Works; Thomas White, who was Master of Foxhounds from 1954-1958; and Orville Caesar, president of the Greyhound Corporation who did so much to foster the countryside equestrian heritage at his Round Barn Riding Center.

PRESERVING OPEN SPACE WITH 5-ACRE ZONING

The Village of Barrington Hills was incorporated in 1957. Zoning laws were enacted for minimum lot sizes of five acres. There was no commercial zoning within the Village, which at 28.6 square miles was the largest in the United States. By 1959, other villages surrounding the Village of Barrington were incorporated: Lake Barrington, North Barrington, and South Barrington with one-acre zoning. Areas of Cuba Township keep minimum five-acre zoning under Lake County Ordinances. Open space preservation, combined with the excellence of the equestrian activities, gave the name "Barrington" a cachet which enhanced a desirable real estate environment.

As Victoria Fitch noted in her book, "Hark Back to Barrington"—"Many of the new residents were horse people who had discovered the area through attending the annual Barrington Horse Show. For those enthusiasts this was idyllic country. A beautiful trail system provided by the Riding Club, an active fox hunt, a popular horse show held every August, a two-day schooling show held in May, and nearby Arlington Park Race Track offered a range of activities second to none in the Midwest." Many of their children and grandchildren live in the area today and sustain equestrian traditions begun here over 70 years ago.



Orville Caesar's Round Barn was an equestrian hub of activity in the 1950s.

ADAPTING TO THE MID-1900s

The FRVH has been fortunate in the dedication and leadership of its Masters and Presidents; many of them brought practical problem-solving abilities to the changing circumstances facing the Hunt. As more traffic began to cross the hilly and winding Barrington Hills roads, it became too dangerous to continue hunting with hounds. While large parcels of land, including eventually Denison Hull's Big Oak Farm were acquired by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, with the historical horse trails maintained by the Riding Club, these were now public lands and closed to hunting in any form.

In 1960, Gina Cardwell Reinhardt became Master of Foxhounds, a position she held for the next 20 years, from time to time with Joint Masters. Her first major challenge was the need to move kennels and stables from Hull's Big Oak Farm. She negotiated the purchase from the Jackson family of 15 acres at the corner of Bateman and Algonquin Roads, not included in the Forest Preserve acquisition, for a community riding center. The purchase at \$28,000 was completed with non-interest-bearing bonds of \$500 each. The Riding Club and the Hunt sold these bonds to members. Some never reclaimed them. A builder from Richmond, Ill., Arnold May, constructed the frame for an indoor ring and stalls, but volunteers from both clubs formed work parties to build out the stalls.

Besides the location for horse shows and hunter trials, for hound events and hound puppy events, for polo matches and pony club, the center became a complete lesson and boarding facility, thus adding to income that eventually retired the debt incurred in purchasing the land.

The FRVH centered most of its activities at the Riding Center, but by the late 1960s, they decided to seek new territory for their Meets. Gina Reinhardt and her then Joint Master Lee Vance rented a plane and flew over the endless farms, pastures, and woodlands along the valley of the Nippersink Creek near Richmond in McHenry County. The owners of the 600-acre Tamarack Farm, and the many holdings comprising Northern Pump Farms, reached agreement with the FRVH, and soon Owen Fairweather was leading the clearing and paneling necessary for this extensive territory. Later, smaller farms were added, known as Richmond East, near Spring Grove. Spring Dale Farm became the meeting place from where hounds could draw in all directions.

The Hunt was traveling again, this time away from its Barrington Hills home, but those were very good years. In 1973, Charmian Jackson, who was from a distinguished English family of Masters, became Huntsman, and then in 1975, Joint Master with Gina Reinhardt. Reinhardt purchased additional hounds from Canada, to help rebuild the pack, and attendance at Richmond

PHOTO: HARK BACK TO BARRINGTON ©1993



Virginia (Gina) Cardwell Reinhardt was the Master of Foxhounds (sometimes as Joint MFH) for 20 years. Her leadership was essential during the Barrington countryside's transition from agricultural to 5-acre zoned home sites.

was high, so that in 1978, the annual tradition of Blessing the Hounds was held there.

Hunt sponsored activities included Point-to-Point Races for hunt and pony club members held on the flat and over fences, at Spring Dale Farm, and the Riding Center, called Fox Chase Farm, for the nine years it was leased by Bruce Duchossois from the Countryside Park District. After several years of rising costs threatened the center's existence, especially after a roof collapse from heavy snows, Owen Fairweather had arranged a transfer of the property to the Park District in 1972.

In 1981, at this facility, the FRVH hosted the inaugural Illinois Hound Show for Chicago area fox hunts and Midwest basset hunts to train and exhibit hounds, with their puppies. Participants and spectators loved the tailgate luncheon competition and the costumed obedience class for canine pets who competed for awards. This event, which was supported by the Barrington Hills Carriage Society, continues to this day with adaptations.

In 1978, William McGinley purchased Fernwood, which had been home to A.C. Buehler's famous Shetland Pony Hitch and the beloved National Champion Curtiss-Frisco Pete. Renaming the vast property Horizon Farms, McGinley was one of the most important people in the 1980s and 1990s for the renewed prosperity of the Hunt, together with Gina Reinhardt's daughter Victoria Fitch. McGinley and Fitch would become Joint Masters in 1990 and until 2001 when McGinley passed away. They were a team who truly loved the Hunt, and were the heart and spirit of its survival in those years.

The Richmond Country began to diminish, when in 1984, Northern Pump Farms were put up for sale. This McHenry County landmark had been managed by renowned cattleman Brad Scott, who was now retiring. There were now 25 new owners to contact for permission to continue hunting on their lands. During this time too, the hunt was in need of revitalization. A new hunt committee, presided over by William McGinley, brought in new people with new ideas, while endeavoring to maintain the traditions and manners of the past. There was enthusiastic participation in different events including hosting a Joint Meet of Chicago area hunts at Richmond, and the Wayne-DuPage "A Day in the Country" Horse Show, which benefitted the Friends of Handicapped Riders Association. A percentage of proceeds from special events have always been dedicated to not-for-profit organizations, an important community contribution by the equestrians.

HUNTING ON HORIZON FARM

As northern territory gave way to commercial and residential development, the FRVH focused its Barrington life on Horizon Farms with hound exercises taking place several times in fall after the bird nesting season, another



MFH Vicki Fitch (Gina Reinhardt's daughter) leads a hunt on Horizon Farm.

sign of the respect held by the equestrians for the environment. These rides with mounted staff were very popular, as full hunt Fixtures were moved west to new country around Huntley, opened up by members Gail and Brian Johnson who had bought property out there.

Clarence Dickenson became Master upon Gina Reinhardt's retirement in 1980, and by 1982, Vicki Fitch felt ready to step into her mother's legacy with Dickinson as Joint Master. By 1986, Vicki Fitch had two new Joint Masters, Sue Johnson and David Buckley. They hired Shelley O'Higgins, a former huntsman from Virginia's Bull Run Hunt, and began an ambitious hound breeding program which drafted notable foxhounds from Canada, Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, and Alabama. This tradition of nurturing a first-class pack was to have recognition in 1988, when Fox River Valley's "Cruiser" was the winner at the prestigious Virginia Hound Show in the English dog division. In fact, the Fox River Valley pack continued to improve with careful breeding, always remembering that it was founded through that inspired contact of Denison Hull with Henry A. Higginson in the fog of war.

THE FRVH TURNS 50

In 1990 it was time to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Hunt. William McGinley became Joint Master with Vicki Fitch that year, and he increasingly sought ways to regain the Hunt's recognition in the community. He was already encouraging new riding and social memberships. The previous Joint Masters suggested that a renewal of the historic Barrington Horse Show, not held since 1978, while ambitious, could help provide important community

recognition for the Club's future.

Members accepted the challenge, and committees were formed with only a short time to contract for stabling, hospitality, and vendors, for an expected 250 horses and hundreds of exhibitors and spectators. This show, from July 18 to 22, drew more entries than anticipated. As with the earlier Round Barn Shows a beneficiary was chosen, and this was the Barrington Area Historical Society's Museum Barn project, an archival center where the agricultural and equine history of the Barrington area would be featured and preserved. Another feature of that weekend were special classes for local riders who had been a part of the Club's history, and a parade of foxhounds which drew the greatest applause.

LATE 1900s—A PERIOD OF TRANSITION

There was another milestone for the Hunt in 1990 when William McGinley traveled to see a young steeplechase rider at a Meet in Virginia. Born in Ireland to a foxhunting family, Antony (Tony) Leahy had brought his background to America and joined Virginia's Deep Run Hunt where he was first whip. He had a deep love for hounds and horses, a respect for tradition, and a never-ending quest to broaden his knowledge of foxhound bloodlines. That evening, at dinner, impressed with Leahy's poise and sincerity, McGinley invited him to Barrington as Huntsman for the FRVH. It was to prove an inspired choice.

He came to Barrington during another period of transition for the FRVH members. As hound exercises to maintain their obedience and will to work



MFH Tony Leahy leads the Parade of Hounds at the 2017 LeCompte/Kalaway Cup Polo Matches.

became the norm in the ever more restrictive Barrington countryside, there was one upside to these limitations. Thousands of acres that might have been lost to urban development were acquired by the Cook County Forest Preserve District. The Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) had played a guiding role in this, and in time a coalition of equestrians, conservation organizations, and the Forest Preserve District would begin the work of restoring large areas to their pre-settlement landscapes.

By the year 2000, there was another transition for the FRVH. Some Barrington members of the equestrian community owned farms near Elizabeth and Stockton, Ill., where the Cornwall Hounds were founded in 1975.

In 2000, the two packs and their staffs were combined with an agreement for a 50 percent each operating cost sharing. Each hunt kept responsibility for its own membership, capital expenses, and real estate. In the first decade of the 21st century, this area offered miles of safe open space for riding with hounds, allowing them to reach their full potential and abilities.

NEW TIMES, NEW SPACES

But Barrington was still home-base with Pony Club, Puppy Events, and riding educational activities at the Riding Center. Hunt breakfasts and teas were held in members' residences following rides on the remaining large property, Horizon Farms. The Blessing of the Hounds is held annually in Barrington conducted by the Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, a very moving occasion. One tradition has remained unbroken since 1954, and that is the Hunt Ball. This is the biggest social event of the season, held every November at

Barrington Hills Country Club. Members and their guests use the occasion to honor exceptional people, as in 1990 when Gina Reinhardt had retired after 20 years as Master of Foxhounds.

While Horizon Farms became temporarily unavailable to the equestrians, on the other side of Barrington Hills, in McHenry County, Strathmore Farms, the over 500-acre property of late trustee Alexander McArthur had several failed development attempts, until it came under new private ownership, to keep it open space and revive the organic farming of the McArthur days. Renamed Barrington Hills Farm, it is now a parcel of a combined 700 acres offered by the owners for hounds and riders to gather for special events, bringing families and friends together as in former days.


One of those special events was on August 6, 2017, when the newly created Fox River Valley Hound Heritage Foundation sponsored the Midwest Fox Hound Puppy Show at the Farm. On a beautiful summer Sunday against a backdrop of 50 acres of blooming sunflowers, several hundred people and family dogs joined in games, contests, tailgate picnics, and "A Taste of the Fox Valley". Highlight of the day was the presentation of foxhound puppies by Master of Foxhounds Tony Leahy. He had become Joint Master with William McGinley and Vicki Fitch in 1996, and after their deaths in 2001 and 2005 respectively, remains Master to this day. He has nurtured the Fox River Valley and Cornwall, now Massbach Hounds, to an enviable level of accomplishment and well-being. His achievements were recognized this year, when he was appointed President of the national Masters of Foxhounds Association



LEFT: The Midwest Fox Hound Puppy Show brought the community together for a fun summer outing at Barrington Hills Farm. Right: Fox River Valley Pony Club members Jen Galvin (on left) and Jane Gallagher with her dog, Evie, wait in line for the Best Owner/Dog Look-A-Like contest.

for a three-year term. Those early founders of the Fox River Valley Hunt with their war refugee hounds must be raising their stirrup cups in pride.

The founder and first president of the Fox River Valley Hound Heritage Foundation is William McGinley's son Robert, and the Mission is to ensure the future in the Barrington area by simulating the hunting tradition born here in 1940, through hound exercises, educational programs, and reenactments of the pageantry associated with riding with hounds. The Foundation will pursue stewardship to support prairie restoration, and wetland and woodland management, along with all the stakeholders for the preservation of the Barrington area's remarkable open space holdings.

The horse and hound exercises will be led by MFH Antony Leahy, whose remarkable gifts will gather a pack of hounds around him with an ease and tranquility that is a joy to watch. Perhaps the Blessing of the Hounds, as it was held on October 1 at Barrington Hills Farm, puts a divine word over them as well. The hearts of hound, horse, and riders go on strong in the Barrington area. 



Special thanks to Barbara L. Benson for this extraordinary account of the Fox River Valley Hunt that brings forward the history from where "Hark Back to Barrington" left off in 1993. We also extend our gratitude to MFH Tony Leahy for his support on this project and for his exceptional contributions to equestrians young and old. Thanks to FRVH members, especially Robert McGinley, Jan Nestrud, and Deb Nestrud Gallagher for their guidance, and Emily McHugh for lending us her foxhunting library.

Riding Horses to Hounds

The Fox River Valley Hound Heritage Foundation

The Fox River Valley Hound Heritage Foundation (FRVHHF), a nonprofit organization, is preserving the historic tradition of riding to hounds in America. Its mission is fulfilled through educational programs, lectures, and historical reenactments including Hound Exercises. The exercises simulate the fox hunting tradition that began in the Barrington Hills in 1940 and function as pageants that include all the pomp and ceremony. The exercises also serve to promote the enjoyment of outdoor activities and preserve open lands and natural habitat for native wildlife including mammals and birds.

The focus of FRVHHF stewardship efforts will be to support prairie restoration, wetland and woodland management in cooperation with the Forest Preserve Districts, and conservation organizations along with citizens and land owners of the Fox River Valley. The horse and hound exercises will be run in conjunction with regional hound masters and packs. Eight to 10 re-enactments will take place between August and December (after bird nesting season) on regional countryside including Horizon Farms and Barrington Hills Farm. Other educational events will include the annual Midwest Fox Hound Puppy Show and other lectures that focus on riding to hounds in Barrington, as well as North America, including the practice by the Founding Fathers of the United States. To learn more, visit www.HoundHeritage.org.



Robert McGinley is the founder of the Fox River Valley Hound Heritage Foundation and a long-time member of the equestrian community in Barrington Hills. His father, William McGinley, was both MFH and president of the FRVH, and the former owner of Horizon Farm.



DOG DAYS OF SUMMER
MIDWEST FOX HOUND PUPPY SHOW 2017
 Sunday, August 6th 3-7pm
 Barrington Hills Farm, 2790 Spring Creek Road

Sponsored by: The Fox River Valley Hound Heritage Foundation

COMMUNITY EVENT!

A Day in the Country for the Whole Family!
 Pack your Tailgate & bring your Family Dog for a fun filled afternoon of Games, Costumes, Contests, Photos, Food and Cheer - BYOB!

- World Class Fox Hound Puppies will be judged and awarded
- Family dogs can run the Obstacle Course or chill in the Doggy Water Park
- Prizes will be awarded in several fun dog show categories including Best Dog: Small, Medium & Large
- Best Rescue & Best Owner/Dog Look A-Like!
- Win an award for best pet trick

New Competition this Year - Taste of Fox River Valley
 Sample traditional dishes from Stirrup Cups and High Tea in the Horse and Hound sporting tradition.

- Sample and vote on your favorites
- Tasting tickets available for purchase at the gate

All Pet Dogs Must be Friendly, Healthy and Leashed!
 Admission: \$20 donation per car-tailgate \$5 park and walk in - Kibb Free!
 Tailgate RSVPs a must! For Reservations:
 Contact: Deb Kremer: debkremers@yahoo.com
 Sponsors and Vendors Contact:
 Deb Gallagher: deborahneustrisk@hotmail.com

FOX RIVER VALLEY HOUNDS ALL-STARS



Caelinn Leahy

Caelinn Leahy won her first Grand Prix at 14, and won her second this summer at 15 years old. WEF Low Junior Jumper Circuit Champion 2016, Reserve Champion 2015. Rider on the Irish Bronze Junior Nations cup team at WEF at 14. She qualified and rode on the championship Prix De States Zone 5 team at 14. She rode in China on our USA team as a junior ambassador to promote and showcase the sport. Zone 5 Champion Gold Team for Children's jumpers at 12. Caelinn is a member with colors at the FRVH and MH hunts. Her father is MFH Tony Leahy. She grew up in Barrington as did her mother, with family ties still there. She is currently a sophomore at Elgin Academy.



Allison Springer

Allison Springer grew up in Barrington Hills surrounded by horse farms. By the age of 5, Allison had her own pony, Marshmallow, purchased from a neighbor for \$25 and she became a member of the Fox River Valley Pony Club. By age 12, she was a seasoned hunter and earned her colors from the FRVH. By age 16, Allison had earned her A-Pony Club rating. She was a member of the Gold Medal North American Young Rider's team.

After graduating from Bowdoin College in Maine, Allison began her professional riding career. She is a United States Eventing Association ICP Level 4 Instructor, and gives clinics all over the Americas. She is the president and co-founder of the Eventing Riders Association of North America, and has served on the USEA Board of Governors. A professional event rider, Allison has been the reserve rider for WEG and the Olympics. She has won many FEI events with top placings and wins in CCI *** and CCI**** events both in the United States and abroad.

Allison runs her event barn in The Plains, Va., and in Aiken, S.C. during the winter months.

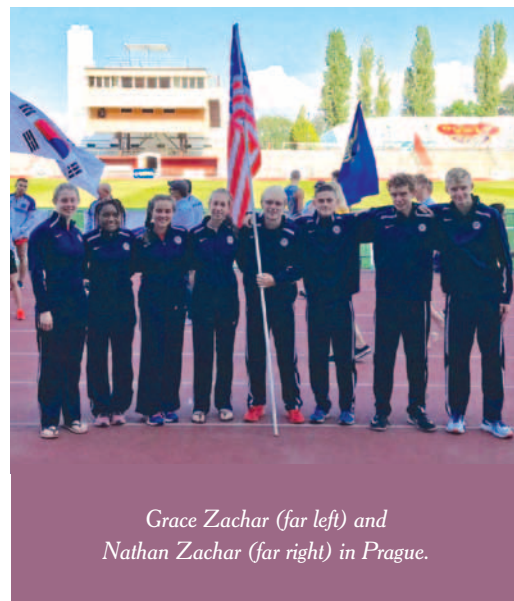


Grace and Nathan Zachar

Siblings Grace and Nathan Zachar competed in the Youth World Championship for the Modern Pentathlon in Prague, Czech Republic, and in the Juniors World Championship in Hungary this summer. Grace was the highest scoring American girl in both competitions, while Nathan also did well. Following Europe, Nathan competed in Mexico for the Pan American Youth Olympic Games Qualifier. He finished second among the American men and is looking forward to his next opportunity to try to qualify for the games. This will be the next youth world championships in Portugal. Both Grace and Nathan have their Hunt colors and have been riding with the Hunt, Pony Club, Polo Club, and the Riding Club of Barrington Hills while growing up. The Hunt has been instrumental in not only teaching them how to ride, but in building the confidence

needed to take performance horses you have never ridden before and having them to perform for you.

Riding in Modern Pentathlon is supposed to be a test of bravery, so they stack the odds against you. They put you on an unfamiliar course with a unfamiliar horse and aggressive course times. They want to see if you have what it takes. The Hunt is the only other equestrian sport that can reach that intensity. For that reason, it also one of the few equestrian events young men want to participate in. When Nathan was at a young age and considering leaving Pony Club, he was encouraged to pursue the Hunt and Polo to keep him in the saddle. The fast-paced adrenaline-packed adventure was what every young man craves. He has been hooked ever since.



Grace Zachar (far left) and Nathan Zachar (far right) in Prague.

FRVH JUNIOR MEET



FRVH MEET PHOTOS: DEB NESTRUD GALLAGHER

FRVH Juniors Competition-A: (from left) Max Kaplan, Mia Volpentesta, Emily Prettyman, Elise Fern, Jose Soto, Marilyn Heaton (Joint Master of Fox Hounds, FRVH and Judge), Theo Yost, Caelinn Leahy, Robert McGinley (FRVH Field Master), and Ashley Fern.

Fox River Valley Hounds Junior Meet

On October 15, 2017, Fox River Valley Hounds members gathered for the Junior Meet. Sponsored by the Fox River Valley Hound Heritage Foundation each year, qualified Juniors are invited to join the members of the Fox River Valley Hounds for Hound Exercises. Members of the Fox River Valley Pony Club are prepped for Hound Exercises year-round with workshops at summer camp, and group rides on the cross-country course.

Experienced regional riders from other Horse and Hound Clubs are invited to join in for an opportunity to qualify for the Junior North American Field Hunting Championships. These registered juniors are judged in the field during Hound Exercises by seasoned adult riders. They are judged on their ability to handle their horse appropriately in the field, practice safe riding in a group, exhibit sound horse judgement, and demonstrate traditional etiquette while riding to hounds with staff and other members of the field.

After Hound Exercises, the Competition Juniors are again quizzed on their skills with a Handy Hunter Obstacle course. This course is designed to showcase the rider's ability to manage a variety of obstacles often found in the field during Hound Exercises: varied terrain, natural jumps, ditches, banks, and gates to open and close.

Competition Juniors demonstrating competence and safety are recommended to attend the Junior North American Field Hunting Championships held on November 10-12, this year in Thompson Ga., and hosted by the Belle Mead Hunt.



Intro to Fox Hounds FRVH Junior Meet 2017 Beginners: (from left) Naomi West with Katlyn McMorris (Graduate A, FRVPC, and Instructor), Kate Tyer, Jane Gallagher with Jan Nestrud (Kate's Grandmother and FRVH Member).