

RILE HOUSE PART 2

BY CAROL KALOS, ST. ANDREWS RESIDENT
WRITER AND WISSAHICKON VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Last month, *Stroll Blue Bell* offered details about how the Rile family owned what is called the “Rile House,” which was passed from father to son for four generations! Dated 1870, the large stucco house with its big side yard stands at 951 Skippack Pike across from Union Meeting Road. The last two generations of Riles were veterinarians. *Whitpain ...*

Crossroads in Time (1977) relates how Dr. Edward Rile, who was born in the Rile House in 1885, retired in 1952 after decades of specializing in the horses and cows who inhabited the nearby counties.

Dr. Rile was especially fond of telling a good story. One of his favorites describes the time when, at three in the morning, a man yelled up to the veterinarian’s bedroom window, begging him to help the pleading man’s wife. The vet advised the husband to call a medical doctor, but their disagreement went back and forth. Finally, the man persuaded Dr. Rile to help, so the vet hitched his horse and sleigh to attend to the ailing woman. He found that her teeth had been extracted, and she was bleeding copiously. As a result, she was passed out and near death. For treatment, Dr. Rile dipped cotton in chloroform (which speeds up blood coagulation) and held it on each dental socket. The veterinarian was successful with his human patient: Partway through his procedure, the woman awakened to ask what was going on. She was startled to see that she was being treated by the local vet!

A resident of Saint Andrews Place, Carol Kalos is President of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society. It has two museums showing local history, the 1895 School on Skippack Pike and the Franklinville School on Morris Road. Both appear on the National Register of Historic Places and are open by appointment. For information, please go to www.WValleyHS.org.



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