

Sturdevant Hall, 129 South Franklin Street, was purchased from the heirs of Miss Jessie Thomas Sturdevant, in the summer of 1952. John L. Butler sold the building to Rev. John Dorrance, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, in 1841. Dr. Dorrance lived there throughout his ministry, 27 years, and upon his death, the property was acquired by Dr. Jesse Thomas and his wife. When Mrs. Thomas died at age 99, the home and lot passed to her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Sturdevant, mother of the late Miss Sturdevant. Sturdevant Hall housed the Education Department but today it is a girl's dormitory.











Sturdevant Hall  
129-131 South Franklin Street

Sturdevant Hall was purchased by Wilkes College in two sections. The northern half, known as number 129, was acquired in 1952 from the estate of Jesse T. Sturdevant.<sup>1</sup> Number 131, the southern portion, was bought from the Ahlborn family in 1962.<sup>2</sup> Since college acquisition the building has been a residence hall.

The exact date of construction of Sturdevant Hall is not known. By tradition, it is said tha the house was erected for John Dorrance (1800-1861), a minister of the Presbyterian Church. Dorrance purchased the property in 1841 from the Butler family which acquired the land in 1772.<sup>3</sup> The house probably dates from the early 1840s. In 1862 Stephen Leonard Thurlow, who later had the present Kirby Hall built, bought the property from the estate of John Dorrance.<sup>4</sup> Thurlow is listed for this property on the 1870 Map of Wilkes-Barre.

Jesse Thomas, a physican, acquired the property in the late nineteenth century. Ownership passed by marriage to the Sturdevant family about 1913.<sup>5</sup> William H. Sturdevant was married to a daughter of Dr. Thomas and was a civil engineer who produced two atlases of the city. In the early twentieth century an extension was added to the south side and the house was divided into two residences. The



southerly portion was further divided into apartments. In 1942 Robert A. Eyerman, a Wilkes-Barre architect, designed several alterations for 131 for Dr. Maurice B. Alhborn.<sup>6</sup>

Sturdevant Hall illustrates the changing style and taste of its occupants. The main portion of the structure is a center hall house with Greek Revival decorative detailing. The present front porch and second floor center window grouping are characteristic of the mid to late Victorian period. A circa 1897 photograph of South Franklin Street shows that a one story bay window was attached on the northerly side, first floor, easterly end window. The three and a half story, brick structure had several alterations and additions made to it prior to college acquisition although the basic structure remains intact.

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<sup>1</sup>Luzerne County Deed Records, Book 1171, p. 607.

<sup>2</sup>Luzerne County Deed Records, Book 1495, p. 882.

<sup>3</sup>Luzerne County Deed Records, Book 37, p. 417.

<sup>4</sup>McClintock Collection, McClintock Room, Farley Library, Wilkes College, deed.

<sup>5</sup>article, Wilkes-Barre Record, July 16, 1952.

<sup>6</sup>Robert A. Eyerman, architectural drawings, 1942 (Wilkes College, Business Office).



129-131 S. Franklin St.

STURDEVANT HALL

This building was purchased by the college in the summer of 1952 from the heirs of Miss Jessie Thomas Sturdevant. It is estimated that the building was erected during the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

Sturdevant Hall. built circa 1841.

Another source says building was erected about 1900 ?

Was placed on Pa. Register of Historical Sites and Bldgs.

Reverend John Dorrance, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, purchased the building in 1841 and during this period, the building occupied the edifice now the Osterhout Library.

Sturdevant Hall housed the Education Department

( Added: 1 March 1983  
Georgetta Nelson

Damages to Sturdevant Hall were estimated at about \$100,000 after the 1972 flood. gn





Ill. No. 39  
Sturdevant Hall  
129-131 South Franklin Street  
January, 1973  
source: author





## Old Sturdevant House Purchased by College

The College's purchase of the fine old Sturdevant home on South Franklin street, Wilkes-Barre, enabled us to don our skull-cap and play the antiquarian in Luzerne County Registry of Deeds one morning in August.

Local lore graciously provided by Miss Frances Dorrance, then librarian of the Hoyt Library, Kingston, Pa., and Miss Koehlin of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Wilkes-Barre, supplemented what we learned in the Registry to form one of the most fascinating news stories of the year—or so we think.

WC Bulletin Oct. '52

The present College building, together with the land on which it stands, was purchased in 1841 by Rev. John Dorrance, Miss Dorrance's grand-uncle, from John L. Butler. The lot was once part of a larger tract granted by a Commonwealth patent dated 1805 to Lord Butler, pioneer settler in these parts.

Miss Josephine Hillard of West River street, Wilkes-Barre, who has since gone to her reward, could not be reached for comment at the time the College acquired the house. The last of the Butlers, she had had a brother named Lord Butler Hillard.

Our difficulty in piecing the story together caused us to walk out of the office muttering Lamb's lines about "prim Betsy Chambers", who,

"Decay'd in her members,  
No longer remembers  
Things as she once did"—

to the astonishment of a Bell Telephone PR man who was waiting to see us.

The stately residence that now houses the departments of education and nursing education and the room of Slavonic culture presided over by Mr. Symonolewicz of the sociology department was occupied by Rev. Dr. Dorrance throughout most of his long and distinguished ministry at the First Presbyterian Church here.

Miss Dorrance furnished a footnote to the effect that her grand-uncle's predecessor in the pulpit of the First Church was Irish-born Rev. Nicholas Murray, grandfather of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, late president of Columbia University.

Upon the death of Rev. Dr. Dorrance, the property was acquired by Dr. Jesse Thomas, who had married Ellen Miner, daughter of Charles Miner, local historian. When Mrs. Thomas died in 1913 at the age of 99, the house and lot passed into the possession of her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Sturdevant, and her son Isaac, who affected the present division of the house to provide a home for his married daughter.

The north half of the home, the part purchased by the College, was occupied by Miss Jessie Thomas Sturdevant up to her death last year.

1951/2

## Dr. H. V. Mailey Briefs Burgesses

In addition to supervising the three courses in the essentials of local government offered at the College this fall by the Public Service Institute of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction, Dr. Hugo V. Mailey, chairman of the political science department, is conducting the class for borough and township officials.

His course and the other two pro-

grams, basic police class and magistrate class, are open free of charge to all municipal officials in Luzerne County. They are intended to enable registrants to build up a background of knowledge to assist them in the performance of their daily duties.

Persons enrolled in any one of the courses have opportunities to discuss pertinent practices in the field of local government. They will receive Public Service Institute certificates upon satisfactory completion of their work at the College.

The basic police class is conducted by City Detective Frank Flynn of Wilkes-Barre, and the magistrate class, by Alderman Francis Murphy of Wilkes-Barre.

## Board Elects New Trustees



HON. W. M. ROSENFELD

Election of four new Wilkes trustees during the summer brought the board's total membership to 28.

Elected were: Mrs. Paul Bedford, Wilkes-Barre; William L. Conyngham, Chase Corners, Pa.; Hon. William M. Rosenfield, Towanda, Pa.;



Joseph F. Lester, Kingston, Pa.

Born in Kingston, Mrs. Bedford has long been active in civic and charitable work in this area. She founded the Friends of Shut-Ins Club, Inc., and the Wheel Chair Club, Inc., which lends wheel chairs and walkers free of charge to persons who cannot afford to rent or buy them. Having proved the need for such a service here, she has been instrumental in forming similar clubs in other cities.

Sometime president of the Wyoming Valley Playground and Recreation Association, she helped establish three Oldster Clubs that meet weekly throughout the year.

Mrs. Bedford attended the old Wilkes-Barre Institute, Norwood Institute, Washington, D. C.; and Miss Porter's School, Farmington, Conn. She later studied at Columbia and New York Universities.

Mr. Conyngham, son of Mrs. William H. Conyngham, Wilkes-Barre, and the late Mr. Conyngham, is secretary-treasurer of Eastern Pennsylvania Supply Co., and Hillside Farms, Inc.; a director of the First National Bank of Wilkes-Barre and Wilkes-Barre General Hospital; and a vestryman of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church here.

According to "The Dallas Post", he is also a Jackson Township volunteer fireman, president of the Pennsylvania Milking Shorthorn Breeders' Association, and secretary-treasurer of the Cow Testing Association.

Prior to entering Yale University in 1938 he attended Wilkes-Barre Academy, Wyoming Seminary, and the Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn. He took his degree at Yale in 1942.

Commissioned ensign, USNR, in January, 1943, Mr. Conyngham served two years in the Pacific aboard the destroyer "Lardner". He spent the last eight months of the war attached to the British Pacific Fleet as US liaison officer.

Also a Yale man, Judge Rosenfield earned his law degree at the

University of Pennsylvania School of Law. He is now president judge of the 42nd Judicial District, Towanda.

He has served as associate editor of the "University of Pennsylvania Law Review," Bradford County (Pa.) district attorney, member of the District Attorneys' Association of Pennsylvania, Bradford County commander of civilian defense during World War II, and secretary and president of the Bradford County Bar Association.

A member of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest scholastic honorary society, he belongs also to Sharswood Law Club of the University of Pennsylvania, Beta Theta Pi and Acacia fraternities, the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution, and the American Legion.

Mr. Lester, head of Lester Pontiac, Kingston, has been an automobile dealer in this country for 28 years. As a special representative of the General Motors Corp., he investigated automobile possibilities in his native Poland in 1928. His study led to the establishment of an assembly plant in Warsaw.

Active in Wilkes-Barre and Kingston civic organizations, he served as civilian defense chief of transportation in Kingston during World War II. He is president of the Kingston Businessmen's Association, president of the Tatra Club of Wyoming Valley, a trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation, and a director of Wyoming Valley Motor Club, Community Chest and Northeastern Pennsylvania Heart Association.

He has also participated in Wyoming Valley Industrial Fund, Red Cross, and YMCA campaigns.

Honored by Pontiac and General Motors as an outstanding dealer in 1950, he is president of Wyoming Valley Automobile Dealers' Association.

Complete the form

on page 23

## WITH THE FACULTY

### New Members

In addition to Miss Ruth Jessee, whose appointment as head of the new nursing-education program was announced in a recent issue of the "Bulletin", four new teachers joined the faculty at the beginning of the fall term.

They are: Dr. William H. Fisher, named assistant professor of education; Mrs. Nada K. Vujica, librarian; Joseph B. Slamon, '47, instructor in accounting; and William E. Evans, '52, assistant in biology.

Dr. Fisher, granted an Ed.D. by Teachers College, Columbia University, is the son of Charles H. Fisher, widely known Pennsylvania educator who served as president of Bloomsburg Normal School, now Bloomsburg State Teachers College, in the early 1920s.

Born in York, Dr. Fisher attended schools in West Chester and Bloomsburg until his father became president of Western Washington College of Education, Bellingham, Wash. After finishing high school in Bellingham, he entered Western Washington but transferred as a junior to the University of Washington, Seattle, where he later received both his A.B., and Ed.M. degrees.

He has taught in Washington high schools, Fieldston Ethical Schools, New York City; Eastern Washington College of Education, Highlands University, N. M., summer sessions, and Temple University, where he was instructor in education up to June, 1952.

Mrs. Vujica, who became associated with the library staff in 1947 when her husband, Dr. Stanko M. Vujica, joined the faculty to teach philosophy and religion, attended Marywood College, Scranton, during the 1951-52 academic year to work toward a Master's degree in library service. She received the degree last June.

A native of Yugoslavia, she was granted her first Master's degree—in languages—at the University of Zagreb, where her father, Dr. Vladimir Kestercanek, is professor of Croatian and Russian. She was serving as a clerk in the Zagreb library when the Nazis forced her into a labor battalion.

While working for the Nazis in the Alps, she met Dr. Vujica, who had been imprisoned for publishing anti-Nazi articles. They were married in 1946.

Mrs. Vujica succeeds Joseph H. Myers, who has accepted a position in the Scranton Public Library. Both she and Dr. Vujica worked in Brooklyn, N. Y., during the summer.

The appointment of Mr. Slamon is in line with the University of the State of New York's suggestion that Wilkes courses in C. P. A. problems and the like be taught by a C. P. A. He was certified last May.

After receiving a Bucknell degree in 1947, he entered the accounting department of the international General Electric Company and undertook graduate studies at La Salle Extension University.

A veteran of 30 months' overseas service with the Army of the United States during World War II, he plans to continue the practice of accounting in his home, 551 South Franklin street, Wilkes-Barre, and confessedly hopes to find some clients among alumni in business and the professions.

Mr. Evans attended Connecticut Wesleyan University before enrolling at the College. He succeeds Walter E. Mokychic, '50, as instructor in biology.

### Henderson Resigns

Charles N. Henderson, long associated with the College's School of Music, has left the Valley to become



April 22, 1996



University  
Wilkes College — Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18766 717-824-4651

Dear Mrs. Sturdevant —

I am sorry we have little information about the Sturdevant family in our files... a very old name here in Wyoming Valley, which may have "daughters out". I've included what I have re the handsome building, "Sturdevant Hall," on our lovely historic campus in Wilkes-Barre. If I come across anything else, I'll be in touch again.

Betsy B. Cardon — (Wilkes University)

... I sent 4 pages from our Campus descriptions plus info re St. + Poggi arch. firm plus copy of WC Bulletin '52  
... She'd also inquired info fr. Jan Ahlborn —



To Whom It May Concern,  
I am trying to find more information on my Husband,s side of  
the family.I have traced it back as far as :  
Sturdevant Silas Born:12 Jan 1774 in Waybridge,Vermont  
Died:25 Dec 1916 Buried:New Lyme Ohio.  
S-Frazier Emily Scott "Emma" Married;3 Sep 1895  
Born:8 Jan 1773 Died:8 Jan 1926 Ohio.

Children :

- \*M-Sturdevant Frank Born:23 Apr 1896 Died:29 Jan 1960  
S-Bugly Ella
- \*M-Sturdevant Bradley Born:24 Aug 1893 Ohio Died:24 Sep 1943  
St Petersburg Florida Bur:St Petersburg Florida  
S-Hoagland Mayme Alvira Born:4 Jun 1876 Died:23  
Dec 1950 Cleveland,Ohio Bur:St Petersburg,Florida
- \*M-Sturdevant Roy "Gabe" Born:11 Sep 1881 Ohio Died:15 Nov  
1968 Ashtabula,Ohio Bur:Ashtabula,Ohio Edgewood Cemetery.  
S-Anderson Emma Born:1879 Died:1958  
Ashtabula,Ohio Bur Ashtabula,Ohio Edgewood Cemetery
- \*M-Sturdevant Carl Born:7 Sep 1896 Ohio  
S-Sturdevant Mrs.Cora
- \*M-Sturdevant Ted Lee Born:2 Nov 1882 New Lyme,Ohio Died:27  
Oct 1969 Willoughby,Ohio Bur:Willoughby,Ohio 2nd st and Clark  
S-Phillips Stella Elizabeth Marr:19 Apr 1903 Died:5  
Apr 1970 Willoughby,Ohio Bur Willoughby,Ohio Cemetery
- \*F-Sturdevant May Born:8 Dec 1880 Ohio Died:22 Oct 1959  
Orwell,Ohio Bur:  
S-Northway Delos

My husband was:  
m-Sturdevant Gordon Lavern Born:10 Sep 1915  
Cleveland,Ohio Died:2 Dec 1994 Willoughby,Ohio Bur:6 Dec 1994  
Willoughby,Ohio Cemetery Lakeshore Blvd.  
S-Robinson Evelyn Jean: Marr:13 Jun 1941  
Maysville,Ky. born:4 Sep 1923 Cleveland,Ohio

Gordon,s Parent,s were: Ted and Stella Sturdevant.

Any information you can give me will be apreciated..  
My son Mark Lynn Sturdevant Found you for me on the internet.  
Was wondering also What Sturdevant the "Sturdevant Hall"was  
Named for and why?  
Thank you again for any information you can give me.

Sincerely  
Mrs. Gordon L. Sturdevant  
Evelyn L. Robinson Sturdevant over

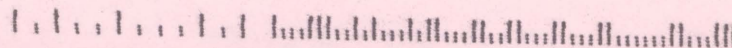


~~Evelyn~~ - Stovermont  
2044 Hubbard Rd.  
Apt 112  
Madison OH 44057



Attention  
Historian

Wilkes University  
Wilkes-Barre Pa 18266  
"Stovermont Hall"





File



Sturdevant

## A Colonel of Excellence

**Z**oom goes the go-cart, racing round the track, pulling a dummy of a visiting team player. And up revs the enthusiasm in the Wilkes stands. At the steering wheel is Colonel Bob.

Homecoming and the thunder of hooves announces Colonel Bob on horseback, while students thunder back their approval.

Or half-time at the Marts Center and onto center court rides Colonel Bob on an eight-foot unicycle to dunk the ball. Up comes the cheer from Wilkes students.

The enthusiasm sticks right on throughout the game.

Sure, the teams have been doing just great this year. But the enthusiasm gets its direction from Colonel Bob.

Colonel Bob Wachowski, 26, played the "Friendly Patriot" at his high school before he came to Wilkes as an undergraduate in

By  
Marlene Mangan '93



1987. When he reached Wilkes, he discovered that no one wanted the job as college mascot. He appealed to the cheerleading coach and won the job without an audition.

With a theatre minor and nine productions under his belt, Wachowski recalls that "My time was divided between working on shows and performing as mascot."

Yet he completed a degree in computer science in 1989, joining the SONY Corporation after graduation.

After three years in the work force, however, Wachowski wanted something different. "I realized I wanted to teach junior high or high school." Back to Wilkes he came, and is now on the road to teacher certification in mathematics. "I could have gotten my degree anywhere but I knew Wilkes and liked the school," he explained.

But when he came back, he was distressed to find student apathy high and fewer students attending athletic events. "When you see students taking study breaks and going down the hall to watch TV, I wish they would take a study break and walk over to Kirby Park or the gym to watch a game," he said.

So he decided to bring his theatre background back to the forefront.

With a new uniform — sporting a Revolutionary-style three-corner hat instead of the round one he wore as an undergraduate — Wachowski polished up his act and led the charge toward student enthusiasm at games.

His act varies from sport to sport.

At football games the Wilkes mascot would grab fans' attention by riding his go-cart and leading the crowd in participation cheers.



During basketball season Colonel Bob would perform cheers during time-outs and ride his unicycle. "When I do the slam dunk, a basketball is thrown from the middle of the court. That act is usually practiced two or three times a week," he commented.

"I enjoy all the sports. I believe every athlete that is out there deserves the support of the school. And as far as performing as mascot I enjoy football and basketball games the most because I have more of a crowd to participate with," he stated.

Whether school spirit is carried over from high school or develops gradually at Wilkes, what

freshmen do with that spirit depends on what's going on around campus. The appearance of a mascot can make the game more enjoyable for the fans who attend — and get that spirit going.

As school mascot, Colonel Bob looks for support from all levels at the University. "The coaches and players have been extremely supportive as well as President Breiseth and other members of the administration." Examples of this support include everything from Jane Lampe-Groh, dean of student affairs, getting the colonel act back on track or Emory Guffrovich, dean of admissions, giving Wachowski a blown up picture of himself in a parade.

The most satisfaction comes from crowd reaction, though. He recalls especially that night at the University of Scranton in 1989 when he rode his unicycle out to midcourt to dunk the basketball. The ball hit the rim and went straight up in the air while Scranton fans started to laugh. "When my unicycle fell, I caught hold of the rim and I grabbed the basketball out of the air and dunked it into the basket. The Wilkes fans went crazy and drowned out the Scranton crowd immediately," he said.

Colonel Bob believes that even though many people on campus don't know his last name he is still leaving a legacy to Wilkes.

"When I leave Wilkes University, hopefully a student body will remain that knows how to cheer at games and they will enjoy doing it without a leader."



STURDEVANT



*Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*  
*Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission*

River Street Historic District

Luzerne County

has been entered in the

*National Register of Historic Places*

under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The National Register of Historic Places, kept by the United States Department of Interior, is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation and includes properties significant in American History, Architecture, Archeology, Engineering and Culture. These resources contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, likely of the State Historic Preservation Officer.

State Historic Preservation Officer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, likely of the Director, Bureau for Historic Preservation.

Director, Bureau for Historic Preservation

September 10, 1985

Date entered