

# Greetings

Carl Ubbelohde

Gladys says that I am to extend greetings to you—the symposium attenders—on behalf of Case Western Reserve University. I am pleased to do so, since it provides me one of the first serious assignments I've had since I commenced retirement almost five years ago. I had often wondered what a university expected of its emeritus professors, and now I know, sort of. Of course, I'm not certain that the University was consulted about this assignment. But whether it was or wasn't, I greet you on behalf of Case Western Reserve University. It's a nice occasion and I'm pleased that you are here.

You've read your invitation and/or your program, and you know that Gladys has designed a fascinating title for this symposium: THE PROMISE OF THE LAND. It's an ambitious and expansive title and to prove the point, sessions have been organized that encompass ideas and events from the 18th century, the 19th century, and our own fast-fading 20th century. That's a wide swath through the American experience.

The 18th century is represented by our country's father, G. Washington, who we remember in this two-hundredth year after his death. George was born on February 22 in 1732; we used to celebrate his birth that day, mostly by going to store sales, in the years before it got amalgamated into the holiday we call "Presidents' Day." George died December 14 in 1799. So he did not live to see the beginning of the nineteenth century. But he had lived through extraordinary times and events. This anniversary year has been somewhat frustrating to those who have led the marking of the historical event. The caretakers at Mount Vernon, we are told, have spent some three million dollars in an effort to put some "sizzle" into Washington's reputation. But it hasn't made much of a difference. Nonetheless, we'll try to help here. After all, George understood the Promise of the Land—at least in terms of speculation. He is reported to have owned some seventy thousand acres of land when he died. He surely must have seen promise in those acres. But I'll leave it to George Knepper and the other presenters of this afternoon session to say what they think of it all.

And then tomorrow morning the topic shifts ahead to the nineteenth century, with James Garfield and Hiram as focal points. Panelists will explain the land and Lawnfield, Garfield's home, and Hiram and the Civil War. And after lunch you'll be fast-forwarded to the twentieth century, for commentary on land, landscaping, and therapy.

It's a rich offering—an overflowing plate. I'm sure you will enjoy it.

I don't mean to fill your plate too full, but I would like to add a few words about Case Western Reserve's Valleevue Farm—where we are right now, and which, in its own ways, provides other illustrations of "The Promise of the Land."

Andrew Squire was the benefactor who bestowed this farm on what was then Flora Stone Mather College in what was then Western Reserve University.

Andrew Squire was an eminent Cleveland corporation lawyer. He had graduated from Hiram College, and in the 19th century fashion, had read law in a Cleveland office before he was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1873. He represented a new kind of lawyer—a corporation lawyer, serving corporate clients, and in time organizing a law partnership that grew to resemble those corporate clients.

He enjoyed enormous success and reputation. His law firm still abides—Squire, Sanders and Dempsey—a very large organization with 150 lawyers locally and 350 world-wide, from New York and Phoenix and Miami to London and Moscow. It is one of the few Cleveland law firms that has retained the names of its founding members, even though Squires and Sanders and Dempsey have been in heaven a long time.

Squires' law activities kept him busy in Cleveland and elsewhere. To provide release from its demands and frustrations, he and his wife developed this farm—a sort of gentleman's and gentlewoman's farm. It's too bad they didn't devise a more imaginative name for it, but the farm was, and is, handsome and it served as a real retreat for them. And it was a real farm, with animals and crops and the rural activities they longed for. They were especially interested in propagating rare plants and herbs. They understood

that this farm land held promise of respite and healing from the brutalities of urban life. And they had money enough to enjoy that respite and healing in an attractive manner.

After his death, in 1934, it was learned that Andrew Squires had stipulated in his will that this farm should become the property of Flora Stone Mather College to be enjoyed as a healthful setting for recreation and refreshment by the young women of that college. No dormitories or classrooms would be constructed. The land would serve for an escape and retreat from the campus in the city.

To some extent it was a gift in memory of his only daughter who had died, many years before, at the age of 17, while attending Harcourt Seminary in Gambier, Ohio. The University, I think, has respected Squires' intent. Protected from too much development and encroachment, the College enjoyed the ruralness of the place. The college women especially enjoyed the facilities of the Pink Pig for overnight retreats. And the college enjoyed the Manor House, an English-style residence Squires had built for his wife one summer while she was in Europe.

Then, of course, in time Flora Stone Mather College was folded into Case Western Reserve University. Valleeview Farm became the property and responsibility of the federated university. The Farm's activities increased: biologists and medical researchers used its facilities; the Manor House became the residence of the Dean of the School of Law. When he became President of the University, he continued to live there, as did his successor. Only in 1987, with the coming of Ag Pytte as president, did the Manor House change in its use. Some small construction increased its usefulness as it became a small conference center. Its original charm is still evident.

The University bought additional acres, to secure the fringes of the property. The ponds and orchards have been cared for. Picnic areas have been developed. This building, the Sheep Barn, was designed as a place for this sort of gathering. The trust that Andrew Squire demonstrated when he gave the Farm to the College has been maintained and broadened to encompass a wider university population. But it still provides a retreat for inspiration and recreation, just as Squires envisioned.

Squires' idea that the land held promise has stayed alive. The promise surrounds us today as we meet for this symposium in this Barn on this Farm.