

## Frederick Dershimer – Barnard House Owner 1944-1957

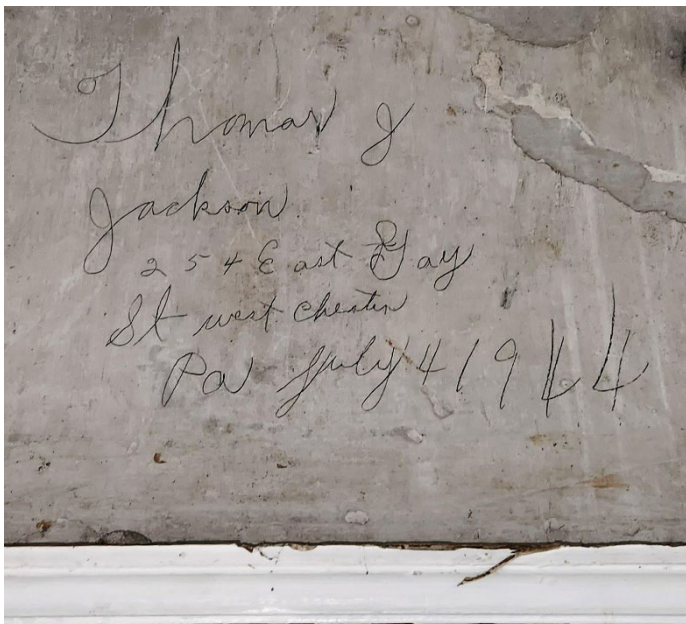
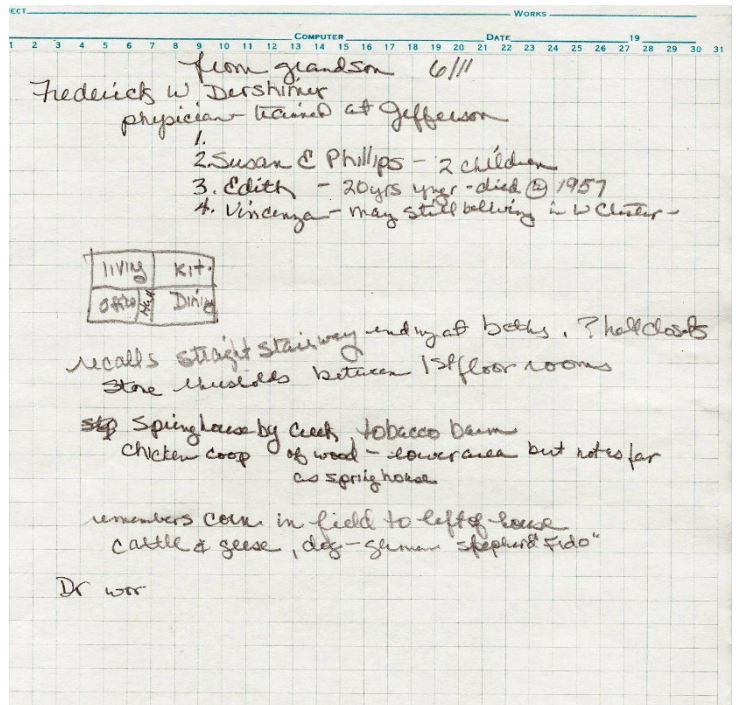
In 1920, Charles D Barnard, grandson of Eusebius, inherited the property. He continued to farm the land while his wife, who did not want to live on a farm, resided at her parents' house in West Chester Borough. Even while members of the Barnard family resided in the Pocopson house, it often had renters/boarders. In 1944 Charles



sold the property to Frederick Dershimer, ending the Barnard family residence after 114 years.

Frederick Dershimer was an Industrial Psychiatrist working for DuPont. He used the property as a 2<sup>nd</sup> residence and retreat.

Dershimer's grandson recalled the four rooms with the 1829 section used as an office and living room. The 1841 section was the kitchen and dining room. Though Dershimer never farmed the land he did make several improvements to the house including central heating and upgraded kitchen and bathroom facilities.



In 2010 when the bookcases were removed from the living room, a contractor's 1944 handwritten note was revealed.

A painting done in 1951 depicts the back of the house, which at the time looked like a garden oasis. A 2024 photo at the same angle looks stark in comparison.



**1. DOES BLOWING OFF STEAM HELP YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?**  
 YES  NO  1-5-54

**Answer to Question No. 1**  
 Yes, according to psychiatrist Frederick Dershimer. He says that coddling troubled people makes them worse. Many of us are too "stable," and always hold in. Furthermore, he says "a couch has no place in a psychiatrist's office."

During his career as a psychiatrist Dershimer made a name for himself. He was quoted numerous times in newspapers across the country highlighting his advice on hiring employees and how to deal with behavioral issues.

that year. Tax exemptions for giving undoubtedly played a large role in this. But there is every evidence that the Americans are still "big-hearted."

No. 3 — Should industry screen out all neurotics?  
 Yes — No —

No, says Dr. Frederick Dershimer, psychiatrist for du Pont. He claims that the most valuable people are sometimes "screwballs." If you employ only normal people, you may have far less trouble. But you may also be screening out geniuses, the kind of people who will make significant discoveries. The best solution for life, as well as for industry, is not to eliminate all the difficult persons, but to make them tolerable enough so that we can enjoy their contributions.

Should you help your child with his homework? What can parents do about a "bad teacher's?"



Edith Gaff

His success in work is contrasted by his struggles in marriage. Dershimer was married four times, even getting a 'quicky divorce' in Las Vegas to marry his third wife Edith Gaff later the same day in 1929. Edith was his wife while he owned the Barnard property. Dershimer retired in 1955; his wife died of cancer in 1957, the same year he sold the Barnard property to Chester County for \$42,500. This sale was the beginning of a new phase in the story of the Eusebius Barnard House.