**The History of the Queen Anne at 580 Prospect Street and**

**the Remarkable Family that called it home for more than a Century**

The same family lived in this impressive Queen Anne house for almost 120 years - and they were a noteworthy group.  Many made important contributions to Maplewood and the greater community, the state, the country and in some cases, the world beyond.

**Benjamin Franklin Jones** (1869-1935), who built 580 Prospect and was the father of Elizabeth Crandall, the last owner, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. to a Methodist minister and his wife. Educated in the public schools, Jones obtain a law degree at NYU in 1890. By 1891 he had partnered with entrepreneur Byron R. Bacon to develop real estate. The *New York Illustrated* reported in 1894 that Bacon, Jones & Co. was "a prosperous firm engaged as real estate brokers and contractors and builders" with the substantial result of acquiring a large first-class patronage" and that "The firm makes a specialty of handling South Orange Heights, Lakewood and L.I. properties, as well City property.”

South Orange Heights, whose appealing name was likely created by developers, was a section of "Montrose Ridge" located on the East side of Prospect Street from about Garfield Place to Madison Avenue.  A 1904 map shows that B.F. Jones had joined several developers that were rapidly building streets, laying out lots and constructing houses. Bacon, Jones & Co. bought a large plot running from Elmwood to Madison. Their prospectus advised buyers to make their fortune through real estate – as “poverty demoralizes.” And stated that they had carefully examined every attractive suburb from Staten Island to Tarrytown and Babylon, L.I. to Morristown, NJ – and they are convinced that for healthfulness, accessibility, and steady, rapid growth, “The Oranges” surpass them all and **this** section – was undoubtedly the most beautiful of all the Oranges.

Byron Bacon built a house for himself at the southernmost part of the area in the mid-1890s followed next to him by his partner B.F. Jones about 1898-1899. Both houses were examples of the Queen Anne style so popular in the era, covered in clapboard and shingle, featuring many windows, some sporting stained glass, towers, and decorative fireplaces, moldings and plasterwork.

Bacon appears to have moved on to other ventures after his house burned to the ground in 1905, but Jones had found his home in Maplewood and would not leave until his death. He continued to sell lots in South Orange Heights and then over the next two decades went on to develop “The Terraces” on the slope of the ridge (Kensington Terrace and North Terrace) with new partner Dr. Francis Parker Knowles.

Toward the millennium, law and politics took more of Benjamin Franklin Jones’ attention. He was admitted to the bar in New York in 1897 and presumably New Jersey soon thereafter and established a law office in Newark. His sights grew beyond the local community and he ran for and won a seat on the New Jersey State Assembly from 1899 to 1901, serving as Speaker of the House (at 30, the youngest to have done so) for the last two years. In 1906 Jones was appointed Orange District Court Judge and in went on to be Essex County counsel in 1911. During the next year he joined former senator Everett Colby, of Orange, to back Theodore Roosevelt during the presidential campaign of 1912, in the local formation of the Progressive Party, dubbed the Bull Moose Party, which challenged the conservative wing of the Republican Party,

Jones used his formidable leadership skills to become an organizer and first president of the Newark Lions Club and later the president of Lions Club International. He saw the work of the Lions as vehicles for the networking of businessmen for community betterment. Another organization that he presided over, was the Boys International Work Council based in Chicago.

Sadly, Benjamin Franklin Jones died after a long illness at the relatively young age of sixty-five in 1935, leaving his wife, Mabel, a 12-year-old son, his namesake Benjamin F., an 11-year- old daughter, Elizabeth and a sister Phoebe, who was also a lawyer – all of whom resided in 580 Prospect. His wife resourcefully was able to manage Jones’ real estate assets with the help of her sister-in-law and the family continued to reside at 580 Prospect and take part in all that Maplewood had to offer.

Benjamin and Elizabeth attended Tuscan School, Maplewood Jr. High School and Columbia High School. At 18, Benjamin began college, but soon responded to the call to serve in World War II. Elizabeth attended Wellesley College and then began medical school, graduating in 1950. In 1947, she married a medical student with great charm and drive, Charles. E. Crandall. Making their home at 580 Prospect, they went on to raise a family and to contribute greatly to the world around them. The tribute to them written when they jointly won the 2010 Maple Leaf award describes their life of service best.

**ELIZABETH JONES CRANDALL, M.D.**

A lifelong resident of Maplewood Elizabeth Jones Crandall is the daughter of Judge Benjamin F. Jones, who also served as the President of Lions Clubs International, and Mabel Stevens Jones. They moved to Maplewood in 1900, building the house in which Elizabeth grew up and then raised her own family. From her parents she learned the importance of community involvement and volunteering. She attended Tuscan School, Maplewood Junior High School and graduated from Columbia High in 1941 where she was active in sports and scouting. She was a freshman at Wellesley College when the bombs dropped on Pearl Harbor. For three years the girls doubled up in the dormitories as the campus was transformed into a training facility for officers shipping out to Europe and the Pacific.

After graduating from Wellesley, she went to medical school, graduating from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1950. It was at P &S that she met the older brother of one of her Wellesley friends, Charles Eben Crandall, who was a returning combat veteran of seven invasions in the Central Pacific Theater. They married in 1947 and raised four fine children: Marilyn, “Steve”, David , and Richard (now deceased). After an internship at Bellevue Hospital in Internal Medicine and a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Hospital Center at Orange, she worked as a physician for New Jersey Bell Telephone Company for 10 years. In the early 1960s, Liz turned from industrial medicine to focus on the health of children in South Orange and Maplewood. She worked for 20 years at the South Orange Keep Well Clinic. She was the **school physician** for the South **Orange-Maplewood School System for 20** years including 7 years as chief. She served the same function for Our Lady of Sorrows for over 30 years.

In the mid-1970s Liz moved into insurance medicine, serving as **Medical Director to the Prudential Insurance** Company for 10 years, the first woman to do so. This was followed by 6 years as Chief Medical Director for the American International Group. During this time she was a **medical consultant to United States Life, Royal Life, Essex Life, Golden Life, and American Centurian**. Since the end of her residency in 1953, Liz has been actively involved in the community. She was **Maplewood's representative to the board of Planned Parenthood** in the 1950s and 60s where she was instrumental in reorganizing clinical services. Recognizing the importance of physical activity towards the health and well being of people, she joined the **Maplewood Recreation Advisory Committee** in 1960 and **served for 10 years as Chair from 1980-1990**. Early activities of this committee spearheaded the efforts to build a community pool. Liz became a member of the **Maplewood Pool Advisory Committee on** which she served for 25 years. In the 1970s when concerns about drug abuse among young people began to surface, Liz became a **founding member of Maplewood's Drug Abuse Committee**. After 4 years on this committee she served for 8 years on the **Family Services and Child Guidance Committees** assuring that the children of the community received services from appropriately qualified providers.

Liz's longest and most passionate commitment has been to the **South Mountain YMCA**. She has served as a board member since 1978 with the vision of creating a full service facility for the South Orange-Maplewood community. In addition she has been a long time board member of the **Metropolitan YMCA of the Oranges**. In 1983 Liz was returning from a trip to California to help with care for her first grandchild when it occurred to her that the next generation of both parent - working families were going to need quality childcare.

She envisioned the YMCA as a resource for her community and went on to raise the funding, build the facilities, and develop the programs to bring this effort to fruition. Despite these successes, she has not given up on her dream of a full service Y.

She has been a **volunteer with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts** for over thirty years **serving as a troop leader** (Girls Scouts), **health and safely inspector for Essex County and Northern New Jersey Boy Scout Council**, and **providing free physical screening** for children participating in scouting activities.

A long-time member of the **South Orange (now South Orange-Vailsburg) United Methodist Church**, she was the first woman to serve **as President of the Board of Trustees.**

Liz currently serves as a **member of the Board of Trustees of Winchester Gardens** where she **chairs the Resident Quality of Life Committee.**

In 1989 Liz was a **recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Maplewood Chamber of Commerce**. It is no wonder that she is the recipient of the Maple Leaf Award for volunteerism as is demonstrated by her lifelong commitment to serve her community, from the newest to the oldest resident.

**CHARLES E CRANDALL, M.D.**

This 89 year old Warrior grew up in Jersey City and then Kearny, New Jersey. His family consisted of his parents, a younger sister, and various Aunts and Uncles. In both towns, he was challenged by local “bullies”, and he had to fight to stay alive. This survival skill was honed by one of his Uncles, a WWI veteran, who helped him to become quite a proficient boxer, a sport he later pursued in College. After graduation from Kearny High School he was fortunate to matriculate at Princeton University and to graduate in the War Class of 1942 having been given a draft deferment until graduation.

In September 1942 he joined the Navy spending his early time at Notre Dame and Cornell. Following this he was assigned to the Amphibious Operations at Solomons Island Maryland and then to deadly service in the Central Pacific working with underwater demolition teams and Marine Assault Units. Death was a constant reminder of mortality. The experience of violent loss of so many of his brothers and friends has affected him the rest of his life.

After the War Charlie transferred to the Submarine Service where he served as a weekend warrior both while he continued his studies at medical school and after he had graduated. In medical school at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons he had the great good fortune to fall in love with a Maplewood girl with whom he has spent 63 deliciously happy years.

He began his medical career in surgery and eventually changed his practice to medicine and cardiology. Before he began practicing in New York he was elected Chief of the Ewing Cardiology Unit at the Hospital Center at Orange, NJ.

After many positive years of being a Boy Scout and then having achieved the rank of **Eagle Scout,** it seemed quite natural forCharlie to be **devoted to the Boy Scouts throughout his life**. He has headed various committees for the **Orange Mountain Council, the Essex County Council** and is still a member of the **Northern New Jersey Council**. Loving adventure he took regional older scouts on a white water Canadian Canoe trip, and was one of the oldest leaders to take a group to the Philmont Scout Reservation. He also taught winter camping and survival skills and with his wife inspected numerous scout camps and examined countless young men headed to scout camps under the purview of Essex County. He was active in **saving from development Glen Gray Camp** one of the favorite camps of Essex County scouts. Glen Gray is now run by the scouts and the camp transferred to Bergen County as preserved open space. More recently he worked with a group which **saved the Hilltop in Verona** from development and provides everyone with open land in a State Park.

In addition to his life long devoted service to scouting, Charlie has been active as a **mid-Atlantic Chairman of fund raising for his College**, a strong supporter and **past President of Kiwanis**, and a **long time Secretary of the N.J. Branch of the American Trauma Society.** In another volunteer activity, he spent much time teaching cardiopulmonary resuscitation to physicians, nurses, and rescue squad personnel. He was involved in helping to **establish the relationship between voluntary and paid rescue squads in the State of New Jersey.**

For about 20 years Charlie was **physician for the athletic teams of Columbia High School** following in the footsteps of beloved physician, Tyce Grinwis. Along with other volunteer physicians he and his wife vaccinated the entire Village of Maplewood against Poliomyelitis. Currently he is still active in **scouting, Kiwanis,** andsupportive of his wife's efforts on behalf of **the YMCA.** For his lifelong devoted service and assistance to others, a grateful community says thank you with the Maple Leaf Award.

Charlie Crandall, who was such an indomitable force passed away on April 2017. His wife Elizabeth, a woman of strength and insight, goes in her mid-nineties, leaving her beloved home at 580 Prospect with regret in 2018.