

Dr. Horace Rainsford Drew continued



The Pride of '96  
Jacksonville's first organized football team.

Dr. Horace Drew, AKA known as "Ducky" Drew was known nationally for his brilliant collegiate football career at The University of The South, Sewanee, Tn. After graduating and returning to Jacksonville, he was able to put together the first organized team in the city even though many residents had never even seen a football game before. The Pride of '96 played teams from towns like Fernandina and Savannah and intense rivalries quickly developed. Many of these first football players would go on to become some of Jacksonville's most distinguished citizens. Source; Jody Nickless, who gallantly tried to save the Drew Mansion, as the house was lovingly named.

The Dr. Horace Drew residence, 245 West 3rd Street shown at the right in its glorious heyday, known fondly as the Drew Mansion or Castle, was built ca 1908/9. Horace Drew's great-granddaughter, Shelly Drew Tipping states that the design was inspired by two homes, his grandfather George Fairbanks Mediterranean Revival mansion in Fernandina Beach, known as "Fairbanks Folly" and a stockbroker's Tudor home he had seen pictured in a "Northern Magazine". Dr. Drew took his inspirations to Klutho protege Leroy Sheftal who then designed the 4500 square foot home you see today from across Klutho Park. The home borrows style elements from Tudor Revival, Queen Anne and Spanish Colonial Revival. Underneath its stone facade it is mainly a wooden structure, with a three story open tower and a French tile roof.



Sadly with age and neglect, the house became one of the 10 most threatened buildings in Jacksonville. Then a miracle happened, the severely damaged mansion was purchased by Michael Bourre of Bourre Construction. The whole neighborhood, its organizations and many other Jacksonville entities breathed a huge sigh of relief. Mr. Bourre, a charming and friendly soul, intends to invest a very large sum of money to restore and replicate where possible, Dr. Drew's beautiful home. We believe Mr. Bourre and Dr. Drew are soulmates. It was said of Drew by his son and namesake, "Although not an outwardly religious man, my father possessed a deep devotion to God which carried him through life". It seems we should now refer to her as the Drew-Bourre Mansion.

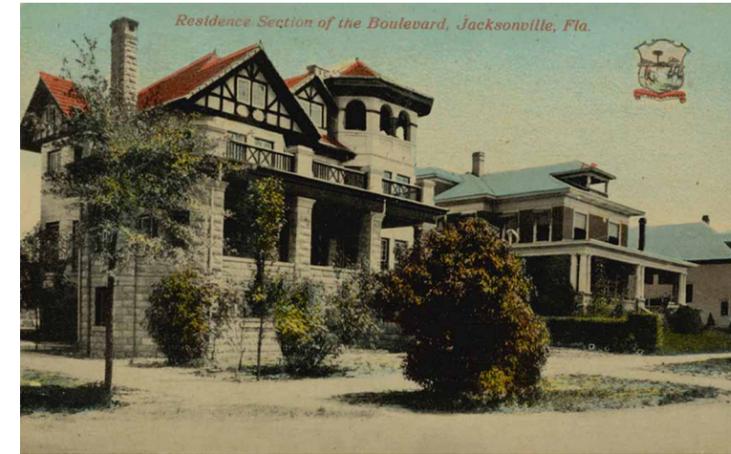
We thank Horace Drew Jr., Shelly Drew Tipping and Jody Nickless for the material within these articles.

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### Ghost of the Past - Thomas Hardy

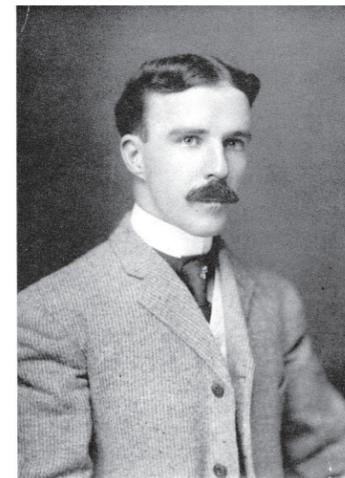
We two kept house, the Past and I,  
The Past and I;  
I tended while it hovered nigh,  
Leaving me never alone.  
It was a spectral housekeeping  
Where fell no jarring tone,  
As strange, as still a housekeeping  
As ever has been known.

# Springfield Sampler May 2015



*Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul  
Oliver Wendell Holmes*

### Dr. Horace Rainsford Drew



Dr. Drew was born "on the banks of the St. John's River" on July 6th 1876. His father Horace Drew, was CEO of the well-known H. & W. B. Drew and Company, a family owned printing business started in 1855 by his grandfather, an early Jacksonville pioneer, Columbus Drew. His mother, Gertrude Fairbanks, was the daughter of Major George Rainsford Fairbanks, a philanthropist, historian and pioneer in the citrus industry.

In the early 1890s Horace joined the newly-organized Jacksonville Light Infantry (J.L.I.), part of Roosevelt's famous Rough Riders, at that time more social than military in nature. The war with Spain over Cuba came in 1898 and Horace felt obligated to volunteer with the J.L.I., which was against his father's desire that he attend college. The brief war caught the J.L.I. at the port of embarkation at Tampa without casualties other than the victims of yellow fever and unsanitary camp facilities.

He was cut off from funds due to his father's continuing ire over his war service but, he attended medical college at Sewanee, Tennessee (the University of the South) with the help of Major George Rainsford Fairbanks, his grandfather, for whom he is named. Major Fairbanks was a founder of this school.

On May 3rd 1901, a moss-mattress factory caught fire in the western part of the town. Horace, who had just graduated from Sewanee Medical College, went out ahead of the fire to help where he could. At the prim home of his Maiden Aunt Alice, he finally convinced her to flee for her life and asked what she would most like to save. She replied the many family portraits hanging on her walls. When he went around swiftly pulling the portraits down she scolded him severely that he would "ruin her walls". Neither the walls nor the house were standing a few minutes later.

Although largely destroyed by the great fire, Jacksonville, in a few years, was rebuilt better than ever and Horace began his medical practice in a small office over a drug store. He made his house calls by horse and buggy. The financial ability of a patient was never a factor. Whether rich or poor and without regard to color or creed each patient received the same careful treatment. No patient was ever refused, regardless of the hour of the day or night, even alcoholics and drug addicts were treated with patience and kindness. X-ray techniques were in a pioneer state and were dangerous to the physician due to the constant exposure to the rays. Horace recognized the need of X-ray for proper diagnosis and owned and operated his own machine for many years of his early practice. The scars on the backs of his hands and arms bore mute testimony of this selfless sacrifice, made for his patients' welfare.

Realizing the dangers of smoking, Horace warned his patients and his family against tobacco. He himself was unable to stop smoking, and died in 1951 at the age of 74 years, of emphysema.

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“What is a bull dozer doing in your historic district?”  
National Trust

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION PRESS

JUNE, 1989

"Just Say NO" to demolition



On May 5th, J. E. McDonald, Jr., chief of city HUD housing safety division, announced plans to proceed with the demolition of two condemned structures at 1419 Silver Street and 1315-17 Walnut Street within 45 days.

The Historic Landmarks Commission will be requesting the Housing Safety Division not to demolish these structures. According to Dora Carver, President of SPAR, "These two houses are

contributing structures to our historic district. They are not in the best condition, but they are still a vital part of our neighborhood."

Dora also expressed concern that the Fencing Ordinance has not been enforced. The Fencing Ordinance was passed in December of 1988. This Ordinance permitted fencing to be utilized as an alternative to demolition in the Springfield Historic District.

Dora stated, "The Fencing Ordinance was

enacted by our city councilperson, Sandra Darling, because of the large number of demolitions in the historic district in the near past. While the National Trust was touring the neighborhood last October, their question was, 'What is a bulldozer doing in your historic district?' The uniqueness of our historic district is not the occasional beautifully remodeled, grand home, it is the vast numbers of historic structures, our sidewalks, our trees and our parks."

SPAR and SNHS have

contacted the National Trust for Historic Preservation in an effort to come up with a potential solution for the demolition of homes in our neighborhood. If you would like to find out more information about what you can do to help, attend the next SPAR meeting on Thursday, June 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the corner of 5th and Liberty. You may also attend the next meeting of the Historic Landmarks Commission on Wednesday, June 14th at 4:00 p.m. Mr. McDonald has been asked to attend that meeting.

Below are the two houses for which they so bravely fought



1315-17 Walnut ca 1912. Builder Charles Nicholson



1419 Silver Street ca. 1904.  
Residence of Frank A. Ellis, wife Nellie  
Watchmaker, Greenleaf & Crosby Co.

It is sad that these houses were lost, one distinctively Prairie and the other with many elements of prefire architecture.

SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION PRESS

JULY, 1989

Springfield fights demolition battle



Dora Carver, President of SPAR, first became aware that Springfield would be undergoing one of their biggest challenges on the morning of May 26, 1989. She explains, "I received a call from Kathryn Cossman about the article in the Metro section of the Florida Times Union 'Demolition Plan Targets Crack Houses.' We both knew where the wrecking crews would be coming soon."

Although no city officials would claim that crack is only a problem in Springfield, residents knew that if a media stand were to be taken by the City Government, it would happen right on our front doorsteps. And, although nobody was prepared for the speed with which this plan was implemented, SPAR feared that two of the first houses to be demolished would be at 1419 Silver Street and 1315-17 Walnut Street. These were two structures that the Jacksonville Historic Landmarks' Commission had

asked the Housing Safety Division of HUD to fence, in accordance with the City Ordinance passed in December 1988.

The SPAR Board met on Thursday, June 8th. They agreed that all Board Members would contact anyone they knew who could put pressure on the City to delay demolitions until the National Trust study and the Springfield District Plan was completed. It is expected that these studies would create plans, uses and alternatives for abandoned houses. The SPAR Board also voted to execute a contract to purchase 1419 Silver and 1315-17 Walnut Streets, in the hopes of delaying demolitions.

These rescue efforts were not to be brought about, however. Dora explains, "On June 12th, standing in my kitchen on the phone, I was surprised with the news that houses were coming down in

Springfield. I immediately called my husband, Bud Frazier and Steve Douglas, attorney and new Springfield resident, and asked for help."

On June 13th, SPAR filed suit for an injunction against the City. A temporary injunction was entered that morning and a copy of an executed contract for the purchase of 1419 Silver Street by SPAR

was delivered to the City. However, another hearing was held later that afternoon, and the Judge dissolved the temporary injunction. 1419 Silver Street and 1315-17 Walnut Street were demolished by that afternoon. Dora states that contact had been made with the owner of the Walnut Street home. He stated that he would have donated that property to SPAR if contacted in time. Unfortunately, although every effort had been made to contact him, he is an out of town truck driver.

For the next few days, headlines were made as Sandra

Darling, our city council representative, attempted to pass an Ordinance requiring a stay in demolitions for 18 months, until the studies were completed. Springfield residents turned out in droves to City Council meetings, in support of Ms. Darling's efforts. A caravan was organized for City Council members to tour the neighborhood. Yard signs were put in front of houses that were once condemned, but now restored and occupied. SPAR members, residents and members of other preservation organizations barged the City Council and the Mayor's office with letters and calls.

Dora is confident that an enlightened city administration will listen to the organized cries of preservationists and a solution will be forthcoming. At the present time, the lawsuit is still pending that seeks a permanent injunction. According to Dora, "Our efforts really paid off. I want to thank every preservationist who made a phone call, wrote a letter, attended a meeting, or put a yard sign in front of their house."

"...we both knew where the wrecking crews would be coming soon."

-Dora Carver, President, SPAR

The newspapers featured on these two pages, courtesy of Springfield Improvement Association and Archives, were issued by SPAR. The Preservation Press was published in the 1980/90s. The Springfield in which the members of SPAR lived at that time was far different from what we know today. We have luxury in comparison. The organization was fiercely protective of this special square mile and they were determined to save the area, which was (and still is) so important not just to the dwellers therein but, to all of Jacksonville.

SPAR was made up of hardy souls who saw only beauty in spite of the degradation that the neighborhood was experiencing, that they lived with day by day. Some of those souls, Rita Reagan and Michael Trautmann. There were many others including Davin Cilley who loved this neighborhood so much that he donated part of his real estate earnings to restoration efforts. The huge task done by volunteers, to photograph, research and document our neighborhood was incredible!

Note the date of the newspapers: 1989, four years after the survey and historical research was done to try to achieve the National Historic Designation. Between 1985 and 1992, when designation was achieved, the area lost well over 100 houses, some so beautiful. On the SIAA web page, you will see notations saying "No photo available" or "No property data available." We have found that many of these, where the notation occurs, did not even make it through the survey and went in as an address only. Main Street suffered terribly. We cannot put back what was lost but, we can try and hold on to what we have. Every day now, another house is being renovated and buildings that seemed beyond repair, are being brought back.

Note what Dora Carver said in the June newspaper:

**"The uniqueness of our historic district is not the occasional beautifully remodeled grand home, it is the vast numbers of historic structures, our sidewalks, our trees, and our parks."**