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THE OLD RED ROSE INN AND ITS HISTORY – Building In New Hands After Being Used as a Painters' Colony

For the first time since the art colony dream of "Fred" Phillips was brought to an untimely end by his death, an army of workmen is at present employed upon the estate of the old Red Rose Inn. It has been decided by the new owner that the quaint and beautiful old hostelry shall not be demolished. In fact, it is to be left practically undisturbed, and the modern and artistic mansion which is to be erected by Mr. Kerbaugh will stand near the celebrated inn. This decision has brought great satisfaction to those of the vicinity who are romantically inclined, and to all lovers of the historic and the picturesque who were interested in the original art colony conception.

After the death of Frederick Phillips brought to an end his dream of forming this beautiful estate into a wonderful American Stoke Pogis, fashioned after the Stoke Pogis of England, the place was purchased by Anthony J. Drexel. The latter, five years ago, leased it to three young women artists – Elizabeth Shippen Green, Violet Oakley and Jessie Wilcox Smith. Although there was no further development in the building of the artists' homes that were to have been scattered over the rolling acres of the estate, it appeared for a time after the young women artists moved to the place that on a small scale Phillips' dream was to be realized. Not only did they occupy the celebrated inn, but the barn in the rear of the old mansion was transformed into model studios. Skylights were furnished and all the paraphernalia of modern artists was introduced; with large side windows in the barn that enframed an undulating landscape of green fields, flower gardens and winding white roads bordered with green hedges. Delighting in such natural advantages, the three young artists have since worked diligently, producing the decorative and quaint illustrations that embellish many of the leading magazines of the country.

CURIOUS PUBLIC BARRED – At the risk of too frequent interruption from curious sightseers, familiar with the name of the old Stoke Pogis, compelled the artists to be very exclusive during the term of their lease, the place has been zealously guarded and closed to the public during the past five years. Now all this is changed; sightseer's journey for miles roundabout to note the change in progress on the estate and speculation is rife among those who were especially interested in the estate in the past as to what will be done with the noted Red Rose Inn and its immediate surroundings.

Only 20 acres of land now remain of the 800 over which "the dreamer" planned the wonderful co-operative colony of artists. For this 205 acres, with its beautiful landscape gardening, its rolling fields left to Nature's attractions, its famous old buildings and modern additions, the new owner, H.S. Kerbaugh, has paid \$200,000 – approximately the same sum paid by the former owner, Anthony J. Drexel, who bought the property five years ago from the Moro Phillips estate. The other 600 acres of this tract being placed upon the market at the same time by the Phillips estate probably reduced the price that might otherwise have been paid for the 25 acres immediately surrounding the celebrated hostelry.

Since the property at Rosemont of S.M. Vauclain of Baldwin's Locomotive works, has been bisected by the plans of the Philadelphia and Western Railroad, it has been well

known that his attention was turned to the Red Rose Inn, and the natural and artificial beauties by which it is surrounded, as an ideal country seat, and speculation has been rife as to whether he or Mr. Kerbaugh, the other perspective purchaser, would finally secure it.

ITS OWNER AND DUKEDOM – The estate, with its original 800 acres, was first brought prominently before the public when it became the country seat of the late Moro Philips. At that time his sons were all great whips and hunters to whom such an estate would appeal.

When Moro Phillips died his millions were left to the children, with "Fred" Phillips as his executor. The oldest son, Moro Phillips, 3d, who claimed to have discovered that his father was of noble Spanish origin, claimed the title of the Duke of Moro and moved his family and his title to the Isle of Wight, where he bought an estate, erected a castle and began a life of almost feudal elegance. The fact that he was a great artist by nature and that tourists go miles to see his estate and his castle on the little British Island fired his brother Frederick with ambition to carry out his American Stoke Newington scheme.

The heroic lawsuit, which was the next step that kept public attention directed to the Phillips name, consisted in a claim brought by the other children against "Fred," contending that they had not received sufficient interest on their property, and saying that he put too much money into his dream of Stoke Newington. After suits and countersuits the owner of Red Rose Inn and its 800 acres was acquitted of all misdirection of money, and his art colony dream continued to make rapid progress toward fulfillment until his death.

Then, after so long holding the public attention, Red Rose Inn with 205 acres, was bought by Anthony J. Drexel, and now that the purchase has been made by Mr. Kerbaugh and new ideas in the development of the estate are being rapidly pushed forward, continual wonderment is expressed as to the probable improvements and the final disposition of Red Rose Inn.

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