

CHESTER TIMES – September 27, 1913 – W. R. AUSTIN'S FINE ESTATE – It Contains Over 500 Acres and Embraces Historic Land Laid Out By Penn's Commissioners

Work will shortly be started on the three contiguous tracts of land in Newtown Township this county, embracing in all 525 acres, to transform the property into an estate. This land was purchased recently by William R. Austin of the Baldwin Locomotive Works a resident of Rosemont. Included in the purchase are the J. Hector McNeal property of 150 acres on the Leopard Road; the James P. Calvert tract of 175 acres at the intersection of Goshen and Newtown Square Roads bought from John D. Blatz.

The last property has historic significance. It was a part of the town site laid out by William Penn's Commissioners, in ten acre town lots. Just across the road from the Blatz farm in a brick structure, built by Penn's Commissioners with bricks brought from England for the purpose. This was also one of the camp grounds for the Continental army after the Battle of the Brandywine.

While the price paid for the property has not been made public, it is known that land in the immediate neighborhood is held at from \$800 to \$1,000 an acre. The tracts bought by Mr. Austin are not far from the country places of George H. Earle, Jr., Carlton Yarnall and Dr. J. William White.

The close proximity of Mr. Austin's proposed estate to that of Mr. Earle's handsome country estate, brings to mind a story told by Mr. Earle himself of how he came to purchase a large tract of land and transform it into an estate. Those who have seen Mr. Earle's place know that it is one of the handsomest in the county and is much admired.

When quite a young man at College, Mr. Earle was being constantly reminded by his English friends who were attending the same school that they saw no country estate like "we have in dear old London" don't you know.

The story goes that all that time he made up his mind that if the time ever came in his life when he could afford it he would have an estate such as his English schoolmaster told of and then he would invite them to come to this country to see it. This promise he kept as he acquired the means to buy the large tract of land out in Radnor Township and Upper Darby Township.

Mr. Earle's place has a beautiful artificial lake located in a valley between two high points of his land. The banks on either side are filled with beautiful flowers during the summer and spring seasons. In the fall the leaves on the trees which line the sides and almost surround the lake give color to the scene and make up for the beauty of the flowers.

RUMORS OF LARGE DEALS – There are rumors going about of several large deals in valuable river front real estate, but there is nothing definite to give out at this time, according to those best informed. It is said that the prospects are bright for the changing of hands of more than 150 acres of the most valuable river front property, for the purpose of locating in this city new industries of large proportions. If these deals are consummated, employment will be given to several hundred additional men and will mean much to the growth and development of the city.

A well-known real estate man says that it is an assured fact that a tract of eighty acres in the borough of Eddystone has been sold, but that he is not at liberty to give out the name of the purchaser for the present. There is an intimation that the Baldwin Locomotive Company has acquired the land.