

Franklin Augustus Seiberling, Jr. (1908-1990)

Franklin Augustus Seiberling, Jr. was born on May 25, 1908. He was the only Seiberling child who spent his youth at Stan Hywet Hall. After graduating from The Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, Franklin attended Princeton University, where he majored in history and graduated in 1931.

After Princeton, he enrolled in a graduate school program in art history at the University of Chicago. He spent two years traveling throughout Europe, but his trip ended abruptly in 1936 when he returned home with a severe case of pleurisy. After a yearlong recovery, Franklin returned to the University of Chicago to pursue a Ph.D. in Art History. At the same time, Franklin accepted a position at the Toledo Museum of Art.

In 1943, he resigned to join the U.S. Army and was stationed in Italy and Austria during his service during World War II. After being discharged, he accepted a position as a professor of art history at The Ohio State University. Franklin completed his Ph.D. in 1948 from the University of Chicago. In 1959, he accepted a position as the director of the School of Art & Art History at the University of Iowa, where he remained until his retirement in 1976.

Franklin married Nancy Pendleton Jackson on May 1, 1941. The couple had met while working at the Toledo Museum of Art. Franklin and Nancy had four children: Grace, born July 21, 1943; Franklin Augustus III, born February 15, 1945; Christopher, born November 3, 1946; and Angela, born March 21, 1948.

A lifelong art lover, Franklin devoted a lot of time during the formative years of the Stan Hywet Hall Foundation, assisting the collections department in their research of the home's furnishings and decor. Franklin and Nancy also strongly encouraged the Stan Hywet Hall Foundation to adhere more accurately to Warren Manning's original landscape plan for the estate.

Nancy Seiberling was the co-founder of Project GREEN, a community initiative and nonprofit investing in public landscaping projects and promoting environmental awareness in the greater Iowa City area. She was also instrumental in the creation of the Johnson County Heritage Trust, now Bur Oak Land Trust. Its mission is to *"To protect and conserve the natural areas of Johnson and surrounding counties for future generations."*

Franklin passed away on January 24, 1990 from cancer, and his wife, Nancy, died in 2015.