Clifford Paul

Clan William

The Chaffeur and the Millionaire

by Lori Hahn



Katherine Butterworh & Husband William

Clifford Paul was a budding artist. He was shown in many amateur and professional photo shows. His "claim to fame," was not his photographic prowess, however. It was his day-job that caught attention. He was the personal chaffeur to Katherine Deere Butterworth, granddaughter of the John Deere Tractor Works fortune.

Clifford was born 14 Feb 1892 in Canton, Illinois. He married Hulda Holm on 17 Jul 1916 in Moline, Illinois, where they resided. They had two children, Ethel Paul Armstrong and Maj Robert Lorin Paul (an inventor).

Clifford participated heavily in the art world in Moline and exhibited and sold his works for decades. Having the Butterworth connection didn't hurt.

Now, we switch gears to John Deere, a young man who was struggling in his native Vermont, and relocated in 1836 to Illinois to find his way. His blacksmithing skills were much needed, and he thrived. According to John Deere history, the settlers in Illinois found "breaking" land an arduous task. He developed a new kind of plow capable of the tough task. He was able to make 100 plows a year by 1841, and in 1843, he partnered with a fellow to produce more plows. That partnership ended in 1848, and that's when he relocated to Moline, Illinois for its water, coal and cheaper transportation. A legend was born as were several new tools for agriculture.

His son Charles Deere took over the operations of the family business and took over as President and Chairman after John Deere's death. Charles and his wife had two daughters, Katherine and Anna.

Charles built homes for both, located on Millionaire's Row in Moline. Anna went on to marry William Wiman, son of a successful NYC businessman and who was in his own right quite a catch. He was formerly an electrical engineer who was previously an apprentice to Thomas Edison and later worked for John Deere Co.



Katherine married William Butterworth, son of a former U.S. Congressman, and an attorney and businessman. Butterworth would become president of John Deere after the death of Katherine's father, Charles. They would have no children but were philanthropic to their community.

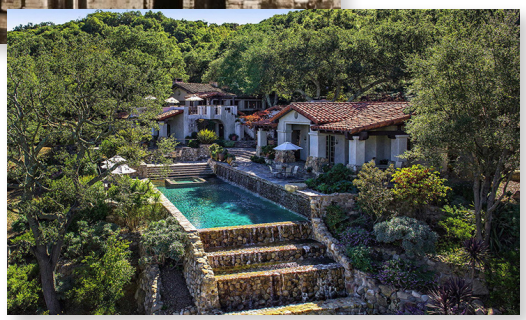
Under Butterworth's watch, the business expanded with the purchase of The Waterloo Gasoline Engine Works, which included its Waterloo Boy Tractor in 1918. This greatly expanded Deere's business and contributed to the growth and prosperity of Waterloo, Iowa. (I live in Cedar Falls, an adjoining town—and while growing up just about everybody's dad I knew either worked for Deere or worked for a company that did something for Deere.)

The couple would spend winters in Santa Barbara, California, but return to Illinois for the summers. The Butterworth home in Santa Barbara is considered one of the most beautiful of the old homes still in existence there.

Personal employees, including the Pauls, would make the trek with them each season. The Butterworths were known to be very good to their staff. The Paul California home was a quite modest one, some distance from the Butterworth home. Like the Butterworths, the Pauls gave of themselves. Clifford belonged to the Sons of Veterans and Hulda was volunteer leader at Trinity Lutheran, Bethesda Hospital, and with the PTA.

William Butterworth died in 1936. Mrs. Butterworth died in 1954. Once she passed away, Clifford retired and dedicated himself full-time to photography. They remained in Santa Barbara, and he died there in 1960. His wife, Hulda, lived until 1973. Katherine Butterworth left an estate of $6 million, and Clifford left $6,000.





The Butterworth Santa Barbara House