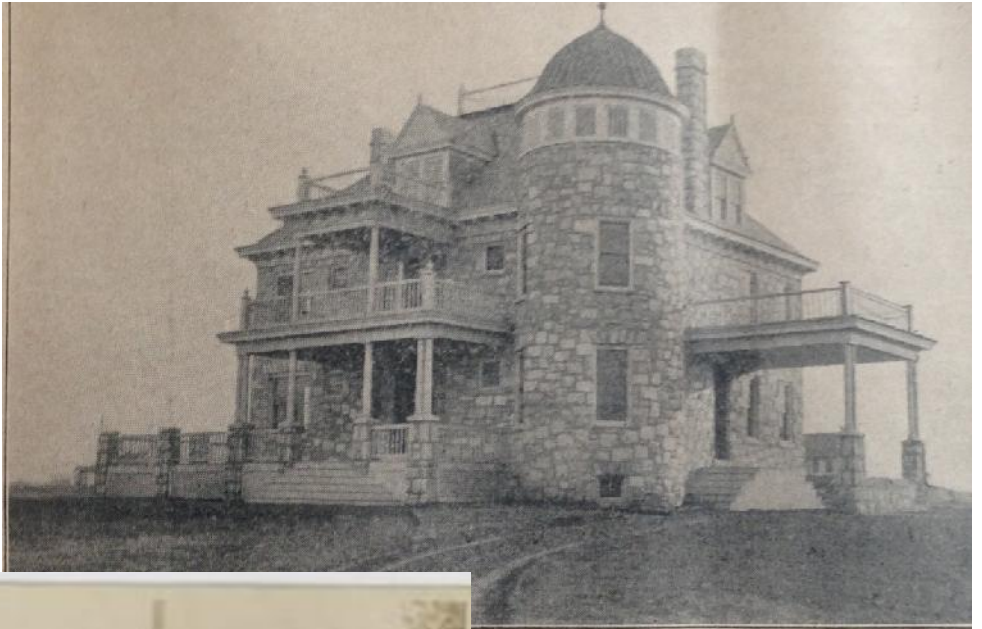


VICTORIAN ERA HISTORY

With the beautiful countryside and resort town which was served by the railroad, 1889 marked the advent of real estate developers, who published their own newspapers to promote sales. The town became one of the fastest growing communities in the Philadelphia area.

Samuel Cord, the most notable of the developers published the Laurel Springs Courier. Cord built his own large and beautifully landscaped Gray Stone Mansion. It was the showplace of the community and later became Borough Hall at West Atlantic and Tomlinson Avenues. The Cord Mansion is currently being restored to once again serve as Laurel Springs'



Borough Hall. The developers named it Laurel Springs due to the heavy growth of laurel along the lake which is fed with clear mineral and sweet water springs. William D. Youker operated the first post office in town. He worked for Ephraim Tomlinson as miller at Laurel Mills and left in 1897 to open a general store on the corner of East Atlantic and Washington Avenues, where the War Memorial now stands, the structure was moved and still

stands at 237 Broadway. Later he built a grocery store at 322-324 Washington Avenue which housed the first Bell Telephone Exchange.

An early town leader and fire chief for 27 years, Philip Davey built his home at 503 West Stafford Avenue in 1890; Davey was one of Philadelphia's first photo-engravers and conducted business there for 50 years. Many early pictures of Laurel Springs, often our only records, exist in good condition thanks to the skill and effort of this man.

