



Harry S. Sands and Helen Turner Sands - *Philanthropy*

Harry S. Sands and Helen Turner Sands by the terms of their Last Wills and Testaments established a charitable trust to be used in West Virginia for public charitable and benevolent purposes as determined from time to time by their trustee, then Security Trust Company. A separate provision of Mr. Sands' Will required that their farm, Sandscrest, be devoted to some educational, scientific, religious, charitable or other public benevolent use. Today, the Sandscrest farm is owned by the Sandscrest Foundation, Inc., which was created after their deaths by the Episcopal Diocese of the State of West Virginia as a memorial to Harry S. and Helen Turner Sands and to fulfill their wishes. The Sandscrest farm is used as a religious and spiritual retreat under the direction of the Episcopal Diocese of the State of West Virginia. Other parts of the Sandscrest farm were conveyed to the Ohio River Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Through the years more than \$7 million has been given to West Virginia charitable organizations in the Wheeling area, including the Sandscrest Foundation, Inc. for the support of Sandscrest.

Harry S. Sands was born in Fairmont, West Virginia, and educated at the Fairmont Normal School (now Fairmont State College) and Cornell University where he received a degree in electrical engineering, Class of 1892, less than 10 years after the degree was first established at Cornell. In 1893 Harry S. Sands married Helen Virginia Turner from Baltimore and in 1894 moved to Wheeling where his older brother, Lawrence, was then a banker. Harry S. Sands was a pioneer in the electrical business in Wheeling and involved in establishing the city's first electric power company. In 1896 Harry S. Sands founded Sands Electric and

Manufacturing Co. and set about electrifying coal mines and industrial plants in the Wheeling area. His entrepreneurial spirit led him into many endeavors including becoming involved with bringing the first X-ray machine to the area and manufacturing and distributing other electrical devices for consumer and residential uses. In addition to being the owner of Sands Electric, he was vice president and director of Security Trust Company of Wheeling, treasurer of Penn Mold & Manufacturing Company (a manufacturer of ingot molds and iron castings), president of the Carle Electric Construction Company of Akron, Ohio, and vice president of the Engineering & Equipment Company of Wheeling (dealer for Cadillac and LaSalle cars).

Harry S. Sands and Helen Turner Sands lived at 209 South Front Street on Wheeling Island and were very active at St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church, with Harry serving on the Vestry for many years. They had no children. Harry S. and Helen Turner Sands also directed in their Wills that annual gifts be made for 20 years following their deaths to each of St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church in Wheeling, St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal Church in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and Christ Protestant Episcopal Church in Fairmont, West Virginia.

Beginning in 1919 Harry S. Sands acquired from Alexander McColloch, a member of the pioneer McColloch family that first emigrated from the South Branch of the Potomac River to settle the Wheeling area in 1770, a farm that would grow to more than 300 acres. For the next 30 years this "model" farm, which they named "Sandscrest", was electrified, modernized and expanded. Harry S. and Helen Turner Sands spent the rest of their lives at Sandscrest, where they raised prized Holstein dairy cattle and conducted other noted farming endeavors.