

Archelaus Pharo Notes

The following notes were made by Steve Dodson, who visited Betsy Ingersoll (great-granddaughter of Archelaus Pharo) on Aug. 3 1999. Betsy and her family summered at the Archelaus Pharo home in Beach Haven, over a hundred years after its construction.

Archelaus Pharo attended the Republican national convention in Chicago in 1860. But he voted against Lincoln. As a Quaker, Pharo was an abolitionist, and Lincoln was a moderate. Pharo's likeliest choice would have been Salmon P. Chase.

Archelaus Pharo married Louisa Willits, who was his first cousin. Archelaus's father, Timothy, married Hannah Willits. They weren't first cousins or second cousins, but they did have a common ancestor, and that ancestor was a Willets with an "e".

The family doesn't know how Archelaus got his name. Archelaus was a son of Herrod. and Herrod was a bad guy, the one who washed his hands of Christ and so indirectly contributed to his death. The family couldn't understand why the parents would name him Archelaus. Archelaus is Hebrew.

The school where Archelaus was educated was West Town Friend's School, NOT Friend's School at West Town.

The Ashurst quote: (Betsy's aunt told her this) Louisa Phebe Pharo (daughter of Archelaus) married Dr. Samuel Ashurst, and she wrote to her girlfriend and said, "Guess what!? I'm engaged to be married to Dr. Samuel Ashurst. He is fat, and he is ugly, but mother says he is a good Christian gentleman."

When financial opportunities dried up in Tuckerton, Walter Pharo moved to Phila. where he started the Bel(mont)..? Iron works. Before that he was swindled by a business partner and it took him ten years to recover. He wouldn't marry his fiancee until he was financially sound. So it was a ten year engagement. She was 29 when they finally married. I believe he was considerably older.

Betsy's Grandmother Browning bought a house caddie corner from Louella Cottage (The Pharo residence), but it was across Beach Ave. Betsy's grandmother Wilson-Pharo thought she made a mistake because she was "living with the natives." Betsy said Wilson-Pharo may have been something of a snob. Her people built the Baldwin Hotel and the Episcopalian church. Betsy tried to backpedal a little when I laughed. She said the criticism may also have been due to the fact that the houses on the bay side of Beach Ave. weren't worth as much as the ones on the ocean side. She tried to make it sound like maybe it was financial concern. But no. Betsy was the one who thought her grandmother Wilson-Pharo may have been a snob. I reassured her that some of the Pineys were relatively coarse people, "lowland hillbillies."

Betsy's mother grew up being closer to the Willits side of the family rather than the Pharo side.

Betsy said her grandmother Wilson-Pharo was no relation to Walter Pharo. I don't know how that could be, but that's what she said.

Additional Resources for the Pharo family:

The list of Tuckerton Ships

“The History of Little Egg Harbor” by Leah Blackman
(history and genealogy)

“The Tuckerton Railroad” by John Brinckmann

“Eighteen Miles of History” by John Baily Lloyd (chapter 12)

“The Price Sisters’ Diaries”

Eleanor and Florence Price, whose grandmother was Eliza Pharo

Eliza Pharo’s Travel Journal from 1849

The Diary of Jennie N. Pharo from 1936