

Edith B. Wetherill (1880-1944)

Edith Bucknell Wetherill was born in 1880 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Emma (Ward) and William Bucknell, a founder and namesake of Bucknell University.¹ Her mother was one of the survivors of the Titanic which tragically sank off the coast of Newfoundland in April of 1912.²

In 1902, Edith married Samuel Price Wetherill, Jr. at Philadelphia's First Baptist Church. They traveled abroad before settling in Edgewater Park, New Jersey.³ The couple had three children. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Wetherill came from a family prominent in chemical manufacturing and leaders in the production of white lead in the United States.⁴ Well-known in business and social circles, Wetherill was president of the Wetherill Engineering Co., the Hyper Humus Co., and the Regional Planning Federation.⁵

In 1925, Wetherill's sister, Christine Wetherill Stevenson founded the Philadelphia Art Alliance.⁶ The Wetherill family mansion, often used for art performances and exhibitions, was sold to the Art Alliance in 1926. Wetherill served as president of the Alliance for several years before retiring in 1936.⁷

In 1939, Edith divorced her husband in Miami, Florida.⁸ In 1941, she resided at "Sunnyhill" in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.⁹

During her lifetime, Edith B. Wetherill was devoted to art and exhibited her oil paintings at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the Philadelphia Plastic Club. She was a member of the Fairmount Park Art Association's entertainment committee (1903).¹⁰ She also held memberships with the National Society of Colonial Dames, Academy of Natural Sciences,

¹ "Col. S.P. Wetherill to Wed Baltimore Divorcee Soon," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), Tue, Aug 5, 1941, 2.

² "Mrs. Emma W. Bucknell," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), Wed, Jun 29, 1927, 28.

³ "Wetherill-Bucknell," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), Sun, Jun 8, 1902, 7.

⁴ Edgar Fahs Smith, "Charles Mayer Wetherill (1825-1971)" *Journal of Chemical Education*, Vol. 6, (Easton, PA: Division of Chemical Education, American Chemical Society, 1929) *1078*.

⁵ "Col. S.P. Wetherill to Wed Baltimore Divorcee Soon,"

⁶ Esther M. Klein, *Fairmount Park: A History and A Guidebook* (Bryn Mawr, PA: Harcum Junior College Press, 1974) 156.

⁷ "House of Wetherill Stands Divided Over Redecoration of Art Alliance," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), Fri, Mar 13, 1936, 14.

⁸ "Col. S.P. Wetherill to Wed Baltimore Divorcee Soon,"

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Fairmount Park Art Association Thirty-First Annual Report, (Philadelphia: The Association, 1903) 7.



Sedgley Club, Pennsylvania Museum and Genealogical Society, National Society of the Magna Charta Dames and the Merion Cricket Club.¹¹

Edith Bucknell Wetherill died in 1944. She was 64 years old.

¹¹ "Mrs. Wetherill Dies at Age of 64," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Tue, Oct 17, 1944, 10.