

Charles Crocker (1822-1888)

Charles Crocker founded the Central Pacific Railroad and Wells Fargo Bank. Crocker's estate has been valued at about 400 million dollars at the time of his death in 1888.

George Crocker

George Crocker was born in Sacramento, California, in 1856, the youngest of four children of Charles Crocker. At the end of the nineteenth century, he moved to New York City.

His main endeavors were directed to running and expanding many of the businesses in which his father had invested including banks, railroads, chemicals, sugar, gas, coal, iron and land companies.

George Crocker, along with his wife, decided that they should have a country seat outside of New York and, in 1901, Crocker purchased Darlington estate with 1,100 acres of land.

Darlington Mansion was built between 1902 and 1907. For his architect, Crocker choose James Brite. Workers began to arrive in the spring of 1902. Many of these were Italians. Upon its completion in 1907, Darlington Mansion was praised as one of the masterpieces of American architecture and a "futuristic marvel of modern technology of its time."

George Crocker died in 1909. Proceeds from the sale of his New York City and Darlington homes went to George Crocker's special research fund given to Columbia University for the search for the cause, cure and prevention of cancer.

James Wall Finn

The ceiling of the library in Darlington Mansion is painted after the style of the Italian Renaissance by Tiffany Studios' James Wall Finn who was a muralist of note in the early nineteenth century.

James Wall Finn was known as one of the finest interior decorative painters in North America. He completed large-scale works of art for millionaires like John Jacob Astor IV, Payne Whitney, J.P. Morgan, and Thomas Fortune Ryan. Some of Finn's most enduring creations, however, were an assortment of murals he painted for the New York Public Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building at 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.

John H. Elliott

The 75-room, three-story country estate of George Crocker has been recognized as an architecturally-outstanding, early-20th century mansion. Built between 1902 and 1907, the mansion features elaborate, ornamental interior wood carvings throughout -- on the walls, ceilings, stairways, archways, columns and mantels. All of this exquisite work was hand done, over a four-year period, by Philadelphia master wood carver John H. Elliott. His work, among other master pieces includes the Library of Congress and Saint John the Divine Cathedral.