

### **Comments Regarding The Page Chapel Photo Circa 1900**

That picture was taken some considerable time after the "chapel" was built. Page's mansion was built probably some time before his purchase of the VAH property, which would date it some time in the 1890's. Original pictures of the house show it with a "piazza" (complete with hammock for the great man himself) on the end. This porch was subsequently removed when the so-called "chapel" was built as an addition to the house on that end. Phyllis Page (daughter) in her photo albums always refers to the structure as the library, sometimes as the "library-music room". In a letter she wrote to her dad in 1913 bemoaning the fact that he hadn't written her while she was away at school, she supposed that he was too busy "with the farm and the library", so I would suggest a likely construction date of around that year. I believe it became a chapel only after the estate was sold to the Dominicans, although it might have been the scene of some services held there for Page's wife, who converted to Catholicism. (The Page family was Episcopalian, and as far as I know, attended services in Pompton Lakes. According to family legend, Nina Page became something of a religious nut, traipsing around to visit all manner of shrines on her trips to Europe. In all fairness, this might have had something to do with her health, which was none too robust. Page engaged the services of a full-time nurse for her for several years before her death in 1915.) I will have more pictures for you at Wednesday's meeting, and they will include relevant views of the mansion.