The legacy of Sebastian Mueller and Eden Hall Farm

Sebastian Mueller was a man of unquestionable energy and dedication. He came to Pittsburgh from his native Germany in 1884, at the age of 24, to work for his cousin Henry J. Heinz in his fledgling food processing operation. A few years later, with the H. J. Heinz Company prospering, Mr. Mueller married Elizabeth Heinz.

Mr. Mueller spent more than five decades working for what was then called “The House of Heinz.” He headed the company’s far-flung manufacturing operations, served on its board of directors and “ran the shop” during Mr. Heinz’s frequent sojourns.

Mr. Mueller won the respect and gratitude of not only the company’s founder but also its legion of working women. The Muellers were generous in providing these young women with medical care and financial assistance, long before corporate health care plans or government assistance were the norm.

Having no heirs, Mr. Mueller willed his entire estate, including his summer home in Gibsonia to benefit women. Known as the Eden Hall Farm, the resort serves as a vacation and respite destination for working women.

The scope of Mr. Mueller’s will was broadened in 1983, when the Eden Hall Foundation was established as an additional but separate organization to further Mr. Mueller’s interests in other “charitable purposes.”

As Chatham University receives the remarkable gift of Eden Hall Farm, we pledge to honor the legacy of Sebastian Mueller by transforming these lands into a campus that will support, promote and empower women from this community and around the world.

EDEN HALL FOUNDATION  chatham UNIVERSITY