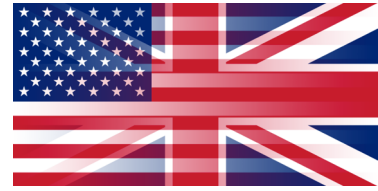


Dr. George Snow Isham, Builder of Chicago's Isham Mansion



Dr. George Snow Isham, like his father Dr. Ralph N. Isham, was one of Chicago's most socially prominent physicians and surgeons.

The Gold Coast French chateau-esque mansion at 1340 North State Parkway—designed at the turn of the 20th century by architect James Gamble Rogers—saw many dramatic changes over less than a century.

During their all-too-short tenure in the home, the Ishams entertained President Theodore Roosevelt and arctic explorer Admiral Robert Peary among others. Isham died in 1926, and during the Great Depression the home was divided into apartments.

In the 1940s and '50s, it was restored to its former splendor as a home for 2 consecutive owner families.

From its 1959 purchase by Hugh Hefner until the mid 1970s, it gained fame (or infamy, depending on one's point of view) as the original Playboy Mansion. After Hefner moved to the west coast, the home became known as Hefner Hall, when it was a dormitory and studios for the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

In 1993, the mansion was again sold, gutted, and converted into 4 multi-million-dollar condominiums by architect David Adler.



John Isham of Barnstable,
Massachusetts 1654-1713
m 1687 Jane Parker

Isaac Isham 1692/3-1771
m 1716 Abigail Lumbert

Joseph Isham 1704/5-98
(**New England Ishams**)

John Isham 1721-1802
m1 1751 Dorothy Foote
(m2 1792 Esther (Chapman)
Annable)

Timothy Isham 1725-1812
(**Tasmanian Ishams**)

Samuel 1752-1827
(**Isham Park &
Lincoln Ishams**)



Noah Isham 1764-1819
m 1786 Anna Lambert

Nelson 1805-95
m 1830 Delia Snell

Dr. Ralph N. 1831-1904
m 1856 Katherine Ellen Snow

DR. GEORGE SNOW ISHAM
1859-1926, Builder of
Isham Mansion, Chicago (right)
m 1892 Katherine Porter (left)



Sources: Edward Paul Isham, An Index of the Ishams in England and America, November 1984. 2. Wikipedia article on the Astor Street District at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astor_Street_District. Like many articles, this one erroneously gives the builder's name as George Swift Isham—there was no such person. Apparently, many assumed Isham was related to (as, in fact, he was—though via the Ishams)—or confused him with—another prominent Chicagoan of the previous generation, Edward Swift Isham. Robert Todd Lincoln's law partner. In reality, the man known as Dr. George S. Isham was named after his maternal grandfather, George Washington Snow. See <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com>. 3. The Original Playboy Mansion on Chicago Architecture & Cityscape at <http://chicago-architecture-jyoti.blogspot.com/2009/03/original-playboy-mansion.html>. 4. Photo of George Snow Isham Home (aka the original Playboy Mansion) from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Original_Playboy_Mansion.jpg