

## From The Grove Archives

### Kennicott House Chandeliers

When Steve Swanson began as the Director of The Grove, he found a beautiful brass chandelier hanging in the great room of the Redfield Estate. He said it looked very small in the space it was occupying, so he took it down and stored it away for a “rainy” day.

Last year, Steve brought the chandelier to the Archives Building addition and hung it up. It was the chandelier that he found in the Redfield Great Room, many years before. He said this chandelier once belonged to Mr. Edward Scott Beck, after whom the Beck Room in the Kennicott House was named. Mr. Beck, as you may recall, was the Managing Editor of the *Chicago Tribune* and, at one time, was married to both Cora Frances Reilly (1872- 1899), Alice Kennicott Reilly’s daughter and years later, to Grace Redfield (1866- 1928), one of Cora Kennicott Redfield’s daughters.



As archivist, I was able to locate a photograph in our collection that showed a Kennicott gathering in the Beck Room, circa 1955. Hiram L. Kennicott, the last Kennicott to reside in the Kennicott House and his son, Hiram, are both seen in this picture. Also seen in the picture, is a chandelier identical to the one Steve brought to the Archives addition.

Then more excitement happened! Approximately one month ago, a gentleman walked into the Interpretative Center with a brass chandelier and donated it to The Grove. Imagine our surprise and delight when we realized that it was identical to the chandelier we already had. We had a pair! The one we just received was very tarnished and thanks to Bob Novotny, Grove staff member, it was polished and then both chandeliers were re-wired, and new candle cups were bought for the arms. Mr. Beck must have had two chandeliers in the Beck room and now so did we!

On June 6, 2017, both chandeliers were re-hung in the Beck Room. For the first time in approximately 50 years the chandeliers are reunited, and as you can see, they look beautiful. Steve said that he is delighted that hanging these chandeliers will be his last official job as Grove Director.

Thanks Steve for another job well done!

Elizabeth Kopp, Grove Archivist

