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The Vanderbilt Mansions

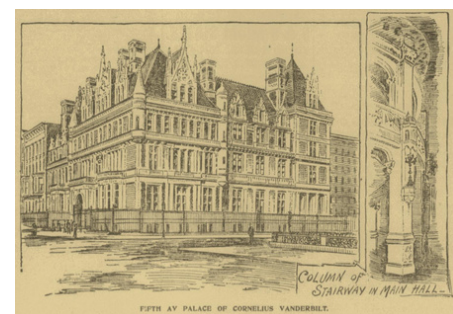
BY HEATHER HAUNERT

One of the wealthiest families of the Gilded Age was the Vanderbilts. Their fortune came from the shipping and railroad empires built by the family patriarch, Cornelius Vanderbilt. The father of the Vanderbilts was the richest American until his death in 1877.

The Vanderbilts had extravagant homes dotting the Eastern seaboard. From summer cottages to country estates, newspapers of the time loved highlighting the Vanderbilts and their abodes.

New York City Homes & Mansions

The Vanderbilt family came a long way. Their humble beginnings started in a modest home on Staten Island. With their mansions that took over Fifth Avenue, the Vanderbilts knew how to shock and awe the masses with their New York City mansions. Most of these palatial homes have been demolished, but their memory survives in historical newspapers.



The Breakers, Newport, Rhode Island

This extravagant family had summer cottages that were the epitome of luxury. Their incredible mansion in Newport is called The Breakers. The original home burned down, and Cornelius rebuilt it using steel to be "fireproof." The unbelievable mansion boasts 70 rooms and was completed in 1895 to the tune of over 12 million dollars!



Biltmore Estate, North Carolina

Finished in 1895, this stunning country estate is 175,000 square feet. That's more than FOUR ACRES of floor space! It has 250 rooms and a whopping 43 bathrooms. The Biltmore name is fashioned from the land of George Vanderbilt's ancestors - the Netherlands. [Read the whole article about the Biltmore HERE.](#)

Newspapers love to follow the lives of the rich and famous. Discover the homes of other tycoons from the Gilded Age like Astor, Rockefeller, and Carnegie in historical newspapers in our collection at NewspaperArchive.

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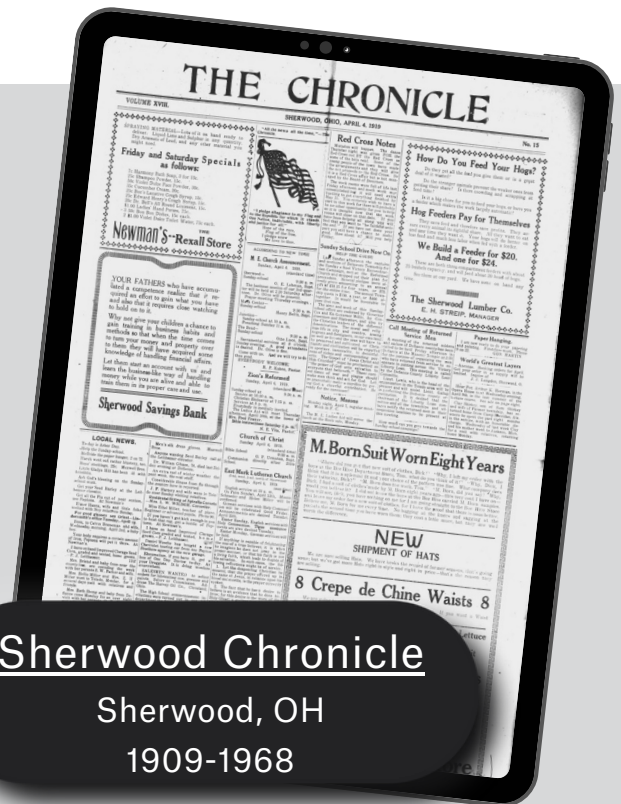
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