

# AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL • THESSALONICA, GREECE

New York office: 45 East 65th Street, New York 21, N.Y.

## *News-Letter*

October 1956

This letter goes to you at the beginning of the new School year. When you receive it, some 200 Greek boys from the mountain villages of Macedonia and other parts of Greece will be gathering for their year's training at the American Farm School.

This is a family letter. We mean it is intended for you, who for years have supported the work of the School by sharing with your gifts year by year, and by your interest in its progress. This letter is not intended as a solicitation, but is by way of a report to you on the affairs of the School for the past year.

Last year our unrestricted contributions from all sources were \$60,212. This is the money on which we rely to keep the School going. Through its farm operations, the School is about 2/3rds self-supporting, meaning every dollar contributed can be said to do the work of three.

In addition, substantial sums were received during the year for special projects. Among them were:

(a) A gift to finish the irrigation system and purchase additional needed farm equipment - \$15,100.

(b) For the purchase of additional real estate vitally needed to increase productive farm lands and for training a larger number of boys - \$22,250.

(c) For staff housing - \$16,000.

(d) For salary and equipment for a visiting teacher to follow-up the work of our graduates in their home villages - \$ 5,000.

These gifts have met very urgent needs.

Other gifts have been received for scholarships, for a team of horses, a bull calf, trees, athletic equipment, books, magazines and clothing. Since the institution is not just a School

but a good sized farm community, we make use of a great variety of practical goods and equipment.

The pressing needs for which we are seeking funds for the coming year are:

1. SCHOLARSHIPS: It costs \$425. to put a boy through one year at the School. Of this we ask the boy to pay \$125. for his board and lodging, but many of them, perhaps most of them, cannot afford this sum on the meager cash income of a small Greek farmer.

2. TEACHERS SALARIES: Since the war our main effort has been to rebuild and enlarge the School plant and equipment which are now in excellent condition. Meanwhile, our very loyal staff have been getting along on inadequate salaries and we are planning an all-out effort this year to raise the salaries to a level more nearly in line with their value to the School.

In a great Christian enterprise like the American Farm School, it is the dedicated lives of those who carry on, that make its work really worthwhile. This has never been more completely demonstrated than by the leadership at the School.

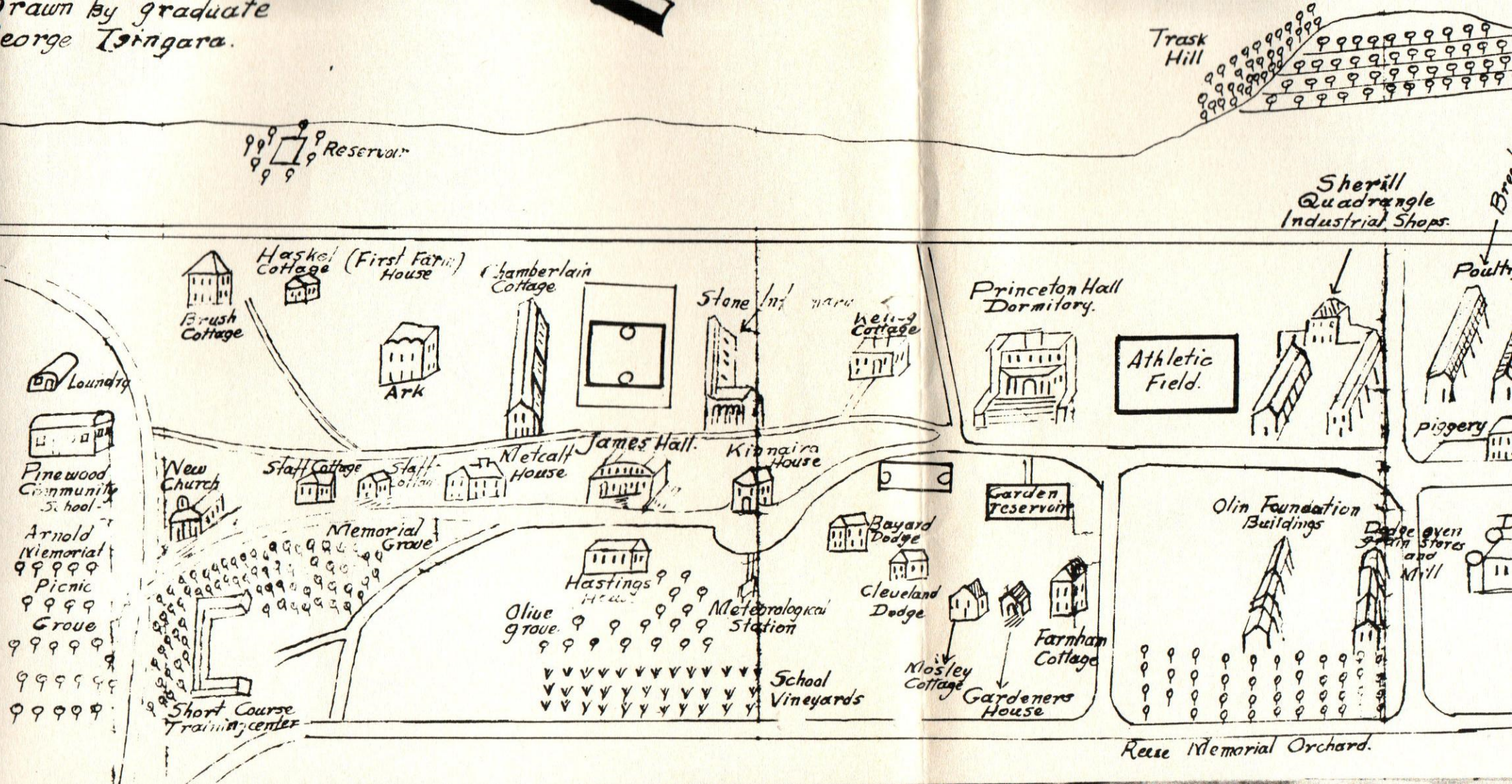
First, it was Dr. John Henry House, the Founder, a man of great faith, who with his wife, had the courage to begin the work and carry it on against almost insuperable odds.

Second, it was Dr. Charles House and his wife Ann. Charles House is an engineer and a builder among other things, and has carried through the building program that has given us the great School plant we have today. He is one of the most loved and respected men in all of Greece.

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Drawn by graduate  
George Tsingara.





Third, we now have at the head of the School, Bruce and Elizabeth Lansdale, a young well-trained and completely dedicated couple of great ability.

But this letter is getting too long as family letters have a way of doing.

In conclusion, may we invite you as a partner in this Christian enterprise to write to us now or when you feel in a mood, and give us any suggestions or ideas you may have that you believe will help to make this a better, finer service.

*Craig R. Smith*  
President  
Board of Trustees

#### NEWS ITEMS

During the past year, two new Trustees have joined our group - Mr. John B. Lewis of New York City and Mr. Andrew G. Carey of Westport, Conn.

In the summer of 1955 a Survey was made of the operations at the School. This last summer a study has been made of the work at the New York office. The report of which is now in the hands of the Executive Committee.

Following is an excerpt from a letter received from Bruce M. Lansdale, Director at the School, on the departure of the Cornell Group.

"The Cornell Group has just left the School in good style after doing an excellent job on our building. It was a great challenge to have them around and have a chance to share in their thoughts as well as their activities."

#### AN INSPIRING LETTER

Joel Van Wymen, Ramsey, New Jersey, one of the boys of the Cornell Group, brought back with him a Greek boy, who was his room mate while they worked at the American Farm School. It seemed to us to be a heart warming project to have this American boy raising the funds to bring to this country a Greek boy in

order that he might attend school here. Quotations from a letter from Joel's father:

"Joel has just brought George Ierommimon, his room mate home from the American Farm School in Salonica, Greece. George had a tuition scholarship to a small college in Idaho but no travel money.

"By soliciting American students abroad, Joel raised enough money to get George this far but there is still need for warm winter clothes, books and a little reserve.

"George's visit made a terrific impact on our community. When we were finally able to determine that George would be here, in company with Joel, we decided to enlist the support of the community by having an open house to meet the two boys. Three factors were important in the success achieved; our minister, a Greek woman who lives in town, and our local newspaper.

"Our minister was deeply moved by the incident; by Joel's adoption and love for George; by our willingness to accept his judgment; and by your confidence and trust in the boys. He spoke about it for several minutes during his announcements and urged people to attend the open house. He also referred to the boys in his sermon.

"The local paper carried a couple reports of Joel's trip and was enthusiastic. It carried a public invitation with a picture of George in dancing costume. We also mailed out 150 printed invitations.

"Upon reading the paper, a Greek speaking lady in town called. She wanted to bring some friends including some from New York, 25 miles away. She also persuaded a Greek caterer to provide some delicacies.

"The outpouring of affection and love was quite unexpected. The boys and I stood on the receiving line for about four hours while 250 visitors called to express their good wishes. We had constructed a rainbow arch between two chests in the dining room with a pot of gold at one end. That night we counted six hundred dollars."