delighted to know that his former home is being used for just that purpose today.

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Tom Solon is the historical architect at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and project architect for the Arisbe *rehabilitation. This article is based on a speech he gave at the building's dedication ceremonies held on September 10, 1998.*

Photos by the author.

Keri Jean

Charles S. Peirce

Charles Peirce was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on September 10, 1839. By the age of 16 Charles had enrolled at Harvard. There he received an undergraduate degree and an M.A. From Harvard he went on to attend the new Lawrence Scientific School and earned a B.S. in chemistry.

Peirce pursued his interest in philosophy, logic, and methodology contemporaneously with his scientific education. During the Civil War, Peirce was a regular aide for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. From there he embarked upon a career that would take him from chemistry into astronomy, geodesy (the mathematical measurement of the earth's surface), metrology (the science of measurement), and spectroscopy (the study of the light spectrum). Peirce lectured on ephilosophy and logic at Harvard and Johns Hopkins, though he was never granted a full professorship at either institution.

To the philosophical world, Charles Peirce is considered the father of pragmatism, a method of sorting out conceptual confusions by relating meaning to consequences. While still in Cambridge he met with the Metaphysical Club whose members consisted of famous philosophers such as Oliver Wendell Holmes, Chauncey Wright, and William James. With these men Peirce developed the theory of pragmatism that would later develop into a school. The idea of pragmatism is considered by some philosophers to be a uniquely American style of philosophy.

Peirce worked for the Harvard observatory from 1867-1875 and was appointed superintendent of a survey within the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (USC&GS) in 1867. From research accomplished at the observatory emerged Peirce's only published work, *Photometric Researches.* By 1872 he was in charge of the pendulum and gravity operations within the USC&GS. With the Coastal Survey he gained world recognition for his pendulum work. While with the USC&GS he created the quincuncial map projection in 1876, which allowed for an accurate projection of the earth's surface on a flat map. This cartographic tool is still used today as an international air route chart. Peirce also determined the length of a meter from a wavelength of light in 1879 and in 1884 he was assigned special assistant to gravity research with the USC&GS. After Congress discontinued funding the pendulum studies in 1891 he focused mainly on writing.

One of Peirce's projects in mathematics during this later period was a series of "existential graphs." The significance of these existential graphs, however, was not recognized until the development of a computer-based representation of graphical inference. A version of his graphs is currently being used by computer scientists around the world as a knowledge representation schema for artificial intelligence applications.

On April 19, 1914, he died of cancer surrounded by piles of unpublished works. Harvard purchased many of these papers from his wife, Juliette. Almost two decades after Peirce had died unappreciated, two American philosophers, Charles Hawthorne and Paul Weiss, began to publish his writings in 1931. Universities throughout the world have since created establishments such as the Peirce Edition Project at Purdue University of Indiana. Scholars today have just begun to take account of Peirce's uncanny propensity to suggest scientific and philosophical themes a century ahead of their day.

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