



## Book about pantries is store of knowledge

Seiberling descendant includes look at Stan Hywet's

By **Mary Beth Breckenridge**  
Beacon Journal staff writer

Catherine Seiberling Pond has a passion for pantries.

You might think that's expected, given that she descended from a family known for entertaining on a grand scale at its elegant Stan Hywet Hall. But in truth, she doesn't remember being inside the locally famous mansion before a second-grade school trip, and

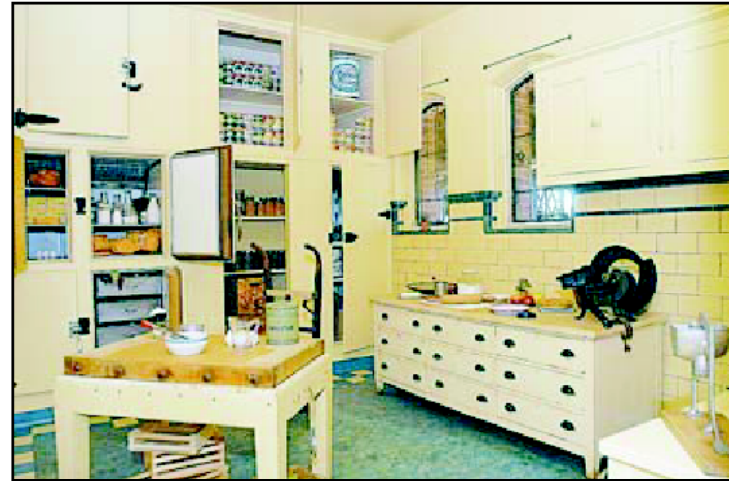


**Catherine Seiberling Pond**

she was in college before she understood the estate's significance or even knew her great-grandfather F.A. Seiberling co-founded Goodyear.

Rather, Pond's affection is rooted in the childhood memories of her grandparents' pantry. It was a place where the trappings of elaborate Victorian-style entertaining rested behind glass-front cupboard doors, a place that nurtured a child's curiosity.

The interest that was sparked there led her to write *The Pantry: Its History and Modern Uses*, a book released last month by Gibbs-Smith, Publisher. It's both a look at how this utilitarian space has evolved in American homes



Daniel Milner for Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

**Catherine Seiberling Pond writes about pantries such as this one at Stan Hywet Hall in *The Pantry: Its History and Modern Uses*.**

and a tribute to its place in our psyche. And yes, it includes photos and information on the pantries of Stan Hywet, where Pond served an internship that started her on her career path as an architectural historian.

Pond spent her childhood in a postwar house in West Akron, where the kitchen was

small and the closest thing to a pantry was a broom closet. But she fondly remembers the butler's pantry in the 1923 home of her grandparents, James Penfield and Harriet Seiberling.

That room, between the kitchen and dining rooms, was

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# Pantry

Rooms of childhood  
held treats, author says

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almost as big as the kitchen and held such intriguing pieces as colored glassware and finger bowls. It also held the stuff of every child's fascination: a big can of Charles Chips and, every Christmas, a tin of ginger cookies made from an old family recipe.

"I just remember going in and getting cookies and looking around," she said in a phone interview from her New Hampshire home, an 1813 Federal-style house to which she and her husband have added two pantries modeled on her grandparents'.

Pantries, Pond said, were integral storage spaces in American homes until refrigeration and other modern methods of food preservation

rendered them largely unnecessary. They were so common that the old housekeeping books she read in her research invariably included a chapter on keeping a pantry.

Today, "I think there's a lot of nostalgia around the pantry," she said. It was the place where Grandma worked and the target of childhood food raids. Pond said she found many references to pantries in poems and other literary works, references that evoked memories of food, comfort and coziness.

Perhaps that's why so many present-day homeowners, whose homes are equipped with enormous kitchens, still want pantries. "It's just a piece of our past that we've shoved aside" and now want to reclaim, she said.

More about *The Pantry* and its author can be found at [www.catherinepond.com](http://www.catherinepond.com). Pond also writes a blog at [www.inthepantry.blogspot.com](http://www.inthepantry.blogspot.com).

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