

KEARNEY CASTLE



GENERAL PHIL KEARNEY'S home, "Belle Grove," was completed shortly before the beginning of the Civil War in 1861. The castle was a replica of a French chateau that the General had admired on a trip abroad. He intended to retire and spend the remainder of his life. The war came, meanwhile, and he lost his life on the field of battle. Constructed of red brick the old castle with its towering spire was long a landmark for Passaic River captains and a stopping place for visitors to Kearny. The

castle overlooking the Passaic was set back from the road now called Belgrove Drive, and in the center of its sweeping lawns it was a picturesque bit of old Europe brought to this country. Descendants of General Kearney lived in "Belle Grove" for years following the General's death. After they left the place, it was occupied by a caretaker and his family. In 1926 the property was sold and the graceful old castle, which had fallen into semi-decay and disrepair, was torn down to make room for a real estate development.