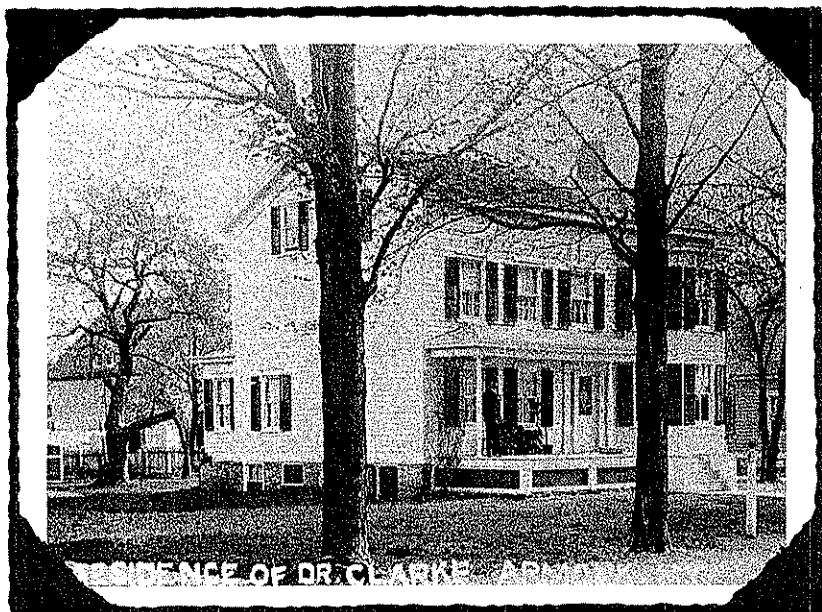


North

Castle

History



Dr. George B. Clark around 1910 on porch of his home on Bedford Rd. (old Route 22) across from where the North Castle Town Hall is today. Note: a remnant from the past, the old hitching post is still in the same location today. Picture taken from postcard by Selleck in the possession of Richard N. Lander.

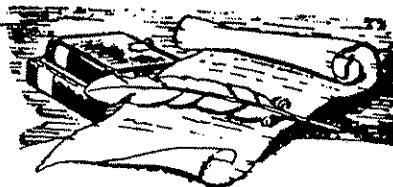
DR. GEORGE BIRCH CLARK
REMEMBRANCES OF ARMONK AND BANKSVILLE

THE BRONX RIVER PARKWAY

The North Castle Historical Society

Bedford Road, Armonk, New York 10504

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends,

It is our pleasure to present our newest issue of North Castle History. We hope that by preserving a memory or by recording a deed, we will arouse an interest in you and provide an opportunity to give back to your community.

We are all indebted to Barbara Massi and Richard N. Lander and their committee for their contributions of time, talent and energy towards this 1990 issue.

As you hold this publication, please reflect for a moment on the importance of Smith's Tavern educational complex. Very shortly we will be adding the Quaker Meeting House, the oldest house of worship in North Castle. These buildings stand as a constant testimony to the spirit of community service.

It is that spirit which has built The North Castle Historical Society; it is that spirit which continues to guide us.

Writing and editing publications, mounting special exhibits, preserving our local history library, presenting special programs, conducting oral history interviews, guiding historical/interpretive tours, inventorying and video taping the collections, holding fundraisers such as the antiques shows, community tag sale, book sales and bake sales are just a few of the opportunities for you to be a part of your community.

Community service enriches individually with a sense of purpose. Community service builds friendships. Community service strengthens the fabric of our entire community.

We invite you to come share in this spirit which has built, and continues to build, our community! Call me today.

Regards,

Sharon Tomback
Sharon Tomback
President

GEORGE B. CLARK, M. D.

By Richard N. Lander

Dr. Clark was an innovator, the first "modern" doctor in North Castle. He also was one of the first in Armonk to have a telephone. He was one of the first to own an automobile. He was the first in Armonk to place an oil burner in his furnace to heat his home. This marvelous man was always willing to experiment, to find the newer, better way to accomplish a task. And he would share this knowledge fully and freely with others. Physician, public official, church leader, advisor, counsellor, friend to all. He was the classic example of life in small town America seventy-five years ago.

George Birch Clark was born on December 23, 1872 in the Methodist parsonage in Germantown, Columbia County, New York, the son of Rev. George Birch and Eunice (Clearwater) Clark. His father was for over forty years an honored member of the New York Annual Conference (Diocese) of the Methodist (Episcopal) Church and served churches throughout southern New York State particularly in the Hudson and Harlem Valleys.¹ His mother's² family was of ancient Dutch origins, the name having originally been Klaarwater.

It is probably safe to say young George Clark and his younger brother, Charles J. (born 4/12/1876), attended district schools in the country hamlets where their father was the pastor. In keeping with the Methodist custom of the day the ministers were true itinerants, moving quite frequently from place to place. At that time a three-year pastorate was considered a long stay. George probably first attended school in Bloomville in the Catskills, then at Garrison on the Hudson, Putnam County, and lastly, at Bangall, Dutchess County, all in southern New York State.

We cannot tell nor does his family know when George left his parsonage home to go away to school, probably when he was about fourteen years of age. At the time his father was pastor of Plattekill (1886), in Ulster County, N.Y. He was, of course, sent to one of the well known Methodist preparatory schools, Claverack College and Hudson River Institute at Claverack, N. Y. This school, founded as Claverack Academy in 1831 by Rev. William P. Mahon, was taken over in 1855 by Dr. Alonzo Flack (1823-1885), reorganized, and renamed Hudson River Institute. Dr. Flack's success was instant, and he had a large clientele of leading citizens of the area especially among pastors' families, many of whom were his personal friends and colleagues. (Probably clergy discounts helped a great deal.) In 1869 Dr. Flack founded Claverack College and the New York State Regents gave him a charter for the new college, of which he became President. He combined the two schools calling it Claverack College-Hudson River Institute. The school was semi-military and had an enrollment of between three and four hundred students and eighteen to twenty "officers" and instructors. The school had eleven departments and was especially strong in science and technology. It was supposed to prepare the students for their junior year



George B. Clark, in his school uniform, with his mother and father, Rev. G.B. Clark and his wife, Eunice, and his brother, Charles J. Picture taken around 1886. From the collection of Beatrice Clark MacDonald.

at a university. George was probably there about four years, graduating in the class of 1890.

In the fall of 1890 he registered and entered Syracuse Medical School, from which he graduated in the class of 1894. Several of his class notebooks have survived, one of them being his *materia medica* notes for 1894. They show him to have been highly motivated and systematic, an example to this date of excellent content and superb neatness and organization.

In the summer of 1894 having graduated medical school and looking for a place to practice, young Dr. Clark went home to his father's parsonage, which was then at Kensico, New York. The story about his location at Armonk is apocryphal, but having heard it from several old time citizens it must be true. Dr. John J. Burnell, the local doctor, wished to take an extensive vacation in Europe. Hearing of the young new doctor

who was spending the summer with his father, the Methodist minister in Kensico, he invited the young man to substitute for him in his practice until he returned. As an inducement he offered his home and office as part of the transaction. The old timers would end this story with these words, "Dr. Burnell never returned and Dr. Clark never left."

Thus, in the summer of 1894, Dr. Clark took up residence as Armonk's temporary physician, living in Dr. Burnell's house (now 30 Bedford Road, the Rectory of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church).

In order to give some idea of a general practitioner of the time his "Physician's Visiting List" for 1894 was given some years ago to the author by his daughter, Mrs. William MacDonald. This list begins in the fall, several months after arriving in Armonk. This list gives names and bills, and once in a while the ailment and the salary earned for the week. Some of his earliest visits, probably at his home, were fifty cents, average visit to the home of the sick, one dollar, others a dollar and a half. The raise was probably for leaving pills or medicine. In October, 1894 Mrs. Johnson was very sick and Dr. Clark went there twice a day for three consecutive days and once a day for three later consecutive days at the close of the week. The total bill for services and probably medicine was four dollars and a half (\$4.50). A trip to Mrs. Odell in Pleasantville on a Saturday was \$3.00, a visit to Squire Archer at Rye Lake \$1.00, Carlson on King Street two visits \$5.00. Most visits to Kensico were the same charges as Armonk, \$1.00 a visit. Average earnings for a week totalled up to some of the following: \$32.50, \$57.50, \$30.00, \$21.00, \$23.50. The biggest amount charged was for \$13.00, totalling many visits which raised the week's salary to \$57.50. Many other slow weeks made the income rather slender at \$14.00 and \$18.00. Ailments mentioned on the list are broken ribs, bad face, obstetric. The charge for delivering a baby was just like a visit, \$1.00.

As we now think about Dr. Clark and modern day patients with specialist doctors, I am sure he would have been an obstetrician. Knowledge comes down to this date from old timers here that as a doctor delivering a baby he had no peer in this region. It is too bad Dr. Clark did not keep a baby birthing book, listing all the children he delivered. (Many old time doctors did, e.g., Dr. Samuel Sands of Bedford.) It would list the number of deliveries in the hundreds. Considering that before the nineteen twenties every baby was born at home, and in this area, usually under rather ancient, humble circumstances, trying to save the life of the mother and the baby would take the best known knowledge of the day in order to conquer all the problems that could arise. With all of the problems of the day and time it has been related by many locals, and was an Armonk boast, that Dr. Clark "never lost a mother." There were numerous babies named George Clark born to friends and grateful families.

By 1895 the young doctor must have decided to stay in the area and on Wednesday, September 18, 1895 at 8 o'clock in the evening Dr. Clark married Miss Minnie Palmer, daughter of the late Charles and Nancy (Finch) Palmer. The wedding was at the home of her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Buehler at Williamsbridge, N. Y. The new

Mrs. Clark was a native of Armonk and was twenty years old.³ The only child of this marriage was Charles George Clark, born at Armonk October 20, 1896.⁴

Time passed and Dr. Burnell never came back, except to sell his house and get his furniture and belongings. (Dr. Burnell moved to Greenwich, Connecticut where he erected a practice and a small sanitarium.) Dr. Burnell sold his house March 30, 1896 (\$1800) to John P. Tripp and Dr. Clark had to find a new home.



Minnie Palmer Clark, 1st wife of Dr. Clark, around 1894.
Collection of R.N. Lander.

It is evident his father had to assist the young new doctor with the purchase of the house next door to the west, the deed granted on March 24, 1896 by Ruth M. Knapp to George B. Clark, Sr. (\$2000), still the pastor at Kensico. Dr. Clark enlarged the house and resided in it the rest of his life.⁵

A picture of this house with Dr. Clark standing on the front porch was taken about 1910 by Ben Selleck, the local photographer. It shows the

house about fifteen years after the Clarks had bought it. It also shows several things to comment about. When the Clarks bought the house it consisted of only the west portion. Sometime before the picture was taken the doctor added the eastern part indicated by the bow windows up and downstairs. This addition consisted of a new kitchen, dining room and two bedrooms, making a very commodious house. The house was held in the name of the Rev. George B. Clark until his death in 1910. In



George and Minnie Clark with son, Charles George, around 1906. From the collection of R.N. Lander.

the fall of that year the doctor's mother, Eunice Clearwater Clark, transferred the house to him. She came to live with the Clarks, and resided there until her death in the winter of 1920.

Dr. Clark quickly joined as a helper and leader into the life of Armonk and North Castle. In the fall of 1900 he was elected Justice of the Peace. (This was at the time when the appointment was both as a member of the Town Board and the Judge.) He served one year of the four-year term,

1901-1902, probably because he did not enjoy being a Justice with its problems in a small town. In 1907 he was elected as Town Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics and served 1907-1913. It is evident he enjoyed recording the business of the town.

After serving as Town Clerk the Board members appointed him as a member of the Board of Health of the Town of North Castle (1914). Shortly after, the Town Board of the adjoining Town of Pound Ridge appointed him to their Board of Health. This was a high honor to one who did not live in that town. He did, however, have patients in that eastern area. During the first World War, he was appointed to the local Draft Board beginning on June 27, 1917 and served ably and well until March, 1918.

During these trying days the doctor's only son had enlisted in the U. S. Army and served eighteen months overseas in France as a member of the Forty-fourth Balloon Corps.

Few of us in Armonk remember the first public library in Armonk. In January, 1916, a Community Reading Room was organized and began in a cellar room in the old Briggs house where Citibank now stands at the corner of Main Street and Whippoorwill Road East. Dr. Clark was one of its founders and was one of the local men who paid for and did work on the furniture, shelving and new electricity. (At this time electricity was coming into the public halls and private homes of Armonk.) He also was appointed by the Town Board to the Citizen's Committee to bring street lights to Armonk.

From his earliest years in the town he was interested in the history of North Castle and during his years as the Town Clerk he read and studied the town minute books. From 1907 he abstracted many of the interesting items in the first book 1737-1848. He kept a blank book in which he rewrote the material which he thought was the most valuable and he wished to remember. It is he who presented the original first book to the Westchester County Historical Society in February, 1908 to accomplish what the 1889 Town Board had voted to do. For many years the doctor was considered the Town Historian and the local expert. One of his most interesting discussions on local events was the great Briarcliff Automobile Race of April 24, 1908, which came during his early time here. He remembered in detail the cars and drivers and was one of the doctors who cared for at least one driver who was hurt in the test run before the main event. "Arthur Campbell, who evidently had his vision obscured by a cloud of dust from a car in front of him, struck the railing of a small bridge (Whippoorwill Brook) just south of the Armonk Methodist Church, the car catapulting into the stream hurling Campbell out and into a pile of rocks, fracturing his jaw and knocking his teeth loose. His riding mechanic, Ralph DePalma, landed in the creek with the car on top of him and had to be extricated. Dr. George Clark who had come from his home nearby to treat them at the scene, took them to his home where they were thoroughly checked and mended. They rested until they recovered from the shock and then left together in a touring car."⁶ He also joined and was active in the Westchester County Historical Society from 1924 to his death.

Doctor Clark, like many other citizens, had several sorrows in his life. On December 18, 1917 his wife, Minnie Palmer Clark, passed away at their home. The local papers state that "she had been ill for more than two years." The papers also record that "she had spent her entire life in the Village of Armonk. There she grew to womanhood and became active in local affairs, hers was a buoyant and pleasant personality and her friends were legend. In all of life's activities until ill health intervened she played her part with loyalty and public approval. Mrs. Clark was a splendid woman, and ideal mother—one devoted to her home and family."

Within four months, on April 8, 1918, his only brother, Charles J. Clark, died at the doctor's home. He was only forty-two years of age and had but a brief illness. He was a Civil Engineer and like the doctor was a graduate of Syracuse College. For almost all of his life he had been an employee of the City of New York Department of Water Supply. He was survived by his widow, Sarah A. (Krepps) Clark and a daughter, Beatrice.

On Saturday evening, June 21, 1919, Dr. George B. Clark was married to Sarah (Krepps) Clark⁷ by the Rev. George E. W. Bryant, pastor of the Armonk Methodist Church, at the parsonage at Valhalla. The bride was the sister-in-law of Dr. Clark, she having been the wife of the late Charles J. Clark, his brother, as previously written, both having lost their first spouses by death. As a result of this marriage Doctor Clark adopted his niece, Beatrice,⁸ as his daughter. The local paper, the North Castle Sun, reported that the Clarks "went to the Adirondacks," and wished that "good fortune may attend them in their married life." The new Mrs. Clark was a native of Kensico in the Town of North Castle having been born there November 19, 1879, the daughter of Virgil and Maria L. (Carpenter) Krepps.⁹

— Dr. Clark has a bad accident —

The North Castle Sun:

"On Sunday, March 28, 1920, while working on his Buick, Dr. Clark had a serious accident at his home. He was in the act of inflating a tire which burst, forcing the iron rim upward with tremendous velocity. The rim struck him a side glance, cutting off a portion of his nose and removing part of his left cheek, knocking out six of his teeth and removing part of the bone in his face. Although bleeding profusely he kept his presence of mind, gathered up the part of his nose in his hands and hastened into the house for assistance. The family called Dr. Willis B. Moodie of Valhalla and Dr. Frederick E. Vaughan of Mt. Kisco, and they arrived to assist within thirty minutes. Both competent doctors did their best to restore the nose and his badly hurt face. They also telephoned for a New York specialist who reached the doctor's home within an hour and a half. The three doctors held a consultation on how to relieve Dr. Clark's condition."

This frightful accident was reported in the North Castle Sun on April 2, 1920. As an example of his courage and general health, the paper reported on April 9: "Doctor at Work Again. The doctor has resumed his practice after the serious accident that befell him several days ago. He certainly recovered in record time. His nerve never failed him for a moment.

Congratulations." And lastly, on April 23, the paper ends this serious accident with these words: "*Dr. Clark, who met with an accident recently has fully recovered from his accident.*"

Fortunately, Dr. Clark was left with only minor scars on his nose which were visible for the rest of his life.

As all of the leading men of the town, Dr. Clark was a fraternal member of the Junior Order of the United Mechanics, Armonk, No. 65. He was also a member and attended the Armonk Methodist (United) Church. He served as a member of the Church Board of Trustees 1933-1942. After the organization of the Armonk Independent Fire Company he became a member and was elected as the Company Honorary Surgeon 1930-1942. In 1939 when the Armonk (then North Castle) Lions Club was organized, he was one of the original members.

As the years passed by Dr. Clark still was the only local doctor in Armonk, serving all who came to his door at almost any hour (noting that his calling card gave his telephone number but listed no office hours).



Dr. Clark with his second wife, Sarah Krepps Clark, around 1920. From the collection of Beatrice Clark MacDonald.

The telephone now summoned him to those sick at home who could not come to the office. One change assisted him, the new Northern Westchester Hospital (August, 1916) at Mount Kisco, five miles away. He joined the staff of the new hospital. Now many of Dr. Clark's new babies were born there (including the author) and the very sick were sometimes taken there by the doctor in his own car. The doctor did do minor surgery but always referred the serious cases to surgeons in White Plains or Mount Kisco. However, before the advent of the hospital, he assisted at many operations, especially those done in North Castle, Pound Ridge and Bedford. His friend, George P. Coopernail, M. D. of Bedford, was the premier surgeon of the north county.

Until his death the citizens of Armonk and North Castle did not realize what his loss would mean to this town. In the year of 1942 at the age of sixty-nine the doctor was unwell, and even with concealed suffering he remained active in his assistance to others. In the early summer he went to Northern Westchester Hospital, and after spending some time at the hospital returned home. He spent three weeks at home and then was forced to return to the hospital where he died Monday, July 6, 1942. No better tribute can be written about this man than the editorial page of the North Castle Sun of Thursday, July 9, 1942:

DR. GEORGE BIRCH CLARK

A true gentleman of the old school passed from this life this week leaving a void in the community that no other man will ever be able to fill. Dr. George Birch Clark, who died on Monday in the Northern Westchester Hospital, was the type of country doctor we often read about, but very, very seldom ever have the good fortune to know.

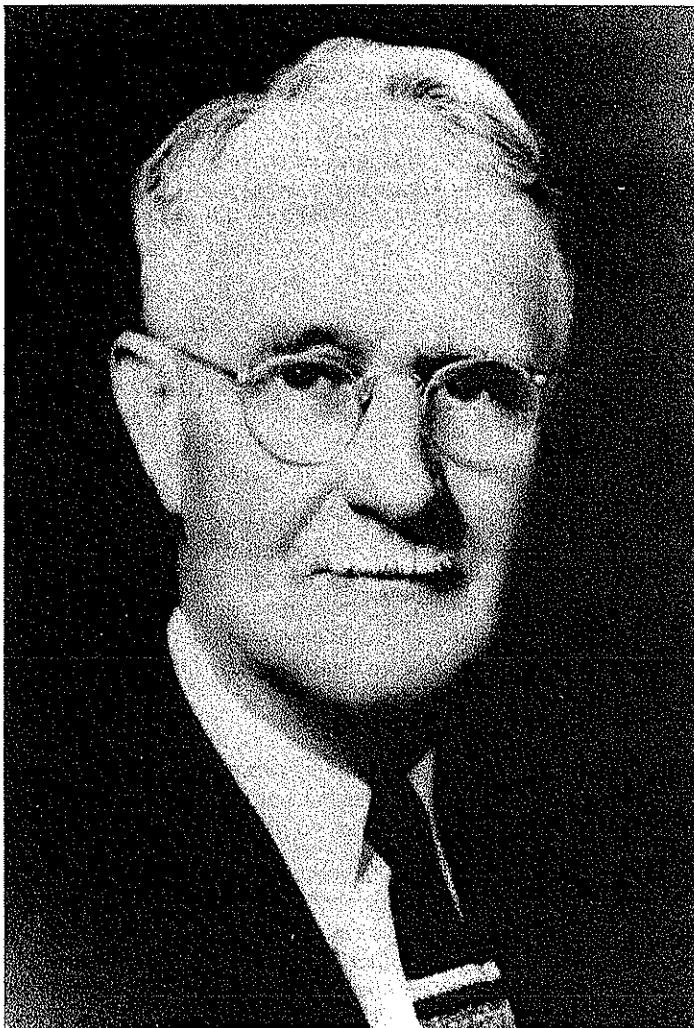
Dr. Clark was a country doctor, not because he did not have the ability to practice in the big city along with the best of his profession, but because he liked the country and the sort of people who live in it. Few men ever have a more intimate knowledge of the life and the history of a community than Dr. Clark had of North Castle and of Westchester.

Scattered throughout the length and breadth of the nation as well as overseas, are many strong men in the armed forces of the nation who first saw the light of day under the watchful care of Dr. Clark. They will grieve with the rest of us, to learn of his passing.

Dr. Clark has practiced medicine here for forty-eight years. In the course of a busy routine of ministering to the sick and injured he found time to make exhaustive research into local and national history as well as into many other subjects more closely identified with his profession. He found time to serve in public office and to take part in the work of several civic and fraternal organizations. That these interests were never allowed to conflict with his first responsibility as a physician, however, is well indicated in the fact that in all the years of his practice, sometimes working under almost primitive conditions, he never lost one mother's life in the

hundreds of births that he attended. A performance that many a big city maternity specialist would be proud to equal.

Dr. Clark's busy life here has ended. The community must and will go on from here without him. The works that he accomplished, the example that he has set will help to guide us. If each, in our particular sphere can accomplish in our lifetime as much as he did in his, America will be by far the richer for it.



Dr. Clark taken a year or two prior to his death in 1942.
Collection of R.N. Lander.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Rev. George Birch Clark was born at Waterford, Saratoga Co., N.Y. June 28, 1836. He received a good common school education, and as a young man, worked in the cotton factories at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co., N. Y. where he was spiritually awakened and felt the call to preach. He attended Amenia Seminary, Amenia, N. Y. and entered the membership of the New York Annual Conference of the Methodist Church on trial in 1866, ordained Deacon 1866, and Elder 1868. His pastoral appointments were as follows: 1866-67 West Stockbridge, Mass., 1868-70 Union Corners, 1871-73 Germantown and Madalin, 1874-76 Hyde Park, 1877-79 Bloomville, 1880-82 Garrison, 1883-85 Bangall and Milan, 1886-88 Plattekill and Rossville, 1889 Liberty, 1890-91 West Taghkanic, 1892-93 Croton Lake, 1894-96 Kensico and Eastview, 1897-1900 Edenville, 1901 Vails Gate, 1902-04 Plattekill and Rossville (second time). His memoir states: In all of these churches he was greatly appreciated remaining in most of them for the full time of service permitted by the pastoral limit. He retired in 1905 due to ill health and made his home at Pleasant Valley, N. Y. and died there April 2, 1910.
2. Eunice Elizabeth Clearwater married Rev. George B. Clark April 10, 1866. She was born at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co., N. Y. November 3, 1836, the daughter of Jeremiah and Wealthy (Farrington) Clearwater and died at the residence of her son, Dr. Clark, at Armonk, December 16, 1920.
3. Minnie Palmer, first wife of George B. Clark, M. D., was born in Armonk, July 11, 1875, the daughter of Charles and Nancy (Finch) Palmer. As to her parents' family history, her father, Charles Palmer, was born near Kensico, June 24, 1831 and died at Armonk, February 11, 1892. His parents were Samuel R. and Elizabeth (Wyckoff) Palmer. Charles Palmer was a shoemaker. His wife, Nancy Finch, was born January 5, 1843 and died at the home of Dr. Clark in Armonk, August 29, 1915. Her parents were George and Sarah (Davis) Finch.
4. Charles George Clark, son of Dr. Clark and his first wife, Minnie (Palmer) Clark, was born at Armonk, October 20, 1896. Married May 1, 1920 at Bedford, N. Y. Catherine Cox, born at Brooklyn, February 16, 1904, daughter of Wilbur and Ida (Fehr) Cox. In the First World War he enlisted and served as a Sergeant, Forty-fourth Balloon Corps, discharged honorably, 1919. He lived briefly in Armonk, moved to Hawthorne, N. Y. where he worked in a building and garage business. During World War Two, he served with the United States Department of Engineers in Trinidad and San Juan, Puerto Rico. After the war he moved from Thornwood to Clearwater, Florida, where for seventeen years he worked for Stone Buick. In 1961 he retired. He died in Clearwater, Florida, April 10, 1981.
5. Regarding the Clark house in the front cover picture, this handsome house stands on Lots 5 and 6, shown on a "Property Belonging to St. Stephens Church," surveyed by Nehemiah H. Searles, filed in the Westchester County Register's Office April 26, 1857, as Map #284. The history of the property: on 12/16/1850 these lots, among others, were sold by the vestry of St. Stephens to William Brundage. In 7/17/1851 Brundage conveyed to Nehemiah Searles. In 4/1/1852 Searles conveyed to Rueben B. Tyler. In 1853 the house was built by Tyler, a local carpenter, who resided there until 4/1/1859, when he sold the house to Marvin R. Smith, a shoemaker. In 7/7/1866 Smith sold the house to Stephen S. Vanderhoff of Brooklyn, who probably spent the summers or bought it for speculation. In 11/27/1866 he sold the property to Henry E. Mayhew of the City of Utica. In one year Mayhew sold the house to Susan A. Carr of Brooklyn. We know much about the Carrs as Mrs. Carr was the daughter of William Tyler (1782-1855) of Middle Patent. The Carrs resided in New York City and lived here in the summer and on holidays. They were well-

to-do and active in St. Stephen's Church (two memorial windows) and owned all the lands now owned by the Armonk Methodist Church, the Town of North Castle and North Castle American Legion Post #1097. On 9/2/1882 the Carr family left the town and sold the house to Emily Husted. On 7/23/1895 Mrs. Husted sold the property to Mrs. Ruth M. Knapp who resided there until 3/24/1896 when the house became the home of Dr. Clark. The Clarks lived there for forty-six years. When the doctor died, his estate sold the home to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burfiendt. The Burfiendt family still owns the house. This house is one of the most outstanding houses in the village of Armonk. The picture also shows the home to the east where Dr. Clark first lived, when Dr. Burnell owned the home, now the rectory of St. Stephens Church. Note: the horse hitch in front of Dr. Clark's house, see North Castle History Vol. 15, 1988. The two back west windows on the house were Dr. Clark's office.

6. For information regarding the Briarcliff International Automobile Race; see article by Helen Manner in North Castle History, Volume 8, 1981. It mentions Dr. Clark.
7. Sarah Krepps Clark, born Kensico 11/19/1879, married her first husband, Charles J. Clark, 11/29/1905, died Mamaroneck, N. Y. at the home of her daughter, Beatrice Clark MacDonald 5/2/1946.
8. Beatrice Clark MacDonald, born 4/25/1905, married William F. MacDonald, Jr. They had two sons, William F. born 8/4/1932, Douglas Clark, born 1/12/1934, and one daughter, Marsha, born 2/2/1938 (Mrs. Fred Crisp.) One of Dr. Clark's great grandsons is a doctor.
9. Note regarding the Krepps family: Virgil A. Krepps was born October 1843 at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, son of John and Adeline (Melthorne) Krepps. He was educated there and while in school he took up, first as a pastime and later a profession, telegraphy, then in its infancy. In the fall of 1859 when but sixteen years of age it was his fortune to be employed in the telegraph office at Harper's Ferry, before and after school, and was there in the morning when John Brown came down upon the little town and attempted to capture the United States Arsenal. It was the young Virgil Krepps who in the confusion of the attack, coolly notified the Federal Government in Washington of the raid. It was his message that electrified the nation and caused President James Buchanan to dispatch Col. Robert E. Lee with soldiers to Harpers Ferry to put down the raid. After the Civil War he moved North and came to Westchester County. A few years later he married Marie Louise Carpenter (1852-1917), daughter of Benjamin Franklin (1825-1891) and Sara A. (Capron) Carpenter (1829-1909). Mr. Carpenter was a famous blacksmith and horse tamer of Kensico, N. Y. and a descendant of the ancient North Castle family of that name. Mr. Krepps moved to Kensico. After residing here he, with John P. Moran and others, organized the pioneer electric railway of Westchester which was a cross country project giving trolley transportation from Port Chester, White Plains and Tarrytown, and, later, a line to Mamaroneck, linking all of these points. Virgil Krepps was for years the General Manager of the lines. He was active in this business until his illness. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. George B. Clark, in Armonk, on November 7, 1920.

A PERSONAL WORD

It is very hard to do justice to a man who was your friend at a very young age. I was five years old when I went to live in the house of my grandmother. Doctor Clark's house was one door away to the east. I suppose I was eight or nine when we really became friends, he the age to be my grandfather.

I went next door to see the second Mrs. Clark, who was not well, and the doctor. If there were no patients they always had time to talk to me.

The several magazines the doctor subscribed to I read regularly. Probably when about ten, he began to take me on his rides to visit the sick in the countryside. I visited Quarry Heights, Banksville, East Middle Patent and even to Pound Ridge.

A ride with the doctor gave you a history lesson about the old houses we passed, who had lived there and was there now, and those special words "when I first came here," what it had been. Stories of the great reservoir which was built in his time, details of the autos and stories of the horse and buggy era. I have told several of my friends I must have been a sponge and sopped in hundreds of the things he recorded in my young brain. I loved it. But everything changes or comes to an end. In the fall after the death of my friend I went to high school and I moved to my present home. I am sure that from those days and those wonderful rides with that wonderful man, my great love of this town, its people and its history, had their beginnng.

Richard N. Lander

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The author is indebted to Catherine Clark, widow of the late Charles George Clark, who resides in Clearwater, Florida, a life member of the North Castle Historical Society, and Beatrice Clark MacDonald, daughter of Dr. Clark, a member of the North Castle Historical Society, for many remembrances and lending pictures, many of which appear in the article.

PLACES FROM THE PAST



This old house on King St. was part of the Waterbury farm until 1850 when it was bought by Harvey Huestis. By 1900 it was owned by Otto R. Hartmann, a real estate investor. He sold it to Cornelius R. Agnew around 1910. Many years later the IBM Corp. bought the land and loaned the house for many years, until recently, to the Byram Hills School District for their offices.

REMEMBRANCES OF ARMONK AND BANKSVILLE

By Rev. Jonas A. Inman
b. 7/14/1861, d. 6/17/1930



Jonas A. Inman around 1898. Collection of R.N. Lander.

What the people of the Lake Mahopac charge¹ thought of my work among them may be learned from the tribute to be found among my papers received from County Judge Edward Wright, a member of the Mahopac Church and a Trustee. As there stated by him I was invited to remain for the third year and fully expected to continue. But after arriving at the seat of Conference, my Presiding Elder asked me to consent to change, and offered me a place paying \$150 more salary than I was then receiving, and with my growing family it was necessary that my salary should grow also, so, of course, I gave consent, much as I regretted to leave my Mahopac friends.

— Armonk/Banksville — (5 years)

And so my appointment was announced by the Bishop at the Conference of April, 1896 for Middle Patent or Banksville² at a salary of \$900, and I felt "passing rich." The journey across country by carriage with our little family of four—the furniture and baggage having preceded us—was without incident. As the ladies of the church who were the committee on parsonage cleaning were hardly ready for us, we were hospitably entertained for a day or two at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Griswold.³ The next morning, having nothing particularly to do, I went

REV. JONAS A. INMAN

Rev. Jonas A. Inman was born in Hull, England July 14, 1861 and received his education in his native city. He came to America in 1881 and for some time was engaged as an officer and in religious work for the Salvation Army. In 1890 he left the Salvation Army and joined the Methodist denomination and applied for admission as a minister in the New York Conference of the Methodist Church. He was admitted as a minister in the "Conference Class" in the Spring of 1892. He continued as an effective minister for the next thirty-eight years until his death.

The Methodist Conference minutes show the following appointments to various Methodist Churches, many in areas in this part of southern New York: 1892-93 Purchase, 1894-95 Lake Mahopac, 1896-1900 Armonk and Middle Patent, 1901-03 Wappingers Falls, 1904-08 Hyde Park and Staatsville, 1909-10 Perry Street, New York City, 1911-13 Jane Street, New York City, 1914-15 Central Church, Pleasantville, 1916-18 Philmont, 1919-23 Cold Spring, 1924-30 Rhinebeck. He died June 17, 1930, actively serving that church.

In his Conference memoir, in words by one of his brethren, "each pastorate served bears record of his faithful and efficient ministry, his sermons zeal inspiring and faith awakening. All ages and conditions were helped to a larger life." His District Superintendent wrote regarding him in a Poughkeepsie District report, "He was very ill but it was thought he would recover and resume his work, but he never returned to his pulpit again." His funeral was held at Rhinebeck, New York, in the church where he had given so many years of service. He lies in Cedar Lawn Cemetery, Paterson, New Jersey.

Mr. Inman was highly beloved in both Armonk and Middle Patent. In many old photograph albums of the families of the Methodist congregations, his picture, similar to the one accompanying this article, could be found attesting his love and esteem in the two congregations.

with the doctor through the country on his rounds and by the time we returned at noon there had begun a friendship between us that lasted as long as he lived.

Soon we were settled in the white octagon house,⁴ which had been bought for a parsonage several years before, where we lived for the next five years. They were amongst the happiest years of my ministry. Here was a community a dozen miles from the railroad. Whether we drove to the New Haven Railroad at Greenwich, Connecticut or to the Harlem Railroad at Bedford Hills, etc. it was about the same distance. But we kept a good horse and could get out to New York or anywhere else without trouble when we desired to do so. Meanwhile we were in a community of prosperous farmers whose homes were centers of activity and social enjoyment at social gatherings under church and other auspices. The church at Middle Patent, a mile away from the parsonage, would be filled with as intelligent a congregation of farmers, their sons and daughters, as I ever saw anywhere. There were several horse sheds and as nearly everyone drove to church they would invariably be filled.

The out appointment was at Armonk about five miles away. Here was a rather imposing church property for a small community and a church organization that had even then celebrated its hundredth anniversary. There was a very good Sunday School under the superintendency of William MacDonald,⁵ and considerable congregations assembled on

Sunday afternoons and alternate Sunday nights. We also held a small mid-week Prayer Meeting to which the pastor came week by week. A brief series of Revival services held by Reverend George Britten of Syracuse, brother of my former comrade of the old Ohio days, James Britten, were of no particular use to us though we had hoped they would be. A series of entertainments given by visiting groups of young people from neighboring communities, on the plan of the Mahopac series were an unqualified success. Armonk⁶ at that time contained evidences of bygone prosperity in the homemade shoe industry, nearly every house having its shoe shop in the rear. There was occasionally a man still carrying on the business in a small way, but the local trade had been superseded by the shoe factories in the cities leaving the little village stranded and poor.

However there were many fine families left in the village. One recalls several of the families of Brundage's, Cox's, MacDonald's and many others, and many pleasant visits to their hospitable homes.⁷ The annual Sunday School picnics at Rye Beach were one of the events of the year.⁸ The farmer's wagons conveying the youth of the place to the popular resort, and the grown-ups swelling the number. The mid-day meal at the shore, long tables loaded with edibles and everybody hungry and happy made a scene never to be forgotten. My long drives from home over the hills to Armonk, sometimes through storms and thick darkness, were experiences not to be forgotten. Today they have fine concrete roads and automobiles making travel a very different proposition. So far as my work at Armonk was concerned it was a case of regular systematic services and pastoral visitation, with no opportunity to do anything of an outstanding character.

But at Middle Patent the case was different. Here was a crudely appointed church building of the plainest kind, the seats so narrow as to be uncomfortable, with a well-to-do congregation able to give the necessary money to make the church attractive if they could be made to see it.⁹ So a plan was started to transform the plain old church and give it a modern appearance. When we finished the campaign we had built on a new porch, torn out an old unused gallery over the vestibule, enlarging the church auditorium by adding this space to the same. The old pews were taken out and modern oak pews installed, a new carpet laid, colored glass windows of ecclesiastical pattern superseding the little panes and shutters, a fine memorial bell put into the steeple, the old wood stoves in the church banished in favor of a furnace placed under the building, and the entire church interior both renovated and redecorated. The entire expense was promptly provided, and we reopened with a program of services commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the church with former parishioners and pastors, also one or more church dignitaries, attending.

Then followed a very gracious revival in which nearly half a hundred persons were added to the Church Membership, this time the pastor and his wife being their own evangelists, and the work proving satisfactory and permanent. I recall some interesting experiences of personal work driving through the community in the afternoon and calling upon

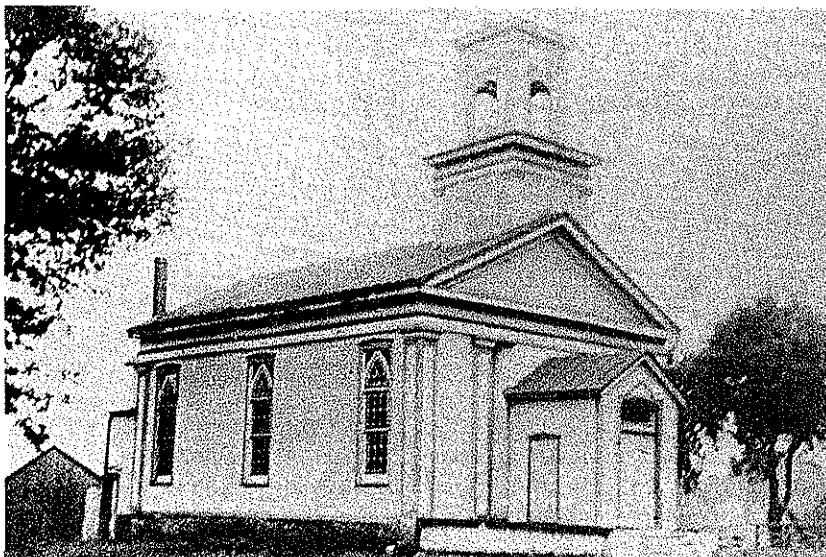
individuals with appeals for decision, pledging them to attend evening service and make a public profession of their purpose to become followers of Christ. Any success I have had in the ministry in promoting revivals has been won in that way, and I have found it best to be my own evangelist.

When one begins to put down the names of the Middle Patent Methodists of those days it is hard to know where to begin or stop. The Griswold's, Close's, Brundage's, Smith's, Finch's, McKinley's, Derby's, Reynold's, etc. come to mind.¹⁰

What a remarkable combination Dr. Griswold was. He was a fine illustration of Ian Maclaren's "Doctor of the Old School." He had come there a young physician and grew old ministering to a large constituency scattered through the countryside. Keeping several horses, using one for his morning journey, another for the afternoon, perhaps another for the evening calls, and so doing his work with comparative ease. He was Sunday School Superintendent, Choirmaster, Treasurer, District Steward, and always a delegate to any meeting where a layman was needed. His working knowledge of music made him a natural leader of others and the male quartette of Griswold, Close, Will J. Brundage and Reynolds¹¹ once heard could not be forgotten. It was a great combination. The good doctor had given a long period of service — much of it gratuitous labor — to the church and community without receiving any public recognition, it all having been taken for granted. As his fortieth year of practice was closing I resolved that the people's appreciation should take definite form.¹² So I called together one or two men and took them into my confidence. Constituting ourselves a committee we collected money, drew up a series of resolutions, had them beautifully embossed and framed, and with the consent of Mrs. Griswold gathered together at the doctor's house practically the whole population of the countryside, then presented the resolutions with becoming ceremony. The doctor, surprised and deeply moved, making the response to my presentation speech. Refreshments and a social evening followed. The Doctor said to me afterwards, more than once, that those framed resolutions hanging upon the walls of his house bearing the signatures of most of the people among whom he had spent his professional life were beyond price. He never knew before that anybody cared anything for him. He was one of nature's noblemen and Mrs. Griswold was a gentle and beautiful character. (We also gave a reception to James Hopkins of Armonk.)¹³

Another event of great importance in our family history during our Banksburg residence was the birth of our youngest daughter, Anna Laura, on August 31, 1900. She was born in the octagon parsonage, on which there was a mortgage of some \$500 when we went there which was in due time paid off, so when we came away the house was free from encumbrance, and had the additional sentimental value of being the birthplace of an important personage.

During the following February (1901) I paid my third visit to my kindred across the Atlantic. Expecting to close my five years pastorate in the spring, that being then the limit, it seemed to be the opportune time



Middle Patent Methodist Church around 1900. From the Marie Worden collection in the possession of R.N. Lander.

before taking up work on a new charge. During the six or seven weeks of my absence the neighboring ministers in the surrounding villages preached to my people in turn at a specially arranged afternoon service, when they were at liberty from their own pulpits. Thus we kept the churches at both Armonk and Middle Patent supplied with a service during the weeks of the winter without expense to them, and incidently I arranged for them to hear all the neighboring ministers preach in our own churches.

During my stay in England I spent a week or more in London with my friend Gideon Deakin before going to Hull to visit my own people. Gideon was the minister in charge of one of the important mission halls under auspices of the Wesleyan Methodist Church at the time, which position he held for a number of years. Being in Liverpool, he met me at the dock when the ship arrived there and took me to his home, where I spent a few days. Then he left with me for London on the night train, where we arrived in the morning, and beginning with visits to Billingsgate and other markets the first morning early, we saw much of London on succeeding days. When it became necessary for him to return to Liverpool I went on to Hull, for a brief visit, stopping at Bedford, the home of John Bugan, and at Peterborough were my sister, Jane Anne, and her family were then living. Thence proceeding on my way to Hull, stopping to visit the great Cathedral at Lincoln, and intending to stop over for a visit to Epworth, John Wesley's birthplace, farther on, but a severe rainstorm prevented me.

In due time I arrived in Hull where I spent a couple of weeks with my mother, now married to a Mr. Longworth, and visiting among my

brothers and sisters. On the way back to Liverpool to take the ship back to America I stopped off for a night in Manchester visiting an old friend and comrade, "Tad" Hunt, whom I had known when a young fellow in my pre-army¹⁴ days at Barngh Green, he living in a neighboring village, and who later I found in Paterson, New Jersey, and later still had in my division as a captain. Incidentally, I looked up friends of Mrs. Griswold and bore her greetings to them, reestablishing her mutual correspondence, as they had lost track of each other. Returning to Liverpool I spent a few more days with Mr. and Mrs. Deakin before sailing.

On a Sunday morning I went over into the suburbs and attended service at Dr. John Watson's (Ian Maclarens) Church and heard him preach one of his intellectual and sympathetic sermons. On my Sunday morning in London I had heard Dr. Joseph Parker, Hugh Price Hughes in the afternoon at St. James Hall, Thomas Spurgeon at the Tabernacle and another Methodist celebrity at night (dividing the time between two services) which was a great day.

My return home to Banksville was an event of great interest to the respective members of my family, some of whom were waiting eagerly for the arrival of the stage as it came up from Greenwich several miles away. Soon followed a lecture on my travels given at a social gathering held at the doctor's house, in which I discoursed on my trip, "From Banksville to London and Back."

— Wappingers Falls — (3 Years)

The conference came in April, 1901, and after five delightful years we took our departure and said farewell to our Armonk and Banksville friends. The Presiding Elder has been rather profuse in expressions of appreciation of my work and assurances of promotion when the change was made, so imagine my surprise when my name was read off for Wappingers Falls on Poughkeepsie district. My first three charges had been on the New York district and covering a period of eleven years, and now I was to live along the banks of the Hudson River. But it was a funny sort of promotion, the salary being \$800 instead of \$900 received at Banksville. One thing in its favor was it is a station and not a circuit, and in that sense it was a promotion. My previous charges had consisted of two or three churches but now I was to be pastor of one church in a town of considerable size, and the entire salary paid by one congregation. Anyway we packed up and moved our goods and the family into the parsonage at Wappingers, beginning our new work with zest and courage.

ANNOTATIONS FROM INMAN'S MEMOIR: By Richard N. Lander

1. Mahopac Methodist Church founded in 1822. Mahopac was Inman's second appointment, which when he went there was a great summer vacation and resort in Putnam County, described as follows: "Lake Mahopac is nine miles in circumference and in it three beautiful islands, Big, Petre and Goose Islands. Around the lake are several large hotels and boarding houses which are thronged during the summer season by visitors from

New York and Brooklyn." Gazeteer of the State of New York by J. H. French 1860, Founding of Mahopac Church, New York East District, Conference United Methodist Church Archives and History Report 1987 by Jeanette Rambo.

2. Middle Patent Methodist Church, organized December 24, 1824. The building (still standing) erected in the Spring of 1847. The out appointment was at Armonk Methodist Church (where Inman held services). These two churches were together as one appointment from 1894 to 1918.
3. Dr. Ralph B. Griswold (1835-1917) and wife, Mary Jane (Derby) Griswold (1835-1928), doctor in the Village of Banksville, a leading member of the church. The Inmans were house guests in his large house on the main street in the village while the parsonage was being refurbished and housecleaned (see about him later).
4. The Octagon House.

On October 1, 1891 the church trustees were instrumental in purchasing from Lizzie Crespo of New York City the well-known Octagon House in Banksville. This building was built in the early eighteen sixties by Dr. Ralph Griswold who lived in it for many years before building and moving to a larger house. Mrs. Crespo, the seller, was using it for a summer residence when the Trustees purchased it for \$1,300.00 (Liber 1246 of Deeds page 469). The house described in the deed as the "Round House" was situated on three-quarters of an acre of ground with appropriate out-buildings. It became the scene of many happy occasions, especially weddings and sociables. The first pastor who lived in it was the Reverend William Willcocks during the last two years of the churches being on a charge with Bedford. From A History of the Middle Patent Church, by Richard N. Lander, printed by the church 1972.

5. William F. MacDonald (1856-1905) was a storekeeper in Armonk, a partner of the store Flewellen and MacDonald at Maple Avenue and Main Street one block north of the Armonk Church. He was highly thought of in the church and community. Soon after Inman left Mr. MacDonald died. He was in his 49th year and left a widow and seven children. He was the President of the Church Trustees and Superintendent of the Sunday School.
6. In very few words Inman describes the 1900 mailaise of Armonk, after its heyday of 1860-1885, the large shoemaking business of that time. The imposing Methodist Church building alludes from that prosperous time.
7. Inman in his writing recalls several of the families of Brundages. Here is a list of the prominent members of the Armonk Church:
 - a. William H. Brundage (1826-1911), farmer, resided on Bedford Road (Rte 22). He was a church trustee.
 - b. Coles D. Brundage (1831-1899), brother of William, well-to-do farmer, lived on Bedford Road (Rte 22), and built the imposing house where the Foley's now live. He was a leading trustee and Mr. Inman conducted his funeral.
 - c. David Brundage (1852-1919), son of William, a farmer, was a church trustee and church treasurer, resided in the center of Armonk, across from the church where the drug store now stands.
 - d. Charles E. Brundage (1856-1909), son of William and brother of David, was a wheelwright whose home and shop stand today on Main Street, Armonk, as Hickory and Tweed. This family was active in the church.
 - e. William Brundage, Jr. (1863-1931), son of William and brother of David and Charles, was a blacksmith and farmer. He resided on Cox Avenue and later Main Street and was a leading church trustee and president.
The sons, daughters and grandchildren of this family were active in the Armonk Church until the 1970's.
- f. George Brundage (1865-1936), son of Coles D. above, farmed at the

same place on Bedford Road. He was also the Sunday School superintendent. He later sold the farm and moved to Pleasantville.

g. Thomas Cox (1834-1899) was a farmer and owner of the mail stage to Kensico and Valhalla. He lived on Cox Avenue where his descendants still reside. He was a church trustee, and Inman preached his funeral service.

h. Charles W. MacDonald (1855-1919) was the town clerk when Inman was here and he resided on Bedford Road across from the church. He was a trustee and clerk of the board. He was the older brother of William (5) above.

8. Rye Beach (today Playland) was, for nearly one hundred years, a beach and small hotel resort, with a large pavillion for eating. As early as this time there was a merry-go-round and other amusements. The Armonk Church Sunday School had its annual picnics there for more than fifty years, ending about 1970.

9. The first Middle Patent Church was built in 1824. By 1845/46 the members felt it was not large nor imposing enough for its time and the building was sold to Samuel Knapp and rolled or moved to his lot next door and built into a house which stands there to this date. In the fall of 1846 or spring of 1847 a new church was built where the original church had stood. The church was built by William W. Banks (1812-1897) a local carpenter and builder. In 1869 he built an addition to enlarge the sanctuary which included a large choir area. (Prior to this date the choir was in a gallery in the rear of the building.) Notes from A History of the Middle Patent Church 1972 by Richard N. Lander.
Inman tells briefly about the renovation which transformed the building from 1847 to the then 1897, which today is a quaint sanctuary. Note: this was celebrated on the fifty anniversary of the building.

10. a. Shadrach R. Close (1847-1936), farmer, first resided near Stanwich, Conn. and later moved to a large farm (formerly the Tripp farm on Bedford Road (Rte. 22) where Byram Hills High School now stands). He was Trustee and President of the Board and Sunday School Superintendent at Middle Patent.

b. Theodore E. Close (1841-1923), dairy farmer, had a very large farm (Long Lane Farm) at Upper Lake Avenue and Lower Cross Road in the Town of Greenwich. He was a trustee.

c. Charles E. Brundage (1833-1916) was a wealthy farmer who resided at Banksville at the corner of the road to Stanwich (now the Round House Road.) His home still stands as La Cremaillere Restaurant. He was for many years a church trustee.

d. Theodore Brundage (1839-1907), farmer, lived at the corner of Banksville and Round Hill Road, for many years a church trustee. His house still stands and was the home of Walter S. Gifford, President of American Telephone Company and U. S. Ambassador of Great Britain.

e. Richard Smith (1825-1905), farmer, resided north of the church on Banksville-Bedford Road where the Pouder family now lives. He was a church trustee.

f. Elroy Smith (1851-1931), son of Richard above, farmed at the same place. He was a church trustee.

g. Marvin N. Finch (1811-1900) was an elderly man when Inman came to Banksville. He was the owner and proprietor of the Finch store in the village. He was a church trustee until his death. Mr. Inman held his funeral.

h. William E. Finch (1852-1934), son of Marvin. He continued the store and was the postmaster. He succeeded his father as a church trustee. Their descendant is Doris Finch Watson, operator of the Finch store until Dec. 1989.

i. Stephen B. Derby (1856-1917), son-in-law of Marvin Finch, was a partner and worked at the Finch store. He was a trustee.

- j. Arthur S. McKinney (not McKinley) resided at a small farm—the last farm on the Banksville-Bedford Road; the house and barn are still there.
- k. Ezekiel Reynolds (1846-1912) was a meat dealer and farmer who resided at Stanwich, Connecticut. He served for many years as a church trustee.
- 11. Quartet. This church choir was well known not only in the church but around the area and sung in other churches and public entertainments. Dr. Griswold, the bass, was the leader, and a fine musician and chorister of the church. Shadrach Close and Ezekiel Reynolds have been mentioned before. William J. Brundage (1859-1941) of Chestnut Ridge, was the son-in-law of Theodore Brundage, mentioned before. There seems to have always been a quartet. Dr. Griswold had an earlier group during the Civil War and held patriotic concerts in Armonk at the local churches and public halls.
- 12. On April 15, 1897 to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of Dr. Griswold's residence at Banksville, N. Y. and the beginning of practice of medicine there, the people of that part of the town tendered him a pleasant surprise of appearing at this house and presenting an embossed framed resolution signed by over one hundred prominent citizens. (From an unsigned newspaper recording of a later fiftieth anniversary, April 11, 1907.)
- 13. James Hopkins (1831-1903) a prominent member and trustee of Armonk Methodist Church and town supervisor for four different terms totalling twelve years. He was the great-grandfather of our members, Judge James Hopkins and Marguerite Hopkins Lewis.
- 14. Inman had been a member of the Salvation Army.

EXCERPTS OF A GENEALOGICAL STUDY OF THE ANCESTORS AND COLLATERALS OF GEORGE C. INMAN AND CORDELIA HAIGHT INMAN, BY GEORGE C. INMAN ESQ.

JONAS A. INMAN AND HIS FAMILY (ANNOTATED):

- 1. Joseph Inman, born 8/5/1838 at Cawthorne, Yorkshire, England. Died Hull, Yorkshire, 12/29/1886. Married Caroline Jackson, born 11/1/1841 at Hull, Yorkshire, England. Died Hull 7/7/1914. He was a miner and they were the parents of eleven children, the oldest being Jonas A. Inman.
- 2. Jonas A. Inman, born 7/14/1861 at Hull, England. Moved to the United States and became a Methodist Clergyman. Married 7/6/1885 at Cleveland, Ohio Nellie Kiezer (later Keyser), born 2/19/1863 at Paterson, New Jersey, daughter of Peter and Cornelius (Perrius) Keyser (natives of Holland). Died 8/10/1952, Bloomfield, New Jersey.

ISSUES OF JONAS AND NELLIE KEYSER INMAN:

- 1. Cora Caroline born 1/17/1889, Long Island City. Teacher. Married Stephen H. Ackert.
- 2. Charles Gideon born 2/2/1891, Purchase, N.Y. Teacher. Married Marian Elizabeth Conner.
- 3. Edward Keyser born 1/5/1894, Purchase, N.Y. Newspaper publisher. Married Mary Genevieve Burgess.
- 4. George Cornelius born 1/1/1896, Mahopac, N.Y. Attorney. Married Cordelia Haight.
- 5. Anna Laura born 8/31/1900, Banksville, N.Y. Teacher. Married Alexander Irwin.

The list of the children shows the births at the various church appointments. The first daughter was born while Inman was working with the Salvation Army.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We are indebted to Charles Edward Inman, grandson of the Rev. Jonas A. Inman, for permission to print a portion of his grandfather's manuscript history of his life and for the excerpt of the family genealogy written by his father George C. Inman. Mr. Inman is an attorney in Hudson, N.Y.

We are also indebted to Rev. Charles Wesley Christman former pastor of the Armonk and Middle Patent Methodist Churches 1939-1948 for sending this portion of the Inman manuscript to the Town Historian. Mr. Christman is now editor of The Northeastern United Methodist Historical Bulletin.

FACES FROM THE PAST



The Huestis Family around 1913 taken in the front yard of the Waterbury house (now Nails, etc.), 400 Main St., Armonk. Each of the daughters is seated, with her husband standing behind. L-R: Sarah Elizabeth Cox, Raymond H. Cox; mother and father: Sarah Emma (Smith) Huestis and Edgar A. Huestis in front of their unmarried son, Elliot A. Huestis; Frances Waterbury, Ernest C. Waterbury; Maryetta Acker, J. Fred Acker; children: Doris Huestis Cox and Stanley Ernest Waterbury. Picture loaned by Orrin Husted.



NORTH CASTLE: TERMINUS OF THE BRONX RIVER PARKWAY

By Richard M. Lederer

The Kensico Dam Plaza in North Castle, was the spot where The Bronx River Parkway was officially dedicated on November 5, 1925. The program for the event stated that "plans...had been consummated in the parked driveway providing an outlet from the City of New York to the magnificent State Highway system diverging from the Kensico Dam." It was the first strand in the necklace joining the thirty-seven jewels of the Westchester County Park system.

The Bronx River Parkway has a gestation period of thirty years. As early as 1895 the State Legislature passed "An Act to create a commission to inquire into the expediency of constructing a sewer and highway through the counties of New York and Westchester along the Bronx River." This commission made a detailed study of the river, its tributaries, valley, watershed, rainfall, present and projected population. No action, however, was taken until 1905 when the Bronx Valley Sewer Commission was appointed. Unfortunately, the inertia of property owners to connect to the sewer prevented the alleviation of the problem.

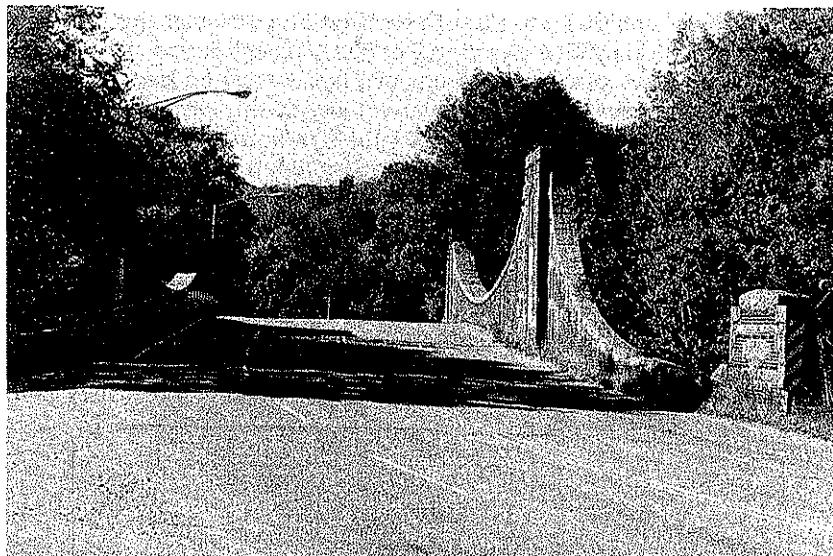
In 1901, William W. Niles, a member of the Board of Governors of the New York Zoological Society, was visiting Scotland. While walking about Inverness one day he noticed that the Inver River left the city as clean as it had been when it entered. "My astonishment was due to the fact that I had rather assumed that a stream could not go through a built up community without being defiled." Niles continued, "I was familiar with many streams running through cities in America, but recalled no instance in which the sewerage and much of the refuse of the city was not dumped into the stream and its banks devastated and shorn of all its beauty and in most instances disfigured and rendered offensive by public dumps, dilapidated structures, coal yards and other unattractive activities." That described the Bronx River in 1901.

Three years later the waterfowl at the zoo suffered serious illnesses which were attributed to the polluted condition of the river. With the cooperation of the Botanical Garden and the zoo, Niles proposed a bill to the State Legislature calling for a commission to acquire a park along the upper Bronx River. Despite opposition and inertia, Niles persevered, and in 1906 Governor Higgins signed a bill creating the Bronx Park Commission and appointed Madison Grant of Manhattan, Dave H. Morris of the Bronx and James G. Cannon of Scarsdale as commissioners with Niles, secretary and counsel, and Warren R. Thayer, also from Scarsdale, engineer. Their charge was "to inquire into the advisability of preserving the waters of the Bronx River from pollution and of creating a reservation of the land on either side of the river."

On the recommendation of the commission, the following year the State enacted a law providing for the Bronx River Parkway with Grant, Niles and Cannon as Commissioners.

Designing the park and its roadway, acquiring the land, relocating the

river in some places, constructing the road and its bridges, landscaping the park and its footbridges was interrupted by World War I. In all, 1,200 acres were acquired by gift, negotiation and condemnation. Sources of sewage and other pollution were traced to their sources and eliminated.



Unique Bronx River Parkway bridge over railroad tracks just south of the Kensico Dam Plaza will be one-way north when construction in the area is complete.



Each bridge on the parkway is inscribed with the year it was built and the design engineer. This inscription is on the bridge pictured previously.

The Commission built 60 foot-bridges for walking through the park. Unfortunately, only one of the originals survives, in Garth Woods, between Popham and Harney Roads in Scarsdale. Thirty-seven driveway bridges and viaducts were constructed. Each bridge was individually designed by both an architect and an engineer. The architect saw to it that the bridge blended into its surroundings and was visually pleasing; the engineer designed a novel rigid frame construction to provide maximum support with a minimum of mass. Only the best architects were used. Carrere and Hastings, architects of the New York Public Library, did the two bridges in Butler Woods in Scarsdale. Penrose Stout did the two lovely gas stations in Crestwood. Most of the bridges were engineered by Arthur G. Hayden with the architecture by Charles W. Stoughton. The two bridges in North Castle are the work of these two men. The bridge over the river is typical of their work. The Valhalla Bridge over the railroad — about to become one-way northbound — is unique. Of stone and brick, it resembles a suspension bridge. On each of the four towers is inserted a white plaque. The southeast is blank; the southwest bears:

Erected MCMXXV
Arthur G. Hayden Designing Engineer

the northwest:

Valhalla Bridge
Bronx River Parkway
Stoughton Architect

and the northwest tells all:

Bronx River Parkway
planned and built by
the Bronx Parkway Commission
Established 1907
Approved 1913
with first appropriation
by the
City of New York
and the
County of Westchester
Completed 1925.

Madison Grant, President 1907-1925
William W. Niles, Vice President 1907-1925
James G. Cannon, Treasurer 1907-1916
Frank H. Bethell 1916-1925
Jay Downer, Chief Engineer
L.G. Holleran, Deputy Chief Engineer
H.W. Merkel, Landscape Architect
Theodosius Stevens, Counsel

Length of parkway 16 miles
Area 1200 acres, 370 old buildings removed
Five miles of billboards removed
two million cubic yards excavated and
surface recovered with topsoil
30,000 trees & 140,000 shrubs planted
thirty seven bridges & viaducts built
and sixty foot-bridges
THE RIVER CLEARED OF POLLUTION
AND THE NATURAL BEAUTIES
OF THE VALLEY RESTORED

With its mission accomplished the Commission voted itself out of existence. At the instigation of William Lukens (Boss) Ward, the Westchester County Park Commission had been established by the state legislature in 1922. Staffed by former members of the Parkway Commission, notably Jay Downer and Gilmore D. Clarke, superintendent of landscape construction, the county embarked on the admirable program which today comprises thirty-seven parks.

PLACES FROM THE PAST



This building, now Hickory and Tweed, 410 Main St., Armonk, is shown in the early 1900's when owned by Julia Brundage. Her husband was Charles E. Brundage, a wheelwright who was a premier wagon builder. He also repaired wagons and carriages. We assume that the people in the picture included Charles and Julia Brundage as the picture was passed down through their family. (Continued)

The history of the house has been researched by Judge James D. Hopkins and written by Richard N. Lander with recent history information contributed by Joseph Petre.

When the lots of St. Stephen's Church were developed in 1850, they were acquired by local citizens for building their own houses and also to make investments.

In 1850 William Brundage purchased nine of these lots throughout the new development. In 1851 he conveyed lots 11 and 12 on Main Street (totaling 200' x 100') to Samuel B. Ferris, one of North Castle's leading citizens. Mr. Ferris built the house, purely on speculation (he lived on a large farm south of Armonk). We do not know the date but it was probably before 1860. He rented it out for a while, and in 1868 sold it to Sarah (Ely) Townsend, the wife of Job L. Townsend, another prominent local, who kept a store in town and was the town clerk 1857-60, 1863-66. The Townsends lived there until they moved to Brooklyn in 1872, at which time they sold it to John Silkman Hobby, another prominent citizen. Mr. Hobby rented out the house and when he died in 1876 he left it to his son, Charles Henry Hobby. By the time of his bequest young Mr. Hobby had moved to Friendship, in Allegheny County, N.Y. Mr. Hobby continued to rent out the house until his death in 1894. His estate sold this property and the Hobby family farm (at the corner of Bedford and Banksville Roads) to A. Smith Hopkins. Before the year was over Mr. Hopkins sold it to Harry Hunter of Chappaqua. Hunter lived there until 1903 when he sold it to Julia Remsen Brundage.

When the Brundages lived there, Mr. Charles E. Brundage kept a busy wheelwright business in the barn (now part of Hickory and Tweed). He built and repaired wagons and carriages from such estates as Agnew, Loftus, and Sells. Local boys and girls assisted in the business, and the author's mother, as a girl, repainted the wheels and striped the spokes.

In 1908 Mrs. Brundage sold the home to her son-in-law, Harry J. Hunter who live in it for two years and sold it to John Read in 1910. Mr. Read was one of Armonk's popular citizens, and one of the few Democrats to be elected in Republican North Castle. He served as highway superintendent from 1911-21. He was also a great horseman and for years would purchase and sell trotters and racers and challenge all comers in local race meets.

After Mr. Read's death in 1923 his executor sold the home to Mary St. John, wife of Thomas St. John, owner of a hotel on Main Street (Route 22), south of Armonk. In 1924 Mrs. St. John sold the property to Catherine Smally who lived there for three years and then sold to Fred Brooker in 1927. Mr. Brooker came to Armonk to retire. For some years he had a little hot dog stand in the front yard near the road from which he sold hamburgers, hot dogs and soda to passersby. This little hot dog stand probably stood about fifteen years. Mr. Brooker and his partner, Mae Brooker (a relative) changed the old barn (formerly the Brundage wheelwright shop) into a large tavern. The Old Town Tavern was one of the most popular places for local citizens to stop for beer and liquor. Mr. Brooker died first and Mae Later. The business probably lasted until about 1960. The Brooker estate sold the premises to John Dahms who sold it in 1961 to Jim Ross.

Mr. Ross opened the now well known Hickory and Tweed Ski Shop in the old house. As the business grew he opened the old barn (former wheelwright shop and tavern) and connected the two buildings with an enclosed bridge over the driveway to the parking area. Mr. Ross ran the ski shop for many years and eventually sold it to the present proprietor, Skip Beitzel.

Picture found among the papers of Lottie Lander Hunter (1895-1985), widow of the late Harry J. Hunter, now in the collection of Richard N. Lander.



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