

Dutchess County
Historical Society

seventy-five years

Year Book

Volume 74, 1989

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Historical Society

s e v e n t y - f i v e y e a r s

Year Book

Volume 74, 1989

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Dutchess County Historical Society
Publications Committee
P.O. Box 88
Poughkeepsie, New York 12602

Mark H. Lytle, *Editor*
Elizabeth A. Daniels, *Assistant Editor*
and Copy Editor
Lou Lewis, *Assistant Editor*
Nancy S. Mac Kechnie,
Assistant Copy Editor

The Society encourages accuracy but cannot assume responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by contributors.

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The Dutchess County Historical Society was organized in 1914 to preserve and share the county's rich history and tradition. The only county-wide organization of its kind, the Society is the active leader and promoter of local history in Dutchess County. Principal endeavors include the publishing of historical works, and the collection and safekeeping of manuscripts, artifacts and other priceless treasures from the past. The Society has also been instrumental in the preservation of two pre-Revolutionary landmarks, the Clinton House and the Glebe House, both in Poughkeepsie.

The Society offers its members a variety of activities and special events throughout the year. For further information or to join, please contact the Society at P.O. Box 88, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602, or (914) 471-1630.

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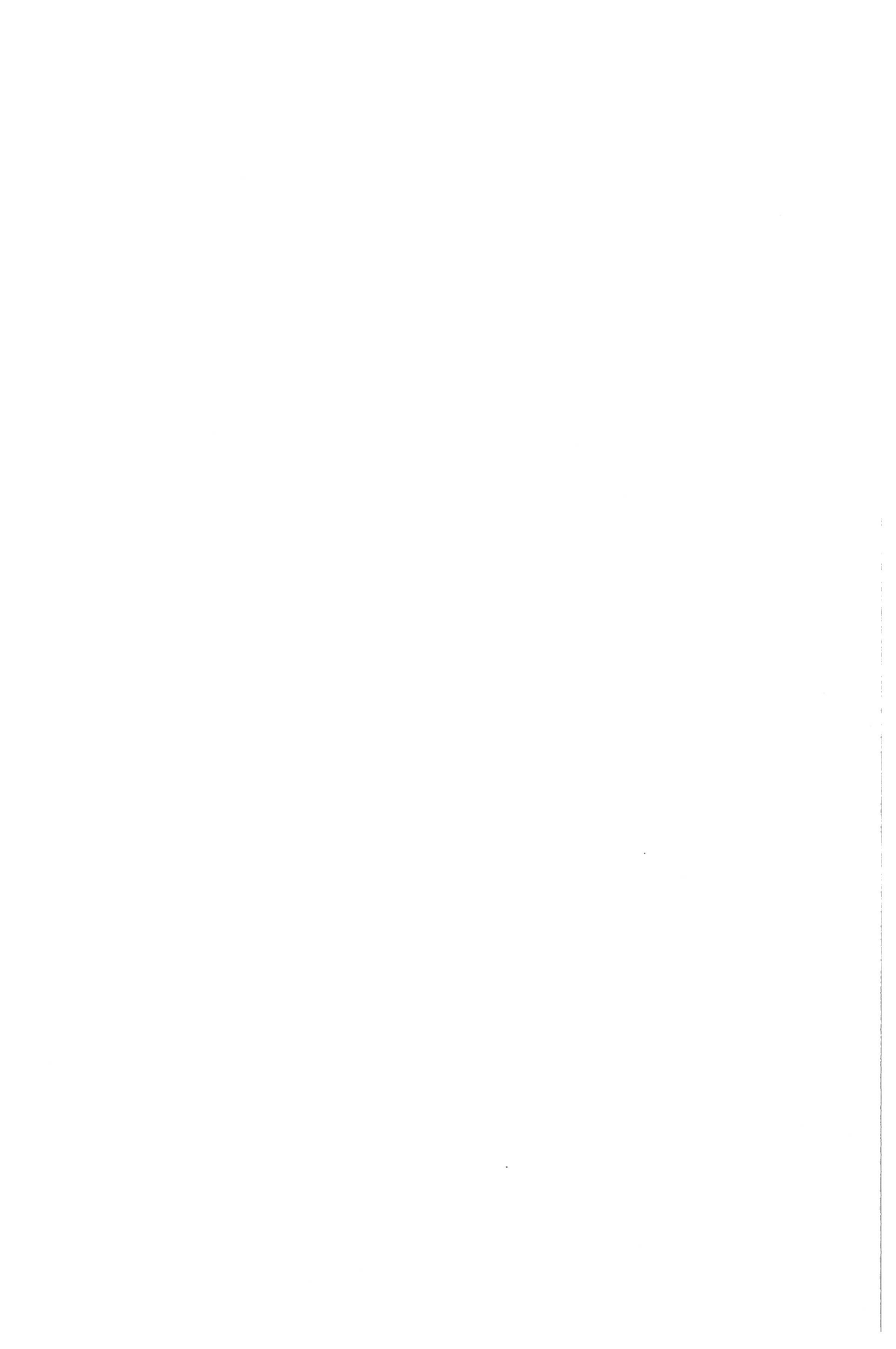
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Editor's Note

It has been an honor to assume the editorship of the *Year Book* in this, the seventy-fifth year of the Dutchess County Historical Society. I am beholden to John and Mary Lou Jeanneney for passing on to me a publication that flourished under their direction. Anyone who has attempted to keep alive a professional quality publication with a volunteer staff can appreciate their accomplishment.

Living in a county with a history spanning over three hundred years, we sometimes forget that our more recent past has its own points of interest. As a result, the 1989 *Year Book* reflects a modest shift in focus. The articles in this issue look at institutions that have been a central part of the county's twentieth century history. Appropriately, Eileen Hayden opens the issue with a survey of the Historical Society since 1914. Arthur Scott looks at the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club as it approaches its hundredth anniversary; Dennis Murray gives us a look into the history of Marist College, especially since World War II; my own article accompanies photographs which bring to life the history of IBM, Poughkeepsie, now nearing its fiftieth anniversary. We take pleasure also in reprinting from an early issue of our publication Lewis Mumford's seminal paper on local history, read at Troutbeck in September, 1925.

I am especially grateful to our contributors and to Lou Lewis, Elizabeth Daniels, Nancy Mac Kechnie and Ben Rayfield for their assistance in bringing the 1989 *Year Book* together.



The First Seventy-Five

by Eileen M. Hayden

"As we look into the open fire for our fancies, so we are apt to study the past for the wonderful and the sublime, forgetful of the fact that the present is a constant romance and the happenings of today which we count of so little import, are sure to startle someone in the future and engage the pen of historian, philosopher, and poet."¹ The trustees of the Pleasant Valley Free Library thought that the eloquence of the words of Col. William F. Cody substantiated the need for an organization to preserve for future generations events of Dutchess County's past. Fifty men and women interested in local history, responded to the trustees' invitation to meet at the library on 28 April 1914. Subsequent meetings produced by-laws and a name—Dutchess County Historical Society.

It was apparently the collective view of the early members that the pace and growth of the county had become so rapid that the touchstones of the past seemed

Dutchess County Historical Society leadership at Springwood during 1927 pilgrimage to Hyde Park. Left to right: John J. Mylod, trustee; Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, trustee; William Platt Adams, president; Eleanor Roosevelt; Franklin D. Roosevelt, vice-president. Photograph from Wide World Photos. DCHS collection.



to be cast aside or tossed into disorganized attics.² Yes, the revered dates of 1776, 1788, or 1861 were recalled and celebrated, but the day-to-day events, as recorded on tombstones and milestones, in diaries, newspapers, account books, public records, letters, and ledgers, seemed less important, commonplace. There was little time for the past when the turn-of-the-century present was caught up in incredible technological growth.

The organization of this historical society formalized and reflected a small but growing trend toward collecting and preserving evidence of the county's past in a systematic way. It should be noted that this original aim, spelled out in the provisional charter granted by the state of New York in 1919, has endured to the present.³

During its first year, one-hundred-and-fifty-five members joined; the annual

dues were set at one dollar. One of the guest speakers at an early meeting was Professor James Baldwin of Vassar College, who began his lecture with these words: "Americans are fonder of making history than preserving records or turning to the past for guidance or information."⁴ He cautioned that it was the job of historians to keep the world's memory alive. Baldwin continued with a very broad list of basic sources, recommendations, observations, and caveats. He decried the fact that post-cards seemed to have supplanted letter writing; that public buildings aped European styles; that public oratory was not adequate; and that public records were rotting in cellars or garrets. In general, there was a prevailing carelessness in regard to matters that counted.⁵

When his talk was concluded, he had articulated a challenging course for his audience. Careful reading of the minutes of Society meetings over the intervening years suggests that the challenge was accepted and has been dealt with in a serious manner. Professor Baldwin's words have been relevant up to the present—the successors of the founders have continued to preserve and promote our county's rich heritage.

At one of the earliest meetings of the Society, the question of issuing some type of publication arose but was referred to committee for further explanation.⁶ At subsequent meetings the topic was vigorously discussed. Some favored a small magazine format, featuring papers on local history topics; some suggested a quarterly publication. Still others considered the undertaking too expensive to pursue.⁷ The matter was left to the executive committee for a final decision.

Happily, the decision to proceed was made. A yearbook has been published continuously since 1914, thus marking it as one of the oldest historical journals in New York State. The depth and breadth of this annual is remarkable as it includes original research, insightful commentaries, personal recollections and reviews of other works. In addition, much of what is currently known of the Society's early days comes from the inclusion of the minutes of meetings and lists of officers and members.

In its current form, there has been some effort made occasionally to choose and develop an appropriate topic, as in the full publication of the original research papers issued during Poughkeepsie's tricentennial year, 1987, or the bicentennial of the official formation of the towns in the County, 1988. The yearbook is a genuine benefit of membership in the society.

Authors of articles over the past seventy-five years have been just as diverse as their topics. Yearbook editors have prepared for publication the articles of nationally known figures—Vassar College President Henry Noble MacCracken, Lewis Mumford, Franklin D. Roosevelt—as well as the work of equally committed and distinguished scholars. These many authors have fulfilled William Cody's idea and have vigorously engaged their pens.

In addition to the yearbook, the Society has published several books and pamphlets that have captured the interest and respect of researchers and casual readers alike. It would be impossible not to single out one local scholar, Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, whose works set the highest of standards for her colleagues and historians through the years. Miss Reynolds had the support and advice of Society members, most notably J. Wilson Poucher and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Through the years, she maintained a lively correspondence with FDR concerning various works in progress. She remained a leading force in the Society until her death in 1943. The reprinting of some of her works and other out-of-print books of

enduring popularity has provided new audiences with an enriching view of Dutchess County's past.

When the Glebe House, built in 1767 in Poughkeepsie, was offered for sale in 1928, there was considerable concern in the local history community. The evident deterioration of the former Episcopal parish house prompted the fear that the structure would be demolished, forever ending yet another link with the past. Glebe House was purchased in part by funds authorized by the City of Poughkeepsie and from additional funds raised by the Historical Society and the Junior League of Poughkeepsie. By 1929 the deed was acquired and presented to the City, which in turn, leased the building to the Society and the Junior League, renewing this lease in 1959 and again in 1989. For the past sixty years these two organizations have cooperated the Glebe House. Following initial renovations, the house has been maintained and preserved for the community. It has been studied and probed, inside and out, by scholars, architects, archeologists and countless school children. With its eight rooms of furniture and household furnishings representative of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century middle-class life, the house offers a glimpse of the past to young and old. A program developed to enhance the teaching of local history has sparked the enthusiasm of students and teachers alike. In addition to its educational function, the Glebe House currently offers opportunities for other programs enjoyed by the public at various times of the year.

In 1979, after sixty-five years of a somewhat peripatetic existence, the Society, under the leadership of its president, Dr. Franklin A. Butts, signed a unique cooperative agreement with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Society accepted the responsibility of operating the Clinton House as a combined headquarters and historic site. With this move, the permanent collection began to burgeon and many more items could be accepted: costumes, paintings, textiles all would find a protected niche. The state assisted in the structural upgrading of the eighteenth-century house, and funds raised from members and from the broader community went into interior alterations that produced, among other things, improved storage space utilizing modern museum practices. The Society's collection of over five hundred volumes is housed in a library honoring Dr. Butts. Since its opening in 1986, researchers in a steady stream have availed themselves of the wealth of information on the library's shelves. The Dutchess County Historical Society library and archives are the only facility in the county to deal exclusively in local history. An exhibit area created within the house has dramatically increased ability to display objects from the Society's permanent collection and from the collections of other societies and individuals.

The move to Clinton House brought with it new responsibilities, new challenges. The transition from a society run solely by a board of trustees to a professionally-run organization has been an education for all involved. The employment of professional staff was hastened by the requirements and expectations of granting agencies that the standards of museum operation and collections management be addressed by those trained to do so. In addition, the demands of operating a state historic facility open to the public on a daily basis could not be met by volunteer staffing alone. Differing views involved in the early choices necessary to achieve professional direction not only produced a competent staff, but also maintained the activity of trustees and volunteers, who contribute time, talent, and energy to Society projects. The contribution of volunteers over the past seventy-five years has been incalculable!

Thus we have a brief view of an organization that has evolved over seventy-five years into a unique community resource. While it might seem that William 'Buffalo Bill' Cody and Helen Wilkinson Reynolds were poles apart, consider her view that

... the life of the people was a thing little reckoned with by historians. The study of history was a study of the apex of the social pyramid, and kings and kingdoms, campaigns and commanders filled the printed page. But kings and kingdoms, campaigns and commanders are effects, not causes. Causes lie deep at the base of the pyramid, imbedded in the common life of the people and include climate and topography; food supplies; route of travel; trade and economics; language, literature...⁸

The Society will continue to put forth new roots, always with an eye to new horizons and the flexibility born of seventy-five years' experience to meet them. The mission to preserve and promote a rich heritage is not just a dry and static ideal, but a vital commitment that will nourish new ideas, new generations. We inherit the past from our forbears; we save it for our children's children.

Endnotes

1. *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*, Vol. 1 (1914-15), p.5.
2. In March, 1989, the Society opened the exhibit "Relics, Souvenirs and Curiosities: Peeking Into Dutchess County's Attic." The items displayed typified the rather random collecting habits of County residents through the years.
3. University of the State of New York, Provisional Charter of Dutchess County Historical Society, granted 24 April 1919.
4. James F. Baldwin, Ph.D., "Value of Local Archives," address reported *Poughkeepsie News Press*, 16 Jan. 1915, extracted from *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*, Vol. 1 (1914-1915).
5. *Ibid.* Prof. Baldwin considered the Amrita Club a fine example of the old Dutch Manor House style; the students' building at Eastman College also typified a "fairly local style of architecture."
6. *Ibid.*, p. 10.
7. *Ibid.*, p.12.
8. Helen W. Reynolds, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley before 1776*, rpt. New York, Dover Books, 1965, pp. 3-4.

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The Value of Local History

(Paper Read at Troutbeck, 15 September 1926)

by Lewis Mumford

All of us feel at bottom with Walt Whitman, that there is no sweeter meat than that which clings to our own bones. It is this conviction that gives value to local history: we feel that our own lives, the lives of our ancestors and neighbors, the events that have taken place in the particular locality where we have settled, are every bit as important as the lives of people who are more remote from us, no matter how numerous these others may be; or how insignificant we may seem alongside of them.

People who live in great cities are accustomed to identify themselves with the whole nation; for the Londoner, London is the British Empire; and for the New Yorker, New York is the United States. A great deal of our national history is written upon the assumption that nothing interesting or important has taken place in the country which did not, as it were, pass through Washington, by coming under public debate, or by being enacted into a law. If wars, political elections, and laws were all that history consisted of there would be some truth, perhaps, in these habits and beliefs; but ever since Green wrote his history of the English people we have come, slowly, to see that the main subject of history is the drama of a community's life—that is, in what manner and to what purpose people have lived: what did they eat, how did they dress, at what did they work, what kind of houses had they to shelter their heads, what ideas and beliefs had they to fill their heads?

At present, it is almost impossible to write national history along these lines; for people's lives and habits differ from region to region; and we must know a great deal more than we do about each separate region, with all its intimate characteristics and peculiarities, before we can even begin to work this up into a single picture. In providing the materials for this new kind of history the older parts of the country are in a more fortunate position than the newer ones: in New England, for example, the local historian has been busy since the early part of the nineteenth century, and as a result of the great mass of material local historical societies and local archaeologists have dug up, New England can boast such classic regional histories as Weeden's *Economic and Social History of New England* or S.E. Morrison's *Maritime History of Massachusetts*, or Messrs. Cousins and Riley's complete description of Salem architecture. The first two of these books are models for regional histories in the grand style; and they have the great merit of showing the immense interest and significance of local life in all its various details--details which the national historian is compelled to gloss over or neglect entirely when he is trying to treat as a single unit all the regional communities between the Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean.

Dutchess County has a past that is in some ways little poorer than New England's. In Dutchess County two different streams of civilization, the landholding and trading civilization of the Dutch, and the more firmly knit and communal civilization of the Puritans came together and mingled. Dutchess County is

historically what the geographer would call an area of transition: in a small way it has been in the position of the Paris Basin, let us say, where two different traditions, the North and the South, came together. The gain and the loss that took place in this mingling and exchange show themselves very plainly in the architecture of the surviving houses, and in the layout of the villages. The patient Dutchman, used to building in solid brick in the old country, took every opportunity to build with stone or brick in his new home: the old Church at Fishkill or the Winegar House on the road to Amenia Union from Leedsville, are examples of his sturdy architecture. When the New Englander came as a separate individual into these new parts of the country, instead of coming as a member of a municipal corporation, he neglected to bring along the Common; and the absence of the common, or its reduction to a mere strip, as at Pawling, was a serious loss to the life of the Dutchess County villages. One who knows the early history of this region does not need the frontier marker to tell him that Sharon is in Connecticut and Amenia is in New York: the layout of the villages tells the whole story.

To come a little closer home, the mingling of the Dutch, English, and Huguenot strains is witnessed in almost every stone and every bit of history connected with Troutbeck. The Delamater Cottage reminds us of the numerous French Protestant names that were scattered about the early colony; the Century Lodge is an excellent example of the Dutch tradition in American country architecture, while down the Leedsville Road are a pair of houses, one of them bearing the repainted date 1837, which shows the penetration of the English influence, with the formality of a Palladian window, looking down upon the tight little Dutch stoop, built with the Dutchman's steady eye to comfort and convenience, let fashion be what it may. Just as the naturalist can reconstruct a whole animal from the few bones he may find in an old gravel pit, so the historian could reconstruct a large part of the history of the whole country, with no more to guide him than the existing names, places, houses, legends, and histories that have to do with so small a part of Dutchess County as the Amenia township. Local history implies the history of larger communities to a much greater extent than national history implies the local community. Every great event sweeps over the country like a wave; but it leaves its deposit behind in the life of the locality; and meanwhile that life goes on, with its own special history, its own special interests.

To follow even the life of a single family, like the Bentons, who worked over the land and the landscape of Troutbeck, is to see in a fresh and more intimate light events which are merely names and dates, not living experiences, when they are focused at a long distance in an ordinary history book. Local history shows us the Bentons tilling the land around Troutbeck for upward a century; it shows them helping to establish a woolen mill during the years when the Napoleonic Wars and the Embargo Act cut off the English supply of woolens; it shows them helping to project the Sharon to New York Canal, as men throughout the state were projecting imaginary canals when the success of the Erie was demonstrated; the minutes of an Amenia Literary Society show a young Benton suggesting names for the streets of the future metropolis of Amenia; it shows Myron Benton listening to the distant voice of Whitman, and corresponding with Thoreau, whose last letter was addressed to him; it shows another Benton going into the Civil War, and living to write about it in a vivid and veracious book. I am merely using Troutbeck and the Benton family as examples of a hundred other equally interesting histories: to preserve these histories and to understand them is an important and indispensable

step to understanding what was going on in the country at large.

Because local history is relatively accessible and immediate; because it deals with the concrete and the commonplace, it is what is necessary to vitalize the teaching of general history to the child at school, to say nothing of more mature students. The things that we can see and touch are those that awaken our imagination. Gibbon suddenly felt the Decline and Fall of Rome as he sat amid the ruined stones of the Forum; and nothing has ever made me, for one, feel the might of the Roman villa in the midst of a quiet English field. Local history touches off these things that have happened on the spot; and the facts of local history become parts of a person's own life to an extent which is rare with scenes and incidents one has taken solely out of books and secondhand accounts. To learn about the Indians who once lived in America, and not to pick out the Indian place-names on the map or to dig up the arrowheads that still remain here; to learn about the Dutch and the Puritan settlers and not to follow the place names and the family names creeping up and down the Dutchess County countryside; to learn about the Revolutionary War and not be able to recognize at sight the houses that survive from that period, or to be able to locate the mines and forges which supplied the soldiers with muskets and swords and ammunition; to learn about the commercial growth of the United States after the Civil War and not to know that the first school of business was started upon in Poughkeepsie just before the conflict broke out, and was overrun with pupils by the end of it--in short, to learn the abstractions of history and never to observe the concrete reality is to throw away local bread under the impression that imported stones are more nourishing.

Every old part of the country is filled with the memorials of our past: tombstones and cottages and churches, names and legends, old roads and trails and abandoned mines, as well as the things we built and used yesterday. All these memorials bring us closer to the past; and, so doing, they bring us closer to our own present; for we are living history as well as recording it; and our memories are as necessary as our anticipation. Communities seem to differ from individuals in this respect, that their expectation of life grows the older they become; the more history lies in back of them, the more confident we are that more will lie in front. A good past is a guarantee of a good future; and to preserve the records of what came before us promotes that sense of continuity which gives us the faith to continue our own work, with the expectation that our descendants will find it equally interesting.

Local history is a sort of benchmark to which all more generalized and specialized kinds of history must come back, for verification, as a point of reference. The value of local history for stimulating the imagination and giving the student something concrete and accessible to work upon has been recognized in the best English school; and it is beginning to take root in America, as well. At King's Langley and at Saffron Walden in England, one group of children after another has contributed material to a little museum of local history. If nothing of this sort exists in Dutchess County, the local historical society members might well look into the possibilities of using their local material, and it remains for enterprising teachers of history to turn it to their special advantage. The point is that history begins at home, inevitably; but it does not end there. With local history as a starting point the student is drawn into a whole host of relationships that lead him out into the world at large: the whaling ships that used to cast anchor at Poughkeepsie and other river towns will carry him to the South Seas; the discovery of the Hudson will take him back to the Crusades; once one begins to follow the threads of local history, local

manners, local industry, local peoples, one finds that they lead in every direction. And that is the proper method. Local history is not a means of exciting false pride in little things or exaggerated pretensions to local virtues that do not exist: on the contrary, it promotes to a decent self-respect: it is that form of self-knowledge which is the beginning of sound knowledge about anyone else. Just as the story of every one's life would make at least one novel, so the story of any community's life would make at least one history. To know that history and to take pleasure in it is the beginning of that sympathy with remote times and foreign peoples which tends to make one truly a man of the world.

—Reprinted from the *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*,
Vol. 12 (1927), pp. 22 - 26.

Images of IBM

by Mark H. Lytle, *Editor*

Over the past three centuries no single event has had a greater impact on Dutchess County than the decision in 1941 of the International Business Machines Corporation to begin operations in Poughkeepsie. That decision was a byproduct of World War II. Even before Pearl Harbor, orders for war materials had brought the American economy out of the Great Depression. The Roosevelt Administration had begun to rebuild the nation's defenses.¹ An IBM subsidiary, Munitions Manufacturing Company, in anticipation of new government contracts, bought 215 acres of property from the R.U. Delapenha Company along the Hudson River. That included both the Delapenha House and some 30,000 square feet of manufacturing space.²

Munitions Manufacturing signed its first government contract in June of 1941. At that time, construction of building 001 was well under way, and employees moved in early in December, just after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Among the many lessons Americans learned from the Pearl Harbor disaster was the critical importance of combat aircraft. The Poughkeepsie plant became heavily involved in manufacturing equipment for the air war. It shipped its first 20 millimeter aircraft cannons in February of 1942. Even then, IBM was laying plans for a much greater presence in the area. It purchased 123 acres of land southeast of the main plant (the site of the present IBM Country Club) as a recreational facility. It also completed its acquisition of Munitions Manufacturing, thus making the Poughkeepsie plant IBM Plant 2. A Factory Training School was opened to ensure adequately trained personnel as the company expanded. War production included superchargers for high altitude aircraft and Browning .30-caliber automatic rifles.

1944 marked a critical turn for IBM operations in Poughkeepsie. The company had decided to establish a new research and engineering laboratory. To that end it purchased "Cliffdale," a 217-acre estate along Boardman Road that had previously belonged to Clarence, and then Helen, Kenyon. Since the war created a scarcity of construction materials, operations began in the Kenyon house. Personnel were transferred from other IBM facilities in Rochester, New York, and East Orange, New Jersey. In anticipation of declining war orders, typewriter production was also moved to the newer Poughkeepsie facilities. The Country Club opened a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, and picnic facilities, while purchasing an additional 272 acres to make expansion of the golf course possible. The fieldstone gateway along Route 9 was built in 1947 with funds donated by IBM employees to create a memorial to those company personnel who died in service during the war.

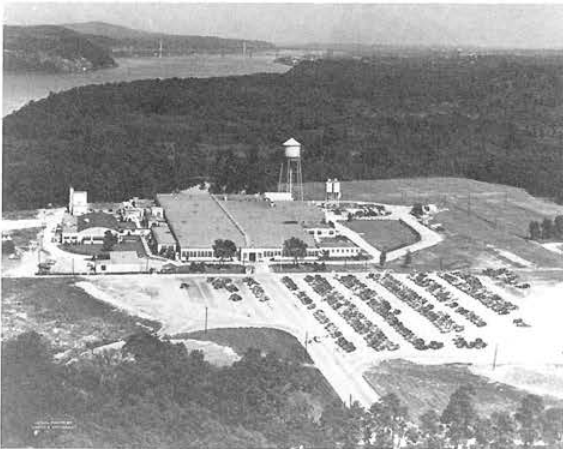
Many Americans feared that the end of the war would mean a return to hard times. IBM, however, anticipated a rapid increase in demand for its automated business machines such as the 801 Proof Machine used in banks and its famous key punch products, as well as the electromatic typewriter. All of these products reflected the rapid increase in corporate and government operations and the corresponding flow of paperwork and record-keeping.³ The war effort had also



The R.U. Delapenha House was part of IBM's initial site acquisition in 1941. Now known as Building 070, it is the oldest building in the Poughkeepsie complex.

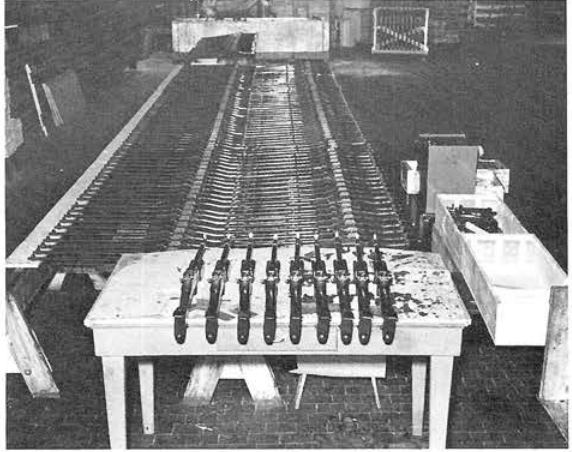


Building 001, as of 1941.



An aerial shot of the Poughkeepsie plant, circa 1946.

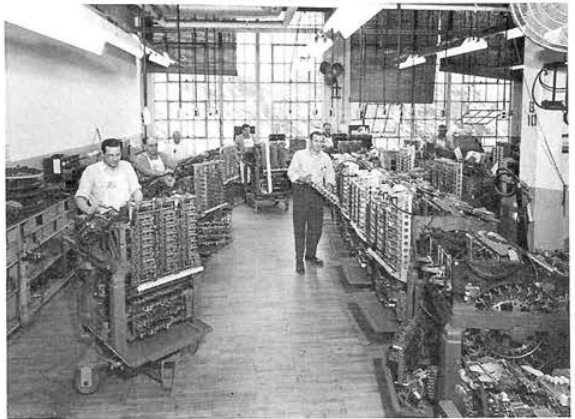
These Browning .30-caliber automatic rifles were one of the first products manufactured at IBM Poughkeepsie.



The center hall of the Kenyon Mansion, the original home of the Poughkeepsie Laboratories. Though the building has been through numerous changes, IBM has been careful to preserve its historic atmosphere.



In this picture of the lower plant from around 1956, IBM employees assemble the Bank Proof Machine.



encouraged the development of machines capable of manipulating large quantities of numbers. That had given IBM experience needed to begin the design and manufacture of its 700 series of computers. The guiding hand behind this innovation and expansion was Thomas J. Watson, Sr.. The "THINK" sign over his desk became one of the major icons of postwar corporate culture.

The increases in production and product line necessitated a vast expansion of IBM research and manufacturing facilities. The company broke ground in 1947 for its new manufacturing plant, Building 002, on 250,000 square feet located on South Road. Some 10,000 people came in June, 1948 to hear the President of Columbia University and former World War II hero, Dwight D. Eisenhower, dedicate Building 002 "to the future of America." Among the dignitaries gathered for the ceremony was former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt. She returned again in 1952 to speak at the dedication of buildings 003 and 004, which gave IBM Poughkeepsie an additional 632,000 square feet of manufacturing space.

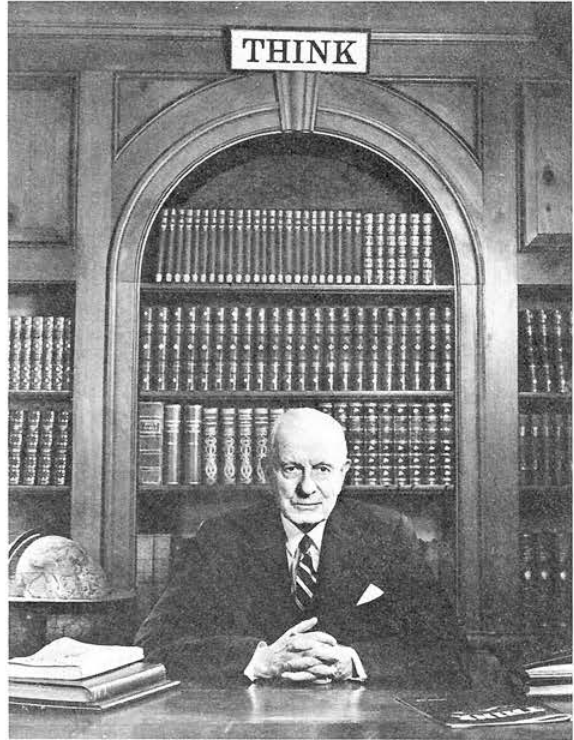
During this period the research labs were involved in the design of important new computers, including the company's first commercially available computer, the IBM 701 scientifically oriented Electronic Data Processing Machine, and the TPM II or 702 computer, a commercially-oriented machine.⁴ The creation of such sophisticated technologies placed ever more demands on the research facility. IBM thus broke ground in 1953 for Building 701 on Boardman Road, which opened in 1954.

Thomas J. Watson, Jr., President of IBM, was there at ceremonies which dedicated this building to his father, Thomas Watson, Sr., the chairman of the IBM Board. John Furness, chairman of the the Poughkeepsie IBM Advisory Board, spoke on behalf of the 8,000 area IBM employees. He presented Watson with a trowel symbolizing "the solid foundation" on which he had built the organization. The featured speaker, James Killian, President of MIT, warned of the danger the nation faced from the shortage of scientists and engineers. That warning became acute in 1957 with the launching of 'Sputnik' and the discovery of the 'missile gap.' As the 700 series evolved, it played a vital role in scientific and defense research, including the launching of satellites and manned space vehicles.⁵

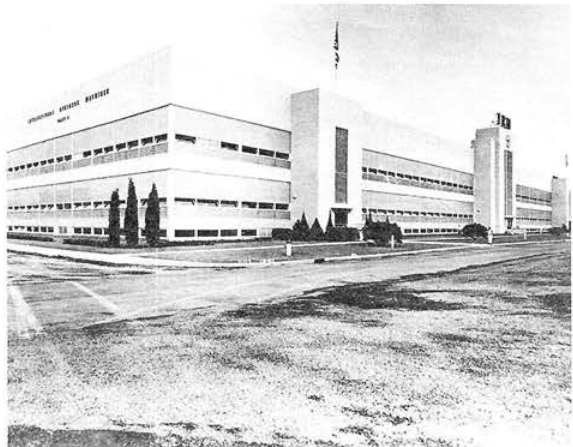
Completion of Building 701 allowed IBM to refurbish Kenyon House as a meeting center called 'The Homestead.' In 1963 it was remodeled once again to become the home of IBM's Corporate Headquarters Management School-Northeast. By this time, IBM engineers in Poughkeepsie had already created machines in the 700 series (including the 705 in 1957) that could read, write, and compute simultaneously. That innovation won awards for Systems Architecture Manager, Carl Christiansen; Systems Development Manager, Lawrence Kanter; and Technical Advisor, George Monroe. Those newly-created machines relied largely on vacuum-tube technology and magnetic tape. The invention of the transistor in 1948 opened new potentialities and problems. IBM engineers incorporated transistors into the 7090 computer family ordered by the Defense Department for the newly-constructed Ballistic Missile Early Warning System or DEW-line across northern Canada.⁶

Application of transistor technology lead by 1959 to a major corporate restructuring. The Poughkeepsie plant and laboratory now became known as the Data Systems Division. In this period of time, IBM's Steve Dunwell undertook the development of the big transistorized computer called 'Stretch.' Still, a gap existed in the IBM line between computers designed for scientific and commercial appli-

Portrait of Thomas J. Watson, Sr., in 1948. The "THINK" sign became an icon of corporate America in the 1950s.



Building 002, located on South Road. The opening of this plant in 1948 added 250,000 square feet of manufacturing space.





Among the dignitaries present at the dedication of Building 002 were former General Dwight D. Eisenhower (right) and former first lady and Hyde Park resident, Eleanor Roosevelt (lower left).

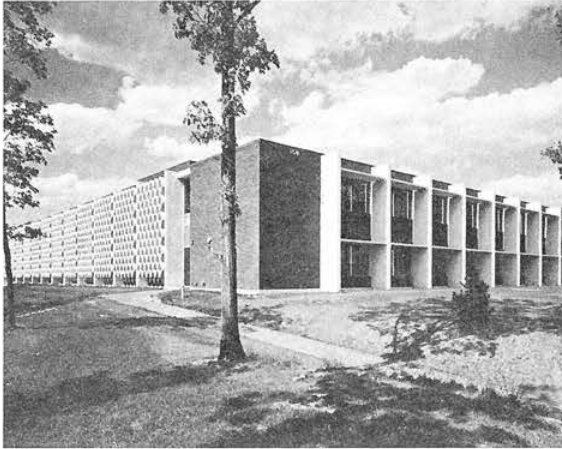


Located in a former cornfield on the Clarence Kenyon estate, Building 701 was completed in 1954 to house additional research facilities.

cations. Thus, engineers in Poughkeepsie and all of the IBM world began work on a revolutionary new product called System/360. So broad was the scope of the development effort that the laboratory group added building 705, with a cafeteria offering a scenic view of the Hudson River. The building's boxy shape and honeycomb concrete exterior reflected the architectural influence of Edward Durell Stone. Stone's concept, which he also incorporated in the American Embassy in New Delhi and the Huntington Hartford Museum in New York, was to adorn a simple geometric shape with classical elements.⁷ Such relatively clean exteriors, with workable interior space, have been a hallmark of IBM architecture.

More important than the exterior was the accomplishment in the interior. On 7 April 1964, IBM chartered a special train from New York City to bring some 200 newpeople to Poughkeepsie. They gathered to hear Thomas Watson, Jr., describe the System/360 as "the beginning of a new generation, not only of computers but of their application to business, science, and government."⁸ This series, besides its enhanced memory and high speed, eliminated the problematic "distinction between scientific and commercial computer" applications. A program written for any one model could be run on the others in the series. Watson at this time called the System/360 "the most important new product announcement in IBM's history." Appropriately, it coincided with the company's 50th anniversary. So monumental was the task of writing programming for this new system that IBM in the summer of 1965 opened building 706 to house one of the world's largest computing centers devoted solely to the creation of programming.⁹

IBM has to the present continued to play a dominant role in the Mid-Hudson Valley region. Its work has gone beyond computers to include innovations such as its satellite data communications facility, located in the laboratory complex. Today, the company employs some 27,000 people in the area. Support in the form of grants and equipment has greatly enhanced computer facilities at area colleges and schools. And the Poughkeepsie labs continue to produce new products to meet the nation's information needs in the the 21st Century.



Building 705 has the honeycombed concrete exterior that reflects the architectural influence of Edward Durrell Stone in the 1950s and 1960s.



Thomas Watson, Jr., announcing in April 1964 the introduction of the revolutionary new IBM System/360.

An IBM System/360 graces this modern office of the 1960s.



A northeast view of the RCA 36-foot diameter antenna located in the parking lot of building 703 (701 is in the upper left). The dish was used for satellite data transmission/receiving experiments during the 1970s.



Endnotes

1. For an interesting description of the conversion to war, see David Brinkley, *Washington Goes to War* (New York, 1988). On the homefront during the war, see also John Blum, *'V' Was for Victory* (New York, 1976) and Richard Polenberg, *War and Society* (New York, 1972). More informal and entertaining is Richard Lingeman, *Don't You Know There's A War On?* (New York, 1970).
2. The information and original photographs for this essay come from two IBM publications, *Pages from the Past* (Poughkeepsie, 1976) and *14K Days: A History of the Poughkeepsie Laboratory* (Poughkeepsie, 1984).
3. On postwar conversion, see Eric Goldman's breezy *The Crucial Decade and After* (New York, 1960), Godfrey Hodgson, *America in Our Time* (New York, 1976), and James Gilbert, *Another Chance* (New York, 1981).
4. IBM machines were featured in the 1957 movie "Desk Set," starring Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn. This adaptation of a Broadway play spoofs the idea of the automated office.
5. For a fascinating discussion of the "space race" and the politics that inspired it, see Walter MacDougall, *...the Heavens and the Earth* (New York, 1985).
6. *14k Days*, pp.14-29.
7. Vincent Scully, *Architecture and Urbanism* (New York), pp.190-191.
8. *14k Days*, p.33.
9. *Ibid.* pp.33-35.
10. *Poughkeepsie Journal*, Nov. 28, p. 9A.

Poughkeepsie Yacht Club: Working Men Build a Club

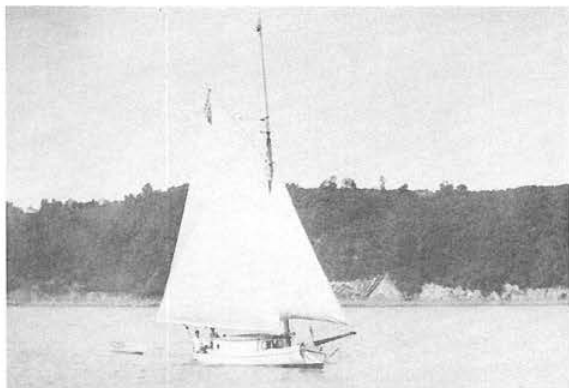
by Arthur E. Scott

*The best laid schemes o' mice and men
Gang aft a-gley —Robert Burns*

Working men and women built Poughkeepsie Yacht Club—"woodworker, draftsman, telegrapher, railroad clerk, owner of small business;" and more recently, "computer engineer, programmer and manager." You won't find many names of Poughkeepsie Yacht Club officers and members in the history books, for they were not among the rich and famous. They were people who realized that by working together they could enjoy recreation on the river. Doctors, bankers, and lawyers contributed in the same way—giving of their time and skills—doing what needed to be done. Working people built the Club—folks who loved the river and wanted a way to use it, wanted to be on the water, wanted to be around and enjoy boats, wanted to enjoy sailing. This is their story, largely in their words.

Poughkeepsie Yacht Club Organized

From the beginning of its history, Dutchess has been a maritime county and Poughkeepsie, a maritime center. The great Hudson River is still the highway to the rest of the world. From the days of the great explorations through the times of the whaling industry until the railroads took over, the river was the artery of commerce and transportation. The yacht, once the boat of commerce, was subsequently used so much in racing, that today it means only pleasure craft. At the end of the nineteenth century, sailing boats and hand-propelled craft were the average person's means for water recreation. The object of the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club as stated in its Constitution has, from the beginning, been "the advancement of yachting and recreation for its members."



Poughkeepsie Yacht Club Collection

Arthur E. Scott is historian of the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club, which will celebrate its Centennial in 1992.

Aboard the 28-foot gaff-rigged sloop 'Beatrice' on 14 September 1892, Messrs. Powell Hobert (molder), William Hartman (painter), R.W. Haupt (clerk), Gustave Nolting (carpenter), Gottlieb Nolting, Jr. (cigarmaker), Chas. W. Morgan (engineer), Edward Laufersweiller (clerk), and John and William Furman organized the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club. They elected officers and accepted new members at their first business meeting at a member's house at 35 South Bridge Street on 22 September. The Club accepted the first Constitution, By-Laws, and Sailing Regs on 12 December. Thus, the Club was born. Two days following the organization of the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club, "there was an interesting sailing regatta at New Hamburg. It grew out of a race sailed there two weeks previously."¹ Wasting no time, the Ball Committee invited the Albany Yacht Club to attend its first ball the following January.

The First Clubhouse

The Club leased a dock known as Sand Dock from the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad for 25 dollars per year and built the first clubhouse the following May. This was on the site of the old Revolutionary Ship Yard (or Continental Shipyard) at Ship Yard Point, now known as Fox's Point. Commodore Hobert drew the plans for the first clubhouse, 20 by 20 feet, two stories. "Sundays were the days when mechanics from all the trades came down with their overalls



Poughkeepsie Yacht Club Collection

and tools to contribute their mite toward the new recreation...and gentlemen, if you of the luxuriant clubhouse were as proud of your clubhouse as these men were of theirs there could be nothing asked for in the boating world...In 1896, as the ever-increasing membership made more room necessary, an addition of 50 feet was added."²

The use of the coves for mooring boats north and south of the ice house on the adjoining property was given to the Club on the understanding that, "they were to look after the Ice House property as much as possible."³

With money always in short supply, unusual fundraising methods were required. For example, in 1897 "The veranda in front of the house was added using the proceeds of the Autumn Carnival. The Mosquito Fleet Band consisting of 32 musicians attired in white and recruited from the membership and their friends furnished the music. There was a street parade each evening with "red fire." This brilliant affair was a great success."⁴

Regattas and Races

Rowing played an important role in the Club's program:

Together with the Apokeepsing Boat Club, [PYC] fostered much interest in rowing here which led to the negotiations securing the first race of the University Eights (Intercollegiate Regatta) in June, 1895. Sufficient money to erect boathouses, make necessary arrangements for crew quarters, for surveying, marking the course, etc., was raised by subscription through the efforts of a finance committee composed of Grant Van Etten of the Yacht club, James Reynolds of the Apokeepsings, William Schnickle of the Board of Trade, and A.O. Cheney of the Retail Merchants' association.⁵

Races, regattas, and illuminated parades were held almost every year. For example, in the 1907 "Hudson River Yacht Racing Association races on Labor Day—one of the most important in the history of the Club—over 100 boats participated in various classes—a grand success."⁶ "Poughkeepsians, however, were much disappointed because Al Traver's famous *Black Cat* lost the race for the Lackawanna Cup."⁷

Identification of yachts with clubs has always been important among the yachting fraternity. For example, Poughkeepsie Yacht Club rules state, "Any members, owners of steam, or sail yachts, or naphtha launches must fly the club signal when sailing in our waters while club is in commission," as recorded in the PYC Minutes of Meeting, of 4 January 1907.

Gradually, power launches came to dominate the fleets. In 1900 George Buckhout installed the first ten horsepower standard engine in Daubert's 33-foot glass



Intercollegiate boat races

cabin launch, *Tartan*.⁸ A photomontage in the Club dining room taken about 1920 shows one sailboat and 19 steam and naphtha-powered launches. From the 28-foot sloop, boats grew in size, the fleet changing to 35- to 40-foot launches. The Club had continually to increase the capacity and size of the equipment to launch and store boats at the beginning and end of the season.

Through the years, various details of yachting life stand out. In 1907 colorful night river parades were aided by a suggestion "that the Club purchase 100 Japanese Lanterns for Illuminated River Parade."⁸

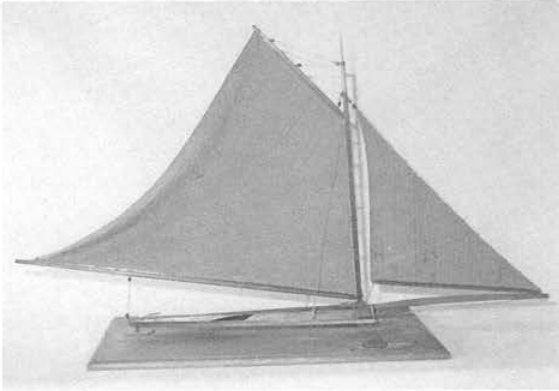
For the Poughkeepsie-Brightwater race, the "regatta committee had the power to incur such expenses as might be necessary to make the Poughkeepsie-Brightwater race successful. Club entered 9 boats in the race. Race arranged by A. C. Ackerman and Commodore Day, editor of *The Rudder*, who crossed the Atlantic

a 22- foot boat.”⁹ During the years, safety was a concern, especially on the marathon outboard races between New York and Albany. In 1934 “Dr. Carpenter spoke about an organized patrol of perhaps 10 to 12 boats placed about 2 miles apart during the Outboard Marathon May 13th to furnish protection for drivers.”¹⁰

Iceboating

In addition to racing, yachting and rowing, ice boating was popular with Club members, as these newspaper quotations show:

The sport, perhaps one of the fastest in the world, started in New Hamburg



Kraus Collection

in the 1860's when Captain Van Nort Carpenter constructed a crude ice boat and named it 'Fult'...John Roosevelt, who was a great competitor, had Jacob Buckout, a Pough-keepsie boat builder, construct the largest ice boat ever to sail the Hudson. He called her 'Icicle'—and she carried over 1,000 square feet of sloop-rigged sail and was 69'

10" long...In one famous race in 1871, the 'Icicle' beat the Chicago Express, which ran along the tracks bordering the east side of the river.¹¹

It should be borne in mind that Poughkeepsie was long the center of ice yachting. In fact, the ice yacht first came into existence here as a racing craft, and was made known to the sporting world through the reports of the early races of the Poughkeepsie Ice Yacht Club...The leading rivals in the period of the Poughkeepsie club's supremacy, were John A. Roosevelt and Aaron Innis, whose 'Icicle [III]' and 'Haze,' as remodeled after the crack 'Robert Scott' about 1884, were not greatly improved upon...In January, 1887 the members of the Poughkeepsie Yacht club were busy as bees getting their crafts ready for the annual races.¹²

The long-looked-for race for the Ice Yacht challenge pennant of America was successfully held on February 14, 1887. The course was from a stake off Main street pier to and around a stake off Milton, four miles south and return, and the course was sailed over twice.¹³

The Poughkeepsie Yacht Club was not at any time the 'Poughkeepsie Ice Yacht Club:' these were two different organizations. The Poughkeepsie Yacht Club fielded as many as seven ice yachts, generally storing four in the boat house. The

Club had an official ice race course—apparently the same one specified by Wellington Lansing in *The Star* for 1932:

Whereas members of this Club having measured a Race course upon the ice of 5 nautical miles, 4 1/2 south of the Clubhouse and 1/2 north, and furnished a diagram of the same showing and describing the location on the shore of the different distance points, be it Resolved that the same be and it is hereby adopted as the regular and official Race Course of this Club.¹⁴

Later on, powerful ferry boats of the Poughkeepsie-to-Highland line broke the ice and forced iceboating to move north to Hyde Park. Ultimately, the steamboats and Coast Guard icebreakers nearly stopped the sport entirely. As late as 1961, however, PYC still had an iceboat in its boathouse.

Sub-zero weather enabled the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club to break out its iceboat today. Custodian Edmund Lynk is stretched on the boat for a trip along the shore but a lack of wind kept its speed low. Mr. Lynk said the iceboat was put on the river for only one day three years ago but it's been a long time—perhaps back to the 1920s—since iceboating conditions on the river have been 'real good.' Recent winters have not been cold enough to freeze ice to any great thickness, and icebreakers opening a channel many times crack the ice from shore to shore.¹⁵

The Club has a model of an ice yacht which was donated some years ago by A. Van Vlack. In 1942, George Buckhout volunteered to put the ice yacht in "A1 condition" and have it placed in Roosevelt Library as a gift from the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club.¹⁶ Forty-seven years later, this model is still in the Roosevelt Library collection. Ray Ruge identified the model as the 'Whiff'.¹⁷

Second Clubhouse

The Yacht Club had an untroubled history until the Fall of 1904 when "the startling news came that they had to move, for in their zeal they neglected to buy the land and that was a very solemn Winter for them, until their spirits of enterprise rose like a Phoenix and they could not say 'die'." "The club members, with the spirit of enterprise which they have always shown, have already torn down the old club house and removed the materials to the new site and considerable work has been done preparing for the erection of the new building."¹⁹



Poughkeepsie Yacht Club Collection

The records revealed plans for the new location:

In addition to the clubhouse, a locker and boat house 25 x 80 feet will be erected on the north side of the lot. It will be built from the materials of the old boat house. The members of the boat club will provide the labor for the erection of this building, drawing upon the club roster, which contains the names of a number of skilled artisans. The club members have done most of their own work in the past and they propose to keep up their reputation on these lines...The cost of the improved clubhouse property will approximate \$5000 for which five hundred bonds of the denomination of \$10 each will be issued...The club dues are only fifty cents a month, and the initiation fee \$5, which is a very modest charge for the many privileges offered by the club.²⁰

The new facility reinvigorated the Club:

The following year, 1905, they had finished the present club and started in life anew with 125 members, 16 naphtha launches, 7 sail yachts and 35 rowboats, and debts galore, but the never failing spirits did not leave them and each year they added \$1,000 worth of improvements, and at last the club became self-sustaining. This could not have been possible if it were not for the members doing a very large part of the work themselves. From the painter, plumber, and carpenter who belong to the club came new gifts of their handiwork...²¹

Some problems remained:

The House was apparently intended for summer-use only, as it was not insulated. Later on the fireplaces were added, on two floors. The Steward's quarters were located on the third floor, good view of the property and boats on moorings. The entire area was slightly over one acre, which necessitated the storing of boats about 2 feet apart. Hauled on marine railway and skidded sideways on grease and planks, one boat per day, with luck two.²²

As the Club continued to grow, space became a premium; in 1931

More space was needed to store boats on the grounds. The Club grounds were extended into the river by laying large stones for 90 feet in front of the Club House and south end of the yard, then filling in back of them with about 300 loads of stone and dirt. A new dock was also laid from the marine railway to about 50 feet south of the Club House. A new concrete wall to support the Club House was built during the season. This and extensive repairs to the marine railway made it one of the best on the river between New York City and Albany.²³

Membership continued around 250 through the time of the Great Depression, which did not seem to have a large impact on the Club. This was probably because the members did most of the work themselves. Thus, the costs were kept within the reach of most of the members.

First Woman Member

Miss Frances Roberts, daughter of Dr. Charles Roberts, became the first woman member of the Club as reported in the PYC Minutes of Meeting of 1 August 1913, to wit: "The investigation committee on the applications for membership of Miss Frances Roberts, Highland Landing, Oakes, N.Y...reported favorably and a ballot was taken and the candidate elected." (On payment of the special lifetime fees she was granted Life Membership on 5 March 1926.) Miss Roberts remained a member until her death on 25 October 1946. From the dimensions and location of the area shown as 'Water Rights' on the *Atlas of the Hudson River from NYC to Troy - 1891*, it can be inferred that Miss Roberts was instrumental in obtaining an anchorage for the Club on the west side of the river, directly opposite the location of the Club. This is hinted in the PYC Minutes of Meeting of 7 June 1929, where it was stated: "Anchorage available on west shore 1200 feet long, 500 feet out from shore." Obtaining an anchorage on the west shore of the river was highly advantageous under some wind conditions. The PYC Minutes of Meeting of 6 May 1927 indicated that "the Steward be allowed to place lights on boats in the event that they have to be anchored across the river."

For many years, Miss Roberts was the only woman member although junior membership was open to both boys and girls. In 1929, the Committee on Junior Members stated the qualifications: "Any boy or girl between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) years...can make application for Senior Membership." The Club became ambivalent about female members in the middle years. During that time, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club was formed. The wives of members continued to make contributions to building and maintaining the Club. The ambiguity was resolved on 6 April 1987 when the Constitution was changed, clearly defining membership: "Active members are composed of boat owners and non-boat owners and have all the privileges the Club affords."²⁴

Urban Renewal

In 1966, the title of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* article, "Sad End Looms for Yacht Club," told the story. The article began: "Here's a view of the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club from the Mid-Hudson Bridge. The yacht club now has about 250 members, some 200 of them boat owners. Their craft range all the way from six-foot sailboats to one 84-foot cruiser. The yacht club is slated to be demolished under urban renewal to make way for a riverfront park."²⁵

The best laid schemes o' mice and men—for the second time the Club was in danger of losing its clubhouse and property in spite of the precautions the Club took in purchasing the land. In 1964, the Poughkeepsie Urban Renewal Program was announced. "Mr. [Lawrence] Heaton reported he talked with officials of the Urban Renewal Program. The yacht club may be affected by relocation or just addition or improvement to the property," was recorded in the PYC Minutes of Meeting of 1 June 1964.

The members were stoic about the threat to their club:

"We're certainly sad over the prospect of losing our clubhouse" said Carl Fritz, a former commodore. "It's like losing an old friend"...Even more disturbing

to the club's members is the offer of \$61,000 for the property, which they contend is far too little to enable them to buy property and rebuild the yacht club elsewhere...The Mid-Hudson Power Squadron meets here," Mr. [James] Carroll said, "and the place also is used by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for meetings....In addition the club is used as a patrol base and stopping point for the outboard motorboat races between New York and Albany.. The Yacht Club has fostered activities on the river since it was organized in 1892," said Mr Carroll. "Instead of driving us out, they should be trying to encourage us to stay in Poughkeepsie....The old lady has played an important role on the riverfront for years. Now they say she's old and want to get rid of her. They call it progress. But to me it's a desecration of our historical riverfront."²⁶

Negotiations continued into 1967; the image of yacht club members as rich biased the issue. "The club, contrary to popular belief, is not comprised of wealthy



Poughkeepsie Journal Collection

business and professional men with expensive hobbies. Rather the members come from all areas and backgrounds and have one common interest—a love of boating...And because of this mixture of training and abilities the members are able to do things for themselves. They maintain their own boats and their own club. New projects are done by the members themselves and they are always eager

to welcome into their midst those individuals in the community who share their boating interests."²⁷

Frustration with the implacable will of Poughkeepsie Urban Renewal led to capitulation; but in a final gesture of hope the clubhouse was scheduled to be painted one last time in June 1967. "Clubhouse to be painted next Saturday," read the PYC Minutes of Meeting of 28 May 1967.

After the last goodbye came a new possibility in 1968:

For 76 years our club, the oldest in the Hudson Valley, has welcomed area yachtsmen. The old building has seen many a Commodore's Ball, but now the old must give way to the new and while we all look forward to a new clubhouse with modern facilities, we all share a certain nostalgic affection for the old building...On November 16th she'll be dressed up in her faded best for one last fling, and I know every member will want to be on hand to make this last ball the most memorable of all.²⁸

A New Beginning—1969

A new yacht club on a river needs enough land for a house and winter storage for boats and docks; it needs a house and docks and moorings; it needs an anchorage; and it needs permits, permits, permits. Recognizing possibility within a difficult situation requires vision and foresight—a few small scattered rocky islands, five derelict barges abandoned on the shoreline, much of the land between the railroad track and the river under-water at high tide and mud the rest of the time. The Club had the men with vision, men who could see the possibility. “Einar Reves gave



Poughkeepsie Yacht Club Collection

a description of the proposed new property just north of Hyde Park...4 - 5 acres on the river, approximately 18 acres total.”²⁹ “Contract has been signed and downpayment of \$5,000.00 paid...owner of the barges at the property, agreed to move the barges in the spring.”³⁰

As in the old days they harnessed the power of the tides. “Floats are going to be rafted together and floated to the new site on incoming tide.”³¹ Because most of the

property was under water much of the time “old outboard floats are to be used to reach the island...Pier has already been installed on the island to install Main floats...Plan to set new floats March 22.”³² Undaunted, the planners went ahead immediately to get boats into the water.

For the first years a barge served as the clubhouse. The minutes from meeting to meeting noted



Poughkeepsie Yacht Club Collection

progress, such as the repair of ramp, sides, roof, railings,³³ the purchase of a construction trailer,³⁴ and the satisfaction of Penn Central requirements.³⁵ Time pressed the members heavily. But in spite of a threat of eviction, the group met its deadlines in May, 1969.

And to round out the year, “Poughkeepsie Yacht Club’s 78th Annual Commo-

dore's Ball took place Saturday at the Covered Wagon, Red Oaks Mill. Commodore Einar Reves was honored for 'his outstanding success in keeping the club unified and vital' during its recent move from Union Street."³⁶

The new site invited new plans: "Planning Committee consensus to fill bay in the front center of the Club grounds would make the best site for the proposed Club House."³⁷ Exploration had shown the area for a yacht basin could not be dredged—too much rock too close to the surface. "The location chosen primarily for the view of the river that it afforded, was not legally our land. It was tideland owned by New York State. We immediately set out to obtain the necessary permits to buy and fill the property," stated a Club notice at the time.³⁸

And, after much negotiation with the Corps of Engineers, Water Resource Commission, Office of General Services, Conservation Department, and the Water Quality Division, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, survey maps and more detailed maps, and on and on, while fending off Penn Central's protest, finally, "the People of the State of New York...in consideration of the sum of Eight Hundred Ten Dollars (\$810.00)...do give and grant unto the said POUGHKEEPSIE YACHT CLUB, INC...All that parcel of land now or formerly under the waters of Hudson River, situated in the Town of Hyde Park, County of Dutchess, State of New York, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point in the easterly mean high water line of Hudson River, said point being...feet from U.S.C. & C.G. Station "Blunts Island"...thence into the waters of Hudson River...to the point or place of beginning, containing 0.925 acres, more or less."³⁹

That decision allowed the Club to proceed with "plans for a landfill project for the weekend of October 10."³⁷ And, of course, a permit had to be obtained. "The applicant requests that he be issued a permit to place approximately 6,000 cubic yards of fill in an area 165 feet by 85 feet to an elevation five (5) feet above the high water line in what is presently a tidal marsh located on the east bank of the Hudson River approximately three tenths (.3) of a mile south of Esopus Island in the Town of Hyde Park, County of Dutchess."⁴⁰ "Over 4000 yards of fill [were] moved from the upper part of the club property to the swamp area south of the trailer. By Sunday afternoon the area was leveled off and one section seeded with grass."⁴¹

"An application was made for a Special Anchorage and was granted."⁴² In 1973 the good news began to arrive. The Commodore announced:

The building is in transit and is expected in the very near future. Contractors are being selected and we're shooting to have the outer shell up and closed in before the turn of the year. And that's where we all come in! We'll be relying upon voluntary labor throughout the winter for plumbing, heating, electricity, finished carpentry, etc., with a target date of completion in the spring, in time for a really big beginning of the 1974 boating season.⁴³

Steady progress was achieved in construction:

Jan 2:	Construction is underway.
Mar 4:	Roof is being put on.
Sept 9:	Building heat is complete and turned on. Deck is almost complete—job is excellent.

The disruption was not without its cost in human terms. The membership dropped in ten years from 250 at the announcement of Urban Renewal in 1964, to 102 total (12 honorary, 74 active, 16 social) in 1974.

Our Nation's Bicentennial

A sense of normalcy began to reappear in 1976, the year of the United States Bicentennial. Among the celebrations, Poughkeepsie Yacht Club hosted one on an evening in July, "With red, white, and blue streamers blowing from her mast, the 50-foot long '*Dank Baarheid*' (built in 1894) leads a flotilla of nine antique Dutch sloops."⁴⁴ "This special fleet of leeboard sloops, which range in size from 23 to 50 feet, will be re-enacting the historic journey Henry Hudson took on board the *Half Moon* in 1609...The 29 male and 15 female crew members of the sloops will be in 17th century dress to depict the era of Dutch Colonial rule in the Hudson Valley."⁴⁵ "Tuesday evening they docked at Poughkeepsie Yacht Club."⁴⁶

The Club and its Boats

When all's said and done, boats are what a yacht club's all about. A few of the more notable, built or rebuilt in 1900, 1929, 1967 and 1979 can be cited here:

Queenie: Most sailors buy their 'yacht'. Some, like Bruce and Muriel Anderson choose restoration.

"Over the past five years, folks at the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club in Hyde Park have observed a visible transformation—something akin to a nautical phoenix rising from a watery grave...Now, thousands of hours of effort by Bruce and Muriel Anderson have paid off as their 1929 Elco—a 38-foot craft was recently awarded top prize in the annual Antique and Classic Boat Show at Old Mystic Seaport, Ct."⁴⁷



B & M Anderson Collection

The boat was named

'Queenie' because someone once said [it]...looked like the ramshackle '*African Queen*' of movie immortality...The Andersons said they found 'Queenie'... at the Norrie Point Boat Basin...But restoring 'Queenie' to her former grandeur was no occasional weekend task. It took thousands of hours...Mrs. Anderson compared herself to 'Rosie the Riveter' for having installed over 2,000 bolts beneath the water line, burning the paint off the hull and sanding

it inside and out. It was only after she had handled the rougher job that she could get down to the more traditional ladylike pursuits of making cushions, curtains and the like.⁴⁸

Anderson, meanwhile, was doing his part in the project including 60 white oak ribs, eight new timbers, all new parquet teak flooring in the pilot house plus putting in a 120-horsepower diesel engine and propeller...the Andersons didn't put in all the work for speed, they did it for pride—and love.⁴⁹

Aloha: Others build their yacht from scratch:

Prior to 1900, my grandfather, William C. Saltford, bought the 8-acre Stephen M. Buckingham 'estate' just north of the Poughkeepsie railroad bridge, where he had been head gardener. In addition to the 26-room residence, there were greenhouses and a large barn...In 1908, my father, W. Arthur, with his brother George and cousin Freeman, a carpenter, built a 35-foot motorboat in the barn, though they had to remove the siding to get it out.⁵⁰



Saltford Collection

With an 8-foot beam, the craft had a 4-cylinder, 15-horsepower Niagara engine with deck control and a cruising speed of 10 knots per hour. It would sleep 6 persons...The diary of a 15-day cruise my parents and three friends took from Poughkeepsie to Montreal in 1909 provides considerable contrast in costs between then and now. With gasoline at 14 cents per gallon; trip insurance, \$15.00; bread, 15 cents; and gramophone rental, \$7.50 for entertainment (despite, friendly arguments over who should wind it!); total cost for the entire trip was but \$102.49.⁵¹

Blue Maid: Some, after building their yacht, participate in historic events:

On Saturday, May 24th, the 'Blue Maid' set sail for Boston Harbor and Op Sail '80. The 'Blue Maid', a 32-foot schooner carrying a 6 foot bow sprit, has been a proud member of the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club fleet since the day her keel was cast at the clubhouse late in the Sixties. She flew the PYC Burgee in the international parade of Tall Ships...The 'Blue Maid' is owned jointly by two club members, Ernie Klopping and Captain Ab Salter, both of Staatsburg, N.Y. Her silhouette is a familiar sight on the Hudson River; and she is no stranger to New York Harbor or Long Island Sound. Ab and Ernie have raced her in the South Street Seaport Museum Mayor's Cup race for the last 7 years, and in the Mystic Seaport Schooner race for the last 3 years.⁵²

The Boston Op Sail parade of sail was held on Friday, May 30th...The entire fleet was led by the 'USS Constitution' or 'Old Ironsides', the oldest commissioned warship in the world. Altogether more than 60 sailing vessels accepted invitations to participate; among them the 'Blue Maid' is distinguished by being the only one hailing from the Hudson River...In addition to

the owners, Louis Vinciguerra and Bill Washburn were on board for the parade after helping bring the 'Blue Maid' to Boston.⁵³

Construction of the 'Blue Maid' was begun in Poughkeepsie in 1967 and she was launched two years later at the former PYC clubhouse. The boat was built by Bob Roberts, a club member at the time, to plans designed by Wm. Atkins. She has a beam of 10 feet and draws 5 feet, 2 inches. The keel consists of 3000 lbs of lead cast in one piece with another 1500 lbs of inside ballast. There is a total of 438 square feet of sail area comprised of a club-footed jib, a gaff-rigged fore-sail and a marconi-rigged main sail. All sails are self-tending, requiring only one hand on the helm to bring her about when tacking.⁵⁴



Salter Collection

Long Reach: Others like Shellman Brown do the hard work of training and preparation for international events:

After five months of preparation we left the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club on June 7th bound for Middle River, Maryland, our staging area...Our start next day, Saturday, was at eleven o'clock with practically no wind. Southerlies came in eventually and we worked to get down to the mouth of the Chesapeake, 125 miles away. With light head winds, our ketch rig and wrap-around sails made slow going and we were one of the last boats out of the Bay, passing the Bay Bridge-Tunnel at 0118 early Monday morning.⁵⁵

From then on, driven by the very experienced ocean-racing crew, the Long Reach had conditions more to her liking. Riding one rain squall after another, we sailed her like a dinghy, occasionally surfing with the bow wave aft of the cockpit! Thursday evening after a day of very light airs, we crossed the finish



Poughkeepsie Yacht Club Collection

line at the Spit Bouy after dark and went into St. Georges. We anchored off the club and were disappointed to find twenty-two boats already there. However, no one from the last two divisions had beaten us...Corrected times gave us a trophy for the first position in Division 6. After our poor showing in the Chesapeake we were still 7th in fleet, but the hard work on the 625 miles of ocean paid off! We were awarded the Offshore Trophy for the fastest time in the fleet from the Bay Bridge to Bermuda.⁵⁶



*Clubhouse as it exists today.
Poughkeepsie Yacht Club
Collection.*

Retrospective

Consistency has been obtained in the important things. The purpose of the Club has remained the promotion of yachting and mutual assistance in the recreational possibilities of the river. Throughout the years, the spirit of a workingman's club has remained strong. Random examination of the member applications show occupations of toolsmith, aviator, machine operator, seminary professor, laborer, cabinet maker, and florist.

Membership grew rapidly to about 250 from the Club's inception. The two World Wars, Korea and Vietnam, taxed the resources of the Club. Besides carrying the servicemen's memberships, the remaining members put more time and effort into the war efforts, less into the Club. The real test came with Urban Renewal when membership dropped to less than half; nevertheless, difficulties were viewed as challenges, so that today the membership is back to regular levels.

The fleet of the Club has changed from predominantly sailboats, canoes, and rowboats to steam, naphtha, gasoline and diesel launches as the size and cost of engines has diminished. The two energy crises of the 1970s and 1980s brought a reversal—the fleets now are 70 percent sail, 30 percent power. The size of yachts has slowly increased, and the hull construction materials have changed from wood to fiberglass.

The Club continues to support other maritime activities from the Naval Militia of World War I, Sea Scouts of World War II, to the Mid-Hudson Power Squadron and U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. PYC also continues as a member of the Mohawk-Hudson Council, yacht and boat clubs of the Hudson River north of the Mid-Hudson Bridge to Schenectady.

Appendix A: PYC World War I Honor Roll

Nelson Ackert	Robert P. Huntington	William A. Mulvey
Vincent Clark	Harold K. Joseph	John E. Nelson
Louis P. Crauer, Jr.	Edwin Knauss	Dr. Edward J. Nesbitt
Daniel R. Delehanty	Fred Machler, Jr.	Jacob Schade
Frederick C. Eckert	John Mc Manus	J. Rupert Schalk
Edward Frank	Herman L. Merkle	Fred Wohlfahrt, Jr.
Walter Hannah	Manfred Misner	

Appendix B: PYC World War II Honor Roll

* Andrews, Ray E.	Ifill, W. Murray	Schlude, Robert W.
Andrews, Richard		Sears, Robert W.
* Andrews, Wesley W.	Jones, Archie	Shea, Eugene J.
Auwater, Thornton K.		Smith, Frederick E.
	Key, Floyd	Spross, Hubert C.
Bacile, Dr. Victor A.	Kopser, Arnold W.	Starpoli, Jerome
Bellock, John P.	Kopf, Frank	Stibbs, Dr. H.W.B.
Berish, John		Swift, Stanley S.
Brands, E. Vincent	Lansing, William H.	
Breed, William	Leadbitter, Wallace	Teator, Lee C.
Brehm, Eugene B.	Lesco, John E.	Tillman, Robert
Brown, Robert K.	Leonard, Paul R.	Travis, John R.
	Lynk, George B.	
Chervenka, Gustav J.		Van Benschoten, Wesley
Clark, Herbert K.	Mansfield, G. Stewart	Van Norstrand, Albert J.
Collson, Elliot B.	Marchs, Theodore	Van Norstrand, Kenneth
	Matthews, Frank B.	
Davidson, Bruce D.	Miller, William	Waddle, Robert A.
Dodge, Clarence	Moawood, Thomas A.	Wagler, William R.
* Dow, William E.	Moran, William J.	Walsh, Donald J.
Durkee, Myron C.		Wanzer, Alvin D.
	Nielson, Raymond H.	Wanzer, Herbert L.
Fitzgibbons, Larry A.		Wanzer, Kenneth
* Frank, Edward A. Jr.	Peterson, J. C.	Wanzer, Leonard
	* Plog, Charles T.	Wanzer, Norman
Gutman, John A.	Post, Stanley V.	Wanzer, William G.
		White, Albert C.
Halstead, Charles W.	Reuthershan, Warren	White, John S.
Hart, Wallace	Roberts, Donald V.	White, Howard F.
Hayner, Fred	Rugman, Herbert L.	Whittacker, Russell V.
Hindle, Carroll R.		Woolsey, James G.
	Sauter, Edward W.	

*Died in Service

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A Lasting Ideal in a Changing World: A History of Marist College

by Dennis J. Murray

Marist College today is in many ways vastly different from its beginnings in the early part of the century. Yet, I have found in my 10 years here that much is the same as it was since it began in 1905 as a novitiate to train young Marist Brothers for a life of teaching and religious duty. Today, it is a four-year, coeducational liberal arts college with about 3,000 students, half of whom are women. Several Marist Brothers continue to teach at the college. Although now governed primarily by a lay board of trustees, the college still upholds the original ideals of the Marist Brothers. What has remained much the same at the college is the idea of community service, the idea that individuals in the college, and the college itself, should help the world around them.

It is, perhaps, this enduring ideal—that the college should serve the community—which, ironically, has brought about the most dramatic changes in the college. One of those changes occurred in the fall of 1966, when for the first time women were admitted to the college. Marist Brother Dr. Linus Richard Foy, who was then president, believed that the college could not rightly fulfill its mission of community service while it was open to only part of the population. Looking back on his 21-year presidency of the college, Foy has said that he believed that his success in getting women into the college was one of two of his greatest accomplishments. Later, in an effort to maintain the college's community service role, Foy authorized a small gesture, yet one in its way daring and symbolic of the college's larger mission. The six-foot-high stone wall that ran along State Route 9 and separated the campus from the community—a wall built by the Brothers between 1928 and 1931—was taken down.

The college has its origins in the 19th century. The Marist Brothers, a Roman Catholic congregation of teachers with roots in rural France, was established by Marcellin Champagnat in 1817. Champagnat, who knew at an early age that he wanted to become a priest, entered a large seminary in Lyons, France, and soon became a close friend with Jean-Claude Colin, a seminarian. Together they would later establish the Society of Mary, more commonly called the Marist Fathers. Champagnat was interested in training his colleagues in Lyons to teach, and the fledgling group delegated this task to him.

On 22 July 1816, Champagnat was ordained and assigned to be assistant pastor in LaValla, a small village in the heart of France. Tradition has it that on one of his many trips to isolated homes along the narrow mountain paths of his parish, Champagnat came upon a dying boy who was apparently ignorant of the most elementary tenets of the Catholic faith. The memory haunted the young priest, and within six months he confided a new plan to two young men, who, perhaps much to his surprise, immediately accepted his offer to join him in a precarious future. On

Dennis J. Murray, Ph.D., is marking his 10th year as President of Marist College.

2 January 1817, the two became the first Marist Brothers. The congregation would eventually flourish. At the time of Champagnat's death on 6 January 1840, there were 280 Marist Brothers working in 47 schools throughout France and the islands of the South Pacific.¹

The Marist Brothers continued to flourish in France, due in some measure to the Falloux Law of 1850, which favored the spread of communities of religious teaching congregations. Soon they broadened their reach to the United States. By 1900, there were sixty Marist Brothers teaching in six American schools. A subsequent rise in anti-clerical laws in France led to a mass exodus of Marist Brothers, many of whom joined their confreres in the United States. The Brothers now began to search for a piece of property large enough to serve as a center for the American province of the order.

At that time, Saint Ann's Academy (founded in 1892) in New York City was the center of the Marist Brothers' activities in the United States. Some 75 miles north, up the Hudson River in the small city of Poughkeepsie, the Jesuits occupied a large novitiate called St. Andrew's-on-the-Hudson. (The facilities are now used by the Culinary Institute of America.) The Jesuit Fathers of St. Ignatius Parish in New York City, eight blocks from St. Ann's Academy, suggested to Brother Louis Zephiriny, then superior of St. Ann's Academy, that he examine a piece of property, known as the McPherson Estate, in Poughkeepsie, just one and a half miles south of the Jesuits' new novitiate.

On 28 February 1905, the Marist Brothers, under Brother Zephiriny, purchased from Thomas J. McPherson land located along the Hudson River just north of the Poughkeepsie City limits. Since French religious communities were struggling financially at the time, Brother Zephiriny was authorized by Brother Felix Eugene, the provincial superior, to use family inheritance funds for the purchase. Brother Zephiriny and his sister supplied the \$9,000 needed to buy the 44-acre estate, which, after the purchase, was renamed St. Ann's Hermitage.²

Although the original house on the land was only fifteen years old, the Marist Brothers made several alterations to adapt it to their needs. They converted the parlor and an adjacent room to a chapel, and turned other rooms into classrooms and living quarters. The building's first function was a junior high school for aspiring Marist Brothers, who after they completed their studies there, were sent to the Marist novitiate at St. Hyacinthe in Canada.

In 1908, the Marist Brothers were granted permission to found a new novitiate in Poughkeepsie. But, as they found the Hermitage too small, the congregation then purchased another estate, a 110-acre tract contiguous to the southern border of the former McPherson property.³ This land, owned by Edward Beck, and known as the Beck estate, had been part of an earlier estate called Hickory Grove Farm, which had been owned by Frederick Barnard until 1836, and later by Thomas Clegg. By 1865, Beck had begun building his estate there, known as Roselund. Sometime after 1891, Roselund was sold to Nicholas and Gertrude Jungeblut, who in turn sold it in 1908 to the Marist Brothers. John P. Murray, a member of the Coudert Brothers law firm, loaned the Brothers the money to purchase the property. At the same time, Murray realized that the Marist Brothers had not obtained legal title to the 1905 purchase. Three days before acquiring the Jungeblut (Beck) property, a deed of sale was drawn up whereby the Marist Brothers paid Brother Zephiriny and his sister the sum of \$100 for the McPherson property.⁴

On 17 March, 1911, the North American province of the Marist Brothers

separated into the province of Canada and the province of the United States. At this time, the United States province had 10 schools, 148 Brothers, 11 novices, 42 juniors, and 3,946 pupils. Soon after the separation of provinces, Poughkeepsie became the seat of the provincial administration in the United States.

The Scholasticate—called Marist Normal Training School—was founded on the campus in 1923. In 1929, the fledgling school was authorized by the state to grant Bachelor of Arts degrees, thereby establishing the novitiate as a college. The degrees were not acquired at the college; rather they were given through the college's affiliation with Fordham University and, later, Catholic University.⁵ On 9 April 1930, the University of the State of New York officially approved a two-year curriculum for the Marist Normal Training School.⁶ After completing the curriculum here, the Marist Brothers taught in New York City and New England high schools and continued their own college work at Fordham University on a part-time basis. The school's full official name then was Junior College Marist Normal Training School, Division of Fordham University.

The arrangement, however, proved to be unsatisfactory because it "resulted in mediocre work in both teaching and studying."⁷ In 1943, Brother Paul Ambrose Fontaine was called upon by Brother Louis Omer, the provincial of the Marist Brothers, to transform Marist Normal Training School into a four-year institution. An account of Brother Paul's beginnings in his new position is as follows:

The phone rang.

It was in 1943 at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where young Marist Brother Paul Ambrose had just finished a master's degree in English. It was his provincial:

"When on earth are you going to get that degree?"

"I just heard this morning that I completed it, and can either come to graduation or have the diploma mailed to me."

"Take the next train to Poughkeepsie."

"The next train leaves at noon."

"Be on it. I expect to see you here tonight."

"What's cooking?"

"I'll tell you when you get here."⁸

First appointed Master of Scholastics, Brother Paul was then given the task of transforming the training school into a four-year college. He said: "Now this was in the beginning of August. I was 29 years old. I became 30 years old on the 28th of August. And this was dumped into my lap then."⁹ From 1943 to 1946, Brother Paul worked with former colleagues at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and with members of the New York State Board of Regents. Then in 1946, the college was granted a temporary charter for five years to try to establish itself to qualify for a permanent charter. Brother Paul recalls the day the temporary charter was issued:

It was on September 20, 1946. I remember the date because I sent a telegram. We had a convocation in Rome at that time with...167 Brothers from all over the world. They were studying the growth of the order, and so on. I sent a telegram to the new general: Marist College has its approval...as

a college. And they all celebrated, and they all cheered. The news went out worldwide from our center in France to the people.¹⁰

Under a temporary charter, the college began as a four-year institution of higher education when it opened its doors in the fall of 1946. The college's first catalogue for the 1946/47 academic year includes the college's mission statement, which is quoted in full:

Marian College is open only to members of the Marist Brothers Order. Its purpose is primarily to give its members a good, sound training in the Liberal Arts on the college level, in order to prepare them for graduate work and at the same time, to give them some work in professional education in order to prepare them for teaching in secondary schools of the Order. Its specific purposes are to impart sound spiritual and religious convictions, cultural background in the Liberal Arts, some professional training in the educational field, and a distinctive training in Mariological background and spirit. The careful blending of these purposes will help to form sound moral principles, the intellectual excellence based on Catholic philosophy, and the professional technique which should be characteristic of every Marist religious educator."¹¹

The college opened in 1946 with 10 full-time teachers and a curriculum of 117 courses in fifteen liberal arts fields designed to fulfill the goals of the new four-year college. In a letter dated 15 December 1950, Marian College was granted a permanent charter. Its name blended the names Mary, the mother of Christ, and Ann, for St. Ann's Hermitage, where the college began. The charter contained a statement which subtly portended the college's future, "for the purposes of providing education on the college level."¹² The change was reflected in another way. Before 1950, the cover of the catalogue stated: "Conducted by and for the Marist Brothers." In several catalogues after 1950, the subtitle was modified to: "Conducted by the Marist Brothers." Thus, the way was opened, at least in the college's charter and literature, for lay students.

The first graduating class of the new Marian College in 1947 had four Brothers: Brothers Bernard Frederick Toomey, Christopher Emile Connelly, John Bosco Normandin, and Patrick Eugene MaGee, who is a life member of the Marist College Board of Trustees. (All but Brother MaGee left the Marist Brothers later in their lives.) Brother Paul Ambrose recalls that first commencement:

They (the students) had finished their courses during the summer. We had no parchment. We had no diplomas. We were having diplomas engraved. We had just received the approval. We had the diplomas accordingly engraved. They were not ready yet. We had a ceremony out next to Greystone, where there are a lot of trees. There is that little Japanese maple tree that we stole from our property in Esopus to plant there. I planted it when it was about one foot high. And it's now so beautiful. We used to have a stone table and benches that Brother Nilus made. We used to have our Sunday evening suppers out there...We had the graduation there. And we cheered these four Brothers, who had accepted their work. And we had a supper in their honor. They were assigned that same night. They were told where they



Undated photograph of the early years of Marist College. Photo credit: Marist College Archives



St. Ann's Hermitage, where Marist College began. Photo credit: Marist College Archives



St. Peter's, 1870. Photo credit: Marist College Archives

were to go out teaching. And they would be sent their diplomas in the various communities where they were, and they were promised to have another celebration locally with the Brothers where they went. But I felt very badly that we couldn't do anything more for them...Right after supper—this was about five o'clock—I put the four of them in the station wagon that we had, with me, and I drove them to Torrington, in Connecticut. And we went there for a nice ride and they were having a lot of fun talking about their assignments. It was an occasion for them to be alone with me. And we went out for banana splits, and we had a drink, and we came back and that was it." ¹³

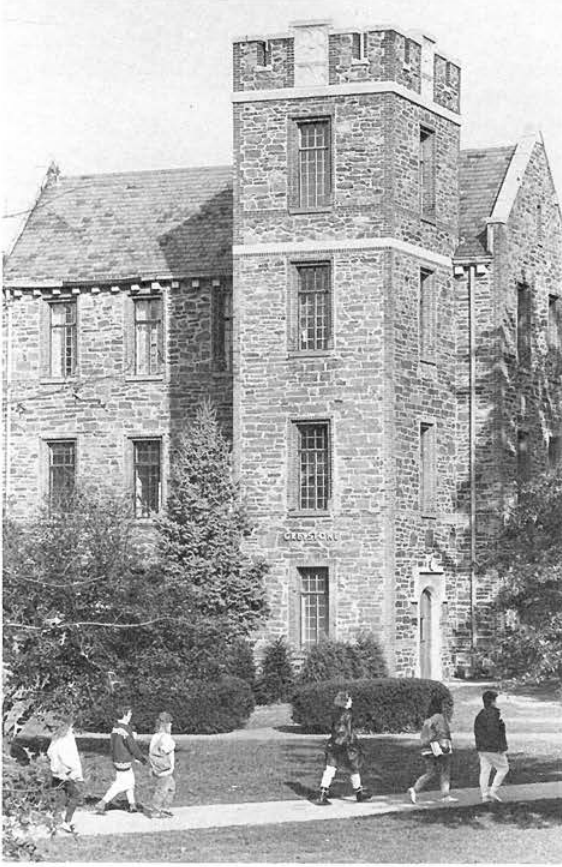
The original Beck mansion served as the novitiate until 1949, and then as part of Marian College until 1959. Until it was torn down in 1963, it housed the Brothers who came to work on construction projects on the college grounds. Three of the other buildings on the Beck grounds when the Marist Brothers bought it are still used today: Greystone, the Gatehouse, and St. Peter's.

Greystone, the oldest building on campus, was built in 1858 as a carriage house and given its name in 1929 when the Marist Normal Training School was founded. A hayloft occupied the top floor, carriages and horses the middle floor, and a blacksmith's shop the bottom level. Through remodeling in 1909, 1928, and 1964, the building has served as a dormitory, classrooms, science laboratories, and library. The college's library and chemistry laboratories were located here until the opening of Donnelly Hall in 1961. Since 1964 the office of the president has occupied the top floor. The bottom floor was occupied by the Office of the Academic Vice President until the Lowell Thomas Center was built in 1987. Admissions, which since 1964 has occupied the middle level, has now expanded to the level formerly occupied by the Academic Vice President's Office.

Built in 1871 as a gardener's cottage for the Beck estate, St. Peter's served until 1969 as a residence for the Marist Brothers, who taught at St. Peter's High School in Poughkeepsie from 1909 until 1936. Later used by the college development office and a branch of the admissions office, it now houses administrative offices for the college's Special Academic Programs, which oversee the programs for local prison inmates.

The third building, the Gatehouse, was built in 1865 by Edward Beck for use as a residence for the groom who cared for the horses and wagons housed in the stone carriage house (now Greystone). The original interior plan of the building has been retained, and throughout the years it has remained a private residence and office space for the Marist Brothers. In 1966, the exterior was slightly remodeled; an entrance on the north side of the building was closed and bricked, and, at the same time, the slate roof was replaced with asphalt shingles. Another new roof was installed in 1982. It is called the Gatehouse because the entrance to the estate—and the former entrance to the campus—had been located there.

Shortly after the purchase of the Beck estate, the Brothers needed more room for other Brothers who would be spending their summers on the campus studying, working, or relaxing. Many of the early Marist Brothers were fine craftsmen, and they built two wooden bungalows behind Greystone, one for sleeping accommodations, the other to house summertime classes, meetings, and recreation. Later, the partitions in the second bungalow were removed to make it into a combination auditorium and gymnasium. In the the summer of 1946, a sudden fire of unknown



Greystone. Photo credit: J. Giganti, 1987.
Marist College Archives



Marist Brothers, c. 1949.
Left to right: Brother Peter
Bosco, Brother Charles
Powell Prieur, and Brother
Francis Riley. Photo credit:
Marist College Archives

origin quickly destroyed the sleeping quarters—fortunately unoccupied at the time.

Several years later a building campaign began dramatically to change the face and nature of the college. What is perhaps more impressive is that in 13 years between 1947 and 1960, the Marist Brothers, almost entirely with their own hands, built the gymnasium/auditorium, which is now Marian Hall (completed in 1947), the Seat of Wisdom Chapel (1953), Fontaine Hall (1956), Adrian Hall (1957) and Donnelly Hall (1962). One college memorandum dated 12 July, 1966, points out that by constructing these buildings themselves, the Brothers had saved more than \$1.7 million in construction costs, estimated by outside builders at more than \$3 million.

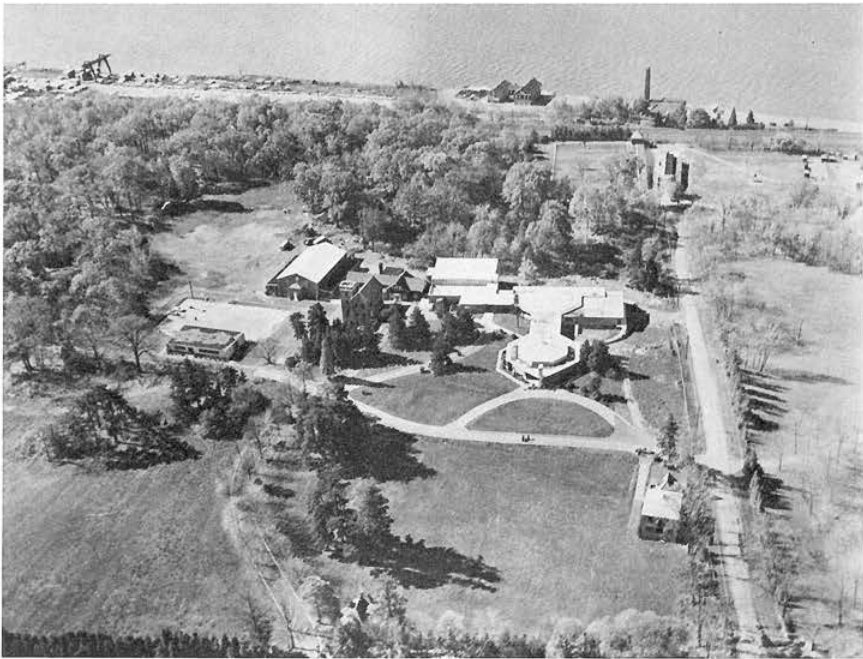
An incident in the construction of the Seat of Wisdom Chapel reveals how the Brothers worked. The heavy wooden beams that hold up the ceiling—10 laminated 2 x 6 planks 36 feet long—had been made in Oregon and were shipped to Poughkeepsie by train. The beams arrived at a small railroad depot in back of the former Western Publishing Company building, across state Route 9 from the college. The Brothers were going to use their crane to unload the flat cars, but they didn't quite know how to haul the beams to the campus. Brother Paul Ambrose explained to Brother Nilus Donnelly, the crane operator, that he had a better idea. He rounded up some 36 Brothers who would carry the beams by hand from the depot, across Route 9, and onto the campus. Brother Ambrose recalled: "I stood in my cassock in Route 9 and stopped all the traffic both ways and let the Brothers pass. They carried the beam over to the building site, and then we resumed the traffic. And we did that for every beam. We didn't need a truck, and we didn't need a hoist or anything."¹⁴

Brother Nilus Vincent Donnelly is generally credited with the planning and construction of the buildings erected in the 1950s and 1960s. Donnelly Hall, still the educational center of the college, and named in his honor, took four years to build at a cost of roughly \$800,000, less than half of a professional estimate of \$1,719,034.¹⁵ When construction on Donnelly Hall began in the summer of 1958, 83 Marist Brothers came to the campus to work. They poured the cement floor at the rate of 25 truckloads of cement a day. By the end of 1959, tar paper had been put on the roof, so that work could continue inside during the winter and throughout the following year.¹⁵ Former Brother Adrian N. Perreault described what happened next: "With the cold winter of 1959 quickly approaching, all hands worked feverishly to enclose the main floor of the building with glass panes and Fiberglas paneling. The completion of this work made it possible for the night division to move into the Donnelly building by November 20th, and the day school was gradually moving in as each class[room] was completed."¹⁶ Throughout the years, Donnelly Hall has served as headquarters for nearly every college activity. It currently houses classrooms, science labs, lecture halls, offices, a cafeteria, and the computer center. Formerly, it also housed the library, the bookstore, and television studio. Plans were even drawn up and feasibility studies made to convert the building into a communications and fine arts center. At present, the building is being remodeled at a cost of about \$3.5 million; the outside walls of the round building are being extended to give the entire building more floor space, and make it more energy efficient.

During the 1950s building expansion, the very heart of the college changed. In the fall of 1957, 12 lay students were admitted into Marian College for the first time.



Marist Brothers working on the roof of Donnelly Hall. Photo credit: Marist College Archives



Looking towards the Hudson River, a bird's-eye view of Marist College campus in the early 1960's. Photo credit: Marist College Archives

The change was reflected in additions to the 1957/1958 college mission statements [changes are in bold face].

Marian College is open both to **lay** students and to the members of the Marist Brothers' Order. Its purpose is primarily to give its students a good, sound training in the Liberal Arts on a college level in order to prepare them for graduate work. Its specific purposes are to impart sound spiritual and religious convictions and cultural background in the Liberal Arts. **For the Brothers, it further offers some professional training in the educational field to prepare them for teaching in the secondary schools of the Order,** and offers a distinctive training in Mariological background and spirit. ¹⁷

The revision in the college's mission was not so much a change as it was an expansion, an opening up to more students. It was an evolutionary change built upon the foundations of the Marist Brothers' mission.

All students, whether lay or religious, were to receive a liberal arts and a Catholic education. All students were to be educated for professional work. Further, neither the course requirements for a degree nor the curriculum was changed when the first lay students were admitted. Marist thus proceeded carefully as it changed its institutional Mission. ¹⁸

Much of the impetus to open the college to lay students came from John J. Gartland, Jr., a life trustee of the college, a former chairman of the Marist College Board of Trustees, and an individual who, since association with the college began in the 1950s, has contributed more in many different ways than any individual to the successes that the college has enjoyed. In 1987, Gartland recalled the initial discussions this way:

In the spring of 1956, Brother Paul Ambrose and I were on the Board of Trustees of St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing, along with five women. At one of our meetings, which became unnecessarily prolonged by much talk, I suggested to Brother Paul that he and I leave the meeting and enjoy a late afternoon cocktail. We left the hospital and went to his quarters (in Marian Hall) on the Marian College campus. He described in detail the history of the Marist Brothers' involvement in the Poughkeepsie area, and how he had been involved in obtaining a New York State Regents Charter in 1946 for Marian College...

Following the granting of the charter for the next 10 years, the Poughkeepsie lay community beseeched the Marist Brothers for permission to have lay students study at the college as commuters, to obtain a college education and degree by the least expensive manner. It was not until 1956 that the all-Brother Board of Trustees of Marian College agreed to accept lay students—20 per year but never to exceed 100 total.

Brother Paul Ambrose, as president of Marian College, expressed concern about his ability, and the ability of the teaching Brothers, to handle 20 lay students starting in 1956 or 1957. He requested my aid in setting up a Presidential Lay Advisory Board. We did that. ¹⁹

...We set about to help the Marist Brothers in their endeavor to expand the

college to aid the local community. Little did Brother Paul Ambrose, or myself, realize the growth that would occur to this fledgling Marian College.²⁰

The group included Jack Mulvey, an attorney; Nathan Reifler, a local businessman; Richard Small, president of Western Publishing Company; Dr. James J. Toomey; George Whalen, Sr.; James Dryer, a banker from Kingston, and Gartland, who was elected as chairman of this first advisory board.²¹

One of the Brothers who helped the college adapt to the incoming lay students was Brother Paul Stokes. In the 1950s and early 1960s, Brother Paul served as academic dean, professor of biology, manager of the bookstore, director of housing, and dean of students. Known as a strict disciplinarian, he sometimes threatened any student who misbehaved with the words, "Pack your bags." Brother Paul also originated the idea of using what is now known as the 'Red Fox' for the college's mascot. After Brother Paul left the college in 1966, his many positions were soon filled with individual full-time employees.

With a broader mission, the college needed a new name. Since an all women's college in Indiana already had the name Marian College, a committee of Brothers and the Presidential Lay Advisory Board proposed other names such as Poughkeepsie College, Poughkeepsie University, Mid-Hudson College, Dutchess University, and Fontaine College. "Finally the Brothers decided on Marist College. Another lay committee had tried to find an 'angel' with multi-millions, who desired a college named for him or her (a la Duke University), but to no avail."²² The name would not be officially changed, however, until 1960.

In November of 1958, Linus Foy became president of Marian College, a position he would hold for 21 years. He was then 28 years of age, the youngest college president in the United States. His predecessor, Brother Paul, had been called to Rome to become an assistant general of the Marist Brothers order. Gartland recalled the day he first learned of Brother Paul's new assignment, and of the new college president:

One day Paul called me up and he said, 'Can you come up for lunch?' And I said, 'Sure.' He said, 'I want you to meet a young Brother...he is just completing his work for a Ph.D. in mathematics down at New York University...I would like to have you meet him. His name is Brother Linus Richard.' And I came up to meet him. Just before that, Paul said to me, 'He's a nice young man, and you're going to like him. And we have just selected him to be the new president of the college, because I'm going to leave here. I'm going to Rome...I'm going to be one of the generals of the Order in Rome. But,' he said, 'don't tell anybody because it isn't public yet. Besides that, don't congratulate Linus Richard because...he doesn't know anything about it. I haven't told him about it yet.' So I sat there during the whole luncheon and I just kept looking at this young man and just kept saying (to myself), 'Looks pretty good. Looks pretty good.' But I didn't say a word. I didn't dare say a word because I was afraid I would say, 'Gee, congratulations,' or something.'²³

At the May commencement of 1958, just before Foy assumed his new post, 24 students received their degrees, bringing the total number of Marian College

alumni to 323. During Foy's first year, the number of lay students increased to 20. The college's operating budget was \$27,000. The Theatre Guild, the first student club, was formed under the direction of Marist Brother Joseph Belanger, a professor of French at the college.

In the fall of 1959, 169 students enrolled in the college's new evening division, introduced in March of that year by Foy and headed by Dr. John Schroeder, a layman who had been teaching at the college since 1946. Thirty freshmen were admitted that fall as full-time undergraduates, and the total number of lay students climbed to 65, with an enrollment of 160. Nine of these students resided in King's Court Hotel in Poughkeepsie, making them the college's first resident students.²⁴

The title to the campus property was transferred in 1959 from the Marist Brothers to Marist College Educational Corporation with an independent board of trustees. That transfer of the college from the control of the Brothers struck many in the Order as a kind of betrayal, as Brother Paul recalled: "This grasped the Brothers to the very core. Many of them did not understand. Why are we giving up? They had worked so hard. And we were in a very difficult position, the superiors. We tried to explain to them that we are not giving up. Our work is continuing. It's carrying on."²⁵

Brother Paul explained that the Brothers could not afford to hold on to the ownership of the college, since to qualify for state and federal loans and grants, the school had to be independent; that the Brothers did not have the necessary contacts to the foundations and corporations that could make large donations to the school; that the Order was no longer sending hundreds of Brothers to the school to study and work. The Brothers reluctantly accepted the change, but as recently as a few years ago deep-seated emotional wounds lingered among many in the Order. These wounds were healed, Brother Paul believes, during a convocation at the college in 1986 of some 350 Marist Brothers from all over the world. They had come that summer to celebrate the centenary of the arrival of the Marist Brothers in the United States. Brother Paul stated: "This did more to smooth that difficult feeling than anything else. Because they saw what the college was all about, where it's moving, the direction it's moving. They were so well treated. They were so proud of everybody."²⁶ Brother Paul had earlier cautioned the college that it had to continue being sensitive to its traditions and its heritage. "The Brothers started this. And they put their blood, sweat, and tears into it, and a lot of hard work. And they loved it. And they love to come back."²⁷

The expansion resulting from dramatically-increased numbers of lay students meant more buildings. In March 1961, Foy secured a federal loan to build a new dormitory to accommodate 120 students and three faculty advisers in the southwestern part of the campus. It would be the first building on campus that was not constructed by the Brothers since the McPherson Estate was purchased in 1905. The three-story dormitory was named Sheahan Hall for Monsignor J.F. Sheahan, who at the time was pastor of St. Peter's Church in Poughkeepsie and, as a friend of the Marist Brothers, through his contacts in the community, helped the Brothers purchase a tract of land at the southern end of campus.

As enrollment climbed to 850 for the 1961 school year, Foy secured in 1962 another federal government loan of \$1.5 million for a second dormitory. During the summer of that year, a tall crane hauled buckets of cement to the roof of the building as construction progressed on the six-story dormitory, which would house 296 students. This building would be named Leo Hall after Marist Brother Leo

Brouillette, the provincial superior of the Order in the early part of the century, who was responsible for obtaining, in 1928, the first state charter for the Marist Training School. Perreault writes: "While Leo Hall was under construction, the Brothers worked to complete the Donnelly cafeteria; and by September [1962], the Donnelly and Sheahan buildings were prepared to receive the 964 students who were to attend classes." ²⁸

Throughout the 1960s, the college would continue to grow and change; more buildings were constructed, more students came, more courses were added. In 1962, in addition to Leo Hall, the college proposed a boathouse (completed in 1964) and chaplain's residence, and sought permission for a third dormitory, which would become Champagnat Hall, the college's largest and newest dormitory. In 1961, a new business administration major and a teacher education program were introduced. In 1963, the Marist Abroad Program was started by Brother Joseph Belanger, and in 1964, Marist underwent its first major curriculum revision, changing from two-credit to three-credit courses. The curriculum, encompassing 11 major fields of study, with options in engineering and teaching, was backed by a burgeoning library of 50,000 volumes. As three additional laymen were appointed to the college's board of trustees, three-hundred freshmen entered the college that year. In 1965, Champagnat Hall, named after Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers, and the three-story Campus Center were completed to become the college's major residence and the activities center. With nine stories, the dormitory became the largest building in the Marist Order's international enterprise, which included at this time institutions in 57 countries.

The year 1966 would mark another dramatic change in life on the college's campus: the admission of women. Admitting women to Marist came as an extension of its ideal of community service. Former college president Foy said that it was "very hard to convince local companies and the people around here that you're servicing the Mid-Hudson community when you service only half the population." ²⁹ But, Foy said, it went beyond that: coeducation was a Catholic tradition. When he first came to the college, he said he recommended that it become coeducational, but that he was told "to get lost." He was apparently, however, not the first to mention it. When the new college was being established in 1943, Foy said some Brothers, according to the minutes of those meetings, suggested the college be open to outsiders. One, Brother Leo Vincent Hall, recommended the college become coeducational.

But, Foy said, he really began asserting his wish to open the college to women after he returned from a sabbatical in France in 1965. What he found in the rolling farmlands of France as he studied the history of the Marist Brothers was rather shocking. Foy recalls:

To my great amazement, the Marist Brothers were teaching in coeducational schools in France and had been doing so since the war. And then when I began studying the history [of the Marist Brothers], it became quite clear that at their founding, the Marist Brothers taught coeducation...They could go by themselves, or in pairs, into very small hamlets, and they taught everybody in sight. Men, women, and children. It was winter. It was cold. And their idea was to teach them reading and writing so that the priests could teach them religion. ³⁰

He continued:

One of the things I felt about coeducation, why I felt so strongly about it, was because in the educational system in France you could buy [as] much education [as] you wanted. You bought the teacher. If you wanted your children to read, you would pay [the teachers] so much. If you wanted them to write, you paid them a little extra. If you wanted them to do arithmetic, you paid extra. And in most cases in France, [the parents] paid for the boys but not for the girls. So, at the time of Champagnat, while five percent of the men could sign their names on the marriage license, only two percent of the women could. And it became quite clear to me that there was nothing religious about coeducation. That it was essentially a subtle type of cultural discrimination that women were less important than men, and somehow very often you get a cultural bias which then gets religious overtones. One is worried about all sorts of sexual problems, but what it really meant was that women were not worth educating. ³¹

And so, women were first admitted into the evening division of the college, headed by Dr. John Schroeder. Before coming to the college, Schroeder had been head of the English Department at Arlington High School. Brother Paul, who hired Schroeder, gives this account of their initial meetings:

I went to see Dr. Schroeder, and I said you have two degrees that I am interested in. And I explained that we were starting [a new college], and he said, 'Sir, I would be very, very interested in getting in on the ground floor of a young college.' I said, 'But there are a few drawbacks...I cannot pay you the salary that you are getting now...This is what I am able to afford to give to you now, but the college will grow, and the salary will grow, and everything will grow in time.' He said, 'Well, a young college just starting out. I would very much like to be associated with it. It is not a matter of salary.' I said, 'Well, I appreciate that because then it means that it's a matter of dedication.' He said, 'Yes.' And everything was wonderful. He had agreed to come, and we drew up a contract. And one day we were waiting for him to finalize the contract. He had a copy. We were [in the dining room of the former McPherson mansion]... and one of the Brothers told me...there was a gentleman waiting...to see [me]. So I came up to where the Chapel [was], and it was Dr. Schroeder with the other contract. He said, 'Brother, I am ready to sign this, but,' he said, 'I have some obligations to fulfill.' I said, 'What's the matter, Doctor? Is the contract unsatisfactory?' He said, 'Oh no, no, the contract is very satisfactory.' 'But,' he said, 'there is something that bothers me, and I must tell you.' I said, 'What is it?' He said, 'I looked forward to coming here. I know it is a Catholic college. I know it's all Brothers. But,' he said, 'I don't know if you know that I am not a Catholic.' I said, 'It never entered into my mind...We're all hiring you for your doctorate, not for your religion.' He said, 'I am a Quaker.' I said, 'Doctor, answer me one question. Would you say that you are a good Quaker?' 'Well,' he said, 'I try to be.' I said, 'That is all that matters.' So, we hired him, and from that moment we never questioned a person's religion. In what started out as an all-religious college, we never questioned a person's religion, but his qualifications. ³²



Dr. John Schroeder, the first layman faculty member of Marist College. He was hired in 1946. Photo credit: John Lane Studio, Marist College Archives

It would be 1968 before the board of trustees would approve the admission of women to the day division. Still, in 1968, women were commuter students because there were no accommodations for them at the college. It was not until the following year, in the fall of 1969, that women moved onto campus, occupying the sixth floor of Leo Hall.

Although women had been admitted, Foy admits that it took another 10 years for the college to “truly go coed.”³³ Through the late 1960s and to the mid-1970s, twice as many men as women would apply for admission to the college. There were most likely two reasons for this. One was the fact that Marist Brothers were admission officers, and to recruit students they visited high schools which were predominantly male. Foy also believed the college was “giving off signals to women” that they were “second-class citizens.” The college had made a concerted effort to make everything equally open and accessible to men and women, but, Foy said, “there was something missing.”

In 1977, Bennett College, a private, two-year college for women in Millbrook, Dutchess County, had announced it was closing. This gave Foy an idea: “In the last days, [Bennett College] had only two really profit-making programs. One was horsemanship, and the other was fashion design...So we took the opportunity when Bennett closed to grab their fashion program, to bring their teachers over.” The program’s eight teachers and its 80 students were moved into Donnelly Hall where the college library had been, and in 1978, the college was granted the approval to offer a new degree, a bachelor of professional studies with a major in fashion design. “That,” Foy said, “plus the McCann Center, I think, really turned it around as far as [going] coed.”³⁴

The introduction of computers and computer science, a major component of the college today, had come in the mid-1960s. At the time, few colleges the size of Marist had moved into this field. Foy said he was first exposed to computers in 1954 when he was a student at New York University. “I happened to choose a couple of courses where the teachers were experts in computers. In fact, I had a visiting professor, John Todd from England, that year, and we used to be able to use the computer center from midnight to seven a.m. That’s when we could do our work with the Unifax. The second one ever built. I was intrigued by it,” he said.

From that time, Foy had it in mind that people—all people, and not just mathematicians—should be exposed to computers, to learn how to use them. “It certainly was something that was not going to go away,” said Foy. “It was going to get more and more important.” Foy’s hope to bring computers onto the Marist campus was at first limited because computers at the time were extremely expensive, “around \$700,000 to \$1 million each.” In fact, when the college first began teaching computer courses, it did not have any computers. “This way didn’t work,” Foy said. “So, in the mid-60s, I had decided the place was ready for it.” The college could no longer afford not to have computers. “Most colleges our size or larger than this put in what they call an [I.B.M.] 1130, a scientific computer which is oriented towards the mathematics department. I saw that it should be wider than that.” Hence, the college purchased a small computer from the International Business Machines Corporation, the 1401, which was more oriented towards business programs. Foy then searched for and found people to teach students and staff how to run the new computer. “And we basically built from the ground up, just the way we do everything at Marist College. You get the people with the interest, you get them started.” The computer program expanded after the college bought several

computers from a small corporation that had gone out of business. "What I like about the computers here at Marist now, is that it is not considered a scientific discipline. It is considered a skill, just like typing, or the ability to write a complete English sentence. I had hoped from the beginning to try to get this integrated into every department," Foy explained.³⁵

With Foy having taken such a lead, the college faculty recently approved a proposal of mine that all students take a course in information technology, which shows them the fundamentals on how to use a computer.³⁶

The decade of the 1960s ended with several milestones on the college campus. Marian Hall next to Greystone was torn down. Tuition was now \$675 per semester, room and board was \$550, and the campus was now valued at \$11 million. Enrollment continued to climb, and by 1970 the college had 1,310 full-time students, almost 10 times as many as the students who entered the college a decade earlier.

In the 1970s, the college entered a period of major academic expansion with the approval of a bachelor of science degree and a full-time internship in psychology, the nation's first.³⁷

In 1972, the graduate division was introduced with programs in business administration and community psychology. The next year, five new majors were introduced in accounting, Russian, solid state physics, criminal justice, and communication arts. Bachelor of arts degrees were now offered in 15 majors, and bachelor of science degrees in four. Also in 1973, the Science of Man program, an interdisciplinary three-year program, began. And a pilot program called the College Bridge Program, in which high school seniors could enroll in a limited number of college courses at Marist, was begun with Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie.

In 1974, Marist initiated what would become a successful Community Service Program in which students earned college credit for volunteering their time to work in a human-service program. Today, the program is still strong—in the fall semester of 1989 it had more than 40 students working and earning tuition credit in several nonprofit groups in Dutchess County. In 1975, a new major in computer mathematics and a minor in Jewish studies were introduced. In that year, also, Marist expanded its community-outreach programs by establishing the Marist/Greenhaven Higher Education Opportunity Program, offering accredited college courses to inmates at the Greenhaven Correctional Facility. Also, Marist's Special Services Program, which provides a variety of services for disabled students, and for the community at large, began. The now-defunct Marist Research Institute, which examined local politics, and the Marist Institute for Knowledge and Innovation, which offered a variety of non-degree educational, training, and development programs to organizations such as local businesses, hospitals, and government agencies, were formed.

In 1976, in the midst of the college's curricular changes, came the college's largest and most expensive building project in its history: the James J. McCann Recreational Center, named for the Poughkeepsie philanthropist whose fortune established the McCann Foundation. Gartland gives us this account:

One of the concepts that Linus [Foy] and I came up with, in order to attract students, was that we had to have a good recreational facility here. Leonidoff Field [the college's main athletic field], as an example, was built with that

concept...

That wasn't enough. We had to have indoor facilities. The old gym, which is now Marian Hall, was not really sufficient to take care of the increase in students that were coming here. So the idea was to build a field house. That was Linus' idea. And my idea was that we needed a swimming pool....available to the community. So, we combined the two together, and McCann agreed to finance a lot of it."³⁸

The project officially began with the establishment of the college's first capital campaign, entitled "Goal '76", to raise funds for the center and to renovate Fontaine Hall to accommodate a new library. The campaign was given its impetus by the McCann Foundation, which donated \$1.35 million to the college. An additional \$100,000 donated by the foundation for the project, made the total contribution the second-largest-ever-award to Marist. (The largest was the initial founding grant donated by the Marist Brothers.) The building, located on an acre of land on the south end of campus, contains an indoor track, basketball, badminton, handball, and racquetball courts, and a field house with a seating capacity of 3,500, as well as many other features. By the time it was completed and dedicated in April, 1977, construction costs were about \$3 million, supported primarily through the McCann Foundation, gifts from alumni, faculty, and friends of the college.

In 1977, there came a fundamental change in Marist's curriculum when the college introduced a series of new core requirements in areas such as values and writing, the result of two years of planning and research by the college's faculty and staff.³⁹ The college's curriculum development was further advanced by a large Title III grant. Marist became the fourth college in New York State, and one of only 25 nationwide, to receive this \$1 million award from the U.S. Office of Education for curriculum development.³⁹

The 1977/78 academic year came to a close with the news that Foy, whose vision laid the groundwork for what the college would continue to become, was resigning. He was leaving a college in which, during the year that followed, for the first time in the college's history, women outnumbered men. Total enrollment in the 1978/79 academic year was 1,842 full-time undergraduate students, and 51 percent of them were women. Graduate enrollment was 256, and the faculty had grown to 80 full-time and 60 part-time members. The total number of full-time and part-time employees at the college was now 300. The college's operating budget had soared to \$12 million. At the college's commencement in 1979, 338 students received their degrees, just a few more than the total number of alumni when Foy assumed office in 1958. The alumni now numbered 5,723, which was over 17 times larger than in 1958.

On 14 July 1979, I became the third president of the college. In my tenure, the pattern of growth and change at Marist has continued.

To accommodate the increasing number of students coming to Marist, the college in 1981 built a townhouse complex for student residents, housing 216 students. To expand its adult education program—an increasingly important area in colleges nationwide—the college opened its Fishkill Extension Center, leasing offices and two classrooms in the Dutchess Mall on State Route 9 in Fishkill. In addition, to accommodate its need for even more offices and classrooms for adult education and general use, the college in 1983 leased about 45,000 square feet in

an empty building once occupied by Western Publishing Company across the street from the site of the college's first piece of land.

A major milestone in the college's physical plant was crossed in 1984 when the college began building the Lowell Thomas Communications Center, equipped with film and broadcast studios, computer and information systems laboratories, administrative and faculty offices, and various classrooms. The building was named for Lowell Thomas, the pioneering broadcaster of the first half of this century, who lived for 55 years on Quaker Hill in nearby Pawling, N.Y. His son, Lowell Thomas, Jr., provided significant financial support for the project through two individual gifts totaling more than \$550,000, and the McCann Foundation contributed another million dollars. Robert R. Dyson, a member of the college's board of trustees who donated a gift of \$250,000, was the project's first major donor. Lowell Thomas himself had received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the college during the college's 1981 commencement exercises. The Lowell Thomas Communications Center was completed in 1986, and dedicated March 14, 1987. The dedication was attended by noted dignitaries Douglas Edwards, a former CBS newsman, and Lowell Thomas, Jr., currently an air taxi pilot based in Anchorage, Alaska.

In 1985, the college began building a new student residence at the north end of campus to be called Gartland Commons, named for John J., Jr., and Catherine Gartland. When it was completed a year later, the Gartland Commons accommodated 312 students.

Of all the changes that have occurred at the college in the 1980s, one of the most significant ones began in 1984, when the college and I.B.M. began what would become a major, innovative partnership. The corporation donated \$2.5 million in equipment and \$2 million in software to the college. Through the years of 1987 and 1988, the administration of the college and I.B.M. executives worked on a plan—a kind of joint venture in research and education—in which the corporation would place some of their most advanced technology on the Marist campus, with which the college's faculty, staff, and students would participate in computer research. I.B.M. was interested in exploring ways to make its most advanced technology as easy to use as possible, to make it more accessible to people with little or no computer training. The result was the launching in the summer of 1988 of the Marist/IBM Joint Study.

The work of the project began when a new, large mainframe computer, an I.B.M. 3090 estimated to cost \$10 million, was moved onto campus (into the Computer Center in the basement of Donnelly Hall)—a seemingly unassuming event which belied the significance of what it might produce for the college and I.B.M. The event is described in an issue of a college publication, *Marist Magazine*.

Early on July 27 a moving van backed up to the service entrance of Donnelly Hall on the Marist campus. Shortly after 9 o'clock, a thin, blue plastic seal—like a larger version of the hospital wrist bands worn by mothers and their newborn babies—was cut from the van door by Carl Gerberich, Marist's vice president for information services, and the unloading began. Wrapped in moving quilts, the contents could have passed for desks and chairs. Those boxes, weighing a total of 10 tons, contained something quite different, however, and far more valuable.

Students working in the college's television studio in the Lowell Thomas Communications Center. Photo credit: Howard Dratch, Marist College Archives



Press conference announcing the IBM/Marist joint study in June, 1988. Seated, from left, are: Donald Love, chairman of Marist College Board of Trustees; James Cannavino, IBM vice president, president of the Data Systems Division, and a Marist College trustee; John J. Gartland, Jr., a college trustee; and Jack Newman, a college trustee. Photo credit: Marist College Archives



In those crates was the heart of one of IBM's most powerful computers, a system worth more than \$10 million. What was being unloaded with the system was even more valuable, a commodity without a price tag: possibility. The possibility of using computers as never before for teaching and learning. The possibility for a small liberal arts college to be a national leader in integrating technology in education. The possibility of exploring new territory, limited only by one's imagination.⁴⁰

Over the five years of the study, Marist is planning to link computers throughout campus, and even in the community, through cables and modems, so that the computer system will perform much like a telephone in which information can be transmitted from one computer to another. The Marist library is planning to use the technology to upgrade its holding capacity, putting some periodicals, and even entire books, on computer disks, in general creating a library of the future. John McGinty, the library director, described his vision of the library of the future: "The idea is that the library will expand from a print-oriented repository to a more electronically-based resource."⁴¹

With this new technology, the college will continue to be of service to the community. Local libraries, schools, businesses, and nonprofit organizations will be able to use their own computers to gain access into information and programs that the college has. A high school student, for example, who cannot find a particular journal or other periodical in his school library, may find it via computer in Marist's library.

In athletics, Marist crossed a milestone in the spring of 1989 when it decided to join the East Coast Conference (ECC), beginning in the 1990 academic year. The move to the ECC from the Northeast Conference, will help the college upgrade its athletic program by offering scholarships to other sports besides basketball, and by adding new sports.

The most recent development at the college is the construction of a new classroom building, called The Dyson Center, in honor of Charles H. Dyson, a noted businessman and philanthropist who received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Marist in 1986. He is the father of Marist trustee, Robert Dyson. The Dyson Center, the construction of which began this past October, is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 1990. It will incorporate some the the most advanced technology for the education of undergraduate and graduate students in business, social and behavioral sciences, public administration, and public policy.

Undergraduate enrollment in the 1988/89 academic year climbed to just more than 3,000, the largest number of students in Marist's history. The college also had its largest graduating class on May 20, 1989. About 700 bachelor's degrees and 83 master's degrees were awarded.

Marist College has indeed grown over the years, and is now vastly different from its beginnings. Yet, its ideals remain much the same. And as the college prepares for the 21st century, it will lead in liberal arts education while keeping alive its mission of community service.

Moving the IBM 3090
Computer into the college's
computer center, 27 July
1988. Photo credit: Marist
College Archives



Endnotes

Extensive research and editorial assistance for this paper was provided by James Kullander. Historical guidance was provided by Adrian N. Perreault, a former Marist Brother and retired librarian of Marist College; Brother Joseph Belanger, a professor of French at the college; Brother Richard Rancourt, instructor of mathematics at the college; Brother Cornelius Russell, assistant professor of management studies at the college; and Gerard Cox, vice president for student affairs at the college and a former Marist Brother. Some of the material for this paper has come from conversations with these people. Much of the following makes reference to available documents to which appropriate attribution is warranted. The photographs are from the files of Marist College.

1. "Marcellin Champagnat, Founder of the Marist Brothers," a pamphlet produced by the college.
2. "The Marist Brothers and Marist College up to 1958," a pamphlet produced by the college.
3. Information on the college grounds before and early after the Marist purchases can be found in a July, 1987 report on the historical and architectural importance of the buildings purchased by the college and still used by the college.
4. "A History of the Physical Plant of Marist College." The Marist College Office of Institutional Research, 1985. Information on all college buildings up to 1985 can be found here.
5. From an untitled pamphlet on the college history prepared by Brother Adrian N. Perreault, 1963.
6. Official date of state approval of the college taken from a history paper of the college under the heading "Institutional Mission," p. 63.
7. Catalogue of Marian College, 1946/47, p. 9.
8. *Marist Today*, fall, 1987, p. 22.
9. Videotaped interview in 1987 with Brother Paul Ambrose Fontaine and John J. Gartland, Jr., conducted by Anthony Cerna, former vice president for college advancement.
10. *Ibid.*
11. Catalogue of Marian College, 1946/47, p. 10.
12. Catalogue of Marist College, 1964/65, p. 3.
13. Videotaped interview. See note 9.
14. *Ibid.*
15. "The College that Built Itself," a pamphlet produced by the college, 12 July 1966.
16. Perreault's history. See note 5.
17. Catalogue of Marian College, 1957/58, p.10.
18. Institutional mission paper, p. 67. See note 6.
19. Videotaped interview. See note 9.
20. A brief statement on the history of the college by Gartland, dated May 6, 1980.
21. *Ibid.*
22. *Ibid.*
23. Videotaped interview. See note 9.
24. "The Foy Years." A pamphlet produced by the college outlining the growth of the college under Foy as college president from 1958 to 1979. A good source for dates and information on construction, academic programs, and student growth during those years.
25. Videotaped interview. See note 9.
26. *Ibid.*
27. *Ibid.*
28. Perreault's history. See note 5.

29. Videotaped interview in 1987 with Dr. Richard Linus Foy and Brother Nilus Donnelly, conducted by Dr. Jephtha Lanning, chairman of the college's division of arts and letters.
30. *Ibid.*
31. *Ibid.*
32. *Ibid.*
33. *Ibid.*
34. *Ibid.*
35. *Ibid.*
36. In this course, students learn about word processing, database management, graphics, spreadsheets, communication through the college's mainframe computer, and linking external databases. Students are encouraged to take this course in their freshman or sophomore year so they can use what they learn during the rest of their college career.
37. By 1971, courses were offered in Afro-Asian studies, American studies, anthropology, art, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, earth science, economics, education, English, environmental science, French, German, Greek, history, Italian, Latin, literature, mathematics, music, philosophy, physical education, physics, political science, psychology, religious studies, Russian, science, sociology, and Spanish.
38. Videotaped interview. See note 9.
39. The college no longer allowed students to elect half their courses, a widespread development on campuses nationwide in the 1960s; instead, all students, regardless of their majors, were now required to pass a basic set of courses called the Core Curriculum.
40. *Marist Magazine*, fall, 1988, p. 18.
41. *Ibid.*, p 21.

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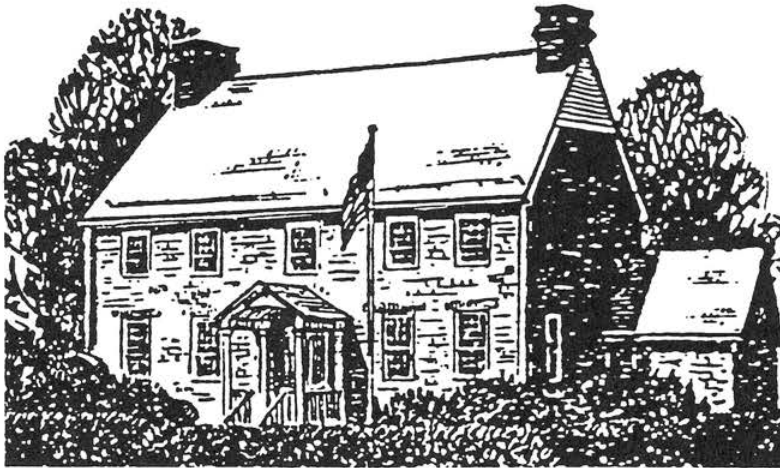
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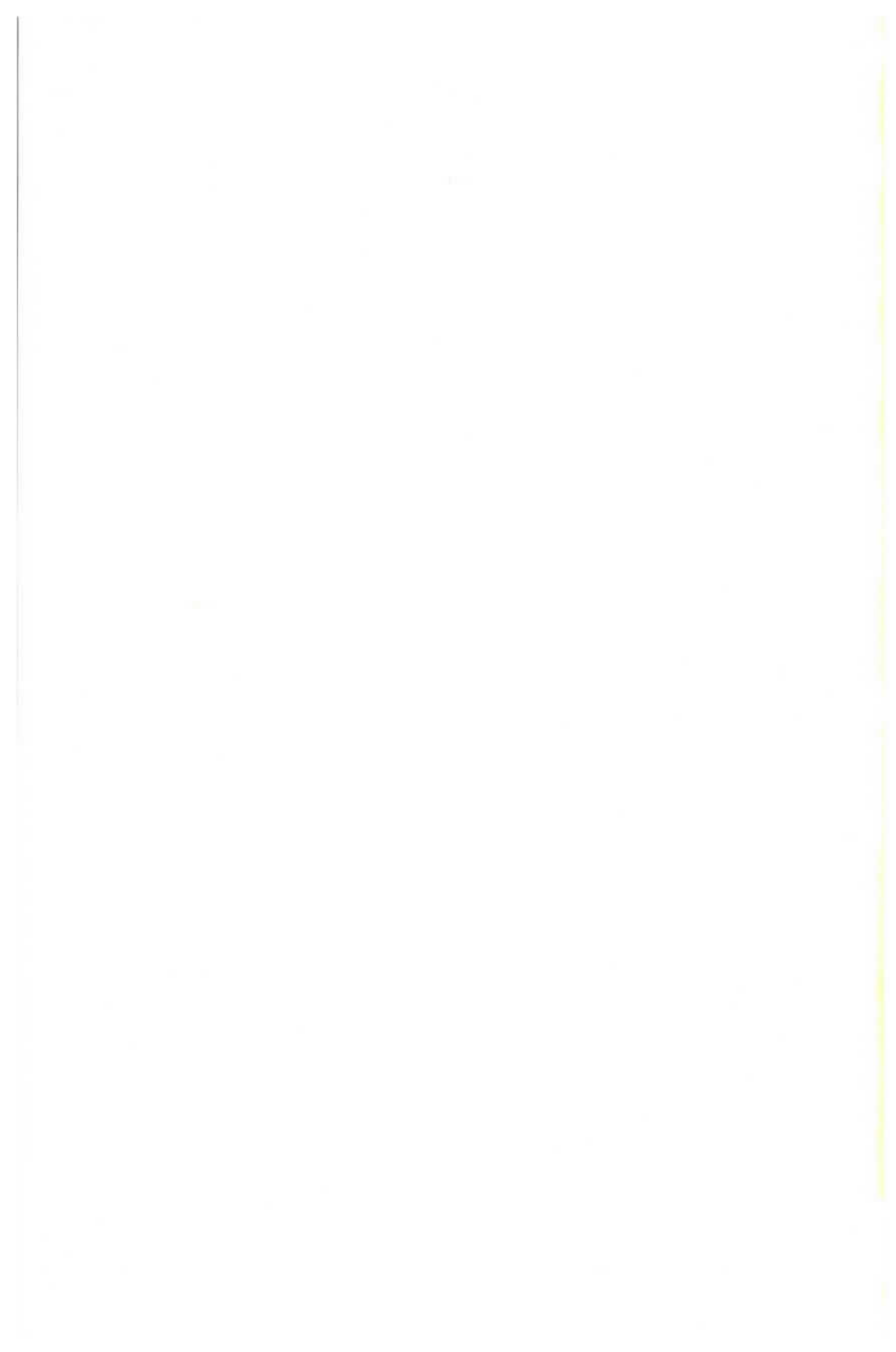


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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million (19.5% of the population).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people, and the Government has set out a strategy for the 21st century in the White Paper on *Ageing Better: The Government's Strategy for Older People* (Department of Health, 1999). This strategy is based on the following principles:

- (i) Older people should be able to live independently and actively in their own homes.
- (ii) Older people should be able to live in their own communities.
- (iii) Older people should be able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

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- (iv) Older people should be able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.
- (v) Older people should be able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.
- (vi) Older people should be able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

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- (vii) Older people should be able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.
- (viii) Older people should be able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.
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- (x) Older people should be able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.
- (xi) Older people should be able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.
- (xii) Older people should be able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

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