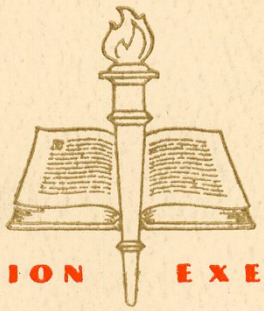
RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL



DEDICATION EXERCISES

September 6, 1939

Joseph E. Vigeant, M.D.

Chairman, Dedication Exercise Program



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT



RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL

The Dedication Program

INVOCATION - - - - - - - - Rev. Louis Jaudas

AMERICA - - - - - - - - - - - Audience

SELECTION - - - - - - - Rhinebeck School Band

OPENING WORD OF DEDICATION - - - F. Palmer Hart
President, Board of Education

F. E. GRIFFIN - - - - Supervisor, Rural Education
State Department of Education

SELECTION - - - - -Pine Plains Central School Band

HONORABLE GEORGE V. L. SPRATT
Mayor, City of Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

SOLO, *My Own United States* - - - - - George Hull

COLONEL M. E. GILMORE - - - - Regional Director
Public Works Administration

ADDRESS - - - - THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

STAR SPANGLED BANNER - - - The School Children of
Rhinebeck and Central Schools of Pine Plains and Red Hook

BENEDICTION - - - - Rev. George E. Hipsley, D.D.

Centralization

THE Red Hook School was destroyed by fire on April 2, 1936. Within ten days all the members of the various classes had resumed school work. The grades were housed about the village, in the Red Hook Hotel barn, Lutheran Chapel and the Rigas House, and the high school students were transported by bus to Pine Plains. Mr. G. LaVerne Carr, principal, occupied an office in the Aucock Building.

On April 14th, Mr. William Tremper, superintendent of schools, appeared before the Board of Trustees at a meeting held in the Aucock Building. Rebuilding, centralization and methods of procedure were discussed.

About two months later, the board filed an application through the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works for a grant to aid in financing the construction and equipment of a public school building and the purchase of a suitable site.

A new problem arose on July 7th at a meeting in the Lyceum. The annual budget was rejected because of the transportation of high school students. Adjournment was taken until August 6th, when, at another meeting it was proposed to have these pupils remain in Red Hook where they would be housed in The Hoffman Inn and The Buckley House. A committee of taxpayers was appointed to visit Albany and appeal to the State Board of Education for permission to house the children in and about the village and to give us an opportunity to study a centralization plan. The request was granted after a lengthy discussion.

By October 5th, ten of the eleven school boards had been interviewed by Mr. Carr and the District Superintendent on the proposed centralization of the area. A number of men and women cheerfully volunteered to see every voter in the several districts. An educational campaign was launched. Speakers from Albany and places already enjoying the advantages of a centralized school, came and spoke to large and interested audiences.

With enthusiasm mounting, it is not strange that some anxiety was felt by August 1937 because of the delay in obtaining official assignment of the grant from the Federal government. Mr. Carr went to Washington for a conference with Colonel Hackett of the P.W.A. and was assured that the application for funds was in good order and that our project, along with others, was awaiting the allotment of funds. This gave impetus to the work.

A survey of the proposed districts was made by the district inspector, the petitions signed by the voters of each district and filed. It was then necessary to secure final approval of this whole program of centralization from the State Department of Education before any additional work could be done. This accomplished and formal notice of allotment of funds received from the Federal government made it possible to proceed with the project.

On October 26, 1937, teachers and pupils, with banners and placards, marched to the Methodist Chapel where voters from eleven districts were to decide the fate of the proposed Red Hook Central School. When the votes were counted, 866 voted Yes; only 117, No. The new school board was elected on the same evening and the work of the old Board of District Number Four for centralization was successfully completed. The following resolution was passed by the old board: "That the Board of Education of the Union Free School, District Number Four, Town of Red Hook, N. Y., transfer to the Central School District Number One, of the Towns of Red Hook, Milan and Rhinebeck, Dutchess County and Clermont, Columbia County, the application made to and the offer made by the Federal government for aid in financing the construction of the school building, including necessary equipment and the acquisition of land thereto."

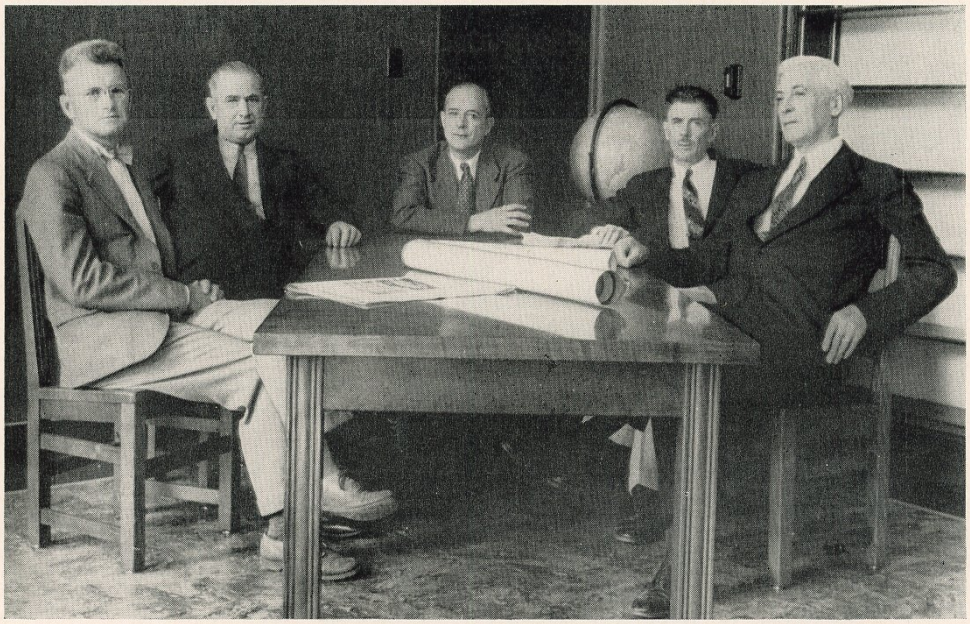
Acknowledgment

SINCERE thanks are extended to the following persons, without whose valuable collaboration it would have been almost impossible to compile this brochure: Clara Cookingham, Robert H. Coon, Thaddeus K. Smith, Herbert Stanley Smith, Major U. S. A. (retired), William H. Plass, Ferris Jackson, Alfred Link, Jennie Fulton, James E. Kerley, Mary Kerley, Fannie E. Fraleigh, Alvah R. Stickle, R. E. Sluyter, Burton Coon, Catherine Frazier, Reverend and Mrs. Charles Champlin and Benson Frost.

Sincere thanks are also extended to The Pine Plains Central School and The Rhinebeck High School bands for the splendid music rendered at the dedication program.

The School Board

The people of the Red Hook Central School district and the Board of Education express appreciation to Public Works Administration for its participation in bearing forty-five per cent of the cost of this building program.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

G. Gordon Mead

Frank Kolbenskie

F. Palmer Hart, *President*

Clinton I. Gallagher

Joseph E. Vigeant, M.D.

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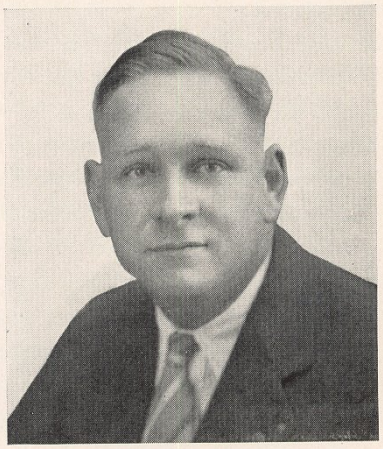
DONOHUE-MURPHY, INC., White Plains, N. Y.,
Landscape Contractors



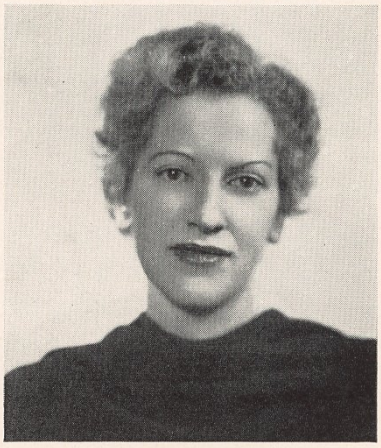
G. La Verne Carr
Principal



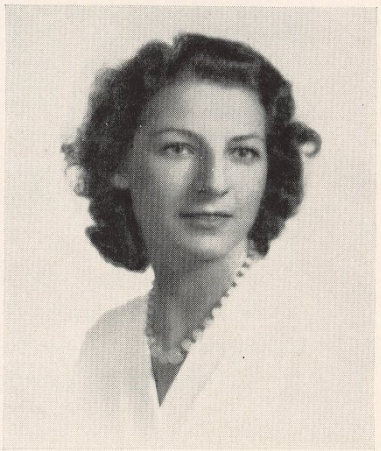
Benson Frost
Attorney



Milo F. Winchester
District Superintendent



Adelina B. Shaw
Treasurer



Madeline Babich
Clerk



Elmendorph School

DISTRICT No. 1

WHEN THE Town of Red Hook was first apportioned from the Town of Rhinebeck the school records show the following: "At a meeting of Commissioners of Schools from the Town of Red Hook at the house of Henry Walter in said town on the eleventh of November 1813 in order to divide the said town into school districts have distributed as follows to wit: (32 landowners names listed) according to an act passed by the Legislature of the State of New York dated June 19, 1812." It appears therefore that this district was the first and only district in the town and that the children came from all parts of the town for a period of school days or weeks. Some kind of a building was used for school purposes and in all probability was on the site of the present building on land taken from Tompkins farm about 1792. There is no record of the building but the meeting of November 29, 1813 was held at the house of Jacob Signer, Jr., and the meeting was adjourned "till" the first Monday in May next at School House No. 1. At the meeting of December 22, 1813 with the "Moderator" in charge it was resolved that a tax of five dollars be levied to purchase the quota of fuel for indigent children. Abram Knox, one of the first trustees, died in less than a year and at a meeting held April 27, 1814 the vacancy was filled by the election of John L. Hendricks. It was voted that the first Monday in April be designated as annual meeting day, and a resolution was passed that the "trustees agree with the teachers."

The name of the first teacher is not recorded but legend has it that he was paid 4 pounds sterling. The first known teacher was Platt Smith who was paid $14.00 per month. At the annual meeting held April 3, 1815, the expenses were listed in pounds sterling, shillings and pence; for example, "pail and mug 5/2; nails 1/9; boards 15/.;

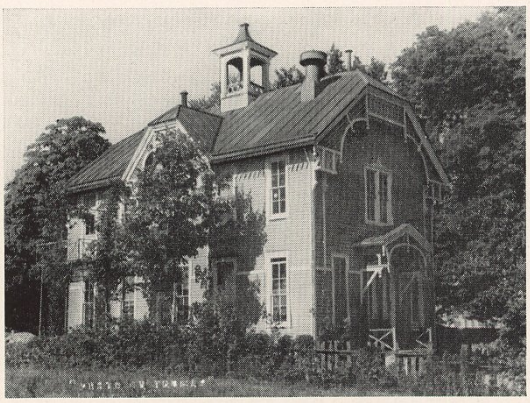
to carpenter for laying floor, one pound sterling." At a special meeting held November 13, 1819 it was resolved: "That the employers (each one) send half a load of wood a scholar to be brought to the schoolhouse on Saturday the 13th, cut short for the stove." Resolved: "That the taxpayers who have no wood attend that day with their axes and help cut wood." At the meeting on November 5, 1831 it was resolved that the sum of $155 be used to build a new schoolhouse. On April 20, 1850 a sum of $10 was raised for painting schoolhouse and it was agreed at the meeting that the school be taught six and a half months from April 15th to November 1st. On October 12, 1858 at the annual meeting it was resolved that a tax of $90 be levied upon the district and was to be used for the following: "altering pipe and chimney $10, fuel $20, digging and furnishing well $40, and teachers wages $20." At a special meeting held on April 14, 1863 the improvement of the schoolhouse being the object of the meeting, it was resolved: "First—Schoolhouse not to be enlarged. Second: Seats to be arranged for two in a seat and as many as room will admit. Third: That the first resolution be reconsidered. Fourth: That $275 be raised for improvements. Fifth: That trustees be improvised to enlarge the schoolroom and build a portico in front if they saw fit to do so."

At a special meeting October 10, 1876 it was resolved that an additional sum of $10 be raised for recording the school lot deed and insuring the schoolhouse. During the meeting on August 7, 1900 by a vote taken, a tax of $260 was laid on the taxable property of the school district to pay the teacher's wages and such necessary expenses as required for school purposes and repairs for the ensuing year.

In 1934 the high school pupils were first transported to the Red Hook High School and in 1935 the school was closed and all the children were taken to District No. 4, Red Hook. It might be interesting to note the progress of the wages paid to the teachers: 1904—$32 per month, 1913-14—$40 per month, 1919—$48 per month, 1923—$84.50 per month, 1933-34—$92 per month.

The final chapter in the history of this old and historic Fortress of Education has been written. We look forward to our new school, modern and complete, with pride and anticipation for the future of our children.

This information has been taken from the clerk's recording book dated November 11, 1813, in which the minutes of every school meeting over a period of one hundred and twenty-two years are recorded. (This historic register may be found in the new school library.)



Upper Red Hook

DISTRICT No. 6

By James E. Kerley and Mary Kerley

THIS TWO-STORY school building has served the community for about sixty years. It replaced the old one-room school which was built about the year 1829 and which had become inadequate and obsolete for the needs of the rapidly growing and flourishing community. The old building was sold for thirty dollars, removed to land owned by Arthur L. Traver and used as a dwelling until destroyed by fire a few years later. Only its bell was preserved and placed in the new school belfry where it continued to call children to their classes. Tradition tells us, however, that there was, even before 1829, a school located on the property where Jonas Smith's house now stands, but no authentic records can be found to verify this.

Since the new school was to be constructed on approximately the same site as the old school, it was necessary to arrange to care for classes somewhere else during building operations. At this time, Miss Lizzie M. Pitcher was conducting a private school in the south room of the old Red Hook Academy. District No. 6 rented the north room of that building, where, under the direction of Albert P. Smith, classes from the old school continued during the construction period.

When the present school building was completed by John Harris, builder, and opened in September, 1879, Mr. Smith and Miss Pitcher were the teachers. Maximum recorded attendance was forty pupils. Due to a shift in population, some time later, and for a period of a few years, only one room of the school was used and one teacher employed. Twenty-two teachers have served the district during the existence of the school. Three, now retired, remain residents of this vicinity, viz., Mrs. Wm. S. Teator, Mrs. O. T. Cookingham, and Mrs. Lester Denerly. Two of the twenty-two, Mrs. N. D. Fraleigh and Mrs. Ernest Sigler, will fill responsible teaching positions in the new Red Hook Central School.

Barrytown School

DISTRICT No. 8

As related by William Plass



THE SCHOOL was built about 1857 from land and timbers donated by the nearby Donaldson estate. Previous to this the children of this district attended the Annandale School and the long walk, especially in winter, worked great hardships on them. The school was also used on Sunday evenings for religious meetings. About 1910 the school was enlarged to two rooms and then accommodated from 60 to 65 pupils. Mr. L. L. Stillman, the first teacher, held his position for 20 years. Other teachers who followed were A. P. Smith and Eugene Herrick. The school was attended during the winter by boys and girls ranging from 5 to 22 years of age. In the early spring the older boys, as was customary in those days, absented themselves from school to help on the farms. In recent years the attendance dropped to 30 or 35 pupils. About seven years ago the school was reconditioned, repairs and improvements including a new heating plant and the addition of a two-car garage were made at a cost of about five thousand dollars.

After 82 years of service to this rural community the old Barrytown School bows to educational progress.



Annandale School

DISTRICT NO. 9

As related by Thaddeus K. Smith

OVER EIGHTY YEARS ago Mr. John Bard established and maintained a Parish School in the building now known as Bard Hall. There were two departments, primary and elementary; the Misses Trowbridge were the first teachers. The low, solid oak benches used by the younger children, may still be seen at the Hall. There are some still living who received all of their education within its walls. When the Chapel of the Holy Innocents was built, the entire student body attended services there.

Mr. Bard's departure to England necessitated the provision of a public school. The school at Annandale came into existence in 1868. The property was purchased from John A. Lewis and the builders were John Harris and David Ackert. The average attendance when the school first opened was 35 pupils. The original bell which summoned the children to school for many years still remains in the belfry on the school building. The first teacher, Jacob Schoonmaker, was a student at Bard College. Other teachers who followed were: Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. Blaco, Miss Bogardus, Miss Mary Lewis (now Mrs. Whitcome), Rev. A. R. Hegeman, Rev. P. C. Pyle, Rev. G. W. Anthony, Messrs. John and Henry Lewis, Miss Cornelia Cruger, Mrs. A. C. Zabriskie, Messrs. Kirtley Lewis, T. E. Thompson, William H. Simmons, George W. Barringer, William Cahalien, Thomas and Aron Harris.

The new school was completely renovated in 1929; a new furnace, new electric wiring and other improvements were installed. The use of the school was discontinued in 1930 and the pupils were transferred to the Madalin School.

Milan Cokertown

DISTRICT No. 9

By Miss Jennie Fulton



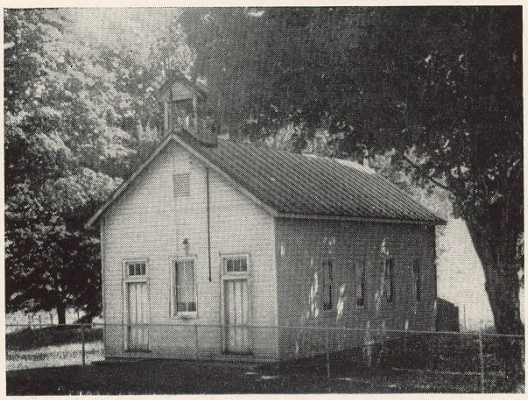
THE HISTORY of District No. 9 of the Town of Milan is unique in some of its features. It is now known as the Cokertown School. In my childhood it was known as the Nelson Schoolhouse. This must have been the first Little Red School.

The site was not chosen because of spacious outlook. Not many feet from the door there arose a solid rock of limestone larger than a good-sized hayrick reaching quite thirteen feet in the air. The tramp of many feet made a path around it not far from the top. Before I left school, somewhere around 1878, Mr. Edwin Phillips had the stone blasted out.

Mr. Nelson, of my father's time, was the first teacher. I can't remember exactly when he taught. He was an Englishman of culture who taught in homes before the school was established. He taught Latin and music; many musical instruments graced his home. His library of classical books occupied the shelves in the schoolroom during my time there. Some of those are still to be found in the attic of the old school. The next teacher who is still remembered—Mr. John W. Near—was a self-made man, a teacher of ability for his time. His high moral character was an influence for good in the lives of his numerous neighbors and friends. His tenure of office lasted over 25 years.

The building also served as a community center. For many years the Protestant congregations used it as a chapel; later, when the community became largely Catholic, it was used for their services for a time. The Christmas exercises connected with the school were attended by all the neighbors in a spirit of sweet Christianity.

It is with regret that we say farewell to the Little Red Schoolhouse. Many pleasant memories are enshrined there.



Rock City School

TOWN OF MILAN

DISTRICT No. 7

By Burton Coon

I DO NOT know when District No. 7, Town of Milan was laid out, or by whom; or when and where the first schoolhouse was built and by whom. It would be interesting to know—but these facts lie buried in the dim and immemorial past along with many others. The first schoolhouse of which I have any record stood in the center of the hamlet of Rock City. It was there in 1851, according to the oldest records I have, and it stood until torn down in 1892 or 1893. The old schoolhouse was a two-story building with a belfry and bell, the same bell we have now. The ground floor was occupied by the school and could accommodate 46 pupils. The upper room was used a good deal for religious and civic purposes and all kinds of entertainments.

In 1892 or 1893 the old site was exchanged for a new one more remote from people and traffic. It was a good thing for all concerned. The present structure was contracted for by Henry D. Ostrom and Ezra L. Morehouse, trustees.

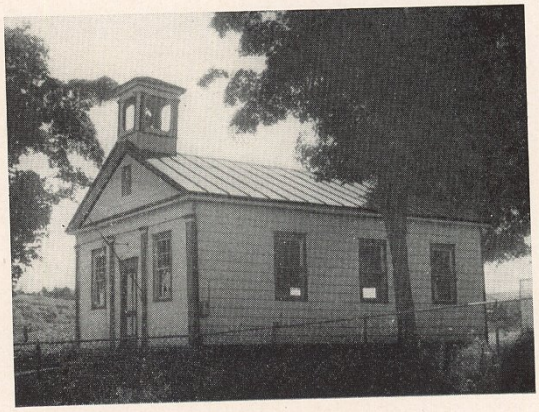
The school terms in the old days were arranged differently from now. There was a winter and summer term. School meetings were held sometime in October, and vacation was in the spring. It was customary to hire a man teacher for the winter and a woman teacher for the summer. There were no statutory requirements as to a teacher's capabilities or fitness. Anyone who wanted to teach might apply to the superintendent who had full power to issue a permit. Very often a farmer taught school in the winter and worked his farm in the summer. Only the elementary branches were taught in this school.

I would like to mention two of the school superintendents, Frank O. Green and William R. Tremper, who would doubtless rejoice to witness this great day. I trust that my neighbors will extend to the new regime all the sympathetic help that was given to the old. Your cooperation will enable us to carry on successfully.

Nevis School

DISTRICT No. 2

As related by Robert H. Coon
(Born 1841)



THE ORIGINAL school was probably built in 1779. The grounds for the structure were purchased from Jacob Stall. The school consisted of one room and a hallway. Approximately forty pupils attended; this attendance was halved when spring work began on the farms. The ages of the pupils ranged from 5 to 20 years. The original schoolhouse proved inadequate to accommodate all of its pupils and was replaced by the present one in 1854. This had a capacity of about 65 pupils.

The first teacher at the school was Miss Getty Near. Her successors were Mary Ellen Traver and John Weaver.

The first trustees were Henry Coon, John Stall, George Scism, Philip Feller, William Feller, and Abram Coon. There was no special time for the Board meeting. It was usually held in the fall. Teachers were hired weekly in proportion to the time they could devote to their tasks. They boarded at various places in the district and paid 12 shillings ($3) for room and board. The school building was used on Sunday evenings for religious services. A dominie from Manorton or Viewmont conducted the services. The district extended east to the creek, west to the Lasher brothers' farm, north to Red House, and south to Philip Feller's.



White Schoolhouse

LINK DISTRICT No. 4

Related by Ferris Jackson who was born April 5, 1856

THE ORIGINAL school was located north of the present schoolhouse on the west side of the road. It was built about the year 1815 and, after the present school was built, the old one was used as a dwelling place for many of Red Hook's early families. The first known occupants were the Doyle and the Battenfeld families.

The property for the present school was purchased from Henry Sipperley and the school was built in the year 1840. Some of the first pupils who attended were: Julia Rowe who now resides in Bridgeport, Conn., Ferris Jackson and Alfred Link who still reside in the district. The first class included the Morehouse boys, Nathaniel and Cyrus, Alvah Shelly, George Shelly, Henry Battenfeld and Stephen Thorn, all deceased.

The teacher in the year 1861 was Amy Cornwell who taught for many years. At that time there were forty pupils attending. Their ages ranged all the way from 5 to 22 years. The school term lasted from September 1st to March 1st, when, for a month, school was closed so that the pupils could prepare for spring planting on the farms. School was reopened April 1st and continued to June 1st, when it closed for the summer vacation.

Fraleigh School

DISTRICT No. 5

By Fannie E. Fraleigh



THE FIRST written record of District No. 5 that has been preserved is dated April 15, 1819. Legend tells us that the first school in this district was a small frame structure located on the farm of Peter Fraleigh, great-grandfather of the present owner, Curtis Fraleigh. The school building stood on the corner of the Albany Post Road and John Fraleigh Feller Road. It was later moved to the Red Hook-Rock City Road on the bank of the Sawkill Creek. At the annual meeting in 1838 it was decided to raise $300 for the erection of a new schoolhouse. This building was used until the present structure was built in 1929. Records of 1824 show that sixty-six pupils were enrolled that year and teacher's wages amounted to $100. In 1839 it was resolved to purchase a library and Peter Fraleigh was elected librarian. The question of consolidation with Red Hook provoked a lively controversy in 1919 but nothing came of the proposal. In 1929 a vote was taken and an appropriation of $11,000 made for the construction of a new school.

Some of the earlier trustees were: Robert Moore, John Elsfer, Aaron Shook, Philip Stickle, Evert Traver, William Westfall, Andrew Teal, Richard Fraleigh, Peter Fraleigh, Peter Cotting, Alfred Hutching, Myrone Badgeley, Jacob W. Fraleigh and Theodore Phillips.

In this year 1939 with tender thoughts and some regret but with hopeful pride for the future of our boys and girls, we close the door of our little school and join the Central School Unit of Red Hook, New York.



Willow Glen

DISTRICT No. 8

By Catherine Frazier

THE FIRST recorded school meeting of "Freeholders of District No. 8, Town of Milan" as it was then known, was held on August 6, 1889. The following were elected to office: David Sigler, Chairman; John Flack, Trustee; Eli Burger, District Clerk; Rufus Wilbur, Collector; Henry C. Herman, Librarian. The school, a one-story building, was located on land donated by Henry Weaver, east of his residence on the road leading past his home to Jackson Corners. The building was burned in the fall of 1897 and a special meeting was held on December 18th of that year for the purpose of selecting a site and to arrange for erection of a new building. A committee was appointed to present the plan to three or more "mechanics." The meeting adjourned until December 27th when it was decided that "the John Flack schoolhouse site be adopted." This site was bounded "by a maple tree on the highway to the creek and sixty feet south; sixty feet west, and along the highway to the starting point." A sum of $325 to be paid in five installments was borrowed to finance the school building. The 18′ x 20′ building was finished at a cost of $245.

The last meeting was held on May 4, 1937; in 1938 the school closed its doors to become a part of the centralized district.

Red Hook

DISTRICT No. 4

By Clara Cookingham



THERE IS NO record of when the original school was constructed. It stood on the present site and the land was part of the Armstrong property. The building was said to have been constructed in large part of staves from tobacco hogsheads. In 1874 or 1875 another story was added making it possible to accommodate all the children. The building was made 40′ x 20′ facing east and two entrances were made where formerly there was only one. The two-story building was divided into 2 rooms on the first floor and 2 rooms on the second floor. In September 1905 the name of the Red Hook Union Free School was officially changed to Red Hook High School. Mr. Ackerman, who came to the school in 1904, became the first principal. A portion of the present building was added at that time at a cost of $13,500. Soon after this addition, the school was filled to capacity. In 1925 another addition, consisting of an auditorium and three classrooms, was necessary. The grades were all brought back under the one roof from various places about the village and everything was in fine running order for another short time. Enrollment kept increasing and it became necessary to divide the grades, one grade to a room. The auditorium was divided; half was used for the third grade and half as a high school classroom. Then two houses in the village were put into use to house some of the grades. In 1935 a new school was being discussed but the townspeople were not highly in favor of it and no decision was reached.

On the morning of April 2, 1936 at about 2 a. m. a fire was discovered in the fifth grade room. The blaze spread rapidly and razed the entire second floor and part of the first floor in the new section of the building. Thus a new school became imperative.

The New School Building

ARCHITECT'S DESCRIPTION

R. E. SLUYTER
Herkimer, New York

THE new plant of the Red Hook Centralized School is set in ample grounds of unique beauty. Towering old trees that line the drives and the street borders of the property, provide a setting and a background for the school structure; and the building in turn, designed in dignified simplicity, built of mellow, colonial red brick and warm ivory limestone seems not to intrude but rather to enhance and emphasize the beautiful unity of the whole. The area of the grounds consists of 18 and a fraction acres.

The school building is of Georgian Colonial type. The center section fronting on Linden Avenue has a sloping roof of variegated purple rough edged slate and is surmounted by a cupola of distinctly colonial type which houses ventilation exhaust and the amplifiers for the electric chimes which sound the quarter hours. The axis of this central section is further marked by a two story columned portico which covers the main or administrative entrance. The cupola is surmounted by a weather vane that depicts in metal a stagecoach and four horse team reminiscent of old post road days.

The south face of the building presents two wings, each with student entrance, separated by a courtyard at the rear of which is located the auditorium entrances. On the axis of this court rises, from an ornamental base, a steel flag pole 60 feet in height. Other entrances to the building are had on the west and north elevations leading from parking area and playgrounds.

The building is designed to meet the requirements of the State Department of Education and provides a maximum of 969 pupil stations; sufficient to provide adequately for the needs of the district for many years to come. The structure is completely fireproof.

On the first floor, the center section of the east front is given over to administration and contains the public office, superintendent's private office, clinic and health section and women teachers' room, all provided with toilets and adequate and suitable storage space.

The north side of the first floor provides space for an ample cafeteria and a kitchen equipped with a counter and the most modern of food serving equipment. The cafeteria is furnished with folding furniture and is suitable for many varied school activities. It will be used for music work and to make it more adapted for this purpose, it has a small raised platform and direct access to the Music Supervisor's office.

The industrial arts shop and classroom are on the rear of the building and are equipped with modern power tools for this type of work. From the shop an overhead type of garage door gives access to the parking area so that cars or large farm equipment may be brought directly into the room for instructional purposes.

The kindergarten is located close to the southwest entrance and is lighted by a large bay window on the court to the east. This room has been particularly studied for its purpose, a low seat follows the window bay, covering the radiation. The linoleum floor is inset with a play circle in which are gay colored insets of animals, fish and birds. The fireplace front is covered with bright tiles into which have been cut the letters of the alphabet. Special cabinets have been provided for storage and the furnishings and equipment are all adapted to the needs of the very small child. The kindergarten, as well as first grade rooms, are provided with separate coatroom and toilet facilities.

A combination auditorium and gymnasium takes up the central part of the building, and with its twenty-five feet of height, rises two full stories. The room is lighted by three large panels of glass block wall which are built into its upper section on the south side. Ventilation is entirely indirect and is provided and controlled by a huge fan in the basement. The floor is of thick wood block, set on end, furnishing a surface of great durability, resiliency and beauty. The auditorium stage has a full complement of stage curtains and scenery and the three-color lighting is controlled from a switchboard that would do credit to a professional stage. The auditorium will seat over 450 persons in the floor area on chairs which fold and store on

trucks under the stage when not in use. Folding bleachers on the east wall have an additional capacity of 350 persons.

The remainder of the first floor is given over to rooms for the lower grades, each one provided with wardrobes for pupils' clothing and large storage and book cases.

The second floor of the school houses the upper grade and high school pupils. Among the departments which are housed in rooms particularly adapted to their requirements are the Art, Science, Typing, and Homemaking. Each of these are provided with adequate space and the most modern furniture and equipment for their various activities.

The library section, composed of library proper, library conference room separated by a glazed partition, and library work room, takes up the center of the east front on this floor. The library is finished with a high wainscoting in walnut color and character and is lined with built-in book shelving on the north and west walls. Tables and chairs will seat eighty or more pupils and necessary record cabinets and files are built in.

In general the whole of the first and second floors of the building have marble patterned linoleum floors with contrasting border and base of the same material running into a wainscot of wall linoleum selected to blend and harmonize with the color of the sand finished plaster walls. The sound deadening of the structure has been given particular attention and each room has been given acoustic treatment according to its particular needs. Corridors and rooms alike are noticeably free from reverberation and clamor that have hitherto been accepted as an unpleasant but unavoidable fault of school structures. Each room in the building has heating and ventilation controlled by individual thermostats which insure constant heat and ventilation to safeguard the health of the occupants. Lights in school rooms are to be controlled automatically by electric eyes which turn on artificial light when natural daylight becomes insufficient for proper working conditions.

The basement of the building contains the boiler room where two large oil fired steel boilers, each large enough to heat the building in emergency, provide the necessary steam for heat, ventilation, and hot water. The boilers also contain grates for disposal of waste paper



EARLY STEEL CONSTRUCTION ON THE NEW BUILDING

and refuse. In the boiler room is also located the stationary vacuum cleaner from which a system of suction lines runs to every part of the building so that dust and dirt can be drawn directly to containers in the boiler room and there disposed of in the incinerator. Adjacent to the boiler room is the janitor's room, large storage room and the electric room, from which center the complicated electric system of the building is controlled.

Gymnasium locker rooms for both boys and girls with locker banks and shower bath facilities are on the west wall of the basement. These are reached by separate stairways from the first floor and each have exits directly to the outside so that entrance can be made directly from athletic field or playground without going through the building.

The bus garage, an integral part of the project and designed in harmony with the school building, is located toward the north of the site, surrounded by a grove of hemlock and pine. The garage will house seven buses and is provided with grease pit, wash rack and workbench. A room for drivers is at the east of the building with toilet facilities and shower bath. The garage also has a storage room for power mowers, rollers and other items of ground maintenance equipment. It is heated by a separate oil-burning boiler.

The school grounds are laid out with winding drives and walks, ample lawn areas and interspersed with shrubbery and trees. Athletic fields for both girls and boys and play areas for small children have been carefully located. Tennis courts and baseball field have been built to standard specifications. Area is also designated for future volley ball and badminton courts, for horseshoe pitching and for an archery range.

Brief History of the Grounds

THE grounds on which the school is now located were originally owned by General David Van Ness of Revolutionary fame. The house known as the Brock House was built in 1797. A portion of this house is still standing. It was named Maizefield and later changed to Maizeland. In 1815 it was sold to Stephen I. Brinkerhoff of Fishkill. Arthur Smith of New York City bought the property in 1825 and conveyed it to Tobias Teller of Clinton, N. Y., in 1841. The property was then purchased by William Chamberlin of New York City and, after his death, the estate was divided by his executors who sold the house and 130 of the original acres to Mr. Theodore Timpson in 1882. In 1900 Mrs. Timpson deeded the place to her son, Lawrence. Mr. Leon Shelley acquired the property from Lawrence Timpson on August 1, 1927, and in June 1935 a portion was sold to Victor Gangwish. The Trustees of the Red Hook Central School obtained sixteen and one-half acres from Mrs. Shelley on December 1, 1937 and the balance of the acreage was bought from Victor Gangwish.

A History of the Town of Red Hook

BY THE LATE MISS FRANCES CROUSE

ALTHOUGH this locality was not in the theatre of action during the Revolution and has no famous battlefields, it has many places of interest because of their association with men who were prominent in colonial days and in our early natural life.

The Town of Red Hook was formed from Rhinebeck in 1812. A tridetene says that the name was given to this locality by some early navigators who when sailing up the Hudson saw a point jutting out into the river brilliant with red berries, so called it Red Hook. This point is now Tivoli. A perhaps more trustworthy authority says the name was derived from the red brick tavern which is part of the house now occupied by Dr. Harvey Losee at the present Upper Red Hook.

In those early days this village was called Hardscrabble and was not known as Red Hook until the postmaster at Upper Red Hook transferred his residence to the lower village and thus appropriated the name of the older settlement. However this may be the first settlements were made by the Dutch at Barrytown and Tivoli about 1713. Among the early settlers we find the names of Bernior, Haeners, Hagadorn, Near, Staats, Prasseus, Schufeldt, Traver, Wiederuax, Waldorf, Shaffer, Zippertie. But before this on the second of June, Col. Peter Schuyler obtained from Gov. Thomas Dougan, a patent for the land lying over against Magdalene Island, now Cruger's, which he had purchased from the Indians. This island is one of the most distinguished of any in this section, and one of the best known localities. The Crugers, for whom the island was named, were equally noted as citizens, politicians and soldiers. As early as 1739 John Cruger was mayor of New York City and his son also was subsequently mayor. Another son was colleague of the celebrated Edmund

Burke as representative in Parliament for the city of Bristol, England. Col. John Harris Cruger was one of the most distinguished Americans who supported the crown during the Revolutionary War, and besides gallant services elsewhere, rendered himself famous by his successful defense of Fort 96 in South Carolina in May and June 1781 against the American Army under a General second only to Washington, Nathaniel Green, who had with him as chief engineer and director of the seige works a man whose celebrity was as great in Europe as in America, Thaddeus Hascinsco.

According to the deed given to Peter Schuyler there seem to have been no mills here in 1725; the mills afterward built on the White Clay kill and the Sawkill were a prominent feature of the earlier times.

On the Sawkill, so named because the first use made of it was to turn saw mills, at one time stood Judge Livingston's mill at the river, Gen. Armstrong's mill at Cedar Hill, Van Bentbuysen's mill and a woolen factory in the same place. The Chancellor's, later the Hendrick's mill in the interior, and Robert G. Livingston's mill in the Rock City branch.

The White Clay kill, so called because it flows from or through a layer of white clay, had at one time at its mouth the mill of Jaunetze Bradt, Parks Mill at Meyersville (now Madalin), Cook's factory and Zachariah Hoffman's mill. Lossing, in his field book of the American Revolution, speaks of the British having burned these mills. They were situated at the south cove, at the mouth of the Sawkill which enters the river just north of Montgomery's house. A Mr. Winegar, who was a carpenter's apprentice at Upper Red Hook Landing (now Tivoli) in 1810 told Gen. de Peyster that when he came here he often heard people talk about the burning of these mills by the British.

Mr. Winegar's father was a soldier under Putnam in 1777 and the battalion to which he belonged followed the British fleet up the river from Fishkill, but kept out of range of their guns. His company was posted in a range of hills north of Dr. Brown's place, now known as Saulpaugh ridge. Putnam's troops saw the British burnings and a detachment was pushed down to the waters edge near the mouth of White Clay, now Harris creek.

Mr. Winegar, to quote from him again, said that just inside Reade Hook, later Johnston Livingston's point, the hull of Fulton's first regular North river passenger steamboat was built. In that enterprise Fulton was aided by Chancellor Livingston, who furnished the money.

Mr. Winegar took the census of this town in 1825, and there were then 218 slaves in this town. He was present in 1824 when the Marquis de LaFayette landed at Livingston's dock about two miles north of Tivoli.

The British detachment that burned the Livingston mansions above Upper Red Hook landing, now Tivoli, disembarked at the dock opposite the southwest corner of Gilbert R. Livingston's place, a loyalist, who had been an officer in the British service. His was the only dwelling spared by the British.

One of the most distinguished citizens who ever settled in the Town of Red Hook was Gen. John Armstrong of the Revolutionary Army. He was the author of the anonymous and celebrated Newburgh Addresses written in 1783 in order to obtain from Congress a payment of the money due to the officers of the army. He was Secretary of State to Gen. Franklin of Pennsylvania and Adjutant General of the state. He afterwards married Alida, daughter of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston of Clermont and became as influential in his adopted state as he had been in his native state. In 1797 he owned the Bard property and the mill at Cedar Hill. In 1801 he accepted the office of U. S. Senator, which was tendered to him by a unanimous vote of both branches of the Legislature. Later he accepted an appointment as minister to France. On his return from France he purchased an estate south of Barrytown where he built a fine house, which after his daughter Margaret married William B. Astor, became the property of that gentleman. This place is now known as Rokeby.

Toward the close of his life he built a house in this village which is now occupied by one of his descendants.

Montgomery Place, on the opposite side of the Sawkill from the Bard estate links us with the past by reason of its having been the home of the widow of General Richard Montgomery. Mrs. Montgomery had bought the property just before her husband's departure for Canada. It had originally been part of the Schuyler patent. The

house was completed in the spring of 1776, a few months after the death of Gen. Montgomery at Quebec. He never saw the new house but he wrote to his wife that he longed to see her in her new house and that he wished she could get a stove fixed in the hall, that they were the most comfortable things imaginable.

This house is also interesting from its association with Mrs. Montgomery's brother, Chancellor Edward Livingston, the eminent jurist who wrote the great penal code which made his name known all over the civilized world, and his talented and beautiful wife. Her family name was d'Averzac and she was born on the island of St. Domingo in 1772. At the age of 18 she was the widow of M. Morean de Lasse. Then came the Revolution. Her father was killed and she and an aged grandmother, a small sister, six years old, an aunt and two young lady daughters, and a few faithful slaves crept through the dense forest to a boat, which was to convey them to an English frigate which had promised them the means of escape. After a long and perilous voyage they reached New Orleans penniless. They sold their jewels, rented a small cottage and took in sewing.

New Orleans was at this time a primitive town, but it had its social circles. The family name of d'Averzac was well known and the young widow and her cousins were received into the circle and became stars of the first magnitude. Here Edward Livingston met her and they were married June 3, 1805. Their home in New Orleans was the center of attraction of the great and the resort of every foreigner of distinction.

Later they moved to Washington, where her husband served as U. S. Senator for ten years and then became Secretary of State.

When he went to Paris as Minister to France she accompanied him and was received in the most flattering manner by the royal family. She was considered the most gifted as well as the most beautiful woman at the French court. After their return from France they went to live at Montgomery Place, where Chancellor Livingston died. Mrs. Livingston continued to reside there until the end of her romantic life more than a quarter of a century after her husband's death. Rose Hill also is interesting from its having been the home of Robert Gilbert Livingston and later the home of the de Peyster's who were descended from one of the unfortunate Huguenot families who fled from France after the massacre of St. Bartholemew.

The first one of the name to come was Johanis I., who came in 1645. He was one of "The Six" who were associated to draw up the first charter for the City of New Amsterdam, now New York. His descendants were all distinguished for their public spirit and activity in connection with the affairs of the city. Back from the river are several old homes which belong to our early days. The red brick tavern at Upper Red Hook, mentioned before, was known in 1789 as the Thomas House and so marked on the Colles Surveys of United States roads of that date and, with the exception of the old Beuner house just south of the Reformed church, was the only building on the post road designated by name, at that place, a century and a quarter ago.

It is said that Washington stayed there one night when on one of his tours after the war.

It was undoubtedly the headquarters of Gen. Gates at one time as it was in the limits of his command. It is also probable that Gen. Putnam had his headquarters there because he was in command along the river in 1777, the last time a British expedition actually menaced this region. Another old landmark is the house formerly occupied by the portrait painter, Mr. Edward Mooney. It was built at an early day and was one of the most important houses of the period.

The most interesting landmarks of this village are the old Martin houses. The one on the farm formerly belonging to Mr. E. L. Traver was built about 185 years ago, and bears the architectural characteristics of that period.

The present residence of the Martins' was raised on its foundations on July 4, 1776.

The names of other early settlers who have descendants living here now are: Heermance, Kuhns, Bonsteel, Hendrick, Weidman, afterwards written Whiteman. He came from Zurich, Switzerland; Nehr, Elseffer, Elmendorph, Beuner, Alendorph, Shook, Knickerbocker, Hendricks and Claudius G. Massonneau, who fled from France during the Reign of Terror. His wife was Catherine G. Livingston.

From early days the citizens of this community have been public spirited, and loyal to the needs of their country, and the passing of the years has not diminished their patriotism, for in the war of 1812, the war of the Rebellion, and the war with Spain, a goodly number rallied to the defense of the nation.

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