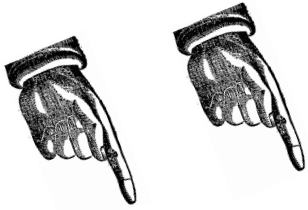


# THE COURIER

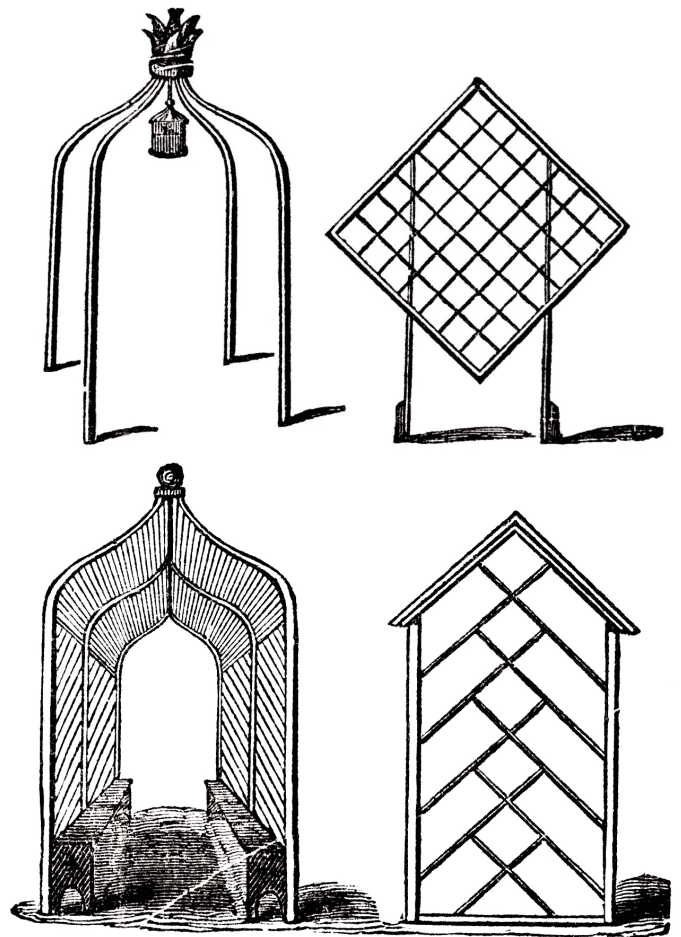
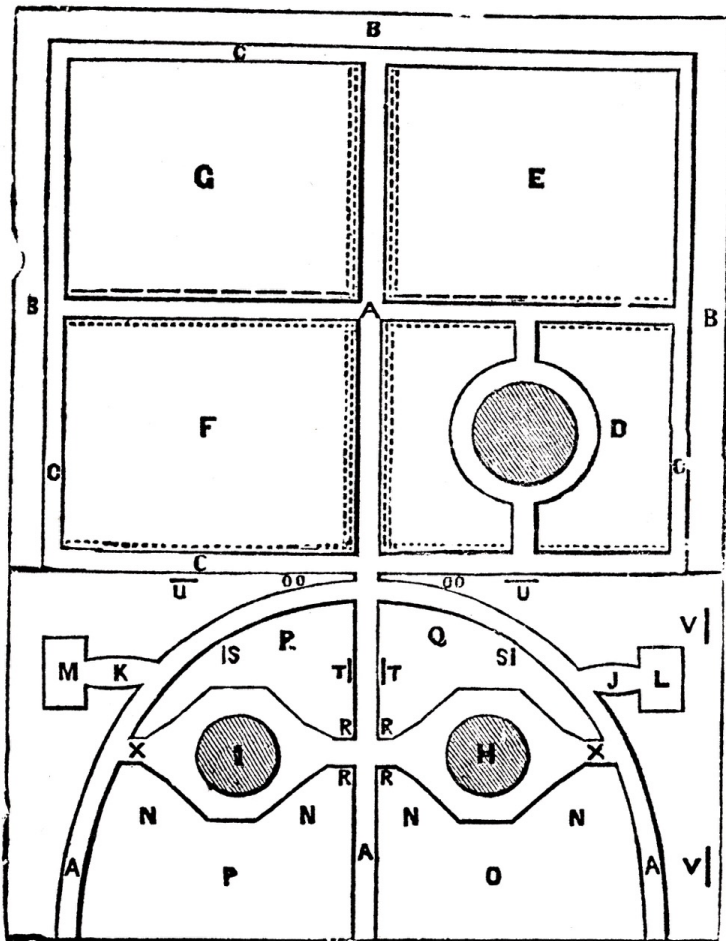
Newsletter of the Lansingburgh Historical Society • Summer 2018



There's no arduous ambitions for the Melville House gardens like Lansingburgher Alexander Walsh (1783-1849) had as in the diagrams below. Nevertheless, *we could still use a hand in maintaining them from time to time, especially **mulching** (donated mulch welcome!), **watering**, and **removing certain invasives**, Galium aparine (at right; called Cleavers, Sticky Willy, &c.), Black Locust, and some bamboo-like shoots (possibly Japanese Knotweed) have been particularly aggravating.*



**If you might have some time to help, please get in touch with us!**



## Pleasantdale

*Recall that the Town of Lansingburgh once extended north to Grant's Hollow on the Deepkill, northeast almost to Cooksboro, east to Oakwood Avenue, and south to Ingalls Avenue.*

**Surveying the River.** The New York state engineers have completed an over-ice survey of the river from Lansing's Grove, south to Nineteenth Street, for the Barge Canal channel. The channel line has been staked out on the ice and will later be marked with buoys. The channel is to lie in a little beyond the centre of the river and is nearly straight. It will be between the piers of the Waterford bridge, third and fourth from the Lansingburgh side of the river.

*Troy Times.* February 4, 1914: 6 col 2.

**River Delights and Drawbacks.** The extremely warm weather of the last few days has driven people to the river side, where after sundown there is invariably a cooling breeze to be enjoyed. Every available boat and canoe is being leisurely propelled along the cool banks and motorboats are constantly chugging their way up and down the stream. The sandy beaches on the west side of the river and on the east side just above the Waterford bridge are thronged with swimmers. The drawback to this is the bathing without swimming suits. The spot is within sight of the passengers on The United Traction Company cars crossing the bridge. — **Olivet Church's Outing.** About twenty attended the outing of Oliver Presbyterian Church yesterday afternoon at Lansing's Grove. The ideal weather and the cool breeze made a delightful setting for an old-fashioned outing. An amusing feature of the afternoon was the fat man's race, which was won by William Gill. Edward Way fell out from exhaustion. The girls' race was won by Helen Bradshaw and a 100-yard dash by Howard Palmatier. Following were the committees in charge: Refreshment, Mrs. John Rabie; Ice Cream, Henry Hewitt; Confectionery, Miss Eleanor Post; Sports, Clyde Osborne, Walter Babie, Miss Bessie Ladue and Miss Helen Bradshaw.

*Troy Times.* June 26, 1914: 22 cols 3-4.

**PARTITION SALE Lansing's Grove and Farm** Long river front; beautiful grove, camp and bungalow sites; near city line, short walk to trolleys; 110 acres; large dwelling house, tenant house and other buildings; orchards; brook of running water; large part of farm desirable for agricultural purposes or for building. Owned and occupied by Abram Jacob Lansing, founder of Lansingburgh, and his descendants since A. D. 1769. To be sold at Public Auction to the highest bidder **Thursday, Feb. 11, 1915**, at 11 a. m., at Court House, Troy. For particulars, terms of sale, etc., inquire of J. A. CIPPERLY, Attorney, 18-20 State Street, Troy, N. Y. *Troy Times.* January 30, 1915: 5 col 6.

### **LANSING'S GROVE PROPERTY.—Sold in Partition at Public Auction to Boston Real Estate Speculator—Will Be Cut Into Bungalow Sites and Building Lots.**

Lansing's Grove and farm lands on the River Road, north of Lansingburgh, were sold for \$7,000 at public auction in the Court House to-day to Samuel A. Moody of Boston, a real estate promoter, who stated that he intended to divide the lands into building sites for bungalows and one-family residences.

**A Partition Action.** The sale was had in the partition action of James A. Fuller and others against Alida Rochester and others, District Attorney Taylor acting as referee, and attorney John A. Cipperly appearing as plaintiff's counsel. The property is divided into three parcels, one of which is the grove of twenty-seven acres, the other two parcels having approximately fifty-four and twenty-seven acres each.

**Bought as One Parcel.** A large crowd of persons attended the sale and the bidding was spirited and occupied an hour. At first the whole tract was offered and Mr. Moody's bid of \$6,200 was high. Then the parcels were offered separately and Mr. Moody confined his bidding to the grove lot, running his bid up to \$3,000. Messrs. J. K. P. Pine, William Rochester and F. H. Wager bid on the other two parcels until the aggregate bid on all totaled \$6,750. Mr. Moody raised his bid on all to \$6,900, and when the others began raising their separate bids he stopped all bidding by loudly calling \$7,000, and the entire property was knocked down to him.

**An Historical Site.** This land was identified with many incidents of the early history of the county, and was purchased from the Patroon Van Rensselaer by Abraham J. Lansing in 1769. The grove has one of the finest river locations in this section of the country and is a mecca for numerous picnic and camping parties in the summer months.

*Troy Times.* February 11, 1915: 5 col 4.

<b>BE SURE AND VISIT THE TENT CITY</b>	
<b>PLEASANTDALE</b>	
<b>ON--THE--HUDSON FORMERLY LANSING'S GROVE</b>	
Take Any North Troy Car and Ride to Car Barn. Walk Up River Road.	CAMP SITES—RIVER FRONT LOTS— BUNGALOW LOTS.
<b>Free Presents</b> Every Sales Day Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday.	<b>Prices</b> \$9-\$19-\$29-\$39-\$59-\$79-\$99 And a few higher.
<b>Free Cars</b> Every Sales Day will leave Congress and Third Streets. Will stop en route for passengers.	<b>Free Tents</b> To Buyers—A Mecca for Campers.
<b>512 Lots Sold</b> In the last few days. There is a reason.	<b>Low Prices Easy Terms</b> Small Weekly Payments.
<b>S. A. Moody Realty Co.</b> 348 RIVER ST.	

*Troy Times.* June 25, 1915: 20 cols 4-7.

*The first Japanese-American resident of Lansingburgh seems to have been Shivuo Hirahara, an RPI student, musician, and engineer, who lived with the Rev. George A. Holbrook family. He was followed by the Yosaku A. Kadura family, he a merchant and his three children had a successful song and dance act as the "Three Meyakos."*



**CAMPING OUT** N. V. A.'s [National Vaudeville Artists] ev'ryone of 'em. From left to right: Arthur Green and Mrs. Green (Green & LaFell), their daughter Aline and Joe Faden of the Faden Trio. "There are many such camps here," writes Green, "Jack McBride and The Jap Trio from Ed Wynn's Carnival are our neighbors." The picture was taken last week at Pleasantdale, near Troy, N.Y. *Vaudeville News*. July 21, 1922: 7 col 2.



**VAUDEVILLE ARTISTS.—Leading Entertainers—Delight Audience at Pleasantdale.**

Some of vaudeville's leading entertainers Saturday evening held an impromptu entertainment at the stage which they recently erected at Pleasantdale for this purpose. The actors and actresses, most of whom belong to the summer artists' colony, which has grown up at Pleasantdale, attracting many of the other campers of the vicinity, besides numerous other persons who were sailing on the river or bathing at the Pleasantdale beach. In all, a crowd of about 200 persons enjoyed the entertainment. Dancing, singing and instrumental selections were given by the [Yasaku] Kadara family, a family of Japanese, who have been camping at Pleasantdale for the last several summers. There were songs by Arthur Myers and piano and vocal solos by Green [top of digitally scanned microfilm of newspaper cropped] gave piccolo selections and Neil Gorman rendered several vocal solos. The program opened with the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by Mrs. Joseph Flavin. Louis Gleason, President of the Pleasantdale Community Club, under whose auspices the affair was staged, made a short address. Several short acts, consisting of harmonica selections, the "comedian dolls" and whistling solos were given by John Schumacher. Mrs. John Rommel was Chairman of the committee in charge of the refreshments.

*Troy Times*. July 30, 1923: 3 cols 2-3.

**VAUDEVILLE HEADLINERS PLEAS[E]—400 Persons Hear Fine Program at Pleasantdale—Professionals Give New Acts—Will Soon Return to Stage.**

The closing entertainment of the season was given last evening by members of the summer theatrical colony at Pleasantdale and was favorably received by an audience of about 400. Containing a number of headline acts from high class vaudeville, the entertainment added to the favorable reputation which the volunteer entertainers have won in this neighborhood. The program included harmonica and drum numbers by John Schumacher, a comedy skit by Mrs. Joe Faden and Al Myers, songs and funny sayings by Mr. and Mrs. Green, known on the professional stage as Green and Le Felle; musical numbers by the Kadaris [sic], a group of Japanese, who appeared last season with Ed Wynne [sic] under the name of the Mayaka Troupe; selections by the Marshall A. C. quartette. There were also a fife and guitar duet by John G. Rommel, candidate for Alderman from the Seventeenth Ward, and George Kadaris and the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by the entire audience, led by Mrs. Faden and Al Myers. The acts given by the Kadaris included an entirely original offering which they will present this fall. Marie Done, well-known character singer, added to the program and Henry Popmaier, the Pleasantdale comedian, gave "Levinsky at the Wedding." Joe Faden headed the committee in charge. The campers have provided benches, seating 120, for use at these entertainments.

*Troy Times*. August 20, 1923: 3 cols 2-3.

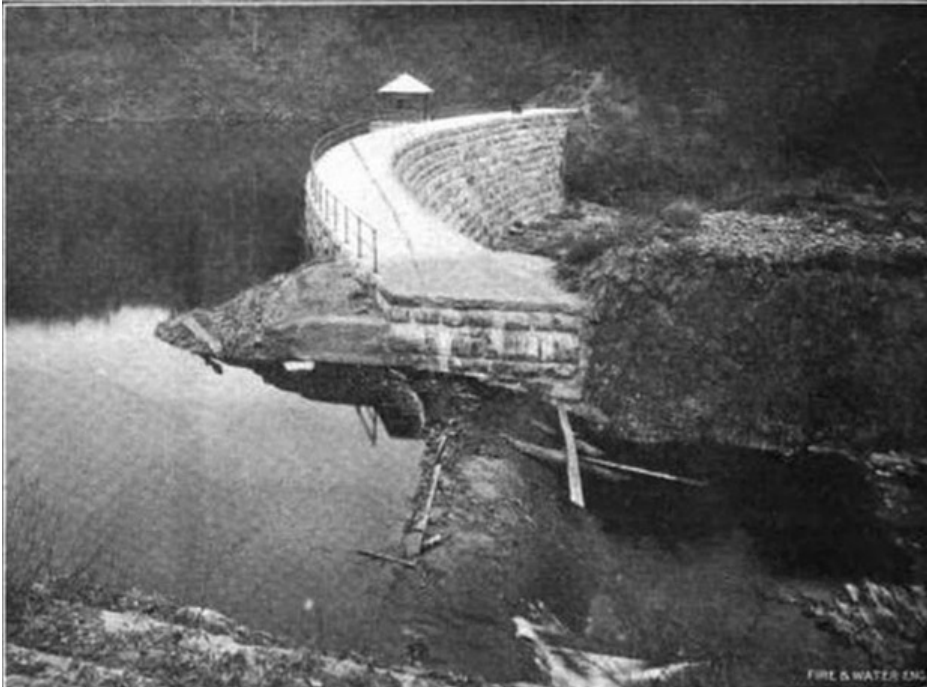
**Pleasantdale Community Elects.**

The Pleasantdale Community Association last night elected the following officers for the season: President, John C. Rommell; Secretary, Fred C. Waters; Treasurer, Chris Johansen; Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Y. A. Kadura; Chairman of Social Committee, Mrs. Joseph Faden. Mrs. John C. Rommell, Secretary, refused reelection. Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were accepted, showing a balance of \$50.50, with all bills paid. The next meeting will be held Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock in the auditorium, when a social and entertainment will be provided. The entertainment is for members of the association and their friends. *Troy Times*. July 12, 1924: 5 col 7.

# Deepkill Dam and Reservoir

**Right: Deepkill Dam and Reservoir Looking Easterly**

from: Grimes, E. L. "Important Extension of Troy Waterworks System." *Fire and Water Engineering*. July 7, 1906: 354



**Left: Deepkill Dam and Reservoir Looking Westerly**

from: Grimes, E. L. "Extension of Troy Waterworks." *Fire and Water Engineering*. July 14, 1906: 382.

**THE LANSINGBURGH SYSTEM.** The former village of Lansingburgh was annexed to the city of Troy in 1900. At that time they had in the process of construction a masonry dam on the Deepkill and a 12-in. pipe-line leading from it to the reservoirs located just easterly of the village. When the city came into possession of the work. Professor Raymond found that only part of the dam rested upon a rock foundation, while nearly one-half of the

length rested upon piles. After careful examination of the location and conditions, he determined it would not be advisable to build the dam to its intended height, and, consequently, the upper twenty feet originally designed were never built. The accompanying views show this dam and reservoir. The reservoir is of small capacity, and serves only as a diverting point. The watershed tributary to this system includes about ten square miles of very hilly country, lying adjacent to the Tomhannock watershed on the west. **COST.**

The cost of the different parts of the work to January 1, 1906, is as follows:

Original works and extension of mains	\$1,326,932.51
Original Lansingburgh works	250,855.66
Deepkill system, Lansingburgh supply	150,507.67
Preliminary investigations, Troy new supply	25,545.18
High-service extension	42,490.12
Quackenkill system	215,230.82
Tomhannock system	1,142,589.03
Preliminary work on filtration plant.	<u>5,580.00</u>
Total	\$3,159,730.00

The high-service extension and the Quackenkill and Tomhannock systems were designed by and partially constructed under the direction of Professor William G. Raymond, M. Am. Soc. C. E., Con. Eng., now of the State University of Iowa. Since September, 1903, the work has been under the direction of E. L. Grimes, M. Am. Soc. C. E., as chief engineer.

**WATERFORD BRIDGE COMFORTS.—Resolution Providing for Settees to Come Before the Supervisors—Comfort for Heat Refugees.** At the July quarterly meeting of the Board of Supervisors a resolution will be introduced by Supervisor John C. Worden of the Seventeenth Ward, who is also a member of the Bridge Committee, providing for the installation of park settees on the Waterford bridge. This resolution will be introduced at the request of a large number of residents of the upper section of Lansingburgh, who have pointed out to Supervisor Worden that the bridge, since it became a free structure, is made us of afternoons and evenings by hundreds of women and children seeking the breezes which favor the open valley. North of the bridge an inviting view of the river and its pleasure craft is obtained, and when the Champlain Barge Canal is in operation there will be navigation on the upper Hudson to attract the eyes of those who have the leisure, but who have nothing to sit on and enjoy the pleasures. Supervisor Worden is interested and favors the idea, having observed that the bridge is used as indicated above. Inasmuch as the maintenance of the bridge is used as indicated above. Inasmuch as the maintenance of the bridge in a charge divided between Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties the resolution, if adopted, will probably have to have the concurrence of the Board of Supervisors of Saratoga County. Favorable sentiment from the village of Waterford is expected to secure this action. *Troy Times*. July 2, 1915: 8 col 2.

“[Clark S.] Merriman’s life-preserving suit.” *Johnson’s New Universal Cyclopedia*. Vol 3 NY A J Johnson 1883 11.



**RUBBER SUITS IN THE HUDSON.—[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]** ALBANY, N. Y., July 18, 1879. Gilbert Long and Edward Kelly, who recently resigned from the New York Life Saving Association, entered the Hudson River, at Lansingburgh, at five P. M., to-day, intending to swim to New York. they made the first mile in twenty-five minutes, and at six o’clock reached the State dam across the river at Troy. They thought of floating over this, but were warned that there were many large and sharp spikes sticking out from the timbers which would tear their rubber suits. The men then climbed up the steep lock on the river side and crossed over the dam, again entering the river below. They expected to reach here at nine, but up to the present writing have not appeared. There is a heavy flood tide to-night, and as they have no sail, depending altogether on their paddles, they may not arrive until after midnight. They expect to reach New York Tuesday night. *New York Herald*. July 19, 1879: 4 col 5.



“Kelly Long The New York Life-Saving Corps in Uniform.” *St Nicholas* 6(10). August 1879. 678. Nan Volunteer

Popularity of mini golf grew in the 1920s & exploded in 1930—as did jokes about it. Entire newspaper pages in Troy were devoted to ads for franchising, or collections of ads of places to play it. The Burgh had at least one during the craze, at Third & 109th.

**To the Young Lady in Front of Me on a Tom Thumb Golf Course.**

All your coy little squeals and your shrieks of delight  
Are not quite, I must say, the best thing for my nerves.  
Nor is it so pleasant to witness your plight  
When your ball from its course towards the hole barely swerves.


I might add that the way you handle your club  
Is a sight from which I would prefer to be spared,  
And your ladylike curses if shots you should dub,  
Your “Ohs” and your “Darns!”—as if anyone cared!

Though I’ll ne’er see such tantrums as long as I live,  
Though you take seven strokes and then say you had four—  
Ev’ry one of these faults would I gladly forgive  
If you stood off the green when you marked down your score!  
Arnold M. Auerbach.

Phillips, H. I. “The Once Over.” *Troy Times*. September 19, 1930: 4 cols 3-4.

If a man builds a better mousetrap than any other man, the world will make a path to his door. And then raze the house and build a Tom Thumb golf course.

Phillips, H. I. “The Once Over.” *Troy Times*. September 20, 1930: 4 col 4.



**Bobby Jones Says  
For An Hour Recreation**

**VISIT THE**

**NORTH TROY Miniature GOLF COURSE**

Third Ave. and 109th Sts., North Troy

**TORTEX GREENS**

AMPLE PARKING SPACE      OPEN FROM 9:00 A. M.

Green Fee **25c** Anytime

*Troy Times*. May 15, 1931: 20

## excerpts from February 14, 2018 letter to LHS from Hugh J. Vaughan of Lansingburgh

[The Spring 2018 Courier] caught my attention because the two articles by Dr. Bruce Loatman and his brother Karl brought back happy memories of the days when their parents, Paul and Joy, were among the dearest friends of my wife Helen and me. They had moved to Wappingers Falls when Paul, a physicist, became part of IBM's Research and Development team. Helen and I frequently spent weekends with them and they, in turn, spent days with us. On those occasions Paul and I would often talk until the wee hours of the morning, discussing what he called "the universe and other problems". They were a delightful couple whose range of knowledge and interests went far beyond the usual.

Those two articles also triggered other, unrelated, memories, and the recent turmoil in the stock market added to the mix. Since I am ninety-one, I have a rather large storehouse from which I can pick and choose a few little episodes that may be of interest to anyone who can pause long enough to savor the meanings.

When I was born, my Mom and Dad rented the upstairs flat in her family's home on the east side of Fifth Avenue between 112<sup>th</sup> and 113<sup>th</sup> Streets, so my earliest recollections have to do with my Grandmother O'Neill (nee Catherine Power of County Wexford, Ireland) [498 Fifth Avenue]. She had that lovely ability to come down to a child's level, something that I think is a gift from heaven.

When I was about two, we acquired our own home at 118<sup>th</sup> Street, but a few intervening blocks didn't get in the way of my being close to "Gram". As I began to grow I spent many a day at "Thirteenth Street" and was treated to songs and poems and stories of the Old Country. And still later I learned to see Gram as "Kate", a mature woman of amazing talents.

My grandfather, Hugh, a blacksmith, had passed away four years before I came along, but remnants of his profession were still visible. In one of the garages in back of the house I was shown where their horses were kept and was taught how to turn the bellows to make air come up in the forge to feed the fire where new shoes were created for many a four-legged creature. But equine versions of sandals and boots were not the only things to emerge from that shop. When Fifth Avenue was being paved for the first time, the mammoth machine that was bringing the street into the modern age suddenly quite because a certain part had broken. The residents were told that work would cease until a replacement part could be obtained from New York City, an unavoidable delay that would last at least two days.

Someone suggested that maybe Hughie O'Neill could help. He was contacted, took measurements, went to his forge, and within hours Fifth Avenue was back in business, enjoying its new facelift.

There were four children in that family: My aunt Kitty, my mother, and her two younger brothers. They always had a pet of some kind, a dog, a stray cat... any creature that needed to be loved. And their yard was a gathering place for the kids of the neighborhood. At one time the dog that was most revered of all the pets died of old age. The kids were devastated. They had lost their dearest friend. This was a serious moment in their young lives, something requiring immediate attention by the older folks. My Grandfather stopped whatever he was doing, came out of his workshop, gathered the children together, and told them to go home. "Put on your best clothes and be back in an hour."

While they were gone, he buried the dog behind the shop and suitably marked the grave. When they returned, he chose one of the boys, told him to be the priest/minister and gave him a prayer book to use as a prop, the starting point for a ceremony.

It took years for me to fully comprehend what all this meant. But gradually the truth dawned. It had actually been a drama, with my Grandfather merely providing the setting. He chose not to be the All-Powerful-Adult who supplied the script and directed the action. Instead, he left that to the children to find their own way to deal with an emotional crisis, and thus to heal in their own way. Simple, sensible and superbly effective.

There are other stories, but they blend into one reality, a sense of something solid, an underpinning to life. I think it came from the fact that life moved much more slowly years ago. There was a rhythm to everyday existence that was felt, not defined. And even though I can't prove it, I sincerely believe it is somehow connected to the pace at which the vital energies of life proceed. [...]

Kate had a garden where she used to fuss over all kinds of flowers, telling me their names and the needs of each one as if they were children. I was constantly learning without realizing it. Much later on I would acquire the maturity to appreciate Victor Herbert's feelings as he wrote "Babes In Toyland". Taken all together, it was a magical world and I am very grateful for having been a part of it.

But what was the lesson? Simply stated, it was just common sense: If you have a problem, use your intelligence and imagination to solve it with whatever means might be available. Don't waste time crying about it.

In those days there was an adage that I think may have been a refuge for overworked parents: "Children should

be seen but not heard.” It sounded acceptable, but it kept the little ones forever in their “Toyland” until they rudely emerged...at an age set by law...into a world they were supposed to navigate without much preparation. They weren’t supposed to ask questions, and therefore didn’t get many answers. Thankfully, a good deal of my early life was spent in asking questions and getting meaningful answers whenever appropriate.

Part of my time spent at the O’Neill residence was taken up by trips, with Kate, to the various stores that clustered around 112<sup>th</sup> Street. (And there were many in those days. The ‘Burgh had stores of all descriptions; it was actually self-sufficient.) One of them was Schultz’s Meat Market [484 Fifth Avenue], a mere half-block away. I enjoyed going there because old Mr. Schultz was a fascinating character: rotund, large moustache. But the most engaging part of him were the sounds that came out of his mouth. Kate understood him, but to me he was from another planet. Over time, I understood that he ended each transaction with the same question: “Anything else?” However, to my ears it was “Enny ting eddis?” It was part of my introduction to the adult world. I was learning, and learning meant listening to the “big people”



“William C. Schultz.” *Troy Times*, Dec 19, 1934: 3 col 3.

**THE WEATHER**  
 Tonight - Cloudy and slightly  
 cooler; possibly rain.  
 Tomorrow - Fair.  
 Detailed Weather Report on Page 13

# The Troy Times.

THREE CENTS

VOL. LXXIX.—NO. 103.

TROY, N. Y., THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 24, 1929.

TWENTY PAGES

## NEAR-PANIC ON STOCK EXCHANGE

In October, 1929 something happened that would shake the whole world. The bottom fell out of the market (not Schultz’s, the Big One). I didn’t care. In fact, I knew nothing about it. I was safe in my little world of make-believe, my very own Toyland. And fortunately, no one on either side of the family came up with egg on his face, because none of them had anything to do with that famous/infamous place.

As time went on, however, I continued to absorb whatever went on around me... big people things. I have a dim recollection of hearing them talk about the financial situation. It meant nothing to me. Just words. But there was one thing that caught my attention. It seems that I was acquainted with a man...let’s call him Mr. Smith...a nice man who always shook hands with me and told me I was a big boy. All well and good. But then my complacency was shaken to the core when I heard someone ask, “Did you hear about Jack Smith?”

“No, what happened to him?”  
 “He lost his shirt in the market.”

Now, this tidbit brought me up short, because I pictured Mr. Smith in Schultz’s Market, the one place I associated with the term “market”. I could do that easily enough, but the part about losing his shirt... And when another person added even more information I decided it was serious. He said, “It was his own fault. He kept playing the market.”

This was beyond my comprehension. In all my trips to Schultz’s Market I had never seen any games being played. No one had ever thrown a ball or played hide-and-seek. Something was wrong. But I continued to learn. That meant putting together things I already knew with new things and drawing conclusions. For example, I had heard an expression that made no sense, but in this case I thought it might be the answer to Mr. Smith’s predicament. It was about losing his marbles. I knew what they were. So maybe Mr. Smith had gone to Schultz’s market and lost all his marbles. Perhaps the bag he carried them in had a hole in it. The idea made sense and I thought I might be able to help him look for them, but nobody invited me to try.

I retreated to my own games, mostly based on wooden toys like fire engines and trucks. These were things I could rely on. (And, of course, Kate or my Mom could sing to me and tell me stories. Mom played both piano and violin, so I had melody in my life.) When I awoke in the morning the toys would be there, just where I had left them. I didn’t have to try to figure out their hidden meaning. They were like that solid feeling that I could depend upon no matter what happened. In later years people would call it a “security blanket” but to me it would resolve itself into a single, four-letter word...Love.

Hugh J. Vaughan

Below: 1880 United States Federal Census. Year: 1880; Census Place: Lansingburgh, Rensselaer, New York; Roll: 921; Page: 15B; Enumeration District: 149

500	270	300	Michael	Hugh	M 70		1	Wife in Convent	8													Ireland	Ireland	Ireland				
			"	Katherine	F 62	Wife	1	Keeping Home																		Ireland	Ireland	Ireland
			"	Hugh Jr	M 23	Son	1	Blacksmith	10																	New York	New York	Ireland

**A Celebration of the 199<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of  
Herman Melville's Birth**  
**Saturday July 28, 2018**  
*featuring a lecture by*  
**Melville Scholar, Dr. Wyn Kelley**



Dr. Wyn Kelley, a member of MIT's Faculty since 1985, focuses primarily on Herman Melville's works, and on the intersections of traditional and new media.

A founding member of the Melville Society Cultural Project, Dr. Kelley collaborates with the New Bedford Whaling Museum on projects related to Melville and whaling. She is currently the Associate Director of the Melville Electronic Library (MEL), an interactive and archive of Melville's works and adaptations.

An Educational Program of the  
Lansingburgh Historical Society  
<https://lansingburghhistoricalsociety.org>

Held at The Melville House  
2 114<sup>th</sup> Street  
Troy, NY 12182

Doors will open at 10 AM

Dr. Kelley's Presentation  
will begin at 10:30 AM

Light refreshments  
and birthday cake will be  
served after the presentation

The Melville House and  
Gardens will be open for  
Touring until 2 PM

A \$6 Donation from Not-Yet  
Members is requested

A \$5 Donation from  
Members is always  
appreciated.

*For more information call  
John and Mary Ellen at  
518-885-4295*



# Raffle!

In the past, Michael Barrett's woodwork has been raffled at LHS' Burgher Bash or Christmas Party events, affording the opportunity to win only to those attending those events. While we would like people to attend as many of our events as possible, the opportunity to buy tickets for a chance to win this item has been widened considerably. Interested? Get in touch with us!

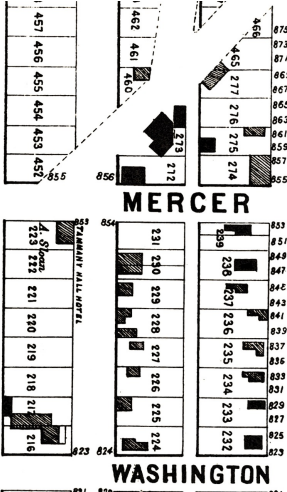
Written on the bottom, and accompanied by an inset penny of the year it was carved, is:

Michael Barrett "Moby Dark" Black Walnut from the tree on the lawn of the Melville House, Lansingburgh



## Adamsville, Tammany Hall, and Mrs. Doctress Nolan

Adamsville was a name of the northern part of the Village of Lansingburgh beginning around the 1840s, roughly from present-day 119<sup>th</sup> Street to the City Line. The name may not have been used much after 1928, at which time there had been an Adamsville Community Association. One of the prominent businesses was Tammany Hall, located at the southwest corner of 124th Street (Mercer) and Fourth Avenue—where Testo’s is today. Also called the Tammany Hotel or the Adamsville Hotel, and still later Sloan’s Hotel, it was something like a bed, breakfast & bar.



Detail from 1872 Beven map of Lansingburgh.

Tammany Hall, Adamsville, June 6th 1849.

Mr. Editor:—I arrived here in the last train this Eve. Having heard this house highly spoken of, I concluded I should be disappointed when I ar- [sic] here, as is usually case, but my brightest expectations were more than realized. The House is beautifully located in the extreme north end of this place. During the day and evening, while in the “Burgh” the air is close and sultry we enjoy a delightful breeze up here, and from the window I have an extensive view of the Hudson, Waterford, and Lansingburgh.

The rooms of the house are large, airy, and beautifully finished. I admire much the taste displayed in the furnishing of the rooms on the first floor. The room intended for the “Exclusives,” or those who would be exclusive while imbibing ‘a Julip,’ is supplied with lounges and all thing necessary to man’s enjoyment of a ‘Shirry Cobler as is a Cobler.’ [see <https://punchdrink.com/recipes/sherry-cobbler/> ]

The Ice Cream Saloons, of which there are three, are also furnished in first style, and the Cream served up in them is equal to “Thompsons N.Y.” [i.e. James Thompson’s Confectionary Store and Ice Cream Saloon in Manhattan] It’s a mystery to me where, “Thomas” finds such Cream in Rensselaer county. A Piazza on the first and Balcony to the second floors, extends along three sides of the building, adding

greatly to the general appearance of the building and the comfort of the guests, to say nothing of the capital lounge it affords for smoking a good segar, which may be obtained of ‘Thomas’ by asking for ‘those in the basket.’ The retired and beautiful location of this Hotel must attract many visitors. Every

thing about the establishment is new, except the Madeira, which is 1812. One word more and I will conclude. If you are partial to remarkably good cheese, CALL UP.

MR. CUTTLE,

Lansingburgh Democrat. June 7, 1849: 2 col 5.

**Electropathic Infirmary.** Mrs. Doctress Nolan, would inform the citizens of Lansingburgh and vicinity, that she has leased the building known as the Adamsville Hotel, which she intends to convert into an Infirmary for the Electropathic treatment of all kinds of diseases. The house will be opened on the first of May next.

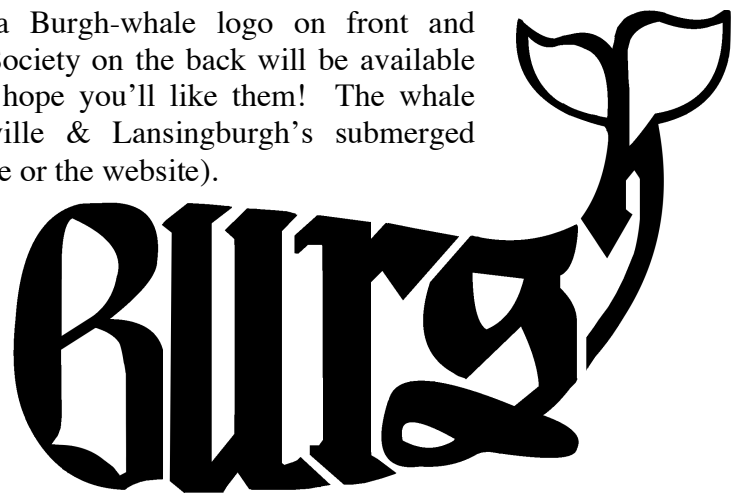
Mrs. Nolan intends to board all her patients from a distance as well as others who may wish to make this place a summer retreat. The house is pleasantly located in a healthy section of our village. Dated Lansingburgh April 12th 1860. d4w.

Lansingburgh Democrat. April 12, 1860: 2 col 7.

Seemingly unbeknownst to Burghers at the time, Mrs. Doctress Susan A. Nolan had gotten in a bit of trouble in 1854 in NYC. As Mrs. Susan A. Hubbard, she’d married schoolteacher Henry W. Smith, who she’d met through a group of Spiritualists that held séances. Reportedly the spirits informed Mr. Smith that Mrs. Hubbard’s previous husband was dead! Carpenter Cornelius L. Hubbard in fact was not dead, but in her bigamy trial the judge’s strict and narrow jury instructions helped save her from a conviction. See our website for more!

### New Merchandise!

Embroidered hats with a Burgh-whale logo on front and Lansingburgh Historical Society on the back will be available for purchase soon — we hope you’ll like them! The whale shape recalls both Melville & Lansingburgh’s submerged Whale Island (see last issue or the website).



## President's Message

Welcome friends of Lansingburgh Historical Society! We have now arrived at midyear. We hope you have enjoyed some of our previous events and are looking forward to our future activities. The house tour was a success as was Michael Barrett's lecture on Historic Lansingburgh. Our garden restoration continues with the help of some very dedicated volunteers who weed, water and improve with each succeeding week. We hope you will enjoy the Melville 199th birthday party and the August clam steam coming up very shortly. Check and like us on our Facebook page, and especially view our website with over 590 pages of Lansingburgh. Feel free to send us ideas for future activities and events or any other suggestions. You are always welcome to attend any of our monthly trustee meetings. We cannot do this without your support for which we are eternally grateful. Hope your summer is filled with warm regards for the Burgh and the Historical Society.

*John Ward*

### LHS OFFICERS

President – John Ward

Vice President – Mary Ellen Ward

Treasurer – Kathy Howard

Assistant Treasurer – Sue Busta

Recording Secretary – Linda Segreto

Corresponding Secretary – Kathy Fomuk

### LHS TRUSTEES

*elected 2015:* Michael Barrett, Sue Busta, Pat Dorow, Byron Moak, Chris Philippo, John Ward, Mary Ellen Ward; *elected 2016:* Kathy Fomuk, Linda Segreto; *elected 2017:* Kathy Howard, Heidi Klinowski; *elected 2018:* Toni Dickinson

Webmaster and *Courier* editor — Chris Philippo

## Help LHS with Amazon Smile!



At the LHS website's homepage appears the above; click the button there or go directly to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7089102>

Amazon will donate a small percentage of the cost of your subsequent purchases to benefit LHS!

*Please visit our website*

**[lansingburghhistoricalsociety.org](http://lansingburghhistoricalsociety.org)**  
*It has gone from ten pages in July 2016 to 599 pages as of July 2018!*

### Corporate Members

All Troy Athletic Club  
Carignan Insurance  
Danish Brotherhood in America  
Diamond Spring Water  
Foreign Auto Sales  
Fraternal Order of Eagles  
Friends of 112th Street  
Grethen-Cahrenger Memorials  
Historic Eastfield Foundation  
J & J Auto Sales  
McLoughlin & Mason Funeral Home

Oakwood Cemetery Association  
Rensselaer Park PTA  
Riverview Funeral Home  
Sanvidge Funeral Home  
Standard Manufacturing  
Testo's Restaurant  
Troy Boat and Canoe Club  
Troy Irish Genealogical Society  
Verdile's Restaurant  
Veterans of Lansingburgh  
Warren Fane Inc

## Calendar

Saturday, July 28 Herman Melville's 199<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party 10 AM-2 PM – speaker Wyn Kelley, Professor of Literature at MIT, on "Teaching Moby Dick in a Digital World" Cake, Tours, \$5 Members / \$6 Non-Members donation requested

Saturday, August 18 — 6th Annual Burgher Kids' Clam Steam, Saturday, August 18, 2018, Veterans of Lansingburgh, 1:00PM

Saturday, September 8 — Open House at the Herman Melville House 10 A-2P, \$5 Donation Suggested

Saturday, October 27 — Ghost Stories at the Herman Melville House (Details TBA)

Thursday, November 8 — Holiday Party at the Van Schaick Country Club, 201 Continental Ave, 12047 (Details TBA)

Saturday, November 10 — Open House at the Herman Melville House 10A-2P \$5 Donation Requested

**For details see our website or Facebook page or contact us!**

*What might you like to see the Lansingburgh Historical Society doing?*

Our membership year begins on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Those joining in January, February or March extend their membership through the next membership year. Consider upgrading your Regular Membership to a Sustaining Membership. Encourage friends to join! Regular Membership \$15/year, Sustaining Membership \$40/year. Student/Senior membership \$10/year. Corporate Membership \$200/year. Small Business/Professional Membership \$75/year.

Donations are always welcome!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ City & State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

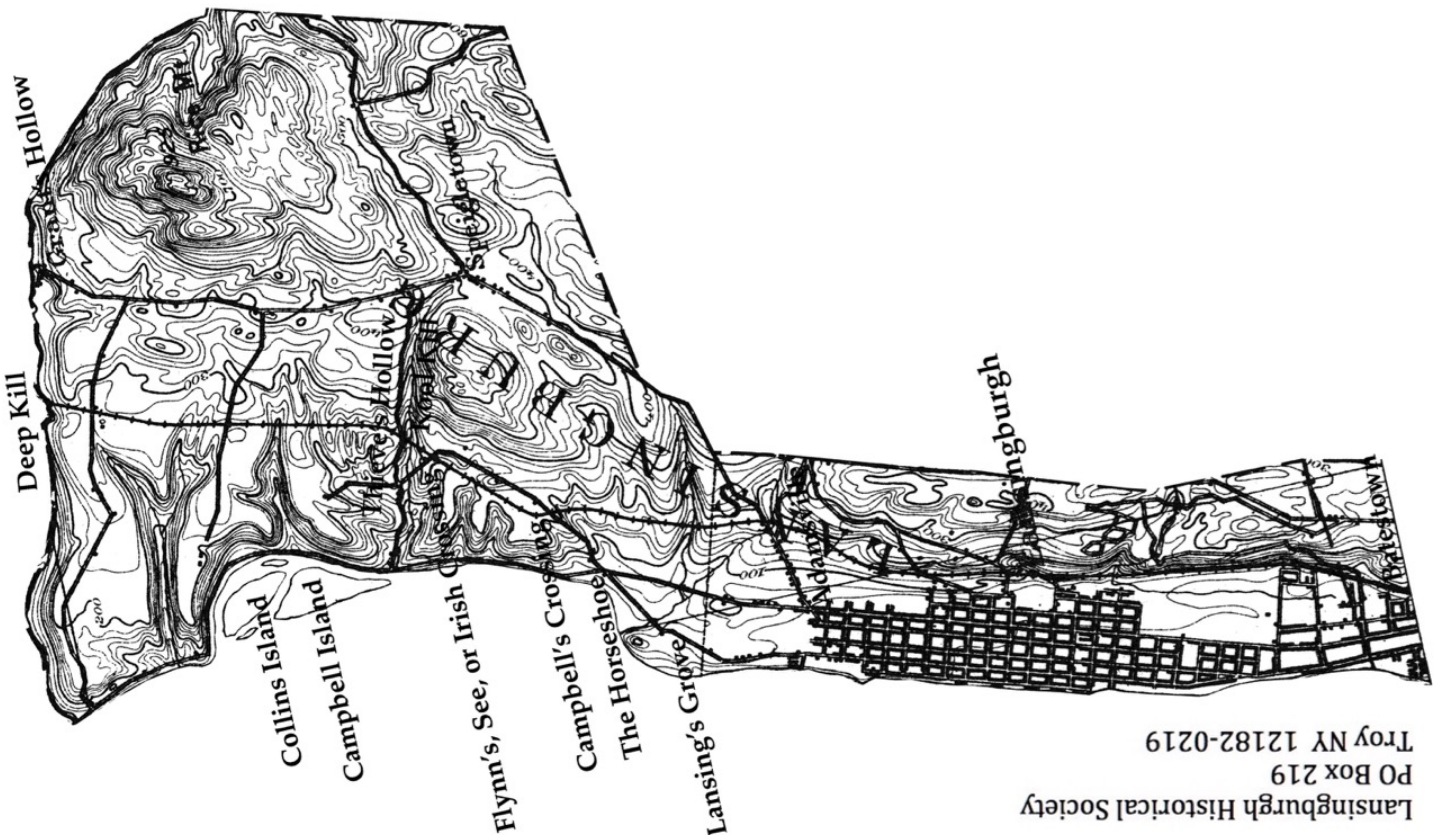
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \_\_\_\_\_ Student/Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate \_\_\_\_\_ Small Business/Professional \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Lansingburgh Historical Society, PO Box 219, Troy NY 12182-0219

If you are on Facebook join us there as well at <https://www.facebook.com/LansingburghHistorical/>

**Please assist the LHS Board by suggesting names of people who might make good Trustees to fill vacancies on the Board!**



Lansingburgh Historical Society  
PO Box 219  
Troy NY 12182-0219