

DOCTOR CORYELL CLARK

The 1963 addition to Butterfield Memorial Hospital—the Modernist steel and glass portion which faces Paulding Avenue, was funded in part by and dedicated to Dr. Coryell Clark, a gifted physician who cherished his adopted Cold Spring community and dedicated his career to providing quality health care to its residents. Dr. Clark was born on November 29, 1879 in Windham, Pennsylvania to William Henry Clark and Fannie Coryell Clark. Among his family's distinctions was his maternal great-great-grandfather's service as a federal soldier in George Washington's army. Coryell studied at Cornell University's Medical School, from which he graduated in 1900; he then interned at Bellevue Hospital in New York City. In 1903, he arrived in Cold Spring to serve as an assistant to Dr. Richard Giles, who practiced on Fair Street. In 1907, Clark married Katherine Campbell, a daughter of one of Cold Spring's great founding families; her parents were Brigadier General John Campbell and his wife, Mary. Dr. Clark was surely steeped in the Village's cultural heritage through his intimate connection to the family.

Before the Julia Butterfield bequest that established a village hospital in 1925, the ill were attended by physicians in their homes. When the disastrous international influenza epidemic struck during World War I, there was no means for isolating and caring for local victims. Heroically, in the face of taxed regional medical facilities, Dr. Clark set up an emergency hospital at Main Street and Morris Avenue to treat the afflicted and slow the spread of the virus in Cold Spring.

During his many years of practice in Cold Spring, Dr. Clark, in addition to being a member of the medical and surgical staff at Butterfield Memorial Hospital, served his community in many other capacities. He was Chairman of the hospital's Board of Trustees, a volunteer in the medical service corps of the army during World War I, a President of the Putnam County Medical Society, a member of the New York State Medical Society, and a member of the American Medical Society. He was the health officer of Cold Spring for quite some time, a district surgeon for the New York Central Railroad for 20 years, a President of the Haldane School Board, a President of the National Bank of Cold Spring, a President of the Cold Spring Cemetery Association, and a medical examiner in the selective service system during World War II. He was also a member of the Cold Spring Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a member of the Old Homestead Club and a member of the Methodist Church. Dr. Clark was a dedicated member of the Cold Spring Fire Company, and was honored in 1953 with a gold membership card for fifty years of service.

Dr. Clark died on September 10, 1957. He bequeathed most of his estate to the Butterfield Memorial Hospital. That bequest, along with gifts from other Philipstown residents and federal grants, made possible the renovation of the original 1925 hospital structure and its later 1941 Timme Memorial Wing, as well as the construction of the 1963 addition. The dedication program from the Clark Pavilion's opening states: "[The hospital] stands at this dedication, not only as a memorial to Mrs. Butterfield and to Dr. Clark, but as a modern hospital serving the sick of the community with the best medical science has to offer."

Although the Modernist style in which the Clark Pavilion was built fell from favor in subsequent decades, with the passage of time the style has come to be appreciated for the mid-twentieth century cultural optimism it represented. It is the only example of its use in Cold Spring for a public amenity, and it represents, in tangible, built form, the 20th Century progress of a village strongly rooted in the century prior. In many ways, the Clark Pavilion represents Cold Spring's modern evolution, and connects the village to larger American, and indeed international, societal trends. With their choice to use the Modernist architectural style alongside Hobart Upjohn's earlier, stately brick Colonial Revival wings, the hospital trustees communicated to villagers, patients and staff the quantum leaps in local medical care that would be achieved within the facility's expanded walls.