

A Look Back at the Families Who Funded Butterfield Hospital

Key Players Who Shaped the Site's Cultural, Political & Social History



Thomas P. Rossiter (1818-1871) Portrait of Julia Lorillard James (this was done prior to her second marriage to Butterfield). Oil on canvas, Dated 1861, Courtesy Butterfield Library

Julia L. Butterfield

Julia L. Butterfield was a singular woman of great moral and social conscience. Most of us recognize her name from the public library, but her extensive legacy in Cold Spring outshines all others in the twentieth century and continues to touch our lives in countless ways.

Julia Lorillard Safford was born in New York City in 1823. In December 1841, at the age of 18, she married Frederick Plummer James of Deerfield, New Hampshire. Frederick James was a successful broker and banker in New York City, and the wealth he accumulated allowed him to build a home on 5th Avenue in New York as well as a country estate in Cold Spring. The magnificent stone village home was built in 1852 and named Cragside for its construction on a hillside strewn with an avalanche of rocks. It was located on what is today the grounds of Haldane Central School, and, although it was destroyed by fire in 1979, several of its related outbuildings still exist—the 1866 porter's lodge at the foot of its drive is a private home, and the carriage house was converted to administrative offices for Haldane. Additionally, Julia's second husband, General Daniel Butterfield, commissioned the stone eagle sculpture that stands near the

school today, commemorating General Washington's Revolutionary Army encampment nearby. At Cragside, the Jameses lavishly entertained guests from around the world, from an Indian prince to the Count of Paris. She even was given an ornate sleigh by the Russian government in return for her hospitality to an Imperial Grand Duke at Cragside in 1893. Julia also made the home a creative salon, mentoring artists and architects of the Hudson Valley, including Thomas Rossiter and George Harney.

Mrs. Butterfield was an early patron and loyal member of the Putnam Historical Society (as the Putnam History Museum was originally known). So dedicated was she that when too ill to attend a meeting, she sent flowers and cakes as a show of her good wishes. She was also engaged in her faith community. She and Frederick James not only contributed funds to help build St. Mary's Church in 1868, but also donated from a quarry at Cragside the grey granite used for its walls and bell tower. Later Julia donated an ornate Russian cross she acquired on a trip abroad for use on the high altar. In 1872 the Jameses built the Parish House in honor of their two sons, who both died young. Both the church and the Parish House were designed by

SPECIAL TO THE PCN&R HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD

In recent months, the redevelopment of the Butterfield Hospital site has been at the forefront of the public's attention. A critical element of the planning for that redevelopment is the local landmark status of the hospital complex itself, including its original 1925 portion and additions added in 1941 and 1963. An application for permission to demolish this historic resource has been submitted to the Historic District Review Board (HDRB) by the developer, Paul Guillauro.

That the building should have any historic protections has been difficult for some in the village to understand and appreciate. Certainly, its value is hard to imagine in the building's current state of decay. However, architectural "beauty" is not the sole consideration the HDRB must weigh when reviewing a proposal to permanently destroy a protected community resource. By local, state and federal law, our board must consider a number of other factors in its decision making, including the site's contribution to the cultural, political, economic or social history of the community, region, state or nation, as well as the historic personages who significantly contributed to the development of the site and the community, state or nation. As part of the due diligence required for the consideration of the demolition application, HDRB members have been researching the history of the Butterfield Hospital, and, given recent statements in the press questioning the historic value of the property, we wish to share our findings with the public.

Since its founding, Cold Spring has been shaped by the dedication and funding of great families and individuals. They were dominant forces in the social and economic landscapes of the village and Philipstown and we continue to benefit from their civic and philanthropic generosity. In the eighteenth century, the Philipse family was the most notable; in the nineteenth, it was Robert Parrott, Gouverneur Kemble and others associated with the West Point Foundry. The Butterfield Hospital represents, in tangible, physical form, a philanthropic legacy that stretches across the twentieth century. The following profiles serve as an introduction to the inheritance with which we have been entrusted as a community by a number of significant Cold Spring figures.

the architect George Harney, whose prestige grew because of these early commissions and the faith placed in him by the Jameses. Today, St. Mary's is known as "the cathedral of the Hudson Valley," and its Parish House serves many community functions and celebrations. Additionally, in Mrs. Butterfield's Last Will and Testament, she gave \$10,000 for the construction

chitects. Instead the younger Upjohn rose to be a prominent designer in his own right and the favored architect of the Butterfield estate.

Following Frederick James's death, Julia married a social acquaintance, General Daniel Adams Butterfield, in 1886. General Butterfield was born in Utica, New York and was a colonel in the New York State Militia 12th Regiment

A 1941 addition to the original 1925 Julia Butterfield Memorial Hospital was funded in large part by the Timme family (pronounced Tim-mee), and is dedicated to the memory of Ida Helen Haar Timme, the first wife of Dr. Walter Timme. Both Dr. and Mrs. Timme had national reputations and were prominent in academic, charitable and social circles in New York.

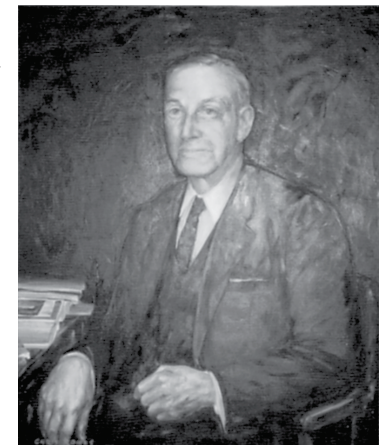
integrated into Philipstown and Cold Spring and engaged in intellectual and charitable pursuits here as vigorously as they did in the City.

Mrs. Timme was almost a later-day Julia Butterfield in terms of her community involvement in Cold Spring and Philipstown. She was much more engaged here than was her husband, who, because of his medical research, spent more of his time in New York City. She constantly hosted benefits for local causes, including the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the Philipstown Garden Club, and the Hudson River Society (a 1930s forerunner of Scenic Hudson). It is notable that she was a successful fundraiser for such causes all during the Great Depression when funds were scarce. Politically, she was the founder of the Putnam County Women's Republican Committee and was re-elected its president until her death. Under her leadership, that organization's membership grew to 1,300, a feat for which Ida Timme was honored with a bronze plaque at the Women's National Republican Club in New York. She also was an active member of League of Women Voters and the American Red Cross.

Even with this busy schedule of activism, Ida managed to hold the Julia Butterfield Memorial Hospital close to her heart and was integral to its fundraising efforts. Following her death in 1940, her husband chose to honor her memory with a significant gift to jump-start the expansion of the hospital in 1941. A public fundraising campaign expanded the Timme gift and allowed the hospital to nearly double in size. As testament to the regard in which Ida Timme was held, the original

campaign goal of \$50,000 was surpassed and an additional \$25,000 raised in less than a year. Cold Spring architect Stanley E. White was engaged to design the wing, named for Mrs. Timme. His design honored the form and spirit of the original Hobart Upjohn Colonial Revival design, and continues its stately brick work, cornice and other decorative details. The expansion project was completed surprisingly quickly despite steel shortages in the lead-up to World War II; the updated hospital opened in 1942.

Dr. Timme died in 1956. He and Ida so loved the village that they chose to be buried here, and repose in their mausoleum in Cold Spring Cemetery, close by the Julia Butterfield tomb. They dubbed their place of rest "Little Tahigwa" after their beloved Cold Spring home. The second Mrs. Timme, née Ann Auweli Kane, whom Dr. Timme married in 1951,



A portrait of Dr. Coryell Clark that hung in Butterfield Hospital. Courtesy of Carol Lahey Hopper

also was actively committed to Butterfield Hospital and served as one of the lead fundraisers for a 1963 addition to the east and north facades of the structure.

Dr. 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. Cory-

through his intimate connection with the family.

Clark established his own practice in Cold Spring, earning the trust and loyalty of families throughout the community. Then, he lent his expertise to the Army as a volunteer in the Medical Service Corps during World War I, although it is not known whether he served at home or abroad. Regardless, Dr. Clark put the discipline of his mili-

(See Butterfield on Pg. 8)



Butterfield hospital's original 1925 building with the 1941 addition to the left. Courtesy Mark Forlow.

of a parsonage at St. Mary's; it was built in 1916 and still stands. The trustees of the estate selected as its architect Hobart Brown Upjohn, the grandson of the famed 19th century architect Richard Upjohn. Hobart could easily have been dwarfed by the reputation of his grandfather, who designed The Grove in Cold Spring and Garrison's St. Philip's Church, as well as larger commissions which earned him a place in the pantheon of great American ar-

when it was mobilized for the Civil War. He fought in many major engagements during that war, including at the Battle of Gettysburg as chief of staff to General Meade. Together, the Butterfields were active participants in the Cold Spring community for the rest of their lives. General Butterfield died in 1901 and was buried at West Point with full military honors. Julia died in 1913 and was buried in the James Family Mausoleum in the Cold Spring Cemetery along with her first husband Frederick and her two sons.

Mrs. Butterfield's last wishes also included a total of \$60,000 for the construction and equipping of a public library, which was opened and dedicated to her in 1924. Again, the estate trustees selected Hobart Upjohn as architect, and the delicately detailed Georgian Revival building he designed continues to be enjoyed by and vital to the Cold Spring community today.

Julia Butterfield's largest bequest gave Cold Spring a hospital at a time when few rural communities had such immediate access to a broad range of medical services. The \$50,000 she bequeathed to build, outfit and endow The Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Hospital, opened in 1925, served generations of citizens in Cold Spring and the surrounding areas. Its first architect was, again, Hobart Brown Upjohn, this time working in the Colonial Revival style. In its first year, the hospital admitted 218 patients, delivered 21 babies and conducted 43 surgeries. Its first annual report was 20 pages long; 14 of those pages consisted of lists of gifts and support from local residents, a true testament to the value this community placed on its hospital.

Ida Helen Haar Timme

However, like the Jameses and Butterfields before them, the Timmes chose to make Cold Spring their country home and developed a strong, heartfelt dedication to the village and its residents.

Dr. Timme was highly esteemed as an endocrinologist and neurologist and was the first Professor of Neuroendocrinology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was also the first authority to describe a pluriglandular disease later known as "Timme's Syndrome." Ida Timme was a suffragette who worked for the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, which extended voting rights to women. She also was a trusted partner to Margaret Sanger, founder of what would become Planned Parenthood, in the movement to allow women access to birth control. Ida traveled widely for the cause, appearing in many venues across the nation and even substituting for Sanger at speeches and debates when Sanger was not available.

Walter Timme met Ida Haar around 1895 when she organized a branch of the Monday Evening Club, an invitation-only intellectual and debate club, at her home in Washington Heights in Manhattan. Their engagement was announced in 1897 and their wedding took place with much society-page coverage in 1901. Sometime prior to 1928 the Timmes purchased the former estate of the locally-esteemed Charles Seton Lindsay, located on Route 301 just a little west of Route 9. In 1918, the structure had had alterations and additions by the architect Hobart Brown Upjohn, architect of the original 1925 Julia Butterfield Memorial Hospital. The Timmes called that country home "Tahigwa" which is said to be a Native American word for "at peace." The Timmes quickly

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