

The 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. 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. Although eminent and highly sought-after in his specialty, he also had some controversial views. Nonetheless, he was also the first authority to describe a pluriglandular disease later known as “Timme’s Syndrome”. He was elected president of the City College of New York’s Alumni Association in 1931. 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. It can be presumed that the two were drawn together by their mutual love of music, as evidenced in Ida’s family involvement at Steinway & Sons and in German-American liederkranz societies, as well as Walter’s family association with Leopold Damrosch in the Oratorio Society in New York City. 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 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,” and although it is no longer standing, it is fondly remembered by older residents of Philipstown. The Timmes quickly integrated into Philipstown and Cold Spring and engaged in intellectual and charitable pursuits here as rigorously 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 was required to spend 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 a pro-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. Architect Hobart Upjohn was engaged to design the wing, named for Mrs. Timme, as he had been for the original Julia Butterfield Memorial Hospital structure. His design, despite having removed the grand third floor of the original structure, flows seamlessly from the original mass, continuing its stately brick work and Colonial Revival massing, cornice and other decorative details. The expansion project was completed surprisingly quickly despite steel shortages in the lead up to World War II, and 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 Auwell Kane, whom Dr. Timme married in 1951, also was actively committed to Butterfield Hospital and served as one of the lead fundraisers for the 1963 addition to the east and north facades of the structure.