The ONEIDA COMMUNITY MANSION HOUSE
A National Historic Landmark

The ONEIDA COMMUNITY MANSION HOUSE (OCMH) was chartered by the New York State Board of Regents as a non-profit museum in 1987. It is the only site to preserve and interpret the history of the Oneida Community, one of the most radical and successful of the 19th century social experiments. OCMH publishes the Oneida Community Journal to inform the public of the cultural and educational activities at the Mansion House and to present articles about social and historical topics of interest within the context of its mission.

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COVER
The Summer House, an undated Polaroid (gift of Nini Hatcher)

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Since we celebrate twenty-five years as a non-profit this year, it seems like a good time to acknowledge members of our Quadrangle Society. This group of people has made the Oneida Community Mansion House the beneficiary of a planned gift—a gift that is distributed sometime in the future.

The late Ruth Kreiter made just such an arrangement for the Mansion House through her will, leaving an astounding $1.3 million bequest. This donation contributes nearly $60,000 a year to support public programs, the maintenance and preservation of the building and grounds, and care of the collections. It makes sense that planned gifts are often referred to as legacy gifts.

Recently, our longest-residing tenant, Myrtle Clark, let us know that she, too, had named the Mansion House a beneficiary in her will. She wrote down some of her thoughts about living here for me to share with you:

I came to live in the Mansion House in September 1946 when I was hired to teach in the Sherrill public schools. I had a small room in the dorm. During the early years, most of the residents were descendants of the Oneida Community; a few were Oneida employees.

We had no television, only radios; no microwave, no elevator, no cars. It was war time. There was a coin phone in the hall. A bus ran past the Mansion House to downtown Oneida about 6:30 pm so that we could go to a movie at the Kallet for $1.00 and get the bus back about 9:30.

As time passed and World War II ended, we gradually moved into apartments when they became available. We got cars and televisions. There were some housekeeping apartments over the dining room, but everyone else was expected to take all meals in the dining rooms. The food was good and inexpensive in the early days. Our House bills included room and full board. Because we ate together, we got to know everyone who lived here. This is something I miss today.

As I remember, the Mansion House museum was not emphasized as it is today. Doors to the outside were not locked. Teenagers would wander in, and sometimes we could hear the security guards chasing them out. There were no after-hours receptionists, no sprinkler systems, smoke alarms or fire extinguishers inside apartments though the hallways and public rooms had them. Smoking was allowed in the dining rooms and in apartments. Sometimes in winter, there was a fire in the wood stove in the Nursery Kitchen.

When Oneida Ltd. owned the House and the company was thriving, the dining room and guest rooms were often used for their business guests. When the salesmen were in for meetings, they were entertained with dances in the Big Hall and parties in the Lounge—with no 11 pm closing time.

I spent a large portion of my adult life at the Mansion House. There are always people around, gardens to work in, and I don’t have to shovel snow. I’ve always enjoyed living here and will always remember the date I moved into this apartment. It was January 20, 1961, the day President Kennedy moved into the White House.

I think I can safely say that everyone has always enjoyed Myrtle living here as well. She is listed on the Wall of Honor in the Mansion House with other members of the Quadrangle

Planned gifts can take many forms such as a bequest through a will, a gift of stock, or naming the Mansion House as the beneficiary of a 401(k) account, an IRA, or a new or existing life insurance policy. There are also planned gifts that provide the donor an income stream for life and many may have a substantial tax benefit to the donor or their heirs. Please contact me if you would like to discuss including the Oneida Community Mansion House in your estate plans.

**PHOTOS**

Jim O’Mahony Trio performing an adaptation of Nirvana’s album, “Never Mind” (photo by Juan Junco)

Tour guide Andy Christensen (in vest) engages visitors during the annual Open House.
The Mohawk Valley Car Club was toured by guide Carole Valesky.

Senator Gillibrand’s Regional Assistant, Jarred C. Jones, visited Madison County Cultural and Historic sites during “Invite Congress to Visit Your Museum” week. From left: Dot Willsey (Gerrit Smith Estate and National Abolitionist Hall of Fame), Sarah Webster (Stone Quarry Hill Art Park), Dr. Joan Johnson (Madison County Tourism President), Scott Flaherty (Madison County Tourism Executive Director), Jarred Jones, Christine O’Neil (Chittenango Canal Boat Landing Museum), and Patti Lockwood-Blais (Earlville Opera House).

Giles Wayland-Smith (left) thanks Donna Kowanes (right), on behalf of the Board of Trustees, for her twenty years of service in the Housekeeping Department. Walt Lang and Susan McPherson look on. Organized by Mansion House residents, the celebration attracted staff and nearby neighbors.

“Kenwood U” ladies reliving their high school prom at the May fund-raising event (from left): Michael Cross, Amy Hart, Sarah Spitzer, Dana Adams, Maria Papa, Shelley Petersen, Krista Wayland-Smith, Corinne Tidman, Beth Jones, Jody Hicks, and Brittany Halligan.

Jonathan DeFrees conducted a workshop this summer to teach participants how to make bent willow garden accessories.
Metal animal traps were the economic underpinning of Oneida Community life. Traps paid for the 1862 Mansion House, financed the silk thread industry, and placed the Community in the mainstream of American industrial development. Continuing to be the major money-maker for the succeeding company, traps funded the development of high-end silverware in the early 1900s. The Oneida Community was the country’s largest manufacturer of traps; the Oneida Community, Ltd. was the biggest in the world.

Now, we can tell that story in the Mansion House thanks to Ed Knobloch who installed a representative selection from his own collection, probably the finest archive of Oneida trap history ever assembled. This new permanent exhibit, in the back space off Room 115, features over fifty of the antique devices including a trap fashioned by blacksmith Sewell Newhouse before joining the Community, “Newhouse” traps made by the commune, and “Victor” traps produced by Oneida Community, Ltd.

That display, “Oneida Game Traps, 1852-1925: The Edward J. Knobloch Collection” opened June 28 along with a second exhibit featuring examples of the OCMH’s little known map holdings. “Local History in Maps,” consisting of about a dozen maps from the 1850s to 1950s, was installed by Maria Skinner (Simply Designed Spaces). Both exhibits benefit from text-and-picture panels designed by Don Cornue (Sign & Art, Etc.).

Barb Kershaw has been busy scanning photographs in scrapbooks compiled in the early 1900s by the Historical Committee. The point is to convert the old images into a format that can be preserved, shared, and readily viewed without risking the integrity of the old bindings.

In less than a year, she has done four of the major books amounting to about 1,500 high-resolution images. Since this requires a lot of storage space (8 GB), her material is filed on a back-up hard drive with an enormous (2.72 TB) capacity.

Kathy Garner recently inventoried the contents of the Oneida Community library as well as another collection of books from the Wallingford library (about 1,350 volumes in all). In addition to evaluating the preservation needs of each volume, she recorded basic bibliographic information and assigned the books to such categories as Natural Science, Travel/Geography, Literature, Religion, History, and Spiritualism. The job is not complete; other OC books are cached elsewhere in the Mansion House. But, since the categories are searchable in Microsoft Excel, one can now begin to research what the Community was actually reading.
Something over a quarter-century ago, Oneida Ltd. concluded that it made little financial sense for it to continue to own and operate the Mansion House. This judgment coincided with a growing consensus among a small group of Oneida Community descendants and other interested “joiners” that the history of one of America’s most interesting utopian experiments could be in jeopardy. The result was the 1988 creation of Oneida Community Mansion House (OCMH). A not-for-profit organization that was brought into being with the blessing and financial support of Oneida Ltd., OCMH was charged with the responsibility of preserving the legacy of the Oneida Community. This dramatic transfer required both vision and courage on everyone’s part.

In reflecting upon the past twenty-five years, I was immediately drawn to John Humphrey Noyes’ statement that the Oneida Community “made a raid into an unknown country, charted it, and returned without the loss of a man, woman, or child.” That is, it struck me that OCMH (just like the original Community and Oneida Community Ltd. as its corporate successor) made a raid into unknown territory and met with success even in the face of daunting odds. Indeed, I would argue that three things become immediately apparent when reviewing our history thus far: first, how extraordinarily important it was that OCMH, as a new state-chartered institution, assumed the direct responsibility of preserving and disseminating the legacy of one of America’s most successful social experiments; second, how far we have come on so many different levels in fulfilling that mission; and finally, how unrelenting the challenges are as we try to manage an ever-changing future. A fourth conclusion becomes equally apparent: all of this happened because a vast number of people have brought wisdom, expertise, commitment, and financial support to this newest venture into uncharted territory.

There is no simple way to summarize the rich mosaic of our twenty-five year history. However, it is clear that we have faced a dizzying array of challenges over time. Some of these challenges have had to do with OCMH itself, such as mastering what it means to be a professionally-run museum with a broad range of public outreach programs as well as confronting the equally daunting task of managing the Mansion House and grounds in a fiscally responsible manner. Other challenges have been more externally-based, such as the eventual bankruptcy of our patron saint, Oneida Ltd., the negative effects of more general economic woes on the entire non-profit sector, and the ways in which technological breakthroughs have transformed how people learn and experience history. The fact that we have faced all of these challenges head-on and, for the most part dealt with them successfully, is a testament to the strength of OCMH as an institution and to the people who have guided its fortunes.

One of the most important issues we faced early on was simply determining what we were. In other words, what exactly was the “Oneida story,” this heritage we were entrusted to preserve? At its most basic level,
we could have interpreted it narrowly as a “between the bridges” family narrative, with the Mansion House existing as “our” family residence. Less parochially, it could have been viewed as a successful business narrative in which the original Community’s entrepreneurial spirit got reflected in OCL, the founding of Sherrill, and the replacement of the Community’s trap and silk thread business by tableware. Yet even before 1988, there were pressures to substantially broaden the narrative not only in order to situate the “Oneida story” within a larger historical and geographical context but also to include the Community’s controversial principles regarding property and personal relationships. The women’s movement as well as new communal experiments in the 1960s were eliciting considerable interest in the Oneida Community and scholars such as Bob Fogarty, Larry Foster, Michael Barkun, Maren Lockwood Carden and Marlyn Klee Dalsimer were insistent upon viewing the Community on a much broader historical canvas. This perspective also was being put forward by Mark Weimer at the Syracuse University Library’s Special Collection and, by the early 1980s, a wealth of privately-held materials (ranging from official documents to diaries and correspondence) had been vetted by the Historical Committee and donated to the library. The result of all of these influences was that the founding of OCMH coincided with a growing consensus that the Oneida Community intersected profoundly with the American experience on many different fronts and that its fascinating legacy must be preserved and presented to the public at large.

This complex task of understanding, preserving, and disseminating the “Oneida story” to increasingly large and diverse audiences has been accomplished through incremental changes along two intersecting fronts: organizationally and substantively. Almost from the start, the first two Chairs of the Board of Trustees (Dick Noyes, 1988-89, and Lang Hatcher, 1989-99) recognized that we couldn’t do it alone; we needed to hire an Executive Director and a part-time curator in order to help us manage the rather steep learning curve of running a museum professionally as well as coordinating its non-profit activities with the Mansion House Service Corporation (MHSC), the for-profit subsidiary established to run all of the Mansion House’s income-producing roles. Importantly, each Executive Director has brought a background and set of skills which seemed to fit the needs of OCMH at differing stages of our development: for example, Richard Kathmann’s deep attention to the Mansion House’s architectural as well as historical significance arose from his life as a practicing artist and former Director of Canterbury Shaker Village; Bruce Moseley used his experience as curator at Fort Ticonderoga to document the building and later use of the Mansion House, to formalize the expanded nature of the “Oneida story,” and to broaden our financial reach by structuring our donor base and seeking support from an expanded range of public and private funding sources; and our current Executive Director, Patricia Hoffman, has relied upon her considerable development and non-profit management experience to draw together the disparate pieces of OCMH into an increasingly integrated, financially lean, well-functioning, and mature organization.

The substantive effects of such organizational initiatives have been evident in every area. Undoubtedly, the most dramatic (even eye-popping) change in the way we intersect with the public is our conversion of the two front-hall guestrooms into our Visitors Center (2008) and Museum Store (2012); these professionally-designed rooms provide visitors with a wealth of fascinating images and information, not to mention memorabilia, from the Community and the OCL period. Earlier, and equally important in advancing our public...
presentation of the “Oneida story,” was the opening of the Jessie Catherine Kinsley permanent braiding exhibit in 1998, based upon the extraordinarily generous gift of braidings by Jane Rich and Pody Vanderwall. Each of these rooms is impressive and provides visitors with a splendid introduction to our history. But the “tours” we have come to provide have undergone equally impressive change. The original Mansion House tour, largely the creation of trustee Doris Miga, was expanded through input generated by a NEH-supported interpretive planning grant and has been steadily added to by Curator Tony Wonderley as additional data and insights have become available through the four Historic Structures Reports, scholarly research, and other sources; special tours have been created to meet the needs of 4th-6th grade and 11th grade AP history students; self-guided tours of the Mansion House (with accompanying explanatory leaflets) have been introduced and now, through the support of the Gifford Foundation, words and songs from the Community are motion-activated when visitors enter five museum rooms; a cultural landscape report was recently completed by the curator, “Walks and Runs of the Mansion House” allow guests to enjoy the physical environment, the “New Eden,” that the Community (and later OCL) relished in Kenwood and Sherrill; the specific interests of university classes, professional groups, and others are easily (and often) accommodated by modifying our general tour; two books have been reprinted and published through the efforts of Tony Wonderley along with numerous inclusions in national publications; the OCMH Speakers Bureau (Pat Hoffman, Tony Wonderley, Walter Lang, and me) make “touring” the Mansion House possible by making ten topics available to off-site audiences; and the public can follow every facet of our history and organization by logging on to our constantly updated website and Facebook pages. (Our website, incidentally now not only announces upcoming events and exhibits but also makes available to the public recent issues of the *Oneida Community Journal* and recently-initiated *New Circular* as well as an audio-visual edition of the *New York Times* 2007 coverage of the Mansion House. In this and so many other areas, we are deeply indebted to Pat Hoffman for bringing us into the digital age.

Our public outreach has been equally impressive in other areas as well. For example, we have continuously provided a venue for public lectures and for many years we have provided both fall and spring adult enrichment programs which feature four-lecture topics as varied as “Upstate New York: Seedbed of Change,” “Madison County Notables: Celebrating the County’s Bicentennial,” “Architecture and Preservation,” “A Woman’s World: Work, Wear and Will in the 1800s,” and “If Music be the Food of Love, Play On.” Musical events as varied as the Syracuse Symphony on the South Lawn and Jim O’Mahony’s jazz quartet in the Big Hall have enchanted our friends and neighbors over the years; Arbor Day celebrations have been organized for neighboring school children; the South Lawn has been made available on several occasions for theatrical presentations by Victoria Buda’s Academy of Theatrical Arts; we collaborated with local libraries and school systems in hosting a series of events connected with the National Endowment for the Arts’ “Big Read,” including a presentation of Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town” in the Big Hall; workshops on topics such as quilting, herb growing, and bent-wood furniture have been presented; and the Communal Studies Association has held its annual conference at the Mansion House on three separate occasions.

A major indicator of how far we have
come in our ability to share the “Oneida story” can be seen in connection with the size, professional management, and presentation of the Oneida collection. Put simply, we’re now a real museum. We have the capacity not only to properly catalog and care for our original collection but also to accession new materials; and with the addition of new exhibition spaces, we can present for the first time an unlimited number of changing exhibits that illuminate our history. Following a recommendation built into our 2001 Master Plan, and generously supported by a gift from the Gorman Foundation, we converted two large apartments off the Upper Sitting Room into collection management and exhibition spaces. In addition, we converted an apartment in the Children’s Wing into an exhibition space. The results have been extraordinary and primarily due to the anthropological training and insights that Tony Wonderley, our curator since 2007, has brought to our collections and outreach efforts. Significant portions of our inherited collection, particularly photographic and paper materials have been removed from cramped, rather dank quarters into spacious and climate-controlled spaces where they can be carefully documented, preserved, and stored. This, in turn, has led to a virtual explosion of new gifts to the collection. Some of these are single items, such as our recent acquisition of a Community-produced travel bag from Ed Knobloch, while others represent literally hundreds of objects, as with Nancy Gluck’s donation of her life-long collection of OL tableware, china, ads, and miscellany. In every case, these gifts enrich our archival heritage and our ability to present it to the public. In addition and also under the creative direction of Tony Wonderley (with the excellent exhibition assistance of Don Cornue and Maria Skinner), we have been able to present a remarkable array of exhibits that have ranged from “Sherrill 1948: Oneida Ltd’s Centennial Extravaganza” and “Oneida Community Women in the Material World” to “The Photography of Harold Noyes” and “John Humphrey Noyes Pictured and Described.” One room of a new exhibition space in the Children’s Wing has recently been made available for a permanent exhibit on “Oneida Game Traps, 1852-1925: The Edward J. Knobloch Collection.”

The Mansion House itself and the surrounding grounds, of course, are our principal artifacts and it’s gratifying to hear so many visitors comment on how beautifully they’re kept. This, it seems to me, is due to at least four factors. First, the Board has been acutely aware right from the beginning that we indeed have inherited precious assets, that being a National Historic Landmark carries serious responsibilities. The result was our adoption of a Historic Preservation Policy which not only links our preservation activities to national standards but also, through our designation of every building and grounds feature as primary or secondary space, holds us accountable to those high standards. We have also instituted a Collections Management Policy to guide the preservation and conservation of more than 30,000 objects entrusted in our care. Second, the Board has faced our capital needs directly; it has not succumbed to an easy reliance on deferred maintenance. Capital projects are budgeted for and when exigencies arise, as with a $19,000 flushing-out of the Mansion House fire-protection sprinkler system or with roof and porch repairs, the funds have been made available. (Parenthetically, such “funding” has been made possible in part because of Pat Hoffman’s almost miraculous ability to control expenses and, in areas such as our $75,000 annual utility bill, to actually reduce our overhead expenses over time.) Third, we have been blessed with gifts from public and private sources that have been targeted to the care of this landmark. One of the most important of these was a $100,000 grant from the Empire State Development Fund which was used to totally rewire the Mansion House and begin repainting its exterior (completed in 2012 with a grant from the Central New York Community Foundation). Finally, we not only have an outstanding maintenance staff (headed by Director of Building and Grounds Mike Colmey) but also a coterie of paid- and unpaid-volunteers (such as Kathy Garner, Nini Hatcher, Jessie Mayer, and Pody Vanderwall) who collectively—and lovingly—care for our complex properties. This year, we celebrated the twenty-year service, to our overnight guests and museum visitors, of our Housekeeper, Donna Kowanes, and our Business Manager, Gwen Smith has, among
a multitude of other things she contributes, guaranteed “clean audits” every year and oversees our increasingly busy facility rentals.

Any assessment of OCMH’s trajectory over the past twenty-five years must inevitably focus on Oneida Ltd.’s changing fortunes. It was, after all, our creator and major source of financial support and, when it was finally forced to file for bankruptcy in 2006, any number of lights went out. The blow was especially hard for the 2000+ employees who lost their jobs and benefits; it also had any number of ripple effects upon surrounding communities which had benefitted from its civic largesse for years. And it obviously dealt a notable financial blow to OCMH even if the breadth and depth of its support had been declining since the late 1990s. Taken all together, the cumulative and seemingly most devastating effect of OL’s bankruptcy was the tearing asunder of a perfectionist dream that, although taking different forms, had persevered for nearly 160 years. The rich heritage (and narrative thread) that we had been entrusted to preserve and make available to contemporary society had been ruptured in some fundamental way. We were forcibly drawn into a new, dramatically altered arena and one of our many challenges became not only to accommodate ourselves to such change but also to interpret the nature of the now-altered trajectory of our historical heritage. What contemporary lessons can we learn from the original Perfectionist experiment? Does OCL’s corporate welfare model, anchored in certain Community principles but adapted to 20th century needs, hold relevance for today? Put differently, do global economic realities today negate the optimistic belief of British Fabian Socialists (such as George Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells and Julian Huxley) that capitalism could be redeemed and that OCL provided a practical exemplar? Addressing these and other questions is a part of our now-expanded mission.

Ironically, OL’s financial distress brought us a major asset: the Oneida Community Golf Course. Forced by its bank creditors to shed certain non-tableware-related properties and supported by an extremely generous gift from the Gorman Foundation, OCMH was able to acquire in 2003 one of the oldest corporate golf courses in the United States. This had the effect not only of protecting a community treasure, since it was to be managed by a group of local people who incorporated themselves as Sherrill Kenwood Golf Club, but also of providing OCMH with annual lease income that helps to underwrite our expanded outreach program.

The successes we have enjoyed are due to the extraordinary contributions of many people and institutions. At the top of the list, of course, is Oneida Ltd. Also notable has been the constant as well as substantial support of the Kenwood Benevolent Society But so many others have provided both the leadership and the financial support that have allowed us to move so steadily forward. The Board of Trustees, even as it has changed in response to the declining presence of Community descendants and the needs of an evolving organization, has provided an abundance of the “three W’s” that underpin every non-profit organization: work, wisdom, and wealth. And in addition to the respective legal and financial expertise brought to the Board by our two most recent Chairs (Tina Wayland-Smith and Jonathan Pawlika), we have been blessed with the multiple talents of several trustees who helped guide OCMH virtually from the beginning and whose combined years on the Board totaled more than 100: Sue Campanie, Lang Hatcher, Lee Hill, Paul Noyes, Doris Miga, and Bob Wayland-Smith. In addition, of course, MHSC played an exceptionally important role because of its oversight of all

Cont’d. next page
for-profit activities (until 2011 when it was absorbed into OCMH proper) and its successive Board Presidents (Dick Noyes, Paul Wayland-Smith, Neal Rose, John Campanie, Paul Gebhardt and Marc Wayland-Smith) deserve our undying gratitude.

The list of our financial supporters is equally impressive. Everyone’s contributions has helped to underwrite our mission, but some special recognition seems due to those who have cumulatively given OCMH over $20,000: Hank and Dink Allen, Joe Austin, Myrtle Clark, Robert Freeman Sr., Jeanne Garner, Kathy Garner, Lang and Nini Hatcher, Hannah and Edward Hendrickson, Paul and Berna Herrick, Stewart and Lee Hill, Ruth Kreiter, Barry and Sally Mandel, Bill and Ann Matthews, Andy Ingalls and Jane Noyes, Ida Kate and Chuck Noyes, Lily Noyes, Paul Noyes and Judy Gibson, Martha and Roland Parker, Ted and Helen Prowda, Jane and Wells Rich, Neal and Kelly Rose, Joe and Marion Skinner, Barb Smith, Nick and Pody Vanderwall, Bob and Linda Wayland-Smith, Giles and Kate Wayland-Smith, Jerry and Betty Wayland-Smith, and Prue Wayland-Smith.

Both public agencies and private foundations have aided us enormously, underwriting everything from collection preservation and management to strategic planning, from programmatic support to such administrative improvements as new donor software and the installation of Skype. The following organizations merit our deepest appreciation: Central New York Community Foundation, Howard and Bess Chapman Charitable Foundation, Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Gladys Kreible Delmas Foundation, Empire State Development Corporation, Friends of the Mansion House, Gifford Foundation, Gorman Foundation, Greater Hudson Heritage Network, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Kenwood Benevolent Society, J. M. McDonald Foundation, Alliance Bank (now NBT Bank), National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, New York State Council on the Arts, Oneida Financial Services, Preservation League of New York State, State of New York, John Ben Snow Foundation, and Upstate History Alliance (now Museum Association of New York).

The challenges we continue to face are daunting. The one staring us in the face every day is how to preserve—in hopefully pristine condition—the artifacts that tell the “Oneida story.” There is no question but that preserving a 140+ year-old building with retrofitted inner workings, not to mention managing it as a multi-faceted “living museum,” is a draining task. And the upkeep of our beautiful lawns and gardens, so critical to our presentation of the Perfectionist dream, is equally difficult, time-consuming, and expensive. This challenge is made even more complicated by the fact that the recent economic recession has made the quest for public and private funds ever more difficult and competitive. We face these obstacles constantly as we try to cultivate new private donors (a task especially important as our descendant base has dwindled over time), to search out new government and foundation funding sources (even as their appropriations and endowments have been reduced), to attract new members (at a time when family finances are under major stress), and to capture the attention of more visitors (when the younger generation often learns more on-line than by museum attendance). All of this folds back in on what is perhaps our most fundamental challenge: how do we generate the new, substantial, and sustainable sources of revenue that will guarantee the physical survival of our National Historic Landmark and its important lessons for today’s society? This question, in turn, involves determining how we can disseminate the “Oneida story” to an ever-expanding audience base and thereby aid in our drive to recruit new Board members, donors, museum members, and visitors. This task, perhaps fittingly, is exactly the one the Oneida Community tackled over 150 years ago since it, too, realized that it couldn’t preach the Perfectionist gospel unless it survived as a self-sustaining, financially viable institution. Neither can we. However, as with our predecessors, we are confident not only that strategic planning matters but also that the loyalty and support we have gathered thus far will help us secure an even better future.
“The mission of the Oneida Community Mansion House is to maintain, preserve and restore the Mansion House, its ambiance and contents and such products and publications or possessions of the original Community and its members as may from time to time come to hand--for the benefit of present and future generations of scholars, students and an interested public who may wish to learn more of this unique 19th-century social experiment and what it has to say to them and the society in which they live” (OCMH Board of Trustees, July, 1987).

A strong commitment to preserve material culture derives from the Historical Committee, born of the Kenwood Benevolent Society. Because the Historical Committee gathered and protected Community objects, a substantial collection was bequeathed to the OCMH and to Syracuse University Library. Hope Allen (see photos) explains how concerned descendants started the committee in 1909 (excerpts from two notices in the August Quadrangle of that year). Eight years later, Edith Kinsley became the first preservation professional when the company paid her $7.50 a week to collect and keep historical data.

An Exhibition of Family and Community Relics

When Dorothy and Stephen [Leonard] came home from their trip through New England, Dorothy brought from Deerfield the plan of organizing an exhibition of relics here for the pleasure of the family and some small financial benefit. This plan was carried out in the exhibition of relics, family or Community, gathered from all of us, that took place in the Inner Library July 28-9, and netted for new books for the Library about twenty-three dollars. That so much money could be made by fifteen-cent admissions showed a general support delightful to the hearts of those who had arranged the entertainment. Almost all the family came as well as the kitchen women, the laundry women and the office girls...Everyone hunted up relics—generally after modestly assuring the collector they had nothing of interest—and brought them, in most cases, themselves to the exhibit...

The variety and abundance of relics surprised even the collectors...There were beautiful things exhibited [there follows a page-long list of items]. But Holton [Noyes] passed by as sentimental all such things as have so far been enumerated to "get right at some good albums." And perhaps the many albums and the daguerreotypes and ambrotypes set around the book shelves, were really the most important part of the exhibit...But perhaps the single article most strongly evocative of the old institution was the wonderful Community bed-quilt exhibited by Dorothy. It made its impression both as a collection of beautiful needle-work, and as a true monument of Communism. The quilt probably shared with the pictures the pre-eminence of being the masterpiece of the exhibit. A master stroke of another kind was Edith’s and Lotta’s appearance as ushers in Community short dresses (see photo).
A New Department of the Kenwood Benevolent Society

Last September Edith Kinsley and I took a good deal of pleasure in talking over a new project of ours for some sort of society “for the preservation of Community antiquities”...Edith and I thought there was much antiquarian work of collection and preservation to be done among us here, that would someday be valuable in reconstructing the life of our past. We let our plan lie by till this summer, when Dorothy’s project of the exhibit brought it again to our minds...

Pierrepont [Noyes] suggested that we utilize the machinery already at our disposal and develop our antiquarian activities as a department of the Kenwood Benevolent Society. That organization already exists for strengthening the communistic spirit among us, as well as for discharging the responsibilities of our communistic inheritance. Therefore it could rightly administer an enterprise that tended, by preserving things of common memory, to preserve the sense of our common life. It is planned to govern such antiquarian property as would come to the Benevolent Society by an historical committee of four. This committee would have absolute charge of its department, and could legally receive gifts and bequests of all property of historical interest or of money given for the purchase or care of such property...

Without the establishment of such an impersonal institution as is contemplated, such articles might be destroyed or lost...All of us probably have some things great or small which are really of general and not individual interest, and would justly belong to a public collection could such a one be established. For such things there is really no provision at present, and one can only be thankful they have received a careful individual possession all these years. But for any far future security of preservation an institution seems perhaps necessary, for without one, however zealous our scattered relic-lovers, the relics are always in course of time in danger of dispersion and destruction. Since by relics of material nature history is reconstructed as well as by more spiritual and intellectual things, we who have it at heart to preserve a memory--and a just memory--of the Oneida Community, may perhaps aid in that work by care of whatever material things are significant to its history.

Hope Allen (1883-1960) at work in her North Tower apartment, about 1940

Hope Allen, about 12 years old (courtesy Jim Allen)
Kathy Garner speaking (at the east end of The Vineyard):

Homeowners along the eastern leg of the Vineyard are no strangers to soggy back yards from periodic flooding of the creek, but no one remembers anything like the flood of 2013. As dawn started to break on June 28, I looked out my back window to see water water everywhere. My entire back yard, and that of the Spitzers [see next page], was a lake of muddy water, and muddy water that was relentlessly rising. In the full daylight, I noticed a “river” of water flowing along the right of way for the electrical lines bordering East Park and lots of debris quickly floating along. The “old creek bed” (from the days before the creek was straightened) runs parallel to the southern border of my property and sometimes fills with water in heavy rains. This year it was not only filled with water, but had also overflowed and was sending a second “river” of water running across the yard just below the rise on which my house sits. Because of that rise, I’ve always felt safe from any serious damage from the creek flooding. Not so this time. Seeing the water begin to creep up the hill, I panicked and began to envision a basement filled with water. I was fortunate that the water stopped rising after it had come only about two feet up the hill. It was a week before all the water was gone, leaving a muddy reminder of this historic flood and a 2-foot water mark on my back shed.

As the waters receded from the Wayland-Smith home (courtesy Judy Wayland-Smith)

Paul Wayland-Smith speaking (on Kenwood Avenue several houses north of the Sales Office):

I awoke during the night to the sound of rain but thought nothing of it. I actually got up a little after 7am and my first look was out the back window where the entire back yard was the wrong color. It was a brown muddy torrent rather than the green grass that I was expecting. I looked in the basement at a lot of water—it turned out to be about 43-45 inches. I got everybody up and out of the house. Fortunately for us, my brother Giles was away in NYC and we were able to move into his and my cousin Cindy’s apartments in the Mansion House while the flood waters receded. Our house is equipped with interior perimeter drains so the water drained on its own without needing to be removed via pump.

The next day, additional rains came down and the creek again overflowed its banks but fortunately the water did not reach the house. It did however leave a 10-pound carp in a shallow pond in the back yard that I had to corner and return to the rapidly flowing creek. Once all the water was gone, we spent the next nine days cleaning and tossing. We pretty much filled a rented 15-yard dumpster with stuff that was either ruined or that we no longer needed.

Sean Hart speaking (on Kenwood Avenue between the Wayland-Smiths’ and The Vineyard):

Early that morning, I was shocked to see creek water rising up into our driveway; the creek is some 300 yards away from our yard. Seeing about four inches of murky water in the basement, I rushed to Lowes where I was able to get one of the last pumps on the shelf. When I returned home about 30 minutes later, the water had risen to about 12 inches in the basement. I placed the pump...
in the basement and began running it, full bore: 5,000 gallons per hour! Little did I know that all of our floor drains in our basement are "connected" to the creek, so when the creek rises so too does the basement water level.

As I was pumping, I heard a loud splashing in the yard. I looked out to see what I thought was a muskrat or something flopping around. It was a foot-long carp, struggling to make it through the receding water, and back to the creek. As the water receded more, smaller fish: sunfish, minnows, guppies and even several bright colored koi [goldfish] were seen washed up on the edges of the shrinking puddles of creek water. I called out my 12-year-old son, Brendan, who immediately began to rescue these fish from imminent land-abandonment. He gathered some 40 or so fish and pollywogs, set most free, but kept 5 of the orange and white koi alive in a fish bowl.

Where could these koi come from? After a few days, we found out that they belonged to John Swift, and had been washed out of his ornamental pond [several houses to the south, on The Vineyard]. We let John know that we had them, and that they would be returned to their home.

The water level was nearly back to normal by about 4pm that afternoon. The basement was soggy, but no more standing water. All-in-all it was not too devastating for us. We lost a couple of power tools, and had to replace the computer in our new washing machine. And we finally had the motivations to clean out the basement.

Sarah Spitzer speaking (also at the east end of The Vineyard):

We woke to find our entire lower back yard under water and watched in disbelief as the Oneida Creek waters charged and flew swiftly through the properties adjoining the creek. Water levels continued to rise rapidly and rose as high as the seats of the chairs in our outdoor gazebo. The water came in quickly but did not leave as quickly. After the rains stopped, we discovered that due to the low level of our property we had standing water as high as the floor of our gazebo, and we realized that this water would have nowhere to drain as the surrounding areas are higher. After five days and little drainage, we decided we needed more help in getting the levels down so we phoned Drain Master on Peterboro Road. The owner nicely assisted us over the next seven days in pumping the remaining water out.

Once the water was gone we were left with an entire yard of dead grass, a swamp smell, and an infestation of mosquitoes. So we quickly moved to replace the dead grass with tilled soil and new seed and have just started to see the return of our yard again. We were told by neighbors who have resided here for their whole lives that this flood was the worst they had witnessed.

[Several houses to the north, Mrs. Hart] was nice enough to share one of her now-found mystery goldfish with our son, John. As we brought our new fish home, his bowl hit the side of the kitchen counter and cracked letting the water out onto our floor. Narrowly averting disaster, we dumped the new fish into a glass. We decided instantly that this fish would be named Lucky after surviving the flood and then the bowl accident. Once we discovered that Lucky was a resident of John Swift's pond [a short distance to the north] we returned him to his owner where Lucky was back in his home and reunited with his family. Our son John was rewarded with some honey from Mr. Swift for Lucky's safe return!
Phyllis Cumings, 91, died on October 21, 2012, in Oneida. Mrs. Cumings, a former Mansion House resident, was a volunteer with OCMH for many years, and a charter member of the O.C. Golf Course Tuesday Morning Golf League. She is survived by three sons, Orville E. (Doon) Cumings III, Timothy M. Cumings and Christopher J. Cumings. She was predeceased by her husband, Orville E. (Ned) Cumings and another son, John R. Cumings.

James R. Colway, 92, a long-time Kenwood resident, died on July 15, 2013, after a brief illness. Jim served in World War II in the 88th Infantry in Italy and Africa, and then studied painting and illustration at Syracuse University under the GI Bill. He was an advertising executive with Oneida Ltd. for 38 years, retiring as senior vice president of advertising (see photo). His paintings of rural American life have been exhibited in 18 U.S. Embassies around the world and in many permanent and private collections. Jim’s wife of 62 years, Cynthia Townsend Colway, died in 2010. He is survived by his son, Jamie Colway and wife Susan of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; his daughter, Mary Thompson and husband Steve of Kenwood; six grandsons and a great-granddaughter; also his sister, Carol Kinney of Oneida.

Amanda Larson and Jim O’Mahony are the parents of twin girls, Phoebe and Whitney, born in Oneida on June 29, 2013. Big sister: Bianka Gebhardt.

Tina Marie Haley and Peter Tuoc Tan Phan were married on December 1, 2012, in Holy Family Church in Pasadena, California, followed by a reception at Altadena Country Club. The couple then had a second wedding and traditional Chinese wedding reception on December 2. Peter is Vietnamese and Chinese. Tina is the daughter of Annabel Smith Haley, the granddaughter of Louise Miller Smith, and the niece of Cleve Mackenzie, who walked her down the aisle. She is Director of Programs at Southern California College Access Network.

Jessica Rose and Peter Malm were married on July 27th, 2013, in the Quadrangle of the Mansion House grounds, under the tulip tree; a reception was held in a tent on the O.C. Golf Course. Jessica is the daughter of Neal and Kelly Noyes Rose of Kenwood, and the granddaughter of the late Chuck and Ida Burnham Noyes.

Patricia (Farley) Bloom, 81, a longtime Sherriull resident, died on August 13, 2013. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Robert Bloom; two sons, Rick Bloom and Joe Bloom; three daughters, Ann Lick, Ellen Breckenridge, and Marnie Martin; 17 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Peter is from the Chicago area. Kate Burdick Graft, originally from Kenwood, performed the service; Jennifer Rose O’Regan was matron of honor; Abby Campanie Buchanan, also a Kenwood friend, was a bridesmaid, along with Chloe and Morgan Ingalls, cousins of the bride. Jessica and Peter will be living in St. Louis, MO., where they recently bought a home, built in 1889. Peter is enrolled in medical school in St. Louis, and Jessica is pursuing a job in the area. She recently received a Master’s Degree in Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

Patricia (Farley) Bloom, 81, a longtime Sherrill resident, died on August 13, 2013. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Robert Bloom; two sons, Rick Bloom and Joe Bloom; three daughters, Ann Lick, Ellen Breckenridge, and Marnie Martin; 17 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.
NEWS
Compiled by Jessie L. Mayer and Nola DeSimone

☐ The city of Oneida was in the regional news in late June for several days, due to severe flooding of Oneida Creek following extremely heavy rains. Homes and businesses in low-lying sections of the city suffered considerable damage. Kenwood, however, only had flooding in parts of the O.C. Golf Course and a few residences (see “Flood Stories”).

☐ Dr. Dirk Vanderwall, DVM, who had been on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine since 2009, has now joined Utah State University’s Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences. Recently his mother, Pody Vanderwall of Kenwood, visited him and his family, wife Allison Willoughby, DVM, and teen-age daughters Madison and Morgan, for a week. Pody went hiking in the mountains with them; they were accompanied by their pet goats, who have been trained as pack animals (see photo). By coincidence, Pody saw her Kenwood neighbor, Paul Gebhardt, in the airport in New York City.

☐ In June, Mansion House residents Myrtle Clark and George Pohl took an automobile trip to eastern Massachusetts and finished at Cindy Gyorgy’s home in Maine. At Plymouth, the attractions are Mayflower II (which was elsewhere in drydock at the time), Plymouth Rock, and Plimouth Plantation, a living museum in two segments, the Pilgrim Village and the Indian camp. On Cape Cod, they visited Woods Hole, where there are aquariums to view oceanic wildlife; Provincetown, dominated by the 252-foot tower dedicated to the Pilgrims, with the Pilgrim Museum containing exhibits of replicas of colonial life and a copy of the Mayflower Compact; and Hyannis. At Salem, they visited a Witch museum (see photo) with illuminated tableaux in a darkened theater. (In 1692, the witchcraft trials resulted in death by hanging of nineteen men and women, one man crushed to death, and seven deaths in prison.) Cindy Gyorgy, a wonderful hostess, lives in a beautiful home on Lake Naranacook, about 16 miles west of Augusta; she gave Myrtle and George a boat ride along the shorelines, and took them on excursions to Pemaquid Lighthouse, Botanical Gardens and New Harbor. One of her sons lives nearby. She grew up in Kenwood, and is a winter resident of the Mansion House.

☐ Visitors to the Mansion House: All five of Giles and Kate Wayland-Smith’s grandchildren were here over the summer, including their twin granddaughters. Numerous people were here for Jessica Rose and Peter Malm’s wedding. Peter’s family and friends, midwesterners, were given a tour by Geoff Noyes; Kelly Rose offered a brief history of the Community. Kelly’s sister, Jane Noyes, and her daughters Chloe and Morgan Ingalls; Keith Smith Rubin and family were among the guests. (Keith’s sister Abbie Smith,
a U. of Chicago faculty member, was the commencement speaker when Jessica received her masters degree. Keith and Abbie grew up in Kenwood.) Also present of course were Terrance and Jennifer Rose O’Regan and their baby daughter, Lucy.

- On September 30, Sherrill City Judge Neal Rose will retire from the judge’s bench, a position he has held for sixteen years. He will continue to operate his law practice in Sherrill, however.
- Kathy Garner, who expertly tends to the lawns and gardens during the summer, reports that two young turkey vultures have been seen in the silver maple tree on the South Lawn of the Mansion House, where there has been a vulture nesting spot in previous years.
- History of the Sherrill-Kenwood Library, now celebrating 100 years, 1912-2012. According to information on a library hand-out, it started with a cupboard of books in the Oneida Community Limited trap factory, set up by Stephen R. Leonard Sr., and another cupboard in the OCL silk factory, set up by Harriet E. Joslyn in 1900, for use by employees. When Mrs. Joslyn died in 1915, she left a considerable donation of OCL stock to develop a public library incorporated under the laws of New York State, for which a charter had been obtained in 1912. In 1921, a new library was built on E. Noyes Blvd. with Florence McDonald as the full-time librarian. She retired in 1946, followed by Mrs. Esther Lanz until 1956, when Mrs. Jean Bigger became the librarian. During her tenure the library joined the Mid-York library system. The current building on Sherrill Road was constructed in 1970, with more space for the growing collection. Mrs. Bigger retired after 21 years of service, and was succeeded by Mrs. Judy Noyes until 1994, followed by Melissa Hawthorne as library manager until 1997 and Bonnie Unsworth until 2011. At present, Jennifer Milligan is the library director.
NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS
(through July 31, 2013)

BENFACTOR
Dr. Robert S. Fogarty
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Hatcher
Mrs. Doris Wester Miga
Ms. Jane Noyes and Mr. Andy Ingalls
Mr. & Mrs. William Skinner

DONOR
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Gayner
Dr. & Mrs. Roger Hoffman

CONTRIBUTOR
Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Ezell
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hanlon
Mr. and Mrs. David Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Perry
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Sutton
Mr. Michael A. Tomlan
Ms. Ellen Wayland-Smith & Mr. Jacob Soll
Mr. and Mrs. David White

ASSOCIATE
Ms. Jennifer Allen and Dr. L. William Luria
Mr. & Mrs. John Bowen
Mr. Bruce Burke
Ms. Nancy Cammann
Ms. Linda Hill-Chinn & Mr. Philip Chinn
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Garner
Dr. Jocelyn Godwin
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Goodson
Mr. Troy Grabow
Hamilton College Library
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Hanlon
Ms. Emily Herrick (In Memory of Emily Schmidt)
Ms. S. Jill Harsin
Mr. & Mrs. H. Ernest Hemphill
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Humphries
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kallet
Ms. Amanda Larson & Mr. Jim O’Mahony
Mrs. Nora Leonard Roy & Dr. Christopher D. Roy
Mr. & Mrs. Cleve Mackenzie
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Moulton
Ms. Pamela Parker
Mr. & Mrs. William Pasnau
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Pawlika
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Pierz
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Prowda
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Simberg
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Stickels
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Valesky
Mr. Robert Vienneau
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Wayland-Smith
Mr. Anthony Wonderley & Ms. Pauline Caputi

FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Austin
Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Becker
Mrs. Nola DeSimone
Mr. & Mrs. Wilber Earl
Mr. Graham Egerton & Anne Redfern
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ellin
Capt. & Mrs. Jeffrey Fischbeck
Ms. Susan Fischbeck & Mr. Patrick Hurley
Mrs. Edward Haskell
Mr. & Mrs. Don Kingsley
Mr. Jonathan Marks
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Milnes
Mr. & Mrs. David LaLonde
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Lyons
Dr. & Mrs. Richard H. Martindale
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mayer
Mr. & Mrs. Donald McIntosh
Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Mitchell
Ms. Crystal Z. Mosher
Mr. Thomas Noyes
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Edson Setliff
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sprock
Ms. Cynthia Ezell Swalley (Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Ezell)
Mr. Terry Tubbs (Ray’s Service)
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wayland-Smith
Mr. Willard White
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Zebley
Mr. & Mrs. Art Zimmer

INDIVIDUAL
Mrs. Elaine Burke
Ms. Polly Darnell
Mrs. Shirley Drummond
Mr. Edward D. Evans
Ms. Anna Giacobbe
Mrs. Pearl S. Gradwell
Ms. Mary Lou Hastings
Mr. Jeffrey Hatcher
Ms. Polly Held
Mrs. Wanda Herrick
Mr. Edward Knobloch
Ms. Patricia Labrozzi
Ms. Marie Magliocco
Mrs. Mary Mero
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Militello
Ms. Patricia Milnes
Ms. Barbara Nurnberger
Ms. Barbara S. Rivette
Ms. Mary Lou Rosecrants
Mrs. Robert Sanderson
Dr. Edward Thibault
RECENT GIFTS TO OCMH
(through July 31, 2013)

UNRESTRICTED
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Austin
Sally Fischbeck and William Boomer
Mr. Whitman Bolles
Ms. Cornelia Brewster
Dr. & Mrs. James Brod
Ms. Barbara Busch
Mr. James L. Crowley
Laura Noyes Engel & Kevin Engel
Mrs. Sydney Fuller (In Memory of Dink & Hank Allen)
Mr. and Mrs. James Gustafson
Ms. Elizabeth Hill (In appreciation of Leota Hill)
George Kahler Sales
Kenwood Benevolent Society
Mr. & Mrs. David LaLonde
Ms. Amanda Larson & Mr. Jim O’Mahony
Miss Marie Magliocca
Mr. & Mrs. Beal Marks
Mr. & Mrs. Donald McIntosh
Ms. Mary Mero
Mrs. Doris Wester Miga (In Memory of Nick Vanderwall)
Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Miller
Ms. Shirley Nasci
Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Noyes (In Memory of James R. Colway)
Ms. Barbara Nurnberger (In Appreciation of Pody Vanderwall)
Mr. Jim O’Mahony
Mr. & Mrs. Eliot S. Orton
Planned Results Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Ready
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Simberg
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Stevens
Mr. Scott Swayze
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Tudman
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Valesky
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Vantine
Mr. Willard White
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Williams

EDUCATION
Dr. & Mrs. James Brod
Mrs. Doris Wester Miga (In Memory of Walter Miga)
Sherrill Kenwood Community Chest

EXHIBITIONS
Mr. & Mrs. John Bailey

GRANTS
NYSCA (toward Curator’s salary)

IN-KIND
John Swift & Ann Raynsford (jars of honey)

LIBRARY
Art Hedderich & Suzanne Adams-LaLonde (In memory of Pete & Berna Herrick)

LAWNS & GARDENS
Mr. Steve Blair
Mr. & Mrs. John Campanie (In Memory of James R. Colway)
Mr. & Mrs. John Kuterka (In honor of Jane Rich on her birthday and Pody Vanderwall on Mother’s Day)
Mr. & Mrs. David LaLonde (In Memory of Nick Vanderwall)
Mrs. Pauline Rice (In Memory of James R. Colway)
Mrs. Robert Sanderson (in Memory of James R. Colway)
Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne Spitzer (In Memory of James R. Colway)
Mrs. Corinne Tudman (In Memory of James R. Colway)

PIANO TUNING
Tina Wayland-Smith

PROGRAMS
Mr. Michael A. Tomlan

TRANSPORTATION
Mrs. Doris Wester Miga (In Memory of Walter Miga)

CEMETERY
Mr. James R. Colway (In Memory of Cindy Colway)
Ms. Mary Lou Hastings (In Memory of James Orton)
Mr. & Mrs. David LaLonde (In Memory of Dr. T.J. & Helen Prowda)
Mr. & Mrs. Beal Marks
In 1853-55, the Perfectionists constructed an ambitious water system to pump water from the creek uphill to today’s North Lawn. There it ended at what was called the “Large Reservoir” just north of the New House (the present Mansion House did not then exist). About 1,450 feet long, the water line was powered by a “force pump” at the mill (vicinity of the Knife Plant), presumably a steam engine (Circular, July 19, 1853 and June 14, 1855).

The waterworks did not furnish water for household use although it supplied a nearby bath house and ran a fountain in the South Garden. Its chief purpose was to water the strawberries in the area we think of as the Quadrangle and North Lawn. “With our horticultural program before us,” George Cragin remembered, “we began to realize the importance of an increased water supply for irrigation” (Quadrangle, May, 1913).

The Large Reservoir was, at first, a pond 20 feet in diameter containing fish. Turfed over out of concern for the safety of children, it was long visible as a green mound about 10 feet high in the flower garden of the North Lawn (Circular, June 28 and July 14, 1855; Oneida Circular, Aug. 30, 1875). It was removed about 1926.

1. Frederick “Fritz” Austin
2. Jean Austin
3. Willard? “Bill” Raynsford
4. Cynthia Townsend Colway
5. Milford “Milt” Newhouse
6. Eugene “Huey” Garner
7. Dave Evans
8. Leah Farmer?
9. Benjamin Cragin
10. Jane Kinsley Rich
11. Patty Evans?
12. Florence “Flo” Leonard
13. Peggy Griffith Fenner
14. Margaret MacLaughlin
15. Jeanne Noyes Garner
16. Charles “Chic” MacLaughlin
17. Margaret Burnham Ballard
18. Mary Elford Raynsford
19. James Colway
Forwarding Service Requested