

Oneida Community JOURNAL

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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 Mansion House, about 1875 (courtesy Ellen Bolland and Francie Wyland).

O. C. JOURNAL

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patricia A. Hoffman

Gustafson & Co., Certified Public Accountants, recently completed the audit of our fiscal year ending September 30, 2011. This letter is a good opportunity to summarize the audit and to share some of the year's highlights.

Two exhibits were curated, installed and opened to receptions for OCMH members. "Oneida Community Women in the Material World" is still up. "The Cartoons of Jerry Wayland-Smith and Others" gave way to "The Design and Promotion of Lady Hamilton Tableware" which opened in February. We also dismantled the extensive exhibit of traps from the Ed Knobloch collection displayed at Sherrill Mfg., and relocated a smaller number of the traps to the CAC in Sherrill.

The Oneida Community Mansion House and the Gorman Foundation received one of six Certificates of Commendation presented in NY State by Museumwise (a New York non-profit which provides support, advice and training to historical societies, museums, historians and others interested in history). This award recognized the Oneida Community Mansion House for making its photography collection publicly accessible, a project that was funded by the Gorman Foundation.

"The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation," a steel engraving that the Oneida Community held in great regard, was conserved with funds from a grant. Cash and volunteer donations enabled the collection of Jessie Catherine Kinsley braidings and several photograph albums belonging to the late Jane Rich (Kinsley's grand-daughter) to be catalogued and digitized.

The Richard W. Couper Press at Hamilton College published the out-of-print "Days of My Youth" by Corinna Ackley Noyes with an introduction by OCMH Curator Tony Wonderley who also had articles published in *Communal Societies*, *New York History*, and *Social Science Dockets*, a publication for high school teachers.

Among our nearly 9,000 visitors, we welcomed New Hartford students from an Advanced Placement History class (high

school) and teachers from across the country participating in a Social Studies enrichment program funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities. Individual donations enabled us to establish a Transportation Fund for local schools and the number of field trips to the Mansion House rose accordingly. The Mansion House Business Partners hosted Robert Daino, President and CEO of WCNY, who spoke to local businesses about growth and successes at the station. Victoria Buda's Academy of Theatrical Arts presented "The Producers" to a packed lawn over two nights in the summer. A collaboration with the Oneida Public Library brought a presentation on Louisa May Alcott to the Mansion House and the Oneida Public Library Players to the Big Hall to present an evening of Charles Dickens during the Christmas season.

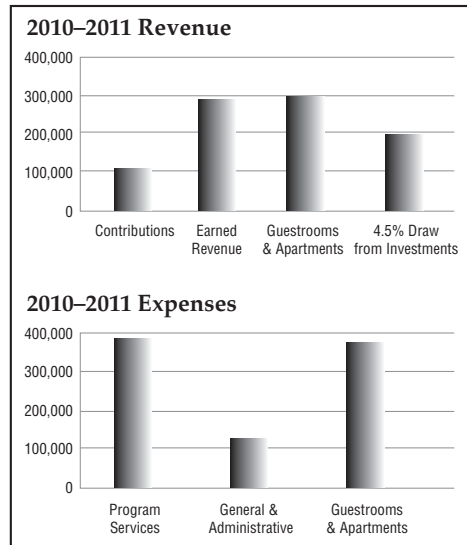
For a change of pace, an all-music Adult Enrichment Series featured widely ranging compositions from Shaker hymns to jazz, blues, and opera. Other public events included the annual open house with approximately two hundred guests, Homecoming weekend for Oneida Community descendants, the Mansion House Classic Golf Tournament, and a dinner and fine arts auction that netted more than \$11,000 for the maintenance and preservation of this historic property.

Other donations provided for the repair of the southeast facade roof and the installation of gutters and a heating coil to prevent damage from water runoff and ice. On the other side of the building facing the Quadrangle, the mansard roof and its slate were repaired. Not surprisingly, major projects didn't stop there. Two large cast iron pipes developed leaks and were replaced (one ran from the fourth floor to the basement inside a narrow shaft), the dry sprinkler systems were flushed, and a certified engineer completed an Emergency Action Plan for the Oneida Creek dam.

Of special note was the dissolution of the for-profit subsidiary, the Mansion House Service Corporation, which quit operating at the end of 2010 and was officially dissolved in May, 2011. Formed at the time the property

was acquired from Oneida Ltd. by the non-profit, it was no longer serving its original purpose. The decision to dissolve it was a good one as expenses have been reduced and valuable time spent on management and bookkeeping, reallocated.

And lastly, because of a generous grant from the Central New York Community Foundation, I took a month-long sabbatical that included visiting significant historic sites and museums throughout New York State. The meeting with Philip Morris, CEO of the Proctors Theatre in Schenectady, brought the entrepreneurial thinker to the Mansion House recently to lead the OCMH Board of Trustees into envisioning the next twenty-five years.



PHOTOS



Kenwood Kakes hosted a very successful Bridal Faire at the Mansion House in May.



Mardi Gras event planners and revelers included Mansion House Friends members (from left) Michael Cross, Dana Bassin, Amy Hart, Beth Jones and Anne Marie Ciminieri-Costello.



Sarah Wayland-Smith and Jeff Hatcher at the annual cook-out for the residents (courtesy Polly Held).



At the Residents' Barbeque, Paul Noyes talked about the late Dick and Rita Noyes creating a trust to benefit residents of the Mansion House (courtesy Polly Held).



Giles Wayland-Smith introduced the Arts & Crafts Society of Central New York to architectural work by Oneida Community-born Theodore Skinner.

THE BOOKSTORE

By Pody Vanderwall

In the misty past, when discussion was underway about if and when Oneida Ltd. would divest itself of the Mansion House (in its own and the Mansion House's interest) there were give and take meetings on the subject. There were powerful and persuasive discussions pro and con on the proposal. There was a culminating Big Hall meeting.

At one point in the deliberation that evening, someone said, "Before you know it, there will be a Gift Shoppe in the Mansion House." A quick witted response followed: "Yeah, North and South Tower salt and pepper shakers!" (Laughter--tension dissipated.)

Within a year after incorporating, a bookstore did open in the Mansion House in 1988!

Nini Hatcher and Pody Vanderwall attended workshops in Auburn and Canandaigua about how to run a bookstore and how to avoid pitfalls in doing so in historic buildings. Generous donors provided the opening stock--Barbara Smith, Betty Wayland-Smith, Jane Rich and Oneida Ltd. (Bill Matthews, Nick Vanderwall).

The Bookstore was up and running in December 1988 after having co-opted a small space adjacent to the Library. The new store gave new meaning to "window shopping."

Over time the Bookstore stock grew and did come to include a few non-book items:

tee shirts, mugs, magnets, etc., but in general it remained a one-subject bookstore: the Oneida Community. The bookstore even "published" by providing a professionally photocopied and bound version of Harriet Worden's *Old Mansion House Memories* and Corinna Noyes' *The Days of My Youth*, and reprints of a few O.C. pamphlets.

So also did the profits grow--in a separate bank account--never co-mingling with OCMH general funds. The Bookstore was small, cramped and the intention was to be able to fund a new and more suitable space so as to give up window-shopping.

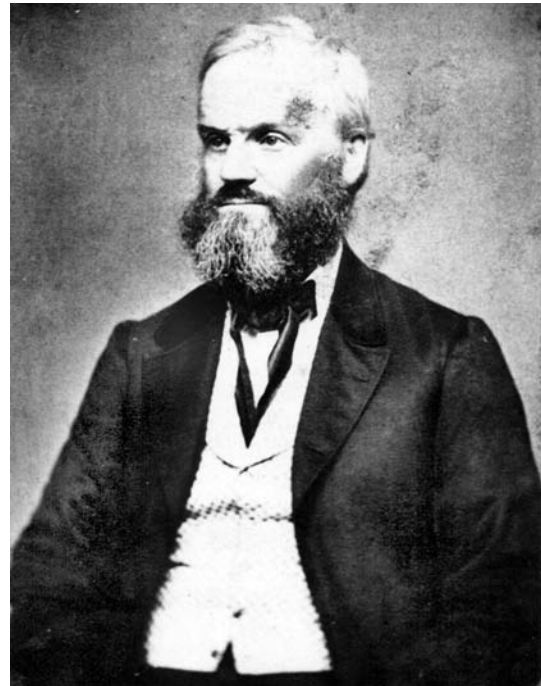
Without the help of dedicated volunteers over the years, that financial goal wouldn't have been a likelihood. Risking serious omissions, some long-standing volunteers included Betty Wayland-Smith, Prue Wayland-Smith, Phyllis Cumings, Karen Houghton, Dink Allen, Myrtle Clark, Nini and Pody.

Twenty-four years later, Bookstore receipts, along with grants and gifts have funded a proper Bookstore and reception area. The original concept of the Bookstore mission has come to fruition. However, no North and South Tower salt and pepper shakers to date!



Pody Vanderwall and Nini Hatcher in the new Bookstore (courtesy Pody Vanderwall).

CSA MEETING THIS FALL AND A NEW EXHIBIT



This wood engraving, prepared from the photo on the right, appeared in the Phrenological Journal of October, 1866.

The Oneida Community Mansion House will host the annual conference of the Communal Studies Association on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 5-6. Chiefly a scholarly group, the CSA previously met at the Mansion House in 1994 and 2002. The high point of the latter conference was a roundtable discussion of OC descendants which will be reprised at this meeting. On Friday, Lang Hatcher, Kelly Rose, Sally Mandel, Geoff Noyes, Robin Vanderwall, and Giles Wayland-Smith will discuss "Oneida Community Heritage" in the Big Hall with Bob Fogarty serving as moderator.

The Mansion House, the CSA notes in its announcement, provides the perfect setting to explore the theme of the meeting: the lives, roles, and voices of women in communal situations everywhere. It was, after all, the Oneida Community that changed the lives of its female members by freeing them of "slavery through marriage," removing the fear of pregnancy from sexual relations, and by recognizing and lessening the burden of women's work.

We expect to have well over one hundred attendees listening to nearly fifty papers being given in the Big Hall, the dining area, and the Oneida Room. Giles Wayland-Smith and

Pody Vanderwall will open the conference with presentations about the Perfectionist vision in practice and Jessie Kinsley's life and work. A second Oneida Community session will feature a trio of papers. OCMH guides will introduce visitors to the house and its surroundings. For more information about scheduling and registration, go to [http://www.communalstudies.org/annual conference](http://www.communalstudies.org/annual%20conference).

In connection with the CSA meeting, a new exhibit will be installed in Room 203 off the Upper Sitting Room. "John Humphrey Noyes Pictured and Described" will survey how the founder of the Oneida Community was recorded in numerous photographs and depicted in print and sculpture. Accompanying the images will be reminiscences of Noyes by Community members as well as some Noyesian memorabilia.

Also featured will be phrenological descriptions of Noyes spanning thirty years. Phrenology, the popular psychology of the day, was supposed to reveal an individual's personality from an examination of the skull. Additionally, the display will document little-known links between the Oneida Community and leading phrenologists.



PLANNING AND BUILDING THE 1862 MANSION HOUSE

By Tony Wonderley

The 1862 Mansion House turns 150 this year. The sesquicentennial occasion prompted me to wonder—How did the building come about? Rather little, it turns out, is known about that.

When the “Associated Communities” (Brooklyn, Manlius, Cambridge [VT], Newark [NJ]) consolidated at Oneida in 1854, the Oneida Community’s original Mansion House (1848) proved to be too small. “We need more room. Never were one hundred and seventy persons found before living in one family under so small an amount of roof as ours.” They determined to build a new family residence as soon as they could afford it. “We take this as a hint from the Lord to go to work vigorously and make money, which we shall endeavor to do. In due time we are confident that the interior life that is given to us will also have the means of clothing itself in fitting forms of external excellence and beauty” (Circular Oct. 25, 1855). Discussing their future home became one of the Community’s favorite activities over the next few years.

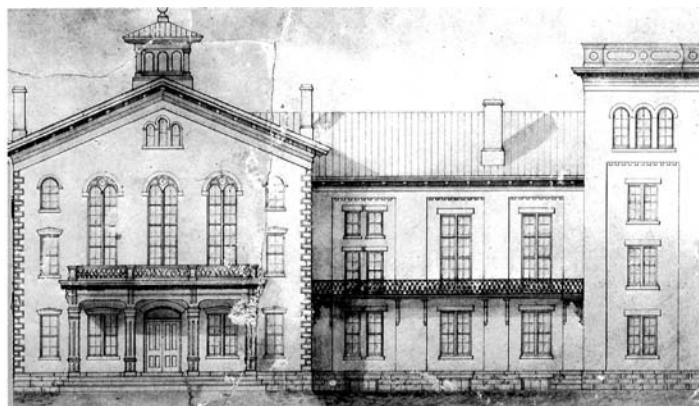
The 1848 Mansion House nestled at the base of a knoll, the most commanding topographical feature in the vicinity. The Community’s first decision was to site the new home on the crest of that knoll.

“The spot proposed by Mr. N., and unanimously agreed upon was in the garden, near the reservoir [a subterranean cistern on the present North Lawn], a few rods north of the present children’s home. The advantages of this spot are its conveniences of access, its nearness to the existing buildings of the Community, its dry situation and good prospect. The most apparent objection that rises against the locality, is the fact that the building and its surroundings will occupy some of our choicest garden ground that is now used for the production of strawberries, grapes and vegetables. But on the whole we want just such land for our site, and all the associations connected with this spot are home-like and loving. It will be in the center of what has been the favorite promenade of old and young since the beginning of the Community.” (Circular July 2, 1857)

The Perfectionists had in mind a home larger and better than the 1848 house, but one that was eminently practical. “We are convinced that simplicity, absence of pretension, and the straightforward adaption [sic] of means to end, will ultimately prove, in architecture as in all things else, to be the truest standard of taste” (Circular Nov. 1, 1856). At the same time, the new home would exemplify what a community dwelling should be. “We expect that like the society it is intended for, it will be original, expressive of new ideas, and we shall seek to have it combine all that is best in material, form and arrangement” (Circular Oct. 9, 1856).

Among possible models discussed were the octagon and Greek-cross forms, a Fourieristic phalanstery, and the St. Nicholas Hotel in New York (Circular Nov. 1, 1856 and Dec. 17, 1857; Harriet Worden, *Old Mansion House Memories*, p. 104). Published accounts, however, provide little information about the appearance of the building. With respect to style, for example, we are told only that the Perfectionists were thinking about the “Italian Villa” look.

“The Italian style, with its broad, nearly flat roof, its verandas and arcades, and more



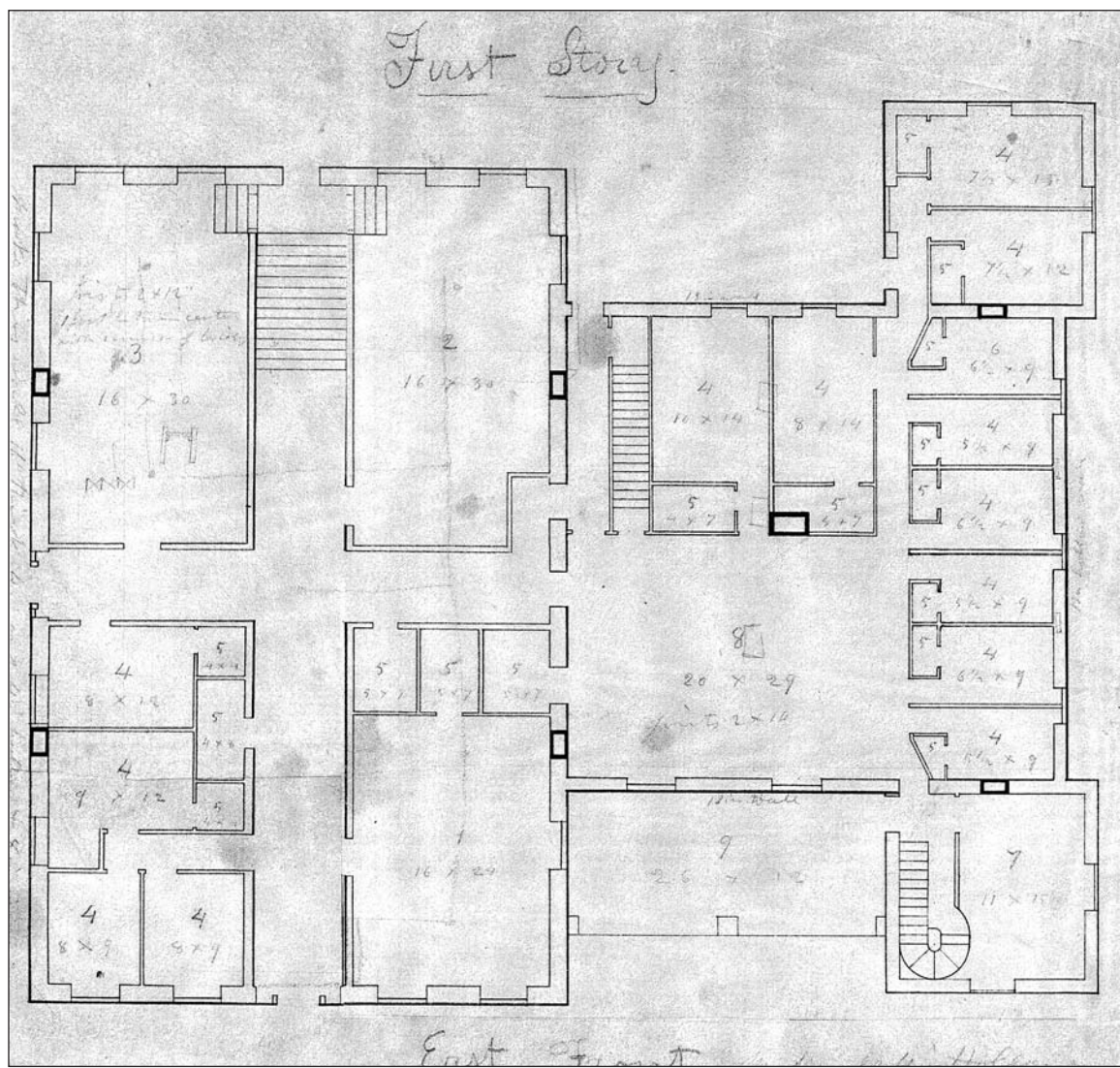
Elevation of the Mansion House by Erastus Hamilton, probably drawn about 1868 from an earlier rendering.

prominent campanile or tower, has become quite popular. There is much in this style adapted to the wants and tastes of this country and wealthy men of the world, and consequently it is quite a favorite, and no doubt is an improvement. But it may not do.” (Circular Jan. 7, 1858)

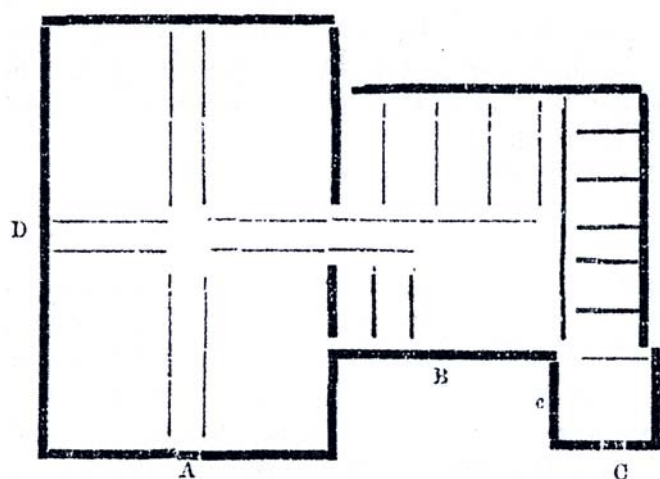
Cont’d.



Three "Villas" published by A.J. Downing in 1850 (The Architecture of Country Houses, pp. 286,317,353).



Early plan of the ground floor (ca. 1860s).



*Schematic plan of the
Mansion House
(Circular, Sept.5, 1861).*

This is, of course, what the 1862 Mansion House became (see illustration). It seems likely, as Dolores Hayden suggested (*Seven American Utopias*, pp. 207, 212), that architect Erastus Hamilton's design was inspired by examples illustrated in source books such as A.J. Downing's widely distributed text on architecture (see illustration).

Of various construction materials considered, brick and stone were the leading contenders. The advocates for each agreed, at one point, to settle the issue with a game of chess which, ending in a draw, resolved nothing (*Circular* March 3, 1859). Those in favor of brick set up a brickyard northwest of the Mansion House where, in 1860, they fashioned a 40,000-brick kiln. The product was defective and, in the end, the Oneida Community purchased about 330,000 bricks (Anon., "When We Made Brick," *Quadrangle*, Dec. 1913, pp. 9-10; *Circular* Aug. 18, 1859). Meanwhile, Jonathan Burt and others began drawing stone from a quarry near Knoxboro. Their limestone ended up as the basement foundation in which a corner stone was laid in April, 1861 (*Circular* Jan. 17, 1861; *Old Mansion House Memories*, p. 105). These questions were debated heatedly and, looking back, the Perfectionists took pride in overcoming contentiousness.

"When we built our new house, how many were the different minds about material, location, plan! How were our feelings wrought up! Party-spirit ran high. There was the stone party, the brick party, and the concrete-wall party. Yet by patience, forbearing one with another and submitting one to an-

other, the final result satisfied every one. Unity is the essential thing." (*Circular* April 13, 1868)

Every issue must have been resolved in 1860 when "Mr. E. H. Hamilton, assisted by Mr. J. H. Noyes, and authorized by the family, drew the final plan!" (*Old Mansion House Memories*, p. 105). We have what may be Hamilton's pre-construction drawing of the ground floor. It confirms an interior feature apparent from a plan published by the Community in 1861 (see illustrations). The north-south cross-corridor originally was straight, not curved as it is today.

The 1862 Mansion House was constructed by hirelings. When the exterior shell was completed, "the hired workmen formed a group on the roof and gave three cheers each for their employer, Mr. Gawn, their foreman, Mr. Carpenter, the Oneida Community, and the United States. The finishing of the walls, was made an opportunity for offering a little festival to the men, who have labored on them so faithfully for the last four months. A supper was prepared with wine and ice-cream for extras. The table was decorated with flowers, and at the head of it was exhibited, encircled by a wreath, the words, 'Honor to Labor.' The whole family joined in the party, with the hired masons and laborers as guests. Among the sentiments offered at the close of the meal was the following by Mr. Hamilton: 'A health to workers--honest, faithful, industrious workers. May they realize that their calling is an honorable one. God bless them and their families and build them up in all good ways.' " (*Circular* Sept.5, 1861)

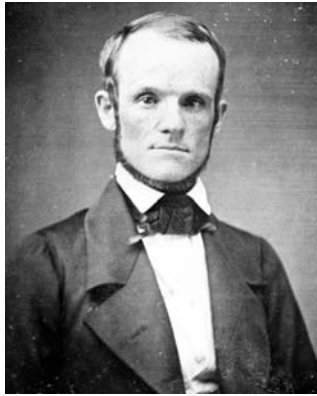


JOHN HUMPHREY NOYES ON SLAVERY

We sell the facsimile of an 1850 pamphlet (*Slavery & Marriage*) by Noyes that marks an important development in his sentiments about the place of women in society. Earlier he had been in favor of freeing them from unwanted pregnancies. In this tract, he compares married women to slaves and declares wives should be emancipated from bondage to their husbands.

What Noyes says about slavery in the pamphlet is reprinted here to show his familiarity with abolitionism and to flesh out the Civil War context of the 1862 Mansion House discussed in the previous issue of the *Journal*. Noyes was well versed in the subject having helped to start up one of the country's earliest abolitionist organizations, the New Haven Anti-Slavery Society, in 1832. In 1837, he was communicating with such fiery abolitionists as William Lloyd Garrison, the Boston publisher, and Gerrit Smith, his future neighbor in upstate New York (Robert Allerton Parker, *A Yankee Saint: John Humphrey Noyes and the Oneida Community*, 1935, 48-50; Robert David Thomas, *The Man Who Would Be Perfect*, 1977, 26-27, pp. 148-50).

Slavery & Marriage was composed against the backdrop of the Compromise of 1850 and the Fugitive Slave Act, events which galvanized abolitionist sentiment in the Northeast to extreme measures. It may have been written specifically to catch the attention of Horace Greeley, liberal editor of the *New York Tribune*, one of the most prestigious papers in the country. Greeley was regarded as sympathetic to the Oneida Community and Noyes, living in the New York area since early 1849, had been trying to make contact with him—apparently unsuccessfully. The matter was so important to Noyes that he said he would embark on an expensive trip to England “if he could get a berth in the same ship with Greeley.” During the course of that voyage to the World's Fair in London (1851), Greeley is supposed to have told Noyes, “John, [*Slavery & Marriage*] is the best thing you ever



John H. Noyes, about 1851.

got up.” (Lawrence Foster, ed., *Free Love in Utopia: John Humphrey Noyes and the Origin of the Oneida Community*, Compiled by George Wallingford Noyes, 2001, pp. 72, 91-92). Evidently, Noyes was proud of it for it reappeared in the third annual report of the Oneida Community (1851) and in the pages of the *Circular* (May 23, 1870).

SLAVERY AND MARRIAGE: A DIALOGUE Conversation between Judge North, Major South, and Mr. Free Church (1850)

SCENE—*Newspaperdom*. Mr. Free Church and other Gentlemen reading. Maj. South and Judge North in angry dispute about Slavery; threatening fight. Mr. Free Church interposes.

MR. FREE CHURCH—Gentlemen, be calm; there is a more rational way of getting satisfaction than this. Let us have a fair discussion. We will hear your attack and defense, and help you to a more judicious conclusion than running each other through with the sword.

JUDGE NORTH—Very well: I am willing to debate the subject with Major South.

MAJOR SOUTH—Commence then, Judge N., as you are the assailant.

JUDGE N.—I am always ready in so good a cause. I affirm then, to begin with, that Slavery is an arbitrary institution, created by law, and contrary to natural liberty. All men are created free and equal.

MAJOR S.—I affirm on the contrary, that the condition of master and servant is natural. Servitude, or the labor of one for another, exists everywhere; and Slavery is only one form of this necessity.

JUDGE N.—It is a most cruel and oppressive form you must admit, one under which horrible wrong and outrage is committed. Look at the every-day accounts of slaves being whipped to death.

MAJOR S.—There are instances of cruel treatment, it is true, but they are exceptions, not chargeable to the system, which is naturally one of protection and confidence.

JUDGE N.—It is a vicious system in itself, because it gives unlimited power, and such power in the present state of human nature is sure to be oppressive. Ownership of man by man is wrong, and prolific of wrong.

MAJOR S.—But the law protects slaves from abusive masters.

JUDGE N.—You know, however, that the law is merely nominal, or, at most, applies only in extreme cases.

MAJOR S.—The slaves are happy; they do not ask your pity. You could not persuade them to leave their masters, or exchange their condition with your own free laborers.

JUDGE N.—This is no argument in favor of Slavery; it only shows the degraded state of the slave. The noble instinct which chooses liberty or death, is all crushed out of him. His spirit is broken under the yoke. Then, he is treated as a brute in respect to his affections. Family ties are sundered without remorse, and the tenderest connections rudely broken. What can you say in defense of this cruelty?

MAJOR S.—I affirm that Slavery is sanctioned by the Bible. Moses and Paul both recognized it, and gave regulations concerning it.

JUDGE N.—The Bible permitted Slavery on account of the barbarism of the times, but certainly does not sanction it with anything like approval; on the contrary, its whole spirit is opposed to it, and fully carried out, would lead to its immediate abolition. Furthermore, Slavery is a system that recognizes no Bible. So far as the slave is concerned, that book might as well have never been given. You take away his right to read and enquire the way of life for himself; and if he ever gains a knowledge of his duty and a religious faith, your monstrous claim of ownership is still paramount. He has no liberty to follow the dictates of his own conscience. Thus, by your



Horace Greeley, about 1851.

power to heathenize and coerce him, all spiritual as well as bodily freedom is taken away.

MAJOR S.—The liberation of the slaves would be attended with pillage and bloodshed, and your tender mercy to them is murder to their masters.

JUDGE N.—I contend that liberty breeds virtue, and that the slaves, if liberated and treated justly, would be better citizens than they are now.

MAJOR S.—They are not capable of taking care of themselves; their masters would have to support them or they would starve.

JUDGE N.—This is a false assumption; for it is universally proved that free labor is more profitable than slave labor. The slaves would do their work more cheerfully and better for wages, than they do from fear of the lash.

MAJOR S.—Just compare our servants with the free negroes of the North, and say which class is the happiest? You cannot deny that the lot of the slave is vastly preferable.

JUDGE N.—If this were so, it is because our free negroes suffer the disgrace and abasement of their brethren; so that their wretchedness is owing to the existence of Slavery. Slavery is a curse to the whole African race.

MAJOR S.—Well, be that as it may, it is the corner-stone of our republican edifice. Your abolition principles strike at the very foundations of society. Besides, it is intermeddling with what does not concern you. The South have a right to their own domestic institutions, and this northern interference is intolerable; for one, I am ready to defend my rights at the point of the sword.

JUDGE N.—"Justice must be done if the heavens fall." A state of society founded on unrighteous principles ought to be subverted, and I shall not cease agitation against Slavery if it stirs up war.



BROOKSIDE

by Nora Leonard Roy

The Kenwood apartment complex called "Brookside" originated as a horse barn built by the Oneida Community in 1853. Located across the road from today's main entrance to the Mansion House, the building was converted in the late 1860s to other uses including an accounting office, a thread-packing facility, a tailor shop, a shoe repair shop, and a post office.

After the Community's breakup, the Oneida Community, Ltd. (later, Oneida Ltd.) assumed ownership of the building. With houses going up in the Vineyard and elsewhere in Kenwood, the former barn was moved in 1916 to a site in the Dutch End, next to Oneida Creek. At some point, both the north and south wings were extended towards the east, giving the building a pronounced U-shape. Four family apartments were created: two-story apartments in the south and the north wings, and one-story apartments in the middle, one above the other. The building, located at 301 Kenwood Avenue received the formal and euphemistic name "Brookside." As a rental property, it joined three others in the Dutch End, including the Dutch gambrel house at 1246 Chapel St. a duplex; the house at 289 Kenwood Ave. also a duplex; and "The Elms" at 297 Kenwood Ave. a triplex.

As families moved into the apartments, the Dutch End became a very lively part of Kenwood. All apartments were rented from Oneida Ltd. at modest monthly rates, averaging \$25 to \$35 per month (U.S. Census, 1930 and 1940). Oneida Ltd. provided maintenance and repairs until each of the multi-family

buildings was sold to private owners in the 1980s. Unfortunately, Brookside did not survive the transition and was eventually torn down (Jessie Mayer, "The Children's House," *Oneida Community Journal*, March 1995).

Brookside's amenities were spare, with its coal-fired furnaces, lack of insulation from winter's icy blasts and summer's oppressive heat, modest fixtures, and simple layouts. The two larger residences offered a modest 1200 sq. ft. each, with four bedrooms and a music room, as well as kitchen, pantry, dining room, and living room. The two smaller units were about 650 sq. ft. in size, with two bedrooms each.

In general, younger and newer Oneida Ltd. families lived in Brookside. Over the years, families came and went, usually moving on after buying a house either in Kenwood or Sherrill. Some families were long-term renters. Among those who lived in Brookside

between the 1930s and the mid-1960s were Mary, Tom, and Polly Noyes; John, Minnie, Jean, and Patricia Gibson; Leo and Florence MacFarland; Paul, Sylvia, and Jessie Paquette; Howard, Vera, Catherine, Charles, and Philip Andrews; Jim, Florice, Annette, and Clare Sanderson; Dick (Dingiron), Phyllis, Melissa, and John Cragin; Haskell (Hack), Peg, Bruce, Robert, Barbara, and Richard Fenner; Gerry, Jane, Ann, and Richard Golding; Roy, Trine, Arne, Heidi, and Erica Sand; and Steve, Jo, Merry, Nora, and Annie Leonard. Many more families lived there over the years, but my own memories are limited to those I have mentioned.

My family lived in the north apartment from 1952 until 1964. I remember how we Brookside kids could visit one another without having to go outside, simply by using the cellar's maze of rooms with unlocked doors. There was plenty of outdoor play space in



Brookside, 1955.



The building in Oneida Community days, 1870s.

the back yard as well, with swing sets, a sand box, a playhouse, and room enough for games of tag, hide & seek, and kickball. Our playground extended well beyond the yard, including the woods in back and along the creek. There were no fences in the Dutch End, except for the pen in which Wells and Tom Rich kept hunting dogs. Our parents trusted us not to get lost, injured, or to go into Oneida Creek. In warm weather, Sunset Lake offered supervised swimming and lessons just a couple of minutes' walk away, and there was always the delight of afternoons in the clear, cool waters of Parson's Gulch, behind the Knife Plant. We Dutch End kids built forts out back, scaled the heights of the tall spruce trees at the southeast end of the South Lawn, put pennies on the O&W railroad tracks, explored the CAC archery range, made friends with the horses in the Satterly's pasture, and dared one another to

walk across the train trestle south of the Knife Plant. As far as I know, no one ever got seriously hurt doing any of these activities.

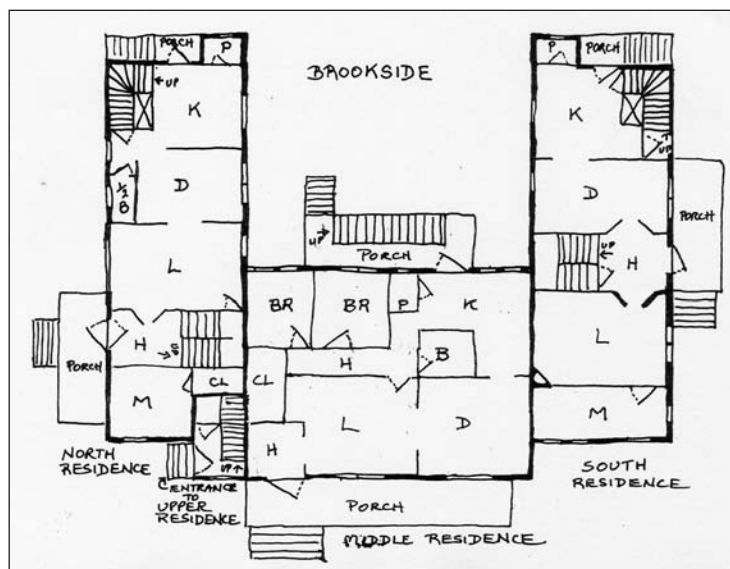
The best part of living at Brookside was the sense of community we had with our neighbors. Most of us in the Dutch End were renters, and we shared our outdoor space cooperatively, not just for children's play, but also for flower and vegetable gardens, fruit trees and bushes, and clotheslines. We kids never lacked for friends, and were free to play together until the 8 o'clock whistle reminded us that it was time to go indoors. In times of crisis, such as the overnight flood that nearly reached Brookside in 1958, I recall several families getting together late one night as the water rose higher, sharing concerns and comforting one another. We shared many good

times: a memorable 4th of July parade led by neighbor Fritz Austin; splashing in a plastic swimming pool with Kenwood newcomers Jane and Kelly Noyes; building huge castles when a new pile of fine sand was delivered to the sand box; picking grapes and raspberries behind the playhouse.

Brookside became something of an international community, with the arrival first of the Goldings, from England, and then the Sand family, from Norway. It was multi-generational as well. Minnie Gibson, whose

husband had died and whose grown daughters had moved away, was a dear neighbor and friend to all, a daily presence whether she was sweeping her porch or working in her garden. Upstairs from Mrs. Gibson there always seemed to be younger families with babies and toddlers.

My father, an experienced scuba diver, set up a "shirt factory" in the cellar of Brookside, where he and



Sketch plan of Brookside, ground floor (B = bathroom, BR = bedroom, CL = closet, D = dining room, H = hall, K = kitchen, L = living room, M = music room/play room, P = pantry —courtesy Nora Leonard Roy).

fellow scuba divers Roy Sand, Dick Cragin, Al Noyes, and others would gather in the evening to make neoprene wetsuits for themselves. I know they enjoyed working together, and that their work was always lubricated with beer and camaraderie. Brookside's cellar provided workshop space for Gerry Golding, an Oneida Ltd. engineer, who was a master woodworker. He designed and built furniture for his family and a large dollhouse, complete with miniature furniture and electric lighting, for his daughter, Ann. Oneida Ltd. designer Roy Sand had a studio where he crafted beautiful jewelry in silver.

Brookside seemed idyllic from a child's perspective, but the Knife Plant, just across the creek, reminded us all that our parents' livelihood was tied to the gritty work of

manufacturing. Black soot from the chimney made housecleaning a Sisyphean task, the loud clap of the drop hammers became white noise in the background, and the industrial wastes and gray water released from the Knife Plant polluted Oneida Creek. As the years rolled on, Brookside showed serious wear and tear. In winter, ice dams and dangerous icicles caused leaks inside. Repairs and upkeep of the sprawling building must have caused a drain on company resources. Ultimately, it was razed in 1984. Now Brookside is just a set of memories and photographs. The space it once occupied looks humble, the backyard much smaller than I remember it, but what great memories it gave each of us who lived there! (I would like to thank Trish Gibson Beetle, Pody Vanderwall, and Tony Wonderley for information they contributed for this article. Any errors are my own.)



Enjoying bubblegum on the Leonards' front porch, 1957. Left to right seated are Ann Raynsford, Ann Golding, Nora Leonard, Barbara Fenner. Standing are Cynthia Warren, Sally Warren, Dorian Cragin, Richie Fenner (courtesy Nora Leonard Roy).



ADDITIONS AND SUBTRACTIONS

Compiled by Jessie L. Mayer and Nola DeSimone

- Oddie and Karla Zounek McLaughlin of Valley Stream, L.I., are the parents of a son, Cody James Zane, born on April 2, 2012. Maternal grandparents are Zane and Ruth Burnham Zounek of Oneida; great-grandparents, Chester and Judy Noyes Burnham.
- Thomas and Lisa Austin Chamberlain of Vernon, NY, are the parents of a son, Carson Thomas, born on February 25, 2012, in Syracuse. Maternal grandparents are David and Linda Carson Austin; great-grandparents, Fritz and Jean Austin.
- Terrance and Jennifer Rose O'Regan are the parents of a daughter, Lucy Rose, born on August 11, 2012, in College Park, Maryland. Maternal grandparents are Neal and Kelly Noyes Rose; great-grandparents, Chuck and Ida Burnham Noyes.
- Richard H. Wood, 81, died on May 31, 2012, following a brief illness, in Mission Viejo, CA. He was born in 1931, the son of Harrison and Helen Noyes Wood, and the grandson of Holton V. Noyes and Josephine Kinsley Noyes. Richard grew up in Kenwood, joined the U.S. Air Force in 1952 and trained as a pilot, flying more than 6000 hours, including

400 hours in combat. He retired as a colonel in 1978, with the Distinguished Flying Cross and many other awards and decorations, and then spent 13 years as a Professor of Safety Science at the University of Southern California. After retiring from USC, he and his wife Priscilla moved to Snohomish, Washington State, where they lived for many years before recently moving to California. Richard wrote three books on aviation safety, plus "Call Sign Rustic—The Secret Air War Over Cambodia 1970-1973." He also served as a professional safety consultant and aircraft accident investigator. (At Christmas 1995, while Richard was visiting at the Mansion House, he gave a very interesting illustrated talk in the Big Hall about plane crashes he had investigated.) And in his spare time, he was a scuba instructor and a respected amateur magician. Richard is survived by his wife of 59 years, Priscilla; two children, Kenneth and Valerie; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; his sister-in-law, Peggie Wood, a niece and a nephew. He was pre-deceased by a sister Sara in infancy, his brother Kinsley ("Kim") Wood (who was also a colonel and a pilot) in 1988, and his daughter Stephanie in 2008.

NEWS

Compiled by Jessie L. Mayer and Nola DeSimone

□ Recent visitors to the Mansion House and vicinity: Dallas residents Kurt and Alison Thompson and daughter Lixue visited Kurt's brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Mary Colway Thompson of Kenwood. Steve and Kurt's late father, Oscar Thompson, worked for Oneida Ltd. for many years. Bruce Hurlbut and family from Little Rock, Arkansas, toured the MH. Bruce is the grandson of Rollin and Elizabeth Hurlbut, and remembers summer visits here when he was young. Rollin was a long-time OL salesman, all over the world, and he and his wife lived in the Mansion House after he retired. He chose to be buried here. Giles and Kate Wayland-Smith's daughter, Sarah, and her children, Giles and twins Odelia and Imogen, were here for six weeks, and her husband, Ramsey El-Assal, was here off and on. Their other daughter, Ellen, with her husband, Jacob Soll, and daughters Sophia and Lydia visited prior to their move from Philadelphia to Los Angeles.

□ Some members of the Jessie Cragin Milnes family were here for three days, enjoying the Mansion House, exploring the Oneida Community cemetery and "discovering new people in their lineage." Jane Noyes, Sally Allen Mandel, Francie Wyland, and Nora Leonard Roy were here. Paul Noyes's daughters Jeanette and Laura visited him and his wife Judy. Bob and Jessie Mayer had a brief visit in mid-August with their daughter Margaret Mayer Morrison, CPA, and her husband Malcolm, who live in Huntsville, Alabama. They had been touring Lake Ontario, visiting historical sites commemorating the War of 1812 (200 years ago). Those of Margaret's siblings who live in New York State—Hilda (Oneida), Frieda (Liverpool), Charlotte (Canandaigua), Roberta (Rochester), David (Middletown), and Eric (Canton) all came here to share in the visit.

□ Kelly and Neal Rose have been traveling. They were in the Naples, Florida, area earlier in the year, and enjoyed several get-togethers with Joe and Ellen Wayland-Smith and Paul and Judy Wayland-Smith, who live nearby. Cindy Allen and Kristy Noyes visited them in Naples as well. This summer they went to Chicago, where their daughter Jessica is entering into her second year of a Masters in Social Administration program at the University of Chicago. They also got together with Abbie Smith (daughter of Les and Edie Smith) who teaches

there. Kelly had her picture (see photo) taken in front of Ida Noyes Hall, a well-established building on the campus with the same name as Kelly's mother (but no connection). In August they were in Maryland to welcome the arrival of their first grandchild, Jennifer and Terrance O'Regan's daughter Lucy Rose. Kelly's niece, Chloe Ingalls, has been with Jen all summer.

□ All of the far-flung Vanderwall family was here in June for a memorial ceremony for Nick Vanderwall, who died last November. Pody Vanderwall's brother, Tom Rich, now lives at the Harding Nursing Home in Waterville and maintains his interest in steam engines and trains.

□ This past spring, Sunset Lake was partially drained. Heavy rains and flooding had caused the lake to overflow its dam, and the gates that control the lake's water level needed repair. An engineer was consulted and an emergency action plan was submitted to the state Department of Environmental Conservation. Repairs and maintenance were done by Mansion House staff. The bottom of the lake and the spillway were exposed, and the lake is still low at the dam end but appears to be at a normal level otherwise. (Sunset Lake is 111 years old—see the September 2011 issue of the *Journal*, page 11.)

□ **25 years ago:** Oneida Ltd. won a Clio Award for outstanding print advertising. **35 years ago:** The old Dormitory Building on Sherrill Road was demolished. **75 years ago:** Door-to-door mail delivery began in Kenwood. Residents numbered their houses in preparation for this service. (Before this, presumably, people picked up their mail at a box in the post office, and house numbers were not needed.)



Kelly, Jessica, and Neal Rose at Ida Noyes Hall, University of Chicago (courtesy Kelly Rose).

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

(through July 31, 2012)

Benefactor: Leota Hill, Donna Reed

Donor: Dr. & Mrs. Scott Gayner, Dr. & Mrs. Roger Hoffman, Eric Conklin & Trine Vanderwall, Mr. & Mrs. Giles Wayland-Smith

Contributor: Mr. & Mrs. David Hill, Joanne Larson, Sara S. Orton, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Perry, Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Pierz

Associate: Mr. & Mrs. Wilber Allen, L. Wm. Luria & Jennifer Allen, Deborah Austin (In Memory of Jean Austin and Nick Vanderwall), Mr. & Mrs. Nigel Bolland, Maren Lockwood Carden, Mr. & Mrs. Philip Chinn, Mr. & Mrs. Wilber Earl, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Engel, Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Evans, Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Ezell, Anna Giacobbe, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Hanlon, Mr. & Mrs. W. Donald Hanlon, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hatch, Emily Herrick (In Memory of Emily Schmidt, Paul & Berna Herrick), Elizabeth Hill, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Kallet, Mr. & Mrs. Cleve MacKenzie, Pamela Parker, Mr. & Mrs. Willam Pasnau, Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Pawlika, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Stickels, Mr. & Mrs. John Sutton, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Valesky, Ellen Wayland-Smith & Jacob Soll, Gerard Wertkin, Anthony Wonderley & Pauline Caputi

Family/Household: Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Becker, Dr. & Mrs. James Brod, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Dann, Anne Redfern & Graham Egerton, Mr. & Mrs. Randall Ericson, Capt. & Mrs. Jeffrey Fischbeck, Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Garner, Geraldine Haskell, Mr. & Mrs. James Hill (Gift from Leota Hill), Mr. & Mrs. John King, Mr. & Mrs. David LaLonde, Mr. & Mrs. Reid Larson, Mr. & Mrs. Beal Marks (w/ Employer Match), Mr. & Mrs. Jessie Mayer, Mr. & Mrs. Donald McIntosh, Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Mitchell, Crystal Moshier, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Moulton, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Nemeti, Gerold Noyes, Victoria Noyes & Frank Carnovali, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Pickels, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Roy, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sprock, Katherine Trout, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Wayland-Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Barry Zebley, Mr. & Mrs. Art Zimmer

Individual: Bruce Burke, Peggy Berndt, Joyce Bowen, Marion Cierek, Shirley Drummond, Edward Evans, Anna Giacobbe, Pearl Gradwell, Wanda Herrick, Esther Kanipe, Marie Magliocca, Patricia Milnes, Barbara Nurnberger, Barbara Rivette, Barbara Sanderson, Margaret Stevens, Jennifer Wayland-Smith, Willard White

Student: Kathleen Williams



Thanksgiving Homecoming

November 22 - November 25, 2012
featuring Thanksgiving dinner
and a performance Saturday night by
concert pianist Andrew Russo

Invitations and details to follow

RECENT GIFTS TO OCMH

(through July 31, 2012)

To General Operating Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Nigel Bolland
*(In Memory of Prue Wayland-Smith, Betty
 Wayland-Smith & Helen Wyland)*
 Barbara Busch
 Timothy Cumings
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Durso
(In Memory of Irene Thayer Kent)
 Edward Evans
 Robert Fogarty
 Katherine Garner
 Pearl Gradwell
 Cynthia Gyorgy
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hatch
(In Memory of Dard & Carol Wayland-Smith)
 Mr. & Mrs. Lang Hatcher
(To Fix Back Door)
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Heriman
 Trust of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Herrick
 Kenwood Benevolent Society
 Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Moulton
(In Honor of Cynthia Gyorgy)
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Noyes
(In Memory of Nick Vanderwall)
 Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Pawlika
(To Purchase the Berean Book)
 Pamela Parker
(In Memory of Martha Parker)
 Planned Results, Inc.
 Leigh Mamlin & Julie Reeves
 Mr. & Mrs. Neal Rose
(In Memory of Nick Vanderwall)
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Roy
(In Memory of Jane Rich)
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sanderson
(In Memory of Greta Sanderson)
 Mr. & Mrs. Giles Wayland-Smith
 Tina Wayland-Smith & Greg Perkins
(To Tune the Piano)
 Mr. & Mrs. David White

Business Partners

Alliance Bank

Lawns and Gardens

Bottle Ladies
 Gerald & Virginia Lyons
(In Memory of Nick Vanderwall)
 Joan Nickerson
(In Memory of Nick Vanderwall)
 Jeannette Noyes & Laura Engels
(In Memory of Nick Vanderwall)

Bookstore

Mr. & Mrs. John Kuterka
(In honor of Pody Vanderwall)

Education

Sherrill-Kenwood Community Chest
(Grant for Education Program)

Grants

CNY Community Foundation
(Grant for Restoration of Exterior Wood)
 The Gladys Kreible Delmas Foundation
(Grant for OCMH Board Retreat)
 The Rosamond Gifford Charitable Foundation
(Grant for Audio Experience Project)

In-kind

Katherine Garner
(Sofa Chair & Bolt of Fabric)
 Dana and Dan Bassin
(Hurricane Glasses)
 John Swift and Ann Raynsford
(Honey)
 Mansion House Friends
(Mardi Gras event items)
 Oneida Floral
(Mardi Gras Centerpiece)
 Numerous donors
(Mardi Gras Silent Auction)



CREATING THE MANSION HOUSE LAWN

By Tony Wonderley

The Oneida Community carried out only one systematic program to improve the grounds and it occurred according to the precepts of A.J. Downing. That made sense. The Italian Villa look of the Mansion House probably was influenced by Downing (see article on p. 5), and Downing also preached that beauty in architecture and landscape were inseparable. A park ground around one's country home rendered domestic life delightful, made the property attractive, and increased local attachments. A properly embellished lawn exerted a moral influence elevating the character of the neighborhood (Downing, *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening*, 1859).

"A plan for laying out and planting the grounds about our house, was presented and explained during the past week," the *Circular*



Alfred Barron, landscape architect of the Mansion House.

reported on March 13, 1862. "This naturally led to the subject of Landscape Gardening, and a lecture occupying nearly an hour on two meetings, historical and explanatory of the art was given by Alfred Barron." Barron explained how the purest embellishment resulted from choosing the finest in nature and artistically enhancing it. Knowing what to choose required the sensibility of a painter and, the Community was invited to imagine, Barron was that artist. The artistry in question adhered not to the geometric but to the natural school of landscaping derived from "the genius, enthusiasm and fine writing" of Downing. Even though Downing was gone (died 1852), his precepts could be studied first-hand in New York's recently completed Central Park (*Circular*, April 3, 1862).

The natural approach to landscaping relied on the "free and flowing graces of nature." Yet, at the heart of a Downing pleasure park was something wholly unnatural: "an emerald green lawn, perfect and velvety." In and around the greensward, gravel paths glided "in gentle sweeps and undulations like the rich curves of beautiful women." Along the paths were clumps of such shade trees as "the noble



The North Lawn, about 1864.

oak, the melancholy pine, and trees from every clime that will send representatives to lend a charm by their quaint and beautiful presence; all these trees have arrayed themselves in artistic pose, as if standing for their pictures" (*Circular*, March 20, 1862).

Under Barron's supervision, Community members transformed the grounds around the new Mansion House as summarized in the *Circular* (Sept. 11, 1862): "Our new lawn, for the first time close shaven, begins to have the carpet feeling and finished reflection which is required; and notwithstanding the lack of shade, which only years can supply, with its paths and verdure pleasantly environs our Community dwelling. Whatever may be true of other objects of human art, a lawn may be watched for increasing beauty for many years. Our grounds are planted in clusters and with an eye to judicious arrangement, with a variety of trees."

What one can see of Barron's landscaping scheme in photographs is a graveled walkway winding sinuously around the periphery of the North Lawn. It enclosed a central grassy area and along it, at various points, were small groups of trees. Although time would bring further embellishments, the campaign to beautify the surroundings of the Mansion House essentially was the work of a single season.



FROM THE PAST



1968

Front row (left to right): Bob Rafferty and "Friske," Scott Wayland-Smith, Nicholas Trout, Mark Perry, Margaret Sanderson, Kerry Fraier, Ann "Puddy" Sewall, ? Laidlaw, Lisa Hickman, David Cragin (visiting from California), Eric Cragin, Beth Fraier, "JC" Alexander, Peter Alexander, Betsy Hatcher, Paul Gebhardt, Betsy Warren, Kim Otis, Tom Warren, Bill Ackley, ? Johnston

Middle row: Margo and Benjamin Trout, Marie and Maria Perry, Greta and Emily Sanderson, Nola Paquette Gebhardt, Mary Ann and Melanie Hickman, Ellen and Ann Wayland-Smith, Dirk Vanderwall, Kate and Ellen Wayland-Smith, Nini and Joseph Hatcher, Molly Alexander, Cindy Colway, Lynn Fischbeck, Carol and Jennie Wayland-Smith, Suzanne Warren, Janice Ackley, Pat and Baby Johnston, Cindy and Diana Allen and Bruce Allen

Back row: John Hatcher, Jeff Hatcher, Mark Laidlaw, Patrick Sanderson, Wren Otis, Gina Beshgetoor, Gail Barron, Marc Barron, Pody Rich Vanderwall, Alan Barron, Dorian Cragin, Robin Vanderwall, Jane Fraier, Judy and Laura Noyes, Susie Vanderwall, Jeanette Noyes, Carol Fischbeck, Mary Colway, Susie Fischbeck, Laurie Wayland-Smith, Peter Gebhardt, baby-sitter and Joe Alexander



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