1664-1964 THE STORY OF A TOWN

TOWN of EASTCHESTER
Tri-Centennial
300
1664·1964
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET
A Proclamation

June 24, 1964 marks the 300th Anniversary of the purchase from Sir Thomas Pell of the area which now comprises the Town of Eastchester including the Villages of Tuckahoe and Bronxville.

We are privileged, therefore, in this year of grace, to celebrate our birthday.

Now we may pause to reflect upon the lives of those men and women who with courage, industry and devotion to our national ideals, have brought to us this year of commemoration.

Nor shall we be forgetful of the blessings of freedom which in great measure our town in its early days fostered, and which we now enjoy with all people in this, our country.

With such a heritage and under the guidance of the Great Creator of us all, we can confidently continue in the paths of peace, to enjoy the benefits of prosperity and the just rewards of honor and integrity in all our affairs.

We, therefore, declare 1964 to be our Anniversary Year, and we call upon all our residents to mark this unusual event with appropriate ceremonies and occasions which shall record our appreciation of our past, our gratitude for our present bounty, and our hopes for a better life for us and our descendants in the years to come.

Mayor
Village of Bronxville

Supervisor
Town of Eastchester

Mayor (acting)
Village of Tuckahoe

Dated: June 24, 1964
THE STORY OF A TOWN
1664 - 1964

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TOWN OF EASTCHESTER
TRICENTENNIAL
1664 - 1964
Eastchester • Bronxville • Tuckahoe

Celebration Week
JUNE 29<sup>th</sup> thru JULY 4<sup>th</sup>

JUNE 29
Exhibition Day
At The Town Hall

JUNE 30
Costume Ball
Vernon Hills Country Club

JULY 1
Music Festival
Town Hall Lawn

JULY 2
Children's Day
Special Programs

JULY 3
Eastchester Day
At The World's Fair

JULY 4
TriCentennial Parade
Fireworks at Parkway Oval
This town, Eastchester, is one of 23 cities and towns in the county of Westchester. It is one of the smallest towns in the county in area, though one of the largest in population. It is roughly rectangular in shape, with the long axis of the rectangle running north and south (or, more accurately, northeast and southwest). The length north and south is about three and a half miles, east and west about a mile and a half.

For such a small, compact town, Eastchester has a remarkable lack of homogeneity. It includes two incorporated villages, Bronxville and Tuckahoe, and a section, bigger than Bronxville and Tuckahoe combined, that is known variously as the unincorporated area, the Town Outside or, simply, Eastchester. Part of Tuckahoe is often called Crestwood. Part of the unincorporated area is called Bronxville; another part is called Scarsdale. There are three school districts in the town, each with its own high school -- Bronxville, Tuckahoe and Eastchester -- and three post offices -- Bronxville, Tuckahoe and Eastchester. There are also three railroad stations -- Bronxville, Tuckahoe and Crestwood-Eastchester. Much of the north end of town is served by the Scarsdale Post Office and residents of that area use the Scarsdale railroad station and have Scarsdale phone numbers. People living along the eastern edge of town frequently have New Rochelle or Pelham phone numbers. One fire department protects all of Eastchester, but there are three separate police departments. The town as a whole elects one representative to the Westchester County Board of Supervisors, but locally there are three separate and largely autonomous municipal governments.

There is great wealth in this town, and there are tenements. Some of our citizens are members of families who have lived here for a century or more. Some are descendants of Negro slaves. Some are the sons and daughters of European immigrants. Some are New Yorkers, easterners, midwesterners, southerners, who have come here to live since World War II. Some are Protestants, some are Catholics, some are Jews. There are intellectuals and day laborers, directors of industrial empires and shopkeepers trying to meet the rent. There is great diversity.

All have only one thing in common. They live in this town, Eastchester. Whether they moved here last week or were born here, this is their town. They are Eastchester.

To all of them, this booklet is dedicated.

Happy Birthday.
THE BEGINNINGS

The first thing that should be understood about Eastchester is that the town as it now exists -- three and a half miles long and a mile and a half wide -- is only the northern half, or less, of the town as it was in Colonial times, and as it continued to be until late in the last century. Eastchester ran between the Bronx and Hutchinson rivers from the Scarsdale line south through Mount Vernon and on into what is now the Bronx as far as Freedomland. In those early days Eastchester did have a "downtown" section, or, at any rate, one place that was the focal center of the town. That was at St. Paul's Church, in Mount Vernon, just over the line from the Bronx. The church is still called St. Paul's Eastchester, and very old residents of Mount Vernon and the north Bronx still mean the section around St. Paul's when they say Eastchester.

In the early 1600's, when English settlers were trying to establish a permanent colony at Jamestown in Virginia and the Dutch were getting a foothold on the tip of Manhattan Island and the Pilgrims were chasing wild turkeys near Plymouth, Eastchester was a wooded, hilly wilderness, drained by its two rivers and many brooks, but occupied only by bands of Mohican Indians.

Anne Hutchinson

In 1642 a remarkable woman named Anne Hutchinson was forced out of New England by the Puritans because of her independent views on religion. She trekked south and west through New England with her children and a handful of followers -- a very small group. They settled down in the Dutch territory of Vredeland -- land of peace -- in the wilderness near where St. Paul's Church was later built. But they had only one year of peace. In 1643 a group of Indians led by a chief named Wampage massacred Mrs. Hutchinson, her followers and all her children except for a daughter, Susannah, who was taken captive by the Indians. Massacres were not unheard of in that time, of course, and this one was an incident in the savage war then raging between the Indians and the Dutch. Even so, Chief Wampage thought so much of his exploit that he took the name "Ann Hook" to honor himself for the slaying of Anne Hutchinson.
Ten years later, with peace restored and the Indians retreating from the area, Chief Wampage and other Indians sold the land that was to become part of Eastchester to Thomas Pell (after whom Pelham is named), but no further settlements were attempted for 20 years after Anne Hutchinson's brief stay. Then, on June 24, 1664, Thomas Pell granted a deed to Phillip Pinckney and nine other persons from Fairfield, Connecticut. The deed said, in part, that Pinckney could "settle down at Hutchinsons', that is, where the house stood at the meadows and uplands." Meadows and uplands is a perfect description of the land near St. Paul's or, at least, a perfect description of the way it looked until modern times, with the hills of Mount Vernon rising from the swampy meadows near Eastchester Creek (as the lower part of the Hutchinson River has always been called).

Pinckney and his companions, plus 26 others who joined them, took over the land, built houses and settled down. The Dutch still controlled Vredeland, technically, but their maritime war with the English was drawing to a close and later in 1664 English troops led by Col. Richard Nicolls landed on Manhattan Island. The Dutch governor, Peter Stuyvesant, yielded and Nieuw Amsterdam became New York. (Nine years later the Dutch recaptured New York, but in 1674 a treaty ceded the land, once and for all, to the English.)

This meeting house was erected in the late 1600's on the village green of Eastchester near the present site of St. Paul's Church. In October, 1776, during the Revolution, Hessian soldiers tore it down and used it for firewood.
The Covenant

In 1665 the settlers, the founders of our town, drew up the first town laws, articles of agreement that are called today the Eastchester Covenant. The original agreement is in the vaults of the Town Hall on Mill Road. They make old Eastchester sound very like New England; education of children is provided for and so is the support of a minister. There was agreement to "keep and maintain Christian love and civil honesty" and they pledged "plainly to deal with one another."

A year later, in 1666, General Nicolls, now Governor General of the colony of New York, issued a confirmation of the right of the settlers to hold the land they had obtained from Pell. This was of vital importance to the settlers because they had originally occupied the land when it was under the Dutch government. Acting for the Duke of York, who later became King James II of England, Nicolls granted the settlers a patent. In this patent the name "Eastchester" appears for the first time. Although the English conquerors kept most of the Dutch names in well-populated areas (Harlem, Flatbush, the Bowery, Flushing) they frequently pinned English names on less settled sections, like Eastchester and the neighboring village of Westchester.
The Long Reach

Pinckney's deed and the patent issued by Nicolls covered only the southern part of old Eastchester. Our section remained in possession of the Indians until about 1700. Then another real estate deal was made with the red man, and what was called the "Long Reach" was added to the town. The Long Reach comprised 3,308 acres of land and included all of present-day Eastchester and part of Mount Vernon. In exchange for the land, the Indians were given 13 guns, 12 coats, 12 kettles, 12 axes, 2 adzes and 4 barrels of cider, possibly a little more in cash value than Peter Minuit gave the Indians for Manhattan Island 75 years earlier, but a good price all the same. Eastchester's right to the Long Reach was disputed at first by New Rochelle and Pelham and the village of Westchester, but the case was settled in our favor and in 1708 Queen Anne of England issued a second patent that validated Eastchester's claim to what is now Bronxville, Tuckahoe and the Town Outside.

Eastchester's area remained the same from 1708 until 1892. Then Mount Vernon, which had been established in the 1850's as a planned community on farm land purchased by middle-class working men from New York City, broke away. In 40 years Mount Vernon's population had grown tremendously, and in 1892 it was incorporated as a city. Three years later, in 1895, old Eastchester in the Bronx
was annexed to the City of New York, and Eastchester as we know it assumed its present boundaries.

In the 1700's the little village of Eastchester grew and prospered. It was situated on one of the most important crossroads in Westchester (the county, which extended all the way to the Harlem and East rivers until late in the last century, was formally established in 1683; it was called Westchester because the village of Westchester was picked as the county seat). The old Boston Post Road between New York and Boston passed through the village, and so did an ancient Indian trail that led down to Long Island Sound and a crossing to Long Island. A meeting house was built in Eastchester late in the 1600's, and court was held alternately there and in Westchester village (which was located where Westchester Square in the Bronx is now). The village green in front of the meeting house was used for elections, drilling the militia and for punishment of lawbreakers. For awhile there was an official called the Town Whipper, and there were stocks in which evildoers were placed.

*Bill of Rights*

Part of this old village green still exists near St. Paul's Church. Although it is no longer an official part of our town, it remains the most important heritage of our historical past. Indeed, it is one of the great historical places in America's past. For here, in 1733, began the affair of John Peter Zenger. An election held on the green that year for a representative from Westchester County to the New York Provisional Assembly resulted in the election of Lewis Morris, the candidate of the people, over the candidate put up by the royal governor, William S. Cosby, who was generally despised. Cosby strongly opposed the election of Morris and attempted to steal the election for his own man. Morris won, but there was much criticism of the governor and Zenger, a printer, echoed the criticism in his newly established newspaper, the New York Weekly Journal. Zenger continued these critical attacks until the outraged governor had him arrested on charges of seditious libel.

A royal governor's power in that time was great, and Zenger faced severe punishment. The respected lawyer, Andrew Hamilton, came from Philadelphia to defend the printer, and the trial attracted great attention when it was held, in 1735. Zenger was finally acquitted, and the acquittal established a vitally important legal precedent for freedom of the press and civil liberties in general. The Zenger case contributed to the inclusion of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the United States a half century later, so much so that in 1943 St. Paul's Church, which is about all that remains of the old village of Eastchester, was designated by Congress

*President John Adams lived in this house in the old village of Eastchester for about a month in 1797. It was, in effect, the temporary White House.*
as the National Shrine of the Bill of Rights. In 1763, the foundation was laid for the present-day St. Paul's, although services continued to be held in the old meeting house while the new church was being constructed. St. Paul's was still unfinished when the Revolution broke out.

**THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

In October of 1776, after Washington had retreated from Manhattan Island north to White Plains, British forces sailed up the East River and Long Island Sound and landed along the Westchester shore, intending to move quickly inland to attack Washington. American troops under General Glover fought the enemy to a standstill at Throgg's Neck, but Hessian troops under General Knyphausen landed at Pell's Point and despite heavy casualties finally broke through. Knyphausen moved on towards White Plains, leaving his wounded at St. Paul's. The building did not yet have windows or doors and the Hessians, to keep warm, knocked down the old frame meeting house for firewood, which they burned on the earthen floor of the unfinished church. About 100 Hessians who died at that time are buried in a common grave in the churchyard.

**The Neutral Ground**

At the time of the revolution, the "Long Reach," our present-day Eastchester, consisted primarily of widely scattered farms. It lay in the bloody Neutral Ground, that no-man's-land between British-held New York and American-held territory in the northern part of the county. Irregular bands of marauders, some of them sincere soldiers, others plain looters, raided the Neutral Ground from both sides. Those favoring the American cause were called Skinners, because they were always in quest of clothing and were hangers-on around the Continental Army. Those sympathizing with the British were known as Cowboys, because they were always after cattle. Neither the Skinners nor the Cowboys had a great deal of regard for the farmers trapped between the lines. Many local men were cruelly tortured to make them reveal where family valuables had been buried, or where cattle had been hidden. Often houses and barns were burned while the family watched helplessly, hiding in nearby woods. Few sections of Colonial America suffered more and longer during the Revolution than did Eastchester and the rest of the Neutral Ground.

**The War on White Plains Road**

Skirmishes occurred frequently between Skinners and Cowboys, between men from either group and regular soldiers from the other side, and between patrols of regulars from the armies. Many backwater fights of the war took place in Eastchester. Morrell's Tavern on White Plains Road, just north of the Cross County Parkway in Mount Vernon, was the site of a skirmish, and Brom Dyckman, one of the most famous of the American irregulars, was killed at Scotts Bridge, where Mount Vernon Avenue crosses the New Haven Railroad tracks in Mount Vernon. Several small battles took place at Ward's House in Tuckahoe, on White Plains Road
at the top of Winter Hill Road, which was an important road junction. (Winter Hill Road, then called the Tuckahoe Road, crossed the Bronx River and joined White Plains Road with Scarsdale Road, or the Old Army Road, along which many troops of the Revolution, American and British alike, marched both before and after the battle of White Plains.)

The house that still stands at the road junction is a reconstruction of the old Ward House. The original house, built by Stephen Ward, a local patriot who was a Supervisor of the Town of Eastchester during the Revolution, was frequently used by American soldiers from 1776 to 1778. In 1776, General Charles Lee sent a strong detachment of American troops to attack a body of Hessians and inflicted heavy casualties on them. In March of 1777 a handful of Americans were surprised there by a British raiding force and in a brief, bloody fight about 20 Americans were killed, including Captain Samuel Crawford of Scarsdale. A monument to Crawford stands in the small triangle of ground at the junction of White Plains and Winter Hill Roads. The dead were buried in unmarked graves nearby.

The Ward House

In 1778 the British destroyed the house, but after the war Stephen Ward's son Jonathan rebuilt it, following the original plans. The Ward family was a sad and tragic example of the divided loyalties that tore families and friends apart in the Neutral Ground during the Revolution. Stephen Ward was an outstanding patriot who later became a County Judge, a State Senator, a Member of Congress and a Presidential Elector, but his brother Edmund was a convinced Tory whose son fought with the British army. Edmund's land adjoined Stephen's and covered much of what is now Bronxville Manor and the Siwanoy Country Club. In 1782, at the end of the
Revolutionary War, Edmund's land was confiscated and given to David Williams, one of the captors of Major Andre, the British spy, as a reward.

The Ward House and the large house directly across White Plains Road from it are now dormitories of Concordia Collegiate Institute, but a generation ago the large house on the west side of the road was the home for a time of an infamous gangster and bootlegger named Arthur Fliegelheimer, better known as Dutch Schultz. Because the Ward House was assumed to date from the Revolution, local children years ago used to point at the two houses and say, "Dutch Schultz slept there, and George Washington slept there." Schultz we had, but Washington no. However, the Ward House did entertain one U.S. President, Martin Van Buren, who visited it in 1839. It was then an inn run by John Hayward, who called it Marble Hall, after the marble quarries just down the hill in Tuckahoe. The inn was a stage coach stop for the Red Bird Line, which ran between New York and Danbury, Conn. It also served as a time as a post office. The postal address was "Bronx" to distinguish this area from Eastchester village, which had its own post office in the Odell Tavern on the Boston Post Road.

John Adams and John Kennedy

Two other U.S. Presidents lived for considerable lengths of time in Eastchester. In October, 1797, John Adams and his wife Abigail fled a yellow-fever epidemic in Philadelphia, which was then the nation's capital, and took refuge with their daughter Abigail, who was married to Col. William Stephens Smith, who lived in old Eastchester. The house, part of which is still standing, is on 233rd Street and Provost Avenue in the Bronx. Adams stayed with his daughter for about a month and during that time conducted the nation's business from Eastchester. The Adamses were connected with the town again in 1829 when George Washington Adams, John's grandson and the son of President John Quincy Adams, drowned in Long Island Sound; his body washed ashore in Eastchester Creek. The body was placed temporarily in St. Paul's Church and later his mother gave a silver chalice to the church in his memory, inscribed simply, "1829".

And John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, tragically assassinated in November, 1963, lived on Pondfield Road in Bronxville for several years during the 1930's.
MARBLE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

The backbone of Eastchester is a broad north-and-south ridge, along which White Plains Road runs. East and west of this ridge the ground falls off to the two rivers, the Hutchinson and the Bronx, which for three centuries have been the eastern and western boundaries of the town. A second, irregular ridge, not as high nor as broad as the White Plains Road ridge, but often steeper, parallels the Bronx River for almost the entire length of the town from Bronxville north through Tuckahoe and Crestwood into Scarsdale. Between this height of land and the White Plains Road ridge is a valley that begins at Bronxville High School and runs all the way north into Scarsdale. In this valley are the remnants of the marble quarries which contributed so much to our town's development and growth and which a century ago were the dominant industry here.

The marble outcroppings were well known and from about 1817 they had been worked commercially, but the marble industry did not move into high gear until the arrival of Alexander Masterton in 1832. Masterton, a Scottish immigrant, was a partner in the New York firm of Masterton and Smith, which obtained a $3,000,000 contract to repair buildings in Washington, D.C., that had been badly damaged 20 years before during the War of 1812, when the British burned the Capitol. Masterton needed a dependable, accessible source of marble, and he found it in Tuckahoe. Other businessmen followed his lead and by the latter part of the 19th century there was a string of quarries in operation, running all the way from Main Street in Tuckahoe right up to the Scarsdale border at Woodruff and Ewart Streets.

The quarries' effect was widespread. For instance, three years after he bought his quarry Masterton purchased 11 acres of land on the east side of White Plains Road in Bronxville and built a home that still stands.
Waverly Square in 1909. Waverly, one of several hamlets that grew up around the quarries, was predominantly Irish and sporting. Clandestine cock fights and boxing bouts were held in the building at the right, which is still standing.

In later years the Masterton property grew to 100 acres, and his children and grandchildren and great grandchildren -- Mastertons and Dusenberrys and Ferrises -- have been leading citizens of Bronxville and Eastchester ever since.

The Railroad

The quarries brought the railroad. In the beginning, teams of oxen dragged the great loads of hewn marble down Marbledale Road, up Winter Hill Road and down White Plains Road all the way to Eastchester village and the docks on Eastchester Creek. Schooners took the marble on board and transported it to New York City or to wherever it was destined. The oxen and the "sleds" on which they dragged marble were a familiar sight in those days, and even in the last decade Tuckahoe boys "digging for treasure" in the old marble valley (or Marbledale) were unutterably thrilled when they unearthed huge legbones of animals they hoped were prehistoric but which their grandfathers knew were all that was left of the huge, patient oxen of a century ago.

The oxen were necessary, if only to get the marble from the pits to the workshops, but they were slow. In 1844, not much more than a decade after the steam railroad engine had been introduced in the U.S., the New York and Harlem Railroad (which, incorporated on April 25, 1831, was one of the first U.S. railroad companies) extended its road to White Plains. It is said that the quarry owners and the town raised $15,000 to help bring the railroad in. At any rate, one of the original stops on that 1844 line was Tuckahoe, and it was the only regular stop
between the Bronx and White Plains. In time, spurs ran off the main line directly to the quarry sites. At least one of these spurs was still in use for moving freight up until a very few years ago.

The quarries flourished. Tuckahoe Marble became famous and was used all over the country. It helped build the Washington Monument and rebuild the Capitol. It went as far south as New Orleans, where it was used in the City Hall. It was used plentifully in Boston, and in New York City it formed part of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Grace Episcopal Church, the Custom House, the New York Public Library, the City Hall in Brooklyn and many other buildings.

Marble was cheap locally, of course, and many structures utilized it. The Immaculate Conception Church on Winter Hill Road is made of rough-hewn Tuckahoe marble that looks as new today as it did half a century ago when the church was built. The Assumption Church in Tuckahoe is made of Tuckahoe marble. So is the Samuel Fee building on Main Street in Tuckahoe. In parts of Eastchester the stone walls surrounding some of the older houses are of marble.

**The Draft Riots**

The quarry man was a rugged individual, and on Saturday night the town belonged to him. Taverns were plentiful in Tuckahoe and Eastchester, and so were the fights -- local fights, that is. Bigger fights, like the Civil War, were not so popular. The reason was simple. The quarriers for the most part were immigrants from Europe, or sons of immigrants, who had come to this country in the first place to escape oppressive conditions and find freedom and opportunity. They were afraid of government and afraid of armies. When the horrible Draft
Riots broke out in New York City in July, 1863, the argumentative quarrymen took sides with the rioters and one day a band from the quarries marched on Mount Vernon, by then the metropolis of the town, with the avowed intention of "burning down the house of every Republican in the place." At one point in their march, asked where they were going, the reply was, "We are going to raise hell." Well, they raised hell every Saturday night; one more day did not really matter. But on that day the long march and the July heat enervated the mob, and the homes of Mount Vernon Republicans escaped with a broken window or two.

The quarry era eventually passed. Marble was being replaced in the building trades with sandstone, limestone and granite. One after another the quarries began to slow down, shifting to crushed-stone and marble-dust operations, and finally closing altogether. The old abandoned quarries filled with water from the springs that are still abundant along the valley, and many became swimming holes, dangerous, death-ridden swimming holes because of their precipitous sides and extreme depth. Today, two of the old quarries have been filled in: one of these, at Woodruff Avenue north of Brook Street, is a playground, and the other, off Leewood Drive, is a public tennis court. An old quarry near Leewood is used as a fish hatchery and a source of water for the golf club's fairways. Another one, between Fisher and Lincoln Avenues, is filled with water. The old Conlin quarry on Marbledale Road is slowly being filled in.
The Last Quarry

The last quarry in operation belonged to the Benedict Stone Works, on what is now Dale Avenue between Crestwood Station and the Leewood Golf Club, which dealt in crushed stone. The processing of the stone took place in long covered sheds, in which volatile lubricants were plentiful. Late in 1930 fire broke out in one of the sheds and soon, in one of the most spectacular fires ever to strike Eastchester, the entire operation was aflame, with a huge, billowing pillar of dense black smoke towering hundreds of feet in the air.

And so ended the quarries. But it seems fitting that an industry which for so long was a giant in our town should in its death throes have vigor enough to make a fire in a stone works its last monument.
GRIST MILLS AND MEDICINES

The first industry in town, long before marble quarrying came into being, was milling -- either saw mills for cutting wood or grist mills for grinding wheat and other grains into flour for the farmers. In 1696 the citizens of Eastchester entered into an agreement with Caleb Heathcote, Lord of Scarsdale Manor, to erect saw and grist mills on the Hutchinson River. An agreement to establish a saw and grist mill on the Bronx River in Tuckahoe was drawn up in 1720. Main Street in Tuckahoe is a very old road, part of the one that ran from White Plains Road across the Bronx River (the bridge that spans the Bronx at Burroughs Wellcome in Tuckahoe appears on maps as early as 1728), out along Scarsdale Road, up Underhill Street through Colonial Heights (which was the original Tuckahoe) and on to Philipse Manor in Yonkers.

About 1800 a large stone cotton mill was built on the west bank of the Bronx River near the bridge. That building, which still stands and has been carefully preserved by the Burroughs Wellcome Company, of which it is a functioning part, was one of the first cotton mills ever built in America. It was operated until 1821. Then the building remained vacant until 1853, when the Hodgman Rubber Company took it over, along with other land now part of the village of Tuckahoe. Hodgman, a pioneer rubber manufacturer, remained in business in Tuckahoe for almost three quarters of a century, and its presence stimulated the growth of "Lakeville" (near the Parkway Oval), the oldest "built-up" section of present-day Tuckahoe.

*Depot Square in Tuckahoe in 1910. Main Street is on the left. The building with the spire was on the corner of Main Street and Columbus Avenue. The building at the right, which contained the Eastchester town offices, was moved back about 50 feet to make Depot Square as it is today. Later, it was replaced by the present brick building.*
In 1925 Hodgman sold out and the company was moved to Massachusetts. Two years later Burroughs Wellcome, a British-American medicinal drug firm, bought the factory site and has been the leading industry in Tuckahoe ever since.

In Bronxville, a grist and saw mill was built on the Bronx River just north of Pondfield Road West before the Revolutionary War. In the early 1800's a small factory there for the carding of wool was owned by Lancaster Underhill. About 1840 James Swain took over the millsite and manufactured cutlery there for many years. The Ward Leonard Company, now in Mount Vernon, bought Swain's Mill in 1897, but in 1916 sold it to the Bronx River Parkway Commission. The sturdy old stone building was used as a headquarters station by the Parkway Police until just a few years ago, when it was sold and torn down to make way for the River House Apartments.

There was an axle factory in Bronxville (axles for carriages and wagons, not autos) from 1843 into the 20th century, and a tannery, owned by Frederick Kraft, for whom Kraft Avenue is named, from 1880 until 1923.

Before the railroads came, communication with New York City was almost entirely via the Red Bird Stage Coach Line, which started from Grand Street and

This picture of Hodgman's Rubber Company, on the banks of the Bronx River in Tuckahoe, was taken during the Civil War. Hodgman's was a key industry in town until the 1920's, when it moved away and sold its land to Burroughs Wellcome. The large stone building, originally a cotton mill, is still used by Burroughs.
A panoramic camera made this shot of the Burroughs Wellcome site in the early 1900's when the buildings were still part of the Hodgman Rubber Company. Scarsdale Road leads away from the Bronx River in the center of the picture. To the left, Yonkers Avenue, complete with trolley tracks, heads towards Tuckahoe Road.

The Bowery in New York at 7 a.m. each morning and carried mail and passengers to Danbury. (White Plains Road was called the Danbury Post Road.) At 6 p.m. the coach left Danbury for the return trip. The fare between New York and Ward's Tavern in Tuckahoe, a regular stop, was $1.00.

After the railroad was built, the stage coach disappeared and the town began to change from rural to urban. The farmer no longer had to send his produce to New York by wagon, and the city dweller moved into the country and became the first commuter. Mount Vernon came into existence in the 1850's because of the railroad, and its growth and eventual independence from the rest of Eastchester followed.

Swain's Cutlery Mill in Bronxville was on the Bronx River just north of Pondfield Road West. The building, later used as headquarters for the Parkway Police, was torn down only a few years ago.

The River House apartments now occupy the site.
The Growth of Bronxville

Bronxville, too, was changed profoundly by the coming of the railroad, even though trains did not stop regularly at Underhill's Crossing -- the name Bronxville was not adopted until the 1860's -- until some years after the station was established in Tuckahoe. Alexander Masterton was sufficiently impressed to have a road cut through the woods and down the hill from his house on White Plains Road to the flats of Bronxville so that his carriages and wagons could go directly to the station. With the railroad, more and more wealthy men from New York were able to buy homes in the country that were within easy reach of the city.

In 1890 a man named William Van Duzer Lawrence came to Bronxville. He bought up farms and estates, subdivided the land into large plots and began the slow, controlled development of modern Bronxville. Lawrence Park, on the hill behind the Gramatan Hotel, with its narrow lanes, tall trees, and large, rambling houses, remains one of the most strikingly attractive (and expensive) residential areas in the country.

Artists and writers flocked to Bronxville at this time (many of the Lawrence Park houses have big skylights facing the north light, an artist's requirement), and the village became a hotbed of turn-of-the-century culture. In 1897, to accommodate

This is Pondfield Road West about the turn of the century, looking up the hill from the Bronx River toward the present site of Lawrence Hospital, which would be on the right hand side of the picture.
The Half Way Inn originally housed workers from Swain's Cutlery factory.
the influx of visitors, Lawrence built the Gramatan Inn, a wooden building in Colonial style that burned to the ground two years later. In 1904 he had the present Hotel Gramatan built on the same site in its Spanish tile-and-stucco motif, an architectural style extremely popular in the early decades of this century.

Lawrence's influence on Bronxville was amazingly widespread. He bought "Stoneleigh", the mansion of the late James Swain, and turned it into Bronxville's first apartment house. Other buildings were added to it to make Alger Court. He contributed about $200,000 for the construction of Lawrence Hospital. And in 1906 he and Frank Ross Chambers together gave Bronxville its old pillared village hall (see picture on page 30), which stood until 1940.
IN THE GOO

You got more than A's when you were good in school... you got pretty pieces of paper you could take home and show to the folks. Of course, if you were bad you got more, too... but you didn't tell the folks about that.

Steam engines were portable as today'. were a lot more used commutation.

The Eastchester tax collector's office was in Mount Vernon. Rates seem high, but assessments were correspondingly low.

Young's store in Tuckahoe sold everything from flower seeds to hosiery to coal by the ton. In a sense, it was a nineteenth-century shopping center.

The Popular Variety Store.
Where may be obtained (if not in stock)
EVERYTHING
for
HOUSE FURNISHING,
(including furniture)
HOUSE BUILDING,
hardware, lumber, lime, etc.
HOUSE PAINTING,
all materials.
Seeds for field & garden, & Agricultural Tools.
FERTILIZERS.

Underclothing and Hosiery.
A COUNTER OF BARGAINS IN FANCY GOODS.
COAL BY CARGO OR TON.
Altogether a stock of goods which to Robinson Crusoe would have been worth more than
A MILLION, DOLLARS.

BY R. T. YOUNG,
TUCKAHOE, N. Y.

John Office Receiver of Taxes and Assessments
In Town of East
For Taxes for the Year

Rate per $100
of State, County and Town Taxes.
OLD DAYS

THE BULLETIN.
Mt. Vernon, August 5, 1881.
This is the only official Programme of Concert to be given this evening by

MT. VERNON CORNET BAND.
(PRESENTED BY BARGUET BROS.)

PROGRAMME.
Quickstep, Bagpipe, - - Keller
Waltz, Field Day, - - Rollinson
Selection, Martha, - - Floetow
Quickstep, Happy Moments, Neave
Andante & Maz'ka, Daisy, Hermann
Galop, Tariff, - - Schacht
March, Hungarian, - - Ross

Fortify yourself against the attack of the detested little Mosquito.
Canopies complete at $3.25.
Frames 65 cts. P. DECKER'S Furniture Store.

LADIES SLIPPERS,
Worth their weight in Old Iron,
Only 25c., at PASKETT'S, 160 First Street,
But 5th and 6th Avenues.

BARGUET BROS.
Booksellers and Stationers,
POST OFFICE BUILDING

Stores sponsored band concerts instead of Little League teams,
and if you lived in Tuckahoe or Waverly you took the trolley to get there.
You took the trolley everywhere, even to buy those canopies
to fortify yourself against the detested little mosquito. What a sales talk!
DOWN MEMORY LANE

Bronxville's name comes originally from Jonas Bronck, who owned large tracts of land in Westchester during the Dutch settlement of New York. The river through his property was called Bronck's River, just as the one on the other side of town was called Hutchinson's. Somewhere back in history the spelling changed from Bronck's to Bronx.

The post office that was established at Ward's Tavern on White Plains Road in 1820 was called Bronx -- probably because it was near the Bronx River -- to distinguish it from the other post office in town, Eastchester, which was down by St. Paul's Church. Tuckahoe at that time meant the settlement atop Colonial Heights, near St. John's Church. The heights were called the Tuckahoe hills.

When the railroad came through, the station stop was near old Tuckahoe, and it therefore was called Tuckahoe. A few years later, in 1847, the post office at Ward's changed its name to Tuckahoe to conform. This left the word Bronx sitting around loose. A post office was established at Underhill's Crossing in 1852 and the new name, Bronxville, was eventually applied to it.

Both the Tuckahoe and Bronxville post offices became branches of the Yonkers post office in the early 1900's. The Bronxville office served the village, parts of
eastern Yonkers south of Tuckahoe Road, and the southern part of the unincorporated area (Bronxville became an incorporated village in 1897, Tuckahoe in 1903). The Tuckahoe post office served Tuckahoe, eastern Yonkers north of Tuckahoe Road, and the remainder of the unincorporated area, with the exception of the north end, which came under the Scarsdale post office. A separate Eastchester post office (the old one near St. Paul's had gone out of autonomous existence when New York City annexed the area) was revived in the 1950's and now serves that part of the unincorporated area formerly handled by the Tuckahoe office.

This is a 1909 photograph of A. T. Stewart's summer home on White Plains Road, later Treffurth's Inn and now Mario's Miramare, opposite Eastchester High School. When Stewart, a 19th-century department-store tycoon (and no relation to John Stewart), bought this land it included a marble quarry, from which came the stone for the $2,000,000 mansion he built on the corner of 5th Avenue and 34th Street.

The gates to A. T. Stewart's property are still there on White Plains Road, though the trees in front of the house are mostly gone. The parasoled young ladies are, unhappily, unidentified.
The word Tuckahoe is Indian and apparently described a fibrous root that could be ground into meal for making bread. An old history of Westchester says the name was used for the jack-in-the-pulpit which once grew so plentifully in the woods of town; perhaps some gastronomical pioneer would care to try grinding meal for bread from jack-in-the-pulpit roots as an historical experiment.

**The Old Places**

While the old hamlet of Tuckahoe on Colonial Heights was an established community before and during the Revolution, the land on the Eastchester side of the Bronx River contained only a handful of scattered farms -- until the quarries began operating and Hodgman's Rubber Company was established. Then little villages sprang up -- Lakeville, near the Parkway Oval in Tuckahoe; Waverly, mostly to the north and east of Waverly Square; Sebastapol, north of Eastchester High School in the area of Stewart Place and Water Street; and Upper Tuckahoe, the north end of Eastchester. Legend has it that Sebastapol got its name because of

*The trolley tracks coming out of the picture in the foreground are on their way to Waverly Square. The ones going off to the left are headed for White Plains. To the right is New Rochelle. This is the corner of Mill Road (right) and White Plains Road in the early 1900's. This house is the Parsons homestead, and this intersection, now called Eastchester Square, is still Parsons' Corners to oldtimers in town.*

*A Gulf Oil Station is on this corner now.*
Trolley cars were the chief means of transportation 60 years ago, and Waverly Square was a key connection point. In the background of this picture can be seen the spire of the old wooden Immaculate Conception Church, on the present site of the Waverly Fire House. The church was moved to Winter Hill Road, was used as a school for about 20 years and eventually was torn down in the 1930’s.

The bloody fighting that took place in the taverns there. Stewart Place, which angles off White Plains Road at Eastchester High School and rejoins it several hundred yards further on, is actually the original course of White Plains Road. The small red house on the corner of Stewart and Water Streets is the oldest house within the present boundaries of the town of Eastchester. It was built in the middle of the 18th century, supposedly by a shroudmaker. Clothing was very hard to come by in Colonial times, before cotton mills were established, and often formed an important bequest in early wills. The dead therefore were buried decently but economically in shrouds made for the occasion.

Stewart Place was named for A. T. Stewart, who established one of the first great department stores in New York City. Stewart bought a large tract of land on White Plains Road for a summer place and there built a lovely home that still stands, though it is now a restaurant, Mario’s Miramare. Stewart’s land ran down the hill to the west and included a quarry from which he had marble extracted for use in the construction of his $2,000,000 mansion on Fifth Avenue and 34th Street in New York City.

The Old Roads

White Plains Road is the oldest road in Eastchester. It still follows the original stage-coach route fairly faithfully, with two exceptions — the section paralleling Stewart Place and the section that by-passes Waverly Square. The
original White Plains Road followed Waverly Place into Waverly Square and on up the present Main Street to where Cuttingham Buick is.

Other very old roads are Winter Hill and the lower part of Main Street, Mill Road and New Rochelle Road. Today there are more than 400 streets within the boundaries of the town, but a century ago there were only about 30. Some of the street names have changed since then but, along with those previously mentioned, the following were the only roads in existence 100 years ago. In the North End, there were Brook Street and Harney Road, Maple Street and Wilmont Road. Around Waverly, there were Jackson Avenue, New Street, Tuckahoe Avenue, Highland Avenue (all the way to California Road), Caldwell Place, Prospect Avenue and Ridge Street (between Prospect and Highland only). Marbledale Road ran from Main Street to Fisher Avenue, and Fisher Avenue ran from Marbledale to the railroad tracks at Crestwood. Main Street ran down Cronin's Hill from Waverly and on across the railroad tracks. On the far side of the tracks in Tuckahoe there were Yonkers Avenue, Lake Avenue north of Main Street (though not south), Railroad
Kane's blacksmith shop in Bronxville, near the station. In the early 1900's the old Village Hall, which stood at the juncture of Kraft Avenue and Pondfield Road, was built here. It was later replaced by the present building.

Avenue, Cedar Street, Bronx Street and River Street. Lime Kiln Spur ran from the railroad to the quarry. Sagamore Road ran from Tuckahoe to Bronxville. The only other roads in Bronxville were Pondfield Road West and Pondfield Road as far as Locust Lane, Locust Lane out to White Plains Road, Masterton Road (which included Elm Rock Road and that part of Midland Avenue below Masterton, but not the present section of Masterton between Elm Rock and Pondfield), and New Rochelle Road (which included the part of Pondfield that is east of White Plains Road). California Road ran south from Mill Road through Union Corners. There were open fields and wood lots aplenty around town in those days.

The Trolley Cars

The intersection of White Plains Road and Mill Road was called Parsons Corners, and still is by older residents of town, because the Parsons family lived at that corner. Wilmont and White Plains Road was called Klunk's Corners after

*A billhead from Kane's blacksmith shop, dated March 1, 1893.*

Bronxville, N. Y. March 1, 1893

Mr. A. Masterton

To John Kane, Dr., 
Horse-Shoeing and General Blacksmithing.

BRONXVILLE, NEAR DEPOT.
Klunk's Hotel, which stood where the famous Pine Tree Inn later did and where the Terrace Inn is today. Waverly Square, which had a plentiful supply of stores and taverns, was a major switching point for trolleys, which were installed in the late 1800's and which for decades were the principal means of local transportation. The main trolley line, from White Plains to Mount Vernon, came down White Plains Road (including the present Main Street), through Waverly Square, down the hill to Midland Avenue and on into Bronxville. In Bronxville it turned left onto Poplar Street, right on Gramatan and went all the way to downtown Mount Vernon. A second line from Mount Vernon came up White Plains Road and in Waverly Place to Waverly
Square (right by the Annabelle Grill and Albanese's) where it ended, though, of course, passengers could go on via the other line. A third trolley line shuttled from Waverly Square to the railroad station in Tuckahoe, winding down the hill to Winter Hill Road and then down Main Street. A line from Yonkers, which came over Tuckahoe Road and along Yonkers Avenue, also ended at Tuckahoe station. A trolley from New Rochelle came over Mill Road and joined the White Plains-Mount Vernon line at Parsons Corners. The basic fare was 5¢, and wherever you went, it was a lot of ride for a nickel.

**Face Lifting**

Waverly Square has not changed drastically from the old days (though the trolley tracks are all covered over or torn up by now), but Bronxville and Tuckahoe have. Bronxville was a really small, muddy country village before William Lawrence and Frank Chambers took Pondfield Road in hand. Tuckahoe was a much busier place than Bronxville in those days, but it, too, had a face-lifting of sorts a half century ago, when the railroad tracks were lowered and the grade-crossing eliminated. Stores and business buildings were jacked up and moved back from the tracks. Retaining walls were built along the railroad, the ground filled in, the bridge across the tracks constructed and Depot Square created.

_Ullrich's Grocery Store on Main Street in Tuckahoe in 1907._
*The store, opened in 1904 by mustachioed George Ullrich, continued in operation until May, 1964, when his son Julian Ullrich, the boy leaning against the hitching post, finally closed it down.*
*The man on the left is Ambrose Booker.*
FIRE DEPARTMENT

In the face of the natural divisions in Eastchester -- the three post offices, the three school districts, the three police departments -- a strong unifying force is the Eastchester Fire Department, which has jurisdiction over the entire town without regard to village and district boundaries or post-office addresses. Men from the North End fight fires in Bronxville, volunteers from Chester Heights man equipment at fires in Tuckahoe, residents of Bronxville are there when they are needed at a fire in Waverly Square. The annual parade and inspection of the Fire Department is an occasion for all sections of town.

The Waverly Engine Company, the oldest in the department, was formed in 1894. A year later came the Tuckahoe Hose Company and the Bronxville Engine and Hose. The Union Corners Hose Company was organized in 1904, and the North End Hose in 1905. Until 1927 all firemen were volunteers; since that date a cadre of paid firemen has been maintained to man the stations at all hours and drive the trucks when an alarm sounds. Volunteers hear the fire whistles booming out at different points around town and go directly to the location indicated.

Before the fire companies were formed, the job of putting out fires was left to informal, semi-organized groups (neighbors or shopkeepers) or to impromptu bucket brigades. Even after the companies came into existence, equipment was still rather primitive for a time. Early hand-drawn carts (to which long ropes were attached so that when the vehicles went down hill the men could hang on to the ropes and keep the equipment from getting away) were later replaced by horse-drawn vehicles, and in 1912 the Waverly Company

Left: Old fire alarm list for Tuckahoe and Eastchester. Keys were needed to work the alarm. Right: The Waverly Engine Company testing equipment at the edge of a flooded quarry.
obtained the first piece of motorized equipment, an American La France pump truck that came to be known affectionately as "Old Alexander".

Water was obtained from wells or cisterns and later, after water mains were put in, from hydrants. Union Corners had hydrants in 1890, even before the hose company was formed. Hand-operated bells at the fire house were used to sound the alarm (men ran in night clothes to pull the rope and ring the bell or to clang the old iron gong at Union Corners fire station behind Fischer's Tavern). After electric alarms were installed, a responsible citizen in the vicinity of each alarm box was given possession of the key needed to open the box and sound the alarm.

Today, the Eastchester Fire Department is a modern, superbly equipped, highly efficient fire-fighting force, but a random selection of notes taken from minutes of fire company meetings dating back to 1897 gives a nostalgic picture of

Left: Fire department officials inspecting Bronxville Engine and Hose Company equipment. The fire house was in the old Village Hall. Right: North End Hose Company in 1912 in front of the old firehouse on Wilmont Road, now The Pink Barn.
a small town in the old days. For example: 1897 -- Men were fined $5.00 for taking apparatus outside the town limits without permission. 1898 -- Asked newspapers to publicize the fact that vehicles and bicycles must make way for fire-fighting equipment. 1903 -- Decided to answer Crestwood calls after hearing an appeal from the Crestwood Commission. 1904 -- Fire on property of A. T. Stewart. Barn and hay burned. Alarm sent from Box 60 with key #17. 1906 -- Secretary reported receiving 50¢ from Mr. McNulty, who lost his badge. 1907 -- "...requested that Charles Klunk be notified by telephone in case of fire as it was impossible for him to hear the alarm." 1909 -- Commissioner from Waverly stated that in regard to the parade they were in no way prepared to take part in it and they could not afford it. They were satisfied with a house inspection, but they would not go out on parade. 1909 -- North End Hose Company requested that a ladder be purchased so that they could get water to the top of a building. Water pressure was low in that area.

Joseph L. Langan, one of the first four policemen on the Eastchester force.

Patrolman William Simpkins, half of the Tuckahoe Police Force in 1907.

THE POLICE

The three police departments in town -- Bronxville, Tuckahoe and Eastchester -- have a total strength of 96 men, possess 16 police cars and are responsible for the safety of 32,000 people. Although crime, unhappily, is not unknown in our town, traffic direction and control is, day in and day out, the major continuing responsibility of the local police, and anyone in the vicinity of one of the railroad stations during the morning and evening rush hours knows what an immense job it is.

A policeman's life today is a far cry from the constabulary duty of half a century ago, when only one or two patrolmen were on the streets at the same time. The Bronxville Police Depart-
ment, organized in 1897 when the village was incorporated, consisted of two men, Rudolph Hylsen and Elmer Van Buren. One of the first policemen in Tuckahoe was Frank Hagedorn, and another was William Simpkins, a carpenter by trade before he joined the force. Simpkins later became Chief of Police.

Eastchester's force was not organized until some years after Tuckahoe's and Bronxville's; the town continued to depend on appointed constables who took time out from their regular trade when they were on duty. Robert J. Bellew, Jr., who operated a grocery store near Waverly Square for many years before his death at 90 in 1958, often acted as a constable along with Gus Wallace, who ran a barber shop when he wasn't serving the town in one capacity or another. Men who were boys in the early years of the century fondly remember the Bellew-Wallace technique for handling speeders. Mr. Wallace would stand on upper Main Street near Hall Avenue, and Mr. Bellew would hide from view at the corner of Tuckahoe Ave-

Pedlar Palmer being knocked out by Terrible Terry McGovern in the first round of their world championship fight at Parkway Oval in Tuckahoe, September 12, 1899.
The Allendale Race Track, on the site of Tuckahoe High School, was a popular trotting course. One of the track's best rigs (right) was owned by Judge Robert J. Bellew, who lived on White Plains Road.

...and Main, his watch at the ready. If a horseless carriage came blistering past Mr. Wallace at a speed he felt exceeded the speed limit, he signalled Mr. Bellew, who would clock the time it took the errant driver to reach Tuckahoe Avenue. If Mr. Wallace's judgement was right, and Mr. Bellew's watch proved it, the speeder was pinched.

Times change. Now we have radar.

THE SPORTING LIFE

Sports and games are a big part of every American community, but Eastchester's sporting background is exceptionally rich. One of the most famous world championship fights, for weight classes other than heavyweight, took place in this town on September 12, 1899, when Terrible Terry McGovern, featherweight champion of the world, knocked out the English challenger, Pedlar Palmer, in the first round. The fight took place in Tuckahoe, on the site of today's Parkway Oval, with the ring situated just about where second base is now.

Despite its brevity (a popular local joke for years was the one about the city slickers from New York who arrived late and paid to get in just as the fight was ending), the match was of historical significance. Boxing, for the most part, had been a sub rosa sport, but Sam Harris, the showman who managed McGovern, took his fight out of the New York City clubs and promoted it as a spectacle, setting an example that is still followed today. He picked Tuckahoe because it was set up for boxing matches (the Westchester Boxing Club presented bouts there regularly), because the country setting was pleasant and attractive and because the arena was close to the New York Central station.

Out to Tuckahoe came 9,000 people, which would be an immense crowd in our town even today. Among them were Sir Thomas Lipton, the tea merchant and international sportsman, Richard Croker of Tammany Hall, John L. Sullivan, Diamond Jim Brady, a bevy of Vanderbilts, a squad of Goulds and hordes of other celebrities of the day. Terrible Terry delighted and disappointed the crowd by ending the fight almost as soon as it began, and perhaps that is the reason why big-
Bicycling was as big a rage at the turn of the century as sports cars are now. The lad at the right is Leroy Lockwood, for many years an important figure in business and political circles in town.

Time boxing never came back to the Parkway Oval. It was a long trip from New York for two minutes and three seconds of entertainment.

Bigger than boxing in Eastchester before the turn of the century was harness racing, a sport much favored by prosperous men who loved to "brush", or sprint, their favorite horses against another man's, either in an impromptu road race or in a formal contest on a track. In the late 1800's, on spring and summer Sundays, all the country dirt roads in southern Westchester seemed to lead to the Allendale Trotting Course in Eastchester. The Allendale Course was on an estate called Fairview, which became Fairview Park when it was subdivided and which is now generally known as Bronxville Manor. The race course itself was just about where Tuckahoe High School is now, and the most popular way to get to it was to turn off White Plains Road onto a tree-lined country path that everyone called Lovers' Lane and drive the half mile in to the track. Lovers' Lane is now Rose Avenue, though the old name was still being used as late as the 1930's.
The Allendale track was surrounded by a stone wall. On Sundays families took baskets of food with them to the races and sat by the stone wall and had a picnic as they enjoyed the fun. As one old timer said, long ago, "It surely was a fine place to court a girl." No wonder they called Rose Avenue Lovers' Lane.

After the turn of the century, the big sport in town (aside from the clandestine cock fights and boxing bouts in Waverly Square) was baseball, and the big team was the Waverly A.A. Games were played every Sunday at the Rye Lot against crack teams like the Lilacs and the Hollywoods from Yonkers. The Rye Lot was a ball field off Lime Kiln Spur near the Conlin Quarry. Big crowds of local people gathered to watch games, and betting was heavy. Paul Krichell, who years later gained prominence as Chief Scout for the New York Yankees, caught for the Waverly A.A., though he lived in the Bronx, and on at least one occasion the Waverlys imported a bonafide ringer for a big game -- Iron Man Joe McGinnity, Christy Mathewson's pitching partner on John McGraw's New York Giants.

Later, golf became Eastchester's sport, so much so that in 1928 Nan O'Reilly, golf editor of the New York Evening Journal, dubbed Eastchester "The Cradle of American Golf." There were four 18-hole golf courses on what had once been farmlands and woods, four full-size golf courses in one small town. Of the four, Siwanoy, Leewood and Vernon Hills (originally called Mount Vernon) still exist, but Oakridge (later called Twin Oaks) has disappeared under the streets and houses of the Huntley Estates and Hickory Hill. Eastchester's beautiful town hall was originally the Oakridge club house.

*This photo, taken in the 1880's, shows theBronxville tennis club, one of the earliest in the country. Note the flat-topped rackets. The young lady in the striped skirt at the left in the front row is Amie Dusenberry, who was a dominant figure in town for more than 70 years before her death in 1959.*
The years 1925 through 1931 were golden ones for Eastchester golf. In 1925 Willie MacFarlane, Scottish-born professional at Oakridge, sent the town into wild jubilation when he tied the incomparable Bobby Jones in the U. S. Open and then beat Jones in the playoff. A year later, in 1926, Jess Sweetser of Bronxville and Siwanoy traveled to Scotland and returned with the British Amateur Championship. In 1928 Johnny Farrell, an Eastchester boy, won the U. S. Open title in another playoff with Bobby Jones. And in 1931 Tom Creavy, a local boy just a few years out of high school, won the P. G. A. championship when he beat Denny Shute in the finals. On his way to the title Creavy defeated Gene Sarazen; both Sarazen and Creavy had been caddies at Siwanoy. Creavy's younger brother, Jack, later became one of the best amateur golfers in New York State.

_SCHOOLS_

Article #14 of the covenant drawn up in 1665 by the original settlers of Eastchester asked that "provision be endeavored for the education of children, and that encouragement be given unto any that shall take pains according to our former way of rating."

It is evident from various entries in the town minutes during the 1600's and 1700's that a schoolmaster was employed from time to time to carry out this provision. Until the time of the Revolution, sums of money from the rent and sale of town-owned land were applied to the maintenance of the town's school in Eastchester village.

By 1797 there were four schools in town -- one in Eastchester, one in what is now Mount Vernon, one on White Plains Road at the southern end of California
Road and one on White Plains Road at Wilmont Road. In 1835 the school at California and White Plains Roads was replaced by a new building constructed of marble from the local quarries. Children from present-day Bronxville, Tuckahoe, Chester Heights and part of Mount Vernon attended the Marble School, as it came to be called. In 1869 the school was moved at the cost of $1,000 to a site on California Road at Union Corners, where it still stands.

Children from the eastern part of town then attended the Marble School, while those from Bronxville and Tuckahoe went to a new wooden school built on Pondfield Road in 1870. This school was replaced by a new one on the same site in 1906. In 1924 the present Bronxville School (all grades from kindergarten through high school) was built at the corner of Pondfield Road and Midland Avenue.

A school was built in Tuckahoe in the 1890's at the south end of Jefferson Place. It was superseded in 1906 by Main Street School, which in turn was replaced by the William E. Cottle School in the late 1950's. Tuckahoe High School was built in 1931.

The north end of town was united for a time with a portion of New Rochelle for schooling purposes; classes were held in Eastchester at Wilmont Road and later at Coopers Corners in New Rochelle. After the civil war a wooden school was built in the north end of town and served that area until the Wilmont School was built.

*The Marble School, near the corner of California and New Rochelle Roads. Built in 1835, this famous old one-room school is being restored by the Eastchester Historical Society and will serve as a museum of local history.*
During the civil war another one-room school built of marble was erected just north of Waverly Square and, later incorporated into a large wooden structure, was used by children of that section until a new Waverly School was built at the end of the 19th century on the present site, Main Street and Bellew Avenue. Present schools in the district are Waverly, Greenvale (which replaced Wilmont), Fenimore Cooper, Anne Hutchinson, Eastchester Junior High and Eastchester Senior High, which was built in 1928.

There are three parochial grammar schools in town (Assumption, Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph's), and local students also attend parochial schools in Pelham and Scarsdale.

The old marble school near Waverly was used commercially for 60 years after its last students left, but when the parking lot behind the Waverly Lanes bowling alley was enlarged a few years ago the old school was torn down and no trace of it remains.

However, the other marble school — The Marble School — at Union Corners has been preserved. It was given to the Town of Eastchester in 1952 and in 1959 was presented to the Eastchester Historical Society. The building is now being restored. When work is completed, the old school will appear as it did in the 1830's, and it will also serve as a museum dedicated to Eastchester's historical past.

The Town Hall on Mill Road, Eastchester.
TODAY

After Mount Vernon and old Eastchester broke away in the 1890's, town offices were maintained at the depot in Tuckahoe -- on the second floor of a commercial building at first and later in the Tuckahoe Village Hall. Eastchester's population more than tripled between 1920 and 1960, and most of this growth was outside the villages of Bronxville and Tuckahoe. By the 1940's the offices in Tuckahoe proved inadequate, and the old Wilmont School on White Plains Road was taken over and converted into a makeshift Town Hall. After the subdivision of the Oakridge Golf Course came the opportunity to obtain the old Oakridge club house on Mill Road. The building was in an ideal central location and after extensive remodeling inside and refurbishing outside it was officially dedicated as the Town Hall in 1957. It is one of the most attractive public buildings in the state and a splendid symbol of the 300-year-old Town of Eastchester -- a happy blend of the old and the new, a perfect mating of historic past and dynamic future.

Patrons

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TOWN OF EASTCHESTER
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Eastchester District 2 P.T.A.
Eastchester Historical Society
Eastchester Savings Bank
Edwards World Travel Service
Eldine Shop
Jane Engel
Ferone & Ferone
First Federal Savings & Loan Association
  of New York
First National City Bank
First Westchester National Bank
Friends of Eastchester Library
Fryer Family
Gramatan Moving & Storage Company, Inc.
Bernard Grey
Julius Hammer, The Bottle Shop
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence F. Howard
E. A. Hugill, Jr.
Huntley Stationery
Interlaken Residents Association, Inc.
Idice Fuel Service
Coach Jack Jarvis
Georg Jensen Inc.
Jernigan Pontiac, Inc.
Knights of Columbus,
  Rev. John A. Keogh Council 2108
Mr. & Mrs. Harry V. Knowles
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Krouppa
Lawrence Labriola
Lawrence Management Inc.
Leeswood Golf Club
Leeswood Residents Association, Inc.
Le Roy Gregory Post 979 American Legion
Le Roy Gregory Post 979 American Legion
  Auxiliary
Mary and Frank Link
Lord & Taylor
Dr. & Mrs. Seymour Mann
Fred H. Mc Grath & Sons, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh James Mc Ilrevey
Judge & Mrs. Sidney Meilman
Mt. Vernon Advertising Service
Mount Vernon Savings & Loan Association
Miss Mary L. G. Muir
Nalven & Schroeder, Inc.
Frank E. Nash Fence Company
National Bank of Westchester
Nescott Drug Mart
The New York Telephone Company
Dr. & Mrs. S. A. Orsini & Family
Parkway Manor Association
Mr. & Mrs. Ellisworth G. D. Paterson
John J. Rocco
Roma Restaurant, Inc.
Harry M. Rounds
Rotary Club of Eastchester
Scarsdale Plaza Theatre
Marie Scott, Inc.
Screen Print Shop
Siwanoy Country Club
Stoffel Seals Corporation
Town Hall Community Theatre, Inc.
Judge Robert J. Trainor
Tuckahoe-Eastchester Girl Scout
  Council, Inc.
Tuckahoe-Eastchester Lions Club
Tuckahoe Savings and Loan Association
The Uniformed Paid Fireman's
  Association, Inc., Eastchester, N. Y.
Malcolm B. Varney
Grace Vesper, Lewis Insurance Agency
Veterans of Foreign Wars #2285
Sidney Vogel
Westchester Funeral Home, Inc.
Wilmont Manor Community Association
Women's Auxiliary,
  North End Hook & Ladder Co. #2
The Women's Club of Eastchester, Inc.