

SIGNIFICANT PERSONAGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE JULIA L. BUTTERFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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COLD SPRING HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD

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

JULIA L. BUTTERFIELD PATRON AND BENEFACTOR

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

Julia Lorillard Safford was born in New York City in 1823. In December 1841, at the age of 18, she married Frederick Plummer James of Deerfield, New Hampshire. Frederick James was a successful broker and banker in New York City, and the wealth he accumulated allowed him to build a home on 5th Avenue in New York as well as a country estate in Cold Spring.² The magnificent stone village home was built in 1852 and named Cragside for its construction on a hillside strewn with an avalanche of rocks.³ It was located on what is today the grounds of Haldane Central School, and, although it was destroyed by fire in 1979,⁴ several of its related outbuildings still exist—the 1866 porter's lodge at the foot of its drive is a private home, and the carriage house was converted to administrative offices for Haldane. Additionally, Julia's second husband, General Daniel Butterfield, commissioned the stone eagle sculpture that stands near the school today, commemorating General Washington's Revolutionary Army encampment nearby.⁵ At Cragside, the Jameses lavishly entertained guests from around the world, from an Indian prince to the Count of Paris.⁶ She even was given an ornate sleigh by the Russian government in return for her hospitality to an Imperial Grand Duke at Cragside in 1893. Julia also made the home a creative salon, mentoring artists and architects of the Hudson Valley, including Thomas Rossiter and George Harney.



Figure 1: Thomas P. Rossiter (1818-1871) Portrait of Julia Lorillard James (painted prior to her second marriage to Gen. Butterfield). Oil on canvas, 1861. Courtesy of the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library and the Putnam County News and Recorder.

Mrs. Butterfield was an early patron and loyal member of the Putnam Historical Society (as the Putnam History Museum was originally known).⁷ So dedicated was she that when too ill to attend a meeting, she sent flowers and cakes as a show of her good wishes.⁸ She was also engaged in her faith community. She and Frederick James not only contributed funds to help build St. Mary's Church in 1868, but also donated from a quarry at Cragside the grey granite used for its walls and bell tower. Later Julia donated an ornate Russian cross she acquired on a trip abroad for use on the high altar. In 1872 the Jameses built the Parish House in honor of their two sons, who both died young. Both the church and the Parish House were designed by the architect George Harney, whose prestige grew because of these early commissions and the faith placed in him by the Jameses.⁹ Today, St. Mary's is known as "the cathedral of the Hudson Valley," and its Parish House serves many community functions and celebrations. Additionally, in Mrs. Butterfield's Last Will and Testament, she gave \$10,000 for the construction of a parsonage at St. Mary's;¹⁰ it was built in 1916 and still stands. The trustees of the estate selected as its architect Hobart Brown Upjohn, the grandson of the famed 19th century architect Richard Upjohn. Hobart could easily have been dwarfed by the reputation of his grandfather, who designed The Grove in Cold Spring and Garrison's St. Philip's Church, as well as larger commissions which earned him a place in the pantheon of great American architects. Instead the younger Upjohn rose to be a prominent designer in his own right and the favored architect of the Butterfield estate.

Following Frederick James's death, Julia married a social acquaintance, General Daniel Adams Butterfield, in 1886. General Butterfield was born in Utica, New York and was a colonel in the New York State Militia 12th Regiment when it was mobilized for the Civil War. He fought in many major engagements during that war, including at the Battle of Gettysburg as chief of staff to General Meade.¹¹ Together, the Butterfields were active participants in the Cold Spring community for the rest of their lives. General Butterfield died in 1901 and was buried at West Point with full military honors.¹² Julia died in 1913 and was buried in the James Family

Mausoleum in the Cold Spring Cemetery along with her first husband Frederick and her two sons.

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

Julia Butterfield's largest bequest gave Cold Spring a hospital at a time when few rural communities had such immediate access to a broad range of medical services. The \$150,000 she bequeathed to build, outfit and endow The Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Hospital, opened in 1925, served generations of citizens in Cold Spring and the surrounding areas. Its first architect was, again, Hobart Brown Upjohn, this time working in the Colonial Revival style.¹³ In its first year, the hospital admitted 218 patients, delivered 21 babies and conducted 43 surgeries.¹⁴ Its first annual report was 20 pages long; 14 of those pages consisted of lists of gifts and support from local residents, a true testament to the value this community placed on its hospital.

IDA HELEN HAAR TIMME PATRON AND BENEFACTOR

An addition made in 1941 to the original Butterfield Hospital was funded in large part by the Timme family (pronounced Tim-mee), and is dedicated to the memory of Ida Helen Haar Timme, the first wife of Dr. Walter Timme. Both Dr. and Mrs. Timme had national reputations and were prominent in academic, charitable and social circles in New York. However, like the Jameses and Butterfields before them, the Timmes chose to make Cold Spring their country home and developed a strong, heartfelt dedication to the village and its residents.

Dr. Timme was highly esteemed as an endocrinologist and neurologist and was the first Professor of Neuroendocrinology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was also the first authority to describe a pluriglandular disease later known as "Timme's Syndrome."¹⁵ Ida Timme was a suffragette who worked for the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, which extended voting rights to women.¹⁶ She also was a trusted partner to Margaret Sanger, founder of what would become Planned Parenthood, in the movement to allow women access to birth control. Ida traveled widely for the cause, appearing in many venues across the nation and even substituting for Sanger at speeches and debates when Sanger was not available.¹⁷

Walter Timme met Ida Haar around 1895 when she organized a branch of the Monday Evening Club, an invitation-only intellectual and debate club, at her home in Washington Heights in Manhattan.¹⁸ Their engagement was announced in 1897¹⁹ and their wedding took place with much society-page coverage in 1901.²⁰ Sometime prior to 1926 the Timmes purchased the former estate of the locally-esteemed Charles Seton Lindsay, located on Route 301 just a little west of Route 9. In 1918, the structure had had alterations and additions by the architect Hobart Brown Upjohn,²¹ architect of the original 1925 Julia Butterfield Memorial Hospital. The Timmes called that country home "Tahigwa" which is said to be a Native American word for "at peace."²² The Timmes quickly integrated into Philipstown and Cold Spring and engaged in intellectual and charitable pursuits here as vigorously as they did in the City.



Portrait of Dr. Walter Timme that hung in Butterfield Hospital. Photograph of portrait courtesy Carol Lahey Hopper.

Mrs. Timme was almost a later-day Julia Butterfield in terms of her community involvement in Cold Spring and Philipstown. She was much more engaged here than was her husband, who, because of his medical research, spent more of his time in New York City. She constantly hosted benefits for local causes, including the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the Philipstown Garden Club,²³ and the Hudson River Society (a 1930s forerunner of Scenic Hudson).²⁴ It is notable that she was a successful fundraiser for such causes all during the Great Depression when funds were scarce. Politically, she was the founder of the Putnam County Women's Republican Committee and was re-elected its president until her death. Under her leadership, that organization's membership grew to 1,300, a feat for which Ida Timme was honored with a bronze plaque at the Women's National Republican Club in New York.²⁵ She also was an active member of League of Women Voters²⁶ and the American Red Cross.²⁷

Even with this busy schedule of activism, Ida managed to hold the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Hospital close to her heart and was integral to its fundraising efforts. Following her death in 1940, her husband chose to honor her memory with a significant gift to jump-start the expansion of the hospital in 1941.²⁸ A public fundraising campaign expanded the Timme gift and allowed the hospital to nearly double in size. As testament to the regard in which Ida Timme was held, the original campaign goal of \$50,000 was surpassed and an additional \$25,000 raised in less than a year. Cold Spring architect Stanley E. White was engaged to design the wing, named for Mrs. Timme.²⁹ His design honored the form and spirit of the original Hobart Upjohn Colonial Revival design, and continues its stately brick work, cornice and other decorative details. The expansion project was completed surprisingly quickly despite steel shortages³⁰ in the lead-up to World War II; the updated hospital opened in 1942.

Dr. Timme died in 1956. He and Ida so loved the village that they chose to be buried here, and repose in their mausoleum in Cold Spring Cemetery, close by the Julia Butterfield tomb. They dubbed their place of rest "Little Tahigwa"³¹ after their beloved Cold Spring home. The second

Mrs. Timme, née Ann Auwell Kane, whom Dr. Timme married in 1951, also was actively committed to Butterfield Hospital and served as one of the lead fundraisers for a 1963 addition to the east and north facades of the structure.

DR. CORYELL CLARK
STAFF PHYSICIAN, FIRST CHAIRMAN OF HOSPITAL BOARD, BENEFACTOR

The 1963 addition to Butterfield Memorial Hospital—the Modernist steel, glass and brick portion which faces Paulding Avenue—was funded in part by and dedicated to Dr. Coryell Clark, a gifted physician who cherished his adopted Cold Spring community and dedicated his career to providing quality health care to its residents.³² Dr. Clark was born on November 29, 1879 in Windham, Pennsylvania to William Henry Clark and Fannie Coryell Clark. Among his family’s distinctions was his maternal great-great-grandfather’s service as a federal soldier in George Washington’s Revolutionary Army. Clark graduated from Cornell University’s Medical School in 1900; he then interned at Bellevue Hospital in New York City. In 1903, he arrived in Cold Spring to serve as an assistant to Dr. Richard Giles, who practiced on Fair Street. In 1907, Clark married Katherine Campbell, a daughter of one of Cold Spring’s great founding families; her parents were Brigadier General John Campbell and his wife, Mary. Dr. Clark was surely steeped in the Village’s cultural heritage through his intimate connection with the family.



Portrait of Dr. Coryell Clark that hung in the Butterfield Hospital. Photograph of portrait courtesy of Carol Lahey Hopper.

Clark established his own practice in Cold Spring, earning the trust and loyalty of families throughout the community. Then, he lent his expertise to the Army as a volunteer in the Medical Service Corps during World War I, although it is not known whether he served at home or abroad. Regardless, Dr. Clark put the discipline of his military experience to use in Cold Spring after the war, leading the local response to the 1918 influenza pandemic. At the time there was no hospital in Cold Spring; the ill were attended by physicians in their homes. Dr. Clark quickly

recognized that without a means to isolate local victims, the spread of the virus would be catastrophic. He organized a temporary emergency hospital at Main Street and Morris Avenue, slowing the rate of contamination and saving the lives of many in his care. In this crisis, the need for a properly constituted local hospital became abundantly clear. Julia Butterfield's estate made possible such a facility in 1925, and Dr. Clark became an esteemed member of its medical and surgical staff.

In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Clark served this community in many other capacities. He was Chairman of the hospital's Board of Trustees, a President of the Putnam County Medical Society, a member of the New York State Medical Society, and a member of the American Medical Society. He was the health officer of Cold Spring for quite some time, a district surgeon for the New York Central Railroad for 20 years, and a medical examiner in the selective service system during World War II, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Citation. Dr. Clark was elected President of the Haldane School Board, President of the National Bank of Cold Spring, and President of the Cold Spring Cemetery Association. He was also a member of the Cold Spring Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Old Homestead Club and the Methodist Church. He also was a dedicated member of the Cold Spring Fire Company, and was honored in 1953 with a gold membership card for fifty years of service.

Dr. Clark died on September 10, 1957. He bequeathed most of his estate to Butterfield Hospital. That bequest, along with gifts from other Philipstown residents and federal grants, made possible the renovation of the original 1925 hospital structure and 1941 Timme Memorial Wing, as well as the construction of the 1963 addition. Unfortunately, the re-envisioning removed the stately third floor of the original building. The program from the Clark Pavilion's dedication states: "[The hospital] stands at this dedication, not only as a memorial to Mrs. Butterfield and to Dr Clark, but as a modern hospital serving the sick of the community with the best medical science has to offer."

The Modernist style of the Clark Pavilion is the only example of its use in Cold Spring for a public amenity, and it represents, in tangible form, the 20th Century progress of a village strongly rooted in the 19th century. In many ways, the Clark Pavilion symbolizes Cold Spring's modern evolution, and connects the village to larger American, and indeed international, societal trends. With their choice to use the Modernist architectural style alongside the Upjohn and White Colonial Revival wings, the hospital trustees communicated to villagers, patients and staff the quantum leaps in local medical care that would be achieved within the facility's expanded walls.

CAROLYN SMITH LAHEY
ASSISTANT HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR, CAREER-LONG STAFF MEMBER

After the mid-20th century, the practice of medicine shifted dramatically in America. Until that time, physicians commonly saw patients either in small offices set up in their own homes, or made house calls to the infirm. With the shift toward a more systematic method of delivering medical services, local communities across the nation developed shared office spaces in which doctors rented suites; Cold Spring was no exception. Between 1967 and 1970 the Trustees of the Butterfield Hospital had a medical arts building constructed, appending it to the west façade of the main hospital complex. That structure was destroyed by fire in early 1983, and its replacement, the Carolyn Lahey Pavilion, honors a native Philipstown resident who served our community with dedication and distinction.³³

Carolyn Lahey, née Smith, was born in Manitou in 1939. She was the daughter of Vivian Palen Smith and Harold Smith. She was a graduate of the Manitou School and Haldane High School, and, after marrying Philip J. Lahey in 1957, she went on to a successful career at Butterfield Hospital. She was a 24-year employee, advancing from a switchboard operator to Assistant Hospital Administrator. While rising through the ranks, she served as the Director of Butterfield's Medical Records Department, a post she earned after training in medical records management at SUNY Albany and being accredited by the American Medical Records Association. Mrs. Lahey also acted as liaison for the Medical Records Department at Putnam Community Hospital from 1981 to 1984. She was an active member of the Butterfield Hospital Auxiliary and co-chaired the annual Butterfield Hospital Fair. From 1977 through the hospital's closing, this was a well-attended affair which strengthened ties between the institution and the community.



Figure 4: Carolyn Smith Lahey in front of the main entrance of the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Hospital, circa 1980. Photo courtesy Carol Lahey Hopper and the Putnam County News & Recorder.

Following the devastating fire in the hospital's original Medical Arts Building, Assistant Administrator Lahey worked closely with the medical staff to facilitate its reconstruction. The new structure was designed by Peekskill architect Ivars Hansen, and, like the earlier portions of the complex, it is representative of the architectural fashion of its time. Its form is linear and low to the ground and its brick façades are largely without ornamentation. Its interior decoration was advised by Fred Stanyer, who at the time was director of the Boscobel Restoration. Today, although the structure remains physically attached to the 1925 portion of Butterfield Hospital, the Carolyn Lahey Pavilion is independently owned and operated by Hudson Valley Hospital Center.

In 1984, during the rebuilding of the Medical Arts Building, Carolyn Lahey died suddenly. A deeply saddened medical staff chose to name the new facility in her honor; it was dedicated on July 19, 1985. In a remembrance published immediately after her death, Thomas Dee, the Chief Operating Officer of Butterfield Hospital said "Rarely does an individual play such a major role in the personality of an institution as Carol did. Her dedication, professionalism, sensitivity and leadership have been the driving forces behind Butterfield Hospital for many years. . .She had the unique ability to transcend ideas into action. While most of us would sit around and discuss, Carol would go out and do."

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- ¹ Cold Spring Historic District Review Board. "A Look Back at the Families Who Funded Butterfield Hospital: Key Players who Shaped the Site's Cultural, Political and Social History," *Putnam County News and Recorder*, Cold Spring, New York. September 12, 2012, Pg. 7.
- ² N.A. "Butterfield Estate Released by Death," *The Sun*. New York, NY. August 7, 1913, pg.2. Recounts complicated details of combined Frederick James, General Butterfield and Julia Butterfield wills.
- ³ Capt. Henry Metcalf. "Julia Lorillard Butterfield," *Cold Spring Recorder*. August 8, 1913, pg.1.
- ⁴ N.A., "Fire Destroys Former Butterfield Home Here Friday," *Putnam County Courier*. February 14, 1979, n.p.
- ⁵ Trudie A. Grace. *Around Cold Spring*, Images of America Series. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011. Page 74.
- ⁶ N.A. "Welcomed by Old Comrades," *The Press*. New York, NY. October 4, 1890, pg.1. Also: *New York Herald*, April 19, 1891, pg.12; and *New York Herald*, July 11, 1893, pg.4.
- ⁷ Hank Newer. "The Putnam County Historical Society," *Putnam County Courier*. September 10, 1970, pg.11. Mrs. Butterfield was elected second vice-president at the Society's founding in 1906.
- ⁸ N.A. "Mrs. Butterfield Dies at Cragside," *Cold Spring Recorder*. August 8, 1913, pg. 1.
- ⁹ History section of the website of The Episcopal Church of St Mary-in-the-Highlands, accessed via <http://www.stmaryscoldspring.org/history.html>.
- ¹⁰ N.A. "Mrs. Butterfield's Will," *Cold Spring Recorder*. August 15, 1913, n.p.
- ¹¹ N.A. *Putnam County Republican*, Carmel, New York. July 20, 1901, n.p. Found in the collection of the Putnam Historical Museum.
- ¹² N.A., "The Funeral," *Putnam County Courier*. July 22, 1901, p.7.
- ¹³ N.A. "Ground Broken for Hospital and Library Buildings," *Cold Spring Recorder*. July 28, 1922, p.1.
- ¹⁴ Carol Lahey. "Butterfield: Generous Gift and Strong Tradition," *Butterfield Hospital News*. Summer 1983, pg.3.
- ¹⁵ N.A. "Walter Timme, Neurologist, 81" (obituary), *The New York Times*. February 13, 1956.
- ¹⁶ N.A. *The New York Herald*. February 16, 1917, pg. 7.
- ¹⁷ N.A. "Beechurst Women's Club Votes. . .In Favor of Birth Control Education," *The Daily Star* (Queens, New York). May 1, 1929, pg. 1.
- ¹⁸ N.A. *The New York Herald*. November 17, 1895, pg. 19.
- ¹⁹ N.A. *The New York Herald*. October 17, 1897, pg. 8.
- ²⁰ N.A. *The Evening Telegram*, New York. June 28, 1901, pg. 6.
- ²¹ Everard M. Upjohn. "Hobart B. Upjohn: An Informal Account as I Remember Him, 1972." Typed manuscript in the collection of the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- ²² N.A. "Mr. Chipmunk has Wild night Battle with Desperate Electric Scarecrow". *Daily Journal*, Medina, New York. July 24, 1926, n.p. Article describes elaborate rodent-foiling contraption installed in Timme's Cold Spring home.
- ²³ N.A. "Mrs. Walter Timme dies in Philipstown," *Putnam County Courier*. February 15, 1940, pg.1.
- ²⁴ N.A. "A Mass Meeting in Cold Spring," *Putnam County Courier*. July 17, 1936, pg. 1.
- ²⁵ N.A. "Annual Meeting of Putnam County Women's Republican Club," *Putnam County Republican*, May 25, 1940, pg.1; and n.a. "Mrs. Timme Honored at Women's Republican Club," *Putnam County Courier*, June 13, 1940, pg.1.
- ²⁶ N.A. *The New York Times*. April 29, 1923, pg. 7.
- ²⁷ N.A. *The New York Herald*. December 16, 1917, pg. 7.
- ²⁸ N.A. "Will Raise \$50,000 for Hospital Wing," *Putnam County Republican*. January 21, 1941, n.p.
- ²⁹ N.A. *Putnam County Courier*. February 16, 1941, pg. 1
- ³⁰ N.A. *Putnam County Republican*. August 15, 1941, pg. 1. The building contractor denied any delays or shortages existed.
- ³¹ N.A. "Timme Burial Services Held," *Poughkeepsie Star-Enterprise*. February 12, 1940, pg. 2.
- ³² The facts provided in the paragraphs related to Dr. Coryell Clark are compiled from the following sources:
Documents, clippings and other materials related to Butterfield Hospital, held in the collection of the Putnam History Museum, Cold Spring, New York and accessed August 2012.
Lahey, *op. cit.*
"The New Julia Butterfield Memorial Hospital: Progress in Health. . ." Brochure used as part of fundraising campaign for the 1963 Clark Pavilion addition. Found in files related to Butterfield Hospital in the collection of the Putnam History Museum, Cold Spring, New York and accessed September 2012.
"The New Dr. Clark Pavilion of the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Hospital, Cold Spring, NY,) October, 20, 1963." Dedication program found in the collection of the Desmond Fish Library, Garrison, New York and accessed online at <http://desmondfishlibrary.org/lisa/ColdSpringHistoryhosp.pdf>.
- ³³ The facts provided in the paragraphs related to Carolyn Smith Lahey are compiled from the following sources:
Interview with Carol Lahey Hopper, daughter of Carolyn Smith Lahey. Conducted by Historic District Review Board Member Marie Early, August 29, 2012.
Clippings in the collection of Carol Lahey Hopper, daughter of Carolyn Smith Lahey.
N.A. "A Medical Phoenix Out of the Ashes," *Butterfield Hospital News*. Summer 1983, pg. 1.