

Village of Menands

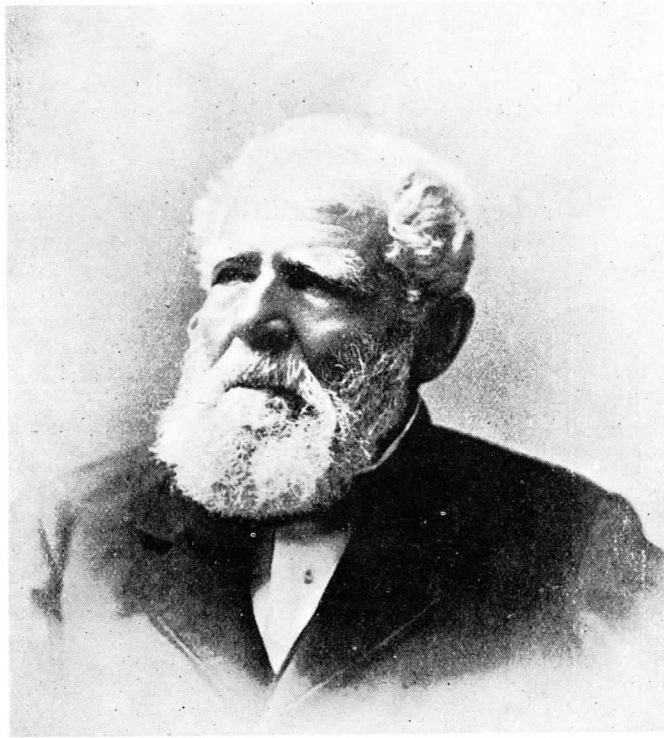
50th Anniversary



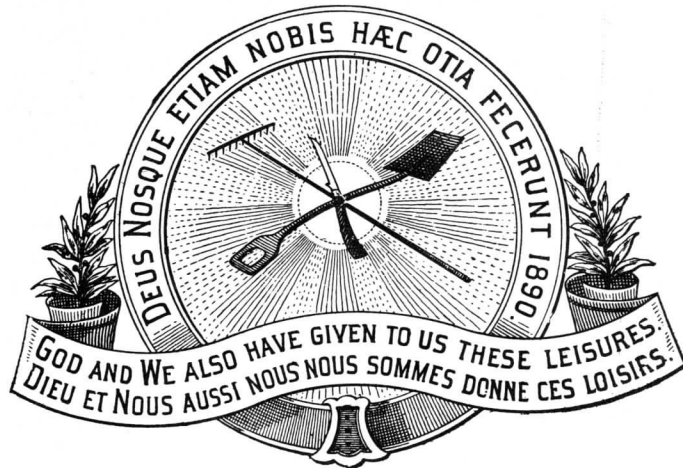
URBAN SUBURBAN VILLAGE



1924
1974



LOUIS MENAND



COAT OF ARMS

1924
1974





HISTORY OF MENANDS

As Written by Howard Menand

(Grandson of Louis Menand—Son of Louis Menand, Jr.)

VILLAGE OF MENANDS

In the early 1920's, it was rumored that Albany was anxious to annex Menands, as part of the city of Albany.

Several prominent men of the community got together at Menand Hall to discuss this problem and how to solve it.

Copy of certificate of Incorporation of Village of Menands, filed in Secretary of States Office.

From the office of James E. Rooney, Town Clerk, Town of Colonie, West Albany, Albany County, New York, Stop 29, Albany-Schenectady Road, P.O. RFD #1, West Albany, New York:

West Albany, New York, August 23, 1924,
Secretary of States Office:

The undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Colonie, hereby certifies that at a special election held at Menand Hall on August 15, 1924,

between the hours of one o'clock, p.m. and eight o'clock, p.m. standard time, upon the proposition:

"Shall the territory embraced within the 15th School District of the Town of Colonie be incorporated as the Village of Menands."

There were 214 votes cast, 167 votes cast for incorporation, and 47 votes cast against incorporation. Dated August 23, 1924.

The population of the proposed village is 1272 inhabitants.

JAMES E. ROONEY
Town Clerk

Town of Colonie. August 23, 1924

Source: Minutes of Town Meeting, August 15, 1924.

Description of the Boundaries of the Proposed Village of Menands:

Beginning at a point on the center line of the Hudson River where said center line intersects the northerly boundary of the city of Albany; thence westerly along the northerly boundary line of the city of Albany to the east side of the Van Rensselaer Boulevard; thence northerly along the east line of said Van Rensselaer Boulevard to the center line of the Menand Road; thence easterly along the center line of the

Menand Road with the eastern boundary of the Albany Rural Cemetery; thence along the eastern boundary of the Albany Rural Cemetery by various metes and bounds to a point where it intersects the northern line of the property of John D. Johnson extended; thence easterly along said northern line of the property of John D. Johnson, extended east and west to the center of the Hudson River; thence southerly along the center line of the Hudson River to the place of beginning.



1924
1974

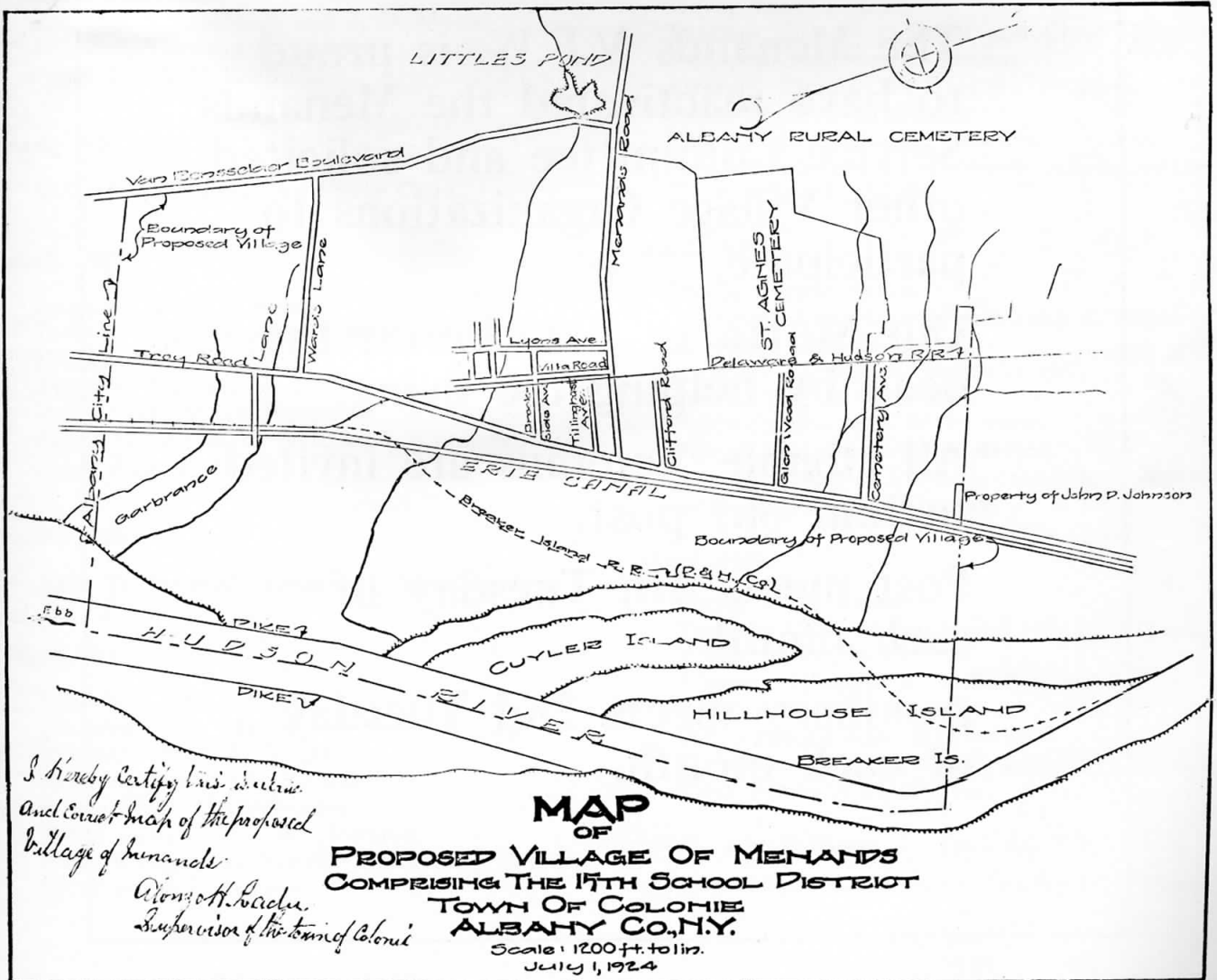


"I hereby certify that this is a true and correct map: also a correct description of the boundary of proposed Village of Menands."

ALONZO H. LADU, Supervisor

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of August, 1924.

PETER K. BEST, Notary Public
Albany County



I hereby certify this is a true and correct map of the proposed Village of Menands.
Alonzo H. Ladu,
Supervisor of the town of Colonie

1924
1974





The first meeting of the Trustees of Village of Menands was held September 16, 1924, at the schoolhouse on Menand Road. President was John A. Scott, Attorney, Timothy E. Roland, Clerk, John J. Mooney, Trustees V.C. Finkle and J.D. Myton.

The following is the list of village officials and the year when they served:

April, 1924

President, John A. Scott
Clerk, John J. Mooney
Trustees, V. C. Finkle and J. D. Myton
Attorney, Timothy E. Roland
Police Chief, Al Graffunder

April, 1924

Al Graffunder appointed Police Chief

April, 1927

President John A. Scott
Trustees J. D. Myton and Arthur Smith
Treasurer Fred J. Doran
Attorney Timothy E. Roland
Police Chief Al Graffunder
Street Commissioner Mitchell L. Connery
Clerk John J. Mooney

April, 1928

John W. Howarth, appointed Police Justice

April, 1931

President John A. Scott
Trustees J. D. Myton and Harry I. Gaige
Treasurer Fred J. Doran
Attorney Timothy E. Roland
Police Chief Al Graffunder
Police Justice John W. Howarth
Superintendent of Streets Mitchell L. Connery
Clerk John J. Mooney

April, 1933

President John A. Scott
Trustees J. D. Myton and Everett Pateman
Treasurer Frederick J. Doran
Attorney Timothy E. Roland
Police Chief Al Graffunder
Police Justice John W. Howarth
Superintendent of Public Works Albert Jenkins
Clerk John J. Mooney

April, 1934—Clerk, James J. MacDonald

April, 1936

Mayor John A. Scott
Trustees Everett Pateman and Chris Momrow
Treasurer Frederick J. Doran
Attorney Timothy E. Roland
Police Chief Al Graffunder
Police Justice John W. Howarth
Superintendent of Public Works Albert Jenkins
Clerk James J. MacDonald

April, 1939

Mayor Everett Pateman
Trustees Chris Momrow and John A. Russo
Treasurer Percival Ball
Attorney Kenneth S. MacAffer, Sr.
Police Chief Al Graffunder
Police Justice John W. Howarth
Village Engineer John D. Myton
Superintendent of Public Works Albert Jenkins
Clerk James J. MacDonald

April, 1942

Mayor John Russo
Trustees Chris Momrow and Charles Folmsbee
Treasurer Percival L. Ball
Attorney Kenneth S. MacAffer, Sr.
Police Chief Al Graffunder
Police Justice John W. Howarth
Superintendent of Public Works Albert Jenkins
Clerk James J. MacDonald

1948—John F. Forner, Jr., appointed Police Justice

1948—William Newell, Driver and Foreman of Laborers





Many residents of the Village of Menands have asked how the village was named. Briefly, when the first railroad, Albany & Northern was built in 1856, Mr. Menand's property abutted the railroad right of way. As he was the only resident in the immediate vicinity, the railroad designated its first stop going north as Menand's Crossing. As time went on, Mr. Menand's customers, who at that time were mostly people of affluence living in the surrounding areas, and had their own Conservatories, would come to "Menands Place" for their plants. As the area grew in population, the name Menands became attached to this area.

Louis Menand was born August 2, 1807 at Chalons-Sur-Saone, Department de-Saone-et-Laire, Burgundy, France. When he was quite young, he envinced a love for growing things. He turned to that avocation for a livelihood.

Paris, at that time and from time immemorial, was the goal of all Frenchmen to really reach the height of a profession. Louis Menand finally reached that ambition when he was employed in the Botanical Gardens around that city as a gardener and horticulturist. By strict application to his work and by constant reading and activities among his co-workers and associates, he was well on his way to becoming an authority on horticultural and botanical subjects, especially those related to the proper method of growing plants, which at that time were much in demand by the buying public.

Like all ambitious young men, he was anxious to improve his stature. The curator of Botanical Gardens in Paris gave Louis Menand a letter of introduction to get employment in a similar capacity, when he arrived in New York. He secured employment upon his arrival in 1837, at J. M. Thorburn's Nursery at Halletts Cove, Long Island. This Cove was later changed to Astoria, Long Island. He met Adelaide Jackson from Albany who was a piano teacher in the City at Park Place, her family home. In 1840 Louis

Menand and Adelaide Jackson were married in Albany. From 1840-1842 they resided at Halletts Cove, Long Island.

Louis Menand came to this area in 1842. He rented a plot of ground which is the present site of the Home for Aged Men. He lived in a small house on the property and established his business. He was the first horticulturist to serve this locality. In 1847, Louis Menand purchased a plot of ground consisting of eleven acres on Menand Road.

Originally it was the road leading from the Albany Watervliet Turnpike, now Broadway or Route 32 to Ireland's Corners now called Loudonville. The boundaries of the area were the lines of School District #15 as set up many years ago.

Gradually other early settlers bought property and built their homes. There were two Lansing families in Menands. Joseph A. Lansing lived in the house which was the old library. Helena Lansing lived in the house now number 11 Villa Road. It faced Menand Road with a circular drive at that time.

When the Delaware and Hudson Railroad and Canal Company (originally the Albany and Northern Railroad) was laid out, its right of way adjoined the property of Louis Menand at the point of intersection of the above mentioned Menand Road. The intersection became a natural spot for the Delaware and Hudson Railroad to put a station stop and was known as Menand's Station.

The original lines of the now incorporated Village of Menands were bounded on the north by the property line between Albany Rural Cemetery and St. Agnes Cemetery. Albany Rural Cemetery is not in the Village of Menands except that part which the Albany Rural Cemetery purchased in 1920. This property was formerly owned and occupied by the Stone Yard of James Gazeley and later the Flint Granite Company.





The eastern boundary of the Village of Menands was the Hudson River. The southern boundary was the City of Albany. On the west, the property line was the east side of Van Rensselaer Boulevard. The Boulevard was not within the village boundary. Roughly the area of Menands is about two miles east or west and also two miles north and south.

When the development of Sage Hill Lane, Sky Hollow and Roost Country Estates were under construction and the same homes were occupied, a referendum was held. The request was made that these areas be included in the Village of Menands, which has been incorporated as a Village under the laws of the State of New York in 1924. These added areas, while

they are now a part of the Village of Menands, are not in the Menands School District. They are in the North Colonie School District.

When Louis Menand died in 1900 at the age of ninety-four, Mr. Dean Sage, as a memorial to Mr. Menand gave Menand Hall to the community. For over fifty years, Menand Hall has been used for many types of civic affairs; school meetings, dances, card parties, theatricals, dinners by villagers as well as many groups from Albany, Troy and Watervliet. An association, The Menands Community Club was formed in 1920 to govern and care for this property. The building finally outlived its usefulness and was demolished about 1960.



MENAND HALL





BETHANY CHURCH

As in every early settlement it was natural for the residents to establish Houses of Worship. In February, 1859, a meeting was held at the home of Reverend and Mrs. William G. Durant for the purpose of organizing a Sunday School in Menands. "The Menands Mission Sabbath School" was organized, June 16, 1859. Chauncey P. Williams was superintendent. Mrs. William Durant was assistant superintendent, and Joseph A. Lansing as chorister. The first services were held in Durant home and later transferred to the village school. From the beginning "Sabbath School" was a non-denominational project, all were equally welcome. On June 21, 1874, Sunday evening services were started with Reverend George C. Lee officiating. On November 1, 1874, Wednesday Evening Prayer meetings were held. On February 11, 1881 the Menands School burned, so twenty-second Anniversary Exercises of the Sabbath School were held in the Home for Aged Men.

Then for three months, Sabbath School was held in Menands Railroad Station. On June 19, 1881, when the new school was completed, Sabbath School sessions were resumed in the new school.

In 1864, the Watervliet Turnpike Company organized "The Watervliet Turnpike and Horse Railroad". Horsecars ran every fifteen minutes from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. With regular transportation assured the development of Menands Village was a certainty. In 1887 a building campaign began. On April, 1888, land was purchased from Jeremiah Lansing. July 18, 1888, ground was broken, and on September 18, 1888 the cornerstone was laid.

The Menands Mission Sabbath School reorganized themselves as Bethany Presbyterian Church Sunday School on June 16, 1889. July 5, 1889, the church was incorporated.

Source: Booklet published by Presbyterian Church—1959.

THE FREE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET

On January 1, 1888, through the courtesy of Mr. James B. Jermain, President of the Board of Trustees of the Home for Aged Men, the congregation met for the first service in the chapel of the Home. On the following Sunday, the services were held in the coachhouse of Mr. George Cook who had kindly consented to allow its use for that purpose. The coachhouse was neatly and comfortably furnished at a cost of about one hundred dollars. Services continued here until October of 1888, when the owner needed the building for other purposes. The furniture was removed to carriage-house of Miss A. E. Tweedle, who had offered it for the use of the congregation until a more suitable place could be provided. Services continued here until August of 1889.

In May, 1888, the Free Church of St. Margaret was organized and incorporated. "The seats to be forever free for the occupation and use during public worship of all persons choosing to occupy the same and conducting themselves with propriety".

The following were chosen:

Trustees:

Reverend Edgar T. Chapman, President
 Reverend Richard Temple, Vice-President
 Mr. Andrew Woolverton, Secretary
 Mr. Charles B. Tillinghast, Treasurer
 Mr. Dean Sage
 Mr. Benjamin H. Hall
 Mr. Silas E. Hoag





Soon after the church was organized, a half acre of ground on Brookside Avenue was secured for a church building. The foundation walls of the church were finished late in the Autumn of 1888 and the cornerstone was laid by Bishop William Crowell Doane of the Albany Episcopal Diocese. Frederick A. Parkhurst was the architect, and a contract was entered into with Blunn & Trophagen, masons, and Matthew Carr, carpenter for finishing the build-

ing. St. Margaret's Church was opened for services on October 6, 1889. Gifts in money donated to St. Margarets totaled about \$8,000.

Source: Edgar T. Chapman, Rector of St. Margaret's, Albany-Troy Road, Menands—January, 1890.

Very Reverend Dean David Ball, son of Percival L. Ball, is the only priest ordained at St. Margarets. His grandfather, George Henry Ball was the first vestryman at that church.

Source: Times-Union—Dec. 8, 1964, Ellen Scott.

ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH

The Parish of Saint Joan of Arc was established in May, 1927 by Bishop Edmund F. Gibbons with Menands Village limits as its boundaries. Prior to 1927 Catholics who resided in the village attended either St. Brigid's Church in Watervliet or Sacred Heart Church in North Albany. The boundary separating these two parishes was Brookside Avenue, Menands. Due to transportation problems, Catholic children did not attend Sunday School in either of these parishes. For many years, children were taught by Miss Nellie Carmody, a village resident and a teacher in the Albany School System. She was permitted to use a classroom in the old Menands School for these Sunday School sessions.

The property on 6 Lyon Avenue was purchased in May, 1927 from James Archibald, Grace Allen, and Gertrude Kemp who were the surviving children of the late County Judge James Archibald. The present rectory was the Archibald residence. It was moved from the center of the lot to the north property line to provide parking space and to give better access to the large stable at the rear of the property which was renovated to become the present church structure. The only alterations to the stable was construction of an entrance and vestibule in the front and a small addition in the

rear to serve as vestry. The restoration was begun in June and was completed in time for the celebration of the first Mass in the new church on December 8, 1927.

Reverend John Murphy was the first pastor. He served until his death in February, 1934 at the age of forty-four. Following the death of Father Murphy, his brother Reverend Robert C. Murphy acted as administrator of the Church until September, 1934, when Reverend Edward T. Reilly was appointed the pastor. Father Reilly served as pastor until March, 1936 when he was transferred to Troy. He was succeeded by Reverend John A. McCarthy, who remained here until his transfer to Hudson in September, 1940.

Reverend Thomas P. Deignan was appointed pastor in September, 1940, and served as pastor for twenty-two years until his death, February 24, 1963. He was then seventy-five years old. From May, 1960 until September, 1961, Reverend William Cahill served as assistant to Father Deignan. He was succeeded in that post by Reverend R. Mansfield Starks who acted as administrator due to the failing health of the pastor.

Father Starks was appointed pastor on the death of Father Deignan and held that post





until September, 1968. During his administration many improvements and repairs were made to both the church and the rectory and the splendid condition of the parish today is largely due to his efforts.

Reverend Edward Gilmour succeeded Father Starks in 1968 and remained here until he was transferred to Troy in November, 1969. Serving as assistants to Father Starks and Father Gilmour were the Reverend John F. Connolly from September, 1967, to July, 1969 and Reverend Thomas Welch from July, 1969, to June, 1970.

The present pastor Right Reverend Monsignor Arthur J. Reilly took office November 15, 1969.

January, 1974, a reception was held in Menands Fire House honoring Right Reverend Arthur J. Reilly on his completion of forty-five years in the priesthood. The affair was sponsored by the Altar Rosary Society and the Holy

Name Society. On January 26, 1974 a dinner was held at Wolferts Roost and Right Reverend Monsignor Arthur J. Reilly was the guest of honor. About one hundred people attended the affair at which time Father was presented with a gold chalice.

For several years religious instruction classes were conducted in the parish by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The sisters came to Menands in 1946 and conducted classes at the convent for pre-school children until the community found it necessary to move to another locale in 1971. Their beautiful convent now serves as the Provincial headquarters for the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. There are about three-hundred families who currently are members of the parish of St. Joan of Arc.

The original trustees were Edward J. Dignum, Sr. and Patrick F. Clancy. Vincent Dignum is the present trustee.

BRIDGES — PLACES — PEOPLE

A spur of the Erie Canal was built from what was the main entrance of the canal into the Hudson River at 23rd Street, Watervliet. There were several bridges built to enable access to the property between the Erie Canal and the Hudson River. The bridge at Watervliet City line was known as Schuyler Bridge. The Schuyler family dates back to early 1700's. They acquired considerable property in that area which was excellent farm land. The vegetables grown found a ready market in Watervliet, Troy and Albany. This farm was called "The Flatts" and for many years the Schuyler family lived here. Later tenant farmers managed the farm and later became the owners of the large acreage.

When it was no longer profitable to farm, the land was rented to some of larger traveling circuses and carnivals. It was finally acquired by Strate's Carnival.

The next bridges to span the Canal were known as Richardson, Mix, Leary, Keyes, Kanes as these were the families who operated farms in that immediate vicinity. These bridges were several hundred feet north of Cemetery Avenue.

Following along the east bank of Erie Canal the next bridge was called Lundergans Bridge. This led to farms belonging to John Lundergan and James O'Brien which later became known as "The Flatts".

The next bridge was located about three hundred feet north of the junction of Menand Road and Broadway and was known as Island Park Bridge. It led across the flats to an island between the mainland and Hudson River. On Island Park was a trotting track. The bridge also led to the farms owned and operated by Purcell Mattimore and Clancy families. All the property south to the Albany City line was originally





owned by the Van Rensselaer Estate who leased to tenant farmers.

The next bridge south was the railroad bridge built by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company to serve an iron works built along the Hudson River at a point just north of the present Menands-Troy bridge. The iron plates used in the construction of the Monitor, the Union's first iron clad vessel of Civil War, were processed at this iron works. The iron works was owned by some of the affluent citizens of the area, some of whom were members of the Corning family, forbears of the present Mayor of Albany, Erastus Corning II. Erastus Corning, I, was the first

president of what later became the New York Central Railroad, later called New York Central System, a giant in the railroad industry. The NYC later merged with the Pennsylvania Railroad to become Penn Central.

There was a bridge crossing the Erie Canal at Garbarance Lane, which led to the tenant farms operated by Garbarance family. This is now called Simmons Lane. The road led to an amusement park on an island in the Hudson River known as Pleasure Island, or Lagoon Island, Altro Park and later Mid-City Park. This amusement park was serviced by a line of pleasure boats that plied the river daily between



Arrowhead Store — Located on Broadway





Albany and Troy. The boats stopped at the park on each trip, and believe it or not, the original fare was five cents. This was later increased to ten cents. There was a small orchestra on board to entertain the passengers.

For the sake of posterity or as an historical fact, there were four side wheelers named after dry good stores in Albany and Troy; namely William H. Frear, G. V. S. Quackenbush, R. C. Reynolds and William M. Whitney. There were two propeller-driven boats; the General J. B. Carr and the Julia Safford. On a warm summer evening it was a treat to ride on the river and beat the heat. The other treat was to ride the open trolley cars which sped along the streets at what seemed like breakneck speed.

All of this river front area is now occupied by the new river front arterial, a divided concrete highway from Albany to Watervliet and continuing on to Cohoes.

Now let us go back to Watervliet City line. The first large house or estates, as they were called, was Egans. Next was the Covert family who owned and operated what was known as the snap factory in Watervliet. Snaps manufactured there were used on all harnesses and were much in demand for the cavalry horses during the Civil War. This site is known as Idlewild Park.

Next was a large octagonal-shaped cathedral-like mansion owned and occupied by Doctor Ward, a philanthropist.

The James B. Jermain Estate was next and this was one of the large mansions with extensive gardens. All of these homes were built well back from Broadway with spacious lawns and plantings of choice trees and shrubbery.

Reverend John Chapman resided in the next home. He was rector of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. A prominent lawyer in Albany, John Gleason was his neighbor.

Another stately-appearing home was the Monahan residence which later became Burkes, an eating place, and still later a night spot known

as Tow Path Inn, which burned Sept. 10, 1968. Adjoining this property south of the brook which flowed from its source in Albany Rural Cemetery was the property owned and occupied by the Dunlop family. The mansion was a beautiful brown stone structure. This property was abutted on the south by Cemetery Avenue, owned by Albany Rural Cemetery and used jointly by Albany Rural and St. Agnes Cemetery leading to their main entrances and offices.

Incidentally, all of the aforementioned properties extended through to the Delaware and Hudson property some three thousand feet west of their frontage on Broadway.

South of Cemetery Avenue was a road house known as Devine's. It was owned and operated by "Sis" Devine who acquired ownership from her forbears. This was a favorite stop for funeral carriages returning to Albany from the cemetery to enable the drivers of the horse-drawn "hacks" to gain enough fortitude to enable them to proceed further on their return eventually to Albany from whence they came. There were about four other stops along the way in case the drivers and occupants ran out of "steam".

The next frontage on Broadway was part of the property of Louis Menand, later acquired by his son Louis Menand, Jr. The total acreage was about twenty-nine acres and extended west to the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, to the south to a private road known as Hart's Lane. This road led to the William Howard Hart estate located west of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. This property was owned by the heirs of the Hart's estate until about 1900, when it was acquired by St. Agnes Cemetery. The Hart Mansion stood on a hill several hundred feet west of the railroad. There was a tower on the four-storied building and it was said the owner could look from the tower and see his home in Troy on Second Street now the site of the Hart Memorial Library, a large double house built in 1700's.





South of Hart's Lane was the property of the Hillhouse family who originally owned the property now occupied by both Rural Cemetery and St. Agnes Cemetery. This acreage was the site of the first New York State Fair Grounds. A half-mile trotting horse track, a grand stand, several large buildings to house exhibits, horse barns for the track, were some of the buildings found on the property. Several members of the Hillhouse family also had commodious residences on the property. Eventually the State Fair was located in Syracuse, New York, and the area was used for many sporting events, picnics and amateur games. The race track was used for the training of pacers and trotters. Many of the horses were trained by Alta McDonald who owned and operated the hotel which bore his name. It later became Panetta's Restaurant in Aug. 1948 and closed on Feb. 8, 1959 and was demolished when the new highway was built.

In the rear of McDonald's Hotel were several horse barns which housed the horses being trained by Alta McDonald. A blacksmith shop was attached to the barns. Edward Diamond was the blacksmith. Incidentally, James McDonald, who later became Clerk of the Village of Menands, was the son of Alta McDonald.

The next property was farmland owned by Tobias Smith. Adjoining this was the property and home of Michael Clifford who owned and operated a Tavern (now Stylecraft) on the east side of Broadway just south of junction of Menand Road. This property was developed by H. K. Wells as a residential street called Clifford Road. The property was not wide enough to build on both sides of the street.

All of these properties above mentioned extended from Broadway west to the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. The original title of the railroad was Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, from from the fact that the original corporation built a canal connecting Delaware River near Port Jervis and the Hudson River

at Roundout near Kingston. The railroad was developed later.

The adjoining property on the south was a smaller lot and home occupied by James Van Zandt. On the corner of Menand Road and Broadway, and set quite a distance from Broadway, was the home of Joseph Lansing (old library). This property extended west to the site of the original school building now occupied by Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Menands Public Library.

To the west of the school property was a large mansion built and occupied by the Twedde family who were grain and malt dealers in Albany. They helped to supply grain and malt to the many lager beer and ale breweries in the Albany area. The western boundary of the Twedde estate was the Delaware and Hudson Railroad and the northern boundary was the aforementioned Clifford property. It might be well in passing to note that all of these homes had barns and stables to house carriages and horses which was the principal means of traveling in those days prior to advent of trolley cars and automobiles. Of course the original means of travel was the stagecoach, later horse drawn cars, electric trolley cars, which have been superseded by motor driven buses.

West of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad was the property, home, greenhouses, and nursery of Louis Menand, which was established in 1842. The area is now used extensively as a Menands Village Playground and Park.

Adjoining the Menands Property was the residence of Douglas L. White a former so-called "lumber baron" who with his son, Richard, had a large wholesale yard in the Albany Lumber district. This district was serviced by a horse drawn passenger car on tracks. It ran from Broadway at North Ferry Street, North Albany, through the lumber district to the Albany City Line a distance of well over a mile.

The next home was the residence of Frederick W. Joslyn whose wife, Alice, was the





daughter of Douglas L. White. Again going west up Menand Hill, as it was known, was the property of Charles Waterman. He resided in a large mansion and owned considerable property. Mr. Waterman was one of the Menands residents who was interested in organizing and building Bethany Presbyterian Church and Manse. The Waterman property was later owned by William H. Sage who tore down the Waterman mansion and built a larger and more commodious building. Later he added a large art gallery.

Dean Sage's home was the next residence. The Sage Brothers owned and operated a large wholesale lumber business in the Albany Lumber District. They also had large land holdings of lumber in some of the mid-western states, principally Michigan. The timber was cut, loaded on boats and shipped by water through the Great Lakes and Erie Canal to Albany. There it was unloaded and transported by rail from Albany to the lumber dealers throughout the North East, particularly the New England states.

In passing, it might be well to mention when Harry W. Sage was married, his father, William H. Sage, built a home for him on the property some fifteen hundred feet north of Menand Road, adjoining the property of the William Howard Hart estate. In later years it was known as Hyland Batcheller Estate which was given to the Episcopal Diocese for a Bishop's Home. It was partly destroyed by fire November 24, 1969. It was restored and now is the Doane House.

The Dean Sage property extended west to the Albany Rural Cemetery line, which was also the boundary of the Village of Menands. Prior to that it was also the boundary of School District, number fifteen, Town of Colonie, and before that time, the Township of Watervliet.

Now, let's turn around and come down the hill on the east side of Menand Road. The property at Menand Road and Van Rensselaer

Boulevard was owned by Charles Little. He also owned Little's Lake on the west side of Van Rensselaer Boulevard, not in the Village of Menands nor its School District.

Mr. Little's home was a large frame building situated toward the eastern border of the property and set back from the entrance on Menand Road. In 1950 the property was purchased by Sisters of the Missionary and Immaculate Heart of Mary. It became known as Mount Saint Augustine Convent. In more recent years it is Provincial Headquarters for the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Adjoining the Little property was the home of Isaac Chapman. It extended about a thousand feet on Menand Road and about an equal distance south. It included Durant's Pond where many local neighbors went swimming in summer and ice skating in winter. The Chapman property was acquired by Dean Sage and his son, Henry M. Sage. The Chapman house was torn down and a much larger English-type home was built on a rise of ground a little to the south of the original Chapman home.

Henry Sage acquired all of the adjoining properties to the south to Wards Lane from Van Rensselaer Boulevard to west side of North Lyon Avenue. Some of the homes along North Lyon Avenue had been built in 1870's and 1880's.

On the south side of the Sage Holdings was the property of William Durant. His land extended west to Van Rensselaer Boulevard. It was later acquired by John H. Jackson who for many years occupied the former Durant home. Eventually this property was bought by Henry M. Sage.

The next home was owned and occupied by Albert C. Goodwin and his family. His neighbor was John D. Capron. Mr. Capron was the Treasurer and later President of Home Savings Bank of Albany. The next occupant of this home was Reverend and Mrs. James K. Phillips. Mrs. James K. Phillips was the daughter of Douglas





L. White. Later the home became the residence of Dr. John A. Scott who was Mayor of Menands in 1924 when the village was incorporated.

Bethany Presbyterian Church was the next property on the corner of Menand Road and North Lyon Avenue.

After crossing the Delaware and Hudson Railroad tracks, J. William Tillinghast's property extended from the railroad to Broadway. The mansion was located about half-way between the railroad and Broadway, set well back from the road. It had a large circular driveway from the entrance by the gatehouse which was directly across the road from the Tweddle property.

The Tillinghast property was later bought by a real estate promoter. A street was laid out extending west from Broadway to Delaware and Hudson Railroad known as Tillinghast Avenue. Homes were built on both sides of the street.

Going south on Broadway was the property and home of Archibald Cook, F. A. Harrington and later the Anderson family. It extended from the railroad tracks to Broadway.

The Home for Aged Men was the next property. In 1876 a small group of men and women of prominence in the cultural and civil life of the Albany and Troy area were stirred by the communities lack of sympathetic care for its aged needy. They began the task of establishing the Home for Aged Men.

Their unselfish interests and efforts have left a rich heritage which over the years have provided a comfortable haven for hundreds of aged men, who might otherwise suffered severe distress. To those who are responsible for carrying out the program, the founders have left a notable tradition of service.

On October 5, 1876, the certificate of incorporation was filed in the County Clerk's office. The original officers, incorporators and board of directors, twelve in number, were prominent in the civic life of the area. They were indeed fortunate to purchase in 1877, a large plot of

ground which had on it a large and commodious residence from the owner, Mrs. Harriet D. Perry. The building was formally opened and dedicated March 28, 1878, after alterations and the addition of two large wings. It is now called Menands Manor.

One person who contributed much to the successful operation of the Home was Mr. John Allen, who served during early 1900's. He did a large share of the work in caring for the physical and medical attention of the residents, who, at that time numbered about seventy five men.

In 1925, through the gift of Mr. George C. Hawley of Albany as a memorial to his wife, Theodora M. Hawley, a large addition was built on the south side to provide additional sleeping rooms, an infirmary and two sun rooms.

Among gifts of great value to the Home has been that of a water supply, provided by the late Senator Henry M. Sage, a trustee, and continued by Mrs. Sage.

Distinguished service for many years was contributed by a Board of Patronesses. This board was composed of well known and philanthropic women of the locality and they served for many years. Another group of women who have played a large part in the successful operation of the Home have been the superintendents, about twelve in number in the years that have passed since 1878. (Miss Adele Menand served 1901-1911).

While the minimum age of 65 was required to enter the Home for Aged Men, the average age is much higher. For many years the Home had its own gardner to care for the lawns and gardens. Most of the vegetable produce used at the substantial meals provided for the men was definitely "home-grown"! Many of the men who were physically able were allowed to give a helping hand.

A survey of the records show that the majority of the guests have been men from Al-





bany County. There have been some from ten or more counties from the Capital District.

The list of names of officers and trustees of the Home reads like a "Who's Who" of this area.

It would be amiss if the next door neighbors of the Home were not mentioned. The Menands Police and Volunteer Fire Departments, have contributed to the pleasure and peace of mind of the men.

Since the incorporation of the Village of Menands in 1924, village officials have been most helpful in all matters pertaining to the Home and its many guests over the years.

Since the inception of Social Security, the number of applicants to the Home has measur-

ably decreased. While the number of residents in the Home is smaller, nevertheless, the same care and attention is given to all.

The north west corner of Brookside and Broadway was acquired by the Village of Menands in 1927. The first Village-owned Fire House and Municipal building was erected 1927. A new Fire House was built in 1963 and houses all of the modern fire-fighting equipment. On the second floor are the necessary quarters for fire company officials, meeting rooms, kitchen equipment of Menands Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 of which all citizens are justly proud. Many local civic organizations are able to hold their meetings there.



Old Menands Fire House — Now Municipal Building





Originally, the land south of Brookside was a small-sized farm belonging to Patrick Mack. Hoffman's Bowling Alleys were built on this property. In 1946 the alleys were destroyed by fire. The Atlantic-Pacific Tea Company built a store on the site and occupied it until just recently.

When the railroad was built, a bridge was built north of Montgomery Ward and at the site of the pumping station. In 1929, Montgomery Ward purchased land south of the Railroad bridge and built the present retail store to service their mail order business. Many additions and improvements have been made over the years.

At a point about one thousand feet south of the bridge was a toll gate. It was owned and operated by the Roadway. In the early days it

was a rough road full of pot holes. In a horse drawn carriage it was a tough drive to Albany and return. The toll was twenty-five cents, round trip. When to toll was paid, the driver would receive a hard rubber token to use on the return trip.

Wards Lane was the next street which connected Broadway and Van Rensselaer Boulevard.

In the early days all the land south of Wards Lane was vacant until one came to Bull's Head Tavern. It was located across from Garbarance Lane. This was a popular place for travelers who felt the need of a "lift" to speed them on their way. It was, at one time, the home of the Albany Wheelman, a group of bicycle enthusiasts, a very popular sport before the advent of the automobile.



Toll gate on Albany Watervliet Turnpike, also known as Troy Road, now Broadway, Menands, near present site of Montgomery Wards building. Taken prior to 1910.





When baseball became a popular sport a field south of Bull's Head Tavern was enclosed by a high board fence, a grandstand and bleachers were constructed. It was called Chadwick Park, after an early sportsman and baseball enthusiast by that name. Chadwick Park was for many years the home of the Albany team, the first in the New York State League, Eastern League, and International League.

A new stadium was erected in later years and named after Michael Hawkins, who was very active in local baseball and owner of the franchise at that time. This stadium was partly financed by Albany businessmen who were interested in promoting sports in the Albany area.

At the rear of Hawkins Stadium, William H. Keeler built a large pond and ice house to provide ice for Keeler's Mens Hotel at Broadway and Maiden Lane, Albany. He also sold ice to other local establishments.

This takes us to Albany City Line. In later years, several industries have been developed and located along Broadway. Namely:

1. Albany Felt Company
2. Crane Company
3. Albany Steel and Iron Company
4. Ramsay Chain Company
5. Simmons Machine Tool Company
6. Federal Signal Company
7. Williams Press
8. Montgomery Ward
9. Albany Car Wheel
10. Morgan Linen
11. Mohawk Hudson Humane Society
12. Montgomery Ward New Warehouse
13. Continental Can Company

In the early 1900's, Lyon Avenue was extended. A nine hole golf course, was given Albany by the late Charles L. A. Whitney, dry goods proprietor. The site is now occupied by the Montgomery Ward complex, and Menands School.

Later a street parallel to the railroad, Villa Road, was developed. It ran from Brookside Avenue to Menand Road. There were several homes on this street which were built before the street was laid out. Their entrances were from Lyon Avenue.

Wards Lane running west from Broadway had been a rough road for many years until the development of Dutch Village, an apartment complex which was built in 1939. Dutch Village was one of the first garden type apartments to be built in this area. It was developed by a group of men headed by Mr. Harry D. Yates. Dutch Village occupies about twenty acres bordering Van Rensselaer Boulevard and Wards Lane, and was part of the vast Van Rensselaer property which dates back to the Patroon System of 1639. Wards Lane was improved as well as Van Rensselaer Boulevard.

In the early 1900's, property owned by the Lundergan family situated between Hart's Lane and the Fair Grounds was developed by Hervey K. Wells, Glenwood Road by name. At the west end of Glenwood Road was first built and developed a concrete slab factory, later occupied by a coal dealer and in later years by Southworth Tractor and Machinery Corporation. They are distributors of heavy machinery for contractors and road builders.

Another of the industrial plants on what was known as the Fair Grounds was the Taylor Electric Truck Company. This started and was developed for the manufacture of Electric Trolley car trucks. The factory was in one of the original large buildings built by and used as a show place by the operators of New York State Fair.

Another ice house was built on Little's Lake on the west side of Van Rensselaer Boulevard, just south of Menand Road. This was owned and operated by Charles A. Hoffman, a brother of E. A. Hoffman. They each peddled ice throughout the area in the period before modern electric refrigeration was developed.





A recent development at Broadway and Wards Lane has been the building of Mid-City Shopping Center on the site of Mid-City Park Amusement area. Many retail establishments at the new shopping area cater to all residents and workers in the area.

The State of New York has rented whole

buildings, i.e., Federal Signal Company and Simmons Machine Tool Company and several state departments occupy much space therein.

The New York Telephone Company built and occupies a large building on Wards Lane which is their accounting department.

MENANDS SCHOOL

Menands has always been a community oriented to education. Its public school system dates back to 1850. The original school districts were established about 1811-1812 under the Township of Watervliet, now the Town of Colonie. Some of these school districts have consolidated as a result of population growth, housing development, improved modes of transportation and better highways.

Menands was included in the school district embracing Watervliet, Knox, and Guilderland. Where the first public school was located has been obscured by time. However, in 1869, a school was built on Menand Road. Dr. J. P. Whitbeck of West Troy, now Watervliet, was the superintendent of the district. The Trustees were: William Carolus, William Tillinghast, and Eugene Clifford, all names with a familiar ring even today.

The valuation of the school district at that time was \$528,000.00. How times have changed! Tragedy struck in 1882 when the school burned down. Largely through the untiring efforts of James A. Burns, Superintendent of the Rural Cemetery, and Trustee of Menand School for more than twenty-five years, the school was rebuilt.

In 1890, a group of families dedicated to high standards of education for younger children and concerned about the distance children had to walk started a one room private school in the Maxwell home at 3 Villa Road. Distance of

school, transportation, and quality of education are still issues being argued today.

The school was in operation for more than a quarter of a century under the teaching direction of Miss K. Louise Maxwell. When the school ceased to operate, Miss Maxwell became a teacher, and then principal of Menands Elementary School District #15.

A new school was dedicated on August 8, 1915. A Knickerbocker Press account of the event stated that the New York State Department of Education described the new one story brick building as a "Modern structure for a rural district equal to any city school". This new school was built on three acres of ground giving the children ample area for recreational activities.

The valuation of the school district was \$1,039,425.00 as reported by the School Clerk, Peter F. Mattimore. The tax rate was \$1.75 per \$1,000.00. Obviously, no one had heard of "gallopin' inflation".

Hectic' best describes the meetings that took place when the present school was in the planning stages. Arguments 'pro & con' for consolidation were presented at special meetings which involved the citizens, the Menands School Board, the Superintendent of Schools and the New York State Education Department. Finally under the firm guidance of Mr. Harry D. Yates, Chairman of the Building Committee and the unceasing efforts of the School Board, the Citi-





zen won. Consolidation was out and plans for the new school went forward at full speed. Mrs. Henry M. Sage offered eleven acres of land with an entrance to Wards Lane for the proposed new school. This offer was gratefully accepted by the residents of Menands because of its central location and accessibility for all children. The cornerstone ceremonies were held in September 1953 and the school was opened in September 1954.

The Trustees who put forth such herculean efforts to maintain the identity of the Menands School District #15 were:

- George G. Clarkson, President
- Edward S. Ingham, Trustee

Projected growth estimates necessitated additional classroom space. The school population had reached a peak of 325 students and classroom space had become a critical commodity. In 1969, the Board of Trustees: Robert R. Catlin, President; Allan H. Kutz, Trustee and William J. Jones, Trustee, presented the expansion program to the people. In recognition

of the need for additional space, the Board's proposal was approved, and the new wing became a reality. Times change and gradually the school population dropped to the present 265 enrolled students. However, space is still at a premium because educational programs have changed and space is utilized differently.

The current school valuation is \$13,891,000.00 and the tax rate is \$58.87 but education has come a long way since the one room School House.

No attempt should be made to put a monetary value on things past, or to compare them with the present.

The residents of Menands, vintage of 1974 share the same goals for their children as those of 1850 i.e. the best possible education to prepare them for their life work.

The present Board of Education is:

- Thomas J. Gorman, *President*
- John J. Kearns, Jr., *Trustee*
- Harry E. Harbour, *Trustee*
- James J. Hull, *Clerk*
- William J. Jones, *Treasurer*
- Lyle A. Boyce, *Supervising Principal*



New Menands School





POLICE DEPARTMENT

The first constable in Menands was Bernard Kilmade. It was a part time position as Mr. Kilmade was the chauffeur for Mr. Harry Sage.

Al Graffunder was the first Police Chief in the Village of Menands. He was appointed by the Village Trustees in 1924 when the Village was incorporated. He served in this capacity until his death on March 13, 1957.

James Clayton was appointed Acting Chief in March, 1957 and became Chief on December 10, 1957.

Douglas Smith served as a policeman on a part-time basis as he was employed by the Telephone Company.

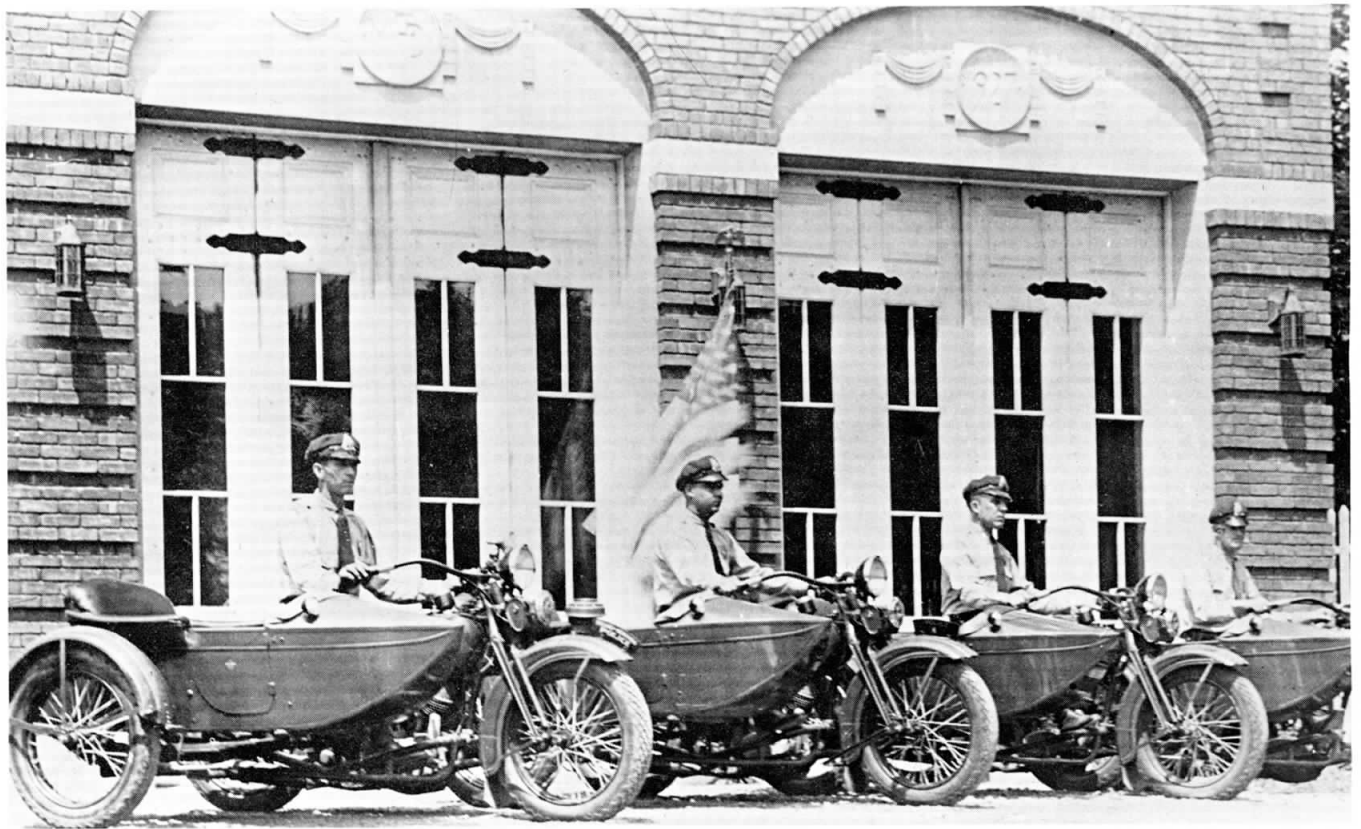
Albert G. Lippincott was appointed as full time policeman in 1941—Retired 1953.

Two years later James P. Golden was appointed to the force.

The following men have served the Village on the Police Force:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| William Berrigan | Kenneth Fonda |
| William Kayser | Robert Laird |
| Thomas Fallon | James Mosca |
| Thomas Stemp | Joseph Elrott |
| Leonard Brunelle | Francis Kemprowski |
| James Fleitz | David Klefbeck |
| Michael McCauley | Edward Joy |
| Kevin Franklin | William Treacy |
| David Morrison | Clement Kinnicutt |

There were four (4) policemen who carried out their duties on motorcycle: Al Graffunder, Doug Smith, James Golden and Al Lippincott.



L. to R. Doug Smith, James Clayton, Chief Al Graffunder, Al Lippincott
Golden





MENANDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Menands Fire Company, No. 1 was founded in Menands, New York on March 3, 1923, a year before the village was incorporated. The founding meeting was held in Menands School and elected the following officers:

- Howard Menand—*Captain*
- Edward J. Dignum, Jr.—*1st Assistant Captain*
- Eugene Hayes—*2nd Assistant Captain*
- Mark Kelly—*Secretary*
- Edgar W. Dennin—*Treasurer*

Incorporation papers were filed in February, 1931.

Chiefs of Menands Fire Department have been:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Samuel Norwood | Charles Moore |
| Walt Taylor | Stan Drzymala |
| Ed Dennin | Joseph Frazier |
| Bill McCully | John Dobler |
| Vic Jensen | John Harbour |
| Bill Khachadorian | |

Samuel H. Norwood was appointed the First Chief along with Walter E. Taylor and J. W. Clifford who were appointed first assistant chief and second assistant chief respectively.

Trustees elected were Ray P. Snyder, E. J. Dignum, Sr., Walter Taylor, W. Jones and J. Glenn.

Presidents of Menands Fire Department have been:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Joseph Kretchmer | William Harbour |
| Alex Rutherford | Joseph Frazier |
| George Van Derhyden | Thomas Gibbs |
| William Jones | Joseph Golash |



Roger Messerle
1st Assistant Chief



William Rossiter
Chief



Grant Smith, Jr.
2nd Assistant Chief



Kenneth Fonda, Captain



John Woodka, Lieutenant



Arthur Tatton, Lieutenant



Henry Merchant, Lieutenant

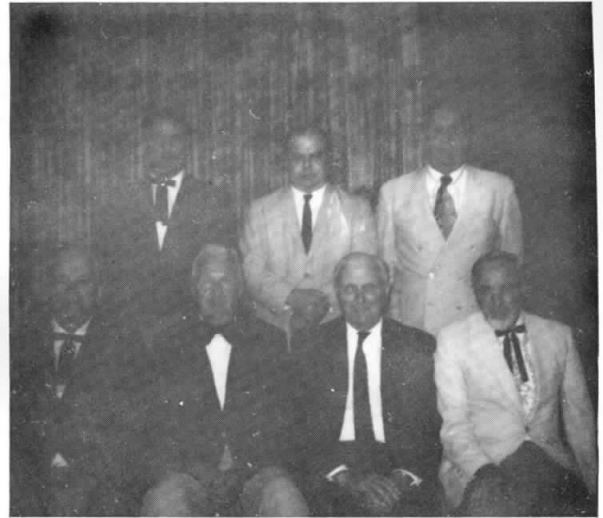




Present officers of the Fire Company are:

- Chief—William Rossiter
- 1st Assistant Chief—Roger Messerle
- 2nd Assistant Chief—Grant Smith, Jr.
- Captain—Kenneth Fonda
- Lieutenant—John Woodka
- “ Arthur Tatton
- “ Henry Merchant
- Wardens—Dr. Ernest Passaretti
- “ John Bulmer
- Quartermaster—John Hyatt
- President—Harry Harbour
- Vice President—Dr. Ernest Passaretti
- Secretary—John Weidman
- Treasurer—James Donovan
- Sgt.-at-Arms—John Woodka

Board of Directors



Seated L. to R.: Victor Jensen, Robert Ryan, William McCully, Charles Moore. Standing L. to R.: George Bolster, George Ball, Joseph Frazier.

Board of Directors:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| George Bolster | Robert Ryan |
| George Ball | William McCully |
| Joseph Frazier | Charles Moore |
| Victor Jensen | |



Seated L. to R.: Dr. Ernest Passaretti, Vice President; Harry Harbour, President; James Donovan, Treasurer. Standing L. to R.: John Weidman, Secretary; John Woodka, Sgt.-at-Arms.





THE STORY OF DUTCH VILLAGE

When Dutch Village was being put together by Harry D. Yates in 1938 it was to be the first large scale FHA multiple housing project to be constructed in upstate New York under Section 207 of the National Housing Act.

The 13 acres involved were located in Menands at the corner of Van Rensselaer Boulevard and Wards Lane and were purchased from the William P. Van Rensselaer Estate through Mr. William Van Rensselaer Irving, and title was cleared September 13, 1939. There had been no change in ownership since the original grant in 1639.

Ground was broken five days later and the entire project completed October 1st 1940. It consisted of 149 apartments located in 13 separate, three story Dutch type buildings. The apartments ranged in size from single room to one and two bedroom types. The buildings were attractively placed up and down each side of the property and across the top around a large, grassy, very private inner mall. Terrace apartments in each building overlooked this lovely area.

The first Board of Directors of the limited dividend corporation organized included former State Comptroller Morris S. Tremaine, Mr. Ledyard Cogswell Jr., Mr. Yates and others. Designed by August Lux of the Office of Marcus T. Reynolds and built by the Delval Construction Company of Scarsdale, New York, Mr. Rene T. Leveille, President, the entire project was carried through to completion in just over a year's time, despite the outbreak of the Second World War.

Under Mayor Scott and then Mayor Everett E. Pateman, and other Village officials, a close relationship developed with Menands down through the years to the present day. Scott Drive, the inner road, was named after the former Mayor.

The original FHA Insured Mortgage was taken by the National Life Insurance Company of Montpelier, Vermont and then re-financed in 1950 with the Troy Savings Bank on a straight basis, where it has been ever since.

A 14th building was added in 1964/65 at the easterly end of the property of four larger apartments. These were "row" type and consisted of two 3 bedroom apartments at each end and two 2 bedroom Duplex type in the middle. It was hoped this unit might serve as a model for additional units but none could be worked out.

On April 1st 1940 the first thirteen families moved into their new apartments in the upper five buildings. Construction continued throughout the summer and each day brought new tenants as other buildings were completed so that by year's end over 100 were in residence. By early 1943 all apartments were occupied, and this has since been the case. It is interesting to note that four of the original families are still in residence, though not necessarily in the same apartment. Louis J. Lenz, Superintendent, came in mid-1942, and he and Mrs. Lenz have lived at Dutch Village since, and become a most valuable part of its operation.

Until November 1, 1973 Dutch Village operated under its original sponsors. Then the property changed hands and a new group consisting of Mr. William E. Schaefer, Mr. Patrick J. Burke, and Mr. James J. Drislane, all of Menands, took over. Their operation since then, under the same name and with practically the same staff, is continuing the unique and lovely qualities that have made Dutch Village what it has been since its first tenants arrived in April 1940.

BY MR. HARRY D. YATES



**MONTGOMERY
WARD**

We are proud to be part
of this community
and extend our
congratulations and
best wishes
on this happy occasion

MONTGOMERY WARD
150 North Broadway, Menands
and
Balltown Road, Schenectady