



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

SPRING 2018

Two Architects, One Historic Site

**John Hoeschele (Board Treasurer),
Christine Buck (One-time Board Member), and
Mary Ann Kane (One-time CRC Foundation Board Member)**

If you visit the CRC this Spring or Summer - which we certainly hope you will do! - make a point of exploring the grounds around you before you head up into our beautiful, rolling hills. On your right, you'll discover our historic Gibson Memorial Chapel, while on your left, you'll note our Superintendent's house and office/garage complex. In both cases, you're looking at historic structures designed by notable architects!

George Conable's Chapel

Designed by the celebrated architect and Cortland native George W. Conable — and constructed in 1922 — our beautiful chapel had fallen into disrepair over the ensuing decades. Largely through the determined efforts and financial support of former CRC Board of Trustees member/President, Charles Gibson and other donors too numerous to name here (a complete listing can be found within the building) — the chapel was restored to its original beauty in 2008-09 and dedicated in honor of both Charles (1927-2007) and his sister/long-time CRC supporter, Margaret Gibson (1925-2013).



GEORGE W. CONABLE

Born in Cortland on October 4, 1866, George Conable graduated from the Cortland State Normal School (now SUNY Cortland) in 1882 and, in 1886, graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in architecture. From that point, Conable continued his training in the offices of C. P. H. Gilbert, Barney & Chapman — and the office of Ernest Flagg, where he was responsible for the preparation of the plans and working

drawings of the Singer Building (1905-08, demolished).

In 1908, Conable designed the Trinity Lutheran Church and parsonage at 164 West 100th Street in Manhattan, the same year he entered into partnership with Hobart B. Upjohn, a specialist in the design of churches. From 1908 to 1914, the firm of Upjohn & Conable designed many churches of all denominations in New York and other states. Among the firm's commissions within New York City was Trinity Lutheran Church and Parish House (1913-14) in Staten Island, which is now included in the St. Paul's Avenue-Stapleton Heights Historic District.

Conable returned to independent general practice in 1914 specializing in churches, schools, and hospitals. Among his commissions were St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the Bronx, Trinity Lutheran Church in Schenectady, the bathing pavilions and other buildings at Oakland Beach, Rye, New York, Main Hall of Wagner College, Staten Island, and the New Hyde Park Public School in Nassau County.

Here in Cortland, in addition the chapel at the Cortland Rural Cemetery, Conable's design work included the Cortland Democrat building on Central Avenue (a now bygone weekly newspaper) and the Central High School (now the Cortland County Office Building). At the time of his death in 1933, Conable was associated with Robert J. Schirmer and Julius W. Schmidt. His funeral was held in the CRC chapel he designed and his remains rest just up the hill from the chapel he designed.



GIBSON CHAPEL,
TOP AND
SUPERINTENDENT'S
HOUSE AS
SEEN TODAY





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Newsletter layout courtesy of

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Two Architects...

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Carl W. Clark's Superintendent's House

Designed by Carl Wesley Clark and built in 1928 in the Tudor style, our Superintendent's house and matching office/garage include distinctive features like prominent cross gables, steeply pitched Vermont slate roofs, and decorative half-timbering.

It was fortunate for the city of Cortland that Carl W. Clark married Ann Taylor of Pitcher, as Cortland was the closest city to her home town without an architect. Born in Denver, educated in Brooklyn, Clark went to work for a general contractor in New York City from 1908-1911 and to night school at Cooper Union (1909-1910) to begin his professional studies. His draftsman skills were recognized by his next employer who encouraged him to attend the University of Pennsylvania's College of Architecture's special two-year program which he completed in 1914. Later that year he opened his first office in Cortland in the Squire's Building (Clock Tower Building). War in Europe put a shadow on local building and Clark's first year's gross was only \$700.

Few people influenced the education of New York State's youth more than Carl Wesley Clark who was responsible for the design and construction of more than 150 primary and secondary schools during the mid-twentieth century. His architectural achievements also included libraries, churches, residences, commercial and industrial buildings, college facilities, as well as additions to and remodeling of a large number of buildings.

A few examples of his work are the fernery of the 1890 House, the sun-room area of Alumni House, both A. B. Parker and Randall Schools, the bungalows along Huntington St. (built for Smith-Corona workers to purchase), and the Cortland Free Library. In 1946, Clark relocated his firm to Syracuse but Cortland projects remained on his drawing board. Between 1949 and 1966 he received his largest academic commission of twelve buildings for

today's SUNY Cortland: Brockway Hall (for which Clark is said to have convinced George Brockway to invest \$100,000),



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Moffett Center, Neubig Memorial Hall, and nine resident halls. Clark retired in 1972, after which his son, Robert T. Clark (also an architect) took over practice and led it until 1992.

Among other honors, Clark was a fellow of the American Institute of Architecture. While remaining a lifetime member of the Cortland Country Club, he died at his Fayetteville home on November 7, 1985 at the age of 92.

CARL W. CLARK



Want to Continue Our Progress?

*Please consider making
a tax deductible gift to
the Cortland Rural Cemetery
and returning it using
the enclosed envelope.*

*Thank you for
your support!*



Cremation niches are an attractive option for today's customers

Board seeks help constructing new niches

Since the 1960s, Americans' preference for cremation vs. burial has grown from just under 5% to just over 50% today. To respond to our customers' needs -- and capture new revenues in order to maintain our operating budget and grounds -- the CRC Board is planning to add new cremation niches (aka: columbaria) to those units installed in the Gibson Memorial Chapel during its renovation back 2008-09.

"The cemetery's ability to memorialize a person's cremated remains within the indoor environment and safety of the Chapel offers families a lasting and neutral option," says CRC Board Chair, Kathryn Cincotta. "For large, mobile families, it's a particularly attractive idea compared to maintaining one's cremains in a single family member's home. On any day, during any time of year, family members can visit the cremains in our care using an electronic, door-access code."

The Board's near-term plan is to secure funds enough to construct an additional three columbaria adjacent to open wall spaces within the chapel. While the process for soliciting bids for the custom-construction of these units is just getting started, the Board estimates each unit will cost \$2,500-3,500 -- and will yield a significant return on that investment.

Longer term, the Board is looking at outdoor options for cremains, including the concept of a 'cremation park' with a natural aesthetic located in an as-yet undeveloped burial section located in a Northwest area of the grounds. (Stay tuned for developments and opportunities to get involved.)

To help the CRC execute its plan to install additional cremation niches, please utilize the enclosed envelope or contact the CRC office to make donation arrangements.



CRC'S COLUMBARIA

Cremation Niches Now On Sale

For a limited time, select glass-fronted cremation niches are 'on sale.' Contact the CRC office at 607-756-6022 to arrange a private, no-obligation appointment and tour of our Chapel.

Thank you to Economy Paving Co. for our new truck!

Sometimes, out of the blue, an Angel will descend upon your day -- unannounced, unsolicited, and uninterested in acclaim for their generosity. In this case, the great folks with big hearts at Cortland's own Economy Paving Co. donated this much-needed, lightly used pickup truck to the CRC -- just as our current one (itself an appreciated donation from the town of C'Ville, a few years back) was on its last legs. We cannot thank Steve Compagni and Economy Paving enough for this gift! We're already putting it to good use transporting materials, prepping gravesites, leading funerals, and more.



CRC'S NEW RIDE!



We get by with a little help from our friends 2018 Cemetery Sweep-out Day!

The CRC was once again blessed to have so many friends, family members, and fans join us for this year's Cemetery Sweep-out Day! Held on Saturday, April 28th, this was our 6th such event, demonstrating once again that "many-hands make light work" if you live in a caring, civic-minded community. Thank you, to one and all who participated!



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED