



The Roost

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IRVINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 2014

IRVINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Letter from the President



I always love it when the fall arrives. For the Historical Society, it is almost like the New Year, as we reopen every September. Everyone was so busy here in July and August getting ready for the new season. Our exhibit, *A View from Backstage*, was struck, and our fabulous new exhibit, *Irvington Unfolds: A Village History in Maps*, was installed. The photo contest entries were hung for display, boxes and boxes of old Village records were accessioned and placed in our archives, the Roost committee began planning this issue, and many meetings were held to plan upcoming programs.

In August we also launched a new website and a Facebook page! Early last spring we formed the new Social Media committee to explore new and better ways for the Society to reach out to you—to keep you informed and so you can keep us informed. Our new website is still a work in progress, and some pages are still in the works (it's a big job!). Our goal is for it to be a resource that the community and visitors can use to learn about our Village's history and to archive the activities and programs of the Society.

The Irvington Historical Society Facebook page will keep you up-to-date on what's going on at the Society. It will have the most current information and let you comment on what we're doing. Both of these projects are homegrown volunteer efforts and we are on a steep learning curve. If you would like to help us with

them, email me or stop by at our regular social media group meeting, Thursdays at 1 PM at the McVickar House.

I am excited about both of these projects as a way to keep our history and activities accessible to you! Please visit the new website and take a look at our Facebook page. Friend us and say hello the next time you are cruising the net.

—Andy Lyons

Check us out!

www.irvingtonhistoricalsociety.org

[https://www.facebook.com/
IrvingtonHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/IrvingtonHistoricalSociety)

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Irvington Historical Society Photo Contest Winners! This year's theme: "On and Off Main"

First Place

Stephen Beech
The Black Cat Cafe



Second Place

Johanna McHugh
Flag on the Waterfront



Third Place

Joan Lynn Padian
Tree Blossom

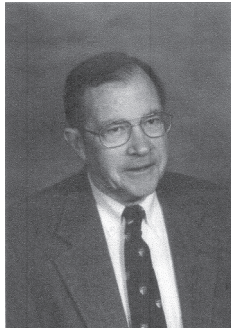


Next year's theme:
"Traces of the Past"
Get those cameras clicking!

Charles Turner Bates, 1932-2014

by Francis D. Campbell

On August 1st, Charles T. Bates, a familiar name to members of the Historical Society, alumni and staff of Hackley School and Hamilton College, as well as members of the Church of St. Barnabas, died of natural causes. Charlie, who was 82 at the time of his death, was born in Tarrytown, New York, to Harry Cole and Helen Turner Bates. He was raised on Sunnyside Lane in Irvington and, most recently, was a resident of Clinton, Connecticut. He attended Irvington Grammar School and Hackley School in Tarrytown, from which he received his diploma at the school's fiftieth commencement exercises in 1949. He was the valedictorian of his class, was inducted into the Cum Laude Society, and received the Parker Cup at the commencement for distinction in studies and school activities. In his valedictory address he stressed "the responsibility of the class to become the active, intelligent leaders of tomorrow." He was captain of the varsity swim team, served as editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, *The Dial*, and was a member of the Student Council, Glee Club, and choir.



Charlie went on to attend Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1953. His father had also graduated from Hamilton, in 1912, and was a trustee of the college. At Hamilton Charlie was a member of Pentagon, the senior honorary society. Following college, he spent two years in the U.S. Army's Ordnance Corps, serving 18 months as a translator in France. He then attended Yale University Law School, graduating in 1958, and then began his legal career at Townley & Updike in New York, where he was employed until

1969. In that year, he joined the law department of CBS, where he rose to the posts of Corporation Secretary and Associate General Counsel-Corporate. He took early retirement from CBS in 1988.

Charlie had always remained closely associated with and had strong feelings for the educational institutions he attended. Shortly after retiring from CBS, he returned to his alma mater, Hackley School, where he joined the faculty as a part-time teacher of U.S. history to 11th and 12th graders. Upon his retirement from teaching in 1999, he was made an honorary Trustee of Hackley. Just prior to his passing, he learned that Hackley's History Department Office and the Girls Swimming MVP Award would be named in his honor. From 1975 to 1979, Charlie had also served as an alumni trustee of Hamilton College. In 2009, he received the Bell Ringer Award, which recognizes exceptional service to Hamilton, its alumni and the community over the course of the recipient's lifetime. The bell symbolizing his award now resides at St. Barnabas Church, to which he donated it, and is occasionally used at special events. Charlie's strong feelings for Hamilton College are reflected in his "Class Annalists Letter," written in 2003 upon the 50th anniversary of the graduating class of 1953.

Extracurricular activity and community service were part of Charlie's life from his childhood school days. Whether in the assembly room of the Irvington Grammar School or in the Irvington Children's Museum just across from the school on Main Street, he participated in pageants, puppet shows, and hobby exhibits. He was also a member of a drama club and an Indian [Native American] club. As noted earlier, his years at Hackley School and Hamilton College included a full range of extracurricular activity.

His involvement with the Irvington Historical Society led to his becoming a Trustee during the Society's reorganization begun by Peter Oley in 1995. In 1997, Charlie, a collateral relative of Cyrus Field, gave an illustrated lecture on Villa Inanda, one of the residences on the Field estate, at St. Barnabas Church. His regard for the Irvington Children's

Charles Turner Bates, 1932-2014, *continued*

Museum is very apparent in his thorough article entitled “Irvington’s Unique Children’s Museum,” which he contributed to the *Roost* in 2001. In 2002, another article, “Nuits Restoration Video,” appeared in the *Roost*, which summarized a 40-minute video produced and edited by Douglas Wilson about Nuits, the Italianate Revival estate built in 1852-53 for the wealthy merchant Francois Cottenet. (The home has had many distinguished owners in the ensuing years, including Cyrus Field, John Jacob Astor III, and Amzi L. Barber.)

In 2002, while a Trustee, Charlie also assisted in preparing Irvington’s Proposed Historic District application. In a 2012 issue of the *Roost*, Charlie’s article entitled, “Cyrus Field Honors a President,” details the events prior to President James A. Garfield’s assassination on July 2, 1881. Garfield, who was setting out to visit Williams College, his alma mater, had also planned to visit with Cyrus Field,

another Williams alumnus, along the way in Irvington. Tragically, the president was assassinated at the train station in Washington by Charles J. Guiteau, who was later executed. Events prior to and following the assassination are covered in the article.

Upon the centennial of its construction and dedication, Charlie also wrote an article entitled “Irvington’s Main Street School Turns 100,” which appeared in the *Hudson Independent* in 2013.

Charlie was the longest tenured member of St. Barnabas Church. He was an acolyte and member of the choir, a Junior Vestryman and Vestryman. He was Treasurer of St. Barnabas for a period and also served as Clerk of the Vestry. His funeral took place at the church on August 15, 2014. He is survived by a brother, Robert P. Turner of Weston, Connecticut, and was predeceased by his brothers David and Harry Bates.

—Francis D. Campbell

Upcoming Programs

Friday, November 7 at the Main St. School Auditorium

**7:00pm Returning Guest Speaker Author Russell Shorto:
“Amsterdam: A History of the World’s Most Liberal City”
Book signing**

Sunday, December 14 at the Library Program Room

**3:30pm Guest Speaker Author Peter Rose
“Delicious December: How the Dutch Brought Us
Santa, Presents and Treats”
Demonstration, Tasting and Book Signing**

IrvingtonUnfolds: A Village History in Maps

by Ginny Read

When our Society Curator, Barbara Sciulli, proposed mounting a maps exhibit at McVickar, I didn't hesitate; I signed right on. I love maps—all kinds of maps, from the gorgeous nineteenth-century atlas plates to the more utilitarian zoning maps, street atlases, sanitary surveys, train routes, and real estate promotional maps. I was curious to see which ones we had in our collection and what they would reveal about Irvington.

As I began to cull through our maps, village residents reached out with suggestions or offered to lend their own—Ed Tishelman literally placed his extensive postcard and map collection in my hands. Ardsley Village Historian (and former IHS Trustee) Walter Schwartz, a fellow mapophile, shepherded me through the Westchester County Archives, where he volunteers. Barbara began to talk me through the nuts and bolts of mounting an exhibit: the signage, the cases, how to actually hang the maps, and how to use artifacts to bring 2-D maps to 3-D life.



Topographic maps and atlas plates and the Broadway table fill the north section of the exhibit space.

And Irvington began to unfold: I examined the so-called Forfeiture Map of 1785, which shows the Philipsburg Manor lands confiscated by New York State after the Revolutionary War (Frederick Philipse III picked the wrong side) and sold, in many

instances, to tenant farmers; I saw the auction map of 1850 that set the grid for our Main Street “downtown” area; ferry maps and train tracks on atlas plates suggested how critically positioned “Dearman” was—on the Hudson River Railroad line and a ferry’s ride from Piermont and the Erie line; these same atlases from the late 1800s and early 1900s also record the progression of property owners and parcel boundaries and the beginnings of estate subdivision.



Peter Sis’s “whale map” sits atop a corner cabinet.

There are many ways to approach a map exhibit; I opted not to follow a chronological line but rather to explore themes of interest and different kinds of maps and the information they hold. Besides atlases, there are topographic and survey maps. Map elements are not only essential but often gorgeously designed: the typography, the compass rose, symbols and legends and scales. And although I chose to limit my selection to Irvington, I allowed a few Manhattan maps in: the Vielé Map, which I originally admired for its breathtaking mix of beauty and information about the land, but which turned out to be quite famous and still in use today by engi-

Irvington Unfolds, continued

neers designing foundations of new buildings in New York City; and Peter Sis's whale map, which was commissioned by the MTA's *Arts for Transit* program.

With so many maps requiring protection behind glass (and rightly so), I wanted to give visitors the chance to be hands-on with at least a few, and so finding two sheets of the 1912 Sanborn maps of downtown Irvington in our files sparked my imagination. As anyone who's been around me the past year can attest, I LOVE Sanborn maps, perhaps the best known of the fire insurance maps, which were used to determine how much coverage to write for each structure in a municipality, based on building materials and distance to a fire department and gas and water lines.



On the tables, the Sanborn maps of Main Street, circa 1912.

Though very utilitarian in function, the Sanborn maps have been invaluable tools for preservationists, city planners, historians, and genealogists. And no wonder: the surveyors recorded the footprint and use of every building, along with details about its construction, plus street names, sidewalk widths, property boundaries, water mains, you name it. The index page lists churches and schools and details about the local economy—even the prevailing wind direction and, for Irvington, the Lord and Burnham watchman's schedule of rounds!

So wouldn't it be great, I thought, to set these out and let people "walk" down Main Street as it appeared in 1912. First I had to locate the other sheets, which proved tricky. After fruitless phone calls and

emails to people around town, the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, etc., I ran into Bob Connick on the street in Dobbs Ferry. Did he know where I might find them? Of course he did: he had them! And so I copied and laminated them and laid them out on tables along with period postcards and snippets of information as a time capsule of our village at one moment in one year—and, serendipitously, one we could compare to the map created for our downtown Historic District application this past year. (Don't miss the beautiful Historic District case downstairs that Michael Penta put together.) Fun!

I should say that, when it comes to Irvington and East Irvington history, in map parlance, all roads lead to Bob Connick. I very much wanted to devote some space to East Irvington, and Bob graciously agreed to mount his own exhibit in the Warnock Gallery, which also commemorates the 150th anniversary of the house on Sunnyside Lane in which he grew up.



This section, presently featuring East Irvington, will focus on different areas of the village during the exhibit's run.

At the beginning of next year, the Gallery space will focus on *Ardasley*, Cyrus Field's estate, featuring a spectacular map from the 1870s being loaned to us by Steve Willard of the illustrious Ward Carpenter surveying firm. This will be followed in turn, later in spring, by a display of maps and plans of wonderful Hudson House, courtesy of Nancy Krim on behalf of its Tenant Corporation, which also volunteered a copy of one of my favorites: an

A Village Unfolds, continued

atlas plate now on display that shows Jay Gould's proposed rapid transit line, which he managed to route straight through the estate of his nemesis, Cyrus Field. I call it the Spite Map.

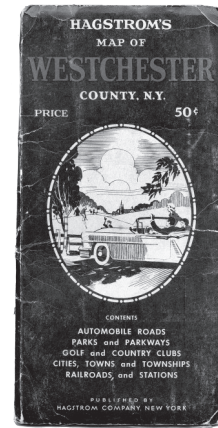
Because McVickar House offers limited wall space for displaying large maps, we had to think "off the wall." Barbara Sciulli and the many members of the Exhibits Committee were invaluable in helping me to display maps in creative ways—and for providing the telling artifacts that, like an aptly chosen costume, convey volumes. (I've seen visitors stop in their tracks to look at the five dollar bill Joan Lobdell included in the Cedar Ridge case—a simple, everyday object that shows so concretely the down payment needed to secure a home there in 1929.) Barbara also dressed mannequins to convey time periods echoed in some of the plates.



The Cedar Ridge case shows the beginnings of the development.

Looking at all these maps and researching and writing the captions, I learned a great deal about Irvington but I also learned about maps themselves: their history, their provenance (like books, they are copyright protected and this applies to the copyright holder, not the map owner), how best to store them (flat is best, rolled is good, folded is terrible!), and how to reproduce them (scans vs. photographs) when permissible.

Weighty desk atlases gave way to portable road maps as automobile travel became more commonplace, particularly in the new suburbs.



I hope you'll come visit *Irvington Unfolds*—many times. There will be new and different maps to examine over the course of the year, as well as a chance for YOU to bring us a village map. We'll scan it, return it to you, and add it to our collection. And later in the fall, we hope to set up what I call *Maplandia*: a space downstairs where you and your children or grandchildren can play with globes and copies of maps and try your hand at dating a map or creating one of your own. So come by some Thursday or Saturday afternoon, grab a magnifying glass, and explore!



Some members of the committee responsible for mounting the current exhibit, from left, Barbara Sciulli, Bob Connick, Marion Connick, Joan Lobdell, Florence Costello, Ginny Read, curator, and Michael Penta.

—Ginny Read

A Profile of Donald Costello

by Nina Caporal-Dawson

My first memories of Don Costello go back to the early 70s when he and his wife, Florence, my Girl Scout leader, chaperoned our troop trip to St. Thomas and Puerto Rico. "Mr. and Mrs. C." were our surrogate parents during our Caribbean adventure as we explored the life and culture of the two beautiful islands. And although I have many wonderful memories, perhaps one of the strongest is while we were enjoying the sun on those glorious beaches. I can still hear them reminding us, "Girls, it's 20 minutes. . . more lotion and turn over!"

Little did I know then that Don could trace his family's Irvington roots back more than 150 years. Recently, as we sat around his dining room table, Don graciously shared this history, showing me pictures, census records, and other documents. Don's great-grandparents, Michael and Mary Finn Costello, were from Queens County, Ireland. In 1858, they left a homeland stricken by famine to find a better life in America. They arrived in Abbotsford, an early Irvington enclave, on East Clinton Avenue. Michael served in the Civil War as a baker in Company K, 5th Regiment of the New York State Volunteers. He fought in the battles of Gaines's Mill and Fredericksburg. After the war he worked as a carpenter and raised his family of five children: Edward, Matthew, James, Frances, and Juliet. Michael's journey to America set the stage for the arrival of his siblings who followed him and also settled on East Clinton Avenue. They were employed as handymen for James Hamilton on the Nevis Estate. Michael passed away in 1898 and was buried in Yonkers, New York, in the Civil War section of St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Michael's third child, James, Don's grandfather, was born in 1869. He, like his father, was a carpenter and had a hand in helping shape present-day Main Street. He not only helped to build the Behrens Block, but worked on many of the homes built on several of the side streets. According to Don, the next chapter in the Costello family history is an "Irvington love story." His grandfather often walked to work along the Croton Aqueduct, passing a very lovely young lady, Mary Owens, sitting on a front porch on Croton Place. As the story goes, it was love at first sight. The couple was married in the Immacu-

late Conception Church in Irvington. They bought the house on which James was working on Croton Place and raised five children: Catherine, Margaret, Rosemary, Edward, and Anthony.



Don's grandfather, James Costello, was a founding member of the Irvington Volunteer Fire Company.

Don's father, Anthony, the youngest of James and Mary's children, was born on November 11, 1910. He attended Irvington schools, but left before graduating from high school to help support his family after the death of his father in 1926. Anthony married Isabelle Hughes, who lived on Main Street in one of the Behrens Block buildings on which his father, James, had worked. They married in the Immaculate Conception Church in 1935. In the mid-40s, Anthony became a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. He was a very familiar face to young and old alike, having the Main Street route for many, many years until he retired in 1972. I remember Don's father delivering mail to my home on South Eckar Street when I was in grade school. He was a very friendly man and would often let kids help deliver the mail on the street with him. He would tell us stories, and best of all, give us a nickel for our help! Anthony also had an outstanding reputation as a baseball/softball player, playing well into his sixties. Legend has it that he smashed the longest home run ever hit in Memorial Park during a game against Dobbs Ferry. He slammed the first pitch of the game onto the roof of the club house and it bounced onto the tennis courts!

A Profile of Donald Costello, *continued*

The Costello family history continued with the arrival of Donald Edward Costello in 1936. Don grew up in his grandmother's home on Croton Place. He played baseball and football and graduated from Irvington High School in 1954. He attended Ryder College in New Jersey for 2 years, majoring in journalism. However, unable to continue his college studies, he went to work and shortly thereafter, enlisted in the Army in 1957. Then Don met his wife-to-be, Florence Fiala of North Tarrytown. Don and Florence were married in 1958.



Don and Florence on their wedding day.

Don was stationed in Alaska and he and Florence settled in Fairbanks. This was an exciting time for the newlyweds—and for Alaska, which became the 49th state on January 3, 1959. Don remembers well the slogan: *59 Alaska became 49*. He also recounted that Vice President Richard Nixon was there for the celebration, which featured Eskimo shows and a year-long distribution of commemorative coins. However, all this excitement paled in comparison to the arrival of Don and Florence's daughter Pamela that same year!

Don is proud to have served at Ladd Air Force Base in Fairbanks, known as "America's farthest north air base." He was a Specialist 5 (E5-Sergeant) in the unit SRU#5 assigned to the Yukon Command doing surveillance maneuvers of the Soviet Union. Many years later, he was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for his service during the Cold War by Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen. After Don's honorable discharge in 1959, he, Florence and Pamela returned to New York.

After living in North Tarrytown for a short time, Don truly came "home," moving to East Clin-

ton Avenue in Irvington, the same street where his great-grandfather had settled when he came to America. In 1961, Don, like his father, became a mailman. On July 4, 1966, another daughter, Karen, was born. Today both daughters are married and Don and Florence are the very proud grandparents of Will, Shaw and Max.



Don and Florence surrounded by their children and grandchildren.

Don and Florence live in the same house on Croton Place where Don grew up. They have been married for fifty-six years and are still actively involved in the community. Don has been a member of the Irvington Volunteer Fire Department for forty-nine years. His grandfather, James, was a founding member of the department and his father, Anthony, served as chief. Don can often be found at the firehouse on Main Street, where he enjoys greeting visitors, especially new village families with young children. Don also serves as a docent at the Irvington History Center. Florence recently retired from the village and is a trustee of the Irvington Historical Society. Don and Florence have also been long-time supporters of the Irvington Girl Scouts.

Don and Florence travel a bit more now. "It's nice seeing other parts of our country," said Don, "but the nicest part is turning onto Main Street and seeing the view of the Palisades and the mighty Hudson. It's always good to be home."

So, should you ever come across Don in the village, take a moment to shake his hand and see what it's like to connect to 150 years of Irvington history.

—Nina Caporal Dawson

School Days Recollections

by Barbara Kerr Carrozzi

The following recollections and brief history of the little brick schoolhouse in East Irvington is part of the current exhibit, Irvington Unfolds: A Village History in Maps, on display at McVickar House.

The recollections unfold ...

What a wonderful time it was living and growing up in East Irvington!

From my earliest days, my memories are ones of happy, carefree, innocent days with family and friends in Dublin (East Irvington). Everybody knew everybody! I always felt safe and protected, knowing that beyond my biological family, I had a family of neighbors and friends who had my back and were there for me always. What a wonderful feeling to have as a kid; it certainly allowed for a sense of security and love ... a tremendous gift! Our days were filled with school and afterschool play; weekends were packed with get-togethers with family and friends. To me, there was nothing better!



The East Irvington School was converted to condominiums in 1983.

I always liked school and was happy to attend and meet up with my friends who seemed to me to be an extension of our Kerr family. My best friend from the age of four was Meta Shaw. We did everything together; sharing our hopes and dreams and our deepest thoughts and feelings with each other. We remained as close as sisters until her death in 2005. I miss her still.

A huge part of the lives of the kids in Dublin was our very own East Irvington School. With the completion of the Hudson River Railroad in the late

nineteenth century, affording increased accessibility to the villages along the river, the village of Irvington proved to be an increasingly popular area for wealthy New York City residents to establish a vacation or summer home in the beautiful “countryside.” Existing homes were purchased, remodeled, and expanded as well as a considerable number of new homes constructed, requiring a large labor force to service and maintain the interior and exterior of these properties, many with commanding acreage. Coinciding with this period was the large and growing population of Irish immigrants who had sought employment on the new railroad, the docks, and work crews constructing the Croton Aqueduct, and now were eager to obtain work as domestics, gardeners, nursemaids, etc., within these new households.

A rural area east of the village of Irvington was where a large population of Irish men and women settled. With so many Irish immigrants residing there and the beauty of the area’s topography, which reminded them of their homeland, they referred to their new home as *Little Dublin*. It was not long before this section east of Irvington was just *Dublin* (to this day, the “old-timers” still with great affection use the name).

As Dublin’s families grew, the need for a school to educate the growing number of their children resulted in the construction of the little red brick schoolhouse known as the East Irvington School.

Beautifully constructed in 1891 as a single-story building to educate students in kindergarten through eighth grade, a second story was added in 1925 due to continued population growth. With stone-trimmed windows, an off-center cupola, front entrance facing Mountain Road with a rear entrance on Taxter Road, its name boldly sculpted into the concrete façade above the main entrance, it boasts a rather grand and stately appearance. It possessed a most wonderful bell tower, and the custodian and our friend, Mr. Stein, would ring the bell everyday announcing time for school! It was rung every day: first ring was a warning to hurry up; at ring number two you’d better be in the classroom! We all walked to school and went home for lunch everyday. For a

School Days Recollections, *continued*

time, we enjoyed a mid-morning snack of milk and graham crackers. It was my home away from home.

Not only was it my place for schooling but after school, it was magic. We all descended on the schoolyard for rousing baseball games, tag, hide-and-seek, and anything else we felt like playing, with any and all participating; and in the winter, you could not find a more wonderful place to sleigh ride than down the hilly, sloping banks on the expansive lawn. Fun and games went on long into the darkening of night, when we would all leave happy and exhausted and unafraid to walk to our homes with a friend or two or even alone . . . such amazing days. More of us than not probably experienced our first kiss in that schoolyard! Ask anyone from East Irvington who attended the school in the 30s, 40s, or early 50s about the East Irvington School, and you'll hear the same sentiments, I'm sure. Every one of us has our stories, and the little brick schoolhouse and schoolyard hold a very special place in our hearts and minds!

Graduation ceremonies were held for eighth graders, who, come September, would be attending the "big" school on Main Street. My sister, Eleanor, was a member of the last eighth-grade class to graduate from the East Irvington School in 1947. I attended kindergarten through fifth grade in the little school. My kindergarten teacher was Miss Elsie Bell from Pennybridge, and I adored her. She had beautiful long dark hair and a wonderful smile, which greatly impressed this little four-year-old girl. At the time of my early education, the grades that were small in number were held two to a classroom. My teacher for grades 1 and 2 was Miss Angela Smith, another beauty, this time with long blonde hair, and that same wonderful, reassuring smile. Mrs. Frances Hayes, whom we all loved, taught me in grades 3 and 4.

My fourth-grade class had four kids in it—two boys and two girls (Meta and I being the two girls). The third grade was larger with either 10 or 13 students, not sure! However, things were changing in the village of Irvington due to the building of 14 South Broadway, 120 North Broadway, Cedar Hill and the Half Moon Apartments. The increased population led to restructuring of the three schools

that serviced students in Irvington's school district (Irvington, East Irvington and Pennybridge).

When school resumed the year I entered fifth grade, I encountered a most dramatic change! The East Irvington School was now going to house all fifth graders in the district. Miss Fabian Bushel, who had been the Principal of the East Irvington School for many years, and Miss Frances Valentine who had been teaching in the Main Street School, were the two teachers for all fifth graders. Out of my fourth grade class of four, one repeated the grade, two were placed in Miss Bushel's classroom and I, alone, entered Miss Valentine's class with much trepidation . . . it being the first time Meta and I would not be in a class together! I was now one of approximately 25 other fifth graders that I had never seen before! Quite a shock and a bit of a traumatic experience at the time, but happily, before long, I had 25 new friends who remain my friends today!

The school also was home to my Girl Scout troop, and very fond memories remain of participation in variety shows/minstrels that were held in the small auditorium. Such great fun and amazing times! All nine of the Kerr kids attended school in this building that holds so many cherished, wonderful memories. Every time I hear Tony Bennett sing these words: "Once upon a time the world was sweeter than we knew . . ." from that beautiful ballad, *Once Upon a Time*, I am reminded of those glorious salad days.

Over the ensuing years, the little schoolhouse saw many other changes and shifts in the classes housed there. It remained an institution for learning for over 80 years, finally closing its doors in 1972. The building remained vacant for over a decade before conversion to a condominium in 1983. The beloved former schoolyard is now called East Irvington Park, maintained by the Town of Greenburgh.

In 1983, the East Irvington School building was added to the National Register of Historic Places and as all East Irvingtonites (or *Dublinites* as we are proudly known) would say, "Rightly so!"

—Barbara Kerr Carrozzini

The Roost

Irvington Historical Society

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Save the Date

Irvington Historical Society Annual Meeting

Russell Shorto, author of
*Amsterdam: A History of the
World's Most Liberal City*

Friday, November 7, 2014

Main Street School Auditorium

7:30 p.m.