



A HISTORY
OF
LENOX SCHOOL
AND ITS CAMPUS



LSAA
WHITE PAPER # 1

(OCTOBER 2011)

(Changes from the September 2010 Version Are In Red Font)

WHAT MADE LENOX SCHOOL UNIQUE – TWO VIEWS

“...Over time, however, I came to believe that in a very real sense the school lived as long as its alumni served to exemplify its ideals in their lives. Lenox was not a prestigious school; we were never compared to Andover or Exeter. Indeed, the establishment of Lenox School in 1926 took place precisely because its founders, William Greenough Thayer, Latta Griswold and first Headmaster G. Gardner Monks sought an alternative church school for boys of more modest means and background. (Even when I first taught at Lenox, tuition was under \$1,000, and my first year’s salary was \$1,800). But by admitting “all sorts of conditions of men” an interesting and often exiting community was created, and even today when alumni get together, there is a feeling that Lenox School was as much a cause as a school. Its motto still seems the noblest of them all: “*Non ministrari sed ministrare*” or “Not to be served but to serve”...But in a very real sense for me, Lenox School never died. Its sons were always out there: lobstering off the Maine coast, doing missionary work in Haiti, pumping gas in the Bronx, teaching in schools, ministering in a thousand ways and, yes, even confined, in one case, to state prison. I well remember my first interview with Headmaster Robert L. Curry. It took place over ice cream sodas in a Wellesley drug store on a hot June day. “I don’t really have much to offer you,” he said, “except hard work and maybe a chance to be part of building something really worthwhile.””

David H. Wood
Nantucket, MA
Master/Assistant to the Headmaster
1949-1971

An excerpt from a Letter to the Editor in the Berkshire Eagle entitled “Lenox School never died” written in February 1988 as fundraising for an attempt to restart the Lenox School had just been proposed.

“From time to time an inquiring parent will ask when he comes to Lenox with his son for an interview – what is different about Lenox School from other schools? This is never an easy question to answer...but the essence of a school...is in the realm of spirit. It’s spirit which is at the core of the school. This spirit is a faith in the “miracle of growability”, “the growability of boys”. It has never tried to take only the “top” boys, academically speaking... It has tried to drive down the middle, and to do this you engage in some gambling,... in the hope that you will see growth manifested as a result of living in a community where all sorts and conditions come together, and are the concern of the faculty and staff. We believe that any boy in his teens is still “open-ended” ...We keep gambling on boys, and the percentage of success is high and we lose very few. We believe that a community which has warmth, and is small enough so that each boy can be known, is the environment where growability has the best chance to flower. Thus we bring to Lenox all kinds of boys. They are black, yellow, red, white; they are Protestant, Catholic, Buddhist, Moslems, nothing; they come from every strata economically and socially speaking – from beautiful houses in suburbia and from shacks and huts; they come from fine schools and poor schools; they come from some of the best homes in the world and from broken homes; they come with brilliant academic records and they come as dropouts from other schools with poor records; some are happy and some are angry; some are secure and some are insecure and fearful; some are sophisticated and some are naïve. It works! The “miracle of growability” is seen almost daily. One of the elements in the working of the miracle is the faith which the faculty has in what it is doing. It is not afraid to experiment and in so doing it reaches out to excite a boy to stretch himself...It has happened because boys have growability and much of it is miraculous. So what is so different about Lenox School? I guess you might say – we believe in miracles and many schools do not.”

Robert L. Curry
Headmaster
1946-1969

An extract from the Headmaster's Message, "The Miracle of Growability" in the 1967 Martin Yearbook.

**IT IS TO THE SCHOOL'S FACULTY AND STUDENTS THAT THIS HISTORY
IS DEDICATED
PREFACE**

PURPOSE

This Campus History was written by Lenox School Alumni Association (LSAA) Members primarily for LSAA Members and other friends of Lenox School to bring them up to speed on "what happened to the School and its campus since they left". Also included is a little about the history of the School and what actually occurred and a lot about the campus and its buildings. Hopefully it provides "the rest of the story" that they are not aware of. This task was undertaken because no one could ever seem to describe what had actually happened; because there were gaps and conflicts in everyone's recollections; and because as an organization, the LSAA should document the history of the School and its campus so that an accurate description can be passed on as part of its enduring legacy. In the future, the LSAA plans to publish a Lenox School Book of History and Memories which will incorporate this Campus History, as well as address in depth, all the various aspects that contributed to the Lenox School experience with a great number of pictures matched to the text.

ORGANIZATION

This Campus History is divided into five Sections, with the vast majority of all the information in the first three. Section One provides background information to include several major questions about the School and the currently available answers; the story of the founding of the School; and an explanation of its Motto, Coat of Arms and Patron Saint. Section Two deals with Lenox School from its opening in the fall of 1926 to its closing in the summer of 1971. The Third Section describes how seven subsequent organizations, and one individual who desired to, utilized the campus and its buildings from 1972 to the present. The Fourth short Section summarizes how the LSAA is preserving the School's legacy and addresses the present status of those Lenox School buildings that were not addressed at the end of the previous Section. The Fifth and final Section lists the numerous References used to create this history. Included at Annex A is an Aerial Photo of the campus, circa 1970, to assist in locating various buildings and facilities.

SOME WORK STILL REMAINS TO BE DONE

Though a great deal of research, interviews and effort has gone into creating this Campus History, a significant amount of work still remains to be done. First, there is still a considerable number of Lenox School Memorabilia Collection documents that must be read and the pertinent information extracted. This information is expected to add meat to what's already been uncovered, rather than to significantly change the facts provided in this White Paper. Second, there are several major issues addressed at its beginning, some of which still have questions to be resolved, as well as numerous minor ones throughout the document where key bits of information are still to be uncovered. Third and finally, after this document is read by the LSAA Membership, there will undoubtedly be those who wish to correct or add something to what has been written, in order to make it a more accurate and complete account. Each of these inputs must be acted upon and in some cases additional research accomplished, in order to add them to future versions of this White Paper. Therefore, it is envisioned that new editions of this White Paper will periodically be published in order to provide readers with the latest information that has been obtained.

SPECIAL THANKS

Finally, a special thanks to all the Alumni, Masters, Staff and Family Members who graciously gave of their time and recollections to make this Campus History possible and additionally to the countless authors of the publications and documents contained in the lengthy Reference Section. Any textual errors and inconsistencies or discrepancies between different portions of this Campus History text are clearly the fault of the Author.

PLEASE ENJOY THE READ !

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CREATING THIS LENOX SCHOOL CAMPUS HISTORY

Naturally, Not All References Agree. As with any attempt to recreate a History, many apparent, and mostly minor discrepancies in facts and figures pertaining to what actually occurred were obtained from different sources. Sometimes they could be explained and therefore resolved, while sometimes they couldn't be. The text that follows reflects what are believed to be the facts based upon the preponderance of the evidence, but does not note every discrepancy in the facts that has been uncovered. In those rare instances when a Headmaster's comments appear not to be totally supported by the facts, the Headmasters' words will either not be used or they may be quoted, and then the fact in question clarified later in the text.

Sources of Information. Information was obtained through the exchange of Emails with Masters, Staff, Alumni, Family Members and a relative of a former Master all familiar with specific areas in which additional information was required; a detailed review of the current Lenox School Memorabilia Collection, to include a review of many available Lenox School publications, such as the Pen & Scroll (P&S) Newspaper, Martin/P&S Yearbook, annual Lenox in Portrait Calendars and the Lenox Alumni Magazine; other School documents and correspondence; inquiries and interviews with individuals from numerous Town of Lenox organizations and local businesses, as well as a review of applicable Town records; a review of David H. Wood's "Lenox: Massachusetts Shire Town", 1969 and John Allen Gable's '61 History of the Trinity Parish, "The Goodness That Doth Crown Our Days", 1993; numerous Internet searches; and a review of applicable websites, which included those for: newspaper articles, court transcripts, alumni organizations, various additional organizations, municipal and regional areas, towns, historical buildings and organizations, genealogies and pictures of historic buildings.

LSAA Member Involvement. There was no attempt to canvas the entire LSAA membership, however, one alumnus provided a very helpful overview to initiate this entire effort and several others have provided detailed information on specific areas. In addition, the document was provided for comment to certain LSAA members known to be involved in specific related activities. The names of involved Masters, Staff and Alumni have purposefully been omitted, but their assistance, as well as that of certain family members is greatly appreciated.

Inquiries in the Town of Lenox. A thorough search for information within the Town of Lenox was conducted, thanks to the assistance of a resident alumnus. The organizations and individuals contacted included: the owners of several local business familiar with the campus; the Lenox Historical Society, to include past members; the Lenox Town Library; the Town Hall Assessors Office; and the Lenox National Bank and Legacy Banks (the former Lenox Savings Bank). Additionally, a search of applicable Town records was conducted to determine campus ownership details.

Building Descriptions. This Campus History provides a pretty comprehensive description of the history and use of each building that has ever comprised the Lenox School campus. An aerial picture of where each of these buildings is located on the campus is provided at Annex A and on the current Lenox School Memorabilia Display's Enlarged Campus Map. Two Memorabilia Displays are currently located on the former campus, one in Shakespeare & Company's **Founders' Theater (Gymnasium)** and the other in their **Bernstein Theatre (Sports Center)** and each has the Enlarged Campus Map.

The Use of Quotations. Since almost all of the information for this effort was obtained from other written sources, to include Emails, almost everything could be considered as a quote. Occasionally, specific recollections are enclosed in quotations, but for practical purposes, this was not routinely done, nor was any attempt made to footnote the text. At times the source document is referenced when a statement may be considered derogatory or attribution is considered prudent. A complete list of source documents is provided in the Reference Section at the end of this White Paper. Obviously, we're indebted to the many authors of these documents

and to all who provided input. Of special note, Ed Ockenden '43 has written the excellent "An Early History of Lenox School", which proved to be a most useful resource for this and several other related endeavors, as were former Master David Wood's and John Allen Gable's '61 two books mentioned above.

SECTION I

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ON

THE LENOX SCHOOL

(1926-1971)

SOME QUESTIONS AND SOME ANSWERS ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Some Questions Still Remain. Despite the research conducted to date, not all related facts could be obtained and so, some questions still remain to be answered or further clarified. Provided below are those major questions and the information uncovered on each to date. As mentioned previously, this White Paper will be periodically updated as additional information is uncovered and those questions are answered.

THE YEAR THAT CLASSES BEGAN AND THE SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED

There Is No Longer Any Doubt. In the past, one respected alumnus remembers seeing a document and picture that indicated that classes began in the fall of 1925 with an initial school year of 1925-1926. After an analysis of a large portion of the School's Memorabilia, the preponderance of all documents, 12 separate references including Headmasters' writings; a certified copy of the Charter; and letters from Rev. Thayer (one of the School's Founders) and Rev. Monks (the First Headmaster) all indicate that the School was founded in 1926; that classes began in the fall of 1926, with a first school year of 1926-1927; and a first graduating class in June of 1930. These facts were confirmed in 1964 during an address by Rev. Curry (the School's second Headmaster), at which Rev. Monks was also present. In the speech, the founding date (the date that the School was incorporated in the State of Massachusetts) was stated as February 3, 1926 and the date that the School opened for classes as September 22, 1926. This issue is no longer in question and the body of this White Paper is written with the dates reflected by the preponderance of the evidence: a founding date of 1926 and a first school year of 1926-1927.

THE SIZE AND INITIAL COMPOSITION OF THE CAMPUS

The Exact Size (Acreage) of the Campus at Its Largest. The overall size of the Lenox Campus at its largest (1968-1970) remains in question, as no specific figure for it has yet been uncovered in any document, but the best estimate is about 100 acres. One alumnus from the late 1950s recalls Rev. Curry referring to an 80-acre campus during graduation remarks, while the 1958 Yearbook dedication to Rev. Curry mentions that the campus had grown to 100 acres. Most think that the campus was only 63-65 acres, as these are the figures most frequently used to describe the purchases by subsequent owners of the campus from 1974 on, while one Boston *Globe* article mentions an 86-acre figure. The 1943-1944 School catalog states that the size of the campus was 65 acres and this figure was prior to the additions of **Schermerhorn Hall** and **The Annex** (approximately 15 acres) in 1957, **Bassett Hall** and the **Carriage House** (3 acres) in 1959, acquisition of the **Lithgow Estate** that became the **Howland Memorial Playing Field** (12½ acres) in 1960 and the and the **Jones (Walker-Rockwell) House** in 1968. In the 1960 Yearbook's Headmaster Message, Rev. Curry mentions the campus growing from 62 acres (the early campus) to 85 acres (the additions of Schermerhorn and Bassett Halls) and then to 97½ acres (the addition of the Lithgow Estate). Thus, the actual size of the campus at its largest must have been around 100 acres (97½ acres plus the acreage of the Jones House).

The Size of the Original Campus and Its Initial Growth. Exactly how the campus expanded over its initial several years to approximate its final size; the actual dimensions of the parcels of land; and the buildings present on each have been a point of confusion in the past and are difficult to know for certain due to the lack of records and insufficient or incomplete information in associated School publications and personal recollections. Previous conjecture was that the majority of the campus was donated to the School by a single individual, but this appears not to have been the case. The only hard data obtained to date about the size of the early campus are from School Catalogs for 1931-1932 and 1942-1943 which list the School's campus' total acreage as 32 acres and 65 acres respectively; "Rising Bells", the story of the School's first class; and several related Pen and Scroll articles. Addressed below is how the

initial three major pieces of property were acquired and added to the campus. After these three major properties, the remainder of additions to the campus were Estate-by-Estate and building-by-building with their associated grounds, to include 12½ acres that would become the **Howland Memorial Playing Field** across the Old Stockbridge Road. A detailed description of the associated buildings and facilities is provided later in this White Paper. Rev. Latta Griswold, 20th Rector of Trinity Church is credited with obtaining the funds to purchase the **Huntress Estate**, which was the initial parcel of land, but exactly who provided these funds (\$78,100) is unknown, though it was likely that it was the Church's wealthy summer parishioners. Additionally, whether the Huntress and Sturgis property acquisitions (described below) were somehow linked has not been determined, but is considered unlikely.

The Huntress Estate. The initial parcel of 27-32 acres and five buildings was referred to as the **Huntress Estate** and was located almost directly across Kemble Street from **Trinity Church**. It was owned for only about a year, by a Mr. Huntress, an electrical contractor from Brazil, who died the same winter that the land was purchased for the School. The property was formerly Mr. G. G. (George Griswold) Haven's **Sunnycroft Estate**. The property was rectangular in shape and stretched from Kemble Street to the Old Stockbridge Road, with the narrow sides facing the roads. It was bordered on its north by the **Spring Lawn Estate (Schermerhorn Hall)** and on the south by the **Clipston Grange Farm**. What is now known as the **Hockey Pond** and the **Sports Center** would have been located on the property's southwestern corner. The five buildings located on the property would become: **Griswold Hall, Thayer Hall, North Cottage** and **East Cottage**. The fifth building, a barn, was never used and eventually torn down.

The Clipston Grange Farm. The next addition to the campus, which occurred in the spring of 1928, approximately one and a half years after the School opened in 1926 and just over two years after it was founded, was the Franklin K. and Florence L. Sturgis' **Clipston Grange Farm** of three or perhaps up to six acres that faced Kemble Street; was approximately square in shape; and bordered the **Huntress Estate** on the south. Prior to its purchase by the Sturgis's, the property had been the Goelet Farm. It consisted of five buildings: **Clipston Grange**, a Stable, a greenhouse, **South Cottage** and **West Cottage**. Various sources conflict as to whether the gardener's residence was in **South** or in **West Cottage**. The term Farm probably refers to its original use or to Mr. Sturgis' prominence as a draft horse breeder, rather than as an agricultural endeavor, though it's possible that perhaps both occurred on the property. Mrs. Sturgis died in 1922 and it's postulated that Mr. Sturgis, associating the property with his wife's loss and no longer wanting to use it as a summer residence, donated it to the **House of Mercy**, now **Pittsfield General Hospital** and one of her favorite charities, for use as a Convalescent Home. Reportedly, he put so many restrictions on its use that they refused to accept it and Mr. Sturgis subsequently donated it to the School, again with several preconditions. The School initially used **Clipston Grange** as the Headmaster's Residence, beginning in the fall of 1928. Additional information is provided in Section II where the **Clipston Grange** property is discussed in more detail.

The Courtlandt F. Bishop Estate/Berkshire Estates, Incorporated Parcel.

The Decision to Purchase the Parcel. The third and final major addition to the campus was in 1935 and consisted of a 27-acre portion of the Courtlandt Field Bishop **Berkshire Estates, Incorporated**. Mr. Bishop had purchased the property in 1925-1928 and the School purchased it at the time of Mr. Bishop's death in 1935. The purchase was announced to the School at the June 1935 Graduation. It was bought by the Board of Trustees under the leadership of its President, Ransom B. Ogilby, President of Trinity College who would tragically die in the mid-1940's attempting to rescue a member of his household who had been caught in an undertow while swimming, thus truly fulfilling the School's Motto. This parcel of land was required to build **St. Martins Hall** and to create additional athletic fields that were first used for the 1937 fall season, after a year of preparation and sod-growing. The property was adjacent to and bordered the **Clipston Grange Farm** property and stretched from Kemble Street to the

Old Stockbridge Road. Its southern border became the School's southern boundary for the School's duration. Rev. Monks, the School's Headmaster during this period recalled that at the time: "the School needed money much more than it needed additional land in those depression times, but yet the School was badly hemmed in and this was the only reasonably level adjacent land that could be used for later development". In regards to this momentous decision, he said: "This venture of faith has certainly found dramatic justification".

A Description of the Property. "The property was described as including two cottages, a large barn, several carriage sheds, numerous small buildings and several large open tracts suitable for athletic fields". The rectangular piece of land included what is now the **Faculty (Maskell) Cottage** and the former 20 acre **Lanier Farm** on which the cottage that would become known as the **Infirmery** was located. The **Farm**, which dated from the 1850's had ceased any active farming and was purchased by Mr. Bishop at Mr. Lanier's death in 1925. Apparently, the Lanier's had lived across the Old Stockbridge Road in the **Allen Winden Estate**. When Mr. Bishop purchased the Farm, he added a hen house, duck house, carriage shed, greenhouse and mushroom beds. Mr. Bishop rebuilt the Lanier Farm barn that had been destroyed, into the structure that would become the **Field House** and restuccoed the chicken and pheasant houses that would become **The Coop, Print Plant and Craft Shop**. In reflecting back about these buildings, Rev. Monks remarked that, "Many public buildings, erected with an eye to the centuries, have turned out to have been less substantially constructed". Two of the first things the School did were to build a road connecting the new property to the rest of the School through the woods near **West Cottage** (probably the beginning of the **Rear Entrance Service Road**) and to get rid of the greenhouses. As previously mentioned, the Farm's rebuilt barn and these other out-buildings as improved by Mr. Bishop, would eventually become the **Field House, Monks Hall, The Coop, the Print Plant and the Craft Shop** in the School's latter years. The remainder of the **Bishop Estate** that was not sold to the School, stretched on to the south between Kemble Street and the Old Stockbridge Road for more than half a mile to Plunkett Street, known as the Crossroads. It was still known as the Berkshire Estates, Incorporated and also included what had been known in the Town of Lenox as the **Ananda Hall Estate**, which Mr. Bishop apparently razed.

A Few Bits of Some Building Information Missing. Though as previously mentioned, the vast majority of the details on the various campus buildings has been gathered, some specific dates on when certain buildings were sold and separated from the major portions of the campus that still remain under two single owners are still unknown. It is planned that this information will be obtained during upcoming Reunion weekends from documents in the Lenox School Memorabilia Collection, which is now stored in a Shakespeare & Company building on the former Lenox School campus and therefore, much more easily accessible than in the past, and perhaps through inquiries with the current owners of the property as well.

WHO ACTUALLY OWNED THE CAMPUS OVER THE YEARS

A Few Gaps Exist, But the Picture Is Getting Clearer. After the property for the original campus was donated, exactly who actually owned it (possessed the deed) in early 1926 has not yet been documented. The issue was, could the property have been purchased prior to the School's founding and if so, who would have owned it during this period? Some believed that the Episcopal Church played a role though the facts uncovered to date suggest that this was never the case. The Lenox School was always a private, independent and non-profit organization whose operations were overseen by its Board of Trustees and the final purchase of the property was most likely timed to the School's founding so that it could own the property from the time it was purchased. Second, the specific financial arrangements surrounding the **Bordentown Military Institute's (BMI)** merger with the Lenox School in 1972 to create the **Bordentown/Lenox School (BLS)** are unknown. Most sources say they merged (the most likely situation that makes the most financial sense), and one that BMI bought the Lenox School campus outright. It's believed that they did in fact merge and it is known that the mortgage held

by the Lenox Savings Bank was in the BLS name beginning in 1972. Finally, who owned the campus between the BLS's closure and its purchase in 1976 by The Bible Speaks (TBS) is also unknown, but it's assumed and some facts support, that after BLS declared bankruptcy, they made a good faith effort to clear as much of the debt as they could and that the property then would have been in receivership and owned by the Lenox Savings Bank who apparently issued the loan (s) that were defaulted upon. Reportedly, elements of the Vershire School operated on the campus during this timeframe, but the property's deed/mortgage was never in their name, so they must have simply leased the property from the Bank, rather than buying it.

THE LENOX SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Amount of Financial Support Received From the Episcopal Church. It is probably unclear to most members of the LSAA, exactly what the financial relationship between the Episcopal Church, which directed the founding of the School, and the School, once established was. Most probably assumed that it was much closer than apparently it appears to have been.

What the Issue Is. Lenox is unique in that it remains the only school to have been founded by the authority of the Provincial Synod (the Episcopal Church in New England). For a period of time, beginning in 1946 under Rev. Curry, the School actually maintained an Office on campus for the Provincial Secretary and periodically hosted church-related conferences on campus during which attendees stayed in Lenox School dormitories. This practice culminated in the first ever Convocation of Bishops of New England on November 15, 1962. Additionally, annual Confirmation classes for the School's youngest students were routinely held except for a break from 1950-1954 when boys were encouraged to use their home parishes. Though it's pretty certain that the Episcopal Church and in particular the Synod of the Province of New England was never involved in the ownership of the School, readers may question the degree of financial assistance that was provided by the Province, either routinely or in response to specific needs and requests from the School over the years. However, when the Province Synod told the School's Founding Committee to found the School, it also instructed them to inform the School never to look to the Province for financial support. The Synod further stipulated that two of its members, one its Executive Secretary, would serve as members of the School's Board of Trustees. Thus, as an unendowed School, Lenox always knew that it was operating without a net. It is clear that the School's first two Headmasters, Rev. Monks and Rev. Curry, both routinely provided updates on the School's status to the Synod and that periodic financial donations were in fact made by the Synod and its Dioceses. The questions therefore become: how often and in what amounts were these donations; and were they directly from the Synod or raised by its Dioceses, Parishes and Church Organizations.

What We Do Know. What can be determined to date is that financial support from the "Church" included periodic gifts from Church organizations like the Women of the Episcopal Church of New England, such as choir vestments in 1961 and a \$15,000 Grant for the Native American Program in 1970, as well as more routine and coordinated aid directly from the Synod for the School's annual Scholarship Fund and various fundraising campaigns. The records of scholarship aid seem to refer to an annual amount of \$1,000 in 1946; \$2,800 in 1956 (\$400 for each of the seven Dioceses in New England); and a request from Rev. Curry to increase the amount to \$5,000 for 1958 and 1959 when tuition was approximately \$1,500 per student. It is assumed that these amounts were provided annually for each subsequent year, but in what year they began and if they were in fact recurring is not known. In regards to fundraising campaigns, certain Diocese Mailing Lists may have been provided to the School to assist in fundraising efforts and there is a record of Church involvement in several fundraising efforts in the 1956-1964 period and the School's 50th Anniversary Fund (1966-1976). In 1956, Rev. Curry

asked the Synod for a Capital Gift of \$25,000 to help pay for the new wing on St. Martins and in 1960 for a promise to give a new **Memorial Chapel**. Apparently, funds were not immediately provided in either case. In response, the Synod directed that a Central Committee be appointed by the Provincial Council to meet with members of the School to plan and execute a Capital Fund drive for the School, after surveying all the needs of the School. Additionally, that the School's Trustees present their view of what the relationship between the Province and School should be; that once a year, all churches and parishes should remember the School in their prayers and distribute information on it; and that \$4,000 over the present budget for scholarships be approved. Whether this means that the Synod actually gave funds, in addition to the annual scholarships, directly to the School or simply helped raise them from other sources is unknown. However, the new wing on **St. Martins** was completed in December 1956, though a new **Chapel** was never built. Reports also indicate that the Diocese of Western Massachusetts voted to donate \$15,000 to the School's Achievement Fund in 1963. In regards to the 50th Anniversary Fund, reportedly, beginning in 1966, one Episcopal Diocese indicated that they would provide \$50,000 over ten years for it, but how that money was to be obtained and how much money was ever actually received is unknown.

THE FIRST AND SECOND FORMS AT LENOX

The Existence of First and Second Forms. It is probably not generally known or the exact circumstances fully understood by all, that Lenox School had a Second Form or 8th Grade from its founding in 1926 to 1959 (33 years). For a shorter period of time, in 1935-1937 and from at least 1948 to 1958 (12 years), it had a First Form or 7th Grade as well. After this, the School continued to enroll 7th and 8th Grade students, but sent them to classes at BCD whose instructors for these two grades initially were primarily from Lenox. This occurred from 1958 to 1963 for the 7th Grade and from 1959 to 1963 for the 8th Grade. Additionally, Lenox also had its own separate 8th Grade for the single 1963-1964 school year, when Lenox students attended classes on the Lenox campus only. The circumstances surrounding this period are described in detail below. In the English School system, some schools combine what Americans call the Middle School with the Preparatory School, hence the existence of the First and Second Forms or in the American school system, the 7th and 8th Grades, in addition to the Third through Sixth Forms in the secondary Preparatory School. In fact, this arrangement was not uncommon among many of Lenox's contemporary private preparatory schools and still is in some of them. In several instances in its history, for boys with the requisite skills, Lenox was known to consolidate both the 7th and 8th Grades into a single year's worth of instruction.

The First and Second Forms at Lenox.

Under Rev. Monks (September 1926 - March 1946). During Lenox School's first 20 years under Rev. Monks' tenure as Headmaster, the School had a Second Form or 8th Grade. For two years, 1935-1937, it also had a 7th Grade, apparently created after the school year had begun, when it was discovered that four boys who had been admitted to the 8th Grade were under the allowable age for it. These classes were generally much smaller than the corresponding Third through Sixth Form classes. According to early School Catalogs, the age criteria for Second Formers was that they be no younger than 12 or older than 14. In the School's first year (1926-1927) there was only a Second and Third Form. In the subsequent three years, a new Second Form was added each year until there was a complete five-Form student body for the 1929-1930 school year. A Second Form continued to exist under Rev. Monk's tenure for the next 16 years, though its size varied greatly and additional new students were routinely added to all the Forms as the School increased in size. Though its existence has yet to be independently verified for each year, a Second Form existed as late as the 1945-1946 school year, Rev. Monks' last.

Under Rev. Curry (April 1946 – September 1969). Under Rev. Curry's tenure as Headmaster, a Second Form continued in 1946 and a new First Form began in 1948, perhaps

a year earlier. Both continued to exist in various sizes until 1959 and 1958 respectively. In the 1954-1955 school year, for the first time, the lower school (7th, 8th and 9th Grades) even published a Lower School Supplement Section in the Pen and Scroll newspaper. At this point (1958 and 1959), Lenox stopped teaching 7th and 8th Grade classes respectively and entered into a rather unique relationship with BCD. Lenox continued to enroll 7th and 8th Graders, who were carried on its rolls and paid their tuition to Lenox, but attended coed classes with the BCD students in their classrooms. One Lenox student even reported receiving a BCD diploma despite being enrolled at Lenox. These Lenox students included mostly day students with a small percentage of boarders. For the 1958-1959 school year, the 7th Graders (5 boys, one alumnus recalls 6 boys) went to BCD classes, while the 22 8th Grade boys remained in Lenox School-only classes on the Lenox campus. The following year (1959-1960), both the 7th and 8th Grade classes merged with BCD students in their classrooms. For the first several years, as a minimum, the majority of the boys at BCD were actually enrolled at Lenox, and the majority of teachers, even the new Principal, were Lenox Masters who also taught at BCD. For the 1963-1964 school year, Lenox School once again taught its own and last 8th Grade class, consisting of 8 students. These students had no connection whatsoever with BCD and participated in Lenox School activities to include junior-level athletic teams. The details of this situation and the relationship between the two schools are explained in more detail below.

THE BERKSHIRE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL AND LENOX SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP

What We Know About Berkshire Country Day School's Use of the Campus, Its Relationship with Lenox School, and 7th and 8th Grade Boarders at Lenox.

Birth and Growth of Berkshire Country Day School. The **Berkshire Country Day (BCD) School** began on the Lenox School campus on the top/third floor of **Thayer Hall** in 1946 with 12 students and Grades Pre-School through 6th Grade. One alumnus reports that there were initially only three grades. It was started by parents concerned that Massachusetts ranked 46th out of 48 States in the quality of public school education. These same parents had organized a Kindergarten class in **Clipston Grange** the previous year. In the fall of 1948, the School moved to the **BCD Cottage** that would later become known as the **Infirmery**, located by the **Football Field** and **Field House**. Lenox students referred to this building as the **Day School Building**. Originally, classes were primarily conducted on the Cottage's second floor. In 1954, the School (BCD) built a one-story addition onto the Cottage's southern side for classrooms that would eventually become an "infirmery ward" for Lenox students. While at both **Thayer Hall** and the **BCD Cottage/Day School Building**, all BCD students ate their noon meal at the Lenox **Thayer Hall Dining Hall**. One alumnus recalls that during its first two years, 1st and 2nd Graders ate at **Pineacre**, a restaurant across the street from **Trinity Church** on the north side of Walker Street. During the period at the **BCD Cottage/Day School Building**, there were 7th and 8th Grade classes for girls, but not for boys, so the boys had to enroll at Lenox where these Grades were being taught. Thus BCD provided Lenox with a steady source of students for its 7th Grade, though the total number of boys each year was apparently never that great. For the 1956-1957 school year (a Pen and Scroll article states that Lenox occupied the **Infirmery** and renovated it in the summer of 1956), BCD moved to the **Starks House** on Walker Street, known as the **Bel Air Estate** which would be destroyed by fire in 1965. The BCD Website states that they occupied the **Starks House** in 1957.

Joint Lenox School and Berkshire Country Day School Coed 7th and 8th Grade Classes.

The First Coed Class and the Daily Routine. The first BCD 7th Grade class to have boys in it was a single coed class in the 1958-1959 school year held in the northeast corner of the first floor of the **Starks House**, with approximately five or six of the eight boys enrolled at Lenox

and four BCD girls. The Lenox boys ate their noon meal at the new **St. Martins Dining Hall** (borders ate all their meals there); attended afternoon study hall in St. Martins; attended **Chapel** with the rest of Lenox School in the **Thayer Hall Chapel** (it moved to Trinity Church the following year); and performed daily chores on campus. One Lenox boy recalls that the Lenox students played on the Lenox School Lower/Junior-level teams and that a “coefficient system” was applied to ensure that smaller boys didn’t get in over their heads with older and bigger athletes. Whether or not BCD boys had their own teams is unknown. For that year only, the BCD 8th Grade class consisted of only girls and Lenox continued to teach an 8th Grade class on its campus for its 22 students only.

Lenox Teachers and Subsequent Classes. As mentioned previously, the new BCD Principal, Mr. Donald Oaks, and the majority of teachers were Lenox School Masters as well. In fact, Mr. Oaks was the Head Football Coach at Lenox that fall and even Rev. Curry taught Sacred Studies classes there the next year. One Lenox student recalls Lenox teachers walking up the hill in the morning and Mr. Oaks walking down it in the afternoon to coach the football team. In the following year (1959-1960), the BCD 7th and 8th Grades moved to **Bassett Hall** on the Lenox Campus, which had just opened for use. One student remembers still periodically attending classes back at the **Starks House** on Walker Street as well. Mr. Putnam recalls teaching Ancient History at **Bassett Hall**, as well as other History classes on the Lenox School campus, while Mr. Terwilliger taught English and Mathematics. Other boys think they recall Mr. Rutledge (History) and Mr. Beamis (English) teaching at BCD, but are not one hundred percent sure. There were two coed 7th Grade classes; one coed 8th Grade class; and perhaps a very small 9th Grade class of only girls. One student recalls the two 7th Grade classes in the two rooms to the right of the entrance door; the 8th Grade class in the left rear; and the 9th Grade girls to the left front. These classes occupied the entire first floor of **Bassett Hall**, except for the kitchen and maid quarters, while the upper floors were used as faculty housing. Lenox students still ate and worked on the Lenox campus, but lunch was served in the dining hall alcove prior to the normal Lenox School lunch. These classes at **Bassett Hall** continued until the summer of 1963. During this entire relationship, the majority of the Lenox-enrolled boys would continue on in the Third Form at Lenox, while the majority of the BCD boys did not. A 1959 Lenox Pen and Scroll article referred to one of its 8th Grade students as a Second Former attending the Berkshire Country Day School.

The End of the Lenox School and the Berkshire Country Day School Relationship. When the majority of BCD relocated to the more distant **Brook Farm** campus in 1963, their 7th and 8th Grade classes moved out of **Bassett Hall** and into the **Starks House** until it was destroyed by fire in 1965. The following year, 1963-1964, **Bassett Hall** became a Lenox School dormitory. At the time BCD left **Bassett Hall**, it is believed that the formal relationship between the two Schools ended and the First Form at Lenox truly ceased to exist. Some BCD students would continue to choose Lenox for their secondary school education, but BCD and Lenox students would never share classes again. As has been mentioned several times, for one additional year only, 1963-1964, Lenox once again had an 8th Grade that attended classes at Lenox with Lenox Masters, but was completely separate from BCD. Why the Lenox/BCD relationship ended, cannot be known for sure, but perhaps the increased distance from Lenox to the new Brook Farm location; the fact that the Lenox student body achieved its maximum size for the campus at this same time; and perhaps that Rev. Curry began thinking of moving to a new school (The Shattuck School) all might have had a role to play. The possibility also exists that Rev. Curry had promised to assist BCD in creating a coed 7th and 8th Grade for a five-year period and that period had simply ended.

Boarders at Lenox School. As mentioned above, from 1958 to 1963 some Lenox 7th and 8th Grade students continued to board on the Lenox School campus, while attending classes at BCD and there were also 8th Grade boarders for the 1963-1964 school year. These students usually resided in the upper floors of the center section of **St. Martins Hall** (either WABC, the name of the second floor dorm, or on the Third Floor) or in **West Cottage**. Their presence at the School can be verified from the pictures of some very young boys in Lenox Yearbook dormitory pictures for this period. These boys were fully enrolled at Lenox and ate their

meals there, a fact confirmed by both a Lenox Master and students from that era. One student remembers sweeping the lower hall of **St. Martins** as his daily job and that spades was the card game of choice, replacing bridge that had been preferred in the 1930s and 1940s. This situation obviously allowed some non-local boys to benefit from the quality instruction and mentoring by Lenox School Masters (the primary 7th and 8th Grade teachers for BCD), and to continue on at Lenox for their Third through Sixth Forms with a minimum of disruption. The practice of housing some students who attended classes at BCD continued through the 1962-1963 school year, after which the BCD classes moved out of **Bassett Hall** and back into the **Starks House** and Lenox students no longer participated in them.

The Details Behind the Relationship Between Berkshire Country Day School and Lenox School and Its Campus.

From 1946 to 1958. It appears that since its beginning in 1946, the **Berkshire Country Day School** has enjoyed a special relationship with Lenox School and that on its behalf; Lenox came to rely on BCD as a “feeder-school” for a percentage of its incoming 7th Grade students in the 1940s through the 1950s and then as a place to send its 7th and 8th Graders, instead of teaching them itself. It is believed that this special relationship was worked out between Rev. Curry and the BCD Trustees. The founders of BCD were close friends with Rev. Curry, as were the Trustees, at least one of whom served on both the BCD and Lenox Board of Trustees. Rev. Curry likely saw BCD’s existence as beneficial to Lenox, not only as a source of students as mentioned above, but perhaps also as an additional source of income as well, generated through the use of its facilities. Or maybe, Rev. Curry just allowed BCD to use space that was available on the campus. At times, exactly who was responsible for what between the two schools and the exact status of some of the Masters and who they worked for is blurred when looking back through time, though undoubtedly, it must have been clearly specified at the time. It is clear that over the years, Lenox provided facilities and other resources that BCD required to continue operations and to grow. Additionally, Lenox began a 7th Grade and continued to offer its 8th Grade because BCD did not have the resources to offer them, or perhaps, BCD did not offer them because they already existed at Lenox. As mentioned previously, BCD began at **Thayer Hall** for two years and then continued on campus in the **BCD Cottage/Day School Building**, later the **Infirmery**, for another 9 years. At both locations the students ate their noon meal at the Lenox Dining Hall in **Thayer Hall**.

From 1958 to 1963 and Beyond. BCD’s 7th and 8th Grades then used **Bassett Hall** for another 3 years, probably because BCD could not house all its students in the **Starks House**. Though in the available Lenox School documents reviewed to date, there is no mention of the School’s formal relationship with BCD, it is clear that Lenox played a substantial and direct role in assisting BCD to add boys to their existing female 7th and 8th Grades and in BCD’s rapid growth in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Lenox did this by having its 7th and 8th Grade students attend classes at BCD and by offering its faculty to initially teach the 7th and 8th Grade classes at BCD, even providing one of their faculty to be the new BCD Principal in 1958. Between 1958 and 1963, BCD tripled in size (58 to 183 students) and in 1963 it moved to its current home on the **Brook Farm** campus, eliminating any further need to use the Lenox School campus. Reportedly, they still used the **Starks House** for their 7th and 8th Grades classes until it was destroyed by fire in 1965, at which time, they too moved to the Brook Farm campus. From 2000 to 2006, BCD tried its hand at running a high school on the former **Windsor Mountain School** campus, but subsequently reverted back to its elementary school-only configuration. The details on the background of the Lenox School and BCD relationship, specifically between 1958 and 1963, will be further refined in the future. Remarkably, one Lenox alumnus attended Kindergarten through the Sixth Form (13 years) on the Lenox School campus before attending an Ivy League University.

HOW MANY LENOX SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE THERE

The Total Number of Lenox School Graduates. One would think that for any School that no longer exists, you would be able to list its total number of graduates and that this number would become one of those instantly recalled numbers among its alumni when discussing the school's legacy. The total number of graduates also gives one an idea of the total number of boys who once inhabited the campus. However in Lenox School's case, determining this number is more easily said than done.

The Problem. For Lenox School you should remember the number 1,365 graduates plus or minus 2% (27) or between 1,338 and 1,402 graduates and be satisfied, when in reality, the actual number can't be known for sure. The problem is that the School's records are gone and the surviving available numbers just don't add up. Headmaster's recollections, written histories, Graduation Programs, alumni's personal recollections, Pen and Scroll articles, the various types of Yearbook listings and the School's individual class listings in Alumni Directories just don't jive, with frequent and often major discrepancies between the various listings. For instance, two Alumni Directories, five years apart have a discrepancy of 227 between their total number of graduates or almost 17% of the total number and neither listing agrees with any one of the individual class listings from either Yearbooks or Pen and Scrolls.

The Goal. The goal is simply to get two sources to agree on a single number. However, in lieu of that and with the documents currently available, it's impossible to determine an accurate and reliable number and so the 1,365 figure plus or minus 2% (27) is the most accurate estimate possible. It was derived from an estimate that Rev. Curry, the Headmaster made in a 1964 address, that the School would exceed 1,000 graduates with the Class of 1965. The total number of graduates since 1965 was then added to 1,000 and half the size of the Class of 1965 was added as the variable. The Lenox School Alumni Association has spent considerable effort to determine all the Lenox graduates and students that attended Lenox, but did not graduate. They've come up with a total of 1,680 names which includes 30 who were underformers when the School closed in 1971. Thus, excluding these 30 boys, their number is only 285 boys over the previous estimate of graduates. This number would account for about 5-6 boys a year who dropped out, which seems about right. Numbers will continue to be reconciled with the documents available in order to refine this estimate, but since some 10+ years of Yearbooks and Pen and Scrolls are missing from the Memorabilia Collection, the true number may never be known. The intent is to verify as many classes' graduate numbers as possible through a 100% review of the Memorabilia Collection's documents

THE FOUNDING OF LENOX SCHOOL

The Story. Any History of the Campus requires a short overview of the Founding of the School, to include exactly how it was conceived and actually came into existence. This interesting story is provided below.

The Initial Vision. "Lenox School had its beginning in the agile imagination of the Rev. Dr. William G. Thayer, Headmaster of **St. Mark's School** in Southborough, Massachusetts." "Rev. Thayer was a well known and well regarded educator who was called upon by the Episcopal Church to make a survey of the educational institutions of the Church on a national scale. Part of his findings was that in New England, there were many well-established schools, but that they were primarily limited to students from well-to-do families. He found that many Episcopalians were going to moderate-rate non-Episcopal schools and that therefore, the Church was not doing its job by failing to provide affordable schooling for those members of the Church. Perhaps motivated by the stream of desirable applicants from families unable to afford St. Mark's tuition, Dr. Thayer dreamed of founding another school. This would be a school that, while duplicating **St. Mark's'** excellent education, would serve boys from families of modest means. Probably Dr. Thayer discussed the idea with other Episcopal school headmasters of like minds. Some of

these would have been men likely to be summoned by their Bishop to form a planning Committee. In 1921, the Episcopal Province of New England took notice of Rev. Thayer's comments and formed a Committee to investigate and report upon the establishment of a moderate-rate Episcopal school in central New England."

The Vision Takes Shape. "Meanwhile, four young masters from **St. Mark's**, including the Rev. G. Gardner Monks (graduate of St. Marks in 1917, Harvard in 1921, and the Episcopal Theological School in 1925) and Walden Pell", who would soon also become a minister, "had made known their interest in becoming headmasters. Rev. Thayer had had an opportunity to assess Rev. Monks' leadership ability as he had selected him to run **St. Marks' Brantwood Camp** for three summers. They sailed to England to study typical English schools and wrote a report on their findings. It is likely that before taking the next step to found a new school, Dr. Thayer and the other involved headmasters read their report. Most members of the Committee headed schools founded in the 1800s and had little experience with startup schools. But, among the half dozen men was the colorful recent founder and Headmaster of the **Kent School**, in Kent, CT, Father Frederic Sill", referred to on the School's Website as being an Episcopal Monk.

The Self-Help Model. "Father Frederic Sill was a Columbia graduate and a coxswain whose crews were winners. In founding **Kent School**, he relied on this experience to establish Crew as the school's major sport. But, though his crews were his pride and joy, Father Sill had also championed the self-help concept for private school students. All **Kent** boys had jobs: setting tables, washing dishes, sweeping, dusting, washing windows, polishing brass, and keeping their own rooms ready for inspection. The self-help concept became the most important contribution Father Sill brought to the meeting of the Committee that would ultimately found Lenox School."

Accepting the Self-Help Model. "Although the **Kent School** had successfully practiced self-help for over fifteen years, it was rarely found in other boarding schools, and there were objections among the Committee members. Father Sill had to remind them that, as a school dedicated to educating boys of modest means, the new venture could not afford to hire people to do what the boys could handle themselves. Besides, he reminded them, it is good for a boy's character to learn respect for the common laborer and to understand the dignity to be found in honest work. If Gardner Monks had been in that meeting, he would have been Father Sill's strongest supporter. Nobody understood better than he that the less he spent on hiring help, the more scholarship aid he could offer. However, Father Sill didn't need the support of Gardner Monks, he carried the day alone." Another concept of Father Sill's that would at times be accepted by the new School was a sliding tuition scale based upon the ability of a student's family to pay.

Rev. Thayer's Position on Private Secondary Schools. Rev. Thayer's thinking on private secondary schools is clearly indicated in this excerpt from the history of Rev. Thayer on the **St. Andrew's Church**, Ayer, Massachusetts' (his first parish) Website. In 1925, Rev. Thayer, together with the headmasters of five other private secondary schools, likely some of the same members of the Committee, wrote "The Education of the Modern Boy". From it, you can easily deduce his viewpoints on the availability of a private school education and the special charter placed upon an endowed school. "In a democracy, the most dangerous of all classes is the idle class, and no community can advance in well being if the unemployed forms a considerable part of its population. For this reason, the private school must be within the reasonable reach of moderate and even meager means, lest there be segregation of a leisure class. The defenders of the private school will have little standing ground unless they can rid the schools of even the suspicion of exclusiveness. To justify the endowment of private schools, their advocates must show that they are doing something that the public schools cannot do. To heap up endowments for schools which at best merely parallel the schools supported by the State would be a misappropriation of funds that should be turned toward the bettering of the schools within the reach of all." Perhaps rather ironically, **St. Mark's School** has a current endowment of around \$133 Million, **St. Andrew's** (see below) about \$170 Million and **Kent School** about \$73 Million.

The Final Steps. In 1924, the committee was authorized to proceed and found a school. “In those days, Lenox was the preferred summer getaway for the rich and powerful. As the new school plan took shape, the Rev. Latta Griswold, prolific author, confirmed bachelor and Rector of **Trinity Church** in Lenox lamented the deadness of the Lenox community when the summer residents departed. Aware of the plan for a new school, he coordinated the effort, it is assumed primarily among his wealthy summer parishioners, to secure funds” (\$78,100) to purchase the roughly 30 acre **Huntress Estate**, which had previously been known in Lenox as G. G. Haven’s **Sunnycroft Estate**. Rev. Griswold twice offered the **Huntress Estate**, almost directly across Kemble Street from the Church, as the initial location for the School before it was finally accepted. “With the plan for the new School being activated, Dr. Thayer told Rev. Gardner Monks that he would back him as the founding Headmaster. Decades later, Mrs. Monks, who had taken an active part in running the School, confided her apprehension over starting at the top with no prior experience.” Thus, on February 3, 1926, Lenox School became a reality, one of four Church schools founded in the 1920’s.

Subsequent Actions. “Rev. Thayer believed that the School must be financially secure, but had only limited success in obtaining funds for it from St. Mark’s’ alumni.” He had also been told by the Episcopal Church’s New England Province’s Synod not to look to them for financial assistance. “Therefore, Dr. Thayer buttonholed Rev. Griswold and suggested that he ask his wealthy parishioners to help support the new School. Rev. Griswold got numerous generous gifts for the School from his parishioners and other summer residents” before his untimely death at the age of 56 in 1931 while visiting Edinburgh, Scotland with his mother and Mr. Nathaniel Noble a Lenox School Master. Rev. Thayer would follow him in death in 1934, just shy of his 71st birthday, having served 36 years as Headmaster of the **St. Mark’s School**. Regardless of the donations, the School was to remain a pay-as-you-go venture with no endowment and only small emergency financial reserves from time-to-time. In 1937, a Chapel Pew in the Trinity College Chapel in Hartford, Connecticut in honor of Rev. Thayer was dedicated by Dr. Remsen B. Ogilby, President of Trinity College and Chairman of the Lenox School Board of Trustees, and Lenox School Headmaster Rev. G. Gardner Monks. The details and a description of the carved pew end are provided in Section IV’s “How the Legacy Is Maintained”.

The School’s Uniqueness in the Town of Lenox. Lenox School was the first of many private preparatory schools that would be established in Lenox over the years, all taking advantage of the many “cottages” and estates that were becoming available at reasonable prices. However, Lenox School was unique among these other schools because it incorporated the greatest number of separate cottages/estates onto one single campus. Most of the School’s buildings would be painted colonial yellow with white trim, which was a tradition in the Town of Lenox. A cream color with brown trim was used on a few others, primarily with masonry exteriors, on the southern portion of the campus. Sometimes, a white undercoat was left visible for awhile until the colonial yellow exterior paint could be purchased and applied.

A Lenox School Spin-Off. Shortly after Lenox School’s opening, the Dupont family wanted to build a school in Middletown, Delaware. Mr. A. Felix Dupont latched onto Lenox Headmaster Rev. Gardner Monks, learned from him and planned his school on the same value system shared by Lenox and other Episcopal schools. The result was **St. Andrew’s School** which opened in 1929 in Middletown, Delaware. The Rev. Walden Pell, one of the original Lenox School Masters, left Lenox School to become the founding Headmaster of **St. Andrew’s**. In the 1930s and 1940s it was not unusual for a boy who was kicked out of **St. Andrew’s** to come to Lenox for a fresh start with its’ nearly identical curriculum.

THE SCHOOL’S MOTTO, COAT OF ARMS/CREST, PATRON SAINT AND SONG

Why It's Addressed and Their Approval. Though not specifically addressing the History of the Campus, it is important to understand how the School's Motto, Coat of Arms/Crest, Patron Saint and Song were adopted, as these first three symbols were closely linked to the campus and seen everywhere on it and the Song heard, if perhaps for only a short period of time in the School's early to mid years. The first three were proposed to the Board of Trustees by the Headmaster, Rev. G. Gardner Monks, and unanimously accepted in the fall of 1930, just after the School's first graduating class that June. Shortly thereafter, on November 9, 1930, each of the three was presented to the student body in a Sunday-service sermon by Rev. Latta Griswold, Rector of **Trinity Church**. The circumstances surrounding the use of a School Song remain rather murky. The first version of the "Black and the Gold" was written during the School's first several years by one of its original Masters and its Musical Director, but seems to have faded from general use by the late 1930s. A second version of the Song appeared in the early 1940s, but there is no information concerning on what occasions it was sung. More details are provided below.

The Motto. "The Motto is the Latin version of a portion of Matthew 20:28 "Non ministrari, sed ministrare". This Latin translation gives a pleasant play upon words, for "ministrari and ministrare" are spelled exactly the same with the exception of the final vowel. But that one letter makes all the difference in the world. It sets in sharp antithesis the worldly idea that one is worthy of every service that can be rendered, against the ideal of Christ that we owe God and man self-forgetting, self-sacrificing service. "Not to be served, but to serve." It is particularly, a Motto which expresses the goal and aim of Lenox School."

The Coat of Arms. Rev. Monks commissioned a Mr. La Rose of Boston to provide two suggested designs for the Coat of Arms, the second of which was selected and described as follows. "The Coat of Arms consists of a shield of black and gold, the School colors, with a Martin" (bird) "at the top to signify the Patron Saint. The shield is charged with a Y-shaped cross (Note: whether the Crest we know today actually has a Y-shaped cross or was changed to an X-shaped cross is left to the reader's discretion/an additional source says that the crossed bars denote honorable descent), to symbolize that it is a church school, upon which are three roses, taken from the arms of the Earls of Lennox" (thus utilizing the similar name used by the Town of Lenox and perhaps also acknowledging the School's organization based upon the English secondary school system). "The Motto is inscribed upon an open book in the center of the shield, which is the custom in the case of collegiate coats of arms" and represents learning. (Note: The Town of Lenox was named for Charles Lennox, 3rd Duke of Richmond and Lennox. Exactly how the spelling changed from two n's to one is unknown, though some say it was to have had the same spelling until misspelled by a clerk at the Town's incorporation in 1767 and others that it was probably just an example of the simplified spelling of the time.)

The Patron Saint – St. Martin of Tours.

Choosing a Patron Saint. "It is an ancient custom to dedicate institutions to the memory of a saint and to regard that saint as its patron, holding them up for honor, imitation and for some, intercessionary prayers. St. Martin of Tours (316-387) was born in modern Hungary to a military tribune and converted to Christianity as a boy. Martin was a soldier, monk, missionary preacher and bishop, as well as being one of the first soldiers and Christians to be convinced that the profession of bearing arms was inconsistent with his Christian principles and thus to decide to devote himself entirely to God. He may be best remembered in his youth as a soldier, cutting his cloak in half to share with a beggar, but he became one of the most powerful influences for the faith in his century."

Why St. Martin. "St. Martin is a fitting patron and model for the character and ideals of Lenox, because Lenox put the ideals of Christ first and because he: manifested humble self-service, fiery zeal and whole-hearted devotion in all he undertook; endeavored to live in the spirit of Christ; accepted Jesus with all his heart, mind and will and imitated him as an example for his own life; literally applied the love of God in service to his fellow brothers; turned his back on prizes and awards for his actions; and lived in utmost simplicity, which Lenox School believes

has spiritual and moral value. Another factor is that St. Martin's feast-day falls on November 11, Armistice Day, a day to inspire people in all nations to end war, and the festival of the translation of St. Martin falls on July, 4th, the Nation's birthday. Lenox taught boys good citizenship which included devising ways and means for keeping peace at home and between nations."

Use and Meaning of the Martin Bird on the School Crest. The following reflections on the martin bird and its meaning appeared in the School's 1956 Yearbook, appropriately known as the Martin, which used the martin as a theme and symbol throughout the publication.

The Martin. "It is this little bird which we adopt as our symbol, this bird which appears throughout the book as our theme. The bird is the martin, standing for St. Martin, the great Bishop of Tours and the patron saint of Lenox School. We could have chosen a fiercer and more dramatic bird such as the eagle or the hawk, but we like to think that the little home-loving, rather insignificant martin is more typical. Most of the good that is accomplished in life, whether in school, in statecraft, business or in any other sphere comes as a result of little actions, often unnoticed and easily passed over. As far as we know, Martin, Bishop of Tours did only one very dramatic thing in his life, but he is one of our best-loved saints. The martin, then, stands for indomitable spirit, not proud and condescending, but humble and moving in a spirit of perfect love for all men. We like to think this is the moving spirit of our school and it is the reason we are proud to be represented by the martin."

The Original School Song – The Black and the Gold

It's Creation. Apparently there was a School song known as "The Black and The Gold" created during the School's first several years and put to music within the first five years or so. The author of the words was Rev. Walden Pell, one of the School's first four Masters who departed the School to become the Headmaster at St. Andrews School in Middleton, Delaware during the 1929-1930 school year. The melody, which unfortunately has as yet been lost to time, was written by the School's Music Director, Mr. Thomas Moxon who was also the choirmaster and organist at Trinity Church.

Recollections and Use. The words were recalled by Canon Robert Whitman, class of 1933 alumnus and Trustee, in the late 1990s and though he knew the melody, he could not equate it to any current song and so it could not be properly documented and transmitted by letter or Email. He could not recall several of the words and no one or any reference documents have yet been uncovered that detail on what occasions the song was sung or for how many years it remained in use. In fact no alumnus has yet come forward and recalled its use at all. Therefore, it most likely was only used on special occasions in the 1930s and not widely in use or popular with the students.

The Black and the Gold

*.....in classroom and hall,
Dickens and Daudet, Euclid and Paul
.....things new and old
Written in black and remembered in gold!
.....the thunder of cleats on battle-scarred mold
Sound the attack of the Black and the Gold!*

*And when it is time from this School to depart
We'll remember it yet and the Cross at its heart
So let the hills ring with a shout sixty fold
In honor and praise of the Black and the Gold*

Follow-On School Song of the 1940s. Apparently, in the 1940s, a second version of the School Song was created. Though its name has yet to be determined, "The Black

and the Gold” is a good bet. It was discovered in the center of the 1942 and 1943 Lenox School Yearbooks under a picture of St. Martins Hall, but there was no indication that it was the School Song. However, the same verse was found in a class of 1948 deceased alumni’s scrapbook entitled “Lenox School Song”. He had indicated that the tune for the song was the old Thanksgiving standard, “We Gather Together”, a traditional Netherlands melody and Hymn #315 in the Episcopal Hymnal. This was subsequently confirmed by a 1941 alumnus who was subsequently a Master from 1945-1953. Again there was no indication on what occasions the song was sung. Given that Rev. Monks was the Headmaster during the time that both songs were created, we must assume that both songs had his approval and that he approved the substitution of the follow-on version.

Follow-On Lenox School Song

*Let mountains around us resound with our chorus,
Bound loyal to Lenox, the Black and the Gold:
Our motto of service long ages before us
Saint Martin with valor was proud to uphold.*

*From year unto year in unceasing rotation,
From boyhood to manhood, days passing so fast
Bind fathers with sons in one long generation
'Til present and future are one with the past.*

*In hall and field we will strive with high spirit
To honor our School while her fortune we share,
And further with merit the strength we inherit,
To live through the years by the faith we declare.*

A LISTING OF CAMPUS OWNERS

The Three Major Parcels of Land That Formed the Early Campus and Provided the Majority of Campus Acreage with Their Original Buildings

1880-1926 - **Sunnycroft Estate/Huntress Estate** (27-32 Acres), Mr. G. G. Haven (1880-1925), Mr. Huntress (1925-1926) (**Griswold Hall, Thayer Hall, East Cottage, North Cottage**)
1893-1927 - **The Goelet Farm** (prior to 1893)/**Clipston Grange Farm** (3-6 Acres), Mr. Franklin K. and Mrs. Florence L. Sturgis (1893-1922), Mr. Franklin K. Sturgis (1922-1928) (**Clipston Grange, South Cottage, West Cottage**)
1850s-1935 - **Lanier Farm/Berkshire Estates, Incorporated** (27 Acres), Charles Lanier of the **Allen Winden Estate** and **Lanier Farm** (20 acres of the 27 acres) (1882-1925), Courtlandt F. Bishop (1925-1935) (**West Cottage, Faculty (Maskell) Cottage, Print Shop, Craft Shop, The Coop, Field House, Monks Hall, Infirmary**)

Estates that Were Subsequently Added to the Campus with Their Original Buildings

1790s-1960 - **Lithgow Estate** (12 acres), Landers Family, Edward Pierrepont, Alfred Gilmore, Miss

1804-1968 - Louisa Gilmore (**Howland Memorial Playing Field**)
Walker/Rockwell Cottage, William P. Walker, Rockwell Family, William O. Curtis,
 Clinton O. Jones (**Jones House**)
 1881-1958 - **Frelinghuysen Cottage/Sundrum House** (3 acres), Frederick T. Frelinghuysen,
 Mrs.
 Thatcher Adams, Mr. R. J. Flick, Mrs. Clinton F. Bassett (**Bassett Hall, Carriage House**)
 1904-1957 - **Spring Lawn Estate/Schermeer**, Dr. John F. Alexandre, Miss. Alexandre, Mrs. Arthur F.
 Schermerhorn (**Schermerhorn Hall, The Annex**)

Owners of the Lenox School Campus

1926-1971 - The Lenox School February 3, 1926 (by Board of Trustees as it was always a private, independent non-profit organization. There is no record that the Episcopal Church ever had Title to the campus)
 1972-1973 - The Bordentown/Lenox School (BLS)
 1973-1976 - Lenox Savings Bank (the bank holding the loan/deed during the BLS period.)
 The Vershire School/New School at Lenox apparently leased the property for a period of this time.
 1976 -1987 - The Bible Speaks (TBS) (Rev. Carl Henry Stevens Jr.)
 1987- 1993 - Ms. Elizabeth Dovydenas
 1993-1999 - The National Music Foundation
 1999-2005 - Shakespeare & Company (S&Co)
 2005-Present - Northernmost 30 acres Dr. James C. Journey Sr.
 2005-Present - Southernmost 33 acres Shakespeare & Company (S&Co)

HOW THE SCHOOL’S 24 BUILDINGS HAVE FARED OVER THE YEARS

3 Razed (Griswold Hall, Thayer Hall, Print Shop)
9 In Use With S&Co or Dr. Journey (Clipston Grange, South Cottage*, Lawrence Hall, West Cottage, Library, Gymnasium, Craft Shop*, Sports Center, Faculty (Maskell Cottage)
3 Sold To Separate Owners (Jones House, Bassett Hall, Carriage House Cottage)
4 Planned for Renovation (Schermerhorn Hall, The Annex, St. Martins Hall***, Field House)
5 Deteriorated Beyond Repair (North Cottage, East Cottage, The Coop, Monks Hall, Infirmary)

* The **Craft Shop** needs power and water, while **South Cottage** needs immediate repairs to be habitable. The South Cottage repairs are planned for the near future as funds are available.

** The walls of the **Field House** are strong and it can possibly be saved, despite the collapsed center section’s second story floor.

*** The two rear extensions to **St. Martins Hall** are being used in warm weather as rehearsal rooms, while the dining room and study hall are being used for storage.

Note 1: Those buildings that are indicated above as **Sold**, now belong to individual owners, rather than being parts of the two larger pieces of property that comprise the majority of the campus. **Note 2:** Only the buildings actually utilized by Lenox School are included in the above list. There were/may have been several other buildings on the campus as new parcels of land were acquired, but if they were never used by the School, then they aren't addressed above. Additionally, the several parking sheds on the campus are not tracked as separate buildings. A barn was one of the original five buildings on the **Huntress Estate**, but it was torn down and never used by the School. One alumnus remembers a small cottage located on the edge of left field near the woodline bordering the baseball diamond, circa 1938-1943. Whether it was part of the School property or the adjacent Bishop **Berkshire Estates, Incorporated** is unknown. A small **Stable**, adjacent to **South Cottage** was used to park faculty cars and was personally torn down in the late 1930s by Rev. Monks. One reference to a **Turner Cottage** in 1949 was uncovered, but its location and use were not specified and so whether it is another name for an existing School building or a separate building is not known. Furthermore, some type of outbuilding or shed was located adjacent to the **Infirmery**, but its specific configuration and use has not yet been confirmed. Finally, the dilapidated **Lithgow House**, which was deemed beyond repair, was torn down in 1960 to clear what would become the **J. Arthur Howland Memorial Playing Field**.

SECTION II

THE LENOX SCHOOL

(1926-1971)

THE SCHOOL'S FIRST YEAR (1926-1927)

The Original Campus Bought and Donated. As mentioned previously, the School's original campus consisted of a 27-32 acre rectangular piece of property, stretching between Kemble Street and the Old Stockbridge Road, known at the time as the **Huntress Estate**. It had previously been known as Mr. G. G. (George Griswold) Haven's **Sunnycroft Estate** and consisted of the five buildings described below. As an indication of the impact that wealthy summer residents had on the community, reportedly, when the property was first purchased in 1880, costs for an acre of farmland had increased to \$3,000 an acre. When it was purchased for the School, the property and buildings cost a total of \$78,100. Fittingly, the property was just a little south and across Kemble Street from **Trinity Church** whose Rector and Parishioners had provided the funds to purchase it in 1926 for use as a boy's preparatory school as originally envisioned by the Episcopal Synod of the Province of New England. Kemble Street was named for the world-renowned nineteenth century British Shakespearian actress Anne (Fanny) Kemble, 1809-1893, who frequented the Lenox area between 1836 and 1867, befriending the numerous literary luminaries who had taken up residence in the area. She lived close to the campus, just down the street in "**The Perch**" and was a frequent visitor to **Trinity Church** services and events at the Church's original location on Church Street in the Town of Lenox (see below).

Moving Onto the Campus. Apparently, little work was done on the property prior to the School opening on September 22, 1926 with 40 boys (one sources say 36) in the Second and Third Forms, four Masters (Rev. Monks, Rev. Pell, Mr. Clark and Mr. Cummings), including the Headmaster, a housemother (Mrs. Alden), nurse (Mrs. Brigham), secretary (Mrs. Downing), groundskeeper (Mr. Howland) and kitchen staff (Mrs. Hubert was in charge). The School was dedicated in October by Bishop Thomas Frederick Davies, Jr., the second Bishop of Western Massachusetts, with Rev. Monks, the students, Masters and Rev. Thayer, Founder and President of the Board of Trustees also in attendance. Initially, most everyone, less the staff, lived and worked out of the property's main building which would become known as **Griswold Hall**. The use of the rest of the property was somewhat restricted until it could be further developed, but there was still room for "running the circle" as disciplinary punishment, with 25 and 50 laps not unheard of, and for work squads throughout the property. In order to find room to roam and roughhouse, students often ran through neighboring estate's yards and property, hopping fences and crossing lawns. One alumnus reported seeing a reference that the renowned landscape architect, Mr. Charles Downing Lay, of **Central Park** fame, was involved in the initial landscape design and subsequent creation of the campus. The fact that both Rev. Monks and Mr. Lay had been at Harvard at approximately the same time adds credence to this possible relationship that will be further investigated in the future.

A Glimpse at that First Year. Grey Mason and Norman R. Sturgis Jr. both of the class of 1930 provided a description of this First Year in their "Rising Bells" Booklet, which is part of the School's Memorabilia Collection. Much of the information in this section was obtained from their recollections. Perhaps the most significant event of that first year was a scarlet fever epidemic in the spring term. It began with two boys, but spread to others forcing the School to be closed for two weeks until everyone could be inoculated and tested. Those infected and identified as carriers were isolated for half the term. Throughout the year, Mrs. Alden, the School's Housemother was critical in helping students with their problems and adjusting to life away from home by providing that "touch of home", as would Ms. Helena Tongring, the second School Nurse for 18 years and subsequent Housemother in the School's middle years (1947-1956). It seems that as the School grew in size in its latter years that the Housemother took on a diminished role in regards to interaction with the students. Mrs. Alden even purchased a "Radiola Radio" for the boys to listen to and its operational status was reported on in the Pen and Scroll. Another touch of home-life was also provided by periodic Saturday afternoon invitations by the owners of the various nearby estates mentioned in the Athletic Facilities paragraph below, "to have a little hot chocolate and Sarsaparilla and Cream and listen to college football games on the radio". Perhaps most notable was Mrs. Baker of the **Holmwood Estate** and her two sons, Alfred and

George Vanderbilt who lent their names to two of the School's most prestigious Annual Graduation Awards.

Buildings on the Original Campus. Included on the original property, which was purchased for \$78,100, were five buildings only two of which would be used during the School's first year. These buildings and their value were as follows: a large 3-story mansion (\$35,000) that would become known as **Griswold Hall**; a 3-story carriage house and stables (\$5,000) that became **Thayer Hall**; a barn (\$300) that was destroyed and never used by the School; two 2-story cottages (\$1,000 a piece) that would eventually become known as **North** and **East Cottages**; two greenhouses (\$800), which were also destroyed; as well as one horse (\$100) and one cow (\$50).

Griswold Hall. The School's initial main building was built in 1885 by Mr. G. G. (George Griswold) Haven and was known as the **Sunnycroft Estate**. It was a 30-room building in which all School activities first occurred and the students and faculty lived and which had to have central hot-air heating installed before it could be occupied, since it had only been used in the summer. It consisted of a basement, three floors and an attic. In the basement were locker rooms, showers, bathrooms, a post-office, storage room, classroom, athletic store, furnace room and wood and coal bins. On the first floor were a main hall, used for School assemblies, Chapel and plays; classrooms for each Form, one was used as a study hall; a separate laboratory; the Headmaster's study; a library; and a kitchen and dining hall. Reportedly, an infirmary was also on the first floor until the **Infirmary in North Cottage** was up and running in the School's second year. Five faculty apartments, including one for the Housemother, one classroom and the Headmaster's/School's Office were located on the second floor. A dormitory area with room for 50 boys was on the third floor, along with a faculty bedroom. This dormitory area was broken down into smaller "dorms" which were referred to as East or West A-D. The areas nearest the fire escapes were considered the most preferable. Once Thayer Hall became operational, the lower forms would reside in this dorm area. In 1929 it was named **Griswold Hall** in honor of the Rev. Latta Griswold, Rector of **Trinity Church**, School Founder and Board of Trustee Member "who for many years desired the establishment of a Church School in Lenox and it was through his invitation to visit Lenox that the School was established here and he was successful in securing a fund sufficient to purchase the original property". The large pillared entrance, in front of which many faculty, class, athletic team and extracurricular activity club pictures were taken, was actually on the west side of the building (not facing Kemble Street), which to us today, would have been considered the rear of the building.

North Cottage. The second building to be used that first year was the 2-story future **Infirmary**, later to be known as **North Cottage**. It would be the School's first stand-alone infirmary beginning in the fall of 1927 and until then was believed to be the home to its first full-time Nurse, Mrs. Harold Brigham. While residing at North Cottage during that first year, she worked out of the infirmary in Griswold Hall. There are several reports that Singried Tongring, also a Nurse, resided there and assisted in these duties until her sister Helena Tongring, who would later become known as the "Duchess", could move to Lenox from her job at the Hotchkiss School in 1928 and assume duties as School Nurse. However, there is no official record of Singried's service. Also during that first year, Mr. J. Arthur "Gramps" Howland, in charge of the School's grounds and building maintenance, and his wife also resided there. At the beginning of the following year, Mr. and Mrs. Howland moved into the then adjacent **East Cottage** and were joined by Mrs. Anna Hubert who headed the kitchen staff for ten years. In the summer of 1930, a one-story addition to the Infirmary's northern end was built to provide a separate ward for sick students and for students with contagious illnesses who until then had to be sent to Pittsfield. It was connected to the main building by sliding doors and had two wards of four beds each, with a fifth added if necessary. It also contained a private room for the nurse, a diet kitchen and two bathrooms. This addition, if not occupied by sick students, was routinely used as lodging for visiting alumni. Eventually, North Cottage became a student dormitory (15) with a married faculty apartment on the ground level. In the School's latter years, a **Parking Shed** for faculty/staff cars was built behind **North** and **East Cottages** on the dirt road that passed by **Clipston Grange** and exited onto Kemble Street.

Thayer Hall. **Thayer Hall** was originally a 3-story carriage house/stables that was not initially used for School activities, except for storage. During the first year it still had a horse in the stables on the bottom level and Mr. Huntress' electric car in the garage. The horse could be walked up a wooden ramp and connected to a carriage on the main floor that would eventually become the dining hall. One of the new School's first bills was for a veterinarian to "put-down the horse which had developed lockjaw. It was buried by where the **Hockey Pond** would be built." In February 1928, an all-important pay-phone was one of the additions to the building, even before renovations began and was located between what would become the dining hall and kitchen. The renovation of the building, which included a partial addition, began in the spring of 1929 and over the next year or so, the building was converted into a kitchen; dining hall/multipurpose room, which included a flood-lit stage area; staff apartments; and additional rooms that were periodically used as a student dormitory. The dining hall, which could seat 150 people, and kitchen opened in September of 1929. The first students to reside there were the Sixth Form, as apparently not having to walk to meals was considered the optimum benefit. After that, it remained a dorm for upper-form boys until other dormitories opened. The multi-purpose room was sometimes used for Chapel services as well as for School assemblies and events, dances, fencing in its latter years, and even Graduations in inclement weather. A very small stage for dramatic productions was located on the east side of the multi-purpose room and was often referred to as the Little or Shredded Wheat Theater. In 1929, it was named **Thayer Hall** in honor of Rev. William G. Thayer, one of the School's Founders and President of the Board of Trustees, with whom "the Lenox idea originated and largely through whose efforts, funds for the completion of the Dining Hall were obtained". In 1933, a School Chapel would be added to its ground floor and is addressed later below. From 1946-1948 the Berkshire Country Day School held its first classes on the third floor.

East Cottage. The fourth building was the 2-story **East Cottage**, that was first known as the **Caretaker's Cottage** and which was originally the Estate's butler's summer house, located on the back of the property on the original athletic field near the Old Stockbridge Road. This is the area where the practice football field would eventually be located. It was moved to its current location facing Kemble Street and adjacent to **North Cottage** in the summer of 1927 and became the Howland's and Mrs. Hubert's residence.

Original Campus Athletic Facilities. Apparently, athletic facilities were very limited in the School's first year. There was a rudimentary **athletic field** on the backside of the property near the Old Stockbridge Road that was originally the Estate's orchard, but was cleared and leveled. It was used only for touch football and other such ad hoc athletic activities and was often cluttered with equipment being used to clear it. All boys were expected to perform some athletic activities daily and there was a sign-up Exercise Chart in the dining hall on which a boy indicated the sport he would play that afternoon, which could include a walk. If no activity was noted, they were expected to show up for that day's Work Squad.

Fall Football. There was no football field, but there was a Football Team. Home football games in that first year were played on the front lawns of "adjacent Estates", with the first "home" game reportedly played just down the Old Stockbridge Road on Mrs. Baker's (Mrs. William T., widow of Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt) **Holmwood Estate**. This was the former George Westinghouse's **Erskine Park** that would later become the home of the **Foxhollow School**. Apparently the holes for the goalposts and marks from the players' cleats really did a job on her manicured lawn. Just as a matter of note, the first ever Thayer-Griswold competition was a football game that fall, won by the Griswold team.

Winter Hockey, Skiing, Handball and Ping-Pong. The **Hockey Pond** was not built until 1928 or fully functional until the School's fourth year (1930) and though there was not a Hockey Team in the School's first year, the Thayer-Griswold hockey teams played three games a week, plus held practices on Mrs. Field's frozen swimming pool, which was a three mile walk in each direction. This probably refers to Mr. and Mrs. W. B. O. Field's **Highlawn House Estate**.

Ironically, they were the parents of the future wife of H. George Wilde, the Lenox School Trustee who would be instrumental in creating the School's first indoor hockey rink, which bore his name. Skiers found Mrs. Alexandre's hill (**Spring Lawn Estate/Schermerhorn Hall**) very convenient, while the "experts" walked across the Old Stockbridge Road to the more challenging **Bald Head "Mountain"**. Also in the winter, frequent intramural/elimination handball competitions involving the students and faculty were held in Lenox at the **Brotherhood Court** and ping-pong was played on several dining hall tables until they began to get damaged by paddle-strikes. In regards to the **Brotherhood Court**, according to John Allen Gable's '61 History of the **Trinity Church** Parish: "In 1923, Major George E. Turnure, a member of the **Trinity Church** Parish, built "**The Lenox Brotherhood Club**" which later became the **Lenox Community Center**, on Walker Street across from **Trinity Church**, as a memorial to his son George E. Turnure, Jr. a member of the Lafayette Escadrille killed in WW I. The Community Center is still there today, but now has only an outdoor basketball court.

Spring Baseball, Swimming and Tennis. In the spring, there was no baseball diamond that first year, but there were three intramural baseball teams. They used an open field graciously offered by Mr. Girard Foster on his **Bellefontaine Estate** just down Kemble Street. Swimming was also very popular, particularly after walking the 4-miles to the **Stockbridge Bowl or the 3-miles to Laurel Lake**. Finally, there were many tennis enthusiasts, but no tennis courts. Though they worked hard at it, it wouldn't be until the next year that the students had built a clay-surface court. In regards to locker rooms and shower facilities, the home and visiting locker rooms were in the basement of **Griswold Hall**.

THE SUBSEQUENT YEARS' CAMPUS AND BUILDINGS (1927-1969)

The Campus Expands. The campus first expanded to the south through the acquisition of two pieces of property. Expansion to the North would not occur for another 30 years.

First Buildings to the South.

The Clipston Grange Farm. The campus first expanded to the south onto property that bordered the original campus and was known as **Clipston Grange** or the **Clipston Grange Farm**. The property was originally known as the Goelet Farm. This 3-6 acre, square piece of property (its exact size has not been independently verified and this variance is due to the several different total acreage figures that include it) included five buildings, three of which would become known as **Clipston Grange**, **South Cottage** and **West Cottage**; as well as a **Stable/Barn** that was used for student gymnastics in lieu of a gym and to park faculty cars and was torn down by Rev. Monks in the late 1930s; and a greenhouse whose exact fate is still unknown, but is believed to have been torn down soon after the School obtained the property. The property was previously owned by Franklin K. Sturgis, "a New York stockbroker, prominent draft horse breeder, President of the Jockey Club of New York, and past President of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and his wife Florence Lydig whose family had donated the property for the Bronx Zoo."

Acquisition by Lenox School. After his wife's death in 1922, Mr. Sturgis, who resided in New York City, no longer wanted to use the property as a summer residence. He first attempted to donate the property to the House of Mercy (Pittsfield General Hospital), one of his wife's favorite charities, for use as a convalescent home. However, he put so many restrictions on its use that they refused to accept it. Then Lenox School attempted to get it donated to them in 1927 as the Headmaster's Residence, but Mr. Sturgis wanted it to be used only as the Headmaster's Residence and never as a boy's dormitory. The School would not agree to this. A compromise was reached in the spring of 1928. No boys would live in the building until Mr. Sturgis' death and his gardener, Mr. Dunn, would be allowed to live in one of the cottages for up to five-years rent free. Whether or not Mr. Dunn actually resided there and, if so, for how long, is unknown. Subsequently, the School acquired the property. Rev. Monks and his family moved

into Clipston Grange in the fall of 1928 and stayed there until 1946, except for two years during WW II.

Clipston Grange.

History. According to the **Ventfort Hall's** 8th Annual Lenox House Tour, "**Clipston Grange** was originally a village house located on Main Street "(across from Bull Chevrolet's garage)" in Lenox, which was moved to its present location in 1893, bought by Mr. Sturgis and enlarged that same year in the Colonial-Rival style. He added a parapet on the roof, bay windows to the dining room and a study and reception room to the south end". It is interesting to note that at the time of Mrs. Sturgis' death in 1922, according to the N. Y. *Times*, the property was in Mrs. Sturgis' name and not in her husband's.

Building Layout. As explained below, over the years the building had many uses so a brief description of its internal layout is in order. It is described as having a 7-room apartment and later dormitory on the second floor; on the ground floor, a 5-room apartment and later School Offices, including a library on the south end, and the former servant quarters on the north end; and a full basement.

Initial Use. It was initially solely the Headmaster's Residence, occupied by Rev. and Mrs. Monks in the fall of 1928. In 1936, a flagpole was erected in front of the building as a gift from the graduating class. In the School's early years, graduation ceremonies were held outside, either by the rear or side entrance with students and parents sitting on the lawn. Rev. Monks wanted the building to provide "a touch of home for the boys" and so had game nights, senior teas, Sixth Form Sunday night Sacred Studies classes, as well as faculty coffees and meetings. In the 1945-1946 school year, a private Kindergarten met in one of its rooms. It was organized by the same group of parents who would go on to form the **Berkshire Country Day (BCD) School** in **Thayer Hall** the following year. One alumnus reports that these parents made improvements to the south end of the building (in what would become the Library) in order to house the Kindergarten class. The 1946-1947 school year saw **Clipston Grange** first used as a dormitory with 10 boys plus a Master, as well as the Headmaster and his family all residing there at the same time. After residing there since 1946, Rev. Curry and family moved out of the building to an off-campus residence in Stockbridge (one source says a house at Highlawn) in 1955. The building also housed the Headmaster's Office and the School offices when they moved out of **St. Martins** and before they relocated to **Schermerhorn Hall** in the late 1950s.

Subsequent Use. It later was a student dormitory (12), married faculty apartment and the site of the School Library (Griswold Library/Reading Room) on its south end, once the School's library moved out of **St. Martins Hall** in the 1946-1947 school year. This Library would subsequently be redecorated in 1951 and completely refurbished and reorganized by Masters and the Friends of the School in 1959. At this time, six tables and chairs, as well as additional books and magazines, were added. However, the majority of the books contained in the Library, which had moved from building to building since the School's opening, were donated by Mr. George Peabody Gardner.

South Cottage. **South Cottage**, which had been the gardener's (Mr. Dunn's) residence (one source says the gardener resided in **West Cottage**), became a student dormitory (13) with a Master's apartment in the fall of 1928. Its first residents were the entire Fifth Form. In the summer of 1930, a six-room addition for a newly married Master's apartment, designed by Rev. Monks, was built across the end of **South Cottage** and was connected to the existing rooms. It was closed for the 1945-1946 school year during which it was significantly redecorated and remodeled and reopened the next year for use by the Sixth Form. The **Stable/Barn** that was initially used by boys for gymnastic activities before a gymnasium was built, and then used to park faculty cars, was located adjacent to the Cottage on its north side. It was taken down by Rev. Monks in the late 1930s.

Continued Expansion to the South. The campus continued to expand to the south with the purchase in 1935 of a 27-acre piece of property from the **Courtlandt F. Bishop Estate**, known as **Berkshire Estates, Incorporated**. It bordered the **Clipston Grange Farm** property and included what was known in the area as the **Lanier Farm** (20 acres) which dated back to the 1850's. It was bought by the School's Board of Trustees as the only adjoining land that could be used for future development and initially to provide room to build **St. Martins Hall** and several athletic playing fields. It consisted of two or more likely three cottages, a large barn, several carriage sheds and numerous small buildings. These included what would become the **Faculty (Maskell) Cottage, West Cottage, The Coop, Print Plant, Craft Shop, Field House, Monks Hall** and probably the **Infirmary**.

The Faculty (Maskell) Cottage. The **Faculty Cottage**, known also as the **Maskell Cottage** and the **Old Infirmary** was a 3-story wood and stone cottage near the woodline in the southeast corner of the property that is currently located between the **Merrill-Seamans Library** and the **Gymnasium**. The **Faculty Cottage** was also part of the 27-acre **Berkshire Estates, Incorporated** property, but when and how it was originally used by the School, if not as a faculty/staff cottage, has yet to be determined. Apparently, the **Maskell** name was a leftover from the old Lenox Town days, though some Maskell's continued to live in Lenox. In fact, the Maskell-Lahert Co. advertised itself in the Pen and Scroll as "The Plumbers for Lenox School". One alumnus recalls a female member of the staff and her family living there in the late 1930s. For a period of time (mid 1940's to the summer of 1956) it served as the School's Infirmary after it moved from either **St. Martins** or **North Cottage** and before it moved to its final location in the **BCD Cottage** near the **Football Field** and **Field House** that would become known as the **Infirmary**. It would then be used as a married faculty or staff cottage for the duration of the School.

West Cottage. **West Cottage**, was one of the buildings that came with the **Clipston Grange Farm** property donated in 1928 and afterwards first used as a faculty residence. One source says that the Farm's gardener was allowed to stay in West Cottage after the property's sale. If he did stay there and for how long is still unknown. It was subsequently used as a student dormitory (8) and married faculty apartment. From the start, before the construction of **St. Martins** in 1938, it was considered an isolated outpost on the School's western periphery and hence its name. Throughout its history, it was most often used as a dormitory for lower school boys.

St. Martins Hall.

The Building. In 1938, **St. Martins Hall**, designed by the prestigious architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, who had previously renovated the White House under President Theodore Roosevelt, was opened, with only the single wing on its south side nearest to the **Gymnasium**, and two single-story classroom extensions on its back side. A School fundraising document indicated a cost, less the rear extensions, of about \$141,000 (\$71,000 for the main section, \$47,000 for the south wing, \$11,000 architectural fees and \$12,000 for other expenses). Apparently, the School originally had wanted both wings built so that all students could stay inside during inclement weather. The extensions were originally a separate single building, the largest pheasant house on the Bishop property, which was cut in half and then moved up to and attached to St. Martins. When McKim, Meade and White saw this, they reportedly winced, but commended Rev. Monks' Yankee thrift. In the same school year, **Griswold Hall** would be torn down by the Crosby Construction Firm who had purchased it for \$1.00. Ground for **St. Martins** was broken by the Headmaster and all original members of the School that were still present at the School on October 12, 1937, with the faculty and student body in attendance. The fireproof St. Martins was reported to be one of the first buildings in the United States built with cinder brick and reinforced concrete, so that no steel framework was required. It became the center of School activities, except for dining and Chapel, which were still at **Thayer Hall**. The engraved distinctive School Crest over the front doors was painted in black and gold in 1954.

Its Floor Plan. It initially housed faculty and students (25 initially and 40 when the second wing was added); as well as classrooms including two laboratories; locker rooms, showers, a post office, the Headmaster's Office, the School Offices, a library and a candy store. The classrooms in the center of the main building and the two classroom extensions to the rear totaled nine separate classrooms and were designed to form a U-shaped academic complex. One document even said that **St. Martins** housed the School's infirmary for a period of time, which was most likely located in the center section on the second floor in what became the lounge area. The main section of St. Martins had three floors (faculty and Housemother apartments, kitchen, lounge and three student dormitory rooms (referred to as WABC) on the second floor and a student dormitory and small faculty apartment on the third floor), while the wing had two floors and both had basements. The building opened on September 20, 1938 amid torrential rains. At the time of its opening, some classrooms were not yet ready and therefore for awhile at least, some classes were still held at **Griswold Hall**.

Changes Over the Years. A Typing Room replaced the Headmaster's Office and a Duty-Master's Office and Faculty Mail Room replaced the School Offices when they both moved to **Clipston Grange** and subsequently to **Schermerhorn Hall**. The Chemistry laboratory in the right rear extension became a fine-arts room/studio in the 1962-1963 school year. It had not been used as a laboratory since the fall of 1959, when the **Monks Hall** laboratories were opened. The Royal Whitman Memorial History Room (named after an alumnus of the School's first class, President of the Alumni Association and brother of Rev. Robert Whitman '33, Rector of **Trinity Church**) replaced a biology laboratory in the main basement area of **St. Martins** in the summer of 1962 and was first used for the 1962-1963 school year. The room got oak paneling, a new floor, new bookcases, a hinged blackboard, rolling/retracting maps and a map cabinet. A flagpole inside the traffic circle in front of **St. Martins** seems to have been there almost from the beginning, but a new version was a gift of the Class of 1958.

The Coop. **The Coop** was originally an actual Chicken Coop on the **Lanier Farm** or perhaps was added by Mr. Bishop after he purchased the property. Mr. Bishop definitely restuccoed the exterior of the building. It was initially converted to a dormitory with a common room and Master's apartment for the 1946-1947 school year under the Veterans Housing Project for use by the increased number of veterans that were being accepted at the School. It was converted in only ten days time and originally housed 10 veteran boys and a Master. Eventually it would house 31 and a Master. Reportedly, this was one of the first instances of funds from this Project being used for a building on a preparatory school's campus. The courtyard between **The Coop, Field House** and **Monks Hall** was landscaped with small shrubbery and white rock in the summer of 1962.

Print Plant and Craft Shop. The two smaller out-buildings to the east and just up the hill from The Coop, between it and St. Martins were reportedly also originally chicken coops, hen houses or duck houses and were used as a **Print Shop** (beginning in 1947) and a **Craft Shop**, first used as such in the 1930s. The **Print Shop** was established when in the spring of 1947, two printing presses were donated by School Trustee Mr. Treadway and Bishop Lawrence, Bishop of Western Massachusetts. A Printing Club for the following year was planned and the Shop's first products were School stationary, cards and forms. The **Craft Shop** was initially used by a student Craft Club and subsequently, beginning in the fall of 1946, by a Model Club, the former of which among other things built the School's familiar wooden Entrance Signs. For a period of time it was also known as the **Boat House**, because the Sailing Team's boats were stored there and worked on in the off-season.

Plans for a Consolidated Dining Hall and Chapel. During this same timeframe, as part of the School's 25th Anniversary Fund, the School developed an artist's sketch and began fundraising efforts to convert the **Lanier Farm** barn, valued at the time at \$70,000 and that would later become the **Field House**, into a **Dining Hall** and **Chapel** at a cost of \$90,000. A picture of the proposed structure even appeared on the front page of the Pen and Scroll and on one of the

Fund's brochures. The **Chapel** was to be a memorial to the School's 27 WW II dead and a **Chapel-only** version of the **Field House** was estimated to cost \$20,000. The overall intent was to build new facilities that could handle the increasing size of the School and to move these two major School functions, currently being performed at **Thayer Hall**, which at the time was on the School's northern periphery, nearer to **St. Martin Hall**, thus consolidating all student activities in one area. Then the "inefficient and inadequate **Thayer Hall** could be abandoned at no increase to the School's operating cost". This plan was eventually abandoned, for reasons yet unknown, and the earmarked funds were used for the new **Gymnasium** and other building projects described below. There was one report of the Trustees redirecting \$7,000 from the Chapel project to the Gym in 1949. The **Dining Hall** would eventually be incorporated into the new **St. Martins Wing** some ten years later. Rev. Curry spoke of a separate new **Chapel** as late as 1960. He had a vision of a \$300,000, 300-person, colonial-style chapel in-the-round with a balcony. It would have been located where Lawrence Hall was eventually built and would have faced southwest toward the Taconic Mountains. The 1958 Yearbook had a sketch map of the campus that showed a new **Chapel** between the **Gymnasium** and **Maskell Cottage**, adjacent to **St. Martins**. Whether or not this was another seriously considered location for the same **Chapel** is unknown. So the hope for a new **Chapel** was always there, but it was never built. An artist's picture of the proposed **Chapel** was included in the 1961 Lenox in Portrait annual calendar.

The Memorial Gymnasium.

Construction and Dedication. The **Memorial Gymnasium** was built in 4 ½ months for \$70,000 obtained through the School's 25th Anniversary Fund and opened on January 28, 1950 in honor of the School's 27 alumni Killed In Action in WW II (though only 26 names have ever been listed). It was dedicated on June 10, 1951 on the School's 25th Anniversary and as Rev. Curry the Headmaster stated, it was dedicated "In memory of those who died in service to their Country and in thanksgiving on the part of us who served and by God's grace, were allowed to return and take up our work". One alumnus and former Master recalls: "I remember the construction of the Gym well. The roof was made of trusses (2x6, 8, 10 and 12's) all bolted together and lifted by crane into position on top of cinder block columns. They came by railroad to the Lenox Station and all the parts were trucked up to the site. Many of the pieces were longer than the truck bed and caused steering problems! Always, two of the larger men could be found perched on the front fenders weighing the front wheels to the ground." The **Gymnasium** provided the School's first basketball court, locker and shower rooms, an indoor assembly facility, its first "adequate stage" for dramatic and musical performances and a student lounge.

The School's New Stage. Previous to the Gymnasium's opening, rudimentary stages were used both in **Griswold** and **Thayer Halls**, while certain recurring annual dramatic and musical productions were performed at **Sedgwick Hall**, which was part of the Lenox Town Library, originally bought and donated to the Town by Adeline Schermerhorn. Concerning the new stage in the **Gymnasium**, much effort was required to get it ready for productions. A Master renowned for mentoring stage crew members and creating innovative sets writes: "Dave Wood could not wait to get his hands on that stage! But it needed a lot of rigging for lights and stage sets, and I was often sent aloft for yet another installation. We had no dimmer board for lighting and so rigged a 25 gallon crock of salt water with an electrified plate on the bottom. The second plate, wrapped in cotton to prevent contact was on a pulley and raised or lowered depending how bright we needed the lights. Not exactly code installed. There was no money for the stage curtain. Mr. Wood, without telling Mr. Curry, purchased the material. Judy Conklin - seamstress extraordinaire for numerous productions from **Thayer** to the new stage - called upon her friends, the curtain was made, and at the first play, Mr. Wood asked the audience for donations."

A New Building Program Is Implemented. From 1951 to 1959 the School experienced rapid student body growth, eventually requiring the Board of Trustees to call a halt to additional enrollment until the School could catch up in regards to the number of faculty and required new buildings. Between 1956 and 1964, there were three separate fundraising campaigns that raised a total of \$800,000 for four separate buildings. There was specific reference to a two-phased

Consolidation Fund that in Phase I settled the debt of the new **St. Martins Wing** and in Phase II provided \$175,000 for the **Field House** and **Monks Hall**. The fourth building would be **Lawrence Hall** described later in this section.

St. Martins Hall Rice (North) Wing. The first “building” was the second wing on St. Martins that although it perfectly matched the South Wing from the front, was actually much larger towards the rear. It included a 300-person dining hall, a kitchen, three classrooms, a 125-person study hall and additional dormitory space (15). It was formally known as the **Rice Wing** after the Trustee, Mr. Albert W. Rice who donated the majority of the money for the project, but this name was not generally used among the students. It was completed in December 1956 and opened in January 1957 at a cost of \$165,000. Two pictures were prominently featured on the walls of the new **Dining Hall**. One was a picture of Rev. Monks, the first Headmaster, which was commissioned by the Trustees as a tribute at the time of his resignation. It was displayed on the wall behind the Headmaster’s table and is believed to have been returned to his family. The second picture was a large painting of St. Martin of Tours, in uniform and on horseback, cutting his cloak in two to give to a beggar, the original of which hangs in the **Windsor Castle** in England. It was left to the School in 1947, along with \$5,000, in the Will of Mrs. (Countess) Carlos de Heredia, a **Trinity Church** parishioner and owner of the **Wheatleigh Estate**. It was displayed on the wall separating the **Dining Hall** from the **Kitchen** and its whereabouts is as yet unknown.

The Field House. The **Field House** and **Monks Hall** were a single construction project that began on March 9, 1959 and cost \$175,000, which included the cost of some of their furnishings. Additional money would be required for lockers and the “Tuck Shop” furniture in the **Field House**. In fact, a Pen and Scroll article mentions a “Friends of Lenox’ luncheon at **Trinity Church** during the busiest weekend of the Tanglewood Season to raise \$5,000 for the “Tuck Shop” furnishings. The **Field House** was built by Mr. Bishop shortly after he purchased the **Lanier Farm** in 1925-1928 as a “horse and carriage barn” to replace the original 1859 **Lanier Farm** barn that had been destroyed by fire. It was described as the strongest building on the campus and was built with brick, cement, and steel beam that withstood a fire in 1958 that damaged the south wing and a portion of the center section. The fire also burned the roof boards, making the slate brittle, so that a new roof was required. At the time, the building was being used primarily for storage. Prior to its renovation by Lenox, the building was described as having 8 stalls to the left and a carriage area in the center with bells. This center section was also used as a garage for the School’s bus and other vehicles. Mr. Bishop, who purchased the property in 1925-1928, used the basement for mushroom beds. As part of the building project, these basement floors were lowered by two feet. The **Field House** was the second building to be “constructed” as part of the Consolidated Fundraising campaign. In 1959 its basement and ground floor were converted into officials’, coaches’ and team locker rooms, a training room, sports store and laundry facility. Every student got their own locker. Its second floor became a 150-person student lounge where refreshments were sold, known as the “**Tuck Shop**”, a storage area and an office for the Athletic Director. By the way, “Tuck” is a British word meaning “Here-Food” (fast food), usually cake or candy served as a snack to children in school”. A heating plant in the basement warmed **Monks Hall** and **The Coop** as well. The School’s two buses were subsequently parked in a six-stall **Parking Shed** erected adjacent to the east side of the **Gymnasium**, which also had room for four Masters’ cars, based on the Masters’ seniority. In the School’s last years, a small Computer Room was established in a locker room in one of the **Field House’s** wings. The School’s first and only computer was located there. It was a DEC PDP8 machine that had been donated by Mr. David Shepard, a Trustee, and moved from its original location in the Library.

Monks Hall. Also in 1959, **Monks Hall**, the third new building, was converted in seven months time from a series of small carriage sheds that had also been part of the **Lanier Farm** or again, perhaps added by Mr. Bishop. The fronts of these sheds were torn off and replaced by cement and glass and the floors were lowered. It consisted of five classrooms that provided four science laboratories and a mechanical drawing room. These would later be modified by

converting the mechanical drawing room into two general purpose classrooms primarily used for mathematics. It was dedicated on October 17, 1959, Alumni Day, by Rev. Curry, with Rev. Monks who had taught Physics and Mathematics as well as Sacred Studies in attendance. At the dedication ceremony, a brass plaque was affixed to the building, but has since disappeared. It stated: "These carriage sheds, converted to classrooms and laboratories are part of the vision brought to Lenox School by its Headmaster, teacher of science and mathematics, generous trustee and benefactor, the Rev, George Gardner Monks. To him this building is dedicated on October 17, 1959 with gratitude for his part in building Christian education in this School. "No greater joy can I have than this, to hear that my children follow the truth." The fourth building that was part of this fundraising effort was **Lawrence Hall** that is described later below.

The Infirmary. In the summer of 1956, the School's Infirmary moved from the **Faculty (Maskell/Old Infirmary) Cottage** to the **BCD Cottage/Day School Building** adjacent to the **Football Field**. This Cottage had housed the Berkshire Country School (BCD) since 1948 and became free when BCD moved to the **Starks House (Bel Air Estate)** on Walker Street in the Town of Lenox. This new **Infirmary** was a larger (as compared to the four other wooden cottages) 2-story wooden cottage with room for 15-18 boys, including a single-story 6-bed ward with large picture windows built in 1954 by BCD. It also had additional examining, treatment, storage and isolation rooms on the first floor, with the School Nurse's (Mrs. Jejeian was the first Nurse to occupy it) apartment and a second apartment for another Staff member on the second floor. The ward was an addition to the building, which was previously used as a classroom by BCD. Reportedly, the building was the Superintendent's Residence on the **Lanier Farm**. In 1959, the first floor was remodeled and much-needed medical equipment was donated. Throughout the years, the School also retained the services of a Doctor or a practice of several Doctors and after 1959, retained Dr. Tracy '32, also a School Trustee, as the School's Surgeon. However, the School Doctor (s) never resided on campus.

Expansion of the Campus to the North and the "New" Buildings. In the mid 1950s and 1960s, the campus also expanded to the north, primarily by acquiring three former Estates described below. However the first expansion occurred to a building almost 20-years earlier, with the creation of the School's own Chapel.

Thayer Hall Chapel. In 1933, after approval by the Board of Trustees, the School finally built its own Chapel by converting the ground-level unused stable-section on the northern side of **Thayer Hall**. It was named **The Chapel of St. Martin of Tours** and was constructed in the fall of 1933, with its first service and blessing held on November 11, 1933, the Patron Saint's Day. The Blessing of the Chapel Service was conducted by Rev. William G. Thayer, School Founder and President of the Board of Trustees, assisted by Rev. Monks the Headmaster and Rev. Belliss, Rector of **Trinity Church**. The Service was attended by the student body, faculty in academic gowns and about 25 alumni. The Chapel was rectangular in shape with dark wood, cream-colored walls and cream-colored hanging lights. It also had a recessed area on its southern side for an organ, side Chapel and a spacious vestry room. All the furnishings and religious articles for the entire Chapel were donated and in place for the first Services. Two memorial brass plaques in memory of Mr. Eberth (Mr. Kenyon H. Eberth, a Master from 1928-1930, killed in an automobile accident in 1930) and Rev. Griswold were moved from **Griswold Hall** to the new Chapel. A small traveling organ was donated in 1954 in memory of Oliver R. Foss Jr. of the Class of 1949. The Chapel's name would generally not be familiar to the student body after a period of time and it would normally be referred to as simply **The Chapel** or **Thayer Hall Chapel**. As the size of the School grew, the Chapel became inadequate, some said an eyesore, and in fact a potential firetrap, as the walls were filled with grain and hayseed that had sifted down from above. In the summer of 1958, the Chapel was enlarged to its maximum size by removing the vestry room wall, even though the students sitting there couldn't see the altar. It was the location of School Chapel services until 1959 when they moved to Trinity Church due to the increased size of the student body. Sunday pre-breakfast Holy Communion services continued to be conducted in the Chapel by the Headmaster, with participation on a voluntary basis.

Three Former Estates in the North.

Schermerhorn Hall.

History. Schermerhorn Hall and The Annex. The **Spring Lawn Mansion (Schermerhorn Hall)** and its stables (**The Annex**) were built in 1904 by Guy Lowell for Dr. John F. Alexandre, “a retired New York shipping executive and his wife Helen Lispenard Webb who used it during summers and holidays”. Mr. Lowell was also the builder of the **Boston Museum of Fine Arts** and **The New York Supreme Court Building**. “Its style is described as a “unique blend of Beaux Arts and Classical-Revival styles which was common to the Berkshire cottages of the time”. It was located on approximately the same site as **Mrs. Charles (Elizabeth) Sedgwick’s School for Girls** that operated there from 1828 to 1864.” The School was located in a structure known as “the **Hive**” which had become a social and intellectual gathering place for the Sedgwicks, their sister novelist Catherine Sedgwick” and their friends. There are accounts of Mrs. Alexandre allowing the School’s Ski Team to practice on its hill in the 1920’s and 1930’s. Dr. Alexandre’s daughter sold it to Mrs. Arthur F. Schermerhorn of the New York City real estate Schermerhorns, who changed its name to **Schermeer**.

Lenox School Acquisition and Use. At Mrs. Schermerhorn’s (Harriet Pullman Schermerhorn’s) death, the building was left “in trust to benefit religious, educational and charitable institutions”. The Lenox School Trustees applied to the trust and the building was given to Lenox on or about June 2, 1957. The property was described as “a 32-room mansion plus 25-acres” which at the time, the School thought may be used to develop an additional athletic field. Its acquisition was critical to allowing the School to expand to 200 students. On the ground floor, the Headmaster’s Office was located in the former library and the School’s Administrative Offices in the salon, both of which were moved from **Clipston Grange** (there is a question as to whether both were in Clipston Grange at the time or if the School Administrative Offices were back in **St. Martins**). A Reception Room with a piano was created in the dining room, which was significantly refurbished in 1962 by the “Friends of Lenox” and used for faculty meetings, college interviews and sometimes Choir and Glee Club tryouts. Its Grand Hall was periodically used for dances, other School functions and the annual election of Prefects. The basement was used for a barbershop, mailroom and for storing ski/athletic equipment. The second floor was used as a student dormitory with a single and a married faculty apartment that was enlarged in 1962, while the third floor was used as a dormitory, for storage, and for a darkroom. In 1962, a commons room on the third floor was converted into two student dorm rooms. The building was first used by the School in the 1957-1958 school year and would eventually house (31) students. Over the years, improvements were periodically made to the upstairs’ living area.

The Annex. Apparently, **The Annex**, which as mentioned above was also built in 1904, was the stables and carriage house for the **Spring Lawn Mansion**. Lenox boys originally referred to it as Alexandre’s Annex, which evolved over time into simply **The Annex**. Nine downstairs stalls were converted into nine open-bay rooms, with an upstairs bachelor apartment that was later changed to a married apartment, and additional upstairs student rooms, as well. It was refurbished over the summer of 1958 and first used as a dormitory (20) and bachelor Master’s apartment in 1958-1959, a record enrollment year, when every bit of extra space had to be used. It also has a large basement beneath it that apparently was used for the storage of campus equipment. It has been confirmed that Lenox School student workers supporting Berkshire Music Center boarders stayed there in the summer of 1960. On a special note of interest, the source of the natural spring from which **Spring Lawn Mansion** derived its name is located adjacent to **The Annex**.

Bassett Hall.

Early History. Bassett Hall, originally known as the **Frelinghuysen Cottage** was built in the “Colonial-Revival style in 1881 (one source says 1883 and another 1886) by Arthur Rotch and George Tilden for President Chester Arthur’s Secretary of State (1881-1885) Frederick T. Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, as a summer country house. Noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead sited and landscaped the 3-acre grounds, driveway and buildings” (i.e. the **Carriage House**, addressed below was originally part of the property). President Arthur stayed in the Cottage when he visited Lenox to lay the cornerstone for the new **Trinity Church** in 1885. “The Frelinghuysen children owned the property for forty years. In the early 1890s it was rented by George and Sarah Morgan while they built Ventfort Hall across the street and it was rented again in the early 1900s by the Alexandres, while building the adjacent Spring Lawn Mansion.” Next it was owned (one source says rented) by Mr. Thatcher Adams, who renamed it the **Sundrum House**, and “it became known for its social life and his grand entrances on the main staircase”. It was then “briefly owned by Mr. R. J. Flick while he was building the Uplands.”

Layout of the Building. “The ground floor has a main hall with a staircase and doors for four downstairs rooms used for entertaining. The remainder of the ground floor was a kitchen, pantry and servants quarters. A servant buzzing system, common to most estates of the time, stretched throughout the building. Upstairs there is a balcony that connected the various bedroom apartments.”

Mrs. Bassett and the BCD/Lenox Era. It was next bought by Mrs. Charles F. Bassett (Carolyn Beardsley Hulbert) “who eventually gave the property to the School in 1954, reserving the right to live there until her death.” One alumnus remembers Mrs. Bassett being driven to Sunday services at **Trinity Church**, which was only just across Kemble Street, in a horse-drawn carriage in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Mrs. Bassett died on April 20, 1959; it was added to the campus in June 1959; named in her honor; and first used that fall for **Berkshire Country Day (BCD) School’s** coed 7th and 8th Grade classes and for faculty apartments. In the 1963-1964 school year, it was first used as a student dormitory, 25 students in portions of the lower floor, in addition to the faculty apartments. As mentioned above, the **Berkshire Country Day School**, whose main building was located on Walker Street in the town of Lenox, used the entire ground floor with the exception of the kitchen and maids’ quarters for its 7th and 8th grade classes from the fall of 1959 to the summer of 1963.

Carriage House. The **Carriage House**, which is adjacent to the **Frelinghuysen Cottage** and between it and the **Spring Lawn Mansion (Schermerhorn Hall)**, was originally part of the **Frelinghuysen Cottage’s** property; was also built by Rotch and Tilden in 1881; and was used as a stable and carriage house. “The stable yard was originally defined by a fence and gate with slender urns, a decorative feature repeating those of the semi-circular porch balustrade (railing) of the house. Later it was used as a three-car garage.” It was subsequently used by Lenox School for the storage of grounds-keeping tractors and equipment on the ground floor and as a married Master’s apartment on its upper floor.

The Jones House. The **Jones House** (known in the Town of Lenox as the **Walker-Rockwell Cottage/House**, was built in 1804 for lawyer and later judge William P. Walker and “is one of the oldest intact buildings in the entire Town of Lenox”. It was then sold to the Rockwell family who lived there for many years and in 1906, was doubled in size (“rear porches and reception rooms”) by William O. Curtis of **Curtis Hotel** fame. It was named for Clinton O. Jones who married Laura Curtis. He died in 1965, giving the building to the School at the time of his death. It was acquired by the School from his estate in 1968. It subsequently served as Headmaster Mr. Montgomery’s residence. It was no longer a part of the campus when **The Bible Speaks** bought the campus in 1976, but exactly how and when it was separated from the campus has yet to be determined.

New Building Construction in the South. Three new buildings were constructed on the southern portion of the campus between 1964 and 1969. One of these buildings was financed by the 1956-1964 fundraising effort; a new **Library** was part of the Achievement Fund effort; and the **Sports Center** was the first of four elements of the School's 50th Anniversary Fund (1966-1976), which originally had a goal of raising \$2,000,000. The final two planned buildings of the 50th Anniversary Fund, which were never built, were to be a new dormitory (to be named **Founders Hall**) at a cost of \$450,000 to \$500,000, to replace four of the wooden cottages (North, South, East and West Cottages) and an **Academic complex** with classrooms and science and language facilities at a cost of \$250,000 to \$300,000 to be added to the west side of (behind) **St. Martins Hall**. An artist's concept sketch of both of these new buildings was provided in a 50th Anniversary Fund brochure.

Lawrence Hall. **Lawrence Hall**, named for the Rt. Rev. William Appleton Lawrence, retired Bishop of Western Massachusetts was the fourth and final building of the 1956-1964 fundraising campaigns. It was a dormitory (37) with four faculty-family apartments and two classrooms, one in each of two wings at the back of the building, costing \$400,000. Groundbreaking was in May 1963 and it was opened in 1964 and dedicated on June 6, 1964. One of the classrooms in the rear would become a student lounge named the **Frank Stanly Beverage Room**.

The Merrill-Seamans Library. The **Merrill-Seamans Library** (74-student and 7,000 volume capacity, with a small married faculty apartment), was named for Mr. Robert C. Seamans Jr., alumnus, Trustee, former Secretary of the Air Force and Deputy Administrator of NASA and "Mr. and Mrs. Keith Merrill of Boston's North Shore who were the parents of Mr. Seaman's wife, Eugenia. Both the Seamans' and the Merrill's had contributed generously to the cost of the Library" which ended up being \$200,000. It opened in the fall of 1966, and was dedicated on October 15, 1966. By January 1970, it displayed 85 periodicals, had 6,900 books cataloged and routinely hosted art and other exhibits. The School had previously maintained a small library room that over time moved from **Griswold Hall** to **St. Martins** and then **Clipston Grange**. In its early to mid years, the School made use of the Town's 30,000 volume Library.

The Sports Center.

The Building. The **H. George Wilde Sports Center**, named for the President of the Board of Trustees and owner, along with his wife, of the **Highlawn House** and **The Elm Court Estate** on the Old Stockbridge Road, cost in excess of \$900,000 and opened for hockey and fencing upstairs in the fall of 1968, with its formal dedication on December 1, 1968. Its unofficial opening was on November 1, 1968 when Rev. Curry was the first skater. At this time, the planned basketball court and squash courts had not yet been completed, but the fencing team used the upper floor of the center section. The basketball court would open for play in the 1970-1971 season and was sometimes used for tennis as well. The hockey rink was on the north end of the building, the basketball court on the south end and locker rooms, offices and storage areas in the center, with a multipurpose room (fencing) on the second floor. The main entrance lobby on the east side was dedicated to the School's 27 alumni killed in action in WW II. Future plans called for the addition of a swimming pool on the west side.

Use of the Building. It was always envisioned that Lenox would encourage both public skating and other teams and schools to use the **Sports Center** complex, thus generating additional income. This began in earnest on November 1, 1969 when the building seemed to be open and in use daily from early morning to late at night. The following were all users in the 1969-1970 School year. On the hockey rink side: Lenox School hockey team practices and home games; the local semi-pro **High Lawn** Jersey's team owned by Col. Wilde played 15 home games there (several Lenox faculty members played on the team); the Berkshire Prep School League composed of 10 teams; a Lenox School-sponsored Youth Hockey League including mites, squirts, pee-wees and all-stars teams; two men's' hockey leagues including an adult "Duffers League"; and the Woodlawn Figure Skating Club. A speed skating club was also

mentioned, but not confirmed. In between team and club activities, public skating was allowed at \$1.00 per adult, \$.50 per child or a \$25.00 pass for the entire season. On the basketball court side: the Lenox basketball team; the **Berkshire Christian College** basketball team; and a local Tennis Club when the courts were not in use, all used the building. The center upstairs portion of the building was used by the Lenox School fencing team and for social activities such as movies and dances.

Trinity Church. Finally, no description of the Lenox School campus would be complete without a brief discussion of **Trinity Church** and its Parish, which were an integral part of the Lenox School experience and a source of fond memories in many alumni's, Masters' and Staffs' minds.

Importance to Lenox School. Though always an Episcopal Parish and never part of Lenox School, it became a de facto part of the campus, playing a key role in the School's founding; its Sunday service; after 1959, its four-day-a-week Chapel worship; and since the School's closing, a repository for some of the School's most important Memorabilia. As Rev. Curry stated: "It's where Lenox School makes a joyful noise unto the Lord". Not only was School Founder Latta Griswold its 20th Rector for 14 years, but its 23rd and longest serving (31 years) Rector, Rev. Robert S. S. Whitman was a Lenox alumnus Class of 1933 and a long-serving member of the Board of Trustees. The Church remains an active Parish and over the years, "an endowment begun by Rev. Griswold, had grown to an estimated value of \$1,000,000 as of 1993".

History of the Parish. The Parish traces its lineage to the first Anglican service in the Town of Lenox in 1763 and was officially organized in 1793 as the 20th oldest Parish in the State. Services were initially held at the **Town's County Courthouse** until the first wooden **Trinity Church** was built on 33 Church Street in 1818 and later enlarged in 1873. With the influx of wealthy summer residents, many of them Episcopalians, more space was required for the Parish and these same people provided the funds to build a new **Church, Rectory** and **Parish House**.

Building the Current Church. The **Church's** current location on **Lyman Corner** at the junction of Kemble and Walker Streets was purchased in 1883 for \$8,500. The current **Church** was designed by Charles F. McKim with input from James Renwick (Smithsonian Institute) and the influence of H. H. Richardson (Copley Church, Boston), "three of the most famous architects in American history". McKim of course was a member of McKim, Mead and White who had renovated the White House and would later (1937-1938) build **St. Martins Hall** on the Lenox School campus. Several plans for a 400-450 capacity **Church** were developed and modified by the **Church's** Senior Warden and Building Committee Head, Colonel Richard T. Auchmuty, himself an architect. He finally arrived at a Norman-Revival style Church costing \$85,000, including its contents, roughly three times the original estimated cost. Many of its windows were built by the studio of Charles Comfort Tiffany of New York. In regards to the **Church** building, the cornerstone was laid in August 1885 by former President Chester A. Arthur, reportedly his last public act; it was built by four separate contractors working together; and was consecrated almost three years later on June 19, 1888. A **Choir Room** was later donated by Charles Lanier in memory of his daughter Sarah L. Lawrence and added to the east end of the **Church** in 1899. In 1927, Rev. Latta Griswold "significantly redecorated and ornamented the interior of the **Church** in the Jacobean style in which it remains to this day."

Building the Other Parish Buildings. The Parish next built the **Rectory** building in the Victorian tradition for \$31,500, consecrating it on November 12, 1892. The final building, a three-story **Parish House**, built to "resemble a small Norman Church, was donated by John E. Parsons in memory of his wife Mary Dumesnil Parsons and was completed in 1896." The **Rectory** is just south of the **Church** on Kemble Street, while the **Parish House** is just east of the **Church** on Walker Street.

CAMPUS ROADS, PATHS AND ENTRANCE SIGNS

(HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS (1927-1971))

Campus Orientation. A brief description of the roads and paths that Masters, Staff and Students used to navigate the campus is certainly appropriate in any history and description of the campus. To facilitate things, this description focuses on the campus at its largest near the end of the School, but one can easily imagine how these same roads and paths would have been created as different parts of the campus were added. The campus is located in a rectangle, generally running north to south, between **Walker Street** in the north, **Kemble Street** on the east, **Old Stockbridge Road** on the west and the **Dirt Road** bordering the **Berkshire Estates, Incorporated** in the south. Students often referred to the northern half of the campus as the upper campus and to the southern half as the lower campus, with the split occurring at the **Hockey Pond**. The upper portion of the campus generally sloped from north to south and east to west, while in the south it leveled out. All on-campus roads and paths were made of dirt, with three exceptions, and the dirt was usually improved with a mixture of gravel.

Vehicular Traffic. At its largest, a series of east-west roads allowed vehicle access to the campus, though ironically, there never was a campus-internal north-south road that traversed the entire campus. The east-west dirt roads off of **Kemble Street** from north to south were at **Schermerhorn Hall**, continuing to **The Annex**; at **Clipston Grange**, continuing to **North and East Cottages** and below **Thayer Hall**; and in front of **St. Martins**, which provided access to the **Library, St. Martins**, the **Gymnasium** and **Lawrence Hall**. The **Dirt Road** along the east side and behind the **Gymnasium** allowed access to the **Old Stockbridge Road**. Additionally, there were three east-west roads off of the **Old Stockbridge Road** all providing access to the southern portion of the campus. Again, from north to south: one was the last road to be built, which connected directly with the **Sports Center** parking lot; another was the **Rear Entrance Service Road** that provided access to the **Field House** and **St. Martins** kitchen, with a split at **Monks Hall** that accessed the **original athletic field** and later the **Sports Center**; and the last was the **Dirt Road** that formed the southern boundary of the School and crossed behind the **Gymnasium**, connecting with the **St. Martins** parking lot. The only paved sections of road were the new entrance to the **Sports Center** and its parking lot and the circular driveway in front of **Lawrence Hall**. There were numerous short and often curved driveways off of **Kemble Street** and one off **Walker Street** with small parking spaces next the applicable building. These included driveways for the **Jones House, Bassett Hall, Schermerhorn Hall, Thayer Hall, South Cottage** and while it stood, **Griswold Hall**.

Signs at Entrances to the Campus.

White School Signs. In the School's mid to latter years, white signs at its main road entrances became a distinctive feature of the campus. The three locations that routinely had signs were: the main entrance to the campus in front of **St. Martins Hall** off of **Kemble Street** that read simply "Lenox School"; the access road to **Schermerhorn Hall**, just below **Trinity Church** that read "Lenox School Offices"; and the rear service road entrance to the campus off of the **Old Stockbridge Road** that read "Lenox School, Service, Infirmary and Field House". The plaques hung from an "L-shaped" metal pole. The design of these signs changed over the years, but the most recognizable version was a rectangular white sign in the center, with a cross on top inside curved wooden wings, a pillar/spindle on each side and a curved base underneath. Each featured a painted School Crest in the center of the sign in black, gold and white. The sign at the main entrance had Lenox above the Crest and School below it. The two other signs had Lenox School above the Crest and then either Offices or Service, **Infirmary, Field House** below the Crest. These signs were initially built by Lenox students in the **Craft Shop**.

Other Signs. The only reference to a specific sign that has been uncovered to date is the class gift from the Class of 1956 of a new sign for the main entrance to the School. It was described as a "colonial design, white, with the School name and motto in School colors" and was suspended from a cross member between two poles. The Class of 1964 donated two new lamp pillars on either side of the main entrance as their class gift. These consisted of a stylized lantern

atop a six foot tall square rock pillar. The electric lights had Lenox School written in black on a white background at their mid-section. It's feared that a current wishing well between the main entrance and **South Cottage** may be made from these rock pillars. Eventually, there was also a wooden two bar split log fence on either side of these lamps extending some distance in each direction.

Foot Traffic. Until the School allowed bicycles in its last year, students moved about the campus solely on foot by a series of interconnected dirt paths, two sidewalks and the dirt roads previously addressed. These student routes are described using the front of **St. Martins** as a reference point. Foot traffic to the **playing fields, The Coop, Field House** and **Monks Hall** was either by a narrow paved sidewalk from the rear of **St. Martins** to the entrance to the **Field House Courtyard** or down the steps by **West Cottage** and onto the **Rear Entrance Service Road** behind **St. Martins Northern Wing**. The individual **playing fields** could then be accessed by walking along the **Rear Entrance Service Road**. A dirt path connected **West Cottage** and **South Cottage**, with another from **West Cottage** to **Lawrence Hall**. A third path connected the circle in front of **St. Martins** to the circle in front of **Lawrence Hall**, though many used the roads instead. Access to the upper (northern) portion of the campus, required by all students at least five times a week for Chapel or Church services, as well as meals when they were served in **Thayer Hall**, was accomplished by one of three routes. In rainy and muddy conditions, the sidewalk along **Kemble Street** accessed by the path from **West Cottage** to **South Cottage** was the preferred method. In better weather, there were two dirt paths that extended from behind **Lawrence Hall** to **Schermerhorn Hall**. One ran diagonally along the eastern edge of the **Hockey Pond**, then between **North** and **East Cottages**, below **Thayer Hall** and then connected with the **Kemble Street** sidewalk at **Schermerhorn Hall**. The other path ran along the western berm of the **Hockey Pond** and through the woods below **North Cottage** to **The Annex** and then up the dirt road to the **Kemble Street** sidewalk between **Schermerhorn** and **Bassett Halls**. As this path hit the northern berm of the **Hockey Pond**, a spur led off through the brush and connected to the **Rear Entrance Service Road** at the western end of **Monks Hall**. As mentioned previously, the School's **Cross Country Course** ran around the periphery of the campus on the roads, sidewalks and paths just described.

SCHOOL ATHLETIC FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEARS (1927-1971)

Lenox School Athletic Facilities Throughout the Years. Athletics remained a key part of the School experience and all boys were expected to participate (Work Squad was an alternative in the early years and a punishment in the latter years), unless restricted from doing so by poor grades (flunking three or more subjects). Apparently, from the rather austere to non-existent athletic facilities in the School's first year, as described previously, the School's athletic facilities steadily improved over the years. However, until the School's last years, in keeping with the School's overall simple approach to daily life and its unendowed status, these facilities could best be characterized as only adequate and did not compare that favorably with the majority of Lenox's opponents' facilities. As Rev. Curry the Headmaster once stated in regards to playing hockey at Lenox: "If you want to skate, you have to shovel". He also recognized the need for winter indoor facilities when in the winter of 1948-1949, amid terrible flooding in Lee, the Pen and Scroll reported: "No snow, no ice, no permanent place for the Basketball Team to work out. Things do not seem to be looking up! Never in the history of the School has there been such an inauspicious beginning of the winter term." But the School's situation was to remain the same as its emphasis was to always "place people ahead of plant". Home and visiting team locker and shower rooms were consecutively located in **Griswold Hall, St. Martins Hall, the Memorial Gymnasium/Field House** and finally the **Sports Center**. A description of the School's athletic facilities and how they evolved over time is provided below. Attendance at Lenox home games was usually poor, with the exception of Parents Days and Alumni Weekends as almost all students were involved in some type of game at the same time. The Class of 1966 donated a large cast iron bell that was carried from field to field and used to encourage Lenox teams.

Fall Facilities – Playing Fields and Courses. The **first playing field** on the School's original campus, used eventually as both a football field and baseball diamond was located on the low-ground adjacent to the Old Stockbridge Road behind what is now the **Sports Center** and on what would subsequently become the **Practice Football Field**. It is doubtful that there was sufficient room for two separate fields, so most likely the fields overlapped and used the same area. This field would become known as the **Lower Football Field**.

Football Team. This first **Football Field** was used in the fall of the School's second year. Prior to then, teams used the lawns and fields of nearby Estates as explained in the description of the School's first year. A significant athletic milestone occurred in 1929 when for the first time in a major sport, the School's Varsity Football Team competed regularly with the "first teams" of other schools and that the School first awarded the black chenille gold Letter "L". Before this time, the School's Teams had mostly played against the "Seconds" from other schools. In 1936, the team had a live pig named "Gub-Gub" as a mascot who reportedly was "always able to find holes in the line". Rev. Curry's first winning football team was the School's first undefeated football team in 1965 and it did not occur until 19 years after he had become Headmaster. Also, throughout the School's early and mid years, intramural 6-man football teams, organized by dormitory, were also very popular.

New Playing Fields. In 1935, the level ground between what would be **St. Martins Hall** and the Old Stockbridge Road was purchased as part of a larger parcel and a new playing field was created there. The cost to prepare the first "field" was raised by the boys of the School from students, alumni, trustees and friends of the School since the School lacked the funds to do so. These funds were given to the School in honor of its 10th Anniversary. The preparation process included clearing, leveling, installing drainage and growing sod and it took about a year until the field was ready for use in the fall of 1937. It is believed that there was room on this "field" for both a **Football Field** and a **Baseball Diamond**, though this has yet to be confirmed. An undated aerial picture of **St. Martins** with only one wing (pre-1956), shows a **Baseball Diamond** with no dirt infield at the base of the hill below **St. Martins**, which would be its final location, and then a north-south oriented **Football Field**, known as the **Upper Football Field**, in what would also become its final location, with the rest of the property between the **Football Field** to the Old Stockbridge Road left undeveloped. This area would be cleared in 1956 at a reported cost of \$500 and a multipurpose soccer/lacrosse field constructed. Regardless of how many playing surfaces that there were on that initial field, it is assumed that the School continued to make use of both it and the original one as well. Over the next 20+ years, there would be three playing fields located in this area on the newly purchased land. A **Baseball, Football and Multipurpose Soccer/Lacrosse Field** would be located in that order, below **St. Martins Hall** on the new property, stretching to the Old Stockbridge Road. Additionally, the **Soccer/Lacrosse Field's** orientation was sometimes parallel to the Old Stockbridge Road and sometimes perpendicular to it, though this was not of immediate concern as the School's first Soccer Team was not fielded until 1947. When this field was oriented perpendicular to the Old Stockbridge Road, it was known as the **Infirmery Field**. These fields would remain there and in use for the duration of the School. Additionally, a **Practice/Club-Level Soccer/Lacrosse Playing Field** was added behind the **Infirmery and Field House** in 1962.

New Cross Country Course. In the fall of 1959, a three-mile **Cross-Country Course** was marked out around the periphery of the campus, primarily using existing sidewalks, dirt roads and dirt paths, with the start/finish line adjacent to the **Infirmery**, between the **Football and Soccer/Lacrosse Fields**. The start/finish line area was referred to as the **west side of the Upper Field**. The 1960 Yearbook announced that the School's first cross country team was fielded that year. However, the first mention of a Track Team at Lenox was by the Headmaster in the spring of 1947 when he announced that a Track Team would be formed, focusing on Cross Country due to the lack of facilities and that "it may enter a meet before the spring is over". The exact details on whether or not the Team was ever formed and competed that spring and if they did, for how many years it existed, have yet to be verified. There is also a reference to a cross

country team in 1954, but no reference to it appears in that or subsequent Yearbooks prior to 1959-1960.

Facilities Expand West of Old Stockbridge Road. The **J. Arthur “Gramps” Howland Memorial Athletic Field**, located on the west side of Old Stockbridge Road, across from the southwest corner of the campus was ready for use in the fall of 1962 and consisted of one **Playing Field** located on the front (east) side of the property that was primarily used for both Varsity Soccer and Varsity Lacrosse. It would be referred to as **Gramps Howland Field**. Additionally, a portion of the School's **Cross-Country Course** ran around its border. This property was originally the site of the **Lithgow Estate**. Its land and original house dated to the late eighteenth century and was originally deeded to the Landers family. It was subsequently owned by Mr. Edward Pierrpont, and then enlarged and modernized by Mr. Alfred Gilmore in 1870. At the death of his daughter, Miss. Louisa Gilmore, according to Rev. Curry, it was purchased by (one source said it was deeded to) Lenox School in the summer of 1960. The property consisted of “12-acres of heavy growth and weeds, a steep slope and a small pond”. The **Gilmore House** was torn down because it was in a poor state of repair and the weeds were cleared to create the **Playing Field**. Future plans for the property envisioned possible new faculty housing on it as well.

Winter Facilities – Ponds, Rinks, Courts and Slopes.

Hockey Team - Early Years. For the School's first two years, Thayer and Griswold hockey teams practiced and played on the **Highlawn House Estate's** swimming pool and reportedly, beginning in its second year, also on an on-campus flooded tennis court. A Varsity Hockey Team was formed in the School's second year, but had only one game. The **Hockey Pond** was constructed from donations by parents and was planned to first be used after Christmas in 1928 for the 1929 hockey season. It was formed by creating two dykes on the side of an existing meadow. However, there were problems with water leaking out of the **Pond** and it would not be ready until the 1930 season. In the interim, Mrs. Field's swimming pool and the tennis court were used for the three-game 1929 season.

Hockey Team – Follow-On Years. Over the years, improved temporary side-boards and temporary lighting would be added to the Hockey Pond. The first artificial lighting was erected in 1941 as a gift of that year's graduating class. The next set of improved lighting would not be erected until 1961. In the 1930's several ponds in the local area were used for practices when the **Hockey Pond** could not be used either due to too much snow or thinning ice. These alternate locations included **Mrs. Frothingham's Pond** at the **Overlee Estate** at the corner of Old Stockbridge Road and Plunkett Street, south of the campus, and the **Osgood Pond** (or possibly **Osgood Field Pond**) whose location has yet to be determined. Perhaps **Osgood Pond** is a play on words and refers to Mrs. Fields frozen swimming pool at the **Highlawn House Estate**. She was the wife of W. B. O. Field (William B. Osgood Field). Additionally, also in the 1930's an alternate hockey rink, complete with its own set of boards, was set up on **Laurel Lake**, several miles south of the campus in Lee and was used for home games when there were problems with the on-campus **Hockey Pond**. There was even one report of using the ice on the **Stockbridge Bowl**. When ice conditions were really bad or non-existent, there are several reports of the team practicing by shooting pucks, sometimes off of linoleum squares, at either the original football field or in the enclosed area in front of the barn that would later become the **Field House**.

Hockey Team – Latter Years. Finally, in the early 1960s, a hockey pond at **Rattlesnake Mountain**, also south of the campus was also mentioned as being used. In 1964-1965, a new **asphalt based natural-ice rink** with permanent boards, referred to as the **Land Rink**, was opened to the west of and adjacent to the **Hockey Pond** for use in the 1964-1965 season. It had a light mounted on a tree on the south side to assist in nighttime ice preparation, but it wasn't sufficient for nighttime games. The **Land Rink** provided a much improved facility for Varsity Hockey games, though the **Hockey Pond** rink was still used for lower-level games and for

the Varsity when ice on the **Land Rink** was poor. According to a hockey team manager, keeping the ice from melting was always a challenge on the **Land Rink** and sheets were often pulled across the rink on lines affixed between trees to shade the ice. Snow removal was always a challenge, particularly on the **Hockey Pond**. At times the snow on the Hockey Pond became so heavy that the hockey surface was sawed out and allowed to “float”, while the surrounding separated ice sank from the weight of the snow. Beginning in the 1968-1968 season, due to the use of the **Sports Center** rink, the **Hockey Pond** was no longer used and left to the weeds which had become a big problem. Occasionally the Hockey Team played at neutral site rinks such as the **Pittsfield Country Club** and the **Pittsfield Boys Club**, though usually, these sites were home ice for other local teams. On a special hockey-related note, several Masters and a few alumni played on the High Lawn Jersey Hockey Team which played at the **Pittsfield Boy’s Club** arena and later at the **Sports Center** and was sponsored by Col. Wilde, the President of the Lenox Board of Trustees. The 1968-1969 and later seasons were played on the artificial ice of the **Sports Center** rink. At the time, there was a fear that the “ready-made ice would spoil the boys, since having to work for your ice makes you more proud to win on it”.

Basketball and Fencing Teams. The School’s Basketball Team was first fielded for the 1934-1935 season and initially practiced and played in the **Brotherhood** and **Lenox Town Hall Gymnasiums**, both in the Town of Lenox. Eventually, the **Town Hall Court**, Lenox High School’s original home court, became the Team’s primary location until the facility became unavailable for the 1948-1949 season. Apparently, this occurred because Lenox High School was building a new facility and they needed to use the **Town Hall Court**. As a matter of note, as touched upon previously, the **Brotherhood** would become the Town’s **Community Center**, though its basketball court is now outdoors. At the time, its basketball court was on the second floor, which is now an auditorium with a stage. The **Town Hall Court** was actually part of the Town’ functioning **Town Hall** and was also used for Town Meetings, gatherings and voting. It still is today. For that one year, all of Lenox School’s Team’s games were Away Games and it was able to practice only twice a week, once each at the Lee and Stockbridge Gymnasiums. As Rev. Curry remarked at the time, “Practice while playing games is never a good sign”. Luckily the Team was able to move into the new Lenox School **Memorial Gymnasium** for the 1950 season. The Hockey and Basketball Teams first utilized the new Sports Center for the 1968-1969 and 1970-1971 seasons respectively. The Fencing Team was formed for the 1959-1960 season and routinely, at least half of its schedule would be composed of college freshman teams. Their home included the **Memorial Gymnasium**, and **Thayer Hall’s** large Multipurpose Room/Dining Hall, until they moved into the upper floor of the **Sports Center** for the 1968-1969 season.

Squash Team and Early Handball Competitions. The School’s Squash Team was formed in 1957 with Mr. W. E. D. Stokes Jr., the father of a Lenox School student, as it’s first coach. The Team practiced and played their matches on a single court at the **Pittsfield Country Club** on Route 7 about six miles from the School. One alumnus recalls that “it was an old court, but in good shape and unheated. Sometimes we’d get snow blowing in drifts from behind the tin in the front wall”! During some of the Team’s first years, all games were Away Games due to the condition of this one court. Additionally, during Rev. Monks’ tenure as Headmaster, beginning as early as the School’s first year, there were often well attended School-internal handball competitions and ladders that were held at the **Lenox Brotherhood Handball Court**.

The Ski Team. Reportedly, the School’s first Ski Team was formed in 1938 and began skiing on Mrs. Alexandre’s **Spring Lawn Mansion (Schermerhorn Hall)** hill, as well as **Bald Head “Mountain”** and **“Lanier’s Hill”** (these may refer to the same hill) which were just across the Old Stockbridge Road. They then moved to the small **Ski Slope** below and to the west of **North Cottage**. In the winter of 1951, a portable Ski-Tow, capable of pulling three skiers at once, was given to the School by a Mr. Judson, owner/manager of the **Otis Ridge Ski Area** and father of a student. He had helped develop this **Ski Slope**; advised the Team on technical matters; and offered the Team equipment at discount prices. A 10-meter **Ski Jump** was donated by Ski-Team members’ parents and built in January 1953 in this same area. This area remained in use until 1957 when the Ski Team began using the **Beartown State Forest Ski Area** in South

Lee. The **Beartown State Forest** began in 1935 as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) project and was opened to the public as a ski area from 1935-1955 and 1961-1966. According to Ski Team members, they used the advanced ½ mile Grizzly Slope for Downhill and Giant Slalom and the Polar Slope for slalom. There was also a Ski Jump off the Grizzly Slope that was used by the Nordic Team.

There were several ski tows in operation at various times, but skiers remember walking from the street to the bottom of the hill and then up the slopes another 440 vertical feet for Grizzly and 380 vertical feet for the Polar Slope. Reportedly, visiting ski team members did not appreciate the walk. One Ski Team member also recalls conditioning drills up and down the slopes before the snow arrived. Also in 1957, the recreational skiers began enjoying the **Bousquets Ski Area** in Pittsfield. There are reports of occasional slalom competitions held at the **Bousquets Ski Area** and one of the Team using **Mount Greylock** as well. There was also a reference to the use of **Rattlesnake Mountain** in the early 1960s, just south of the campus on the way to Stockbridge.

A Swimming Experiment. In the spring of 1947, swimming was again offered, but this time at the **Boy's Club in Pittsfield** and not at the **Stockbridge Bowl** as in the School's first years. There was no mention of a Swim Team, only of "group swimming", so it's assumed that it was recreational swimming only. For how many years swimming continued to be offered is unknown. There is also a reference in the Pen and Scroll of students using the swimming pool at the nearby New England School of Theology (NEST) during a School holiday in the spring of 1959.

Spring Facilities – Fields and Courts. The Varsity Baseball and Lacrosse Teams used the playing fields below **St. Martins** that were previously described. The home plate of the **Baseball Diamond** was located nearest to **St. Martins**. It originally had no backstop, then used a small wooden backstop built in 1956 at a cost of \$250. Eventually a more conventional wire backstop was built. Lower-Level Baseball Teams played on the School's **Original/Lower Field**. Lacrosse began as a sport in the spring of 1957. Though no games were scheduled this first year, the team did have scrimmages with two different schools. A Varsity Lacrosse Team was first formed in the following spring of 1958. Varsity lacrosse games were sometimes played on the east side of Old Stockbridge Road and sometimes on the **Howland Memorial Playing Field** on the west side of Old Stockbridge Road. Lower-Level and Club-Level lacrosse teams used the previously mentioned practice field behind the **Infirmery** and **Field House** and the area between the **Lacrosse/Soccer Field** and the **Football Field**. Tennis was originally a School-internal sport consisting primarily of elimination competitions. Beginning in the fall of the School's second year, at least one clay court with a backstop was constructed by the students and a second would soon follow. They became known as the **Lower** and **Upper Courts**. Apparently, the first was located below Griswold Hall near the first **Football Field**. Whether both the upper and lower courts simply referred to two adjacent courts in the same area or perhaps to another court located below **Thayer Hall** near the **Ski Jump** has still not been determined. Over the years, many hours were spent by the Work Squad maintaining these courts, by clearing leaves, pulling weeds and rolling their surfaces. Exactly when a Tennis Team was formed and became a Varsity sport, competing against other schools is another unknown, but could have been as late as 1947. The Team had its first undefeated season in 1958. In May 1958, three new **Asphalt Tennis Courts** were opened at the base of **Schermerhorn Hill** and became the site of Tennis Team matches, while the other two **Clay-Surface Courts** slowly fell into disrepair. Prior to acquiring **Schermerhorn Hall**, these **new courts** were to have been built between the new **Football and Soccer Fields**. These new **Asphalt Courts** were opened by a doubles match between Rev. Curry/Mr. Faxon and Mr. Hinman/Mr. Baker, with the former being victorious 6-1. In 1960, two **new courts** were donated by parents and were constructed at the site of the **former courts** near the **Ski Jump**.

Lakes, Links and Stables. The Sailing Team used several classes of boats over the years and practiced and competed at the **Stockbridge Bowl (Lake Mahkeenae)**, several miles from campus. It was organized as a club-level sport in 1954 and remained so for a year. It first used 15-16-foot Wee-Scott Class boats owned by the **Mahkeenae Boating Club**. By the spring of 1957, the Team had two of their own 14-foot Blue Jay Sloops built from kits. In the off season,

these and other boats when they were built were stored on-campus in the **Craft Shop** building. In the School's latter years, in addition to the Varsity Team, there was again club-level sailing and an All-Club Team that periodically competed against other schools. As with most sports, sailing was subject to the weather, which in one report included ice on the **Lake** as late as the end of April. The School even offered golf ("there is interest in golf") beginning in the spring of 1947, when a Trustee from the local area arranged for six student-memberships at the **Pittsfield Country Club**. Again, how long Golf was offered and if a Team that competed against other schools was ever created is yet another unknown. Finally, in the spring of 1928, horseback riding at the nearby **Lenox Riding Academy** was also offered, but for how long it continued to be offered is unknown.

THE SCHOOL'S GROWTH AND GROWING PAINS (1927-1969)

The School's Foundations and Guiding Principle. Under Rev. Monks and Rev. Curry, the School's Headmasters for all but two of its years, the School would consistently operate on three primary foundations: "Ensure that academic work remained at a high standard; take gambles on boys in regards to their past academic record, rather than only taking the sure-bet high performers (Rev. Curry called it the Miracle of Growability); and always maintain the emphasis upon service" (as manifest by the School's self-help concept of daily campus life). Rev. Curry believed that the School must "continue to reach for the impossible and let the work speak for itself". Additionally, as well as offering a first rate education, these two Headmasters ensured that the School never lost its focus on the importance and impact of the Christian faith and its virtues on a boy's development. According to an early School Catalog, "Lenox School was founded with the purpose of offering, at moderate cost, a good secondary education with a distinctly Christian emphasis". Rev. Curry believed that it was "a place where Christianity is not simply taught as a subject, but is taught from the very spirit and atmosphere of the place". Rev. Monks remarked when facing the challenges of the Depression years: "may the unfortunately necessary material side of the running of the School, never advance to that point where it overshadows or obscures the ideals and objects of Lenox School, as a Christian Institution.

From Its Second Year to WW II. Throughout this period, the size of the Lenox School student body and faculty varied. Enrollment increased in the first years from the original 40 boys and the School held its first Graduation on June 13, 1930. It first experimented with a 5 ½ week Summer School in 1928, though Summer School was apparently not routinely continued in the School's latter years in favor of individual tutoring and some classes at BCD. Then the economic crash of 1929 and the long and deep depression stymied growth. About those depression years, Rev. Monks remarked: "Depression impact parents could only afford to send students to the last year or two of school. Thus, the Fifth and Sixth Forms were large and the others small. We had to accept boys in the "non-college" group. Their presence was of real value to the School, but academic offerings between the various Forms had to become more flexible" in order to handle the varying capabilities of the students. A look at the 85 graduates from 1939-1943 indicates that 55 or 65% went directly to college; 13 or 15% continued their education in an institution of higher learning other than college; and 17 or 20% began work immediately after graduation.

WW II Years. The School was hit hard by the depression and had just begun to recover in 1939-1940 with 79 students, when WW II loomed on the horizon and the School almost foundered. The War would take 6 of 9 Masters who left a few months after its start for either military service or related jobs and two faculty wives were pressed into service as teachers; it also took the lives of 27 alumni or ten percent of all alumni (another 3 would die in military service in latter years); and caused a marked decline in the quality of Masters hired as replacements and their ability to maintain what had been the norm for academic excellence in the School. Enrollment also dropped during the War, with for example, 58 students in 1942-1943 and 45 in 1944-1945. Additionally, VIth formers would often leave for military service before graduation. Numerous athletic and extracurricular activities were curtailed due to the lack of students, faculty, funds and gasoline for teams to travel. Food was restricted in quality and quantity (sugar and meat) as were

cigarettes and heating oil. As a result, the entire School moved into and operated from only two buildings, **Thayer Hall** and **St. Martins**.

The Leadership of the School Changes. The War years also took Rev. Monks good health. He took a year's leave for the 1943-1944 school year during which the Senior Master, Mr. Walter H. Clark served as Acting Headmaster. However, Rev. Monks' health forced his resignation as Headmaster in the spring of 1946 after 20 years. He was replaced by the Rev. Robert L. Curry, who was serving as an Army Chaplain in the Pacific Theater, on April 1, 1946. Rev. Curry instituted several new initiatives to improve the viability of the School. These included support to a new **Berkshire Country Day School** on the campus beginning in 1946; the hiring of a Public Affairs Officer in 1947 to support his vision of selling the School to the public; the creation of a new 7th Grade/First Form at Lenox in 1948; encouraging the growth of the School as a conference center for religious and education groups (see the School's relationship with **Tanglewood** that began in 1948); a closer relationship with the Episcopal Church by creating an office for the Provincial Secretary at the School and hosting Provincial and Diocese conferences; and by periodically hiring some coaches (football and basketball), solely as coaches and not teaching Masters as well.

Post WW II. After the war, men were returning to or coming into the teaching field and an increase from student veterans immediately after the War, primarily those who had left high school to enter the service, caused a spike in enrollment in 1946-1948. The 1946-1947 school year was the School's 21st year, and with 102 boys and four new Masters for a total of 10, its class was the School's largest ever with 18 veterans and 57 new boys. In some Yearbook class listings, veterans are listed as a separate category of student, as are special students such as "Others Coming Back" who were normally veterans as well, who were not full-time students, but simply brushing up on specific subjects before attending college. Subsequently, after post-war service students had run through the School, enrollment numbers began to shrink due also to the School's diminished reputation during the War years, and enrollment declined to a low of 52 students (one source says 62) and 8 Masters in 1951. It then steadily increased to 227 students (one source says 230) by 1959, 16% of whom were day-students.

The 1950s and Beyond. At this point, the Headmaster and Trustees agreed that to retain its unique qualities, the School should not exceed 250 students and as mentioned previously, more faculty and buildings were needed to support this growth. Between 1956 and 1964, several fundraising campaigns were undertaken and in 1958, due to \$250,000 raised by the Consolidation Fund, the School was out of debt for the first time in its 32 years. Between 1926 and 1964, the School's operating budget increased from \$40,000 to \$435,000 and the number of buildings from 4 to 24. The size of the School topped out at approximately 240 students, 28 Masters, 17 Staff and 24 buildings in 1968. These additional buildings were either constructed through various fundraising efforts, or were large estates that were donated to the School. Housing for faculty members was never spacious and in 1960 the School even rented a double-house at Berkshire Estates for two masters and their families. The School would ultimately have approximately 1,365 graduates and another 315 boys who attended, but did not graduate, by the time it closed in 1971. In 1967, the Town of Lenox's Bicentennial Celebration concluded on Labor Day with the family picnic "a gigantic gathering of Lenox families, young and old, on the grounds of Lenox School, where games and contests of skill preceded the serving of huge quantities of food."

Reaching Out to Those In Need. The School was always proud that its student body was composed of boys from varied economic, religious and geographic backgrounds and in the School's latter years, under the leadership of Rev. Curry, it sought to more fully manifest its Motto, "Not to be served, but to serve" by more aggressively reaching out to those in need. This included bringing minority students in need to Lenox; conducting a summer Outreach Program that sent Masters and students to Japan, Mexico, England and Native American Reservations in the American West and Canada; and implementing an Extracurricular Backdoor Peace Corps Program that assisted disadvantaged youth in the local Pittsfield area. Rev. Curry believed that

Lenox was “the first Church Boarding School for Boys to reach out and take Black students”. The School then reached out to Native Americans, who faced a plight “far more depressing and futile than many other minority groups” and began admitting Native American students on scholarship. Perhaps the strangest “boys” in need that came to reside at the School were two Hungarian refugees from the Hungarian Revolution in the fall of 1956. These two men, Imre Lakatos 18 and Laslo Horwath 21, arrived at the School in January 1957; were sponsored by the Diocese of Western Massachusetts; and lived in Upper **Thayer Hall**. They spoke almost no English and relied upon dictionaries to communicate during their meals with students at the Dining Hall. They had jobs with Mr. Howland’s grounds crew and resided at the School for the winter and spring semester of 1957.

The School’s Relationship with Tanglewood. “In 1937, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Berkshire Symphonic Festival found a permanent summer home on **Tanglewood**, the former **Tappan Estate**. In 1940, a summer music school connected with the Festival opened and was first known as the “**Berkshire Music Center**”, and later as the “**Tanglewood Music Center**.” In the summer of 1948, students from this summer music school and subsequently from the Boston University Music Department which also had a program with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, began using the Lenox campus as their summer residence. This summer session was six weeks long and usually consisted of around 200 students. Sometimes the students were both boys and girls and sometimes just girls, ranging in age from seven to seventy and coming from countries throughout the world. For instance in 1962, 180 boys and girls stayed on the campus, with the boys staying in **St. Martins, The Coop** and **The Annex** and the girls everywhere else. One Master remembers “a truckload of pianos arriving from Boston each summer and going into practice rooms in St. Martins and Monks Hall”. The only interaction between the music students and Lenox School students occurred with the Lenox boys who were employed to provide kitchen, custodial and bus-driving services. One reference to the size of this group of students stated that it consisted of one Faculty Advisor and seven boys. One student reported that they received \$200 for the six weeks, which could be applied toward tuition if so desired, as well as free tickets to all Tanglewood performances, which many felt were the more valuable of the two. The financial arrangements between the Music Center and Lenox School remain unknown, but according to Rev. Curry’s comments in the Pen and Scroll, were most beneficial. The exact details of these financial arrangements will continue to be pursued. Additionally, “the Boston Symphony Orchestra annually gave the School a 6-seat box in the Tanglewood Shed for the summer season, which Rev. Curry doled out to faculty members and friends who were known to be in the area on certain weekends”.

Employment at the Elm Court Estate’s Summer Inn. For a period of time in the 1950s, Lenox School Masters and students found employment at Col. H. George Wilde’s, a Lenox School Trustee’s **Elm Court Estate**, which he ran as an Inn during the **Tanglewood** summer season. Many Lenox Masters and students look back upon these summers as a significant part of their Lenox School experience.

Employment Opportunities. The **Elm Court Estate** was located about two miles down the Old Stockbridge Road from the School and was described as “a great rambling mansion and a 106-room cottage” by some who worked there. It was built in 1886 by Mr. William Douglas Sloane and his widow, a Mrs. Henry White. Their granddaughter was Col Wilde’s wife and so the property stayed in the family. For a period of time, Lenox Masters Mr. David Wood was its manager and Mr. David Southworth assisted him in the Inn’s Office; Mr. Stanton Roberts the School’s Chef was the Inn’s Chef; and additional Lenox boys assisted in the Office, as well as performing numerous other jobs from dishwashing to houseboy, bellboy, bellhop, carhop and night watchman. One alumnus even remembers Rev. Curry greeting guests in a white dinner jacket.

Life at Elm Court. While Mr. Wood stayed in his apartment at **St. Martins** on campus, the others lived at **Elm Court**, with the boys often sharing a room on the third floor, separate from the other employees who resided in former maid’s quarters off the kitchen. In addition to

employment and stores of anecdotes, the experience offered a chance to observe some top performing artists, as well as providing the boys an opportunity to learn skills that would benefit them later in life. According to one former Master “Many of the guests were regulars each summer, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s (BSO) conductor”. Visiting performers with the BSO also stayed there including: “Pierre Monteaux, Isaac Stern, Leonard Bernstein, Benny Goodman and Ogden Nash”.

Support for the 50th Anniversary Fund. According to an article in the Alumni News Magazine by Mr. Putnam, despite the gathering storm clouds, the School continued work on the 50th Anniversary Fund which supported the School’s future development. As mentioned previously, this included the **Sports Center**, already opened; a new dormitory to be named **Founders Hall** with funds obtained through a challenge grant from Canon Monks; a new **Academic Complex**, located behind St. Martins Hall; and an additional \$500,000 endowment for continuing improvement to teachers’ salaries as explained below. The total cost of the completed Fund would exceed \$2,500,000, but a good start was made during a Trustee and Parent Planning Conference weekend in October 1968. At the Conference, it was reported that over \$1,000,000 had been raised, including: \$565,000 from School funds on hand; \$250,000 raised through the Canon Monks’ challenge; and \$227,000 from pledged donations.

A PERIOD OF CHANGE AND GATHERING STORM CLOUDS (1969-1970)

Transition. During this period, the leadership of the School found itself in transition as Rev. Robert L. Curry departed as Headmaster on October 15, 1969 after 23 years in that position to join the **Shattuck School** in Minnesota, as its Headmaster effective in January 1970. Austin P. Montgomery Jr., coming from duties as a Master at the **St. Paul’s School** in Concord New Hampshire for 16 years and originally hired to be the Associate Headmaster, effective August 1, 1969, became the School’s third Headmaster on October 15, 1969. Rev. Curry remained in the area until December 1969, as the Headmaster Emeritus. The original duties envisioned for Mr. Montgomery as Associated Headmaster were to run day-to-day School operations, thereby freeing Rev. Curry to focus on fundraising and public relations for the School. During his first year, Mr. Montgomery hired both a School Chaplain and a Business Manager.

Changes.

In Student Life and Curriculum. Mr. Montgomery created the position of School Chaplain in the spring of 1970, bringing in the past Chaplain at the Virginia Episcopal School. He also supported student-desired changes to School routines and curriculum. On Moratorium Day, May 4, 1970 the following student proposed changes were accepted: no more coat and tie; lower grade averages to get out of study hall attendance; optional Sunday breakfast; and the addition of courses in economics, Indian studies, black studies, anthropology, and a puzzles and games mathematics course. These changes would be expanded upon in the following year under new School leadership.

In Enrollment and Fiscal Status. This was a period of lessening interest in an all-male boarding school education, particularly one which required its students to perform daily chores and live by a strict disciplinary code and Lenox’s enrollment dropped from 240 in the late 1960’s to 130 in 1970. According to John Allen Gable: “As a small school with no endowment or any direct support from the Episcopal Church, the School was therefore highly vulnerable when the social climate shifted against private secondary schools in the 1960s and 1970s”. This period also saw the opening of the **H. George Wilde Sports Center** in the fall of 1969, the School’s largest building, which incurred a loan debt of approximately \$650,000. The School envisioned recouping a percentage of the cost of this loan by renting use of the ice rink to local hockey teams and by offering public skating to the community on the weekends for a reasonable entry fee.

The Coordinate Education (COED) Program. As more and more schools addressed the coeducation issue, in 1969-1970, Lenox instituted the Coordinate Education Program. It initially involved 15 girls from **Miss Hall's School** and 5 boys from **Cranwell School** taking science classes in **Monks Hall** and 10 boys from Lenox going to the **Miss Hall's** campus to take photography, art and drama classes. The fact that Mr. Oaks, the former Lenox football coach and **Berkshire Country Day School** Principal became the **Miss Hall's** Head of School did not hurt the coordination process. The **Darrow School** was planned to be an initial partner in the Program, but went Coed itself in the early stages of the Program, before it was fully implemented. Additionally, the **Foxhollow School** was initially incorporated into this Program as well, but did not provide students in this first iteration. The four Schools also pooled their resources to enable richer cultural opportunities like joint concerts and lectures such as the visit of the Joint **Harvard/Radcliff** Glee Club. Other manifestations of the Program were joint dances at both **Foxhollow** and **Miss Hall's**; Lenox and **Cranwell** Sunday afternoon "Play Days" at **Foxhollow**; and a September 1969 "Big Bash" involving all the schools in the Lenox **Sports Center**. When Mr. David H. Wood departed the School in 1970, Lenox even used the drama facilities at **Miss Hall's**.

Gathering Storm Clouds. Most significantly during this period, Lenox, a non-endowed School, began facing difficulties in meeting its operating expenses and fulfilling loan obligations, while still offering the same percentage of scholarships as in the past. Things came to a head in the summer of 1970 when the Board of Trustees was presented with a projected \$135,000 (later, because of an error, determined to be \$190,000) operating loss for the 1970-1971 school year, as well as continued payments on the \$650,000 Sports Center loan.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END (1970-1971)

No Help Available From the Episcopal Church. It should be remembered that from its inception, Lenox School was a private, independent, non-profit organization that owned the School and whose operations were overseen by a Board of Trustees. To the best of anyone's knowledge, since the School's opening, the Episcopal Church was never involved in the ownership of the School. Thus, though periodic donations were made to the School by Church organizations, and the New England Province's Synod and individual Dioceses' apparently assisted in some fundraising campaigns and possibly provided recurring annual donations to the School's Scholarship Fund, the Church offered no financial cushion for the School to fall back upon when financial difficulties arose.

The Storm Hits. According to the President of the Board of Trustees' article in the Lenox School Alumni Magazine, as previously stated, the Board of Trustees was formally presented the projected 1970-1971 school year operating loss in August 1970. They assessed the primary cause of the loss to be the drop in enrollment "rather than any extravagance". Their opinion was that the School's finances could not stand an operating loss of this magnitude. They pressed for a Program to achieve the desired reduction in operating costs that unfortunately, in their opinion, had to involve a cut in the total payroll. Mr. Montgomery, the Headmaster, said that if the Trustees insisted on more than a relatively small reduction, he'd be forced to resign. The Board felt for financial and "other reasons" that they had to accept Mr. Montgomery's resignation.

The Board of Trustees Acts. The Board then appointed Mr. David D. Blanchard, Assistant Headmaster, as the new Headmaster. They decided that instead of dismissing faculty that the necessary funds should be obtained by applying a 10% pay cut across the entire faculty and staff. This cut, plus reductions in operating expenses (e.g. closing the upper campus, discussed later), permitted a more realistic budget that could be met. At a Labor Day meeting the faculty and staff accepted the 10% pay cut and expressed a positive attitude towards getting the School back on solid financial ground.

Additional Income Obtained. Subsequently, some much needed additional revenue was obtained. Mr. Putnam was able to obtain a \$75,000 Faculty Support Grant from the Mellon Foundation, as a result of his briefing on the School's program involving Native American (Indian at the time) and Black students. This money allowed the 10% pay cut for the faculty to be eliminated. The same percentage reduction in staff pay was rescinded with income from "other sources". The Women of the Episcopal Church also provided a \$15,000 Grant for direct support of the Native American Program.

A Program for the Future Is Developed. Together, Mr. Blanchard and the Board of Trustees came up with the following Program to address and resolve the School's financial difficulties.

Recommendations 1-3. First, build the School's enrollment through more active recruiting, not only with parents, but by visiting pre-secondary schools as well. It also included publishing a School Catalog, which had not been done since 1943. Second, meet Rev. Monks' matching challenge gift of up to \$450,000 for all contributions to the **Sports Center** before December 31, 1970. His challenge had been in effect since the 1968-1969 school year. Rev. Monks' matching funds were to be used for other than the **Sports Center**, primarily for the new dormitory with faculty apartments. Third, over the previous years, the School had continued to spend a lot on scholarships, but not on its physical plant. Thus, the physical plant needed renovation and consolidation. The uphill buildings were being inefficiently used and required heavy maintenance expenditures. They were to be closed as a cost saving measure. Apparently a few were and some other buildings' use was restricted as explained below. There is also a reference to the School planning to sell 3-4 buildings, but this has not been verified by a second source, nor have the specific buildings been identified.

Recommendations 4-5. Fourth, a capital fundraising effort to eliminate the \$650,000 **Sports Center** debt was required. The School couldn't continue to carry this debt without precluding the implementation of other programs. The Rt. Rev. Anson P. Stokes Jr. was placed in charge of a fundraising effort with an initial target of \$100,000. Fifth, a Long Range Plan was required to develop programs to improve staff and faculty pay and fringe benefits; improve teaching facilities; and provide resources to continue scholarships. The previous year, the Board of Trustees had recommended that a \$500,000 endowment for improvement in teacher's salaries, be added as a vital future need to the 50th Anniversary Fund.

How Things Changed in the School's Last Year. In its last year, the School made some dramatic changes to the rules governing student life, daily schedules and the curriculum in order to make the School more attractive and remove those practices which in the past had been considered restrictive, limiting and outdated. These changes were so substantial that they may be incomprehensible to most readers who experienced the School during different eras and are therefore summarized below. In addition, in the summer of 1970 perhaps as a source of additional income, the School allowed All American Sports to hold Hockey, Basketball and Soccer camps for the public utilizing its facilities.

Changes to Student Life. The dress code was eliminated, no more jacket and ties, with neatness, cleanliness and a respect for individual feeling becoming the guide. Any concerns over dress were adjudicated by a faculty-student-staff committee. Smoking, with parental permission, was permitted from breakfast to lights out in specified locations and uptown. Music systems were allowed in all dorms and students could have bicycles on campus. The checkbook system was revised to allow for the purchase of food and the size of allowances was increased. Some buildings were closed or used on a restricted basis. These included **The Annex, Gymnasium, Field House** and several dormitories, though specifically which ones has yet to be determined.

Changes to the Daily Schedule. The grades required to get out of going to study hall were lowered. Chapel was held only two days a week in the **Thayer Hall Chapel**, not at **Trinity Church**. One service was conducted by someone from the School and the other service by someone outside the School. Saturday classes were abolished; breakfast was at 8:00 AM; and

modules, explained below, offered from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. A Sunday buffet-style breakfast was optional. Sunday worship was allowed anywhere uptown or at a 9:30 AM Holy Communion service at the **Thayer Hall Chapel**. There was no longer a Lenox School Sunday service at Trinity Church. The School had previously experimented with giving students a box lunch at Sunday breakfast and then holding a 5:00 PM service at **Trinity Church** in order to free up the day.

Changes in Curriculum. The Coed Coordinate Education Program whereby **Cranwell** boys and **Miss Hall's** girls attended classes at Lenox (Biology, Chemistry and Organic Chemistry) and Lenox boys attended fine arts classes (Art, Drama and Photography) at **Miss Hall's** was continued. Sports were no longer mandatory. Students could either participate in athletics or attend one of the fine arts modules previously mentioned. This either or situation (sports or fine arts) was unfortunate and ways to eliminate it were investigated, including hiring a new Master specializing in Art. On Saturday mornings between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM, students could select and attend modules that interested them and that offered a broad range of subjects. These were meant to offer a varied fare as compared to the more restricted core-subjects taught during the week and "to completely destroy the idea of a somewhat boring Saturday". Subjects included: Indian Studies, Publications, Hockey Coaching, Geography, Photography, Chess, Poetry, Ecology, Art, Automotive Mechanics, Mechanical Drawing, Wood-Working, Band, Typing, Slide Rule, Introduction to Music, Remedial Math, and Remedial English. Unfortunately, with the size of the student body decreasing rapidly, the size of the faculty grew smaller as well and the number of students in each regular academic class actually got larger.

THE END AND A NEW BEGINNING (1971)

The End. The School didn't meet its enrollment or fundraising goals and in June 1971, it graduated its 42nd and last class (i.e. the first graduating class was in 1930), holding the last Graduation Ceremony in front of the Library. Reportedly, the only way the School could have remained open was to eliminate all scholarship students and 10 faculty members. There was not sufficient support for this option among the faculty or Trustees and in August 1971, the Board of Trustees voted to close the School. There may previously have been merger discussions with the **Foxhollow School**, but these never came to fruition. Unfortunately, Lenox learned what private schools today have accepted as the norm and that is that tuition simply doesn't meet operating expenses, perhaps meeting only 60% of these expenses and this does not factor in any additional debt payments. Without an endowment or other sources of income, the School was doomed.

Why the School Failed from a Trustee's Perspective. Many ask and want to know why the School could not be saved and ultimately failed. The major factors were addressed in the previous section, but provided below is the view of one Trustee, who served on the Board from 1970-1975, as to what went wrong and caused the School's demise. These observations entitled "Detailed Analysis of Lessons Learned – What Went Wrong" were the last portion of a larger set of Lessons Learned that were provided to some church members considering beginning their own preparatory boarding school in the early 2000s. Certainly some might question the Trustee's assessment that the "boys...revolted" and his view of the "liberal faculty", but he provides a unique perspective that only a few men shared and was in a position to fully understand what was going on and all the details involved. In the future, a search for additional details to add to his observations will continue, but nothing has yet been uncovered that contradicts or questions any of his observations and they seem to track with the information that has been uncovered.

"Detailed Analysis of Lessons Learned – What Went Wrong"

"Failure to Accommodate to the Changes of the 1960s. The "do your own thing" revolution was emerging. Boys did not want to go away to an all-boys boarding school in a

cold remote town in the Berkshires, and successfully revolted. Enrollment dropped. The basic core values of Lenox School were challenged by liberal faculty and some Board members. The Board and faculty split on a proposed merger with the nearby **Foxhollow School for Girls**, which would have solved financial and enrollment problems.”

“Failure to Anticipate. Failing to anticipate the financial problems that would emerge, the Board approved the construction of an indoor **Field House** complete with an indoor hockey rink, grandstands, locker rooms, concession stands and related equipment. The decision was based in part on a cost estimate by the general contractor and substantial pledge by an individual. A loan was obtained from a bank (Editor Note: the **Lenox Savings Bank**), and the entire campus was pledged to guarantee repayment. The estimated cost was overrun by about 75%, the pledged money did not materialize in full. To make up the difference, actually only some of it, funds from the Gardner Monks Foundation were (improperly) used to try to bail out the capital fund shortages. This alienated the Monks family. The Headmaster resigned (Editor Note: referring to Mr. Montgomery). The opportunity to merge had been squandered, but to the credit of the Headmaster, he wanted the merger. His own faculty sabotaged his efforts. Then a Board member made a personal loan to the School, unknown to the Board. When things started going sour, he demanded and received repayment, further shaking the precarious financial situation. To add to the problem, the new Headmaster signed contracts with all the existing faculty members without knowledge of the Board. In view of falling attendance, and with it, reduced income, this commitment could not be honored. Who would be retained and who would go (with a signed contract) led to a blood bath. The word got out, the bank foreclosed, the School closed. Along the way, there was an ill-advised merger with **Bordentown Military Academy** (Editors Note: Institute), which was poorly handled by the Bordentown Board, which alienated the Town fathers in Bordentown, and resulted in a “fire sale” of its property at a very small fraction of its market value. The merged school was in Lenox, but attendance was insufficient to meet costs.”

One Last View on the School’s Closing. Mr. David H. Wood, Assistant to the Headmaster at the time of the School’s closing provided the following comments in a Berkshire *Eagle* Letter to the Editor entitled “Lenox School never died”. “William Hunt’s piece on John Barth, while excellent, nevertheless promotes the half-truth that the Lenox School “made the mistake of building the \$1.3 million sports complex at a time of falling enrollment...and paid for it by going under.” The reasons for the demise of the school were much more complex than that. At the time of the closing in 1971 I wrote, “It is difficult for me as a former associate of the school to agree with trustee (name omitted, but not the same trustee who wrote the comments above) assessment that “There is just no way it could make it as it is today.” It would be closer to truth to say that the stresses and conflicts which tore Lenox School apart came at an unfortunate moment in the school’s history, a moment when administrative crisis was coincident with a crucial questioning of the school’s values against the background of a straitened economy. The financial situation is a convenient and perhaps more uncontroversial peg on which to hang the school’s failure.”...As one who spent a quarter of a century on the campus as teacher and administrator, I felt a great sense of betrayal and loss in the closing of the school. Indeed, because of the depth of my feelings it was difficult for me to speak or write of the closing”

Coordinating Things in the Interim. Though not opening for classes in the fall of 1971, several maintenance and administrative staff remained employed for about a year, in order to maintain the School’s property and to coordinate the School’s final disposition and subsequent merger. Mr. James G. “Bud” Wells provided building maintenance from his apartment in **Thayer Hall** and reportedly, the former office staff, headed by Mrs. Phyllis Roberts worked out of a former faculty apartment in **Lawrence Hall**. Allegedly, no faculty remained on campus, though Mr. Hinman lived for the year at the **Morgan Manor** apartments just across Walker Street, behind **Trinity Church**. There is also one recollection of the Pickett’s remaining in their **Schermerhorn apartment** during this year, though this can’t be confirmed. However, they did live there during the subsequent **Bordentown/Lenox School (BLS)** year.

Disposition of School Records. The final disposition of the School's records remains a matter of conjecture, though one former Master offers the following possibilities. Faculty and Staff records were returned to their owners or were made available for pickup. The Student records may have gone to the Town of Lenox, perhaps to the High School, where they would have had to be maintained by State Law for a certain number of years. After those years had passed they would most likely have been discarded. Where the Financial, Administrative and Alumni files and records went is unknown though it is likely that Mrs. Roberts and her crew destroyed the sensitive and routine files. It's also known that the Trustees obtained some of the School's more significant memorabilia items such as the numerous trophies, plaques and a certified copy of the School's Charter and provided it to an alumnus who got them into the possession of the LSAA. It's also pretty clear that some of the material from the School's Office, such as additional plaques, Yearbooks, Pen and Scrolls, programs from School events and other School-related material made its way into the hands of the Lenox Town Library. The Library subsequently released most of the publications and documents to an alumnus in the area who provided them to the LSAA in the late 1990s, forming the largest part of the current LSAA Memorabilia Collection. Whether this material was given to the Library by the Lenox School office staff or simply left on the campus and then donated to the Library by **The Bible Speaks** in 1979 is unknown. Some of the items donated by **The Bible Speaks** still remain at the Lenox Library and are described in the "How the Lenox School Legacy Lives On" section.

A New Beginning. Sometime, most likely in the fall of 1971 or perhaps as late as the first months of 1972, the decision to merge with the **Bordentown Military Institute (BMI)** was made (see the details on BMI provided below) and as mentioned above, the former Lenox School's office staff coordinated the merger. One Lenox alumnus remembers traveling to BMI in New Jersey for a job interview with the School's future Headmaster in the spring of 1972. Mr. David H. Wood, former Assistant to the Headmaster and Mr. David L. Southworth, former Director of Studies, who were two of the four former Lenox Masters that would teach at the new School, traveled to New Jersey in June 1972 to attend BMI's final graduation. One Master recalls: "It was a rather unsettling visit, for we felt like interlopers in an alien world where people were formally polite, but standoffish. BMI staff, unhappy and sad with the departure of Bordentown, seemed to embody an understated, but palpable, resentment toward the two of us. We stayed at a motel in nearby Princeton and were not sorry to head back to Lenox. In hindsight, we should have been more aware of some subtle clues presaging the ultimate failure of the new Bordentown/Lenox School"...the "attempted merger of two incompatible philosophies". Mr. G. Roger Hinman, the Lenox School's Senior Master, was of the opinion that though "the BLS student body would come from a cross section of backgrounds, one of the strengths of the Lenox School", his initial opinion of BMI students though "favorable" was that they "were not quite like the Lenox kids, but not in a bad way, due to the more structured environment of BMI. Lenox students appeared less structured and the Lenox School offered a certain simplicity and sense of direction in education, and was small enough" that "we would really help kids grow".

SECTION III

SUBSEQUENT USERS

OF THE CAMPUS

(1972-PRESENT)

MOMENTARY REBIRTH, THE BORDENTOWN/LENOX SCHOOL (BLS) ERA **(1972-1973)**

Creation of the School. As mentioned above, in 1972, Lenox School merged, a few say it was bought, though this seems unlikely, with the Bordentown Military Institute (BMI) (1881-1972) of Bordentown, NJ which closed its doors as a result of dwindling enrollment, due in large part to the anti-military feelings among the public at the time. The resulting Bordentown/Lenox School's (BLS) first Headmaster was John B. Hewitt from BMI. Its Board of Trustees consisted of members from both the BMI and Lenox Boards. It was a four-year boys preparatory school of somewhere around 100 students (85 boarders and 15 day students was their goal, initially perhaps a few less) who formerly had primarily attended BMI, though there were some day students. Four former Lenox School Masters were among the 15-member faculty at BLS. They were Mr. Wood, Mr. Pickett, Mr. Southworth, Dean of Faculty, and Mr. Hinman as Chairman of the Mathematics Department giving him 39 years of combined service at the two Schools. Mr. Bill Graesser, a Lenox School alumnus from 1967 and a recent graduate from Otterbein College was also a Master. It's highly unlikely that any students that had been enrolled at Lenox for the 1970-1971 school year would have left the schools that they had moved to after Lenox closed and returned to BLS.

Financial Difficulties. The Bordentown/Lenox School had only one school year (1972-1973) and the School went bankrupt, after its sole graduation, in the summer of 1973. The School apparently had financial difficulties from the start and these only increased throughout the year. The problem was exacerbated by the poor price they received from the sale of their former campus in New Jersey, reportedly due to their alienation of the local community there. Additional income was sought through a planned summer hockey camp and the All American Sports Organization Camp. At one point, the School even tried to save money by catering its meals. A merger with **Foxhollow School** was discussed, but never executed. Reportedly, as with the previously considered Lenox/**Foxhollow** merger, it would have unified the faculty and curriculum, but not the campuses. Mr. Hewitt, the first Headmaster left at mid-year and was replaced by Mr. Lewis Posich, a retired U. S. Army Lieutenant Colonel also previously from BMI. Additionally, reportedly, the faculty and Trustees did not have good relations with one another. In fact, it was not certain in the faculty members' minds that the School would even open after the spring-break. Additionally, some of the Masters, did not receive their last paychecks and the School defaulted on its Blue Cross/Blue Shield and TIFF/Cref payments for all the faculty. Finally, there is one additional note. If the Lenox School merged with BMI, then BMI would have assumed Lenox's existing debt payments, while if in fact Lenox School was sold outright to BMI during this process, which is unlikely and not documented, the majority of any money received by Lenox from this sale would have been used by Lenox to repay the existing debts that the School had incurred before it closed. As previously stated, it's believed that BMI merged with Lenox School, as this would have made the most financial sense and according to Town/Bank records, beginning in 1972, the deed was in the BLS name.

Conflicting Philosophies. One former Lenox Master recalls that "the single BLS year was neither an easy nor a particularly pleasant one for the Lenox Masters as the year had a "dark side" engendered by a number of issues, not the least of which was the attempted merger of two incompatible School philosophies and cultures. The merger simply did not work." Another Master recalls that "apparently there were at least three different groups and philosophies: the Lenox group, the BMI group and those with experience with neither. Though there was not a totally bad feeling at the School, there was a different feeling than in the Lenox School days and there clearly became the Lenox and the Bordentown folks with two different philosophies on how things should be done. Perhaps there was some negativism and it may have been a struggle for some of the former Lenox Masters." Additionally, the BMI group brought some "internecine conflicts from BMI which spilled over into the new BLS and they, coupled with its dire financial state only highlighted the "trauma" of the new School".

The School Experience.

What Was the Same. Some things remained the same: the School Offices and the Headmaster's Office for the first half of the year remained in **Schermerhorn Hall**; most faculty, but not all lived on campus; the four grades were still Forms; meals were still eaten family style in the **St. Martins dining hall** with no assigned seating; classes were still held in their same familiar locations, in buildings with the same names; portions of the Coordinate Education Program continued as at least some **Foxhollow** girls attended classes at Lenox; and athletic teams used the same fields and **Sports Center**, though the limited number of students meant that usually only one team was fielded in each sport.

What Was Different. And many things were different. The Lenox Masters felt that BLS did its best to eliminate all vestiges of Lenox School through the use of the BMI School Crest and Motto; likewise, there was no Chapel or mandatory Church attendance or Church affiliation; the faculty was no longer referred to as Masters, though there are conflicting recollections on this point; and the Headmaster's Office moved to **St. Martins Hall** for the second half of the year. There was still a flavor of BMI's former military structure in the new School, as a percentage of the students wore military uniforms and some were members of the voluntary Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Program at the School. This Program stressed military history and values, but imposed no obligations on its members as did the college-version, which offered members a means to obtain military commissions as officers in the armed forces. The Program was run by an Army Officer from its headquarters in the **Field House**, which also contained an armory for storing ROTC equipment. Additional differences included that the **Tuck Shop** in the **Field House** was no longer used, though a School Store with refreshments and supplies, run by a faculty wife, operated from a classroom next to the Study Hall in the basement of **St. Martins**; some of the old buildings were deteriorating rapidly; and with the reduced number of students, there was no need to use all the dormitories. **Bassett Hall** was closed due to a bad furnace and the **Gymnasium** was closed due to the new **Sports Center**. For instance, **North Cottage** now housed two married Master's families rather than students, **Clipston Grange** once again became solely the Headmaster's residence; and the **Annex** was used for storage.

The End and Beyond. The School's first and last graduation was held behind **Clipston Grange**, the location of many of the School's earliest graduations, and so the circle was completed. In June/July 1973, the Trustees voted to close the School and declare bankruptcy. The bankruptcy was due in large part to "the failure of cash proceeds from the sale of the old BMI campus to materialize when expected". Mr. Gus Nordstrom, who had been brought in during the second half of the school year as the Business Manager/"financial troubleshooter" was named the "Administrator" to clear up remaining debts. He renamed the School "New School at Lenox" as a "legal move" that did not involve any real new School. As the BMI sale proceeds began to filter in, all Federal tax and withholding obligations were paid off and faculty members reportedly began receiving payments to their TIAA accounts, but never to their Blue Shield/Blue Cross accounts. The exact details on the final disposition of the School's property has yet to be completely verified, but it is likely that eventually it was returned to its primary creditor, the Lenox Savings Bank.

The BLS Legacy. Interestingly enough, BMI recently formed an Alumni Association, which recognizes BLS graduates who also attended BMI, and has a Reunion every two years at the same time as the LSAA Reunion. One student from the Bordentown Lenox School Class of 1973 reported on the BMI Website, that after completing his junior year at Bordentown, he went to Bordentown Lenox the following year. "He remembers that thirteen out of seventeen graduates that year had gone through high school together starting at BMI. Since BLS went bankrupt, we never got our class rings, yearbooks, etc., but we still have great memories." Two BLS graduates are now on the Lenox School Alumni Association's mailing list and they will be contacted for additional information on the School that they may have.

THE VERSHIRE SCHOOL/NEW SCHOOL AT LENOX ERA (1974-1975 AND PERHAPS LONGER)

A Portion of the Vershire School Operates On the Campus. At some point after the Bordentown/Lenox School (BLS) closed, elements of the Vershire School (1968-1988), in Vershire Heights, eastern Vermont, utilized portions of the campus for some of its students from at least the summer of 1974 to January of 1975 and probably significantly longer, both prior to the summer of 1975 and perhaps close to when the campus was sold to The Bible Speaks in 1976. The specific financial details involving the use of the campus are unknown. However, the Vershire School's name was never reflected on the campus deed, so it must simply have been leasing the campus, either from BLS if they still retained the property or from the Lenox Savings Bank, the primary creditor. Exactly how many faculty and students occupied the Lenox School campus; why a second campus was required by the School; and how much of the campus was actually used is also unknown. One alumnus visited the campus during this period and met the School's Headmaster who said that the New School at Lenox was in fact the name being used by these elements of the Vershire School that were utilizing the Lenox School campus. As mentioned previously, this was the name BLS had adapted during the period after the School's closing, during which it was attempting to clear some of its debt. Additionally, a former BLS Master had also heard of the New School at Lenox. Finally, one long-time Lenox residence and former Lenox Town Historical Society member, recalls finding Vershire School literature on the campus after it had been vacated and prior to its sale to The Bible Speaks.

The Parent Vershire School. The parent Vershire School in Vermont apparently catered to a different type of faculty and student than did Lenox. It had a 1,000 acre campus with an on-campus ski slope and somewhere around 100 students. According to the Stamford *Advocate*, "the school attempted to turn around troubled youth with a combination of fresh air, strong academics and a sense of community". A New York *Times* article reported that former Vershire staff members told the Vermont Department of Education of what they said was rampant drug abuse, sexual misconduct between faculty and students, falsification of student transcripts and filthy, unsafe living conditions at the Vermont campus. The School's founder and owner denied that anyone at the School was involved in wrongdoing. "The School voluntarily closed in October 1988, with 54, mostly out of state students."

Impressions of the Vershire School on the Lenox Campus. It is known that faculty and students utilized the **St. Martins dining hall**. One Lenox School alumnus, who worked on the campus in the kitchen for a period of time, believed that the Vershire School was using the campus as a sort of holding tank for troubled teenage boys. He remarked that whoever was running the School was as rowdy as the students. Additionally, he thought that if "the Lenox Masters saw how the new faculty treated the **Masters Room** outside of the **dining hall** (feet up on the furniture, dressed in shorts and hiking boots, looking like wild men from the woods), there would have been some squawkin' to say the least and he could picture at least one particular Master with a baseball bat in hand".

Additional Activities on the Campus. It is not known whether or not any other organization operated on the campus, either before or after the Vershire School, between the closing of the Bordentown/Lenox School (BLS) and **The Bible Speaks' (TBS)** purchase of the campus. Reportedly, the **Sports Center** was used for semi-pro hockey games (the Jerseys) and summer hockey camps during the BLS-year and perhaps up until the time the campus was sold to The Bible Speaks. When the campus was not occupied by some other entity, it is assumed that the campus was likely still owned by the bank/banks (The Lenox Savings Bank) whose loans had been defaulted upon. It is also assumed that these banks would have coordinated for the minimum prudent maintenance and upkeep to ensure that their property maintained its value. Just exactly how and by whom the **Sports Center** was operated during this period, has yet to be determined.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS (TBS) ERA (1976-1987)

Campus Purchased. In 1976 The Bible Speaks (TBS), headed by the Rev. Carl Henry Stevens Jr. a 56 year old, fundamentalist preacher with reportedly no formal religious education (except for some classes at the Moody Bible Institute), but with 26 years of preaching experience, bought the “86”-acre Lenox School campus. It was to be used as TBS headquarters, the home of the Stevens’ School of the Bible, and numerous other functions as described in the paragraph below. Rev. Stevens started TBS in Maine in the 1971-1973 timeframe with 35-50 members and by the time the Lenox campus was bought, it had between 800 to 900 members. In subsequent years, as reported by the Berkshire *Eagle*, August 27, 2006, “many members alleged on Internet sites that the Church practiced mind control, was involved in various types of misconduct and that marriages and families had been torn apart”. According to one Bible College student and subsequent employee: “I have many fond memories of campus life. I know all about the email sites and the Dovydenas incidents, but I do not hold anything against the ministry. Pastor Stevens taught great foundational doctrine with mis-teaching in leadership styles. This was a single Pastor/Elder led congregation. I have come to appreciate a multiple eldership or congregational style of leadership. The single elder rule can be found in many churches even today. This is not an exclusive style to The Bible Speaks.”

What TBS and the Campus Consisted Of. The money to purchase the campus was reported to be around \$1.3M, \$300,000 in contributions from Church members and a \$1.0M loan that was paid off in June 1985. Much of the campus dormitory space was to be used for members who sold their homes and donated the proceeds to TBS. Reportedly, this space was to have been free for 10 years to those who donated funds from the sale of their homes, but after experiencing high utility bills over the first winter, rent was charged. Tax records indicate an on-campus population of persons over 17 as 370 in 1978 and 280 in 1982. The campus included a private children’s day school (K-12 and 300 students at one point); a nursery; the Steven’s School of the Bible (450 students in 1979, 175 in 1981 and 626 in 1985); a television ministry; a church; and an 1,800-capacity auditorium. “Very few of the students had beyond high school educations, so they became the work force for the local community.” The ministry also owned a missionary boat, “La Gracia”, in the Caribbean. Rev. Stevens taught at the school, preached in the church and oversaw TBS operations.

The Bible Speaks Use of the Campus Buildings and Facilities. According to this same student and subsequent employee, during The Bible Speaks use of the campus, the buildings and facilities were used as follows. Apparently, the **Jones House** was no longer part of the campus when The Bible Speaks owned it and during their stay on the campus, they purchased three additional properties in the Lenox/Lee area, not adjacent to the campus, that supported TBS operations.

Northern Portion of the Campus. **Schermerhorn Hall** contained the TBS and College offices, a reception area, an enclosed porch that hosted the daily “Telephone Time” radio program, a printing shop and main mailroom in the basement and staff housing on the third floor. The **Carriage House** contained the facilities management office and storage space, while **The Annex** housed married students on the second floor and a maintenance garage on the first floor. The **Tennis Courts** hosted a summer tennis camp. The following buildings on the northern portion of the campus were all solely used for married and single staff and student housing with males separated from females by either floor or building and “dorm parents” residing where most single students lived: **Bassett Hall** (family apartments), **Thayer Hall** (married students on second floor, single male students on first floor and lower levels), **North Cottage**, known as the Palmer Cottage (two family apartments, one on each floor), and **East Cottage** (married staff).

Southern Portion of the Campus. The following buildings on the southern portion of the campus were solely used for housing: **Clipston Grange** (married staff and students), **South Cottage** (married staff), **West Cottage** (married staff), **Faculty/Maskell Cottage** (married

housing), and the **Infirmery** (married housing). **Lawrence Hall** housed Rev. and Mrs. Stevens and three other upper level staff in the faculty apartments, with married students in the center dorm area and single students in the basement. The **Gymnasium** became the Barbara Stevens Memorial Chapel when she passed away, had a balcony added, and was initially the main chapel and lecture hall. The adjacent **Parking Shed** housed the TBS fleet of buses that were used for a "bus-ministry" that picked up church-goers from as far away as Troy, NY. The **Library** continued to be used as a library. **St. Martins Hall's South Wing** and the left rear extension were used for single female housing. A mailroom and bookstore were in the **Center Section** of the basement, with classrooms and an infirmary on the first floor and a nurse's station in the right rear extension and housing on the upper floors. The **North Wing** had kitchen staff housing on the upper floor; a cafeteria that served sit-down meals and take-out meals and Bible College classrooms in the basement. **The Coop** had a snack shop and single male housing. The **Field House** was used as the elementary school and **Monks Hall** as the high school and then the middle school when the high school moved to one of TBS's other properties.

Sports Center and Athletic Facilities. In regards to the **Sports Center**, the basketball side was maintained as such and utilized by both the day school and College for intramural competition and by the community for league play. The hockey rink side was eventually converted into the Main Chapel, reported to have seating for 1,800, with a television capacity that broadcast taped services on many community cable channels. The **Athletic Fields** behind **St. Martins** were used by school teams and "became some of the best softball fields in the area, hosting intramural sports and community league play that was attended by many families, especially in the spring and summer evenings."

New Buildings. A pool was started, but never completed between **Lawrence Hall** and the **Sports Center**. A small guard shack was erected at the main entrance off Kemble Street to control entrance traffic. Additionally, a two story building with two garages on the ground floor was built on the edge of the St. Lawrence Hall circle, between St. Lawrence and South Cottage. It was probably used by a security and/or maintenance force.

Ms. Elizabeth Dovydenas. According to Court Records, in the spring of 1981, Elizabeth (Betsy) Dayton Dovydenas moved to Lenox from the Minneapolis, Minnesota area with her husband Jonas, a freelance photographer. At the time she was 29 years old and heir to the Dayton-Hudson (later Target Stores) fortune with an estimated net worth of over \$19M. At that time her housekeeper was a member of TBS. In 1982, looking for a new church, she attended services at TBS and gave a \$500 offering.

The "Donations". She became known to Rev. Stevens, his future wife, and several others in the church hierarchy and over time established a closer relationship with them. According to Court Transcripts, between December 1984 and December 1985, she gave three large gifts and several smaller ones to TBS equaling \$6,581,356.25. Reportedly, she also changed her Will, disinheriting her husband and children and leaving her entire estate to TBS.

The Lawsuit. Subsequently, on October 29, 1986, Ms. Dovydenas brought a lawsuit against The Bible Speaks seeking to recover \$6.5M, claiming undue influence and fraud. Reportedly, Rev. Stevens had told Ms. Dovydenas that her husband and other relatives were under demonic influence and that she should donate millions to him on instructions from God. She alleged that he had pressured her and misrepresented the reasons why the donations were required. On May 19, 1987, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court found in her favor and awarded her the \$6.5M. The presiding judge said in his 60-page decision that the testimony revealed "an astonishing saga of clerical deceit, avarice and subjugation" by Stevens, who "has abused the trust of the claimant as well as the trust of many good and devout members of the church." He described Betsy as intelligent and trusting, but said Stevens achieved "total dominion and control over her". This lawsuit is considered a Landmark Case in the United States concerning undue influence (brainwashing).

TBS Declares Bankruptcy. As a result of the ruling, Rev. Stevens, whose organization had grown to 1300 members in the local area and 70-affiliated branches, including 23 in New England, filed for Bankruptcy Protection; moved to Baltimore, MD and founded Greater Grace World Outreach which would grow to 460 churches in 70 countries. On March 9, 1989, the U.S. Court of Appeals lowered the Dovydenas' awarded amount to \$5.5M, on the basis that two of the gifts were made freely. Rev. Stevens died on June 3, 2008 of congestive heart failure. He was 78 years old and had passed duties as lead preacher to Thomas Schaller in 2005 due to declining health.

THE ELIZABETH DOVYDENAS ERA (1987-1993)

Ms. Elizabeth Dovydenas Purchases the Campus. On November 4, 1987, Ms. Dovydenas was the high bidder at \$1.8M and purchased ownership of the 69-acre campus over the apparent objections of the Court-Appointed Trustee. There is one reference that said she paid \$3.6M, but this seems excessive and doesn't make much sense. The Boston *Globe* newspaper described the property as having "26 buildings, including three turn of the century mansions and an 1,800 seat auditorium".

Shakespeare & Company Rents Buildings on the Campus. In the late 1980s, while still operating from **The Mount**, a mile or so south of the campus, Shakespeare & Company found that they needed additional space and sought it on the campus. They subsequently rented **Clipston Grange**, **North Cottage** and **East Cottage** and used them for several years.

Ms. Dovydenas' Attempts to Sell the Campus. Throughout this era, Mr. and Ms. Dovydenas remained eager to sell the property and developed several plans and received several inquiries as explained below, though none resulted in the sale of the campus. During this period, Jonas Dovydenas created the **Berkshire Performing Arts Center** the details of which are also explained below. In 1988, Mr. John Barth as detailed in the following section, sought to purchase the campus and create a new Lenox School, but apparently never obtained sufficient funds. Also during this era, the Dovydenas' employed a Mr. Andres Duany, a noted architect, to create a Neighborhood Development Plan for the campus that would eventually include condominiums and single houses with a corner store and post office that would be called **Lenox South**. However, the Town of Lenox voted against the project during a special Town Meeting and it was never undertaken. The details of this Plan are provided below. Finally, in 1992, a Ms. Gitte Mechlenburg, reportedly involved with a private school in New York State and representing Motzfeldt Funding, tried to purchase the campus and also create a new Lenox School. Apparently she impressed many residents of Lenox, but Mr. John Barth had already registered the Lenox School name and precluded her from using it. (Note: the LSAA Memorabilia Collection has a copy of a letter from Mr. Barth to Ms. Mechlenburg notifying her not to use the Lenox School name, written on a Lenox School letterhead that he had created. Additionally, allegedly her investors backed out after she was accused of fraudulent practices with their money. There was also a report that Jonas Dovydenas had plans for a resort on the property, but these apparently never got off the ground. No other information on this particular project has been uncovered. In 1993, Ms. Dovydenas finally succeeded in her efforts and sold the campus to the **National Music Foundation**.

Use of the Sports Center/The Berkshire Performing Arts Center (BPAC). As mentioned above, during the period that the Dovydenas owned the property, Jonas Dovydenas converted **The Bible Speaks Main Chapel** into the **Berkshire Performing Arts Center** which hosted nationally known comedy and music acts, primarily on summer weekends, that attracted audiences from throughout the Berkshires and even as far away as Albany and Springfield. Performers for the 1991 summer season included: comedians Jerry Seinfeld and Louie Anderson/Rita Rudner; and musicians The Band, B. B. King, Alan Jackson, Gordon Lightfoot, Emmylou Harris, Leon Redbone and others. According to *the south Advocate* article referenced

in the next paragraph, Mr. Dovydenas' "attempts to turn it into the **Berkshire Performing Arts Center** only made the earlier problems with neighbors worse and ultimately, he decided to abandon the concept". Apparently however, though the impact on the neighbors may have been accurate, this prediction was somewhat premature since the **BPAC** continued to exist. Advertisements for the 1992 season were uncovered as were references to the **National Music Foundation's BPAC** in the 1995 season.

The Lenox South Neighborhood Development Plan.

References to the Development. The following information on the plans and use for the campus was obtained from a comprehensive article by Mr. John Townes in the June 12, 1991 edition of *the south Advocate*, "Dovydenas plan gets warm welcome", as well as articles by Stephen J. Simurda in the Boston *Globe*, June 16, 1991 "Bible Speaks Campus to be developed into new community"; and two articles by Abby Pratt in the Berkshire *Eagle* "Lenox gets crash course in designing a "Village"", June 6, 1991 and "Plan for Lenox development greeted warmly by residents", June 7, 1991. The articles do not refer to the development by name as **Lenox South**, though this was the name that it eventually became known as according to a local alumnus. Additionally, though some of the articles mention houses and single dwellings, an artist's picture that accompanies one, clearly shows condominium type buildings and apparently in its final form, according to an alumnus in the local area, the plan featured condominiums and perhaps businesses as well. One article describes it as a combination of townhouses and detached houses.

The Dovydenas Plan. In 1991, in an attempt to sell the property, Jonas and Betsy Dovydenas decided to develop a plan for "the construction of a new neighborhood on the campus that would fit in with the design of existing Lenox buildings, roads and landscaping and have the support of the citizenry". Once this plan was developed and the necessary town by-laws to create it approved, it would be sold to developers and built in accordance with the by-laws. The Dovydenas, believed that this plan would appeal to the town as their backup plan was to divide the campus into 50 separate home lots, which didn't seem viable in the economic climate at the time.

Choosing Mr. Andres Duany. "To lead the design effort they chose Florida-based architect Andres Duany who was a nationally recognized leader in the "neo-traditionalist" style of planning and development, which designs new developments with old principles." He and his wife had planned 42 such villages and had been featured in a recent Time Magazine article. His typical village-style neighborhood simulated villages of the past with crowded centers and more space as you moved out from the center. To gain support for the project and develop a site plan, Mr. Duany worked out of the **Springlawn Mansion**, reportedly with 10 associates, for four days of public meetings and planning sessions to get input from residents and local builders.

Description of the Future Neighborhood. The site plan envisioned a "180-200 unit neighborhood with **St. Martins Hall** serving as the centerpiece for the neighborhood on the 63-acre campus". St Martins would have a corner store, coffee shop, post office, and banking machine. The project aimed to "create a new neighborhood that was a natural extension of Lenox based on the town's traditional building styles and the varied eccentric tree-lined streets found throughout older sections of Lenox." To better fit in, "the new buildings would be made of wood in the Federal and Colonial style". Prices of the various dwelling would vary from \$140K to \$240K. Undoubtedly, because of **The Bible Speaks** use of the campus, both he and the Dovydenas stressed that they "wanted a traditional neighborhood and not an impersonal environment of suburban sprawl and social fragmentation. It would be a natural extension of Lenox and not another exclusive private enclave separated from the rest of the town by gates and other barriers, a mixed income neighborhood with a diverse mix of residences that is open to the rest of the community."

Integration of the Sports Center into the Plan. The Plan also included a redesign of the **Sports Center**, “which had last been used by **The Bible Speaks** as a massive chapel”. Mr. Townes said “that for years, the auditorium has been the 63-acre campus’s downfall”. Rather than tear it down, which would be its fate if a developer chose not to undertake its renovation, Mr. Duany, who referred to it as a “horror” and a “dog”, sought to make use of it by developing it into “a complex of 20-22 artist’s lofts and studios”. This would take advantage of its “magnificent interior in terms of acoustics and expansive vertical space”, while blending its use with Lenox’s past, “as artists had always been a tradition of Lenox”. He also included a “redesign of the bland brick exterior with a new façade, large windows and columns breaking up the existing institutional appearance with a more classical architecture, as well as taking advantage of the vertical space by including parking in a downstairs garage, possible tennis and squash courts” and perhaps a small hall for chamber music as well.

Local Reaction to the Plan. Apparently, Rev. Robert Whitman, Lenox School ’33 alumnus, Trustee and retired Rector of Trinity Church was impressed with the design and said: “This Plan has made me proud of Lenox in a way I’ve never been before”. Another article quotes him as saying that “I can’t think of a better development of my beloved School and I hope that in some form it gets through”. Apparently, local residents were interested in the plan as well, since “the campus had proved difficult to market and there were rumors that it may be selected as the location for a Youth Prison”. However, it would require special zoning by-laws to develop the property in order to be able to build it in a style that matched the older portions of town, rather than to the more modern standards. For example, the current by-laws mandated one house per acre. The concerns of the citizens focused on four areas. First was feasibility and whether the developer would stay with the concept as specified in the plan; second was affordability, whether the cost per home would rise too high for local residents and if it would simply become another enclave for vacation-homes; third, whether there was too many housing units for the campus; and fourth and finally, whether the town’s public services could support such a large new neighborhood. Additionally, the commercial enterprises planned as part of the neighborhood were “hot-button” issues for local merchants. Eventually, the Plan was voted down at a Town Meeting, which had required a two-third vote for approval, and the development was never undertaken.

MR. JOHN BARTH’S ATTEMPT TO CREATE A TRULY NEW LENOX SCHOOL (1988-1989)

Initial Contact with Lenox School Alumni. This era, which lasted for about a year and a half, began in 1988 when Mr. John Barth made it known that he was interested in purchasing the campus and starting a new Lenox School. At the same time, Mr. Jonas Dovydenas was looking for a buyer to purchase the campus. Since Mr. Barth apparently did not have sufficient assets to purchase the campus himself, he sought out Lenox alumni as a source of additional income. Reportedly, the immediate goal was to raise \$250,000. This contact was initially made in the Lenox area through the Rev. Robert S. Whitman, former Rector of **Trinity Church** in Lenox, a Lenox School alumnus and former Board of Trustees Member. Interest then spread throughout the alumni. Interested alumni were loosely organized into an ad hoc group to address the matter.

Mr. Barth Explains His Vision. Through a series of meetings, Mr. Barth expressed his vision for the new school, and answered alumni questions. The amount of interest in the matter was manifest by a dinner meeting at the **Lenox House** at which 300 alumni attended, an indicator not only of their interest, but of the younger age and thus greater availability of alumni. During these meetings, Mr. Barth expressed a vision of a school for gifted children, a vision that wasn’t the school that the alumni knew. One alumnus expressed the view of many by stating his opinion

“that ordinary children came to Lenox School to become gifted”. It became evident over time that Mr. Barth’s vision was much different than that of the Lenox alumni.

Alumni Points of Contention. Additionally, four specific things soured the alumni’s opinion of the Barth vision: Mr. Barth’s insistence on Lenox School alumni fundraising on his behalf; the fact that he had “registered” the trade-name “Lenox School”, which had become “vacant” or “unregistered”, with the Massachusetts Secretary of State, with him as President or CEO (Note: the LSAA Memorabilia Collection has a copy of Mr. John Barth’s Lenox School stationary from 1992, complete with the “original” School crest, a Cambridge, MA address, and his signature block as President of the Lenox School Corporation); the fact that he misrepresented his academic credentials, telling alumni that he had an MIT PhD, when in fact it was discovered that he had left MIT without a bachelor’s degree; and finally, that he denied to the alumni any interest in being Headmaster, but had told others that that was his plan.

The LSAA Is Created. When it became clear that the alumni’s vision of a re-founded Lenox School wasn’t anything like Mr. Barth’s, they broke ranks with Mr. Barth, and basically told him that the alumni would not support him and his vision of a re-founded Lenox School, nor would they fundraise on his behalf. As a result, the alumni organized the Lenox School Alumni Association (LSAA) so that there would be a Lenox School organization, run by Lenox School graduates, even if a truly new Lenox School couldn’t be restarted. Thus, Mr. Barth’s efforts did in fact breathe life into the alumni, requiring them to create an improved alumni database to more effectively canvas alumni opinions. Therefore, and ironically, this entire affair, which is looked back upon negatively, was directly responsible for the creation of the LSAA we know today.

The Ensuing Lawsuit. When Mr. Barth found out that the LSAA had been formed, and that its members were soliciting funds for its own purposes, he sued the LSAA, saying that it had no right to use the “Lenox School” name. The LSAA hired an attorney, and was represented in Court by its three officers. The Court disagreed with Mr. Barth, saying that the LSAA was an alumni association, not a school, and had every right to exist as a separate corporation. According to attendees at the initial Court hearing: “When the judge started the hearing, she said to Mr. Barth: “Mr. Barth, do I understand that these three gentlemen are graduates of Lenox School, and you are not?” His 5-minute, unresponsive, and rambling “answer” didn’t sit well with the judge.” And so...the LSAA relationship with John Barth ended...not quickly, and not inexpensively, but with pronounced finality.” It is assumed that over the years, the “Lenox School” trade-name has once again become “vacant” or “unregistered” with the Massachusetts Secretary of State.

LSAA Interest In the Campus. The LSAA’s conversations with the Dovydenas family concerning purchasing the campus were brief, polite, but unfruitful. The LSAA did a survey as to who would be willing to kick in money to “buy back” the campus, and it became obvious, very quickly, that the alumni didn’t have the means to re-purchase the campus. Thus ended the rather unpleasant experience with Mr. John Barth, and his attempt to create a “New” Lenox School.

Reflections on this Era. In a Letter to the Editor in the Berkshire *Eagle* from February 1988, Mr. David H. Wood, a Master for 25 years and Assistant to the Headmaster at the School’s closing wrote: “...Now comes the proposed revival of the school. Is it possible, I ask myself, to resuscitate that which has died? Can Lenox School be brought back to life in a way consistent with the principles by which it lived for more than 40 years? I simply do not know. I can well understand the enthusiasm of alumni, a warmth born of nostalgia and their own sense of loss. There is, moreover, doubtless a place for a good private secondary school in Berkshire. Some time ago I wrote to John Barth to express my feelings about the school’s possible rebirth. Perhaps the letter was unduly pessimistic or negative; it has elicited no response. But I am dismayed at the thought of the cost of such an enterprise, even given the utmost generosity of the Dovydenas family. The campus is woebegone and tired. New equipment, staff and start-up time will be expensive beyond belief. Perhaps the means are there, though the ease with which the immediate goal of raising \$250,000 is met will be no necessary earnest of ultimate success. I shall watch the enterprise with interest and the hope that it will succeed, if it is worthy...”

THE NATIONAL MUSIC FOUNDATION ERA (1993-1999)

The National Music Foundation. The following information is taken primarily from a government of Massachusetts press release and an article from Jeff Donn, Associated Press, "National Music Center hits flat note". On June 11, 1993, The National Music Foundation purchased the 63-acre campus from Ms. Elizabeth Dovydenas for \$2.1M to create the National Music Center. The Foundation began as the **Starlite Starbrite Foundation**, then changed its name to the **Foundation for the Love of Rock and Roll**, and then to the National Music Foundation in 1991, when Dick Clark became Chairman of the Board and Ms. Gloria Pennington became its President and CEO. Other Board members included Johnny Cash, Reba McEntire, Herb Alpert, Smokey Robinson and Jessye Norman. Prior to purchasing the Lenox campus, the foundation had been located in St. Petersburg, Florida. The National Music Foundation was a non-profit organization dedicated to all types of American music that was known primarily for its American Music Education Initiative which provided grants to teachers who used American music in their classrooms.

Plans for the Campus. They planned \$35M (some said \$30M) in improvements to the 63-acre campus in order to create the National Music Center and provide additional improvements to public infrastructure along Kemble Street. The National Music Center was planned to include a National Museum of American Music; active retirement residences for musicians (a home was initially planned to be completed by 1995, but was never started); a library and archive for American music; educational programs and facilities; and performances for the public. It was to employ 150 and bring \$17M to the local economy. Meanwhile, Ms. Pennington and her husband took up residence in the **Spring Lawn Mansion (Schermerhorn Hall)**, where reportedly, numerous social events were held, to include late-night jam sessions with famous musicians who were performing at venues throughout the Berkshires.

What Was Done.

Use of the Sports Center and the End of Thayer Hall. During this period, the **Sports Center**, which Jonas Dovydenas had transformed into the **Berkshire Performing Arts Center (BPAC)**, continued to operate and offered concerts and other type performances to the public. An advertisement for the 1995 season has been uncovered, referring to the National Music Foundation's **BPAC**, but for exactly how long the **BPAC** continued to operate is unknown. Apparently, at times, the Town of Lenox also used it to host its Town Meetings. Also during this period, reportedly in the mid-1990s, **Thayer Hall** became dilapidated and was found to contain and to be producing hazardous toxic runoff into the surrounding ground. As a safety measure, the building was demolished and portions of the surrounding hillside's soil excavated and replaced with new soil. No portion of the building remains, though the dirt entrance driveway off Kemble Street does continue to exist.

Other Work Accomplished. Reportedly, the foundation also "began renovating a smaller theater" which most likely must have been the **Gymnasium**. At one point, the Foundation's annual operations reached \$4.7M and had 8 full-time employees. A newspaper photograph (credited to Matthew Cavanaugh, Associated Press) shows a low rectangular concrete sign for The National Music Center at the head of the traffic circle in front of **St. Martins Hall** facing Kemble Street. The Center's logo was depicted before the name and consisted of a chevron with note on a music staff.

Campus Plans Are Not Realized.

Financial Difficulties. Apparently, the foundation was never able to obtain sufficient funds to undertake the building program that it envisioned. According to the article by Mr. Donn, a major capital fund drive was never able to be mounted despite contributions from Warner Music

and Sony Corporation, as well as \$1M in matching money from Dick Clark and Florida Developer Conrad Wagner which was later delayed. However, other than Mr. Clark, musicians had donated only \$100,000 and Lenox selectman William “Smitty” Pignatelli saw “limited industry backing as the most troubling sign...” The Massachusetts Assistant Secretary of Administration and Finance said that “the foundation was put in a bind when it took much longer than expected to get money from the State. They did a lot of things in good faith,...on the expectation that a fairly large amount of money would be forthcoming to deal with the physical deficiencies of the facility. That was delayed.” The foundation finally received \$2M in matching funds instead of a promised \$5M.

The State Takes A Look and the Foundation Ends. Building renovations and public infrastructure improvements were scheduled to begin in September 1996, which coincided with the public announcement of several large grants from the State of Massachusetts. Apparently, little of the work actually commenced. Reportedly, by 1999, a member of the Massachusetts State Legislature began urging that the Foundation be investigated because of its lack of building progress on the Lenox campus and its limited financial resources, despite the grants given by the State. According to a newspaper account, he alleged that Ms. Pennington took an annual salary of \$200,000 and paid her husband an annual salary of \$48,000, while charging only \$12,000 annual rent for residing in the Spring Lawn Mansion. Ms. Pennington announced her resignation as President and CEO and the end of the Foundation on December 31, 2008. Subsequently, the 63-acre campus was sold to Shakespeare & Company on July 20, 1999.

THE SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY (S&Co) ERA (INITIAL ACTIVITIES) **(1999-2005)**

S&Co’s History In the Lenox Area. On July 20, 1999, Shakespeare & Company (S&Co) bought the 63-acre campus from the National Music Foundation for \$4.1M. Several sources quote other figures for the purchase price of either \$3.5M or \$5.1M. S&Co is a theatrical troupe founded by Ms. Tina Packer in 1978, which in the same year bought and resided at Edith Wharton’s **The Mount**, about a mile from the former Lenox School campus. Edith Wharton was a distinguished author and the first female Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction. **The Mount** was also the location from 1942 until 1972 of a second floor and attic dormitory and stables for the adjacent Foxhollow School, a frequent Lenox School dance partner at **Schermerhorn Hall**. In 1980, the Edith Wharton Restoration (EWR), a non-profit historical preservation organization, bought **The Mount** and leased it to S&Co. By near the end of the century, the EWR had other plans to improve the property and so S&Co began looking for a new home.

S&Co’s Mission and Activities. According to their website, “Shakespeare & Company aspires to create a theater of unprecedented excellence rooted in the classical ideals of inquiry, balance, and harmony; a company that performs as the Elizabethans did — in love with poetry, physical prowess, and the mysteries of the universe. With a core of over 150 artists, the company performs Shakespeare on two stages to over 75,000 annually, generating opportunities for collaboration between actors, directors, and designers. It also sponsors touring productions. They provide original, in-depth, classical training and performance methods for professional and aspiring actors, teachers and directors of all ages. The company also develops and produces new plays of social and political significance. Finally, its educational programs inspire a new generation of students and scholars to discover the resonance of Shakespeare’s truths in the everyday world, demonstrating the influence that classical theater can have within a community. Its Theater in Education Program is one of the largest in the Northeast reaching more than 40,000 students and teachers annually.”

The Initial Move-In. Its new home on the Lenox School campus seemed only fitting as it is located on Kemble Street, named for the famous nineteenth century British Shakespearian actress Fanny Kemble who had owned a house nearby. S&Co moved their headquarters to the Lenox campus in the spring of 2000 and located it in the Merrill-Seamans Library which they

called the Miller Building in honor of their Chairman, Michael A. Miller. The building was dedicated on April 10, 2000. Yet they continued to perform plays at **The Mount** through the summer of 2001. This coincided with the opening of their 102-seat (one source says 99-seat) **Spring Lawn Theater** in the **Spring Lawn Mansion's (Schermerhorn Hall's)**, main salon (**Reception Room**), which was then used as their primary performance venue, often presenting Edith Wharton plays. The building and Theater were also the location of periodic "get-togethers" and fundraisers. Subsequently, they identified a possible donor and had hopes of creating a 199-seat theater on the southern portion of the campus. Additionally, Tina Packer had always hoped of recreating the **16th Century Rose Playhouse**, as discussed below.

The Article 57 Land Designation. In June 2000, in return for a \$500,000 grant from the State of Massachusetts, S&Co declared the northernmost 30 acres (from the **Hockey Pond** to **Schermerhorn Hall**) an Historic Preservation and Conservation Protection (Article 57 Land) Area. S&Co's intent was to create an open space buffer-zone between their main area, now envisioned to be on the southernmost portion of the campus, and the Town of Lenox. It limited the use of **Spring Lawn Mansion** to residential and theatrical uses and stated that its historical façade must remain intact. It also required public walking trails and bonded all future owners in perpetuity to these conditions.

DR. JAMES C. JURNEY SR. PURCHASES NORTHERNMOST 30 ACRES **(2005-Present)**

The Purchase of the Property. On July 13, 2005, Dr. James C. Journey Sr. a lawyer, who spent a career in the halls of Congress including stints as a page and aide, and most recently, a motelier from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, bought the northernmost 30 acres from S&Co for \$3.9M. It included from **Schermerhorn Hall** to the **Hockey Pond** and from Kemble Street to the Old Stockbridge Road. Some sources described the sale as the **Spring Lawn Mansion** and grounds, plus 15 acres for \$3.3M. Originally, S&Co considered offering the **Sports Center** as part of the purchase, instead of **Clipston Grange**, but **Clipston Grange** eventually became S&Co's choice to sell. Dr. Journey reportedly offered \$600,000 to S&Co to have the Article 57 Land restrictions on the property lifted, but apparently they weren't. For five years he tried to get an Article 57 Land Transfer from the State of Massachusetts, in order to lift the restrictions on his property, which apparently in these times, despite requiring two thirds approval in both houses of the State Legislature, have been granted much more frequently than in the past. Finally, in the summer of 2010, the restrictions were lifted so that work on developing the property could begin in earnest. Reportedly, a lawsuit by Dr. Journey against S&Co over the matter remains ongoing.

The Plans for the Property. According to his website, Dr. Journey's vision for his property is to create the Springlawn Resort, "a luxury boutique resort" the focal point of which will be the **Spring Lawn Mansion (Schermerhorn Hall)**. It will provide the main guest lodging, 21 guest rooms and suites, and a 40-seat dining facility for the larger Springlawn Estate/Resort. **The Annex** still exists and is planned to be refurbished into guest suites and a main event room. **The Tennis Court area** is planned to be converted into formal gardens with a reflecting pool and fountains. New Tennis Courts are planned for on top of a new parking garage at the bottom of the hill near the woodline to the south. Both **North** and **East Cottages**, now damaged beyond repair, are planned to be rebuilt as cottages with guest suites. The **Hockey Pond** remains in its original condition and is planned to be used for fishing and winter ice skating and as a focal point for the planned walking paths. The **Ski Slope** and **Ski Jump** are long gone. **Clipston Grange** would become the administrative offices and manager's residence for the Springlawn Estate/Resort. It is currently Dr. Journey's residence. Dr. Journey's son and daughter-in-law James C. and Gwendolyn Journey Jr. will assist in the effort.

Status of the Lenox School Legacy Buildings. After purchasing the property and during the renovation of **Clipston Grange**, Dr. Journey resided for awhile on the upper floors of **Spring Lawn**

Mansion (Schermerhorn Hall). Provided below is the status of the various former Lenox School buildings on his property. Apparently, the property is routinely visited by numerous deer and a black bear that lives across Kemble Street and up the hill by **Ventfort Hall**.

Clipston Grange. He found that **Clipston Grange** was in bad shape and the Reading Room on the northern end was lost due to a sinking foundation. It required a massive amount of work to restore it, much more than he had initially envisioned, but he saved the building. Today it is completely restored and in beautiful condition.

North and East Cottages. Both continue to deteriorate and have partially collapsed. Dr. Jurney has encouraged the public to strip-off anything of value and even asked the fire department to burn them down as a training exercise, an offer that they refused. He faces the same challenge as S&Co in that he must replace the buildings within two years if he tears them down, in order to avoid the paperwork of requesting permission from the Town to rebuild them.

Schermerhorn Hall and the Annex. Since the land restrictions have been lifted, major renovation work on **Schermerhorn Hall** has begun. As the upper portion of the original dirt road off of Kemble Street to **Schermerhorn** and continuing to **The Annex** is part of the **Carriage House** property (owned separately), a new entrance road is being built exiting Kemble Street further down the hill, near **Thayer Hall's** original location, and continuing up the hill to **Schermerhorn Hall**. He has improved **Schermerhorn's** foundation and the exterior; restored and reinforced the collapsing rear terrace, covering it with similar style paving bricks; and begun work to restore the interior. He plans to display memorabilia and artifacts in the former Headmaster's Office (the mansion's original library) and envisions Lenox memorabilia displayed in some of the existing in-wall shelving. **The Annex's** interior has yet to be worked on, but a new roof has been added to prevent water damage and some of the material stored in its basement has been removed.

THE SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY (S&Co) ERA CONTINUES (2005-Present)

The Result of Consolidating Their Campus. S&Co's Artistic Director, Ms. Tina Packer stated that they were happy to have the \$3.9M in revenue from the Dr. Jurney sale, in order to wipe out a \$2.2M operating debt and to consolidate their operations on the southernmost 33 acres of the campus. Ms. Packer saw Dr. Jurney's plans for his property as "a positive step, offering guests' excellent accommodations and the community a beautiful area in which to walk and skate."

S&Co Mission for the Campus and Its Architecture. The S&Co mission for the campus is "to create a great classical theater company that interacts closely with its local community and attracts visitors from all over the world, on a site which, through architecture and landscape, reflects the generating principles of creativity, harmony, and proportion. The Company is committed to creating a physical environment that challenges, enhances, and inspires human endeavor. The theaters, rehearsal rooms, dormitories, eating places, and landscape are being conceived as a total environment which nurtures and fosters the creative spirit. The **Rose Playhouse Project U.S.A.** has a vision of re-creating the world's only historically accurate **16th Century Rose Playhouse** (the English precursor to the more widely recognized **Globe Theatre**) on the property, surrounded by its own Elizabethan village." In 2009, Mr. Tony Simotes replaced Ms. Tina Packer as S&Co's Artistic Director, with Ms. Packer remaining on as Artistic Director Emeritus. Whether the **Rose Playhouse Project U.S.A.** can become a reality in these challenging economic and financial times remains uncertain. In 2010, renowned entrepreneur, philanthropist, art collector and sculptor David Bakalar selected the campus to display many of his own works, thus contributing to the physical and total environment envisioned by S&Co. Additionally, it expresses confidence in S&Co's continued future on the campus.

How They've Used the Campus.

The Library, Gym, Sports Center and Lawrence Hall. Shakespeare & Company's headquarters is located in the **Miller Administrative Offices Building**, the former **Merrill-Seamans Library**. The **Gymnasium** now forms the main portion of their **Founders' Theater**, which they completed in 2008. The **H. George Wilde Sports Center** has been renovated and is now used as **the Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre**, as well as for rehearsal facilities; a scenic, costume and properties storage area; and technical shops. A short connecting road between **Lawrence Hall's** circular driveway and a small parking lot on the east side of the **Bernstein Theatre** has been constructed so that patrons can access the Theatre from S&Co's main entrance off of Kemble Street. Whether S&Co built the road or it was built by a previous owner has yet to be confirmed. **Lawrence Hall** retains the same name and is used as a 39-person dormitory, dining room and rehearsal hall.

Other Buildings and Property. There is a two-story wooden building on the east side of the **Lawrence Hall** circle between **Lawrence Hall** and **South Cottage**. It is believed to have been constructed by The Bible Speaks and it is the only oil-heated building on campus. It has a two-bedroom apartment on the upper floor for S&Co use and the ground floor is home to S&Co's housekeeping crew with a washer, dryer and linen storage. **West Cottage** and the **Faculty/Maskell Cottage** are both being used as student dormitories though they need to be repainted with lead-free paint. **South Cottage**, which has deteriorated badly, has in the past been used to house visiting artists as part of S&Co's summer "Artists In Residence Program". S&Co plans improvements to **South Cottage** in order to once again use it for visiting artists' housing. In 2000, a small wooden guard shack was moved from the main **St. Martins** entrance off Kemble Street and placed adjacent to **South Cottage's** north side facing Kemble Street. It was used for the pick-up and drop-off of production-related dry cleaning. It was destroyed in a severe storm in 2011. The **Print Shop** was razed to make room for a path and roadway, but the **Craft Shop** remains. It is currently not in use as there is no electricity and the water lines have been removed, but it is structurally sound and could be used in the future. **The Coop** had a fire in its two-story portion facing the **Field House** prior to S&Co buying the campus and had been declared a total loss for insurance purposes. Internally, the **Field House** presents a frightful appearance with the center section's second-story **Tuck Shop** floor collapsed. However, S&Co has not yet given up hope for the building and it may still be saved since its outer structure and portions of its inner walls are still structurally strong.

St. Martins Hall. **St. Martins Hall** remains a structurally sound building with a badly deteriorating interior (peeling paint and mold), with the exception of the Dining Hall which appears to be in good shape. Remarkably, portions of the building are still being used. Both the Dining Hall on the first floor and the Study Hall in the basement are being used for storage. The two rear extensions are being used as practice rooms for dramatic productions. They have no electricity or water, but in the late spring and summer as weather permits, they're in use by the students. Based on the interior color of the rooms, the northern extension is known as the blue practice room and the southern one is the yellow practice room. S&Co's Artistic Director continues to express S&Co's commitment to eventually restore the building, not only because of its useful space, but for its historical significance and central focus for their entire campus. The **main driveway** and circle still remain and are used as S&Co's main entranceway. The **main parking area** is also still in use as the parking lot for S&Co's **Founders' Theater** and has been paved and expanded to include the area once covered by the **Bus Parking Shed**, as well as a portion of the woods on the east side of the **Founders' Theater (Gymnasium)**. The **Lacrosse Field** and **Howland Memorial Playing Field** are no longer owned by S&Co and have private homes built on them (additional details provided below).

New Construction and Uses. The indoor pool constructed, but never finished during The Bible Speaks era, located above and to the south of the entrance road to the Bernstein Theatre, is being used for storage. To provide maintenance and upkeep for a fleet of cars used to provide transportation for its summer "Artists In Residence Program", S&Co built a large automobile service building to the left of the entrance to the southern parking lot, between the pool building and the Bernstein Theatre. Apparently, the numerous cars, when not in use, under repair or in

service, are parked outside, behind (west) of the Bernstein Theatre. This same area is also being used as a dump for various manmade and natural materials taken from the rest of the campus. There no longer appears to be an access road between the Bernstein Theatre and the Old Stockbridge Road, which would have approached through this area.

The Fate of the Buildings Damaged Beyond Repair. S&Co officials explained that they must leave the collapsing buildings in place until they are ready to quickly build new structures with the same amount of square footage. Apparently, there is more building square footage on the S&Co acreage than the Lenox Town Laws now allow to be developed. For S&Co to be able to expand in the future, they must tear down an existing structure and then build another of the same size within two years. If this is not done within the required timeframe, then they will not be allowed to add that additional square footage to their existing campus. Thus, they must have the funds and plans for any new structure in place at the time they tear down any of the collapsing buildings. This reality means that the deteriorating buildings are likely to be left in place for some time to come.

SECTION IV

THE CURRENT STATUS

OF

LEGACY INITIATIVES

AND

THE CAMPUS

HOW THE LENOX SCHOOL LEGACY LIVES ON

Support of Lenox School and It's Legacy.

During the School's Existence. Throughout the years, in addition to extremely generous Trustees, two organizations have primarily been responsible for supporting the School and its legacy on a continual basis. The first is the **Lenox School Alumni Association (LSAA)**. It was formally organized on May 28, 1932 at a meeting of the alumni following dinner at the Village Inn in Lenox. This organization periodically published an Alumni Notes section in the Pen and Scroll, published an Alumni Magazine, maintained contact with alumni, and organized periodic regional alumni gatherings. These gatherings were often attended by the Headmaster, who routinely coordinated alumni fundraising efforts. Beginning in 1951, another group, the **Friends of Lenox School** also routinely provided assistance to the School. Composed solely of women, primarily either faculty wives or members of the local community, they periodically raised money for required improvements to Lenox buildings and other items needed by the School. They often made the improvements themselves, such as setting up new furniture, making and hanging drapes, and painting/wall papering rooms. Providing furniture for the "**Tuck Shop**" in the **Field House**; refurbishing the **Library** room in **Clipston Grange**, remodeling and equipping the "new" **Infirmary**; and providing new vestments for the Choir are all projects that come to mind.

After the School Closed. After the School closed, the formal **Lenox School Alumni Association** slowly ceased to formally function. This occurred despite: the efforts of several individuals to maintain contact with classmates; certain energetic alumni's efforts to keep appropriate records; and periodic get-togethers of alumni living in the vicinity of Lenox. Then, as mentioned previously, in 1988, in response to Mr. John Barth's attempts to create a new Lenox School on the campus, an aggressive effort to contact alumni began anew and as a result, the **Lenox School Alumni Association** began to actively function again. Its first reunion was held in 1988 and it has held one every year thereafter. Subsequently, it was incorporated into a non-profit 501 c (3) LLC (**LSSA, Inc**) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its fivefold stated purpose as paraphrased from its By-Laws is to: continue the mission and spirit of the School as embodied in its motto; to serve youth, primarily by awarding scholarships; to support other worthy initiatives and opportunities which embody the mission and spirit of the School; to provide an opportunity for alumni, staff, faculty and families to meet in fellowship to rekindle friendships, keep the memory and essence of the Lenox experience alive and to further serve the purposes of the LSAA; and to solicit funds for the successful accomplishment of its purpose and goals. It also resumed printing the Pen and Scroll newspaper and publishes several editions each year.

How the Legacy Is Maintained. A school's legacy lives on not only through the works and memories of its Alumni and former Masters and Staff, but through its existing Memorabilia and the portions of its campus that endure. While the LSAA Pen and Scroll and Website foster the exchange of information, it is indeed fortunate that some reminders of Lenox School still exist. The School currently has a Memorabilia Collection of 695 items, including 32 of 38 years of Yearbooks, 37 of 44 years of Pen and Scroll newspapers, various School-related documents and pictures, trophies, clothing and athletic uniforms and even an altar. These items are stored on the former campus and a complete inventory of the Collection is maintained on the LSAA Website. Two Memorabilia Displays featuring some of the Collection's items have been created there as well, as explained below. Additional items from the **School Chapel** in **Thayer Hall** are maintained at **Trinity Church**, while an additional collection of photographs and yearbooks is located at the **Lenox Town Library**. Finally; the **Trinity College Chapel** in Hartford, CT has a pew dedicated to the memory of Rev. William G. Thayer, a School Founder, with a carved end commemorating him and Lenox School. A description of each is provided below. The LSAA is also involved with the two current owners of the majority of the former campus, with a view

towards commemorating and preserving the property and remaining Legacy School Buildings. Finally, the LSAA plans to publish a Book of Lenox School History and Memories that will detail the School's history, its buildings and the entire Lenox School experience and how it evolved from 1926 to 1971. In addition to the factual material, included will be reminiscences from Alumni, Masters, Staff, Family Members and Friends of the School, as well as applicable excerpts from School publications and documents.

Plaques and Memorabilia Displays on the Former Campus. As mentioned above, some reminders of Lenox School still exist.

Plaques.

Wood's Walk. A simple **Commemorative Wood's Walk Plaque** has been emplaced on the sidewalk between the South Wing of **St. Martins Hall** and the **Gymnasium (Founders' Theater)** in recognition of Mr. David Wood's numerous contributions to Lenox School over 25 years including Assistant to the Headmaster, Head of the English Department, impassioned Master, Mentor and Theatrical Director. In the future, additional plaques placed on certain Legacy Buildings to detail their history and School use are planned.

Lenox School Historical Marker. On October 15, 2011 at the Lenox School Alumni Association's annual Reunion, an 18" x 24" x ¾" bronze historical marker was dedicated by the LSAA's President with alumni, faculty, their guests and Shakespeare & Company representatives in attendance. The marker is mounted on a metal pole in front of the southeast corner of **St. Martins Hall's** southern wing. It is located there to provide the maximum visibility to everyone utilizing and visiting the **Founders' Theater** (former **Gymnasium**). The intent is to relocate the marker to in front of **St. Martins Hall** when the building is eventually renovated. The text of the marker follows, with semicolons indicating a space between the lines of text. "Lenox School, 1926-1971; Lenox School was a small, independent, non-sectarian secondary school founded by men* who believed in the miracles of faith and the "growability" of boys, that on these grounds educated young men for 45 years with this motto; *Non Ministrari, Sed Ministrare*; "Not to be Served, but to Serve"; Dedicated by the Lenox School Alumni Association with the support of Shakespeare & Company; October 15, 2011; *Clergy of the Episcopal Church, Province of New England. The top of the marker has a large Lenox School crest that slightly protrudes above the rectangular top of the marker.

Memorabilia Displays. There are currently two Lenox School Memorabilia Displays located on the former campus on the current property of Shakespeare & Company. One is located in an alcove by the foot of the stairs to the balcony in **Founders' Theater** (the former **Gymnasium**) and a second smaller display is located in the lobby of the **Bernstein Theatre** (the former **Sports Center**). Each display has the same 17 wall signs that provide background on the School, its focus, and the major areas of the School experience in words and photographs. The larger display has 27 memorabilia items, while the smaller display has 14 items. Captions explaining each item are provided with each display and there are plans for them to grow in size in the future as space becomes available. The **Lenox School Service and Athletic Hall of Fame Plaque**, with inductees names attached, is collocated with the display in **Founders' Theater**.

Memorabilia at Trinity Church.

Lenox School Plaques. As related in John Allen Gable's '61 excellent book, at **Trinity Church**, several brass plaques taken from the campus buildings, including a listing of the School's WWII dead, are preserved on a Lenox School memorial plaque on the rear of the right-hand wall of the nave, entitled "In Honored Memory of Lenox School and Her Masters and Boys 1926-1972". It was dedicated by Canon Whitman on November 14, 1981. This large wooden plaque with a Lenox School crest on top includes the names and tenures of the two longest serving Headmasters, Rev. Monks and Rev. Curry near the top and the School's motto on the

bottom. Six bronze plaques of varying sizes are affixed to the wooden plaque. The largest is the plaque from the **Memorial Gymnasium** listing the 27 Lenox School alumni killed in WWII. There are two memorial plaques from the **Thayer Hall St. Martin's Chapel**: one in honor of Kenyon Henry Eberth, a Master for two years, killed in an automobile accident in 1930; and another for Rev. Latta Griswold who died of natural causes in 1931, as a School Founder and for whom Griswold Hall was named. There are also two smaller room plaques: one for the Royal Whitman II '30 History Room; and the other for the Lenox School Trustee Rev. Canon Robert R. Carmichael Room who had been Rector of St. John's Church in North Adams, Massachusetts. Finally is a plaque for an organ, most likely the portable traveling organ from the **Thayer Hall St. Martin's Chapel**, donated in 1954 in honor of Oliver R. Foss '49.

"Gramps" Howland Memorial. The bronze plaque, originally attached to a large boulder at the entrance to the **Howland Memorial Playing Field**, and now affixed to a smaller boulder, was placed outside the Church on its east side facing Walker Street on February 19, 1977, "in honor of Mr. J. Arthur "Gramps" Howland's 80th birthday...and his 40 years as head of buildings, grounds and maintenance at Lenox". In 2010, the boulder was moved to the center of the Lyman Triangle between the Church and the intersection of Walker and Kemble Streets.

Lenox School St. Martin's Chapel Items and Processional Crosses. Also maintained at the Church are the altar, candlesticks and cross from the **Thayer Hall (St. Martin of Tours) Chapel**, all gifts of Rev. Monks mother Mrs. George H. Monks of Boston, as well as the School's Processional Cross, a gift of the Class of 1961. Also possibly, there are the communion set from the Chapel given as a gift from the Classes of 1931-1935; a communion chalice, the gift of the Niall Finnegan family; and perhaps an earlier jeweled Processional Cross used by the School and also given as a Class gift.

Lenox School Corbel Crest. The importance of Lenox School to **Trinity Church** is signified by the presence of a Lenox School crest above the nave (the main seating area) of the church. According to Mr. Gable, "it is one of eight full-color heraldic corbel (a bracket projecting from the side of the wall) shields high on the walls of the nave, covering the ceiling joints." They were the idea of Canon Whitman '33 and painted in 1980 by Alan Thielker, who had been an art instructor at Lenox. "On the right-hand (south) wall are the shields of Lenox School and Foxhollow School on one corbel; the town of Lenox; the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and the United States of America. On the left-hand (north) side are the shields of Trinity Parish; the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts; the Episcopal Church; and the Province of Canterbury, which is the mother diocese of the Anglican Communion."

Memorabilia at the Lenox Town Library. The **Lenox Town Library** on 18 Main Street, built in 1816 as the Berkshire County Courthouse, maintains a large collection of photographs and a smaller number of Yearbooks in their Archive/Reference section on the second floor.

Where It Came From. The Lenox memorabilia (including photographs, Yearbooks, Pen and Scroll newspapers and reports and records of the alumni association) was found by The Bible Speaks in cartons on the campus, while some of the photographs were hung in the hallways of St. Martins and the entrance to the Dining Hall. In the summer of 1979, The Bible Speaks asked the **Town Library** if they would be willing to accept the material. The librarian at the time was Mrs. Margaret Kennard, who recognized the historical significance of the material and accepted it. Mrs. Kennard was a former music teacher at Lenox School and wife of '34 alumnus and faculty member Spencer P. Kennard Jr. who did the Library's bookkeeping and taxes and worked out of a small office in the Library, overlooking the entrance to Sedgwick Hall.

What's There. Once the material was accepted, Mr. Kennard organized the pictures he was familiar with in chronological order; added as much explanatory information as he was aware of; and organized them into four scrapbooks with Lenox School crest decals on their front. The pictures, dating from 1926 to the late 1960s, include faculty and class portraits, buildings, student and faculty activities and significant historic events. Also included are service

photographs of many of the Lenox School alumni who were killed in action in World War II, often with the circumstances surrounding their death included. Additional photographs are organized into separate subject matter file folders in an 18" long box. About 15 different Yearbooks are cataloged and on the shelves, while an additional box of 1956 Yearbooks is kept in storage. Key information and copies of pictures from this collection have been obtained and incorporated into applicable **Lenox School Alumni Association's** documents and archives. Additionally, under a previous Library administration, many Yearbooks, Pen and Scroll newspapers, School reports, and alumni association records from this collection were provided to the LSAA.

Rev. Thayer/Lenox School Pew at Trinity College Chapel, Hartford, CT. Trinity College was a college chosen by many Lenox School alumni since the School's founding and whose President, Dr. Remsen B. Ogilby was President of the Lenox School Board of Trustees. Over the years, some had wondered about the story behind a pew in the Trinity College Chapel that had a carved end with a Lenox School crest, among other things, on it. Thanks to some information provided by David Sanders on his Lenox School for Boys Blog on classicschools.com, the following information answers the story of the "Lenox Pew".

Commemorating Rev. Thayer and Lenox School. "The "friends of Lenox" wanted to create a lasting memorial to the man who had done so much for Lenox School, the Episcopal Church and, really anyone with whom he came into contact. The president of the Lenox School Board of Trustees was Dr. Remsen B. Ogilby, president of Trinity College and long-time friend of Rev. Thayer. Dr. Ogilby had overseen the building of the gothic chapel at Trinity College in 1932. He and Rev. Monks recognized the opportunity to pay tribute to their great friend by dedicating one of the chapel pews in his honor."

Creation and Dedication. "The pew end was carved by J. Gregory Wiggins, who had done all the other carving in Trinity Chapel. It was unveiled at the 5 o'clock Vespers on May 23, 1937. The original plan was for the Lenox upper classmen to tour the Trinity campus and inspect the new pew end, but since the entire faculty made the trip, it is also possible that the entire student body attended the ceremonies. The presentation of the pew end was made by Rev. Monks, and Dr. Ogilby made an acceptance speech and presented the blessing."

Description of the Carved End. "In addition to the Lenox School crest, the carved pew end depicts a scene of St. Martin (patron saint of Lenox) sharing half his cloak with a shivering beggar at the gates of Amiens. It incorporates the lion of St. Mark on the arm piece (representative of Dr. Thayer's beloved St. Marks School) and a hockey player on the finials (representing Lenox School's favorite sport). The general background is intended to be suggestive of the hills in the Berkshires on which Lenox School is located. The pew end may still be found at the chapel at Trinity College. As you face the altar, it is located on the left side of the aisle. It is the front pew in the second section of pews."

The Future Involving the LSAA and S&Co. The LSAA is in the initial stages of entering into a memorandum of understanding with S&Co, which includes mutually beneficial joint fundraising arrangements in which a portion of the LSAA-raised funds will be donated to S&Co for their requirements and activities. This will be done with a view towards enhancing the longevity and outreach of S&Co and the legacy of the Lenox School; connecting the history of Lenox School to current S&Co endeavors; and creating historical resources for all to appreciate. On its behalf, the LSAA envisions that this relationship will be manifest by mutually agreeable historical markers; legacy building plaques; a Memorabilia Display (s), two of which have already been emplaced in two separate buildings; a good faith effort towards the care and renovation of Lenox School legacy buildings; and other programs involving the support of S&Co programs and activities.

The Future Involving the LSAA and Dr. Journey's Springlawn Resort Property. Dr. Journey has been receptive to the LSAA's interest in commemorating the property's rich history and Lenox School legacy. He has allowed the LSAA to store some Memorabilia Display-related items in the **Spring Lawn Mansion (Schermmerhorn Hall)** and has indicated that some type of Lenox

School Memorabilia Display would be appropriate in the refurbished **Spring Lawn Mansion**. Additionally, the LSAA has been working with an individual hired by the Journey Family to develop the history of the site and a new landscape design as part of the Journey Family's vision for the property. The LSAA has provided this individual with portions of the history of the School and of selected buildings; pictures of these buildings, facilities and student activities; and related its desires on how best to commemorate the School's legacy. The LSAA has been assured that this information and the pictures will be integrated into the final presentation as appropriate.

THE FATE OF OTHER BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES ON THE CAMPUS, NOT ALREADY ADDRESSED

The Buildings Beyond Repair. **North** and **East Cottages** have major structural damage and have almost collapsed. The **Field House's** outer shell remains, but the upper floor ("**Tuck Shop**") has collapsed and the interior is in shambles. **Monks Hall's** center-section roof has collapsed and appears to have deteriorated beyond repair. The **Perimeter Wall** around the **Field House** area and the **Generator Equipment Shed/Enclosure** are gone. The **Infirmary** is beyond repair, leans and appears ready to collapse. As mentioned previously, S&Co will likely tear down and replace **The Coop**, **Monks Hall** and the **Infirmary** when they are prepared to quickly replace them with new buildings of the same size and Dr. Journey wants to tear down **North** and **East Cottages** and replace them with new Guest Cottages somewhere down the road. In regards to **Griswold Hall**, sold to a demolition company by the School for \$1.00 and torn down in 1938, only a small portion, several stones high (less than a foot tall) of the foundation and some stones from its curved driveway, both hidden in the woods off of Kemble Street are all that remains.

Buildings and Facilities That Are No Longer Part of the Campus. Three buildings on the Campus' northern end are no longer part of the campus owned by either Shakespeare & Company or Dr. Journey. Exactly how this occurred, whether they were returned to the families of the original owners who donated them, when the School closed, or were sold individually by any of the previous campus owners, the most likely situation, is unknown. **Bassett Hall** is now **The Kemble Inn**, Bed and Breakfast (offered for sale in 2009 for \$1.7M and sold in 2010 for \$1.2M). Its new owner plans to continue to keep it as an Inn. Its **Carriage House** has apparently been converted into a separate private residence and it too was sold to a new resident in 2010. The **Jones (Walker-Rockwell) House** is now the **Walker House Inn**. On the southern end of the campus, after Lenox School closed, as previously mentioned and discussed below, the **Lacrosse** and **Howland Memorial Playing Fields**, both adjacent to the Old Stockbridge Road, have also been sold and are not part of S&Co's campus and the **Ski Slope** and **Ski Jump** have long since grown over and decayed.

The Asphalt Hockey Rink. The boards are gone and it appears that the asphalt base is as well. It would have been located adjacent to a "new" small rectangular indoor swimming pool, between the **Hockey Pond** and the **Sports Center** (now an S&Co theater, rehearsal and storage facility).

The Athletic Fields.

Main Playing Field Area. The S&Co's planned **Rose Playhouse** is currently only a permanent wooden outdoor stage located on what was the first base side of the **Baseball Diamond**. Currently, temporary fabric sides are erected for performances, but it is eventually planned to become an accurate recreation of the 16th Century Playhouse, surrounded by an Elizabethan village. The **baseball backstop** is gone and S&Co groundskeepers keep digging up pieces of asphalt that were probably placed under the **Baseball Diamond** at some point during the Lenox School era, in order to correct drainage problems. The **Football Field** area still exists though of course, the white wooden goalposts are long gone. At the **Cross Country Course Start/Finish Line**, a stand of trees now blocks the straightaway between the tree-lined **Dirt Roadway** to the south and the **Start/Finish Line**. The **Dirt Roadway** is now paved, privately

owned and closed to the public. The **Lacrosse Field** adjacent to the Old Stockbridge Road, was sold and now has a private house built on it.

Additional Playing Fields. The fences around the **Tennis Courts** are gone and the courts have deteriorated beyond repair. The **Intramural Playing Field**, across the **Rear Entrance Service Road** to the lower campus, and adjacent to the **Infirmary** still exists, as does the road, now with a locked gate. The **Howland Memorial Playing Field** (Soccer Field) was also sold and except for the trees adjacent to the Old Stockbridge Road, all the trees surrounding its sides and back have been cleared and a private house has been built on a portion of the playing field. As previously mentioned, the large rock with a commemorative plaque on it that used to be located at the entrance to the Field off of the Old Stockbridge Road, has been moved to the **Trinity Church's** grounds. A portion of the **Varsity Practice and Freshman/Junior Varsity Football Field** was used to construct the **H. George Wilde Sports Center** and its adjacent parking lot in 1968, but it was slightly reoriented and used until the School closed.

SECTION V

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Former Student and Subsequent Employee at the Stevens Bible College

In The Town of Lenox, MA

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Historical Society
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ANNEX A – AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF CAMPUS (CIRCA 1970)



List of Buildings and Facilities

Note: After each building and facility listed are the date when it was built, if known; any names by which the property was known before being acquired by the School; and the date when it was first used by Lenox School (in bold font). Additionally, if it was used as a dormitory, the number of students housed and the type and number of faculty apartments are also indicated.

(Aerial Photo of the Lenox School Campus by Paul Rocheleau)

LEGEND

- 1. Jones House.** (1804/Doubled in size 1906) (Walker/Rockwell Cottage/House) **School Use 1968.** Headmaster's Residence.
- 2. Bassett Hall.** (1881) (Frelinghuysen Cottage/Sundrum House) **School Use fall of 1959.** 25 students with faculty apartments.
- 2a. Trinity Episcopal Church.** (Church 1888) (Rectory 1892) (Parish House 1896) **School Use 1926** (Sunday Service)/**1959** (Daily Chapel).
- 2b. Carriage House.** (1881) **School Use 1959.** One married faculty apartment and grounds keeping equipment storage.
- 3. The Annex.** (1904) (Carriage House, Springlawn Mansion/Schermeer) **School Use fall of 1958.** 20 students, with a bachelor faculty apartment.
- 3a. Tennis Courts.** (1958) **School Use 1958.** A second set of courts was built in 1960 below North Cottage (#6).
- 4. Schermerhorn Hall.** (1904) (Spring Lawn Mansion/Schermeer) **School Use fall of 1957.** School and Headmaster's Offices and Reception Area. 31 students and bachelor and married faculty apartments.
- 4a. Griswold Hall.** (1885 - torn down in 1938) (Sunnycroft Estate/Huntress Estate) **School Use 1926.** School's original building in which all School functions occurred. 40 students and five married faculty apartments, including the Housemother.
- 5. Thayer Multipurpose Hall.** (1885+) (Carriage House/Stables Sunnycroft Estate/Huntress Estate) **School Use 1929.** School's Dining Hall/Assembly Room and Kitchen. Unknown number of students, bachelor and married staff and faculty apartments. St. Martin of Tours Chapel constructed in **1933. 1946-1948** First site of Berkshire Country Day School. Torn down in the mid 1990s.
- 6. North Cottage.** (1885+) (Cottage, Sunnycroft Estate/Huntress Estate) **School Use 1926.** Originally, 3 staff and faculty apartments. Single-story 10-bed Infirmary addition in 1930. School Infirmary from 1927-1945 (?). Subsequently 15 students and one married faculty apartment.
- 7. East Cottage.** (1885+, moved to present location in 1927) (Butler's Residence, Sunnycroft Estate/Huntress Estate). **School Use 1927** as the "Caretaker's Cottage"). Two married staff apartments and later married faculty apartments.
- 8. Clipston Grange/Griswold Reading Room/Library.** (Pre-1893, moved to current location in 1893/ Property previously the Goelet Farm) (Clipston Grange/Clipston Grange Farm) **School Use Fall of 1928.** Initially the Headmaster's Residence, then 10 students with a bachelor faculty and the Headmaster and his wife, and eventually 12 students with married faculty apartments. The Reading Room/Library was located in the south-side in 1946 and improved in 1951 and 1959. **1945-1946** A room was used by a Private Kindergarten, the precursor to the Berkshire Country Day School.

- 9. South Cottage.** (1893+) (Gardener's Residence, Clipston Grange/Clipston Grange Farm) **School Use Fall of 1928.** 13 students with a bachelor apartment. In 1930, a married Master's apartment was added on in place of the bachelor apartment.
- 10. Lawrence Hall.** (1964) **School Use 1964.** 37 students with four married faculty apartments and a classroom and student lounge on its back side.
- 10a. Hockey Pond.** (1928) **School Use Not Until 1930** due to problems with water leaking out of the original structure. Last used for hockey in the winter of 1968.
- 10b. Asphalt Hockey Rink.** (1964) **School Use 1965.**
- 11. West Cottage.** (Pre-1925) (Clipston Grange/Clipston Grange Farm) **School Use 1928+.** 8 students with a married faculty apartment.
- 11a. Main Parking Lot.** (1938) **School Use 1938.**
- 11b. Bus Parking Shed.** (1959) **School Use 1959.** Used for 2 School buses and 4 faculty vehicles. The buses were previously parked in the barn (Field House).
- 12. The Merrill-Seamans Library.** (1966) **School Use 1966.** 7,000 volume and 74 student capacity with a married faculty apartment.
- 13. The Faculty (Maskell/Old Infirmary) Cottage.** (Pre 1925) (Cottage, Berkshire Estates, Incorporated) **School Use 1935** as a married staff residence, then as the infirmary (1945+-1956) and finally as a married faculty residence.
- 14. The Memorial Gymnasium.** (1950) **School Use 1950.** Included a stage and commons room.
- 15. Saint Martins Hall.** (1938) **School Use 1938.** Center Section and Southern Wing focal point for all student activities, less dining and Chapel. Northern Wing with Dining Hall added in 1957. 40 students with 3 bachelor and 4 married faculty apartments.
- 15a. Craft Shop.** (Post-1925) (Duck House/Hen House Berkshire Estates, Incorporated) **School Use 1935+.** Originally for Craft and Model clubs. Used to store School's sailboats post 1957.
- 15b. Print Shop.** (Post-1925) (Duck House/Hen House Berkshire Estates, Incorporated) **School Use 1947.** Produced required School paper products, less newspaper and yearbook. Razed in early 2000s.
- 16. The Coop.** (Post-1925) (Chicken Coop Lanier Farm/Berkshire Estates, Incorporated) **School Use 1946.** Originally 10 students and a bachelor faculty apartment. Eventually, 31 students and a bachelor faculty apartment.
- 17. The Field House.** (Post-1925) Berkshire Estates, Incorporated/replaced destroyed 1859 Lanier Farm barn) **School Use 1935+/1959.** Used for storage and parking School vehicles prior to 1959. After 1959 as locker rooms and equipment storage and repair area, with a second-floor snack bar/lounge and storage.
- 17a. Baseball Field with Backstop.** (1937) (Lanier Farm/Berkshire Estates, Incorporated) **School Use 1937.** Home bench was on the St. Martins' (east) side. First backstop added in 1956.

17b. The Upper Football Field. (1937) (Lanier Farm/Berkshire Estates, Incorporated) **School Use 1937.** Home bench was on the Stockbridge Road (west) side.

17c. Cross Country Course Start/Finish Line. (1959) (Lanier Farm/Berkshire Estates, Incorporated) **School Use 1959.** This was the beginning and end of a 3.0 mile course with runners going to or coming from the dirt roadway to the south.

18. Monks Hall. (Post-1925) (Carriage Sheds, Lanier Farm/Berkshire Estates, Incorporated) **School Use 1959.** Four science laboratories and two mathematics classrooms.

19. The Infirmary. (Pre-1925) (Cottage, Lanier Farm/Berkshire Estates, Incorporated) **School Use 1948** as second site of BCD School. Fall of **1956** as the School's Infirmary and Nurse's residence.

19a. Lacrosse/Soccer Field. (1947) (Lanier Farm/Berkshire Estates, Incorporated) **School Use 1947.** The School's first soccer team was fielded in 1947 and its first Lacrosse Team in 1957. The field's orientation was periodically changed from parallel to the Old Stockbridge Road to perpendicular to it.

19b. Intramural/Club-Level Playing Field. (1962) (Lanier Farm/Berkshire Estates, Incorporated) **School Use 1962.** A multi-purpose field used for both non-Varsity Soccer and Lacrosse practices and for games by Freshman, Junior Varsity and Intramural Club Teams.

20. The H. George Wilde Sports Center. (1968) (Athletic Field, Huntress Estate) **School Use** for Hockey **1968**, Fencing **1969** and Basketball **1971**.

21. Practice Lower Football Field. (1926) (Athletic Field, Huntress Estate) **School Use 1927.** The School's original athletic field. Used for Football in the School's second year and Baseball in the second or third year. **Post-1937**, used by both the Varsity, Freshman and Junior Varsity football teams and non-Varsity Baseball Teams for practice and sometimes for Lower-Level Team games. The area around it was landscaped as part of the entrance to the Sports Center and part of it was used for the parking lot, but the field was reoriented and remained in use.

22. Rear Entrance Service Road to Lower Campus. (1935) **School Use 1935 and 1957.** This dirt road was used initially to gain access into the undeveloped 27-acre parcel of the Lanier Farm/Berkshire Estates, Incorporated property purchased in 1935 and then for deliveries to the St. Martins Hall kitchen opened in 1957 and by visiting sports teams' buses enroute to the Field House beginning in 1959.

23. (Not Displayed) J. Arthur Howland Memorial Playing Field (Soccer Field). (1790s) (Lithgow Estate from 1790s) **School Use 1960**/Athletic field prepared in 1962. The Varsity Soccer and sometimes Varsity Lacrosse field named in honor of the School's head of grounds, buildings and maintenance who served in that capacity for forty years.