

= Scarborough Day School =

The Scarborough Day School was a private school in Scarborough @-@ on @-@ Hudson , in Briarcliff Manor , New York . Frank and Narcissa Vanderlip established the school in 1913 at their estate , Beechwood . The school , a nonsectarian nonprofit college preparatory day school , taught students at pre @-@ kindergarten to twelfth grade levels and had small class sizes , with total enrollment rarely exceeding 150 students . Since 1980 , the buildings and property have been owned by The Clear View School , which runs a day treatment program for 83 students . The current school still uses the Scarborough School 's theater , which was opened in 1917 . The school campus is a contributing property to the Scarborough Historic District .

The Scarborough Day School was accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York . The school also was a member of the Cum Laude Society and the National Association of Independent Schools . Its seal copies that of Scarborough , North Yorkshire ; Scarborough @-@ on @-@ Hudson 's namesake .

= = History = =

The Scarborough School was founded in 1913 by Frank and Narcissa Vanderlip for their six children and the children of friends and neighbors . Having met educator Maria Montessori during their European travels , the Vanderlips pioneered the Montessori method at the Edward Harden Mansion in nearby Sleepy Hollow by creating the first Montessori school in the United States , in 1912 . Frank Vanderlip 's sister Ruth was married to Harden ; the families maintained close ties . After a year existing in two rooms of the Harden residence , the school moved to the River Gate House at the north end of River Road and the Beechwood estate .

The school moved to its final location in 1917 , at Vanderlip Hall , a building Vanderlip constructed in 1916 bordering Albany Post Road (current U.S. Route 9) . The building was designed for classes of ten , to accommodate 120 children total . It was situated on Beechwood 's 80 @-@ acre (320 @,@ 000 m2) parkland designed by Frederick Law Olmsted for the Vanderlips . Throughout the school 's history , students were open to wander the woodlands and gardens , utilize the lawns and tennis courts , and swim in the Olympic @-@ sized pool . There were always farm animals nearby for the children to see and play with and a circus carousel to ride on . The school had a gymnasium class , amateur theater group , folk singing , a swimming pool , and an economic forum . Frank Vanderlip had spent about \$ 500 @,@ 000 on the school (\$ 9 @,@ 235 @,@ 100 in 2015) . Regular art exhibits were held at the Scarborough School , including a sculpture exhibition in the Italian garden at Beechwood , which included works by Jose de Creeft , Jason Seley (a longtime professor of sculpture at Cornell) , and Richard Stankiewicz .

Early on in the school 's history , the Vanderlips decided to change the school 's system from the Montessori method to a more formal approach with more discipline , although students still had more freedom than the average school . In the 1930s , the school was considered progressive : students were not graded and were instructed to work at their own speed . As enrollment grew , another building was built for younger children , which burnt down in 1959 . In addition , a lunchroom , shop , and studio were built early in the school 's history . Frank Vanderlip enjoyed teaching simplified political economy at the school ; he would act out Swiss Family Robinson on an imaginary island with students to demonstrate the development of capitalism . Narcissa Vanderlip ran the school lunchroom , and it is recorded that she served good simple food . She named some of her foods artistically (rice pudding with raisins was called Bête Noire a la Bolshevik) .

Members of the Vanderlip family , particularly Virginia Vanderlip Schoales , continued to administer the school for sixty years . A 1959 development plan made way for a new primary school in 1961 , new science facilities in 1962 , expansion of the library in 1963 , and the creation of an organization for alumni , of whom there were more than a thousand living in 1977 . The school was unable to obtain sufficient funding and closed in 1978 . In 1980 , the buildings and property were taken over by The Clear View School , which opened in September 1981 after major renovations . The school

runs a day treatment program for 83 students from nursery school age to 21 , and is sponsored by the Association for Mentally Ill Children of Westchester ; its program involves education , treatment , and crisis intervention and parent involvement .

= = Campus = =

The main Scarborough School building , Vanderlip Hall , was designed by William W. Bosworth , known for landscaping Kykuit and restoring Versailles . The school building was constructed in a severe , all @-@ white Neoclassical style , and was completed early in 1917 . In addition to a grand porticoed entry , there were two wings that housed classes , a library , cafeteria and gymnasium , basement science labs , and an art room measuring 1 @,@ 000 square feet (93 m2) , ringed on three sides with French windows . In the 1960s , an additional Modernist structure was built across a stream that would ultimately house the school 's lower grades .

Rosemont , an estate and the birthplace of John Worden , was later used by Vanderlip as a dormitory for Scarborough School boarding students . Rosemont stood opposite the Beechwood estate , at the corner of Route 9 and Scarborough Road . Another campus building was Marie Fayant Hall , which was originally Barnesby House , home to Dr. Percy Norman Barnesby . Vanderlip built the house for him and his wife ; the house was later given to the Scarborough School and served as a girls ' dormitory in the 1940s and as a headmaster 's residence about thirty years later .

= = = Theater = = =

Beechwood Theater , a replica of the Little Theater on Broadway , was included in Wells Bosworth 's design of the primary school building because Vanderlip particularly wanted his own theater . Beechwood Theater , with 256 gold velvet seats , was designed by Winthrop Ames around 1917 . Details were closely examined upon construction ; the lighting equipment , the scene lofts and fly gallery , and the dressing rooms were well @-@ designed and state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art . The stage floor was designed especially for dancing , and the acoustics and theater proportions made varieties of productions possible .

The theater was used for assemblies , plays , concerts , and lectures . It was also home to the Beechwood Players , an adult performing arts group which had its origins in 1919 . The Players put on several plays a year , summer and winter , six plays a year and three @-@ night runs . They had started with three one @-@ act plays but had graduated to full @-@ length dramas . From its first years , Broadway actors used the theater when not otherwise engaged . Among them were Sylvia Sidney , Laurette Taylor , Lynn Fontanne , James Dean , Judson Laire , and Parker Fennelly . Lecturers and performers in the Beechwood Theater included Sarah Bernhardt , Robert Frost , John Masefield , Vachel Lindsay , Eleanor Roosevelt , H. G. Wells , Stephen Vincent Benét , and a King of Siam . Other notable appearances at the theater included Charles Coburn and Isadora Duncan . Audiences have included Franklin D. Roosevelt , John D. Rockefeller Jr . , Henry Ford and the last King of Poland .

The theater was opened and dedicated on January 2 , 1917 . The first concert took place on July 30 , 1916 , and was by Ignacy Jan Paderewski . During his performance , the Black Tom explosion took place at a munitions works in New Jersey , more than 30 miles (48 km) from Scarborough . Frank Vanderlip Jr . , ten years old at the time , later recalled that he saw the detonation shake the jammed theater building , and that Paderewski had played on as if nothing had happened . The automatic fire doors at the top of the theater had sprung open , and two men were sent aloft to sit on them until the end of the performance to prevent a cold draft from entering the room .

Following the Scarborough School 's closing , the Beechwood Theater had stood empty for many years , and was restored in 1983 by the Greater Ossining Area Community Theater . On March 17 , 1984 , The Clear View School presented a solo performance of Currier Bell , Esquire (a dramatization of Charlotte Brontë 's life) performed by Julie Harris . The performance was a \$ 100 @-@ a @-@ ticket benefit for the school . Also on that day , the theater was rededicated as the

Julie Harris Theater . Briarcliff High School used the theater until its own was constructed in 1998 .

= = Alumni = =

Notable alumni of the Scarborough School include Secretary of the Army Stephen Ailes , Benjamin Cheever , a writer ; and Daniel and Margaret Da Silva , children of Ossining resident Howard Da Silva (actor in the musical 1776 and the film of the same name) . Richard Pousette @-@ Dart , an Abstract Expressionist artist , graduated from the school in 1935 . Anna Roosevelt Halsted lived with Curtis Bean Dall on nearby Sleepy Hollow Road ; their children Eleanor " Sistie " and Curtis " Buzzie " (grandchildren of President and Mrs. Roosevelt) attended the Scarborough School . Other notable alumni include Mark Helprin , a writer who graduated in 1965 ; the three children of Ely Jacques Kahn , Jr . ; John Kelvin Koelsch , a U.S. Navy officer during the Korean War and the first helicopter pilot to receive the Medal of Honor , who also lived in Scarborough ; Musical theater composer Henry Krieger and his sister lived in Ossining and attended the school together . Tina Louise , an actress and singer ; Ralph J. Menconi , a medallic sculptor ; Ilyasah Shabazz , an author and a daughter of Malcolm X ; and Richard Yates , a writer who attended from 1937 to 1939 while his mother taught sculpture there .

= = Headmasters = =

Headmasters included :

= = Gallery = =