

The Future Of The Old
Hastings Marble Quarry

QUARRY STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF TRUSTEES SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

Introduction

The Old Marble Quarry in Hastings-On-Hudson has been of interest to Village residents for over 150 years because of its unique history, location and physical characteristics. It is currently of interest because of its inspiring natural beauty, its rich history as Hastings' first industry, its role in the earliest formative years of the Village, its second life as a philanthropist's extraordinary Quarry Park, and its prized location directly adjacent to both the Old Croton Aqueduct and Draper Park. This site--with its tall marble cliffs and views of the Hudson River and the Palisades--is ready to be reclaimed and returned to the people of Hastings for their use and enjoyment.

On November 16, 2004, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson resolved to create a committee composed of Village residents and ex-officio members representing six Village organizations for the purpose of "detailing various alternatives for the future use of the Quarry property" (See Appendices 1 and 2).

Upon assembling, the committee first entered an intensive period of study in which its members visited the sight and reviewed all available documents related to it, including photos, newspaper articles, and other historical documents. In order to gather informed community input concerning the value and possible uses of the site, a well-attended tour of the Quarry, including an informational talk by the Village Naturalist, Fred Hubbard, was conducted. This event was followed up by a public forum in which Village residents viewed photographs, a videotape of the tour, and a comprehensive set of presentations providing information about the history and topography of the site. The public forum culminated in an interactive discussion in which residents suggested and evaluated possible uses with the committee.

Based on this forum and ongoing consultation with related Village organizations, the committee identified the features of the site most valued by the community and from these derived principles that may guide the development and use of the site over time. The committee researched and reviewed a large number of possible uses and design features. Many uses were suggested by committee members and members of the public during the tour and forum, and others because they represented certain community needs, independent of this particular site. In evaluating possible uses, the committee has been sensitive to the intrinsic constraints and values of the site, to the sentiments of Village residents and organizations, and to the Village's tight fiscal budget in order to minimize construction and maintenance costs of future uses.

The report that follows provides a description of the methodical process utilized by the committee in its work. These include a description of the Quarry; a listing of the characteristics of the Quarry that are most valued by the community; principles for

development that follow from these values; an enumeration of suggested uses along with a preliminary evaluation of each suggested use; and finally, an organizational framework for the enhancement of the Quarry that maximizes community involvement, collaboration with appropriate related Village, local and regional organizations, and mechanisms for the minimization of costs to Village government.

Executive Summary

Methodology:

- Representative committee membership
- Input from Village organizations
- Site examination
- Document study and review
- Public tour and forum for community input
- Identification of values and formulation of planning principles
- Research on suggested uses
- Evaluation of possible uses

Characteristics of the site:

- Open space, circumscribed by majestic rocky cliffs, adjacent parkland, adjoining residential properties and views of the Hudson River and Palisades
- A quiet area with no access by public roads
- Special location, contiguous to Draper Park, the Old Croton Aqueduct, and the Quarry Trail to the Hastings waterfront
- A haven for wildlife
- A microcosm of Village history including early industrial roots, a grand early twentieth century naturalistic park and linkage with the Hudson River

Basic values of the site:

- A unique, spiritually inspiring place both multifaceted and unified
- A quiet, secluded place with no vehicle access
- Exquisite natural beauty: tall cliffs and wildlife
- Breathtaking views of the Hudson River and Palisades
- A stopping place along the way: North & South on the Old Aqueduct Trail, West to Draper Park, and East on Quarry Trail to the waterfront
- Rich village history as site of industry and creative imagination

Planning principles:

- Maintain uniqueness, complexity, and unity
- Preserve and enhance natural beauty, wildness, and existing “sense of place”
- Minimize development and maintenance requirements
- Maintain as a “place along the way” rather than a destination
- Continuity: make connections linking with Draper Park, the Aqueduct, and the waterfront with designs complementing Observatory Cottage, the Historical Society, Draper Park, and the Old Croton Aqueduct
- Treat as a single project with the restoration of Quarry Trail
- Provide places for viewing and contemplation

- Offer multiple uses: mutually enhancing and compatible with one another
- Continue tradition of imaginative and low-impact enhancements that blend with nature rather than more typical park buildings or structures.
- Honor the fascinating history with interpretive displays and historic markers
- Benefit entire Village: a wide variety of local residents
- Actively engage community residents in design, maintenance, and stewardship

Uses and design features considered by the committee (*broadly favored):

- Open-air “naturalistic” or “soft” amphitheater*
- A labyrinth*
- Scenic overlooks*
- A shallow reflecting pond*
- Stone steps/pathway to Draper Park*
- A wood footbridge*
- The railroad tunnel*
- A perimeter trail*
- Planted Terraces/stone retaining wall *
- Communal landscaping and gardening*
- Benches and swings*
- The Cave*
- Exercise stations, “par course” *
- Interpretive historical displays*
- Dog run
- Athletic fields
- Alternative/extreme sports
- Individual garden plots
- Composting yard waste facility
- Playground

Steward Organization: A Quarry conservancy in partnership with Village organizations

- Accountable to Village Board of Trustees
- Collaborates with related Village commissions and groups
- Promotes community involvement and volunteerism
- Public programming responsibility
- Maintenance responsibility
- Fundraising responsibility

Designation as Parkland in Perpetuity: Legislative Action by Board of Trustees

End Executive Summary

The Committee's Methods and Process

Information Gathering and Research

The members of the committee enthusiastically began their work at the first work session, on November 29, 2004. Susan Maggiotto, Deputy Village Manager and Village Clerk, was asked to serve as Chairperson of the Committee which met regularly throughout the fall, winter and spring of 2004/2005.

The November 29th meeting was followed by meetings on January 10, January 25, March 7, March 21, April 11, May 9 and June 13, 2005. The group used the first three meetings to share information about the Quarry, brainstorm possible uses, and plan events for public participation.

On a chilly Sunday in December, 2004, the members of the Quarry Study Committee gained first hand knowledge of the Quarry site by organizing a walking tour of the entire site especially for members of the committee. These tours were led by Village Naturalist Fred Hubbard who educated the members of the committee on the history of the Quarry, the unique geography of the site, the geology of the rock formations and various aspects of the plant and animal life present in the Quarry.

Several Committee members later commented that their impressions of the site—the experience of actually being in the Quarry and experiencing, in person, the views, the tall marble cliffs and the unique natural beauty of the site--had been an important factor in shaping their impressions of the Quarry's great potential for being reclaimed for use by the public.

Engaging the Community for Input

A public walking tour. The committee organized a walking tour of the Quarry for the general public at noon on Sunday, February 13, 2005. This tour was publicized on the Village e-mail system, in public announcements and in the local press and attracted more than 60 men, women and children. Once again, Village Naturalist Fred Hubbard led the walking tour and, this time, he was joined by several long time Village residents—Peter Capuano, Paul Edelman and Bert Flanz--who shared their reminiscences of the Quarry in the 1940's and 1950's, in particular the pristine Quarry Lake which was stocked with carp, the flowering trees and shrubs, the cliffs, views of the Hudson, and the cave—a favorite spot for children.

A public forum. A few days after the walking tour, on the evening of February 16, the committee organized a public meeting at the Hastings Library to gather ideas and suggestions from residents about the future of the Quarry. The meeting, which was moderated by Ron Cascone, featured a video of the walking tour, an illustrated presentation on the history of the Quarry, narrated by Chris Lomolino and an illustrated explanation of the location and physical features of the site by Steve Horelick. The standing room only crowd, which included residents from throughout Hastings, generated

many ideas for the future of the Quarry, which were each recorded by committee member Betty Ryberg. Residents were also urged to contribute their thoughts through the Village's e-mail list, and several residents—perhaps a dozen or so—chose to communicate their views by writing short letters or e-mailing their ideas. Each of these was noted and shared with all members of the committee.

Committee Deliberations: Finding a Basis for Evaluating Uses and Designs

At the March 7 committee meeting, the members sifted through all the ideas on the table—including the comments and proposals raised at the public meeting, those sent in by letter and email and those ideas contributed by members of the committee. The members of the committee noted that there were common themes expressed repeatedly by members of the community:

“Restore the Quarry as parkland.”

“Keep it natural, keep it simple, don't overdevelop it.”

“Work with the existing physical features.”

“Keep it consistent with Draper Park and the Aqueduct.”

“Keep it green—don't put up buildings.”

“Make it a “walk-in” park—don't bring cars in.”

“Put in historical information.”

“Take advantage of the views.”

“Be practical—but, if possible, restore some of the landscaping of the original Quarry Park.”

“Include a water element—maybe a shallow reflecting pool where the Quarry Lake once existed.”

Research, Evaluation and Reporting

Following the public meeting, the committee held additional meetings in which committee members explored ideas, reviewed and discussed every proposal that had been presented to the committee, and held lively discussions about the best future use of the Quarry. Based on the preferences expressed by residents at large and committee members themselves, the committee developed a strong consensus that the Quarry is best suited to passive recreational uses. With that collective view, committee members volunteered to research a number of topics for inclusion in the final report to the Village Board of Trustees, such as various design elements, environmental matters and potential funding sources. Subcommittees were formed and subcommittee reports were presented at the March 21 meeting. Several committee members volunteered to draft segments of the final report and Chris Lomolino and Fred Wertz agreed to serve as editors. A draft outline of the report was vetted by the group at the April 11 meeting. The first full draft, incorporating the segments drafted by various committee members, was reviewed by the committee on May 9. Comments on the first draft were aired and a second draft was undertaken during the month of May, after which the second draft was distributed, revised and finalized at the meeting of June 13, before being presented to the Board of Trustees on September 13, 2005.

Characteristics of the Quarry

The Natural Setting

The following Natural Resources Inventory has been prepared by Fred H. Hubbard, PhD, Village Naturalist:

A preliminary inventory of flora, fauna and geology of the Old Marble Quarry was prepared in May, 2005 as background information to support future transformation of the five-acre Quarry site. More entries can be added as the season progresses as other plants appear that were not seen at the time of the inventory in May.

The inventory is categorized under plants (trees, shrubs, vines, herbaceous plants, grasses and sedges), animals, birds and insects. Descriptions of plants can be found in The Flora of Hastings, September, 2004. A separate section describes land forms and geology of the Quarry and an area south of the Quarry adjacent to the Old Croton Aqueduct.

Plants

Trees

Sugar Maple
Norway Maple
Black Locust
Hackberry
Slippery Elm
Black cherry
Box elder
Princess tree (Paulownia)
Black walnut
Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven)
Sycamore
Mulberry
Domestic apple
Red pine
Red Oak

Shrubs

Burning Bush (Euonymus)
Multiflora Rose
Jetbead
Red raspberry
Japanese barberry
Spice bush

Vines

Cat grape
Summer grape
Bindweed
Virginia Creeper
Honeysuckle
English ivy
Virgin's bower
Bittersweet
Poison ivy

Herbaceous plants

Black medick
Arrow-leaved aster
Bugleweed
Red-veined dock
Burdock
Ragged robin

Yarrow
Stinging nettle
Common plantain
Honewort
White snakeroot
Spiderwort

Alfafa
Mullein
Goldenrod, Early
Oxalis
White clover
Bedstraw, Cleavers

Common blue violet
Japanese knotweed
Onion grass
Cow-grass (to verify)

Celandine poppy
Giant ragweed
Dandelion
Garlic mustard

Heal-all, Selfheal
Mugwort
Field sow-thistle

Grasses

Blue grass
Reed grass

Sedges

Field sedge

Animals

Whitetail deer
Gray squirrel
Raccoon
Mice (?) et al

Birds

Tree swallow
Song sparrow
Red-wing
Cardinal
Crow, et al

Robin
Red bellied woodpecker
Baltimore oriole
Mourning dove

Starling
Blue jay
Grackle
Catbird

Insects

Cabbage moth
Carpenter ant

Morphology and Geology

The Quarry is shaped like an elongated spatula, relatively narrow at the north end, widening toward the south. It is 5.5 acres in size, about 920 feet long and 260 feet wide at the widest (south) end and 105 feet wide at the narrow (north) end.

All but the southern end is generally level, but mounds of asphalt, soil and organic matter on the east and west edges of the Quarry raise surface levels in places up to 12 feet high.

Geologically, the Quarry tells an interesting story, since its dolomitic layers were formed from depositions of calcium in seawater, classifying it geologically as sedimentary rock.

But another major rock group, metamorphic rock, is found on the east side of the Old Croton Aqueduct below Hastings Landing in the form of igneous schist outcrops. Sedimentary rocks were laid down before the metamorphic molten magma penetrated the surface at the margins of what is now the Quarry.

An Historical Setting—The Story of the Hastings Old Marble Quarry

(Based upon research by the late Mary Allison and others at the Hastings Historical Society)

Quarrying was Hastings' first industry. Over a decade before small, water-powered mills appeared in the ravine near the river, white dolomite limestone, or marble, was being cut from an outcropping in the as yet un-named Village of Hastings and sold for construction material. Indeed, the first western notice of what was to become Hastings-on-Hudson probably came in 1680 when a Dutch traveler sailing on the Hudson wrote of seeing "beautiful hard stone as white and as clean as I have ever seen". Westchester would become known for its marble quarries. Stone from Ossining and Tuckahoe was prized, but Hastings marble was in a category all its own. The architect of the Marble Collegiate Church on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan (built between 1852 and 1854) wrote that he chose Hastings stone because its "whiteness" was "in stark contrast with the darker stone in more general use."

Hastings' first quarryman was Van Brugh Livingston, who began cutting and selling the stone in the Quarry in 1828. Over the years, the buying, selling, sub-letting and leasing of the Quarry took a number of curious turns, but here are some highlights. In 1834, Livingston sold 15 acres including the Quarry and a river wharf to an English water-colorist and amateur architect named George Harvey, who is best remembered as a friend of Washington Irving who played a key role in the design and construction of Irving's home, Sunnyside. Harvey also built a fanciful "castle" with a marble stable out of stone from his new Quarry, but otherwise left the running of the Quarry to others.

Elisha Bloomer, a New York hat maker, leased the Quarry from Harvey in 1835 for \$250 a year and built an inclined railway straight down to the wharf, where the rough stone could be cut into manageable sizes and shipped. The railroad's path still appears on Village maps as Marble Road. In 1838, Harvey sold a narrow strip of land along the west side of the Quarry to the City of New York for the construction of the Croton Aqueduct with the provision that a tunnel be built so that the railway could pass under. Designed by John Jervis, the tunnel was included in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 along with the rest of the Aqueduct. When Warburton Avenue was expanded, later in the century, a similar tunnel was built under it.

The success of the Quarry is suggested by the fact that Bloomer was able to sub-let the Quarry for as much as \$11,000 a year. Marble Greek-revival columns were at the height of architectural fashion, and Hastings marble was being used all along the eastern seaboard. In Charleston, South Carolina, it was used for the Custom House and in Richmond, Virginia, for the Court House. A number of local houses, including portions of Lyndhurst, as well as several prominent Hastings landmarks such as Flo Zeigfeld's house (formerly on the Burke Estate), Lovat (on Amherst drive), the Longvue Restaurant (currently the site of the Andrus Retirement Home), Oakledge (on South Broadway) and

the Lewin-Martin-Read home (on High Street) are all believed to be made from the Quarry's rocks.

Harvey sold his Hastings property in 1846, and a series of owners bought and sold (sometimes back and forth to each other) the property that was now being called The Hastings Marble Company. The Civil War dealt the marble business a serious blow. Architectural taste changed. And in 1870, John William Draper, whose property (including what is now Draper Park) ran along the eastern edge of the Quarry, won a court injunction putting an end to blasting in the Quarry. It was dangerous, he argued, and it disturbed the scientific instruments in his son's astronomical observatory. The final blow came when a rock wall collapsed in 1871, dumping over two tons of stone and almost killing nine workmen. In 1899, the now abandoned Quarry—which had filled with spring water—and the railway were sold to National Conduit, a forerunner of Anaconda Wire and Cable. The company wanted the clean water in the Quarry for use as a coolant and laid a pipeline down the route of the old railway to its new waterfront factory.

The Quarry's brief Golden Age began in 1936 when the Dr. A.G. Langmuir, a chemical engineer and master photographer who lived in Oakledge, a stone house on the former Draper estate, bought the property and, together with his wife, Alice, set about transforming the Quarry into a richly landscaped park and bird sanctuary, complete with soaring cliffs 150 feet high, a pristine lake 35 feet deep, two thousand newly planted trees, one thousand rose bushes and eight hundred shrubs. Inspired by Buttes Chaumont, a famous Parisian park that had once been an abandoned stone quarry, they built gravel paths, sweeping stone stairways and benches overlooking vistas of the Palisades and Hudson River and even installed a rowboat called the Queen Mary.

The Hastings Quarry Park was often the subject of articles in the local press. During 1936, the Herald Statesman and the New York Evening Post carried headlines such as, "Langmuir to Develop Park for Hastings," and "Hastings to Get Quarry Park as Eventual Gift From Owner," and "County's First Quarry Park to be Developed in Hastings."

When work on the Langmuirs' "Quarry Park," as they named it, was completed, they offered it as a gift first to the Boyce Thompson Institute (a horticultural research center) in Yonkers and then to the Village of Hastings, but the offers were rejected. Arthur Langmuir died in 1941 and Alice died two years later. The Quarry was willed to Andrew Ryan, the Langmuir's chief gardener, who had overseen its landscaping, and who, in turn, sold it, in 1950, to a corporation that planned to build an apartment building and a private house on the site. But that proved to be impossible and in 1964 it was bought by the Village to be used, for the next twenty years, as a public "bulk household disposal site."

In 1977, the Village Conservation commission recommended that the Quarry be converted into a park, "once its capacity for refuse has been reached." The Quarry was closed to public refuse in 1981 but continued to be used by the Department of Public Works for depositing inorganic and organic materials picked up in the Village by the Department. In response to the requests of local residents, the Board of Trustees closed

the Quarry to all dumping in June, 2002, a significant first step towards beginning community efforts to reclaim the still imposing site. But, at present, the Quarry remains closed off with a sagging, rusty gate bearing a sign: NO TRESPASSING.

Environmental Aspects

The Quarry's former use as a landfill imposes special considerations on future uses of the site. In October, 2002, the Village prepared a Quarry Landfill report for the DEC in connection with the Quarry Trail. The report includes the results of Quarry test pits and records searches. In response to the report, the DEC sent the Village a letter in which it required that the Village: (1) maintain a maximum slope on the southern and southeastern slopes of the Quarry of 33%; (2) notify the DEC before re-grading any portion of the Quarry; and (3) place and maintain a minimum of two feet of clean soil on the slopes together with a vegetative layer or equivalent to prevent erosion. The letter also stated that the DEC would consider potential future activities at the Quarry following a systematic review of similar landfills in the Hudson Valley to be completed by June of 2003. The DEC was contacted concerning whether it concluded its review, but the DEC was unable to confirm this. A copy of the most recent correspondence from the DEC is attached at Appendix 5 of this report.

Informal discussions with DEC staff concerning a passive recreational use for the Quarry, such as a Quarry Park, have been met with a positive response from DEC staff. However, the DEC indicated that it expects to be formally advised of any proposed public use of the Quarry.

Any development of the site for use as a public space would require expert analyses of the physical features of the Quarry, including engineering surveys which would determine the feasibility of the uses discussed in this report and of any environmental issues presented by the proposed uses. In addition, uses involving Draper Park would also require a legal review of the deed and any covenants or restrictions.

The committee recommends that, after a proposed use has been agreed upon and before substantial time or funds are invested in developing the site, the Village hire an environmental consultant. The consultant should be asked to review the DEC and Village files on the Quarry, enter into discussions with the DEC about the proposed uses, investigate programs offered by New York State that substantially reimburse local governments wishing to reclaim former landfills for public use, and make recommendations to the Board concerning the feasibility, environmental requirements and New York State programmatic funding for the proposed use. After the feasibility of the proposed use has been cleared from an environmental perspective, further investment can be made.

Physical Considerations

There is no vehicle access by public roadway to the Quarry and no designated parking. There is a fire hydrant presently in the Quarry which indicates that the Village water supply reaches the site. There is no electrical service or public sewer in the Quarry.

From Community Values to Planning Principles

Above all, the committee identified the Quarry as a special place, an extraordinary place the uniqueness of which resides in its outstanding natural beauty and rich history. The committee was also impressed by its advantageous location adjacent to the Old Croton Aqueduct and Draper Park and its special position at the mouth of the future Quarry Trail that links the Quarry and the Aqueduct to the Hudson River.

The site is varied in terrain and wildlife while at the same time possessing an organic coherence and connection with its surroundings. Its history as Quarry Park demonstrates that the Quarry affords multiple uses, inspires a creative and imaginative approach and provides unique opportunities for community enjoyment and activity. A reclamation project that preserves and boldly takes advantage of these qualities would be of greatest value to the residents in nearby neighborhoods and would also make a unique contribution to the Village's portfolio of parks and thereby become a source of inspiration and pride for the whole Village.

The committee came to the conclusion that a park, Quarry Park, would be the best way to reclaim what the community values most about this site. Quarry Park would not be exclusively a nature preserve for passive enjoyment nor would it be a place where standard recreational facilities could be imposed over the natural contours of the site. Rather, as its history has demonstrated, a mix of contemplative and active uses that grow out of and enhance the natural site and honor the intrinsic sense of place experienced by anyone who visits the site will be most highly valued.

Nature. A Quarry Park can capture magnificent views of the Hudson River and the Palisades from its tall stone escarpments and provide the public with a scenic and inspiring place. Quarry Park can highlight an exciting natural terrain, wild rather than restrained, naturalistic in style rather than manicured, to be enjoyed by young and old, children to seniors, dog owners and their pets, people on foot, people on bicycles, joggers, couples or groups of friends strolling the Aqueduct, people who come to enjoy the lovely Hudson River views, people who come to photograph them, parents getting outdoors with their kids, garden enthusiasts, bird watchers, hikers and everyone who would enjoy this unique place, appreciate its history and take in its natural beauty. At the same time that Quarry Park can be a valuable resource for the broader Hastings community, it can especially provide an easily accessed respite and site for outdoor activities for residents in the immediate neighborhood.

A nexus connected to its surroundings. While Quarry Park can serve as a significant Hastings park, benefiting the entire Village, its location in the southwestern section of the

Village makes it particularly accessible on foot to residents living in the most densely populated downtown area of the Village which contains the largest concentration of multi-family dwellings, renters and residents without yard space. Those walking along the Old Croton Aqueduct may take an interesting side trip into the Quarry Park or proceed on foot to Draper Park or take a leisurely hike along the Quarry Trail to the future Hastings waterfront. A Quarry Park would be positioned as a nexus interconnecting surrounding places that relate significantly to it and therefore should be designed as a suitable complement to its nextdoor neighbors--the newly restored Observatory Cottage, the home of the Hastings Historical Society, Draper Park and the Old Croton Aqueduct.

History and the creative imagination. It is important to Hastings residents that the Village does not lose a sense of its wonderful history, and a Quarry Park would have the potential to commemorate significant periods of that history of Hastings, dating from the earliest beginnings of the Village and its first industry—Harvey’s Quarry--while also commemorating the original Quarry Park, painstakingly and magnanimously created on the site for the enjoyment of the residents of Hastings by Arthur and Alice Langmuir in the mid 1930’s. A Quarry Park in which the creative imagination respects natural surroundings and thoughtfully enhances them would embody the best of what the Quarry has been historically and would carry its highest potential into the future.

Multiple uses that work together to create a harmonious whole. The committee recommends that the Quarry Park and the Quarry Trail be approached as a single project and that both be treated with minimal development, working with and augmenting the existing natural conditions and focusing on the unique physical qualities of the site.

The history of the site should be made accessible to the public with interpretive displays, and the project should create an engaging, refreshing and relaxing space that captures the imagination of all who use it. A Quarry Park should be a place that affords a combination of contemplative, spiritual, and aesthetic experiences, together with inviting opportunities for activities such as hiking, climbing, running, exercise, play and gardening as well as occasional community gatherings.

Low cost, low maintenance, high community participation. The committee believes that the site can serve the Village best not as an automobile “destination,” but as a place one enters by foot or bicycle. This will minimize car traffic at the Aqueduct and in the adjacent neighborhood’s narrow streets which have limited parking and also keep costs low. In order to keep in line with nature and further minimize costs, the Quarry ought to be a “daylight only” park without permanent lighting or buildings. The Quarry Park can be designed to be low-maintenance and low impact to minimize both initial and on-going costs. Local artisans could be used during the creation of the park and the talents of others in the Village community should be utilized to enhance community participation in the project.

Several New York State and non-profit funding sources have already expressed a strong interest in contributing to a Quarry Park project. Keeping development and maintenance

costs low, relying on community participation, vigorously pursuing public and private grants and proceeding in phases, over time, can make the project achievable without financial burden on resident taxpayers.

Park planning principles. The following planning principles grow out of the values that the Quarry holds for the community. Any development should maintain the uniqueness and complexity of the site and treat it as a unified whole with a specific character—rather than simply parceling it out to various uses. The natural beauty, wildness, and existing “sense of place” should be preserved and enhanced. Places for contemplation and enjoying the fine views should be provided and featured. The Quarry should be more a “place along the way” than a destination that would generate traffic and require additional parking. The Quarry should possess continuity with its surroundings and make connections linking it with Draper Park, the Aqueduct, and the waterfront with designs that complement Observatory Cottage, the Historical Society, Draper Park, and the Old Croton Aqueduct. A Quarry Park should be treated as a single project with the restoration of Quarry Trail. This site should offer multiple uses that are mutually enhancing or at least compatible with each other. Design features should continue the original Quarry Park’s tradition of imaginative enhancements that blend with nature. The park should honor and commemorate its fascinating history and educate visitors about it. The Quarry should be a place of multiple uses ranging from simple relaxation to various activities that attract a wide range of residents and provide those living in local neighborhoods with possibilities for convenient recreation. The park should involve minimal development and require minimal maintenance. Finally, Quarry Park should engage community residents in its design, maintenance, and stewardship.

Possible Uses and Design Features for Quarry Park: Preliminary Evaluation

Many different uses and design features were suggested. The central criteria used in evaluating them were their fit with the physical character of the site and with the community values voiced in connection with the site. Many suggestions emerged from the tour and inspection of the site itself as well as the spontaneous excitement about what the community values most about the site. Other ideas emerged from general knowledge of community needs that could potentially be fulfilled by this site. In some cases, perceived needs fit well with the site, and in other cases a lack of fit detracted from the committee’s enthusiasm about them. However, rather than simply rejecting incongruous uses, particularly if they addressed significant community needs, the committee thought about how they could be modified to fit with the intrinsic qualities of the site and what the community values most about it. These considerations led to some creative ideas allowing a mix of uses that address multiple needs and yet fit with the character of the Quarry as a Hastings park with unique physical attributes.

The vast majority of the suggestions concerning uses to which the Quarry might be put, received from members of the public via e-mail, letter, public meeting and members of the public who are members of the Quarry Committee, were positively evaluated by the

committee. They were viewed as mutually compatible uses that could be cohesively integrated into a unified public park with the unusual physical features of the Quarry. The few suggestions that did not seem to fit or were not so compatible with other desirable uses are also set forth below along with the reasons each suggestion was not positively evaluated. The predominant, implicit frame of reference for evaluating each use was the set of planning principles enumerated above. Any other issues that were considered regarding particular uses are made explicit below.

“Soft” Open-Air Amphitheater. One potential use of the Quarry, probably best situated at the northernmost end of the Quarry “floor,” is a “soft” amphitheater. “Soft” means flexible, multi-use, to include a semi-circular, landscaped area that could be used for small-scale theater, music, outdoor classroom activities, children’s programs, environmental activities or community group get-togethers of various kinds. We also define a “soft” amphitheater as blending into the Quarry’s environment by working harmoniously with the Quarry’s interesting physical features, such as the naturally bowled northern end, or, perhaps, utilizing a section of the dramatic eastern cliffs as a natural backdrop. Informal seating can be constructed by creating concentric, grass covered tiers or berms with wood or inset stone retaining walls. The stage could be a wooden platform, a simple grassy area or, as discussed below, the stage could be comprised of a decorative stone labyrinth. We believe Hastings residents will benefit from and show support for an outdoor gathering place where residents can congregate in a beautiful, natural setting.



Figure 1: Grass and Stone Amphitheater



Figure 2: Grass and Stone Amphitheater

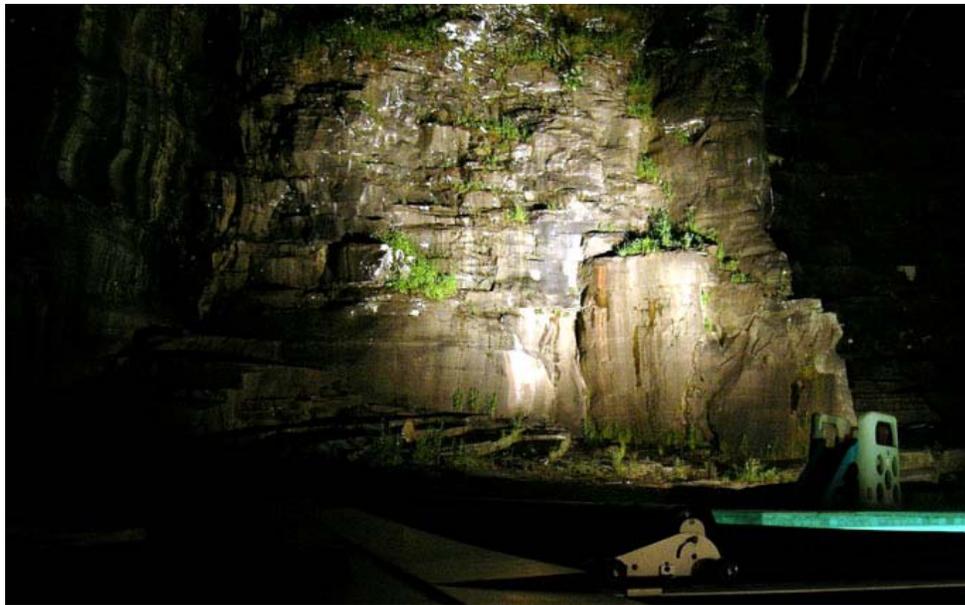


Figure 3: Amphitheater With Illuminated Cliffs as Backdrop

The Labyrinth. Another exciting suggestion is the inclusion of a labyrinth--a distinctive, decorative design element, perhaps 40 feet wide, flat, and made of inset stone. Labyrinths are beautiful, interactive and fun for everyone and particularly for children who love to run along the interwoven paths to the center. While there are many different labyrinth designs, found in countless locations around the world and throughout history, the committee recommends the ancient classic design found on the island of Crete. It is

simple and elegant and its path consists of great, long loops, passing back and forth and leading to a center point. A particularly fine example can be seen in the Jerusalem Grove in Battery Park in Manhattan. The labyrinth, found in many cultures, is believed to be a symbol of the annual cycle of springtime and rebirth.

It can be built at practically no cost and members of the community, including children, can help build it. The stones would be inset and made flush with the ground, forming a path to the center. Perhaps the names of those who make contributions to defray its costs could be cut into some of the stones. The labyrinth could also serve as the stage and focal point of the proposed “soft” amphitheater. The view of the labyrinth, looking down on it from the Draper Park cliffs would be spectacular. And, perhaps a local artist might come up with a design for the circle at the center. A labyrinth—for very little money—would enrich the Quarry Park visually, provide an engaging community project and also add a new element of fun.



Figure 4: Labyrinth With Grass and Inset Stones



Figure 5: Labyrinth Formed of Stone Blocks Set Into Gravel With Center Medallion

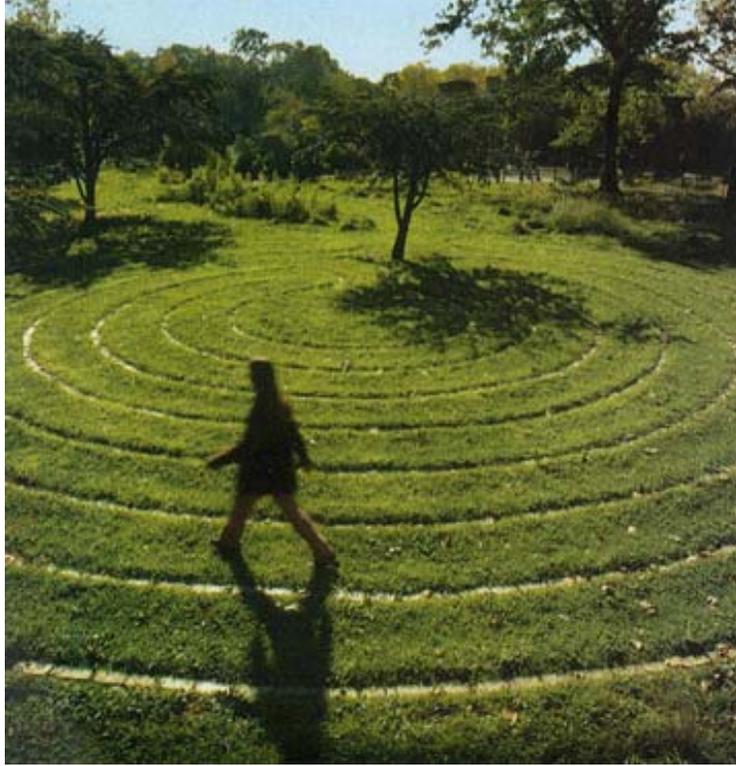


Figure 6: Labyrinth With Grass and Inset Stone

Scenic Overlooks from Draper Park and the Quarry Cliffs. Creating small observation platforms or perhaps modest, rustic gazebos with benches would allow park users to enjoy the magnificent views of the Hudson River and the Palisades from some points on the Quarry Park cliffs. These vantage points would also capture a bird's eye view of the lush Quarry Park plantings, below. These simple gazebos or scenic overlooks would give residents the best seats in the house for magnificent sunsets over the Hudson River and the Palisades.



Figure 7: Wood Gazebo, Scenic Overlook



Figure 8: Wood Gazebo, Garden View



Figure 9: Wood Gazebo, Sunset View

A Shallow Reflecting Pond. A great lament of many who knew the Quarry Park in its heyday and know its history is the loss of the lake. Many long time residents have great memories of swimming in the original crystal clear Quarry Lake in their youth. Consequently, a water element that would harken back to this historical feature in a new Quarry Park design was a desire expressed by many residents. At the same time, it was acknowledged that the creation of a reflecting pond or other water element, such as a fountain, may pose some technical challenges. Depending on engineering surveys and environmental factors that would determine feasibility, it may be possible to capture runoff from the lands above the Quarry to the east to create a shallow reflecting pool stocked with decorative goldfish and carp—a delightful design element, reminiscent of the pristine 35 foot deep Quarry Lake that once graced the site.

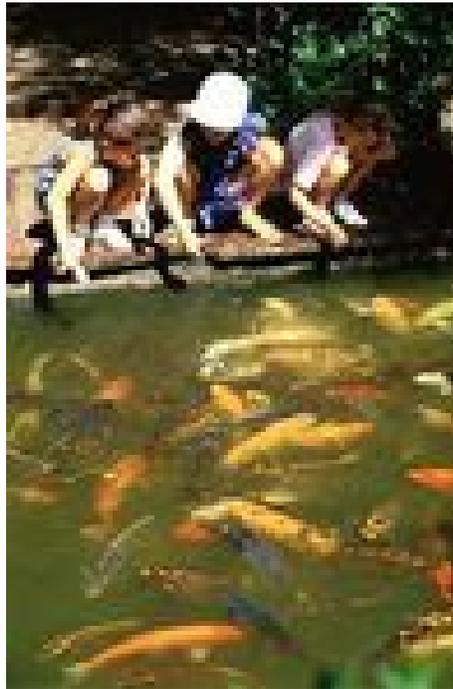


Figure 10: Reflecting Pond, Stocked With Carp



Figure 11: Reflecting Pond

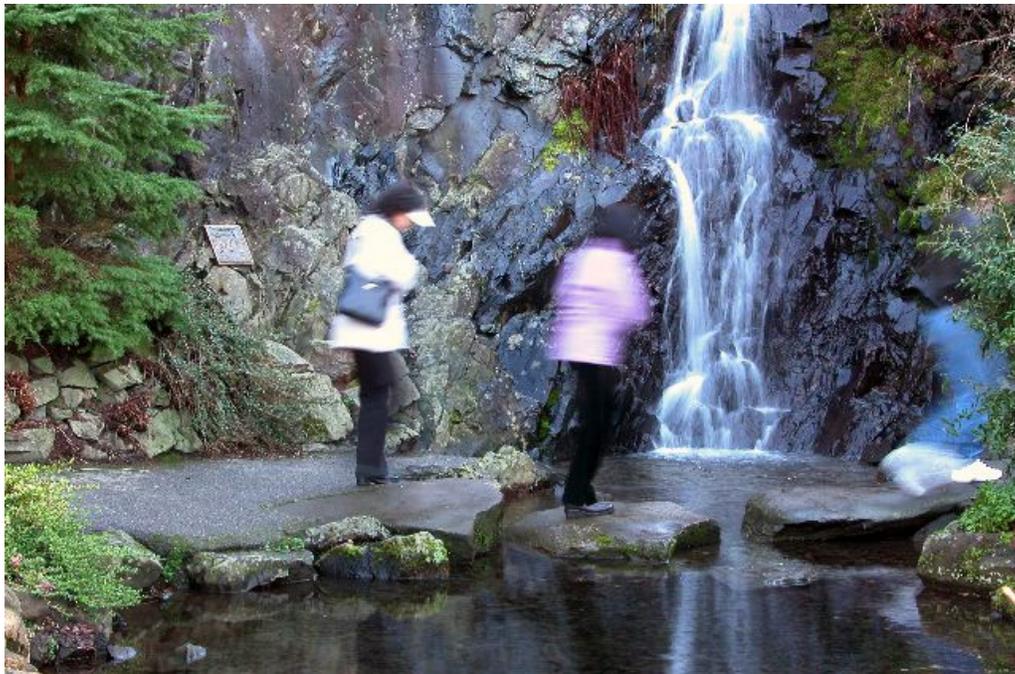


Figure 12: Reflecting Pond With Historic Marker

Stone Steps/Pathway from the Quarry Park to Draper Park. Remnants of the original stone steps connecting the Quarry to Draper Park still exist. This walkway could be restored, providing an historic note as well as a practical means for visitors to walk through the Quarry, along the wooded knoll in the northwest Quarry and up to the westernmost end of Draper Park.



Figure 13: Historic Photo from Hasting Historical Society Archives Showing Quarry's Original Stone Steps, 1936

The Cave. Older residents and the Langmuir's used to call this deep niche in the rocky cliffs, "The Grotto." A great place to play, as kids discovered decades ago. A path, perhaps with handrails, is needed to provide safe access to it.



Figure 14: Historic Photo from Hastings Historical Society Archives, Exploring the "Grotto," 1930s

Wood Footbridge. An elegant design element and a fun way to walk from the westernmost edge of Draper Park to the Quarry's northwest wooded knoll and then to the Old Croton Aqueduct. The footbridge would improve pedestrian access to both the Quarry and Draper Park while providing a remarkable vantage point, capturing views of the Palisades to the west, the Labyrinth below and the entire length of the Quarry Park, with all of its plantings, to the south.



Figure 15: Wood Footbridge Spanning Ravine



Figures 16, 17: Wood Footbridges Providing Access and Scenic Views

Planted Terraces/Stone Retaining Walls. The sloping southeastern end of Quarry Park presents an opportunity for creating level areas to be planted through the use of stone retaining walls. This terraced area can also include footpaths so that this area would become accessible by pedestrians who can climb the terraces to enjoy views of the Palisades to the west and the Quarry Park plantings, below.

The Quarry Railroad Tunnel. The Tunnel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the entry point for the Quarry Trail to the Hudson River. The future Quarry Trail will allow the users of the Old Croton Aqueduct to hike west from the Quarry, pass

through the second tunnel beneath Warburton Ave. and proceed to the Hastings waterfront. The Tunnel is intact and is an interesting feature, both historically and architecturally.



Figure 18: Historic Photo from Hastings Historical Society Archives Showing Inclined Railroad Tunnel Beneath Old Croton Aqueduct. View is Looking West from Inside the Quarry. Current Plans Call for Restoring The Quarry Trail Linking The Quarry and the Old Croton Aqueduct to the Waterfront With the Tunnel Serving as the Entry Point.

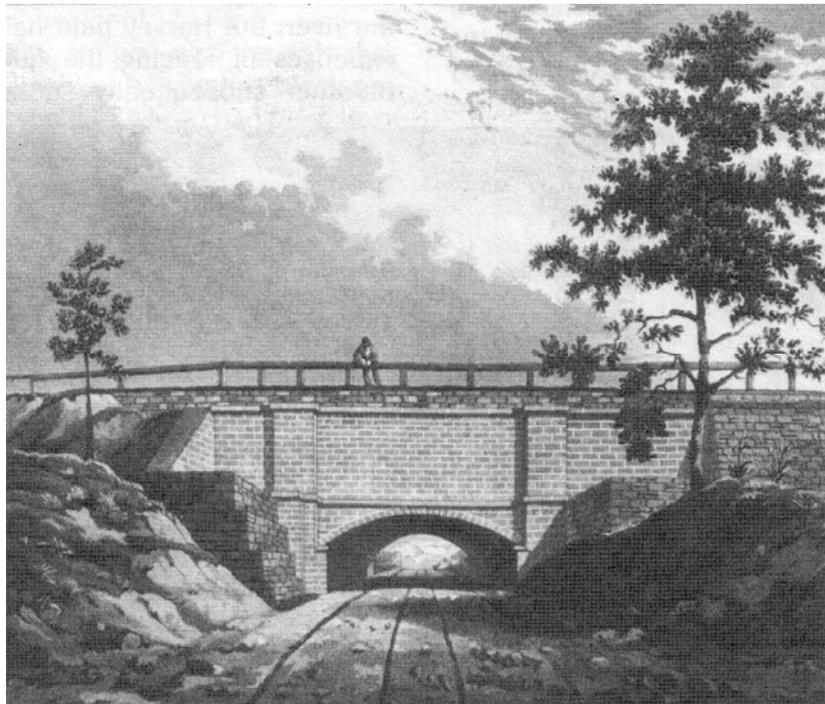


Figure 19: 1843 Illustration by Fayette Tower. Overpass Was Designed by John Jervis to Carry The Croton Aqueduct. Shows the Inclined Railroad Tunnel Where Marble Was Brought from The Quarry to the Waterfront. Historic Illustration from Hasting Historical Society Archives.

Landscaping/Plantings. Hearty native plantings--evergreens, flowering trees, shrubs and perennial gardens--could be planted in the Quarry Park. Species requiring minimal upkeep would best be chosen. Quarry Park should not be a formal garden; rather, it can be an area that is deliberately planted to go wild and woody with a minimum of attention from landscapers and a modest amount of care from resident garden enthusiasts. Plantings could also be included that attract hummingbirds, butterflies and other animal life. Care must be taken to protect plantings from deer.



Figures 20, 21: Plantings, Trails, Landscaping

Bird Nesting Boxes. Bluebird nesting boxes have already been placed in the Quarry by the Hudson Valley Audubon Society. Nature programs to attract and propagate birds, in partnership with the Audubon Society, the Lenoir Preserve and other local nature organizations could be encouraged in Quarry Park.

Perimeter Trail. Quarry Park should include an unpaved trail along the perimeter of the quarry for walking, biking, running and dog walking. Many users of the Old Croton Aqueduct will enjoy detouring from the OCA and touring the Quarry Park. There should also be a secondary system of small, unpaved trails leading to various points of interest such as the scenic overlooks, the tunnel, the cave, etc.



Figure 22: Perimeter Trail

Benches and swings. For relaxation, for hanging out with a friend, for a conversation, for resting, for sitting with your baby, for taking a moment to enjoy the flowering trees and bushes in the Springtime, for admiring the autumn leaves, for taking in the views of the Hudson River, for watching the carp swim around in the pond with your 5 year old, for enjoying the unbelievable views of the sun setting over the Palisades, well designed benches can enhance the public's enjoyment of Quarry Park. In order to provide more active play, porch-style double swings, wooden swings and other kinds of interestingly designed swings could be placed strategically in the Quarry Park and woven into the overall design, for the enjoyment of children and adults alike.



Figure 23: Children's Swings



Figure 24: Children's Swings

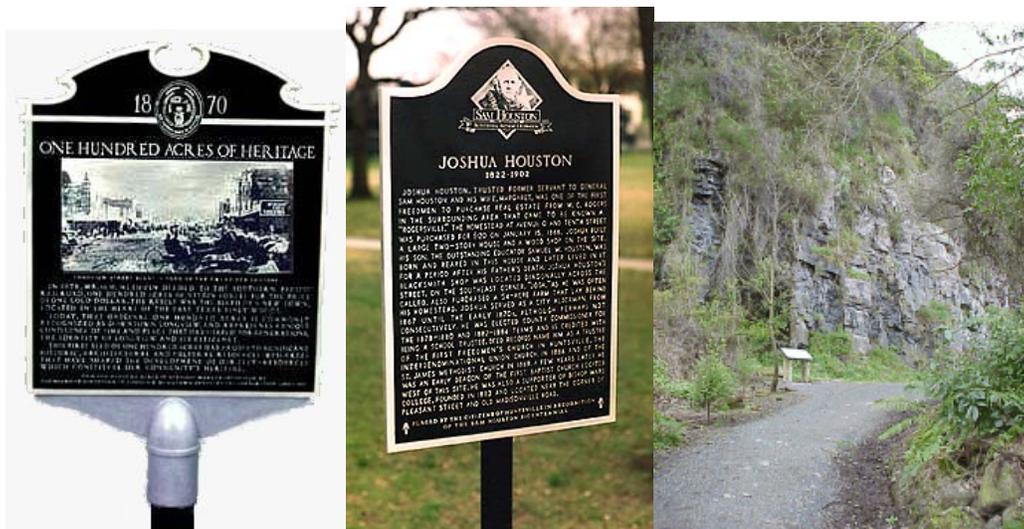


Figures 25, 26: Arbor Glider/Swings



Figure 27: Porch Style Swing

Interpretive Historic and Naturalistic Displays. The Quarry has an interesting and important history that should be made available to all who enter. The committee recommends placing attractive interpretive displays at various points to explain the history of the Quarry and also, perhaps, present some geological and botanical information, as well. Some places where displays might work best would be at the main entry, at the southwestern foot of Draper Park, at the Railroad Tunnel that forms the entry to the Quarry Trail and on the wooded knoll at the northwestern end of the Quarry. The committee believes it would be especially suitable to mark the main entry with a large quarried block of “Hastings Marble.”



Figures 27-29: Interpretive Displays / Historic Markers

Exercise stations or “par course”. The committee initially questioned the suggestion of exercise stations feeling that these types of elements typically go unused, look artificial, require maintenance and could easily be put in other Village parks already devoted to athletics. However, further consideration and research suggests that such stations are indeed used and valued, particularly by runners and, if made of wood and compatibly designed with small signage and sited appropriately, they would not detract from the natural beauty of the Park. Another possibility would be the creation of a “par course,” with some exercise stations situated at the Quarry Park and others placed at intervals in different Hastings parks (Reynolds, Zinsser) to create a mile-long runner’s par course through the Village.

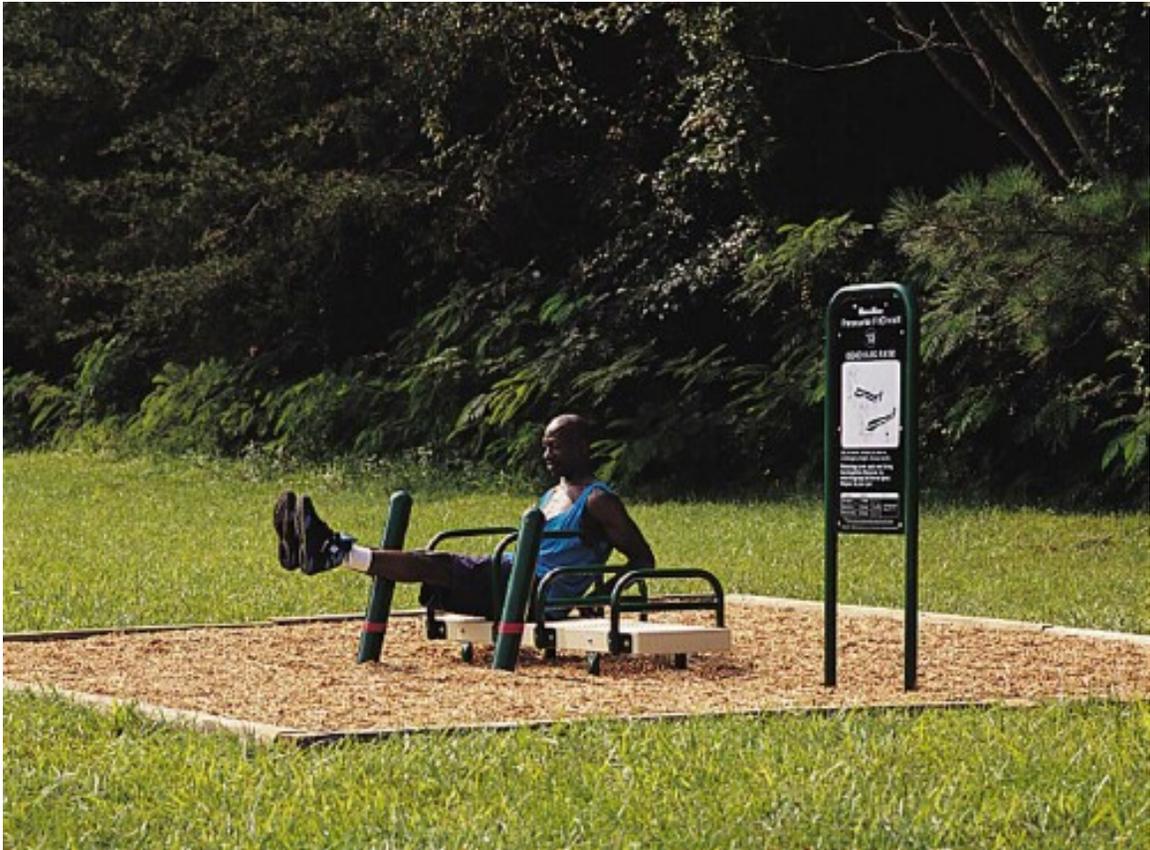


Figure 30: Exercise Station



Figures 30, 31: Exercise Stations

Dog Run. The idea of a dog run was suggested by a member of the committee as a remedy to dogs playing off-leash in various Village parks. While this use was not generally embraced by the committee and was thought to run counter to the thrust of the public comments, the committee, nonetheless, engaged in several lengthy discussions on this topic.

Reasoning in favor of a dog run can be summarized as follows: Draper Park, Hillside Woods, Zinsser Park and the Aqueduct are all sites where dogs running off the leash, in violation of leash laws, have created problems. Also, many dog owners signed petitions within the past year or two, requesting a green space (specifically Draper Park) where the leash laws would be suspended during certain hours so that dogs can play off-leash. A dog run or dog park would be a good place for dog owners and their pets to socialize. A dog run would keep the other parks free of unleashed dogs, satisfy the wishes of dog owners and help out other residents who don't like to encounter unleashed dogs in the parks.

Reasoning opposed to creating a fenced in dog run in the quarry is as follows:

1. It is unlikely that dog owners from throughout the Village would want to travel to a single location, often far from their homes, to exercise their dogs inside a fenced-in pen and therefore, even if the Quarry had a dog run, other parks would, as before, continue to have their share of dog related issues.
2. Dog owners themselves—including many who had signed the petition—did not like the idea of being directed to a confined, fenced-in area. In discussions with Village dog owners initiated by committee members, it became clear that they much preferred going to a variety of green spaces in different locations with posted hours during which off-leash play would be permitted. Social groupings of dog owners have formed spontaneously in various green areas of the Village and have become an important user group of our parks. They are not unhappy with the current arrangements and believe that most residents with dogs are extremely responsible with their pets in public areas and that problems are infrequent.
3. Dog runs, where many dogs congregate in one place, can be noisy and unsanitary and quickly kill any vegetation in the run. They require daily maintenance. Also, often small and large dogs cannot use the same run.
4. A large number of dogs in a confined, fenced off area within the Quarry would be incompatible with the other uses for the Quarry that have greater community support and are more consistent with the character of the site and with the views consistently expressed by members of the broader community and the immediate neighborhood.
6. Residents living in the area around the Quarry have already voiced opposition to such a facility.

Resolution: the Quarry can be a dog-friendly area and on-going dialogue with resident dog owners can ensure that they and their pets use the Quarry freely, happily and responsibly. Dog owners who want their dogs to run off-leash could be allowed to do so in Quarry Park, Draper Park and/or other Village parks at specific, designated times

(evening and early morning). If dogs off-leash on athletic fields are a problem, the fields could remain legally off-limits at all times.

The committee felt that designating a portion of the Quarry for a dog run would not satisfy the needs of dog owners or serve the public well and would be incompatible with the open, serene, naturalistic character of the Quarry.

Note: The Central Park Conservancy, when faced with the identical debate, resolved it by allowing dog owners and their pets to use the park's more than 40 acres off-leash during the hours of 9 p.m. and 9 a.m., rather than create a fenced run. Committee members urge consideration of this approach. Perhaps a similar arrangement (with either these or different hours) could be worked out in one or more Hastings parks—but creating such a plan is well beyond the mandate of this committee.

Athletic Fields. One person suggested that the Quarry should be used as a soccer field. There was vocal opposition to using the Quarry as a soccer field for a number of reasons. The primary reason is that the neighborhood cannot support a “destination-type use,” *i.e.*, a use that will draw people from all over who will need to park cars near the site. The neighborhood has extremely narrow streets and has too little parking for residents, many of whom live in multi-family residences. The committee and the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct believe that any increased car traffic at the Aqueduct should be strongly discouraged. Another reason against the Quarry being used for a soccer field is that environmental concerns might be aggravated by the creation of such a facility. The new playing fields recently created at the Burke estate have recently been added to the Village's portfolio of existing athletic fields at Reynolds, Hillside and Zinsser. In the future, the waterfront may provide new opportunities to create additional fields with the requisite parking. The committee believes that the Quarry provides an opportunity for different forms of recreation that better respect its uniqueness as a place. Using the Quarry as a soccer field would destroy the natural attributes of the site that the public expressed a strong interest in preserving and augmenting. Finally, the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison to the committee noted that new fields are not being advocated at this site by the Commission at this time.

Alternative/Extreme Sports Park. One person suggested an alternative or extreme sports park, but it was felt that this use is incompatible with maintaining the Quarry as a natural oasis, which was very strongly supported by the community and the Committee.

Community Garden Plots. Another resident proposed that the Quarry be used for expanding the Zinsser Community Gardens. There are approximately 10 requests for plots pending. Members of the committee were sympathetic to this use but preferred to adhere to the principle that all parts of the future Quarry Park would be open to the whole community. Consensus was reached that a community-tended garden was a better idea for the Quarry, meaning that, rather than resident gardeners having plots that are individually “owned,” as at Zinsser, groups of resident gardening enthusiasts, in an organized program, could create and tend gardens within the Quarry to create places of beauty for the public, perhaps following some of Langmuir's original design principles,

which the Historical Society has in its archives. This would be a unique feature of the Quarry Park just as the community gardens are a special feature of Zinsser Park.

Composting/Yard Waste Facility. The Committee did not favor using the Quarry for a composting or yard waste facility, as was proposed by a resident at the public meeting, because the committee believes that such a facility should not be located in a residential neighborhood since it would involve heavy truck traffic through neighborhood streets (and over the Aqueduct) as well as unwelcome noise levels and bad odors. It was strongly felt that the Quarry is not the right place for such a facility, which is incompatible with the aesthetic values of the place as well as the peaceful and active public use of Draper Park, the Aqueduct and the future Quarry Trail.

Playground. Although the committee strongly favored the inclusion of many design elements that provide play opportunities for children, such as the cave, the labyrinth, the soft amphitheater, the tunnel, the perimeter path for hiking and biking, open meadow areas that lend themselves to unstructured play, and several well-designed swings, the Committee did not believe that a traditional playground should be placed in the Quarry. It was noted that at least four such facilities already exist in the Village and it was felt that the Quarry Park's child-friendly play elements would attract the interest of children and parents alike.

An Organizational Framework for Community Fundraising, Development, and Maintenance

In an effort to maximize community involvement, sense of ownership, and pride in the site as well as to defray many of the costs of construction and maintenance, the committee discussed the advantages of establishing a Quarry Conservancy. Such a Public/Private Partnership could guide the development of Quarry Park and Quarry Trail as it is phased in and evolves over time and manage them on an on-going basis.

For example, a private not-for-profit organization could be formed as a 501(C)(3) in partnership with the Village in order to develop and maintain the Quarry Park. The Conservancy would be responsible for assisting the Village in designing and implementing a management and development plan for the Quarry Park including fundraising, programming, restoration, creative design and caretaking of the park in collaboration with interested Village groups. The Conservancy would assure the commitment and active involvement of the community in the future of Quarry Park and defray costs of developing and maintaining it while affording the Village ongoing control.

The mission of the Conservancy would be to assume management and fiscal responsibility for Quarry Park in a partnership with the Village in order to assure a standard of excellence in the park care and to make Quarry Park a vibrant and valued resource for recreation, education and utility for the surrounding community as well as the entire Hastings community and all users of the Aqueduct.

The initial Board of the Conservancy may be appointed from among the Quarry Committee members who wish to serve on the Quarry Conservancy Board. Once appointed, the Board members would meet to determine an appropriate organizational structure for the operation of the Conservancy, applying, as appropriate, some of the principles of similar organizations, such as the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, the Draper Park Review Board and the Central Park Conservancy.

Potential Quarry Park Programs

- Periodic community clean-ups
- Opportunities for local gardening enthusiasts to plant/cultivate certain public gardens within the quarry
- Private groups or individuals may, for designated contributions, schedule the use of Quarry Park as a location for private events of limited size and specific duration.
- Conservancy fundraising events (festivals, picnics, cocktail receptions, concerts)
- Fundraising and other events designed and held jointly with other organizations—e.g. Rivertowns Arts Council, Hastings Historical Society, Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Audubon Society, Hudson River Museum
- Children’s Programs, perhaps organized jointly with the School District, the Department of Parks and Recreation or the Hastings Public Library
- Periodic sculpture or other art exhibits, in collaboration with local arts groups

Fund Raising

Quarry Park can be developed in phases, over time, as funding permits. Various design elements can be added when funds become available for them. The Village and the Quarry Conservancy would share fundraising responsibilities and jointly explore potential sources of funding, in-kind contributions and contributions of expertise. Some potential sources preliminarily identified by the committee, are listed below. These sources, and others, as well, could be further researched with applications made to the most appropriate funding sources. Several of the organizations named below have already expressed an interest in assisting with a Quarry Park project.

Government grants/programs/funds:

- Hastings Environmental Trust Fund
- Westchester County CDBG Funds
- Westchester County Parks
- NYS Hudson River Valley Greenway
- NYS Hudson River Access Projects
- NYS Hudson River Estuary Program
- NYS Quality Communities Program

- NYS Parks Grant Programs
- US Land and Water conservation Fund
- US Recreational Trails Program
- US Historic Preservation Program

Non-profit grants/in-kind contributions/expertise:

- Scenic Hudson
- Westchester Land Trust
- Garden Conservancy
- Historic Hudson Valley
- Audubon Society
- Sierra Club
- Trails Groups

Potential foundation support:

- Surdna Foundation
- Alcoa Foundation
- Rockefeller Foundations
- HRIF

Possible Fundraising Programs:

- Adopt a Park Bench—for a designated contribution, an eloquently designed and crafted bench will be placed in the park with a small plaque acknowledging the donor.
- Sponsor a Tree—for designated contributions, a donor may select from a variety of trees that will be planted in the Quarry with a small marker acknowledging the donor.
- Contribute to the Quarry Park Gardens—buy a bundle of daffodils, tulips, forsythia, etc. to be planted.
- Membership in the Conservancy, involving annual dues.

Individual Donors:

- Tax deductible charitable gifts
- Memorial tributes
- In-kind gifts of expertise

Collaborations

The Conservancy would work closely with the Mayor, the Trustees, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, the Draper Park Review Board, the Historical Society, the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct and the community at large during the planning, design and implementation phases.

The Conservancy would monitor the Quarry Park on an on-going basis and work with the Dept. of Parks and Recreation and the Dept. of Public Works as well as private local landscaping contractors and volunteers to maintain the park.

The Conservancy would seek out and establish ongoing collaborations with local organizations, including:

- Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct
- Hastings Historical Society
- Hudson Valley Audubon Society
- Rivertowns Arts Council
- The Beautification Committee
- The Tree Preservation Board
- The Hastings School District
- The Lenoir Preserve
- The Beczak Nature Center
- The Hudson River Museum
- Historic Rivertowns of Westchester County
- Local gardening enthusiasts
- Local dog owners, runners and other user groups

The Conservancy may, collaborate with other organizations to create public programs such as small scale outdoor music, dance or theatrical performances, children's programs, periodic sculpture installations, art exhibits, gardening programs, nature programs, holiday celebrations, historical programs, and other kinds of local community gatherings.

Legislative Action: Designating the Quarry as Parkland

In order to set the stage for the creation of a Quarry Park, the committee recommends that Village legislation be drafted and adopted by the Hastings Board of Trustees designating the Quarry as parkland in perpetuity. Because the Quarry is already public land, entirely owned by the Village, such legislation will clearly and legally designate the five and one half acres as public parkland.

Conclusion

The Quarry Study Committee aimed, through research and public input, to clarify the unique nature and potential of the site as well as what Hastings residents value most about it. This yielded planning principles that can flexibly guide government and community initiatives that shape the evolution of Quarry Park over time. The committee also focused on very specific suggestions of uses and design features, researched them, and evaluated their feasibility and desirability. Although the committee does not intend to suggest a fully formed plan that would be adopted once and for all, a great deal of attention was given to the mutual compatibility of the multiple uses and design features that were broadly favored in order to create a unified and cohesive vision of what the Quarry can be.

The uses the committee favored are therefore not a random collection but a selection of components that work together harmoniously. In order to test the mutual compatibility of favored uses at a late stage in the committee's deliberations, the committee members utilized a visual tool: a graphic representation of the most favored uses as possibly mapped onto the Quarry site. This simple drawing, which can be found at Appendix 6, illustrates that diverse multiple uses can indeed coexist with the required unity and harmony while respecting and augmenting the unique physical features of the site. This depiction is not offered as an all-or-nothing recommendation or proposal. Its elements are, to some extent, modular and can be adopted or not as initiatives and resources are put into play. Moreover, it is expected that as Quarry Park begins to take shape, users themselves may suggest fresh, creative uses that were not envisioned by the committee. Perhaps the place to start is with a site preparation that would set the table for a wide variety of uses and design features such as those suggested by the committee. The committee presents this report to the Village Board of Trustees as a guide and a reflection of the kind of thoughtful diligence that we hope goes into planning the future of this local treasure.

END OF REPORT

The Quarry Study Committee wishes to thank the following people for all of their help in producing this report:

Susan Maggiotto
Mitchell Koch
Jim Metzger
Muriel Olsson
Fatima Mahdi
Joel LeFevre
Benjamin Shane
Rafael Zaratian

Appendix 1: The Board of Trustees Resolution

The Quarry Study Committee was established by a resolution of the Board of Trustees at the Nov. 16, 2004 meeting of the Board. The minutes from that meeting read as follows:

“RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees create the Quarry Study Committee, comprised of nine voting members and six ex-officio members appointed by and representing the Planning Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Draper Review Board, Historical Society, and Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, and be it further

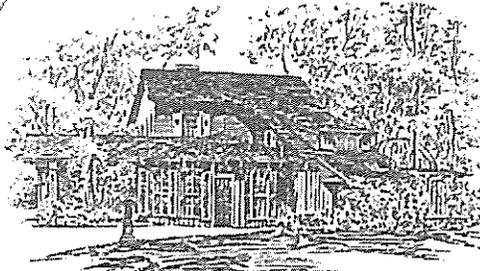
RESOLVED: that the Quarry Study Committee will develop and provide the Board of Trustees a report by May 15, 2005 detailing various alternatives for the future use of the Quarry property.”

Appendix 2: Committee Members and Represented Village Organizations

The Quarry Study Committee is comprised of the following residents of Hastings-On-Hudson:

Robert Cadoux
Ron Cascone (ex-officio, Conservation Commission)
John Dailey (ex-officio, Parks and Recreation Commission)
John Flack (ex-officio, Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct)
Timothy Hays
Steve Horelick
Christine Lehner
Christina Lomolino
Susan Maggiotto (Chairperson, Acting Village Manager, Village Clerk)
David McCullough (ex-officio, Hastings Historical Society))
Steven Odesser
Betty Ryberg
Fred Wertz (ex-officio, Planning Board)
Jonathan Zipp

Appendix 3: An Article from a recent edition of the Hastings Historian



OBSERVATORY COTTAGE



THE QUARRY

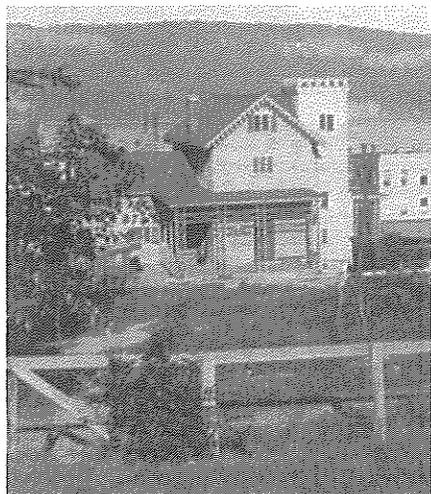
Mary L. Allison

Down the Old Croton Aqueduct about a block south of Washington Avenue is a fenced-off area on the left that has probably undergone more vicissitudes than any other spot in Hastings. It is one of the oldest industrial properties in the village, and over the past 150 years it has changed from a flourishing marble quarry to an unsightly landfill. In 1983, some residents proposed that \$120,000 be raised to construct a Little League field and park on this site. In the fall of 2004, the Village Trustees appointed a special advisory committee to report on possible uses for the quarry site, and the topic will soon be open to public meetings and debate.

Sixty years ago, these five and a half acres were a beautifully landscaped park complete with a pond, flower gardens, gravel paths, and benches overlooking vistas of the Palisades and the Hudson. At one time this park was offered to the village as a gift, and the offer was rejected.

The park was created by Arthur C. Langmuir in the late 1930s after he purchased the land from Anaconda Wire and Cable Company. He conceived the idea after seeing the quarry gardens at Buttes Chaumont in Paris, where gaping

Left: *Looking north across Quarry Lake, 1936. A photograph by A. C. Langmuir who turned an abandoned rock pile into a park.*



Harvey's marble cottage after it had been expanded into a "castle." Photographed in 1924 from the Aqueduct by A. C. Langmuir.

holes had been transformed into places of natural beauty with trees, shrubs, and flowers. Langmuir decided a similar transformation could be achieved in Hastings' abandoned quarry. He imported exotic trees and planted them throughout the area. John Kopchik remembers walking on the trails and swimming in the crystal clear pond at the southern end of the quarry when he was a boy. "Nobody ever touched the plants or left a mess," he recalled. "It was a really beautiful spot."

This piece of property has had a long and varied history. It has been owned by numerous individuals and businesses, and with much searching through the Westchester County Land records, it has been possible to document the sequence of its ups and downs. Most of the details are, of course, missing since the quarry's business records have long since disappeared.

Perhaps the first European sighting of Hastings marble was recorded by Dutch travelers Jasper Dankaerts and Peter Sluyters who wrote in 1680: "We went ashore at a

place on the east side of the river where there was a meadow on fire. We saw there a beautiful hard stone as white and as clean as I have ever seen either here or in Europe, very fine for building."

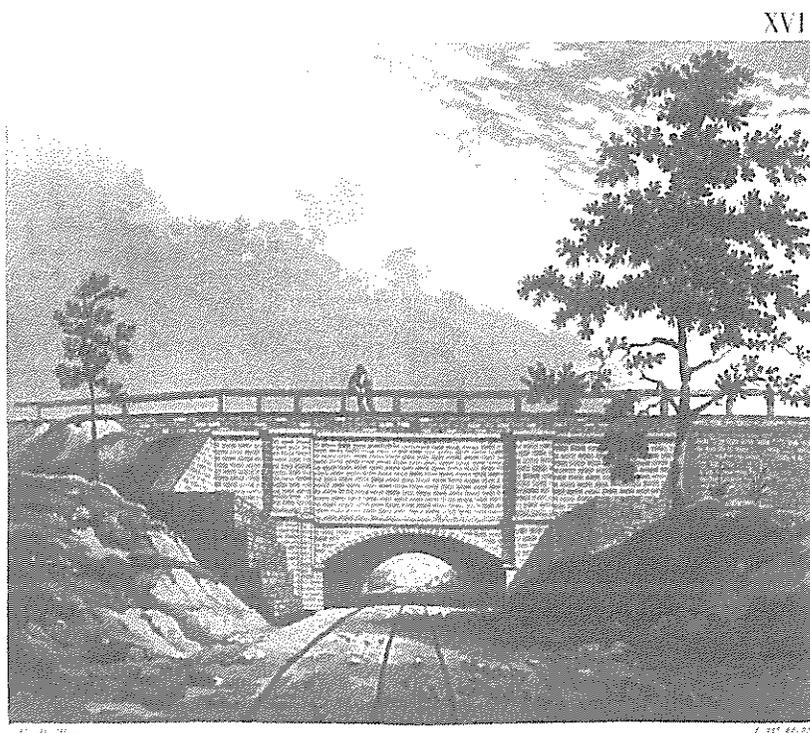
[Editor's Note: *Judging from their rate of movement down the river and other descriptions, Gordon Ross Urquhart in his Columbia dissertation, "The Architectural History of the Westchester Marble Industry" suggests this was probably Hastings.*]

Hastings' First Industry

In 1828 the land was owned by Van Brugh Livingston, who was the first to quarry white, or dolomite marble from it. At that time Hastings had not yet acquired its name, and the area was sparsely settled, mostly by farmers. On January 16, 1834, Livingston sold the quarry and approximately 15 additional acres to George Harvey for \$1,200. Harvey was an English painter and friend of Washington Irving, and he had decided to settle in Hastings to restore

his failing health. Using present-day landmarks, his estate, Woodbank, extended from Washington Avenue south to Nodine Street and from Draper Park on the east to the river on the west. It was traversed diagonally by a private road from lower Washington Avenue up to the quarry. On May 13, 1834, Harvey arranged to continue the private road across the land of Sidney Blackwell up to the Highland or New York Turnpike (now South Broadway). Locally this road was called and recorded on maps as Harvey's Lane. Irish and Scottish quarry workers who lived in Uniontown used the Lane to walk to and from work.

Along with the land and quarry, Harvey's property included a stone wharf at the foot of Washington Avenue and a quarry wharf to which an inclined railroad carried rough marble blocks down to the shore to be dressed before they were loaded on sailing ships for transport elsewhere. The path of that railway still exists, passing through tunnels under the Aqueduct and Warburton



CROTON AQUEDUCT AT HASTINGS.

1843 illustration by Fayette Tower shows the inclined railroad that brought the marble from the quarry to the waterfront and the overpass designed by John Jervis to carry the Croton Aqueduct.

An edited and updated version of an article published in the Hastings Historian in May 1985.



One of the oldest photographs in the Society's collection, this view of the quarry shows the steam engine ready to move slabs of marble down to the waterfront. If you look closely, you will see 13 men in this c.1860s photo.

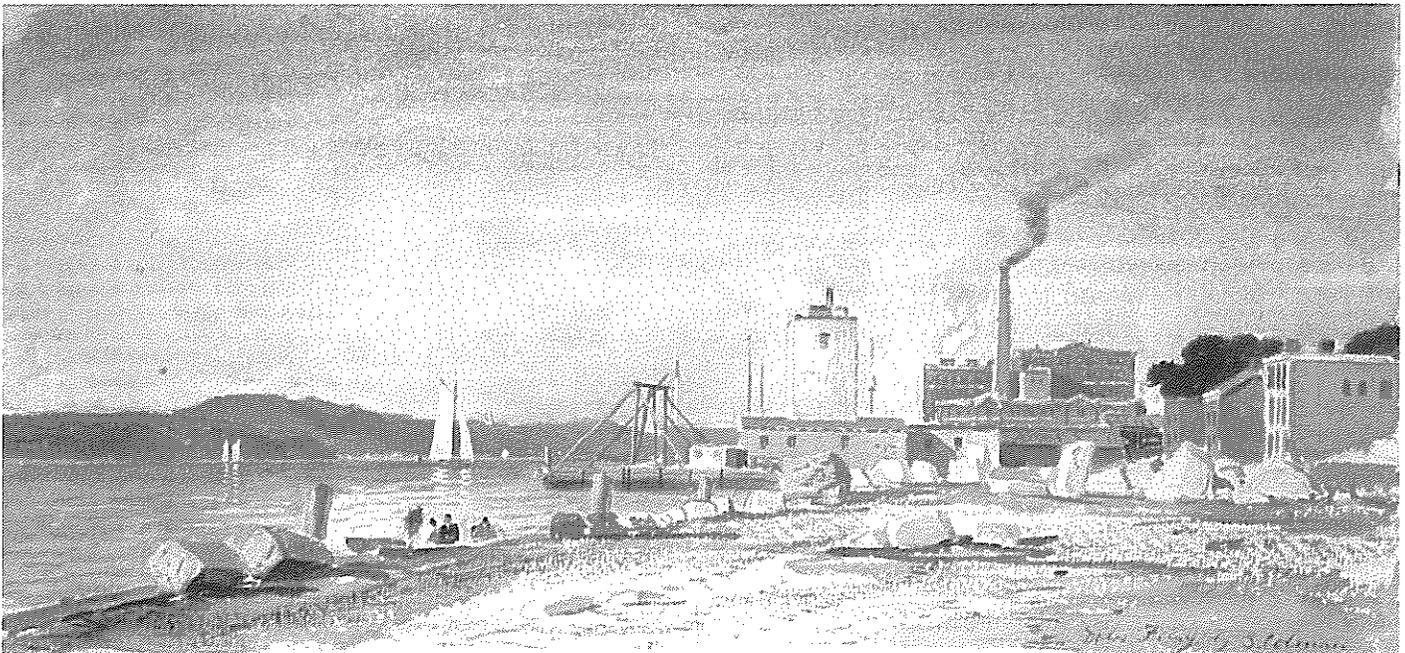
Avenue, and the village has received a grant from New York State to turn it into a public trail.

In 1838, an architect declared before the Water Commissioner of New York City that Harvey's quarry produced "the best Westchester marble." The quarry had become Hastings' first industry, but Harvey

did not supervise the operation of the quarry himself. He leased it on April 13, 1835, for ten years to a hatter from New York City, Elisha Bloomer, for \$250 a year. Bloomer constructed the inclined railroad that led straight down to the dock on the river, but Harvey paid half the expenses of fencing the quarry. Bloomer subsequently subleased

the quarry to a succession of individuals, often for as much as \$11,000. At least three men, and sometimes as many as 30, were employed as quarrymen.

On June 28, 1838, Harvey sold 1.354 acres just west of the quarry to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of New York for \$2,500. It was a



"Quarry Works, Hastings-on-Hudson," watercolor by Samuel Colman, c.1860 in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston shows the quarry dock area. In the distance is the smokestack of the Hopke sugar refinery.



The arch of Jervis's Aqueduct overpass above the inclined railway (see page 3) appears in a 1930s Langmuir photograph looking west from the top of the quarry.

long, narrow strip of land for the Croton Aqueduct that was being built to carry fresh water to New York City. The sale reserved a right-of-way for the inclined railroad, and this necessitated building a tunnel of stone under the aqueduct. In 1976 it was included in the National Register of Historic Places along with the portion of the aqueduct itself from the Yonkers/Hastings line to Cortlandt.

Harvey sold his Hastings property in 1846 to raise money to print a series of engravings of what he called "atmospheric views," landscapes he had painted in America. One of these striking watercolors, "Hastings - Landing, Palisades Rocks in Shadow," depicts the quarry dock and is now owned by the New-York Historical Society.

The Wilsons

On November 5, 1846, Henry R. Wilson of New York City signed an agreement stating his intention to buy all of Harvey's property for \$10,000. One of the witnesses to the agreement was yet another Wilson, James G., Jr. The sale was completed in June 1847. (It seems highly likely that Henry and James were related. There are references to the

"Wilson brothers" in the Society's archives.) Apparently Henry died shortly after the purchase and is not listed in the 1850 census. However, James is. He is identified as a "gentleman," and at age 32 his property was valued higher than that of any other resident in the area—at \$50,000. He was also the only resident listed as having two black servants, both of whom had been born in the South. Since there is no extant record of a purchase or sale between the Wilsons, it seems safe to assume that James inherited the land from Henry.

Hastings Marble Used Far and Wide

By 1855, the quarry operation had become the Westchester Iron Company and was still Hastings' principal industry. The Greek revival style of architecture with its marble columns was popular, and white marble was in great demand. Marble Collegiate Church, built in 1852-54 in New York City, and the Court House in Richmond, Virginia, are reported to have been made of Hastings' stone. Marble Collegiate Church architect Samuel A. Warner wrote that Hastings stone was chosen because of its "whiteness,"

which was "in stark contrast with the darker stone in more general use." The Custom House in Charleston, South Carolina, was also made of Hastings' marble, and it is known that its construction was interrupted during the Civil War.

Some of the marble from the quarry stayed in Hastings. The large marble house that until the mid-1960s stood above the vest pocket park located south of 410 Warburton Avenue was known as Harvey's Castle or the Marble Castle. Nearby at 13 Division Street is a marble house that was once the caretaker's cottage. A former Harvey barn is now a house at 2 Marble Terrace. It has been extensively altered over the years, but the marble first story is clearly evident.

Another local house built of the quarry's marble is Oakledge at 243 South Broadway. It was constructed by John William Draper in 1852 as a cottage for his sister, Catherine Draper. In 1919 it was purchased from the Draper family by Dr. Langmuir, a chemist, who made extensive renovations and improvements. During the late 1850s, Jehiel Read had a dolomite marble house with a tower built on his estate, Shado-Lawn. Nearby, Thomas Fraser erected another large marble home, Lovat. Further south, on the site of the present-day Andrus on Hudson Home, Dr. Anthony Gescheidt had a marble mansion that became the famous Longue Vue Restaurant.

Wheeling and Dealing

On January 1, 1856, James G. Wilson, Jr. sold the quarry to the Westchester Marble Company, an Ossining firm, which five months later leased it. During the following years, many leases, agreements, and contracts were signed and quickly broken. The property changed hands frequently, often between the same parties, in what looks like some form of money laundering. For example, on January 19, 1857, the Westchester Marble Works sold the quarry railroad and wharf back to James Wilson,

and two days later Wilson sold the property—which included a marble mill, coal house, machine and stone-cutting shops, engines, machines, and a lime kiln—to Joseph T. Bates for \$200,000. An additional three acres with a house and store near the waterfront went for another \$50,000. The following day, January 22, Bates transferred everything back to James Wilson for \$50,000 plus \$175,000 worth of mortgages. In March, Wilson and his wife sold all their land except the store and dwelling to the Hastings Marble Company, of which Wilson was president, for 2,498 shares of stock plus \$1.00. Obviously, financial shenanigans were as common then as now. At this time the quarry was employing 50 to 100 men, who were preparing marble for the Custom House in Charleston.

Bad luck or poor business judgment caught up with James Wilson on April 4, 1859, when the Anchor Insurance Company of New York City foreclosed on two mortgages. Charles T. Cromwell of Manursing Island then entered the story as a plaintiff before the Supreme Court in the City Hall of Brooklyn against defendants James Wilson, the Hastings Marble Company, and others. The Court ordered the defendants' property be sold at an auction in White Plains, and in September

the Anchor Insurance Company bought the quarry, inclined railroad, and two waterfront parcels together with their shops, lime kiln, stables, and equipment. At the same time Cromwell invested a sizable sum in redeemable stock of Anchor Insurance, most of which was to be repaid from the proceeds of the quarry.

But this arrangement did not prove satisfactory, perhaps because the Civil War disrupted the quarry business. On June 11, 1862, Cromwell filed a suit against Anchor Insurance at the Supreme Court in White Plains. The Court directed the sheriff to auction the property to the highest bidder, who turned out to be Cromwell. For \$6,350 he acquired the quarry, its waterfront acreage, and the railroad. Three years later he leased the quarry to a Mr. Smith who, in turn, subleased it to William and John Sands.

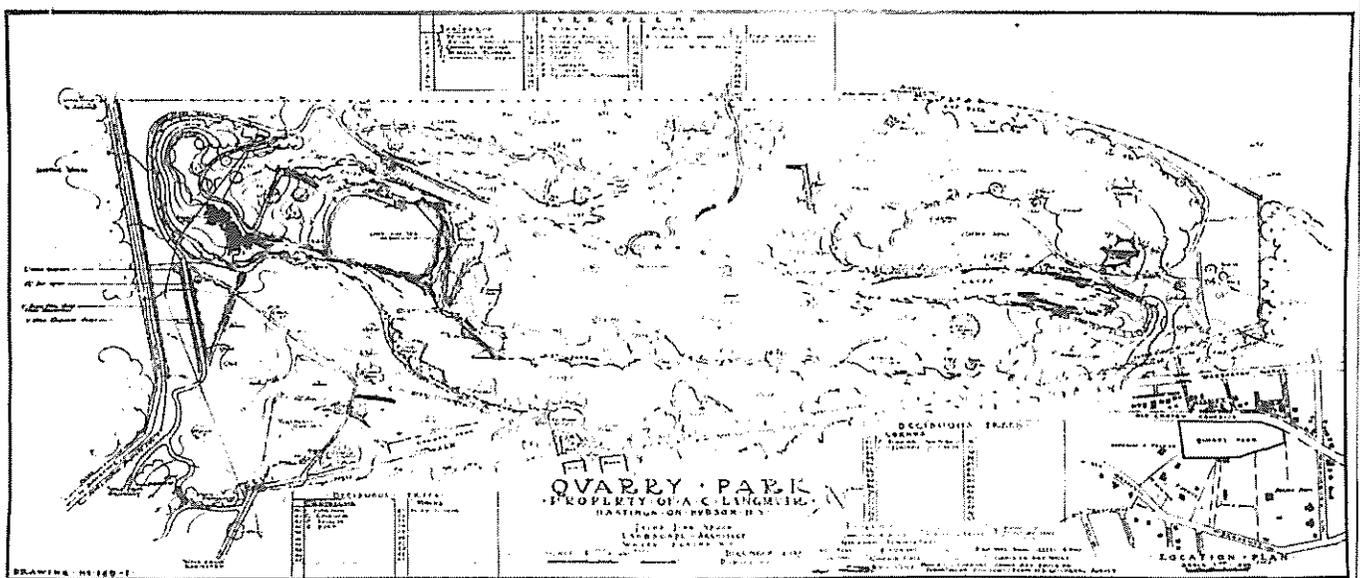
End of Quarrying

In 1870 Professor John W. Draper, whose property—including present-day Draper Park—abutted the east side of the quarry, filed a suit against Cromwell and the Sands for damages caused by blasting. The final blow came on March 29, 1871. A portion of the eastern wall collapsed and let loose a rock slide of an estimated 2,000 tons of

earth and stone. The *Yonkers Statesman* reported that nine quarrymen "fled from the scene just in time to escape a most shocking death. So sudden was the fall that some of the men did not have time to secure their coats." A four-foot high, two and a half-foot thick stone wall along the Draper boundary tumbled into the vast hole as did a wide strip of land. Two months later, on June 9, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Draper and ordered a perpetual injunction against further dangerous blasting. The Sands had to pay \$600 in damages plus \$363.75 for the plaintiff's legal fees and other costs. The complaint against Cromwell was dismissed, but he had to pay one half of the referee's fee.

Over the ensuing years the abandoned quarry filled with water and had to be fenced to keep roaming goats from falling in. At Cromwell's death, the land passed to his children, who on May 1, 1899, sold the quarry and 575-foot long and 15-foot wide railroad right-of-way known as Quarry Road to the National Conduit Company for \$67,000.

National Conduit wanted the fresh water in the quarry for a cooling process and laid pipes along the former inclined railroad to transport the water down to its new factory



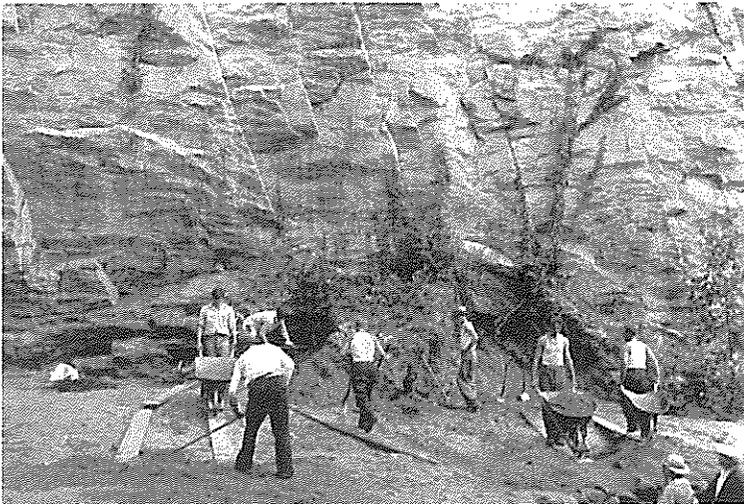
A Quarry Park plan commissioned by Langmuir identifying the trees and various formations in the proposed park.

Transforming the Quarry

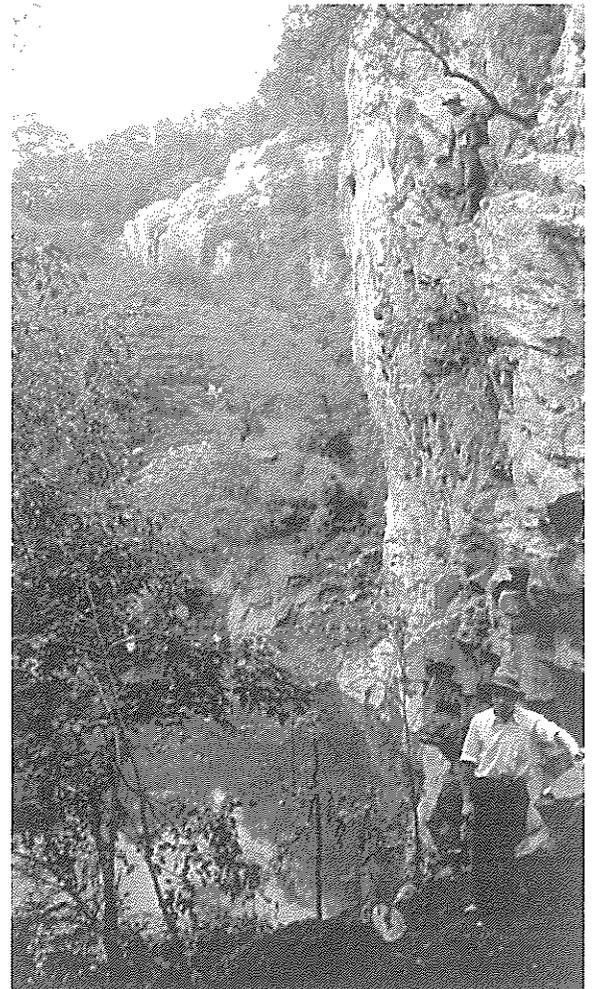


The "Quarry Gang," September 1936

Standing, left to right: Frank Konnick, Richard Ryan, George Brennan, Harry Dunne, Nicholas Boland, Emory Gavacs, Joseph Grady, Mike Zabronick, John Quinn, and Dennis Fitzpatrick. Seated: Andrew Ryan, foreman. All photos by A. C. Langmuir.



Above: Workmen remove debris from the base of the east cliff for grading, August 1936. Below: Placing a stone seat in Quarry Park, September 1936.



Pulling poison ivy from the quarry wall. Mike Zabronick (at top), and Andrew Ryan (below).

on the waterfront. In 1922 National Conduit defaulted on its mortgage payments, and the waterfront property and quarry were acquired by American Brass, which on January 2, 1930, joined the recently formed Anaconda Wire and Cable Company.

Dr. A. C. Langmuir bought the quarry from Anaconda on March 28, 1936, and began transforming it into a scenic park. Anaconda, however, reserved the right to use the water in the pond. On September 7 of the following year, Anaconda purchased Quarry Road and its pipes from American Brass, its subsidiary.

After he had beautified the quarry, Dr. Langmuir offered it to a botanical research center, the Boyce Thompson Institute of Yonkers, but the offer was refused. He then tried to give it to the Village of Hastings, but it, too, refused his offer. Oddly enough, there is no record of any public discussion of this offer in the minutes of the Village Board of Trustees, although there is one sentence to the effect that a letter from Dr. Langmuir giving facts about the quarry and Draper Park was read. No doubt the Trustees felt the problems of maintaining and policing the park would have been too expensive a burden. Then, too, there were the dangers of people falling off the cliffs or drowning in the pond.

Dr. Langmuir died on May 14, 1941, and his widow two years later. Her will gave Quarry Park to Andrew Ryan, who had been the Langmuir's chief gardener for many years. He tried to raise chickens there, but the project failed. He then attempted to grow nursery stock, but that venture

failed, too. Finally on May 29, 1950, Ryan sold the property to Quarry Realty Corp. of 740 St. Nicholas Avenue in Manhattan and used part of the money to take his family on a trip to Ireland.

The president of Quarry Park Realty was a West Indian doctor, Walter Winter. He envisioned constructing an apartment house and private home on the site but immediately encountered difficulties that proved to be insurmountable. The worst problem was one of access, for the quarry was landlocked, and Dr. Winter could not get an ease-

\$20,000. The purchase was completed on February 18, 1964. The quarry was then about 900 feet long and 150 feet deep from the top of the eastern cliff. Some local children had been told that the pond was "bottomless"; in fact it was about 35 feet.

Slowly the once-beautiful quarry filled up with rusty bed springs, tires, discarded mattresses, used stoves, and other detritus until it was almost level with the aqueduct.

The quarry's past has not been completely forgotten. In 1977 the Village Conservation Commission called for it to be restored to a park "when its capacity for refuse is reached.... The Old Croton Aqueduct provides foot-trail and bicycle access. It will be a pretty place, smelling of honeysuckle and hawthorne, when no longer a dump. It rings even now with the music of mockingbirds and cardinals."

No park was ever built.



Photo by Charlotte Fahn

Gates to the Quarry, March 2005.

ment without which he could not lay water, sewage, or electric lines. Another problem was that the area was zoned for single-family housing.

Slow Demise of the Quarry

As the years passed and the village grew, waste disposal became a matter of concern. In 1963, the abandoned quarry caught the eye of the village manager, Ward Wright, and he and Hastings resident Gisbert Flanz explored it one day. They found it an ideal spot to dispose of dry waste (no raw garbage). The Board of Trustees agreed and passed a resolution authorizing the village to purchase the site for

Postscript: In recent years efforts of the quarry's neighbors and other concerned citizens have renewed interest in making the unique site a place to be used by the entire community. The question under discussion now is: how will it be used?

Notes

The information for this article was based on materials in the Historical Society archive, the Westchester County Mortgage and Land Records, notes made by former Village historian Harold R. Harvey, and the 1850 U.S. Census.

Social Life at Quarry Park

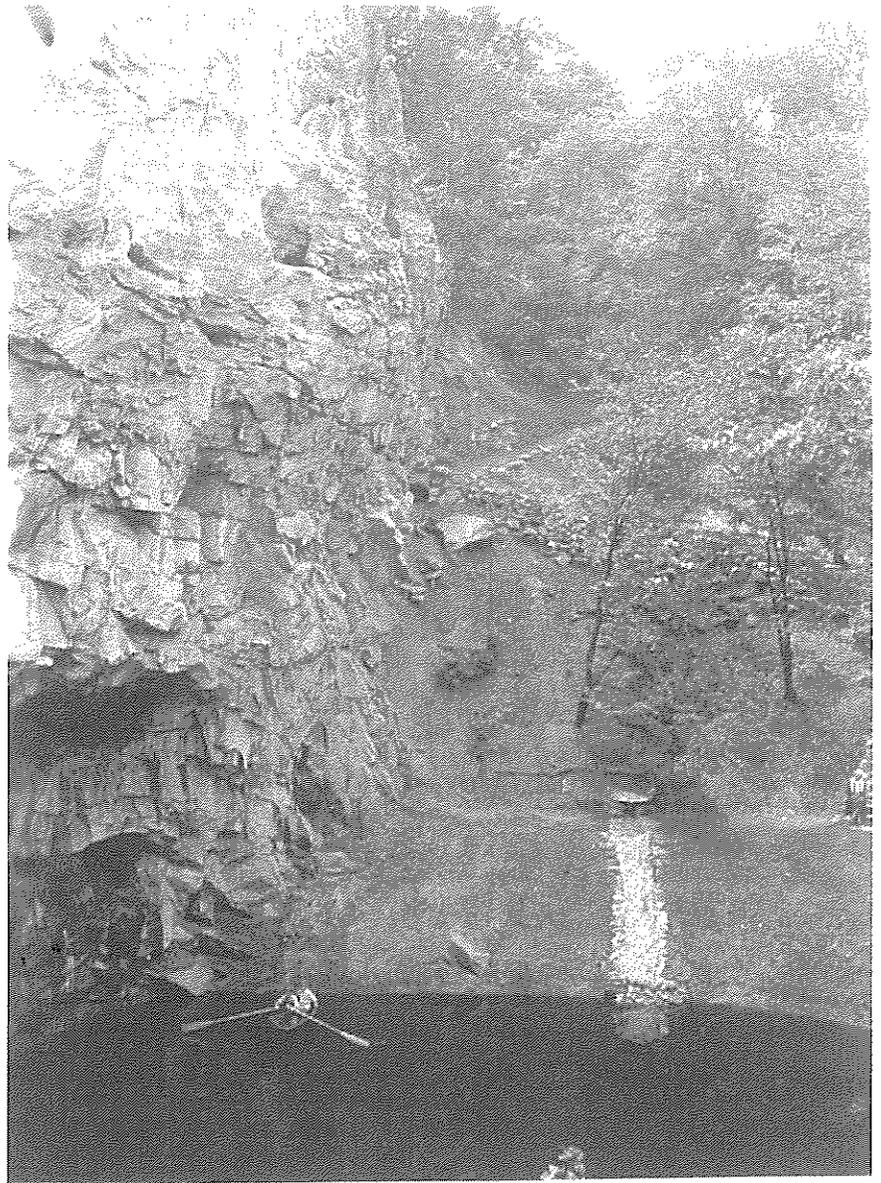
David Willis McCullough

The garden party invitation, printed in New York City in 1938, ends: “Bring cup and spoon; our hosts will serve coffee and soup.”

The invitation began with instruction to take the New York Central Railroad to Glenwood, then follow the Croton Aqueduct three miles north to the “Quarry Bird Sanctuary.” There Dr. and Mrs. Langmuir would provide a tour of their garden, a stereopticon show of local sights and—for those who came prepared—coffee and soup.

The Langmuirs’ garden in Hastings wasn’t the usual suburban collection of rocks, marigolds and ornamental hedges, but a five acre former marble quarry with stone walks, rare plants, benches, a cave or two, a pond usually described as “bottomless,” and a rowboat called the *Queen Mary*. Langmuir was a chemist and brother of Nobel Prize winning chemist Irving Langmuir. He lived in a marble house on the former Draper estate. He had several compulsions. One was to make a detailed, annotated photographic record of his village (which is today the core of the Historical Society’s giant photo archive), and another was to beautify and preserve the surroundings of an earlier Hastings chemist, John William Draper. This included “improving” the stone quarry that Draper himself succeeded in shutting down in the 1870s because its explosions and landslides were a threat to both the neighborhood and the readings of the delicate scientific instruments in his and his sons’ laboratories and observatories.

During the height of the Depression Langmuir combined his obsessions with good works by hiring out-of-work laborers to clean up the village (or at least parts of it) and later landscape the old marble quarry (which he bought in 1936) while he photographed the whole thing. In the end he had a beautiful, expensive showplace he called



Children out for a ride in the Queen Mary on “Lake Superior.”

Quarry Park that he opened to the public and frequently used for fund-raising events for local charities such as the Westchester County Children’s Association, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Hastings PTA Scholarship Fund. A 1936 garden party sponsored by The Women’s Club and the Garden Club was destined, according to the *Hastings News*, to “go down in the history of Hastings as one of the important events of this summer.” Nearly 200 people attended. About

\$100 was raised, and for many it was the first time they had seen the quarry since its transformation. The high point of the day was said to be rides around the pond in the *Queen Mary*.

In 1941, Lynne Polowitz, a columnist in the *News* whose memories of the quarry was of a place to play hooky from school, marveled at how much Langmuir and what she described as a crew of 12 men had accomplished in three years of hard work. She named some of the

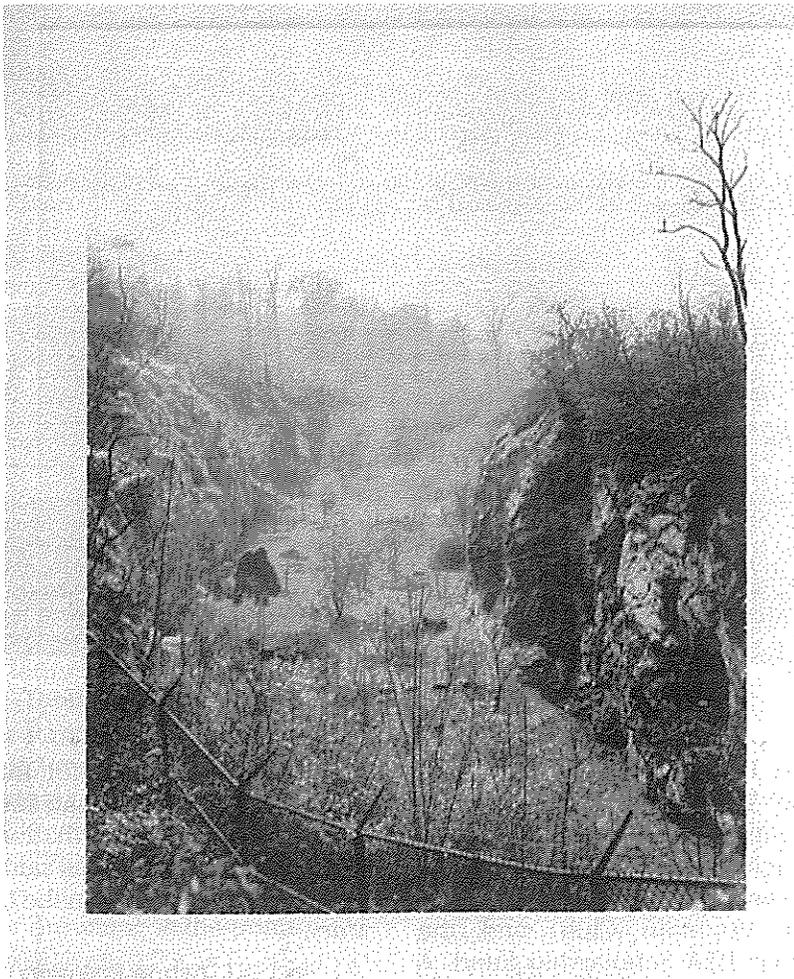


men, all from Hastings: George Brennan, Dick Ryan, Frank Konnick, Emory Gavacs, Mike Zabronick, Martin Walsh and Jim Cassidy. She gushed over the hundreds of new trees, the bank of rambling roses along the ledge below the aqueduct, the new paths, a picturesque grotto, a natural amphitheater, and the clear water in the pond. "These are what the old hooky place has been turned into... and the old, old urge and lust for wide open sky is still there."

In a letter to the *News* earlier that year, however, Langmuir himself was a little less lyrical. He pointed out that new signs had been posted saying that park hours were limited to 1:30 to 4:30 PM and only on Saturdays and that unaccompanied children were not permitted. Blasting for new storm drains on Broadway had weakened the quarry walls, he wrote, causing several rockslides. It was no longer safe for children to climb without supervision.

He added, "Visitors reaching the lake at the foot of the cliff, which is called Lake Superior because it is the largest lake in Hastings, may notice that the little skiff named for the leviathan *Queen Mary* has disappeared. Boys climbing over the seven foot Cyclone 'Invincible' fence at Quarry Road and Aqueduct bombarded the boat from rocks pried out of a dry wall, and to avoid further damage the boat has been removed to a safe place."

Lynne Polowitz concluded her column—actually something of an obituary for Langmuir, who had died in May—by writing: "Dr. Langmuir, who financed and supervised the work on the park, is no more.. We wish that before he died we had been able to thank him for the swell job he did on our old haunt."



Christmas Greetings

Arthur and Alice Langmuir

Left, above: *Children climb the wall Langmuir called "the Quarry Grotto."*

Left, below: *The Langmuirs' 1936 Christmas card showing the view of the quarry from Draper Park.*

Notes from Observatory Cottage

From the President

Barbara N. Thompson

Here we are with the first *Historian* of the 2005 membership year. The quarry is currently a hot issue here in Hastings, with a wealth of opinions about what should be the future of this large village-owned open space. Recently Fred Hubbard, our village naturalist, led a group of curious residents around the property, and several in the group reminisced about its past. Peter Capuano remembered climbing a rope to get up to a cave where he and other local boys enjoyed the distance and privacy away from adults. The Historical Society's fine collection of photographs taken by Dr. Langmuir when the area was a horticultural landmark was also mentioned.

At the Society we are happy to report that all the writing and photos for The Museum In The Streets project have been sent to Patrick Cardon, who will supervise the production of the 35 informational signs and two map signs. We are grateful to those of you who sent additional contributions toward this endeavor along with your dues as well as to several long-time supporters who made substantial gifts. In early fall we expect to notify one and all when the history walking tour is up and running.

Fatima Mahdi continues to work relentlessly on digitizing our collection, and the speed with which she is able to locate information from all areas of our building about the subjects she has already covered is amazing. We are all excited at the prospect of continuing this fine work with the dollars generated by the upcoming three-year capital campaign, the Mary Allison Archive Project. You will be hearing more on this subject before long.

Save the date—MAY 1st — Join us in the Orr Room at the Hastings Library for the Archives Project Kick-off. (See page 12.)



Virginia McGuire in 1986.

Virginia Andrus McGuire, 96, died on January 22. As one of the Society's first archivists, she played a major role in turning a closet full of artifacts, books, and other historical materials into a working research source and establishing a method for it to expand into what it is today. The archive room of our former headquarters in the cottage on Washington Avenue was named in her honor.

Anyone who has used the Society's archive files has encountered Virginia in a more personal way. Scattered through them are little notes signed "VM." Most of them suggest ways of finding additional information on the subject at hand. But some are gentle prods to get to work and do more research and usually suggested avenues of exploring.

Archive Activity

Muriel Olsson

We are expecting a visit from a Pennsylvania geologist who is researching the life and work of Carlotta Maury (1874-1938), granddaughter of John William Draper. A professor of paleontology at Columbia University, Carlotta was the first woman to participate in a U.S. Geological Survey.

Former employees of Anaconda have been assisting us in identifying people in photographs. We would welcome more help from anyone interested.

A high school senior is doing

an independent study on the Korean War. He is going to do oral histories with veterans and is hoping to learn about the Hastings homefront at that time.

We are meeting with eighth-grade students interested in our Dan Rile Award project. Last year we had three students participate; this year we are pleased to have seven.

A great-nephew of Jasper Cropsey, Peter Cropsey Smith, visited the Society's headquarters. Mr. Smith teaches at Masters School in Dobbs Ferry.

Recent Acquisitions

Gabriele Speyer

Hastings Youth Council memorabilia from 1996-2004 including photographs, display board, articles, programs and posters; Records of the Committee for Good Schools, 1979-1987. —*Denise Rosenberg*

History of the Palisades Boat Club and photographs. —*Elizabeth McGinnis*

Middle States Evaluation Reports and studies, c.1940s-1950s. —*Hastings High School*

1960s Hastings baseball memorabilia: photographs, yearbooks, newspaper articles. —*John Antku*

Mother's Club history, memorabilia and programs. —*Frances Ravinsky*

Book: *The Unending Mystery, A Journey through Labyrinths and Mazes* by the donor. —*David Willis McCullough*

Hastings Historian

Published quarterly by the Hastings Historical Society, 407 Broadway, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

Editors: David Willis McCullough, Barbara McManus, and Jennifer Stern

Staff Photographer: Gabriele Speyer

Join Us on Sunday, May 1st to Kick-Off the Mary Allison Archive Project Campaign

Open House: 2 to 4 p.m.

Orr Room Hastings Public Library

- Hear about the Society's exciting new effort to create a computerized database of its holdings and how this will benefit all who seek information about our village's past
- Learn about the Historical Society's vast collections of historical materials relating to Hastings, including photos, documents, artifacts, artworks, and oral histories
- Meet Society archivist Muriel Olsson, database designer Fatima Mahdi, and other Society officers and trustees involved in this effort
- Enjoy delicious refreshments with others who share your interest in Hastings history
- Become part of our effort to preserve Hastings' past for the future.



1915 view of Main Street from the Five Corners. Note the trolley tracks running down the middle of the unpaved street.

The *Hastings Historian* (ISSN#1092-7506) is published quarterly by the Hastings Historical Society, 407 Broadway, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706. The Hastings Historical Society was established in 1971 and is chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, and disseminate the history of Hastings-on-Hudson to members and the public.

OFFICERS: Barbara Thompson (*President and Corresponding Secretary*), Mary Ellen Fischer (*Vice President*), Jean Glus (*Treasurer*), Nancy Caruso (*Recording Secretary*). TRUSTEES: Coleman Barkin, George Baronian, Louise Brown, Evelyn Drewes, Janet Gustafson, Joan Kassebaum, Edward Krack, David Willis McCullough, Barbara McManus, Janet Murphy, Muriel Olsson, Beth Smith, Sue Smith, Gabriele Speyer, and Jennifer Stern. **Cottage Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or by appointment.** Telephone: (914) 478-2249. Subscription to the *Hastings Historian* is included in membership dues: General, \$20.00; Supporting, \$35.00; Business/Professional/Corporate, \$50.00. All articles, queries, and replies should be addressed to the editors, David Willis McCullough, Barbara J. McManus, and Jennifer Stern. ©2005 Hastings Historical Society. Reproduction without permission prohibited.

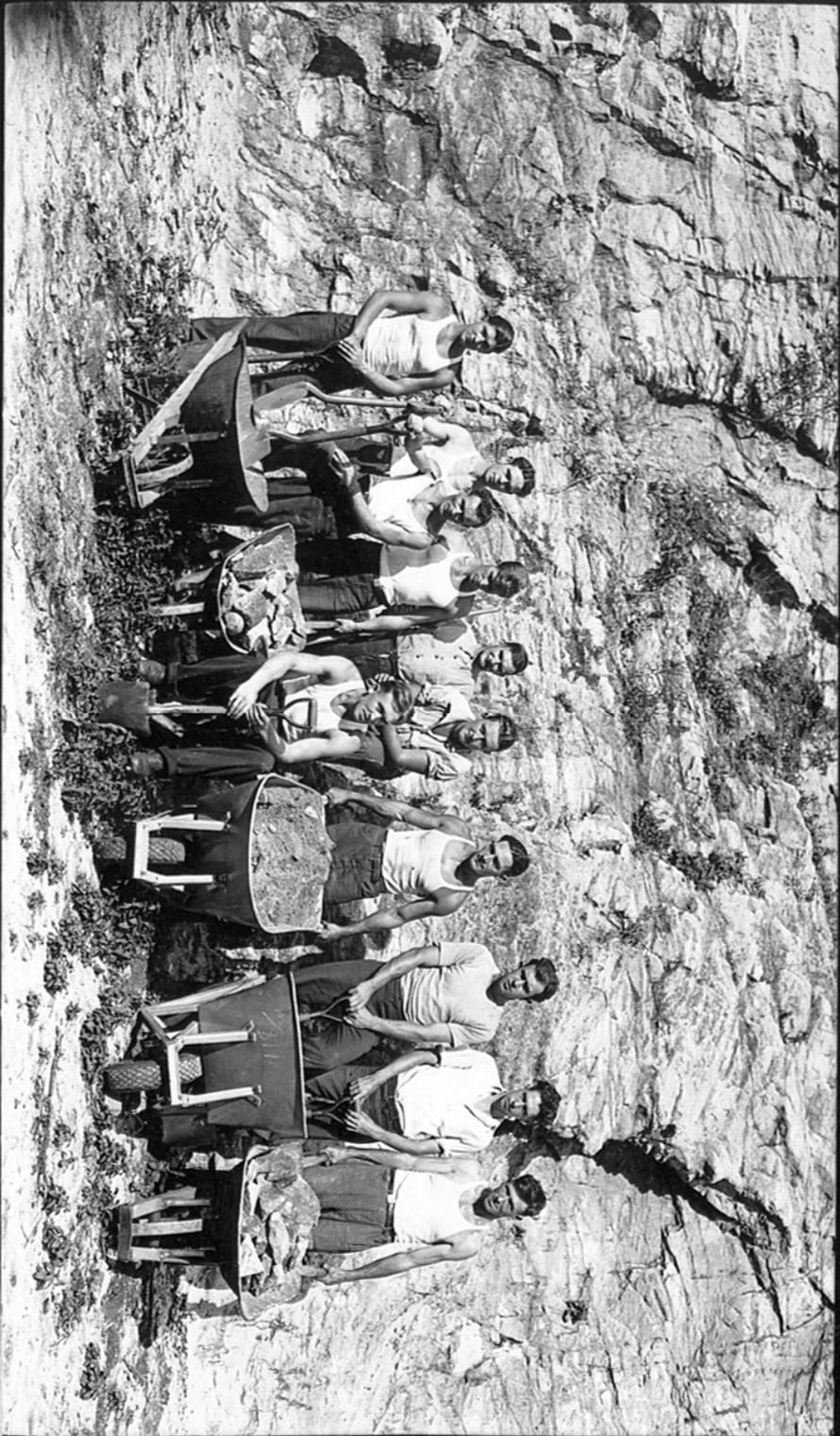
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Appendix 4: Historic Photos and Newspaper Articles from Hasting Historical Society Archives. Photos By Arthur C. Langmuir, 1934-7.





9-22-36
QUARRY GANG









County's First Quarry Park To Be Developed In Hastings

Dr. Langmuir Reveals Intention To Transform Abandoned Tract Into Garden Spot—Will Present Finished Wood To Village—Work Is Under Way

Special to The Herald Statesman
HASTINGS - ON - HUDSON, Mar. 31.—In his recent purchase of the abandoned quarry south of Washington Avenue, Dr. Arthur C. Langmuir revealed today that he expects to develop the site into Westchester's first quarry park and probably the first of its kind in the Eastern part of the country.

Not only will Dr. Langmuir, the village's unofficial park commissioner, beautify the five and a half acre tract, a section of which adjoins his property on the west, but in a few years he expects to dedicate the "finished" enclosure to the village.

By that time, using the quarry parks in Paris as models, Dr. Langmuir plans to have gardens cultivated on the level areas, hundreds of shrubs and evergreens thriving, walks laid out, and the lake beautified, which is expected to attract birds and possibly be a bird sanctuary as well.

The historic quarry is designated as a future park area on the "official village map" which Dr. Langmuir as a member of the Planning Commission helped to draw. Because of the expense attached to the construction of Ravine Park and the Parking Plaza in 1931, the village could not afford to develop its park areas further. Both of these improvements were advocated by Dr. Langmuir.

The sale of the quarry to Dr. Langmuir was consummated in the past few days in a deal arranged through William A. Whittaker, manager of the Anaconda Wire and Cable Company, owner of the site. As members of the Hastings Rotary Club and having interests centering on park development the two men arranged the transaction, Dr. Langmuir said.

Price Not Disclosed

The Anaconda firm still retains the water rights. No figures were divulged as to the sale price. The property is assessed at approximately \$5,000. The tract has a 900-foot frontage on the Croton aqueduct on the west and borders Draper Memorial Park, the Draper estates and the properties of Dr. Langmuir and Lawrence Tasker, former division manager of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, on the east side.

Dr. Langmuir is having a six-foot cyclone fence erected around the entire tract. Another fence, five feet in height, will be built at the top of the cliff from where there is a drop of 150 feet into the lake filling the base of the quarry. The lake receives the water in a natural drainage area from 10 to 15 acres of surrounding property. It measures 100 by 50 feet and is 20 feet in depth.

Dr. Langmuir hopes that with

cultivation the property will produce a reasonable supply of shrubs and trees to be transplanted in other sections of the village and that the park can contain the "village nursery."

Small plants are to be placed with shrubs, holly, hemlocks, evergreens, dogwood, forsythia, Japanese quince, small trees, vines to cover the jutting rocks and other innumerable assortments.

When he presents the park to the village, Dr. Langmuir will only request that it be maintained properly. He will suggest that a custodian be assigned there. Since the site offers a splendid view of the river as far north as the highlands, Dr. Langmuir said he might place a sunhouse on the cliff.

Sloops carried marble quarried here to various parts of the country. The Customs House at Charleston, S. C., and the Public Market at New Orleans were built of Hastings marble.

Many of the old substantial stone houses here were built of Hastings marble. Among those still in existence, Dr. Langmuir recalled, are Lovat, the home of the Fraser family on South Broadway; the Bille Burke Ziegfeld house at Burkley Crest; Longue Vue, a former estate; the Longstreet home, and others in the vicinity of Marble Terrace, and his own home.

Approximately 100 years ago, a man named Harvey owned the quarry site, but most of the quarrying was done under Cronwell, his successor. A road between the quarry and the river allowed the marble slabs to be transferred easily on the sloops docking here.

Quarrying was halted in 1870 when a heavy blast rocked the home of Dr. John W. Draper, scientist, who obtained a court injunction that halted further blasting and stopped operations.



← Note the man, removing Porosin Ivy.

Looking North across the Lake in the Quarry.



Looking South into the Quarry from Draper Park. The cliffs are at this time, June 1936 covered with Porosin Ivy which was all removed during the Summer.

Hastings To Get Quarry Park As Eventual Gift From Owner

Thousands of Trees, Bushes and Shrubs Planted by Dr. Langmuir, Who Plans To Turn Site Over To Village—Plot Draws Birds 1936

Special to The Herald Statesman
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, July 31.
—Thousands of trees, bushes and shrubs have been planted in Quarry Park by its owner, Dr. Arthur C. Langmuir, who plans eventually to turn the site over to the village.

Nature will now have to take its course in beautifying the grounds, the owner said. The entire area which adjoins Dr. Langmuir's estate and Draper Park has been enclosed by a sturdy fence to allow the plantings to grow unhampered.

The abandoned quarry site is already attracting more birds and eventually the area will be a bird sanctuary, Dr. Langmuir said. He pointed out that there is more food available, the place is quiet, there is no shooting and no one to trespass within the fence and hurl stones at the wild animal life within the five and a half acre enclosure.

The entire upper area has been grubbed over, Dr. Langmuir said. Three tree nurseries have been laid out. He has already planted 2,000 small trees, 1,000 rose bushes and 800 shrubs.

In the Fall plans will be made to transplant the small trees. Dr. Langmuir deplored the condition of the park now without any evergreens. To beautify the lake at the south end of the property and 200 feet beneath the cliff, Dr. Langmuir has cleared the underbrush and is having stone steps carved in the quarry rock.

Eventually the site will serve the village as a nursery. Dr. Langmuir has opened the area only to recognized and controlled groups. The Hastings Garden Club held a recent pilgrimage there and the Hastings Rotary Club will inspect the premises in September.

A gang of six men has been working steadily on the premises for the past four months under Dr. Langmuir's employ. At times, however, he has increased the number to ten men.

Wherever possible nature's master creations are being emphasized. An amphitheatre has been constructed at the north end of the Quarry. It juts out from a natural grotto of marble which ceilings it.

A walk, one morning this week with Dr. Langmuir, up and down the newly made paths disclosed the amazing amount of work, skill and thought that has already gone into the development of the park which Hastings will one day point to with great pride.



Before
apr. 1936

The Quarry



From the same position. The fence is along the Nye Draper property
after
aug. 1936

Here There And Everywhere

By Gertrude Willen *Sept 16 1936*

Have you been walking on the aqueduct these recent mornings? Yes? Then have you noticed the heavenly blue morning glories climbing all over the quarry's wire fences like bright, spirited children frolicking in the September sun?

The morning glories are only a colorful introduction to what one may see in several summers hence behind the fences. For in back of those enclosures civic-minded Dr. A. C. Langmuir, with his own funds, is developing Quarry Park, which he expects to present to the people of Hastings once his work has been completed.

Already rambler rose bushes, five feet apart, have been planted close to the fence and these will ramble over the wiring in June as a prelude to the fall morning glory. As if inspired a crew of vigorous young men are obeying Dr. Langmuir's instructions and are building walls where necessary from the quarry's stones. They are clearing paths, removing poison ivy and are planting trees and bushes.

A nursery, filled with 2,000 infant trees and shrubs, is rearing pines, spruces, hemlocks and roses for transplanting at planned points.

Creation of garden spots throughout the park is being left to Mrs. Langmuir, whose success in growing flowers and grouping colors is enviable.

The high point of the entire scene is the majestic mountains of marble which rise above an emerald lake.

All this, we hope, will be Hastings' own one future day. May she deserve, preserve and keep it from harm.

Hastings Rotarians And Wives Are Guests At Saturday Lunch

1936

Special to The Herald Statesman
HASTINGS - ON - HUDSON, Sept.
28.—Twenty-five members of the
Hastings Rotary Club and their
wives attended a luncheon at the
home of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur C.
Langmuir on South Broadway Sat-
urday afternoon.

After the luncheon, Dr. Lang-
muir led his guests on a tour of
inspection of Quarry Park, a tract
of land surrounding an abandoned
quarry which Dr. Langmuir has
purchased and is landscaping in
preparation to presenting it to the
village for a future park site.

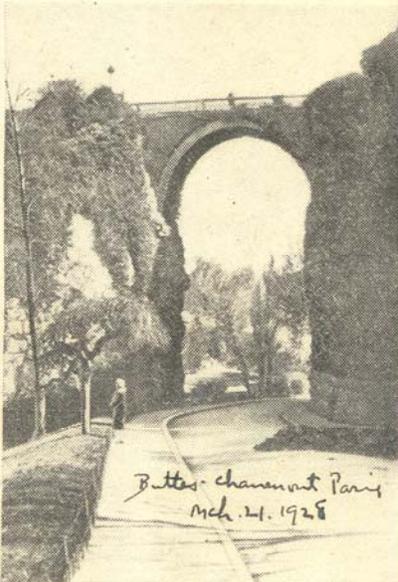
His guests were taken for a row-
boat ride in the skiff, "Queen
Mary" on "Lake Superior," a small
body of water at the base of the
quarry. Among the guests were
Thomas F. Reynolds, Parkway
Safety Director, and an honorary
member of the Rotary Club; for-
mer Mayor Henry D. Cochrane and
Frank Copley of New York City,
a former member of the club.

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WESTCHESTER—BRONX SECTION OF THE NEW YORK EVE

TO FIGHT U. S. INTER QUARRY 'FACIAL' BRINGS PARIS HERE

april 5, 1926



Buttes Chaumont Paris
Mch. 21, 1928

HASTINGS QUARRY TODAY
Paris will be brought to Westchester when Dr. Arthur C. Langmuir converts an abandoned quarry in Hastings-on-Hudson into a replica of famous Buttes Chaumont Park. The two pictures represent the

HOW IT WILL LOOK IN PART
plans of Dr. Langmuir to beautify his town. The photo on the right shows one of the beauty spots in the Paris park. Arrow on left points to man at bottom of quarry. Pictures from International News

Engineer Changes Quarry Into Garden

Dr. Arthur C. Langmuir, retired chemical engineer and brother of Nobel prize winner, Irving Langmuir, visited Paris recently and was struck by the beauty of the Buttes Chaumont Park and the abandoned quarry that had been transformed into a bird sanctuary and public garden.

Today Dr. Langmuir was transforming one of the worst eyesores in Westchester into the same type of park. He purchased the old quarry south of Washington ave., in the center of Hastings-on-Hudson, where he lives, and after completing the development will give it to the village.

"Westchester is filled with old quarries that nobody seems to

know how to handle," Dr. Langmuir said.

"If my experiment is successful I believe many of the horrible appearing places will be taken over by villages and cities for transformation into parks of extraordinary charm."

Marble was first taken from the Hastings quarry more than a century ago. It was used to erect the nearby home of the late Florenz Ziegfeld and some was used in building as far distant as the public market in New Orleans and the Customs House at Charleston.

In 1872 operations were halted because a village had grown around the site and a blast wrecked the home of Dr. John W. Draper, scientist and traveler.

Dr. Langmuir, whose philanthropic interest in Hastings affairs has been previously demonstrated, proposes to spend thousands of dollars before turning the property over to the village.

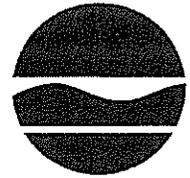
He obtained five acres and workmen today were erecting a high fence around it.

"We must keep dogs and destructive children out for a while if we are to grow things," he said.

"In the center is a lake that will be developed. Around it we shall have flowering shrubs, evergreens and plants of all kinds. Vines will be trained to grow on the high jagged cliffs."

Appendix 5: Letter from DEC to Village of Hastings Re: Quarry

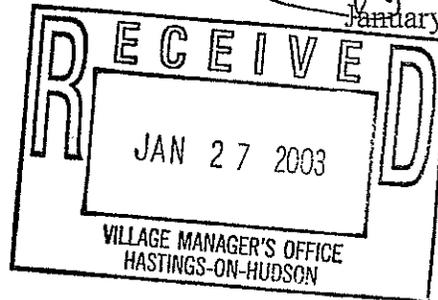
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials, Region 3
200 White Plains Road – 5th Floor, Tarrytown, New York 10591-5805
Phone: (914) 332-1835 • FAX: (914) 332-4670
Website: www.dec.state.ny.us



Erin M. Crotty
Commissioner

cc: MAYOR AND BOARD
FUI
January 24, 2003

VILLAGE MANAGER NEIL HESS
VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON
7 MAPLE AVENUE
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY 10706



Re: October 15th Village Landfill Report

Dear Mr. Hess:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Landfill Report on October 15, 2003. The Report recommends regrading the eastern and southeastern side slopes of the landfill during construction of the Quarry Trail connecting the Old Croton Aqueduct with the Hastings Hudson River waterfront. The DEC has no objections to this recommendation provided the following conditions are strictly satisfied:

1. Prior Notification: Please notify the DEC and the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) at least five (5) working days prior to regrading any portion of the waste disposal area. The notification may be provided by e-mail, telephone, or conventional mail.
2. Landfill Side Slope Final Grades: The southern and southeastern portions of the landfill must be graded to a maximum slope no greater than one foot vertical for every three horizontal feet (33% slope) pursuant to Part 360-2.17(b)(2).
3. Landfill Cover Materials: A minimum of two feet of clean soil must be placed and maintained on the regraded landfill slopes. Following cover soil placement the Village must establish a vegetative layer or equivalent on the slope designed to prevent erosion of these soils.

The Report includes a number of other items and information requested by the Department. The DEC will evaluate this information and consider potential future activities at the site following a

Neil Hess
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Landfill
Page 2 of 2

January 24, 2003

systematic evaluation of other similar landfills in the Hudson Valley. The DEC anticipates that the subject evaluation will be completed by June 2003.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call at (914) 332-1835 ext. 321.

Sincerely,



Andrew D. Lent
Engineering Geologist II

cc: L. Doyle (Westchester County DOH)
M. Gunther (Village DPW)
L. Kinnally (Village Mayor)
C. Lomolino (Reclaim the Hastings Aqueduct Quarry Committee)

GW-cc: D. Austin (OPRHP)
R. Baldwin
P. John
B. Maglienti

**Appendix 6: Sketch of Quarry Showing Quarry Study Committee’s Suggested Uses
and Design Features**

HASTINGS QUARRY PARK



MDK '05