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Alumni House Guidebook

Brockport Alumni Association

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Alumni House
Guidebook

BROCKPORT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Welcome to Alumni House

This lovely Victorian mansion, located at the east entrance of a continually expanding college campus, is the former home of Principals and Presidents. It is the one tangible link in the lengthening chain between the past and the present. For all who enter — Welcome!
The residence of Principals and Presidents from 1898 until 1964.
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HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATIONS AND PHOTOS
The Brockport Collegiate Institute (1841-1854) before the fire of 1854.
The State Normal and Training School, 1867-1888, showing the wings added by the Village of Brockport to secure the state school.
The State Normal and Training School, 1889-1900, showing the “North Building,” added in 1889 to provide a new chapel and quarters for the Training School.

Aerial view of Hartwell Hall and temporary quonset huts 1949
SECTION I

HOUSE DESCRIPTION
HISTORY
RESTORATION
ACQUISITION POLICY
Alumni House is a three-story, balloon frame Second Empire building with a wrap-around front porch, and back and side porches. The house consists of a three-story main block and a two-story rear wing, each with a mansard roof. On the east side, the main block has a projecting three-story bay window.

The wrap-around front porch was originally two separate porches, a small one at the front door and a narrow one along the east wall. The flat wooden arches between the eight chamfered square posts have incised decorative lines. The front door side lights and transom were altered, and a matching leaded glass window was installed in the east wall adjacent to the front door.

The interior also has been altered through the years. A wall was removed to form a large room in the middle of the house. Classical revival columns on low walls were added near the fireplace. Evidence of the missing wall is seen in the basement, where larger beams had supported the wall.
Alumni House was built by Edward Harrison (1831-1916), who bought the house and a lot at 75 College Street in 1866. He moved that house off the lot, and by 1872 he had built the present house. A daughter, Margaret C. Harrison, deeded the house and lot to the state in 1898.

Because the Harrison house stood at the entrance to the State Normal and Training School, it was ideal as the residence of the School’s principals. Principal David Eugene Smith moved into the house in 1898 and was followed by Principals McFarlane (1901-1910) and Thompson (1910-1936), and President Hartwell (1936-1944). The house was last occupied by President Donald Tower from 1944 to 1964. The house was then used for Department of English offices and later a faculty dining room. In 1974 the Alumni Association was given use of the house; it has since been known as Alumni House.

In 1984 the Alumni Association received title to the house and lot. A copy of the document conveying the title signed by former Governor Mario Cuomo is on display in the Mattera Room. A major fund drive was started soon after to restore and support the building. Restoration and furnishing of the House continues as donor funds are available.

In 2007, the street address was changed to 142 Utica Street.
RESTORATION OF THE HOUSE

The first step in the restoration after the basic structure was reinforced was to update the plumbing and electrical systems. A new furnace was installed and the walls and ceilings were repaired.

Much of the early efforts to save and restore the house were accomplished during the Alumni Association’s presidencies of Amy Dodd Crowe ’72, Betsy Rosser ’72 and Deborah Ricci Packard ’72. These three loyal alumnae continued to demonstrate their commitment to the House through many years of participation on the Alumni House Committee.

The kitchen was restored and renovated in 1990. John Deats ’80, local carpenter/artisan, did most of the work. The original pantry was preserved and a downstairs bathroom was created. The dining room was completed, except for the curtains, in November 1991.

Interior designer, Arlene A. Wright, a past president of the Landmark Society, was responsible for researching, designing and coordinating the renovation and restoration of the House.

The rest of the first floor and four rooms upstairs, the stairway, the upstairs hallway and sitting area, were completed by May 1993. (This includes the Steel, Conrad, Edmunds, Mattera, Wage, and Haynes rooms, and the upstairs bathroom.) The Vira Hladun-Goldmann Room was completed a year later in May 1994.

Exterior painting in four colors was completed the summer of 1995. Much care was given to proper preparation before painting, and a stone weed barrier was added adjacent to the foundation. Iron bars were removed from the basement windows when concrete sills replaced the rotted wood.

Restorations to the back hall and the Bassett Room were completed in 2007. The restoration of the back porch with accessibility for people with handicaps was completed in 2008. Plans for continuing work on the House include addition of appropriate furnishings and landscaping.

ACQUISITION POLICY

Questions concerning donations to Alumni House should be directed to the Office of Alumni Relations. Acceptance of a gift does not ensure that it will be used or displayed.
SECTION II

THE HARRISON FAMILY

Edward C. Harrison
1831-1916

Bridget Reilly

James, Edward, John, Mary, Joseph, George

Mary Ann Reynolds

Margaret
m.

Catherine Harrison

Margaret Reynolds

Robert Daniel Burns

George

Esther
m.

George Wilkin

Eloise
m.

Sidney J. Wilkin

Robert

Ann

Sidney

Deborah
m.

Springett

Jeremy
THE EDWARD C. HARRISON FAMILY

Edward C. Harrison was born in Oldham, Lancashire, England, January 6, 1831. It was there that he learned the tailoring trade which became his life work. In 1855 he came to America, first settling in New York City, and then Orleans County, before coming to Brockport in about 1858 or 1859. Here he established the clothing business which he conducted for more than 58 years; a record for any individual in the clothing business in New York state.

At one time his establishment engaged exclusively in the manufacture of ready-made clothing, with headquarters in Brockport and outlets in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and other western towns. During the early 1880s, Harrison’s firm employed upwards of 200 people in this village.

An active citizen of Brockport, Harrison served as Village Trustee for several terms. He also was a member of the Normal School Board for nearly 20 years. He was an active member of a local fire department, which honored him by naming it the Harrison Hose Company. He was a member of the Holy Name Society of the Church of the Nativity. For two years, he was the Collector of the Port of Brockport (canal).

Before leaving England, he was married to Bridget (Bridgitta) Reilly. She died in 1865 and is buried in the old Catholic Cemetery off East Avenue. His second wife was Mary Ann Reynolds of Hamlin, NY, who died in 1898. In 1901, Edward Harrison, by special dispensation, married Margaret Reynolds, sister of Mary Ann. Children of Edward C. Harrison include James, Edward, John, Mary, Joseph, George, Margaret, and Catherine. Harrison died in 1916.

Harrison and his second wife, Mary Ann (Reynolds), had two daughters, Margaret and Catherine. Margaret (named for her mother’s sister who later became her stepmother in 1901) married Robert Daniel Burns. They had two sons, George and Robert, and two daughters, Eloise and Esther, who married brothers by the name of Wilkin.

The two girls used to play in their grandfather’s home when they were children. Many years later, Eloise Burns Wilkin illustrated The Visit, a children’s book authored by Joan Esley. The story was about a child’s visit to an old Victorian home. Wilkin used her grandfather’s house (Alumni House) as a model for her illustrations.

Shortly before her death, Eloise and her daughter, Deborah Springett, wrote The Golden Years of Eloise Wilkin, the story of her life and work.
SECTION III

First Floor Rooms of Alumni House with Biographies of Donors
Raye H. Conrad was born June 9, 1915, in Brooklyn, NY. He graduated from Riverside High School in Buffalo and Buffalo State Teachers College. He was class president throughout his entire high school and college years. His teaching career began in a one-room school in Niagara County. He also taught in Lewiston and Glens Falls prior to coming to Brockport.

Raye and his wife Beatrice Kolb, born July 4, 1909, met at a St. Vincent de Paul Summer Camp, where she was the camp nurse and he was the camp director from 1940 to 1943.

He received his master’s degree from Niagara University in 1942 and came to Brockport State in 1945. His doctorate in education was completed at Pennsylvania State University in 1952.

At Brockport, Raye Conrad served as professor of education, chair of the Education Division, dean of students, director of admissions, and dean for certification. Raye remained at Brockport until his retirement in 1973.

Beatrice Kolb Conrad was a nurse at the College’s Campus School, and the Brockport Central School District. She completed her career as the College nurse. Raye H. Conrad, professor emeritus, died on August 26, 1986. Beatrice Kolb Conrad died on September 1, 1987.
Notes about the Raye and Beatrice Conrad Room:

1. Swag and jabot window treatment with painted wood rods and finials. Material pattern is same as wallpaper in the Steel Room.
2. Carpet is a gift from Lillian Dodd Berg ’36, aunt of past BAA President Amy Dodd Crowe ’72, and the Class of ’64 on their 30th Anniversary.
3. The early 19th-century grandfather clock was donated by Peg Hare Browne ’44, professor emerita.
4. Prize-winning photo of Hartwell Hall is by College photographer Jim Dusen.
5. Framed postcard of the Normal School, donated by Mary Brei Duryea ’64, and a Jim Dusen panoramic photo of Hartwell Hall and Alumni House. Framing courtesy of Rudy Aceto ’56.
7. Framed photo of Raye Conrad, Harold Rakov, and James Edmunds.
8. The original painting of Alumni House by Helen Fabi Smagorinsky ’55, was donated by the artist. The sale of prints of the painting has provided some restoration funds. Signed or unsigned copies are available by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations.
9. Gold upholstered furniture formerly at Burlingame House (current College president’s residence).
Eric M. Steel was born February 11, 1904, in Paisley, Scotland. He received his Licence-et-Lettres from the University of Caen, France; his Master of Arts from the University of Glasgow, Scotland; and his Doctor of Philosophy from Columbia University. In 1942, he was appointed professor of English and French at the College. Prior to coming to Brockport, Steel had taught in Ohio, Paris, and at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.

He married Madeline Chevrot in 1937. They had one daughter, Diana. In 1945, Eric Steel became an American citizen.

At Brockport, he was the first chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, director of the Dramatic Society, founder and director of the French Choral Club and coach of the varsity tennis team.

Dr. Steel was the one who launched Brockport European study tours. He was a prolific writer of scholarly works, creator of humorous prose and poetry, and a person with a zest for life!

Dr. Steel retired from The College at Brockport in 1974 and died April 11, 1980.

Notes about the Eric M. Steel Room:

1. Valences follow the curved line of the windows; pleats are lined with material which matches the wallpaper.
2. New chandelier and medallion, which are more consistent with the early 20th-century period of the house. Compare with photos on south wall.
3. Six-piece furniture set (settee, gentleman’s chair, lady’s chair, and three side chairs) belonged to Principal Alfred Thompson and were used in this house from 1910 to 1936 during the 26 years of Thompson’s principalship. The set was donated by the Western Monroe Historical Society at the request of Fletcher and Alice Garlock. Alice is Dr. Thompson’s granddaughter and was born in the house.
4. A red upholstered settee, two large upholstered chairs, and the beige chair were donated by Florence Remsen Wage ’30.
5. Green vases on fireplace mantle are Celadon and of the Ching Dynasty. Gift of Ora Van Slyke, professor emerita.
6. Hall of Heritage Rocker donated by A. Bruce Schlageter '47.
7. Capen piano was manufactured in Brockport (circa 1893-1913). It was donated by Frances Gotscik of Lima, NY, in May 1996. Capen Hose Fire Co. was named for Frank Capen, the piano company founder. The piano stool was donated by Cherie M. Keller '54.
8. Two side chairs donated by Michael Roche '59.
9. Portraits of three College Presidents. Dr. Hartwell and Dr. Tower lived in the House; Dr. Brown did not.
11. Note photos, especially that of Catherine Harrison (at piano), whose sister Margaret deeded the House to New York state.
12. Oval framed graduation photo of the Class of 1867 with Principal Malcom MacVicar.
13. Armoire donated by the Class of '39 as a 60th Anniversary gift to house a TV and VCR.
14. VCR donated by the “Girls of Seymour III” ’70-’71.
15. Photo of Normal School Class of 1934.

*Eric M. Steel Room*
Orlo L. Derby was born on March 1, 1911, in Syracuse, NY.

He received his BA from Syracuse University in 1931 and in 1932 he received his Master’s in Educational Administration. In 1942, he received his EdD in Curriculum and Teaching from Columbia University.

He taught in the Syracuse and Tully Public Schools, and at Cortland State College prior to coming to Brockport in 1941. From 1942 to 1946, Captain Derby served with the US Army in the Philippines and in the Occupation of Japan. He served as an officer in the US Army Reserves for 19 years. Following World War II, Dr. Derby returned to Brockport, where he served in the Department of Education until his retirement in 1974.

Dr. Derby was the first to respond to the need for scholarships at the College. He funded a scholarship in 1979 to be awarded to a prospective teacher who has exhibited qualities important to the teaching profession.

He generously contributed to the Alumni House Restoration Project, has served on the Alumni House Committee, and actively supported athletic groups. In the 1950s and 1960s, Orlo Derby was a Fulbright scholar twice in Japan, twice in England, and once in Singapore. After his retirement, he served as a docent at the Genesee Country Museum in Mumford, NY.

“Lee” Derby was an active leader in his church and community, “loyal to any group he served, particularly The College at Brockport.”

Dr. Orlo Derby died December 13, 2008.

Notes about the Orlo Derby Room:

1. Note carpet, wallpaper, sconces. First room to be restored after the kitchen.
2. Curtains are the same “winding floral” lace curtains used in front two rooms downstairs. Lace valance with scarf swag of the curtain material itself.
3. Empire chest of drawers, c. 1825-35. Mahogany with satinwood trim, pineapple finials on backboard, lion’s paw feet, large bonnet drawer at top. Gift of Mary Lee McCrory, College Head Librarian (1938-62).
4. Corner cupboard – used for memorabilia and displays.
   Bottom shelf: The menorah is a gift of Mel and Helen Fabi Smagorinsky (’53/’55) in memory of Mel’s mother.
   The silver service once belonged to the College.
   Middle shelf: contains bust of a child donated by Wayne Dedman as well as a copy of his book Cherishing This Heritage. There also is a citation for BAA's efforts in restoration, and manipulative math material designed by Professor Burlingame, c. 1870s. The blue and white china milk pitcher was used by Dr. Hartwell as a child.
   The small souvenir china vase with picture of the Normal School was donated by Barbara Staffen Owen ’55.
   Top shelf: Cut glass punch bowl was a gift from the Class of 1946 on its 40th Anniversary.
   Cupboard underneath: Copies of the Saga available for viewing.
5. Duncan Phyfe style dining table and seven chairs were once in the College President’s reception room in Hartwell.
Helen Johnson Rich was born March 21, 1909, in Brockport and died 85 years later in the same house in which she was born. She and her husband, Harris, raised four sons and two daughters in Brockport. Two of her sons graduated from the College in their hometown. Helen Johnson Rich was a lifelong resident of Brockport and an outstanding housemother for many years. She is remembered for her dedication, her loving smile and kind ways, and the comfort and support she gave to her students as they faced the challenges of college life.

This memorial pays tribute to Helen Rich and all the house parents in the Brockport community who demonstrated loyal services to the College. By opening their homes when housing was a critical need for students, they established and developed a partnership that created lasting ties and friendships for the College and the community.


Notes about the Helen J. Rich Room:

1. The kitchen, along with the pantry and rest room, were the first rooms to be restored and modernized for contemporary use.
2. Hand-stenciled design on tapered shirred curtains is replicated from wall stenciling uncovered during restoration.
3. The wall clock was donated by Ed Nihiser, who taught physical education and industrial arts at the College.
4. The cupboards were crafted by John Deats ’80.
James M. Edmunds was born in Brighton, NY, in 1904. He graduated from East High School in Rochester, the University of Rochester, and received his Master of Arts from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. He met his future wife, Olive Phillips, when they were on the teaching staff at the Maryland College for Women. They married in 1927 and had two sons, James and Paul, and a daughter, Susan.

Edmunds taught at the University of Minnesota prior to joining the staff at the Brockport Normal School in 1937. At Brockport, he was chair of the Department of English, executive secretary of the Brockport Alumni Association (1938-1956), class advisor for several classes and sponsor of the College yearbook. He also was the advisor for the Faculty-Alumni Relations Committee. He frequently gave lectures on mythology and the folklore of New York state.

“Jim” Edmunds retired in 1971 as professor emeritus of English at The College at Brockport and moved to Green Valley, AZ, where he died September 6, 1984.

James Edmunds was posthumously presented the Brockport Alumni Association’s Outstanding Service Award in 1990. In 1992, members of the Class of 1942 contributed funds in his memory for the renovation of the foyer in Alumni House.
Notes about the James Edmunds Foyer:

1. Carpeting on the stairs and the hallway on the second floor matches one of the colors in the wallpaper.
2. Coat hooks under stairs attached to a curved wood molding.
3. Note the beautiful leaded design on the windows surrounding the front door and on the window at the foot of the staircase.
4. Note also the light fixture and medallion inside entry.
5. Banister railing and posts were extensively repaired during restoration.
6. Funds for foyer restoration were a gift of the Class of ’42 on its 50th anniversary in honor of James Edmunds.
7. Note wallpaper and compare to paper in Mattera Room – same pattern, different color.
8. BAA Circle of Presidents plaque.
10. Portrait of James Edmunds donated by Class of ’46 as its 50th anniversary gift.
SECTION IV

SECOND FLOOR
ROOMS OF ALUMNI HOUSE
WITH
BIOGRAPHIES OF DONORS
Staircase, Sitting Area and Hallway

Notes about the staircase, sitting area at the top of staircase and hallway:

1. Statue in wall niche was donated by Wayne Dedman, professor emeritus.
2. Note different curtain-lace material from downstairs. This is Robert Allen’s “Suzette” winter white.
3. Swag and jabot – same treatment as Conrad Room. Material pattern is same as adjacent wallpaper in stairway and hallway.
4. Wallpaper is also the same as downstairs front parlor.
5. Drop-leaf table and chairs donated by Ora VanSlyke, professor emerita.
6. Table lamp donated by Ora VanSlyke.
7. Book of Albrecht Durer prints, which once belonged to Miss VanSlyke, donated by George Rich ’54, one of her former students.
9. Grandmother’s clock, Chippendale style, was crafted by Ed Nihiser, who taught physical education and industrial arts at the College.
10. Hallway mirror was donated by Peg Hare Browne ’44, professor emerita.
Sitting area at the top of stairs.
Gloria Mattera was born April 16, 1930, in Rochester, NY. Her college major was in education. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Brockport in 1952 and 1955, respectively, and her doctorate from Pennsylvania State University in 1961. Mattera taught one year in the Greece Central School District. She became a teacher in the demonstration school at SUNY Geneseo, where she was a professor of elementary and secondary education.

In 1968, she founded the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center, the first of its kind in New York state, and directed it for 20 years.

Gloria Mattera was a 1986 inductee into the Brockport Alumni Association’s Hall of Heritage. She was always supportive of the College and its Alumni Association. She is listed in Who’s Who of American Women and was recognized nationally for service to migrant workers. Mattera had many of her writings published and wrote chiefly about her concerns for migrants.

Dr. Mattera has a scholarship in her name which is given to an entering freshman planning on pursuing the teaching profession. Also, the Gloria Mattera Heritage Society was named in her honor. The Society is made up of individuals who include the College as a beneficiary in their wills.

Dr. Mattera died on March 19, 1988.

Notes about the Gloria Mattera ’52 Room:

1. Valence with inverted box pleats and floor-length lined side panels with tie backs – only room that has them.
2. Wallpaper design is same as hallway but in lighter color.
3. Room is used as a library and display room.
4. Note document with pen used to sign legislation commemorating transfer of the House to BAA – signed by former Governor Mario Cuomo in 1984.
5. Carpet is a gift from the Class of ’54 on the occasion of its 40th anniversary reunion.
6. Lamp (one of two) is made from a biology specimen bottle donated by Sarah Jackson.
7. Painting on the south wall was brought from France by Gloria Mattera.
8. Oak sectional bookcase once belonged to Ken Hovey ’38.
9. Mahogany bookcase is one of two donated by Leland Shafer.
10. Locked book and display case donated by Donald and Sandra Hare.
11. Aerial photo of Hartwell Hall and campus as it looked in mid ’40s. Note that there were private residences along the south side of Monroe Avenue, Kenyon Street and to the west.
12. Framed bond is a gift of George Toth; framing by Rudy Aceto ’56.
14. Note section of wall plaster with the original stencil design.
15. Portrait of Mary Lee McCrory, Head Librarian (1938-62), donated by Class of ’46 as its 50th anniversary gift.
16. Note: 1) Collection of yearbooks, 2) texts used by emeriti professors and alumni, 3) books written by alumni, 4) photos, and 5) other alumni memorabilia

Gloria Mattera ’52 Room
Pauline M. Haynes was born in Plattsburgh, NY, on May 26, 1900. She was a 1922 graduate of Skidmore College with a bachelor’s degree in public school music. She received her Master of Arts from Columbia University in 1935. Haynes taught in the public schools of Princeton, NJ, and Massena, NY, prior to 1925 when she came to Brockport Normal School.

Pauline Haynes was associate professor of music for her first year at Brockport, and then became chair of the Department of Music. She initiated new music courses for undergraduates and graduates, including a course of appreciation of opera. Haynes directed the College Chorus and encouraged her students to sing the school’s Alma Mater with feeling.

Pauline Haynes was named professor emerita of music when she retired in 1966. She died October 6, 1989.

Notes about the Pauline Haynes Room:

1. Carpet, in school colors green and gold, perfectly picks up the colors in the room.
2. William Morris wallpaper.
3. Valance is the same design as in downstairs Steel Room to match the curve in the window.
4. Note wall sconces.
5. Note radiators upstairs have not been covered, better to see the floral design.
6. Paintings done by Miss Haynes’ aunt, Mary R. Haynes Stackpole (1857-1919), and donated by her grandniece, Nancy Barbour.
8. Lamp was Pauline’s; mirror belonged to her brother – as did the personalized Mickey Mouse drawing signed by Walter Disney.
9. Miss Haynes’ grandfather had the drop-leaf table made as a wedding gift to his wife.

11. Drop-leaf table and four chairs were the gift of the Class of 1955 on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

12. Walnut lady’s chair with carved legs and headrest and gold upholstery was donated by Peg Hare Browne ’44, professor emerita.

13. Mahogany bookcase was donated by Leland Shafer.

14. Music book and pitch pipe were donated by A. Bruce Schlageter ’47.

15. Vase was a gift from Ora Van Slyke, professor emerita.

Florence Remsen Wage was born July 17, 1909. Her hometown was Akron, NY. She majored in education at Brockport, where she was a member of the Arethusa Sorority and vice-president of the Normal School Class of 1930. She earned her bachelor’s degree in 1953 and master’s degree in 1955; both at Brockport. Florence was a teacher in the Rochester City School District for 32 years.

Her husband, Arnold E. Wage, a chemist for Rochester Germicide, died November 3, 1993. They had no children.

Mrs. Wage traveled to Europe in 1933 and spent six summers in travel with Western Illinois University for college credit.

Florence Remsen Wage was an active member of the American Association of University Women. She received the Brockport Alumni Association’s Hall of Heritage Award in 1988 and contributed generously to Alumni House. Florence died on April 6, 2001.

Notes about the Florence Remsen Wage ’30 Room:

1. Scalloped valance and flat-fold jabot.
2. Converted rope bed donated by Philma Cooley, sister of Stella Bassett.
3. Afghan was created by former grade school students as a gift to Miss Bassett when she went into service during World War II.
4. Chair donated by Florence Remsen Wage ’30.
5. Four-paneled “Bicentennial” screen donated by Peg Hare Browne ’44.
6. Wicker furniture set, gift from Mary Brei Duryea ’64, is temporarily located in this room.
7. Lamp (one of two) is made from a biology specimen bottle donated by Sarah Jackson.
8. Wooden decorative wall shelf donated by Carol Talley Weatherwax.
9. Two Normal School class pictures.
Vira Hladun-Goldmann graduated from The College at Brockport in 1958 with a major in education and a minor in music and art. She taught kindergarten.

Her interest in collecting 18th and 19th-century period furniture and paintings launched her firm, Hladun-Goldmann, in New York City. As a designer of 18th and 19th-century interiors, she has restored period houses, gardens, and reproduction homes.

Vira Goldmann offered her professional skills to her Alma Mater when she learned about the renovation of the Alumni House. She selected and donated all of the furnishings for the Vira Hladun-Goldmann Guest Room.

She is actively involved in connecting with her past (she is of Ukranian descent) and has multiple projects in the works here in the US, England and Ukraine. She supports several students with scholarships at her Alma Mater.

Notes about the Vira Hladun-Goldmann ’58 Room:

1. Vira Hladun-Goldmann, as an interior designer, decorated and furnished the room herself.
2. Closet was added from half of closet in Haynes Room. Blends into wall with no hardware (concealed hinges and magnetic door catch).
3. Old radiators replaced with recessed in-wall models, saving limited floor space in this small, narrow room.
4. Bed, night stand, dresser, clock, and all other furnishings were also donated by Goldmann including all bed linens and yo-yo quilt.
5. Rocking chair is unique with springs connecting the slats, enabling it to “give” and conform comfortably to whoever occupies it.
6. Gaslight fixture has been left near the closet.
7. This room shows the charming interior effect of a mansard roof, especially as it affects the windows.
8. Book is by Linda Carter Lefko, who designed and made the floor covering in the Goldmann Room.
Vira Hladun-Goldmann ’58 Room
BATHROOM

Notes about the bathroom (unnamed):

1. Note tile floor. Especially designed to coordinate with same colors used throughout.
2. Brass and porcelain fixtures—tub has ball and claw feet.
3. New lighting fixtures typical of the period.
4. Window (same as in Goldmann Room). Wall is cut at an angle because of the addition of the mansard roof.
5. Curtain material is the same as shower curtain.
6. Closet under the stairs leads to the attic.
Bathroom with inset showing clawfoot from tub.
Estella M. Bassett was born February 19, 1909, on a farm near Brockport, NY, to parents of French and Irish decent. She was a graduate of Brockport High School.

Miss Bassett received her RN from St. Mary’s Hospital, Rochester, NY; her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Rochester; her Certificate for School Nurse Teacher and Public Health Nurse from Syracuse University; and her Master of Arts from The College at Brockport.

She joined the US Army Nurse Corps and served during World War II.

Miss Bassett served as a general or private nurse and as a supervising nurse in several hospitals. She was a school nurse and health teacher in a school district in rural New York. Before coming to Brockport, she was director of health services at Geneseo State Teachers College.

At Brockport, she was an associate professor in health education from 1954 to 1964 and spent seven summers at Camp Totem as camp nurse and health educator. In 1983, she was designated Associate Professor Emerita by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Miss Bassett retired from Brockport in 1964 and died in 1998.

Notes about the Estella M. Bassett Room:

1. Members of the Class of 1961 initiated a campaign to have this room restored and named in honor and memory of their class advisor, Estella M. Bassett. The family, friends and colleagues of Stella joined them in the fund-raising effort.
2. Furnishings include a cherry meeting table with six matching chairs and a large cherry roll-top desk.
3. Note the green carpeting, cherry wooden blinds and floral wall paper. The carpeting was donated by George and Charles Hage from Brockport Custom Carpet.
4. Locked room serves as secure archival storage area.
5. The window wall is cut at an angle because of the mansard roof effect of this addition to the house.
Estella M. Bassett Room
SECTION V

NOTES ON THE HISTORY
OF THE
BROCKPORT
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The annual alumni dinner continued and included graduates of the Brockport Collegiate Institute beginning in 1875. A “literary meeting” also was held in 1880 and led to the alumni participating in annual commencement weekend exercises with student literary and musical societies. The alumni program in 1883 was held in the Normal School chapel and included instrumental and vocal music, poetry readings and oration. The 1888 dinner was the first held in a tent on the lawn of the Normal School building where events are still held each year at alumni reunions.

The earliest known mention of an annual business meeting is in a letter of 1901. There are certificates in the College archives that mention the constitution adopted in 1902. The organization was called the Brockport Normal School Association beginning in 1907. That same year they held a banquet at the Masonic Club in Rochester where Professor William Lennon spoke about the early days at Brockport.

By 1915 the organization had adopted new bylaws and the name Brockport Alumni Association. The membership dues at this time were 50 cents a year or three dollars for lifetime membership. The College archives have several lifetime membership certificates issued in the 1940s for the organization called “Alumni Association of the State Normal School at Brockport, NY.” Leaders in this era included Arthur Toole 1879, Louis Shay 1896 and Peter Blossom 1889.

Alumni gatherings continued in the 1920s. A banquet was held June 26, 1922 at the Normal School. The classes of 1882 and 1897 were honored with Principal Thompson addressing the gathering.

A Faculty Alumni Relations Committee existed from 1936 to 1949. The committee started the tradition of a newsletter for alumni which they sent to alumni beginning with the class of 1936. The first magazine type newsletter, The Bulletin, began in 1949. Today, the Kaleidoscope magazine is sent to alumni, faculty, staff, emeriti, student families and friends of the College.

A new constitution was adopted in 1949 based on work by a committee headed by Bruce Schlageter ’47. The goal was to create a more active association that would serve to channel alumni energy into the school as well as planning annual functions. Regional or county chapters were set up in the

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**History of Brockport Alumni Association**

**1873: The first known instance of an alumni reunion**

“Invitations have been sent to all those ladies and gentlemen who have graduated from the Brockport Normal School to assemble there on the 1st day of July next and participate in (or help dispose of) a nice dinner which is to be prepared for them,” *Brockport Republic*, June 12, 1873, p.4.
1950s. The chapters in 1956 included Long Island with President Mel Smagorinsky ’53 and Monroe County with President Art Schneider ’51.

Annual fees in 1960 were $2.50 with life memberships for $5. Today annual voting membership dues are $50 with no lifetime membership option. Some of the staff who worked with the BAA in the 1960s and 1970s included Frank T. Lane ’42, Dr. John “Jack” Crandall, and Sarah Miles Watts Bolem.

In addition, there have been organizations of particular classes or other groups. The class of 1882 met every five years from 1902 to 1942 and produced flyers and programs for their meetings which are in the College archives. The class of 1953 continues in their tradition with their Web site and memory books. The New York Association of Brockporters had annual luncheons in New York City from at least 1902 to 1907. The 1907 luncheon was held at the Hotel Marlborough on Broadway where Principal McFarlane and other alumni spoke.

A “Western New York Alumni Association of Brockport Normal School” held annual dinners circa 1910. The Brockport Normal School Club was an organization of women graduates in the local Brockport area. The archives has a notebook covering their activities from 1923 to 1962. Their president in 1962 was Barbara Dobson Kewin ’35.

In 1984 the Brockport Alumni Association obtained the deed to the Alumni House, and since then one of the primary missions of the association has been the restoration and maintenance of the house.

In more recent years, the Alumni Association has grown and expanded its activities to include:

- Arranging annual reunion programs.
- Presenting awards which recognize the accomplishments of alumni and friends of the College.
- Providing scholarships to worthy students.
- Participating in College events such as commencement and student orientation sessions.
- Arranging networking programs involving alumni and current students.
- Increasing our visibility on campus through such activities as tailgate parties, and hosting meetings of student leadership groups at Alumni House.
- Starting the tradition of planting two trees each year to commemorate the current graduating class and the alumni class that is celebrating its 50th anniversary.
- Working with the College Foundation and the Division of Advancement in generating financial support for the College.

Currently, the board of the BAA consists of a minimum of 20 directors and the executive director. Board members, as well as other alumni volunteers serve on a variety of committees.
**History of Institution**

1835-37 Baptist Collegiate Institute operated only about one year when it closed during the Panic of 1837. The building was unused for a few years before opening as the Brockport Collegiate Institute.

1841-67 Brockport Collegiate Institute. The Institute was destroyed by fire in 1854 and rebuilt in 1855.

1867-1942 Brockport State Normal School and/or State Normal and Training School.

1942-1948 Brockport State Teachers College.

1948 Officially became one of the colleges of the State University of New York system. Since 1959, the College has been known officially or unofficially by various other names. Some of these include:

- SUNY College of Education at Brockport
- SUNY College at Brockport
- State University College at Brockport
- State University of New York at Brockport
- SUNY Brockport

1965-2007 State University of New York College at Brockport.

2008-present The College at Brockport, State University of New York
## BROCKPORT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class Year</th>
<th>Years of Presidency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas H. Armstrong</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>(1897-98)</td>
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<tr>
<td>W.D. Hawes</td>
<td>1887</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elberton D. Henry</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>(1901-02)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter R. Betteridge</td>
<td>1883</td>
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<td>William R. True</td>
<td>1896</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Droman</td>
<td>1903</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick S. Holbrook</td>
<td>1898</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas A. Caswell</td>
<td>1879</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willis A. Matson</td>
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<td>Louis B. Shay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herbert J. Pease</td>
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<td>Henry Harrison</td>
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<td>Fred A. Cherson</td>
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<td>Edwin D. Webb</td>
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<td>Harry D. Bartlett</td>
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<td>James Mann</td>
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<td>Thomas H. Armstrong</td>
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<td>Arthur C. Simmons</td>
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<td>Robert Burns</td>
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<td>Frank A. Rexford</td>
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<td>William D. Hewes</td>
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<td>Cora V. Luttenton</td>
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<td>Henry E. MacArthur</td>
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<td>Winifred Lee Fowler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lloyd Penn</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edith Scharett Knapp</td>
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<td>Frank L. Lane</td>
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<td>Donald Novelli</td>
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<td>Herbert F. Wilshire</td>
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<td>Andrew D. Virgilio</td>
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<td>William G. Mowson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betty Delano Vary</td>
<td>1936</td>
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<td>Betty Watson</td>
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<td>Samuel J. Pirro</td>
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<td>Carol VanCise Bott</td>
<td>1961</td>
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<td>Frank L. Sacheli</td>
<td>1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marvin T. Duryea</td>
<td>1960</td>
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<td>Marion Schrank</td>
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<td>Marvin T. Duryea</td>
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<td>Amy Dodd Crowe</td>
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<td>Betsy Rosser</td>
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<td>Deborah Ricci Packard</td>
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<td>Reinhold Samson</td>
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<td>David Weaver</td>
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<td>Lyman Bement</td>
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<td>Elaine Leshnower</td>
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<td>Jack Pease</td>
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<td>Christa Freel Filipowicz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warren Kozireski</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>(2008-present)</td>
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COLLEGE PRINCIPALS AND PRESIDENTS

1835-37  Zenas Morse
1841-45  Julius Bates
1845-46  Oliver Morehouse
1846-48  Jacob Tooker
1848-53  John G.K. Truair
1853-56  N.P. Stanton
1856-61  David Burbank
1861-63  Rev. P.J. Williams
1863-67  Malcom MacVicar
1867-98  Charles D. McLean
1898-01  David Eugene Smith
1901-10  Charles MacFarlane
1910-36  Alfred C. Thompson
1936-44  Ernest C. Hartwell
1944-64  Donald M. Tower
1964-65  Gordon Allen (acting president)
1965-81  Albert W. Brown
1981-97  John E. Van de Wetering
1997-04  Paul Yu
2004-05  John Clark (interim)
2005-    John R. Halstead
If you would like to help preserve and maintain Alumni House, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (585) 395-2451 or Office of Alumni Relations The College at Brockport State University of New York 350 New Campus Drive Brockport, NY 14420

Thank You!

www.brockport.edu/alumni/

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Archive Committee: Cathy Appleby, Betty Chapman, Mary Jo Gigliotti, Karen Owen, George Rich, Harriet Sisson, Barbara Stevens, Mark Williams