

KIRKLAND TOWN LIBRARY



Marie Grace

1853 - New Orleans, Louisiana

Sponsored by:



Marie Grace

Clinton, N.Y. in the 1850s



The population of Clinton grew from 750 in 1850 to 1,174 by 1860, and the Town of Kirkland grew from 3,421 to 4,234. The Village Green, which had previously been used as a commons for grazing animals, was becoming beautified. The Rural Art Society, founded by Hamilton College Professor Oren Root and John C. Hastings in 1854, was a men's civic improvement group and was responsible for planting many trees in the Village.

Immigrants

The immigrants in New Orleans, where Marie Grace lived, were susceptible to the yellow fever epidemic, because they lived in crowded conditions and had not been exposed to that disease in their native country. There were immigrants living in Clinton as well. In 1850, Clinton's foreign-born population was 497, including people from Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland, Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Canada.

In 1797, farmer James Stebbins found iron ore (hematite) in his field. Clinton streets were said to have run red with ore. By 1850, 40 teams of horses carried iron ore around the Village Green on their way to the blast furnace in Franklin Springs, formerly Franklin Iron Works. The hematite was processed into pig iron for use in manufacturing elsewhere. At its peak, the Franklin Iron Works employed 200 men and produced 100 tons of pig iron per week from 350 tons of ore and 240 tons of coal. Immigrants, locals



and off-season farmers all worked as miners. In the 1890s the miners lived in the building that was once the female division of Clinton Liberal Institute on Chestnut Street.

*Clinton Liberal Institute, circa 1858;
Clinton Historical Society*

School

Marie Grace went to St. Theresa's Academy, a private school for girls, despite those who thought that too much schooling would fill a girl's head with useless nonsense. During the 1800s Clinton was known as "Schooltown" or "The Village of Schools." There were 70 schools in 35 locations; 7 existed during the 1850s.

Marie Grace's friend Celine may have attended abolitionist Reverend Hiram Kellogg's Young Ladies Domestic Seminary at 23 Kellogg Street. Elizabeth Gridley, a student there, recounted that "we pupils were introduced to three colored student girls...whom we were expected to treat with courtesy; but the innovation scarcely produced a ripple in the even tenor of the school where pupil

boarders sat side by side with them, and the usual harmony prevailed."

A young girl might also have attended the Clinton Liberal Institute on Chestnut Street. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was a student there when the newly finished building opened in 1851. She was 28 years old, had been teaching for 12 years, and according to her autobiography "decided that I must...find a school, the object of which should be to teach me something. ... I had the habit of study, with a burning anxiety to make the most of lost time." She lived at the Clinton House on West Park Row and walked up Williams Street on a 2-plank sidewalk.

School

Louisa Marie Barker was the principal of the Clinton Liberal Institute. Clara Barton described her as having “an irresistible charm of manner...a winning, indescribable grace which I have met in only a few persons in a whole lifetime.” Miss Barker was born in Franklin Springs in 1808 on the second floor of her father’s inn in a room used for balls, Sunday school, and church services. Most of her education came from extensive reading, and at 13 she became a teacher. She taught art, founded and was principal of several schools, and was the only woman investor in the Franklin Iron Works.



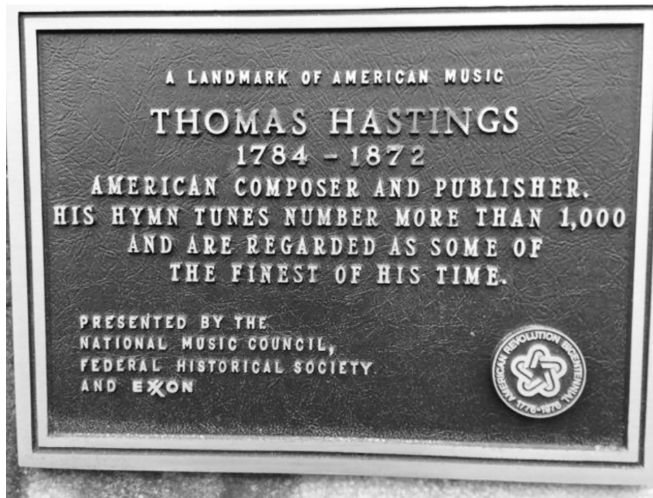
Louisa Barker, circa 1859; Clinton Historical Society

Singing Lessons

It would be a few years before the Scollard Opera House (1870) on West Park Row opened, but a young girl could take lessons there, just as Marie Grace did in New Orleans. The paper published an advertisement for a School of Instruction in the Science of Vocal Music in the basement of the Stone Church: “Those wishing to obtain a thorough knowledge of the first principles of the science will avail themselves of becoming members of the school at the commencement of the term.” Cost was \$1 per scholar, for a term of 26 evenings.

Doctors and Apothecaries

In 1850 Clinton had six physicians, like Marie Grace's father. One was Dr. Seth Hastings (1780-1861), who lived where the NBT Bank is now. It was said that his "beaming face and hopeful words gave potency to his medicine." He had a remarkable orchard and a garden with every native plant. His younger brother Thomas (1784-1872) had been a singing teacher before he moved to New York City and wrote 1,000 hymns. One of Dr. Hastings 14 children was John C. Hastings, who was a landscape designer. He created designs for Hamilton College (arboretum) and the Sunset Hill Cemetery which opened in 1856.



Doctors and Apothecaries

Since the 17th century apothecaries (pharmacies today) were known by their show globes, which were large suspended glass containers holding colored water. The globes would be hung outside the business and be lit by the light from inside the shop. The colored water would attract attention, like the barber pole.

Whether living in a small town like Clinton or a big city like New Orleans, girls in the 1850s attended school, saw doctors, met new people and enjoyed sharing friendships. Just like girls of today!



A show globe; Clinton Historical Society

Suggested Reading

Easy

Fiona's Lace by Patricia Polacco (Easy POL)

Juvenile Fiction

Cecile's Gift by Denise Lewis Patrick (J Fiction PAT, American Girl Series)

A Doctor Like Papa by Natalie Kinsey-Warlock (Blue J Fiction KIN)

The Haunted Opera by Sarah Masters Buckley (J Fiction BUC, American Girl Series)

A Good Night for Ghosts by Mary Pope Osborne (J Fiction OSB, Magic Tree House Series)

The Hidden Gold by Sarah Masters Buckley (J Fiction BUC, American Girl Series)

Judy Moody, M.D. The Doctor is in! by Megan McDonald (Blue J Fiction MAC)

Marie-Grace and the Orphans by Sarah Masters Buckley (J Fiction BUC, American Girl Series)

Marie-Grace Makes a Difference by Sarah

Masters Buckley (J Fiction BUC, American Girl Series)

Meet Cecile by Denise Lewis Patrick (J Fiction PAT, American Girl Series)

A Nest for Celeste: a Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home by Henry Cole (J Fiction COL)

The Story of Dr. Dolittle by Hugh Lofting (J Fiction LOF)

Troubles for Cecile by Denise Lewis Patrick (J Fiction PAT, American Girl Series)

West of the Moon by Margi Preus (J Fiction PRE)

Juvenile Nonfiction

Clara Barton: Founder of the American Red Cross by Barbara A. Somervill (J B BARTON)

Clara and Davie by Patricia Polacco (J 361.763 POL)

Marie Grace's Accessories



Book



Hat



Pajamas & Slippers



Hairbrush



Fan

Thank you to **The Clinton Florist** for sponsoring

Marie Grace

To learn how you can sponsor a doll or its accessories contact Anne Debraggio, Director of Kirkland Town Library, at: adebraggio@midyork.org.

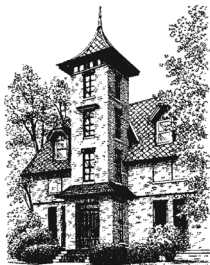
To learn more about the program visit <http://kirklandtownlibrary.org/americangirldolls/>



Sponsored by:



A partnership between:



The Clinton Historical Society



KIRKLAND TOWN LIBRARY

The Clinton Courier

A special thank you to all our sponsors:

Friends of the Library
Hamilton



Clinton Teachers Association

