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Nyack College • Nyack, New York



"THE INSTITUTE BUILDING"
Simpson Hall



Mount
of
prayer
and
blessing



Checklist: from top: Dr. A. B. Simpson; Simpson Hall; property deed and early CEMA lodge; laying the cornerstone; A. B. Simpson; news article; combs; "men's parlor"; lobby reception desk; "Chapel Hall"; Mrs. Simpson; kitchen; decorating interiors; dining hall; diploma; president; early logs.

As 1897 was approaching, the New York Missionary Training Institute (Nyack College), then 15 years-old, had outgrown its New York Gospel Tabernacle facilities. Dr. A. B. Simpson, founder and president, cited several key reasons for moving to rural Nyack. City property costs were prohibitively high and building codes "extremely rigid." Lower cost of living and work opportunities promised to make MTI more affordable and, best of all, there were ample possibilities for outreach.

The laying of the cornerstone for the new "Institute Building" on April 17, 1897 was a gala event. Two chartered "coach trains" brought about 800 persons from the city. Dr. J. A. Davis, pastor of Nyack's First Presbyterian Church, gave the address. Nyack's Charles McElroy began construction at once. The four-story building, standing on four acres, measured 250 feet by 70 feet. It was designed to accommodate 250 students, women residing on one end and men on the other. On each floor, placed at the center, were four classrooms, a chapel, library and kitchen serving as "impassable" barriers between the residence halls. Final cost of the building and land totaled \$60,000.

In 1959, the village of South Nyack condemned vintage Simpson Hall as unfit for residency. The building had limited use until early 1981 when it was rebuilt on its original stone foundation, retaining its striking Victorian design.

Albert Benjamin Simpson, founder of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and Nyack College "was the pioneer in the field of Bible Training School work in America . . ." wrote Dr. Walter Turnbull. John H. Cable described Simpson as a social realist in education. Proponents of that philosophy "regarded education, in the frankest and most utilitarian manner, as the direct preparation for the life of the 'man of the world.'" (Mourou). Simpson sanctified that philosophy by advocating an intensive study of the Bible to achieve practical results of a spiritual nature. Far from being disdainful of higher education, Simpson, himself a seminary graduate with honors, spoke out repeatedly in *The Alliance Weekly*, advocating "a three-year seminary for college graduates" offering a traditional curriculum.

Simpson's purpose for the school was the training of "irregulars" for gospel ministry. These were Spirit-filled men and women who were awakened intellectually to view the world in its need with fresh perspective.



Clockwise, from top: Dr. A. B. Simpson; Simpson Hall; property deed and early C&MA logo; laying the cornerstone; A. B. Simpson; news article; coeds; "men's parlor;" lobby reception desk; "Chapel Hall;" Mrs. Simpson; kitchen; decorating desserts; dining hall; diploma; pendant; early logo.

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Farther
still,
and farther.

Pardington Hall

send
thy children
brave . . .



Dr. Simpson's last major contribution to the Nyack campus was a new administration building, now known as Pardington Hall. He successfully pushed for a building that would house the school offices, classrooms and an enlarged chapel. The dedication took place March 25, 1913.

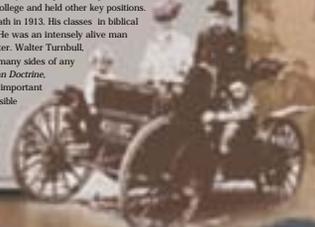
In those days, chapel attendance was mandatory. As late as the 1930s, there was an invisible line down the center of the auditorium dividing the sexes. Married couples were seated in the middle. Friday night missionary meetings were the highlight of the week. Countless alumni recall truths learned, victories won, and commitments made during spiritual emphasis meetings in Pardington Hall. An impressive program of chorus and orchestra concerts, student and faculty recitals, as well as artist series, were open to the public, often receiving rave reviews in *The Journal News*. In the midst of all this blessing the unthinkable happened! The old frame structure was seriously damaged by fire in March, 1971. Chapel and classes met elsewhere until the renovated building was ready for occupancy the following September.

George Pardington, for whom the building was named, overcame incredible obstacles in his

personal life. At age ten, he was yanked from his seat so roughly by a school teacher that his spine was twisted. Unable to lower his dislocated arm for three years, he became almost totally disabled. Later, in answer to prayer, he was partially healed, but spent the rest of his life bent over at the waist. He managed to complete his education at NYU and Drew University, earning a PhD degree in 1898. He also married and raised a family. His wife, Anna, taught at the college and held other key positions.

Dr. Pardington taught at MTI from 1898 until his death in 1913. His classes in biblical and theological studies were demanding, yet popular. He was an intensely alive man who could convulse his students with hilarious laughter. Walter Turnbull, president at the time, said Pardington could "see the many sides of any doctrine." Two of his books, *Outline Studies in Christian Doctrine*, and *The Crisis of the Deeper Life*, were for many years important texts in Alliance schools. George Pardington's irrepressible spirit lives on as a miracle of God's grace.

Clockwise from top: Dr. Pardington; Pardington Hall; missionary committee on old platform; logo pendant; Pardington in his study; Chapel; Mrs. Pardington; the Pardington family in one of the town's first "horseless carriages"; Christmas concert; students facing front of Pardington Hall; fire-damaged building.



Clockwise from top: Dr. Pardington; Pardington Hall; missionary committee on old platform; logo pendant; Pardington in his study; Chapel; Mrs. Pardington; the Pardington family in one of the town's first "horseless carriages;" Christmas concert; students facing front of Pardington Hall; fire-damaged building.

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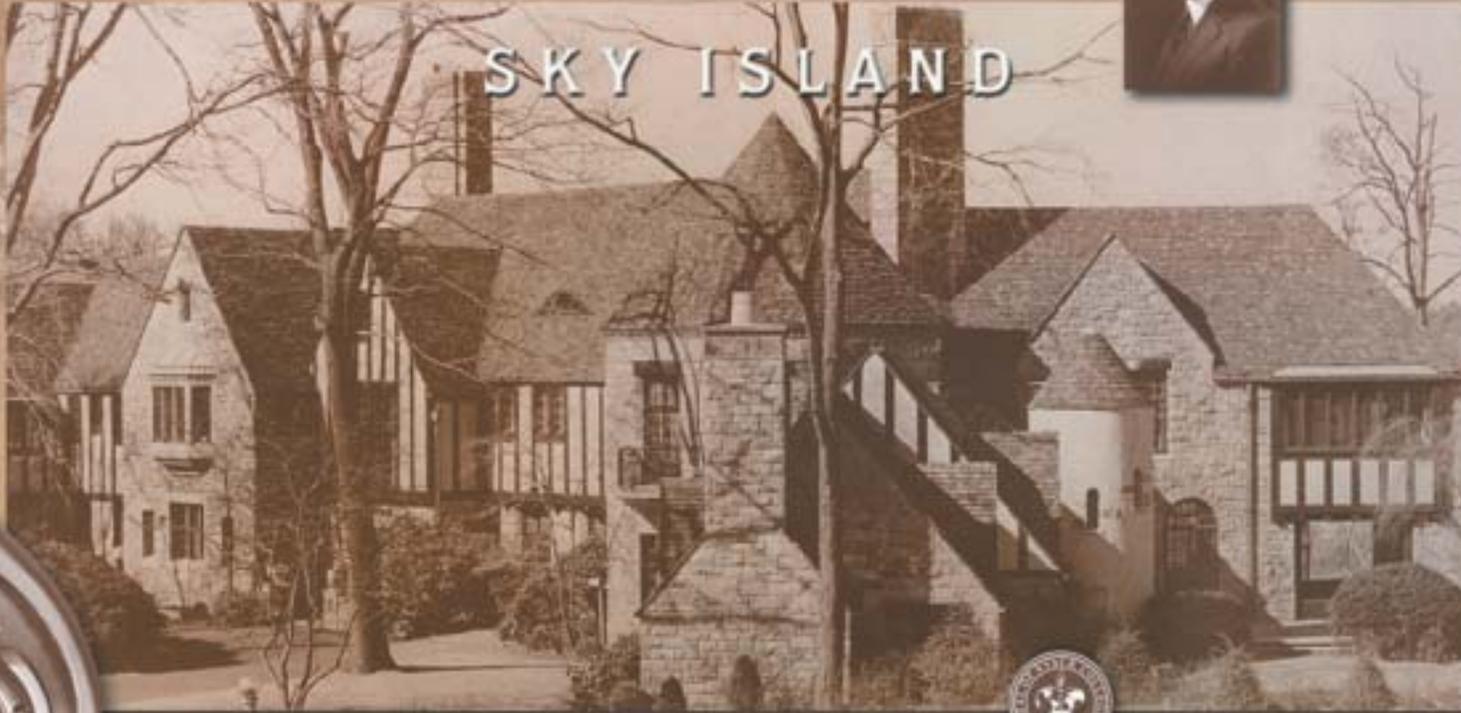
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Gladly we
recall thee

Shuman Hall



Shuman Hall was one of God's generous gifts to Nyack College. Estimated to be worth one and a quarter million dollars in 1954, it was purchased by the college for only \$75,000.

The Tudor-style stone mansion with its thirty-three rooms and six-car garage, was completed in 1930 by the wealthy widow of Jacob Wertheim. Contrary to hearsay, she had no connection to the Clarkstown Country Club other than her daughter, Viola's, brief marriage to the owner's distant nephew. After Mrs. Wertheim's death, in 1937, the mansion stood vacant until Viola allowed it to be used, from 1939 to 1945, as a shelter for refugee children from Europe.

Upon acquiring Sky Island in 1954, Nyack College proudly converted the splendid villa into a much-needed library and administrative center. Its turrets, octagon rooms, winding staircase, elaborate bathrooms, fabric wallcoverings and hand-painted ornamentation, continue to be a fascination. After the library was moved in 1994 to the former Alliance Theological Seminary location, Shuman Hall's administrative offices were extended throughout the building.

Beginning in 1926, Dr. Harry Shuman was for twenty-eight years president of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and, in that position, also served as president of MTI (Nyack College). He had begun a career in 1898 as a schoolteacher. Later he worked for Atlantic Refining Company. In 1905, he was called to pastor and so served for a number of years. He taught at Lovejoy Institute and served as a district superintendent. A man of many abilities, he also was editor of *The Alliance Weekly* and education secretary. His peers described him as having unusual wisdom, grace and humility. He was viewed as "a parliamentarian without peer." He could laugh at himself. He loved cars and related well to students. He was a man larger than life itself.

The photo montage displays Dr. Shuman, Shuman Hall, an octagon room, staircase, and other unique features.



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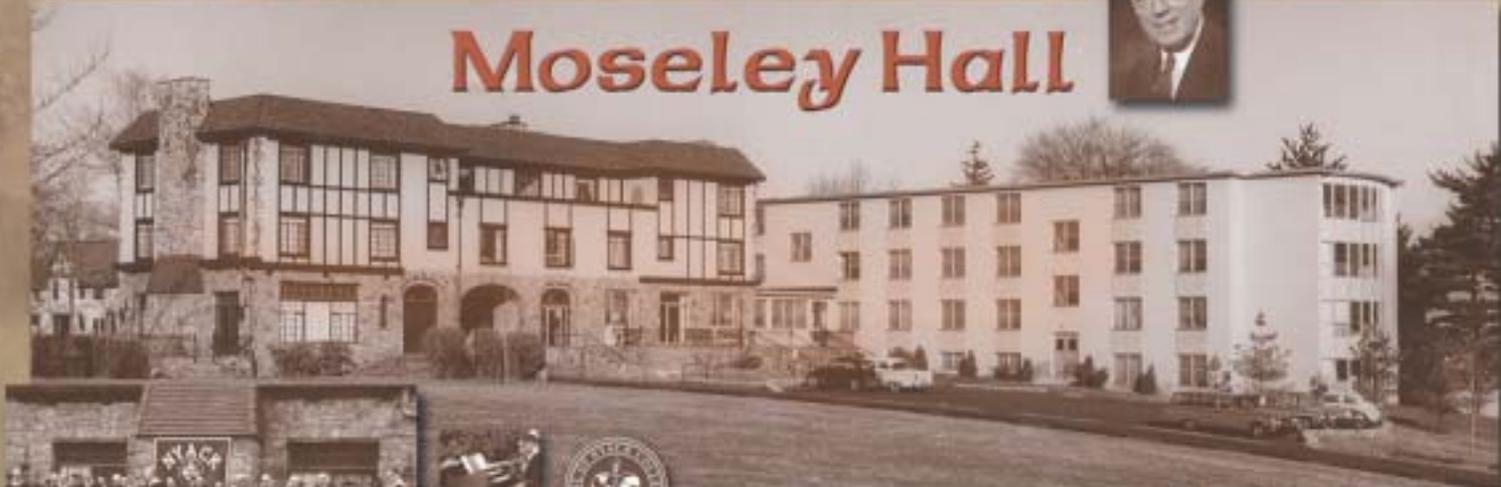
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to earth's
utmost confines

Moseley Hall



The montage of pictures tells a story of outdoor commencement ceremonies, spirited soccer games, homecoming queens, a student lounge with spectacular river view, and the 1914 graduation of Thomas and Eva Moseley.



In the spring of 1956, Eva Moseley, the first lady of the Missionary Training Institute (Nyack College) called a taxi and set out on a sacred mission. Asking the driver to take her only a block north and wait, she boldly entered the formidable gate of Clarkstown Country Club and stood on its front lawn. She then prayed, "Oh dear God, you know how much the college needs this wonderful property. I believe that You want us to have it, too. I claim it right now for Thy work and claim it in faith in Jesus' name. Amen." This plea reflected the prayers of many others on campus.

Within six months CCC began to notice deterioration of interest and put the property up for sale. For only \$250,000, MTI purchased nineteen acres (the remaining eleven were bought by the public school system). With the land came several buildings including the main Georgian-style mansion which became the men's dormitory. A wing was later added to the front of this building to make room for a growing student body.

Prayers of consecration were especially crucial for this property which for years had been shrouded in rumors, some true and others speculation. A steady stream of famous people had come to learn and participate in the club's mixture of Eastern and other philosophies. Peacocks and elephants were thought to be part of the "religion," but the latter were well-trained performers in popular circus events held at CCC and, sometimes, for Ringling Brothers' Circus. A sports stadium seating 6,000 was hailed as "one of the finest... in New York State." Night events brought in such offbeat baseball teams as the Pennsylvania Redcaps, the Cuban Stars and the House of David. Well-known boxers and wrestlers also attracted public notice.

Thomas and Eva Moseley graduated from MTI in 1914 and served as missionaries with The Christian and Missionary Alliance on the Kansu-Tibetan Border from 1915 to 1940. (Eva's brother-in-law was the late honorable Chief Justice Earl Warren.) In 1941 Thomas Moseley became Nyack College's first full-time president and quickly endeared himself to students by doing away with outdated rules! Working prodigiously with Dr. Harold Boon, Dr. Moseley pioneered the way to academic recognition from New York State's Department of Education. Moseley Hall stands as a memorial to this man of grace and stature.



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Boon Campus Center



Clockwise from top: Harold W. Boon; campus center entrance and front; breaking ground; laying the corner stones; Chaplain Boon; dining hall; sports trophies; pendant; student lounge.

When vintage Simpson Hall was condemned as a fire hazard by the village of Nyack, its facilities needed to be relocated. College president Harold Boon came up with an idea. Why not build a campus center! His proposal was approved by the Board of Trustees despite their reluctance to take on another financial burden. Lengthy litigation proceedings by neighbors who claimed their view of the river would be obstructed caused further delay. But persevering prayer by the college community triumphed when the courts finally ruled in favor of building the campus center.

The new building housed a spacious dining hall, kitchen facilities, student lounges, classrooms, offices, bookstore, post office and more. The dining hall became the center for student social life, banquets, and other important gatherings. The "President's Dining Room" gave a touch of elegance to receptions for faculty and guests. Later, the center's facilities were to be rented out to summer conference groups, bringing in needed income.

On October 27, 1977, the Campus Center was renamed "Harold W. Boon Campus Center" in honor of the man who served Nyack College for 35 years (1940-1975) as faculty member, registrar, dean and, for 17 of those years, president. His wife and partner, Hazel, ministered in countless ways to faculty wives, guests, and others. During World War II, Harold Boon briefly served his country as a Navy chaplain.

During his tenure Dr. Boon had the joy of seeing a dream fulfilled when Nyack became a fully accredited college. In 1940, the school secured a Charter from the Higher Education Commission of the State of New York. Accreditation was granted Nyack College by the Middle States Association of Colleges in 1962, and the American Council of Education in 1963. President Boon was cofounder of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges. Through these years he led the expansion and construction of campus facilities. The name, "Harold W. Boon Campus Center," is a recognition well deserved.



...Hail to the song
and praise...

Clockwise from top: Harold W. Boon; campus center entrance and front; breaking ground; laying the corner stone; Chaplain Boon; dining hall; sports trophies; pendant; student lounge.

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Songs to thee
we raise . . .

Christie Hall



Christie Hall women's dormitory was built in response to overcrowded conditions in Simpson Hall, Nyack College's main student residence. Christie Hall's cornerstone was laid in 1945 and the new dormitory, ready for occupancy by September, 1946, was formally dedicated on December 7 that year. William Christie, then vice president and treasurer of the Alliance, had procured the property and was the chief fund raiser for the \$240,000-project. Thus the name Christie was a natural choice for the new residence hall.

The red-brick structure has four floors and three sections designated as south, center, and north. The hall includes a large basement recreation room. Several staff apartments are available for the director and her assistants. Legendary "Miss Stanhope" was followed, in turn, by the deans Boyd, Jackson, McClements, Braden, and a number of later directors.

William Christie and his wife, Jessie, were both born in Scotland and became involved at the New York Gospel Tabernacle shortly after immigrating to the United States.

Both attended the New York Missionary Training Institute (Nyack College) and went to China. They did not meet, however, until Jessie arrived on the Kansu-Tibetan

border where William Christie was engaged in pioneer work.

Jessie arrived at a time when there were no hospitals or doctors. A trained nurse, she served under the most primitive conditions, surrounded by small pox and other epidemics. She often was seen taking along her young child as she traveled on horseback over dangerous robber-infested terrain. After the White Wolf raid, in 1914, an emergency hospital was set up. With scanty medical supplies and limited technical knowledge Mrs. Christie performed daring surgery that saved many lives. The grateful Chinese government awarded her and her colleagues silver medals of decoration for distinguished service.

During Mr. Christie's 58 years of missionary service, beginning in Tibet, he endured incredible hardships including being beaten and stoned. His courageous exploits made him something of a hero, and missionary colleagues characterized him as "The Livingstone of Northeast Tibet." Loved by the Chinese for his generous spirit, Mr. Christie was a devoted student of Chinese culture and wisdom. A tireless worker, he exemplified servant leadership.

Later, in North America, Mr. Christie held a number of leadership posts. He served as treasurer of the Alliance for seventeen years, and vice president for sixteen years.

Clockwise, beginning at top: Young William Christie, Christie Hall, the Christies' wedding in Shanghai (1901), friends chatting, sign at entrance to Christie Hall, Dean Elizabeth Jackson (standing) with students, Dean Mildred Stanhope, coeds in dorm room.

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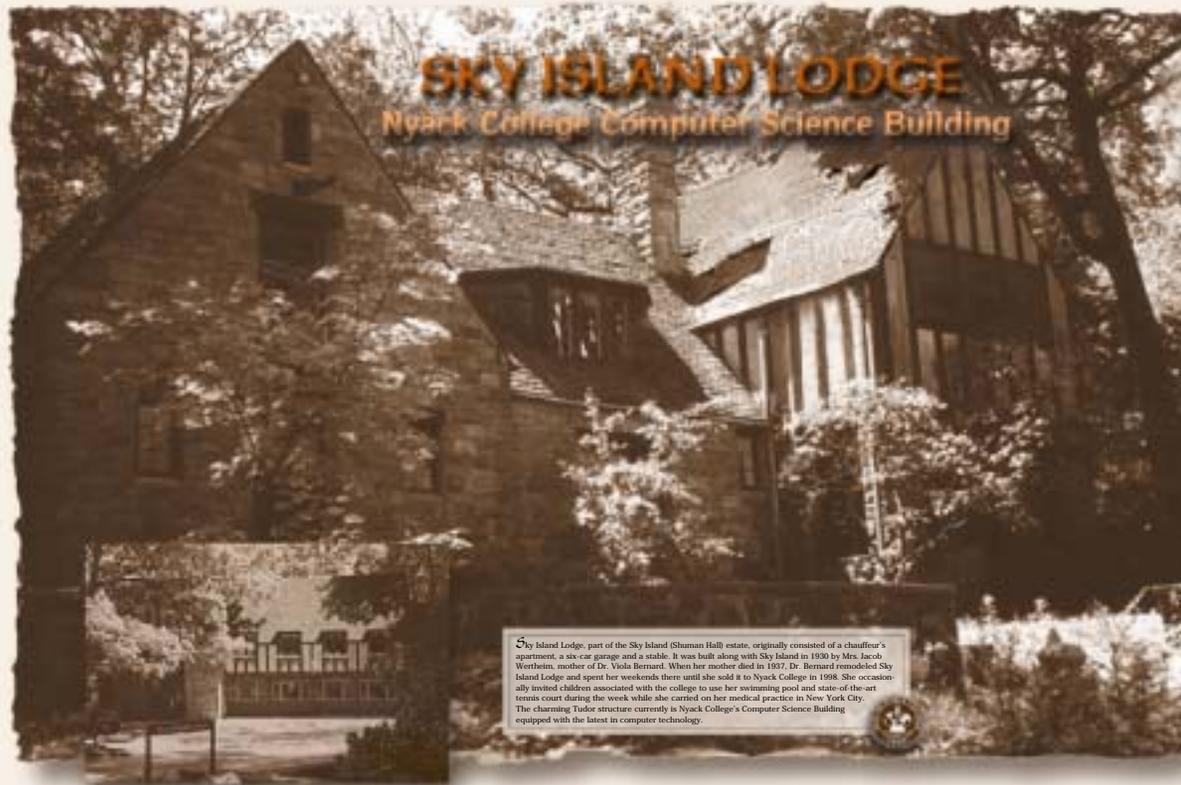
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Bailey Library Historical Buildings Collection, 32"x22"

Sky Island Lodge, part of the Sky Island (Shuman Hall) estate, originally consisted of a chauffeur's apartment, a six-car garage and a stable. It was built along with Sky Island in 1930 by Mrs. Jacob Wertheim, mother of Dr. Viola Bernard. When her mother died in 1937, Dr. Bernard remodeled Sky Island Lodge and spent her weekends there until she sold it to Nyack College in 1998. She occasionally invited children associated with the college to use her swimming pool and state-of-the-art tennis court during the week while she carried on her medical practice in New York City. The charming Tudor structure currently is Nyack College's Computer Science Building equipped with the latest in computer technology. 🍀

SOURCES

BOON CENTER

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SKY ISLAND LODGE

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