Welcome to the Life of Jeanne Carter-Tuthill

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This student research project was generously funded by the Robert D.L. Gardiner Foundation and uses Long Island Studies Institute collections as the basis for the project.
Garden City, located in central Long Island, has claimed a rich history, from the Native Americans roaming its land to the fearsome battles fought by many soldiers of the American Revolution. Similar to a majority of suburban towns, it has made its own mark within the culture and context of its environment, beginning with the purchase of 7,170 acres of land for $394,350 by a multimillionaire named Alexander Stewart.
Mr. Stewart invested his money in turning this land into an upscale suburban community by improving existing carriage paths to make towns and farms more accessible; using blueprints to construct a community park that would be landscaped with thousands of trees and shrubs; forming a train station for the Long Island Railroad to bring in more supplies; and even producing the Garden City Well, which brought in an excellent source of pure, fresh water for the village’s citizens.
As the Village progressed and became more permanent, citizens were conflicted about what to call the neighborhood they lived in. Names began to surface such as “City of the Plains,” “Alexandria,” or “Stewart City,” in honor of Mr. Stewart himself. Finally, in 1870, almost a year after the village was purchased, Stewart fashioned the name Garden City, inspired by the city of Chicago. Before the fires that set the city ablaze in 1871, Chicago actually had an elaborate set of elegant gardens and private homes of wealth and was informally called Garden City. Stewart admired Chicago so much that he ended up naming his own town after it and aspired to model Garden City on similar aesthetics that Chicago once possessed.
After Mr. Stewart passed on, his wife Cornelia invested in building the Cathedral of the Incarnation, which was a major hallmark in the history of Garden City. The Cathedral was a dream of Mrs. Stewart’s, where she wished her husband to be buried. She offered to build and endow the Cathedral Church with parish buildings and schools to attract new-comers to the village and to provide an education for its children. All she asked in return was that the Cathedral would become the Seat of the Bishop of Long Island, and that it be the final resting place for her husband. Boasting a sixty-acre tract of land, the Cathedral was designed by Henry G. Harrison of New York, who was already familiar with conducting community church plans. The Cathedral was officially founded in 1877, which was crucial within the education system of Garden City considering that academies and private schools were a necessity in those days for high school education and for adequate preparation for college; the common or public schools were still in their embryonic stages, especially in rural areas.
St. Mary’s and St. Paul’s

- Although the all-boys school named St. Paul’s officially opened in 1883, St. Mary’s school for girls had to wait ten years longer for its permanent building, where residents from Garden City, Hempstead, and Brooklyn would get their education. Garden City itself only had a small, one-room school above a corner store on Hilton Avenue, which only offered instruction to a few primary grades.
All of these new attractions made Garden City more appealing to new families, which sparked a long period of growth. By the turn of the century there was nationwide prosperity, transportation development in Nassau County, and a growing popularity of the Village. The directors of the Garden City Company decided that it was time to make substantial investments to embrace this process of growth. Forty-page promotional booklets, which the Garden City Company published in 1907, reflected its efforts to attract new residents and its accomplishments to date, such as overhauling the water supply system, modernizing the disposal plant that the village had built in 1904, and making further strides in placing electric and telephone cables in underground conduits. Overall, these advancements helped the Village accommodate to its growing population. Other aspects that contributed to the expansion of Garden City were the new public school located on Cathedral Avenue and especially the new golf course named Salisbury Links.
During the roaring twenties, it was evident that the Garden City Company needed to buy or build more facilities to entertain all of the growing needs of the town, such as investing in extra facilities and services, enhancing the water system, remodeling the entire building of an old brick stable on Seventh Street into Garden City’s first Village Hall, and creating one central Village school. Along with all of these practical matters, there was still plenty of time for citizens to socialize, make money, attend horse races and international polo matches, or even travel and host parties.

Although St. Mary’s and St. Paul’s, at this time, were still well-known schools, they would feel competition from the improved public school system, especially during and after the Great Depression. However, both St. Mary’s and St. Paul’s were able to weather both the Depression and future changes.
Financially, Garden City came through the Great Depression of 1929 surprisingly well. It was able to meet many of the commitments it made to improvements without having to turn to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. This was most likely due to the steady commercial, as well as residential growth of the Village, along with visionary planning. Although the Village did substantially well during the Great Depression, it was still difficult to provide services for a fast-growing population. However, construction and production trudged on with the building of a second fire house; a storm sewer; the purchase of five new police patrol cars; Best and Company choosing Garden City as the location for its first suburban branch in 1930, along with other stores; and new apartments and houses going up all over the Village, especially in the Eastern Section.

For six years during the 1930’s, the Village struggled with another problem: dog racing. The Agricultural Society had introduced it in 1932 at the Fair Grounds to cover its expenses. It was immediately opposed by the Garden City Company as a nuisance, unsportsmanlike, and possibly illegal. The races, nevertheless, still prospered and attracted even more people to the race tracks until it faced its demise in 1936, after local pressure for the County to excavate the Fair Grounds.
Besides all of the civic activity, Village pursuits and pleasures still continued. As new citizens entered Garden City, they were soon exposed to and involved with school, church, and club affairs. Golf was one of the great attractions. As Frank Crowninshield wrote in 1936, when the 40th National Amateur Championship was played on the Garden City Golf Club course, “The district around Garden City has become the most active golfing center in the United States.” Other sports included tennis, bowling, and badminton at the Casino, flying lessons at Roosevelt Field, and ice skating on Hubbell’s Pond. Garden City even achieved a beach club at Atlantic Beach with cabanas, a bathhouse, and a terraced, blue and white clubhouse overlooking the ocean.
Jeanne Carter-Tuthill, a resident of Garden City, New York, was born in New Suffolk, New York, on March 15, 1918, to Harry B. and Marjorie Carter. After attending Garden City High School for three years, she decided to transfer to St. Mary’s for her senior year, 1935 to 1936. After completing St. Mary’s, she began her career as a college nursing student at The Flower-Fifth Avenue School of Nursing of New York Medical College and gained her degree in 1940 to eventually work at the former Central Suffolk Hospital in Riverhead.

Her hobbies included traveling, quilting, gardening, and an overall “outdoor living” lifestyle. Jeanne ran a raspberry stand located on Route 48 in Mattituck, along with caring for livestock, such as turkeys. In regard to her religious beliefs, Jeanne was a member of Cutchogue Presbyterian Church, but was later affiliated with Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Mattituck.

Jeanne’s husband, John Case Tuthill, died in 2013, and her son Edward Tuthill died in 1972. Jeanne died on June 8, 2014, in Mattituck, New York, and was buried in Cutchogue Cemetery.
At first glance of Jeanne Carter-Tuthill’s class photo, one might think she was the model student. She was a member of the graduating class of 1936 at St. Mary’s Cathedral School in Garden City, New York. With her large glasses, and perfectly pinned-back hair, she conveys a sense of innocence. Yet, if one takes a closer look at the carefully-kept mementos of Jeanne’s personal life, it becomes clear that “Piffy Doodle”—as she was known to her friends—had a carefree, playful, adventurous, and almost mischievous personality.
Jeanne had boldly left the public high school she attended for over three years, to finish her last year as a teenager in the elite, all-girls Catholic high school of St. Mary’s Cathedral. As she confesses in the scrapbook recently acquired by Hofstra University’s Special Collections, she wanted to gain the “going away” experience, even though “away,” from her point of view, was only a few blocks from her parents’ residence. From the start of her enrollment in 1935 throughout the next year, Jeanne took advantage of everything the school offered socially, including sports, parties, get-togethers, and field trips, where she made many new friends. Although her academic grades did suffer, she gained a lifetime of experiences by forging meaningful and fun-filled friendships that Jeanne and her comrades would cherish for years and that even extended into their college years.
St. Mary’s Cathedral, which was founded in September 1877 by Cornelia Stewart, was an elite school that aimed to instill high standards and distinct ideals and traditions in its students. From Jeanne’s St. Mary’s folder, which contains her personal academic records and a brochure of the school, we can see that some of the characteristics that students were expected to uphold, were: “worthy citizenship,” “[to] enrich [one’s] cultural background,” and “[to] develop and train [one’s] abilities.” Besides the school’s expectations that their students would become well-rounded members of society, St. Mary’s implemented “a strong foundation of study, a sense of sportsmanship in work and play, as well as including plenty of fun and wholesome friendship.”

Considering that St. Mary’s was an all-girls boarding school, achieving each of the school’s principles and traditions became a journey that all of the girls would take together and, by living in the same environment, be a source of influence for each other. The school’s setting was quite attractive and boasted beautiful living rooms, libraries, and dining rooms, which served tea everyday to create a friendly and homelike atmosphere.
THE SCHOOL SETTING

Attractive living conditions, libraries and dining rooms help to make a friendly, homelike atmosphere. Tea is served each afternoon in the main library by members of the House Committee. Each girl has her own comfortable bedroom. The older girls live in suites with a living room connecting the two bedrooms.

Afternoon tea in the Drawing Room

A Corner of the Dining Room

Cathedral School of Saint Mary

The Cathedral School of Saint Mary, an Episcopal boarding and day school for girls, was founded by the Bishop of the Diocese of Long Island in September, 1877.

Following the traditions and ideals that have characterized it from its founding, the purpose of the school is today, as before, to teach girls to understand and appreciate them to assume the responsibilities of active and orderly citizenship to enrich their cultural background; to discover their individual needs and talents; to develop and train their abilities to prepare them thoroughly for college entrance or for whatever other advanced work may be chosen. Good workmanship and good school traits are stressed.

It is hoped that from the life of the school community rich values will be gained in adapting oneself to the life of the group, learning to respect the rights and privileges of others, and a sense of sportsmanship in work and play.

The principal keeps in close touch with the students' work through frequent conferences. Monthly reports supplemented by letters are sent to parents.

The school wishes the cooperation and support of the home and invites parents to visit the school and discuss the work, needs, and plans of their daughters with the teachers and with the principal.

Location and Equipment

The school is located in Garden City, an attractive residential town twenty-five miles from New York City. It may be reached by the Long Island Railroad from the Pennsylvania Station in New York and by many motor highways. Garden City has a beautiful and invigorating climate and the open charm of an English village. It is half way between the ocean on the South Shore and Long Island Sound on the North Shore so that many
By emphasizing the benefits of involvement, St. Mary’s set up a number of events for its students such as Saturday afternoon marshmallow roasts, field days, glee clubs, informal baseball events, and even horseback riding. Jeanne and her friends took advantage of many of these activities and developed friendships by playing field hockey, taking a ride on horseback, and even participating in full-day events such as Field Day. These events and activities built the bond of friendship, which would become the foundation Jeanne and her friends stood upon during their senior year that helped them establish the social skills that they would use as adults.
Although there are only five photographs of Jeanne personally, she was clearly quite extroverted, always mingling with her large groups of friends and engaging in fun-filled pastimes. She enjoyed outdoor activities such as baseball and lacrosse, among others.
Jeanne’s Interactions With Friends

Throughout the daily routines that Jeanne and her friends shared, there was a sense of commonality. Their personalities blended well and they became almost like family to one another. Humor played an extremely important role in their lives by bonding them together and allowing them to expose one another to their little imperfections and quirks. Jeanne enjoyed taking many photographs of her friends at school, whether it was while playing sports, commenting on a certain outfit, or even just doing a silly dance.
The small room inside the house had a small window and a door leading outside. Remember, inside cubicle it said:

Joining - until next stop.

As always - easterly wind, always strong. I'll be back next summer to make your life better.

This summer and under you're care, I'll be glad day to day.
Jeanne’s Senior Year Trip to Skytop Lodge

- St. Mary’s hosted a senior year trip to Skytop Lodge, a ski resort located in Skytop, Pennsylvania. Jeanne took advantage of many activities during this vacation, such as skiing, ice-skating, and riding a toboggan.
Jeanne officially graduated from St. Mary’s on June 2nd, 1936. After obtaining her diploma, she enrolled in the Flower-Fifth Avenue School of Nursing.
June 16, 1932

Dear Puffin,

I wish I were a bird of fortune
For out myself in two
I'd give a wing to everyone
But have the heart to stand

Mudl's name

G.B.

Dear Jean: Best of luck to you, the puffinette, and the ghostie.

Love,

from

E. R. Reynolds

M. E.

Dear Puffin: Doodle.

When Cypil shoots his arrow
I hope he hits you.

lots of love from M. E.

Peggy Baby

June 25, 1932

Dear Puffinette,

("Wonder Wonderful") - well
What in hell do you expect me to say?

Peggy Mayo

August 25, 1932

August 25, 1932

There are silver ships
And golden ships
But the best ships
I'm Friendship

Forget

The Past

Good luck always
And may your purse
Get you somewhere
I'm certain in the future I'm with them

Peggy

Peggy

Mudl's name

M. B.

Aug. 21, 1930

Dear Jeanne,

Love to the world
The best you have
And the best will
Come back to you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brown

August 21, 1930

Dear Jeanne,

Love to the world
The best you have
And the best will
Come back to you.

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Autographs

Peggy Mayo

August 21, 1930

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And the best will
Come back to you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brown

August 21, 1930
After Jeanne graduated from St. Mary’s, during the summer of 1936, she attended Moss Lake Camp located in Eagle Bay, New York. The camp had a variety of activities for Jeanne to participate in, such as tennis, archery, swimming, canoeing, dancing, fencing, sailing, horse shows, hiking, as well as competitions between many of the campers. Jeanne documented her memories of camp with detailed descriptions of the numerous activities she enjoyed.
Jeanne collected notes and memorabilia from her camp experiences and documented the meanings behind them. To the left is an invitation to a college fraternity house that Jeanne received, and to the right is a list Jeanne wrote of the many activities she participated in.
In addition to her prior activities, Jeanne kept a score card from a game she played at a fraternity house, a Reed’s Butter Scotch wrapper from a swimming meet on Big Moose Lake, as well as a scavenger hunt list with riddles she and her friends had to solve in order to find the hidden item.
Jeanne is a Winner at a Horse Show!

Jeanne had the opportunity to compete at the Annual Horse Show at Moose Lake, Camp Eagle Bay, N.Y., on August 8, 1936. At left is a newspaper article describing her achievements at the show.
Jeanne’s Nursing Career

- After completing high school at St. Mary’s, Jeanne continued on to college and enrolled in the Flower-Fifth Avenue School of Nursing in 1939. Despite the school’s competitive requirements for acceptance and Jeanne’s mediocre grades, she was accepted and received a high-quality education. As the years passed, Jeanne was able to increase her grade point average which helped her excel during her college career.
The Flower-Fifth Avenue School of Nursing was the product of two other institutions: The Flower Hospital School of Nursing and the Fifth Avenue Hospital School. The school offered a three-year program to educate young women in nursing techniques and skills.
Some of Jeanne’s
Topics of Study
While at Nursing
School

- To prepare for her future profession, Jeanne took Chemistry, Obstetrical Nursing, Pediatric Nursing, and Communicable Disease Nursing, among other subjects.
Jeanne took many tests to assess her knowledge of nursing. Not only was she graded on her academic work, but on teamwork, compassion, and cleanliness.
Jeanne Graduates Nursing School

Jeanne officially graduated from nursing school on May 8th, 1940, and went on to work at the former Central Suffolk Hospital in Riverhead.
Jeanne eventually moved to Mattituck, New York, after completing nursing school, and worked in the Central Suffolk Hospital in Riverhead. She married John C. Tuthill, who was a potato and hay farmer with John C. Tuthill Farms. Jeanne and her husband had one son, Edward James Tuthill, who was born in 1954, and who passed away at the age of twenty-one. Jeanne and her husband lived until the ages of ninety-four and ninety-six respectively.

Jeanne died on June 8th, 2014, and her final resting place is in the Cutchogue Cemetery located in Suffolk County, New York.
Sources & Quirks
Jeanne’s Previous Residence in Garden City

146 Whitehall Boulevard, Garden City, New York
The extremely extensive scrapbook that documented Jeanne’s personal memories and in particular her friendships and the events she encountered in high school, reveals a great deal about these special bonds, as well as about Jeanne’s personality and the time period in which her experiences took place. The scrapbook’s exterior has the appearance of a fairytale story book, frosted in a café-chocolate/brown color and bound in some sort of leather material. Its cover entices the reader, by its mysterious charm, to open it and see what is inside. From its first page it brings the reader back in time to the year of 1936. One can tell it’s age from its musty smell and the discoloration of the pages, which are especially thick, sturdy, and rough around the edges, qualities that no doubt preserved them from damage over the years. It appears to have been a long time since someone has opened this hidden gem.
The History of Garden City by M.H Smith was the best source of information about Garden City’s history up to and including the 1930’s. Mrs. Irwin Smith was selected as the official historian of Garden City in 1959 and immediately began collecting all available material relating to the community. After a substantial amount of items were gathered and sorted, she was able to write her book, which gives detailed descriptions not only about Garden City’s past, but about the story of the Hempstead Plains, the Township, Nassau County, and Long Island as a whole.

Knowing the history of Garden City makes it easier to understand Jeanne’s lifestyle and background in the context of her environment.
Find a Grave Memorial is an outlet to further investigate Jeanne Carter-Tuhill’s life. This website lists vital information about her past, such as the name of her husband, her child, her hobbies, where she lived, and the date and location of her final resting place.

https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=131239822