

St. Mary's Church, Scarborough

A very brief introduction to the history of St. Mary's

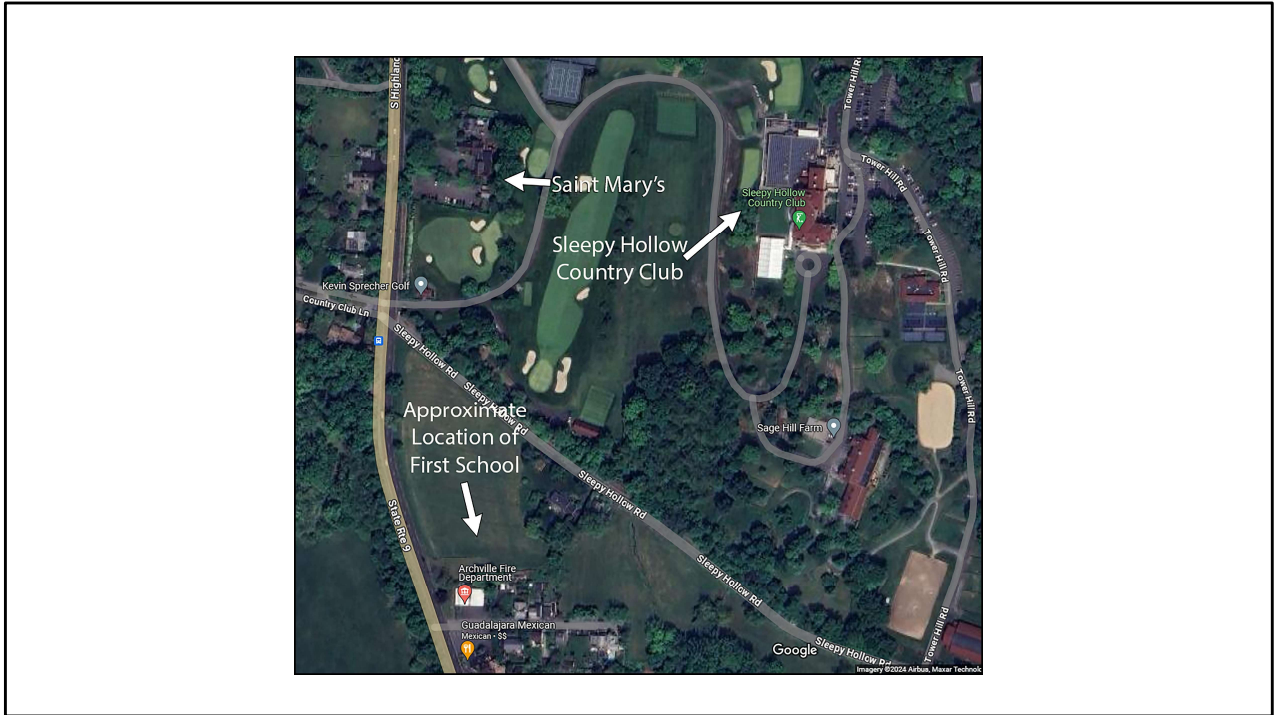
Followed by

A Showing of the 1937 Movie: "The Birth of St. Mary's"

All Saints Episcopal Church
Saturday, April 20, 2024



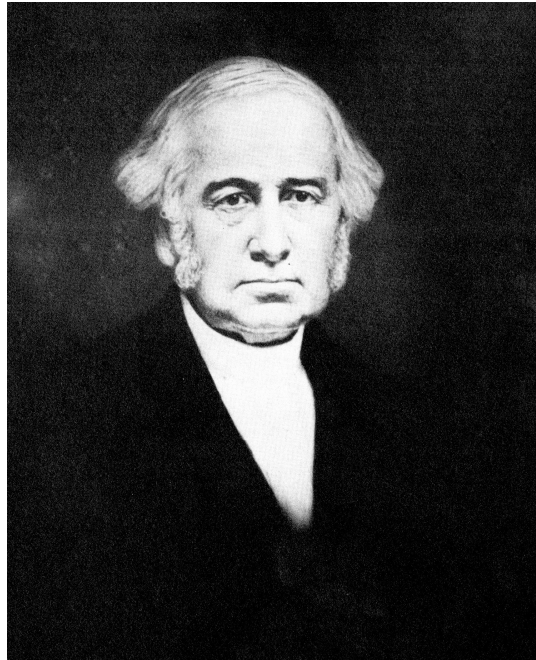
Location of St. Mary's Episcopal Church



Closer view showing the approximate location of the school where the first services were held.

A PARTIAL AND VERY BRIEF CHRONOLOGY	
1839	Services first held for a small congregation in a school. The congregation was composed mostly of families on the first Croton Aqueduct. The schoolhouse opened through the influence of Dr. Creighton. It stood on the corner of Sleepy Hollow Road and Albany Post Road.
1847	Services held regularly from this date on. Sunday School held at the residence of Mr. Leggett, later in that of Mr. Darius Hoyt.
1850	Land given by Dr. William Creighton, being a part of his estate "Beechwood"
1851	Church edifice erected from designs by Richard Upjohn. Opened for services September 21 st .
1852	Bell, captured at Tabasco, Mexico, presented by Commodore Matthew Perry.
1865	Death of the first rector, Dr. William Creighton.
1897	Parish house erected in memory of Cornelius Kingsland
1913	Church extensively redecorated in the English Gothic of the XIV Century. Similar in style to St. Mary's Scarborough, UK
1906	Parish boundaries enlarged to include Sparta where a Settlement House is opened.
1924	Present Organ installed in memory of Gustav H. Schwab
2015	The parish of St. Mary's Episcopal Church closed July 5

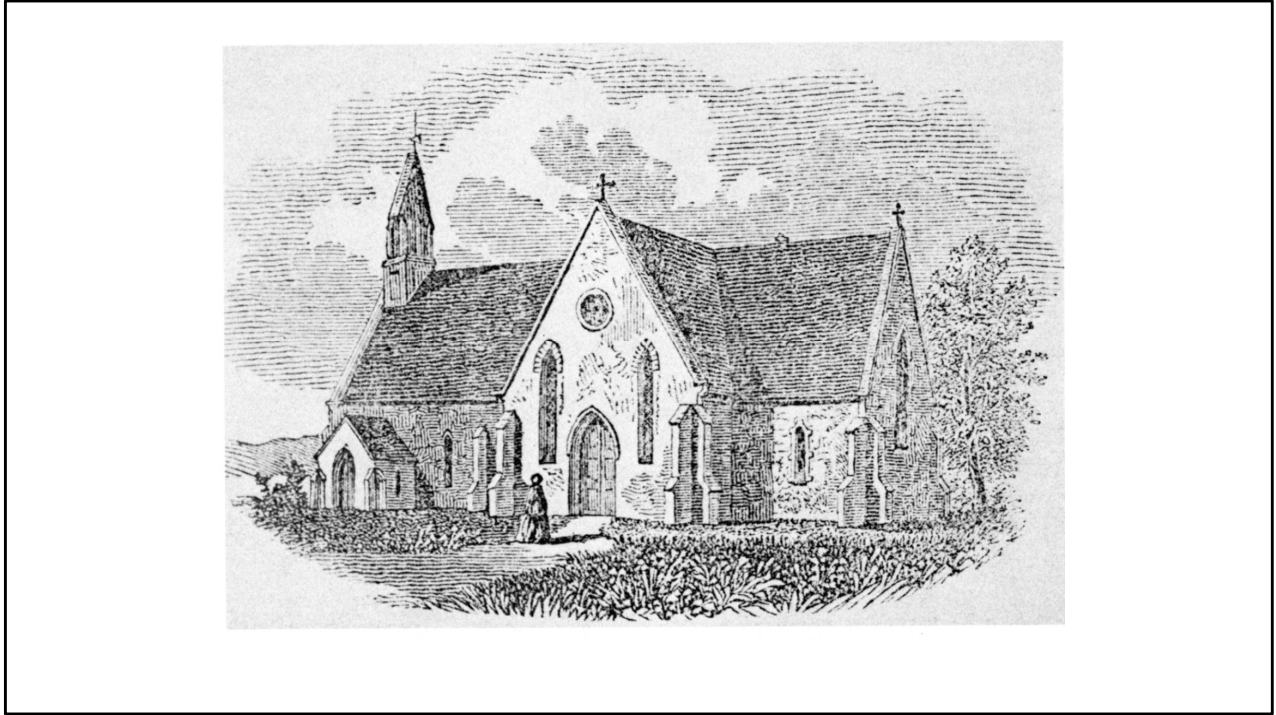
A partial and very brief chronology



- Dr. William Creighton
- Purchased a large tract of land, including the River Road section of Scarborough and the land now owned by the Sleepy Hollow Country Club.
- He built “Beechwood” overlooking the river.
- 1st rector, 1839-1865



- Dr. Edward N. Mead, who would serve as the second rector (1865-1877) married Dr. Creighton's daughter, Jane and during their honeymoon in England visited Scarborough, Yorkshire, where they saw this church
- Much of the literature we have refers to the church as being "13th Century". However, the church's own website states that it dates from the 12th century, but was significantly expanded during the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. It was again rebuilt during the British Civil War (17th Century) when it was badly damaged.
- When they returned Dr. Mead persuaded his father-in-law that the time had come to build a church for the St. Mary's congregation.
- Dr. Creighton agreed and donated most of the money as well as 2.5 acres of land for the church and a "glebe lot" (an income-producing parcel of land for the church).
- St Mary's with Holy Apostles, Scarborough, UK. The church which was the inspiration of St Mary's Episcopal Church.



- This is how the church looked around 1850-51



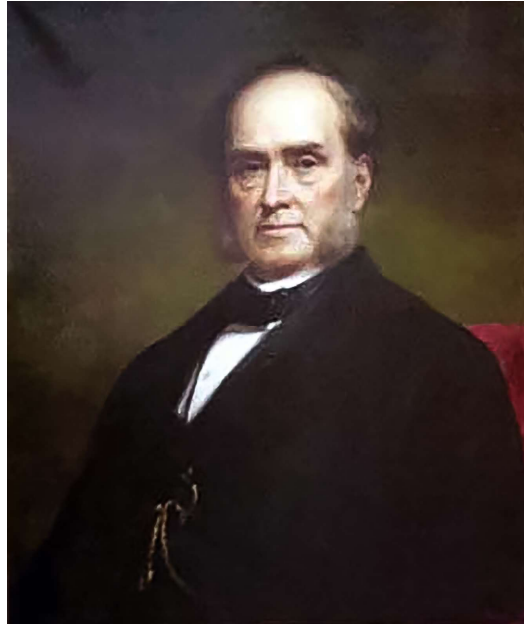
- Commodore Matthew C. Perry.
- Perry was interested in the education of naval officers and assisted in the development of an apprentice system that helped establish the curriculum at the United States Naval Academy.
- With the advent of the steam engine, he became a leading advocate of modernizing the U.S. Navy and came to be considered "The Father of the Steam Navy" in the United States.
- Opened Japan to the outside world.
- Lived at "The Moorings", which was located on what is now Rockwood Hall State Park.



- John Lorimer Worden.
- Born in Scarborough. The house was on the corner of Scarborough Road and Albany Post Road.
- Best known for his role as a Lieutenant in the US Navy during the American Civil War, where he Commanded the USS Monitor in an engagement with the CSS Virginia in what was the first-ever battle between ironclad steamships at Hampton Roads, Virginia, on 9 March 1862.
- Went on to have an illustrious career in the Navy
- After the state of New York celebrated by commissioning of a custom-made 37-inch (940 mm) gold-and-silver inlaid sword from [Tiffany & Co.](#) The handle was emblazoned with the Roman god of the sea, Neptune, and included a gold-plated sheath and gold embroidered belt made at the cost of \$550. (\$16,128 adjusted for inflation as of 2022.)
- Worden's family donated the sword to the Naval Academy, where it rested until 1931, when it was stolen. The subsequent naval investigation yielded no leads.
- The sword was missing for over six decades until 1998, when the FBI began an investigation into several dealers of the PBS show [Antiques Roadshow](#). By 2002, three men were in jail for \$1 million in memorabilia fraud. The sword had been purchased by an appraiser and then resold to a collector. After the FBI verified the sword was stolen, it was confiscated and returned to the Naval Academy.



- Washington Irving
- Close friend of Dr. Creighton
- Author of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”, “Rip Van Winkle” and much much more
- Donated Ivy from Sir Walter Scott’s home in Abbotsford.
- One of the first American writers to earn acclaim in Europe,
- He was Secretary to the American legation in London and later Minister to Spain
- Lived at “Sunnyside” in Irvington



- Ambrose Kingsland
- A successful merchant, Kingsland built businesses in grocery dry goods, sperm whale oil, shipping and real estate.
- Kingsland was appointed a Commissioner of the Croton Aqueduct in 1848.
- Held public office as the 71st mayor of New York City from 1851 to 1853, the first mayor to be elected to a two-year term.
- In 1851, he initiated the legislation that eventually led to the construction of Central Park.
- In 1897 the St. Mary's Parish House was erected in memory of his father, Cornelius Kingsland



- John Charles Frémont also known as “ The Pathfinder”.
- American explorer, military officer, and politician.
- United States senator from California
- First Republican nominee for president of the U.S in 1856. Lost to Democrat James Buchanan.
- Native of Georgia
- Attended College of Charleston until he was expelled for irregular attendance
- Opposed slavery.
- In the 1840s, he led five expeditions into the western states.
- Took control of California from the California Republic in 1846
- Led the Sacramento River massacre, Klamath Lake massacre, and Sutter Buttes massacre against indigenous peoples.
- Court-martialed and convicted of mutiny and insubordination after a conflict over who was the rightful military governor of California. Sentence commuted. Reinstated by President James K. Polk.
- Got rich in the California gold rush
- He became one of the first two U.S. senators elected from the new state of California in 1850.
- During the Civil War he was given command of the Department of the West by Abraham Lincoln
- Issued an unauthorized emancipation edict and was relieved of his command for insubordination.
- After the Civil War, he lost much of his wealth in the unsuccessful Pacific Railroad in 1866, and he lost more in the Panic of 1873.
- In 1864, the Frémonts purchased an estate in Sleepy Hollow, New York, They named it Pocaho, an

Indian name. The house, now at 7 Pokahoe Drive in Sleepy Hollow, is currently a private residence

- Served as Governor of the Arizona Territory from 1878 to 1881. After his resignation as governor, he retired from politics and died destitute in New York City in 1890..



Tucked away in a exterior corner is a small bell and a plaque. It reads: "Commodore Matthew C Perry 1794-1856, Father of the Steam Navy and opener of Japan who made his home here for many years in "The [Moorings](#)". A founder of this church and donor of the bell used until 1910."

"PERRY MEMORIAL UNVEILED.; A Bell Captured by the Commodore in Mexico in Scarborough Church.

OSSINING, N.Y., Nov. 13 -- The memorial tablet and bell given by [August Belmont](#) in memory of the late Matthew C. Perry was unveiled at evening song at St. Mary's Church, Scarborough, this afternoon. The Rev. B. Oakley Baldwin, pastor of the church, officiated, and preached the sermon, in which he referred to the work of Commodore Perry in the navy and to his treaty with Japan opening that country to the world. At the conclusion of the sermon the flag which had draped the bell and table which are the memorial was drawn away. The bell was captured by Commodore Perry at Tabsco, Mexico, in the war with that country.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. [August Belmont](#), the former a grandson of the Commodore; Mrs. George Tiffany, a daughter of Commodore Perry; Miss Jane Tiffany, and a Mrs. G. Merrill, a granddaughter. Morrell Post, G.A.R., the local post of the Sons of Veterans

and delegation of the Grand Army of the Republic were present also. “



- John Bolton was an architect and a craftsman
- Around this time he came from England.
- He established one of the earliest stained glass studios at Pelham
- Saint Mary's was entirely glazed by Mr. Bolton.
- The entire set of windows was stained by Bolton in his Pelham Manor studio and finished in 1851.
- Today, St. Mary's holds the only complete set of John Jay Bolton windows in America
- Willene B. Clark, a leading authority on early stained glass of the Boltons, described the East Window: "There are no finer Victorian grisailles anywhere than John's five slender lancets in the west façade of St. Mary's Church, Scarborough, New York. (Willene B. Clark, *The Stained Glass Art of William Jay Bolton*. University Press, 1992.). "The Windows of St. Mary's Episcopal Church", Scarborough, New York. Copyright 2000 St. Mary's Church of Scarborough



This is how the church looked in 2023

- The parish of St. Mary's Episcopal Church closed July 5, 2015.
- The vestry—that's the governing body of an Episcopal or Anglican church—voted June 16 to close the venerable institution, which was founded in 1859.
- “With longstanding fiscal challenges and diminishing personal resources it was decided to end worship services in order that there be some means for future ministry when the time comes.”
- What's next for St. Mary's