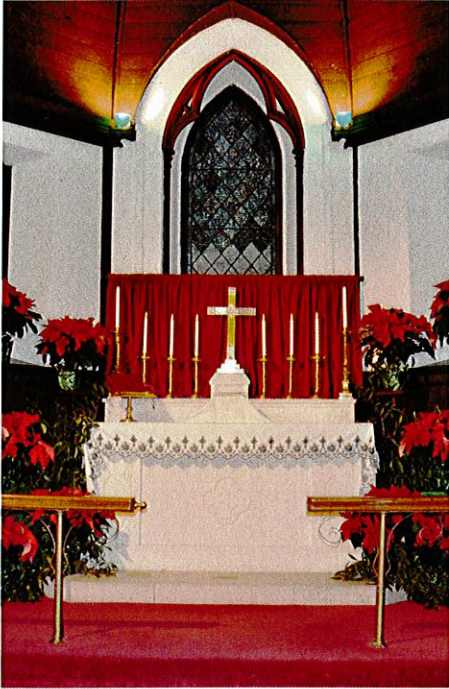


the church in



A legacy of the
Parrott family,
Clove Furnace and
Greenwood
Iron Works

Nestled in the quiet foothills of the Ramapo Mountains within the shadows of gently swaying pine trees stands a beautiful old church known as St. John's Episcopal Church, located in Arden, New York. The Parrott family, who established The Greenwood Iron works which included several furnaces, including Clove Furnace in Arden, had the church built in 1863.

Clove Furnace was a longtime smelting site for iron ore mined from nearby veins in what is now Harriman State Park. It was built in the 1850's by Robert & Peter Parrott, who also owned and operated numerous mines in the area known collectively as the Greenwood Iron Works. Two of the furnaces produced the iron which supplied the Parrott's West Point Foundry in Cold Spring, NY. The foundry produced the famous and highly effective Parrott Rifle (cannon) utilized by the Union Army during the Civil War.

Prior to the construction of the church, (according to the records of the parochial reports to the Convention of the Episcopal Church), a Sunday school was maintained for several years on the property of Greenwood Furnace. By the late 1850's, the Rev. S. G. Hitchcock of Piermont, and later, ministers from Haverstraw, New Windsor, and West Point conducted services on weekdays and Sunday evenings. These services may have been conducted in a quiet grove as was common in locations without a building of worship.

Following the building of the small church, the parishioners laid out a cemetery and erected a schoolhouse to provide greater opportunity for religious education than the district school afforded.

The hamlet of Arden takes its name from the estate that was named by the Parrott family using Mrs. Parrott's maiden name. The E.H. Harriman family kept the name when they bought the 9,300-acre estate. Some time later Mrs. Harriman named the area around the Greenwood/Clove Furnace "Arden" as well. It has been said, that Mrs. Harriman liked the association with the "Forest of Arden" in Shakespeare.

The estate and church are private, although the church holds services open to the public on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. Plans are under consideration to offer a monthly worship service on Sunday evenings during the months of June, July and August.

St. John's Church is overseen by the Rector of St. Mary's-In-Tuxedo Episcopal Church, Tuxedo Park, NY. The services are conducted with the liturgy of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church (Anglican Communion) and the 1940 Hymnal. ❧

—By Reverend Betty McWhorter

For information about services at St. John's, call the office of St. Mary's at 845-351-5122 or email info@stmarysintuxedo.org.

the pines of arden

