

Part of the services included ceremonies by the Daughters of the Union, led by Miss Nellie Newkirk, chaplain, and Mrs. Ernest Sherman, chapter regent. (No photo of Dr. Divine was found for this article; if you know of any photo, please contact Mrs. Dumond or [Wawarsing.Net](http://Wawarsing.Net).)

**Sarah Stoddard Norbury** (painting at right, courtesy **Ellenville Pioneer Engine Company**; the portrait is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of **Norbury Hall**, as is the plaque shown below.) was another Greenfield native, born to Phineas and Marilda Stoddard on October 26, 1835. The large and happy family attended the Quaker Meeting House in Greenfield. Sarah attended local schools and then went to a private school in Liberty, later graduating from Troy Seminary.

In 1856 she married John F. Norbury of New York City, a graduate of the Albany Medical College who practiced in Athens, NY. He later left the practice of medicine to buy a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. They had one child, Fannie, who died when only sixteen.

Mrs. Norbury returned to Ellenville in 1902, having purchased the dwelling on the southwest corner of **Park & Warren Streets** and adding considerably more property to it. When she learned that the *Quaker Meeting House* was in dilapidated condition, she had it restored and annually arranged for a Quaker religious service, which she attended.

The *Pioneer Fire Company* decided to build a clubhouse in 1904 and Mrs. Norbury immediately went to their aid. She was so generous at that time, and at many other times, that they called the building **Norbury Hall** and resolved that, as long as it stood, it would bear the Norbury name. So great was the Pioneers' gratitude that they presented to her a Gorham solid-silver loving cup, lined with gold, inscribed:

*Presented to Mrs. John F. Norbury as a token of our regard and grateful recognition of her friendly interest in our welfare. Pioneer Engine Company, Number One, Ellenville, N.Y. Nov., 1904*

The accompanying resolution includes some phrases worth noting, such as "we feel ourselves truly honored by the friendship of Mrs. Norbury, and the magnificence of her gifts to us," and a reference to her as "our gracious Lady Bountiful." Her bounty amounted to more than half the total building cost.

Sarah Norbury was a faithful and generous member of the *Ellenville Methodist Church*, to which she gave five of its stained glass windows and all of the very comfortable

and handsome pews installed during its renovation in 1907.

When the "new" high school was under consideration, Mrs. Norbury purchased for \$3,000 a strip of land needed to give space on the westerly side, and presented it to the school district.

A column titled "Giving" (*Before Today's Headlines*, October 24, 1970) was devoted to Mrs. Norbury and her legendary generosity, including "In 1923 her gift of \$5,000 gave quick impetus and encouragement to

those who were endeavoring to raise \$40,000 that we might have a hospital." That doesn't sound so huge in 2003, but it was a substantial donation from a single individual, one-eighth of the total anticipated cost of remodeling the Scoresby brick dwelling to be the *Veterans Memorial Hospital*.

A speaker at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Pioneers may have said it best: "So long as the communi-



ties of the land under the blessing of God have before them the examples of their Mrs. Norburys to stimulate, and to be emulated, there will remain enough of good in the world to make life worth the striving and the living."

No list of "Wonderful Woman of Wawarsing" could be compiled without the name of Katharine T. Terwilliger, our wonderful "KT."

**Katharine Tone Terwilliger** was the only daughter of Bert W. and Florence Tone Terwilliger. She was born on January 15, 1907, and her birth was announced to her grandparents who were in Florida at the time on a penny postcard from her father. This postcard was found by some local residents in a sale and became one of KT's treasured possessions when they presented it to her. Her only brother, Robert Spofford Terwilliger, to whom she was devoted, died suddenly in 1934.

Graduation from Wellesley College in 1928 was followed by a year at Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in Boston. She worked at Harvard University and in the Director's office at the New York Public Library. Her business experience was a valuable addition to her native intelligence when she returned to Ellenville in 1944 when her father died and she inherited his controlling interest in the *Terwilliger Agency*, the family real estate and insurance business which had been founded by her grandfather, Uriah E. Terwilliger. At the death of junior partner Frank H. Sprague, she purchased his interest and became sole owner. After 13 years as sole owner, she sold the business to Donald A. Sprague and Frank Decker in 1957 with the stipulation that the Terwilliger name be dropped from any further use. (It operates today as *Sprague & Killeen*.)

KT, as she was widely and affectionately known, turned her interest and time to community affairs, serving on the Board of Education of the centralized school district, as secretary/member of the *Ellenville Planning Commission*, and the *Veterans Memorial Hospital* as treasurer for many years.

Her interests were not limited to the Ellenville area, but extended throughout Ulster County and beyond. She served for many years as trustee and officer of what came to be the American Lung Association, Hudson Valley, Inc., the county tuberculosis and respiratory disease association. The Ulster County Historical Society, the D&H

