

PEOPLE & PLACES THAT MATTER

STATION 4

GOVERNOR THOMAS DONGAN



On July 22, 1686 **Governor Thomas Dongan** granted Albany a municipal charter. Almost identical in form to the charter awarded to New York City just three months earlier, the Albany charter was the result of negotiations conducted between royal officials and Robert Livingston and Pieter Schuyler. The charter incorporated the city of Albany, establishing a separate municipal entity in the midst of the Van Rensselaer Manor.

PIETER SCHUYLER



Pieter Schuyler was the first mayor of Albany, New York. On July 22, 1686 Albany was incorporated as a city, and Pieter Schuyler became its first mayor. He served as mayor until 1694.

HENRY JOHNSON



Henry Johnson was a WWI war hero recognized by the French with the *croix de guerre* but unrecognized at home due to racism.

JESSE LEONARD



Jesse Leonard, a developer responsible for large swaths of the city. He developed the row of "tudors" on Holland and lived at 100 Holland Ave. was his retirement home, built with a tiled indoor fountain and elaborately designed plaster reliefs. Leonard lived there until he died in 1956.

HENRY HOBSON RICHARDSON



Henry Hobson Richardson, commonly known as H.H. Richardson, (1838–1886), was a well-known American architect who initiated the Romanesque Revival style in the United States and was a pioneer figure in the development of an indigenous, modern American style of architecture. He designed houses, libraries, suburban railroad stations, educational buildings, and commercial and civic structures.

RCA



Sitting atop the Arnoff Building at 991 Broadway in the North End neighborhood is the four-ton, 28-foot tall steel and fiberglass statue of **Nipper**, the canine mascot of the Radio Corporation of America (RCA). Nipper came to be perched atop the building in 1958 following renovation of the concrete warehouse for use by RTA Corporation, an appliance distributor specializing in products by RCA. The statue was made in Chicago, shipped in five sections by rail, and attached to a metal frame on the roof with the aid of a 10-story crane.

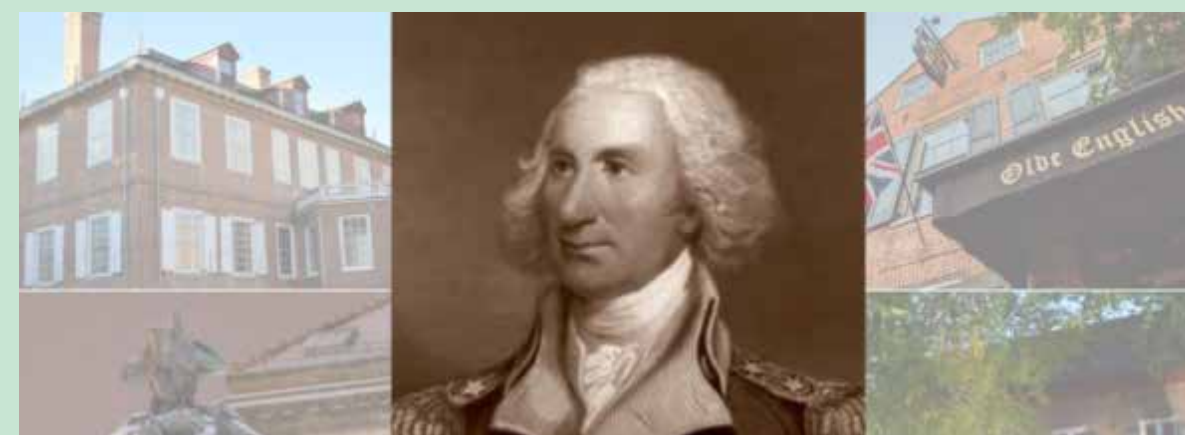
ABRAHAM TEN BROECK



In 1759, **Abraham Ten Broeck** was elected to the Albany city council from the third ward. He served as assistant and alderman for many years even though he was elected to represent Rensselaerswyck in the provincial Assembly in 1760. He was re-elected and served until the Assembly was dissolved in 1775. During that time, he gained a reputation as a supporter of American rights over British prerogatives.

(Copy of a portrait by Thomas McIlworth dated 1763 from the collection of the Albany Institute of History and Art. Also described in Ona Curran's Thomas McIlworth.)

PHILIP SCHUYLER



While well-known as the father-in-law to Alexander Hamilton, Revolutionary War General **Philip Schuyler** is a famous New Yorker in his own right. A lifelong resident of Albany, Schuyler served as a member of the New York State Assembly, and was elected to the Continental Congress in 1775. Angered by British colonial rule, he joined the Continental Army in the summer of 1775, and helped the colony overthrow the British. Following the American Revolution, he was a Senator for the state of New York. He built the Schuyler Mansion in 1765 where his family lived until 1804.

(Photo on Discover Albany website - no source given)

MRS. ELMER BLAIR

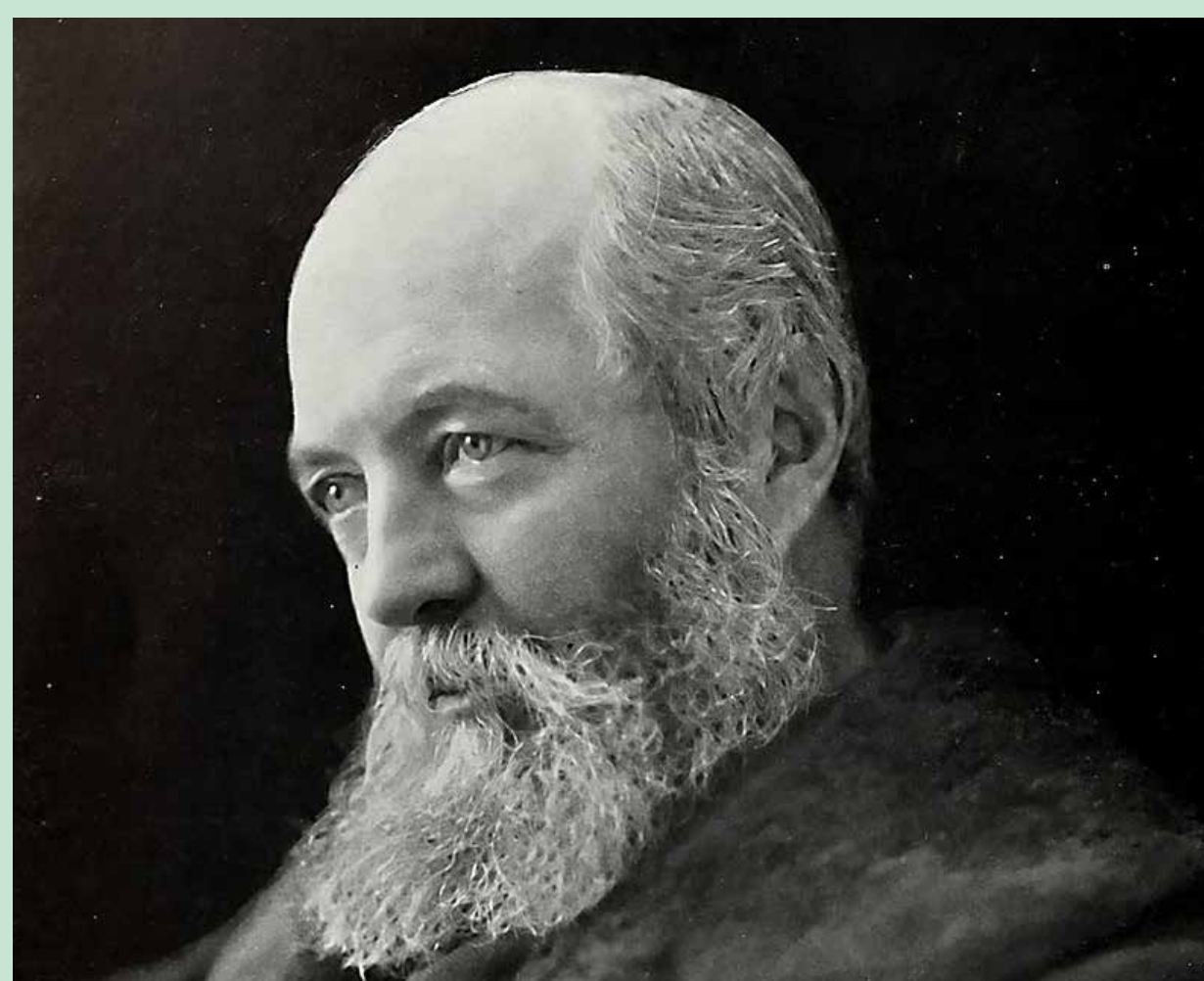


Founded in 1910 by **Mrs. Elmer Blair**, The Woman's Club of Albany began as a civic organization to help women and children and to improve conditions in the City of Albany. The Club was part of an international movement that saw similar groups formed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The 22 charter WCA members met in Mrs. Blair's garden to discuss reform. After a year, the group had more than 300 members who rallied support for many civic programs still in place today.

(Photo from website <https://womansclubofalbany.com/History> - no source)

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED

Washington Park is an "Olmstedian" park, incorporating many of the philosophical ideals used by **Frederick Law Olmsted** when he designed New York City's Central Park. Notable Park features include the Lake House, footbridge, and various monuments. The park is about 89 acres in size with a 5.2-acre lake in the southwestern corner. It contains over 100 species of trees, including intriguing bonsai trees as well as gigantic oaks. The park is often mistaken as being designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, but does incorporate many of the philosophical ideals used by Olmsted when he designed Central Park in Manhattan. John Bogart and John Cuyler drew the plans for Washington Park in 1870. Bogart had worked for Olmsted and Vaux on Central Park in New York and later Bogart was the chief engineer for the New York City Department of Parks from 1872 to 1877. Olmsted designed the east and west grounds of the NY state capitol building.



(Photo of Frederick Law Olmsted by James Notman, Boston; engraving of image later published in Century Magazine (source) - The World's Work, 1903. <https://archive.org/stream/worldswork06gard/page/3938/mode/2up>. Public Domain. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=26824311>)

