

Walter William Law 1837 – 1924

'A Kidderminster Expatriate to New York, USA'

by Bob Millward - April 2016

Kidderminster & District Archaeological & Historical Society

## INTRODUCTION

This story begins with the book, "Memorials of the Old Meeting House – Kidderminster" by Rev. George Hunsworth, published in 1874. A particularly interesting copy was given to Mr Ernest Hodgkins (Headmaster of St Mary's Boys' School) by Mr Percy Dougall (Manager of the Kidderminster Gas Works). On the reverse of the title page a letter from Dougall to Hodgkins, dated 18 May 1942, had been reproduced, probably by Hodgkins. The letter refers to a man, known to Dougall, who often travelled to America and had been to "a house he knew fairly well, the owner was Mr Law, late of Kidderminster, the house was Briarcliffe on the Hudson & that all the oak panelling out of the 'Old Meeting' is in the Library of that house."

Who was this 'Mr Law'? What was his connection to Kidderminster? What is the story of his life in The U.S.A.? The implication of the letter is that he had been successful but in what way and how had he earned his living? How did he acquire the panelling from the Old Meeting House and does it still exist in the library of Law's house? A quick internet search reveals that the Briarcliff man involved was **Walter William Law**. But perhaps we should first address the issue of the source of the panelling that Law acquired.

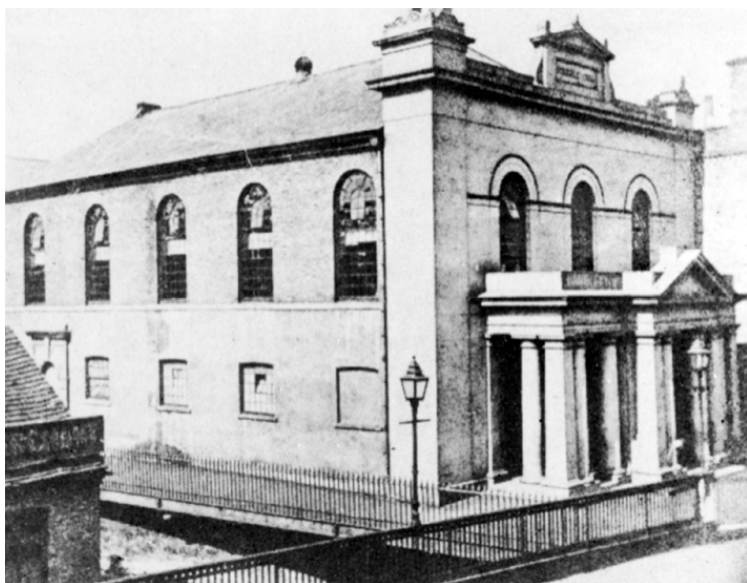
Copy of  
letter.

Kidder. Gas Works.  
18th May. 1942.

Dear Mr Hodgkins.

"I had a call this afternoon from a gentleman who has spent much time in America, and he tells me that a house he knew fairly well, the owner was Mr Law, late of Kidderminster, and the house was "Briarcliffe" on the Hudson, & that all the oak panelling out of the 'Old Meeting' is in the Library of that house. I thought this might interest you, in view of our conversation this morning."

Yours Truly  
Percy Dougall.



### The Old Meeting 1825-1884

The building shown here was the third successive Old Meeting Chapel built on this site [1] and it existed from 1825 until 1884 when it was demolished to be replaced by the present church. The latter opened in 1885 and the new name of 'Baxter Church' adopted. There are no known photographs of the interior of Old Meeting but undoubtedly it was oak panels from this building that were removed on demolition and transported by Law to the U.S.A.

## WALTER WILLIAM LAW - HIS ORIGINS

He was born in Kidderminster late in 1837 and probably baptised at the Old Meeting Congregational Church either later that year, or in 1838. Earlier Baptismal records [2] for siblings show that his mother Elizabeth's maiden name was Bird and that in 1835 and 1836 his father John was a clerk. A brother John Francis had been born on 22 March 1834 and baptised at the Old Meeting on 1 February 1836 having already been baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel on 1 February 1835. A sister Sarah Elizabeth, born on 12 October 1835 was baptised at the Old Meeting on 1 April 1836. By the time of the 1841 census (6 June 1841) the family was living in Mill street and his father was described as a yarn agent; and so had branched out into business on his own account. In 1850 John was a dealer in Carpet yarn and wools etc. in Mill Street [3] and had clearly improved his status by 1851 when had moved to his home town of Bridgnorth where he was Worsted Spinner Master employing 100 work people. This was probably in the partnership 'Law and Grierson' in Bridgnorth [4,5] and Kidderminster. At home in 1851 were: wife Elizabeth (38), siblings John F (17), Walter W (13), George (11), Henry (10), Frederic (8), Emma (6), Harriette (4) and Caroline ((2); and a housemaid and cook. In 1855 John Law was also listed as a worsted Spinner in Church Street and living in the prestigious Blakebrook area of Kidderminster [6]. Later census records reveal that by 1861 John Law was 89 Mill Street and was described as a General Agent.

Walter was not included in the 1861 Kidderminster census list for a very good reason; he had emigrated to New York in January of 1860.

Before he left Kidderminster he would have seen many changes in the town. The Stour Vale Mill Company (partnership of Lord Ward, William Grosvenor and Joseph Kitley) was one of the first factories to be purposely built (1855) to house steam powered looms. Sections of the loom sheds were available for other carpet manufacturers to lease. Other steam powered factories soon followed and the smaller loom shops for handloom carpet weaving gradually became redundant.



One example that would have been very noticeable to Walter Law would have been the new factory in Vicar Street built by Crane and Barton in 1856 to accommodate brussels power looms. The upper storey frontage of this factory remains to this day and is a grade II listed building.

It is the left hand portion of this building which was built in 1856 as a showroom, warehouse and offices. The right hand portion, delineated by the step in the brickwork, was added later.

## WALTER WILLIAM LAW - HIS CAREER IN NEW YORK

Much of Law's career in USA has been derived from material provided by the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society [7]. It was to Briarcliff Farm that Law 'retired' in 1890 and became closely entwined with the development of the area and its community.



[BM-SHS]

### Walter Law as a young man

A description of his early life is given in a variety of 'Briarcliff' publications. Law is said to have been "born in 1837, the son of a carpet dealer in Kidderminster. Educated privately in local schools and in his father's office, he went to work as a draper at the age of fourteen and at twenty-two travelled to New York City without friends or money to seek fortune" ... "arriving in the City on 22 January 1860". The first job he found was as a travelling salesman with a carpet company. He was paid a dollar a day but when he discovered that the company was passing locally made carpet as expensive imported he resigned. It was said that one of his mottoes was "Nothing is good enough if it can be bettered".

He married Georgianna Ransom (right) in January 1866 and his big break came later the same

year when he secured a position with W. & J. Sloane's carpet sales business on Broadway. He quickly established himself with his new employers and after four years was made a partner in the business. Law developed the wholesale department of W. & J. Sloane and secured the account of Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Company of Yonkers for marketing their production of tufted high-pile moquette carpets. He managed this connection, and the remarkable growth of the Smith company was, at least in part, due to his energy and good judgment: the "dogged perseverance" he called his British birthright.



[BM-SHS]



To service the account with Smith's more efficiently and conveniently, Law moved to Yonkers where he and Georgianna raised their family of three sons and four daughters. Whilst there Law was to join the Board of Directors and became a vice president of W. & J. Sloane. The industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie was numbered amongst Law's circle of friends. Over the years W & J Sloane expanded into furnishings, furniture and antiques and moved to high-status premises on the SE corner of 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway (left).

In 1890, at the age of 53, Walter Law retired from the Sloane firm. He decided to move into the countryside in Westchester County, in the Lower Hudson valley, north of New York. There he bought the 236-acre Briarcliff Farm.

## WALTER WILLIAM LAW - HIS LIFE IN BRIARCLIFF MANOR

Walter Law may have retired from his executive business position at Sloane's but he was not about to become idle. Having bought Briarcliff Farm in 1890 he quickly set about purchasing other land and farms in the neighbouring district. The Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society hold a complete documentary record of his purchases in Law's spidery, but neat, handwriting. By 1900 he

owned more than 5,000 acres of farmland. This formed the basis of his 'Briarcliff Farms' venture which expanded to employ about 300 workers. Some farms he worked with the original owners on a shared basis. The business specialised in pure-bred Jersey cattle and was one of the first producers of certified milk in America. Ice houses were utilised for cooling the milk. There were also: pigs, chickens, thoroughbred horses, pheasants, peacocks and sheep. Cream and butter were processed in the Briarcliff Dairy and sold in New York. He established a local School of Practical Agriculture and Horticulture and said "I shall not be satisfied to stop until 'Briarcliff Farms' has placed itself in the forefront of any institution of its kind to be found in the whole country".

Diversification came naturally to Walter Law and he was quick to spot enterprises with potential for success. He collaborated with the Pierson family who were rose specialists. Their foreman George Romaine propagated the pink Briarcliff Rose at 'The Briarcliff Greenhouses'.



**BRIARCLIFF MILK**  
AND  
**FARM PRODUCTS**

Farms: Briarcliff Manor, N. Y.

Supplying Only the Highest Quality, produced and handled at every point under rigid requirement, and approved by the highest scientific authority

**New York Store: Fifth Ave. and 46th St.**  
The Windsor Arcade Telephone 3278-38th

Briarcliff Milk is Served by Glass in New York City  
by Leading Hotels and Restaurants

[BM-SHS]



enterprises with potential for success. He collaborated with the Pierson family who were rose specialists. Their foreman George Romaine propagated the pink Briarcliff Rose at 'The Briarcliff Greenhouses'.

He established the Briarcliff Table Water Company to take advantage of the pure water 250 feet underground. The water was bottled and then sold in the Briarcliff Farms' Store that Law had opened in New York City, as well as in many other shops. Nearby, the 'Briarcliff Print Shop' produced advertising material etc. and also the 'Briarcliff Once a Week' booklet which first made its appearance in 1903.

He ran a 'tight ship'. He was often generous with his money and workers were treated fairly but projects needed to be viable and businesses expected to be profitable. He gave prizes for the gentlest handler of his cows. He believed that cows do better if properly treated and allowed no abuse or shouting of any kind. If he saw a worker kick a cow the man was told to seek work elsewhere.

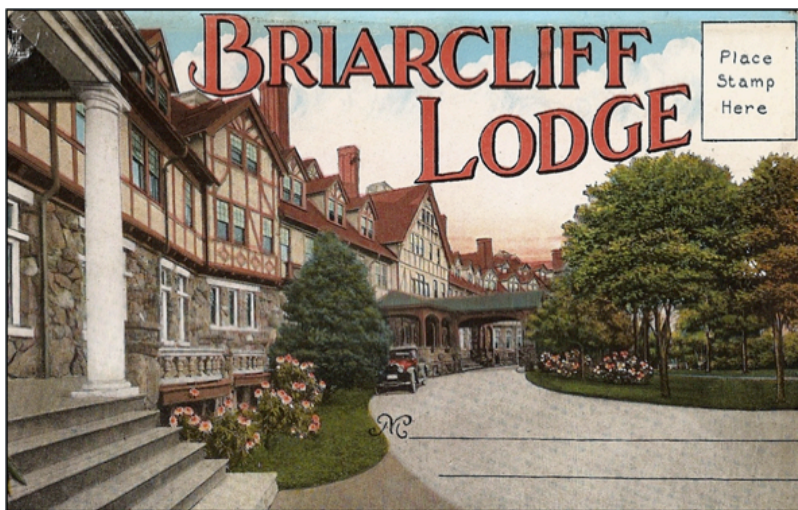
But perhaps the grandest of his schemes, which demonstrated his flair for choosing a winning idea, was outside the realm of farming; the opening of a prestigious Hotel - Briarcliff Lodge.

**Briarcliff Lodge Hotel**



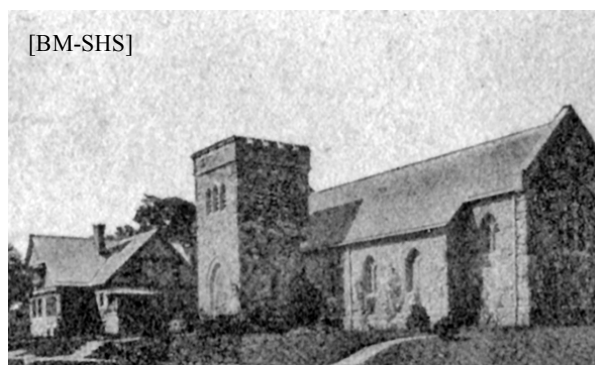
[BM-SHS]

Built in 1902 on the highest point of his estate, Briarcliff Hotel overlooked the Hudson river and surrounding countryside and became a popular summer residence for the affluent of New York and other cities. It offered meals provided by 'the finest chefs' from food sourced from Briarcliff Farms. There were many recreational facilities encompassing; indoors - a music room for daily concerts, a swimming pool, a small theatre, a casino, billiards, pool, a library, a ballroom and various other social rooms; outdoors - a golf course, tennis courts, woodland paths, riding stables, and croquet



lawns. For those without motor transport there was a livery of Fiat cars and limousines for use at any time and, if you came in your own automobile, there was garaging and special accommodation for chauffeurs. The guest list over the years included: F. W. Woolworth, Franklin Roosevelt, film stars Warner Baxter, Mary Pickford and Tallulah Bankhead, actress Sarah Bernhardt and, interestingly from British point of view, grocery chain magnate Sir Thomas Lipton.

Law was a good employer. He built houses which he sold to farm workers on generous terms and held the mortgages himself. He was generous to the local community in many ways especially with his support of the Congregational Church. It was he that provided the land for building the church in 1897 and funded later additions: east and west transepts, a Manse, a school room, two pipe organs and stained glass in the West transept and South windows.



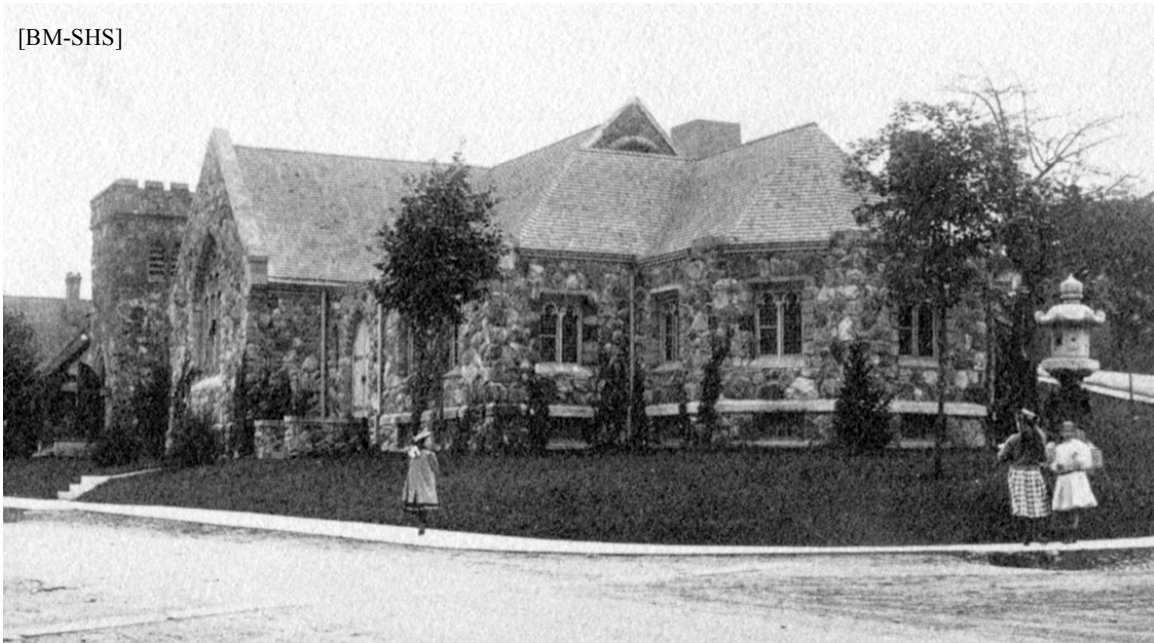
Karen Smith, President of the Briarcliff-Scarborough Historical Society says that Walter Law is still remembered with great respect and quotes from the church's 50th anniversary booklet: *"For the last 28 years of his life much of his time and interest centered in this Church, and of this Church he declared, 'My heart is there!' His money as well as his heart was there!"* A further passage goes on: *"His membership dates from July 1, 1898, when the Church voted into membership among others, Walter W. Law, Mrs. Georgianna H. Law, & Walter W. Law, Jr. by letters from the First Presbyterian Church, Yonkers, N.Y. The Church, the Manse, the two pipe organs, and **four Tiffany windows** bear witness to Mr. Law's zeal for the Christian faith. Easily he might have required that this be called the Law Memorial Church; but he had no self-glory in his gift; rather his real intent was proven that time when the **Governor-General of Canada** wrote him of his wish to see Briarcliff Farms on a specified Sunday at 11 o'clock. Mr. Law's reply has passed into local history: **'I have an unfailling appointment with the King of Kings every Sunday at 11 o'clock!'** And faithfully, regularly, he worshipped God within the Sanctuary here."*

### Briarcliff Congregational Church 1897

Further, from the same source: *"It is noticeable that in all his gifts Mr. Law never dictated any policy. This is a rare attribute of anyone who gives so generously to any object. To paraphrase his own sentiment, 'The best is none too good for Briarcliff,' we know he believed the best was none too good for the Briarcliff Congregational Church!"*

Below we show a photograph of the expanded church as it was in 1905 and examples of the excellent stained glass to be found in the church.

[BM-SHS]



**The expanded Congregational church dedicated 1905. Photograph 1913**

Examples of Stained Glass in Briarcliff Congregational Church is shown below (photographs by Karen Sharman).

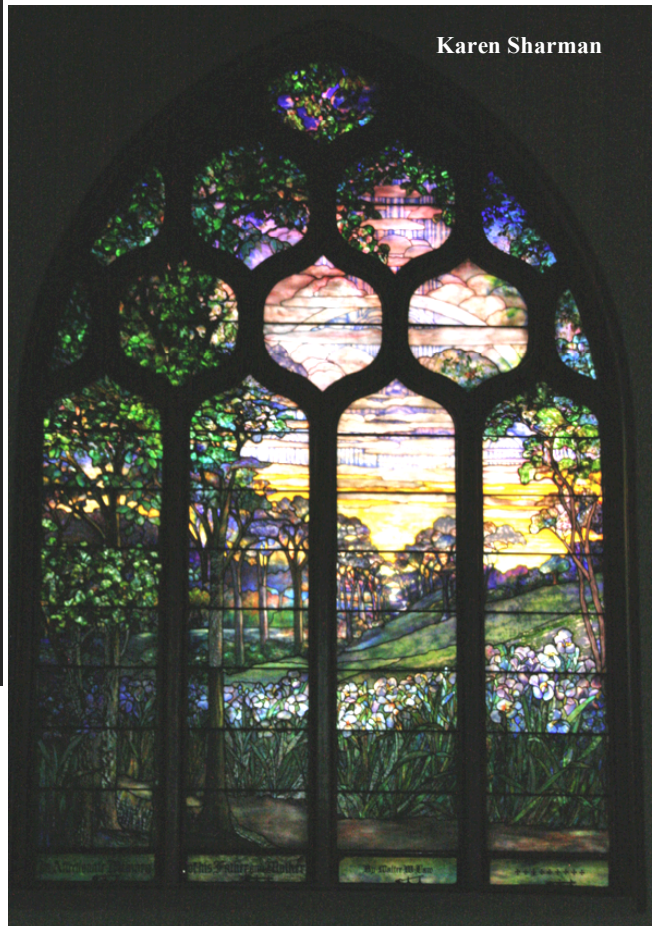
Karen Sharman



**Left.** In the East transept of the Congregational Church is a fine window dedicated to the memory of Walter William Law and his wife Georgianna Ransom Law by their children in 1929. The artist was Donald B. Taunton of John Hardman's Studios of Birmingham & London.

It depicts a stylized view from Walter Law's lawn down to the Hudson.

Karen Sharman



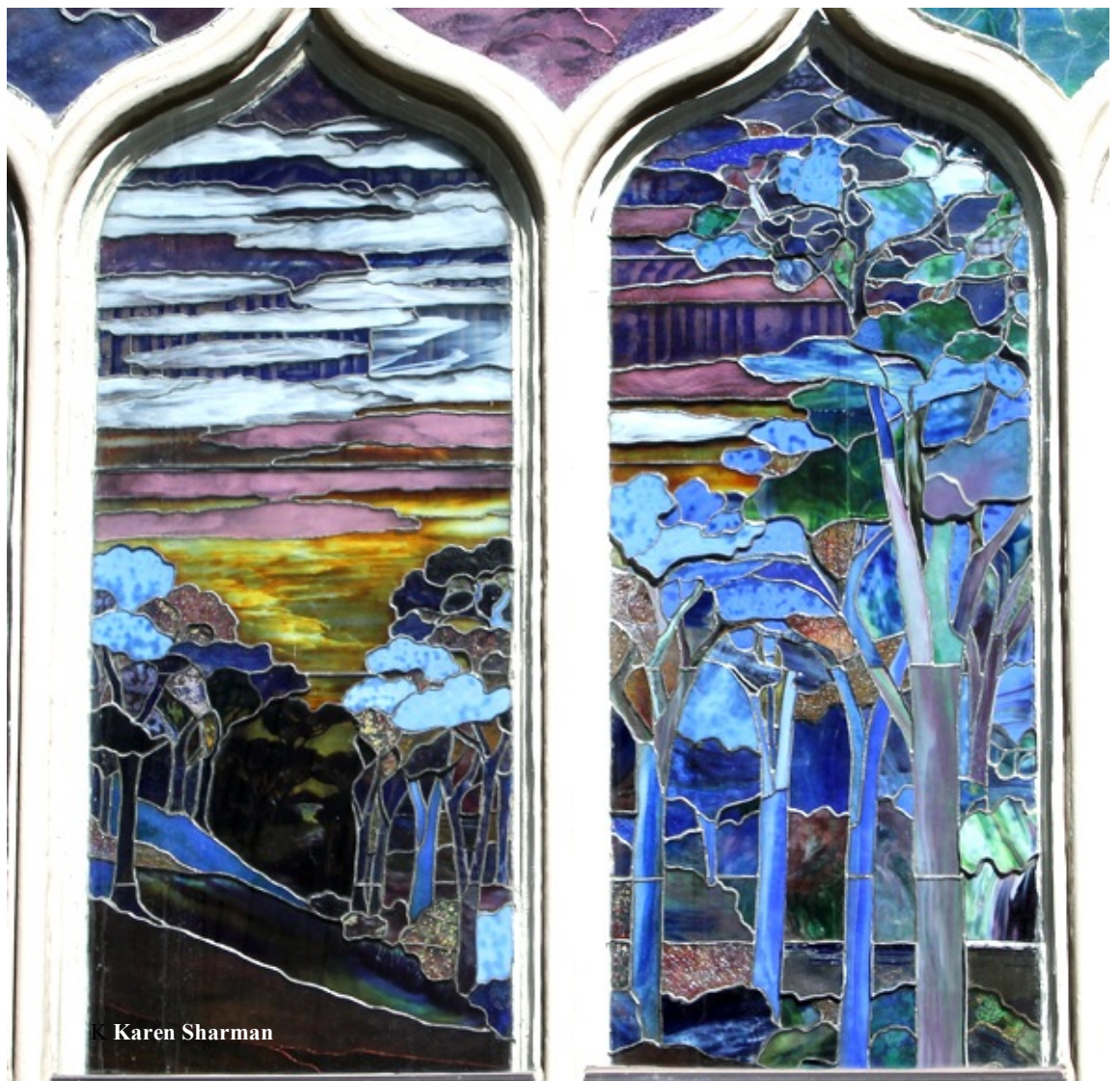
**Right.** This Tiffany window, dedicated by Law to his parents in 1906, is in the West transept. The design has been attributed to Miss Northrop who was 86 years old at the time.





**Left:** The West transept window is seen viewed from outside the church.

**Below:** Exterior view of the central part of the West transept window exhibiting some of the details of its construction.



The first stained glass installed in the church was in the South window. It was made by Tiffany and dedicated by Walter Law on Thanksgiving Day, 1898, to memory of William (1810-1879) and Euphemia Sloane (1810-1886). It was Sloane who had been Law's mentor and partner in the rug and carpet business in New York City. The window portrays the story of Joseph greeting his eleven brothers in Egypt.

Karen Sharman



ERECTED BY WALTER W. LAW  
IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF  
SIO WILLIAM M. SLOANE OF NEW YORK  
AND OF  
1810 EUPHEMIA HIS WIFE 1886

The South 'Tiffany' window in Briarcliff Manor Congregational Church. 1898



Walter Law was always aware of his responsibilities to the local community and as the population of the area grew he realised the need for municipal services.

In 1899 he tried to incorporate the area as a village under the banner of the centre of largest population – Scarborough. That failed for the lack of the required 300 persons per square mile.

Undeterred he adopted a ‘*cunning plan*’. Close to his farms he built and sold houses to his workers on generous terms. By May of 1901 he was able submit another petition with 328 persons per sq. mile as well as the necessary 25 adult freeholders also needed.

This plan was successful and the incorporation of '**Briarcliff Manor**' became fact on November 21, 1902. Walter Law's friend Andrew Carnegie had long jokingly called him "The Laird of Briarcliff Manor" and it is this attribution that is thought to be the origin of the village's name.

Later, the residents of Scarborough requested annexation to the village of Briarcliff Manor, and this was granted in 1906.



**Walter William Law 1923**

Walter William Law, pictured left in 1923, died during a rest cure treatment at Summerville, South Carolina, on January 17<sup>th</sup> 1924. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx where F. W. Woolworth is also buried. Other family members are commemorated in the plot seen below.



**Walter Law's engraved grave stone 1837-1924 in the Law plot.** To the right of this stone are the marker stones for his wife Georgiana 1839-1910 and one of his daughters - Carolyn Law-Fotterall 1869-1923.

By the time of his death two of his sons were already exerting their influence in the village. Both were village Trustees and Walter William Jr. served as Mayor (1905-1918) followed by Henry Herbert (1918-1936).

The last Law to hold public office in the area was his Grandson, Theodore Gilman Law, who was deputy county director of civilian protection in 1943.

**'MANOR HOUSE': WALTER WILLIAM LAW'S HOME IN BRIARCLIFF.**

In 1891 Law purchased a stone mansion off the Scarborough Road which became the family home in Briarcliff and was later to become known as the 'Manor House'. The library was a special interest for him and contained some 5,000 volumes collected over many years.



**Walter William Law's 'Manor House' sometime between 1891 and 1924**

After his death the house was sold to the Metropolitan Masons Country Club and it remained in reasonably good order in their hands until the late 1940s when it became the home of the Briarcliff Nursery School. Then, from 1970, it was used by The King's College which drastically altered many of the rooms for use as dormitories. Rooms were cut up to make many out of one, the elegant woodwork was over painted, fireplaces bricked up—and so on and so on .....

The Bogoni family bought the property in 1993 and restored the then sadly neglected house to its former use as an elegant family home.



[BM-SHS]

### **'Manor House' Briarcliff Manor now the Bogoni home**

The local paper 'The Gazette' published an account of the Annual Meeting of the Briarcliff-Scarborough Historical Society in 2012. This meeting was hosted by Paul and Irene Bogoni in the house that had been Law's residence in Briarcliff. Here are some extracts related to the history of the house 'Briarcliff Manor':

*Guest speaker at Sunday's annual meeting was Scarborough resident Robert Little who provided a history of the up and downs of Mr. Law's former estate following his death in the mid-1920s.*

*Mr. Little said it was in 1890, at age 53, when Mr. Law was suffering from tuberculosis and forced to retire from W. & J. Sloane Co. in New York City, that the English native came to what was known as Whitson's Corners to recuperate—and began "buying up as much of the area's farmland as possible." That included the Stillman property, which included "this wonderful structure."*

*"Mr. Law lived here, very happily, with his wife, Georgianna, and their six children, until his death in 1924," said Mr. Little. "Once his family moved out, his former home was used for a variety of purposes, not all to the advantage of the house."*

*"Probably the most caring tenants were the 'Metropolitan Masons Country Club' that moved into the house from the Briarcliff Lodge in 1927," Mr. Little said.*

*Reading from Ossining resident Mary Cheever's book, "The Changing Landscape," published in 1990 by the Society, "Second to none for beauty and appointments, it contains. 25 rooms, 18 fireplaces, a library of 5,000 volumes, bowling alleys, billiard room, dining rooms, etc. and is furnished completely with rare taste and elaborateness."*

*By the late 1940s, the main house was home to the Briarcliff Nursery School, and it later became the property of The King's College, which "drastically renovated many of the rooms for use as*

*dormitories," Mr. Little explained. "Cutting up rooms to make many out of one, putting layer after layer of paint over the elegant woodwork, bricking up fireplaces—it goes on and on."  
"Then came the years of emptiness, a sad building with buckling floors and other symptoms of neglect."*

*Mrs. Bogoni rolled her eyes when recalling what the house looked like just over 20 years ago when she first saw it—and decided that this was a challenge for she and her husband to take on.*

*"As we look around us here today, we can only think of how proud the Laws would be that once again someone loves this house, and they have created another vision of beauty, elegance, warmth and graciousness," Mr. Little continued. "Our thanks again to the Bogonis for saving it."*

### **SO WHAT ABOUT THE PANELLING (where this story began)?**

A replacement for the Old Meeting Chapel in Kidderminster (built in 1825) was discussed as early as the 1870s but it was not until 1884 that the old building was demolished. Since Law did not purchase his stone Manor House until 1891, there was a lapse of at least seven years before the panelling was removed from the chapel and installed in Walter Law's library in Briarcliff. Did Walter Law hear about the availability of this panelling during a visit to the town, or from family, friends or business contacts? Any of these situations are possible.

That he did have business contacts with the carpet trade is probable given his family's background, and it is possible that one such contact was Michel Tomkinson who was one part of Tomkinson & Adam's carpet Company set up in Kidderminster in 1869. Tomkinson provided the marketing expertise and Adam the engineering skills. Tomkinson often visited New York to visit W & J Sloane & Co. presumably to market his carpets [8]. In particular Tomkinson went to Yonkers in 1878 and purchased the British patent rights for the spool axminster production from Alexander Smith & Sons. The Yonkers firm called their carpet 'Moquette', but Tomkinson & Adam were to style the product as 'Royal Axminster'.

It would seem unlikely that Kidderminster born Walter Law, a partner in Sloane's and directly responsible for their business with Alexander Smith & Sons, would not be involved in some way with Tomkinson's business dealings and visits to that company.

Did Law find out about the panelling before or after the Old Meeting was demolished? Was it removed from the chapel and stored locally to Kidderminster awaiting a buyer or was it transported to America shortly after demolition? If the latter, Walter Law was at that time in an excellent line of business to be able arrange suitable storage whilst he decided what to do with it. Did he acquire the panelling through opportunism or was there a sentimental aspect to owning artefacts dating back to his time and experiences in Kidderminster as a child? It is doubtful that many, if any, these questions will be fully resolved.

That he did acquire the panelling, and install at least some of it in his library at Manor House in Briarcliff, is certain. The letter from Percy Dougal to Ernest Hodgkins makes that clear. But what has been the fate of this woodwork? The Bogonis found the house neglected and in need of a lot of attention when they purchased it in 1993. Photographs of the library in 2012, after sensitive and stylish renovations, show that the panelling is no longer in the library room. It has already been mentioned that the house had been used as a school for many years and, subsequently, King's College installed student dormitories as well as administrative offices. The house suffered grievous internal adaptation to suit these purposes and it is probable that the panelling did not survive these alterations or that they were damaged beyond reclamation.

There is one more speculative comment that can be made about the fate of the panelling removed from the Old Meeting Chapel in Kidderminster - and it is something of a 'long shot'. We do not know how much panelling was taken out of the old Meeting but it seems likely that there would have been more available than Law's Manor House library could accommodate. If this were to be the case then we can ask: what happened to the excess amount of panels?

The high-status Briarcliff Lodge Hotel had a chequered history subsequent to Walter William Law's death. The Hotel's success declined significantly in the 1930s and from 1936 to 1954 the building was used as the Edgewood Park School before becoming part of the King's College (a Christian liberal arts college) in 1955. The college closed in the 1990s and the building became near derelict. It was severely damaged by a fire in 2003 and demolished. Rob Yasinac has studied a number of historical aspects related to Briarcliff Manor history and in the year 2000 took a number of photographs of the lodge building [9]. These images illustrate the derelict state and the fall from grace to which the former elegant the Hotel building had been subjected.

The photograph immediately below shows one of the hotel's rooms, the 'Oak room', which despite its dilapidated condition, clearly contained significant amounts of oak panelling



**The 'Oak Room' Briarcliff Lodge in 2000. Rob Yasinac**

An earlier picture below [10] captures the stylish glory of the Oak Room and its pristine panelling in the heyday of Briarcliff Lodge. Clearly the décor matched the expectation of the wealthy clientele attracted to this hotel.



[BM-SHS & Ms. Sandi Schneider]

### **The 'Oak Room' in the 1920s**

Could it just be that some of this oak work was part of the assorted collection of panelling brought over by Law from the 'Old Meeting', not used in the library of his house Stone Manor but later retrieved from storage and installed in his new project?

Some readers may find this suggestion a little fanciful, but the more romantic might hope that it contains an element of truth. At any rate, the idea is there to be proved or disproved should further information be uncovered.

## REFERENCES

- [1] (a) 'Memorials of the Old Meeting House – Kidderminster' Rev. George Hunsworth (1874)  
(b) Historic Kidderminster Report No. 11, 'Baxter Church' by Robert Barber and Bob Millward available on line on the Kidderminster Civic Society's website or in print form at Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service at The Hive in Worcester, Kidderminster Library or the Museum of Carpet in Kidderminster.
- [2] 'The Non-Conformist Registers of Bewdley & Kidderminster, Worcestershire, Births/Baptisms 1727-1837, Burials 1757-1836'. Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry (2001)
- [3] Post Office Trade Directory: Kidderminster section, 1850
- [4] Slater's Trade directory: Kidderminster section, 1851
- [5] 'Woven in Kidderminster' Melvyn Thompson (2002)
- [6] Billing's Trade directory: Kidderminster section, 1855
- [7] 'The Changing landscape – A History of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough' by Mary Cheever published by the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society (BM-SHS) (1990), ISBN 0-914659-49-9; information available on the BM-SHS website; personal communications from Karen Smith, President of BM-SHS; various sources available on the internet.
- [8] Talk by Michael Tomkinson (Carpet manufacturer Michael Tomkinson's Great Great Grandson) at the Museum of Carpet, Kidderminster, 16 April 2016.
- [9] Private Communication from Rob Yasinac who has published photographs on the internet and in his book: Images of America – Briarcliff Lodge, Arcadia Publishing (2004), ISBN: 9780738536200
- [10] Permission to use the photograph showing the Oak Room of Briarcliff Lodge was given by the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society who in turn was allowed to scan that photograph and other documents by Ms. Sandi Schneider granddaughter of Frederick Albert Steele III who was manager of Briarcliff Lodge during the 1920s, perhaps its most glorious era.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank fellow Kidderminster District Probus Member Roger Baulk for his kind gift of Rev. George Hunsworth's book 'Memorials of the Old Meeting House' that contained the 'letter' about panelling at Briarcliff. Without that particular copy of the book this account would not have materialised.

Karen Smith and the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society (BM-SHS) have been particularly helpful in the provision of information about Walter William Law's life in the USA. and in giving permission to reproduce photographs from 'The Changing landscape – A History of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough. The copy of this latter book, which they so generously donated to the Kidderminster & District Archaeological & Historical Society, has proved invaluable, and enabled a meaningful description of a previously unknown son of Kidderminster and his successful life and career in America to be revealed to Kidderminster folk and others. Photographs reproduced from this source are labelled BM-SHS.

I am grateful to Karen Sharman for excellent photographs and information about the stained glass windows in the Briarcliff Congregational Church. They are reproduced with her kind permission and (labelled with her name).

I am indebted to the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society and Ms. Sandi Schneider for the photograph showing the Oak Room at Briarcliff Lodge in the 1920s (page 13).

Rob Yasinac has provided helpful comments and permission to use the photograph of the dilapidated Oak Room in Briarcliff Lodge taken in 2000 (page 14).

Without the above assistance it is unlikely that Walter William Law, hitherto unrecognised in his native town, would have received the belated acknowledgement that he deserves.