

Sixth Home: Cole's Drug Store #3



Clarissa Cole's new home was the location of the library from 1902 until 1968. Clarissa's son, Harrie, who joined the family pharmacy business in 1899, lived here as well with his wife Mary and daughter Helen.

The library was in a separate room from the pharmacy, and the family's living quarters were upstairs.

In 1908 the Copake Telephone Company added a switchboard here and the Coles added switchboard operator to their list of responsibilities. There was no night service except for emergencies.

Clarissa Cole died in 1932 at age 80. Harrie was appointed the librarian after his mother, and it was under his stewardship that the library went from being an association library to a municipal library, in which its budget and board of trustees would henceforth be approved by the town.

By 1949, the rent of the Cole's home together with the librarian salary had increased to \$250 per year, and of this \$60 was the salary. That same year, the town's annual appropriation for the library was \$500 and the purchase of books totaled \$125.



Helen Cole Netter

On Christmas morning in 1951, Harrie died of a heart attack, aged 72. At this time, the drug store closed after over 70 years in business. Harrie's daughter, Helen (Mrs. Matthew Netter), became the third generation in the Cole family to be a Pine Plains librarian when she took over from her father. She had been an English teacher and the school librarian in Pine Plains.

In 1959, the Pine Plains Free Library became part of the Mid-Hudson Library System which allowed it and the other member libraries (thirty at that time) to share in the loaning of books and other resources.

The library continued to be run out of Mrs. Netter's home, the same house where she was born. The room that formerly was used for the drug store was converted over for use as part of the library. The building is still standing today.