

## **WARNER MARSHALL JR. FULL BIOGRAPHY**

*By Victoria Amon, Larchmont Historical Society Board Member, with significant research help done by Jan Northrup, former LHS Board President and current President of the Kemper Memorial Preservation Fund. There are reference footnotes throughout (they appear in the Print Layout version of this file), and all sources – interviews, articles and photos – are listed at the end.*

### EARLY LIFE

Warner Marshall, Jr. was the oldest of three sons of Warner Marshall and May Belle Tupper. He was born in Boston, but spent many of his formative childhood years in Larchmont, New York as part of a warm extended family: Warner Sr. had moved to Larchmont to be near his parents, and sisters Elizabeth and Mary. Elizabeth was married to Albert Frederick Beringer, of the Beringer family living in Larchmont; Mary Morris Marshall married Percival Willis Brooks in Ohio but since 1907 had also been living in the area, in nearby New York City.

The Marshall, Beringer & Brooks families shared business interests as well: Warner's father was initially involved with public utility companies (he had had a natural gas company in Ohio), but then went into finance, starting his own investment firm, Marshall & Company in New York City. Percival Brooks, Warner's Uncle Percy, founded the securities firm P.W. Brooks & Company and ran it until his retirement in 1923. Albert Beringer, Warner's other uncle, joined brother-in-law Percy's brokerage firm, eventually becoming P.W. Brooks' chairman of the board after Percy retired. The next generation continued in this tradition, with several sons following their fathers into finance.

The Marshalls and Beringers lived essentially next door to each other in Larchmont for fourteen years: the Marshalls lived at 12 Seton Road



12 Seton Road

and the Beringers were around the corner at 219 Rockingstone Avenue.



Their houses diagonally anchored the large block of land between the two streets. The three active boys in each family became close despite the difference in their ages (the Marshall sons were born from '09 to '20 and the Beringer sons were born from '20 to '28).<sup>1</sup> Their homes are still standing, and while there has been building between them since, you can still imagine the neighborhood as it might have looked a hundred years ago, being enjoyed by all the family children while they lived there.

The area was made even more exciting by a remarkable natural geological landmark in the middle of the street opposite 219: there is a real “rocking stone,” a massive natural boulder left by the retreating glaciers eons before.

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<sup>1</sup> Indeed, the closeness of the cousins was no doubt inspired by the closeness of the siblings: Elizabeth Beringer had given each of her three sons ‘Marshall’ as a middle name: Frederick Marshall Beringer 1920 – 1994 (he went by his middle name, Marshall, and was particularly close to Warner Jr.), Stuart Marshall Beringer, 1923 - 2004 and Bruce Marshall Beringer, 1928 – 2002. Mary too had used the name ‘Marshall’ in various ways for her & Percy’s children: their oldest son, Alexander Marshall, died in infancy, but then they named their fourth child Marshall again.



Of course, its presence inspired the street name Rockingstone. Until the road construction around it during the 1920's settled its motion, it was famous for actually rocking gently back and forth, much to the delight of both adults and children. As reported in a March 1963 edition of *The Daily Times*:

... many residents remember rocking the stone. It was quite a sport *in the first quarter of the century*, as was chestnutting in the woods around it, recalls Mrs. Mabel Wood Smith who moved to Larchmont in 1906. ... (Emphasis supplied.)

So, the entire area must have seemed like a huge and exciting expanse for adventures. And, beyond the natural wonders, relatives remember that the Beringers' home on Rockingstone was considered to have the best playground, again perfect for the cousins growing up and other neighborhood children. Not to mention that some of the older boys no doubt loved playing on and around the famous rocking stone ... perhaps even when it still rocked!

Warner went on to prep school at Phillips Andover and then to Yale. He was in the Class of 1930 where, in addition to his studies (as a scholar of the third rank in his Junior year), he was active in the *Yale Daily News* and wrestling.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The three families also shared a deep East Coast/Ivy League educational heritage: Warner Sr. had a Yale Law degree and May Belle received a BA from Vassar in 1901. Percy Brooks'

lacrosse managership the following year. He roomed with Littleton at 451 Fayerweather as a Freshman and with Burns at 158 Lawrance in Sophomore year. He lived alone, at 940 and 742 Memorial Quadrangle, for the rest of his course.

Marshall expects to study law either at Columbia or Yale. His home address is 3329-88th Street, Jackson Heights, Long Island, N. Y.

SOURCE: YALE UNIVERSITY 1930  
CLASS BOOK

WARNER MARSHALL, JR., was born in Boston, Mass., on April 4, 1909. He has also lived in West Newton, Mass., Seattle, Wash., and Larchmont, N. Y. His father, Warner Marshall, who graduated from the Yale Law School in 1902 and who was formerly head of Marshall & Company, bankers, is at present connected with several public utilities companies. His mother, whose maiden name was May Belle Tupper, received a B.A. at Vassar in 1901. Marshall has two brothers.



He received his preparation for college at the Fessenden School and Phillips-Andover, and he was a scholar of the third rank in his Junior year at Yale. Marshall headed the *News* as a Freshman, and he was on the Freshman Wrestling Team. In Sophomore year he was a member of the University Wrestling Squad. For the first three years of his course he roomed with Marshuetz, at 505 Haughton, 247 Durfee, and 540 Dickinson, and in Senior year with H. H. Chapman at 758 Memorial Quadrangle.

Marshall's permanent address is the Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York City.

At the time of his graduation, Warner's parents and brothers were no longer living on the East Coast, having moved to Tucson, Arizona to help alleviate his youngest brother

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undergraduate degree was from Bowdoin, and he did post-graduate work at Yale. Warner Jr., as noted, was Yale Class of 1930. His middle brother, Malcolm, born in 1912, went to Wesleyan University, received a master's degree in classics from Columbia and had a doctorate in divinity from Union Theological Seminary here in New York. Warner's youngest brother Gordon, born in 1920, eventually followed Warner to Yale as well. All the Beringer boys went to Harvard.

Gordon's asthma. This was perhaps the reason that Warner used the Yale Club of New York City as his first post-graduate address.

We have fortunate to have some early photographs of Warner and his family, given to us by one of his surviving nephews (the son of his brother Malcolm). While undated, they seem to be from the time they all lived here in Larchmont. One is of Warner Marshall by



Warner Marshall, Jr.

himself (perhaps one of his prep school photos), one is with his mother and younger brother Malcolm,



and one it with his father, Warner Sr., and both brothers Malcolm and Gordon.



## CAREER

Like his grandfather, father and uncles, Warner went to work on Wall Street, entering the brokerage business. He headed up his own investment counseling firm, Warner Marshall Jr. & Co. on 90 Broad Street, but he was also active in volunteer and relief work. He was a director of the Grace Church Workshop and the Bureau of Men and Boys of the Community Service Society. In those early years, he lived at 106 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Although he led a very busy life, Warner did take time out to visit the famous New York World's Fair of 1939. Its opening theme of "Dawn of a New Day" and focus on "Building the World of Tomorrow" provided much-needed hope and optimism to help counter the ominous threat of the massive world war clearly on the horizon. Over 44 million people attended the exhibits across its two years. Despite these huge crowds, Warner met his future wife at the Fair, a young Norwegian named Nina Tandberg.

Nina apparently returned to Norway at some point after they met, because a *New York Times* article of December 24, 1940 chronicles Nina's return from Europe to the US to marry Warner. It was a momentous ocean crossing, the first since Britain had halted Atlantic passenger travel for a time because of German submarine attacks. It was also an intriguing voyage, as there was a contretemps about a German barber who was thought to be a spy and many of the passengers were refugees and others escaping Europe. Among these were 25 children being sent here by their parents through church and US government organizations, prominent foreign correspondents returning home temporarily (including James Reston and William Shirer), and three young Norwegian women who met each other on the boat, all coming to the US to marry their American sweethearts. Nina Tandberg was one of these young women. You can see optimism and excitement on her face in the lovely picture accompanying the article, as she landed in New York from war-torn Europe to join the man she loved.

Warner and Nina's marriage took place less than a week later, on December 30, 1940, at the Brooklyn home of her cousins Mr. and Mrs. John B. Cunningham. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. David T. Atwater, rector of the Grace Episcopal Church of Brooklyn. The couple honeymooned in Tucson, where Warner's parents and brothers had moved, and when they came back to New York, they moved into 404 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street to start their new life. Sadly, their time together was to be all too short.

## WARTIME SERVICE

Warner entered the US Armed Services in 1942, and was a Captain in the Army Air Force. He participated in the Cairo Conference of November 1943 as a member of the Planning Staff. This conference was a major meeting of Allied powers intended to discuss the future of postwar Asia, attended by US President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and China's Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. Stalin did not attend, although he met FDR and Churchill separately soon afterwards in Teheran. The Cairo meeting was held at a residence of the American Ambassador to

Egypt, near the Pyramids. Eminent World War II historian Max Hastings describes the strategic background in Retribution, his book about the war in the Pacific:



(Marshall is 7<sup>th</sup> from the left, behind Gen. Hap Arnold.)

At the November 1943 Cairo Conference, President Roosevelt insisted upon anointing China as one of the four great Allied powers, assisted by Stalin's acquiescence and in the face of Churchill's contempt. Yet Roosevelt's crusade to make China a modern power languished in the face of poverty, corruption, cruelty, incompetence, ignorance on a scale beyond even U.S. might and wealth to remedy. P 210

Hastings reviews at length the "massive American support in kind and cash" being made by America to help build up the Generalissimo's troops and war effort:

Since there was no overland link between British-ruled India and Chiang's territories between 1942 and early 1945, all supplies had to be flown five hundred miles 'over the hump' of 15,000-foot mountains to Kunming, the nearest accessible landing ground in China, *at a staggering cost in fuel, planes and American pilots' lives*. In December 1942, the Hump air shuttle shifted a mere thousand tons a month. By July 1944 it was carrying 18,975 tons. P. 205 (Emphasis supplied.)

It is chilling to read this passage, as it echoes the circumstances of Warner Marshall's death less than a month after the Cairo Conference. After leaving Egypt, Warner embarked on a review tour of the war area, with plans to travel to India, Burma and China. He was on a troop transport when the plane crashed in northeast India on December 12, 1943. He was 34 years old. Warner was survived by his wife Nina, who was 29, by his parents, his two younger brothers, Malcolm and Gordon, and by his aunt, uncle and cousins in Larchmont and New York City.<sup>3</sup>

## POSTHUMOUS COMMEMORATION

Captain Marshall was honored with the Legion of Merit Award<sup>4</sup> There is a burial stone for him in the Honolulu Memorial, along with over 18,000 of his fellow soldiers who gave their lives in the Pacific Theater during World War II, but whose full remains were not able to be recovered.<sup>5</sup>



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<sup>3</sup> At the time of Marshall's death, his brother Malcolm had started his life's work in the Episcopal Church, and was a Reverend at St. Alban's Parish in Washington DC. He would go on to have an illustrious career as the beloved 4<sup>th</sup> rector of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, also in DC. It is poignant to compare the picture of Malcolm as a grown man to Warner's photos ... there is a great family resemblance.

The youngest brother Gordon was a Private in the Army at the time. After the war, he went back to Tucson, married and had children of his own.

<sup>4</sup> This award is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. It is issued both to United States military personnel and to military and political figures of foreign governments and is one of only two US military decorations to be issued as a neck order (the other being the Medal of Honor) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legion\\_of\\_Merit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legion_of_Merit)

<sup>5</sup> The Honolulu Memorial is located within the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, in the dramatic location of an extinct volcano, near the center of Honolulu, Hawaii. It contains the names and markers for, among other honored dead, the 18,096 American World War II missing from actions in the Pacific theater. <http://www.abmc.gov/memorials/memorials/hn.php>

In the decade immediately following the war, he was listed in the Larchmont Avenue Church's World War II Honor Roll (the magnificent main stained glass window in that church was created to honor the war veterans and dead as well). Captain Marshall's name was also engraved in Yale University's Woolsey Hall, a memorial rotunda on campus that honors all Yale graduates who died in American wars since the Revolution.

Unfortunately, Captain Marshall's name was not been included on two local memorials honoring war dead, the Richard M. Kemper Memorial Park, Larchmont's World War II memorial on the grounds of Mamaroneck High School, and a memorial plaque at the Yale Club of New York City. We believe these omissions may have occurred because, although Captain Marshall grew up in Larchmont and lived in New York City after he graduated from Yale until his death, as noted above, his parents had left the New York area years before the war. Therefore, in their undoubtedly intense grief, they probably were not aware of all the efforts being made here to honor the memories of local veterans after the war. His young widow, a native Norwegian prior to their marriage in 1940, does not appear to have remained in the US after his death, and other local extended family may not have known what steps needed to be taken, in every location where memorials were being created, to advocate on his behalf.

However, thanks to research done starting in 2011 by members of the Larchmont Historical Society and the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund, these omissions are in the process of being rectified. In 2012, Captain Marshall's name was carved on the Kemper Monument in Larchmont, and we are actively working with the Yale Club of New York City to add his name there as well.

## INFORMATION SOURCES & ATTACHMENTS

### FAMILY INTERVIEWS

**Mary Joyce Beringer**, Larchmont resident, whose late husband F. Marshall Beringer was Warner Marshall Jr.'s 1<sup>st</sup> cousin – *Spoke to her in person + ATTACHMENT 1*

28 Pineridge Rd  
Larchmont, NY 10538-2616  
914-834-2270

**Malcolm Marshall, Jr.**, Washington DC resident, nephew and son of Warner Marshall's late brother Malcolm (1912 –1988); he fondly remembers trips to the Yale Club with his family when he was a child – *Spoke by phone + ATTACHMENTS 2 and 3*

202-962-1584  
[marshmortg@aol.com](mailto:marshmortg@aol.com)

### NEWSPAPERS & PUBLICATIONS

**Yale University 1930 Class Book**, page 357 – *ATTACHMENT 4*

The New York Times, December 24, 1940 (his bride arrives in NYC + separate photo file), December 31, 1940 (their wedding announcement), December 22, 1943 (an obituary) – *ATTACHMENTS 5 - 8*

Larchmont Times, December 23, 1943 (an obituary) – *ATTACHMENT 9*

### MEMORIALS

**Woolsey Hall, Yale University**, 36<sup>th</sup> name carved into the first panel honoring WWII Yale graduates who died in the war – *ATTACHMENT 10*

**Richard M. Kemper Memorial Park, World War II Memorial**, name engraved on the monument stone, along with over 100 other local citizens who died during WWII – *ATTACHMENTS 11 and 12*

Richard M. Kemper Memorial Park  
Mamaroneck High School  
1000 West Boston Post Road  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543  
<http://kempermemorialpark.org>

**Larchmont Avenue Church Honor Roll and Memory Book**, listed along with photo – *ATTACHMENTS 13 and 14*

**The Larchmont Avenue Church**  
60 Forest Park Avenue  
Larchmont, NY 10538  
<http://www.lacny.org>

**Overseas American Cemeteries, Burial Plot A, Grave 110 – ATTACHMENT 15**  
[www.wiimemorial.com/registry/cemetery/search/plaq.asp?HonoreeID=802235&print=7y](http://www.wiimemorial.com/registry/cemetery/search/plaq.asp?HonoreeID=802235&print=7y)

## WHEN THE MARSHALL & BERINGER FAMILIES LIVED IN LARCHMONT

**Exterior photos of 12 Seton (the Marshall family home), 219 Rockingstone (the Beringer family home) and the famous rocking stone opposite 219**, taken on February 23, 2012 with a camera phone (explaining the not-perfect quality). 12 Seton is currently owned by Mary A. McAden and 219 Rockingstone is currently owned by Hilary and Steven Felgran. – *ATTACHMENTS 16 - 20*

**Three photos from the family album** – *ATTACHMENTS 21 - 23*

<http://larchmont.patch.com/articles/historical-wonders-rockingstone>, a nice summary of this famous local landmark that no doubt all the Marshall and Beringer boys were very familiar with.

## THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR OF 1939-40

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~1930s/display/39wf/frame.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1939\\_New\\_York\\_World%27s\\_Fair](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1939_New_York_World%27s_Fair)

## THE CAIRO CONFERENCE

**Photo of Captain Marshall with the General Staff** – *ATTACHMENTS 24 and 25*

<http://www.taiwandocuments.org/cairo.htm>, a thorough website with good background information and original documents

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairo\\_Conference](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairo_Conference), some interesting facts and pictures

Retribution, The Battle for Japan, 1944-45, by Max Hastings, Alfred A. Knopf, 2008  
Chapter Eight presents at length China's role, key players and events. There are many details about the struggles to supply the Nationalist Chinese under Chiang Kai-shek who were not only fighting the Japanese but also the Chinese Communists under Mao Tse-Tung. The Cairo Conference is also mentioned as part of the attempt by FDR to elevate China as one of the four great Allied powers.

## WHERE WARNER & NINA WERE MARRIED

These are two historic and closely associated Grace Churches in New York: the Brooklyn church was established in 1847 in Brooklyn Heights by a small group of parishioners from Grace Church in NY, which was founded in 1808. Each maintains a beautiful and well-detailed website. Warner and Nina were married in the Brooklyn church, but he may have also been involved in the New York parish church since that was closer to where he lived and worked in Manhattan. I could find no information on the volunteer program mentioned in his obituary, the "Grace Church Workshop," but it clearly must have been affiliated with one or both institutions.

**Grace Church, Brooklyn Heights**

**Grace Church in New York City**

254 Hicks Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11201  
[www.gracebrooklyn.org](http://www.gracebrooklyn.org)

802 Broadway (at 10<sup>th</sup> Street)  
New York, NY 10003-4831  
[www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org)