



23 October 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

With great pleasure, the Village of Trumansburg announces receipt of a **grant** from the W.G. Pomeroy Foundation of Syracuse to place an historic marker at **the birthplace of Hermann M. Biggs on McLallen Street**, at the corner of Bradley Street. The public is invited to a ceremony and unveiling, at which Dr. Joseph Mannino, orthopedic surgeon at Cayuga Medical Center and Trumansburg resident, will offer some short remarks on Biggs's career. This event, to be followed by a brief reception with light refreshments, will be held at the former Biggs family home, 30 McLallen Street, on Saturday, November 16 at 2:30pm. Everyone is invited.

Hermann Biggs was one of Trumansburg's most illustrious citizens. Born in Trumansburg, in the family home, on September 29, 1859, he went on to study at Cornell University and to further medical education, becoming a physician, professor and an international pioneer in the field of public health. Indeed, he became known as "the father of public health." Specializing in bacteriology, he did distinguished work in combatting and controlling infectious diseases, in particular tuberculosis. He was director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research when it was established in 1901, and his name is carved, alongside those of Louis Pasteur and Joseph Lister, among some 20 others, on the frieze of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He was among the first commissioners of health in New York state, and was knighted for his work in the field of sanitation by the King of Spain. At one time, the Ithaca hospital buildings on West Hill were known as the Biggs complex. Following Biggs's death in 1923, his remains were returned to Trumansburg, for burial in Grove Cemetery.

The impetus for getting a marker placed at Biggs's birthplace came from Trumansburg writer and history enthusiast David Wren. Working with S.K. List, the Trumansburg village historian, he led the effort to apply to the Pomeroy Foundation and to supply the necessary information to secure funding. With the grant approved and with help from the village staff, including Dusty Vanderzee and his team at the Department of Public Works (DPW), the marker was ordered and installed.

The village hopes the public will join in for this ceremony of commemoration.

CALENDAR INFORMATION

WHAT: Unveiling of an historic marker at the birthplace of Hermann M. Biggs and reception.

WHEN: Saturday, November 16, 2:30pm

WHERE: 30 McLallen Street, Trumansburg

Free and open to all.