

John C. Bracht – Class of 1903
1886-1965



John Bracht was a lifelong resident of Seneca Falls who stressed the importance of a good education, coupled with the recognition of athletics as an integral part of the academic experience.

He was a graduate of Mynderse Academy in 1903 and began a business career as an engineer with a local manufacturer of fire engines. When the company moved to Elmira in 1907, John went to work with Goulds Pumps as a design engineer. He was employed by Goulds for 46 years, retiring in 1953.

John also served as a Trustee for the village of Seneca Falls for several years during this period.

He is best recognized by the Seneca Falls School District for his service as a School Board representative for 25 years. First elected in 1924, he became Board President the following year, and held that position for 24 years. After 25 years of service, he retired from the Board in 1949. During John's first term on the Board a new Mynderse High School was opened at Academy Square in 1924. Elizabeth Cady Stanton Elementary School was opened during John's Board Presidency in 1934.

In appreciation of his dedicated service, the School Board voted to name the most prominent of Mynderse Academy athletic fields in his honor-BRACHT FIELD.

Bracht Field is currently used for football in the fall and for boys' and girls' lacrosse in the spring. In past years it has also served as both a soccer and baseball field, as well as hosting track events. Improvements to this facility have continued over the years, and it is anticipated that Bracht Field will serve as an athletic venue for many years to come.