

Chautauqua Institution

*John Q. Barrett**

Copyright © 2011 by John Q. Barrett.
All rights reserved.

Chautauqua Institution is a beautiful lakeside Victorian village/campus located in the southwestern corner of New York State. During its summer season, Chautauqua is the site of intellectual and cultural programming, study, performance and recreation of all types. Many prominent Americans and others in every field of endeavor have appeared before Chautauqua's special audiences in its gorgeous venues.

Robert H. Jackson's connections to Chautauqua Institution were many faceted. It is located very near Jamestown, New York, which was Jackson's hometown from late boyhood forward. For almost fifty years, Chautauqua was a major part of Jackson's expanding horizons, intellectual development, study and leisure—it was one of the places he loved best, and it deserves much credit for making him what he became (as he does for advancing it).

Robert Jackson was attending Chautauqua Institution programs at least by 1907 (age 15), when he got to spend much of a day there in the group that was hosting speaker William Jennings Bryan. Jackson began his own Chautauqua speaking career at least by 1917, when he was 24. In 1936, Jackson was at President Franklin Roosevelt's side when he delivered at Chautauqua his famous "I Hate War" speech. Jackson's own Chautauqua platform appearances included his highly-publicized July 4, 1947, speech about the just-completed Nuremberg trial and its teachings, including about the prospects for world peace in that time of spreading cold war and global tension. On October 13, 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren

* Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law, New York City, and Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow, Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, New York (www.roberthjackson.org). An earlier version of this essay was posted to my Jackson Email List on January 31, 2011.

For an archive of selected Jackson List posts, many of which have document images attached, visit www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/law/faculty/profiles/Barrett/JacksonList.sju.

To subscribe to the Jackson List, which does not display recipient identities or distribute their email addresses, send a note to barrettj@stjohns.edu.

CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION

and the seven Associate Justices traveled to Jamestown for Jackson's funeral and burial nearby. They then insisted on seeing Chautauqua Institution because they had heard so much about it, including from Justice Jackson and from Justice Stanley Reed, who had been a Chautauqua guest and speaker.

In the United States, PBS has now broadcast an excellent new documentary, "Chautauqua: An American Narrative." For additional information on this film, click here: www.pbs.org/wned/chautauqua-american-narrative/.

For Chautauqua Institution's website and much more information on this unique and important place, click here: www.ciweb.org.