

The Blizzard of 1888

By Ray Geselbracht



Pondfield Road, near Tyler's Store, March 13, 1888, or perhaps a day or two later. The Blizzard of 1888, a terribly severe Nor'easter, paralyzed the New York City area and beyond for several days. Roads and rail lines were closed by the mass of snow and ice, and the telegraph was put out of commission for days. Frank Ross Chambers--who was about to move into his Crow's Nest home, and who later was one of the founders of the Village of Bronxville--was in New York City when the blizzard hit. He wrote a letter the day of the blizzard to his wife, Kate Waller Chambers, who was away visiting relatives, probably in Alabama. "...No one imagined the approach of a blizzard yesterday morning," he began his letter. "I woke & found snow blowing into my room through the window crack & outside the wind howled & the clouds of snow shut in the view.... The snow was so blinding that objects half a block off were obscured & the cold particles of ice fairly cut our faces.... Everywhere the snow drifts fairly barricade the streets." He went to the store on 32nd Street where he worked and stayed there all day. "Amid arctic surroundings," he ends his letter, "I send you my tropical love."