

# ***NORTH CASTLE HISTORY***



Collections of The North Castle Historical Society

**MILLER HILL REVOLUTIONARY WAR SITE  
NORTH WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK**

**THE NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Volume 44 -- 2017**

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Smith's Tavern  
Society Headquarters  
Listed in The New York State  
and National Register of Historic Places

# The North Castle Historical Society

440 BEDFORD ROAD ARMONK, NEW YORK 10504

March 2018

Dear Friends,

The NCHS is proud to celebrate our 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, and are appreciative to the North Castle Library in Armonk for hosting.

It has been my honor to serve as President of the Society for the past three years – an experience that I will cherish. I have enjoyed working with the Board of Trustees, a group of amazing people, and thank them all for their support. Thank you to our community for your continued support of the Society. It is only with your support that we can keep preserving our town history as education for future generations.

The year 2017 was a great year for our *Partners in Preservation* fundraising event. We give special thanks to Steven and Sarah Rosen of Rosen & Company Inc. for sponsoring it and to Franco DeCarlo and Gavi Restaurant for hosting it. I would also like to thank Barry Graziano and Houlihan Lawrence for their generous donation and Robert Olivier Meyzen of La Cremaillere for his generous donation of dinner wine. The event provided needed funds to help keep the buildings repaired, protected, and preserved. The dinner and silent auction were well attended and beneficial.

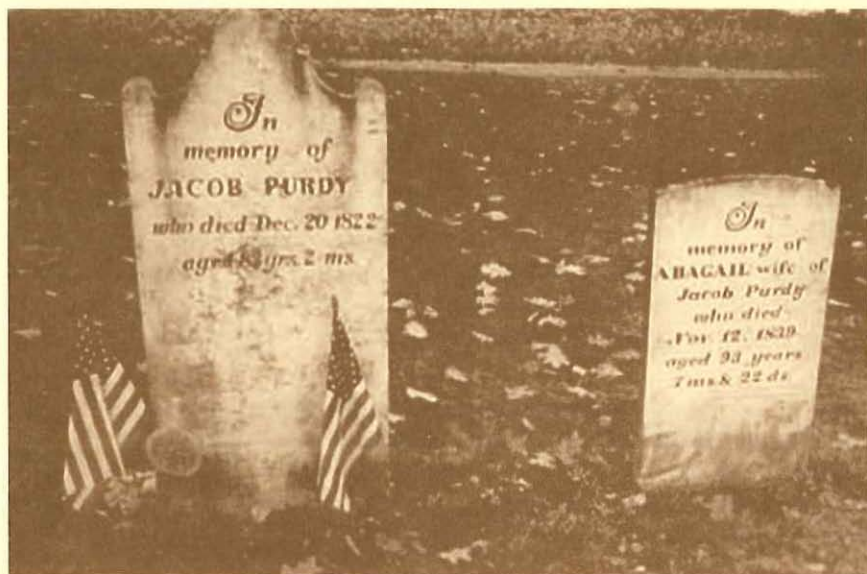
The Trustees do a tremendous job in working to preserve our buildings and support the Society. A special recognition goes to our Co- Town Historian Sharon Tomback for all her hard work and commitment; Colonial Crafts Days volunteers who bring history to life for our local 4th grade students; those who produce and staff the Halloween Haunt festivity; Docents who faithfully welcome visitors and give tours on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons; and the many whose unnamed contributions help to keep the Historical Society a vital part of our Town. Without your continued support we would not be able to have the beautiful place called Historic Smith's Tavern Educational Complex here in Armonk. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
  
Anna Maria Marrone,  
President



**JACOB PURDY**  
**North Castle Road Overseer, Supervisor, Trustee and Patriot**  
**1771 through 1782**

**by Sharon Tomback**



*Collections of The North Castle Historical Society*

**GRAVESTONES OF JACOB PURDY AND HIS WIFE ABAGAIL**  
**First Presbyterian Church Cemetery - White Plains, New York**

**"In memory of JACOB PURDY**  
**who died Dec. 20, 1822, aged 83 yrs. 2 ms"**

**"In memory of ABAGAIL wife of Jacob Purdy**  
**who died Nov. 12, 1839, aged 93 years 7 ms & 22 ds"**

**Jacob Purdy, Road Overseer for North Castle – 1771, 1773, 1774, 1776**

In 1771 Jacob Purdy became a Road Overseer for North Castle. At the time, Road Overseers were responsible for providing supplies and manpower to keep the roads and bridges in good order in their districts. Jacob's road district is described in the North Castle Town Minutes dated April 2, 1771

as "the road from Brunks (sic) river by Henry Feeks's to the White Plains Line and the cross road there including." North Castle was divided into 20 road districts at the time. Richard Baker was the Road Overseer for the connecting district described as "the road from Andrew Purdys to Brunks river by Henry Feeks's and to the river by Jerediah Woods."<sup>1</sup>

The next year, 1772, James Miller took responsibility for Jacob Purdy's district and Reuben Wright took Richard Baker's district. In 1773 and 1774 Jacob Purdy again assumed responsibility for his district and Jeremiah Hunter took over from Reuben Wright. In 1775 Joseph Purdy took over for Jacob Purdy and Jeremiah Hunter continued.

Although there were not any North Castle Town Minutes recorded for 1776, we know that Jacob Purdy and Jeremiah Hunter again took responsibility for their two road districts; the 1777 Minutes record "Jeremiah Hunter overseer of the same road that he was the year last past. Francis Purdy overseer of the same road that Jacob Purdy was y<sup>e</sup> year past."<sup>2</sup>

**Jacob Purdy lived near Reuben Wright's Mills  
in North Castle at the time of the Battle of White Plains**

The road district descriptions place Jacob Purdy's residence near Reuben Wright's Mills.

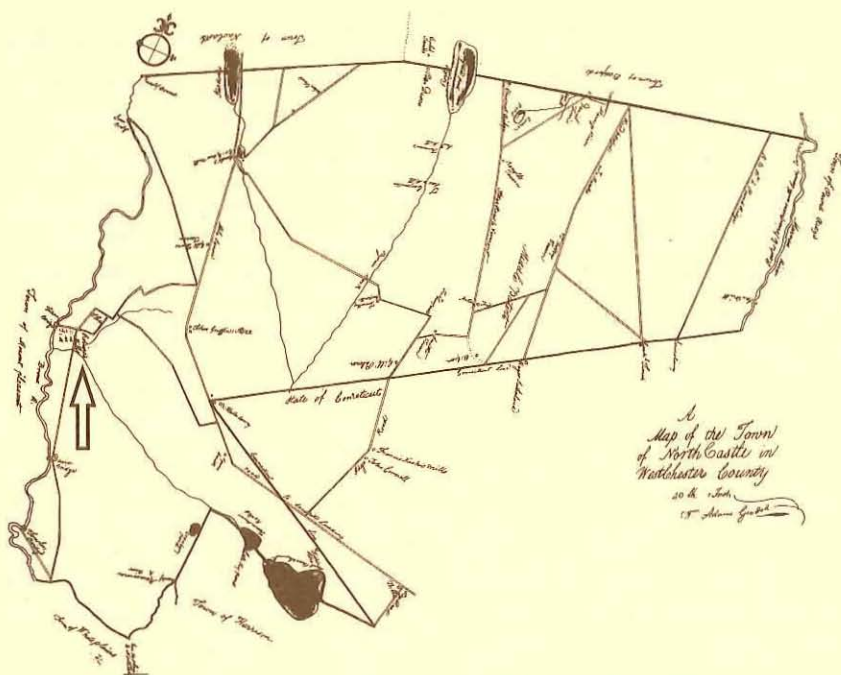
In 1776 the Mills were owned by Reuben Wright. Other millers came and went and the crossroads was successively known by the name of the miller -- Fisher's Mills and Robbins's Mills. When the first post office was established in Wyckoff's store in 1849, the area was named Kensico for the Indian Sachem Cokenseko who sold most of the area surrounding White Plains to English settlers in the 1600s.

Today the area is covered by the waters of the manmade Kensico Reservoir.

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<sup>1</sup> North Castle/New Castle Historical Records, 1976, Town of North Castle and Town of New Castle.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



*Collections of The North Castle Historical Society*

## 1797 MAP OF THE TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE BY WILLIAM ADAMS

By 1797 the Mills were owned by the Robbins family. The location of the Mills, lying on the Bronx River, is shown left, centered on the map. The Town of Mount Pleasant is shown west of the Bronx River. Today the area of the Mills lies under the waters of Kensico Reservoir.

Below is an excerpt from Abigail's application for a Widow's Pension for Jacob's Revolutionary War service. The handwriting is that of the examiner because Abigail was unable to write due to age and infirmity.

*That the family of the said Jacob Purdy at the time the battle of White Plains was fought resided at a place called Robbins Mills<sup>3</sup> in the said Town of North Castle. And this declarant well recollects that on the Evening of the day on which that battle was fought (the said Jacob Purdy) returned to his family and stated that he had been all day engaged in that battle and that the said Jacob Purdy was always equipped in the American Uniform.*

<sup>3</sup> Refer to North Castle History, Volume 10, 1983 and Volume 42, 2015.



That the family of the said Jacob Purdy at the time the battle of White Plains was fought resided at a place called Robbins' Mills in the said Town of North Castle. And this declarant well recollects that on the Evening of the day on which that battle was fought, <sup>the said Jacob Purdy</sup> returned to his family and stated that he had been all day engaged in that battle. And that the said Jacob Purdy was always equipped in the American Uniform.

his  
Abigail X Purdy  
mark

Family genealogists have recorded that Reuben Wright, the owner of the Mills previous to Robbins, was married to Sarah Smith, a sister of Abigail Smith Purdy. Both were daughters of Reverend and Doctor John Smith and his wife Mehitable Hooker. Sarah Smith Wright is buried in the First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, White Plains, New York.



Courtesy [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

#### GRAVESTONE OF SARAH SMITH WRIGHT, SISTER OF ABAGAIL SMITH PURDY

*In Memory of Sarah y<sup>e</sup> Wife of Reuben Wright & Dau. to the Rev<sup>d</sup> Doc<sup>r</sup> John Smith who Dep<sup>d</sup> this Life Sep<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1768 in y<sup>e</sup> 32<sup>d</sup> Year of Her Age.*

### **Jacob Purdy, North Castle Supervisor 1778, 1779, 1780**

At the April 7, 1778 North Castle Town Meeting Jacob Purdy was elected Supervisor for North Castle. He was re-elected April 6, 1779 and again on April 4, 1780.

### **Jacob Purdy, North Castle Trustee 1781, 1782**

At the April 3, 1781 North Castle Town Meeting Daniel Tripp, Peter Lyon and Jacob Purdy were elected "to oversee the Accounts of the Townsmen and town." Peter Lyon and Jacob Purdy were elected Trustees of the Township at the 1782 town meeting.

### **Jacob Purdy, Patriot**

Jacob Purdy's Revolutionary War service was recognized; his wife was granted a pension for his service, Pension W17502. Widow Abigail Smith Purdy applied for a pension April 27, 1839. She was then a resident of the Town of Greenburgh and 93 years of age. She did not live to collect the pension that granted her \$52.37 per year.

Abigail testified that her husband was a lieutenant under Captain Jonathan P. Horton, who commanded a Militia company raised in the summer of 1776 and that he served for a year.

Abigail testified further that Jacob was an officer, a volunteer on the American lines in Westchester County, and a forage master for the American troops in the County. She said that at one time he had command of a company which was attached to a Militia Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Thomas.

On October 11, 1845 Abigail and Jacob's son, Jacob Purdy, Jr. applied for a pension on behalf of the surviving children – himself and John Purdy; Hetty Dusenbury; Abigail Angevine and Sarah Purdy.<sup>4</sup> He testified that his father, Jacob, Sr. was a soldier of the War of the Revolution and served as a Private, Corporal and Captain in the County of Westchester.

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<sup>4</sup> The North Castle Historical Society is grateful to Patrick Rafferty of the Westchester County Historical Society for supplying a copy of the pension file.



## Jacob Purdy, Soldier of the Westchester County Militia

New York State records confirm Abigail's and son Jacob's recollections. These records reflect that "Jacobus Purdy" served as a Captain in the Second Regiment of Westchester County Militia serving under Colonel Thomas Thomas and that "Jacob Purdy" served as an enlisted man in the Separate Exempts of Westchester County Militia serving under Captain Jonathan Horton. The following excerpts are from New York in the Revolution as Colony and State:<sup>5</sup>

### Westchester County Militia — Second Regiment

COLONEL THOMAS THOMAS		QUARTER MASTER TIMOTHY BRUNDIGE			
LIEUTENANT COLONEL GILBERT BUDD		QUARTER MASTER JAMES McDONALD			
MAJOR DAVID HOBBS		QUARTER MASTER WILLIAM MOSHER			
MAJOR JESSE TRUESDELL		QUARTER MASTER NATHANIEL TUCKER			
ADJUTANT WRIGHT CARPENTER		COMMISSARY THEODOSIUS BARTOW			
ADJUTANT EDWARD THOMAS					
CAPT.	NOAH BOUTON	CAPT.	RICHARD SACKETT	LIEUT.	ERENEZER SCOTFIELD
"	BENJAMIN CHAPMAN	"	MOSES ST. JOHN	"	ELIJAH SCOTT
"	PETER FLEMING	"	BENJAMIN STEVENSON	"	JACOB TRAVIS
"	ABRAHAM GILBERT	"	JOHN THOMAS	"	WILLIAM WRIGHT
"	SAMUEL HADGEE	LIEUT.	THOMAS CARPENTER	ENSIGN	SAMUEL BANKS
"	HUNTER	"	JESSE HOLLY	"	JOHN FALCONER
"	GILBERT LYON	"	CALER LAWRENCE	"	ELI TYLER
"	JOSHUA MILLER	"	DAVID LYON	"	ABRAHAM WEARING
"	MARCUS MOSEMAN	"	SILAS MILLER		
"	JACOBUS PURDY	"	JOSEPH MILLER		

### Westchester County Militia — Separate Exempts

#### CAPT. JONATHAN HORTON

#### ENLISTED MEN

Acker Jacob	Bice Peter	Dalton William	Purdy Jacob
Barley John	Bice William	Fisher Elijah	Purdy Jonathan
Bell William	Bice Yawhat	Fisher Samuel	See James
Bice Abraham	Brundage James	Horton Caleb	Smith James
Bice Abraham, Jr.	Chapman Andrew	Owens Jeremiah	Sybor John
Bice Jacob	Cunningham John	Palden John	White Stephen
Bice James			

During the Revolution "there were three types of military organizations to which North Castle soldiers could belong. First, there were the regiments of the line, which were under the direct command of Washington. Secondly, there were the Levies, composed of men who were drafted from different military regiments and could be called out of the State for service. Thirdly, there were the militia or home guard regiments, that could be called up, in whole or in part, for service within the State and even outside the State (for a period of only three months outside the State)."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Comptroller James A Roberts, New York in the Revolution as Colony and State, Albany, published 1898, Brandow Printing Company, pages 207 and 217.

<sup>6</sup> Richard N. Lander, American Revolutionary History in North Castle, 1976, The North Castle Historical Society, page 16.

## British Spy Major John Andre taken to Reuben Wright's Mills in 1780

J. O. Dykman, published in the Magazine of American History in 1889, wrote about John Andre's capture and journey before execution. "Then, turning to the right, they ascended the hill to the upper crossroads, and, continuing on down another hill, passed the residence of Ebenezer Newman across the hollow now traversed by the Harlem railroad, and then up the hill to the old Foshay house, which stood the north side of the road, on the top of the hill now known as Reynolds's hill. At that house they procured a drink either of milk or water. Leaving, they went on over the road leading to the top of the hill, now known as Halls's hill, then down that to Wright's mills, now called Kensico. They then conducted their prisoner to the house of Reuben Wright, who was the owner of the mills. Lieutenant Colonel Jameson had, at different times, made this place his headquarters. That house still remains. It was known in later years as the John Robbins's house, and stands about a quarter of a mile north of Kensico on the west side of a by-road running south from the old North Castle road, and a few rods south of the latter road."<sup>7</sup> Andre was then brought up the road to Thomas Wright's Mills, later known as Sands's Mills, in today's Armonk, New York. Andre was hanged as a spy at noon on October 2, 1780 in Tappan, New York.

## General George Washington at Reuben Wright's Mills

On July 20, 1778, Gen. George Washington wrote to Major General Horatio Gates:

*Sir: I have been favoured with your two Letters of today, (one inclosing a return) for which I thank you. I am now about Six miles from where the Court House at the plains was, and shall set out immediately for Reuben Rights (sic), which will be my Quarters for the present.*"<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Magazine of American History, Vol XXII, July-December, edited by Martha J. Lamb, Press of J. J. Little & Co., New York, page 148, article entitled *The Last Twelve Days of Major John Andre* by J. O. Dykman.

<sup>8</sup> The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources 1745-1799, Volume 12 June 1, 1778-September 30, 1778, edited by John C. Fitzpatrick, United States Government Printing Office, page 193.



General Orders “Head Quarters, Wrights Mills, July 22, 1778” provides a list of the fifteen Brigades, and an indication of the vast number of soldiers encamped in the area.<sup>9</sup> On July 20, 1778 Reuben Wright prepared a bill for “his Excellency family Expense” amounting to a little more than £18.<sup>10</sup>

Jacob Purdy’s name does not appear in North Castle Town Minutes after 1782.

### **Jacob Purdy Bought Samuel Purdy’s Forfeited Farm, December 22, 1785**

Confiscation laws were passed during the Revolution allowing the seizure of lands belonging to Loyalists. New York’s Provincial Convention created Committees of Sequestration early in 1777. In October 1779 the Forfeiture Act was passed into law. This purchase is part of Loyalist brother Henry’s testimony on behalf of Loyalist brother Gabriel Purdy.

*December 22, 1785*

*No. 9 Sold to Jacob Purdy of the County of Westchester Esquire for five Hundred and fifty eight pounds fifteen shillings. All That certain Farm of Land situate lying and being in the Manor of Philipsburgh and County of Westchester being Bounded Easterly by Bronx River Northerly by land now or late in the possession of John Mertine Westerly by the Highway and Southerly by the land now or late in the possession of John Hunt Containing one Hundred and forty nine Acres more or less as the same was formerly possessed by Samuel Purdy Forfeited to the people of this State by the Attainder of Frederick Philipse late of the said County Esquire.*<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid, pages 215-216.

<sup>10</sup> Refer to North Castle History, Volume 42, 2015 for more details.

<sup>11</sup> <http://collections.westchestergov.com/digital/collection/forfeiture/id/61/rec/39>.



(52) December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1785

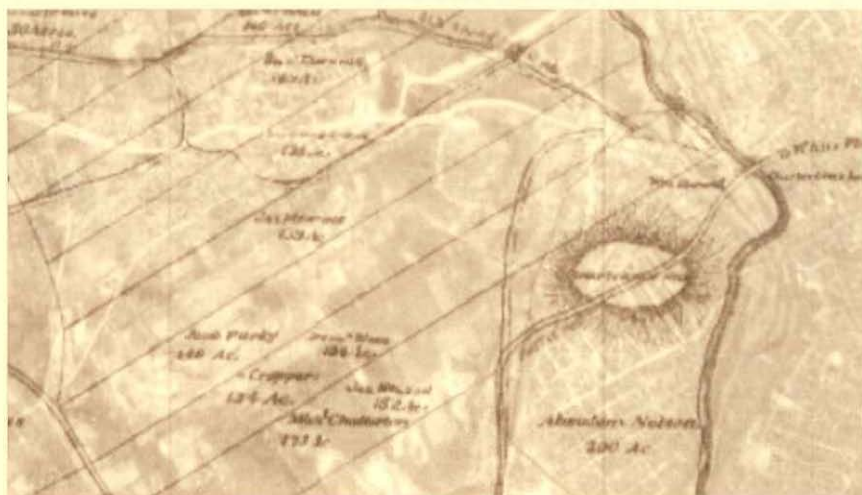
N<sup>o</sup> 9 Sold to Jacob Purdy of the County of the District of Columbia for five hundred and fifty eight pounds fifteen shillings — All that certain Tract of Land situate lying and being in the Manor of Philipsburgh and County of Westchester being bounded Easterly by Duane River Northerly by land now or late in the possession of John Hartshorn Westerly by the Highway and Southerly by the land now or late in the possession of John Hunt & containing one hundred and forty nine Acres more or less as the same was formerly possessed by Samuel Purdy Trapped to the people of this State by the Attendant of the said Philipsburgh of the said County by

A Copy of Deed, Dated the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1785

R. Richard Hartshorn

Westchester County Archives

# COPY OF THE DEED OF SALE TO JACOB PURDY, DECEMBER 22, 1785



Westchester County Archives

## RECREATED MAP SHOWING JACOB PURDY'S DECEMBER 22, 1785 PURCHASE

(Note: See the third land strip from the bottom of the map)

In 1880 M. K. Couzens, a Yonkers, New York Civil Engineer and Surveyor, traced and reduced from a fragment of the original map, "A Plan of the Manor of Philipsburgh in the County of Westchester and State of New York Surveyed Agreeable to the Instruction of Isaac Stoutenburgh and Philip Van

Cortlandt unto John Hills 1785” and recreated the 1785 Map, which had been prepared for the Commissioners of Forfeitures showing Grants in the City of Yonkers and the Town of Greenburgh.<sup>12</sup>

### Census Records

There are only two listings on the 1790 Census for Westchester County for a Jacob Purdy – one in Rye and one in White Plains.

The 1800 Census lists only one Jacob Purdy for Westchester County. The family is living in White Plains and listed between Samuel Crawford and Joseph Prior. The Census shows 13 people in the household:

*One Free White Male, between 10 and 16 years of age*

*Two Free White Males, between 16 and 26 years*

*One Free White Male, over 45 years of age*

*One Free White Female, under 10 years*

*One Free White Female, between 16 and 26 years*

*One Free White Female, over 45 years of age*

*Six Slaves*

The 1810 Census lists three Jacob Purdy families living in Westchester County – one in New Castle, one in White Plains and one in Greenburgh. Only the White Plains listing shows a Free White Male over the age of 45 years.

*Two Free White Males, between 16 and 26 years*

*One Free White Male, over 45 years of age*

*One Free White Female, between 16 and 26 years*

*One Free White Female, over 45 years of age*

*Two Slaves*

The 1820 Census lists only two Jacob Purdy families living in Westchester County – both in White Plains. One reads “Jacob Purdy, Jr.” and the other listing records five people in the household:

*One Free White Male, over 45 years of age*

*One Free White Female, under 10 years of age*

*One Free White Female, between 16 and 26 years*

*Two Free White Females, over 45 years of age*

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<sup>12</sup> <http://collections.westchestergov.com/digital/collection/forfeiture/id/108>.

### Children of Jacob and Abigail Smith Purdy

According to Abigail's testimony given when applying for a Widow's Pension and according to a family genealogy published in 1909<sup>13</sup>, Abigail was born March 21, 1746 at White Plains, a daughter of Rev. John and Mehitable (Hooker) Smith. Abigail and Jacob had the following children:

Levinah, born July 7, 1765, married Thomas Horton<sup>14</sup>

Henry, born October 3, 1767, married May Calhoun

Susannah born October 16, 1770, married Isaac Hunt

Winifred, born August 28, 1773, married Richard Ferris

Abigail, born June 25, 1775, married Peter Angevine

Jacob, Jr. born June 24, 1778<sup>15</sup>

John, born November 22, 1780<sup>16</sup>

Mehitable (Hetty), born April 19, 1783, married John Dusenbury

Samuel, born June 14, 1787<sup>17</sup>

Sarah, born September 17, 1791, married Jacob G. Purdy

The Bible record indicates that Levinah Purdy was born "in the white plains" on Sunday the seventh day of July 1765. Henry, Susannah, Winifred and Abigail were born in "Northcastle" 1767 through 1775. Jacob and John were born in Bedford 1778 and 1780<sup>18</sup>. Mahitabel (sic), Samuel and Sarah were born "in the white plains" 1783, 1787 and 1791.

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<sup>13</sup> Edward Hooker, The Descendants of Rev. Thomas Hooker, 1909, E.R. Edwards Printing Company, Rochester, New York.

<sup>14</sup> Della Smith Bishop wrote in her Smith-Hooker Genealogy that Thomas Horton was a son of Jonathan and Blanche Madge Horton. Thomas was born July 2, 1761 and died before 1814. Thomas Horton and Levinah Purdy were married June 2, 1785. They lived in New York City where he was a shipmaster.

<sup>15</sup> According to Della Smith Bishop, Jacob Purdy, Jr., married Cynthia Hart and both are buried in the First Presbyterian Church Cemetery in White Plains, New York.

<sup>16</sup> According to Della Smith Bishop, John Purdy, the 7<sup>th</sup> child of Jacob and Abigail Smith Purdy, was born November 9, 1780 and died October 28, 1854. He married Elizabeth Dusenbury, a daughter of Charles and Margaret Odell Dusenbury.

<sup>17</sup> According to the family Bible page included with the Widow's Revolutionary War Pension Application, Samuel Purdy was their 9<sup>th</sup> child. He married Fanny Fisher. Sadly, Samuel Purdy died before his only child, Susannah, was born on August 13, 1813.

<sup>18</sup> Jacob Purdy was serving in offices for the Town of North Castle during these years.



Eleonora Purdy her first Child was born in Northhampton on Sunday the 22nd  
 Day of July 1765  
 Henry her second was born in Northhampton the 22 Day of October 1767  
 Susannah her third was born in Northhampton the 6 of October 1770  
 Thais her fourth was born in Northhampton the 22 Day of January 1773  
 Abigail her fifth was born in Northhampton the 28 Day of June 1775  
 Jacob her sixth was born in Bedford on 24 Day June 1778  
 John her seventh was born in Bedford on 22 Day of November 1780  
 Elizabeth her eighth was born in Northhampton the 19 Day of April 1783  
 Samuel her ninth was born in White Plains the 14 Day of June 1787  
 Sarah her tenth was born in the White Plains the 27 Day of September 1791

Courtesy of Patrick Rafferty, Westchester County Historical Society

## COPY OF PAGE FROM JACOB AND ABAGAIL SMITH PURDY BIBLE

Abigail Smith Purdy presented the above page from her family Bible as proof of her Widow's Claim for Jacob's service in the Revolutionary War. She said she directed the page be cut from the Bible and that the handwriting was that of her husband Jacob.

### Parents and Siblings of Jacob Purdy

According to Spencer P. Mead's research,<sup>19</sup> Jacob Purdy was a child of Samuel and Winifred Griffin Purdy, who were married December 17, 1735. Winifred was a daughter of Jacob Griffin. Samuel was a son of Samuel and Charlotte Strang Purdy. Mead's research attributed six children to Samuel and Winifred Griffin Purdy:

1. Levinah, born about 1737, married Eleazer Gedney.<sup>20</sup>
2. Jacob, born October 15, 1739, died December 20, 1822, married Abigail Smith, lived at White Plains, New York.
3. Samuel, born about 1745, died in 1784.
4. Henry, born in 1753, died July 20, 1826, married Tamar Kniffen/Sniffen February 16, 1773, removed to Fort Lawrence, Nova Scotia.

<sup>19</sup> Spencer P. Mead, LL.B. of the New York Bar, Ye Historie of ye Town of Greenwich, New York, The Knickerbocker Press, 1911, page 633

<sup>20</sup> Family tradition relates that Eleazer and Lavina/Lavinia Purdy Gedney were both drowned in 1761 in the Hudson River off Newburgh, New York.

5. Gabriel, born May 18, 1755, died in 1847, Westchester, Nova Scotia.<sup>21</sup>
6. Gilbert, born in 1757, married Bethia Fisher March 26, 1781, removed to Malagash, Nova Scotia.

**Jacob Purdy's brothers Henry, Gabriel and Gilbert were Loyalists.  
They moved to Nova Scotia.**

Reportedly brother Gabriel was married five times and fathered seventeen children. An interesting announcement regarding his first marriage appeared in Rivington's *Gazetteer* in 1775:

"March 28 – this evening was married, at the White Plains, Westchester County, New York, Mr. Gabriel Purdy, youngest son of Mr. Samuel Purdy, to the agreeable Miss Charity Purdy, daughter of Mr. Joseph Purdy, both of that loyal town. What particularly is remarkable in the affair, is this, the guests consisted of forty-seven persons; thirty-seven of whom were Purdys, and not a single Whig among them."<sup>22</sup>

In November 1786 Jacob's brother Gabriel, then living in Cobblegate Mountain, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, made application (Case 644) to the British government for financial relief. Gabriel claimed<sup>23</sup> that he sent his claim to Col. Delancey and that he lived on Philips' Manor when he joined the British at the time of the Battle of White Plains and served until the end of the War. He testified that before leaving Philips' Manor he was in possession of his father's farm containing 140 acres. He further claimed that his maternal grandfather (Jacob Griffin) left 160 acres of land on the White Plains to be divided in different shares. He said his grandfather (Jacob Griffin) was a Loyalist, but remained on his farm during the War. In proof, he produced a Lease and Release from Samuel and Winifred Griffin Purdy (his father and mother) to Jacob, Henry, Gilbert, Gabriel, Samuel and Gilbert, Jr. of all the right which Samuel and Winifred Purdy

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<sup>21</sup> Family descendants report Gabriel married five times. (1) Charity Purdy, (2) Esther Angevine, (3) widow Elizabeth (Wilkinson) Richardson, (4) Esther Knight, (5) Ann, widow of John Aitkins - <http://www.uclac.org/PDF/Gabriel-Purdy-UE-from-Bob-McBride.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> Frank Moore, *The Diary of the Revolution, A Centennial Volume*, Hartford, Connecticut, The J. B. Burr Publishing Company, 1876.

<sup>23</sup> *Second Report of the Bureau of Archives for the Province of Ontario*, Alexander Fraser, Provincial Archivist, L. K. Cannon, printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1905, pages 780-781, Claim Number 644.



had in the estate of his maternal grandfather under his Will. He claimed  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Grandfather Griffin's estate.

Jacob Griffin's Will, dated June 1777, willed that wife Sarah would have the use of houses and lands in White Plains and Harrison's Purchase. After her death the executors were to sell and divide proceeds among brothers Ezekiel and William and Winifred Purdy, Catharine Barton, Sarah Stringham and Joseph Griffin.<sup>24</sup> Daughter Winifred Griffin Purdy was Jacob's mother and presumably named him for her father.

Brother Henry Purdy bore witness to Gabriel's testimony. Henry said he knew the farm in Philips' Manor, that he and Gabriel were brothers and that their father gave the farm to Gabriel. Henry said their father was still living. He said he had heard their oldest brother (Jacob Purdy) had purchased the whole farm.

#### **Parents of Abigail Smith, Mrs. Jacob Purdy**

Charles W. Baird<sup>25</sup> wrote in 1871 that Abigail Smith who married Jacob Purdy was the youngest daughter of Reverend and Doctor John Smith and Mehetabel Hooker. Rev. John Smith was "for nearly thirty years minister of the Presbyterian congregation of Rye and the White Plains...."<sup>26</sup> Rev. John Smith was also a practicing physician.

In 1936 Della Smith Bishop wrote a comprehensive family genealogy<sup>27</sup> including the details of Rev. and Dr. John Smith's gravesite. "At the time of the Revolutionary War, and only seven years after his death, the battle of White Plains was fought in front of his church and the edifice was destroyed. A larger church built on the same ground was destroyed by fire. The third and present one was built of gray stone ... When the last church was built, the building was extended over his grave and the upright slab was removed farther back."<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> William S. Pelletreau, Early Wills of Westchester County, New York from 1664 to 1784, New York, Francis P. Harper, 1898, page 366.

<sup>25</sup> Charles W. Baird, History of Rye, Westchester County, New York 1660-1870, New York, Anson D. F. Randolph and Company, 1871, page 491.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Della Smith Bishop, Smith-Hooker Genealogy, Ithaca, New York, Stuart & Son, 1936, pages 77 and 257-263.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.



## **MEMORIES OF MY FATHER, JOSEPH WARREN WAGO**

**by Barbara DiGiacinto**

My Father, Joseph Warren Wago (Joe to his family and friends), was born in the Yorkville section of New York City on June 21, 1908 to Joseph and Elizabeth Wago, originally "Vago."

When processing my Grandfather's paperwork an immigration clerk on Ellis Island changed his last name from "Vago" to "Wago." Yorkville was home to many Hungarian immigrants at the turn of the century. According to Dad's New York City birth record<sup>1</sup> 32781, New York City Municipal Archives, his Father was born in Nagyaro, Hungary and his Mother, Lizzie Mate Wago, was born in Kiskovesd, Hungary. Grandmother Elizabeth was 19 years old and Grandfather Joseph was 25 years old when Dad was born.

### **Coming to America - Sacrifice and Struggles**

Soon after his birth Dad was sent back to Hungary to live with my paternal great grandparents. Both of my grandparents were working night and day, trying to save enough money to purchase a home and some land in the country. My Great-Grandfather Vago was a well-respected judge and one of the few formally educated residents living in the small village of Kivonat who could read and write. Dad remembered he lived there for about 6 years without seeing his parents. Unfortunately, his grandfather was prone to alcoholism and became violent when drinking. When he came home drunk, his grandmother would urge Dad to run and hide while she took the brunt of his grandfather's rage.

Listed under the name Jozsef Vago, Dad returned to the United States on March 5, 1914 accompanied by Grandfather Wago aboard the Kroonland which sailed from Antwerp. Their nationality was recorded as "Hungary, Magyar" and Dad's record was marked "Claims to be U.S.B." (United States Born).<sup>2</sup> Dad recalled after leaving Ellis Island, he kept tripping on

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<sup>1</sup> New York, New York Municipal Archives, birth record 32781.

<sup>2</sup> "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924" *FamilySearch* database with images.

the sidewalks while walking with my Grandfather Wago in Manhattan. He said he couldn't keep his eyes off the tall buildings.

During the time Dad was living in Hungary, my grandparents spent some time working in Cairo, Michigan harvesting beets. Aunt Goldie was born there on October 15, 1912. Many years later, on April 21, 1935 Aunt Goldie would marry Uncle John Hergenhan in New York City.<sup>3</sup> Uncle John was a North Castle Policeman who later became a Sergeant and then Chief. Uncle "Hergie", Aunt Goldie, along with their children Joyce and John, lived on Wago Avenue in Armonk.

Before moving to Armonk, Grandfather Wago found work as a Manhattan trolley car conductor and Grandmother Elizabeth served as a cook in "The Toombs," a municipal jail in lower Manhattan, but she cooked for the judges, not the prisoners.

### **Struggles in Armonk**

The Wago family moved to Armonk because Grandfather Wago was offered a job managing a gentleman's farm in the Whippoorwill section of town. In a short time as a result of a few years of hard work and an ambitious savings plan, my grandparents rented a small farm on Route 120 in the vicinity of what is now Swiss Re.

The purchase of two oxen was crucial to maximize the farm land's bounty and my grandfather's success as a farmer and dairyman did not go unnoticed. Although painful for my father to recall, he spoke of the morning when he was a teenager and his father found the oxen dead in the barn. They had been poisoned most likely by someone jealous of this hard working Hungarian's success. My Father said that my Grandfather buried the animals and accepted this severe setback because he feared more trouble and retaliation if he had notified the Town Constable. This horrendous act was not a total surprise as some of the old Yankee families were rather hostile to the immigrants moving into their home town, particularly those who were prospering.

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<sup>3</sup> The John C. and Goldie Hergenhan Recreation Center on Maple Avenue in Armonk is named in honor of this couple. Renovation of the building, the old Armonk Fire House, was made possible through a very generous donation from their daughter Joyce.



Uncle Charlie (Charles Lenard Wago) was born April 28, 1914 in Armonk in a house located off Whippoorwill Road. Uncle Charlie died January 31, 1987. His wife, Aunt Millie (Mildred), served as North Castle Receiver of Taxes for 41 years. My cousins Linda Herbst and Charlene Decker are their daughters and reside in Armonk to this day.

In time, my grandparents saved enough money to buy the house on Old Mt. Kisco Road with enough land for poultry and a large garden.



*Courtesy of Barbara DiGiacinto*

**[l-r] Ray Bell, John Hergenhan, Goldie Wago Hergenhan, Thelma Daffer, Charlie Wago, Charlie Hergenhan, Grandma Wago and Grandpa Wago**

### **CELEBRATING HOME ON LEAVE AT THE FARMHOUSE**

**Many meals were shared at the Wago family farmhouse.**

Wago Avenue in Armonk was a road carved out by Dad and Grandfather Joe. They used a team of oxen to pull a plough. Dad often remarked that if he knew he would someday end up living on Wago Avenue, he would have put more thought into the construction of that steep, windy road. Elizabeth Place in Armonk was named after my grandmother.



According to the 1930 Federal census, the family was living in Armonk. Grandfather Joseph was 47 years old. He reported that he was born in Hungary in 1883 and that he immigrated to the United States in 1901. Grandpa Wago's occupation was listed as farmer. Grandmother Elizabeth was 39 years old, born in Hungary in 1891 and had immigrated to the United States in 1903. In 1930 my Dad was 21 years old, single and employed as a telephone company linesman. Aunt Goldie was 17 years old, single and working as a stenographer for a garage. Uncle Charles was 15 years old and most likely worked on the family's farm.

Well into his 80's Dad could recall with detail and clarity a trip back to Hungary after WW I when he and his parents returned to Hungary to celebrate the installation of church bells in the villages where Joseph Sr. and Elizabeth were raised. During the war church bells were removed, melted down and used to make munitions.

My grandparents paid for two new church bells to be installed in their respective villages. The pageantry and celebrations lasted for nearly a week and a picture of Joe and his father on horseback wearing ceremonial garb captured the solemnity of this event. Even their horses were adorned with flowers for these momentous celebrations.



*Courtesy Barbara DiGiacinto*

**[L-R] Joseph Wago, Sr. and Joseph Wago, Jr.**

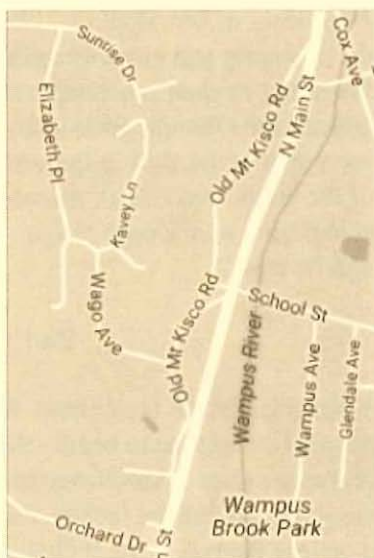
**CELEBRATION TO INSTALL THE CHURCH BELLS  
HUNGARY 1930s**

When Grandmother Elizabeth died at the age of 84 on October 7, 1974, the *Patent Trader* newspaper reported that she had been a resident of Armonk for more than 65 years. Grandmother was a charter member of the Armonk Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. She was a member of the Armonk Methodist Church. She rests in the Middle Patent Rural Cemetery beside Grandfather Joe who died in 1967.

### Dad's School Years

Dad attended a one-room school located on School Street. He recalled that on his first day of school he was ridiculed by the "townie boys" because he was not fluent in English and wore homemade clothes his mother had sewn. During recess, a few school yard bullies threw Dad in a hole and left him there to fend for himself. Fortunately, the school teacher rescued him and gave her charges an impromptu lecture on tolerance.

By the time Dad graduated from 8th grade, the family owned in excess of 100 acres in Armonk. The Wago holdings included not only Old Mt. Kisco Road, but also Wago Avenue, Elizabeth Place, parts of Whippoorwill, a segment of New York State Route 128, Wampus Avenue and the site of today's Wampus School. Because the Wago farm and contiguous property required much more man power, my grandfather determined that his son needed no more than an 8th grade education. It was much more important to have my Father work full time on the farm rather than attend high school.



[newyork.hometownlocator.com](http://newyork.hometownlocator.com)

### WAGO HOLDINGS AREA



## Joseph Wago, Jr. – Armonk Wrestler

Writing for the 1987 issue of *North Castle History*, Hon. James D. Hopkins reported that Armonk was seized by a fever for wrestling in the 1920s and that it was due to Ed Deal, a local blacksmith. Deal was a professional wrestler who performed under the name of Ed Dean throughout the metropolitan region. He held the title of light heavyweight champion and encouraged, by his example and teaching, the pursuit of wrestling as a sport by local youths. Coincidentally, “Mummy” Deal<sup>4</sup> would become my babysitter when my mother went back to work. Her other charges included Susan Briggs and Judy Kittredge.

Hopkins wrote that the Greek Olympic Games of 708 B.C. included a violent form of wrestling, but that the first national wrestling tournament was held in America in New York City in 1888. During the 1800s public interest was sparked by circuses and carnivals that sponsored wrestling matches pitting locals against the star of the show.

According to Mr. Hopkins, “Wrestling then was a serious sport, without the posturing and mock-heroics, which characterizes it at the present time. Wrestling as then practiced was a sport of skill and stamina, close to the college and Olympic form today. I remember attending one of the bills with my father at the Hall in the early ‘20’s. William Husted was the promoter of the bouts, and I think the admission fee was 50 cents. Among the local contestants was Joseph Wago, Jr., who later became a professional in the 165 lb. class.”

## Dad’s Working Years

When real estate taxes were first proposed in Armonk, my grandfather decided it was time to begin selling some of his land as he feared becoming real estate poor. This change in events influenced Dad to search for gainful employment, but the fact he did not have a high school diploma, much less a college degree, made it challenging. His early adult employment ran the gamut from part-time gamekeeper on the Calder estate to game warden and groundskeeper at Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich.

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<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Nellie Deal



Dad worked for Mr. Louis Calder, Chairman of Perkins-Goodwin, a company specializing in the pulp and paper business. Dad, who served as gamekeeper and trapper on the Calder's 113 acre estate, developed a special kinship with Mr. Calder, also an avid hunter. To Dad's delight and amazement, Mr. Calder asked him to accompany him on an African safari - all expenses paid. Mr. Calder instructed Dad to visit Abercrombie & Fitch where he was outfitted for the trip. A few weeks before their departure to Africa, Mr. Calder suffered a massive heart attack. Although he survived, the trip was cancelled and never rescheduled.

Eventually Dad found his calling as a heavy equipment operator. Among his proudest accomplishments was helping to build the Pan American Highway in Nicaragua. In addition, as a bulldozer and crane operator in Westchester County, he could point to working on projects that radically changed commerce and transportation. As a member of Local 137 Operating Engineers, he worked on the Tappan Zee Bridge, I-287, the Taconic and Saw Mill River Parkways, and Indian Point nuclear power plant.

### **Dad's Service to Country and Community**

When WW II broke out and countless American young men enlisted, Dad was 36 years old, but that did not prevent him from enlisting with brother Charlie and many other boys from Armonk who were easily 10 plus years younger. He served in the Army as a heavy equipment operator and helped to build and repair roads and airfields in Italy, France, Germany, and Belgium. In the capacity of construction foreman, he supervised the work of some 200 prisoners and enlisted men. His brother Charlie served in the Navy.



*Courtesy Barbara DiGiacinto*

**WAGO BROTHERS –  
JOE AND CHARLIE**

His accomplishments included being a founding member of the Armonk Volunteer Fire Department and Armonk American Legion Post 1097. Throughout his life he quietly and unassumingly did many acts of kindness: plowing driveways at no charge for those who were not physically up to the task or loaning a few dollars to someone down and out, even a stranger, realizing it was more aptly a donation.

### **Hobbies**

Although Dad did not have a great deal of free time, he became an avid fisherman and hunter, and his bounty served as the centerpiece for many family meals. Ironically, Joe the hunter was a man with a heart. He brought home an abandoned fawn (Gussie) which was bottle fed and raised by him and his mother. And, there was a baby skunk that he brought home - the only survivor in its family he said - which became Homer, the beloved pet of Chief John Hergenhan and his wife Goldie Wago.



*Courtesy Barbara DiGiacinto*

**JOYCE HERGENHAN,  
DAD AND GUSSIE THE  
DEER - 1940s**



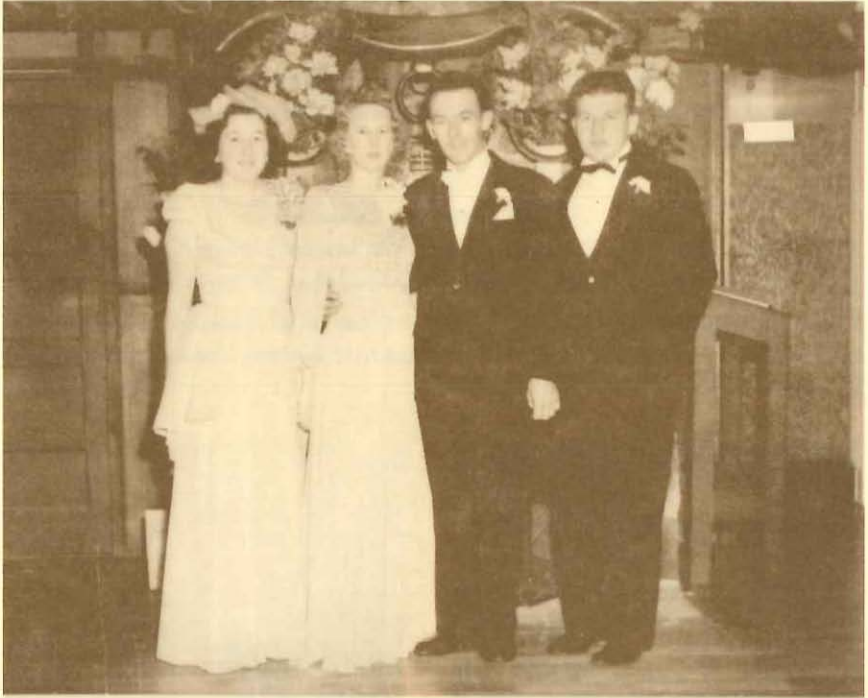
*Courtesy Barbara DiGiacinto*

**DAD HUNTING AT AGNEW FARM**

This photograph was published in a book  
entitled The Encyclopedia of Dogs.

## Marriage and a Baby

In 1946 Dad returned home from war to my mother, Peggy, and two years later became the proud father of Barbara Elizabeth.



*Courtesy of Barbara DiGiacinto*

## BENEATH THE OX YOKE

[l-r] Goldie Wago, Peggy and Joe Wago, Charlie Wago

### WEDDING CELEBRATION AT THE OX YOKE RESTAURANT<sup>5</sup>

My mother, Emily Margaret “Peggy” Wago was a woman ahead of her time. She did not need the woman’s movement to motivate her to satisfy her needs and to pursue her dreams. Shortly after my birth in 1948, she returned to work as a secretary working at the Reader’s Digest. The traditional Armonk housewives were not supportive of my mother’s desire to have a career despite the fact she left me in the loving care of stay-at-

<sup>5</sup> The Ox Yoke Restaurant became Opus Restaurant for many years and is presently known as Inka’s Seafood Grill Restaurant.



home mom Vivian See, and later, Mummy Deal. By the 1960s Mom was working in White Plains and managed the Westchester County branch of Marsh & McLennan Insurance Company.

After Dad and Mom retired, they moved south but made yearly pilgrimages to Armonk as this was always home. After my mother died in 1982, Dad returned to Armonk a few years later and lived in a tiny house on Maryland Avenue with his beloved English Setter Dixie, until he died at the age of 95.

### *Note from the Editors*

*The author, Barbara Elizabeth Wago DiGiacinto, was born and raised in Armonk. She is a retired educator, member of Bull Terrier Rescue, Inc., life member of The North Castle Historical Society, valued friend, enthusiastic but erratic golfer, and a Town of North Castle Councilman.*



**Barbara Wago DiGiacinto, 2017**



**Peggy and Joe Wago, 1940s**

## THE ANITA LOUISE EHRMAN RECREATION CENTER IN ARMONK

by George Drapeau

“Since time began, men have tried unsuccessfully to understand and justify their brief existences on earth. It’s unlikely a human mind will ever unravel the mystery, but the heart can come close.”

These finely crafted words, appearing 53 years ago in an editorial in the *North Castle News* (August 10, 1965), characterize the life of an extraordinary young woman and her dedication to her fellow man. Former Armonk resident Anita Louise Ehrman was a model of “competence, energy and fervor in her commitment to help her fellow human beings on five continents,” the editorial noted.

“Her vitality lives on. Her contributions to the mainstream of life continue through a recreation center that will be used mostly by children – instead of through compassionate reports from (the) battlefields and countries in upheaval” that she would cover as a journalist for Washington and New York-based news organizations.

The Anita Louise Ehrman Recreation Center, now nestled in 12 acres of parkland in Armonk, was donated by her family to the citizens of the Town of North Castle and dedicated on August 10, 1965. Over the next five decades it would be known as “ALE,” with three generations passing through its 1960s “retro cool” portal on 3 Greenway Road every day all summer long from Memorial Day weekend in May through Labor Day in September. The fee to swim was 25 cents on weekdays; 75 cents on weekends.

Anita was four years old in 1939 when her family moved to Woodheath Farm on Mount Kisco Road in Armonk.<sup>1</sup> Until she left for college, her life was tied to Armonk. While still at Vassar College, during the summer of 1954, she worked in the United Nations Bureau for the International News Service.

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<sup>1</sup> Previous owners were Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Liebmann.



As the daughter of one of the most prominent Wall Street investment bankers of the time, Anita became a valued international reporter thanks to her ready access to diplomats and world leaders. This gave her dispatches remarkable insights and perspectives. By 1960, at age 25, she was named an assistant bureau chief, covering the United Nations for the Hearst Headline Service. She went to Tunisia to cover the Algerian war. In her coverage, she observed that lipstick was forbidden as it might glisten or be luminous at night and signal the rebel position. She reported from Brazil, Tunisia, India and Kashmir. In January 1963, she became a city reporter for *The Washington Post*, writing primarily about United Nations activities, personalities and problems. She died on July 13, 1965 in Washington, D.C.

In an interview with the *North Castle News*, Mrs. Ehrman was asked what prompted the family to fully endow the design, construction and operation of a recreation center that would memorialize their daughter. "You can give to a hospital—but she was so alive. We thought of it because Anita always regretted there was no pool in Armonk," she said.

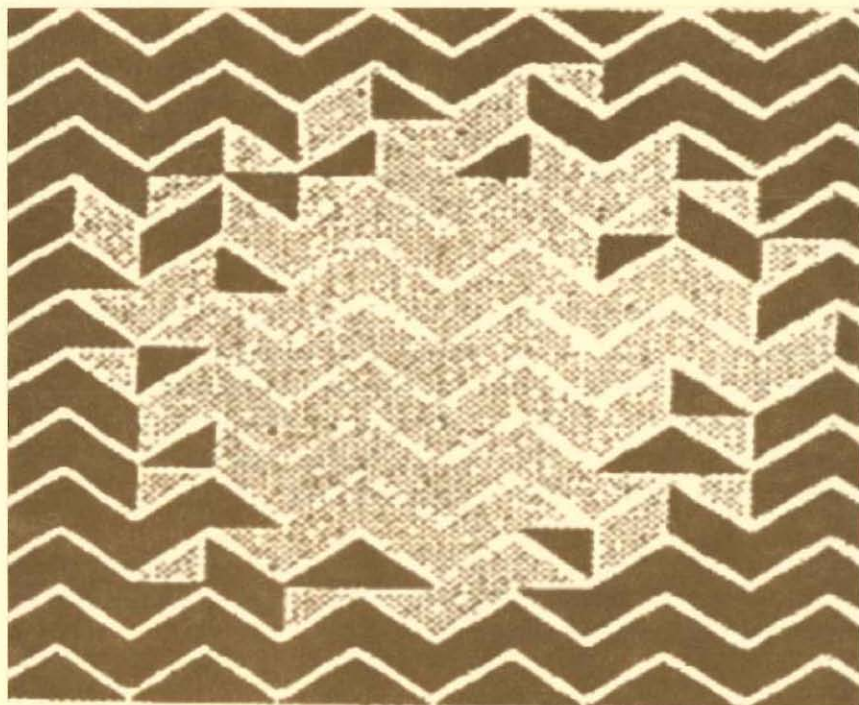
The article continued, "We talked to Walter Weil (then president of the North Castle Planning Board) and told him we were thinking of a pool, and both he and Jack Lombardi, who was then running for re-election as Town Supervisor, thought it was a fine idea." Mrs. Ehrman added, "Ralph MacDonald was then asked to make a survey of all property that would suit this purpose, but naturally we preferred to give our own land if it was suitable. After a survey and the drawing up of the necessary zoning change, we set out for Washington to have the Anita Louise Recreation Foundation approved as a tax-exempt foundation."

Lawrence Bittenwieser, lawyer for the Anita Louise Ehrman Recreation Center, Inc., explained, "The Center was created as a charity, principally to build and run the pool. We went to Washington to have it approved as quickly as possible.... The Foundation has strictly a charitable purpose." Mr. Bittenwieser added, "No part of the funds can find its way to a private person. If ever the property should go on sale, the money realized would have to be returned to the charity, and no sale of property could occur without express permission of the courts."

The ALE has remained a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) charity, leasing both pool and property to the Town of North Castle as part of the Town's summer recreation program.



The Crest for the Anita Louise Ehrman Recreation Center, designed by Architectural Graphics, symbolizes the sun in yellow and water in blue. According to Mrs. Ehrman, there was to be no lettering on the Crest so that only residents would know its meaning.



*The North Castle Historical Society*

## **THE ANITA LOUISE EHRMAN RECREATION CENTER CREST**

Architects were Norton and Hume, Stamford, Connecticut; Site Engineers, Staunton and Freeman, New York City; Consulting Engineers, Segner and Dalton, White Plains; Structural Engineer, Viggo Bonnesen, Stamford, Connecticut; Preparatory Site Contractor, Halma Construction, Mount Vernon, New York.

### **Parents of Anita Louise Ehrman**

Anita's father, Frederick Louis Ehrman, was born in 1906. For more than 45 years he was associated with Lehman Brothers, Inc. He served as chairman of the executive committee and as chairman of the corporation.

He was a governor of the New York Stock Exchange. During WWII he served as Commander in the United States Navy Reserve from 1941 to 1945. He and Edith Koshland were married in 1929. Their first daughter, Edith, was born in 1932, and Anita Louise was born March 16, 1935.

*The New York Times* reported on December 21, 1973 that Frederick Ehrman had died unexpectedly at the age of 67. At the time of his death he was a director for the Greyhound Corporation, Beckman Instruments, 20<sup>th</sup> Century-Fox Film Corporation, May Department Stores, Travelers Express, and the General Fire & Casualty Company. Mr. Ehrman was an ardent Republican and served as campaign chairman for the North Castle Republican Town Committee.

In addition to the family's generosity to the Town of North Castle, Mr. Ehrman was a supporter of New York University Medical Center, American Cancer Society, the University of California and the Institute for the Crippled and Disabled. Edith Ehrman (Didi to her friends) was a generous supporter of Columbia University School of Social Work, Lincoln Center Theater and Playwrights Horizons.

Sadly, when Mrs. Ehrman died in November 2000, she had outlived her husband, Frederick, their two daughters, Anita Louise and Edith, and her sisters, Ruth Hellman and Frances Skipsey.

### **Future of the ALE Pool**

During 2017, the North Castle Town Board authorized the purchase of the Anita Louise Ehrman Recreation Center from the non-profit organization. Discussions are ongoing. We look forward to the next chapter in the history of the ALE – the heart of North Castle recreation for so many in our community.



## A SALUTE TO TORLISH WELL DRILLING 100 Years in Business in Armonk



*Courtesy of the Torlish Family*

### **JAMES TORLISH – THE EARLY YEARS** **Water from a New Well**

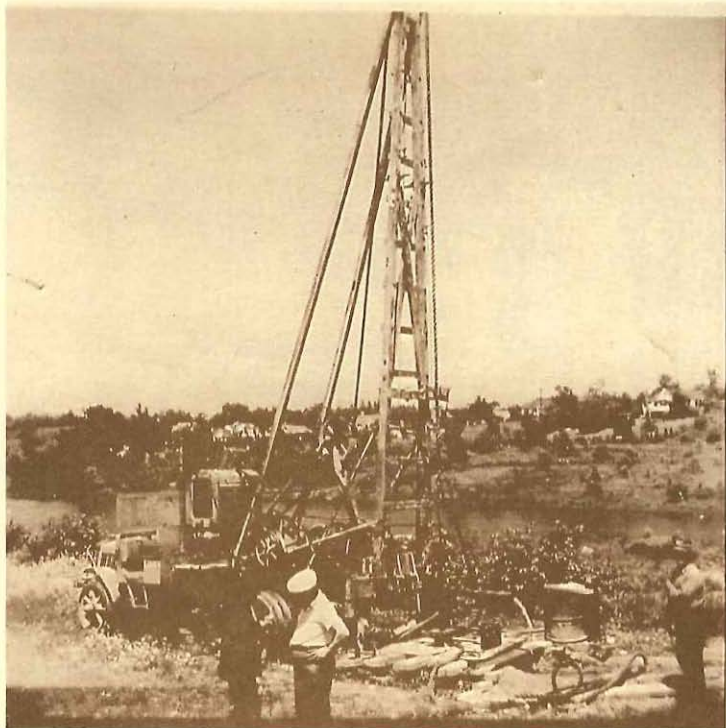
**James Torlish, Sr. is pictured between the two unidentified men.**

James Torlish moved to Armonk from New Jersey. The 1920 Census for North Castle reports him, age 30, living with his wife Hazle (sic), also 30 years old. James was born in New Jersey; Hazel in New York. James's parents were born in Italy. Living in the household with James and Hazel were a daughter Mary, age 8; a daughter Hazel, age 7; a son James Jr., age 6 and a nephew John, age 1.

By the time the 1930 North Castle Census was taken, daughter Mary was married to Albert Dominique, who was born in Rhode Island, and they were living in the household with James, Sr. and Hazel. The Torlish family was living near the homes of Andrew Findley, James Lovelett, John Howard, Lillie Carpenter, Alva See, Ella Haviland, Ralph L. MacDonald, Charles Remsen, and Nehemiah Acker.



*The North Castle Sun* newspaper reported in the November 2, 1928 edition that James Torlish, "the artesian well driller" had bought a new machine that would be used for the first time drilling a well at the new house of E. F. Acker on Annadale Street in Armonk.



*Courtesy of the Torlish Family*

### **DRILL AND WOODEN DERRICK**

**James Torlish, Sr. is pictured at far right in the picture.**

After one hundred years James's grandchildren, Thomas and Duane, and great-grandchildren, William and Duane, Jr., are still serving our North Castle community as well as the surrounding area. The business offices are on Maple Avenue in Armonk.

Granddaughter Linda Torlish Ranieri is an active member of the Board of Trustees of The North Castle Historical Society and St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Armonk. She helps her brothers, Duane and Tommy, managing business operations.

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The North Castle Historical Society is not responsible for the accuracy of statements and signed articles.

## **MILLER HILL REVOLUTIONARY WAR SITE**

**McDougal Drive/Dunlap Way at Smallwood Place**

**North White Plains, New York**

During the summer and fall of 1776 British forces steadily pushed George Washington and his soldiers northward from Long Island and New York City. Following the loss of Chatterton's Hill (today's White Plains) at the end of October 1776, Patriots again retreated and took positions on Miller Hill (today's North White Plains) and eastward.

Troop positions in the White Plains area would have been visible from atop Miller Hill. Historic Miller House/Washington's Headquarters (at today's 140 Virginia Road in North White Plains) was/is located below and northwest of Miller Hill.

On November 4, 1776 Gen. Howe unexpectedly ordered British forces to begin breaking encampments. They occupied the White Plains area from October 28 until November 6, 1776.

***"SHOTS FIRED FROM THIS HILL NOV. 4, 1776 BY COL. JOHN GLOVER'S TROOPS ENDED BATTLE OF WHITE PLAINS AND TURNED TIDE OF REVOLUTION."***

**[See photograph on front cover.]**

Miller Hill Revolutionary War Site is a Westchester County Park encompassing about 3 ½ acres. It is the only battle site in Westchester County remaining in its natural setting.

Please forward any corrections or additions to the information presented herein and/or your constructive suggestions for improving this publication to the editorial board at The North Castle Historical Society, Historic Smith's Tavern, 440 Bedford Road, Armonk, New York 10504. If you would be willing to research and/or author an article, please let us know. Different writers and diverse perspectives are vital. We would appreciate hearing from you.

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