

NORTH CASTLE HISTORY



Photograph by Dick Koenig

The Flag of the United States and the Eagle, at the intersection of Routes 128 and 22 in Armonk, stand as proud monuments to patriotism and heritage.

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“Old Glory”

***Isn't she grand flying high in the sky?
Dreamt as a boy someday there she would fly.
Up on our hill, just out of town
from any direction, 'tis here she'll be found.***

***First came 'Our Eagle', that large bird of prey
worshipped by some in a spiritual way.
Then came 'Old Glory' in troublesome time,
born again, born on each Fourth of July.***

***A patriot son, he once went to war,
fought for 'Old Glory' on a tropical shore.
Wounded in battle, but wounded no more,
proud to have served for his Country and Corps.***

***Windward she blows, can't be denied,
what a wonderful sight as she flies in the sky.
Weathered by day or weathered by night,
may she always be flying as she's flying tonight.***

***Walt Ray Bell
August 1995***

An Armonk resident since he was nine years old, Walter Ray Bell, Jr. entered the Marine Corps in March, 1941. During World War II he served in the Pacific with the 2nd Marine Division and fought in the battles of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, and Saipan. He received two Purple Hearts, four Bronze Battle Stars, two Presidential Unit Citations and a Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged August 15, 1945. Mr. Bell remains active in the North Castle American Legion Post #1097.



Smith's Tavern
Society Headquarters

The North Castle Historical Society

440 BEDFORD ROAD ARMONK, NEW YORK 10504

Dear Members and Friends,

1995 was a year in which we all enjoyed a variety of memorable activities aimed at learning, teaching, appreciating and preserving the history of the Town of North Castle. The Society has continued to acquire artifacts, photos, furniture, oral and written records, and to restore and maintain the historic Smith's Tavern complex. A variety of activities in 1995 helped us achieve the goals of the Society: guest speakers, visits to other historic sites, tours of the Town and a sail on Long Island Sound, a colonial dinner, spring concert, annual meeting, white elephant sale, antiques show, several exhibits, the history booklet and newsletters. Special thanks go to our dedicated workers for all their behind the scenes support.

The 1798 Quaker Meeting House was officially dedicated this Fall with over one hundred attending. It is the final building planned for the historic complex. Funds for completing the climate-controlled, fireproof archival room are needed. The wonderful old building has been lovingly restored and now joins historic Smith's Tavern, the Brundage Blacksmith Shop and the East Middle Patent One-Room Schoolhouse for all of us to enjoy!

Mid-November NatWest Bank awarded The Society the Community-in-Action Award for outstanding community service. We also received the New York State Assembly Citation for exemplary service to our community.

We invite you to join us in our various 1996 activities!

Sincerely,

Constance M. Quarrie

Constance M. Quarrie
President

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THE END OF WORLD WAR II

by Sharon Tomback

Peace came slowly in starts and stops during 1945.

“Reims, France, May 7 -- Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Western Allies and the Soviet Union at 8:41 p.m. Eastern Wartime Sunday” reported Associated Press Correspondent Edward Kennedy. The surrender took place at a little red schoolhouse that served as the headquarters for then-General Dwight D. Eisenhower. The “official” announcement was not made until 9:00 a.m. Eastern Wartime Tuesday when President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill and Gen. Charles de Gaulle coordinated efforts to broadcast statements at the same time.

When reporting the news of the German surrender, Frank S. Adams wrote for *The New York Times*, “One factor that helped to dampen the celebration was the bewilderment of large segments of the population at the absence of an official proclamation to back up the news contained in flaring headlines and radio bulletins. With the premature rumor of ten days ago fresh in everyone’s mind, and millions still mindful of the false armistice of 1918, there was widespread skepticism over the authenticity of the news.”¹

“It looks like the war is over...”

The Associated Press reported that when Admiral Halsey received word of Japan’s surrender on August 15, 1945, he sent the following message to his fliers: “It looks like the war is over, but if any enemy planes appear shoot them down in friendly fashion.”²

¹ THE NEW YORK TIMES, May 8, 1945, page 1 “Wild Crowds Greet News In City While Others Pray”

² THE NEW YORK TIMES, August 15, 1945, page 1, “Third Fleet fells 5 Planes Since End”

In fact, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced that the Pacific Fleet off Tokyo had shot down five enemy planes since noon that day. American defense measures were still in place. General Douglas MacArthur was instructed to convey to the Japanese that the Third Fleet would destroy any Japanese planes approaching United States warships.

The atomic bomb had been dropped on Japan a week previous. *The New York Times* August 7, 1945 edition reported that "...about the time citizens on the Eastern seaboard were sitting down to their Sunday suppers an American plane had dropped the single atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, an important army center." As of the writing what happened to the city was unknown.

JAPAN SURRENDERS, END OF WAR!³

Alexander Feinberg writing for *The New York Times* captured the emotion of those in Times Square, New York City on Tuesday evening, August 14, 1945:

"Five days of waiting, of rumor, intimation, fact, distortion -- five agonizing days following the first indication of a Japanese surrender, days of alternately rising hopes and fears - - came to an end for New York, as for the nation and the world, a moment or two after seven o'clock last night. [Mr. Feinberg's article appeared in the August 15 paper.] And the metropolis exploded its emotions, harnessed for the most part during the day, with atomic force.

'Official -- Truman announces Japanese surrender.'

These were the magic words, flashed on the moving electric sign of the Times Tower at 7:03 p.m., that touched off an unparalleled demonstration in Times Square, packed with

³ THE NEW YORK TIMES, August 15, 1945, page 1 headline

half a million persons. [Police estimated that the crowd in the area exceeded 2,000,000. They said the din was overwhelming.] The victory roar that greeted the announcement beat upon the eardrums until it numbed the senses. For twenty minutes wave after wave of that joyous roar surged forth."

'There were no strangers...'

Mr. Feinberg continued, "Restraint was thrown to the winds. Those in the crowds in the streets tossed hats, boxes and flags into the air. From those leaning perilously out of the windows of office buildings and hotels came a shower of paper, confetti, streamers. Men and women embraced -- there were no strangers in New York yesterday..."



Tribute to Our Photographer, Dick Koenig

Richard W. Koenig has graciously donated his photographic talents to The North Castle Historical Society and particularly to this Booklet for several years. He has been an Armonk resident since about 1925. On June 20, 1941 he volunteered for service and in August, 1942 he was assigned to the European Theater of Operations, London, England. He served as a combat news photographer for the Army's newspaper *Stars and Stripes* on various assignments in England with the now famous journalist Andy Rooney. On D-Day plus five, Dick landed on Omaha Beach in France, moved with the troops through France and into Germany and was back in Paris processing film when V-E Day was declared. On October 20, 1945 he returned to the United States.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS WHO WERE RESIDENTS OF NORTH CASTLE DURING THE WAR

(Copied from a plaque at Town Hall
by Ray Bell, Barbara Massi and Lew Massi)

Abele, Jacob	Bleakley, Ralph	Calder, Louis Jr.
Abrams, Reginald	Blumenstein, Paul	Capron, LeRoy
Ackerly, Charles Jr.	Bolmer, Culver	Carnavale, James V.
Ackerman, Chauncy	Borden, Muriel G.	Carney, Peter
Ackerman, Theodore	Borden, Sherman	Caruso, Anthony
Ackerman, Walter	Bosley, George	Caruso, Joseph A.
Adams, Donald	Bottino, Joseph	Caverly, Clifford
Agnew, Cornelius Rea Jr.	Botzow, William G. F.	Caverly, John
Agnew, Donald	Bouchoux, Thomas	Caverly, Joseph
Agnew, Sanford Martin	Briggs, Chester	Cerone, John
Allevi, Cesari	Briggs, Clifford	Chairer, Frank
Alevi, Roger	Briggs, George	*Chiarlitt, Pio
Anderson, Wesley	Briggs, Joseph	Chmiel, Joseph
Angermund, Sven	Briggs, Wallace	Chutka, Paul Jr.
Artwick, Alexander J.	Briggs, Walter	Chutka, Walter
Aruilio, James	Brock, Thomas Winton	Chutka, William John
Austin, William Jr.	Brown, Elbert	Coburn, Alvin F.
Avery, Walter R.	Brown, John T.	Cochran, Henry Jr.
Bagi, George	Brown, Leland Scott	Cohen, Richard S.
Bailey, Norman G.	Bruce, Adele Lee	Cole, Millard
Baker, Carl	Bruce, John Lee	Connor, Walter
Balossini, John J.	Bruce, Thomas M. Jr.	Conte, Liberato
Barden, James Eugene	Brundage, Donald Clark	Conte, Silverio
Barrus, Frank	Brundage, Edith	Coppola, George
Bates, Arthur	Brundage, Thomas W. Jr.	Cote, Oliver Jr.
Bates, Donald	Brush, Alfred	Cote, Oliver Sr.
Bates, Harold	Brush, Elbert	Crago, John
Bates, Henry	Buchanan, Charles	Crittenden, Harold C. Jr.
Bates, Herbert	Buchanan, Robert	Cunningham, Fred
Bates, William	Buchanan, Roger	Cunningham, Vincent J.
Battistelli, Joseph	Burke, Harold	Curry, R. Eugene
Battistelli, McKinley	Buschini, James	Curry, Robert A.
Bauer, Louis	Buschini, Orlando	Daffer, William
*Beaton, Edward	Buttenweiser, Benjamin J.	Dahms, Eugene
Beck, Roger	Buzel, George	Dahms, Horace
*Begich, Carl	Caixeiro, Joseph M.	Dahms, John
Bell, Walter R. Jr.	Caixeiro, Tony	Dahms, William
Blake, Kenneth	Calabrese, Alphonso	Dandreano, Frank
Blauvelt, Leonard	Calebrese, Lily	Dandreano, Joseph

Dandreano, Louis	*Fischer, Paul	Hart, Robert M. Jr.
Dandreano, Pietro	Fits Emans, Marion	Hart, Sterling
Deal, Richard L.	Flach, Clarence	Haviland, Fred
Degina, Joseph	Foland, Donald S.	Haviland, Guy
De Marco, Carlo	Foland, Robert H.	Havill, Robert Ruddy
De Marie, Angelo	Foland, William O.	Hawxhurst, Malcolm W.
De Marie, Louis John	Foster, Kenneth	Hawxhurst, Muriel
De Marie, Michael	Franck, John	Heath, Raymond
DeMarte, John Jordon	French, Lester	Held, Leon
Dick, Charles H.	Fumano, Andrew J.	Heming, Henry L.
Dickens, Charles F.	Gage, Ralph E.	Hendershot, Howard M.
DiSomma, Daniel	Gallagher, Edwin B.	Hendershot, William Jr.
DiSomma, David J.	Galletly, James	Hergenhan, Charles
DiSomma, Robert	Gambino, Dominick	Herreshoff, David
Douglas, George	Gardner, Lawrence	Heyman, David John
Douglas, Linwood	Garland, Joseph Sr.	Hippert, Fred
Dovi, Benny	Garrett, Eliot P.	Holloway, Norman
Durham, Alfred	Garvin, James R.	Holloway, Robert
Durham, George	*Gatto, James	Holloway, Roy
Durham, Gustave W.	Gatto, Joseph	Holloway, Victor
Ehrman, Frederick L.	Gatto, Thomas	Hord, Eugene
Eisermann, Emil O. Jr.	Gebaur, Henry	Horner, George J.
Eisermann, Robert J.	Genkerell, Angelo	Horton, Lyman Jr.
Eulitz, Milton L.	Genkerell, Joseph	Horton, Walter
Farquhar, Earl	Gentile, Frank	Hospadore, Edward
Farquhar, Robert J.	Gerhardt, Helen L.	*Hubbell, William B.
Farquhar, Tharold	Gerke, Henry Jr.	Huebner, Alfred
Farrar, Adelbert C.	Gifford, Richard P.	Huebner, Warren
*Fasig, Adam Jr.	*Gifford, Walter S. Jr.	Hussar, James A.
Fategoni, Angelo	Gilbert, Gertrude	Husted, Orrin
Fategoni, Grace	Girling, John	*Isgate, Ronald
Fategoni, Raymond	Goldschmidt, Herbert	Jaeger, William
Ferris, Caman C.	Goldsmith, Walter	Johnson, Frank Jr.
Ferris, Carl	Goodhart, Aaron Jr.	Johnson, Haynes N.
Ferris, Edward Jr.	Goralski, Benjamin	Jones, Isaac
Ferris, George	Gordon, Mordecai H.	*Jungmans, Everett O.
Ferris, John R.	Govern, Morton	Kanze, Edward
Ferris, Joseph	Grabania, Edward	Kanze, Robert
Ferris, Raymond	Grabania, Samuel	Keeler, Howard
Filardi, Anthony J.	Green, Richard A.	Keeler, LeRoy
Filardi, Basil N.	Griener, Raymond	Keeler, Robert
Finch, Charles	Giffin, Ralph J.	Kemp, Walter
Finch, Everdell	Grossklaus, Alfred	Killian, Peter
Finch, Frederick	Hackman, Wilfried	Kilpatrick, Arthur
Finch, James Travis	Harned, Daniel Rubin	Kirsch, Ernest
Finch, Walter	Hart, Alvin O.	Kirsch, Leonard
Findlay, Harry	Hart, Clarence K.	Kirsch, Raymond L. Jr.
Fiore, Hannibal M.	Hart, Hobart C.	Knapp, John

Koenig, Charles	Mascatelli, Paul	Pietschker, Herbert
Koenig, Howard	Mascatelli, Walter	Pietschker, Marvin
Koenig, Richard	Massaro, Dominick	Pinchbeck, Robert
Kolichinski, Felix	Mazzella, Anthony	Poirier, Julien
Kraus, Albert	McClure, Herbert E.	Polo, Peter
Krouch, John A.	McClure, Herbert J.	Prescenza, Aldo L.
Kuhn, Ralph	McClure, Joan H.	Priolo, Frank
Kulers, Howard J.	Mead, Gilbert	Prunier, Clarence
Kulers, Russell	Meade, Lyman Milton	Quinn, Richard
Kulers, Stanley	Meinke, John	Raso, Louis
Lacko, Frank	Melvin, Kenneth	Re, Frank
Lada Mocarski, Valerin	Mercer, Grace	Reardon, John
Lanyi, Louis	Milani, Tarcisio	Reid, Valentine
Lape, Bradford	Miller, Roger T.	Reinheimer, Noel
Lear, Lester	Mills, David John	Remsen, Ernest
Lehman, Ludwig	Mills, Edwin	Riccardi, James
Leisure, David	Mills, George	Ringwood, Charles
Leisure, George E.	Milvaney, Edward Jr.	Ringwood, Fred
Leonard, Sheldon	Mogensen, Peter	Ristaino, Ralph
Light, Francis	Molino, Nunzie	Rizzon, Livio
Light, Kempton	Monda, Ralph	Robbins, James Jr.
Light, Maurice	Mondschein, Frank	Robbins, Millard
Limburg, Richard P.	Monferato, Orman	Robbins, Robert
Lindewall, George L.	Moravec, Barney	Rodrigues, Candido
Lindewall, Walter E.	Murawski, Alexander J.	Rooney, James A.
Lindsay, Alan B.	Murphy, Leo M.	Rossiter, Gordon
Lindsay, William Reid Jr.	*Nellis, Frank	Rossiter, Theodore K.
Little, William III	Niesen, Ruth	Rowell, Lucian A.
Lohse, George	Nippert, Victor	Ruane, John Jr.
Lombardi, John	O'Brien, Thomas F.	Ruthven, Edward
Lombardi, Lezio J.	O'Connor, Celestino	Sadlon, John
Lombardi, Sabatino J.	Odell, George	Sage, Howard J.
Lombardo, Joseph	Oderifero, Benjamin J.	Salvati, Bernardo
Longo, Frank A.	Olney, Richard S.	Sanderson, George
Longo, Peter	Pace, Dominick	Santos, George C.
Louis, Richard	Pace, Ralph	Sapey, Douglas
MacDonald, Robert F. Jr.	Parks, Kenneth	Schildt, Herbert
MacKenzie, John A.	Paterno, Carlo	Schmaling, George P. Jr.
Mahoney, Richard	Paulding, George F. Jr.	Schnoor, John
Malino, Charles	Pearson, Arnold	Schnoor, Richard H.
Malino, Frank	Pearson, Herbert	Schrank, Christian C.
Marlowe, Marjorie	*Peck, Clarence	Schrank, George
Marozuk, Paul	Petre, Joseph	Schultis, Dean
Marshall, Kurt	Pietroski, Ignace	Schulz, Andreas
Martin, Clifford	Pietschker, Bertram	Scribner, David
Martin, John	Pietschker, Chester	Scruggs, Edward
Marx, Tia	Pietschker, Elmer A.	See, Arnold
Mascatelli, Baldo	Pietschker, Harold	See, Donald

See, Emanuel	Stow, James	Twomly, Walter
See, Harold	Straus, Bernard Sachs	Useted, Charles Jr.
See, Melvin	Straus, Irving L.	Useted, Cyrus R. Jr.
See, William Jr.	Straus, Nathan III	Valentine, Charles
Semple, T. Darrington III	Straus, R. Peter	Van Agtnael, Herbert
Settgast, Gilbert	Strong, Benjamin Jr.	Van Buren, David N.
Shedd, John	Stuart, Harold	Van Buren, Edgar S.
Simmons, Edward B.	Stuart, Howard	Velsor, Sidney H.
Simmons, Frank	Stuart, Kenneth	Volk, Terry M. K.
Simmons, John	Stuart, Raymond	Vosatka, Fred
Skaaland, Arnold	Stuart, Richard	Wago, Charles
Skolinsky, Stanley	Stuart, Russell	Wago, Joseph, Jr.
Slusarz, Edward J.	Tartaglia, Louis	Wahrman, Walter
Slusarz, George	Taylor, Erling J.	Wallsten, Robert
Slusarz, Joseph	Teclaw, Joseph	Warner, Benjamin
Slusarz, Kasmir Paul	Teclaw, Judith	Waterbury, John
Slusarz, Lucas M.	Thacker, Orrin	Wedge, Edmund
Smith, George Jacob	Thibadeau, Raymond	Wienkowski, Arthur
Smith, Myron Allen	Thorne, John N.	Willey, Merritt C.
Sniffen, Kenneth	Timmons, Herman	Williams, Harry R. Jr.
Solomon, Charles	Timmons, John F.	Willits, Robin
Solomon, Theodore	Tobyansen, Edward	Wilson, Charles
Sommavilla, John	Todd, James Jr.	Winkler, Edward
*Soriano, Nicholas M.	Tompkins, Daniel	Witt, Francis W.
Spiconardi, James	Tompkins, John	Woodruff, William
Steere, Claude A. Jr.	Tompkins, George L. Jr.	Worden, William Herbert
Steere, Gordon W.	Tompkins, Robert	Wrobel, Stanley
Steere, William R.	Torlish, John	Yacovelli, Gus
*Stevens, Milo George	Travers, Frank	Zeier, Francis
Stipo, Edward	Trerotola, Peter	Zorn, Jesse
Stipo, Louis Joseph	Tuburzi, Robert	Zygmunt, Frank
Stochetti, Corrado	Tvedt, Fred	

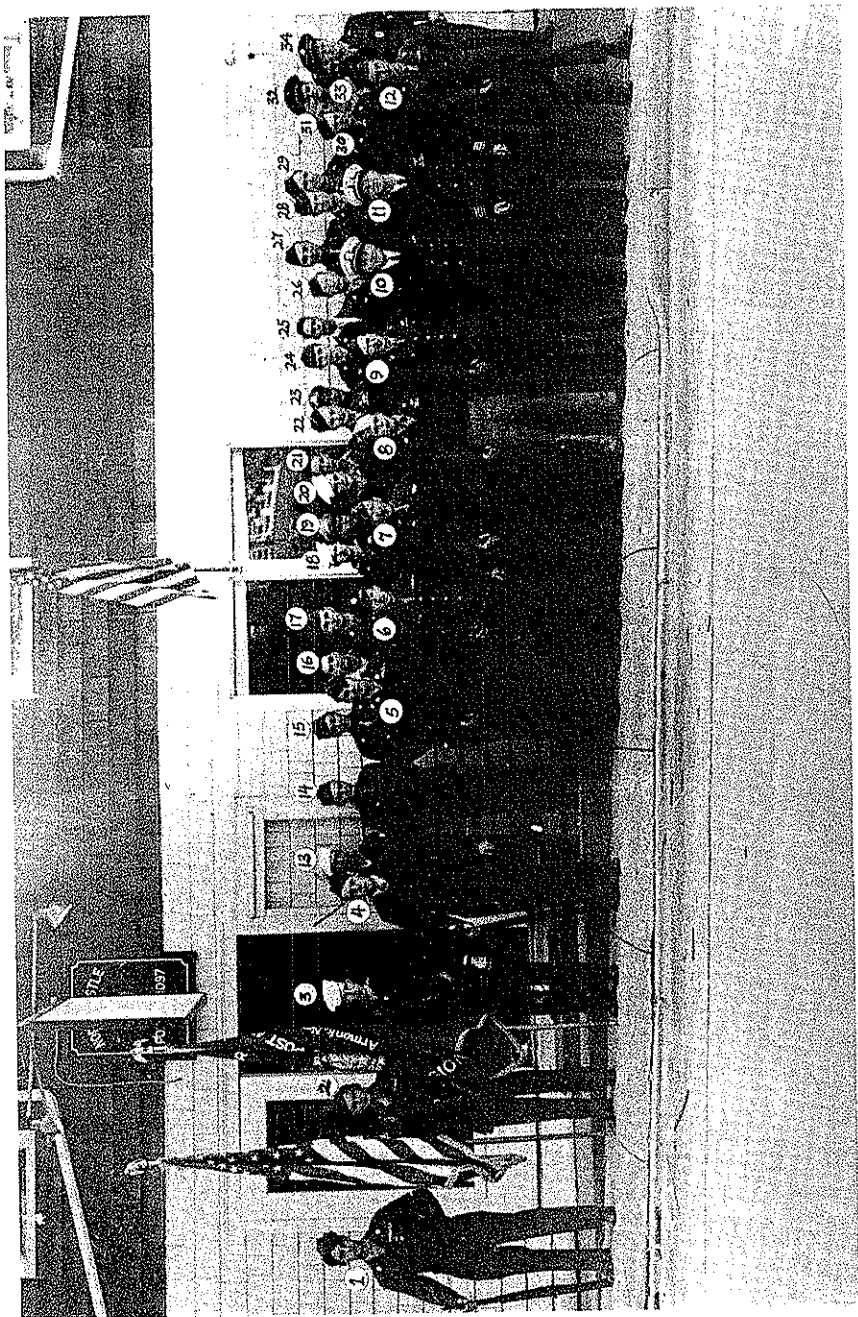
*DIED IN SERVICE

The plaque reads "Dedicated to the Heroic Men and Women of the Town of North Castle who served their country in World War II and in loving memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice".



1798 Quaker Meeting House

The long-awaited dedication program for the 1798 Quaker Meeting House took place on Sunday, October 1, 1995, and was attended by over one hundred people. The only remaining area to be completed is the climate-controlled, fireproof archival room in the basement area for which fund raising continues. *(For detailed information on the 1798 Quaker Meeting House, including photographs, see North Castle History, Volume 5, 1978.)*



NORTH CASTLE AMERICAN LEGION POST #1097

Some of North Castle's World War II Veterans Memorial Day, May 30, 1946

Picture was taken in front of the (then) Legion Headquarters at 434 Main Street, Armonk,
where MacLeish TV is today. Photographer unknown. (Picture courtesy of Ray Bell.)

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|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. J. Aruilio | 10. R. E. Curry | 19. A. Fategoni | 28. E. Dahms |
| 2. P. Marozuk | 11. Unknown | 20. R. Abrams | 29. B. Warner |
| 3. W. Hendershot | 12. G. Tompkins | 21. E. Hospadore | 30. G. Smith |
| 4. A. Goodhart | 13. J. Tompkins | 22. C. Koenig | 31. D. Tompkins |
| 5. W. Austin | 14. C. Flach | 23. P. Trerotola | 32. W. R. Bell |
| 6. E. Taylor | 15. E. Farquhar | 24. E. Eisermann | 33. G. Ferris |
| 7. J. Waterbury | 16. H. Dahms | 25. R. Holloway | 34. R. Kuhn |
| 8. W. Daffer | 17. T. Farquhar | 26. R. Farquhar | |
| 9. R. Fategoni | 18. Chas. Useted | 27. R. Cohen | |

THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD HEADQUARTERS ALMOST SETTLED HERE

by Doris Finch Watson

"WE DON'T LIKE IT!"

"TOWN UP-IN-ARMS AS UNO PICKS SITE FOR WORLD CAPITOL"

The North Castle Sun splashed the above headlines across the front page on February 6, 1946. It was the official newspaper of the Town of North Castle. Other papers in Westchester, Greenwich and Stamford issued similar bold headlines. Indeed, hundreds of people were up-in-arms as they read about what the future might hold for them. It was the beginning of a period of great stress for those who lived in and around North Castle and Greenwich.

In January 1946 there had been rumors that the United Nations Organization was considering a very large area of land in Westchester County, New York and Fairfield, Connecticut as the primary location for its World Headquarters. By the beginning of February, the rumors were confirmed. Most of the proposed huge forty-two square mile area was in the towns of North Castle and Greenwich, and the hamlet of Banksville was exactly in the center.

Photographers poured in for pictures of Banksville homes and businesses. *The New York Herald Tribune* ran several Banksville pictures on February 4, 1946. Included were the "Round House" on Round House Road; the Daniel Grey Fishing Club on Middle Patent Road; a Town of North Castle Welcome Sign; and the Round Hill Church in upper Greenwich; all under the title "Scenes Which Will Change if U.N.O. Sets Its Capitol in Connecticut-Westchester Area."

The New York Times issue of Sunday, February 3, 1946 featured a map outlining the area that had been inspected by an international committee. It marked the desired lands in both New York and Connecticut with Banksville in the center of the proposed area. *The New York Times* issue of February 4, 1946 showed pictures of the old Bennett Farm on Banksville Road, the Banksville Baptist Church, Judge George Mead tending his livestock, as well as a view of a protest meeting at the Round Hill Community House. Many local people were interviewed by reporters. A picture of Walter S. Finch, proprietor of Finch's Country Store, showed him standing beside an issue of *The North Castle Sun* with the headline in very bold print stating, "We Don't Like It!".

Various long dark limousines appeared on main roads and side roads, checking the area from the Merritt Parkway in Greenwich, Connecticut, through Banksville and north to Bedford, New York. On the west, the proposed tract included Armonk and the Westchester County Airport; on the east it reached into both Stamford, Connecticut and Pound Ridge, New York.

Residents, businesses and officials in each of the towns were up-in-arms, for it would mean the loss of hundreds of homes, businesses, and the disruption of many lives. In addition, it would result in great tax losses, for the United Nations Organization property would be tax exempt.

The February 6, 1946 issue of *The North Castle Sun* contains an article reading: "Flyers Warn Town Residents of Threat To Their Security". The article reports that the Supervisor, James D. Hopkins, upon authorization of the North Castle Town Council, had the entire township circulated with flyers about the UNO plan to acquire the site. Included was the following quote: "In fact, more than 50 percent of the area of

the Town of North Castle is located within this site." It was shocking information.

A special front-page editorial in the February 6, 1946 issue of *The North Castle Sun* was entitled, "A Test of Principle" and included the following:

"An organization great enough to bring about amicable settlement of great world problems certainly should be able to enter into an agreement concerning the location of its world headquarters with a minimum of aggravation.

If the United Nations can be made to function as an association of independent nations it certainly must have an inherent interest in the rights of the individuals who comprise those nations. If its purpose is to preserve the freedom of small as well as great nations, it should logically be prepared to recognize the rights of small communities within those nations.

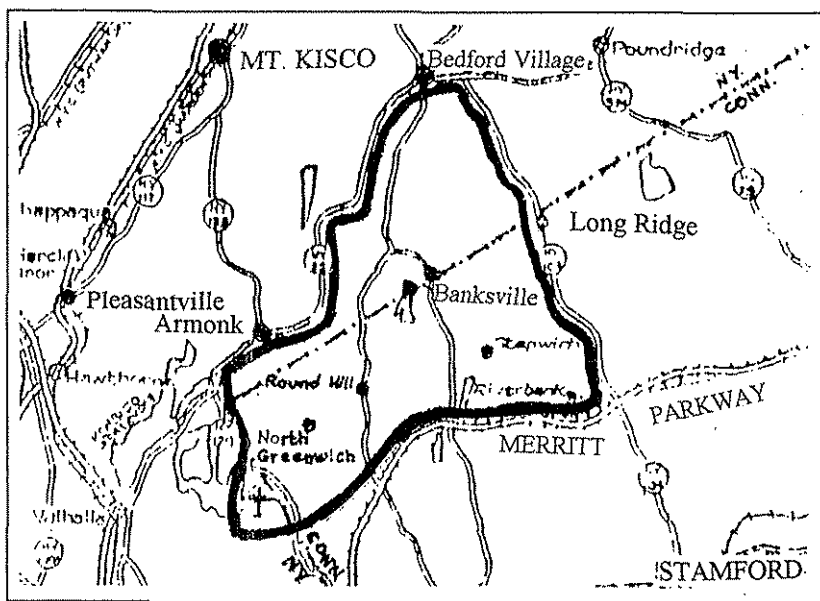
North Castle is just such a small community. What happens to us physically is of small importance to the world at large. What happens to our rights as individuals can well be a test of purpose of the U.N.O."

In the affected towns, referendums were held; resolutions were passed; residents and officials held meetings; hundreds of citizens wrote, called and sent telegrams to their various Representatives and Senators in New York and Connecticut and Washington. The efforts never lessened.

Until almost the last minute it seemed that there was no hope of success -- and that the United Nations would be the victor and get what it wanted.

Tremendous pressure, from the local level and upward, continued to be exerted by dedicated, well-organized citizen and business groups. It was a long, hard fight. Eventually, the United Nations looked elsewhere and decided on New York City for its World Headquarters.

By the close of 1946, citizens who had been involved in the struggle to save their homes and land, along with those who had come home from service in World War II, could finally return to peaceful pursuits and begin to put their lives back in order. At last, both struggles were over, and both were victorious.



TWO-STATE TRACT RECOMMENDED FOR UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERS

reprinted from *The New York Times*, Sunday, February 3, 1946

(Map from the collection of Doris Finch Watson)

WALTER S. FINCH

Proprietor of Finch's Country Store, Banksville

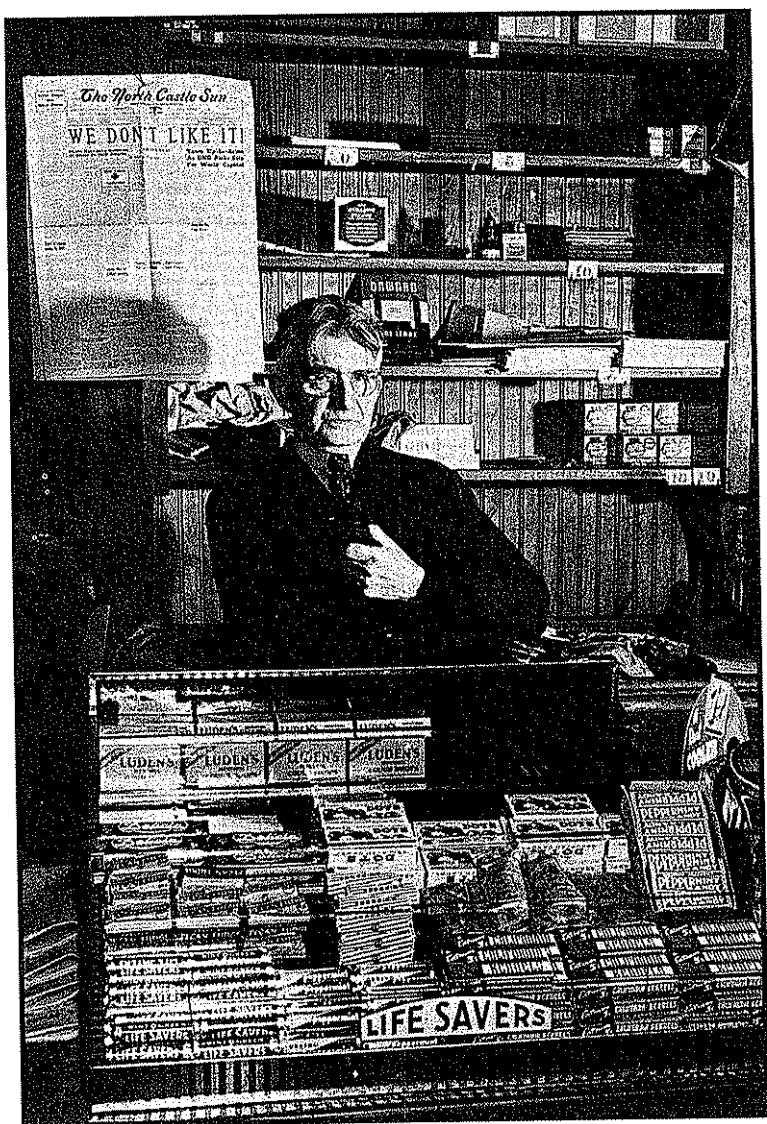
Walter Sutherland Finch was the man to ask if you wanted to know anything about Banksville and the surrounding area. He knew the heartbeat of the hamlet and the people in it, and watched several generations grow up from his vantage point in the center at Finch's Country Store.

Born to William Sutherland Finch and Ella Banks Finch, he descended from two of the oldest and first families in the area. Ella was descended from Samuel Banks who came to settle here c.1695 where the Daniel Grey Fishing Club is today. Part of his farmland where he was buried in 1743 is now The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery. Mr. Finch's ancestor, Joseph Finch, Jr. was granted land in Banksville c.1720.

Walter S. Finch was born in Banksville and attended the Banksville School (now a private home on The Avenue) and also attended Middle Patent School. Later he went to Greenwich Academy. (In those days both boys and girls attended what is now an all-girl school.)

Mr. Finch married his school sweetheart, Emma Miller, and continued to operate Finch's, which his grandfather, Marvin N. Finch, founded in 1860. William S. Finch, Marvin's son, was a junior partner and was Banksville Postmaster until Rural Free Delivery was instituted.

Walter's daughter, Doris, and her husband, William J. Watson, and their daughter, Phoebe, and sons, Walter and William, Jr., were the fourth and fifth generations to operate the store. They sold the business in 1989, but continue to own the store and property.



WALTER SUTHERLAND FINCH
(Photo from the collection of Doris Finch Watson)

Notice the local newspaper headline: "WE DON'T LIKE IT!"

WHIPPOORWILL

by Marjorie Moore

As part of The North Castle Historical Society's oral history program, trustee James E. Koegel in May 1989 taped Philip Niles's narrative description of Armonk as he remembers it in and since the mid-1920s. Mr. Niles currently resides in Millbrook, New York. His informative and delightful narrative has served as the source for this account.

A rich and sometimes stormy history surrounds the area we know today as Whippoorwill. Its roots are in a 120-acre estate, but its foundation, growth and development were closely tied to the fortunes of the Whippoorwill Club.

Whippoorwill is not a "development" as realtors often use the term. Like the old estate and the Club from which it grew, Whippoorwill encompasses portions of two towns -- North Castle and New Castle.¹ Mr. Niles's Whippoorwill residence has had over the years three different post office addresses.² Today about 265 families qualify for membership in the Whippoorwill Association.³ Their homes are diverse in appearance: the pre-Revolutionary farm house, the one-story frame ranch, the English or continental country mansion, and the state-of-the-art steel, concrete and glass structure, dotted over a wooded, rocky area of some three or four square miles.

The Whippoorwill Club made its debut as After-Glow Park, retaining the name of its predecessor estate owned by

¹ New Castle was set off from North Castle in 1791.

² Mr. Niles reported that his mail arrived first in care of Whippoorwill. Later his mailing address was RFD Mount Kisco. Eventually his Tallwoods Road address was in the Armonk Post Office.

³ Information courtesy of Kenneth Marks, President of the Association.

George MacKay, After-Glow Farm. Mr. MacKay's grounds boasted a magnificent Victorian mansion, which sat on the spot where the water tank now stands, a son's residence and guest house, a sizable "playhouse" (where family and friends actually performed plays or skits), and four or five cottages. After Mr. MacKay's death in the early '20s, some of his friends and associates formed a consortium to buy the property and convert it into a golf course and club, using the mansion as a clubhouse. An early brochure invites membership in this "unparalleled and distinctive Country Club with all the modern facilities at the lowest consistent cost." In 1925, however, after the members had started the work of building the golf course, the old mansion burned to the ground.

Undaunted, Club members decided not only to rebuild, but to expand, to accumulate as much land as they could put together. This group consisted mostly of New York City bankers, lawyers and financiers, including the Harriman brothers, Roland and Averell. Together the members managed to acquire about 1,000 acres, extending from Route 22 on the south to what was then Wildcat Road on the north. So in 1927-28 the reorganized group engaged the prestigious firm of Olmsted Brothers to landscape the new club and lay out roads. On the east side of Whippoorwill Road they successfully took on the rocky terrain. On the west side of what is now The Crossing, they constructed another five or six holes of golf course. At this time they also hired an experienced manager, Fred Ruth⁴, who had managed some of the most elegant clubs in the United States.

By 1928-29, Philip Niles and his brother had explored on horseback an extensive stretch of land from Bronxville to North Salem in New York and into the nearby Connecticut towns of Greenwich and Stamford. They had selected a building site that lay within the Club's 1,000 acres. Upon their

⁴ Mr. Ruth insured his own life, naming the club as beneficiary.

inquiry and closer examination they found the spot they had chosen. It was about a mile into the woods from King Street. They were invited to join the Club as founders⁵, which they did, and the Club agreed to build a one-mile road from King Street to the Niles's chosen site at the end of what is now Tallwoods Road. After much rock-blasting the builders completed their construction, using the rock as building material, and the brothers were able to move in in July 1930. Within a short time other residents followed, and by the time of the Great Depression, there were eleven or twelve houses in the area.

But in 1931 the Whippoorwill Corporation suffered its second severe setback when, as a result of the depression, it was forced into bankruptcy. At that time the Harriman brothers foreclosed on their widely scattered 300 acres eventually selling to others, and the Club was left with approximately 700 acres, minus the 125 or so they had already sold to residents. The Club was reorganized in 1933 under the leadership of Chairman Gerald F. Beal and his close associate Arthur W. Butler.⁶ Members were able to raise enough money in the depths of the depression to carry on in a very modest way until 1939, when once again the corporation was unable to pay its debts: \$17,000 in back taxes to North Castle and a mortgage loan of \$17,000 to Hanover Bank.

At the time, Louis Calder, one of the few people who were relatively liquid, was persuaded against his initial wishes to buy the 500-600 acres out of bankruptcy for the amount of the Club's debt, a total of \$34,000. Mr. Calder already owned the 120 acres known as the Jacobsen estate and was reluctant to take on more property. He offered the land to the

⁵ Mr. Niles joined the Whippoorwill Club three times: when it was formed, after its reorganization, and when he was married.

⁶ Mr. Butler owned the land now known as the Butler Preserve, which is divided by Route 684.

homeowners of Whippoorwill at the same proportionate price he had paid, but nobody accepted his offer. Two years later, World War II came, and everything stopped except the determination to win the war. The Club closed down completely until 1946, after the end of the war.

On the Club grounds, the greens had grown up in weeds. Only the barest outlines remained. At that time, Calder rebuilt the golf course and leased it back to the Club. The old playhouse became a modest clubhouse. After the Club had had a chance to get back on its feet, Calder sold the entire Club property back to the Club membership. Eventually, as Mr. Niles puts it, the Whippoorwill Club became what it is today, essentially a family club.

Whippoorwill as a place to live has continued to attract golfers and nongolfers alike. Its high points still offer the unparalleled views cited in the brochure of the early or mid-1920s. No longer an adjunct to Club membership, Whippoorwill has, nevertheless, matured as its founders envisioned.

[Marge and her husband, Bill, are residents of the Whippoorwill community residing in one of the oldest houses in North Castle, the historic David Lane House.]



The HISTORY of the several Towns, Manors, and Patents of the COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, Vol. I, by Rev. Robert Bolton (published 1881) reports that "Whippoor-will Hill, an appellation given to it on account of its being a haunt of that well-known bird" rises on the east side of the Dark Valley in the north-easterly corner of North Castle. "Some of the more ignorant and superstitious consider this near approach [of the Whippoorwill] as forebodings of no good to the family--nothing less than sickness, misfortune, or death, to some of its members." Your editor finds it humorous that the Rev. Bolton specifically mentions "the superstition of the Indian differs very little from that of an illiterate man or Scotch Highlander, or the less informed of any other nation...."

THE STORY OF A GRAND BUILDING

by Sharon Tomback

First, it was the Watkins Estate; next, the Hugh Prichitt Estate; then, The North Castle Golf & Tennis Club; and finally, it was The Westchester Embassy Club.

Once upon a time, a gilded, palatial time, some people in North Castle built huge estates (English-like 'cottages') in the country and also town houses in New York City.

One of these 'cottages' stood immediately south of present-day Coman Hill School on Route 22. It was built of stone in the Italianate style. Reportedly, the house cost \$400,000 to build around the turn of the century¹. Unfortunately, we know nothing of the original owner except that his name was Watkins and that the estate consisted of 140 acres. But, we do know a great deal about the successive owners.

Around 1911 Hugh Kirkman Prichitt purchased the house. Granddaughters of Hugh Prichitt say their mother (Katharine Kirkman Prichitt) often told them that the architect of the house was Hubert T. McGee, the same architect who designed the Pink Palace in Memphis, Tennessee in 1922 for Clarence Saunders who invented the self-service grocery store named "Piggly Wiggly".

Hugh Kirkman Prichitt was born in 1885 in Nashville, Tennessee. He attended Yale Law School and Harvard Business School. He became a Wall Street investment banker in New York City. In 1910 he married Caroline Perot Howard, an orphan raised by her aunt and uncle, Elizabeth and Edward Perot, who owned "The Oaks", a large estate in Yonkers, New York. The Howards were Quakers and Caroline used 'thee and thou' speech patterns all her life, even though she married an

¹ Information from descendants of Hugh Kirkman Prichitt.

Episcopalian. Hugh and Caroline had four children: (1) Katharine, "Kay", (2) Margaret, "Peggy", (3) Caroline, "Carol" and Hugh, Jr.

Through Barbara Robbins Hookings and Marian Robbins Moore, granddaughters of Hugh and Caroline and daughters of Katharine "Kay", we have learned of life for a daughter of a wealthy North Castle estate owner in the 1910's and 1920's.

Katharine told her daughters about an artist, Mr. Bertelli, who allowed her and her sisters to paint rocks and then put them on his head; she remembered riding in a goat cart and riding horseback with a local friend, Frank Sheldon, with whom she shared peanut butter sandwiches; Katharine remembered the golf course flags at the Mt. Kisco House² as "dancing fairies"; (She was prescribed eyeglasses thereafter!); she remembered the beauty of the grounds, climbing the apple trees and filling her bloomers with apples, building dams across the brook, playing in a ukelele club with Doris Duke and the automobile accident which took the life of her best friend Barbara Morgan when they were 18 years old.

The family had lots of help -- maids, Nicholas the chauffeur, Yaki the Japanese cook, a French governess and a Swedish nurse. Nicholas taught Katharine to drive the Rolls in Armonk when she was 11 years old. On Saturdays in the summer the girls were allowed to buy a Hershey bar in Armonk. But their Armonk connection was cut short in 1928 when their father died at age 42 and the house was sold.

New Owners

From a 1928 unidentified newspaper clipping (date handwritten) with photograph, we learn another chapter in the story of the house:

² The Prichitt family referred to the estate as the "Mt. Kisco house".

“New North Castle Golf and Tennis Club”. The article continued “President of Organization Now Building Home in Scarsdale; Club Now has 300 members.”

“About half way between White Plains and Mount Kisco, on Bedford road, one more Westchester Club has opened its doors. The North Castle Golf and Country Club, organized by Thomas E. Donovan of Forest Hills and Scarsdale, and Fred Lewis, well known builder of golf links, was planned with the idea of its being an ideal country club with equal membership of men and women.

“The club stands on what was formerly the Prichard [Prichitt] estate, the ivy clad, stone edifice, built in English style, whose leaded windows look out upon terraces, lawns and sunken gardens, was until recently the home of Hugh Prichard [Prichitt].

“It was Mr. Lewis who first saw the possibilities of an excellent golf course on this estate, and mentioned it to Mr. Donovan, the successful organizer of several country clubs on Long Island. A syndicate was formed, soon afterward the Prichard [Prichitt] estate bought, a carefully selected list invited to become club members -- and the North Castle Golf and Country Club came into existence.

Nine Holes Finished

“Half of the 18-hole golf course is now finished and being played upon. The remaining 9 holes, which will make a course approximately 6,200 yards, and, says Mr. Donovan, ‘Worthy of championship play,’ will be completed this fall.

“One tennis court is in use and two others are contemplated, as is also a swimming pool, the latter to be ready for use next spring. Trap shooting is available in season. A

stable of fine horses gives members an opportunity to enjoy the ninety miles of picturesque bridle paths which wind their way through this section of the state. Obstacle golf upon the west terrace, tempts those who find themselves less athletically inclined." [The newspaper quoted Mr. Donovan extensively.]

" 'Apparently,' said Mr. Donovan, 'there are not so many women on their own, for the majority of members are men.'

"As yet the links have not been overcrowded on Saturday and Sunday so that no rules have been formed to bar women from playing them, nor will this ever be the case for those who are members.

"The Saturday evening dances have proved a great success, preceded as they usually are by dinner parties, both in the private dining room or served out-of-doors on the restaurant balcony overlooking the velvet green terrace and sunken garden, the Westchester hills in the blue hazy distance.

"About 30 club members can be housed overnight. This capacity is being already heavily drawn upon every week-end. A cottage, a short way down the road, has been secured which will soon accommodate four or five more persons from the week-end overflow. 'This will end the expansion of rooms,' remarked the president of the club, 'since a large number would tax the restaurant capacity--and this is a club, not a hotel.'

" 'Of the 350 available club memberships,' said Mr. Donovan, who is president as well as founder of the club, 'we now have over 300 members. One of the reasons for the memberships having filled up so rapidly is the modest initiation fee and dues, also the sound financial basis upon which the club rests. There will be no assessments at all to members.'

"Mr. Donovan, formerly in the real estate business, attributes this to his former experience in organizing the Intercollegiate Club in Garden City, Long Island, and the Clear View Club in Bayside, also to Mr. Lewis's experience in building golf links.

" 'Our membership is drawn,' continued Mr. Donovan, 'from all over Westchester and from New York City. Scarsdale is quite largely represented.' "

Westchester Embassy Club

"New Westchester Embassy Club at Armonk" reported the *Pleasantville Journal*, in the Friday, May 5, 1933 edition.

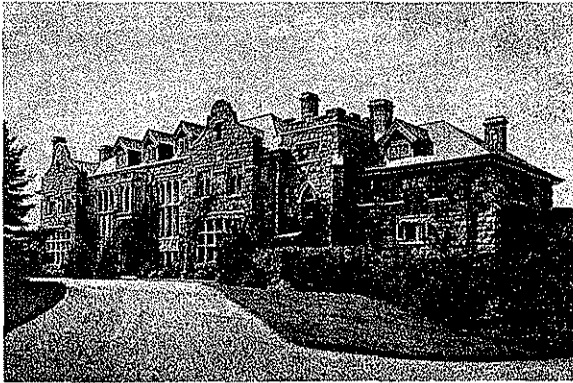
"The palatial home of the former North Castle Golf and Country Club, recently purchased by a New York syndicate for extensive development as an all-year, all-sports resort club for Westchester and the metropolitan area. J. Carl Kriendler heads the club's New York group and Francis T. Hunter of New Rochelle is in charge of its development. The new club will have its formal opening early in May."

Local residents report the Embassy Club was a "happening" place during prohibition with gambling, wine, women and song.

End of an Era

The building stood vacant for several years and was destroyed by fire in 1953 thus ending this opulent era in North Castle's history. The property was owned at the time by Jack Kriendler and Charles Burns who owned "21", the club in New York City.

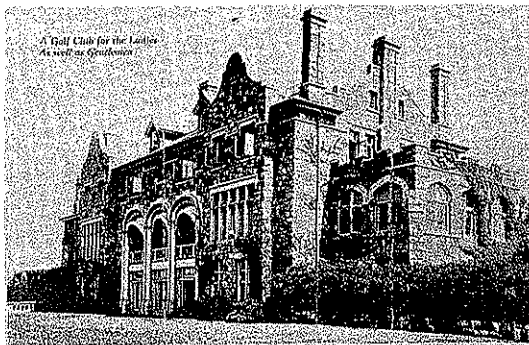
(insert front view house
4" x 2.5")



Front View of Mansion, 1933

Above picture is from the front page of the 1933 advertising brochure for the Westchester Embassy Club. (from The North Castle Historical Society's Collection)

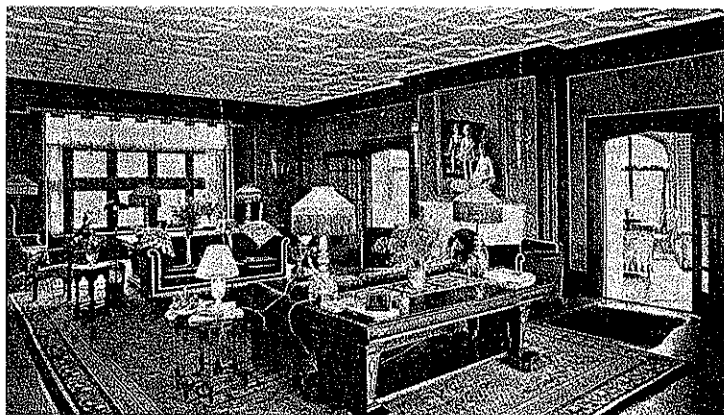
(insert rear view of house
4" x 2.5")



Rear View of Mansion, 1928

Above picture is from the front page of the 1928 advertising brochure for The North Castle Golf & Tennis Club. (Courtesy of Barbara Robbins Hookings and Marian Robbins Moore)

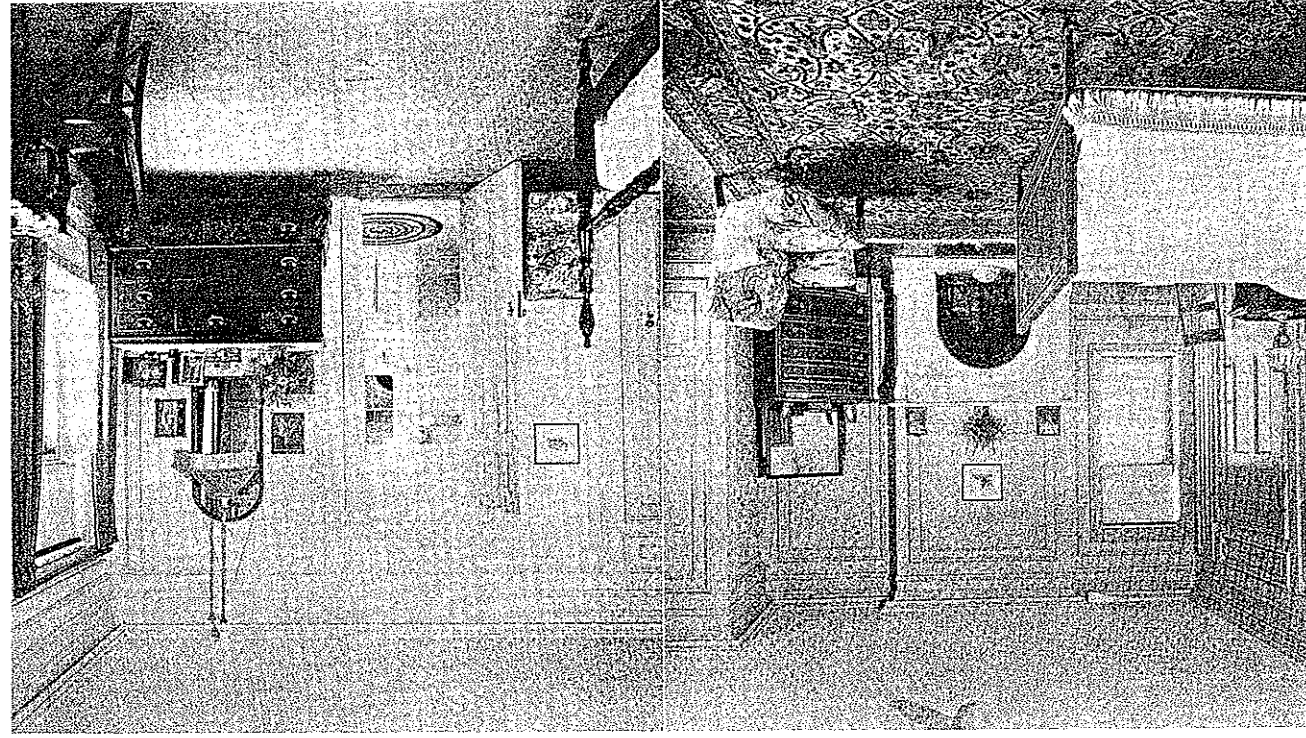
(insert photo of main club lounge
4' x 2.5")



The Main Club Lounge, 1928

Shown is an interior view of the mansion pictured in the North Castle Golf & Tennis brochure. Evidently, this photograph was taken while the Prichitt furnishings were intact. Notice the painting on the right wall of the **three Prichitt daughters (Peggy, Carol and Kay)**, shown below in more detail. (Courtesy of Barbara Robbins Hookings and Marian Robbins Moore)





From The North Castle Golf & Tennis Club brochure, a glimpse into two of the Pritchitt family's bedrooms. The furnishings shown belong to the Pritchitt family. Notice the family photographs are still on the dresser. (Courtesy of Barbara Robbins Hookings and Marian Robbins Moore)

LOCAL NEWS - BACK IN 1930

by Doris Finch Watson

Back in the 1930 era, every Thursday was special for many North Castle residents, for that was the day *The North Castle Monitor* was published. They never expected one small item in the August 7, 1930 issue to be so newsworthy that it would warrant a *Herald-Tribune* feature over radio Station WABC. But when a country chicken farmer took on a business giant, that is exactly what happened.

Robert Hart was the *Monitor* publisher, and front page news in that little paper included a variety of items such as local people making a trip to Playland; a "Liberal Reward" item for stolen red and blue bicycles; and an article dealing with the need for the local police to have a booth or a little station where they could be reached. Apparently that article stirred up action, for a small police station resulted. Perhaps some residents can remember that first police station, small in size and made of logs, located on Main Street. (A photo of it appears in *North Castle History*, Vol. I, 1974.)

But it was not any of the above topics which caught the attention of radio broadcasters. That little paper had another front page article about a North Castle chicken farmer who was going to take on the President of American Telephone and Telegraph in a suit over chickens killed by a dog. That article was truly newsworthy...and of interest to people far beyond North Castle. Following is the item as it appeared in *The Monitor*:

"Kaiser Case Is Broadcast

His Row with Gifford is Sent Out Over Station WABC

Monday, Charles Kaiser appeared before the Town Board for advice as to what he should do in the case of Walter S. Gifford, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Gifford lives near Kaiser.

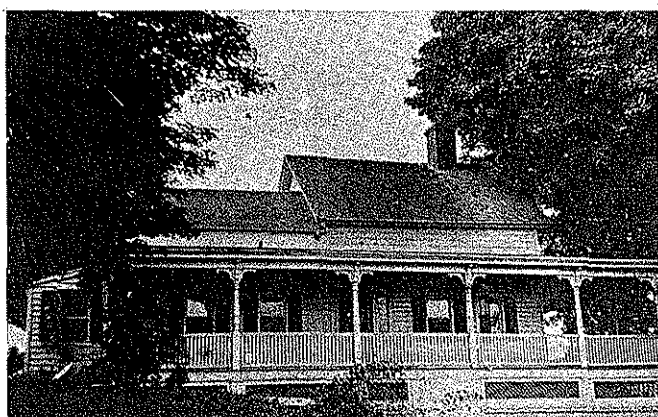
According to Charlie, a dog, who he claims is Gifford's, killed several of his chickens. Gifford was willing to settle for \$50, the scribe says but Charlie says nothing doing.

The judges on the Town Board advised he give them the facts and they would have a summons served on him.

Tuesday night at 11:00 o'clock the event was broadcast under 'News Event', a Herald-Tribune feature over Station WABC."

The Hon. Walter S. Gifford owned an estate on Round Hill Road just west of where Banksville Road intersects with Round Hill. Charlie Kaiser's farm was diagonally across the road. a little closer to Mead Road.

In addition to his long tenure as President of AT&T, Mr. Gifford also served as The United States Ambassador to Great Britain. He died in 1966 and is buried in The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery in Banksville.



The Old Kaiser Farmhouse about 1930

(Photo from collection of Doris Finch Watson)

This farmhouse of Charles Kaiser stood on Round Hill Road before it was torn down. Barns and chicken coops surrounded it. Earlier in the 20th century, it was part of the E. Sniffin 20 acre farm. As a youngster, Charlie Kaiser lived in the historic Miller House in North White Plains, the building known today as Washington's Headquarters located on Virginia Road. In their elder years, Mr. and Mrs. Kaiser lived in a small house farther west on Round Hill Road. They are both deceased.

From the Past: Two Tax Collection Notices

The following Assessor's Notice appeared in *The North Castle Sun*, August 7, 1914 edition:

"We, the undersigned Board of Assessors of the Town of North Castle, having completed the assessment roll in said town for the year 1914, a copy thereof having been left at the residence of Norman W. Lander, on Cox Avenue, Armonk, New York, where it may be seen and examined by any person until the third Tuesday of August next following, and on that day, August 18th, we, as a Board will sit in the Town Hall, Armonk, New York, from 10 o'clock A.M. until 4 o'clock P.M., to preview the assessments made by said Board and hear any and all complaints that shall properly come before said Board. From thence we will adjourn to the North White Plains fire company's house, on the following day, August 19th, at 10 o'clock A.M. until 4 o'clock P.M. of that day, and from thence to the store of M. N. Finch & Son, at Banksville, New York, on August 20th from 10 o'clock A.M. until 4 o'clock P.M.

Signed. NORMAN W. LANDER, CHARLES H. FERRIS, ELDON M. PIETSCHKER, Board of Assessors Town of North Castle"

Forty-five years later the attitude towards tax collection was a bit more relaxed when the following notice was issued:

"Christmas 1959

Taxes seem to go on gaining
While the dollar bill is waning,
And your budget takes a beating
Everytime I send a greeting.

But at least there's no inflation
In a 'Santa' salutation.
So in the good old-fashioned way
I wish you joy on Christmas Day.
GEORGE P. SCHMALING, Receiver of Taxes"

COVER PICTURE

The front cover photograph captures the two most patriotic symbols of The United States of America. 1995 marked the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The *North Castle History* publications committee feels this photograph conveys several feelings that words could not evoke.

The cover picture was taken by Dick Koenig, our photographer, who is always generous and willing to share his talent.

Ray Bell's poem "Old Glory" reprinted in this issue conveys those feelings as well.

The Landmark

This patriotic landmark, located at the intersection of Routes 128 and 22 in Armonk, was made possible by several of our neighbors, including Ray Bell, our Trustee John Schnoor and the members of North Castle American Legion Post #1097. [The 1996 issue of *North Castle History* will include more information about all those who helped.]

Reprints of *NORTH CASTLE HISTORY*
may be ordered for \$4.50 each from
The North Castle Historical Society
440 Bedford Road
Armonk, New York 10504