

North Castle History



Smith's Tavern, 1898

The North Castle Historical Society

Bedford Road, Armonk, New York 10504

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of The North Castle Historical Society,

The wishful thinking of my predecessor's last message has become a reality! Smith's Tavern will become the new home of The North Castle Historical Society.

The response to the Smith's Tavern Fund Drive has been gratifying. The IBM Corporation gift of \$85,000 is assured, as we have attained the \$12,500 required to complete the purchase price of \$97,500. However, the goal of \$30,000 set by the trustees, \$17,500 of which is to be set aside for improvements and maintenance, has not been reached. Only one-third of the Society membership has sent in gifts or pledges to date. Hopefully, the full membership will support this project; your contribution, large or small, will be welcome.

Probably by the time these lines reach the reader the title to Smith's Tavern will have been closed and our Society will be in possession of one of the great historic structures of our community. In its long history Smith's Tavern has been many things: a home, a hotel, a Sunday School, post office and town meeting place. Now it enters a new era as "The House of Living History," a local historical center, complete with museum, library, rotating exhibits and meetings, all emphasizing our local heritage.

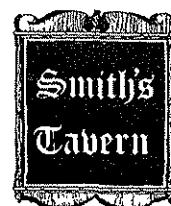
As the President of the Society I take this opportunity to sincerely thank International Business Machines and all other community corporations, organizations, and the many friends and neighbors who have made this dream a reality.

Sincerely,

Richard N. Lander

SMITH'S TAVERN REVISITED

by Richard N. Lander



Foreword

In the Spring of 1943 I prepared an article for the Westchester County Historical Society entitled "The Old Smith Tavern." It was my first literary effort for them and I was very proud of it. What I have learned about this historic structure and its inhabitants in the thirty years since the article was published has been considerably influenced by the passage of time and sporadic research.

The original article was written because of a pen friendship with the late Herman E. Buckley of Oak Park, Illinois, who was married to a great granddaughter of Captain John Smith and who first wrote me seeking genealogical information about Captain John's forebears. This pen friendship led me to a delightful personal friendship with the late Elizabeth Granger Tripp (Mrs. William B.) of Mt. Kisco who was also a great granddaughter of Captain John. Her magnificent memory and desire to engage in lengthy conversation about long forgotten people and places in early North Castle fascinated me, and I was a frequent visitor at her home.

Always interested in the Smiths and their tavern, I could not envision that one day the local historical society would purchase the house as its headquarters, and so this article will encompass the 1943 article and a great deal of information we have since discovered.

I have called this new article "Smith's Tavern Revisited" which is the same title the Fund Raising Committee has chosen for their various publicity releases in the local newspapers. For me, the thrill of IBM's great gift and the purchase of the tavern and writing this article has truly been "Smith's Tavern Revisited."

The Revolutionary Period

The first record we have of Smith's Tavern or a predecessor structure are found in the McDonald Papers. These papers are a now famous collection of Revolutionary War recollections gathered by attorney John McLean Macdonald¹ (1790-1863) who, over a period of years (1844-1851), interviewed hundreds of local Westchester ancients about the great war which took place in the days of their youth, and took down in writing their living testimony. Macdonald interviewed the aged citizens of North Castle and the property we call "Smith's Tavern" is repeatedly mentioned in the interviews: Abigail Tripp (widow of Benjamin Tripp who lived up the Post Road) of North Castle testified-

"In the Revolutionary War Benjamin Hopkins² owned the house where Smith's Tavern now is. He took care of the poor that came out of New York in 1776."

Josiah Quinby-

“...They dispersed the American guard near Smith’s, or rather Benjamin Hopkins’ who then owned Smith’s place, which was burnt during the Revolutionary War.”

Jotham Carpenter (who lived about two miles up the Post Road at the 39th mile stone)-

“When the British burnt Bedford the following houses were burnt by them on the White Plains road as they retired vizt. Israel Lyon’s, John Ferris’, Peter Lyon’s (two houses), Andrew Sniffen’s, Benjamin Hopkins’ (where Smith’s Tavern is), Francis Nash’s near Byram River.”

Silas Sutherland of Middle Patent (a sergeant in the Westchester County Militia)-

“When Bedford was burnt they fired on their retreat the following houses: Israel Lyon, John Ferris, Peter Lyon’s, Madam Griffen [Andrew Sniffen’s] and a house occupied by Ichabod Ogden where the militia [had] headquarters afterwards owned and occupied as a tavern by John Smith.”

James Hopkins (of Round Hill, formerly of North Castle, who most of his life lived within a quarter of a mile to the east of the tavern)-

“Sam Smith’s (house) was owned by my uncle, Benjamin Hopkins, who had removed to Fishkill early in the Revolutionary War. When it was burnt the house was occupied by Ichabod Ogden.”

He also testified in another interview regarding the retreat from the burning of Bedford-

“The Refugees fired the following houses on their retreat viz Peter Lyon’s two houses, Israel Lyon’s, Andrew Sniffen’s, house and barn, my father’s (which was put out), my uncle Benjamin Hopkins’...”etc.

And also speaking of another occurrence:

“Bouton’s men were scattered along the road weary with the march and the main part with Bouton by the Widow Dayton’s and the rest near Smith’s Tavern where Benjamin Hopkins’ house had stood.”

Several things stand out among this testimony. First, that probably the original structure on this site was built and owned by Benjamin Hopkins, who, early in the war moved to Fishkill, probably to get behind the American lines and out of the Neutral Ground,³ as he was a Quaker and probably a non-combatant.. Note, he took in the poor and homeless from New York. That by the summer of 1779 when the British burned Bedford, the house was in the possession of Ichabod Ogden where the militia had headquarters. From the language of the testimony he was undoubtedly a tenant.

Secondly comes the question: Is Smith’s Tavern Benjamin Hopkins’ house or is the house a later product, built by another, or is the present

east wing of the house all or part of Hopkins' original structure? The words of the witnesses are confusing:

Abigail Tripp says "...where Smith's Tavern now is..." which could be interpreted to mean that the original Hopkins house was gone. But Jotham Carpenter says, "...Benjamin Hopkins' (where Smith's Tavern is)..." indicating the same house? Silas Sutherland also leads one to believe it is the same structure by saying, "...a house occupied by Ichabod Ogden where the militia [had] headquarters afterwards owned and occupied as a tavern by John Smith." Naturally, those of us interested in the house are impressed with what Silas Sutherland says and shattered by Josiah Quinby who testifies, "...Benjamin Hopkins' who then owned Smith's place, which was burnt during the Revolutionary War." We know that the Thomas Hopkins house (brother of Benjamin), directly across the Post Road, later the David Brundage house, was also burned during the British retreat but that it was saved, presumably by the efforts of the militia, and James Hopkins says this in his testimony. Probably all or part of Benjamin's house was also saved. Some day another printed source or group of architectural historians may be able to tell us, but more likely we shall never really know. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the building dates back to the 18th Century and its historical value is unquestionable.

1779-1797

There now comes a gap in our record which I have tried inconclusively to piece together.

There is a possibility that the house was a tavern as early as 1779, when the militia had headquarters there. A great many meetings of the Revolutionary era met in an inn or tavern where strong drink was served, and our local militia was probably no exception to this rule.

Harrison Palmer⁴ was first elected Town Clerk of the town in April 1791 and the next town meeting on April 3, 1792 was held at his house and promptly adjourned to what was evidently a more commodious place "...the house of Benjamin Tripp." This meeting closes with a recital, "...voted by the voice of the People that the Town meeting for the year 1793 shall be held at the house of Benjamin Tripp." in the town minutes for April 2, 1793 it was "...voted by the voice of the People that the Excise [tavern license] purchased by Benjamin Tripp may be transferred to Harrison Palmer provided he moves into the house where Benjamin Tripp now lives."⁵

My theory is that Benjamin Tripp lived in the house we now know as Smith's Tavern; that Harrison Palmer desired an excise, and that the town fathers were used to doing two things: holding the town meetings at the Town Clerk's house and also having liquid refreshment - and so, to accommodate both desires, this vote.

Harrison Palmer, who was last elected Town Clerk on April 4, 1797, evidently did move into the house in accordance with the stipulation of the town fathers, for the first recorded land record having to do with the tavern property appears a month later. A deed dated May 1, 1797 from Harrison

Palmer and Phebe, his wife of North Castle, to John Smith of North Castle, conveys the property for 1040 pounds. The earliest description of the premises is worthy of being included here: "...on the west by the road that leads from David Dayton's to Thomas Sands' Mills, and the lands of Timothy Carpenter, on the north by land of Daniel Tripp, on the east by lands of Anthony Tripp, on the south by the road that leads from Bedford to the White Plains to the aforementioned bounds containing 60 acres, more or less."

OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS OF SMITH'S TAVERN

Prior to 1779	Benjamin Hopkins, owner - probably farmed.
1779 - 17 ?	Ichabod Ogden, tenant of Benjamin Hopkins - probably farmed, militia headquarters, possible tavern.
17 ? - 17 ?	Benjamin Tripp may have bought from Benjamin Hopkins - possibly tavern, probably farmed.
179? - 1797	Harrison Palmer, owner (Town Clerk) - town meetings, possibly tavern, probably farmed.
1797 - 1841	John Smith, owner (Town Clerk) - farm, tavern, store, town meetings, post office, stagecoach stop.
1841 - 1884	Samuel P. Smith, owner (Town Clerk) - farm, tavern, store, town meetings, post office, stagecoach stop.
1884 - 1885	Odile Close Knapp, owner - farm
1885 - 1908	1) Kate A. Knapp, 2) Augustus A. Knapp, 3) Lillian M. Knapp, owners - farm.
1908 - 1917	George W. Smith, owner - farm.
1917 - 1918	Fay P. Stanton, owner - tavern.
1918 - 1937	John W. Sterling, owner (non-resident) - tenants in the house.
1937 - 1939	Yale University, owner (non-residents)
1939 - 1945	Franklin B. Brown, owner - home.
1945 - 1974	Marghretta Datlowe, owner - home.
1974 - 1977	The Hillside Church, owner - Ass't Pastor's residence, Sunday School.
1977	The North Castle Historical Society - headquarters.

The Era Of The Smiths

The new owner of the house whose name has since been associated with it was Captain John Smith, a native of the Town of Harrison transplanted to North Castle, who was born January 28, 1757, the son of John and Margaret (Haviland) Smith. He married Sarah Purdy, daughter of Roger and Elizabeth (Fowler) Purdy, born February 22, 1762. John and Sarah moved into the house with their two oldest children, William Henry, born July 22, 1793, and John Haviland, born May 1, 1796.

After buying the property John Smith sold the upper twenty acres along the Post Road to a neighbor, Doctor David Dayton, probably to raise capital, and mortgaged the tavern and the westerly forty acres for 200 pounds to his uncle John Haviland of Harrison.⁶

Almost as if the job of being the Town Clerk went with the property, on April 3, 1798, "John Smith Capt." was elected Town Clerk.

After their arrival on the tavern property three more children were born: Samuel Purdy, March 9, 1798, George Washington, July 7, 1800 and Elizabeth Maria, born January 18, 1802.

John Smith was an ex-captain in the Continental Army. There is a tradition that he was taken prisoner by the British and confined in the old "Sugar House" in New York where he made clothes for the British officers. A memorandum from another source states he was taken prisoner during the war and held on board the notorious prison ship "Jersey" where the prisoners were "fed ground glass" but that he received some relief from these horrors because he was a tailor and made clothes for the officers.

There must be considerable truth in these family traditions as we find in the McDonald Papers the following testimony from James Hopkins: "...Smith was confined at first in the Sugar House, and afterwards went at large. He was a tailor and worked at his trade making clothes for the officers for which he was paid. Once he was kept at Staten Island. This was a hard winter. Lieutenant (Colonel) Rawdon's regiment was there on Staten Island and all Irish. While Smith was there the Americans attacked the island, drawing cannon over the ice... This information I got from John Smith himself."

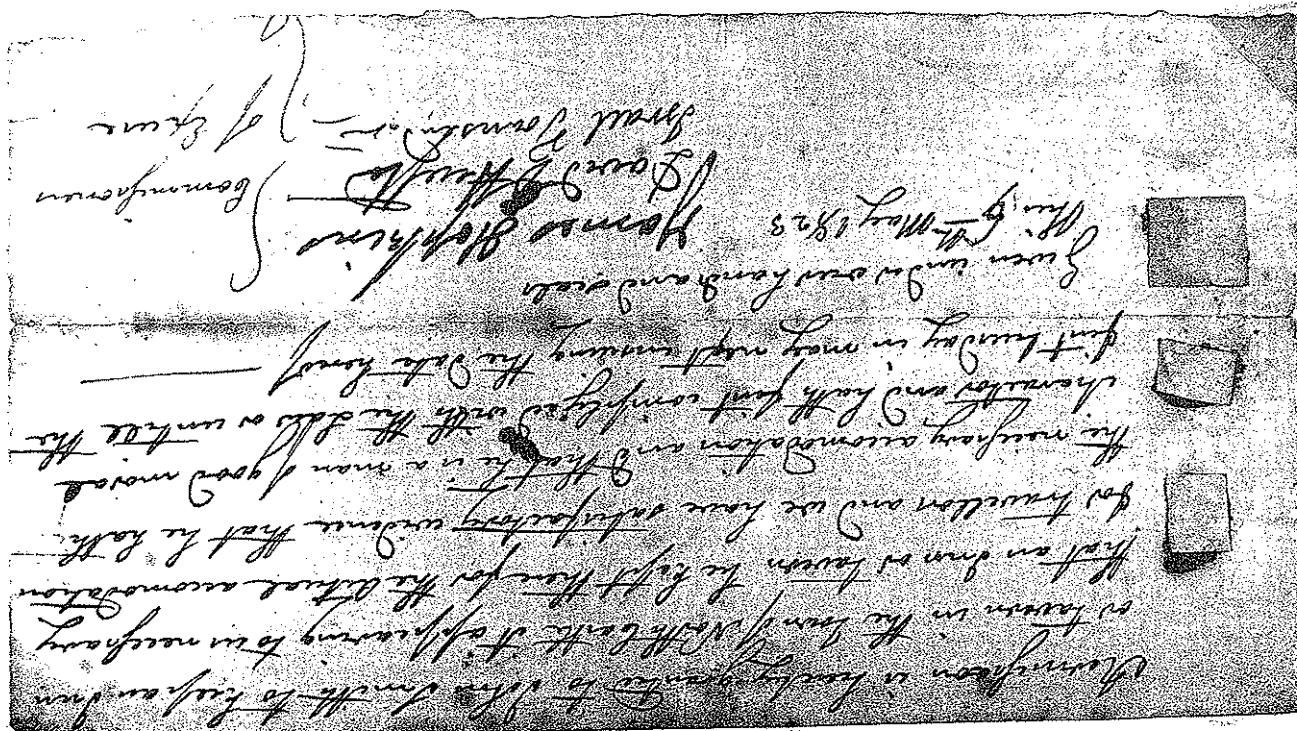
It is interesting to note that when I wrote my first article the shears which Captain John supposedly used in his captivity were in the possession of Mrs. Buckley, his great granddaughter.

Under the proprietorship of Captain John the inn and tavern became a flourishing place. Almost everything of local consequence happened there: the town meetings, the three day general elections, the infrequent meetings of the town justices, political rallys and perhaps even some sessions of the Justice Court. In 1809, when the U.S. Post Office Department officially established the post office "North Castle,"⁷ it was there, and Captain John Smith became the first Postmaster. Captain John also opened a general store on the property (not in the tavern but in an adjacent building which in later years was turned into a carriage house). After his son, Samuel, grew to manhood Captain John took him into the store business as his partner.

With all these other activities, the principal business of the Smiths, that of keeping a taproom for the locals and overnight accommodations for travelers on the Danbury Post Road, was not neglected. The inn, located at the 37th mile stone from New York, was the stopping place for stagecoaches and was early North Castle's connection with New York City and New England. Mrs. Tripp recounted that Hachaliah Bailey stopped many times on his way north to Somers with his famous elephant, "Old Bet," and that Bet was accommodated in the center section of John Smith's largest barn.

No better place could have been chosen for an inn as on the property there bubbled from the earth an everlasting spring of crystal clear cold water which has never been known to go dry. This spring was piped into the tavern kitchen and out again into a mammoth horse trough which stood in the inn yard. Thus, Smith's Tavern can claim the distinction of being the first house in North Castle with running water! Even during the driest seasons this

John Smith's tavern license for 1823 in his own hand as Town Clerk and signed by the
North Castle Commissioners of Excise, James Hopkins, David Dayton Husted and
Israel Townsend Jr. (Supervisor and two of the Justices). Photo by Lindsay H. Wellings.



supply of water never diminished and in dry periods friends and neighbors of the Smiths would water their farm stock at the ever full trough when their supply of water was low.

Captain John also farmed his acreage and there were several barns and outbuildings, now long gone, on the property. These farming operations were probably under the direction of Nathaniel Woolsey who came to live with the Smiths as a boy and never left. He died at the tavern, which was his only home, August 12, 1850, aged 63, and was buried with the family in Samuel P. Smith's plot in The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery.

In April of 1830 at the annual town meeting Captain John gave up the office of Town Clerk which he had held for thirty-two consecutive years and the meeting promptly elected his son, Samuel, his successor and the annual town meeting continued at Smith's house.

On June 19, 1840, Captain John called Charles E. Hobby, Samuel's brother-in-law, an attorney, to draw his will. In it he left his household furniture, beds and bedding to his wife, Sarah, excepting his brass clock which he gave to his son, Samuel. He then devised the tavern and all his real estate and residue on his personal estate to his son, Samuel P. who was to pay his mother an annuity of one hundred fifty dollars per year until her death. He was also to pay his sister, Elizabeth Maria, the wife of Charles Wright of Somers, \$4,500.00. He also was to set up a trust fund of \$2,000.00 for his brother, George, and to pay the income over for his benefit or his children "but not for the benefit of his creditors." At George's death the principal was to go to his children. On October 26 he called Hobby back again to make a codicil to the will in which he gave his wife, Sarah, "...the sole use and occupation of the two North bedrooms in my dwelling house, and also a small bedroom called the 'Red Bedroom' altogether with the privilege of passing to and from the same through any part of said dwelling house."

Captain John died August 28, 1841, his two eldest sons, William Henry and John Haviland, having predeceased him February 24, 1820 and November 17, 1839 respectively.

The estate papers are fascinating as they show a great deal of the Smith's worldly goods. William Brundage and John T. Hopkins, two neighbors who appraised the estate, tell us what rooms were in the house, and buildings on the farm and better yet, what the Smith's called them.

The following are mentioned: "the red barn," "the old barns," "waggon house." In the house we find mentioned "east front room," "west front room," "red bedroom," "west room," "west room upstairs," "front room closet," "kitchen" and "back kitchen."

The new proprietor of the premises, Samuel Purdy Smith, continued running the various enterprises: inn, tavern, store, post office and farm. The yearly town meetings continued and he served as Town Clerk 1830-1844 and 1845-1855. However, by the eighteen fifties things began to change. The Harlem and New Haven railroads had made their appearance and new centers of population were growing at Mile Square (Armonk), Sands' Mills



Samuel Purdy Smith, 1798 - 1884

Copy from original which was in the possession of the late Elizabeth Granger Tripp. Copy in the collection of the author.

and Banksville. Eventually the Danbury Coach stopped running. Only the local stages of Hiram Finch went by the door to make connections at Sawpits (Port Chester) and Kensico Station (Valhalla) with the New Haven and Harlem. Smith's was no longer the center of North Castle. How long the store, inn and tavern went on we cannot tell. We know Samuel served as Postmaster from 1843 to 1850 when the office moved up the hill to Benjamin Tripp's and shortly thereafter to the new center of population, Sands' Mills.

After his retirement in 1855 as Town Clerk, the town meetings went over to Armonk, and Samuel, except for one brief term as Commissioner of Highways (1863-65), and one brief term as Justice of the Peace (1865-67), retired from local politics.

With the founding of St. Stephen's Church at Mile Square (1842), Samuel left the faith of his Quaker parents and was one of the founders and later a vestryman of the parish. He served from 1850-1857, 1859-1862 and 1865-1884, death closing his long services to the parish. In his later years Samuel continued to farm and as he grew older kept a hired man, while he cared for his animals and broods of chickens and turkeys. His death occurred at the tavern homestead on January 14, 1884. He was in his 86th year, and the death certificate listed the cause of his passing as "old age."

Samuel had been married twice. By his first wife Maria Hobby,⁸ born September 9, 1797, died January 18, 1846, daughter of David and Anna (Reynolds) Hobby, he had four children: Elizabeth Maria, first wife of John Granger; Frances Amelia, who died at the age of two; Mary Frances, wife of Samuel Tryon, and Sarah Ann the second wife of John Granger. He married second, Sarah Shannon who also predeceased him. At his death only Mary Frances Tryon and Sarah Ann Granger and three grandchildren, children of his deceased daughter, Elizabeth M. Granger, survived.

By his will he ordered the sale of the homestead and the proceeds divided among his heirs. He appointed as his Executor, his nephew, William H. Wright of Somers. Shortly after, the property was sold on March 31, 1884 for the sum of \$6,500.00, and the Tryons and Grangers left. Thus, after nearly 87 years the great era of the Smith's came to a close. It is appropriate that Samuel, the first born in the house, should signify the end of that era with his passing. I have always thought that Samuel had to love the place on which he spent his entire life, and it is obvious, from scraps of evidence found through the years, that he was loved and respected by all of his fellow citizens.

The Years After The Smiths - The Knapps -

The farm was purchased on March 31, 1884 by Odle Close Knapp, a prosperous Greenwich farmer. Within a year and a half, November 4, 1885, Odle C. Knapp and Mary A., his wife, in consideration of one dollar, love and affection, conveyed the farm to Kate A. Knapp, their daughter-in-law. Thus, Augustus A. Knapp and his wife, Kate, and their children Odle C. and Lillian came to live at the tavern.

The Knapps farmed, and it was they who, sometime after the spring of 1898, made the extensive renovations to the house, replacing all the front windows, raising the roof on the east wing and extending the rear of the east wing to the north. This was probably done after the four children of the second Mrs. Knapp were grown up. Mrs. Kate Knapp died during May of 1889 and her husband later remarried and continued to live and farm the

property until his death on June 13, 1905. On June 13, 1908, Lillian M. Knapp, as the only surviving child of Kate A. and Augustus Knapp, sold the farm to George W. Smith of Armonk (no direct descendent of John Smith).

- The George Smiths -

George W. Smith and his wife, Agnes, moved into the ancient house and farmed as had their predecessors. As the house was too large for their needs they at times rented rooms in the west end. While they were living there, their only son, George J. Smith, Armonk's present Postmaster, was born. In talking with Mrs. Smith, we think George was born in what Captain John and Sarah called the "red bedroom."

Mr. Smith sold the upper farmland in 1916 to Charles H. Mills and on May 16, 1917 sold the tavern and seventeen acres to Fay P. Stanton of New York City.

- Fay P. Stanton -

Stanton was enthralled by the past history of his purchase—the inn, tavern, the town meetings, its whole story. His desire was to reopen the building as an inn and restaurant and accordingly he formed a corporation for that purpose. The day after his purchase from Mr. Smith, he conveyed the tavern to his corporation "Ye Olde Wayside Inn, Inc." On the same day the corporation gave back a \$15,000.00 mortgage to Mr. Smith. We are told the directors of the corporation had great trouble deciding on a name for the inn. Someone suggested the name "Red Jacket Inn" which was adopted. Stanton must have started his project and hung up his sign for all the native population have ever since referred to the house as the "Red Jacket Inn."

- John W. Sterling -

However, this entire project met with financial disaster for by the next year Mr. Smith was forced to foreclose the mortgage and the premises were sold at public auction at the front door of the Court House in White Plains for \$13,000.00, the highest sum bid. The bidder, Austin K. Griffin, a White Plains attorney, assigned his bid to Roy F. Letson of New York City, an agent for John W. Sterling. On May 6, 1918 Mr. Letson took title and on May 9, 1918 conveyed to Mr. Sterling.

We now turn our attention to the years of absentee ownership by John W. Sterling, a millionaire attorney and one of the great figures of the legal and financial circles of New York City. Unlike the other owners, he did not live in the house, but his story is so interesting it is worthy of brief inclusion here.

John W. Sterling came from generations of sturdy New England forebears. He was evidently from youth precocious, and something of a loner. At sixteen he entered Yale University and graduated with highest honors (class of 1864). He graduated from Columbia Law School (Class of 1867) again with highest honors and was the class valedictorian. He was admitted to the New York Bar on May 17, 1867. In November of 1873 he formed a partnership with Thomas G. Shearman which to this day continues as one of the



Smith's Tavern around 1920 showing dormer evidently added by the Knapps, but since removed. Negatives courtesy of R. Eugene Curry.



most prestigious New York law firms.

Mr. Sterling devoted his entire life to the practice of law. He never appeared in court but spent his time advising his clients, and directing the affairs of his firm. His clients read like a who's who of business, banking and industry, and those who sought his advice had absolute faith in his magnificent judgment and executive ability. Sterling hated public affairs, never attended a public meeting, abhorred liberal ideas or advanced social thought, and publicity about himself was anathema to him. He participated in nothing except his firm's business and his own business affairs. Although he loved his alma mater and remembered her handsomely, due to aloofness he never attended a class reunion. To everyone he was "Mr. Sterling." Only a handful of intimates ever ventured to call him "Jack." He never married, and except for servants, lived alone, dining most of the time at one of his clubs.

As his wealth grew, Mr. Sterling began to invest in land. He obviously loved the land, as his biographer tells about him going to his Rye holdings and working with his farmer and hired hands building roads, walls and culverts on his acres (now beautiful Sterling Ridge). He bought extensively in New York City, Rye, Harrison, Pound Ridge, Lewisboro, North Castle and North Greenwich. Thus, it came to pass he bought Smith's Tavern and all the former Smith and Brundage holdings nearby. The Smith parcel was the furthest northerly extent of nearly 1,000 acres he acquired in our town and North Greenwich.

Mr. Sterling began to develop his North Castle-Greenwich properties though never on the scale approaching Rye and Harrison, as the more northerly lands were acquired very late in his life. Some vestiges of his handiwork remain in the walls at the beginning of Sterling Road—a road which he had built through the former Brundage holdings. Also extensive stone wall work along Old Bedford Road in Connecticut. Probably a great many of the ancient houses in Rye, North Castle and Connecticut have been preserved to us because Sterling bought them along with the great tracts of acreage, made minor repairs and kept them painted a particular yellow color he must have liked. Never one to lose an investment, most of the Sterling houses were rented and Smith's Tavern was no exception as several local families made their home under its ancient roof.

Mr. Sterling died in July, 1918. It is interesting to note that the Smith Tavern purchase may well have been his last acquisition and as it has been pointed out, the furthest extent of his lands. It is also interesting to note that he might have neglected to record the deed as his death came very suddenly and the deed was obviously recorded by someone caring for his affairs on July 11, 1921.

Three years prior to his death Mr. Sterling made a will in which he remembered his family, his associates in his firm, his servants, friends, and the Miriam Osborn Memorial Home in Rye, whose founder, Miriam Osborn,

he had advised and counseled when she created it. The great bulk of his estate went to Yale University for "the erection of at least one enduring useful and architecturally beautiful edifice which will constitute a fitting memorial of my gratitude and affection for my Alma Mater..and to the erection of other fine enduring buildings for the use of students in the academic or graduate departments and to some extent to the foundation of scholarships, fellowships, or lectureships, to the endowment of new professorships and the establishment of special funds for prizes."

In 1929 John A. Garver wrote of Mr. Sterling and his magnificent bequest as follows: "It will be larger than supposed, \$20,000,000, and may exceed \$35,000,000. As a result of accruing income..." Professorships, scholarships and fellowships abound in his name and half a dozen magnificent buildings given the campus as part of his memorial. As of June 1935 the program contemplated by Sterling had been carried out. However, there still remained in the fund great tracts of land of unknown value. The Yale fund was closed by giving to the University the remaining properties as a whole.⁹

- Yale University -

In March, 1937, the Sterling Trustees conveyed to Yale University more than 1,400 acres including Smith's Tavern and surrounding land. Blessed with all this acreage, Yale decided that it should be sold and turned into cash to further Mr. Sterling's desires as set forth in his will. One of the first parcels sold was the tavern and the surrounding five acres to Franklin B. Brown and Frances A. Brown, his wife, the date being October 19, 1939.

- The Browns and Datlowe -

The Browns were the first resident owners since the George W. Smiths left the tavern over twenty years before. They began to renovate and make more comfortable the old house. However, they moved in January of 1945, selling the house to Marghretta Datlowe. In the nineteen years that Samuel and Marghretta Datlowe made their home in the tavern they embarked on an extensive program of restoration. The chimneys were rebuilt, ancient layers of wallpaper were removed revealing wonderful old paneling. Kitchen and bathroom facilities were tastefully modernized, ceiling beams exposed. A front porch from the Victorian days was removed revealing the original front facade of the building. The Datlowes painted the tavern a wonderful red with white trim. After years of work a beautiful period piece emerged.

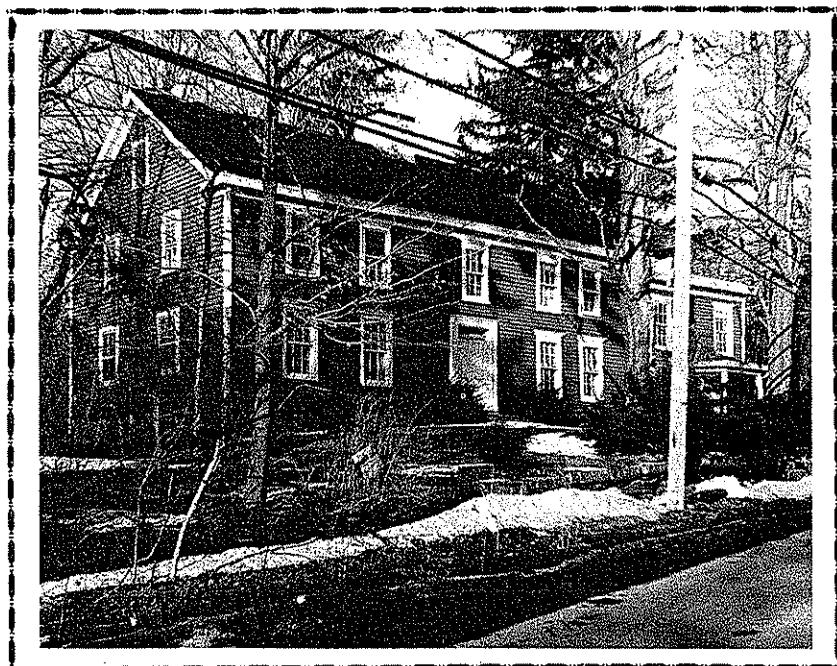
- The Hillside Church -

In January of 1974 the Datlowes sold the house and five acres to the Hillside Church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. The church has used the east wing as a home for their assistant pastor and the west rooms for church meetings and Sunday school. Thus the ancient house has had one more community use added to the already long list.

A little over a year ago the church decided to dispose of the premises as

they had begun construction of an expanded facility on their adjoining property and they offered the house and surrounding two acres for sale. The rest of the story is now recent news. Knowing the Historical Society was looking for a home and headquarters, International Business Machines approached the Society and offered to assist with the purchase of the house to the extent of \$85,000 provided the Society raise the balance. This we have done.

The story of the old tavern is not yet complete and it is our great hope that the historic building has entered a new era of community usefulness, as a headquarters, library, center for historical research and depository of local memorabilia, a "House of Living History" for future generations of our town to treasure and enjoy.



Smith's Tavern, 1977. Photo by Lindsay H. Welling, Jr.

FOOTNOTES:

1. The spelling of Macdonald's name was apparently changed by his editors.
2. Benjamin Hopkins, son of Thomas Hopkins and Margaret (Pine) Hopkins his wife, born about 1750, married Sarah, born 1754, died 1843, the daughter of Gilbert and Sarah Palmer, January 18, 1775. They had issue: Harrison, Margaret, Joseph, Naomi, Phoebe, John, Benjamin Jr. and Gilbert Palmer. Early in the Revolutionary War era they moved to (Rumbout) Fishkill, Dutchess County, N.Y. Descendents of Benjamin resided in Dutchess County until a few years ago. Benjamin had two brothers: Thomas who lived directly across from Smith's Tavern and Daniel who lived on the next farm adjoining Thomas's up the hill to the east. Thomas, born 1740, married January 14, 1767 Zeruiah Palmer born 1740, daughter of Samuel and Mary Palmer of Greenwich. They had issue:

James, Elizabeth, Samuel, Mary, Thomas and Pine. Thomas died in 1812, his widow in 1828. From this family are descended two members of our Society, Hon. James D. Hopkins and Marguerite Hopkins Lewis, our Recording Secretary. Daniel, born (unknown), died 1812, married February 8, 1775 Phoebe Hopkins, his second cousin, daughter of William and Rachel (Coles) Hopkins. They had issue: Thomas, Daniel C., Oliver, Esther and Rachel.

3. Most of what is now known as Westchester County was called The Neutral Ground because it lay between the lines of the American and British armies. Its inhabitants were quite divided in their political sympathies and therefore were continually harassed by raiding and foraging parties from both sides, as well as bands of outlaws using the war as an excuse to rob.
4. Harrison Palmer born December 12, 1751, died May 11, 1814. Married Elizabeth Palmer, daughter of Gilbert and Sarah Palmer. Issue: Charlotte, Elizabeth. Married second, Phebe Lyon, daughter of Peter Lyon (Esq.) and Jerusha (Palmer) Lyon born December 12, 1761, died Jan. 12, 1849. Issue: Richard, Harrison, Frederick, Hannah F. They later moved to N.Y.C. where he was a prominent dry goods merchant. Note: Sarah, the wife of Benjamin Hopkins was the sister of Elizabeth, first wife of Harrison Palmer. Note also the Hopkins's had a son named after his uncle Harrison Palmer.
5. There seems to have been the custom of the town meeting being held at the house of the Town Clerk, e.g. April 1, 1788, William Wright, Town Clerk, "voted that the next Town meeting shall be held at the house of William Wrights."
6. This land later returned to the Smith holdings by deed. This mortgage was paid and discharged September 8, 1802.
7. Post Office established June 9, 1809. John Smith, Postmaster appointed June 9, 1809; Leemon B. Tripp, Postmaster appointed July 9, 1841; Samuel P. Smith, Postmaster appointed Dec. 11, 1843; Benjamin Tripp, Postmaster appointed Feb. 10, 1851.
8. Maria Hobby was the granddaughter of Col. David Hobby (1743-1812) the leader of American Militia in this area during the War for Independence. Her brother Charles E. (1815-1889), mentioned earlier in the text probably the first person in town trained for the law, moved to Phelps, Ontario County, N.Y. where he died and his descendants lived some years ago.
9. From 1935-42 and 1954-56 R. Eugene Curry, presently a Trustee of this Society, was placed in charge of the sale of the vast North Castle and North Greenwich acreage. He sold first those parcels with houses and then laid out roads and systematically sold beautiful plots of acreage for new homesites. This beautiful section of our town is called "Yale Farms." Mr. Curry recounted for the author that in anticipation of the extension of the Boston and Westchester Railroad beyond White Plains, Mr. Sterling presented several parcels of his land without charge to the company, as he expected the railroad would open up and develop this countryside. 1,000 acres in Pound Ridge were purchased by him expecting the same development. On the North Greenwich and North Castle property two stations were envisioned.

NOTE:

A search of the Town Records reveals that the Smith family were repeatedly elected to public office. A list of their services follows:

Captain John Smith: Town Clerk - 1798-1830; Overseer of the Poor - 1805-07, 1810-24, 1825-30; Impounder - 1800-07, 1809-13, 1814-30, 1831-32; Overseer of the Highway - 1810-11.

Samuel P. Smith: Town Clerk - 1830-44, 1845-55; Inspector of Common Schools - 1820-27, 1828-29; Impounder - 1830-31, 1832-55; Inspector of Election - 1838, 1840, 1843, 1864-65; Overseer of the Highways - 1827-28, 1845-46, 1857-60, 1864-65, 1867, 1869, 1871-72; Commissioner of Highways 1858-60, 1863-65; Justice of the Peace - 1865-67.

Recent research by the author has proven that Capt. John Smith's second son, John Haviland Smith moved to Rye and that he served as a Justice of the Peace in Rye 1830-34. He was elected County Clerk of Westchester County in 1834 and was re-elected and died in office in the fall of 1839. His estate papers show him to be unmarried and that Captain John renounced his right to act as administrator and Samuel P. Smith was appointed administrator of the estate.

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1. The original article of 1943 was written using correspondence of the late Herman E. Buckley, and conversations with the late Elizabeth Granger Tripp (Mrs. William B.) and Agnes Smith (Mrs. George W.)
2. The Old Smith Tavern by Richard N. Lander, Westchester County Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. 10 Nos. 3 and 4, July-October, 1943.
3. Town Records, Town of North Castle (Creemer Copy) Book 1 1736-1848.
4. Mr. Shearman and Mr. Sterling and How They Grew, Walter K. Earle, 1963. Published by Shearman and Sterling. Carl Purington Rollins Printing Office of Yale University Press.
5. The McDonald Papers (1844-1851) John McLean Macdonald (selected testimony). Owned by the Huguenot-Thomas Paine Historical Association of New Rochelle, to whom grateful acknowledgement is made for their graciousness in allowing historians throughout Westchester to quote from this magnificent source.
6. Conversations with R. Eugene Curry and the Hon. James D. Hopkins, which are gratefully acknowledged, and thanks to Barbara Massi and Doris Finch Watson who abstracted excerpts from Macdonald's work.
7. Numerous deeds and mortgages in the chain of title of Smith's Tavern found in the Westchester County Clerk's Office, Division of Land Records and Estate Papers in the Westchester County Surrogate's Office abstracted by the author.
8. Lyon Memorial (New York Families) Robert B. Miller, Editor. Press of William Graham Printing Co. Detroit, Michigan, 1907.
9. History of Westchester County, Etc. Rev. Robert Bolton, 2 vol. Charles F. Roper, New York 1881.
10. Hopkins notes mss. Richard N. Lander (undated). Hopkins Genealogy mss. James D. Hopkins (1964).

— AN APPEAL —

The acquisition of historic Smith's Tavern has been a dream come true for The North Castle Historical Society. The generosity of the IBM Corporation in providing a grant of \$85,000 towards the purchase price of \$97,500 for the house and two acres laid the groundwork for a community-wide appeal, which brought in the balance, and more which will be used to establish an endowment fund for maintaining, furnishing and preserving the building. Needless to say, the more that is in the endowment fund, the more secure the building will be for future generations.

As we turn now towards the use of the building for various historic purposes we hope that each member will look upon this project as an enjoyable experience and join the various committees in charge of turning this historic site once again into an important center in our community.

We hope, also, that the North Castle community will continue to support this acquisition by becoming members of The North Castle Historical Society. Your ambassadorship in this matter is most important. People are more apt to join an organization when asked personally, and they will only continue to be members if that organization has a record of accomplishments. Your support of The North Castle Historical Society is vital if we are to continue as an exciting and active organization.

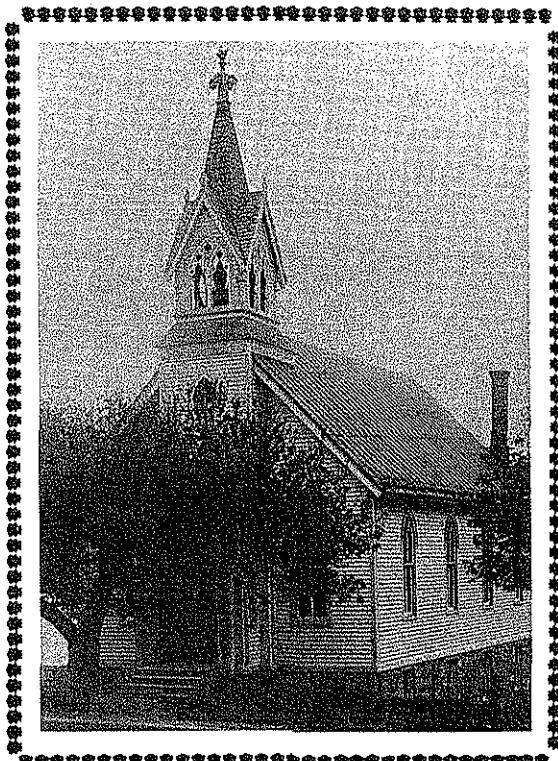
The Officers and Trustees of
The North Castle Historical Society

Castle Heights Methodist Church

by Del Pietschker

In 1907 the New York City Department of Water Supply decided to enlarge the original Kensico Lake and small earth dam which lay in the valley where the Village of Kensico stood.¹ They proceeded to purchase all the surrounding property including the Village of Kensico, which was situated around the northern part of the lake with its center at the lake's northern tip. Included in the purchase was the Kensico Methodist Episcopal Church and property, and after much discussion between the City and the trustees of the church, a price of \$21,000.00 was agreed upon.

The trustees of the Kensico Church were: President, Arthur Pietschker; Secretary, Fred W. Kuhns; Treasurer, C. Frank Reynolds; W. O. Carpenter, Edgar A. Huestis, John B. Wyckoff, George W. Campbell, Eldon M. Pietschker, J. Hobart Cox. They decided to divide the money between the Valhalla Methodist Episcopal Church (which had been established in 1900 as part of the Kensico charge) and a new church which would be built in North White Plains. North White Plains was assigned \$6,000.00.



Kensico Methodist Episcopal Church around 1900

In 1910, the Board of Trustees of the Kensico Church accepted a plot of land, given by Mr. John DeHart (the developer of Castle Heights), located on the west side of North Broadway where Church Street is today, and made plans to build.

A mission had been established in North White Plains some years previously by the Presbyterian Church of White Plains. The mission originally met in various homes and later in a vacant store which was part of a large apartment house located on the northwest side of North Broadway about 100 feet north of Fisher Lane. This mission was taken over by the group that was organized to build the new church.

On May 14, 1910, there was a meeting with the New York City Department of Water Supply to discuss the contents of the old Kensico Church. It was decided that all the furniture and the leaded stained glass windows would be given to the trustees of the Kensico Church to install in the North White Plains church. The bell, which was auctioned off, was eventually obtained by the Valhalla Methodist Church and presently hangs in the belfry of its new church on Columbus Avenue, Valhalla.

On September 23, 1910, the Kensico Church was closed and regular services were held in the North White Plains mission.

The sale of the Kensico Church was finally settled on May 4, 1911 when the \$21,000.00 was awarded, and almost a year later on April 6, 1912 contracts for the building of the new church were awarded to the following contractors: Excavation, Frank Shelley, \$600.00; Mason work, Frank Farnicchio, \$3,065.00; Electrical work, Bradley & Hubbard, \$150.00; Plastering, Frank Farnicchio, \$312.00; Plumbing, J. P. LeFevre, \$65.00; Trim, Kelsey Smith Trim Co., \$288.56; Trim, White Plains Trim, \$439.50; Painting, Arthur Pietschker, \$250.00; Hardware, H. Hecht, \$37.80; Heating, Hazel Birmingham, \$150.00.

The Building Committee consisted of: Chairman, Rev. C. Alexander Terhune, Arthur Pietschker, C. Frank Reynolds, John B. Wyckoff, William M. Smith, Robert O. Cowan, Frank H. Shelley and George T. Butler.

While the church was being built, the Sunday School and church services were held in a large tent on the northwest corner of Seneca Avenue and Thompson Avenue. The tent was later moved next to the church site opposite Cloverdale Avenue.

On May 8, 1912 the trustees voted to buy a memorial tablet to commemorate the Kensico Church and the next day they decided to call the new church Kensico Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church. Later, however, it was changed to Castle Heights Methodist Episcopal Church and of late years has been known as Castle Heights United Methodist Church.²

The dedication

The church was dedicated on January 26, 1913 at 2:30 P.M. with the following program:

Invocation: Rev. C. P. McCleland; Presentation of casket of archives: William M. Smith; Presentation of deed of property: Mrs. John DeHart; Resolution

of Kensico Board of Trustees read by Arthur Pietschker, President of Board; Board of Officer's record of history read by Robert O. Cowan, Secretary; Historic material from the Kensico Trustees: Eldon M. Pietschker, Secretary; Record of formation of Sunday School: Supt. of Sunday School, Mortimer Pietschker; Ladies' Auxiliary: Mrs. B. W. VanHennick, Secretary; Prayer: Rev. F. S. Hunnewell, DD; Scripture Reading: Rev. W. F. Compton, DD; Sermon: Rev. David G. Downey, DD; Solo: Miss Mabel Burhans; Response to dedication: Dr. MacRossie; Greetings: Dr. S. W. VanKleet, Dr. F. S. Hunnewell, Dr. W. F. Compton, Dr. W. Dana Street, Dr. C. E. Nichols and the Hon. George T. Burling.

Church Officials

The officials of the church were: Minister, Rev. C. Alexander Terhune BD; Stewards- President, W. H. Smith; Secretary, Robert O. Cowan; Treasurer, B. W. VanHennick; Frank M. Shelley, R. H. Mount, George T. Butler.

Board of Officers: Chairman, Rev. C. Alexander Terhune, BD; Vice Chairman, B. W. VanHennick; Secretary, Eldon M. Pietschker; Treasurer, William Sinn; Sunday School Supt., Mortimer Y. Pietschker; Assistant Sunday School Supt., W. H. Smith; Secretary, Pearl Pietschker; Treasurer, Miss Anna Smith who became Mrs. Percival Pietschker; and Missionary Secretary, Frank H. Shelley.

Ladies' Auxiliary: President, Mrs. A. Reynolds; Vice President, Mrs. Frank Shelley; Secretary, Mrs. Leandor Fulton; Treasurer, Mrs. C. R. Lovell; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. William Smith; Organist, Mrs. A. Watson, sister of Mrs. R. O. Cowan.

The memorial tablet to the old Kensico Church was unveiled on January 25, 1914 at 7:45 P.M. The inscription reads as follows:

Official Board

Old Kensico Methodist Episcopal Church

<i>President, Arthur Pietschker</i>	<i>Treasurer, Frank Reynolds</i>
<i>Secretary, F. W. Kubns</i>	<i>Eldon M. Pietschker</i>
<i>George W. Campbell</i>	<i>W. O. Carpenter</i>
<i>J. B. Wyckoff</i>	<i>Edgar A. Hustis</i>
	<i>R. Hobart Cox</i>

The Church Grows

The Castle Heights Church and the Valhalla Church were a single charge until 1919 when they separated. The pastors until that time were: C. Alexander Terhune, 1911-13; Charles B. Conro, 1914-17; George E. W. Bryant, 1918-19. As the charge separated in 1919, it became part of the Purchase charge with Rev. George Frederick Wells, Pastor. Mr. Arthur Pietschker,³ a licensed local preacher, was appointed pastor. Mr. Pietschker was a former resident of Kensico and an official of the Kensico Church. The Pietschker family had moved to Nethermont Avenue, North White Plains in 1909 and played a significant part in the building of the new charge. Mr. Pietschker served as pastor until 1924 and donated all of his salary to the Mortgage Fund.

In 1919, Mrs. Rose McClure donated land and a building which was

known as the Quarry Heights Chapel (in Quarry Heights), and for many years this building (now used as a community center) served the people of North White Plains as a Sunday School and Ladies' Auxiliary meeting room.

In 1924 a crack developed in the tower bell of the Kensico Church and an agreement was made with the trustees of the Middle Patent Methodist Church in Banksville to obtain their bell. The bell, which had been donated to the Middle Patent Church by Mrs. Odle Knapp in 1901, was removed from the Middle Patent Church and installed in the Castle Heights Church tower.

A parsonage was built next door to the church in 1928 by J. Reynold Pietschker, a local contractor, at a cost of \$10,818.00.

In 1931, the County of Westchester paid the Castle Heights Church \$3,600.00 for land taken to widen Route 22. This enabled the trustees to pay the balance of the mortgage.

In 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Hall and their daughter, who had been members of the old Kensico Church, gave a gift of a Hammond electric organ to the church.

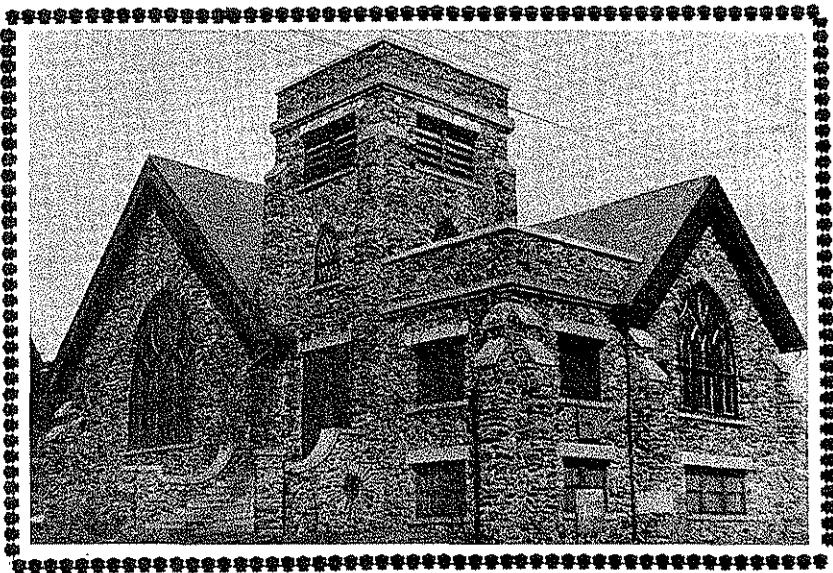
In 1948 a lot was purchased for \$25.00 at the town tax sale. This extended the rear property line to General Heath Avenue.

After World War II the church had its most rapid growth. Many new members joined and, with indebtedness a thing of the past (the last installment on the parsonage mortgage was paid in 1954), the church progressed rapidly. Electronic chimes, which were played every Sunday morning and at 6 o'clock every evening, were installed in June, 1954. Through the inspiration of Dr. Emanuele Santi, the pastor, and gifts of the people of the community, the basement was panelled and a new gas heating system installed. The sanctuary was transformed through redecorating and refurnishing. The old pews from the Kensico Church were replaced with new ones, the floor was carpeted and a new lighting system installed.

All that remains from the old Kensico Church are the leaded stained glass windows in the Sanctuary, the pulpit, and a few altar chairs—reminders of a church and village long since gone.

PASTORS OF CASTLE HEIGHTS CHURCH

C. Alexander Terhune	1911-1913	David W. Soper	1936-1942
Charles B. Conro	1914-1917	Herbert W. Hahn	1942-1944
George E. W. Bryant	1918-1919	Paul D. Leedy	1944-1946
George Frederick Wells	1919-1921	Paul Bankston	1946-1947
Arthur Pietschker	1921-1924	Eldon H. Ramige	1947-1949
Arthur O. Baggarly	1924-1925	Ralph S. Thorn Jr.	1950-1952
James V. Taylor	1925-1927	Emanuele Santi	1952-1957
W. Arthur Milne	1928-1930	Douglas Nelson	1957-1959
Gordon B. Fear	1930-1933	Ernest F. MacMillan	1959-1969
C. Lloyd Lee	1933-1935	Mervin F. Hill	1969-1973
Daniel H. Piper	1935-1936	Samuel P. Wong	1973-1975
	Floyd E. George	1975-	



Recent photo of the Castle Heights United Methodist Church

FOOTNOTES:

1. See North Castle History Vol. 2 No. 1, Spring 1975, "Historical Kensico and the Hills of North Castle" by Joseph T. Miller.
2. The Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America was organized at the Christmas Conference, Baltimore Maryland, December 24, 1784. Subsequent divisions and separations in this body brought forth The Methodist Protestant Church, 1828 (over the Episcopacy), The Methodist Episcopal Church South, 1844 (slavery). These three churches reunited in one on May 10, 1939 as The Methodist Church. The Church of the Evangelical United Brethren was formally organized June 6, 1815. The Evangelical Church was organized November 3, 1803. These two churches merged in 1946 and formed the Evangelical United Brethren Church. These two churches were originally German speaking. On April 23, 1968 The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged and founded The United Methodist Church. This bringing together in one united body both the English speaking and early German speaking Methodist churches.
3. Arthur Pietschker was this author's father.

* * * * *

The North Castle Sun, September 3, 1915

New York City is very tardy in coming across with its legitimate taxes to this Town of North Castle. Last year's taxes amounting to \$8,000 have not yet been paid. Under the new law, property on which no taxes have been paid for a stipulated period will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder. There sure should be some spirited bidding when the big dam is placed on the auction block.

The Bicentennial



NORTH

CASTLE

STYLE

The North Castle Historical Society was very active during our nation's bicentennial observance. Working hand in hand with the Bicentennial Committee many members and trustees of the Society donated countless hours towards the success of North Castle's bicentennial programs.

Because our town played a very special part towards our nation's independence, it was most fitting that we commemorate its 200th birthday in a special way. Through the efforts of hundreds of community volunteers, led by R. Eugene Curry and Charlotte Devers, Co-Chairmen, and Charles Elson, Vice Chairman, our bicentennial programs were made to order for North Castle:

A Bicentennial charter and flag award ceremony on February 22, 1975, presented by the State of New York, declaring North Castle an official Bicentennial Community; the restoration of the town's "By Grant of the Indians" signs; a town parade, ceremony and ride of Paul Revere on April 19, 1975, in conjunction with a countywide observance; historical markings of Revolutionary period homes and sites, plus five cast iron markers of notable historical sites and the clearing of the site of Sands' (Thomas Wright's) Mills where Major John Andre was detained; creation of a Bicentennial emblem for North Castle; the coordination of school programs with North Castle's bicentennial events; the planting of Liberty Trees in the three sections of North Castle; historical vignettes in the local newspaper; reactivation of the Historical Site Preservation Committee; handpainted Bicentennial Map of North Castle during Revolutionary times which was printed for distribution to the community; publication of two books: "American Revolutionary History in North Castle" and "Colonial History and Minutes of Town Meetings 1736-1791;" historical house and site tour when 30 sites were visited; the creation of North Castle's own 40 foot Bicentennial Eagle which flies just off Route 22 opposite I.B.M. and the handcrafted gold-gilded eagle that nests over the entrance to Town Hall; the spectacular July 4th town-participation parade, with banners for 40 organizations, Ecumenical Service, colonial crafts, Indian village, stage show, and fireworks; the burial of a time capsule to be opened in the year 2076; ceremony honoring the inclusion in the National Register of the Miller House in North White Plains which officially recognizes the house as Washington's Headquarters during the Battle of White Plains; the elegant Bicentennial Ball, and finally the multi-media presentation of slides and sounds of North Castle during the July 4th 1976 celebration.

These programs not only gave us the opportunity to commemorate the past and come to know more about those who lived in it, they gave us the opportunity, in an era of pressure and indifference, to learn more about one another. Let us hope that the "Spirit of '76" will continue to live in our community for a long, long time!



Co-Chairmen of North Castle's Bicentennial Committee Charlotte Devers and R. Eugene Curry receiving plaques at the Bicentennial Ball. Photo by Lindsay H. Welling, Jr.

— FOR THE RECORD —

Well, you guessed it -- we're not infallible!

Although we're quite proud of the "North Castle History" publications there are occasions when all is not perfect (something no publication has ever been able to avoid). Fortunately, we are a continuing publication which gives us the opportunity to correct our mistakes, and because we realize the importance of keeping the records as accurate as possible we are devoting this page to setting the record straight. If you ever find anything in the publication that should be corrected, no matter how small, we would appreciate hearing from you. It's important to future generations.

Vol. 1, No. 1, 1974: "To Middle Patent School--with Love!" - picture number 1 caption which reads only "Middle Patent School" should have included the names of those in the picture which are from left to right: Mary Livingston, principal; Phoebe Finch Watson, 8; Walter Finch Watson, 3; Mrs. Doris Finch Watson holding William J. Watson, Jr., 1½; Mrs. Carmella Ritacco Genkerell; Al Lanza, custodian, on steps. Picture number 2: Observing the school bell held by Mrs. Livingston are Mrs. Watson and her children and Mrs. Mills, 2nd grade teacher. Picture number 3: Children and teacher gathered around last Christmas tree. Pictures were taken on December 23 1964 at the closing ceremonies of Middle Patent School.

Vol. 3, No. 1, 1976: "North Castle's 200th Birthday" - two footnotes were left out in the printing: Number 7- Charles Remsen had the government contract to carry the mail from the Armonk Post Office to the Valhalla Post Office for shipping on the Harlem Railroad. Number 8- Windmill Manor is presently Windmill Farms.

Vol. 3, No. 1, 1976: "The Bicentennial-in Perspective" should not have said that George Washington stayed at the Miller House "several times" during the Revolution. Although many historical writings have assumed this, it has come to light that this might not be the case. Only in 1776, during the Battle of White Plains, is it an indisputable fact.

Vol. 3, No. 1, 1976: "Three Men and a Fire" - The footnote added by the Editor refers to the railroad tire iron presently hanging in front of the firehouse as the same one mentioned in the story. The fact is that the original iron went for scrap metal during World War II, but was replaced in the 1960's by another.

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If you are interested in writing a story for this publication we have a list of subjects to choose from. Or, if you have a subject of your own to submit, please call Barbara Massi, 273-3875.

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

There is to be no reprint of material appearing in "North Castle History" without specific credit given to the Society and the author.

COVER PICTURE

Smith's Tavern, March 16, 1898

Photo taken by James B. Sutherland, Jr., now in the possession of Granger Tripp, great, great, great grandson of Capt. John Smith.