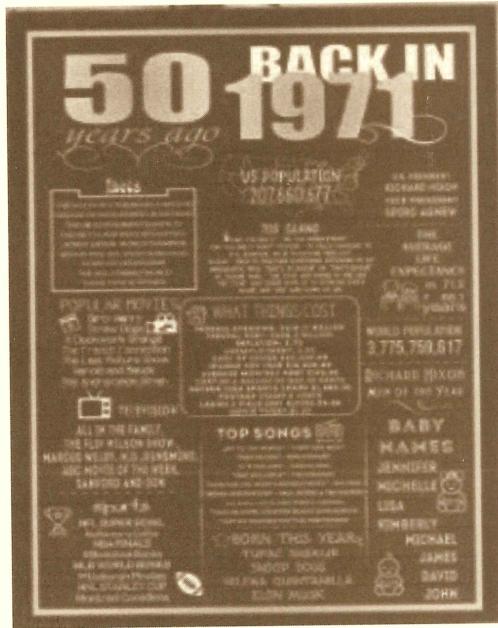


NORTH CASTLE HISTORY



**50 Years since Incorporation
1971 – 2021**

**Chartered by the Regents of the University
of the State of New York**

THE NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 48 - 2021

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The North Castle Historical Society

440 BEDFORD ROAD ARMONK, NEW YORK 10504

February 2022

Happy 50th birthday, North Castle Historical Society!

Despite the resurgence of COVID-19 and the onslaught of two variants, our historical society is flourishing and active thanks to a great Board of Trustees who are committed to leading the efforts of the Society to preserve and protect North Castle's significant history.

Our Historic Smith's Tavern Educational Complex came to life with the return of the annual Halloween Haunt – and especially inside the Quaker Meeting House where ghouls and goblins had a “spook-tacular” time. The property was also the location for three short films recorded as part of the upcoming national celebrations of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence (1776-2026). A *Westchester Magazine* article highlighted our historical society as an example of how historical societies maintain their relevance and importance in today's world. In addition, North Castle Co-Town Historian Sharon Tomback was honored as the 2020/21 Armonk Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

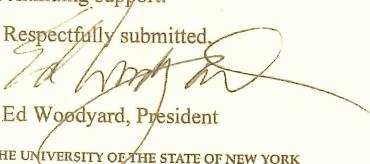
Thanks to our diligent Docents, Historic Smith's Tavern Educational Complex remained open to visitors and for special group meetings. Although we were disappointed that we could not host our annual town-wide Partners in Preservation evening of good food, fun activities and warm camaraderie, thank you for contributing to the new cedar shales roof for the East Middle Patent Schoolhouse. We are looking forward to holding Colonial Crafts Days for local 4th grade students later in 2022.

At our 50th annual meeting on April 2nd, 2022 the NCHS will present “Rendezvous with Treason,” a live dramatic presentation about the conspiracy between American General Benedict Arnold and British Major John Andre. Don't miss this program! North Castle played a key role in Andre's capture and imprisonment. On April 2nd we will also kick off NC 250 - a series of events and programs that highlight North Castle's vital role in the success of the American Revolution.

All of these significant plans and events cannot happen without you - for YOU ARE the NCHS!

Thank you for all your steadfast efforts and continuing support.

Respectfully submitted,

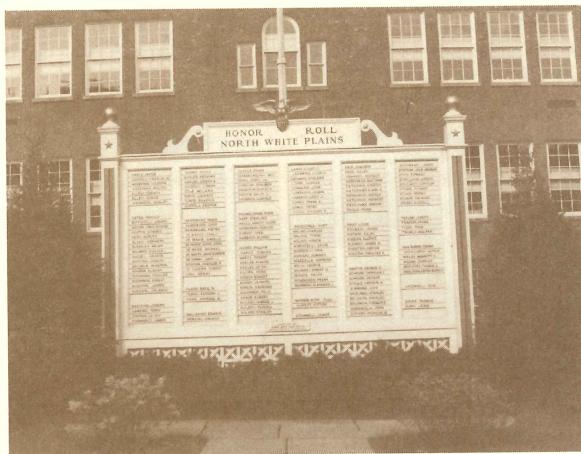

Ed Woodyard, President

CHARTERED BY THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

NORTH WHITE PLAINS SCHOOL, PART TWO

by Nora Kanze Manuele

A year has passed since I started writing the history of the North White Plains School. Winter is here and once again I can see the old school building from my home. I wonder what it was like during the War years – World War II. A war that both my father and his brother fought in – as well as many other young men from North White Plains.



Collections of The North Castle Historical Society

WWII NORTH WHITE PLAINS HONOR ROLL

In 1943, the North White Plains Fire Company received permission to erect an honor roll for men and women from North White Plains who were serving and had served in the war. The original honor roll was made of wood. It was placed in front of the school with a flag pole. The honor roll was dedicated on Memorial Day 1944, and it was a big event in North White Plains.¹

A permanent WWII plaque was installed on the grounds of the school, replacing the wooden one. The memorial was a large stone with an engraved brass plaque. All men and women from North White Plains were listed whether they lived or died in fighting.

¹ *The North Castle Sun*, May 24, 1944, page 1

I believe Helen Gerhard of Castle Heights is the only woman listed. After the school closed in the 1970s, the monument was moved to Miller Park.

The North Castle Sun gives us a glimpse of what life was like in North White Plains in the early 1940s. The North White Plains School was busy with programs involving the war effort. There were Red Cross Nutrition Courses, Air Raid Wardens Courses, and Red Cross Workroom gatherings. Courses were offered in first aid and home nursing, and sugar rationing cards were distributed at the school. Vaccinations were also provided for the children at school. The school was the center of the community and a place where residents could participate in volunteer programs to support the war effort.



Courtesy of Bertha Schlickman Leinung

BERTHA SCHLICKMAN'S SECOND GRADE CLASS, 1940

[L-R] First row: Loretta, Bertha Schlickman, Dolores, Joan Geon, Joan Beaton, Kathryn Manecky, Second row: Tony, George, Howard Platte, James Stanfield, Charles, Roy, Bradley Finney, Third row: Peter, Roger Grape, Raymond Knapp, Bobby Brush, Edward Bates, Edward O'Rourke, Mrs. Remsen (teacher), Edward Manecky, George McClure

Bertha (Schlickman) Leinung and Mary (Downey) Pointer both attended the North White Plains School in the 1940s. When Bertha was in first grade, her class performed a play about the "Sleepy Little Bunnies" and the children were featured in *The Evening Dispatch* newspaper.

Bertha played the "Mama" rabbit. (This tradition of performing school plays continued into the years when I attended the school, 1966 to 1973.)



Courtesy of Bertha Schlickman Leinung

SLEEPY LITTLE BUNNIES



Courtesy of Mary Downey Pointer

MARY DOWNEY'S CLASS, CIRCA 1942

[L-R] Front Row: Fran Caruso, unidentified student, Maureen Dalbo, Beverly Korr, Mary Downey, unidentified student, Elizabeth Wutke, Mildred Iuni. Row 2: Arthur Boniface, unidentified student, Clarice Galli, unidentified student, Monica Chamberlain, Anita Rundt, Mary Ann Gately, Marjorie Hawkes. Row 3: Arlene Cacherio, Barbara Weimer, unidentified student, unidentified student, unidentified student, Carol Dill, Frances Dessesaur. Back Row: unidentified student, unidentified student, Fred Korr, unidentified student, Earl Durand, John Cacherio, unidentified student.



Courtesy of Mary Downey Pointer, 1947

MARY DOWNEY'S CLASS OF 1947

[L-R] First Row: Mildred Juni, Elizabeth Wutke, Rose Martini, Mary Downey, Beverly Korr. Row 2: unidentified, Barbara Wiemer, Carol Dill, Adrianne Fortzfield, Clarice Galli, Anita Rundt. Back Two Rows: George Remsen (Principal), Arthur Boniface, Robert Gladstone, Michael Beatty, Ralph Conti, Earl Durand, Fred Korr, Joe Viola, Mrs. Cowan (Teacher).



Courtesy of Nora Kanze Manuele

CLASS OF 1958

[L-R] First Row: Barbara Paulson, Susanne Wheeler, Robert Fraker, Gary Frank, Gary Collins, Bernard Moriaz. Row 2: Katharine Doenecke, Richard Feit, Harvey Pearlman, Stan Resnick, William Wilson, Alfred D'Angelo. Row 3: Bertha Dessaure, Jacqueline Beville, Yvonne Bradley, Susan Cordes, Nancy Coulter. Standing: Edward Kanze, Jr. (Teacher), Eileen Goddard, Geraldine Thomas, Armando Iazzetti, Marshall Reiff, James Scofield, William Karabinos, Jay Wisner, Howard Scheiber, George Remsen (Principal).

GEORGE REMSEN

A 43-YEAR CAREER AT NORTH WHITE PLAINS SCHOOL

George Remsen retired in June, 1964. The North White Plains community celebrated George Remsen Day on June 7, 1964. Sadly, he died the following fall. My brother, a third-grade student at the time, told me the story of how a stoic teacher was in tears when she received word that Mr. Remsen had died. A huge hole was left in the hearts of many when he passed away.

An attempt by the community to rename the school for Mr. Remsen failed. “Mr. Remsen, who retires at the end of this term, not only spent his entire working life as principal of this school – a 43-year career – but has literally made it his life. The distinction is important. It’s one thing merely to stay in one place a lifetime; another to make one place one’s life.”² Reportedly during the Depression years, he took children home to give them lunch and to the shoe store for new shoes.

George Remsen and his successors, Max Bastian and Kelsey Stone, hired many capable, caring teachers during their tenures. Among the longest serving were Helen Cross, Kaye Toye, Kaye Remsen, Desdemona Peer, Grace Carlson, Sid Walton, Dorothea S. Germann, Edward Kanze Jr., Irv Danzig, and Joseph Caringi. Support staff were also a big part of the North White Plains School family. They included custodians Louie DeMarie, Joe Pleva (“Mr. Joe,” who would wiggle his ears on demand), and Ray Potter, Twane Falot in the office, Charlotte Thomaier and Elsie Sentermann in the lunchroom, nurse Gertrude Schmazel, and librarian Ruth Hart.

A dark cloud started to form over the North White Plains School in 1966. This was the year the district started to openly discuss the closing and sale of our cherished school and the heart of the community.

Ironically, School Board member and resident of North White Plains, John Lewis, claimed in 1966 that “there were too many children for the present facilities”.³ A month later, the president of the school board claimed the building was “... outdated and it was only a matter of time the State would condemn it”.⁴

² *North Castle News*, May 20, 1964, page 4

³ *North Castle News*, September 21, 1966, page 1.

⁴ *North Castle News*, October 5, 1966, page 1



Courtesy of Nora Kanze Manuele

GRADE 6, 1968

[L-R] First Row: Joe Giffone, Bernard Portillo, Gene DeVito, Matt Stigdon, James Mercatante, Jeff Alston. Row 2: Vicky Carter, Cindy Boyce, Susan Summers. Row 3: Barbara Borman, Lynn Caturano, April Vacca, Cathy DiSomma. Row 4: Gary Petrosino, George Valentine, Anthony Caponera, Sharon Wilson, Stephen Cristella, Robin Souter, Frank Esposito, Ken Jenkins, Michael Ferris, Edward J. Kanze, Jr (Teacher).

In an interview in 1971, Dr. Don Marquette, Superintendent of Valhalla Schools, said no decision had been made about the status of the North White Plains School - although a site for a new school was already chosen. The new site was a parcel owned by the district located near Valhalla Schools district offices off Columbus Avenue.

I will skip ahead to the end of the story. Residents Anthony (Tony) and Martye Futia and many others in North White Plains fought the closing plan, but to no avail. The school's last graduating class was 1977. Tony Futia, a native of North White Plains, a graduate of the school, a parent in the school district, and a member of the School Board, organized a fight to stop the school district from closing the school and shutting down the center of our community. A "Save Our Schools" committee was established. James Delano, President of the NWP-Quarry Heights Civic Association, said, "There is nothing safer than a neighborhood school and safety is the key question here."⁵

⁵ *North Castle News*, March 12, 1975, page 1

Several years after the school closed, a group of residents joined together to form the School Acquisition Committee, chaired by Charles Amado, a North White Plains resident and father of two graduates. A letter and a packet of information endorsed by William Bancroft, Betty Combs, Hal Junker, Larry Sposato, Joseph Macellaro, and Martye Futia was distributed. The plan was to turn the school into a Community Center for the Town – particularly the residents of North White Plains. Sadly, the proposal was defeated in a North Castle Town vote.

In 1984, Linda Waller Nelson interviewed Tony Futia for an article about his fight on behalf of North White Plains. “When it closed, part of the community began to die, to change ... These people don’t get involved in the community. They don’t even know who the politicians are.”⁶ This represented a 180-degree change from the early decades in the 20th century, when some folks thought too many people in Castle Heights, North White Plains, were active in town decisions.

To this day the legacy of the North White Plains School lives on in the hearts of so many graduates. On an alumni page on Facebook, graduates reminisce of the days when we played kickball on the playground, ate hot dogs on Monday and hamburgers on Wednesday, counted the days until the Halloween Funfair, acted in a school play, climbed the monkey bars, and ran around in the lower field.

I’m thankful that when I look out my kitchen window, I still see my beloved old school and can sing the school song whose lyrics George Remsen penned, “Among the hills of old Westchester, near to Kensico....” Happy 100th birthday, dear school building! Thank you, George Remsen, and all the successive teachers and support staff who worked to educate hundreds of students from North White Plains, Greenburgh (before Virginia Road school opened), and Valhalla! Today the old North White Plains School is an office building, owned by the County of Westchester Industrial Development Agency.

Thank you to Mary Downey Pointer, Bertha Schlickman Leinung, Ed Kanze III and Tony Futia for sharing their memories with me. Special thanks to Stu Brown for writing the following lovely tribute to the people with whom he worked at NWP Elementary School.

⁶ *Gannett Westchester Newspaper*, September 23, 1984, section B

I would also like to thank Susan Lombardi Peterson for donating over a dozen photos from the George and Kaye Remsen collection to The North Castle Historical Society.

MEMORIES FROM J. STUART BROWN⁷



Courtesy Stu Brown

MR. BROWN'S CLASS 6-B 1974

[L-R] Front Row: Steve Wirz, John Russo. Row 2: Lori Camorlingia, Katy Bechtel, Dana Fanelli, Michelle Rigano, Lori Oliva, Susan DiMaggio, Angela Dinota, Liz Walsh. Row 3: Michael Graziano, James Gately, Chris Breden, Donna Montesano, Susan Crock, Anthony Polvere, Richard Gabrielly. Back Row: Max Bastian (Principal), Marc Hydrick, Glen Troiano, Paul Mamola, Mr. Brown (Teacher).

I was a ‘one and done’ guy at North White. I had completed my first three years of teaching at Virginia Road School in a fourth-grade classroom. Then I was asked to take Mrs. Clancy’s 6th grade class at North White Plains School because she was taking a sabbatical to complete her Master’s degree.

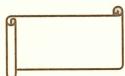
⁷ Stu Brown is a Vice President for The North Castle Historical Society Board of Trustees and a member of the North Castle Landmarks Preservation Committee.

So ... my 4th year of teaching had the multiple challenges of new school, new staff, and new grade level. I was plenty nervous to say the least. But, as luck would have it, I was fortunate enough to be mentored and protected and guided by an experienced 6th grade teaching professional named Ed Kanze. He had answers for all of my questions and helped to make that year extremely memorable.

I was also lucky enough to have a bright group of kids that year who may have ended up teaching me more than I taught them! And, I'm happy to say that I am still in touch with many of them on social media all these years later.

That little old school on North Broadway slowly became a warm, comfortable place with each day that passed. The principal, Max Bastian, allowed me to find my way with all the newness and was supportive throughout. Staff members were friendly and accepting of the "new kid". The two "Helens" who ran the school kitchen were wonderful ... both as cooks and as friendly, smiling ladies who always seemed to be in a good mood. I am pretty sure they were responsible for my weight gain that year! Of course, it could've also been the many trips we took across the street for chili dogs at Pee-Wee's, later called The Little Spot.

Mrs. Clancy was returning the following fall and Mr. Eibner, the principal of Columbus Avenue School, was searching for a fourth-grade teacher so my one-year run came to an end at the North White Plains School. For the next 35 years I remained a 4th grade teacher at Columbus Avenue School until it closed, and then I moved to the new Kensico School where I remained until I retired in 2009. That 1973-1974 school year at North White Plains School with those sixth-graders remains a special memory. I am grateful to Ed Kanze for taking me under his wing that year!



CORRECTION TO THE 2020 BOOKLET

In the 2020 booklet article "The Legendary Herman Geist", the caption underneath the image of Herman Geist in the Jeep appearing on page 7 of the booklet and the listing underneath Photographs, Drawings and Maps on page 2 should read "Pilsen, Czech Republic Parade" not Germany. We apologize for any confusion.

441 BEDFORD ROAD, ARMONK THE THOMAS HOPKINS – DAVID BRUNDAGE HOUSE

by Sydney Black

For the last 250 years, the Thomas Hopkins - David Brundage house located on Bedford Road has served as both a testament to North Castle's history and a representation of its changing demographics, adapting to new social conditions as a result of new owners and changing public opinion.

The main house was built by Thomas Hopkins at some point from 1760 to 1770, making it one of the oldest homes in Armonk.¹ It was built in what architects refer to as a colonial homestead style, with two-and-a-half stories, a high-pitched gabled roof and exposed timber beams. The wood and brick fireplace in the current living room may be original.



Collections of The North Castle Historical Society

THE HOPKINS-BRUNDAGE HOUSE, ABOUT 1900 Looking South Across Danbury Post Road (now New York State Route 22)

The house is located close to the Danbury Post Road, as homes of the period typically were. In colonial times, settlers used the road to get farm products to market. Photographs from the turn of the century show a retaining wall in front of the house with stairs leading down to the

¹ Other homes from that period include the David Lane House (280 King Street), William Lane House, 1 The Crossing; Moses Quinby House, 82 Cox Avenue, Gilbert Palmer House, 61 North Greenwich Road; Ichabod Ogden's House, 440 Bedford Road (Historic Smith's Tavern).

Post Road. This was likely buried over when automobile usage became widespread in the early 20th century and the state paved and widened the more heavily used sections of the road. The route was designated New York Route 22 in 1924.²

The original property was roughly 100 acres, with the current 2.3-acre property effectively anchoring its northwest corner, as the property extended further towards Greenwich. Over time, ownership of the property was transferred and the property was subdivided. By 1950 it was reduced to a 5-acre lot and in the 1980s it was subdivided further, resulting in the building of a contrasting post-modern home next door.³

The Hopkins Family

The Hopkins family arrived in North Castle in 1740, having originally come to America from Wales in the 1600s.⁴ Thomas Hopkins was born in 1740 and married Zeruiah (Zeruah) Palmer on January 14, 1767. They had six children: James, Elizabeth, Samuel, Mary, Thomas, and Pine. Thomas Hopkins died in 1812, and Zeruiah died in 1828. His brother Benjamin owned the building across the street (known as Smith's Tavern since 1797) and his brother Daniel lived on the farm adjoining Thomas' up the hill to the east.

Thomas Hopkins was a relatively wealthy farm owner by the standards of the day. He was listed as a yeoman, someone who cultivates his own land, in the 1763 list of freeholders⁵ which included only the wealthier landowners and tradesmen. To be included on the list of freeholders, who served as potential jurors in the provincial courts, a 1741 law stated the following eligibility requirements: 1) male; 2) between 21 and 70 years of age; and 3) possessing an estate of the value of sixty pounds, free of encumbrance.

² "New York's Main Highways Designated By Numbers." The New York Times, December 21, 1924. <https://www.nytimes.com/1924/12/21/archives/new-yorks-main-highways-designated-by-numbers-even-numerals-used.html>.

³ 1951 Property Survey showing the house, cottage, and the barn on the 5-acre lot.

⁴ Information supplied by the late Marguerite Lewis to Vince Fiore for inclusion in The North Castle Historical Society's Memory Book for Trustees.

⁵ 1763 *List of the Freeholders in Westchester County, N.Y.*, n.d.

Roughly 800 residents in Westchester County were on the list.⁶ Four years after Thomas Hopkins, his heirs sold the property to David Brundage in 1816.

List of various articles of household property in the house of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, of Clermont, N.Y., to the value of which is to be added the value of the land, house, furniture, & personal property of the deceased, to be divided among the heirs in proportion to their titles to the property.			
			1812
1 Spoon Table	2-1-0	1 French Table	1-1-0
1 Standing Shelf	6-1-0	1 Iron Stove	1-1-0
2 Plates	2-3-0	1 Iron pot	1-1-0
1 Washboard Wash	2-16-0	1 Small square Table	1-1-0
4 Small Dishes	2-1-0	1 Table	1-1-0
1 Turned	2-2-0	1 Wash Table	1-1-0
3 Pewter plates	2-12-0	2 Iron Pots	2-12-0
11 Pewter Plates	1-18-0	1 Tea kettle	1-1-0
3 Pewter Dishes	2-3-0	1 Fired Iron	2-3-0
12 Earthen plates	2-3-0	1 Piping iron	2-3-0
3 Tea canisters	2-2-0	1 Griddle	2-2-0
1 Tea Service	2-1-0	1 Dishes & Pots	2-1-0
1 Tea Caddy	2-1-0	2 Iron Pots	2-1-0
1 Small Table & seat	2-1-0	1 Tea kettle	2-1-0
3 Tea cups & saucers	0-1-0	1 small round Table	1-1-0
2 Coffee Tables	2-1-0	1 round Table	1-1-0
2 Side Tables	2-1-0	1 small round Table	1-1-0
3 Linen	2-1-0	1 round Table	2-2-0
1 Bed Room	2-1-0	1 Large Bed	2-1-0
1 Carpet	2-0-0	2 Hammocks &c	2-0-0
5 2d plates	2-0-0	1 Bed & Bedding	2-0-0
5 Baking dishes	2-0-0	1 pair of Iron Hand Scissors	2-0-0
15 Boxes & 11 pgs	2-0-0	2 Iron Hand Scissors	2-0-0
7 Table cloths	2-0-0	5 candle holders	1-1-0
1 Washb. Wash	2-0-0	1 Large Table	2-0-0
2 Small Earthen pots	0-1-0	1 Washb. Wash	2-0-0
1 Earthen pot & 1 Cup	0-0-0	2 Washb. Wash	2-0-0
1 2d Washb. Wash	0-0-0	2 Large Pots & covers	2-0-0
7 Cups & 7 Saucers	0-2-0	1 Standard	2-0-0
2 small cups	0-0-0	1 Small Table	2-0-0
7 Tea Spoons	0-1-0	1 Bed	2-0-0
1 pair small sheets	2-1-0	1 Candle Stand	2-0-0
1 Bag & Washb. Wash	2-0-0	1 Cupboard	2-0-0
10 Washb. Wash	2-0-0	22 Washb. Wash	2-0-0
1 Small Washb. Wash	0-0-0	1 Bedding bag	2-0-0
5 Cotton Pots	0-12-0	1 Round Table	1-1-0
12 Warming Pots	0-1-0	1 Tea Table	1-1-0
	4-8-9	1 Large Piping iron	1-1-0

1812 INVENTORY OF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS OWNED BY THOMAS HOPKINS, DECEASED

A True and perfect Inventory of All and Singular the Goods, Chattels and Credits Which were of Thomas Hopkins Late of the town of North Castle in the County of Westchester, Deceased, taken by James Thomas Hopkins and Pine Hopkins Executors of the Last Will and Testament of the said Deceased with the aid and in the presence of David Dayton and John Smith who appraised the same as follows the 14th day of June 1812.

⁶ Becker, E. Marie. "The 801 Westchester County Freeholders of 1763" *New York Historical Society Quarterly* 35, no. 3 (July 1951): 283–321. <https://digitalcollections.nyhistory.org/islandora/object/islandora%3A19008#page/1/mode/2up>.

Revolutionary War Skirmish

At the time of the Revolutionary War, North Castle was a divided community, split between Patriots and Loyalists.⁷ British troops had occupied Bedford and Pound Ridge⁸ and in July 1779, the British army and their sympathizers—reportedly led by Colonel Banastre Tarleton—retreated from the burning of Pound Ridge.⁹ It was later uncovered that the so-called burning of Bedford was not part of this attack on Pound Ridge under Tarleton. Rather, this burning happened over a week later on July 11th, 1779, as Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Birch led 400 cavalrymen through the town due to frustration with being fired at during the earlier attack and the lack of troops present before a surprise attack on Bedford.¹⁰



Rosenwald Collection National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Banastre Tarleton, 1782, by John Raphael Smith and Sir Joshua Reynolds

Reportedly, in their retreat, they set Thomas Hopkins' house on fire, gathering the furnishings and throwing them in the dining room, then setting fire to it as they left the house.

The house was saved by farmers of the North Castle militiamen, who fired on Tarleton's men from behind stone fences and managed to slip into the house after Tarleton's raiders left, in time to extinguish the flames.¹¹ Today, the beams of the house reportedly bear the charring from the fire.

⁷ The McDonald Papers, a now famous collection of Revolutionary War recollections gathered between 1844 and 1851 by attorney John McLean Macdonald (1790-1863) who interviewed 240 Westchester residents about the war.

⁸ The History of The Several Towns, Manors, and Patents of the County of Westchester by the Late Rev. Robert Bolton, New York: Chas. F. Roper, 1881.

⁹ Bedford was burned by the British in early July 1779. On October 29, 1846, Silas Sutherland of Middle Patent testified that when Bedford was burned the King's men fired on their retreat and several houses were burned as well.

¹⁰ Ryan, Evelyne. "The Burning of Bedford Village." *Record Review*. 9 Jul. 2004.

¹¹ McDonald Papers, Volume B

According to oral tradition, when Tarleton's men appeared coming down the road from Bedford, a man from the house buried the Hopkins' family silver on the property. Accosted by the British, the man tried to escape across a field and was shot and killed. The silver has never been found, although the entire farm has been dug over many times.

Slaves and Servants

In the early years, both the Hopkins and Brundage families had slaves and/or indentured servants to help manage the house while the family managed the 100-acre farm. The 1800 Federal Census recorded twelve households in North Castle with thirteen persons included in the "Others Free, except Indians, not Taxed," category, one of which was Thomas Hopkins. This classification captured indentured servants, which may have been reclassified slaves.¹²

As the Census is outlined in Article 1 Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, *"Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons."*¹³ Throughout this time, New York State Legislature law began to limit slavery, likely affecting ownership of peoples at the property.

In 1799, the New York State Legislature passed "An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery" which allowed slave owners to keep their younger slaves for most of their productive lives. All children born to slave women after July 4, 1799 were freed, but not until the males reached 28 years and the females reached 25 years. Slaves owned before July 4, 1799 remained slaves for life and were reclassified as 'Indentured Servants'. In 1801, the New York State Legislature passed an Act¹⁴ that a person could be bound by Indenture by his, or her, own free will, with the consent of a parent or guardian or by Justices or Overseers of the Poor.

¹² Neither the 1790 or 1810 censuses listed "others free" or "slaves" alongside the entry for the Hopkins household.

¹³ U.S. Const. art. 1, § 2.

¹⁴ "An act concerning apprentices & servants" was passed by the New York State Legislature on February 20, 1801 and can be found in Laws of New York 1801, Chapter 254.

Finally, on March 31, 1817, the New York State Legislature abolished slavery, making New York the first state to pass a law for the total abolition of legal slavery, ending two centuries of slavery within its borders.¹⁵

The Brundage Family

After the Hopkins family, the house was owned by four generations of Brundages: David (1768-1839), Harrison (1811-1891), Thomas P. (1849-1909) and Thomas William (1874-1950). Reportedly, David Brundage arrived in North Castle from Stanwich, Connecticut in 1816 for he purchased the farm from the heirs of Thomas Hopkins in January of that year. He married Elizabeth Wood (1772-1857) and they had eight children.

David, a prominent citizen of North Castle, resided on the property until his death. By his Will, David deeded his farm to his two younger sons, William and Harrison Brundage, as his oldest son, Allen, already possessed a large farm farther east on the Post Road, at Creemer Road. When William Brundage, a bachelor, died in 1853, Harrison Brundage purchased from his siblings William's half share of the farm. The 1853 deed notes a reservation for his brother Allen for 10 acres that included a blacksmith shop (now part of The North Castle Historical Society) at the northwest corner of the property.



FROM F. W. BEERS' 1868 MAP OF NORTH CASTLE
SHOWING BRUNDAGE PROPERTIES

¹⁵ The Abolition Act, passed by the New York State Legislature on March 31, 1817, abolished slavery effective July 4, 1827. On July 22nd, 2020 this was formally recognized as Abolition Commemoration Day.

Harrison Brundage lived on the farm his entire life and died there in 1891. He and his wife, Mary Purdy (1815-1875), had six children. At the settlement of his estate, his children conveyed the homestead farm to their brother, Thomas P. Brundage. Thomas P. Brundage married Mary Banks (1848-1892), and they had two children. Thomas William Brundage, son of Thomas P., was the last generation to live on the property. He married Lilius Buckout (1877-1967) and they had two children.¹⁶

John W. Sterling

In 1912, the house was sold to John W. Sterling, the New York attorney, millionaire, and land investor who also bought Smith's Tavern and all the former Smith and Brundage holdings nearby as part of 1,000 acres he amassed in North Castle and North Greenwich. He built stone walls on his properties--he built the walls at the beginning of Sterling Road, a road which he built through the former Brundage holdings. This would explain the lengthy north-south series of retaining walls on the 441 Bedford Road property that appear to create a "road to nowhere." As Sterling rented out a number of his Sterling Road properties, as well as Smith's Tavern, it's possible that he would have rented out this property as well.

When Sterling died in 1918, he Willed the property to Yale University¹⁷, his alma mater, and in March, 1937 the Sterling Trustees conveyed to Yale more than 1,400 acres that included the Hopkins-Brundage House and Smith's Tavern.¹⁸ From 1935 to 1942 and 1954 to 1957, R. Eugene Curry 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 plots of acreage for new homesites in what is now called "Yale Farms."

Modern Owners and Developments

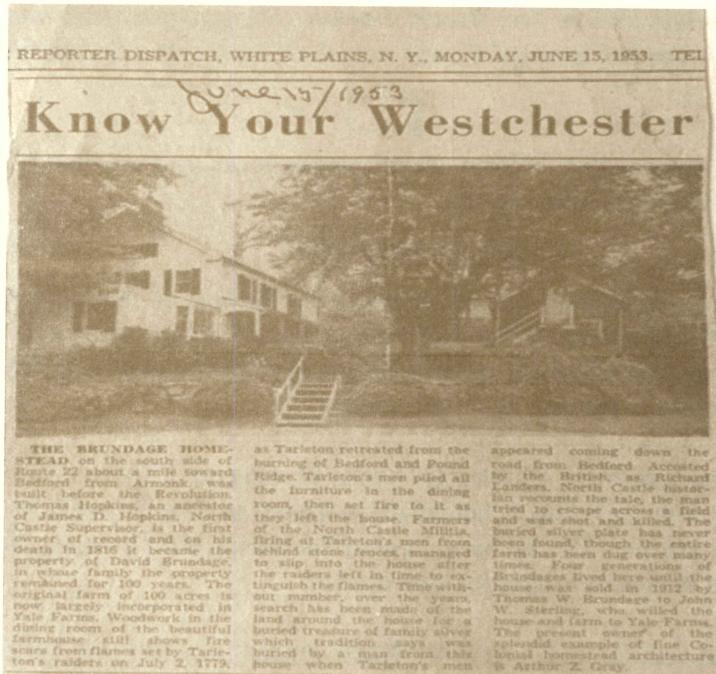
In the last 100 years, changes have continued to occur as the property has shifted hands. Following World War II, the property was sold to Arthur Gray by Sterling's estate. In 1977, Piers Curry, a local historian, bought

¹⁶ *North Castle History*, Vol. 8 (1981), pp. 17, 20.

¹⁷ The land was given to Yale University, but remained in the Sterling estate until 1935. Sales continued until 1942 when R. Eugene Curry left for service in the United States Navy.

¹⁸ "\$15,000,000 STERLING BEQUEST TO YALE." The New York Times. July 17, 1918. <https://www.nytimes.com/1918/07/17/archives/15000000-sterling-bequest-to-yale-lawyer-graduated-in-1864-leaves.html>.

the property, and added the first-floor addition, the pool and a new barn to house his automobile collection. Interestingly, when the area was dug up to lay the foundation, colonial era muskets and other items were uncovered.¹⁹ In 1998, Barbara Bailey-Smith purchased the house and completed an extensive renovation. While much has changed about the property at 441 Bedford Road, some elements have remained, including the root cellar, foundation, and some of its earlier outbuildings.



THE BRUNDAGE HOME-STEAD on the south side of Route 22 about a mile toward Bedford from Armonk, was built before the Revolution. Thomas Hopkins, an ancestor of James D. Hopkins, North Castle Supervisor, is the first owner of record and on his death the farm became the property of David Brundage, in whose family the property remained for 100 years. The original farm of 100 acres is now only 20 acres, but in Yale Farms Woodwork in the dining room of the beautiful farmhouse still shows fire scars from flames set by Tarleton's raiders on July 2, 1779.

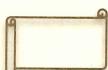
as Tarleton retreated from the burning of Bedford and Pound Ridge. Tarleton's men piled all the furniture in the dining room, then set fire to it as they left the house. Farmers of the North Castle Militia, firing at Tarleton's men from behind stone fences, managed to drive them off, but not before the raiders left in time to extinguish the flames. Time without number, over the years, search has been made of the land around the house for a buried treasure of family jewels which, tradition says, was buried by a man from this house when Tarleton's men

appeared coming down the road from Bedford. Arrested by the British, as Richard Landers, North Castle historian recounts the tale, the man tried to escape across a field and was captured. His buried silver plate has never been found, though the entire farm has been dug over many times. Four generations of Brundage lived in and on the house, was sold in 1912 by Thomas W. Brundage to John W. Sterling, who willed the house and farm to Yale Farms. The present owners are an splendid example of fine Colonial homestead architecture is Arthur Z. Gray.

The Reporter Dispatch

THE REPORTER DISPATCH, JUNE 1953

This article about the house was published during the time of Arthur Gray's ownership.



Sydney Black lives with her family in Armonk and is a student at Byram Hills High School.

¹⁹ Piers Curry, personal communication, August 13, 2020.

THE HISTORY OF MIDDLE PATENT

by Barbara Siggia

On April 6, 1959 a senior high school student at Pleasantville, New York wrote an essay. Her essay won a gold medal in the annual Westchester County history contest. At that time Barbara lived in Windmill Far, Armonk with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Siggia. Today Barbara Siggia Ebstein lives in Vero Beach, Florida. She has graciously allowed The North Castle Historical Society to include her work in this booklet.



“The surrounding hills, valleys, water courses, rocks, and woodlands were silent companions of boyhood.

-Let me rest here awhile-

“Regardless of creed, class or condition, a portion of this moment is dedicated to the unknown and unmarked graves in this cemetery, to all who belong here within the ocean’s bosom, in unknown graves, in this and foreign lands, in the dust of eternity sleep.”

Before me stands the Charles G. Banks Monument. This monument is approximately thirty feet in height and is surmounted by the angel Gabriel in Italian marble.¹ On the north base of the monument a bronze tablet is seen with the above inscription cast upon it.

The angel Gabriel looks over the Middle Patent Cemetery and the Town of Middle Patent which surround it. From his perch, Gabriel can see vast woodlands stretching in all directions. He can see the Mianus River and hear the roar of its rushing waters; he can see a few scattered dwellings, and the ruins of an age gone by. Everywhere there can be seen steps leading up the hills of Middle Patent and ending abruptly with no sign of a destination. There can also be seen old potato cellars but no edifice is near to signify to whom they belonged. Everywhere are foundations of homes that once were. Gabriel looks over this peaceful valley of the Mianus and in his gaze is the desire to relate the story of this, his town. Therefore, I will let Gabe take over, and tell you how it all began and how he came to be.

¹ Middle Patent Rural Cemetery Association, 1907-1957 (Armonk, 1957), p. 14

In 1695 the lands west of the Mehanas² River and south of Bedford were the domain of the Indian Chief Sorringoe.³ Nathaniel Turner, in 1640, was the first white man to see this section. He told all he met of the fine rich lands he had found. As a result, English speculators came with patents granted by the King of England. Three patents were granted: Middle Patent, East Patent (Pound Ridge), and West Patent (New Castle).

William III of England granted Middle Patent in 1701-2 to Colonel Caleb Heathcote and his twelve associates for the yearly rent of one pound seven shillings six pence. At the same time Colonel Heathcote purchased the land from the Indians.

Due to speculation, as mentioned above, this land was sold and resold; thus, settlement was retarded. However, gradually settlers began to push down from neighboring settlements such as Greenwich. These early settlers rented their farms.

As the settlement increased, the Indians, whose lives centered around the Mehanas River, gradually disappeared. In their wake came a thriving community. The Indian disappeared, unnoticed, and left nothing of his life or culture.

Among the early settlers were people whose names are embedded in the history of Middle Patent. These people settled Middle Patent and today, their great-great grandchildren are still living in the town. Some of these families are the Banks, the Hobbys, the Sutherlands, the Finchs, the Reynolds and the Rundles.

The community continued to grow and prosper. During this period, there were many marriages, many births, and few deaths. Samuel Banks was borne to his grave by his family and friends in 1743, the first interment in what is now the cemetery.

Once a week a minister on the Bedford Circuit would ride through and conduct services at the Middle Patent Schoolhouse.

Then by 1776, this peaceful valley community was thrown into the very heart of the Revolution. The residents of what 75 years later became

² Indian spelling of the present Mianus River

³ Richard N. Lander, interviewed by Barbara Siggia, March 19, 1959

Armonk⁴ and Middle Patent formed formal alliances with neither the British nor the revolutionists. Thus, this section acquired the name “Neutral Ground”. As a result, both sides pillaged the countryside.

Despite the lack of a formal alliance, Middle Patent was the center of a strong revolutionary movement. Almost all of Middle Patent’s citizens were Patriots. This town’s militia were well trained and belonged to the Second Regiment. During the Battle of White Plains, all the militia from the town fought outstandingly under the company leader, David Hobby, who rose to be Colonel of the regiment.

The British stationed on the surrounding countryside were constantly wary of the Middle Patent militia, as they did much to discourage the British and hurt their morale.

So great was the reputation of the Middle Patent militia, that British troops stationed in New York City were given orders to burn Bedford Village and also the town of Middle Patent to the south of the village, and to capture its revolutionary leaders.

Thus, on July 2, 1779 the British light horse cavalry left New York City under the cover of darkness and traveled unnoticed through Westchester, through North Castle, and on to Bedford Village. The inhabitants of the town were caught unprepared, and there was nothing for them to do but to watch their town and homes being burnt to the ground.⁵ Word spread quickly and the patriots learned of the plan to burn Middle Patent next. Then, the patriots of Middle Patent demonstrated their skill at counter attack. They rushed to the north end of the town and blew up the bridge connecting Bedford and Middle Patent. When the British arrived, they tried to cross the mighty Mehanas, but were forced back by its strong waters. Thus, Middle Patent was saved and the British were again discouraged.

⁴ Today’s Armonk did not exist until after 1850. A settlement called Mile Square was clustered around Thomas Wright’s Mills, later Sands’ Mills, at the present Cox Avenue-High Street area.

⁵ Forty-five years after Barbara’s essay, further research by Evelyne H. Ryan was published July 9, 2004, in the Record Review. Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton rode through Bedford Village for a raid on Pound Ridge against Col. Elisha Sheldon’s 2nd Continental Dragoons on July 2, 1779. Nine days later Bedford village houses were burned saving one where a Loyalist lived. Debate continues as to the leader of the July 11, 1779 raid – Lt. Col. Tarleton, Lt. John Graves Simcoe, Major Mansfield Bearmore, Col. James DeLancey, Col. James Holmes.

With the winning of the war, Middle Patent again grew and with it came industry and invention. The next few years were largely transitory years between a farming and an industrial era.

During the colonial days, religious services were held at the school building. As the town grew, however, religion became more and more important. Therefore, on Christmas eve 1824 the community of Middle Patent turned Methodist. That night a meeting was held at the home of Captain James Banks and the Middle Patent Methodist Episcopal Church was organized.

By the spring of 1826 the first church building was erected on land given for the purpose by Joshua Knapp. This church was named "Wesley Chapel" in honor of the Founder of Methodism.⁶ By 1833, this congregation was the largest of the eleven churches on the Bedford Circuit. Due to the growth of the congregation, a new church was needed. So, in the spring of 1847, the present church⁷ edifice was built directly south of Old Wesley Chapel.

As the town grew, so did its cemetery. Due to the intermarriages of the Banks family and their neighbors, this one-time family plot grew into a large cemetery. That the place should become a community ground is not strange as the hill was high, extremely dry, and almost in the center of the Middle Patent community.⁸ Today, in the cemetery can be seen the graves of Revolutionary heroes, doctors, ministers, and others. Since the cemetery is one of Westchester's oldest it is a point of historic interest.

Around 1840, John Banks opened a store in Middle Patent. A small community near the border of Middle Patent and Greenwich grew around Banks' store and was named Banksville. Here it was that people from Connecticut brought leather to Banks which he in turn distributed to the surrounding farmers. In the evenings, after the farming was done, these farmers would make shoes from the leather. When the shoes were sold the farmers shared in the profits. So it was that from 1840-1870 most people in Middle Patent were shoemakers.

⁶ Richard N. Lander, Anniversary Booklet Marking the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Erection of the Middle Patent Methodist Church, Armonk, 1947, p.1

⁷ The structure was very badly damaged by fire in April 1992. The roof was lost and much of the interior was burned. The structure was rebuilt and refurnished. However, it is again in need of great care from the community if the building is to survive.

⁸ Middle Patent Rural Cemetery Association, p. 5

At this time, the sewing machine came to be used widely in many fields. Joseph Silkman Hobby, a resident of this town, adapted the sewing machine to sew shoes. About 1860, the shoe industry in Middle Patent had reached its Golden Age. Middle Patent shoes were gold in Philadelphia, Boston, New York, and even in Europe.

If at this time a traveler had visited Middle Patent, he would have seen houses everywhere. Along the road many carts would pass carrying the Middle Patent shoes to far off and romantic places. Everyone's potato cellars were full of food. If he were to travel to Round House Road, he could see Dr. Griswold admiring his latest project, an eight-sided house, (called The Round House) built to aid the health of the inhabitants. Then, if he were to travel to the knoll near where La Cremailiere⁹ now stands, he would most likely be met by Henry Sension, a Middle Patent resident who invented the paper book cover. Also, if it happened to be January 1901, he would probably see the belfry of the church being equipped with a bell donated by Mrs. Odle Knapp.

Then again, if it was November 1919, he would see the erection of this, the Charles G. Banks monument. Charles G. Banks donated land to the cemetery under the condition that no man be denied a resting place because of nationality, creed, or previous condition.

Thus, it was that Gabriel was placed on his pedestal at the end of the Golden Age of Middle Patent. Thus, it was that Gabriel saw the change as it occurred. Thus, it was that Gabriel is one of the few remaining symbols of the past glory of the town.

In the early part of the twentieth century the neighborhood and surrounding countryside underwent great change. Many of the old farms, and smaller homes were incorporated into the large estates which now fill the vicinity. Paterno, a famous and wealthy builder, formed one such estate. On his property, which is now Windmill Farms, can still be seen some of the old farm houses which have been empty since the turn of the century. As a result of the change, many of the residents moved away to other localities.

⁹ The Widow Brush House, circa 1760, at the corner of Round House Road and Bedford-Banksville Road, became home to the Hobby and Brundage families, was part of the Westchester Women's Golf and Tennis Club in 1925, then the Middle Patent Golf Club. Today it is home to the famous French restaurant La Cremailiere.

In 1917 the Methodist Conference deemed it could no longer send a minister to the once flourishing town. Eventually, the bell donated by Mrs. Knapp was sent to the Castle Heights Methodist Church where it still continues to call the faithful to worship.¹⁰ So it is that now the Wesley Chapel is closed, to be opened only once a year, in the summertime, to hold commemorative services.

Doctor Griswold, Middle Patent's last doctor, was the life blood of the community, for what is a community without a doctor? Doctor Griswold dedicated his life to the health and welfare of his patients. In 1918, fate destined that Doctor Griswold would die, and that no one would come to take his place.

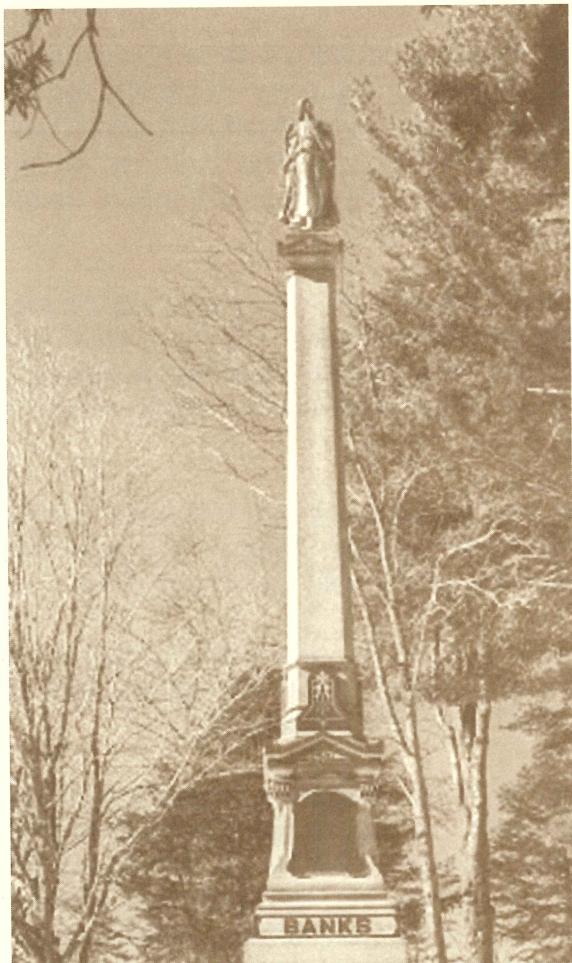
Middle Patent soon became overgrown with blackberries and trees and reverted to a primeval woodland. Thus, it is that while running through the woods you will stumble and fall into what once was a cellar.

That is also why, when you gaze across the road from the Middle Patent School, you see steps climbing the hill and ending nowhere. For here once stood the home of Colonel David Hobby.

Now Gabriel stands on his perch gazing through the woods picking out the few remaining signs of life. Far over the trees can be seen La Cremaillere, a famous French restaurant; the Farmers' Market; and the Banksville Volunteer Fire Department. Yet, the woods keep growing. Someday, the woods will erase all the traces of its past culture. Trees will grow to hide and bury the cellars; storms will destroy the decaying houses. Only Gabriel and his domain will remain intact.

Sixty-two years have passed since Barbara wrote this award-winning essay. The Farmers' Market is gone, but the Widow Brush House (La Cremaillere Restaurant) and the Banksville Independent Fire Department are not. The angel Gabriel still stands proudly on his perch watching over the peaceful valley of the Mianus and those who are resting awhile in The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery.

¹⁰ Richard N. Lander, p. 3. The Castle Heights Methodist Church in North White Plains is now the Virgin Mary & St. Demiana Coptic Orthodox Church, 665 North Broadway.



Collections of The Society

ANGEL GABRIEL
THE MIDDLE PATENT RURAL CEMETERY

NEWS FROM 1918 – THE FLU PANDEMIC

The local North Castle Sun newspaper reported in its October 18, 1918 edition, “Many people in this section are victims of the prevalent influenza. The best treatment for it is to remain in bed and keep the body warm and the mouth disinfected.”

The North White Plains School was closed indefinitely owing to the prevalence of the so-called Spanish influenza. “Numerous cases have been reported in the lower end of the township where something akin to a panic prevails.”¹ The Middle Patent School was also closed. “Owing to the increasing spread of the Spanish influenza the Middle Patent school has been closed until the epidemic has abated.”²

Justice Martin J. Keogh adjourned all trial terms at the White Plains court house on October 9 until October 21, 1918. According to the report the jurors for the Supreme and County courts were paid during the closure.³

New York State Health Department Commissioner Hermann M. Biggs reported on September 26, 1918 that “exhaustive investigations to ascertain the cause and, if possible, to effect a cure of the epidemic of influenza which is prevalent in the country have been begun by the state laboratory.” At that time there was no known cure for the disease.

The Commissioner also stated, “...strict quarantine measures, such as ordinarily would be taken against other infectious diseases, while theoretically desirable, are not practicable in view of the highly contagious character and the widespread extent of the malady and the general susceptibility to it.”⁴

According to the Centers for Disease Control, “The 1918 influenza pandemic was the most severe pandemic in recent history. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. Although there is not universal consensus regarding where the virus originated, it spread worldwide during 1918-1919. In the United States, it was first identified in military personnel in the spring of 1918.

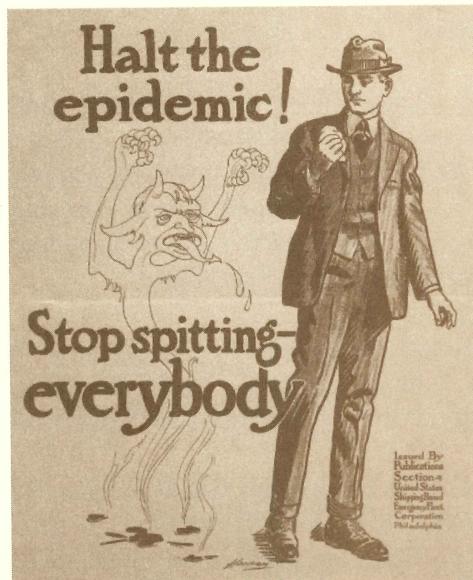
¹ *The Sun* newspaper published in Armonk, October 18, 1918.

² *Ibid.*

³ *The Sun* newspaper published in New York City, October 10, 1918.

⁴ *New York Tribune* newspaper, September 27, 1918, page 6.

It is estimated that about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States.⁵



<https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/zoom/65051>

This poster was issued by the Publications Section of the United States Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Corporation during the 1918 pandemic.

COVID-19 DEFINED IN 2020

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced on February 11, 2020 an official name for the disease first identified in Wuhan, China that was causing the 2019 coronavirus outbreak in the world - coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, its first such designation since declaring H1N1 influenza a pandemic in 2009. At the beginning of December 2021, a variant called Omicron COVID-19 was confirmed in New York.

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-pandemic-h1n1.html>

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN AND MEANING OF ARMONK?

During April 2021 The New Yorker magazine printed an article about a new book by Joshua Jelly-Schapiro titled *Names Of New York*. The article related that “Armonk” means “place of dogs.”

Neither the author Mr. Jelly-Schapiro nor anyone from The New Yorker or from Pantheon Books and or from Penguin Random House U.S. checked this new interpretation with the Town of North Castle or the Town’s Co-Historians before publication.

The book’s author responded to an April email. “As I wrote in the article that you reference, many of the etymologies for indigenous place-names I cite are only best guesses from relevant experts: the ways that Munsee and other Algonkian place-words were recorded by Dutch and English colonists, and translated into written Dutch or English, left a great deal of room for ambiguity and misconstrual. As you are also doubtless aware, many of the source-meanings for Native place-words proffered by Henry Gannett and his contemporaries, in the 19th century and since, have been challenged by modern linguists and culture-bearers. In any case, the source for the meaning of “Armonk” that I cite is Robert S. Grumet, for some years now our leading scholar on Munsee history in greater New York, and specifically his 2013 book *Manhattan to Minisink: American Indian Place Names of Greater New York and Vicinity*. In that work, which Grumet completed with the linguist Ray Whritenhour, creator of the Lenape Talking Dictionary, Grumet writes that “Writenour thinks that Armonk most closely resembles a Munsee word, *alumung*, “place of dogs.” You can find the same claim in this paper for the New York State Museum/SUNY:

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/common/nysm/files/nysmrecord-vol5-1.pdf>

I certainly don’t claim to definitively know whether this is more correct than the version holding that “Armonk” derives from a word meaning “fishing place.” But Grumet and Whritenhour have devoted decades to these questions, and I’m sure they’d be glad to discuss them further with you. Warm Regards,
Josh Jelly-Schapiro

The Board of Trustees for The North Castle Historical Society voted to refute the claim with letters to the author and his publishers. On June 7, 2021 we wrote Ms. Lisa Lucas at Pantheon Books and Ms. Madeline McIntosh at Penguin Random House U.S. and copied Mr. Jelly-Sapiro:

Previously, we wrote to author Joshua Jelly-Schapiro to offer an alternative view to the claim in his article, *How New York was Named*, recently published

in The New Yorker magazine, that Armonk means “place of dogs” in the Munsee language spoken by the people who lived in today’s North Castle. He responded that he relied on the best guesses from relevant experts and that his source for “place of dogs” is Robert S. Grumet, specifically his 2013 book Manhattan to Minisink: American Indian Place Names of Greater New York and Vicinity.

Author Robert S. Grumet (Beyond Manhattan: A Gazetteer of Delaware Indian History Reflected in Modern-Day Place Names, page 7) printed by The New York State Education Department in 2014 for The New York State Museum, Record 5 quoted in full reads, *ARMONK (Westchester County). Whritenour thinks that Armonk most closely resembles a Munsee word, *alumung, “place of dogs.” Armonk is the name of a hamlet located in upper Westchester County. Dutch colonial official Cornelius van Tienhoven penned the earliest known reference to a rivulet he identified as Armonck situated somewhere between the East River and North River (today’s Hudson) on March 4, 1650 (O’Callaghan and Fernow 1853-1887 1:366). Settlers moving to northern Westchester during the 1700s regarded it as the original name for the Byram River, a stream that rises some miles above the present-day hamlet before it veers eastward into Connecticut, where it debouches into Long Island Sound between Greenwich, Connecticut, and Portchester, New York. Today’s Village of Armonk was known as Sands Mill when the local postmaster, at the suggestion of Westchester historian Robert Bolton (1881 1:2), adopted the Delaware name of the nearby stream for the post office opened at the locale in 1851.*

Now, we write to you to request that a disclaimer be offered in those copies of author Jelly-Schapiro’s recently released Names of New York not yet sold and in related advertising, reviews, etc. and in future revisions. We deny that the word Armonk means “place of dogs” and offer that it means “good fishing place” and “fishing place.” We suggest the name is derived from the language of the people of the late 1600s – part of the loose confederation of groups living in this area.

Research of previous and current North Castle Town Historians suggests that of the several tribes traditionally reported to belong to the Wappinger Confederacy, the Siwanoy people inhabited the North Castle area. They were part of the eastern division of the great Algonkian-speaking group, once the most widely distributed linguistic family in North America. Each tribe had a sachem (chief) at the head. Their place names and the names of the sachems (chiefs) remain here today: Sachem Wampus gave his name to Wampus Pond and stream; Sachem Mayano’s name lives on in the Mianus Gorge and River; from Sachem Cokenseko comes Kensico Reservoir and the lost village of Kensico; Cohamong became Coman as in Coman Hill School, and Armonk became today’s Armonk.

A 2019 newsletter, The Native Voice, from Purchase College relates, “The Siwanoy Tribe of Purchase lived in farming villages along the Rye Brook and other streams and coastal estuaries. They fished, gathered shellfish, and hunted in the forest. Their society was matrilineal, with children belonging to their mother’s clan. Villages were governed by a council of respected elders and a leader called a sagamore (local chief) or sachem (senior chief), both of which were elected by the people. Regional associations like the Wappinger Confederacy were formed through negotiation and respect. Siwanoy culture, including their democratic structure, their kinship system, their religion, and their respect for the earth and environment, are embedded in their language.” <https://www.purchase.edu/live/news/4160-the-native-voice>.

The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States by Henry Gannett, published in 1902 by the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C., relates on page 29 “Armonk; village in Westchester County, New York. An Indian word meaning “fishing place.”

The 1906 *Proceedings of the New York State Historical Association*, Vol. 6 (1906), pages 1-235, offer a bit more than an educated guess on page 33. “Armonck has lost some of its letters. What is left of it indicates *amaug* (fishing place).

Henry Gannett wrote in 1905, page 29, Place Names in the United States, (Bulletin No. 268 Series P, Geography, Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, Charles D. Walcott, Director), “Armonk: village in Westchester County, New York. An Indian word meaning “fishing place.”

We reject the 2013 revisionist theory that Armonk means “place of dogs.” We will continue to rely on the history built of firsthand knowledge in the mid-1600s, and the tradition and events built upon for the past 370 years. We appreciate your courtesy in responding to our request that a disclaimer be offered so that future generations do not rely on the 2013 revision of the history. Sincerely, Edward Woodyard, President, The North Castle Historical Society and Sharon Tomback, Co-Historians for the Town of North Castle.

Our letters to the publishers remain unacknowledged.

REMEMBERING ORESTES J. MIHALY

We remember Orestes with great fondness and we miss him.



Orestes J. Mihaly, Sr. died on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at the age of 88. His contributions to career, church and community are numerous.

He and his beloved wife, Katarina, were married on July 16, 1961. They moved to Armonk in 1965 where they raised their three sons.

Orestes was considered an authority regarding New York securities law. He served for four years on the Board of Directors of the North American Securities Administrators Association. Orestes drafted numerous pieces of legislation, authored commentary on existing legislation and wrote articles for the New York Law Journal. He testified to New York legislative committees, special advisory committees to the Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Future Trading Commission and various Federal Congressional committees. Orestes retired from the Attorney General's office and accepted the position of First Vice President and Assistant General Counsel for Merrill Lynch in 1987.

He was the oldest of four children of the Very Reverend Joseph and Pani Gizella Steinhaus Mihaly. His devotion to family and education were legendary; he achieved top honors at all levels. He worked his way through Washington Square College, New York University in three years and was graduated Magna Cum Laude. He was graduated Cum Laude from New York University School of Law. He chaired the North Castle Board of Tax Review; was treasurer of the United Way of Northern Westchester and was a long-time supporter of the American Society for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, the Carpatho-Rusyn Society and Research Center, and the American Hungarian Foundation.

The North Castle Historical Society benefitted from his insightful leadership as treasurer 1974-1976, vice president 1977-1980 and president 1981 and 1982. He authored "The Armonk Eagle" for the 1996 issue of the *North Castle History* booklet. He was very active in the 1976 local 1976 Bicentennial celebrations, graciously volunteering both administrative leadership and manual labor.

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Sharon Tomback, Design and Mechanicals

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THE NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - CELEBRATING INCORPORATION 50 YEARS AGO

Eighteen people inspired by Kenneth R. Mains held a preliminary meeting on April 4, 1971 to talk about establishing a historical society in North Castle. Mr. and Mrs. Ronald R. Atkins, R. Eugene Curry, Charles Elson, Dave Ferris, Sally Spencer Hurwitz, Dorothy Johnson, Richard N. Lander, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Mains, Orestes Mihaly, Thomas Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Stone and Doris Finch Watson met at the home of Dorothy T. Hubbell.

Five weeks later Ronald R. Atkins, R. Eugene Curry, Dorothy T. Hubbell, Sally Spencer Hurwitz, Hon. James D. Hopkins, Richard N. Lander and Doris Finch Watson signed an application for incorporation. The Regents of the University of the State of New York granted a Provisional Charter in September 1971.

Their dedication, foresight and determination continue to guide outstanding accomplishments by the many volunteers who courageously follow their lead.

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

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THE NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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