

NORTH CASTLE HISTORY



**THE ARMONK HOTEL, about 1910
CHARLES REYNOLDS, PROPRIETOR**

THE NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 33

—

2006

THE ARMONK HOTEL
Charles Reynolds, Proprietor

The photograph on the front cover, taken about 1910, is reprinted from a postcard donated to The North Castle Historical Society by Joseph Petre.

The Armonk Hotel stood on the west side of Main Street not far beyond the driveway of today's Citibank. In addition to housing the Hotel upstairs, the building was home to the Saloon on the ground level.

Signs along the railing of the second story read "Jac. Ruppert's Extra Beer." Jacob Ruppert was a well-known New York brewer who established his business in the mid 1860s.

The 1895 Hog Guessing described on page 16 of this issue was held at the Armonk Hotel, then owned by William H. Gales. Charles Reynolds had become the proprietor by 1910 when the postcard was produced.

* * * * *

Please forward any corrections or additions to the information presented herein and/or your constructive suggestions for improving this publication to your 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.

Reprints of North Castle History may be ordered from

THE NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
440 Bedford Road
Armonk, New York 10504
914-273-4510

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The North Castle Historical Society

440 BEDFORD ROAD ARMONK, NEW YORK 10504

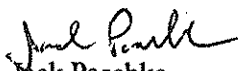
Dear Friends and Members,

This is our 33rd edition of North Castle History, we hope that the articles that follow will bring to life some of the names and places you encounter around our town.

The past year was one of great satisfaction for the Board. Our Colonial Crafts Days and annual Armonk Antiques Show continued to grow in attendance and quality, and many of you were present for the wonderful slide show on North Castle's 1976 Bicentennial Celebration presented in April at our annual meeting. The year was capped by a large bequest from the estate of Harry Fullam. Harry was a long-time member and friend of the Society. His generous bequest adds substantially to our endowment and will provide for future financial security for preserving our complex of historic buildings and providing educational programs.

However, the past year also brought us serious threats to two of North Castle's most important historic treasures. The first is the deterioration of the 1738 Elijah Miller house (Washington's Headquarters) in North White Plains. The second is the proposed destruction of the Bedford Road Historic District, the 19th century streetscape and only National Historic District in North Castle. The Society Board is monitoring a study by Westchester County Parks (owners of the Miller House), to determine the extent of the deterioration and how to improve its condition. The Bedford Road Historic District's fate is dire. The current developer plans on adding a wider road and a parking lot on the land between the last house and St Stephen's Church. This will of course destroy the continuity of the streetscape, which the National Historic designation sought to preserve. We are asking you to reach out to your elected officials to not allow these important historic treasures to be destroyed, through neglect or shortsighted development.

On behalf of your Society's Board I offer our sincere thanks for your continued support this past year, both through your contributions and your participation in our activities.


Jack Paschke
President

THE CHESTER FEMALE INSTITUTE

by Doris Finch Watson
North Castle Town Historian

With the passage of the Act for the Establishment of Common Schools by the State Legislature in 1812, all towns in the State of New York were authorized to provide public schools. By the mid-1800s there were private seminaries, institutes and special training schools exclusively for young ladies whose parents wanted their daughters to have a “proper” education, including a thorough understanding of every study, plus training in all the social graces. Two well-known schools of that era were: Miss Purdy’s Seminary for Young Ladies, located in the center of Banksville, and the other was The Chester Female Institute, located next to St. Stephen’s Church in Armonck, the original spelling for Armonk.



Collections of The North Castle Historical Society

THE CHESTER FEMALE INSTITUTE¹

Photograph taken in the 1970s

Today 40 Bedford Road is owned by Fields and Kulwin, DDS

¹ The house was constructed late in 1850 for the Seminary and Rectory for St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, then served by Dr. Robert William Harris. In the 1880s Nehemiah Acker bought the property; his son and daughter continued to live there until the 1950s when John Stromak purchased the property.

St. Stephen's Church dates to October 10, 1842, when it was founded in a log cabin². Over the next year property and funds were acquired and the Church building was consecrated on September 13, 1843. In the founding days the minister gave his services gratuitously, and by 1846 the vestry decided that he was to receive the pew rents as his salary, although it was inadequate. The young Church needed to find a way "to sustain a clergyman for this parish."³ The minister, the Rev. Dr. Robert William Harris, put forth a proposal for establishing a seminary as a way of "providing for a clergyman,"⁴ and the vestry looked on his proposal favorably. The ultimate plan was to obtain a lot and house "to be owned by the Wardens and Vestrymen, and all others interested in the measure in shares of \$100 each."⁵ Work on the new structure, which would become the parsonage/seminary, was started late in 1850.

On April 26, 1852 the vestry invited the Rev. Isaac Dyckman Vermilye to become the assistant rector of the church and to serve as principal of the seminary, which was officially called The Chester Female Institute. The following year the Rev. Dr. Harris resigned, and Rev. Vermilye became the rector of St. Stephen's and continued as head of the Institute. Shortly thereafter, the vestry approved the building of a barn on the property for the rector, as well as an "addition to the Seminary building for schoolrooms and dormitories to accommodate no less than 32 pupils."⁶ Both the Church and Institute continued to enjoy several years of progress under Rev. Vermilye's leadership.

A Descriptive Pamphlet

A 150 year-old advertising pamphlet in the collections of The North Castle Historical Society provides an interesting view of the operation and procedures of The Chester Female Institute. It states that the school is domestic in its character and that the "strictest attention will be paid to the manners, habits and religious principals of their daughters; and every

² Presently the site of the Armonk United Methodist Church, the log cabin was left over from the Whig political party when Harrison and Tyler were campaigning in 1840. This log cabin is not to be confused with the Log Cabin Restaurant of later years.

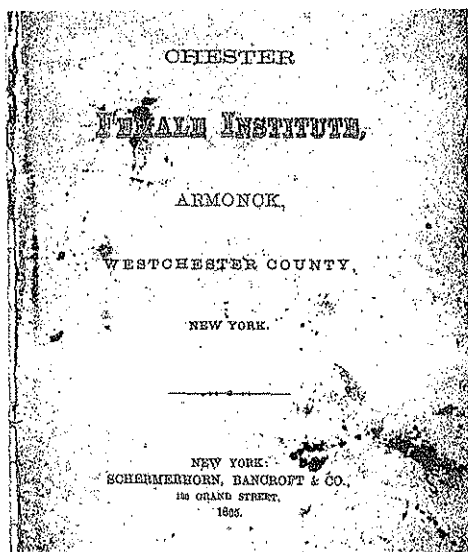
³ "A History of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church" by Lyman T. Seely, privately printed.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

care bestowed upon their health and comfort, which parental solicitude can desire."⁷



Collections of The North Castle Historical Society

A Descriptive Pamphlet Advertising Chester Female Institute in 1865

The Location

A following section of the pamphlet is captioned, "Its Location is Highly Eligible." It explains that the location is thirty-five miles from City Hall, New York and stresses the easy commute via the Harlem Railroad and stagecoach. The stagecoach was operated by Hiram Finch whose home and various businesses were located where today's main entrance to Windmill Farm stands along Route 22. In those days the cost for a stagecoach ride between the school and the station was thirty-seven and one-half cents.⁸

The pamphlet continues with a paragraph that states, "The surrounding country is remarkable for salubrity of climate and beauty of scenery. The Institution is situated five miles from the railroad; thus enjoying the

⁷ Pamphlet: "The Chester Female Institute" (Advertising Brochure).

⁸ Information from the personal collections of Doris Finch Watson.

advantage of perfect retirement, and ample grounds for exercise and recreation.”⁹

The Course of Instruction

There were four different divisions of study starting with beginning classes in Spelling, Reading, Writing, Rules and the Tables in Arithmetic, first lessons in History and Composition, then on to the next level with much more difficult subjects. They included: Grammar with Analysis of English Poetry, Rhetoric, Algebra, Chemistry, History of English Literature, Exercise in Composition, Mental and Moral Philosophy. French was taught throughout all the classes. An interesting paragraph reads, “Graduates who desire to remain at the Institute to qualify themselves as teachers, can do so upon the usual terms.”¹⁰

The Terms of the School

“For English and French courses, ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS per session, of twenty-one weeks – payable in advance.

Latin.....	additional, \$10.00 per term
Music (with use of Piano).....	additional, \$20.00 per term
Painting in Oil.....	additional, \$30.00 per term
Drawing and Painting	
in Water Colors.....	additional, \$15.00 per term
Seat in Church.....	\$ 1.50 per term

The pupils should be furnished with sheets, pillowcases, towels and napkins, silver fork and spoon, umbrella and over-shoes. Every article of clothing, &c., distinctly marked, and an inventory of the same given in charge of the Principal at the time of entrance. Application for admission to be made to the Principal.”¹¹

Change of Leadership

The Institute was a success story, but in 1864 the entire membership of St. Stephen’s Church and all those associated with the Institute were saddened by the death of Dr. Vermilye on August 24th. Following her

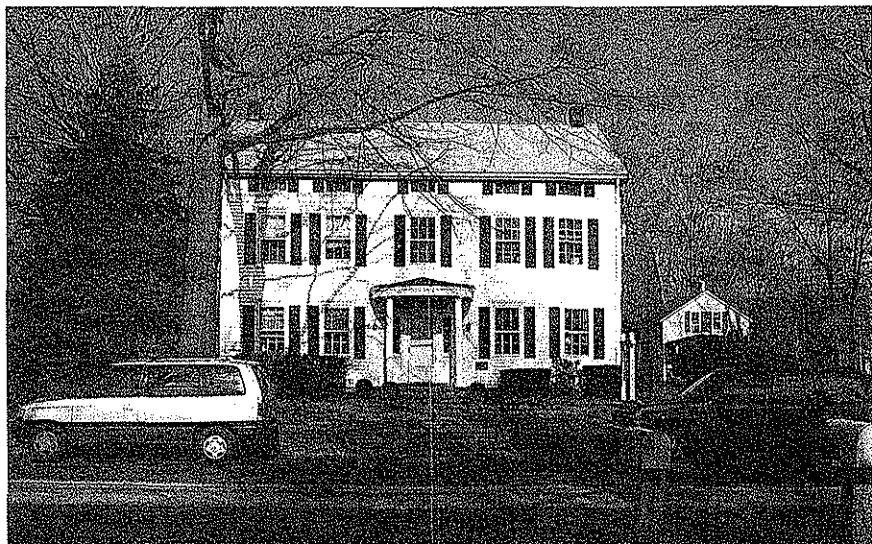
⁹ Pamphlet.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

husband's death, Mrs. Josephine W. Vermilye became Principal of The Chester Female Institute.

It is uncertain how many years Mrs. Vermilye held that position and operated the Institute, but records show that she did own land adjoining the school in 1884 when she sold it to St. Stephen's Church for additional cemetery space.



Courtesy of Stephen Tomback

THE INSTITUTE BUILDING TODAY

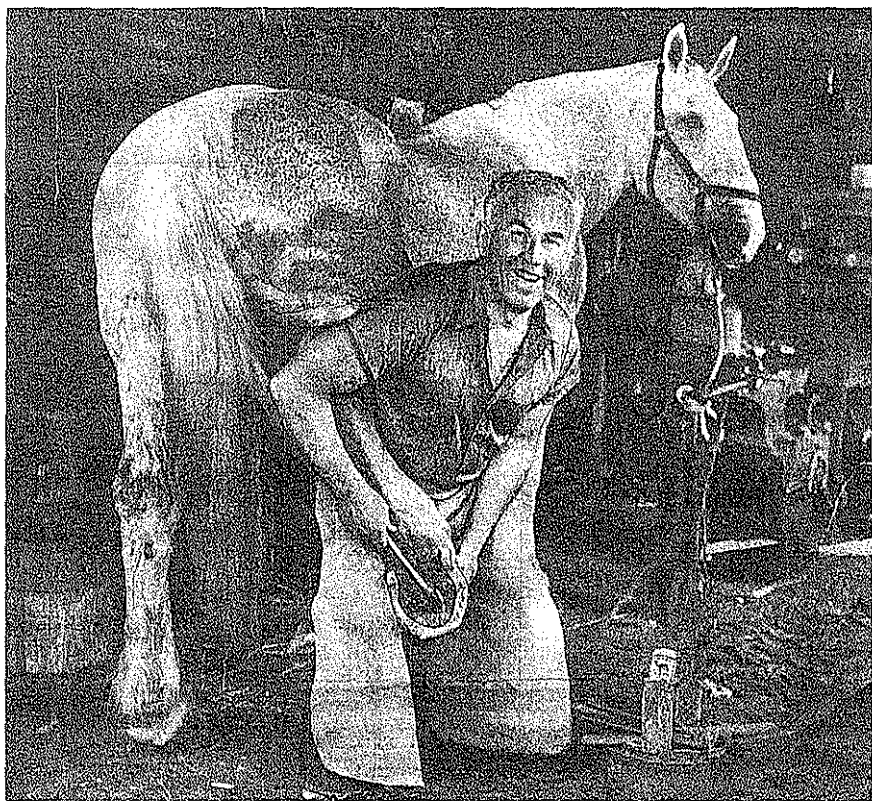
THE BEDFORD ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

The building that housed The Chester Female Institute still stands proudly on its original site. It now serves as a dental office owned by Dr. David Fields and Dr. Richard Kulwin. It is one of the mid-1800s buildings that comprise our town's only HISTORIC DISTRICT.

The District includes six homes, St. Stephen's Church and the cemetery and is listed on the Local, County, State and NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. We are most fortunate to have this Historic District. It is a treasure in our township, and we must make every effort to see that it is preserved now so that future generations can see and appreciate this landscape of the mid-1800s.

ED DEAL, ARMONK'S SPORTING BLACKSMITH

by Sharon Tomback



Courtesy of Helen Munoz and Henry McHale

Advertisement in Country Gentleman Magazine, September 1937

ED DEAL, THE BLACKSMITH, PUTS IN A VOTE FOR MILDNESS

"Ed Deal comes by blacksmithing naturally, for his dad and granddad worked at the forge and anvil before him. It's a tough, heavy job, as Ed explains: 'Working around the hot forge is heavy, tiring labor. When I feel tired, I light a Camel and enjoy a lift in energy. I want to add that Camel's mildness and rich flavor count big with me.' Turn to Camels for a refreshing lift in energy. Enjoy Camels whenever you please – they never get on the nerves. Those costlier tobaccos sure make a difference!"

Family stories relate that as early as 1926 Ed took his blacksmithing to the horses. He used a portable shop on wheels transporting his anvil, bellows, vise and tempering tub. His customers lived on large estates in the areas of Greenwich, Connecticut and upper Westchester County, New York.

Mr. Deal published an advertisement in the May 29, 1914 issue of The North Castle Sun:

EDWARD L. DEAL
The Village Forge
Expert Horse shoer—Worker In Iron
Skilled All-round Mechanic
SHOP—MAPLE AVENUE, ARMONK

ADVERTISING THE VILLAGE FORGE, MAPLE AVENUE, ARMONK

In its April 20, 1928 issue The Sun newspaper related: "Edward L. Deal, Armonk's champion wrestler¹ and expert horseshoer, was a visitor in Mount Kisco last Saturday night, and called on his many friends there. Mr. Deal has calls to shoe horses from all parts of Westchester and also Fairfield County in Connecticut. Mr. Deal maintains a forge at Golden's Bridge in order to be handy for his customers in that locality."

Writing for the 1987 issue of North Castle History, Hon. James D. Hopkins reported that Armonk was seized by a fever for wrestling in the 1920s and that it was due to "...Ed Deal, a blacksmith who had his shop on Route 22 (now Old Route 22), just east of where the Armonk Lumber Company² is today. Mr. Hopkins continued:

¹ The Greek Olympic Games of 708 B.C. included a violent form of wrestling. Not until 1888 was the first national wrestling tournament held in America in New York City. During the 1800s public interest was sparked by circuses and carnivals that sponsored wrestling matches pitting locals against the star of the show. [www.athleticscholarships.net/history-of-wrestling.htm]

² In 1987 the Armonk Lumber Company, operated by Ken and Sue French, occupied the last property on the left at the end of Bedford Road. Bedford Road (Old Route 22) was bisected when Interstate 684 was built.

"Ed Deal was a professional wrestler who performed under the name of Ed Dean throughout the metropolitan region. He held the title of light heavyweight champion at that time and he encouraged, by his example and teaching, the pursuit of wrestling as a sport by local youths. Mechanics Hall³ served as the forum for both training and contests.

I should say at once, in order to allay any misunderstanding, that wrestling then bore no resemblance to what passes for professional wrestling today. Wrestling then was a serious sport, without the posturing and mock-heroics, which characterizes it at the present time. Wrestling as then practiced was a sport of skill and stamina, close to the college and Olympic form today.

I remember attending one of the bills with my father at the Hall in the early '20's. William Husted was the promoter of the bouts, and I think the admission fee was 50 cents. Among the local contestants was Joseph Wago, Jr., who later became a professional in the 165 lb. Class; others were Harry J. Hunter, then the Superintendent of Highways, and Robert M. Hart, the Receiver of Taxes at a subsequent time. Ed Deal acted as the referee.

In a year or two the wrestling fever died out when Ed Deal was no longer champion and retired from the sport."

According to an undated,⁴ unnamed newspaper clipping in the collections of the Deal family, Ed Dean (performing name) engaged in 305 bouts over twenty years, losing one to Mike Nestor of Chicago. Ed retired in 1922 holding both the middleweight and light heavyweight championships. Other early wrestlers named in the article were Harvey Packer, Max Muller, Milo Hackenschmidt, Young Hackenschmidt, Will Bingham, Hans Gardiner, Jean Bruce, Bernhof Hansen, Soldier Leavitt, Cyclone Ross, Carl Temple, Frank Gotch, George Bothner, Fred Bealls, Farmer Burns, William Muldoon, George Grimm and Jim Londos, who was the heavyweight champion at the date of the article.

³ The name has disappeared today. The building stands on Maple Avenue across from the old Fire House, which is presently being remodeled as a Town recreation center. Cocobolo conducts a home interior design business there. The building once served as the North Castle Town Hall.

⁴ The writer indicated that Ed was 45 years old at the time, which would make the date of the article 1928.

The writer attested to Ed's strength "...He told us to get up on a chair and hold the top part of it. With one hand he lifted the chair ... we weigh 140 pounds..."

Several Armonk residents remember the Deals. As a young boy Ken Abrams worked for Ed. Ken remembers going to help with blacksmithing at the various farms. He remembers helping with the chickens and the dogs. Ed and his wife Nellie were surrogate parents to him. Barbara Wago DiGiacinto remembers "Mama" Deal was her babysitter while Barbara's mother worked. Bimmy Cox remembers Ed as a very difficult man and believes Nellie must have been a saint. Others reported that Ed would pick fights with the biggest, meanest local farm workers – just to beat them.



Courtesy of Helen Munoz and Henry McHale

**THE DEAL HOME ON OLD ROUTE 22 ACROSS FROM THE
ARMONK AIRPORT. THE MAHONEYS LIVED NEXT DOOR.**

According to Ed's only grandson, Henry McHale, the Diehl/Diel/Deal family came from the Black Forest area of Germany and sailed from Rotterdam aboard the "Pearl" in 1752. During the early to mid 1700s the English government recruited "Foreign Protestants" from Germany, Switzerland and France and granted them large acreages in Nova Scotia in an attempt to counter the French and Catholic presence.

The area they settled became known as Dutch Village (the Anglicized pronunciation of the German Deutsch).⁵ Ancestor John Diel was among those recruited.⁶

Edward Langdon Deal was a son of Richard Henry Deal and Mary Langdon Deal. He was born in Dutch Village, Halifax County, Nova Scotia in 1883. Ed had two sisters, Alicia (who first married Mr. Desmond and second Mr. DeRosa) and Nellie (who married Mr. Moore), and one brother, William.⁷

Edward Langdon Deal was a blacksmith, champion wrestler, and breeder of prize-winning Beagles and blue-ribbon poultry. He moved to Armonk from the Brockton, Massachusetts area. During the 1930s he lived on Bedford Road with his wife, Nellie Lane. Their house stood across the road from the Armonk Airport and next door to the Mahoney family – close to where the exit ramps for Interstate 684 intersect new Route 22 today. Ed had three children, Margaret (who married Mr. McHale), Louise and Richard.⁸ He was only 60 years old in 1943 when he was kicked in the leg by a horse, resulting in phlebitis that caused his death.

Prize-Winning Beagles

On June 6th, 1930, The North Castle Sun published the following article:

“Mr. Edward L. Deal, Armonk’s champion wrestler and sporting blacksmith was a big winner at the North Westchester Kennel Club Show held in the American Legion Auditorium at Mount Kisco on Monday night, the 17th. Mr. Deal showed several from his pack of Beagles that are so closely marked and of the same height it is hard for an expert to distinguish one from the other. Mr. Deal received many compliments in having such a fine collection of Beagles.

⁵ Multicultural Trails of Nova Scotia. [www.multiculturaltrails]

⁶ The 1827 Census for Halifax County, Nova Scotia, lists two Deal/Diel/Diehl households, Mrs. Catherine and John. By 1838 the count grew to four: Conrad, a farmer in Halifax City and two Johns and a Richard, all three practicing husbandry and living in the Dutch Village/Beech Hill area. [www.rootsweb.com]

⁷ Information is from family records and oral tradition. According to an obituary clipping sent by Bimmy Cox, Alicia was also called Delicia.

⁸ Son Richard E. Deal, Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class, U.S. Navy, survived the crash of the dirigible Shenandoah and was one of three survivors of the 76 aboard the dirigible Akron’s last flight.



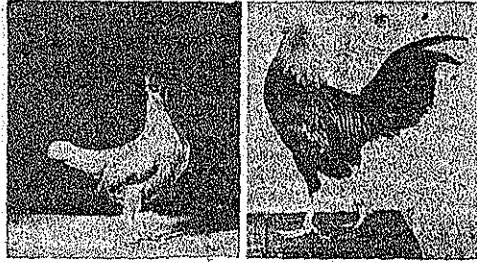
Courtesy of Helen Munoz and Henry McHale

SOME OF THE PRIZE-WINNING BEAGLES [L to R] Tom Deal (Helen's father) and Ed Deal

In the special he won 1st with Slipper, in the puppy class, 1st with Sweet Alice, 2nd with Patrick and 3rd with Pal. In the open he won 1st and 2nd. Besides having this fine pack of Beagles, Mr. Deal has a lot of Game Bantam fowls that win prizes at all the big poultry shows where he exhibits them."

Champion Poultry

The June 15, 1937 issue of Cackle and Crow, the poultry paper of the eastern United States, related that the Old English Game Bantam Club had offered more than \$200 prize money, silver trophies and ribbons. Ed's Black Red Old English Bantam Cockerel took first place, Grand Champion Game Bantam, at both the New York and Boston Shows for 1937, repeating his 1936 wins. The paper referred to Ed Deal as "Man Mountain Ed."



Courtesy of Helen Munoz and Henry McHale

A PAIR OF DEAL OLD ENGLISH POULTRY

His Old English Game Bantam poultry were known widely for 'Best in Show' and were sold all over the world. He consistently won top awards from the White Plains, Boston, Jersey State, New Haven and New York Armory poultry shows.

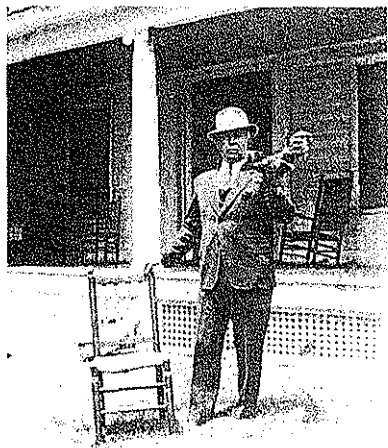
The poultry shows were large, widespread events. Ed's Bantams participated in the Texido Lawn Show, the Whitman Show, Westchester County Poultry Show.



Courtesy of Helen Munoz and Henry McHale

THE GARDEN, CHICKEN COOPS AND BLACKSMITH SHOP

Helen Munoz, a niece of Ed's, wrote that she and her brother ate many chicken feet from a pot on the wood stove in the hen house and that they are both alive to tell the story.



Both photographs Courtesy of Helen Munoz and Henry McHale

ED DEAL

Holding a Winning Bantam

NELLIE DEAL

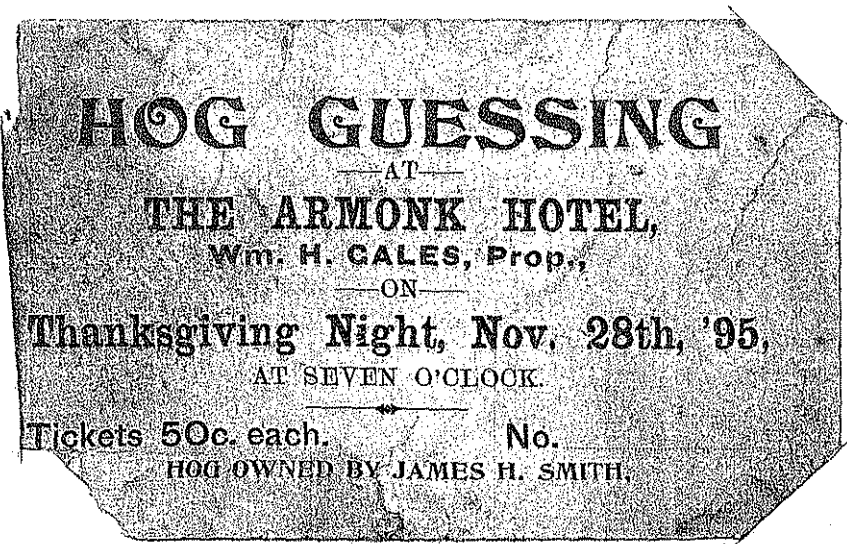
Amidst her Flowers

* * * * *

Editor's Note: For several years we have been looking for more information about Ed Deal, Armonk's champion wrestler and blacksmith. All we could find was a 1914 advertisement for his blacksmith shop and forge on Maple Avenue in Armonk, a 1930 article describing his big win at the North Westchester Kennel Club Show and the information shared by Hon. James Hopkins in the 1987 issue of North Castle History, reprinted herein.

Then, a telephone call from Helen Munoz, who lives in Palmer, Alaska brought further details. She is a niece of Ed Deal, and she is in touch with Ed's grandson, Henry McHale, who lives in Sebastian, Florida. They have kindly shared information and photographs for this article.

Appreciation goes also to Ken Abrams, Bimmy Cox and Barbara Wago DiGiacinto for sharing their memories.



**Lottery Ticket for November 28, 1895
From the Archives of The North Castle Historical Society**

The March 8, 1887 issue of the New York Times newspaper included a discussion of "hog guessing":

"Among the Winter sports in the Hudson River counties is "hog guessing". They commence fattening the hog in the Fall, and when he is fat enough to kill they take measurement of him, consider the quality of the food upon which he has been fattened, and from these measurements and the judgment on the food, mark the number of pounds he will weigh when dressed. The guessings are an occasion for a regular holiday, and they generally occur at some village or roadside inn... Guessing tickets were sold at \$1 each, and as fast as bought were put in a box and at the proper time were drawn out by a blindfolded boy."

Interestingly, hog guessings were held in violation of New York State law pertaining to lotteries. Occasionally the proprietor and the owner of the hog were arrested and charged with engaging in a lottery.

In the case of the 1895 ticket shown above, William H. Gales, proprietor of The Armonk Hotel and James H. Smith, owner of the hog, were risking arrest. The fun and money were worth it!



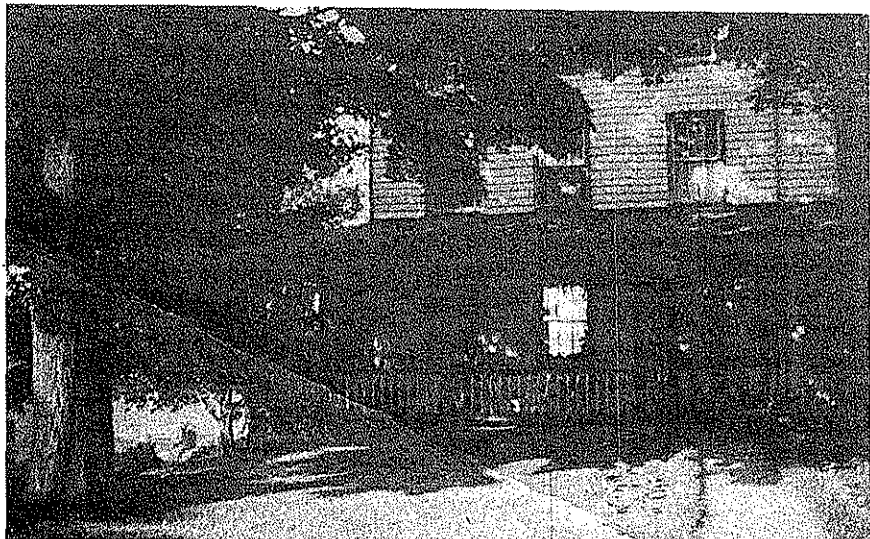
Collections of The North Castle Historical Society

GEORGE SNIFFEN AND HIS HOG



Collections of Doris Finch Watson

HOG KILLING IN BANKSVILLE, FALL 1912



Collections of Doris Finch Watson

MISS PURDY'S SEMINARY

MISS PURDY'S SEMINARY FOR YOUNG LADIES AND SILAS DERBY'S STAGECOACH

**by Doris Finch Watson
North Castle Town Historian**

By 1860 many well-to-do New York City parents were looking to send their daughters into the country for additional schooling, particularly with regard to proper training in languages, etiquette and decorum. With this in mind, an accomplished lady teacher named Ann Purdy, who came from Syracuse, arrived in the hamlet of Banksville at the close of the 1850s. Her hope was to open a new school, which would be called MISS PURDY'S SEMINARY FOR YOUNG LADIES.

A Plan of Action

Miss Purdy put her plans into motion. She undertook purchasing a building on the main street close to the general store,¹ post office and church, began advertising her school in New York City newspapers and

¹ The store was on the opposite corner and was owned by Marvin N. Finch, the author's great-grandfather.

then arranged with a local gentleman, who was a farmer and shoemaker, to run a stage route from Banksville to the Greenwich, Connecticut train station so students could be transported to and from school. Some students who lived in Greenwich commuted, but those from the city lived at the seminary.

Work Brought Success

Ann Purdy's seminary was, indeed, successful for she was not only a good teacher, she was a good businesswoman. She put an addition onto the building and made arrangements with local families to board the overflow of the students. Miss Purdy arranged a business charge account for food at the general store,² and a local woman (whose name is lost to history) was hired to handle cooking. The young ladies in the Seminary boarding school attended services in either of the two nearby churches.³ Their daily routines included the regular school classes, special training in French, training in proper posture and etiquette, music and art, and physical activities that included winter sleigh riding on Finch's hill next to her property and skating on the small pond located in back of the Seminary where the Mianus Brook was widened.

The Seminary flourished under her leadership and gained both popularity and recognition. Miss Purdy continued its successful operation for more than twenty years. The exact date of its closing is not known.

THE STAGE DRIVER

The gentleman with whom Anne Purdy contracted to operate the stage was a local man named Silas Derby. He and his wife, Susan Sewing Derby, lived on what was then called School Street (today called The Avenue). He did not own the required team and stagecoach and had to

² Finch's Store, founded 1860, sold groceries, oil lamps and kerosene, dry goods, sundry supplies, boots, candy and all items carried in a country general store.

³ One church was diagonally across the main street and was the Banksville Baptist Church, founded in 1852; the other was The Middle Patent Methodist Church, originally founded in 1825, with services held then in their newer church built in 1847. It was almost two miles from the school.

rent them. Thus, Miss Purdy agreed to lend him \$140 to purchase his own rig.⁴

To all People to whom these Presents shall come—Greeting:
Know Ye, That I, Silas F. Derby of Greenwich in
Fairfield County in Connecticut
for the consideration of One hundred and forty dollars,
received to my full satisfaction of Anna M. Purdy of said Greenwich
do give, grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the said Anna M. Purdy or her certain
trust of land lying in said Greenwich with the other
buildings thereon, in ye entirety three quarter of an
acre more or less. Bounded North by land of Hiram
Ferris - East by highway - South by land of George
Thatcher and West by land of Amanda Miller
and Francis Mills
*Quit Claim for the final Release of this Mortgage deed
Recorded in Book I.I. Page 793 - dated August 10th 1865 -
G. Close Town Clerk*

Collections of Doris Finch Watson

WARRANTY DEED FROM SILAS F. DERBY TO ANNA M. PURDY Greenwich, Fairfield County, Connecticut – June 26, 1862

“To all People to whom these Presents shall come – Greeting: Know Ye, That I, Silas F. Derby of Greenwich in Fairfield County in Connecticut for the consideration of one hundred and forty dollars received to my full satisfaction of Anna M. Purdy of said Greenwich do give, grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the said Anna M. Purdy a certain tract of land lying in said Greenwich with the buildings thereon in ye entirety three quarter of an acre more or less. Bounded North by land of Hiram Ferris, West by highway, South by land of George Thatcher and West by land of Amanda Miller and Francis Mills.

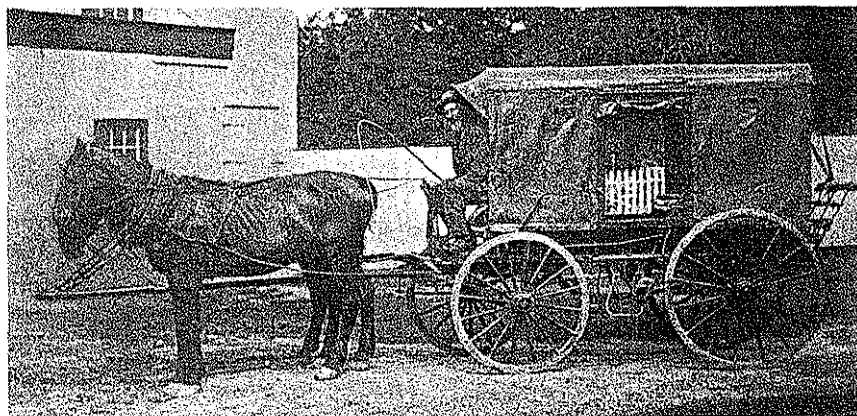
Encircled note reads: Quit Claim for the final Release of this Mortgage deed Recorded in Book I.I. Page 793 – dated August 10th 1865 – G. Close, Town Clerk.

⁴ The author copied the legal papers over thirty years ago in the Greenwich Town Hall (Warranty Deeds, 1862, page 317).

Silas Derby's stagecoach became his life's work. He continued to run daily trips to town into his old age, almost until the time of his death. Tales passed down through the family say he sat around the potbellied stove at Finch's Store talking with Mr. Finch and his neighbors.

A gentleman named Frederick A. Hubbard, the author of the famous book, Other Days in Greenwich, once interviewed Silas Derby and recorded these words:

"Along in the late fifties Miss Ann Purdy came from Syracuse to Banksville... At that time there was no regular communication with the village (Greenwich, Connecticut) and she induced me to start the Banksville and Greenwich stage line. She lent me one hundred dollars, and I made my first trip June 23, 1861 ... I left Banksville at six o'clock, caught the Romer (a steamboat) at seven and left my railroad passengers for the 7:21 train. This gave me all day in the village, as I did not leave on the return trip until the arrival of the steamer at about six o'clock.... But business isn't what it once was and sometimes on the up trip the hills seem steeper and longer than they once did and the horses seem to pull with a greater effort. Then it is that I realize that the whole rig from the driver down is getting old and that the best of life lies far, far behind."⁵



Collections of Doris Finch Watson

SILAS F. DERBY AND HIS RIG

⁵ Other Days in Greenwich by Frederick A. Hubbard, 1913, is autographed and is No. 821 of the first edition of 1,000. It was gifted to the author many years ago.

Silas Derby was well known in Greenwich and Banksville, and he and his rig were easily recognized. His call of "...h'yup!" to his team throughout the years was legendary. When at last he hung up the reins, the people of Banksville and those many who had enjoyed watching him in Greenwich sorely missed him.

He died on June 24, 1900; Susan, his wife, lived until 1904, and they are both at rest in their small plot in The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery.⁶



Courtesy of Stephen Tomback

MISS PURDY'S SEMINARY BUILDING, 2006

⁶ Dates taken from the records of The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery.

NORTH CASTLE SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 NORTH WHITE PLAINS

**By Doris Finch Watson
North Castle Town Historian**

Fire District No. 1

Its humble beginnings date back to 1912 – almost 95 years ago. Today, the firefighters of North Castle South Fire District No. 1 continue to show the same dedication and willingness to serve, emulating what the founders set as their goal so long ago.

The Early Years

The best fire protection throughout all of North Castle used to be the bucket brigade. That changed in the North White Plains section of Town when a group of railroad workers and other caring men held meetings to discuss forming a volunteer fire company. The idea became a reality when the North White Plains fire company was formed on July 12, 1912. The members began raising funds by hosting dinners and other activities, all focused on finding a piece of property for a future firehouse.¹

When an ideal piece of property came on the market, Mr. Elden M. Pietschker purchased it and agreed to hold it in escrow. In 1914 the property was deeded to the North White Plains Fire Co. No. 1, Inc.² It was located about 100 feet north of Virginia Road to the northerly side of North Broadway. (The present firehouse stands on that same site today.)

Progress

In 1914 volunteers completed the first firehouse, a wooden structure, and were looking for their first piece of apparatus. In 1915 they purchased a second hand, horse-drawn chemical hose wagon that had belonged to the Pleasantville Fire Department. In 1920 a used motorized Brockway Chemical hose wagon from LaFrance was the second apparatus purchased.³

¹ "A Salute to North Castle Firefighters" Exhibit Program, The North Castle Historical Society, 1990.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.



Collections of The North Castle Historical Society

FIRST MOTORIZED APPARATUS, about 1920

BROCKWAY CHEMICAL HOSE WAGON – HAND-OPERATED SIREN

[L-R] George Butler, Harold Cook, Ernest Winker, Albert Cook, Robert Adams, Frank Ruland, Robert Nightingale, A. Losee and Victor Bodman

In the beginning a large steel rim, originally from a locomotive wheel, was used to sound the fire alarms by beating it with a sledgehammer. By 1916 the railroad agreed to take on that job, using different blasts for certain areas. The clock that controlled the signals was given to the Fire Company along with the letter of agreement from the railroad.⁴ Both were carefully preserved, and they were part of the display hosted by The North Castle Historical Society in 1990 to honor firefighters.

In 1928 the new fire district was formed, and the name officially became North Castle South Fire District No. 1.⁵

More Research

Researching the Fire Company's long history, it was discovered that one of North Castle's best known and loved men of yesteryear, the late

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Telephone interview on February 11, 2007, with Fire Commissioner John Soloman.

Joseph Miller⁶, was very active in the Company as shown in the following quote:

"He found time to serve as a member of the North White Plains Fire Company and was active in its ranks for fifty-five years. He held every line office and every executive office in the Company.⁷ Mr. Miller personifies the type of people who donate their time and talent to keep an organization ongoing and effective."

Sharing Space

Back in 1914 the North White Plains Fire Company generously agreed to allow the North Castle Board of Assessors to use the firehouse to show the completed assessment roll to the residents. The date and time were posted as: "August 19th at 10 o'clock until 4 o'clock pm of that day." No record of attendance is shown.⁸

The Fire Company's willingness to share space continued through the years as demonstrated in an article written in 1963 by the late Esther G. Hall:

"In 1960 the North White Plains Fire Department gave a small rent-free space in the firehouse to use as a library branch. The project was so successful that the Town Board supplied funds to convert a larger space in the firehouse into adequate and attractive headquarters."⁹

Honored with Exhibit

In 1990 The North Castle Historical Society presented an exhibit (in historic Smith's Tavern) that was designed as a tribute to the three fire companies in North Castle. It was called "A Salute to North Castle

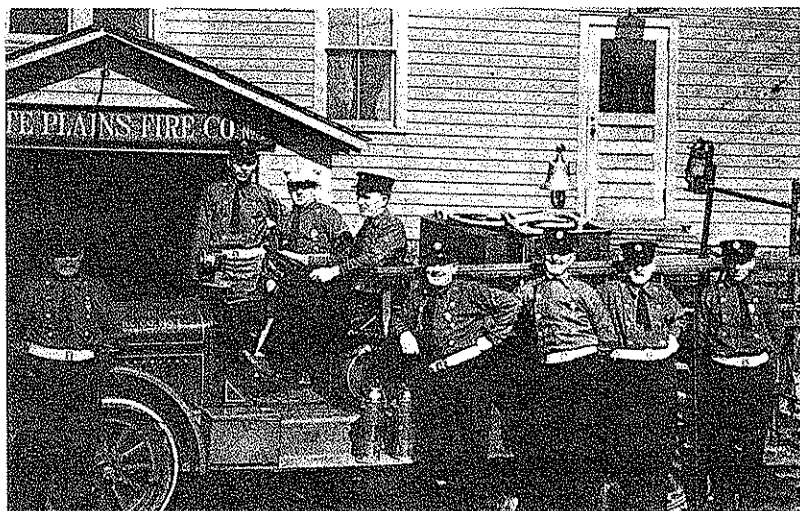
⁶ Joseph T. Miller served as North Castle Town Clerk for over a third of a century and left impeccable records. He died in 1975. (From the author's memory.)

⁷ "In Memoriam" by Richard N. Lander, North Castle History, published by The North Castle Historical Society, 1976, page 4.

⁸ "From the Past..." , North Castle History, published by The North Castle Historical Society, 1995, page 33.

⁹ "Paths that Upward Lead" by Esther G. Hall, North Castle History, published by The North Castle Historical Society, 1988, page 25.

Firefighters.” Each company supplied articles such as pictures, fire helmets, badges, various gear, trophies, fire hose sections, old extinguishers, breathing masks, old programs, assorted nozzles, an old rubber coat, etc.¹⁰ All were arranged in an attractive setting. Firemen from North Castle’s three companies and neighboring firemen came to the opening of the display. At that time (1990) the three fire companies had given a total of 179 years of service, with 78 of those years belonging to North White Plains. It was quite an accomplishment!



Collections of The North Castle Historical Society

ORIGINAL WOODEN FIREHOUSE IN BACKGROUND, Circa 1920

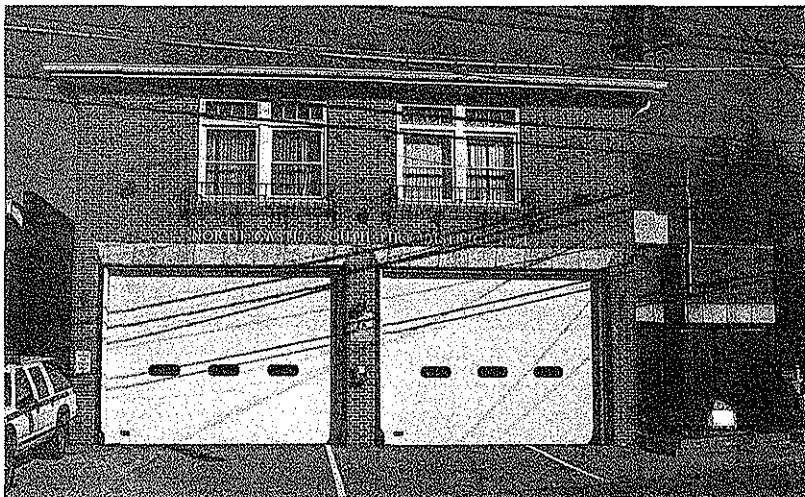
[L-R] George Butler, Harold Cook, Ernest Winker, Albert Cook, Robert Adams, Frank Ruland, Robert Nightingale, A. Losee and Victor Bodman

Since the fire company’s founding in 1912, the firefighters of North White Plains have served the area proudly. Just as with other fire departments, this one faces ever-increasing homes and businesses to protect plus new stringent regulations and State requirements, all placing greater demands upon the company.

The fire company is still located on the land purchased back in 1914 where the first firehouse was built. The current building opened a small emergency addition in 2006. Fire Chief Matthew Manfredi noted, “We

¹⁰ Telephone Interview, January 29, 2007 with Walter F. Watson, Fire Chief, The Banksville Independent Fire Department.

are still working to improve the building.” The membership is quite constant with forty-five to fifty members. Starting in 1996 they are answering EMS calls with the Valhalla Ambulance.¹¹



Donation to The Society by Stephen Tomback

NORTH CASTLE SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1, 2006

Apparatus

Today the Company owns two engines, a rescue truck and its first ladder truck, purchased in 2001. A new Chief's car will be in service during 2007.¹²

A Look to the Future

In a few short years the North White Plains Fire Co. No. 1, Inc. will be celebrating their 100th anniversary. The courage of those early founders in forming North Castle's first fire company set an example that both Armonk and Banksville followed. It is impossible to measure the value of all the years of service the three companies have provided. The Town of North Castle is fortunate to have such dedicated firefighters. May their great contributions continue into the future.

¹¹ Telephone Interview, January 31, 2007, with Matthew Manfredi, Fire Chief of North White Plains.

¹² Ibid.

MEMORIES OF HARRY E. FULLAM

by Doris Finch Watson
North Castle Town Historian

What better words could someone hear, when asking about a deceased person, than this statement:

"He was trustworthy, honest, loyal and sincere ..." These were the words that Agnes MacDonald spoke as she quoted her late husband's words whenever he spoke about Harry Fullam.¹ Then she added, "My husband said that Harry was one of the nicest people he had ever met." Ralph MacDonald was Harry's employer for more than thirty years in the Ralph L. MacDonald Company, Surveyors.



Collections of Anne Schaller

HARRY E. FULLAM

¹ Agnes MacDonald, a long-time Armonk resident, heard these phrases repeatedly from her husband, Ralph, whose company was on Bedford Road in Armonk.

An Active Life

Thanks to an Armonk Rotary notebook, prepared by the late Roger Case,² glimpses into Harry's life are revealed. Harry was involved in survey work as a young man from 1925 until 1942, and at that time he joined Phillips Electric Company, where he remained until 1955. That same year he began his long association with the Ralph MacDonald office in Armonk, where he remained until his retirement in 1988.



Collections of Julia Mendez

HARRY AND MARY FULLAM – AFTER HORSEBACK RIDING

With His Mary

It was a surprise to the author to learn that Harry met Mary when they were horseback riding,³ an activity they continued to enjoy after their marriage. Mary was a registered nurse and had a long career, which she enjoyed thoroughly. She was an excellent cook and made their home a warm and hospitable place.

² The notebook about Rotary happenings was compiled by the late Roger Case and is now in the hands of Barbara Rigney, Armonk Rotary Secretary.

³ From an interview with Anne Schaller, long-time friend to Mary and Harry.

The couple each had their special interests. Harry enjoyed amateur radio operation and photography, while Mary created beautiful quilts and enjoyed hours of knitting. She graciously loaned several of her quilts to The North Castle Historical Society for display in one of their rotating exhibits at historic Smith's Tavern.⁴

Included in their circle of friends were the late Harold Schaller and his wife, Anne. She recalled that it was Harry who got Harold to join Rotary. Mrs. Schaller spoke warmly of the couple and recalled their dinners together at each other's homes. She spoke of the home Harry and Mary built high on Cliff Place⁵ and their enjoyment in it.



Collections of Anne Schaller

THREE PALS – HARRY FULLAM, HAROLD SCHALLER AND FRANCIS (BUFFY) O'NEILL

Harry's Community Involvement

Through the years Harry was a staunch supporter of the Armonk Rotary Club. Rotarian John H. Troy, II related a story about his first meeting with Harry. It was years ago, and at the time Harry was lending a helping hand to a friend from Mount Kisco Rotary helping to sell oranges as a fund-raiser. Harry forced John to buy some of those oranges, and they became friends for life.

⁴ From the author's recollections.

⁵ 3 Cliff Place, Armonk, New York.

In 1964 Harry became a Charter Member of the Armonk Rotary Club. He served many positions, including Secretary-Treasurer 1969-1970; President 1986-1987; and in 1981 he was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow, the highest honor in Rotary.⁶

Harry was again honored when an Oak tree was planted in his name in the Community Park in Armonk (the former IBM Recreation Facility). It was dedicated with an accompanying plaque⁷ as a salute for Harry's contributions to the Armonk Rotary Club and to mark his birthday. The undated plaque reads: "This tree planted in Honor of Harry E. Fullam on his 90th Birthday by Armonk Rotary Club".

Other community work included a variety of activities such as serving as Area Captain for the United Way of Northern Westchester Fund Campaign. In 1993, at the author's request, Harry became "Treasurer for QMH Fundraising" to save, move and restore the 1798 Quaker Meeting House, now located behind historic Smith's Tavern on the Educational Complex of the Society. His four years of service in that capacity involved endless details, all carried out to perfection.⁸



Collections of Anne Schaller

HARRY AND MARY IN LATER YEARS

To reach 97 years of age is a remarkable feat. Through all, Harry met and faced joys and, of course, sorrows. The greatest heartbreak was his

⁶ From the notebook of Roger Case.

⁷ Location and wording verified by Superintendent of North Castle Recreation and Parks Department, Bruce Barnard.

⁸ From records of The North Castle Historical Society and recollections of the author.

loss of Mary in the spring of 2004. When Harry's activities became limited, his interest in Rotary remained. He visited the Rotary "Chili Cook-off" in a wheelchair, and attended the 2004 Rotary Awards Dinner honoring his long-time friend, Roger Case.⁹

Happy Memories

In the spring of 2005, shortly before Harry's death, the Armonk Rotary Club visited him and held their meeting in his home. The evening included a catered dinner, and according to Rotary Secretary, Barbara Rigney, "Harry was so happy ... just like a kid in a candy shop." Also speaking of that same evening Rotarian Howard Arden recalled that a special cake was presented to Harry, and he "enjoyed it and was very delighted with the whole evening."

OUR FRIEND, HARRY ALL DRESSED UP!



Collections of Anne Schaller

Harry died on June 14, 2005, and now he and Mary lie together in The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery in Banksville.¹⁰

He endowed The North Castle Historical Society with a gracious and generous gift, and The Society will make certain that his name will live on and be carried forward in the years to come as a special "Thank You to this gentle man who cared."

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO SUPPLIED INFORMATION THAT MADE THIS TRIBUTE POSSIBLE:

Barbara Rigney	Anne Schaller	Agnes MacDonald
John H. Troy, II	Howard Arden	Susan and Bruce Glickman
Julia Mendez	Doris Stanley	Bruce Barnard

⁹ From the Roger Case Dinner Program, Armonk Rotary Club, 2004.

¹⁰ Burial Records of The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery, Banksville, New York.

J. Stuart Brown (2)
Martha Baratta
Jodi Pember Burns
Judy Early
Vincent Fiore (6)
Eileen Herbert
Muriel Kammerer

Becky Kittredge
Joan Krantz (4)
Barbara Massi (6)
Mary Milo
Robby Morris
Dorothy O'Keefe
Jack Paschke (1)

Thea Pitassy (3)
Constance Quarrie
Ree Schultz (6)
Sharon Tomback (4, 5)
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Design and Mechanicals, Sharon Tomback

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