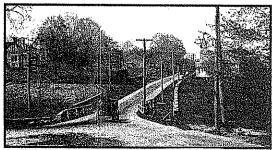
# North Castle History



STATE ROAD, KENSICO



MAIN STREET, ARMONK



MAIN STREET, BANKSVILLE

A publication of The North Castle Historical Society Volume 25 -- 1998



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To members of The North Castle Historical Society.

Thank you for your membership! This issue of North Castle History is our 25th annual publication. It is our gift to you for your 1998 membership.

As I reflect on the previous 24 issues, I am proudly reminded of the educated and dedicated volunteers who have contributed their ideas. written articles and joined in the production of these issues. We are most fortunate to have so many talented and giving friends who are willing to share their knowledge of the history of our Town. To make these issues even more useful, we are engaged in a massive word-by-word indexing project. These indexes will be available for purchase at our Museum Shop when you visit Sunday afternoons.

Another project (and hope!) is that every resident of North Castle should visit the educational complex; next, get to know the work we are doing and, then, join with us in our purpose to bequeath a love of history to our neighbors and our children.

We look forward to showing our complex to many new visitors during 1999! Won't you help by bringing at least one new guest this year?

Give someone the gift of a membership in The Society. Encourage someone to learn more about the history of our Town! And, don't forget to renew your 1999 membership!

Sincerely,

President

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# JAMES GUION OF NORTH CASTLE, 1777-1861 (Brother of Mary "Polly" Guion Brown)

# By George Pouder

Thirty-one years ago my wife Aurelia and I bought our ancient house on the Bedford-Banksville Road in Middle Patent and subsequently learned from Gene Curry<sup>1</sup> that it had been James and Tabitha Lyon Guion's<sup>2</sup> home from 1804 until James's death in 1861.

Coincidentally, Guions had owned our New Rochelle property; Clarence Guion, M.D. had been Aurelia's childhood physician; and I had been acquainted with Molly Guion Smythe, the celebrated portrait painter. The Guions descended from Louis Guion, Ecoyer, a Huguenot, who escaped religious persecution in La Rochelle, France in 1687 "leaving the pots boiling on the stove". James was his great, great grandson.

James and Tabitha Guion purchased their (our) home in 1804 from Samuel and Charity Lyon Banks<sup>3</sup>, for whom, according to their descendants, the house had been built as a wedding present in 1778.<sup>4</sup>

James Guion served the town in many responsible capacities: Assessor, Commissioner of Highways, Commissioner of Schools, Justice of the Peace and New York state assemblyman between 1819 and 1821. He held court for a number of years in his house.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> James Guion, age 73, and his wife "Tabbithy", age 65, appear in the North Castle 1850 Census.

R. Eugene Curry, See North Castle History, 1994, Volume 21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Samuel Banks married Charity Lyon 9 April 1778. He was a son of John and Deborah Newman Banks. He served as an Ensign in the Westchester County Militia during the Revolution. Charity was the daughter of Israel and Abigail Husted Lyon. The Lyon farm was north of the Banks's home on the road to Bedford and is presently the home of Regis Gignoux.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See *Smith-Banks Progeny* by Everett Reynolds Close, 1975, privately printed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> James Guion, Gilbert Purdy and James Hopkins were appointed the first Commissioners of Common Schools at a Special Town Meeting on April 22, 1813.



strengthened the door and each had upside down script which read "James plaster and cow hairs spread over oak accordion lathe. Two cleats of The North Castle Historical Society.] The door in the attic was hung on Banks-Guion House as it appeared in 1976. [Photograph from the collections leather straps and nestled between pegged beams and enclosed by walls of Guion, Bedford".

Tabitha and James's sister Mary were often spinning, weaving and quilting at our fireplace. In 1804 James was at death's door for two months with "the pleurisy". Mary came to help Tabitha, keeping allnight vigils at James's bedside and helping with Tabitha and James's two-year-old daughter, Sarah.

The doctor (they made house calls then) was a handsome young bachelor, new to town. Mary, ever alert to a potential beau, demonstrated her domestic skills by mending his torn glove and frayed sleeve while he tended his patient. The patient recovered, but the flirtation expired. In the end Dr. Minor married another Bedford belle.<sup>6</sup>

James and Tabitha and four of their daughters taken in the bloom of their lives are buried in St. Matthew's Cemetery in Bedford. Nearby are his sister Mary, her husband Samuel Brown and their daughter Hetty. James's brother Alvah, an Episcopal priest, rests near the church where he had often preached. James's parents, Jonathan and Phoebe Lyon Guion, are also buried in St. Matthew's Cemetery.

James sold St. Matthew's forty acres in 1803 for the church building and cemetery (at a price of \$1,100). James was also one of the founders of The Middle Patent Church at the time of its formation in 1826.8

# Mary's Diary

During the 1960's I heard that the New York Historical Society had the 1800-1852 diary of Mary Guion Brown. I hoped that it would disclose more about this illustrious family, and particularly their connection with our home. As I had hoped, Mary's brother James and our house figure often in the diary. Before her marriage Mary lived in her father's "mansion house" on East Middle Patent Road near Hickory Kingdom Road. Her father's property backed onto brother James's (and would later be joined with James's) and she

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The bride was Betsy Lounsbury.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Between 1802 and 1824 James and Tabitha had 8 daughters and 3 sons.

<sup>8</sup> See North Castle History, 1990, Volume 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Jonathan Guion purchased the property for 350 lbs. from Israel Lockwood in 1772 "in the 14<sup>th</sup> year of his Majesty's rainge".

described her frequent walks through the fields and woods along the brook to visit her brother

I perused Mary's original diary, spattered with ink spots and candle wax drippings, in the New York Historical Society's Reading Room. Hoping to study it at leisure, I bought a microfilm of the entire 387-page document and donated it in 1997 to The North Castle Historical Society. Barbara Massi, who is a Trustee of our Society and researches old diaries<sup>10</sup>, soon discovered that Louise Seaman Bechtel and Eloise Luquer<sup>11</sup> transcribed the diary in the 1940's. Miss Luquer was given the diary by Margaret Jackson, who had found it covered with the dust of seventy years in the attic of the Brown house<sup>12</sup> in East Middle Patent. Katherine Barrett Kelly, Bedford Town Historian, now retired, made the transcript available in typed form<sup>13</sup>. Dr. Martha Tomhave Blauvelt, Professor of History at St. John's University in Minnesota is currently using the transcript as a source for her studies. The diary will be an invaluable aid to research in many fields.

Mary's diary records information about early customs, mores, courting, transportation, medicine, entertainment, occupations, and landmarks. It even includes an account of Mary's children being knocked unconscious by lightning (they recovered!). It reveals women's roles, attitudes and restrictions in the men's world of the early Republic and makes fascinating reading.

It depicts more of sickness, accidents, and deaths than these people deserved. Among the tragic and sad events that Mary described were the deaths from "consumption" of four of James and Tabitha's daughters, three in their twenties and one at age thirty-one. Two deaths occurred in our house at Christmastime in 1829. The pathos of those events literally leaps out of the page for the reader.

<sup>11</sup> Daughter of the Rev. Lea Luquer, Rector of St. Matthew's Church, Bedford, 1866 to 1919.

<sup>10</sup> See North Castle History, 1975, Volume 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The Brown home was on Mianus River Road at the present intersection with East Middle Patent Road. The house stands today with extensive additions and alterations made through the years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Barbara Massi, and Aurelia and George Pouder have found some differences between the transcript and the microfilm print of the diary.

People sometimes ask us if we have any ghosts in our house. If we do, they must be content to have us here and, indeed, we feel we know them quite well! Copies of tintypes of James and Tabitha hang in our library.

Our gratitude to the Bedford Historical Society and to The North Castle Historical Society for funding the printing of a copy of the diary from the microfilm. Our admiration to Barbara Massi for her unstinting dedication to comparing the typed manuscript with the copy from the microfilm. Aurelia and I are happy to have played a small part in this endeavor and know that in the process we have gained more than we have given. Hopefully, Barbara's book of excerpts from Mary's diary will be available during 1999, almost 200 years after the North Castle teenager started writing it.

# pprox pprox pprox When a dollar was a dollar



Mr. Orrin Fursted

# EDWARD J. CONNOR

ARMONK GARAGE
SUPPLIES : GOODYEAR TIRES : GASOLINE

GREASING : STORAGE : WELDING CYLINDER REGRINDING .. GENERAL OVERHAULING CHEVROLET PARTS

ARMONK, N. Y., July



195 ?

Chindren Carter

A 1937 invoice for car repair from collections donated to The Historical Society by Orrin Husted. The handwritten notation reads "Paid. E.J. Connor. Thank You."

# ARMONK'S PUTTY FACTORY The Everlastic Products Corporation

### By George Waterbury

"We do not make all the good putty, but all the putty we make is good." I

The Armonk putty story begins in 1932 when Henry Kinkel built his putty factory in Armonk at 28 Whippoorwill Road and moved all the equipment from his Port Chester factory to this new site. The Everlastic Products Corporation continued operating in Armonk until the late 1940's.

Henry Kinkel was brought up on his father's 300-acre farm in Bedford, New York. His father, who arrived there in 1872, discovered feldspar and quartz on his property which he developed into a quarry and mine, known as the Bedford Mining Company. His business thrived in the village from 1900 until 1936 when the mine was leased to a New Jersey company. The pure white feldspar he discovered was sold to a variety of customers, such as Lenox China and Corning Glass and J. T. Robertson Soap Company for use in their "Bon Ami" cleaner. In 1990 the Kinkel family placed a monument in Bedford to mark the spot where Bedford Mining Company was situated.

Why did Henry Kinkel decide to move his putty factory to Armonk? The answer is a mystery since the nearest railroad location was in Valhalla, making it more difficult to bring in such supplies as whiting, fifty gallon drums of linseed oil and various other supplies for mixing putty as well as packaging the product. Some days, the factory would produce in excess of six tons of putty, requiring great quantities of supplies and packaging.

Mrs. Kinkel<sup>2</sup> operated the shop where cans were assembled. Sheets, approximately four feet square, were obtained from a lithograph factory in Brooklyn, from which one- and five-pound cans were produced. The sheets were imprinted with the name of the business, "Everlastic Products Corporation", as well as private labels for different chain hardware stores who wanted their own names on the cans (for example,

Slogan of the Everlastic Products Corporation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Henry Kinkel married Beatrice Kollar in 1921. They had two daughters, Phyllis and Beatrice.

Masback, Inc. and Goldberg in Tarrytown). The larger size cans, such as 12 ½, 65, 100, 275, 550 and 1,000 pounds were purchased already assembled

All of the putty sold by Everlastic was produced and packaged at the Whippoorwill factory. The putty machine would produce 1,000 pounds at a time in approximately one-half hour. The 65- and 100-pound cans could be filled directly at the vat, but the larger sizes would be placed on the loading platform and smaller cans would be filled and dumped into the larger containers and then placed on the delivery truck. The smaller size cans under 12 ½ pounds were filled by hand from a large tub which was drawn from the vat. Labels were affixed to the cans, which were then sealed and packed in boxes for delivery.

There were three types of putty sold by Everlastic: commercial, white lead and steel sash. Putty made for wood sash was made with whiting and linseed oil. The steel sash putty was made with whiting and a very special technical formula of mixed oils, which at that time was the best on the market. Commercial putty was packaged in larger size drums and sold to hardware stores and lumber mills manufacturing doors and windows.

The delivery area encompassed the State of Connecticut up to Hartford, Westchester County, New York, all of the five boroughs of New York City and all of the State of New Jersey. Once a week a trip was made to Philadelphia where a large complex of apartments was being built. They would use six to ten tons of putty a week. Once a month a trip was made to the Washington, D.C. Naval Yard to fulfill orders for a large government contract. Everlastic had two trucks for delivery purposes: a 1935 Ford and a 1941 Dodge.

Just before Christmas in 1943 a fire broke out on the second floor of the building above the factory. In spite of the extensive damage, the factory continued to operate – especially since government contract deadlines had to be met.<sup>3</sup>

Upon Mr. Kinkel's death in 1944, Mrs. Kinkel sold the business to Harold Weiner of White Plains who operated the factory until his death a few years later.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> World War II was being fought at this time.

Thereafter, Mrs. Kinkel had the building remodeled into two individual apartments. In the later 1940's the building and land were sold to a Mr. Boesel who no longer owns the property.

Two daughters were born to Henry and Beatrice Kinkel, Phyllis Phillips who lives in White Plains, New York and Beatrice Redfield who lives in Princeton, New Jersey. Mrs. Kinkel passed away in 1970.

Everlastic Products Corporation employed Harold Wood as Manager and Wally Briggs, Hank Johnson, Eleanor Kittridge, Pam Liamo, Mrs. O'Brien, Miss Reason, Mr. Segal, Abe Waterbury, George Waterbury and Ed Wedge in various jobs. Armonk's putty factory has faded, but the memory endures.

#### Author's Note

After graduating from high school in 1940, I worked for the Kinkels for almost two years as a delivery driver until I went into the Naval Air Corps in early 1942. Working for them was a great experience. It was hard work with very long days. Sometimes I returned from deliveries as late at 10:00p.m., but Mrs. Kinkel was always there to meet me to see that everything was okay. I was invited to the Kinkel home for special occasions and holidays (I especially remember Thanksgiving!) and received other preferential treatment. They treated me like a son, which, being 18 years old, I appreciated so much. I have never felt this employer-employee relationship again. I wish to thank Phyllis Kinkel Phillips for her help with special details and dates in the preparation of this article.

George Waterbury is the son of Abram and Blanche Ferris Waterbury. brothers and sisters are Abram, Jr. (deceased), Nellie, George, William, Milton, Elmer and twins Edith and Eva (deceased). George is married to Claudine Coll and they live in Thornwood. He is descended from the Ferris, Sniffen and Sarles families on his mother's side and the Husted, Hunter and Brundage families on his father's side. George's grandfather, Albert H. Waterbury, farmed a large holding of 188 acres on the west side of Whippoorwill Road near the intersection with present-day Half Mile Road in Armonk. The North Castle Historical Society is proud to own a beautiful model of the farm as it appeared years ago. Albert's sister, Belle Waterbury, created the model when she was 80 years of age. In 1916 Albert sold the farm and moved to Danbury, Connecticut, where he died in 1937. Shortly after he moved, the farmhouse burned to the ground and the outbuildings fell into decay. Albert's father, Abraham Waterbury, farmed on present-day Route 120 just south of the intersection with Route 22. The property later became part of Cornelius Agnew's Wenga Farm holdings and is presently owned by IBM Corporation. Until recently the farmhouse was used by the Byram Hills School District for offices.]

# THE EARLY AMERICAN DISPLAY HERB GARDEN AT SMITH'S TAVERN

By Carolyn Salon and Constance Quarrie

"That's parsley!" "Isn't that chives?" "We use lots of that in our salads and sauces." "Ugh!" "What's that smell? It almost smells like furniture polish." "Lemon Balm", is the tour guide's response.

During the spring and fall garden tours, Master Gardeners Mary DiBernardo, Carolyn Salon, and Vivian Utko as well as other volunteers, meander from plant to plant. The visitor is handed a leaf or two for smelling or tasting. The tour guide smiles happily when eyes light up as an herb is recognized.





Constance Quarrie (top) and Carolyn Salon (bottom) discuss herbs with children touring at Smith's Tavern [Photographs courtesy of Constance Quarrie]

An early American herb garden was not merely ornamental; it was necessary. Herbs were used in a variety of ways, such as flavoring and preserving foods and teas; helping to cure various illnesses, repel insects, dve cloth, perfume the bath, clothing and household linens, freshen the air in the house, condition the hair, and stimulate appetite and digestion. They were made into teas, tonics, poultices, and ointments. Single herbs that could be used alone were called simples.









When Chinese tea was too costly or unavailable, native American herbs were used to brew herbal teas. Beebalm was brewed as an everyday tea. Catnip was brewed as a tea for cold, fevers and headaches. Chamomile tea calmed the stomach and conditioned the hair. Comfrey was brewed to treat intestinal upsets, lung ailments and hemorrhage; costmary for colds and stomachaches; horehound for coughs and colds; hyssop for rheumatism; lemon balm for headache, fever and asthma.

Lavender, parsley and rosemary were used to tame bad breath. Pennyroyal was used to discourage fleas and mosquitoes. Lavender and sweet woodruff were used to freshen the air and clothing as well as linens. Lavender and southernwood were used to repel moths. Rue was strewn on the floor to repel fleas and flies; southernwood to repel ants. Tansy leaves were quilted in a cap and worn for headaches. Tansy flowers yielded a yellow to orange dye for fabrics. Lemon balm oil was used both as furniture polish and, strangely enough, as a perfume.

Many herbal remedies worked because their oils could be absorbed through the skin or ingested from the teas. The oils contained antibacterial properties. Poultices and plasters applied to the feet worked especially well.

# History of the Display Herb Garden at Smith's Tavern

In 1982, the Green Acres Garden Club of Armonk, New York voted to sponsor an early American display herb garden at Smith's Tavern in memory of Pauline ("Pi") Murrah Benz. At the Dedication of the Herb Garden, the Garden Club presented The Society with a framed photograph and moving tribute written by Margery M. Curry honoring Pi. The plaque hangs inside Smith's Tavern.

Helen Whitman, a landscape architect specializing in early American herb gardens, provided the Garden Club with a plan. She chose the area below the terrace behind Smith's Tavern since it affords easy access from the house. Although the area is much smaller than a working garden for an eighteenth century family, it shows a representative sample of some of the more common herbs, which would have been grown.

In May, 1983, the plot was dug and edged in fieldstones gathered from the property by Guy Papale. Plants were purchased by the Garden Club and planted by Maggie Limburg and Carolyn Salon. Lois Chabris provided a rich mulch for the plants. Decorative tubs for the terrace were donated by the Garden Club and were later replaced by Boris Utko. In ensuing years, two nearby trees died and were taken down and the stairs in the center of the garden were removed, making some rearrangement necessary so that the light requirement of each plant would be met.

Many volunteers, including Barbara Curry, Mary DiBernardo, Pat Johnson, Connie Quarrie, Carolyn Salon, and Vivian Utko have helped maintain the garden.

#### The Green Acres Garden Club

North Castle residents and visitors benefit from the beautification accomplishments of the Green Acres Garden Club.

Club members sponsor plantings of street trees and display plantings all over Town as well as at the Armonk library, both inside and outside. They host a delightful semi-annual Flower Show at the library as well as an annual Plant Sale at H.C. Crittenden School. The Club funded the design for the Wampus Brook Park master plan.

The Green Acres Garden Club creates and donates Christmas wreaths each year which beautifully decorate the North Castle Library as well as the four Colonial buildings at The Society's educational complex.

### DOROTHY WOODWARD TWYEFFORT HUBBELL September 29, 1908 – February 23, 1998

A Tribute from her Friends and Family

"...I want you to know that I do not want any eulogies, of course..." wrote Dorothy in 1974, "... and please no long faces... just recall the great times we had together."



Dot Hubbell was one of the founding members and one of the seven incorporators of The North Castle Historical Society. In later years, Dot lived in Vermont, but remained an active member of The Society.

Dorothy was born in Paris, France. After graduation from Vassar, she married William Bradford Hubbell in 1931in Paris. In 1932 they moved from New York City to a Bedford farmhouse they named River Hills. They had three children, John, Bill and Anne. William Bradford Hubbell died on November 4, 1943, while serving in the Army Air Corps in Alaska. Afterwards, Dot and the children valiantly "carried on" in Bedford.

Anne's daughter, Susanna French, created a beautiful booklet of memories of her grandmother in which we find no finer tribute than remembrances from family and friends. Dorothy was "a woman of elegant strength.... a perfect example of growing old gracefully..., the first to visit new neighbors.... the initial volunteer.... a fine human being, a remarkable single mother..., widely respected and loved by many.... lively and interesting.... bright and courageous.... a gallant woman..."

Dot lived a life of inspiration and example. We celebrate her life.

<sup>2</sup> Anne Hubbell French, a member of The Society, is a mainstay of the Mianus River Gorge Preserve.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ronald R. Atkins, R. Eugene Curry, Sally Spencer Hurwitz, Hon. James D. Hopkins, Richard N. Lander and Doris Finch Watson were the other six incorporators.

#### MEMORIES OF GINNA CLAPP

### by Cheryl Carter

In the late 1800s a friend of my grandmother's wrote this book dedication to her: "Keepsakes are hostages of friendship, constancy and love." In the late 1900s, my keepsakes are memories of my very dear friend and fellow-Trustee of The North Castle Historical Society Virginia "Ginna" Fee Clapp. The constancy with which I think of her proves the absolute truth of this saying.

Ginna and I went back a long way – thirty years to be exact. I was a television producer in New York City and we were filming at the Production House where Ginna worked. We became reacquainted through The Society many years later. I discovered she had lived in Montreal, my hometown, and often we laughed over many similar memories.

Friend means Ginna! Not too long ago Ruth Kuhn said, "I was thinking about our friend today": Dorrie Watson says, "I still hear our friend's laugh on my porch"; and I just miss my friend terribly all the time. If Ginna liked you, you were her friend for life. She had dozens of friends from all walks of life. She would do anything for a friend, as we would for her, but somehow her heart seems the larger.

The constant giving of herself and her endless bursts of energy exhausted even the halest of us. No task was too monumental and everything turned out to be an enjoyable experience with her at the helm. From the conception of display ideas for Smith's Tavern, the planning, setting up and gala openings, good humor prevailed – yes, even fun. The "Grand Openings" of our exhibits took on an elegant flair.

Anything for a party and a good time! Happiness was Ginna's middle name. Our veterinarian Dr. Jeff Israel still talks about her "raucous laugh" and here "outlandish sense of humor".

Everything she touched turned into a thing of beauty – the Tavern ready for our "high" silver tea, the Quaker Meeting House readied for a memorial service or anything else where her fantastic decorative talent could take wing.

Even when her illness was in the desperate stages, her wonderful sense of humor kept us all in an upbeat mode. Two weeks before her death she was at her most beautiful and gracious.

Ginna loved being involved in The Society and could not understand why everybody in Town did not have the same enthusiasm for our complex. She was a dedicated Trustee and her total commitment wavered only slightly with her illness. How fortunate The Society was to have had her presence for even so short a time. It occurs to me that in a setting where treasured keepsakes are collected, appreciated and cherished, she is one of the most precious.

"Well, doll, I gotta Rock and Roll", Ginna always said and so must I. But there is time for one last tribute -- "To our lovely Ginna, Thank you; we miss you!" ... your friend, Cheryl.

[Ginna was elected a Trustee of The Society in 1993. She chaired the Annual Tag Sale for two years and the Exhibits Committee for four years. Ginna was born in 1942 and died in 1998. She is survived by her two children, Juliette and Jay, and by her mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Brenholdt of Stratford, Connecticut. Ginna was predeceased by her husband, John.]



Ginna Clapp and Cheryl Carter at a Historical Society Party.
[Photograph courtesy of Cheryl Carter.]

#### IN MEMORY OF JAMES E. ROBISON

### by Doris Finch Watson

James E. Robison (Jim to many of us) lived a long, active life, and he treasured all of it – right through to the end, February 21, 1998.

Jim's vigorous life was multifaceted: handling successful business careers<sup>1</sup>; treasuring a long marriage with his beloved wife, Jan; enjoying visits with daughter Molly Davies and three grandchildren<sup>2</sup>; playing golf and skiing; flying his airplane<sup>3</sup>; traveling around the world; volunteering and assisting philanthropic endeavors<sup>4</sup>, and enjoying his many friends and associates

Charles Osgood, the noted radio/televison personality, once did a segment about Jim on his morning radio show. Osgood reflected on a gathering he had attended in New York City for employees and associates of a company called "Indian Head", headed by Jim. Osgood was so impressed by Jim's 1953 company policy statement displayed among the company's memorabilia, that he quoted it on the air. It is shared with you now, thanks to the kindness of Mrs. Doris D. Stanley, Jim's long-time personal assistant:

"There is one basic policy to which there will never be an exception made by anyone, anywhere, in any activity owned and operated by Indian Head. That policy is as follows. Play it straight, whether in contact with the public, stockholders, customers, suppliers, employees, or any other individuals or groups. The only right way to deal with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jim was Executive Vice Presdient of Textron from 1950 until 1953 when he became Chief Executive Officer of Indian Head. He retired from Indian Head in 1972. From 1975 until 1980 he was Chairman of Narragansett Capital Corporation and of Nucon Holdings. Inc. from 1981 until 1984. He was President of Lonsdale Enterprises when he died.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> His three grandchildren are Annabel Lee, James Davies and April Davies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> He served in the Army Air Corps from 1941 until 1946, retiring as a Major and Commanding Officer of the 75<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron. He served 63 combat missions in the Pacific and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Jim served as Chief of the Textile Branch of the Office of Price Stabilization in the Korean War period; on the Trade Negotiations Public Advisory Committee during the Kennedy years and on the President's Task Force on Urban Unemployment Opportunity during Johnson's administration.

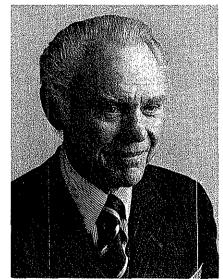
people is forthrightly and honestly. If any mistakes are made – admit them and correct them. Our commitments will be honored and we have the right to expect the same performance from those people with whom we do business. This is fundamental. We will not welsh, weasel, chisel or cheat. We will not be party to any untruths, half truths or unfair distortions. Life is too short. It is perfectly possible to make a decent living without any compromise with integrity."

The quotation above says a lot about Jim Robison.

Jim served The North Castle Historical Society for many years as a member of the Finance Committee. He attended many Society functions, always with words of appreciation and encouragement. The old Tap Room of historic Smith's Tavern was restored and re-dedicated on November 23, 1986, thanks to Mr. Robison's gift in memory of his wife, Jan. A plaque commemorating the gift and honoring her is displayed in the room. Jan and Jim were life members of The Society.

We were fortunate to have had Jim Robison in our midst. He will be missed

Jim was born November 22. 1915 in Alfred, North Dakota and died February 21, 1998 in New York City. He is buried in Trenton. Missouri where his wife, Jan, is also buried. He is survived by his sister, Myrtle (Roby) Raymond of West Orange, Connecticut, his daughter Molly of New York City, and three grandchildren, Annabel, James and April.



James E. Robison, 1915-1998.
[Photograph courtesy of Doris D. Stanley.]

#### THE WINDMILL CLUB TURNS FIFTY ... AND LOOKS BACK

# by Peggy Rao

The Windmill Club, centerpiece of Windmill Farm, the walled neighborhood east of Route 22, traces its beginnings to 1948. That was the year Carlo Paterno, having inherited his father's country estate, Windmill Manor, decided to turn it into a residential community. He foresaw that the land, graced with several picturesque windmills, dramatic rock formations and four artificial lakes, would be a drawing card for home buyers. His offering brochure called it "a new and fascinating design for country living...for moderate income families...gracious, abundant but not too expensive."

In the early 1930s, Paterno's father, Dr. Charles V. Paterno¹, had created the interconnected lakes by damming streams and erecting at least six windmills to draw water from newly drilled wells. According to Armonk resident Joseph Petre², Dr. Paterno hoped to sell water to the Town's residents. When that plan failed, Paterno asked Edmund Petre to build a boathouse for the family on one of the lakes and cover the steel-shafted windmills with wood. Petre designed each windmill differently with distinctive trims and cornices, completing the work in the late 1930s.

On March 18, 1848, Carlo Paterno drew the new homeowners together, incorporating them under the name The Windmill Club and he designated the boathouse, The Clubhouse. His brochure explained that his company would "manage the Club until two-thirds of the building plots have been sold. At that time, the incorporators will turn over to the members the administration of the Club, together with the authority to approve all plans, enforce rules and regulations and control the abatement of nuisances."

The original Clubhouse was approximately half its present size and had a large stone fireplace dividing the current dining area. A boat slip was tucked under what is now the Teen Room. Over the years, the Club also added the kitchen, expanded decking, tennis and basketball courts, swimming lanes, a diving platform and a sand beach. The Paterno polo field, tucked between Upland Lane and Windmill Lake, has been preserved for pick-up baseball and football games for all ages.

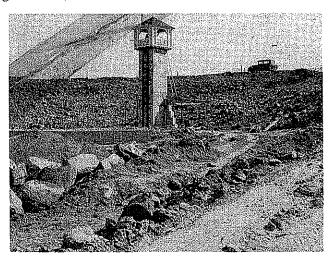
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See North Castle History, Volume 21, 1994.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Son of the estate's builder, Edmund Petre.

For half a century, the rustic Clubhouse has brought residents together for all kinds of social activities: parties, movies, concerts, competitions, even weddings. In the late fifties, the Club was also a bottle club with the legendary bartender, Quarino "Queenie" Cervoni, presiding over summer weekends for thirty years, until his retirement in 1983.

Olivia G. Seeler's informal history reports that by 1954 some 60 homes had been built. That year Windmill Farm was sold to developers Edward Tobin and Mac Welson, who continued the home and road building for five more years. By 1959 the houses were selling for \$30,000 to \$46,500. (No record has been found of the original 1948 prices.) Seeler completed construction in the 1960s. The current total, according to Vannier Real Estate, is 367 homes on 750 acres, with the average house selling today for \$500,000.

In 1998 the Windmill Club numbers 313 families. Since 1955, its volunteer leaders have kept it vital and inviting. Successive Boards of Governors have continued to tenaciously preserve the 60-year-old Clubhouse and windmills, beautify its 80 acres, maintain clean and safe swimming facilities, and draw the children to have fun in the sun.



The excavation for "Robison's Lake" in Windmill Farm circa 1932. [Photograph courtesy of Vincent Scarpa, who grew up on the estate. His father was Superintendent of Works for Dr. Paterno.]

The "gazebo" (now gone) rested at water level atop the drain tower which remains in the lake. James Robison owned the property from 1953 until his death in 1998.

# THE BANKSVILLE COMMUNITY HOUSE More than 60 Years of Service

by Garnette S. Teass

R. Eugene Curry and Julian Haway founded The Banksville Community House in 1937 to provide "a home away from home" for children of Banksville and the surrounding area.

The first officers after incorporation in December, 1937, were Mr. Walter S. Gifford, Mrs. Dorothy E. Rosenstiel, Mr. Herbert Bertrand, Mr. Stanley V. Fuller and Mr. C. H. Gowdy. The Hon. James D. Hopkins was the first legal advisor and he continued to donate endless hours over many years.

In 1939 Mr. Herbert Bertrand purchased and donated the old Jensen Farm of four acres. Financial assistance over the years has been received from the Greenwich Community Chest and Council, Inc. (which is now the Greenwich United Way); the Dorothy E. and Lewis Rosensteil Foundation; Walter L. Weil; Eagen J. Zygmont, Sr.; Julian Haway; Mr. and Mrs. R. Eugene Curry; Walter S. Gifford; Mr. and Mrs. William J. Watson; the Town of North Castle; the North Castle Players; membership dues; gifts; special events; program income; and from many local residents.

As the first salaried director, A. Maxwell Glasser, established various programs for the local young people and then extended programs to include adult courses in English, history, citizenship training and legal matters. His programs were especially helpful to those new immigrants who came from other countries to work on the nearby private estates.

Baseball was played – carefully – in the late Mr. Charles Chabanuk's cow pasture and movies were shown at Finch's Country Store. During World War II the Community House served as a neighborhood Red Cross workroom. Other programs added over the years included Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, swimming lessons, play groups, dance classes, cooking lessons, nature walks, day trips, ceramics, pot luck suppers, mothers' groups, health programs and parties.

From 1964 until 1991 William J. and Doris Finch Watson jointly led the Community House operations. After twenty-seven years of enthusiastic service, Bill and Dorrie decided it was time to retire. Several important changes occurred during their years of leadership. Local control was returned to the Banksville Community House Board together with assurance that the Community Chest would continue its support. Mr. Zygmont donated four acres of conservation land. Many new programs were added. Thousands of dollars were raised to purchase property and operate programs. Upon his retirement, Mr. Watson was named President Emeritus of the Banksville Community House, Inc.

Not only does the Banksville Community House serve as a center for local activities, but it is also a living memorial to many who have departed this life.

What a great legacy these people have left in the hearts of the people of their community.



The Banksville Community House

# REAL ESTATE VALUED AT QUARTER MILLION CHANGES HANDS

### Article from <u>The North Castle Sun</u>, December 15, 1916

"The tendency the past three or more years to buy land in the interior of Westchester County has been going on apace and gaining a momentum, especially in the town of North Castle.

Among the earliest buyers was John W. Sterling, who today owns many acres of the finest land both as to the situation and fertility to be found anywhere within one hundred miles of the metropolis. Early last Fall George H. Warner, a New York manufacturer, bought the Albert Waterbury farm and is now building a fine house thereon. About the same time Samuel L. Fuller acquired from Cornelius Donovan a large tract of land overlooking the Rye Lake arm of the Kensico reservoir and is now completing a beautiful residence on its highest eminence to be known as Knob Hill. Three-quarters of a mile away Carl Everett Whitney, a prominent lawyer and a member of the firm of Bigelow & Wise, of New York, purchased twenty-two acres from the estate of the late William Field and will establish his country home on a prominence that will afford not only a sweeping view of Long Island Sound to the south, southeast, but of a large area of the Kensico reservoir to the west and southwest.

Early in November Pliny Fiske, of Rye, made the fortunate purchase of the George Yerkes farm. It is at the head of Whippoorwill street and from the point where he has chosen to ultimately erect a fine residence he will be able to not only view Kensico reservoir for seven miles without an obstruction but in addition will sweep two ridges that bind in two valleys that present a panorama not equaled by anything nearer New York than the celebrated Blue Ridge of Virginia.

Ten days ago E. H. Malone, of New York, bought the Watson J. Brundage farm on the Bedford Road. It stands at the headwaters of the Mianus River and less than a mile from Byram Lake. It is a choice tract and contains many acres of orchard under fine cultivation and in full bearing.

At the head of Byram Lake and on the highest land in the neighborhood and not far removed from Cross Roads Farm<sup>1</sup>, the home of the late Richard Harding Davis, author and playwright, the splendid farm of Frank Sands was sold within ten days to J. N. Thorne, formerly of the Solomon Mead farm in Round Hill. Mr. Thorne plans to build an all-year-round residence. He will have as a nearby neighbor, William C. Squire, 3d, late of Greenwich. He is also a warm friend of William H. Carrington and Benjamin Fairchild.

Within the past few days the sightly farm of the late George Griffen, from which may be had one of the choicest views in Westchester County, has been acquired by George M. Sidenberg, who will add it to his holdings thus acquiring a very large frontage along the Mount Kisco state highway, south of Wampus Lake now one of the reservoirs in the New York system.

It is estimated that these transfers in this town alone will exceed \$250,000 and other equally significant sales are under contemplation.

In elevation and beauty North Castle stands without a rival, and scores of men have just awakened to its possibilities as an all-the-year-round place of residence."

[Land speculation in North Castle seems to have continued "apace" into the 1990s.]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In 1917 the Davis property was purchased by Dr. Rufus Cole, father of Historical Society members Mrs. Betsy Botzow and Mrs. Camie Smidt. Dr. Cole called his home "Cohomong Wood". Much of the property he amassed has been developed with several large homes. Mrs. Smidt remembers a large apple orchard and riding horses on trails through the woods.

# SOME HOMES AND ESTATES IN NORTH CASTLE as Listed in <u>The North Castle Sun</u> Newspaper during 1914 and 1925

Forest View Farm Oak Knoll Watson J. Brundage William Brundage, Jr. Wm. Brundage, Jr.  Oregon Road Farm Meadow Farm S. R. Close Middle Patent Farm Conyers Farm Summit View Farm Honey Ridge Watson J. Brundage Wm. Brundage, Jr.  Kenneth C. Cole E. C. Convers Raymond H. Cox	Name of Home	<u>1914</u>	<u>1925</u>
Southgate (King Street) Bonnie View Farm Thomas G. Armstrong  C. R. Agnew Thos. G. Armstong  Louis N. Beaird  Stephen H. Briggs Stephen H. Briggs Stephen H. Briggs The Four Corners Lonesome Pine Forest View Farm Oak Knoll Watson J. Brundage Oak Knoll William Brundage, Jr.  Oregon Road Farm Meadow Farm Meadow Farm Meadow Farm Conyers Farm Summit View Farm J. Hobart Cox Honey Ridge  C. R. Agnew Thos. G. Armstong  Louis N. Beaird  Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs What Stephen H. Briggs  Stephen H. Briggs What Sumdage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage Chest	Woodbine	Edwin F. Acker	Edwin F. Acker
Bonnie View Farm  On Top Farm Sunnybrook Farm Sunny Brooke The Four Corners Lonesome Pine Forest View Farm Oak Knoll  Oregon Road Farm Meadow Farm Meadow Farm Conyers Farm Summit View Farm Honas G. Armstrong Louis N. Beaird Stephen H. Briggs Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brund	Wenga Farm	C. A. Agnew (sic)	Cornelius R. Agnew
On Top Farm Sunnybrook Farm Sunny Brooke The Four Corners Lonesome Pine Forest View Farm Oak Knoll Oregon Road Farm Meadow Farm Meadow Farm Middle Patent Farm Conyers Farm Summit View Farm Honey Ridge  Thomas G. Armstrong Louis N. Beaird Stephen H. Briggs Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester	Southgate (King Street)	<del>-</del>	C. R. Agnew
Sunnybrook Farm Sunny Brooke The Four Corners Lonesome Pine Forest View Farm Oak Knoll  Oregon Road Farm Meadow Farm Middle Patent Farm Conyers Farm Summit View Farm Josephen H. Briggs Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage Chester Brundage, Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage Chester Brundage Chester Brundage Nill Harry M. Brundage Chester		Thomas G. Armstrong	Thos. G. Armstong
Sunny Brooke The Four Corners Lonesome Pine Forest View Farm Oak Knoll William Brundage, Jr.  Oregon Road Farm Meadow Farm Meadow Farm Conyers Farm Summit View Farm Honey Ridge  Stephen H. Briggs Harry M. Brundage Chester Brundage, St. Wm. Brundage, Jr.  Joseph Clark Kenneth C. Cole E. C. Convers Raymond H. Cox	On Top Farm		Louis N. Beaird
The Four Corners Lonesome Pine Forest View Farm Oak Knoll William Brundage, Jr. Wm. Brundage, Jr.  Oregon Road Farm Meadow Farm Meadow Farm Conyers Farm Summit View Farm Honey Ridge Watson J. Brundage Wm. Brundage, Jr. Wm. Brundage, Jr. Wm. Brundage, Jr. Wm. Brundage, Jr.  Kenneth C. Cole E. C. Convers Raymond H. Cox	Sunnybrook Farm	Stephen H. Briggs	
The Four Corners Lonesome Pine Forest View Farm Oak Knoll Watson J. Brundage William Brundage, Jr. Wm. Brundage, Jr.  Oregon Road Farm Meadow Farm Meadow Farm Conyers Farm Summit View Farm Honey Ridge Watson J. Brundage Wm. Brundage, Jr. Wm. Brundage, Jr. Wm. Brundage, Jr. Wm. Brundage, Jr.  Kenneth C. Cole E. C. Convers Raymond H. Cox	Sunny Brooke	,	Stephen H. Briggs
Forest View Farm Oak Knoll Watson J. Brundage William Brundage, Jr. Wm. Brundage, Jr.  Oregon Road Farm Meadow Farm S. R. Close Middle Patent Farm Conyers Farm Summit View Farm Honey Ridge Watson J. Brundage Wm. Brundage, Jr.  Kenneth C. Cole E. C. Convers Raymond H. Cox	The Four Corners		Harry M. Brundage
Oak Knoll  William Brundage, Jr.  Wm. Brundage, Jr.  Oregon Road Farm  Meadow Farm  S. R. Close  Middle Patent Farm  Conyers Farm  Summit View Farm  Honey Ridge  Wm. Brundage, Jr.  Kenneth C. Cole  E. C. Convers  Raymond H. Cox	Lonesome Pine		Chester Brundage, Sr.
Oregon Road Farm  Meadow Farm  S. R. Close  Middle Patent Farm  Conyers Farm  Summit View Farm  Honey Ridge  Joseph Clark  Kenneth C. Cole  E. C. Convers  Raymond H. Cox	Forest View Farm	Watson J. Brundage	
Meadow FarmS. R. CloseMiddle Patent FarmKenneth C. ColeConyers FarmE. C. ConversSummit View FarmJ. Hobart CoxHoney RidgeRaymond H. Cox	Oak Knoll	William Brundage, Jr.	Wm. Brundage, Jr.
Meadow FarmS. R. CloseMiddle Patent FarmKenneth C. ColeConyers FarmE. C. ConversSummit View FarmJ. Hobart CoxHoney RidgeRaymond H. Cox	Oregon Road Farm		Joseph Clark
Conyers Farm E. C. Convers Summit View Farm J. Hobart Cox Honey Ridge Raymond H. Cox	•	S. R. Close	•
Conyers Farm E. C. Convers Summit View Farm J. Hobart Cox Honey Ridge Raymond H. Cox	Middle Patent Farm		Kenneth C. Cole
Summit View Farm J. Hobart Cox Honey Ridge Raymond H. Cox			E. C. Convers
Honey Ridge Raymond H. Cox		J. Hobart Cox	
			Raymond H. Cox
The Old Homestead I neo. Albert Cox	The Old Homestead		Theo. Albert Cox
The Valley Jennie V. Creemer	The Valley		Jennie V. Creemer
The Village Forge Edward Deal	The Village Forge		Edward Deal
Castle Heights John DeHart			John DeHart
Cross Roads Farm Richard Harding Davis		Richard Harding Davis	
Four Pines Joseph Desmond			
Stop-A-While P. J. Donnelly			
Clifton Farm E. J. Edgar	Clifton Farm		E. J. Edgar
Wrenwood Alvah P. French Alvah P. French	Wrenwood	Alvah P. French	Alvah P. French
Bonny Brae Jennie M. Hart	Bonny Brae		Jennie M. Hart
Pleasant View Niles S. Hopkins Niles S. Hopkins	•	Niles S. Hopkins	Niles S. Hopkins
The Dayton Farm Joseph I. Johnston	The Dayton Farm		Joseph I. Johnston
Rockledge Cottage Frank Leibell			Frank Leibell

Name of Home	<u>1914</u>	<u>1925</u>
Grand View Farm	Thomas J. Loftus	
Comfort Vale	Jacob L. Long	
Wampus	John McGee	
The Ledges Five Pines	Samuel McRoberts	Samuel McRoberts Albert MacDonald
Afterglow Farm	George D. Mackay	
Fairview Farm		Eleanor Malone
Seven Springs Farm		Eugene Meyer, Jr.
Fairview Farm		Henry Moger
Greystone Farm	Emily P. Montgomery	Emily P. Montgomery
Sunset	Herbert L. Nichols	
Orchard Farm		F. F. Palmer
Fernwood		F. M. Peters
The Clove	C. S. Petrasch	
Edgewood	Arthur Pietschker	
Breezy Hill Farm	E. G. Platt	R. H. Blake
Rylands Farm	Charles E. Purdy	Charles E. Purdy
Fairview	Gertrude E. Purdy	
Bronx Valley Farm	Stephen L. Purdy	Stephen L. Purdy
The Nursery	Robert H. Quinby	
Raven's Triangle		Julius A. Raven
Hill Crest	Eva J. Read	
Roseland		Harry St. John
Log Cabin Farm		Webster F. Schmaling
Whispering Pines	R. H. Seely	
North Castle Farm	E. W. Sells	
Wampus Valley Farm		C. M. Sherwood
Heathwood	George M. Sidenberg	
Woodheath	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	G. M. Sidenberg
The Triangel		George W. Smith
The Rock House Farm Connecticut Farms	George W. Sniffin John W. Sterling	G. W. Sniffen
Connecticut Farms	John W. Glerung	4H 4 Y 69

States D. Tompkins

Albert J. Stone

Henry E. Tredwell

Signal Hill Farm

Tredwell Farm

Redbrook

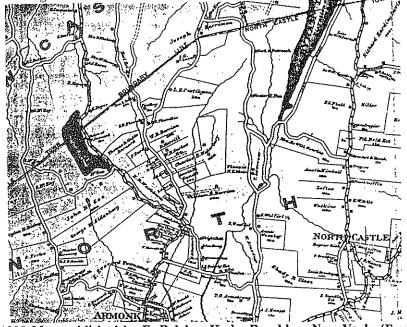
# <u>Name of Home</u> <u>1914</u> <u>1925</u>

H. J. Warner High Ridge High View Dairy Farm Albert H. Waterbury Charles Waterbury Pleasant Valley Charles Waterbury Jonathan John H. Watkins F. C. Webster Brookside Farm Byram Lake Farm Leslie B. Wilson Samuel D. Wohlfiel Walter B. Wohlfiel Wygoda

Hillside

James S. Young

[Cornelius R. Agnew was the Assistant Secretary of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company. E. W. Sells of Haskin & Sells was a certified accountant. John H. Watkins and George M. Sidenberg were brokers. States D. Tompkins was a manufacturer. John McGee was a banker. Niles S. Hopkins was active in real estate and insurance. Richard Harding Davis was a renowned writer in the 1920's.]



1908 Map published by E. Belcher Hyde, Brooklyn, New York. [From the Collections of The North Castle Historical Society.]

#### BREEZEMONT DAY CAMP

#### Also Known As

# COX'S BOARDING HOUSE, COX'S SUMMIT VIEW HOUSE, COX'S SUMMIT VIEW FARM, TREDWELL'S FARM

### by Sharon Tomback

According to the remembrances of John Tesone, the current owner of the property, during the late 1920s and early 1930s a Mr. Gelbaum owned the property. The main house consisted of about fifty rooms plus a bungalow colony of thirteen or so separate small structures. The Inn was a summer getaway for families from New York City. The dads worked in the City and the moms and children stayed in the country. The day camp was known then as "Camp Alysum" and was run by Mr. Gelbaum's daughter, Beatrice. After World War II she married Jean Laurain, a French athlete, and they operated the camp until the summer of 1971 when they sold to Michael Cannold and Jimmy Ross.

It has been said that Mr. and Mrs. Laurain changed the name to Breezemont because of the breeze flowing over the mountain. Prior to the construction of Route 684 the property included another twenty or so acres, including the "mont", but New York State invoked the rule of eminent domain and took that portion of their property.

A descendant of J. Hobart Cox, W. Howard Cox, Jr. ("Bimmy")<sup>1</sup> remembers that the New York Rangers Hockey team once used the lake at Breezemont for practices. He reports that windmills once stood on the property.

John Tesone purchased the camp business in 1986, and he has recently purchased the property.<sup>2</sup> The North Castle Historical Society salutes Mr. Tesone for his caring maintenance of the buildings and for continuing the proud tradition of the "camp" on this country property in Armonk.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> J. Hobart Cox operated the boarding house as Summit View Farm in 1914. He was Town Supervisor in 1930. Henry E. Tredwell owned the farm by 1925. <sup>2</sup> According to official records, the property was conveyed from Jean C. Laurain and Beatrice M. Laurain to Breezemont Park, Inc. on July 5, 1969 and to J and M Camp, Inc. on August 31, 1971 and to Breezemont Realty Corporation on March 5, 1997.



A view of Cox's Boarding House showing the building as it appeared at the turn of the century. The top story of the building reportedly was built about 1910. (Postcard from the Collections of The Society.)



A circa 1925 view of the building with the top story addition when it was know as Tredwell's Farm. (Courtesy of Marguerite Lewis)



North Castle Town Officials 1906 on the Occasion of the Laying of the Cornerstone for the Supreme Court Wing of the County Court House in White Plains, New York. [From the Collections of The Society.]

First Row (Seated L-R): William K. Haviland, Justice of the Peace; Thomas P. Brundage, Assessor; Edward Riley, Overseer of the Poor; Albert H. Waterbury, Road Commissioner; Albert Virsen, Justice of the Peace; Daniel Ryan, Guest. Second Row (Standing L-R): Charles H. Ferris, Justice of the Peace; T. William Brundage, Justice of the Peace; A. Smith Hopkins, Supervisor; Ralph B. Griswold, M.D., Road Commissioner; Horace G. Arnold, Assessor; Charles M. Sherwood, Road Commissioner.

# "SKUNKS IN POST OFFICE ZONE LAW VIOLATION, SAYS TOWN ATTORNEY

When Albert Cox, Armonk trapper, came into the Post Office early Monday morning with an innocent-looking parcel post package addressed to a New York City fur concern. Post Master Charles Kaiser just as innocently weighed it, collected the postage fee and tossed the parcel on his mailing table. The weather at the moment was cool and so was the post office heater.

But half an hour later, when the oil burner got into action – Phew! A penetrating aroma began to permeate everything inside the room. Patrons politely said nothing but transacted their business with haste and made quick getaways. High school girls waiting for the 8 o'clock Pleasantville school bus were almost gassed into insensibility. The Post Master himself narrowly escaped asphyxiation, as he dumped the offending bundle into the rear corridor of the Haggerty Building, connecting with five other stores in the building.

When Miss Stella Simmons opened up the Armonk Specialty Shop, next door to the Post Office, she all but passed out so overpowering was the odor which penetrated locked doors. Minnie Goodhart, who operates Min's Lunch in the large room on the corner, wrung her hands in dismay, protesting her foodstuffs were being ruined; while S. Klingler, hardware store proprietor, was positive a whole family of skunks must have domiciled themselves under his store during the night.

Town Attorney James B. Stilson, coming in for the morning mail about 9 o'clock, expounded learnedly, insisting it was a violation of the Zoning Ordinance to keep a skunk in a public building, and he threatened to report the matter to the Police Department. Then he did that very thing; for, according to Post Master Kaiser, Sergeant John Hergenhan and one of his patrolmen arrived shortly with drawn revolvers and regretting they had failed to don gas masks.

But by this time the Post Master had wrapped the offending parcel of skunk furs in some 40 thicknesses of newspaper, packed it in a strong cardboard carton and set the box a safe distance from the rear window out in the open lot, to await the return of the owner.

Even yet it isn't safe to mention skunk skins to Post Master Kaiser. He says it makes him see red."

The article above is from a newspaper clipping in the collections of The Society. It is undated and the newspaper is not identified. The only marking is a handwritten notation, "A skin deal! Couldn't hide it!" Mr. Kaiser was Post Master in 1936; he is mentioned in the records of celebrations for North Castle's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.

# OUR ANTIQUES SHOW Happy 20th Birthday!

by Doris Finch Watson

It was well over twenty years ago when we first talked about the possibility of sponsoring an Antiques Show as a fund-raiser for The North Castle Historical Society. It seemed like a big undertaking ... but we picked a date and set the wheels in motion.

It was a success! A new tradition was born!

Now, twenty years later, The North Castle Historical Society is still sponsoring the Annual Armonk Antiques Show. New ideas have expanded the coverage.

Early ventures included some of the traditions we still offer, such as the delicious luncheons together with homemade desserts supplied by Society members, and another carryover is the Raffle, which has been an important source of income. New expansions over the past six years include an Advertising Show Booklet and the addition of a Silent Auction Booth. Both have proved very successful.

But the success throughout the years has been possible because of people like YOU. We must include so many: the businesses who buy ad space; the antiques dealers who participate; the school for permitting the Show to be held on the premises; the members who make such wonderful desserts; the many volunteers who man various parts of the Show; the workers who carry a multitude of "stuff" around, and the hundreds of people who visit the Show.

And, so, to each and every one of you, a very special THANK YOU for helping to make these past twenty years successful for The North Castle Historical Society's ARMONK ANTIQUES SHOW.

We hope you are looking forward to next year's Show.

#### TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

J. Stuart Brown (2)	Marguerite Lewis	John Schnoor
Cheryl Carter (2)	Tom MacInnes	Marya Shapiro
Marie Conversano	Barbara Massi	Erling J. Taylor
Piers Curry (2)	Jack Paschke	Sharon Tomback (4)
Vincent Fiore	Thea Pitassy (3)	Steve Torborg
Richard Herbst	Constance Quarrie	Doris Finch Watson (5)
Joan Krantz (1)	Susan Reville	Edward Woodyard (5)
Ruth Kuhn	Betsv Rusk	, , ,

Ex-Officio: Doris Finch Watson, Town Historian

(1) President

(2) Vice President

(3) Treasurer

(4) Secretary

(5) Trustee-at-Large

#### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Family \$25 \* Individual \$15 \* Sustaining \$35 \* Seniors \$10 Business \$100 \* Life Member \$250 paid once

The North Castle Historical Society is chartered by The Regents of The University of The State of New York.

#### PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Sharon Tomback, Editor

Marjorie Moore \* Doris Finch Watson
Richard Koenig, Photography

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

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

# NORTH CASTLE HISTORY, VOLUME 25, 1998 Happy Birthday *North Castle History* Booklet!

#### Cover Picture

The three volumes depicted on the front cover were selected to represent the three geographic sections of Town (Armonk, Banksville and North White Plains). They also provide a retrospective of the documented research within the pages of North Castle History presented over the years.

Volume 1, 1974, pictured Armonk's Main Street around 1910 looking south. The first house on the left is now Hickory & Tweed. Armonk Pharmacy now stands where the last house on the right is pictured.

Volume 3, 1976, pictured the main street of Banksville in 1898 looking south toward the Connecticut half of the community. The Banksville Baptist Church, built in 1853, shown in the distance, was converted to a residence in 1975.

Volume 10, 1983, pictured the State Road in Kensico around 1900. The photograph was taken looking south from Pfister's Store and captured a vehicle crossing the bridge over Bear Gutter Creek.

These three volumes, together with the other twenty-two provide further details about the history of "Our Town". If you have additional information or photographs to share, please call one of the members of the Publication Committee. We value your suggestions and shared knowledge!

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