



Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark 1863 School House Museum

Town of Deerpark Historian, P. O. Box 621, Huguenot, New York 12746

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History of Deerpark

By Peter E. Gumaer

Published 1890

Early Justice

"For about 60 or 70 years the inhabitants of that part of the present town of Deerpark which formerly was in the town of Mamakating in Ulster County, had no nearer Justice of the Peace than in Rochester, in the same County, which was about 35 or 40 miles distant from the Peenpack neighborhood; and the services of that officer were unnecessary for the inhabitants of the lower neighborhood, who were in the County of Orange, and had settled there about 20 years after the settlement was made at Peenpack must have resided there about 40 or 50 years before any Justice officiated in that neighborhood.

"I presume that Jacobus (James) Van Auken was the first Justice of the Peace in the present town of Deerpark, and that he received his office from the authorities of the State of New Jersey before the line between the States became settled. He resided in the lower neighborhood. It was said that he was entirely illiterate, and that the wife of his son, Daniel Van Auken, Leah Kittle, had been educated and could read and write, and did the same for her father-in-law when it became necessary for transacting his official business in consequence of which she received the name of Justice in his time of life.

"Benjamin Depuy and Philip Swartwout, Esquires officiated as Justices of the Peace for the County of Ulster before the Revolutionary War commenced, and Anthony Van Etten and Solomon Kuykendall, Esquires officiated as Justices of the Peace for the County of Orange, also before the commencement of the war, how long previous thereto I cannot determine, but think they must have come into office after the French War ended and before the year 1770. After the decease of Swartwout, Van Auken and Van Etten, Harmanus Van Inwegen became a Justice of the Peace of the County of Ulster and Levi Van Etten of Orange County. The former was a resident of the old town of Mamakating, and the lat-

ter of the former town of Minisink. Afterwards Peter G. Cuddeback became a Justice of the Peace of Ulster County, and officiated until he removed to Cayuga County.

"After this time several individuals held the office in succession for the county of Orange, which became so altered, together with an alteration of the towns, as to include the present town of Deerpark in which Cuddeback resided. When the first and second churches of Mahackemeck congregation were built, a bench with a roof over it was made in each of those churches for a seat of such magistrates in time of divine service. When those civil officers were first introduced into this part of our country they were more highly esteemed than at present, though it did not require as good abilities and as much law knowledge to discharge their duties honorably in former times as at present."



*Fort DeWitt House
Prospect Hill Road*

Marcus Stamp held court in this building during his term of office.

Justice of the Peace Memories

By Norma Schadt

This article is a combination of notes taken directly from the Historian Office archives, personal memories and interviews with Betty Ehre and Fred Stoll.

The first section is a direct copy taken from Historian Office notes:

James M. Allerton (Justice of the Peace 1884)

“Judge Allerton once described the function of the Town Magistrate in a sentence. He said, ‘It is the intervention of cool judgment where ornery human nature among neighbors has driven out common sense. Justices of the Peace may not be learned. They may know little or no law. They take short cuts to decisions, frequently using the feminine quality of intuition, rather than the masculine one of laborious thinking. Most magistrates are laymen, chosen as the constitutional set-up at present permits for political purposes to serve primarily as town administrative officers. With them, court business is a side line.’



Judge Marcus Stamp

“When Magistrate Stamp (Justice of the Peace 1931-47) has

a case of unusual interest he notifies all the neighbors, from Huguenot to Cuddebackville, and Mrs. Stamp bakes a dozen gigantic pies. During the course of the trial, or afterward, litigants, lawyers and spectators have free run of the spacious farmhouse kitchen, and juries almost invariably conduct their deliberations where they too, can have easy access to the pies.

“A delightful informality likewise characterizes proceedings in the front room court of a neighboring Justice of the Peace (1923-25), David Middleton, of Sparrowbush. Both Stamp and Middleton are patient, and often let lawyers and clients talk, but make their own way to decisions.

“You can talk all you want to,” said Magistrate Stamp during a recent trial, “but my mind’s made up.”

Current Historian’s Note:

When I was young, Marcus Stamp was my neighbor on Prospect Hill Road and I overheard him telling my father the following story:

“I was out mowing the lawn yesterday. It was a hot sweaty day and I was wearing my bib overalls with no shirt on when one of those “City Slickers” pulled up in a fancy Cadillac car. He was steaming because he just got a speeding ticket. I didn’t like his attitude when he asked me “Hey Tarzan, where’s the Judge at. I got this [expletive] ticket and I gotta pay a [expletive] fine.” Well I looked at him and told him that the Judge was busy at the moment and he should wait in his car until the Judge was free to see him. So I finished mowing the lawn, went in the house, took a shower, and put on my suit and tie. Then I

asked Edna to tell the guy in the car that the Judge would see him. I wish you could have seen his face when he saw me sitting behind my desk. He was even madder than he was when he first pulled up to my house. When I imposed his fine, he started to give me a lot of back talk. So I hit the table with my gavel and asked him to stop or he would be in contempt of court. He kept right on yelling, so I brought my gavel down again and told him if he kept it up I’d add another \$50.00 to his fine every time I had to strike my gavel. He didn’t stop ranting and I kept on pounding my gavel until he had a fine of \$300.00.”



Judge Fred Stoll

When I interviewed Fred Stoll (Justice of the Peace 1974-87), he told me the rest of this Marcus Stamp story. It turns out that the man didn’t have the \$300.00 to pay the fine. So Marc told him to leave his car for collateral. The man asked, “How am I going to get back to the city?”

Marc said, “No problem, a bus stops right out in front of my house and will take you back to the city and when you come back here with the \$300.00 you can have your car back.”

The next day the man

came back, bringing his lawyer along. The lawyer told him to pay his fine because there was nothing he could do about the amount since his client was in contempt of court.

Fred then told me some of the cases that came before him. One of his first court cases was a young 17 year old girl who had received a ticket for running a stop sign. He told her that when she sees a stop sign, she has to stop. Her comment was "But, Your Honor, I did stop, it's just that the wheels kept right on rolling." He also mentioned some interesting weddings. One of the first ceremonies he performed was the marriage of Marlyn Mason, a member of the Mason Jar family. She and all her attendants carried their bouquets of flowers in Mason Jars.

Then there was also the couple he married who wanted to be married in every state in the Union. Unfortunately the marriage only lasted eight years and he met them again as they reversed the process by getting a divorce in every state.

Another couple asked if it was ok to video their wedding. Judge Stoll said that it was perfectly fine to do so. On the wedding day, a friend arrived and set up the camera. When the bride came into the house she had a pillow stuffed under the front of her dress. She looked about eight months pregnant. Then the groom came in dressed in overalls. He was followed by the bride's father who was carrying a shotgun. They had a "real" shotgun wedding. The entire ceremony was captured on film.

Fred also told me about



Judge Charles Burrows

Charlie Burrows (Justice of the Peace 1948-57) who held court in the Lower Huguenot School (Building #2). So many neighbors would come to see his trials because going to court was their form of amusement. More than once Judge Burrows had to clear the court. One of his cases involved a fight between two men. One of the men brought in a witness to testify to the entire event. It turned out that the witness was "blind as a bat".



Judge John (Jack) Ehre

Betty Ehre had some stories to share about her husband, John (Jack) Ehre (Justice of the Peace 1973-2004). One of the most notable weddings he performed was on Halloween night in the Laurel Grove Cemetery. When Jack and Betty arrived at the cem-

etry it was pitch black except for a small light in the distance. They walked toward the light and when they arrived, all the wedding party and about thirty guests came out from behind the tomb stones dressed in costume. The reception was a real Halloween party.

Another wedding was performed on a raft while floating down the Delaware River. Judge Ehre had to make sure that the raft was always on the New York side of the river in order for the marriage to be legal. Jack even performed a wedding in a hot air balloon over Greenville.

"Deerpark gets first female judge."

By Sharon Siegel

*Times Herald-Record
Middletown, New York
March 11, 2005*

"Huguenot –As a child growing up in the Town of Deerpark Laurie Malzahn Osowick said she never imagined she would one day be sworn in as her hometown's first female town justice. The legendary judge she replaced never doubted it.

"At the age of 38, the wife and mother of two said it was a combination of her longtime apprenticeship with Town Justice Jack Ehre, her educational and family background and her love for the area that led her to fill the vacancy created by her mentor's sudden death last year.

"As a graduate of Port Jervis High School, Osowick's interest in the justice field began when she received the Edward A. Cullinan Scholarship, given annually to police science majors. She applied her scholarship toward a degree in criminal science at SUNY,

Orange. Upon graduation, she accepted a position as court clerk under Ehre, with whom she worked for the past 11 years.

“Osowick said, “Jack always told me I would someday become the town’s first female judge, but I thought if it ever happened, it would be at some time far into the future.”

“Of Ehre she said, “I could not possibly list all the things he taught me. I do know that I learned from the best—he always answered my questions and showed me how to be fair and listen. Sitting next to him for 11 years was an honor and I wish I could thank him for all he has taught me.”



Judge Laurie Osowick

“Osowick said she has whole-heartedly embraced the position for which she was recommended by Ehre’s wife. Betty Ehre said “I could not think of a better person for the job. Laurie has the experience; knows the people and the cases; she’s caring and fair—and she’s not one to be pushed around. We are all for her.”

“So apparently was the Town Board, which appointed Osowick unanimously at its Dec. 13 meeting.

“Before being able to sit on the bench, however, she had to

complete a six-day, 42 hour class and pass the New York State Unified Court test. She passed with a score of 90 in January, and as one of two town judges (the other being Town Justice Tony Tufano) has received half of all Deerpark cases since.”

Editor’s note: Laurie Osowick has served as Town of Deerpark Justice since 2005.

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**5th Annual Deerpark
 Heritage Fair
 & Community Yard Sale
 September 17 & 18, 2011**

Community Yard Sale 8:00-5:00
 Heritage Fair 10:00-5:00
 Harriet Space Park,
 Route 209, Huguenot, New York

Benefit Local Food Bank and
 Humane Society of
 Port Jervis/Deerpark
 Admission--Canned or
 packaged food

Lots of entertainment

Kids--Macaroni, the Clown, Ken Van Der Mark, DJ, Jan Berlin/Animals, Face Painting, Watermelon Bubble Bursting, Vegetable Decorating, Ring Toss, Balloon Race, Hula Hoops

Music--SJP Jazz Band, Mike Pacer/Orchestra of One, Broome Street Band, The Parting Glass,

Contests--Women’s Skillet Toss, Firemen’s Bucket Brigade, Men’s



Macaroni, the Clown

Hay Bale Toss, Ballroom Dancing

Great Food--Pole Bridge Roast Beef Sandwiches, Tri-R-Deli, The Creamery Ice Cream, Hot Dogs, Homemade Lemonade,

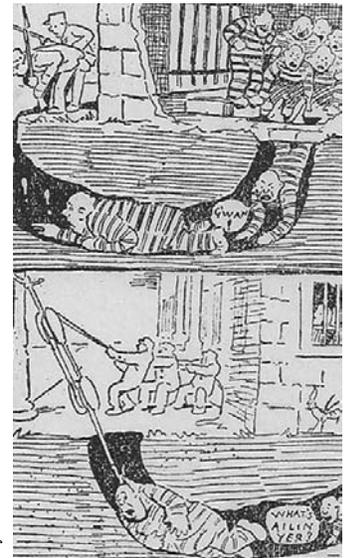
First Annual Community Yard Sale--If you have items to sell, pick up an application in Town Hall or call Theresa Creegan 856-2210 extension 2.

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**You can’t make this up!
 A Prisoner’s Tragedy**

*New York American Journal
 December 6, 1906*

Barboursville, KY.

“Never allow a fat prisoner to lead the way to freedom through an underground passage” This lesson was learned by eight prisoners in the Knox County Jail.



The prisoners had raised a cube from the steel floor of a cell, and in some way hid all dirt excavated from a passage to the outside. When the time for the escape came the fat prisoner was selected to lead the way. He started, but soon stopped.

“G’wan. Wot’s ailin’ you?” hissed the second man in line.

A frantic waving of huge legs was the only reply. The other seven got excited. They also got careless. In their anger they forgot the guards, who heard the disturbance. The escape was prevented and the fat prisoner was removed from the hole by means of a block and tackle.

Justices of the Peace Appointed

1812 William Young, Jr.

1813 James Finch, Jr.

1824 Richard Peney

1825 Joseph Chattle

1828 Abraham Cuddeback

1829 Levi Van Etten

Abraham Cuddeback

Benjamin Cuddeback

Thomas Van Etten

James D. Swartwout

Justices of the Peace Elected

1830 Solomon Van Etten

1832 David Decker

1833 Cornelius Gray

1834 Charles C. Boyd

1835 Jeremiah Gumaer

1836 David Decker

1837 Cornelius Gray

1838 A. J. Cuddeback

1839 William Cuddeback

1840 David Decker

1841 Cornelius Gray

1842 A. J. Cuddeback

1843 James H. Taylor

1844 Samuel W. Jackson

1845 Eli Van Inwegen

1846 A. J. Cuddeback

1847 Alexander Gordon

1848 John Caskey

1849 James Bennet

1850 A. J. Cuddeback

1851 James Cuddeback, Jr.

1852 Francis Marvin

1853 John Caskey

1854 Wilhelmus Westbrook

1855 John M. Heller

1856 William H. Newkirk

1857 Lucas F. Hough

1858 Peter P. Swartwout

1859 H. H. Stewart

1860 William H. Newkirk

1861 John J. Bross

1862 James N. Penney

1863 Lucas F. Hough

1864 William Rankin

1865 Daniel C. Hazen

1866 James N. Penney

1867 George Clausen (vacancy)

1868 Uriah Rhodes

1869 Joseph L. Potter

1870 Henry Dutcher

1871 Daniel Holbrook

1872 John Van Etten, Jr.

1873 N. W. Mulley

1874 W. E. McCormick

1875 Dayton T. Cox

1876 Moses L. Cole

1877 Daniel C. Hazen

1878 Daniel Holbrook

A. J. Cuddeback

William Cuddeback

Charles C. Boyd

A. J. Cuddeback

John J. Bross

H. H. Stewart

James N. Penney

William Westfall

N. W. Mulley (vacancy)

Moses L. Cole

William Norris

1879 Dayton T. Cox	Moses L. Cole (vacancy)		
1880 Moses L. Cole			
1881 Daniel C. Hazen	Charles H. Norris (vacancy)		
1882 George Brodhead			
1883 Dayton T. Cox	D. Holbrook (vacancy)		
1884 James F. Seybolt	J. M. Allerton		C. H. Norris (vacancy)
1885 George W. Terwilliger			
1886 Norman W. Mulley			
1887 Dayton T. Cox			
1888 Richard A. Conkling			
1889 Charles L. Detrick			
1890 Norman W. Mulley			
1891 Joshua N. Case			
1892 N. W. Mulley	Joshua Case	D. A. Conkling	C. L. Dedrick
1893 George F. Wollner			
1894 Joseph V McCormack			
1895 John L. Bross			
1896 Joseph A. Case			
1897 Raymond W. Carr			
1898 Charles H. Norris			
1899 William A. Shaw			
1901 William P. Gregg			
1903 John R. Parsells	Jeremiah G. Case		
1904 Henry Mains			
1905 Daniel Holbrook			
1907 James C. Mulhern	Robert C. Jackson		
1909 George Hoar	Fernando A. Tymeson		
1910 William Case	Charles Van Keuren		
1913 Henry Armm			
1915 Eugene F. Meyer			
1917 Patrick Shirl	J. S. Murray		
1919 Willet Dorer			
1921 Frank D. Carpenter	D. L. Patterson		
1923 David Middletown			
1925 Frank Carpenter			
1929 Earl Space	Alfred Sailer		
1931-1947 Marcus Stamp			
1933 Horace Smith	Fred Barton		
1937 Anthony Moravek			
1938 William L. Horn			
1939 Edward Wagner	William L. Horn		
1941 Anthony Moravek			
1943 Edward Wayne			
1948-63 Frank Felter			
1948-61 Frank Cuddeback			
1948-57 Charles Burrows			
1962-73 and 1987-93 Bernard Johnson			
1963-67 William Davis			
1968-72 Austin Barber			
1972-73 William Kehlenbeck			
1973-2004 John Ehre			
1974-87 Fred Stoll			
1994-2001 Francis Hartman			
2002-2009 Anthony Tufano			
2005-Present Laurie Osowick			
2010-Present John Wulff			

