



DEERPARK DIARY

TOWN OF DEERPARK HISTORIAN'S OFFICE
25 GRANGE ROAD, P. O. BOX 621, HUGUENOT, NY 12746 (845) 856-2702

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SPARROWBUSH POST OFFICE HISTORY

A History of Orange County printed in 1881 says of Sparrowbush: 'It is a hamlet near Bolton Basin, west of Honesville, on the canal, and has a Post Office. A Post Office was established there in 1827 under

the name of Honesville, Dr. Dickinson, Postmaster.'

His successors were: 1830 David Decker, 1840 Jonathan West. It was closed and re-opened in 1850 under the present name.

On the Orange County Map of 1859, the name Sparrowbush, referred to an area, located at the junction of the Orange and Sullivan Plank Road, and what later became Academy Avenue. (See map below)

The 1875 atlas map shows Sparrowbush located in the area where Routes 97 and 42 now join Main Street and Honesville is shown in the area of Main Street and Academy Avenue. (See map below)

Honesville was named after Philip Hone, the first president of the D & H Canal Company.

The Post Office in Sparrow-

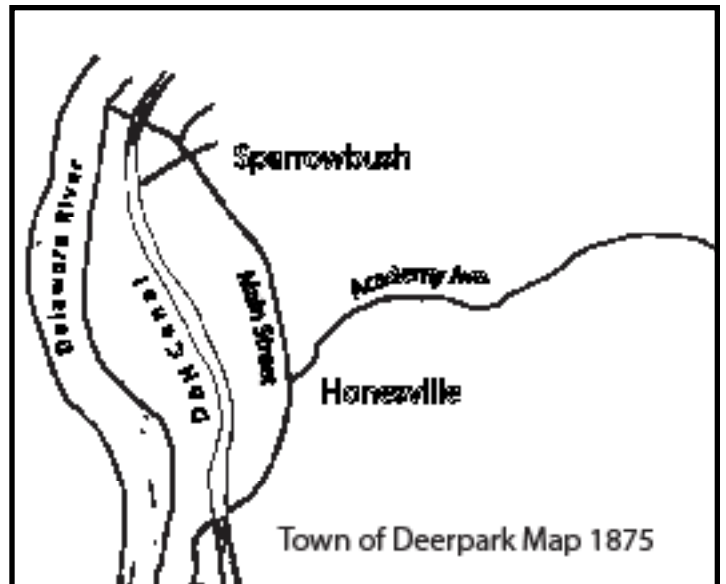
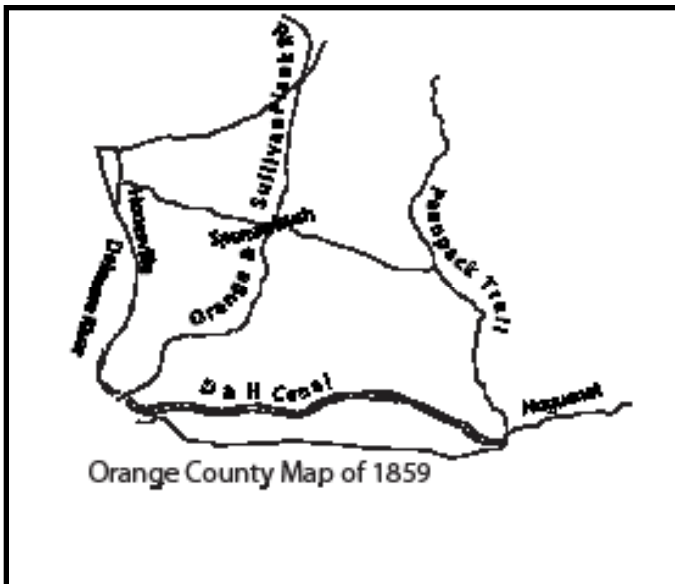


The Tannery Store was built by George Reymar. Starting in 1893, the building housed the post office. (Photo Images of America Deerpark by Brian Lewis)

bush has been located in many different buildings since its inception.

There are four formal Post Office location change of address forms in the local records: 1915, 1926, 1935 and 1943. However, within the historical records of Sparrowbush additional Post Office locations have been noted.

The first Post Office location of record was in the tannery store built by George Reymar in 1893 where it remained until the building burned in 1905.





Main Street Sparrowbush, Henry Happ Store on right (Photo courtesy Images of America, Deerpark by Brian Lewis)

From there the Post Office moved to Henry Happ's store until 1915. The new site change form dated January 25, 1915 was signed by Charles E. Van Keuren which moved the Post Office into his general store across from the church at the Old Plank Road -- Brook Road intersection.

A new site change form



L. A. Johnson's Store, Main Street. The Sparrowbush Post Office was once located here. (Photo courtesy Images of America Deerpark by Brian Lewis)

dated February 25, 1926 states that the Post Office moved back to Henry Happ's General Store.

Milly Hendershot sent two site location applications into the Post Office Department, dated April 30, 1935 and June 28, 1943. The 1943 Post Office location was in the middle section of Innella's Store. Later it expanded into the space which had been the barber shop.

There are a number of facts

about the locations of Sparrowbush Post Offices which are incomplete:

At sometime time the Post office was located in L. A. Johnson's Store on Main Street.

There is no specific location for the Post Office from 1935 until 1943.

Other records mention that in 1950 the Post Office was "again moved back to its prior location." This location is also unknown.

If anyone has information about these three Post Office locations, please contact the Historian's Office so the information can become part of the history of the Town.

On September 27, 1996 the present-day Post Office location had a special opening ceremony. At that time the following "Community Fact Sheet" was published.

"Sparrowbush is a hamlet located within the Town of Deerpark within Orange County. We have a population of 3,500. The delivery area encompasses the

communities of Cahoonzie and Rio. We have 826 Post Office boxes, with a total of 625 rented. Sparrowbush provides delivery service to 1,400 customers. There are thirty businesses in the delivery area which include eight bulk mailers and four meter holders. Our employee complement consists of one Postmaster, two PTF Clerks and two Highway Contract Carriers."

HISTORY OF POSTMASTERS

POSTMASTER	DATE OF APPOINTMENT
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HONESVILLE POST OFFICE	
DR. DICKINSON	1827-1830
DAVID DECKER	1830-1840
JONATHON WEST	1840-1850

SPARROWBUSH POST OFFICE	
LUCAS F. HOUGH	MAR. 16, 1854
NATHAN R. HIGBY	SEPT. 5, 1861
MAURICE SCHULTZ	DEC. 21, 1865
CHARLES COOPER	SEPT. 6, 1867
WILLIAM GOODENOUGH	JULY 8, 1873

JOHN C. WEST	JUNE 3, 1874
HENRY F. WEST	OCT. 20, 1877
DAVID HAMMOND	FEB. 21, 1881
GEORGE REYMAR	OCT. 9, 1885
CONRAD HAPP	APRIL 12, 1889
GEORGE CIRVANT	OCT. 16, 1893
CONRAD HAPP	OCT. 18, 1897
CHARLES VAN KEUREN	DEC. 24, 1914

CONRAD HAPP	JULY 1, 1925
HENRY HAPP	AUG. 19, 1933
MILLIE HENDERSHOT	FEB. 23, 1934
DONALD FELTER	NOV. 11, 1963
(ACTING POSTMASTER)	
DONALD FELTER	JULY 26, 1965
PETER MISIASZEK	SEPT. 23, 1989

TODAY THE SPARROWBUSH POST OFFICE DELIVERS MAIL FOR CAHOONZIE AND RIO. HOWEVER AT ONE TIME THESE TWO DEERPARK HAMLETS HAD POST OFFICES OF THEIR OWN. THE CAHOONZIE POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1892.

CAHOONZIE POST OFFICE

POSTMASTER	DATE OF APPOINTMENT
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HAMILTON HULSE	JULY 23, 1892
LAFORGE CASKEY	AUG. 31, 1893
JOHN COULTER	MAR. 27, 1896
ROBERT S. DETRISK	MAY 24, 1898
ROBERT PATON	SEPT. 22, 1899

MAIL TO THIS POST OFFICE WAS DISCONTINUED ON MAY 3, 1901 AND WAS SENT TO RIO FOR DELIVERY.

RIO POST OFFICE

POSTMASTER	DATE OF APPOINTMENT
JOHN DOUGHERTY	MAY 13, 1886
PETER DUNWALD	JUNE 16, 1902
POSTMASTER RIO (CONT'D)	DATE OF APPOINTMENT
DANIEL L. PATTERSON JR.	FEB. 21, 1913
EMMA PATTERSON	JAN. 31, 1916
OSBURN CURTIS	MAY 1920
EDNA G. CURTIS	MAY 22, 1923 (ACTING POSTMASTER)
EDNA G. CURTIS	AUG. 19, 1923
FRED H. RETTMER	SEPT. 7, 1924 (ASSISTANT POSTMASTER)
FRED H. RETTMER	SEPT. 29, 1924 (ACTING POSTMASTER)
PETER DUNWALD	MAR. 1, 1948

THE POST OFFICE WAS DISCONTINUED ON JANUARY 18, 1951 WITH MAIL BEING SENT TO SPARROWBUSH FOR DELIVERY.

FELTERS SERVED COMBINED

52 YEARS

BY DAVID GORDON, STAFF REPORTER
UNION GAZETTER (EXCERPTS)

SPARROWBUSH — Nearly everyone in Sparrowbush regularly visits the L-shaped hallway lined with gray metal mailboxes on Main Street and Upper Brook Road, and for more than 20 years they have been greeted by



Donald and Dorothy Felter

Donald and Dorothy Felter.

That tradition ended Friday, the couple's last day behind the window at the far end of one leg of the L that makes up the public portion of the Sparrowbush Post Office.

The Felters retired from the Post Office Department, effective Friday. Between them, they had more than 52 years of service with the department.

About 600 of the community's nearly 1,000 residents rent post office boxes. The rest are served by two highway contract routes, one which brings mail to other post offices.

"A lot of Port Jervis people come up here, too," Dorothy said. "Especially older people. They don't like those high steps (at the Port Jervis Post Office)."

The Felters know everybody in Sparrowbush. "Not 'just about' everybody — everybody," Donald said. "We could tell you thousands of stories," Dorothy said.

"I expected to be appointed by John F. Kennedy," Donald said. But the president was murdered before he could make the official appointment so Donald was appointed by Lyndon B. Johnson. He had served 18 months as a temporary postmaster before the appointment was made, he said.

When he was appointed 26 years ago, Donald took over a post office with 150 boxes and 100 patrons on delivery routes.

As the Felters talked about their years in the post office, Florence Leewe, the Callicoon Postmistress, closed out the books. "There are a lot of advantages to having the postmaster live in the community the post office serves," she said.

A major advantage is service. The Felters, who live about a

a mile from the Post Office, have given the public a lot more for the price of their stamps than mail delivery. Where else, for instance, can you buy your duck hunting license at 10:30 p.m.? "I opened the post office so he could buy his license and go hunting the next morning," Felter said of the forgetful hunter.

Patrons have dropped items like lottery tickets and bank deposits into the mail box along with their letters, Donald said. A telephone call will have the lost items returned to the customer's mailbox, he added.

Customers who don't turn up for a few days get a telephone call to be sure they're all right, Dorothy said.

Donald and Dorothy Felter met while both were working for the Novelty Slipper Co. in Port Jervis. A year or two after being appointed Sparrowbush Postmaster, Donald hired his wife for the hard-to-fill job of filling in during his vacations or when he was sick. "It's worked out very well. It's hard to find people willing to work a few days here and there and two weeks a year," he said.

This week's ice storm was bad, Donald said, but not as bad as some of the weather he's put up with. The mail goes through, no matter what, he said. He recalled one year when the snow was so bad the couple could not drive to the post office at all. "They walked," he said, "leaning against each other. "We had to hold onto each other to stand up."

On a few rare occasions, the back roads became too slick to deliver the mail to route customers. But the run to other post offices always went through, Donald said. "They should give us a little leeway, an occasional snow day," he added.

Sparrowbush occasionally gets mail intended for Deer Park

Long Island, Donald said, but more common is mail for zip codes that can be mistaken for the community's 12780. For instance, Taunton, MA (02780) is easily mis-sent in the sorting process, while Schroon Lake, NY (12870) gets to sparrowbush because of customer errors in writing it.

What's next? "First, a vacation," Donald said. The couple has never had a vacation together, because one must always be at work to keep the post office open. "I've had vacations, I go hunting," Donald said. "She (Dorothy) has never really had one."

On Wednesday, the community turned out for an open house the Felters put on at the post office. They had a huge cake, cookies and coffee for their customers. The community's response was overwhelming. "We bought 200 cups, and we used them all, Donald said. "Didn't you have to go up to the store for more?" Dorothy asked. Indeed he did, Donald agreed.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony September 27, 1996 From left to right--Molly Aumick, representing Ben Gilman's Office, John Quinn, Manager, Post Office Operations, Westchester District, Doris Hammond, Peter Misiaszek, Postmaster, Robert Cunningham, Town of Deerpark Supervisor

SPARROWBUSH CELEBRATES A NEW POST OFFICE

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the Sparrowbush Post Office on September 27, 1996. Brian Fitzpatrick, Manager, Customer Service Support, Westchester District presided. Peter Misiaszek, Postmaster welcomed everyone. The Tri-State Mid Hudson Chapter, 82nd Airborne Association presented the colors and Kenyon Dye sang the national anthem. Reverend Daniel Kantenwein, United Methodist Church, Sparrowbush lead the invocation. John T. Quin, Manager, Post Office Operations, Westchester District, Robert Cunningham, Town of Deerpark Supervisor and Molly Aumick from the Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman's Office, 20th Congressional District were the guest speakers. After closing remarks by Peter Misiaszek, a buffet and a cake depicting the American flag were served to guests.

WISHING EVERYONE

A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.



TOWN OF DEERPARK ROADS

Next Year's Newsletters

"How did the road I live on get its name?"

Have you ever thought about that topic? I have been asked that question a number of times and trying to find the answer has been an interesting experience.

Therefore, next year's newsletters will be about how some of the town roads got their names.

If you are interested in learning some history about the road you live on or any other road in Deerpark, drop a line to the Historian's Office, Norma Schadt, PO Box 621, Huguenot, NY 12746 stating the name of the road and its location in town. I will make a list and try to find the answers for publication in next year's **Deerpark Diary**.



ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

3:00-5:00

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE
TOWN OF DEERPARK MUSEUM
25 GRANGE ROAD
HUGUENOT

THE STORY OF ST. NICHOLAS
SPECIAL TREATS & SWEETS
MAKE TREE DECORATIONS
MEET ST. NICHOLAS
MUSIC AND FUN
CALL 856-2702 OR 754-8070
FOR INFORMATION