



Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark Historian's Office, Little Red 1863 Schoolhouse
25 Grange Road, P.O. Box 621, Huguenot, New York 12746
845-856-2702

June 2009

- **Plock/Godeffroy Estates**
- **Sparrowbush Greek Revival Home**
- **Deerest Deerpark**
- **Gypsy Traveler**

Godeffroy/Plock Estates

The Godeffroy and Plock estates were magnificent homes built on large tracts of land. Both estates had beautifully landscaped gardens, fountains and forested areas. Their halls and grand staircases provided backdrops for many of the romantic movie scenes filmed by D. W. Griffith between 1909 and 1911.

In 1875, Adolph Godeffroy began purchasing properties west of the Neversink River on which he would later build his estate called 'Neversink Lodge'. In 1877 he married Elizabeth Foley. The Godeffroys enjoyed living on their estate.

In 1878 Otto Plock began purchasing land, east of the Neversink River, to build 'Minqua Park'. He married Helen Foley who was Elizabeth Godeffroy's younger sister. The Plocks apparently became weary of country living and moved to Paris. In 1894 Otto gave 'Minqua Park' to his wife. The property was put on the market; however, it was not sold until 1907 when Elizabeth Godeffroy purchased it.



Minqua Park

The following information comes from the brochure that was used when the Plock's had Minqua Park for sale.

"The ESTATE comprising about 800 acres is located between the Erie Railroad and the Neversink River, at an altitude of 900 feet above tide, on the west slope of Shawangunk Mountains, 150 feet above the valley at the conflux of the Neversink River and Basha Kill, affording a magnificent and unsurpassed scenic panorama over the surrounding country.

The ENTIRE PROPERTY is in one block, about 1 ½ square miles, surrounded by a high wire fence, without any public thoroughfares, or easements of any kind. It is heavily timbered with a magnificent forest of beech, oak, pine, maples and chestnuts, interspersed in many places with a wondrous growth of rhododendrons.

The BUILDINGS were designed by and built under the supervision of Henry J. Hardenbergh, Esq., the eminent New

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York architect. No expense was spared in their construction, all and everything was of the best... It is finished in hard wood throughout—has all modern improvements as hot and cold water, gas, bath rooms and water closets, and being high up has the most perfect drainage.



Entry Way

The INTERIOR as represented by the photos shows marvelous good taste and comfort in arrangements and furnishings...

The first floor contains a very large hall running through two stories with a gallery, sitting room with an especially fine view, dining room finished in old oak and hung with gobelins, and a beautiful carved mantle piece, being a copy of one of the most famous fifteenth century exhibits in Cluny at Paris, a very large and artistic colored glass window representing the legend of Lohengrin.

Five bedrooms, dress-



Bedroom

ing rooms, and ample closets are on the next floor. Butler's pantry; very large kitchen; plenty of servants' rooms are in a separate wing.

The CELLAR contains coal bins, storage, wine rooms, refrigerators, etc.

The STABLES are finished in hard wood, contain stalls for six horses, a large carriage house, harness room, with coachman's living rooms upstairs complete with running water.

OUTBUILDINGS consist of icehouse, woodshed, cow stables, tool and wagon shed and large dog kennels."

The original architect's map of Minqua Park can be seen at the Town of Deerpark Museum.



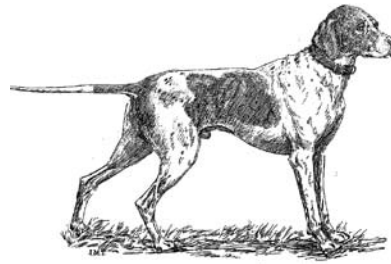
Adolph E. Godeffroy

Neversink Lodge

Neversink Lodge was built on the crest of the Peenpack hill near the Peter Gumaer stone house. The estate was laid out as

a game preserve that included a complex of buildings, kennels, stables and barns adjoining farm acreage. Unfortunately no pictures are available, however it has been stated that these two estates were very similar in design.

The Neversink Lodge kennels were famous. Godeffroy's sporting dogs, setters and pointers, won many Westminster Dog Shows and field trials. He also bred St. Bernards. He was a great dog fancier and the Godeffroy kennels were unsurpassed and never beaten either on the bench or in the field.



Forest and Stream Portraits of Celebrated Dogs.
LIVER-AND-WHITE TICKED POINTER DOG - SETTER.
DRAWN BY MR. A. E. COOPERMAN, GUYTON, N. Y.

For many years Godeffroy was the largest individual exhibitor at the Westminster Kennel Club shows in Madison Square Garden. Godeffroy superintended the many kennels on the estate. The largest kennel building was eighty feet in length and sixteen feet wide. It included puppy kennels, large covered extensions jutting into outdoor yards, a 'cook-room' for preparing the dogs' diet and a large enclosure with plenty of sun and shade from old apple trees. The entire kennel complex could easily accommodate forty large breed dogs. The preserve was divided by skirting of low brush and wild grass around large open flats providing excellent places to hold field trials.

The Godeffroys lived an active social life. They enter-

tained movie stars and New York City socialites. Besides breeding his famous dogs, Godeffroy was an avid outdoorsman and hunter. His park was liberally stocked with deer and game of all sorts and it was his greatest delight to entertain his friends at his home.

Adolph Godeffroy died July 7, 1919 and Elizabeth Godeffroy died on March 30, 1923. They are buried beside a large monument at the edge of the old Gumaer Cemetery

There was a big legal battle over Elizabeth's estate among her surviving relatives. She had left the bulk of her substantial estate to an eighteen-year old cousin, Johan Caesar Godeffroy-Faerber, of Potsdam, Germany, on condition that he spend six months of each year on the Godeffroy country estate, Neversink Lodge. On July 14, 1923, Mary J. Shea, (Elizabeth Godeffroy's sister) and Richard B. Foley, (nephew) filed a notice of contest of the will. They charged that she was of unsound mind and that undue influence was used when the will was made.

Godeffroy-Faerber did not want to spend six months at Neversink Lodge. A compromise was reached in 1925 by which he did not have to live on the property, but had to keep it in a good state of preservation. Failure to do so would result in forfeiture of the property under the terms of the will.

Further research is necessary to find the sequence of events which led to the present day divisions of land from these two estates.

S. Benderly, who owned and operated Camp Achvah,

owned the property when a live spark and high wind started the fire that leveled the 12-room mansion and a large barn on October 25, 1939.

Today only rubble remains of these two beautiful mansions.

Plock Land Purchases

The following list provides the land purchases made by Otto Plock to build Minqua Park.

Grantor	Liber/Page/Year
Edwin Skidmore	290/325/1878
Sylvester Case	290/327/1878
Thomas Cuddeback	290/331/1878
Michael Murphy	290/333/1878
Hermanus Cuddeback	290/334/1878
Eliza Van Inwegen	292/582/1878
August Zock	344/154/1886
Catherine Griffin	346/492/1886
Thomas Merritt	349/20/1887
Thomas Merritt	349/22/1887
Thomas Merritt	349/24/1887
Thomas Merritt	349/27/1887
Thomas Merritt	349/29/1887
Thomas Merritt	349/31/1887

Sparrowbush Mid-19th Homes

Sparrowbush, a bustling village in the early years of the 19th century, was divided into two communities, starting first as a canal village in what was then the “upper village” known as Honesville. With the arrival of a tannery, many buildings were constructed during the mid-19th century in a development known as the “lower village” where the hamlet of Sparrowbush is now located. These Buildings housed workers for the tannery operation.

Main Street in Sparrowbush was a business center for a long time. Many homes, built during the 19th century, are still in use today. There are 34 homes on Main; 12 on Brook and Upper Brook Roads; 11 on Academy Avenue; 8 on Darragh Lane; 5 on Yetter Lane. Additional 19th century homes are located on The Hook, Samyn Road, River Road, Berme Road and between Rts. 97 and 42. Construction dates range between 1810 and 1892.

Greek Revival Architecture 1820-1880

Greek Revival architecture began to be popular in America around 1820. This revival was not just a “surface style”, as were many that were to follow it, but actually had a basis in form. Its advocates, believing the Greek temple to be the perfect model of proportion, style and ornament, designed public buildings and private houses accordingly.

There were many variations, but common to almost every home regardless of size are classical columns, when possible, and the use of white paint to simulate marble. Doorways often have sidelights and may be crowned by a rectangular transom. Arches are never used; instead, window and doorway surrounds are mostly straight-edges, and ornament is kept to a minimum.



This Greek Revival style home, built in 1830 in Sparrowbush, incorporates typical Greek elements of design that were popular between 1820 and 1880. In this house fluted Doric columns support the porch. Doorways have sidelights. Window and doorway surrounds are straight edged and ornament is kept to a minimum. The use of white paint clapboard siding is meant to simulate marble. (Photo taken by Richard Carey, 1984)



This photo of Sparrowbush shows Main Street. The tannery and its smokestack, is visible in the distance. The Methodist church is on the left. The hardware store, a white building, is in the center. The lumberyard, a dark barn, is to the back right of the store. (Photo courtesy of Brian Lewis)

July 26, 1788
New York became the eleventh state to ratify the Constitution.

Federal Style 1780-1820

The Federal Style is derived from the delicate interior decorations developed by architect, Robert Adam. The delicacy of detail, including slender columns, give the style a feeling of lightness and elegance. Federal houses are two to three stories high, rectangular in shape, and have projecting wings. A low pitched roof is common and the roof may have a balustrade. Doorways are framed with sidelights. The windows have flat lintels with geometric decorations.



Swartwout Homestead
Photo ca. 1880

The Swartwout Homestead, built in 1845 by Peter P. Swartwout was owned by generations of the Swartwout family. The house was built of bricks made from clay found on the farm. This three-storied, rectangular home with its shallow roof line, window lintels and delicate columns are typical of a Federal Style house.

Peter P. Swartwout, builder of the house is seated in the picture. Standing left to right are Henry B. Swartwout, son of Peter P. He became a doctor and was the first mayor of Port Jervis. Hannah Cuddeback Swartwout, wife of Peter P., Benjamin Cud-

deback Swartwout, grandfather of Charles Howard Swartwout, who was the last owner of the homestead.

Today the property is owned by the Orange County Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Gypsy Traveler

Mark your calendars for a special program presented by Lee Randazzo, the Gypsy Traveler, at 3:00, August 16th. Enjoy an afternoon of stories, music and fun at the Little Red 1863 Schoolhouse, 25 Grange Road, Huguenot. Sit back and listen to folktales (some tall, some true) from Native American Indians, American History and Old World Europe. Free refreshments, homemade cookies and fruit punch.

This program is sponsored by The Deerpark Heritage Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan. For additional information please call 845-856-2702 or 845-754-8070.



Lee Randazzo

Save the Date
September 19, 2009
10:00-4:00
Deerpark Heritage Day
Town of Deerpark
Museum

DEEREST DEERPARK 2009

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS



A 2009 Orange Arts Grant to complete a series of fiberglass deer forms for a unique, public project entitled "Deerest Deerpark, 2009" has been awarded to artist Susan Miiller of Sparrowbush. She is inviting artists to submit a proposal of their design for a Fiberglass deer form. The deer forms will depict a variety of scenes including the visual history of the Town of Deerpark, as well as a variety of local scenes.

Susan will work to promote the project to the community and to the press. This project will not only benefit the Town of Deerpark, but will also benefit Orange County by creating a much needed cultural lift for the western part of our county.

Upon completion of the project there will be an exhibition and public reception at the Deerpark Museum, Little Red 1863 Schoolhouse, 25 Grange Road, Huguenot.

Forms to submit a proposal to participate in this exciting project will be available at the Town of Deerpark Museum or may be downloaded at www.townofdeerpark.com.

For additional information, please call 845-856-2702 or 845-754-8070.