



Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark 1863 School House Museum

Town of Deerpark Historian, P. O. Box 621, Huguenot, New York 12746 (845) 856-2702

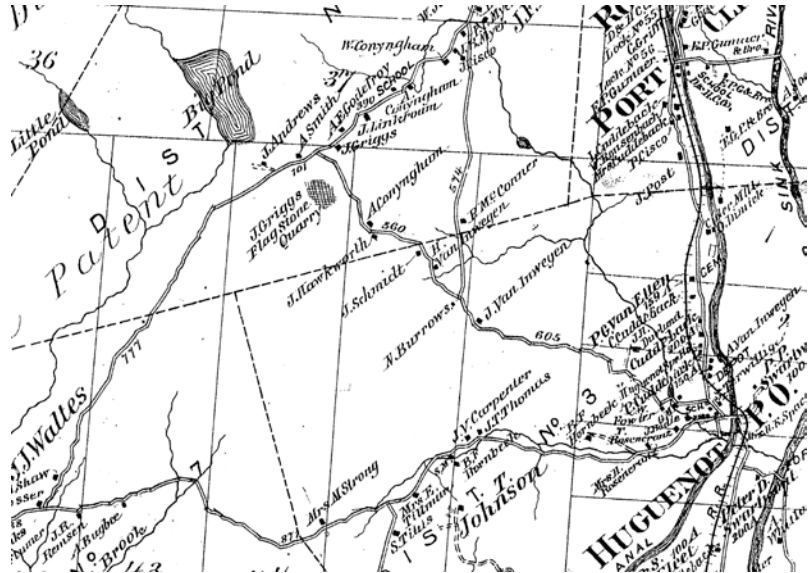
Features

June 2010

Vol. 7

No. 2

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F. W. Beers 1875 Map of the Town of Deerpark showing the area where the murder occurred.

The first issue of the 2010 *Deerpark Diary* was about the life of James Allerton, Esq. In his diary he writes about the 1877 murder of William Springsted which took place at Big Pond in the Town of Deerpark. Allerton was asked to defend the accused John C. Baldwin. It is an interesting case from beginning to end. This issue deals with the murder and Baldwin’s arrest.

The Daily Union
Port Jervis, N. Y.
Wednesday, Oct. 17, 1877

A DELIBERATE MURDER

Wm. H. Springsted’s Life taken for a few Dollars—His Remains found—Coroner’s Inquest—The Result

The citizens of Big Pond, this township are much excited over the finding of the body of Wm. H. Springsted, a quarry man who has been missing since Monday night. Big Pond as stated is in this town, and about three miles from Huguenot.

The locality is thinly inhabited and is but little known in this vicinity. There is a stone quarry near the place in which several men are employed, among whom was a man named Wm. H. Springsted. The man went out from his boarding house Monday night, with about sixty dollars in his pocket, part of which had been paid him by Alonzo Smith of Big Pond a day or two before.

Friends missed him and

instituted searches and it was not until Tuesday morning that his body was found buried in the rear of a barn, near his place of residence. His coat, besmeared with blood, was found under some straw in the barn, in which it is supposed he slept. This fact with the evidence of a struggle led the searchers to believe that the man had been murdered. The search was prosecuted until it resulted in finding the body as stated. Evidently the body had been carried to the spot, and lightly covered with earth and brush. The work had been done very hastily, and in a very bungling manner.

Upon examination it was found that the front part of the man’s head was crushed, the wound penetrating the brain, and

appears to have been inflicted by some blunt instrument.

Coroner Cox, of this village was notified and held an inquest yesterday afternoon, which resulted in the following verdict:-- "That deceased came to his death by wounds inflicted on the right side of the forehead by some blunt instrument." Springsted was a man aged about forty years and is unmarried.

From facts elicited on the inquest, it is evident that the man was murdered for his money. The murderer is suspected, but we are not at liberty to disclose his name. Officers are now on his track and it is to be hoped that he will soon be captured.

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Port Jervis Daily Union
Port Jervis, N. Y.
Thursday, October 18, 1877

THE MURDER OF SPRINGSTED Additional Particulars

The murder of Wm. H. Springsted at Big Pond of this town a few nights ago has created much excitement in this vicinity and is the all absorbing topic of conversation about town.

The murder, which was one of the most cold-blooded ever committed in this vicinity was no doubt the work of a man named John C. Baldwin, who once worked with Springsted and pretended to be his (Springsted's) best and most intimate friend. From testimony elicited at the Coroner's inquest, it is evident

that the two men were together on the fatal night, and it is the belief of many, that Baldwin is the person who committed the foul deed. It is said the man has been in Port Jervis within the past few days, and it is thought by many that he is still here. The man is described as follows: Aged about 30 or 33, about five feet eight inches in height, sandy hair and mustache, face red and freckled, and his hand are covered with freckles. Officers are now in search of the murderer, and it is to be hoped their efforts will be successful.

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The Daily Union
Port Jervis, N. Y.
Monday, October 22, 1877

"CALE" BALDWIN The Supposed Murderer of Springsted Arrested at Paterson by Officers Walley and Tibbets, and Brought to Port Jervis.

The indefatigable efforts of policemen Walley and Tibbets in undertaking the arrest of J. C. Baldwin, better known as "Cale" Baldwin, the man who is supposed to have murdered Wm. H. Springsted near Big Pond, on Tuesday evening the 9th inst., were crowned with success Sunday afternoon at Paterson, N. J. Officers had been on his track for several days and learning definitely his whereabouts, policemen Walley and Tibbets went to Paterson on train No. 4, Sunday and with the assistance of a third person quietly arrested Baldwin in the afternoon about four o'clock at the house of a relative. He was brought here on train No. 8 last night, and lodged

in the lock-up here. So quietly was his arrest accomplished, that not a person knew it until this morning.

In conversation with the prisoner, our reporter gathered some information regarding him:--Baldwin was born in Morris County, N. J., and is thirty-one years of age. He has lived in this vicinity since he was eleven years of age, and is well known in this locality. He is a stonemason by trade, and has been employed in the Blue Stone quarries back of Huguenot, for a long time. His mother once lived in that vicinity, and also in Port Jervis, and was known as Mrs. Ciscoe, having married a man for her second husband by that name. He received some eleven hundred which he squandered in various ways. Soon after the breaking out of the war he enlisted in the 15th N. Y. Cavalry, and did active service upwards of three years. After leaving the army he returned to Port Jervis and since that has been in the employ of different persons in the neighborhood of Huguenot and Cuddebackville.

Baldwin says that he slept in Mr. Van Inwegen's barn on the Monday night of the murder with Springsted; that the latter told him before he went to sleep that he (Springsted) would get up early in the morning, as he was going to Huguenot, a distance of three miles, to buy some tobacco. Awakening in the morning Baldwin says he found that Springsted had gone, he knew not where. He, Baldwin, came to Port Jervis on the following Wednesday and then went to Paterson. The report that he stopped in Port Jervis several days, he says is untrue.

Shortly after arriving at Paterson he went to New Foundland, N. J. where he claims his mother lives. From New Foundland he went back to Paterson, where he stayed with a relative named Block, who lives on the outskirts of the city, at which place our officers discovered him. Being questioned by our reporter as to how he accounted for the blood upon his pantaloons Baldwin said he had cut his thumb on a stone and supposed that he got the blood on his pants from that source.

He was arraigned before Justice Cox this morning for a hearing, when he plead not guilty, but was remanded to jail to await the arrival of witnesses for whom subpoenas have been issued, when a further hearing will be given him. It is expected that an examination will be had tomorrow.

Great credit is due officers Samuel Walley and Edward Tibbets through whose untiring efforts the arrest was made. We thus publicly acknowledge their meritorious work in our columns because we believe we reflect the sentiment of the whole community by so doing.

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The Daily Union
Port Jervis, N. Y.
October 23-25, 1877

THE BIG POND MURDER CASE Preliminary Hearings

The following are excerpts from testimony of the

hearings which took place from October 23rd to October 25th: The hearing is being held before Justice Cox at Graham's Hall. Hon. T. J. Lyon has been retained for prosecution. J. M. Allerton, Esq. has been retained for the prisoner.

Catherine Van Inwegen—On Monday, October 8th, Baldwin and Springsted came to my house about 8:00 in the evening and said they were going to sleep in the barn. On Tuesday morning Baldwin came in for breakfast wearing the same clothes as the night before except that he had no shoes on. Later in the day Baldwin changed his clothes and had purchased new shoes and then he left. A week later I found the pants and shoes with what I think are blood stains upon them.

Harvey Moore—On October 13th, I went to Van Inwegens to get a load of wood and was told a man who had been sleeping in the barn was missing some time. In the barn I discovered blood on the west door, about four feet from the door and in some straw. I notified Brown and Andrews.

Benjamin Van Inwegen—I got up Tuesday Oct. 9th at 5:00 in the morning; went to the barn; found Baldwin asleep within two feet of where blood was found. Baldwin told me that Springsted went to the canal to buy some tobacco. On the evening of the 8th I had gone to the wood pile to split wood and could not find the axe. The next day I saw the axe at the chopping block and discovered blood running from pole to hilt of axe. Springsted had slept in the barn about two weeks before the murder; Baldwin slept there for the first time the night

of the murder. Springsted was about 38 years and his weight was about 170 lbs. His remains were dug out by Mr. Brown, Andrews, and Lincoln; no blood was discovered in the grave. Blood on the manger floor was profuse. We followed traces from rear of barn to a large dog house where we discovered stones upturned and saw a hole dug and by its side there was a mound. We proceeded to dig up the body. First we discovered boots, then dug at head of mound and discovered his head. His shirt had been taken out of his pants and pulled over his head and twisted into a knot. The body was removed to barn. I saw him at barn after he was washed. His face was covered with blood and his skull appeared to be knocked in by some blunt instrument.

Dr. Sol. Van Etten—(Surgeon and Physician) I was called to see the murdered man and make post-mortem examination. I found the body still in grave. As it was raised from the grave, I examined it carefully and found over the right eye on forehead that the skull was broken in and brainy matter had exuded from the wound. That wound caused his death. I should say the body had been there 8 or 10 days. There were no indications of more than one blow.

John Rose—I was at the barn on Tuesday the 16th when the body was found. Near the grave I found a piece of buckskin, which had been worn on a finger.

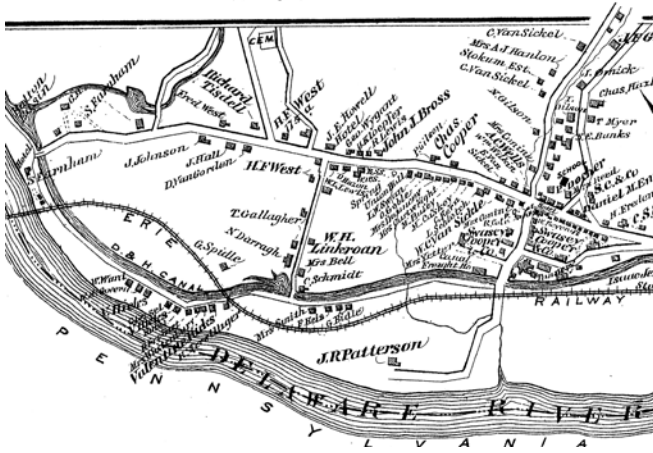
Bruce Mapes—(Conductor on Eastern Division of Erie Railway) I was acquainted with Baldwin since 1863. He rode my train on Wednesday or Saturday a week or more ago.

Officer Walley—I caused the

SPARROWBUSH P.O.

TOWN OF DEER PARK

Scale 75 Rods to the inch.



F. W. Beers 1875 Map of the Town of Deerpark (Sparrowbush Insert)

arrest of Baldwin at 445 Market Street, Paterson, N.J.. It was brought about through an intercepted letter directed to (this was left blank in the records--editor's note) in the care of W. Moore and was signed by J. C. Baldwin.

Ira V. Springsted —I am the brother of the murdered man. My age is 36 years and I have lived at Big Pond and Monticello. I can give no particulars about my brother.

Wm. H. Brown—Retold story of finding the body and removing it from the grave with Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Andrew.

J. Alfred Meyers—(Resides at Prospect Hill) I knew Baldwin well. I knew Springsted slightly. I saw Baldwin about 10:30 on day after murder at the quarry where I was working. He asked me if I had seen Springsted that morning, I told him I had not. He came back later in the afternoon and said if Springsted comes back to tell him he will be back in about a week.

Joseph Hazen—(Lives near Bolton Basin) Baldwin was supposed to get me some fish, but didn't. He gave me a \$10 bill to repay for the fish he didn't bring

me.

Mary Whitmore—(Lives at the Hook) I found Baldwin at my house about two weeks ago last Monday. He had money; went to Hicks to eat and drink. Charles Decker brought him back. He was very intoxicated; had lost all his money; and moaned about getting a girl in trouble. Baldwin said he was going to visit his parents.

Other witnesses were called. Nothing new was added.

Officer Walley took Baldwin to Goshen jail on train No. 8 to await his trial.

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The next issue of the *Deerpark Diary* will be about Baldwin's trial and the role James Allerton plays. The following was copied from Allerton's diary and explains his great liking for John Baldwin.

"I now come to the case of John C. Baldwin. About twenty-five years ago Peter P. Swartwout came into my office with a small boy. I became interested in him. It was not his beauty or his intelligence that interested me, but it was

his general make up that attracted my attention. He seemed to be the counter part of myself. Hair as red as a cherry, face of the same color. That is, he was freckled. His eyes were a mixture of gray and blue and kept continually winking. His tongue seemed to be thick and clumsy, yet he managed to work it lively and communicate his wants freely. Surely I was excusable for liking the boy as I fancied he was an exact picture of myself at his age. His business was to recover about \$500.00 due him from his father's estate."

The small boy was John C. Baldwin.

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Deerest Deerpark 12th Annual Port Jervis Arts Walk, July 17th 2010

"Deerest Deerpark" is an exhibit of small fiberglass deer decorated with local scenes by local artists in celebration of Deerpark. The project was made possible by an Orange Arts Grant to Susan Miiller. Other items on display and for purchase will be *Town of Deerpark, Hawk's Nest, A Newspaper History of the Road, paper weights, schoolhouse note paper, post cards, key chains and patches.*

