



Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark 1863 School House Museum

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

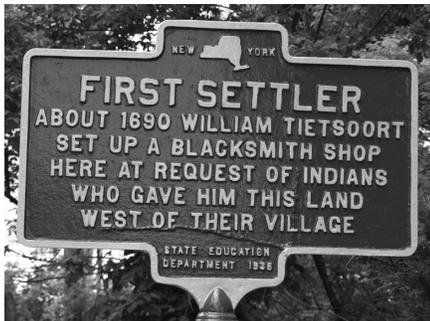
845-856-2702 www.1863schoolhouse.org

March, 2015

FEATURES

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William Tietsoort First Settler —1690



The Town of Deerpark will celebrate the 325th anniversary of the first settlers this year. Culminating with a colonial celebration at the Annual Open House in September.

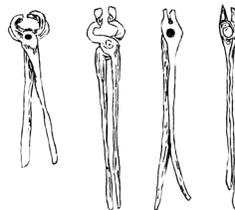
The Tietsoort family was asked to come live in the Maghagkamik village by the Lenni Lenape Indians. In the Lenape language Maghag means pumpkin and Kamik means field. So the name of the village was Pumpkin Field. This village was located along the Neversink River along the border of present-day Town of Deerpark and City of Port Jervis. This area was later known as the Lower Neighborhood.

The Tietsoorts, a Dutch family, had come from Schenectady because Mohawk Indians had attacked that village and it wasn't safe to live

there anymore. The Lenape made an agreement with William Tietsoort that he could have some land and build his home here, if he would repair their guns and make metal tools, kettles, and knives for them in his blacksmith shop. The Tietsoorts spoke Dutch as well as the Lenape language.

The first thing the Tietsoorts did was to take their wagon apart and use the wood to make a simple shelter for themselves and their animals. Once they were settled, Mr. Tietsoort built a blacksmith shop. He went into the forest to cut trees. The oxen pulled the logs to the place where he was going to build his shop. He flattened the sides of the logs so they were even and then cut them into equal lengths. The Lenape helped the family stack and fasten the logs one on top of the other. They built a simple roof over the top of the shop. On one end of the building he built a huge stone fireplace and placed a bellow next to it. The Lenape were fascinated with all this work as this was all new to them.

They would watch Mr. Tietsoort light charcoal in the fireplace. Charcoal burns much hotter than wood. When he pushed the bellows up and down the air made the flames in the fireplace very hot. Using tongs, he held a piece of metal into the fire. It turned from dark red to cherry red to bright red to white. Then he would bring it to his anvil and hammer it



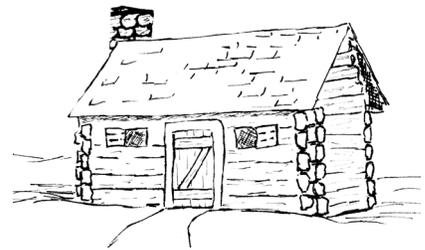
Blacksmith Tools

Vol. 15

No. 1

into the shape of the tool he needed.

He also built a log cabin for his family. It was not very big. There was a door with windows on either side. The windows had oily cloths over them to let in light and little shutters on the side to close in bad weather. They filled the spaces between the logs with wattle, a mixture of clay and cut up sumac trees. The Indians helped stuff the wattle in all of the cracks between the logs. Underneath the cabin they dug a root cellar to store food for the winter.



The cabin had one large room with a fireplace, a table, benches and chairs. Mr. Tietsoort had made pots, pans, utensils and plates for the family to use. Mrs. Tietsoort had saved some chests from the wagon to store things. The ceiling was low and at one end there was a ladder that went up to the sleeping room. Their mattresses were made of straw and feather beds were used as covers.

In the late 1690s, the Cuddebacks, Gumaers, Swartwouts and Van Inwwegens settled in Peenpack which was known as the Upper Neighborhood.

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19th Century News

Newspapers of the past reflect our history in a special way. In

this issue a number of newspaper articles have been transcribed. The language and spellings are exactly as copied from the articles. Errors occurred because the type set was done by hand leaving room for error. Enjoy the news of the past.

The Evening Gazette

Saturday, June 9, 1877

Another Vicious Bull A maddened Sparrow Bush bovine on the war-path

*William C. Van Sickle attacked and badly injured –
His life saved by his watch –
Another case in Middletown*

Mr. Wm. C. Van Sickle, who lives on the old Anson Raymond farm in Sparrow Bush, some two and a half miles west of the village, came very near being gored to death by a vicious bull, between five and six o'clock Friday morning.

Mr. Van Sickle has a bull of his own raising, some thirteen months old, and unusually big for its age. The animal is kept in a stable during the day, but is allowed to run out in the barn yard all night.

Early that morning, he turned the cows into the yard to be milked, and, as is his usual custom, he started to drive the bull into the enclosure, when it turned upon him in a furious manner and tossed him into the air. Mr. Van Sickle fell upon a pile of manure nearby, when the enraged animal made repeated lunges at him and trampled on his body. He arose with great difficulty and was endeavoring to escape, when he was again struck and knocked against the barn, the vicious beast meanwhile keeping up a series of vigorous thrusts.

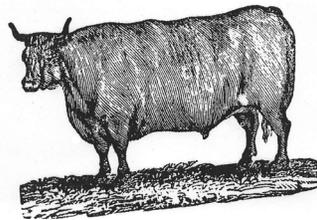
But for a silver watch he carried in the waste pocket of his pantaloons, he would have been fatally injured. One of the bull's horns struck it, making a deep indentation in its case.

Watching a favorable opportu-

nity, Mr. Van Sickle swung a club that lay a few feet from him and dealt the bull a heavy blow across the face that blinded it and allowed him a good chance to get out of the animal's way.

After the excitement was over, Mr. Van Sickle's injuries began to tell upon him and he was obliged to be assisted into his house. Upon examination, it was found both thighs were lacerated, his arms cut and head gashed, and chest bruised.

Mr. Van Sickle was feeling more comfortable this morning.



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Evening Gazette

Sept. 28, 1878

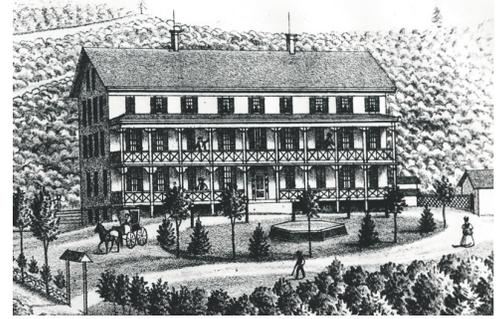
Guymard News

Going home – Draining the lake – car loads of fish expected

Guymard, NY – Sept 28 –

The last of the summer boarders left this morning on the Orange County. The season was not a very active one in the way of boarding, but those who came stayed about the usual time.

The next excitement about here will be that of drawing water from the lake at this place. Men are actively engaged in putting up racks for catching fish and eels. The proprietor at Guymard Spring House, Mr. P.J. Gumaer, designs if he succeeds in opening the pipe and has a successful drain to save what fish he can. Speculation runs high as to the amount of fish in the lake. Some say nothing less than several car loads



Guymard Spring House

will be taken. It would be a good idea for the Gazette to have a reporter on the grounds when the final opening is made. It will test the propriety of stocking private ponds with fish. The lake was stocked with all kinds of the finny tribe.

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Evening Gazette

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1878

Blue Stone Business Reviving

Since last Friday William Maxwell has shipped from Roses Point on the Port Jervis & Monticello Railroad 15 cars of blue stone, some of which had lain for two years, and is now engaged in buying more.

John F. Kilgoor is leasing quarries on Prospect Hill above Roses Point, and now has 10 men employed in quarrying. Taken all together the signs of the times are very encouraging for the revival of this important industry.



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Evening Gazette

Tuesday, May 5, 1885 3 cents

A very unusual sight

A few days ago a tree a foot in diameter and about 30 feet high slid down the steep mountainside

above Roses Point on the P.J. & Monticello railroad and strange to say alighted in the centre of the track and stood upright as though it had been planted there. The morning train was due at about the time the tree fell and then it was flagged. The passengers greeted the novel sight of a large upright tree blocking the road. It was cut down and the roots and stump tumbled down the bank. A New York gentleman who had been to Monticello to engage board, was on the train and stated that this section was the most prolific he had ever been on. "Only the day before I passed over the road," he said, "it was perfectly clear, and today I find a large tree growing in the middle of the track. Wonderful growing country indeed."

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Evening Gazette

Tuesday Dec. 24, 1878

A Heavy Snow Storm

Good Sleighing in and around Port Jervis

Snow, hail and rain – and consequently plenty if ice here about – cold weather

A "White Christmas" – two feet of snow in west

The storm of last Saturday deposited considerable snow here about, but the precipitation at night turned to rain and hail; packing the snow that had fallen and carrying an immense body of ice over field and stream. At the north and west there was a much greater fall of snow and trains were delayed on all roads Sunday and Monday.

In the immediate vicinity the fall of snow was not more than four or five inches, leaving not more than three on the ground. The roads were smooth, somewhat frozen, and in excellent condition for winter, and the

result is there is some fine sleighing, which people are taking advantage of. The streets have been almost filled with sleighs since Monday morning.



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Evening Gazette

Tuesday Nov. 25, 1924

Ox Bow Tea Room on Cahoonzie Road Is Destroyed By Fire

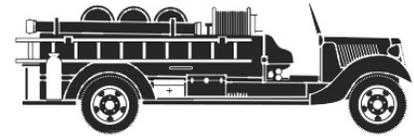
Flames Broke Out in Rear While Owner Was Calling on Friend—Barn is Saved After Hard Fight—Loss Covered by Insurance

Fire destroyed the Ox Bow Tea Room, located along the Cahoonzie Road, a short distance above the Cahoonzie school house about 7:30 o'clock Monday evening. There was no one home at the time the fire broke out and for the reason the exact cause is not known.

From the time the building was discovered to be on fire until it was completely consumed neighbors worked faithfully hoping that some part of it might be saved. Oscar Roe, who conducts the tea room was alone during the evening and decided to pay a visit at the home of Edward Davis which was a short distance away. He had been away from the house perhaps 15 minutes and as he started for home saw that his house was a mass of flames.

Shortly after Mr. Roe left the place Norman Goble who resides about a half miles beyond the Roe property, while passing the house discovered it to be on fire. He notified Messrs.

Hagen and Parks, who reside on either side of the burning building. These two men hurried to the house in an effort to save what they could but the building was burning rapidly and nothing could be gotten out. Another neighbor sent for the Sparrow Bush fire department.



When questioned as to the cause of the fire, Mr. Roe said that he did not know the origin unless it was an overheated stove in the rear of the house. Mr. Roe was formerly a resident of Newburgh. He resided in Cahoonzie for the past two years. The damage is thought to be in the neighborhood of \$5,000, which is covered by insurance.

The property was formerly owned by the late Mrs. Elizabeth Elder. It was also formerly occupied by Mrs. Reed. It was formerly a road house and several years ago when the Cahoonzie Road was known as the "Old Plank Road" it was used as a toll gate.

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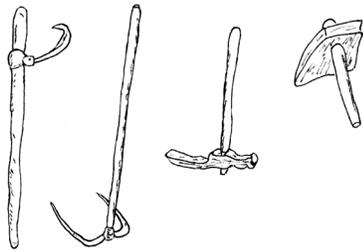
Port Jervis Middle School Students Experience History

Each summer the Town of Deerpark Museum hosts a bus tour for visitors and residents following the route of Captain Joseph Brant's Raid of July 20, 1779. The idea of doing a modified tour for Port Jervis Middle School students was presented to Kelly Decker, Port Jervis Mayor and Port Jervis Middle School history teacher, as a way for our historian's office to connect

with students through the Common Core Curriculum. The program was met with great enthusiasm, energy and cooperation. Port Jervis Middle School teachers, administrators, and members of the Town of Deerpark Museum, Minisink Valley Historical Society and Neversink Valley Museum of History and Innovation met to prepare a comprehensive program for the students. The final plan included three components: 1. Classroom instruction about the settler's lives; 2. A bus tour following the route of the July 20, 1779 Joseph Brant Raid; 3. An assembly about Joseph Brant and his Indian/Tory raiders using primary source materials.



The bus then followed the route of Brant's raid along Neversink Drive, Town of Deerpark and East Main Street, Port Jervis with explanations from Breyer and Burns at each related historic marker.



Farm Tools

Before the bus tour, Gretchen Wierheim, Executive Director of the Neversink Valley Museum of History and Innovation, Cuddebackville, came to the classrooms and explained what life was like for the settlers in the Neversink Valley during colonial times. She brought artifacts so the students could learn about the utensils used at that time. This information prepared the students for the bus tour which took place the following week.

Dressed in authentic colonial costume, Sue Breyer, Deerpark Museum member and Lynn Burns, Town of Deerpark Historian conducted six bus tours over a two day period, each an hour and a half long. Upon leaving the Middle School on the way to the first historical marker at the corner of Peenpack Trail and Grange Road, Breyer explained the background information about the events that led up to the raid.



The tour ended with a visit to Fort Decker, West Main Street, where Nancy Conod, Executive Director, Minisink Valley Historical Society explained the fort's role during the raid. She provided some very popular colonial era treats for the students as they explored all of the historic building's nooks and crannies.



Students Visiting Fort Decker

Later that same week an assembly was held in the Middle School auditorium. Kelly Decker offered a power point presentation

using letters and reports from Joseph Brant, Colonel Hathorn, Daniel Decker, Captain Wood and Casimir Pulaski as primary source materials to discuss the raid, its participants and the Battle of the Minisink. Frank Salvati, Historian and Interpreter of Colonial Indian Affairs, gave an interesting talk about Brant and demonstrated his extensive collection of Indian tomahawks and war clubs. The enthusiastic students were able to handle these weapons giving them a special hands-on experience.



Frank Salvati Demonstrating Indian War Club

Everyone involved in the program was pleased by its success. Hopefully the tour will be repeated each year. This was a great opportunity to teach the students the rich history of their community.

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2015 Joseph Brant Bus Tour

The Town of Deerpark Museum will be taking reservations for the 2015 Joseph Brant Bus Tour to be held on Saturday, July 18, 2015. Reservation forms are available on the Museum website www.1863schoolhouse.org or at the 1863 Schoolhouse, 25 Grange Road, Huguenot, NY or by mail from the Town of Deerpark Historian's Office, PO Box 621, Huguenot, NY 12746—Phone: 845-856-2702. Cost \$6.00--Adults; \$5.00 Seniors; Children under 12--\$4.00.