



Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark 1863 School House Museum
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Hospital Facility at Chancellorsville, Virginia

The Orange Blossoms

The summer of 2012 marks the 150th anniversary of the recruitment of Orange County volunteers into the 124th New York Regiment, nicknamed the Orange Blossoms.

During the summer of 1862, President Abraham Lincoln called for 300,000 three-year volunteers to fight for the Union cause. Since recruitment was based on state population, New York was required to recruit 60 infantry regiments (60,000 men). Orange County recruited a full regiment. On September 5, 1862, the 124th New York Volunteers, nine companies—A through I, mustered in under Colonel A. Van Horne Ellis, Lt. Colonel Francis M. Cummins and Major James Cromwell at Goshen. Men from Deerpark and Port Jervis were assigned to Company F. The Daughters of Orange presented three battle flags to the regiment. The 124th, 930 strong, carried the flags from Goshen to Virginia where they

served for several weeks. From there they joined the Army of the Potomac at Harper's Ferry, were attached to the 1st brigade, 3d corps, in November 1862, joined Burnside's army on its way to Fredericksburg and arrived at Falmouth on November 24th. The corps was lightly engaged at Fredericksburg with small losses, however it was heavily engaged in the Battle of Chancellorsville, losing 28 killed, 161 wounded and 15 missing—a total of 204. Just prior to this battle, Ellis looped a piece of orange ribbon through a buttonhole of each soldier's uniform as a reminder of Orange County and to help identify the injured or dead; hence the name Orange Blossoms. After Chancellorsville the 124th fought at Gettysburg where both Col. Ellis and Major Cromwell were killed. During the pursuit of Lee after the battle, the regiment was engaged at Jones'

cross-roads, Maryland, and then on into Virginia for additional battles at Wapping Heights, Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and the Assault of Petersburg. It then entered in the Appomattox campaign, being engaged at White Oak Ridge, Deatonsville Road, Farmville and Appomattox Station, where Lee surrendered to Grant, April 9, 1865.

The regiment was honorably discharged and mustered out under Col. Charles H. Weygant, June 3, 1865, near Washington, D. C. The total enrollment during service was 1,320. While in service the regiment lost 244 men: killed in action, 9 officers, 93 enlisted men; of wounds received in action, 2 officers, 45 enlisted men; of disease and other causes 1 officer, 94 enlisted men; in Confederate prisons, 11 enlisted men.

A beautiful monument has been erected at Gettysburg sur-

mounted by a life size marble statue of their heroic Colonel Ellis. The inscription reads, "The Orange Blossoms went into action on this spot with 18 officers and 220 men. Lost in killed and wounded 7 officers and 85 men." Additional monuments honoring the Orange Blossoms are located in Goshen and Warwick.

Source of information: New York State Military Museum.



Regiment Battle Flag

Company F Casualties

Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia May 2-3, 1863

The following is a list of casualties from Company F (Deerpark/Port Jervis) as listed in the Whig Press and Newburgh Daily Journal.

Killed

William V. C Carmor
Thomas H. Jeffrey
James Cunningham
Ira Wilcox, wounded—
since dead
Clement B. Anderson

Wounded

Lieutenant Thomas J. Quick,
under the eye, slightly
Corporal Charles Peters, in arm,
severely
Job M. Sneed, in hand, slightly
Henry R. Bodhead, in cheek,
slightly
Bernard F. Kenn, in thigh,
shot wound
Charles P. Kirk, contusion,
caused by shell
Sgt. Alfred Bartley, in abdomen,

severely—died in hospital
on May 26th

George W. Adams, slightly
Isaac Gillison, in hand, slightly
Job Sneed, in hand, slightly
Reuben Doty, in hand, slightly
Jacob Garrison, slightly
J. F. Fisher, gone to Philadelphia
Hospital

Missing

Peter A. Hanaka, died in hospital
on May 23rd
Andrew J. McCarty

Battle of Gettysburg July 1-3, 1863

Killed

Sgt. John B. Drake
Corporal Orlando U. Knapp
Private Amsey W. Quick

Wounded

Corporal James H. Taylor, in foot
Corporal James Conner, in head
Private George Garrett, in face
Private F. S. Goble, in knee
Private William Van Sickle, in
hand
Private George Landon, in arm
Private Ira Gordon, left arm
amputated

Missing

Private Isaac Gibson

Civil War Reenactment at Huguenot

The Lions Club of Port Jervis & Matamoras/Westfall spent a year planning a week-long 7th National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans Reserves which took place on the grounds behind the Hotel Park Lane, Route 209, Huguenot. The reenactment on Sunday, September 5, 1976 was the climax of the week's events.

In the centerfold of the newspaper were pictures of the "battle". Men in both Union and Confederate uniforms were riding horseback, shouting orders, shooting cannons,

wielding swords and rifles, being wounded and dying. A nurse in 19th century dress was seen giving aid to a fallen soldier.

*The Union Gazette
Port Jervis, NY
Tuesday, September 7, 1976*

Yank, Reb rematch draws 5,000—no blood

By Bob Couture,
Staff Reporter

A bit of Civil War history was brought to the area Sunday as members of the Sons of Veterans Reserves reenacted the famous Battle of Cedar Creek, Va. on a stubbled field here.

The outcome of the battle was the same as on Oct. 19, 1864—the Union Army was victorious. But this time more than 5,000 spectators were on hand to cheer more than 1,500 men in blue and gray as they clashed on the battlefield.

At the beginning, an announcer recounted the life of the battle as history books tell it. The lines of men in gray; lines of men in blue.

The battle began with the resounding boom of cannon fire as the Confederates launched a barrage upon the Union troops. The earth shook from the gunfire and the crowd was transported back in time.

Each group of soldiers gathered around their flag, looking to it with pride. Then the attacks began across the broad lines...

Then the battle was over. The North won, because that's the way it happened decades ago in Virginia. The spectators cheered, but there was an odd silence on the battlefield.

Forming back into company units, they marched past

the spectators.

It was real, yet it was make-believe.



In the heat of 'Battle of Cedar Creek' Sunday in Huguenot, Yankee and Rebel officers clash with sword and gun.

Photo by Chris Farlekas,

Times Herald Record 9-7-1976

A New Bridge

In a few months there will be a new Neversink River bridge in Cuddebackville. The current bridge, built in 1928, was inspected March 21, 2008 and found to be in need of replacement. In May 2012, the State Department of Transportation awarded an \$8.9 million contract to Bette & Cring, Latham, NY, to build the new bridge.

There have been many means of crossing the Neversink River at this point during the history of this valley.

Transportation between the Delaware and Hudson Rivers began with a trail created by the Native Americans. In the early 17th century the Dutch expanded the route to accommodate wagons transporting copper from the Paaquarry mines in New Jersey along the Old Mine Road. The route followed the Delaware River north to Minisink (Port Jervis) and then east to Esopus (Kingston). Route 209 is the oldest road over 100 miles long in America.

There are a number of river crossings on this route. Prior to building bridges, oxen, horses, carts and passengers crossed at shallow places called fords or were ferried across using a rope and pulley system. The earliest ferries were privately owned

by local land owners who charged a toll. The rope ferry was guided and in many cases propelled across the river by ropes connected to both shores. Tolls were collected by the ferry operator.

During the early 1800s companies were incorporated to raise

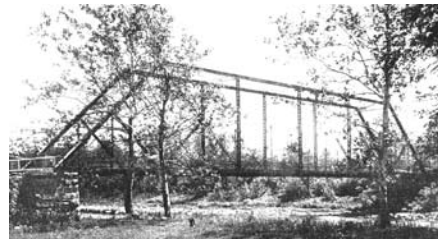


Rope Ferry crossing the Neversink River

money to build toll bridges. These incorporations were usually given for a period of years, often 25-30 years. At some later date, most of these bridges were taken over by a town, city or the state and became free-use bridges.

A wooden suspension bridge was built around 1850. This type of bridge served horses and wagons well, but in time increased traffic proved that a more substantial bridge was needed. (See December 2008 *Deerpark Diary* for picture of the bridge)

In July 1902, the Deerpark Town Board and the Commissioners of Highways awarded a contract to the Owego Bridge Company to build a new bridge at a cost of \$6,500.00.



1902 Neversink River Steel Bridge, Cuddebackville

With an even greater increase in traffic, the current bridge was built in 1928. It was resurfaced in 1975 with considerable controversy because of labor disputes.



Teamster: Local 445 picketing the bridge project because union members are not on the job. Union Gazette photo, March 12, 1975.

At present, for safety reasons, the existing bridge can only carry one-lane traffic while the new bridge is being built.

The new bridge down river from the existing bridge will provide better visibility for drivers. There will be a slight bend in Route 209 as it approaches the bridge. The Hoag Road entrance will be located further north making room for a gravel parking lot next to the river. The Prospect Hill entrance will be extended to meet Route 209. A copy of the construction site is on the back page of this newsletter. Additional information is available in the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall, Route 209, Huguenot.

Deerpark Museum Programs

Open House

Sunday, September 30, 2012

The Deerpark Museum, 25 Grange Rd, Huguenot, will have an Open House on September 30, 2012 from 3:00 to 5:00. There will be music, old-time craft displays, games for the children, and art work..

Local History Program

Sunday, October 14, 2012

Gary Keaton will present a program about "Basha Kill and the Lenape Queen Basha" on October 14, 2012 at 3:00. Learn about one of our natural treasures.

Both events are free. Refreshments will be served.

