

Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark 1863 School House Museum Town of Deerpark Historian, P. O. Box 621, Huguenot, New York 12746 Phone— (845-856-2702) Website www.1863schoolhouse.org

## September, 2013

#### Features

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# History of the 1863 **Huguenot School**

This September marks the 150th Anniversary of the 1863 Schoolhouse. During its lifetime it has had a number of different names: School District No. 3: Huguenot School; Upper Huguenot School. Now it is known as the 1863 Schoolhouse, Town of Deerpark Museum.

What was life like when the Huguenot School opened built in 1863?

Our nation was in the midst of its greatest crisis, The American Civil War (1861-1865). On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all slaves are free. The Battle of Gettysburg was fought July 1-3, 1863, in and around the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The battle involved the largest number of casualties of the entire war and is often described as the war's turning point. In November, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln was invited to deliver remarks, which later became known as the Gettysburg Address, at the official dedication ceremony for the National Cemetery of Gettysburg. Lincoln's 273word address would be remembered as one of the most important speeches in American history.

The historical picture of Huguenot during the same year was a town centered around the Delaware and Hudson Canal. There were grocery stores, blacksmith shops, dry docks, a grist mill, a cider mill, a boat yard, a trotting track and a tavern. Huguenot was chiefly noted for the nearby min-

No. 3

Vol. 10 eral springs and the splendid hotel built for vacationers. Lock No. 56 on the canal was called the Mineral Springs Lock. Many homes were built at that time, some of which are still standing today.

School District No. 3 was created in 1860 when John Van Etten, Henry B. Swartwout and Peter G. Van Etten met to determine the boundaries of the new district.

On May 8, 1863, William and Mary Cuddeback conveyed the school property to Peter G Van Etten, Henry B. Swartwout and Peter D. Swartwout, trustees of School District No. 3. There must have been many craftsmen here in the valley. The School was built of bricks made from clay found along the banks of the Neversink River. It had one room with a high ceiling. Windows were shuttered from the inside. Students were called to class by a bell hung from the bell tower. Since there was no indoor plumbing, a pump at a neighbor's house supplied water which students had to carry into the school. An outhouse was located at the back of the school. In the winter, the teacher arrived early in the morning to set up a wood-burning stove to supply the necessary warmth for everyone. Blackboards are still mounted on the outer walls all around the room where students from the different grades could complete their school work. Classes lasted until late in the afternoon.



The flag in this picture is a 33-star 1859 flag. (Photo date—Unknown)

As was common in the 19th century, the school probably housed grades one through eight. Students continued their education by attending high schools in Port Jervis, Otisville or Middletown.



Only two students names are known in this photo: C. Howard Swartwout (born 1897) is on the far right in the last row. Merle Martin nee Tarkett is on the far left in the middle row. (Photo donated by Charlie Swartwout. Photo date —ca. 1908)

There were as many as fifty children and one teacher at one time in the school, until 1929 when eighty-eight students were enrolled.



Left to Right—Back Row: Frank Furman,\_\_\_,Sarah Cuddeback (Teacher), Carl Furman, \_\_\_Noni Decker, Lena \_\_\_\_\_

—Middle Row: Kathryn Fowler, Howard Decker, Richard Jenks, \_\_Sink, \_\_, \_, Orville Dunn—Front Row: \_\_Conklin, \_\_Sink, \_\_Sink, Gerald Simpson, Lillian Space Bauer, Alberta Simpson, Clara Decker, Bernice Landweh, Elise McAbee. (Photo donated by Lillian Bauer. Photo Date —1926)

In 1930, the school was divided into two classrooms because of the high enrollment in the district. The upper grades attended this school which became known as the Upper Huguenot School. The district purchased another building (Today's Building #2, Route 209) for the lower grades,which became known as the Lower Huguenot School.



Left to Right—Back Row: Starlene Conkling, Fred Stoll Jr., Norma Acton, Joseph Van Inwegen, Francis Simpson, Henry Bennett, Betty Jenks, Annabelle Boyd—Front Row Betty Taylor, Clifford Space Jr., Lyman Conklin, Ray Taylor, Marian Conkling, Leonard Conkling. (Photo donated by Fred Stoll. Photo—1935)

On April 14, 1944, Ellen Van Inwegen gave an additional seven acres to Henry McGuire, C. Howard Swartwout and Clarence Reiser, trustees of School district No. 3 to be used as a playground.



There are no names on this photo of the children in the very back row. Left to Right—Mid

dle Row: Gloria Robinson, Irma Martell (peeking between Martell & Martin) Joy Martin, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_, Edward Williams, Jean Lemke, Mary Nolan, Helene Uhlig, Dorothy Williams, Seated—Marjorie Hunt, Delores Hovencamp, \_\_\_\_ Priscella Costic, \_\_\_\_, Evelyn Lemke, Eddie Hovencamp. The rest of the students names are unknown.(Photo Date—1947)

Few early records are available. In 1955, when the Port Jervis Central School District was established and all of the oneroom schools were consolidated, most of the records of the oneroom schools were collected and stored at the Port Jervis District Office, Thompson Street, Port Jervis. The records were destroyed during the flood that occured that year.



Left to right—Mary Somarelli, Carol Lemke, Frances Somarelli: (Photo donated by Vi Somarelli Photo Date—1953)

The school closed in 1961, having been in use for almost 100 years.



HAPPY LINEUP—This lineup at Upper Huguenot School was a happy one, first because it was the end of the school term and second, it was the annual picnic enjoyed by pupils and teachers, sponsored by the Mother's Club. Newspaper pictures Captions Photos by Ina Case Union Gazette June 27, 1961

After the school closed, the building was used as the social hall for the Huguenot Fire Department for ten years. Thereafter the building was boarded up and empty until 1996.



A sign (donated by Jerry Walters) announcing the renovation of the Schoolhouse was installed by Judge Jack Ehre and Highway Superintendent William Crown. Left to Right: Betty Ehre, Jack Ehre, William Crown (Photo Date—December 1997)

The Town of Deerpark was planning a celebration for its Bicentennial in 1998. Members of the Deerpark Bicentennial Commission suggested that the building should be restored and used as a community building as a special project to celebrate the Town's Bicentennial. With funding from grants secured through the offices of Senator Charles D. Cook, Senator John J. Bonacic and a Community Development Grant, the building was renovated.



Rob Honders, who rebuilt the bell tower also refurbished the original 1864 American Bell and the bell ringer. In this picture, the Highway Department crew is attaching the bell and ringer to the cherry picker for installation into the bell tower. Left to Right Warren Gunderman, Rob Honders, John Decker, Bill Crown, Lee Rosenthal. (Photo Date—November 30, 1998)

Many volunteers helped in the interior restoration and the furnishing of the building. The work took longer than originally planned. In 2001 the building was dedicated with an Open-house Celebration.

Since the restoration many historic artifacts, furnishings, school memorabilia, and art work by local artists have been donated.



Charlie and Nancy Swartwout donated a John Howitt painting of the Huguenot Schoolhouse to the Town of Deerpark Historian's Office on September 12, 2000. The painting had been in their private collection.

Volunteers created displays and in 2004 the Town of Deerpark Council designated the building as the Town Museum.

Programs about local historical topics are presented throughout the year. One of the major events planned by the Deerpark Museum Committee is the annual Joseph Brant Bus Tour.

The Town Historian's Office is also located in the building. The regular hours are Tuesdays 10:00 am to 3:00 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 am to 12:00 noon or by appointment—Phone 845-856-2702 — e-mail nschadt@townofdeerpark.org.

# **Huguenot School Teachers**

The following is a partial list of the teachers who taught in the Upper Huguenot School: 1874 B. W. Winters 1874 D. N. Harris 1887-1888 W. M. Clark 1890-1893 Mrs. A. E. Cuddeback 1896-1898 Eva Westbrook 1899 Sarah Bennet 1900 Ada Bogert 1901 Marie E. Sterritt 1926 Sarah Cuddeback 1938-1944 Emma Caldwell Palmer (Upper Grades) 1947-1949 Sadie B. Reagan 1947-1950 Merle Martin 1949-1952 Ann Lempka 1950-1960 Edith Howard 1952-1960 Christine Von Sauer



FAREWELL—Christine Von Sauers, left, and Edith Howard, teachers at the Upper Huguenot School, bid each other a fond farewell at the close of school last Friday. Miss Von Sauers retired from the Central School System at the end of this semester.

Newspaper pictures Captions Photos by Ina Case Union Gazette June 27, 1961

If anyone has additional information about the teachers who taught in the school, please contact: Norma Schadt, Historian, PO Box 621, Huguenot. Thank you.

### **Open House Celebration**

#### 150th Anniversary of the Huguenot School

The Town of Deerpark Museum will be celebrating the Huguenot Schoolhouse Sesquicentennial with an Open House on Saturday, September 21st (12:00-5:00) and Sunday, September 22nd (1:00-5:00).



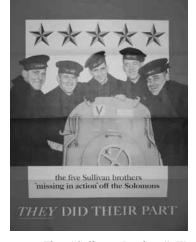
Old time teacher mannequin, named "Sadie Reagan" in a "Name the Teacher" contest held in 2009. One of the "Deerest Deerpark" deer is in the foreground.

The 1863 Huguenot Schoolhouse, 25 Grange Road, Huguenot, NY is a renovated one-room brick school, complete with original desks, period schoolhouse memorabilia, seventeen historical time line paintings by Susan Miiller, Deerest Deerpark Deer, and local history photos.

For this special occasion a pictorial display of the history of the school and what life was like in the 1860s has been created. This will include Civil War and D & H Canal history.



The Town Museum will feature a collection of World War II posters, complete with the background stories of the artists who produced the posters. Other World War II memorabilia will be on display.



This "Sullivan Brothers" World War II poster will be one of the posters that will be on display at the Museum Open House.

As an added attraction there will be World War II music in the Schoolhouse.

The Neversink Valley Grange Building, adjacent to the 1863 Huguenot Schoolhouse, will also be open. Take a walk "Down Memory Lane", as a show of period wedding gowns, dresses and accessories is presented.



Catherine Westfall preparing one of the period costumes for the Vintage Clothing display at the Neversink Valley Grange.

There will be a "Men's Corner", featuring antique tools, razors, and many interesting man-related items. Everyone is invited into a parlor for a taste of "Christmas Past". Spend some time watching a wool carding and spinning demonstration.

Enjoy music by Joe Foss on Saturday at 1:00 and Irish music performed by "The Parting Glass" at 1:00 on Sunday in the Grange building.

There will be free cider and goodies served.

For information, call 845-754-8070 or 845-856-2182.

Then and Now



Huguenot School Year Unknown



Huguenot School 2013

Happy 150th Anniversary 1863-2013