

NORTH CASTLE HISTORY



[The North Castle Historical Society, Welling Collection, 1976 Photograph]

ISRAEL TOWNSEND HOUSE

THE NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 28 -- 2001



The North Castle Historical Society

440 BEDFORD ROAD ARMONK, NEW YORK 10504

President's Message

Dear Friends,

This past year The Society has focused on delivering quality historical and educational programs to the community – two goals of our mission.

Membership has continued to grow. Colonial Crafts' Days have sustained an upsurge in student attendance. Docents have experienced a rise in the number of unscheduled visitors as well as scheduled teacher/student field trips. These increases tell us that our community supports the preservation of the history of the Town of North Castle.

Maintenance of our buildings is an ongoing factor. This year we have made minor carpentry and masonry repairs, as well as painted and done some general cleanup. However, much work remains to be done. Also, we moved the gift shop into a larger remodeled space this year so that we could expand the inventory and improve access to the shop.

History is our passion. As part of our efforts toward preserving our Town's history we continue to provide quality programs. Some of our many events during 2001 have included: St. Patrick's Day Breakfast, Annual Meeting, Progressive Dinner, Silent Auction, Burial Ground Tour, Colonial Dinner, Docents' Tea, slide presentation of "The Lost Village of Kensico and the Building of Kensico Dam", Baskets' Exhibit, Spring and Fall Colonial Crafts' Days, and the Annual Holiday December Celebration.

The many friendships we are making are valuable. We appreciate your continued support of the work of The Society – whether by donation, attendance or volunteerism!

Sincerely,

Judy Early
President

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Present-Day Israel Townsend House Showing Commercial Development

[2001 Photograph by Richard Koenig]



ISRAEL TOWNSEND

by Sharon Tomback

Philosophers tell us life is ever changing.
They tell us nothing remains the same.

Town of North Castle residents can attest to this philosophy. In many parts of our community, we are seeing another wave of new construction as well as adaptive rebuilding of old structures. One example is the site of the old Townsend house at 495 Main Street, Armonk. A portion of the house dates back to the late 1700s.

The house has been subjected to major remodeling and restructuring for commercial uses. It has not been a residence for many years. American Revolutionary History in North Castle¹ contains a photograph of the house as it appeared in 1976.² The description of the photograph relates that the house had a number of owners and tenants and at one time housed a restaurant. The latest changes occurred in 1999.

A Descendant's Memories of the House

"Our old homestead in the village of Armonk still stands on Main Street.³ My great, great grandparents, Israel Townsend and Phebe Weeks, came from Oyster Bay, Long Island and settled in Armonk about 1776.⁴ The house now has sixteen rooms, with an extremely large kitchen, two very large open fireplaces and a Dutch oven.⁵ Since great, great grandfather Israel Townsend⁶ had ten children

¹ Edited by Harry E. Sandford and Michael J. Kern, The North Castle Bicentennial Committee in collaboration with The North Castle Historical Society, 1976.

² Refer to the front cover of this publication.

³ The house presently serves as an office complex with additional, new construction for retail shops. The North Castle page in the 1881 Whitlock's Atlas shows the house as a residence of S. O. Townsend.

⁴ North Castle Town Records indicate that in 1783 Israel Townsend was appointed by the Town of North Castle as Overseer of the Roads from the middle of the bridge by James Weeks' house down to the State line.

⁵ Sometimes referred to as a beehive oven due to the bee hive shape.

⁶ In addition to Israel Townsend, Jr. (born 1791), two other sons are mentioned in Townsend family records in Society files: Dr. Jacob Townsend and John Townsend.

and numerous relatives who claimed it as 'home', I can well imagine the cooking and baking ..." wrote Miss Lillian Kinch in 1962 in a letter to Mr. R. Eugene Curry.⁷

Miss Kinch remembered two grandfather clocks at the Armonk house. The Townsend family clock stood in the first floor hall at the foot of the stairs. The second grandfather clock had belonged to the Sands family. There was a large glass door in the lower part showing its very large pendulum. As the pendulum swung, a ship appeared to swing back and forth in time with the pendulum. Miss Kinch said this unusual feature of the clock was very entertaining for the children of the family.

Sanctuary from Yellow Fever Epidemic

At the time of the yellow fever epidemic in New York City all of the City cousins, nursemaids and children apparently moved to the Armonk house for sanctuary. Beds and cots were placed in the halls to accommodate the additional guests. As rumor has it, one young cousin, Euphrosyne,⁸ delighted in crawling from the third floor window onto the roof to shake the lightning rod beside the chimney signaling those on the ground as to her whereabouts!

Red Bird Stage Coach – Passengers and Mail

Those living at the Old Homestead made many trips to New York City traveling by the Red Bird Stage Coach line, which also carried the mail. Miss Kinch related "I have several old letters sent that way. Letters were folded to leave the last page blank for address, after which they were folded back and sealed with bright red sealing wax."

Memories of the Family

Grandmother Elizabeth Sands Townsend Kinch told of a bachelor uncle, a sailor, who owned a ship and made three trips around the world. On each trip he was gone for about three years before suddenly reappearing

⁷ Lillian Kinch was born in 1870, a daughter of Israel Howard Kinch and his wife Cornelia Van Kirk. A copy of her 1962 letter is in the Collections of The North Castle Historical Society.

⁸ Euphrosyne, also spelled Europeyne in other records, married John Merritt. One of their children, Townsend Merritt, is buried in the Townsend Family Cemetery in Armonk.

at the family homestead.⁹ She said the family spinning wheels were made from lumber from the family's land. Also, family tradition relates that the lumber in St. Stephen's Church building was made from trees grown on the Townsend lands.¹⁰ Miss Kinch's grandmother spoke of an Indian squaw, their laundress, who came from the Indian encampment not far away.¹¹

A Proper Young Lady of the 1830s

According to family tradition, as a young lady Elizabeth Townsend¹² attended balls held at the Elephant Hotel at Somers, New York, accompanied by a young male cousin. They rode there and back by horseback. She took her party dress in her saddlebag, changing from her riding habit when she reached Somers.

"Grandmother Kinch¹³ enjoyed her social life. Her uncle, Dr. Jacob Townsend, lived in a mansion in New York City, called one of the show places of New York City by the newspapers of that time. Today the Empire State Building occupies that very spot!¹⁴

"Grandmother spent much time at her uncle's home, attending social affairs. I have one of her dance programs for an Assembly Ball which states that 'gentlemen will take their places for *cotillion* at the sound of the bugle.' The names on the Committee read like an old Social Register. These Assemblies are still held, but the names are not so exclusive – some of the *parvenus* have gotten in!"¹⁵

⁹ This family tradition has not been verified.

¹⁰ Miss Kinch reported that the chandelier and pulpit lamp were donated by Dorinda Townsend Hyatt (Mrs. Stephen Hyatt) and Mellissa Townsend Howes (Mrs. Reuben W. Howes), daughters of John Townsend. See *North Castle History*, Volume 19, page 14 and *A History of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church* by Lyman T. Seely, undated, page 12.

¹¹ Town Historian and Society Trustee Doris Finch Watson verified there was an Indian encampment on the edge of Wampus Lake.

¹² Elizabeth Sands Townsend was born in 1816, a daughter of Israel Townsend (born 1791) and his wife Phebe Sands.

¹³ Elizabeth Sands Townsend married Andrew Jackson Kinch in March, 1840.

¹⁴ This remembrance from Miss Kinch has not been verified.

¹⁵ From Miss Kinch's handwritten notes dated November 4, 1962, in the Collections of The North Castle Historical Society.

Education of Miss Townsend

Records indicate that Elizabeth Townsend attended boarding school at Sing Sing,¹⁶ a very fashionable school called Delevan Hall.¹⁷ She would stay at school during the week and come to the Armonk house on the weekends. She rode her horse back and forth to school with a manservant as an escort. (He very discreetly rode a little way back of her!)

In an April, 1826 edition of the *Westchester Herald* newspaper¹⁸ the following notice appeared:

BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

FOR YOUNG LADIES.

THE MISS DELEVANS will open a Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies in this village, to commence on the 15th DAY OF MAY NEXT,

where every useful and ornamental branch of female education will be taught under their immediate superintendance, with the aid of approved teachers.

Parents and Guardians are respectfully referred for any further information which may be required, to the following gentlemen:—

HON. WILLIAM NELSON,	} Cort-
Gen. PH. VAN CORTLANDT,	
FREDERICK J. COFFIN, Esq.	} So-
HACHALIAH BAILY,	
Mr. WILLIAM SING,	} Sing Sing.
R. R. VORIS, Esq.	

Sing Sing, April -, 1826.

29w7

¹⁶ Sing Sing was spelled Sing Sing during that time.

¹⁷ According to records of the Ossining Historical Society, The Miss Delevans School for Young Girls was a boarding and day school located at Broad and State Streets, Delavan's Landing, Sing Sing. It was not at the same location as the later Ossining School for Girls, which closed in 1932 after forty-four years of business.

¹⁸ Published at Mount Pleasant, Westchester County, New York by Caleb Roscoe at the Post Office, Vol. IX, No. 429. Information courtesy of the Ossining Historical Society, 196 Croton Avenue, Ossining, New York 10562.

The Family Genealogy

Lillian Van Kirk Kinch was born in Pleasantville, New York on November 6, 1870. She passed away at the Miriam Osborn Memorial Home in Rye on March 11, 1968 in her 98th year. Miss Kinch was unmarried. She had three sisters and two brothers (Mrs. Josephine K. Langdon, Mrs. Richard A. Ward and Miss Cornelia M. Kinch, Harold Kinch and Percival H. Kinch).

Miss Lillian Kinch was the daughter of **Israel Howard Kinch and his wife Cornelia Van Kirk**. Her father was the First Commissioner of Jurors for Westchester County, serving from 1892 until 1897.¹⁹ Miss Lillian Kinch was the granddaughter of **Andrew Jackson Kinch and his wife Elizabeth Sands Townsend**. Both Andrew Jackson and Elizabeth Sands Townsend Kinch are buried in the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Armonk. Elizabeth Sands Townsend Kinch was a daughter of **Israel Townsend** (born 1791) and his wife **Phebe Sands**.

According to a Sands family genealogy in the Collections of The Society and credited to "Eddy/McLean/Lander", **Phebe Sands** was born December 23, 1793 and died September 8, 1864 in North Castle. She was a daughter of Joseph Sands, born November 26, 1760 and his wife Elizabeth Thorn, who was a daughter of Gilbert Thorn and his wife Charity Weeks.



ISRAEL TOWNSEND (born 1791)

Photograph from the Collections of The North Castle Historical Society

¹⁹ The Office of Commissioner of Jurors for Westchester County confirmed that Israel Howard Kinch was the First Commissioner. His portrait is on display at the Westchester County Courthouse, White Plains, New York.

Israel Townsend (born 1791) was a founding member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.²⁰ He was commissioned the second Postmaster of Armonk on July 20, 1853, following Job Sands who was the first Postmaster of Armonk with offices at Sands Mills.²¹ Israel Townsend served as a Town Justice of the Peace in 1823, 1827 and from 1829 until December 31, 1834 when he resigned. At various times he served as a Road Commissioner, Overseer of the Poor, and Elections Inspector. In 1844 he was elected Supervisor of the Town of North Castle.

The 1850 Federal Census for North Castle lists the Israel Townsend household along with two others:

A white household listed next to that of Andrew J. Kinch Merchant and five listings from the household of Samuel Townsend: Israel Townsend, age 59, Phebe Townsend, age 56, Job L. Townsend, age 31, Israel Townsend, age 25, Stephen Thorn, age 71, Phebe Baker, age 56, Michael Casy, age 22, John Norton, age 21, A. Birdsall, age 27, and Margaret Smith, age 60 (a Black)

A black household listed between Daniel Tripp and William Leonard households: Harry Townsend, age 35, Lucy Townsend, age 35, Susan Townsend, age 7 and Hannah Townsend, age 1.

A white household listed between Henry Davis and Sarah Hunt households: Samuel Townsend, age 28, Elizabeth Townsend, age 25, Caroline, age 2, Michael Smith, age 20 (b. Ireland), and Ann Hunt, age 18.

Miss Lillian Kinch's great grandfather Israel Townsend (born 1791) was a son of **Israel Townsend, Sr.**, who died in 1832, and his wife **Phebe Weeks**, who died in 1836.²² The 1790 Federal Census for North Castle shows one Townsend family, the Israel Townsend family. The household listing appears between Christopher Kile and George Cock. The Census shows four (4) White, Free males over the age of 16 years; four (4) White, Free males under the age of 16 years and three (3) White,

²⁰ Refer to *North Castle History*, Volume 19, page 6.

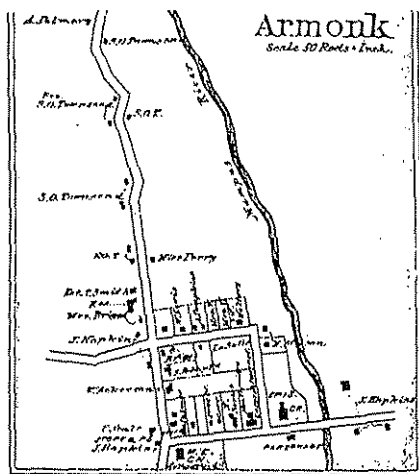
²¹ Refer to *North Castle History*, Volume 7, page 16.

²² North Castle Town Records indicate that as early as 1783 Israel Townsend served as an Overseer of Roads. Thereafter, he served as an Assessor.

Free females living in the household. Family tradition relates that Israel and Phebe Weeks Townsend married in Huntington, Long Island and moved to Armonk from Oyster Bay, Long Island about 1776.²³

Townsend Family Burial Ground

Although the family graveyard is presently enclosed by walls made from field stones, according to Society files, prior to 1930 Harry J. Hunter, then Superintendent of Highways, took away the stone walls on two sides of the cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rabinowitz are the current owners of the land where the cemetery is located.²⁴



Reprinted from *Armonk, N.Y., 1881*, Miltack's, Henshew, Ct.

According to Society Trustee, Mrs. Barbara S. Massi, who has inventoried the gravesites at the Townsend Family Cemetery working from a list compiled by former Town Historian Richard N. Lander, the following family members are buried on the property:

Josephine Howes, daughter of Reuben W. and Mellissa A., died September 11, 1838, age nine months and three days.

Oliver Perry Howes, son of Reuben W. and Mellissa A. (Townsend), died February 5, 1841, age one year, seven months and three days.

Townsend Merritt, son of John and Europyne, died July 6, 1832, age seven years, nine months and twenty-nine days.

²³ North Castle Town Records show a James Townsend as early as 1738, a Joseph Townsend by 1747 and a Job Townsend by 1754. However, no Townsend is listed on the 1763 Freeholders List for the Town of North Castle nor is there a Townsend listed on the 1779 Tax List for the Town.

²⁴ The previous owners were Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Hadley.

Ambrose S. Sands, son of Abijah and Thurza, died September 24, 1848, age twenty years, six months and 20 days.

Emily Sands, daughter of Abijah and Thurza, died October 28, 1840.

Julianna T. Sands, daughter of Abijah and Thurza, died August 11, 1840, age seventeen years and fifteen days.

Sarah Ann Sands, daughter of Abijah and Thurza, died December 5, 1837, age two years, five months and twenty-five days.

Josephine Virginia Townsend, daughter of John and Eliza (Horton), died January 3, 1832 in New York City, age two years, three months, nine days.

Israel Townsend, born 1742, died November 6, 1832, age ninety years and one month.

Israel Townsend, Jr., born 1791, died October 16, 1855, age sixty-four years, six months and seven days.

Phebe Sands Townsend, wife of Israel Townsend, Jr., born 1794, died September 8, 1864, age seventy years, eight months and sixteen days.

Phebe Weeks Townsend, wife of Israel Townsend, born 1752, died February 2, 1836, age eighty-three years, three months and twenty-two days.

Genealogy information from research of the late Richard N. Lander: John Townsend married Eliza Horton. Issue: Leander, Dorinda, Mellissa, Caroline, John and Josephine.

1930 Land Deed for the Family Burial Ground, Town of North Castle, New York²⁵

"This Indenture, made the 28th day of February in the year nineteen hundred and thirty, between **Phoebe Genavia Townsend** residing at Harrison, New York, party of the first part and **Andrew**

²⁵ Copy of Deed courtesy of North Castle Town Historian and Society Trustee Doris Finch Watson.

Townsend Ward residing at Ossining, New York, party of the second part:

Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of one (\$1.00) Dollar, lawful money of the United States, paid by the party of the second part, does hereby remise, release, and forever quit claim unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, ALL that certain tract, piece or parcel of land known as burial ground situate, lying and being in Armonk in Town of North Castle, County of Westchester and State of New York, bounded and described as follows:

On the north running east by land of Samuel O. Townsend one chain twelve links; thence running south by lands of Job L. Townsend and Sarah E. Townsend sixty-six links; thence westerly by lands of Job L. Townsend one chain and twelve links; thence north to the place beginning, together with right-of-way to the above described parcel, as reserved in deed from Job L. Townsend and wife to Elizabeth S. Hamilton recorded in the office of the Register of Westchester County in liber 668 page 4 of deeds..."

**1867 Land Deed for the Family Farm and Spring
Excluding the Family Burial Ground,
Town of North Castle, New York²⁶**

Agreement made the Eighteenth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty seven **Between Job L. Townsend and Sarah E.**, his wife, parties of the first part and **Elizabeth S. Hamilton**, party of the second part, in manner following: The said parties of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Seven Thousand Dollars, to be fully paid, as hereinafter mentioned, hereby agree to sell unto the said party of the second part, **All** that Farm, Piece or Parcel of Land now occupied by them in the village of Armonk, County of Westchester, State of New York beginning at a point Two Chains, 83 Links North of the Southeast corner of land of said Job L. Townsend and Sarah E., his wife, along the highway leading from village of Armonk to Sands Mills ... with all the rights, title, deed and interest in a certain spring conveyed to Israel Townsend by Samuel O. Townsend by a certain instrument dated October 1, 1851 and recorded in Liber 187 page

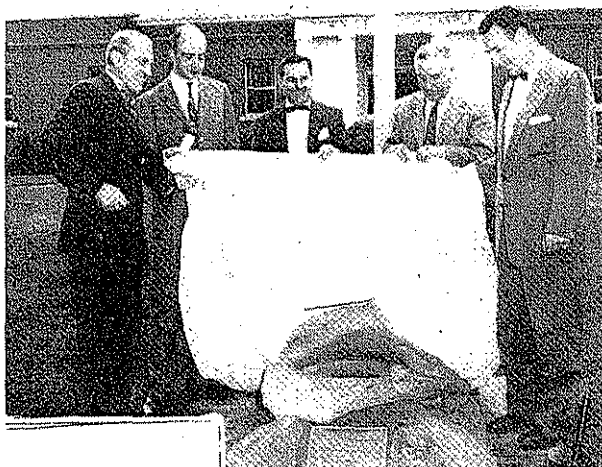
²⁶ Ibid.

241 reserving therefrom the Burial Ground with right of way to it now occupied by the Townsend Family”

Editors' Note: Oral histories, family traditions and personal diaries serve as valuable guides for the study of history. While all the remembered details might not be completely factual, the information contained in these sources is interesting and worthy of further study. The North Castle Historical Society is indebted to the late R. Eugene Curry for obtaining this oral history and other remembrances from Miss Lillian Van Kirk Kinch. She was a descendant of the Townsend, Sands and Thorn families of North Castle. The Westchester Historian printed a condensed version of some of her written memories in the 1968 Fall Issue.

While no one of the Townsend family name remains in North Castle and while the house and property have changed during the past two hundred years, the sense of community evidenced by the family's social, political and religious contributions is noteworthy.

* * *



UNVEILING THE INDIAN GRINDING STONE

[L-R] R. Eugene Curry, Richard N. Lander, Allison Albee, Morris S. Mudge and James R. Caruso [Photo by James Nevins, The Reporter Dispatch, May 23, 1960]

INDIAN STONE FOR GRINDING

Reprinted from *The Reporter Dispatch* Newspaper
May 16 and 23, 1960

Monday, May 16, 1960

“An ancient Indian corn grinding stone weighing about 700 pounds, set upon a stone pedestal in front of the North Castle Town Hall, Armonk, will be unveiled Saturday morning, in ceremonies sponsored by the Westchester Historical Society.

James R. Caruso, supervisor of North Castle, will accept the historic monument on behalf of the town. Richard N. Lander, North Castle historian and a vice president of the society, will tell the story of the Indian stone.

The stone has been given to North Castle by Mr. and Mrs. Clark Boughton of Greenwich on whose former property the stone has stood for many years. The gift was made upon the suggestion of R. Eugene Curry of Mead Rd., Armonk, who, with Lander, is an authority on the history of the prehistoric Indian relic.

Discovered in 1920

About 1920 the stone was discovered by the late John Stevenson, superintendent of the Sterling estate which was acquired by Yale University and today is known as Yale Farms. He moved the stone to a spot near Route 22 where it again lay forgotten.

In the days before the white man came to North Castle a legendary Indian corn field lay in Green Valley adjacent to today's Creemer Rd., south of Armonk. It was in this area that Stevenson found the stone.

When Yale University took over the former Sterling lands Stevenson, in about 1936, dragged the 700-pound stone on a stone boat to the farmhouse occupied as an office by Yale Farms. Here it was an object of great interest and the birds used it as a bath when its smooth grinding bowl was filled with rainwater.

Buy House, Get Stone

Mr. and Mrs. Boughton came into ownership of the stone when they bought this farmhouse from Yale Farms. The house faces John Street and Quaker Ridge Road opposite the North Greenwich Congregational Church. When they sold the property Curry persuaded them to give the corn grinding stone to the Town of North Castle.

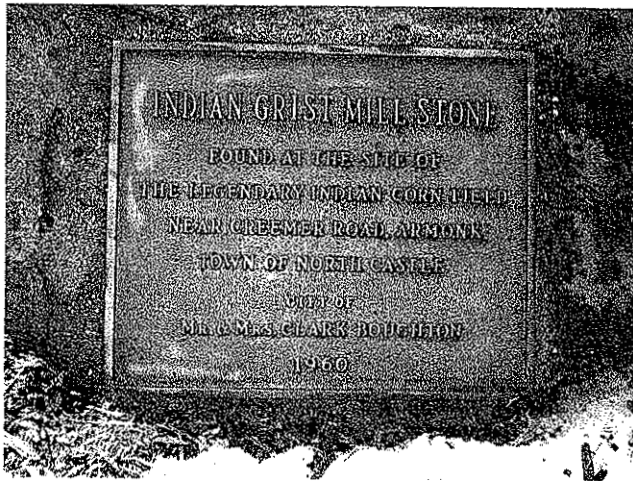
On Saturday morning Allison Albee of Rye, president of the Westchester County Historical Society, will welcome town officials and spectators to witness the unveiling and dedication of the monument which is now under construction by Allie See, highway superintendent of North Castle.

Arthur I. Bernhard of Katonah is in charge of arrangements for the Historical Society. Following the dedication of the Indian Stone Monument, members of the society will make a short pilgrimage to historic spots in the area."

Monday, May 23, 1960

"One stone that hasn't done much rolling is this Indian grist mill stone, dedicated Saturday in front of North Castle Town Hall in Armonk. The stone, found south of Armonk in the area where Indians are said to have had extensive corn fields in centuries past, was given to the town as a monument at the suggestion of R. Eugene Curry, of Armonk, left. Helping in the unveiling are, left to right next to Curry, town historian Richard N. Lander; Allison Albee of Rye, president of the Westchester County Historical Society; Councilman Morris S. Mudge; and North Castle supervisor James R. Caruso."

Editor's Note: Refer to *North Castle History* Volume 6, 1979 for more about Indians of North Castle. *North Castle History* Volume 21, 1994 includes a tribute to Hon. R. Eugene Curry. Volume 20, 1993 is a tribute to Hon. Richard N. Lander. We have wonderful memories of Gene and Dick. Both made significant contributions to our Town.



[2001 Photographs Courtesy of Stephen Tomback]

INDIAN STONE FOR GRINDING
found at the site of a legendary Indian corn field
near Creemer Road, Armonk, Town of North Castle
gift of Mr. & Mrs. Clark Boughton, 1960

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

IN REMEMBRANCE

As we reflect on the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, let us pause to think about the many long struggles endured to achieve and protect the precious Freedom of America.

This year of 2001 marks the 225th anniversary of our Country.¹ Two and a quarter centuries ago, in 1776, our Nation was born. Records of the American Revolutionary War portray the first long and desperate struggle for Freedom waged against a great and powerful nation. Americans paid a dear price for the precious Freedom won.²

The American Revolution was not to be our Nation's only war for Freedom – there have been several since to protect that Freedom. At the time of the Civil War, President Lincoln included in his Gettysburg Address, "...that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom..."

Many remember all too vividly the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, a time when this Nation needed great courage, which President Franklin Roosevelt called "the warm courage of national unity". Years later, President Ronald Reagan said "No arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."³

When, on September 11, 2001, the terrorists attacked two towers at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington,

¹ In 1976 when the Nation's Bicentennial was celebrated in North Castle, many photographs were taken of the parade and other celebrations. See the article and photographs in this issue.

² Detailed stories of The American Revolutionary War were gathered by John McLean McDonald, a retired lawyer, and were published as the "McDonald Papers". His interviews of people who lived through that war provide great insight into events during that Battle for Independence. Also refer to North Castle in the American Revolution, The North Castle Bicentennial Committee in collaboration with The North Castle Historical Society, 1976.

³ From a booklet "Courage" published 2001 by AMVETS National Service Foundation, Lanham, Maryland.

D.C. and hijacked four American airplanes, with one crashing in Pennsylvania, the news brought instant terror. These vicious attacks on the United States of America uprooted the lives of thousands of families and businesses, caused untold heartache, billions of dollars in damages and caused changes in our way of life. President George W. Bush encouraged the Nation to try to resume normal activities, and said of the attacks, "These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."⁴

This has been and continues to be a major historical event. It is imperative for us to remember that it brought forth great heroism, acts of kindness and compassion, gatherings of support and condolences for the many victims and their families. Thousands were killed. Here in our own Township and in neighboring towns families suffered agonies with loss of lives, dear ones gone forever. Once more, this Nation came together. Church services and support groups offered help. Memorial services and prayers were offered across this Nation and around the world, for victims came from many different countries.

We continue to observe endless hours and days of heroic work by firemen, police personnel, medical people, construction workers, volunteers and those who exemplify great leadership, courage and determination – making us proud.

The United Nations General Assembly held a special session on Terrorism, and New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani told them, "This massive attack was intended to break our spirit ... it has not done that."⁵ Men and women from local firehouses responded to help at Ground Zero or staffed other firehouses to relieve firemen for other duties. Fundraising activities and patriotic events were held, with American flags flying everywhere, even from cars, trucks, bridges and buildings, as well as at Ground Zero, the World Trade Center site of death and destruction.

Today, once again we are in a struggle and once again this Nation is dedicated and determined to show the same courage that has carried us through other crises that threatened America's Freedom.

⁴ Taken from a speech to the Nation given by President George W. Bush on the day of the attacks.

⁵ From a speech by New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani given October 1, 2001 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

Future generations and historians will look back upon these present-day attacks, so there must be documentation of these tragic events; records preserved of the heroism, the courage, the leadership of this time in our history. Hopefully it will be preserved in digital and three-dimensional objects, photographs, newspaper and television accounts, oral histories and even in simple articles written from the heart. It must be remembered.

Doris Finch Watson
North Castle Town Historian and
Trustee of The North Castle Historical Society

* * *

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG



"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

* * *

PATRIOTISM

by Sir Walter Scott

Breathes there the man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
‘This is my own, my native land!’
Whose heart hath ne’er within him burn’d
As home his footsteps he hath turn’d
From wandering on a foreign strand?
If such there breathe, go, mark him well;
For him no minstrel raptures swell;
High though his titles, proud his name,
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;
Despite those titles, power, and pelf,
The wretch, concentred all in self,
Living, shall forfeit fair renown,
And, doubly dying, shall go down
To the vile dust from whence he sprung,
Unwept, unhonour’d, and unsung.

[from THE LAY OF THE LAST MINSTREL]

LOOKING BACK AT THE BICENTENNIAL

by Barbara S. Massi

1976 was an extraordinary year! As a part of the national 200th Birthday celebrations, North Castle held its own unique events with yearlong activities that included hundreds of residents and every organization in town. No one could escape being caught up in the dynamics of it all! Under the leadership of Co-Chairmen R. Eugene Curry and Charlotte Devers hundreds of volunteers joined together to donate thousands of hours towards the success of the yearlong celebrations.

The events began in 1975 with the ride of "Paul Revere" who spread the word to begin the celebrations. The "North Castle Militia" was activated; Revolutionary sites refurbished, marked and toured; eagles crafts; two books published; historical vignettes written; liberty trees planted; quilts made; colonial crafts demonstrated; banners and flags created; costumes sewn; an Indian village built; a period wall map created; an elegant ball held; school programs coordinated; clergy gathered; a stage show performed; a multi-media slide and sound show presented; a time capsule buried and fireworks ignited.

On July 4th, 1976, under a cloudless sky, a tremendous all-day hometown celebration, the likes of which a Broadway producer would have envied, was carried out under the direction of acclaimed stage designer and Armonk resident Charles Elson. The massive parade included dozens of bands and more than forty organizations. The prevailing humor at the time was "If everyone is in the parade, who will be left to watch it?" Fortunately, this was solved when friends and relatives from far and wide invaded the town on July 4th!

The extensive Bicentennial celebration gave us the opportunity to be reminded of how much the past has influenced the present, and what an important role we have as the caretakers of our town's heritage!

* * *

[Editor's Note: For further details about how North Castle celebrated America's 200th Birthday in 1976, refer to two other articles by Barbara Massi appearing in *North Castle History* booklets 1976, Volume 3 and 1977, Volume 4.]

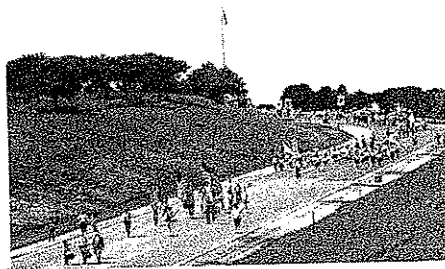
**PHOTOGRAPHS OF
AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
1976 IN NORTH CASTLE**

1. Bucolic Armonk Village and Countryside -- 25 Years Ago
2. The Parade Began from the IBM Hill
3. Parading on Main Street
4. Ecumenical Service at Wampus Brook Park
5. North Castle Clergy at the Ecumenical Service
6. Welcome Speeches -- [L-R] Hon. James Hopkins speaking, Bicentennial Co-Chairmen Charlotte Devers and R. Eugene Curry, Byram Hills High School Student Council President, and Town Supervisor Hon. John Lombardi. Judge Susan Shimer was also a speaker.
7. The North Castle Militia -- [L-R] Ken Mains, Ed Schultz, Hal Friedman, and Lew Massi
8. Byram Hills High School's Stage Show Behind Town Hall
9. Part of the "Indian Village" at Wampus Brook Park
10. An "Indian" with His Pony
11. Fire Chief John Pember and July 4th Celebration Chairman Charles Elson
12. Town Historian Richard N. Lander Dedicating the Time Capsule at the Cornell-Birdsall House ("the Annex")
13. Ray McMahon was North Castle's "Paul Revere"
14. Doris Finch Watson and Lucille Bruno Holding Their Map of North Castle during Revolutionary Times
15. Barbara and Lew Massi Dancing at the Bicentennial Ball
16. Bicentennial Eagle by Art Soka and Crew (A nest and eggs appeared the night before the parade.)
17. The Town Hall Eagle Was Carved by Renown Sculptor Michael Gressel
18. Fireworks from atop IBM Hill Ended the July 4th Celebration.

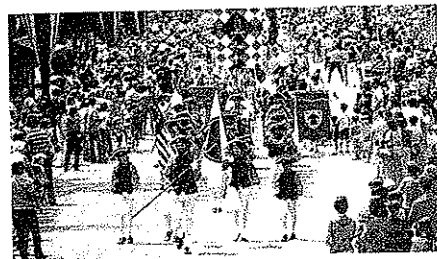
Some Photographs from 1976 when
North Castle Celebrated America's Bicentennial



#1



#2



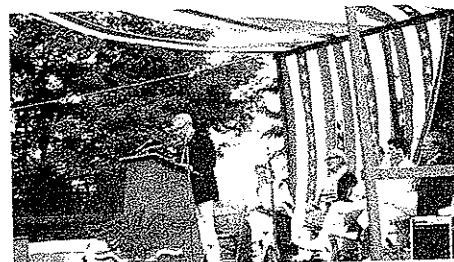
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Some Photographs from 1976 when
North Castle Celebrated America's Bicentennial



#7



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#9



#10



#11

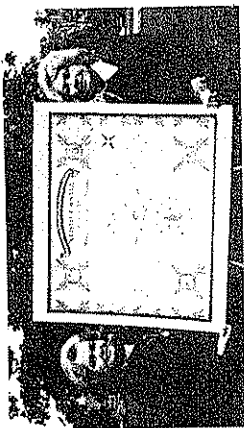


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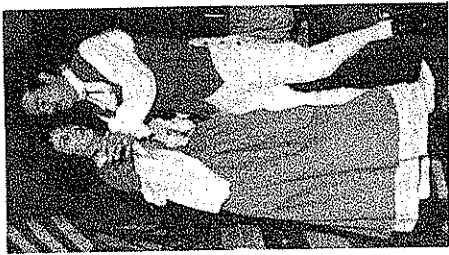
Some Photographs from 1976 when
North Castle Celebrated America's Bicentennial



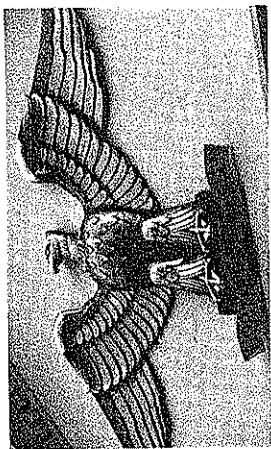
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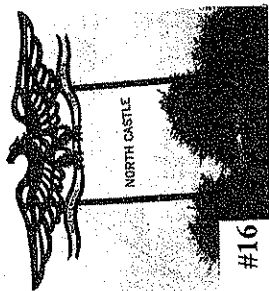
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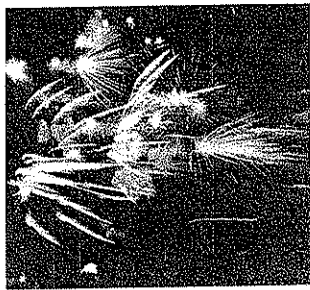
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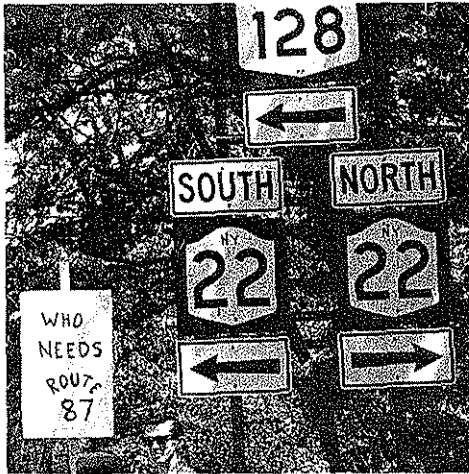


#18

ROUTE 684: A \$100 MILLION ROAD

by Sharon Tomback

By the mid-1950s plans were under way for a new north-south road through Westchester. One plan proposed a road linking New York City to Montreal along the east bank of the Hudson River passing Pocantico Hills, the estate of Hon. Nelson A. Rockefeller. After a while the "Pocantico By-Pass" suggestion was withdrawn. Several other proposals were discussed.



The development of a highway to link Route 287 at White Plains in the middle of Westchester County to Route 84 at Brewster in southern Putnam County was a long series of proposals and negotiated settlements.

Development took over twenty years, cost upwards of \$100 million (or about \$3.5 million per mile), set neighbor against neighbor, divided communities, and outlasted work stoppages and lawsuits.

Protesting Route 87¹ (now 684)

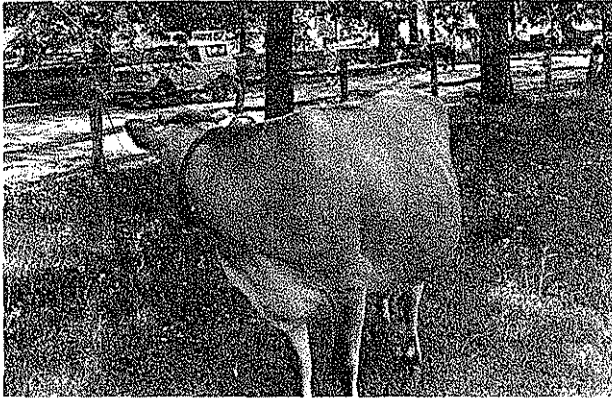
Writing for the January 11, 1975 issue of the Patent Trader² newspaper, Virginia Wiegand said, "... county residents had their say. And what a say it was. At two public hearings, one at the Fox Lane School in Bedford on February 9, 1961, and another in White Plains on February 2, 1962, hundreds of disgruntled, angry and vociferous Westchesterites told

¹ The road construction qualified for Federal funding (and Federal control) because the final route passes through Connecticut.

² Published at Mt. Kisco, New York.

sessions, beginning at 1:30pm and ending at 2:00am and 5:00am, respectively. Rumor has it that some residents brought along a cocktail or two in their food baskets.

Continuing, Ms. Wiegand concluded “Route 87 became Interstate 684 in 1969. In 1975, I-684 is expected to be completed – 29 miles of concrete and asphalt, \$100 million, 20 years, reams of paper and hours of argument later.”



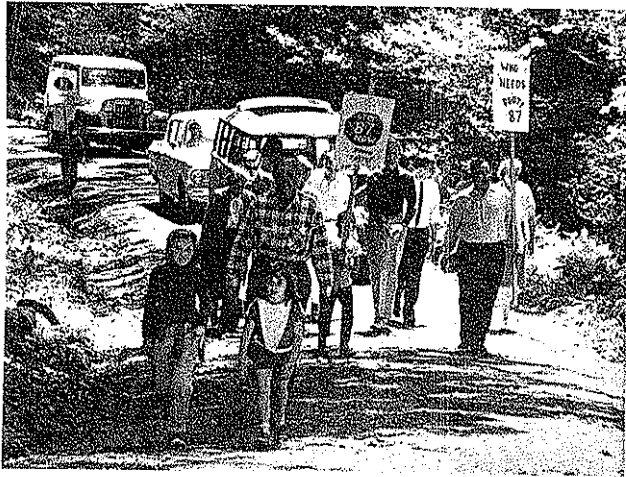
A Pastoral Way of Life Changed

Editors of the Atlantic Monthly magazine wrote “The bulldozers can now be seen out in force along Chestnut Ridge, near Bedford in New York’s Westchester County ... another chapter in the unfolding record of a nation’s compulsion to become a continent of concrete and monoxide...”³



Some Marched While Others Played Golf

³ From an article “Interstate 87” by Norman Ritter, *Atlantic Monthly*, p. 104; Collections of The Society, copy undated.



Some Walked and Some Rode



The Men Led the Way

In a letter dated February 22, 1994 to The North Castle Historical Society, Mrs. Elizabeth Lorentz wrote "The march against what was called Route 87, now called 684, started at Whitelaw Reid's⁴ house and ended at Golden's Bridge Railroad Station. The key spots I can recall are Route 120 up through Guard Hill Road⁵ ending at Golden's Bridge. Many people walked the entire distance but more joined for shorter or longer treks. Some were pushing baby carriages."⁶



Protest Marchers Called Out the Bagpipes ...



... and Pushed Baby Carriages

⁴ Mr. Reid's house was in Harrison, New York.

⁵ Guard Hill Road is in Bedford, New York.

⁶ Photographs used in this article were taken by William Hubbell and were donated to The North Castle Historical Society by Mrs. Elizabeth Lorentz.

SUPERVISORS
1736-2002
TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE, NEW YORK

George Dennis	1736-1738	Leemon B. Tripp	1860-1862
Jonathan Ogden	1738-1739	William S. Brown	1862-1863
Adam Seaman	1739-1742	Evander Odell	1863-1865
George Dennis	1742-1749	David W. Smith	1865-1867
Benjamin Smith	1749-1754	James Hopkins	1867-1871
George Dennis	1754-1756	David W. Smith	1871-1872
Caleb Fowler	1756-1757	James Hopkins	1872-1875
Capt. Aaron Forman	1757-1758	Horace P. Flewellin	1875-1876
Caleb Fowler	1758-1771	James Hopkins	1876-1880
Dr. David Dayton	1771-1777	Aaron F. Read	1880-1881
Jonathan Platt	1777-1778	James Hopkins	1881-1882
Jacob Purdy	1778-1781	Edwin R. Hopkins	1882-1884
Andrew Sniffen	1781-1784	Joseph B. See	1884-1889
Abel Smith	1784-1801	Samuel H. Ryder	(1 Month)
Isaac Webbers	1801-1806	Joseph B. See	1889-1900
Abel Smith	1806-1807	A. Smith Hopkins	1901-1907
Peter Lyon	1807-1809	Charles W. McDonald	1907-1917
John Palmer	1809-1811	Norman W. Lander	1918-1919
John Ferris	1811-1820	John C. Jepson	1920-1923
James Hopkins	1820-1833	J. Hobart Cox	1924-1931
Reese Carpenter	1833-1836	T. William Brundage	1932-1933
Guy B. Hobby	1836-1838	Richard P. Limburg	1934-1939
Reese Carpenter	1838-1839	Carroll M. Snyder	1940-1941
William Williams	1839-1840	T. Darrington Semple	1942-1943
Abraham Miller	1840-1841	James D. Hopkins	1944-1953
Nathan I. Green	1841-1843	James R. Caruso	1954-1961
Israel Townsend	1843-1844	John A. Lombardi	1962-
Job Sands	1844-1845		
Buy B. Hobby	1845-1846	The North Castle Historical	
Job Sands	1846-1847	Society extends appreciation to	
Nathan I. Green	1847-1849	North Castle Town Clerk Mrs.	
Samuel B. Ferris	1849-1852	Ann Marie Kelly, who	
Nathan I. Green	1852-1853	researched these names and	
Joseph Hobby	1853-1855	dates. A framed copy of the list	
Benjamin Tripp	1855-1856	of Supervisors is displayed in the	
Charles Purdy	1856-1860	Town Hall offices.	



Richard P. Limburg
1934 – 1939



Carroll M. Snyder
1940 – 1941



T. Darrington Semple
1942 – 1943

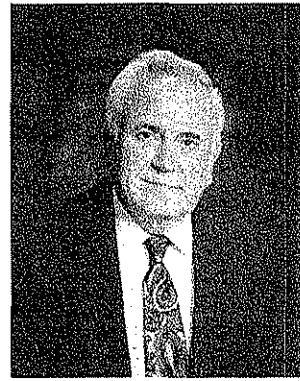
SUPERVISORS, TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
Since 1934



James D. Hopkins
1944 – 1953



James R. Caruso
1954 – 1961



John A. Lombardi
1962 –

TWO POSTCARDS DONATED BY WILLIAM F. McDONALD



WOOD BUTCHER'S BASEBALL TEAM

[L-R Back]: Ben Selleck, Andrew Holmes, Al MacDonald, Ed Connors
[L-R Front]: Will MacDonald, Bob Hart and Clarence Abrams, John French (?), and Alfred Young [Collections of The Society, Postcard E-23]



ARMONK MARATHON RUNNERS

Photograph includes Stanley Johnson, Frank Johnson, Reginald Johnson, Howard Johnson, Leonard See, George Clark, Lester Ferris, Elliot Heustis, Thomas Donnelly and Judge Haviland. [Collections of The Society, Postcard E-22]



MAXL'S RATHSKELLER

682 North Broadway
White Plains, New York

This postcard from the archives of The Society is dated September 14, 1934. It was mailed from Paul Jewitt to Emery S. Cleveland, Route #1, Poultney, Vermont. Mr. Jewitt wrote:

"Had our Westchester Society of Civil Engineers meeting here last night. Do you remember this place? Come up and see me some time."

The face of the postcard reads "This is a branch of the original Maxl's, 243 E. 86th Street, N.Y.C." The small sign underneath the lower Maxl's sign indicates that dinners were \$1 and lunches were 75 cents.

The postcard was prepared by Luna Photo Service, 343 East 23rd Street, New York City and by Artvue Post Card Company, 225 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Postage for this 1934 postcard was a one-cent stamp.

Presently the building houses Imperial Wok Chinese and Japanese Restaurant. The street address is now 736 North Broadway.

[Readers, if you can help identify the people in the photograph, please write to "North Castle History, 440 Bedford Road, Armonk, New York 10504.]

ARMONK

Occasionally, a different type of spirit moved the citizens of Armonk. Some began referring to the village as *Barmonk*.

The following newspaper article from the Collections of The Society was printed either in 1942 or 1943. Four very *high-spirited* people are commemorated in verse.

Hi Jinks at Dawning by The Man About Town



PEOPLE HE SEES — AND
THINGS HE REMEMBERS.

Listen, my children, and you shall
hear,
Of the awful effects of Armonk
beer —
On a recent morning, the hour near
five,
(The taverns had turned off their
jitter and jive)
When the sound of revelry smote
the ear.
Who was the lady, of respectable
marriage,
Riding about in a baby carriage —
Which her husband (a man of
considerable style)
Had borrowed from the Official
Salvage pile?

And a second couple, their cares
cast aside,
Were risking their shins on the
school playground slide.
You hardly would guess, from their
youthful din,
That in age, they would never see
forty again.
So listen, my children — but why go
on?
(It isn't the kiddies who, pale and
wan,
Come tip-toeing in as the dawn is
breaking,
After hours of that kind of
merrymaking!



During the 1930s Armonk was the place to easily get married.
This 1937 cartoon suggests why.

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

Susan Bohm	Joan Krantz (4)	Constance Quarrie
J. Stuart Brown (2)	Ruth Kuhn	Becky Kittredge Rotundo
Jodi Pember Burns	Barbara Massi (6)	John Schnoor
Piers Curry (2)	Mary Milo	Sharon Tomback (4, 5)
Judy Early (1)	Robbie Morris	Doris Finch Watson
Vincent Fiore (2)	Jack Paschke	Edward Woodyard (6)
	Thea Pitassy (3)	

Ex-Officio: Doris Finch Watson, Town Historian

(1) President	(2) Vice President
(3) Treasurer	(4) Co-Recording Secretary
(5) Corresponding Secretary	(6) Trustee-at-Large

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Family \$30 * Individual \$20 * Sustaining \$50
Patron \$100 * Corporate/Business \$100
Life Member \$300 paid once

The North Castle Historical Society is chartered by The Regents of The University of The State of New York.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Sharon Tomback, Editor
Marjorie Moore * Doris Finch Watson
Richard Koenig, Photography

The North Castle Historical Society is not responsible for the accuracy of statements and signed articles.

Any reprint of material appearing in "*North Castle History*" must give specific credit to The Society and the author.

ISRAEL TOWNSEND HOUSE

The Israel Townsend House, 495 Main Street, Armonk, New York, was unusually large for the time of construction. It reportedly contained sixteen rooms. Many additions and changes were made over the years. The home has had a number of owners and tenants, and at one time housed a restaurant.

Israel and Phoebe Townsend had ten children. They located their family cemetery high up on the hill beyond their house, and it was there that they were buried in 1832 and 1836, respectively. Other family members of later years also rest in this small cemetery.

[From American Revolutionary History in North Castle, page 116, edited by Harry E. Sandford and Michael J. Kern, published 1976 by The North Castle Bicentennial Committee in collaboration with The North Castle Historical Society.]

Please forward any corrections or additions to the information presented herein and/or your constructive suggestions for improving this publication to your editorial board at The North Castle Historical Society, Smith's Tavern, 440 Bedford Road, Armonk, New York 10504.

If you would be willing to research and/or author an article, please let us know. New writers and new perspectives are vital.

THE NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Armonk, New York 10504
914-273-4510