



# Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark 1863 School House Museum  
Town of Deerpark Historian, 25 Grange Rd., Huguenot, NY  
845 856-2702 [www.1863schoolhouse.org](http://www.1863schoolhouse.org)

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**Welcome New Members**

**Hagens of Cahoonzie**

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Season's Greetings

## Membership Changes

The Deerpark Museum saw several changes in membership in 2016. Member Joan Applegate of Sparrowbush retired this year after many years of service. We, at the museum, wish to thank Joan for all of her hard work, common sense and humor. You are missed!

Three new members have joined us: Connie Carlsen from Huguenot, Ron Fliieger from Cuddebackville, and Marie Louise Hagen from Cahoonzie. We welcome you and look forward to working with you in 2017!

We hope you enjoy the following article about the Hagens from Cahoonzie submitted by Marie Hagen.

Here is an invitation for any member of our Deerpark Community to write and share their own stories in upcoming issues of the *Deerpark Diary*. Please give us a call with your ideas.

## The Hagens of Cahoonzie By Marie Louise Hagen

I have been coming to Cahoonzie all my life. My parents brought me to visit when I was younger, I brought myself when I got older and brought my children here when I was older still. My addresses may have been in other cities, but Cahoonzie has always felt like home. A little over a year ago, my younger son and I moved into the family homestead full-time, and are continuing to adjust to life here in Deerpark's Western frontier.

Much has changed in this area over the years. When I was little, my father and grandfather would take the kids down to the Alexander Hotel in Sparrowbush. It was a treat because we got to drink Shirley Temples and play tabletop shuffleboard while Dad had his martini and Granddaddy enjoyed his scotch. On Sundays after mass, we

would stop at Gamo's on Main St. Sparrowbush for the *New York Times*, one doughnut for each child, and a hard roll for Mom. I learned from a college friend that Sparrowbush's Black Bear Inn was a biker bar. In 1991, I bought a clock from Shinglekill Antiques in Sparrowbush to celebrate my first wedding anniversary.

Today, Gamo's Store is empty, the Alexander Hotel has been converted into housing, the Black Bear Inn is now a real estate office and post office, the antique stores on Main St. are closed, and the only restaurant is Frank's hotdog stand at the 42-97 intersection during the warmer months. I may well be the last of the Hagens to live in Cahoonzie, but I am grateful for the relative serenity I have found. Things were quite different for the first of the Hagens to settle here.

My great-great grandfather, Wilhelm Christian Haagen, was born on March 16, 1829, in Lauffen am Neckar, in the German Microstate of Wuerttemberg. While a medical student in Stuttgart and at the University of Tubingen in Germany, he participated in the failed European Revolution of 1848. Like many others of those Revolutionaries ("Achtundvierzigers"), he left Germany and came to America. Upon arrival, he changed the order of his name to Christian Wilhelm Haagen. He initially lived in New York City, where he met and married Rosina Flammer, the daughter of Jacob Flammer, a German émigré from a

neighboring area of Wuerttemberg. They moved to St. Louis where he attended medical school and worked as a journalist. During these years they had two children, Augustus and Clara. Soon after the start of the Civil War, the family left the strife of the St. Louis area and moved in with Rosina's parents who were by then living in Cahoonzie – in the house I now live, which was built in the 1820s or 1830s.



**C.W. Hagen in uniform**

In 1861, Christian Haagen joined the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment New York State Volunteers, a regiment of predominantly German volunteers known as the “Black Rifles” or “Schwartz Jaeger,” as a military surgeon. Most members of the unit had come from Germany and Austria. When joining the military service he abbreviated his first name and Americanized his middle name: “Chr. William Haagen.” The recruiters interpreted “Chr.” as the abbreviation for the name Charles, and discarded what they considered an unnecessary “a” from his last name. Since that time he has been known as Charles William Hagen.

The Schwartz Jaeger saw a lot of action in the spring and summer of

1862. After the Second Battle of Manassas, in August 1862, the officers of his regiment presented him with an ivory-handled Colt pistol to thank him for his medical care. The handle was engraved: “Presented to Surgeon C. W. Hagen by the Officers of 54<sup>th</sup> Regt NYSV, June 8, 1862: Rappahannock, August 22, 1862; Sulphur Springs, August 24, 1862; Waterloo Bridge, August 25, 1862; Manassas August 29-30, 1862.”

At one point during the Civil War, President Lincoln asked the unit to assist a little boy named Billy who was looking for his father. Dr. Hagen helped Billy find him, and received a postcard from the president with his hand-written note: “Thank you for helping Billy find his father. A. Lincoln”

The Schwartz Jaeger were routed at Chancellorsville by Stonewall Jackson's entire Corps in May of 1863, but in July contributed to the Union victory at the Battle of Gettysburg. Dr. Hagen was a Senior Medical Officer at Gettysburg, responsible for the surgical care of the wounded. He was one of thirty five surgeons left to treat some 900 wounded soldiers while the Army pursued the retreating Confederates. Amputations were common. While operating on a soldier whose wound had become gangrenous, Dr. Hagen cut his own hand and contracted an infection which plagued him for the rest of his life.

Dr. Hagen was hospitalized in Philadelphia after his injury, but rejoined his unit, which had been relocated to South Carolina, in September of 1863 where he was the senior Medical Officer in the theater. He was discharged from the Army in 1864. On release, he entered Broadway Hospital in New York because the infection broke out again. He and his family moved to his father-in-law's home in Cahoonzie for just over a year. In 1866, he moved his wife and children to Newark, where he was

actively involved in efforts to establish the German Hospital, which opened on Christmas in 1870.

Dr. Hagen worked tirelessly at the hospital in spite of his own health problems, which sometimes required him to withdraw from serving as an attending physician. As he described his condition in a letter to the pension authorities years later:

“For seven years in a row I was not able to follow my profession as a physician because of the frequently recurring lymphatic abscesses. In the spring of 1873, I started to work again as a doctor, but could not assist with childbirth nor examine a corpse. (...)”



**C.W. with wife Rosina and grandson Charles W.**

In 1875, Dr. Hagen suffered a near-fatal relapse and required surgery to drain two infected sites. He lost fifty pounds over the next few years, and in 1879 he applied for a war veteran's disability pension for the first time at the age of 50. He later used most of his pension to pay for the education of two of his grandsons, Charles W. Hagen, who became a lawyer, and Richard Diefenbach, who became a doctor.

Dr. and Mrs. Hagen inherited the Cahoonzie property in 1891 after

the death of her mother. They remained in Newark, vacationing in Cahoonzie when they could. His son, Augustus, moved to Cahoonzie with his wife and child in the 1890's. In later years, Dr. Hagen was active in veteran's groups serving in a leadership group that consisted of Generals Oliver O. Howard, Franz Sigel, Carl Schurz and himself. He died at the age of eighty in Newark on April 5, 1909, having led an admirable life. By contrast, his son, Augustus, was the black sheep of the family. Check future editions of the *Deerpark Diary* for the story of Augustus Hagen: criminal, farmer and politician.



### **C.W. Hagen with grandson Richard Dieffenbach**

*Significant portions of this article were adapted from the work of the Hagen Family historian, Ronald Hagen.*

### **A Blue-Haired Child**

*The Evening Gazette, 15 January, 1878*

A remarkable case was brought to our notice a day or two since, it being nothing less than that of a child having blue hair. The little one is the daughter of Mr. William Wood who formerly lived in Port Jervis but is now a resident of Oakland Valley. The color of the hair is distinctly blue, and when the family lived in this village this singular case was frequently spoken of by the family and neighbors. The child is aged but three or four years.

## **In and About Sparrowbush**

*The Evening Gazette*  
27 March 1877

We learn from the *Daily Union* that Theo. Cole of Sparrowbush has leased the hotel and canal stables at Bolton Basin and will occupy the same on the first of April.

Mr. Dean of New York City, who recently purchased the extensive mill property of J.J. Walter, near Cahoonzie, is moving to that place. It is said he proposes making many improvements in the vicinity. Mr. Walter has removed to Sparrowbush and occupies the Bellew property.

It is rumored the Sparrowbush tannery is about to change hands and will soon be in active operation. Good news, if true.

### **Progress on the Neversink Valley Grange Building**

- Overgrown evergreen trees were cut down by the Town Highway Department in January on the coldest and windiest day of the year!
- A new roof was installed by Jason Terpstra's crew on the hottest days of the year!
- The stage area was cleared, cleaned and painted
- Fascia boards were primed, painted and installed as were gutters and downspouts
- A new door was hung with other general repairs by Eva Schock and Harold "Bud" Kee
- Major trash removal

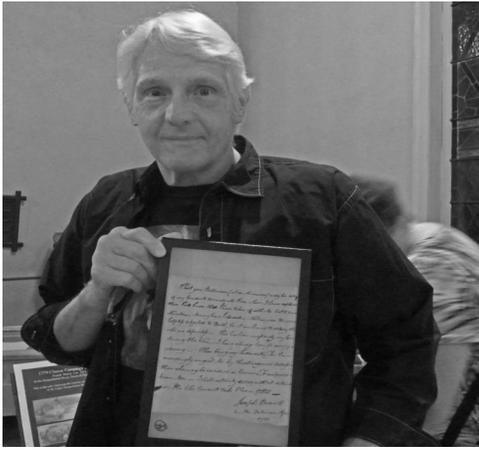


**The stage at the Grange saw its first production entitled *Stand, Hold*. Museum member Dan Witt performed with his granddaughter Alexis Metcalf. This took place during our Open House.**

### **2016 – A Busy Year**

The Town of Deerpark Museum and Historian's Office has had a busy year. Here is a run-down of some of our efforts:

- Decorated the Town Hall for the Holiday Season
- Conducted six Joseph Brant Bus Tours for the Port Jervis Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Graders
- Published four newsletters
- Updated museum displays
- Deerpark nominations were photographed and written for submission to the NatGeo Tourism Scenic River Website
- "Ride Into History" Deerpark Road Rally was created and launched
- Flowers were planted around Deerpark sites
- Frank Salvati spoke about "Red Cloud's War"



**Frank is holding an original letter dictated by Joseph Brant. His next lecture for us in May will be entitled "How George Washington Started the 1st World War."**

- June's Art and History Day in Port Jervis...handsome displays were created.
- Received a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for the Valley Junction Historical Marker. It was dedicated on June 12<sup>th</sup> followed by a railroad program at the Neversink Valley Grange Building.



**Leonard Mercillott, the force behind the railroad marker with daughter Emma at the dedication in Godeffroy.**

- Museum hosted monthly meeting of the Old Mine Road Chapter of the D.A.R.
- Our annual Joseph Brant Bus Tour with dedication of the new "Painted Aprons" Legends and Lore Marker, paid for by a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation



- "Star Party" held at Harriet Space Park
- "Road Rally" Finale Picnic at Harriet Space Park



**Catherine Westfall, Bob Burns, Dot Kilbourn and Sue Breyer enjoy the music at the picnic.**

- 3 day APNYS Conference in Syracuse, NY

- Annual Open House where the newest life sized "Deerest Deerpark" deer entitled "Unforgettable" was unveiled



**Catherine Westfall created a beautiful display of vintage hats for our Open House**

- At the D.A.R. Hudson Valley Pilgrimage Luncheon, we spoke about Joseph Brant's Raid, and followed that with a tour of the 1863 Schoolhouse with a history of the museum's renovation.

- Visit our **Facebook page**

## Thank You

We at the Deerpark Museum wish to thank the Town Officials, Highway Department and our Deerpark Community for their continued support in helping to make our programs a success.

