



Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark 1863 Schoolhouse Museum

Deerpark Historian, 25 Grange Rd., Huguenot, NY 12746

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World War I Comes to Deerpark

On April 6, 1917, Congress authorized a declaration of war against Germany. America entered WWI on the side of the British and French. By May 18, the Selective Service Act was signed into law. Ten million men between 21 and 30 were subject to conscription on June 1st. The State of New York had 1,068,000 eligible men, which included a fair number of Deerpark men and boys.

2017 and 2018 will be filled with reflections and commemorations as the centennial years of our participation in "The Great War" will be honored.

This past summer, the historian's office was contacted by writer and postal historian, Kevin Lowther. He told us he was in the midst of writing at least forty articles, illustrated with postal history and related material, on various aspects of WWI. In his travels, he acquired a unique, single collection of over 100 letters, in the hopes of finding interesting postage and post marks. However, contained within the envelopes was a treasure trove of original letters written by soldiers to an Army nurse, Deerpark's own Alma Space. A wonderful opportunity presented itself, Lowther could write an article about the war era from the personal perspective of these soldier's letters to Alma.

Lowther and his wife Pat arrived in Huguenot from Virginia to do further research. They came to the



Alma Harriet Space Saltzer

Deerpark Museum and combed through our records and artifacts. We put them in touch with Alma's cousin Charles Swartout and he put them in touch with Alma's daughter in New Jersey. Kevin gathered his resources, wrote his article entitled "Alma's Story" and sent us a preliminary draft, which will be published in the "Kelleher's Stamp Collector's Quarterly," in December and distributed to over 50,000 subscribers.

Alma Harriet Space was born in Huguenot, NY on August 3, 1899 to Clarence and Emma Handford Space. She attended the 1863 era Upper Huguenot Schoolhouse. She later attended the Vassar Brothers Nursing School in Poughkeepsie, NY. She married John T. Saltzer who died unexpectedly at a young age. Alma never remarried. She did have a daughter, who was known as "Little Alma," and she attended the same one-room school house as her mother. "Big Alma" Saltzer retired from a life time of nursing as an assistant administrator at the Westchester Square Hospital in the

Bronx. She passed away in Lakewood, New Jersey in December of 1978 at the age of 79 and was buried in the Rural Valley Cemetery in Cuddebackville. She had kept these war-era letters all of those years.

Form 1 REGISTRATION CARD		No. 32
1	Emerson F. Landwehr	23
2	Huguenot, N.Y.	
3	My	21 1894
4	Natural Born Citizen	
5	Port Jervis, N.Y. 4 States	
6	Laborer	
7	Port Jervis Electric Power Co	
8	Port Jervis	
9	None	
10	Single Race Caucasian	
11	Medical Corps	
12	National Guard	

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

30 Emerson F. Landwehr

WWI Draft Registration Emerson Landwehr

Among the letter writers and admirers were the names of Deerpark friends, neighbors and classmates: Joseph Hosking, Jay Fonda, George Flug, Emerson Landwehr and Osmer Griffin. These young soldiers wrote from training camps and eventually from France. They wrote about their deployment preparations, artillery movements, shells exploding nearby, camp life and visits to Paris. Some letters attempted to describe army life in gentler terms and others described horrors which these men could no longer hold inside. None of Alma's letters to the troops remain, but one can only imagine she filled her responses with warmth and

caring, while all the while trying to be gracious about romantic proposals and future commitments.



Private Osmer Griffin was stationed at the U.S. Base Hospital, No. 9, of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Not only was he a frequent writer to Alma, but he faithfully wrote to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert W. Griffin from Huguenot. Several of those letters found their way onto the front page of the local *Port Jervis Union*. One letter written on August 7, 1918 appeared in the paper on September 30, 1918. He wrote in upbeat terms, describing his bunk-mates, the rain, a trip to Paris, and his optimistic views that the war would be coming to a speedy and successful conclusion, before long. Noticeably missing were any references of the grizzly horrors that surrounded him. He certainly spared his folks any of these details in order to lessen their worry for his situation.

On November 11, 1918, the Armistice was signed. In the months to come, these boy soldiers returned as men to their homes in Deerpark. Within the next year or two, they married local girls and built lives, but none of them succeeded in winning Alma's heart. In the dark days filled with the horrors of a far off war, she provided them a sweet light of distraction and promise.

We must thank Kevin Lowther for making us aware of these letters and for helping us to fill in more of Deerpark's rich history. He has since donated Alma's letters to the Deerpark Museum's Archives. Because of the importance of the upcoming 2018 centennial commemo-

ration of the end of WWI, we at the museum will create a display of some of these letters, WWI items and Lowther's article "Alma's Story."

Sad Note: Regretfully, Alma's daughter, "Little Alma" Van De Zilver passed away, at the age of 94, in New Jersey just weeks after her interview with Mr. Lowther.



Traditional Full Moon Names



In ancient times it was common to track the changing seasons by following the lunar calendar rather than the solar year which our modern calendar is based on. For millennia people across Europe as well as Native American Tribes, named the months after features associated with the seasons of the Northern Hemisphere. Many of these names are identical. Some of the native names are often attributed to tribes living in the vast area stretching from New England to Lake Superior, and whose languages are related. They are sometimes referred to as Algonquian Peoples.

Some years have thirteen full moons, which makes one of them called the "Blue Moon," as it doesn't quite fit the traditional full moon naming system. About every nineteen years, February has no full moon, which can be called a "Black Moon."

Today, many of these ancient names have been adopted as the names for the full moon of each month. A common explanation, published in the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, is that Colonial Americans adopted Native American names and incorporated them into their modern calendar. However, it seems the names we use today have Native American, Anglo-Saxon and Germanic roots.

January: Wolf Moon

The January full moon is called the "Wolf Moon," named after howling wolves and which may stem from the Anglo-Saxon Lunar Calendar. This moon may also be called Old Moon, Ice Moon, Moon After Yule and Snow Moon.

February: Snow Moon

The Snow Moon is the February moon, named for the month's snowy conditions. Some Native Tribes called it the Hunger Moon, for the scarce food supplies in deep winter. Storm Moon is another.

March: Worm Moon

The last full moon of the winter season in March is the Worm Moon because of the earthworms that come out at the end of winter. It is also known as the Crow Moon, Crust Moon, Sap Moon, Sugar Moon and Chaste Moon. The Old English/Anglo-Saxon name is the Lenten Moon.

April: Pink Moon

The April Moon is the Pink Moon named for Phlox, a pink flower that blooms early in the springtime. Other names for this full moon include Sprouting Grass Moon, Fish Moon, Hare Moon and in the Anglo-Saxon, the Egg Moon. It is also called the Paschal Moon because it helps to calculate the date of Easter.

May: Flower Moon

Obviously, this moon is named for all the flowers that are in bloom. Other names include Corn Planting Moon and the Anglo-Saxon, Milk Moon.

June: Strawberry Moon

The red strawberries bloom in the month of June, hence the name. Hot Moon, Mead Moon and Rose Moon are other names for this first month of summer.

July: Buck Moon

This name signifies the season that male deer antlers begin to show on their foreheads. This full moon is also named Wort Moon, Thunder Moon, and the Anglo-Saxon – Hay Moon.

August: Sturgeon Moon

The full moon of August is named for the abundance of fish in the lakes where the Algonquians fished. Other names include Green Corn Moon, Barley Moon, Fruit Moon and the Anglo Saxon Grain Moon.

September/October: Harvest Moon

Technically, the Harvest Moon was the closest full moon to September's equinox around September 22nd. Most years it is in September, but every three years it occurs in October. The Harvest moon is the only month's name determined by an equinox, rather than a month.

September: Corn Moon

The *Old Farmer's Almanac* called this month the Harvest Moon as did the Anglo-Saxons. Other names included Corn Moon or Full Corn Moon and Barley Moon.

October: Hunters Moon

Every three years October's moon is also called the Harvest Moon as well as the Hunters Moon. Traditionally this was the time of year spent preparing for winter by hunting, slaughtering and preserving meats for use as food. This led to October's Moon being called the Hunters Moon, as well as, Dying Grass Moon, Blood Moon, and Sanguine Moon. This should not be confused with a total lunar eclipse which is also known as the Blood Moon.

November: Beaver Moon

According to folklore, the full moon of November is named after beavers who become active in their prepara-

tions for winter. It is also called the Frosty Moon and Oak Moon. Traditionally if the Beaver Moon is the last full moon before the winter solstice, it is also called the Mourning Moon.

December: Cold Moon

This is the month that winter begins for most of the Northern Hemisphere. The Old English/Anglo-Saxons called it Moon Before Yule.



"Silent Movies"



A 1973 *Sunday Record* article entitled "Cuddebackville was a movie town..." starts by stating, "There are no historical markers telling you, but Cuddebackville was once an important film center when movies were young." Well, the Historian's Office is pleased to announce this oversight has been rectified, thanks to a generous grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. A new historical marker "Silent Movies" has just recently been placed at the location of the old Caudebec Inn on Oakland Valley Road, near the Rural Valley Cemetery.

In 1908, Charles V. Predmore of Middletown purchased the Caudebec Inn from Harriet Cuddeback. At about this same time, it was recommended to visionary film maker,

D. W. Griffith that he should pay a visit to Cuddebackville because the beautiful scenery would be ideal as a backdrop for his films. Griffith was



Caudebec Inn

impressed and he had his Biograph Company pack up and they took the train north from New York City. At the local station, the Predmore's met his crew and drove them to the inn, where they would spend several summers filming silent movies. It was the infancy of the silent movie era and his stars such as Mary Pickford, Lillian Gish, Max Sennet and cameraman Billy Bitzer all went on to fame and fortune, thanks to their start in these early pictures, filmed in our town.

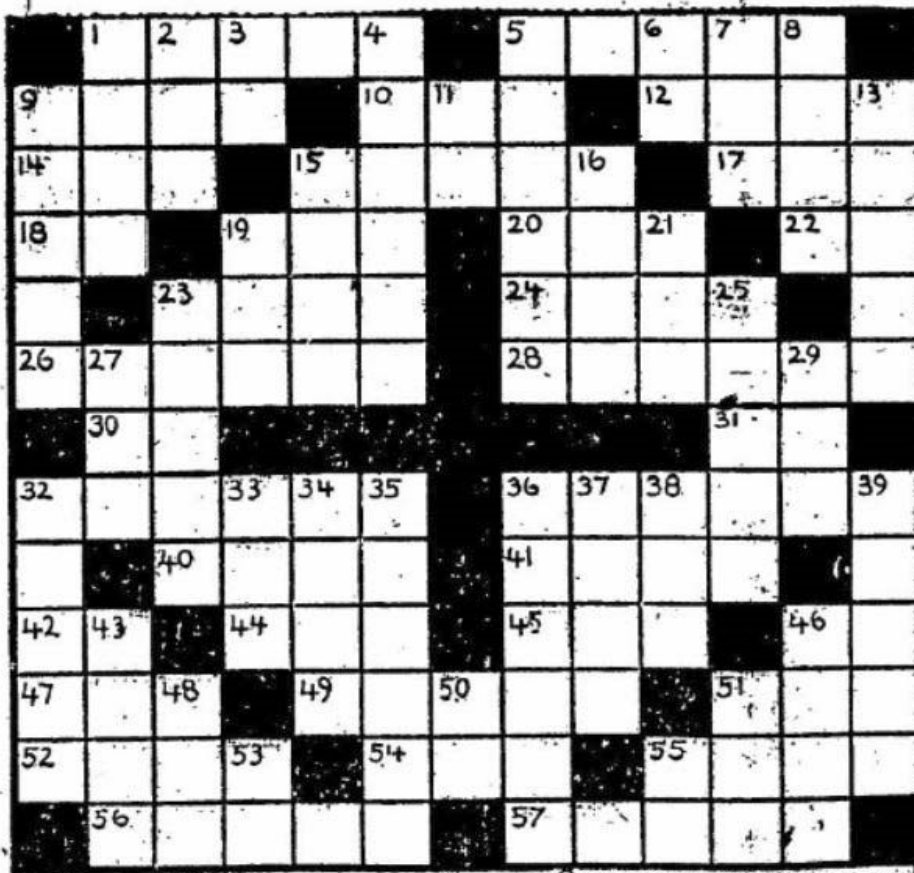


D. W. Griffith

Actress Lillian Gish was quoted as saying, "If you didn't have winters, people would be saying "Cuddebackville" instead of Hollywood."

Stop by the Deerpark Museum for one of the new *Deerpark Historic Marker Brochures*, this new marker is included.

The Union's Cross Word Puzzle



©THE INTERNATIONAL SYNDICATE

HORIZONTAL

- 1—Meager
- 5—Stopping device
- 9—Sour
- 10—Frozen liquid
- 12—A surface
- 14—A vine
- 15—To hoard
- 17—Pinch
- 18—Myself
- 19—An exclamation
- 20—A color
- 22—A preposition
- 23—Act of selling
- 24—A metal
- 26—To furnish
- 28—To make wealthy
- 30—A musical term
- 31—Company (ab)
- 32—Cauterized
- 36—A guarantee
- 40—Cattle
- 41—Former Russian ruler
- 42—A preposition
- 44—A poem
- 45—Finely corded cloth
- 46—An exclamation
- 47—Obtained
- 49—A pointed weapon
- 51—Remote
- 52—Female sheep (pl)
- 54—A fairy
- 55—Helps
- 56—Fresher
- 57—A passage

VERTICAL

- 1—To rescue
- 2—To peep
- 3—A preposition
- 4—One of two
- 6—Boy's pet name
- 6—Like
- 7—Relatives
- 8—To prepare for publishing
- 9—One who times
- 11—County (ab)
- 13—A measure of time
- 15—Act of selling
- 16—Get
- 19—Not good
- 21—A negative
- 23—To sink
- 25—Better
- 27—Before
- 29—A small bed
- 32—A raised platform
- 33—A kind of coffee
- 34—Finishes
- 35—Less shallow
- 36—To punish an enemy
- 37—One who uses
- 38—To strike gently
- 39—Periods of time
- 43—A small city
- 46—A gentlewoman
- 48—Golf term
- 50—A letter
- 51—A tree
- 53—Point of compass (ab)
- 56—A preposition

Try this vintage
crossword puzzle from
The Port Jervis Union
November 28, 1924

Remember the old
Christmas Club?

1921 Christmas Club
—AT—
THE NATIONAL BANK
Opens December 15th
Join now and provide Funds for next year

1. **Members Starting:**
2 cents and increasing two cents each week
for 50 weeks get **\$25.50**
2. **Members Starting:**
One dollar and decreasing two cents each
week for 50 weeks get **\$25.50**
3. **Members Starting:**
5 cents and increasing 5 cents each week for
50 weeks get **\$63.72**
4. **Members Starting:**
Two dollars and fifty cents and decreasing
5 cents each week get **\$63.72**
5. **Members Paying:**
25 cents each week for 50 weeks get **\$12.50**
6. **Members Paying:**
50 cents each week for 50 weeks get **\$25.00**
7. **Members Paying:**
\$1.00 each week for 50 weeks get **\$50.00**
8. **Members Paying:**
\$2 each week for fifty weeks get **\$100.00**

THE NATIONAL BANK
of Port Jervis

Cutting Edge Info

Name origins:

Pen Knife — a small knife used for making and repairing quill pens.

Jack knife — This knife was worn around the waist on a lanyard by sailors. The slang name for a sailor was "Jack Tar," originally from the era of the British Royal Navy. Sailors used tar in a variety of applications aboard ship for purposes of waterproofing. They used tar on their clothing and even their "pigtails."