

Deerpark Diary

Town Of Deerpark 1863 School House Museum

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

845 856-2702 www.1863schoolhouse.org

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No. 2

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Mandeville Murder: Grand Jury Decides

In the last two issues of the “Deerpark Diary,” the events surrounding the Aug. 20, 1882 murder of 23 year-old Chauncey Mandeville have been presented. Through the writings of attorney James Allerton and articles from the Port Jervis “Evening Gazette,” we have followed this crime’s story. In the final installment, the accused murderer Phillip Bevier Elting faces the Grand Jury in Newburgh, Orange County, New York and a verdict is rendered.

In his memoirs, Allerton was not shy about his disgust at the attempts by certain (so called) “best citizens,” to see to it that the charges be dismissed against Elting.

Allerton wrote, “No stone had been left unturned to affect the release of Elting. How is it that a person so utterly devoid of all moral principle, one that shunned society himself and was shunned by all respectable people could raise such a host of wealthy and influential friends to compromise themselves



**The Delaware House
Corner of
Pike St. and Railroad Ave.
Location of Coroner’s
Inquest**

and spend time and money to save his neck from the hangman’s noose?

“Elting’s father had been a respected pastor of the Reformed Church and his children had married into the most prominent families. These siblings came to Phillip Elting’s rescue to avoid the disgrace of a public trial and conviction. Their own interest in the future of their good names required all means to prevent further public exposure.

“When the Grand Jury convened, Sept. 25, 1882, they had all of their forces mustered and ready for action. In the language of one juror, “A lawyer never worked harder for his client than some of the jurors worked for Elting.” In addition to the evidence taken by the Coroner’s Jury, the people had

discovered other evidence that cleared all doubts as to who had done the shooting. The witness was on hand and stated that when he will be called on and sworn in that he would tell all he knew about it. However, when called, he did not respond. Had he been spirited away under the skillful direction of one of the generals? Ordinarily, important witnesses are hunted up and sometimes punished with contempt. But no hunting was done, no inquiries made.

“The case was closed, a vote was taken – **six for and ten against an indictment.**

“The public had become indignant. That it was curried around town that the jury had prostituted themselves for selfish purposes. That bribery and corruption had entered the jury room. That money had been used and they, at least, some of them were looked upon with contempt. That in the street, store and hotel, that their action was severely criticized.

“On their re-assembling, a motion was made to reconsider the vote, as the furor was such as had never before been witnessed in a Grand Jury room. But the motion was again put; it stood ten for and six against an indictment.

“Thus in one and a half hour’s work before the grand body, they disposed of what took the Coro-

ner's Jury several days to perform. The Grand Jury never pretended to deny that Elting was the man who had fired the bullet that killed Mandeville, but that the act had been justified. The jury quoted an earlier case from Orange County as a justification of their action.

"The case involved Michael Sawyer, who was charged with killing James Decker and Anzi Quick near Sparrow Bush, about the first of October, 1862. Sawyer lived on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River opposite Bolton Basin, at a place known as Saw Mill Rift. There is an island at the point about 1000 feet north of the rail bridge. The channel of the river runs between this island and the Pennsylvania shore. In this main channel, Sawyer had placed two eel weirs, with wings extending up the river. These racks had been robbed of fish several times just before the night in question. Sawyer watched his rack, armed with a double barrel rifle and pistol. About 2AM, he crossed over the river on the island and heard some persons to work on the outside rack. He hollered and told them to leave the rack. They started toward Sawyer and got to within 50 feet and began to stone him. Sawyer fired a shot up stream to scare them off. Decker then said to Quick, 'His gun is empty, give it to him.' They continued to stone Sawyer and when ten feet away, Sawyer shot the rifle. The bullet pierced Decker's brain and he died instantly. Sawyer then shot the pistol and it entered Quick's navel and passed out his rectum. Quick lived for eight more days. He admitted that the two stoned Sawyer and goaded him to shoot.

"Immediately after the shooting, Sawyer told neighbors what had happened and he then turned himself over to Justice Penney in Port

Jervis. Between his confession and the dying man's statement, the Grand Jury unanimously refused to find an indictment.

"In the foregoing case, the Grand Jury had an excuse, not a reason for discharging Elting. However, in that case no concealment was attempted nor attempt to influence the jury. The question being was the defendant justified?"

Can the murder of a young man, who stoops to pick an apple from the ground, be justified?

Allerton stated that the Grand Jury had been selected from men on account of their wealth. Had the jury consisted of men both rich and poor, the element of sympathy would have existed and a greater effort to bring Elting to justice would have been made.

In his sketch of the affair he wrote, "The mark of Cain is placed upon him (Elting) and long may he wear it and as he passes up and down through the world may the finger of contempt be pointed at him and may the small boy be heard to say:

**There goes Old Phil,
the murderer of
Chauncey Mandeville."**

Perhaps, that was just what happened. The next mention of 71 year-old Elting, appears in the March, 1895 Kansas State Census of Valley Township, Hodgeson County. It seems he acquired a homestead of 160 acres, twelve of which were under cultivation. Apparently, life in Deerpark became too uncomfortable with so many pointing fingers.

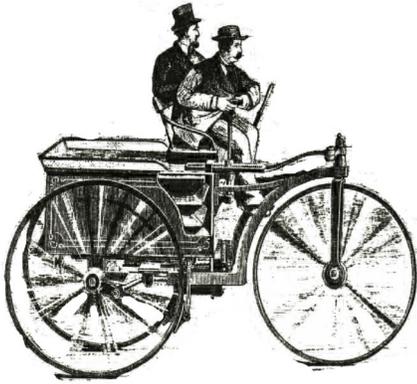


C.E. Cuddeback Family Attorney

Cornelius Elting Cuddeback was not only Phillip Bevier Elting's defense attorney but also his nephew. Cuddeback was born in Deerpark in 1849. He was the son of Elting Cuddeback and Anna Bevier Elting, Phillip's sister. Cornelius attended Port Jervis Schools and was graduated from Yale in 1871. He then went on to Columbia Law School and was graduated from there two years later in 1873.

Mr. Cuddeback opened his office in Port Jervis and enjoyed a large practice. He lived at 48 West Main St. He later formed a partnership with his son Samuel in 1901. For many years he had been an elder of the Reformed Church of Deerpark, the same church his grandfather, Rev. Cornelius Elting had presided. He was also a member of the church consistory for over forty years. Cuddeback was the attorney for the Town of Deerpark and the village of Port Jervis for many years. He was also instrumental in straightening out the affairs of the Port Jervis and Monticello Railroad.

At the time of his death, on September 18, 1918, Cuddeback was seventy years old. He was Director of the First National Bank and the Port Jervis Savings and Loan Association. He served as their attorney, as well. He was, likewise, President of the Minisink Valley Historical Society. Certainly, C.E. Cuddeback was an esteemed member of his community. It was announced in his obituary, in the *Port Jervis Daily Union*, that his service would be a motor funeral.



Ride Into History

Deerpark Road Rally

**May 22 through August 13,
2016**

Ride Into History Picnic Celebration at

Harriet Space Park

Sunday, August 21st.

Fund raiser "Friends of the Neversink Valley Grange".

Take this summer to explore our town and the surrounding area by participating in the "Ride into History" Road Rally Program. There are twenty-five sites to visit, including historic sites, parks, hiking trails, and other points of interest. Registration forms will be available beginning on May 22nd thru August 13th at the 1863 Huguenot Schoolhouse, 25 Grange Road, Huguenot, NY, the Deerpark Town Hall, Route 209, Huguenot and also on the Deerpark Museum website: 1863schoolhouse.org.

Completed registration forms will be accepted at the 1863 Huguenot Schoolhouse on Tuesdays 10:00am to 3:00pm and Saturdays 10:00 to 12:00 noon or by special appointment. At the time of registration, you will receive a per-

sonal travel journal and complete instructions about the "Ride Into History". You will also receive a map of Deerpark to use as a guide.

There is a registration fee of \$20.00 for the pilot and navigator to cover the cost of your personal trip journal, the picnic and for a donation to the "Friends of the Neversink Valley Grange" effort to help restore and preserve the Grange building in Huguenot, to be used as a community center.

There is a space in your personal journal to write the correct answers to questions about information at some of the sites. A "selfie" or a photo taken by someone at each site will verify your visit. Bring your completed personal "Ride Into History" journal to the Town of Deerpark Museum, 1863 Huguenot Schoolhouse to receive vouchers for attending the August 21st picnic at Harriet Space Park at 3:00pm and to have your name entered to win a prize. Your "Ride Into History" deadline for verification is August 13th. This gives you most of the summer to enjoy visits to out-of-the-way historical places located in our area.

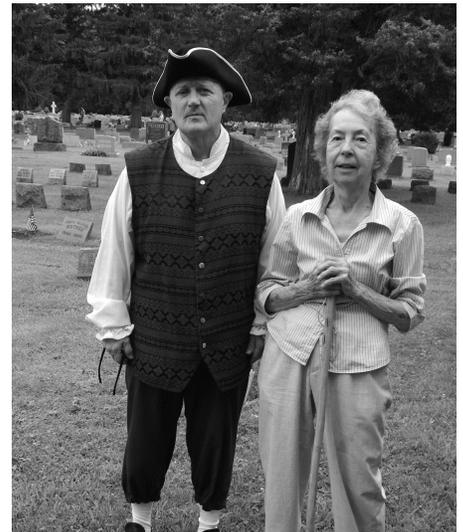
For additional information call 845-856-2702 or 845-856-4515 or 845-754-8070.



Annual Joseph Brant Bus Tour

On Saturday, July 23, 2016, the Deerpark Museum Committee will hold its seventh annual Joseph Brant Raid Bus Tour in the Town of Deerpark. Committee members,

dressed in period costume, will guide a tour along the route Mohawk Indian and British Loyalist, Joseph Brant, and his Tories took when they attacked settlements in our valley on July 20, 1779. Frank Salvati provides extensive background information about Joseph Brant.



**From 2016 Tour
Volunteer Robert Burns and
guest
Thelma Mc Carty**

The tour, which takes about two hours, travels along Peenpack Trail, and Neversink Drive in the Town of Deerpark. Decker's Stockade Fort, Solomon Davis Grist Mill, Black Rock School, Van Auken Fort, and Solomon Kuykendall Fort are among many of the locations attacked on this part of the route. The tour continues into Port Jervis where Brant had burned the Maghagamach Church, Peter Kuykendall's Tavern and Fort Decker. There will be an opportunity to visit the old Maghagamach Cemetery where the church was located and where Revolutionary War soldiers Martinus Decker and Simon Westfall are buried. The tour ends with a colo-

nial-period cooking demonstration at Fort Decker in West End prepared by the Minisink Valley



**Nancy Conod
Executive Director, MVHS**

Historical Society. The tour starts and ends at the Sparrowbush Fire House, Main Street, Sparrowbush, NY. All participants will meet at 7:45 a.m. There will be free coffee and snacks available before the bus leaves promptly at 8:00 a.m. The cost is \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors, \$4.00 for children under 12. Reservation forms are available at Town Hall, our Town Museum, or on our website www.1863schoolhouse.org. Tickets will be sent to registrants in the beginning of July. Tickets are necessary because space is limited.

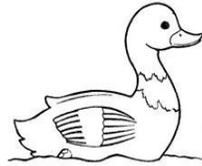
**For additional information call
845-856-4515 or 845-856-2702.**

“Foul” Play of a Sort?

From *The Union Gazette*,
September 23, 1922

“Cupid’s Lame Duck
Yet Able to Duck”

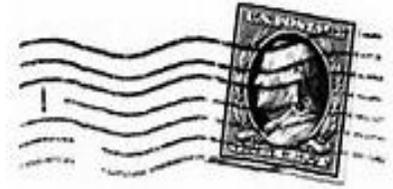
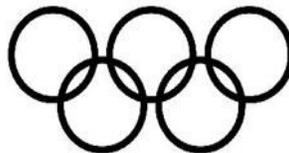
After Mrs. Edna Duck obtained a decree of divorce in Orange County, it was revealed yesterday that her husband John Duck of Deerpark, ducked with the woman’s sister, following a reception at the Duck home. The sister, Miss Florence Caskey, and Duck have not been seen since April 1922.



An Olympic Note

This information was taken from a U.S. High School history test:

In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the java. The reward to the victor was a coral wreath



An Abundance of Area Post Offices Circa 1895

Back in the day there was no shortage of post offices in the Town of Deerpark. There were ten locations ranging from store fronts to homes that served as places to post and receive letters and packages. With the recent threat of closings, a little post office trivia seemed appropriate.

Post Office with Postmaster:
Cahoonzie - Laforge Caskey
Cuddebackville - Levi Cuddeback
Godeffroy - George Garrett
Guymard - Peter A. Gumaer
Paradise - S.T.L. Norris
Port Jervis - George A. Elston
Rio - John Dougherty
Sparrowbush - George W. Cavart
Tri-States - Charles E. Nearpass
Huguenot - C.J. Van Inwegen

In 1898, an office was closed and by 1899 two more were closed, leaving only seven.

Upcoming Programs

June 12, 3PM
O&W Railroad Lecture
Neversink Valley Grange

June 18
Art & History
Drew Methodist Church,
Port Jervis