



Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark 1863 School House Museum

Town of Deerpark Historian P.O. Box 621, Huguenot, NY 12746

845 856-2702 www.1863schoolhouse.org

June 2019

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No. 2

- **Raid on Maghamek**
- **Jos. Brant Bus Tour**
- **Passport to History**
- **Artists' Programs**

Joseph Brant By Frank Salvati

240 years ago this summer, the Town of Deerpark saw its most famous/infamous visitor. In the town's long-storied history, the name of Joseph Brant is still kept current, thanks to numerous historical markers and through the efforts of various local historical societies and historians.

Brant's visit, obviously, was not of a friendly nature. He was a Mohawk, and like most of his tribe, was a firm ally of Great Britain. Brant viewed the Revolutionary War as a civil war among two groups of Englishmen living on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean. His allegiance to Britain was historical. For almost a hundred years the British Crown had taken the Mohawks' side in the countless disputes over land issues with the thirteen colonies. The Mohawk had adopted many facets of English life, such as language, clothing, dress and religion. Brant himself had even studied to be a missionary in the Anglican Faith. In addition, the Mohawk, as well as almost all of the Six Nations of the Iroquois, were dependent on British manufactured goods of every sort.

So when war broke out in 1775, Joseph Brant was eager to make war on the enemies of King George III.



This brings us to his July 20, 1779 visit. It was actually his second foray into our area, the first being nine months earlier. This July raid was far worse for the inhabitants of the Peenpack area. Brant left his headquarters in the Indian town of Chemung, New York, present day Elmira, with a mixed force of approximately 80-90 men: Indian and white volunteers. He had two motives for selecting the Minisink Region. Reason number one was that his people back home, desperately needed food (cattle), and secondly, because our area was a "nest of rebels." He especially wanted to kill or capture Major Johannes Decker, a noted rebel leader.

On the day of July 20, 1779, Brant's men attacked. By the close of the day he had destroyed numerous farms, a school, a church and other buildings. His men killed and scalped four men. They captured three prisoners and took as much plunder as they could carry on horseback.

The only serious resistance he encountered was at the fortified Van Auken house, site of the present-day golf course.

Today, a ride, along Neversink Drive with its many historical markers, tells the story.

Although small comfort to the families decimated by the raiding party, the fact is our area got off lightly compared to other areas hit by Brant. Places like Cobleskill, German Flats, Stone Arabia and numerous other locales suffered far worse.

Joseph Brant went on to lead much larger numbers of Iroquois and other tribesmen later in the war, achieving much success.

After the events of July 20th, in what is now Huguenot, Brant headed back North to Indian Country. He was pursued by the militias of Orange, Ulster and Sussex Counties.

The two opposing forces clashed at Lackawaxen Ford in what is now known as the Battle of Minisink. Even though Brant was outnumbered, he inflicted a devastating defeat upon our militiamen.

The events of that fateful day of July 20, 1779, will forever be remembered in the Town of Deerpark, but to Joseph Brant it was nothing more than just another day in the war.



Follow us at Deerpark Museum



Indian Raid Bus Tour

On Saturday, July 20, 2019, the Deepark Museum Committee will hold its eighth Brant Raid Bus Tour in the Town of Deepark to commemorate the 240th Anniversary of Joseph Brant's raid on the lower neighborhood. 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.

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

The tour starts and ends at the Sparrowbush Fire House, Main Street,

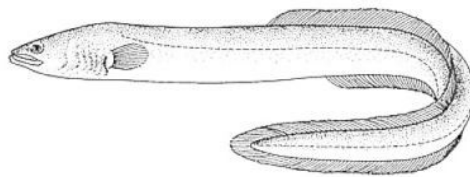
Sparrowbush, NY. A picnic lunch will be served at the end of the tour at the Sparrowbush Memorial Park.

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 \$10.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for children under 12. Reservations forms are available at Deepark Town Hall, at the Town Museum, or on the 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 845-856-2702, 845-754-8070 or 845-856-4515. Deeparkhistorian1863@gmail.com

Art Workshops & Demonstrations

The Deepark Museum will be hosting a series of programs this coming year. This project is made possible, in part, with funds from Orange County Tourism and the County of Orange. Local artist and teacher, Susan Miiller, received this grant and put together this series of demonstrations and workshops. She has gathered fellow artists from the River Valley Artists Guild to show off their various techniques in their particular areas of expertise. All of these programs are free and open to the public. Free supplies will be available for workshop sessions. Refreshments included.

See the attached schedule.



Old Tyme Remedy

"For all sortes of agewes, pare the patient's nayles when the fever is coming on, and put the parings into a little bag of linen, and tye that about a live eele's necke in a tubbe of water. The eele will dye and the patient will recover



A Duck Fandango

*Tri-State Union
Dec. 19, 1907*

"The blizzard of Saturday reminded Walt Tisdell of a hunting fandango in which he figured some years ago. He was starting out to kill some birds, when he discovered that he had no shot. At first he did not know what to do, but finally he thought of a lot of carpet tacks which his wife had bought a few days before. Unbeknownst to her, he pocketed the tacks and started bird-landward. He tramped up to Mongaup, and about noon he scared up a big flock of wild ducks. The ducks rose from the river and steered for the barn on the Knight place. Walt sneaked close to the barn, shinned up a tall tree, and got a fair squareshot at the quackers as they sat on the roof, gossiping in duck fashion. He fired both barrels, and was astonished to see that not a duck flew away. He quickly concluded that the carpet tacks had tacked the ducks to the roof, and he started to capture them. He got a ladder, but as he was putting it up, the ducks began to struggle. Pretty soon they flapped their wings together, and rose, carrying with them the roof. They sailed away up the Delaware. Walt meandered back to the Bush via the towpath. When he got to Bolton Basin, he saw a raft coming down the Delaware, and discovered that it was the barn roof and ducks fast to it. He rushed to the eddy below No.2 bridge, got a boat and made ready to capture the roof and the ducks. As the roof passed under the bridge, a westbound coal train, drawn by Locomotive 4-11-44, stoked by Fireman Sam Wilson, dropped a ton of red hot coals upon the craft and set it afire. Walt managed to strand the burning craft, but by the time he got the flames put out, the ducks, 79 in all, were thoroughly roasted. He toted them home and had a roast duck blowout for the next week. Mr. Knight never knew what went with his barn roof, and Walt's wife bragged to the end of her days about what a star hunter Walt was."

Summer Program for 2019

June 1st—September 29th

Passport to Local History
Sponsored By
The Deerpark Heritage Fund
A Component of the
Community Foundation of
Orange and Sullivan Counties

Celebration of Local Historical Sites:

Town of Deerpark Museum

Matamoras/Westfall Historical Society

Minisink Valley Historical Society

Montague Association for the Restoration of
Community History

Mount Hope Historical Society

Neversink Valley Museum of
History & Innovation



Visit one of the above sites, to
register and receive your passport.

Each time you visit a site,
get your passport stamped.

Five (5) stamps will qualify you for
Free admission to the
Finale Celebration

Finale Celebration!

An Afternoon with the
Little Big Band

Swing time Music
Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019
3-5pm

At the Elks Club
Route 6, Port Jervis, NY



Dancing and Light Refreshments

Free to Completed

Passport to Local History Participants

Evening Gazette
2 September, 1878

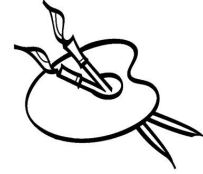
LEA'S OPERA HOUSE.

The ninth promenade concert and ball will take place next Wednesday evening, September 3d. I will state to the public that I shall endeavor to furnish at the low price of 10 cents a really first-class entertainment with all the privileges of a New York ball at \$2 a ticket. I shall positively exercise the right to refuse admission to improper persons, and I warn such that they need not apply for admission. Smoking will not be allowed in the hall, and hats must not be worn on the dancing floor. The Emmet cornet band, in their new uniforms, will be in attendance. Royce's orchestra will furnish the music for dancing and everything will be done to render these entertainments first-class in every respect.

GEORGE LEA.—*Adv.*

2019 Program Schedule
Deerpark Museum
25 Grange Rd., Huguenot, NY 12746
www.1863schoolhouse.org

Saturday - June 15 - 10 to 4 Art in the Park— Port Jervis, NY
Historic Orange Square, Veterans Memorial Park



Sunday - June 23 - 3PM George Centimore
Airbrush Demonstration



Saturday-July 20-7:45AM Joseph Brant Bus Tour
Meets at Sparrowbush Fire House
Main St. Sparrowbush, NY
Pre-Registration Required



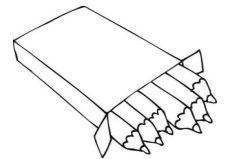
Sunday-July 23- 3PM Al Champy
Watercolor Demonstration



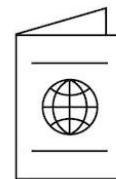
Sunday—August 18—3PM Jane Brennan
Inks Demonstration



Sunday—September 15—3PM Joe Petrosi
Color Pencil Workshop



Saturday—October 5, 3-5PM Passport to History –Finale Program
Elks Club, Route 6, Port Jervis NY



Sunday—October 20- 3PM Alyta Adams
Collage Workshop

