



# Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark Museum, 1863 School House

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

Website—1863schoolhouse.org Phone: 845-856-2702

September, 2023

Vol. 20

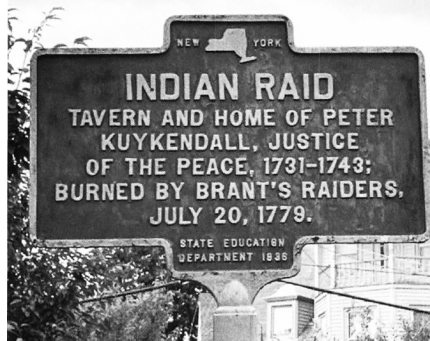
No. 3

- **Kuykendall Tavern**
- **Deerpark—Taverns, Inns, Hotels, Bars**
- **Historic Marker Restoration Project**
- **Frank Salvati Program**

## Kuykendall Tavern

Taverns were a major force in American societal culture. Their primary purpose was the setting where travelers could get directions, eat, drink, be entertained and spend the night. Also they served many other purposes in early America, especially in the countryside including: meeting places; courts of law; dance halls; garrisons; banks; post offices; military recruitment centers; places of commerce; and the spread of news and information.

During colonial times, Deerpark was divided into two neighborhoods—the Upper Neighborhood (north of today's Town Hall) and the Lower Neighborhood (south of today's Town Hall including Tri-States and Port Jervis). Pieter-Peter Kuykendall, born May 1, 1698, owned the first tavern of record in Maghaghka-



mik, a prosperous settlement in the lower neighborhood. It was a favorite stopping place for settlers bound for the Wyoming Valley.

On July 9, 1719, Peter married Fermetje Decker and they purchased a farm from Helen Decker. Their land encompassed much of present-day Port Jervis and abutted Peter's father-in-law's land. Peter built a home and tavern on a bluff overlooking the distant Delaware River and the growing settlement of just under 1,000 folks. A historic marker commemorating the tavern's history is located at the intersection of Broome and Elizabeth Streets

Taverns were a meeting place for the people in town and an important link between settlements as well as the best source of the latest news. Peter was a Justice of the Peace, serving for twelve years, from 1731 to 1743. He was a highly respected member of the community and very much involved in the life of the church. He passed away in 1778, the year before Brant raided the valley and burned the tavern. It is

surmised that his son and namesake, Peter, had taken his place as the tavern keeper.

## §

## Deerpark— Taverns, Inns, Hotels, Bars



As years passed taverns were also known as inns, pubs (short for public house), bars & grills, and hotels. These terms became synonymous with one another. The word restaurant didn't come into usage until the late 18th century. It is derived from the French word *restorant* (something that restores). The modern form of restaurant emerged during the first half of the 19th century. At that time they were eating places having specific cuisines such as French, German, Italian, Chinese.

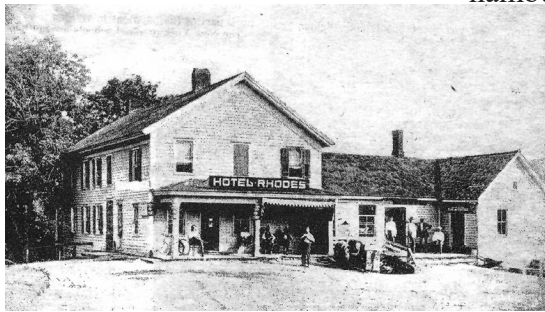
Throughout the history of Deerpark each hamlet had some form of the original tavern, a place providing lodging, food and

drink for travelers and residents. Unfortunately most of them are gone. Some of the stories about the establishments from the past are the topic for this newsletter. This article is divided by hamlet. Even though most places are gone, readers will have an idea where the old historic places were located.

**Westbrookville**

In 1834, a general store opened in Westbrookville along the banks of the D & H Canal. Then the building changed into Hotel Rhodes, serving food and lodging for travelers. It was also used as the community's post office. After the turn of the century additions were made when it became Ye Old Tavern. It became a restaurant complete with a banquet hall. The owners retained the atmosphere of the era when barges stopped at the place. The tavern closed in the late 1970s and burned shortly thereafter. The only thing left is a parking lot.

Other historic establishments—White Horse Lodge \* Orange County Terrace \* Deer Head Lodge \* Mountain View



*Hotel Rhodes*

**Cuddebackville**

Paradise Farms on Route 209, owned by Sally and Jimmy Walker, not only served food, drink and provided lodging; it

was also a meeting place for the public. During the early 1940s, Father Divine (1880?-1965) held revivals there. His Peace Mission movement membership numbered in the tens of thousands at its height during the Great Depression. They provided food, shelter and clothing during this difficult time. Members were taught not to discriminate by race, religion, or color. In the 1930s he championed racial equality long before the civil rights movement.

Other historic establishments—Caudebec Inn \* Deerpark Farm \* Bamboo Inn \* Shwanga Summit House



*Father Divine  
Held Revivals  
at  
Paradise  
Farms*

**Godeffroy**

Monahan's Tavern was a friendly neighborhood place. Everyone said they served the best hamburgers in town. The building had a long classic hardwood bar with mirrors behind it. The building sported a beautiful tin ceiling. Red and white checkered table cloths gave the place a bright cheery atmosphere. The Monahan's two boxers greeted you at the door. It was a place where neighbors and friends met to socialize and exchange the news of the day. In the back of the tavern was an unusual octagon building. That set the place apart from other establishments.

Other historic establishments—Resnick's Maple House



*Tavern owner honored*

*Ada Monahan was honored as the 1973 "Woman Of The Year" by the Port Jervis Area Liquor Dealers Association having operated her Tavern in Godeffroy for 40 years*

**Huguenot**

One of the largest establishments was the Park Lane in the mid twentieth century which was sold and then opened as the Cornucopia. Both provided food, drink and lodgings.

DINE AND DANCE AMIDST COOL BREEZES

FAN-TAN INN

Huguenot State Rd.      Opposite Martens Lake

ORIGINAL CHINESE DISHES

SOUVENIRS      DANCING      CABARET

Grand Opening  
Sat. August 2nd

TABLE RESERVATIONS. TEL. 135-F-1

Kitchen Under Personal Supervision of YONG SEN LU

An ad for the Fan-Tan Inn, dated August 1, 1924 in the Middletown Record, was discovered while researching materials for this newsletter. This is the only records located about the inn. Because of its location, it may be surmised that Fan-Tan was in business on the same lot prior to the Park Lane/Cornucopia.





*Park Lane*

Other historic establishments— Mineral Springs/Hotel Huguenot \* Bucky’s Tavern \* West Wind/ Rudy’s/ Spanky’s \* Club 209 \* D & V Seafood

**Tri-States**

The Tri-States area has been a major thoroughfare since the time of the first settlers. Travelers needed a place to rest and eat. One of the most interesting places was South of the Border, located on the New York/New Jersey state boundary line. Cy Hawkins built his tavern in the late 1930s and realized that his tavern/restaurant offered the unique experience of being in two states at the same time. He painted a line across the dance floor marking the boundary between the states. Before 1985, the legal drinking age in New York was eighteen while the drinking in New Jersey was twenty-one. Hawkins had built the bar on the New York side of the tavern making it legal to



*South of the Border*  
Photo Thanks to M.A.R.C.H.

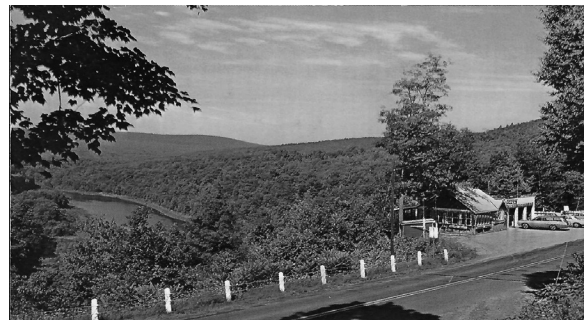
serve drinks to a young crowd. South of the Border was an ideal place for young people to enjoy good food, drink and friends.

Other historic establishments— Villa Soprano/

Santini’s Ristorante/El Patron \* Holiday Inn \* Wine and Roses/ Karsten’s Inn \* Grand View Peak

**Sparrowbush**

Routes 97 and 42 and the Delaware River bring many visitors to the Town of Deerpark. Visitors and residents enjoyed a number of places to eat and drink. There were also resorts such as Eddy Farm and Torrini’s providing vacation stays. They welcomed local residents and travelers.



*Hawk’s Nest Rest*

Many people enjoyed meals at the Hawk’s Nest Rest while viewing the Delaware River and the Hawk’s Nest. The restaurant was perched on a steep ledge hundreds of feet above the Delaware. Tables were situated next to the edge which provided spectacular views. Later windows were installed for safety. It was a favorite landmark for tourists and motorcyclists. Hundred of mo-

torcycle license plates hung over the bar. A canoe was attached to the ceiling. Unfortunately a fire destroyed everything in October 2002.

Other Historic establishments— Alexander’s Hotel \* Scully’s/ Hofbrau/Mr. Chips \* Black Bear Inn \* Knotty Pines \* Redman’s Hall \* Torrini’s/Collins Top of the Hill

**Rio**

Historic establishment—Cottage in the Pines, also known as Pine Park Cottage and Dunwald Farm was listed as a national historic district on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 2015. Its classic Adirondack style venue featured two guest houses, a mill pond and sixty acres of woodland. The Dunwald farm, a historic home, was renovated to provide modern comforts. Unfortunately it has been closed since the COVID pandemic.



**Historic Marker Restorations 2021-2023**

In the spring of 2021, Orange County Legislator Tom Fagione, approached the Town of Deerpark historian with an idea for restoring the town’s historic markers. He suggested that posts be installed on the Neversink Valley Grange grounds. Historic markers could be picked up and moved to these posts so that they could be safely cleaned, scraped, primed, repainted and sealed with

a clear coat. Prior to this time the historic markers had been refurbished on their original sites. With increased road traffic this had become an unsafe practice.

With the approval of the Town Board members and the cooperation of the Deerpark Highway Department, two posts were installed. As a planning guide for the project, a complete list of the Town's fifty-six markers was prepared, complete with their condition and locations (GPS coordinates). Some markers only needed a good cleaning, however almost fifty needed a complete overhaul. All of this work was going to be done by volunteers during the spring, summer and fall months. At first we considered this a three year project which meant that about eighteen markers would have to be completed each year. That seemed like a lot more than we could handle so our estimated time for completion was moved to a four year completion date.



*Tom Faggione  
Linda Yarwood  
Preparing historic markers  
for restoration*

After purchasing the necessary supplies, the first order of business was to teach Tom and volunteers how to complete the necessary steps to refurbish the

markers. This is a six step process—clean-scrape-prime-blue paint-yellow letters-clear coat. Everyone learned quickly and the project was off and running. Two signs were done at a time. Each time two were done, Highway personnel made an exchange so that there were always two signs being worked on at one time. Most of the work was done early in the mornings because summer days can get awfully hot.

It was so exciting when this summer 2023 all fifty-six historic markers in Town were completed and in pristine condition, well before the time we originally had planned. It was remarkable. An instructional Power Point program was also produced which is available to any community interested in learning how to refurbish their historic markers. Contact the Deerpark Historian, 845-856-2702.

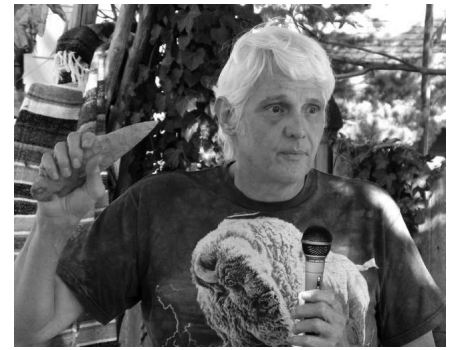
Special thanks go to the Deerpark Highway Department and volunteers who worked so diligently on this project. It is great to be able to read all the markers clearly and enjoy the long history of the Town of Deerpark.

§

**Frank Salvati Presents  
“George Washington and the  
French and Indian War”  
Sunday, October 22, 2023**

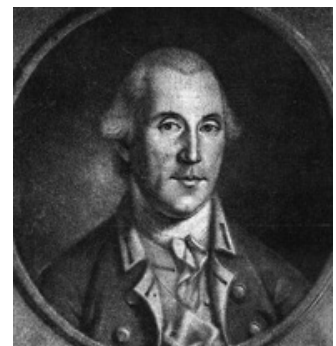
At 3:00pm on Sunday, October 22, 2023, the Town of Deerpark Museum, 25 Grange Road, Huguenot, New York will present a free lecture by Frank Salvati.

The popular local historian will speak about George Washington and the French and Indian War.



*Frank Salvati*

Salvati will offer a presentation about the adventures George Washington had when the Virginia governor sent him to the Ohio Valley. He was to deliver a message to the French that they were to leave the Ohio Country. Washington was charged with building a fort at the site of present day Pittsburgh. Unfortunately, he mistakenly killed a French Peace Ambassador which set off a full-fledged war. Washington also interacted with Indians as both allies and enemies for the first time. Indian affairs would consume a great deal of his time and energies for the rest of his life.



*Young George Washington*

A question and answer session will follow the lecture. There will be free refreshments

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