



Deerpark Diary

Vol. 2 #3 September 2005

Town of Deerpark Historian

PO Box 621, Huguenot, NY 1863 Huguenot Schoolhouse who lives in Sparrowbush.

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Town Museum

On March 21, 2005, the Deerpark Town Board designated the 1863 Huguenot Schoolhouse, 25 Grange Road, Huguenot as the Town of Deerpark Museum.

The mission of the Town of Deerpark Museum is to preserve, document and interpret the history of the town from its beginnings to the present, through exhibitions, educational programs and publications for children and adults; and the acquisition, preservation and restoration of artifacts.

A Museum Committee to implement the mission meets the first Thursday of the month at the Schoolhouse. The members are: Barbara Schulz, Westbrookville, Chairperson; Betty Ehre, Huguenot; Barbara

Johnson, Cuddebackville; Brian Lewis, Port Jervis; Kathleen Myett, Sparrowbush; Nick Somarelli, Huguenot; Wilma Walder, Sparrowbush; Catherine Westfall, Huguenot; Mark House, Supervisor as liaison to the Board; Norma Schadt, Town Historian.

Everyone is welcome to visit the museum, participate in special programs and use the records for historical research. Local photographs, artifacts, and records are welcome additions to the archives. If anyone has old photographs and records about Deerpark to share with the community, they can be copied and returned. Of particular interest are photographs and records about events from the past one hundred years, such as items from the early 1900s, resorts, camps, railroad, farming, industries, school pictures, parades, World War I, Depression, World War II, etc. Please check your attics and add to our town's history.

The repository for the town's historic records and artifacts is located in the 1863 Huguenot School. Local artifacts and memorabilia are on display throughout the building.

A section of the building is a recreation of a one room schoolhouse. Featured around the perimeter of the interior of the school are seventeen murals depicting the history of Deerpark. They were painted by Susan Miller, an artist and professor at SUNY, New Paltz.

Office is also located in the Museum. Presently, the museum is open on Tuesdays from 10:00-3:00 or by appointment (call 856-2702 or 754-8070).

Grange Program



Neversink Valley Grange

On September 18, 2005 at 3:00, members of the Neversink Valley Grange will present a program about the history of the Grange. Dan and Theresa Kavanagh will speak about the National Grange Movement and Grace Forbes will present a program about the local Neversink Valley Grange. The program will take place at the Grange Building, intersection of Big Pond Road and Grange Road, Huguenot. After the program, refreshments will be served in the Deerpark Museum, just across the road.

The Neversink Valley Grange was organized in 1933. There were other Granges in Deerpark, however this is the

only one which is still active in town. Members of the Grange have made many contributions to the community.

The National Grange was officially founded on December 4, 1867. It was destined to become a vital force in preserving and expanding American democracy.

Major objectives of the National Grange support stewardship of America's natural resources; promotion of world-wide free trade; a combination of local and federal support for rural education, medical, communications, and road systems; non-partisan political participation; assurance of safe and properly labeled food products; organization of cooperatives and other economic services to support rural Americans; and elimination of direct government farm programs so as to assure a competitive and efficient farm system. The Grange campaigned for rural free delivery (RFD) of the mail. Prior to the 1870s, people who lived in the country had to go into town to pick up their mail. (Source www.nationalgrange.org/about/history)

Everyone is welcome to learn more about the importance of the Grange Movement and its influence on our lives. We look forward to this interesting program on September 18th. For additional information call 856-2702 (Tuesdays) or 754-8070.



Children's Book Program

Ages 3-8

October 16, 2005

3:00-5:00

1863 Schoolhouse

Grange Road, Huguenot
Alan Lewis will present a program and readings based on his new children's book "I Grew Up On a Farm", illustrated by Bob Fletcher. Alan grew up in the area and some of the illustrations include photos from his childhood.

The children will receive mini pumpkins to take home. Cider and donuts will be served.



Prospect Hill School 1930s. Do You Know These Children? If you do, please contact Norma Schadt, Town Historian, 856-2702

Deerpark

Early Education

During the 1700s, children were educated at home or in one of the small neighborhood schools. There are few records available about the schools. In the southern part of Deerpark, known as the lower neighborhood, a log school house was built on the east side of the Neversink River.

In the northern part of Deerpark, known as the upper

neighborhood, a school was built near the Cuddeback home (today Route 209, Godeffroy area). Thomas Kyte taught for a short period of time, however not much education took place. The school was neglected. In 1776, Thomas White was hired to teach the children of the upper neighborhood. He lived with the Gumaer family and had a room in their home which was used as a school until the original school was again usable.

The Black Rock school was situated along the Horn Road (today Neversink Drive). In 1779 the school was burned down during Brant's second raid on the valley. The *Painted Apron Story* which tells the story of how Brant saved the children at the Black Rock School documents the time period of the school.

It was not until 1795 when a statewide system of support for public schools was enacted.

An act of the New York State Legislature in 1812 established common schools and created the foundation of the school system of the State. This act provided for the annual election of three town commissioners and three town inspectors of schools. The County Treasurer paid money to the commissioners. Town tax collectors raised an equal amount. These public funds were distributed to the school districts by the town commissioners of the schools. This apportionment depended on the average attendance and number of children between the ages of five and fifteen years in the district. This sum was then

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divided among the districts. The first record of apportioning of public moneys is in 1820 among five districts, and four parts of districts of the Town of Deerpark existing at that time.

At one time there may have been fourteen separate districts in the Town of Deerpark. The map on the back page of this newsletter shows the locations of the schools.

District #1

Union Free School District Number One of Deerpark

District #1 extended from Bolton Basin (Sparrowbush) to midway between Huguenot and Port Jervis and to the New Jersey State line.

At the beginning of the 1800s, an old school house stood at the base of the mountain above the old German-Town Canal Bridge (West Main Street) and was used until 1820. The district rented space until 1825 when a small frame building was erected on Main Street. In the 1840s there was a school on Kingston Avenue.

The village of Port Jervis was incorporated in 1853 having been carved out of the Town of Deerpark. That same year Union Free School Districts were established. Typically, a common school district would cover only a portion of a single town. This changed the original boundaries of District #1.

District #2

The **Oakland Valley School** is located on Oakland Valley Road just north of the Deerpark boundary line in Forestburgh. It is a private home.

District #3

The **Upper Huguenot School** is situated on Old Grange Road, Huguenot, presently used as the Town of Deerpark Museum.

District #4

The **Lower Huguenot School** is located on Route 209 in Huguenot. Presently known as Town of Deerpark Building #2.

District #5

The **Port Orange School** was located on the northern corner of Brant Road and Route 209 intersection.

District #6

There is not information about the school in this district.

District #7

The **Quarry Hill School** replaced a little red school house on Route 42 in 1900. It is now a private residence.

District #8

The **Cahoonzie School** is located on the intersection of Route 42 and Old Forestburgh Road. It is a private residence.

District #9

The **Tri-State School** was located near the Lime Kiln Carpenter's Point, Deerpark. Today's location is Minisink Drive in Port Jervis.

District #10

The **Prospect Hill School** was located on the right hand side of Prospect Hill Road about three miles from Route 209. In the mid 1970s it was moved about 2/10 of a mile from its original location. It is a private residence.

District #11

The **Black Rock School** replaced the original school

which was burned down during Brant's Raid in 1779. It was located on Neversink Drive about 3/10 of a mile from the original school.

District #12

The **Godeffroy School** is situated on a knoll on the Guymard Turnpike near the entrance to the Nature Conservancy. The school is a private residence.

District #13

The **Cuddebackville School** is located on Route 211 near the Route 209 intersection. It is restored as a one room school house.

District #14

The **Sparrowbush School** was located on Academy Avenue in Sparrowbush. There were four classrooms in this school.

Pen and ink drawings of these schools and a quilt depicting the one room schools created by the Schoolhouse Stitchers are on display at the Town Museum.

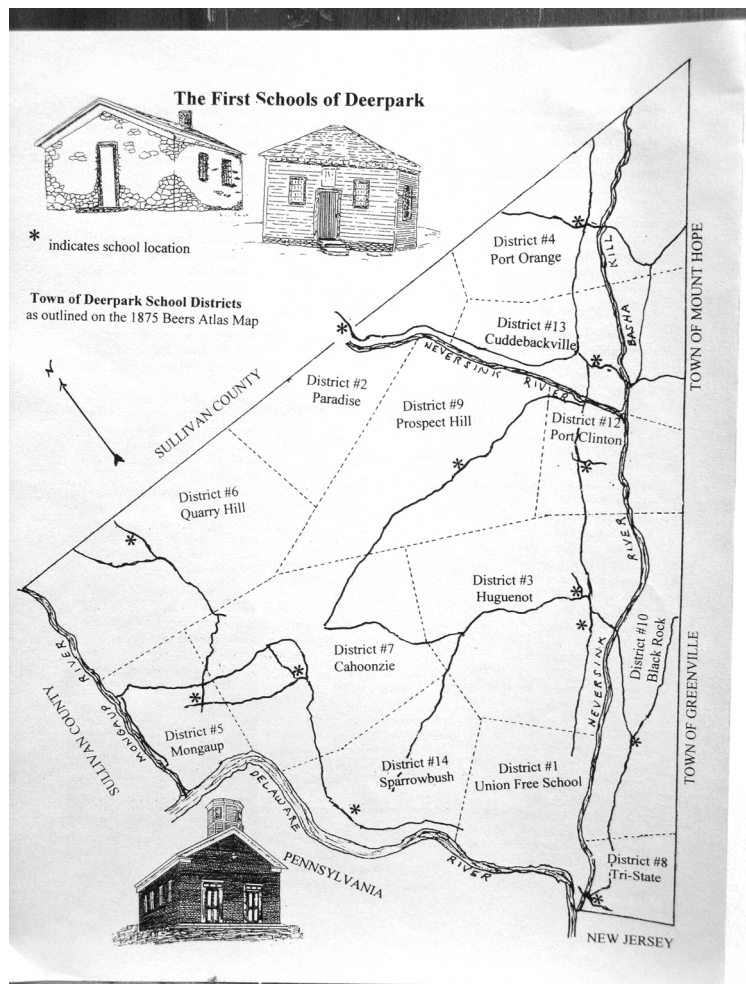
Schoolhouse Stitchers meet every Tuesday at the Museum from 1:00-3:00. All needle workers are welcome.



Schoolhouse Quilt.

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