

THE HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE

VOL.4 NO. 4 A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 2018



The Mesier Homestead

Pease donate to the
Homestead
Preservation Fund.
Make checks payable to
the Wappingers
Historical Society.



Established 1967

P.O. Box 174
Wappingers Falls,
NY 12590
845-632-1281

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HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

As we wind down our 2018 season, I must thank all of our volunteers and donors for another successful year. Your generous support has allowed us to grow and be honored by Hudson Valley Magazine as "Best of the Hudson Valley" Historical Society. "The Spirit of Mesier" in June was a huge success with proceeds allowing us to restore the front windows of the Homestead. How wonderful to replace the plywood panels and let the light stream into the front rooms. This past weekend we held our "Taste of History" event at Mesier with costumed Roy C Ketcham theater students who portrayed historic local personalities. It's always a fun tour.

Our speaker series held at the Wappinger Town Hall brought many new faces this year to hear very interesting programs. On November 4th we will welcome back Tony Musso who has written his third book and will reveal his latest "Hidden Treasures" of the Hudson Valley. Be sure to join us for this program.

YOU ARE ALL PART OF THE SOCIETY AND YOU ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR SUCCESS. BE PROUD!!

~ *Beth Devine*

The Camp Fire Girls of America

The Camp Fire Girls organization was formed in 1910 jointly by Mrs. Charles Farnsworth, Thetford, VT and Dr. and Mrs. Luther Gulick, Sebago Lake, Maine. It was created to be a “sister” organization to the Boy Scouts of America. They were incorporated in 1912, and by 1913 there were over 60,000 members. Juliette Gordon Low formed the Girl Scouts of America in 1912 and was keen on merging the two organizations. The Camp Fire Girls was the larger of the two groups at that time and they rejected her offer.

According to *The Book of the Camp Fire Girls* (1913) the purposes of the organization were to see the beauty, romance and adventure in everyday life, to form habits for health and vigor, to have an outdoor spirit, to learn team work, to help girls and women serve the community and home, and to recognize the importance of motherhood and the relationship between mother and daughter. Membership was open to any girl twelve years and older. She could apply for membership at any local Camp Fire group. Many groups were sponsored by churches. Zion Episcopal Church in the Village of Wappingers Falls sponsored a Camp Fire. The meetings were held once a month with games, folk dancing, story-telling and pantomime, cooking and housewifery and handicrafts. The Camp Fire’s emblem was a symbol for the sun “the real source of light and warmth-life”. The camp fire stood for home and outdoor life. The watchword was Wohelo - (Wo)rk, (He)alth and (Lo)ve. Each girl selected her own unique Native American name. The owner of the Camp Fire Girls book in our archives, Anna (Hill) Baker, chose the tribal name “Anacaona”. Her book, photos and pin were donated to the Historical Society by Dorothea L. (Baker) Kettler in 1982.

During WWI, the Camp Fire Girls organization sold over \$1,000,000 in Liberty Bonds and 9,000 thrift stamps. Fifty-five thousand members helped support French and Belgian orphans, who came to the United States as refugees, by offering babysitting services. At home, growing a garden and canning the yield was a highly encouraged activity for all members. Over 70,000 gardens were planted across the country.

Camp Fire, as the organization is known today, has over 200,000 members and its programs emphasize camping and outdoor activities.

A Camp Fire Girl Halloween Party at Zion Church in 1912.

Does anyone recognize any of these girls? Please tell us if you do.



***Veteran's Day November 11
2018 "The Year of the Veteran"***



Sgt. Irving H. Clapp
(1891-1961)



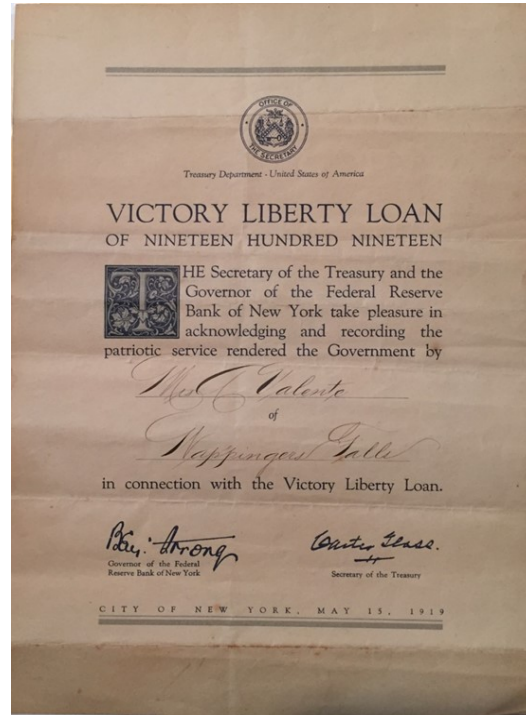
Pvt. Thomas E. Bradley
(1896-1971)

Sgt. Clapp was born in the Village of Wappingers Falls and attended the Riverview Military Academy. After serving in World War I, he returned to Wappingers and married Anna Blythe. They had three children: Dorothy, Marjorie and Irving H. The family lived in the Clapp Mansion on Clapp Avenue. He made his career at the Prudential Life Insurance Company. Sgt. Clapp is buried at Wappingers Rural Cemetery.

Pvt. Bradley was also born in the Village and served during World War I. He married Matilda Weeks and had five children: Joseph, Thomas, Michael, Patricia and Rita. He was retired from IBM having been employed in the maintenance department. Pvt. Bradley is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

These photos are the only ones that we have in our archives of our local soldiers. Please consider donating to the Historical Society any historic items and/or photos you may have so that we may preserve the past. Any donation is considered a tax exemption.

World War I Liberty War Bond



The Origin of the Name of the Hughsonville Hamlet

Hughsonville was named after the Hughson Family. William and Henry Hughson were brothers who were born in England and made their way to America as young men. Henry settled in what is now the Village of Wappingers Falls. William purchased a tract sometime before the American Revolution, south of the Village, between the Vail family land (now the land occupied by the first two houses at the northern intersection of Rte 9D and Old State Road), and to the north at Faulkner's Creek (roughly just below the intersection of Rte 9D and Middlebush Road). The land he purchased extended west, almost to the Hudson River. William had three sons: William (1763-1850), John (1766-1849) and Stephen (1782-1868). He was a Patriot and fought in Brinckerhoff's Regiment during the Revolution. His three sons married and raised their families in Hughsonville. Stephen is buried in the cemetery of the old Wappinger's Creek Presbyterian Church (est. 1840). John is buried in Middlebush Cemetery.



Wappingers Historical Society Local History Lecture Series

Wappingers Historical Society Presents

"Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley III"

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018; 2:00PM

TOWN OF WAPPINGER TOWN HALL

MIDDLEBUSH ROAD, WAPPINGERS FALLS

We are excited to have Tony Musso back for a talk on his latest book.

Please join us for another fascinating look of the lesser known historical sites in our beautiful Hudson Valley and Catskills. Tony's research and knowledge of our area always makes for an interesting and informative presentation!

Light refreshments will be served.

On Sunday, September 23, the Wappingers Historical Society was proud to present another excellent program by Joe Santacroce. Joe is the Town of Newburgh Historian and has produced an excellent film on "The Hudson-Fulton Celebration of 1909".



A Taste of History

Sunday, October 15th, was the annual Taste of History event. A big thanks to Trish Costello and RCK's Mask and Mime Society for bringing local historical figures to life during our Open House tour of the Mesier Homestead.



Holiday Menu Suggestions from "Cleveland's Baking Powder, Pure and Sure" 1895

59

A Few Plain Dinners.

Mock Bisque.
Boiled Fish, Hollandaise Sauce.
Roast Duck, Apple Sauce.
Stewed Tomatoes.
Glazed Sweet Potatoes.
Fried Oysters. Cold Slaw.
Spanish Cream.
Coffee.

Clear Soup. Celery.
Boiled Salmon, Hollandaise Sauce.
Boiled Potatoes. Olives.
Roast Chicken.
Glazed Sweet Potatoes.
Stewed Corn. Fried Egg Plant.
Scalloped Oysters.
Lettuce, Mayonnaise Dressing.
Nesselrode Pudding. Fruit.
Coffee.

Mock Turtle Soup.
Filet of Beef, Mushroom Sauce.
Peas. String Beans.
New Potatoes, boiled.
Lettuce and Tomatoes with
Mayonnaise Dressing.
Ice Cream. Cake.
Fruit. Coffee.

Oysters on the half-shell.
Clear Soup. Olives.
Roast Beef. Mashed Potatoes.
Parsnips, browned. Stewed Corn.
Asparagus (canned) on Toast.
English Plum Pudding. Ice Cream.
Fruit. Coffee.

Clam Soup.
Broiled Spring Chicken.
New Potatoes.
Peas. Beets.
Lettuce, Mayonnaise Dressing.
Strawberry Short Cake with
Strawberry Sauce.
Cheese. Crackers.
Coffee.

Thanksgiving Dinner.

Oysters on the half-shell.
Amber Soup. Olives.
Salted Almonds. Pickles.
Roast Turkey, Giblet Sauce.
Cranberry Jelly. Celery.
Cauliflower. Mashed Potatoes.
Glazed Sweet Potatoes.
Pineapple Sherbert.
Broiled Quail. French Peas.
Currant Jelly. Lettuce Salad.
Mince Pie. Pumpkin Pie.
Ice Cream. Cheese. Cake.
Frozen Milk Punch.
Coffee. Fruit.

Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving Dinner.

Roast Turkey, Oyster Dressing.
Cranberry Sauce.
Mashed Potatoes. Baked Corn.
Stewed Onions. Chicken Pie.
Olives. Pickled Peaches.
Pumpkin Pie. Mince Pie.
Apple Pie. Cheese.
Fruit. Coffee.

Christmas Dinner.

Raw Oysters.
Bouillon.
Boiled Salmon, Hollandaise Sauce.
Pickles. Boiled Potato Balls.
Salted Almonds.
Roast Turkey. Cranberry Sauce.
Celery. Mashed Potatoes.
Scalloped Asparagus. Chicken Pie.
Kirsch Punch.
Roast Duck. Currant Jelly.
Sweet Potato Croquettes.
Lettuce Salad. Sweetbreads.
Plum Pudding, Brandy Sauce.
Mince Pie. Apple Pie. Cheese.
Ice Cream. Cake.
Nuts. Raisins. Fruit.
Coffee.

Hudson Valley Magazine
"Best of the Hudson Valley"

We were honored to be selected as "Best of the Hudson Valley" Historical Society. This award would not be possible without the support of our community and the hard work of our core members present and past. Thank you supporting us!!



WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER

Sunday, November 4: 2 PM Tony Musso Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley III at Town of Wappinger Town Hall

Sunday, November 11: 1-4 PM Tours of Mesier Homestead

Sunday, December 9: 1-4 PM Tours of Mesier Homestead

Sunday, December 9: 5 PM Member Holiday Party at VFW Hall, School Street, Village of Wappingers Falls

Join us on Facebook - Search for Wappingers Historical Society from your id and then "Like" and "Follow" us.

For Village information

Visit the village website

www.wappingersfallny.gov or
<https://www.facebook.com/WappingersFallsEvents/>

For Town of Wappinger information

Visit the Town's website

www.townofwappinger.us/recpages/recreation.html

Visit us at:

www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org

Contact us at:

info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org

Welcome New Members!

During our annual renewal period, several people joined our Society as new members.

Bridget Gannon

Charlie and Janet Powers

Greta Schilder

Fran and Phil Shepherd

Claudia Sweeney

Marcy Wagman



Save the date!
Holiday Party
December 9th , 5:00pm

All photos are from the Wappingers Historical Society Collection unless otherwise noted.

The Spirit of Mesier

AN EVENING OF DRINKS AND HORS D'OEUVRES
TO SUPPORT THE RESTORATION OF THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY HOME

Thank You To Our Generous Sponsors

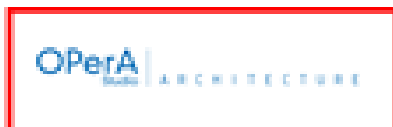
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Filly Baisley

Silver



Bronze



Booster





Wappingers Historical Society
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join us in preserving the history of Wappingers Falls. Become a member of the Wappingers Historical Society.

Please complete this form and mail it and your check to:

Wappingers Historical Society

P.O. Box 174

Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

NAME: _____

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EMAIL: _____

INTERESTS: _____

(Docent, historical research, genealogy, archiving, fund raising, etc.)

ANNUAL DUES: _____ INDIVIDUAL MEMBER~ \$20.00

_____ FAMILY ~ \$35.00 _____ BUSINESS/CORPORATION~ \$75.00

OR: _____ LIFETIME MEMBER ~ \$500.00 _____ BENEFACTOR ~ \$1,000.00

You will receive a confirmation membership card upon processing of your application.

We are a non-profit (501c) organization. Donations are tax deductible.

www.WappingersHistoricalSociety.org