

# THE HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE

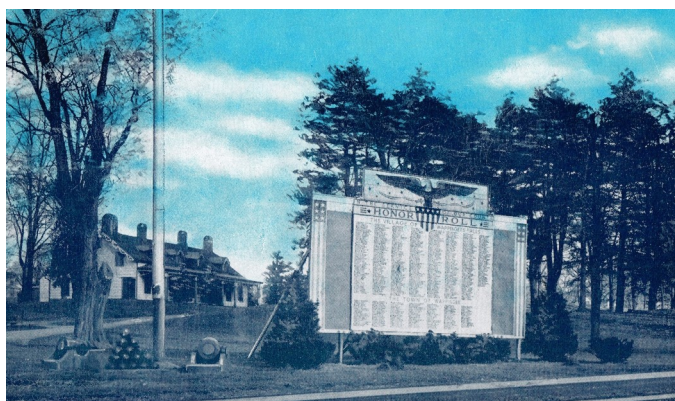
VOL.4 NO. 2 A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2018



The Mesier Homestead

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



[www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org)

[info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org)



Established 1967

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

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**President:**  
Beth Devine

**Vice President:**  
Bill Stickle

**Treasurer:**  
Amy Hauck

**Recording Secretary:**  
Trish Holohan-Costello

**Corresponding Sect'y**  
Sandra Vacchio

**Trustees:**  
Joey Cavaccini  
George Hemroth  
Eileen Stickle  
Dick Thurston  
Patricia Tompkins  
Michael Vacchio

**Trustee Emeritus**  
Mary Smaltz

## HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE

E. Stickle, Editor  
B. Stickle, Layout  
B. Devine, Copy Editor

## President's Message

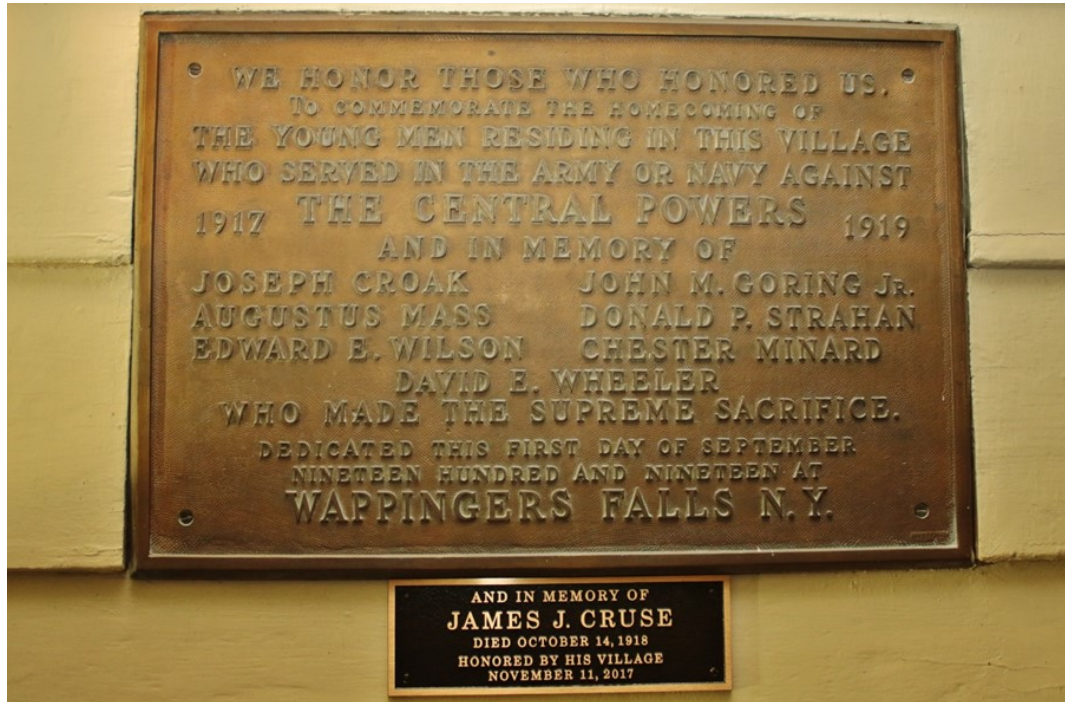
It has been a long winter and all I can think of shouting out now is HELLO SPRING!. We have been busy setting up new displays and exhibits in Mesier Homestead and are open for tours on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We have changed the format and some of our speaker programs will be on a Sunday afternoon at the Wappinger Town Hall on Middlebush Road. We are grateful to partner with the Town as this will be a bigger venue with lots of convenient parking. Check out the schedule in this newsletter.

Our third annual "Spirit of Mesier" cocktail party fundraiser will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup>. This along with the Silent Auction was a huge success last year and we look forward to seeing everyone again. This year the proceeds will be put toward the restoration of the front windows at the Homestead. The painted plywood and plexi-glass need to go!! Now is the time to start checking your cupboards and attic for that special treasure that you no longer use and donate it for the Silent Auction. Come join us for a fun evening.

~ *Beth Devine*

## *Remembering Our WWI Fallen Heroes*

On September 1, 1919, the large bronze tablet was unveiled and dedicated at Mesier Park Homestead. The Rev. Charles Oakley of the Methodist Church made the principal address. On November 9, 2017, the smaller plaque was installed in a ceremony honoring Pvt. Cruse, who was inadvertently left off it in 1919.



World War I Plaques at Mesier Homestead

The following are short biographies of the men listed on the plaques:

**Pvt. Joseph Croak:** Joseph was born in June 1876 to James and Margaret Croak. He made his home with his parents on Hillside Avenue in his formative years. He lived on Market Street and worked at the Bleachery for a few years prior to his US Army deployment on May 15, 1918. Engagements: Haute Alsace, Malbrouck Hill, Moleville Farm, Bois d'Ormont, Grand Montagne, Etraye Ridge, Bois Belleau. Private Croak died in France (age 42) on December 26, 1918 of "cardiac dilatation" and is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Pvt. Augustus Mass:** Augustus was born in New York City June 17, 1888, son of William and Wilhelmina Mass. The family moved to Wappingers Falls when he was child and lived on Franklindale Avenue. He became a detective and worked at the Middletown Police Department. He enlisted in the Marines in Philadelphia and was deployed in June 1917. Private Mass died (age 30) on January 17, 1918 aboard a hospital ship off Hampton Roads, Virginia, having succumbed to pneumonia.

(Continued on Page 3)

# Remembering Our WWI Fallen Heroes

(Continued from page 3)

**Edward E. Wilson:** Edward was born in New Jersey around 1891. He lived on Nelson Avenue with his widowed mother Mary and sisters, Helen and Frances. He worked as a farm laborer and was employed as a mill worker prior to his enlistment in the US Army on September 9, 1918. His name is commemorated on the plaque, but no military information except his enlistment date could be found.

**Pvt. John Morris Goring:** John was the son of John M. and Mary Goring and was born January 6, 1897 in the Village of Wappingers Falls. The family lived on Mesier Avenue. John enlisted in the Army on April 17, 1918. Engagements: Dickebush, Front Line trenches Ronsey. Private Goring was killed in action in France (age 21) on September 29, 1918. Pvt. Goring is buried at Wappingers Rural Cemetery.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Donald Pierpont Strahan:** Donald was born in Newburg on November 30, 1891. He lived with his mother, Annie and siblings on Prospect Street, Village of Wappingers Falls. Donald enlisted in the US Army Office of Aeronautics April 24, 1918 and trained in Plattsburg, NY. He died in an airplane accident at Aulnat Puy-de-dome, France (age 27) on October 22, 1918. Second Lieutenant Strahan is buried at Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in Belleau, France.

**Pvt Chester Minard:** Chester was born in Highland in 1896 to parents George and Phoebe Berry Minard. He lived with his family in Hughsonville, Town of Wappinger. Before his enlistment in the US Army on August 4, 1917, he worked as a farm laborer in Rhinebeck. Engagements: Dickebush, Lake, Vendhuile, Voux Andigny. He succumbed to influenza and bronchopneumonia (age 22) October 22, 1918 in France. Private Minard is buried at Wappingers Rural Cemetery.



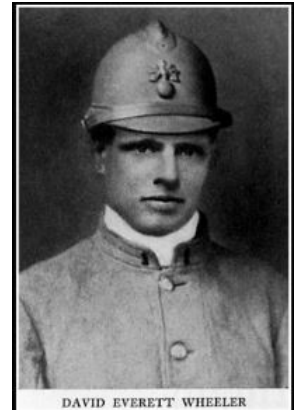
(Continued on Page 4)



# Remembering Our WWI Fallen Heroes

(Continued from page 4)

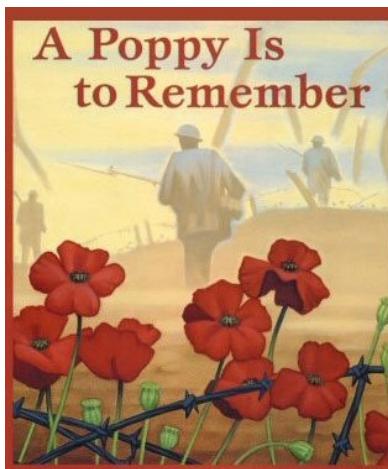
**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Everett Wheeler:** David was born in Manhattan on November 25, 1872 to parents Edward Pepperrell and Lydia Lorraine Hodges Wheeler. Edward's link to the Wappingers area is that his prominent lawyer father owned a (mostly) summer home on what is now Wheeler Hill Road. David graduated from Columbia School of Medicine in 1898 and practiced at Erie County Hospital, Buffalo, NY. When WWI broke out, he joined the Red Cross as a volunteer and left for Europe. Dr. Wheeler joined the French Foreign Legion as an enlisted man and served from 1915-1916. After his discharge, he enlisted in the Canadian Army as a Captain. When the United States entered the War, he transferred to the US Army as a lieutenant in the Medical Corps. He asked to be sent to the front line with the boys instead of serving at a base hospital. First Lieutenant Wheeler died under fire attending to those soldiers (age 46) on July 18, 1918 at Missy-sur-Marne, Picardie, France. Burial was at Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in Belleau, France. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Citation.



DAVID EVERETT WHEELER

*French Foreign Legion  
Courtesy of Find a Grave*

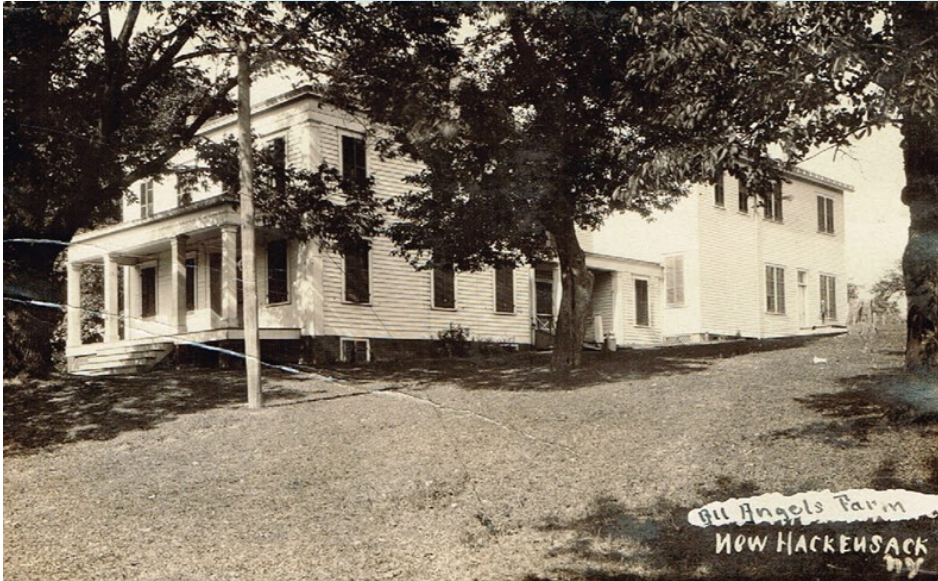
**Pvt. James J. Cruse:** James was born in 1898 in Durham, North Carolina. Nothing is known about his relationship to Wappingers Falls, except that his military service card indicated his residence prior to his enlistment was Wappingers Falls. He enlisted in the US Army at Fort Slocum on September 28, 1917. He served in the infantry known as the "Harlem Hellcats". Engagements: Champagne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne. Private Cruse died of wounds received in action on October 14, 1918 (age 20) in France. He was buried at St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France.



The County of Dutchess and Dutchess County Historical Society have declared 2018 "The Year of the Vet" with particular emphasis on World War I veterans. In 1919, New York State Historian James Sullivan tasked local governments in New York to appoint historians and to document each locality's contribution towards the Great War. There was uneven participation and the project failed. Dutchess County Historical Society has the records from Dutchess County that were received by Mr. Sullivan and you can view them at [www.dchs.org](http://www.dchs.org).

## *All Angels Farm, Myers Corners*

In 1903, All Angels Episcopal Church of Manhattan purchased a farm on Underhill Road in the Town of Wappinger. The property was owned by the Underhill family and was located at Mt. Hope, the highest point on what is now All Angels Hill Road between Pye Lane and Myers Corners Road. This farm was to be known as All Angels Farm. Its mission was to offer a respite from the heat of the summer to poor mothers and children, regardless of



race or creed, from the City of New York. The Farm opened to guests the first week of July and continued through the end of August. Groups of 100 mothers and children were welcomed to the Farm every two weeks throughout the summer. This program was modeled after the Fresh Air Fund, which was started in 1877 by the New York Daily Tribune. The Tribune accepted donations from its readers to

send New York City children away for a week or two in the country each summer. All Angels Farm was the brainchild of Dr. S. DeLancy Townsend, Rector of the Church in Manhattan. Fundraisers were held by the ladies of the Church, such as teas, bridge parties, movie screenings and candy sales, as well as receiving donations from the congregation. These monies enabled children to enjoy a few weeks on the Farm. All Angels Farm saw its last guests in August of 1947. A property was purchased in Ramapo, Rockland County to replace the farm in Wappingers Falls. It was felt Ramapo was more accessible to the City and was more suitable for a year-round program.

Another local "fresh air program", run by Rev. Winfred R. Ackert of the Collegiate Reformed Church of St. Nicholas in New York City, was located on what is now the east side of St. Nicholas Road in the Town of Wappinger, formerly the Stoutenburg farm. It appears to have been in operation from the early 1920's through at least 1939. It was known as the St. Nicholas Summer Home or St. Nicholas Farm. It also welcomed children from New York City area during the summer months.



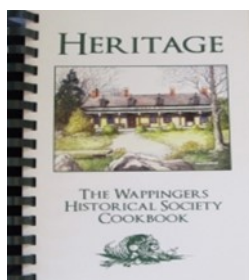
**Summer Campers at All Angels Farm**



## *The Cinder Club*



The Cinder Club was a gentlemen's smoking club that existed in the 1890's. This Club consisted of men from the Wappingers and Poughkeepsie area. A fascinating photograph from the Historical Society's archives began a search for more information. It seems that these gentlemen got together each summer for a clam bake, starting in 1890. They picnicked along the banks of the Wappinger Creek, or alternately, at Cedar Grove along the banks of Wappinger Lake. Mr. Charles Woodin, of Poughkeepsie, catered the feast each year, which reportedly was attended by some of Poughkeepsie's most prominent citizens. In 1890, a baseball game was played during the picnic, pitting the "Clams" against the "Cinders". The Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle reported that Mr. Lindley and Mr. McAuley were batters for the Clams, and Mr. Freize and Mr. R. McAuley were batters for the Cinders. The score was 6-3 in favor of the Cinders. There were usually about 40-45 men in attendance each year. In the 1894 photo, captioned "Attack of the Bivalves" the men are seen smoking clay and corn pipes, and many were smoking cigars. Front and center appears to be an empty beer keg serving as a seat for a watermelon eating man. An upturned picnic basket down in front and a horse and carriage to the photo's right can also be seen. The gentlemen appear to have enjoyed a successful clambake.



## HERITAGE RECIPE

FEATURED RECIPE:

### New England Clam Chowder

(p.126) contributed by Ernie Tiebout

#### Ingredients:

2 ounces salt pork minced (3 T.)

1½ C. chopped onion

2 T. flour

4-8 oz. bottles clam juice

4 –10 oz. cans chopped clams

2 large potatoes, peeled and diced small

½ tsp. Worcestershire Sauce

½ tsp. white pepper

Few drops Tabasco Sauce

2C. half and half

Salt to taste

1C. chowder crackers

2T. unsalted butter

#### Directions:

In a large, heavy pot, cook the salt pork over medium heat and cook for 3 to 5 minutes, or until most of the fat has been melted. Add the onion and cook, stirring for about 5 to 8 minutes, or until tender, not browned. Add the flour and cook for 2 to 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Gradually whisk in the clam broth.

Cook the soup, stirring occasionally, until thickened and smooth, about 10 minutes. Add the clams and potatoes to the soup and simmer until the potatoes are tender, about 20 minutes. Season with the Worcestershire Sauce, pepper and Tabasco. Add the half and half, and salt if necessary. Lower heat. Stir occasionally for another 15 minutes. Do not boil. Cut butter into 8 cubes. Serve with the chowder crackers and garnish each cup with a cube of butter. Serves 8

This chowder is better after setting overnight as it thickens.

*This issue's recipe was selected to go along with the theme of the Cinder Club's Clam Bakes*

### JOIN WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

If you've enjoyed reading our newsletter, please forward it on to friends and family! If you are not yet a member, please consider joining the Wappingers Historical Society. Your support & involvement help preserve our local heritage and the historic Mesier Homestead. See the last page for more information regarding membership.



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



**WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER**

**Sunday, April 8:** 1-4 PM Tours of Mesier Homestead

**Sunday, April 15:** 3 PM Carney Rhinevault "Hidden History of the Mid-Hudson Valley" held at the American Legion Hall, 7 Spring St., Wappingers Falls

**Sunday, May 6:** 2 PM Keith Jones of MOTORCYCLOPEDIA "The Development of Motorcycles" held at Wappingers Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls

**Sunday, May 20:** 1-4 PM Tours of Mesier Homestead

**Sunday, June 10:** 1-4 PM Tours of Mesier Homestead

**Friday, June 15:** 6 PM "Spirit of Mesier" Cocktail Party at Mesier Homestead

**Sunday, July 8:** 1-4 PM Tours of Mesier Homestead

**Thursday, July 12:** 5:30 PM Member Meeting Pot Luck Picnic

**Sunday, August 5:** 2 PM Robert Ulrich "Daniel Nimham" held at Wappingers Town Hall

**Sunday, August 12:** 1-4 PM Tours of Mesier Homestead



**For Village information**

Visit the village website

[www.wappingersfallny.gov](http://www.wappingersfallny.gov) or

<https://www.facebook.com/WappingersFallsEvents/>

Questions regarding Village recreational events:

Call 297-8773 ex. 7 or email:

[dcalabrese@wappingersfallny.gov](mailto:dcalabrese@wappingersfallny.gov)

**For Town of Wappinger Recreation Events:**

<http://www.townofwappinger.us/recpages/recreation.html>

*Spirit of Mesier*

*Friday, June 15, 6 PM:*

*Mesier Homestead*

*Price is still \$35.00*

*Music is The Basile Duo*

*Catered by Simply Gourmet*

*Silent Auction is planned*

*Tickets will be on Sale soon!*





*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: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.WappingersHistoricalSociety.org)