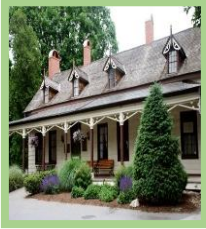


THE HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE

VOL.3 NO.3

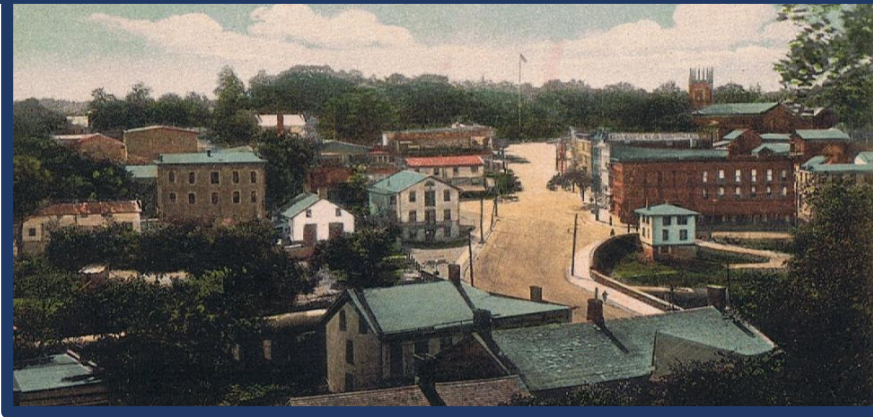
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY 2017



The Mesier Homestead

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



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

www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org

info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org

1967

50TH ANNIVERSARY

2017

CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF PRESERVING LOCAL HISTORY!

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to our sponsors and attendees for their generous support at our second annual 'Spirit of Mesier' on June 16th. It was truly a wonderful evening. We raised \$6204!! This has been earmarked for the restoration of the original portion of the Homestead and thanks to the 50/50 and part of the auction proceeds, we were able to donate \$1120 to the businesses and victims of the terrible fire in June in our beloved village.

On July 13th at 5:30 we will hold our annual potluck picnic - a great opportunity for our members to get together and enjoy Mesier camaraderie.

Coming in October is the Wappingers Historical Society Road Ramble. This is a scavenger hunt on wheels, sure to challenge your mind and entice your competitive spirit with clues relating to Wappingers and its close neighbors. Get some friends (most fun with 4 in a car) and sign up. Details will be announced soon. Enjoy the rest of your summer. ~ Beth Devine

Welcome to our new members:

Mary Jane and Cliff Chapin

Marcy L. Wagman

The Spirit of Mesier

AN EVENING OF DRINKS AND HORS D'OEUVRES
TO SUPPORT THE RESTORATION OF THE ORIGINAL EARLY 18TH CENTURY HOMESTEAD
THAT LIES TO THE REAR OF THE MAIN STRUCTURE

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

Platinum Level



Filly Baisley

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Silver Level



The Spirit of Mesier Fundraiser
June 16, 2017

Thank you all for your
support!



Joseph Sherman (1892-1973)

Joseph Sherman was born in Wappingers Falls on August 6, 1892 to George and Elizabeth (Mullen) Sherman. A lifelong resident of the village, Mr. Sherman resided in the family home on Givans Avenue. He attended village schools and as a young man was employed in the shipping department at the collar factory in Troy, NY. In 1914 he joined the Wappingers Fife and Drum Bugle Corps as a fifer and soon became business manager and assistant drum major. In 1917 Sherman was drafted to serve in World War I. He sustained an injury to his leg during the war and relied on the use of one crutch for the rest of his life. He did not allow his handicap to impede him, however, and could often be seen walking up West Main Street hill to St. Mary's Church every Sunday where he served as an usher. He was also a member of the fourth degree of the Knights of Columbus. Additionally, Mr. Sherman was a lifetime member of the J. Morris Goring- William Kurtz Post, American Legion. Sherman served in various offices of the organization over the years and was fondly referred to as the "Old Colonel" by family and friends. Sherman was the first Dutchess County Legion member to attend an important American Legion conclave in Paris, France. In 1925 Joseph Sherman was appointed village clerk and served in this position for 34 years. After his retirement in 1959, Mr. Sherman continued to remain active serving as secretary and historian for the S.W. Johnson Fire Company #2 of which he was a past fire chief. His involvement with the volunteer fire company spanned an impressive sixty-one years.

Joseph Sherman had a great interest in history and a fondness for the Village of Wappingers Falls. He was considered the honorary village historian for many years. He was diligent in clipping and collecting newspaper articles that pertained to the town and village and gluing these snippets of newsprint in scrapbooks. In his later years, Joe Sherman donated these volumes to the historical society. Our new feature page titled, *Sherman's Scrapbook*, is dedicated to his memory. We hope you enjoy these newsy bits and pieces from years gone by.



TOP PHOTO: Sherman and Horton in Paris, France representing the American Legion.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Joe Sherman on left. Other men are not identified.



SHERMAN'S SCRAPBOOK

Newsy bits of information
collected by Honorary
Village Historian, the late
Joe Sherman.



Poughkeepsie Eagle - News

JULY 4, 1888

"At Wappingers Falls the day was observed by a grand parade and other exercises. The line formed on Mesier Avenue at 9:30am. Capt. N. R. Mills, J.A. Redfield, and J. V. O'Farrell acting as Grand Marshals. The Declaration of Independence was read by Mr. John Hunter of this place and Professor Backus of Vassar College delivered a fine oration. Some very fine music was rendered by the combined choirs of the different churches, under the supervision of Mr. Ashley S. Worsly, Mr. Frank A. Warhurst acting as organist. A magnificent display of fireworks took place at 8pm on Mesier Avenue. Quite a number of people were dressed up in Yankee costumes riding horseback. The business places and residences along the line of march were trimmed up in a very nice style."

Poughkeepsie Eagle - News

AUGUST 18, 1893

"Miss Kate Gillen is erecting a cottage on Clinton Street. Miss Lizzie Cass is also putting up a tasteful two story frame structure on North South Street. The new residence of Patrick Carroll is almost finished on Hillside Avenue. The old Nelson house is being converted into a convent, which will be connected with St. Mary's church. The new parochial school will be opened on September 1."

Poughkeepsie Eagle - News

SEPTEMBER 1, 1917

"The members of the Home Defense Guard to the number of about fifty were mustered into the state service on Thursday evening at the Academy of Music. The oath of allegiance was administered by Capt. Adriance of Poughkeepsie, following their being mustered in the company drilled on South Avenue.

The ball game scheduled to take place this Saturday afternoon between the employees of the Garner Print Works and Bleachery of this village and the employees of the Garnerville plant promises to be an event of unusual interest."

Poughkeepsie Eagle - News

JULY 24, 1928

"Peter Cussamano has returned to his home in Franklindale Avenue after spending a month at his old home in Italy. Mr. Cussamano reports having had a very enjoyable time looking up old friends and visiting with his relatives that he had not seen in twenty years."



DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY!



THE BREWERS

When the history of Wappingers Falls was recorded by Clinton Clapp, much of the information he imparted was sourced from books of the period, occasional trips to the Dutchess County Courthouse, and reminisces of old timers. Today's technology permits one to delve far beyond the scope of Mr. Clapp. Consequently, new findings require some clarification and amendment to long-held assumptions about one of the original and most influential families of this area. In the wake of the WHS "Spirit of Mesier" fundraiser for the oldest section of the Mesier Homestead, it seems only fitting to shed some light on the builder and original resident of this historic structure. Fortunately, a good deal of genealogical information is readily available now, albeit somewhat problematic. Exploring the family tree of the old families of New York can take one on a convoluted course. Families were large with anywhere from ten to fifteen children on average. Many families with Dutch ties adhered to the practice of naming the first born son after the paternal grandfather which can prove helpful in a genealogical search, but can complicate the telling of the tale. Space and time limit this account of the Brouwer (Brewer) lineage to a simplified version of an intricate and compelling narrative.

In this issue we will attempt to convey some of what we know thus far.

Early Settlers of New Netherland

Many of the Brouwer/ Bruer/ Brower/ Brewer families in New York can trace their ancestry back to three progenitors living in New Netherland in the 17th century. There is no indication these families are related. Willem Brouwer settled in the Albany area and his descendants branched out upstate and into the Mohawk Valley. Jan or Johannes Brouwer lived at Nieuw Amersfoort (Flatlands, L.I.) and Adam Brouwer settled first in New Amsterdam (Manhattan) and then moved to Gowanus (Brooklyn). We are interested in Adam Brouwer, great grandfather of Nicholas Brewer who built the Mesier Homestead.

Adam Brouwer was the grandfather of Adolphus Brouwer and great grandfather of Nicholas Brewer (also known as Nicholas Brower). Adam Brouwer was born in Cologne, Germany circa 1620. He was by most accounts a German mercenary who enlisted as a soldier with the Dutch West India Company. Before coming to New Netherland, he served in Brazil. Records indicate he arrived in New Netherland around 1644. Documents also reveal he purchased a house in New Amsterdam in 1645. Adam married Magdalena Jacobs Verdon in 1645 at the First Reformed Church in

Brooklyn. They had fourteen children that can be verified. Their youngest son Nicholas (born 1672) was father to Adolphus Brouwer.

Sometime between 1646 and 1649 Adam moved to Bruekelen and operated a tidal mill which is reputed to be the first mill on Long Island (some say the first water mill/ grist mill in New Netherland and North America). The mill used the power of the Gowanus Creek's rising and falling tides to turn wheat into flour. It was located near where Sackett St. and Nevins St. intersect today. Adam Brouwer is also credited for petitioning the Governor in 1664 to dig the Gowanus Canal. Adam died in 1692.

In August of 1776 the Battle of Long Island (aka Battle of Brooklyn) was waged on the mill site. Lord Stirling and his Marylanders held off the British, allowing General Washington enough time to evacuate his troops. The mill and its bridge were burned, forcing soldiers to escape across Brouwer's mill pond. Alonzo Chappel's painting, *Battle of Long Island* depicts Washington's troops in the foreground. In the background, Lord Stirling's men can be seen fighting the British under a veil of heavy gunpowder smoke. The lone building in the painting is the partially destroyed Brouwer's mill. In 1785, one of Adam Brouwer's great grandsons rebuilt the mill. The mill and property were sold to John C. Freeke in 1798.



Battle of Long Island by Alonzo Chappel (1858)

Nicholas Brouwer (1672-c1749) and his brother Abraham bought out their siblings' shares of their father's mill at Gowanus. The two brothers constructed a second mill on the present site of First Street and midway between Second and Third Streets of Brooklyn. Apparently, Nicholas also dabbled in real estate, purchasing property in Westchester County, Dutchess County, and NYC. In 1712, Nicholas sold his share of the mill property to his brother Abraham and moved his family a little further north to Fordham Manor (Bronx).

Nicholas married Annetje Caljers (Colyer) in 1692. They had six, possibly seven children. Adolph or Adolphus was the oldest, born in 1693. (Adolphus is actually named after his paternal grandfather Adam, which is the Dutch custom. The names Adam and Adolphus were considered the same and interchangeable in this family). A deposition from a descendant states that Nicholas Brouwer died in 1749.

Adolphus (baptized Adam) Brouwer (1693-1742) (son of Nicholas and Annetje) was born October 5, 1693 and grew up at Fordham Manor (Bronx). He married Janettje Jacobse Verdon c.1713. Adolphus is listed as a carpenter and later as yeoman. He was named a freeman of NYC, Aug 30, 1720. He later moved to Hackensack, Bergen Co., New Jersey. Adolphus fathered ten children. He and his family lived the majority of their life in Bergen County, working a 300 acre farm along Schraalenburgh Road. Today the property is bordered by Hardenburgh Avenue and the Tenakill brook.

On October 9, 1741, Adolphus purchased 755 acres from Elizabeth and William Skinner. This land was identified as Lot #4, a section of the Rombout Patent. It included the Wappingers Creek, falls, and surrounding land.

On July 6, 1742, Adolphus was struck by lightning. His eldest son, Nicholas, inherited his estate.

Nicholas Brouwer/ Brower/ Brewer (1714-1777) born June 11, 1714, was the eldest of Adolphus Brouwer's ten children. Subsequent to his father's untimely death, he was granted administration of Adolphus Brouwer's estate, including the 755 acres at Wappingers Creek. Nicholas established himself here and constructed a small house (what we refer to as the original section of the Mesier Homestead). Later he expanded by attaching to the smaller structure a much larger dwelling. Built mid-18th century, the Mesier Homestead, minus the front porch and Victorian ornamentation, is one of a small number of remaining Dutch Colonial residences in Dutchess County. Nicholas Brewer continued to add to his real estate holdings. He also built the Yellow Mill, the Red Mill, and Brewer's

Bridge (a wooden plank precursor to the red sandstone bridge that now spans the falls). Nicholas Brewer also built the first two story home which was situated on what is now the southwest corner of Market Street and East Main, an old stone house which was once located near the ruins of the old Clinton mill, and a dock at the mouth of Wappinger Creek. Vessels drawing six feet of water could come to this dock.

In 1743, Nicholas Brewer married Mary Ducher (Duyster). They had six children. Sometime between 1761 and 1765, Mary Ducher Brewer died. Nicholas Brewer married his second wife, Sarah Drake in 1765. This marriage produced seven children.

Nicholas Brewer was a prominent person in Dutchess County. His sons were officers in Washington's army. According to a deposition given by a descendent, Nicholas Brewer/Brower furnished provisions for the army at West Point. Sometime before September of 1777, his eldest son, Lt. Adolphus Brower, drowned in the Hudson River returning from a West Point excursion.

Nicholas Brewer's second son, Captain Nicholas Jr., was a captain in the army and offered his father's property as a shelter for fleeing refugees from Long Island and NYC in the early part of the Revolutionary War. There is some indication that Nicholas Brewer was one of John Jay's secret agents and sheltered spy Enoch Crosby at the homestead in 1776. Whether this Nicholas Brewer was Nicholas Sr. or Jr. requires more research. Nicholas Sr. began selling his property at Wappingers Creek in the early 1770s and started purchasing acreage in the Albany-Schenectady area. His house at Wappingers Creek was sold to Matthew Van Benschoten in April of 1777 who reportedly sold it to Peter Mesier in May of 1777. Nicholas Brewer died in Albany on October 17, 1777. Brewer family research is ongoing.

The WHS is honored to have been chosen as the repository of the Castro Collection, over two hundred original documents relating to the descendants of Nicholas Brewer. More on the Castro Collection in a future newsletter!

Sources of Interest:

- Chester, Chris. Brouwergenealogy.blogspot.com
<http://brouwergenealogy.blogspot.com/search/label/Sons%20of%20Adam%20Brouwer>
- Dutchess County Ancient Document Search
<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/CountyClerk/26868.htm>
- Marist College. Reese Papers. <http://library.marist.edu/archives/reesePapers/indentures2.1.xml>
- Hoffman, William J. *Brouwer Beginnings*. The American Genealogist. Vol.23. 1947
<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B8P8SDh4F1WudmYtWXVFWi05Y1k/edit>
- Alexiou, Joseph. *Gowanus: Brooklyn's Curious Canal*.p34-35

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

JULY 9: MESIER HOMESTEAD & MUSEUM OPEN FOR TOURS. 1PM-4PM. Renee Pasqual- fabric artisan.

JULY 13: ANNUAL WHS POTLUCK PICNIC, 5:30PM AT MESIER HOMESTEAD.

AUGUST 10 – WHS MTG. @ 7PM, AMERICAN LEGION

AUGUST 13 – TOURS OF MESIER HOMESTEAD, 1PM-4PM. Matt Alexander-antique appraisal. \$5 per item.

SEPTEMBER 10 – TOURS OF MESIER HOMESTEAD, 1PM-4PM

SEPTEMBER 14 – 7PM WHS MEETING, 7:30PM - TONY MUSSO- Vol. 1 and 2, *Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley* + additional sites from his latest book, *Hidden Treasures of the Catskills* - held at the American Legion.

OCTOBER 8 - TOURS –TASTE of HISTORY AT THE MESIER HOMESTEAD, 1PM-4PM “Tea & Suffrage”

OCTOBER 12 - WHS MTG. @ 7PM, AMERICAN LEGION

OCTOBER 14 – WHS ROAD RAMBLE!



**WHS ROAD RAMBLE
IN THE FALL!
DETAILS TBA**



**Thank you for supporting the
Hannaford Bags 4 My Cause
Fundraiser! We raised \$86.00.**



TEA & SUFFRAGE...A Taste of History
Celebrating NYS Women's Suffrage 100th Anniversary
Sunday, October 8, 2017 * 1pm-4pm
Mesier Homestead
Women's Suffrage Exhibit * Tea & Cake
Free Event!



**The Wappingers Historical Society's
Annual Members' Potluck Picnic**

**Thursday, July 13, 2017, 5:30pm
Mesier Homestead Porch**

DID YOU RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

The Wappingers Historical Society could not function without the involvement and support of our members. We appreciate your generosity and hope you will continue your support by renewing your membership. Annual dues were due in June. Dues can be paid at our July 13th picnic or mailed to:

Wappingers Historical Society
P.O. Box 174
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Thank you!

For Village information visit the village website:

www.wappingersfallny.gov or
<https://www.facebook.com/WappingersFallsEvents/>
Questions regarding recreational events call 297-8773 ex. 7 or email:
dcalabrese@wappingersfallny.gov

For Town of Wappinger Recreation Events:

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

For events and programs at Grinnell Library:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/Grinnell>

Correction: Carnwath Farms/ Vol.3 #2: The architect for Carnwath Manor was George Post.

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

IN THIS ISSUE:
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HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE, V.3, #3,
©WHS: J. Hammond, ed.
M. Hammond, copy editor
B. Devine, contributor
E. Craig, contributor
K. Corrigan, heritage recipe

The Mesier Homestead Museum Gift Shop

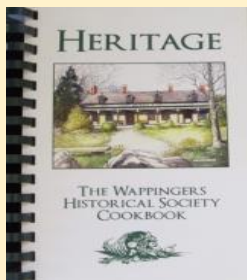
Emily Craig, volunteer gift shop manager of the Mesier Homestead Museum Gift Shop, relays the following information:

Sunday, July 9, 2017: Renee Pasquale, creative fabric artisan, will exhibit her exquisite handmade quilts, pillows and other home décor items from 1pm-4pm. All of her items on display will be available for purchase.

Sunday, August 13, 2017, 1pm-4pm: Village Mayor, Matt Alexander, will identify and appraise public-presented antiques for a service fee of \$5.00, per item. Proceeds will go to the Wappingers Historical Society.

The Mesier Homestead Museum will also be open for tours on both Sundays, 1pm-4pm.

The gift shop has acquired an inventory for all your gift giving needs! A sampling of what is on offer includes: note cards featuring the Mesier Homestead by local artist, Theresa Morgan; decorative and commemorative plates; ceramic mugs and trivets; Christmas ornaments; and hand-painted plaques. Stop by to see our assortment of unique gift items!



HERITAGE RECIPE

FEATURED RECIPE:

NANA CORRIGAN'S POTATO SALAD

(p.71) contributed by Kathy Corrigan

The WHS Heritage Cookbook makes a great gift! Now available from the WHS Gift Shop for \$20.00.

Ingredients:

2lbs. of your favorite potatoes * 1 large yellow onion * 1 green pepper
¾ C. mayonnaise * ¼ C. milk or half & half * 2 T. brown mustard * 2 tsp. sugar
salt & pepper to taste

Directions:

Rinse potatoes and boil with skins on. Set aside to cool. When cool enough to handle, peel and cut into small chunks. Peel onion, cut in half and grate one half of onion over warm potatoes. Chop other onion half, along with green pepper and add both to the potatoes. Season with salt and pepper.

Dressing:

Mix mayonnaise, milk, mustard and sugar and pour over potatoes. Stir and refrigerate for at least one hour.

JOIN THE 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.



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