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## 2015 Fall Newsletter

### What We're Doing & How You Might Help

The first objective listed in our mission statement is “to promote and encourage original historical research”. The articles in this newsletter are two excellent examples of that. We hope you enjoy them and invite you to contribute too. *Would YOU like to research and write an article for the newsletter or publications? Editing? Proofreading? Fact-checking? Graphics? Photography? Computer Expertise? We need YOU!*

We are happy to report to you that we ended the year with 215 memberships, of which 45 are new memberships this year. **Thanks so much for supporting us!** A new membership-year begins January 1, 2016. We look forward to your renewing your membership. A renewal membership form is at the bottom of the last page of this newsletter. We urge you to be an early bird and use it today!

To give you a year-end progress report for 2015:

- We need file-guides for people, places, events, schools and houses of worship for which we have information. Bob Fetonti has begun this work. *Other inventories await completion. Is this something for you?*
- The timeline created by Alex Vastola is now accessible through our website under the History/Briarcliff Chronology tab. He has also whittled down boxes of moldering newspapers and photocopied pertinent articles. *They await filing. Few people can pick up an article from the 1930s and not enjoy learning something they didn't know before. Want to help?*
- Intriguing Then & Now pictures are available thanks to Kathleen Zawacki on our Facebook page. *Check them out, help us by adding information, and like us on Facebook.*
- Programs have included Wigwams to Corporate Headquarters: 400 Years of Westchester History; 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's assassination; Copper Mining at Sparta; Spies: British Major Andre & Major General Arnold. Our eblasts are opened by 43% of the approximately 1,000 email addresses to whom we send our notices. The non-profit average is 3.5%. *Do you have suggestions for future programs and/or leads on speakers? And our refreshments are being noted. Could you help with desserts? Special events?*
- We helped a SUNY Albany professor unlock a mystery from our collection on the Beechwood Players. *On what mystery could we work together to solve?*
- For the first time, we have a spot in the Recreation Department's quarterly program brochure. *If you go to their page online, you can find our promotional on page 16.*
- We're now communicating with the historical society in Kidderminster, England, the birthplace of Walter W. Law. There's great synergy between us as we both explore our shared heritage.

We have been busy while marching forward to receive our absolute charter. Stop by and see us the next time you are at the library. And please join us again in 2016. Thank you, happy holidays, and good health in the New Year!

*Karen Smith*

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# A MODERNIST EXPERIMENT:

## *Wallace K. Harrison Brings Modernist Architecture to Briarcliff*

By Alexander Vastola



Photo Houlihan Lawrence

*Driveway Approach - Long Hill Road West*

Driving past the stone house at 710 Long Hill Road West in Briarcliff Manor, one might assume it was a recently built contemporary house. It certainly doesn't have the typical Colonial Revival or Tudor architecture of most of Briarcliff's historic homes. However, this 1920s Modernist-style residence is architecturally significant because it was designed by renowned architect Wallace K. Harrison. Harrison had a major role in designing several landmark buildings in New York City, including Rockefeller Center, the United Nations complex and Lincoln Center, and although Mr. Harrison also designed private residences and churches, he is best known for these large commercial buildings.

### Wallace K. Harrison, Architect

Harrison began his career as a draftsman in the office of McKim, Mead & White in 1915, and his early training was traditional. After World War I he went to Paris to study architecture at the Ecoles des Beaux-Arts, where he was first introduced to Modernist ideas. Harrison became very interested in the early Modernist Le Corbusier, and he eagerly devoured everything he could read about Modernist ideas, especially those in *L'Esprit Nouveau*, which was first published in 1920. Although Harrison initially rebelled against the Beaux-Arts style in which he was being trained, he later admitted it allowed one to create plans that were easy to build, and throughout his career Harrison would repeatedly work in the Beaux-Arts style.

After returning from France, Harrison wanted to escape some of the architectural limitations of the Beaux-Arts school. He had little tolerance for the limits placed on him while he was at McKim, Mead & White, and he longed for a place where he could have more freedom of expression. He soon joined the firm of Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue. Goodhue believed that an architect should not only design, draft and supervise construction, but should also tap into one's creativity. By changing firms, Harrison had announced his plan to challenge architectural tropes.

### Harrison's Academic Exposure to Modernist Architecture

During the winter of 1925-26, Harrison supervised a studio at Columbia University's School of Architecture.

## Harrison Explores Residential Architecture

During the 1930s Harrison had begun to experiment with Modernist themes in his residential commissions. By May of 1935, Harrison had departed the firm of Corbett, Harrison & MacMurray, where he worked when he helped design Rockefeller Center, and had founded his own firm with Architect J. Andre Fouilhoux. Fouilhoux, also influenced by Modernism, had assisted architect Raymond Hood to design the American Radiator, Daily News, and McGraw-Hill buildings, three early Modernist landmark buildings in New York City.

With Fouilhoux as his partner, Harrison was finally able to express freely his Modernist ideas. Homes he designed for friends and family provided him with great opportunities for experimentation. Harrison only designed eight private residences, and three of them were in Westchester: the Julian Street, Jr. residence in Briarcliff Manor (1938), and the Hawes Guest House (1939) and The Lodge (1960), both for Nelson A. Rockefeller and both in Tarrytown. Before designing the Julian Street, Jr. residence, Harrison designed his own home in Huntington, NY, in 1935, the Albert Milton residence in Washington, CT, and the David Milton residence in Bermuda, both in 1936. With the Julian Street, Jr. residence, Harrison would design an early Modernist home on a grand scale, one that would be fit for its owners who were children of Gilded Age royalty.

## The Harrison-Street Connection

As a partner in the firm Corbett, Harrison & MacMurray, Harrison was invited to join with other architects to design Rockefeller Center. Through his wife, Ellen, Harrison was already a friend of Julian Street, Jr., who then worked at the National Broadcasting Company (NBC). During the planning of Rockefeller Center, the Metropolitan Opera dropped out as the main tenant; Harrison now needed to find a new tenant, so he had lunch with his friend, Julian Street, Jr. Street said that at that lunch Harrison planted an idea – NBC at Rockefeller Center, broadcasting to the world. At this time, both NBC and RKO Motion Pictures were under the control of the Radio Corporation of America (RCA). The idea took hold, and RCA soon became the largest

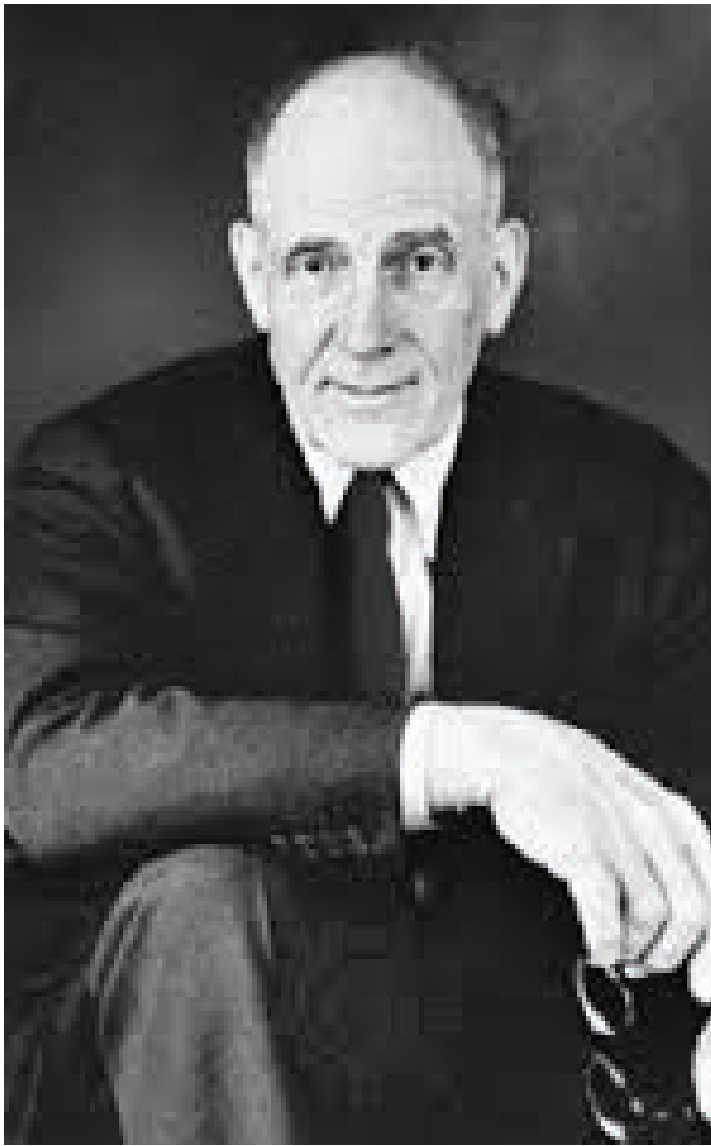


Photo Wikipedia

Wallace K. Harrison

His students were anxious to hear about the new ideas of European Modernists like Le Corbusier and Gropius. They were eager to create housing for the general population that would be simple and unadorned. Despite Harrison's seeming ambivalence to Modernism at the time, he was fascinated by and open-minded about these new ideas. Although he would continue to use the Beaux-Arts style for his major architectural commissions, by the mid-1920s Harrison had come to the conclusion that the old architectural styles had dominated for long enough. His commitment to Modernism is evidenced by his 1931 book, *School Buildings of Today and Tomorrow*. In the book, he advocated for school design that was "industrial in character...a machine for education."

tenant for the central skyscraper of Rockefeller Center, with RKO and NBC located in the second building. The entire area became known as Radio City. It is not surprising then that Harrison would be asked to design Street's residence, as he and Street knew each other and had already worked closely together.

## Harrison's Clients: Narcissa Vanderlip and Julian Street, Jr.

from 1909-1919. Narcissa attended the Scarborough School in Briarcliff, and graduated from Vassar College in 1925. That same year, her husband, Julian Street, Jr. graduated from Princeton University. Julian Street, Jr. was the son of well-known writer Julian Street, author of such books as *Abroad at Home* (1914); *Mysterious Japan* (1921); *Rita Coventry* (1922), and *Where Paris Dines* (1929). Narcissa and Julian were children of two successful Gilded Age American families that had long-standing and deep connections.



Photo New York Herald, April 1927

Narcissa Vanderlip Street, Jr. on her wedding day.

Both Narcissa Vanderlip and her husband, Julian Street, Jr. had prominent lineage. Narcissa was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Vanderlip, who lived at Beechwood on the Albany Post Road in Scarborough. Vanderlip was the president of the National City Bank

## The Streets and Their House

The Streets were married in April 1927 in a lavish ceremony at the New Church, a Georgian building on 35<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City. Their reception, held at the Colony Club, was attended by more than 1,500 guests, including members of the Gould, Vanderbilt and Roosevelt families. After their marriage, Edward Walker Harden, a longtime friend of Frank Vanderlip's, gave land on the east side of Sleepy Hollow Road in Briarcliff to the Streets, and they planned to build a house there. However, they changed their minds, preferring instead to build on land that was already owned by the Vanderlips on Long Hill Road West, as it was more private and secluded. The Streets sold the land given to them by Mr. Harden. According to a 1937 map, Narcissa Cox Vanderlip, Narcissa's mother, owned the land on which the Street's new house would be built. The house that Harrison would create for Mr. and Mrs. Street, Jr., would be an experiment with the most modern form of architecture.

## The Construction

Harrison's design for the Street home was similar to other early Modernist buildings constructed in the late 1920s by Modernists Breuer and Gropius. They were proponents of the International Style, which involved applying new designs and functions to recently developed technologies and building materials that reflected the age of industry. This was a new form of architectural design, one that did not look to the past, but rather to modern industry for inspiration, and they were promoting this new style in America right around the time the Street residence

was built. Both Breuer and Gropius greatly influenced Harrison in the design of the Street house.

## The Completed House

Mr. Street welcomed Harrison's experimentation, and the home was completed in 1938. Forty-five years later, Mr. Street commented that "building that house was one of the greatest experiences I ever had. In those days there was nothing to go by; it was a study in 'how did I want to live?' After the plans were drawn up, we never changed a thing; it worked marvelously."

Julian Street and his wife were clearly satisfied with their home's design. Images of the house reveal the many Modernist elements that were incorporated into Harrison's design. It is very industrial-looking when viewed from the street, created with stone, steel and glass. There is a ramp-like path leading to the front door, much like a conveyor belt in a factory. The back of the house has large-paned glass windows and doors, which overlook the surrounding rocky landscape, creating harmony with nature. There is little ornamental decoration.

The house had a very simple interior, with a large living room to the right of the front door, a simple dining room straight ahead, a long hallway to the left of the front door, a simple spiral staircase in the front hall, a small kitchen, and servants' quarters in the back. The

large circular windows, still present in the front of the house, gave the Streets the impression of living on a boat. Perched on an undulating rocky landscape, the house looks as if it were a ship cutting through waves of water represented by a serpentine wall. The serpentine wall hides the servants' door to the kitchen, which is at the top of the ramp behind it.

## The House Today

By 1974 the house was owned by the Tomkins family, and the property had been subdivided to allow a separate building lot. Other changes were made: the stone wall and guardrail by the driveway were removed, the driveway was paved with asphalt, and a playhouse was built at the top of a rock pile in front of the house. The stone wall behind the house was extended into a curve, and the ramp behind the serpentine wall had stairs added to it. A curved wall was added in front of the front door, and, finally, a flagstone terrace was added to the back and side of the west part of the house. By the late 1970s, the house was owned by the Birnbaum family. They added steps to the front ramp up to the house, reduced the height of the serpentine wall, and added a raised entertainment area in part of the large living room.

In 2001 the house was purchased by the Niosi family. Mr. Niosi undertook a major renovation of the home: he expanded the kitchen and renovated the master bedroom,

expanded the front door window to let more light into the front hallway, and copper-paneled the front door. In addition, the out-dated boiler system was replaced, and the entrance to the living room was widened. He also added some 1920s Arts and Crafts elements to the interior to make it more warm and inviting. However, Mr. Niosi left the exterior relatively unchanged.

This special residence was created against the grain of the more traditional ar-



*The Julian Street, Jr. house.*

Photo Houlihan Lawrence

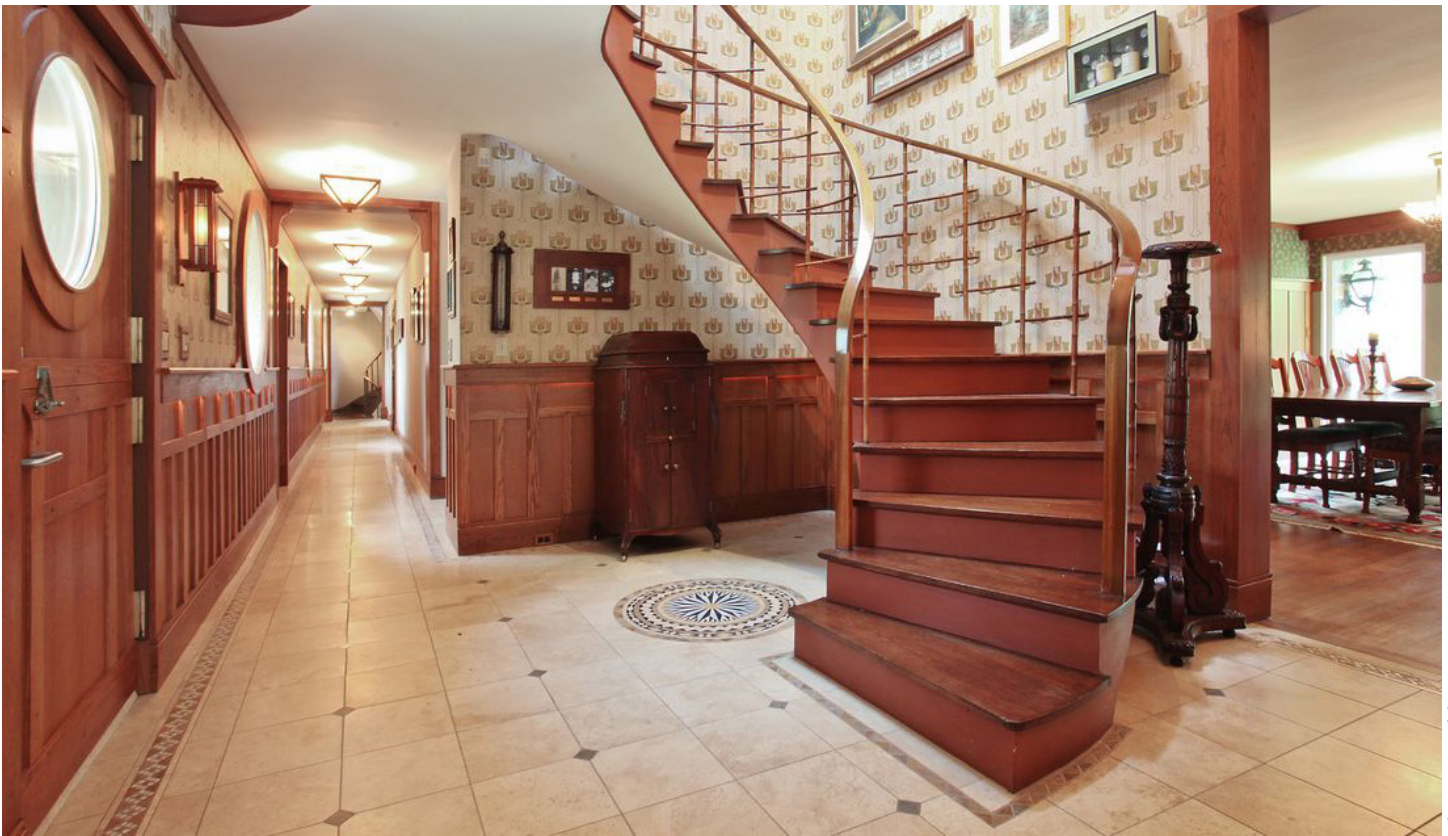


Photo Houlihan Lawrence

*Front foyer: original staircase, Dutch door and porthole windows.*

chitecture of its day. Modernist architecture was in its earliest stage of development, and Harrison was able to take these ideas and create a new type of country residence. The Street home is one of the most innovative of Briarcliff Manor’s historical residences, an exciting example of early-Modernist design.

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Bob is a retired middle school science teacher with a deep interest in the Revolutionary War history of the Hudson Valley, New York City and of Westchester County.

He and his family have lived in Briarcliff Manor for twenty-five years. He is a trustee of BMSHS.

# BRIARCLIFF MANOR AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

By Robert Fetonti

## The Lower Hudson Valley

The Lower Hudson Valley played a pivotal and largely overlooked role in the Revolutionary War. Although its contribution has been overshadowed in the history books by events in Massachusetts, Saratoga and Yorktown, more fighting took place here than anywhere else in the colonies. The Hudson Valley was the most hotly contested piece of real estate during the war. The area was seen by both sides as the key to victory. The Hudson Valley provided the Americans with a vital link between the colonies of New England and those further south. Control by the British would seriously isolate the colonies of New England from the south.

ipse III. Although they did not own their land, contemporary accounts state that the tenant farmers were fairly well off. Swedish naturalist, Peter Kahn, who toured the area in 1749, noted the area was covered with prosperous farms and orchards. A number of these pre-Revolutionary houses are still standing in the village. (See the notes about specific sites.)

## War of Words

Unlike the merchants and ship owners in cities like Boston, New York and Philadelphia, the farmers in this area were not directly affected by the taxes on manufactured goods and the trade restrictions imposed by Parliament. Most of them were more concerned with local issues like the weather and the prices of their produce and livestock. Historians believe residents of



Photo BMSHS Collection

*Todd School land before there was Todd School*

At the time of the American Revolution, present-day Briarcliff Manor was part of Philipseburg Manor owned by Frederick Philipse. Philipseburg Manor stretched from the Saw Mill River in the south to the Croton River in the north. Philipse had purchased the area around Ossining in 1685 from a branch of the Wappinger Confederacy, called the Sink Sink. There were about 247 tenant farmers in the manor at the time of the American Revolution who leased their land from Frederick Phil-



Photo BMSHS Collection

*Richard Whitson Pre-Revolutionary House,  
Pleasantville Road, ca 1770*

Westchester were evenly divided between those favoring independence, those against and those who were

undecided. Like the Civil War one hundred years later, the Revolution divided communities and families. Initially these differences of opinion were expressed in a war of words in pamphlets and newspaper articles. On April 11, 1775, a meeting was called in White Plains to elect delegates to attend the Provincial Convention in New York City. About half of those attending left after reading a statement that they supported the Crown and believed the convention was illegal.

## The War Comes to Westchester

The first armed clash in Westchester occurred in South Salem on February 26, 1775, when the patriot militia prevented British soldiers from confiscating a cannon. In May of 1775 the Provincial Congress in New York City organized the state militia and named local residents Abraham Ledew, Benjamin Brown, Jonas Orser and John Oakley as officers in the militia for the Upper District of Philipseburg Manor. The battles of Pell's Point in Pelham and White Plains in October 1776 brought armed conflict on a large scale to the county.

Following the Battle of White Plains, the American Continental Army settled into fortified lines along the Croton River from the Hudson to Long Island Sound and the British established a line of forts along the Harlem River. The Briarcliff area, along with the rest of Westchester, was trapped between them. Misnamed the "Neutral Ground," it was an area of almost daily conflict. Local residents took part on both sides of the conflict. According to historian Otto Hufeland in his book, *Westchester County during the American Revolution 1775 - 1783*, "In those seven years and four months, Westchester County was never free from the enemy -- for every week and perhaps every day, it could furnish a record of bloodshed, either in open fight or in atrocious misdeed of sneaking robber, and the strain of consuming anxiety was never absent from its people. *They fought longer and suffered more than any other community in all the thirteen colonies*, and its fields, its hills and valleys, are consecrated with their valor." <sup>1</sup>

The American, or rebel forces, stationed along the Croton River were made up of units of the Continental Army and various militia. The Continental Army was under direct control of Congress and General Washington. The militia units were under the control of local governments. The main task of the local militia, such as

the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Westchester Militia, was to protect residents from units of the British Army and other raiders. One of the units of the Continental Army based in Croton was an African American regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island, commanded by Colonel Christopher Greene. Sheldon's Cavalry and a unit of locally recruited dragoons under Captain Hopkins are also mentioned as being in the area. The British also patrolled the "Neutral Ground". The British forces not only included regular units of the British army but also units of Americans loyal to the king like James Delancey's Refugee Corps and Major Simcoe's Queen's Rangers. Delancey was the Royal Sheriff of Westchester, prior to the war. His Loyalist units were considered the most bloodthirsty.

During 1781 and 1782 Deborah nee Gannett Sampson, alias Robert Shurtleff, who served in the Continental Army disguised as a man, patrolled widely Westchester County as part of an elite light infantry company called the Rangers. In her diary she describes being ambushed by a group of Colonel Delancey's cavalry between the villages of Tarrytown and Sing Sing. She also took part in the ambush of a group of Loyalists at "Vonhoite". This name does not appear on maps but author Jane Keiter believes the most probable location of "Vonhoite" is the area at the intersection of the borders of the towns of Ossining, Mount Pleasant and New Castle.<sup>2</sup> This is the area around Echo and Campfire lakes.



Deborah Sampson

Credit: Wikipedia

On January 24, 1783, Captain Daniel William and John Odell of the Continental Army, with a group of 50 men from the Westchester Levies and Westchester Guides, passed through present-day Briarcliff travelling along the Albany Post Road (now Route 9) on their way home from a raid on Delancey's headquarters at West Farms in what is now the Bronx. They stopped at Alfred Orser's farm in Sing Sing where they were attacked by Delancey's pursuing force.





Joseph Washburn Pre-Revolutionary House ca 1760,  
Todd Lane



Andre's Spring Hardscrabble Road

## “Cowboys” and “Skinners”

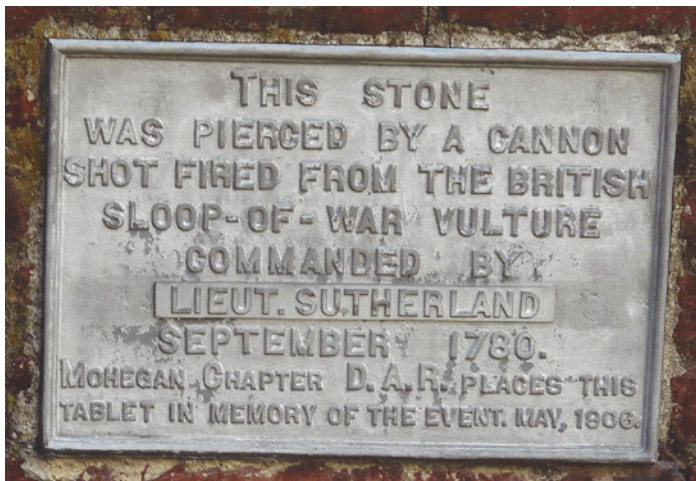
Both sides sent out foraging parties to collect food, horses and other supplies. Sometimes the supplies were purchased, but as often, they were merely seized. Continental forces were given authority in 1776 to seize or destroy livestock, crops or other materials in danger of being taken by the British. Pillaging and destruction of property by both sides was common. The village of White Plains was burned by members of the Continental Army in 1776 and the village of Bedford was burned by the British in 1779. The worst offenders were groups of thieves called “Cowboys” and “Skinners”. The Cowboys claimed to be loyalists and the Skinners claimed to be patriots, but both groups merely used the conflict as an excuse to rob and murder. Houses were burned and families stripped of all their food, livestock and belongings. Civilians were beaten and killed. According to the Washburn family history, Joseph Washburn, a Quaker, was attacked at his home on Todd Lane by a group of Skinners. They tortured him by hanging him up and demanded that he tell them where his gold and silver was. He refused at first, but eventually told them where the silver was hidden and the raiders rode off and left him to die. Fortunately, he was cut down by a member of his family, survived and saved his gold; unfortunately, the Skinners got away with the silver.<sup>3</sup> The prosperous farms and villages were gone. They were replaced by destruction and desolation. The houses were destroyed, the farms were abandoned and many of the residents fled. Those that did remain lived under constant fear of military raids and attacks by bandits. Livestock was hidden in forests and some men slept in haystacks in case their houses and farms were raided during the night.

## Spy Stories

Spies also wandered the “Neutral Ground”. Both sides maintained extensive networks of civilian observers who reported movements of military units and the actions of their neighbors. During the war nothing went unnoticed. These networks were so efficient that commanders on both sides often knew of the orders given by their opponents as soon as they were issued. One of the most famous American spies was Enoch Crosby, immortalized in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s story “*The Spy*”. Posing as a Loyalist, Enoch was very successful uncovering and arresting British agents recruiting residents for the Loyalist units fighting with the British.

The Briarcliff area played a small part in one of the most famous spy dramas of the war: the treason of Benedict Arnold and John Andre. A plaque placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution on Hardscrabble Road marks the location of a spring where, according to local tradition, Major Andre watered his thirsty horse on September 23, 1780. Andre, with the plans of West Point in his boot, was headed back to the British lines after meeting with Benedict Arnold. This fateful trip ended with his capture by American militiamen David Williams, John Pauling, and Isaac Van Wart near Patriot Park in Tarrytown. Andre had been forced to ride through Westchester because the British ship, the *HMS Vulture*, which was supposed to have carried him from Haverstraw to New York, had been driven off by cannon fire from the Continental army stationed on Croton Point.

The artillery exchange between the *Vulture*, and American forces heavily damaged the church in Sparta Cem-



Plaque on Ledew Family Plot, Sparta Cemetery

tery and one cannon ball lodged in a tombstone in the Ledew family plot. Moses Sherwood, one of the soldiers who fired on the *Vulture*, is buried in the cemetery along with many other local veterans of the war.

The Briarcliff area was involved in another major event of the war. In July 1781 the French army under General Rochambeau traveled south from Rhode Island through the same area along Routes 100 and 133 on its way to meet the Continental Army under General Washington at Hartsdale. In August of the same year, the combined French and Continental Armies passed through our area on the Albany Post Road (Route 9) and Route 100 on their way north to Verplanck. Tradition and the presence of Revolutionary military artifacts found at the Scarborough Presbyterian Church indicate that that area may have been the location of one of the army's camps. The armies crossed the Hudson on ferries at Verplanck and marched to Yorktown, Virginia, where they finally defeated General Cornwallis on October 19, 1781, the last major battle of the war.

## SPECIFIC SITES AND EVENTS FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

1. Andre's Spring: #80 Hardscrabble Road: on the border dividing Briarcliff Manor and Pleasantville. On September 12, 1780, sometime before 9:30 AM, Major John Andre stopped at a spring in front of this house to water his horse and exchange greetings with Sylvanus Brundage, who lived at #100, as he made his way south from Pines Bridge in Croton toward Tarrytown. (p. 19) *The Westchester Treasure Hunt Tour Guide 1*.
2. Old Albany Post Rd (Route 9): a major highway in the 1700s and a route used by armies and raiders moving through the "Neutral Ground".
  - \* Washington-Rochambeau Route. July 6, 1781: The French marched west and south from Mount Kisco for 16 miles along Route 133 and Route 100 through present-day Briarcliff to the Hartsdale area. *Wikipedia: Washington-Rochambeau Route*.
  - \* August 1781: The American and French armies passed through present-day Briarcliff on their way north to King's Ferry in Verplanck on the first leg of their journey to Yorktown following the "Grand Reconnaissance" to the Bronx. The American Army traveled through present-day Briarcliff along the Albany Post Road (Route 9) and the French moved along present-day Route 100. Revolutionary era artifacts found on the grounds of the Scarborough Presbyterian Church on the Albany Post Road may indicate Washington's Army camped on that site. (p. 16) *The Changing Landscape: A History of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough*.
  - \* January 24, 1783: Captain Daniel Williams and John Odell, with a group of 50 men from the Westchester Levies and Westchester Guides passed through present-day Briarcliff along the Albany Post Road on their way from Peekskill to West Farms in the Bronx on a raid of Delancey's Headquarters. Following the raid, they travelled along the same route north before they were attacked by Delancey's forces when they stopped at Alfred Orser's farm in Sing Sing near the fork with the road to Somers and Salem. (p. 33) *Ossining NY: an informal bicentennial history*, (p. 36) *Westchester County during the American Revolution*.
3. #149 Todd Lane: The Todd/Washburn House where according to Washburn family tradition, Joseph Washburn was beaten, hung from the apple tree in his front yard and left for dead by a group of Skinners. Joseph had already given them all of his silver but he refused to tell them where he had hidden his gold. The family cut him down after the marauders left and he recovered. (p. 247) *Richard Washburn Family Genealogy*.
4. #857 Pleasantville Road: The Richard Whitson House is believed to have been built in the 1770's. (p. 30) *Our Village of Briarcliff Manor 1902 – 1952*.

5. #220 Washburn Road: The Century Homestead owned by Ruben Whitson is believed to have been built ca 1767 and owned by the Washburn family during the Revolution. (p. 13) *The Changing Landscape: A History of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough*.
  6. #508 Pleasantville Road: The Buckout House is believed to have been built in the 1770's by the Brown family. They were tenant farmers of Philipseburg Manor. (p. 13-14) *The Changing Landscape: A History of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough*.
  7. #104 Long Hill Road East: The Bishop/Oakley farmhouse is believed to have been built prior to the Revolution. (p. 14) *The Changing Landscape: A History of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough*.
  8. #238 Chappaqua Road: The Dell farmhouse is believed to have been built prior to the Revolution. (p. 13) *The Changing Landscape: A History of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough*.
  9. #359 Long Hill Road East: Behind the Titlar farmhouse, the barn-garage is built with typical Dutch H-frame construction and may predate the Revolution. (p.14) *The Changing Landscape: A History of Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough*.
  10. The area around Echo and Campfire lakes: "Vonhoite". According to author Jane Keiter, the location of the cave where Deborah Sampson and a group of American militia ambushed a group of Tories which Deborah identifies as "Vonhoite" is located near the junction of the borders of Mount Pleasant, Ossining, and New Castle along Route 100. A farmer named William or Willis Haight (Hoyt, Hoit, Hoite, or Haite) had a farm in the area which had caves and a marshy area described by Deborah Sampson.
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## FOOTNOTES

1. *Westchester County during the American Revolution*, Otto Hufeland, Harbor Hill Books, 1926.
  2. *Deborah Sampson, Continental Soldier: The Westchester Connection*, Jane Keiter, *The Westchester Historian* (Vol 76, No. 1), Westchester County Historical Society, 2000.
  3. *The Richard Washburn Family Genealogy: A Family History of 200 Years*, Ada Haight, Ossining, 1937.
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Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough  
Historical Society

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