

PLAY GOLF
 At the SPORTY COURSE of the
**SHAWANGUNK
 COUNTRY CLUB**
 — AT —
Ellenville, N. Y.
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Undated poster for Shawangunk Country Club. Courtesy the collection of the Ellenville Public Library & Museum.

In its day, the *Tamarack* hosted such entertainers as Jerry Lewis, Buddy Hackett, and Cab Calloway. Golf was an incidental option in the list of sports activities which included three baseball fields, all-weather tennis courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a miniature golf course, a health club and sauna, and the nine-hole, par-3 golf course visible from Rte. 52.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fatt purchased a farm on Myerson Road in Spring Glen in 1912 and three years later, the property on which the *Homowack* was built. They called their farm boarding house *Fatt's Cottages*, but later agreed that a fancier name would be appropriate and chose the Indian word *Homowack*, which had been an earlier name for Spring Glen. In 1945, Florence Fatt and her husband, Irving Blickstein, became the managers of the *Homowack*. A promotional brochure, probably from the time about 1980, read "Tee-rific golf! A 9-hole course on premises, a golf driving range on premises, – even indoor miniature golf!" and a 1982 daily activity sheet from the *Homowack* advertised "Golf Shop: Michael Gobeo, Professional. Private Lessons. Rentals. Driving Range."

No review of golf in the Ellenville-Wawarsing area would be complete without including the *Shawangunk Country Club* and some of its history. The property on which the golf course and the present clubhouse are situated was originally the Eburn Haight farm. Their first home was a small dwelling, but Eburn's son, David, wanted a larger home in which to hold the wedding of his daughter Caroline and built the structure which is at least the basis of the present club house. Caroline was extremely beautiful, so beautiful that her father had her stand in front of a mirror so she could be seen from all sides during the 1851 ceremony. A sentimental note: when Caroline's great-granddaughter, Nancy Douglas, was married in 1945, her wedding reception was held in this ancestral home and she stood before the same mirror!

David Haight had six children: Caroline (married George Warren), Susan (married William H. Deyo), Phoebe J. (married William Warren), Eburn, A.V. (Andreas Valette) and George. Young Eburn ran away from home (the clubhouse) during the Civil War and enlisted as a drummer boy. He lost his hearing on the battlefield and returned home to Ellenville where, for a short time, he was a baker, using the brick oven in the family home.

There is a legend about David's younger brother Jesse

that has several variations. One is that David and Jesse were walking on the farm one day when Jesse saw a beautiful pine tree and said to David, "Look, David, at that beautiful pine tree. When I die, I want to be buried by that tree." A short time later, he was taken very ill with diphtheria and died. He was buried near the pine tree.

In 1838, Eburn Haight deeded one acre, four rods of the farm to the Methodist Church "to be used as a Public Burial Yard for the Village of Ellenville and its Vicinity." Jesse Haight's grave was the first in what became known as "The Old Cemetery." The legend has been perpetuated for more than 150 years in its various forms. Some say that they have seen the ghost of a small boy in white near the *Shawangunk Country Club*, but that claim has not become part of the legend in any form.

The *Country Club* building is listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey conducted by the Junior League of Kingston, NY, in 1967 and published in 1969. Survey information on the club was collected by Patricia Clinton, who recorded that the building was remodeled in the 1960-65 period and additional space was added.

The *Shawangunk Country Club* offers tennis and an outdoor swimming pool to its members and their guests, as well as a nine-hole course that is open to the public.

(Information for this article came from the historical research of former Town Historian Katharine T. Terwilliger; the collection of the *Ellenville Public Library & Museum*; interviews with Owner Mitchell Wolff and General Manager John O'Leary about the *Nevele Grande Resort & Country Club*; and Francis Irwin about the *Napanoch Country Club*. Andreas Valette Haight, David Haight's son, was the original source of the Jesse Haight legend. Additional information will be welcomed by the author, and may be sent to Wawarsing.Net for forwarding.)



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