

Women had the physical burden of the farm work while their men were away, and they lived in fear of attack much of the time.

Many families became destitute and dependent on the aid of our newly created New York State.

By 1783, the large purposes of the war had been achieved.

Then came the formidable task of trying to unite the people under one government in one peaceful nation.

Always, I suppose, each generation has its own struggles.

Beginning in the 1800s, we entered years of great expectation. The *Delaware and Hudson Canal* brought us our first distant transportation. We were able to establish factories that grew in strength and importance. The railroad came, and brought a new industry – the summer boarding house. Then came private cars, busses, trucks. Each brought changes.

Conditions changed and things that once made us economically sound were replaced through the years by other businesses. Many new people came, and made their contribution.

A study of the past shows that each generation met its own challenges. Each newly-elected governing body – whether it be a town or village board, the governing body of a church or school or of any organization – each has to start with the foundation left by those here before them. That is why we cannot overlook the past. The future always depends on what has gone before; so it behooves each one of us to realize what we do is important. The niche we fill may sometimes seem small, but it is all part of the whole.

Well, so, now, it is my privilege to wish everyone a Happy Birthday this 4th of July which we all share with our country. It is good once again to come together to celebrate our birthday with joy and noise as occasion arises; and also to remember it in the deeper meaning of the happiness we feel that we live in this nation.

An Ellenville poet many years ago paid tribute to the pioneer people who lived here when the Declaration of Independence was written. She said:

‘Good the gift our fathers gave...  
Now the time is in our hand,  
Ours that gift, to spoil or save.’”

Thank you, KT. Your words are as true in 2003 as they were in 1984. ✨

**Photo at Right:** *Bicentennial Committee members Mary Sheeley (left) and Marion Dumond (right) present the first two Bicentennial ornaments to Library Director Pam Stocking (center) at Terwilliger House on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The first sale of the ornaments depicting Town of Wawarsing churches will be Saturday, July 12, from 12 noon to 3 PM at Terwilliger House.* (photo by Diane DeChillo, Ellenville Public Library & Museum)

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## **Bicentennial Ornaments Go On Sale July 12**

The first mementos celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Town of Wawarsing will go on sale Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at **Terwilliger House**, the local history building of the *Ellenville Public Library and Museum*.

As part of the town-wide theme, ornaments commemorating houses of worship throughout the township will be released periodically during the next four years, beginning with the **Chapel of the Holy Name** in Cragmoor, better known as the **Stone Church**, and the **Reformed Protestant Dutch Church** of Wawarsing (*Napanoch Reformed Church*). Each 3" boxed globe will be accompanied by a brief history of the pictured church and will be available in a wide spectrum of colors.

The **Pride Committee** of the *Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce* applied to the Town of Wawarsing last year to be recognized as the planning group for the celebration of the town's bicentennial in 2006, memorializing the March 14, 1806 legislation separating the Town of Wawarsing from the Town of Rochester. Chaired by Dr. Mark Craft, the *Bicentennial Committee* meets monthly to plan festivities and the necessary fund raising enterprises to underwrite celebration expenses.

The *Bicentennial Committee* has set a unit price of **\$10.00** for the ornaments, with a 10% discount for three or more purchased at the same time. The mementos will be available for purchase from **12 noon to 3 PM Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>**, at **Terwilliger House** and at the *Music in the Square* performances on **July 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>**. Purchase opportunities beyond July will be announced later.

Only 99 ornaments representing each church will be available for purchase in July, and the committee believes that they will become very desirable collectibles. The first ornament in each release will be given to the *Museum*. Future quantities will be determined by the demand for the first two globes.

*Bicentennial Committee* members include Mark Craft, John Cummings, Diane DeMilia, Marion Dumond, Jeffrey Kaplan, Mary Sheeley, and David Swinden. Marion Dumond and Mary Sheeley have agreed to be responsible for the selection, preparation, and distribution of the houses of worship project. They anticipate that four ornaments will be available each year through 2006 and invite participation by local churches. ✨

