

block of Shawangunk granite (*photo, right, immediately after ceremonies*), the marchers returned to **Liberty Square** for the remainder of the formal ceremonies: remarks by Hon. Thomas E. Bendict about the massacre, recitation of an original ode by Miss Georgia Benedict, and an oration by Senator John J. Linson. Prayers, martial music, and singing were included in the ceremonies.

Erection of the monument was publicly funded, with the Town of Wawarsing and the Village of Ellenville each contributing \$50. Ten-dollar donations came from Thomas E. Benedict, John R. Hunt, Mrs. Sarah Norbury, Dwight Divine and Son, and Seamon & Ryan. The list of donors who gave less than the \$10 amount is lengthy and included most of the community's leaders. The total cost of the monument project was \$358.50, which was fully paid by donations.

The monument itself was quarried out of solid rock from the mountain side just below Port Benjamin by Thomas Carson. A pocket was chiseled out of the bottom of the shaft and securely sealed once it was filled with copies of the *Ellenville Journal*, *Ellenville Press*, *Kingston Weekly Freeman*, *Kingston Daily Freeman*, three Indian arrow heads, cuts and photos of buildings in Ellenville, negatives of the **Honk Falls** power house and dam, a cut of the **Honk Falls**, and monuments subscription list. The bronze tablet manufactured by Paul Cabaret of New York bears in relief this inscription:

IN MEMORIAM
FANTINEKILL MASSACRE
BEVIER FAMILY
WIDOW ELIZABETH BEVIER AGE 62
HER SONS
SOLOMON AGE 29 JOSIAH AGE 23
SAX FAMILY
WIDOW JOHANNA SAX AGE 59
HER CHILDREN
MARIA AGE 29 PETER AGE 23 HESTER AGE 18
DOROTHY AGE 16 JACOB AGE 14
MASSACRED BY TORIES AND INDIANS MAY 4, 1779
BURIED AT THIS SPOT

Soon after the monument was installed, an attractive ornamental iron fence was added (*photo, below*), neatly setting off both the monument and the old and worn bluestone slab that originally marked the grave of Elizabeth Bevier which for years had been lying at the rear of the Budd house.

Much more information about the monument, the victims of the massacre, and the various versions of the actual event are available in the local history collection of the *Ellenville Public Library & Museum* from whence the photos in this article were used with their courtesy and permission.

Special attention should be paid to the booklet "The



Indians: or Narration of the Massacre and Depredations on the Frontier, in Wawarsing, and Its Vicinity, during the American Revolution..." by A.G. Bevier. It is reasonably priced for purchase at the Library and Town Hall. Young Cornelius Bevier's diary (quoted in part in Katharine T. Terwilliger's article in the July 16, 1964, *Ellenville Journal*) provides some personal insight and "Olde Ulster," Vol. 2, has an account presumed to have been written by Thomas E. Benedict.

There are unanswered questions: one account says that eleven people were killed, but lists only nine. Another account says that Michael Sax (Sachs? Socks?), was killed, but his name is not listed although his wife is named a widow.

The Town of Wawarsing should be commended for its attention to the historic monument and the individuals involved for their judicious restoration of the bronze tablet. Now, what about the frequently damaged and currently missing fence? Maybe a local business or organization would consider replacing the original as a Town Bicentennial actively in 2006? Maybe???

Information for this article was gained from the files of the *Ellenville Public Library & Museum* and research of Town Historian Katharine T. Terwilliger. 

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