

concludes with a thought-provoking notion, "As soon as the village gets the grading done, it will make a handy thoroughfare for those passing through the village between north and west." "Thoroughfare" may not be the right description, but travelers caught by July 4th and other parades must be grateful for **Spring & Hickory Streets**.

The 1875 map is only one of many sources any historic preservation group will need to use, but it reminds us of how much is available for verifying information. The *Ellenville Public Library & Museum*'s historical collection includes a framed copy of this map that is generally on the wall in the Gallery Link, available whenever the *Library* is open. The *Library* also owns at least one copy of the atlas in which it appears.

Any listing of historic preservation organizations in the Town of Wawarsing must include the *Napanoch Public Interest Group*, originally organized in opposition to a proposed slaughterhouse in Napanoch. The group reorganized in 2002 and continues to meet on a variety of local issues, including the water district, but with an expanded focus on the historic importance of many Napanoch buildings.

It is known that Napanoch and Wawarsing were settled before Ellenville. The first white men to make their home in Napanoch appear to have been Abraham and Jean Bevier, who were here by 1707. They were listed as members of the 1715 militia. Egbert DeWitt arrived about 1710 and built a stone house on the south side of the **Rondout Creek**. Benjamin Bevier, son of Abraham and Rachel Vernooy Bevier, built a gristmill along the creek in 1754.

Much of the present Ellenville was owned by the DeWitt family and, in 1794, John A. DeWitt became the sole owner of a tract of land covering from the **Beerkill** to just beyond *Country Club Arms* and from the **Shawangunk Mountains** to near the corporation line on the west. He is credited with having built the first log cabin within the future limits of the Village of Ellenville. Four years later, John and his wife sold most of that parcel to Alpheus Fairchild. It would be logical to assume that the first dwelling would have been erected while DeWitt owned the land, so the earliest dwelling would be between 1794

and 1798, almost a century after Napanoch settlement began.

With this information and other eighteenth and nineteenth century history of Napanoch, the *Public Interest Group* has a goal of establishing an historic district covering **Clinton, Church, & Main Streets** as a minimum area. They have met with William Krattinger of the New York State Bureau of Historic Preservation, who aided in determining the basic historic district after a walking tour of Napanoch.

The *Public Interest Group* plans to participate in the **Town Bicentennial Celebration** in 2006 by having a *Napanoch History Day*, which will include walking tours of the historic area and possibly even some open house tours.

Meetings of the *Group* are scheduled for the first Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at the **Senior Citizen Center on Main Street**. For additional information, contact Douglas Hart, President of the *Napanoch Public Interest Group*, at 647-9729. Workers are always welcome.

Thanks, as always, to the *Library* and its staff, but most especially to Katharine T. Terwilliger who spent so many years of her life researching and documenting local history. Her slide lectures were wonderful, packed with information, familiar references, and KT's own whimsical humor. Her typewritten data is surrounded by handwritten additions and corrections, specifying the source and the date of the correction. She always believed that no history was final or complete; when it appears in book, magazine, or lecture format, different tidbits of information will be offered by others as corrections or additions to the historian's presentation.

As a personal note, I want to thank readers for their calls and their comments. I have never believed that these columns were "the end of the story" or even the "whole story," and I welcome Letters to the Editor and e-mails calling to my attention gaps in what I have learned and written. If my presentation has stimulated another person to share his/her knowledge in writing, I thank you for sharing with the community. 

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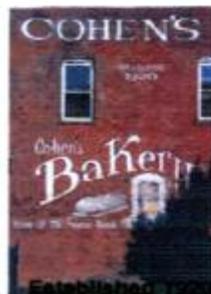
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