



1902, the *O&W* was extended to Kingston, and a whole new territory opened for the summer visitor. Four trains ran daily each way between New York and Kingston, through the Town of Wawarsing.

The 1891 *Summer Homes* (the earliest in the library collection) describes Ellenville as “a charming village of about 3500 inhabitants, situated in the heart of the Shawangunk region, 340 feet above the sea. It has many delightful drives, and from nearby points are to be gained the most magnificent views of natural scenery to be found in the East.” A tiny insert informs the reader that Ellenville is 101 miles from New York, with a fare of \$2.37; excursion rate is \$4.12.

“Among the bits of natural scenery of the immediate vicinity are Sam’s Point, a rocky ledge crowning the highest of the Shawangunk summits; the Ice Caves – natural openings in the mountains – where ice and snow are found the year round, and Minnewaska, Honk, Hanging Rock, and other beautiful cascades and water-falls.” The paragraph refers to trout streams and fishing lakes being within easy driving distance, after naming Mohonk, Minnewaska (*painting above, showing lake and Cliff House*), Meenahga, and other “celebrated resorts.”

As for Ellenville, “the village of Ellenville has well-paved and shaded streets, and is lighted with gas. Many of the hotels and boarding houses of the region are connected by telephone with one another and with the Hudson River system. There are many fine residences, six churches, excellent schools, and the place is noted for the intelligence, refinement and sobriety of its people and the healthfulness of its climate.”

Each boarding house or hotel entry usually includes the name of the proprietor as well as the name of the accommodation, distance from the railway station, capacity

and number of rooms, and often the rate. Then there will be a list of the special services or attractions, such as “table supplied with products of my own farm; horses and carriages for use of guests at moderate rates; good stable for guests desiring to bring their own horses.” That partial description is taken from *N. Lefever’s Maplewood Boarding House and Cottage*, only 1/4 mile from the station, which would accommodate 50 in 26 rooms. Adults would be charged \$8 to \$12 (presumably per week), transients \$2.00 (per night). Names and addresses of individuals, often in New York, are listed for references.

A sample: “William H. Weser - P.O. Box 338. Farm house; accommodate 50; adults \$5 and upwards, children \$4, transient \$1.25; special arrangement for season guests; finely situated on the western range of the world renowned Catskill Mountains, 1800 feet above the sea level; one hour’s drive from Ellenville station over a beautiful mountain road; fine scenery; fine view of Lakes Mohonk and Minnewaska, Roundtop, and High Peak; Hanging Rock Falls three miles distant. Refer to R. Cable, 457 West 34th Street, New York; R. I. Bush, 255 West 52nd Street, New York; F. Cassing, 123 East 50th Street, New York; and Dr. Lawrence, Bedford Avenue and North 6th Street, Brooklyn.” It sounds like a fine place to stay, doesn’t it?

Mount Meenahga is listed with 22 other resorts accessible from the **Ellenville Station** and using the **Ellenville Post Office**, but also has its own very lengthy description and a full-page picture (*etching below*), which may indicate its prominence in 1891, or U. E. Terwilliger’s recognition of the power of advertising. At that time, the hotel could house 100, including the six cottages designed for family occupancy. Each cottage had a sitting room with an open fireplace, plus three to five “sleeping rooms, furnished plain but complete with necessary furniture.” The property included 250 acres of wild mountain land. The June 1-October 15 season was fairly standard. (Meenahga was the subject of *Forward, into the Past* in Issue #9, August 2003, of *Wawarsing.Net*).

Other entries under the Ellenville Station heading include two using the **Ulster Heights Post Office** and one each at Mombaccus, Montela, and Mettacahouts post offices.

Greenfield, Ulster County, has its own description, almost as lengthy as Ellenville’s. It is identified as having “an elevation of 1100 feet,...situated four miles from Mountain Dale station on the main line, and five miles from Ellenville, the terminus of the branch to that place.” The drive from Ellenville to Greenfield is described as being “one of the most attractive drives in the country.” along the **Beerkill** stream. In 1891, it had “post-office, stores, church, and telephone communication with Western Union Telegraph Co. at Ellenville.” Its listing ➔

