



The FERRYMAN

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DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
12 Elm Street, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522 (914)-674-1007

APRIL 2001

History of the Life Saving Community Hospital Will be Presented At Historical Society's Gala on Friday, May 4th at the Woman's Club

The Community Hospital at Dobbs Ferry will be featured in a history program at the annual fund-raising Spring Gala of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society. This long-established tradition of the Village will be held this year at the elegant headquarters of the Dobbs Ferry Woman's Club, 54 Clinton Avenue, on Friday, May 4, 2001.

A delicious buffet dinner will be offered, beginning at 6:00p.m. This will be followed by the program, which will be conducted by Tom Green, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital. Mr. Green will talk about the Hospital's history, show a video of how the Hospital has evolved over the years and answer questions from the audience.

Space will be limited this year. So you are strongly urged to reserve your place or places at the Gala by mailing in your check as soon as possible.

As usual there will be a raffle for many desirable items that will be donated by Dobbs Ferry merchants. Admission is \$25 per person, or \$45 for two persons. Whatever net income is realized will help your Society in its mission of

preserving Dobbs Ferry's history and maintaining the Mead House as the Village's History Center.

Community Hospital at Dobbs Ferry, then called simply Dobbs Ferry Hospital, was opened on October 18, 1893, when a man with a broken leg was brought in. Dr. Champion H. Judson had proposed the Hospital late in 1892. Village residents vehemently opposed it in a classic, 19th century version of NIMBY ("not in my back yard").

But within months, the mood shifted from hostility to friendship. Funds were raised, and since then, the Hospital has always enjoyed the financial and moral support of the area's residents. In the intervening 100 years, rising costs threatened the existence of the Hospital several times. But each time, the community came through for the Hospital, raising enough funds to keep the doors open.

In the 1980s, the State of New York supported the construction of a new, expanded Hospital building, which was dedicated and opened to the public in 1987. Mr. Green will discuss current improvements to the Hospital, its current campaign to expand facilities and add new services, and its "bright future."



From the first day the emergency room opened at the new hospital, ambulances brought the seriously ill and injured for life-saving treatment.

1894 Washington Rochambeau Monument Will be Corrected By the Sons of the American Revolution

Under the Supreme Command of General George Washington,
the Allied Armies of America and France

encamped at Philipsburg from July 6 to August 19, 1781.

The French Auxiliary Army, commanded by Lt. General Count de Rochambeau,
joined the Continental Army after a 19 day march
from Providence, Rhode Island.

Here at Dobbs Ferry July 18, 1781, General George Washington
ordered the building of two artillery batteries and a redoubt.

He also stationed the Second Continental Light Dragoons
and the First New Hampshire Light Infantry
as protection against British Naval attack from the Hudson River.

Corrected Year 2000.

A new bronze plaque (text shown above) summarizing the vital role the Dobbs Ferry area played in the Revolutionary War will soon cover the historical inaccuracies on the stone Washington-Rochambeau monument located on Broadway near Livingston Avenue. The attachment of the plaque is expected to be made within the next few days.

The dedication ceremony of the corrected monument is in the planning stage as the Ferryman goes to press and will be co-sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution (which is the owner of the Monument and the strip of land on which it stands), the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society, the American Legion, and the Village of Dobbs Ferry.

According to Robert Stackpole, President of the New York Chapter of the SAR, Dobbs Ferry was on the western perimeter of two army encampments, Washington's American Army and Rochambeau's French Army. That western perimeter was protected against an English invasion from the Hudson River by the Second Continental Dragoons, commanded by Col. Elisha Sheldon, and the first New Hampshire Light Infantry Brigade, commanded by Col. Alexander Scammell.

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Mr. Stackpole also noted that Dobbs Ferry had redoubts whose cannons regularly bombarded English ships as they came up river from New York City.

The main bodies of the two armies were encamped in the middle of Westchester in what is now Hartsdale. Washington's initial plan was to engage Clinton's army that occupied New York City. A reconnaissance was conducted and it was decided not to attack the English superior force of 17,000 men. In order for the campaign to be successful in the New York area it would have been necessary for the participation of the French fleet under Admiral de Grasse. Washington and Rochambeau, having received word that de Grasse was sailing for the Chesapeake, decided to break camp and march south to Virginia to join American forces that had been battling the British under Cornwallis.

By marching his troops northward, crossing upstream, and then proceeding south through New Jersey, Washington masterfully kept the British believing that a strike was coming to New York from



Massive barrages from French artillery battered the trapped army of Cornwallis at Yorktown. The battlefield is maintained as a National Historic Site.

Photo by Bill Blanck

the Dobbs Ferry area. Preparations for camp grounds that could be observed by the British were made and false dispatches were issued and permitted to fall into British hands.

By the time that the British realized that the French and Americans were marching south, it was too late for Clinton to reinforce Cornwallis. Washington left approximately 2,000 troops in Westchester to keep the British at bay, and his last instructions were to destroy the redoubt at Dobbs Ferry commanding the Hudson.

Cornwallis's army in Virginia, expecting reinforcements and support of the British fleet, occupied the peninsula at Yorktown, Virginia. According to *"American Military History,"* published by the office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army: "When Washington's army arrived on September 26, the French Fleet was in firm control of the bay, blocking Cornwallis' sea route of escape. A decisive concentration had been achieved. Counting 3,000 Virginia militia, Washington had a force of about 9,000 Americans and 6,000 French troops with which to conduct the siege. It proceeded in the best traditions of Vauban under the direction of French engineers. Cornwallis obligingly abandoned his forward position on September 30, and on October 6 the first parallel was begun 600 yards from the main British position. Artillery placed along the trench began its destructive work on October 9.

By October 11 the zigzag connecting trench had been dug 200 yards forward, and work on the sec-

ond parallel had begun. Two British redoubts had to be reduced in order to extend the line to the York River. This accomplished, Cornwallis' only recourse was escape across the river to Gloucester Point where the American line was thinly held.

A storm on the night of October 16 frustrated his attempt to do so, leaving him with no hope but relief from New York. Clinton had been considering such relief for days, but he acted too late. On the very day, October 17, that British Admiral Graves set sail from New York with a reinforced fleet and 7,000 troops for the relief of Yorktown, Cornwallis began negotiations on terms of surrender. On October 29 his entire army marched out to lay down its arms, the British band playing an old tune called "The World Turned Upside Down."

So far as active campaigning was concerned, Yorktown ended the war. Both the British and the Americans maintained their armies in position near New York and Charleston for nearly two years more, but the only fighting that occurred was some minor skirmishing. Cornwallis' defeat led to the overthrow of the British cabinet and the formation of a new government that decided the war in America was lost. With some success, Britain devoted its energies to trying to salvage what it could in the West Indies and in India. The independence for which Americans had fought thus virtually became a reality when Cornwallis' command marched out of its breached defenses at Yorktown."

Plans Under Way for the Old Croton Aqueduct to Connect with Greenway Sponsored Trails and Then Nationally to the Trail of Washington Rochambeau March to Yorktown, Virginia

The historic old Croton Aqueduct running through Dobbs Ferry and the River Towns may soon be connected to the hiking and biking trails currently being planned by the Town of Greenburgh as part of the New York State sponsored Greenway. And eventually our Village may be linked to a still larger trail running from Rhode Island to Yorktown, Virginia.

As part of this program, the Town of Greenburgh has formed a committee to establish a network of hiking and biking trails connecting parks and cultural sites. This trailway would also tie into the County's South County trailway and eventually provide access to the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail along the Hudson River.

And as part of the larger, national picture, Colonel James M. Johnson (U.S. Army-Retired) the Greenway's Military Historian for the Hudson Valley, is hoping to commemorate the historic trails of Washington and Rochambeau between Rhode Island and Virginia in a nine state undertaking. Historic Dobbs Ferry, with its monument and waterfront, will be part of this.

The Greenway is a voluntary program designed to

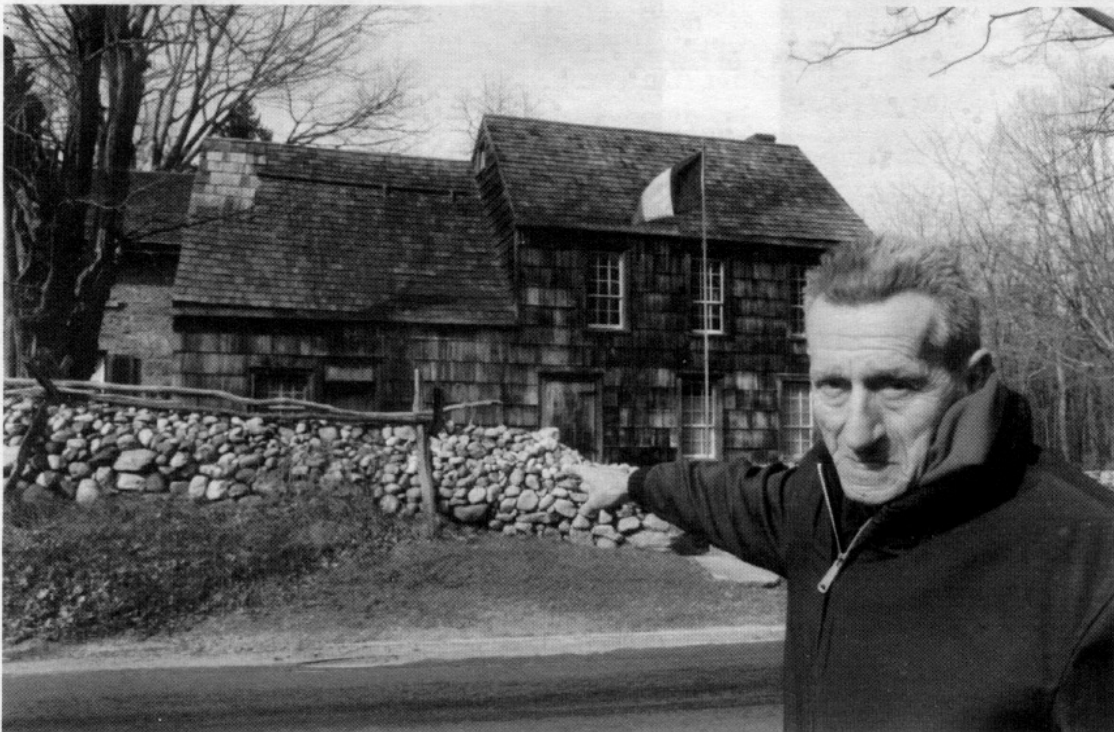
encourage communities, organizations, individuals and corporations to work for the preservation of the Hudson Valley's natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources.

Hikers, bikers, students, seniors, history buffs and scouting groups are invited to join the Greenburgh Committee and may do so by leaving their names at the Town Clerk's office.

As part of the local and national historical scene, the Sons of the American Revolution are in the process of restoring the building that was occupied by the French General Rochambeau as his headquarters preceding the march to Yorktown, Virginia. The building is on Ridge Road in Hartsdale.

The Appleby farmhouse used by Washington as his headquarters is no longer standing. The building was in the general area of Station WFAS on Secor Road, Hartsdale.

The restoration of Rochambeau's headquarters by the SAR fits into a larger picture in which the Hudson River New York State Greenway is involved through the establishment of planned trail linkages and access points.



The late Roland Odell points to the farmhouse used by General Rochambeau when the French and American armies used the Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley and Hartsdale areas as a staging area before the march to Yorktown, Virginia in 1781. The building is now being restored by the Sons of the American Revolution with a Grant of \$65,000 from the Florence Gould Foundation.

Bill McHenry, a Friend and Contributor to Dobbs Ferry Historical Archives, Dies

Bill McHenry, friend, Historical Society member, and contributor to the archives of the Society, died at his home on Maple Street Sunday, April 1, 2001.

Bill was generous with his time and colorfully recounted in videotape interviews, his experiences of growing up in Dobbs Ferry, serving as a soldier in World War II, marrying, working for 40 years as a milkman for numerous dairies, and raising a family.

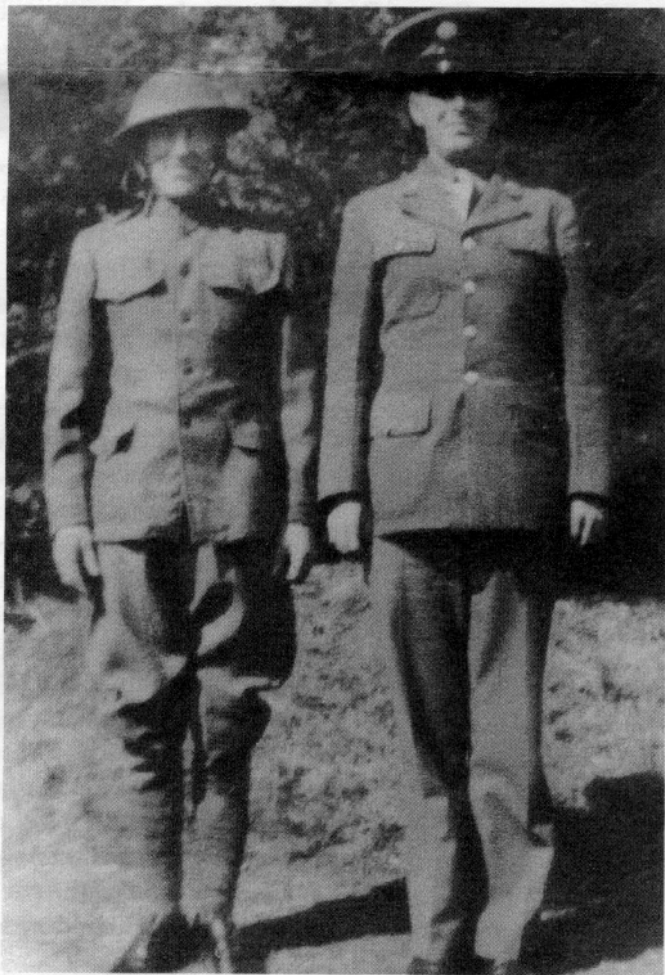
In World War I, Bill was assigned to the Infantry's First Army, 69th Division, 273rd Regiment, Anti-Tank Unit, and saw combat in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. In describing his experiences, he told of the extreme difficulty of knocking out heavily armored German tanks that could be done only by shooting off their treads. And as a front line soldier he described his encounter with the German civilians.

Bill also participated in the Historical Society's program "From Ireland to Dobbs Ferry" on March 10, 2000.

He was a former member and Past Commander of the Ardsley American Legion Post No. 458, and American Legion Post 1048 in Dobbs Ferry. On March 25th, 2001 he was honored by Ogden Engine Company No. 1 for forty years of service.

On September 23, 1950 Bill and Rosemary McDermott were married in Sacred Heart Church. In addition to Rosemary, Bill is survived by three children, Karen Ann Glutz, William A. McHenry, and Laura Ann McHenry, two grandchildren, William and Caitlin McHenry, one brother George, and sisters Dorothy Traber, Lorraine Henry, Maureen Pappas, and Sr. Joann Marie (Eileen).

One of Bill's daughters, Karen McHenry Glutz, presented the Society with a wonderfully illustrated family history, "A Tribute to My Irish Ancestors Who Settled in Dobbs Ferry, New York". Material for the Ferryman of May 2000, as well as for this issue, was drawn from this source.



Bill McHenry and his daughter, Karen McHenry Glutz, of Hummelstown, PA on their way to visit their O'Connor cousins on August 3, 1994

William A. McHenry in his World War I uniform and his son, William M. McHenry in his World War II uniform. Phototaken in the Spring of 1946 at the McHenry home, 52 Sandrock Avenue, Dobbs Ferry.

YOUR RAFFLE DONATION WILL HELP THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAINTAIN ITS HOME AT THE MEAD HOUSE AND PROVIDE EXPANDED PROGRAMS FOR THE MEMBERSHIP

Return completed tickets to the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society.
 Mail to 12 Elm Street, Dobbs Ferry, New York to be received by April 30th,
 or bring them to the registration table at the Gala on May 4th
 at the Dobbs Ferry Woman's Club, 54 Clinton Avenue, Dobbs Ferry

*Prizes will include Gourmet Meals at Local Restaurants
 the Society's Popular Afghan 🎰 Certificates from Merchants
 Commemorative Bottles 🎰 and Other Exciting Prizes*

<p>\$1 each, 6 tickets for \$5, FREE LUCKY BONUS -13 FOR \$10</p> <p>FREE LUCKY 13th TICKET with \$10 donation for page of 12.</p> <p>FREE EARLY BIRD 14th TICKET with \$10 for 12 through April 26.</p>	<p align="center">EARLY BIRD BONUS! with \$10 for 12 by April 26</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____</p>	<p align="center">FREE BONUS! with \$10 donation for page of 12.</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____</p>
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