



The FERRYMAN

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DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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September 11, 2002 -- A Day of Prayer and Remembrance

September 11, 2002 was a day in the history of Dobbs Ferry unlike any other. It marked the passage of a year since the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center were savagely attacked, killing 2,800. As in 1776, the war was here on our own turf. This is how it was in our village:

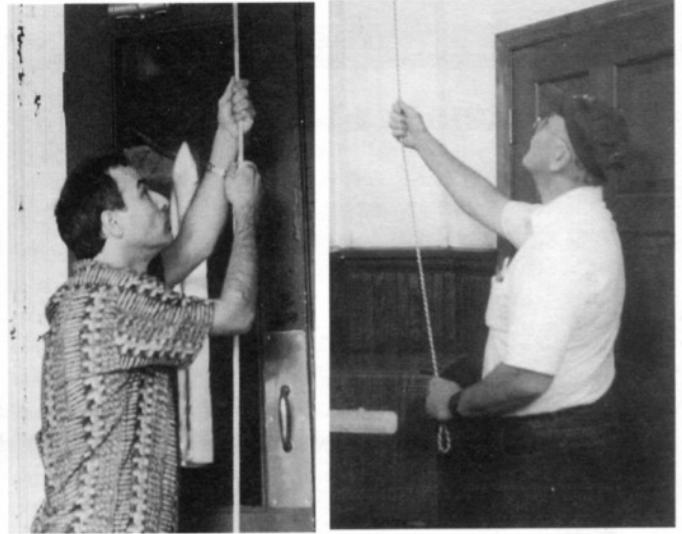
- Church bells tolled and sirens sounded at 8:48 and 10:28 to mark the attacks on the World Trade Center towers.
- A Morning Mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church in memory of Timothy Stout and other victims of 9/11.
- At 7:00 in the evening villagers gathered for a ceremony in which all assembled gave a pledge of allegiance to the United States. Mayor Brian Monahan spoke briefly and accepted a flag with a single blue star presented by American Legionnaires William Rizzuto and William Florin. The flag will be hung at the entrance of Village Hall in honor of residents serving in the armed forces. The ceremony concluded with the singing of "America the Beautiful."
- In the evening, Services of Remembrance were held for those who perished in the terrorist attacks. At 7:30 Zion Episcopal Church held a Memorial Service of Remembrance for the 9/11 victims, including their parishioner Michael Lepore, and -- also at 7:30 p.m. -- an Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Hope, "Surrounded by God's Light," was held at the Greenburgh Hebrew Center. Approximately 400 people attended, including Sister Connie Koch, Rabbi Barry Kenter, Rev. Christopher Mietlowski and the Rev. Joseph Gilmore.
- Scripture readings at the Interfaith Service were made by Dobbs Ferry Mayor Brian Monahan, Fr. Tim Scannell of Sacred Heart Church, Rev. Susan DeGeorge of South Presbyterian Church, and Vikki Jones, representing Zion Episcopal Church.
- At both the Interfaith and the Zion Church services there were candle lighting ceremonies in which participants were invited to light candles in memory of loved ones who perished in the World Trade Center Disaster and to speak their names. In both services prayers for peace were a common theme.
- At the beginning of the Interfaith Service Rabbi Barry Kenter blew the shofar, symbolizing mourning, and after the closing prayer by Sister Connie Koch, he again blew the shofar, symbolizing exuberance.
- September 11, 2002 was a day of high alert, rated orange, in spite of which hundreds of Dobbs Ferry commuters ventured into New York City, a possible terrorist target. In the Village there was concern, as there had been on 9/11/01, about an attack on Indian Point. Vice President Cheney was at a secure, undisclosed location.
- September 11, 2002 was a day in which a merchant ship was barred from New York Harbor by the Coast Guard because traces of radioactivity were found in one of the containers on board. Later in the week it was learned that the radioactivity was from tiles, and harmless. Still, hundreds of ships arrive in our waters with sealed cargo containers.
- It was a day when Dobbs Ferry residents watched on television commemorative ceremonies at the World Trade Center for their friends and relatives, led by President Bush. The President would, on the following day, September 12, 2002, urge the United Nations to force Saddam to comply with U.N. resolutions.
- September 11, 2002 was a day when the American flag at Waterfront Park snapped briskly in the strong winds left over from the hurricane that had missed the Atlantic shoreline. The windwhipped Hudson surged against the rocks at the Park. Looking south, the New York skyline could be seen plainly, unblemished by the clouds of smoke that had marked the savage attack on the World Trade Center on 9/11/01.

--Bill Blanck

DOBBS FERRY 9/11/02

A Day of Prayer Remembrance and Dedication

Photos by Bill Blanck and Mary Walter



Bells toll in remembrance



*Mass at Sacred Heart
in Memory of Timothy Stout*



*Zion Church was open all
day for prayer, as were
other village churches*



Candles are lit at Greenburgh Hebrew Center Interfaith Service.

*A flag to honor those in service is received
by Mayor Monahan at Village Commemorative Program*



Dobbs Ferry in 2000: A Centennial Portrait

The population of the village of Dobbs Ferry is 10,622. That represents an increase of 706 over the population in 1990. Women outnumber men by 236, compared to 210 more women than men in 1990. The people live in 3,941 housing units, an increase over the 3,547 housing units in 1990. Owners occupy 55% of the housing units; renters occupy only 41%. About 1/3rd of the households are people living alone and 2/3rds are people living in families, of which 10% are families headed by a woman with no man present. The average size of the family in each household is 3.13 people.

The village has a large percentage of young people: 29% of the residents are under the age of 20 (as compared with 26% of the population of Hastings-on-Hudson or 27% of Westchester County). However, Senior Citizens (65 years and over) make up a larger proportion of Dobbs Ferry's population (16%) than of Hastings (15%) or Westchester County (15%).

Of Dobbs Ferry residents who are 15 years old and older, 54.1% are married; 29.4% are single (never married); 7.9% are widowed; 7.1% are divorced; and 1.4% are separated from their spouse. Of the 126 grandparents who live in households with minor children, 13 are responsible for raising those children.

Work, Travel and Ethnic Origin

Working patterns are interesting also. The mean travel time to work for Dobbs Ferry residents is 31.6 minutes, as compared to 34.3 minutes for Hastings residents or 33.7 minutes for Irvington residents. Even so, the percentage of Dobbs Ferry residents who work at home (4.2%) is lower than that of Hastings (6%) or Irvington (7.1%) but higher than the average for Westchester County (3.8%). Far more Dobbs Ferry workers drive to work either alone or in a carpool (67.3%) than use public transportation (22.2%). Hastings has a similar ratio; 66.2% drive and 25.4% use public transport. However, both communities use more public transportation than is the average for Westchester County where 71.1% drive and 20.4% use public transport.

In terms of race, the overwhelming number of Dobbs Ferry residents identify themselves as White. Numbers of people of other races in Dobbs Ferry are small-- American Indian: 4, Asian: 656, Black / African American: 728, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 1. Many people (163) identified themselves as being of two races; and 698 people listed that they were of Hispanic origin (of any race). These numbers mark almost no change from the 1990 Census.

Most Dobbs Ferry residents (82%) were born in the United States. Among the foreign born 41% were born in Europe, 31% in Asia, 20% in Latin America and 5% in Africa. About half of the foreign-born residents have become naturalized citizens. The ethnic make-up of Dobbs Ferry is evident in the countries that people report as their "countries of ancestry." The most reported countries were:

Italy (21.4%), Ireland (16.5%), Germany (8.3%), Russia (6.3%), and England (5.6%). Similar figures from 1990 indicate that the ethnic make-up of Dobbs Ferry has not changed much. Listed here by country are the number of people who listed that country as their primary ancestral dwelling: Italy: 1378; Ireland: 815; Russia: 359; Germany: 335; England: 197; Poland: 161; and Scotch-Irish: 109.

Dobbs Ferry residents are well-educated. Of the people who are over 25 years old, only 5% have less than a 9th grade education while 26% have earned graduate or professional degrees. Seventy-five percent of those people over 25 have had some college training. These numbers contrast favorably with similar figures from Westchester County which has a higher percentage (7%) of people with less than a 9th grade education and a lower percentage of people with graduate degrees (19.8%) or with some college education (61.5%).

Dobbs Ferry at the New Millenium

Thus we see Dobbs Ferry at the beginning of the 21st Century as a village that has experienced a slight growth in the last decade but has not changed in most major areas. It remains a city of families (more adults are married than unmarried) the majority of whom own the homes they live in. A healthy percentage of children offer hope for future growth. High educational levels and low commuting times mark this village. Though there is not much racial diversity, the presence of a large cohort of foreign residents and a significant number of citizens of Hispanic origin point to a diverse ethnic makeup as does the broad number of countries claimed as ancestral homes by many of Dobbs Ferry's present citizens.

— Mary S. Donovan

One Year After 9/11 Historical Society continues to Archive Events

As the Ferryman goes to press, programs marking the tragic events of 9/11/01 are being presented on local, state and national levels.

The Dobbs Ferry Historical Society will archive what happens locally. During the past year interviews of Village residents have been videotaped, and will continue.

The Society has microfilm copies of all of the issues of the Enterprise, which report in detail local happenings in the war on terrorism.

The Historical Society has also begun taping interviews of local veterans who served in Viet Nam as well as the Korean War.

Zion Rings in the 20th Century

Having summarized the nineteenth century history of Zion Episcopal Church in the last issue of *The Ferryman*, in this article I will focus on the twentieth century. I have had the privilege of being the priest who served Zion as the twentieth century ended, so it seems appropriate to look backward at our last 100 years.

Having been founded in 1833, and expanded to its present size in 1876, Zion's history in the twentieth century is an extension of its roots and traditions in the nineteenth century. Situated in the heart of the village, it has continued to serve its congregation and the community surrounding it.

Perhaps the best example of this is the installation of two bells in the church: one in 1919, and a bell-ringing system in 1947 and 1988. The earlier installation was a bell given by Col. Franklin Q. Brown as a thanksgiving for our nation's victory in World War I. Col. Brown and his wife



The Zion Victory Bell tolled at Memorial Day services

were members of Zion and generous philanthropists for Dobbs Ferry. Among their gifts to the community are the Village Hall and the library on the corner of Cedar and Main Streets. The Victory bell, as it was called, was cast in bronze and inscribed with the names of the residents who served in the military in the first World War. The bell was dedicated and raised into the tower where it remains, ringing at

the beginning and conclusion of services and is tolled during the annual village Memorial Day Parade while taps is played.

The second bell system was installed in 1947, and was a mechanized system for playing bells and chimes. The chimes played hymns at 6 each evening, and this became so much a tradition that commuters loved stepping off the evening train from New York to hear Zion's chimes ringing over the hills of the village. Zion was designated by the village as the "Church of the Chimes", and commemorated with a plaque at the entrance to the church.

The bell system, by the 1970's, had fallen into disrepair, but a new system was installed in 1988 which rings the time from 9am to 8pm by sounding the Westminster chimes, and plays hymns at 12 noon and 6 pm.

The twentieth century also was a time for Zion to rediscover and celebrate the past. Many of the historical plaques in the church were installed in the 20th century to commemorate some of the people who had played such an important role in the early history of the parish. Chief among them of course, is Washington Irving, who is remembered at a Community Celebration at Zion in December. This beloved holiday tradition was begun with the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society in 1988.

Zion in the twentieth century has been a church which



The dedication of the Victory Bell with all the names of village residents who served in World War I raised in bronze.

has celebrated diversity in its clergy. Zion has had a number of priests, but none with a longer tenure than the Rev. Charles Karsten, who served at Zion from 1924-1964. Fr. Karsten was a prominent citizen of the village, much loved and still remembered by many. Zion was also the site of a historic moment in the Episcopal Church when, in 1977, the Rev. Barbara Schlacter was among the first women ordained priest in the United States.

As the twentieth century drew to a close, the challenges of the next century were clear: how to maintain and strengthen the beautiful buildings and grounds of our parish while remaining a prophetic witness to God's presence in the world. It is not an easy challenge, but it is one that we welcome as Zion has always been a place rich in history, with a tradition of service and hospitality to the community. In that tradition Zion welcomes the next 100 years and the next generation of members and friends who will love and celebrate this wonderful old church.

—The Rev. Richard McKeon

Two of the photos to be exhibited at the Annual Meeting

Below: The first village Swimming Pool circa 1915-1920. Yes it was a pool of water, and if you were a very tiny person, you could actually swim in it. Maintenance was very low.



At right: Ladies from the Dobbs Ferry Woman's Club dressed in the style of 1873 to mark the village's 1973 Centennial.

Who are the people in the photos on this page? The Ferryman will offer a commemorative bottle to the person with the best answer. We are told that the bottle is excellent for mixing a cocktail.



20th Century Photos to be Featured at Annual Meeting On September 27 at Our Lady of Pompeii Parish Hall

What was life like in Dobbs Ferry during the 80's and 90's? If you're between 20 and 30 years old, and grew up here, your memory should be sharp enough to bring these recent decades to the fore in vivid recall. What about the 60's and 70's? Your parents would remember their young years. Long-time residents who are grandparents now - or are in that age group now - would remember what life like during the Great Depression of the '30's, the World War II years of the '40s and the postwar prosperity of the '50s. The meeting and exhibit will take place on Friday, September 27, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in Our Lady of Pompeii Parish Hall, Palisade and Chestnut Streets.

As usual, non-members are invited to attend the meeting and see the exhibit, but only members in good standing are eligible to vote on Society business matters.

The exhibited photos are a selected sampling of the thousands of photos in the Society's archives. A few of the attendees may see themselves, or their parents, grandparents, or children in the exhibit. The annual meeting will begin with reports on the Society's finances, past accomplishments and future plans, followed by the election of six Society members to the Board of Trustees.

This year, six candidates have been nominated by the Nominating Committee as members of the 18-member

Board of Trustees: incumbents Jean Fritz, Helen Kirkpatrick and Pam Strachan, for three-year terms expiring September 30, 2005; incumbent Mark Cassella, who was appointed by the Board during the past year to fill a vacancy, will also run for a three-year term, and new candidates Judith Bassin and Delores Calafati, for three years.

Nominees for New Trustees

Judith Bassin is office manager of Merchandizing Specialists Inc. in Dobbs Ferry. She was a good friend of Clara Mead, who bequeathed the Mead House to the Society after her death in 1991. Judith and Miss Mead, both former members of the Dobbs Ferry Woman's Club, designed the turn-of-the-century dress worn to commemorate the Village's Centennial Celebration in 1973.

Delores A Calafati is employed by the Family Information and Referral Service Teams, Inc., White Plains. Previously she worked for Reader's Digest as manager of global graphics technology.

Mark Cassella, a life-long resident of Dobbs Ferry, is a graduate of the University of Vermont. He attended the Juilliard School of Acting. He is a full-time contractor and an actor on assignment in movies and television shows.

Clara Mead loved flowers and drew them beautifully. She loved Dobbs Ferry and its history, and she left the Historical Society her home. Help us preserve it. Please join us if you are not already a member.



Illustration by Clara Mead

Dobbs Ferry Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP 2001-2002

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*Persons under 16 years of age must show parent's or legal guardian's consent for membership. Thus, if you have checked Junior membership above, please provide signature below.

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