

THE FERRYMAN

DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



DID YOU KNOW?

- The company was founded in 1898
- The firehouse has been at its present location since 1910
- During WW II air raid wardens were given permission to use the firehouse as they deemed fit to aid the war effort
- All volunteers, members are on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week everyday of the year

OGDEN ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1

PART 2: 1960 TO PRESENT DAY

As the 1960's arrived, the company again needed to expand. In August 1960, with funding from the Village Board and members supplying the labor, construction on a new kitchen and "backroom" commenced. Officially dedicated in Feb. of 1961, this addition enabled the membership to move out of the basement and into a new recreation room behind the apparatus floor.

The members continued to train with the latest technology and techniques including a drill in the use of gas masks. Their dedication to duty and constant training however could never prepare the members for the night of Dec. 1, 1964.

That fateful evening just before Ogden's monthly meeting, Box 4-1-1

sounded. The Department responded to Bramley Lane to what would prove to be a false alarm. While investigating the scene, Firefighter Joseph Beattie, a veteran of only 17 months in the company, who had responded to the call though not feeling well, collapsed. Efforts to revive him failed and he was pronounced dead at Dobbs Ferry Hospital, becoming the first and only member of the Dobbs Ferry Fire Department to die in the line of duty. The company canceled its annual Christmas Party that year and donated the funds allocated for it to Joe's family. Although, his family moved away soon, they were contacted years later through a note the chairman left on Beattie's gravestone. The family returned to the Firehouse in

1991 for the unveiling of a memorial plaque to Joe and the supreme sacrifice he made for the residents of Dobbs Ferry. His name was also entered on the County Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Valhalla. The family is in touch with the Company today, a bond formed in tragedy that will never be broken.

As the 60's came to a close the Company began to restore its hand pumper, the original piece of equipment. Little did they know that this was the start of a labor of love that still continues today.

In 1970, the company decided to prepare to celebrate their 75th Anniversary in 1973, the same year the Village was celebrating its 100th Anniversary. The pumper was completed, to be kept on the second floor of the firehouse.

One thing led to another and the members wound up transforming their meeting room into a Museum of Fire Memorabilia complete with alarm boxes, pictures, hose pumps, tools, uniforms and an exact replica of the original front of the firehouse built to scale.

Cont'd page 2



COURTESY OGDEN HOSE COMPANY MUSEUM

OGDEN ENGINE
NUMBER 47

OGDEN ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1

The opening of the Museum to the public launched the 75th anniversary, much like the reopening of the newly-refurbished museum highlighted the company's 100th anniversary celebration.

"Their dedication to duty and constant training however could never prepare the members for the night of Dec. 1, 1964..."

1973 brought a year's worth of parades, parties and fund-raising events that kept every member of the company busy. The Department hosted the Annual Westchester County Volunteer Fireman's Association Convention; the village celebrated its anniversary wearing traditional turn of the century uniforms, sideburns and mustaches. Other fundraisers were held, including a Rummage Sale which convinced the members to be glad they weren't piano movers.

Even a year's worth of celebration did not stop the company's progress. In 1974 a 1974 Mack Pumper was acquired, the most advanced piece of equipment to date. The 1,500 gallon per minute pumper served 21 years on the front line and 5 years in service as the third due engine on several alarm assignments in the village.

Pre-Fire Plans were also developed to prepare the members to better serve the public. 1975 saw the introduction of Plectrons (TM), the forerunner of today's pagers. In 1979 the Department issued the Scott 4.5 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, the air tanks firefighters use. The company was always on the cutting edge of technology.

In Jan. 1976, the Dept sponsored a Boy Scout Explorer Post for Junior Firefighters housed in Ogden's quarters.

In the 1970s a new hospital was being built and the members helped raise funds for its construction. They even presented the hospital with a \$750 check written on a length of hose. In 1976, the Pop Warner Football program was formed and members gave their time and used the company facilities to assure the program's success.

Extensive use, however, had taken a toll on the facilities. A 1975 committee, once again worked out an agreement in which the village provided the funds and the company provided the labor to repair the roof and construct a third addition. The backroom was extended, a gable roof with attic space for storage added, and the kitchen and recreation room refurbished.

Then tragedy appeared. In 1982, Kevin O'Connor, a young, athletic member, was stricken with cancer. He lost his fight with the disease on June 5, 1985, five days shy of his 24th birthday. Because of his love for others and service to the community, the company, in 1991, created the Kevin P. O'Connor Memorial scholarship to be given each

year to a deserving, graduate of Dobbs Ferry High School who exemplifies O'Connor's dedication to duty and community service. Annual raffles and golf outings continue to support the scholarship.

In 1988 the Department purchased a Utility Apparatus to carry the Hurst Tool, more commonly called the Jaws of Life, and other specialty equipment. The apparatus is housed at Ogden along with the company's front line piece of equipment.

The first female firefighter joined the Department in 1990 choosing Ogden as her company. She was a third generation Ogden firefighter. The company opened its doors to help a new Little League program. The most recent piece of apparatus, a Pierce Pumper with an air-conditioned enclosed crew cab, was delivered in 1995, and put into service. Bunker replaced the traditional boots and raincoat. Lightweight hoses, radio communications, computerized records, aggressive interior attack tactics are a far cry from what the company used at the turn of the last century.

The new century brought both sorrow and joy. In 2000, Douglas Miller, a young father of three small daughters left Ogden to join the FDNY's elite Rescue Company 5. He died in the line of duty at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

In recent months, the village sponsored a major refurbishing project giving the firehouse much needed repair. Ogden Engine has been on this site since 1910 and will stand there for many years to come.

There have been countless major fires throughout the years, far too numerous to go into detail in this short history. Some include the boat *The City of Troy*, the Main Street Fire of the 1940's; Scappy's; the F.Q. Brown Estate, Masters School, the Hyatt- Livingston House; Rosalind Gardens; the Woman's Club; and several conflagrations on Main Street. There have been many mutual aid calls to surrounding villages throughout the years. The public recalls the big fire; the firefighter recalls them all.

Since its inception more than 100 years ago the members of Ogden, as well as the members of the entire department, have been prepared twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. The members have come from all walks of life – the merchant, the tradesman, the banker, the professional, the civil servant – to join in the common goal to protect and help the people of the village.AND IT GOES ON...

TERESA WALSH

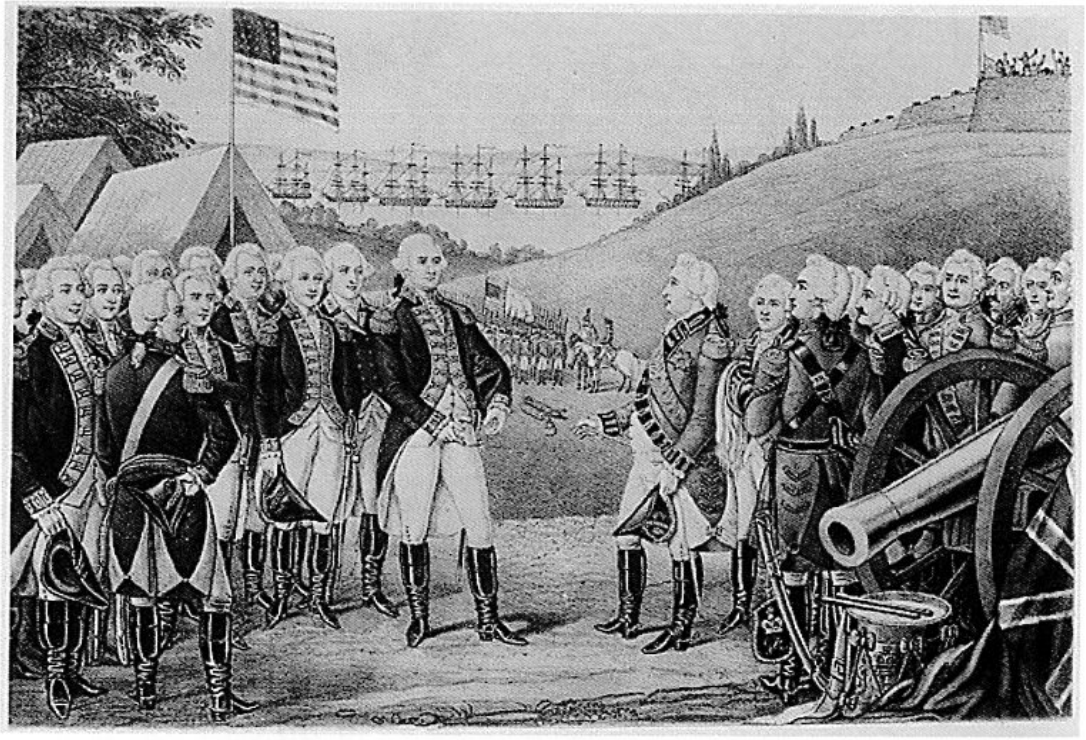
"The public recalls the big fire; the firefighter recalls them all."

THE MARCH TO FREEDOM... PART 2

(Cont'd from Dec 2006 issue)

The strategy which won the Revolutionary War was designed in Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley, Hartsdale and Edgemont-Greenville (the "Philipsburg Encampment") in August, 1781;

The Yorktown, Virginia, campaign, the campaign which led to victory, started in Dobbs Ferry and in neighboring localities on August 19, 1781.



Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia, October 19, 1781. by James Baillie, ca. 1845. Source: U.S. National Archives.

The 1781 march of the French and American armies from the Dobbs Ferry area to Virginia has been called by historian Benson Bobrick "the longest and perhaps boldest movement of the war." Dobbs Ferry's Gateway (today's intersection of Ashford Avenue and Broadway) is the first site on that long line of march which was identified by one of the participants, Dr. James Thacher, who served as a physician in the Continental Army for several years. Dr. Thacher was encamped with the troops in this area and his *Military Journal of the American Revolution, 1775-1783* offers us a soldier's view of the events that were taking place.

Col. Alexander Scammel's light infantry, described by Dr. Thacher as a "select corps, consisting of the most active and soldierly young men and officers" was deployed in our village during the summer of 1781. Col. Elisha Sheldon's dragoons were also stationed in Dobbs Ferry that summer. The American troops constructed and manned the redoubt marked today by the monument at the Livingston and Broadway intersection. Lt. Col. Alexander Hamilton, commander of a light infantry unit, served directly under Col. Scammel during that summer.

Most of the American troops at Philipsburg in July and August were encamped in present-day Ardsley near Heatherdell Road. When orders were given to march, Scammel's unit, according to Dr. Thacher's account, was assigned to a front position; the march of the American army to Virginia began when the soldiers coming out of the Heatherdell Road area of Ardsley joined with Scammel's unit in Dobbs Ferry on Sunday morning, August 19, 1781. Before setting out, the American army, "paraded for the march" (in an area to the east of the Gateway intersection), and then proceeded west along what is now Ashford Avenue to Broadway.

At the intersection they were commanded to turn right and head north along Broadway, in order to cross the Hudson with the French at "King's-ferry" (present-day Verplanck). The French army reached King's-ferry by marching along a parallel route, a few miles to the east of the Americans. Because secrecy was critical for success, few of the American soldiers knew on August 19, 1781, that their destination would be Virginia. Dr. Thacher wrote of their surprise when they were ordered to turn right at the Gateway intersection and march north, away from the British in Manhattan:

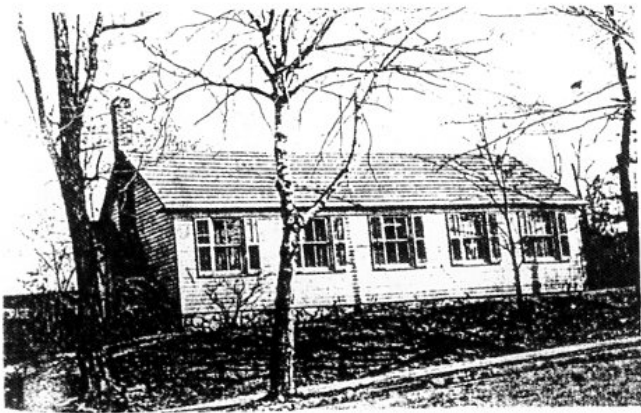
"August 20th, 1781-According to orders, we commenced our line of march yesterday, a party of pioneers being sent forward to clear the road towards King's-bridge [the bridge over the Harlem River, connecting Riverdale to Manhattan], and we expected immediately to follow in that direction; but an army is a machine, whose motions are directed by its chief. When the troops were paraded for the march, they were ordered to the right about, and making a retrograde movement up the side of the North [Hudson] river, we have reached King's-ferry, and are preparing to cross the Hudson at this ferry."

Writing about George Washington, Dr. James Thacher recorded the following in 1778:
"The serenity of his countenance, and majestic gracefulness of his deportment, impart a strong impression of that dignity and grandeur, which are his peculiar characteristics, and no one can stand in his presence without feeling the ascendancy of his mind, and associating with his countenance the idea of wisdom, philanthropy, magnanimity, and patriotism."

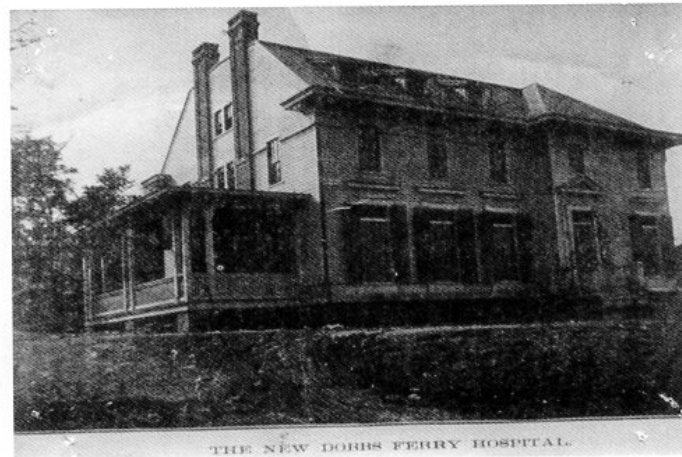
RICHARD BORKOW

THE DOBBS FERRY HOSPITAL

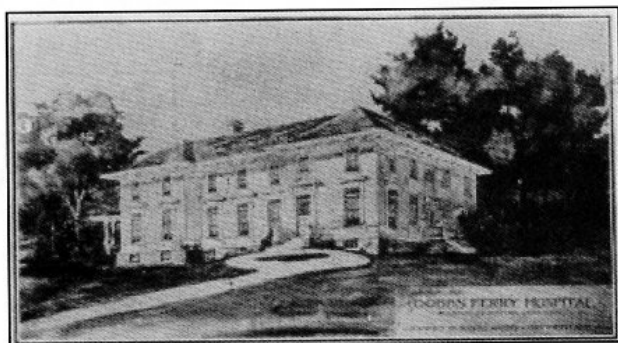
A CENTURY OF CARING



First hospital—room for 3 adults, one child



THE NEW DOBBS FERRY HOSPITAL.



DOBBS FERRY HOSPITAL

"the patients who could afford it paid \$5.00 a week but most of the work was done free of charge"

DOBBS FERRY
HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT 1942



The property on the top of the hill on Ashford Avenue at the corner of Storm Street where the "Little White Church" had stood for many decades was sold to Mrs. Jane H. Judson on October 16, 1882. But not until ten years later did Dr. Champion H. Judson decide to utilize this site as the location for a Dobbs Ferry Hospital.

A small frame one-story house containing five rooms was built and furnished through the generosity of Miss Anne Langdon, later Mrs. Howard Townsend, Jr. The Hospital was opened on October 18, 1893 and most of the physicians of the community cooperated with Dr. Judson in this venture. Dr. Judson was assisted in surgery by Dr. F. Lyman, Dr. J. H. Hasbrouck, and Dr. W. H. Todd were other physicians in attendance on patients in the hospital. For its first two years of operation Miss Langdon also paid the expenses.

The patients who could afford it paid \$5.00 a week but most of the work of the Hospital was done free of charge. Its facilities consisted of three beds, for adults and one for children. The nursing staff was one nurse and one attendant. Thirty-four patients were accommodated in its first year. During the Spanish-American War in 1898, some of the returning soldiers were brought to the Dobbs Ferry Hospital to be treated for yellow fever. During their recuperation the women of the village served as volunteers in the Hospital, visiting and reading to them and taking them for rides in their carriages.

The Dobbs Ferry Hospital Association was organized in 1899 and was incorporated April 11, 1900.

Prominent persons of this community served as officers. They sought public donations to fund the medical care. Soon Dr. Judson's small hospital with a ward for men, one for women, and even a smaller room for children, was not able to meet the demands so in 1901 the Hospital Association began planning a new and larger building. A site was obtained on Ashford Avenue at the corner of Washington Avenue and a model Hospital was constructed thereon.

The laying of the cornerstone on August 29, 1902 was a real event in Dobbs Ferry. Colonel Franklin Q. Brown as president of the Village opened the ceremony. A short address was given by Oscar Garrison Villard as president of the Hospital Association, and the laying of the cornerstone was done by New York Governor Benjamin B. Odell, Jr., who praised this community for its splendid humanitarian effort. This modern, twenty-bed hospital supplying medical, surgical and obstetrical services was opened for service on April 6, 1903.

Dr. Judson's small hospital which had served for ten years was sold and it became a private dwelling and was used thus until 1942 when transformed by the Dobbs Ferry Lutheran Church into a place of worship. That small frame building was later replaced by the present brick church.

Dobbs Ferry had the only hospital serving the communities between Yonkers and Bronxville on the south, and Tarrytown and White Plains on the north and east. It served patients from Hastings-on-Hudson, Ardsley and Irvington as well as Dobbs Ferry and the Town of Greenburgh. The hospital had a laboratory equipped for all pathological examinations, an x-ray department for fluoroscopic work and an outpatient dispensary.

The Hospital Association had elected O.G. Villard as president, A. C. Fields vice-president and Dr. C. H. Judson secretary. The medical staff consisted of Doctors C. H. Judson, J. H. Hasbrouck, F. Lyman, W. H. Todd, G. Q. Johnson with Dr. Daniel Lewin as consulting surgeon. The Board of Managers consisted of women of the community who devoted hours of volunteer work to the hospital as well as assisting in securing financial support. For example, in the summer of 1924 the Board planned an Irvington Street Fair which created much interest in all the villages. The women made it so attractive that large crowds enjoyed the festivities of the Street Fair. It raised \$18,900 for the hospital. In subsequent years, the women created other public benefits for the hospital.

In its first year in the new building, 1904, the hospital cared for one hundred seventy patients with expenditures of \$5375. Within three years, more room was needed. An anonymous gift of \$7000 made possible the purchase of adjoining property at the corner of Washington Avenue which included a cottage which was refitted as a residence for nurses. Also housed in the cottage was a new kitchen that was connected to the hospital by a tunnel. Later another cottage a few doors up the street was acquired to be used as a night nurses' residence.

The hospital has been a great blessing to the village and it has grown constantly in usefulness. Most of the physicians and surgeons and dentists of Dobbs Ferry have served on its medical staff. The hospital maintained high standards and was approved by the American Hospital Association, the American College of Surgeons and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. It was inspected yearly by the New York State Department of Social Welfare and was a member of the Association Hospital Service which provided the Blue Cross plan.

The cost of administration has constantly mounted with the growth of the hospital and its expanding service, and with the higher cost of living. The community has been called upon to increase its donations yearly. The many loyal citizens who, though the past fifty-five years, have served as officers and members of the Hospital Association deserve the commendation of their fellow-citizens. The women of the Hospital Auxiliary (formerly Board of Managers) continue their volunteer work unceasingly.

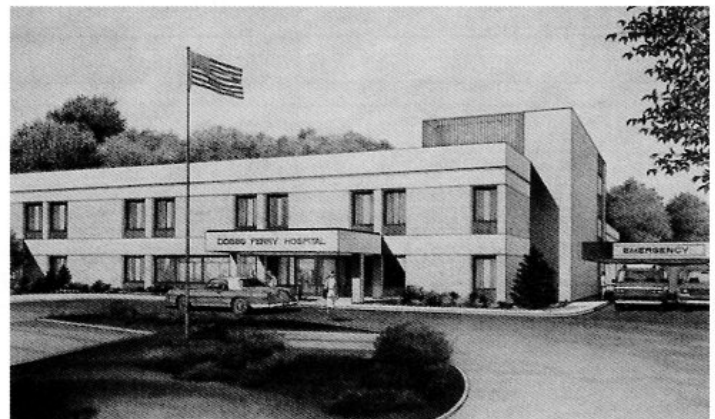
Continued demands on the facilities required further expansion. A new wing was added in 1922 for obstetrical work. This helped to provide space for the increasing number of patients served each year. The cornerstone was laid on April 30, 1922 for the maternity ward, given by Mrs. Charles Duncan Fraser in memory of her husband. Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Commissioner of Health of the City of New York was the speaker. The ward opened for service on December 1, 1922.

After World War II, the need for enlarged facilities was clearly evident. In 1952 plans were made to extend the Fraser wing to the south. The extension provided more private and semi-private rooms for patients. The total capacity of the hospital was increased to fifty-seven beds and eight bassinets.

Additional land was purchased at the rear of the building for a parking lot for physicians and visitors. Very different from the conditions in 1903 when a shed was built at the rear of the hospital where the doctor's horses were tied.

In the past decade the Dobbs Ferry Hospital Association has considered proposals to consolidate this hospital with others in the vicinity. Such proposals have been given serious consideration and in each instance the four villages have realized the importance of maintaining the Dobbs Ferry Hospital.

MARY DONOVAN



*An item of
Historical
Importance!*

Dobbs Ferry Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP 2007-2008

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State _____
 Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____
 E-Mail _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting Member	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$ 30.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Adult	\$ 20.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student/Senior (over 60)	\$ 10.00

Please make check payable to, and mail to:
 DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 12 Elm Street
 Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
 Telephone (914) 674-1007

Additional contribution\$ _____
 Total enclosed (TAX DEDUCTIBLE).....\$ _____

My employer's matching contribution form is enclosed. _____



*We are a non profit organization dependent on our members to stay in existence.
 Please become a member. We Need You!*

You Are Cordially Invited to our Annual Spring Gala

"Preserving Our Heritage" is the theme for this year's Gala Dinner
7:00 p.m. on Saturday night, May 19th, 2007
Dobbs Ferry Woman's Club
54 Clinton Avenue Dobbs Ferry

The program will be a celebration of the last twenty years of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society and will honor three couples whose work has been central to the development of the society:

Gloria and Bill Blanck
Bobbie and Fred Staats
Mary and Hank Walter

We'll celebrate this occasion with music, with some interesting photos and with a few stories that perhaps some of our newer members have never heard! And in the midst of the frivolity and fun, we'll take a few moments to consider the importance of preserving the heritage of this small village of Dobbs Ferry and passing that history on to our children and grandchildren.

As usual, delicious food and beverages, a party atmosphere, and the ever-popular raffle will mark this evening. If you have never attended the Gala before, do join us this year. It will be a very special evening with plenty of time to chat with old friends and find new acquaintances who share your interest in the history of Dobbs Ferry.



Send your reservation for tickets (\$35 for each ticket) and your raffle tickets to:

Dobbs Ferry Historical Society
12 Elm Street
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Our space is limited so do send your reservations by May 10th

For further information, call 914-674-1007.



Remember that time is money. ".....Benjamin Franklin

For the past few years the Historical Society Archives has been richly endowed with the time of busy volunteers. We would like to recognize two of these faithful, weekly workers who bring smiles along with their helping hands:



"Last year I had to stop volunteering for a while, and I came to realize that I missed working with everyone so much that I just needed to return."

Evelyth Lewis –

Moved to Dobbs Ferry in 1983, mother of 2, worked for 10 years in the Fulbright Program of the Institute of International Education, has been involved with the League of Women Voters doing Voter Services both in the River Towns and the County as well as volunteer work in her local synagogue.

As you can see our volunteers are busy, involved and interesting people that are a real pleasure to work with in the Archives. We always appreciate all their help.

No matter how much or little time you have to spare, won't you give us a call at the Archives. You can see it's a great place to work. Just ask Evelyth, Meg or visit us on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 12.



"I've always enjoyed history and I'm very interested in learning more about the history of our local area."

Meg Lauer –

Moved to Dobbs Ferry in 2001, mother of 2, before having children worked in Health Insurance, was a docent at Washington Irving's "Sunynside" for 3 years, currently PTSA Vice President for the High School.

GEORGETTE HEDBERG

Gala Prizes

As our primary fundraiser of the year, your participation in this raffle enables the Society to maintain its home at the Mead House and provide expanded programs for the community

Prizes include gift certificates to our local restaurants, our popular afghan, and other great gifts donated by our local Merchants

Mail your completed tickets with payment to us by May 10th at :

Or bring them to the registration table at the gala on May 19th at:

The DF Historical Society
12 Elm Street
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

The DF Women's Club
54 Clinton Avenue
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Any questions? Call us at (914)-674-1007

RAFFLE Name: _____
Phone _____
\$1 each 6 for \$5 13 for \$10

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6 for \$5**

☆ "LUCKY 13" ☆
RAFFLE Name: _____
Phone _____
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**13 for
\$10**

Hear Ye... Hear Ye...

Its time to gather for our annual

Spring Gala!

Saturday, May 19th, 2007 at 7:00pm

Food & fun, music & merriment
And our ever-popular raffle!
See details inside!



And mark your calendars to join us on
August 19th, 2007 for

March to Freedom Day

Help us commemorate Washington's bold
march to Yorktown, at its starting point in
Dobbs Ferry 226 years ago.
More info to come!



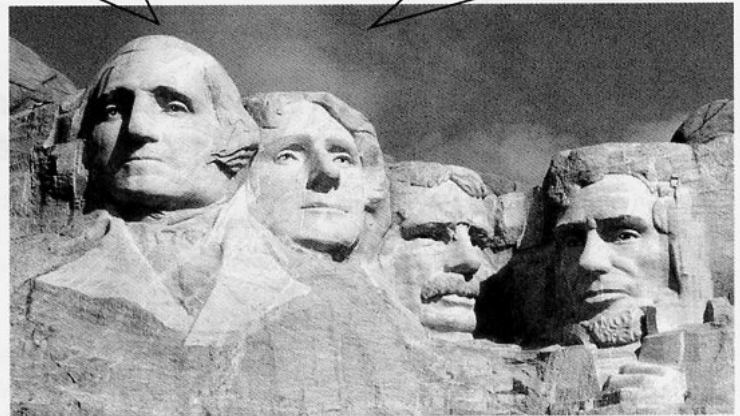
THE FERRYMAN

*Speak softly and carry a
ig... afghan...*

*I got mine... Four score
& seven years ago...*

*I cannot tell a lie... I
got one for Martha
for Mother's Day...*

*Never put off till tomorrow,
what you can do today ...
like buying an afghan...*



I would like to order ___ afghan(s) @ \$45 each.
Enclosed is my check for \$ ___ please send it to:

Name _____

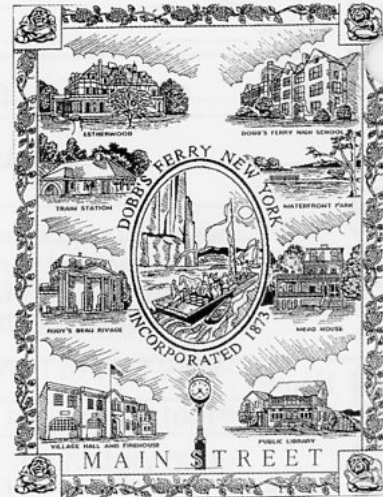
Address _____

phone _____

Williamsburg blue

Cranberry red

DF Historical Society
12 Elm St
DF, NY 10522 or
Phone (914) 674-1007



The Mead House
12 Elm Street
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522
Phone: 914-674-1007

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White Plains, NY

**DOBBS FERRY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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