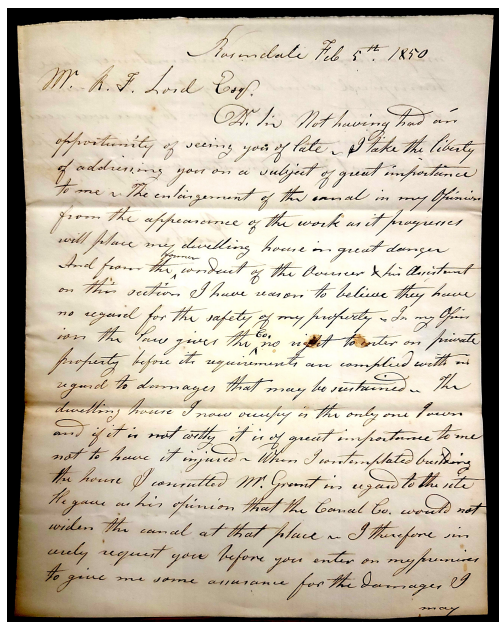


Jacob A. Snyder letters unearthed by Bill Merchant



CHHS Historian Bill Merchant has been going through a huge cache of letters and other documents in the archives at Minisink Valley Historical Society (MVHS) archive in Port Jervis while wearing his hat as historian with the D&H Canal Museum.

The MVHS has extensive correspondence to and from Russel Farnum Lord, who was the longest serving Chief Engineer/Superintendent of the Delaware & Hudson Canal. Bill has been going almost every Thursday, beginning in January 2023, photographing every letter in the 24 boxes. He is writing a history of the canal and its railroad and this important trove of D&H history has and will continue to inform that work.

These three letters from Jacob A. Snyder (1785-1852), A. J. Snyder I's uncle, details to A. F. Lord the official inaction in responding to requests to avoid and later repair damage sustained at the Snyder Estate by the expansion of the canal.

Rosendale Feb 5th 1850

Mr. R. F. Lord, Esq.

[Dear Sir] Not having had an opportunity of seeing you of late, I take the liberty of addressing you on a subject of great importance to me. The enlargement of the canal in my opinion from the appearance of the work as it progresses will place my dwelling house in great danger [.] And from the former conduct of the overseer & his assistant on this section I have reason to believe they have no regard for the safety of my property. In my opinion the law gives the Co. no right to enter on private property before its requirements are complied with no regard to damages that may be sustained. The dwelling house I now occupy is the only one I own and if it is not costly it is of great importance to me not to have it injured. When I contemplated building the house I consulted Mr. Grant in regard to the site. He gave as his opinion that the Canal Co. would not widen the canal at that place. I therefore sincerely request you before you enter on my premises to give me some assurance for the damages I

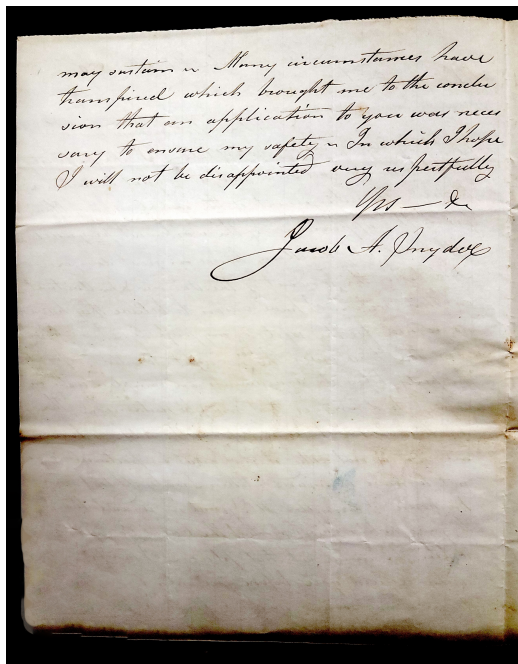
--- (p 2)

may sustain. Many circumstances have transpired which brought me to the conclusion that an application to you was necessary to ensure my safety. In which I hope I will not be disappointed

very respectfully

Yrs. ,

Jacob A. Snyder



continued on page 7

SNYDER ESTATE SPRING CLEAN UP DAY!

HELP US GET READY FOR THE 2024 SEASON!

MARK THE DATE! SAT. APRIL 14, 10AM-2PM

Century House Historical Society

Rosendale NY, 12472-0150

Phone: (845) 658-9900

E-mail: info@centuryhouse.org

web: <https://centuryhouse.org>

Officers:

President - Henry Lowengard

Vice President - Michael McCabe

Secretary - Bill Merchant

Treasurer - Althea Werner

Site Coordinator - Althea Werner

Trustee - Dave Kime

Trustee - Andrea Brown

Message From The President

We had a very successful season last year over in the Widow Jane Mine and at the Century House Cement Museum. Although it was a lot rainier last year, we had some really exciting events and very happy audiences, with plenty of first time visitors to the site. I hope you keep coming back and bring your friends!

This year, there will be four nights of the ever popular Dracula, all starting at 7PM!

Last year also saw our first collaboration with A Still Small Voice, which is an organization dedicated to sponsoring events featuring local musicians. Visit assv4u.com to learn more about them.

There were a number of changes for the events last year. Event tickets and details now are posted on the new website WidowJaneMine.com, using a new ticketing system. That was also the first season with the new black camp chairs and box office tent, and new lighting strung on the incoming pathway. More lighting will be installed this year! This was useful for events that finished after dark. I was happy to have been joined at the box office by board members, including new neighborly board member Andrea Brown.

We also had a little bit of filming done at the mine, which resulted in having the stage completely taken out and put back in. The number of the newer side stage platforms grew for the Earth Opera to accommodate all the musicians. The area leading up to the mine has been covered with gravel to make it less muddy and a better surface to drive on.

If you have a film or music project you'd like to do at the Snyder Estate and Widow Jane Mine please let us know at events@centuryhouse.org

Right now we're in the midst of a major reconfiguration of the Cement Museum to make it present the story of Rosendale Cement in a way that won't have the docent (me) running all over the museum to tell the story, and will feature new, legible panels and better overall organization!

At the same time, the historical work continues with organizing the CHHS archives, thanks to our historian Bill Merchant.

In more Estate news, the barn and carriage house have been completely painted, guttered, and repaired. We also have new caretakers, Adam and Ally, living in the Century House.

A large patch of pollinator pathway is still being maintained (or not maintained) to help the migration of pollinators in this area! See the Wallkill Valley Land Trust's Pollinator Pathway Project website for more information: <https://wallkillvalleylt.org/pp/>. Maybe you have some property that can participate!

A portion of the 2022-23 an/aesthetic art show is still available for people to enjoy. Thanks to all the artists who participated in this show, and to organizers Jeff Benjamin and Michael Asbill!

Last year, a group led by Luke Sarrantonio, organized by the Rosendale Library, came to identify, and pull out, and possibly eat invasive species, and they will be back this season.

We have an association with Rosendale Heart and Soul, which is an organization seeking to focus on what makes Rosendale great and what could make it even greater, more inclusive and attractive. <https://www.rosendaleheartsoul.org/>

The annual lecture last year, by David Moyer told the story of archaeological research in the FO Norton ruins that are near the former Williams Lake property, now known as Fifth Lake Hudson Valley. Work is progressing on that site this year!

Also, look for better lighting, signage, clearing out some of the more cluttered areas on site, in the museum buildings, and in areas that you don't see!

As always, the board thanks the volunteers and members, and we encourage you to join or renew for next year.

-- Henry Lowengard, CHHS board president

2023 EVENTS



Invasive Species Walk



Dust Bowl Faeries



an/aesthetic sculpture show



Taiko Masala



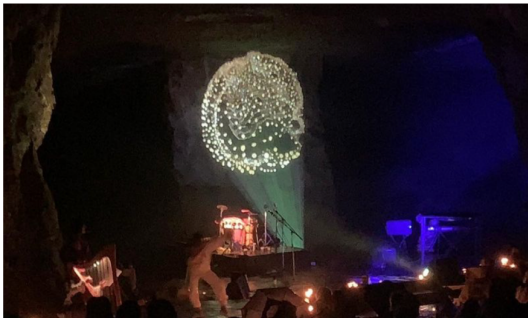
Krishna Patenaude and the 209s



Seeds Under Nuclear Winter: an Earth Opera



Dzieci Theatre's MAKBET



Elements and Essence



Subterranean Poetry Festival



Theatre on the Road's Dracula

A VISIT TO TAWARATAGUA AND RAPHOOS

Notes by Henry Lowengard

This very interesting story from May 1911 tells of motor trip to discover evidence of the northern bounds of the New Paltz Patent as surveyed in 1709. In a typical historic manner, I came upon it looking for something else. It was published in the New Paltz Independent, and probably written by historian Benjamin Meyer Brink, the author of "The Early History of Saugerties, 1660-1825" and other historical works related to Ulster County and the Mid-Hudson valley.

Read that history book here:

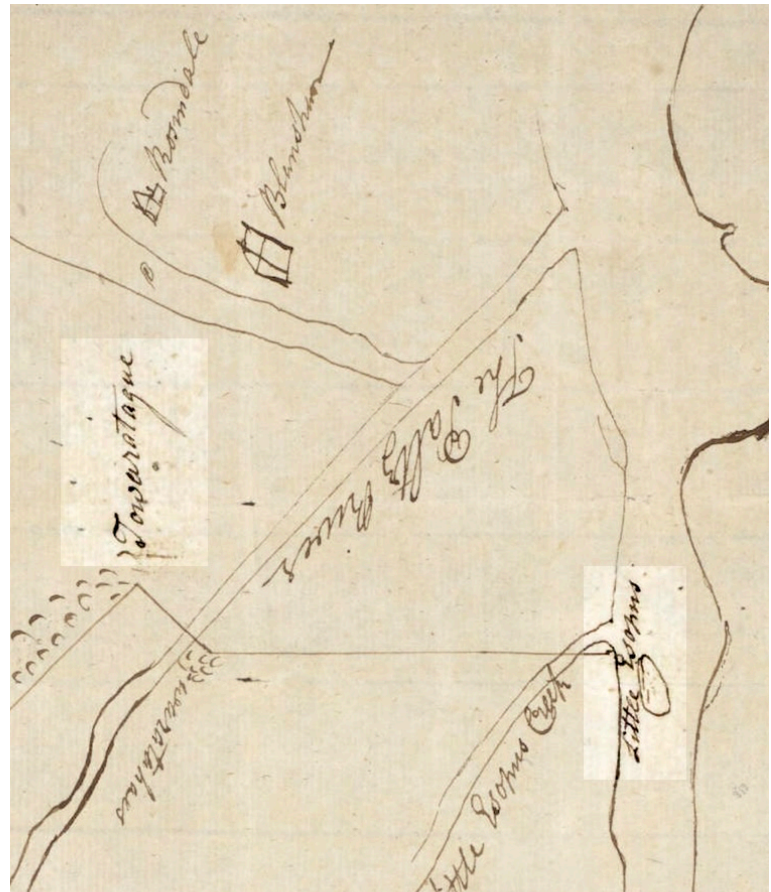
<https://archive.org/details/earlyhistoryofsa00brin/page/n11/mode/2up>.

A VISIT TO TAWARATAGUA AND RAPHOOS.

Seldom, if ever, have we enjoyed a day's outing so well as on Saturday last. For some time we had been anticipating a visit to Tawaratagua, the northwest corner of the New Paltz Patent. But no day had been set or arrangements made.

So, on Saturday morning, when Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Elting¹ of Highland stopped at the house in their automobile and proposed a trip to Tawaratagua it took a minute or two to decide whether there was not too much pressing work on hand to allow us to go. But it only took a minute or two.

Soon all were in the car and speeding away over the state road. Crossing the Wallkill at Perrine's Bridge², the sand on the Rosendale Plains compelled a lower rate of speed. At the Mrs. Nathan Keator farm on the Plains we found Mr. Charles Keator and he very kindly consented to drop his farm work and accompany us to the spot, about 200 yards west of the barn.



c/o Historic Huguenot Society: Roelof J. and Ezekiel Elting Family

There is no manner of doubt that this is Tawaratagua, the northwest corner of the New Paltz Patent. This is the northern limit of the Shawangunk mountain range. Here is the smooth, white millstone rock, sloping a little to the north east. A little farther up the smooth and slightly sloping rock is the spot from which the stone were broken out for the foundation of one of his buildings. About 200 yards to the north by the side of the railroad track are the ruins of the cement mill, burned down a few years ago and near by is the plant where the Degnon Company³ is crushing rock for the aqueduct tube. The letters are deeply cut in the rock, but most of them have been, until recently covered by moss, so that they would hardly be noticed. The letters were undoubtedly made in 1709 by the men of the party of Augustus Graham, surveyor general, in running the bounds of the Paltz Patent. Graham's map appears in the History of New Paltz and its Old Families⁴. Mr. Keator remembers what his uncle, Mr. Craig told him about this rock, which he called "The Bounds" and said it was the spot where the boundaries of several towns met. These were Hurley, New Paltz and we presume Marbletown. Mr. Elting uncovered one or two letters while we waited. Others are perhaps still hidden under the moss. The upper line of the inscription seems to be JHDB, the last three letters forming a monogram. These are the initials of Johannes Hardenbergh⁵, who naturally would be one of the party. In the same line are the letters HB in a monogram. The Patentees Abraham and Jean Hasbrouck were both living in 1709. Graham's map mentions Abraham Hasbrouck and none other of the New Paltz Patentees by name. Here are his initials. The second line of the inscription is puzzling. It appears to be SKWAKWNUP. This surely can not be the way Graham's men spelled Shawangunk (which we all call Shongum) But why not? This spot is the starting point of the Shawangunk range, which extends a long distance to the southwest. We do not suppose the Indians tried very hard to be strictly accurate in these matters and the Indian Ancrop, who

was with Graham's party, has not the best reputation in the world for veracity.

It is quite a far cry from Tawaratagua to Raphoos. But the best part of the day was still before us. Back to Perrine's Bridge and the State road ; then on to St. Remy; then across country, past the old brick Esopus church and Dominie Millet's parsonage. Everywhere the apple trees in blossom and the country at its best.

Turning sharply to the left at Esopus we are on Judge Alton B. Parker's⁶ estate. There is a long hill and then we reach the gate at Rosemount. In answer to the inquiry at the gatehouse if Judge Parker were at home we were pointed to the Judge and Mrs. Parker, walking in the grounds. Judge Parker knew the "Indian Rock" on his estate, jutting out into the Hudson, but we are quite sure he had never heard the claim advanced that this very rock is Raphoos, the northeast corner of the Paltz Patent and perhaps as important a landmark as there is in existence in the valley of the Hudson.

Judge Parker is an exceedingly busy man and he had to leave at 2 o'clock to attend a very important meeting, but he kindly offered to guide our party to "Indian Rock." Judge Parker loves agriculture, and his green-house, fine cattle and carefully tended orchard are to him sources of pleasure.

Our route lay through the orchard and woods, to the northern limits of the estate, which fronts half a mile on the Hudson and joins the estate of the Redemptorist Fathers, which with its magnificent college buildings cost a million dollars.

Down at the margin of the Hudson Judge Parker halted, and here, jutting out in the River, with the water lapping against it, is "Indian Rock," so called by the people of the neighborhood because of the figure of an Indian, deep cut in the stone. The Indian's hand rests on the muzzle of a gun with its butt on the ground. The sketch of the Indian and gun were not made by an artist, but it must have required much labor to cut the outline in the hard stone. The top of the Indian's head is gone and the rock has also shelled off from a small part of the body. By the side of the figure are a number of letters, cut in the rock. We did not copy any of them, being too much excited, perhaps at the discovery. But Mr. Elting copied them and took a photograph of the rock as he had done at Tawaratagua.

The grant from Gov. Edmund Andross in speaking of the Patent describes its boundary as running north "up alongst the River to an Island in a Crooked Elbow in the Beginning of the Long Reach, called by the Indiyans Raphoos." This spot is the be-ginning, we suppose, of the long reach called by the Indians Raphoos. Right out in the River is the upper end of Esopus (or Pell's) island. Graham's surveyors would naturally mark, as the corner, the nearest point on the shore where they could find a large, smooth rock suitable for making an inscription. Here it is, jutting out into the River and gently sloping down toward the water. It is not to be expected, that any tradition would exist in the neighborhood, for there were no settlers here until long after 1709. But the location is right and the letters are of the same size and the same antique character as at Tawaratagua.

The figure of the Indian is, no doubt, intended to represent Ancrop, who is mentioned

in old documents of about that date at least twice and was with Graham's party at Tawaratagua, according to the tradition in the Tillson family, who located near by.

With all this evidence, direct and indirect, there can remain not the shadow of a doubt that "Indian Rock", projecting into the Hudson on Judge Parker's estate, about 200 yards above his dock and boat-house, is Raphoos, the northeast corner of the Paltz Patent, which had a frontage of about a dozen miles on the Hudson, was granted in 1677 and first surveyed in 1709.

¹ Clarence J. Elting (1860-1942)

² Perrine's bridge is still extant, crossing the Wallkill near Rt. 32 just south of Tillson.

³ Michael J. Degnon and his company were also responsible for a lot of NYC subway and other tunneling and canal work.

⁴ <https://archive.org/details/historyofnewpalt00lefe>

⁵ In 1706, Hardenbergh bought the immense tract of land since known as the "Hardenbergh patent", which covered some 2,000,000 acres (8,100 km²) of the [Catskill Mountains](#) in what is today [Sullivan](#), [Ulster](#) and [Delaware](#) counties, from Nanisinos, *sachem* of the [Esopus](#) Indians, for the sum of 60 pounds. Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Hardenbergh

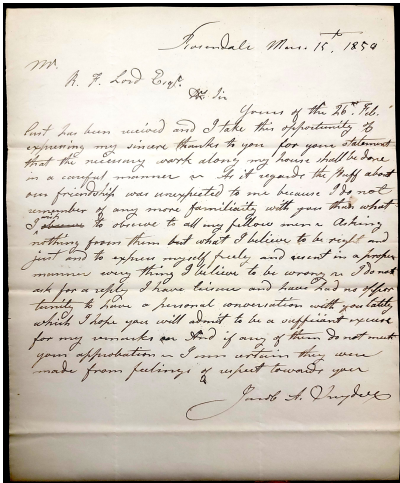
⁶ Judge Parker (1852-1926) ran and lost in a landslide against Teddy Roosevelt in the 1904 presidential election. Look him up!

A more recent attempt to map the borders of the New Paltz Patent accurately was done by Greg Krupp, as a Geography student at SUNY New Paltz in 2017.

See:

<https://hmvarch.org/news/2017-10-11-12-news.pdf>

Continued from p. 1



Rosendale Mar. 15th 1850

Mr. R. F. Lord, Esq.

[Dear Sir?]:

Yours of the 26th of Feb. last has been received and I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to you for your statement that the necessary work along my house shall be done in a careful manner. As it regards the [St? H?]uff about our friendship was unexpected to me because I do not remember of any more familiarity with you than what I observe wish to observe to all my fellow men. Asking nothing from them but what I believe to be right and just and to express myself freely and resent in a proper manner every thing I believe to be wrong. I do not ask for a reply [.] I have [?] and have had no opportunity to have a personal conversation with you lately which I hope you will admit to be a sufficient excuse for my remarks. And if any of them do not meet your approbation, I am certain they were made from feelings of respect towards you[.]

Jacob A. Snyder

Unfortunately, it seems the house sustained damage from the canal expansion:

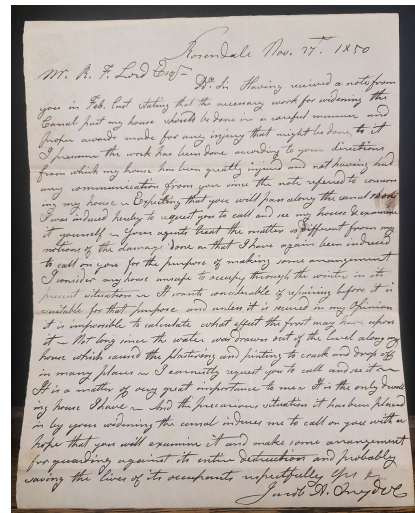
Rosendale Nov. 27 1850

Mr. R. F. Lord, Esq -

[Dear Sir?] - Having received a note from you in Feb. last stating that the necessary work for widening the Canal past my house should be done in a careful manner and proper award be made for any injury that might be done to it, I presume the work has been done according to your directions from which my house has been greatly injured and not having had any communication from you since the note referred to concerning my house. Expecting that you will pass along the canal then I was induced hereby to request you to call and see my house & examine it yourself. Your agents treat the matter so different from my notion of the damage done. That I have again been induced to call on you for the purpose of making some arrangement I would consider my house unsafe to occupy through the winter in its present situation. It wants considerable of repairing before it is suitable for that purpose and unless it is secured in my opinion is it impossible to calculate what effect the frost may have upon it. Not long since the water was drawn out of the level along my house which caused the plastering and painting to crack and drop off in many places. I earnestly request you to call and see it. It is a matter of great importance to me. It is the only dwelling house I have. And the precarious situation it has been placed in by your widening the canal induces me to call you with a hope that you will examine it and make some arrangement for guarding against its entire destruction and probably saving the lives of its occupants[.]

respectfully yrs.

Jacob A. Snyder

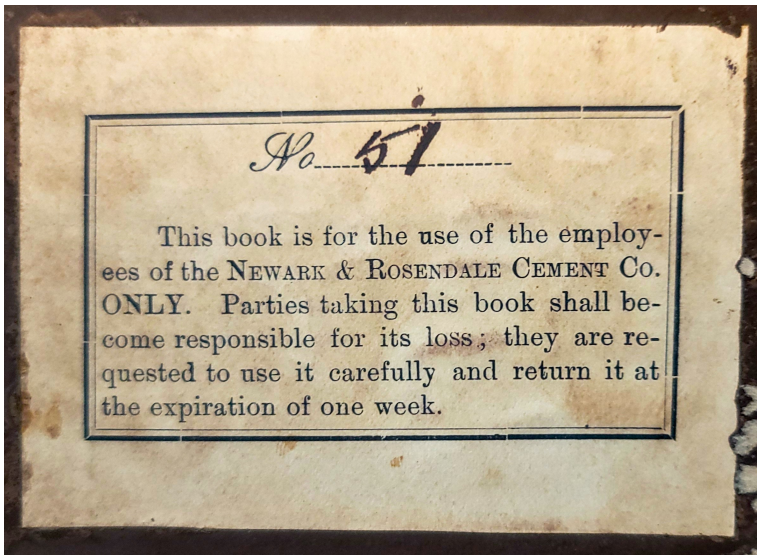


Let's extend a welcome to new board member Andrea Brown!

Andrea Brown is a Rosendale resident who enjoys the Snyder Estate and all the shows at the Widow Jane Mine. She has volunteered for events at the Mine over the past year.

Andrea brings to the board her extensive experience in finance, having worked as a financial advisor in wealth management for many years. She has a Master's in Finance and Economics from the University of Chicago.

Andrea looks forward to contributing to the board on all topics, but especially financial topics.



This interesting bookplate was found in a novel "Chaste As Ice, Pure as Snow" by Mrs. M. C. Despard that had made its way into the CHHS Archives. It seems that the Newark & Rosendale Cement Company had its own lending library, with a one week due date.

Alta Editions was a series of cheap reprints (even though "Alta Edition" means "First Edition") from Philadelphia publisher Porter & Coates . I hope you could get through it in a week!

Spring Clean Up Day: Sat. April 14, 10-2pm

**Wallkill Valley Land Trust History Walk: Sat. May 4, 1PM,
rain date May 5, 1PM**

That's also the official opening day for the Snyder Estate and Cement Museum.