

THE STOCKADE SPY



MAY 1981

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AS IT WAS Update on Queen Anne's Fort

by Dr. Susan Jane Staffa

In view of the fact that several persons have expressed interest in the position of Queen Anne's Fort and its relation to present lots, I here publish a map which I drew in connection with the research on my house discussed in my last two articles. I call it an "update" because I devoted my very first article in the *Spy* of September 1977 to a description of the fort. The topic is also complementary to my last article in that it further reveals the importance of analysis of lot lines in the interpretation of historic structures.

As far as I know this is the only detailed map of the fort that has ever been published. The principal sources upon which it is based are Wolfgang Romer's map of 1698 and Isaac Vrooman's map of 1768 as well as legal documents referring to parcels cut from the fort land when it was sold in 1795, and contemporary accounts which state the dimensions of the fort. My method was to superimpose the old surveyed maps upon a modern map of the Stockade. Since I knew that the fort was originally square, one hundred feet on each side, with a bastion (blockhouse) at each corner, and I knew that the easternmost strip of our lot (32 Front) was once part of the fort roadway, I was able to reconstruct the whole with some certainty. The rather remarkable fit with lot lines which still exist or only recently disappeared on the other side of the Indian generally confirms my reconstruction.

The fort, built in 1703, was placed **outside** the north wall of the earliest stockade which was destroyed or removed following the massacre of 1690. The site was chosen because it is the highest elevation in the stockade. This elevation can still be noticed as one walks down Ferry Street from Union Street toward the Indian. The ridge runs westward at a point just past St. George's Church and goes all the way over to Washington Avenue. Since attack was always expected from the north during the colonial period, the fort was oriented toward the line of the river and the view would have been kept clear. There was only pasturage on the other side of Front Street. It should be mentioned here that the site appears to have been fortified even prior to 1684. The Romer map of 1698 shows "an old burnet littel fort and palisades made by Collonel (Governor?) Dongan's time" of approximately the same dimensions on the same site. When the Queen's Fort was built the segment of early Front Street between Church and Ferry was closed off and the street was rerouted at Church on the river road to Niskayuna to pass north of the fort. A new stockade was also put up around the town to contain the fort and take in the western side of Washington Avenue and probably also the eastern side of Ferry Street. By the revolutionary period a third eastern stockade wall of the town extended all the way over to Wall Street. Thus during the eighteenth century the fort became the nucleus of the town and the Indian which now represents it is still at the center of old Schenectady or the "Stockade Area".

The drawing of this map revealed certain interesting facts about fort-related features hitherto unrecognized. The large space which surrounded it is transposed from the Isaac Vrooman map of 1768. Comparison with the earlier Romer map shows that the curvature of the fort roadway around the southeastern bastion followed the extension of early Front Street (originally a path just inside the north Stockade wall) which from the first days bent northward along this line to meet the old river road. There is documentary evidence that the fort roadway was ten feet wide on the western side of the fort and our layout shows that there was a ten-foot strip of road on the eastern side as well. St. George's Church, built in 1759 to accommodate the Anglican British who saw to the defense of the town during the colonial period, was placed just outside the seat of their power on the first parcel of available land. Small wonder that, during the revolution, when the Tories had fled, the church was used as a barracks by the patriots, mostly of Dutch descent, who took over the fort. (If you stand there on Ferry Street, you can notice that the oldest north wall of the church is exactly on a line with the north wall of 25 Ferry. Old Front Street ran westward along the north side of that line.) One of the most interesting discoveries is the original identity of 27 Ferry Street, called "the John Peek House." It stands on land which was once immediately in front of the fort and in the public space surrounding it. Structural scrutiny of the house, presumed to have been built during the latter part of the eighteenth century, reveals that the north wing is **much** older than the south wing which is also very old. John Peek evidently made his house from an old fort facility by adding the southern wing and a new roof. The old stable which was once behind 27 Ferry, the site of which is now part of the 32 Front Street lot, may well have been erected to aid in the building of the fort, for it was bounded on the south by the old Front Street which gave access to the region of construction, and was inside the earliest stockade wall. Shortly after the fort was built the town transferred the stable to Phillip Schuyler, the commandant.

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Flower Power in the Stockade

by H. Gilbert Harlow

The Dutch influence represented by our Stockade homes being built right up to the property line at the street poses some problems for those who value flowers and shrubs. Even foundation plantings are rarely possible where they would be of most use in softening the lines of our structures. One solution is window boxes and planters of various types.

Plants grown in containers are likely to be more care than those which can get their moisture and nourishment directly from the ground. Some pots and tubs are much more demanding than others. The clay flower pot is considered by many to be superior to all others but it certainly has its drawbacks. The porous ceramic surface pulls moisture out of the soil and evaporates it through the sides of the pot. Not only does this necessitate frequent watering and feeding but it leaves a residue of chemicals and provides an ideal base for moss and algae to grow. The origin of the "green thumb" designation for successful plant growers is said to be a community near Paris where most of the inhabitants grew plants in clay pots for the Paris market. By constantly handling the mossy pots their thumb and probably their hands in general identified them wherever they went.

Containers of materials which are better insulators such as wood or plastic are likely to be less trouble and the larger the size the longer they can go without attention.

The plants to be grown successfully on the sunny side of our Stockade streets will differ substantially from those that can be grown in partial or complete shade. The writer made a classic blunder some forty years ago by planting a bed of hardy primroses in the beds on the Union Street side of the First Reformed Church. They not only received full sun for most of the day but had the reflected heat from the massive stone walls. They were promptly cooked while a plant such as portulaca might have succeeded.

For the novice it would pay to see what the old timers plant in their window boxes and planters. Begonia semperflorens or the wax begonia is a

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THE STOCKADE SPY

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President's Column

This is the last issue of the *Spy* of the 1980-1981 year and the last issue of my tenure as President of the Association. It has been a long two years which were made tolerable by the able assistance of many people like Frances D. Miller, Editor of the *Spy* who carried the burden of putting it all together each month. She has done her job nobly and well and I shall be ever grateful to her and the many who pitched in to help.

My thanks, also, to outgoing officers and Board Members for their participation and help: Bob George, Treasurer; Lavinia Shanklin, Secretary; Mary Van der Bogert, and Lawrence Naylor, Board Members of the Board.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockade Association will be held May 26, 1981 at which time we elect a new President, Treasurer and three Board Members. All residents of the Stockade are voting Members of the Association—please place in office those you would like to conduct the affairs of the Association. Let me be involved now—or repent at leisure during the next two years when things **don't** go the way you would like them to!

James M. Sherwood

Summer is the time to clean chimneys—play safe and have them cleaned.



UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL PHOTO

Another summer chore—just as well to start now—is to weed the bricks so that they will be in keeping with such pleasant sights as the lovely flower boxes all around the Stockade.

The Stockade Association Meeting will be on May 26 at the Schenectady County Historical Society, 8 PM for the election of officers.

What is Pure Drinking Water Worth to You?

The Rotterdam aquifer supplies water to Rotterdam, Schenectady and parts of Niskayuna. Widespread north/east draughts seem not to affect the purity or the abundance. The question is, how might the Rotterdam Square Mall proposed by Wilmorite Corporation affect the aquifer?

Our aquifer is replenished by the Mohawk River and also by streams and ground water that flow over the land that covers the aquifer. That land is designated by the New York State Department of Conservation as "Class 1 Wetlands". That designation is given to Wetlands where ground and stream waters flow directly into an aquifer.

High water accumulates along Campbell Road, and the wetlands lying on each side to the east and to the west, when the Mohawk River is in flood. There are flapper valves in drainage pipes to the river. The flapper valves are open when the river is low to drain the Poentikil and Patridge Brook. These automatically close against the flooding river.

To illustrate that water is absorbed into the aquifer from the wetlands we read in Vincent Shaefer's "The Great Flats Aquifer" published by the Schenectady Environmental Advisory Council: "Some of the most interesting topographic features related to the Great Flats Aquifer shown on maps consist of 28 depressions scattered over the area. It is likely that they are sinkholes which channel water into the aquifer. . . . There is now in this region across the road from the WSNY radio tower a depression which was not indicated on the Randall map. This sinkhole absorbs more than 300 gallons per minute of surface water whenever there is high water. . . ."

Aquifers can and have been polluted. Witness the carrot farmers use of dioxin over the Long Island aquifer. It took time but the dioxin found its way through the aquifer earth cover to poison that pure water. Any substance that is soluble such as salt, petroleum products, and chemicals can permeate the cover of the aquifer.

Wilmorite Corporation proposes to build a 65,000 square foot shopping mall on Class 1 wetland that covers our aquifer. Their engineering plans will probably include methods to prevent accumulation of stream and ground water as well as plans for disposal of waste created by the mall. They are seeking the following permits from government agencies:

Rotterdam: A zone change; a permit to connect to a town water supply; a permit to connect to a town sewer; approval of the mall's physical site plan.

D.E.C.: A pollution discharge permit; a permit to alter a wetland; a permit to relocate a stream.

State Dept. of Transportation: Permission to relocate a state highway (straightening

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It is unfortunate that no map showing the layout of the fort and associated buildings has survived from the early days. A contemporary description states that there was a well and a drill ground in a space in the center and we have also some references to barracks within but there is no way to know where these were. It is very probable that there were some buildings on the eastern side. The notebook of Harriet Paige says that in 1795 (the year the fort land was sold) John Peek made a house out of an old barn where the old St. George's rectory now stands.

The fort underwent alteration several times, although the four bastions at the corners probably survived from their building in 1703 until they were finally taken down after the revolution. The curtain (wall) as it was first built was a triple stockade. In 1735 it was extended to the outside of the bastions to increase the area of the fort. At that time it was built as a wall of heavy timber upon a stone foundation ten feet high. Sources say there was only one gate which was on Ferry Street. If that is true, I suspect there was an entrance also from the house of the commandant, possibly a passage running under the fort roadway, to be used in case of emergency.

The demolition of the fort seems to have occurred over a period of years. It is said that it was demolished during the revolution and its timbers used to build a hospital at Union and Lafayette Streets. However it is more likely that the major defenses were maintained until the end of the conflict. Moreover, there is a record of some people seeking safety in one of the blockhouses during a night when attack was thought to be imminent. John Peek was one of the first to buy parcels of fort land as it became available. At least as early as 1786 he owned the parcel upon which his house stands. The principal sale of the fort land, however, took place in 1795 when the town council passed resolutions which determined the specific lots to be sold. An early project of "urban renewal" was then undertaken both by the public officials and private citizens, entrepreneurs like John Peek and his nephew Henry Peek, who recognized the commercial opportunity. In 1786 Ferry Street had finally been cut through down to the river to meet the ferry which had been transferred there in 1768 from the foot of Washington Avenue. The building which is now Arthur's Market was established as a public market and a smithy was soon attached on the south end where the meat corner now is. One of the first fire stations was put on the lot where the Queen's Fort Apartments now stands (33 Ferry Street). By 1812 Henry Peek had his new tenement and general store across the street.

I will not here elaborate further on this fascinating map but will leave it to you to take a historical walk on one of these beautiful spring days to discover for yourselves the wonderful structures which can still be envisioned through their echoes in our modern lot lines.

Campbell Road by moving it further west!

The Army Corps. of Engineers: A permit to alter a wetland and a stream relocation permit.

The permits in preparation for the mall will change the aquifer wetlands drastically as will the building of the mall.

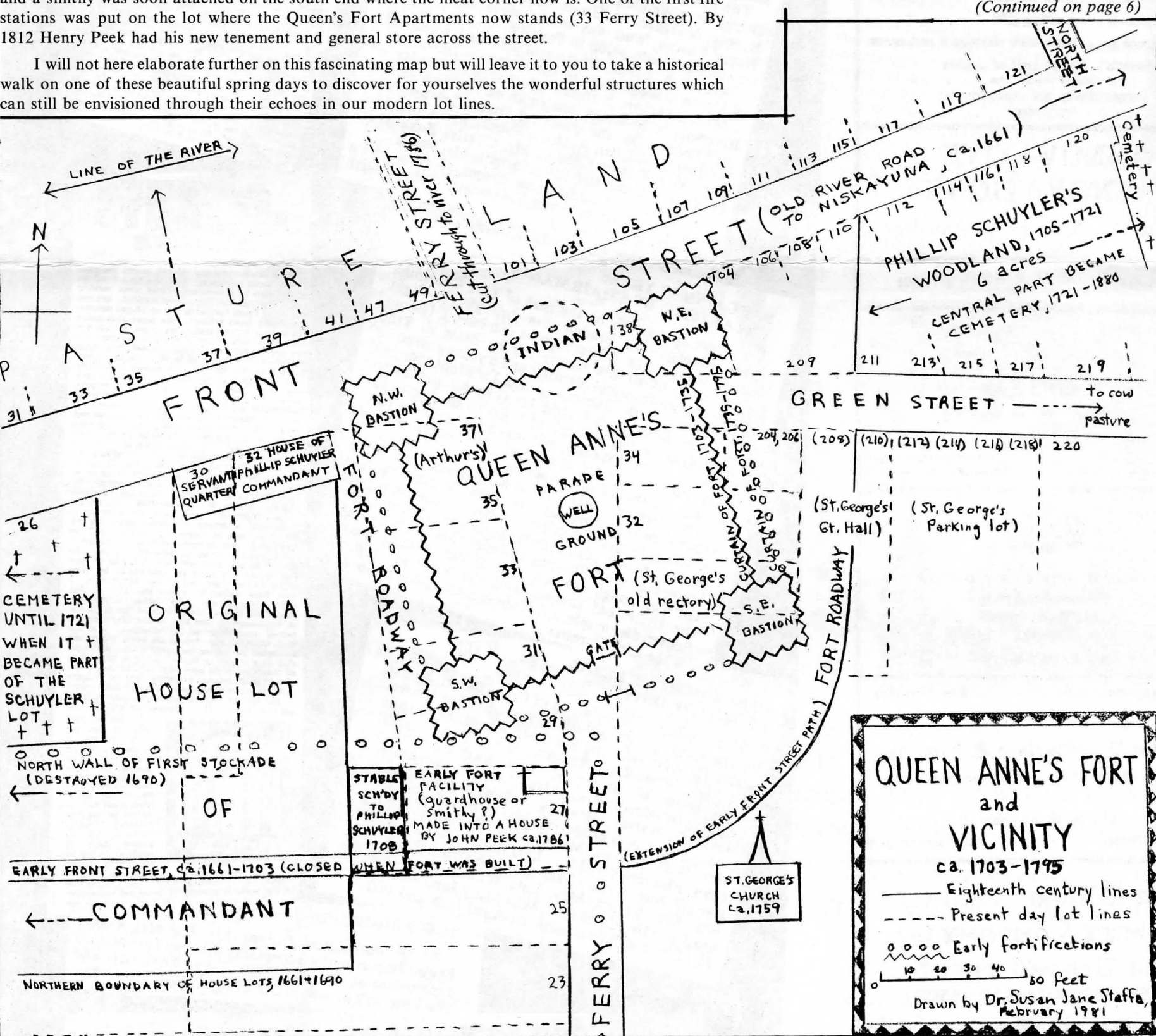
The burden of proof of "no harm" is on Wilmorite Corporation. Our role is to ask questions. It is to ask for proof of "no harm" to our drinking water, to our economy and to the land owners along Campbell Road.

Will the parking lot runoff cause changes in the quality of water in the aquifer in two years, in three, in one hundred years?

If Wilmorite chooses to fill part of the wetland, so the mall is above flood levels, will the extra accumulation of water on the remaining wetlands cause the sink holes to enlarge and take in water too rapidly to the aquifer? Or, will the extra water flood the pumping stations? Will the people living and working along Campbell Road be flooded?

If Wilmorite Corp. decides to pump stream and ground water into the Mohawk River when

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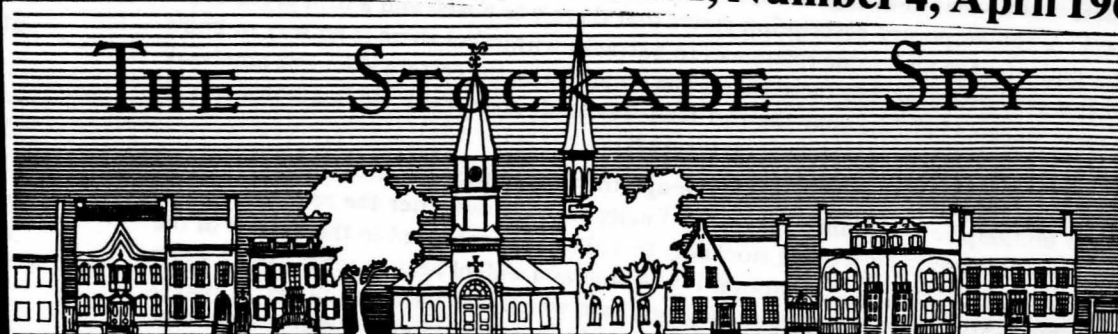
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From the Stockade Spy, Volume I, Number 4, April 1961



RIVERSIDE SCHOOL CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

On April 26 at 8 P.M. the 40th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the Riverside School will be held.

All "friends of Riverside" are invited to attend the gala evening and share the fun and food. Many of the first pupils and teachers at the school will be present to talk over the old days and note the changes 40 years can make.

The Riverside School was designed by R.L. Bowen and Thomas Hanrahan was the contractor. The first principal of the school was James Baird. Others were Wendell Andrews, James Gosch, Robert Boenig, Margaret McGrane, R.D. Zimmer, and Dr. Harry Linton, who was at the same time director of secondary education in the city.

William K. Flynn, the present principal, a graduate of Union College came to the school in 1957.

Miss Marion Hannay of the first faculty of Riverside is honorary chairman of the Anniversary celebration. On the planning committee are Mrs. William Quinn, Mr. Anthony Pacelli, Mrs. Constance Sitz, Mrs. Robert George, Mr. Charles Zukauskas, Mrs. Alice Duell and the principal, Mr. Flynn.

A special commemorative design, to be used on programmes and souvenirs, has been created by fourth grader Tressa Gilliland.

BARGAINS IN TREES UNEARTHED BY CHAIRMAN

Further spadework on the part of Tree Chairman Mrs. George D. Braden has brought to light encouraging news. Any stockader can have a 10-foot tree in front of his house for as little as \$15, including professional planting and a years guarantee of proper growth. Excavation of a 3 x 3 foot hole in a concrete sidewalk will add between \$3 and \$3.50, depending on the number of holes to be dug in the area. A mass response will make for a lower rate. Residents who have brick and slate walks will, of course, be spared this expense.

The nursery offering this bargain tree price is willing to provide other varieties in the same price range. Leading nurserymen in and about Schenectady agree that the following varieties should all do well: the male ginkgo, a new type of locust, the pin-oak, the little-leaf linden, and the Norway, red, or Schwerdler maple. All of these meet with the approval of the City Forester.

CANCER GROUP PLANS STOCKADE DRIVE

Mrs. William Kunkelmann of Green Street, leader of the local group has announced that the Cancer Drive Canvassers in the Stockade will be: Mrs. John W. Eddy, Mrs. Remi Roberts, Mrs. Ferris Copper, Mrs. James M. Sherwood, Mrs. Karl Koss, Mrs. Stanley Mlodzianowski, Mrs. John M. Bradbury, Mrs. F.E. Harvey, Mrs. J.V. Gilliland, Mrs. Robert George, Mrs. Ava Broderick, Mrs. Brownlee Kjolseth, Mrs. W.D. Weeks, Mrs. Edwin Weinheimer, Mrs. John Floriewicz, Mrs. Earl Farry, Mrs. Robert Rappale, Mrs. Shirley Fahey, Miss Katrina Van Vorst, Miss Gail Lynch, Mrs. Lula Whitmyer, Miss Ann Braden, Miss Carol Sitz, Miss Mary Jane Van Voast. The Drive will be conducted April 18th and 19th.

NEW NEIGHBORS

At 58 Washington Avenue, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boggs. Bob is in the advertising and sales promotion department at General Electric, and both Bob and Mary are well known to Civic Playhouse aficionados.

NOTICE
SPECIAL MEETING
STOCKADE ASSOCIATION
HISTORIC ZONING
Wednesday May 17 8 p. m.
108 Union Street

FLAG COMMITTEE UNFURLED
Chairman of the Stockade Association Flag Committee Mr. Ernest A. R. Cohen has revealed that his co-workers are Mrs. Santino F. Lando, Roger Gerald Perkins, Mr. John Mauriel and Dr. Robert Kamboor. Letters are being sent out to all owners of plaqued homes inviting them to display flags appropriate to the building date of their houses, as outlined in the March SPY. The committee has arranged to make flags ranging in price from \$4.98 to \$7.98, and hopes to inaugurate their display on July 27, when the Tercentenary of the signing of Kent Van Curler's pact with the Indians will be celebrated.

STOCKADERS ENHANCE CIVIC BALLET
Front Street artists George Weinheimer and Robert Kubiak are helping insure that the April 22 performances of the Schenectady Civic Ballet at Linton High School will delight the eye. Bob has designed the sets for "Harlequinade", with choreography by Miss Phyllis Marzain of Washington Avenue. George has evolved both decor and costumes for "Folk Suite", and the County Stockade talent has been provided by Miss Irene Marsel in the form of costumes for "I Watched Myself Grow Up". There will be two performances, one at 2:30 and one at 8:30 P.M.



"COPS AND ROBBERS"
When Clinton dug his "Ditch" across the State things began to happen. With the Erie Canal the things came to Schenectady, first those harbingerers of Spring, the "Long Eared Robins", and second, "The Greek Revival". Many of you remember the "Long Eared Robins", the mules that haul the barges on the Canal. Yes, when you saw the Spring was here. Many of you also remember when the Greek Temple at 108 Union Street, that almost "Paestum" in wood and brick, was the County Court House and Jail. I do because I lived across the street at One Eleven. There are probably three reasons why, as a child, I remember so well. In retrospect I really don't know how to classify their importance. Just because it was a hot summer's day and all the windows were open, it was annoying to have my parents receive a call asking that the children be quiet. "Courts is in session!" It was exciting to watch the horse-drawn "paddy-wagon" pull up with a new criminal. This was TV, a live show! It was fun to have ice cream with the jailor's daughter and the inmates of the Jail. Most assuredly the rumble of roller skates on flagstone sidewalk and the screams of laughter from kids playing "Cops and Robbers" must have been annoying to Judges and Attorneys who were playing the game for real. And, of course, in a child's life ice cream is a treat no matter when or where, but it was a special treat to have it with the "Be Men". It was thoughtful of the County to serve the inmates this treat so appreciated by those picked up the night before for misconduct. I must have helped to quench the fire of last night's debauchery. The Jailor was also most thoughtful in the disposition of the cells down in the basement, now lost to eternity since the recent remodeling of the building. I am told that, when two gay "young men about town" were impounded for having too good a time one night they were placed in the cells facing Union Street so that they could wave and talk to their "Paestum Plumed" friends as they walked by. Needless to say, there were problems, like the Jail Break! The culprit, dashing across the street, jumped the then wooden gate between 109 and 111 and



the not so agile cops in hot pursuit. Plants in hedges suffered that night but the essence was apprehended. Then there was the night when my sister and I were drawn to the window by the drum shouting "Police Police!" as I jumped from the paddy-wagon and ran up Union Street. Such was the Greek Temple. May it stand as a symbol of justice down in the past. Next month "A Barce and Lotteries" Giles Y. vanderBogart

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT JOIN OR DIE

Two hundred seven years ago today Benjamin Franklin joined patriots assembled in Albany to discuss Union for the Thirteen Colonies. In terms of distance and background the Colonies were worlds apart. To weave such separate and disparate elements into a seamless fabric seemed beyond reasonable expectation. Yet, Franklin knew the differences between the Colonies were more obvious than profound. His historic plea at the Albany Congress was "Join or Die".

Then on May 9, 1754 Franklin published his famous issue of the Pennsylvania Gazette. The front page depicted a dismembered serpent with each section labeled for one of the Colonies. Again, he warned that the Colonies must join together or each separate part would die.

Appropriately this historic slogan, coined in our locale, was adopted by the Stockade to plead for union of its parts. We too believe that differences within the Stockade are more obvious than profound. The common goal of preservation outweighs any differences. The eight hundred fifty families in the Stockade must join together - or the Stockade will die.

The work of preserving this Area of Schenectady's cultural, historical and architectural heritage must have the united support of ALL Stockade residents. The Association needs YOUR support of these objectives for the Stockade Area:

1. To promote Historic Area Zoning Laws.
2. To encourage protection and restoration of Historic Structures.
3. To improve the aesthetic and physical character of public and private properties.
4. To assist in preserving ancient trees and in planting new trees.
5. To encourage the display of appropriate historical Flags on buildings bearing date plaques.
6. To promote the use of this Historic Area for the education, pleasure and welfare of all the people.

Support these objectives with YOUR membership in the Stockade Association.

Association membership is open to all individuals and organizations living in or owning property in the Stockade Area.

The Stockade Area includes these streets: FRONT STREET from the Binne Kill to railroad. UNION STREET from Washington Avenue to College Street. WASHINGTON AVENUE from State to the Mohawk. CHURCH STREET from Liberty Street to the Mohawk. FERRY STREET from Liberty Street to the Mohawk. GREEN STREET from the Indian to the railroad. NORTH STREET from Front Street to the Mohawk. INGERSOLL AVENUE from Front Street to the Mohawk. COLLEGE STREET from Union Street to Front Street. GOVERNOR'S LANE from Front Street to the Mohawk.

It is commonsense to recognize that all parts of the Stockade Area share a single destiny. The entire Area must be preserved, or all its parts will die. The residents alone determine the fate of this Historic Area. Will YOU support preservation with YOUR membership? Use the form on the front page. **JOIN NOW!**

James D. Schmitt

HISTORIC ZONING EMPOWERED BY NEW YORK STATE LAW

Action by the New York State Legislature has extended the General City Law to grant specific powers for Historic Area Zoning and Architectural Control. Its aim is that of the standard zoning ordinance - to regulate the development of land and the construction of buildings thereon in the interest of the general welfare. According to Schenectady Deputy Corporation Counsel Carl J. Ruskowski it is now a law. . . "having real teeth - a monumental document that will provide precise control for historical areas". It makes possible "Special regulations for protection, enhancement, perpetuation or use of places, buildings, structures-of historical or aesthetic interest or value, and includes control of the use or appearance of neighboring private properties".

To explore the importance of this law to the Stockade, Association President James Schmitt has appointed a Historic Zoning Committee. Members are Admiral Willard Kitts, General William Milton, Jr., and George Braden, counsel for the Association. Plans for Historic Zoning in the Stockade area are being drafted.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Stockade Association has been called for Wednesday, May 17, at 8 P.M. It will be held at 108 Union Street, and will spotlight

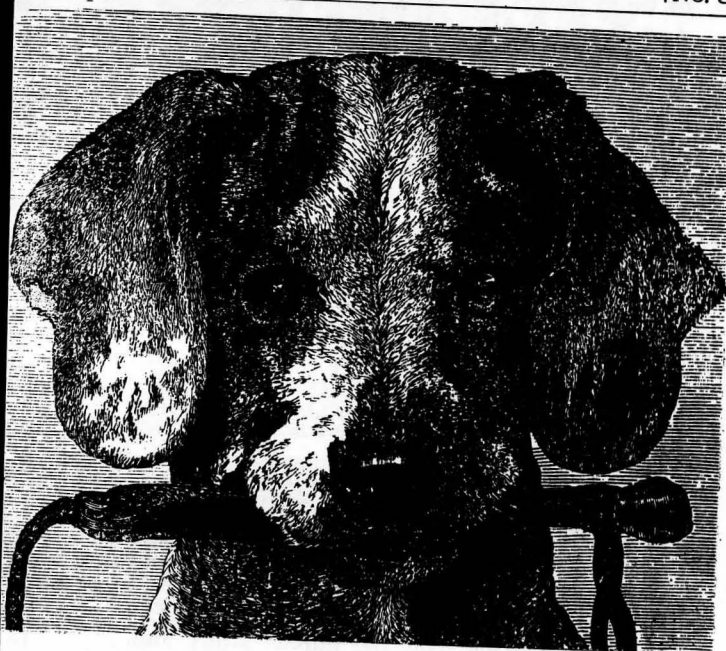
SUMMER IS ICUMEN IN

Now that the ice-floes have receded, and our sidewalks are exposed to the casual eye, we might all give some thought to them. Whether measured by standards of health or standards of aesthetics, they do fall rather short of perfection. Even a daily sweep-up is no solution if the sweepings are piled in the gutters to be blown back by the first passing car. And sweeping of any sort is unfeasible if one has just been visited by one of the large friendly, untrammelled neighborhood dogs. If the Stockade is to provide a pleasant summer setting we must all look to our animals and ply our brooms and hoses.

Vol. X.]

OCTOBER 5, 1879.

[No. 3]



**The MEMORIAL DAY
PICNIC will be on Sat-
urday May 23 with a rain
date of Sunday May 24.**

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TIDINGS - Susan L. Clarke

Professor and Mrs. Gilbert Harlow, 17 Front Street, are grandparents for the second time. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Koral of Pattersonville are the parents of a daughter, Shelley Lynn, born on March 23.

Susan and Sally Harlow, 17 Front Street, have returned from State Teacher's College, Plattsburgh for the Easter holidays.

Susan, 19 North Ferry Street, spent the Easter holidays in Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Musney, who have spent the winter at 34 North Ferry Street will return to their home in Charlton April 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Macdonald from Loch Lomond, Scotland and Mrs. George Riskey and sons with Mrs. Walter Riskey, of Gatham, Mass., spent Easter with Mrs. Pitkin Jerome, 13 Front Street.

Mrs. Pitkin Jerome of New York City spent Easter with Mrs. Rice McKnight, 15 Washington Avenue. In June Mrs. Jerome will occupy an apartment at 22 Washington Avenue.

Geoffrey Ball, 13 Front Street, has as his guest John Bagg, a classmate at Bard College.

THE STOCKADE SPY
PUBLISHED BY THE STOCKADE ASSOCIATION

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DOROTHY S. LANGDON Secretary
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THE PAST - SHADOW AND SUBSTANCE

A footnote on life in the Stockade is brought to mind by a note from Mrs. William Quinn telling us that "Reliable reports say that Kenneth Clarke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Clarke of 4 North St., was the first pupil to enroll in Riverside School. Other members of the Clarke family have been Riverside students, including Constance Clarke Sitty, a member of the Anniversary Planning Committee, and her son Kenneth, who is presently a fourth grader." Continuity of this sort is always gratifying to patriotic Americans. It is pleasant to be reminded that, however restless and young we may seem to the Old World, we too have roots and a history.

In our segment of Old Schenectady proofs of this are everywhere before our eyes. Bearers of names familiar to us from the historic plaques and markers, names like Yates and Vrooman, are still among us. Here in the Stockade, in the houses we own, the people we greet, the streets we walk, we share the living past.

JOIN OR DIE

INGERSOLL
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STOCKADE FRIENDS RESPONSIVE

According to Mrs. J. Warren Joyce, chairman of the newly formed Friends of the Stockade Association, a primary mailing of a letter of invitation enclosing a copy of the SPY has produced more than 20 members within a two-week period. What is especially heartening is that most of the enthusiastic replies have come from as far away as California and Virginia.

TIDINGS

Mrs. Teddy Kitts of 142 Front St. has returned from a trip to New Mexico and Oklahoma to visit her two sons.

Dr. and Mrs. Leon Gilner of 140 Front St. have moved to Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Charlie Lyddane is getting married to Morley Johnson is May.

Ann and Bob George of 7 Front St. visited daughter Jennifer in Arizona in February.

Mrs. Mary Dalton of 140 Front St. has returned from a trip to Florida.

Sarah Michner of Union St. did hair style for Symphony Fashion Show.

Dr. Erich L. Feibes died recently at the age of 90. He was a general practitioner in Schenectady for 29 years and the father of Werner F. Feibes.

Ellie Strack has returned from a trip to Spain.

Dorothy and Neff Dietrich have returned from Majorca.

Della Weinheimer joins the Metropolitan Opera Ballet in August.

David Mahoney Hardware downtown closed April 20. How we will miss them. Their store on Brandywine continues in business as usual.

The City Department of Parks & Recreation has informed us that the Christmas tree at the base of the Indian should be removed soon.

We hope that the flowers in the "smallest park in Schenectady" will be as attractive as last year.

Betty Lane

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the flapper valves close, thus preventing the flooding over the wetlands, will the deprivation of flood waters adversely affect the wetlands? And, how will the aquifer be affected?

The aquifer is the most important resource that Rotterdam and Schenectady has. The lifespan of a mall is about 15 to 20 years before it starts to deteriorate. Changes in the aquifer would be forever.

Send your questions to:

1. Mayor Frank Duci and Councilmen or an individual Councilman if you prefer. The address is City Hall, Schenectady, NY 12305.

2. The Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 4, Guilderland Ave., Schenectady, NY 12306.

The time to write a letter to the Department of Conservation is after the department announces, in the newspaper, that the Environmental Impact Study is available for public review. There will be 30 days after the announcement for looking over the impact study and sending questions to the Department of Conservation.

If written comments raise significant issues the Department of Conservation, by law, must schedule a public hearing. After the hearing, letters sent within a specified amount of time will become part of the legal record. Wilmorite Corporation is then obligated to explore issues that have not been satisfactorily addressed.

Mary E. van der Bogert

Continued from page 1)

favorite for growing in the sun. It compares favorably with the ubiquitous petunia which gives a big splash of color but is damaged by heavy rainfall and usually becomes unsightly by

September while the begonias are still going on at peak bloom.

In the last several years some of the better displays have been the hanging baskets and tubs of impatiens grown on the shady side of Front Street. Impatiens or one of the many other names for this valuable ornamental, is perhaps the most forgiving of plants. It adapts to sun or shade. It requires little attention. Hybridists have been working diligently with impatiens, increasing the size of the flowers and improving the color range dramatically. They propagate readily from cuttings or seeds and fill a container with bloom very rapidly. Varieties Grande and Grand Prix are among the newest and best.

To exact the maximum quantity of bloom from a window box they can be planted with vines or hanging plants that will bloom below the level of the box while at the same time one can grow upright plants, such as geraniums behind them. Speaking of geraniums there is a trend to plant small plants before they come into bloom rather than the traditional plants in large pots. One reason is obvious, they cost less. The other reason is that they are likely to perform better. The smaller plants are grown from seed and are not subject to the stem diseases of some cutting grown material which has plagued geraniums. In addition the seedlings are F1 hybrids and have more vigor than plants grown from cuttings. All plants do better when they have an opportunity to establish their roots before coming into bloom and this is particularly true of geraniums.

Fuchsias are among the more popular hanging basket plants. They grow well in full sunshine or partial shade. Two pests need to be reckoned with in growing fuchsias. White flies, the same insect that loves tomatoes, lantana and many other plants, can really give fuchsias a hard time. Dipping the entire plant in soapy water will help but a new material with the catchy name of SBP 1382 or resmethrin is the only effective remedy. This material is relatively non-toxic to humans and animals and it kills white fly in all its stages.

The second fuchsia problem is red spider. These tiny pests are nearly invisible to the naked eye but can devastate a plant in short order. Kelthane is an effective spray.

For the shady side of the street tuberous begonias will succeed if there is sufficient reflected light. They are big show offs and the bright colors will put most other plants to shame. They cannot stand the hot sun from noon to perhaps four in the afternoon.

Pansies are a popular early decoration but they will need to be replaced by midsummer.

Whatever ones plant needs he should consider a cold frame or perhaps lights in the basement to start plants from seeds or cuttings. Greenhouses are both labor intensive and energy intensive and commercial greenhouses are likely to disappear from the frozen north before long. Starting your own plants gives you an opportunity to buy the varieties you like and to enjoy the seed catalogs which extend the season by their arrival in January. A jury built cold frame is easy to set up and to keep warm enough for the plants to survive if you wait until the first of April to put it in operation. Most plants do better at the cooler temperatures than at house conditions. An old storm window or some flexible plastic is all you need for a start. Good luck in the new season.

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