

HVVA Marbletown Study Tour, Saturday, August 20, 2016

Adam Yeaple Cabin (1771) Mohonk Mountain House Alex Sherwood, Director of Hotel Operations

This dwelling was built of notched chestnut and oak logs in 1771 by Adam Yeaple (also spelled Yeapple and Yaple) for his bride Arriantje Hendrickson. Adam served in the war as a member of the Third or Western Regiment of Ulster County.

At one time, the cabin was occupied by three families, one on each level—basement, ground and attic. The adjacent fields were fertile farmland, and Mossy Brook was a reliable source of water. The cabin was one of a group of homes that formed a small community known as Yeapletown.

Outings to the cabin were a popular entertainment for Mohonk Mountain House guests in the early part of the twentieth century. They included children's picnics, "beefsteak party" cookouts, and rustic teas. An excerpt from the July 29, 1916, Lake Mohonk Weekly Bulletin, gives the following description:

"The old log cabin, the sole surviving reminder of the one-time thriving settlement of Yeapletown, dating back to the days of primitive construction with few nails and those hand-forged, was the objective point of the twenty-five walkers last Sunday afternoon. Afternoon tea carried along for the occasion and brewed within the historic walls over the original open hearth used by the Yeapleites, was a feature of the occasion."

We know of one wedding which took place in the cabin in 1925 between Wasson and Mae Steen, who are buried in the cemetery to the southwest of the house. During the latter half of the twentieth century, winter picnics were held here, and camping was allowed in the summer.

Other notable events include the cabin's appearance in a 1977 bicentennial celebration movie.

The Yeaple cabin became part of Mohonk property in 1885.

George Gross House (1797)
Old King's Highway, Stone Ridge
Kathy Schultz owner

The house was built by George Gross in 1797 on the Old Kings Highway, then one of the most prominent roads in the area. The house is German in style, with Gross having come from Pennsylvania, and stands two full stories tall (with a full attic) with many large-sized doors and windows. Gross was a blacksmith and seems to have been a wealthy man; the inventory of assets in his estate included numerous mortgage and other notes issued in connection with loans to various neighbors.

Gross was originally from Perkiomen, Pennsylvania. He was a cousin of the local Van Wagonen family and most likely came to Marbletown with their encouragement. The Van Wagonens had extensive holdings of mills and farms in both New York and Pennsylvania which included the nearby Rest Plaus mill and large farms in Kyserike at the corner of Lucas Turnpike and Kyserike Road. Gross died in 1820 and is buried in the Benton Bar Cemetery on Lucas Turnpike in Stone Ridge.

Between 1820 and the 1980s, the house was owned primarily by one family with the name Stokes. The Stokes family farmed the land but were not wealthy and the property deteriorated, with barns sold off and the house poorly maintained. According to Bill Davenport of Stone Ridge, the Stokes were the last people to travel to the Davenport feed store in a horse-drawn buggy. Local lore includes the story that the Stokes agreed to have electricity installed in the house but, when they realized there would be a monthly bill, insisted on having it removed. Over time, the Stokes family died out and left no known survivors. The house was left in disrepair and empty for many years.

In the late 1980s the house was bought for speculative purposes. Some work was done including the addition of a large two-story frame addition to the rear of the house. Without adequate funds and on the verge of foreclosure, the house was sold to a family named Stone. The Stone family finished the addition and renovated the stone house, almost entirely rebuilding the north wall and taking great care to ensure authenticity. The mantle in the living room is modeled on one in the Dupuy Canal House and the color of the trim in the living room can be seen at the Ulster County Historical Museum. The attic retains a very old roof, beneath a modern one, and the basement includes a center support made entirely of stone. An improvement made during this period was an excavated and poured concrete floor in the basement. Previously a stream had run through the basement, presumably for easy access to water during winter months.

The house was bought by Kathy Schulz in 1998. Since that time, an entrance was added to the north side of the addition including a stone base and portico modeled on those found in 18th century houses in the town of Stone Ridge, but no major renovations have occurred. In 2014, a pool was added to the area where previously two old barns had stood. The stone foundations were saved and retaining walls built from them to honor the history of the location and create a garden bed. In the course of this project, a number of metal items were found including a blacksmith's tongs from the 18th century.

--Ken Krabbenhoft

Captain John Hasbrouck House (c. 1775)
49 Old Kings Highway
Sarah Buckley and Paul Mullen, owners

We believe that our house was built about 1775 by John and Maria Hasbrouck. John was the son of Isaac Hasbrouck, who was the first of the Hasbrouck family to settle in and around Stone Ridge. John was a Captain in the Revolutionary army. Below is a passage that we found from LeFevre's *History of New Paltz, New York, and Its Old Families*:

“John, son of Isaac, the first Hasbrouck at Stone Ridge, married Mary, daughter of Jacob A. Hasbrouck of Kyserike, who was the son of Joseph Hasbrouck of Guilford. John located about one mile south of Stone Ridge at what was called Rest place and here he built a stone house. In the Revolutionary War, he served as a captain in the Third Ulster County Militia, which John Cantine was colonel. From one of the family, Mrs James Oliver Hasbrouck, residing in extreme old age at Washington DC come the following account of the services of Capt. John Hasbrouck and his family in the Revolutionary War:

Capt. John inherited a homestead from his father, which was located in the county of Ulster, town of Marbletown. On it he built a stone house. When the war broke out he went himself and gave everything except his homestead for freedom's cause. On this homestead or farm he left his wife and four children, and she, taking up the burden of both man and wife, worked the land, which was in a splendid state of cultivation. Finally the Indians and Tories, who were all around them, became so troublesome and dangerous that it was necessary to have a fort for the safety of the families. So Capt. John's wife offered her house, which was turned into a fort. It was guarded day and night by the soldiers—even men who worked in the fields had to have a guard with them or they would be shot while at work. At this fort the people were cared for and given a place where they could sleep in safety, and besides, the table was always on the floor for those that were hungry. The homestead was handed down from generation to generation until it came to Gross Hasbrouck, grandson of Capt. John.” (pp. 404-405)

Captain John (1750-1789) died fairly early, and the house was then known as “The Widow Hasbrouck” house. We have heard that, along with running the operations of the farm, Mary (1752-1824) also owned and operated a mill in High Falls.

Gross (1817-1880) and Sara Anne Hasbrouck (1821-1869) were the last of the family line to own the property. They had 8 children, but for some reason none of the children took over the farm. Perhaps it was because 6 of the children were female, and 1 male child died at an early age leaving just one male heir.

The property changed hands a number of times and was purchased by Gene and Rose Gorton in the 1930's. There was a fire in the early 1950s that burned off the roof and lead to a major renovation. The Gortons operated a dairy farm and then a cattle operation. They also produced some row crops along with extensive hay production. We have heard that Gene Gorton used a team of horses to plow the fields up until the 1970s. They passed away in the mid-1980s. After that time the house and barns fell into severe disrepair. We purchased the house in 2007 and took on the task of the renovation. The kitchen addition was added in 2010.

--Sarah Buckley and Paul Mullen