

newsletter

P.O. BOX 523, ARDSLEY, NY 10502 ARDSLEYHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG VOLUME 26, NO. 2 SPR/SUM 2011

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Random Glimpses from, *A Short Informal History of Ardsley, N.Y.*

THIS CENTENNIAL EDITION IS DEDICATED WITH LOVE TO RALPH D. KING

The following article is a reprint from, "A History of Ardsley," Volume III, written by school principal, Arthur W. Silliman. Mr. Ralph D. King was the grandson of Captain John King who owned the King Pickle Works in Ardsley.

In recognition of his time, travel, encouragement and support of these centennial glimpses of the History of Ardsley, and through him to acknowledge the many civic contributions of the King family to the village of Ashford, which became "Ardsley" in 1883, this Centennial edition is dedicated to Ralph D. King.

Ralph's father was the last operator of the King Pickle Works founded by his grandfather, Capt. John King. When Ralph learned that the Editor of this History was seeking information about the pickle industry in Ashford, "Bus," as he was affectionately called, at once offered to fly to Ardsley from Rochester where he was now living, and in spite of advancing years made two extended visits to Ardsley, sharing his extensive knowledge of Ardsley at the turn of the century and contributing several articles. He was especially interested in the hard cover edition and generously encouraged the project.

By inheritance and intermarriage, the King family became identified with the civic progress of Ashford-Ardsley. To mention but a few, Captain John King gave the land for the Methodist Church, Ralph's uncle, John Peene King, served as the first local judge and was Sunday School Superintendent for many years. Ralph's mother played the organ at Church. His uncle, Capt. George W. King, was a Civil War veteran and lived near our Little Red School House.

The late Dr. Harold A. Storms, beloved country doctor whose practice extended into Ardsley, was

a great grandson of Captain John King. Also of this generation is Margaret King Travis Lane whose local historical research has been invaluable.

Asked for a personal word, Mr. King wrote,

I am now ninety years old and unable to do the things that should be done. Fortunately, I have my nephew Karl R. King and his wife, Margaret Campbell King, and good friend, Cora Breeze Lee, that have been helping me since I was eighty-eight years old and I want to express a heartfelt thank you to them.

Sincerely,

Ralph D. King



Ralph "Bus" King

Year of Our Lord 1900 • A Visit Around Ardsley Square

By RALPH "BUS" KING, BORN 1885

Once I lived in Ardsley
I think it was ninety-five.
Moved away in nineteen four
Other places to abide.

In nineteen-three, we made
A tour around the town,
And in verses that follow
We will write it down.

There was a good old doctor (45)
Dr. Johnson was his name.
Who gave us pretty, pinkish pills
To keep us out of pain.

Next door was a butcher shop (46)
William Lawrence was at its head.
He sold fine meats and other things
To eat along with bread.

Next door was Wesley Brown (48)
Who ran a grocery store.
Us kids, we bought our candy there
And returned to get some more.

Now we come to Stephen Dole's (49)
A beer joint he did run.
Most any day, you could see
A half-of-dozen bums.

Now we cross the Saw Mill
To Peter Lynt's big store. (50)
He sold a lot of groceries
To people by the score.

Next door to Pete's was a shop
By Ell Wilson it was run. (51)
He was a first class blacksmith
And to him the people come.

Now we come to Elm Street (52)
Richen's building on the corner.
Never saw it occupied -
We guess it was a "boner."

Looking down old Elm Street
You could see a brilliant sign.
Quimby and Odell, it read (20)
Coal, feed and grain, their line.

Now we cross the dear old "Put"
And to the depot did go. (2)
Just to look around and see
If anyone we know.

And there, was Frederick Travis
the agent of that time, (16)
Selling tickets for the "Put"
Who chose to use the line.

Now, just across the street
Was Hardy's notion store. (13)
Anything from safety pins
To a mountain on a shore!

Now up the street we went
To Edmund's Livery stable. (15)
Just to see how well they are -
Found everyone was able.

A visit to the barber (12)
Our hair he often clipped
Just a dime for hair cuts -
A nickel for a tip.

A visit with Louis Fontana (6)
Who was handy with a brush.
Painted all those letters
On Wes Brown's new grocery bus.

So back to Ardsley Square.
No stop at Hallahan's. (11)
None of us was thirsty
No need to rush the can.

A visit to the shoe shop (22)
As our shoes were wearing thin.
We hammered on the door
But no one let us in.

Then on to the Ardsley Hotel (41)
The only one in town.
Our stay was short and snappy -
The boss was not around.

So down the road we went
To Delano's Blacksmith Shop (44)
To see old "Bucking Lightning"
As mechanic he was tops.

Then we stopped at G.A. Buck's (56)
to see what there was cooking.
He was a freelance operator
And sometimes got a "rooking."

While at G.A. Buck's
Felt Emory should be noted. (57)
Anything you wanted moved,
He was there to load it.

Then we went to "Tinner Brown's" (55)
Who mended the holes in buckets.
Not too pleasant to us kids -
We called him Mr. Tuffit.

We have visited all tradesmen
Who flourished in olden times.
We turn to personalities
For just a few short lines.

There was Daniel Lawrence (25)
The president of the town

He had a lot of helpers -
In verse we write them down.

There was William I. Odell. (20)
As trustee, he had a seat
Those old time politickers
Were very hard to beat.

There was D.J. Bill,
A trustee in the line.
Helped to build old Ardsley
In that ancient time.

And there was L.D. Quimby
As trustee, he was fine.
His thought was always Ardsley
To keep the town in line.

We find these lines are not enough
To say all we want to say.
So, here, we add John H. Odell
Collector of those days.

And there was Stephen Travis. (64)
As treasurer, he was bound
To pay off all the bills
Directed to the town.

There was Rev. Eli Quick (68)
The head man of the church.
He wrote some Ardsley history -
Left the critics in the lurch.

Must mention William Slocum, (78)
Principal of the school.
Unlike Louis Fontana
He was handy with a rule!

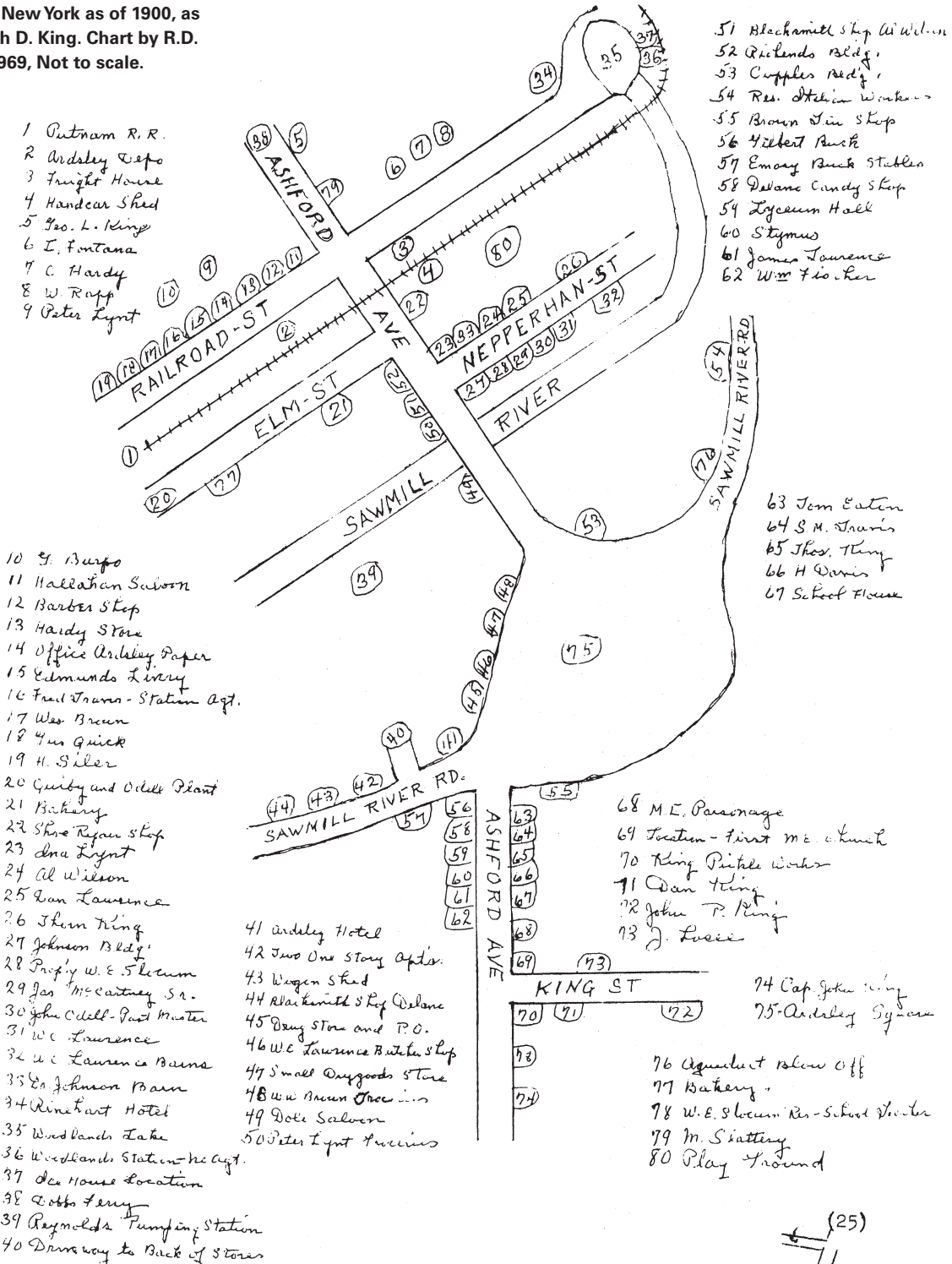
Yes, there was a Leroy King (5)
And a fiddle he did play.
"Everybody Works But Father"
In church one Sunday day.

Now that we have visited
All big-wigs in the town,
We all are very tired
So will lay our pencils down.

It is well past midnight
And those stairs we'll surely seek,
And enter in our bedrooms
And sleep and sleep and sleep!

**Numbers in parentheses refer to,
Map of Ardsley, New York as of 1900.**

Map of Ardsley, New York as of 1900, as recalled by Ralph D. King. Chart by R.D. King, January 1969, Not to scale.



- 1 Outram R.R.
- 2 Ardsley Cops
- 3 Freight House
- 4 Handcar Shed
- 5 Geo. L. King
- 6 L. Fontana
- 7 C. Hardy
- 8 W. Rapp
- 9 Peter Light
- 10 G. Burgo
- 11 Hallahan Saloon
- 12 Barber Shop
- 13 Hardy Store
- 14 Office Ardsley Paper
- 15 Edmunds Livery
- 16 Fred Travis - Station Apt.
- 17 Wes Brown
- 18 Gus Quick
- 19 H. Siler
- 20 Quiby and Odell Plant
- 21 Bakery
- 22 Shoe Repair Shop
- 23 Anna Light
- 24 Al Wilson
- 25 Dan Lawrence
- 26 Thom King
- 27 Johnson Bldg
- 28 Prop'y W. E. Sticum
- 29 Jas McCartney Sr.
- 30 John Odell - Post Master
- 31 W.C. Lawrence
- 32 W.C. Lawrence Barn
- 33 Ed Johnson Barn
- 34 Rinehart Hotel
- 35 Woodlands Lake
- 36 Woodlands Station - the Apt.
- 37 Ice House Location
- 38 Lobb's Ferry
- 39 Reynolds Pumping Station
- 40 Drive way to Back of Stores
- 41 Ardsley Hotel
- 42 Two One Story Apts.
- 43 Wagon Shed
- 44 Blackmill Shop Odell
- 45 Drug Store and P.O.
- 46 W.C. Lawrence Butcher Shop
- 47 Small Outgoods Store
- 48 W.W. Brown Shoe Shop
- 49 Dole Saloon
- 50 Peter Light Precious

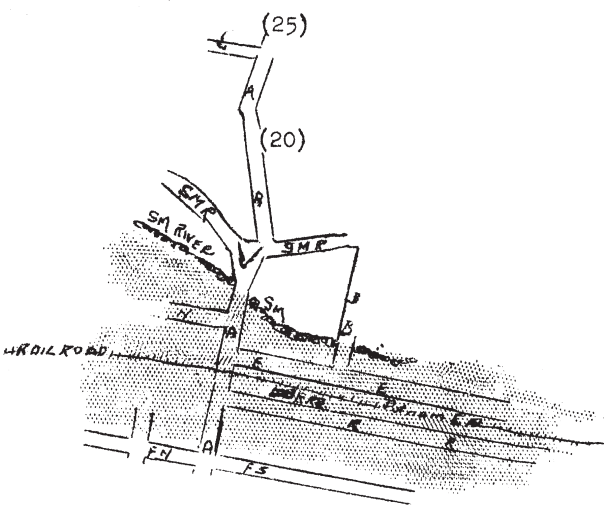
- 51 Blackmill Shop W. Wilson
- 52 Richards Bldg.
- 53 Coppers Bldg.
- 54 Res. Italian Worker
- 55 Brown Tin Shop
- 56 Herbert Bank
- 57 Emory Bank Stables
- 58 Deane Candy Shop
- 59 Lyceum Hall
- 60 Stymus
- 61 James Lawrence
- 62 Wm Fisher

- 63 Tom Eaton
- 64 S.M. Travis
- 65 Thos. King
- 66 H. Davis
- 67 School House

- 68 M.E. Parsonage
- 69 Location - first me. church
- 70 King Patche Works
- 71 Dan King
- 72 John P. King
- 73 J. Luce
- 74 Cap. John King
- 75 Ardsley Synagogue
- 76 Aqueduct below off
- 77 Bakery
- 78 W.E. Sticum Res - School Teacher
- 79 M. Slatery
- 80 Play Ground

ARDSLEY BEFORE THE BRIDGE Although the Ardsley School District extends across the bridge to Irvington Street, the incorporated Village of Ardsley ended at the railroad tracks - in fact, the Ardsley Railroad Station was in the Village of Dobbs Ferry. Shaded portions of this map were obliterated by the Parkway & Thruway; just in case you can't locate some of "Bus" King's poetic locations.

LEGEND		
A - Ashford Avenue	SF - South Field Ave	RRS - Railroad Station
B - Bridge Street	L - Present Legion Drive	SM - Sawmill River
E - Elm Street	N - Nepperhan Street	SMR - Sawmill River Road
NF - North Field Ave	R - Railroad Avenue	V - Village Square





Spotlight Madeline and Vincent Piscitelli

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Piscitelli came to live in Ardsley in August of 1970. They have two sons, Pat and Vincent Jr.. Madeline and Vince were very active in the Village of Ardsley contributing their time and efforts in the Fire Department, Little League, American Legion and Friends of the Ardsley Public Library. Vince served in the Navy during the Korean Conflict. Madeline was a Teacher's Aide in the Ardsley school system, and received the coveted Jenkins Award.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Piscitelli in front of their new home on Heatherdell Road.



Ardsley Kids Want To Know...

The Ardsley Historical Society would like to thank Alex Lalli, age 7, for his question, "Have fossil bones ever been found in Ardsley?"

Yes, Alex, fossil bones have been found in Ardsley! On October 9, 1974, bones belonging to a young Woolly Mammoth were uncovered on Huntley

Drive. This happened while workmen were excavating Mr. and Mrs. Grell's property as they were getting ready to create a driveway and garage.

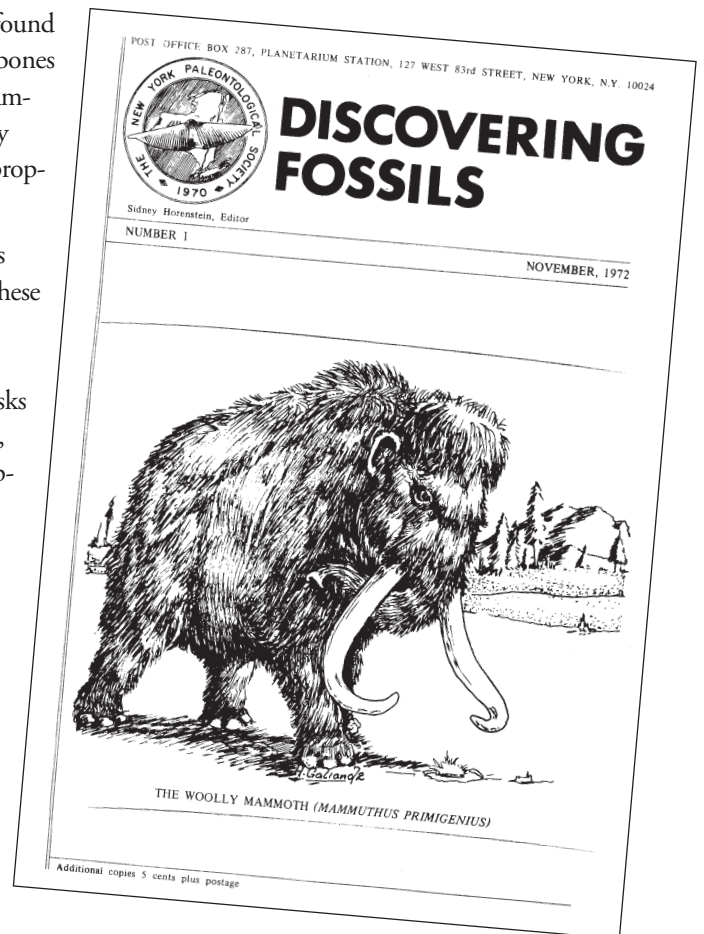
The skeleton was not complete, but enough bones were found to identify it as either an American Mastodon, or most likely a Woolly Mammoth. Both of these creatures roamed this area during the late Ice Age over 10,000 years ago. The mastodon and woolly mammoth were very much alike except that the mastodon was much less hairy than the woolly mammoth, and the mastodon's tusks were not as long or curved as was the woolly mammoth's tusks. In adulthood, both creatures could have reached 9 to 10 feet tall, and could have weighed approximately 3 tons, similarly to their present day relative, the elephant.

It seems that Ardsley's baby woolly mammoth had stopped to eat and then got stuck in the muddy, marsh-like soil that Ardsley had a long time ago. Unfortunately, the young mammoth could not get out and it eventually died. As the years passed by, it was covered by more and more soil and was lost under layers of earth until the workmen discovered it.

Mr. and Mrs. Grell donated the fossil bones to The New York Museum of Natural History in New York. The museum sent a letter to Mrs. Grell thanking her for the contribution and telling her that it gave many students the opportunity to study the history of these mammoths in our area.

Alex, thank you again for your question and interest in Ardsley's history.

If you have a question about Ardsley now or long ago, we would love to hear from you! Send in your questions to the Ardsley Historical Society, either by mail or email, and we'll do our best to answer them.



Woolly Mammoth (MAMMUTHUS PRIMIGENIUS) Courtesy of The New York Paleontological Society 1970, *Discovering Fossils*, Number 1, November 1972

THE HERALD STATESMAN

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YONKERS, N.Y., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1974

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Not just a bunch of bones

By PAMELA MARKHAM
Staff Writer

ARDSLEY—

Workmen excavating in an Ardsley backyard Wednesday dropped a back hoe into a nine-foot pit and came up with several bones belonging to an Ice Age ancestor of the modern elephant.

The address of the discovery was 127 Huntley Drive, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Grell.

After inspecting the bones, Donald Bruning, associate curator of the Bronx Zoo, said they were "definitely" those of either a mastodon or a mammoth, hairy and huge animals who prowled the Northeast during the late Ice Age, or 10,000 years ago.

BY THE shape of a tooth discovered yesterday, Bruning believed that the animal was probably a Columbian mammoth, though mastodons were more common in this area. Both are members of the elephant family. He also raised the possibility that the bones belonged to two animals.

They will be taken today to the Museum of Natural History in New York, where carbon dating tests and laboratory

See page 12 — No. 2



— Staff Photo by Ed Ledes

Workmen uncover prehistoric bones at dig site

Not just a bunch of bones

2 From page one

studies will be performed to determine the animal's identity, Bruning said.

The bones were discovered around noon by Dobbs Ferry contractor Carl Montaruli and his workmen. Montaruli is building an addition to the Grells' house.

"They thought it was a tree stump at first," said Mrs. Grell. "I thought it might be a horse or something."

A SPOKESMAN at the Museum of Natural History said although such discoveries often prove to be the remains of "a recent cow," several mastodons have been found in the lower Hudson region.

Asked her reaction to the discovery, Mrs. Grell said, "to me they're just a bunch of bones." She also expressed hope that the workmen "finish up the backyard soon."

But later, Mrs. Grell admitted that the discovery had been exciting for the Grells and their five children, as well as many neighbors and a horde of school children who wandered in and out of the yard during the day.

"It was like Fifth Avenue here," she said. "I'm sorry they couldn't find the skeleton intact."

Pamela Markham, "Not just a bunch of bones,"
The Herald Statesman, October 10, 1974

THE HERALD STATESMAN, OCTOBER 17, 1974 23

Ardsley mammoth identified

ARDSLEY—

Experts at the Museum of Natural History in New York have identified prehistoric bones found in an Ardsley backyard as belonging to a young Columbian mammoth.

The bones were discovered Oct. 9 by workmen excavating at 127 Huntley Drive, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Grell. Paleontologists from the museum's laboratory were to visit the site today to see if there are any more bones in the nine foot pit where the mammoth's remains were found.

A museum spokesman said the bones were from 10,000 to 15,000 years old. Columbian mammoths, and their cousins, the mastodons, were huge, hairy animals which roamed northeastern America during the late Ice Age.

The spokesman said the mammoth was "a much rarer animal." Less than half a dozen mammoths have been discovered, compared to more than 200 discoveries of mastodon bones throughout New York.

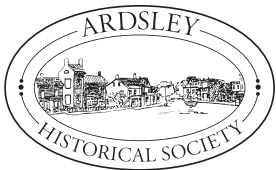
"Ardsley mammoth identified,"
The Herald Statesman, October 17, 1974

Sharing Memories

The Ardsley Historical Society wants members to share their memories of past years. So please send us your memories of Ardsley. They can be found in a moment of time in your childhood or youth, young adulthood, or as an adult. They could be times before, during and after WWII. They could be memories before, during or after the construction of the New York State Thruway. It could simply be a picture of you as a baby somewhere in Ardsley and notes of what was happening at the time. Please just use your imagination and then share with us. We will then, with your permission, print these memories in upcoming newsletters. When you are ready, mail the memory and information to us at P.O. Box 523, Ardsley, NY 10502. If you have any questions, please call us at 693-6027. Thank you!

The Ardsley Historical Society Newsletter is published three times each year. The Society was established in 1982 and is chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, and disseminate the history of Ardsley to members and to the public. Archives are open to the public on Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 noon, or by appointment, at the Ardsley Public Library, 9 American Legion Drive. Our phone number is 693-6027.

Subscription to the Newsletter is included in membership dues. All articles, queries, and replies should be addressed to the editor, Mary Lichtenberg. Although every attempt is made to maintain historical accuracy in the Newsletter, the editor and the Society assume no responsibility for errors. The editor also reserves the right to edit where necessary.



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