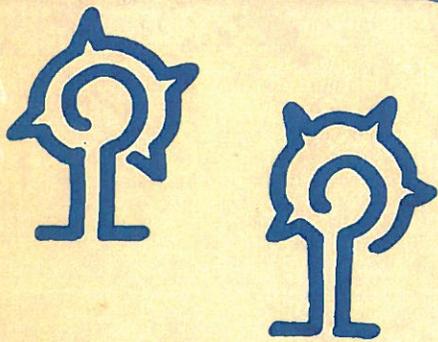
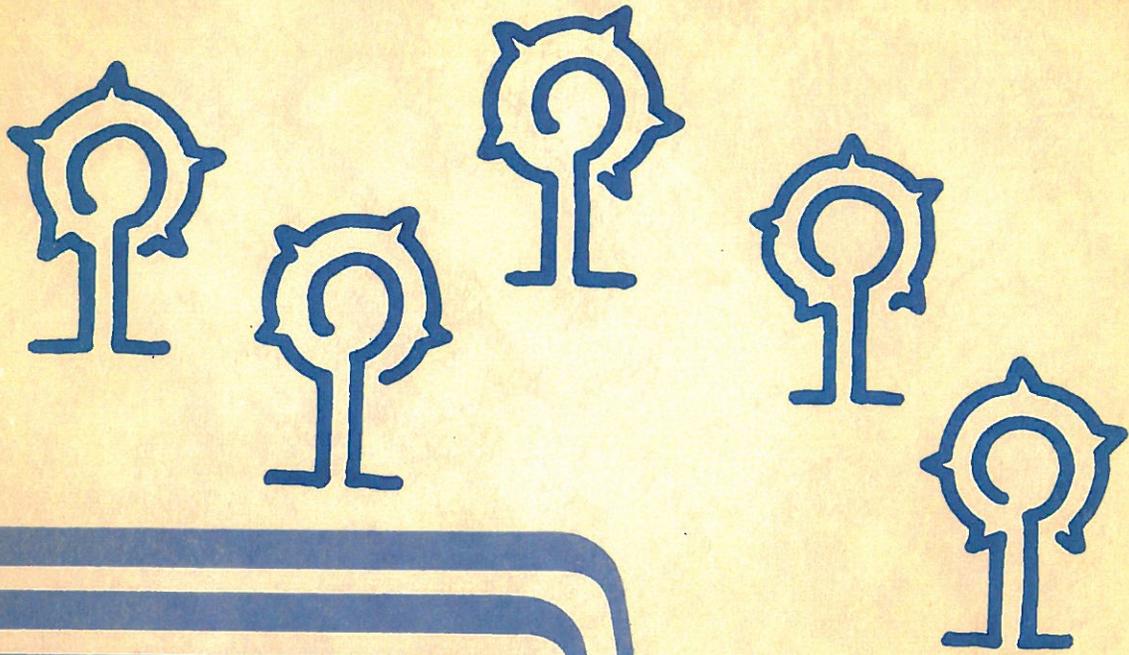
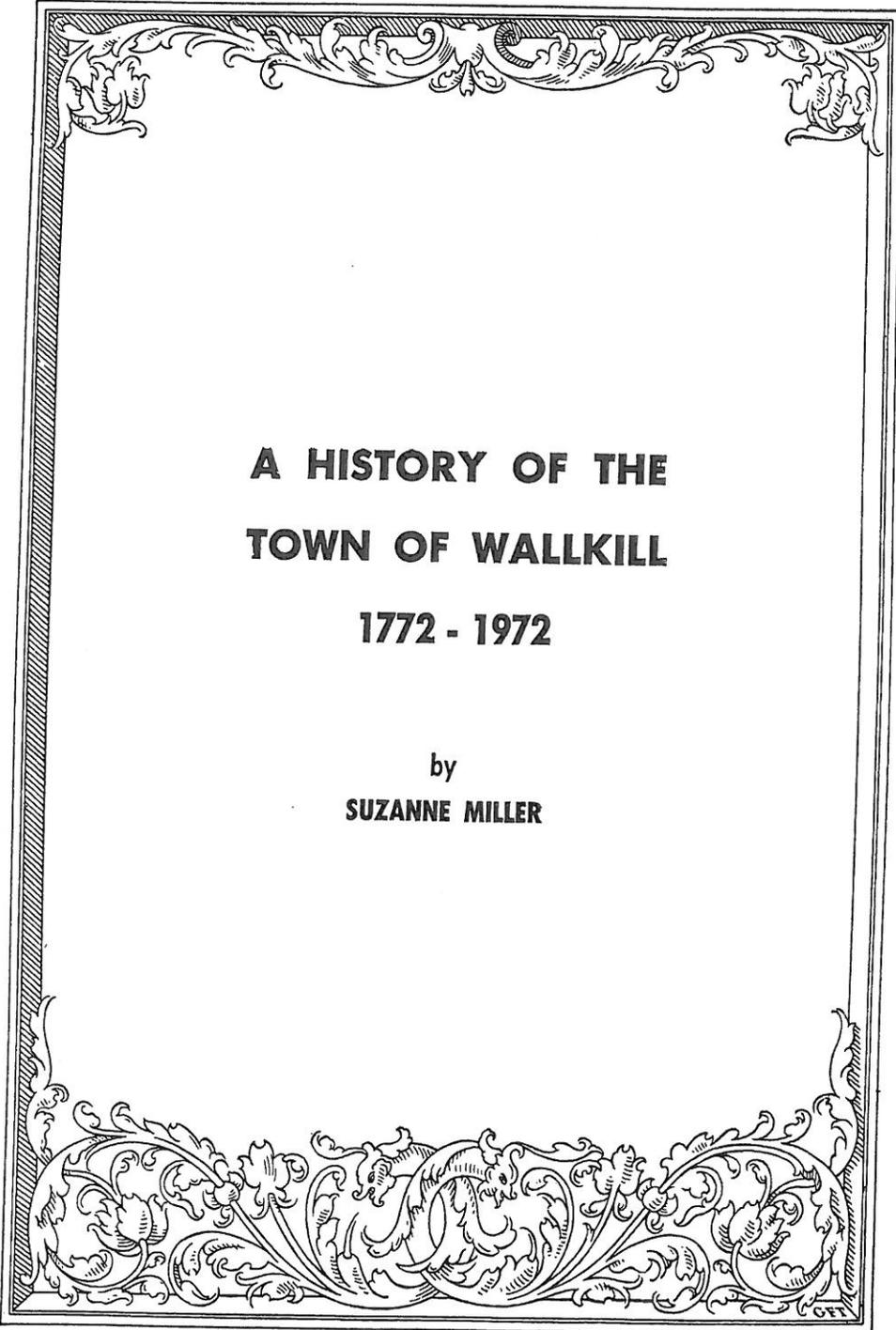


**BICENTENNIAL 1772 · 1972**



**TOWN OF WALLKILL, NEW YORK**



**A HISTORY OF THE  
TOWN OF WALLKILL**

**1772 - 1972**

by  
**SUZANNE MILLER**

P R O C L A M A T I O N

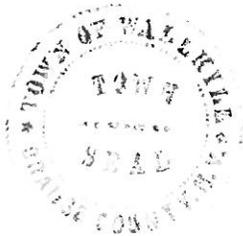
WHEREAS, The Township of Wallkill, one of the nation's great communities, proclaims the celebration of its 200th Anniversary during 1972 and

WHEREAS, The Township of Wallkill is a true example of the ideal American community, creating success in its endeavors through integrity, enterprise and the ability to adjust readily to the changing needs of the people,

BE IT RESOLVED the Town Board of the Township of Wallkill on behalf of its residents officially sanctions a Bi-Centennial Celebration during the month of August and particularly on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday ending the week of August 27th.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Township of Wallkill from this day forth does decree that all male adult residents of this Township are not permitted to shave unless authorized by the purchasing of a special permit available from the Town Clerk for the sum of one dollar. Those residents in violation of the aforesaid resolution shall be fined the sum of two dollars and punished by four hours in the stocks at the Village Green.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOUIS HEIMBACH, Supervisor of the Township of Wallkill, do hereby commend the Centennial Committee for its dedication to the Town it serves for originating a Celebration and on behalf of the residents of the Township of Wallkill proclaim the month of August within the Township as Bi-Centennial month honoring the achievement of "Fullfillment thru Planning".



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the Township of Wallkill, this twenty-fifth day of the month of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-two, and in the Independence of the United States the one hundred and ninety-sixth.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Louis Heimbach".

SUPERVISOR

TOWN OF WALLKILL OFFICIAL FAMILY — 1972

Position	Office Occupied by
<i>Supervisor</i> .....	LOUIS HEIMBACH
<i>Town Justice</i> (2) .....	HAROLD B. HULSE
	JAMES J. McMAHON
<i>Councilmen</i> .....	SAMUEL MITCHELL
	HERBERT THOMPSON
	LOUIS INGRASSIA
	DENNIS COSGROVE
<i>Town Clerk</i> .....	IRVING A. COULTER
<i>Public Works Commissioner</i> .....	JOSEPH PROVOST
<i>Tax Collector</i> .....	W. JOHN KULBER
<i>Assessor</i> .....	ALVA LUCAS
<i>Assistant Assesor</i> .....	MICHAEL BERMAN
<i>Town Attorney</i> .....	VICTOR O. SMITH
<i>Town Engineer</i> .....	ARTHUR EUSTANCE
<i>Building Inspector</i> .....	WILLIAM PHILLIPS
<i>Assistant Building Inspector</i> .....	PAUL TOLLES
<i>Water &amp; Sewer Plant Superintendent</i> .....	HARRY OTT
<i>Welfare Officer</i> .....	GERTRUDE REED
<i>Town Historian</i> .....	IRVING J. GIBBS
<i>Civilian Defense Director</i> .....	CHARLES SALVAGIN

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Charles Wolfe	Ernest Moshier	Jacob Sherman
Franklyn D. Garrison		Vincent Parrella

PLANNING BOARD & AREA REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

Dominick Napolitano	Chester C. Davis
William Marshall, Sr.	Victor Shuback
Roy Hotaling	Dr. I. Denman



*Home of Samuel Watkins — Town of Hamptonburgh where Town of Wallkill was organized — 1772. Located on Route 207 — Just east of Campbell Hall.*

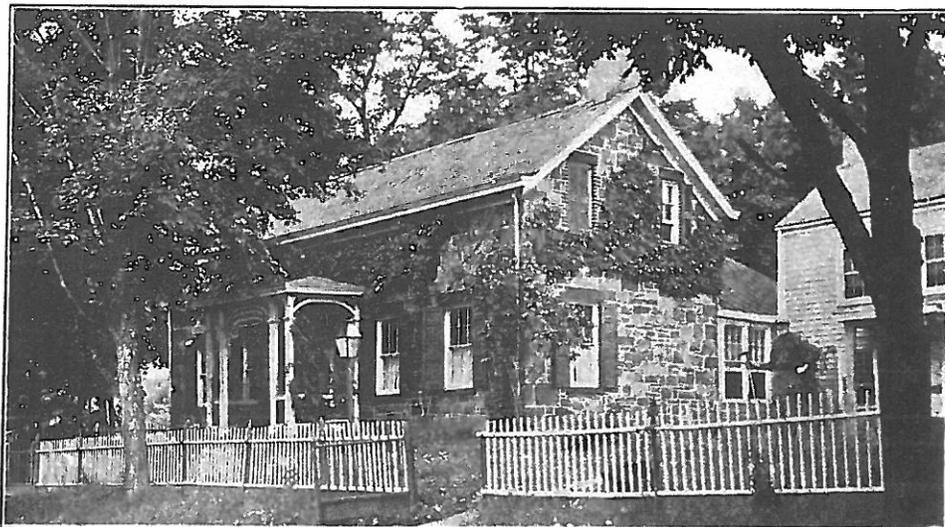
The Town of Wallkill is located midway between the Hudson River on the east and the Delaware on the west, sixty miles north of New York City in Orange County. The town has a total land area of sixty-four square miles which extends in all directions from the City of Middletown. The Town of Wallkill was established April 7, 1772, at the home of Samuel Watkins, located at Campbell Hall in the Town of Hamptonburgh. The original area was much larger than at present and was peeled away gradually until the Town arrived at its present day boundaries. The Town originally lay in Ulster County, but in 1798 the Wallkill Precinct passed from Ulster to Orange County by act of Legislature creating the present Orange-Ulster boundary.

Nearly a century before, whether because it was cheap, or because they foresaw its future development, groups of men obtained vast tracts of wilderness area from the Indians, some times paying them small sums, other times tricking them into signing the deeds. These purchases were called patents, and the original Wallkill Precinct was created from portions of two patents known as the Minisink Angle and the John Evans Patent.

While these patents were acquired over the period from 1703 to 1761, permanent settlements came much later. In 1756 Samuel Wickham and David Moore purchased land comprising about half of the present City of Middletown and attempted to settle. They soon retreated to Goshen because of Indian harassment and further settlement was not attempted until after the French and Indian Wars.

In 1767, William and Thomas Bull, sons of William Bull of Goshen, settled on their father's land on either side of the Wallkill. More and more settlers arrived in the next few years, many of them sons and daughters of the original owners of the patents. Settlements grew in many parts of the town.

Moses Phillips and Henry Wisner settled in an area on the Wallkill and by 1776 were engaged in the manufacture of gunpowder which they sold to the Continental Congress. Known as Hampton until 1806, the name of the settlement was changed to Phillipsburg due to the large number of families by that name descended from Moses Phillips, who married into the Wisner family and received the land as a portion of his wife's estate.



OLD HOMESTEAD—CIRCLEVILLE, N. Y.

In 1782 the Congregational Church, at what is now Howells, was organized and has the distinction of being the second Congregational Church formed in the State of New York and the first church group in this area.

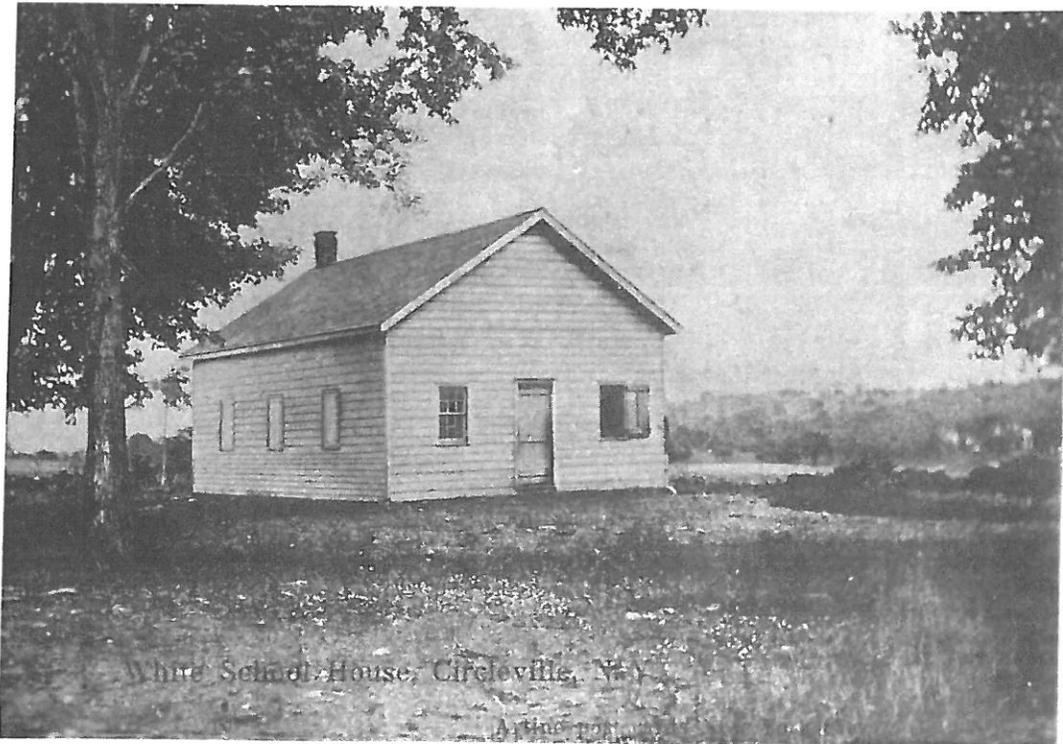
In 1787, George Houston of Neelytown settled on some 300 acres his father, James, descended from the Rev. Joseph Houston, first minister of the Goodwill Church of Montgomery, bought for him in the southeastern part of the town. In 1796 a church was organized at the home of George Houston and he donated three acres for a church site and burial ground. The Rev. Methuselah Baldwin was the first minister and served for over fifty years. Because of the preponderance of Scottish families, it was decided to name the settlement which grew up around the church, Scotchtown.

There were two other churches in the town by this time. The first was the First Congregational Church organized in 1785 in the settlement not yet known as Middletown. John Green made a will in December 1784 providing that a religious society should be allowed to purchase of his lands a site for a church for the sum of 3 pounds. He died soon after and the church acquired  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre from his estate, to which was added 15- $\frac{1}{5}$  square rods from the husband of the minister's niece, Jonathan Owen. The Rev. Mr. Charles Seelay served as the first pastor and construction was begun in 1786 but not finished until some ten to twelve years later.

In 1792, several families joined to organize the Old School Baptist Church of Wallkill which met at various places for thirty years before building on land donated by Barnabus Horton at Rockville, some one and one-half miles north of Middletown.

A fifth church was organized in 1799 in an area between the present Fair Oaks and Bloomingburg. The meeting house was known as "The Old Union House".

The organization of these churches gives an idea of the settlement clusters as they began to appear near the turn of the nineteenth century.



*"Old White School House", on Shaw Road.*

Within the township at this time, no one hamlet had gained supremacy. Location, however, was beginning to play an ever increasingly important role. As early as 1784 the Minisink Road is mentioned in John Green's will. This road ran through the hamlet of Middletown, so named because it stood in the middle between Dolsontown on the south, Goshen on the east, Scotchtown on the north, and a place not defined on the west called Shawangunk.

Industry early moved into the area, beginning with agricultural services such as wagon shops, blacksmiths, coopers, tanners, etc. In fact, Samuel Bull, Sr., a blacksmith who settled near what is now Circleville, is said to have been employed on the chain used in the obstruction of the Hudson River during the Revolution.

Abundant water power attracted operators of saw mills, grist mills, and gradually many other types of mills moved into the area around Phillipsburg and Mechanicstown. Mechanicstown derives its name from the fact that it was a settlement of "industrious mechanics," who operated such manufactories as a trip hammer to make scythes.

In 1803, the tax roll listed 462 properties ranging from \$30.00 personal tax to \$6,000 real estate for the Moses Phillips & Co.

By 1809, the Town's location on the route between Sullivan County lumbering and tanning products and the Hudson River made the building of the Montgomery Turnpike a profitable venture. Several other turnpikes followed making the area through which they were routed, a trade center.

During the next twenty-five years, Middletown got its own Post Office (1816), purchased a fire engine (1821), and published a newspaper, *The Middletown Courier*, in 1841.

Other hamlets within the township were experiencing changes. A Masonic Lodge was established at Mechanicstown (1817), the Old White School House was built on Shaw Road in Circleville (1828), and VanBurenville, profiting from the stage routes, had a hostelry which often housed up to twenty-five teamsters over night. VanBurenville was so named by Christian Shons in honor of the newly elected President (1836). VanBurenville was doomed when it was by-passed by the coming of the railroad to Howells Depot, so named for Samuel Howell through whose land passed the right of way, and the Plank Road north. The Post Office was moved to Howells in the late 1840's and by 1880 the buildings were gone.

The area between the present hamlet of Howells and Mt. Hope was known for many years as Mapes-town because of the dense population of families with that name, and at Howells is the original burying ground of the Mapes family.

By 1843, after many delays and problems, the Erie Railroad began daily service for passengers and freight. Middletown became the terminus of the line and an important rail center as the Turnpikes made traveling simpler.

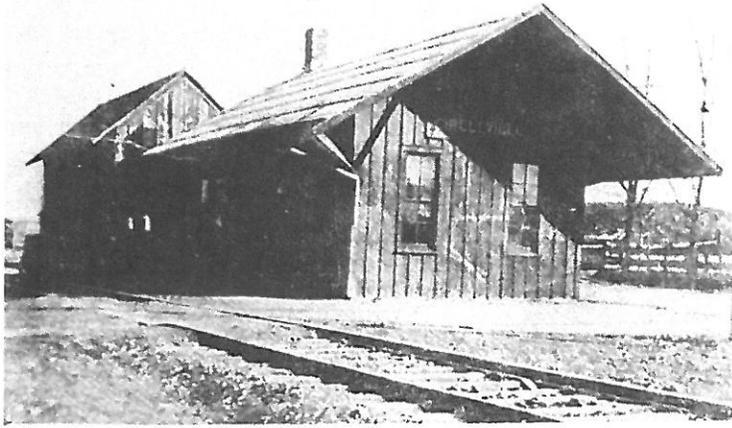
By 1848, Middletown had a population of 1360 and incorporated as a village. The Erie Railroad and those that followed brought a period of growth that caused Middletown to far outstrip her sister hamlets until today, she stands, a city surrounded by the still rural countryside of the township.

The area previously known as Bullhack at this time (1842), attained sufficient size that its inhabitants set about incorporating a church and services were originally held in the "White School House" until the Circleville Presbyterian Church was built. The name was given to the church and thus to the village by Mrs. Mary Bull, who thought Circleville, Ohio, a very pleasant name.

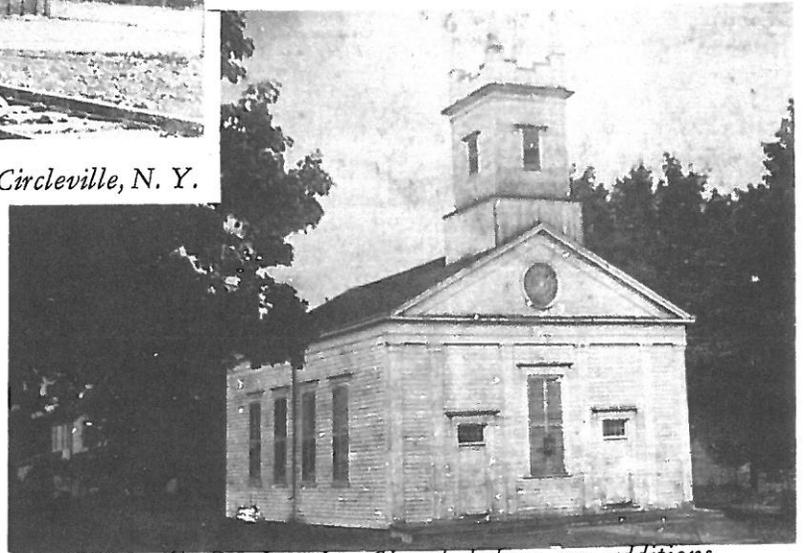
Hamlets which rose around a particular business or family were Michigan, Davistown, Millsburg and Honey Pot. The latter was a settlement of former slaves freed by Col. McLaughrey of New Windsor under the 1799 Legislative Act and provided by him with land in the central part of the Town.

In 1851, the Middletown and Bloomingburg Plank Road was built and soon followed by a second one called the M. & U., which made transportation into the area and to the railroad even easier.

Also in 1851, the world's first railroad telegraph line was strung along the Erie Railroad and over the portion of wire through Middletown from Turner's (Harriman) to Port Jervis, was sent the first railroad train dispatch.

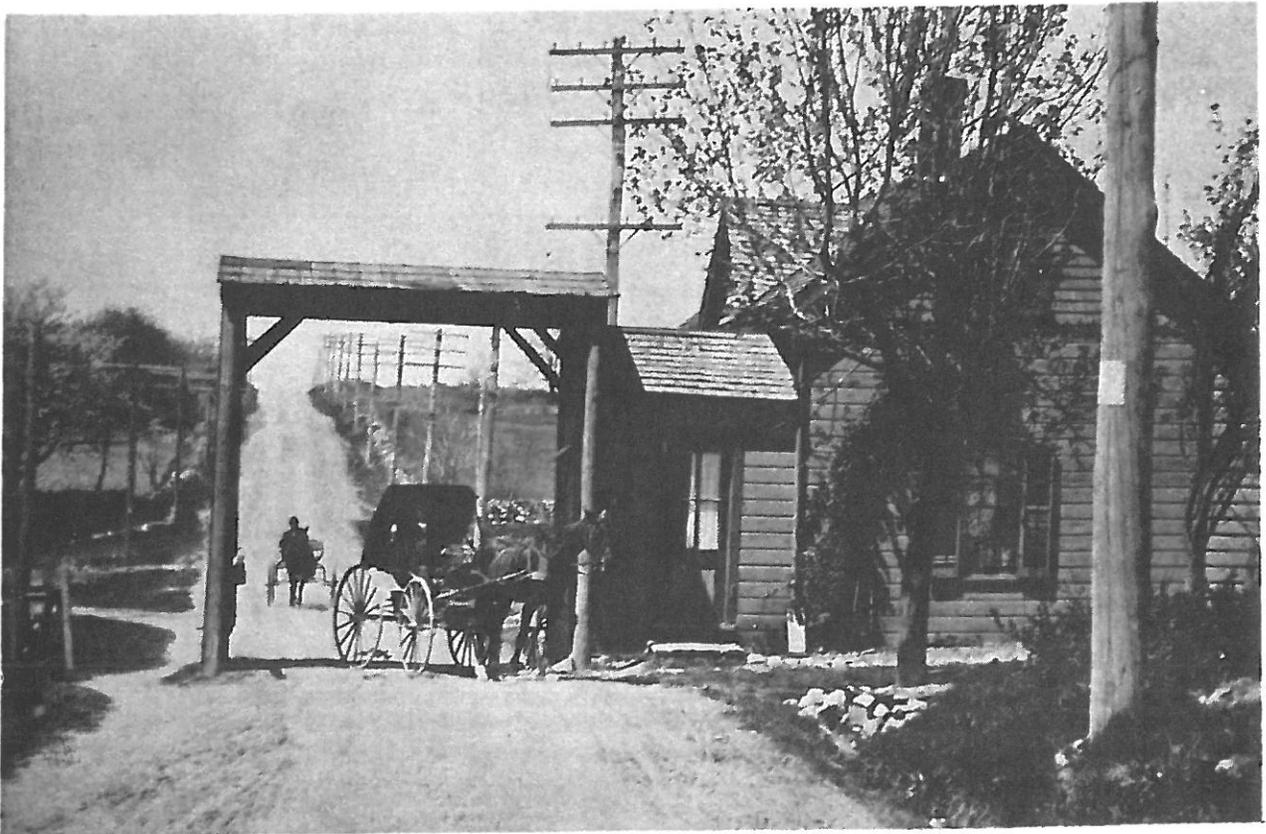


*Erie Railroad Station and Freight House, Circleville, N. Y.*



*Circleville Presbyterian Church before any additions.*

*Tollgate north of Middletown on North Plank Road (now 17M) sometime before 1910.*



As the Civil War era approached, the town became bitterly divided politically and in 1860 the Republicans carried first the Supervisor's election and then the Presidential election in Wallkill. During the course of the war, Middletown and Wallkill together supplied no less than six companies and regiments to fight for the Union. After the war, Middletown boomed. Oil was added to her now numerous industries and by 1888 Middletown was granted her charter as a city.

Meanwhile, the surrounding countryside dozed through the years. Elisha King built a hotel on his farm on the North Plank Road (present day 17M), and the area was named "Fair Oaks" after the battle which had just taken place (1862). A creamery was in operation in Circleville by 1900 and a ice house was built in 1902. Ice was cut on Hennessey's Lake, drawn up a conveyor and sent down wooden chutes to the ice house.

Wallkill maintained its rural quality through the first half of the twentieth century. Pursuant to the legislature act of 1856, the town sent her children to state-drawn District schools and at present still has no school districts of its own, although the town is dotted with old one or two room school houses built between about 1820 and 1850. Some of these buildings were in use in recent times.

The Town is served by seven Volunteer Fire Companies, the earliest of which was the Howells Company, (1924), followed not necessarily in order by Circleville, Washington Heights, Pocatello, Silver Lake, Mechanicstown and Bloomingburg, which serves Fair Oaks.

The main products in the Town were dairy and agricultural, but in the early 1960's Wallkill began to feel the impact of suburban development as new highways put it within driving distance of congested areas in New York City and New Jersey.

Suburban development, especially in the Scotchtown area, is drawing the Town into the escalating spiral of providing more and better services. The Town now operates sewer and water districts in many parts of the Town. A Town Hall was completed in 1966 on Rte. 211 which houses town offices and an auditorium. Industry is once again finding Wallkill an attractive place to locate as is shown by the opening of the Reynolds Plant and the Quemetco Plant within the last year. Retail trade has also been attracted by the increased population and the "Miracle Mile" on 211 north of Middletown has become a shopper's paradise of shops, discount stores and, most recently, a large indoor shopping mall. Wallkill has been the home of the Orange County Fair for nearly 150 years.

The 1970 census places the population of the Town at 11,826 and projection figures call for a near doubling of that in the next 15 to 25 years.

As the force of the times sends Wallkill into her third century with almost a boom town atmosphere, it becomes increasingly important for all her citizens to know and understand the heritage she brings with her from the past. *Happy Birthday, Town of Wallkill.*

Middletown, a Biography, Frankin B. Williams,  
published by Lawrence A. Toepp, Middletown, N. Y. 1928.

History of Orange County, Samuel W. Eager,  
S. T. Callahan, Newburgh, 1846-47.

Ruthberg and Clark, History of Orange County, 1881.

1966 Anniversary Booklet of Circleville Presbyterian Church.

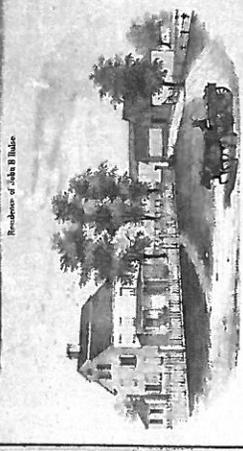
1963 Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Book of the City of Middletown.

Excerpts from unpublished monograph, "Brief abstract relative to Howells,  
N. Y.", Harry C. Townsend, presented before Minisink Historical Society,  
26 January 1970.

Irving Gibbs

Paul Weishaar

Mildred Parker Seese



**WALKER & ORANGE**  
 Surveyors and Publishers  
 MICHAEL J. BUCKLEY  
 1862  
 Printed and Published by  
 MICHAEL J. BUCKLEY  
 1862

**WALKER & ORANGE**  
 Surveyors and Publishers  
 MICHAEL J. BUCKLEY  
 1862

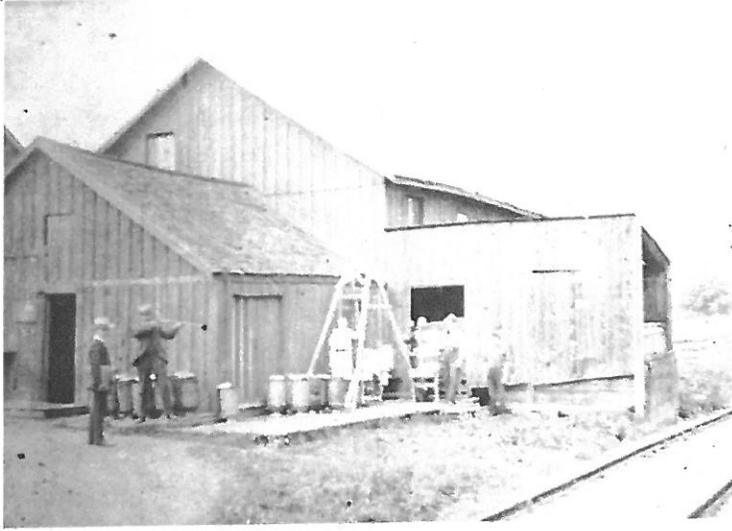
**WALKER & ORANGE**  
 Surveyors and Publishers  
 MICHAEL J. BUCKLEY  
 1862



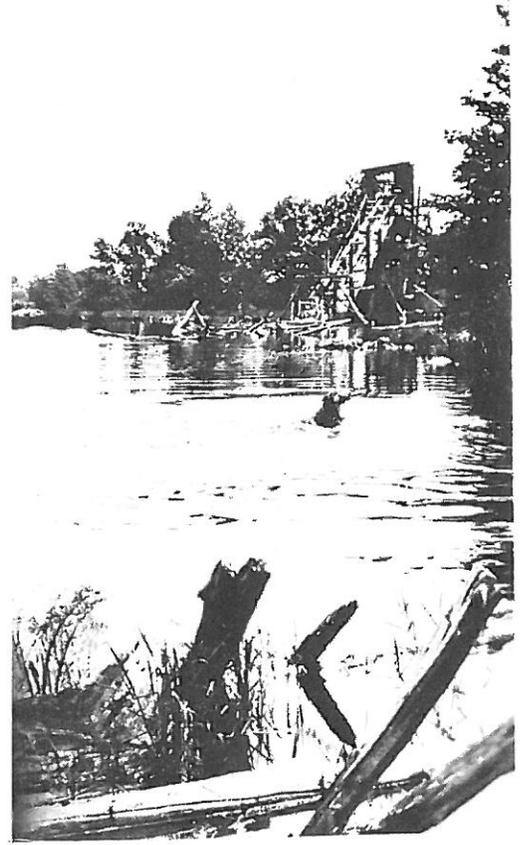
Residence of John C. ...  
 ...  
 ...

Residence of John B. ...  
 ...  
 ...

Residence of John ...  
 ...  
 ...



*Circleville Creamery, probably shortly after 1900.*



*Ice conveyor at Hennessey's Lake, probably between 1910-1915.*

*Askew Hotel, Fair Oaks, N. Y.*



*Happy Birthday*

**From All of Us at**

**EMPIRE NATIONAL BANK**

Best Wishes . . .

**PANORAMA HILLS**

and

**MILLS HEIGHTS, INC.**

**To A Growing**

**and**

**Progressive**

**Town of Wallkill**

**Town of Wallkill (1772-1972)**

**We're 61 Years Young**

**(1911 - 1972)**

**THE NEW**

*Greens*  
**Orange  
Plaza**

**ROUTE 211 EAST  
MIDDLETOWN, N. Y. 10940  
TEL. (914) 342-5484**

**Open Monday to Saturday—10 A.M. to 9:30 P.M.**



**THE NEWEST, LARGEST  
CLIMATE-CONTROLLED  
SHOPPING PLAZA IN  
WALKILL AND THE  
REGION...**

**ROUTE 211, EAST - MIDDLETOWN, N. Y.**

**CONGRATUATES THE  
TOWN OF WALKILL ON ITS  
BICENTENNIAL . . . 1772-1972**

**(The Orange Plaza Merchants Association, Inc.)**

---

**MARINE MIDLAND BANK**

**Salutes**

**THE TOWN OF WALKILL  
ON ITS 200TH BIRTHDAY**

Branch Located on Route 211 East  
GEORGE ELLIS, Manager

Phone 692-4436  
Member F.D.I.C.



**MARINE MIDLAND BANK  
OF SOUTHEASTERN NEW YORK, N. A.**

**We serve thousands of customers...one at a time.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
TOWN OF WALLKILL  
ON YOUR BI-CENTENNIAL  
WE ARE GLAD TO SHARE  
IN YOUR CELEBRATION**



BIRTHPLACE OF HAMBLETONIAN

ESTABLISHED 1845

**THE CHESTER  
NATIONAL BANK**

CHESTER, NEW YORK 10918 • (914) 469-2211

**Circleville Office, Circleville, New York  
and other convenient offices**

**MEMBER F.D.I.C.**

*The* NATIONAL BANK  
*of* ORANGE & ULSTER *Counties*  
CHARTERED  
1812

SCOTCHTOWN OFFICE  
R.D. 2, MIDDLETOWN, N.Y.

MEMBER F.D.I.C.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
TOWN OF WALLKILL  
ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

**Sears, Roebuck & Co.**

Orange Plaza

Rts. 211 and 17

**WE ARE PROUD OF OUR  
CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
DYNAMIC GROWTH OF OUR TOWN**

**EUSTANCE & HOROWITZ, PC.**

**Consulting Engineers for the Town of Wallkill**

**Since 1960**

## ROEDER'S Pianos & Organs

Home Of Fine  
PIANOS    ORGANS    STEREO

Hortonville, N. Y.  
(914) 887-5649

Fair Oaks, N. Y.  
(914) 733-4811

Quality Instruments at Family Prices!

*Eyes Examined  
Prescriptions  
Filled*



*Contact Lenses  
Glasses Fitted*

*One-Hour Service*

ORANGE PLAZA, MIDDLETOWN, N.Y. 10940 / (914) 343-0858  
(914) 343-0859

### THE COUNTRY GARDENER

Route 17M

Middletown, N. Y.

### THE 5th AVENUE CARD SHOP

Orange Plaza, Rt. 211

Middletown, N. Y.

### WAGNER INSURANCE

Route 211

Middletown, N. Y.

### DAVIS MOTORS

Route 17M

Middletown, N. Y.

### JAY'S SLACKS

Orange Plaza, Rt. 211

Middletown, N. Y.

**The Bi-Centennial Committee Thanks**

**AL HOWARD**

**for the use of the**

**Orange County Fairgrounds**



**We are growing with Wallkill!  
Total Deposits over 4 Million Dollars  
Over 3,000 New Accounts opened at  
Orange Plaza Office Since November 10, 1971**



**NICHOLAS J. SCALI, Manager, Orange Plaza Office  
with William C. Myers, Assistant Manager.**

Visit our Orange Plaza Office soon and see the latest in banking equipment and unusual decor. We look forward to welcoming you and serving with care your personal banking needs — Savings Accounts, Mortgage Loans, Home Improvement Loans, Savings Bank Life Insurance, Christmas Club, Travelers Checks and Banking-By-Mail. There's ample free customer parking.

# Middletown Savings Bank

Downtown Main Office  
Orange Plaza Office

Middletown, New York  
MEMBER F.D.I.C.

4 South Street  
Route 211 East