

The Wellings of Warwick

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The Wawayanda patent was granted to Doctor John Bridges and company, by twelve Indian sachems. The Indian deed was given at Haverstraw and bears date 5th March, 1703. This was confirmed by the New York government and a quit rent of L4, (four pounds) NY currency was required to be paid. Captain Benjamin Aske of New York city was one of the proprietors of the patent who gave the name Warwick to his portion in memory of Warwickshire, England, from whence he emigrated. He was anxious to form a settlement on his territory, and upon the arrival of an emigrant ship in New York, he found a number who were bound for the ship money of their passage. He bought their time and sent them to make a settlement upon his land. Among them were Lawrence Decker and a man named Stagg. On the 20th of June, 1734, Lancaster Symes and Benjamin Aske exchanged 1,200 acres of land of the Wawayanda patent with Thomas DeKay for 60 acres near New York city. Shortly after DeKay settled upon his land, which lay in both states of New York and New Jersey, and established his home within the present township of Vernon, Sussex County, NJ. He always claimed to be a citizen of New York and was a colonel of New York militia. Captain Aske resided for a time near Warwick and died at Colonel DeKay's house. Aske also sold land to Thomas Blain who settled upon it and whose name is well known among his descendants.

The following statement appears in Eager's History of Orange County: "The region of country extending north of the village of Warwick to Bellvale, was among the earliest settled portions of the town, and while the Indians were still in possession of the banks of its streams and forests. In 1746 Daniel Burt, the father of the Hon. James Burt of this town, came from Connecticut and located upon the farm now owned by Thomas and Edward L. Welling. There he remained in the depths of the forest four years, when his relatives came from Connecticut and after a long and tedious search found him buried in the wild woods. They assured him he could never get along in such a new country and persuaded him to return with them, which he did. He sold out to Thomas Welling, the grandfather of Thomas and Edward L. Welling, and moved back to Connecticut. There he was not satisfied to remain, returned in 1760 and made an effort to repurchase his old farm of Mr. Welling, but in consequence of a disagreement about the price to be borne, which was to be a part of the consideration, the bargain fell through, and Burt purchased at Bellvale, on Long House Creek." "On the Welling farm there was an Indian settlement called *Mistucky*. They had an orchard of apple trees, some of which were standing until within a few years, in a meadow."

Thomas Welling, the pioneer of the family, was born in 1647, probably in Wales, England, and married about 1660. Lived at Jamaica, Queens county, Nassau Island, now Long Island. His will was made 12th November, 1689.

Thomas Welling, 2d, born at Jamaica, 1652, married Elizabeth, daughter of William Creed, at

Jamaica, about 1689. William Creed made his will 11th March, 1709, and named in it his daughter Elizabeth and her five children, the sixth not being then born. He bequeathed to them 500 acres from his tract at Pekepsoe, Dutches county. Thomas 2d bequeathed all his lands to his oldest son Thomas and to William his next oldest; his will bearing date 21st June, 1738.

Thomas Welling 3rd, born at Jamaica about 1690 and married 1716.

Thomas Welling 4th born at Jamaica. According to his affidavit made May 23, 1785, at Chester, in the trial between proprietors of Cheesecocks and Wawayanda patents, he was then, "aged 67 years and had lived at Warwick 38 years. He came first with Captain Ludlum 45 or 46 years ago." This would make his birth to have been in 1718, and the time of his first coming 1739 or 1740, and his settlement 1747. Somewhat later he purchased the improvements and land rights which had belonged to Daniel Burt. The improvements were claimed by Aske, from whom he may have obtained his title. He had four children, Elizabeth, Richard, John, and Thomas. Thomas Welling 5th, born 9th February 1759, died 5th January 1814, married Sibble Beardslee, sister of John Beardslee, who lived at the North Church, Sussex county, NJ. She was born December, 1759, and died 8th August 1823. Their children, Charles, Thomas 6th, Edward Laskie (sheriff), John, Navey, Elizabeth, and Lois.

Thomas Welling, 6th, born 8th July 1786, died 22d April 1848, married Anna Coleman, 9th January 1813. She died 17th March, 1850. They had eleven children.

Thomas welling 7th, now living, married Caroling VanDuzer, 19th December, 1894. Their children, three sons and five daughters.

Thomas Welling 4th, the first settler in Warwick of the name, was buried somewhere on his farm, the spot now being unknown. On his arrival on almost unbroken wilderness surrounded him, inhabited by Indians and filled with wild beasts and game. Some half-mile from his cabin was the Indian town of Mistucky. He maintained amicable relations with his red neighbors, for no serious troubles with them have been handed down. After a time his log house gave way to a frame building, a portion of which yet remains and forms a part of the mansion which has descended to the different Thomases of his line. At his death his landed estate was divided, among his three sons. His daughter Elizabeth married Gen. John Hathorn, the Revolutionary hero and patriot. Her tomb-stone reads, "In memory of Elizabeth Hathorn, who departed this life Aug. 29, 1810; aged 60 years, 2 months and 15 days." She is buried beside her husband in the field in the rear of their former home, with several of their children whose graves are without inscriptions [*transcriber's note: the graves were later moved to Warwick cemetery*]

Richard Welling, son of Thomas 4th, born September 1, 175?, died July 8, 1819. His wife was May Denton, born 7th of July, 1759, and died 3d of April, 1849. Their children were Julia, Hezekiah, John, Hannah, Elizabeth, William, Samuel, and Mary. John, Samuel, Elizabeth and Mary long kept the hotel in Warwick. Mary, born 17th September, 1802, still survives and lives in the house which has been her home for so many years. Richard inherited from his father land beginning in Warwick village and extending across the creek to the west side of the public road. He house was consumed by fire, but the foundations may still be seen. The graves of himself and his wife have been transferred to the new cemetery.

John Welling, son of Thomas 4th, was born 8th of June, 1757, married Anna Burt, daughter of Benjamin and Anna (Blain) Burt, and sister of Belden Burt. (*the Belden Burt homestead was the property now Chateau Hathorn, and it is reported that part of the original colonial homestead is incorporated into the current elaborate structure*) Anna Blain was the daughter of Thomas Blain, to whom Benjamin Aske sold land. Benjamin and Anna Burt died at the same time and were buried in one grave in the Burt buying lot on the farm. Their house, yet standing, (*Burt Homestead on 17A, above intersection with Forester Ave.*) was stockaded, and a guard kept in it at times, during the revolutionary war.

John Welling inherited the part of this father's land beginning in the village in front of the Old School Baptist church and extending south across the creek and east of the highway, including the farm sold to Alanson Austin and "Chucks Hill" with adjoining fields. His house stood on the Bellvale road where his son John W. built a new one which is yet standing. He was a worthy citizen and respected for his integrity of character. He was a contributor toward the church, which was Presbyterian in connection, and his assessment for 1811 was \$64. His grave and that of his wife have been transferred from the old Reformed church yard to the new cemetery. His inscription reads: "In memory of John Welling, who departed this life February 8th, 1816, aged 58 years and 8 months. The memory of the just is blessed." That of his wife reads, "In memory of Anna Welling, wife to John Welling, died Nov. 19, 1819, aged 60 years and 3 months." Hannah, their oldest child, born 5th of January, 1783, died 2d of August 1856, at the house of her son-in-law, Elisha Whitley in Brooklyn, L.I., married Alanson Austin in 1801. Alanson Austin, born in 1777, in Massachusetts, came in early manhood to Warwick, and became a prominent business man, having three stores running in different places at the same time. He was cashier of the Orange County bank when Gen. George D. Wickham was president. He would bring home the printed bank bills in large sheets, which, after he had signed them, were cut apart with large scissors by his daughters. They were of yellow paper and had the name of "butter money". He was commissioned to second-lieutenant, first-lieutenant, and then captain in the Third regiment of the Second Brigade of Artillery, 15th of May, 1811, by Governor Daniel D. Tompkins. He took the company and field pieces to Sandy Hook during the war of 1812. He built a large substantial house adjoining the main road which was taken down by the late Samuel C. Welling, who remarked he was destroying one good house to build another. Mr. Austin died Dec. 22, 1821, 44 years old.

Hannah, his wife, brought up their children and conducted the farm so successfully that premiums were several times awarded her at the annual County fairs—once for best conducted farm, and once for best home spun linen cloth. The flax was grown on her farm, and spun and woven by herself and her daughters.

Alanson and Hannah Austin had two sons and six daughters—Ann Marie, married Daniel Haines of Hamburg; Diadania, (*note: is it "Diademina"?*) married Sidney P. Hains of Hainburg, and afterward of Hannibal, Mo.; Marcus Elijah, Carolina, Theresa Agustine, married Elijah J. Austin; John Welling, Catherine married Elisha Whitley, and Harriet Louisa, second wife of Elisha Whitley of Brooklyn and Wallingford, Conn.

Anne Welling, daughter of John and Anna, born 1784, unmarried, died 1837.
Thomas H. Welling, born 1788, unmarried, died 1840.

Sarah Welling, born 1790, married Doctor James Herring. Their house is still standing in the centre of the village. Dr. Herring was an excellent physician, a scientific man and mineralogist. She died at New Milford, Feb. 5, 1846.

Catherine, married John W. Smith, who was a clerk and afterward partner of Alanson Austin, and built a handsome brick house in Warwick. (*the current Smith-Welling building on Forester Ave.; this reconciles accounts of the building's origin, one of which says it was Alanson Austin. Likely he helped or provided funds for the building*).

John W. Welling, familiarly called Jack to distinguish him from other John Wellings, born 1798, died Feb. 16, 1845. He inherited his father's homestead. His wife was Elizabeth C. Seely, born 1809, and died Dec. 1, 1843. They had four children.

John Hathorn, a Revolutionary soldier and patriot, was born January 9th, 1749 at Wilmington, Delaware. Hathorn was the common ancient spelling of the name. Some of kindred descent dropped the first syllable and made it simply Thorn, and Nathaniel Hawthorne of Salem, Mass., the poet, changed the name of the old sea captain of the family by inserting the letter w and adding the letter e.

John Hathorn came in early life previous to 1770, to Warwick, and was said to have been of a Quaker family. As a military man he did not hold the principle of non-resistance, yet in his later life he invited Quaker preachers to hold meetings in his house. One of the meetings is remembered, to which he invited a number of his neighbors. They sat for a long time in silence and the meeting was closed without a word being spoken. Hathorn was a land surveyor, and his occupation first brought him to Warwick, where he married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Welling 4th, and settled upon the farm adjoining that of his father-in-law. His wife was born at Jamaica, L.I., and was a sister to John, Richard, and Thomas 5th.

Hathorn was a public spirited and an ardent patriot, and after holding subordinate positions was appointed a colonel of a regiment of Orange militia, about May 1775 [transcriber's note: typo is in original newspaper article, as "1885"]. His stone house (now occupied by Mr. P.E. Sanford) is still standing and with modern additions, in excellent preservation, bearing the date on its southern gable of 1773. This house was licensed as an inn, and here General Washington was entertained at times when in the vicinity. It is said that when a portion of the army were here encamped, General and Mrs. Washington spent some days in the house, and the story is told that Indians were prowling around seeking an opportunity to shoot him. Once when the soldiers came, Mrs. Hathorn distributed a whole hogshead of whisky among them, and was herself overcome by the fumes. General Hathorn was very erect and preserved a military bearing, becoming stout in advanced life. He wore breeches and silver knee buckles and then in full dress, top boots. During the revolution with his regiment he performed excellent service in resisting the raids of Tories and free booters and keeping them in awe. He was frequently called upon for details of men for military service and guard duty. In his report on the battle of Minisink, made to Gen. George Clinton, July 25th, 1779, he says: "On the evening of the 21st of this instant, I received an order from his excellency General Washington, together with a requisition of the commissary of prisoners to furnish one hundred men to guard the British prisoners on their way to Easton. I ordered three companies of my regiment, including the Exempt company to parade for this

purpose.” The making of this detail accounts for the small number of men he took to the Minisink conflict. When Burgoyne surrendered, there were questions raised by Gen. Howe as to the terms of their parole, and congress ordered that until these were settled, the prisoners should be retained and sent to the interior of the country. (continues in next issue)

The Battle of Minisink has been ably described and in details by others, and we will only make some reference to the part taken by Colonel Hathorn. Dr. Benjamin Tusten, lieutenant-colonel of the Goshen regiments under Gen. Allison, with such men of the Orange militia as he could hastily collect, and a small force of Sussex troopers under Major Samuel Meeker and Captain Joseph Harker of Hardyston, made a forced march for the scene of hostilities. Hathorn with his accustomed order, with such additional men of his Warwick regiment as he could gather, followed rapidly and when he overtook the advanced force as senior officer assumed command. The prudence of Tusten and Hathorn was overcome by the rashness of Meeker; yet I do not believe, as has been asserted, that he failed in the time of extremity in courage or readiness to obey orders. Meeker was wounded as well as Captain Harker, and nearly a fourth of the men who fell were of their command. The names of Captains Stephen Mead, David Talmage, Nathan Wade, Hardyston men, are inscribed upon the monument at Goshen. Corporal Ellakim Ross of the Sussex troops, died from wounds then received, and Lieut. James Patton was discharged by reason of wounds received I suppose at the same time.

Colonel Hathorn in his report said he had 120 men, while Dr. Wilson in his address in 1822, says 80. This may be accounted for on the supposition that the 80 were the Orange militia and the rest were from Sussex. Hathorn was uncertain as to the number of the enemy, but says, “some say 90, others 120, others 160.” That 300 Indians and 200 Tories took part in the conflict must be an exaggeration. When the attack was to be made Hathorn divided his men into three divisions, but before his dispositions were complete, Brandt surprised them by a sudden assault. By this the rear division was cut off from the main body and forced to break in confusion and fall back. With what force remained with him Hathorn was pressed upon a rocky knoll, where on the summit they had a little more than an acre of space. The men had a short supply of ammunition from the beginning, and Hathorn gave orders not to fire unless they were sure of their aim. They continued to hold the hill until near sundown, when their powder was spent and they clubbed their muskets for a hand and hand contest. Hathorn said that, “when their hollow square was broken, in the final struggle every man made choice of his own way.”

Although the Battle of Minisink ended disastrously, Hathorn did not suffer in the estimation of his fellow citizens. He was entrusted with various important duties during the remainder of the war, and at its close was commander of the troops stationed at Fishkill. He represented Orange county in the state assembly, with some intervals, for eight years from 1777 to 1785 and was speaker of the body in 1784. In 1778 he was one of the five members sent from New York to the Continental congress and attended at its last session. From 1787 to 1794 he was for eight years of the time a state senator from the middle district, was a brigadier general of militia and elected to the United States congress for two years in 1788 and re-elected in 1790. He was a confidential correspondent of Washington, was on intimate terms with many distinguished men of his day, and carefully preserved his papers. After his death these found their way in the course of time to the attic, and then into a couple of barrels. The females of the household in cleaning up, too what

they considered as worthless rubbish, and consigned all the contents to the flames. What we would not give today to possess the contents of these barrels.

On the 22d of July, 1822, Gen. Hathorn, then venerable with the weight of 73 years, laid the corner stone of the monument erected in Goshen to those who fell at Minisink, and delivered the following appropriate address: "At the end of three and forty years, we have assembled to perform the sad rites of sepulture to the bones of our countrymen and kindred, but these are not along sufficient; policy has united with the gratitude of nations in erecting some memorial of those who died defending their country. Monuments to the brave are mementoes to their descendants; the honors they record are stairs to the patriot in the path of glory. Beneath the mausoleum whose foundations we now lay, repose all that was earthly of patriots and heroes. This honor has been long their due, but circumstances which it is unnecessary for me to recount, have prevented an earlier display of the gratitude of their country. Having commanded on this melancholy occasion, which bereft the nation of so many of its brightest ornaments—having been the companion of their sufferings in the pathless desert, and a witness of their value against a savage foe of superior numbers, I approach the duty assigned me with feeling of sadness and pleasure.

"May this monument endure with the liberties of our country; when they perish, this land will no longer be worthy to hold within its bosom the consecrated bones of its heroes."

General Hathorn had potash works, blacksmith shop, wood shop, a store and I think a tannery, with numerous small dwellings for his workmen, all in the vicinity of his home. One of his descendants said he had a small town of his own. For some years he was in business with the Sharps in the manufactory, and was clerk or superintendent of the Sharpboro forge in upper Hamburg. This was subsequent to the Revolutionary war, but the length of time in which he was thus engaged I am not able to give.

He died the 19th of February, 1825, and was buried beside his wife in the spot he had selected for their family burying ground. It is now the open field to the rear of the house where he dwelt. The inscription on his tombstone reads: "General John Hathorn, born Jan. 6, 1749, died Feb. 19, 1825."

It has been proposed that his remains should be removed to the new cemetery (*they later were*) and a suitable monument be there erected to his memory by the citizens of Warwick, or what may be better, place the monument on the spot where his dust has slept for over sixty years. The children of John and Elizabeth Hathorn were six sons and five daughters: Thomas, who married a Rickey and lived in Paterson; Andrew, a lawyer, unmarried, buried on Sanford farm without headstone; George, married Sally Bell, born in Connecticut and a sister of James Bell; Townsend, unmarried, buried on Sanford farm without headstone; Morris, probably died in youth, John, Jr., married Hannah (called Dorchie) Post, daughter of Col. James (?) Post, lived at Horseheads, NY; one of the sons lived for a time in Brooklyn and his children, it is said, reside in New York city; Sarah, born the 9th of December, 1773, and died the 23th of September, 1839, married Belden Burt, son of Benjamin and Anna and brother of the wife of John Welling, born Jan. 1764, died Jan. 5, 1831. They are buried in the Burt buying ground upon the old farm. The house of Benjamin Burt, now standing, was during the War of the Revolution surrounded with a stockade, and a guard kept there for a considerable time.

The children of Belden and Sarah (Hathorn) Burt were Thomas H., Elizabeth, married a Dolsen, John, Anna, Benjamin, Mary, Catherine, Samuel, Coleman, Lucy, Belden, Jr., and Cordelia who married Edward L Davis, and still survives.

Polly Hathorn married John Simpson. They lived in western New York until the breaking out of Indian hostilities, when they fled for their lives and abandoned all their property. They lived at Hamburg for a time and among their children were John Hathorn, Morris, and Thomas, their youngest children, who died about a year ago and is buried at the North church. Some of the grandchildren are living in the vicinity of Hamburg, Deckertown, and Port Jervis. Catharine married a Post. Elizabeth married a Marvin and moved to Wellsburg, NY. Hannah was, I suppose, the wife of Major John Wheeler of Warwick.

I have thus endeavored to place together such incidents of the life of this eminent and distinguished citizen and patriot as were previously known to me, with what I have gleaned within a short time. There are other facts of interest that may yet be gathered and answers may yet be returned by some of his descendants to whom letters have been addressed requesting information.