

FORT WAGNER  
NELLISTON

This old colonial farmhouse and fort built in 1750 stands on the upper side of the highway a little less than 2 miles west of Nelliston. A historical marker points the way up a lane lined with stately oldelms (as of 1943) directly to the house. The old and the new are easily identified in this instance as the original building is of stone, the addition which is of wood being an elongation of the original structure.

The pioneer settler was Johan Peter Wagner, who with his wife Margaretha Loucks, both Palatines, came to settle in west camp, a palatine settlement on the west bank of the hudson river just north os Saugerties. From there they soon moved to the Schoharie valley. Here they remained some 10 years and in 1722 moved to the mohawk valley along with some 300 others to land given them by Governor Hunter. These palatines had experienced difficulty in securing land titles in the Schoharie valley, their attempted settlement being on land already patented to others. JOhan Peter and his wife lived until about 1750 and are buried in the Wagner plot southeast of the house on the near side of a hill called the "Stielerburg" or "steep hill".

There were some 5 or 6 children but apparently only one son, a second John Peter, born about the time, or just prior to the move to the Mohawk valley

JOhan Peter 2nd (brother of Maria Elizabeth Marcelus Wagner- our ancestor) was a Lt Col and fought at the battle of Oriskany with 3 of his sons, Lt Peter, George and John. His wife was Barbara "Waggerer", according to the records of the Stone Arabia church. There were in all 12 children, 5 sons 7 daughters.

Barbara, the wife, outlived Col Peter, both of them passing on after a long and useful life, victims of nothing more than old age. But even so, Col Peter was on his death bed but 9 days. Funeral services were held in the OPalatine church and burial in the Ft Plain cemetery.

The following story is told by a Fredrick Manheim, a Palatine settler who located near the Wagners. It is repeated here to illustrate the danger to which these early settlers were constantly exposed. The occurance on Oct 19 1777 when a raiding band consisting of some 50 indians captured 23 of the inhabitants of the neighborhood famong them being Manheim and his 16 year old twin daughters Maria and Christina. Manheim was captured in a field where he was working. Following the raid the indians made a speedy retreat which lasted 4 days allowing scarce time for rest, and during this entire time, no fire was kindled for fear of capture. A camp was finally made in a thick pine swamp which rendered the darkness of an uncommon gloomy night still more dreadful. The indians ate bt themselves. After supper they appalled captives observed their enemies, instead of retiring to rest, busying themselves in operations which boded no good. Two saplings were pruned clear of branches up to the very top, and all the brush cleared away for several rods around them. While this was doing, others were splitting pitch pine billets into small splinters about 5 inches in length and as small as ones little finger, sharpening one end and dipping the other in melted turpentine. At length with countenances distracted by internal fury and hideous yells, the 2 savages who had captured the hapless maidens leaped into the midst of the cirdcle of prisoners and dragged those ill fated maidens shrieking from the embraces of their companions. These warriors had disagreed about wfhose property the gir ls should be as they had jointly seized them and to determine the dispute agreeable to the abominable custom of the savages, it was determined by the chiefs of the party that the prisoners who had given rise to the contenti should be destroyed, and that their captors should be the principal agents in the xcreble business. These furies assisted by their comrades striplped the forlorn girls, convulsed with appreh4nsions, and tied each to a sapling with their hands xtended as high above their heads as possible and then "pitched" them from their nees to their shoulder with upwards of 600 of the sharpened splinters which at every lpuncture were attended with screams of distress that echoed through the ilderness. And then to complete the infernal tragedy, the splinters all standing rest on the bleeding victims were put on fire and exhibited a scene of extreme

JOHANNES VAN EPS

BORN 1630 the Netherlands  
MARRIED Elizabeth Janse Douw 1666 Albany  
KILLED 1690 in the Schenectady Massacre by the French and Indians  
PARENTS Jan Dirkse Van Eps (1603-1652) and Marite Damen. Both lived in Albany  
HOME lived in Schenectady in 1664. Owned a bowrey on the Groote Valchte and a house and lot in the village. His lot was 200 ft square on the NW corner of state and church streets, upon portion of which the law office of Walter T L Sanders Esq now stands. In the massacre of 1690 in Schenectady he was killed with 2 of his children. He left surviving him 2 sons and 4 daughters. (Source: "Early history of Schenectady NY and its first settlers" by John Sanders pg 71

CHILDREN 8

- 1 John Baptist oldest son born 1673 who was carried captive to Canada when Schenectady was burned in 1690 but escaped after being held captive for 3 years. He married 9 July 1699 Helena Glen, daughter of John Alexander Glen of Scotia. 4 sons 6 daughters
- 2 JOHN EVERT m (1) 8 July 1705 Eva Toll dau of Carel Hanse Toll  
(2) 19 July 1729 Elizabeth Truax dau Isaac Truax  
In 1704 he owned a lot on Washington Ave. He had with both wives 5 sons and 5 daughters
- 3 Sarah
- 4 Elizabeth
- 5 Maria
- 6 Anna
- 7 & 8 both killed in Schenectady massacre in 1690 by french & ind.

JOHN EVERT VAN EPSS SR

BORN 1684  
 MARRIED Eva Toll 1705 and Elizabeth Truex in 1729  
 DIED  
 CHILDREN 12

Johannes	b 4 Apr 1706		
Lysbeth	8 Feb 1708	m Henry Brower	4 children
<u>JOHANNES</u>	28 Apr 1710	m <u>Anna Van Vechten</u>	3 children
Marytje	21 Jun 1712		
Neeltje	18 Dec 1714		
Mary	1716	m Tobias Rykman	6 children
Abraham	1 May 1717		
Abraham	2 Jan 1720	m Susanna Glen	7 children
Neeltje	22 Dec 1722	m Rynier Van Evern	
Carel	3 Jul 1724		
Annetje	7 Jun 1727	m Christian Christianse	
Isaac	1730		

The following sentence is taken from the book "History of Montgomery and Fulton Counties" .878 FW Beers & Co pg 103 : Among the early settlers in the town was John E Van Epps who located at the site of the present village of Fultonville in the town of Glen"

The following sentence is taken from the book "History of Montgomery Co" pg 288:  
 'In revolutionary days the site of Fultonville was known as Van Epps swamp, a large portion of the land being then owned by the Van Epps family whose pioneer, Charles Van Epps, located here at a very early day".

Block 18  
on chart

## JOHN EVERT VAN EPPS

BORN 28 Jan 1741 in Fultonville  
 MARRIED 12 Jun 1787 (or 20 Jun) in Fonda to Mary Polly Menthorn (d Oct 10 1839)  
 DIED 19 Dec 1813 at the Fultonville homestead age 73  
 BURIED in the family plot on the farm  
 PARENTS Johannes Van Epps b 1710 Glen and Anna Van Vechten

## CHILDREN: 5

John Evert	b 1789-1813	m Elizabeth Vedder (dau of John Vedder one of the 1st settlers) He was wounded in the battle of Oriskany and Johnstown taken prisoner to Canada
Lucy	b 1791	m Eli Crampton
Hannah	b 1798	m David Quackenbush
<u>Evaline -</u>	b 1801 d 1879	m <u>Luke L Wessels Jr</u>
Jane (Jannetje)		m Richard Hagernesse ?

OCCUPATION Farmer

## BOOK QUOTATIONS:

## 1. Pg 288 "History of Montgomery Co"

"In revolutionary war days, the site of Fultonville was known as Van Epps swamp. A large portion of the land being then owned by the Van Epps family whose pioneer, Charles Van Epps located here at a very early day."

## 2. Pg 39 "History of Montgomery Co" 1878 shows a listing of names

"of the persons assessed above 5 pounds with the sums to pay, number of days to work upon the Kings highway etc (it is undated but believed to have been written shortly before the revolution. One line reads) John and Evert Van Eps for 5 days work and 15 pounds"

## 3. Pg 98 same book

" John Van Epps, grandfather of R L Wessels of Ames, was in the revolutionary war. He was taken prisoner by the indians and held by them for 3 years. When captured he was on his way to a neighbors with some money which his father owed the latter. He had time to hide the money at the foot of a certain gatepost, where on his return he looked for it to find only the pocketbook. He then enlisted as a Capt"

STATE HISTORICAL ROAD SIGN: located on Rt 5 2½ miles east of Cranesville near Amsterdam

" A famous inn here 1795-1845 stood the hotel of John Van Eps who fought at Oriskany. Here Commodore Perry and other notables were entertained."

He was a Cdpt of batteaumen at lake George and elsewhere and was wounded at the battle of Orickany in Aug 1777. He was 13 days a prisoner at Gellis and 4 months a prisoner at Fonda and 18 months in Canada after the battle of Johnstown. His wife drew a pension until her leath for the benefit of the children. Date of pension application 17 Sept 1844 by son John E /an Epps.

SISTERS Anatje b 1735 (m Henry Wemple) and Maria b 1736 (mAndrew Mitchell)

THE LIFE OF LUKE WESSELS

He was born in 1754 in Schodack NY (or Kinderhook) the son of Lucas Wessels (b1721) and Anna Huyck (b1723). He had 4 siblings, Isaac, Andries, Arr-entje and Annatje. He was a carpenter and wright and built the first sawmill on Flat creek and operated it. He built his farmhouse on a hillside just above the little village of Flat Creek south of Canajo on 350 acres of land. He was the first settler and built it in 1782. It was destroyed by fire in April 1888 when his grandson Jacob lived there. Family records say that additions were built by descendents but the basic house was solid. The old sills posts and rafters were massive timbers and clspboards 12 in to 18 in wide. The walls were lined with brick and the outside was once painted red. The heavy beams overhead were as smooth as glass (no plaster ceilings), Although one or two rooms were finished off in later years. Floors were wide boaras cut by hand. The large cellar was living quarters for slaves who worked on the farm. He gave 100 acres to each of 2 of his 3 sons and the remaining 150 acres for himself and his third son who occupied the house with him. When his 3rd son died he left the land to his grandson Peter. Peter's widow occupied part of the homestead with her son Jacob in the other part. 2 daughters of Jacob were the 5th generation to live there. An old newspaper clipping reads as follows "fire at flat creek - the dwelling at Flat Creek known as the Wessel homestead was totally destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon. It is one of the oldest buildings in the valley and its quaint style of architecture has attracted much attention."

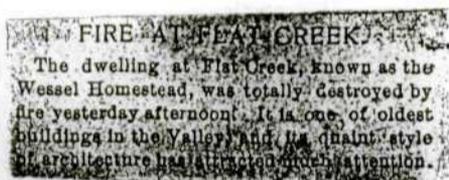
He married Jannetje Hugenor Apr 5 1779 in the dutch reformed church in Kinderhook. They had 7 children. He was a soldier in the revolutionary war. He died in 1824. His will is dated July 6 1824 and was probated Nov 4 1825 and mentions 7 children. The executors were Luke L Wessels and David Scacia.

THE LIFE OF JANNETJE HUGENOR WESSELS

According to the records of the dutch Reformed church of Kinderhook, she was baptized Feb 25 1759. Her parents were Abraham Hugenor (1723-1769) and Christyntyje VanValkenburg (1728-1803), who were married in 1747. The translated record of this church pg 237 reads as follows "Luke Wessels, a young man from Schodack and Jannetje Hugenor, unmarried woman from Kinderhook with certificate from Albany - married Apr 5 1779". They had 7 children as follows:

- Cornelius
- Luke L           bapt 1780 in Kinderhook   m 1799 Tenethy died 1840 Flat Cr cemetery
- Isaac I           bapt 1785                           m 1810 Cornelia /VanValkenburg
- Abram (Abraham) bapt 1786 born May 5 1786 m 1805 Cornelia (Caty) Wessels died 1854
- Christena       bapt 1781                           m Abraham VanValkenburg
- Hannah                           m John Van Evra
- Polly                               m Jacob Van Housen

Her date of death of unknown. Burial was probably in the family cemetery across the road from the homestead



HARTMAN WINDECKER

BORN between 1670 and 1685 Germany

MARRIED 1711 <sup>First wife Anna Birken</sup> Barbara Elizabeth Bellinger probably daughter of Nicholas Bellinger 2nd wife

IMMIGRANT was on NY Palatine subsistence list in 1710 and 1717 and in Schoharie Co census with wife and 5 children

DIED ?

BURIED

CHILDREN 6

John Henry	1711-		
George	1715-1763 ?	m Elizabeth Walrath	
Frederick	1721-1808	m by 1768 Barbara ?	battle of Oriskany
John	1722-	living in 1754	
Adam	1724-	living in 1749	
Conrad	1727-	m before 1757	Eva ?

PETITION A "humble petition" (see copy in TWP file) dated 8 Oct 1730 to the Governor to buy 2000 adres of land for 65 pounds from the indians. The 3 petitioners were Hartman Windecker, Conrad Counterman (Countryman today) and Caspar Leyp and the indian marks.

GRANT In the book "History of Montgomery and Fulton Co" 1878 by Beers pg 74 there is a listing of grants and grantees from the British crown before the revolution. One line shows that Hartman Windecker recieved a grant of 2000 acres in the town of Minden on Nov 12 1731 known as Windecker's patent.

VOLUNTEER A QUOTE FROM THE BOOK "History of Fulton Co" 1893 by Hardin is as follows:  
 "Among the volunteers who accompanied Col Nicholson on his expedition to Canada in 1711 are found names that afterward became familiar in the Mohawk valley..  
 ...Hartman Windecker, Henry Failing Wm Nellis .....(19 others)."

QUOTE from ..  
 "Conrad Weiser, Hartman Windecker and others were among the first settlers in the Schoharie valley, and were on the canadian expedition from New York City to Quebec by land and sea from June to Oct 1711".

QUOTE from the book "Frontiersmen of New York" by Simms 1882 pg 109 refers to a record headed "Palatine volunteers for the expedition against Canada- 1711". It refers to Annsbury and 52 names and Hartman Windecker as Captain. These names (Annsbury etc) were given to local settlements at east camp on the east bank of the lower Hudson river. The record shows Annsbury as one of 7 settlements in May 1711 containing 76 families and 277 people in Annsbury and 527 families and 1874 people total. The ships arrived in New York in July 1710 (pg 104) and people moved into camps on the Hudson in Sep 1710.

FORT WINDECKER " Situated between Fort Herkimer and Fort Plain and some 7 or 8 miles from Fort Plain was the house of Johannes Windecker, a german and strong friend of the colonists. Early in the war his house was palisaded and called Fort Windecker. Inside the enclosure was also erected a blockhouse which was wupplied with a signal gun, and in this military post many families sought refuge when the torch and firebrand of the dreaded Brand and Johnson scoured the Mohawk and Schoharie valleys".  
 (Note this may have been Hartman's son John Henry or John)

QUOTE from the b ook "History of Herkimer Co" pg 204 : James Van Slyke age 17, and John Windecker age 9 (probably son of Fredrick) were taken prisoners by the indians during the Revolution. They were at the time in the log house of Fredrick Windecker They were carried to Canada. Van Slyke escaped soon after but Windecker was detained 5 years".

HUYCK LINE

ANDRIES HUYCK SR	b	m Catalyna Van Valkenburg
ANDRIES HUYCK JR	b 1693	m Maria Ouderkerk 1713 b 1696
ANNATJE HUYCK	b 1723	(widow of Col Vander Poel) m 1751 Albany Lucas Wessels 5 children
LUKE WESSELS	b 1754 d1825	m Jannetje Hugenor 1779 in Kinderhook b1759 d 1840 7 children
LUKE L WESSELS SR	b 1780 d1859	m 1801 Tenethy Van Valkenburg in Coxackie 1778-1840 5 children
LUKE L WESSELS JR	b 1802 d1876	m 1825 Evalina Van Epps 1801-1879 in Fonda 10 children
RICHARD L WESSELS	b 1827-d1912	m 1849 Anna Maria Horning 1828-1889 6 children
SILAS A WESSELS MD	b 1851 d1913	m 1878 Alzina Snyder 1857-1938 6 children
ANNA MAUDE WESSELS	b 1882 d1956	m 1905 L J Shaver 2 children
VIRGINIA SHAVER	b 1906 d1979	m 1927 Wesley Planck 5 children
THOMAS PLANCK	b 1927	m 1949 Leneta Mott 6 children

THE HUYCK FAMILY (pg 397 "Hudson & Mohawk")

The Huyck family came to America in the person of John (Hanse)(Huighen)(Huygh)(Huyck) in company with Peter Minuit, the Commander and director of the Dutch West India Company and the real founder of the city of New York. In 1891, Mr A.A. Vosterman Van Cijen, genealogist and Heraldic Archief, residing in the Hague, made investigations that gave many facts concerning the Huycks in Holland. They showed that while the family belonged to the burghers, they had occupied positions of trust and honor as far back as the 16th century. Copied from the registers of births, baptisms and marriages found there appear the same names that occur in the American family.

This record is traced from Henrie Huyck, a merchant from Roemond, who in 1616 became a resident of Nymegen, Holland, and took the oath for himself and 11 children, of whom Jan (John) became groptstraat in 1617 while Henri, the second son, became burgomeister of the town and left a numerous offspring. Jan, son of Henri Huyck, chieftain of the grootstraat, Nymegan Holland, April 2 1617, emigrated from Wesel, a strongly fortified town on the Rhine. Here his youthful days had been spent and he had risen to some prominence, being a deacon or elder in the church. He took passage on a small Dutch vessel, the Sea Gull, in company with his brother in law Peter Minuit, who was the first director in the new world of the Dutch West India Company. Jan was the Koopman, or storekeeper for the Company. They landed May 4 1626 after a voyage of 4 months, on the island of Manhates, now the site of the present city of New York. A small colony of 30 houses had been established there, a fort had been staked out, and a stone building thatched with reeds erected as a counting house for the use of the Company. Here the director and koopman took up their residence, transacted business and exerted every energy to advance the interests of the Company. Not having an ordained minister in the colony, two "zercken Troosters", comforters of the sick, were appointed who should read the scripture, the creed and the sermon on the sabbath. John (Jan) Huyck was one of the two appointed. The following year, a minister having arrived, a church was organized with Peter Minuit and John Huyck elders, they having been in Holland, one a deacon, the other an elder. John Huyck was an honorable, intelligent and reliable man, and during his permanent settlement at New Amsterdam has honorable mention. His wife was Lizabeth Peters, who survived him and married Dirck Weijerts. Andries Hanse, son of Jan and Lizabeth (Peters) Huyck, was of New Amsterdam, Kinderhook, and Albany. He was the owner of a large estate at Kinderhook which he obtained by a patent from King James II dated Mar 14 1636, and much of this is still in the possession of a descendant. /Andries Hanse and his wife were among the first members of the old Dutch church in Albany, mentioned in 1683, all previous records of this church being lost. He made his will Aug 23 1707. His wife was Cathalin Lammerse Van Valkenburg of Kinderhook, who was living in 1707 and is mentioned in his will with 10 children:

Johannes	1673	Cornelius	1688
Lambert	1676 m Anna Ratcliffe Aug 28 1707	Anna	1693
Burger	1679 m Mayke Goes Oct 2 1703	Andries	1693
Catie	1682	Maria	1696
Jochem	1685	Margaret	1700