



The Elm Tree

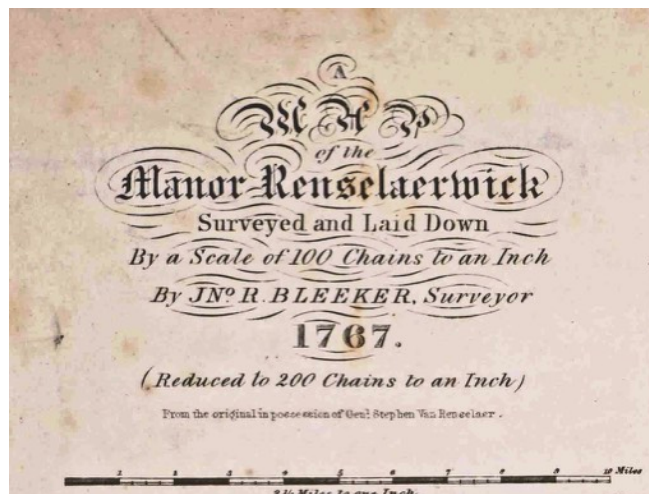
The Patroon's Farm

*The 2,500 Acre Farm of
Stephen VanRensselaer III*

If you live in the southern end of Menands or in Loudonville, or the area along parts of the Albany Shaker Road, chances are the property where your home stands was all part of a 2,500-acre tract of VanRensselaer land called “The Farm” that was separate and apart from the rest of the land within the old West Manor of Rensselaerwyck.

The deed to your home may or may not include a very detailed and lengthy title search like one that was done on a home along the Albany Shaker Road in the Loudonville area just beyond the site of the City of Albany’s water reservoir, where developer Charles Buchman was building homes in the Albany area immediately after WWII. Buchman also developed the Park Lane and Park Hill Apartments in Menands along with the area called Park Hill Drive.

We all know the story behind how Henry Hudson “discovered” this area in mid-September of 1609 when Hudson pushed his small ship the Half Moon up the “North River” to the latitude near present day Albany where the ship continued to ground on shoals as the river became more shallow at and beyond Albany. Hudson was under contract with the Dutch East India Company of Holland to find what was hoped by many in Europe at the time to be a North-Eastern route from Europe to sail to the East Indies for trade without having to sail all the way around the Continent of Africa. Were it not for the shoals near Albany and Henry Hudson pushing his ship and crew as far as conditions would



An email of this map and that on pg. 3 available to GLA members upon request

allow, the bustling little community of Beverwyck and Fort Orange might have been established farther south along the river, or not at all.

Hudson’s exploration of the North River proved it not to be that elusive route, but his journals revealed he had found a virtual utopia filled with virgin forests as far as the eye could see, plenty of game and fresh water in a river filled with fish, and fertile flatlands along its banks that were under cultivation (enough harvests to fill the holds of several ships) by friendly Native Americans who were willing to trade food and more importantly; furs for trinkets that Hudson’s crew offered. News of Hudson’s voyage triggered more ships to sail upriver to the Albany area, bringing European-made implements of value to the Indians who were more than willing to trade valuable beaver and other animal pelts in exchange for them.

cont. on page 3

GLA celebrated the 4th on Loudon Green



GLA Board

Darcy Harding, *President*
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Thomas Suraci

Welcome New Members!

Raji Bouchard
Andrew Williamson
Gavin Mylrea and Viktoriya Baum
Ken and Ann Duffy
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Kramer
Steven Girvin
Robert and Kelly Mateja
Michael and Kimberly Preiksaitis
Rohit Repala and Erica Archer
Patti Brown and Kathy Quandt
Michael and Laurie Scaringe
Frank and Phyllis Barbera
Heath Heimroth & Brianne Baggetta
Michael and Betsy Pritchard
Judith C. Tate

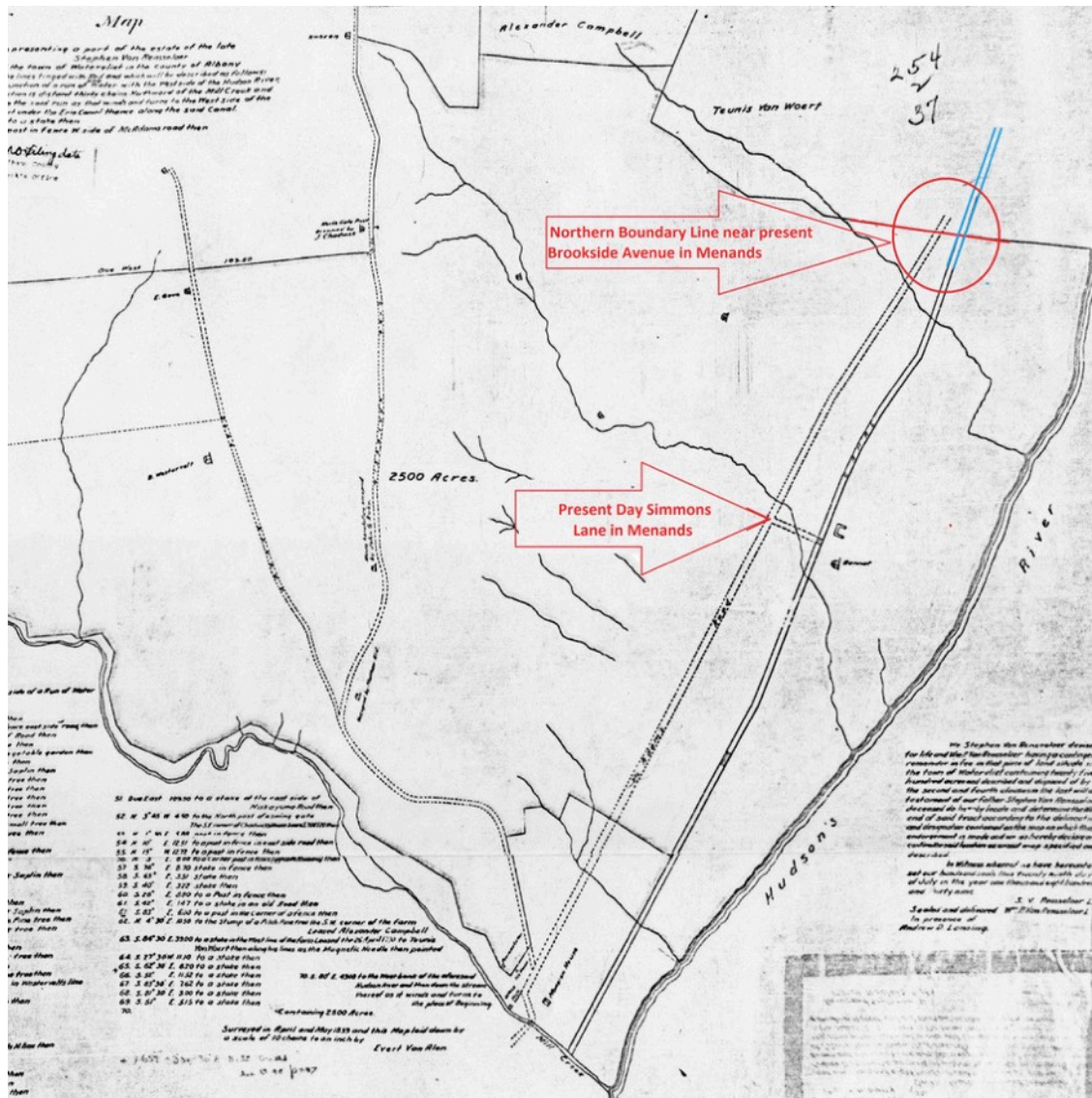
In 1621 the States General of the Netherlands granted a charter to the Dutch West India Company, giving it not only a monopoly to conduct trade, but to *acquire land and establish colonies* in what became “New Netherland” along the North-East area of America. In 1624 The West India Company sent a party of 30 families to settle at what eventually became Albany.

In 1629-1630, the States General and the Dutch West India Company conveyed a tract of land to Killian VanRensselaer on the west side of the Hudson River extending “from the mouth of the Mohawk River, 24 miles southward, and two days’ journey westward [into the country].” (The survey point for the northern boundary of that parcel was taken from the landmark of the Cohoes falls in a westerly direction.) A 1969 issue of the *Colonie Townsman* newspaper showed a photograph of the original 1630 Surveyors stone still standing in a heavily wooded area known to locals as “Skadaddle Ridge” on land owned by the Guptil family. Present day Manor Avenue in Cohoes is identified as the northern boundary of that tract of land named the “West Manor” or today’s Albany County.

The entire West Manor tract was initially known as “Watervliet”. Seven years later, on the east side of the Hudson, a similar tract 24 miles north and south and 24 miles inland was obtained, making Killian VanRensselaer the Patroon or Lord, presiding over 700,000 acres of land combined, called Rensselaerwyck (name as spelled on the 1767 Map of the Manor.) The original “Watervliet” was broken up into other towns after the American Revolution beginning with Rensselaerville and eventually all of the other townships that make up today’s Albany County leaving that familiar triangular shaped parcel of land still called “Watervliet” which became Colonie in 1895.

The above paragraph helps to understand some of the language in the aforementioned title search describing the 2,500-acre parcel called “The Farm”, when the title search document mentions the old Town of Watervliet. In looking at the 2,500-acre survey map, “The Farm” begins near the Patroon’s Mansion in the North Albany area and spreads northward along the Hudson River and north-westward into what is now parts of North Albany and Colonie. Two points on this old map stand out: One is a small road leading east from the “Macadam Road” on the map, (Today’s Broadway in Menands) and ending after crossing the adjacent Erie Canal. This road is today’s Simmons Lane in Menands. From the north-east area of the map runs a straight line in a westerly direction. This line is also the boundary of the backyards on the south side of Brookside Ave. in Menands.

cont. on page 4



"I give, devise and bequeath my farm in the Town of Watervliet above devised for live [sic] to my son Stephen, from and after his death to my grandson, his son, Stephen, during his natural life, and I will and direct that upon the death of my said grandson Stephen the remainder in fee in the said farm shall belong to and vest in such of the issue of the said Stephen my grandson, as shall then be living; and in case my said grandson, shall die without leaving issue, the said remainder in fee in the said farm shall belong to and vest in my said son William; and in case the same shall fail to vest in my said son William, by reason of his death, then the said remainder in fee shall belong to such persons as by the laws of this State would be entitled to inherit the same as heirs to my son William, in case he had died seized of the same after the death of my grandson Stephen; and in case of the death of my grandson Stephen during the life of his said father so that the life estate in the said farm created for my said grandson as aforesaid shall fail, then I will and direct that the remainder in fee therein after the termination of the life estate of my said son Stephen shall belong to and vest in such of the issue

The title search continues for many pages recording deaths and trustees, of various VanRensselaer family, etc., over time. Eventually; Anson P. Atterbury became the trustee of the several trusts created by the last will of William P. VanRensselaer; and all of the trusts, etc., were folded into a company called the William P. VanRensselaer Estate Corp., which eventually sold lands contained in the 2,500-acre tract of “The Farm”. It should be noted that Cornelia VanRensselaer Erving was married to John Erving. The land of the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society in Menands came from the estate of John Erving. Today’s Irving Place in Menands is corrupted from the correct spelling of the last name Erving.

SOLD TO
PATRICK MC NAMARA
7.88 ACRES
Aug. 8, 1898

Northern Boundary is south
side of lots on Broadside Ave.

Location of 17 1/2'
line of 2900 acre tract

DROOIDE AVE.

ERIE CANAL

ERIE



GLA Fall Fest

Sunday, September 26th

2 - 4 pm



Buhrmaster Barn



Pruyn House

We welcome families and friends to join us
for this family-friendly seasonal event!

pumpkin decorating petting zoo
pony rides hay rides
complimentary cider and donuts

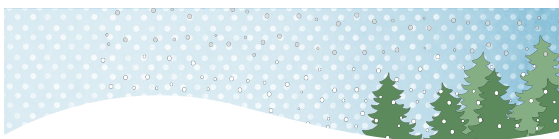
Holiday Tree Lighting



Sunday, November 28th @ 4pm

Loudon Green

Save the Date...



... FOR A HOLIDAY

celebration!

Friday December 10 at 6:30 P.M.
Schuyler Meadows Club
Loudonville, NY

Business in our Backyard



Edén Cafe

*How long have you
had your business
and what is your
service?*

We've been open since
12/17/15. Edén Cafe offers live entertainment as well as
financial investment services.

*How has the COVID pandemic impacted your
business and have you had to add new
products or services to adapt?*

Our Cafe business decreased by 50%, but our investment
practice continued to grow at a normal pace. We added a
grocery and wine-to-go by the bottle. New products
included CBD and new menu items.

*What is something you would like the
community to know about your business?*

We have live entertainment and activities five days a week.



Train XD

*How long have you
been in business and
what is your service?*

We've been operating
since June of 2017.
We offer personal fitness
training and small group

strength training and conditioning.

*How has the pandemic impacted your business and
how have you adapted?*

When regulations changed last year we made several
adjustments. Additional cleaning, spacing and outdoor
classes were held last summer. Since our numbers are small
- we allow no more than ten people/class, we've been able
to get back to normal. We have long-term clients and have
operated safely from the start.

*What is something you would like the
community to know about your business?*

We also offer yoga and stretch classes, and nutritional
counseling.

Membership Committee *Update*

Welcome new, existing, and prospective GLA members! We are so glad you have taken an interest in our non-profit that's committed to building, supporting, and sustaining community ties in and around Loudonville, Newtonville, and Menands. Our 250+ GLA members support the beautification of the neighborhood (like those flowers on the Loudonville gateway triangle), community events (like the Holiday tree lighting and sing-a-long), the annual Les Couch Award, and preserving the unique character and history of our community.

Our Summer Updates:

The Membership Committee invited new members to join our summer meeting - the first live meeting all year! The feedback was great and especially with Covid, now more than ever people want to connect.

We were happy to finally thank the Shaker Road Loudonville Fire House for last year's Santa and Mrs. Claus Ride-Along and for their 24/7 dedication and service! We are so lucky to have such a great group of individuals in our community!

Get to know your neighbors and meet "your people" (entrepreneurs? runners? readers? Don't wait - start today by joining GLA and our membership committee.

Your neighbors and the nice people of GLA are waiting to meet you. If you would like to join our Membership Committee or be included in our New Member spotlight, please email info@greaterloudonville.org.

Camille Hoheb



Member Spotlight

Meet Raji Bouchard

How did you find out about GLA?

I've been looking for local organizations or neighborhood programs to be involved in but never made a firm decision on any. At a party I came to know a few of my neighbors/friends are involved with GLA and it became easier for me to make the choice.

I like what the GLA stands for, its values and its support towards the community.

What do you hope to receive and contribute from being a member?

An opportunity to meet and learn from the people in the community whom I would not have a chance to meet otherwise. This is the neighborhood in which I want to grow old with my husband, Brad. I would like to volunteer and participate in the community programs that not only help protect the history of Loudonville, but also make it a safe haven to live in for diversified groups.

Please tell us about yourself and your family

Brad and I came to live in Loudonville in 2017. We are IT professionals working for the State of NY. I work for the Office of Parks and Recreation. I am originally from Southern India and originally came to the USA for studies. I have my MBA from Oklahoma City and a Masters in Info Systems Management from Seattle. Brad is from the Colchester/Burlington area of VT. He is a computer major from SUNY Albany. We have two rescue mutts, Scooter and Yash.



Member Spotlight

Meet Andrew Williamson

How did you find out about GLA?

I had heard about the GLA in the past but recently began seeing it mentioned which finally led me to inquire.

What motivated you to become a member?

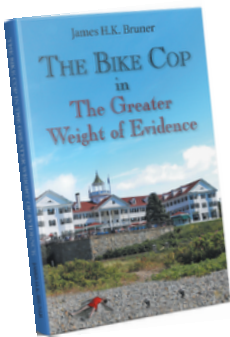
An opportunity to give back to the community I grew up in.

What do you hope to receive and contribute from being a member?

Meeting other community members I wouldn't otherwise get the chance to. I'd like to contribute to community events and take opportunities to learn more about things happening in our immediate community.

Please tell us about yourself and your family

I have lived in the Capital District all my life, and have lived in Loudonville since I was four. My parents also still live in Loudonville. I currently work for Albany County and was previously a non-profit executive. In my free time I enjoy volunteering with a variety of organizations and travel as much as possible.



Author Spotlight

The Bike Cop Series

by James H. K. Bruner

James H.K. Bruner now divides his time between Tallahassee and Kennebunkport, but he was born and raised in Loudonville. His father,

Dr. Laman Bruner was the long-time rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Albany and Jamie and his brothers – and mom, Sally – lived in Loudon Heights for many years.

In addition to his law practice in Florida, James has written a series of three novels set in the summer resort town of Port Talbot Maine. Many will recall that Dr. Bruner was the seasonal rector at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Kennebunkport, and the family spent their summers in seaside Maine for 30 years. It was this memory of youthful summer days before internet, cell phones and the 24/7 news cycle that inspired James to write the Bike Cop series.

We are first introduced to our protagonist, Digger Davenport in *The Greater Weight of Evidence*. Digger is a college student who lands a summer job handing out parking tickets and direct tourists, yet somehow manages to get involved in the murder of a waitress from the elegant Brigantine Hotel. The evidence, on its face points to a black bellhop from Florida, but Digger, with a penchant for solving crime, probes further to unmask the true perpetrator.

In the second book, *Son Over the Yardsarm*, Digger returns to Port Talbot to direct traffic and write tickets. But once again, he is caught up in mystery and intrigue when the town's fables Abenaki curse appears to torment a wealthy Ocean Avenue family and threatens the life of the heir to the oceanfront estate. Joining Digger in this adventure is Kristy Riggins, sailing instructor and romantic interest. Together they find a way to help the troubled family – while simultaneously dealing with some surprising Davenport family secrets.

The final book in the series, *Shadows of Dog Island Light*, finds the now 20 year old Digger resuming his summer job with the Port Talbot Police Department. Joined once again by girlfriend Kristy, the two become enmeshed in a master criminal's scheme to enact revenge on a prominent local family. Secrets abound on Dog Island – many of them stretching back to Civil War Savannah, Digger and Kristy must race against time to fight a storm at sea, and the fallout from the Davenport family's secret revelations.

Although the “beach read” season may be over, if you are looking for an absorbing, light-hearted read that transports you to a summer seaside town, this trio is for you!

Beth Mahar

Greater Loudonville Association
PO Box 11144
Loudonville NY 12211-0144

Non-profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
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Albany NY 12211

or current resident

DATED MATERIAL

The Patroon's Farm *end note:*

The map of the 2,500-acre tract was surveyed in April and May, 1839, just a couple months after Stephen VanRensselaer III passed away in January that year. An image of the map contains all of the surveyor's points and measurements which are hard to see if the map image appears in a newsletter.

However; if requested, I can email a good resolution image of that map to anyone in the G.L.A. If any member of the G.L.A. who is a surveyor, knows a surveyor or has surveyor skills could reproduce (even approximately) the outline of the 2,500-acre tract on a modern map of the Town of Colonie, it would give people a better idea of where the footprint of this 2,500-acre tract was and I would very much like to

keep the outline of that tract on file here with others in the map collection in the Historian's office.

Credit: The copy of the title search document used to help write this newsletter is courtesy of Mr. Peter Mason whose grandfather owned a small farm on the Albany Shaker Road west of Osborne Road and later a home on the Albany Shaker Road near the Albany City Reservoir.

Map images are from the collection of the Town of Colonie Historian's Office.

Kevin Franklin, Historian
Town of Colonie & Village of Menands

For more information, go to Town of Colonie Historical Society