

Driving Tour for the Town of Hastings

Created for the Heritage Day in 1985,
probably by Town Historian, Irene Meyers
Re-typed & edited/added to by Heather Stevens 2009 Village Historian



Starting point from Fulton Avenue, Central Square, NY. Turn left and head north on route 11, formerly a plank road and stagecoach line.

1. Hillside Cemetery- Land donated by James Roosevelt, the first burial was in April 1822 of Anna Goodspeed. When James wife died, it was reported that he had her buried over the fence on the south side as he intended to have her moved to Skaneateles Cemetery. Some say she was never moved.

2. Community Park- The village park below the cemetery was donated by Abraham Goettel in 1925 for use of residents and school children of the village. It has been improved and sponsored in recent years by the Lion's Club. Today (2009) it is named Goettel Community Park.

3. Reymore Chevrolet- across from the Park. William Reymore started the business in 1921 where the Central Square Fire Company now stands. Eddie and Barbara House and Sons now conduct the business. Reymore's suffered a devastating fire in February 2007. However they were hardly closed and, as you can see, they rebuilt are continuing to serve our community.

4. Chamberlain's Pond- The little pond on the left was on the Chamberlain farm. Ice was harvested from here for local people and particularly the milk plant. Village children came here to skate in the early 1800's.

***Turn left at North Country and take Route 4

5. Parkhurst Place- One of the earliest houses in the community was the Parkhurst farm. It was built by William Parkhurst in the 1840's, the carpenter was Freeman Farrar. The building stood on the site of the North Country Shopping Center.

It was a busy place with many hired men and a large herd of cattle, as well as horses, poultry, pigs and sheep. Mrs. Parkhurst owned a cheese factory in the back of the house and being Civil War time had a ready market for her cheese.

In the 1960's it became the home of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Murphy, and became known as Fiddler's Green Farm. Mrs. Murphy was famous for her Morgan Horses and earned notable records at Syracuse

and other shows.

***Continue on route 4 to Hastings Center, where route 4 will bear left at the four corners.

6. Hastings Center- had its beginnings in a saw mill erected by Rollin Blunt (Blount) on the creek in 1822. In 1838 Pierce and Cornell built a second mill. Gilbert Parkhurst (son of William) built the first and apparently only hotel in the place near the four corners. It burned in about 1910. James Perfield established a store here about 1860; the building still stands on the right. The school, west of the four corners, is now a residence.

***Proceed west on Route 4

7. Coit Cemetery- was established in 1842. It was named for James Coit, a well-known early settler. He taught the first school in Central Square in 1824, somewhere on the hill across from Central Square's Hillside Cemetery. His ten children and two wives were all teachers in public school or seminaries. For over thirty years he held public offices including a member of assembly in 1860.

***Follow Route 4 which turns right at Bender's Corners.

8. Louis Traub home- The house which stood on this corner was built by Louis Traub, George Traub's grandfather. He brought from Germany the early curved glass windows which were a striking feature of the house. It was destroyed by fire some years ago.

A short distance ahead, route 4 bends left. Keep straight ahead, instead on Bradford Road.

9. Bradford Farm-Both Henry and Harold Bradford were active in politics. Henry Bradford was Town Supervisor from 1934-1939. Harold was Town Supervisor from 1958-1969 when he accepted an appointment in Oswego and worked in County politics until he retired. Both men ran the farm at the same time with the help of their sons and hired men.

Continue on Bradford Road to "T" in the road and turn left on Pangburn Road. Take the next right, Graves Road to route 45 and turn right again. Proceed to four corners and turn right on Baratier Road.

10. Devendorf House- This historic home with lovely old shade trees along the road in front of it is located on your left. It was built by Russell Gardner about 1840. Being a southerner, the architecture shows the southern influence with large pillars in front. Mr. Gardner was an early settler on land that was formerly a Revolutionary War Grant.

A son, Charles, went west and married Della Beckwith of Dawagias, Michigan. She was a daughter of Philo Beckwith who manufactured the Beckwith heating stove known as the Round Oak Stove.

A daughter wed Rudolph Devendorf, a young merchant from Central Square. Rudolph and his wife purchased the place about 1865.

***Follow Baratier Road to Route 11. Hastings Cemetery is straight ahead. If you turn right and go a short distance down the road to the Donut Shop, you would be at the site of a large hotel known as the Nellis House or Half-Way House. It was built by Gilbert Parkhurst and was a stagecoach stop. A little farther south is a home painted red and trimmed with white which was formerly District #5 Bardeen's schoolhouse.

or

****Turn left and head north on Route 11 to Hastings.

11. Hastings- In 1821 there was a log home occupied by a Mr. Widger and a frame dwelling on the site of a cheese factory where William Ford resided. By 1830 the Widger house was converted into a grocery store. The first tavern was built by William Hunt. Another was kept many years by “Uncle Den” Wightman. It was said that the success of his day could be seen by the angle of his hat. As the day progressed, the hat was slid farther back on his head. A steam sawmill was built by Mr. Corning in 1854. It was bought in 1863 by Aaron Benson who, with his brother, invented the “Benson water wheel” used in this section for many years. District #10 Hastings schoolhouse was located where the VFW is now across from the present post office.

**Turn right at the four corners on to Route 38.

12. Presbyterian Church- On the 10th of October 1835, William Jay deeded 57 acres of land on which to build a church. J. J. Coit was a trustee and cared for the property for 39 years.

The remains of the Old Grange Hall are to the west of the church.

***Following Route 38, Coe's sawmill is on the right. Beyond the bridge over Route 81, turn left on route 84, which dead ends.

13. Carley's Mills- George Carley came from Otsego County in 1822. He built a saw mill the following year which burned after only a year. When he rebuilt, he added a carding machine managed by George Benedict for about ten years. Afterwards Mr. Carley erected two other saw mills there.

***Turn around and follow route 84 toward Little France. Carley's Mill Cemetery is on the right and on the left the community Center Which was once schoolhouse District #6.

14. Little France- Settled by a colony of French Canadians about 1853. At one time it was a thriving village with a hotel built by Levi Pattat, and two stores, one built by Augustus Pattat and one by A. A. Besanson. At the far end of the village is the old Catholic Church, now a house. It is actually in the Town of West Monroe, but it was once an important part of the community. Before the church was built, Mrs. Pattat walked to Syracuse with her baby in order to have it baptized.

**Turn right on Route 37 and proceed South. On the left, hidden by trees is the Little France Catholic Cemetery. A dirt road leads to it across a small stream. The house with a cupola on right was the Strickland home.

***Proceed to Mallory Village and turn right on its main street.

15. Mallory- Once a big industrial village with three stores, the usual blacksmith and cooper shops and three saw mills, one built by Edward Smith as early as 1810. George Smith and son Jerome purchased the property about twenty years later, and because of the family the village was at first called Smith Mills. Jared Mallory later ran one of the saw mills, and through his efforts established a post office. People came from some distance to get their mail.

On the corner as you turn right on Main Street stood a large hotel. Its first proprietor on record was Mr. Revoir. Guy Pierce ran it for many years.

Farther down the hill was the Mallory farm on the right. Across the road was a cheese factory. On the right, beyond was a store. The Methodist Church, now a home, is on the right and another store was across the street.

16. Courbat Mills- was on the right. Joseph Courbat established the business and gave his son George the saw mill and son Charles the planing mill which built wagons etc. These buildings burned and were rebuilt. The lumber business is now run by the Breckhemier family. Mallory Hotel is straight ahead, established by Frank Courbat, another son of Joseph. If you look towards Baum road, you will see the Mallory Baptist Church on the left. At the top of the hill Mallory School District #11, where Harvey and Marion Mugglin and son now live.

***Turn left and cross the bridge. Turn right by the pond.

***Follow this road to the railroad. The depot stood on the left where Roy Herrick was station master. The Queensboro Milk Station building is now a meat outlet owned by F. G. Aletzhauer. Turn around and go back towards Mallory. Turn Right on Route 12 towards Central Square.

17. Mallory Cemetery- is on the left at the top of the hill. Many old monuments are missing, as some years ago, in an attempt to tidy up the cemetery; broken stones were carted away by workmen who did not realize their value.

***Follow Route 12 into Central Square. In the first wooded area on your left was a covered pavilion known as Piquet's Grove. After crossing the bridge over Route 81, there is another wooden area known years ago as Harrington's Grove. County Route 12 becomes known as Mallory Road in the village.

At the bottom of the hill that leads into the village was a tannery built in 1800's by Robert Elliott. Just beyond across the road are pumps and springs which were the source for the water system of the Village of Central Square. He also built a steam saw mill, which was rebuilt after it burned.

***Turn right on Route 49, proceed to the stoplight, then turn left on Route 11. Just north of Harold's Drug Store is a Sears Roebuck mail order home. It was an early attempt at pre-fab building. If you were to turn on to Depot Road (Railroad Street), you would see the old depot. At one time the depot housed SOVAC, today it is a museum. Across the road was the Hamilton House, built by a Mr. Rhines, but ran by the Hamilton's for many years. It was an easy stopping place for salesman or drummers, as they were called, bringing their wares to the merchants in town.

***Proceeding south, across the road from Harold's is the former Dairylea Milk Plant Building. Farmers brought milk for shipping, by horse, in the early 1900's. Later it was bought by the Dairymen's League which operated it until a few years ago when milk began to be carried by tank trucks. The O&W tracks were beside the building.

On the hill beyond the station was a Red & White Store for a few years; now Smith's Building Supply and the South Paw Restaurant are there.

18. The Snow Place- In 1820 Aaron Snow became the proprietor of the Block House Hotel at Brewerton. He moved to Caughdenoy in 1822 and finally in 1826 settled on a farm in L'Hommodieu location. His widow resided there with her son Leonard until her death. The school district was organized in 1821 and was called the Snow District #3. Aaron Snow built the first frame house between Central Square and Brewerton. It still stands—the home of the Ted and Dorothy Snow family. Across the road was a tool gate for the plank road from Salina to Central Square.

19. Oliver Stevens Blockhouse Museum- Oliver Stevens was the first settler in the Town of Hastings. He came to abandoned Fort Brewerton in 1789. Fort Brewerton Earth Works are on the right of the museum and Fort Brewerton hotel stood on the left. Smith's Pier was built next to the hotel on the river.

**Go back north on Route 11 to corner of Route 37 (River Road) and turn left. Travel along the river to Caughdenoy.

20. Caughdenoy- (Indian name meaning “where the eel is lying down”). Myron Stevens who was Olivers son built the first house here in 1797 near the site of the dam. A saw mill was erected here in 1825 by Alanson Seymour. Robert Pelton carried on a large lumber business here and the place was called for a time Pelton Mills or Peltonville.

***Turn left on Route 12. Caughdenoy Cemetery is on the right. There are interesting old field stones in back used as monuments. Jonathan Hall, US soldier of the Revolutionary War is buried here. (Birth 1756 and death 1827). A marker placed on his grave by Kayendatsyone Chapter D.A.R.

Site of Youman's Methodist Church on right of cemetery. It burned in 1945 and a new church was built across the corners, dedicated in 1949. Boy Scouts maintain the site and erected the flag pole and Memorial Stone.

The sale of eels was an important business until 30 or 40 years ago. Eel weirs were placed in the river, not visible now because of the dam. As many as 1000 eels were taken daily for months every year. They were smoked and shipped to several cities to be sold. Lumber and boating interest were also important industries here.

***Turn left on Route 33 towards the bridge.

21. Second House- on left was originally a Baptist Church. It was sold to Methodists who later built their own church. The building was then moved about 1880 and remodeled to be used for a dry goods store by Hopkins & Patterson. Caughdenoy post office was downstairs with living quarters upstairs. Rae Hall served as the last postmaster until January 1, 1920.

The old hotel on the right was the site of a cheese factory, and later the McMahan Hotel. It was a hotel and restaurant for many years run by Leal and Zeta Ladd called “the Best Restaurant by a Dam Site”.

***Cross the bridge. On the left is a lock from the Erie Canal. The canal channel runs beside the river. Indians camped along the river to fish and there is an old stone used for sharpening stone and making arrowheads in the woods. The brick building on the left was a grist mill.

***Turn around and cross the river again.

Straight ahead, the present furniture store, was site of first hotel in village built by Orson Emmons. The Ostrander's Village Market was made from a hop house into a store and operated by Oliver Hall's family for many years.

Manhattan Park is west ¼ mile across the creek and next to the river. It was named after the steamboat “Manhattan” because the machinery was removed from it and then boat finally sank in the river there. Bricks were made from the dirt taken out of the Manhattan Park area.

***Go straight ahead and cross Route 12.

On the corner of Back Street was formerly a blacksmith shop and a shoe store beyond in the second house. On the Back Street was school district #1, owned by Caughdenoy Fire Company and now a parking lot. It was the first school in the town which there is accurate knowledge and was taught by Patrick Vickery in 1820. Dr. Ed Hall had a bandstand on his lawn on the corner of Back Street and

Ladd Road.

***Continue on Route 33. Hops were grown in the open field on your left. Bear right and pass Goettel's Community Feed Mill operated by Arnold Goettel from 1929 until his death. Vernon Goettel has continued the business. A snowmobile trail follows the old Ontario and Western RR bed. The depot here was torn down and a large storage building on the right was also. A house was built on the north side of the tracks where a milk station once stood. Many tons of hay were shipped by railroad cars from here.

***Cross Route 49 and turn right on Goettel Road. At the foot of the hill is Crippens Pond. John Crippen built Crippen's Mills here in the late 1800's. Abraham Goettel had a saw mill on this spot in the 1900's.

***Turn left on Guenther Road. Crippen School District #13 is on the left where the Widowski family now lives. Turn right on Little Canada Road. Follow to Route 49 and turn left. You are now back in the village of Central Square. You will pass the American Legion on your right and the Town of Hastings Barn use to stand on your left. The first business on the West side of town was the H. P. Goettel Lumber Company where the Laundromat is now operating.

In 1910 H. P. Goettel set up a saw mill and went into the lumber and contracting business. During his lifetime he built three churches in the village, the Universalist Church, the Catholic and the Methodist, also the Masonic Temple, the Goettel Block and numerous other buildings including many houses and barns. After his death the business was carried on by his sons, Vernon and Arnold Goettel. For a time they were dealers in International Harvester Farm Equipment and later expanded into an Appliance and Home Planning Center. During World War II, they made shipping crates for airplane engines and shipping skids for Navy Sonar equipment. The business was sold in 1980.

***Go to the stop light and cross Route 11. Continue on Route 49 East. Webb Avenue, off Route 49 on your right had a slaughter house for Conterman's Market on the left. The story is told of a bull who got away and wandered up to the school area on Main Street. It created excitement for a while. A brick yard was by the bend in the road manufacturing for buildings in the area in the late 1800's.

***Continue on Route 49 and cross the railroad tracks. The village offices are on your right just before crossing Little Bay Creek.

***Turn around and go back to the stop light in Central Square. Turn right and follow route 11 to the Town Municipal Building.

Our Town Park, known as the Gerald P. Van Liew Park, is on Wilson Road. It is the first road south of the Town of Hastings Municipal Building and the entrance to the park is about ¼ mile up Wilson Road.