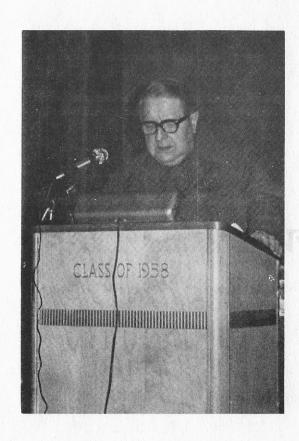


Village of
West Sand Lake
1788 - 1790

by Sanford G. Young



Sanford's wish was to have this article, which he wrote especially for the West Sand Lake School yearbook, reprinted and given to his friends and those who loved him so well.

Therefore, I have taken it upon myself, as a close friend, to fulfill his wish and make it available - free of charge - to all those who may desire a small remembrance of the work of a great man.

Charles At. Viens

VILLAGE OF WEST SAND LAKE

IN 1788 -- 1790

Compiled by Sanford G. Young

The early settlers in the West Sand Lake area were, for the most part, of German extraction and about fifty percent of them were most likely descendents of the Palatines who landed in New York in June 1710 aboard the ship Lyon. The Palatines had left Germany to escape the further ravages of the French under King Louis XIV.

After landing in America they were settled on the Robert Livingston grant in Columbia County in the present town of Germantown. The original plans called for these Palatines to be engaged in the manufacture of tar. This arrangement proved unsatisfactory for many reasons and their ultimate abandoment by authorities forced them to seek relief from the Indians.

In their extremity during 1711 some of them proceeded north to Schoharie where the Indians gave them permission to settle on their lands. The area of their settlement in Schoharie is now known as Palatine Bridge.

It is the opinion of many historians that some of the early settlers in West Sand Lake were descendents of these northbound Palatines.

Their migration to West Sand Lake was during the years of 1767 to 1790. Available records substantiate these dates.

A note regarding the map.

The map indicates 18 buildings in the 1788-1790 period. Today (1977) there are 14 buildings standing on the same sites. More research is needed before it is clear as to whether today's buildings are original, part original or a new building on the same site. Over the years some of the original buildings were burned while others were demolished.

John Van Alen, in his 1788 survey, notes that some of the buildings were log cabins or small wooden structures. He also notes that some of the settlers had been here 8 or 10 years before the survey. After the survey it took years to secure a written lease and record it in the Patroon's office.

MICHAEL RYKERT (No. 1 on map)

His farm consisted of 159 acres and the lease is dated 20 January 1790.

Besides his wife, his family consisted of 5 boys and 2 girls.

The site of his house is now the residence of Harold Shippee on the Reichard's Lake Road.

JACOB DE FREEST

His farm consisted of 144 acres and his lease was dated November 1789.

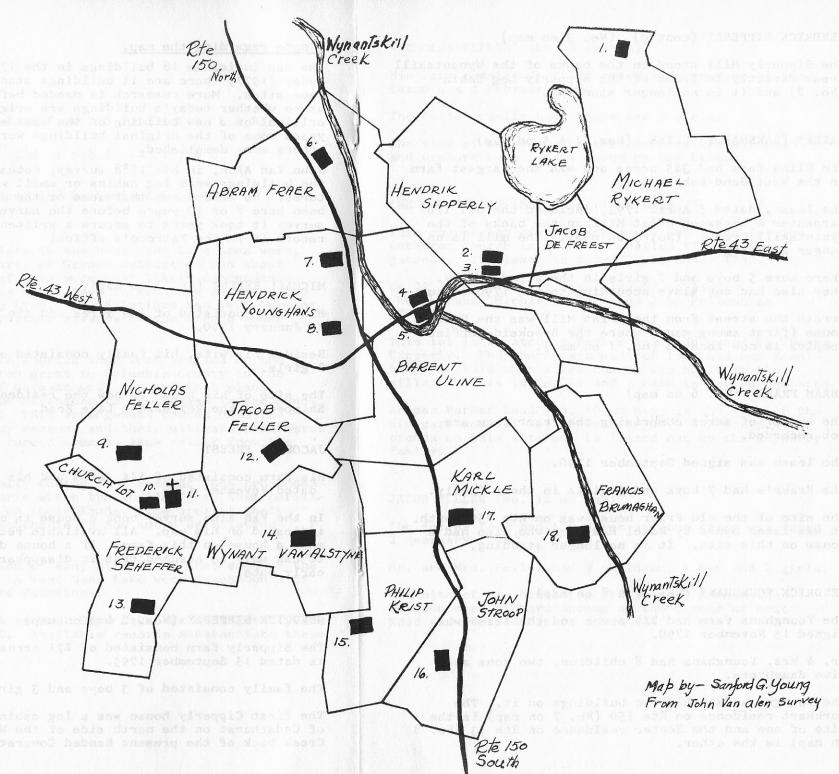
In the Van Alen survey book a house is noted but not indicated on his map. All available records fail to show a house on this farm. If a house did exist then it can only be assumed that it disappeared at a very early date.

HENDRICK SIPPERLY (Nos. 2 & 3 on map)

The Sipperly farm consisted of 271 acres and the lease is dated 15 September 1795.

The family consisted of 3 boys and 3 girls.

The first Cipperly house was a log cabin on the site of Cedarhurst on the north side of the Wynantskill Creek back of the present Bonded Concrete Company.



HENDRICK SIPPERLY (cont'd) (No. 3 on map)

The Sipperly Mill stood on the banks of the Wynantskill Creek directly in front of the Sipperly Log Cabin (No. 2) and it is no longer standing.

BARENT (BARNHARDT) ULINE (Nos. 4 & 5 on map)

The Uline farm had 325 acres and was the largest farm in the West Sand Lake area.

The lease, dated 5 April 1793, included the old 1768 Carpenter & Lockwood Grist Mill on the banks of the Wynantskill Creek. (No. 5 on map). The mill is no longer standing.

There were 5 boys and 7 girls in the Uline family. They also had one slave according to the 1790 census.

Across the street from the Grist Mill was the Uline house (first among many) where the Brookside Office Complex is now located (no. 4 on map).

ABRAM FRABR (No. 6 on map)

The number of acres comprising the Fraer farm are not recorded.

The lease was signed September 1790.

The Fraer's had 7 boys and 3 girls in their family.

The site of the old Fraer house was on Rte 150 north. It was later owned by Rozel Hastings who also had a house on this site. It is no longer standing.

HENDRICK YOUNGHANS (Nos. 7 & 8 on map)

The Younghans farm had 246 acres and the lease was signed 15 November 1790.

Mr. & Mrs. Younghans had 8 children, two sons and five daughters.

The Younghans farm had two buildings on it. The Burkhart residence on Rte 150 (No. 7 on map) is the site of one and the Senter residence on Rte 43 (No. 8 on map) is the other.

NICHOLAS FELLER (No. 9 on map)

His farm consisted of 181 acres and the date of his lease was 4 February 1790.

The Feller family had 2 boys and 3 girls.

The site of his house on the corner of Parker Road and Orchard Lane is now owned by Roy Ottman.

THE CHURCH LOT (No. 10 & 11 on map)

This church lot of 60.7 acres was set aside for The Lutheran Church in Greenbush called Zion by the patroon. The lease is dated 27 November 1787.

On 22 August 1801 it was released to Andrew Weatherwax, Michael Rykert and John Fellows as Trustees.

This lot is located on Parker Road and owned by Thomas Cipperly. The church was made of logs and was demolished in 1816 when a new church was built in the village. This is No. 11 and a barn is now on the site.

Across Parker Road (No. 10 on map) is the site of the old parsonage of Rev. Schwerferger. A house now stands on this site and is leased out by the Cipperly family.

JACOB FELLER (No. 12 on map)

The Feller farm had 170 acres and the lease was dated 2 February 1790.

Mr. and Mrs. Feller had 3 children, 1 boy and 2 girls.

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The site of his house (No. 12 on map) is now the residence of Richard Spence on the corner of Best Road and Orchard Lane.

FREDERICK SEHEFFER (Shaver) (No. 13 on map)

There were 144.4 acres on the Seheffer farm and the lease was dated 18 May 1790.

Mr. and Mrs. Seheffer had 5 boys and 1 girl.

The site of his house is now the residence of Richard Hunsdorfer off Best Road.

WYNANT VAN ALSTYNE (No. 14 on map)

179.9 acres comprised the Van Alstyne farm and the date of the lease is not available.

The Van Alstyne family had 2 boys and 2 girls.

The site of his house is now the residence of Joseph Baum on the east side of Shaver Road.

PHILIP KRIST (No. 15 on map)

This farm had 140.4 acres and the date of the lease is 18 December 1789.

Mr. and Mrs. Krist had 1 girl.

The site of this house is now the residence of Frank Morlock on the east side of Shaver Road.

JOHN STROOP (No. 16 on map)

The lease for this farm was dated 8 September 1790 and it contained 170.7 acres.

There were 4 boys and 3 girls in the Stroop family.

The site of this house is now the residence of Louis Leitgeb on the west side of Rte 150 south. KAREL MICKEL (NICKEL) (No. 17 on map)

This farm comprising 150 acres was leased to Mr. Mickel on 18 December 1789.

Mr. and Mrs. Mickel had 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls.

The site of this house is now the residence of Oscar Widstrand on the east side of Old South Road off Rte 150 south.

FRANCIS BRUMAGHAN (No. 18 on map)

Mr. Brumaghan's lease was dated 22 September 1790 and it called for 195.8 acres.

The Brumaghan's had 2 boys.

The farm was released to Adam Mott on 5 May 1796.

The site of this house is now the residence of Margaret Micalian off Sheer Road to the North.

Sources: John Van Alen Survey Map of 1788
John Van Alen Survey Book
The first census of 1790
1854-1861-1876 Maps of Rensselaer County
Personal Interviews