

The Ridge – 8021 Albany Post Road, Red Hook, NY 12571

Owners of "The Ridge"

	<u>Purchased</u>	<u>Sold</u>
Peter Schuyler	Patent Grant 1680	2-11-1719

Barent Van Benthuisen	2-11-1719	
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Garret & Jacob Van Benthuisen		9-20-1785
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The property was inherited after their father's death.

In the deed to Dr Wheeler: "the said premises being parcel of the farm whereof Barent VanBenthuisen father to the parties of the first part died seized and possessed and lies in the south easterly angle of the said farm".

Dr. William Wheeler	9-20-1785	5-12-1812
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Purchased for 196 pounds 15 shillings, having been in Dr. Wheeler's possession for one year prior. William Wheeler built the house that now still stands today and was referred to as "The Ridge".

Liber 10, pg 150 – 43-1/4 acres

William Wheeler died in the home, 1810. The property was willed to his executors to sell for the benefit of his wife and children. Wilhelmina Wheeler (his 3rd wife died in 1815).

See attached for additional information in regard to Dr. William Wheeler.

Joseph Corre <i>CORRE?</i>	5-12-1812	
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Possible additional owner.

Deed for Corre to Staats not found. Still researching. The name Corre does not show as a Grantor between the years of 1812 and 1846 in Dutchess County Records.

It is rumored that during this time in 1832 a woman by the name of Annie Morrison threw herself down the well to her death. The well is still located on the front of the property. A new well was dug on the opposite side of the house and is still currently used today after being covered and a submersible pump installed.

Henry & Christina Staats	4-18-1846
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During this ownership Henry Staats did not live at the property but leased it as two individual farms.

David Nicholas Bonesteel	4-18-1846	died 1-13-1863
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Purchased the property as two parcels; one 20 acres (more or less) occupied by Henry Fulton and John Fulton. The other 25 acres (more or less) occupied by John M. Fulton and John A. Lyle. Consisted of assuming two mortgages of \$1,200 each and \$478.89 cash.

Liber 82, pg 334

Mary Bonesteel	Inherited	10-2-1866
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Mary is David N. Bonesteel's daughter. David's wife Sarah Newcomb died Dec 12, 1858. At the age of 25, Mary married Sylvester Pier in Burlington VT on Oct 20, 1870.

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Dr. Edwin Knickerbocker

10-2-1866 3-28-1867

Purchased for \$12,500. 41 + acres as per deed Liber 137 pg 272

Notice short term of ownership, adding to the idea that Moore and Knickerbocker switched properties.

Wife Catherine E. Knickerbocker was not on the purchased deed above, but was listed as an owner at the time of the sale to William Moore.

William R. Moore

Lawler

3-28-1867 4-4-1891

Purchased for \$8,500 per deed Liber 143 , pg 55

In a book "Dutchess County Days" written by Agnes Clark, there is a chapter entitled "A Bedtime Story" telling a story about this family and the Ridge. Agnes Clark is the daughter of Dr. Edwin Knickerbocker Losee and tells stories of her childhood in Upper Red Hook starting with her birth in Nov 1903.

Agnes's Grandfather Dr. John Losee worked a practice with Dr. Gamaliel Wheeler (son of Dr. William Wheeler) at the Thomas House from Dec 1853 until the death of Gamaliel in 1859. Dr. John Losee then married the daughter of Dr. Edwin Knickerbocker and they had a son named Edwin Knickerbocker Losee who later became a doctor who continued the practice and had a daughter named Agnes who wrote the book mentioned.

Jane Ann Moore

4-4-1891 12-4-1916

Purchased the 42 acres "for \$1.00 and family interests" as per deed Liber 255 , pg 270

Aimee Sutherland Beckwith dePotter

12-4-1916 7-19-1945

Died 6-6-1937

During this ownership, the Post Road (Rte 9) was straightened in 1929 and property was taken via eminent domain for this effort.

Thomas Bechwith, Aimee's brother, was a hunchback and never married. He lived and died in this house. His room was at the top of the stairs, currently a large closet and bathroom. Aimee's son Victor Armand de Potter also past away in the home (in the north east corner bedroom) at the age of 40, on June 24, 1931.

It was said that Eleanor Roosevelt spoke at The Ridge during a Historical Club meeting. Eleanor and Aimee were friends and Aimee offered her home for the event.

**Aimee Victoria dePotter Lykes &
Yvonne M. dePotter**

7-19-1945 8-19-47

41 acres + ½ acre separate deeds

Inherited by the Granddaughters of the previous owner since their father Victor Armand died in 1931.

The house was rented to writer Mary McCarthy during this ownership. She joined the faculty at Bard in 1946 and is believed to be the first female writer to teach at Bard.

It was at this time that the property was divided up and sold as many separate parcels.

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Herbert E. & Cecelia H. Saulpaugh

8-19-1947 6-4-1968

4.55 acres includes home (part of dePotter Lands) "Purchased for \$1.00 and other good and valuable consideration" as per deed Liber 670 pg 275

Cecelia died 12-9-1958

Sold 1-1/2 acres to Coral & Arity Allen on 4-1-1959, currently George & Cathy Michael (the Ranch home just north of The Ridge).

Edith McFarland

6-4-1968 12-27-1999

Purchased for "the sum of \$10.00 and other good and valuable consideration" as per deed Liber 1244 page 53

During this ownership the property fell into a horrible state of disrepair. As many as 13 buses were parked on the property as an endeavor of Edith's two sons to rebuild as rock band tour buses. This business never solidified.

Bankers Trust – Foreclosure

12-27-1999 8-31-2000

Richard Wyant & Timothy Martin

8-31-2000 9-12-2006

Purchased as an investment. The property was cleaned up and some major repairs completed. There was an attempt to run a bed and breakfast (assumed to raise the value for a sale) however much of the interior was not in a livable condition.

Garth & Pamela Burger

9-12-2006 Current

Purchased as a home for their family of five, extensive renovations were done on the property to bring it as close to it's original state as possible. Most of the efforts were to properly complete repairs that were incorrectly done from previous owners. The gardens and any landscaping had been destroyed prior to this sale, so re-landscaping and removal of what was considered "improvements" were also a major effort.