

The Colonie Historical Oracle

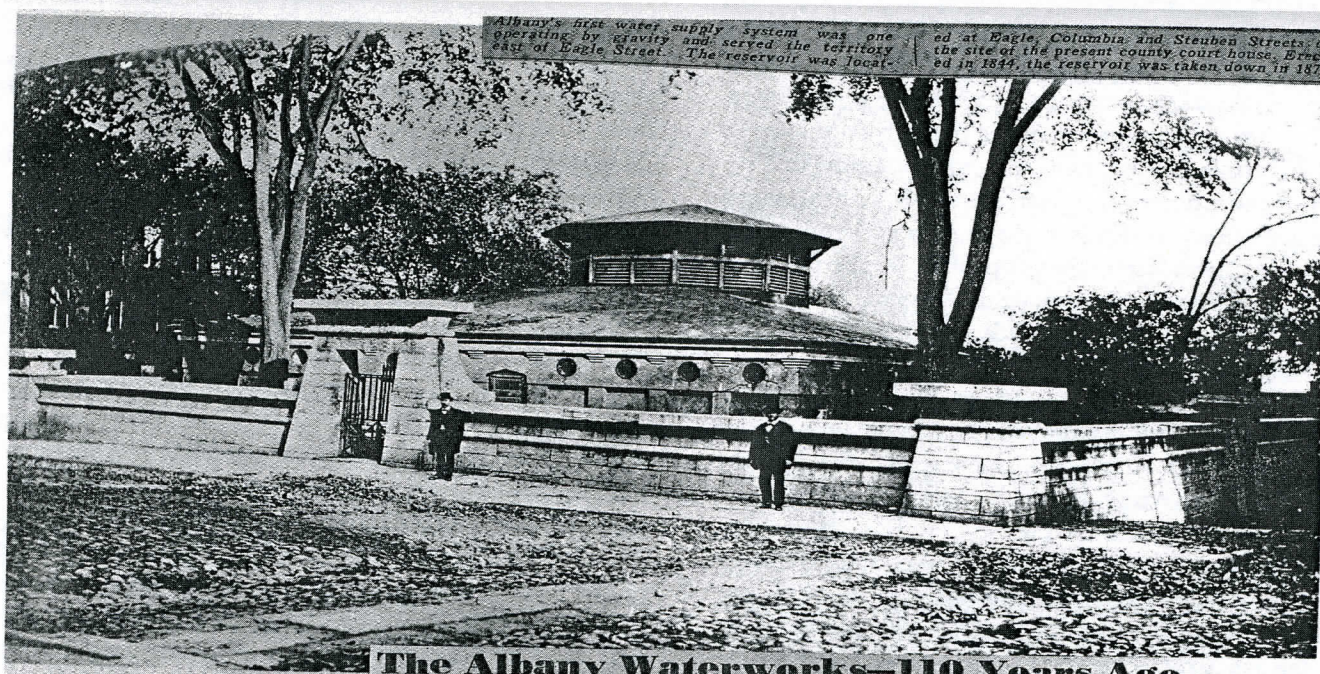
Quarterly Newsletter of the Historical Society of the Town of Colonie

Volume 10, No. 3

Part 2 of 2

July-Sept. 2014

Rediscovering Benjamin Prescott (1755-1826) & the Albany Water Works: Soldier, Engineer, Surveyor, Administrator, Entrepreneur, Patriot



The Albany Waterworks—110 Years Ago

The Waterworks was located at Eagle and Steuben and Columbia Sts. The reservoir fed North Pearl St. and other locations. They took trees and bored 4-inch holes through them to serve as water pipes. Some of these "pipes" were dug up 20 years ago and they were as hard as stone. I tried to saw a section off one of them but it was so fossilized my blade wouldn't go through.

Water Works Image from Morris Gerber's "Old Albany" Book Collection.

Submitted by Kevin M. Franklin

Prescott seemed able to leave Albany's Water Works project and head to the Niagara Frontier to survey the falls area for a possible canal route. It is unknown when and with whom Prescott traveled with. Certainly it must have included at least a handful of men, possibly traveling using a combination of horseback and/or bateaux on or along the Mohawk River to finally reach Niagara frontier sometime in 1796. The trip must have taken several weeks to complete. Indeed, it appears that Prescott's association with the Albany Water Works project was possibly strained because of his absence, or permitted leave of absence. In fact; on May 24, 1797 the Albany Common Council resolved that: "John V. Henry, Sanders Lansing, and Volkert A. Douw be a committee to report to this board a suitable person to superintend the water works to be done by Benjamin Prescott

and see that it be done in conformity to his contract."

On June 27, 1797 Prescott writes to the Common Council that he has become disappointed with the person he had sub-contracted with to procure pitch pine logs (as required by the contract) for the aqueduct and he "finds it necessary to procure part of the timber from Corporation Ground" which probably meant using timber from the protected [Freedom of Albany] lands. He suggests the use of white pine logs as he believes they will suffice as well as pitch pine can in areas where there will be little or no pressure "no objection can arise". In ending, his letter indicates that he is "obliged to leave town tomorrow. — (The letter does not say where Prescott is going or how long he will be away.) — I pray your answer may be given to Capt. Daniel Mantor* who I have appointed to superintend (sic) the wa-

ter works on my part.” * [Captain Daniel Mantor was born April 17, 1749 at Conway, MA and died at Conway, MA on Dec. 23, 1797.]

On October 17, 1797 Prescott again writes to the Common Council his displeasure at the costs and progress of the Five Mile House project stating that when he and others, — (others being: Obadiah Dickenson and Caleb Lyman of Northfield, MA and Samuel Dexter of Albany) — “entered into bonds” and agreed to have the Albany Water Works project finished (according to contract) by November 1, 1797.

Obviously the completion date was not going to be met with Prescott proclaiming he was forced to hire a number of hands to “procure the Timber up Hudson’s River and a sufficiency for every purpose but was so unfortunate as to be disappointed in almost every particular of their engagements.” Also: “I was then under the necessity to erect Works to furnish the conduits at a very considerable expense to furnish horses and oxen (probably to haul wagon loads of logs from the Hudson River toward the Five Mile House project) that the money furnished by the Corporation Council was totally inadequate to the same.”

Prescott’s letter also gently reminds the Common Council that “owing to the extreme bad digging (sic) and obstructions in the high ground --- (which his original survey pointed out the several reasons why he felt obtaining water from the Five Mile House was not a good idea, but the Common Council insisted it was) --- and find myself under the disagreeable necessity of asking your Hon’ Board further Pecuniary assistance.” In short, Prescott needed more money if the project were to be completed at all. The project continued and the files show that 1,980 iron bands to secure the log joint connections were procured from the Albany firm of Dunbar & Pruyn who ran one of Albany’s first iron manufacturing companies. (Both the Dunbar and Pruyn names are associated with the history of Colonie’s Pruyn House complex.) An April 5, 1798 Prescott document lists thousands of feet of pipe were laid beneath Albany’s streets. Other reports indicate that “fire stops” were installed as well.

By 1800 and 1801 documents in the Albany Water Works file at the Albany Hall of Records indicate the Albany Common Councils concern about damage the water project had done to their streets and wanted the committee to examine and report on “what parts of the pavements within this city are out of repair by default of the Superintendants of the Water Works and report on measures which ought to be adopted for repairing the same.” On June 29, 1801, The Common Council now asks that: “the LAW COMMITTEE inquire and report whether Prescott is liable to put in repair the streets and lanes through which he has laid the aqueducts, and if so, the mode to be pursued to cause the same to be done.”

It sounds as though workers unearthing the city streets in order to lay the pipe resulted in unrepaired damage and

possibly quite a bit of it. The original contract entered into by Prescott with the City of Albany stated that the project was to have been completed by November 1, 1797. It is now the end of June, 1801, and the project not yet complete. It also sounds as though both Prescott and the City are beginning to tire of one another.

On page 381 of “*Landmarks of Albany County*” by Amasa Parker, see:

<https://archive.org/details/landmarksofalban00parker> seems to have sketchy information concerning the construction of the Five Mile House aqueduct project. It mentions the project date began in 1794 when the city first advertised for bids but “No further notice of this matter appears in the records --- and --- two years later the Legislature passed an act to enable the corporation (Albany) to establish a water supply but this too failed of accomplishment.”

It goes on to say in 1797 Prescott received from Stephen VanRensselaer III, a grant of the Maezlandtkill, and he “laid a line of log conduits from the fountain head.” It also states that: “For some unexplained reason, the grant must have reverted to VanRensselaer, who, a few years later, transferred all rights on that stream to the water company. The Albany Water Works Company was incorporated in 1802 with a capital of \$40,000 and the work of laying iron and wooden pipes through the principal streets was immediately commenced and the Maezlandtkill continued to be the source of supply until 1837 when that stream failed to meet the demands made upon it.”

This would almost make one think that nary a shovel full of earth was ever dug or single length of pipe ever laid from the area of the Five Mile House, but documents on file with the Albany County Hall of Records contradict Parker’s book, as much of the correspondence involving the construction of the water works pre-date the 1797 agreement between Prescott and VanRensselaer. In fact; the 1854 Jay Gould Map of Albany County shows the “Line of Conduit” coming from a body of water within the Freedom of Albany area west of, and down into the city. The map also shows another line of conduit coming from a small body of water in the VanRensselaer land north of Albany in what is now the area of Menands and then south into the City of Albany. This would be the present site of the pond of the Wolferts Roost Country Club west of VanRensselaer Blvd. in Menands.

An Indenture on file with the Albany Hall of Records supports the use of the Maezlandtkill as a contributing source to the Albany Water Works but it is dated December 21,

Welcome New Members!

The Historical Society of the Town of Colonie would like to welcome our newest members: Chuck & Nancy Murphy, Rich Leighton, Frank Taylor, Tony Opalka, Marjorie Warren and Marion Jaffarian.

Glad to have all of you aboard!

1813 and refers to an earlier indenture between Benjamin Prescott and Albany dated April 16, 1799 to “draw off and take out of, and from a certain brook or stream of water running near to and south of the dwelling house now occupied by Bigelow & Bartlett in the said Town of Watervliet -- commonly known and distinguished by the name of *Maes Landte Kill* so much of the water of said brook as can be conveyed through a line of conducts (sic) --- through which the said conduits shall or may be laid with pure and wholesome water and for no other purpose whatsoever.”

On July 27, 1801 Benjamin Prescott wrote to the Albany Common Council offering to: “transfer all my property in the Albany Water Works to the Corporation (Water Works Corporation) with certain conditions that they discharge him from all obligations, payment of \$500 for a (conduit?) cleansing machine, and his offer to build (by contract) to construct two reservoirs covered with a stone, one to hold 400 hogsheads and another to hold 800. Both Prescott and the Common Council continued to exchange letters regarding placement of pipes in the streets, fire tubs, fire plugs, reservoirs, repair to streets, etc.

The last letter sent by Prescott to the Common Council is dated Nov. 22, 1802, and Prescott proclaims that he is “mortified” that the Mayor and Common Council have written to him apparently blaming him for an issue with the installation (or lack of) the installation of fire stops. Again, Prescott states he had contracted with a “Mr. Masteraft” to furnish them when he (Prescott) was next in Albany. Prescott states that Masteraft had done “little to them, his excuse was that the Corporation had done nothing about laying the conduits for the “F” (fire) stops.”

Other issues involved yet another individual identified as John Chisney for not completing the second reservoir in the Public Square by not installing or providing planking as stipulated in the contract and that the reservoir had filled with a large quantity of sand which Prescott directed Chisney to immediately “clear it out at once & secure it effectually otherwise I should be liable to a prosecution from you for non performance of contract.” Again, it seems that Prescott’s physical presence has been on and off again at Albany and that his hiring of subcontractors to do the work as required by his contract with the city had been problematic. The City was blaming Prescott for problems who blamed both the city and sub contractors for failing to get the work done. Fingers were pointed in all directions. What other project was Prescott involved with at or about the same time as the Albany Water Works Project was coming to a difficult end?

The Prescott Memorial book states that Prescott had brought water into Albany by 1803, which roughly corresponds with his last known letter to the Mayor and Albany Common Council at the end of November, 1802. Had Prescott had returned to Northampton, MA or was he now living at or near either Cohoes or Waterford? Prescott had been married at Waterford, N.Y. in 1780. There is no record of Benjamin Prescott owning property at Cohoes and

I’m told the oldest property records for the Village of Waterford were destroyed in a fire a long time ago.

The Prescott Memorial Book also states that Prescott “was for ten years, overseer of the U.S. Armory at Springfield.” What the Memorial book fails to state is when Prescott became what the Springfield Armory’s web page identifies Prescott as “Superintendent”, and whose service there began in November, 1805 and supposedly ended in August, 1813. The dates do not compute to ten years as mentioned in the Prescott Memorial. Why the difference? The answer I discovered was both the War of 1812 and the politics of Prescott, to be explained shortly.

A 1989 report conducted by *Raber Associates* outlining the industrial history of the Springfield Armory from 1794 to 1968 details the early operations of the site which was chosen by George Washington for its protection being sixty miles inland on the Connecticut River and being on a plateau atop a steep incline, far from any navigable waterways to protect the site from attack. The armory was primarily responsible for producing shoulder fired long arms. The *Raber* report states that “Early Armory Managers moved quickly to provide waterpower and more facilities” at the site including a training field and four properties along the Mill River about a mile south of the training field. The Armory constructed waterpower shops there and the Armory divided between the Hill Shops and the Water Shops, with a considerable distance between the two and causing a considerable amount of hauling between the two locations.

The *Raber* report goes on to state: “Some of the first Armory Superintendents, notably Benjamin Prescott, in charge November 1805 to August 1813, began to impose a division of labor on this complicated situation after about 1805, establishing separate shops for separate operations. Limited physical facilities, and dispersed millseats, did not allow for complete or effective division by task. Sporadic beginnings of mechanization accompanied early Armory growth, as Watershop operations by 1815 included limited milling and slitting of some screws and lock components; boring, grinding, and polishing of barrels; and possibly trip-hammers for the difficult hammering and welding of iron sheets into rough barrels.” Prescott is also credited with initiating a “comprehensive record keeping system” and building water powered mill buildings made of fire resistant brick and stone.

By all estimates, Benjamin Prescott seemed to be a competent administrator and streamlining what was previously a less organized and cumbersome weapons assembly process. The missing years in the timeline of his tenure at the Springfield Armory are explained in an article found in the *Springfield Republican* Newspaper of May 23, 1878:



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Historical Society Town of Colonie

"Some of the armorers recollect a change of superintendents away back in 1813, with which is connected to a chapter of political history which it is believed has never been made public. Col. Benjamin Prescott, and ardent Democrat [also called Democrat-Republican Party at the time] who is said to have usually carried the local election for his party by having all the armorers vote his way, was superintendent for eight years and in 1813 was forced to resign in consequence of an adverse report made to the secretary of war* by Henry Lechler of Baltimore, who had been appointed inspector of the armory for that year. (*The Secretary of War from January 13, 1813 to September 27, 1814 was Federalist John Armstrong) Lechler was then made superintendent, (of the Armory) and his first step was to depose all the democratic foremen and put federalists in their places. Not having any practical knowledge of the business, and being surrounded by people equally ignorant, everything it is said went wrong under his administration, until one day in early 1815, after Lechler had held the office a little over a year, he was surprised to see his predecessor enter, hang his great coat on the customary peg, draw his old chair before the fire-place, light a cigar and finally take a paper from his pocket and hand it over his shoulder to the superintendent, remarking: 'Here, Lechler, is something for you.' It was his summary discharge. Col. Prescott remained but a few months, only long enough to straighten matters out, and then return to Troy, N.Y., where he had established a profitable business in partnership with his son. He was succeeded by Col. Lee."

Prescott's dismissal, most likely by Federalist John Armstrong, obviously left a very sour taste in his mouth. The *Springfield Republican* Newspaper claims Prescott returned to Troy but all evidence points to him residing at Waterford, N.Y., including his marriage to Ruth Crocker at Waterford in 1780, and genealogical evidence that his wife died at Waterford in 1821. The newspaper also reports he was in a business partnership with his son. According to the Prescott Memorial Book, Benjamin had two sons. One was Henry, born in 1781 and who died at Springfield, MA in 1810. A daughter Fanny born March 1783 and who died (unmarried) in March, 1803. Another daughter Nancy, born March 1785 and who married Samuel S. Crocker (a cousin?). Another son George was born December 1786. This may be the son that the *Springfield Republican* claims that Benjamin was in a business relationship with, however; it seems George sailed from N.Y. City in route to Oporto Portugal (for whatever reason) and "neither himself, or any of the crew, or the vessel, was afterward heard from."

The *Springfield Republican* tells us that Benjamin Prescott marched back into his old office at the Springfield Armory, confidently hanging his coat on a peg and making himself comfortable much to the amazement of Henry Lechler who was then handed a letter of dismissal by Prescott.

Who wrote that letter and who induced Benjamin Prescott to return to the Armory at Springfield? The answer is most

likely the new Secretary of War James Monroe who replaced John Armstrong. In the Monroe Papers at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. is a letter written by Benjamin Prescott of Waterford, N.Y. to Monroe dated January 13, 1815 in response to a letter written to Prescott by James Monroe asking Prescott to please return to the Armory at Springfield, probably because the operation there was in such turmoil.

Prescott's letter reads as follows:

"Honorable James Monroe, Esquire---
Waterford, January 13th 1815 --- Sir: Your letter of the 6th current came to hand yesterday. Being now engaged at the head of an important manufacturing establishment, it is impossible for me to continue any length c^e time as Superintendent of the U.S. Armory at Springfield and nothing Sir, would induce me for a moment (under existing circumstances) to have anything further to do with that concern, but the Deplorable Situation in which that important establishment is now placed, the crisis of our Country makes it a duty to render every aid in our power to support the contest in which we are now engaged and believing the armory at Springfield indispensably necessary to furnish arms, I have concluded to repair to that place in the course of a few days & as soon as practicable attend to your directions.....I presume Sir, you will consider this extra Service & remunerate me accordingly. ----- I have the honor to be very respectfully your obedient Servant, B. Prescott."
Image of Prescott's Letter written at Waterford, N.Y. to James Monroe:

Waterford Jan 13 1815

Sir

Your letter of the 6th current came to hand yesterday, being now engaged at the head of an important Manufacturing Establishment, it is impossible for me to continue any length of time as Superintendent of the U.S. Armory at Springfield and nothing Sir would induce me for a moment (under existing circumstances) to have any thing further to do with that concern, but the Deplorable Situation in which that important Establishment is now placed, the Crisis of our Country makes it a duty to render every aid in our power to support the contest in which we are now engaged, and believing the armory at Springfield indispensably necessary, to furnish arms I have concluded to repair to that place in the course of a few days & as soon as practicable attend to your directions. I presume Sir you will consider this extra Service & remunerate me accordingly. I have the honor to be very respectfully your

Honorable James Monroe Esquire

B. Prescott

The "important manufacturing establishment" that Prescott mentions was a mill that was associated with the earliest beginnings of the Cohoes Manufacturing Company. In Masten's *History of Cohoes*, it states that the Incorporation of the "Cohoes Manufacturing Company" occurred in the year 1811: "The Cohoes Manufacturing Company, composed entirely of gentlemen from Lansingburgh, was incorporated, being one of the first corporations formed under the "general act" of that year. --- For the purpose of manufacturing Cotton, Woolen and Linen goods, making of bar iron, Anchors, Mill Irons, nail rods, Hoop Iron and Iron Mongery."

The company was situated at "Cohoesville", Town of Watervliet, on the west bank of the Mohawk River, "a little distance southeast of the Cohoes Bridge." Masten's book goes on to say that: "The first enterprise in which the company engaged was the manufacture of screws; a wing dam was built, and a building was erected soon after the incorporation."

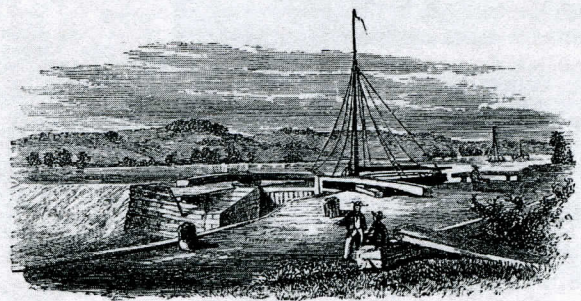
Masten's history correlates the 1813 date in which Col. Benjamin Prescott became involved with the Cohoes Manufacturing Company with the time of his embarrassing dismissal at the Springfield Armory. The United States was at war with Great Britain. Prescott's valuable knowledge of working with iron and the "slitting of screws" at the Springfield armory must have brought a wealth of experience of working with iron and iron hardware to the fledgling Cohoes Manufacturing Company. The 1813 *Gazetteer of N.Y. State* describes the operation: "In the vicinity of Cohoes is a Dutch Church and farming neighborhood commonly called the Boght. A manufactory of screws of iron for woodwork, erected on the lower sprout of the Mohawk near the Cohoes Bridge (Bridge between Cohoes & Waterford) has got into successful operation. Works are about to be added for the drawing the wire from which the screws are formed, when the iron will be taken in the bar, and manufactured into screws, now made of foreign wire. The machinery is all driven by water, and is said to be very ingenious, the invention of a self taught artist, Mr. Wm. C. Penniman."

Prescott's letter to James Monroe indicated that he was the "head of" an important manufacturing establishment. Prescott must have left for Springfield within a matter of a few days after he wrote his letter to Monroe on January 13, 1815. The *Springfield Republican* newspaper indicated that once Prescott got to Springfield, he remained there only for a period of a "few months" straightening things out before returning to Troy.

The War of 1812 officially ended in February, 1815. By February that year, Benjamin Prescott had been back at the Springfield Armory for only a few weeks, but if the *Springfield Republican* report is accurate, Prescott remained at the Armory for a "few months". Exactly when did Prescott leave Springfield? How long did it take for Prescott to return the operations at Springfield back to order and the

way they were before he was dismissed in 1813? Surely his efforts must have taken time to institute. Was Prescott satisfied enough with the progress at Springfield Armory (more importantly, was the U.S. Government satisfied with the return of smooth operations to the Armory?) to enable him to return to the Cohoes/Troy/Waterford area or did some other event act as a catalyst for him to return?

I discovered an article in the May 31, 1815 issue of the *Geneva N.Y. Gazette* which reported the following under "Fires": "The valuable Screw Factory situated on the banks of the Mohawk near the Cohoes Falls, and owned by Benjamin Prescott, Esq. and a company of gentlemen from Lansingburgh, N.Y. was on Wednesday last, accidentally, consumed by fire." Was Prescott still at Springfield when he heard news of his mill being destroyed by fire, or had he already returned to the Cohoes area? Masten's book states that "In 1815 or 1816, the screw factory was burned and this appears to have interrupted for a time the operations of the company. A great part of the stock changed hands, most of it coming into possession of Benjamin and Samuel DeMilt of New York, and after some delay a new building was erected, which was occupied as a cotton factory. In connection with it, a small factory was afterward established for the manufacture of shovels and other tools which was conducted by Collin and Jones. Few particulars in regard to it can be obtained." It may be no coincidence how Benjamin and Samuel DeMilt obtained the Prescott mill at Cohoes. The American Silversmiths Web page indicates that Samuel and Benjamin DeMilt worked as Silversmiths in New York City with Samuel beginning in 1805 and through to 1820. Benjamin Prescott's oldest son Henry, also worked as a Silversmith in New York City from 1803-1806. Did Henry begin to learn his trade as a Silversmith working for the DeMilts? The Prescott Memorial

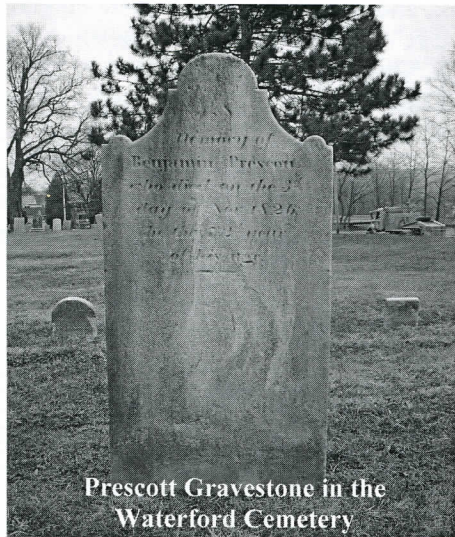


LOCK AT STATE DAM, TROY.

book indicated that one of the last things Benjamin did was to design the stone dam across the Hudson River between Waterford and Lansingburgh. Travel by boats of any size was difficult or impossible because of the shallow depth of the Hudson at Waterford. The construction of the dam and an adjoining sloop lock on the Lansingburgh side enabled Hudson River Sloops to precede further inland along the Hudson above the Waterford area. When completed, the dam was 1,100 feet long by 9 feet high

Benjamin Prescott outlived his wife and several of his children. The Silversmith's web page indicated that Prescott's wife Ruth (Crocker) Prescott died in 1821 at Waterford, N.Y. but it did not indicate where or when Benjamin Prescott died. I surmised that Prescott and his wife were buried at or nearby Waterford. A check with the groundskeeper at the Waterford Cemetery on Rt. 32 indicated they did not have either Prescott on their list, but the groundskeeper had only just started working there and thought perhaps the list might not contain everyone buried within.

Within a few short days I received a call from the groundskeeper at the old Waterford Cemetery who advised me "We've got him!" Both gravestones of Benjamin and his wife stand side by side in the southern end of the old Waterford Cemetery. Ruth Prescott died January 20, 1824. Benjamin Prescott died November 3rd, 1826. There was nothing at the grave of Benjamin to indicate the service to his country during the Revolutionary War or as Superintendent of the Springfield Armory, etc.



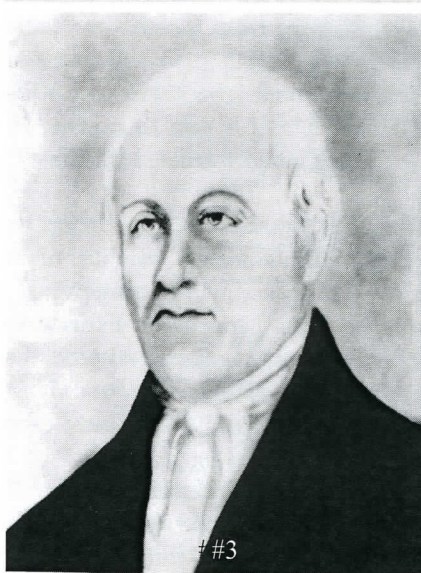
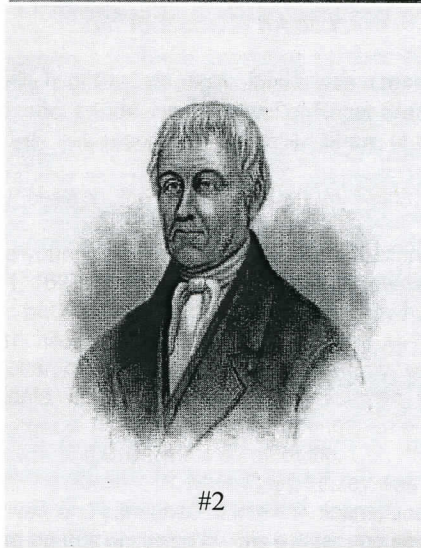
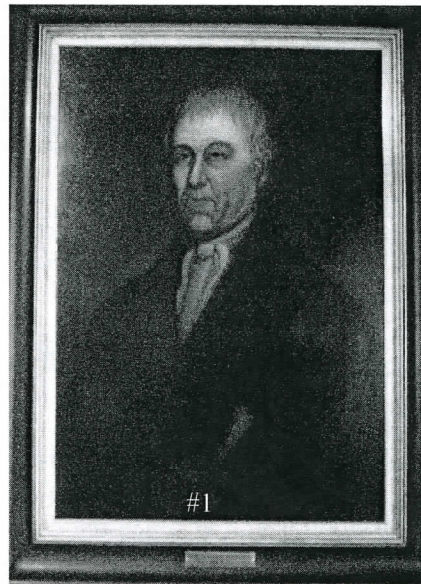
Prescott Gravestone in the Waterford Cemetery

Benjamin Prescott's will is filed with the Saratoga County Clerk's Office in Ballston Spa, N.Y.

It stipulates that Samuel Shaw Crocker (husband of Nancy [Prescott] Crocker) be Executor and that Nancy Crocker be Executrix. Benjamin leaves much of his estate to his grandchild-

ren; Fanny Prescott, Lucy Prescott, and Benjamin Prescott, who are most likely the children of either Henry Prescott who died at Springfield, MA in 1810, or George Prescott who disappeared at Sea while in route to Portugal. Executor Samuel Shaw Crocker is recorded as dying at Hoosick, N.Y. according to the death notices in the *New York Spectator*, June 6, 1835.

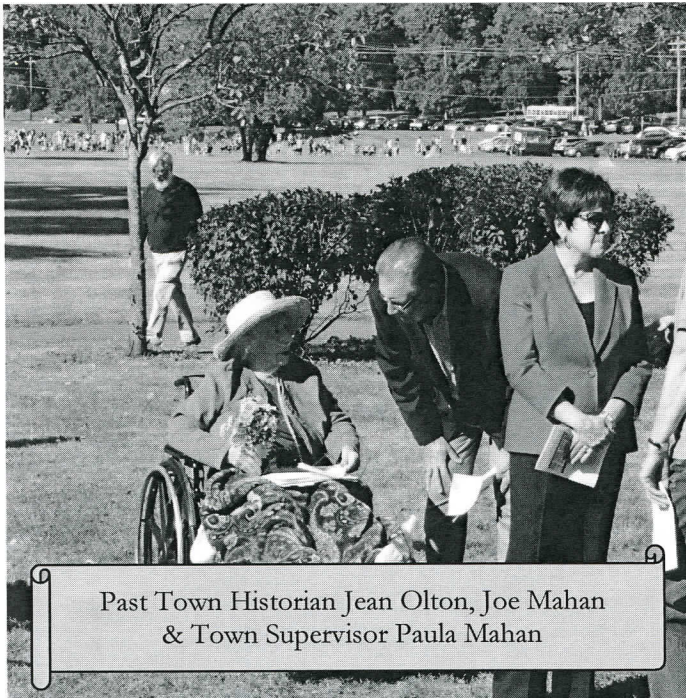
While researching Benjamin Prescott, I tried to locate an image of him. I discovered an image of a Benjamin Prescott (Col.) on the web page of the National Park's Department Historic Springfield Armory, but the image looked vaguely familiar. I found that years ago the Springfield Armory staff decided it would be a good idea to secure images of their oldest Superintendents and had commissioned an artist to locate and paint an image of their Benjamin Prescott. The unknown artist mistakenly copied an image of the Jaffrey, N.H. Benjamin Prescott and not that of the Lancaster, MA Benjamin Prescott.



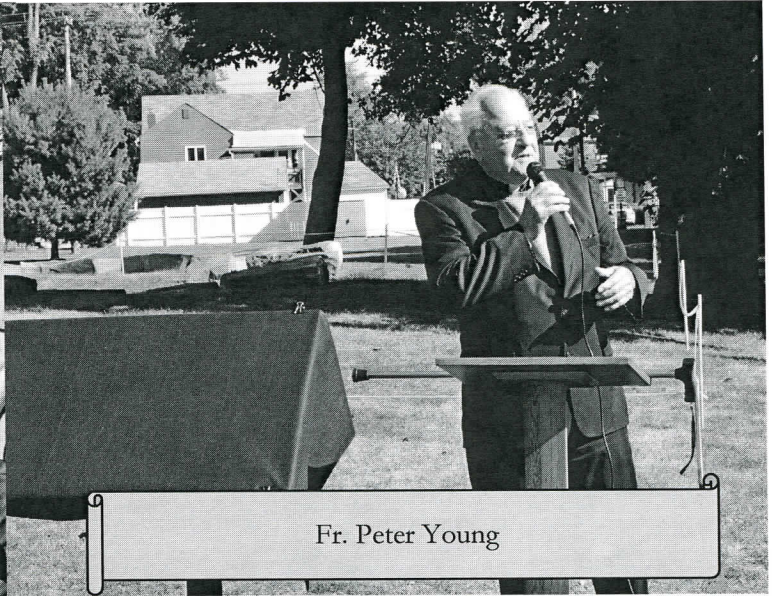
Top to bottom images of the Jaffrey, N.H. Benjamin Prescott mistakenly identified by the Springfield Armory as one of their early Superintendents: Image #1 is an antique oil painting of the Jaffrey, N.H. Benjamin Prescott in the collection of the Jaffrey, N.H. Historical Society. Image #2 is a print in a book about the history of Jaffrey, N.H. Image #3 is by the unknown artist commissioned by the Armory at Springfield at the end of WWII to discover an image of "their" Benjamin Prescott. The artist or researcher who provided the image to officials at the Springfield Armory provided them with an image of the incorrect Prescott. The Benjamin Prescott who was an early Superintendent at the Springfield Armory was born in Lancaster, MA, not Jaffrey, N.H. The Curator of the Springfield Armory Historic Site was notified of the error.

I was told that the Armory was always "suspicious" of the painting of Benjamin Prescott that hung on their wall for decades. It has since been removed from their web page.

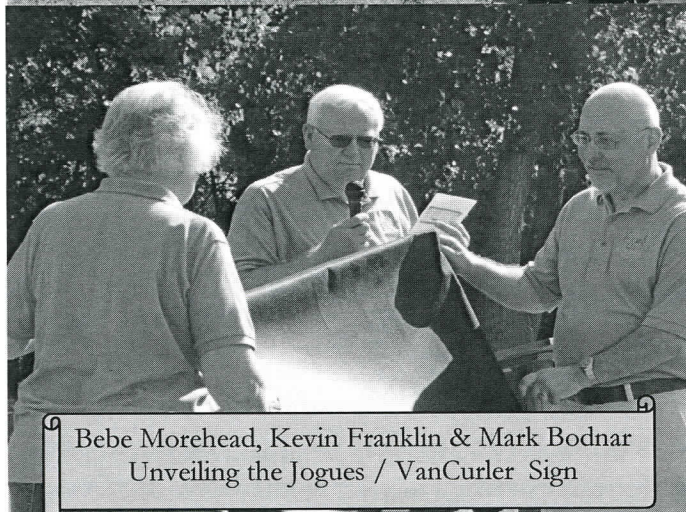
Arent Van Curler—Fr. Isaac Jogues Interpretive Sign Dedication Schuyler Flatts—Saturday, September 27, 2014



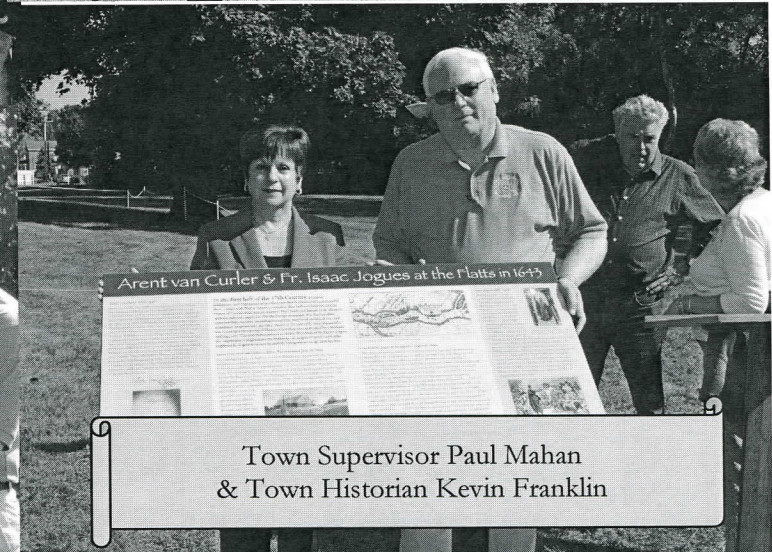
Past Town Historian Jean Olton, Joe Mahan & Town Supervisor Paula Mahan



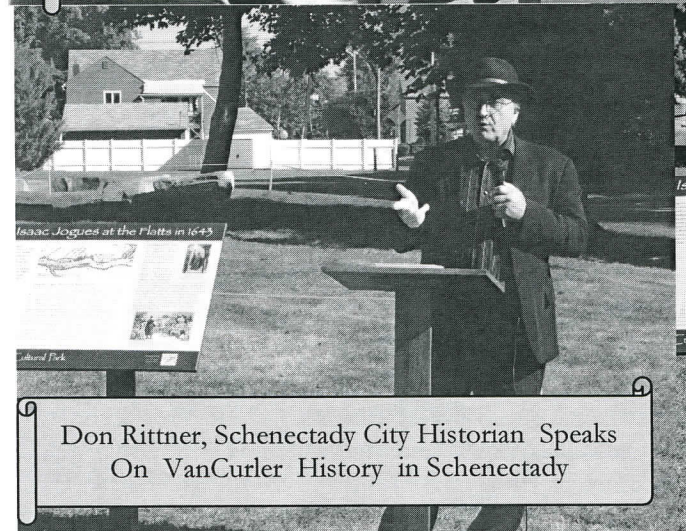
Fr. Peter Young



Bebe Morehead, Kevin Franklin & Mark Bodnar
Unveiling the Jogues / VanCurler Sign



Town Supervisor Paul Mahan & Town Historian Kevin Franklin



Don Rittner, Schenectady City Historian Speaks
On VanCurler History in Schenectady



Sissie Pipes, Archaeologist, Describes Faunal
Remains Found At The Site

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Historical Society of the Town of Colonie, New York, Inc. in the classification I have checked or renew my membership as noted.

My annual dues payment in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Classification	Annual Dues	Classification	Annual Dues	Classification	Annual Dues
Students and Senior Citizens . .	\$10.00	Family	\$15.00	Supporting	\$100—\$250
Individual	12.00	Business	50.00	Benefactor	\$250.00 & Up

Please accept my additional donation of \$ _____ as a gift to the Historical Society. *The Historical Society is a not-for-profit corporation.*

Name _____

Address _____

Cit/Town _____ Zip Code _____ Home Phone # _____

Cell Phone Number _____ E-Mail _____

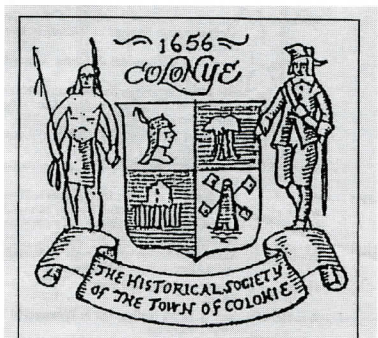
Please mail to Membership Chairperson c/o Historical Society, Memorial Town Hall, Newtonville, N. Y. 12128-0508

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**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE TOWN OF COLONIE**

Kevin Franklin: Town Historian

Current Officers of the Society



Historical Society Founded 1971

MEMORIAL TOWN HALL
NEWTONVILLE, NY 12128-0508
518-782-2601

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Marcia Codling
- Senior Advisor:** Jean Olton

Support the Society's efforts to stimulate an appreciation of the historical heritage of your community. Join Now!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this issue of our newsletter, Town Historian, Kevin Franklin provides the second installment of Benjamin Prescott and the Albany Water Works. The many sources Kevin has accessed to compile this information are impressive indeed. We're looking at trying to send out the fourth and final issue of the quarterly newsletter before December 31st. I believe you'll find the next issue highly interesting: it contains the relationship of one of the HSTC Board members to many notable people connected with local and national history.

We are still searching for a volunteer to be our Program Chair. We have a procedure in place and training and help will be provided. It would probably average an hour a week to perform the duties. Can't you spare this much time? Please volunteer and help us bring quality Programs to our membership.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 25th. In a collaborated effort, two local municipal historians will present a program on the changing borderlines of the City of Albany and the Town of Colonie, where they were, why they were moved and where they are now. Sound interesting? Curious? Come and find out how our Town got its shape. Hope we'll see you there!

Mark Bodnar, President