



Own A Piece Of History

An 1883 painting of the Jug Tavern by Ludmilla Pilat Welch has been cherished by the Ossining historical community since it came to light in the early 1970s. The painting was donated to the Ossining Historical Society Museum in 1971 by Ludmilla's niece Elizabeth Pilat Woodward, with the help of Eleanor Wunderlich of Kennedy Galleries, who restored the painting.

In 2014, the painting became available as an exclusive fine art giclée print. John Wunderlich, artist and president of the Ossining Historical Society Museum (and Eleanor's son), cleaned the painting, and arranged with Mark Sarazen of Sarazen Editions to produce fine art prints, which are now available for purchase at The Little Shop at the Jug.

Ludmilla Pilat Welch was born April 1, 1867, in Ossining. Her parents Carl and Anna Pilat, emigrated from Austria to the United States in the 1850s, first to Georgia before settling in Ossining in the 1860s. Her father, Carl worked as a florist, gardener, and caretaker at Dale Cemetery. Ludmilla's brother, Lewis, was born in Georgia and ran a nursery near Dale Cemetery for many years. Ludmilla was the first of the family's children to be born in Ossining, followed by three sisters—Anne, Theresa, and Emma—and brother Carl Jr., who became a famous landscape architect. Their uncle Ignatz Pilat was a well-known landscape architect who worked on the de-



sign of Central Park in New York City.

The Pilat home was filled with creativity—art, music and literature—to which Ludmilla was exposed from childhood. At home she received painting lessons from the artist Thaddeus Welch, whom she married at the age of 17 in 1883, the same year of the Jug painting. Ludmilla and Thaddeus eventually settled in California where they became master landscape painters.

The Hudson River and environs were the subjects of some of Ludmilla's early painting. Her rendering of the Jug Tavern depicts the original Davids-Garrison House, built around 1760, which was a waystation on the original Albany Post Road (re-named Revolutionary Road when the Post Road was rerouted to the east, today's Route 9).

The painting shows the house in disrepair, with gaping eaves and exposed rafters. It was owned by a family named Geisler, who subsequently demolished and rebuilt the house shortly after this painting was completed, and it looks now much as it did when rebuilt.

Somewhere along the line, the house took on the nicknames "Grapevine Inn" and "Jug Tavern," and became the subject of lore of uncertain veracity, most involving historical figures such as George Washington, who is said to have stopped at the Tavern for a drink. Whether true or not, these stories contribute to the charm and historic legacy of the building, which was listed in 1976 in the National Register of Historic Places.

—Wendy Mantel & Martha Mesiti

SPARTA SPEAKS

The Programming Committee (Wendy Mantel, Martha Mesiti, and Doug Turshen) is excited to announce a new, yearlong series called **Sparta Speaks**—designed to share the rich history of Sparta with the greater Ossining community. Programs will be held in the intimate setting of the Jug Tavern, reviving the building's historic role as a meeting place where friends and neighbors can celebrate our collective heritage.

In the series' inaugural year (2015–2016), there will be three programs focused on the history of Sparta: two lectures and a family storytelling program. Future events may focus on Sparta artists, the oral history of Sparta, and Sparta's most interesting characters. We welcome suggested topics; please send your ideas to info@jugtavern.org

—Martha Mesiti

Our premier Sparta Speaks event will be on May 4, 2015, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Jug Tavern of Sparta. Seating for all events is limited. Please RSVP to info@jugtavern.org to reserve your place.



Monday, May 4, 2015
7:30 PM
Investigating Sparta, Yesterday and Tomorrow, with historian and author **Field Horne**

Horne, an eleventh-generation native of Westchester, is author of Land of Peace: The Early History of Sparta (1976).



Sunday, November 8, 2015
3:00 PM
Sloops, Jugs & Brom Bones: Tales Told in Sparta's Jug Tavern with storyteller **Jonathan Kruk**

Master storyteller Jonathan Kruk will regale us with tales of Hudson River lore in the 18th to early 19th centuries. This program will appeal to attendees of all ages.



March 2016, (date TBD)
7:30 PM
Sparta Reinvisioned with architectural historian **Deborah Van Steen**

Van Steen is a member of the Village Historic Preservation Commission, former village historian, past president of the Ossining Historical Society Museum and Ossining resident.

A Good Foundation

"In preserving these buildings, we are preserving a culture . . . They tell a story, and the story ceases to exist when the places where they occurred cease to exist."

—Scott Kamen
Architect & Resident, Sparta Historic District

The Historic Jug Tavern, the oldest structure within the Sparta Historical and Architectural Design District, is undergoing a facelift—literally.

The Board of the Jug Tavern, serving as stewards for the well-being of our historic building, is currently undertaking foundation stabilization for the structure.

Volunteering their services, Kamen Tall Architects, a preservation firm based in Ossining and New York City, was invited by the Board to provide guidance for a restoration course of action. They began conducting a forensic investigation of the building.

The investigation revealed termite damage, water damage along the historic wood façade, building settlement resulting in undulation and sagging of the wood siding, cracking of the massive sidewall stones, and inoperability of windows and doors. After a series of probes and tests, it was determined that the historic and structurally-deficient foundation was settling and rotating. The foundation is among the oldest untouched elements of the building, dating to the Tavern's original construction in about 1760.

It was decided that a phased restoration would best serve the building's needs and budget. Once stabilized, preservation efforts at the above-ground portions will be more effective and permanent. A good foundation is the key to any preservation plan, especially at our beloved Jug Tavern.

—Katherine Malisbewsky

OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS CREATE THE FUTURE BY LEARNING FROM OUR PAST

The Ossining Project at Anne M. Dorner Middle School

Ossining has a rich and vibrant history; a history which has helped define what it is today. We, at the Ossining UFSD, believe that it is important for all students to learn about their local history in an authentic and enriching manner. We want our students to draw connections and see how our small, but diverse community played an important role in the development of our rich history.

This past summer, students in our Extended School Year Program had the opportunity to visit the area known as Sparta here in Ossining. After gaining new knowledge about their community, students worked on proposals for how this area could attract more visitors and tourists. Students created presentations that were presented as ideas that could potentially increase tourism in Sparta. From this newly formed partnership with the Jug Tavern, came the opportunity to expand the original vision and create an authentic unit of study focusing on local history.

As we embarked on this school year, teachers from 7th and 8th grade participated in hands on professional development geared towards enhancing their knowledge of local history. Their purpose was to develop foundational knowledge that would help the department create an authentic unit about Ossining's local history. Teachers began their journey by touring the area known as Sparta, which gave them an insight into the historical architecture still present from various time periods. They then visited the Ossining Historical Society Museum to obtain a broader, yet deeper, understanding of various time periods and events that helped shaped Ossining. Furthermore, several teachers took tours with Captain Scott Craven through the Teacher



Students compare the current homes to photographs of the past.

Center courses offered in the Ossining UFSD.

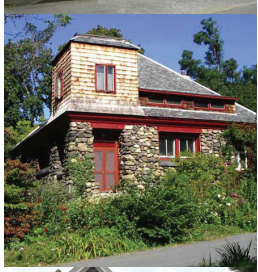
Over the course of this school year, teachers have been developing and creating what the Ossining Project will look like. Our goal is twofold, to enlighten our students to the wonders of our local history, while doing so in an authentic and enriching manner that will help continue to cultivate students' abilities to see the world through the eyes of a historian. In addition, students will learn how to research and question what they discover in order to acquire a deeper understanding of the community in which they live.

Students will choose the focus of their projects. Topics may include, but are not limited to: Sparta,

the aqueduct, Croton Dam, Van Cortlandt Manor, Leatherman, The Rosenbergs, Peter Falk, Hudson River, Erie Canal connection, the railroad, local veterans, and the increase of immigrants to Ossining. They will learn how to conduct their own research in order to then determine how they want to showcase the knowledge they have acquired. Their products can include: a video production, a piece of artwork, a diorama, and/or building a replica to name a few of their authentic outcomes. In addition, all students will be required to submit a research paper to accompany their project.

—Stephen P. Hancock

The Ossining Project will culminate in an Ossining Museum display on Friday, June 12th from 8 AM - 2 PM in the Anne M. Dorner Middle School Gymnasium. Community members are welcome at this event to celebrate Ossining's rich history and the hard work of our students and staff.



A Walk In Time

From April through October, the Jug Tavern will conduct monthly walking tours of the historic Sparta neighborhood at the south end of Ossining. Dr. Alan Stahl, a neighborhood resident and former president of the Jug Tavern, who teaches in the History Department of Princeton University, will lead the tours. Each tour will begin at the Jug Tavern (Rockledge Avenue and Revolutionary Road, behind the CVS) at 1 p.m. with a showing of the video "The Battle for Sparta." Participants will then walk about six blocks through the neighborhood learning about the historic homes in the landmarked district; the tour will end at around 3 p.m.

Upcoming dates for 2015 are all Sundays: May 24, June 21, July 19, August 23, September 13, and October 18; check the Jug Tavern website (www.jugtavern.org) for updates. The tour is free, but participation is limited to 20 people. For a reservation or further information, contact alan@jugtavern.org. Additional tours can be arranged for groups; contact info@jugtavern.org to make arrangements.



Look for . . .



DISPLAY OUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S HERITAGE TOGETHER

There are over thirty historic homes in the Sparta Historical & Architectural Design District. The Jug Tavern is leading a project to mark our historically significant buildings. Take a look along Revolutionary Road, Still Court, Rockledge Avenue, Liberty Street, Spring Street, and Fairview Place to see newly installed plaques. Each plaque designates the structure as part of the Historic District, and the year of construction. Join your neighbors in proudly displaying your home's connection to the district. The cost of each plaque is \$120, which includes installation. For more information, contact Doug@JugTavern.org or call 914.432.7281.

OUR HISTORY IS YOUR HISTORY AT THE LITTLE SHOP AT THE JUG TAVERN

Expand the Sparta experience with books—*Sparta Letters*; *A Land of Peace*; *Frank A. Vanderlip: The Banker Who Changed America*, museum quality art prints, historic maps, vintage photographs, notecards and *The Battle for Sparta* CD. All available at our special events, Sparta Walking Tours, the Ossining Village Fair, and our Labor Day picnic in Sparta Park.

