

Southern Dutchess News

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May 24-30, 2023

MEMORIAL DAY 2023

Local veteran's death in WWII commemorated on 80th anniversary

East Fishkill veteran Manny Bacon honored

By Kristine Coulter

Members of American Legion Post 1758 in Hopewell Junction traveled to the Pinelawn National Cemetery in Farmingdale, on Long Island, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the post's namesake, Charles P. "Manny" Bacon. The seven Post 1758 members recognized Bacon, who was killed in action (KIA) in North Africa during World War II. Pfc. Bacon was the first East Fishkill resident to die in that war, and fifteen others also gave their lives in service to our country, according to Post 1758.

Jim Reynolds is the commander of Post 1758's.

"Our American Legion Post is named after Manny Bacon and in 2022 Post Historian Bill Kriebel brought to our attention that 2023 would make the 80th anniversary of Manny being killed in action. We discussed how we should honor Manny and decided to visit his grave on that anniversary," Reynolds explained earlier this month.

Charles Peter "Manny" Bacon was born November 29, 1919 the oldest child of Lewis and Marcella Bacon, remarked Reynolds.

"Manny grew up in Hopewell Junction with his siblings Margaret, Lewis Jr. and



American Legion Post members recently commemorated the 80th anniversary of fallen World War II veteran Charles P. "Manny" Bacon at Pinelawn Cemetery in Farmingdale on Long Island. Bacon, who was from East Fishkill, was killed in action in North Africa during World War II.

-Courtesy photo

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A Window on the American Revolution

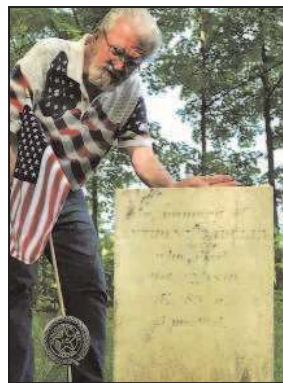
Veeder's work on abandoned cemetery leads brings local history back to life

By Jim Donick

An abandoned cemetery in the Netherwood area of Pleasant Valley has reminded the community of the role of Dutchess County people in the American Revolution.

Former Pleasant Valley Town Supervisor Gary Veeder tells how he and his wife, Pam, would drive by the small old and overgrown cemetery and he'd say to her, "Somebody ought to clean that up and make it nice again." One day, after years of that reaction, and driving by, he said to her, "I'm somebody; maybe I should do it."

Thus began a multi-year effort of historic research that isn't done yet. It has also been a serious project of clearing the overgrowth, finding the collapsed headstones and repairing and putting them back where they belonged. Veeder is not done yet, but the old cemetery is regaining some of its dignity.



Former Pleasant Valley Town Supervisor Gary Veeder stands behind the headstone of Anthony Badgley.

-Photo by Jim Donick

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Renegades struggle in losses to Wilmington and Brooklyn

By Rich Thonaselli

It's official. They are slumping. The Hudson Valley Renegades lost to the Brooklyn Cyclones, 6-1, on Friday night, for their third loss in four games.

It was also the sixth loss in the last eight games for the Renegades. The lone bright spot of the week came in the second game of a doubleheader on Sunday night when the Renegades grabbed a 3-2 extra-inning walkoff win over Brooklyn. They are struggling to hold on to first place in the North Division of the South Atlantic League.

The team was scheduled to start a six-day game trip to Wilmington on Tuesday.

On Friday, the Renegades just could not come up with the clutch hit.

After Juan Carela (1-2) stranded a pair of Cyclones in the first inning, Hudson Valley nearly jumped on the board in the second. After Yoander Suárez (1-2) issued a one-out walk to Aaron Palensky, Grant Richardson singled to center to put runners on the corners with one out. However, Suárez induced Eduardo Torreabla to hit into an inning-ending double play to keep the Renegades scoreless.

The game remained scoreless until the bottom of the fifth when Richardson led off with a solo home run to left-center to put Hudson Valley up 1-0. It was the third round-tripper of the season for Richardson, who finished 2-for-4 with a home run, an RBI and a run scored.

Brooklyn scored the final six runs of the game.

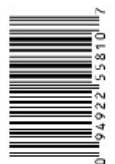
Up 2-1 in the top of the seventh, Mateo Gil hit an RBI double off Enrique Santana and scored on a wild pitch thrown by Harrison Cohen. Parada capped off the three-run frame with an RBI single as the Cyclones extended their lead to 5-1. Brooklyn plated their final run with an RBI single in the ninth by Chase Estep off Ryan Anderson.

In Tuesday's series opener, the Renegades led from start to finish and beat Brooklyn 9-6.

Jones sparked the Renegades offense early with a leadoff home run in the bottom of the first off Jeffrey Colón. In the bottom of the second, Palensky hit a one-out solo home run off Colón (0-2), his league-leading

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MEMORIAL DAY 2023

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James. He attended elementary school in a three-room schoolhouse on Beekman Road and entered Beacon High School in January 1934. After leaving school, he went to work for the maintenance division of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad in Hopewell Junction. Manny was also a Lieutenant of the Hopewell Hose Volunteer Fire Department," Reynolds said.

It was on May 21, 1942, said Reynolds, that Bacon received his induction notice and was inducted into the U.S. Army at Fort Jay in New York.

"After basic training, he was shipped to Ireland and was part of the invasion forces to hit North Africa in November of 1942 as a member of the 9th Recon Troop. On May 19, 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Bacon were notified that Manny was missing in action (MIA) and two weeks later, another War Department telegram informed them that he had been killed in action April 20, 1943," stated Reynolds.

"Manny was the first of 16 men from Hopewell Junction and East Fishkill that were killed in World War II. The population of East Fishkill in 1940 was just over 2000 residents," Reynolds explained.

Manny was first interred in the American Cemetery Beja, Tunisia and after the war, his remains were returned to

the United States and he was buried here at Pinelawn, stated Reynolds. "At the time of his death, he was survived by his parents Lewis who died in 1966 and Marcella who passed away in 1994. He was also survived by his sister, Margaret who died in 1991, his brothers Lewis Jr. and James who died in 1987 and 2002 respectively. His sister Margaret had a daughter Renate that still lives in Hopewell Junction. In 1949, American Legion Post 1758 was created in Hopewell Junction and named in honor of Manny," he said.

As for why the veterans took the trip to Long Island to Pinelawn Cemetery, Reynolds said, "To show the families of those killed while in the military that their loved ones are not forgotten and to teach further generations the true meaning of patriotism and ultimate sacrifice. By showing people that these veterans are not obscure names from somewhere else, but that Manny Bacon was a local young man from East Fishkill and Dutchess County would give his life to protect our country."

One of those on who made the trip to remember Bacon was Bill Kriebel, a member of the Post, "Our Post regularly decorates the graves of local veterans every Memorial Day and we perform honor guard ceremonies for the funerals of local veterans who have passed on. But as our Post's historian, I



Local veterans salute Manny Bacon where he is buried at Pinelawn Cemetery on Long Island. Bacon was killed in action during World War II. The veterans commemorated the 80th anniversary of Bacon's ultimate sacrifice.

-Courtesy photo

could not find any record of the Post honoring the grave of our Post's namesake, Charles P. "Manny" Bacon, and I thought it would be a good idea to do it on the 80th anniversary of when he was killed in action. Seeing all the grave markers in that cemetery was a stark reminder to us of all the people who gave their lives so that we could live in a free country. I'm really glad we went."

Reynolds said, "More than one-million American veterans have made the supreme sacrifice to protect the things they loved –

God, country, and family. Brave men and women have always stepped forward to take the oath of allegiance as members of America's armed forces, willing to fight and if necessary, die for the sake of freedom. They have always been and will continue to be the ones who protect and preserve our way of life."

Reynolds noted, "It's unfortunate that all issues cannot be settled with talk and negotiations. Sometimes it's necessary to use force to protect our freedoms."

A Window on the American Revolution

Continued from cover

In the course of his research, Veeder learned that the cemetery had been established on a quarter of an acre by one Anthony Badgley. There are several generations of his family there, but Badgley himself, was the key to looking back into the American Revolution.

His headstone had been knocked over, but not broken. Upon setting it back up and cleaning it, the inscription came to light. It states: "In memory of Anthony Badgley who died October 12, 1810 Age 89 y. 3 Mo. 10 d."

Who was this man, Veeder wondered? And thus began further research to learn more about him.

Anthony Badgley had acquired the property, which was at that time still part of the Town of Clinton. (Pleasant Valley and Hyde Park were created in 1831 when the Town of Clinton was subdivided.) He owned a considerable amount of land in Clinton and set aside one quarter of an acre to be used as a

cemetery where he, his wife, Sarah, and many descendants are buried. The quarter acre came to be known as "The Badgley Ground."

It appears that many old family cemeteries are referred to by the family name and the word "ground." Thus there might be the "Haight Ground," or the "McCann Ground" had those families created a family cemetery on their properties.

There are generations of Anthony Badgley's family buried in this cemetery in the Netherwood area, likely over 40 graves. Badgley's wife and at least one son are near his grave. Others are scattered across the entire quarter acre.

Their tombstones, in some cases, tell a little about them. Perhaps the most sad is a small white marble stone that reads: "Our Little Mary Ella, dau. of George R. & Alletta E. Vail. Died Feb 21, 1861. Aged 5 y'rs 5 m's 6 d's." Above the inscription a small flower has been engraved. Veeder has cleaned this one carefully. It's white marble now, almost as pure as it was 160 years ago.

Anthony Badgley's story is slowly coming back to life. He was born in Flushing, Queens and was orphaned before he was 10 years old. He was raised by a cousin and her husband, who moved with him to Dutchess County. By 1769, he had become a landowner in Clinton with extensive holdings.

When the revolution began, Anthony Badgley pledged his life and his goods to the cause of independence and took up arms. Research indicates that he was an officer, a Captain with the Dutchess County Militia, Fourth Regiment. The Dutchess County Militia could refer to one of two different units.

There was a local Militia unit that defended the area, guarded military supplies and, among other engagements, fought in the Battle of White Plains. They deterred foraging British troops coming north to steal food and supplies to feed an ever more isolated New York City. They were also critical to the task of keeping the British from moving north from New York City in the attempt to

conquer the entire Hudson Valley and cut off New England from the rest of the colonies. This British effort came to an end with their defeat at Saratoga. But their need to secure supplies for New York City continued.

There is another 4th Regiment of Militia often identified as Dutchess. In 1775, the New York Assembly authorized the creation of a Militia. The 4th Regiment of the State Militia was raised in Dutchess County and was referred to for some time as the 4th (Dutchess) Regiment. Some of the Dutchess men could have easily served in that unit as well as doing a short stint in the more local militia.

The 4th Regiment, with one of its 10 companies coming from Dutchess County, went north in the late spring of 1775 after Ticonderoga had been taken from the British. They were a part of the forces led by Brigadier Richard Montgomery, another Dutchess County resident, who lived in Rhinebeck with his wife, Janet Livingston.

The Irish-born Montgomery was an experienced and respected officer of the British Army. When he married Miss Livingston and settled in Dutchess County, he came to share the political feelings of her family that the colonies were being ill-treated by Parliament and, like his in-laws, he came to favor independence.

When George Washington was forming a Continental Army, the Congress asked New York to name two Generals to help lead it and specifically to lead the New Yorkers who would form a part of it. The New York

Assembly nominated Philip Schuyler as Major General and Richard Montgomery as Brigadier. In June of that year they headed north to garrison Ticonderoga, lest the British return and to hold the northern approaches to the Hudson Valley. Schuyler, an older man, became ill; and Montgomery, his much more experienced second in command, ensured the success of their assignment both logistically and militarily.

Late in the summer, Schuyler and Montgomery were ordered north to try and deal with the British in Canada. Many had assumed the Canadians would join their cousins to the south in seeking independence. Schuyler took ill and Montgomery assumed command.

The men of Dutchess County served as an important part of his army. They took Montreal, but failed in the attempt to take Quebec. Montgomery fell leading his troops in the assault along with many of the Dutchess County troops. The army fell back to New York State. Montgomery, still respected by his former comrades of the British Army, was buried with honor in Quebec. The New Yorkers reformed the unit and went on to fight at Saratoga, and other battles up to the final victory.

Where exactly did Captain Anthony Badgley serve? That question is still being studied. Whichever role he played, local militia leader or Captain in the larger New York Militia, his grave in the old "Badgley Ground" is being restored to the honor that his memory deserves.

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