

# Hello and Welcome!

*On March 25th in this year of 2016, as a township, we began celebrating our 177th year! Brant's history is in constant motion, and the Brant-Farnham Historical Society is determined to do its best to keep track of this past year's activities. We hope that this "news book" will be as interesting for you to read as it was for us to put together.*

*This "story" of 2015-2016 is intermingled with more than a few historical items from our past. Although we enjoy today and look forward to the future, it is important to look back to what once was. The 1920's and 1930's Miller's Beach photos that Jeff and Ann Prince graciously loaned to us are so delightful. And....thank goodness that Joyce Cureo saved all her scrap books—wait until you see the 1950's baseball section (pages 13-19) !!*

*Throughout the year, we encourage each person of our community to submit photos, stories, memorabilia or even just their favorite memories to the Brant-Farnham Historical Society. History is made each and every day by people such as yourself, so please help us to document it for future generations.*

*Thank you to all who have played a part in this year's journal...and we would be remiss without a most special THANK YOU to Sarah Igielinski for her proofreading help.*

*Patty Friend, Brant Historian  
and Members of the Brant-Farnham Historical Society*

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# BRANT– FARNHAM HISTORY

*In the early years of the Brant-Farnham Historical Society, an Essay Contest was held for the 4th Grade Class of Brant 1 School (since closed). We hope you enjoy reading about the History of the Town of Brant as seen through their eyes. Mrs. Manning was their teacher.*

## **Brant's History, By Edward Beaufort-Cutner, 4th Grader at Brant 1 School, 1995**

The history of Brant begins like this. Brant is 156 years old. If you think about it hard enough that is a very long time that Brant has been here. Brant was founded on March 25, 1839. That was 156 years ago.

How Brant Got Its Name. Well, it got its name Brant from Chief Joseph Brant a Mohawk Chief. He was a Native American and he was a respected man and also a caring loving man who cared very, very much for many people.

Moses Tucker. He was the first Caucasian settler. He was a Quaker who bought a farm in 1816 and then he soon sold it. A little later then some pioneers of other nearby towns came. He sold his farm very soon to Amos Stickney. Within the next few years several other families moved.

The location of Brant is New York State, Erie County, Buffalo, near Erie Lake [sic], near Gowanda, North of Silver Creek.

People had started transportation like this: horse buggy, walking, cars, trucks. It went in order like that because they didn't have cars in 1716.

Mostly people ran farms, sold dairy milk, meat and other foods like beef, salad dressing and lumber, and they still do.

The first teacher was named Julia Bradley who was most probably a nice teacher who taught

first in 1823.

The first school was built in 1823. The first school was named Brant District #1 School. The size of the school was very small and only had one room. It was so small all the kids had to be in one room. The teacher would have to teach one group at a time. She would teach kindergarten, then first grade, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and on like that. I think it was because they were poor.

Samuel Butts donated the school's land. I think that was a very generous favor of Samuel. I hope they made something for him in return. I would probably give him something.

The pay for teachers was good back then. It was \$14.48 a month, but now our parents would think you are crazy or just kidding.

The goods and services today are grapes, milk, beef, salad dressing, vegetables, and services are Brant Welding.

Some interesting places are the Brant School because there is nice kids, teachers, and good lunches.

I like this about our town Brant: It is big, open, nice country with flowers, farms, and the most important of all is that there are loving, caring people in our town.

## **Brant's History, By Kimberly Catalano, 4th Grader at Brant 1 School, 1995**

The name of our school's community is Brant. Brant is 156 years old. Moses Tucker was the first white man settler in this area. He also bought a farm in 1816. The town of Brant got its name from a Mohawk Chief name Joseph Brandt. Brant town is located in New York State, in Erie County, near Lake Erie, south of Buffalo. Back then they used transportation to get around. The transportation that they used was walking, horses, stagecoach, buggies, carriages, trolley cars, and trains. What most people did for a living was farming and selling crops.

The Old Schools. Only one room fit all of the classes and it was heated by a pot-bellied stove and sometimes the teacher had to start it. The first

teacher was Julia Bradley in 1823. It was also built when she was the teacher. The first school was built north of Brant Center called Brant District #1. Land was donated by Samuel Butts. In 1848, pay was \$14.48 a month. Our school now was built in 1936.

Brant Today. Some goods made here are grapes, strawberries, Chiavetta's chicken, salad dressing, fruit, flowers, trees, and plants. Some services in our community today are Post Office, JJJ, schools, Timberwolves, Town Hall, Fire Department, and Brant Welding. I like the Memorial Park because it is a nice place to think about stuff. I like Brant because it is not polluted and you have places to play.



# BRANT- FARNHAM HISTORY

Town of Brant Drawings  
by Mrs. Manning's 4th Graders at  
Brant 1 School, 1995



Chief Joseph Brant  
drawing by Cassie Santiago



Brant 1 School  
drawing by Jeremy Schlenker



Brant Fire Hall  
drawing by Edward Beaufort-Cutner



Brant Post Office 14027  
drawing by Paul Orlando

# BRANT– FARNHAM HISTORY

## Early Inhabitants of the Town of Brant

Fred W. Brinkman

*From the Brant-Farnham History Newsletter, Vol. X Summer-Fall 2000 Whole No. 40*

For thousands of years, the only inhabitants of Western NY and the Town of Brant were the Native Americans (American Indians). In addition to written history, much additional evidence of their presence here has been found. Fortifications, earth build-ups, axes, tools, and arrowheads, and other relics have been found. I have one collection of arrowheads which were found by my father while he was plowing his field. Further evidence of their village's located here were discovered by anthropologists. Carbon dating shows some of the relics as being more than 10,000 years old.

Among the first written records of these early inhabitants were letters describing them, by French missionaries, explorers, and military leaders, who had observed them here, and then wrote letters to their superiors back in Quebec and France.

French presence in the New World began in 1634, when George Cartier sailed up to the St. Lawrence to a location we now call Montreal, and then claimed most of North America for France.

In 1603 the French mariner, Champlain, made a permanent settlement in Quebec, and from there, many fur traders, missionaries, and explorers came through Western New York. They later built forts at Presque Isle (Erie), Detroit and Niagara.

I was told by a local historian and anthropologist that he believed a French trader or fort was located at the intersection of Milestrip and Hammond Road in the Town of Brant.

One of the first of the French to visit our area was DeLaSalle, who traveled on foot,

with a party consisting of military, his men and Huron warriors. He described traveling along the southern shores of Lake Erie winding his way through wooded forests, which may indeed have been in what is now the Town of Brant, on a journey to attack the Senecas. The Senecas, at the time resided in the Genesee Valley near Avon. The Hurons and the Senecas were deadly enemies. In his dispatches to his superiors back in Quebec, he wrote of finding a friendly nation of natives living in our area. They found many villages located on the south shore of Lake Erie. He estimated the number of this tribe to be at 12,000. Later historians dispute this number because of the large number of villages and the large territory they occupied; it would have been impossible to make an accurate count.

The French had given this tribe two names. The first was "Neuter tribe". This was because for hundreds of years they acted as a buffer or neutral nation, between the Seneca Nation, who resided to their East and their enemy, the Huron Nation, who resided to their West. The other name was the "Erie Nation". The French name for cat is Erie, and when they found a large number of panthers in this area, they gave this name to the tribe. They found, it is interesting to note, that the French also gave this name to Lake Erie, and this same name was also given to Erie County in New York and Erie County and City in Pennsylvania. The nation called itself the "Kahquak".

A number of French missionaries also visited this Erie Nation. In 1626, Father Dela

Roche Dellio, a Jesuit priest, stayed the winter with them. Other priests, Fathers Brehoef and Clemont, also visited them in 1640, and described the number of their villages as being more than 18. They described the location of one of their major creek villages, being located on the bank of 18-Mile Creek at the intersection of Lake Erie. These descriptions are found in their dispatches back to their superiors in France.

However, in 1640-1641 this nation engaged in a number of battles with the Iroquois Nation. I was told by my father that one of the major battles was fought on the banks of the 18-Mile Creek. The Eries were defeated by the Iroquois. The Erie-Neuter Nation disappeared after this defeat. Some of their members may have been adopted by the Iroquois, as it was a common happening among various tribes. It enabled them to replace a warrior that had been killed, or to secure a wife. An example of this was the reputed existence of a camp of Delawares on what we now call Delaware Creek in Brant. Further evidence of the Delaware presence can be found in a letter which Chief Halftown of the Senecas wrote to the British. He offered the services of 21 warriors including "Delaware" warriors, to help defend the shores of Lake Erie and Cattaraugus Creek against the British, who were attacking our shores from their ships on Lake Erie.

The Senecas remain today as our friends and neighbors, and in addition many present residents of the Town of Brant are proud to share Seneca and other Iroquois blood in their veins. There is much written, but neglected, history of Western New York, but our earliest residents did contribute much to our heritage, and we should all be aware of this most important contribution.



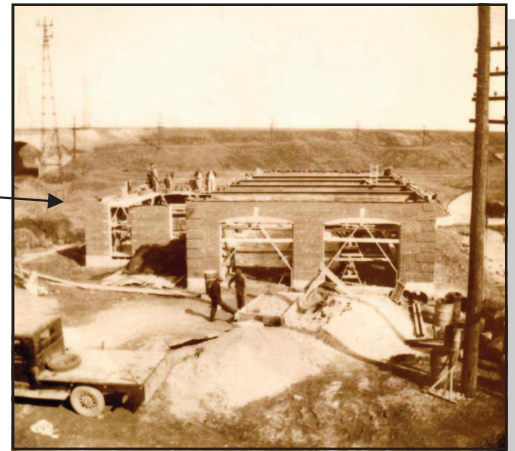
# BRANT- FARNHAM HISTORICAL PLACES

## Town of Brant and Village of Farnham Master Plan

- Current Farnham Village Hall and Fire Department located on 526 Commercial Street, built circa 1930

Additionally, there are several structures within the study area that have local historic significance including the following:

- Outdoor Baker's Oven located at the intersection of Brant-North Collins Road and Morley Road is the last of its kind within the community
- Former Quarters for Migrant Workers located next to the Outdoor Baker's Oven was used from the late 1890's to the 1960's. Other examples of this style of housing remain in other areas of the Town.
- The first Community Church in the Town of Brant located on Brant-North Collins Road. The building is located on the J.L. Catalano family farm and is currently being used as workshop
- The first Town Hall located on Brant-North Collins between Morley Road and Versailles Plank Road. The building is currently used as a residence
- Mosher House located at 10806 Brant-Reservation Road is one of the oldest buildings in the community and dates back to the early 1800's
- The first sawmill in the Town located on Brant-Reservation Road about a ¼ mile south of the Mosher House. It was moved and remodeled and is currently used as a storage facility for school buses
- The former Union Hotel (currently Pero's Restaurant) located next door to the Mosher House, was one of the first buildings in the Brant community and was used as a stage coach stop and is now vacant
- Several school houses including the first school house located at 10727 Brant-Angola Road, a two room school house on Mile Strip Road between Hammond Road and Brant-Reservation Road, a one room school house at Mile Strip Road and Versailles Plank Road and a one room school house on Brant-Farnham Road and Hammond Road.
- Bogdan Residence
- Pizzolanti's Farnham Hotel located at 516 Commercial Street



Farnham Fire Department and current Village Hall



Outdoor Oven



Brant School #2



Brant School #4  
(Mud Street School)



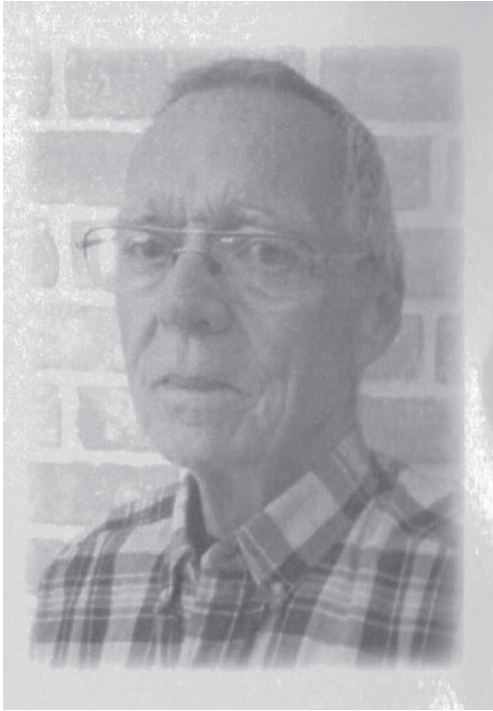
Pizzolanti's Restaurant, 516 Commercial Street, Farnham, NY

The 2003 Town of Brant and Village of Farnham Master Plan (Page 106) which lists structures in the Town of Brant and Village of Farnham with historical significance.

The Plan was conducted by: Peter J. Smith and Company, Inc. and Nussbaumer & Clarke Inc., under the direction of the 2003 Brant Town Board.



# -2015 Brant Festival Photos-



## Wall of Fame - Wayne Falk

The 12th Annual Brant Summer Fest presented the 4th inductee to our wall of fame and honored Wayne Falk for his leadership and dedication to the residents of the Town of Brant.

For 30 years (1984-2006) Wayne served the Town of Brant as a patrolman (7 years) and as our Town Police Chief (23 years).

The town residents recognized his leadership, loyalty and dedicated service as he put his life on the line to serve and protect the town residents. On February 18, 2006 the town board proclaimed Chief Wayne Falk Day in the Town of Brant to forever thank him for his devoted years of service.

On June 9th, 2015 the Brant Town Board unanimously proclaimed June 20th and 21st, 2015 as Wayne Falk Days in the Town of Brant and placed him on our wall of fame.

THANK YOU WAYNE FOR YOUR DEDICATED SERVICE TO PROTECT AND SERVE THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF BRANT! GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

**Wayne Falk  
named to the town's "Wall of Fame"**

*The Residents of the Town of Brant*



**Pero Pepper Eating Contest**

**We Celebrated our  
176<sup>th</sup> Year  
of Incorporation  
March 25, 1839-  
March 25, 2015**



**Aerial Silk Performance -  
Nora Lemke**



# -2015 Brant Festival Photos-



Dan Gernatt and Joe Giambrone



David Berns waves "hello"!



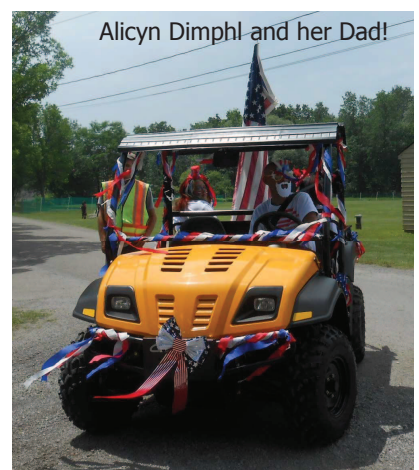
The Hamburg Kingsmen Alumni Band



Lemke Family: Sea Monster Float  
[ front ]



Lemke Family: Sea Monster Float  
[ back ]



Alicyn Dimphl and her Dad!