

Homesite of 1709 Palatine Emigrant Hendrick Conrad WALRATH

For a brief time, Henry Walrath was settled with his father Gerhardt Walrath at the Livingstone West Camp settlement, then Hartmansdorf (New – Quensberg) Schoharie. However, although other lands were likely purchased by Henry, what might be considered the “family farm” was located in what is today the Town of Minden, Montgomery County, New York.

Primary Residence of Hendrick Walrath: In his will of 1746 (a copy of the original being found on my Ancestry.com FAUXDK site), “Hendrick Wolrad of Conajoharay” left 100 acres, “part of the Lands which I Purchased from Philip Livinstone Etc. being the Eastermost or lower half part of the Lott of Land I now Dwell upon & manure” to his son Hendrick Wolrad with the stipulation that said Hendrick help build a home and barn upon the property for the second son Johan Adolf Wolrad. Hendrick Senior also bequeathed 100 acres of land to his son Johan Adolf “being the westernmost or upper part of the Lott of Land I now Dwell upon”. Furthermore, “I do give & bequeath unto my said Sons Hendrick and Johan Adolf & their Heirs one hundred (and twenty five – [added above]) Acres of Land lying at the east end of the Patent, which my said land is Specified in, to be Equally Occupied & manured betwixt them “.

The information here is insufficient to precisely locate the dwelling place of Hendrick Conrad Walrath (known simply as Henry Walrath – and spelling variations).

The most helpful study of the ownership of the Countryman, Lipe and Windecker (now known simply as the Windecker) Patent is by A. Ross Eckler (2002) entitled “The Windecker Patent” which is no longer available online. Fortunately the present author had copied this document some years ago.

A study of the 1764 tax list by Mr. Eckler showed that Hendk Wallrad junr and Adolph Wallrad were residing among others who appear to have been living on the Windecker Patent. By also studying the list of people dated 18 October 1786 from the Windecker Patent, the documentation shows that Jacob A. Walrath on Lot 9 and Henry Walrath on Lot 9 each owned 100 acres. Furthermore on 12 December 1799 valuation of the property in the Town of Minden, it shows that Henry Walradt, Adam H. Walradt, and Jacob A. Walradt were all living on Lot 9 in the Windecker Patent.

In studying the available records Mr. Eckler provided, “Deed Records of Individual Lots”.

Lot 9B: Here Eckler reports that Lot 9B, along with Lot 9A were, “purchased from Philip Livingstone in 1731 by Hendrick Walrath, one of the 1709 Palatine immigrants, apparently before the Windecker Patent had been established. According to Hendrick’s 1746 will, this land went to his son John Adolf Walrath. In 1764 John Adolf was living on Lot 9B when he was assessed 13 pounds. In an unrecorded deed, John Adolf apparently sold Lot 9B (incorrectly identified as Lot 10) to Martinus Dillenbeck”. In 1830 the widow of Jacob A. Walrath sold Lot

9B to Conrad Zimmerman, and in the 1905 Miden Map the lot was shown as “Zimmerman’s Pines”.

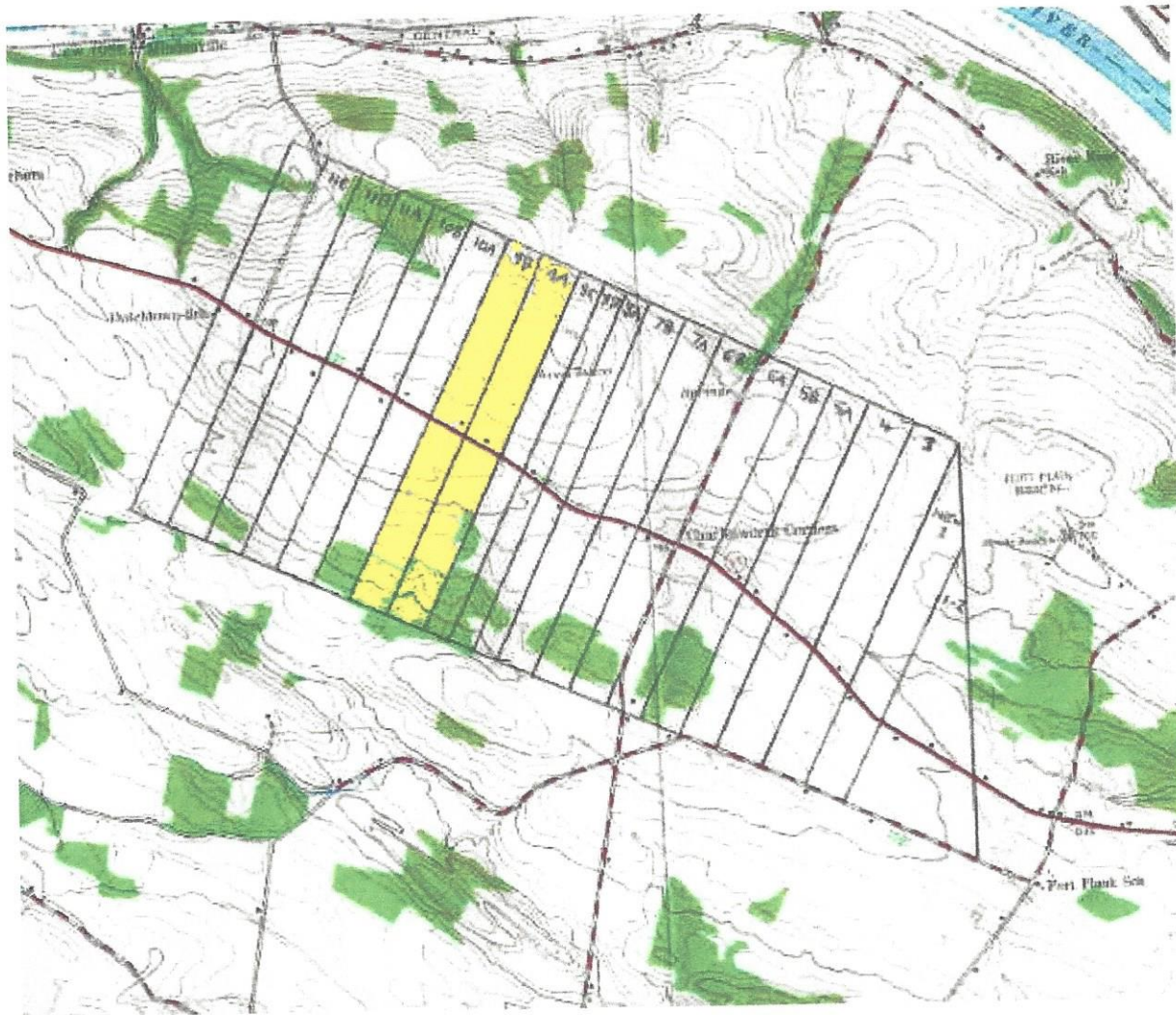
Lot 9A: This property was also willed by Hendrick Walrath in 1746, to his son Henry. “In 1764 Henry Jr was living on Lot 9A where he was assessed 12 pounds. Henry Walrath Junior born 1742 then willed the lot to his son Adam Walrath in 1821. From that point the land passed through many hands.

Here follows a map of the Windecker Tract composed by Mr. Eckert:

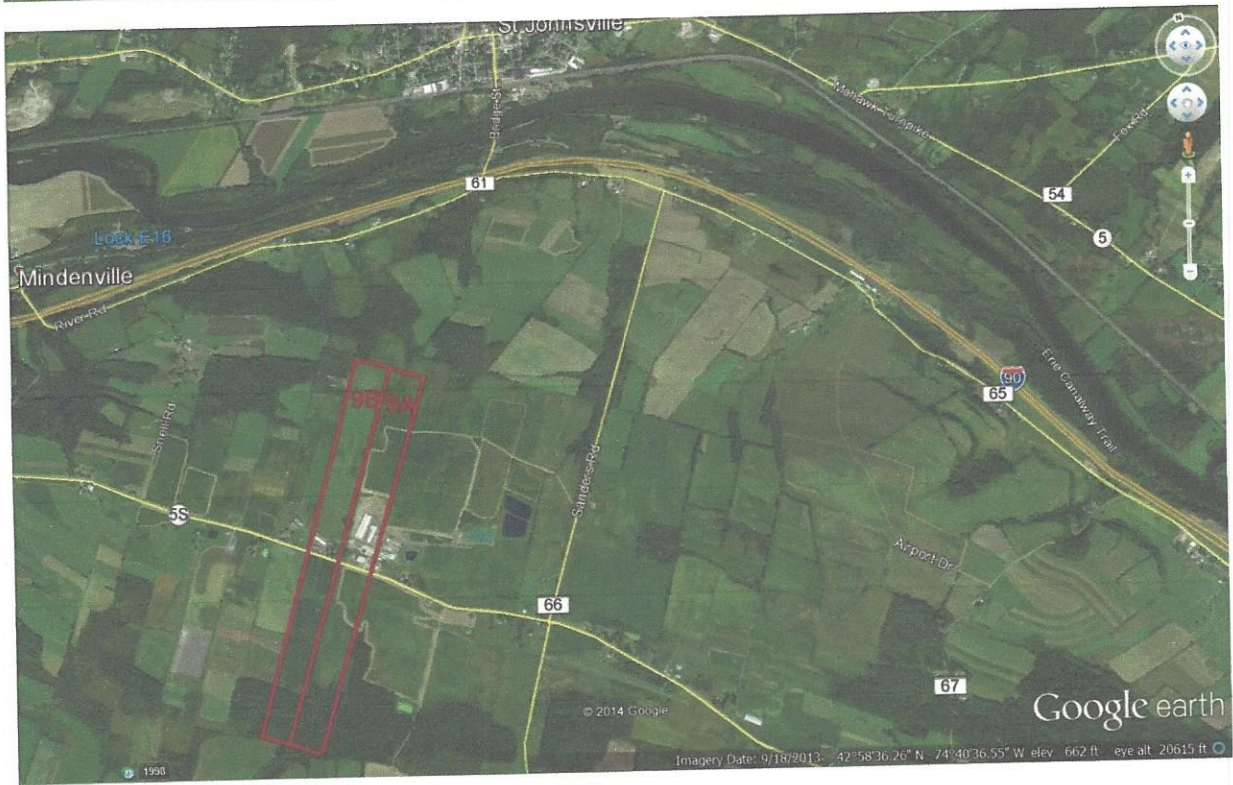


Lots 9A and 9B can be seen north west of Charlesworth Corners, which is west of Fort Plain. Comparing this map with the various descriptions provided by Mr. Eckert, and the will of Hendrick Walrath in 1746, it can be concluded that Hendrick was at the time of his death residing on the above Lot 9A of the Windecker Patent. The present day farm house here was likely situated close to the original home of Hendrick. The red roadway going from right to left (west to east) on the heights above the Mohawk River was known as “Dutchtown Road”.

Here follows a series of overlays to show where in the topography of today, we might expect to have seen the home of Hendrick Walrath. First a highlighting of the above map to show more clearly the lots owned and occupied by Hendrick.



Here follows the view from the air of the area around Lots 9A and 9B; then Lots 9A and 9B overlaid upon the Google view:



Finally a picture of a street view from Google of the home situated on Lot 9B today:



Unfortunately Lot 9A, where Hendrick resided, is presently a patchwork of buildings, and any hope of determining the original house site would rest on a site visit. The present author did visit the area in the 1980s, long before Google Earth and other tools of this nature were available; and prior to the surfacing of many documents that have clarified the location of lands owned by Hendrick.

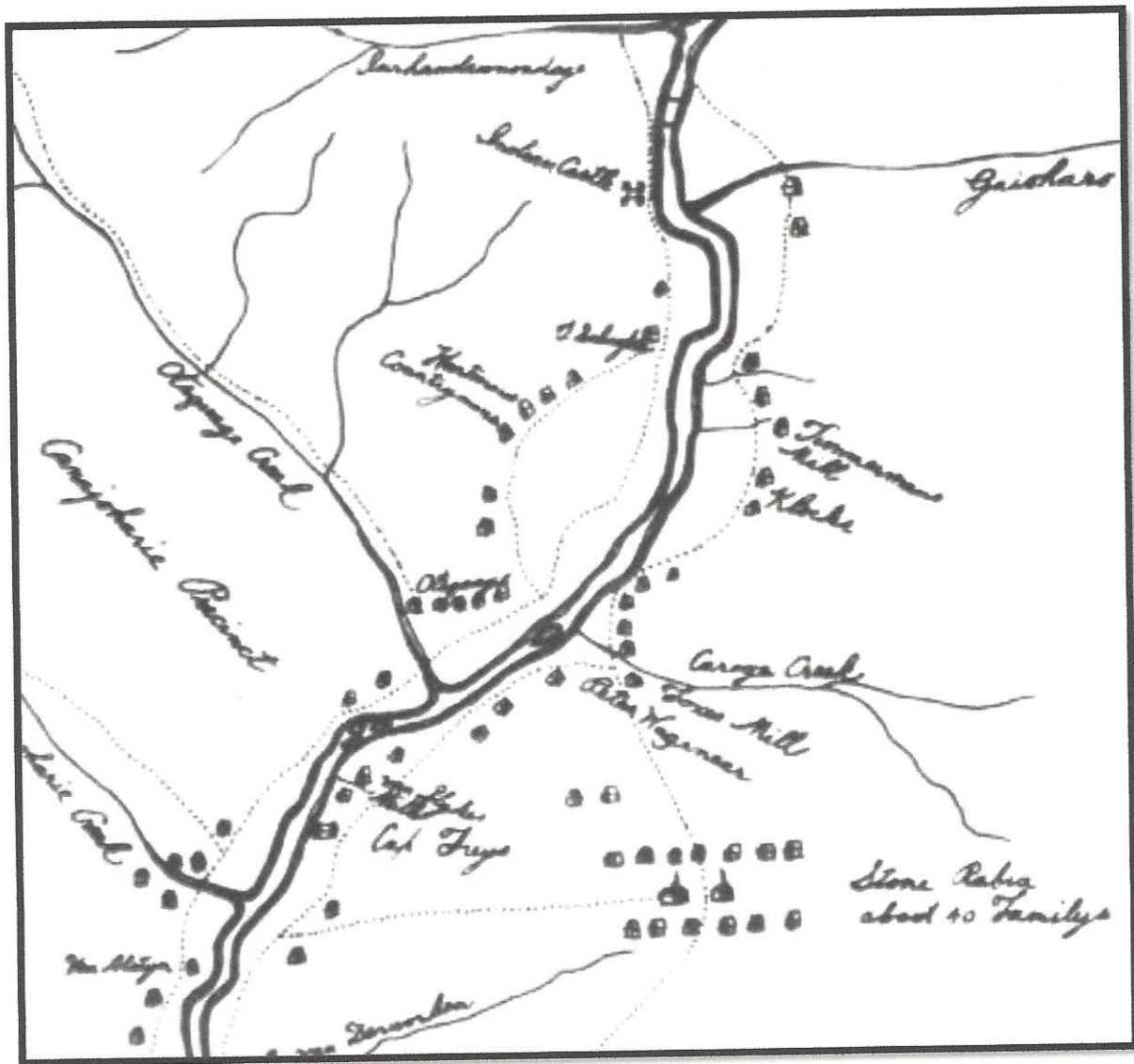
Historical Maps of the Canajoharie District and “Dutchtown”:

Sometimes a view backwards at early maps, often created during times of stress such as the French and Indian Wars (e.g., 1757), and the War of the American Revolution (e.g., 1778).

Although these maps are often lacking in the precision of maps created in later days (more recent times), or maps that pertain to Patents and Lot lines where it is imperative to get things as exact as possible, they can be informative.

The two following maps are good examples of the merits of early sketches of the Mohawk Valley.

1757: Composite map by John C. Devendorf from British Crown Collection and the Wisconsin Historical Society, Enterprise and News, St. Johnsville, NY.



The above map shows the area of the Windecker Patent and Dutchtown Road. All of the homes are situated on the south side of the Road, in this map. Two householders are named, Countrymans and Hartmans. Clearly, as seen occasionally, in both Schoharie and the Mohawk Valley, the names Hartman and Windecker are confused. It is possible that Hendrick Walrath's home is shown upriver of "Hartmans".

1778: The map below is the Sauthier Map which shows the homes and lots in the area, part of a much larger map of the State of New York. On the Windecker Tract one can see at least three

large lots and associated structure, appearing on what would seem to be the south side of Dutchtown Road.



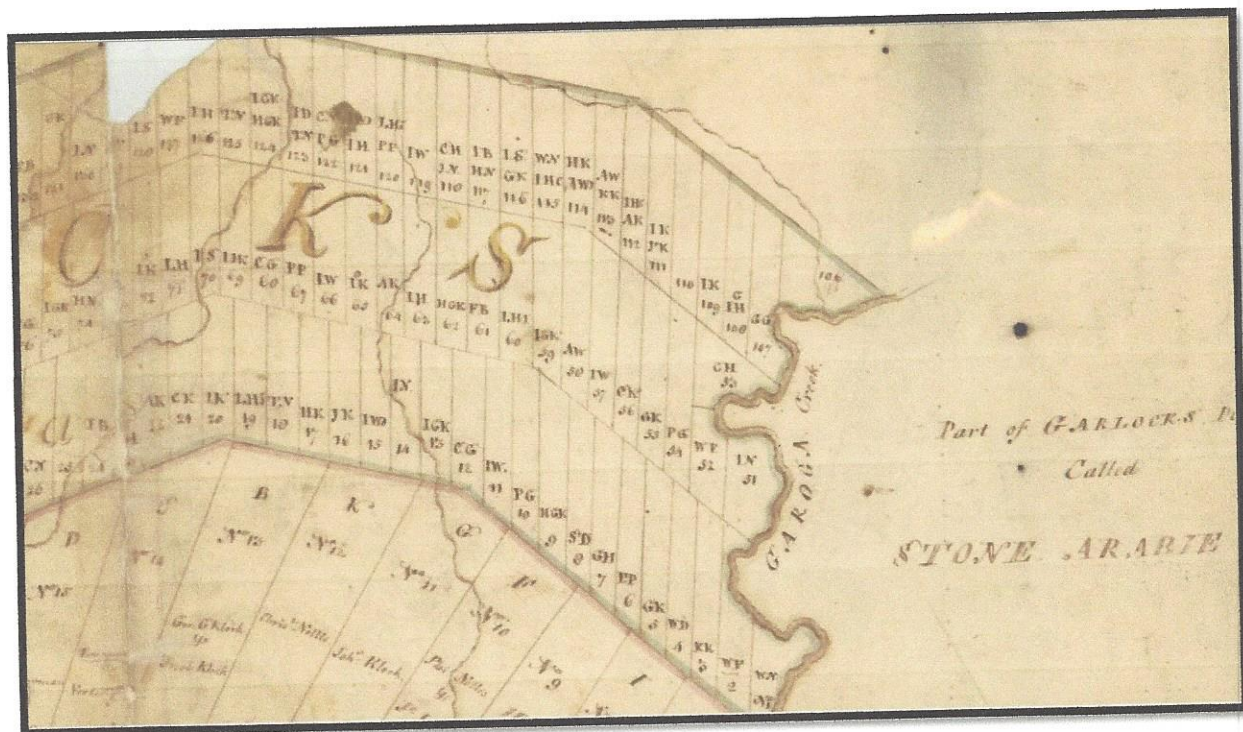
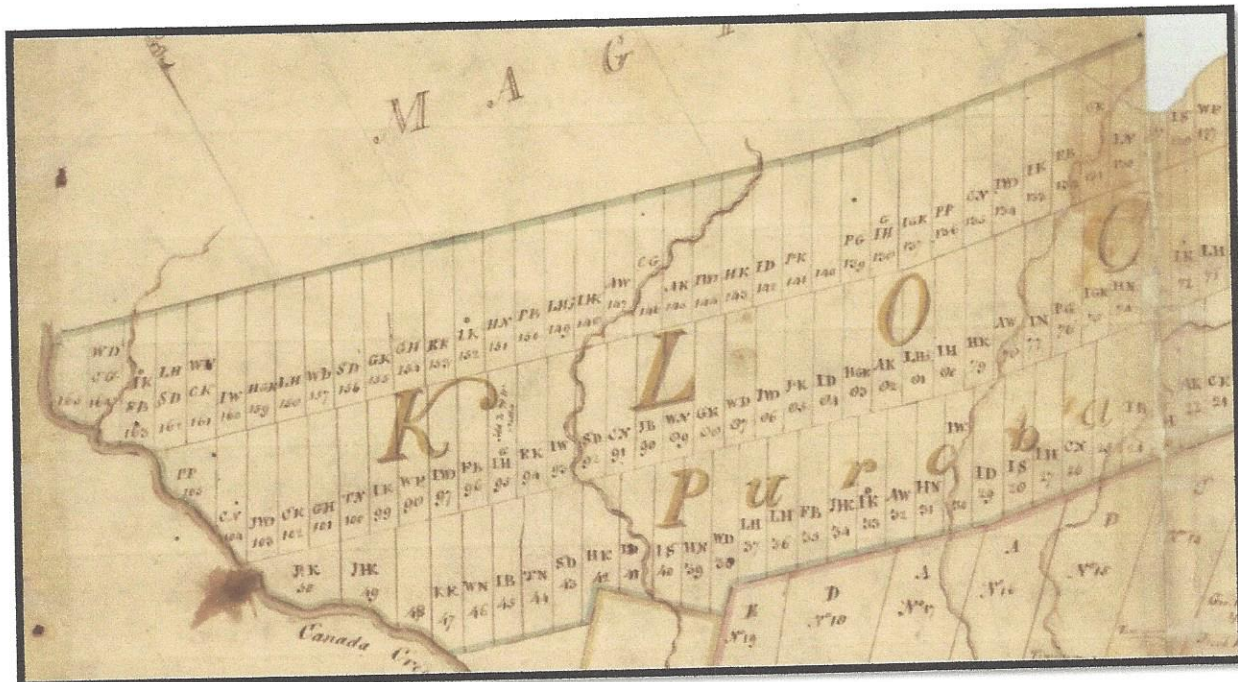
Other Lands Owned by Hendrick Walrath: Most early residents of the Mohawk Valley speculated in land, and owned holdings hither and yon across the Valley. One example is vast land immediately north of the Harrison Patent (St. Johnsville) known as Klock's Purchase which was divided into numerous small lots. Owners held dispersed lots within the Purchase. The owners of this Purchase of 21 December 1754 were as follows:

EXPLANATION
of
KLOCK'S Purchase
granted 21 Dec^r. 1764. to.

George Klock	GK	Adam Klock	AK
William Nellis	WN	Johannis Dygaat	ID
Ja. Klock	JK	Seobald Nellis	TN
Grotian Nellis	GN	Leonard Helmer Sr.	LHS
Johannis Klock	EK	Adolph Walrath	AW
Severinus Dygaat	SD	Johannis Windecker	IWD
Henry Klock	HK	Henry Walrath	HW
Leonard Helmer	LH	Joseph Klock	JK
Kenneth Klock	KK	William Fox	WF
Johannis Mejs	IM	Philip Pier	PP
Godfrid Helmer	GH	Philip Garlag	PG
Casper Koch	CK	Carl Garlag	CG
George Windecker	GW	Johannis Nellis	LN
Jacob G Klock	IGK	John Madock	G
Johannis Shauman	IS	Adam Gray	IH
Henry G Klock	HGK	Johannis Bellinger	IB
Warner Dygaat	WD	James Wallace	IW
Friarich Bellinger	FB	Henry Nellis	HN

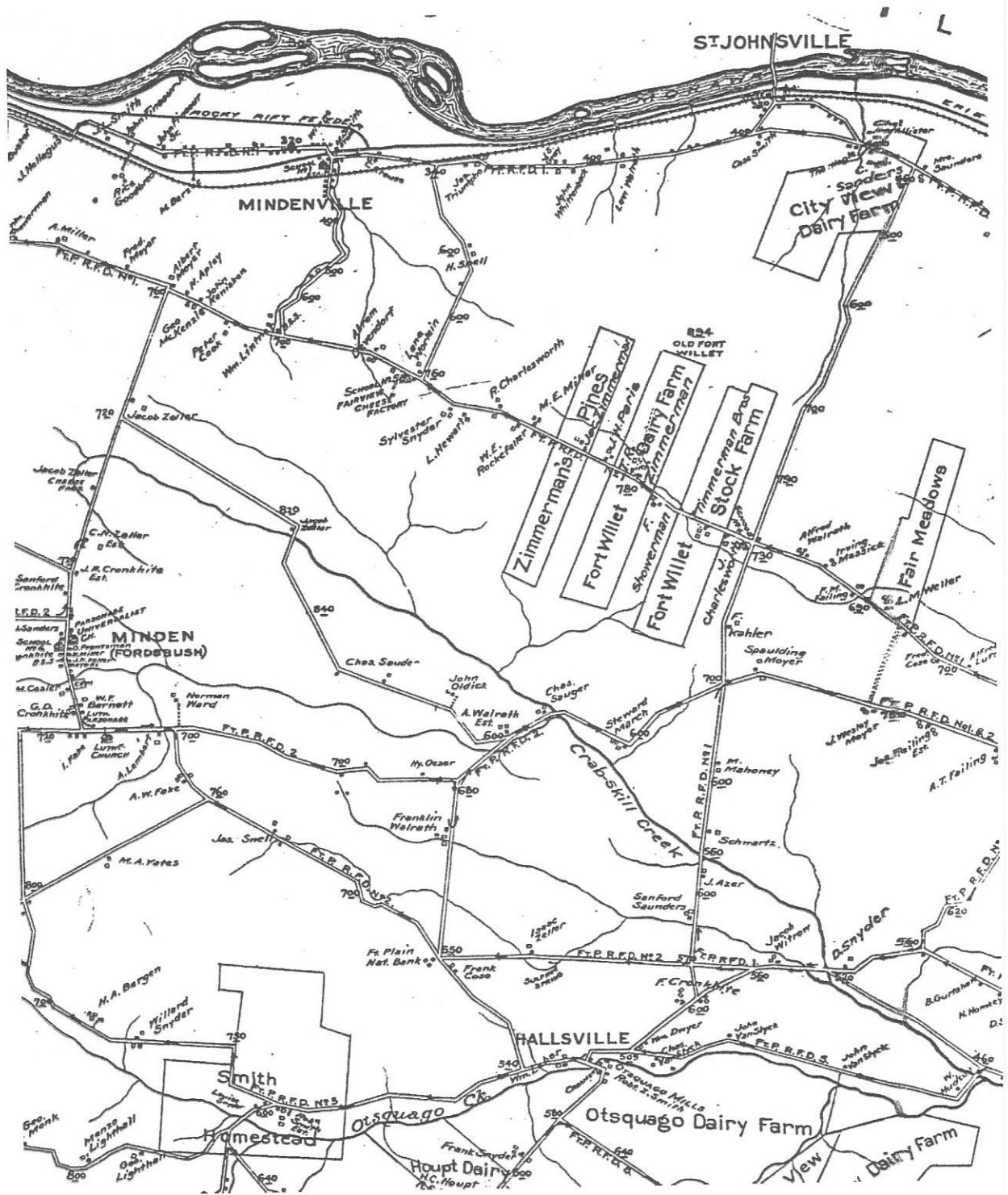
Here we see Adolph Walrath and Henry Walrath. The Henry here was likely the eldest son of Henry Walrath Sr. Also included were all three of Henry's sons in law – George Windecker, Frederick Bellinger, and George Klock (the patentee). The associated patent map is of interest due to its association with all of Henry's family.

First the east part of the Purchase, and underneath, the western part of the Purchase as seen below.



Burial Place of Hendrick Conrad Walrath and his wife Anna Christina Mattheus: The burial place of Hendrick and Christina is unknown. Prior to about 1761 when the Sand Hill Reformed Church (see [here](#)) was established (at the eastern end of Dutchtown Road), and at about the same time, “the old Geissenburg German Lutheran Church located near Hallsville and

founded about 1760” (Clifford M. Young, “The Young – Jung Families of the Mohawk Valley”, 1949, p.54) the early pioneers would have been buried in a cemetery on or near their farm.



A map showing the “Dutchtown” area (also known as “Charlesworth Corners”) from the 1905 Atlas of Montgomery County is shown above.

The only early cemetery of record in what was known as “Dutchtown” was on the farm of Captain George Countryman and called “a private plot across the highway from the site of the home of his son, Captain George Countryman. The latter farm, still known, by older people, as the Countryman farm., is now owned by the heirs of the Alfred Walradt estate” (Williams T. Blair, “The Michael Shoemaker Book”, International Textbook Press, Scranton, PA, 1924, p.212).

The Alfred Walrath farm can be seen just east of Charlesworth Corners near “Fair Meadows” (and Hallsville just to the south). Blair says that the pioneers Conrad Contreman and his wife Maria Margaret were likely buried here sometime after 29 October 1757. Whether this was strictly a family cemetery or an early community cemetery is not known.

After the Revolution, the Reformed Church of Fort Plain was built, essentially replacing that at Sand Hill, and most of the burials of people residing in this area from the early 1780s onwards seem to have taken place here, or at Geissenberg. It will take further research on this subject, and likely a site visit, to be in a position to offer a reasonable hypothesis pertaining to the last resting place of Hendrick and Christina.

Dr. David K. Faux, with thanks to Thomas M. Nelson for providing the map overlays and Google Map resources.

11 January 2015.