LOOKING BACK

Panels in the Community Center Showcase Hague's History

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

In 2007, in celebration of the 200th birthday of the founding of Hague – known at that time as Rochester – the town and the Hague Historical Society (HHS) created a series of six panels to showcase Hague's history. Each of these panels contains a wealth of interesting information about the town and its past as well as some wonderful photos and other graphics. They are on display in the court room in the community center and we encourage everyone to spend time reading about the fascinating topics they cover.

Over the next six months, we will spotlight one panel each month, starting with #1: **Here's Hague**. This panel takes us back 10,000 years to a time when Hague lay under and beside a glacial lake. Later, native Americans gathered along the shoreline during the summers, and even later, European soldiers passed through vying for control of the "New World."

At the end of the French and Indian War, the Colony of New York granted a land patent to Samuel Adams for 500 acres, which included Sabbath Day Point. Other patents soon followed, and surveyors began laying out lots within the patents. The Town of Hague formed from the town of Bolton in 1807, though it was originally named Rochester. School districts were marked out in such a way that no child had to walk more than two miles to school. This district school system remained in place until 1927, when transportation improved to the point that students could be bussed to a central school. As an aside, be sure to visit the current exhibit in the museum, next door to the court room, where you can learn all about Hague Central School (1927-79).

For the first several generations, Hague townsfolk made their living farming or providing services needed by farmers, such as gristmills, sawmills, stores, or blacksmiths. The Civil War interrupted this pattern of agrarian life as so many local men signed up to fight for preservation of the Union.

Panel #1 also showcases Hague's small centers of population, which formed around various resources. Wardboro occupied the fertile valley west of Tongue Mountain. Sabbath Day Point offered land for farming and a stopping place for travelers. Silver Bay got its start as a rest house for travelers. Later, the Silver Bay Association for Christian Conferences and Training formed here. The hamlet of Hague formed around the mills that used Hague Brook for power.

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LOOKING BACK, CONT'D

This was also the location of one of only four Lake George steamboat stops before the Civil War. West Hague was one of the few level locations in the town where farmers could more easily grow crops. Graphite took its name from the mineral deposits in West Hague.

By 1876, Hague was transitioning from a farming community to a summer resort and was on the eve of its industrial boom as a center of graphite mining. And that's the topic for next month, when we take a look at Panel #2.

MASON STAR PUBLIC DINNER

A chicken and biscuits dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F. & A.M., and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be open to the public on **Monday, October 26, 2026, from 4:30 to 6 pm** at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House). Take-outs will be available.

Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for children 12 years old and under and will be available at the door. Parking will be along Montcalm Street and in the Hancock House parking lot.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FORT

Fort Ticonderoga's Heroic Corn Maze has been named a 2026 USA TODAY 10 BEST Readers' Choice winner for Best Corn Maze in America. Selected from hundreds of corn mazes nationwide, the six-acre attraction was recognized for both the quality of the maze and the variety of activities offered at the fort.



The 2026 maze features a new design highlighting six stories of heroism and epic journeys from 1775 and 1776, including covert scouting missions to Montreal and the Noble Train of Artillery to Boston. Divided into two phases, the maze offers challenges for visitors of all ages and includes Maze Quest activities that test participants' knowledge of Fort Ticonderoga's history.

The Heroic Corn Maze is open **Tuesday through Sunday from 9:30 am to 5 pm through October 25th**.

Fort Ticonderoga will also offer several special events and activities during October. The Heritage, Harvest, and Horse Festival will be held October 3rd in the King's Garden. The event will feature demonstrations by working animals, friendly farm animals, a farmers' market, the Heroic Corn Maze, and *Carillon* boat tours.

On **October 24th and 25th,** Fort Ticonderoga will present "Hold the Line for Liberty." The battle re-enactment will portray the Continental Army's successful defense of Ticonderoga, one of the American Revolution's lesser-known victories.

Daily autumn programs include narrated *Carillon* boat cruises on Lake Champlain and *A Revolutionary Anthology*, an exhibition series exploring the American Revolution through original objects and newly designed galleries. Visitors may also reserve a premium tour of the restored 1826 Pell Pavilion and view newly exhibited artifacts.

Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Defiance are open **Tuesday through Sunday from 9:30 am to 5 pm through October 25th. The last ticket is sold at 4:30 pm** and general admission tickets are valid for two consecutive days.

Tickets, reservations, and a complete schedule are available at www.fortticonderoga.org.

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THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is a monthly news journal, which has been published by volunteers since January 1972. Current board members are Taylor, Quinn, Kowalsky, Schaffer, (see below) and Paul Budd.

Please send all news items and Soundings to **editor@thehaguechronicle.org** by the 20th of the preceding month. Please send any comments to **publisher@thehaguechronicle.org** .

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