

History of the property referred to as 3863 State Route 90, Union Springs, NY

The history of this property is inextricably tied to the story of the Iroquois Confederacy of the mid-Atlantic native tribes and the creation of the United States of America. The Iroquois, so named by the early Dutch and French explorer/traders and missionaries of the seventeenth century, actually referred to themselves as the Haudenosaunees or “People of the Long House”, reflecting their advanced communal living by constructing log houses instead of mobile tents or cave dwellings practiced by other tribes.

The Haudenosaunees consisted of six tribes – generally along territorial lines running from east to west, they were the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca, and later joined by the more southern Tuscarora. It is generally believed that their Confederacy of tribes was formed somewhere between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and was based on similar languages and the desire for the warring tribes to live together in peace. The most popular portrayal of the Iroquois was perhaps the novels “The Last of the Mohicans”, a novel by James Fennimore Cooper, and movies of the same name, as well as “Drums Along the Mohawk” with Henry Fonda.

The Cayuga tribe, known among the Iroquois as “People of the Great Swamps” because of their territory which today includes Montezuma Swamp National Wildlife Preserve, was organized into five clans. Each clan was headed by a clan mother, and the clans were Bear, Heron, Snipe, Turtle, and Wolf. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Cayugans occupied three main villages between two of what is now the Finger Lakes Region of New York State – Owasco Lake on the east and Cayuga Lake on the west. Their main village, which they called “Goiogouen” and which translates to “Cayuga Castle”, was located along one of the main tributaries feeding Cayuga Lake, Great Gully Creek. The property for sale was part of the Cayuga Castle, along with its neighbor across Great Gully Creek, of which 650 acres was placed under a perpetual easement in 2013 to avoid further development.

During what we know as the French and Indian War of the 1760’s, the Iroquois sided with the French against the British, and witnessed the victorious power of the British. When the American Revolution erupted in the 1770’s, the Iroquois with fresh memories of British might, were sympathetic to British forces in order to quell the ever-encroaching, independently minded revolutionaries into their territories. The alliance with the British would prove fateful to the Iroquois, when under the orders of General George Washington, an expedition was organized under the command of Generals James Clinton and John Sullivan to neutralize the Iroquois in a march across the center of New York State from west to east. The result was the near total destruction of the Cayuga Castle and its entire outlying villages in 1779, and caused the few survivors to find respite with their neighboring tribes.

At the war’s end in 1783, the federal Congress and the legislature of New York sought to reward the patriots whom had fought for the establishment of the United States by partitioning much of central New York into counties, towns and plots and granting land ownership to them in lieu of cash. This large area would become known as the Military Tract. In 1784 the Treaty of Fort Stanwix (now Rome, NY)

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was the first of many to follow that attempted to gain title to the lands of the Iroquois by citizens and NYS governmental officials. Counties began to be established with many taking the names of patriotic heroes of the war, or of the Iroquois tribes. Towns were named after ancient Greek and Roman city-states or statesmen/philosophers and some British literary figures in recognition that a new republic had been born to take the place of the ancient republics. In 1787, with the enactment of the U.S. Constitution and shortly thereafter, several conflicting land claims in what today is Upstate New York were settled between Great Britain and the United States, as well as Massachusetts and New York. By 1789 with the election of George Washington as the first President of the United States, the nascent federal government sought to assuage the tragedies of the Iroquois by treating with them. In that year a 64,000 acre tract around the northern third of Cayuga Lake was designated as the Cayuga Residence Reservation. Furthermore, President Washington would later invoke an Executive Order that no further treaties with the native Indian tribes were to be valid unless witnessed and approved by an official federal representative. In 1794, Washington himself on behalf of the federal government negotiated and signed the Treaty of Canandaigua (NY) with the Iroquois that provides free access of roads and waterways, and future annuity payments for the Confederacy's food and clothing. Thereafter, several illicit attempts were made by U.S. citizens and NYS governmental officials to secure more lands, and from the Cayuga tribe in particular. That led to such a treaty in 1795, whereby the Cayuga tribe sold all of their 64,000 acres except for about 1,920 acres near where the present day village of Union Springs, NY is located. The official NYS surveyor began dividing the other approximately 62,000 acres into plots in 1795 and the State opened them for sale in 1797. In 1807, with their numbers diminishing and more American families coming into the region, the Cayugans ceded all of their remaining lands to the State of New York, and moved to other Iroquois reservations to the west and north. However, in 1980 the Cayuga and Seneca tribes commenced legal proceedings to reclaim the 64,000 acres of land; a case that would last until 2006, when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear their case, thereby upholding the lower court's verdict against any further claims by the tribes to their former lands.

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Date	Action	Ref
1789	Cayuga Residence Reservation of 64,000 acres established by treaty between the Cayuga tribe and State of NY.	
1794	Treaty of Canandaigua executed between the United States of America and the Iroquois Confederacy, establishing mutual accords and respect between the two nations.	
1795	Cayuga tribe and NYS treat for all but 3 square miles (two separate parcels) of the former Cayuga Residence Reservation.	
1795	NYS' Surveyor, Simeon DeWitt, begins partitioning the approximately 62,000 acres of the former Cayuga Residence Reservation for both grants to Revolutionary War veterans and for sale to the general public.	
1807	Cayuga tribe cedes all remaining lands in the Cayuga Residence Reservation to NYS.	
~ 1810	Archer Macomber purchases land which eventually becomes part of the current parcel for sale. Macomber dies in 1878 , and is buried in a cemetery in the Town of Ledyard, within 3 miles of the current parcel for sale.	
30 Jan 1823	Towns of Springport & Ledyard formed from the Town of Scipio. Northern part of the Town of Springport was formed from the Town of Aurelius.	
~ 1830	Archer & Patience Macomber convey to Henry Dills 73 acres to the south of the 24 Sep 1840 conveyance described below.	1
18 Aug 1840	Archer & Patience Macomber convey to Henry Dills about 75 acres in the western part of Lot 18 in the 2 sq. mi. Cayuga Residence Reservation, Town of Ledyard.	1
24 Sep 1840	Ely A. & Demis Lockwood convey to Henry Dills 50 acres in part of Lot 17 in the 2 sq. mi. Cayuga Residence Reservation, Town of Springport.	1
27 Sep 1871	Henry Dills conveys about 4.63 acres through his property in the Towns of Ledyard and Springport to the Cayuga Lake RR Company.	1
05 Jan 1874	Henry Dills dies. Bequethes all of his real estate to his son, Jacob S. Dills.	1
22 Mar 1919	Jacob S. Dills dies. Bequethes all of his real estate to his son, Robert D. Dills.	1
23 Mar 1929	Robert D. Dills conveys the Premises to George C. Field Jr.	1
11 Apr 1936	George C. Field Jr. conveys the Premises to Paul W. Hills.	1
17 Aug 1949	Paul W. Hills conveys the Premises to Jane S. Hills (believed to be his wife) of Stonington, CT.	1
13 Apr 1953	Jane S. Hills conveys part of the premises in that portion of Lot 18 in the Town of Ledyard, excepting the 4.63 acres conveyed to the Cayuga Lake RR Company (which by this time is the Lehigh Valley RR Company), to Raymond O. & Edith B. Carpenter.	1
17 Jul 1953	Jane S. Hills conveys to the NYS Electric & Gas Corp. two pole lines through the property.	1
13 Jul 1959	Jane S. Hills conveys the part of her land on the current Premises that lies in the Town of Ledyard to Jacquelynn Hornbeck.	1
10 Jun 1966	Robert E. & Jeanne E. Herst convey to Jacquelyn Hornbeck a 4 acre parcel between what is now Dills Beach Road and Taylor's driveway. This was part of the land conveyed to the Carpenters (see above) that	1



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Archer Macomber was born in Washington, Dutchess County, NY on 28 June 1789. On 27 March 1813, he married Patience Tripp. Patience was also born in 1789 and died in 1855. Between 1814 - 1822 they produced 2 boys and 2 girls. Archer died 18 November 1876, apparently outliving all of his children, except one, who died in the same year. Both Archer and Patience are believed buried in the Brick Church Road Cemetery in the Town of Ledyard, NY, along with Archer's younger brother (and his family), Zebedee. All of Zebedee's children were born in the Town of Ledyard or Scipio beginning in 1806. Safe to assume that Archer & Patience were in the Town of Ledyard before or immediately after they were married in 1813.

The first map to clearly show a residence on the property in the exact location of the current house is in 1853, and listed as Henry Dills. There's also a second house in the NE corner of the property, also listed as Henry Dills.