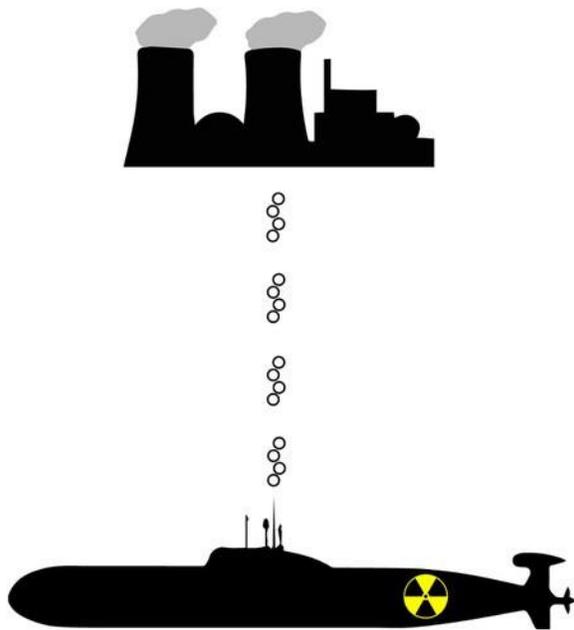


Town of Greenburgh
**ASSISTANT
TOWN HISTORIANS**



— felicia barber + riley wentzler —



*Abandon Ship!!! The Story of United
Nuclear Corporation and their
Short-lived Elmsford Facility*

By: Riley Wentzler, Felicia Barber, & Rowen Lynch-Samant

This week, we the Assistant Town Historians have been aided in our research by Summer Intern-Rowen Lynch-Samant. We are grateful for his assistance. You can read his bio at the top of the about the authors section.

As the Cold War raged, it looked like the historian Alfred Thayer Mahan may have been right when he argued in his 1890 book, *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History*, that in order to control the world a nation had to first control the sea. While in 1890 gaining and keeping control of the sea had meant mass producing battleships, during the Cold War, it meant submarines, in general, and nuclear submarines in particular. To that end, on April 27th 1960, The United States Navy launched the *U.S.S. Tullibee*, a 273 foot long and 2,300 ton nuclear- powered submarine. On board were 13 officers and 67 enlisted men, and it was captained by Richard E. Jortberg .This impressive hunter-killer sub was actually the smallest of its class (http://www.perch-base.org/Index_Files/Historic_Sub_Classes.pdf).

While this launch was a great accomplishment for our navy, not everyone was happy that the contract for building this vessel had gone to General Dynamics Corporation; many other companies had wanted this contract. Among those most displeased was United Nuclear Corporation, (UNC) who had been trying since their founding in 1954, to be a leader in the market for nuclear subs (Gillen 2009 p. 171). In 1961, they bought out three of their largest competitors: Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation, Mallinckrodt Corporation of America, and Nuclear Development Corporation of America (http://www.coldwar-ct.com/United_Nuclear_Corp.html).

Shortly after these acquisitions, UNC was contracted by the U.S. Navy, with the purpose of making reactor fuel elements for the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. Greenburgh's Village of Elmsford played a significant role in United Nuclear Corporation's quest for dominance of the market and the sea. This is that

story. In 1954, the company originally opened in Delaware. The company bought land in Elmsford in November of 1964.



They opened Building 1 on 80 Grasslands Road, which was a research facility, and moved in on February 10th 1966 (Certificate of Occupancy # 8537). By looking at the blueprints, we can determine this building was equipped with: a vault, a computer lab, sound controlled testing rooms, dark rooms, and a very intricate air filtration system. The building also had a second floor where the employee offices and conference rooms were located (Building Permit #614-13434). They opened Building 2 on 100 Grasslands Road, which functioned as their corporate headquarters, in March of 1966(Silberstein 1977).This address is listed as one of the main places UNC applied for patents in nuclear technology from. Due to the proximity to the UNC owned New Haven, Connecticut nuclear power plant, and the Montville CT, nuclear power plant we also believe this building served as a monitoring station for these plants' activities and environmental impact (Building Permit #614-13434). This corporate headquarters was also supposed to oversee the decommissioning of the Montville CT site. UNC'S Elmsford facility is now closed, yet even after the Elmsford headquarters and research facility closed in 1976, and General Electric bought out the Montville site in 1999, this Montville site is still not fully decommissioned. The Cold War is over, but its physical and cultural impacts remain.



Previous Slices of History include:

“Like a long lost friend”: The story of how summer recreation has evolved in Greenburgh (6/7/19)

<http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%20-%20Recreation%20Part%201.pdf>

From Farmland to Shopping District: The Rise of Central Avenue

(5/25/2019) <http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Microsoft%20Outlook%20-%20Memo%20Style.pdf>

Irvington in Chains and our Process A History of Slavery in Irvington and A look at how Slices of History are made (and our interview with historian Robert Marchant) (5/11/2019)

<http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com6.pdf>

There is no church here, but “the brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated” this ground: The Story of The Little White Church Cemetery (4/27/19)

http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Memo%20Style_Redacted.pdf

From Fixing Cars to building Infrastructure: How Massaro Park Got its name (4/13/2019) <http://greenburghny.com/Documents/History.pdf>

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Greenburgh Under the Hollywood Lights: The TV shows and Movies Filmed in Greenburgh Part II (3/29/19)

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From Insurance to Symphonies: The Home of Charles Ives

(3/16/19) http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com_Redacted1.pdf

Oh, The Places Your Mail has Gone: A History of The Hartsdale Post Office (3/9/2019) http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com_Redacted.pdf

Greenburgh Under the Hollywood Lights: The TV shows and movies Filmed in Greenburgh Part I (2/23/19)
<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%202-23-19.pdf>

The Power of Wealth and Humility: A Reflection on Two Highly Influential African Americans (2/18/19)
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An Unspoken Promise of Redemption: How Hartsdale Got its Name (1/31/19)
<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Greenburgh%20is%20one%20of%20the%20few%20communities%20anywhere%20that%20provides%20residents%20with%20frequent%20history%20bytes%20about%20their%20community.pdf>

Lost History: The Tragedy of Malkasten (1/26/19)
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The Intersection of Banking, Ballet, and School: Greenburgh's Warburg Estate (1/18/19)
<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Memo%20Style2.pdf>

A Small House, an Important Meeting, a Huge Victory: The Story of the Odell House (1/12/2019)
<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com1.pdf>

The Guardians of History: Greenburgh's Historical Societies (1/6/19)

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com.pdf>

How a Flat Tire led to a Happy Escape: The Story of Carvel in Greenburgh

(12/11/18) <http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Carvel%20History.pdf>

A Thousand Words Which You Never Knew: The Forgotten Story of the Seal of Greenburgh. (11/17/18)

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%20-%20A%20Thousand%20Words.pdf>

"The Disappearing Railroad Blues" in Greenburgh: The Fate of the Putnam Railroad Line and the old Putnam Trail ((11/6/18)

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%20-%20%20Railroad%20Blues.pdf>

A Different Kind of Rebel: Greenburgh's Contributions to the Underground Railroad (10/27/18)

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/GREENBURGH.pdf>

Greenburgh at The Great American Crossroads: Greenburgh's Civil War Story (10/19/18) [http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47461&TID=10&jump2=0)

[Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47461&TID=10&jump2=0](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47461&TID=10&jump2=0)

Greenburgh's Hall of Heroes: Ferncliff Cemetery Where Memories Live Forever (10/12/18) [http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47403&TID=10&jump2=0)

[Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47403&TID=10&jump2=0](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47403&TID=10&jump2=0)

A Final Resting Place for "Man's Best Friend": The Peaceable Kingdom (9/29/18) [http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47331&TID=10&jump2=0)

[Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47331&TID=10&jump2=0](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47331&TID=10&jump2=0)

Greenburgh and The Arts (9/22/18) <http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47278&TID=10&jump2=0>

Greenburgh's BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF AND TRUTH: A History of The Freemasons in Greenburgh (9/12/18) <http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/archnews.cfm?NID=47212&TID=10&jump2=0>

About the Authors:

Summer Intern-Rowen Lynch-Samant:

I was born and raised in White Plains and attended Fordham Prep High School. While there, I was an active member of the rowing team and leader of the light weight rowing program. I am going into his senior year at Sunny Albany where I major in political science. After graduation I hope to do campaign - work for state and federal politicians

Assistant Town Historian- Riley Wentzler:

I was born and raised in a small rural town in central Pennsylvania. In high school, I took every honors course available including four years of Spanish. I received A's in all of them. I graduated third in my class of 146 students. This brought me to Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Once there, I continued my trend of academic excellence. I graduated summa cum laude in Political Science with a minor in Spanish and a Master's in Communication Studies, with a G.P.A of 3.94. It was also there that I met my lovely fiancée, Felicia Barber. My Master's in Communication has promoted public speaking, teamwork, and customer service. My Political Science degree has developed my research skills using computer-based tools and provided me with experience using the Microsoft Office products. My minor in Spanish has facilitated my bilingual capabilities. During my internship at Greenburgh, I created the petition for the State Roads project using website tools. My diverse education and areas of interest have provided me with a wide range of skills. I look forward to finding a career opportunity in business or government. **To suggest a topic for next week's article, you can contact me at assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com, or to help me find employment, you can contact me at rjwentzler413@gmail.com**

Assistant Town Historian-Felicia Barber:

I was born in New York City and raised in Hartsdale, New York. I graduated from Ardsley High School. I recently earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. It was here that I met my fiancé, Riley Wentzler. As a result of my academic excellence, I won a scholarship every year. I learned and applied many graphic design skills to projects during my summer internships and at school. I am proficient in using Adobe graphic design applications including Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. For my Identity/branding course at Edinboro, I created logos to appear on the tee-shirts of Physical Education majors. For a veteran's upcoming event, I used a typeface to focus the reader to the soldier in the poster. For the State Roads Legislative Campaign project, I created the embedded graphic-photo that accompanied the petition I am looking for a job to utilize my skills as a Graphic Designer in an agency, print shop, company or government **To suggest a topic for next week's article, you can contact me at assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com. To learn more about my artwork or to help me find employment you can contact me at feliciadbarber@gmail.com.**

Two Interviews with the authors:

<https://riverjournalonline.com/around-town/a-love-of-history-and-each-other/13708/>

<https://wchs880.radio.com/articles/news/stories-main-street-couple-cerebral-palsy-brings-manytalents-town-greenburgh>

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Town of Greenburgh Bulding Department . (1966, Febuary 10). Certificate of Occupancy . *Certificate No. 8537 ZBA Case No 64-43*. Elmsford, New York, United States of America : Town of Greenburgh Bulding Department .