

Town of Greenburgh
**ASSISTANT
TOWN HISTORIANS**
SURVEY MONKEY COORDINATORS



———— felicia barber + riley wentzler ————



*Old papers highlights Part I - 1884
gets off to a bad start in Tarrytown*

By Riley Wentzler & Felicia Barber

Introduction:

It is often said that, “Journalism is the first draft of history.” Maybe, that’s true, because a lot of what makes the papers eventually finds its way into a history textbook.

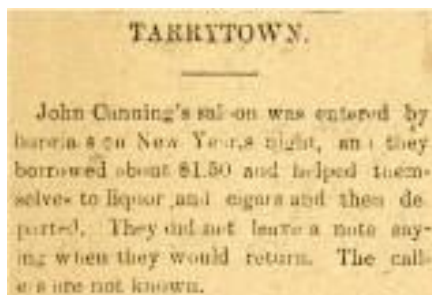
Or....

Maybe not, because as most Americans would acknowledge, every newspaper has some degree of bias. A good historian is supposed to have none and show just the facts of: “What? When? and How?” something occurred. So some historians might say that, “If the historian is doing his or her job properly, journalism cannot be the first draft of his or her work.” Regardless of where one stands in this debate, it is beyond question that looking at old papers and comparing them to the papers of today certainly shows how a given society has changed.

With this goal in mind, let us now look back at old papers of Greenburgh and reflect on how much Greenburgh has changed.

1884- A memorable New Years and an ironic February

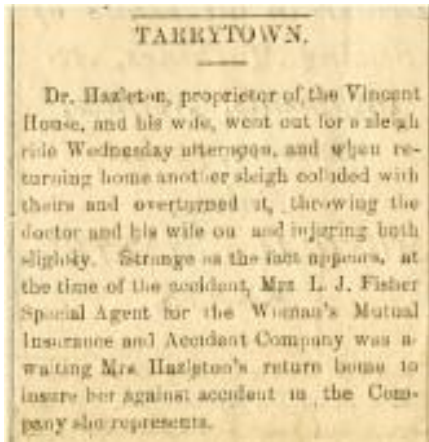
Mr. John Canning’s misfortune January 11th 1884:



Our story begins on New Years’ Day 1884, although most residents would not learn about the incident until they read about it in the January 11th issue of the Greenburgh Register. New Years’ Eve and New Years’ Day are a time of celebration and hope. However, one Tarrytown resident, a saloon owner named, Mr. John Canning, was not feeling very hopeful or celebratory because someone else’s plans had derailed his. For most of us the New Years’ celebration involves a bit of alcohol. But what does one do if, and when, one has no booze? Most of our readers would probably say, “buy some.” Unfortunately for Mr. Canning, someone answered that question with, “go steal from your local saloon.” On New Years’,

persons unknown broke into Mr. Canning's saloon and stole liquor, cigars, and \$1.50 in cash (Tarrytown, Greenburgh Register, January 11th 1884). Mr. Canning was not the only one having a rough start to the year, another Tarrytown resident also had some bad luck when his romantic evening with his wife was cut short. The name of this second Tarrytown resident was Dr. Hazelton.

Dr. Hazelton's misfortune February 8th 1884:



February is the month of romance and what could be more romantic than a husband and wife having a sleigh ride? Nothing is quite so magical as the Carpenters and Bing Crosby can attest to. However, a heartwarming love-story was not what Greenburgh residents ended up reading about in the February 8th issue of the Greenburgh Register. Love was in the air, to be sure, but, so apparently, was calamity and cruel irony. It was Wednesday February 6th and Dr. Hazelton and his wife were having a pleasant sleigh ride.

Until.....

Suddenly, **Bang!! Thump!!** Another sleigh collided with theirs and overturned it. Both Dr. Hazelton and his wife were injured. In addition to paying medical bills they also had to pay for repairs to the sleigh themselves because they were uninsured. Ironically, they had already scheduled a meeting with The Women's Mutual Insurance and Accident company, and an insurance agent from that company was waiting at home in their parlor to sell them an insurance policy for the sleigh (Tarrytown, Greenburgh Register, February 8th 1884).

Conclusion:

In conclusion, looking at old papers and comparing them to the papers of today certainly shows how a given society has changed.

So, what do the robbery at Mr. Canning's Saloon and Dr. Hazelton's sleigh ride accident tell us? The robbery tells us that \$1.50, which is basically pocket change today, was a substantial amount of money in 1884, or else, why document it? According to the CPI Inflation Calculator, \$1.50 in 1884 is worth \$41.79 today (<https://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1884?amount=1.50>). Dr. Hazelton's sleigh ride accident tells us that the nature of transportation has changed a lot. The authors spent an hour and a half consulting: Allstate, Geico, State Farm, Liberty Mutual, and Progressive, unlike in 1884, sleighs are no longer covered by insurance. They aren't covered because *unlike*: cars, speed boats, motorcycles, and the modern snowmobile, which **are** covered, sleighs don't have engines.



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- A Final Resting Place for "Man's Best Friend": The Peaceable Kingdom (9/29/18)
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5653/A-Final-Resting-Place--for-Mans-Best-Friend>
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(greenburghny.com)
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About the Authors:

We are both Assistant Town Historians at Greenburgh Town Hall and we are engaged to be married and are currently looking for permanent employment.

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**

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://wcbs880.radio.com/articles/news/stories-main-street-couple-cerebral-palsy-brings-manytalents-town-greenburgh>

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