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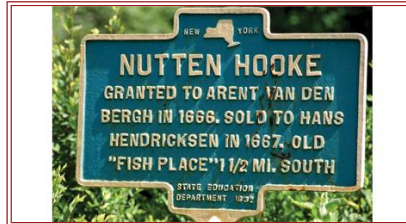
Historical marker stolen, house possibly burglarized

By Andrew Amelinckx

Published: Friday, January 15, 2010 2:14 AM EST

A historic marker that has graced the town of Stuyvesant for more than 70 years was recently stolen and this may not be the only criminal activity in the area according to some local residents.

The cast iron marker at Route 9J and Ferry Road was placed there by the New York state Education Department in 1932 as part of that agency's program that began in 1926 for the Sesquicentennial of the American Revolution. The sign was one of more than 2,800 erected between 1926 to 1939.



The historic Nutten Hooke sign which was recently stolen is seen here in its proper place in Stuyvesant. (Contributed photo)

The missing marker briefly tells the history of Nutten Hook, an area along the Hudson that once included a ferry landing that provided service between Stuyvesant and Coxsackie.

The area was described by Freeman Hunt in 1837, writing in his book "Letters about the Hudson River," as part of a 600-acre farm, "which for fertility of soil is not surpassed by any in this section of the country, and probably not in the state."

The point, he stated, "is important from its peculiar position, being at the head of ship navigation."

Nutten Hook, or Hooke as it was originally spelled and as it appeared on the missing sign, was originally granted to Arent Van Den Bergh in 1666.

According to the Hudson-Mohawk Genealogical and Family Memoirs, published in 1911, Van Den Bergh was a corporal in the Dutch West India Company at Fort Orange, the trading center that would eventually become Albany.

The property was sold a year later to fur trader Hans Hendricksen. Based on the number of law suits Van Den Bergh seemed to be at the losing end of as indicated in the Fort Orange court records and the fines he received from drinking in the tavern on Sundays, it may be deduced that the sale was one of necessity.

As to the marker that once described this sale apparently the thief or thieves left only the sign's base and some footprints in the snow.

Columbia County Sheriff David Harrison Jr. confirmed that his agency was investigating the theft of the sign and is asking for the public's assistance. Anyone with information on this crime is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at 518-828-3344.

According to some residents there was also a home on Ferry Road that was broken into around the same time. The Sheriff's Office could not confirm this.

To reach reporter Andrew Amelinckx call 518- 828-1616, ext. 2267 or e-mail aamelinckx@registerstar.com.

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