

THUMBNAIL HISTORY OF MARIAVILLE AND

DUANESBURG

by

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Washington as President of the Republic. In the same year, President Washington appointed him United States Judge of the District of New York, which position he held until March, 1794, when he retired.

On April 26, 1794, James Duane packed up and left New York City for his new home upstate. He lived in Schenectady for three years, with a determined intent of making his permanent residence in Duaneburg, where he had already erected a church and other buildings in his "Center Square." However, before he made his home in Duaneburg, he died suddenly of an apparent heart attack on the evening of February 1, 1797. He was buried in the little graveyard next to Christ's Church on the corner of Churches Road and Route 20.

During the Revolutionary War, life in Duaneburg had been hard and non-progressive and even "wolves destroyed and ate many sheep."

Although Duane had attempted many varied businesses, his projects were not successful because "the cost of hauling logs and lumber and of labor and other vicissitudes inherent in such businesses exceeded the income."

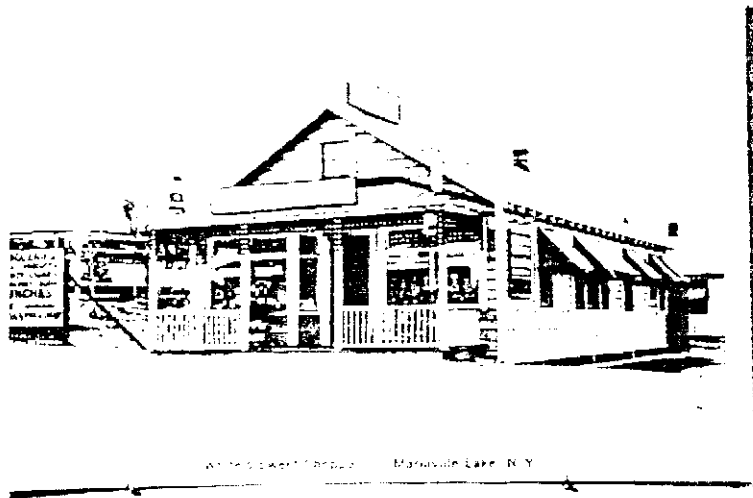
Duane had also built many mills during his few industrious years and, in 1790, he built "another fine grist mill at Lake Maria."

It is interesting to note that in 1790 there were 1495 persons living within the Town of Duanesburg, or about 300 families.

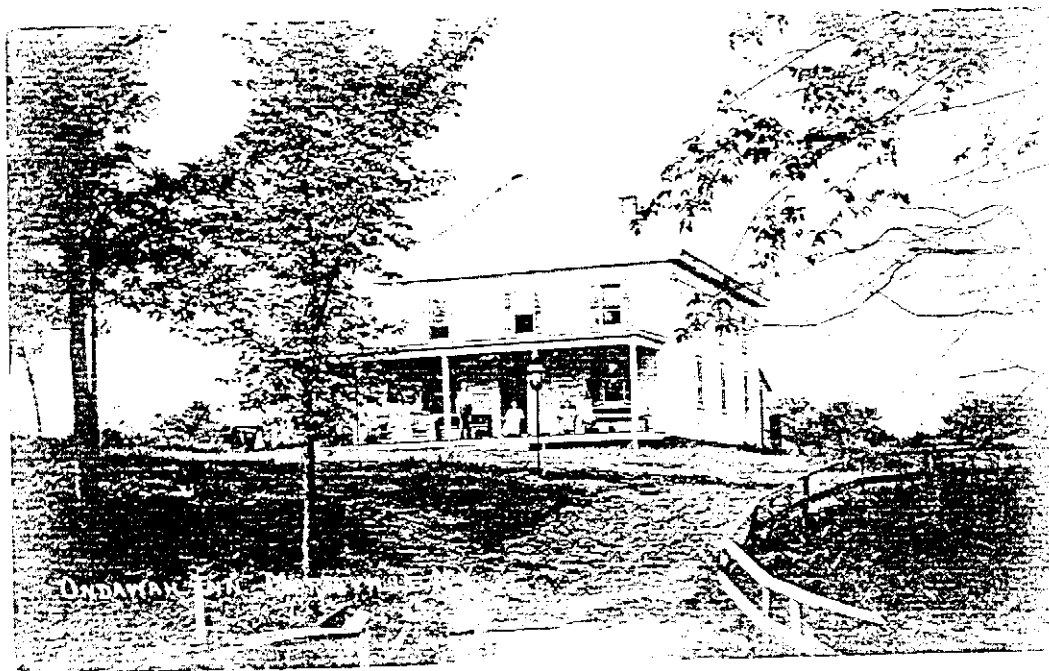
In 1793 Duane constructed a dam across the Creek of Mariaville, "a small village in the northern part of the town, named after his eldest daughter." The dam was carried away in the spring of the following year, but was immediately reconstructed by him. This dam, not more than fifteen feet in width, backing up the waters of the creek, overflowed what was called The Great Meadows and made that "Great Artificial body of water known as the Mariaville Pond."

That same year, Duane built a brick mansion near this pond and installed in it his only son, James C. Duane, who spent the energies of his younger days in carrying on the work which his father had begun in the town. This house was destroyed by fire in the early 1870's. (The Evening Star: Friday, February 2, 1908, Page 8. Schenectady County Library, Lecture on History of Duanesburg, by George W. Featherstonhaugh.)

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WHITE'S SWEET SHOPPE WAS
BUILT IN 1929, BURNED IN
1937



ONDAWA INN AS IT LOOKED
IN EARLY 1900's. IT WAS
BUILT IN 1772 AS MEETING
HOUSE