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JOHN YELVERTON 1693-1767

Innkeeper, Chester, New York 1765-1767

John Yelverton (later Yelverton) was born in Wales in 1693 and died at New Windsor, New York 12 July 1767. He married Mary (---) and they had four sons and three daughters. Marriage information and her birth information have not been located.

John Yelverton came to America before 1714 when as a carpenter from Jamaica, Long Island he purchased land in the Precinct of Goshen, Wawayanda Patent from Widow Elizabeth Denn. He helped establish Goshen, New Windsor, Newburgh, and Chester where he built his home. His wife Mary signed many deeds with him. Often court minutes noted "adjourned to Yelverton's inn".

According to Moffet's History of the Yelverton Inn, 1928, "Perhaps the most celebrated of the public houses still standing today is what was for over a hundred years known as the "old Yelverton inn", owned by the Yelverton family for six generations in direct line: John, John, Jr., Abija, Anthony, John H. and Thomas. Important events of Revolutionary days occurred around the inn. While Abija was innkeeper, it was from here that the first delegate was sent to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. The militia of Ulster and Orange Counties gathered here on their way to join Generals Lee and Gates. General Washington and many of his officers stopped here en route from the Hudson River to New Jersey; his expense book records his entertainment here on 27 July 1782.

In 1785 the dispute over the boundary between the Cheesecock and Wawayanda patentees was litigated in the huge barn of Yelverton's inn, with Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr both attorneys for the

Wawayanda patentees and both quartered at the inn. In 1927 the Minisink Chapter, DAR erected a bronze tablet in commemoration and in 1975 the old inn was nominated for Historic Preservation by the Orange County Historian. The inn property was sold out of the family in 1869. Still in excellent condition, the inn and barn were recently offered for sale at \$175,000.00. The inn is currently a private home, the barn, an antique shop.

John Yelverton died just two years after building the inn; he was buried first at New Windsor where a stone still stands, but later reburied at Chester. A simple old red gravestone states, "Here lies the body of John Yelverton, who departed this life July 12, 1767, age 74 years".

- Elmore L. Conklin

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