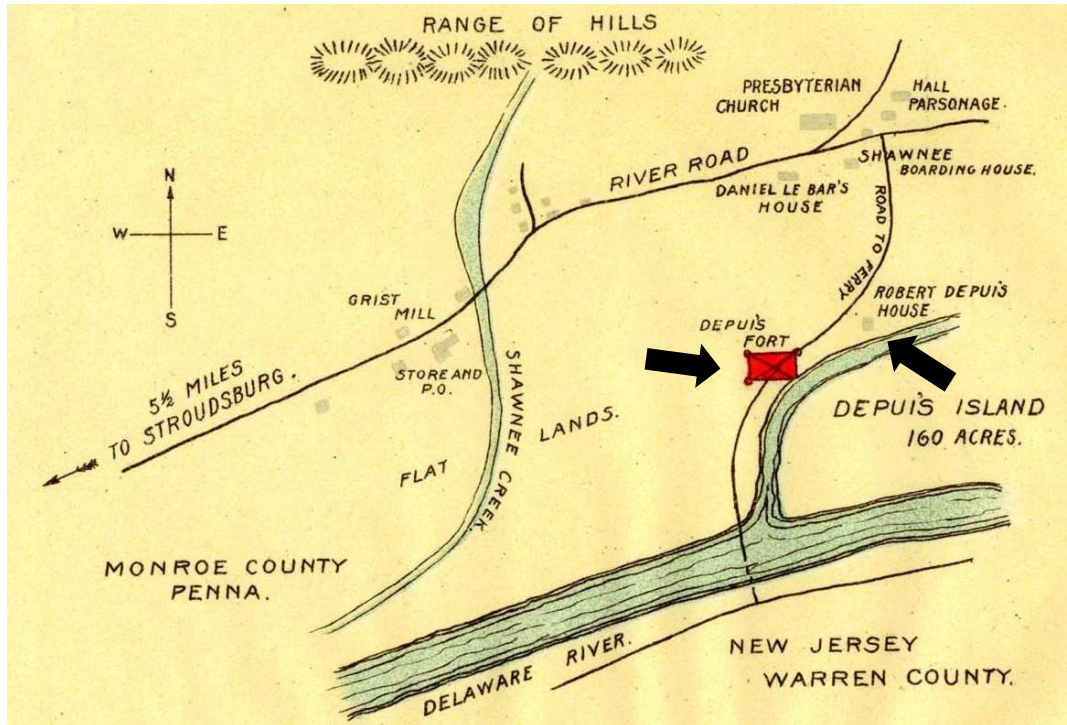


Fort DePuy Location

January 25, 2021 by Pete Sauvigne <http://pete7a.com/fort.pdf>

Summary

The DePuy home was stockaded and garrisoned as a fort during the French and Indian War 1755-1763. However the building we know as Fort DePuy did not exist until after the war, and is about 200 feet outside the old stockade, which no longer exists. The present building, long known as Manwalamink, was built in 1785 by a later Nicholas DePuy. Below is a 1896 map showing the relative locations of the old fort and Manwalamink, labelled as Robert DePui's house.

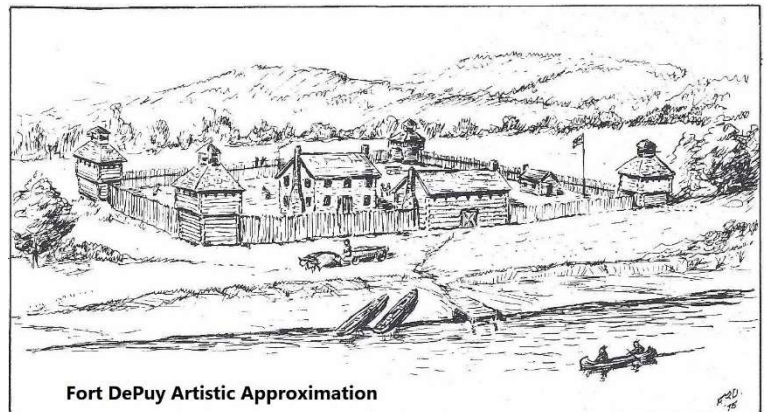


Until the 20th century, it was never claimed that Manwalamink was within the stockaded fort. The Worthington family never claimed that. However, after the mid 1900's it became common belief that Manwalamink was the old fort. "Fort DePuy" remains another fine name for the structure, to commemorate the events that occurred nearby.

History

Nicholas DePuy (1682-1761) was the first permanent European settler of the lower Minisink area. His grandfather, also named Nicholas DePuy was a French Heugenot refugee who landed in Dutch New Amsterdam (now NYC) in 1662.

Nicholas "the settler" first built a log house in Shawnee 1725-1727 and purchased much land: first from the Lanape, then again through the Penns. He developed a prosperous plantation and lived in harmony with the Lanape. By 1755 Indian relations had soured and many homesteads were attacked as the French and Indian War broke out. In 1755 the Depuy house was stockaded as a fort by family and neighbors. It was soon garrisoned with soldiers.

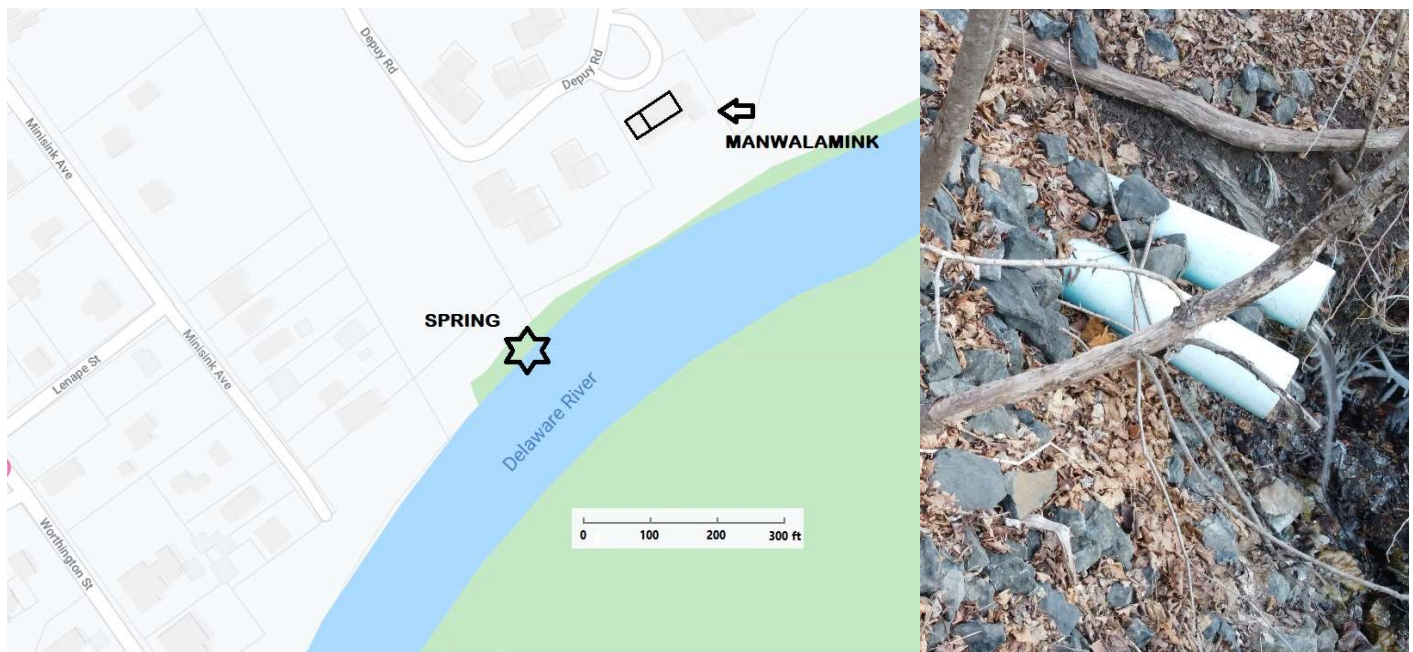


As Nicholas “the settler” was in his 70's, most war-time accounts report his son Samuel as head of the family. Military records describe a spring within the stockade and adequate accommodations for soldiers. The house had been much improved from the settler's original log house some 30 years earlier, was built of stone, but was never called a mansion. Another Nicholas was a teenager during the war. To clarify, below is the DePuys' direct line, significant to Shawnee:

Nicholas DePui c1625-1691 French Huguenot immigrant
 Moses DePui c1657-1754 Ulster County NY
 Nicholas DePuy 1682-1761 **FIRST SHAWNEE SETTLER**
 Samuel DePuy 1716-1766 French & Indian War
 Nicholas DePuy 1738-1808 Built Manwalamink 1785
 Nicholas DePuy 1788-1816
 Robert R. DePuy 1814-1898 last DePuy in Shawnee

In 1785 Samuel's son Nicholas built the mansion called Manwalamink near the fort's site. Since peace had prevailed for years, the stockade had likely been burned for firewood, and stones from the fort site were reused elsewhere.

Today there are no signs of the old fort site, but the spring still flows, presently through a pipe passing under a gravel path. The spring is over 300 ft from Manwalamink.



Evidence of 2 Sites

1. The map at the top. This was produced for the state government specifically to locate frontier fort sites.
2. The spring location. It is unreasonable that a stockade could surround both Manwalamink and the spring. No other frontier forts were that large, and this one was built by farmers, not soldiers.
3. Prior to the 20th century, it was **NEVER** claimed that Manwalamink was the same house stockaded during the Indian war. These early references all indicate that it was not:

1886 Mathews, Alfred. H "Nicholas (2d) son of Samuel, built the stone house .. at Shawnee in 1785"

1895 Browning, Charles H. " and very near the present house of Robert DePui"

1896 Richards, H.M.M "It was about 200 ft. west by south of Mr. Robert Depuy's present farm house"

1925 Brodhead, Luke W. "... near the location of the present stone mansion"

1927 Keller, Robert Brown "near the original dwelling, was built by Robert R. De Puy's grandfather, Nicholas"

Misconception

By the early 21st Century almost everyone believed that Manwalamink was the Indian war house. All had heard this many times. It is easy to see the large building with this historic name and propagate the error. False assumptions could easily be made about Manwalamink since:

- A. It was built by Nicholas DePuy as the family home. However, this Nicholas was the grandson of the first settler.
- B. It has a small spring behind it. Much too small to support a garrison, especially in dry weather.
- C. It has an iron fireback cast in 1746. These are portable, as it now sits in a room not built until 1907.
- D. It sits on DePuy land along the river across from the upper island, just a little further upstream.
- E. The DePuy family records were destroyed in Robert R. DePuy's time, as he laments in H.M.M. Richards' book.

The first reference yet found that implies that Manwalamink was on the fort site is from a 1946 newspaper article:

Waring Purchase Shawnee Property
4/30/46
Buys Residence Of C. C. Worthington

Fred Waring, one of the owners of Shawnee Inn and Country Club and an internationally known musician and orchestra leader, has purchased the C. C. Worthington home and premises at Shawnee-on-Delaware. Rich in historical background, the premises include a 160 acre island in the Delaware River, 20 acres on the mainland and the Worthington home and auxiliary buildings. Attorney Harold C. Edwards represented Mr. Waring. Attorney C. Raymond Bensinger was counsel for Rossiter Realty Co.

The stone and frame Worthington home consists of twenty rooms and six baths. It is situated on 20 acres of mainland, adjacent the Delaware River, and beautifully landscaped. It includes a large barn, stables, garage and a small farm with a farm dwelling.

The island's 160 acres were turned into a golf course in 1900 by the late C. C. Worthington. It was known as Manwallimink Golf Course. One of the oldest chartered courses in this country, it operated for nine years until the late Mr. Worthington constructed Buckwood Inn and built the famous championship Shawnee course on an island lower in the river, where it remains today.

There is some disagreement over the dates involved in the historical background surrounding settlement at or near the Worthington premises.

Monroe County Historical Society's officials state that Manwallimink, where the Worthington home now stands, is the site of Fort DePue erected in 1755. Within the stockade of the fort was a spring, which exists today. Original features of the home were put up in 1785, historians declare.

Nicholas DePue, Sr., settled in Shawnee in 1725, the first white settler there. The fort, mentioned above, was named for him. The former owners claims that a portion of the present dwelling contains a wall or other portions of the original fort building.

The grounds on which the buildings stand and much adjacent area were purchased by DePue from the Indians. The Shawnee Indians were still in the vicinity and friendly to DePue and his family, when William Penn's surveyors came to Shawnee to survey that area. Penn had acquired "Penn's Woods," or Pennsylvania by charter from Charles II.

Penn's surveyors were told curtly by Shawnee Indians to—"put away the iron chain and go home." They wisely followed that direction. They reported to Penn, however, that land in Shawnee was under heavy cultivation and that apple trees existed there from 20 to 40 years old.

When the elder Penn died, he left 10,000 acres to his grandson, William Penn, including the Shawnee area. The younger Penn required DePue to buy the premises from him—the second time DePue purchased that same land.

The late Mr. Worthington purchased the premises from Robert R. DePue, descendant of the original Nicholas, about 1899. It has remained in the Worthington family until completing of yesterday's sale by Rossiter Realty Company to Mr. Waring.

Shawnee Inn and Country Club, developed solely by the late Mr. Worthington, was the site of the Daniel DePue home created in 1755.

Manwallimink golf course which existed from 1900 to about 1909 was left to grow up after Mr. Worthington created Shawnee course. There was a bridge from the mainland to that island and sons and guests of Mr. Worthington played the nine-hole course on the island many times during the golfing season.

This article claims that Manwalamink was on the fort site, but also states that original features were put up in 1785. This could only be true if the "site" meant more of the DePuy lands, not just the stockade.

This ambiguity evolved into the common misunderstanding that Manwalamink existed in 1755 and was built by Nicholas Depuy, the first settler of Shawnee.

Many historians erroneously propagate bad information. That is why the oldest records are the most reliable.

Acknowledgement: Thanks to Chris Francz for startling me about this.

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Manwalamink

~ 1898



"FORT DePUY"

2021