



Madam Elizabeth Denn Speaks

In 1712, eighteen-year-old Sarah Wells was the first white woman to settle the Wawayanda patent, which later became part of southwestern Orange County, NY.

Daily, our industrious Sarah rows to Staten Island for thy meals, sometimes not returning until the harbor sky turns periwinkle.

At dusk, I often find her wrapping tea soaked handkerchiefs round her palms to quell her blisters. This, she learned from the red man that thy

husband, Christopher, brought from the new land in Wawayanda. Wide-eyed, Sarah soaks in his teachings. So much more resourceful is thy orphan

maid than thee. We will send her with our goods and chattel to settle our land, first in a wigwam, then in a log house.

God speed and protect you, Sarah.

Donna Reis