

## General William North

Early in Duanesburg's history, General William North, an aide-de-camp to Baron Von Steuben in the American Revolution, came to Duanesburg to make his home. In 1787, he married Mary Duane, the oldest daughter of the town's founder, James Duane. In 1788, he established himself on a one thousand acre farm which was a gift from his father-in-law. North built the now historic North Mansion sometime in the early 1790's.

North was an important figure in Schenectady County and the state. When the first recorded meeting of the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors was held on October 3, 1809, General North was the presiding officer. His sphere of influence extended far beyond the township. In Albany, he served in the State Assembly, and in 1795 and 1796, he was Speaker of the Assembly. In 1798, he was appointed to the United States Senate.

North was a member of the board of the Western Inland Lock and Navigation Company; he was one of the first Erie Canal commissioners. He was appointed as one of the three-member commission to lay out a road from Albany to Cherry Valley, and to supervise its construction, which involved building a bridge across the Schoharie creek. This, then, led to the purchase of part of the Ten Eyck patent on the east side of the creek and the founding of the Village of Esperance. North was a member of the first board of directors of the Mohawk Bank, the first bank in Schenectady County. North, upon his death, was buried in a crypt beneath Christ Episcopal Church in Duanesburg.