



Marker #8

Before the Watervliet Reservoir was built, the banks of the Normanskill and Bozenkill waters harbored meadows of rich farm land in the Town of Guilderland. Colonel Abraham Wemple, Revolutionary War soldier, owned one of the productive farms.

Wemple's house was built in 1760 out of over-sized bricks made of clay from the banks of the waters bordering his acreage. The approach to Wemple land was on the Western Turnpike between Sharps Corners and Fullers Station or from a road near the Dutch Cemetery at Osborn Corners.

Colonel Wemple was called a great leader by one historian for his command of the regiment recruited from Schenectady, the 2nd Albany County Militia. Wemple was reported to have been at the Battle of Saratoga, the Massacre at Cobus Kill (Cobleskill) and Cherry Valley. When Mohawk Indian chief Joseph Brant, a British ally, led an attack in the Mohawk Valley, Colonel Wemple reported the scene to his commanding officer, General Abraham TenBroeck: "Such a scean (sic) as we beheld since we left the river, passing dead bodies of men and children most cruelly murdered, is not possible to describe."

Wemple returned to his farm in Guilderland after the war, and upon his death, was buried on a high hill overlooking his land. The Wemple house (in later years owned by Frederick Woodrich) was torn down and the farm lands were flooded to make way for the Watervliet Reservoir. The brown gravestone that once marked Abraham Wemple's resting place can no longer be found. But the blue and gold historic marker, by the side of the road on the Great Western Turnpike one half mile west of the railroad bridge, reserves a place in history for this Guilderland soldier.