



**The Mysterious
Louis Anathe Muller
in Madison County**

In 1808 a Frenchman calling himself Louis Anathe Muller arrived in Madison County. He purchased 15 lots from Daniel Ludlow (totaling approximately 2,700 acres) in the present day town of Georgetown. Muller hired 150 men to clear 300 acres of land and here they began construction of an elaborate house on the site. A year later when the house was completed, Muller, his wife Eugenie Adeline, and his two sons, Charley and Carlos relocated from Payne Street in Hamilton to the new house.

2.

This Indenture made this Twentieth Day of February
in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and eight
Between Daniel Ludlow Junior of the City of New York of the
first part and Louis Anathe Muller of the same place of the second
Part Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in
consideration of the sum of Seven thousand Eight hundred and
Sixty two Dollars and twenty five Cents of Lawful money of the
United States of America to him in hand paid by the said party
of the second part at or before the executing and Delivery
hereof the receipt whereof is here by acknowledged and the said
party of the second part his heirs executors and administrators
for ever Discharged therefrom by these presents Heath Granted
bargained and sold aliened remised released conveyed and con-
firmed and by these presents Doth fully freely and absolutely

“The house was built almost in the center of the cleared area and was 70 feet long by 30 feet wide. It was one story high with a loft and cellar. It was built of cherry timbers 10-12 inches by 12-18 inches wide and 11 feet high. These timbers stood upright on solid masonry sills and had corresponding grooves in the sides where planks were fitted to effectually cover any shrinkage. Clapboards covered the outside of the house and the inside was handsomely finished. At least six black marble trimmed fireplaces were said to be in the house.”

– *The Muller Hill House by Anna F. Keefe*

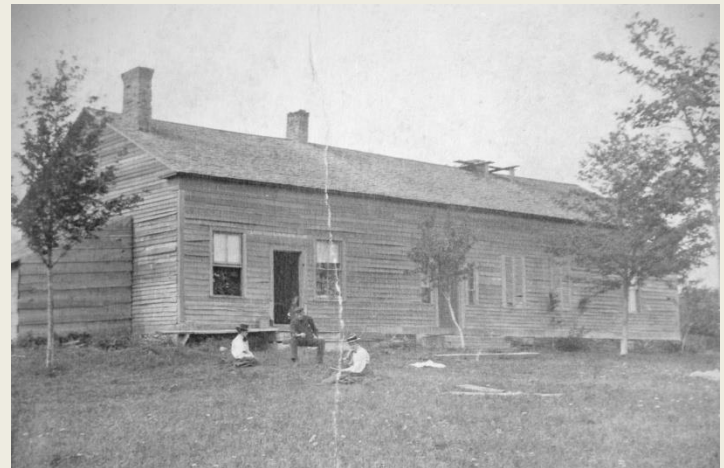
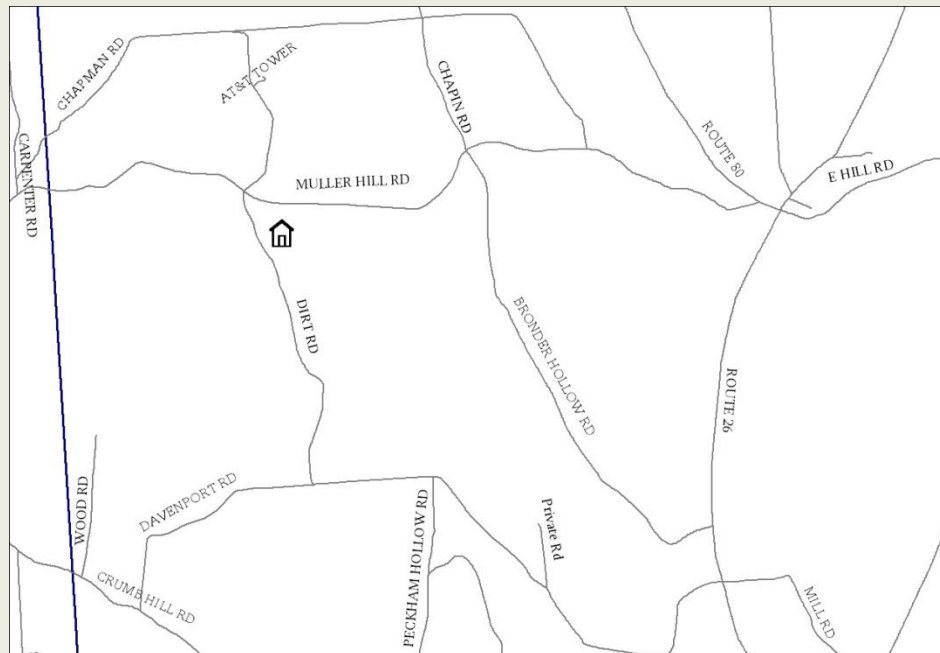


Photo from Madison County Historical Society Collection

Establishment of a Village – Bronder Hollow

After settling into his new home, Muller offered to donate land to anyone who would settle on his vast land holdings for the purpose of establishing a village. The first parcel went to John Posson Bronder and Modesto Del Campo (two Frenchmen who arrived with Muller). They opened a store. Several houses were built, as were a gristmill, schoolhouse, 2 additional stores, and a quarry. All are gone now, but the name Bronder Hollow remains.



Map by Mike Ellis, Madison County E-911

The End of Napoleon's Reign of Terror

At the end of Napoleon's Reign of Terror (May 1814), Muller returned to France. Muller left his wife and two sons in New York City. (Why did they not travel with him?)

Two years later, 1816, Muller returned to Muller Hill. He found that the house was in disrepair and all of the furnishings gone.

Muller returned to New York City and arranged for the house and all of his land holdings to be sold.



Advertisement from the Cazenovia Pilot

“A bargain. For Sale, a farm containing 2,000 acres...owned and lately occupied by L. A. Muller. About 300 acres are under good improvement and well fenced into 15 acre lots including an orchard...a garden furnished with every kind of fruit also containing an elegant fish pond. There also upon the premises a dwelling house, handsomely finished, 72 by 32, containing four square rooms with a hall in the center, with six fireplaces, a cellar and a kitchen separate from the main body of the house. For further particulars inquire of Thomas H. Hubbard at Hamilton...I. B. Partrrue on the premises or Capt. Peter Donnely in the city of Albany. The above property will be sold cheap for cash or upon credit. – *Cazenovia Pilot 1815*

On April 9, 1816 the property sold to Abijah Weston for the sum of \$10,500.

This Indenture made this ninth day of April in the Year of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred and Sixteen, Between Lewis Anatho Muller of Georgetown (Late De Ruyter) in the County of Madison and State of New York, Gentleman, and Adeline Muller his wife, of the first part, and Abijah Weston of the City of New York, Merchant of the second part; witnesseth that the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Thousand five Hundred dollars Lawfull Money of the United States of America to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part, at or before the executing and delivery hereof, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and the said party of the second part, his Heirs

After the sale, Muller returned to France abandoning his wife, Adeline, and his two sons in New York.

Who was Louis Anathe Muller?

Some say that Muller was the Comte d'Artois (younger brother of Louis XVI who became Charles X, King of France, 1824-1830).

Perhaps he was Charles Ferdinand, the Duc de Berry, son of Charles X.

Or possibly he was Louis-Philippe (King of the French, 1830-1848), son of Louise-Philippe Joseph de Bourbon-Orleans and Louise Marie Adelaide de Bourbon.



Charles X/Comte d'Artois

Research shows that there was a general in the King's Life Guards by the name of Louis Muller.

Muller may have been involved in a plot to overthrow or possibly assassinate Napoleon in 1792. According to an entry in *The Dictionary of the French Revolution*, "because of his republican feelings and his independence Muller was banished from Paris by Napoleon in 1805."

If the above statement is true, what was Muller doing during the period of 1792 – 1805? Was he in hiding, on the run, or in prison?



In 1906 the house on Muller Hill burned down. Today the land is part of New York State Reforestation Region 7.



Historic site state marker located on road to Muller Hill, west of Georgetown.