

Brookwood Manor Halfmoon, NY

**Situated at the foot of Brookwood Road on Routes 4 & 32,
next to the Lighthouse Park**

The Halve Maen was the first settlement along the Hudson River in the 1600's. Thomas Peebles and his wife Elizabeth lived along the Hudson River in the Van Schiack Patent and is now known as Routes 4 & 32 at the intersection of Brookwood Road. Back in the 1600's, their lot was at the foot of an Indian path that ran from Dunsback Ferry along the Mohawk River, across land through Middletown in Halfmoon, following a ridge and emerging at the Hudson River. This was at the intersection of a major north/ south and east/west trail, the same trails used by the Mohicans and later the Iroquois to Lake Champlain to the north or crossing the "sprouts" (streams) of the Mohawk River and continuing south to Albany.

In the 1700's this Indian pathway was called the King's Highway - Great Road – the Warpath of Nations. In Col. Hammersly's book The History of Waterford states that in 1780 Colonial Road #1 ran from Halfmoon Point to the bridge by Hugh Peebles (Brookwood). He also stated that Colonial Road #6 ran from Louden's Ferry through Halfmoon Village then Northeast to connect with the "Great Road" at Peebles. This was the road believed that General George Washington used in getting to the Peebles home and the Saratoga Battlefield in 1783. In 1823 it was named Post Road and was shown on military maps and used as a military road during the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. This highway now known as Routes 4 & 32 and the Hudson River Road has been a very important road throughout our history and the lands of Brookwood Manor a very important landmark.

A major Indian settlement was on Hauver Island at a sprout of the Mohawk where it enters the Hudson River.

The 1779 map shows the Widow Peebles Tavern, owned by Thomas and Elizabeth. The tavern is located on the trail that leads from the Hudson River to

the Mohawk River. This overland trail or portage avoided the Cohoes Falls which was a major barrier to river travel. There were 40 taverns in Halfmoon at that time including the Peebles. Mr. Peebles was of Scotch ancestry and was also a Justice of the Peace.