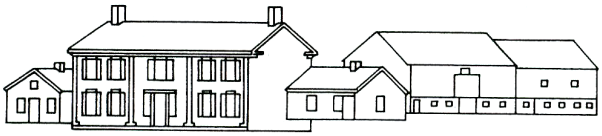


Headwaters of History

The Newsletter of the Delaware County Historical Association
Vol. 28, No. 1 April 2023

DCHA to Host History Conference May 13
Making History in Delaware County

Members of local historical societies, local historians, and interested members of the general public are invited to attend the Delaware County Historical Association's seventh Biennial Historical Society Conference, *Making History in Delaware County.* The conference is specifically designed for the town and village historical societies of Delaware County.

A Frank Farrington image of Delaware County ladies, circa 1910. This is one of several images DCHA has provided for inclusion in the South Central Regional Library Council's Documentary Heritage Program.

For 2023 we have created an afternoon's agenda focusing on various topics of interest to local historians and historical organizations. Presenters will include Mary Liz and Paul Stewart, co-founders of the Underground Railroad Education Center, and Claire Lovell of the South Central Regional Library Council (SCRLC). Claire will explain the services available through SCRLC's NYS Documentary Heritage Program. The conference ends with a round-table discussion concerning local history and local historical societies.

The meeting, on **Saturday, May 13** from 1pm to 4pm, is open to everyone. We ask that if you cannot attend, you would send another member/s of your group as your representative.

All sessions will provide time for questions/answers and we invite input and participation. Attendees are asked to bring questions of concern for your society for the round-table discussion, as well as dates of planned events, and handouts/brochures which can be shared for cross-promoting.

We are looking forward to an informative and enjoyable afternoon and hope that you will be able to attend. **Advance registration is requested by May 6, 2023**. There is no charge to attend.

Please contact us via phone, letter or email.
Tel: (607) 746-3849
DCHA: 46549 State Hwy. 10, Delhi, NY 13753.
Email: dchadelhi@gmail.com

Library Hours

The DCHA library will be closed from April 18th through May 10th, reopening on May 16th. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

From the Archives: Ed Davidson — Letters from Stalag Luft 1

by Ray LaFever

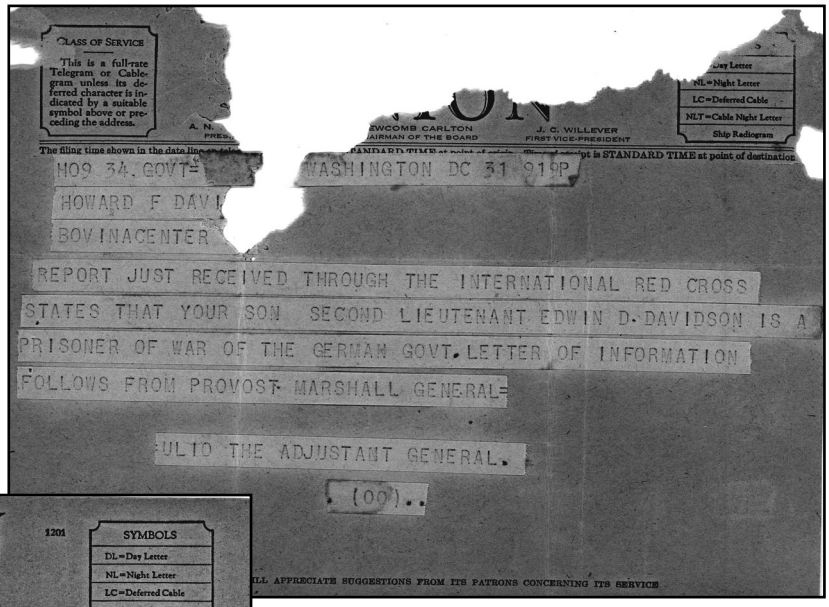
Ed Davidson, son of H. Fletcher Davidson for whom our library is named, made his own contributions to saving the history of his hometown of Bovina and of Delaware County. Ed died at the age of 96 in 2019. As Bovina town historian, I am eternally grateful to Ed, as well as to his brothers Alan (who died in 2004) and Richard, who lives out in California. Their work on Bovina's history certainly made my job much easier. My book on the history of Bovina got to Ed not long before his passing.

Last summer, I was contacted by his son Tom, wanting to donate materials related to Ed's military service, especially his service in World War II and his time as a German POW. In later life, Ed would go to local airshows with his "B-52 bag," which contained items from his long career as an aviator, in war and later as a commercial pilot. I was happy to receive these items for DCHA. I expected much of it to be connected to his later career, so I was surprised and quite moved to see that the materials Tom sent included his dad's experience as a POW. These items included his camp ID and his letters home from the camp, as well as the telegrams his parents received when he was shot down over the Bay of Biscay, losing half his crew in the process.

Ed was shot down on January 5, 1944. It was almost two weeks before the family was notified that he was missing in action. Below is the first of four telegrams the family received when Ed was shot down in January 1944.

When Phil Monroe saw my posting on Facebook about Ed's passing, he shared a moving story about when the family got the first MIA telegram. He remembered his father was told to pick up a telegram at the Bovina Phone Station and deliver it (he was the back-up for the person who normally delivered war messages). Phil went with him to the Davidson home. Phil's dad and Fletcher went across the living room and sat down, where upon he read the telegram to Fletcher. Both men sat together and cried for a bit, then composed themselves and started contacting other family members. Phil said that this was the most vivid memory he had of the war. He had never seen his father cry before.

Over the next couple of weeks, they received three more telegrams with somewhat more hopeful news, culminating in this telegram (below), received on February 1, confirming that Ed was a German Prisoner of War.



CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Day Letter
NL=Night Letter
LC=Deferred Cable
NLT=Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line ... is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

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HOWARD F DAVI

BOVINACENTER

REPORT JUST RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS STATES THAT YOUR SON SECOND LIEUTENANT EDWIN D. DAVIDSON IS A PRISONER OF WAR OF THE GERMAN GOVT. LETTER OF INFORMATION FOLLOWS FROM PROVOST MARSHALL GENERAL=

ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

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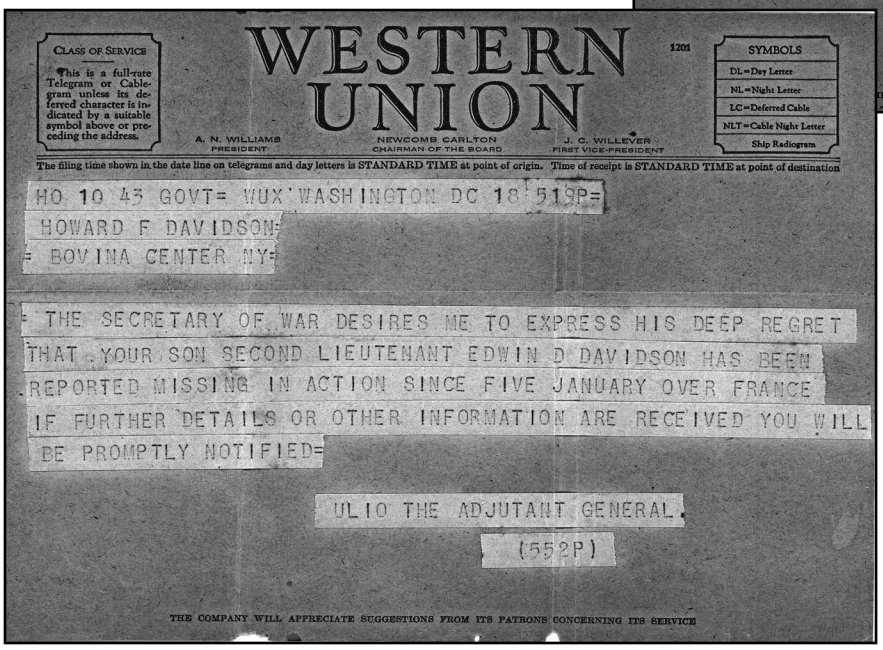


CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS
DL=Day Letter
NL=Night Letter
LC=Deferred Cable
NLT=Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

HO 10 43 GOVT= WUX WASHINGTON DC 18 519P=

HOWARD F DAVIDSON=

= BOVINA CENTER NY=

= THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON SECOND LIEUTENANT EDWIN D DAVIDSON HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION SINCE FIVE JANUARY OVER FRANCE IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED=

ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

(552P)

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Transcription of first telegram (left): THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON SECOND LIEUTENANT EDWIN D DAVIDSON HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION SINCE FIVE JANUARY OVER FRANCE IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED

Transcription of final telegram (above): REPORT JUST RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS STATES THAT YOUR SON SECOND LIEUTENANT EDWIN D. DAVIDSON IS A PRISONER OF WAR OF THE GERMAN GOVT. LETTER OF INFORMATION FOLLOWS FROM PROVOST MARSHALL GENERAL

After a brief hospital stay, Ed was sent to Stalag Luft 1 in northeast Germany, where he would stay for sixteen months.

Included in the donation from the Davidson family were the letters Ed sent from the camp. He was limited to three letters and four postcards a month. We have in our collection fifteen cards and eleven letters. Given some of the date gaps (no letters exist for October, for instance) it seems some of the letters he wrote never made it home. It took some time for the cards and letters to arrive. His parents noted when these were received. Some took a little over two months but others closer to six months. Letters and parcels to Ed in the camp also took time, and likely some never made it to their final destination.

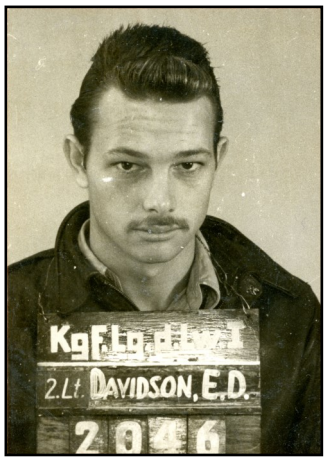
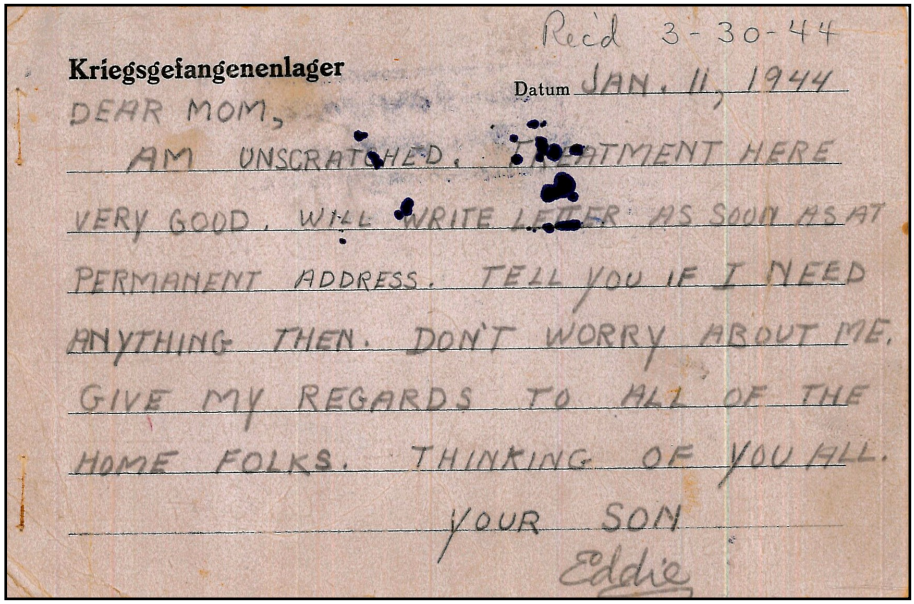


Photo from Ed's prisoner-of-war ID card.

this letter, though, right after he says "We are still waiting for something to happen on the Western wall. Chances of our leaving here any other way are very slim indeed." It was six months before he started receiving any mail, which seemed to be about average for POWs. Many of his letters home took about as long. By November 1944, he reported that to date he had received 88 letters, mainly from his mother and sister, but other relatives and friends were writing too.

The last letter in our collection written by Ed is dated January 20, 1945. He closed this letter with "The news is certainly looking better for us so maybe it won't be too much longer." Ed probably wrote other letters after this date, but the deteriorating situation in Germany at this point likely made sending them out pretty much impossible. The Germans left the camp on April 30 and it was liberated by the Russians the next day. A few days later, Ed was flown to France then to England before being shipped home.

These letters are critical to understanding the pain and challenge of slow communication during war. We are grateful to Tom and the Davidson family for donating these powerful items.


Rec'd 3-30-44

Kriegsgefangenenlager

Datum JAN. 11, 1944

DEAR MOM,

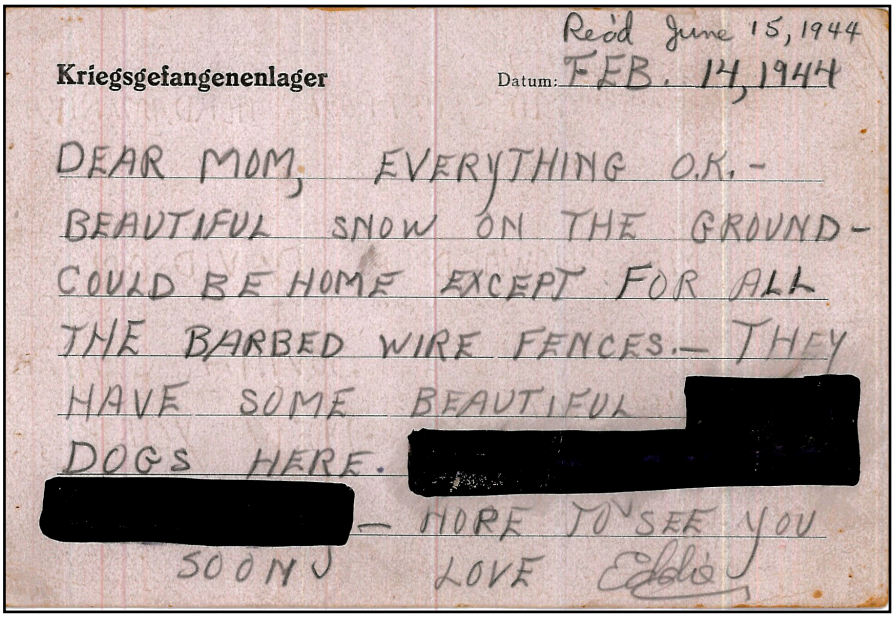
AM UNSCRATCHED. TREATMENT HERE VERY GOOD. WILL WRITE LETTER AS SOON AS AT PERMANENT ADDRESS. TELL YOU IF I NEED ANYTHING THEN. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. GIVE MY REGARDS TO ALL OF THE HOME FOLKS. THINKING OF YOU ALL.

YOUR SON

Eddie

Above: The first card was written on January 11, 1944 about 6 days after Ed was shot down. It was not received until March 30.

Right: Second card written on February 14, not received until June 15. This card shows some parts censored.


Rec'd June 15, 1944

Kriegsgefangenenlager

Datum: FEB. 14, 1944

DEAR MOM, EVERYTHING O.K. - BEAUTIFUL SNOW ON THE GROUND - COULD BE HOME EXCEPT FOR ALL THE BARBED WIRE FENCES. - THEY HAVE SOME BEAUTIFUL [redacted] DOGS HERE. [redacted] - HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON. LOVE Eddie

The cards and letters Ed wrote were all written in block capitals, probably to make it easier for the German censors to review.

There's not a lot that Ed could write about while in the camp. In May, he reported that "things are still going as usual here – monotonous but a really lazy life." There's a censored section in

J.R. Hull, Stratton Falls, Roxbury ~ 1876 Diary Excerpts

Jeriel Root Hull (b.1844 – d.1916) was recorded in the 1875 census living in Roxbury as a boarder with John Mills. Another boarder was Joel Loomis, (perhaps the Jo we see here in his diary).

Note: JR Hull's original spelling and grammar have been kept:

Saturday, April 1, 1876
Weather more mild today Bill Chase lent to 30.00 by Tom Ingles for sled shoes Worked at the shop with Jo this forenoon sawed some wood this afternoon & set my saw. Do not feel very well tonight Remember me Jo worked ¾ of the day

Sunday, April 2, 1876
This has been the nicest day so far this spring. I staid home all day and evening. Splendid Eve

Monday, April 3, 1876
Snowed last night and today has rained most all day. I saw a mink down by the river. Sawed some wood at the shop Jo came up on the train tonight

Tuesday, April 4, 1876
Very stormy today I worked some at the shop Has been snowing fearfully this afternoon. Jo worked today

Wednesday, April 5, 1876
Beautiful Day I worked at the mill most of the day. B. Williams helped me Best sap day of the season so far. Evening beautiful. Jo worked today

Thursday, April 6, 1876
Cold and raw weather today I helped Jo at the shop Feel somewhat better today. Wish I could see x.y.z Jo worked today

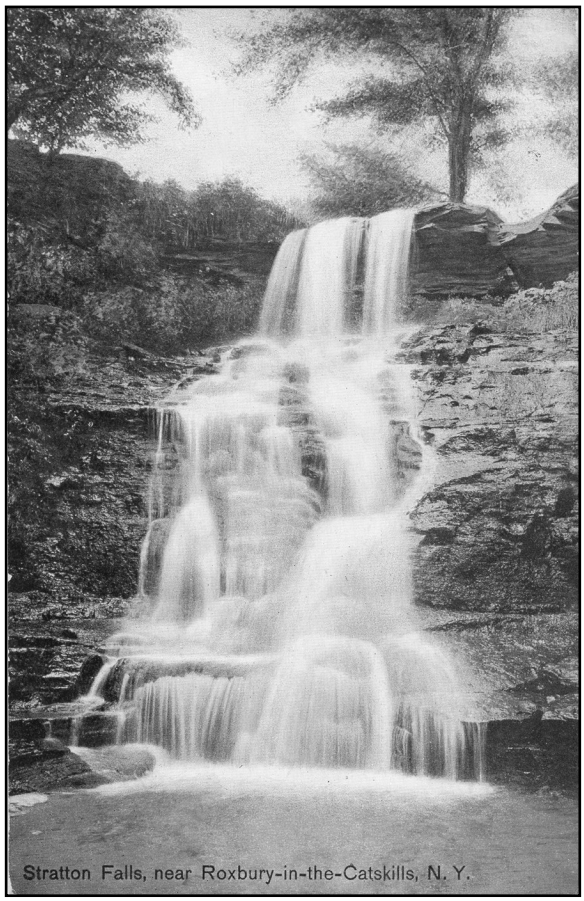
Friday, April 7, 1876
Fearful stormy today I helped Jo at the shop until three oclock P.M. then went over to Mr. Hills and got some warm Sugar the first I have had this season. Jo worked today

Saturday, April 8, 1876
Weather fair today worked this forenoon went to Halcottsville in the afternoon from there to Kellys corners from there to Hubble Hill. Will stay to E. Crosbys tonight. Jo worked ½ day

Sunday, April 9, 1876
Weather fair to midling today. I came home from Hubble Hill this afternoon. Called on Decon Griffin Friezing hard tonight Truly yours x.y.z

Monday, April 10, 1876
Fair day I went to Roxbury with the money due the United States for the last quarter Recd a letter from Nellie and a card from A.A. Crosby the Roudout also my paper. True Brown has gone to Iowa good luck to him

Tuesday, April 11, 1876
Beautiful day. I worked at the mill Dam in the forenoon Went down to Hewitt Pond just at night shot three muskrats saw Jim Hills which saved me going over there for Garden seeds. Sold one muskrat skin today for box paper collars. Wrote a letter to Nellie this forenoon the letter went on up mail Rec'd a card from Jo. He won't be back this week gone to Kingston



Postcard from DCHA Archives.

Wednesday, April 12, 1876
Beautiful day. I sawed some wood at the shop worked some at the dam. The snow is going from the mountains very fast today. Went over and saw J.S. Gill this afternoon got some sap to drink

Thursday, April 13, 1876
Still bright lovely and beautiful today I worked some at the Dam, 8P.M. has been raining hard this afternoon. Dr Streets mother died tonight about ten oclock. has stopped raining

Friday, April 14, 1876
Rainy day I took the train this morning and went to Deans Corners from there to Dr. Streets from there to Dr. Railkers at Margaretville to tell them that the Dr Streets mother was dead came back on train. Went down to Hewitt pond & shot two rats before I got back home.

Saturday, April 15, 1876
Has been snowing and raining today I went to Roxbury this forenoon. Bought me a pair of Overalls for #..88 Bought a Ham for which I paid $3.60. Went down to Philip Walkers crossing just before night no rats. Recd a letter from Seth today

Sunday, April 16, 1876
The forenoon has been very rainy with a little snow. Attended the funeral of Dr. Sheets mother at the Baptist church today. Hank Davie called and took dinner with me.

Monday, April 17, 1876
Cold and windy today. I set a Cross-cut saw for Arnold Hill this forenoon. Worked some about the mill. Went over to A. Hills just at night to get some new Sugar will stay all night.

Tuesday, April 18, 1876
March weather today. I came back from Mr. Hills this morning. Filed my one man saw. Worked at the Dam some and fixed fence around the Pasture. Feel somewhat tired tonight.

Wednesday, April 19, 1876
March weather today I worked in the shop most of the day. Jo came on noon train. Beautiful this evening Jo worked this after noon

Thursday, April 20, 1876
Fair this forenoon. I went down to Halcottsville to get some Blacksmithing done Rained in the afternoon I worked some at the Dam and sawed some wood Rains yet tonight. Jo worked today

Friday, April 21, 1876
Weather somewhat fairer today I worked some at the mill. Jo helped me get the Ballance Wheel across the Brook. Helped Jo some at the shop. Jo worked today

Saturday, April 22, 1876
Beautiful day. Jo & me had a fire below the mill. Jo went home this afternoon. I went fishing got a mess of trout caught one dozen No news from Nellie this week paid Jo — $1.00 Joe worked halfday

Sunday, April 23, 1876
Splendid day. I was not away from home until nearly night. Went up below Kaltenbacks & shot a wild duck.

Monday, April 24, 1876
Beautiful day I worked some at the mill Dam. Set up a leach for making sap Set gate post. Went up on Drunderwoods flat to shoot a duck. Did not see any. Wm Bishop called this evening. Jo came on train tonight

Tuesday, April 25, 1876
Fair day. I fixed the [illg] Bed ready to sow. Made a ladder for Wm Bishop. Done some work on shaft for the mill. Evening fair. Went up to A.S Bookhouts to eat New sugar tonight. Jo worked today.

Wednesday, April 26, 1876
Beautiful day. A.S Bookhout & Jim Sanford came down and helped us turn the Shafts today. Cought a mess of Trout after the train went down. Weather splendid. Jo worked today.

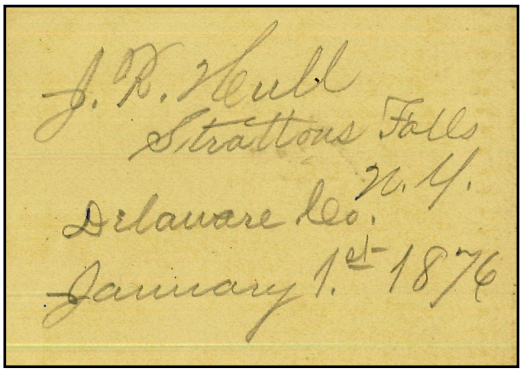
Thursday, April 27, 1876
Perfectly beautiful today. We commenced putting the work under the mill today A.S. Bookhout drew the stuff to the mill for me. Went down to the schoolhouse to meeting tonight. Beautiful evening. Jo worked today

Friday, April 28, 1876
Beautiful day. Jo and me worked at the mill Head April showers today. No news from x.y.z yet. Jo worked today

Saturday, April 29, 1876
Weather beautiful today. Jo worked at the mill this forenoon Went home this afternoon. I set some grafts this forenoon. Went to Halcottsville this afternoon. Bought some sugar. Rains tonight. Jo worked ½ day.

Sunday, April 30, 1876
Weather fine this forenoon Went over to AJ Hills from there to Enos Crosbys from there I came directly home. Snowed very fast this fore afternoon. Will freeze quite hard tonight.

Monday, May 1, 1876
Fair day. I done some work at the shop and then commenced making a bracket. Do not feel very well tonight. Bought some clams today of E. Noxas Jo came on train tonight

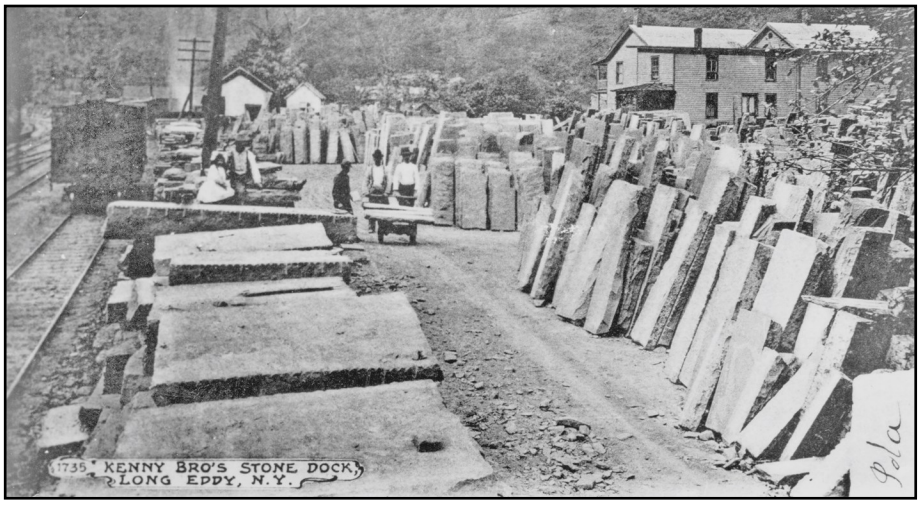


Front page in Hull Diary.

Reminiscences of John Scofield, Hamden, NY
From a letter received in 1985

Note: Original spelling and grammar maintained:

All I know about the Early quarrying in Del. Co. is things I heard my father Frank A. Scofield tell and I have forgotten most of what I heard. His father Josiah H. Scofield quarried in Albany County. After U. & D. Railroad was built he came and quarried at Shandaken. Later came to Hancock worked quarries there and in Penn. At Starlight Pa. worked quarry with my Father called the Hemlock quarry. This was large quarry they employed many men. My Father was a young man then. They drew the stone to Hancock & loaded them on Erie R.R. as Scranton Branch of O. & W. was not built yet. Later they quarried around East Branch. My Father and an uncle worked large quarry at Harvard. I heard Father tell, as the D. & N. R.R. was not in existence yet they drew stone to East Branch & loaded on O. & W. R.R. the road between Harvard & E.B. was so narrow they had to drill ledges by hand & blast them out so they could get by with large stone on the wagons. After D. & N. R.R. was part built Father worked quarrys' up East Branch of Delaware. My older Brothers were old enough and working with him. At the time heavy stone were selling best of any. Dealers would not accept stone under 1 ¼ in thick such stone brought 2 ¢ Per. Sq. ft. on the dock at the R.R. now they bring around $1 Per Sq. Ft.



Postcard from DCHA Archives.

I began working in quarry with Dad about 1920-21 I can remember getting out 1 inch stone & selling them loaded on railroad Cars for 4 and 5 Cents per. sq. ft.

I can remember as a small boy My Dad always kept a team of Horses to draw the stone to Dock on R.R. of course they had to have a driver – Most quarries they could make 2 trips daily – sometimes only 1 ½ trips those loads of stone bought from $9 – to $11 or $12 a load. Once in a while Dad might have to hire another team if his team could not keep up. Usually at that time about Five men were in quarry getting out the stone.

Back in those days everything was done by hand. Uncovering a block of stone – (we called it striping) was slow work. Some times worked all winter to try and get enough uncovered to last us through summer. Did drilling by hand-usually one man sat and turned drill & two would stand and strike with 8 pound sledges. Sometimes all day long or longer. Every little while the mud must be cleaned out of hole. The drill man would say mud – wait until both sledges had decended – take drill out of hole & clean hole out – if drilling deep hole a drill called a runner was used this drill was 8' or 10' long with drill bit on end. To use this 2 or three men gathered around it – Picking it up 2 or 3 ft. turning it a bit each time and dropping it. The weight of the drill did the work. Water was used in hole to make drill cut faster. It would drill much faster than when using sledges.

Most of the time then everything had to be broke up small enough to be put on wheel-barrow & wheeled away – over dump. A run as it was called, was built on a level from top of block out over the dump – it would be maybe 8' or 10' or more high out of quarry – sometimes much higher on out in the trees maybe. Usually planks about one ft. wide were placed end to end on this run to run wheel-barrow on. Of course those days iron wheel wheelbarrows were used not the easy pushing rubber tire of to-day. You had to be experienced to go out with a heavy load about all you could stagger with – dump load and not lose wheelbarrow off the run & maybe yourself with it.

Most men to-day never have had the joy of standing and shoveling all day long, day after day in the foot of a bank of dirt & rocks 20 or 30 feet high. Then carrying it out over the dump in a wheelbarrow – in the winter time you shed all your coats before you picked up your shovel. It was much harder if it had to be done in Aug. Those days no one had ever heard of a (Coffee Break)

Delaware County Historical Association
2023 Summer Calendar

May 5—August 31 ~ *Recalling Yesterday*

An exhibit highlighting clothing, objects and images from the late 20th century. On display in the Elijah Thomas Gallery at DCHA until August 31, 2023. **Free admission.**

Saturday, May 6 ~ Volunteer Work Day ~ 10am - 2pm

Join us in readying the site for our summer season. Chores will include sprucing up the grounds and cleaning the Frisbee House, the church and other buildings. Volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves and gardening tools.

Saturday, May 13 ~ History Conference - *Making History in Delaware County* ~ 1pm - 4pm

Historical Society Conference specifically designed for the town and village historical societies and museums of Delaware County. Presenters will include Mary Liz and Paul Stewart, co-founders of the Underground Railroad Education Center, and Claire Lovell of SCRLC. Claire will explain the services available through the NYS Documentary Heritage Program. The conference ends with a round-table discussion concerning local history and local historical societies. **Registration required by May 6th. Free admission.** Call 607-746-3849 or e-mail dchadelhi@gmail.com to register.

Saturday, May 27 ~ DCHA Summer Season Opening

Historic buildings open for tours. Also explore our two exhibit galleries and gift shop. *Historic Buildings and Exhibit Galleries hours:* Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 4pm. *H. Fletcher Davidson Library and Archives hours:* Tuesday and Wednesday, 10am - 3pm. By appointment only.

Saturday & Sunday, June 10 & 11 ~ Dairy Fest

DCHA will have a table at the Dairy Fest selling books. Stop by and say hi. For more information on the Dairy Fest visit their website at: www.meredithdairyfest.com

Saturday & Sunday, July 8 & 9 ~ Delhi Civil War Event "Clash in the Catskills"

Please join us in celebrating the return of the 144th New York State Volunteers as they form together to reenact the battles of: Devil's Den (Gettysburg), Sailor's Creek, and Cold Harbor. Living History Exhibit, kids' drill, artillery demo. ***Admission: Adults - $10; Military (retired or active), DCHA members - $5; Children 12 and under FREE***

Saturday, July 29 ~ Enchanted Evening at the Gideon Frisbee House ~ 6pm – 9pm

An evening of spirited socializing beneath the stars. Featuring an extensive dish to pass buffet from 6 – 7:30pm and a dessert buffet from 7:30 – 9pm. Live music. **Current Members Free**. **RSVP requested by July 21**. (*We request non-members become members of DCHA in lieu of admission.*)

A Huge Thank You …

To our members and friends who since the fall of 2022 have donated to our annual appeal. So far your generosity has enabled DCHA to raise $17,000 for general operating expenses.

Thanks also to the employees of the Delaware County office buildings in Delhi. During their "Jeans Day" at the end of March, $171 was raised in small individual donations earmarked for our museum.
We are grateful.

New Email Address

Please note that DCHA will be transitioning to a new email address over the coming weeks. The old will still be checked, but we request that folks contact us via the address listed here: dchadelhi@gmail.com

A great drinker being at table, they offered him grapes at desert. "Thank you," said he, pushing back the plate, "I don't take my wine in *pills!*"
- 1854 Farmer's Almanac

Highlight from DCHA Collections: One-Horse Corn Planter

The corn planter pictured below was used by Lee Frisbee of Andes, a great-great-grandson of Judge Gideon Frisbee. It was donated by Lena F. Fiedler in 1974.

Lee James Frisbee (1862 – 1956) was a farmer in Andes. Starting in 1880, he kept a diary for almost 70 years. His nephew, Howard E. Frisbee transcribed the early years and turned it into a short story published in 1987 in the Frisbee Genealogy. The following are excerpts from that story:

Farmers in 1880 were pretty self-sufficient. Uncle Lee tells about making maple syrup and sugar; making butter, sawing wood and taking logs to the sawmill; growing and harvesting potatoes, oats, rye, apples, corn, millet, buckwheat, pumpkins, turnips and beets. That year he (apparently with help from others in the family) gathered sap and made over 200 pounds of maple sugar, picked 300 bushels of apples, wagon loads of pumpkins and harvested a load of turnips.

The farm produced about 43 loads of hay, 121 bushels of oats, 23 bushels of rye and 65 bushels of buckwheat. Most of these were used for feeding the livestock. Some of the buckwheat was taken to the gristmill in the village and processed into flour.

In spite of the home-produced food, cash was essential for the family's needs. Uncle Lee, on his frequent trips to the village, often took a pail of butter, some maple sugar or other produce to sell to some of the residents. One day he 'took J. Craig 2 bushels of potatoes at 40 cents 80 cents.'

A young man in 1880 found mobility through horsepower. He also used those horses to do much of the farm work. Uncle Lee reported plowing with the horses 38 different days during the year. He plowed for a garden and for corn, buckwheat, oats, potatoes, rye and millet, at various times. Perhaps it was no wonder he had to buy a new moldboard ($2.50) and point for the plow. He also used the horses to till the land for planting.

In early spring the horses pulled the sled to gather sap from the maples tapped in the sugarbush.

Andes, the nearest village, was the center for shopping, marketing and social life, and trips there were frequent. Occasionally Uncle Lee went to Bovina, about seven miles in the opposite direction. Delhi, about a dozen miles away, was where he met relatives who came by train and where he went now and then to a program or to get special items. To get there he had to pay twelve cents toll at what was known as the Tollgate.

Even with horses and wagons or sleds, people complained about the condition of the roads, much as we do today. On February 29 the entry stated 'Roads terrible.' By April 4 travel was still 'Terrible going.' And that fall on November 6 the roads were 'very muddy.'

Plant pests such as insects and diseases must have been only a slight problem in 1880. The only mention of applying any control measure came on July 7 and again on July 30 when he 'Paris greened potatoes.' At that time farmers didn't apply much chemical fertilizer, judging by the diary account. The main source of fertilizer nutrients was animal manure, and Uncle Lee seemed to be drawing manure much of the time onto the various fields: the big meadow, orchard, horse pasture, wet meadow, flat or hill. The only indication of commercial fertilizer was the purchase on June 15 of 2 bags phosphate, which Uncle Lee put on 12 rows of corn he hoed on June 23.

One of his favorite expressions was 'Chored.' It apparently meant caring for the cows, horses, turkeys, pigs, chickens and perhaps the stoves in the house. Another often-used expression was that people would come 'a visiting.' He also went 'a riding.'

✧✧

A Very Singular Fact

A good lady who had two children sick with the measles went to a friend for the best remedy; the friend had just received a note from a lady requiring the way to make pickles. In the confusion, the lady who inquired about the pickles received the remedy for the measles, while the anxious mother of the sick children read with horror the following: --- "Scald them three or four times in very hot vinegar, and sprinkle them well with salt, and in a few days they will be *cured*."

From *1854 Farmer's Almanac*

Recipes from *What's Cookin'? in Walton, New York*

Compiled by the Walton Firemens Ladies Auxiliary, 1970

Cream Cheese Salad *Helen Caffery*

2 pkgs. lemon gelatin
4 c. hot water
1 (8oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 No. 2 can crushed pineapple, drained
½ c. pecans, chopped
2 Tbsp. mayonnaise
1 tsp. green food coloring

Dissolve gelatin in hot water, chill until slightly firm. Combine softened cream cheese, pineapple, lemon juice, pecans, mayonnaise. Add to slightly firm gelatin. Add green food coloring. Pour into lightly oiled mold and chill until firm. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

Orange Kiss Me Cake *Sally Fuller*

Squeeze 1 large orange, reserving juice for topping. Grind together, using coarse blade of food chopper:

Pulp and rind of orange
1 c. seedless raisins
1/3 c. walnuts

Sift together:

2 c. sifted all purpose flour
1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. salt
1 c. sugar

Add:

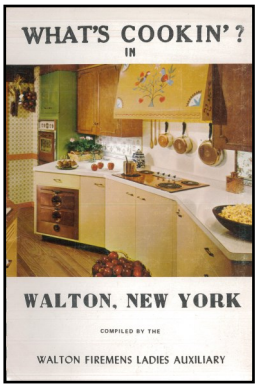
¾ c. milk
½ c. shortening

Beat for 1 ½ minutes at low speed on electric mixer. Add 2 unbeaten eggs and ¼ cup milk. Beat for another 1 ½ minutes. Fold orange and raisin mixture into batter. Pour into a 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan, well greased and lightly floured. Bake at 350° for 40 to 50 minutes. While still warm, drip 1/3 cup orange juice over cake and sprinkle with mixture of 1/3 cup sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon and ¼ cup chopped walnuts.

Moose Steak

½ c. onions, chopped fine
½ c. sweet or sour cream
1 c. chopped mushrooms
2 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. Flour

Fry onions, brown in butter. Sear steak on both sides in butter and browned onion. Cover and let simmer for ½ hour. When almost tender, add the mushrooms and the flour, stirred into cream. Cover and let simmer for 20 minutes.



Larded Grouse

On each bird lay thin slices of bacon until bird is completely covered. Wrap with string to keep bacon in place. Put in roasting pan and pour over birds sufficient water to provide basting. Roast for 20 – 25 minutes at 400 degrees. Remove strips of bacon, brush birds with melted butter, dredge with flour and place in oven again until the birds turn a rich brown.

Roasted Wild Duck

Clean, wipe and dry the ducks. Sprinkle generously with flour, salt and pepper. Place whole peeled onion inside each duck and place them in self basted roaster. Fasten with toothpicks 2 or 3 strips of bacon across each bird. If desired, ducks may be stuffed with wild rice dressing made by boiling rice (wild) and seasoning with salt, pepper and chopped onion. Cover bottom of roaster with water. Cover tightly and roast in oven at 350 degrees for 1 ½ to 2 hours, depending on the number of size of ducks. Remove cover of roaster for last 15 – 20 minutes, before taking from oven to allow skin to brown.

Busy Day Cocktail Dessert *Wanda Budine*

1 c. flour
1 c. granulated sugar
1 tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
1 (1 lb.) can fruit cocktail

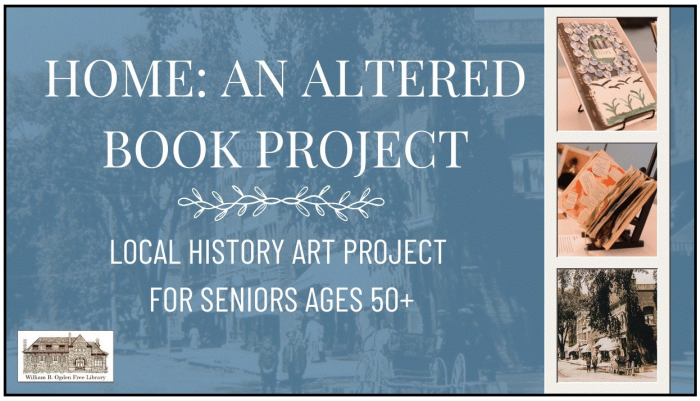
Topping:

½ c. brown sugar, firmly packed
½ c. nutmeats, chopped
½ tsp. cinnamon

Mix together flour, sugar, soda, salt and fruit cocktail. Pour into a buttered 9 inch square baking dish. Mix brown sugar, nuts and cinnamon, spread evenly over fruit cocktail mixture. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Serve warm, cut in squares. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream. Serves 6.

Preserved Children

Take 1 large field, half a dozen children, 2 or 3 small dogs, a pinch of brook and some pebbles. Mix the children and dogs well together; put them on the field, stirring constantly. Pour the brook over the pebbles; sprinkle the field with flowers; spread over all a deep blue sky and bake in the sun. When brown, set away to cool in the bathtub.



Walton Library Program

Area Seniors, ages 50+ are invited to sign-up to participate in a grant-funded local history art project to be held over four Tuesdays at the Ogden Library in Walton, May 16, 23, 30, and June 6 from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM.

"Home: An Altered Book Project," is a multidisciplinary art project created by visual artist Caryn T. Davis of Walton and Staten Island, in collaboration with the William B. Ogden Free Library and with local historians.

Altered Books are individual art objects created from an existing printed book. Local historians will inspire participants with presentations of various topics pertaining to Walton and Delaware County. In response, participants will alter their books by cutting, folding, pasting, stamping, painting, and/or decorating with 3-D objects, collage, pockets and more. The finished project will reflect the personal connections that participants have to their home, and their community.

During the culminating artist reception on Saturday, June 17, at 11:00 AM, a supportive audience of friends, family and community members will be invited to celebrate each artist and to learn about Delaware County through their Altered Book's unique vision of Home.

Contact the William B Ogden Free Library at 607-865-5929 or wboflibrary@gmail.com to sign-up to participate. There is no cost to participate.

This project is made possible with funds from the Delaware County Arts Grants, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered in Delaware County by the Roxbury Arts Group.

Newspaper Clippings

We had hardly got our paper of last week in circulation, in which we took occasion to speak of the disappearance of the snow after a five months visit, and of expressing our gratification at the cheering sight of the "long-wished-for-naked fields," when the icy feathers began again to float in the air, and before one tenth part of our readers could have received the pleasing intelligence the "*naked fields*" were again invisible with a new coat of some three or four inches of snow. They are however once more cleared, but – O the uncertainty!

- *Delaware Gazette,* April 20, 1836

A hop in your walk is a halt, but a dance upon nothing is a halter. A deal of gold may be a plum, but a dealer of lead is a plumber. You may sometimes put sauce into a cup, but you should always put a cup into a saucer. You're a fool if you're a walker in a pond; you're a philosopher if you ponder in your walk. A cough makes you wheezy in the chest, but of the chest you can easily make a coffer. A steel is what makes a blade sharp, but a blade that makes a sharper is a stealer.

- *Delaware Republican,* May 3, 1873

Elsie Hunt, a farmer's daughter only 14 years old, left her home in Norwich, and was found in a New York dining saloon employed as a waitress. Her parents traced her to the city and the police hunted her up. She left because her parents refused to permit her to celebrate May-day. When found, however, she was willing to go home.

- *Delaware Gazette,* May 27, 1885

Thinking

Thoughts by a Noodle
Delaware Republican, June 28, 1873

I don't think a goose is a swan,
I don't think a sheep is a rabbit,
But I think when I'm thinking thereon,
That thinking's a dangerous habit.

For some people think they are right,
And some people think they are clever
And some think that black must be white,
And some think of nothing whatever.

And some people think of themselves,
And some people think of their neighbors;
And some think the gold that one delves
Is very poor pay for one's labors.

For my part, I think that I thought
That I thunk while a thinking and musing,
That thinking is really worth naught.
Because thinking, I think, is confusing.

History Corner

Swat the Fly! by Samantha Misa

In the early 20th century, individuals and municipalities in Delaware County were concerned with the spread of tuberculosis (also commonly known as consumption or the "white plague"). However, it would not be until after World War II, with the widespread availability of antibiotics such as streptomycin, that a reliable cure for tuberculosis was put into use.

Prior to antibiotics, patients seeking a cure for the respiratory ailment were often advised by doctors to travel to sanitariums where fresh air and rest allowed some sufferers to heal. Many tuberculosis patients came to the Catskills seeking a cure from the fresh mountain air. They often aroused the ire of locals and hotel keepers who feared that the presence of "consumptives" would sicken the community and scare away potential tourists.

Yet people in Delaware County and the Catskills had another weapon in their arsenal against tuberculosis - fly swatting contests.

In 1904/1905, Dr. Frederick Lord of Massachusetts General Hospital published reports that an experiment he had conducted with flies and human saliva revealed that the insects could carry the disease, leading to long-standing accepted wisdom that flies could transmit and infect humans with tuberculosis. Despite the fact that transmission of the tuberculosis bacterium from flies was later proven unlikely, organizations across the country initiated fly swatting contests in order to combat the vermin vectors.

In 1912, the *Catskill Mountain News* reported that locals were eagerly participating in a fly swatting contest hosted by a newspaper in Roscoe. A young man named Thomas O'Reilly was apparently in the lead with 8,000 dead flies to show for his efforts. In second place was Herman Haas with 4,800 flies. A grand total of 84,000 flies met their demise during the 1912 contest!

In 1915, the newspaper reported that fly-swatting contests continued throughout the nation. A young woman from New Jersey had reportedly killed 179,765 on her own, with over 600,000 flies swatted for that year's contest.

While it is not likely that the number of flies killed had any impact on tuberculosis transmission, the years with fly-swatting contests undoubtedly reduced the sound of buzzing - and increased the sound of swatting.

Image Right: An early 20th-century fly swatter advertising the *Delaware Gazette* newspaper.
Below: Close up of fly swatter handle.
From DCHA collections.

The Matteson Historical Congress of America is searching for new members.

If you, or someone you know, has a surname of Matteson/Mattison/Madison/Mathewson, you may be descended from Henry Matteson. Our common immigrant, Henry, came in 1666 into Rhode Island. The Matteson Congress has held an Annual Reunion most years since 1940 and would like to have you join us! Quarterly newsletters on interesting Matteson history and facts, are a benefit to membership! If you are not certain of your full line back to Henry "The Immigrant," our Genealogists are happy to help members fill in the gaps. To find out more information please inquire at: mhcoa.org (Matteson Historical Congress of America)

Sincerely,
Janaye Matteson Houghton, Membership Chairperson

Delaware County Historical Association
46549 State Highway 10
Delhi, NY 13753

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Headwaters of History

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We encourage the submission of articles relating to this county's history or the activities of local history organizations.

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DCHA's H. Fletcher Davidson Library/Archives is open year-round Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 3pm. By Appointment Only. We will also answer mail and e-mail queries for a $15 fee. For more information on the library's holdings, contact DCHA.

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