Headwaters of History

The Newsletter of the Delaware County Historical Association

Vol. 28, No. 4 December 2023

2023 History Awards of Merit

The annual meeting of the Delaware County Historical Association was held on Sunday, November 5, 2023. As always, the highlight was the presentation of our Awards of Merit to those groups and individuals who have volunteered their time and skills to preserve and/or present the history of Delaware County.

This year, the following nominated individuals and groups were recognized for their achievements; left to right in photo:

Dale & Tina Utter are members of the Sidney Historical Association. They also contribute articles to *The Reporter.* With over 10 years of dedication to the preservation & conservation of gravestones & cemeteries in Delaware County and surrounding counties, Tina and Dale have cleaned, straightened and created signs for many cemeteries. Neglected cemeteries are of particular interest to them. They are currently working on a long-term project in Sidney's Pioneer Cemetery.

The Ouleout Valley Cemetery Committee (Franklin) coordinated a fundraising effort and oversaw the restoration and repair of the historic 1884 J. W. Fiske Fountain. Volunteers tore out the pool and then rebuilt it, while the fountain itself was disassembled and sent off to Alabama. It was all reassembled this past summer, including Venus at the top, and water once again came splashing forth. Shown in the middle of the photo accepting the award are Robert Johnson, Sonja Johns and Jeff McCormick.

Robbie-Jean Rice (Walton) is a longtime supporter of history and current President of Ogden Free Library – a cultural and historic hub of Walton. Robbie-Jean coordinated a Quilt Show in Walton in September featuring many examples of this important & traditional rural craft. She also writes history articles for the Walton Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter. Her nomination stated that she "often shares her love for local history."

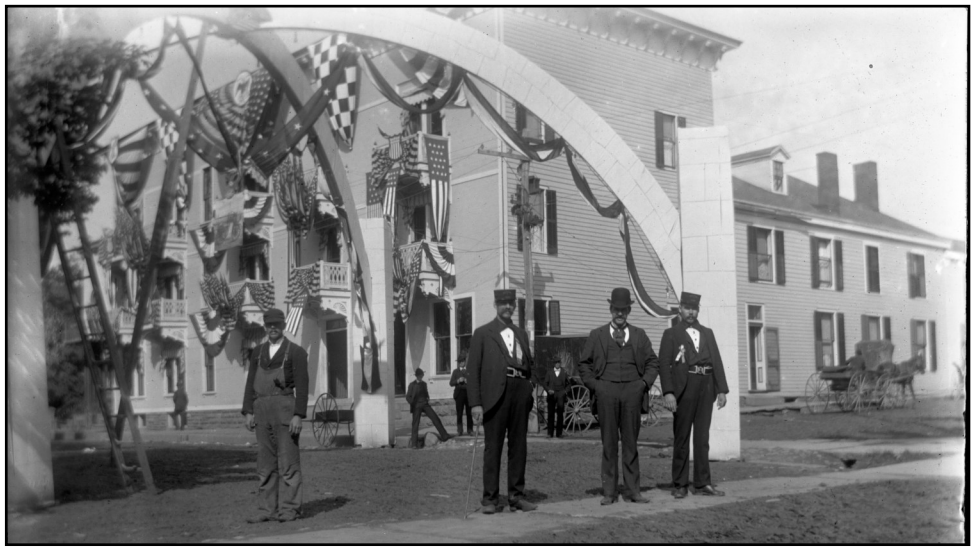
Jillian Fishner (Delhi) was the youngest award recipient this year. She is a ninth grader at DA and belongs to the Delhi Girl Scout Troop # 60301. Jillian spearheaded efforts to preserve and clean up the old burial ground on High Street in Delhi. She spent a lot of time last summer cleaning up the cemetery and coordinated other volunteers & donors to help build a new sign for the cemetery.

DCHA is proud to honor these people and organizations who have contributed so much to the preservation and understanding of our county's fascinating history.

From the Archives, by Ray LaFever

Terry and Becky Raymond from the Deposit Historical Society attended our "Saving Your Family Heirlooms" workshop held here at the museum in October. They brought with them five glass plate negatives that they found in their collection from the Axtell Estate. Luckily for us, they thought these plates should be a part of DCHA's collections and generously donated them.

Each of the negatives shows a different view of the Delaware County Centennial celebration which took place in Delhi in June 1897. They include a shot of a decorated County Courthouse (left) and the American House Hotel with centennial arch, (below) which stood at the corner of Main and Meredith streets. Just a few years later, in January of 1907, this hotel was destroyed by fire.



The American House

A log tavern built in 1796 by Levi Baxter on the corner of Main and Meredith streets was one of the first hotels in Delhi. The original building was enlarged in 1826 by owner Henry Wright who named it the Delaware County Hotel. The hotel passed through numerous hands until April of 1869 when Richard D.W. Kiff purchased the building. In 1873 Mr. Kiff had a large addition built on the back of the hotel. At this time the *Delaware Gazette* referred to the hotel as the "American House." In 1894 John Hutson acquired the hotel from Mr. Kiff and one year later he hired James Menzie to build a three-story annex on the lower down-street end of the hotel. This is the most recognized image of the hotel. Mr. Hutson ran the hotel until it was destroyed by fire in January 1907. The fire was called Delhi's greatest and most tragic fire. The headline of the *Delaware Republican* on January 12, 1907 read:

A Destructive Conflagration!
THREE LIVES LOST.
Fire Destroys the American House.
Valiant Work by Firemen.
Charred Bodies of Victims Recovered.
Property Loss $20,000.
A VERY GLOOMY SUNDAY FOR DELHI.

Ruts in the Road vol. 2 by John Raitt states: "The hotel burned with incredible rapidity and witnesses state that the roof and floors fell in half an hour after the alarm was given. The fire was so hot that buildings on the opposite side of Main Street were quite badly scorched."

The vacant corner lot was later turned into a gas station. Eventually the structure was used as a barber shop and other stores. Further up Meredith Street became the home of Delhi Motors, owned by R. H. Lewis.

Ruins of American House

In Memoriam: Ann Smith

Long-time member and supporter of DCHA, Ann Smith of Delhi passed away September 24, 2023. She was 92 years old.

Ann and her husband, David (d. 2002) were volunteers and board members of DCHA over many years, beginning as far back as the 1960s. Ann served as DCHA's secretary for several years and chaired the sales committee, helping to run the gift shop. David, meanwhile, was the chair of the Frisbee House Committee. He coordinated plans to teach the house tour to the summer guides.

The Smiths also coordinated numerous exhibits and even helped to restore a few pieces of furniture in our collections. The couple donated furniture and other items to DCHA. One of these included the 17th century English Jacobean chest owned by the Bryant family of Andes (see article on p. 8).

Exhibit: *Who's Who? Portraits from DCHA's Collections*

Visit DCHA over the winter to view paintings, drawings and photos with over 100 identified faces. Young and old faces peer out from the past. Dates range from the 1860s to 1997, including one portrait painted in the 1960s using a tintype from the 1850s. Also included in this exhibit are 38 Alien Identification photos taken in February of 1942 (sample shown below) and a group of chauffeur license pictures taken in May of 1949. These photographs offer a great view of everyday life in the 1940s.

Free and open to the public. Monday – Friday 10 am to 4 pm, through February 29, 2024.

Hans Mueller. Photo by Bob Wyer, February 1942

DCHA'S Gift Shop

DCHA's gift shop is open Monday – Friday from 10am to 4pm through the winter months. Our most recent additions make wonderful holiday gifts!

DVD: Indian Summer (1960) & The Fall of Cannonsville (2023). Two films about the Cannonsville Reservoir for the price of one. Both films focus on the construction of New York City's Cannonsville Reservoir and the emotional displacement of local residents. *Indian Summer* is a 28-minute documentary by Jules Victor Schwerin, with music by Pete and Mike Seeger, digitally remastered in 2022 in collaboration with DCHA & with funds from the National Film Preservation Foundation. *The Fall of Cannonsville* (2023) is directed by Charles Cadkin (21 minutes), with the participation of some former residents of Cannonsville and surrounding villages. $15.00

A Look Back at Hobart, NY Volume II: Celebrating 220 Years of St. Peter's Church in Hobart 1801 – 2021. Compiled by James G. Meagley. This book provides an updated detailed history of the early settlement of Hobart – the history of the village's name, its schools, early churches and other cultural artifacts, cemeteries, agricultural and supporting businesses, and inhabitants – along with maps of the evolving roads and land parcels. A walking tour documents every property in the village, every owner and resident, every building and use through time. All NEW section on some surrounding areas including: dairy farms between Hobart and South Kortright on County Hwy 18, the Hamlet of South Kortright, Roses Brook and Township. Over 600 pages. $30.00

Life on this Catskills Farm by Edward Lamb Nichols, Jr. What is it like to grow up on a farm? To live in a house built by your great-great-great-grandfather? To learn engineering methods and building techniques by watching your father tackle projects – most of necessity, but a few just for fun? And then to have the opportunity to pass those skills on to your children? These are some of the experiences Stamford resident Ed Nichols shares in this collection of stories from his life and the lives of generations of his family. $15.00

If you can't come to our museum site in person, all of our books, etc. are listed on our website at:
www.dcha-ny.org
We now accept payment via Paypal and we ship to all 50 States.

1934 Diary Excerpts of Florence Howard, Rock Rift, NY

Florence Howard was born in either 1901 or 1902. Together with her husband, Blinn, she had two daughters, Alma Julia and Beatrice Ann. The family lived in the hamlet of Rock Rift in the Delaware County Town of Tompkins. Their house had no electricity and only cold running water. They had a wood burning stove for cooking, heating water and to warm the house.

Florence's diary entries, transcribed here, offer readers of the twenty-first century a fascinating taste of life in rural America during the dark years of the Great Depression.

Note: *Original spelling and grammar retained throughout.*

November 27
irioned a little Gladys come down after dinner we sewed

November 28
washed Mrs Armstrong washing Bea & Leon went after ma they went two Oclock and back 6-30

November 29
This day I done a dozen different thing stuffed a chicken, irioned, sewed and etc.

November 30
Today I went up to Bernie and worked she wasn't home she had gone to Binghamton to do xmas shopping Fulton and Glady went with her. I went up to Mrs. Franks a little while after I got through work.

December 1
it sure was muggy out this morning we eat Breakfast with the door open it rained hard all day the rain was awful high.

December 2
Went to S.S. and church up here at night went to Walton to Young people meeting I led the singing we stayed for church.

December 3
Washed. And ironed a little

December 4
ironed and in the after noon went up to Rilla ~~washed~~

December 5
Washed for Trout

December 6
ironed, sewed and done the people

December 7
Washed the Curtain in the front room ironed them when they got dry the true blue clues meet here tonight

December 8
got up quite early went to Walton with Blinn and Austin didn't get home until 12-30 ma and Beatrice was ready to go to Phil. we started 1-15 got to ? after supper went on to Utica to Phil. We had midnight lunch went to bed 4 Oclock Sunday morning

December 9
Got up 7 O'clock went to church with Leona we had dinner then we went down to [illegible] for a few minutes we overtalk went back to Utica to the Alliance Church then on to Leona & Phil. We went to bed 12-30

Rock Rift Bakery. DCHA Archives

December 10
We got up about 7 O'clock we had dinner to Mrs. Roberts started right after dinner Alma had an awful headache we got home about five O'clock my plants and gold fish were froze.

December 11
I sure did feel old this morning I didn't do very much today.

December 12
Washed an that about all

December 13
I washed again to day I felt a little better to day I papered under the sink Rilla Came down after dinner

while she was here Beatrice and I ironed

December 14
done up my work after dinner Beatrice and I went down to see Grace's baby

December 15
Done up our work after dinner I went down to Grace's again for her baby died this morning it was 4 days old

Rock Rift General Store and Post Office. DCHA Archives

December 16
Went to S.S. and church then we all sit around untill night then we went to Walton to young people meeting Mr. Baker led the meeting Mr. Warren preached the evening sermon

December 17
I didn't get up very early this morning but we washed two washing Blinn went a suckering after dinner we went up to Mr. Schlagel Blinn help butcher a cow.

December 18
ironed and don odd job crochet a little sewed a little

December 19
Washed it rained but I hung them in the garage

December 20
I sure did putter this morning went up to Mr. Franks Mrs. Wakemon Rilla and night went to Walton with Rilla Folks

December 21
This morning I swept up stairs ironed a little Rilla and Richard came down after a tree. At night we all went up to the church to the Christmas exercises.

December 22
I sure hated to get up this morning when I did all we done was just putter. Bea and Leon went to Walton in the after noon Blin went with them he didn't come back then we went up at night he was awful dronk and the cups were after him but he came home with us.

December 23
Went up here to S.S. and church we just sit around until night then we went Walton to young people m. and church

December 24
Done two washing ironed a little Blinn and Leon went and hooked 42 suckers Alma sold $1.50 worth At night went to Walton to the Christmas tree it was awful good

December 25
Finish doing my iron sewed a little

December 26
I didn't do very much today we were going to prayer meeting but the wind blew so we didn't go

December 27
Done Armstrong washing Bernice and Glady came down this afternoon Alma went up to Elderkin with some patches she gave her some bows Beatrice went over to Hattie to stay all night

December 28
Beatrice came over early this morning she went up to Flynn to see about work but they didn't know if they wanted any one or not I ironed

December 29
Done our Saturday work about noon a man came after Blinn to cut logs after dinner we went up after Austin had to wait until he came out of the show I saw the Simeese twins on the street

December 30
Went up here to S.S. and Church came home Bea had dinner ready After dinner read a book I don't mean all of it at night we went to Walton to Y. J. M and church. When we got back Austin had just got here.

December 31
Done two washing to day cleaned cloth so we could go to the Rally tomorrow to Endicott.

January 1, 1935
O How is was snowing this morning and the snow was quite deep we got ready for the Rally the bus come about 10-40 we got to Endicott little after 1 oclock the services were very good Rev. Geo. Jones of Scranton was the speaker we left for home 9-30 come back all right untill we got this side of Granton then we Couldn't get through the snow we stayed in the bus from 12 – Oclock untill 3 then we went down to Buss [illegible] the post office and stayed until 7 Oclock

Vanished Village: A Story of Cannonsville

by Louise Adams Cady

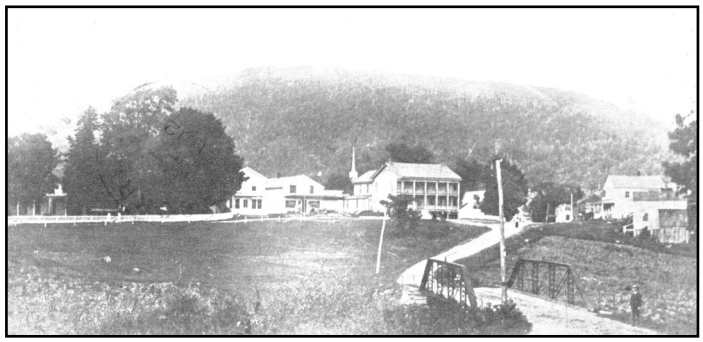
In August 1985 DCHA received a partly published memoir entitled "Vanished Village." The manuscript is about Cannonsville, the now submerged hamlet where the author, Louise Adams Cady, was born in 1895. She had died just the year before, in November of 1984.

Part one of the memoir was published as a series by the *Deposit Courier* in 1984. A brief excerpt is reprinted here:

In the winter we skated on the river's ice. One of my earliest gifts from Uncle Charlie was a pair of ice skates. I was five years old. We all skated. We could skate backward and do figure eights, nothing fancy. It had to be very cold for the river to freeze over. In the meantime there were ponds and binnacles (the word binnacle is Dutch for closed brook). Often binnacle ice was too thin for safety but skating the mirror ice that rose and fell with the skater's movements was exciting and exhilarating.

One day we were skating on what we called "kidney bender" ice and we all fell into the water as the ice broke beneath us. Several children managed to scramble to shore. Some stayed afloat by breaking the ice in front of them. The bigger boys pulled the little ones out. With everyone safely ashore we started for home about half a mile away. Before we reached the house our clothes were frozen stiff and we were whimpering: "I'm freezing," "Oh, shut up. You're not the only one." But my mother had a roaring fire in the stove in the bedroom off the kitchen. There we changed to warm clothes and by the time we were dressed most of us had begun to think ourselves as heroes. No one ever caught a cold.

The same winter my ego was thrown into disequilibrium by a sledding incident. In our part of the world snow fell in feet not inches, often accumulating up to a yard or two. The many hills surrounding the village provided steep slopes for riding down hill. Every child had a sled or a share in another child's sled, the older boys their toboggans, which they were very skilled in steering. "Hang on, here we go" and the toboggan took off, "likity split" down the hill careening around the curves and at the foot of the hill landing right side up with the riders laughing and shouting. Although the sledding routes were between stone walls and barbed wire fences, there were few accidents, maybe a few spills.



Mt. Speedwell, Cannonsville. Postcard, DCHA Archives

In our family a heavy sled belonged to the younger children. It was too heavy for one child to use alone and dragging the sled up hill was no fun, but compensated by the uninhibited trip down. One day I started down alone having dragged the sled to the top of the hill by myself. Either the slope had been worn thin in the spots or the seven-year old child was not ballast enough to hold the sled to the course. Every time the sled hit a bare spot, it bounded up in the air and came down with a thud. At each bump I yelled: "Damn" repeating the word several times on the way down the hill. It was not a lucky day for me. One of the village boys two or three years older than I heard me and told all over town what I had said.

Ice Jams

As the days grew warmer the river's ice broke up and began pushing itself down stream. In places like the eddy, the ice could jam and create flooding of the flatlands along the river. Where the river ran through a narrow gorge the ice jam could work havoc, producing dangerous situations. One could hear the crushing, groaning of the ice cakes against each other, a signal of the force within the ice floe.

About two miles above Deposit, Eddie Beebe had a fine, well kept house on a prosperous land. One year the ice pack backed up for at least a mile and came close to the Beebe place. Terrified by the experience, Mrs. Beebe refused to continue living in the house. "I'll never spend another winter in that house," she said. There was nothing for Mr. Beebe to do but to sell his farm and move to Beebe Hill where his family had started out as pioneers and he had to start all over again.

As one story goes, one year the ice pack became so high that it completely blocked a narrow section of the road to Deposit. According to the story a passageway had to be cut through the ice pack to permit vehicles to get through.

Spring freshets raised the river and flooded the low lands. Pumpkins bobbing in the water like overweight matriarchs, other debris, anything that was floatable, sped down the river at a breakneck clip. Often the water rose high on the sloping flats of Lon Seymour's farm across the river but never reached the farm buildings. On our side of the river the bank

was an earthwork fortress of safety. “The water’s almost up to Albert’s ferret house,” someone called out. To reach this height the water would have had to be thirty feet deep. Not quite sure we would not be swept away with the pumpkins, we children lay awake worrying, but by morning the water was down and the excitement was over.

Deposit ice flood, 1919. DCHA Archives

The Tannery

Before the building of tanneries, the first about 1800, settlers tanned their own leather. Several people in the “city” had a vat and a crude contrivance by which hides were tanned or cured for use. The grinding of the bark, usually hemlock because it was rich in tannin was done by a huge stone, four feet in diameter, from the center of which a lever extended to drive the stone. Using horsepower the stone was driven round and round on a smooth floor. One settler in Andes crushed the bark under a huge log roller on a flat rock using horsepower.

Although no commercial tannery was established in Cannonsville until 1855, settlers had access to tanneries as near as Walton. The road authorized by the town of Franklin supervisors in 1793 was completed within a few years. In 1803 a full fledged tannery had been opened in Walton by a man named Matthew Steele, soon after Alan Mead built a large tannery. Several tanneries were built. An extensive one on West Brook near Walton burned in 1851, rebuilt in 1859. This tannery carried on until 1871. Other tanneries flourished in different parts of Delaware County.

Cannonsville had its own tannery when, in 1855, James A. Kenyon began tanning as many as 10,000 hides each year. For this operation he used 2,000 cords of hemlock bark. Between 1815 and 1885 an estimated fifty to seventy million hemlock trees were cut for their bark. The wood of these trees was unused and left in the woods where it lay. During this period some fifty tanneries were in operation in Delaware County and elsewhere in the region.

Many of the hides tanned in Cannonsville were carted in from Kingston and returned there. The Kenyon tannery was located further down the creek from the sawmill built by Mr. Dickson. After the 1900s the vine and brush overgrown vats or ovens of the old tannery could still be seen clearly. Children played in them.

In the old tanneries there were no hurried or high efficiency procedures. Made by digging pits the tanning vats sometimes were seventy feet deep. The vats were lined with blue clay. Boards were used for lining, also. The bottom of the pit was first covered with hemlock bark. Oak or chestnut bark could be used but hemlock bark was especially high in tannin. Next came a layer of hides and more layers of bark until the vat was full to the top.

On top of the vat were put layers of bark then water poured in to cover the vat’s contents. While the hides in the vat were slowly soaking in the tannic acid the workmen kept busy cutting the fat from fresh hides and removing the hair after repeatedly soaking the hides in lime water. When the partly tanned leather in the pit was “ripe” it had to be transferred to a second vat with more of the spent bark and less of the fresh so the leather would not be burnt in the final tanning process.

The smell of tannery was awful, probably much like that of the paper mills of today. People of Cannonsville learned to like the smell because of the wealth the tannery brought to the village. Tanning was a very lucrative business. But after 1880 it was a thing of the past.

As was true of the home tanned leather the fully tanned leather was stiff as a board and brittle. Oils and stuffing greases were worked or curried into the leather to make it soft and pliable. If this was a man’s trade he was called a “currier.” The raw leather was soaked in various solutions that dyed or filled its pores with softening and preservative substances, oils and grease. Wrinkles were removed by brushing, scraping and rolling. For all these steps the currier had only hand implements.

Much of the finished leather went to the harness maker. To withstand the strains of work done by a horse or ox on a farm or in a forest, harnesses had to be strong and as harness making became more and more complex the work required considerable expertise. Tools used by the harness maker were very much like those of the shoemaker. The harness maker also made saddles. With his material in front of him clamped in a wooden vise and held taut by a leather strap to a stirrup and kept in place by the workman’s knees, the saddle maker worked seated on a wooden horse. The saddle maker’s skills were inherited from the saddle makers of medieval Europe. Most of the saddle makers were itinerant, traveling from settlement to settlement on horseback.

Exploring DCHA's Collections

Aside from numerous arrow heads and other Native American items, one of the oldest pieces in DCHA's collections is a 17th century Jacobean oak chest (pictured below). The chest was brought from England with the Bryant family when they immigrated to the United States around 1800.

The Bryants settled on a farm between Andes and Margaretville at the foot of Palmer Hill. They also operated an inn for many years which was located on the farm once (1971) owned by Sheldon Ackerly. Unfortunately, the inn burned and the barn is the only original building still standing on the site.

David and Ann Smith of Delhi (see article on Ann Smith on p. 3) bought the antique chest from Ella Oches of Andes in 1954. In 1983 they donated it to DCHA.

Ella Oches was a relative of Ashael Bryant from whom she inherited the chest. It was Ashael's parents who brought it with them from England when they came to the United States.

The chest is of stile and rail construction, doweled with wooden pins or pegs used to fasten it together. The legs are short and straight, formed by an extension of the frame called stiles. It has three slightly sunken panels in front and back and two at each side. It is early because of its architectural carved panels with a semblance of arches, which were observed among the first chests. The design is arcades enclosing leafage and tulip motif and is flat in slight relief. The end panels and back panels are not carved. The top rail of the chest is also carved in the arch motif of acanthus leaves. The rails are plain at the bottom in the front, back and sides with a running motif banding the edges.

The rails are chamfered, as are the legs, where they are grooved to receive the panels. The top of the chest originally was one piece, with a wide thumbnail molding with end cleats. Hinges were originally cotter-pin type which were replaced by the strap iron type.

The chest represents one of the earliest forms of furniture and the paneled variety is a fine example of the best form of construction, dating back to the fifteenth century. The framed tulip pattern was common on many chests in England before 1660. A chest could serve as a chair or table; since it was portable it could also serve as luggage, but above all, a chest provided storage space, a vital necessity before there were closets.

Today, the chest shows its centuries of constant use.

Ashael Bryant, 1890s
Main Street, Andes.
DCHA Collections

At some point, a shelf was placed on top of the chest. In doing this, the lid was cut in two. The old lock is missing, as are parts of the end cleats on the lid. When the chest began to shrink it was reinforced by pieces of iron in the middle running front to back and on the ends with a strap of iron. The iron pieces are fastened with old type nails. It looks as if the Bryants fastened the lid down with screws, perhaps when they brought the chest from England.

Inside the chest there is a box on the left side which is probably a later addition. It is nailed together with old type nails. The left corner of the interior is charred from fire. It is enforced on the inside by a piece of wood at each end which is fastened to the stiles. This is a much later addition. The lid has a piece of its thumbnail molding missing on the left corner.

Left: Bryant chest.
Above: Close up view of one panel

Excerpts from *A Book of Choice Recipes*, ca. 1915

Contributed by Friends of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Griffin's Corners and Fleischmanns, N.Y.
Compiled by a committee of ladies and published for the benefit of the church.

PUFFET. – Two eggs well beaten, one tablespoonful sugar, a piece of butter the size of an egg, beat all together quite thin; add one pint of sweet milk. When all are well mixed add one quart flour and two tablespoonfuls baking powder previously sifted together. Have pans well greased and hot. Bake quick. – Mrs. Angelo Kirke.

CORN GEMS. – One cup buttermilk, one-half cup sweet milk, one egg, two tablespoonfuls butter, two tablespoonfuls sugar, one teaspoonful salt, one teaspoonful soda, one-fourth teaspoonful cream tartar, one cup corn meal, one and one-fourth cups flour. – Mrs. J.M.B. Hitt.

COFFEE CAKE. – One cup sugar, lump of butter size of an egg, one egg, one cup water, two teaspoonfuls baking powder, flour enough to make a soft dough. Bake in a pan to have the cake about one and one-half inches thick and when cooked spread top with butter then sprinkle powdered sugar and cinnamon on top. – Mrs. Katie L. Schaefer.

QUICK SALLY LUNN. – One cup sugar, one half cup butter, rub butter and sugar well together, add two eggs, one pint sweet milk, three cups flour, three teaspoonfuls baking powder. To be eaten hot. – Mrs. Jacob Biehler.

CREAMED OYSTERS. – One pint cream, a little more than a pint of oysters, one tablespoonful flour, salt and pepper to taste; let the cream come to a boil; mix the flour with a little cold milk and stir into the boiling cream. Let oysters come to a boil in their own liquor, then skim carefully, drain off liquor and turn oysters into the cream. – Mrs. C.J. Hillis.

PRESSED CHICKEN. – Boil chicken until tender, take out all the bones and chop the meat very fine; season with salt, pepper and plenty of butter; add to the liquor in which the chicken was boiled, one cup of bread crumbs moistened with hot water, and to this the chopped chicken; when heated take out and press into a basin. – Mrs. A. Kirke.

APPLE SNOW. – Peel and grate one large sour apple; sprinkle over it a small cupful of powdered sugar as you grate it to keep from turning dark. Break into this the whites of two eggs and beat it all constantly for half an hour. Take care to have it in a large bowl as it beats up very stiff and light. Heap this in a glass dish and pour a custard around it and serve. – Mrs. D. Slover.

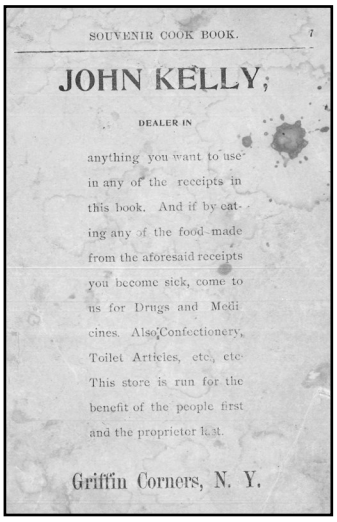
COTTAGE PUDDING. – Two eggs, one cup sugar, butter size of walnut, one-half cup of milk, one and one-half cups flour, two teaspoons baking powder. Bake twenty minutes and serve with sauce. – Mrs. O.A. Hitt.

PRUNE WHIP. – Stew one pound of prunes, sweeten to taste; when perfectly cold, add the whites of four eggs beaten to a stiff froth. Stir all this together until light. Put in a pudding dish and bake twenty minutes. Serve with whipped cream. – Mrs. O.A. Hitt.

KISS PUDDING. – Beat the yolks of three eggs and one-half cup sugar till light; add one and one-half tablespoons corn starch; stir in one pint boiling milk; stir on the stove till thick, pour in a pudding dish; beat the whites of the eggs with one-half cup sugar; spread over the top and brown. – Mrs. A. Judd.

MOCK MINCE PIE. – One half cup brown sugar, one-half cup molasses, one half cup water, and a half cup vinegar, a little butter, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and raisins, two crackers or two slices of bread crumbled fine. Bake with two crusts. – Mrs. DeWitt Griffin.

PORK CAKE. – One pound pork chopped fine, let it boil two minutes in half pint of water; one cup molasses, two cups sugar, three eggs, two teaspoonfuls soda. Cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg. One pound raisins chopped fine. This makes three loaves. – Mrs. E.M. Lasher.


SOUVENIR COOK BOOK. 7

JOHN KELLY,

DEALER IN

anything you want to use in any of the receipts in this book. And if by eating any of the food made from the aforesaid receipts you become sick, come to us for Drugs and Medicines. Also Confectionery, Toilet Articles, etc., etc. This store is run for the benefit of the people first and the proprietor last.

Griffin Corners, N. Y.

Ad from cookbook, transcript below

John Kelly,
DEALER IN
anything you want to use in any of the receipts in this book. And if by eating any of the food made from the aforesaid receipts you become sick, come to us for Drugs and Medicines. Also Confectionery, Toilet Articles, etc., etc. This store is run for the benefit of the people first and the proprietor last.
Griffin Corners, N.Y.

Farmers and Failures

Pin up two facts to be considered when you are discouraged: There are fewer business failures among farmers than among any other class; more men begin without capital and become owners of good business in farming than in any other vocation.

Three wants are responsible for nine of every ten unprofitable farms – want of cultivation, want of manure, and want of drainage.

Neither social obligations nor good morals require you to lend to him who does not take good care of tools, or who does not return them promptly.

Delaware Republican November 28, 1903

Lucky, Lucky!

Tony Giaccone was the lucky winner of our 2023 Raffle. The winning ticket was drawn out of the hat at our annual meeting in November.

Tony won a quilt that was donated to DCHA specifically as a fundraiser to be raffled this year. It measures 82" x 93" and has blocks with a heart pattern. The main material has a pattern of pink and white flowers, the heart pattern is created with a black material with gold designs.

Thank you to those who bought tickets. $508 was raised for DCHA!

Capital Fundraising Update

As many of you are aware, DCHA has been actively soliciting donations over the past three years for our capital appeal. Our goal is to raise enough money through our own efforts and through local, state and federal grants to construct a new collections building immediately behind our main office building.

We are pleased to report that through the generosity of members and friends we have raised over $22,000 during 2023! Taking into account expenses already incurred (numerous soil and water tests, septic tests, architectural drawings, museum consultant) we now have approximately $85,000 set aside for construction of the new building.

Thank you to all who have given and helped DCHA in any way during 2023! We wish you a peaceful holiday season and a prosperous 2024.

EXTRAORDINARY

Mrs. Ira Betts, of Elk Creek, brought to this office on Tuesday a large cucumber which she took from the vine about the middle of last September, perfectly preserved and apparently as fresh as when picked. It has remained thus without special care, lying on the writing desk in her kitchen all this time. This remarkable variety of pickle timber is one which yields prolificly, Mrs. Betts having supplied three families with the fruit from six vines and retained this specimen for next season's crop. Originally she procured the seed from a nurseryman named Brewster in Rockford, Ill., who offered a prize of $100 for a satisfactory name for the cucumber which has such wonderful keeping qualities. They possess all the desirable essentials of the other varieties and seem to fill the bill for "green truck" the year around, even in this Northern clime.

Delaware Republican
February 4, 1904

Fish on Hook Two Weeks

Stamford – When Charles Ingalls was fishing through the ice with tip-ups, a fish got on one of his lines and pulled tip-up and all down through the hole. Two weeks later Lee Cornell went to the same pond for some pickerel fishing. He had a bite and when he pulled in a stout pickerel he found in its mouth a hook and a long piece of line with Ingalls's tip-up, with his name printed on it. The fish had been dragging that outfit around for two weeks.

Delaware Express
February 12, 1942

Another Woman Milk Tester

Bloomville – Miss Anna Dorosky has a position in the Sheffield creamery here, where she will do office work and also take training as a milk tester.

This is the first time that a woman has been employed at the local plant, although other Sheffield plants do employ women, as it is increasingly difficult to get men for the work. She is the daughter of Anthony Dorosky and a graduate of Bloomville High School.

Delaware Express
February 19, 1942

History Corner

Carrying on the Good Fight: Grace McNee

by Samantha Misa

Grace McNee was born on March 14, 1913 to Elizabeth Aitken and William McNee of DeLancey. In 1939, she married Joseph Paul Heltman, a lawyer from Ohio, and began working as a nurse at the Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City.

Her marriage and civilian career ended only four years later with the death of her husband. Second Lieutenant Heltman served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and was killed in action in North Africa on March 20, 1943. Lt. Heltman was interred in an American military cemetery in North Africa.

Several months after her husband's death, McNee joined the Women's Army Corps (WACs) as a nurse.

Grace McNee Heltman being sworn in as a WAC, 1943. Bob Wyer Photo

The *Catskill Mountain News* lauded Grace McNee Heltman for "courageously carrying on the good fight in place of her dead soldier-husband." McNee entered the service as a Second Lieutentant – the same rank as her late husband.

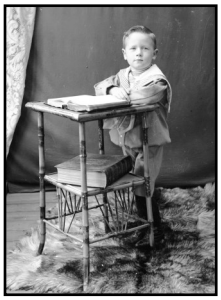
McNee was sworn into the service in 1943 and served to the end of the war. Subsequently, she made the military her career. In the 1950s, she was stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas, where she worked as the chief physical therapist at the base hospital and was promoted to Major. While stationed in Texas, Major Heltman met Captain Antonio Francisco de Agniar of Portugal, who served as an aeronautical engineer in the Portuguese Air Force. Captain de Agniar was in the United States with a group of Portuguese airmen who were receiving specialized engine mechanic training.

McNee married de Agniar, and left the military to follow her husband to Portugal, where they stayed for a year. Upon her return to the US, McNee worked at the Albany Veteran's hospital before re-joining the Air Force in 1956. McNee, now known as Major de Agniar, served in Texas before being assigned to Tachacawa Air Force Base in Japan. She was forced to return to the US after contracting an unknown illness, and was treated at Walter Reed Hospital. Two years later, in 1961, she died at age 48.

Second Lieutenant Grace McNee Heltman, 1944. Bob Wyer Photo

The well-traveled, well-respected Air Force nurse, deemed "the best known physio-therapist in the United States," was buried in Delhi's Woodland Cemetery.

2024 DCHA EVENTS ~ SAVE THE DATES



Saturday, January 27, 2024 ~ Desserts and Diaries at 2pm *(Snow date – Feb. 3)*
Chase away the winter blahs … visit the museum for an afternoon of delectable delights! Come and listen to readings of historic diaries, letters and narratives from DCHA's collections while enjoying a sumptuous buffet of desserts. **Reservations required by January 24th. Cost: $10.00 per person.** *Call 607-746-3849 or e-mail dchadelhi@gmail.com to reserve.*

Sunday, February 25 ~ Basket Workshop ~ 12pm to 5pm *(Snow date – March 2)*
Participants will learn how to weave a basket for both the beginner and experienced weaver. All materials and tools are included. This class is taught by master basket weaver Martha Bremer. She has been weaving and teaching baskets for more than 30 years (type of basket and cost to be announced).

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Delhi, NY 13753

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

DCHA's Board of Directors
Richard Meyer, President; Sheila Ayres, Vice-President; Gabrielle Pierce, Secretary; Roy Scrimshaw, Treasurer; Kay Parisi-Hampel, Virginia Sanford, Michael Wood.

DCHA's H. Fletcher Davidson Library/Archives is open year-round Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 3pm. *By Appointment Only*. For more information on the library's holdings, contact DCHA.

DCHA is located on State Hwy 10, 2.5 miles north of Delhi.
Our address is 46549 State Highway 10, Delhi, NY 13753.
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