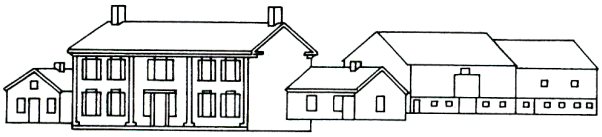


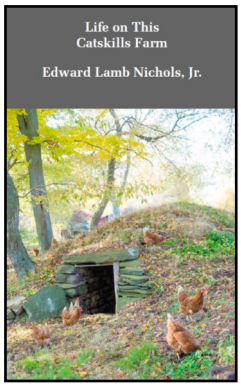
Headwaters of History

The Newsletter of the Delaware County Historical Association

Vol. 28, No. 3 September 2023

Hot Off the Press...

Life on This Catskills Farm, by Edward Lamb Nichols, Jr. is DCHA's latest publication. Designed and edited by Terry Bradshaw.



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 by watching your father tackle projects? 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 in Delaware County stretching all the way back to the late eighteenth century.

We are grateful to the A. Lindsay & Olive B. O'Connor Foundation for funding this publication. DCHA is planning a launch for the book on **Saturday, Sept. 9 at 2pm.** Signed copies will be available to buy; $15.00 each.

New Signs Installed

A shiny new sign board now greets visitors to DCHA. It includes a spacious bulletin board allowing us to hang posters for upcoming events. Earlier this year, the museum's historic buildings also received brand new signs.

This project was funded by the Bert Santora Family Trust. The signs were designed, created and installed by Deb Fleming of Sign Designs.

Frisbee Family Cemetery Update

Earlier this summer, the Oneonta Fence Company installed a new wooden fence on the side of our historic cemetery facing Elk Creek. Not only is the fence visually pleasing, but it also functions as a safety barrier protecting our visitors from the precipitous drop to the creek below!

Much of the funding for this project was generously provided by Delaware County through the Tourism Promotion and Development grant program.

Before

… and after

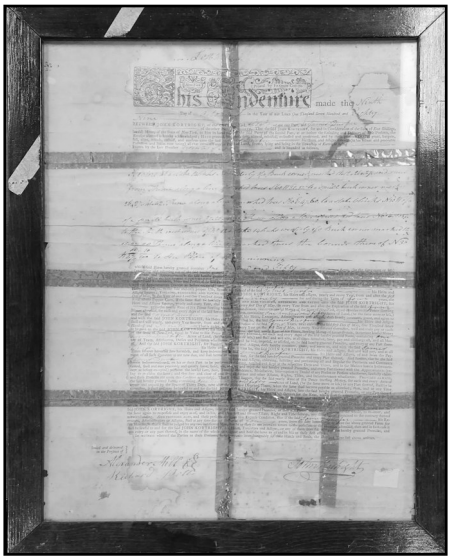
From the Archives: Caring for Your Family Heirlooms

by Ray LaFever

What's the point of keeping a cherished family document or photograph if you don't show it off, put it on display, or pass it around at family reunions?

The problem with doing this is the damage that can be inflicted on your family treasures. Hanging them on your walls will cause irreversible light damage. Instead, consider having the item scanned, get a nice photo print of it, and put that on the wall. Then you can pass the print around at family reunions.

Meanwhile, store the original item in a safe dry place free of temperature extremes and various pests, preferably using archival, acid-free containers. Avoid the attic or basement, unless these spaces are suitable for human occupation. If the space is too hot, too dry or too humid for humans, it's no good for documents and photos.



Resist the urge to repair a family treasure. If a letter is in two pieces, put both pieces in one envelope or use an archival enclosure made of polypropylene (aka Mylar). You can scan the letter with the pieces back together. No tape, paperclips, folding or stapling should be allowed around these items. This image is an indenture from 1789 in our collection that someone many years ago tried to repair via tape. The best we can do now is leave it alone (you would need a professional conservator to remove the tape and, more damaging, the glue from the tape).

Don't do anything that you cannot undo, such as lamination.

I'll have more tips for you when I present our genealogy workshop, **"Caring for Your Family Heirlooms" at 1 pm on Saturday, October 14.** Please see the Calendar of Events in this newsletter.

Sign Up for the *Past by Post* Mailing Program

DCHA is once again offering the *Past by Post* program for those interested in local history. *Past by Post* sends participants a bi-monthly mailing that includes a high-quality copy of a historic document from our archives, a typed transcription of the document for easier reading, and a page of information about the writer of the document and their circumstances. The program will run for five months, with participants receiving a total of 10 historic documents – this year, the documents will be diary entries.

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of South Central New York, **this program is being offered for free!**

Anyone interested in having history delivered to their mailbox should send their name and mailing address to dchadelhi@gmail.com or call 607-746-3849. **Participants must sign up for this program no later than November 30, 2023.** The first mailing will be sent out in early December.

Looking to give this program as a gift? Let us know and we'll send the recipient a note that they have been gifted a subscription to *Past by Post,* which explains the program and when the documents will be mailed out.

Workmen felled a maple tree on the Campbell lumber job in Gregory Hollow that is worthy of note. From it they cut four 12-ft. logs and one 14-ft. log and at the top end, 62 feet from the stump, the tree was two feet in diameter.

– Delaware Republican, September 15, 1923

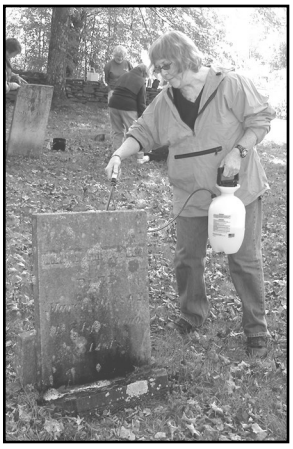
Arena Lost Checker Match at Sidney

The Arena-Cortland checker match played in the Moose Club rooms at Sidney last Monday evening, resulted in a victory for the Cortland team, 21 to 18 with 9 games drawn. Walter Liddle and Woodrow Gregory won 5 games each, accounting for 10 of the 18 wins for Arena. – Arena Cor.

– Delaware Express, September 25, 1936

A Guide to Proper Gravestone Cleaning

by Marianne Greenfield



Marianne Greenfield cleaning a stone in the Frisbee Cemetery, 2011

The best reason to clean gravestones is to document the information on the gravestone. "If you can read it, there's no need to clean it."

- ◊ Don't clean gravestones until the danger of frost is past so the water doesn't freeze and expand, damaging the stone. Don't try to move a fallen gravestone.
- ◊ Spray D/2* on all aspects - top, bottom, sides - of the stone and let it sit for 5-10 minutes. Use a wooden paint stick or a plastic scraper to scrape the lichen off. The pointed end of a bamboo skewer or a bamboo chopstick can be used for cleaning the lettering and decoration.
- ◊ **<u>NO</u> WIRE BRUSHES, HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS, POWER WASHING, CHALK, FLOUR, SHAVING CREAM, WINDEX, DISH SOAP, VINEGAR.**
- ◊ You may use plain water or D/2, which can be purchased at http://atlaspreservation.com. Consult a professional conservator with questions.
- ◊ Use a pail for wash water and a plastic, nylon or natural bristle brush. Avoid applying pressure when scrubbing. Rinse after cleaning with clean water. Clean from the top down. Frequently wet your brush in a pail of wash water. Keep the stone wet as long as you're working on it to avoid abrasion. Some gravestones may have permanent stains or marble deterioration.
- ◊ Old gravestones are fragile, especially old marble tablet stones. Don't use force and don't use the gravestone to assist you in standing from a kneeling position. Don't sit on gravestones.
- ◊ Minimize cleaning gravestones to no more frequently than 10 years.
- ◊ Take a photograph and also write down the information you can now read on the gravestone, just as it is on the stone, mistakes and all.
- ◊ You must have permission from the family, the Town or Village to clean any gravestones that aren't your own family.
- ◊ You are responsible and liable for any damage that occurs to the gravestones you're cleaning or other gravestones in the cemetery. That includes any damage that occurs as a result of backing up your car when working, or driving through a cemetery.

Finally, be respectful. Stop cleaning if there's a funeral or someone near you is in mourning.

** D/2 is a biological solution specifically designed for cleaning stone and other surfaces.*

How to preserve Cider

A correspondent in the *Providence Journal*, having in view the prospect of an abundant cider season, recommends to those farmers whose orchards are well supplied with apples, and who are desirous of preserving their wholesome juice to seasons less productive, the following manner of preservation, which has been successfully tested by experiment:

Take your first made cider, which is fit only for the still, and convert it into brandy; put nine gallons of this brandy into a new barrel; then fill the barrel with late made cider, well strained, and bung it tight. This gives you the strength of near four barrels of cider in one. The strength given to it by the brandy will preserve its sweetness entire for many years. The barrels should be new and clean. To guard against the rotting which is caused by damp cellars, they should be iron bound and well painted. In this manner any farmer who has the trait, may put up in six barrels, the essence of twenty barrels of good cider, and keep it until a time of need. It will *fine* itself; and will grow better with an increase of age. Besides, if it is not wanted as cider, it is a very pleasant cordial, when *undiluted*; and, with the addition of a bushel of wild grapes, bruised, and put into each barrel, it imbibes the peculiar flavour of the grape, and becomes a very pleasant wine. – Now is the time for grinding up the early windfalls; and the cider which these produce, if distilled, will furnish the brandy necessary for making the cider wine.

– *Delaware Gazette*, September 25, 1822

1869 Diary Excerpts of Elizabeth "Libbie" Gay, Franklin, NY

Elizabeth Ann (Libbie) Gay was born in 1850 to Jotham and Elizabeth Ann Swart who died giving birth. This diary was written one year before Libbie married Charles Knapp.

Charles Knapp was born in 1845 on a small farm on Roaring Brook in the town of Treadwell (then Croton). After their 1870 marriage, Charles and Libbie bought a farm on Case Hill in Treadwell. The farm passed to their daughter Minnie Theresa (Knapp) Ashe.

Libbie died in 1923. Her husband predeceased her in 1910. They are buried in Franklin's Ouleout Valley Cemetery.

Libbie's diary was donated by Charles Ashe in 1986.

NOTE: Original grammar and spelling maintained.

Saturday, August 7, 1869
Sewed a part of the day it was pleasant and cold. Went and picked four quarts of Black Raspberries and gave them to Mrs. Bush. Cousin Wm and I went down to the village after milking. I saw the Eclipse it was quite extensive and the light of day was quite dimmed.

Sunday, August 8
It has been a splendid day. We all went to Croton to Church and on our way home stopped to E. Wolcotts for tea, saw Miss Manchester there. Home in time to milk of course no getting out of that Jackson drove by with a lady, he bowed. I went to bed early.

Monday, August 9
Has been very pleasant all day. I have washed lazed H begun fixing my plants but conducted to go berrying after milking as I found two cows which were missing and so my plants are left. Alvin has come to help finish the haying I am feeling pretty blue.

Tuesday, August 10
Has been very pleasant today. Mr Abell and Alvin are here to work they are getting along finely. I have I armed dressed the old rooster (which weighed 6 ½ lbs with his feathers off) put new dirt in my flowers washed the kitchen windows besides playing cow boy doing house work to.

Wednesday, August 11
Has not been very pleasant today. Have had both a schorching sun and a little shower I have fixed an old dress over short also my skirt to wear with it, so now I have a nice rig. After milking Holden and I went fishing I got very wet and have a headache Cousin Wm didn't bring any wished for letters.

Thursday, August 12
Has been very pleasant kids and Cousin John has finished haying I am glad of it for now I shant have to drive cows so much nor milk so many. Cousin Polly has started for Meredith. I have been reading Ledger sewing H. After milking I went up to Mr. Taylors, Saw Mrs. Grant there.

Friday, August 13
Has been stormy today I have been sewing all day and have nearly finished my dress. Cousin Wm carries the milk. John G came in a while this evening the first time since I came home. We got our mail tonight and I am greatly disappointed in not having a letter.

Saturday, August 14
Has been very pleasant. I swept the rooms made a cake and finished my dress. In the after noon Electra and I went up to Mr. Emmersons lot after a mess of peas Gunsta G came over and made a visit, & for fine work I went to mending and shortening up my old recline dress I don't know as I have any faith in anyone

Sunday, August 15
Has been a very stormy day. We had the milk to carry but Cousin Wm took Mr. Abells establishment and we went to Church. There no meeting at the Pres. or Cong. So we had a full house. I came home with a severe headache, wrote two letters in the evening and then retired.

Monday, August 16
Has been cloudy all day. Electra and I have done a large washing and put out the clothes but they have not dried. Miss. Plainfield has put up here tonight. I have traded 0.25 As will her I was reading that snow fell near Andes on the sixth of July. I wanted to go to Lodge tonight but could not.

Tuesday, August 17
Has been a very stormy day. Our large wash is out on the line soaking. Have been helping Cousin Mary on her silk dress and washing on my night dress. Cousin Polly came home from Meredith today and now the talk is all about Being Warmton I do want to go with them but Cousin Wm isn't willing.

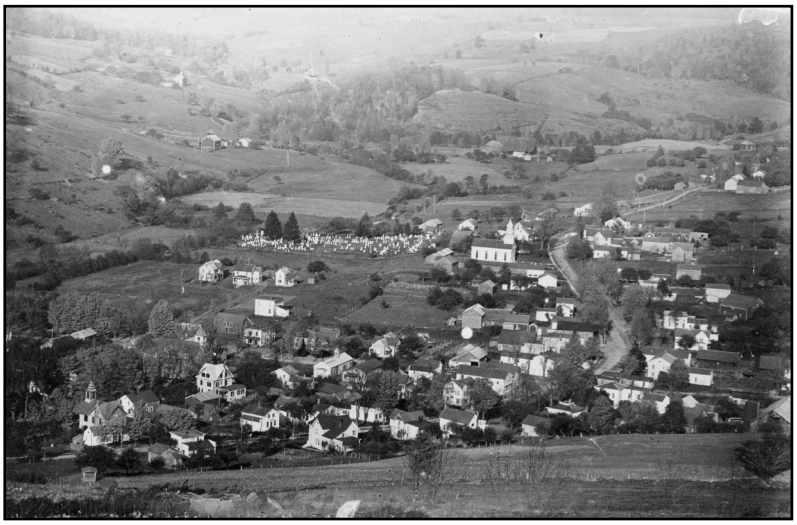
Wednesday, August 18
Has been very pleasant came down in F in the morning and expected to stay until Sat. night. I bought me a Waterproof cloak. For the evening I made a call down to Mr. Barrts & find village life lonely now that the girls or my girls are gone and some times wish my self back home.

Thursday, August 19
Went up to Mrs. Nobles this morning and had my cloak cut it took about all the for noon. in the afternoon I sewed on it. Went over to the office and found a letter to my magazine went down to call on Amelia and in my walk saw Aunt Abian

Friday, August 20
Helped do up the work and then went to sewing on my cloak. After tea went up to Mrs. Wakemans and delivered over the Society mallet which I had in my possession. for the evening ~~to our surprise George made his appearance~~ and staid I read the Ledger which I had just brought home.

Saturday, August 21
Had just finished the dishes when I saw a berry in party starting off and I thought I would go I left my work and started. I came back at 11 o'clock with 4 quarts in the P.M. it rained so that I could not go home. In the evening George came.

Sunday, August 22
Pleasant and very warm went to Church and Sabeth school. As there was but two services held today our Church was crowded. Charlie was down after the Dr. and I rode up with him. He staid on while Cousin Wm & John went on up to meeting as usual.



Birds-eye view of Treadwell (Croton). DCHA Archives

Monday, August 23
About noon went down to the village. Have at last made up my mind to go with Electra and have enough to do to get ready. Frank came over a little while. We went over to the Lodge sooner and stores. Then came back and worked until 12 o'clock before we retired.

Tuesday, August 24
Looked like rain in the morning but came off pleasant and hot. Started on the stage at eight and at otego round about 12. people going west. We arrived at Mr. Brownells at about 4 P.M. tired enough, found the people quite pleased to see us

Wednesday, August 25
We were up early to go to Binghamton and started about eight on the cars. I bought a calico and a silk dress besides some other things in the afternoon it rained some & we started for home about 5 o'clock. We took tea at Mr. Jones. I got my suit wet and it soiled it very much.

Thursday, August 26
It has been very pleasant Cousin Polly has been thinking and looking at farms. I have been visiting all day and doing nothing else. Have been over Mr. Jones new house. in the evening we went up to Mr. Jones. Electra is fixing a short rig to pick hops in she has a chance to teach also

Friday, August 27
This morning we started early to come towards home. Stoped at Afton and found no one there that we know and felt sick enough of it, but found Mr. Crerts people glad to see us. At night we went out for a walk went across the suspension bridge & met Gushe

Saturday, August 28
About nine o'clock we started for home. Channey came as far as Bainbridge We had to wait in Otego so we went to John Shloans to dinner they were glad to see us. Julia has put a short line today with us she is misserable Got W Grand Jernce Cousin Wm. Waiting.

Sunday, August 29
It was quite pleasant but we did not go to Church we were all sick or lazy. Cousin Polly is sick with the toothache. Charlie was down in the evening. Mr. King preaches in the Congregational Church today. I would liked to have heard him.

Monday, August 30
Almost cold enough for winter. expected to wash but had word that Mr. Lathrop wanted me to pick hops. And about nine o'clock he came for me. I commenced about ten o'clock and got over one box. The hops are good. But I am home sick.

Tuesday, August 31
It seems much colder today. The wind blows quite cold It is quite favorable for us as our hops will not be likely to sell to much I got two boxes with what I had to begin with. I have Hellen J. for my bed fellow & James Robinson for Box

Mind Your P's and Q's ~ Guide for Women Students (*Excerpts*)

State University of NY Delhi Agricultural and Technical Institute, circa 1955

This guide is designed as a supplement to the catalog and handbook by giving additional detailed information concerning the practices, customs and regulations which are conducive to your own best interests and to the welfare of the group.

The building of personality is the privilege and responsibility of every young person. The following suggestions are given as a guide toward this goal. It is earnestly hoped that each student will acquaint herself with this information so that we may have a group of student citizens who understand and appreciate the rights and privileges as well as the duties and responsibilities of members of a college group.

Entertaining and Dating

Every rooming house cannot give the privileges of entertaining boys or other guests there. However, boys may call for girls and wait in the hall or living room. Suggest to your escort that he knock or ring the door bell and wait to be admitted.

During the open house at the Home Economics House any girl may entertain one or more friends. You are welcome to use the recreational facilities of the house as long as you use them correctly, carefully and return them to proper places. When you entertain, you should 1) plan for some activity, such as cards, ping pong, dancing, games, etc., 2) keep the lights on, 3) consider others – the living rooms should be for the use of everyone and not just for girls who are entertaining men, 4) be adult and guide your actions into acceptable channels, 5) don't be exclusive, 6) watch the clock and have your guest or guests leave before the last minute allowed.

Be discrete in your dating practices. Be selective about your company. Companions who have good manners and treat you with respect and consideration are desirable.

Couples are not to loiter on porches or in the entrances in the evening.

Smoking

No smoking is allowed in any rooming house or building except the room called the Student Lounge in the Home Ec. House and the "Smoker" in Administration building.

Refined girls and women do not smoke on the street.

Mail

Have your mail sent to your rooming house address. Do not touch other people's mail. Do not bring letters to your roommate or housemates.

Delhi Agricultural and Technical Institute
Milk Vending Machine, March 22, 1955
Photo by Bob Wyer

Food

No food, except fruit in good condition, is to be kept in bedrooms.

The housemother is to designate the place that other food, boxes from home, etc., may be kept.

Rooms

Each girl is responsible for the care and appearance of her own room. Girls must make a satisfactory plan and share in the daily and weekly care of their rooms.

Rooms shall be dusted and dustmopped frequently during the week and thoroughly cleaned once a week. Ask the housemother to show you where the tools and supplies are and whether she has special methods you should use.

Beds must be made before leaving the room in the A.M.

Rooms must be cleaned and in order before noon on Saturday and Sunday or before you go home for a weekend.

Do not spill water, perfume or other liquids on any piece of furniture or floor. If you do accidentally, report it right away.

Do not hang coat hangers on top of doors, window rods or pieces of furniture.

Beds are for one person to sleep in – not sit on or for your visitors to flop on.

Do not invite or allow others in your room during quiet hours.

Shoes and slippers must be kept in closets – not under beds.

Knock on any closed door and do not enter until admitted or told to enter.

Do not borrow anything from another's room unless the occupant is in the room and gives her consent. Do not be too willing to lend things to others.

Radios are to be used in accordance with house regulations, never during quiet hours and must always be kept turned low.

No talking to people who are outside the house from any open window.

No shouting at each other or calling to each other in the house.

No running through the halls or taking stairs two at a time.

Ask your housemother where you are to put wet umbrellas, rubbers, or boots.

Study

Study early in the evening.

Do your own studying.

No one is to study in the Student Lounge.

Some Do's and Don'ts to make life happier and easier for all:

Keep your belongings in the places provided for them. Have a locked place for money or give it to your housemother for safe keeping.

Know what you have and take inventory frequently to check that it is in your possession.

Any loss of property should be reported immediately to your housemother or Miss Duncan.

Do not do any writing or letters or lessons requiring writing in the living rooms; use table or desks for thoses.

Shut doors by taking time to close them quietly and turn the knob – not by slamming.

The radio, piano and Victrola in the Home Ec. House may be used during the week between 12 and 1 P.M. and after 4:20 P.M. They may not be used during any lab class or when people are trying to study.

Do not put your feet on any piece of furniture.

Do not put pictures, banners, etc., on walls of woodwork.

Always clean out thoroughly the bath tub, sink washing machine tub, laundry tub, flat iron, dust mop, etc. after each time you use it.

Look for ways to help others – lend a helping hand to someone each day.

Learn by observing those around you who know what is right to do.

Talk, sing, and whistle in low tones or voice.

Always say "please" and "thank you" to everyone.

Wear slippers with soft soles and heels.

Keep your closet doors closed in the day time, open at night.

Put your soiled clothes in a laundry bag or box – not on your closet floor.

Girls may wear slacks and pin curls in the dining room only on Saturday morning and noon.

Quietly enter your rooming houses at all times – someone may be napping, phoning or studying. Do not awaken your roommate or friend to tell her about your date. Save it until morning.

No baths, showers, hair washing or clothes washing may be done any day after 10:20 P.M.

Delhi Agricultural and Technical Institute
Photo by Bob Wyer
December 1, 1955

Don't believe everything you hear (people like to hear themselves make up a good story) and don't pass on a rumor! Be sure that you know what you are saying is true and you could prove what you say. The best way to secure a dependable confirmation or denial of a rumor about anything pertaining to college or fellow students is to go directly to the office or a faculty member.

Above all don't be afraid to make mistakes!

Highlight from DCHA's Collections: Berry Picking in Kortright

A rough sawn board measuring 12 7/8" x 32 ¾" was used as a "canvas" by Jack Elliot in the mid-twentieth century to paint a picture of Marion Abigail Butts and her mother. The pair are depicted going berry picking walking down Brownell Road in the Town of Kortright.

Jack Elliot worked for Marion's father, George Butts and painted to amuse himself. The Butts farm was located on Brownell Rd.

The painting, along with three autograph albums and other photos, were donated to DCHA by Mrs. Gordon Roberts in 1993.

The Old Covered Bridges

By Lily Young Murray

Lily Young Murray was born in Hamden, NY in 1878 or 1879. In 1907 she married Hamden native Roger Murray. The poem below was written about 1940.

Thou ancient servant of the men of long ago.
You've watched the public pass, the waters flow.
Across thy planks, beneath thy beams, girls, boys
afoot, men laden teams have all passed through.
Some paused for shelter from a sudden storm
beneath thy roof, dry safe and warm
thy value well they knew.
You've watched the funerals with their mourners
pass beneath thy sheltering hood.
The happy smile of newly wedded lad and lass
who felt that life was good.
Now times have changed they open doors, to low
are cursed by man with truck and van in haste
their ways to go.
You've watched the river boiling
on its seaward ride
floods, icejams, winds were all by you defied.
You knew no fear.

Now you're condemned, unsafe,
outgrown, they say
Make room for modern travel of this time
and day.
Thus speaks the engineers.
The newer structure that will do thy work
Will have no corners where old memories lurk
of peace or hate.
No kindly roof where robins nest and sing.
No lost off boards where children safely fish in
spring.
A garden worm for bait.
Now workmen soon may bare thy ancient frame.
As sound as when it from the forest came.
To speed the travelers on.
A modern bridge bids for thy load,
brave Monarch of the stream and road
Thy work is done.

Hawley's Covered Bridge

Hawley's Bridge across the Delaware River's West Branch was built in 1859 by Robert Murray. It was replaced by an iron truss structure in 1948. Photo taken in 1936.

DCHA Archives

Recipes from The Pakatakan Cook Book, Margaretville, NY

Tried recipes gathered and arranged by Methodist Ladies' Aid Society
1922, The Roxbury Times Press.

Committee:

Mrs. Hugo Gorsch, Chairman
Mrs. C.J. Ackerley
Mrs. Dewitt Day
Mrs. D. L. Stewart
Mrs. M.S. Van Campen
Mrs. E. C. Tamblyn
Mrs. Elizabeth Ives
Mrs. Elizabeth Rotermund
Mrs. C.C. Faulkner
Mrs. James Mungle
Mrs. N.C. Harrington
Mrs. George Myers
Miss Huldah Allison
Miss Jennie H. Searles

CREAM OF LETTUCE SOUP – 2 ½ cups of veal or chicken stock, 2 heads of lettuce finely chopped, 2 tablespoons rice, ½ cup light cream, ¼ tablespoon onion finely chopped, 1 tablespoon butter, yolk of one egg, few grains of nutmeg, salt, pepper. Cook onions five minutes in butter. Add lettuce, rice and stock. Cook until rice is soft, then add cream, yolk of egg, slightly beaten, nutmeg, salt and pepper. – Lillian Bussy

DAISIES EGGS – Cut the whites of hard boiled eggs in strips and arrange like daisy petals on edge of platter, and place little mound of yolks mixed with salad dressing for center. – Mrs. Hugo Gorsch

EGG BALLS – Boil 4 eggs 10 minutes. Drop into cold water, when cold remove yolks. Pound them to paste. Then beat them with 1 teaspoon salt, little pepper and white of 1 raw egg, form into balls about the size of walnuts. Roll in flour and fry brown in butter or chicken fat, being careful not to burn. – Selected

FRIED CUCUMBERS – Slice. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, dip in egg, then in cracker dust, fry brown.

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES – Slice quite thick, sprinkle with salt and pepper, dip in egg, then in cracker crumbs, fry brown. – Mrs. Hugo Gorsch.

DATE SALAD SANDWICHES – Finely chop celery, walnut meats, and Dromedary dates. Use ½ cup dates to ¼ cup each of celery and walnuts. Moisten well with mayonnaise and spread on buttered slices of bread. Place a crisp lettuce leaf in each sandwich. – Mrs. J. Stanley Bussy.

SUPREME SANDWICHES – Thin slices of nut bread (whole wheat bread will do). Spread one half of the slices which cream cheese, the other half spread with jelly and then put the two slices together.– Mrs. D.L. Todd

DATE STICKS FOR TEA – 2 eggs, beaten, ½ teaspoonful salt, 1 scant cup sugar, 4 tablespoonful sweet milk, 1 box dates cut in pieces, 1 cup walnut meats cut, 1 cup flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder. Bake 30 minutes in a shallow pan in a moderate oven, when cold cut in strips and roll in powdered sugar. – Mrs. James Francisco

EGGLESS SPICE CAKE – Cream 1 cup sugar, ½ cup shortening, add 1 cup sour milk and 2 cups of flour, sifted with 1 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon of cinnamon, ½ teaspoon cloves, 1 cup raisins, a little salt. Bake in steady oven. – Mrs. Ada Delameter

EVERY DAY CAKE – Shortening size of an egg, half butter and half compound, ¾ cup sugar creamed together, add 1 egg unbeaten, 1 cup thick sour milk, 1 ¾ cups flour sifted with 1 level teaspoon soda and 1 rounding teaspoon Royal Baking Powder, ¼ teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon flavoring. Add half the milk then half the flour, stir well, add rest, stir with energy until smooth. Bake in moderate oven in loaf. Sprinkle with cocoanut. – Mrs. Charles P. Elam.

Postcard of Methodist Episcopal Church, Margaretville. DCHA Archives

Colchester Historical Society to Host Harvest Hops Festival

The Colchester Historical Society will host its Harvest Hops Festival on **Saturday, September 30, 2023** from 11 AM to 4 PM at the Shinhopple Memorial Center, 1406 Trout Brook Road, Shinhopple, NY.

The festival will celebrate the history and resurgence of the hops industry in New York State. Visitors will enjoy an exhibit of historical photographs, documents, and artifacts, as well as hops crafts, hops food items, and the society's new 2024 calendar, "Sew Tasty."

At 11:30 AM, Albert C. Bullard, author of *The Hop Farmer's Year*, will give a talk on the history of the hop industry in New York. Bullard earned his M.S. in Folklife Studies and Museum Management from the Cooperstown Graduate program where he also curated and contributed items for the Pope Hops House at the Cooperstown Farmers' Museum. Copies of his book will be available for purchase at the festival.

In the afternoon, guests can enjoy tastings of beers and ciders made with hops from the Roscoe Beer Company and Linder's Cidery. Popular local musician, B.J. Henderickson, will perform from 12-4 PM. The Downsville Lions Club will also be selling brats, hotdogs, German style potato salad, pretzels, and cold drinks.

Suggested donation, $5. For more information please email: info@colchesterhistoricalsociety.org

Funded by the Delaware Dept. of Econ. Dev. Promotions & Marketing Grant.

Capital Appeal: "Building History"

As most of you know, DCHA has embarked on a multi-year effort to construct an approximately 8,000 square foot collections facility. As you may recall, we need the new building because the museum/library has run out of room to keep collecting.

The plan is for our new facility to be situated behind our existing library and archives building. It will be equipped with modern environmental control systems and have plenty of space for us to stay true to our mission of collecting items related to Delaware County's history well into the future.

Although the going has been slower than we'd hoped, we have still made progress. Thanks in part to your prior donations, we have engaged the professional services of a local company, LRM Architecture, and a number of concept plans and drawings have been completed. Other local companies have completed site surveys and further tests. We are now at the point where we need to raise money to fund the completion of final construction documents.

The overall project is expensive. But it's rooted in practical considerations. DCHA has collected tens of thousands of historic items concerning Delaware County for over three quarters of a century. To enable us to continue collecting and preserving for the remainder of the twenty-first century, we need to expand our storage space. What is more, we are obligated to follow best museum practices in all that we do!

Funding for this ambitious project is coming from a variety of sources (Federal, State, Philanthropic Foundations). But we still need your help in allowing us to achieve our goal. Therefore, we are requesting your further assistance in financing the addition.

Hop Picking in Delaware County. DCHA Archives

Soon after you receive your newsletter, DCHA will send out our annual capital appeal letter. All money raised from this appeal drive will be earmarked solely for this important local project.

DCHA is an accredited not-for-profit organization. Thus, any donation on your part is tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

Note: You may also donate to DCHA from our website via PayPal: https://www.dcha-ny.org/

History Corner

The Campaign against Ham Fish

by Samantha Misa

In 1944, Delaware County readers scanned the papers for news of two developments: the war overseas, and the race for the newly formed 29th Congressional district. Two contenders vied for the position - one was Hamilton Fish III, an incumbent Republican, isolationist, and critic of Franklin Roosevelt. The other was Augustus "Gus" Bennet, a Republican from Newburgh, New York, who was determined to use Fish's isolationist policies against him to secure the nomination.

Gus Bennet
October 20, 1944
Catskills Mountain News

Bennet's campaign consisted of large newspaper ads that called Fish the "most useless Republican in Washington" and listed well-known and respected politicians who also disliked Fish, including New York Governor Thomas Dewey and Republican National Committee Chairman Herbert Brownell Jr.

Bennet's ads also listed a string of incriminating evidence that Fish had ties to the Nazi party. "Evidence" included a rumor that a "convicted agent of Nazi Germany" had spread pro-German propaganda outside Fish's Washington office while Fish simply "looked away." Another Nazi agent, Friederich Auhagen, had also reportedly voiced support for Fish and his anti-intervention leanings.

Bennet's campaign also noted that notorious German Bund and Nazi newspapers had printed support for Fish, with Hitler's own newspaper, the *Volkischer Beobachter,* often making "Ham Fish a front page hero." Bennet's campaign also cited instances of Fish's attendance at a pro-Nazi rally, and his family's decision to rent their New York City home out to the Nazi government to operate as a consulate until shut down by the US Government.

Perhaps most damaging for Fish, however, were accusations that he had once said he would "be perfectly willing to have Japan have a Navy equal to ours," a sentiment made even more inflammatory after Fish was photographed with the Japanese Ambassador to the US (see image below).

Bennet's campaign proved successful, as he beat Fish in the election by 5,000 votes. Fish would later sue the Bennet campaign for libel, but the suit ended without any settlement. Although wartime politics cost Fish his spot in congress, his son, Hamilton Fish IV, would later be elected to the US House of Representatives, serving New York.

JAP RALLY. Ham Fish (right) talks things over with Japanese Ambassador to the U. S., K. Horinouchi. Fish was a featured speaker at the Japan Day ceremonies, where this picture was taken. Fish also spoke about Japan in Congress, as follows: *"I would be perfectly willing to have Japan have a Navy equal to ours."* (See the Congressional Record, Vol. 83, p. 783.) He also endorsed expansion of the Jap Navy by saying, *"I am strongly for it and have advocated it all along."* (Congressional Record, Vol. 83, p. 3598.) (Acme Pictures.)

November 3, 1944 *Catskill Mountain News*

Colchester Historical Society to Host Program on Unusual NY State Railroad History

Saturday, October 28, 2023 @ 2 pm at the
Shinhopple Memorial Center, 1406 Trout Brook Road, Shinhopple, NY.

Fleischmanns historian John A. Duda will present a PowerPoint program that will explore a variety of odd and unusual aspects of New York State railroad history. Topics will include: a five-mile railroad that was built in just two weeks, a railroad insurrection that was led by a group of farmers, three incline railways, one of which was private, and the recent trend of converting old railroads into trails. The program will also highlight Colchester's own Delaware and Eastern Railroad. **This program is free and open to the public.** For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society at info@colchesterhistoricalsociety.org

Delaware County Historical Association
46549 State Highway 10
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*. We will also answer mail and e-mail queries for a $15 fee. 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.
For more information call (607) 746-3849 or
send us an e-mail at: dchadelhi@gmail.com
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