



Headwaters of History

DCHA Recognizes Award of Merit Recipients

DCHA's annual meeting was held on Sunday, November 3, 2024. The gathering featured our business meeting and the annual presentation of 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 individuals and groups were recognized for their achievements:

Walton Theatre Preservation Association

As noted on the Walton Theatre website:

The group "was organized to ensure the restoration and enhancement of the Walton Theatre building and its theatrical equipment." The Association has done a beyond impressive job in preserving, restoring and maintaining this gem.

The Association has been successful in completing numerous projects, including restoration of the balcony with new seating and restoration of the hardwood floors; new state-of-the-art equipment for both live shows and feature films; dedication of the meeting hall to Andrea Paternoster, the first President of the Association (a 2009 DCHA award winner), along with many other projects.

This enthusiastic and dedicated group consists of: Jim Rice, Chairperson; Gale Sheridan, Vice Chairperson; Jim Richardson, Treasurer; Vickie O'Brien, Secretary; Paula O'Brien, Lisa Favret, Sandy Sheradin, Molly Taylor, Kathleen Hayek, Jon Cocks, Jayne Francisco, Chris Howland, Chris Morgan, Janet Pucci and Nate Jameison.

Delaware County Diggers

This group is well-known to DCHA as they volunteered their time and services for our 2024 *History Happening* event for schoolkids in June. The Diggers consist of: Jason Schwartz (President of the

Walton Historical Society) & Chris and Kim Altmann of East Meredith.

They get permission from property owners before heading out to metal detect on private land. If their luck is in, they will locate and dig up artifacts of all kinds, including coins, jewelry, military medals and objects, etc.

At the conclusion of a hunt, the Diggers return all items to the property owners, unless given permission to keep them. An unofficial motto is, "Artifacts do not need to be lost forever underground and should be enjoyed by new generations."

Eli Taylor, Margaretville

Eli is 19 years old and serves as a member of the Board of the Historical Society of Middletown (HSM). His enthusiasm for history became apparent years ago and together with other members of his family, he has participated in most of the ten Living History Cemetery Tours staged by HSM. Whenever HSM needs volunteers for an event or a cleanup, the family is nearly always the first to volunteer.

On November 2, 2024 Eli gave a presentation at the annual meeting of the HSM entitled, "The Lost Battalion of WWI." He wore the authentic uniform he has assembled and exhibited vintage accoutrements.

This quote is from one of the nominations: "We believe that Eli de-

serves this award not only for his knowledge of World War I, but also for the passion he has and the continuous effort he has put toward inspiring others to never forget the sacrifices of all our veterans."

Scott Payne, Deposit

Since 2014 Scott has hosted the annual American Battlefield Trust's "Park Day" at the Revolutionary War Cemetery in Deposit. Many volunteers come



L to R: Jim Rice, Jason Schwartz, Eli Taylor, Scott Payne.

From the Archives: Harold McMurdy and his Chauffeur License Pictures

by Ray LaFever



We have in past exhibits featured chauffeur license pictures taken by Bob Wyer. But he wasn't the only Delhi photographer doing this. Harold McMurdy (pictured left) took a series of these from the late 1930s into the 1950s.

The term chauffeur license is somewhat generic. These images were taken for use in licenses or IDs. If you drove a vehicle for a living, you needed a chauffeur license.

The McMurdy collection was rehoused back in the 1980s or early 1990s in archival enclosures. Most of the images had names written on them, though about 15% do not. We started a project this summer to scan these and have probably 60% of them done (which is over 900 images). Peter Marotta, a Delhi resident and stu-

dent at Hartwick College, did his summer internship at DCHA and spent part of this time scanning the images and entering them in a database. And now our newest volunteer, Kathleen Curran, has taken on the project. When

we're done, we'll post an index of the names on our website.

It appears most of the subjects are from around the Delhi area, also including Bovina, Delancey, Hamden, and Treadwell (though many of them did not include a town). I was particularly interested in the three images of H. Fletcher Davidson, (one pictured above) for whom our library and archives are named.



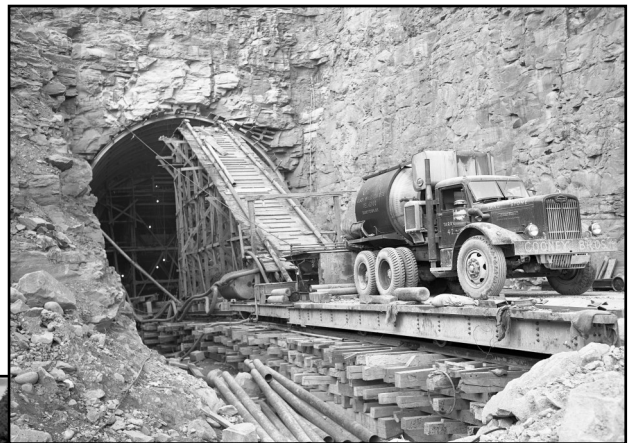
McMurdy's
Studio
WILL REOPEN
MON., APR. 22
License Photos
Portraits
Commercial Photography
Etc.
Harold McMurdy
Main St. Delhi, N. Y.

Ad from the *Delaware Republican*, 1946

Exhibit: *Constructing Catskill Reservoirs*

Recently opened at Hartwick College is an exhibit relating to Delaware County history, titled *With that Shadow Over Them: Constructing Catskill Reservoirs, Remembering Home*. Through photographs, oral history and memorabilia, this exhibit tells the story of how the Pepacton and Cannonsville Reservoirs were built and how the dislocation they wrought has been remembered. Drawing heavily on materials loaned by the Delaware County Historical Association, the exhibit highlights moments captured by well-known local figures such as photographer Bob Wyer and noted fly-tier Walter Dette (two Dette images included here). Audio displays include excerpts of newly digitized interviews with Dette conducted in 1985, in which he recalls working on tunnel and dam construction. The exhibit invites visitors to learn about Hartwick's connection as a repository for the original transcripts from the eminent domain hear-

ings that document experiences and memories of more than 1,400 claimants.



The exhibit will be on display through **July 31, 2025** in the Elting Gallery at the Yager Museum of Art & Culture, located on the first floor of Yager Hall. The Museum is free and open to the public. For visiting information including hours please see the Museum's website at: <https://www.hartwick.edu/campus-life/arts-culture/yager-museum/> or call (607) 431-4423.

William J. Clark: Civil War Veteran and Sheriff of Delaware County

by Lori T. Andersen

Note: The spelling of the family surname "Clark" was for the most part used through the 1890s and then the spelling "Clarke" was generally used from the 1890s forward.

"The dilapidated County Hotel, heretofore known as the 'Clark House,' has received a new landlord, reduced its price of board, and will hereafter be known as the 'Crawford House.' But in spite of its excellent landlords and cheap fare, it is likely to remain an unpopular and dilapidated concern, in the future as in the past, patronized principally by tramps, criminals, and lunatics."

With that notice in the January 3, 1880 issue of the *Delaware Republican*, William J. Clark's three-year term as Sheriff of Delaware County ended and the new Sheriff, John Crawford, began his term.

Born in 1840, William J. Clark was one of six children born to Robert and Julia Clark. He was the fifth child and fourth son. In the early 1860s, the Clark family established a homestead in Hobart which was located at the current site of Second Wind Furniture and Antiques. The house was the Clark family gathering place through the years until it was sold in 1912. William was occasionally in residence at the homestead during the 1860s and he frequently visited his mother and his sister there from the 1870s until his death in 1897. The former Clark house burned in 1941 and was eventually torn down.

William led an exciting life. When he was 16 years old, he worked as a farm laborer in the town of Colchester. In 1858, at the age of 18, he moved to the Kansas territory, where he claimed to have served with the abolitionist John Brown during the Bleeding Kansas uprisings. While he was in Kansas, William lived with the Baysinger family. Although there isn't any solid evidence that William served with John Brown, one of the Baysinger sons, Elias, was confirmed to have served with John Brown. Still in Kansas in 1859, William was shot in the leg while in pursuit of horse thieves near Fort Scott and shortly thereafter contracted malaria. This prompted his return to New York and prevented him from traveling with John Brown to Harpers Ferry.

In 1862, William enlisted in the 144th NYS Volunteers. A full six feet tall with black eyes, black hair, and a dark complexion, William was a natural leader. He was mustered into Company H on September 27, 1862 as a corporal and worked his

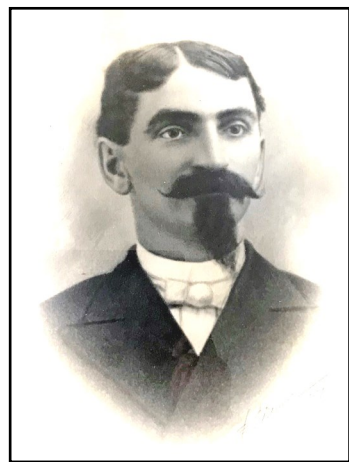
way up the ranks - promoted to Sergeant on May 1, 1863, to 1st Sergeant on May 15, 1864, and to 2nd Lieutenant on November 28, 1864. He fought in battles in Virginia and South Carolina, including the Battle of Honey Hill in November 1864. A few months after the Battle of Honey Hill, William was shot in the neck by a sharpshooter during a skirmish at James Island causing him to suffer from neuralgia thereafter.

The soldiers of the 144th were discharged on June 25, 1865 at Hilton Head, South Carolina. They were mustered out on September 27, 1865 when they returned to Delhi, exactly three years to the day they were mustered in. Because of his war injury, William eventually received a disability pension of \$8.00/month. In spite of the neuralgia, he still worked in strenuous occupations and participated in leisure time pursuits that required strength, speed, and agility.

William returned to Hobart after the war and worked as a cooper making tubs, churns, and firkins. In 1867 he married Emma J. Davenport of Davenport, New York. His brother Charles had married Emma's sister, Caroline, one year earlier. Emma and Caroline's grandfather, John Davenport, was the first supervisor of Davenport. The town of Davenport was named after him.

William and Emma's first child, John Davenport Clarke was born in 1869 and their second child, Ella (Eleanor) May Clark was born in 1870. In November 1876, running on the Republican ticket, William was elected sheriff of Delaware County. He moved the family to Delhi, the county seat, to serve his three-year term. After his term ended, he stayed in Delhi and worked building several houses on Clinton Street.

William was very involved in community activities. During his time living in Hobart, he became a member of St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge, No. 289, F. & A. M. From 1874 through 1876 he served as the Master of this lodge and remained a member until



William J. Clark c. 1887



William J. Clark c. 1864

✍ **Diary Excerpts of Sarah Signor ~ Walton, NY ~ 1894** ✍

Sarah Signor (1832 – 1906) married George Signor on March 13, 1852 and the farm couple had five children: two sons (Darius and Charles) and three daughters (Ruby, Lucy and Julia). They raised their family in Colchester (according to census records) and in 1890, when they “moved over to Walton,” Sarah began keeping this diary in a large 12” x 5” book. The diary continued to the year of her death, 1906.

On the last page of the diary her daughter wrote:
“My Dear Mother’s old Diary.
“My dear Mother Died Tuesday morning Dec. 4th 1906 at 1 o’clock age 74 years. She was buried in the Downsville Cemetery ... Ruby.”

Note: Original spelling and grammar retained.

November 7th 1894

Snowed some Julia’s been sick all day. Headache from her last night job helping over at Franks. The 7th 5 in the morning they had a Son born. Weight 8 1/2lbs F and Alice. I sent Lucy a letter and One to Dr. Krilmer

November 8th

Darius and Jenny came at 4A.M. in the morning. Cold and snowy.

November 9th

Marion Blwood and Wife was here to dinner Julia and Jenny have gone to the village

November 10th

Willard, Julia and Darius and Jenny have gone to Downsville this P.M. Yesterday Geo put papers to Mr. Dudley

November 11th

Sabbath day. George and I have been alone Mary Willard’s wife called.

November 12th

Jenny went home on the P.M. train Darius got Dr. Harris to fix his teeth.

November 13th

Uncle Charles Wilson was buried; He was 91 years old.

November 14th

Quite pleasant Darius went over to Andrews to dinner.

November 15th

Julia and George washed. Hannah stayed here last night. George is helping the neighbors butcher their pork. We got a hog of Will Close. It weighted 253 lbs. Darius went to Franklin yesterday. We made sausage 3 jars.

November 16th

Very nice weather for a few days.

November 17th

Some rainy this morning. George sent to Mr. Wm Dudley the affidavit of Dr. Mont. Sonnery. Mrs John White called on our.

November 18th

Sabbath. Will and Julia went to church

November 19th

Fine weather. Darius came from Charleys George and Julia washed and dried clothes. Will and Julia went town have to stay and we are left alone. Its very hard for me to have Julia leave for good. Oh how lonely it will be, but the time must come I suppose

November 20th

Darius is with me to keep me from being so lonely as I should be.

November 21st

Very pleasant. Julia came up home this P.M. and ironed for me. And made a loaf of cake. She walked up and back. Darius went to Downsville this P.M.

November 22nd

Oh what fine weather we are having. Sister lydia called a while to day.

November 23rd

A dark day. Rained a little towards night Julia came up with Henry for some things. How glad I am to see her every time. I have now got a pckx. ready to send to Brother Ebenezer Dan papers.

November 24th

Pleasant day. Pa called to see Julia

November 25th

Snowed last night some, and all day today Pa and I are alone all day. So lovely Mr. and Mrs. Haverly called this evening stayed on hour, real good of them.

November 26th

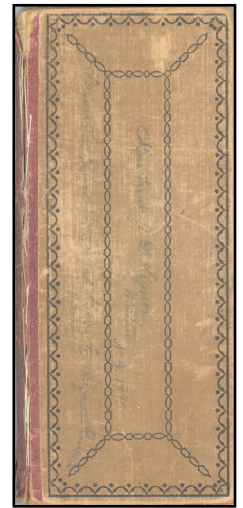
Monday quite pleasant. George helped Marion butchering pig. George bought a turkey of Marion Elwood I made pie and cookies. Lydia called on us.

November 27th

Nice pleasant day.

November 28th

Cold and snowy. Julia came up home and took up my



Cover of Diary

bedroom carpet and put it down again after Pa brushed it. And she fixed our window curtain and made cookies. Dear little girl how I do love her.

November 29th

Thanksgiving day. Darius came down from Hamden this morning and eat dinner with us and the day being fine we have had an enjoyable day together. Darius drove from Rubys to Hamden yesterday

November 30th

Cold; snowed some D. is with us and helping Pa fix his box stall. A letter from Mr. Dudley and Jenny Maxwell Julia came up home to pack a trunk Henry fetched her. She walked back.

December 1st

Pleasant morning. Levi was here to dinner after a load Paid his interest to us. Darius eat dinner with us, then drove over to Uncle Andrews Darius loaded Julia's things this A.M. and Pa took them down to her.

December 2nd

quite a stormy day, lonely for us too. Sabbath day. I have read a good deal and written to Lucy and thought of them all.

December 3rd

quiet pleasant. Pa went to town this morning paid Dr. Mobray; got Darius and bought Pa a new over coat \$12 and this P.M. helped Mr. Harely butcher 2 large hogs. I have made bread.

December 4th

Pleasant. Julia walked up came and helped Pa wash. D came home from Geo. Jacys and took me to the village for a ride in the cutter the first time I had been away in 4 months Darius has gone to night to take Julia home

December 6th

Oh so pleasant Julia called up with David Aelerda.

December 7th

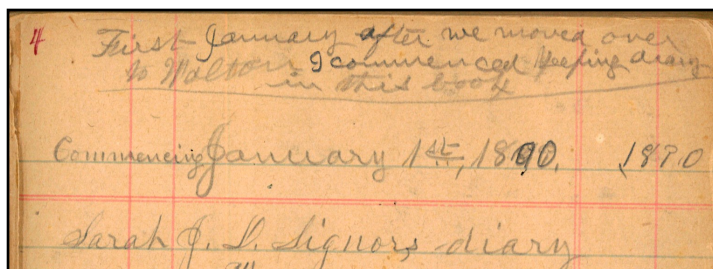
Very pleasant. D. has gone to day back home With it always seems so lonely when Darius goes from us to New York. He set up all last night with Mary Dear. This morning Pa took him to the village. God be with him till we meet again is my earnest prayer daily.

December 8th

Rainy most all day. Lydia eat dinner with us. I made 3 pumpkin pies of dried pumpkin.

December 9th

Quite pleasant. Looks like storm pa went to church came home and had dinner; then went over to Andrews



December 11th

I went down to Julias had a nice pleasant time Pa was with me there to dinner; then we visited and took dinner.

December 13th

at Willards had a nice time I am glad to be home tonight again.

December 14th

Very pleasant. Sister Lydia and Mrs. Haverley called on me I've worked all day.

December 15th

Lovely day. I road to the gate with Pa. then called to see Alice and baby for the first time.

December 16th

Sabbath day pleasant. Pa went to church today. We commence to use our best hardwood How much I'm thinking about Julia fear she is sick. Will and Henry A. came up home. Julia is better I sent Lucy a postals by them to mail

December 17th

Very pleasant. Julia came home with Henry and Pa took her home tonight.

December 18th

I rode over to Andrews when Pa went to help Edson Dan butcher.

December 19th

Very pleasant all the time. Pa works getting wood on the hill up in Archies slashing

December 20th

Darius birth day, and Sow warm and pleasant, I've been making cake and awful tirer

December 21st

Very pleasant. Pa drove our washing I helped all I could and I have made new yeast and ironed some; and done very many things.

December 22nd

Very pleasant Julia has been home all day and down lots of things for me. Pa chopped wood on the hill for the first day.

December 23rd

Very pleasant. Pa went to church



Willard Frisbee (left) presents Tim Duerden with quilt.
Photo by Susan Frisbee

Lone Star Quilt Donated

At the conclusion of our recent Annual Meeting, Willard Frisbee presented DCHA with a quilt made by Libby Tuttle Truesdell of Delhi, great-aunt of Lucile Lee Frisbee. This quilt was displayed at a DCHA quilt show in the 1990s, and again this year. A note written by Lucile pinned to the quilt reads “Made by my great-aunt, Elizabeth (Libby) Tuttle Truesdell, Delhi, in early 1930s. The quilt traveled to California with my aunt and to Florida with my cousin before returning to Delhi in 1995.”

Another note reads: *During the early 1930s I recall that my two younger sisters, Barbara and Betsy (ages 4 and 3 then) argued about who would eventually have the Star quilt. It was then on a bed on the Truesdell farm up the Little Delaware (Pernices’ now). As luck would have it, I became the proud owner of this heirloom. A similar one by “Auntie” is owned by my cousin, Patricia Maxwell Linehan, of Camillus, New York.* – Lucile Lee Frisbee, Delhi, NY – 1990s

DCHA is happy to acquire this beautiful, 70” x 76 5/8”, hand-pieced and hand-quilted historic heirloom.

O. & W. Xmas Excursion to New York City

The annual Christmas excursions of the New York, Ontario & Western Railway Company will take place on Monday, December 17th, 1906. As our readers know, this is one of the most popular excursions in the state, as it take the excursionists into New York, just at the time that city is arrayed in its holiday attire, and all the mammoth stores are displaying their Xmas wares, and the places of amusement are offering their star attractions. We recommend all our readers to take advantage of this excursion, and visit New York City, our Nation’s great metropolis. Extremely low rates have been authorized, and tickets will be sold and good going December 17th, and will be available returning any time up to and including December 31st, 1906. The nearest N.Y.O. & W. station agent will be pleased to afford you any information you desire concerning this excursion, or you can communicate with Mr. F. W. Smith, A.G.P.A. 56 Beaver Street, New York City.

– Delaware Dairyman, December 14, 1906

As we begin a new year here are some thoughts we might start with:

Twelve Things to Remember

- The value of time.
- The success of perseverance.
- The pleasure of working.
- The dignity of simplicity.
- The worth of character.
- The power of kindness.
- The influence of example.
- The obligation of duty.
- The wisdom of economy.
- The virtue of patience.
- The improvement of talent.
- The joy of originating.

– Delaware Republican Express, January 10, 1952



Photos by Edna Georgia Benedict

Edna Georgia Benedict (1888—1963) from West Meredith, a self-taught photographer, trained to be a teacher at the Delaware Literary Institute in Franklin. She is featured in Diane Galusha’s book *Through a Woman’s Eye* (1994). To learn about Edna and view more images, visit New York Heritage’s digital collections at: <https://nyheritage.org/collections/edna-benedict-collection>



Excerpts from — *Cook Book Containing Old and Tested Recipes* — 1941

Compiled by a committee from the Women's Missionary and Dorcas Chapter of
the Delhi Second Presbyterian Church. Delhi, NY.

This Cook Book contains recipes contributed by members of the Second Presbyterian Church of Delhi. Each one has been carefully tested and in some instances they have been used again and again for several generations. We wish to thank the people for their fine co-operation in passing on to us these recipes. We are also appreciative of the service rendered us by our advertisers and feel they merit our liberal patronage.

MRS. H.G. STODDART
MRS. GEORGE HOYT
MISS ALMA DREYFUS
MRS R.R. DE GELLEKE
The committee.

Barbequed Frankfurters

12 frankfurters
½ teaspoon pepper
4 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon tabasco
1 tablespoon butter
4 teaspoons sugar
1 teaspoon paprika
¼ cup vinegar
½ onion
1 teaspoon mustard
½ cup catsup
¾ cup water

Slit frankfurters 3" on one side. Place in pan and cover with sauce made with remaining ingredients. Bake 30 minutes in moderate oven. — *Mrs. Harlond Smith.*

Baked Corn

1 can golden bantam corn
4 eggs well beaten
4 tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon sugar
1 cup milk
Salt and pepper

Mix all together, put in buttered baking dish, cover top with small pieces of butter. Bake slowly for an hour. — *Mrs. Frank Farrington.*

Potato Puff

2 beaten egg yolks
3 cups mashed potatoes
2 tablespoons butter
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup milk

Mix well and fold in 2 stiffly beaten egg whites. Pour into greased baking dish and bake at 400° for about 30 minutes. — *Mrs. Ed. D. McFarland.*

Five Layer Dinner

2 cups raw potatoes,
sliced
½ cup rice
1 cup onions, sliced
1 lb. hamburger
Small can tomatoes
Put in layers in casserole, season with salt and pepper.
Bake 2 ½ hrs. in covered dish. — *Mrs. Charles Elliott.*

Frozen Fruit Salad

1 can fruit cocktail
1 scant tablespoon powdered sugar
½ pint cream —
whipped

Put sugar in cream and whip (not too stiff). Add drained fruits and any other fresh fruits available as bananas, peaches or white grapes. Put in freezing tray. Serves 8. — *Mrs. George Hawkins.*

Applesauce Cake

(PRESIDENT TAFT'S FAVORITE)

½ cup shortening
1 cup sugar
1 ½ cup unsweetened applesauce
2 cups flour
1 tablespoon corn starch
2 teaspoons soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon cloves
2 teaspoons nutmeg
3 tablespoons cocoa
1 cup raisins
½ cup walnut meats
(broken)
Pinch salt

Cream shortening, add sugar and mix well. Add applesauce. Sift dry ingredients, add raisins and nuts. Add to creamed mixture. Bake 1 ½ hours in a slow oven. — *Mrs. J.A. Thomson.*

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<i>Cook Book</i> CONTAINING <i>Old and Tested Recipes</i>  Compiled by a Committee from the WOMEN'S MISSIONARY and DORCAS CHAPTER of the DELHI SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Delhi, N. Y. 1941
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Exploring DCHA's Collections: The Ballantyne Family of Hamden

A small collection of items relating to the Ballantyne family was donated by James A. Nuessle back in 2012.

John Ballantyne and his wife Margaret Agnes Henderson were born in Peebles, Scotland. They married in 1821 and had 9 children. They immigrated with their family to the United States in the late 1840s. The family is recorded in the 1850 census in Hamden, NY. John and Margaret's first son Robert, born April 15, 1822 in Scotland, married Christina Tweedie in Andes in 1856. Robert and Christina raised 9 children of their own on a farm in Chambers Hollow, Hamden:

John A. (1857), James A. (1858), Robert W. (1859), Thomas (1860), William (1862), Mary (1863), Peter (1865), Daniel (1867) & David (1869).

Robert built a rocking chair (right) for his wife Christina in 1857, the year she had her first child. She used this chair while tending to all of their children.



Robert and Christina's first son, John A., married Mary Jane Doig, January 28, 1885 in Walton. They had one child, Walter Robert Ballantyne, born June 4, 1886 in Chambers Hollow, Hamden. Mary Jane died four days after giving birth to her son and Robert remarried in 1894. He had two more children, Clarence (1895) and Laura Ester (1901), with his second wife, Julia Burrhus.

Walter Ballantyne used a sled (left) on the Chambers Hollow farm around 1890. Stenciled markings on the bottom of the sled read "J. A. Ballantine, (sic) Hamden" (below). Walter's father John made the sled. It is solid wood measuring 18" wide by 38" long overall with heavy iron metal runners shaped around the wood runners.



Along with the sled and chair, Mr. Nuessle also donated a few paintings by Myrna Ballantyne Bell (see example above, titled "Winter at Fitch's Bridge"). She was the only child of Thomas and Jennie (Tweedie) Ballantyne, born December 29, 1901 in Walton. She married Ellsworth C. Bell on September 2, 1929. After their marriage, the Bells lived in Scarsdale until moving to Delhi in 1942. Mr. Bell died September 20, 1977.

A graduate of Walton High School, Myrna received a degree in fine arts from Syracuse University. She was an art teacher most of her life and taught in Treadwell, South Kortright and Walton schools, retiring in 1970. An accomplished artist, she enjoyed painting and lent her expertise in the interior decoration of many area homes. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and the former Watauga Chapter No. 315, O.E.S.



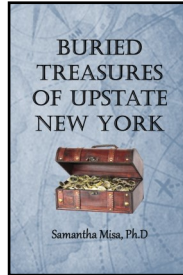
Circa 1886 photo of the Ballantynes of Hamden

L – R (standing): Dan, Mary, Tom, James,
Mary Jane Doig, John

L – R (sitting): Peter, Margaret Agnes (G-Grandma), Rob,
David, John Ballantyne (G-Grandpa)

New Book from DCHA! *Buried Treasures of Upstate New York*

Regardless of our many differences, some things frequently unite us as humans. One of these is the love of buried treasure. The idea of finding riches lost or hidden by someone else is tantalizing, not only for the wealth such a find could bestow, but also for the adventure that comes with going on a treasure hunt. This book contains over a dozen stories of buried treasure in Upstate New York, mainly in the Catskill Mountain region.



These stories span the centuries, from tales of gold hidden by British Loyalists during the Revolutionary War to a cache of money and jewels buried by a 1930s gangster. The treasures detailed in these pages range from mere rumors to well-documented cases. Some of these treasures have reportedly been discovered over the years, but others remain elusive.

Compiled and written by Samantha Misa, the book is available now at DCHA. 55 pages, maps, photos and illustrations. *Cost \$10.00 (plus 8% tax).* You may also purchase the book online via our website: <https://www.dcha-ny.org/books.html>

Hands-On History Club at Delaware Academy

DCHA's Educator Samantha Misa has been hard at work this fall bringing local history to Delaware Academy fourth and fifth graders through after-school programs coordinated by the school's Parent Teacher Association. The Hands-On History Club is designed to allow students to participate in interactive history-related crafts and activities. The group meets once a week on Thursdays, and kids have so far enjoyed soap making, candle dipping, quill pen writing, and butter churning. The program will run through January, 2025, and future activities include historic games, tin punching, and weaving. Students enjoy leaning that history can be fun – and DCHA enjoys creating a new generation of historians!

Edward Hoyt, of this village, is at work in Andes moving dwelling houses. He also advertises in the village paper that he is a practical machinist and can repair sewing machines. There is quite a difference between the moving of a large building and the threading of a small sewing machine needle, but if the Yankee nation wants good jobs performed Ed is capable of doing them – big or little. — *Stamford Mirror*, February 9, 1892

out and help clean this historic cemetery each spring.

He has submitted numerous historical markers from Delaware County to the Historical Marker Database and has cleaned various historical markers in Delaware County as part of the George Pomeroy Foundation's "National Historic Marker Day" each April.

Scott has researched Delaware County's involvement in the American Revolution and has given numerous historical presentations in Sidney and Deposit pertaining to county history. He is currently preparing a series of programs to be shared over the next few years as America celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War.

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

Creating More Space ~ Library Shelving

While we work on raising money and finalizing plans for the new collections storage building, we have been striving to create more useable space in the library/archives. This year we added a couple of metal shelves above the file cabinets in the main room of the library. We have also reconfigured the back wall of the "vault" (our secure storage room) by moving the map cases and adding some shelving above them to create more space.



BEFORE

In mid-November we were also able to install three additional shelf units along the final section of vault wall that did not have shelving. These shelving



AFTER

units measure 12" deep by 30" wide by 90" tall, matching the shelving already along the side wall of the vault. Ray has already almost filled the shelves, making the archives more accessible.

The units were paid for with two generous grants, with the O'Connor Foundation matching a grant from the Bert Santora Family Trust.

his death in 1897. In 1880, William became a charter member of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), England Post, No. 142. An active member of the G.A.R., he organized and participated in Decoration Day events, Fourth of July events, and G.A.R. reunions and encampments. William was unanimously elected Commander of the Post in 1886, serving for one year. He served in the Delhi Fire Department (he was a founding member), the Clinton Engine Fire Department in Hobart, and Clark's Independent Hose Company and enjoyed organizing and participating in department parades, tournaments, bean bakes, and clambakes.

In 1886, his marriage began to fail and he separated from his wife. Through this difficult time in his life he remained close to his daughter Eleanor and to his sister Frances. Eleanor occasionally accompanied William to social activities and on winter trips to Florida. William also made frequent visits to his sister who still lived in the Clarke Family homestead. Emma Clarke filed for divorce in 1890. The divorce was granted in 1891. Emma remarried shortly after the divorce was final. William never remarried.

By the end of 1896, William's health was failing. He went to live with his now married daughter Elea-

nor in St. Louis where he passed away on January 30, 1897. His body was returned to Hobart where a funeral service was held in the Clark Family homestead. He was interred in Locust Hill Cemetery where his gravesite is marked by a United States flag and a G.A.R. grave marker.

Following in their father's footsteps, both his children grew up and also served in leadership roles. His son, John Davenport Clarke, was elected US Congressman from New York's 34th Congressional District and served from 1921 to 1925 and from 1927 until his untimely death in 1933. His daughter, Eleanor Clarke Slagle, served as Director of Occupational Therapy for the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene overseeing occupational therapy departments in all New York State hospitals from 1922 until her death in 1942. (See *Headwaters of History*, December 2022 issue.) Eleanor was also a founder of the American Occupational Therapy Association and served as an officer in this new organization from its founding in 1917 until 1937. Although William did not live to see the successful careers of his children, like any father he would have undoubtedly been very proud!

Lucky, Lucky!

Becky Wasserstrom of Delhi was the lucky winner of our 2024 raffle. The winning ticket was drawn at our annual meeting in November.

Becky won a quilt that was donated to DCHA specifically as a fundraiser to be raffled this year. The quilt features a disappearing nine patch pattern in bright, vibrant yellows and orange with a brilliant highlight of red border 3 1/2" in from the edge. Total measurement 49 1/2" x 49 1/2".

Thank you to those who bought tickets. \$510 was raised for DCHA!



WORSE THAN IDLENESS

In the diary of John Adams, lately published, is the following entry, which gives his opinion of an employment which is extensively indulged in by young men in these times :

"Friday – Saturday – Sunday – Monday – All spent in absolute idleness, or, which is worse, gallanting the girls."

– *Delaware Gazette*, December 11, 1850

In Memoriam: Gerry Stoner (1940 – 2024)

DCHA was saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Gerry Stoner in September. Gerry was a lover and supporter of history. Gerry and his wife, Ellen Thorn, worked with many local historical societies including the Stamford Historical Society and Gilboa Historical Society, giving presentations and helping with his professional services in publishing. He wrote numerous articles for the *Tri-County Magazine* and did the layout for Jim Meagley's recent books on the history of Hobart. He also reissued older works, including *Anti-Rent War on Blenheim Hill* by Mayham, Ned Buntline's *Rattlesnake* and *Township* by Swantak and Post.

Gerry and Ellen regularly attended DCHA's history conferences and other events. He will be missed.

History Corner

**“Heroism, Fearless Determination, and Supreme Sacrifice”:
 Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Curtis F. Shoup**
 by Samantha Misa

Curtis F. Shoup, (pictured right) known to his friends as “Curt,” was born on January 11, 1921 in Napanoch, Ulster County. Described as “always thinking of the welfare of those around him,” Curt and his family moved to Trout Creek in Delaware County in the 1930s. His father, Reverend Curtis K. Shoup, served as the pastor of the Trout Creek Baptist Church. Curt found work at a plastics manufacturing business in Bainbridge before enlisting in July 1943. After training in North Carolina, Curt was shipped to the European theater in November 1944.

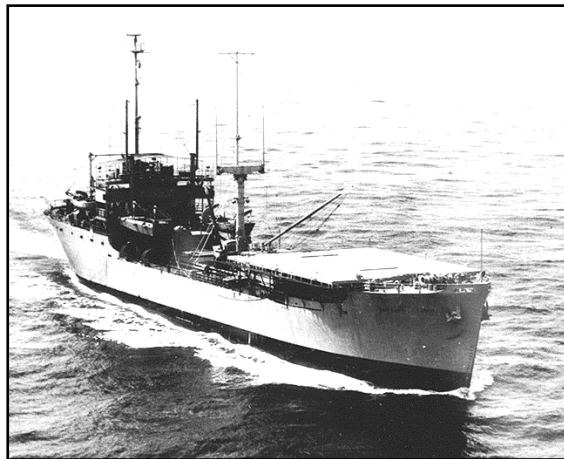


on the Americans. Realizing that the machine gun must be silenced at all costs, S/Sgt. Shoup, armed with an automatic rifle, crawled to within 75 yards of the enemy emplacement. He found that his fire was ineffective from this position, and completely disregarding his own safety, stood up and grimly strode ahead into the murderous stream of bullets, firing his low-held weapon as he went. He was hit several times and finally was knocked to the ground. But he struggled to his feet and staggered forward until close enough to hurl a grenade, wiping out the enemy machine gun nest with his dying action. By his heroism, fearless determination, and supreme sacrifice, S/Sgt. Shoup eliminated a hostile weapon which threatened to destroy his company and turned a desperate situation into victory.”

Shoup, now a Staff Sergeant, was serving as an assistant squad leader for Company I of the 346th Infantry in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. Sergeant Shoup’s bravery in battle in January 1945 earned him the highest military honor: the Congressional Medal of Honor.

According to Shoup’s citation: *“His company attacked German troops on rising ground. Intense hostile machine gun fire pinned down and threatened to annihilate the American unit in an exposed position where frozen ground made it impossible to dig in for protection. Heavy mortar and artillery fire from enemy batteries was added to the storm of destruction falling*

Shoup’s other honors during his time in service included the Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, a Military Medal awarded by the United Kingdom, and a Croix de Guerre and Order of Leopold from Belgium. In Curt’s honor, the army renamed the transport vessel *Spindle Eye* to the *USNS Sgt. Curtis F. Shoup* in 1947. The *USNS Sgt. Curtis F. Shoup* served as a radio relay vessel during the Bikini Atoll atomic tests of the Cold War.



The *USNS Sgt. Curtis F. Shoup*.
 Courtesy of US Navy Archives.

Curt’s body was returned to the United States in 1948, and he was buried in the North Scriba Union Cemetery in Oswego County. Shoup was 23 years old - he had died four days before his 24th birthday.

A Message from DCHA’s Incoming Board President

I’d like to thank those who supported and voted for me for the position of President of the DCHA board for 2025. I will take this responsibility very seriously, which I hope I’ve shown in my former position as Vice President. Being President of the Board is more than just being president; it is not about me specifically, it is about leading the Board calmly and productively in all that DCHA will face in the coming year. It is about encouraging transparency and an excellent relationship between the Board and the staff. It is about being present at our events which the staff, certain Board members and volunteers work so hard to make happen. It is about encouraging ongoing fiscal responsibility and seeking ways to ensure the financial viability of this organization. It is about acknowledging all of our members locally and across the country and keeping them informed and involved as much as possible. It is about much more than just being President. In the end, it is all about teamwork.

— Gabrielle Pierce

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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.

DCHA's Board of Directors

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Museum Staff

Tim Duerden, Director
Angela Gaffney, Collections Manager
Ray LaFever, Archivist
Samantha Misa, PhD., Educator

Winter Hours:

Exhibit Galleries and Gift/Bookshop:

Monday—Friday, 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

from October 14 to Memorial Day Weekend.

Suggested Donation: Adults: \$5.00; Children: \$1.50

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 2.5 miles north of Delhi on State Hwy 10.

Our address is 46549 State Highway 10, Delhi, NY 13753.

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send us an e-mail at: dchadelhi@gmail.com

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