

Headwaters of History

The Newsletter of the Delaware County Historical Association

Vol. 29, No. 2

June 2024

“Clash in the Catskills”

Saturday & Sunday, June 22 & 23
Delhi Civil War Event

Battlefield reenactments, artillery, bayonet drill, camp life, uniforms & dresses, cooking, medical demo, cannon demo, kids’ activities, scavenger hunt, museum exhibits and more!

Three battles over two days:

Barlow’s Knoll, Sailor’s Creek, Cedar Creek

Admission: Adults - \$10

Military (retired or active) - \$5

DCHA members - \$5

Children 12 and under FREE.

For more information call 607-746-3849
or e-mail dchadelhi@gmail.com.



**This event is sponsored by the
following businesses:**



Colonel

Franklin Stage Company

Major

Allison Oil, Inc., Andes

Catskill Landscaping Corp, DeLancey

Curtis Lumber, Delhi

D & D of Walton, Inc. – NAPA Auto Parts

Erickson’s Automotive, Inc., Arkville

Grateful Ink Tattoo, Stamford

Harry W. Hawley, Inc., Delhi

Hughson & Benson Associates, Delhi

Riverdale Farm & Forest, Delhi

The Robert O. Mable Agency, Inc., Delhi

Waste Recovery Enterprises, Sidney

Corporal

Delaware Bulldozing Corp., Bloomville

Delhi Liquor Store

Soldier

Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties

Railroad Avenue Supply Company, Inc., Stamford

DCHA Bus Trips are Back!

**Historic 1890 Wickwire Mansion and
Skaneateles Lake Cruise**

DCHA is pleased to announce the resumption of our popular fundraising bus trips. This year's trip is scheduled for Thursday, July 25th and one of the highlights is our first stop, the Wickwire Mansion, also known as the 1890 House, in Cortland, NY.

The Wickwire Brothers factory in Cortland was renowned as a wire-weaving business. By the 1870s it was producing products such as barbed wire, window screens, dish strainers and horse muzzles. The company gained such a reputation that their wire was utilized in the building of the Panama Canal. The Wickwires were the largest employers in Cortland in 1910, employing 170 men and 35 women.

The family mansion was completed in 1890 and several generations considered it home. Marion Wickwire was its last resident, dying in 1973 at the age of 85. Marion's love of cherubs is reflected in the cherub-filled chandelier, and cherubs that are seen elsewhere throughout the second floor.

The house itself was designed by architect Samuel B. Reed and the stained glass throughout the house is by Henry F. Belcher. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

After the guided tour of the house, we will lunch at the Historic Glen Haven Inn and Restaurant overlooking Skaneateles Lake. Lunch will be followed by a short trip along the lake to the village of Skaneateles and a leisurely cruise aboard the *Judge Ben Wiles*.

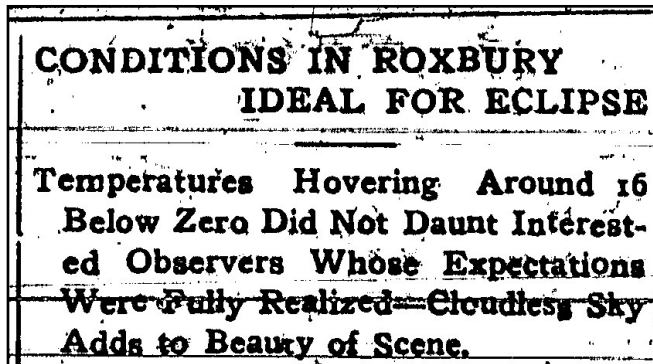
Cost: \$150 DCHA members and \$175 non-members (price includes transportation, all admissions and lunch plus a donation to DCHA) For further information or reservations please call: (607) 746-3849, or email: dchadelhi@gmail.com
Reservations required by July 10th. Passengers may board the motor coach in Oneonta or Delhi.



From the Archives: 1925 Solar Eclipse in Delaware County by Ray LaFever

The April 8, 2024 solar eclipse sent me (and other local historians) checking around about previous eclipses visible in Delaware County. As well as a number of partial eclipses, I've identified two total eclipses that have occurred in the skies over Delaware County since its creation in 1797. The first was on June 16, 1806. Unfortunately, we have nothing in our collections to document this event locally.

We had better luck with the more recent eclipse, which took place on January 24, 1925. This event was reported in several local newspapers.



Roxbury Times, January 31, 1925

The January 31, 1925 *Roxbury Times* had a long front page article about the event. The paper noted that "temperatures hovering around 16 below zero did not daunt interested observers..." The totality lasted "for a period of one and nine-tenths minutes." Roxbury residents were prepared for the eclipse "by securing window glass and smoking it over candles, lamps, matches or any burning article that would cast a smudge on the face of the glass."

The total eclipse of the sun by the moon occurred on schedule time in Roxbury for exactly at 9:11 o'clock Saturday morning the moon entirely covered the face of the sun and for a period of one and nine-tenths minutes the sun was entirely hidden from view, only the corna of the sun that surrounded the huge black disc, represented by the moon being visible. From the Roxbury Times, January 31, 1925

The January 31 *Walton Reporter* also reported the eclipse with the headline "ALL BUSINESS HALTS TO GO SKY-GAZING – Eclipse Drowns Daylight as Thousands Watch Beautiful Lights in the Heavens." Here's part of that article transcribed from the paper, from the Digital Archives of the William B. Ogden Free Library.

Daylight melted into what resembled a moonlight night as the moon crossed between the sun and the earth Saturday morning at 9:09 for a total eclipse. The beautiful pearly corona of the sun lasted less than two minutes and then with a blinding flash the sun appeared again.

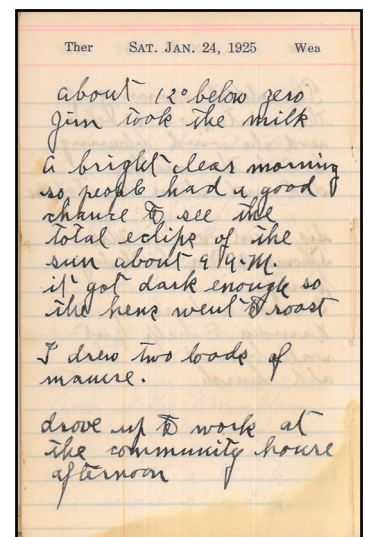
There were few in Walton who did not see the eclipse Saturday. Not again in a hundred years will another total eclipse pass over this section and from the time shortly after 8 o'clock when the moon began to obscure the edge of the sun until the total eclipse had passed an hour and a quarter later the vantage points were occupied by those eager to see the phenomenon in its entirety.

The Sidney Newspapers were particularly effusive in reporting before and after the eclipse. I found several references from the "Digital Archive of Local Sidney Papers" available on-line through the Sidney Memorial Library. The January 31 issue of the *Sidney Record* had two headlined articles reporting on the actual event. One read "HE IS A FOOL WHO SAYS THERE IS NO GOD – The Total Eclipse – Sidney Favored With An Excellent Observation of the Marvel." The second headline read "WHEN THE GENTLE MOON DEVOURED THE SUN – All Sidney Outdoors – We Were Granted Two Precious Minutes And Made The Most Of It." The article began: *Who ever heard of a mouse swallowing up a mountain? The Sun is over one million times larger than the Moon, yet Saturday, 24th, inst., the Gentle Silvery Moon turned the trick and lambasted good, Old Sol with a black eye, – a genuine Solar Plexus.*

In the DCHA Archives, we found three diaries that reported on the event. Bovina resident John Storie's entry for that day read in part: "Eclipse of the sun this morning. Total. A fine view of it here."

Brothers Alexander and James Nichol also kept diaries in 1925 and both reported on the eclipse.

Alex noted "A bright clear morning so people had a good chance to see the total eclipse of the sun about 9 a.m. It got dark enough so the hens went to roost." James wrote that it "was a nice morning. I took the milk. Saw the total eclipse of the Sun today at 9:15. Got quite dark for a few minutes." A page from Alex's diary recording the phenomenon is pictured right.



By the way, the next total eclipse visible in Delaware County will occur on May 1, 2079. I don't expect to be around for it, but I hope our younger readers will get this down on their calendars!

New Exhibit at DCHA

Handle with Care: Breakables from DCHA's Collections

Visit DCHA to view numerous fragile items from our collections. Objects on display include: milk bottles, a tea set, shaving and mustache mugs, kerosene lamps and miscellaneous glassware items. Two larger items include a stained glass window, originally part of the Goulds Methodist Church in the town of Hancock, and a chandelier (pictured right) from the historic Youmans Mansion in Delhi (demolished in 1982).



Also exhibited are a few dishes from the American House Hotel in Delhi that burned down in 1907. Some smaller items are ruby stained glass souvenirs from Bloomville, Davenport Center, and Downsville, along with a small souvenir dish from Margaretville. On display in the Elijah Thomas Gallery at DCHA until September 7, 2024. *Open Tuesday – Saturday from 11am – 4pm. Free admission.*

Fundraising Raffle Quilt

A beautiful quilt, made and donated to DCHA to be used as a raffle item by a member of the “Delaware County Town and Country Quilters,” is on display in DCHA’s giftshop. Suitable as a lap quilt or a wall hanging, it measures 49 ½” x 49 ½”. The design is a disappearing nine patch pattern in vibrant yellows and oranges with a brilliant red border highlight 3 ½” in from the edge. Raffle tickets are 6 for \$5, or 1 for \$1. The drawing will be held at our annual meeting, November 3, 2024.

What a Fellow Thinks of Dad

- Age 10 – Dad’s the greatest guy in the world.
- Age 15 – Dad ought to realize a gentleman has to spend more money nowadays.
- Age 20 – Dad is a fine chap, but of course a little behind the times.
- Age 30 – I wonder how Dad ever did it – I have a tough job getting ahead.
- Age 40 – I guess I had better get Dad’s advice.
- Age 50 – Dad used to say.

From *The Old Covered Bridge*, 1947
Home Bureau News – New York

History Conference at DCHA

An enthusiastic group of 20 historians met at DCHA on Saturday, May 11th to hear New York State Historian Devin Lander talk about the state’s plans to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of our nation’s founding (2025 – 2033). One of the goals is to foster a robust and, when necessary, controversial conversation about New York State and its history in order to create awareness of the impact of the past on the present. Past commemorations focused more on the physical battles. This commemoration hopes to also draw attention to those events later in New York State that were directly or indirectly caused by the revolution.

A potential benefit of marking the 250th Anniversary for local historical societies is the generation of renewed interest in local history. Mr. Lander pointed out that many local historical groups were formed about 50 years ago during the nation’s Bicentennial. As members of many local historical societies can attest to, there are many ups and downs in terms of interest in and activity surrounding our history. The 250th Anniversary offers a great opportunity to drum up interest, especially among younger folks.

A New York State 250th Commemoration Commission has been formed to help coordinate activities. Mr. Lander strongly suggests that local historical societies collaborate their efforts in marking the upcoming anniversary. With this in mind, DCHA is seeking people to join in forming an interest group. Such a group can explore ideas about what Delaware County can do to commemorate the 250th.

A few ideas presented at the discussion involved creating a definitive list of those Revolutionary War veterans who lived in Delaware County and are buried in the county. The idea of developing a map of historic sites related to the Revolution was also suggested.

Please contact DCHA at 607-746-3849, or email us at: dchadelhi@gmail.com if you would like to be part of this interest group.

More information on the New York State Commission can be found at the website: <https://www.nysm.nysed.gov/revolutionaryny250>

Summer Intern

We are pleased to welcome Delhi resident Peter Marotta to DCHA this summer. Peter is spending time with us as an intern from Hartwick College and will be working primarily in our archives and collections – although we shall probably have some outside chores too!

Peter will be a junior history major at Hartwick in the fall.

Diary Excerpts of Andrew Littlejohn, Hamden, NY, 1899

In 1992 Wilma Nichol donated over 150 family diaries to DCHA. These included diaries written by her grandfather Andrew Littlejohn; her father James Nichol; and her uncle Alex Nichol. The diaries span almost 100 years - from 1859 to 1957.

Andrew Littlejohn (b. 1834 – d. 1908) married Maggie Salton (b. 1846 – d. 1899) before 1869. Andrew was born and lived most of his life on the family farm on Terry Clove in Hamden. Andrew and Maggie had two children, Nellie (b. 1869) and Robert (b. 1872). Nellie married James Nichol and was the mother of Wilma Nichol, the donor of this diary. Both Andrew and Maggie are buried in the Terry Clove Cemetery.

Below is a transcript from Andrew Littlejohn's 1899 diary. The entries from January show the week when his wife Maggie passed away. The rest of the entries are from the summer months. Andrew was 65 years old when writing this diary. He died in 1908. His obituary read: "He was a man of good character and habits and strict integrity and had many friends."

Note: *Original spelling and grammar retained throughout.*

Tuesday, January 10, 1899

Was thrashing was a very cold day

Wednesday, January 11, 1899

Was choreing in forenoon drawing hay in after noon

Thursday, January 12

Was choreing

Friday, January 13

Was thrashing Maggie died tonight

Saturday, January 14

Went to Hamden

Sunday, January 15

Was at home all day

Monday, January 16

Maggie was buried today

Tuesday, January 17

Was choreing

Note on back page of diary reads: "*Maggie Salton wife of Andrew Littlejohn died Jan 13 1899 Aged 52 years 10 mo 9 day*"

Thursday, June 1, 1899

Went down to John Jacks.

Friday, June 2, 1899

Was drawing minure

Saturday, June 3, 1899

Was sowing corn in fore noon and spranting potatoes in after noon

Sunday, June 4

Was at home all day

Monday, June 5

Was choreing

Tuesday, June 6

Was drawing minure

Wednesday, June 7

Went over to J. Nichols

Thursday, June 8

Went to Walton to the firemens parade

Friday, June 9, 1899

Came home to day

Saturday, June 10, 1899

Was sowing millet in forenoon choreing in after noon

Sunday, June 11

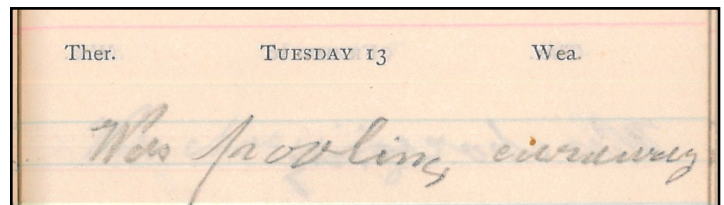
Went down to Jim Saltons

Monday, June 12

Was cutting weeds

Tuesday, June 13

Was pooling caraway? [illeg]



Wednesday, June 14

Was working in garden

Thursday, June 15

Was working in garden and visiting with George McMullin

Friday, June 16

Was choreing

Saturday, June 17

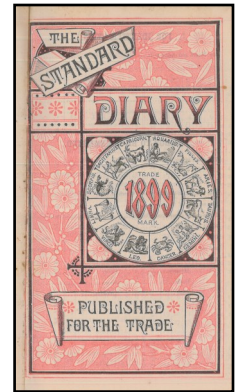
Was pooling milk weed

Sunday, June 18, 1899

Was at home all day

Monday, June 19

Was choreing



Diary cover page

Tuesday, June 20

Went to Hamden with the hovel

Wednesday, June 21

Was pooling weeds

Thursday, June 22

Was working in garden

Friday, June 23

Went to Delhi

Saturday, June 24

Was visiting with J. Nichol

Sunday, June 25, 1899

Was at home

Monday, June 26

Was sowing potatoes

Tuesday, June 27

Was sowing buckwheat and fertilizer

Wednesday, June 28

Was hoving potatoes

Thursday, June 29

Was vising with Adam Nichol in fore noon and
poisening potatoes bugs in after noon

Friday, June 30

Was hoving potatoes

Saturday, July 1, 1899

Was hoving potatoe in fore noon went over to J.
Nichols in the after noon

Sunday, July 2, 1899

Came home to day

Monday, July 3

Was hoving potatoes



Andrew Littlejohn, holding horse, in front of James Nichol's barn.
James Nichol on wagon, ca. 1897—98.
From Nichol collection.

Tuesday, July 4

Was hoving potatoes and finished

Wednesday, July 5

Was fixing for haying

Thursday, July 6

Was fixing for haying

Friday, July 7

Was at the hay

Saturday, July 8

Was choreing

Sunday, July 9

Was a wet day

Monday, July 10

Was at the hay

Tuesday, July 11

Was at he hay

Wednesday, July 12

Was at he hay

Thursday, July 13

Was at the hay

Friday, July 14

Was at he hay

Saturday, July 15

Was at he hay 15 Loades

Sunday, July 16, 1899

Was a wet day was at home



Haying time at Roger Murray's. James Nichol's house in background.
From Nichol collection.

The Edgerton House Hotel by Gabrielle Pierce, Village of Delhi Historian

The grand pillared Edgerton House Hotel once stood on Main Street in Delhi, taking up the lot next to what we now know as Stewart's Department store. Built from 1845-47 on the site of an earlier tavern, E.H. Edgerton's popular hotel enjoyed a long and interesting life, changing hands numerous times while continuing to be a mainstay of the village's history. Besides being a lodging and dining place, the Edgerton housed other businesses within its walls. One early example can be found in the September 1859 issue of the *Delaware Gazette* newspaper, in which Mr. A. Walker advertised his barber shop in the hotel.

After standing for nearly 20 years, ownership of the Edgerton passed to Daniel O'Donnell in February of 1864. O'Donnell obtained a tavern license in May of the following year. At some point, H.L. Marsh became owner of the hotel but sold it to John H. McDonald

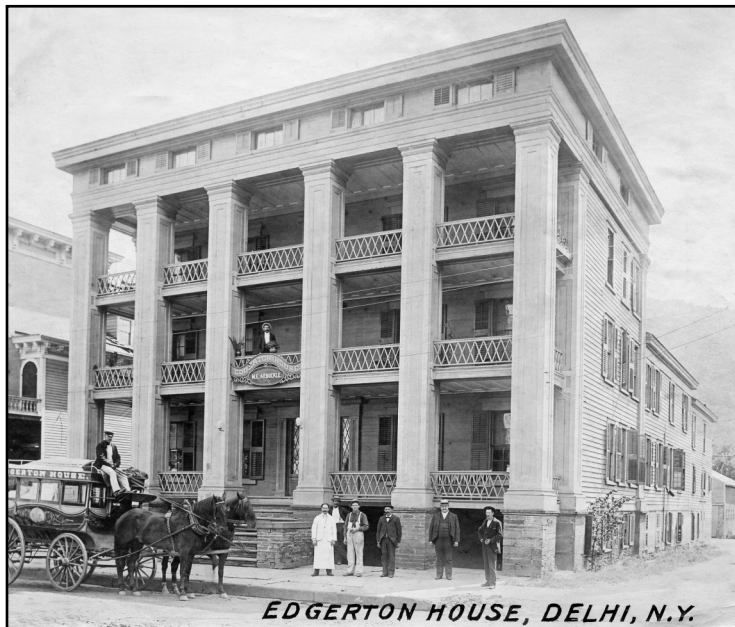
for \$20,000 - including the furniture - in December of 1871. Six years later, C.B. Griffis who owned the Hancock House in Hancock purchased the Edgerton, installing gas lines in October of 1882. The hotel remained in the family when Griffis' son, Fred G. Griffis purchased it from his father in 1888. Fred was no stranger to the business, having grown up assisting his father with operations. In 1892, Fred leased the house and farm on Cherry Hill that was known by the same name as the hotel. On the 175 acres of land, he kept a large number of cows, supplying the hotel tables with pure cream, milk and fine butter, while also cultivating the land for vegetables.

In August of 1891, Marshall Arbuckle bought the hotel from Griffis for less than McDonald had spent years earlier - \$16,000. Arbuckle's proprietorship kept the Edgerton as a popular establishment for several years. Approximately a decade later it was reported in the *Gazette*:

Mr. Arbuckle has conducted this popular hostelry for several years and has kept its well established reputation fully up to its high

standard. Recently, its register was filled, showing that a book of 400 pages at an average of 25 per page had been filled since May 15, 1900. This for fourteen and one half months makes a total of nearly 10,000 people who have in that period registered as guests of the house. The many patrons will be glad to know that Mr. and Mrs. Arbuckle are to become permanently identified with the property that they have so successfully conducted.

The Arbuckles were probably less than thrilled when a coroner was called to the Edgerton on October 1, 1919 to investigate the death of John Jepsen, an "agent" found dead in bed. After an inquest and autopsy were conducted, the death was found to be due to "acute indigestion." No record was made of what Jepsen had for dinner or where he had dined.



Edgerton Hotel, ca. 1900s
DCHA Crocker Collection

The glowing words of the *Gazette* writer saw Arbuckle giving up the notoriety of being such a successful owner-operator in November of 1920, when he handed over the reins to H.W. Palmer of Nova Scotia. Palmer's tenure as owner of the Edgerton was less successful, however, and the hotel quickly fell into bankruptcy and was sold again in December of 1921.

L.D. Whitlock was the newest owner of the Edgerton which had about \$15,000 in claims against it. Perhaps believing that the recent bankruptcy tainted the Edgerton name, Whitlock immediately renamed the hotel. By early 1922 the Edgerton had become the Whitlock Inn. For reasons that are not clear, in March of 1922, Whitlock oversaw the removal of the massive stone pillars of the hotel-now-inn. The *Gazette* did not report how this move affected the structural integrity or aesthetics of the building. Also at this time, the horse stalls in the rear of the building were removed in order to make room for 20 parked cars.

After all those significant changes, Whitlock sold the inn to a Mr. Holmes of Middleburgh in September of 1922; Holmes changed the name back to the Edgerton House the following month. Holmes' tenure

“Dairyman’s Best Friend” — The Delaware County Milk-Pan

The most durable and convenient pan yet invented

Patented April 27, 1875 by H.S. Murray, Andes, NY

Henry S. Murray (1836 – 1905) was born in Bovina. He enlisted in the Eighth Independent Battery at the onset of the Civil War, serving four years, at the end of which he was discharged with the rank of sergeant. Henry married Miss Elizabeth Coulter in 1868 and they had three children. He learned the trade of plumber from D.L. Thomson of Bovina and later ran a hardware business in Andes. The 1880 and 1890 census lists his occupation as “Tin Smith.” In 1875 H.S. Murray applied for a patent for a milk pan. The following is a transcript of a brochure in DCHA’s Archives, printed by the “Andes Recorder” extolling its virtues.

It is the most durable, because it is made of the most durable material that can be used in the construction of large Milk-Pans, viz: Heavy, galvanized iron for the vat, and heavy tin for the Pan. It is made in the strongest manner possible; the milk-faucet is made of brass, tinned over, and will last for generations. Rubber corks are used for the milk, and also in the water regulator.

It is the most convenient, because the milk faucet unscrews from the inside of the pan, while all others unscrew from under the vat. The pan can be taken out of the vat quickly and easily, without disarranging the pipes or tubing for conveying the milk and water away. It requires no cumbersome wooden rack, or vat, but simply a flat table, which any dairyman can make at very little expense, as a base support. – Any person can set up these pans without any instruction whatever, as no part can be misplaced.

It is the most simple because every part of the pan and vat is open for inspection, so that its interior arrangements can be seen and understood at once. There are no complicated and mysterious faucets, tubes, or water-courses – all can be seen at a glance. It is the most perfect, because it combines all the improvements, in an improved manner, constituting a perfect pan in all its parts.

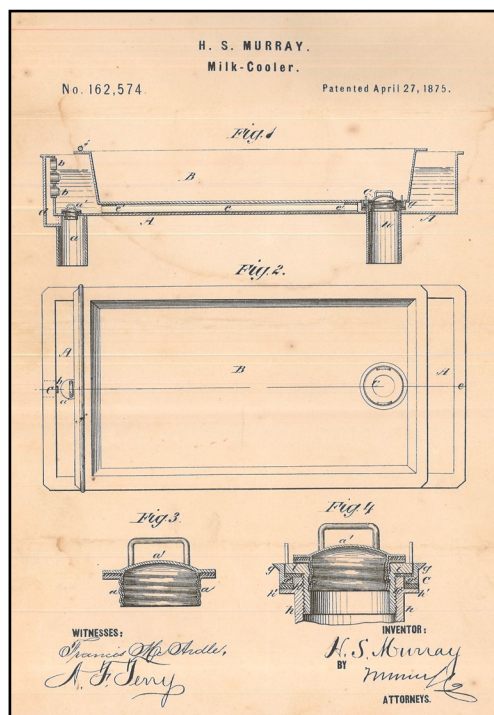
The water enters the vat from the faucet, by a funnel connected to a rubber hose, which extends the entire length of the vat under the pan, and is discharged at the bottom of the vat,

at the opposite end from where it enters, then, after flowing the entire length of the vat, under and around the pan, under and around the pan, discharges at the regulator, consisting of four or more tubes, arranged vertically, in the end of the vat. One of these tubes is open, while the others are kept closed by rubber corks. An outer overflow tube connects the small tube with the exit tube and conveys the water from the vat to the exit tube, which is kept tightly closed by a screw cap, until it is desired to let the water run out entirely, in which case the screw cap is taken off. The bottom of the milk-pan rests on a wooden bar, which runs endwise, through a portion of the vat, being secured by a staple or band on each end. The position of the pan in the vat is firmly secured by a wire guard which binds over the end flange of the pan, and by the faucet near the opposite end. This faucet is a model of convenience, durability and perfection, and needs to be seen to be appreciated. It consists of three parts: A circular collar which is soldered into the bottom of the pan; an outlet tube which is soldered to the bottom of the vat, and on which the circular collar rests, having intermediate packing rims, and being drawn tightly together by a flanged tube screwed firmly into the outlet tube, producing a water-tight connection between the vat and pan, and allowing the milk to pass into the tubing below the vat.

There are now several sets of these pans in use, and in every instances giving entire satisfaction. From the universal expression of admiration which has been given in regard to them. I am led to believe that there are now no better pans in use than THE DELAWARE COUNTY MILK PAN.

I received Letters Patent for the United States for these pans, dated April 27th, 1875, and in order that the public may receive the benefit of my invention, I will sell State and County rights, or give manufacturing licenses on liberal terms. Any size pan that may be required will be made, and prices will be found as low as any first-class pan in market. A full set consists of four pans, with pipe, tubing, etc., sufficient to put them in working order. All correspondence promptly answered.

Address, H.S. MURRAY,
Andes, Delaware Co., N.Y.

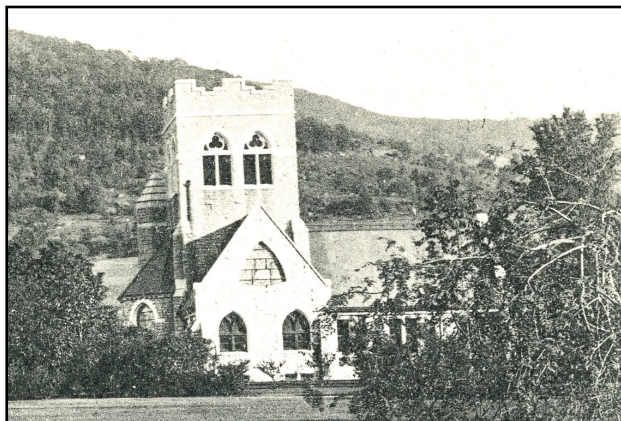


Excerpts from *Roxbury Recipes, 1920*

Collected by The Ladies' Social Society and Missionary Auxiliary of the Jay Gould Memorial Reformed Church, Roxbury, NY. Printed by *The Roxbury Times Press*, Roxbury, NY

The Reformed Church of Roxbury (*pictured right*) was established in 1802. The present building is a memorial erected by the children of Jay Gould, who was born in Roxbury in 1836. The corner stone was laid in June, 1893, and the church was dedicated October 13, 1894.

The Ladies' Social Society was organized in 1884 and in 1888 it became an Auxiliary of the Woman's Board of Foreign and Domestic Missions of the Reformed Church. During these years the Society raised and expended about \$8,500 for the work of the Church, for the care of the Manse, for local needs, and for missionary work at home and abroad.



When you're tired out with catering
And you're feeling rather blue,
And your dinner tastes like chips
And you pine for something new,
Then the Ladies' Social Circle of the
Gould Memorial Church
Can relieve your situation, they'll not leave
you in the lurch.

They are known throughout the county
For their suppers and their spreads,
Groaning tables, great home cooking,
Luscious pies and cakes and breads.
Tried and tested are the recipes
collected in this book;
They are good and you'll like them,
and you'll surely want to cook.

ONE WHO KNOWS

PEANUT BISQUE. – 1 qt. peanuts ground very fine, 1 qt. milk, pinch of salt, lump of butter. Cook 1 hour in double boiler. Thicken and serve. – *Mrs. L. M. Cole.*

SCOTCH SOUP. – 2 ½ qts. water, 1 ¼ cup rolled oats, 5 potatoes cut in small pieces, 2 onions sliced, 2 tablespoons fat, 2 tablespoons flour. Boil the water and add oatmeal, potatoes and onions, ½ tablespoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper. Cook ½ hour. Brown the flour with the fat and add to the soup. 1 cup of tomatoes improves the flavor. – *Carrie H. More.*

BAKED CHEESE AND BREAD. – 1 cup crumbed bread, 2 cups milk. Soak and add ½ lb. grated cheese, 1 tablespoon butter, 2 eggs beaten, pepper and salt. Brown in oven. – *Anna Palen.*

MOCK CRAB. – 4 tablespoons butter, ½ cup flour, 1 ½ teaspoons salt, ½ teaspoon mustard, ¼ teaspoon paprika, 1 ½ cups milk, 2 cups corn, 1 egg, 3 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce, 1 cup cracker crumbs.

Melt butter, add flour mixed with dry seasonings and pour milk on gradually. Add corn, eggs slightly beaten and Worcestershire sauce. Pour into buttered baking dish, cover with crumbs; bake until top is brown. – *Mrs. Robert L. Smith.*

SANDWICH FILLING. – 1 doz. eggs boiled hard, 10 peppers, 1 bunch celery, ½ doz. onions. Put through food chopper and mix with mayonnaise. This makes 200 sandwiches. – *Carrie H. More.*

SANDWICH FILLING. – Chopped raisins and dates, mixed with just enough lemon juice to hold them together. – *Mrs. Talbot.*

SWEET PEPPER SALAD. – Slice sweet green peppers and firm ripe tomatoes with one thinly sliced onion. Serve with mayonnaise on lettuce hearts or water cress. – *Mrs. Burhans.*

FROZEN FRUIT SALAD. – 1 tablespoon butter. Add beaten yolks of 2 eggs, 3 tablespoons flour mixed with 3 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, paprika, cayenne. Add gradually while stirring constantly 2-3 cup milk, 1-3 cup vinegar. Cook while stirring about 10 minutes. Beat. Set aside to cool and add cut fruit. ½ cup whipped cream and 2 tablespoons pineapple juice. Put in mould and freeze. – *Mrs. Ives.*

JONNNY-CAKE. – 1 egg, ½ cup sugar, scant ½ cup shortening, a little salt, 1 cup sweet milk, 1 cup wheat flour, 1 cup corn meal, 2 teaspoons cream tartar, 1 teaspoon soda. If sour milk is used omit cream of tartar. – *Ella K. More.*

HEALTHY BISCUITS. – 2 cups coarse bran, 1 cup white flour, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder, 3 tablespoons molasses, milk enough to make a batter. Bake in muffin pan in slow oven 1 hour. Makes 12. – *Selected.*

Exploring DCHA's Collections: Summer-Time Fun



With summer upon us, we would like to share a few items in collections relating to a favorite warm-weather past time: swimming.

A pair of 1918 swimsuits (pictured left and below) worn by Raymond G. Roach (1897 – 1981) and Mildred Waring Roach (1903 – 1963) of Delhi were donated by their daughter-in-law, Helen Roach, in 1994.

Mr. Roach worked as a delivery milkman for Borden's Creamery from 1923 - 1962 and Mrs. Roach was a house wife. Raymond was also a bricklayer on the St. James' Church construction project at Lake Delaware.

Knitted wool suits similar to these were created by Carl Jantzen and Roy and John Zehntbaur of Portland, Oregon for a rowing team. Jantzen Knitting Mills later coined the term "swimsuit" in 1915. Consumers liked what they saw, increasing demand by 1918. These suits were made from 100% pure virgin wool and Jantzen offered accessories to complete the outfit, like matching stockings and a stocking cap.



A Flotation Device or "Water Wings" from the 1920s was donated by Stanley Smith of Cooks Falls in 1978. This was made by the Ayvad Mfg. Co. of Hoboken, NJ. The description and directions printed directly on the Ayvad's Water-Wings reads:

Water-Wings are all made one size, guaranteed support 50 to 250 lbs. on correct level to float. A large body requires less air than a smaller one; therefore, the wings are made purposely porous so that it should leak a little to adjust itself properly. Enough air always remains in

the wings. Directions: Wash well until no dry spot is left. Blow up so the air bubbles all over. Press on ring mark. Apply on waist. Not under arms.



! Save the Date !



Saturday, July 27
An Enchanted Evening at
the Gideon Frisbee House
6pm – 9pm

An evening of spirited socializing beneath the stars. Featuring an extensive dish to pass buffet from 6 – 7:30pm and a dessert buffet from 7:30 – 9pm. Live music.

Current Members Free.

RSVP requested by July 25.

(We request non-members become members of DCHA in lieu of admission.)

Edgerton continued from page 6

lasted only until July of 1924 when the *Gazette* reported the sale of the hotel to "James Aristo of Nyack - an Italian." A mere month later, Aristo had carpenters C.H. Thomson and Douglas Hume build an addition to the rear of the Edgerton House Annex, "now occupied by E. R. Brown and family."

But the venerable old Edgerton's days were numbered. On July 28, 1928, following a foreclosure sale, W.N. Mable and A.F. Curtis purchased the building. A few short months later, just before Christmas on December 22, demolition of this mainstay in Delhi's commercial district began. Completion of that act was to happen by March 1, 1929.

In January of 1929, the Russell Archibald Company sold the Edgerton House barn to Nelson L. Miller of Elk Creek. The building was described as being 120' by 40' and two and a half stories high. The attached shed was sold to W.T. Aiken. Nothing further of these two structures was mentioned in the *Gazette*, but in April of 1929, "R.L. Gray & Son started to erect a gas station on the property of the demolished Edgerton House."

Several Irishmen were disputing one day about the invincibility of their respective persons, when one of them remarked, "Faith, I'm a brick." "And, indade I'm a bricklayer," said another, giving to the first speaker a blow that brought him to the ground.

Delaware Republican, June 28, 1873

History Corner

Paper Bullets and Pensions: The Miller Family's Civil War

by Samantha Misa

The DCHA archives hold a collection of letters that are dear to my heart – the Civil War letters of the Miller family who lived in Downsville. The letters were the first large-scale collection I transcribed, and the stories within the documents were unforgettable. The family patriarch, farmer John C. Miller, enlisted as a Private in 1862 when he was 44 years old. He often wrote to his wife, Phebe, until he was injured in 1863, after which he was hospitalized in New York City. Miller wrote to his wife from the hospital, but he also used his time convalescing to write to his mistress, Lucy Cook, who also happened to be his maternal first cousin.

Miller's affair led to the dissolution of his marriage, and he died in Pennsylvania in 1900. His wife, Phebe, alternated between living with her children and living in boarding houses until her death in 1902 in Walton. But the Miller family story does not end here – another story of abandonment and deception occurred between John and Phebe's son Alonzo and his wife, Sarah.

Although I have previously written on the tumultuous Miller family marriages (*Headwaters of History*, Spring 2022), an inquiry to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) regarding pension files has led to new information about the life of Alonzo Miller. Alonzo was born to John and Phebe in 1839. Alonzo worked as a farmer like his father. He stood 5' 7" tall, and had a light complexion, brown hair, and brown eyes. Sometime in the late 1850s, Alonzo married a woman named Sarah Miller who lived at the family farm with his parents. The couple had a daughter, Charlotte, who was born in 1861.

Alonzo traveled from Downsville to Hancock to enlist in Company G of the 101st Infantry as a Private on November 14, 1861. His term of service was for three years, or the duration of the war. He trained at a camp in Hancock before his unit was transferred to Fort Liam in Alexandria, Virginia. In an undated letter to his family, Miller wrote that was working as a cook, and that the job was "hot a nuff to burn a man up. i stand it well." The Southern heat made Alonzo

state that "i am as black as a crow if i stay here all summer I will do for a nigrow."

In June and July of 1862, Alonzo took part in the seven-day Battle of Malvern Hill near Richmond. The battle resulted in a Union victory and 8,000 soldiers killed or wounded. One of the wounded was Alonzo. His certificate of Disability for Discharge notes that his injury was an "inflamed hip joint & contusion of the right lower extremity from fall off a horse on July 3, 1862, causing shortening of the Limb

one inch." He was hospitalized at Virginia's Harrison Landing General Hospital before being transferred to Cuyler General Hospital in Germantown, Pennsylvania on August 28th. Alonzo was officially discharged from service on November 30, 1862 due to his "diseased hip."

During this ordeal, Alonzo maintained only cursory communication with his

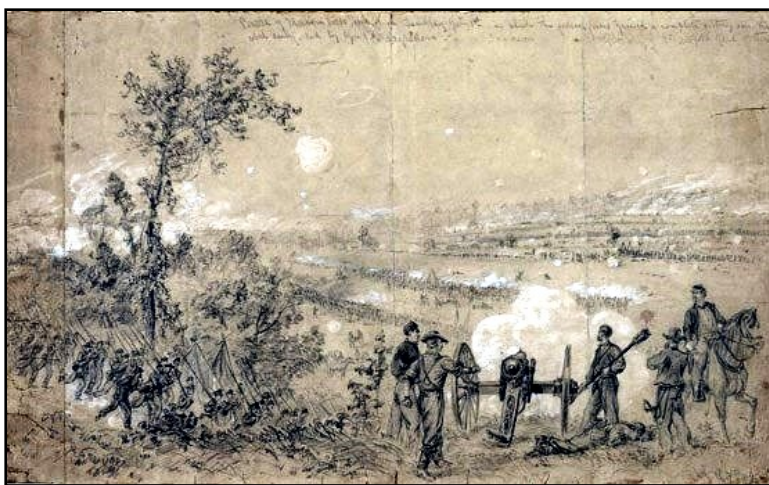
family. On November 12, 1862, Alonzo's wife Sarah wrote to her father-in-law John C. Miller,

i wud lik to kno what maks you thi Alonzo wil come home i haf not had eny leters from him in six weks but i think he wil be home soon Sharlot [Charlotte] is well she gros like a pig i mus close by biding you God bye

According to a letter sent from Sarah to her father-in-law on December 25, 1862, she had heard from Alonzo and he claimed that he was "in Gersey sity." The lack of communication between Alonzo, his wife, and the rest of his family was evident in a later letter written by Sarah to John, where she bemoaned that she had

don as you told me to so i rot a good leter to Alonzo but i Get no ansar from him...i haf rot 10 leters to him but get noansars from him and it maks me lislnes to thik he cars so litl about home but i dont forget him i ofn think of him tho he is fare away

Sarah attempted to send Alonzo one more letter, informing him that



"Battle of Malvern Hill" by Alfred Waud
Library of Congress

*your litl Girl is not well [illegible] to see you and
i hope it wont be long be fore i shal see you i
want you to com home Gest as sone as you Can i
want you to send me some money if you will not
[letter ripped] you haff Gote eny to spare you
said when i wanted eny money to rite and you
wud send me some
I haff [illegible] some hard times sence you left
home i haff tried to do the best i Cod i dont Care
what i haff [letter ripped]
haff ben thare to haff takin Care of you when you
was sick and hurten i no you musts haff thout
about home iwud like to haff you rite to me and
tell me whether you had God Care when you was
sick if you want to kno how the [letter ripped] if
you want me to haff the [illegible] liknes i will
send it to you and if you rite father is well but
mothers helth is note Good and you wud not
wondr at it if you was to home but if you ever
Come home i will rite you*

If Sarah’s letters did make it to Alonzo, her pleas for him to come home fell on deaf ears. Alonzo remained in Germantown, and married a woman named Hannah Gordon on July 24, 1864. On his pension applications, Alonzo listed himself as “not previously married” prior to Hannah. Alonzo and Hannah moved to Cape May, New Jersey and had several children: Beatrice (born 1865), Gaston (born 1867), Mary (born 1873), Jennie (born 1880), and Katherine (born 1884).
Alonzo died on June 13, 1916 in Cold Spring, New Jersey. His pension file notes that he had recently received a pension payment of \$24 the month prior. Hannah Miller continued to collect her widow’s

pension until her death on October 5, 1918. Her last payment was for \$25.
In 1865, Alonzo’s first wife, Sarah, was listed in the census as 29 years old and living with their daughter Charlotte, as boarders at the house of David McLauren and family in Hamden, Delaware County.
In 1880, Sarah was living in Colchester and listed herself as widowed, likely having had no communication with Alonzo since before his hip injury. In 1884, Sarah attempted to apply for a pension as a soldier’s widow. She engaged the services of legal team Soule & Company of Washington, DC to investigate her claim for a widow’s pension, and received a pre-printed card from the firm informing her that “the claim is receiving every attention to our hands” but was delayed by “the press of business in the Department.” The firm hand-wrote in a note that “we have this day called up your case specially,” but nothing further came of Sarah’s attempts to get a widow’s pension.
The following year, Sarah was admitted to the Delaware County Poorhouse. Her intake record lists her as widowed, no education, working as a housekeeper, and with one self-supporting child. The intake remark on her record stated that “I think this woman will be taken to the asylum as she is very much disturbed in mind.” No further records exist regarding the exact fate of Sarah Miller – it is likely she died in the poorhouse and was buried in an unmarked grave.
For anyone interested in exploring Civil War pension records, go to <https://www.archives.gov/forms/>. Click “Order Online” next to Military Pension/Bounty Land Warrant Applications and choose what type of records you are seeking.



Colchester Historic Marker by Kay Parisi-Hampel

Colchester Historical Society unveiled its Pomeroy Foundation Legends & Lore Cat Hollow Marker on May 11. The marker is placed at the pull-off at the beginning of the Cat Hollow Road (County Route 7/Route 206)



The Pomeroy Foundation grant funded this beautiful red and white marker designed to promote cultural tourism and commemorate legends and folklore as part of our heritage. The marker tells the tale of the 1843 Colchester lumberjacks and their camp cook and how Cat Hollow received its name.

After the marker unveiling guests attended a reception at the Shinhopple Memorial Center and viewed an exhibit of vintage Catskill Cat tourism postcards. Fleischmanns historian, John Duda, presented a program on the History of Postcards and Postcard Collecting using local examples.



Kay Parisi-Hampel presenting at the unveiling.

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

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Tuesday—Saturday, 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

from the last weekend in May thru second weekend in October.

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.

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