

Headwaters of History

The Newsletter of the Delaware County Historical Association

Vol. 29, No. 1

March 2024

Making History in Delaware County

DCHA to Host History Conference
New York State Historian to Speak
Saturday, May 11, 1pm to 3pm

Members of local historical societies, local historians, and members of the general public are invited to attend the Delaware County Historical Association's 2024 History Conference. *Making History in Delaware County* is specifically designed for town and village historical societies of Delaware County. However, it is open to anyone with an interest in local history. There is no charge to attend.

For 2024 we are thrilled to host NYS Historian, Devin Lander. Mr. Lander will be explaining the general plans being made in NY to commemorate the fast approaching 250th Anniversary of our nation's founding (2025 – 2033). More specifically, he will also talk about the NYS Commission and how this can aid local communities in marking the auspicious event/s in Delaware County. Here's a link to more information about the commission:

https://www.nysm.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/nys_250_commemoration_field_guide_a.pdf

Additionally, and as always, there will be an opportunity for a general roundtable discussion on issues common to most of us involved in local history organizations. Attendees are asked to bring questions of concern for your organization, interesting ideas (what's worked, what hasn't?), as well as dates of planned events, and handouts which can be shared for cross-promoting.

We are looking forward to an informative and enjoyable afternoon and hope that you will be able to attend. **Advance registration is requested by May 8, 2024.** Please contact us via phone, letter or email. DCHA: 46549 State Hwy. 10, Delhi, NY 13753. Tel: (607) 746-3849 Email: dchadelhi@gmail.com

.....

Delaware County Historical Association Hosts Census Exhibit

The U.S. Census is the only comprehensive or "complete count" of the entire population of our country. It is the only source of data for ensuring everyone has a voice in Congress. "Representative democracy" is the cornerstone on which this nation was founded, and the census is the tool used by the federal government to preserve equal representation. The qualitative aspects of this representation has historically been, and is ever changing.

Explore the history of the U.S. Census in this traveling exhibit at DCHA during the month of March 2024.

The traveling exhibit was written and curated by Heidi Ziemer at Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC), with graphic design work created by Dawn Stanton from Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.



As always, this and other exhibits at DCHA are open to all at no cost. Open during March, M-F, 11am to 4pm.

For more information about the exhibit and the census in general, please visit:

<https://nyheritage.org/exhibits/making-sense-census-new-york>

From the Archives: *WWII Alien Registration* by Ray LaFever

A month after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entry into World War II, President Roosevelt issued a proclamation that required all German, Italian and Japanese aliens to apply for a Certificate of Identification. It applied to anyone who had not yet taken the oath of allegiance before a Federal Judge, the final step in becoming a U.S. citizen.

All German, Italian and Japanese nationals residing in the continental U.S. had to file their applications for a Certificate of Identification between February 9 and 28, 1942. Failure to do so risked possible internment as an enemy alien.

In our current exhibit, "Who's Who: Portraits from DCHA's Collections," we present 38 images taken by Bob Wyer during this period for alien identification certificates. Some research led us to realize that a couple of these people were naturalized U.S. citizens. Diane Galusha from the Historical Society

of the Town of Middletown noted that Alphonse Mattino (listed as Alphonso), was already a citizen. A review through the 1940 Federal census records helped us identify a few other people who, though citizens, were photographed. Though

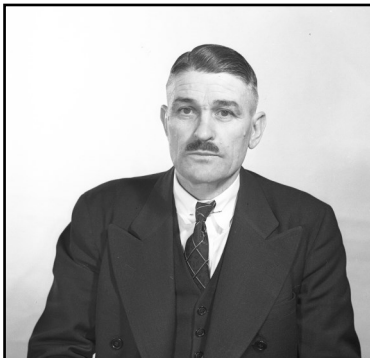


Mr. Mattino

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Mueller were photographed, Mr. Mueller was a U.S. citizen. The wife of Willi Schwarz, Dorthea, also was naturalized. And a further surprise was the inclusion of Troels Pedersen, who was born in Denmark. While not a U.S. citizen, he wasn't German, so it seems he shouldn't have had to apply.

I'm curious about what happened to those who didn't have to do this. Given the photograph was required with the application, it's possible that once the application was reviewed the person, if either naturalized or not from Germany, Italy or Japan, didn't have to get the identification.

Some of those naturalized who applied maybe just wanted to play it safe or didn't have com-



Mr. Pedersen



Otto Pfleger



Mrs. Pfleger

plete information. While the *Delaware Express* newspaper had considerable detail about the requirement and clearly explained that it was for non-citizens, the *Delaware Republican's* article was quite brief and didn't clarify that registration wasn't required of naturalized citizens.

We had some issues researching the names. Adolph Phleger and wife were noted in Wyer's card index, though we are pretty sure this was supposed to be Otto Pfleger. Elizabeth Stenge was Elizabeth Stange, wife of Erich Stange. Interestingly, the February 20, 1942 *Catskill Mountain News's* column for New Kingston noted that "Mr. and Mrs. Eric Stange and little daughter were Delhi callers Tuesday." This was the exact day that Mrs. Stange had her picture taken for her ID at Bob Wyer's studio.



Mrs. Stange

In Memoriam

DCHA was saddened to learn of the passing of our board president and longtime member and volunteer, Dick Meyer in December, 2023.

Dick, a resident of East Meredith, joined the board here in 2011 and became president in 2013. Before his retirement, he was a science teacher at Charlotte Valley School. He and his wife, Joan, also volunteered their talents in June each year by giving weaving workshops to area school children at DCHA. The couple were avid collectors of antiques.

He will be missed by everyone here at DCHA!

Ten Thousand Leghorn Chicks

Rich Bros., of Hobart, are evidently making a success of the poultry business. They have 10,000 eggs in one incubator which are expected to be hatching on Sunday next. They have according to reports over 7,000 fowls now on the place, the exact number being unknown even to the members of the firm. They have White Leghorns exclusively. It is stated that their yield of eggs is large and that they report that eggs today at the lower price are more profitable than a year ago when they were much higher, due to the reduced cost of chicken feed.

Delaware Gazette—April 16, 1921

A Hint to Grumblers

“What a noisy world this is!” croaked an old frog, as he squatted on the margin of the pool. “Do you hear those geese, how they scream and hiss? What do they do it for?”

“O, just to amuse themselves,” answered a little field mouse.

“Presently we shall have the owls hooting; what is that for?”

“It’s the music they like the best,” said the mouse.

“And those grasshoppers; they can’t go home without grinding or chirping; why do they do that?”

“O, they are so happy they can’t help it,” said the mouse.

“You find excuses for all. I believe you don’t understand music, so you like the hideous noises.”

“Well, friend, to be honest with you,” said the mouse, “I don’t greatly admire any of them; but they are all sweet in my ears compared with the constant croaking of a frog.”

— *Apples of Gold*

From *Delaware Republican*—March 29, 1873

Syruping Off

From “*My Boyhood*,” by John Burroughs, 1922

Before I was old enough to gather sap it fell to me to go to the barns and put in hay for the cows and help stable them. The next morning the boiling of the sap would begin, with Hiram in charge. The big deep iron kettles were slow evaporators compared with the broad shallow sheet-iron pans now in use. Profundity cannot keep up with shallowness in sugar-making, the more superficial your evaporator, within limits, the more rapid your progress. It took the farmers nearly a hundred years to find this out, or at least to act upon it.



At the end of a couple of days of hard boiling Hiram would “syrup off,” having reduced two hundred pails of sap to five or six of syrup. The syruping-off often occurred after dark. When the liquid dropped from a dipper which was dipped into it and, held up in the cool air, formed into stiff thin masses, it had reached the stage of syrup. How we minded our steps over the rough path, in the semi-darkness of the old tin lantern, in carrying those precious pails of syrup to the house, where the final process of “sugaring off” was to be completed by Mother and Jane!

The sap runs came at intervals of several days. Two or three days would usually end one run. A change in the weather to below freezing would stop the flow, and a change to much warmer would check it. The fountains of sap are let loose by frosty sunshine. Frost in the ground, or on it in the shape of snow and the air full of sunshine are the most favourable conditions. A certain chill and crispness, something crystalline, in the air are necessary. A touch of enervating warmth from the south or a frigidity from the north and the trees feel it through their thick bark coats very quickly. Between the temperatures of thirty-five to fifty degrees they get in their best work. After we have had one run ending in rain and warmth, a fresh fall of snow – “sap snow” – the farmers call such, will give us another run. Three or four good runs make a long and successful season.

A few days ago Mrs. Dell Hendricks, of Cannonsville, found a gold ring in her hen-nery. Mrs. Hendricks is now wondering if she has a hen that can compete with the goose that laid the golden eggs.

Delaware Gazette—March 5, 1921

1873 Diary Excerpts of Amelia (Purdy) Eells, Walton, NY

Amelia Purdy was born in 1856 and married James Eells (1848 – 1915) in 1872. She gave birth to her first child in August, 1873. Eventually the couple had five children, although four died before age 18. Amelia died in 1884. This diary was donated in to DCHA in 2021 by Kevin McKeen of Corning, NY.

Note: *Original spelling and grammar retained throughout.*

The first page reads: Presented to Amelia Eells, Walton, N.Y. By Her Husband, James Eells, Jan. 1873.

February 1

James and Ella Gray spent the day with us. We took them home in the evening. Part of the day the Sun shined, and part of the day snowed. Spent 10 cts for magnisia.

Sunday, February 2

This has bin a clear but cold day. Have stayed in the House all day and read.

February 3

It has snowed to day. We washed. Jim went to Hamden Hill was gone all day. Oh how the hours laged. It seemed as though he would never come but I was rewarded by his returning at last.

February 4

This has bin a warm & pleasant day. I ironed all the forenoon and went over to Burr's. Peiced one block and finished two.

February 5

It has bin midling pleasant to day, have finished three blocks. Jim varnished my frame this evening.

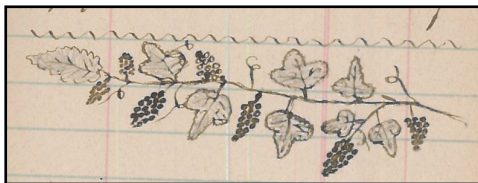
February 6

This has bin beautiful day. Alice and I took dinner to Uncle Allen Eell's. There I met Aunt Lide Lyon.

February 7

This has bin a fine day. Jim cut 1 cord of wood, Charles Watrous.

Leide All, Jim & I called to Mr. George Grays.



Sketch in diary by Amelia Eells.

February 8

This has bin a pleasant day. Mr. and Mrs. George Robinson from up the river were here, also Mrs. Hannah Keirs. Jim and I spent the evening to Mr. Edward Fancher. WE had a delightful time.

Sunday, February 9

To day was a very cold day. I have read most part of the time.

February 10

We washed this morning. I read most of the forenoon. In the afternoon I over hand the seam in one sheet and fringed on pillow case. Jim caught a splendid mess of trout, the weather has bin clear.

February 11

Today has bin cloudy. Father, Jim and Sadi went to the Village. Mother and I ironed. I have written a letter to mother and father.

February 12

I did not send my letter. I received one from mother. Mrs. beirs and Clara R. took dinner here. Jim and I spent the evening down to Irvs. Louie has taken cold but is some better. W. Wilburs Boy is better.

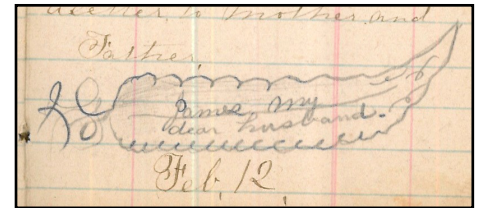
February 13

It has bin quite pleasant to day. Father, Dewitt T. and Jim also us girls went to the Village this afternoon. We called on Ella Gray, had a pleasant time.

February 14

I have over handed a pair of Pillow-cases.

Jim went to the Village. Took my watch. The Rev. Mr. Dean has a donation to night.



Sketch in diary by Amelia Eells.

February 15

This has bin a pleasant day. I over handed a seam in one sheet, finished a pair and a pair of Pillow-cases.

Sunday, February 16

It has snowed today. Burr and Lide came and spent the day. Jim Gray was here. Lew St. John and Jimmie Bulkley was here a little while this evening.

February 17

We washed this morning. I have read part of the day, peiced a block and part of another one. Jim took us down to Irvs this evening, Lide and All staid to whacch with Lonie, she is a little better. We stoped to Burrs and go _____

February 18

Lonie is a bout the same. Lottie came home with the Girl's. I read Camerin Pride through to day think it a very interesting book. I wrote another this forenoon. Father and J__ went to the Village. Jim brought home my watch and traided his with the jeweller.

February 19

Father and Jim went to the Village to day. I spent the day over to Burr's. Lide and I were all alone, had a very pleasant visit, peiced two blocks. Father traided Klitt away.

February 20

This has bin a pleasant day. Father and J__ drewd three cord of wood to Mr. Edward Hoyt. I have not done much as I have not felt well. Jim came to our room for a kiss before he went away. How thankful I feel for so loveing a Husband and oh how much I love him.

February 21

It has snowed hard all day. Father and Mother went to Uncle Sam's a visiting. I have sewed some, read more. I know I ought not to spend so much time reading and I must try and mend so bad a habit.

February 22

It has bin very cold. Lide All and I spent the day over to Burr's. Mr and Mrs George Gray came over in the afternoon.

Sunday, February 23

It is very cold to day also. Father and Jim took us Girls down to Uncle Sam's to bid Hannah Reir's as she leaves us for her home in

February 24

We washed this morning. Burr came over, saying that Mrs Watrous was dead and they wished Father and Mother to come their. Alida came home with them. Burr went to nitify the Friend's. I pittty the husband and children one a little Babe.

February 25

My tooth commenced to ache yesterday afternoon, keep it up all night and to day, how kind my dear husband was in fact always is, how much I think of him. Burr came home about noon. Alida stayed with us last night. I have chrochet some trimming to day.

February 26

Mrs Watrous was buried to day. Jim carried the funel bearers. My tooth still aches. I have crochet quite a lot of trimming. We have been married 5 months to night. I have not once regreted my choice for with out Jim life would be misery.

February 27

I have crochet to day. It has snowed hard all day. My darling husband is just as loveing as usual. May God, help me to make his future pleasant, as he deserves a kind help mate. May I be able to prove so.

February 28

My face ached all night and this forenoon. Jim went

to the Village. I have cut blocks this afternoon and evening.

March 1

It is middleling pleasant. Father, Jim and the Girl's went to the Village this afternoon they brought Bobbi Berry home with them. Father brought me a letter from George.

Sunday, March 2

I have read some to day. Mr. George Fancher called this afternoon. I got ready to go to call on Ella G____, but it snowed and Dear Jim had a hard head acke, so we did not go.

March 3

We Washed this morning. I cut out block enough for twenty block's, peiced 6 b_____ and 5 small ones. Mr. George Fancher called this afternoon

March 4

we have ironed to day. I peiced blocks and layed down this after noon as I did not feel well. Jim came up to see me every little while like a darling "that he is".

March 5

I went down to see Ella (to Jim Gray's) and spent the day. Jim came about noon and we staid the evening, we had a pleasant visit - came home about nine oclock, when Father rushed in saying they had a little Girl over to Burr's, so we had a jublee, mother is over their.

March 6

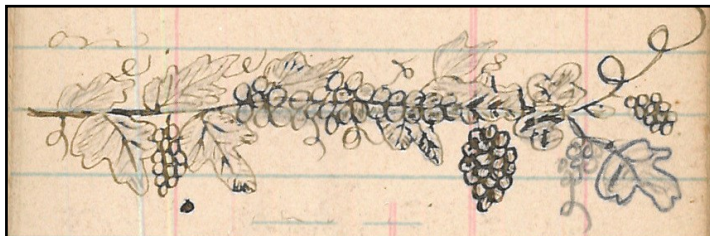
So we all went over this morning. found they had a little Girl for certain. Burr went after Sate Silliman, Lide is there now. Alida is very smart.

March 7

This has bin a very pleasant day. Aunt Mate Jones went over to Burr's this after noon. Jim took her down to the Village. he want me to go. We met Dora. Louie is better.

March 8

Alida is getting along nicely. the Baby is well. Sate Silliman is staying with her. I still love my dear Jim, he is all and all to me.



Sketch in diary by Amelia Eells.

Reviving the Old Ball Game by Collin Miller

Author's note: This article first appeared in the May 2022 edition of the *Catskill Region Guide*. Some content has been updated for the 2024 season.

On a cold night in early March, members of the Delaware County Vintage Base Ball Association gather for batting practice and fielding drills in the hay loft of an 1890 milking barn in Bovina Center. The group ranges in age from lads in their early 20s to seasoned veterans in their early 60s. All are there to prepare for another season of nineteenth century rules baseball, commonly known across the United States as “vintage base ball” (more often spelled with two words until 1895).

What makes vintage baseball different from amateur adult baseball is that, for most, it is a sub-culture open to all men and women of modest athletic ability who care to learn, dress and play by the various rules as the game evolved throughout the 1800s. There are no league standings, playoffs or trophies and, generally speaking, egos are checked at the gate. It is equal parts sport, history, and theater. Sometimes folks (the author included) will show up for the first time to play a modern game only to wind up learning the different rules of the old ball game in a trial-by-fire manner (i.e. foul balls weren't strikes). For many, the differences in the rules and customs are what makes watching the vintage game most enjoyable. Sometimes even the fans get recruited to join in.

The roots of the vintage baseball movement started over thirty years ago in Old Bethpage Village where a small circuit of clubs from Long Island formed to support village programming by playing by the rules, customs, and attire of teams in the greater New York City region during the mid to late 1800s. The idea gained traction in the Midwest and other places following October 1998 when the *Smithsonian* made it the focus of their magazine's cover story, and some years later when it was featured as a comedy sketch on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. Today, there are an estimated 200 clubs playing some version of nineteenth century baseball across the U.S.

Many clubs have a national affiliation with the Vintage Base Ball Association and/or the National Association of Historic Base Ball Clubs and many play in partnership with museums and historical societies.

It is fitting that Delaware County is home to three vintage teams today. In fact, among the very earliest accounts of baseball in American newspapers (and marking perhaps the first time ever that money was offered in exchange for a game), an ad appeared in the *Delhi Gazette* on July 12, 1825 (14 years before Doubleday was purported to have devised the game in Cooperstown). The advertisement contains the names of nine men from “the newly formed Town of Hamden” challenging any group in the county to a game of “BASS-BALL” at the home of Edward B. Chace for \$1 each per game.

Ask any vintage player if Abner Doubleday invented baseball and most will scoff. If they've been paying attention, they will tell you that the sport has no formal inventor and that baseball evolved from a plethora of English stick and ball games. In fact, the first printed reference of baseball appeared in 1744 in the *Little Pretty Pocketbook* describing children's games – almost a century before the Doubleday myth of 1839.

The first team to pioneer the re-creation of nineteenth century baseball in the Catskills was the Roxbury Nine founded over 20 years ago during the revitalization of the beloved Kirkside Park in the historic village of Roxbury. Hancock even put forth a nine of their own for a couple years. However, since then, the national pastime here in the mountains has grown, receded, and



Devon Bedient of the Fleischmanns Mountain Athletic Club swats the sphere during a 2021 match at the Crawford Field in Hamden.



The Polecats debut replica 1908 Delhi Base Ball Club jerseys before a game in their second full season in 2022 (the uniform idea was garnered from a photo in the DCHA archives).

risen again like the flood waters of Tropical Storm Irene that attempted to end it all in 2011. While the Roxbury team has faded for now, the project lives on through three clubs in Fleischmanns, Bovina and Delhi/Hamden. At the time of this writing, two additional fledgling clubs, the Saugerties Base Ball Club and the Kingston Guard, are also planning their seasons.

Fleischmanns has perhaps the most illustrious team history due in part to their affiliation with millionaire sons Julius and Max Fleischmann of yeast-making and distilling fame. From the building of their own private ballpark near the family's summer estate in 1895 until they donated it to the community for a public park in 1914, the Mountain Athletic Club, or M.A.C., (also called the Mountain Tourists) boasted at least a dozen or more future and former major league players. These included Hall of Famers Miller Huggins and (legend has it) Honus Wagner during a time when the Fleischmann brothers owned stakes in the Cincinnati Reds and the Philadelphia Phillies.

The M.A.C. was resurrected first in 2007 by Village Mayor Dave Morel and local businessman Todd Pascarella and ran until the flooding in 2011 ground all local clubs to a standstill for over six years. Former players and fresh recruits renewed their commitment to rejuvenating the club in 2017 with help from the Village Board of Trustees and a grant from the O'Connor Foundation. Since that time, the M.A.C. has been an anchor tenant at Fleischmanns Park every summer.

In celebration of the 125th anniversary of its construction, the M.A.C. Grounds at Fleischmanns Park received its rightful place on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places in 2020. Today, the M.A.C. plays in uniforms replicating what the club had custom tailored in Cincinnati, OH in 1897.



Jerrold Hubbell takes a pitch at the Fleischmanns Founder's Day Celebration at the M.A.C. Grounds in 2019. The historic ballfield was added to the NYS and National Registry of Historic Places in recognition of its 125th anniversary in 2020.

Their website, www.macvintagebaseball.org is a treasure trove of local baseball history.

The Bovina Dairymen joined the circuit in 2008, but ceased play after 2011 and were revived in 2018. Along with the M.A.C., the two clubs represent the only teams in the U.S. playing 1895 rules baseball as all other clubs play eras much earlier (1858-1886). In 2020, the Dairymen constructed their own playing grounds on the former MacPherson Farm along the Little Delaware River on the outskirts of Bovina Center. Creamery Field Vintage Base Ball Park, as it is called today, will host the fourth annual "Cowtown Scramble" on October 5-6, 2024 that will feature different eras of play amid the hills in full fall splendor. Learn more at, www.bovinadairymen.org.

A third team, the Delhi Polecats (also masquerading as the Hamden Polecats when at home), is entering its third season. Some of their roots can be traced to the county seat and some to the Hamden Polecats – a town team that played at the historic Crawford Field on Launt Hollow Road. This is where they host games throughout the season. What the field lacks in modern amenities, it more than makes up for in charm and community pride.

The Polecats represent the oldest team in Delaware County, harkening back to the aforementioned "BASS-BALL" game in 1825. A grand celebration is in the works for the Town of Hamden Bicentennial next year. Follow them at:

www.facebook.com/DelhiVBBC.

Admission to all games is free (although the home club will usually pass the hat to offset umpire expenses). Funding for these clubs is provided by a variety of individuals and businesses and the Delaware County Tourism & Promotional office with additional support from the MARK Project. All the teams' schedules can be found at: www.delcovintagebaseball.org.



Bovina Dairymen and M.A.C. in a 1895 rules match at the Creamery Field Vintage Base Ball Park in Bovina Center. Opened in September 2020, the site is home to the "Cowtown Scramble" - a two-day festival, held the first weekend in October, that brings in nineteenth century base ball teams from across the Northeast.

Excerpts from, *Recipes for Favorite Candies Home-made with the Taylor Home Candy Maker's Thermometer, 1914*

In 2023 Carol Gendle donated a yoke and thermometer used in making maple syrup. Her great grandfather, George Stadel of Colchester (pictured below) made the yoke to carry buckets of sap to boil down into maple syrup. They used the thermometer (also pictured) when making the syrup. The thermometer came with a recipe book which is excerpted below.

Home-Made Candy

Its Food Value and Some General Information Regarding It

Candy making is a never ending source of pleasure to everyone participating in it, because it is both fun for the maker and a delight to the partaker. For an evening's entertainment or an afternoon's enjoyment, what better than candy making? It is one of the few occupations that is as enthusiastically welcomed by the children as by adults, for from youth to old age, everyone loves candy.

Popular thought on the subject of candy making is being revolutionized, as it becomes known that candy is just as essential a food for both children and adults as meat, bread or potatoes. Candy being a pure sweet, a perfect carbohydrate, supplies added energy and needed fuel to keep the body in the best physical condition.

Parents do their children a great injury by denying them pure, wholesome candy, for the growing child requires a large amount of sugar to supply the necessary energy for its almost ceaseless activity.

Home made candies are much better than factory made, because of the known source of ingredients, the careful blending of materials and the cleaner surroundings in the kitchen and pantry.

Candy making is as simple or as complex as one chooses to make it. While a large number of utensils *can* be used, all that is really necessary is a pan, *a thermometer* and the fire, and of these one is just as essential as the other.



George and Tom Stadel using yokes, ca. 1900s.

*The following recipes were written in the cookbook.
Note: Original spelling maintained throughout.*

Soft maple cream

Cook. 223 degrees take off let cool until you can press your finger on top stir with wooden spoon in bowl

Potato Fondant

Mash finely a small well cooked potato, add powdered sugar to make a stiff fondant. Add flavoring (any kind) cocoanut dates (nut meats) any kind as roll in chocolate or roll thin spread with Peanut butter nuts cocoanut or dates roll & slice like cinnamon buns don't take two large a potato add a pinch of salt

The following recipes were printed in cookbook.

Maple Spheres

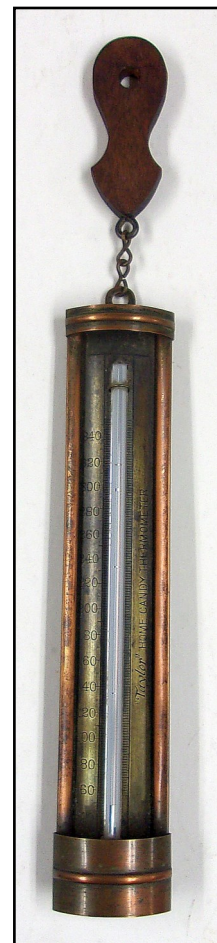
½ gill of water
½ lb. light brown sugar
½ lb. walnut halves
½ lb. maple sugar
½ teaspoon almond flavoring

Boil water, brown sugar and maple sugar to 240 degrees. Add the flavoring and cool. Stir until creamy and when firm knead until smooth, form into small balls and press a walnut half into each ball. When cold and firm, dip into melted chocolate.

Maple Brittle

1 ½ lbs. maple sugar
½ pt. water
½ pt. molasses
1 pinch cream of tartar
1 tablespoon maple syrup
2 level teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon boiling water
¼ lb. chopped nutmeats
1 teaspoon lemon flavoring
¼ lb. butter

Boil the cold water, sugar, syrup and cream of tartar to 300 degrees. Add the butter, boil for 4 minutes. Take from the fire and add the soda dissolved in the boiling water and the lemon flavoring. As soon as it begins to foam pour on well oiled plates and spread very thin. Sprinkle with the chopped nuts. When cold, pour melted chocolate over it.



OUT FISHIN'

By Edgar A. Guest

A feller isn't thinkin' mean,
Out fishin';
His thoughts are mostly good and clean,
Out fishin';
He doesn't knock his fellow men,
Or harbor any grudges then;
A feller's at his finest, when
Out fishin'.

The rich are comrades to the poor,
Out fishin';
All brothers of a common lure,
Out fishin';
The urchin with the pin an' string
Can chum with millionaire an' king;
Vain pride is a forgotten thing
Out fishin'.

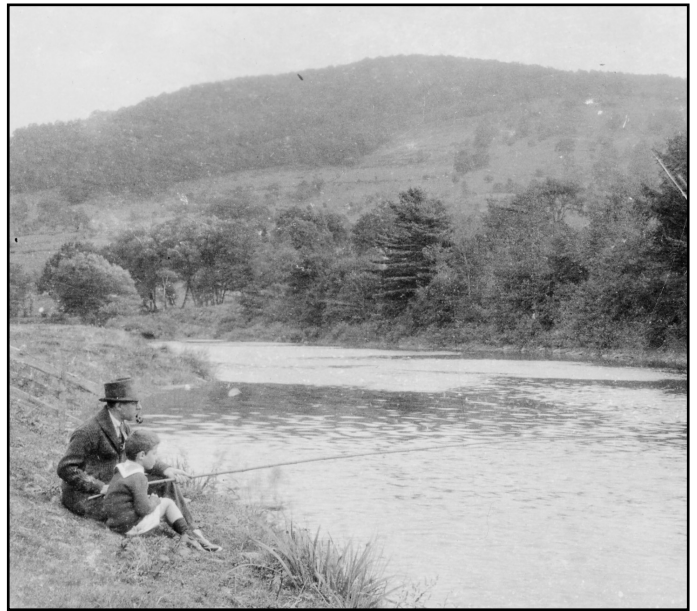
A feller gets a chance to dream,
Out fishin';
He learns the beauties of a stream,
Out fishin';
An' he can wash his soul in air
That isn't foul with selfish care,
An' relish plain an' simple fare
Out fishin'.

A feller has not time for hate,
Out fishin';
He isn't eager to be great,
Out fishin';
He isn't thinkin' thoughts of pelf,
Or goods stacked high upon a shelf,
But he is always just himself,
Out fishin'.

A feller's glad to be a friend,
Out fishin';
A helping hand he'll always lend,
Out fishin';
The brotherhood of rod an' line
An' sky an' stream is always fine;
Men come real close to God's design,
Out fishin'.

A feller isn't plotting schemes,
Out fishin';
He's only busy with his dreams,
Out fishin';
His livery is a coat of tan,
His creed: to do the best he can;
A feller's always mostly man,
Out fishin'.

From *Cornell Rural School Leaflet*, March 1920



Fishing on the riverbank. DCHA Archives.

Fifty Interesting Things to Look for in April, May, and June

From the *Cornell Rural School Leaflet*, March 1920

The three months of April, May, and June are so full of changes that even the dullest person can not help noticing things like the new cloak of leaves on the trees, the new color of the grass, the appearance of flowers, and the arrival of the birds. Most of our trees bloom in these months. Those flowering first seem dull and common but they use the wind to spread their pollen. They do not need to appeal to the fickle fancy of living creatures by showing attractive color or perfuming themselves with fragrant nectar. As soon as the insects are with us in any appreciable numbers we can tell it even though we do not hear them or see them. Some mornings we wake up and the apple trees are covered with flowers which fill the air with their fragrance. Cherries, plums, pears, and other fruit trees are all in the race to offer a welcome to the visiting insects which will carry pollen from flower to flower. If one wishes to state that all insects are good, we can answer by saying that sometimes there is "too much of a good thing." There are insects that are welcomed by the trees as well as by ourselves, and there are those that are not. The undesirable ones, if uncontrolled, would eat the tree's fruit, suck its juice, and destroy its wood. Thanks to the arrival of the birds the balance is kept. When one sees an apple tree burst into bloom then he ought to know that it means more insects and more birds, as well as more beauty in the landscape. In May we have probably more birds than at any other time of the year, a profusion of showy flowers, and a larger number of insects than we have had before this year. What more could one searching for interesting things ask for?
(A list of 50 things followed the above passage)

Exploring DCHA's Collections: The Howland Family Lap Robe

DCHA's collections are filled with unusual objects, at least when viewed through a contemporary lens. One such object is an early 1900s lap robe made out of pony fur. The robe is quite massive, measuring roughly 77" x 76." One side of the robe is made of bay colored, reddish brown fur. The reverse side is a mottled shade of green and black, rough wool material. There are two black felt wool straps attached near the top and two rows of black felt wool with pinked edging form a border on all four sides. The overall shape is not square, the edges curve to the shape of the hide.

The robe was donated in 1985 by Theron Howland of Walton. According to the accession record it was made out of the family's pet pony after it had died. The Howlands sent it to the Crosby Frisian Fur Company in Rochester to be made into a robe. The Crosby Company ran ads in the local paper. One such ad printed in the *Delaware Gazette* on November 5, 1902 is pictured below.



The Crosby Frisian Fur Company was founded in 1889 to meet the need for a heavy fur coat, at a time when the American Bison was no longer plentiful. G. N. Crosby started ex-

perimenting with cow, horse and dog skins and produced some very serviceable, if rather bulky coats. Some of the company's more notable clients included George Eastman, Theodore Roosevelt, and the Maharaja of Jalore. The company ceased operation in the early 1960s.

The Howland family were well known farmers in the town of Walton. Their roots began in Delaware County with Phineas Howland (b. 1772 – d. 1834), an early settler in the town of Hamden. Phineas' grandson, Edwin R. Howland (b. 1830 – d. 1888)

grew up in Hamden and learned farming on the ancestral home before purchasing his own farm in the Town of Walton. It was here that his children and grandchildren continued farming well into the 20th century. Edwin R. Howland was the great-grandfather of Theron Howland, donor of the fur lap robe.



Howland Family Lap Robe
Howland Family Lap Robe

He [Edwin] was reared on the farm of his grandfather Howland, educated in the district schools of Hamden, and at an early age began life for himself, working on a farm by the month. Having acquired a practical knowledge of agriculture, he rented land and engaged in farming on-shares for a year, then purchased the farm where his son now lives. Prospering in his labors as a tiller of the soil, he bought other land, and erected more commodious and convenient buildings. His farm, three and one-half miles from the village of Walton, contained three hundred acres of fertile land; and in connection with its management he operated a feed-mill and carried on an extensive dairy business.

From Biographical Review, 1895.

Two of Edwin's sons, T. Pollock (b. 1861 – d. 1952) and Owen (b. 1870 – d. 1938) took over the farm after his death in 1888. The *Biographical Review* reads: ... *its management, has continued the improvements and enlarged its business. He makes a specialty of dairying, keeping about one hundred head of cattle and several horses, cutting sufficient hay for their use. He and his brother are following in the footsteps of their honored sire, and have already acquired a substantial reputation as farmers of signal ability, ever ready to do their part as loyal and worthy citizens.*

Owen L. Howland, grandfather of the donor of this robe, lived his entire life in Walton where he had a farm on East Brook Rd. He was the father of three sons. The eldest Theron Howland, Sr. (b. 1903 – d. 1984) and his son Theron Howland, Jr. (b. 1944 – d. 2016) continued the family business on the ancestral farm in Walton.



Beers Atlas, 1869.
Arrow points to Howland Farm.

📖 **History Corner** 📖
Familiar Names in Sidney: Scintilla and the *Enola Gay*
by Samantha Misa

For many in Delaware County, and Sidney in particular, the name Scintilla is a familiar one. The Scintilla Corporation came to Sidney in the 1920s and grew to prominence manufacturing airplane spark plugs, known as magnetos. During the 1940s, the Scintilla Corporation ramped up production to meet wartime demands. The company was integral in the production of magnetos for Allison engines that were used in B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-29 Superfortresses.

The B-29 in particular is also associated with another famous name: the *Enola Gay*. This aircraft became famous as the plane flown by Colonel Paul Tibbets to drop the world's first nuclear bomb, "Little Boy," on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. The initial blast instantly killed approximately 80,000 people. The fact that the *Enola Gay* was a B-29 Superfortress raised the question if it would be possible to find out if the magneto inside this plane's engine was manufactured in Sidney.

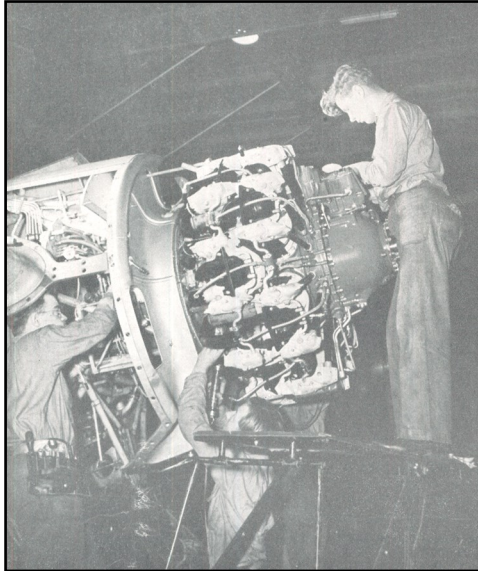
Preliminary research revealed that there were two main manufacturers of airplane magnetos in the United States during World War II, Briggs & Stratton and Scintilla. The parts for warplanes were shipped from their places of manufacture to production plants across the country for assembly, making

it difficult to trace the route taken by certain products and the particular parts used by each factory.

However, analysis of air force blueprints for B-29 Superfortresses at the height of the war reveals that each engine was designed to be equipped with a Scintilla-style dual magneto. Military aviation historian and restoration expert Gerad Blume confirmed to me via email that the magneto in the *Enola Gay* indeed came from the Scintilla factory in Sidney.

Presently, the *Enola Gay* resides at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Washington, D.C. It remains a controversial display, as many believe the aircraft represents a crime against humanity, while others argue that the dropping of the atomic bombs saved the lives of servicemen by ending the war in the Pacific and dialogue should focus more on the sacrifices of veterans.

Regardless of the *Enola Gay*'s controversies, it should also be remembered as a representation of the combined efforts of well-known local industries from across the United States, and serve as a reminder of the nation's unprecedented mechanical mobilization during international crisis.



Ready for action aboard a U.S. Aircraft Carrier. Getting the planes ready, Naval Aviation Machinist Mates work far into the night aboard the carrier to service planes, so they will be ready to take off for the morning attack. Plane shown in photo is equipped with Scintilla magnetos.

From *The Scintillator*, January 1944

SIDNEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION 2024 SPRING PROGRAMS

Saturday, March 9 @ 11am

Local Railroad History by Steve Arrandale & Jim Gale

Saturday, April 13 @ 11am

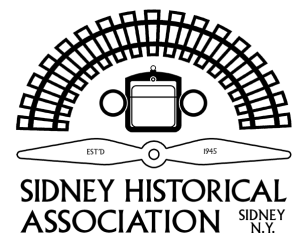
Civil War Program by Jed LaBounty

Saturday, May 18 @ 10am

Patriots Revolutionary War Sign Dedication by Dale & Tina Utter, the Sons of the American Revolution & the Sidney American Legion.

All programs to be held at the Sidney Memorial Public Library, 8 River Street

For more information visit the Sidney Historical Association website at: www.sidneyhistory.com
Or e-mail: info@sidneyhistory.com



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
Delhi, NY
Permit No. 15

Headwaters of History

Headwaters of History is produced by the Delaware County Historical Association. All rights reserved

Editor: Tim Duerden

Designer: Angela Gaffney

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

DCHA's Board of Directors

Sheila Ayres, President; Gabrielle Pierce, Vice-President; Kay Parisi-Hampel, Treasurer; Jay Goldman, Elinor Oles, Virginia Sanford, and Michael Wood.

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

DCHA is located on State Hwy 10, 2.5 miles north of Delhi.

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

For more information call (607) 746-3849 or

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

www.dcha-ny.org

Visit us on Facebook

The A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, Inc.

The Tianaderrah Foundation

The Santora Family Trust

The Walter & Anna Burchan Trust

The Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation

Museum Staff

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

Volunteers

Susan Frisbee, Membership
Helen Casey, Library