

Headwaters of History

The Newsletter of the Delaware County Historical Association

Vol. 29, No. 3

September 2024

History Award of Merit Nominations Requested

The Delaware County Historical Association is once again accepting nominations for its annual Awards of Merit. Individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to the preservation and presentation of local history, traditions and culture will be presented with awards at DCHA's Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 3, 2024.

The accomplishments of nominees should represent an outstanding effort to preserve and promote the history and culture of Delaware County, or to preserve and present the traditional folk arts of the region. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to: preservation of buildings, public programs, volunteer operation of historical societies, publications, or exhibits. Activities conducted as part of a business venture or by a for-profit organization are generally not considered for the award nominations.

To submit a nomination, write a short letter/e-mail detailing the reasons the nominee (or group) is deserving of the award. Include your name, address and phone number and the name and contact information of the nominee and **send it by October 21, 2024** to: Award of Merit Committee, Delaware County Historical Association, 46549 State Highway 10, Delhi, NY 13753.

For more information contact (607) 746-3849.

E-mail us at dchadelhi@gmail.com



DCHA Fall Day Trip! Historic Wilderstein and Hudson River Cruise



DCHA is pleased to announce the second of our popular fundraising bus trips of 2024. On Thursday, October 10 we invite friends and members of the museum to travel with us to the Hudson Valley. One of the day's highlights is our first stop, the Historic Wilderstein Mansion and gardens in Rhinebeck, NY.

After a guided tour of the house and grounds, we will lunch at the Ole Savannah Restaurant at Rondout Landing on the Hudson River. Lunch will be followed by a short stroll along the Landing to board the vessel, the Rip Van Winkle II, for a leisurely 90-minute sightseeing cruise on the Hudson River.

Cost: \$150 for DCHA members and \$175 for 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 September 26th.

Passengers may board the motor coach in Oneonta at 7:00 am or in Delhi here at DCHA at 7:30 am. We estimate our return time in Delhi to be approximately 6:00 pm.

NOTE: *The Wilderstein Mansion tour is two floors with many steps & is not ADA accessible.*

Help Wanted! Revolutionary War Project

With the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution fast approaching, DCHA is looking to compile as complete a list as possible of the county's Revolutionary War veterans and their final resting places in Delaware County. All veterans of the war were born someplace other than Delaware County (founded in 1797), so we are including anyone who fought on the patriot side wherever their service. If you know of any veterans who lived in or are buried in your town or village, please contact DCHA and make sure they are included in our database!

Please call DCHA (607) 746-3849 or email dchadelhi@gmail.com to submit a name and burial information, or if you have any questions.

We have already had a tremendous response from many local historians, but we are hoping to gain more information about veterans in the towns of Tompkins, Hancock, and Franklin.

Thank you for your help!



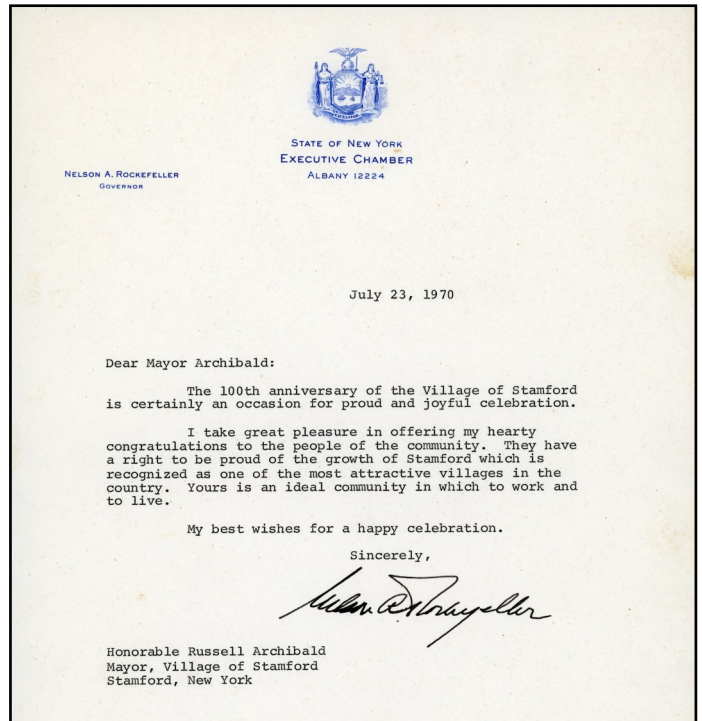
From the Archives: *Recent Donations* by Ray LaFever

DCHA accessioned some items donated by Mark Archibald concerning his father, who was Mayor of Stamford. Included was this letter (at right) from New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller to Mayor Russ Archibald, dated July 23, 1970, on the occasion of the centennial of the village of Stamford.

20th Century Farm records:

While we do have some 19th century farm records, I've been concerned that we don't have many from the 20th century. Recently, we received two donations which have helped add information concerning 20th century dairy farming to our collections.

Marcia Shaw donated records from her father David Shaw's farm in Meredith, mainly herd registers from the 1960s and early '70s. It's interesting to see that these are computer generated. Below is a sample from the 1960s. Each cow has a tag number but the record also records for posterity the cow's barn name.

[illegible]

David Shaw was a lifelong resident of Meredith. As well as a farmer, he was a cattle dealer. He died in 2003 at the age of 86.

We also received farm materials of Hanford S. Shultis (1864-1958) of Kelly Corners. These were

does not record any birthdays). Into his late 80s he was still doing various farm chores, though when he was about 86 these start to wane as his handwriting becomes shakier. He was still shoveling snow when he was 88! As he approached 90, he still recorded “work on books.”

Hancock's Homan Pond District School No. 7 by Arthur W. Pierson

Some time ago a good friend asked me whether the building just north of Somerset Lake (also known as Homan, or Homen Pond) was in fact an old one room school house. Coincidentally, shortly after, another good friend sent me several newspaper pages which happen to include listings of details related to the operation of the same school.

Those two events got me thinking. What did I actually know about the school house? A search located many more newspaper listings.

We always knew it was a one room school house. In fact, I personally knew someone who attended school there as a child. I cannot tell you if Stanley Baudendistel told me that directly or if a member of his family told me, but we always knew it. The school appears on a 1900s map (below) in the correct location as District School No. 7.



I don't know when the school was built nor do I know when it was started to be used for students. The first listing in *The Hancock Herald* was in 1911 describing the 1910 - 1911 Homan Pond school year. Miss Mary Ryder closed the school term and was contracted to teach at a different school in the fall.

District School identification numbers are not consistent over the years. For example, both the 1856 and 1869 maps of the area list the French Woods District School as No. 12, whereas *The Hancock Herald* lists the same school in 1927 as District School No. 23. In 1914 *The Hancock Herald* lists the French Woods School as No. 23, but in this case it calls it the Sand Pond School. The French Woods School is at Sand Pond.

The following is a list of teachers for the Homan Pond School. There are three additional listings that indicate that the school was open and functioning:

School Year and Teacher

1910 - 1911 - Mary Ryder
1911 - 1912 - Irene Shea
1912 - 1913 - ?
1913 - 1914 - Disbursements
1914 - 1915 - Irene Shea
1915 - 1916 - Mrs. Ed Newman
1916 - 1917 - ?
1917 - 1918 - ?
1918 - 1919 - ?
1919 - 1920 - Mrs. Ed Newman
1920 - 1921 - Miss Alma Mallery
1921 - 1922 - Miss Lucy Drumm
1922 - 1923 - Mrs. Mae Newman or
Miss Schoonmaker
1923 - 1924 - Miss Lottie Cooper
1924 - 1925 - ?
1925 - 1926 - Mrs. Elsie B. Gill
1926 - 1927 - Public School Monies
Apportioned
1927 - 1931 - 4 years?
1931 - 1932 - Homan Pond School to be
included in centralization
1932 - 1933 - Possible last year of use?
1933 - 1934 - Hancock Central School opens to
students

The Town of Hancock is 162 square miles in area. There were as many as 27 schools in the town from the 1910s until the 1930s. Most were for lower grades and they were located all over. There was one larger Hancock High school which was for older stu-



 Diary Excerpts of Fannie Roberts ~ Bloomville, NY ~ 1901

Copies of Fannie Roberts' diaries from 1900 - 1905 were donated to DCHA in 1995 by Elva Myer of Delhi who owned the originals.

Fannie was born December 18, 1886, the daughter of Charles and Margaret Boyd Roberts. She grew up in Bloomville, NY. As a teenager she trained her own horses, supposedly mimicking circus training.

Fannie and her father moved to 14 Franklin Street in Delhi in 1917 after her mother died. As an adult she toured many states in a car with her uncle and friend. She was an avid photographer. DCHA has a couple of her photo albums in which she meticulously documented different events and activities. She was active in many organizations, including being a 50-year member of the Watauga Chapter 315 Order of the Eastern Star.

Fannie never married. She died March 2, 1973 and is buried in the Riverside Cemetery in Bloomville.

Fannie was 14 years old when she wrote these entries. *Original grammar and spelling maintained.*

Tuesday October 29, 1901

Louie, Mabel Charlie and myself went upon the hill when we came back I threw apples at Jack Allcots house once I hit it on the door.

Wednesday October 30, 1901 (at school)

The school commissioner was here today

Thursday October 31, 1901

Maude Whitney and her brother Ernest drove up to school after Louie

Friday November 1, 1901

Louie Charlie Mabel and myself went part way up the hill and rolled stones down.

Saturday November 2, 1901

Aunt Deal came back here last Wed. she went home Thursday. mama and I sewed some today

Sunday November 3, 1901

Mama Papa and myself went down to Uncle Emmetts today Mimmie Every and Carrie were up there too Cecils time is out he went to Oneonta today. I put ten red handkerchieves in one of his boxes for him as a present.

Monday November 4, 1901

Mabel did not go to school today.

Tuesday November 5, 1901 Election

Mabel did 'nt go to school today because there was' nt any. I have my piece all learnt. We are to speak peaces on Friday afternoon of this week I went over

to Esthers last night and got mine the name of it is Mabel Mason

Wednesday November 6, 1901

Anna Every is married today to Frank Burdick. Mabel was'nt to school today

Thursday November 7, 1901

Louie brought me up some books to read

Friday November 8, 1901

Mabel came to school today and raised the (Devil) as you may say all the afternoon I am having quite a time getting my knife compass and a few other things cleaned at school as the mice have been over them.

Saturday November 9, 1901

Papa went to Delhi today. I got Mag harnessed for him and helped to unharness her. Cousin Lestlie came down with an animal (bull) for to trade with papa he took papas back with him

Sunday November 10, 1901

Mama and I went down to Mrs. Deans in the afternoon. Henry Williamson has his house painted while they were milking I wrote a letter to Maggie Williamson (Bloomville, NY)

Monday November 11, 1901

Cecil came back today, he has hired out up to George Lions he gets eighteen dollars per month Alice Maxon said as he passed me "pretty rainy" and I answered "yes" he certainly looked as if he thought it was rainy for he had his hands in his pokets and his hat pulled down over his face, the wind was blowing in his face making it rather red and the wind by thus blowing, blew the mist that was in the air in his face while it was to my back. I wrote a letter to Lena Taney at Hobart (the first letter I ever wrote to her I am not sure that she will answer it.

Tuesday November 12, 1901

I went to school Mabel was there today

Wednesday November 13, 1901

Mabel was at school today it snowed quite hard today. I rode home from Uncle Emmetts with John Forman

Thursday November 14, 1901

There is no school today as Louie has gone to Delhi to try examinations today she has to be gone two days. (Today and tomorrow she is going to try Current Topiet & Physics

Friday November 15, 1901

Mama and I worked on my blue skirt did'nt do a

very grate lot on it either Irie Goodrich came up to-day to draw wood for Higgins

Saturday November 16, 1901

Irie drew four loads of wood today and papa went to Bloomville. Papa got a half bushel of onions at Eguene Powells for .60 Mamma and I worked some on my blue skirt it is reado to sew on the band now we have made it about two inches longer

Sunday November 17, 1901

Irie stayed here nearly all day today he talked to beat the cars too. I found out how Jennie Dibble (Thompson) was used by her mother When Mrs. Thompson found out the condition Jennie was in she was so mad that she drove her from the house out doors and I think Art and her had to sleep in the barn that night Jen and Art have moved over the rive now. (I mean across the Delaware River)

Monday November 18, 1901

I went to school Louie passed the examination ms. Jennie Dibble's (Thompson) baby was born last Thursday 14

Tuesday November 19

I went to school Mabel Louie Charlie and myself got there about the same time.

Wednesday November 20

Leslie Tompsit is very sick with Pneumonia (at Jim Burdicks) I am unwell

Thursday November 21

I went to school Papa sold a cow to Len Smith for twenty dollars we chased a mouse around the school room all recess and part of the noon

Friday November 22, 1901

We had school out at three oclock on account of a New England Supper that is to be held a the church tonight they are going to have everything they can get that is old fassioned

Saturday November 23, 1901

Mama Papa and I all went to Bloomville Mama and I went ut to Mr. Robinson's to see if Mrs Robinson would give me music lessons we saw their baby it is five weeks old. I am to go down next Saturday and take my first lesson when we came back we went up in Netta Odells to see her baby I think Netta is the pretties but Mrs. Robinson is the britest looking one Got myself a pair of shoes and a union suit. Mama got a pair of scales and several other little things I am well again.

Sunday November 24, 1901

We had turkey for dinner today

Monday November 25, 1901

They raised nearly twenty-six dollars at their supper down to the church Friday it is for to fix the roof of the Parsenage I rode up from Uncle Emmets with Charlie Wetmore

Tuesday November 26, 1901

Louie and her mother went to Hartford to attend her uncles funeral her brother Egune taught for her. I guess he is the first man teacher that ever taught in that school house. I like him very much would 'nt mind if he taught every day. I would have very easy Civil Government lessons.

Wednesday November 27, 1901

Louie taught today Louie said she asked her brother if "Mabel showed him her new pants?" he said no but she talked a good deal about them mabel did show them to him but he was looking out S the window at the time her stockin came down and she tried very hard to get him to fasten it up for her but he told her to go and get me to fasten it up for her.

Thursday November 28, 1901

There was no school today as it is Thanksgiving day we had chicken for dinner

Friday November 29, 1901

Papa got Mr. Halicure and Deatte Brownell to help him butcher they killed two hogs and one cow.

Saturday November 30, 1901

I went down to Mrs. Robinsons to take my first music lesson she had me begin at the first part of my book and play about half I have had before this is what she gave me to practice Excerise No. 7, 13, 14, 16 or Spanish Hymns I have the letters to learn also

Sunday December 1, 1901

I read the book whose title is "Meadow Brook" through today. Leslie Tompsits funeral was yesterday at one oclock Pat Lambs Funeral was yesterday at one oclock

Monday December 2, 1901

I went to school it stormed considerable today Mabel was there though.

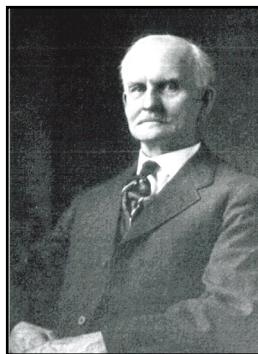


Fannie Roberts in her garden showing 7ft tall delphinium. Delhi. July 10, 1935

Remembering John T. McDonald

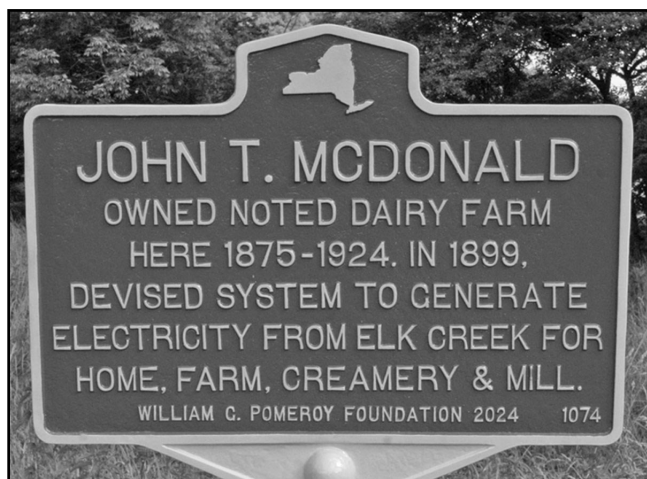
by Frank Waterman

John T. McDonald was a progressive farmer who operated a large dairy farm on Elk Creek from 1875 to 1924. Not your ordinary farmer, he became nationally known for his unique farming methods and labor saving devices. He had a 90-cow dairy when milking had to be done by hand, hired 7 or 8 men full-time, and manufactured high quality butter in his own creamery, which he sold retail to customers in the New York metropolitan area.



He is probably best known locally for devising a way to electrify his farm in 1899, more than three decades before the valley was electrified by NYSEG in 1936. He had a water-powered mill on his farm and generated 220-volt D.C. electricity by powering a generator with one of his water turbines. His farm was the first in the area, and perhaps the state, to have electricity. It supplied the farm's electricity until the flood of 1935 destroyed the millpond dam.

Meredith Historical Society recently erected a New York State historical marker, funded by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, on the former McDonald farm on Elk Creek to commemorate him and this achievement.



In 1952, John's daughter, Elizabeth, donated the records of the farm, which span 100 years, to Cornell University. They fill thirteen large boxes. Last summer, I spent several days at Cornell collecting information about John T. McDonald and his farm from this source and wrote a book titled, *John T. McDonald: Meredith's Legendary Farmer*, based on the McDonald family papers and articles published in local newspapers. Copies of this book are available from DCHA and Meredith Historical Society.

Building History

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

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

Although the going has been slower than we'd hoped, we have still made progress. Thanks in part to your prior donations, we have engaged the professional services of a local company, LRM Architecture, and we are now awaiting completion of the necessary final construction documents. Other local companies have already completed site surveys and further tests. We are now at the point where we will apply for the necessary building permits and other permissions from state, local and watershed offices.

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

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

All money raised will be earmarked solely for this important local project. DCHA is an accredited not-for-profit organization. Thus, any donation on your part is tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

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

A 100 Per Cent Cow

A few days ago Norman Wolcott, little son of Postmaster Frank Wolcott, called on a neighbor and announced that his grandfather had a new cow. The neighbor, wishing to carry on the conversation, asked whether or not the cow was a Holstein, to which Norman replied, "No, she's an American." — Franklin Dairyman.

Delaware Republican—November 1, 1924

Excerpts from — *The Handy Cook Book* — 1903

Published by The Ladies' Aid Society, of the M. E. Church, Sidney Centre, NY 1903

Fore Word: We take pleasure in bringing to the public our Cook Book. The recipes are "tried and true," being selected with care and some expense, and trust that it will be of practical use in many households.

We wish to call your attention to the advertising department and believe it will be for your interest to patronize these firms whom we thank for taking space in the book. When trading with them say that you saw their "Ad" in the Sidney Centre Cook Book.

Cordially yours,
LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

Hand written recipes:

Chocolate Pie

1 ½ cups boiling water
1 " sugar
1 egg
2 heaping Tablespoon flour
2 of grated Chocolate
a little salt
Season with vanilla

Mrs. E.R. Wheat

Sugar Cookie

1 small egg
1 cup sugar
1 " sour cream
1 teaspoon salt
1 " " soda
Flavor to suit the last mix
Soft

Mrs. Bert Hodges

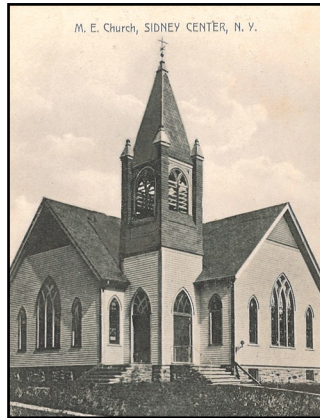
Printed Recipes:

FRIED FROGS.

Skin well and cook for 5 minutes in salted water, the hind legs only; then throw into cold water to cool, then drain; fry in hot fat. Serve garnished with parsley. — L.A.T.

HAM AND EGG LUNCH LOAF.

Chop remnants of cold boiled ham, add crushed crackers and from 3 to 6 eggs according to the amount of your meat. Season with butter, salt and pepper. Bake in a round baking powder box and when cold it can be sliced for the table.



SCALLOPED MEAT.

Take any kind of lean meat that may have been left over, chop fine, grease a baking dish, put in a layer of the meat, season with salt and pepper, then a layer of bread crumbs with dots of butter over it, then another layer of meat and so on, having bread crumbs on top. Moisten with stock or milk or water and bake in a moderate oven for about 1 hour. — Mrs. C. H. Shutts.

HOW TO CAN BEEF.

To 100 pounds meat take 6 mounds salt, 2 ounces saltpeter, 1 quart molasses, 1 gallon water. — Mrs. Lucretia Dunshee.

FRIED CUCUMBERS.

Pare and slice well grown cucumbers ¼ of an inch thick, let soak in salt water 20 minutes, drain and wipe dry. Dip each slice first in a beaten egg season with salt and pepper, then in grated bread crumbs and fry in boiling fat. Serve hot. — Mrs. Hiram Wilber.

PUFF PUDDING.

Two cups sifted flour, 2 heaping teaspoons baking powder, a little salt, water enough to make a thick batter. Butter the cups, fill ¼ full, then layer of preserves or fruit, then fill cups half full of batter, steam 1 hour. To be eaten with a sauce. — Mrs. Geo. Flint.

CHOCOLATE JUMBLES.

One-fourth pound chocolate, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup molasses, 1 cup shortening, (half butter) 2 eggs, 1 teaspoon each of cloves, allspice and cinnamon, 2 teaspoons soda. Mix soft and roll thin. — May A. Haight.

MY MOTHER'S SUGAR COOKIES.

Two cups sugar, 1 cup butter, 1 cup sour cream, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoon saleratus, and a little nutmeg. Mix soft and bake quick. — Mrs. C. H. Roof.

DOUGH CAKE.

One-half pint bread dough, 1 teacup sugar, 1 egg, 2/3 cup butter, ½ teaspoon soda, spice to taste, mix together and raise again. Raisins if liked. — Mrs. L.J. Post.

PORK CAKE No. 1.

One pound fat pork chopped fine, 1 pound raisins, 2 cups sugar, 1 cup molasses, 8 cups flour, 1 tablespoon cinnamon, 1 tablespoon soda, 1 tablespoon cloves, 1 nutmeg and 1 pint hot water on the pork. — Mrs. E. B Travis.

PORK CAKE No. 2.

Two eggs, 2 cups sugar, 1 cup molasses, 1 cup pork, 1 cup raisins, 1 cup sour milk, 1 teaspoon each of soda, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg, sifted with 4 cups flour. — Mrs. Howard Smith.

Exploring DCHA's Collections: *Bits and Pieces of Delaware County*

DCHA has over 100 quilts in its collections. They date from the early- and mid-1800s to the 2000s, and include an 1876 centennial quilt (makers unknown) and a 1976 bicentennial quilt made by members of the Delaware County Cooperative Home Extension Service.

Madeline Sanford, one of the quilters who helped put the bicentennial quilt together, was a founding member of the Delaware County Town & Country Quilters group, formed shortly after the bicentennial. Madeline taught a series of classes at DCHA. The group, which was first associated with the historical association, met both in homes and at the museum. In 1988, the group became more formal when they instituted annual dues, adopted insignia for quilt pins and began publishing a newsletter for members. They grew to about 30 members, too large to meet comfortably in homes, so they began to meet twice a month at St. John's Episcopal Church in Delhi where they continue to do so. Their first quilt show at DCHA in 1983 was coordinated by Lois Gould and 131 pieces were on display. 380 people attended this first show over three days — September 16, 17 and 18, 1983. The Delaware County Town & Country Quilters continue to hold a quilt show at DCHA every other year. **This year the show will be September 21 – 29th.** This is a fundraiser for DCHA as the quilters generously donate the admissions to the museum.

In 2007 the Delaware Town & Country Quilters donated a wall hanging (pictured opposite) to DCHA they created to depict and preserve the folklore of Delaware County. This wall hanging, titled “Bits and Pieces of Delaware County,” was made between 2004 and 2007. It was passed around to each member of the guild who added their own representation of Delaware County and they recorded why they felt it was important.

The following is their record of the wall hanging:

It is February 2004, and our group is going to put all our skills together to create a quilted wall hanging that would depict and preserve the folklore of Delaware County. It will be given to the Delaware County Historical Association.

With fabrics from the stashes of Anne McCall and Patsy Mills, the background was created. The quilt will be passed around to members of the guild and each will add something to the quilt and a comment for the record.

Creating the background: I tried to represent the Catskill Mountains of the Town of Middletown to the rolling hills and valleys of the rest of Delaware County. The pieces were tough cut, auditioned to find a pleasing placement, and needle-turned appliqued in place.

— *Patsy Mills*, April 2004

My specialty is out-houses. Everyone should have one. Mine hang in my bathroom home.

— *Betty Lou Critchlow*, April 2004

I love mountains, apple trees, cabins and fish. In short, I love country.

— *Elaine Terlizzi*, April 2004

Every town in Delaware County has a gazebo. It attracts brides and bands and many photographers. It's something that I always look forward to seeing.

— *Fran Midgley*

I love ducks so I made two for the pond. I thought that the pond should have beavers, so I made two beavers chomping on the log. Lastly, I felt that the cows needed a barn so I made a barn and silo.

— *Roz Weiss*, May 4, 2004

When the village of Andes was dissolved in December 2003, the town did not want the responsibility of the historic old Andes Firehouse. During the course of that year, the Andes Society for History and Culture successfully was able to keep the firehouse from sale to a private individual. As an Andes resident and member of the historic society I added the firehouse to our quilt to preserve it in cloth, as well as working to preserve it as part of the Andes streetscape.

— *Lesley Gray*, June 2004

At one time there were very few bears in the county. As people came, bears have moved from the mountains and are feeding at the dumpsters and bird feeders. They are a joy to see.

— *Ella Bowker*, June 2004

A few embroidery stitches were added to represent the abundance of wild flowers along the roadsides. Also a small hamlet nestled in the valley represents the many hamlets in the county; some still existing, but many lost in history.

— *Patsy Mills*, June 2004

An applique was made from a ‘seed bag’ from the Hanford Mills Museum in East Meredith. The design was colored with crayons to add color. Also added was a turtle crossing the road.

— *Patsy Mills*

I have added the one-room schoolhouse to this wall hanging. I chose this because I had the chance to work for three years as school nurse-teacher in these little rural buildings. I traveled to twenty of them and enjoyed every visit.

— *Phyllis Williams*, September 2005

Mileage Signs: I found it rather funny that it was shorter from Andes to Delhi than from Delhi to Andes. Does it indicate we in Andes find the trip shorter because we have to make the trip so often to sustain



our bodies with food and healthcare, while the population of Delhi only makes the trip to Andes for an art exhibit, good shopping and to have a dinner out or just passing thru to somewhere else, thereby, making the trip longer than it really is.

— *Lesley Gray*, January 2006

Cauliflower: Upon relocating to Delaware County in 2005, the first festival I attended was the Cauliflower Festival in Margaretville. It was interesting to find that at one time cauliflower was a very popular crop and grew well in the rocky soil of Delaware County.

— *Priscilla Marigliano*, May 2006

I made the rainbow. How exciting when we see a rainbow in the sky!

— *Marie Williams*, 2006

I thought a hot air balloon would be a good idea. I could fly over the farms very quietly.

— *Maria Costa*, August 2005

The John Deere tractor was added to represent the many farmers in the county and to recall the “putt putt” sound of their field work that is heard as they work.

— *Patsy Mills*

I picked horses because they are all over where I live.

— *Johannah Rippe*, July 2004

Since we are the Delaware County Town & Country Quilters and the quilt depicts all the beauty that is Delaware County, I decided we needed quilts hang-

ing on the line. It’s what we do!

— *Kathie Meyers*

Found the stone silo and log cabin to add to the space near the church and the fisherman.

— *Allegra Lake*, 2006

I added the little overall boy and Sunbonnet Sue.

— *Florence Tyler*

I love seeing quilts at the fair so a plane advertising the Delaware County Fair seemed like a good idea.

— *Molly Franklin*

My contributions to the landscape were: A deer under the apple tree, because they love apples. A tame chipmunk with a walnut by the pond. Simone with her baby Dolores. Two donkeys on the meadow. Tamas, our dog, by the gazebo. A plane from the Rhinebeck Air Show in the sky. All of these are photos I took and printed on fabric.

— *Doris Hartung*

In 2004 Patsy Mills and I decided we wanted to do a scene wall hanging depicting things in Delaware County. I gathered background fabric and Patsy with her expert skills sewed them into a beautiful background. I then added: The appliqued covered bridge. The surrounding trees and bird. The cows. The eagle in the sky. The Volkswagen car made from our challenge fabric. The train.

— *Anne McCall*, 2007

Quilting and finishing the quilt by Patsy Mills, 2007.

dents and was located within the Village of Hancock. That all changed in 1933 when the new Hancock Central School opened for students.

The above list includes several years with no information. It is, however, easy to speculate possible reasons why the school would be closed from time to time. The November 1919 *Hancock Herald* indicates that the school reopened for the first time in several years. I'm guessing that World War 1 and/or the 1918 influenza epidemic played a role in its non-use. It is of course possible that other factors played a role, including the number of students in the area, or the availability of teachers. The French Woods School was two miles away and close enough to accommodate displaced students.

The January 1914 and March 1927 editions of *The Hancock Herald* list school funds. It is interesting to read the surnames of so many families from the French Woods area. Many of these individuals served in many elected positions associated with the schools.

Now we get to the parts that bring this all to the human level.

There are a couple of years that the teachers and students had end-of-year picnics. There are examples of the teacher closing school for personal reasons including a trip to the Binghamton Fair, or a death in the family. At least one teacher was a student at the Hancock High School prior to becoming a teacher. Miss Alma Mallery was listed in 1912 as an honor student, then in 1920 she became a teacher. The school was closed for 7 weeks in the spring of 1922 due to an outbreak of scarlet fever. In January 1926 Mrs. Elsie Gill boarded with Mrs. A. E. Reyen. This is one example of a teacher staying locally.

A more dramatic story is from January 1925 when Ivan Baudendistel, while playing on the school grounds, broke his collar bone. The local doctor, F. M. Woolsey was called who made him comfortable. Ivan would have been 7 years old at the time.

I remember meeting Ivan. His older brother was Stanley Baudendistel who would have been 12 years old at the time. This is the Stanley that I knew who attended classes at the Homan Pond District School No. 7 as a child.

The old school house is still standing (see photo on p. 3). Over the years it has been used for at least two different purposes. Barn doors were added at some point and I suspect it was used for storage. It was also used as a hunting cabin.

I enjoy driving past the old school house and thinking about the people who spent time there. I imagine kids traveling to and from school, possibly passing right past my home, fishing pole or rifle in hand, doing a little fishing, hunting or swimming before or after school.

Two Events at the Colchester Historical Society!

Join us for a **Family Fun Event**, funded by a Roxbury Arts Grant, where you can travel back in time through the magic of games and crafts! **Saturday, September 21st, 2024 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.**

Imagine creating stories based on local landmarks with a professional storyteller, or crafting classic games like checkerboards and sock dolls. You can even try your hand at calligraphy using ink and goose feather quills, or create your own fragrant potpourri sachets! Also discover fascinating displays and heritage items from the Colchester Historical Society collection.

Email: info@colchesterhistoricalsociety.org to RSVP by September 1st with number of people attending.

History of D&E and D&N Railroads

On **Saturday, October 19th at 2 PM**, we invite you on a journey through time with a multi-media presentation on the history of the D&E and D&N Railroads.

Local historian John Duda will share his passion for these historic rail lines. The program will feature captivating visuals, including train and station photographs from the Colchester Historical Society's extensive collection.

Both these events will take place at the Shinhopple Memorial Center, 1406 Trout Brook Rd.

Free Admission. For more information, please contact the Colchester Historical Society via email:

info@colchesterhistoricalsociety.org

New Exhibit to Open at DCHA October 11 – November 16

"Folk Art in Fiber in Delaware County," an exhibit offered this fall by Catskills Folk Connection, will spotlight knitting, crocheting, spinning, weaving, home sewing, quilting, embroidery, dyeing, felting and needlepoint by local artists. Also, weekly demonstrations by artists of their fiber techniques.

On display October 11 to November 16, Mondays through Saturdays from 11am to 4 p.m. with an artist reception Sunday, October 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. The exhibit will be capped by a three-part workshop on tapestry weaving, taught by Tabitha Gilmore-Barnes on Saturdays November 2, 9, and 16 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information on this exhibit and the workshop, please contact Ginny Scheer, 607-238-9162, or gscheer.mcs@gmail.com.



The Fighting Fool: Veterans of the American Revolution in Delaware County

by Samantha Misa

As the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution approaches, DCHA has been seeking out the names and final resting places of the county's veterans in an attempt to compile an exhaustive list of those who served in the war for independence. At the same time, we have also been collecting the stories of these veterans, in an effort to add a more personal touch to this list of individuals.

One story is that of Samuel Cranston, a veteran who enlisted and re-enlisted so many times that he earned the nickname "The Fighting Fool." Cranston was born in Warren, Bristol County, Rhode Island on March 7, 1757. In 1775, when he was 18 years old, Cranston enlisted in a local militia unit known as Church's Regiment after the commander Colonel Thomas Church. Church formed his regiment on May 3, 1775 in response to the British presence in Boston and the unit served during the Siege of Boston, which successfully dislodged the British from the city.

On July 3, 1775, Cranston and the rest of Church's Regiment became part of the newly-formed Continental Army, commanded by General George Washington. After serving out his eight-month enlistment term, Cranston chose to re-enlist for the term of one year in January 1776. For this enlistment he served under Colonel Thomas Paterson and took part in the Battle of Trenton. During this engagement the weakened Continental Army forced the surrender of nearly 1,000 Hessian soldiers after Washington's famous secretive crossing of the frigid Delaware River.

Following the victory at Trenton, Cranston's enlistment ended, prompting – according to Cranston's recollections – a personal request by General Washington for him to continue his military service. Cranston agreed to serve for six additional weeks before accepting a discharge in February 1777. Returning to Rhode Island, Cranston was again struck by the enlistment bug, and re-enlisted for a fourth term of service. Cranston stayed in the military for three years this time before being discharged. Cranston's fifth and final enlistment occurred in February 1781, when he signed on for another three-year term under command of Colonel Christopher Greene until Greene was killed later that year.

Cranston's unit was then put under the command of Lt. Col. Jeremiah Olney and took part in the Siege of Yorktown, a battle famed for the surrender of British Commander Lord Cornwallis, which ultimately led to the successful conclusion of the revolution.

Eventually Cranston settled in Roxbury, Delaware County, where he gave up the life of a soldier for the life of a farmer, marrying and living on an 80-

acre farm. Cranston's rent was \$10 per year, but not after nineteen years of working the land that the landlord had never once requested payment. Despite this, by 1820 Cranston was under enough financial strain that he applied for a federal veteran's pension. According to his 1820 pension application, his estate consisted of "two old horse [s] worth each ten Dollars" and "two Cows each worth 8 Dollars," along with 3 yearlings, 1 calf, four sheep, and some farm equipment. His kitchen goods consisted of a few knives, spoons, and cooking dishes, but most were listed as broken, including his kettles, pots, and two chests. Altogether, Cranston's worldly goods - including a promissory note indicating he was owed \$14 by a man named Thomas G. Davis – were worth a total of \$76.77. However, Cranston noted that he owed his various neighbors \$60, and he was unable to continue working as a farmer due to "Ill health" as he was "very much broken down with the Rheumatism." His wife, Eunice Whipple, was "54 years and upwards of age very unwell subject to the dropsy leathergy Rheumatism & not half able to maintain her self." Cranston was granted an annual allowance of \$96 per year. Cranston died in 1841 at age 84, and is buried in the Old School Baptist Church Cemetery in Roxbury, with a gravestone proudly proclaiming him a true "Soldier of the Revolution."

Do you know of any Revolutionary War veterans from your town or of any buried in your local cemetery? Make sure to double-check that they are included on DCHA's list! Please email us at dchadelhi@gmail.com with the veteran's name, and, if known, their place of burial and any relevant details about service and/or life after the war.



Samuel Cranston's grave
in Roxbury

The world wags on. The sun shines just as brightly, the birds sing just as sweetly, and there is no more danger of a collapse of this mundane sphere than before the election.

Delaware Republican—November 21, 1903

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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.

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

For more information call (607) 746-3849 or

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

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