



Headwaters of History

DCHA Opening Day, May 24 ~ Living History Event in Gideon Frisbee House



Numerous 'inhabitants' of the Frisbee Family cemetery came briefly back to life at our Living History Cemetery event which was the highlight of our 2025 season opening. Photo by Gabrielle Pierce.

Rain forced us inside, but the ambience of the 1797 Gideon Frisbee House made it an enjoyable event! Thank you to all those who presented and attended the festivities.

L-R: Frisbee Beardsley [Ray Pucci]; Judge Gideon Frisbee [Gary Petagine]; the Unknown Soldier who rests not in the Frisbee Cemetery but somewhere up Elk Creek [Eli Taylor]; George Howland [Ron Galley]; Freelove Fiske Frisbee (Gideon's 2nd wife) [Bonnie Dailey]; Huldah Kidder Frisbee (Gideon's 1st wife) [Lisa Mays]; March Farrington [Jay Goldman]; and Joseph Fiske [Bill Mayer].

Making History in Delaware County

DCHA was host to 28 people involved in the local history scene on Saturday, May 10 for our annual History Conference, "Making History in Delaware County."

The conference was kicked off by Samantha Misa, DCHA educator, who presented her work on DCHA's Revolutionary War project. With the help of other historians she has compiled a list of 510 Revolutionary War soldiers who lived (post war) in Delaware County. Of that number she has found over 300 graves. DCHA is still looking for more Revolutionary War burial sites; please contact us if you know of any.

Samantha described how she and Marianne Greenfield, local gravestone expert, met with 4-H group "Mini Mania" from East Branch in Hancock. They cleaned family graves of some local revolutionary war veterans in Partridge Island Cemetery in Fishs Eddy and placed a flag marker in commemoration of Revolutionary War veteran Josiah Parks.

The new owners of Purple Mountain Press, Brett & Rebecca Barry, Carolyn Bennett and Lee Hudson, presented their ideas for the future of the Press. They are already printing a new edition of *Breaking Trail: Remarkable Women of the Adirondacks* by Peggy

Lynn and Sandra Weber. A full list of their titles is available on the Purple Mountain Press website: <https://www.nysbooks.com>

The conference ended with a roundtable discussion where many attendees shared information about their historical societies' upcoming events. Stay tuned as DCHA will post more information on these events on our Facebook page.



Roseann Warfield of the "Mini Mania" 4-H group and Marianne Greenfield watch as Natalie Jaendl, Elizabeth Doig, and Lennox Roussos clean gravestones in the Partridge Island Cemetery. Photo by Samantha Misa.

From the Archives: Frances Zeh Mason

by Ray LaFever



Every once in a while, as we continue reviewing the large collection of Bob Wyer images, we find an image that catches our fancy. This image, taken April 2, 1946, is of Frances Zeh Mason wearing a mink coat. We were struck by the simple background, all the more to highlight

the coat. The background was typical for when Wyer took chauffeur license pictures. Whether this was Mrs. Mason's intention we don't know.

A few months after this picture was taken, in August 1946, Frances was injured in a fire at her sister's home in South Kortright. A bottle of turpentine broke near a stove and ignited the kitchen. A woman named Mrs. Hunter died as a result, though she managed to rescue Mrs. Mason from the blaze. Frances was hospitalized in Stamford for a couple of weeks. She did recover from her injuries.

Frances was well known in the Delhi area as a nurse. Born in Jefferson, NY in 1886, she was a graduate of the Methodist hospital school of nursing in Brooklyn in 1908. Her obituary noted her long career of over 50 years as a nurse and that "She enjoyed an outstanding reputation in handling pneumonia cases."

In September 1915, she was married to Floyd A. Crapser in Stamford. About two years later, the marriage was in serious trouble. Floyd filed notice in the *Oneonta Daily Star* for 13 September 1917 claiming that his wife "having left me without just cause or provocation, all persons are strictly forbidden trusting or harboring her on my account..." The marriage ended in divorce in late 1918. The divorce was granted in Sioux Falls, South Dakota where Floyd was now farming. The *Argus Leader* newspaper (Sioux Falls) noted that Floyd had been granted a divorce from Frances due to her desertion in July 1917. The *Stamford Mirror-Recorder* noted that Frances had been granted a divorce from Floyd – and the right to resume her maiden name.

The divorce lasted barely a year, for on December 1, 1919, Frances and Floyd were remarried in South Dakota. The circumstances are a bit myste-

rious. In November 1919 the *Stamford-Mirror Recorder* noted that she was going to Sioux Falls for the winter, but a week later, the paper retracted that, saying that Frances M. Zeh informs us that "...she would not spend the winter in Sioux Falls."

Almost a year later, their son Floyd was born in South Dakota. Frances and Floyd's second marriage lasted not quite two years. This time, it was ended by the death of Floyd on September 9, 1921 in South Dakota, the victim of a storm. His funeral was in South Dakota, but the Sioux Falls *Argus Leader* newspaper reported that "Mrs. Crapser said...she would take the body back to Stamford, N.Y., the former home of the Crapsers, and that probably she would remain there as the burden of running the farm alone would be too great for her."

A little over two years after being widowed, Frances married Robert Mason. They would have a son and were married until Robert's death in 1958. Through her marriages and motherhood, she continued working as a nurse, sometimes in people's homes caring for a family member and sometimes in a hospital setting. In October 1950, there was an appeal seeking nurses in the Utica area to help with a polio outbreak. By the time she responded, they had enough nurses so she instead went to a hospital in White Plains, where there was a similar outbreak.

Frances usually was kept pretty busy as a nurse, but every once in a while, she'd find herself 'between jobs,' so she'd put an ad in the local newspapers and likely, given her reputation, quickly found employment. This ad (see below) is from the September 8, 1955 *Delaware Republican-Express*.

The *Catskill Mountain News* for August 28, 1958, reported that "Mrs. Frances Mason of Delhi, a registered nurse on substitute duty at Margaretville hospital, is a great believer in hitchhiking as a means of transportation. Mrs. Mason works the 4 p.m. until midnight shift. As there is no convenient bus transportation for her at that time, she hitchhikes to Margaretville to begin her duties on time. After coming off duty she sleeps at the nurses' residence until morning, then hitchhikes back to Delhi..."

Frances died in September 1962 at the Delaware County Sanatorium. She requested that her body be donated to medical science.

**WANTED—Nursing. Frances Zeh
Mason, R.N., 72 Delaware Ave-
nue, Delhi. Phone 155-J. 35w2c**

Members of New York State's Oldest Masonic Lodge Tour Delhi

by Samantha Misa

Recently, three members of St. John's Lodge No. 1 of New York City paid a visit to Delhi and DCHA on a pilgrimage to see the home and papers of one of their most notable members – Ebenezer Foote. St. John's Lodge has been in operation since 1757, making it one of the oldest operating Masonic Lodges in the United States.

Ebenezer Foote was born in Connecticut in 1756. In addition to being a Freemason, Foote was also a veteran of the American Revolution. In 1775, when he was 19 years old, he left home to join the Revolution on the side of the Patriots. Foote was involved in the battles at Bunker Hill, Trenton, and Valley Forge before being promoted to Captain. In 1777, Foote was taken prisoner by the British and held captive at Bridewell Prison in New York City. Foote later escaped after swimming across the Hudson and making his way to New Jersey. He was eventually stationed at Crompond in Westchester County where he was promoted to Major in 1780. At Crompond, Major Foote served as inspector of cattle in the Continental Army's Commissary Department.



Visiting Foote's burial place near his Arbor Hill home.
Left to right: Marianne Greenfield, Andreas Vavaroutsos,
Benjamin Lynn, and Conor Moran.

After the war, Foote moved to Newburgh in Ulster County (present day Orange County). In 1788, he was instrumental in the formation of another Masonic Lodge, Steuben Lodge No. 18, the first lodge established in the region. In the 1790s, Foote and his wife, Jerusha Purdy (whom he had married in 1779 in Westchester) settled on land in what would soon become Delaware County, which was given to Foote for his service in the Revolution. W.W. Munsell's 1880, *The Illustrated History of Delaware County*, noted that Foote had taken an active part in the passage of a bill to form Delaware County "and was

much interested, with many others, in the location of its county seat."

According to Munsell's, Foote "was appointed... to give a name to the town so soon to be brought forth, and the clique with which he boarded and was intimate requested him to allow them to suggest a name; he consented. His nick-name was 'The Great Mogul,' and they, knowing he was to reside here, suggested the name of Delhi, that being the city of the Mogul, and he, agreeable to his promise, so named it."

In 1798, Foote built his home in Delhi on Arbor Hill Road, which his fellow Freemasons were recently allowed to tour by permission of homeowner David Dent. Conor Moran, St. John's Lodge historian, was joined by fellow Freemasons Benjamin Lynn and Andreas Vavaroutsos for a tour led by Town of Delhi historian Marianne Greenfield.

Moran, Lynn, and Vavaroutsos were shown the various rooms and architectural curiosities of the Foote House, including arching doorways and Foote's original built-in library shelves. According to Greenfield, Foote's house was rumored to have been part of the Underground Railroad, but such tales are unfounded. Greenfield also led the Freemasons to the Foote Family Cemetery, located near the home. Conor Moran noted that "we're probably the first members [of St. John's Lodge No. 1] to visit Foote's grave since he passed away so it meant a lot to us."

Following the tour of the Foote House and burial site, Moran, Lynn, and Vavaroutsos traveled to the DCHA archives to look through the collection of Foote's letters and political papers.



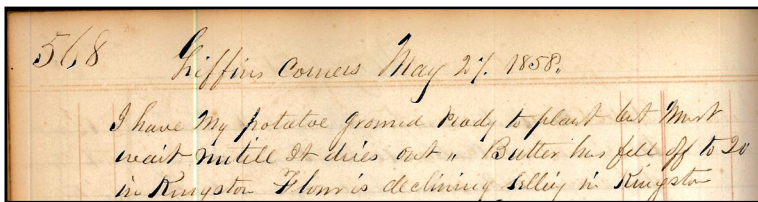
Researching Foote's Freemasonry in the DCHA archives.
Left to right, Benjamin Lynn, Conor Moran, and
Andreas Vavaroutsos.

✍ **Excerpts of Matthew Griffin Diary ~ Griffins Corners, NY ~ 1858** ✍

Hon. Matthew Griffin (b. 1811 – 1903) opened his own store at the age of 25 in Griffins Corners (now Fleischmanns). While operating his business he studied law and in 1851 was admitted to the bar. He continued to manage his own interests but focused a lot of his time on his extensive law practice. He married Clarissa Dodge when he was 22. They had seven children, five of whom lived to adulthood. Between 1872 and 1874 Mr. Griffin was a member of the State Assembly.

This diary was found in 1916 by Emerson Crosby Kelly, MD beneath a pile of hay in a carriage barn on Main Street in Fleischmanns. Doctor Kelly donated it to DCHA in 1970. The diary was written in a large leather bound book. The front half of the book is a business ledger dating from 1838 – 1861. The second half of the book is Mr. Griffin's diary. The following entries are from 1858, when Matthew Griffin was 46 years old.

Note: Original spelling, grammar & date order maintained.



May 27, 1858 — This day is Thursday & Rainy for Several days it has been rainy and wet so much so tis out of question to think of Planting or Sowing Oats, I have ground ready for to Sow 200 Bushells and have been waiting 3 day to have the grownd dry off. This day I drew off the remnant of 2 log heaps on My Upper Place & the grass is up a full bit, Perhaps ½ of the oats in Our neighborhood is now not Sowed and not but a few who have Planted their Potatoes, Tis very wet & cold, So much So Seed Does not come up very well.

I have my potatoe ground ready to plant but Must wait until It dries out. Butter has fell off to 20 in Kingston. Flour is declining selling in Kingston for \$4. 4.25. 4.75. to 5. & 5.75 extra 6.50, pieces of farm produce is about as usual, Court is now in Ses- sion in Kingston and A Special term of Super Court is being held in Delhi, Judy Compbile Kindy

Delaware Prices

Butter in Tubs 19 c	Hay Plenty worth 7 to \$8 in
Oats 5/	Barns.
Potatoes 5/	I had a fire in my office this
My 7/	day Altho tis Cold & wet.
Buckwheat 5/	

The trees are looking green & about half leved out Plums & pears are in full blossom in My yard Li- locks are almost ready to Blossom I have black on- ions a finger long Raddish up Cabbage Plants large Enough to set but Parsnips Cucumbers are up & looking very well

27 — This day was Rainy Rather Damping so as to wet a Mans Cloth in 2 hours

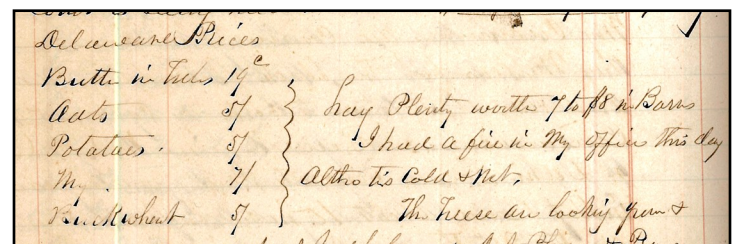
28 — This day I had some help and finished My Cross wall from the gate house down to the woods. It is warm but a strong SE wind

29 — This day I planted my Potatoes up by the school house and had a fine day we also drayed in a Bushell of Oats Making 22 bushalls that we have sowed now Friday Saturday 28 & 29 were fair days and the mud dried up very much

30 — Sunday this day is a fine day I have been to Church and heard "a" Mr. Barbour try to Preach The wind is S.E. and has been most of the time Since the Sun crossed the line on the 28th. I turned my Oxen out to grasz the cows now begin to fill themselves Altho the maple trees come forward slowly

May 20th, 1858 I took to Solamon Colez 5 head of 2 yrs olds to bee kept through the summer

June 3 — Tuesday June 1st was a fine warm day & very much summer like I worked in the garden all day Hoed out my Onions Lettice Pease & c. on the Next day Wdnesday June 2nd, I also worked in the Garden Planted Beats a few & Many Carrots. Sowe Ruttubagaes Blk Onion Seeds &c. & amoungst the Rest planted a few Hills of Pie Plant. My Cucum- bers are coming up finely & So are my Mellons. But the black flies or bug is numerous and very distruc- tive to both my cabbage Plants & Cucumbers. I Re- ceived from Mrs. H. D. Gould of Delhi a few toma- to Plants which were raised in Hot Beads about 10 inches long and Planted them out the 2nd. They are now doing well. I also planted 30. odd Cabbage plants the 1st a few W. Doolittle gave Me. They to are doing as well as could be Expected the weather for the past 6 days has been dry and quite warm. Extremely so Since June came in the appearance of



the trees have altered more in 5 days than all the rest of the Season on the 30th of May I turned my Oxen out & on the 2nd of June turned my Horses out the grass in now up full tilt Times are dull not much stir nor not much money afloat farms are mostly done Sowing Oats & Planting I was late with my Sowing finished Sowing Oats the 1st day of June.

6 — This day is Sunday Thursday the weather was warm overcast Friday do Saturday was a warm day Friday night had Thunder & Lightng & a fine Shower of Rain which was much needed The weather Saturday & Sunday was Close and Muggy remarkably So. Sunday about 4 ½ or 5. Oclock A Shower arose and Rained for about half an hour finely & is now raining grass looks fine Butter has declined Now Sellig at 18c h. Store and buyers refuse to Buy tubs just now.

June 6th 1858 — The blossums have disappeared from the trees mostly Appel & show a little yet. Lilocks are in full Bloom the season has been Rather Remarkable Altho rather wet yet there has not been a fresh So no Lumber has been down to Philadelphia

June 7 — I started for Catskill to Defend Delemertor Spoken of before for the Crime of Forgery. Arrived then on that day on the 10. Got him arranged and after much purswading procured the Capital Dist Attny to Acept a plea of Guilty in the 4th degree the Court therefor Sentenced him to Two years hard labor in Singing Prison he did not become as much dishartend as I supposed he would I started back that afternoon and arrived holm the 11th the weather was Extremely warm the 7.8.9 & 10th Seldom a warmer day Ours than the 10th was. It commenced to Rain the 11th and and Rain until the 12th Night MaKing a Rafting freshet grass & grain has grown during the week very fast My garden was neglected during my absence

12 — Altho My pease are in Blossom butter has declined in Price Much I carried out 5 tubs this last week & Sold it for 18 c or Cr. I understand tubs is selling in N York for 13 to 18c and extra tea 18 to 22 c flour is from \$3.80 to \$7.00 Pork \$18. 19.50

July 1st — Drove My Nelly Heifer The Fraser Cow Drove about 3 weeks ago.

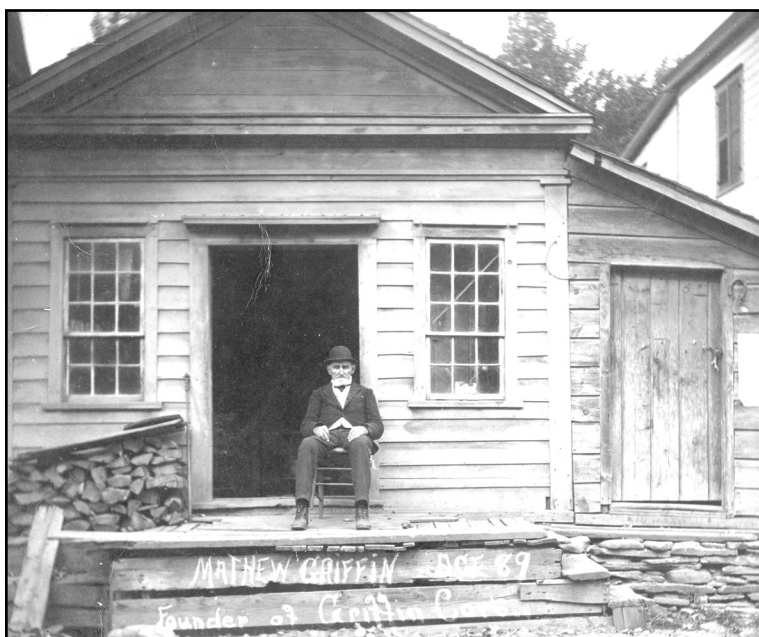
July 1st, 1858 — Since the 12th of June & up to the 20th the weather was fine wet and growing on the 21st I started for N York was in the City 22 & 23. The weather was warm, Since the 19 there has not been any rain up to this July 1st, late Oats are getting very much injured by the Drouth Pastures begin to fail meadows are showing the Effects of the dry weather from 25 June to 30 of June I presume the weather never was warmer. Excessively hot on the 30th day of June We had a mess of green pease of our own Raising would have had them Several days sooner if it had not been so dry.

I found times dull in N York and goods rather down purchased pretty freely Money Matters are tight in the Country. Stock however is high dry cows 22 to \$ 28. 2 years olds \$19 to \$23,00 Lambs 18/ to 22/. Flour is now selling in Rondout \$3.75 to lot \$6.50 Oats 42c. Butter has become a drag in market Stats worth from 16 to 19c. Extra in tubs 19 to 24c.

20 — during July & up to the middle the weathers been dry so much So the farms began to despair dry weather commences about the 20th of June

Oats begun to suffer & finely about up 10 of July we got a fine Rain so much to as to raise the streams much Rafts runout. And the Rain has helped Meadows much I commenced Mowing July 13 noower home and just for present findy my grass grewed after the Rain much stuck is full off Mud no buyers in Market.

Prices rather tend downward after the rain grass has improved much I think the hay crop is about an average Crop peeper and getting along with haying petty well last week has been a fine week.



Matthew Griffin pictured in 1900, aged 89.

Josh Billings says he will never patronize a lottery so long as he can hire any body else to rob him at reasonable wages.

— *Herrick's Almanac*, 1871

Saturday Evening Ghost

In May 1937 Billie Wyer, wife of photographer Bob Wyer, organized the "Delaware Players," a group of fifteen people interested in creating a standing little theatre for Delhi. Their first show, *Riddle Me This*, was well received and by June of 1938 they had an active membership of forty.

In July of 1938 the Players organized a miniature drama festival, presenting two plays, *Saturday Evening Ghost* and *Petticoat Fever*. They rehearsed and built sets in Stanleigh Honeywell's barn on Elm Street in Delhi and performed the play in front of a live audience in Smalley's Theatre.

The following is from "The Delaware Players" 1938 program for the performances of *Saturday Evening Ghost & Petticoat Fever*:

Back Chat

There is always a lot of fun in working on play production and anything can happen. Stanleigh Honeywell generously offered the Delaware Players the second floor of his barn and so casts for both Saturday Evening Ghost and Petticoat Fever have been meeting there. One night, not so long ago, rehearsal for Saturday Evening Ghost was smoothly moving along when one of the actors uttered a most realistic shriek, not on the script, but having behind it all the horror possible to put in a human voice. Startled, the other players stopped and there swooping down from the rafters was a bat, fit enough to live in any old haunted castle. It headed straight for the rehearsers, who quickly scattered in all directions. After several swoops, our friend grew weary and cuddled up for a nap in the peak of the roof. Rehearsal commenced again, only to be interrupted by the bat who either didn't like the play or wanted to get closer to hear more – we shall never know. He succeeded in breaking it up. Billie, exasperated, declared

war and so armed to the teeth, the Delaware Players (I wish I could say the Delaware Players as a man, but I remember three members sitting squealing under a sweater, and Stuart Cavan – ah, I won't tell on you, Stu) went after the bat. Grace Schlafer, remembering from somewhere that bats get in your hair, tied a hankie around her head and grabbed up a board and, as Paul Swanson said afterwards, if she had hit anything, she would have knocked it cold. Never have I seen such bedlam, Raymond Friend with a broom, Madge Mable with a big piece of cloth flapping it around, Percy Meade, swinging something, Paul Swanson up in the rafters and keeping that bat in motion. The din was terrific. Raymond Friend deserves the credit for finally bringing the bat down. What had looked to be a monster in the air turned out to be only a baby bat. Our only regret is that we didn't have a camera, because we feel that scene should be preserved for posterity. We honestly believe that we were good.

Those Screams...

Guests of Stanleigh Honeywell on a recent tour through his night-lighted garden were startled by blood-curdling screams issuing from his barn. Whether this or something else started the rumor that an unknown member of the Honeywell family, a raving lunatic, is being hidden in the spacious structure, we do not know, but the Players now publicly assume responsibility for all screams, gunfire, thunder, lightning, cries for help, thuds of falling bodies in the neighborhood.

A couple of images from the play, including one pictured here by Bob Wyer, are currently on display at DCHA, part of an exhibit entitled, "Play On...Music and Theatre in Delaware County."



Hamden Bicentennial ~ Celebrating 200 Years ~ 1825 – 2025



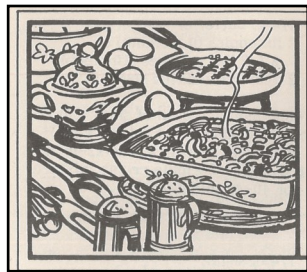
The town of Hamden was founded April 4, 1825 by an act of the state legislature. It was formed from the towns of Delhi and Walton. To celebrate this milestone, the town will host a variety of events **July 12 and 13**. There will be a parade at 11am on Saturday, July 12 and a 5K Covered Bridge run at 9am on Sunday, July 13. There will be historical displays set up at the museum and the town hall Saturday. Both days will be filled with vintage baseball games. For more information: <https://www.hamden1825.org/>

Excerpts from "Cooking With Wild Game and Berries, Delhi Jaycees" — 1980s

The Jaycees, a public organization, originally formed in 1920 in St. Louis, Missouri. It is a leadership training service and civic organization for people between the ages of 18 and 40. This cookbook was a fundraising item for the local Delhi Jaycees club in the 1980s. The book was donated by DCHA member (and neighbor) Gail Hymers.

Bunny Sausage

6 deboned rabbits
2 small onions, minced
2 Tbsp. salt
2 tsp. pepper
½ c. bread crumbs
¾ c. milk
¼ tsp. paprika
1 bay leaf
½ tsp. ground sage
2 eggs, well beaten



Grind rabbit meat. Add all ingredients and mix well. Make into patties. Fry until well done or freeze until the mood strikes.

Cheese Spread ~ James R. Ponzio

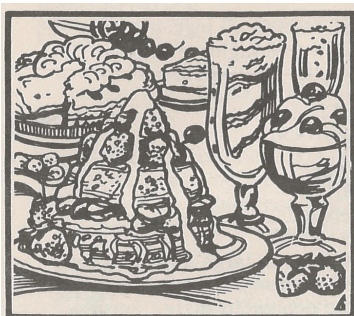
1 lb. Velveeta Cheese
1 c. mayonnaise or Miracle Whip
1 5 oz. Jar horseradish

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan and cook over low heat stirring frequently until cheese is melted. Pour immediately into a container. Store tightly covered in refrigerator. Will be good for 2 months.

Barbecued Squirrel

3 squirrels
Flour seasoned with salt and pepper
2 Tbsp. cooking oil
Barbecue sauce

Cover with barbecue sauce and simmer in covered kettle for 1 to 1 ¼ hours, or until tender



Baked Duck ~ Don Trelease

1 fresh duck
1 – 2 oz. cooking wine

For a great tasting duck, wrap it in aluminum foil, add a little cooking wine and the meat won't dry out. Bake until done.

Sour Cream Moose Meatballs

1 ½ lb. lean ground moose meat
4 strips bacon, cooked and chopped
Bacon grease
2 eggs
Salt and pepper
½ c. sour cream
½ onion, diced
1 ½ c. stock
2 slices wheat bread, cubed
¼ c. flour

Mix meat, bread, eggs, bacon, salt, pepper, sour cream and onions. Make 16 meatballs. Fry in bacon fat. Put into casserole dish and set aside. Sprinkle flour into pan and stir cook for 4 minutes or until brown. Stir in stock and bring to boil. Pour over meatballs. Bake for 10 minute in a 350 degree oven. Serves 4.

Apple Pudding Cake ~ Mary L. Rosenthal

2 c. sugar
6 Tbsp. shortening or oleo
2 eggs
1 tsp. cinnamon

½ tsp. nutmeg
½ c. nutmeats
2 tsp. vanilla
2 tsp. soda
1 tsp. salt
6 c. diced apples
2 c. flour

Beat sugar with shortening and eggs. Blend in cinnamon and nutmeg. Sift together flour, soda, salt and add to above. Mix well. Add 6 cups diced apples, nutmeats, and vanilla. Bake in a 350 degree oven in a 9 x 13 – inch cake pan about ½ hour. Check with toothpick to see if done.

Small images from cookbook.
Left: Advertising in cookbook.



Compliments of
R.B. Decker Advertising, Inc.
Publishers of The County Shopper & Catskill Country
28 Main Street, Delhi, N.Y. 13753
607-746-2178

VALLEY VIEW MOTEL & RESTAURANT
Cable TV – Family Units
Cocktails – Beer – Wine
Rt. 10, Hamden, N.Y. 13782 Phone: (607) 748-6707
Gourmet Food-Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner/Closed Mon.
Each room thermostat controlled



**MORTAR & PESTLE
CARD SHOP**
Bridal Registry – Russ-Caress Plush Animals
96 Main Street Delhi, N.Y. 13753
Gifts – Spectrum by Pfaltzgraff
Marc & Marilyn Guy



TARGET
SPORTING GOODS – RADIO SHACK
Fishing, Hunting, Camping
Buy, Sell, Trade, Handguns, Rifles, Shotguns
"The Family Store"
106 Main St. Delhi, N.Y. 13753 (607) 746-3165

Compliments of
WICKHAM
SALES & SERVICE INC.
2 Bridge St. Delhi, N.Y. 13753
Phone: (607) 746-2148

FRIEDA'S VILLAGE INN
Take Out Service Available
Homemade Soups & Pies
Serving Breakfast – Lunch – Dinner
Catering with a "Touch of Class"
121 Main St. Phone: 746-3200

Exploring DCHA's Collections: June is Dairy Month

To celebrate Dairy Month we are highlighting a 125-year-old centrifuge used to test the butterfat content of milk. This milk tester was donated to DCHA by John and Sally Jack in 2005 along with a milk can from the Delaware County Farmer's Co-op in Delhi.

John William Jack (1933 – 2016) was the third child and only son of D. Herbert and Clara Amos Jack. He grew up on the Jack Family dairy farm at Fraser in the town of Delhi. When he was 14 years old his father passed away. After he graduated from Delaware Academy he joined his mother in operating the family farm. His mother, Clara Amos Jack used this centrifuge to test the butterfat content of the cows.

The top of this cast iron centrifuge machine reads: "Pat. Apr. 10, 1900, 80 turns crank per min." The Babcock Butterfat Tester was invented by Dr. Stephen M. Babcock in 1890. It revolutionized milk



Milk can and centrifuge



Top of centrifuge

production and marketing. This quick and simple method of determining the fat content of milk was adopted throughout most of the country by the dairy industry. The process involved treating raw milk with sulfuric acid, heating it and spinning it in a centrifuge. The machine accurately measured its fat content. For an experienced tester, the whole process of testing took less than 15 minutes.

The "Facile" model donated to DCHA, was considered by many to be the best hand-cranked milk tester on the market in 1900. It was manufactured by D.H. Burrell & Co., of Little Falls, NY. There were various types and sizes of Babcock milk testers; in addition to the hand-crank type, there were larger testers that used a steam turbine or were belt-powered.



Inside centrifuge

In 2005 John Jack told us that, "This was used by my mother to test dairy farmers' milk (of individual cows) for butterfat, an indication of quality and value of each animal's milk."

National Dairy Month started out as a way to distribute extra milk during the warm months of summer. The commemoration was established in 1937 by grocer organizations sponsoring national Milk Month. By 1939, June became the official dairy month.



Testing bottles, beaker and caliper used with centrifuge.

The Rexmere, Dr. S.E. Churchill's beautiful new hotel was opened on Monday. Dinner was served to forty persons and the orchestra discoursed in the gallery of the dinning [sic] hall while the diners enjoyed a splenaidly [sic] prepared and well served dinner.

— *Stamford Mirror*, July 26, 1898

Fundraising Auction Planned August 16, 2025 @ 12 pm

To help support the care of DCHA's collections, we are partnering with Matt Marchese of "This and That" in Delhi. Matt will host an auction to benefit DCHA with Dave Rama as volunteer auctioneer. Mark your calendars for Saturday August 16th. "This and That" is located at 110 Main St, Delhi.

Of course, we are not auctioning off any of our historic items in museum collections, but we are asking for donations of objects from the public to be sold at the auction. Suggested items are quilts, advertising signs, visually appealing items that are not too large. All proceeds from sales at the auction will benefit DCHA's museum collections.

Additionally, 10 select items from our collections will be on display for a special "Adopt an Object" part of the event. The winners of this part of the auction will go home with a one-of-a-kind professional photo by Rachel Watson along with a brief history of the object they "adopted."

Update on Our New Collections Care and Research Center

It has been some time since we updated you on our multi-year building project. Since 2019 DCHA has raised over \$100,000 for our new collections building thanks to our members and friends, along with a few small grants from local foundations: Robinson-Broadhurst, O'Connor and Santora. With this money we have been able to acquire a Geotechnical Evaluation Report (September 2021) that states the proposed site is viable for construction. JHA Companies performed a topographic survey of the site and Headwaters Engineering created plans for a septic system. Over the last few years DCHA staff and board have worked with museum consultants and visited numerous other museums who have completed similar projects in the last 10 – 15 years.

In May 2024 DCHA received a structural Assessment and Floor Load Evaluation from Herrmann Engineering, PLLC. This report in summary says that DCHA's second-story floor does not have adequate capacity to serve as a light storage, where the majority of DCHA's historic objects are currently housed. The report states: "The current facility is highly overstressed for a light-storage use. We recommend the Delaware County Historical Association review the possibility of relocating the storage to an alternative building that is capable of supporting the load."

In 2024 DCHA contracted with Lee Marigliano (LRM Architects) to oversee a team to create construction documents. Lee worked closely with DCHA staff and consultants to help realize our vision. We received the construction documents for our new Collections Care and Research Center in November of last year. Lee presented the plans to the Town of Delhi Planning Department in the fall and the project met with their approval.

The construction documents were sent to an independent company, Trophy Point for a cost estimate. Unfortunately, the estimate was a lot higher than we had originally thought it would be. Currently the board and staff along with a few volunteers and consultants are working on ways to reduce the cost while at the same time pursuing new avenues of fundraising.

At the very end of 2024 the Delaware County Board of Supervisors approved funding of \$29,000 from the American Rescue Plan for our project. Most of the plans and reports needed for this project are now in place. We are currently working to raise the rest of the money needed for the construction costs. We would not have made it this far without your help!



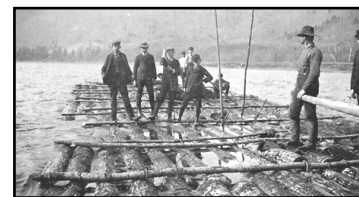
Colchester Water Festival

Mark your calendars!

Saturday, July 26, 2025, 11am – 3pm

Colchester Historical Society will be hosting a Water Festival celebrating the East Branch of the Delaware River. The festivities will take place at the Downsville Paddle Trail & Colchester Boat Launch Pavilion. The day includes a Float Regatta Contest - decorate your canoe, kayak, or homemade craft. *It's A Boat If It Floats!*

There will also be a River Photo Contest, Pepacton Reservoir presentation by Historian Diane



Galusha at 11:30 am, family art/craft activities, music by Freestone Flood Band, information booths on River Ecology, Fishing, Recreation, and Organizations. A River History Display from the Colchester Historical Society Collection will also be featured.

Food Vendors. Free admission.

More information and schedule will be posted on the Colchester Historical Society webpage:

<http://colchesterhsny.org>

Reservoir Exhibit & Film Showing at Hartwick College

Currently showing at Hartwick College is an exhibit relating to Delaware County history, *With that Shadow Over Them: Constructing Catskill Reservoirs, Remembering Home*. Through photographs, oral history and memorabilia, this exhibit tells the story of how the Pepacton and Cannonsville Reservoirs were built and how the dislocation they wrought has been remembered. The exhibit will be on display through July 31, 2025 in the Elting Gallery at the Yager Museum of Art & Culture.

On Thursday, July 10th at 6pm there will be a showing of Chicago filmmaker, Charles Cadkin's *The Fall of Cannonsville* and Cadkin's remastered 1960 *Indian Summer* (directed by Jules Victor Schwerin with music by Mike and Pete Seeger). <https://www.cadkin.net/indian-summer>

Both films will be shown free of charge at the Yager Museum. The Museum is free and open to the public. For visiting information, including hours, please see the Museum's website at: <https://www.hartwick.edu/campus-life/arts-culture/yager-museum/> or call (607) 431-4423.

Fundraising Raffle Quilt

A vintage (ca. 1930s) quilt top donated by DCHA member Eleanor Mager was turned into a quilt by “Delaware County Town and Country Quilters” and DCHA member Fran Midgley to be used for this year’s quilt raffle.

Stripes of small blocks (2 ¾” x 1 ½”) were assembled and the stripes were sewn together into a quilt top. The quilt measures 71” x 57.” Each square is a different pattern and color. Lots of bright colors and flower patterns. Many of the squares look like they were made from old flour sacks.

The quilt is currently on display in DCHA’s gift shop. The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be at our Annual Meeting November 2, 2025.



Close up image of quilt

New Book at DCHA

Meredith’s District Schools
by Frank M. Waterman.

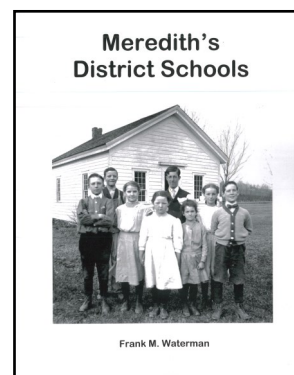
In the early 1900s, Meredith had 18 district or common schools, each of which was independent and funded by state aid supplemented by taxing residents. School was taught through the 8th grade and students desiring a high school education had to attend either the Delaware Academy and Free Union School in Delhi or the Oneonta High School.

By the 1920s bus transportation was possible and there was a movement to consolidate the district schools to form larger central districts that could support a school that taught both elementary and high school students. However, centralized was a controversial subject in the 1920s and 1930s and it didn’t happen quickly. In fact, three of Meredith’s schools didn’t join a central school district until the late 1960s and only then because they were forced to by the New York State Department of Education.

This book is divided into two parts. The first is the general history of the district or common schools in Meredith. The second is the individual history of each of Meredith’s eighteen district schools.

Retail price: \$20.00. Illustrated. Maps. 168 pages. Index of names. DCHA members receive a 10% discount on all our books. We can ship anywhere across the USA.

To order online: <https://www.dcha-ny.org/books.html>



History Corner

“America’s Second Revolution: The War of 1812”

by Samantha Misa

With the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution upon us, it’s easy to see why this conflict attracts so much attention. The conclusion of the war saw the rebellious Patriot forces victorious, leading to the founding of the United States, and establishing the careers and legacies of larger-than-life figures such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Part of the appeal also lies in the oft-repeated tale of underdog victory – the Americans should have quickly fallen to the well-trained professional British forces, but managed to defy the odds and expectations that the conflict would be short-lived.

However, the American Revolution (1775-1783) was not the only time that American troops fought

successfully against the British. During the War of 1812 (which lasted longer than the name implies, only formally concluding in January 1815), United States forces proved that the victory of three decades earlier was no fluke.

The establishment of the United States after the formal end of the American Revolution was a dramatic moment in global history – prior to this, no colonial territory had ever successfully won independence from an empire. Popular sentiment in Europe was that the new nation, with its experimental republican government, was doomed to failure. The British in particular felt that the United States was young and weak enough to exploit, and at the end of the 18th

century began a campaign of “impressing” American sailors. British impressment involved boarding and detaining American merchant vessels that sailed back and forth to Europe, and forcing crew members whose nationality was in question into the service of the British navy.

Continued impressment of Americans placed the country in a position where it was forced to retaliate or lose national prestige, and in 1812 the United States officially entered its second war with Britain. The first years of the conflict were marked with small naval engagements and skirmishes, mostly along the Canadian border. Indeed, the invasion and takeover of our British-controlled neighbors to the north became an early war aim of the United States.

Both sides committed atrocities on the “Niagara Frontier,” with tit-for-tat burnings of Buffalo (Black Rock) by British troops and American forces setting fire to Toronto (York). Finally, in 1813 and 1814 naval battles for control of Lakes Erie and Champlain ended in US victories.

When the British invaded the US mainland farther to the southeast in August 1814 and burned much of Washington, DC, the conflict grew immensely more serious. Fortunately for the Americans, their naval victory at the Battle of Fort McHenry a month later (which inspired the writing of Francis Scott Key’s famous ‘Star Spangled Banner’) ensured that the United States would maintain its independence.

Just as hundreds of Delaware County veterans had served in the American Revolution, many county citizens stepped up to serve their nation in the War of 1812. And some, like March Farrington of Delhi, participated in both conflicts. Farrington had served as a drummer in the American Revolution, entering the conflict when he was just 13 years old. He was present at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775 and later re-enlisted as an infantryman when he turned 18.

After the war, Farrington and his wife Betsey migrated from their home in Massachusetts to Delaware County, NY. In September 1814, after the burning of the nation’s capital, Farrington enlisted in a militia unit. He was then 52 years old. The old warrior saw action at the Battle of Chippewa (also spelled Chip-pawa) on the Niagara Frontier. During the fighting, several bullets pierced his uniform, but left him otherwise unharmed. Farrington returned to Delhi, where he died in 1849 at age 86. He is buried in the Frisbee Family Cemetery here at DCHA.

Many Delaware County men who were veterans of the War of 1812 served in a regiment commanded by March Farrington’s younger brother, General Putnam Farrington. Farrington’s 13th New York State Militia Regiment saw little action other than protecting sensitive areas of the state from potential British attack. After the war, General Farrington and his wife Hannah moved with their nine children from Delhi to Chautauqua County in Western New York, where he died in 1845.

Another militia unit from Delaware County that served under General Putnam Farrington was formed in Middletown, Delaware County in September 1814. The burning of Washington had imbued a sense of urgency in planning for a prolonged conflict with the British, and around 40 men from the town were drafted into service. Among them was 19-year-old John Beadle, who hoped to serve as a company fifer. He was one of three men vying for only two available fifer positions, so Beadle offered the third man \$4 to stay home. When the bribe was revealed, Beadle was removed from his position. Not to be left behind, he instead volunteered as a private. Beadle and the rest of the enlisted men marched to Delhi and then over 70 miles east to Catskill where they took a boat to New York City. The Middletown contingent of Farrington’s Regiment was tasked to defend New York Harbor from possible British invasion.

Beadle and the rest of the unit were discharged after their three months of service, and he returned to Delaware County. During his service, Beadle had earned promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, and later served as Colonel of the local militia. He went on to become the first postmaster in Middletown, a member of the Masonic lodge, and town clerk. He died with the mantle of “oldest and most venerable inhabitant” of Middletown in 1881 at age 86.

Like many veterans of the War of 1812, Beadle’s gravesite and gravestone do not carry any marker or

recognition of service. Others, like that of March Farrington, only acknowledge their time in the American Revolution, possibly reflecting the greater pride taken in participation in that earlier conflict. Regardless, it’s important to make sure that the “forgotten war” of the 19th century does not recede from national memory, especially now as we commemorate our nation’s founding.



**A NEW AND COMPLETE
TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP!**

OF Delaware County, New York,

**BY JAY GOULD,
SURVEYOR AND CIVIL ENGINEER,**

By actual Measurement from original
Surveys through out the whole County.

The subscriber is preparing to publish a new and complete Topographical Map of Delaware county. The Surveys are made by an experienced Surveyor. All the public roads and localities of dwellings, places of Worship, Post Offices, School Houses, Country Stores, Hotels, Mills, Shops, & c, are to be marked. The names of property holders generally are also to be inserted in their places, in the style of Chautauque Co. N.Y., by the same publisher.

The Map will also have an Ornamental Border of Vignette Views, taken in the county. Maps of Villages will also be inserted in the margin, together with an accurate table of distances to and from all the Post Offices in the county. The plan will be plotted to a suitable scale, so as to make a large and ornamental Map, to be engraved by experienced Engravers in Philadelphia, and delivered to those that have ordered copies, handsomely Colored and Mounted, for \$5 each.

COLLINS G. KENNEY, Publisher,
17 Miner St., Philadelphia.

— *Delaware Gazette*, August 1, 1855

**Tour of Revolutionary
War Veterans
at Stamford Cemetery**

By Karen Cuccinello
Stamford Village Historian

July 2 @ 6:30pm
2 Mountain Ave
Stamford, NY
Rain or Shine

Learn about the 6
veterans buried in
the cemetery who
helped America
gain independence
250 years ago.

*Receive a free booklet
about the veterans.*



Funded by DCHA Revolutionary War Project Grant.

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

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

Museum Staff

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

Summer Hours:

Exhibit Galleries and Gift/Bookshop:

Tuesday—Saturday, 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
from Memorial Day Weekend to October 11.

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

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

www.dcha-ny.org

Visit us on Facebook

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

The Tianaderrah Foundation

The Bert Santora Family Trust

The George & Margaret Mee Foundation

The Livestock Foundation

Volunteers

Susan Frisbee, Membership
Helen Casey, Library
Kathleen Curran