



Headwaters of History

Constructing Catskill Reservoirs: Exhibit Opening at DCHA

On Friday, September 12 DCHA will have an Opening Reception from 4pm—6pm for *With that Shadow Over Them: Constructing Catskill Reservoirs, Remembering Home*. This exhibit is on loan from the Yager Museum at Hartwick College.

Through photographs, oral history and memorabilia, this exhibit tells the story of how the Pepacton and Cannonsville Reservoirs were built during the mid-twentieth century and how the dislocation they wrought has been remembered. Drawing heavily on materials from DCHA's own collections, the exhibit highlights moments captured by well-known local figures such as photographers Bob Wyer and noted fly-tier Walter Dette. Audio displays include excerpts of

newly digitized interviews with Dette conducted in 1985, in which he recalls working on tunnel and dam construction. The exhibit invites visitors to learn about Hartwick College's connection as a repository for the original transcripts from the eminent domain hearings that document experiences and memories of more than 1,400 claimants.

Constructing Catskill Reservoirs will be on display at DCHA through December 31, 2025 in the Elijah Thomas Gallery. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

For our fall/winter hours visit: www.dcha-ny.org



Rock Rift Hotel, ca. 1950s.
DCHA Archives.

Join Us for a Fall Bus Trip to the Hudson Valley Historic Huguenot Street & New Paltz, Thursday October 2, 2025

Our fall trip will take us to Historic Huguenot Street (<https://www.huguenotstreet.org/>) in New Paltz, NY. Here guests will enjoy a guided tour featuring three historic structures including the Replica Esopus Wigwam, a Colonial Homestead and the 1717 Reconstructed French Church. The tour takes you on a journey through time as you learn about the history and culture of the local Native Americans through the years of the early Republic and its impact on the lives of the enslaved Africans who shaped New Paltz.



Once the tour of Huguenot Street is complete, we will have a delicious buffet lunch at Garvan's Gastropub, an award-winning eatery located in a historic 1759 dwelling.

After lunch we shall still have plenty of time to enjoy the Water Street Market (<https://waterstreetmarket.com/>), a quaint European inspired shopping village described by locals as their community gathering place. Every shop is independently owned and operated.

Cost: DCHA members \$150 / Non-members \$175, includes all admissions, travel, lunch and a donation to DCHA. For more information or reservations please email dchadelhi@gmail.com or call 607-746-3849. Reservations required by September 17th.

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

From the Archives: Digitizing Our Records

by Ray LaFever

For most of my time here at DCHA, we have worked to digitize a number of our materials – most famously the Bob Wyer photo collection. We have a good flat-bed scanner for doing negatives and prints, but these scanners are not great for doing bound volumes. Using a flatbed scanner for a book provides a distorted image and can be very damaging to the volume. Some items are simply too bulky to handle on a scanner.

Thanks to the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society's *Digitize New York* initiative, DCHA is going to be able to digitize some of our bound volumes more efficiently. The NYG&B launched *Digitize New York* in 2023 to help preserve important records and improve access for people conducting New York family history research. As noted on the *Digitize NY* website, "Many record holders, including historical societies, churches, town hall offices, and others hold at-risk documents they are unable to digitize themselves. Through *Digitize New York*, organizations can either submit their records for preservation at one of the NYG&B's Digitization Centers or request a digitization kit that empowers them to preserve and upload records at their own sites—at no cost to participating organizations." If your organization is interested in pursuing this program, go to the *Digitize NY* website at: <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/digitize-new-york>

We have received approval to digitize the Matthew Griffin Diary (excerpted in the summer 2025 edition of *Headwaters of History*). The diary was donated to DCHA in 1978. Griffin was a lawyer and businessman who settled in what is now Fleischmanns (formerly Griffin Corners). It is a ledger book that includes some of Griffin's business information.

The diary portion covers from the 1840s to the early 1860s. Though not a witness, Griffin heard the next day about the shooting death of Undersheriff

Osman Steele in Andes on August 7, 1845 at the height of the Anti-Rent War. His diary is an important primary source about the region during this challenging period. Though parts of it have been transcribed, we feel that having a digital version available online is important, particularly for the parts not transcribed.

The diary in the late 1850s and early 1860s is much more focused on the national political scene with the 1860 election and the start of the American Civil War.

I have made a further request to get the Cora Livingston Barton Rent Book digitized. This rent book covers the Montgomery tract of Great Lot 40 of the Hardenburgh Patent (it also includes properties in the Rhinebeck area). It has been indexed (the

index is on the Delaware County Genealogy website: www.dcnhistory.org) but is not readily available except by individual request. Getting this online will make it easier for people researching family in this area of the county.

I'll be reporting in later editions of this newsletter on how well we progress digitizing our bound materials.



Matthew Griffin, age 89.

DCHA Library/Archives Update

Our Library and Archives will be closed from November 1 through the end of 2025. Our archivist, Ray LaFever will be away all of November. In December we hope to be installing mobile shelving, which will require considerable moving and shifting of research materials. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. The new shelving is going to provide us more archival storage space and provide safer storage for the historic items we already have.

History Award of Merit Nominations Requested

We are once again accepting nominations for our 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 2, 2025.

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, address and phone number of the nominee and send it by October 17, 2025 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

Echoes of New York: New York State Family History Conference

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society's (NYG&B) 2025 New York State Family History Conference brings together researchers, genealogists, and all those interested in family history for a deep dive on how to navigate family history in New York State. This is New York's largest statewide family history conference.

When:

September 3–November 16, 2025
(On-Demand Access)

September 19–20, 2025
(Livestreamed Programs from Kingston)

This year's conference, *Echoes of New York*, will feature livestreamed presentations in Kingston, New York, as well as on-demand sessions to watch at your own pace. All livestreamed programming will be made available with all the other on-demand programming through November 16, 2025.

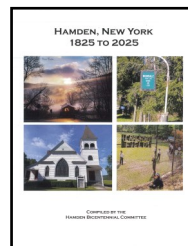
To learn details, including full program descriptions and all speakers visit:

www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nysfhc/about

New Books!

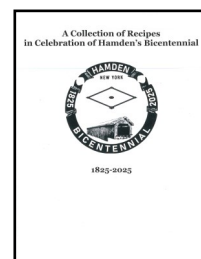
Hamden, New York 1825 to 2025.

Compiled by the Hamden Bicentennial Committee. A history of the Town of Hamden written for the town's Bicentennial. Chapters include: Early Settlers, Post Offices, Hamden, Lansingville/DeLancey, Terry Clove History, North Hamden & Mundale, Churches, Covered Bridges, Unique Buildings, Industry & Agriculture, Baseball, One Room School Districts, Civil War, Floods, Old Postcards and Photos, Gravestone Carvers of Central New York State, and Mysteries Beneath the Sod. \$10.00



A Collection of Recipes in Celebration of Hamden's Bicentennial, 1825 – 2025.

Hamden has a history, and reputation as a place where community comes together and the food is delicious. Many of the recipes found in this collection were taken from previous publications including *The Art of Cooking in DeLancey and Hamden* compiled by the Basin and Terry Clove Community Club, *All Time Favorites* compiled by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hamden Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. and *Hamden Heritage 1797 – 1997* compiled by the Hamden Bicentennial Committee members for Delaware County's bicentennial in 1997. Also included are recipes by Linda Shepard originally published in her weekly DeLancey news column "Grandma's Cookie Jar." \$5.00



Our members receive a 10% discount on all books purchased. We can ship items anywhere in the USA. For a complete and updated list of books in our gift shop, visit: www.dcha-ny.org/books.html

Brief Update on the New Collections Building Project

With the help of a grant writer who specializes in collections care, DCHA was able to apply for an Empire State Development grant in July. We should hear by the end of December if we will be awarded funding.

As noted in our summer 2025 newsletter, we could not have applied for this grant if we did not have all the architectural plans and engineering reports already in place. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we do now have these. Meanwhile, we are still exploring other avenues of funding for this critical project that will allow DCHA to continue its primary mission of collecting and preserving the rich history and culture of Delaware County.

✍ **Life In Rural School # 10 ~ Town of Kortright, NY ~ 1914—1919** ✍
by Amy J. (Taylor) Fuller

In 1966 Mr. James Davis and Mr. Robert McDowell donated the one-room Husted Hollow School house to DCHA. This school, built in the 1850s, formerly stood in School District #10, Town of Kortright, and served the community until 1934.

Now here at DCHA, the school building houses a small exhibit on the history of one-room schools in Delaware County. The school appears as it would have at the turn of the 20th century shortly before Amy (Taylor) Fuller taught there.

Amy (Taylor) Fuller (b. 1892 – d. 1983) was a graduate of Oneonta High School and a 1910 graduate of the Unadilla Teacher's Training Class. She taught from 1914 to 1919 in the Kortright District #10 School where she met her husband Winfield Fuller. They moved into a house in Bloomville in 1919, where she remained until her death in 1983. Mr. Fuller ran a store at Doonan's Corners from 1931 to 1959 and Amy was often to be found there helping out. After teaching she became well known as a seamstress and dress maker in the Bloomville area, where she lived for 64 years.

The following is an account Mrs. Fuller sent DCHA in the 1960s – 70s about her time as a school teacher in this building between 1914 – 1919.
(NOTE: Original grammar and spelling maintained.)

On Tuesday May 12th, 1914 Douglas Cameron, trustee in James Roberts Dist. 10 visited my school in Wm. Campbell Dist. They did not plan to hold school in this district the coming year, as the oldest pupil had obtained a working certificate, two other pupils would enter High school and the youngest was only five years old, and not of school age.

After observing some classes he hired me to teach in his district at \$11.00 per week.

School began Tues. Sept. 1st. I had four pupils.

We began our day with a few verses from the Bible, followed by the Lord's Prayer, then a song and salute to the flag.

At first we did not have any music but later an organ was obtained which added to the opening.

Nov. 6th 1914 I stayed at Mr. Cameron's and made out the tax list.

Dec. 23rd 1914 we had our Christmas program. The school was packed. 37 were present. They

all praised the children and the work being done. After the entertainment we served refreshments. I always made programs for those who attended. On the cover I drew a wreath, Santa Claus head, bells, etc. and colored them with crayola. We had a Christmas tree which we decorated with home made paper chains, strings of pop corn, etc. To get our tree I spent the night at the Marshall Every home and we - the children and I - drove to another neighborhood and cut our own tree.

In Jan. the children were excited over the examinations, but all did very well.

April 27, 1915. Mr. Cameron was down last night and said he was very pleased with my work and that the whole district was perfectly satisfied. How good it makes one feel to be praised.

For Nature Study we had a "Bird Calendar." I painted a bird at the top, and when a new bird arrived I put the name of the bird, the date and the child's name on it. All were anxious to see new birds.

May 6th we went to the woods and got a tree which we planted for Arbor Day.

I had offers to take five different schools. Friday, June 11th 1915 Our last day of school We had a picnic in a maple grove. 33 were present. We had a grand time. Had bag races, ring toss, bean bag, etc.

Sept. 1917 – 18 Leslie Roberts hired me to teach at \$12.00 per week.

1918 – 1919 I received \$14.00 per week. This was under the "Township" system.

As I was married in 1917 they considered this too much for a married woman.

The school Supt. Arthur T. Hamilton did not approve of married women teaching, but due to war time teachers were scarce. We had no trouble with discipline. The children felt it an honor to help clean the blackboard and erasers.

In case of minor injuries we had a "medicine cabinet" which I made from a small wooden box, added a shelf and a curtain. It contained home remedies for cuts, bruises, slivers, tooth ache, stomach ache, etc.

In winter we often had hot lunches. The pupils would bring a potato to bake, which at the proper time was placed inside the stove door on a ledge where



Amy (Taylor) Fuller, 1915.

it baked nicely. Perhaps an egg was fried in small frying pan, or a dish of hot chocolate made on top of the stove. All this was accomplished with little or no commotion.

During the noon hour I often went outside and played games, rode down hill, made snow men, played Fox and Geese, "Duck on a Rock," etc.

From my salary I paid my board, clothes, etc. Some week ends I spent with some of the children in their homes. We attended church and perhaps a church social, birthday parties, and even neighborhood dances.

I often returned to my home in Oneonta for the week end, or stayed with my sister and family at Dav-
enport Center where they had a general store. On Sat. I would assist in the store. For these week ends I took the U & D train from Bloomville. I would walk to the station after school. On Mon. morning I would return on the train and walk, and perhaps carry my suitcase to school. Often in winter it was before the milk teams had come down and it was necessary to wade thru deep snow, as the roads were not then ploughed.

At school I built my own wood fire, and while the school room was warming I took the water pail to the Roberts home for a pail of water which was kept in the hall. Most of the children had their own drinking cups, otherwise they used a tin dipper.

When Mr. Quinn sold his farm and moved to the city some Italians moved to the place. I think there were three families and 7 or 8 children added to the school.

For transportation I purchased a mileage book. I think it was \$10.00 for 500 miles. Our Teacher's Conferences were usually held at Stamford, which added to our expense.

I kept a faithful record of my finances.

In 1914 – 15 I deposited \$180.00

1915 – 16 \$190.00

1916 – 17 \$125.83.

From the one room school most went on to higher education. Two girls are still teaching, altho married many years. Another pupil, Alonzo Quinn received a Master of Civil Engineering in 1926, from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy. At 20 years of age the youngest graduate. He was Editor-in-Chief of



Class in front of school house, 1919. Francis Fuller, Glen Every, Cyril Crowe, Gladys Crowe, Dorothy Crowe.

the College paper. He has become a recognized expert through out the world on the design and construction of ports and marine structures and an Associate Partner of the Consulting Engineering firm of Moran, Proctor, Freeman, and Mueser, and Chief Engineer and President of an international firm of Contracting Engineers. Since 1967 he has been in a consulting practice of his own. He is the author of the book

"Design and Construction of Ports and Marine Structures." Which has become a standard reference book throughout the world. He has travelled extensively and has visited many foreign countries. He is listed in "Who's Who" for engineers. He is married, has four married daughters and eight grandchildren.

Letter From Amy to DCHA

Bloomville, NY

August 19, 1979

Dear Mrs. Houck: -

I am enclosing the snap shots of the rural school (one shown above) of which I spoke. I enjoyed the write up in the paper very much From the looks of the pictures, one wonders how the pupils could even learn to read and write, but some of them went on to being prosperous business men. They look like escapees but were really children of prosperous farmers.

I don't know what you would like to know. I – Amy J. Taylor taught in this school house from September 1914 to June 1917 – then from Sept 1917 to June 1919 as Amy J Fuller. I was married June 1917 to Winfield S. Fuller and taught two more years until June 1919.

You do not need to use these pictures unless you wish but with the modern views of education, they seem unbelievable. I am also sending a picture of myself while teaching there (see image on previous page). I do not suggest that you use it, but some might wonder what the old school ma'am looked like and you may use it as you desire.

I would be glad to answer any questions you would like to ask about those by gone days as there are few of us left to answer.

Very sincerely

Amy J. Fuller.

New Parking Area at DCHA ~ Driveway Improvements

Some of you may have noticed the improvements to our site made this summer. Thanks to grant money from Delaware County Economic Development's 2025 Tourism Grant Program, The O'Connor Foundation, and The Bert Santora Trust, DCHA has been able to complete an extension of our main parking area. Now visitors to our main building can leave their vehicles much closer to the main doors. This will enable those folks who are not so physically capable, or people carrying heavy loads, to access the exhibit, office and library building more easily.



Also completed earlier this summer was an upgrade to the driveway connecting the main parking area to the historic Susquehanna/Catskill Turnpike Tollgate building.

Additional improvements that may not be so visible are ongoing projects to improve the electrical systems in our Frisbee Family Barn. Later this summer/fall we will also be replacing some of the old and weathered exterior lanterns and some siding on the main building.

Maintenance, repair & improvements ... never ending!



Work Begins on Revolutionary War Cemetery in Deposit

by Michele Shirkey

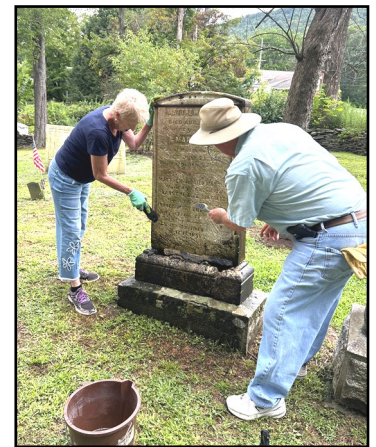
The Delaware County Historical Association awarded a grant to the Koo Koose chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to restore the Revolutionary War Cemetery on Laurel Bank Avenue in preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the Revolution in 2026. Phase one of the project included new grave markers for those soldiers whose markers were no longer there, gravestone clean up, rebuilding of the stone wall that had fallen, and removal of the scrub brush in the front of the cemetery.



The work crew in front of one of the new grave markers.

L. to R.: Jim DeMatteo, Donna Lewis, Tim Lewis, Tracy DeMatteo, Chloe Maglietta, Ginger Haugen, Jan Macumber, Barb Daddis, Ed Macumber, Gary Gifford of Bainbridge Memorial Works. Photo by Michele Shirkey.

Gary Gifford from Bainbridge Memorial Works delivered and set the 4 missing markers belonging to veterans George Boyle, John Garlow, Zadock Hawley, and Jonas Underwood. Members of the Koo Koose chapter righted stones that had fallen, cleaned unreadable stones, rebuilt the wall, placed memorial markers, and cut down brush. The expert skills of Barb Daddis righted stones. Tim and Donna Lewis along with Chloe Maglietta scrubbed and cleaned stones. Ginger Haugen placed memorial markers on each of the Revolutionary War veteran grave sites. Tracy and Jim DeMatteo weeded and picked up sticks while Michele Shirkey rebuilt the wall. Jan and Ed Macumber cut down the invasive bushes to clear the front of the cemetery.

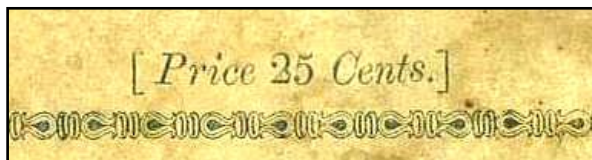


Tim and Chloe work at cleaning the stones to make them readable.

Phase two of the project will include dead tree and stump removal, and a new gate. The Koo Koose chapter will be holding a special ceremony in the cemetery in Deposit on Memorial Day 2026.

Excerpts from *Every Lady's Cook Book*, by Mrs. T. J. Crowen — 1857

Author of *American Lady's Cook Book Etc. New and Greatly Improved Edition*



PREFACE

Every Lady's Cook Book, as its name indicates, has been written for all classes of people: both for those who desire rich, well-seasoned dishes, and for those who prefer a more plain diet.

How to prepare the articles of food in general use in the nicest and most appetizing manner, without being an extreme in either way, has been the object of the author, and success has so far attended the effort, that an appreciating public has given it the most unmistakable approval in the almost unprecedented sale the book has met with; over two hundred thousand copies having already been sold.

These receipts may be followed to the letter, and success insured. It may not here be amiss to say, that the author has had the pleasure of receiving letters from persons (entire strangers) in different parts of the United States, expressing their extreme satisfaction in the possession of receipts which they found to be of such practical value. She trusts the present volume, which has many valuable additions, may be received with no diminution of public favor.

DIET BISCUIT. — Beat the yolks of four eggs for ten minutes, with half a pound of powdered sugar, and rather less flour; beat the whites to high froth; flavor with essence of lemon or rose-water; add the whites of eggs to the yolks; flour and sugar when the oven is ready; bake in small tins.

TRIFLES. — One egg to a tablespoonful of sugar, and as much flour as will make a stiff dough; roll it very thin, and cut them in small round or square cakes; drop two or three at a time in boiling lard. When they rise to the surface and turn over, they are done. Take them out with a skimmer, and lay them on a sieve to drain; heap jelly or jam on the center of each when served.

NOTHING. — Break two or three eggs in a basin; use flour enough to make a very stiff paste; then roll them very thin, cut them in small cakes, and finish the same as trifles. These make a very pretty dish, or they are good with a slice of jelly between each two.

WHIG CAKES. — One pound and a half of fine flour; half a pint of warm milk; one gill of brewer's yeast; work this to a dough; set it in a warm place, to

rise for an hour or two; then add one pound of sugar, rolled fine; half a pound butter, and half a grated nutmeg; work them well into the risen dough; roll it thin, cut in small cakes, and bake in a quick oven.

DEMOCRATIC TEA CAKES. — Take three quarts of fine flour; half a teacup of yeast, and half a pound of butter, dissolved in warm milk; the yolks of three eggs well beaten; a teaspoonful of salt, and a nutmeg grated; use enough warm milk to make a good dough; lay it in a buttered basin, and set it in a warm place for an hour to rise; then bake in a quick oven. Serve hot.

THANKSGIVING TEA CAKE. — One teacup of butter, one teacup of white sugar, two eggs, two coffee-cups of flour, alum and volatile salts, each the size of half a small nutmeg; rolled or pounded fine, and dissolved with a little milk, and one teaspoonful of essence of lemon. Beat them all together until light and creamy, then put it into a small basin lined with buttered paper, and bake in a quick oven. Citron cut in slips and added to this is an improvement.

SNOW BALLS. — Put a stew-pan one-quarter full of well-washed rice; put to it a teaspoonful of salt, and fill it up with water; let it boil until it absorbs all the water; dip some small bowls in water; fill them with rice; press it lightly in, so as to have the form of the cup; when a little cooled, turn them out on a dish, and serve with a sauce.

Butter and sugar melted together with a little grated nutmeg, and if liked, some brandy or wine; or squeeze the juice of a large lemon to rather less than half a pint of molasses; let it boil to a good syrup; add a good bit of butter, and serve.

QUAKING PUDDING. — Grate a small loaf of stale bread; add to it six well-beaten eggs, and half a spoonful of rice flour. Stir into it a quart of milk; add essence of lemon and some nutmeg, and boil two hours; or bake on a buttered basin. Wine or brandy sauce.

ALBANY BREAKFAST CAKES. — Ten eggs, three pints of milk, quarter of a pound of butter, two teaspoonfuls of salt, half a teaspoonful of saleratus, and white Indian meal to make thick batter; butter scalloped oval tins, two-thirds fill them (they should hold about a pint), bake for half an hour in a quick oven.



Exploring DCHA's Collections: Delaware County Fair Ribbons

In 1990 Hanford Mills Museum donated ten horse ribbons (pictured right) awarded to the Monroe family at the Delaware County Fair between 1940 and 1950. Halina Monroe was the last owner of the house in East Meredith that eventually became Hanford Mills' office building where the ribbons were found. The ribbons are dated 1940, '41, '49 and '50.

F. Halina Monroe (1905 – 1985) was born June 8, 1905, in Brooklyn, the daughter of Joseph and Sophie (Langner) Jeakezweski. Halina moved up to Andes (Gladstone Hollow) with her family after 1910 and finished school in Delaware County. She married Paul L. Monroe on April 29, 1922, in Andes.

Halina and Paul Monroe operated a dairy farm on the old state road in Andes (also known as the Monroe Homestead Farm). During the early 1920s the Monroes moved to a farm located on Monroe Road, in the Township of Meredith, where they owned and operated a dairy farm and raised and showed pure-bred Belgian horses until 1965. Mr. Monroe died on December 28, 1965.

In 1966 Mrs. Monroe moved to East Meredith and became active in community affairs there. She was a member of the East Meredith Presbyterian Church, where she served as an Elder and taught Sunday school. She was also a member of the Ladies Aid and Missionary Society, the East Meredith Arts and Crafts and the Elk Creek Club. Mrs. Monroe also supported Hanford Mills Museum and the West Kortright Center. For several years Halina was the East Meredith Correspondent for the *Stamford Mirror-Recorder*, under the name of "this Ol' Gal, of yesteryear."

Mrs. Monroe died in February 1985 and is buried with her husband in the East Meredith Cemetery.



On August 24, 1950 the *Delaware Republican-Express* reported the following:

Horses owned by Carl J. Hamilton of Delhi took most of the first places in the farm division of the horse show at the Walton Fair last Wednesday. Winners were:

Pair of farm chunks, 1,200 to 1,400 pounds, first, Jim, owner Carl J. Hamilton, Delhi;

*Pair of draft horses over 1,400, first, Oralee and Doris, owner **Paul Monroe** of Delhi, second Dolly and Lady, owner Carl J. Hamilton of Delhi;*

Single farm chunks, 1,200 to 1,400, first, Jim, owner Carl J. Hamilton; second, Tony, owner Carl J. Hamilton;

*Single draft horse, over 1,400, first, Lady, owner Carl J. Hamilton; second, Doris, owner **Paul Monroe**.*



Horse Show, Delaware County Fair, August 1950. Photo by Bob Wyer.



Past by Post



Sign Up for the Past by Post Mailing Program—It's Free!

DCHA is once again offering the Past by Post program for those interested in local history. Past by Post sends participants a bi-monthly mailing that includes a high-quality copy of a historic document from our archives, a typed transcription of the document for easier reading, and a page of information about the writer of the document and their circumstances. The program will run for five months, with participants receiving a total of 10 historic documents. This year, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the featured documents will be pension records from local veterans who fought for independence. Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of South Central New York, this program is being offered for free! Anyone interested in having history delivered to their mailbox should send their name and mailing address to dchadelhi@gmail.com or call 607-746-3849. Participants must sign up for this program no later than October 31, 2025. The first mailing will be sent out in early November, just in time for Veterans Day! Looking to give this program as a gift? Let us know and we'll send the recipient a note that they have been gifted a subscription to Past by Post, which explains the program and when the documents will be mailed out.

In Memoriam

DCHA was saddened to hear that Clara Stewart, long time supporter of DCHA, lover of history and former Delhi Town Historian passed away on August 11, 2025. She was 97 years old.

Clara was born in the town of Meredith, daughter of Ralph and Louesa Halcomb. She began her education in a one-room school house (District #8 on West Peakes Brook Rd. Meredith) and graduated from Delaware Academy. Clara grew up on a farm and continued her love of education and farming by working as a 4-H leader and 4-H Extension Agent. She was one of the founding members and first president of the Delhi Historical Society.



Clara Stewart is shown with other students outside a one-room schoolhouse.

A Remembered Thanksgiving.

From the *Stamford Mirror* ~ Tuesday, November 23, 1886

To-night, as I sat by my glowing grate-fire in my cosy office in the publishing house where I have the honor of being a partner, a messenger boy came to me with this hurried note from an old chum: "Let's run up to Delaware county for Thanksgiving; stop wherever night overtakes us; no one will know us, and we will play we are boys again." Press of business made me reluctantly decline, but quick as thought can travel I was transported to the home of my boyhood, and here is a *word picture* of what was immediately spread out before me, not from imagination, but memory.

A large farm, not a thousand miles from Beta's Brook: a large unpainted house with sloping peaked roof and chimney in the middle, a huge pile of rough stone, with immense open fire-places on opposite side in the two great rooms into which the house was divided. Upstairs a ceiling bedroom for the four sisters, while we boys had our beds on the other side of the chimney, with the unceiled rafters near enough for many a "jack knife's carved initials," and many a date marked with white chalk; these were our diaries. We had homespun coverlets of red and green or blue and white, on which we many a time found an

ample sifting of clear, sparkling crystals of snow when we awoke snug and warm in the morning. No unhappiness because there was no furnace in the cellar, or steam pipes all over the house. We had never heard of ozone or malaria, and health and hope reigned supreme in our veins and hearts. And this is Thanksgiving morning, to be kept like the Sabbath; so breakfast over, father and I set out for the church on the hill, near Kortright Centre. We walked over two miles through fresh fallen snow, fully eighteen inches deep on a level, making our own tracks, or rather I stepping in father's. No winter morning ever could be more perfect than that; not a cloud, the sky a perfect blue, and the sun in all his splendor. The leafless maples and beeches, beautiful in themselves, and casting in their shadows most perfect engravings on the pure soft covering beneath, making pictures that hang on memory's walls never to be effaced. No sign of life did we see save a few glossy low-flying crows, and some sheep around a haystack, till we reached the top of a hill where the church met our view. In those days a glittering angel, with a trumpet at his mouth, surmounted the tall steeple. The memory thrills me yet, after forty years.

I have traveled far and wide, seen many of the most celebrated cathedrals of the Old World, climbed the Rigi, sailed up the Rhine, and gazed on its many storied castles, seen Mt. Blanc, Linbeck, Mt. Washington, Old Orchard Beach, Long Branch, and the Bay of Naples, but no architecture or natural scenery can be compared in my mind with that white meeting-house, surrounded by those magnificent hills, and the long, long stretches of pathless fields of unbroken snow in the bright sunlight. A few years since I had the pleasure of seeing Niagara Falls on just such a morning, with everything covered deep with freshly fallen snow. Such views are never effaced from memory.

Not one word had been spoken since we set out from home, yet I felt neither lonely nor neglected in the brilliant silence. I was happy and glad through all my being with nae responsive gladness of a true lover of nature, and to-night, as I recount numberless grassings since that hour, I am as deeply grateful to God for that Thanksgiving morning and its treasured memory, as for any or all my journeyings in foreign lands. The church was uncarpeted and uncushioned. Nor do I remember text or sermon, though I do remember the white headed blind preacher, looking as I imagine Milton looked in his blindness. Silently we retrace our steps after speaking in friendly but subdued tones to those we met in coming out. After a frugal meal, mother, father, sisters and brothers, read aloud in turn and from the family bible, Dodridg's Expositor, and the Pilgrim's Progress. After "chore time" – feeding cattle and sheep, and bringing in the

arm fulls of maple wood – came "still evening," with its millions of stars and the queen of night in all her beauty.

DCHA Fundraising Auction A Success

On August 16, over 50 bidders (and many onlookers) gathered under the tent in the rear of "This and That" at 110 Main Street in Delhi for our Fundraising Auction. Over 100 items were donated by DCHA's members and friends to be auctioned for the benefit of collections.

This event could not have happened without the help of Matt Marchese of "This and That" who coordinated the auction. This included a DJ, food by Chef Will Johnson of 80 Main and Dave Rama as volunteer auctioneer. Merry Rama, Dave's wife, also helped out.

The special "Adopt an Object" part of the event was well received. Ten select items from DCHA's collections were on display to show people what they were helping to preserve. A few of the pieces on display included a Homer Benedict carving, a Delhi Coverlet and a WWI uniform worn by H. Fletcher Davidson. Those who "adopted" an object went home with a one-of-a-kind professional photo of the object by Rachel Watson.



"Adopt an Object" framed images on display at auction.
Photo by Gabrielle Pierce.

Once again, DCHA would like to extend our thanks to everyone who donated items to the auction and who helped at the event. We could not have done this without you. Thanks to everyone's generosity we were able to raise over \$3,000 for the care of DCHA's museum collections.

~ Mrs. C.A. Hanford, of Hobart, has a chrysanthemum which has on it 201 blossoms.

~ A Hancock man has raised a cabbage, which weighs over thirty pounds.

From the *Stamford Mirror* ~ November 16, 1886

🌀 📖 **History Corner** 🌀 📖
Close to Home: Researching Judge Gideon Frisbee
by Samantha Misa

In the ongoing process of researching Revolutionary War veterans, I have been attempting to compile names from all across Delaware County and find out information on the service records of these individuals. When the process first began, I recalled being informed that Judge Gideon Frisbee, builder of DCHA's beloved 1797 Federal-style home, was a veteran, and added his name to the list without hesitation. Since I began working at DCHA in 2012, telling visitors about Judge Frisbee's veteran status was part of the tour, as was the story that the land the home was built on was given to Frisbee for his service.

However, it soon became apparent that there was not much information available regarding Judge Frisbee's wartime service. In fact, several historians expressed doubt that Frisbee had even served in the Revolutionary War, and if his land here in Delhi had indeed been granted to him. Could the Frisbees have actually been squatters? After all, in 1744, missionary David Brainerd referred to this area of the Catskills as a "howling wilderness," – who would notice or object to a family homesteading in the woods?

I did a little more digging, and was unable to find any pension records from Gideon Frisbee. While not every veteran filed for a pension – only those who were experiencing financial hardship applied – it was a frustrating setback and seemingly further evidence that the story of Frisbee's service had been fabricated.

However, searching through the pages of *New York in the Revolution* – a compilation of regimental records from the state archives – revealed Gideon Frisbee's name on the list of enlisted men in the 17th Regiment of the Albany County Militia, along with his brother Philip and their father, Philip, Sr.

Phew! We hadn't been spreading wrong information all these years!

The 17th regiment participated in the Battle of Saratoga in 1777, making it likely that the men of the Frisbee family were part of that monumental conflict. It was the Americans' success at Saratoga that served as a catalyst for an alliance with the French, and showed the world that the American colonists had a chance at independence.

Further, the 17th Albany was a "Land Bounty Rights" regiment. A "right" was 500 acres of land that would be given to men who performed

patriotic service "for the defense of the State." Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels and Majors were entitled to four "rights," while enlisted men like the Frisbees would receive one.

Gideon Frisbee and his wife, Huldah Kidder, arrived in the Catskills in 1788, settling in the area that would later become Delhi, where they built a small log cabin

near the confluence of Elk Creek and the Delaware River. Almost ten years later they began construction of their larger, stately home, finished in 1797.

The land that Frisbee received as his war bounty had once been owned by wealthy Philadelphian Henry Drinker (1734-1809), a member of the Quaker's Society of Friends. Due to his religious affiliation, Drinker refused to take a side in the American Revolution, and his failure to declare loyalty to the new government led to his imprisonment and exile to Virginia. Drinker's land, and the land of other Quakers like the Wharton family, who also had a stake in the area that would become Delaware County, was then free for redistribution to veterans. The young, cash-strapped United States government had little else to offer those who had served in the war for independence.

Ironically – despite his prominence and the long-told story of Judge Frisbee's "veteranhood" – Gideon was the only veteran in the Frisbee Family cemetery (here at DCHA) without a flag marker denoting his service. DCHA has since remedied this, and installed a bronzer marker at the Judge's final resting place. Earlier this year we had Frisbee's stone professionally cleaned with D/2, a biologic agent to remove lichen, along with the assistance of gravestone expert Marianne Greenfield of Delhi.

We hope to continue to identify Revolutionary War veterans throughout Delaware County and ensure that any other graves lacking markers can be commemorated as well.



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

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

Volunteers

Susan Frisbee, Membership
Helen Casey, Library
Kathleen Curran

Summer Hours:

Exhibit Galleries and Gift/Bookshop:

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

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

Winter Hours:

Exhibit Galleries and Gift/Bookshop:

Monday—Friday, 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.
from October 14 to Memorial Day Weekend.

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 Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation
The George & Margaret Mee Foundation
The Juried Family Foundation
The Livestock Foundation
The Community Foundation for South Central New York
The Catskill Watershed Corporation