

Researching at the Delaware County Historical Association

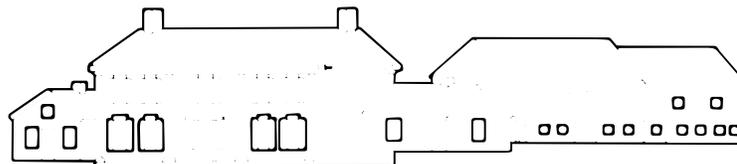
Researchers are welcome to use the materials at the H. Fletcher Davidson Library and Archives at the Delaware County Historical Association. The library and archives are open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 to 3. DCHA members and Delaware County residents may use the facility for free. For others, we request a \$5 donation. First time researchers must fill out a researcher registration form and present photo identification.

Rules for using the archives:

REGULATIONS:

- Smoking, eating, and drinking are prohibited in the archives.
- Use pencil only.
- Wash hands before handling materials.
- Leave coats and bags in area provided.
- All archival materials must be handled carefully:
 - Use only one folder at a time and keep the papers in their existing order.
 - Do not place books or volumes face down.
 - Do not lean or press on archival materials.
 - Do not trace maps or other records.
 - Copies or scans of records will be made by staff only and at the discretion of the archivist. Copies are .25 each.
- Do not remove materials from shelves. Please ask staff for assistance.
- No material in the archives may be removed from the research area.
- Computers and cameras may be brought into the archives and used at the discretion of the archivist. Researchers may make scans of materials with their own equipment but should discuss with staff first. Use of digital cameras to photograph records is allowed, but flash must be turned off.
- Researchers are advised that it is their responsibility, not the archives, to obtain copyright clearance to publish or otherwise reproduce or distribute archival material. Whenever possible, the archivist will provide the names and addresses of copyright holders.
- Consider donating a copy of papers resulting from research.

None of the materials in the DCHA Library and Archives circulate – you must use them on the premises.



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Just some of what we have available:

- Business records
 - Hubbell collection – the Hubbell Brothers operated in Kelly Corners
 - Wheeler Collection – A.J. Wheeler ran a tannery in Butternut Grove near Cooks Falls in the Town of Colchester

- Church records – DCHA has a few church records, mostly photocopies and/or transcripts. Some include minutes of trustees or the session and a very few of these include baptismal or marriage records.
 - Delhi – Parochial Register of St. John's Church, 1835-1878 (two volumes, one of which is on-line at <http://www.dcnhistory.org/stjohns.html>) – includes information on baptisms, marriages, funerals and burials
 - Delhi – Second Presbyterian Church, Membership information with index, 1841-1926, 37 pages, typed transcript
 - Kortright – Gilchrist Presbyterian - includes index of baptisms, 1810-1886; photocopy of membership roll and baptisms for scattered years into the 1960s (these have been transcribed and/or indexed and can be view at the Delaware County genealogy site at <http://www.dcnhistory.org/kortrightindex.html>).
 - Masonville – First Federated Church, First Presbyterian Society
 - Roxbury – photocopies of records of 2nd Baptist Church of Christ; personal data abstracted from records, 1816-1963
 - Stamford – photocopies of records of South Kortright Presbyterian Church. Includes indexes to: death records, 1810-1818, 1887-1924; baptismal records, 1810-1885; marriage records, 1809-1923 (these have been transcribed and are available on-line at the Delaware County genealogy site at <http://www.dcnhistory.org/stamfordindex.html>)
 - Walton – transcripts of records of the Christ Church (Episcopalian) and 1st Congregational Church (some transcripts of these are at the Delaware County genealogy site at <http://www.dcnhistory.org/waltonindex.html>)

- Diaries and letters –
 - Diaries - DCHA has a selection of over 100 diaries of Delaware County residents. These are indexed in our card catalog. Some samples include:
 - Nathaniel Arbuckle, 1852-1862 – fairly detailed dairy (appears to be two or more diaries bound into one volume), commenting on weather and politics, especially the Civil War
 - John Burrell, Andes, 1875-76 – farm diary, about half filled out, most entries brief
 - Lizzie Coulter, Bovina, 1868 – travel diary to Virginia where she was going to teach freed slaves.
 - Walter J. Coulter, 1868-1919 – Coulter was born in Bovina but spent most of his adult life in Hamden and Walton. Most of diaries exist for this time span with one or two exceptions.
 - Sheldon W. Crawford, 1870-1892 – farm diaries
 - Clara Davenport, 1891 – Clara was a 13 year old girl living in Davenport with her parents.
 - C.P. Dedrick, 1894 – farm diary.
 - Edward Hoyt, 1862-1865 – Hoyt was a private in the 144th Regiment NY Volunteer Infantry and kept a diary of his experiences. DCHA also has some related letters. These have been compiled in a book The Life of a Civil War Private: Edward Hoyt Diary & Letters.
 - Morris Farrington, 1837-1881, Delhi – farm diaries

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- Mrs. Edward Frisbee, 1852-63 – born Rosella Graham in Meredith in 1836, she married Frisbee as his second wife in 1855. They lived on what is now Maple Shade Farm on Back River Road in Delhi. Rosella died in 1888.
- Porter Frisbee, 1851-53 - transcript done by Cynthia Waterman,
- William Flynn, 1888 – it is not clear where this man was from, but it appears to be the eastern part of Delaware County.
- Jason Fuller, 1904
- Tracey Lyman Graham diary
- Matthew Griffin, 1838-1861 – about half of this book is a business ledger which does not provide much information, but the diary half is an extensive narrative of Griffin's life in the Town of Middletown. Griffin was the 'founder' of Griffin's Corners, later Fleischmanns. He writes extensively of the political issues of the day, including the Anti-Rent War and the start of the Civil War
- Jennie McKenzie Hewitt Doland diaries covering 1877-1928. Jennie lived in the Halcottsville area and was married twice.
- J. Hull, Roxbury, 1868-1873
- Lecia E. Johnson, Franklin. Farm diary, 1905-1933
- Andrew Littlejohn, 1859-1908
- Elizabeth George Mable, Delhi, 1902 – school girl diary
- John Milton (J.M.) McFarland, 1872 and 1873, Delhi
- Katherine McIntosh, 1918, 1945-1969 – Katherine was the daughter of the publisher of the Delaware Republican
- Daniel McMullin, 1897, Delhi – farm diary
- Andrew J. Nicholl
- Fannie Roberts, Bloomville and Delhi, 1900-05 (photocopy) – Fannie was 13 when she started this diary
- Fannie J. Riggs, Transcript – Meredith (transcript)
- Peter Scott, 1897 – Scott lived in Delhi. He died in 1900 at the age of 22
- Sarah Signor, 1890-1906, Originally from Downsville (transcript with index)
- The Celia Coulter Diary collection includes several diaries of her Strangeway relatives, including her mother, aunt and uncle. These include the three diaries of Andrew Strangeway from 1867, 1869 and 1872; 1887-88; several diaries of Margaret Strangeway (1873-1953) from 1880s and 1890s as well as diaries from the 20th century up to the 1930s.
- James B. Thomson, 1876-1893 (scattered years)
- Rowell diary, believed to be child of Charles Rowell, Franklin, NY – 1880s (transcript)
- James H. Thomson, Roxbury, 1836-1903 (gap from 1842-56), four volume transcription
- Letters – DCHA has a wide variety of letters, many part of specific collections, other comprise the complete collection. A sampling:
 - Letters of Private Edward Barnes are included in a small donation of various materials related to the Barnes and other families. Pvt Barnes was killed in action in France on his 20th birthday in 1944.
 - McDonald Family letters – Clark and James McDonald were brothers who served in the Civil War. James died of disease during the war. This collection includes letters of the brothers to each other and letters home. The letters have been transcribed and published in a book edited by Frank Waterman, Mother, You Mustn't Worry So About Us.
 - Sherwood Collection – this is an extensive collection of mainly letters involving the family of Samuel Sherwood. Sherwood was a Congressman in the early 19th century and own the home

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known now as Sherwoods just outside the village of Delhi. The entire collection is accessible on the New York Heritage site: <https://nyheritage.org/collections/delaware-county-historical-association-sherwood-collection>

- Family bibles – DCHA has a small collection of family bibles in various conditions. Surnames represented include Armstrong, Archibald (Bovina), Arnold/Sands, Beardsley, Byse/Boice, Cumming, Dumond, Felton/Dale, Frisbee/McMullin, Fuller, Gilmore, Hanford & Smith, Hutson, Jennings/Smith, Lovell, McKenzie/Boggs, Mullin, Patterson, Pierce/ McLaughlin, Reinmund, Sloan, Smith/ Fischer, Vanderwerken/DeForest, Wood/ Olin. Call or e-mail for more details.
- Genealogies and genealogical material
 - four shelves of published genealogies
 - two file drawers of smaller genealogies
 - one file drawer of genealogical correspondence
 - Mary Boice Gale genealogical collection includes information on the Boice, Knickerbocker, Herrick and Smith families
 - Genealogy Materials covering Grant, Cummings, Steele, Kedzie, and other families. These files were created by Katherine Brown from California. After her death, the files were donated to Pat Watts in New Hampshire by Katherine's daughter Jeana Brown. Pat Watts turned the files over to Bernice Graham Telian because of their Delaware County connection. Bernice donated them to DCHA.
 - Linda Ogborn Obituary Collection. This collection over over 15,000 obituaries is of predominately 20th century ones. They are indexed at <http://www.dcnhistory.org/obituary-collection-linda-ogborn.html>. Copies can be requested from DCHA.
- Land records – DCHA has a scattered collection of land records from a number of sources.
 - A variety of land indentures.
 - H. Fletcher Davidson Collection of Land Records – This collection has about 5,000 items, including leases, land contracts, letters, memos, accounts, tax lists and documents pertaining to law suits. Several of the old patents are represented, including Fitch, Franklin, Goldsboro, Hardenburgh, Kortright, and Rapelje. The collection is somewhat eclectic and does not by any means provide complete information on any one patent. It has a series of indices by the names involved, which is available at DCHA.
 - Edgerton Collection includes tax receipts (the collection finding aid is in a searchable database available at DCHA).
 - The Ebenezer Foote papers included powers of attorney to act as land agent for absentee landlords.
 - Kortright Patent Collection has a variety of scattered documents, including rent receipts, letters and other documents.
 - The Peters collection was donated in the 1980s by Frank and Marjorie Lyon. The collection was part of the estate of Frank Lyon's grandfather, William Blakely Peters (1837-1904). Peters was a surveyor, engineer, store owner, postmaster and operated the first telegraph in Bloomville.
 - The collection includes numerous maps of various Delaware County patents, including Evans, Leake's, Hardenburgh, Walton's, and Whitesborough and others. Since many of the items in the collection pre-date Peters, it is likely that he purchased or was given many of the items.

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- The Cora Livingston Barton rent book covers leases in the Hardenburgh Patent, Great Lot 40 (the Montgomery tract). It has been indexed (available on the Delaware County Genealogy website at <http://www.dcnhistory.org/rentcora.html>).
- Newspapers – DCHA has a selection of Delaware County newspapers, on microfilm or in hard copy. Some of the larger runs include:
 - *Andes Recorder* - 1867-1938 (with gaps)
 - *Bloomville Mirror* - 1852-1858; 1860-1875
 - *Delaware Express (Delhi)* - 1911-1915; 1928-1938
 - *Delaware County Times (Delhi)* – 2001-2004
 - *Delaware Gazette (Delhi)* - 1820-Feb 1822; 1856-1898 (selected issues only); 1901
 - *Delaware Republican (Delhi)* - 1870-1878; 1890-1913; 1915-1930; 1939-1948; 1950-1957; 1961-1967
 - *Hancock Herald* - May 1883-December 1889; April 1927-April 1948
 - *Stamford Mirror-Recorder* - 1896-1905; 1911;1919; 1928; 1931; 1933-1965; 1967-1987
 - Newspaper abstracts
 - Marriages and deaths
 - *Andes Recorder*, 1877-1879
 - *Bloomville Mirror*, 1855-1863 (1851-58 on dcnyhistory.org)
 - *Delaware Gazette*, 1819-1899 (through 1879 also on dcnyhistory.org).
 - *Hobart Independent*, 1885-1887
 - *Stamford Mirror*, 1880-1881
 - Proper name references in Walton newspapers from 1850-1880.
 - Deaths, Walton Reporter, 1901-1940
 - A number of Delaware County newspapers are available on-line:
 - The Delaware Gazette for its entire run and the Catskill Mountain News up to the 1970s are available on the New York State Historic Newspapers site at http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/titles/places/new_york/delaware/
 - A number of Delaware County newspapers are accessible at the Fulton History site (sometimes known as Old Fulton Postcards). This site contains millions of newspapers from New York State and elsewhere, including most of the run of the Bloomville Mirror, some of the Delaware Republican, Hancock Herald and Stamford Mirror. It is accessible at <https://fultonsearch.org/>
 - Many of Sidney's historical newspapers are available on the Sidney Memorial Library's website at <http://sidney.advantage-preservation.com/search>
- Photographs
 - The main collection of photographs is the Bob Wyer collection. Wyer was a Delhi photographer (active from about 1938 to 1977) who donated his negatives to the DCHA in 1979. The collection has over 100,000 photographs, including weddings, school pictures and aerial photographs taken in 1946. The collection has a card index identified by person, business or place. The card index has been made into an access database, searchable on-site at DCHA.
 - The Ralph Davidson slide collection dates mostly from the 1960s and has images predominantly of Delhi.
 - John Crocker collected a wide range of images mostly focused on Delhi.
 - Harold McMurdy photo collection – McMurdy (1890-1983) operated a photo studio in the town of Delhi.

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- Harold Mason collection – Mason’s photos include some locally identifiable posters and a number of more artistic works
- Farrington collection – Maurice Farrington (1837-1914) was an early Delhi photographer. The collection includes photos and negatives and other material related to Maurice and his son Frank, who died in 1955.
- Ethel Bussy Coulter slide collection – includes color slides from the late 1940s into the early 1960s. About half are more personal items, including photos of her gardens, children and pets. Also included are travel photos, including the Rose Bowl parade in California and images from Florida. There are a number of photographs around Delaware County and a significant number of photos related to the construction of the Pepacton reservoir, including images of the dam and bridge construction and demolition of structures in such places as Shavertown, as well as pictures of the communities before their demolition. [Note – this collection still is being processed and has access restrictions.]
- Arthur Austin glass plate negatives – Austin was active in Franklin in the early 20th century, photographing houses and landscapes in and around the Village of Franklin, as well as many photographs of his family. These images have been scanned.
- School records
 - DCHA has a scattered collection of school related records, including minutes, school registers, school censuses and ephemera. The date spans and geographic areas covered vary widely.
- Town histories
 - Vertical file – contains various odds and ends, including news clippings, small histories, church histories, cemeteries, pamphlets
 - Published histories
 - Pamphlets
- Other collections
 - John D. Monroe collection – John D. Monroe (1878-1953) was the Delaware County historian and wrote Chapters in the History of Delaware County, New York in 1949, published by the DCHA. This collection has many of his research notes for this book and for other writings he did as historian. The collection has a folder list.
 - Bicentennial Celebration – 1997 – records of the various activities for the celebration of Delaware County’s 200th birthday.

What we don’t have:

Local Government Records

- **Birth, marriage and death registration** in New York has been required since 1881. These records are kept at the town, village or city in which the event took place. You need to contact the town where the birth, marriage or death took place. There are fees, set by the State of New York, to get copies of these. Before 1881, such registration was not required, so certificates generally do not exist. In some instances, you may find birth/baptismal and marriage records with a specific church, but many of these records are long gone or were never created.

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- **Records of wills and letters of administration** may be found at the Delaware County Surrogates' Court. Pre-1900 index to filings at the Surrogates' Court may be found at <http://www.dcnhistory.org/willprobateindex.html>.
Surrogates' Court
Delaware County Courthouse
3 Court Street
Delhi, NY 13753
Phone: 607-746-2126 Fax: 646-963-6403
- With the exception of some specific collections, the DCHA does not have **deeds and mortgages**. The Delaware County Clerk's office is the official holder of these records.
Delaware County Clerk
PO Box 426
Delhi, NY 13753
Phone: (607) 746-2123
- **School records** of one-room school houses, except for the few items at DCHA, can be found at either the town in which the school was located or with the central school district that absorbed the school when it was closed. The New York State Archives has very useful statistical records of schools. Schools had to file these reports annually. Some of these reports also are available at the Delaware County Clerk's office (see above).
- **Tax rolls** are created by the county, though the assessments are set by the towns. The taxes also are collected by the towns. A set of the rolls stays with the town, with another set going to the county. The tax rolls from 1860 to 1930 have been microfilmed and are available at the Delaware County Clerk's office or at the New York State Archives
- Some **town minute books** have been microfilmed. The film is available at the Delaware County Clerk's office and at the New York State Archives. Microfilmed records include town clerk's record and minute books and (in some instances) other records for the towns of Andes (1820-1993), Bovina (1820-1993), Colchester (1891-1993 with gaps), Davenport (1930-1993), Delhi (1823-1994), Deposit (1881-1994), Franklin (1793-1994), Hamden (1825-1994), Hancock (1879-1993), Harpersfield (1787-1994), Kortright (1829-1994), Masonville (1930-1993), Meredith (1891-1993), Middletown (1851-1994), Roxbury (1799-1993), Sidney (1801-1994), Stamford (1793-1993), Tompkins (1806-1993), and Walton (1797-1995).

Church Records

- Except for the ones noted above, DCHA does not house church records. You will need to contact the local church directly for further information.
- The Delaware County Genealogy and History website (<http://www.dcnhistory.org/>) has transcripts of the churches of several communities in the county.