

Schenectady County Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 33 - Number 9-10 -- May-June 1997

32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12305, (518) 374-0263

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK - Bob Sager

There's only one cloud on the horizon on this wonderful spring day here at 32 Washington Avenue. And that is that even with the generosity of many people, we are running almost \$4000 short for operating expenses during the 1996-1997 fiscal year. That's better than last year's \$11,000; we've been working on it! But we may have to increase our dues for the first time in many years. We certainly do not want to dip into our endowment.

So, if you know of anyone who is thinking of joining the Society, tell them to do so pronto and save themselves some money. Maybe we can get in a few new members who are hesitating. Decision about dues is up to the Board and we will keep you informed.

A little more background on my dad's boyhood tales: The doctor officiating at his birth was Herman Vedder Mynderse (b. 1861) who lived on Liberty Street, then called "Pious Row." The girl he was supposed to take to the ball ended up being escorted by his brother, William Ten Broeck Mynderse (b 1871), later the father of Helen Mynderse, and a well known architect. I wonder if the girl in question was Helen's mother.

Dr. Mynderse, a family friend as doctors often were in those days, presented my grandparents with a John Rogers plaster cast statue entitled "The Doctor", at the time of the birth. It was given a prominent place on the mantel and is still in the family.

The Mynderse family went on to develop their property in Scotia in the Sunnyside Road area, using names from the works of Washington Irving. My family, the Sagers and Putmans, chose to expand in Bellevue, keeping close to the Putman Road area. Over a forty year period my grandfather, Van Sager, built about 500 houses, mostly in Bellevue, before becoming the Schenectady building inspector. My dad's cousin, J. Wendell Putman, age 99, still lives in one of those family homes in Bellevue where he has resided since age 10. He's still incensed that Putman Road, named for the family, is now spelled Putnam Road, from a New England family and not from our solid Dutch roots.

The early Putnams of Salem were instigators of the Salem Witch Trials. They might have been redeemed by Gideon Putnam of Saratoga, but Wendell calls them "those hotel people" and scorns comparison with the Putmans who were judges, mayors, and ministers back in the Netherlands. Jan Putman the progenitor, scalped and killed in the Schenectady Massacre, was one of the few literate citizens of the town.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 10, 1997

1:30: Refreshments

2:00: Speaker: Neil Yetwin, "The Jews of the Mohawk Valley"

May 20, 1997

7:30 PM: Board of Trustees

May 28, 1997

1:15 PM: "See a New You", Beauty by Paula Von Stetina

June 17, 1997

7:30 PM: Board of Trustees

Society Hours - Monday-Friday 1:00 to 5:00 PM, Second Saturday each month 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Tours by appointment

Phone (518) 374-0263

The Newsletter is published six times a year. Deadlines are the second Monday of June, August, October, December, February, and April. Please submit material as early as possible.

CALENDAR FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Heritage Talk Shop: Gay Malin on "Restoring the Cohoes Mastodon"

Schenectady Library, 12 Noon

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Heritage Awards

City Hall Rotunda, 12 Noon

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Heritage Talk Shop: Debbie Lambreth on "Gilding, Glazing, Stenciling and Trompe d'oeil."

Schenectady Library, 12 Noon, Free

Sunday, May 18, 1997

Sacred Spaces - Various churches throughout Schenectady

Open house at participating churches from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Free booklet available at the Schenectady Museum and Visitor Center or at participating churches

MAY PROGRAM

In many ways Schenectady is a microcosm of the Northeast. We started with the Dutch, were followed by the English, but speedily the Scots and the Irish and the Germans found their way to the New World. Threaded through the history of all these migrations is the history of the Jewish, here from the time of New Amsterdam, often an unobtrusive part of each settlement. Neil Yetwin has made a study of the Jews of the Mohawk Valley, and we look forward to his throwing a new light on this fascinating group of people. Refreshments at 1:30; Program at 2:00.

OUR OWN AUTHORS

Wayne Harvey has an article entitled "Genealogical Postcards" in *The Family Tree* for April-May 1997. This is published by the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library, Moultrie, GA. You may read it at the Grems-Doolittle Library of the Schenectady County Historical Society.

MUSEUM NEWS

Jo Mordecai, Coordinator of Exhibits

DEAR MOTHER

On May 11th, Mothers' Day, if Anna Jarvis were still alive, she would flare her patrician nostrils, flash her imperious eyes, and wish Mothers' Day would go away.

She would be within her rights. Anna was the founder of Mothers' Day. Her own mother, Anne Reeves Jarvis, the school teacher married to a prominent Methodist minister in West Virginia, thought a day honoring mothers might help bond the people of a nation bitterly divided after the tragic Civil War.

It was only after Mrs. Anne Jarvis passed away on the second Monday in May, 1905, that her daughter Anna decided to bring the idea to fruition, in memory of her beloved mother.

For a few years the observance of her mother's death was confined to Philadelphia where young Anna was an insurance company librarian -- But in 1914 Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday.

Yet by the 1920's Anna Jarvis was ranting at what Mothers' Day had become: more or less a boon to late spring retail sales; a boon to florists and the candy makers; and let's not forget the greeting card industry. Anna protested, "A printed card means nothing except that you are too lazy to write a letter or a note of love to the woman who has done more for you than anyone else in the world." About candy: disdainfully, Anna said, "You take a box to your mother, and end up eating most of it yourself."

The grafters who purveyed such trifles would, she said, "Take the coppers off a dead mother's eyes!"

Jarvis organized a vigorous campaign to stop the commercialization of Mothers' Day. In 1925 she was arrested for trying to break up a meeting of War Mothers who had usurped her trademark - the white carnation - for her dead mother.

Later she made headlines lobbying against a Mothers' Day stamp that featured Whistler's mother instead of her own. But alas, the tide was too great. Mothers' Day was here to stay. By her 70's Anna had become a recluse, an eccentric, living in the past, bemoaning what had become of her idea of Mothers' Day.

LOCAL MOTHERS TO BE CELEBRATED ANYWAY

Are we all really selfish and thoughtless about our mothers? I hope not. So for mid-April to mid-May our new exhibit will be "A Salute to Mothers' Day." Throughout the main floor of our lovely old house will be on display the photographs of the mothers of the dignitaries of local government, and celebrities of our news media of Schenectady and the surrounding areas. This means people like former mayor Frank Duci, and broadcaster Jack Aernecke!

Fifty photographs are framed and displayed. Please come and enjoy this tribute from grateful sons and daughters of Schenectady notables on this Mothers' Day, 1997.

I think Anna might approve.

Jo Mordecai

From your House to Our House

Donor: Mr. and Mrs. Max Hershkowitz - Schenectady

One framed painting - water color by Janet Winter - Lawrence the Indian

Donor: Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Harvey - Scotia

Two button hooks - Wallace Co.

One wooden ruler - Shearstine Lumber Co.

One honorary Captain's Badge - Hook and Ladder Co.

Three Commemorative Buttons

Donor: Carol Harvey - Scotia

One modified derby or bowler hat - John B. Stetson Co. - Circa 1900

Worn by the Rev. LeRoy Brandt, Carol's father

Donor: Mr. Edgar W. Snell, Jr. - Schenectady

One two barreled pistol - Circa ? Wooden handle

Two iron New Year Cookie molds - early 1800's

One converted wooden Springfield rifle used during the Civil War

Donor: Mr. William Massoth - Pattersonville

Three bricks from the old Cheeseman House, Princetown - late 18th century

Donor: Ms. Margarretta Denham - Galway

One cotton sunbonnet - flowered gingham

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee has opened discussion with Schenectady School District to present a workshop at the next Superintendent's day.

SAGER SAGA

(In this piece we have another account of life in these parts in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Our president, Bob Sager, acquired a memoir, written by his own father Clinton Sager I, which provides us with a picture of that earlier day. Makes you want to dig out a copy of Booth Tarkington's *Penrod*. Remember?)

As boys grew older they had a desire to hunt wild animals and go trapping. In the country where I was there were a lot of woodchucks and skunks. My parents would not allow my playmates and me to have firearms so the next best thing was to set traps for the woodchucks. During our meandering about the neighboring country we became acquainted with all the haunts of the little animals. After much searching we found several traps which we could set at different points on the farm. The next day we went and looked at the traps. The first one we went to had a woodchuck in it. We noticed a peculiar odor about the animal but we did not mind it much. It was quite a good size, and before we reached home we decided to leave it in a potato barrel. That day Ladies' Aid had a picnic at our home. Enthused by our luck we started for home to tell my mother. Of course all the ladies were having a grand time when we approached but they soon sat up and took notice of us for we had evidence of skunks about us. Ever after that my friend and I knew the distinction between a skunk and a woodchuck

Sometimes a boy's birthday creeps up so fast that his parents fail to realize the fact. My home was not far from the church we attended, so it was not hard to get to Sunday School. I had attended Sunday school for several years with fairly good regularity. At Children's Day exercise the reports were given of the membership for the past year and other things that were of interest to the parents. Among the things mentioned was the scholar who had the highest average of attendance for the part year. For some unforeseen reason I received the honor one year. A few days later was my birthday and my father surprised me by giving me a watch for my birthday present and for my good attendance at Sundry school. He said that he liked to give me a present when it included more than one thing.

My parents had a habit of going to the theater about three times during the winter. It was not until I was ten years old that they took me along. My mother told me one day that if I was a good boy for a week she would take me somewhere. That week seemed like an eternity to me and when we did start for somewhere I was all smiles. It was a bright moonlight night in winter. I can see the scene before my eyes yet as my mother described the great building we were going to attend, all ablaze with lights and filled with hundreds of people. The place was finally reached and it was the Van Curler Theater. After hearing and seeing so much that night I lay awake until morning thinking about it.

My home in the country was located near a little brook. Early in the spring of my seventh year I was playing about the house when my attention was called to the brook. That same spring a new family moved into our

neighborhood and I hear that they had a small boy about my age but had not seen him. I watched the newcomer with eagerness for he was drawing stones in his little express wagon, endeavoring to build a dam across the creek. All the time I watched him I debated in my mind whether I should go down and make friends with him. The minute the wheel on his wagon broke, my mind was made up and I went to meet him. He gave me a detailed explanation of all that happened concerning the accident and said he had no other wheel. I proposed going up to our woodshed and looking around. Much to our delight we found a wheel that worked all right. From that time on we were friends.

(We'll finish the saga next issue. We hope that this little trip back ninety years or so will inspire other members to scramble around in the family archives for other such anecdotes. Now is the time to collect these items into family histories. Don't wait for your children to come to you; they're busy raising children or making a living. But a time will come when they'll wish they had asked more, and if you've provided a little family "Time Capsule" they'll be very pleased.)

THE MABEE FARM - by Barbara Wylie

The Mabee Family Papers.

The Mabee Family Papers, a part of George Franchere's gift to the Schenectady County Historical Society, comprises almost 600 items. This collection includes deeds, wills, letters, inventories, legal documents of many kinds, bills of sale for slaves, and receipts for a wide variety of purchases. The existence of this collection of family papers will be an invaluable aid to the Society as we work to develop interpretative programs for the farm. It is the personal stories, the vignettes from the lives of those who lived at the farm, that bring history to life. These stories are the implements that we will use to transform the farm into a living history museum.

The collection has been microfilmed, making it readily available to anyone interested in learning more about the Mabee family and the farm. The microfilm and a finding aid, *An Introduction to the Mabee Family Papers*, are located in the Grems-Doolittle Library at the Society.

LIBRARY POTPOURRI

by Elsie M. Maddaus, Archivist and Librarian

Library Notes

I used to be the leader of the Library Genealogy Club of the Ballston Spa Public Library. Recently I came across a newspaper item of about 10 years ago which reminded me of one of our projects.

The club received some family charts sponsored jointly by the American Association of Retired Persons, the U. S. Postal Service and the National Geographic Society. The program was called "Plant a Family Tree."

Basically this is the first step in family researching, that is, inquiring from older relatives about the rest of the family whom they remember. Then with the names and dates, true Genealogy begins. The researcher works at verifying what they have been given through birth, death, marriage and church records. It is the best beginning of further research.

Today, ten years later, we have faster means of communication: email, fax and other aids on the computer. However the fundamental process remains. It is necessary to glean as many facts as possible from living relatives now, whatever the mode. Don't wait until they are gone and unreachable as so many of us have.

Library Exhibits

April - Who was Who at the General Electric Company

May - Jonathan Pearson, Schenectady's best known historian

Gifts to the Library - January through March, 1997

Donor: Anne B. Coggeshall

HISTORY OF SCHENECTADY IN THE REVOLUTION (pb) by Hanson

Donor: Susan J. Staffa

"Westinghouse Reminiscences" and "Westinghouse Catalogs"

Donor: W. M White

LEDGER OF THE MYNDERSE BEVERAGE COMPANY, 1888

Donor: Lewis, Kaehler, Bates and Angle

MYNDERSE deeds, maps, other legal documents

Donor: Catherine Q. Kindl

BUNDLING by Stiles

Donor: Wayne Harvey

"The Black Minority in Early New York"; EDISON, THE MAN AND HIS WORK by Bryan; A TIMETABLE OF INVENTIONS AND DISCOVERIES by Desmond; THE PATENT BOOK, by Gregory and Mulligan; THE ART OF INVENTION by Ray.

Donor: Donald A. Keefer

"Marriages and Death Notices from 19th Century Schenectady Newspapers" 8 Vol. also three city atlases.

Donor: Diane J Gade

Early Schenectady High School photos

Donor: Louise Waterman

SHAKER COOK BOOK: "Dutch Treats" and Shaker material

Donor: Robert J. Mielke

A MINISTRY OF GRACE: IMAGES OF ZION'S 125 YEAR HISTORY

Donor: Nancy J. Curran

Twelve photos of school groups of the 1920's and 1930's.

Donor: Ruth E. Hand

Many family records, pedigree charts, etc.

Donor: Rev. Franklyn N. Wright

Eight family histories

Donor: Constance M. S. Falconer

BORDERS AND SCROLLS by Coffin; DUTCH TRADE AND CERAMICS by Wilcoxon

Donor: Helen Nellis

Killip Laundry Advertising card

Donor (and author): David R. Wemple

WEMPLE, WEMP, WIMPLE, WAMPLE, WEMPLE Genealogy.

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU.

Genealogy ANYONE?

It is not necessary to have been descended from Arent Bradt or Ryer Schermerhorn or Jan Mabee to start work on your own family history. The success of the Public Television series *Ancestors* shows us the vast interest in learning who our ancestors were, where they lived, and how we are connected to them

It happens that your very own Historical Society has one of the finest genealogical libraries in the region, and information about how to contact other such libraries for further information. The Capital District itself is a mine of information, starting with the State Library and going on to such organizations as the Mormon Library in Latham, and even the library in Fonda. Your editor has no local ancestry, but has been able to get information from census records (right here!) and Civil War pension information (from the State Library) that has led her to useful addresses in Southern Ohio.

If you're ready to get started, see our ad.

BEGINNING Genealogy WORKSHOP!

OFFERED BY ELSIE MADDAUS, ARCHIVIST & LIBRARIAN

SCHENECTADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- **You've always wanted to explore your family history but . . .**
- **You've always wondered how to get started**
- **You heard Genealogy was too expensive**

NOW IS THE TIME! - JULY 8 THROUGH AUGUST 26.

NOW HEAR THIS!

The Library and Archives Committee offers an eight week workshop on BEGINNING Genealogy in the Gremis-Doolittle Library from July 8 through August 26, 1997.

The sessions will be held from 9:30 am to 11:30 am each Tuesday. The group is limited to twelve. There will be NO charge for the workshop but persons attending must be members of the Schenectady County Historical Society.

Membership levels are according to categories, from \$15 per year up to \$ 1000 for a Life Membership. Applications for membership will be sent on request. Contact Elsie M. Maddaus, Archivist and Librarian for details. (518) 374-0263.

NEW MEMBERS

William A Bronk

Jean Gaver

Maureen Gibson

Michael E. Haley

Mrs. Ellen Kennedy

Virginia B. LaGoy

Mr. Charles E. McCabe

George Morris

Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Palmatier

Jeffrey Sauer

Mrs. Robin Stocks

Judith Teng

Lois M. Troup

Carolyn Veeder

Mrs. Pamela T. Walsh

Glen Douglas Walton

Welcome new members! Be sure to attend our monthly meeting on Saturday, May 10 at 1:30 PM. Visit the library; take a tour of the house. Enjoy!

NOTABLE SCHENECTADIANS

(We continue the The Journal of Allen Heyer Jackson, 2G grandfather of notable Schenectadians Kitty Gibson and William H. Milton, III. We are publishing two week intervals of the narrative, and it will be a staple of this publication for several more issues. Mr. Jackson is currently wide-eyed in London, seeing the sights and going about his father's business with all the enthusiasm of a 21-year-old on his own. Enjoy!)

Journal of Allen Heyer Jackson

White horse Lovell Fetterlane London Thursday July 16.

A fine day. visited the british collection of Wax work Princess Charlotte lying in state after her death it was a dark room lit with lamp. the Princess laid out in fine white dress and the mourners seated around in Melancholly silence., it was . . .the most interesting thing I ever saw of the kind. I . . .spent the rest of the day in St.Pauls Church first visited the Monument rooms . . . those of Lord Nelson, Rodney, Collingwood, Cornwallace, Gen'l Brock o Queenstown, Sir Christopher Wier, Shakespear &c &c went under the Church with a Lamp to view the vaults of Lord Nelson, Shakespear Wier &c . . . that of Nelson was verry fine . . . next the Library, clock room Pendulem weighs 192 lb bell 11000 lb. Nelsons Gallery where all the Colours taken in battle are deposited some are entirely decayed excepting the staff . . .the Whispering Gallery was a great curiosity. . . . Lord Nelsons room containing his Sword, Gloves, helmet Lamp burial equipages were fine.

White horse Fetter Lane London Friday July 17th, 1818.

A fine morning crossed the river at London Bridge, visited Kingsbench Prison, Bethlem hospital, Oblisk nelson square and Lamdeth Pallace . . . comprising what was called the borough of Southwark. returned by Westminster bridge visited the house of Commons, house of Lords, Westminster Hall and Westminster Abbey, first room is called Poets corner where are placed the Monuments of Shakespear, Goldsmith, Thompson, Addison, Handel, Taylor, Garricks, Dryden &c in other room are Barton. then has a fine Monument cost £4000. Warrent, Pitt, Fox, Newton, Howe, Andre, Milton, Grey, King George IInd Edward Charles, Mary of Scotts &c &c there are representations of most the Kings, Queens, and Nobles in wax with there original dresses, the saddle, helmet & sword of King Charles 1st is preserved but the poor fellows head was stolen during the civil war, it being silver. I saw the coronation chairs in which the King & Queen sit when crowned. . . Westminster Abbey is certainly a great curiosity. In past St. Johns Church, artillery ground, bridewell through Queens gardens, saw the Pallace of the Queens, Green Park, St. James Park and home after tea visited the Performance of a Rusian, he performed great exploits with fire he ate it, he beat out a red hot bar with his bare feet &c.

Fleet Street Mr. Porter Private Lodgings London Saturday July 18th

A fine day. removed from the White horse Inn Felter lane to Mr. Porters Private Lodging fleet Street near St. Pauls, London where I am comfortably situated in a small and agreeable family consisting of Mr. Porter wife and daughter. I saw a beautiful piece of stone work on the gate that enters into the Carlton gardens Pall Mall representing the Lion with the Eagle under his feet as large as life. . . visited London Menagerie . . . Elephants Lyons, tigers, leopards &c too numerous to mention I then took a circuet by British Museum, Bedford Square, Drurey Lane, Covent Garden and Hay Market then Waterloo Place, Charlton House Residence of the Prince Regent &c St. James Square and Pallace, Hyde Park through which runs the Serpentine River, through Oxford Street, Gloucester Place, Portmans, Montague, Bryanston, Manchester, Cavendish, Hanover, Soho, St. Giles,

Grosvenor, Berkley and Golden Squares, Chesterfield, Devonshire and Burlington houses. dined at the Queens Larder St. James Street 6 Miles from Lodgings took tea at Globe Inn Strand 2 M. from L. arrived at my Lodgings ½ past 9 PM quite fatigued after a walk of at least 20 Miles.

Fleet Street London Sunday July 19th, 1818.

A beautiful day attended Prayers in St. Pauls after prayers I wrote a letter to my Father and one to my friend Jay Cady after dinner I started upon a rout to Bloombury, Russle Tavistock, Fitzrow, Euston, . . . seven Dials, Bedford nurserey. St. James, St. Andrews, Tindalls, Bloomsbury and St. Georges burying grounds. . . . Small pox and foundling hospital, Reservoirs, New Riverhead house of correction Old & New Bridewell Grays Inns . . . , Bridgewater and Charter house squares, Charter house, West Smithfields, Old, New and Stone Bales fleet prison St. Bartholemens french & Christ hospitals, New Gate Market, . . . lyncolns Inns Fields Somerset Place, Kings Bench walk Temple, the Artillery ground - - - Moorfields Guild Hall, The Bank and a great many Markets. Returned home about dark. . . I have been today that I could see something look like cuntry Sunday is a day of Pleasure in England it is the boat and coach Mens harvest. every boat and coach are engaged upon this day. I saw several steam boats start for Richmond loaded with Parties of Pleasure the steamboats are here very small and inferior to those in America.

Fleet Street London Monday July 20th 1818.

A beautiful day. Went down to the Navy hospital Greenwich in a boat. . . visited the curiosities. saw the car that the body of Lord Nelson was carried to the tomb. . . resembling the body of a Ship the Painting Gallery and Chapple containing the finest Paintings I have met and the Greatest Piece of Deception in the Pillars you would think them fluted while they are flat went into the Dining Hall where there were between 9 and 1000 disabled seamen. . . you might see the blind and lame a great number of Legs, arms & eyes wanted, thence to St. Georges Church, London Docks where I found the brig Ruben & Eliz Capt. Stowell for New York on Thursday I sent my letters by him, . . . several American ships in dock. . . at the Globe inn, in the evening I visited an exhibition of Glass worked into Miniture . . . Now I think I have seen the greater part of London that is the external views

Sun Tavern Johnson St. Pauls London Tuesday July 21st

A fine day I walked about the City until 1 o'clock PM Dined at the Paris Hotell not a servant about the house could understand English it being a french house I merely dined there to see how I could manage it without understanding them, Made out verry well. . . two PM went to the five Courts Martins Street Leicester Square where I saw the cruel practice of boxing under the name Pugilism there were 18 matches fought bloody work two or three will scarcely get over it, . . . I left them and took tea at the red Lion Southwark after tea went to the royal Ampitheatre . . . the best feats of activity and horsemanship I ever saw they ran the heats an the stage with six horses, ventrilequism by a youth . . . dancing upon tight and slack rope and upon stilts four feet high . . . , returned home 11 PM . . . I begin to get tired of London after I have visited the tower I shall to Croydon a few days.

Fleet Street London Wednesday July 22nd 1818.

A fine day delivered my letter of Credit to Mr. Ingeatham American Counsel he promised to advance me the money Any time I should call for it. I promised to call on the 30th Inst., then delivered my letter of Recommendation to Messrs Grosvenor & Chater offered to carry any Commands to N. York I was treated with the greatest respect I then proceeded to the Tower wherein I got admittance and viewed the curiosities consisting of Spanish Danish Saxon and English Armoury both for horse and foot of all kinds in one room there are arms compleet . . . 100,000 Men, in an other room for 30000 Men in an other for 50,000 saylors. Artillery &c beyond computation. the Jewel department, where I saw all the royal crowns Septers &c of England. the present Kings Parleмент crown cost 1,000,000 Wild beasts and birds consisting of Lions, tigers, Panthers, Wolves,

Leopards Bears Tigercats, Baboons, muscovoy Cats Jackalls, Raccoons, Eagles, Vultures Ostrich &c. I spent all the day in this grand place,. . . Dined at the N England Coffee house took tea at the White horse tomorrow I shall go to Croyden to get a supply of fresh air I shall stay two or three days.

Choletts Seat near Croyden Thursday July 23rd 1818

A fine day left my trunk &c at Mr.Porters and walked over the river to the Elephan & Castle Inn where I got on the brighton coach . . . Passed . . . the finest cuntry in England arrived at Kingshead Inn Croyden 10 Miles from London 12 Meridian Croyden is a beautiful place. . . I went to look for Mr. Cholett [David & Ann Shuler Cady's second son b.1787 was named Cholett. David Cady was an agent in New York State for English owners. The call of Allen H. Jackson on the Chollets can hardly have been accidental.] I was directed to a large iron gate with a lodge on each side of it. I looked . . . I saw one of the finest seats I ever saw the Gardens, walks, trees &c were beautiful . . . I expected to find him a plane man I contemplated some time wether to go in or not. I concluded to go back to the Inn and brush up a little then venture but courage and "I cares for nobody" got the upper hand and I dashed through the gate enquired at the Lodge if Mr.Cholett was at home "yes Sir" then I bolted up the main walk whirling my stick around my head at last I came to the Pallace (for so I may call it) where I expected to meet 40 servants, but out came a man dressed in thin summer Clothes verry plane, I asked for Mr.Chollet. "I am the man Sir" I was surprised however I delivered the letter from my father. I was invited in introduced to his wife (who was as plane as he was) and welcomed to Liberty Hall as he called it, Wine, tea, & Lodging.

CHOLETTS PALLACE Croyden Friday July 24th 1818

A beautiful day the warmest that has been in England for 29 years still to me the most Pleasant I have experienced in England as account of my situation, the Mercury at 90 after breakfast I got a book Mr. Cholett went to his Painting room where he amuses himself every morning being an excellent painter. I went out into the Gardens, Groves &c where I spent the morning in the shade reading and contemplating. This beautiful seat lies ¼ of a mile from the town of Croyden it is so calculated for retirement allmost a forest that you would not know that there was a town or village within 20 Miles it contains 17 Acres of land beautifully laid out in Gardens, walks, Groves &c the most Beautiful ever saw, some Places as wild as the American forest It cost him 12000 sterling it is 10 Miles from London--I was deceived in Mr.Cholett instead of finding that stiff Pride and formality attended by 12 footmen 6 scullions &c &c customary with most Gentlemen of his fortune. I found a plane old man and woman attended by four servants to keep the Ground in order No Couch or Coachman for says he My horses are never sick or my Coachman saucy and I can have a Coach when I want it by sending 400 yards.-- Dined, sup and sleep, a thundershower this night.

New England Coffee house, Davies, London Saturday July 25

A beautiful cool morning after the rain. Mr. & Mrs. Cholett treat me with the greatest kindness it appears as if we have acquainted for ever he made . . . enquiries about Florida which I could ans. . . as if I was at home . . . in company with a person . . . acquainted with my neighborhood after spending two of the pleasantness days I have spent in England I bid Mrs.Cholett goodbie. Mr.Cholett walked down to the stage office with me where he procured me the best seat on the stage when I bid him good bie - left Croyden ½ past 8 AM. . . fly arrived at London bridge 10 AM. I went to my lodgings settled my bill and moved my trunk &c to the N.E.C. house. . . where I shall stay until I leave town . . . Dined at the White bear Oxford St. After which I visited the London Museum of Natural Curiosities in four Apartments containing rising of 30000 diferent Articles including 1st room a beautiful Painting of Brutis Betrading his sons &c 2nd Room Models of Natural Curiosities Mountains, Cities, beasts &c 3rd Room an excellent Painting of Christ raising the dead 4th Room Quadrupeds, birds, reptiles, ancient arms, works of art &c &c. . . The Ostrich in full plumage 10 feet high.

N.E.C.House London Sunday July 26th 1818.

A fine day . . . the steam boat London was starting for Richmond I got on board She started 11 A.M. with about 100 Passengers the boats in England are verry small dirty and infereour things. . . if they could see one of our N.R.boats it would surprise them steam is carried to a great extent in the Manufactories, Mills, Coal Pits &c it is applied to Mils Manufactories &c for the Want of Water and not applied to boats for the same wants there are no navigable rivers of the extent in England . . . Passed Chelsea, Battersea, Fulham, Wadsworth (Where the River Nandell empties) Putney, Barnes, Chiswick, Old Brentford, Kew, (Kew Pallace or Queens Pallace where her Majesty lies groaning under the diseases of the Osfication of the heart the Pallace and Gardens are indescribable) arrived at Richmond 3 PM . . . on to Richmond Hill where . . . the Park &c River Cuntry and seats are not to be surpassed Ruhmonisa Place of Pleasure and not of business by land 12 by Water 20 Miles to London Returned 6 PM arrived at L Bridge 10 PM Rain all night.

N.E.C.House London Tuesday July 28th 1818.

A fine day with a delightful Shower of rain about 2 PM which was quite reviving, as I got caught in it I just Posed into a Minature Shop "What you please to want Sir" I want to keep out of the rain in the first place and as it bids fair to rain an hour or two I will sit down and have my Likeness taken in Minature11. "verry well Sir walk in the back room" There I sot full two hours under a large skylight which threw the light right into my eyes while I was braced every way both eye and limb so that I could not avoid light. So much for Minature Painting- The fashion in England is carried to a surprising hight. In fact the Fashionable People look ridiculous. Ladies with there clothes 2 feet short so that they are continually showing there Garters as they walk along the streets, with no hat but a sort of a head dress while the men with Pantaloons ½ way to there knees the waists of there coats 1½ inch long are so tight that it almost separates the body from the legs. there shirt collars cover there countenance and every lad that enters the fashions must have his neck almost cut in two by this cravatt &c &c &c After dinner at the N.E.C.H. I went to the English Oppera, I was surprised to see six of our Indians cutting up there Pranks upon the stage I mean those that came over last spring.

N.E.C.House London Tuesday July 28th 1818.

A fine day . . . I paid my respects to Mr.Naylor in order to excuse myself from his table. . . he insisted upon my company but as I understood he is to have a Grand Company and as I am not in proper trim I got excused by Pretending that I was to leave town tomorrow. I enquired if anything for N.York. Nothing "Good bie Sir". I returned to the N.E.C.H. to dine where I found Mr. Wilson the Gentleman that came from N.York with me. . . . I then went and sot 2 hours more for my Minature after which I went to Vauxall Garden . . . Vauxall bridge is made of cast iron visited Cumberland Gardens the Vauxall Garden was not open . . . I then . . . returned to Waterloo Bridge where I attended the Royal Coburgh Theatre . . . After seeing Vauxall I think I am done with London unless it be the British Museum .

N.E.C.House London Wednesday July 29th 1818.

A fine day. after breakfast according to agreement I called Mr. Ingraham to draw \$250 upon the account of D.Clinton with his request. While Mr.Ingraham was drawing up the drafts I called upon Grosvenor & Chater to get letters of recommendation to Scotland as they requested me to take them. I then returned to Mr. Ingraham where I signed a bill upon Gov. Clinton for 50.1.6 sterling to be paid 30 days after sight I then received the cash Dined at the N.E.C.H. after dinner I went to Vauxhall Gardens in a boat where I had a view of his Majesty the Prince regent, Dukes of York and Kent. . . . After dark the garden was illuminated beautiful, all the illuminations that I ever saw in America put together are no more to be compared to this than that of the Glow worm to the Sun a fine concert of vocal and instrumental music after which two french ladies danced upon a tight rope and an other assended a tight rope amidst a grand discharge of fireworks. . . .

White Bear (Cary) Windsor Thursday July 30th 1818.

A fine day at 2 PM I went to the Bolt in Tun fleet Street where. . . I mounted upon the coach "John Bull" and started for Windsor went out of town by Hyde Park Corner . . . arrived at Windsor 6 PM put up at the White bear (Cary) After tea I visited the Castle where the poor old King lies deprived of his senses. (I think the head of John Bull is in a disorderly state at present the King non. compris. Mentus and the Queen groaning under the complaint of the Ospiation of the heart) the Castle of Windsor is certainly the most beautiful. . . it is not in ruins by no means but in perfect repair the Walls and ditches would make it inaccessible in case of any attack, the tops of the walls are covered with Artillery and the Kings life guard is stationed in the castle besides several regiments in the town of So far the Kings life is guarded notwithstanding he is Non. Compos. Mentos and of no use to his subjects. Windsor is a fine town . . . 25 Miles from London.

N.E.C.House London Friday July 31st 1818

A cloudy and rainy afternoon left Windsor for London 9 A.M. on the coach "John Bull" . . . arrived at the Bolt in Tun 1 P.M. crossed the street and sat until 2 PM for my Minature. I then went to the N.E.C.H. Mr. Davies wondered where I staid last night I told him at Windsor which quite surprised him he thought 25 Miles a great journey At Brentford oposite Kew Pallace we met the Duke of Cambridge and Lady in simple stile sitted with only 2 foot men and had but 2 horses (he the Dukes of Kent and Clarence were married last week Great Parade upon the Occasion all schools have a vacation for 5 weeks) Recently on came the the Duke of Clarence and Lady coach and four 2 Postillions 4 horsemen in uniform a head and 4 foot men they cut a hell of a sway, there was a report circulated in town that her Majesty the Queen had been so unfortunate to herself and fortunate to the public as to kick the bucket and die the bells were tolled but the report was contradicted and proved to be false consequently a great number disappointed, likewise a report circulated (so strong) that America was a going to declare war against England that it made quite a bustle in the Market.

(And we leave our hero for a while. I still picture him bravely walking up to Chollett's mansion, twirling his cane above his head in hastily summoned nonchalance!)

WE GET LETTERS AND SOME ARE ANONYMOUS

I would like to acknowledge the author of the following, but he/she did not sign it. Thank you, Kindly Stranger.

CEMENT AND THE ERIE CANAL

We have all heard the story about how Canvass White, a brilliant young engineer from New York who walked 2000 (200?)miles of English and Scottish Canals, saw hydraulic cement or water lime as it was called in Britain and Schotland and how he made it and demonstrated it in a tavern.

There is a folk tale about cement, Portland cement as we call it today, the ingredient that causes concrete to set, and it happened nearby.

It seems that the men working on the original Erie Canal worked six days a week and took Sunday off. One Sunday, three boys went fishing in the Mohawk River at Pattersonville. They caught a nce mess of fish, cleaned them, and wrapped them in clay that they found nearby. The boys had also brought some potatoes with them that they also wrapped in clay.

Next the boys made a fireplace from some stone that were all cut and fitted for a nearby lock at Pattersonville. They built a roaring big fire in the fire place and allowed it to burn down to a bed of coals.

Then they buried their clay-wrapped potatoes and fish in the coals. Later they cracked the hardbaked clay and enjoyed a meal of baked potatoes and baked fish.

Well, kids being kids, they pulverized some of the burnt stone that the fireplace was made of and mixed it with the clay left over from their culinary arts project.

The next morning, the foreman came to work and he was not the least bit happy about finding his cut and fitted stones destroyed. He saw the pile of clay mixed with pulverized burnt stone and gave it a mighty kick. Now if you have ever seen concrete that has set over night you realize it looks like mud but it is indeed hard.

I will not repeat what the foreman said when he kicked this "mud". However, he realized he had found cement.

After much searching he found out who the boys were. After much more talking he finally convinced them that he meant no harm to them, but he wanted to know what they had mixed together to make the cement.

Believe this story or not, the fact is that John Van Epps, who fought at the battle of Oriskany in the Revolutionary War, and his sons built a cement plant across the river from Pattersonville on the Montgomery-Schenectady county line, right where Route 5 now goes. This plant opened in July of 1825, three months before the opening of the Erie Canal! It operated for several years and made cement of the highest quality. Think of the impact this invention has had on the entire world and it came from the Erie Canal.

THANK YOU, FRIEND

We don't often get a chance to thank our friends in the media who help out with our public relations. So it is with pleasure that we let you know that Dianne Scoville, the wife of Steve Scoville who has covered our activities for Channel 13 so often, has a nature shop on Route 9 in Clifton Park called "Backyard Birds". Her number is 383-4048.

ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE: Wayne Harvey sent us the following which he attributes to the Merced County Genealogical Society, PO Box 3061, Merced, CA 95244.

"Have a short paragraph added to your will, leaving no doubt as to your wishes regarding both your personal library and the product of your research - the family history (ies) you have compiled, but have not had published. The following paragraph is an example; or your attorney can quickly modify it to be in compliance with local laws:

"I direct my executor/executrix to box the following genealogical publications and compilations for donation to the ---(insert your favorite genealogical library/society here) for appropriate disposition/retention by that library/society for the benefit of family history researchers.

(A family member or other person could be substituted as the recipient of your materials.)

"() All family history materials of which I die possessed.

"() Only my library of printed reference books and materials.

"() The unpublished family history manuscript materials on which I was working.

"() Other (specify):

" The address of my intended recipient is:"

HANDICAPPED ACCESS

There is an elevator between the entrance vestibule at the back entrance, and the main floor. If you are on wheels, walker, or cane, enter through the parking space entrance and our staff will be happy to help you with the

elevator

Mission Statement: Grems-Doolittle Library

The Grems-Doolittle library is a reference library whose purpose is "To gather, preserve, display and make available for study, books, manuscripts, papers, photographs and other records and materials relating to the early and current history of Schenectady County and of the surrounding area." The collection includes many histories and genealogies.

Because it is a reference library, none of the material is permitted to leave the building so that it will be accessible to researchers at all times.

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