

Section I

Agriculture in Rensselaer County

1. Toy Horses, milk wagon and milk cans, circa 1890

Cloth, horsehair, straw, wooden base, metal wheels

These toy horses were part of a set that also includes a wagon with twelve tin milk cans, miniature versions of the real thing. They were used by Horace R. Wells (1895-1942) and his family in Berlin, NY on their dairy farm.

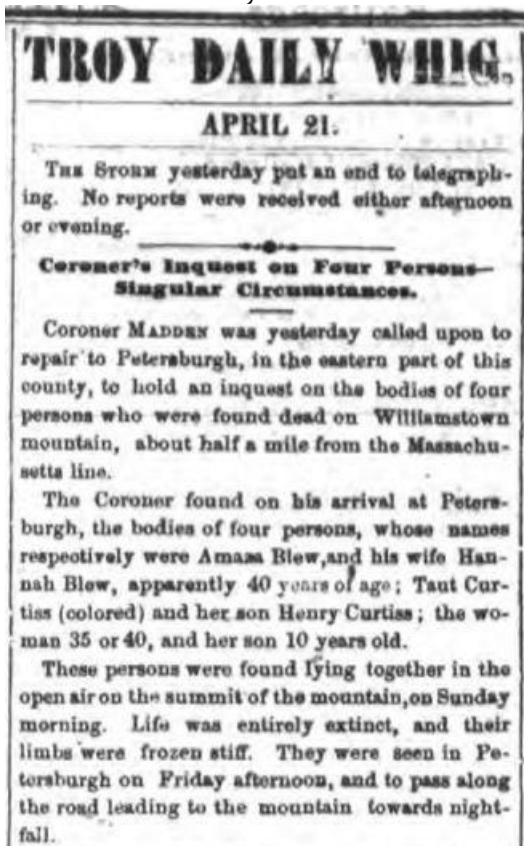
1994.68 Gift of Katharine Wells

2. Taconic (Taghkanic) Basket by Amasa Ballou, c. 1851

Handmade, Oak and Ash, Swing-Handled

2014.40 Gift of Warren Broderick

This basket was handmade by Amasa Ballou, a Native American, who lived in Williamstown with his wife Hannah making hand-crafted wooden baskets to support themselves. In April of 1857, Amasa and Hannah traveled to Petersburg to sell their handmade goods alongside their housemates, Lucinda Curtis, and her son Henry. Once all their baskets had been sold, they determined to cross the mountain and return to Williamstown on the evening of Friday, April 17th. On the way home, they purchased some whiskey and provisions and climbed the old mountain road. Unfortunately, the group did not survive the trek, freezing to death on the edge of the Petersburg border. Their tragic deaths serve as an illuminator of the many poor and disadvantaged families who resided in the rurality, in and around the county.



It appeared on the Coroner's investigation, that the deceased persons lived in Williamstown, Mass., and followed the business of basket-making for a living. They had come over to Petersburg to sell their baskets to the farmers and others in the vicinity. Before they left on their return, they had disposed of most of their stock, and it was in evidence that previous to leaving they had bought three bottles of whiskey of a tavern keeper in Petersburg. When found, two of the bottles were empty.

It was first supposed that the deceased persons had been poisoned, but it was the unanimous opinion of physicians and others at the inquest, that *they were all frozen to death!* The snow was a foot and a half deep on the mountain, and in different places there were snow drifts six and eight feet high.

The Coroner's jury returned the following verdict:—

"That said persons came to their death by drinking ardent spirits, getting intoxicated, and freezing, by being exposed to the weather on the Williamstown mountain."

The Williamsburgh authorities were notified on Sunday of the circumstances of the case, and some of them appeared to take a view of the bodies. They however declined to have anything to do with them. The Petersburg people will bury the bodies to-day, at 10 o'clock A. M., from the Baptist Church.

The Coroner relates one fact which must be passed to the credit of the canine race. Attached to the company of basket-makers, was a faithful dog, that was found lying between the dead bodies. He fought with desperation the persons who came to take the bodies away, and when he could do no more, he followed the corpses to Petersburg, and insisted upon being near them. With the basket makers was found a quantity of cold victuals, of which the dog refused to partake of a morsel; but other food being offered him, he devoured the same with the avidity of a starving. The dog was given by Coroner Madden to B. B. Hewitt, Esq., Overseer of the Poor of the town.

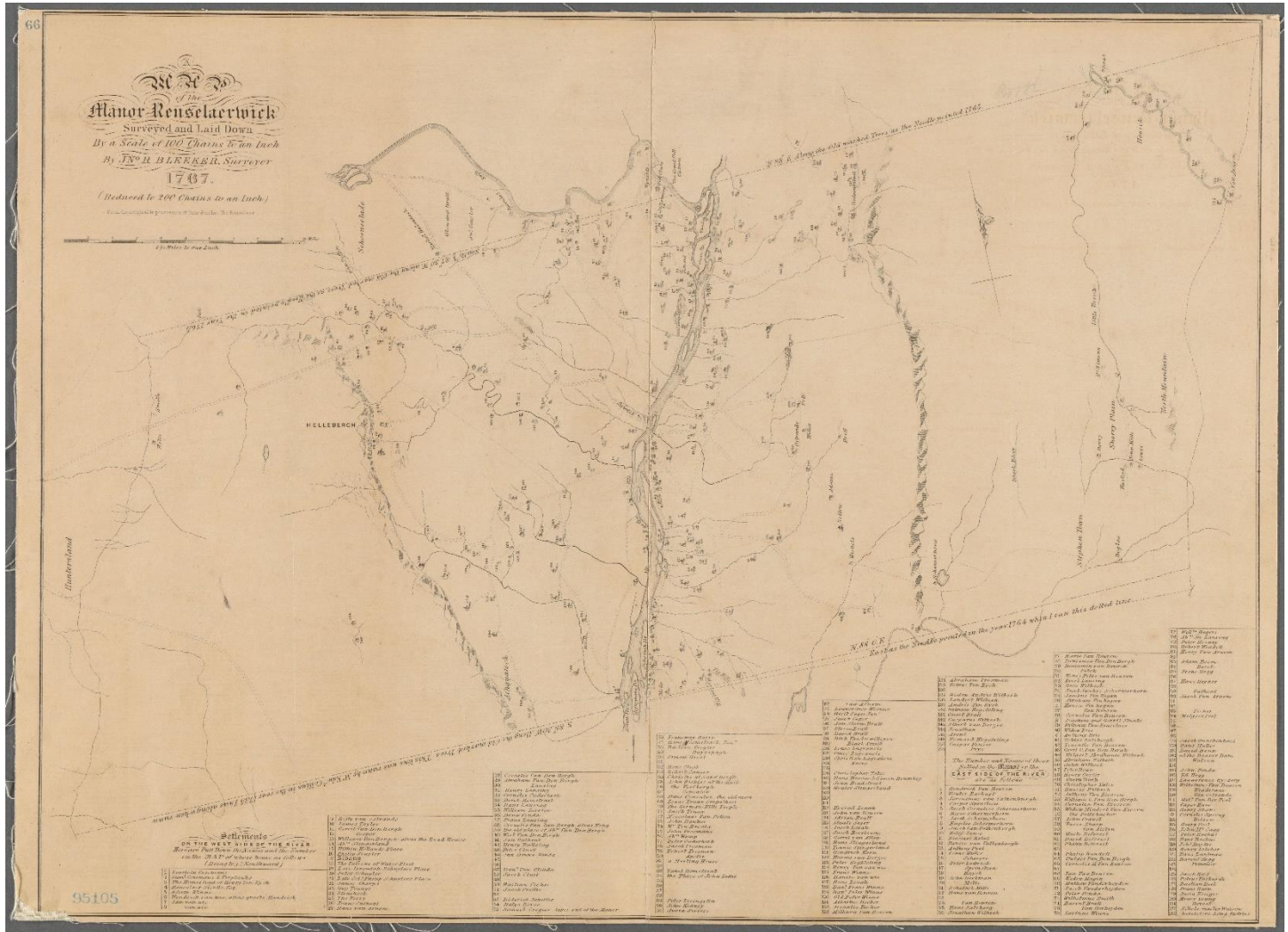
Troy Daily Whig, April 21, 1857

These baskets were made for heavy use, and they became good business for the Indigenous families scattered across the Hudson River Valley. The archetypal and most collectible Taghkanic baskets usually have rounded bottoms with a center that pokes upward and is made of oak and ash. The splints—a weaving term describing both the horizontal and vertical components of a basket—vary in width and are very strong, and the rim is lashed in a crisscross pattern. Most have either a single handle or a pair of handles, and some have a swing handle, as this one does.

Taconic Baskets are unique works of functional art that can be traced back to a particular place and time, intertwined with the Ingenious craftsmanship of the region.

3. A Map of the Manor Rensselaerwick c. 1767, John R. Bleeker

On his 21st birthday, November 1, 1785, Stephen Van Rensselaer III (1764-1839) legally became master of the Manor and the 8th patroon of Rensselaerwyck. This map, prepared under the direction of his father, Stephen Van Rensselaer II, shows the location of the 276 families living on the 24 x 48-mile manor in 1767. Based on the original manuscript map owned by Stephen Van Rensselaer III, this map was made by surveyor John R. Bleeker in 1767, copied from the original by D. Vaughn and engraved and printed by J.E. Gavit and is the first comprehensive visualization of the Van Rensselaer leaseholders. By noting the location of each farm, he graphically showed the early pattern of development in Rensselaer County. The earliest and most densely populated areas were the lands along the easily traveled rivers. By 1800 the manor had about 3,000 tenants occupying more than 430,000 acres of land. Numbered houses are referenced by a printed key.



4. A View of Greenbush on the Hudson River near Albany in the Province of New York, 1766

Thomas Davies, watercolor and black ink over graphite on paper

Detroit Institute of Arts 56.46

5. In Case

5a. Rent Receipts

Issued by Stephen Van Rensselaer to Van Iveren family members (1794,1806, 1809, 1831)

1946.22d Gift of Mrs. Traver, HCM Collection

Issued by Stephen Van Rensselaer to James Hoag, c. 1835

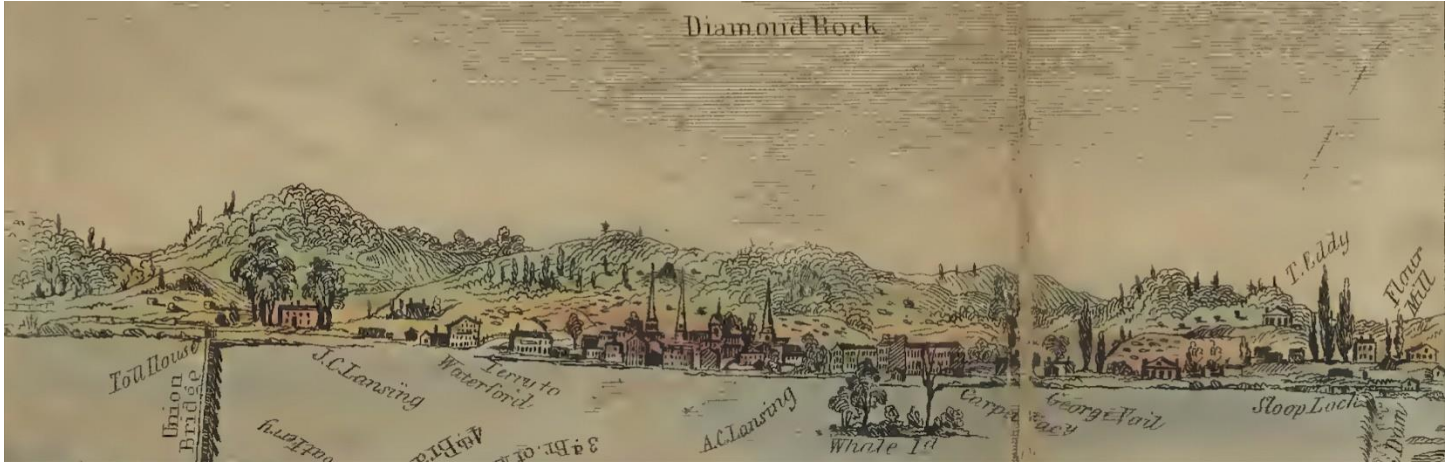
1958.89.1 HCM Collection

5b. Receipt for Goods sold to Sioux, Arapahoe & Cheyenne Chiefs, c. 1860

1955.5 Gift of Mrs. Philete Craver, HCM Collection

5c. Piece of “Diamond Rock,” souvenir, c. 1900

2019.119 Gift of Warren Broderick, HCM Collection



Wade, William, Wade & Croome's panorama of the Hudson River from New York to Waterford J. Disturnell, New York, 1847

The Legend of Diamond Rock

“High up on the brow of the hill overlooking the village [of Lansingburgh], a huge mass of calciferous sand rock of the Quebec group crops out near the bordering strata of Hudson River slate and shale and terminates in a peak rising some sixty feet above the surrounding surface, with jagged, sloping sides, extending over an area of half an acre or more of ground. This rock, throughout its whole structure, is filled with beautiful shining quartzose crystals, and its surface glitters in the sunlight as if it were covered all over with sparkling gems. Hence it is known far and near as the Diamond Rock.

This rock can be seen from every part of the village, rising up against the eastern sky like a miniature mountain peak, and is often pointed out by the villagers to the tourist and stranger as an object of interest well worthy of a visit. From its summit can be seen the whole upper valley of the Hudson, from the Catskills on the south to the Adirondacks on the north—a sweep of view extending more than a hundred miles along the river. No fairer scene anywhere on earth greets the human vision.

While this valley was under the dominion of the red man, so prominent a natural object as this rock was, of course, regarded as a landmark. Situated as it was, overlooking the confluence of two important rivers, which then, as well as now, marked out the great highways of travel westward to the great lakes, and northward to the great river leading from them to the ocean, this rock was a beacon to the wanderer. From its top could be seen far off in the distance the campfire of the northern invader, as well as the welcome signal of the western ally coming to the rescue.”

—Nathan Bartlett Sylvester, “The Legend of Diamond Rock.”

Historical Sketches of Northern New York and the Adirondack Wilderness, 1877

Following this introduction, Nathan Sylvester conveys the story of Diamond Rock to the reader, as told to him on his travels in the summer of 1858 by a Mohawk elder. While we can assume that some liberties were taken in the re-telling of this legend, the story is as follows:

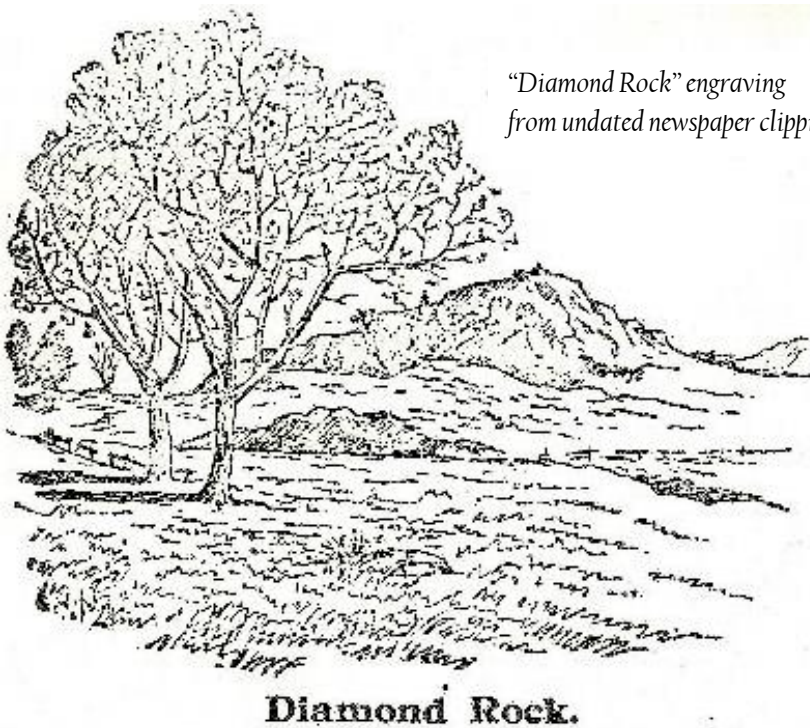
A Mohican village covered the flood plain on the east side of the Hudson just opposite the mouth of the Mohawk and was led by a chief by the name of Hohadora. The chief lived there with his wife Moneta and their two sons Onosqua and Taendara.

A band of Adirondack warriors took Onosqua, the sachem's youngest son, captive and hurried him off into their own country, where he was saved from torture by being adopted by an Adirondack woman who had lost her own son upon the warpath. Hohadora made several attempts to recapture his son, all failing.

On his death bed, Hohadora instructed his other son Taendara to recover Onosqua live, or his remains, and bury him next to his father and mother. The village members would take care of Moneta during his absence.

Each night Moneta would start a fire on top of Diamond Rock so Taendara would see the light and find his way home. Each night for the next 20 years she sat by the fire crying, her tears falling around her, waiting for her sons to return.

Finally, Taendara carrying his brother's bones climbed the summit to reunite with his now aged mother, and as they embraced were struck by lightning. The next morning when the Native villagers visited the site, the bones of Onosqua lie on the ground, but Moneta and Taendara were gone. The bare ground around sparkled with Moneta's tears - twenty years worth - all of which were turned into diamonds by the force of the lightning.



“So free from earthly dross had been that mother’s tears shed for her children, that the Great Spirit, by the refining fire of His glory, had changed them into crystals—into glittering immortelles such as cover forever the shining trees in the hunting grounds of the blessed, and to this day those crystalized tears are still to be seen imbedded in the solid rock, there to remain while the earth shall last as bright mementoes of a mother’s changeless love. When the pale-face came across the big water and saw them he exclaimed,

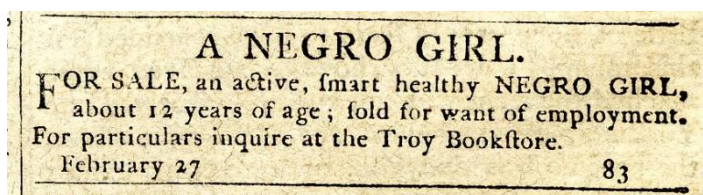
“See! see! a diamond rock! a diamond rock!”

Today, Diamond Rock is private property for the most part, with housing and commercial developments sprinkled on top. But it wasn’t always. Well into the 20th century and prior to its development, Diamond Rock was a spot for local

inhabitants and visitors alike that fostered the appreciation of the natural beauty of the region. Newspaper accounts detail picnics, celebrations, and other gatherings held at Diamond Rock. Poems were even written elaborating on its described beauty. Nevertheless, this piece of Diamond Rock helps to highlight the influence of the original inhabitants on the development of the land and how we’ve interacted with the land itself over time.

5d. Slave Advertisement, c. 1816

The Troy Post, Page 1, Column 4: December 14, 1816



The Troy Post, Page 3, Column 4: February 27, 1816

5e. Agreement and Conditions for release of “Jack” by Mary Van Schaick, September 23, 1818

1939.4.1 HCM Collection

5f.



A grain elevator, pictured above, located on the banks of the Hudson River near Liberty Street became one of the primary locations for freedom seekers arriving in Troy. Owner Pliny Moore, secretary for the Eastern New York Anti-Slavery Society, would connect freedom seekers with Reverend Fayette Shipherd of the Bethel Free Congregation, located on the corner of 5th and Fulton Street, and Peter Baltimore, whose barber shop was located next door to the Troy House. Their assistance as well as help from members of the Troy Female African Benevolent Society and the Mental and Moral Improvement Society located in the Athenaeum building next door to the Troy House, enabled the freedom seekers to receive food, clothing, shelter and jobs for those wishing to remain in Troy. For freedom seekers wishing to continue their journey to Canada, letters, and instructions to connect to other abolitionists in the county and points north were provided for their safe passage.

1959.385 HCM Collection

6. Broadside, "Sale of Valuable Real Estate" by Stephan Van Rensselaer, surviving Trustee, c. 1832

HCM Collection

7. *In Case*

Rensselaer County Agriculture Society Logbook, c. 1863-1874

1996.29 Gift of William Skerit

Ticket to the Rensselaer County Agriculture and Horticulture Society Fair, c. October 1898

1958.42 HCM Collection

Rensselaer County Agricultural Society Ticket, c. 1858

1959.474 HCM Collection

Print of Poster, Lucky Teter "Hell Drivers"

1987.67.10 HCM Collection

8. *Above Case*

Broadside, Rensselaer County Agriculture Society Fair, c. 1843

2005.31.23 Gift of Mike Aikey

Poster, Northeastern Lumberjack Championship, Schaghticoke Fair Grounds, c. September 2, 1968

2016.55 Transfer from the Southwest Heritage Trust

Certificate, New York Agricultural Society for Best Photograph awarded to James Irving, c. 1859

HCM Collection

9. Anti-Rent Wars

Following the American Revolution, Stephan Van Rensselaer, descendent of the first Patroon, leased much of his land to New England farmers migrating to the area. His terms were easy, and he often failed to collect the rent, earning him the title, “The Good Patroon.”

When he died in 1839, his sons began to collect back rents to pay estate debts from thousands of tenant farmers who lived on the Van Rensselaer manor. Those lands embraced most of what are now Albany and Rensselaer counties and part of Columbia County. Many farmers refused to pay and the Van Rensselaer heirs resorted to the county sheriffs and court.

The Anti-Rent Wars ensued, involving many Rensselaer County farmers and men of principle who were both angry and determined. Dr. Smith Boughton of Alps, in the town of Nassau was a primary leader and used the disguised name of “Big Thunder.” The major centers of resistance were in Hoag’s Corners near Boughton’s home and in Grafton.

a. Grafton Anti-Rent Banner, c. mid-19th century

The original banner was owned by Peter T. Hydorn (1812-1876), a Grafton resident and member of the Grafton Anti-Rent Association and hung, for many years, in the Grafton Town Hall. Decades ago, however, a replica was made for the “Big Thunder” celebrations that noted the anniversary of the Anti-Rent Wars and the original underwent conservation treatment to preserve one of the only known artifacts from that volatile time in Rensselaer County’s history. The original hangs in the Grafton Town Hall.



b. “Big Thunder” Mask & Costume

The farmers of the Anti-Rent Wars would disguise themselves as “Calico Indians,” with costumes made from their wives’ calico dresses and sheepskin masks. They would sound tin dinner horns, and the “Indians” would gather to meet, disrupt property sales, resist evictions, tar and feather opponents, and cause other acts of mayhem as a sort of rural terrorist campaign to prevent the Sheriff and the agents of the landlords from evicting the farmers who refused to, or could not, pay the rents. In fact, in response to these disguises, New York would pass a statewide anti-mask law in response to the Anti-Rent Movement. In 1845, Governor Silas Wright (a conservative Democrat who sided with the landowners) signed a law forbidding masks that was squarely aimed at suppressing the “Calico Indians.” Anti-Rent voters defeated Wright in the election of 1846, but his anti-mask law endured.

The language of the law forbade the use of masks, with an exception for entertainment purposes:

“Being masked or in any manner disguised by unusual or unnatural attire or facial alteration, loitering, remaining or congregating in a public place with other persons so masked or disguised, or knowingly permitting or aiding persons so masked or disguised to congregate in a public place; except that such conduct is not unlawful when it occurs in connection with a masquerade party or like entertainment if, when such entertainment is held in a city which has promulgated regulations in connection with such affairs, permission is first obtained from the police or other appropriate authorities.”

New York Penal Law §240.35(4)

In January 1845, 150 delegates from 11 counties met at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Berne to call for political action. However, escalation on this matter did not take long. In August 1845, a Delaware County sheriff by the name of Osman Steele was shot and killed at a farm sale. Governor Silas Wright declared Delaware County in a state of insurrection and the leaders were arrested and charged with riot, conspiracy, and robbery.

The trial lasted for five weeks, the jury returned a guilty verdict, and Boughton was sentenced to life in prison. In November 1846, John Young was elected Governor of New York with the support of the Anti-Rent faction and upon taking office in 1847, he issued a proclamation pardoning fifty-four convicted Anti-Rent activists, including Smith Boughton.



Disguises of the Anti-Renters, 1845.

Disguises of the Anti-Renters, 1845, published in "Delaware County, New York; History of the century, 1797-1897."

The Anti-Rent Wars were ultimately successful and by 1850, the feudal system that the Van Rensselaer manor operated under was broken up as the remaining Van Rensselaer leases were sold off.

From 1983 to 1993, the citizens of Hoag's Corners commemorated the Anti-Rent struggle with a reenactment on the Fourth of July, known as "Big Thunder Day."



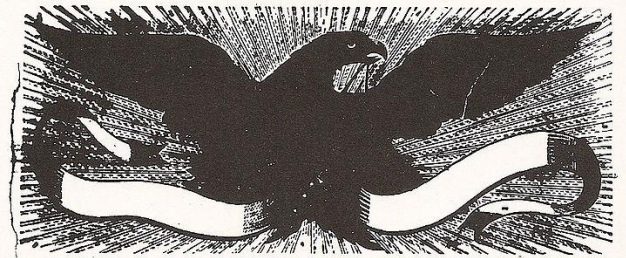
"Big Thunder Day (July 4, 1993) celebrating Anti-Rent Wars of 1844-45 – Tenth Year of parades and reenactments (1983-1993). Lorrain, Lauren, and Gary and our masks"

Image (left): Donors in Big Thunder costume.

2000.21.1 Gift of Ralph G. and Lorraine Slighter, HCM Collection

ATTENTION! ANTI-RENTERS!

AWAKE! AROUSE!



A Meeting of the friends of Equal Rights will be held on July 4th Hoag's Corners
in the Town of Nassau **at** 12 O'clock.

Let the opponents of Patroony rally in their strength. A great crisis is approaching. Now is the time to strike. The minions of Patroony are at work. No time is to be lost. Awake! Arouse! and

Strike 'till the last armed foe expires,

Strike for your altars and your fires—

Strike for the green graves of your sires,

God and your happy homes!

✶ The Meeting will be addressed by PETER FINKLE and other Speakers.

Section II

Industrial Powers: Industries of Rensselaer County

10. *On Wall*



Charcoal Burning, Mattison Hollow, c. 1890

These charcoal sheds in Mattison Hollow, South Berlin, were part of a large-scale commercial venture – just one of many charcoal pits operating in Rensselaer County from the early 1800s well into the 20th century. The Berlin operation utilized a small two-car inclined railway to carry wood from mountain forests to the kiln which can be seen in the background of this photograph from around the turn of the century. The full car at the top of the hill came down by gravity, pulling on the empty car at the bottom and sending it up for the next load. Atop the kiln is Mike Collins, who was in charge of burning.

Berlin, Rensselaer County, NY
Photograph by J.F. Cowee
1987.67.96 HCM Collection



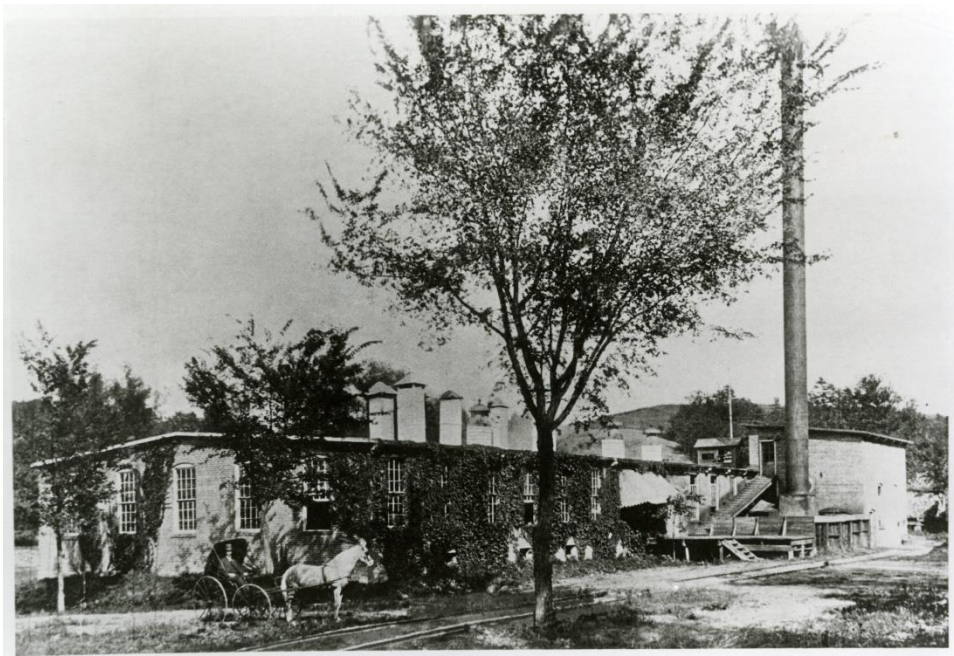
Lamphere Family, c. 1900
Grafton, Rensselaer County, NY
1987.67.100B HCM Collection



D.A. Judson and Company Coal Dealers
Company Office at First Avenue above 118th Street
Lansingburgh Rensselaer County, NY
Van Schoonhoven photo, HCM Collection



William Wade at his Sugar House, March 1975
 North Petersburg, Rensselaer County, NY
 Photo by Steven S. Lovelett for the *Times Record*
Troy Record, HCM Collection



Ingalls' Oak Grove Paper Mills
 Castleton-on-Hudson, Rensselaer County, NY
 HCM Collection

Established in 1888, Ingalls' Oak Grove Paper Mills was one of three paper mills in Castleton-on-Hudson at the turn of the century. The Largest of these, originally owned by Charles Van Benthuisen, was Woolworth and Graham Fort Orange Paper Company. At one juncture, this company employed two hundred people, and produced two million postal cards per day for the United States government.

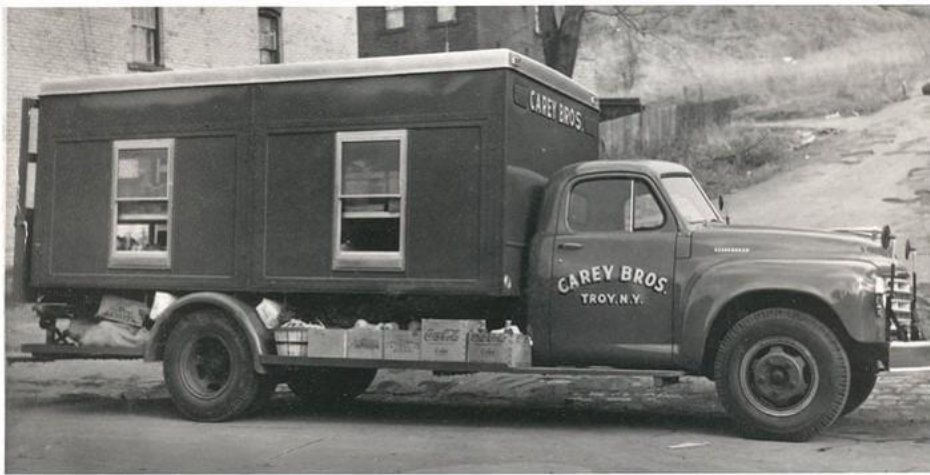
The history of paper making in Rensselaer County dates back to the late 18th century, with Mahlon Taylor's mill on the lower Poestenkill Gorge before 1792. By 1846, Manning, Howland and Williams were operating a paper mill in the upper gorge which made paper from recycled hemp rope. The factory, later Manning Paper Company, was said to be the largest manufacturer of rope manila paper in the world.

Hay continued to be an excellent cash crop for Rensselaer County farmers well into the 1930s.

This team is pictured on the Poestenkill-Cropseyville Road.

1987.67 HCM Collection





Carey Bros, delivery truck
2005.95 Gift of Lynn Grice, HCM Collection



Sap House, Albert Mattison farm, c. 1900
Cherry Plain, Berlin, Rensselaer County, NY
1987.67.45 HCM Collection



Eagle Brewery, est. 1865
Second Avenue, Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, NY
HCM Collection

Charcoal Burning, Mattison Hollow, c. 1890
Berlin, Rensselaer County, NY
Photograph by J.F. Cowee
Cowee Album, HCM Collection



Steam Engine attached to threshing equipment, c. 1890
Poestenkill, Rensselaer County, NY
1987.67.80 HCM Collection

Schuman's Mill Pond
Poestenkill, Rensselaer County, NY
1987.67.40 HCM Collection

Mills were important for processing agricultural products and often provided the first economic stimulus for a community's growth.

Located on the pond which provided its waterpower, this mill produced cider, lumber, and many kinds of flour and feed through the first half of the 20th century. One of its specialties, however, was fine buckwheat flour. The mill pond was demolished around 1950.





Haying

Grafton, Rensselaer County, NY

1987.67.95 Elmer Jacobs Photo, HCM Collection

Haying was one of the industries that the farmer depended on for cash. Tons of hay were taken to the cities for bedding for the many horses, and many more tons were made into bales at the hay presses in the river towns to be shipped to New York. Rye straw was used as insulation in the ice houses found in every town, hamlet, and on most farms.

The Sap House on the farm of John Robertson & Sons,
April 1979

East Greenwich, Rensselaer County, NY
Photo by Larry Roberts for the Times Record
Troy Record, HCM Collection



11. *In Case*

Coal Bag, produced by Frank M. Wheeler Coal Co., Inc., c.
HCM Collection

Barrel Top, Fitzgerald Bros Brewing Co., c.
HCM Collection

Egg Crate, "Star Egg Carriers & Tray," c. early 20th century
2012.11.11 Gift of John & Joan Zweig, HCM Collection



Egg Scale, c. 1920s
2012.11.12 Gift of John & Joan Zweig, HCM Collection

Stoneware, Pliny Thayer, Lansingburgh
1981.115 Gift of Mrs. Albert E. Powers, HCM Collection

12. *In Case*

Billhead, Francis A. Fales (Pork Packer & Dealer), c. 1861
1972.166.2d Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Miller, HCM Collection

Billhead, Troy City Hay Scales, c. 1864
1963.675 HCM Collection

Bill of Sale, Bennington Pottery, c. 1858
1959.352 HCM Collection

Billhead, E.E. Deavitt, Groceries and Feed, n.d.
1993.56.4 HCM Collection

Billhead, G.B. Lucas, Wholesale and Retail Florist, c. 1891
1965.325 HCM Collection

Billhead, Crystal Palace Mills, c. 1876
1972.166.33c Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Miller, HCM Collection

Trade card, James J. Campbell: Saddle, Harness, and Trunk Maker, n.d.
1998.4.2 HCM Collection

Receipt, Patent Platform Scale, D. Powers & Sons, c. 1857
1997.11.4 Gift of Judy Davidson, HCM Collection

Account Book, D. Hunt, c. 1839
2006.63.6 Gift of Mrs. Elmira Bass, HCM Collection

13. (On Wall) Milk Bottles

Brooks Dairy
Troy, Rensselaer County, NY
2018.17.7 HCM Collection

Troy Times Record Ad, c. 1965

MEMORIAL DAY SPECIALS!

PICNIC Special
FIRST PRIZE HOT DOGS AND BUNS
Buy a Pound of Our All Meat Hot Dogs at Reg. Price, 79¢, Get Pkg. of Buns!
FREE

MAKE BROOKS DAIRY STORES YOUR PICNIC HEADQUARTERS!

BROOKS STORES OPEN MEMORIAL DAY AND MONDAY
9 A.M. TO 10 P.M.

BARGAIN BUSTER!
HURRY—THIS WEEKEND ONLY!
CHARCOAL BRIQUETS
10 LB. BAG
59¢
SAVE 16¢

ICE CREAM SALE
OVER 20 FLAVORS!
HALF GAL. **85¢**
REGULAR 99¢
SAVE 14¢!

INTRODUCING
★ LEMON-LIME LEMONADE
★ FRUIT DRINKS
REG. 33¢
23¢
SAVE 10¢ HALF GAL.

BROOKS JUG MILK
40¢ 77¢
HALF GAL. GALLON
VITAMIN-D HOMOGENIZED PASTEURIZED

SHOP AT THESE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS
TROY: Corner Parking and Food Markets, Opposite Parking Shopping Center, HUNTERVILLE, 230 13th Street, Corner of 7th Avenue, LATINA: Route 9, 1/2 Mile North of Latham Circle

POTATO CHIPS
Ben-Ton
LB. PKG. **39¢**
REG. 49¢

COTTAGE CHEESE
BUY ONE CARTON AT THE REG. PRICE
GET ANOTHER OF THE SAME SIZE FOR 1/2 PRICE
* 16 OZ. CARTON * 1 LB. CARTON

FARM STORES
Milk • Eggs • Butter • Cottage Cheese • Ice Cream • Baked Goods

OPEN 9 A.M. TO 10 P.M. SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

Reehl's Dairy, c. 1950s
East Greenbush, Rensselaer County, NY
HCM Collection

Miller's Dairy
Brunswick, Rensselaer County, NY
1985.65 Gift of Lynn Miller, HCM Collection

Why Don't You Try An Old Fashioned Milk Shake?
AT
Duncan's Dairy Bar
878 HOOSICK RD.

Troy Times Record Ad, c. 1970

Duncan's Dairy
Brunswick, Rensselaer County, NY
2012.11.21 HCM Collection

IF IT'S BORDEN'S
★
IT'S GOT TO BE GOOD!
© THE BORDEN CO. 1947

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW — WITH OUR DRIVER OR PHONE AS 2-8130

COLLAR CITY CREAMERY

Collar City Creamery
Troy, Rensselaer County, NY
2012.11.19 HCM Collection

Troy Times Record Ad, c. 1951

Milk Strikes!

By the 1930s, New York State had an estimated 1,400,000 milk cows – about 5.6 percent of the total in the nation. In terms of milk produced, the state was ranked third in the nation with 7.2 percent of the whole. What this meant is simple: New York's dairy industry was a massive one with major economic contributions at both state and nationwide levels.

However, due to a national decline in prices associated with the Depression, there was a decreased demand for milk and low farm milk prices – which was particularly harmful considering that NY dairy farmers were significantly more productive, having increased both the number of cows and pounds of milk produced. A wave of retail price-cutting swept through the New York City milk market in the early 1930s, which also had a negative impact on both farmers and milk dealers. As a result of this cutthroat competition, market relations nearly collapsed.

According to the New York State Milk Control Board:

Prices paid for milk had fallen to such a low level that dairymen could not possibly meet their most pressing obligations. Even the bare necessities of life could not be secured by many farm families, and many dairymen were threatened with the loss of the farms and homes in which their meager lifetime savings were invested.

-New York State, Milk Control Board, Report of the Milk Control Board to the Governor and the State Legislature (Albany: J.B. Lyons, March, 1934), 3.

As tensions amongst NY Dairy farmers increased, they began to take matters into their own hands – organizing strikes of varying sizes to force the state legislature to implement price controls and later protest the State's Milk Control Board, arguing that the Board's price fixing favored corporations and their associated co-ops at the expense of farmers.

In 1937, the creation of the Dairy Farmers Union (DFU) symbolized the continued frustrations felt by Dairy Farmers as milk prices continued to drop. In 1939, through their organized efforts of picketing and diverting milk in what was the largest milk strike in State history (lasting 9 days), the DFU successfully brought to the forefront the continued exploitation of dairy farmers, secured an increase in farm milk prices, and a recognition of the DFU amongst large milk dealers.

Milk strikes are not a new tactic in New York State. In fact, milk strikes and the dumping of milk have taken place periodically since the production and distribution of dairy products around the 1880s.

No Crying Over Spilled Milk!

In 1883 a struggle known as the "milk war" broke out between milk farmers/producers and milk distribution companies based in New-York City. NY dairy farmers battled against the New York City milk market to force the milk distribution companies to pay the farmers higher prices for their milk. However, NY Famers, while numerous, were isolated and individualistic in their production, making it difficult to hold their own when bargaining with dealers.

Yet, with the creation of "spilling committees" and a shared dissention of their exploitation, New York farmers were ultimately successful in securing a settlement for higher prices for farm milk. These "spilling committees," established across the state, blocked roads, seized shipments and dumped out their own milk instead of selling it to the distributors. By using this approach, NY dairy farmers effectively created a "milk famine" in New York City, leading to the aforementioned settlement.

Rensselaer County dairy farmers are not unfamiliar with this struggle, according to newspaper accounts, participating in organized efforts to confront the exploitation of famers by the larger distribution retailers time and time again.

Dairy-Union Parley Being Conducted

A mediation session was being held this morning at the State Mediation Board, Albany, in an effort to avert a threatened strike of union dairy workers of the Troy-Albany area. A board spokesman said the strike would affect eight companies and more than 500 employes.

A contract between the companies and Local 787, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers, expires at midnight tomorrow.

Companies involved include Borden Co., Menands; Dairy-men's League, Troy; Seallest Foods, Albany; Elm Farm Dairy, Albany; Central Dairy, Albany; Normanskill Farm, Albany; Reehl's Dairy, East Greenbush, and Glendale Farm Dairy, Albany.

Troy Times Record, c. 1965

Section III:

An Innovative County

14.

“Troy-Bilt” Zip-Up Jacket

Red, nylon

2003.3 Gift of Bob Anderson, HCM Collection

Banner, Troy-Bilt, late 20th century

Jute twine, paper

2003.132 Gift of Gardenway Manufacturing Co.,
Gardenway, Inc. Archives, HCM Collection

Model of TROY-BILT HORSE Tiller Transmission, c. 1985

Cast iron and steel

Marketing tool for display in Gardenway Rototiller dealer
showrooms.

2003.132 Gift of Gardenway Manufacturing Co., Gardenway, Inc. Archives,
HCM Collection

The Garden Way Company was part of the industrial life and history of Troy, New York for nearly seventy years (1937-2001). The “Troy-Bilt” rotary tiller became, like the earlier Troy industries, collar-making and iron manufacturing, an icon of American innovation and manufacturing. The quality of the Troy-Bilt tiller was known throughout the nation and, though the company no longer exists in Troy, the tillers can still be seen in use in home gardens all the United States. The production of tillers began modestly in 1937 with ten tillers built each week until by the mid-Nineties, 200 tillers were built each week and sales in 1993 totaled 200 million dollars. By the Eighties, the company was the largest private sector industry in Troy and when it closed its doors in 2001 over 550 employees lost their jobs. The company declared bankruptcy in 2001. The closing of the factory was blamed on a variety of causes, including changes in the national economy and international competition, costs of business in New York State, poor business decisions by the company and other reasons.

An interesting aspect of the company’s history was its long-term interest and promotion of home gardening and its linkage to the sale of the company’s flagship product, the rotary tiller. The Back-to-the-Land movement begun in the Thirties in various places in the United States became a major cultural force in the late Sixties and Seventies. Magazines like Mother Earth News and the Whole Earth Catalog were integral to the “Hippie” communes. The Garden Way marketing strategy saw the Back-to-the-Land movement as a key to increased sales of not only the tiller, but for other products and publications about gardening. Garden Way Publishing began in 1970, and new Garden Way products such as cider presses, workbenches, kitchen worktables, solar greenhouses and other items became part of the company’s business. Garden Way Publishing became a well-known publisher of “how-to” books about alternate energy, self-sufficient living, gardening of a variety of vegetables and fruits and raising of farm animals. Garden Way built its industrial power over the years through the quality of its products and its extremely well-designed marketing strategies that both influenced and promoted the use of its products by customers seeking to become more self-sufficient and “off-the-grid” citizens.

The Gardenway, Inc. Archives are arguably one of the largest collections here at the Hart Cluett Museum, consisting of nearly 250 cubic feet of records of varied materials and formats.

Horse-Fly Net, c. 19th century (see image to right)

Leather

Petersburg, Rensselaer County, NY

1988.51 Gift of Phyllis Wells, HCM Collection

Churner

Wood

1959.169.3 HCM Collection

Hay Rake

Wood

1976.176.47 Gift of Mrs. Chas Sorg, HCM Collection

Ice Pick

Cast Iron

HCM Collection

Fork

Wood

1978.75.12 Gift of Mr. Crowley, HCM Collection

Wheat Fork

Wood, metal

1976.64 Gift of Walt Betram, HCM Collection

Milk Can, c. 20th century

Tin

Berlin, Rensselaer County, NY

HCM Collection

Cream Separator, early 20th century

Cast Iron

Pittstown, Sherman Farm, Rensselaer County, NY

2019.122.1 Gift of the Ellen Wiley Estate, HCM Collection

Walter A. Wood Plow Seat, 19th century

Cast Iron

For much of the 19th century, the Walter A. Wood Mowing and Reaping managed to anticipate farmers' needs from Rensselaer County and beyond with each new product. By 1890, the company was the keystone of Hoosick Falls' vigorous economy, spanning 85 acres of land beside the Hoosic River. As steam and gasoline powered farm machinery was first made available to farmers in the early 20th century, the Wood company continued to produce only horse-drawn equipment. Due to the inability to adapt to a changing world, the Wood Company ceased operations in 1924.

HCM Collection

15. Painting, C.G. Beauregard

HCM Collection



The leather thonged clothing and the hoods on the horses' ears are to keep the flies from bothering them.

HCM Collection

Section IV

Voices of Agriculture

16. Toy Farm Set, mid-20th Century

Plastic

2017.83 Gift of Virginia Crotty, HCM Collection

17. On Wall



Delbert Eycleshymer photographed tending sheep, c. 1890

Pittstown, Rensselaer County, NY

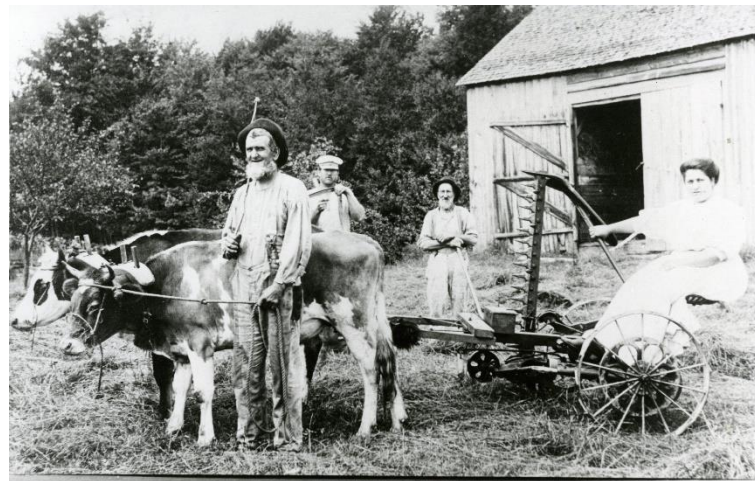
1987.67.43 HCM Collection



Long before the interstates were built, survey crews were laying out the highways across the county and state. In this scene from the town of Schodack, even the horse is plugging for “Good Roads.”

Schodack, Rensselaer County, NY

1987.67.97 M.J. Garrison photo, HCM Collection



Thomas Family, c. 1895

Photographed by James E. West

Pictured are (left to right): Lewis Thomas, his son Hiram, Darius Thomas, and Lottie (Mrs. Warren) Thomas. Their farm was on the road from Babcock Lake Road to Stillman’s Village.

Petersburg, Rensselaer County, NY

1987.67.99 HCM Collection



Migrant workers assisted local work crews in planting and digging the bulbs in fields stretching along the Little Hoosic River and in Southeast Hollow.

This picture is of Arthur Cowee’s gladiola farm, which covered about 100 acres. From Cowee’s storehouse near the Berlin railroad station, carloads of cut flowers and prize-winning bulbs were shipped all over the United States for more than 15 years.

Berlin, Rensselaer County, NY

1987.67.11 HCM Collection



Willa Metzger of Laughing Earth Farms, a Community Serving Agriculture (CSA) farm in Brunswick.

Photo provided, HCM Collection

The rise of interest in gardening by mid-century led to the employment of an outdoor staff to maintain extensive lawns, elaborately planned flowerbeds, and carefully groomed shrubs. Walter A. Woods' private estate in Hoosick Falls required at least fifteen gardeners to keep up the grounds and greenhouses. They took a break from their work to pose with their tools for the photographer in 1887.

1987.67. HCM Collection



The Johnsonville Axe Manufacturing Company operated beside the Hoosic River from 1859 to 1906, as one of the many industries which used the river and the railroad to their advantage in the Pittstown hamlet. The factory was later owned by the American Edge Tool Company, then by Lane, Gale, and Company. It turned out hundreds of thousands of axes, sending them to all parts of the world. The large building also housed a gristmill.

This photograph was taken in 1885.

1987.67.81 HCM Collection





M.J. Garrison photographed this team of oxen in East Schodack. Draft animals were necessary on the farm, and the slow, steady oxen were more powerful than horses.

1987.67. HCM Collection

Farm Children have a unique opportunity to participate in their parents' work and organizations such as 4-H Clubs assist in that association. Here the four Phillips children (Clark, Herbert, Forman, and Barbara Ellen) pose with their animals on their North Greenbush Farm.

1987.67.9 HCM Collection



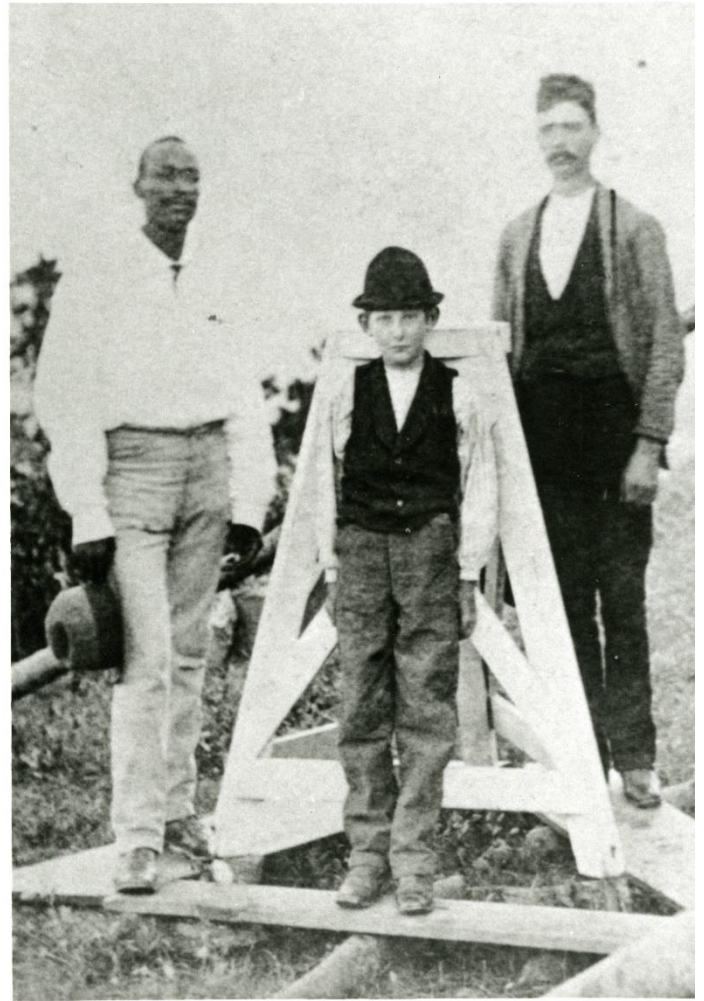
In the first decades of the 20th century, new homes continued to be built in neighborhoods along the edges of the cities. Served by trolley lines or bus routes, the houses had ample yards where residents, many originally from more rural areas of the county, planted large gardens for their own larders. A flock of chickens like those being fed by Clara Texter and her daughters, Pearl and Gladys, was not unusual. They were photographed about 1920 in East Greenbush Terrace. This early sub-division had its own water supply from wells that are still being used in the town.

1987.67.3 HCM Collection



Kim Lincoln explains to Gardner Dickinson School students how the taps and pipeline used to obtain the maple sap work.

Photo by Tom Killips. Times Record
Troy Record, HCM Collection



Surveyors on Mt. Rafinesque
Brunswick, Rensselaer County, NY
2008.8.13 Gift of the Rensselaer Land Trust, HCM Collection

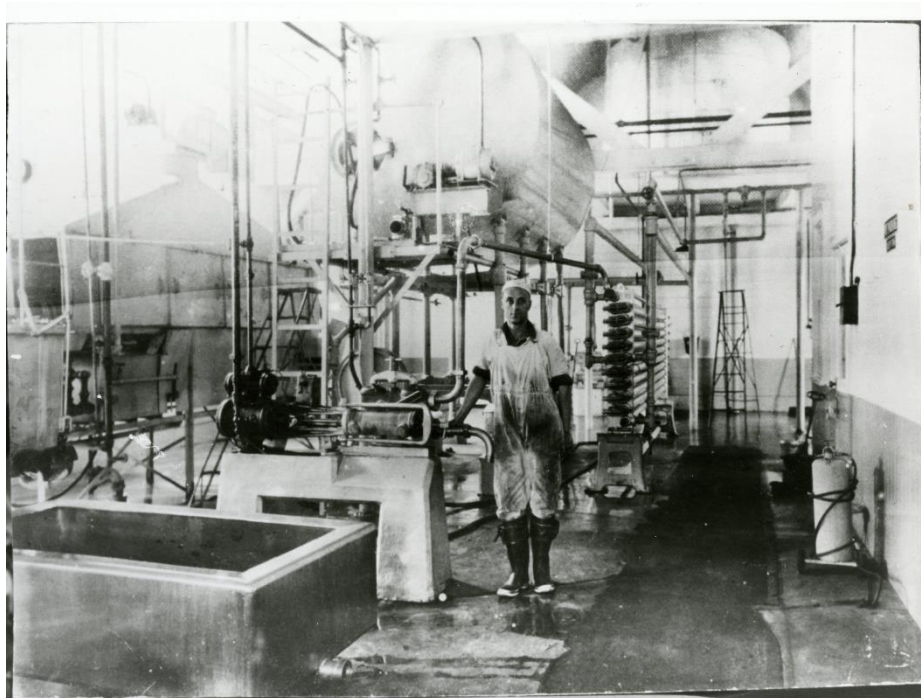
Lane Log Cabin
Stephentown, Rensselaer County, NY
2008.8.80 Gift of the Rensselaer Land Trust, HCM Collection





View toward White Rocks from Rensselaer Plateau
Petersburg, Rensselaer County, NY
2008.8.53 Gift of the Rensselaer County Land Trust, HCM Collection

Gardinier Mills on Muitzes Kill
Schodack, Rensselaer County, NY
2008.8.75 Gift of the Rensselaer Land Trust, HCM Collection



As the centuries progressed, creameries became increasingly more mechanized. Here is Howard Chittenden at work in this Stephentown creamery in the 1920s.

Stephentown, Rensselaer County, NY
1987.67 HCM Collection



Caroline Sherman Herrington feeding chickens on the Sherman Farm in Pittstown, c. 1890
Pittstown, Rensselaer County, NY
1987.67.46 HCM Collection



Abram and LeGrand Whyland stopped for the camera on a pre-1920 day as they were cutting corn at the Whyland Farm on the Poestenkill-Cropseyville Road. The land is now part of the Schmidt farm.

Poestenkill, Rensselaer County, NY
1987.67.8 HCM Collection



Freihofer's Baking Co. Delivery Truck
HCM Collection

Sun Hwa Choi, Chun Hee Kim, & Amos on the Garden of Eden Farm, Washington, County, NY

Sunhee's core mission is driven by a passion for food and community, rooted in a Korean American history, culture and identity we believe can be shared with all people regardless of race, ethnicity or nationality. Through social entrepreneurship, Sunhee's hopes to create a safe space for cultural learning and innovative projects, all threaded together by food. Sunhee's mission can be broken down into the following elements: *positive food culture, community engagement, and immigrant/refugee empowerment.*

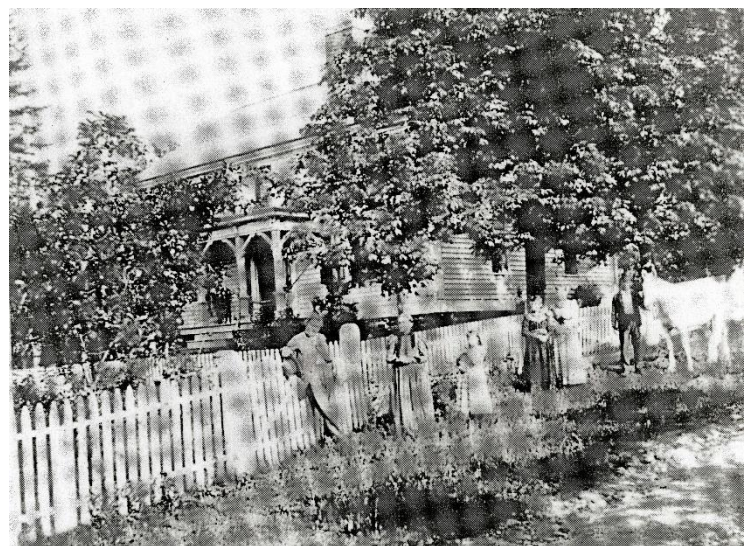
Sunhee's Kitchen is located on Ferry Street, Troy, NY.



Ruth Kittell, feeding chickens, c. 1900
Stephentown, Rensselaer County, NY
2008.33 Gift of Ruth Kittell, HCM Collection



Sherman Farm Facade
Sherman Collection, photo provided by Constance Kheel



Sherman family by the orchard in front of their home.
From left to right: Charles, Ellen Jane, their children Estella, Alice, Ellen, Paul and "Old Gray," c. 1888

Sherman Collection, photo provided by Constance Kheel



Mission

Protecting our community's working farms and forests, connecting people to the land, and promoting a vibrant future for agriculture and forestry in our region.

The Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA) is a nonprofit, community-supported land conservancy dedicated to protecting local farmland and working forests from encroaching development.

Since our founding in 1990, we have helped conserve over 26,000 acres on 154 properties in Washington and Rensselaer Counties in the Upper Hudson River Valley. ASA is one of the very few land trusts in New York State focused exclusively on conserving working farms and forests.

Land conserved for agricultural, or forestry purposes can never be used for housing developments or commercial developments.

Farmers, Educators, and Food Justice Advocates

Black Farmers United NYS is a group of more than 60 Black farmers, educators, and food justice advocates from across the state. Without serious investment and intervention, Black farmers in New York State will be marginalized out of existence. Our proposal aims to protect the legacy and ensure the future of Black farmers. They hold the power to radically change how black communities control access to safe, healthy food, and build a collective wealth and health in New York State.



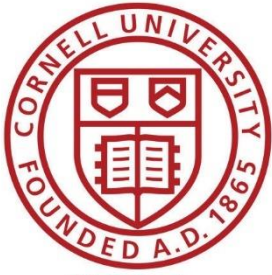
Mission

To save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America.

Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that represents more than 950-member land trusts and their 6.4 million supporters nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington, D.C. and operates several regional offices.

The Alliance is the voice of the land trust community. As the national leader in policy, standards, education, and training, we work passionately to support land trusts so they can save and secure more lands now and for future generations. The Alliance is now eager and prepared to continue its major investments in its core programs and services to increase the rate of land conservation, defend the land trust community from threats and build healthy, high-performing land trusts.

In addition, the Alliance commits to elevating land conservation as a priority nationwide.



Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Innovation, Action, Impact

CCE puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability, and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping New York state families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

From food and nutrition to economic vitality to environmental and social resilience, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) is dedicated to improving lives across New York state.

Empowering nearly six million young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime

Since 4-H began more than 100 years ago, it has become the nation's largest youth development organization. The 4-H idea is simple: help young people and their families gain the skills needed to be proactive forces in their communities and develop ideas for a more innovative economy.

In the late 1800's, researchers discovered adults in the farming community did not readily accept new agricultural developments on university campuses but found that young people were open to new thinking and would experiment with new ideas and share their experiences with adults. In this way, rural youth programs introduced new agriculture technology to communities.

The idea of practical and “hands-on” learning came from the desire to connect public school education to country life. Building community clubs to help solve agricultural challenges was a first step toward youth learning more about the industries in their community.

A. B. Graham started a youth program in Clark County, Ohio, in 1902, which is considered the birth of 4-H in the United States. The first club was called “The Tomato Club” or the “Corn Growing Club”. T.A. Erickson of Douglas County, Minnesota, started local agricultural after-school clubs and fairs that same year. Jessie Field Shambaugh developed the clover pin with an H on each leaf in 1910, and by 1912 they were called 4-H clubs.

The passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 created the Cooperative Extension System at USDA and nationalized 4-H. By 1924, 4-H clubs were formed, and the clover emblem was adopted.

The Cooperative Extension System is a partnership of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), more than 100 land-grant universities and more than 3,000 county offices across the nation. Cooperative Extension combines the expertise and resources of federal, state, and local governments and is designed to meet the need for research, knowledge and educational programs.

Today, 4-H is America's largest youth development organization—empowering nearly six million young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime.





The Jewish Farmers of Nassau

1918 Banner, Nassau Jewish Community Center and Synagogue

“The first Jewish Farmers purchased land in Rensselaer County in 1894. Jewish farmers arrived in Rensselaer County in larger numbers about ten years later settling in Nassau, East Nassau, Schodack, and Brainard. Most of the Jewish immigrants initially concentrated on grain and dairying, but soon branched out into mixed farming and poultry raising.

A report of the Jewish Agricultural and Industrial Society in 1909 indicated that there were at least sixty-two Jewish farms in the county, and this grew to about two hundred Jewish families in the early 1920s. These settlers “started with very little or no assistance from any source,” and by 1912 “some of them are now well-to-do,” Leonard Robinson reported in a study of Jewish farmers in the United States. However, the Jewish Agricultural Society did help some of the immigrants to purchase land in Rensselaer County. Other farmers began to supplement their income by using their farms as boardinghouses that attracted Jewish tourists from New York in the summer months to Nassau and East Schodack, making the area a smaller-scale version of the Catskills before and after WWI.

The farmers quickly organized their own support institutions. By 1909 farmers established the Hebrew Benevolent Farmers’ Association of Rensselaer County. Representatives of the association went to New York City in January 1909 to organize the Jewish Farmers of America and a Nassau resident, Samuel Hein, was elected chairman of the new natural organization of Jewish Farmers.

In 1911, the Jewish Farmers of Rensselaer County organized one of the earliest rural credit unions in New York State. Later they formed a mutual fire insurance company in 1928. This reduced the costs to insure farms and boardinghouses. At its peak, the Jewish community in rural Rensselaer County supported three shuls (synagogues) in Nassau, East Nassau, and East Schodack.

The Jewish Community House in Nassau became the cultural center. Meetings of the Hebrew Farmers Association were held there, and the National Council of Jewish Women sponsored a lecture series at the center. For example, in 1929 at one meeting, Yiddish poems were read after a lecture and the meeting attracted “a very large audience from the many Jewish farmers of Schodack and Nassau.”

...

In Rensselaer County, Jewish farmers existed for a longer period of time [then surrounding Jewish communities], and critical mass of Jews continues to support the Nassau Shul. The histories of the Rensselaer ... Jewish farmers also illustrates the determination of Jews to maintain their religious and cultural values despite the difficulties of rural life. “

-Jewish Farmers of Northeastern New York, Dr. Harvey Strum, 1998



Headboard, Dings Family Bedframe c. 18th century

Wood

2021.39.1 Gift of the Dings Family, HCM Collection

The headboard, alongside the rest of the bedframe, was donated by the Dings family. It came from the historic Everet Van Allen home in Defreestville and was built by Van Allen in 1794.

The Dings family owned the home from the late 1800s until the early 1960s. Three generations of Dings lived in the home during that time, it is unclear whether the bed was in the home before the Dings took ownership of the home,

The first generation of Dings to live in the home was James Lansing Dings and his wife Emma Welling. They had 3 children: Justice, Edith, and Willie, who only lived to be 2 years old. Justice married Gertrude Whillemina Hendricks and together raised five children, residing in the house until the early 1960s.

The Dings family roots in the United States trace back to the arrival of Johann Jacob Dings in 1710, arriving in the region as part of the historic migration of the Palentine Germans of the same year. He settled in the Hudson valley in what is now Germantown. Some of his dependents migrated to Rensselaer County in the late 18th century and early 1800s.

18. *In Case*

Booklet, Constitution of the Brunswick Society for Apprehending Horse Thieves, c. 1867

1977.105.8 HCM Collection

Receipt, The Farmer's Bank, c. 1813

1963.84b HCM Collection

Small Box, inscribed "Catherine Storer, May 7, Troy," c. 1833

Wood, hand-painted

2019.98 Gift of Warren Broderick, HCM Collection

Report, Conservation Easement Baseline Report for Capital District Farms, Inc. Property, Brunswick, NY, c. 2013

Gift of the Rensselaer Land Trust, HCM Collection

Correspondence, Lovisa Littlefield to Ellen (Littlefield) Hubbard, c. 1866

2000.44.1 Gift of Elizabeth Losa, Littlefield/Huntley Papers, HCM Collection

... “There is a secret lodge called Food Templars held near here once a week and most of the boarders are members you needent be surprised to hear I am one someday. William Cullin Bryant has bought the old homestead, built a new house and fixing things up grand it is about two miles from Edwards I forget the town Skinnerville is in Haydenville and both are in Williamsburg it is about nine miles from here to Luthers. Williamsburg village is a mile north of here and H. ville village a mile south. Florence is in N.ampton and is 14 miles from Uncles. Northampton village is 16 miles. Mr Skinner has his mail matter sent to Haydenville and every night he sends a boy up after it and all letters sent in his care is brought to the mill and we get it as we come out. Time flies here with "railroad speed. It is about supper time, and I am working on the dining room table and shall have to bring my letter to a close a girl from Vermont sits at my right writing. I like your new dress very much and send a piece of my new apron which comes to the bottom of my dress I paid 22 cts a yd.

Write as soon as you get this and direct to Haydenville Mass, care of Wm Skinner

Lovisa Littlefield

We are going to have onions for supper I think. I smell them cooking”

The Littlefield/Huntley collection includes correspondences outlining life of the silk mills at Skinnerville in Williamsburg Township, MA. Francis, Lovisa, Ellen, and Chloe would all work at the silk mills and their correspondences share mill information and stories. Each sister had a different experience while working at the mills, but their letters to one another provides insight on mill work and life at the mills.

Correspondence, Mrs. C. Stacy to her Children, c. 1867

1993.9.3 Gift of Douglas M. Buchanan, HCM Collection

“...I don't think you will like it in the mill...it is a real confinement. The mill starts up at 6 in the morning and runs til half past 6 at night. They are not allowed to go out of the mill much only to eat their dinner, for to eat dinner they have half an hour to eat and ten minutes to get to the mill after the bell rings...in the morning you have got to get up and get your breakfast before you go in or else it must be carried to you for you cant come out to get it. We get ours before they go in... eat supper at night after they have done work...I forgot to tell you that in the morning they ring the bell about half past four when he [Mr. Haskins] don't over sleep to have them get up and have their breakfast at half past five. They ring the second bell for them to come in the mill at 6 start up. At noon they dont have but ten minutes after the bell rings for them to come in the mill..”

-Mrs. C. Stacy to her children, Harper and Ursula Burch, October 7, 1867 Battenville, NY

Mrs. Catharine S. Stacy was a resident of Pittstown and had a large family from two marriages. Coming originally from Easton, Washington, County, NY, Mrs. Stacy left us a group of letters to her children and far flung family during the 1860s and early 1870s. Her description of what it was like not only to live in a small mill town but also to work in a textile mill of the period gives us a clear impression of her experience as she makes suggestions to her son and daughter-in-law who are looking for work. She herself was often doing piecework at home late into the evening to earn extra money to cover the expenses of her large family.

Harper Burch was a son from her first marriage to Ira Burch, also of Easton, Washington County, NY which appears to have ended soon after the 1855 New York State Census. The 1860 US Census shows her as married to Samuel J. Stacy, a “sawyer” in a lumber mill in Pittstown.

1865 New York State Census, Pittstown, Rensselaer County, NY

19. *In Case*

Booklet, *Essay on Home Markets for the Sale of Agricultural Production*,
authored by George Tibbits (1763-1849), c. 1829
1947.31.5b HCM Collection

Pamphlet, *The Home Cow Doctor*, 1917 edition
2000.52.2 HCM Collection

Ticket, Troy Woman's Club 12th Annual Flower Show, c. 1935
1965.692 HCM Collection

Article, *Share the Meat for Victory*, United States Defense, Health and Welfare Services Office, c. 1942
1959.5 HCM Collection

Yearbook, *The Van Rensselaer Garden Club*, c. 1962-1963
1994.55.1.3 *Van Rensselaer Garden Club Archives*, HCM Collection

Book, *Down-to-Earth Vegetable Gardening Know-How* by Gardenway Publishing, c. 1975
2003.132 *Gift of Gardenway Manufacturing Co., Gardenway, Inc. Archives*, HCM Collection

Hat, Troy Waterfront Farmer's Market, c. 2010s
Pink, cotton, machine made
HCM Collection

20. *Above Case*

Sign, Pioneer Market, c. 2010
Foamcore, plastic
2015.2.1 *Gift of Steve Muller*, HCM Collection

As quoted in the Troy Community Food Cooperative's (TCFC) first business plan, a cooperative is "an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise."

The TCRF was in creation starting in 2008. A group of people of Troy found a need for a grocery store in downtown/urban Troy, NY. Their goal was to provide wholesome food at affordable prices. This affordable and wholesome food was to be sold at a cooperative or community owned grocery store. The TCRF's goal was to also support local agriculture, stimulate community revitalization and be a collaborative business partner with other organizations. They envisioned and outlined selling 70% organic/natural foods/products and 30% conventional within their store, though this was never fully accomplished.

An initial board of directors was chosen for the TCFR including Alane Hohenburg, Lynn Kopka, Cheryl MacNeil, Mary Muller, Barbara Jones Higbee, Kevin Blodgett, and Sandy Zimmerman. Excluding Blodgett and Zimmerman, those mentioned above were also the original incorporators. The store was initially to be opened around spring 2008, but the store did not actually open until 2010. The store was called the Pioneer Market and was located on Congress Street, Troy. The TCFC was forced to dissolve in 2011 due to financial difficulties.

On Wall

Bag, Stewart's, c. 2019
2019.123 *Gift of Samantha Mahoski*, HCM Collection

Fulton Street Market, 19th century

1980.18.25 Gift of Gene Baxtor, HCM Collection

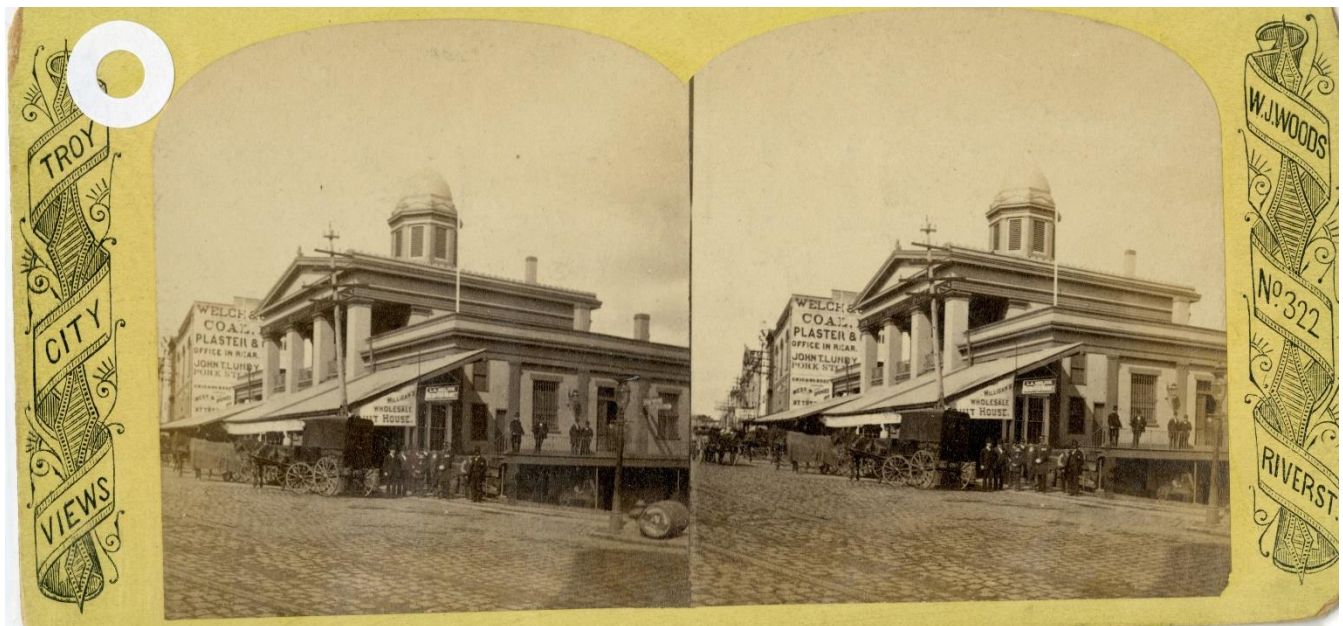


Troy was a commercial center well before its factories drew national attention. A large variety of shops existed, and businessmen were attracted to the area from its earliest days.

"This country is the best for business I ever saw... done more business in one day than in one week in Providence," wrote Benjamin Covell to his brother Silas back home in 1789. More than a century later downtown Troy was in an age of transition when the jungle of overhead wires said "Progress!" while horses vied with trolleys for the right-of-way.

At the right is the old Fulton Market, a classic, columned building on River Street at the foot of Fulton Street. Everyday scores of wagons converged on Troy, like the delivery from Brunswick Creamery,

to furnish the tons of hay, ice, wood and charcoal, meat and produce, and other agricultural products that kept Troy humming. After making their deliveries or purchases, the visitors may have dropped in on the Lucas Confectionary on Second Street for the ice cream known throughout the county for its quality. Although this market district has changed over the years, many of the buildings remain.



Stereoview, Fulton Market

1975.726.5 HCM Collection



Italian Market, early 20th century
1980.18 Gift of Gene Baxtor, HCM Collection

Between 1905 and the 1920s, produce establishments opened along Fourth and Hill from Liberty to Washington. After most of the buildings of the Troy Gas Light Company were demolished at their Hill Street site, the 1.2 acre site became a huge open space in the crowded neighborhood.

Women of the city expressed great interest in a retail farmers' market for the site and petitioned Mayor Cornelius "Connie" Burns to assist in their effort. On July 5, 1918, 500 women anxiously awaited the opening of the Troy Public Retail Market which contained 150 stalls – each offering fresh produce for the largely immigrant residents of the neighborhood known as "Little Italy."

The retail farmers market gradually lost business when the Menands Regional Market opened in 1932 and by the 1950s its use as a farmers market ceased. Also, with the advent of super-markets, peoples buying habits changed. Several wholesale produce businesses remained on Hill Street for many years and used space in the old market for loading trucks and for parking space

Section V

The Farms of Today

On Wall



Fogarty Farm, Raymertown Road
1994.17.205 HCM Collection

Historic Barns of Nipmoose

The Historic Barns of Nipmoose, comprised of the Scottish Barn, German Barn and Corn Crib, are extraordinary examples of early timber framed structures.

Photo by Constance Kheel, HCM Collection



Berlin Landscape

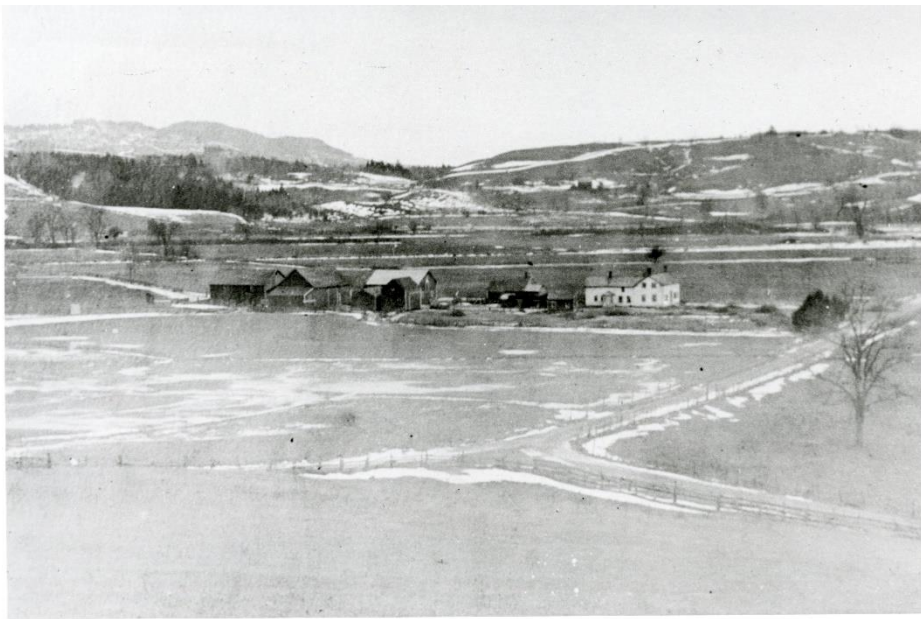
Cowee Album, HCM Collection



Creamery behind White Church
Brunswick, Rensselaer County, NY
Gerry Zaffuts photo, HCM Collection



Langmore-Dunshire Farms, c. mid-20th century
1962.423. 4741a HCM Collection

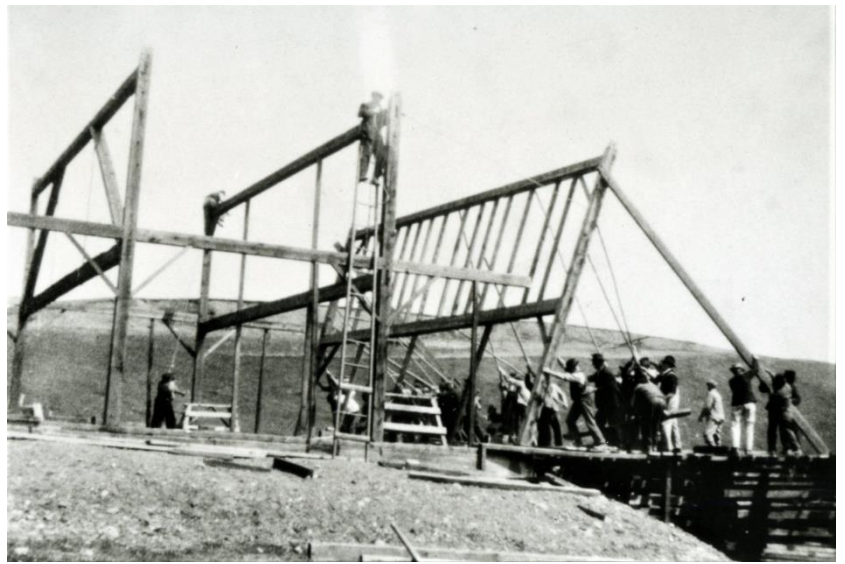


Some of Pittstown's most beautiful farmland was covered forever when the Tomhannock Reservoir was built, which is the water supply for the City of Troy. While some of the displaced farmers took their money and left farming altogether, others bought new lands where three and four generations of the family continue to work the land.

1987.67 HCM Collection

Farmers not only raise crops and cattle, but they also raise barns for other farmers as these men are doing at the Pratt Farm on Phillips Road, East Greenbush. The barn is now a home. All over the county farmers are known for the help they offer to their neighbors.

1987.67 HCM Collection



W.J. Cowee Co.
Berlin, Rensselaer County, NY

The W.J. Cowee Co. was one of the world's leading manufacturers of wooden floral picks and plant stakes. The "Cowee Pick," invented in Berlin in 1898 by Wilson Judson Cowee, the company originator, is an everyday staple in floral design. The company would produce more than quarter of a billion picks per year for domestic and international distribution.

The "Cowee Pick," similar in appearance to that of a toothpick, is produced in a variety of sizes and is used to support floral arrangements in shops and homes.

HCM Collection



Aaron Thomas at Laughing Earth Farms, a CSA in Brunswick.

Laughing Earth Photo, HCM Collection

Farms and Farm Stands, Rensselaer County, NY, c. 2021

Produced by Rensselaer County Office of Economic Development and Planning

Basket with handle, n.d

Red, Wood

HCM Collection

Shaker Basket

Handmade, Oak and Ash

1987.11 Gift of Mrs. James Park Dewar, HCM Collection

21. *In Case*

Thermometer, Brook's Dairy Farm

2018.17.9 Gift of Robert and Susan Eckert, HCM Collection

Advertisement, Wagar's Ice Cream, mid-20th century

1972.110.42 Gift of Robert Falk, HCM Collection

Newspaper, Wiley Bro's Inc., c 1946

2021.2 Gift of David Moore, HCM Collection



Est. 2013 in Stephentown, Rensselaer County, NY.

“Committed to making a locally-sourced product.”



GROW • EDUCATE • PROVIDE

Vision

We envision a thriving community where land and fresh food empower physical, social, and economic health.

Mission

We cultivate and nourish communities by creating equitable access to fresh food and green spaces in support of a robust regional food system.

The Troy Waterfront Farmers' Market

Our Mission:

“To create and operate a producer-only, year-round, independent, vibrant marketplace featuring locally grown food and locally made products, for the mutual benefit of local producers, consumers, and the community.”

Located in beautiful downtown Troy, NY, the Troy Waterfront Farmers' Market was established in 2000 with only a handful of vendors in the Hedley Parking Lot. Quickly after, the love for the Market demanded a year-round presence, and the Winter Market was added in 2002. With the support of our loyal customers, the Market has evolved into a shopping and community destination in the Capital Region and beyond. From the humble beginnings of less than 20 vendors, we now have close to 100 local, producer-only Vendors, and a year-round marketplace.



22. Farm to Table

Tin-Top Table, c. 1940

Tin, wood

2020.47 Gift of Bruce and Stephanie Houser, HCM Collection

Seymour Side Chairs (set), patented 1862

Wicker, wood

1997.3.3 HCM Collection

Duncan's Milk Co. 1 Quart Bottle

Glass

2019.9.1 Gift of Cathy Spain, HCM Collection