



# Prohibition and the Progressive Movement in Dutchess County, New York

Dutchess County Historical Society  
2017 Yearbook • Volume 96

*Candace J. Lewis, Editor*



# Prohibition and the Progressive Movement in Dutchess County, New York

Dutchess County Historical Society  
2017 Yearbook • Volume 96



Candace J. Lewis, *Editor*



Dutchess County Historical Society

The Society is a not-for-profit educational organization that collects, preserves, and interprets the history of Dutchess County, New York, from the period of the arrival of the first Native Americans until the present day.

***Publications Committee:***

Candace J. Lewis, Ph.D., *Editor*

David Dengel, Roger Donway, Eileen Hayden

Julia Hotton, Bill Jeffway, Melodye Moore,

and William P. Tatum III Ph.D.

Designer: Marla Neville, Main Printing  
[mymainprinter.com](http://mymainprinter.com)

Printer: NetPub, Inc. [www.netpub.net](http://www.netpub.net)

Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook 2017

Volume 96 • Published annually since 1915

Copyright © by Dutchess County Historical Society

ISSN: 0739-8565

ISBN: 978-0-944 733-12-7

Front Cover : Mugshot of Dutch Schultz (1902-1935), 1931,  
collection of Dutch's Spirits, Pine Plains, NY,  
and Inez Milholland Boissevain, as Lady Liberty  
at the Woman Suffrage Rally, Washington, D.C., March 3, 1913.  
Photograph. [inezmilholland.org](http://inezmilholland.org).

Back cover: *The Register*, front page of newspaper (October 20, 1932).  
Collection of Dutch's Spirits, Pine Plains, NY.

The Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook does not assume responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by the authors.



Dutchess County Historical Society

Dutchess County Historical Society

P.O. Box 88

Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

845-471-1630

Email: [dchistorical@verizon.net](mailto:dchistorical@verizon.net)

[www.dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org)

This issue of the Dutchess County Historical Society's  
yearbook has been generously underwritten by the following:

*Anonymous*



*In loving memory of*

Mildred Strain (1908-1986),  
a devoted supporter  
of the Dutchess County  
Historical Society.

*Anonymous*



*Shirley M. Handel*



*LTC Gilbert A. Krom*



In memory of a beloved brother  
and fine soldier.

*David Dengel*  
*Dennis Dengel*



Enjoy this issue.

*Lou and Candace J. Lewis*



*Richard and Susan Mitchell*

*Joan Smith*

in loving memory of James Smith

*Eileen M. Hayden*



- Court Reporting
- Video Conferencing
- Audio Transcription
- Litigation Support

[www.babiarzreporting.com](http://www.babiarzreporting.com)

## Raising the Bar

ON LEGAL & BUSINESS REPORTING



845-471-2511  
Poughkeepsie, NY

866-282-0671  
White Plains, NY &  
Nyack, NY

845-565-1801  
Newburgh, NY



The Poughkeepsie Public Library District is proud of its longtime association with the Dutchess County Historical Society.

Together we offer our community a selection of exciting avenues into our fascinating past.

**POKLIB.ORG**





ZIMMER BROTHERS  
JEWELERS SINCE 1893

*Estate Jewelry*



*Something Old . . . Something New*

39 Raymond Avenue Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 845.454.6360 [zimmerbrothers.com](http://zimmerbrothers.com)



**LEWIS &  
GREER** P.C.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Corporate, Commercial  
& Business Law;  
Construction Law;  
Municipal Law;  
Real Property Tax Law

Lou Lewis  
J. Scott Greer  
Veronica A. McMillan

~

Joan Quinn  
Dylan C. Harris  
Brett A. Colbert

510 Haight Avenue • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
Phone: (845) 454-1200 • Fax (845) 454-3315  
Visit our website at [www.lewisgreer.com](http://www.lewisgreer.com)

# Lights, Camera - Auction!

BID NOW!

Online From Anywhere! You've got to bid it to win it.



## AARauctions.com

Absolute Auction & Realty, Inc. | 45 South Ave., Pleasant Valley, NY 12569 | info@AARauctions.com 800-243-0061

## D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS

Powered by excellence,  
Proven by results.

[www.darcangelo.com](http://www.darcangelo.com)

Poughkeepsie | Millbrook

TAX SERVICES - ESTATES & TRUSTS - VALUATIONS  
AUDITING & ASSURANCE - BUSINESS CONSULTING

# Table of Contents

Introduction by the County Historian .....	xiii
Letter from the Editor .....	xv
Call for Articles .....	xvii
2017: The Year in Review .....	xix
<b>FORUM: The Civil War and Dutchess County, New York (Part II)</b>	
Minutes of The Johnsville Temperance Society, 1831-1851, Hamlet of Johnsville, Town of Fishkill, New York .....	3
<i>by Malcolm Mills</i>	
The Road to Prohibition: 1820 to 1920 .....	13
<i>by John Barry</i>	
The Temperance Poem: "Oh Rumseller" .....	27
<i>by Benjamin J. Hall (1825-1896):</i>	
Prohibition Draws New York Gangsters to the Hudson Valley .....	31
<i>by Eleanor Rubin Charwat</i>	
The Raid on Dutch Schultz's Establishment in Pine Plains, New York .....	43
<i>by Lydia Higginson</i>	
Bootleggers at the Airport .....	49
<i>by John M. Miller (1905-2008)</i>	
Aerial Rum-Runners and Their D-25 Biplanes .....	53
<i>by Charles Peter Colomello</i>	
The Second Annual N.A.A.C.P. Meeting, Amenia, N.Y. ....	73
<i>by Julia Hotton</i>	
Inez: Icon of a Movement .....	79
<i>by Candace J. Lewis</i>	

## ARTICLES: Miscellaneous Topics in Dutchess County History

*Living on Water Lot 7* .....99  
*by Nancy A. Fogel*

An Analysis of the Dutchess County Historical Society's  
Civil War Era Surgical Kit ..... 113  
*by Lou Lewis*

Dover Furnace 1934 Fiddlers' Contest ..... 125  
*by Caroline Rogers Reichenberg*

## ADDENDA

Contributors ..... 133

DCHS Trustees and Staff ..... 138

DCHS Donors ..... 139

Municipal Historians and Historical Societies of  
Dutchess County ..... 143

Dutchess County Historical Society Membership ..... 147

# Introduction



This year's volume explores the trials and tribulations of the Progressive Movement in Dutchess County history. The pinnacle of this era—the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the subsequent efforts to enforce the prohibition on the commercial production and sale of liquor—is well known to most people, thanks to popular television shows and movies. The movement's origins, however, are far more shrouded in historical controversy, in no small part due to their great age. For many, Prohibition may seem

to have exploded onto the national scene with little or no precursor, save for suffragettes campaigning for sobriety as well as for the electoral franchise. As the essays contained within demonstrate, however, the drive that led to effectively outlawing liquor in the United States may be traced deep into our national and local history. Some would even argue for eighteenth-century origins, citing the Great Awakening and its zeal for suppressing all forms of immoral expression, which included the consumption of alcohol along with dancing.

The 2017 yearbook is also remarkable for its ties with our annual programming. In 2016, we launched the Dutchess County Historic Tavern Trail series as a means to explore the intersection of local history and cuisine, while recruiting new members into the county history community. Each event took place at a different restaurant in a historic building or historic site that was once a tavern or eatery, presenting attending attendees with a brief program followed by socializing and dinner. In 2017, the series focused on the key themes of Temperance and Prohibition in order to more closely tie our scholarship to our hands-on educational efforts. From April through October, we crossed the length and breadth of Dutchess County, visiting sites in Rhinebeck, Dover, Millerton, Millbrook, and Poughkeepsie.

In these programs, we explored key arcs of history that are also reflected within this volume. First, we established that Temperance had deep roots in Dutchess County, stretching back to church regulations

in the 1750s in Dover. We also saw, throughout these communities, the importance of the Women's Christian Temperance Union from the mid-nineteenth century onward. With regard to Prohibition, three key unifying elements emerged. First, many local individuals caught in the enforcement net were simply attempting to do what they had always done. Thus authorities arrested the hosts of a family clam-bake in Millerton after visitors from Poughkeepsie returned to the city intoxicated. Second, we found that most illegal activity in the county could be attributed to criminal organizations based out of New York City. These professional criminals rented barns, in which they built professional-grade stills that were run by out-of-towners, usually with a background in the distilling industry. The gangsters also coordinated rum-running down Route 9 and Highway 22. Finally, we saw that the government's efforts to enforce Prohibition in Dutchess County were fragmented from the start due to a lack of coordination between local, state, and federal agencies. As Prohibition dragged on into the early 1930s, combating illegal activity became an increasingly federal occupation.

These themes are echoed across the pages that follow, with greater detail and nuance than our relatively ephemeral programs could support. Thus readers who attended the tavern trail will find much new and interesting material waiting for them here. In combination with the articles in the general history section, readers of all interests are sure to find the variety of sterling value in this volume that has always characterized the Yearbook's unbroken record of publication.

\*\*\*

This year we say goodbye to Arlene Iuliano, the Town of Amenia historian, who passed on at age 91 on October 13, 2017. A tireless advocate for local history, she personally secured three historic markers from the William R. Pomeroy Foundation, wrote for the Yearbook as well as local publications, and represented Amenia at educational events throughout Dutchess County. Her energy and dedication were an inspiration, and she will long be remembered as a model historian.

— *William P. Tatum III*  
*Dutchess County Historian*

## *Letter from the Editor*



We devote the Forum section to the theme of Prohibition and the Progressive Movement in Dutchess County, New York. Two factors quickly became apparent as we dove into the research. First, whereas Prohibition itself was a relatively short-lived experiment in American life, in fact, its roots in Progressive thought were very deep. The Progressive Movement began early in the nineteenth century—probably in the 1820s (some would say even decades earlier)—with temperance, abolition, efforts for better working conditions, and Woman Suffrage. Articles in the book cover the entire span of time from the middle of the nineteenth century through the 1930s. It is not always widely appreciated that this was largely a middle-class movement and often led by women or women's groups. This was true to a much greater extent than ever before in American history. The issues affected the family and women raised their voices expecting to be heard. They were not alone, of course. Many men led the fight. Both are described here.

Second, in this yearbook we do not attempt to present an encyclopedic overview of a topic, but, rather, to give a few clear pictures of the theme from the point of view of local history. In the case of Prohibition and the Progressive Movement, we have chosen to pay particular attention to the two issues that would result in the 18th and 19th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States: the first establishing Prohibition (lasting from 1920 to repeal in 1932) and the second establishing Woman Suffrage throughout the country (1920 until today). From the point of view of Progressives, abolition was a gigantic effort and was one solved by the Civil War of the 1860s. The fact that social justice was denied to so many African Americans of both the North and the South in the ensuing years was often ignored, escaping the attention of reformers. Thus, the formation of the National American Association of Colored People (the NAACP) and its 1916 meeting in Amenia, New York is of particular interest, because it went counter to the prevailing trend of the time.

We hope that the readers will enjoy the articles on Prohibition and the Progressive Movement. We also offer three articles this year in the general articles section on local history: one on a Civil War period surgeon's kit, one on a property in Hyde Park, and one on a 1930s fiddlers' contest.

\*\*\*

About five years ago, when Roger Donway was the editor of this yearbook and we were contemplating the up-coming centennial of our organization in 2014, we were also brainstorming ideas for raising money to support this publication. Not only would the Society be observing its 100th birthday in 2014, but by 2015, this yearbook would be 100 years old as well, a proud accomplishment we thought. We decided to ask individuals and businesses to donate funds and, in return, we would acknowledge their contributions at the beginning of the book. At once, we found some success. This year, I can report that the support almost, but not quite, underwrites all costs for the enterprise. Need I say how grateful we are?

— *Candace J. Lewis, Ph.D., editor*

# Call for Articles: Yearbook 2018

## *Patriotism and Honor: Veterans of Dutchess County, New York*

In 2018, the central topic for the yearbook will be the lives of Dutchess County, New York veterans engaged in conflicts from the end of the nineteenth century into the twentieth century. The subject is inspired by the centennial of our engagement in World War I, but 2018 also marks 75 years since World War II and 50 years since the Vietnam War. The yearbook will coordinate with the Dutchess County Historical Society's programming to commemorate The Year of The Veteran 2018, with an exhibition of rare WWI period photographic images, a lecture series, and a seminar.

As for the last several years, the yearbook will be divided into sections:

- (1) The Forum section will focus on the stories of our men and women in the military: how their lives were affected and how they affected Dutchess County. The conflicts may include the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the First Gulf War. Other lesser known conflicts may also be considered. Articles may include topics from the more abstract such as discussions of veterans within historical movements to quite concrete matters such as the individual stories of residents of the county.
- (2) The Articles section will be devoted to essays on any worthwhile research regarding Dutchess County history.

Please submit your article to me in digital form as a Microsoft Word document. Articles for the Forum and Articles sections should be 2,000 to 4,000 words long. If possible, please submit at least one or two images with captions with each essay. Send the images separately as jpegs (300 dpi or larger). Images may be black-and-white or color. Please send them with the draft, the figure captions indicated in the text (images are not an afterthought). Copyright will be shared between the Dutchess County Historical Society and the author. The author may re-issue the article in the year after it is published in the DCHS yearbook.

*Continued*

For endnotes, please use *Chicago Manual of Style*. Examples of endnotes:

Franklin D. Roosevelt, 508<sup>th</sup> Press Conference, December 10, 1938, *Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1938 Volume: The Continuing Struggle for Liberalism* (New York: Macmillan, 1941), 632.

Nancy V. Kelly, "Rhinebeck: Transition in 1799" in *The Hudson Valley Regional Review* Vol. 6, No. 2 (March 1989), 94.

If you have an idea for an article that you are considering, but are doubtful about, just write to me at [clewis1880@aol.com](mailto:clewis1880@aol.com) and I will be happy to discuss it. Deadline: I am hoping for submission of articles by April 1, 2018. I look forward with delight to reading your essays.

— Candace Lewis, *Editor*

# Review of the Year 2017

We continue to challenge ourselves to be of service to you, our contemporary Dutchess County community. We have been working to bring more of our wonderful collection to light, the gifts of many generations of residents. In partnership with the County Historian, we are engaging more directly with each of the local municipal historians and historical societies to raise the quantity, quality, and relevance of our work.



**Collections.** The recently-acquired and very rich Hart-Hubbard Farm Collection traces this LaGrange family's apple-growing business from self-sufficiency to major international producer across generations. The collection was expanded in 2017 with the addition of photographs of family members from several generations. This collection has ignited conversations about the economic importance and trajectory of apple-growing that once touched all parts of the county. An event hosted in Stanford, for example, brought together those who had addressed the topic in prior work: a book author from Amenia, a producer of video oral histories and online teaching tools from Red Hook, and others, all of whom dissected expansive county and local-level collections on the topic. Other significant additions to our collections this year include: a collection of mid-nineteenth century account books, ledgers and school district records from Pleasant Valley; two nineteenth-century engravings of Dutchess County county seats originally published in *Smith's History of Dutchess County, 1683 – 1882*; an extensive collection of the journals of Benjamin and William B. Hall of Clinton Corners and Stanford dating from 1856 into the early twentieth century; and various individual manuscripts and photographs. We hope with these important additions to our collections will continue to add to conversations from across the county, especially among our growing online audience given new website and expanding social media presence.



**Dual Program Series.** Again, in partnership with the County Historian, the organization of our programs around two series continues to be well received. "Decoding the Past" looks not only at the past, but how we have come to understand it. "Historic Tavern Trail" allows us to maintain the centuries-old tradition of gathering at tavern for conversation, education and enjoyment.

**Yearbook.** Yearbook has always been a central feature of Historical Society membership since our founding in 1914. While working to high standards of accuracy and thoroughness in research, it is written and illustrated in a way that is accessible to all. You are reading the 2017 Yearbook entitled *Prohibition and the Progressive Movement in Dutchess County, New York*. It will be sent to members, donors, sponsors, authors, historians and others. It will also be available for sale. It becomes the 96th Volume of the longest-continually published historical journal in the state.



**Community Outreach.** In addition to the active programming, we are putting greater effort into online communications through our new website, social media and email newsletter to help reach new audiences who prefer this way of communicating.



**Annual Awards.** Toward the end of each year we host an awards ceremony with a view to celebrating the work of those individuals and one business who are bringing quality, innovation and greater community relevance or service through their embrace of local history. 2017 awardees are Colonel Jim Johnson (U.S. Army Retired), Ph.D., Gretta Tritch-Roman, Ph.D. and the Central Hudson Gas and Electric Company. In this way, we hope to encourage and support others to find value in understanding and appreciating our local history.



**Annual Meeting.** The Annual Meeting was held April 26, 2017, at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. President Michael Gordon presided. The keynote talk focused on the topic of the growth of New York City-based gangster activity during Prohibition.



**Membership.** For simplicity, from the end of 2017, DCHS membership will be for a calendar year/January-to-December period only. As a way to engage a broader audience, Individual and Family annual membership has been reduced to \$35 and \$50 respectively. Offering all the same benefits as the Individual level, a new Associate membership level has been created at \$20. It is reserved only for those with a paid membership in a city, town or village historical society, effectively a benefit of local historical society membership.

**Facilities.** The search continues for a new home. Climate-controlled storage space for our numerous collections, rooms for permanent and changing exhibits, a suitable area for hosting community events, and adequate parking top the wish list.



**Development.** DCHS depends upon the generosity of its members and friends. In addition to ongoing support throughout the year, in 2016 we received a grant from the Lillian Cumming Streetscape Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation for \$10,000, and the Denise M. Lawlor Fund for more than \$10,000.



**Volunteers.** The time and talents of dedicated volunteers throughout the year are paramount to our success! We are always open to new offers!

\*\*\*

### 2018: Year in Profile

Given the centennial of the end of WWI in 2018 and the recent discovery of over 300 glass plate negatives from that time (including a never-before published photo of Franklin D Roosevelt,) we have declared 2018 “The Year of the Veteran” in Dutchess County. We have done so in equal partnership with the County Executive and Director of the Division of Veteran Services. And in partnership with each city, town and village historian or historical organization. To facilitate this, we have recreated the long-held (and only relatively recently abandoned) position of ex-officio DCHS Vice Presidents for each locale.

In addition to the exhibition of those WWI photos our programs will focus on the subject of military service, we will gather oral histories, and produce a short video.

Next year, 2018, the yearbook will coordinate with the Year of the Veteran programming and will be focused on soldiers in conflicts from the Spanish-American War to WWI, WWII, and more recent wars of the later twentieth century.

by Bill Jeffway, Executive Director



FORUM





# Minutes of The Johnsville Temperance Society 1831–1851 Hamlet of Johnsville Town of Fishkill, New York

*by Malcolm Mills*

Going back into the ancient world, even before Roman times, people have drunk fermented beverages in large measure because drinking water was often considered a dangerous activity. In early societies, well before the discovery of germ theory, people had discovered empirically that bacteria thrived in water from wells and rivers and, to avoid gastric illnesses, which could be fatal, it was safer to drink beer or wine. This precaution was essential for those living in cities in earlier times when hygiene practices were limited. Beer and wine were relatively low in alcoholic content and people consuming their daily intake were generally immune to any adverse effects of the alcohol.

In the United States, the stronger alcoholic spirits like gin and whiskey were always available and were distilled on the estates of several of our founding fathers.<sup>1</sup> It was a profitable enterprise. While the majority of those partaking of the regular tippie were not adversely affected, alcohol is addictive and can lead to alcoholism, with tragic results. Desperate people of both sexes living in abject poverty who could see no future for themselves turned to the liquor bottle to relieve their misery. Others progressively got more into the “grain” as an escape from the tedium of their lives as happened more with husbands who would return drunk from the tavern and vent their frustrations by beating their wives or children.

## **Drinking Ballad C 1780: Nottingham Ale (Second Verse)**

Ye bishops and deacons, priests, curates and vicars  
When once you have tasted you'll own it as true  
That Nottingham ale is the best of all liquors  
And who understands the good creature like you  
It speaks every vapour – save pen, ink and paper  
And when you're disposed the pulpit to rail  
'T will open your throats-you may preach without notes  
When inspired with a bumper of Nottingham ale.<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 1.** *The Wiccopee Church, Johnsville hamlet, Town of Fishkill, New York, c. 1900. Photograph. East Fishkill Historical Society.*

One can imagine the good people of the Johnsville hamlet, Town of Fishkill, New York, being annoyed and horrified to hear this and other drinking songs being loudly sung by the inebriated patrons as they passed the local taverns. A reaction to the nuisance of drunkenness started in the early 1800s with the organization of a temperance movement, a social movement against the consumption of alcoholic beverages. The movement's emphasis was placed on the abstinence from the hard spirits rather than from all alcohol. The American Temperance Society was formed in 1826, and within twelve years it claimed to have more than 8,000 groups. By the year 1831, the word of this organization had reached the people of the town of Fishkill and a group of concerned citizens convened on Tuesday, March 1 in the Methodist Meeting House, Johnsville, with the purpose of forming a local branch of the Temperance Society. Abraham Van Wyck was chosen as chairman and William Van Wyck as secretary. At this first meeting the following Resolution and Constitution were adopted after an address and prayers led by the Rev. Jacob Helssenstein of Philadelphia.<sup>3</sup> It is likely the wording was not original and had been taken from formal society documents.

**1st. Resolved that we form a Temperance Society in this place.  
Whereupon the following Constitution was adopted:--**

**Article 1:** This Society shall be called the Johnsville Temperance Society auxiliary to the Dutchess County Temperance Society.

**Article 2:** We members of the of this society believing the use of distilled liquors for the persons in health not only useless but hurtful and that the practice is the cause of forming intemperate habits and that when it is continued the evils of intemperance can never be prevented we as therefor agree that we will abstain from the use of distilled spirits except as a Medicine in case of bodily infirmity and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance the use of them in the community.

**Article 3:** The officers of the society shall be a president, vice-president and secretary to be chosen at each annual meeting of the society and who shall perform duties customarily assigned to such officers

**Article 4:** The officers of this society together with such a number of other members as circumstances shall require duly appointed by the society shall constitute an Executive Committee to carry into effect all orders and notes of the society, to receive members when the society is not in session, to advise and recommend the best means for accomplishing its benevolent designs they shall transmit annually to the parent society an account of the state, measures and success of this auxiliary.

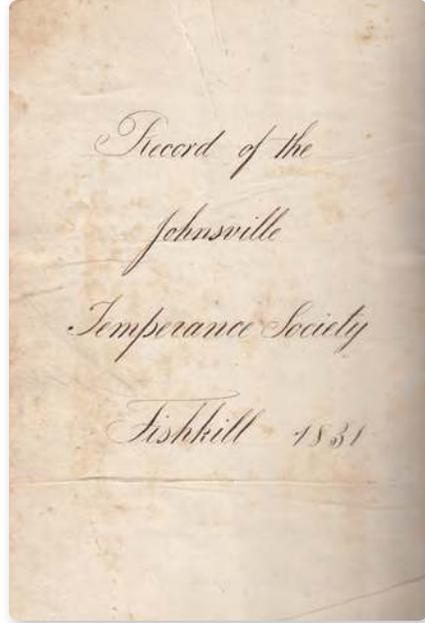
**Article 5:** The members of this society shall have liberty to withdraw from the society by leaving their names with the Secretary provide[d] they have not violated their pledge but as long as they continue as member they shall discontinue the traffic in ardent spirits as well as the use of them.

**Article 6:** This society shall hold [an] annual meeting once in each year and such other meetings as the Executive Committee may call the times and places of holding which shall be directed hereafter.

At this inaugural meeting the following persons caused their names to be enrolled as members of the society under the foregoing constitution.

Abraham Van Wyck, Abraham Charlick, James Taylor, Sherman Hoyt, Thomas Scofield, John Hoyt, John H Boice, Isaac Charlick, Ephrain Scofield, Daniel Price, Samuel Brundage, Jacob Helssenstein, Jered Dewing, William Van Wyck, Sarah Arnan, Jemimah Hoyt. Julia Ann Seely, Sarah King, Jane Sherwood, Julia Sherwood, Mrs. Sarah Sherwood, Caroline Brinckerhoff, Sarah Weman, Catherine Brinckerhoff, Diane Taylor, Mrs. Taylor Clarisa Brundage, Ann Van Wyck, Dolly Geroco, Mary Pierce, Hanna Edwards.

This excerpt is from the first pages of the Book of Minutes of the Johnsville Temperance Society, which covers the years 1831 to the final entry in 1853. The soft cover legal size book is in the possession of the East Fishkill Historical Society, unfortunately there is no record of who had been custodian of this document during the past 160 years.<sup>4</sup> “The officers chosen



**Figures 2 and 3.** Cover (left), Title Page (right) The Book of Minutes of the Johnsville Temperance Society (1831-1853). Photographs. East Fishkill Historical Society.

by the attendees were President, Thorn Pudney, Vice-President John C. Haight and Secretary Sherman Hoyt.” Presumably Mr. Hoyt wrote the minutes of the meeting and his handwriting is a pleasure to read. It is neat and clear and by today’s standard is a “work of art”. Many of the family names of the charter members will be recognized in our town today. We assume the signers did not believe that alcohol was totally evil as they permitted imbibing it as a medicine in case of illness. We can imagine there might have been a noticeable decrease in the health of signers of the pledge, as they adjusted to the liquor-less regime or are we being cynical?

It is of note that the elected president, Mr. Thorn Pudney, was the owner of the 217-acre farm including the Dutch-style farm house (known as the Brinckerhoff house) now owned by the East Fishkill Historical Society. Thorn Pudney purchased the farm with a partner, Obadiah Bowne, at the estate auction in 1821 following the death of its original settler, John Brinckerhoff. A year later, Thorn bought out his partner and became sole owner. His family owned and worked the farm until they sold it in 1875. From the minutes, it appears that several members of Thorn’s family signed the abstinence pledge over the years.

The Constitution of the Temperance Society specifically mentioned holding an annual meeting on July Fourth. However it allowed the option of holding more frequent meetings and resolved initially that it should meet monthly. At the first annual meeting in 1831, the Declaration of Independence was read followed by prayers and a unanimous vote was taken, not surprisingly, in favor of temperance. Twenty-two new members were admitted to the society, including Thorn Pudney's wife Jane. After the formality of election of officers, a collection was made for the Colonization Society. This was the first reference to this society and there was no recorded discussion of a connection with temperance. This topic was promoted at the following year's meeting.

The 1832 annual meeting at the Johnsville Methodist church had a busy agenda. There appeared another chink in the temperance armor when a committee was appointed to "ascertain the best substitute for spirituous liquor to be used by laborers in warm weather, such as cider, ale or porter". A condition was to be included that any person becoming intoxicated from consuming them shall be expelled from the society.<sup>5</sup> The committee was to report at the next annual meeting. It is recorded that:

During the temperance address a patriotic appeal was made on behalf of the Sable sons of Africa and a liberal collection taken up for their benefit through the American Colonization Society. The proceedings of the day were sufficient to the truth to every unprejudiced mind that the Sons of Color can justly appreciate those blessings bequeathed them by the bravery of their fathers without the Thunder of Mars or the liquid fire of Bacchus.

These were dramatic words and we see again the mention of the American Colonization Society (ACS). Why were the temperance society members called upon to support this organization? We need to understand something about the ACS. Even before the Revolution, white Americans had been discussing sending freed slaves back to Africa. This idea became a formal movement in December 1816, when representatives from several states met in Washington D.C. and established the American Colonization Society. They voted to immediately begin seeking voluntary removal of American blacks to Africa or whatever place Congress considered appropriate. Surprisingly the ACS showed no interest in abolition of slavery or emancipation. This is a little known segment of American history. At this time there were about two million blacks living in America of which 200,000 were free persons of color. As often happened with issues of race prejudice, many well-intentioned, privileged people thought that they could

make decisions for the less privileged. Thus, the white people believed that those whose ancestors had come from Africa would be pleased to return to their land of origin. Unfortunately they failed to seek the opinions of those to be voluntarily deported, as they would have discovered that the great majority of blacks considered themselves Americans and had no desire to be relocated. During the early years of the ACS, funds were raised to provide the means for “repatriating” blacks to the west coast of Africa. Even Congress allocated \$100,000 towards the project. In January 1820, the first ship left American shores headed to establish a new settlement on the west coast of Africa. Unfortunately, the ninety-one immigrants soon discovered the new land was inhospitable and within three weeks twenty-five had died of yellow fever. However, the surviving pioneers were soon joined by others and a better site was chosen to create the new colony of Liberia. The colony continued to evolve under the leadership of white agents, with free blacks from America supplemented by freed slaves from captured slave ships. Then in 1842, Joseph Roberts Jenkins became the first non-white governor of Liberia and five years later the legislature declared itself to be an independent state with J.J. Roberts elected as its first President.<sup>6</sup>

It seemed that the residents of Fishkill who signed the pledge were supportive of the program to repatriate freed black slaves. It is important to note the time frame: manumission had been declared in New York State in 1827 so the future of a bi-racial society was very much a topic of discussion. However, some historians inferred the popularity of ACS was in decline at around the time the Johnsville Temperance Society was instituted. Its members may have felt coerced to give to collections during the annual meetings following powerful sermons by visiting preachers. The July 1832 minutes are the last mention of support for the ACS.

There was the occasional temperance signer who strayed. For example in September 1833, charges were brought against Mr. James Taylor that he had purchased several barrels of whiskey during the previous two years and had sold one barrel to Sam LaDue, who had used it “gathering of harvest and hay.”<sup>7</sup> Mr. Taylor denied the charges and, as the informant failed to show at the temperance meeting, Taylor was acquitted. The minutes for the next meetings are very light and nothing of importance is reported and fewer monthly meetings are held. Moving on to the July Fourth, 1836 annual meeting, the ranks of pledge signers had swollen to 131 members and a new secretary, Mr. Louis Sherwood, was appointed. An extraordinary meeting was held in December, 1837 as it seemed the society was concerned that temperance was not being practiced by a majority of

Resolved that we adjourn to meet again on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, inst at 1 o'clock P.M. as the Constitution directs

July <sup>The 7<sup>th</sup></sup> 1832

Society met agreeable to previous notice at the Methodist Church in Johnsville - The several <sup>of the society the visitors</sup> gentlemen occupied themselves to the satisfaction of all present - During the temperance address a pathetic appeal was made in behalf of the Sable sons of Africa and liberal collection taken up for their benefit through the American Colonization Society. The proceedings of the day were sufficient to carry the truth to every unprejudiced mind - that the Sons of Columbia can justly appreciate those blessings bestowed them by the bravery of their fathers without the thunder of Mars or the liquid fire of Bacchus. During the intermission the President took the chair the business of the society conducted. Constitution read. The following persons were elected for the ensuing year

Officers		
Abraham Charles	3 <sup>rd</sup> Pres.	Thorn Paulson
Louis A. White	2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P.	Nathan Sherwood
A. Saylor	Secy.	James Taylor
		George Horton
		Hendrick Davids
		Olson Sherwood

Members

Resolved that a committee of 5 persons be appointed to ascertain the best substitute for spirituous liquors to be used by labourers in warm weather - that they hold a correspondence with the Temperance Societies of the county or state on the subject and report the same to the next annual meeting - Or sooner if practicable. Resolved that the 3<sup>rd</sup> article of the constitution be amended so after the word Community to read as follows

Figure 4. A page dated July 4, 1832, from The Book of Minutes of the Johnsville Temperance Society (1831-1853). Photograph. East Fishkill Historical Society.

Fishkill residents. A committee was formed to undertake a comprehensive survey of local churches, other religious organizations, temperance societies, distilleries, and taverns licensed to sell intoxicating liquors and to report the results at the next annual meeting. It appears the committee was not enthusiastic and neglected its task. The minutes of the July, 1838 meeting show that the committee appointed at the previous meeting to ascertain how the Christian churches stood with regard to intoxicating liquor made no report.

The society's evangelical fervor was waning by the end of the decade and membership gatherings were mainly limited to brief annual July Fourth meetings. There was no mention of prayers, nor speakers and little except the nomination of officers was discussed. The final entry is for July Fourth, 1853 and reads as follows.

At the Annual Meeting of the Johnsville Temperance Society held at the Post Office in Johnsville on the Fourth of July 1853 pursuant to adjournment and public notice. ....It was resolved that the present board of Officers (should) remain in office for the ensuring year. On a motion the meeting adjourned. William C. Merritt, Secretary.

Maybe it is significant that this last meeting was not held in the Methodist church. The last five pages of the minutes' book contain lists of names of signatures to the abstinence Pledge, but unfortunately some of these pages have been over written by a child practicing lettering and simple math exercises. The book comprises of approximately twenty pages, which are not high quality paper. It is in surprisingly good condition considering its age and the abuse of later years. The penmanship is still legible. The contents are an interesting insight into the lifestyles and attitudes of residents of East Fishkill between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. We do not know if the Johnsville Temperance Society ever met after the final entry in 1851, however the temperance movement continued to evolve in America and resulted in its zenith seventy years later with the passing of the Prohibition laws and an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

---

<sup>1</sup> There are breweries at the Mount Vernon and Monticello historic sites.

<sup>2</sup> The drinking ballad is a traditional English folk song, believed to have been first sung at the launching of "The Nottingham" in 1787.

<sup>3</sup> As recorded in the minutes.

<sup>4</sup> The book was in the East Fishkill Historical Society's archives. Donor unknown.

<sup>5</sup> As recorded in the minutes.

<sup>6</sup> See Philip F. Waite, "Slavery in the North," in American Colonization Society (Denison University, Ohio: n.d). <http://slavenorth.co/colonize.htm>

<sup>7</sup> As recorded in the minutes.



# The Road to Prohibition 1820 to 1920

by John Barry

The editors of *The Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* should have known better; their editorial in the January 17, 1920 issue—marking the opening day of national Prohibition—was at once perceptive, a masterpiece of ambivalence, and a triumph of hope over experience:

Constitutional prohibition is now officially in operation...clad in garments which are snowy white...(prohibition) comes as no shock to the people of this country...they had been preparing for it for some time... By millions it will be hailed with joy while other millions see in it deprivation and oppression...all in all there is probably ample cause to welcome it yet one can well understand that the independent American must feel that his personal liberties have been badly damaged.

In the course of months and years, however, this feeling may vanish; Americans are good forgetters, and another generation will soon be at hand to listen to the strange tales of the days now gone.

Things will go on in Poughkeepsie and everywhere just the same today as they did yesterday, you and I won't feel very changed, and in the end we'll probably conclude that prohibition is not half as bad as it has been pictured and that life is just as worth living as ever."<sup>1</sup>

"...clad in garments which are snowy white..."

A certain moralistic purity of purpose surrounded the crusade to outlaw alcohol starting in the 1880s, with the organization of the mostly Protestant-led Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and in the 1890s the equally evangelical Anti-Saloon League (which called itself "the church in action") added a sophisticated political pressure operation to the effort to prohibit the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors"<sup>2</sup> throughout the United States.

"...comes as no shock to the people of this country...they had been preparing for it for some time..."

As we will see below, the drive to restrain or eliminate the consumption of alcoholic beverages began decades earlier, in the early 1800s, with the Temperance Movement. The advocates of "Temperance" differed from the

Prohibitionists in the degree of government action they supported. A few paragraphs below we will see how that difference affected the two branches of the anti-alcohol campaign.

“...By millions it will be hailed with joy while other millions see in it deprivation and oppression...one can well understand that the independent American must feel that his personal liberties have been badly damaged...”

The editors could not have known how right they were about the division of society on the question, but with much less prescience—and here is where their triumph of hope over experience comes in—they concluded

...all in all there is probably ample cause to welcome it...In the course of months and years, however, this feeling may vanish; Americans are good forgetters, and another generation will soon be at hand to listen to the strange tales of the days now gone. Things will go on in Poughkeepsie and everywhere just the same today as they did yesterday, you and I won't feel very changed, and in the end we'll probably conclude that prohibition is not half as bad as it has been pictured and that life is just as worth living as ever.

Actually, as we will see elsewhere in this volume, Prohibition turned out to be much worse than it was imagined by its advocates. The important point here is that this unfortunate outcome should have been fairly foreseen by the editors of *The Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* when they wrote those words in January 1920. More on this shortly.

The editors' rosy view of the onset of Prohibition may have had something to do with the nature of the readership of the *Eagle-News* in 1920. In those days the newspaper reached about six percent of the Dutchess County population, a relatively small proportion of the County's population, and it is reasonable to assume that the people in that six percent represented the most influential men and women in the county. At that time, the population of Dutchess County was, according to the Census Bureau, “Native White 85%, Negroes 200 (2/10 of 1%), Foreign Born 15%, Industrial workers 25%, English reading 95%.” The demographic groups that opposed Prohibition were the recent Irish and Italian immigrants and working class people in the big cities. So this difference in demographic mix will help explain the vastly different visions contained in the *Eagle-News* editorial above.<sup>3</sup>

From the beginning, the alcohol issue attracted the attention and energy of a many very different types of reformers. The cast of anti-alcohol

characters included righteous teetotalers, sympathetic persuaders, scolding moralists, fiery Protestant preachers, marching suffragists, reform politicians, and immigrant-fearing old-stock whites, among others. The national arguments over alcohol tended to divide urban people from rural people, Protestants from Catholics, newly arrived immigrants from old-stock Americans, and factory workers from farm workers. Even the advocates of “temperance” often differed in their approach to the question from the advocates of “prohibition.”

The May 17, 1820 issue of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* featured a long piece entitled “Project of Dr. Franklin for Attaining Moral Perfection,” in which Benjamin Franklin writes that moderation in “food and drink” is central to moral uplift. While Franklin does not explicitly refer to alcoholic drinks, it seems reasonable to assume he was not referring to water or tea. In those early days of the Republic, Franklin and other founders carried significant weight with the population of the new country.<sup>4</sup>

In 1826, four crusading Protestant ministers, lawyers, and reformers in Boston formed the American Temperance Society. The ATS initially pressed for voluntary abstinence by encouraging drinkers and nondrinkers alike to take a public pledge to refrain from drinking distilled beverages. The Society, based in Boston, was also active in the Abolition movement, women’s rights, and other reform efforts. It was most successful in attracting fledglings in the northern states. As far as the record shows, none of the ATS founders were regular drinkers, former alcoholics, nor were any of them distillers or brewers, or tavern owners, so the reforms they advocated came at no embarrassment or cost to themselves.

Not so in the case of the six drunks who founded the Washingtonian Society in Baltimore in 1840. This group of self-confessed and self-reforming alcoholics preceded Alcoholics Anonymous by almost one hundred years, and had the same goal—being a support group of abstaining former drinkers to help each other stay away from intoxicating beverages.

In 1842, in one of the longest and most famous of his early speeches, the thirty-three-year-old Abraham Lincoln delivered a speech to the Springfield, Illinois chapter of the Washingtonian Temperance Society. He advocated for voluntary moderation while strongly opposing coercive prohibitory laws:

Although the Temperance cause has been in progress for near twenty years...it is just now being crowned with a degree of success,

hitherto unparalleled...The warfare heretofore waged against the demon of Intemperance, has...been erroneous...either the champions...or the tactics...have not been the most proper.

The champions for the most part have been Preachers, Lawyers, and hired agents. Between these and the mass of mankind there is a want of approachability...fatal to their success. They are supposed to have no sympathy of feeling or interest, with those very persons it is their object to convince and persuade.

The preacher, it is said, advocates temperance because he is a fanatic, and desires a union of church and state; the lawyer, from his pride and vanity of hearing himself speak; and the hired agent, for his salary... but when one, who has long been known as a victim of his intemperance, bursts the fetters that have bound him, and appears before his neighbors "clothed, and in his right mind,"...and stands up with tears of joy in his eyes, to tell of the miseries once endured, now to be endured no more forever...there is a logic, and an eloquence to it, that few, with human feeling, can resist...

In my judgement, it is to the battles of this new class of champions that our (recent) success is greatly, perhaps chiefly, owing...too much denunciation against liquor sellers and liquor drinkers was indulged in (and) it was both impolitic and unfair...

If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend...on the contrary, assume to dictate to his judgement, or to command his action, or mark him as one to be shunned and despised, and he will...close all the avenues to his head and heart...<sup>5</sup>

After an intermission from 1850 to 1865 to deal with slavery and the Civil War, two new organizations entered the struggle and introduced a more zealous phase of the war on alcohol. In 1873, pietistic<sup>6</sup> Protestants in Hillsboro, Ohio, who had been pushing hard for anti-liquor laws for over forty years, organized the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, with the stated mission of seeking a "sober and pure world by abstinence, purity, and evangelical Christianity."<sup>7</sup>

They also dealt with tobacco, prostitution, labor laws, public health, anti-polygamy laws, immigration and Americanization (i.e., cultural assimilation), anti-liquor "instruction" in the schools by way of "approved" textbooks, public sanitation, woman's suffrage, protecting Sundays as Sabbath days, and promoting world peace. In addition to spreading its energies over perhaps too many topics (according to Frances Willard's "Do Everything" philosophy), thus suffering a loss of concentration and focus on any single reform, the WCTU lost effectiveness as a result of overstating

its case against alcohol. By the early 1890s, the extensive exaggerations, distortions, and gross inaccuracies in textbooks endorsed by the WCTU were increasingly criticized by leading scientists and educators. The latter included the presidents of Columbia, Cornell, Yale, Stanford, and Vassar.<sup>8</sup>

The Anti-Saloon League, also founded by pietistic Protestant reformers in 1893 (its motto was “The Church in Action”), was a different kind of alcohol-fighting unit. It cared nothing about any other issue, and it concentrated all its efforts on anti-alcohol politics. It aimed to defeat any politician who did not publically support the League’s agenda. The ASL was the first single-issue-only national political pressure group in United States history, and before long elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels took the League’s support or opposition very seriously. Then as now, most important elections were decided by a relatively small number of voters. The genius of the League’s approach to political results, in addition to its concentration on one issue, was influencing elections by controlling what would later be called the “swing voters.” “The ASL did not seek to win majorities; it played on the margins, aware that if it could control, say, one-tenth of the voters in any close race, it could determine the outcome.”<sup>9</sup>

And then there was Carrie Nation, a one-woman anti-saloon demolition organization. In 1900, in Medicine Lodge, Kansas, this particularly aggressive woman protested the unwillingness of the State of Kansas to enforce the anti-alcohol laws already on the books by entering saloons with a bag of rocks and bottles wrapped in tape, and later swinging her trademark hatchet, and smashing up saloon after saloon. The male political establishment did not know what to do with her— she was sometimes arrested and released several times in a single day. Before laying waste to the bars, she would helpfully announce to the stunned customers, “Men, I have come to save you from a drunkard’s fate.”<sup>10</sup>

From the condemnation of Boston’s American Temperance Society preachers, beginning in 1826, to the mutual self-help of the reformed alcoholics of Baltimore’s Washingtonian Society in the 1840s, to a rising Illinois politician’s advocacy of friendly persuasion to win hearts and minds of drunkards in 1842, to the WCTU’s evangelical assault on all forms of unChristian impurity beginning in 1873, to the ASL’s intensely focused pressure politics at all levels of American government beginning in 1893, to Carrie Nation’s hatchet—an effect began to take shape that few if any people would have imagined possible, even as late as 1918; an amendment to the United States Constitution that in January 1920 took away from every citizen a right they had enjoyed, for better or worse, since

the beginning. It eliminated one of the most important sources of state and local tax revenues, and suddenly abolished the sixth-largest industry in the country. There must have been more to this than just the rantings of a few opinionated preachers and a relative handful of busybody activists.

Culture drives politics, and in the years before the surprising passage of the Eighteenth Amendment, the drive to prohibit the liquor trade was driven by religious, scientific, social, economic, and war-inspired forces before it manifested itself in sufficiently forceful political action.

As we have seen, there were those who approached the issue from a moralistic or religious point of view. They sought to Christianize the culture in order to purify it, and, to Christianize the culture, evil had to be eliminated. The alcohol problem was perceived as not the occasional misuse of a good thing, but the presence in society of a very bad thing that had no redeeming qualities. Souls needed to be saved, and experience demonstrated that saving drunk souls was harder than saving sober ones. The body cannot long be the temple for a Christian mind if it is dying from cirrhosis of the liver.

Since drinking alcoholic beverages was a gateway sin to other social problems (prostitution, venereal disease, gluttony, illegitimacy, gambling, family breakup, spouse and child abuse, bankruptcy) getting rid of alcohol altogether would go a long way toward achieving a purer Christian society. The devil's headquarters were places called "saloons." These were dark places that were supplied, financed, and often owned by dollar-worshipping and society-ruining men with (foreign-sounding) names like Anheuser, Busch, and Pabst. Alcohol, like slavery, had to be abolished.

Scientific and social arguments against alcohol, advanced by secular voices, probably influenced more ordinary Americans toward Prohibition than did the fanatic-sounding rantings of the religious crusaders. It was here that the dispute arose between middle class 'Progressives' and their opponents over the root cause of social problems in general: Progressives tended to believe that crime and alcoholism and other social pathologies were the result of a bad social environment, not the result of weaknesses of individuals, and therefore the whole social atmosphere had to be disinfected.

Progressives believed:

We now know that intemperance is the creature of environment, of wrong social conditions which may be remedied...there is no natural inebriate class...if directly or indirectly drunkenness is mainly the fruit of bad social conditions, the remedy is in society's own hands;

for the intellectual man, unlike the lower animals, is able to transform his environment...<sup>11</sup>

The Prohibitionists' critics believed, "Intoxication is not the wine's fault, but the man's."<sup>12</sup>

Before 1860, there was a common belief that alcohol was a useful stimulant for workers, that whiskey had therapeutic benefits for heart disease and other illnesses, that it warmed the body in winter, that it was a food that oxidized in the body and thus liberated heat and energy. The image of the St. Bernard rescue dog, with the small barrel of brandy under its neck for saving avalanche victims, was popular in the early 1800s.<sup>13</sup>

But beginning in the late 1800s, statistics-based research, popularized in the mass-circulation magazines of the day, found that alcohol caused the human body to lose, not retain heat; that it was a depressant, not a stimulant; that it was a narcotic rather than a "food;" that it dulled the central nervous system; and that it caused diseases of heart, liver, and other organs.<sup>14</sup> Even moderate intake of alcohol was harmful, the more excitable experts reported in the popular mass-media magazines and newspapers in the last 1800s and early 1900s. The stuff was really a poison to the body and spirit! Some famous American physicians announced that they had become teetotalers. In 1906, Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston stopped administering brandy and whiskey as medicine. The Women's Christian Temperance Union began to pressure local school boards to adopt WCTU-approved textbooks that condemned alcohol and sought to shame its users, manufacturers, and sellers.

So extreme were the condemnations of the WCTU's anti-alcohol propaganda that objective observers claimed the material it was forcing on the public schools was inaccurate, distorted, exaggerated, and intended to frighten the children—all of which were true by modern standards.<sup>15</sup>

But nonetheless, the children of 1880-1910 were the voters of 1919-1920 and after. And that was the WCTU's strategy.

In sum, the demolition of the earlier myths about alcohol—and their replacement with findings that linked alcohol to disease, crime, divorce, destitution, violence, and corruption—served to motivate churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike in the support of Prohibition, locally and nationally.

Others were drawn to alcohol prohibition by economic considerations—both general and specific. "Since no man of intemperate habits could hope

to succeed and prosper, Americans naturally came to esteem sobriety and to rank it high among the virtues that guaranteed success.”<sup>16</sup>

More specifically, in the years after the Civil War the growth of machine-driven industry, particularly the railroads and steel mills, brought a greater concern in business circles about the costs of inebriates operating large machines moving at high rates of speed. In 1899, the American Railway Association recommended that its member railroads adopt “Rule G,” which provided for dismissal of employees who used intoxicants on duty *or who habitually used them off-duty or frequented places where they were sold*.<sup>17</sup> At about the same time, many other industrial and mining corporations passed similar work rules.

Another surge in workplace safety rules occurred between 1908 and 1912, when companies like United States Steel established the National Safety Council. The idea was to lessen the costs of accidents due to carelessness, poorly designed equipment, and drinking. Between 1908 and 1911, the first workers compensation laws were passed by Congress and most state legislatures, giving employers added incentive to discourage behaviors that led to injury in the workplace. Perhaps the most significant aspect of all this was that many employers came to believe that the moderate drinker, who was not obviously impaired, was more dangerous in the workplace than a staggering drunk, who was easy to spot and remove. Employers began to refuse employment to those known to be habitual drinkers, even if only “socially.”<sup>18</sup> There were a lot of labor union strikes in those days, and the presence of whiskey among hundreds of angry strikers armed with rocks and bottles, maybe bombs, was seen by management as a problem to be avoided. It was a time of devotion to scientific management, large scale bureaucratic industry, intense international business competition, and thus the pursuit of ever-increasing economic efficiency. Alcohol had no place in such an environment (except at the executives’ downtown club or home).

Next came the consolidation of the hundreds of small temperance and prohibition groups into the two muscular pressure groups that accounted for enough political muscle to control elections and legislatures—the aforementioned WCTU and the more focused single-issue American Anti-Saloon League.

In the first decade of the 1900s the Protestant middle-class Progressives saw themselves sandwiched between two main threats to their way of life: the growing power of Big Business concentration above them, and the rising discontent—perhaps revolutionary discontent—of the immigrant-

intensive industrial classes below them.<sup>19</sup> The large and wealthy brewing and distilling industries, manifested by the thousands of saloons all over American cities and towns, were both monopolistic and collusive, Big Business that made a business of causing all kinds of trouble in the lower classes.

The saloon was the center of political and social life for the working classes that Progressives thought needed reforming. Many, if not most, city saloonkeepers were also political bosses, ward healers, and precinct captains. Politicians used the saloons as a way of communicating with and securing the votes of large numbers of lower class Americans.

In 1920, for the first time in American history, the decennial census revealed a greater proportion of the United States population lived in the urban areas of the country rather than rural areas. (The urban/rural ratio in the 1910 census was 45.6%/54.4%; that ratio in the 1920 census was 51.2%/48.8%; it was 56.1%/43.9% in the 1930 census.<sup>20</sup>) This of course meant that political power was shifting to the cities, and the saloon was seen by good government reformers as the corrupting heartbeat of the new and sometimes radical urban political machines.

Finally, recall that in 1914 the First World War erupted in Europe. As the United States began the slide toward entering the war on the side of Britain and France against Germany in April 1917, prohibitionists got a foot in the door during the war by pressuring Congress to pass laws that limited the use of grains by brewers and distillers, in order to supply foodstuffs to the American troops fighting in Europe. The Eighteenth Amendment was introduced in Congress in August 1917 and passed in December 1917. It was a time of high anti-German feeling (sauerkraut was renamed 'victory cabbage') and unfortunately for their businesses almost all of American brewers had names like Blatz, Schlitz, Pabst, and Anheuser. Many brewers had been active in German-American groups of various natures, and the American Brewers Association published its minutes in German. This unfortunate timing made it hard for a brewer with a German accent to testify in Congress against the Eighteenth Amendment: he looked not only like a mere profit-seeker but also a sinister national enemy.

Laws, like ocean liner sinkings, are usually not caused by just one thing, but by a combination of things. It seems unlikely that any one of these five or six factors above could have powered a Constitutional amendment through the Congress and three-quarters of the States. But all of them combined got the job done in 1917-19, and with surprising ease over the half-asleep and complacent opposition of about half of the country.

The text of the Eighteenth Amendment is worth another look:

Section 1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all the territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

The language of the amendment is noteworthy for three reasons: First, at the time it was adopted, it was only the second amendment to the United States Constitution that limited the rights of citizens rather than the power of the government. The other citizen-limiting amendment was the Thirteenth Amendment prohibiting slavery. So starting on January 17, 1920 a United States citizen could not buy or sell any beverage with an alcohol content greater than one-half of one percent,<sup>21</sup> and of course a citizen still could not buy or sell a slave.

Second, the Eighteenth Amendment gave the federal and state governments concurrent power to enforce Prohibition. This meant that a person could be tried and convicted by both federal and state courts for one illegal act under the law.

Third, the amendment had to be ratified within seven years — a provision not contained by previous amendments. This seven-year rule was forced on the amendment's sponsors by its opponents, who were confident in the belief that the necessary number of states would never vote to ratify within the seven years. But almost everyone was shocked that the ratification process was completed on January 16, 1919, when Nebraska became the 36th of the then-48 states to ratify. This of course made January 16, 1920 the last day to buy or sell or truck real beer, wine, or whiskey (with some exceptions), and making the whole country “dry” starting January 17, 1920.

On Friday and Saturday, January 16 and 17—beer's last day, and Prohibition's first day — the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* headlined the following to the newspaper's roughly 5,400 subscribers:<sup>22</sup>

**COUNTRY TO BECOME DRY AT MIDNIGHT** <sup>23</sup>  
**KENTUCKY DISTILLERS HARD HIT AS COUNTRY GOES DRY**

Law Causes Little Stir In This City  
New Yorkers Mourn Barleycorn's Demise  
Millions of Gallons of Whiskey Remain in Bond  
With Evaporation as Their Chief Prospect  
Governor Points Out Futility of Moral Legislation  
in Discussion of National Prohibition  
"Drys" Are Jubilant In Washington  
Frank Brewery Begins Making New Near Beer  
Initial Lecture On Americanization To Be Given On Monday

**ENFORCEMENT MACHINERY READY AS AMENDMENT  
GOES INTO EFFECT** <sup>24</sup>

Thefts Of Liquor in Bond Increase  
Eighteenth Amendment Threatens Sovereignty  
of Members of the Union,  
Colorado Senator Tells New York Bar  
What Cannot Be Done Under Dry Law  
Under Constitutional prohibition, it is unlawful:  
To buy or sell a drink anywhere except for sacramental  
or medicinal purposes  
To manufacture anything above one-half of one percent  
(alcohol content) in your home.  
To give or take a drink anywhere except in the home of the man who owns it.  
To move your home supply from one house to another  
without obtaining a permit.  
(To get this you must prove that you came by the supply before July 1, 1919.)  
To keep any liquor in storage anywhere except in your own home.  
To display any liquor signs or advertisements on your premises.  
To try to get such reserves out of storage.  
To buy, sell, or use a home still or any other device  
for making liquor in the home.  
To carry a pocket flask.  
To buy or sell any formulas or recipes for home-made liquor.  
To have any more than two drinking residences—  
one in the country and one in the city.  
To make a present of a bottle of liquor to a friend.  
To receive such a bottle from a friend.  
To restock your home supply when it runs out.

And so Dutchess County entered into the strange world of Prohibition. When they read those headlines, in January 1920, did the leaders of Dutchess County society believe that Prohibition would cause “little stir” in Poughkeepsie? Were they surprised to learn that the new law suddenly prohibited anything with an alcohol content of more than one-half of one percent? (This outlawed even dinner and cooking wines.) Did they sense the connection between Prohibition and the announcement of “Americanization classes” in the same headline? Were the readers of the *Eagle-News* curious about how the rule limiting them to only two “drinking residences,” or the rule outlawing hip flasks, or the prohibition on ‘restocking your home supply when it runs out’ would be enforced? Or, if drinking intoxicating beverages was the problem, why *drinking the stuff* itself was still legal, while only its manufacture, sale, and transport were now unlawful? And did they wonder what was this business about making exceptions for “sacramental or medicinal purposes” all about?

Finally, one cannot help but wonder whether it occurred to anyone reading between the lines of the Poughkeepsie newspaper, perhaps while overlooking the boat traffic on the Hudson River, that there might be a fabulous business opportunity in the offing. Soon all these questions and many others would be answered.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*, Saturday 17 January 1920, editorial, p.4:1.

<sup>2</sup> The 112-word text of the Eighteenth Amendment, and submitted to the States for ratification on December 18, 1917, ratified by the States on January 16, 1919:

Section 1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all the territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

<sup>3</sup> The population of Dutchess County was about 92,000 and The *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* had about 5,400 subscribers, or about six percent of the County’s population ignoring newsstand sales and out-of-county subscribers. U.S. Decennial Census, United States Census Bureau <https://www.census.gov/prod/www/decennial.html> and Nelson Chesman & Co. Rate Book, p.165. (This publication was used at that time to

provide advertisers with independent information about the details of a newspaper's circulation, ad rates, subscription prices, and printing format.) [https://books.google.com/books?id=LCpJAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA165&lpg=PA165&dq=circulation+Poughkeepsie+Eagle+News+1920&source=bl&ots=e9yTRuEMI&sig=45qksrNGQJQPOAxIFaVLSDJqutQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj\\_2sDwvbrSAhXk5IMKHaYeAPUQ6A-EIPzAH#v=onepage&q=circulation%20Poughkeepsie%20Eagle%20News%201920&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=LCpJAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA165&lpg=PA165&dq=circulation+Poughkeepsie+Eagle+News+1920&source=bl&ots=e9yTRuEMI&sig=45qksrNGQJQPOAxIFaVLSDJqutQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj_2sDwvbrSAhXk5IMKHaYeAPUQ6A-EIPzAH#v=onepage&q=circulation%20Poughkeepsie%20Eagle%20News%201920&f=false)

Also, for the racial, ethnic, and occupational information see *Editor & Publisher* magazine, Space Buyer's Chart, 6 November 1920, p. xxxii. (This publication was used at that time to provide advertisers with information about the demographics and economies of the markets served by specific newspapers.) [https://books.google.com/books?id=GiQ7AQAAMAAJ&pg=RA2-PR32&lpg=RA2-PR32&dq=circulation+Poughkeepsie+Eagle+News+1920&source=bl&ots=42-gbCP-tIQ&sig=rUw1FHBEid2kBSrHmkJBPOpPGu0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEW-j\\_2sDwvbrSAhXk5IMKHaYeAPUQ6AEIPTAG#v=onepage&q=circulation%20Poughkeepsie%20Eagle%20News%201920&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=GiQ7AQAAMAAJ&pg=RA2-PR32&lpg=RA2-PR32&dq=circulation+Poughkeepsie+Eagle+News+1920&source=bl&ots=42-gbCP-tIQ&sig=rUw1FHBEid2kBSrHmkJBPOpPGu0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEW-j_2sDwvbrSAhXk5IMKHaYeAPUQ6AEIPTAG#v=onepage&q=circulation%20Poughkeepsie%20Eagle%20News%201920&f=false)

<sup>4</sup> *Poughkeepsie Journal*, May 17, 1820, p.3:2.

<sup>5</sup> Delivered at the Second Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois on March 24, 1842. Roy P. Basler, ed., *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, , 1953) p.271-279. In his speech, Lincoln favored voluntary 'temperance' but opposed coercive 'prohibition.'

<sup>6</sup> Pietistic Protestants included Quakers, Free Will Baptists, Congregationalists, Methodists, Regular Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and some Protestants from the British and African-American communities—all based in the northern United States; some of these groups in the South would rather support the Democrats. A substantial part of the Pietistic Protestants was formed by German Sectarians, Norwegian Lutherans, Swedish Lutherans, and Haugean Norwegians. Though Pietism shared an emphasis on personal behavior with the Puritan movement, and the two are often confused, there were important differences, particularly in the concept of the role of religion in government.[2]

<sup>7</sup> The Cecil Whig (Elkton, Maryland), *Temperance without the Hatchet*, p. 35:1

<sup>8</sup> Committee of Fifty for the Investigation of the Liquor Problem <https://www.alcoholproblemsandsolutions.org/Controversies/Committee-of-Fifty-for-the-Investigation-of-the-Liquor-Problem.html>

<sup>9</sup> Daniel Okrent, *Last Call—The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* (New York: Scribner's Publishers, 2010), p.36

<sup>10</sup> Lisa McGirr, *The War on Alcohol—Prohibition and the Rise of the American State* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2016), particularly Chapter 1, 'The Making of a Radical Reform,' p. 3-37. For particulars about Neal Dow's life-long anti-liquor (and abolitionist) campaigns, see Neal Dow, *The Reminiscences of Neal Dow—Recollections of Eighty Years* (Portland, Maine: The Evening Express Publishing Company, 1898) particularly Chapters VI to XVIII, p. 120-474. For an excellent and entertaining discussion of the development of the Prohibition Movement, see Daniel Okrent, *Last Call—The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*; particularly Chapter 1, 'Thunderous Drums and Protestant Nuns,' pp. 7-23.

- <sup>11</sup> George E. Howard, *Alcohol and Crime: A Study in Social Causation. The American Journal of Sociology*, July 1918, p. 62-63. The quote in the text above is a fair paraphrase of Howard's argument in the Journal article. The original can be found at [https://books.google.com/books?id=\\_2Y5AAAAMAAJ&pg=PR11&lpg=PR11&dq=George+E.+Howard,+The+American+Journal+of+Sociology,+July+1918&source=bl&ots=c8ya7n-NJad&sig=zI0WMdnKlifgRiVDejAPILPY5VI&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiG-9LP7\\_67SAhWL6YMKHfkdBOEQ6AEIjAC#v=onepage&q=George%20E.%20Howard%2C%20The%20American%20Journal%20of%20Sociology%2C%20July%201918&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=_2Y5AAAAMAAJ&pg=PR11&lpg=PR11&dq=George+E.+Howard,+The+American+Journal+of+Sociology,+July+1918&source=bl&ots=c8ya7n-NJad&sig=zI0WMdnKlifgRiVDejAPILPY5VI&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiG-9LP7_67SAhWL6YMKHfkdBOEQ6AEIjAC#v=onepage&q=George%20E.%20Howard%2C%20The%20American%20Journal%20of%20Sociology%2C%20July%201918&f=false)
- <sup>12</sup> John S. Billings, et al. *The Liquor Problem: A summary of Investigations Conducted by the Committee of Fifty, 1893-1903* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1905), pp. 30, 35, 41. Also, see: <https://archive.org/details/liquorproblemsum00bill> and footnote 19 at <https://www.alcoholproblemsandsolutions.org/Controversies/Committee-of-Fifty-for-the-Investigation-of-the-Liquor-Problem.html>
- <sup>13</sup> The popular image of the St. Bernard rescue dog apparently grew from the use of the dogs by the monks of the St Bernard Hospice, in the Great St. Bernard Pass in Switzerland. The brandy-carrying dog image was popularized by an 1820 painting by Edwin Landseer, an English artist.
- <sup>14</sup> James H. Timberlake, *Prohibition and the Progressive Movement* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1966), pp. 42-43.
- <sup>15</sup> James H. Timberlake, *Ibid.*, pp. 48-50.
- <sup>16</sup> James H. Timberlake, *Ibid.*, p. p. 67.
- <sup>17</sup> James H. Timberlake, *Ibid.*, p. p. 68.
- <sup>18</sup> James H. Timberlake, *Ibid.*, pp. pp. 70-71.
- <sup>19</sup> James H. Timberlake, *Ibid.*, pp. pp. 100-102.
- <sup>20</sup> United States Census Bureau, Report of August 26, 1993, Table 4—Population: 1790 to 1990. <https://www.census.gov/population/censusdata/table-4.pdf>
- <sup>21</sup> The Volstead Act, passed by Congress to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment, defined “intoxicating beverage” as one containing one-half of one percent alcohol—a low threshold that came as a surprise to many of the law’s supporters as well as critics.
- <sup>22</sup> Nelson Chesman & Co. Rate Book, p.165. (This publication was used at that time to provide advertisers with independent information about the details of a newspaper’s circulation, ad rates, subscription prices, and printing format.) [https://books.google.com/books?id=LcPJAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA165&lpg=PA165&dq=circulation+Poughkeepsie+Eagle+News+1920&source=bl&ots=e9yTRuEMI-&sig=45qksrNGQJQPOAxIFa-VLSDJqtQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj\\_2sDwvbrSAhXk5IMKHaYeAPUQ6A-EIPzAH#v=onepage&q=circulation%20Poughkeepsie%20Eagle%20News%201920&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=LcPJAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA165&lpg=PA165&dq=circulation+Poughkeepsie+Eagle+News+1920&source=bl&ots=e9yTRuEMI-&sig=45qksrNGQJQPOAxIFa-VLSDJqtQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj_2sDwvbrSAhXk5IMKHaYeAPUQ6A-EIPzAH#v=onepage&q=circulation%20Poughkeepsie%20Eagle%20News%201920&f=false)
- <sup>23</sup> *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*, Friday, January 16, 1920, headlines, pp 1,5.
- <sup>24</sup> *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*, Saturday, January 17, 1920, headlines, p.1.

# The Temperance Poem: “Oh Rumseller”

by Benjamin J. Hall

*This poem comes from the Dutchess County Historical Society collections. Margaret Duff, descendant of Benjamin J. Hall (1825-1896), recently unearthed the poem from the diaries and papers that she donated to the Society.<sup>1</sup> The authorship and date are not entirely clear. It would seem from the words “copied by BJH” that Benjamin Hall was not the original author of this poem. We obtain further evidence in the mystery from Margaret Duff’s persistent research. She has found that, while there is no date for the document, it would appear to have been stored with papers from the period in Hall’s life when he was at the Normal School in Albany, 1847-1848. Thus, it may have been a school copying exercise. This is quite early for a poem or song on Temperance, but certainly not unique.*

*Hall returned to Clinton Corners and spent the remainder of his life as a farmer. The diaries reflect Hall’s abiding interest in Temperance as, for example, when in 1870 he attended two meetings on Temperance that he recorded in his diary. And again in 1874 he did the same:*

*1870-May 8 Sun. pm went to 1st Baptist meeting house to temperance meeting. Mr. Moore lectured.*

*1870-June 10 Sun. went to temperance meeting*

*1874-March 3 Tue. Went to Town Meeting — the issue was Rum and Temperance. The rum ticket got about 70 majority.*

*1874-March 2 went to town meeting...Was elected commissioner of excise on the temperance and republican tickets. S. Ambler and M. Conklin are the other ones elected.*

*In 1876 at the town hall meeting, Benjamin Hall was on the Temperance ticket for Supervisor, but he received only 70 votes out of 550 making a landslide vote of almost 400 for rum. According to his diaries, he remained actively engaged in Temperance until 1890, a few years before his death when, presumably, he was not well.*

*A diary entry near the end of that period :*

*1889-May 3 Fri. At night the Junior Prohibition club of the town of Washington held their meeting here. Mr. Charles Boise gave a*

*very good address and there were several pieces read or spoken — all good, also very good singing. The next meeting is at Mrs. Mary Humphreys May 25th.*

*Temperance, therefore, appears to have been a lifelong cause for this upright farmer from Dutchess County. — Candace Lewis, editor*

### Oh Rumseller

My home was once a cheerless place  
Where tear drops oft did start  
From eyes that beamed with love for me  
And tenderness of heart  
My wife and children all became  
The sport of grief and woe  
For brandy, rum and gin alas  
Had proved my overthrow

Oh rumseller  
Don't you cry for me  
I'm going to sign the temperance pledge  
And gain my liberty.

(2) For fifteen years I patronized  
The alehouse day and night  
The landlord greeted me with joy  
And hailed me with delight  
I spent my money at his bar  
Until my cash ran dry  
And then he turned me out of door  
In drunkenness to die

(chorus)

(3) But now I've signed the pledge at last  
And gained my liberty  
From brandy, whiskey, ale and gin  
I am forever free  
No more I'll tread the drunkard's path  
Nor be the willing slave  
Of those who send their victims forth  
To fill the drunkard's grave

(chorus)

(4) My home is now a paradise  
Of daughter, sons and wife  
Around whose center cluster all  
The bliss of social life  
Farewell the maddening bowls no more  
Bewilders thought and brain  
I've dashed it from my lips and found  
My liberty again  
So, Oho rumseller, etc

(unreadable word) by \_\_\_\_\_  
copied by BJ (unreadable, but possibly H ?? )

---

<sup>1</sup> From the Diary of Benjamin J. Hall, The Hall Collection at the Dutchess County Historical Society, Box 8, Item 382. The research for this article was done by Margaret Duff, descendant of Benjamin J. Hall and donor of the Hall Collection.



# Prohibition Draws New York Gangsters to the Hudson Valley

*by Eleanor Rubin Charwat*

During the early years of Prohibition, law-breaking was done on a small-scale in the Hudson Valley. Residents made their own bootleg liquor, transported it or sold it to friends and neighbors.<sup>1</sup> Even more drank the whisky with little compunction and often a shiver of excitement. Farmers made bootleg liquor from their crops of corn, barley and rye, or from their grape and apple orchards. Some rented out their barns to “outsiders” to make and store the illegal beverages. These activities helped many local farmers survive the Depression. Saloon owners turned their bars into speakeasies where only recognized patrons were allowed to enter. Dozens of speakeasies lined Main Street in Poughkeepsie and were dotted all over Dutchess and other Hudson River counties. Pharmacists sold legal medicines containing alcohol in the front of their drug stores, and illegal “medicine” at the back door. Pilots in small planes, boat owners, car and truck drivers transported the illegal booze in their vehicles. Train employees exchanged sacks of sugar and malt for money on train platforms.

But, by 1928, things changed when big time New York City gangsters expanded their markets. Dutch Schultz, Legs Diamond and Salvatore Maranzano brought bootlegging to a whole new level in the Hudson Valley. They manufactured bootleg liquor on a much greater scale, transported liquor from Canada to Manhattan along what was called “The Bootleg Trail,” and intimidated local distributors to turn over their routes to them. Sometimes they killed those who resisted. They ran speakeasies by taking over local establishments with threats and violence. Yet many people looked on these criminals as heroes. As William Kennedy wrote in his novel *Legs* about Diamond: the bootlegger shaped “the dream that you could grow up in America and shoot your way to glory and riches.”<sup>2</sup>

Dutch Schultz and Legs Diamond came from poor, immigrant families and grew up in New York City. Schultz, whose real name was Arthur Flegenheimer, was born in 1902 to German, Jewish parents. To fit his mobster persona, Flegenheimer took the name Dutch Schultz after an old-time Bronx criminal. Jack “Legs” Diamond was born in 1897 to Irish Catholic immigrants. Legs earned his nickname from his skill as a dancer and his

speed at running from the law. He was “flashy, cocky, sometimes loud and always deadly.”<sup>3</sup> He liked drinking, women, and nice clothes. Salvatore Maranzano was born in Sicily in 1886 and settled in Brooklyn soon after World War I. He used a real estate office as a front for his criminal activities. He was nicknamed “Little Caesar” because of his fascination with Julius Caesar and the Roman Empire. He became the head of the Cosa Nostra and was murdered in 1931 in Manhattan.

Dutch didn’t “dress for success” like Legs, but wore old dirty clothes and cheap suits. At one of his trials, he told reporters “I never bought a silk shirt in my life. Only a sucker will pay \$15 or \$20 for a silk shirt.”<sup>4</sup> However in a nod to fashion, he did sport a gray fedora as his sartorial trademark.



**Figure 1.** Dutch Schultz (1902-1935), waiting for the verdict, early 1930s. Schultz was tried twice for tax evasion by prosecutor, Thomas Dewey, and twice acquitted. Photograph. <http://www.google.com/search?tbm=isch&source=hp&biw=1029&bih=725&q=dutch+schultz> (accessed Aug 21, 2017).

In their teens, both young men dropped out of school, hung out with neighborhood gangs and got in trouble with the law. Each served a year in a reformatory, their only jail time during their long criminal careers. They started with burglaries and robberies, and moved on to gambling, bookmaking, hijacking, extortion and murder. Both men were themselves murdered before they turned 35—Diamond in 1931 in Albany; Schultz in 1935 in Newark. Prohibition offered new business opportunities for these gangsters. Schultz became a driver for

Arnold Rothstein, one of the biggest gangsters in America. He started as a bartender in the Bronx where he then opened a chain of speakeasies. His nickname was “The Beer Baron of the Bronx.” But, when he moved into Diamond’s turf in Manhattan, gang warfare broke out. Rothstein was murdered as were many other gang members. The Italian gangs headed by Maranzano, Lucky Luciano and Frank Costello began moving in to Schulz’s and Diamond’s turf. Always an entrepreneur, Schultz expanded his criminal activity into labor racketeering, the numbers racket in Harlem, and prizefighting. He was a master of payoffs to public officials and police in New York City. He also admitted that though he did a lot of “lousy things,” he never made a living off women and narcotics.<sup>5</sup> Legs did.



**Figure 2.** Jack “Legs” Diamond (1897-1931), c. 1930. Photograph. *en.wikipedia.org* (accessed Aug 21, 2017).

### *Gangsters Moving North*

In 1928, both Schultz and Diamond sought “refuge” from the New York City violence in the Catskills. Legs’ brother Eddie suffered from tuberculosis and the mountain air was suggested by his doctor. Legs needed a place to recover from his latest (fourth) shooting. He took over a complex of farm buildings in Acra, near Cairo, in Greene County. He brought his wife Alice and mistress Kiki Roberts, a Ziegfield Follies dancer, with

him. Another mistress was conveniently located in Saugerties. Schultz established a hideout in Phoenicia where he operated several stills to make bootleg liquor for the New York trade. One was the Black Swan in Rifton.

Gun battles between Schultz' men and Diamond's men occurred on the back roads and bridges of Ulster County, according to John Conway, author of "Dutch Schultz and his Lost Catskills' Treasure."<sup>6</sup> I spoke with a man whose grandfather was shot in Kingston during one of these altercations, and carried that gangster bullet in his body for the rest of his life.<sup>7</sup>

### *Dutch Schultz in Dutchess County*

In Dutchess County, Schultz operated a gigantic bootlegging operation, making liquor in an old cow barn in Pine Plains, part of the Homestead Farm owned by a former New York City policeman, Patrick Ryan. Steel reinforced concrete, valves, and pipes were scattered through the property and were connected by tunnels and bunkers to house the 2,000-gallon stills. Located near a rail line that carried the bootleg liquor to New York City, the property got water from spring houses, used a swimming pool as a cooling reservoir, and hired a revolving group of immigrants so "nobody knew too much."

In October 1932, after numerous failed attempts, Federal agents raided the Homestead Farm and confiscated: "The two giant stills, two high pressure boilers, over 15,000 gallons of mash, 10,000 pounds of sugar, two Ford trucks, one Reo truck and a Lincoln sedan." The agents returned two days later and destroyed all of the equipment. Two immigrant workers who needed interpreters in court were arrested, but not Ryan or Schultz. It was "one of the most extensive and elaborate layouts ever found in this part of Dutchess County" according to an article in the Pine Plains Register on October 20, 1932.<sup>8</sup> Schultz was never arrested for this bootlegging operation, though he was arrested and tried ten times for extortion, murder, and threats of violence. His high priced lawyers always got him off, usually because witnesses were too afraid to testify or conveniently "disappeared".

In 1934, Thomas Dewey, an ambitious lawyer in the U.S. Attorney's Office and later a special prosecutor, vowed to "put away" these gangsters. He used tax evasion charges as his method, a method that had worked so well with Al Capone in Chicago. But even this tactic didn't work. In 1935, Schultz was acquitted in two jury trials, the first in Syracuse and the second in the small Adirondack village of Malone. Schultz retreated to Newark where he was shot in a restaurant bathroom. Speculation is that other gangsters,

alarmed at Schultz' rash threats to kill Dewey, silenced him. His dying words were transcribed and analyzed to see if they gave a clue as to where Schultz has hidden his purported buried treasure of millions of dollars. People have been digging up Phoenicia and Pine Plains for years, but haven't found anything!

### *Legs Diamond on the West Side of the Hudson River*

Legs Diamond had a more violent and extensive history in the Hudson Valley—on the west side of the Hudson, from Catskill south to Newburgh and the east side from Red Hook to Beacon. Like Schultz, Diamond supplied bootleg liquor to restaurants and clubs in New York City and then the Hudson Valley. In 1930, Diamond decided to monopolize the booze and protection rackets in the Catskills where thousands of tourists poured in during the spring and summer.<sup>9</sup> He used local inn owner, Paul Quattrocchi, and Angelo Benedetto, a soda bottler from Cairo, as his associates. “His gang of beer runners and musclemen terrorized local bootleggers and roadhouse proprietors, beat up truck drivers and stole whole cargoes of beer and whiskey.”<sup>10</sup> Stills were demolished with machine guns if their owners didn't sell to Diamond.

To counter his reputation as a thug, Diamond was generous to the locals. When he and his mistress Kiki went to the Catskill movie theater, they treated all of the kids to popcorn and candy. He also helped build the church in Acra, assisted several impoverished farmers in paying their bills and established a \$100 credit at a Catskill department store for a Greene County woman who lost her clothes in a fire.<sup>11</sup> One local newspaper even described Diamond as “the Robin Hood of Greene County.”<sup>12</sup>

In Newburgh, Diamond operated a speakeasy at the historic North Plank Road Tavern on the first floor, slot machines and card games on the second, and a brothel on the third. Bathtub gin, made on the premises, was mixed with Gordon's Gin, until the Gordon company changed its bottles to make them harder to counterfeit. Tom Costa, who bought the tavern in 1978, discovered a trap door in the kitchen closet that led to the basement where he found a moonshine cache of applejack, rum and gin, and a mash pit. He also discovered three guns in the roof of the outhouse—two .38 Colt revolvers and a Stevens 410 shotgun pistol. Anthony “Mitch” Nixon, the tavern owner, was a front man for Louis “the Gat,” Diamond's capo in Dutchess and Orange Counties.<sup>13</sup> Diamond also supplied bootleg liquor to Paul Cavaccini's grocery and Italian restaurant in Beacon

and taverns in New Hamburg and the village of Wappingers Falls.<sup>14</sup> Diamond had business dealings with Al Capone in Chicago and might have recommended the Catskills to him, because in 1930 Kingston real estate agents reported that the Capone organization was looking at property in Tannersville. Capone never did come to the Hudson Valley.

A saloon keeper named Harry Western, who ran the Chateau Inn at Lake Katrine on the Kingston-Saugerties Road, tried to play both sides of the law by giving tips to the Federal Prohibition Bureau as well as being a distributor for Legs Diamond. After attending a big bootleggers' party at a Haines Point hotel on August 22, 1930, Western disappeared. Area law enforcement officials were unsuccessful in finding Western, either dead or alive. Soon after, New York City police led a raid on a Brooklyn apartment rented by Diamond, where they found a literal arsenal of weapons: bombs, pistols, grenades, bullet-proof vests and machine guns. Police also found Harry Western's blood-stained Buick in a garage across the street where one of Diamond's men had driven it from Haines Point and hadn't yet disposed of it into the East River as he had been ordered.<sup>15</sup>



**Figure 3.** *North Plank Road Tavern Photograph by E Charwat. Collection of Eleanor Rubin Charwat.*



**Figure 4.** Tom Costa at the bar of North Plank Road Tavern. Photograph by E Charwat. Collection of Eleanor Rubin Charwat.



**Figure 5.** Old and new gin bottles, North Plank Road Tavern. Photograph by E Charwat. Collection of Tom Costa.

A few days later Diamond absconded to Europe, ostensibly for a cure for his stomach and liver troubles, but actually to buy narcotics for his new business in the United States. When he returned home, he was greeted as a celebrity and a hero, as a “friend of individual liberty, for the right to drink what he pleases”<sup>16</sup> by a group of society women in Philadelphia. But not all women were fans. At a Dutchess County League of Women Voters meeting in October 1930 in Hyde Park, Miss Rhoda Hinkley accused gangs in Greene County of “terrorizing both the Republican and Democratic parties” by threatening county residents from attending political meetings. The situation there is “frightful” she added.<sup>17</sup>

Things started to go downhill for Legs in 1931.

- In Catskill, on April 18, Legs and his gang held up a truck driver named Grover Parks with a load of applejack and his 17-year-old passenger James Duncan. Parks was kidnapped, tortured and beaten, but was able to escape.
- Legs was shot for the fourth time at the Aratoga Inn in Greene County on April 27. He survived again.



**Figure 6.** *Guns found on premises, North Plank Road Tavern. Photograph by E Charwat. Collection of Eleanor Rubin Charwat.*

- On May 1, a raid on the Barmann brewery in Kingston run by Legs, revealed a huge operation that ran rubber hoses through the sewer lines to carry the beer a half mile away to be bottled and trucked away. Rumor is that the local fire department donated the hoses and that, if people allowed the hose to run through their houses, they could put in a tap for their own consumption!
- On July 20, Catskill police captured members of Dutch Schultz' gang as they lay in wait to ambush Diamond near his home in Acra.
- Greene County had had enough. Both the Catskill and Cairo Chambers of Commerce passed resolutions to urge the State Attorney General and Governor Franklin Roosevelt to drive all racketeers out of the county.

- A grand jury indicted Legs and his gang for conspiracy and violation of Prohibition. He was acquitted in a trial in Troy, but found guilty of violating Prohibition in New York City, sentenced to four years in prison and a \$11,000 fine. He was out on bail of \$57,000 in August.

Another trial for the Duncan kidnapping in Troy ended in acquittal on December 17 when Cairo residents refused to testify that Legs was in the area at the time of the crime. He celebrated that night with friends, went to bed drunk in an Albany boarding house and was shot dead, while sleeping. No one was arrested for the crime.

### *Salvatore Maranzano and the Cosa Nostra in Dutchess County*

The deaths of Schultz and Diamond opened the door for the Italian organized crime network or Cosa Nostra to take over illegal activities in New York City and the Hudson Valley. Salvatore Maranzano, considered the “boss of Mafia bosses”, operated farms in Wappingers and Hopewell Junction in 1929. He “persuaded” Wappingers hotel owner Rocco Germano to sign over the deed to his farm and then double crossed him on a bootlegging deal. In retaliation, on March 20, 1929, Germano stole one of Maranzano’s alcohol-laden trucks, shot it up and abandoned it on Main Street in Wappingers. Dutchess County Sheriff Rockefeller warned that any New York City gang warfare would be “met with all the forces the county could muster.”<sup>18</sup> After Maranzano’s death in 1931, Germano sued Maranzano’s estate to get back his farm, but Supreme Court Justice Aldrich dismissed the case on the grounds of speculation.

Things got even murkier in April 1929 when the body of an unidentified man was pulled from Binnywater Pond in Hopewell Junction (near Wiccopee), weighted down with a sewer grate, chains and twine. The pond was on the Harrigan Farm, rented by Maranzano and the site of a prior raid on a huge bootleg distillery. The body in the pond was never identified, but the sewer grate was. It was made by the Poughkeepsie Foundry.

On September 11, 1939, the front page headline in the *Poughkeepsie Eagle News* read “Wappingers Falls Racketeer Slain by 3 Men in New York Office, Was Under Investigation in the County.”<sup>19</sup> The Dutchess County investigation involved the Binnywater pond murder and Maranzano’s Brooklyn alcohol ring “whose tentacles have established an already murderous hold in Dutchess.” Maranzano’s nephew, Gaetano Quaggliotto, 31, who was being held in the Dutchess County jail for a probation violation, claimed that Dutch Schultz was responsible for his uncle’s death.<sup>20</sup>

Dutchess County District Attorney John Schwartz recommended a new pistol permitting process after the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* revealed the widespread issuance of such permits to Maranzano and other gangsters. Edward J. MacClelland, a prominent Poughkeepsie merchant, and Joseph Apicella, a Wappingers Falls pharmacist, signed Maranzano's pistol permit.<sup>21</sup> Maranzano's protégé Joseph Bonanno and Lucky Luciano took over the Cosa Nostra. Maranzano is portrayed in *The Godfather*, the *Valachi Papers*, *Boardwalk Empire* and many other films.

### Conclusion

But the pursuit of bootleggers didn't end with Prohibition. In 1938 the U.S. Attorney prosecuted a conspiracy trial in New York against thirty-one defendants for conducting a vast bootlegging operation in Dutchess County and defrauding the Federal government of more than \$2.5 million in



**Figure 7.** *Salvatore Maranzano (1886-1931), c. 1930. Photograph. nationalcrimesyndicate.com (accessed Aug 21, 2017).*

liquor taxes. At least three of the defendants were connected with the Dutchess County Sheriff's office, including Henry Wicker, the head of the Dutchess County jail. Frank Castellano, one of the gang of bootleggers, claimed to have paid Wicker \$100 to \$200 a week in "hush money" outside a Poughkeepsie drug store. Others indicted were a Poughquag postman and the Stanford town justice who selected the sites for the stills all over Dutchess County—on farms in Millbrook, Rhinebeck, Bengall, Pawling, Stanford, and Red Hook. Castellano would warn of impending raids by saying "get the cows out" which referred to the Bengall farm or "get the sheep out" meaning the farm in Rhinebeck.

As a result of the Federal inquiry, Dutchess County Sheriff Carroll resigned. Judge Vincent Leibell sentenced Wicker to a year and a day in the Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary. The ring's New York City bosses got from two to four years in prison. The judge warned Dutchess County farmers that in the future they would have to regard with suspicion the renting of barns by strangers and told them to view such overtures as the "arrival of smallpox".<sup>22</sup>

Thus ended a nefarious era of Hudson Valley history.

- <sup>1</sup> The Material for this article comes from books, newspaper articles, and stories from Hudson Valley resident which they told the author.
- <sup>2</sup> Quoted in T. J. English, *Paddy Whacked: The Untold Story of the Irish-American Gangsters*, (Regan Books, Harper-Collins, 2005), p.128. Author William Kennedy lives in the Dove Street house where Diamond was murdered.
- <sup>3</sup> Gary Levine, *Jack "Legs" Diamond: Anatomy of a Gangster*, (Fleishmann's, NY: Purple Mountain Press, 1979), p.11.
- <sup>4</sup> Paul Sann, *Kill the Dutchman*, ( New Rochelle, NY: Arlington House, 1971) p. 238.
- <sup>5</sup> Sann, p. 21.
- <sup>6</sup> John Conway, *Dutch Schultz and his Lost Catskills' Treasure*, (Fleishmann's, NY: Purple Mountain Press, 2000), p.19.
- <sup>7</sup> This story was told to the author by a man attending my talk in Fishkill, October 20, 2014.
- <sup>8</sup> The largest raid in the county occurred on a farm in the Camelot area of the Town of Poughkeepsie on July 25, 1932
- <sup>9</sup> Patrick Downey, *Legs Diamond: Gangster*, (2011), pp.78-80.
- <sup>10</sup> Levine, p.73.
- <sup>11</sup> Levine, p.60.
- <sup>12</sup> English, p.186.
- <sup>13</sup> Author's interview with tavern owner Tom Costa, March 26, 2017
- <sup>14</sup> Wappingers Historical Society members
- <sup>15</sup> Levine, p.73.
- <sup>16</sup> Quoted in Levine, p.84.
- <sup>17</sup> *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*, Nov 1, 1930, p. 1.
- <sup>18</sup> *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*, March 20, 1929
- <sup>19</sup> *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*, September 11, 1931, p.1.
- <sup>20</sup> *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*, September 15, 1931, p.1.
- <sup>21</sup> *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*, September 14, 1931, p.1.
- <sup>22</sup> *Poughkeepsie Evening Star*, May 18, 1939.



# The Raid on Dutch Schultz's Establishment in Pine Plains, New York

*by Lydia Higginson*

Tucked away in rural Pine Plains, New York, was an extensive Prohibition complex of underground bunkers and tunnels created by infamous mobster Dutch Schultz. He used the facility to supply his base of criminal activity in New York City, as illegal alcohol was in high demand. Producing bootleg liquor north of New York City where Dutch could easily set up stills, find labor, bribe local police, and still ship the quantities back to the metropolitan area worked well for this criminal master mind. When the operation was raided on October 17, 1932, two 2,000 gallon stills, 18,000 pounds of mash and 10,000 pounds of sugar were found and destroyed. Only two men were caught; the rest escaped through the intricate, extensive complex of tunnels.



**Figure 1.** *Mugshot of Dutch Schultz (1902-1935), 1931. Collection of Dutch's Spirits, Pine Plains, NY.*

By 1935, Dutch had relocated in Newark, New Jersey, across the Hudson River from his home town of New York City. He did this because Mayor La Guardia had made it clear that he was not welcome in the big city. One day Dutch was eating a meal in a chophouse when men, presumably gangsters, came in and shot him. His passing was important enough to warrant a telegram being sent to the FBI director, John Edgar Hoover.

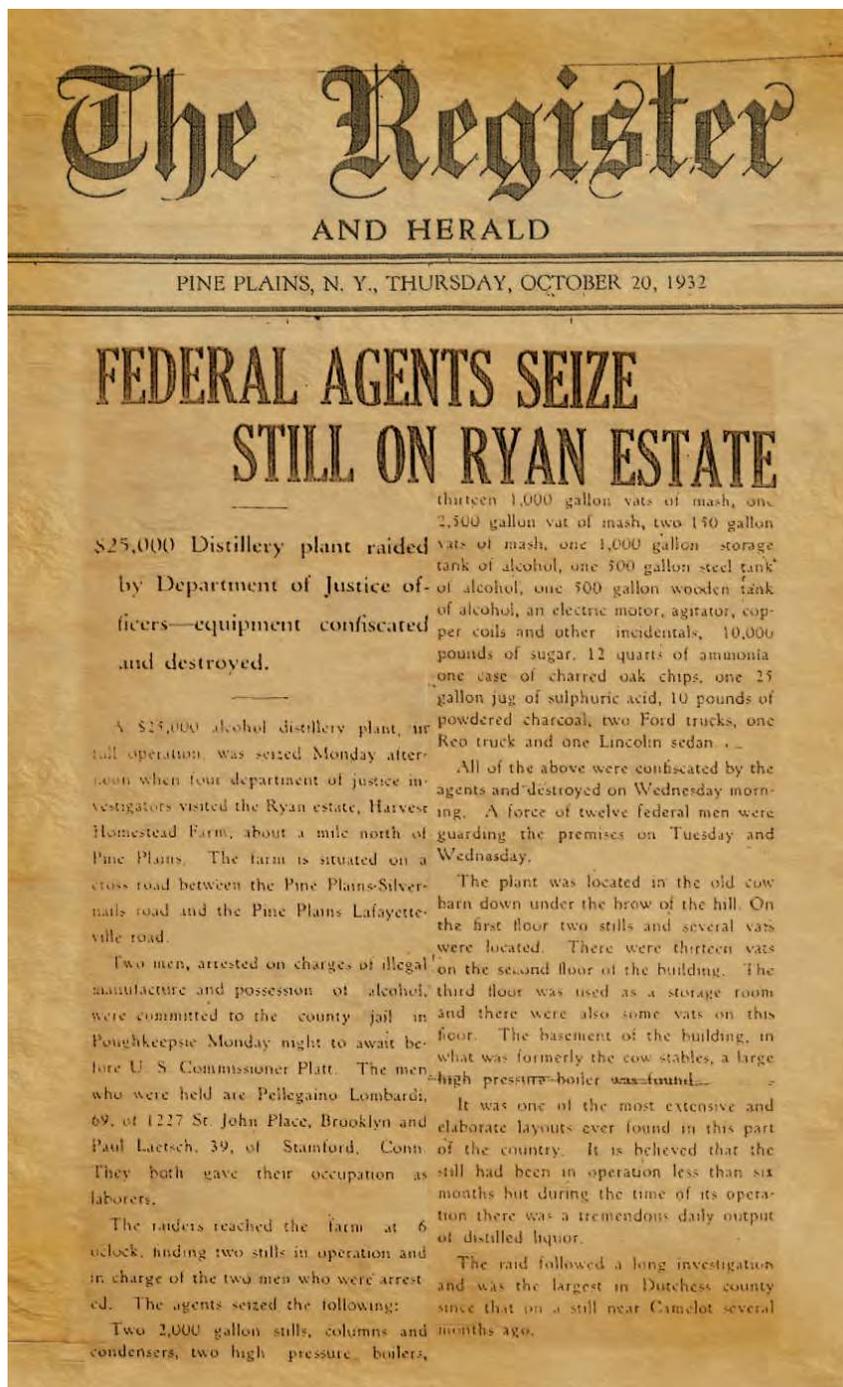


Figure 2. The Register, front page of newspaper, (October 20, 1932). Collection of Dutch's Spirits, Pine Plains, NY.<sup>1</sup>

Today, the Pine Plains site once occupied by Dutch Schultz for his distillery is a modern tavern and tourist destination, Dutch's Spirits.

## The Register AND HERALD

PINE PLAINS, N.Y., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1932

### FEDERAL AGENTS SEIZE STILL ON RYAN ESTATE

**\$25,000 Distillery plant raided by  
Department of Justice Officers –  
equipment confiscated and destroyed**

A \$25,000 alcohol distillery plant in full operation was seized Monday afternoon when four department of justice investigators visited the Ryan estate, Harvest Homestead Farm, about a mile north of Pine Plains. The farm is situated on a crossroad between the Pine Plains-Silvernails road and the Pine Plains Lafayetteville road.

Two men, arrested on charges of illegal manufacture and possession of alcohol were committed to the county jail in Poughkeepsie Monday night to await appearances before U. S. Commissioner Platt. The men who were held are Pellegaino Lombardi, 69 of 1227 St. John Place, Brooklyn and Paul Laetsch, 39, of Stamford, Conn.

What was found were thirteen 1,000 gallon vats of mash, one 2,500 gallon vat of mash, two 150 gallon of mash, one 1,000 gallon storage tank of alcohol, one 500 gallon steel tank of alcohol, an electric motor, agitator, copper coils and other incidentals, 10,000 pounds of sugar, 12 quarts of ammonia, one case of charred oak chips, one 25 gallon jug of sulphuric acid, 10 pounds of powered charcoal, two Ford trucks, one Reo truck and one Lincoln sedan.

All of the above were confiscated by the agents and destroyed on Wednesday morning. A force of twelve federal men were guarding the premises on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The plant was located in the old cow barn down under the brow of the hill. On the first floor two stills and several vats were located. There were thir-

teen vats on the second floor of the building. The third floor was used as a storage room and there were also some vats on this floor. The basement of the building, in what was formerly the cow stables, a large high pressure boiler was found.

It was one of the most extensive and elaborate layouts ever found in this part of the county.

## STILL IS SEIZED AT PINE PLAINS

### Federal Agents Also Raid Two Places in City



Figure 3. Newspaper clipping describing the raid on Dutch Schultz's establishment in Pine Plains, NY, on October 17, 1932. No information on the newspaper is available.

Federal Agents who of late have shown some apathy in their local activities returned to the vicinity with a vengeance yesterday. Seized a \$25,000 alcohol distillery plant in Pine Plains and "knocked off" two places in this city. The Pine Plains job, located on the Ryan Estate and known as the Harvest Homestead Farm, yielded two arrests but at least five more got away agents said today. The raid was made by the Department of Justice investigators working out of the Office of Prohibition Administration.(the remainder of the article is continued on another page)



**Figure 4.** Unused swimming pool at the top of the hill, behind the main house, at Dutch Schultz's property, Pine Plains, NY., c. 1932. Photograph. Collection of Dutch's Spirits, Pine Plains, NY. This never-used pool was the ostensible excuse for bringing huge amounts of cement onto the property. In fact, the cement was used to build underground tunnels and other structures important in the manufacture of illegal alcohol.



**Figure 5.** Spring house and lower chicken coop at Dutch Schultz's property, Pine Plains, NY., c. 1932. Photograph. Collection of Dutch's Spirits, Pine Plains, NY.



**Figure 6.** *Two bunkers at Dutch Schultz's property, Pine Plains, NY., c. 2016.  
Photograph. Collection of Dutch's Spirits, Pine Plains, NY*

---

<sup>1</sup> With thanks to Dennis Dengel for transcribing the difficult-to-read newspaper articles.

# Bootleggers at the Airport

*John M. Miller*

*The following is an excerpt from a speech given by Captain John M. Miller at Dutchess Community College on Wednesday, November 28, 1990. This short essay was sent to us by Patty Moore, our esteemed former Executive Director. She and her husband, Robin Moore, are both natives of Dutchess County. Robin is the grandson of John Miller, aviator and author. He is also the grandson of Mayor Sague, mentioned in the article.*

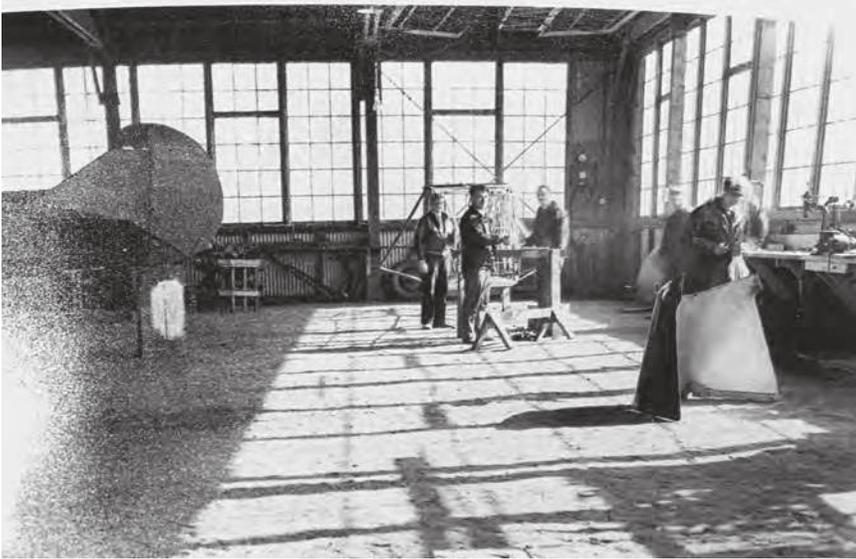
— Candace Lewis, editor

Well, I'm getting a little away from the history of aviation in Dutchess County. I said a little while ago that Mayor Sague, in 1927, established an airport in Red Oaks Mill, which is now a residential area, right at the corner of Spackenkill Road and Vassar Road. I took it over and operated that field for several years. At that time there was an 80 by 100 foot hanger and the hanger stood where the bank is now. This is during the Depression, 1931-1933, and a terrible depression was going on. It was very hard to make a living in aviation.

Well, nobody had any money except the well-known bootleggers. The bootleggers were using a certain type of airplane, a new standard bi-plane, to carry whisky in from Canada by the ton. They would fly across the border and land in some little hay field this side of the border, go back and get another load, two or three times a day. And they were making huge fortunes doing this. Well, they were the only ones who had any money in the whole country. And I'm not kidding. Well, they were constantly bending the airplanes out of shape, and it was enough to keep me busy in that shop—I had as many as seven men rebuilding airplanes for bootleggers. They all paid with cash.

One day I was standing in there—I've never had a drink in my life and I never expect to have one—and I didn't approve of Prohibition, I thought it was terrible. Prohibition is what established our present-day organized crime, by the way, that's how it got started.

Well, there were two bootleggers in there, with two guards standing beside them. Everybody had two guns, one under each shoulder in a holster. Four men, eight guns, and probably a half-million dollars in their pockets. A little lady came in. I don't know her name to this day, but she was quite



**Figure 1.** *The interior of the Poughkeepsie Airport, Red Oaks Mill, Town of Poughkeepsie, New York, with men working on construction and repair of airplanes. 1930s. Photograph by Jack Ray. Collection of C. Peter Colomello.*

well known in Poughkeepsie. She was the head of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, which was called the WCTU. We used to call it the “We See To You.” Anyway, she came in from the office, the girl in the office said, “Mister Miller is out in the hanger; go out there and look for him.” So, she came out and asked, “Is Mister Miller here?” and I said, “I’m Mister Miller.” These four men were standing right there, and she said, “I’m from the Women’s Christian Temperance Union and would like to know if you would give us a contribution to help preserve the Volstead Act, to keep it from being repealed.”

Well, of course, the bootleggers didn’t want it repealed. The last thing they wanted was the Volstead Act repealed—that’s what kept them in business. So, they looked at me, and I looked at them, and I said, “I think we can help you out,” and I spoke to these men and said, “How about giving her a C-note?” A C-note being a hundred dollar bill. Not much difference to those fellows. So they, with a twinkle in their eye, they could hardly keep from laughing, they pulled big wads of bills out of their pockets and peeled off a hundred dollars apiece and gave it to her. Well, she was completely floored. She expected to get, maybe get, five dollars. Well, that lady used to come back every month, sometimes more. In the meantime, the word got around to the bootleggers and they were giving me hundred dollar

bills to give to the lady. So she was really making plenty of money, coming out to my field. She just thought it was an airplane factory, and she didn't know what was going on at all. That's a fact. The bootleggers were kept in business until the Volstead Act was repealed and it put them out of business—and me, too. So I was left out of business in 1933, and I had to give up the airport and go to work for an airline.



# Aerial Rum-Runners and Their D-25 Biplanes

*by Charles Peter Colomello*

Iberville, Quebec sits about twenty miles north of the border with the United States, and locating it from an airplane presents no navigational challenges.<sup>1</sup> The town lies on the east bank of the Richelieu River, a visual road that flyers can follow north from its origin at Lake Champlain. This simplicity of navigation was not lost on the pilots who flew in and out of Canada during the 1920s and 1930s, illegally smuggling alcohol. In fact, the whole landscape between Montreal and New York City was ready made for bootleggers, for it lay astride an almost-continuous, broad, and direct waterway comprising the Hudson River, Lake Champlain, and the Richelieu. Together, they seemed like an aerial, nautical, and terrestrial turnpike, practically designed for bootleggers during and after Prohibition.

At some point during the daylight hours of March 29 and March 31 of 1933, a New Standard D-25, registered by the Department of Commerce as NC28K, landed in Iberville on the farm of Zoel Guillotte. The plane's large front cockpit was then loaded with burlap bags of liquor, and the pilot took off. The plane followed the well-travelled aerial "rum highway" south into the United States, probably headed for a "rented" farmer's field on the US side of the border for the delivery of its cargo. But eventually, the plane arrived at the airport at Glens Falls, New York, which had become a well-established stop for aerial smugglers during the last decade or more.

Perhaps the only thing noteworthy about this plane's flights in late March 1933 was that five months later the aircraft's rum-running career would be ended. Reports from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, whose officers had witnessed the loading of the New Standard at the Guillotte farm, made their way to Customs agents in Ogdensburg, New York. On August 18, the US Customs Service at Glens Falls caught and seized the plane.

At the time of its seizure, NC28K had much in common with other New Standard D-25s, for by 1933 the model was perhaps the most common liquor-hauling aircraft flying the Canada-New York route. NC28K was owned (at least on paper) by William Keeler of Saratoga Springs, New York. Records show it had been rebuilt in May 1932 by Giroflyers Ltd. of Poughkeepsie, New York. Tip-offs of the aircraft's use as a rumrunner were its

recorded owners' addresses (within flying distance of the Canadian border) and this history of maintenance at Poughkeepsie Airport's Giroflyers shop.<sup>2</sup>

Besides, the New Standard D-25 was ideal for smuggling liquor, with its ability to carry nearly 1,400 pounds in a broad open-front cockpit originally designed to carry four paying customers in two rows. An angled duralumin structure constituted the fuselage, and conventional wood and plywood were used for the wings. It was rugged and, what was most important, readily repairable. Its wide-track, steel, shock-strut landing gear, usually fitted with Bendix wheels and brakes, made possible short landings and take-offs in rough fields. Often described as a "sesquiplane" (a biplane with a larger upper wing), the New Standard had a broad 45-foot upper wing and a smaller 32 ½ foot lower wing, both with a Gottingen 533 airfoil. With its visually distinctive semi-elliptical wings, the D-25 could certainly lift a load. And fitted with a reliable and powerful Wright J5 "Whirlwind" engine of 220 horsepower, the machine could also remain in service for relatively long periods of time. Charles Healy Day and Ivan Gates of the New Standard Aircraft Company in Paterson, New Jersey, had not only created a "new standard" for passenger hopping in 1928, but (knowingly or not) they had created what would become the closest thing to a "standard" liquor hauling aircraft of the late Prohibition era and beyond.<sup>3</sup>



**Figure 1.** *A D-25 at the Poughkeepsie Airport, n.d. Photograph, originally from the John S. "Jack" Ray collection, found in the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome Museum archives. Collection of C. Peter Colomello.*

### *Sky-Roads Free and Untrammelled*

The New Standard D-25 was certainly not the first aircraft to be utilized in smuggling alcohol into the United States. Aerial “rum running” had begun almost as soon as US Prohibition commenced in 1920. As a supplement to the speedboats transporting liquor from “Rum Row” off the New Jersey and Long Island coasts, pilots began to haul liquor using mainly Curtiss F and H flying boats sold as surplus after World War I. By the middle of the 1920s, there were even airlines, such as Aeromarine Airways, that doubled as liquor smugglers.

Newspaper columnist Bert Acosta, though not the most reliable reporter of the era, had himself been an aerial rum-runner and he wrote affectionately on the role of the airplane after passage of the Eighteenth Amendment:

[The racketeer] reasoned—and rightly—that the sky roads were free and untrammelled, there were no limits to his versatility in the heavens and, furthermore, what better way to get into this new liquor-smuggling racket than through the medium of the flying machine?<sup>4</sup>

Although often overlooked in the triumphant narratives of aviation’s growth during the 1920s and 1930s, the airplane’s use as a smuggling vehicle and its ability to render political borders meaningless are vital to our understanding of aviation’s golden age.

By 1925, established “routes” for aerial smuggling had emerged. The previously mentioned “Rum Row” off of the northeastern coasts, the Montreal-New York corridor, the Ontario-Detroit route, the Cleveland-Lake Erie route, the Bahamas-Florida over-water routes, the Texas border, and the west coast California routes were the main avenues of entry of illegal alcohol into the United States. Perhaps hundreds of other, smaller pathways throughout the border states of the north and south also existed. These routes were often, as with the Montreal-New York corridor, used by automobile smugglers, boat smugglers, and finally aerial smugglers concurrently. In most circumstances, aircraft were used along with automobile transportation over the length of a route.

Routes and methods had been fairly well worked out as early as 1922. This is evidenced by the crash, on May 15 of that year, of a Curtiss-rebuilt Standard J-1 on the McCall farm in Croton-on-Hudson, New York. After seeing the plane fly low and crash over his barn, farmer McCall ran to the plane expecting to find a dead pilot. Instead he found “a wrathful and limping man in aviator’s uniform, who passed him quickly and made his way

to the automobile that had sent the headlight signal.” After the pilot made his exit via the waiting automobile, an examination of the plane revealed “150 bottles of scotch,” most of which were broken. They also found a newspaper from Montreal dated from the day prior.<sup>5</sup> Even as early as May of 1922, the basic structure of aerial rum-running along the Montreal-New York corridor was established: the use of farmers’ fields, automobiles, and signals to exploit one of the oldest smuggling pathways in North America.

Although aerial liquor smuggling quickly became dominated by large concerns and established routes, a significant number of pilots worked as freelancers or for smaller organizations. They flew countless routes and with a wide variety of aircraft. The types of aircraft used ran the gamut of available aircraft during the early 1920s through to the mid-1930s. Possible vehicles for rumrunners ranged from early Curtiss flying boats, JN-4’s, and Standard J-1’s, to OX, Hispano-Suiza, Wright-powered Wacos, Travel Airs, Alexander Eaglerocks, and Curtiss Robins. From the large syndicates to the smaller organizations to the individual freelancer, choice of aircraft came down to the basics of availability and price. Unlikely aircraft were also pulled into the illegal service of running liquor over the border. At the extremes of aircraft used by smugglers were a small Aeromarine-Klemm AKL-26B suspected of making illegal border crossings for “smuggling merchandise to and from Canada” and a large, very expensive Bellanca CH-300 seized with a load of alcohol in Glens Falls, New York.<sup>6</sup> Even though the rule for aerial smuggling equipment was always “whatever was available,” the capability, ruggedness, and unique circumstance of the New Standard D-25 in the northeast region of the United States made it almost synonymous with liquor hauling in the first half of the 1930s.

### *After Prohibition*

Illegal smuggling by aircraft was not limited to the period of Prohibition, however. Once Prohibition ended, smugglers continued their cross-border transportation of alcohol, now *into* Canada as well. The market for non-taxed liquor in the United States and Canada boomed after the repeal of the Volstead Act in 1933. Many illegal production operations on the American side of the border quickly saw opportunity. Transporting liquor into and out of Canada without the burdens of taxation proved to be quite a profitable endeavor. Again, aircraft were a primary mode of moving product. In 1936, after weeks of reports concerning a “mystery airplane” flying at night over various locations between Montreal and New York City, a large Boeing 95 biplane was finally identified. Officers had been “on the lookout for a plane suspected of smuggling American liquor into Canada

to escape the higher Canadian taxes—reversing the smuggling process of prohibition days.”<sup>77</sup> Clearly, the end of Prohibition in no way meant an end to money being made by smuggling. And as in “prohibition days,” smuggling was not confined to alcohol. Transporting people and narcotics across the border illegally also proved profitable during and after the Volstead Act’s lifetime. This, along with a thriving transportation network of illegal American alcohol within the United States, kept aerial smuggling alive in the years after Prohibition.

### *The Pilots*

The pilots who flew the liquor-hauling flights over the US-Canadian border are a difficult lot for the historian to bring into focus. Few kept journals or wrote autobiographies. Fewer still talked of what, in the final analysis, was usually a moment of desperation in order to make quick money. No doubt, most were also at the far end of a network that led directly to organized crime. Nonetheless, the narratives that do survive suggest that, from the middle 1920s through 1930s, pilots were very much skilled technical tradesmen who leveraged their talents in an alternative economy, one that became even more appealing once the Depression took hold. In his autobiography, Basil L. Rowe—eventually the founding pilot of Pan American Airways—wrote of the early liquor smugglers in Miami: “The nucleus of the flying personnel [of Pan Am] was a who’s who roster of the famous booze brigade of the early twenties.”<sup>78</sup> By the 1930s, much in the smuggling racket had changed. No longer using wooden flying boats and operating under the guise of an airline, an aerial rum-runner’s experiences were probably much like those described by Homer Fackler, a former Army aviator and pilot for Gates Flying Circus.

Fackler was an associate of Charles Healy Day and eventually became a demonstration and test pilot for the Gates-Day Aircraft Corporation (which became the New Standard Aircraft Corporation), flying New Standard D-25s and D-29s. When the economic collapse of the Great Depression set in, his work at New Standard evaporated, leading to his employment in 1932 as a pilot running liquor out of Canada. Once committed to this new occupation he “was instructed to locate a town in Vermont and establish himself with the locals as a travelling salesman. At intervals [Fackler] would receive a call to pick up an airplane at a designated location, fly to Canada, and return with a load.” The flights were “usually early morning with the plane throttled back for a long quiet gliding approach into a marked farm field,” where “plenty of help was present to quickly transfer the load into waiting cars.” Explaining how these operations went on without

much suspicion from locals, Fackler pointed out that “the first noise local residents might hear was the now empty plane climbing out.” Fackler eventually went to work flying in the Philippines and then back into the military, becoming a ferry pilot in World War II, and finally retiring as a colonel. His experience, however, indicated that the pilots who became involved in smuggling across the border were not always unlicensed pilots or pilots on the margins of society. Often times they were well-established flyers, sometimes very established, who because of the Depression were led for a while into the world of cash payments and illegal cargoes.<sup>9</sup>

### *Further Research*

The historiography of the aerial bootlegging during and after Prohibition is sparse. The confluence of national narratives and few sources has made the topic marginal at best, even in the most expansive studies. Because aviation history has generally been treated by historians as a narrative of national and technological progress, few scholars have turned their focus to the topic of outlaw airmen and aircraft. The problem of sources has also stood in the way of a deeper investigation. Few aviators or participants have left behind their stories. The documentary trail of smugglers, most of whom were not apprehended, is necessarily thin. These were not folks who were accustomed to providing a large bulk of evidence. Hence, the difficulties of examining the illicit history of one particular type of aircraft during this period are manifold, but sufficiently surmountable nonetheless to begin to trace a tentative history. Sources for this article have been newspapers, Customs and Marshals records, a very few biographical narratives, and the individual aircraft records provided by the Federal Aviation Administration. Unfortunately, the sources are scattered and often times buried amongst other records, making efficient searches difficult. Some sources have emerged, but much research has yet to be done.

### **NC150M**

United States Customs Patrol Inspector J.F. Dyer and Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers J.M. Hooe and F.S. Eld had been tracking the plane for nearly a month. They found themselves observing its unloading through binoculars, while “concealed in the bushes near the Fitzgerald farm” on the outskirts of Glens Falls, New York. The joint American-Canadian patrol team had first noticed New Standard D-25 NC150M when flying a customs patrol over the farmland that covered Île Perrot, an island at the confluence of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Saint Louis, on the afternoon of August 7, 1933. They noticed the biplane in a farm field on

the island, surrounded by two cars and some men. Its American registration must have been plainly visible on the upper right wing of the machine, enabling the officers to note it with some precision. The patrol observed NC150M on August 9, and again on August 17, at the same field on Île Perrot. There, Inspector Dyer noted “29 bags of merchandise loaded into the plane,” which “were so heavy that one man carried only one bag at a time against or on his shoulder.” How this operation was observed and documented so clearly from a circling patrol plane without attracting the attention of those loading the D-25 was not noted in the officers’ report. Finally, on the evening of August 30, the officers hid themselves in the bushes surrounding the Fitzgerald farm in Glens Falls, watching the unloading of NC150M through binoculars.<sup>10</sup>

Within five minutes, the officers sped through the field in a car towards the D-25 that was in the process of being unloaded. There they came upon “Paul Zimmerman and Henry Schuurman unloading bags” of liquor into a waiting car. The two men were quickly arrested. The New Standard was “flown to the Albany Airport and the car containing the contraband driven to the Albany Customs House where all were turned over to the custody of the Deputy Collector in Charge, Mr. J.P. Mahan.” When the final accounting was completed, it turned out that the officers had seized “180 quart bottles” of “scotch whiskey,” plus another 215 quart bottles of vermouth, gin, sherry, Crème de Menthe, apricot brandy, burgundy, and other assorted types of liquor. Along with the liquor and the New Standard biplane, they also seized one Hudson Sedan registered in the State of New York and one 1903 Springfield rifle with 16 rounds. Not a bad haul for Customs Officers in the remaining months of Prohibition, but also nothing compared to the volume of liquor flowing daily from Canada into New York. The “Report of Seizure” for NC150M remains one of the best snapshots of what a typical aerial liquor hauling operation looked like in the Montreal-New York corridor during late Prohibition.

The New Standard’s ownership history up until its seizure also reveals an interesting picture of how these aircraft moved from the legitimate world of commercial flying to the illegitimate world of liquor hauling. Purchased from the Westchester Airport Corporation at Armonk, New York, NC150M had been registered to a Horace C. Dodge of 103 Glen Street, Glens Falls, New York. After getting no response to a registration mailer on October 18, 1932, a Department of Commerce inspector noted to his superior: “103 Glen Street is a candy shop. Horace C. Dodge is not known to proprietor. He is not known at airport and [NC150M] is not there.” New Standard NC150M had entered into the world of smuggling. Whoever signed the



**Figure 2.** *Three New Standard D-25 sit on the grounds of the Poughkeepsie Airport, in the Town of Poughkeepsie, New York. Johnny Miller ran the Poughkeepsie Airport in the early to mid 1930s. His operation was called Giroflyers Ltd., and his specialty was rebuilding D-25s. Photograph: Collection of John S “Jack” Ray.*

documents with the obviously fictitious name of Horace C. Dodge was probably making reference to the Horace Dodge of the wealthy Dodge family of Detroit.

By March 1933, the Department of Commerce received the proper paperwork for a sale and re-registration of NC150M, this time in the name of Charles Ferguson of Albany, New York. On April 5, no doubt suspecting something amiss, the Department of Commerce decided to call on Charles Ferguson. Again in a memo to his superior, an inspector wrote that: “Mr. Ferguson says he does not own any airplane and has no knowledge of this particular airplane. It appears that someone forged his name to the transfer papers.” At this point, NC150M was grounded, bureaucratically of course, by the Department of Commerce. After gaining the curiosity of the Department of Commerce, those in possession of the D-25 NC150M probably decided that it was time to have an actual person, with knowledge of the transaction, purchase and register the airplane.

World War I veteran, Dutch immigrant, and “farm laborer” Henry Schuurman signed the Department of Commerce application for the aircraft license of NC150M on April 8, 1933. That Mr. Schuurman was a boarder at the farm he worked on, and had no licenses or ties to aviation would not have given Department of Commerce any legal grounds to be suspicious. Besides, NC150M finally had an identifiable owner who acknowledged

the transfer. Because Mr. Schuurman was eventually caught helping unload alcohol from the aircraft, one can assume that he was also a laborer for whatever criminal network was really in charge of the D-25, its flights, and its cargoes. When he eventually went to trial, was found guilty, and given a fine in light of his service in the World War, he probably had no concern whatever that “his” aircraft was auctioned off as seized property to the highest bidder.

The pilot of NC150M on the day it was caught was named as “Paul Zimmerman.” Paul Zimmerman was a known rum-running pilot for hire throughout the Montreal-New York corridor in the early 1930s. He had crashed a Bellanca CH-300 in Hudson, New York, in 1932, was suspected and eventually apprehended for liquor hauling, and was labeled as “the old rumrunner” by the manager of Giroflyers Ltd. in Poughkeepsie, New York. While it remains quite tentative and circumstantial, evidence points to this liquor-smuggling Paul Zimmerman as being Paul G. Zimmermann, formerly pilot and chief engineer of Aeromarine Airways in the early and mid 1920s.

Whatever the true identity of its pilot, the case of New Standard D-25 NC150M illustrates how most rum-running aircraft, and D-25s in particular, were brought into the blurry world in the skies over the border. Invented, unknowing, or randomly selected official owners; hired pilots; rented farmers’ fields; and cash all characterized the lives of these aircraft. That this aircraft was also repaired by A.L. “Matty” Matthews of Giroflyers Ltd. at Poughkeepsie, New York is also another indication of NC150M’s status as typical of smuggling D-25s during the early years of the 1930s.<sup>11</sup>

### *Giroflyers Ltd.*

The Poughkeepsie Airport was located in the hamlet of Red Oaks Mills, New York, just a few miles southeast of the city of Poughkeepsie. It had a similar beginning to the many small airports that arose in the late 1920s. At first it was just a relatively flat farmer’s field, bordered on two sides by country roads and on one side by swampy, soft ground. Regional and local barnstormers were drawn to the field because it was useful for their purposes. Close to a medium-sized city that was half-way between New York City and Albany, and possessed of road access, the field allowed itinerant barnstormers to operate their Standard J-1s and Curtiss Jennies and hope for a profit. By 1929, the field, now the “municipal airport” of the City of Poughkeepsie, had a 80-foot by 100-foot hangar and was home to what we would today call a “fixed base operation,” boasting a Travel Air dealership, a small passenger service, flight instruction, and fairly regular air shows.

As with many airports and flying operations at the time, the onset of the Great Depression quickly changed the fortunes of even sizable aeronautical ventures. After the demise of the Travel Air dealership and its associated activities, the lease on the Poughkeepsie Airport was taken over by the 25-year-old son of a prosperous industrial manager. John Macdonald Miller was well on his way to establishing himself prominently in the emerging world of aviation when the country was slammed into the Great Depression. When he took over the operations of his hometown's municipal airport in August 1931, Miller (an engineering graduate of the Pratt Institute) had been flying since 1923, was a certified aircraft mechanic, had barnstormed and managed various aviation enterprises, and had been at the forefront of the emerging autogiro technology. In the second full year of the Depression and the eleventh year of national Prohibition, the title of "airport manager" may have sounded like it was a step up in an aviation career. In fact, however, Miller had taken over the operations of an airport where the two to three local aircraft owners rarely paid their rent, perhaps one to two people a year came for flight instruction, and many local politicians frequently called for the airport's closure. Nevertheless, he struck a positive note when he tried to capitalize on his cutting-edge experience with autogiros by naming his operation "Giroflyers Ltd."<sup>12</sup>



**Figure 3.** Johnny Miller, November, 1932. Photograph: Collection of Trish Taylor.

When it came to staffing his new operation, Miller tapped into the connections he had made with people involved with a distinctly more conventional aircraft: the New Standard D-25. His connections with the New Standard are remarkable in that they went back to the origins of the type. In 1928, the Gates Flying Circus had visited Poughkeepsie, using the field that would become the Poughkeepsie Airport. Once there, Miller's aircraft mechanic's license endeared him to Ive McKinney, the pilot of the Gates Curtiss R-4 whose Liberty engine failed to continue running. This led Miller to a spot on the flying circus for the remainder of the 1928 season, as well as to a friendship with most of the pilots, Clyde Pangborn, and Ivan Gates himself. By the time Miller took a job as manager and pilot for the Norwalk Airways Inc., flying their new New Standard D-25, he was friends with most of the people associated with the New Standard Aircraft Corporation.

Miller's connections at the New Standard Aircraft Corporation led to a job with it in 1930, further entrenching his connections there. His interest in engineering and mechanics, no doubt led to him become familiar with many of those on the shop floor who were building the aircraft. In July 1930, those connections to the mechanics and engineers building the New Standard became personally useful when he purchased the wreckage of the first-production Gates-Day GD-24, NC193E. After having been flown for the company as a demonstrator, the machine was badly damaged in a ground collision with a Fokker experimental at Teterboro Airport. Calling on his contacts on the production line at New Standard, Miller hired Aitken L. "Matty" Matthews, to help him rebuild NC193E to D-25 specification at Poughkeepsie. This quickly coincided with Miller's becoming the new manager of the Poughkeepsie Airport and his "Giroflyers Ltd." operation.<sup>13</sup>

One of the first projects that Miller and Matthews undertook after NC193E's completion was the remanufacture of the prototype Gates-Day GD-24 NX7286 into New Standard D-25 NC7286. This process, which was essentially remanufacturing the entire aircraft, allowed Miller's Giroflyers Ltd. to make and procure the jigs and drawings necessary to become a *de facto* second New Standard factory, and by 1932, the *only* New Standard factory, albeit without production or manufacturing rights. Giroflyers Ltd. quickly became what would today amount to the sole "type support" facility for New Standard D-25s. After hiring Ryan Aeronautical School graduate John Stanley "Jack" Ray as operations manager, Miller put "Matty" Matthews in place as chief mechanic, and filled the rest of his shop with many former employees of the New Standard Aircraft Corporations shop

floor. As Miller wrote in his *Flying Stories*: “The manufacturer of the D-25 went out of business...so it was an orphaned airplane, but a very good one.” He continued:

My chief mechanic had been a foreman in the New Standard factory in charge of building the very same D-25s that were being used by the bootleggers and being bent into odd shapes. So it was quite convenient and natural for the airplanes to be brought in trucks to my shop for re-shaping. My chief was a real expert, so we had a good going business.

Miller’s operation quickly began to cater to that “one well known class of people who could easily afford airplanes to use in their illegal enterprise of bootlegging whiskey over the border from Canada.” The appeal to Miller was the ability to put his operation and airport to work during a time when the economy had no room for the legitimate ventures of a small airport. The bootleggers also paid in cash. “Those bootleggers did not bank their money. They just kept it in big rolls in their pockets. They didn’t want to bother the busy IRS with any extra bookkeeping,” Miller wrote. The ability to have steady work, to be paid cash in exchange for fast fixes and rebuilds, and without an abundance of record keeping allowed Miller and the Poughkeepsie Airport to prosper in the first half of the 1930s. That Giroflyers Ltd. specialized in the New Standard D-25, and that bootleggers favored the D-25, created a profitable business at a small airport half way between Albany and New York City.<sup>14</sup>



**Figure 4.** John Stanley “Jack” Ray, operations manager, at the Poughkeepsie Airport and the Giroflyers Ltd., n. d. (1930s). Photograph, originally from the John S. “Jack” Ray collection, found in the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome Museum archives. Collection of C. Peter Colomello.

Giroflyers Ltd. did it all. One D-25, heavily loaded with liquor, landed on a sandbar in a river near Detroit, its landing gear “spread out due to the fuselage structure parting and the longerons spreading apart, including the flying wires and the wings!” The pilot and some associates, in desperation, unloaded the plane, took off, and headed to the one place they knew could help them out of their bind: Giroflyers Ltd of Poughkeepsie, New York, 400 miles east. There, the plane was met with expert mechanics who didn’t ask questions and didn’t feel the need to be thorough with Department of Commerce paperwork. The plane was stripped of its fabric and completely rebuilt in short order, flying back to the Detroit area where it could continue to make money smuggling over the border. In another instance, a rum-running D-25 had been destroyed by fire. The truck that pulled in to the Poughkeepsie Airport was carrying only “the tail and the engine with its mount.” Miller described how they dealt with this:

The wood wing steel fittings, made of welded chrome-molybdenum steel, were salvageable, but we had to build everything else from scratch. Fortunately we had been building new wood wings, so we had made all the jigs for the numerous sizes of ribs. Since no new parts were available from the factory, it was necessary to build practically a whole new airplane and attach the original nameplate. I polished the black soot off myself. We fabricated new template fuel tanks and saved the steel landing gear and the aluminum tail that had not been damaged.

Long before aircraft restorers were rebuilding airplanes beginning with little more than a dataplate, John Miller’s operation was doing it routinely for bootleggers in the middle of the Depression. Between 1931 and 1933, Giroflyers Ltd. most likely came in contact with a majority of the New Standard D-25s operating in the Northeast and beyond, and probably all of the New Standards that were running liquor. Occasionally, Miller’s operation was rebuilding the D-25s of liquor-smuggling competitors, side by side. He wrote of one instance: “Each one had a bodyguard standing there, and each man had two—yes, two—automatic pistols in shoulder holsters. A lot of artillery for protection because they had their pockets full of all that good money.” Giroflyers Ltd. quite literally kept the aerial rumrunners of the Montreal-New York corridor flying in the early 1930s.<sup>15</sup>

While John M. Miller was desperate to make a name for himself in the burgeoning world of commercial aviation, the circumstances of the Great Depression forced him back home, to “a small business in an 80-by-100 foot hangar where [he] serviced and rebuilt airplanes.” What Miller actually had was a shop staffed by some of the most technically knowledgeable and

capable aircraft rebuilders in the Northeast, most of whom had deep and direct experience with the New Standard D-25. He was even more fortunate to be located at an airport just outside of the busy and conspicuous New York metropolitan area, exactly along one of the largest smuggling highways in the country.

### *“Doc” Farone*

In 1937, the Modern Appliance Company of Saratoga Springs, New York, purchased the remaining stockpile of New Standard D-25 parts, jigs, and associated files that added up to the Type Certificate and manufacturing rights for the airplane.<sup>16</sup> The sale, from the insolvent Ben Jones Aircraft Corporation of Schenectady, New York, was orchestrated by A.L. “Matty” Matthews, who had purchased the rights for the New Standard at auction after John Miller moved on from his Giroflyers Ltd. operation. Matthews eventually sold them to Jones. The Ben Jones Aircraft Company produced a total of five aircraft. The Modern Appliance Company was owned by Louis J. “Doc” Farone also of Saratoga Springs, New York. Other than being an appliance company owner and holder of the New Standard type certificate,<sup>17</sup> “Doc” Farone was also described as “[t]he rackets boss of the North Country in New York State during and after the late 1920s.” As head of all the illegal stills, liquor smuggling, gambling, and numbers rackets between Albany and Canada, from the 1920s through the 1940s (and probably beyond), “Doc” Farone was not a typical owner of an approved Type Certificate for an aircraft.<sup>18</sup>

As Prohibition took hold in the 1920s, the town of Saratoga Springs, New York, became a hub of illegal activity. Not only was it a stop along the way for bootleggers going into and out of Canada, the town’s horse tracks and spas drew organized crime figures like a magnet. Emerging out of this era and circumstance was a local illegal-still operator and bootlegger named Louis J. “Doc” Farone. By the late 1920s, he had become the local representative of larger bootlegging operations headed by such figures as Meyer Lansky and Charles “Lucky” Luciano. While managing a network of illegal stills and liquor transportation operations of his own, he also oversaw an enormous amount of gambling activity. “Doc” had a resumé somewhat larger than the business cards of his plumbing and electrical supply house would lead one to believe. As journalist Stephen Williams recently wrote: Very little of the alcohol flowing from Canada into New York during the 1920s and 30s “passed through without the knowledge of a Saratoga Springs native named Louis ‘Doc’ Farone.”<sup>19</sup>

Newspaper reports of the activities of Farone and his associates, between the early 1930s and the 1940s, reveal the first clues that lead to understanding his eventual owning of the New Standard D-25 Type Certificate and manufacturing rights. When the ownership records of the approximately 45 D-25s manufactured are examined, and those owners located in Saratoga Springs are isolated, a few names emerge. Clifford Mackey, Fred Mitchell, and William Keeler are listed as the individual owners of four D-25s. Each of these individuals was reported as an associate and employee of “Doc” Farone at some point between 1931 and 1940, and none of them seems to have been a licensed pilot or involved with aviation. Most were listed with Farone for various indictments such as operating illegal stills, transporting alcohol, and even stealing spools of copper wire from the telephone company. It is clear that the New Standards “owned” by these men were used in Farone’s network of liquor transportation in the Montreal—New York smuggling corridor during and after Prohibition.<sup>20</sup>

That Farone and his associates seem to have been acquainted with A. L. “Matty” Matthews and Ben Jones prior to the sale of the Type Certificate and manufacturing rights also indicates an established connection between the New Standard D-25 and its use in Farone’s smuggling operations. In 1932, three years before he began manufacturing D-25s, Ben Jones was flying Clifford Mackey’s NC929V in Vermont, most likely for smuggling, when he crashed into the side of a mountain. Jones related how he handled the situation: “I went to a farmhouse and called Doc Farone and he sent a truck and hauled the wreck back to Saratoga Springs.” Six years prior to his purchase of the Type Certificate and manufacturing rights, “Doc” Farone was a faithful operator of New Standard D-25s in his liquor smuggling enterprises.<sup>21</sup>

The end of Prohibition seems to have not slowed Farone’s manufacture and transportation of illegal alcohol. A journalist noted that, in back-country stills spread into the Adirondacks well after Prohibition, Farone and his men “made booze from molasses, a concoction known on the street as either ‘alki’ or ‘white.’” The market for this New York State version of what southern illegal alcohol manufacturers would call “moonshine” was not just regional, but international. In the summer of 1939, US Treasury agents began to move against Farone, his stills, and his smuggling of liquor into and out of Canada. At a pig farm, a chicken farm, and many other locations throughout the North Country, and in Saratoga Springs proper, agents raided his operations and seized everything. Farone was convicted of conspiracy and jury tampering in August of 1940 and sentenced to five years in Federal prison.<sup>22</sup>

Farone's purchase of the Type Certificate and manufacturing rights to the New Standard D-25 was probably the last act in his association with the aircraft. After having utilized it almost exclusively for six or seven years, during and after Prohibition, his purchase in no way reflects an interest in aircraft or aviation. Instead, "Doc" Farone most likely saw an opportunity to keep a useful link in his transportation network going into the future. His friendship with "Matty" Matthews and Ben Jones enabled the purchase to occur, and after years of funding them, it made sense to purchase the rights to the airplane's manufacture at what was most likely a fire-sale price. That said, the New Standard D-25 is probably alone in the ranks of American aircraft Type Certificates that were at one point owned by an operating bootlegger.

### *Conclusion*

While almost every type of commercially available aircraft was used in aerial rum-running during and after Prohibition, it was the New Standard D-25 above all that became most associated with the trade. This association is not only rhetorical and narrative, but established in the history of its use, the associated maintenance expertise that followed it, and the history of its Type Certificate. While more research needs to be done on aerial rum-running and the role of the D-25 as a smuggling platform, available evidence points to its unique place in the emerging history of aviation at the margins of legality and society. Going beyond traditional histories of progress and heroics, examinations of minor players, well-used and quickly maintained aircraft, and even illegal ventures will deepen our understanding of aviation's adolescent years and the period of Prohibition.

*Known and Suspected Liquor Smuggling D-25s*

NC9756	- Owned by Fred Mitchell, Saratoga Springs, NY (associate of "Doc" Farone) - Repaired by A.L. Matthews, Giroflyers Ltd.
NC9761/ CF-AMY	- Seized by US Customs 9/2/31, Buffalo, NY, when registered as CF-AMY. Carrying "30 cases of Canadian ale and three cases of assorted liquor."
NC9118	- Owned by Franoe-associate Clifford Mackey, Saratoga Springs, NY, 1934-1936.
NC184H	- Owned by G.W. George, Detroit, MI. - Possibly a D-25 repaired by Giroflyers Ltd.
NC28K	- Owned by William Keeler, Saratoga Springs, NY (probable associate of "Doc" Farone) - Repaired at Giroflyers Ltd. 5/32 - Seized by US Customs, 8/19/1933.
NC929V	- Owned by Clifford Mackey, Saratoga Springs, NY (associate of "Doc" Farone) - Crashed in VT by Ben Jones on probable smuggling flight 11/28/32.
NC149M	- Owned by William A. Churchsmith, Whitestone, NY. - Seized by US Customs 1/16/32 at Rensselaer, NY - Repaired at Giroflyers Ltd.
NC150M	- Owned by one fictitious person, one unknowing person, and finally by Henry Schuurman, Rensselaer, NY. - Repaired at Giroflyers Ltd. - Seized by US Customs 8/30/33

\* This list represents a very conservative assessment of liquor-smuggling New Standard D-25s. All were either owned by an associate of "Doc" Farone, repaired at Giroflyer, Ltd., and/or had a known seizure by authorities. Most likely, other D-25s had a history of rum running. This list owes much to the work done by David B. Stevenson in his article "Charles Healy Day and His New Standards."

- <sup>1</sup> This essay is adapted on a previously published article by the author, Charles Peter Colomello,
- <sup>2</sup> “N28K,” individual aircraft record card, Aircraft Registration Branch, Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma City, OK. This source, the FAA individual aircraft record, was correct. This aircraft was rebuilt at Giroflyers/Poughkeepsie, as was noted explicitly in the FAA file. NC28K is the 1927-1948 version of the aircraft’s registration. After 1948, the FAA stopped requiring the “C.” Therefore, for the FAA’s purposes in retrieving the file for this aircraft, it is N28K. In the 1930s it was NC28K and that was what was painted on the tail, upper right wing, and lower left wing.
- <sup>3</sup> Joseph P. Juptner, *U.S. Civil Aircraft*. vol. 2, *ATC number 101 to 200* (Los Angeles, CA: Aero Publishers, 1964), pgs. 25-31. “ACT” stands for “Approved Type Certificate,” a stamp of approval that was issued by the Civil Aviation Authority to a new model of aircraft.
- <sup>4</sup> Bert Acosta, “Outlaws of the Air,” *Brooklyn (NY) Daily Eagle*, December 30, 1935, p. 15.
- <sup>5</sup> “Booze Airplane Was Wrecked: Pilot Escapes,” *The Oswego (NY) Palladium*, May 16, 1922, p.1.
- <sup>6</sup> “870W,” Aircraft History Cards, Archival Collection, National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC; and “N584,” individual aircraft record card, Aircraft Registration Branch, Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma City, OK.
- <sup>7</sup> “Mystery Plane Gives New York a Puzzle, Policeman Is Hurt,” *The Kingston (NY) Daily Freeman*, May 18, 1936, p. 9.
- <sup>8</sup> Basil Rowe, *Under My Wings* (New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1956), quoted in K. M. Molson & A. J. Shortt, *The Curtiss HS Flying Boats* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1995), pp. 75.
- <sup>9</sup> Home Fackler, personal communications with David B. Stevenson, who quoted Fackler in an unpublished manuscript, “Homer Fackler,” 1967. Fackler was also John M. Miller’s “chase” pilot, flying Miller’s New Standard D-25 in support of Miller’s flights around the country in his Pitcairn PCA-2 in 1931.
- <sup>10</sup> “N9125 (NC150M),” individual aircraft record, Aircraft Registration Branch, Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma City, OK.
- <sup>11</sup> “N9125 (NC150M),” Federal Aviation Administration; “Henry J. Schuurman,” in the 1930 *United States Federal Census*.
- <sup>12</sup> John M. Miller, *Flying Stories* (Traverse City, MI: Village Press, 2002), pp. 48-49.
- <sup>13</sup> Miller, pp. 48-49.
- <sup>14</sup> Miller, pp. 48-49.
- <sup>15</sup> Miller, pp. 48-49.

- <sup>16</sup> A “Type Certificate” is the legal authority granted to a corporation to manufacture, serially, a particular aircraft. It is generally granted after a period of prototype testing to FAA (then Department of Commerce) established standards. Once the Type Certificate was granted, it could be sold to other manufactureres, entities, or corporations, as was the case with Doc Farone obtaining the Type Certificate to the D-25.
- <sup>17</sup> A Type Certificate holder or “TC holder” in shorthand, is the current holder of the manufacturing rights to a particular aircraft design.
- <sup>18</sup> Quoted in David B. Stevenson, “Charles Healy Day and His New Standards,” *American Aviation Historical Society Journal* 41, no.3 (Fall 1996), pp. 200-15, endnote 16, from a 1965 book entitled *Illicit Alcohol*.
- <sup>19</sup> Stephen Williams, “Off the Northway: Saratoga’s Bootlegging History,” *The Daily Gazette*, August 25, 2012.
- <sup>20</sup> “Allege Farone ‘Boss Brains’ of Still Ring,” *Schenectady (NY) Gazette*, July 20, 1940, p. 4; “Held in Liquor Law Violations,” *The Auburn (NY) Citizen-Advertiser*, April 27, 1940, p. 1; “Saratoga Still Toils Is in Toils of Gang Warfare,” *Schenectady (NY) Gazette*, July 30, 1931. p. 17.
- <sup>21</sup> Stevenson, p. 214.
- <sup>22</sup> Williams, “Off the Northway.”



# The Amenia Conference: The Dutchess County Connection to the Development and Growth of the NAACP

*by Julia Hotton*

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest civil rights organization. It has had a profound influence on the course of this country's history for over one hundred years. What is perhaps little known is the role of the one of Dutchess County's preeminent citizens in its early growth and development.

Joel Elias Spingarn was not one of the original founders of the NAACP, but was invited to join its executive committee soon after its formation. Like many of the NAACP's founders, Spingarn was a progressive who felt that race relations were deteriorating throughout the country after the devastating riot and lynching in Springfield, Illinois in the summer of 1908. Alarmed by this trend, a group of Northern progressives and social reformers marshaled forces to develop an organization to defend African-American rights. A conference was held in 1909 out of which a committee was appointed to develop the structure for the new organization.

The committee consisted of wealthy and influential whites—and distinguished blacks—including the celebrated intellect and activist, W.E.B. Du Bois, who was said to be indispensable, both as an organizer and a symbol. It was his plan for the organization that was adopted at the second conference in the spring of 1910. It was at that conference where the name, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was taken by the organization. Spingarn and Du Bois came to the newly formed association about the same time: Du Bois in a position of salaried "director of Publicity and Research" in November of 1910, and Spingarn also in November of that year as a key member of the NAACP administrative hierarchy. Spingarn worked with Du Bois to chart the course of this burgeoning organization and was a vital part of the development and growth for twenty-eight of the first thirty years of its existence. During that time Spingarn served in various capacities as chairman of the NAACP's Board of Directors, Treasurer, and President.

In his role as publicist, Du Bois created a national monthly magazine that was named the *Crisis: A Record of the Darker Races*. The magazine was a brilliant and effective means of getting the message of the NAACP to a mass sympathetic audience. It also provided Du Bois with a regular outlet for his constant criticism of his longtime nemesis, Booker T. Washington whose politics of compromise was the opposite of Du Bois's and that of the NAACP.



**Figure 1.** *Members of the NAACP at the 1916 Conference held at Troutbeck, in Amenia, New York, the country home of Joel Spingarn. W.E.B. Du Bois was present as was John Milholland, then treasurer of the organization. 1916. Photograph. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Visual Materials from the NAACP Records.*

While Washington appeased southern whites by agreeing that blacks need only have an industrial education to equip them for work in agriculture and some forms of business, Du Bois and the NAACP leadership held opposite opinions. They believed in higher education, self-assertion and ambition; as well as the right of suffrage for blacks on the same terms as whites.

Joel Spingarn was in total agreement with Du Bois regarding African-American aspirations. After the death of Booker T. Washington in 1915, Spingarn felt that racial relations were entering a new phase in the

United States. He was therefore motivated to propose the convening of a conference of people interested in the race problem at his beautiful country home, Troutbeck, in the peace and quiet of Amenia, in Dutchess County, New York.

While the Amenia conference was Spingarn's idea, it is said that it would not have been possible without Du Bois, who also envisioned changing attitudes with the passing of Booker Washington. The conference would in fact replace the NAACP's previously scheduled annual meeting which was postponed because it conflicted with the memorial service for Booker Washington on February 12, 1916. In showing respect to Washington's memory, both Spingarn and Du Bois thought it would be possible to attract some of Washington's former followers. Two hundred invitations were sent out in Joel Spingarn's name as Master of Troutbeck, Dutchess County, New York. Those invited, came from across the civil rights spectrum. The details of organizing the conference were handled by an NAACP staffer.

The conference convened on August 24, 1916 and went through August 26th. The proceedings began with an opening message from the Governor of New York State, Charles Whitman, and a number of others including Inez Milholland, Woman Suffrage icon, and daughter of an NAACP founder, John Milholland, at that time treasurer of the organization. Messages of good will sent from Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft, and Charles Evans Hughes, among others, attest to the importance of the event.

In his enthusiasm, Du Bois said he doubted "if ever before so small a conference of American Negroes had so many colored men of distinction who represented at the same time so complete a picture of all phases of Negro thought."<sup>1</sup> Men and women represented various parts of the country; they came from the deep South, from New England, and everywhere in between. Subjects for discussion included: education, politics, and the situation in the South. The highly acclaimed educator, John Hope, presided over a session on higher education. There were also roundtable sessions on industrial opportunity and practical matters. Speakers included the storied figure of John R. Lynch, the celebrated survivor of Reconstruction politics, and the much younger James Weldon Johnson, song writer, diplomat, novelist, poet, and soon to become field organizer for the NAACP.

The rolling wooded grounds of Troutbeck intersected by a sparkling stream provided an ideal environment for the tents, housing, the conferees. The gracious hospitality of the Spingarns, their impressive library, and

well stocked wine cellar all served to establish a feeling of wellbeing and camaraderie among the group. Du Bois reported that “promptly at meal time food appeared, miraculously steaming and perfectly cooked.”<sup>2</sup> They ate in the open air, while at the same time enjoying the spectacular views. They also found time to play tennis, and croquet; to swim, row, hike and roam the forests, pick flowers and sing.

Du Bois felt that the Amenia Conference marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new one. It witnessed the end of the philosophy of Booker Washington and the burgeoning dominance of the philosophy of the NAACP among African Americans. At its close, it produced a list of seven principles, one which called for annual meetings like that which had just taken place at Amenia. Unfortunately, it was not to be. While the conference was taking place in August of 1916, war was raging in Europe. Within a year the Great War would involve the United States, creating chaos and distraction. There would not be another conference at Amenia until 1933.

In an eloquent summary of the conference Du Bois wrote the following:

..... Probably on account of our meeting the Negro race was more united and more ready to meet the problems of the world than it could possibly have been without these beautiful days of understanding... How appropriate that so tremendous a thing should have taken place in the midst of so much quiet and beauty there at Troutbeck, a place of poets and fishermen, of dreamers and farmers, a place far apart and away from the bustle of the world and the centers of activity. It was all peculiarly appropriate, and those who in future write the history of the way in which the American Negro became a man must not forget this event and landmark in 1916.<sup>3</sup>



Figure 2. Members of the NAACP at the August 1933 Conference held at Troutbeck, in Amenia, New York, the home of Joel Spingarn. 1933. Photograph. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Visual Materials from the NAACP Records.

---

<sup>1</sup> David Levering Lewis, *W.E.B. Du Bois: Biography of a Race 1868-1919* (A John MacCrae Book)(New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1973), p. 520. For more on Joel Spingarn and the NAACP see also B. Joyce Ross, *J.E. Spingarn and the Rise of the NAACP 1911-1939* in the series *Studies in American Negro Life* (August Meir, General Editor) (New York: Atheneum, 1972) and Marshall Van Deusen, *J.E. Spingarn* (Riversdale, California: University of California and New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc., 1971).

<sup>2</sup> W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Amenia Conference: An Historic Negro Gathering* (Amenia, New York: Troutbeck Leaflets Number Eight, 1925), p. 13.

<sup>3</sup> W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Amenia Conference*, pp. 17-18.



# Inez: Icon of a Movement

by Candace J. Lewis



**Figure 1.** *Inez Milholland Boissevain riding the horse Grey Dawn at the Woman Suffrage march in Washington, D.C., March 3, 1913, one day before the inauguration of Woodrow Wilson as 28th president of the United States. Photograph. inezmilholland.org.*

Inez Milholland Boissevain, suffragist, 30-year-old American beauty, fighter of causes, darling of newspapermen, lay prostrate on the stage floor of Blanchard Hall, a music and art emporium in downtown Los Angeles across from the Los Angeles City Hall (Figures 1 and 2). Her sister Vida and other suffragists gathered her up. Inez rallied briefly, finished her speech, and was assisted back to her hotel where she lay limp and barely able to speak. The group was on the western swing of the campaign to gain votes for Woman Suffrage in the fall of 1916.

From the beginning of the trip, Inez had been ill. She was first diagnosed with infected tonsils when she arrived in Chicago from her home in New York City. She and her sister decided to ignore the doctor's advice that she have a surgery, however, and press on with the campaign. From Chicago, they traveled through the western states—thirty meetings in fifty days—

to give speeches finally ending in Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.<sup>1</sup> Throughout the trip, she continued to decline, often looking “like a ghost” according to her sister Vida.

By the time a doctor examined Inez in her hotel room in Los Angeles, she was very ill indeed. The doctor thought that she had two abscessed teeth, infected tonsils, and a system-wide infection that he diagnosed as pernicious anemia. He suggested that she was too ill for even the removal of the infected teeth.<sup>2</sup> She would have to regain her strength before any more could be done.



**Figure 2.** *Inez Milholland, 1908. Photograph. wikipedia.com*

Meanwhile, Alice Paul in Washington, D.C., head of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, one of the two major suffrage groups, had been sending hectoring telegrams.<sup>3</sup> Inez was their headliner. She was the personality who could bring out the crowds and Alice did not want her to miss a single speaking engagement, sickness be damned. This effort was too important. It was going to be the culmination of many years of work.<sup>4</sup> The presidential election would be held in less than a month. Charles Evans Hughes, running for the Republican Party,

was supporting Woman Suffrage. Sadly from the point of view of many of the suffragists, including Inez Millholland Boissevain, he was also a proponent of entering the European war then raging in the mud of Belgium and France. President Woodrow Wilson, the Democrat, on the other hand, supported world peace, a favored view of many of the suffragists. Wilson, however, was cold to the point of Arctic when it came to women's right to vote.



**Figure 3.** *Crystal Eastman.*  
*Photograph. library@vassar.edu*

A breach had already opened between Inez and good friend Crystal Eastman (Figure 3) over the election. Both were suffragists working diligently for the cause of Woman Suffrage, but Crystal was placing greater importance upon the cause of world peace and, thus, was supporting the re-election of President Wilson. This put an enormous strain upon the friendship of two young women who had lived together for a period in Greenwich Village, New York City. Both had graduated from Vassar College—Crystal first in 1903 and Inez later in 1909. Both then attended and

received law degrees from the only institution that would accept women to study the law, New York University Law School.

In one of Inez's speeches before she took ill in Los Angeles, she seemed to be aiming directly at her friend Crystal Eastman. The two had divided over the issues of Woman Suffrage and world peace. If they supported Charles Evans Hughes for president in 1916, they would be supporting suffrage, but also war. If they supported Woodrow Wilson, they would be supporting peace, but not suffrage for women. In her speech, Inez said,

Do not let anyone convince you that there is any more important issue in the country today than votes for women.... There are people who honestly believe—HONESTLY BELIEVE!...that there are more important issues before the country than suffrage, and that it would be very becoming on our part...to retire at this time.... Now I do not know what you feel about such a point of view...but it makes me mad.. We must say, 'Women First.'<sup>5</sup>

By 1916, when she uttered these words, Inez was a focused crusader. It had not always been so. She had been portrayed as "Amazon," "New Woman,"

fighter for peace, Socialist, proponent of free love, and, of course, suffragist. Although Inez was interested in many causes and lived a varied and interesting life, the focus of this brief biographical sketch will be her stay at Vassar College and her work to achieve suffrage for the women of America.

### *Childhood*

Inez Milholland Boissevain was most often known, even after her marriage to Eugen Boissevain, simply by her already famous maiden name of Inez Milholland. To her family, she was always Nan or Nanny. She grew up in a family of privilege, a situation she referred to often, sometimes as a kind of lament, but clearly something that was also precious to her. Her father, John Milholland, had started his life in the town of Lewis in upstate New York, but the family moved to New Jersey and young John, instead of following the family's tradition of farming, went into printing and newspaper work.<sup>6</sup> Soon he married and settled first in Jersey City, then in New York City. He began writing for the *New York Tribune*. The family's fortunes really began to improve significantly when he became engaged in entrepreneurial enterprises. He started to actively promote a pneumatic tube system that he could sell to the United States government for use in the Post Office. The family moved first to Brooklyn, then to a town house at Madison Square in Manhattan. They lived a very comfortable upper class life, if one that was somewhat beyond their means.<sup>7</sup>

Two things stood out. The children— Inez, Vida, and Jack—were given great freedom by both parents whether in New York City or at the country home called Meadowmount in upstate Lewis, New York. The girls, in particular, roamed the woods in loose dresses with their hair streaming—this in an age when chaperones were still de rigueur and a young lady put her hair up at age sixteen. Also the family decamped and moved to London in August 1899 for a six-year period.<sup>8</sup> They were looking for wider horizons for themselves and their children. When Inez was nineteen years old, she enrolled as a student at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. The family returned to reside in New York shortly thereafter.<sup>9</sup>

### *Vassar College years, 1905-1909*

At college, many of the qualities that would distinguish Inez in her adult life became abundantly evident. She was beautiful, athletic, tall and sturdy and enormously energetic, working long hours at academics, sports, and theater (Figure 2). While she was adequate as a student, she was not a

scholar. In fact, she had lobbied heavily with her parents to send her to Vassar or Bryn Mawr, not to one of the Oxford or Cambridge women's colleges as she viewed the women at those schools as hopeless bookish drudges. She much preferred to throw her energies into the field hockey team of which she became the captain (Figure 4), track where she was a champion of the shot put (Figures 5, 6 and 7) or the theater where she took lead roles such as Romeo (playing the male role of Romeo in the all girls' production at the female institution) or Hermione in *A Winter's Tale* (Figure 8).

She clearly loved to be regarded. She loved beautiful clothing and dressing up. Young men hovered around her whenever she was at mixed gatherings. And politics. She was passionate about the political issues of the day: all of them, world peace, Woman Suffrage, better working conditions, Socialism, free love, and temperance.<sup>10</sup>

This propensity brought her into direct conflict with the President of the school, James Munroe Taylor, who saw the purpose of the school solely as Arcadian and scholastic. In truth, his vision of the role for the young



**Figure 4.** Inez Milholland (center of top row), captain of the field hockey team during her student days at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. Photograph. Special Collections, Vassar College Library



**Figures 5 and 6.** *Inez Milholland, throwing the shot put and standing looking at the throw, as a member of the track team at college. Photograph. Special Collections, Vassar College Library.*



**Figure 7.** *Inez Milholland, standing (left) with a friend, as a member of the track team at college. Photograph. Special Collections, Vassar College Library.*



**Figure 8.** *Inez (in white robes and braids) playing the part of Hermione in A Winter's Tale during her senior year at Vassar College, 1908. Photograph. Special Collections, Vassar College Library.*

women he was graduating could not have been too much in conflict with the notions of his time. Women were not expected to engage in the world of politics. That forum was reserved for men. Women were supposed to confine themselves to the domestic sphere.

No, he said to her in the spring of 1908, her junior year when Inez was president of the class. She wanted to conduct a seminar on the question of women voting. Not on this campus, said Taylor. So, Inez Milholland took her small group of young women across the road adjacent to the campus to a small cemetery, to a plot of grass, and conducted their suffrage rally there. They held up a banner that said: "Come, let us reason together."<sup>11</sup> But this was not to be any philosophical discussion. On the contrary, the banner was there for the public and the president to witness the young women as instruments of change. Inez was already becoming a master of public relations.

Inez graduated from Vassar College in the spring of 1909.

### *The New York City Years, 1909-1916*

In 1910, Inez accompanied Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, New York City heiress, to England. It was Alva Belmont's second trip. Inez, with her family still residing in London and beginning to make their move back home to New York, hopped back and forth between New York City and London with great frequency. The previous year, Alva had visited London to attend meetings with suffragists, but, finding them as boring as the suffragists

she knew in the States, she instead became entranced by a splinter group in England led by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters, Christabel and Sylvia. Inez was already quite familiar with the Pankhurst ladies and their friends and admired them greatly.<sup>12</sup> Their tactics were unusual for the high publicity they garnered. For example, the ladies in this group showed up unannounced at 10 Downing Street, appeared at Parliament and interrupted speeches by members, even broke windows and were arrested. In jail, the protesters went on a hunger strike. When they were force fed by hoses pushed down their throats, the newspapers picked up the story and they became front-page news.<sup>13</sup>

Inez herself was no stranger to the newspapers, already having become a frequent subject of stories in the society columns. She recognized that, for reporters and the public, she represented youth and the New Woman. She was young, athletic, healthy, and beautiful. She was passionate about her wardrobe, always appearing in wonderful clothes. She was learning how to use the press to her advantage. Here was a tool worth exploiting and importing back to America for the cause of Woman Suffrage.

By June of 1910 when Inez Milholland and Alva Belmont visited London, the House of Commons was considering a suffrage bill, known as the Conciliation Bill. In July, the bill passed its second reading. A third reading was required and had not been achieved by the time the two ladies returned to the U.S. in September. Nevertheless, they had seen real results in England and were coming home to put new policies into action.<sup>14</sup> Perhaps they thought they were entering the final stretch and the vote for women was right within reach. In fact, viewed as an effort that had begun in the 1820s, it was the final stretch, but the conclusion was still ten years away.

After Inez graduated from Vassar College, she moved to New York City with her family who had returned from London. Later, for a short period, she lived with Crystal Eastman in Greenwich Village while she was attending New York University Law School. It should be remembered that in 1910, only 5% of the population of the U.S. attended college; many fewer attended professional schools for graduate work. Finding work as an attorney would not be easy. The major law firms were not interested in having a woman lawyer in their midst. Inez found work with the law firm of Osborne, Lamb & Garvan defending the poor in criminal and divorce cases.<sup>15</sup>

Always Inez would be interested in causes of the underdog. In 1909 and 1910, she participated in the strike related to the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory and efforts for better working conditions (Figure 9). She was living with her family only a few blocks away on East Ninth Street at the time.<sup>16</sup>



**Figure 9.** “Scenes in the Life of Inez Milholland: Arrested as a Strike Picket, Illustrated” (illustrated strip). *The New York Evening Journal*, Wednesday, June 19, 1910. Special Collections, Vassar College Library. (See details on following pages)

She made trips to Europe, traveling extensively and to the point of exhaustion—as was her wont—to promote world peace. She met and married a gentleman from The Netherlands, Eugen Jan Boissevan, who would be a constant helpmate and support.<sup>17</sup>

### *The March 3, 1913 Woman Suffrage Rally, Washington, D.C.*

If the newspaper articles and photographs of Inez appearing for her trips to Europe to promote world peace or speak at a lecture in defense of Woman Suffrage had not made her instantly recognizable to a large portion of the reading public, the Woman Suffrage Rally in 1913 certainly did. The rally itself was the inspiration of Alice Paul, head of the American National Woman Suffrage Association. She organized a march of hundreds of women down Pennsylvania Avenue on the day before the Inauguration of Woodrow Wilson as president of the United States. Wilson looked coldly upon the idea of giving women the vote. The ladies all knew this, of course, and wanted to make a statement. What better time than when all the politicians and press would be assembled for his big moment?

Inez would steal the show. She wore a long white dress and a white cape, let her brown hair fall loose over her shoulders and back, wore a tiara, and mounted a white horse called Grey Dawn (Figure 14, also Figure 1). She became the beacon of the march. While many of the women walking with banners were harassed, having their hats pulled off, even being heavily jostled or pushed on the ground, Inez floated above the fray. That day she became the icon of the movement, a beautiful young woman riding down the main street of the city on a handsome steed in defiance of the current mores of the land to make a political point.

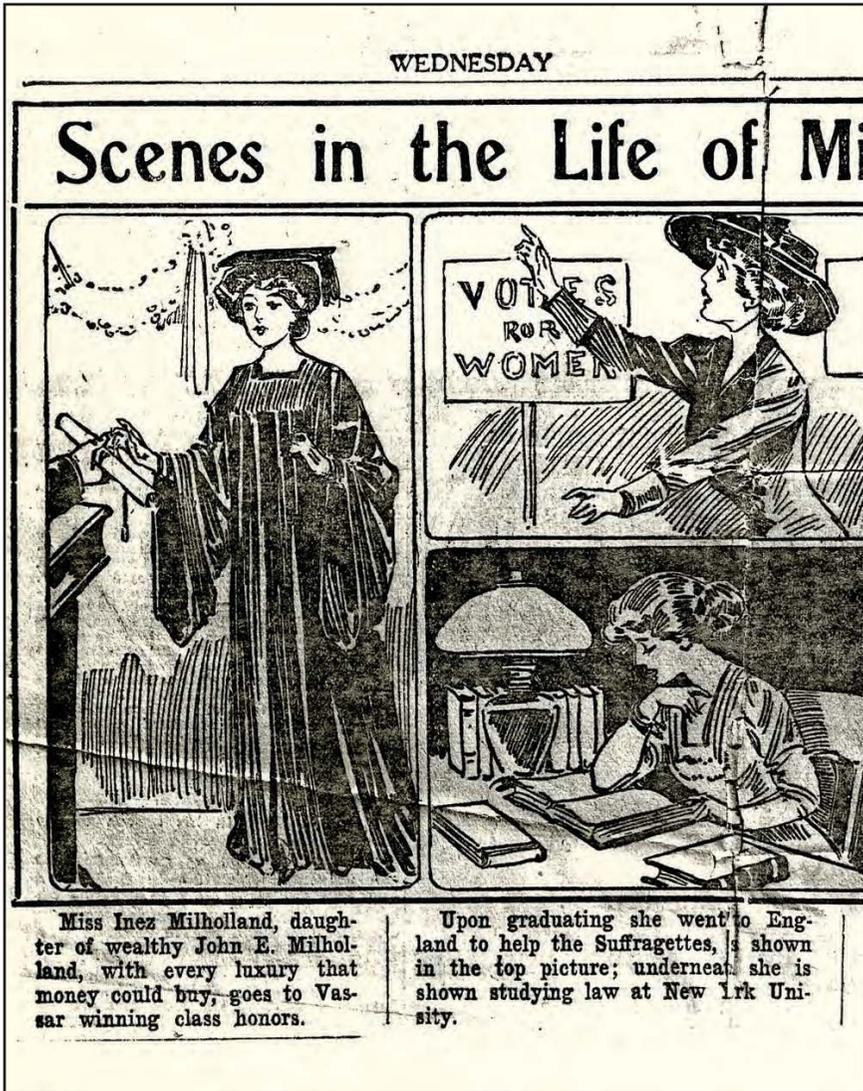
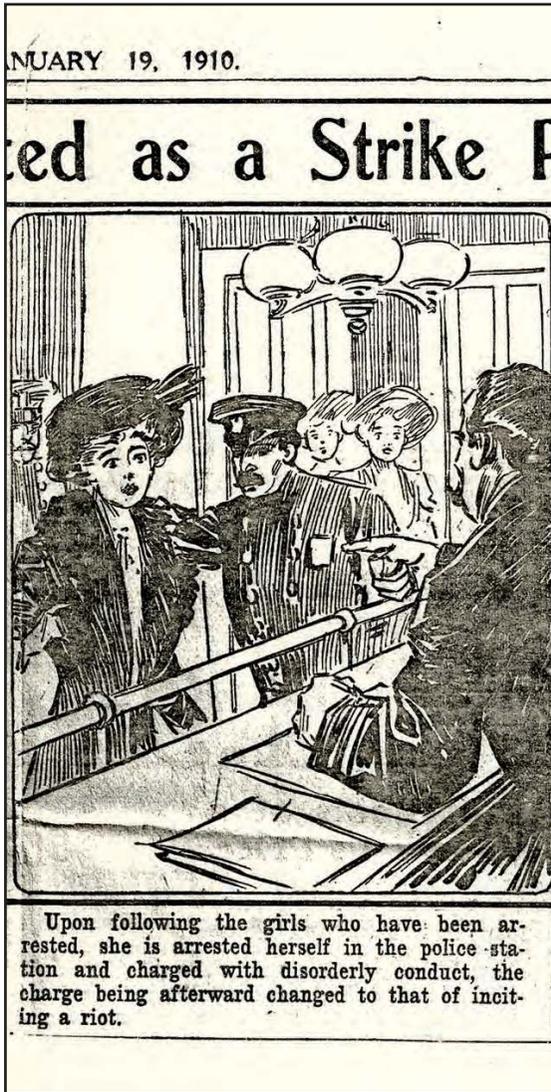


Figure 10. "Scenes in the Life of Inez Milholland: Arrested as a Strike Picket, Illustrated" (detail a).



**Figure 11.** "Scenes in the Life of Inez Milholland: Arrested as a Strike Picket, Illustrated" (detail b).



**Figure 12.** "Scenes in the Life of Inez Milholland: Arrested as a Strike Picket, Illustrated" (detail c).



**Figure 13.** "Scenes in the Life of Inez Milholland: Arrested as a Strike Picket, Illustrated" (detail d).



**Figure 14.** Inez mounted on Grey Dawn in the Woman Suffrage Procession in Washington, D.C., March 3, 1913. Photograph. [vcencyclopedia@vassar.edu](mailto:vcencyclopedia@vassar.edu)



**Figure 15.** John Collier; *Lady Godiva*. Oil on canvas, 1897. Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com).



**Figure 16.** *Inez Milholland Boissevain, as Lady Liberty at the Woman Suffrage Rally, Washington, D.C., March 3, 1913. Photograph. inezmilholland.org.*

This ride by Inez may have been inspired by a tale from Medieval English history that Inez, who had spent her teenage years in London, would certainly have known. This is the story of Lady Godiva, probably a real woman (died c. 1067), an aristocrat from Coventry, England, who, when challenged by her husband, Leofric, rode naked down the main street of town on her horse to protest the high taxes being levied on the townspeople. The story was current in the 1890s and 1900s as a subject for painters in England. The artist, John Collier, for example, painted a version with a nude Lady Godiva on horseback in 1897 (Figure 15).<sup>18</sup> Not all of the contemporary painters depicted the lady with no clothes, however; some showed her in pure white garments. We know from Inez's writings that she was not shy about her sexuality, so a little exploitation would have been entirely in character.

Also as part of the parade, a large group of the women staged a tableau with Lady Liberty at the center—the part played, of course, by Inez (Figure 16). The women wore the colors of the movement: white with purple and gold. Inez was impressive. She was tall and imposing. She wore body armor, a helmet, flowing white skirts, golden tassels, a cape with the stripes of the American flag. She held a staff topped with the American eagle wings outstretched.

## *Woman Suffrage and the Western Lecture Tour, 1916*

Gradually, Inez came to realize that she could not dissipate her energies. As a lawyer, she was defending indigent workers in New York City in criminal and divorce cases. She still cared about world peace, Socialism, and free love. In the summer of 1916, she attended and even briefly spoke at the second annual conference of the N.A.A.C. P. conference chaired by W.E.B. DuBois. It was held at Troutbeck, in Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, the country home of New York City lawyer, Joel Spingarn. The status and rights of blacks was a particular interest of Inez's father, John Milholland. Presumably, he encouraged her interest in the cause; she became a member.<sup>19</sup>

Nevertheless, Inez began to focus more and more intensely upon Woman Suffrage to the exclusion of other issues. Hence her annoyance with her friend Crystal Eastman who was still torn between world peace and Woman Suffrage (mentioned above). Also this may help explain her willingness to embark on an especially demanding trip through many Western venues in the election autumn of 1916 and her refusal to admit that she was sick. In addition, she had her reputation as a New Woman and an Amazon to uphold. She did not want the men of the nation to regard her as weak.

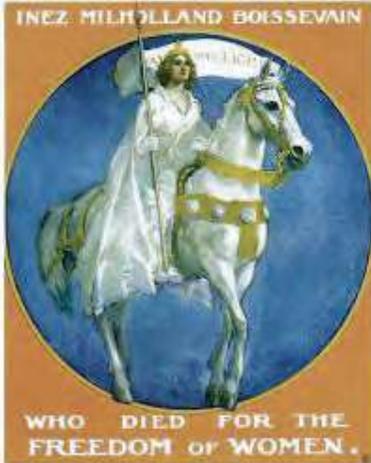
### **Inez Milholland Boissevain: Icon of Woman Suffrage**

She was very ill. The doctor who examined Inez after her collapse at the lecture in Blanchard Hall, Los Angeles, recommended rest before she could have surgery. She was moved from her hotel to the local hospital. Her sister Vida called for her husband, Eugen Boissevain, and her parents,



**Figure 17.** *Alice Paul. Detail of photograph in which Miss Paul offers a toast after Tennessee becomes the thirty-sixth state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment, 1919. Photograph. Historic National Woman's Party, Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, Washington, D.C.*

John and Jean Milholland, to come across the country from New York City to Los Angeles. They were not allowed to see Inez at first, however, for fear the weak patient would think they had been summoned to her deathbed and she would give up hope. She became weaker and weaker. She had taken ill on October 23. After three weeks, her husband and parents were allowed to see her. She died on November 25, 1916, becoming a martyr, in fact the martyr, of the Woman Suffrage movement.<sup>20</sup>



**Figure 18.** *Inez Milholland Boissevain, Who died for the Freedom of Women, Poster, 1924. wikipedia.com.*

In New York State, the right to vote would be achieved in 1917. The national effort would continue to be led by little, determined Alice Paul (Figure 17). In the entire nation, Constitutional Amendment Nineteen would be written, passed in the House and Senate, sent to the states for ratification, and ratified in 1920, to go into effect later in the same year. In 1920, at long last, the women of the United States could vote. Later, in recognition of the role of Inez Milholland Boissevain, members of the movement commissioned a poster in her honor (Figure 18), forever enshrining her as the icon of the movement.

<sup>1</sup> Mary Walton, *A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and The Battle for the Ballot* (New York: MacMillan Publishers, 2010), loc. 2815 -2827.

<sup>2</sup> Walton, *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Walton, *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> For a more information on the political background of the period and the movement, see Karen Pastorello, *The Progressives: Activism and Reform in American Society, 1893-1917*, The American History Series (Chichester, West Sussex, UK: Wiley Blackwell, 2014), pp. 179-182. For a different approach that stresses social class rather than gender, see Michael McGerr, *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920* (New York, London, Toronto, Sydney, Singapore: Free Press, 2003).

<sup>5</sup> Blanche Wiesen Cook, (ed.), *Crystal Eastman on Women and Revolution* (Oxford, London, New York: Oxford University Press, 1978), p. 17. For more on Crystal Eastman, see: John D. Buenker, "Crystal Eastman (25 June 1881-8 July 1928)." *American Radical*

and Reform Writers: Second Series, edited by Hester L. Furey, vol. 345, Gale, 2009, pp. 114-123. Dictionary of Literary Biography Vol. 345. *Dictionary of Literary Biography Complete Online*, [go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=DLBC&sw=w&u=nysl\\_se\\_vas-sar&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CSPWACS873948673&it=r](http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=DLBC&sw=w&u=nysl_se_vas-sar&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CSPWACS873948673&it=r). Accessed 16 June 2017.

- <sup>6</sup> John Milholland's father, a Protestant, had immigrated from Northern Ireland. The family name had been Mulholland, but John changed the name to Milholland.
- <sup>7</sup> Linda J. Lumsden, *Inez: the Life and times of Inez Milholland* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2004), pp. 9--18. This excellent book is the definitive biography of Inez Milholland Boissevain.
- <sup>8</sup> Lumsden, p. 18.
- <sup>9</sup> Lumsden, p. 20.
- <sup>10</sup> Lumsden, pp. 29-43.
- <sup>11</sup> Lumsden, p. 1-2.
- <sup>12</sup> For an interesting perspective on this issue, see Melanie Gustafson, "Partisan Women in the Progressive Era: The Struggle for Inclusion in American Political Parties," in Vicki L. Ruiz and Ellen Carol DuBois (eds.), *Unequal Sisters: A Multicultural Reader in U.S. Women's History*, Third Edition (New York and London: Routledge, 2000). Also: Ellen Carol DuBois, "Woman Suffrage around the World: three Phases of Suffragist Internationalism," in Vicki L. Ruiz and Ellen Carol DuBois (eds.), *Unequal Sisters: A Multicultural Reader in U.S. Women's History*, Third Edition (New York and London: Routledge, 2000).
- <sup>13</sup> Sylvia D. Hoffert, *Alva Vanderbilt Belmont: Unlikely Champion of Women's Rights* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2012), pp. 71-74.
- <sup>14</sup> Hoffert, p. 83.
- <sup>15</sup> "Inez Milholland", wikipedia.com. Accessed September 20, 2017.
- <sup>16</sup> "Inez Milholland", wikipedia. com. Accessed September 20, 2017.
- <sup>17</sup> It is interesting to note that, as a result of this marriage and because of current United States laws, Inez would not have been able to vote in the U.S. should women have been granted the vote. Because she was marrying a citizen of a foreign country, The Netherlands, she was forced to relinquish her American citizenship and travel under a Dutch passport. So she would not be able to vote as an American. Lumsden, pp. 101-109.
- <sup>18</sup> "Lady Godiva," wikipedia.com. Accessed September 20, 2017.
- <sup>19</sup> Lumsden, p. 59.
- <sup>20</sup> Walton, loc. 2815 -2827. Lumsden, pp. 164-169.

# ARTICLES





# Living on Water Lot 7

*by Nancy A. Fogel*

We lived in a house on Roosevelt Road in Hyde Park from the fall of 1964 when we purchased it from the builder, William Osika, until we sold it in the spring of 2013. It was rumored that our land had been part of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Estate before it became a housing development. A neighbor had been told that her driveway was part of a network of Secret Service roads that had honeycombed the area for security when President Roosevelt was in town. Another story claimed that the part of Roosevelt Road that passed our house had once been the bridle path for Eleanor Roosevelt's home, Val-Kill. The Roosevelts seemed like silent neighbors whose presence was never very far away. Actually, Roosevelt Road did not exist when FDR was alive. It wasn't until the early 1960s, that developers William Kay and Nathan Reifler, amassed enough land from purchases, both inside and outside of Roosevelt property, to carry out their plans and create the housing development and its roads.

Our pie-shaped lot was about a half acre in size and had many beautiful trees, among them maple, oak, hickory, sycamore and wild dogwood. A brook ran along the edge of our property, flowing southeast, joining the Fallkill Creek that ran past Eleanor Roosevelt's home, and from there behind the old Hudson River Psychiatric Hospital, through the city of Poughkeepsie, entering the Hudson River just north of the Poughkeepsie Railroad station. In early spring, a variety of wildflowers grew in the woods behind our house: skunk cabbage, bloodroot, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, wake-robin trilliums, and every color of violets. We also had several animals: wild turkeys, squirrels, chipmunks, deer, a large variety of birds and even a huge turtle that climbed the embankment from the stream to rest under our porch. Except for dry summers and times when it was covered with ice in the winter, it ran loud and clear and was part of the music of our daily lives. Before we moved away, I wanted to know something about the land we had lived on for almost fifty years.

Prior to European settlement, the land belonged to Native Americans. Two groups dominated in our area: the Wappingers tribe of Munsee Indians, part of the Algonquin group whose lands lay along the east side of the Hudson River as far south as Manhattan. The other group was the Mahicans, with lingual connections to the Six Nations of Iroquois, whose settlements were

in the middle to north of what is now Dutchess County.<sup>1</sup> Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote that his estate lands were part of the homeland of the Algonquin-speaking Wappingers and there had been “a continuous sequence of habitation in the Hudson Valley for thousands of years.” He added:

Speaking of trees, the fields in front of my house (Springwood) prove that an Indian encampment existed here before the white man came. The old oak tree in front of the Library and the lot south of the Avenue must, of course, have grown up under field conditions and this existed only where Indians had cleared the land and cultivated it... Furthermore, a good many arrowheads have been found in the plowing..<sup>2</sup>

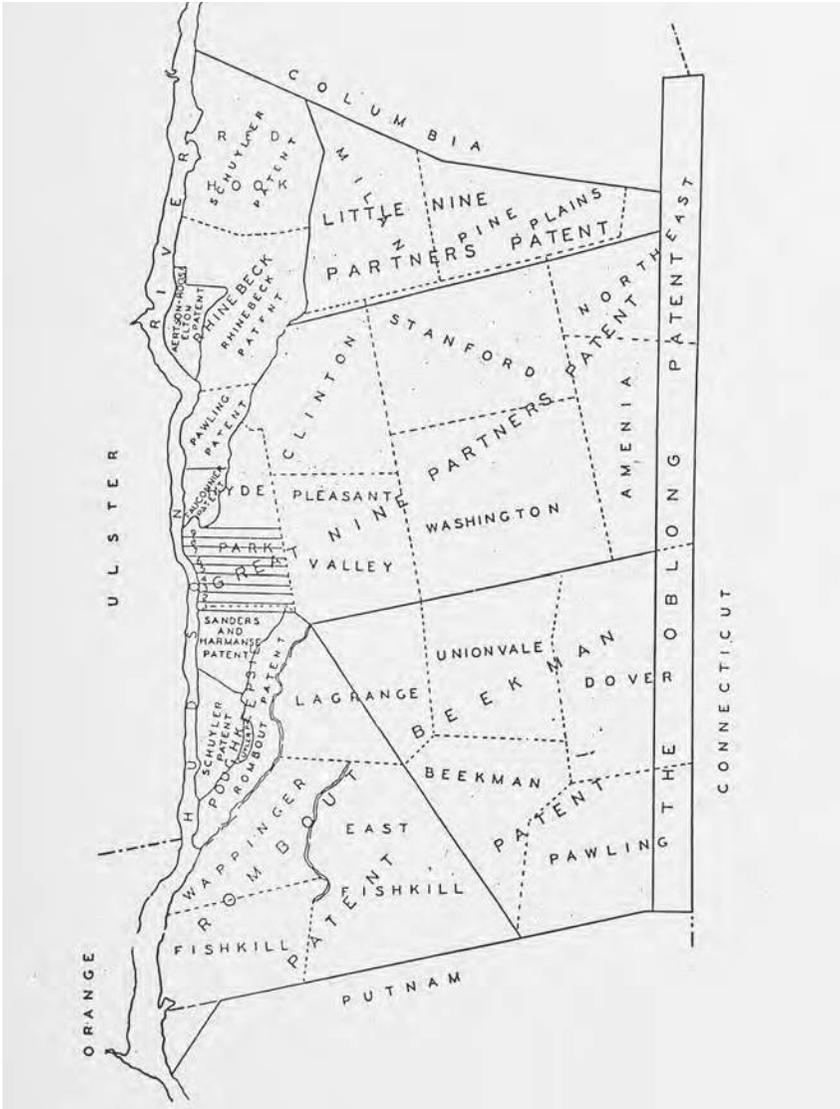
Both groups were hunters and planters living in villages of longhouses and wigwams with seasonal camps along streams. Their trails became Dutchess County’s first roads.

In Colonial days the rights of ownership of land were granted in the form of patents by the English crown. A license was required to purchase land from the Indians and a deed signed by them made the purchase legal.<sup>3</sup>

In 1697 nine men, all of whom had some influence in colonial government in New York City, banded together to purchase one of the largest land grants in Dutchess County. Known as the Nine Partners Patent or the Great Nine Partners Patent, it amounted to 145,000 acres and covered the land between the north end of Poughkeepsie to the center of what is now the village of Hyde Park, from the Hudson River on the west to the Connecticut border on the east.<sup>4</sup> Helen Wilkinson Reynolds has called these partners “speculators,” businessmen hoping to realize a profit on their investment.<sup>5</sup> The nine partners were:

- 1 Col Caleb Heathcote, a prominent New Yorker, a surveyor, one-time Mayor of New York City (1711-1714), Lord of the Manor at Scarsdale, a member of the Provincial Council and, at one time, Judge of the Court of Admiralty.
- 2 Major Augustin Graham, Surveyor General of N.Y. Province, a major in the Militia of Dutchess County, Attorney General of the Province of New York.
- 3 Col. Henry Filkin, excise collector and revenue officer for Long Island, Lt. Col. of Kings County Militia (1706).
- 4 David Jamison, Attorney of N.Y. Province, Deputy Clerk of Governor’s Council, Chief Clerk of Governor’s Council (1691), Chief Justice of New Jersey (1711), Attorney General of N.Y. (1720).

- 5 Jarvis Marshall, Doorkeeper of the Governor's Executive Council.
- 6 James Emott, Attorney of High Standing.
- 7 Hendrick Ten Eyck, Marinor of New York City.
- 8 William Creed, lawyer for Jamaica, NY.
- 9 John Aertsen of Ulster County. <sup>6</sup>



**Figure 1.** Map of Dutchess County showing the Nine Partners Patent in relation to other patents in the county. Collection of Dutchess County Historical Society.

The Nine Partners Patent was granted to Caleb Heathcote and Augustin Graham on May 27, 1697. The land was held in common by the partners for almost forty years, pending a signed deed with the Indians. The partners could and did name heirs and/or sell rights to the land, but they could not sell their shares outright until the deed was signed.<sup>7</sup>

Because the patent lands were unpopulated and heavily forested, access to them was at the Hudson River. There were four divisions of the Patent, the first along the riverfront, dividing that land into nine parcels called “water lots.” Each lot was approximately one-half mile wide, extending four and one-half miles east, covering about 1000 acres.<sup>8</sup> The nine partners each received one water lot, as follows (Figure 1) :

water lot

- 1 Hendrick Ten Eyck
- 2 Henry Filkin
- 3 Augustin Graham
- 4 James Emott
- 5 John Aertsen
- 6 William Creed
- 7 David Jamison
- 8 Caleb Heathcote
- 9 James Marshall<sup>9</sup>

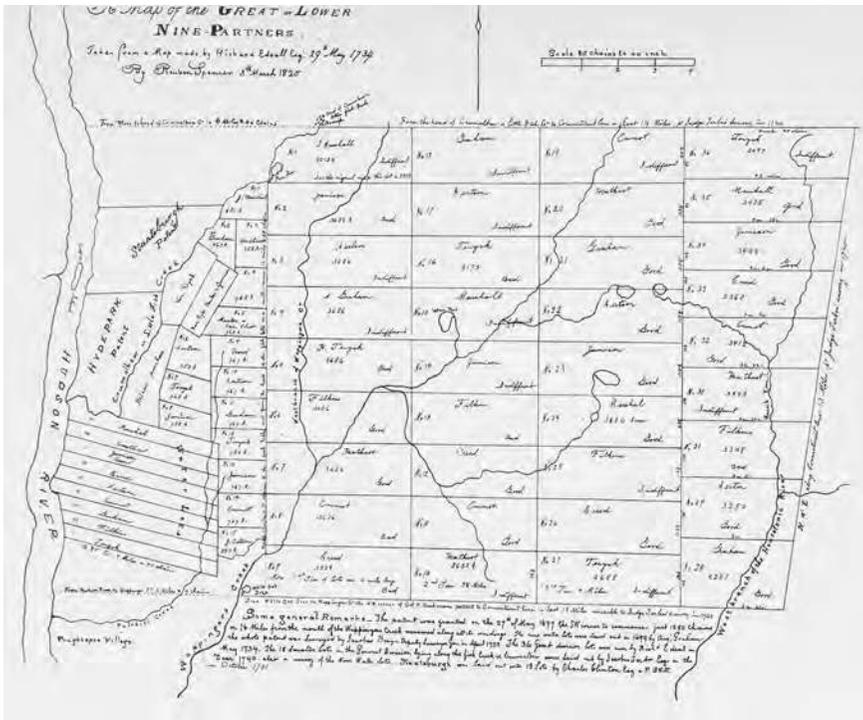
It was not until October 13, 1730 that twenty Native Americans signed the deed with their marks for the patent which had been granted in May, 1697. The agreement between them was for:

sums of money, goods and merchandise to the value of 150 English pounds, to witt (a total) of ten striped Blanketts, ten Duffills Blanketts, four Dozen of pipes, ten knives, four Hatchets, two Strouds Blanketts, 24 pounds of powder, 28 pounds of lead, two good guns, six white shirts and one half barrel of strong beer.<sup>10</sup>

A final deed was given releasing the rights of the Indians on November 4, 1737.

In 1734, David Jamison, the only one of the original nine partners to have survived to that date, called a meeting of the patent heirs and buyers with rights to the land in order to divide the remaining property. The survey that resulted was named the Second Division. This survey was made of the main body of the patent and the land divided into 36 parcels of approximately 12,000 acres each, four parcels for every one of the original nine patentees or their heirs.<sup>11</sup>

A Third Division of 18 lesser lots was created in 1740 along the west side of the Crum Elbow Creek and distributed among owners. The following year a fourth and final distribution of a 700-acre parcel was made among three shareholders.<sup>12</sup>



**Figure 2.** Map of the Second Division of Nine Partners Patent, taken from map made by Richard Edsall, Esq., 29th May 1734. By Reuben Spencer 8th March 1820. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

In the 1740s and 1750s sales of land within the Nine Partners Patent took off, and throughout the rest of the eighteenth century and all of the nineteenth, the Nine Partners Patent land was divided and sold. Two local historians, Clifford Buck and William P. McDermott, recorded these sales in their book, *18th Century Documents of the Nine Partners Patent*, published in 1979. Families of New Englanders pushing west and Quakers from Westchester County and Long Island were among those who came to establish farms, build houses, barns and mills. Old Native American foot trails were turned into roads leading to the river landings at Staatsburg, Hyde Park, Rhinecliff, and Poughkeepsie.<sup>13</sup>

We determined that our property was two miles east of the Hudson River in what was the original water lot 7, owned by David Jamison. Henry Noble MacCracken has called Jamison, “the best known of the Nine Partners, the attorney of its purchase and its manager.” Jamison was a Scotsman, a political exile because of early membership in a strict Scottish sect called the “Sweet Singers,” during turbulent times in late seventeenth century Scotland was sent to New York in 1685. He earned the money to repay his passage over four years by tutoring the sons of prominent New Yorkers in Latin. He was appointed Deputy Clerk of the Governor’s Council and in 1691 Chief Clerk of the Council. He later was admitted to the Bar and became Chief Justice of New Jersey and later Attorney General of New York in 1720.<sup>14</sup>

Jamison married twice, first to Mary Hardenbrok on May 7, 1692, and a second time to Johannah Meech on January 16, 1703. His only child and heir, a daughter, Elizabeth, was born c. 1700.<sup>15</sup>

Elizabeth Jamison inherited water lot 7 and her father’s other holdings in the Nine Partners Patent. She married another Scot, David Johnston, of Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Later maps of Jamison properties are marked with the Johnston name (also spelled Johnson). The son of this marriage, David Jamison Johnston, and his wife, Magdalena Walton (1724-1809), built their country home in 1760 on land Jamison received in the Second Division of the Patent, in the Town of Washington. They named it “Lithgow” after the home of David Jamison in Scotland. It still stands as a private residence today.<sup>16</sup>

John Johnston (1762-1830), a great grandson of David Jamison and the oldest son of David and Magdalena Johnston, was an attorney and gentleman farmer who served as a Dutchess County judge (1807-1817). He married Susannah Bard, daughter of Dr. Samuel Bard, whose family estate,

“Hyde Park,” was one or two miles north of the property they purchased straddling water lots 6 and 7. They named their home “Bellefield.” The core of the house is today used as offices for the National Park Service which administers the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home and Library, Eleanor Roosevelt’s Val-Kill, and the Vanderbilt Mansion historic sites in Hyde Park. Johnston and his wife sold Bellefield in 1820 to William Henderson. The property changed hands several times in the nineteenth century, including a four-year period when it was owned by John Johnston’s oldest son, Francis, who would have lived there as a child. Eventually it was sold to Archibald Rogers whose estate to the north, part of which was in water lot 7, abutted the property. Rogers subdivided a portion of his estate and sold 16 acres, including the Bellefield house, to New York State Senator Thomas Newbold in 1885. The house was remodeled for him and his wife by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White about 1909, and was occupied by the family until 1929. It was inherited by their daughter, Mary Newbold, and her husband, Gerald Morgan. Their son, Gerald Morgan, Jr., gave the property to the federal government in 1975.<sup>17</sup>

Throughout the nineteenth century, wealthy families built their country homes on the bluffs above the Hudson River. Land to the east was used for farms to support the estates or sold outright to young farmers who cleared the land, built homes and started farms. Nineteenth century maps of Dutchess County show an increasing number of property owners in the Patent land.<sup>18</sup>

Water lot 7 is of interest to me because our twentieth century house was built within its seventeenth century borders. Water lot 6 is also of interest for my purposes because much of it consisted of the farms FDR purchased in the 1930s that were near our property.

The original owner of water lot 6 was William Creed, one of the Nine Partners. It was sold to Charles Cooke who passed his holdings on to descendants. We know John Johnston purchased the northern half of water lot 6 in the 1790s for his Bellefield property and sold his holdings in 1820 to William Henderson. The property changed hands several times in the nineteenth century until 1867 when James Roosevelt (1828-1900), FDR’s father, began acquiring land in water lot 6 as it became available. By the time of his last purchase in 1886, his estate totaled approximately 625 acres, much of it bordering the Hudson River. At his death in 1900 he would leave half his property to his son, J.R. Roosevelt (Rosy), by his first marriage, and half to FDR, the son of his second marriage to Sara Delano (1854-1941).<sup>19</sup>

With the purchase of farms to the east, FDR would increase the estate in the twentieth century to a peak of 1,500 acres in 1939.<sup>20</sup> He bought the Bennett Farm (194 acres), in 1911, the first property he purchased independently. He was interested in forestry, both from the point of view of conservation and from the economic aspect of restoring the land and making it profitable. Many farms were abandoned after the Civil War because the soil had worn out, and they were no longer productive. There was a strong interest in conservation both in Europe and in this country. In New York State, forestry programs were being established at Syracuse and Cornell Universities.<sup>21</sup>

In 1912, FDR had his first forest plantation set out on the Bennett Farm. In the next two decades he continued to purchase farms as they became available for the purpose of continuing his passion for forestry. In 1925, four years after coming down with polio, he purchased the Tompkins Farm (192 acres), just east of the Bennett Farm. By 1928, sixteen plantations had been set out. Altogether, over half a million trees in 81 plantations were planted between 1912 and 1945.<sup>22</sup>

A network of wooden roads was constructed among the plantations to allow FDR to navigate through them in his specially-made, hand-operated Ford. Nelson Brown, a professor at the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, who advised and assisted FDR for more than 30 years, was often with him as he drove. There were plantations of Norway and white spruce, red oak and white oak, red pine and white pine, Douglas and balsam fir for Christmas trees and myriad other varieties. Many of them can still be seen in the Val-Kill and Roosevelt Road areas. During his Presidency it was FDR's recreation to drive through his plantations with Nelson Brown whenever he was in Hyde Park. During the second World War, the U.S. Army installed jeep roads, telephone lines, an electric security system and guard shacks throughout the estate to protect the President.<sup>23</sup>

At the death of his half-brother, "Rosy" Roosevelt in 1927, FDR inherited more than 100 acres of riverfront land. He purchased land from the estates of Thomas Newbold and Archibald Rogers in former water lot 7 and continued to buy up farms during the 1930s, always with the intention of continuing his forestry projects when his years as President were finished. In 1939, FDR gave sixteen acres to the federal government for the first Presidential Library. With the death of his mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, in 1941, FDR would give his Springwood home to the country.<sup>24</sup>

There were two properties of special significance to Franklin and Eleanor. One was Val-Kill, the Dutch name for the Fallkill Creek that ran through

the property that became Eleanor's home. As the story goes, Franklin and Eleanor and two of her friends, Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook, were having a picnic at a favorite spot on the former Bennett Farm one day in 1925. The women all worked in New York City during the week and wished for a house in the country where they could entertain and relax on weekends. FDR offered to build a house for them at that site. It would become "Stone Cottage," and was completed in 1926.<sup>25</sup>

Both Eleanor and Franklin were concerned about the welfare of local farmers who needed to supplement their incomes during winter seasons. This led to the establishment of Val-Kill Industries, an experiment in reviving the American craft tradition by making reproductions of early American furniture. A factory was built next to Stone Cottage and European and American craftsmen were hired to teach local workers. By late 1926, they were in production. Later, pewter work and weaving were added. Although it had some success and lasted about ten years, by 1936 the Depression had taken its toll and Val-Kill Industries was dissolved. Eleanor Roosevelt converted the factory to a residence for herself and her secretary, Malvina Thompson, in 1936.<sup>26</sup>

The second property that was especially meaningful was FDR's "Top Cottage." Built as a private retreat in 1938-39, it was to be FDR's home when he finished his role as President. It was located east of Val-Kill on one of the farms he purchased in 1935. It stands on high land and commands a view looking west across the Hudson Valley and north to the Catskill Mountains. With the help of a distant cousin, Margaret "Daisy" Suckley, FDR lovingly planned his dream house.<sup>27</sup>

Sadly, he did not get to live at Top Cottage, nor would there be any more tree plantations. FDR died at Warm Springs, Georgia on April 5, 1945, and was buried at his Hyde Park estate. A year later, on April 12, 1946, the FDR Home was opened as a national historic site, a gift from FDR to the American people.<sup>28</sup>

Trustees of the Franklin D. Roosevelt estate managed the sale of his property. In 1947 Eleanor Roosevelt purchased the Home Farm across Route 9, from the FDR Library and Home, the Bennett and Tompkin farms that included Val-Kill and Top Cottage, as well as the farms of Rohan, Dumphy, Hughson, Jones, and Wright that FDR had purchased in the 1930s. She immediately gave these properties to her son, Elliott, keeping life interest in Val-Kill. Elliott sold some of the Home Farm land across from the FDR Home and Library to commercial interests and planned to add a development of apartments, single family homes and a hotel, although this never

came to fruition. Elliott and Eleanor also began a business he was to manage, Val-Kill Farms, raising farm animals and selling Christmas trees. For business reasons, Elliott began to sell the properties given to him by his mother. Between November 1951 and December 1952, he sold 334.4 acres of the Home Farm to developers, as well as 216 acres in farms to the east where the major part of the Harbour Hills/Roosevelt Road development would be built. He kept a half interest in Val-Kill and sold the other half to his brother, John. By 1952, Elliott had left the area.<sup>29</sup>

Hyde Park was ripe for development in the 1950s for several reasons. There was a huge demand for housing after World War II; the river estates had declined and were being given to the government or divided into smaller parcels and sold to developers; a large IBM facility in Poughkeepsie was expanding, and the economy was booming.<sup>30</sup>

William Kay and Nathan Reifler were the developers in Poughkeepsie, NY who purchased much of Elliott Roosevelt's property in the early 1950s. Three hundred lots were laid out in the Harbour Hills/Roosevelt Road area with sales beginning in the early 1960s. Within ten years 275 single family homes had been built and sold. Ours was one of them.<sup>31</sup>

Eleanor Roosevelt continued to live at Val-Kill until she died in 1962. Her son John and his wife Anne also lived there. They sold it to two doctors who wanted to develop the property as a retirement home and healthcare facility. The Town of Hyde Park twice turned down their proposals. There were people interested in saving Val-Kill as a memorial to Mrs. Roosevelt. The Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee, a planning group, formed a committee and approached the National Park Service and the FDR Library about forming a partnership to preserve Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill (ERVK). They wanted to develop legislation to establish it as a national historic site. In 1978, the federal government acquired the Val-Kill property through eminent domain. ERVK opened in 1984 and is administered by the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. Since then Beaverkill Conservancy has acquired Top Cottage and it too has been designated a national historic site.<sup>32</sup>

Prior to 1998, the 334-acre Home Farm property was acquired by Scenic Hudson, a local environmental and conservation organization, and sold to the National Park Service. A series of hiking trails have been built connecting FDR's Springwood home with the Home Farm, Val-Kill and Top Cottage. The trails lead through some of FDR's old forest plantations.

In 1974 the 24-acre Bellefield Estate was donated by owner Gerald Morgan, Jr. and incorporated into the FDR Home Historic Site. The Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, named for one of FDR's Vice Presidents, opened just west of Bellefield in 2003.

### *Homing In on Lot 40*

Looking over maps of the Roosevelt Estate at the Presidential Library, it was clear our property was outside the FDR estate borders by about a mile. One of the librarians suggested I go to the Dutchess County Records Room to see who had owned our land prior to its purchase by developers Kay-Reifler, Inc.

I followed the sales of land in our area to Kay-Reifler from 1951 until well into the 1960s, finding Elliott Roosevelt's sale of 216.253 acres (Liber 807, p.238) recorded on July 18, 1952, which made up the bulk of the Harbourn Hills/Roosevelt Road development. Since I knew our property was outside the Roosevelt holdings, I looked at all the purchases of Kay-Reifler in our area.

A map in the records room, #2720, titled Haviland Knolls East, showed a proposed Department of Health plan for septic systems for lots #1-53, which included our lot, #40.

On that document, the road is named Roosevelt Road North. Roosevelt Road is a long, winding road shaped something like a horseshoe. Lot #40 was at the northeastern end of the road. Looking further in the records room I found that Kay-Reifler, Inc. had purchased land from Elmer and Mildred Dill (Liber 932, p.69-70), recorded on October 26, 1956. Their property on Cream Street in Hyde Park ran parallel to Roosevelt Road at that point with about a quarter mile of woods between them. The sale was for a strip of land, "to a point on the easterly line of a proposed road to be known as Roosevelt Road North." This is the land I believe the developers needed to complete Roosevelt Road, connecting the two parts of the horseshoe.

The sale of that land, above, mentioned that some of the property included "lands now or formerly of DeNitto." John and Antoinette DeNitto, bought the property on January 27, 1930 (Liber 503, p.115) from Eugene and Mary Welch. They in turn had purchased property from Thomas E. Kipp and his wife (Liber 347, p.35). These same premises had been conveyed to Thomas E. Kipp and Gilbert Kipp by deed, dated May 5, 1871 (Liber 170,

p.157), recorded April 6, 1873. The name Kipp appears in this location on a 1867 Town of Hyde Park map and the Sidney map of 1850. I did not go back beyond this date. I was satisfied to know that our half-acre of land on Roosevelt Road was within water lot 7 and had once been part of a farm owned by a family named Kipp.

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Julius H. Salomon, "Munsee and Mahican Indians of Dutchess County." *Dutchess County Historical Year Book* Vol 68, (1983) p., 40.
- <sup>2</sup> John F. Sears and John E. Auwaerter, *FDR and the Land, Roosevelt Estate Historic Resource Study, Home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt National Historic Site, Hyde Park, N.Y.* (Boston, MA: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service. U.S. Department of the Interior, 2011), pp. 56-57, 63.
- <sup>3</sup> Salomon, p. 53.
- <sup>4</sup> "The Record Book of the Nine Partners," *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*, Vol. 16, 1931, pp. 27-33.
- <sup>5</sup> H.W. Reynolds, "Nine Partners Patent, Nine Partners Meeting and Nine Partners Schools," a paper prepared by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, read by Harry Harkness Flagner, September 11, 1935, *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*, 1935. pp. 25-27.
- <sup>6</sup> J. Wilson Poucher M.D., "Who Were the Nine Partners?" *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*, 1939, pp. 52-57.
- <sup>7</sup> H. W. Reynolds, "First Settlers on the Great Nine Partners Patent," *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*, 1935, pp. 43-50.
- <sup>8</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, p. 57.
- <sup>9</sup> Clifford Buck, and William P. McDermott, "18th Century Documents of the Nine Partners Patent, Dutchess County, N.Y." Collections of the Dutchess County Historical Society, Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, MD, 1979, pp. 3-4, under Proceedings.
- <sup>10</sup> George S. VanVliet, George S., "Deed of the Great Nine Partners Patent," *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*, 1923, pp. 29-32, and "The Record Book of the Nine Partners Patent, *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*, 1931, pp. 27-33.
- <sup>11</sup> H. W. Reynolds, *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*, 1935, pp. 25-27.
- <sup>12</sup> Buck and McDermott, Introduction. pp. xiii-xiv.
- <sup>13</sup> Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*, 1940, "Early Roads on the Nine Partners Patent," pp. 56-64, and "First Settlers on the Great Nine Partners Patent," pp.43-50.
- <sup>14</sup> Henry Noble MacCracken, "Old Dutchess Forever, Story of an American County" (New York: Hastings House, 1956),. pp. 79-80.

- <sup>15</sup> *Marriage Licenses Issued by the Secretary of the Province of N.Y. Previous to 1784*, (Albany, NY: Weed, Parsons & Co., . 1860).
- <sup>16</sup> J. Wilson Poucher, M.D., pp. pp.55-56.
- <sup>17</sup> National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, dated August 28, 2014, accompanying document on the history of Bellefield, "Bellefield, 1866 to Present," pp. 72-73. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library.
- <sup>18</sup> Sears and Auwaertr, pp. 7-8, 81.
- <sup>19</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, pp. 7-8 and 81.
- <sup>20</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, p. 53.
- <sup>21</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, pp. 17-18, 23-25, 40-41.
- <sup>22</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, pp. 17-18.
- <sup>23</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, pp. 9, 18-19, 46-47, 198.
- <sup>24</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, pp. 154, 196, 216.
- <sup>25</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, pp. 158-159.
- <sup>26</sup> Louis Torres, "The Val-Kill Industries of Hyde Park," *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book (1997-1998)*, pp. 66-86 and Mary M. Flad, "Val-Kill and the American Crafts Movement, *Dutchess County Society Year Book*, (1997-1998), pp. 58-65.
- <sup>27</sup> Sears and Auwater, pp. 247-249.
- <sup>28</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, pp. 278-280.
- <sup>29</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, pp. 308, 311-314.
- <sup>30</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, pp. 308, 311-314.
- <sup>31</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, pp. 340-344, 348.
- <sup>32</sup> Sears and Auwaerter, p. 342.



# An Analysis of the Dutchess County Historical Society's Civil War Era Surgical Kit

*An Interview With Dr. Sam Simon*

*by Lou Lewis*

*With Commentary by Harrison Hunt*

*Prepared by Harrison Hunt and Lou Lewis*

On September 28, 2016, I met with Dr. Sam Simon, a local orthopedic surgeon who practiced here at both Vassar Brothers Hospital and St. Francis Hospital. Sam is now retired from his medical practice and is running a local dairy farm. We met at the Dutchess County Historical Society's offices at Clinton House. Dr. Simon agreed to review the contents of the Mead Medical Kit that is in the collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society. Per Mary Jo Russell, Archivist at Vassar Brothers Hospital, this kit was donated to the hospital as part of a much larger donation of artifacts from the Estate of Drs. John Mead and Edith Mead Miller. Vassar Brothers Hospital then donated the medical kit to the Dutchess County Historical Society at a press conference in August of 2008.

We hope to learn more about the background of this box and its contents. To that end, I will be interviewing Dr. Simon and his edited responses will be augmented by the italicized commentary of Harrison Hunt. Harrison is the author of several books and articles on the Civil War and, since 1975, has been a Civil War re-enactor portraying a Union Army Surgeon. He has done extensive research into Civil War surgery and medicine and has given presentations about the topic at the New-York Historical Society, Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Museum Village, the Greene County Historical Society and numerous Civil War roundtables. He is formerly the Senior Curator of History and Supervisor of Historic Sites for the Nassau County Department of Parks.

**LLewis:** Dr. Simon could you please tell me a little bit about your own background, education and the nature of your practice.

**Dr. Simon:** I trained as an orthopedic surgeon at the University of Pittsburgh. After finishing my training in '77, I moved to Poughkeepsie where I practiced general orthopedics, including trauma as well as joint

replacement surgery. I also treated scoliosis and fractures of the spine. I retired from practice in 1998.

LLewis: *Thank you for taking the time to do this today. The wooden box has a logo on it. Can you read that?* (Figure 1)

**Dr. Simon:** USA Hospital Department.



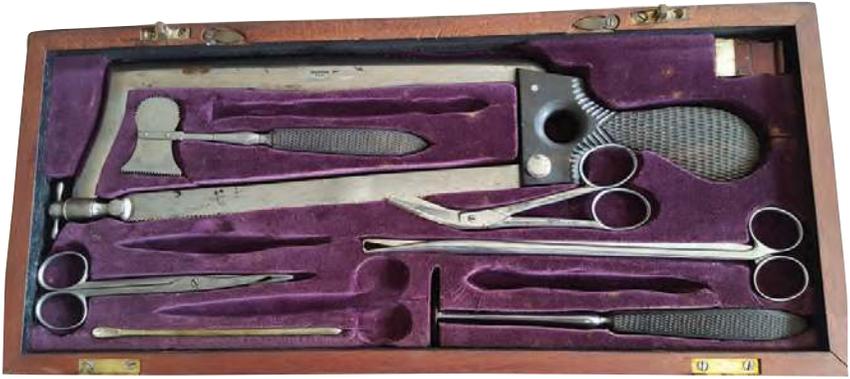
**Figure 1.** Civil War period Surgeon's Medial Case, donated to the Dutchess County Historical Society in 2008 by the Vassar Brothers Hospital. Photograph by L. Lewis. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

**HHunt:** *What the Historical Society has is a Civil War-vintage Surgeon's capital operating case. This contains instruments for a variety of procedures that an Army Surgeon might have to perform, including but not limited to amputations. Military issue cases were wooden and included a brass plate, plaque or cartouche on top of the case, usually engraved with "U.S.A. Hosp'l Dept." or "U.S.A. Medical Department."*

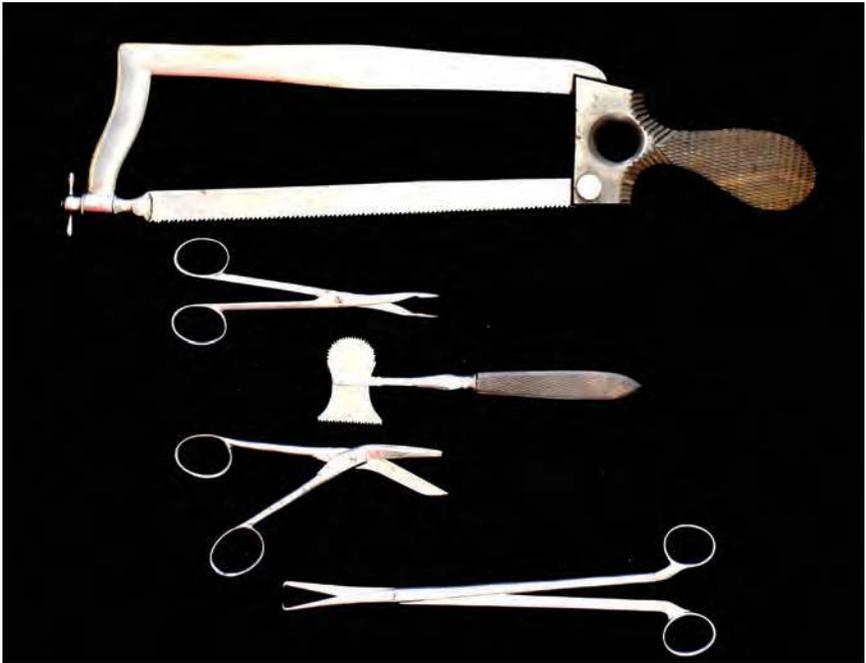
LLewis: As we open this box we see that it has several compartments. Many of the instruments are fitted directly into niches. Just starting wherever you would like, why don't we attempt to describe what we see here (Figures 2 and 3).

**Dr. Simon:** Number 1 is a saw.

**HHunt:** *This is a capital saw used in amputations for sawing through large bones such as those in the arm or leg. The blade has very fine teeth with little "set," or angle to the teeth, so that it will make a much finer cut than a carpenter's wood saw. This kit has an extra blade.) There is also (#2) a forceps used to remove loose pieces of foreign material such as uniform fragments and bone in a wound. Above it is a space for another similar forceps; below it, a space for a smaller artery forceps.*



**Figure 2.** Interior of Medical Kit with instruments. Photograph by L. Lewis. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.



**Figure 3.** Instruments from the Medical Kit: from the top: 1) saw, 2) a forceps for removing bits of bone from a wound, 3) Hey's saw for delicate facial and cranial surgery, 4) scissors for cutting sutures and bandages, and 5) bullet forceps for grasping and removing a bullet from a patient. Photograph by Bill Jeffway. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

**LLewis:** What is the function of the one that looks like scissors (#4)?

**Dr.Simon:** It is for cutting sutures and bandages.

**HHunt:** *These are bandage scissors. The angled shape and blunt base made it easier to safely run the scissors along the skin while cutting off bandages.*

**LLewis:** And I presume similar instruments must be used for surgery today.

**Dr. Simon:** Yes.

**LLewis:** It's hard to imagine these implements being used during the Civil War at a time when they did not have anesthesia.

**Dr. Simon:** They used chloroform or ether.

**LLewis:** So that was the way they anesthetized?

**Dr. Simon:** Yes. Ether was developed in the 1840s and came into wider use during the war. Much of the ether used in the Civil War came from factories like that of E.W. Squibb on the Brooklyn waterfront.

**LLewis:** OK. Now you are looking at something else.

**Dr. Simon:** The Hey's saw (#3) had two saw edges, one straight and one curved. This was used for delicate cranial, facial and jaw operations.

**LLewis:** And again, that similar type of instrument would be used today?

**Dr. Simon:** Yes.

**HHunt:** *Next is a bullet forceps (#5), used to remove lead projectiles from a wounded soldier. The curved jaws made it easier to grab a bullet.*

**LLewis:** I presume the amputation would be initiated by cutting away the flesh.

**Dr. Simon:** Yes, you see the knives. This is a "small" (Figures 4 and 5).

**LLewis:** I'll mark that as # 6 in the picture. And what was that used for?

**Dr. Simon:** To scrape out boney tissue.

**HHunt:** *I cannot tell what this is from the photograph. I should note that I am working at a disadvantage as I was never shown the actual kit and have only worked from photos.<sup>1</sup>*



**LLewis:** This seems to be a similar one next to it. It almost looks like a little hammer. I noticed the handles are textured and designed to be non-slip. I have marked it as # 7 in the picture.

**HHunt:** *This is a bone scraper. It has a thin, flat blade perpendicular to the handle. This instrument was used in amputations. After the bone was exposed, the membrane covering it—the periosteum—had to be scraped out of the way to allow the saw to be used.*

**LLewis:** Way over here in the corner is a little brush. We will mark that as # 8. Do you have occasion to do brushing? Obviously this is before modern machinery for aspirating a wound.

**Dr. Simon:** This is for clearing bone dust.

**HHunt:** *The brush was used to dust off fine fragments from bone saws, particularly the trephine (See # 15).*

**LLewis:** Now you have suction devices and the like.

**Dr. Simon:** Exactly. But from the saw you would get a lot of bone dust from the outer cortex and you will not want to keep that in the wound. You would want to brush it clean.

**LLewis:** That covers the contents of the top of the box. And now we are replacing that top with its felt lid and now looking at the main compartment.

**Dr. Simon:** This looks like a tourniquet (# 9) in the corner of the next compartment. When you do an amputation you want to control the bleeding. This has a band for tightening.

**HHunt:** *There is also a trephine, or conical saw (# 15). This was used to cut a disc of bone out of the skull, to relieve pressure or to treat a fracture. It was a T-shaped instrument, with an ebony handle perpendicular to the shaft holding the saw, which looks similar to a large drill bit. An elevator/ bone file (see text about items 17 and 18) and bone brush (8) were used with the trephine.*

**LLewis:** Do you think they reused the tourniquets?

**Dr. Simon:** The tourniquets you could reuse. If it's an extremity you can use it outside the operative field, but you want to control the bleeding before you do that. When you do the amputation you [leave] open vessels.

**HHunt:** *A surgeon would use a tenaculum—a small, curved hook with a sharp point (# 11, top)—to pull out the end of the cut vessel so it could be tied off.*

**Dr. Simon:** This little box contains the sutures you would use to tie off the vessels – right before they released the tourniquet.

**HHunt:** *Also the needles and sutures used to join together the flaps formed in an amputation. The sutures were usually silk, gut or waxed linen. Silver wire was sometimes used for cranial or facial work.*

**LLewis:** Now, I would assume that this process, the tourniquet and other instruments would become bloodied so you would have to clean them. Do you have any idea how that was done back in those days?

**Dr. Simon:** They had no sterilization but they could use alcohol. Alcohol does a lot. But this tourniquet is not used in the body, it's used outside. The instruments themselves were cleaned in water when available. And blades were kept bright by rubbing with a chamois and jeweler's rouge. The different knives of different lengths would have to do with the thickness or the size of the body or the extremity for amputating so you could cut the tissue. There are also scalpels. Nowadays scalpels are disposable but this one would have been reused.

**LLewis:** Before we leave these white [ivory handled] scalpels of different sizes, can you tell us procedurally, how they would use them?

**HHunt:** *These scalpels would be used for small incisions such as removing a bullet or cyst or delicate work such as cranial surgery. Missing from the kit are blunt-edged scalpels called bistouries. These are slightly curved and have a sharp edge only on the inner curve, with a dull back and nose. Bistouries were particularly used near blood vessels as they were less likely to nick the vessels than scalpels.*

**Dr. Simon:** The skin incision for an amputation is made based on the size of the extremity; [if] it is a finger, obviously you would use smaller instruments [and a] larger one for a big thigh, or a big person. Accordingly, you have the different lengths of knives that they were using to cut the flesh.

**LLewis:** You are now looking at the black knives as well? (# 12)

**Dr. Simon:** You see the progressive size and length for use as I have suggested.

**HHunt:** *On the bottom are two ebony-handled amputating knives. These had sharp edges on one side and were used to cut tissue to expose bones for amputation, primarily in what was referred to as a circular cut. Above these are two catlins, which are similar but have sharp edges on both sides; these were primarily used for the flap style of a cut. At the top is a metacarpal saw, which was smaller than a capital saw and was used for smaller bones such as fingers, toes and ribs.*

**LLewis:** What is this curved instrument with the bulbous handle (# 13)?

**HHunt:** *A curved trocar with cannula. This was used to drain fluids from the body. The trocar was a solid steel rod with a sharp point at the end. It usually would be inserted with a thin tube, or cannula, over it, which would be left in the incision when the trocar was withdrawn to allow fluids to drain. There were also straight trocars.*

**Dr. Simon:** Number 14 is like a Gigli Saw. A Gigli Saw is used in modern surgery to amputate extremities. It's a flexible saw and very sharp. You put this hook here, it's like a little handle, and this allows you to pass around the extremity.

**HHunt:** *At the time of the Civil War it was called a chain saw, which was used for cutting bones in amputations. On one end, the saw (which was a chain saw similar to those used for cutting trees today) had a fixed handle. On the other, a large needle was attached to work the chain under the bone to be cut; when the chain was drawn around the bone, the needle was removed, a second handle attached, and the chain saw drawn back and forth until the bone was cut through. This was not a common procedure. The chain saw was eventually supplanted by the Gigli saw (invented by Leonardo Gigli in 1893), which uses twisted wire to cut instead of a chain.*

**Dr. Simon:** Number 14 is the end of that handle for the saw which is flexible to get around the bone. When the tissue is above it, and the saw is directly against the bone, you can start cutting without cutting the muscle itself. This would allow the surgeon to do interior work and retain some muscle to close off the end of the amputation. That will make it clean and leave a nice stump.

**LLewis:** It's amazing how these things have survived in relatively good condition, isn't it? Looks like these could be put to use tomorrow, including the tourniquet.

**Dr. Simon:** They could be. And you know something, sad but true, it's probably better than some of the stuff in Syria they have right now. Note the extra blade, it has a hole, just like the other – just like the first one we looked at. You have to expose the bone. If it is a very traumatic fracture, from a horse's kick or a gunshot, in many cases the limb was not salvageable. So you are making this judgment call of what would be the most functional level of amputation. First you apply the tourniquet, because you want to control bleeding. Then you make the skin incision, distal to where you want to do the amputation, because you want some good flesh to cover the stump. You either want a prosthesis or be able to walk on it. Then you make that skin incision, and based upon the size of the body or the limb, different knives would be used.

**HHunt:** *The flesh above the incision would be pulled back to expose the bone; this was done by an assistant using his hands or a slotted piece of canvas. The membrane covering the bone would be scraped off (see # 7) and the bone would be cut by an appropriate saw: a capital saw (# 1) for large bones, a metacarpal saw (# 12, top) for small bones such as fingers or ribs, or a Hey's saw (# 3) for cranial/facial work.*

**LLewis:** Is there anything equivalent to a retractor there (Figures 6 and 7)?

**HHunt:** *No. What look similar to modern-day retractors (# 16) are solid sounds, used to probe for kidney stones and similar obstructions, and to open the urethra. Other slots in this area would have held smaller sounds and sterling silver catheters.*

**LLewis:** I wonder what the mortality rates were like. Probably pretty high.



**Figure 6.** *Bottom level of the Medical Kit. Photograph by L. Lewis. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.*



**Figure 7.** Instruments from the bottom level of the Medical Kit. Items, from the top: 15) Box with needles, 16) sounds, 17) rongeur, 18) trephine for cutting a hole in the skull to release pressure (at right) , 19) passer, 20) caitlin knife, rusty, with ebony colored handle--amputating knife. Photograph by Bill Jeffway. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

**Dr. Simon:** This instrument (# 17) is a rongeur.

**HHunt:** *Rongeurs, or bone nippers, were used to trim rough spicules from the end of cut bones after the saw was used. Number 17 is a blunt-edged rongeur, and 18 a sharp-edged rongeur. After the rongeur was used, the edge of the bone would have been smoothed further by a bone file. This is missing from this kit, but would have been in the space between #1 and # 3.*

**LLewis:** There is something here that is long and thin and very flexible.

**Dr. Simon:** It is a “passer”, to guide the saw or suture. It’s a flexible wire that you pass under tissue, if you want to pass a suture around something it’s a flexible guide (Item 19).

**HHunt:** *It also may have been a probang, a flexible instrument with a small sponge on one end used to clear blockages in the throat and to swab medicine there. Again, without having seen the actual kit, I cannot be sure.*

**LLewis:** Here you have what appears to be a rusty knife (Item 20). It has a black handle which appears to have the same texture as the other instrument. That would indicate that everything came from the same set. I guess that would be used just like the other knives?

**Dr. Simon:** Exactly. Based on how big a thigh you have cut through, you have to go in first with the bigger and sharper blade.

**HHunt:** *This is either an amputating knife or a catlin with a checkered ebony handle. These are the lower four items # 12. Amputating knives were sharp on only one edge and were usually used for preparing for an amputation via circular cut. Catlins were sharp on both edges of the blade and were used more for the flap method of preparation.*

**LLewis:** Is there anything in here that would also be used for general surgery as distinguished from amputation?

**HHunt:** *The trocar (# 13) and sounds/catheters (# 16) were not used for amputations. The bandage scissors (# 4), scalpels (# 11) and various forceps (# 2, and others that would have been in the empty spaces below 2, 6 and 7) could have been used for anything as needed—lancing boils, removing splinters, etc. There are no instruments for dental work.*

**Dr. Simon:** It's a beautiful case. Well intact. There seem to be some empty spaces here, but the quality of the instrumentation is very good.

**LLewis:** I wonder if these actually indicate the maker on them. There are some stamped makers on the handle. We would have to have a professional read that. Thank you so much Dr. Simon.

---

<sup>1</sup> For more information, see the following: "Medical Care, Battle Wounds & Disease" <http://www.civilwarhome.com/civilwarmedicine.html>, also [Civil War Virtual Museum](http://www.civilwarvirtualmuseum.org) (Field Medicine) -- Amputation Kit / Surgeon's Kit, [www.civilwarvirtualmuseum.org](http://www.civilwarvirtualmuseum.org), and Gordon Dammann, *Pictorial Encyclopedia of Civil War Medical Instruments and Equipment* (Missoula, Montana: Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., 1983). About three quarters of all operations performed during the Civil War were amputations.



# Dover Furnace 1934 Fiddlers' Contest

*by Caroline Rogers Reichenberg*

## *Introduction*

On January 20, 1934, my father, Delmar Rogers, was named the winner of a fiddlers' contest. Mr. and Mrs. Allen hosted the events that evening at their manor home in Dover Furnace. It is not clear to me how my Dad's musical talent took shape, but a photo of him in a local band is proof it was in his early years, perhaps at least as early as when he was 11-12 years old. When I was younger, people who had enjoyed his music told me that he was a natural musician. By the time he was an adult, Delmar had a local band with folks he knew. One night the group was hired for an evening of entertainment on Blueberry Hill, Wingdale, New York. He met my Mother Alice Holderman on that night.

The Newspaper Article, *The Pawling Chronicle*, January 25, 1934:

## **THOMAS PICKS THE WINNERS IN ALLEN FIDDLERS CONTEST**

---

**Delmar Rogers, Dover Boy,  
Sweeps the Field with  
Trenchant Bow**

---

## **Large Crowd Turns Out**

Dog Tail Corners and Cat Tail Swamp among entries who hail from far and wide: The strains of old time mountain music played by a hillbilly band echoed over Cricket Hill last Saturday night.<sup>1</sup>

From Dog Tail Corners, from Cat Tail Swamp, from West Mountain and from such prosaic places as Pawling, Dover Plains, LaGrangeville and Dover Furnace, old time fiddlers congregated at Leon Allen's place.<sup>2</sup>



Figure 1. Newspaper article describing the Dover Furnace Fiddlers' contest, "Thomas Picks the Winners of Allen Fiddlers Contest," The Pawling Chronicle, January 25, 1934, front page.

As the crowd continued to gather throughout the early part of the evening, the old time hospitality of the Allens was strained. Guests sat on stair landings, on the stairs, on banister railings, on the floor and a few of the early comers had chairs. The best sitting was done in the kitchen with occasional raids between pieces upon the doughnuts, fried cakes and sweet cider. Your Correspondent found some which was just about ready to grow up in the world, and in the interest of sobriety and the general well being of the assembly, he gathered Lowell Thomas, Earl Tobey, and Prosper Buranelli, all judges of the contest, around the jug. The learned jurists saw to it that no one else might be embarrassed with the offer of spirited cider.

There were nine contestants in all. There were old timers and youngsters. There were those who fiddled conventionally from under their chins, and then there were those, like old Ed McCue, who hails from Cat Tail Swamp, who plays from the hip. The laurels of the evening, which were ten big new silver dollars bound up in a red bandanna handkerchief, stayed in Dover Furnace, as Delmar Rogers stood up and announced that he would play the "Soldiers Joy," if he "could get it out of the old box."

He managed to get not only the "Soldiers Joy," but the "Chicken Reel" and a spirited version of "Turkey in the Straw," to the accompaniment of a banjo, out of the old box. He got them out so well that the judges had little question about who were the evening's winning fiddler.

Ed McCue, just a young fiddler of 66 played an "Irish Jig" and "Med McCloud's Reel." He played them plain and he played them fancy. He played from the hip, he danced and he sang, and only your correspondent's inability to find a harmonica kept him from accompanying him. He also played duck and drake, with some apple juice which would have been vinegar if it hadn't turned into hard cider. He ran a close tie to Fred Hallock of South Kent, Connecticut, who not so young as Ed, scales the years at 70. Fred began playing in New Milford at the age of 12 and we hope he's going strong at 112. From out of the dim and distant past, he gave us "Billy Wilson's Clog" and had feet tapping all over the room. The judges at that point retired for deliberation to see what McCue had left of the cider. Ed had left some, so he was given second place which carried the prize of five new silver dollars in a red bandanna. The third prize, a 50 lb. sack of flour, went to Fred Hallock. Perhaps that was the real prize of the evening, although Fred deprecatingly announced that he had two barrels "full" at home.

Frank Dean, of Dover Plains, who is 72, played "Sweet Ellen's Hornpipe." Harry Grey of Dog Tail Corner, gave the "Arkansas Traveller" and an old hornpipe. Roy Hamblin, of West Mountain, played "The

Irish Washerwoman” and the “Devil’s Dream” while Oren Kimball, who hails from the State of Maine, played the “Old Irish Lady’s Favorite” and “McDonald’s Reel.”

Tom McGraw of Amenia, not to be out done with all of the reels, pulled out of him memory “Mine McCloud’s Reel” and the “Liverpool Hornpipe.” Bob Barley, of Gaylordsville, Connecticut, played “Duggan’s Reel.”

Just a brief summary of these jigs, reels and hornpipes will give some indication of the sport that was had and the predicament of the judges, one of who no matter what was played asked his brother judges: Is this “Turkey in the Straw”.

Lowell Thomas, the Sage of Pawling, was chairman of the judges committee and master of ceremonies. Lowell remarked that he had heard fiddling from Maine to California and from El Paso to the Klondike but for pure unadulterated first class and high grade mountain fiddling the Harlem Valley took the cake. One of the features of the evening’s entertainment was an old fashioned square dance preformed by Mr. & Mrs. Allen, Miss Anna Vincent and some of their friends. One of these days when warm weather comes around again, we are going to suggest that Mr. Allen get the fiddlers together again and have an old time dance in that big barn of his, the corner of which scraped us as we were coming home. The picturesque period gown worn by the ladies in the exhibition, 50 years in the case of Mrs. A. L. Wathley and Miss Anna Vincent, others were of the more modern style of 20 years ago. But all were fitting to the occasion.



**Figure 2.** *Delmar Rogers playing the guitar, 1934. Photo. Collection of Caroline Rogers Reichenberg.*

***I Remember:***

This event took place before I was born, I have always wished I had been a witness at the contests. All the while people enjoyed his entertainment, Delmar was becoming incapacitated with rheumatoid arthritis. A doctor by the name of Howard Townsend, with Vassar Brothers Hospital had a special interest in this particular health issue. Dr. Townsend came to stay at our home for many years at which time he would go deer hunting with my parents in exchange for treating my father's health condition. Dr. Townsend would make notes of the changes of my father's health. He tried gold Injections, bee venom from live bee stings, snake venom plus other treatments. He eventually gave my father cortisone which, at that time in the 1950s, was a new way of treatment. In those early years in the 1930s, there was no cure or no way to slow the arthritis.

When I was young he would play his guitar and sing or once in a while play the fiddle. The sounds of his music are a big part of my childhood memories.

There were occasions, when he was in pain, he would to play and sing for a short length of time. I especially loved his spirited songs with double, triple time and sometimes even faster.

---

<sup>1</sup> Published in the *Pawling Chronicle* (January 25, 1934), front page.

<sup>2</sup> In 1975 the site was known as Green Acres — a summer camp for underprivileged boys from New York City.



# ADDENDA





# Contributors

**John Barry** has had a twenty-five-year career as an accountant with a major accounting firm and several years of service in secondary education. Mr. Barry served in the U.S. Marines from 1968 to 1972. After the Vietnam War, he taught at Culver Academy in Indiana. He then shifted his focus to the business world, achieving a Masters in Business Administration from Notre Dame (1977). He worked as a Certified Public Accountant and partner at Coopers & Lybrand in Orlando, Florida from 1977 through 2001. From 2001 through 2014, he returned to education, serving as the CFO of an independent school, a teacher, a coach, and a head of school.

**Eleanor Rubin Charwat** Intrigued by a mention of bootlegging in the Hudson Valley in one of her father's scrapbooks about his 58 year law career in Poughkeepsie, Eleanor (Ellie) Charwat started to research the subject and created a talk (and a book) on "Bootlegging in the Hudson Valley" that she has given to over 20 historical societies, libraries, and other community organizations. At each talk, members of the audience add their anecdotes or family lore about bootleggers, speakeasies, and underground tunnels.

Ellie is a Poughkeepsie native who has lived in the Hudson Valley most of her life. She was head of the School of Adult Education at Marist College, has been a newspaper reporter, a teacher of English as a Second Language, a Town of Poughkeepsie Councilman and an active community volunteer.

She is the author of *Small Town Lawyer: Highlights of Nathaniel Rubin's Career and A Life Well-Lived, a Memoir*.

**Charles Peter Colomello**, a native of Dutchess County, has a BA in history from Fairfield University, and an MA in history from the City University of New York, where he focused on rural unrest in the Hudson Valley during the mid-eighteenth century. His lifelong passion for aviation and aviation history, as well as the history of the Hudson Valley have led him to undertake serious research into the region's aeronautical past. Pete is a licenced pilot with a distinct interest in flying "vintage" aircraft from the 1930s-1940s period. He is employed as a teacher at a local school district as well as holding an adjunct lecturer position at the Dutchess Community College.

**Nancy Fogel** has lived near the Hudson River for most of her life: upstate, downstate and in New York City. She remembers a time as a child when

she jumped across the Hudson, a narrow stream in the Adirondacks where she was visiting with her family.

Nan is interested in history. In particular, she likes to research and write about Dutchess County. For several years she wrote articles for Dutchess County Historical Society Year Books. In 2009 she self-published a book about her great grandparents' lives in India.

As an older student, Nan graduated from Dutchess Community College and Vassar College. At Vassar, she majored in Science, Technology & Society, a multidiscipline program that required a concentration in one of the social sciences. Her choice was American History.

Nan's other interests are in art and film and she likes to travel. She is a member of the Dutchess County Historical Society, Hyde Park Historical Society, Poughkeepsie Public Library and the League of Women Voters.

**Benjamin J. Hall (1825-1896)** was a farmer who lived in Clinton Corners, New York. His descendant, Margaret Duff has donated his diaries and correspondence to the Dutchess County Historical Society. The poem in this issue is found in these papers. In addition, the Society has a fine example of an American flag, dated about 1863 (known as a "Kansas flag" for the 34 stars symbolizing the states of the Union at the time of its manufacture), that once belonged to the Hall family. Presently the flag is on display in the Dutchess County Office Building.

**Lydia Higginson** is the CEO of Dutch's Spirits at Harvest Homestead farm, a 400-acre working farm, NY Craft Beverage Tasting room, NY Farmer's Market, and Prohibition Era Historic Site. The site will soon host an operating distillery. Dutch's Spirits is the site of infamous gangster, Dutch Schultz, and his underground Prohibition bootlegging complex of bunkers and tunnels. Lydia is a graduate of Bucknell University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in French and Spanish. She has served on many boards in Dutchess County in addition to volunteering extensively for many organizations, and the Town of Poughkeepsie Historic Commission. In her spare time, she has travelled the world extensively, visiting historic sites and cultural institutions. Lydia is originally from New Jersey, and lived in Avignon, France and Lancashire, England before settling in the Hudson Valley 20 years ago.

**Julia Hotton** is the former Assistant Director, responsible for education, at the Brooklyn Museum. She is retired from the New York Public Library Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture as curator and manager

of its Art and Artifacts collection, and there she also directed educational and cultural programs in African-American history. As an independent curator, Ms. Hotton has organized a variety of art and historical exhibitions for the New York Historical Society, the Mariners Museum in Newport News, Virginia; Syracuse University; and Manhattan East Gallery of Fine Arts. Julia Hotton is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

**Candace J. Lewis, Ph.D.**, is an art historian with a specialty in the field of early Chinese art and a secondary area of interest in nineteenth-century art in America and Europe. She has taught at Vassar College and Marist College. She is a long-time member of the Dutchess County Historical Society. She became a trustee in 2008, president of the board in 2010, and is now serving as editor of the yearbook. She has lived in Poughkeepsie with her husband, attorney Lou Lewis, since 1969.

**Lou Lewis** is the senior member of the Poughkeepsie law firm Lewis & Greer P.C., which he founded in 1978. A native of Poughkeepsie, he has practiced law in New York State since 1969 and is a past president of the Dutchess County Bar Association (1992-93), as well as a former trustee of Marist College (1971-91). He has been a member of the Dutchess County Historical Society since the 1980s. Presently, he is serving as the vice-president of the Board of Trustees.

**John Miller (1905-2008)** was born in Poughkeepsie and raised here. From an early age, he took an intense interest in the new technology, sport, and business of aviation becoming a pilot and businessman in the area for the rest of his life. He ran the business, Giroflyers, at the Poughkeepsie Airport in the early 1930s and, after the end of Prohibition, signed on with a major airline as a pilot. He remained connected to aviation all his life and was renowned for his knowledge and story-telling ability.

**Malcolm Mills** was born in England and lived within sight of King Henry VIII's Hampton Court palace. He began his engineering career upgrading the milk collection system from U.K. farms, and invented a milk measuring device. In 1974, he was invited to America to market this patented device. This led to involvement in larger food and dairy processing systems. For the last four years of his business career he was based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as V-P Asia Pacific.

In 2000, he and his wife, Joy, retired back to Hopewell Junction, NY, to their pre-1790 post & beam house. The East Fishkill Historical Society

needed a director to manage the society, its 1785 Dutch style house and carriage barn situated on a 3 1/2-acre site. Although the author had no formal history training, the society appointed him as its director. He persuaded the trustees to furnish the house and local residents generously donated period furniture. The town asked the society to save and move the 1820 one-room school from Beekman Road to its site. This was completed in 2007. Later the society was asked to save an early icehouse. It now stands proudly as an ice harvesting museum. The author somehow found time to compile the *Images of America* book for East Fishkill. Finally two years ago, a local family donated a blacksmith's shop and this was moved to complete Dutchess County's finest collection of historic buildings.

**Caroline Rogers Reichenberg** is a lifetime resident of the Town of Dover, Dutchess County, New York and has always had a keen interest in history and preservation. She is a charter member of the Town of Dover Historical Society which was organized in 1974; and served as its president for 30 years. She also served as a School Board Member for the Dover Union Free School District. For many years she owned and operated a company which specialized in general excavating and the manufacturing of precast concrete.

Caroline was elected as Dover Town Clerk. During that time she was very involved with both the Dutchess County Town Clerks Association and the New York State Town Clerks Association. She held many state level offices which included District Director, Grants Chairman, Clerk of the Year Chair and Membership Chair. During her tenure as town clerk, Caroline is grateful for having had the opportunity to fulfill the very important task of obtaining and successfully returning to the town, the record book documenting the 1807 organization of the Town of Dover.

Now retired after 20 years as town clerk, Caroline serves as the Dover Town Historian Co-Chair and enjoys participating in the Town of Dover Historical Society's effort to preserve and share their heritage. Also for school children to visit the historic Tabor-Wing House, a National Register of Historic Sites and Places for them to learn about the architecture of the building and to explore the displays of items once used in homes before 1900. Her other very important passion is being involved, along with her certified therapy dog, Wrigley, in a volunteer program known as "Children Reading to Dogs" which originates from Therapy Dogs International.

**William P. Tatum III, Ph.D.**, has held the office of Dutchess County Historian since October 2012. He earned his B.A. in History and Anthropology from the College of William & Mary in Virginia in 2003, his M.A. in History from Brown University in 2004, and his Ph.D., also from Brown University, in 2016. His main area of research is Colonial North America under English rule. In addition to his scholarship, Tatum has been involved in historic site and museum programs throughout the east coast and England.

# Dutchess County Historical Society

P.O. Box 88  
Clinton House, 549 Main Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602  
845-471-1630  
Email: [dchistorical@verizon.net](mailto:dchistorical@verizon.net)  
[www.dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org)

## Board of Trustees 2017

Michael Gordon, *President*  
Lou Lewis, *Vice President*  
Eugene Fleishman, *Treasurer*  
Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer, *Secretary*  
Christine Altavilla, David Dengel, Philip England ,  
Julia Hotton , Tom Lawrence, Candace Lewis, Ph.D.,  
Ann Pinna, Werner Steger, Elizabeth Wolf Esq,  
Ex-officio –William P. Tatum III, Ph.D. *Dutchess County Historian*

## Awards Dinner Committee

Betsy Kopstein-Stuts and Candace Lewis, *Co-chairs*  
Ann Pinna, Christine Altavilla, Elizabeth Wolf

## Staff

Bill Jeffway, *Executive Director*  
Carolyn Hallisey *Bookkeeper*  
Adam Raskin, *Research Assistant*

## Assisting the Staff

Carol Doran

# DCHS Donors

*September 2016 through September 2017*

## Millennial Circle

Absolute Auctions & Realty, Inc.  
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation  
The Community Foundations of Dutchess County—  
Anonymous Fund  
D’Arcangelo & Co  
Frank and Mary Doherty  
Eugene Fleishman and Judith Elkin  
Lewis & Greer, P.C.  
Julius and Carla Gude  
Lillian J. Cumming Fund, The Rhode Island Foundation  
Lou and Candace Lewis  
James Oppenheimer and Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer  
Poughkeepsie Public Library  
Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery  
Albert and Julia Rosenblatt  
Joan E. and James R. Smith  
Julia Widdowson  
Zimmer Brothers Jewelers

## Sponsor

Anonymous  
Doris Adams  
Christine Altavilla  
Jonathan and Olivia Altschuler  
Babiarz Court Reporting  
George and Phebe Banta  
Richard Birch  
Martin and Eleanor Charwat  
Demar Family Foundation

David and Dennis Dengel  
EFCO Products, Inc.  
Michael and Deborah Gordon  
Shirley Handel  
Handel Foundation  
Betsy Kopstein-Stuts  
Estate of Lt Col. Gilbert Krom  
E. Peter Krulewich

McCabe & Mack LLP  
Passikoff & Scott  
Certified Public Accountants  
Werner and Christine Steger  
Phillip and Barbara VanItallie  
Carol Vinall  
Williams Lumber & Home Center  
Elizabeth Mary Wolf

### Patron

Ackerman Quinn  
Financial Services, LLC  
Adams Fairacre Farm  
John Winthrop and Tracie Aldrich  
John and Anne Atherton  
Ronald and Betsy Atkins  
Richard Austin and Susan Mitchell  
Roy T Budnick & Associates, Inc.  
Tom Cervone  
Miriam Cohen  
Dover Historical Society  
Edward and Margaretta Downey  
Robert and Susan Doyle  
Dutchess Community College  
Margaret Duff  
Steve and Amy Effron  
Jack and Rita Effron  
Harvey and Mary Flad  
Arthur Gellert  
Darren Hagan  
Harney & Sons Tea  
Eileen Hayden

Larry and Katie House  
Michael and Ginny Hancock  
Hudson Valley Federal Credit  
Union  
Brad and Barb Kendall  
Edward & Nancy Kelly  
Kendall Design & Restoration  
Mary W. Lunt  
James Merrell  
John Mylod  
John and Ann Pinna  
Eleanor Mylod Pizzani  
Michael and Patricia Prunty  
Caroline Reichenberg  
Rhinebeck Bank  
William P. Tatum  
Carol Vinall  
Ron and Mary Jane Von Allmen  
Mary Westermann  
Matthew Winchester  
David Yellen

## Sustaining

Anon Adams	Julia Lunt
Susan Adams	Edwin and Judith Leonard
Arlington Wine & Liquor	Roderick Link
Andrew Ashton	Margaret Lombardi
Virginia Augerson	Tracy Kass Mackenzie
Harry and Deborah Baldwin	Kay Mackey
Joan and Charles Blanksteen	Cora Mallory-Davis
Mary Brockway	Marist College
Joan Carter	Tom and Gail McGlinchey
John Conklin	Edward and Patricia McLoughlin
Sally Cross	Miller Funeral Home
C R Properties	Friends of Mills Mansion
Allen Deragon	Marcus Molinaro
Anne Marie Dignan	Kathleen Moyer
Catherine Durland	Philip Peters
Michael and Judith Elkin	Eileen and Denny Quinn
Edwin Fitchett	Randy and Diane Rogers
Nancy Fogel	Florence and Robert A. Rosen
Peter and Ann Forman	Family Foundation
John Garrity	Royal Carting
Michael and Pam Gartland	J. David Schmidt
Gellert, Klein & Macleod, LLP	Celia Serotsky
Nancy Giordano	Samuel and Gail Simon
Julia Harte	Betty Smith
Timothy Holls	Calvin and Diane Smith
Julia Hotton	Anne Strain
Bill Jeffway & Christopher Lee	Betsy and Julian Strauss
Claudine and Christopher Klose	Sandra Strid
Cynthia Koch	Mark Tallardy
Virginia LaFalce	Alan Toney
Lawrence Laliberte	Denise D. VanBuren
Steven and Linda Lant	

Vassar College  
Sylvia Watkins

Jane Whitman  
Louis and Barbara Zuccarello

### Lifetime Members

Herman Harmelink	Sheila Newman
Homeland Foundation	Joan Sherman
Michael Levin	Paul South
Lou and Candace Lewis	Norma Shirley
Zinas Mavadones	C. B. Spross
W.P. McDermott	Peter and Myna VanKleeck
Melodye Moore and Lenny Miller	William Wade
Harold Nestler	

The Society encourages the use of memorial donations to remember a loved one, or the gift of a special donation in honor of one's birthday, anniversary, or special occasion. Please be assured that all such remembrances will be appropriately acknowledged with a special letter from the Society expressing our sincerest thanks.

It has been the policy of the Dutchess County Historical Society to print only the categories seen above due to space limitations. We certainly value all of our member and donors, including Lifetime, Individual, Family, and Organization. We appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you for your continued support as we move forward into our second one hundred years.

# Directory of Dutchess County Municipal Historians and Historical Societies

Prepared by William P. Tatum III, Ph.D.

Updated October 15, 2017

To update this directory, contact County Historian Will Tatum below.

## DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORIAN

**William P. Tatum III**

22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

(845) 486-2381 fax (845) 486-2138

wtatum@dutchessny.gov

## DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Bill Jeffway, Executive Director**

Post Office Box 88, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602

dchistorical@verizon.net

(845) 471-1630

bill.jeffway@dchsny.org

## CITY HISTORIANS / HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

### **Beacon**

Post Office Box 89

Beacon, New York 12508

Historical Society: Robert Murphy

info@beaconhistoricalsociety.org

(845) 831-0514

### **Poughkeepsie**

62 Civic Center Plaza,

Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

Historian: George Lukacs

saltglazed@aol.com

(845) 471-5066

## TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORIANS / HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

**Amenia** Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501

Historian: *Vacant*

Historical Society: Betsy Strauss [strauss.house.72@gmail.com](mailto:strauss.house.72@gmail.com)

**Beekman** 4 Main Street, Poughquag, New York 12570

Historian: Honora Knox [hknox@townofbeekman.com](mailto:hknox@townofbeekman.com)

Tel: (845) 724-5300

**Clinton** 820 Fiddlers Bridge Road, Rhinebeck, New York 12572

Historian: Craig Marshall [craigmarshall266@aol.com](mailto:craigmarshall266@aol.com)  
(845) 242-5879

Historical Society: Cynthia Koch [cynthiakoch@optonline.net](mailto:cynthiakoch@optonline.net)  
Post Office Box 122, Clinton Corners, New York 12514

**Dover** Post Office Box 478, Dover Plains, New York 12522

Historian: Valerie Larobardier  
[valarobardier@gmail.com](mailto:valarobardier@gmail.com)  
(845) 849-6025

Historian: Caroline Reichenberg  
[sweetcaroliner@aol.com](mailto:sweetcaroliner@aol.com)

**East Fishkill** Post Office Box 245, Hopewell Junction, New York 12533

Historian: David Koehler [healthyharvestcsa@gmail.com](mailto:healthyharvestcsa@gmail.com)  
(845) 226-8877

Historical Society: Rick Soedler [rjsoedler@gmail.com](mailto:rjsoedler@gmail.com)  
(845) 227-5374

**Fishkill (Town)** 807 NY Route 52, Fishkill, New York 12524

Historian: Joseph D. Cavaccini [jcavaccini@fishkill-ny.gov](mailto:jcavaccini@fishkill-ny.gov)  
(845) 831-7800 Ext. 3507

Historical Society: Steve Lynch [asklynch@yahoo.com](mailto:asklynch@yahoo.com)  
(914) 525-7667

Post Office Box 133, Fishkill, New York 12524

**Fishkill (Village)**

Historian: Allan Way [allanway2@aol.com](mailto:allanway2@aol.com)

**Hyde Park** 4383 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, New York 12538

Historian: *Vacant*

Historical Society: Patsy Costello [patsyc97@aol.com](mailto:patsyc97@aol.com) (845) 229-2559

Post Office Box 182, Hyde Park, New York 12538

**LaGrange** Post Office Box 112, LaGrangeville, New York 12540

Historian: Georgia Trott-Herring [herringtrott@aol.com](mailto:herringtrott@aol.com)  
(845) 452-2911

Historical Society: Bob D'Amato  
[lagraangehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lagraangehistoricalsociety@gmail.com) (845) 489-5183

**Milan** Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, New York 12571

Historian: Johanna Bard [johanna.bard@gmail.com](mailto:johanna.bard@gmail.com)

**Millbrook (Village) Washington (Town)**

Historian: David Greenwood [ngreenwd@aol.com](mailto:ngreenwd@aol.com) (845) 677-5767  
3248 Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook, New York 12545  
Historical Society: Dianne McNeill [damcneil1816@msn.com](mailto:damcneil1816@msn.com)  
Post Office Box 135, Millbrook, New York 12545

**Millerton / Northeast**

Historian (Town): Lisa Cope [northeasttown@taconic.net](mailto:northeasttown@taconic.net)  
(518) 789-3300 ext 603  
PO Box 516, Millerton, NY 12546  
Historical Society: Ed Downey [eddowney@millertonlawyer.com](mailto:eddowney@millertonlawyer.com)  
(518) 789-4442  
Post Office Box 727, Millerton, New York 12546

**Pawling (Historical Society of Quaker Hill and Pawling)**

Historian (Town): Robert Reilly [sc31redsky@gmail.com](mailto:sc31redsky@gmail.com)  
(845) 855-5040  
160 Charles Colman Blvd, Pawling, New York 12564  
Historian (Village): Drew Nicholson [dan.ddn@comcast.net](mailto:dan.ddn@comcast.net)  
(845) 855-3387  
18 Valley Drive, Pawling, New York 12564  
Historical Society: John Brockway [johnbetsyb@comcast.net](mailto:johnbetsyb@comcast.net)  
(845) 855-5395  
Post Office Box 99, Pawling, New York 12564

**Pine Plains**

Historian: *Vacant*  
Historical Society: Ann Simmons [cas@fairpoint.net](mailto:cas@fairpoint.net) (518) 398-5344  
Post Office Box 243, Pine Plains, New York 12567

**Pleasant Valley**

Historian: Fred Schaeffer [fredinhv@aol.com](mailto:fredinhv@aol.com) (845) 454-1190  
1544 Main Street (Route 44), Pleasant Valley, New York 12569  
Historical Society: Marilyn Bradford [momof5ny@yahoo.com](mailto:momof5ny@yahoo.com)  
(845) 518-0998

**Poughkeepsie (Town)**

Historian: John R. Pinna [townhistorian@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov](mailto:townhistorian@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov)  
(845) 485-3646  
1 Overrocker Road, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

### **Red Hook**

Historian: J. Winthrop Aldrich wint42@gmail.com (917) 825-9175  
Post Office Box 338, Red Hook, New York 12571-0397  
Historical Society: Claudine Klose claudineklose@gmail.com  
(845) 758-1920  
Post Office Box 397, Red Hook, New York 12571

### **Rhinebeck**

Historian (Town): Nancy Kelly kinship@hvc.rr.com (845) 876-4592  
Historian (Village): Michael Frazier michaelfrazier@earthlink.net  
(845) 876-7462  
Historical Society: David Miller dhmnny@aol.com (845) 750-4486  
Post Office Box 291, Rhinebeck, New York 12572

### **Stanford**

Historian: Dorothy Burdick No E-Mail Town Office (845) 868-1366  
Historical Society: Kathy Spiers lakeendinn@aol.com (845) 868-7320  
Post Office Box 552, Bangall, New York 12506

### **Tivoli**

Historian: Gregory B. Moynahan, Ph.D. moynahan@bard.edu  
Post Office Box 5000, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York 12504-5000

### **Unionvale**

Historian: Fran Wallin franw821@hotmail.com  
Town Office (845) 724-5600  
249 Duncan Road, Lagrangeville, New York 12540  
Historical Society: Peter Gay (Vice President) chargaysgy@gmail.com  
(845)-677-4837

### **Wappinger**

Town Historian: Cliff Foley cgfoley@optonline.net  
Town Office (845) 297-4158  
Historian: Joey Cavacinni  
townofwappingerhistorian@gmail.com,  
Town Office: (845) 297-4158 ext 107  
Town Hall: 20 Middle Bush Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
Village Co-Historian: Mary Schmalz mary.schmalz@outlook.com  
(845) 464-0022  
Village Co-Historian: Brenda VonBurg (845) 297-2697  
Historical Society: Beth Devine info@wappingershistorialsociety.org  
(845) 430-9520  
Post Office Box 174, Wappinger Falls, New York 12590

Dutchess County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602  
845-471-1630  
www.dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org  
dchistorical@verizon.net

## JOIN AS A MEMBER

Throughout the year, the Dutchess County Historical Society sponsors historical trips, lectures, seminars, and workshops about a broad array of topics.

Help support the work of the Society.

## MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

The Society is a not-for-profit educational organization that collects, preserves, and interprets the history of Dutchess County, New York, from the period of the arrival of the first Native Americans until the present day.

Furthermore, The Society aims:

- To collect, catalogue, and preserve artifacts that make visual and tangible connections to the history of Dutchess County.
- To create permanent and temporary exhibitions, programs, and publications to stimulate interest in the history of Dutchess County.
- To develop program partnerships with other historical, educational, and governmental groups to promote community involvement with the history of Dutchess County.
- To serve the needs of researchers, educators, students, DCHS members, and members of the general public who wish to study and use the collection.

## LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP

Millennial Circle.....\$1,000

*All benefits listed below plus two tickets to the Gala Awards Dinner*

Sponsor..... \$500

*All benefits listed below plus two tickets to a lecture.*

Patron..... \$250

*All benefits listed below plus listing in Awards Program.*

Sustaining..... \$100

*For this level and above, listing in Yearbook.*

Family/Contributor.....\$50

*Includes free library access, annual year book, newsletters, and invitations to programs and events.*

Individual.....\$35

*Free library access, annual year book, newsletters, and invitations to programs and events.*

Associate Membership .....\$20

*Reserved only for those with a paid membership in a city, town or village historical society, effectively a benefit of local historical society membership.*

**JOIN DCHS TODAY!**

Millennial Circle.....\$1,000

Sponsor.....\$500

Patron.....\$250

Sustaining..... \$100

Family/Contributor.... \$50

Individual.....\$35

Associate..... \$20



Dutchess County Historical Society

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your matching grant forms with your donation.  
Many companies match gifts, including IBM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
email

\$25,000 Distillery plant raided  
by Department of Justice of-  
ficers—equipment confiscated

## Prohibition and the Progressive Movement in Dutchess County, New York

Dutchess County Historical Society 2017 Yearbook

In April 1914, 103 years ago, a small group of Dutchess County residents gathered together to discuss forming a society to protect history. A year later, they published their first yearbook, a tradition the Dutchess County Historical Society has maintained ever since. This year's main theme centers on the fight over temperance that resulted in a Constitutional Amendment establishing Prohibition from 1920 through 1932. Temperance and the resulting phenomenon of Prohibition was one aspect of the Progressive Movement, an effort at reform that lasted from the 1820s until well after the First World War. We examine other Progressive reforms of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries such as issues of social justice for blacks with the formation of the N.A.A.C.P. We also examine the prominent Woman Suffrage movement leading to another Constitutional Amendment at the end of World War I.

The second section of the book, the Articles section, focuses on the general history of the county. In this issue, we present an account of an ancient lot in Hyde Park and its history through time, a Civil War medical kit, and a 1930s fiddlers' contest.



Dutchess County Historical Society

Dutchess County Historical Society

P.O. Box 88, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

[www.dutchesscountymuseum.org](http://www.dutchesscountymuseum.org)

\$25.00

ISBN 978-0-944733-12-7



9 780944 733127