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Gilboa Historical Society

Learning, sharing, and preserving our history

v. 18.2

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Gilboa History Center Open House

Sunday July 10th

1:00–4:00 PM



If you receive the *Quarterly* by the USPS, please check your address and let us know of corrections or if you have a seasonal change of address. An asterisk or dagger after your name means your membership is paid up. No symbols? Please use the application on page 39 to earn *your* star.

Hymnals and Songbooks

There was reputed to be a Gilboa-based hymnal put together by the Rev. E. Ruliffson. If you have any information on this, could you contact Tim Brown (composer@timothyjbrown.net). He will also be in Gilboa visiting his parents, Jim and Carolyn, and attending the opening of the History Center on July 10th.

According to one of the books about the NYC water system, the Board of Water Supply printed an annual songbook. It would be great if we could find the ones issued during the building of the Gilboa Dam. Information? Please contact Amy Sternstein <amysternstein@aol.com>, who will also be at the History Center opening.

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Linda Newerla, President

Janette Reynolds, Secretary

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Shirley Kutzscher, Recording Secretary

Irene Hess, Linda Stratigos, Kristin Wyckoff, Directors

The Gilboa Historical Society meets at 7:00 P.M. at the Gilboa Town Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, March–December.

The Gilboa Museum, 122 Stryker Road, is open noon–4:30 Saturdays and Sundays, from July through Labor Day, and Columbus Day weekend and by appointment (607 588-9413) <http://www.gilboafossils.org>


www.facebook.com/groups/gilboahistoricalociety

Send feedback to Amy Sternstein at geonoodle@nycap.rr.com

Village photographs, Gilboa Tourism Map, GHS *Quarterly*, and other items are available online at <http://www.gilboahome.com>

Send feedback about the GHS *Quarterly* to gerrys@gilboahome.com or HUDSONLEE2@AOL.COM
Gerry Stoner, 152 Starheim Road, Stamford, NY 12167

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A photograph of the Gilboa Museum building, a white structure with a corrugated metal roof and a wooden porch. The words "GILBOA MUSEUM" are visible on the side of the building. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a blue sky.

Gilboa Museum Presents!
THE NEW GILBOA HISTORY CENTER
OPEN HOUSE - SUNDAY JULY 10th
1:00PM-4:00PM

Fiddle Trio ***"Bowin' The Strings"***

Refreshments

2:00PM - Dedication Ceremony

3:00PM - Bob Titus Fossil Hike on the Schoharie Creek

Bob & Johanna Titus Book Signing ***"The Catskill Geologist"***

Labyrinth Walk

Schedule of Speakers and Events

July 10th—Open House 1–4

July 20th—Esperence Band and Ice cream social

Aug 17th—Field Trip to Owlsville Schoolhouse Nursery

History about the Schoolhouse/visit the greenhouse

Put on by Delana Truesdell with help from Beatrice Mattice

Short Walk up to the Sprague Cemetery 2 houses from schoolhouse

Meet at 6:00 at town hall to follow over to Owlsville

Sep 21st guest speaker—Jeff O'Connor (subject to be announced)

Oct 19th guest speaker—Mike Fleischman local photography

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and Columbus Day weekend
and by appointment (607 588-9413)
<http://www.gilboafossils.org>

JOHN HOAGLAND

Revolutionary War Patriot Buried in Gilboa Rural Cemetery

Mark Sullivan

John Hoagland was born in Harlingen, Somerset County, New Jersey, baptized at Six Mile Run on November 25, 1759. When the Revolution started, he was only sixteen years old but enlisted in the fall of 1775 in Capt. John Polhemus' Company, Col. Lord Stirling¹ 1st New Jersey Regiment. The regiment spent Feb. till April 1776 in New York City employed making cartridges and building fortifications, made a brief expedition to Long Island, and responded to an alarm on Staten Island. In May 1776, the unit was ordered to the Northern Department to support the American forces in Canada. It reached Sorrel at the mouth of the Richlieu River and moved toward Trois River (Three Rivers) but did not play any major role in that action. Following the retreat from Canada, the 1st New Jersey was stationed in the defense of Fort Ticonderoga and built the "Jersey Redoubt." John finished this enlistment in Dec 1776, discharged at Fort Ticonderoga.

John's sister Margaret,² noted for her patriot spirit, urged her brother, as he went off to the War, to serve faithfully and charged him "not to be brought home shot in the back!"³

After the War, John applied for a pension for his initial enlistment in the Continental Army:

State of New York
Schoharie County

On this sixth day of October, 1829, personally appeared in open court, being a court of record commonly called the Court of Common Pleas or county court, holden in and for the County of Schoharie, John Hoagland, a resident in said county, aged seventy seven years and about eleven months, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions by the Act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the first of May 1820: That the said John Hoagland enlisted for the term of one year some time in the month of August in the year 1775 or in the year 1776 in the State of New Jersey in the company commanded by Captain John Polhemus in the regiment commanded by Col Lord Sterling, at that time in the line of the State of New Jersey on the continental establishment; that he continued to serve in the said corps until sometime about the

middle of December 1776 or 1777, making service of one year and three months when he was discharged from the service in Ticonderoga in the State of New York; that at the time of his discharge one Col Wind commanded this regiment in consequence of the promotion of Lord Sterling. That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except for the present and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier applications for a pension; to wit, that he could till a few years support himself and that he would have applied before he did but for the want of proof of his service which he understood to be necessary.

And in pursuance of the Act of the first May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I have no other income other than what is contained in the schedule lists annexed and by me subscribed. Schedule of Property. Real estate I have none. Personal property:

Three cows worth about \$45, two calves \$45, and 15 sheep \$20	\$110 [<i>sic</i>]
Two hogs four goats and fifteen hens	\$12
About eight common kitchen chairs and two common tables	\$6
One weaving loom and tacking worth about eight dollars	\$8
Two iron kettles, two pots, ten tin kettles, one iron spider	\$4.87
About six knives and forks and six tea cups and saucers	\$87
Six other cups and saucers worth about \$1.00, and three old caskets \$1.25	\$2.25
One shovel and tongs and two trunks	\$2.12
One drag and a spare in a plough \$3.00 three old axes \$1.50	\$4.50
One old spade, two old hoes, one new hoe and a pair of a chain	\$0.25
A little flax and small quantity of corn	\$3.00
One heifer died last winter from the bite of a dog	
About 15 bushels of potatoes worth about	\$3.00
	\$111.86

I have about two hundred and seventy dollars \$270.00. I am a farmer by occupation and am able to labor seasonally. I have a wife aged about seventy two years and a daughter, a simple woman living with me aged about forty six years and is a weakly person, unable to support herself or to contribute much towards her support.

Sworn in Open Court this 6th day of October 1829 before me John Gebhard, Jr., Court of Schoharie County.

John Hoagland

During the fall of 1776, the British were threatening northern New York after the defeat of the Americans at Quebec. The enlistments of the 1st New Jersey Regiment were due to expire in November and many of the men were determined to depart Fort Ti and return to home. Many in fact did depart on 6 Nov including Colonel Winds, now in command of the 1st New Jersey. Col Winds and those who left with him were castigated by General Gates, commander of the Northern Continental Army. Gates wrote that the men were "following the infamous example of their colonel. Col Winds was escorted off the grounds with the drums and fifes playing the Rogues March." Some men, however, choose to remain on their post in the time of crisis. It appears that John Hoagland was one of the few that stayed till his discharge later in the fall of 1776.

Henry Post filed an affidavit for John Hoagland which stated that "they enlisted together in Capt. John Polhemus' Company and served together the whole time. They were discharged at Fort Ticonderoga about the middle of Nov 1776." Capt. John Polhemus filed an application for a pension in March 1818 and stated that "That early in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred seventy five, he raised a company of 86 men for the term of one year. That this respondent marched with his regiment to Canada. After one year, he raised a full company and joined the Continental establishment in the First New Jersey Regiment. He continued in the service until after the Battle of Monmouth when he was taken prisoner."

John Hoagland enlisted again in 1777 and served at least another year, maybe more. He is listed on the muster roll of Maj Westbrook's Second Battalion of the New Jersey state troops as well as in the Sussex Co militia. He may have been present at the Battles of Trenton, Princeton and Monmouth during his time in the Army.

John was awarded a pension of eight dollars a month starting in October 1829. The early pension laws were only for service in the Continental Army and the application was very simple, requiring only a short statement by the veteran. The Pension Laws of 1832 and later included service in the State troops or the militia and required a much higher burden of proof, such as statements from witnesses or discharge papers to support the claims. John Hoagland died in 1831 and did not claim any other service other than the one year.

John Hoagland came to Albany County about the year 1783 with his father, Jacob Hoagland,⁴ and several other members of the Hoagland family. They settled in what was then called Blenheim, now Gilboa, Schoharie County. John came with his parents, several siblings and his wife, Phebe Ann Baird, and their 3 oldest children. He lived on his father's farm (about

half way between Gilboa and Prattsville) for about eight months, and then removed to a farm two miles below Gilboa, which was part of the "Dice Patent." He occupied this farm for about twenty-five years; then, his house destroyed by fire, he traded for a farm nearer to Gilboa.

John Hoagland also served in the New York State militia after his move to Gilboa, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the Schoharie Battalion. He lived on his farm until his death in 1831. His wife, Phoebe, died six years later (1837), aged 71 years. His farm was then occupied by his grandson, Alexander Hoagland.

John Hoagland's four siblings came to Gilboa at the same time: sisters Mary⁵ and Margaret along with two brothers, Abraham and Christopher. Abraham's wife, Polly, also came along with her parents, Benoni Frazee, his wife Anna, and their eight children. Benoni Frazee served in the New Jersey militia during the Revolution, in the Middlesex County militia. They migrated to Gilboa, which was still an almost unbroken wilderness, and settled on a farm one mile from the Village of Gilboa. Very soon thereafter, Benoni died in 1798, leaving his wife and children to carry on without him. His place of burial was on his farm which is now at the bottom of the Gilboa Reservoir. One son, Benjamin, settled on a farm some two miles distance which became known as the "Frazee homestead," which was passed down in the family for several more generations. Frederick Leross Frazee, great-great-grandfather of Benoni, became the editor and proprietor of the *Jefferson Courier* as well as a well-to-do farmer of his day.

The families of Hoagland and Frazee have prospered in the Gilboa area for many generations. All can be traced to the early settlement in 1783 of these families.

Notes

1. William Alexander, known as Lord Stirling, was an American major-general during the American Revolutionary War. When the war began, Stirling was made a colonel in the New Jersey colonial militia. Because he was wealthy, he outfitted the militia at his own expense and was willing to spend his own money in support of the Patriot cause. He distinguished himself early by leading a group of volunteers in the capture of an armed British naval transport. He commanded the 1st New Jersey Regiment, which was known as part of the famed "Jersey Blues." The regiment was authorized on October 9, 1775 by the Continental Congress to be raised for service with the Continental Army. The Second Continental Congress appointed him brigadier general in the Continental Army in March 1776.
2. Margaret Hoagland married John Laraway, who was among the list of pioneers of Gilboa. Four of their sons included John, Jonas, Derrick, and Martinus Laraway. The first inn in Gilboa was kept by Martinus Laraway, who formed a partnership with his brother John, and they built the first grist-mill at this place. John Laraway died on Jun 15, 1812 and was buried

at the Upper Cemetery, Prattsville, New York. Margaret Laraway died on April 16, 1841 and was buried next to her husband's grave.

3. Letter of Geo. S. Hoagland, Gilboa, "*The Hoagland Family in America.*"
4. Jacob Hoagland died in 1808. He was buried at his Gilboa farm and was reinterred at the Hoagland Family Cemetery sometime before 1922 when this cemetery was created to receive graves moved for the Gilboa reservoir.
5. Mary Hoagland married David Laraway shortly after her move to Gilboa. Her sister, Margaret, married David's uncle, John Laraway. Mary and her husband moved to Ovid, Seneca Co, New York and then to Washtenaw County, Michigan by 1828. They were buried in the Laraway Family Plot, Northfield, Washtenaw County, Michigan.

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Mark Sullivan is a frequent contributor to the Schoharie County Historical Review. He recently retired from the US Army and is a Department of the Army Civilian employee in Korea.

175 Years of Prattsville History

The Pratt Museum season focus: "Prattsville before Pratt," from Native Americans to pre-Revolutionary European settlers to the post-Revolutionary War migration via the Susquehanna Trail up to and including Pratt's arrival in Schoharie Kill and the history of the Town that Pratt Built. The exhibit includes themes of immigration, social justice, environmental justice, and African-American life in Schoharie-Kill/Prattsville.

Zadock Pratt Museum, 14540 Main Street, Prattsville NY 12468
 Open weekends from 10 AM to 5 PM through October 30, 2016.
 Admission \$5 at the door, children 12 and under are admitted free.

GEORGE C. SHALER

Inventor, Entrepreneur, Politician

Amy Sternstein

Introduction

George C. Shaler was born in Jefferson, NY, in November of 1833. He was the third and last child of Benjamin and Maria Shaler, coming after brother Nelson and sister Levantia. By the time George was 17, he had already struck out on his own, moving to Gilboa and learning the tinsmith trade under the tutelage of Reuben Shelmandine. A few years later, George's parents joined him in Gilboa, and father and son worked as tinsmiths together. George knew that he wanted to own a hardware store someday, so he worked as an apprentice to learn the business. He mastered the trade and, once in business for himself, became very successful. The 1867 New York State Business Directory lists George C. Shaler under three headings: Agricultural Implements (p. 233), Hardware and Cutlery (p. 548), and Tinsmiths (p. 798). One of Shaler's most popular products was iron-clad milk pans, which he manufactured himself.

George C. Shaler was a very busy man. He worked diligently to make his hardware store, which he named the Racket Store, a success. But he was also involved in many other endeavors. And he made time for a social life as well. In 1863, he married Mary Reed, daughter of John Reed (Gilboa Town Supervisor from 1855 to 1859) and niece of Luman Reed, who was the Gilboa Town Supervisor that year, as well as from 1867 to 1876. Mary was a member of a very prominent, very important family in Gilboa. While this no doubt helped George's status in the town, the two were very much in love and throughout their marriage made many friends. The January 6, 1887, issue of the *Gilboa Monitor* states that "the hospitality at the Shaler residence is well-known. The only thing lacking there in making an exceptionally pleasant home is the presence of children. Yet they have a bright

SHALER'S "RACKET STORE" IS BOOMING.

REASON WHY.

Goods First Class - Prices Way Down.

Call on him for anything you may want.

"If not in stock he will get it for you".

An advertisement for the Racket Store in the *Gilboa Monitor*, May 21, 1896.

little girl who makes her home there, recently adopted. Shaler makes a special in having her well posted in Sabbath school lessons.”

First Patent

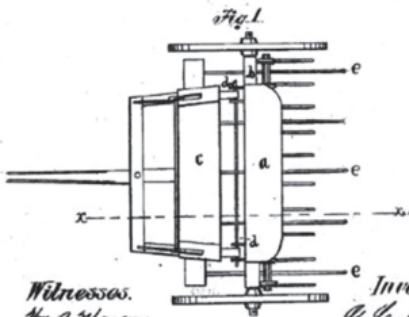
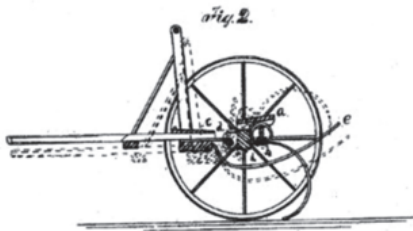
An ambitious and creative man, George C. Shaler received his first patent on October 13, 1868. He and his friend Harry Barlow of Hobart together invented a new horse rake, and for their hard work and ingenuity received Patent Number 83,000. Shaler sold many horse rakes from his hardware store, but his most successful invention, the one that brought him much wealth, was still a few years down the line.

According to the patent, this invention “relates to a new and useful improvement in horse hay-rakes, the object of which is to rake and dump the hay or grain in heaps without scattering, and at the same time to keep the teeth of the rake clean and free from being clogged or choked. From the peculiar shape of the rake teeth, it will be seen that they will hold a large quantity of hay, and instead of dumping and dragging the hay by the old method, our rake holds the hay gathered in a bunch, and is also discharged clean from the rake in a bunch or heap by the driver stepping forward on the platform c. As the driver puts his weight on the platform c, it will cause the same to drop downward, and thus raise the rake.”

*Shaler & Barlow,
Horse Rake.*

No. 83,000.

Patented Oct. 13 1868



*Witnesses:
H. A. Morgan
H. C. Barlow*

*Inventor:
G. C. Shaler
H. Barlow
per M. M. [Signature]*

Politics and Other Activities

Very active in politics as well as other organizations, Shaler was chosen as a delegate in October, 1879, to represent the Town of Gilboa, District Number 1, at the County Democratic Convention. In December, 1879, he was elected Secretary of Gilboa Lodge No. 630 of the Free and Accepted Masons, a position he held for several years. The *Gilboa Monitor*, October 5, 1882, wrote that "Geo. C. Shaler made an excellent showing in the Democratic Convention, only lacking 4 votes of getting the nomination" for County Clerk. When the *Monitor* revisited the subject in the June 21, 1888, issue, it stated that George C. Shaler "would undoubtedly have been nominated but for a slight misunderstanding with the Conesville delegation." Shaler was very well-liked by many people.

In June, 1883, George Shaler and David Zelig were appointed Vice Presidents of the Cobleskill Agriculture Society. Shaler was also on the Board of the Gilboa Aqueduct Company. It is noted in the July 30, 1885, issue of the *Gilboa Monitor* that "the Gilboa Aqueduct Co. held a meeting at the office of H. A. Griffin on July 24th, 1885, and decided to lay 2-inch cast iron pipes from their springs to the village of Gilboa, a distance of about 300 rods. Alonzo Stryker, A. H. Bartley, and Geo. C. Shaler were appointed as constructive committee." Shaler stayed on the Board of the Gilboa Aqueduct Company for many years. At the annual meeting in April, 1896, he was elected secretary of the Board, in addition to being a Director. In September, 1901, a special meeting was held to discuss and then vote on selling the Gilboa Aqueduct Company to the new Gilboa Water Company. The resolution passed, and Shaler's time on the Board ended soon afterward.

The *Gilboa Monitor* of August 6, 1885, noted that "the first annual Picnic of the Farmers and Mechanics of Schoharie County will be held in Bergh's grove, Breakabeen, Thursday, August 13th. We notice that Messrs. Shaler and Zeh of this village have been appointed vice presidents, representing this town." The September 23, 1886, *Monitor* noted that "at the town caucus held at the Town House last Saturday . . . Geo. C. Shaler was made Secretary." In September of 1887, Wood Gaylord, Geo. C. Shaler, and L. G. Van Tuyl were chosen delegates to represent the town Democrats at the County Convention held in Schoharie. In October, 1887, Jas. F. Govern, Geo. C. Shaler, and F. B. Mackey composed the Democratic town committee for the ensuing year.

In September, 1888, George C. Shaler made his last run for County Clerk. All of Gilboa wanted Shaler to win, as he had become so well-loved by then. Even the *Gilboa Monitor*, which usually leaned Republican, put in a plea for votes for Shaler. An OpEd in the September 20, 1888, issue said,

“What good reason is there why Geo. C. Shaler should not be nominated for County Clerk at the Democratic Convention next Tuesday? What Democrat of Schoharie County has better claims than he? No one questions nor can question Mr. Shaler’s qualifications for the position. His business qualifications are unexceptionable; his personal character above reproach and his democracy of the most unquestionable kind.” On September 25, 1888, the Democratic County Convention was held at Middleburgh. Credentials were presented and accepted, and voting for County Clerk began. Shaler was running against candidates from Schoharie, Fulton, Richmondville, and Wright. When the voting ended, Arthur T. Meade of Schoharie had won and became the Democratic candidate for County Clerk. George Shaler continued to stay involved with the Gilboa Democratic town committee, but he didn’t run again for a county position.

George C. Shaler was also a director of the Gilboa Rural Cemetery Association. In the September 2, 1902, issue of the *Gilboa Monitor*, a notice was given to lot owners of the Gilboa Unincorporated cemetery that a meeting would be held on the 30th day of September at Reed’s Hall to determine the question of incorporating the cemetery on the hill. The notice was signed by George C. Shaler, H. O. Lewis, N. C. Wyckoff, H. L. Reed, Alonzo Stryker, P. A. Selleck, Emory Stevens, and several others. Shaler stayed on the Board until his health started to fail. In December, 1904, a meeting was held to elect a Director to replace the ailing Shaler.

Second Patent and Other Business

The year 1879 was the beginning of big changes for George C. Shaler, for that was the year he invented his “Arctic Creamery” milk cooler. He submitted his invention to the U.S. Patent Office in October, 1880, and on February 8, 1881, he received Patent Number 237,452.



Shaler
business
card from
this time.

Shaler's Arctic Creamery

Saves Three-fourths the Dairy Room Labor,

Makes More and Better Butter,

CAN BE USED WITH WELL WATER OR RUNNING WATER,

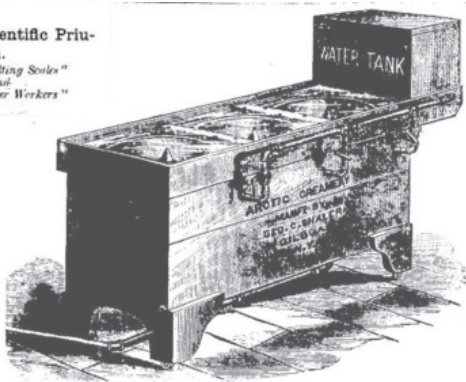
REQUIRES NO ICE

And It is the Only Creamery constructed on Scientific Principles, and that makes Perfect Cream.

Manufactured by } DEALER IN } ("Butter Salting Scales" and "Bolt Butter Workers")
 GEO. C. SHALER, } GILBOA, N. Y., }

Above: An advertisement for the Arctic Creamery in the *Gilboa Monitor* of March 30, 1882.

Right: An etching of the mechanism from the *Monitor* of April 15, 1880.



* * *

The *Gilboa Monitor* of February 12, 1880, wrote that "George C. Shaler is introducing a kerosene oil engine for churning. It will do an ordinary churning with less than one cent's worth of oil, and can be attached to any churn." This was a major breakthrough in those days, as churning had always been done using large dogs or sheep walking in a circle on something similar to a treadmill or inside a big wheel. "Every farmhouse in those days had a churning machine attached to the milk house. The sound of that wheel is well known to every farm boy. The 'old churner' who propelled it was either a big dog or a wether sheep. Every summer morning, the old dog was brought and tied to his task upon the big wheel" (from *My Boyhood* by John Burroughs).

Shaler didn't wait until he received the patent to start promoting and selling his Arctic Creamery. It became a resounding success and, along with his steam churn motor and churn dash, he received many prizes at county fairs. The January 1, 1880, issue of the *Gilboa Monitor* said that "the New Arctic Creamery, manufactured by G. C. Shaler, received First Premium at the State Fair and is said by Dairymen to be a 'complete success.' It can be used with or without a milk room, and can be made for any sized dairy, and at prices lower than any other, considering quality." By April 1, 1880, the *Monitor* reported that "Geo. C. Shaler is shipping lots of Arctic Creameries and has to keep his workmen busy night and day to keep up with orders." In the same issue, it said, "There is a great call for the new Steam Churn Motor. Mr. Shaler will have them ready for delivery soon after April 1st."

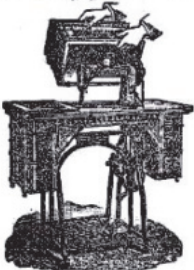
In September, 1880, Shaler's Arctic Creamery received First Premium at the County Fair held in Cairo and the Steam Churn Motors that he exhibited at the State Fair in Albany also received First Premium. In October, 1880,

George Shaler was awarded multiple premiums at the Greene County Fair: Arctic Creamery—\$5.00; Steam Churn Motor—\$5.00; Revolving Churn Dash—\$1.00. By September, 1881, Shaler was attending fairs with one of his large, improved Steam Churn Motors, Arctic Creameries, Butter Workers, and Butter Salting Scales.

The fact that his Arctic Creamery was such a success was mentioned in several issues of the *Gilboa Monitor*. March 30, 1882: “Geo. C. Shaler is shipping lots of his Arctic Creameries—his manufactory is running night and day.” June 29, 1882: “Shaler is shipping Creameries every day and in every direction.” March 15, 1883: “That Shaler’s Arctic Creamery is meeting with universal favor is evident from the fact that he is shipping a large number weekly.” May 3, 1883: “Work at the Arctic Creamery manufacturing establishment is booming right along, and the smile on the face of its jovial and enterprising proprietor, Mr. G. C. Shaler, grows each day more childlike and bland.”

Sales of his own invention, the Arctic Creamery, made George C. Shaler a very wealthy man. Yet he continued to work at and expand his Racket Store. He sold plows, harrows, cultivators, garden rakes, spading forks, hoes, shovels, and poultry netting. The Racket Store also carried box paper and tablets, books, clocks, watches, pocket knives, table cutlery, laundry soap, toilet soap, and perfumery. There was also “a fine lot” of silverware, glassware, and crockery, candies and toys of all kinds. The December 17, 1891, issue of the *Gilboa Monitor* contained an ad stating: “Something new in the sewing machine line, the Wheeler & Wilson No. 9, besides being the best machine made has a self-threading needle and can be threaded in the dark. Call at Shaler’s and see it.” In the

WHEELER & WILSON'S No. 9 HIGH-ARM



THE ONLY PERFECT SEWING MECHANISM FOR FAMILY USE.

AWARDED and recognized as the best at the Paris World's Fair in 1889 as the best Family Machine in the World. Agents wanted where not now represented. Address Wheeler & Wilson Mfg. Co., Troy, N. Y. For Sale by Geo. C. Shaler, Gilboa, N. Y.

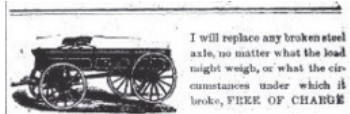
Examples of some of the products available at the Racket Store and advertised in the *Monitor*: from sewing machines (December 17, 1891), through all sorts of brushes (January 20, 1898), to farm wagons and two-seaters (June 5, 1902).

Do You Use Brushes?

YOU WILL FIND AT THE RACKET STORE

- Scrub Brushes
- Stove Brushes
- Marking Brushes

- Paint Brushes, Varnish Brushes
- Whitewash Brushes, Horse Brushes,
- Clothes Brushes, Tooth Brushes,
- Nail Brushes, Hair Brushes,
- Shoe Brushes, Counter Brushes,
- All at reasonable prices.**

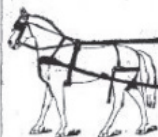


I will replace any broken steel axle, no matter what the load might weigh, or what the circumstances under which it breaks, FREE OF CHARGE

GEORGE C. SHALER.
Sells The Best

Farm Wagon,

Two-Seaters,



and Buggies. Also Harness and Whips. New Model “Drop Head Sewing Machine. Notice warrentee on farm wagons. All sold at Live and Let Live Prices.

warm weather, he sold farm wagons and carriages. In the cold weather, he sold cutters and sleighs. And his motto was always that he sold his products at “live and let live” prices.

Finale of a Well-Loved Man

With all of his hard work, extra activities, and frequent travel, George C. Shaler had several bouts of serious illness throughout his adult life. By spring of 1901, nearing 68 years old, Shaler realized he just couldn't keep up the frenetic pace anymore. He had to give up his cherished Racket Store. The May 2, 1901, issue of the *Gilboa Monitor* states: “On Monday, an important business transaction was consummated between George C. Shaler and Frank R. Thomas, Mr. Shaler disposing of his entire stock to Mr. Thomas. Owing to Mr. Shaler's failing health, he was obliged to retire from such confining business. He retains the agency for Milburn wagons and Champion mowing machines, and all know where to find him when in need of these goods. Mr. Shaler has long been of our foremost business men and has the confidence of the general community.”

In July of 1902, George Hall rented George Shaler's store and ran a successful grocery and feed store from there for a number of years. Shaler continued to sell farm wagons and carriages and did well at that, having the reputation of selling the best wagons made and at reasonable prices. But his health continued to deteriorate. The November 10, 1904, issue of the *Gilboa Monitor* contained this article: “On account of poor health, George Shaler is compelled to retire from active business life. Mr. Shaler has been engaged in business in this town for a great many years and retires with the knowledge of having treated the public in a very liberal manner. He is a man that has always been looked up to with the greatest esteem and has prominently identified his life with the interest of the town. He is of a very charitable disposition, a liberal giver to all church work, and in his breast beats a heart as tender as that of a babe. We hope the hand of time will deal very gently with him and spare him for years to come, that he might with his most estimable wife enjoy the fruits of his labor in restored health and comfort.” Shaler had just turned 71.

George C. Shaler, with his wife Mary, continued to travel a bit to visit friends and family when George felt up to it. Many friends also came to visit with him. But it was not to last. The July 5, 1906, issue of the *Gilboa Monitor* reports: “George Shaler was taken very ill at his home in this village Friday. He lies in a stupor and does not notice anything only as he is aroused. The Doctor says his symptoms are better and it is earnestly hoped that he will recover.” Sadly, he did not. This beautiful obituary was posted in the July 12,

1906, issue of the *Gilboa Monitor*, four months before Shaler would have turned 73:

George Shaler, of whose illness mention was made last week, died at his home in this village last Friday night. His illness was of but a week, but it was seen that from the hour he was stricken that there was no help for him although everything that medical aid and loving hands could do for him was done. His death was a painless one as he lay in a deep coma throughout his illness and when his spirit took its flight, he passed into the Great Beyond without a struggle. Mr. Shaler came to Gilboa when a young man and entered the general hardware store here as an apprentice to learn the business. After mastering the trade, he followed it for a few years and later engaged in business for himself in which he was very successful. In early manhood he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Reed, a daughter of one of the first families of the place and the union was of the kind in which no clouds of discontent ever arose to mar their domestic relations. George Shaler was a man that will be greatly missed. His many deeds of kindness have brought sunshine into many homes that have been threatened with the dark clouds of adversity, and were done in such a manner that the recipients were kept in ignorance of the source of their relief. He was quiet and unassuming in disposition, avoiding everything that would tend to notoriety, but in his breast was a heart that was as warm and tender as that of a new born babe. His hearty handshake and warm words of salutation were like the appearance of the sun through a dark rift of clouds. His funeral was held from his late home Tuesday afternoon, Rev. Mr. Bookhout officiating. The burial was made in the Rural cemetery.

A sad day for Gilboa, and for me 110 years later as I became quite fond of this wonderful man while doing this research!

I was unable to find a picture of him. Does anyone have one?

References: U.S. Census: 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900; U. S. Patent Office website (www.uspto.gov); many issues of the *Gilboa Monitor*



Amy Sternstein, an avid fossil collector who lives in Colonie, New York, discovered Gilboa while studying the fossils of NY State. Falling in love with the town, she now pursues Gilboa history during both the Devonian period and the early 20th century. An electrical engineer, Amy has designed circuit boards and written technical manuals. She also tutors students in math and science while hoping one day to move to Gilboa.

GILBOA MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL

LaVerne Hubbard

We continue to develop an honor roll of everyone who has served in the military and has lived at some point in Gilboa . . . and we still find new names to add.

The alphabetized list should be easy for you to check that relatives, classmates, and neighbors are all listed—we take pride in our military, so please take a couple of minutes to make sure we miss no one!

AR American Revolution
12 War of 1812
CW Civil War
SA Spanish-American

I World War I
II World War II
K Korea
K-V Korea to Vietnam

V Vietnam
AV After Vietnam
DS Iraq, Desert Storm
AC Afghanistan Current

Ackerly, Oscar (CW)
Aleksejczyk, Walter W (II)
Ames, Francis C (CW)
Andrews, George (CW)
Bailey, James L (CW)
Baldwin, William L (CW)
Banker, Stanley (II)
Barlow, John (CW)
Barlow, Joseph (CW)
Batchelder, David (CW)
Beach, Willard O (CW)
Beattie, Donald (K)
Beattie, Donald J (DS)
Becker, Paul (II)
Becker, William A (CW)
Becker, William M (CW)
Bellinger, James (V)
Beltman, John (CW)
Benjamin, Philo (SA)
Bevins, Dennis (CW)
Bevins, Ernest (II)

Bevins, Gene (II)
Bevins, Gene (V)
Blakslee, Charles (II)
Blakslee, Rudolph (II)
Bliss, Donald (KV)
Bliss, F Walter (I)
Bliss, Samuel (AR)
Bloodgood, William (AR)
Boehning, Robert E (II)
Borst, George (SA)
Borthwick, Alex (CW)
Boschetti, Aramando (II)
Brainerd, Charles (K)
Brainerd, Donald (K)
Brainerd, Floyd (K)
Brainerd, Richard (KV)
Bremer, Ernest Sr (II)
Brewster, J L (CW)
Brewster, Otis (CW)
Brines, Harvey J (CW)
Brosnam, William F (II)
Brown, Franklin (KV)
Brown, James (V)

Buel, George (II)
Buell, Endwell (KV)
Burkett, Beth (AC)
Cain, Ruben (CW)
Cain, William (CW)
Callahan, Arnold (II)
Carpinelli, Bernard (KV)
Case, Charles (I)
Case, Clifford (KV)
Chapman, Omer (CW)
Chase, Victor (II)
Chichester, George (CW)
Clapper, Arnold (KV)
Clark, Amos (12)
Clark, Benjamin (K)
Clark, Benjamin (KV)
Clark, Charles (V)
Clark, Elwood Jr (II)
Clark, Frank (V)
Clark, George (II)
Clark, George (KV)
Clark, James (CW)
Clark, James (KV)
Clark, Joshua (AC)

- Clark, Kenneth (KV)
 Clark, Larry (V)
 Clark, Lester (II)
 Clark, Louis (K)
 Clark, Orville (II)
 Clark, Richard (II)
 Clark, Richard (KV)
 Clark, William (II)
 Clark, Floyd (II)
 Conine, Douglas (II)
 Connelly, Robert (K)
 Conro, Carlton (II)
 Conro, Darrel (KV)
 Conro, David (KV)
 Cook, Claude (K)
 Coon, Timothy P
 (CW)
 Cornell, Lawrence (II)
 Cornell, Lyndon (II)
 Cornell, Marvin (II)
 Creghton, David (CW)
 Creghton, Henry
 (CW)
 Cronk, Kenneth F (II)
 Curtis, Richard (II)
 Cutler, Ralph (K)
 Damm, John (II)
 Darling, Daniel (CW)
 Davis, John (II)
 Davis, John O (I)
 Davis, Keyes (I)
 Dayman, Charles
 (CW)
 Decker, Frank A (II)
 Dent, Gerald (KV)
 DeSyliva, Andrew
 (CW)
 DeSyliva, Henry A
 (CW)
 DeSyliva, Homer
 (CW)
 Dingman, Robert (II)
 Disbro, Charles (CW)
 Driggs, Charles A
 (CW)
 Duncan, Orra M (CW)
 Efnor, William M (12)
 Eggnor, Nathan (CW)
 Eglin, Ernie (KV)
 Eisner, Hollis (II)
 Eklund, Carl (KV)
 Ekstrom, Robert (II)
 Ekstrom, Eugene (K)
 Ekstrom, Clyde (II)
 Ellerson, Charles (CW)
 Ellerson, David (AR)
 Ellis, Glendon (II)
 Ellis, Paul E (KV)
 Face, Erastus (CW)
 Fanning, Benjamin
 (CW)
 Feiterling, William
 (KV)
 Finch, Stephen (CW)
 Finch, William (CW)
 Fisher, Joseph A (II)
 Flint, Amos (II)
 Foland, George (II)
 Foote, Robert (V)
 Fowler, Regnald (II)
 Fox, Elmer (CW)
 Franklin, Nelson
 Willard (CW)
 Fraqher, Arthur (CW)
 Frazee, Russell E (II)
 Frazer, Benoni (AR)
 Freeman, Donald (KV)
 Fries, George (CW)
 Friest, Wesley (CW)
 Gadrick, Edward (II)
 Gaffney, Charles (II)
 Gardner, Charles (CW)
 Gavit, Leander (CW)
 German, Stanley (II)
 Gifford, Mark (KV)
 Gifford, Shawn (AC)
 Gilbert, Harry Jay (SA)
 Gonzlik, John (II)
 Goodfellow, Martin
 (CW)
 Gordon, Ralph (K)
 Gordon, Seth R (CW)
 Gordon, Stephen
 (CW)
 Gregory, Raymond (II)
 Gregory, William (II)
 Hager, George (II)
 Hager, Julian (II)
 Haight, Manley (KV)
 Hallock, Glen (KV)
 Hallock, Warren (I)
 Hanley, Harold R (II)
 Harrington, Anton (II)
 Harris, Roscoe (CW)
 Hartwell, Charles
 (CW)
 Hartwell, Donald (K-
 V)
 Harwood, Hubert A
 (II)
 Hawkins, Jeannie
 Clapper (AV)
 Hay, Alden M (CW)
 Hay, Jefferson (CW)
 Heinzinger, Walter (K)
 Hilliker, David (II)
 Hilliker, Donald L (II)
 Hilliker, Ernest (II)
 Hinman, Avery (I)
 Hinman, Robert (II)
 Hitchcock, Edgar L
 (CW)
 Hoagland, Guy (II)
 Hoagland, John (AR)
 Holdridge, Orlando
 (CW)
 Hollis, Eisner (II)
 Houghtaling, Edward
 (CW)
 Houghtaling, Samuel
 (CW)
 Howe, Eugene E (I)
 Hubbard, Clifton
 LaVerne (KV)
 Hubbard, David (KV)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hubbard, Douglas
(KV) | Lewis, George Harlan
(II) | Newcomb, Sylvester
(CW) |
| Hubbard, Everett B (II) | Lewis, H O (CW) | Nickerson, Franklin
(II) |
| Hubbard, Gerald (KV) | Lewis, Richard (II) | O'Hara, James John
(II) |
| Hubbel, Richtmyer Dr
(CW) | Licursi, Albe (V) | Oakley, Fred (II) |
| Hubble, Solomon D
(CW) | Lindsay, Horace W (II) | Oakley, Fred III (KV) |
| Jackson, David (CW) | Lord, Vernon (II) | Oakley, Richard (DS) |
| Jackson, Jeremiah
(CW) | Mace, Donald (K) | Orlando, Donald (V) |
| Jenkins, John (CW) | Mace, Victor (K) | Orlando, Michael (AC) |
| Johnson, Robert (K) | Mackay, James A (CW) | Palmer, Jacob W (CW) |
| Jones, Albert (II) | Mackey, Daniel (12) | Palmeri, George (II) |
| Jones, James (AC) | Marchase, Michael (II) | Paradowski, Rudolph
(V) |
| Juried, Nicholas (K) | Marold, Paul (KV) | Parker, Lewis Jr (KV) |
| Kandora, Walter (K) | Marsh, Joseph (K) | Peckham, Vivian B (II) |
| Karlsen, Per B (II) | Mattice, Abram (I) | Peek, Alvah (CW) |
| Kaufmann Harwood
White, Catherine (II) | Mattice, Allison (SA) | Peters, Everett (K) |
| Koerner, Paul (II) | Mattice, Alonzo (CW) | Peterson, Everett (II) |
| Kohler, Lewis (II) | Mattice, Ford (II) | Peterson, Harold (II) |
| Krieger, Earl (I) | Mattice, Henry C
(CW) | Pickett, Robert (KV) |
| Krieger, Henry (I) | Mattice, Leo (I) | Porter, Jason (AC) |
| Lafferty, Peter (CW) | Mattice, Paul (CW) | Proper, John R (CW) |
| Lake, Martin (CW) | McGinnes, Barney
(CW) | Reed, Morton (I) |
| Lane, Perry (CW) | McIntyre, Archibald
(CW) | Reed, William L (CW) |
| Lateula, Gregory (V) | Meeghan, David (V) | Reed, Gordon (II) |
| Latta, Wilfred (K) | Meeghan, John (KV) | Regular, Laurence (II) |
| Laux, John (II) | Merwin, Joel A (CW) | Richtmeyer, Richard
(II) |
| Lawyer, Francis (CW) | Monroe, Henry (CW) | Rider, Ruben (CW) |
| Layman, Wallace
(CW) | Monroe, Paul (CW) | Riedman, Valentine
(K) |
| Lee, Peter (CW) | Moon, Luman D
(CW) | Rijos, Felix (AC) |
| Leger, Carl R (KV) | Moore, John (SA) | Roe, Daniel S (CW) |
| Leger, John George Jr
(II) | More, Timothy S
(CW) | Roe, Herman (12) |
| Leger, John George Sr
(I, II) | Morkaut, Michael
(KV) | Roe, Jinks P (CW) |
| Leger, Paul R (II) | Morrissey, Robert (V) | Ruehle, Alfred (K) |
| Leger, Raymond A (K) | Mower, Leroy (KV) | Safford, Owen D (II) |
| Leger, William H (II) | Mueller, Herb (KV) | Sauveur, Timothy (AV) |
| Lemlily, Winslow P
(CW) | Mueller, Robert (V) | Saxe, Charles (CW) |
| Lewis, Donald (II) | Mullenix, Averil (KV) | Schermerhorn, Hiram
(CW) |
| | Nakonecny, Kenneth
(AV) | Schermerhorn, Warren
(CW) |

- Schermerhorn, Warren (II)
 Schermerhorn, Willard (CW)
 Schermerhorn, William (CW)
 Schwartzwaelder, Allen (I)
 Sellick, Whited (CW)
 Shafer, Thomas L (CW)
 Shaffer, George (I)
 Shaffer, Nelson (12)
 Shaffer, Nelson (SA)
 Sharick, Sara L (AC)
 Shoemaker, Abram (CW)
 Slater, Ralph [Pete] (KV)
 Smith, Hiram (CW)
 Smith, Sylvester J (CW)
 Snyder, Derrick (AC)
 Snyder, James Jr (KV)
 Snyder, William (12)
 Southwick, Calvin (CW)
 Sowles, Lorenzo (CW)
 Sprague, Elisha (12)
 Standhart, James (AV)
 Standhart, John (K)
 Starheim, Olaf (K)
 Stewart, James (AR)
 Stillwell, Hiram (CW)
 Stoner, Gerald O (KV)
 Stryker, Carson (KV)
 Stryker, Monte (KV)
 Swartz, Edward (II)
 Taylor, James Barry (KV)
 Terry, William (V)
 Thomas, A. Sidney (CW)
 Thorn, Frank D (K)
 Tibbets, James (CW)
 Tompkins, Irving (K)
 Tompkins, Norwood (K)
 Truesdell, Larry (V)
 Van Aken, Arthur (II)
 Van Aken, Kipp (V)
 Van Hoesen, Marshal (II)
 Van Loan, Alexander (CW)
 Varrecchia, Clement (II)
 Vonderhide, Marilyn Hubbard Harris (KV)
 Vroman, Albert L (CW)
 Vroman, William (CW)
 Wales, Levi (12)
 Wally, Ronald M (II)
 Ward, Philip (II)
 Warner, Milo (CW)
 Waters, John (CW)
 Welch, Michael (CW)
 Wells, Randall (II)
 Whitbeck, Alton (II)
 Wickert, Fredrick (KV)
 Wier, Donald (II)
 Wiesmer, Malbone (CW)
 Wilber, Hiram (CW)
 Wilber, Philip (CW)
 Wilber, Stephen (CW)
 Williams, George (CW)
 Williamson, Josh (AC)
 Wilson, Randolph (II)
 Wiltse, William W (CW)
 Wood, Charles (CW)
 Wood, Charles N (CW)
 Wood, Donald E (AV)
 Wood, Jared L (K)
 Wood, John (CW)
 Wood, Michell E (AV)
 Wood, Philip (II)
 Wright, George (CW)
 Wright, John (CW)
 Wyckoff, Donald (AC)
 Yeomans, Charles (CW)
 Yeomans, George (CW)
 Yeomans, Horace (CW)
 Zimba, Stanley (V)
 Zinner, Henry Carl (II)

Congratulations to the Esperance Historical Society and Museum for being selected as a part of the Hannaford Helps reusable bag program—each one of the bags purchased at the Esperance/Duanesburg store in July brings \$1 to the society. Please visit the Esperance/Duanesburg Hannaford store in July—if every one of their supporters purchases just ONE bag . . .

TWO SERVICEMEN

Born in Gilboa Village Before the Town was Formed

These are the stories of Edgar L. Hitchcock and Jacob V. Palmer found in the *Commemorative Biographical Record of NE Pennsylvania Including Counties of Susquehanna, Wayne, Pike, and Monroe* by the J.H. Beers & Co., 1900.

Edgar L. Hitchcock, a wide-awake and energetic farmer carrying on operations in Scott township, Wayne county, and meeting with a well deserved success in his undertakings, was born June 27, 1841, in Gilboa, Schoharie Co., N. Y., a grandson of Levi Hitchcock, whose father was a colonel in the Revolutionary war. Many interesting incidents are related of the early trials and achievements of members of this prominent and highly respected family. Sylvester Hitchcock (our subject's father) was a native of Durham, Greene Co., N. Y., and on attaining man's estate married Miss Julia Maria Jamison, daughter of Timothy and Mary Jamison, of Albany, N. Y. For many years Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock resided in Jeffersonville, N. Y., and then removed to Callicoon, that State, where the father died at the age of sixty-four years; she is still living, her home being in Long Eddy, Sullivan Co., N. Y. The children born to them were Edgar L.; Mary (deceased); George; and Julia E., wife of William Peak, who was a Union soldier in the Civil war.

From his birthplace, Edgar L. Hitchcock removed to Jeffersonville, Sullivan Co., N. Y. when in his ninth year. At the beginning of the Civil war he laid aside all personal interests and joined the 56th N. Y. V. I., under Col. Charles Van Wyck, remaining in the service until hostilities ceased in 1865. He participated in the battle of Fair Oaks, went with Gen. Foster to Hilton Head; was with Gen. Gillmore at the siege of those islands, and was with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. After the war Mr. Hitchcock returned to Callicoon, Sullivan Co., N. Y., later removed to Great Bend, Penn., where he spent three years, and then came to Scott township, Wayne county, where he has since successfully engaged in farming.

Jacob V. Palmer, a retired farmer of Franklin Forks, Susquehanna county, has by shrewd judgment, excellent management, untiring industry, and fair business transactions, acquired sufficient property to enable him now, in his declining years, to give up business cares, and enjoy the results of his former labors. Mr. Palmer was born in Gilboa, Schoharie Co., N. Y., May 9, 1837, a son of James and Hulda (Vorris) Palmer, natives of Connecticut and New

York, respectively. The father, who was a teamster by occupation, died at Deposit, N. Y., in May, 1857, aged forty-eight years, the mother in Delaware county, N. Y., in 1878, aged sixty. In their family were the following children: Helen, deceased wife of John Martin; Emma, wife of Peter Pulver, of Trout Creek, N. Y.; Jacob W., our subject; Kise, deceased; Martha, wife of Alexander Lockwood, of Broome county, N. Y.; Rosalie, wife of George Darling, of Delaware county, N. Y.; and Mary, wife of Frank Mackey, of the same county. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Jonathan Palmer, was a native of Connecticut, and a carpenter by trade, while the maternal grandparents, Jacob and Triphena Vorris, were natives of Germany. At the age of thirteen years, Jacob W. Palmer commenced his business career as a teamster, and was thus employed until 1856, when he came to Susquehanna county, and there worked as a farm hand until the outbreak of the Rebellion. In August, 1862, he joined the boys in blue as a member of Company H, 141st P. V. I., under Capt. Casper W. Tyler, and was mustered into the United States service for three years at Montrose, Penn. The regiment was assigned to the First Brigade, First Division, Third Corps, Army of the Potomac, and participated in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Mine Run. At the last named engagement, November 27, 1863, Mr. Palmer was shot through the right thigh by two buck shots and a minie ball, and after spending one night in the field hospital was sent to the hospital at Alexandria, Va., but it was a week before his wound was properly dressed. He remained in the hospital for thirteen months, and for eight months of that time was confined to his bed. On being discharged from the hospital, he was on wagon watch for the government at Washington, D. C., and drove a government team until honorably discharged from the service in June, 1865.



A 1919 panoramic view of the Gilboa valley looking south from the creamery site. The diversion of Steen Kill creek is on the right, and the initial stages of the mixing plant construction is on the top left of this picture.

From the library of Ernest and Jennifer Sutton, passed down largely from Ruth Lillian Case Sutton.

PATENT MEDICINES, BOILERPLATES, AND GILBOA'S *MONITOR*

Lee Hudson

Even the occasional reader of Gilboa's weekly *Monitor* couldn't miss the pervasive headlines celebrating the restorative powers of patent medicines, especially the ubiquitous tonic Pe-ru-na.¹ Issue after issue spouted euphoric testimonials with bold engravings depicting faithful consumers of America's largest selling proprietary medicine.

But, like other "bracers" for those afflicted, Peruna was neither patented nor a medicine. It was an alcoholic drink—28% alcohol—a 56 proof spirit. Way ahead of wine and beer and not far behind vodka, gin, and whisky. It was an international best-seller and also a likely top seller in Gilboa.

Peruna's ads pushed its product past the competition—and there was a lot of it. Invigorators, nerve-builders, and spring medicines like Hostettters Bitters contained up to 44% alcohol. Lydia Pickham's at 20% could be found on most women's shelves to relieve "suffering womanhood." Ayres Sarsaparilla got rid of coughs and fatigue with 26% alcohol. And another Gilboa favorite, Paine's Celery Compound came in at 21%. Hold the celery.

So while temperance activities were growing in the late 1800s, the evening cocktail or daytime buzz was hiding in plain sight. Or not hiding at all. These patent medicines were easily found in Gilboa on the shelves of J. M. Hazard's Drug store, and his successors, DeSilva & Hagadorn. Also, general merchandise stores like Reed's, Case's, Wyckoff's, or Stryker's, and the hardware store Thomas & Fredenburgh, later Clark's, sold patent medicines insuring they were available throughout the village.

So why would Gilboa, headed for an unlicensing "dry" vote in 1910, run so many patent medicine ads in its local paper? It wasn't just the revenue.

It appears that while fueling the prohibition and suffrage movements and driving the corrective Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, patent medicine advertising also supported a lesser known cause. But that cause was no less important. Advertising revenue from the patent medicine industry underwrote preprinted content for city and country newspapers. This ghost-written content was sold to editors in whole page formats and sustained virtually all newspapers across the country, including Gilboa's *Monitor*.

Appearing in 1861,² "ready-print" pages were sheets of newsprint delivered to editors entirely preprinted on one side and when folded, became two pages of the typical 4-page paper. The ready-print pages became either

the inside two pages or the outside two pages of the paper. Not knowing where the pages would appear, the ready-print publishers did not include page numbers so the entire paper was not paginated. Editors bought these pages that were completely printed on one side for less than the cost of blank paper. They printed their own material on the other side, saving half their writing, editing, typesetting, and press time and expense.

When they began, these ready-prints contained so many patent medicine ads that they were called “patent insides” or “patent outsides.”

Later in 1875, “boilerplates,” also called “stereotypes,” took the concept a big step further. In effect a sheet metal typeset mold of the ready-print page, the boilerplate could be cut into column strips or smaller pieces and placed alongside regular typesetting. Boilerplates allowed more flexibility with content, page design, and local ad placement than the ready-print pages.

Whether an editor bought pre-printed newsprint pages, or the typeset page molds, the contents were the same³ from one town paper to another: regional and world news, fiction, poetry, essays, recipes, self-help, fashion news, farm and garden hints, science, humor, religious, sports, editorials, and the advertising that made this content so profitable.

These boilerplates or stereotypes were used by 75% of the daily and weekly newspaper editors across the country to fill out and create their newspapers; the other 25% used ready-print pages. Virtually every paper needed them. As a result, American weeklies like the *Monitor*, grew from 302 in 1820 to 16,711 by 1915 and quickly experienced soaring circulations. The *Monitor* began publication at the close of 1878 and ran well into 1918.

Over its 40 year life, Gilboa’s *Monitor* and all its 9 editors⁴ favored boilerplates over ready-prints—incorporating these preprinted materials alongside their local news, business ads, letters, articles, editorials, and correspondent columns from areas outside the village. But they all didn’t favor the ads it took to subsidize them and some were outspoken about it.

In 1881, the *Monitor*’s first editor Myron Dings encouraged more local advertising to relieve the financial pressures to accept the patents: “We have commenced cleaning house with patent medicine advertisements and if our home advertisers will do what they ought the *Monitor* will soon be free from this class of “ads” (GM 12/1/1881). A similar entreaty came from editor Charles Laymon a few years later.

Prepared by the Chicago’s Western Newspaper Union⁵ with matched type and column width, the pages and plates convincingly appeared to be part of the individual papers. And most weren’t telling.

But during the New York City Claims Hearings to set compensation for homes and businesses “taken” for the Schoharie Reservoir construction,

Pe-ru-na!

Lee Hudson

Peruna's original formula was revealed much quicker than Coca Cola or the Colonel's secret recipe: ½ pint of 190% proof spirits, 1½ pints of water, a flavor cube and some burned sugar for color. Medicinal properties were estimated at less than 1 percent. Production cost with wrapper and bottle came in around 15–18 cents a bottle. Retail cost? One dollar bought a generous size bottle; five dollars, a six pack. Peruna was the “medicine for the poor man,” one testimonial cheered. And to insure volume sales, half the profits supported a million dollar national advertising campaign.

What was Peruna tonic good for? Everything. All illness and disease was a form of catarrh according to Peruna's creator, Dr. Samuel B. Hartman of Columbus, Ohio. And since Peruna was for every form of catarrh, Dr. Hartman sweepingly pronounced that Peruna cured all illness and disease: “As catarrh is catarrh wherever located.” Peruna didn't invent catarrh but it came to represent it. A familiar catch-all medical term, “catarrh” referred to inflammation of mucous membranes. Other catarrh remedies were on the market—but none as successful as Peruna.

From the common cold to colitis, Peruna was your medicine. Even malaria, hepatitis, and anemia were no match for Peruna—or other conditions of a “systemic catarrh” that were mistaken for them. But Peruna didn't stop there. Free annual Almanacs and newspaper testimonials alerted blissfully healthy individuals to take it because “many suffer with catarrh and don't know it.”

Who was Peruna for? Everyone. Infants dose was measured in drops; adults in tablespoons before every meal. But that was just to start. The label was far more permissive: “increase to the dose best suited to their condition, strength, or constitutional peculiarities.”

Hartman claimed that Peruna had the amazing ability to cure all that ails you while frankly admitting that it really didn't cure anything at all. Like other faith healers, however, Peruna never missed. And, as its advertising campaign demonstrated—in classic placebo effect—if you feel better about the medicine, you'll feel better altogether.

But, following a *Collier's Magazine* series of 12 investigative articles by Samuel Hopkins Adams about patent medicines, their claims, ingredients, and use, including an oversharing interview with Peruna's developer Dr. Hartman, Peruna began its slow fall off the shelf. In 1906, Congress passed the Pure Food and Drug Act and created an enforcement agency,

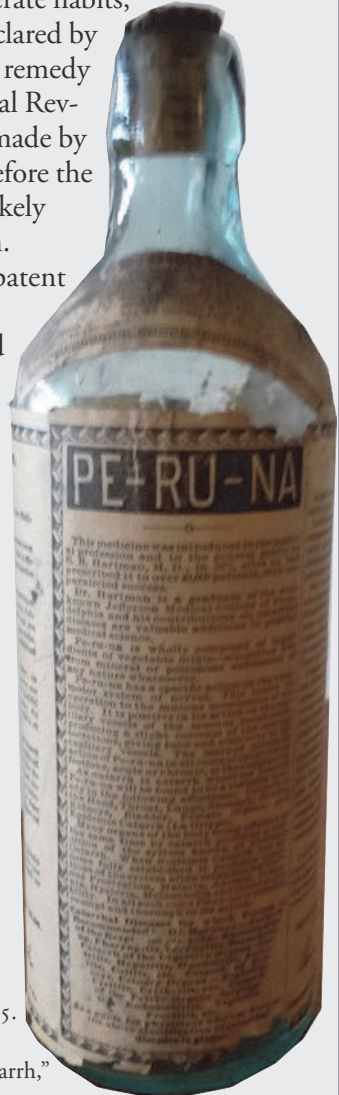
the Food and Drug Administration. Initially, Peruna quickly adapted to new provisions and avoided being taxed as an alcoholic beverage by reducing its alcohol content to 18% (36 proof), adjusting its claim from “cure” to “remedy,” and adding some actual medicine—senna and black-thorn bark—as cathartics. Sales fell while advertising rose.

The *Gilboa Monitor* noted the change in 1906: “Peruna not a Beverage. Peruna, the most widely advertised proprietary remedy on the market; and one that has been abused by people of intemperate habits, is being put up under a new formula and is declared by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to be a remedy that does not require any state liquor or Internal Revenue license, or, in other words, the products made by the Peruna Drug Co. has as genuine a status before the law now as any other recognized medicine.” Likely Peruna provided this statement for publication.

Perhaps Peruna looked tame next to other patent medicine offerings with their opiate extracts, morphine, cocaine, cannabis, chloroform, and even prussic acid. Children dosed with scandal-plagued Mrs. Winslow’s Soothing Syrup, for example, allowed their mother a night

out of the house while the babes “lay like the dead till morning.” Opium can do that.

For a while, both Peruna formulas were distributed: the original formula renamed Ka-Tar-No was served in bars as an alcoholic beverage while the watered down Pe-ru-na remained in drug and general merchandise stores. But Peruna had nine lives. During prohibition, Peruna was known as a “prohibition tonic” and with a lift from radio advertising, lived to see many more days until the 1940s.



Sources:

Samuel Hopkins Adams, *The Great American Fraud*,
 Reprinted from *Collier’s Weekly*, Brain Feed Publishing, 1915.
Gilboa Monitor (March 29, 1906).
 Jack Sullivan, “The Peruna Story: Strumming That Old Catarrh,”
Bottles and Extras, May–June, 2007, pp. 28–31.

longtime *Monitor* editor George L. Fuller was clear about his use of boilerplates/stereotypes when testifying to the City's lawyer, Mr. Grogan:⁶

Q. You spoke something about stereotype work, what is that?

A. That is matter gotten out by the Western Newspaper Association—one dollar a page.

Q. You pay this to the Western Newspaper Association?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. That becomes a page of your paper?

A. I generally buy eight pages at once. And I get a lot of free ones.

Q. The stereotype matter covers one page of your paper?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And your paper is a four page paper?

A. Yes, sir, four pages of seven columns.

Monitor editors kept a stock of the plates around the print shop, especially the ones containing “evergreen” materials—timeless articles that could fill a paper each week. Time-sensitive news was used quickly.

Most advertising dollars for products promoted on the ready-prints and boilerplates did not go to the local editors. It went to the company that wrote and produced the pages, the Western Newspaper Union. But the newspapers were paid in other ways. They got a substantial amount of copy for their paper inexpensively in a pre-print format. And editors who used boilerplates received financial encouragement to use the ads, and not replace them with other material.

If fact, Halls, Ayers, and other products introduced 3-year contracts to pay the editors for placement and added a red highlighted clause: “It is mutually agreed that this Contract is void if any law is enacted by your state restricting or prohibiting the manufacture or sale of proprietary medicine.” Now able to receive money for running the ads, many editors signed on and reprinted supportive articles and lobbied their representatives to protect the patent medicine industry. Judging from the prominent placement of these ads for so many years, *Monitor* editors likely received these contracts also.

So however incongruous, patent medical advertising supported the *Monitor* and its distribution to Gilboa townspeople, thousands of other readers, and those of us reading it today. With more people reading and discussing their newspaper than books, magazines or journals combined, the *Monitor's* pages impressively delivered the news, supported community spirit, and influenced their readers' language, literacy, information, and culture.

The Gilboa Monitor.

Vol. 88 Gilboa, Schoharie County, N. Y. Thursday, November 2, 1905 No. 12

Grand Jury.
 The grand jury of Schoharie county, N. Y., met at the court house at Gilboa on Monday, Oct. 27, 1905, for the purpose of organizing for the year 1905. The jury was organized by the selection of a foreman and a clerk for the year 1905. The foreman was elected John W. Miller, and the clerk was elected Wm. H. Miller. The jury was organized by the selection of a foreman and a clerk for the year 1905. The foreman was elected John W. Miller, and the clerk was elected Wm. H. Miller.

Flat Creek.
 Charles John King, of Flat Creek, who was arrested on Oct. 27, 1905, for the purpose of organizing for the year 1905. The jury was organized by the selection of a foreman and a clerk for the year 1905. The foreman was elected John W. Miller, and the clerk was elected Wm. H. Miller.

Down at Calver's Place.
 A man named Calver, who was arrested on Oct. 27, 1905, for the purpose of organizing for the year 1905. The jury was organized by the selection of a foreman and a clerk for the year 1905. The foreman was elected John W. Miller, and the clerk was elected Wm. H. Miller.

Remains Found.
 The remains of a man named Calver, who was arrested on Oct. 27, 1905, for the purpose of organizing for the year 1905. The jury was organized by the selection of a foreman and a clerk for the year 1905. The foreman was elected John W. Miller, and the clerk was elected Wm. H. Miller.

THE OLD FOLKS at HOME

Are Never Without Pe-ru-na in the Home for Catarrhal Diseases.



It is a well-known fact that the old folks at home are never without Pe-ru-na in the home for catarrhal diseases. Pe-ru-na is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of catarrhal diseases, such as catarrh of the bladder, catarrh of the prostate, catarrh of the rectum, and catarrh of the uterus. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of catarrhal diseases, such as catarrh of the bladder, catarrh of the prostate, catarrh of the rectum, and catarrh of the uterus.

Wm. H. Miller.
 Wm. H. Miller, who was elected clerk of the grand jury for the year 1905. He is a well-known citizen of Gilboa, N. Y., and has served in various capacities for the community.

John W. Miller.
 John W. Miller, who was elected foreman of the grand jury for the year 1905. He is a well-known citizen of Gilboa, N. Y., and has served in various capacities for the community.

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DR. KENNEDY'S FAVORITE REMEDY
 For all kinds of ailments, including catarrh of the bladder, catarrh of the prostate, catarrh of the rectum, and catarrh of the uterus. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of catarrhal diseases.

BEST FOR THE BOWELS
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of bowel ailments, including constipation, diarrhea, and indigestion. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of bowel ailments.

KEEP YOUR BLOOD CLEAN
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of blood ailments, including anemia, leucemia, and other blood diseases. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of blood ailments.

Flexible Cement Roofing
 A powerful material for all kinds of roofing, including flat roofs, gabled roofs, and other types of roofs. It is a powerful material that cures all kinds of roofing ailments.

Wm. H. Provan, Acute Rheumatism
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of rheumatism, including acute rheumatism, chronic rheumatism, and other types of rheumatism. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of rheumatism ailments.

Deafness Cured
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of deafness, including congenital deafness, acquired deafness, and other types of deafness. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of deafness ailments.

Dr. David Kennedy's New Medicine
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of ailments, including catarrh of the bladder, catarrh of the prostate, catarrh of the rectum, and catarrh of the uterus. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of catarrhal ailments.

Dr. David Kennedy's New Medicine
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of ailments, including catarrh of the bladder, catarrh of the prostate, catarrh of the rectum, and catarrh of the uterus. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of catarrhal ailments.

CAL-CUNA SOLVENT
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of ailments, including catarrh of the bladder, catarrh of the prostate, catarrh of the rectum, and catarrh of the uterus. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of catarrhal ailments.

For the Kidneys
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of kidney ailments, including kidney stones, kidney infection, and other types of kidney ailments. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of kidney ailments.

Gold Bars That Hang On
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of ailments, including catarrh of the bladder, catarrh of the prostate, catarrh of the rectum, and catarrh of the uterus. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of catarrhal ailments.

Foley's Honey and Tar
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of ailments, including catarrh of the bladder, catarrh of the prostate, catarrh of the rectum, and catarrh of the uterus. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of catarrhal ailments.

Pneumonia and Consumption
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of ailments, including pneumonia, consumption, and other types of ailments. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of ailments.

Dr. David Kennedy's New Medicine
 A powerful medicine for all kinds of ailments, including catarrh of the bladder, catarrh of the prostate, catarrh of the rectum, and catarrh of the uterus. It is a powerful medicine that cures all kinds of catarrhal ailments.

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The greyed-out material was created in the *Monitor's* offices and the lighter material was created by stereotype/boilerplate. We can see the amount of space that patent medicine advertising (Pe-ru-na, Dr. Kennedy's, Foley's, Cal-Cuna, and others) had in local newspapers, filling five of the available 7 columns of this sheet. Most local material was often found on the inside 2 pages.

Notes

1. Peruna's creator, Dr. S.B. Hartman used the layout Pe-ru-na in labeling and advertising.
2. Ansel Nash Kellogg first developed ready-prints and boilerplates in America and established the Kellogg Company for distribution. The company was later absorbed by the Western Printing Union. *See:* Eugene Harter, *Boilerplating America* (University Press of America, 1991).
3. As regional offices were established, ready-print producers shuffled content so nearby town papers did not appear the same.
4. Myron Dings, Charles O. Laymon, P. T. Hoagland, Burton G. Griffin, Edith V. Griffin, Henry Becker, A.S. Thomas, Eugene Howe, George L. Fuller. Mr. Day appeared on masthead with Myron Dings for 3 months and Burton Griffin briefly added J.A. Butler as Assoc. Ed. Becker, Thomas, and Howe worked under heading "*Monitor Publishing Company.*"
5. Four companies initially printed ready-prints materials (three in Chicago, one in New York). Competition reduced them to one, Chicago's Western Newspaper Union.
6. Testimony before Board of Water Supply of the City of New York Civil Case Files 1917-1932, pp. 4,457.



Lee Hudson, a native New Yorker, has lived on the old Vroman-Cornell property (Shew Hollow Road) full and part time for over 20 years. She retired recently from previous careers in higher education and public service, is researching the amazing early village life in Gilboa, and shepherded the digitization project of the Monitors.



This Albert Christman view of the Gilboa valley is taken from the iron bridge looking southeast, ca. 1919. The village is on the left, and the road on right continued along the west bank to the Grand Gorge-Prattsville Road at the Hardenberg farm. From the library of Ernest and Jennifer Sutton, passed down largely from Ruth Lillian Case Sutton.

State of New-York.

No. 135.

IN ASSEMBLY, MAR. 2, 1849.



REPORT

Of the Committee on the erection and division of towns and counties,
on petitions and remonstrances in relation to a new county
from parts of Greene, Delaware and Schoharie.

Mr. Pardee, from the committee on the erection and division of towns and counties, to which were referred several petitions for, and remonstrances against, the erection of the county of Harrison from parts of Greene, Delaware and Schoharie,

REPORTS:

That the petitioners ask that a new county may be erected from portions of the counties of Greene, Delaware and Schoharie. They propose to take from the county of Greene, the towns of Windham, Lexington, Ashland and Prattsville; from the county of Delaware, the towns of Middletown and Roxbury; and from the county of Schoharie, the towns of Conesville, Gilboa, Blenheim and Jefferson.

The aggregate population of the above towns is 21,494, leaving the county of Greene with a population of 24,286; the county of Delaware with 31,174; and the county of Schoharie with 24,481.

The reasons which have been assigned by the petitioners, why this

application should be granted, are numerous and important, among the most prominent of which are the following: The distances from the towns above named to their county seats respectively are inconveniently great; the residents of those towns being unreasonably subjected to a serious expense of time, money, and labor, in order to discharge the portion of county business which their duties as citizens devolve upon them. These distances are as follows: From the centre of the town of Windham, Lexington, Ashland and Prattsville, 26, 30, 31, and 37 miles respectively; and from Middletown and Roxbury to their county seat, the distance is 24 and 26 miles respectively; and from Gilboa, Conesville, Blenheim, and Jefferson, the distances are 25, 30, 18 and 26 miles respectively.

The natural surface of the country, included in the bounds of the proposed new county, furnishes a strong argument in favor of the application. Along the eastern border are the Catskill mountains; on the western border are the highlands which separate the waters of the Schoharie creek from those of the Delaware and Susquehannah. The streams from both sides run naturally down into the Schoharie creek, which passes through the centre of the new county. The roads also all centre in and run down to the Schoharie creek. It would seem that the inconveniences resulting from distances are greatly enhanced by barriers which nature has erected between the towns proposed to be set off, and the places whither they are obliged to go for the purposes of doing their county business.

Another reason urged by the petitioners why their application should be granted, is that the distances from the proposed centre of the new county to the centres of the various towns included therein, are, in all cases but two, from 6 to 12 miles; and in those two cases do not exceed 16 miles.

The distances from the towns included in the new county from their county seats, as at present constituted, are such as to render it imperative upon jurors and witnesses to travel on the Sabbath, in order to reach them by the time of the opening of the several courts on Monday. For if they do not start until Monday morning, the courts are frequently detained, and parties are subjected to heavy expenses in consequence of the non-arrival of their witnesses. For all the above reasons, the committee are unanimously of the opinion that the application should be granted, and therefore report a bill for that purpose.

Source:

Documents of the Assembly of the State of New York, Seventy-Second Session 1849. Volume III, No. 101 to No. 199 inclusive. Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., Public Printers, 1849.

State of New-York.

No. 174.

IN ASSEMBLY, MAR. 21, 1849.

REPORT

**Of a majority of the Select Committee to whom
was referred the bill and papers relative to the
proposed erection of the new county of Harrison.**

The select committee, consisting of the members of the House of Assembly from the counties of Greene, Delaware and Schoharie, to whom was referred the bill to provide for the erection of the county of Harrison, from parts of said counties, together with the papers relating thereto, submit the following:

REPORT

We have given the subject a careful and, we believe, a candid investigation. It is one in which our constituents are deeply interested. The bill proposes to erect the new county from territory now embraced within the counties which we represent. This is deprecated by the almost unanimous voice of the population of the three counties, not included in the proposed new erection. It is asked by a large number of petitioners from the towns intended to be set off. The question, therefore, presented to us, is one of great delicacy and difficulty. Real or imaginary differences of interests, and a decided opposition of views, exist between the friends and opponents of this measure. To reconcile these is impossible. We can only give our opinion as

to the merits of this application, and that is, that the prayer of the petitioners should not be granted.

This application we find to have been before the Legislature three times heretofore. The only printed report upon the same, will be found in the Senate documents of 1846, and is No. 49. As this contains many of the reasons why we think this bill should not pass, we beg leave to refer to the same as a part of our report. Among the papers referred to us, are a large number of remonstrances and petitions upon this subject, that have accumulated upon the files of the House since 1841. As these may properly be considered as disposed of by previous Legislatures, we shall say nothing further concerning them, than that in our opinion they should have but little weight with this body either for or against the project, inasmuch as a long time has elapsed since they were presented, and a change of sentiment upon the subject may exist in the minds of the parties.

We have looked over the petitions and remonstrances presented this session, from which we make the following statement.

The whole number of *petitioners* from the county of Greene is 405

Ashland furnishes	83
Ashland and Prattsville	40
Prattsville	118
Lexington	164

Total: 405

The whole number of *remonstrants* from Greene county is 1206

Ashland furnishes	9
Lexington	124
Windham	232

Total: 365

It appears, therefore, from the papers, that even in the towns proposed to be set off, there is but a majority of 40 petitioners over the remonstrants. We find no petitioners at all from the town of Windham. The petitions and remonstrances from the town of Lexington, show a majority of only 30 friends of the measure over its opponents. We do not consider these towns as calling for a new county with that unanimity which can justify the Legislature in severing them from their present connexions. The decided opposition of Lexington and Windham, should, at all events, save them from being included in any such division.

A remonstrance of certain citizens of Greene county has been ordered to be printed by the House, which contains many weighty reasons why that

county should not be divided, and to which we beg leave to refer as a part of this report,

The whole number of *petitioners* from the county of Schoharie is 431

The number of <i>remonstrants</i> is	885
Majority of <i>remonstrants</i>	454

In the year 1846, the court house and jail of Schoharie county were consumed by fire, and an attempt was made to change the site of the new buildings. The subject was brought before the Legislature, and three commissioners appointed to visit the county and fix the location. After travelling through the county, they fixed the site upon its present location, and your committee are advised and believe that a large portion, if not a majority of the inhabitants of the towns proposed to be set off into the new county of Harrison were in favor of said location. During the same year, a loan of ten thousand dollars was made of the State, to enable the county to erect their new buildings, most of which yet remains to be paid by a tax upon the county, and the said county built last year, a county poor-house and out buildings, costing about \$6,000, leaving the county in debt at this time, about \$14,000.

The bill in question proposes to take off about 8,000 of the population of that county, the effect of which would be to increase in that proportion the taxes upon the residue of the county to liquidate this debt to the State.

The inhabitants of the towns proposed to be set off into the new county, reside mostly upon, or in the vicinity of streams tributary to the Schoharie creek, upon which the county buildings are located, and have, or may with reasonable improvements have easy and natural roads to said buildings. Your committee believe, from the evidence before them, that a large majority of the inhabitants of Schoharie are now opposed to any alteration in their county lines, and are satisfied to remain as they are, and that the proposed alteration would be an act of injustice to them, wholly unwarranted by the circumstances of the case.

We find the names of only 107 petitioners from the county of Delaware, and those from the town of Roxbury. We find only 134 remonstrants from the same county, and those from the town of Middletown. We, however, would say, that the remonstrances sent in from that county are general remonstrances against any division of that county, and some of them are undoubtedly among the papers relative to the proposed county of Patterson [*sic*].

We are convinced, however, that a large majority of the inhabitants of the town of Middletown are opposed to their being separated from Delaware. That county has now good public buildings, and if separated and placed in

a new county, they must be taxed again for similar buildings. They are generally as near Delhi as Prattsville. A turnpike, which is also a stage route, passes through this town to Delhi, while there is none to Prattsville. They have a tri-weekly mail from Delhi, and but one a week from Prattsville. The convenience of this town is better promoted by their present position, than it would be by transferring it to the proposed new county.

On the other hand, it is undoubtedly true, that many of the towns proposed to be taken, would be better accommodated than they now are. But we cannot recognize this as a sufficient reason for reducing the size of counties so small already as Delaware and Greene, and Schoharie in particular. There must always be some towns upon the borders of a county, and it will be impossible to bring every man within a few miles of his county seat, without more than doubling our present number of counties. If a county be inconveniently large, it should be divided; but if sufficiently small already, it is wrong to make it still smaller, for the benefit of a few, and against the wishes, and to the detriment of a great majority of its citizens. We think the wishes of the inhabitants of the old counties should be regarded in this matter. Their interests are to be affected by the change, as well as those of the applicants.

We have heretofore spoken only of the justice and propriety of the proposed erection of the county of Harrison. We close, by giving it as our judgment, that such an erection would be unconstitutional. In support of this, we rely upon language of the Constitution, and the construction put upon it by the Attorney General, in his opinion dated February 26, 1849, and which is Assembly document, No. 123, and to which we beg leave to refer.

H. BAILEY,
D. B. DANFORTH,
AUSTIN SEXTON,
LUTHER BUTTS.

[Ed. Note: Assembly Document No. 123 includes this statement from the Attorney General: "A clause in the 5th section of article 5, of the Constitution . . . seems to imply, that a county as such cannot exist unless it be represented in the House of Assembly by *at least one member.*"]

Source:

Documents of the Assembly of the State of New York, Seventy-Second Session 1849. Volume III, No. 101 to No. 199 inclusive. Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., Public Printers, 1849.

The GHS *Quarterly* is available free at GilboaHome.com.

Email this address to friends & family.

HarrisonCountyNY.org

and NorthernCatskillsHistory.com

Gerry Stoner

Last spring, I informed the board of the Gilboa Historical Society that I would be stepping down, after 10 years, as publisher of the *Quarterly*, and accordingly, they are selecting a new director of publications for the GHS. In the meantime, I want to tell you what I plan for the future.

Harrison County, New York

In 1849, the state assembly was asked to consolidate parts of Delaware, Greene, and Schoharie Counties into a new county called Harrison. The goal was to create a small centralized unit including Delaware towns of Middletown and Roxbury; Greene towns of Ashland, Lexington (including Halcott), Prattsville, and Windham; and Schoharie towns of Blenheim, Conesville, Gilboa, and Jefferson.

The New York State Assembly addressed petitions (for) on March 2, 1849 and remonstrances (against) from Greene County on March 15. The proposal was then referred to assemblymen from the three affected counties and the committee's opinion against the petitioners came on March 21, 1849.

The concept of Harrison County is still valid for us. Our location has always produced people, activities, and historical events that crossed limiting barriers and included neighboring areas (just like the Gilboa-Prattsville Road east of the reservoir goes through 3 straight county lines without obstacle!).

I am not abandoning local history—that is still as great a passion as ever—but I want to focus on a broader definition of local. Harrison County appeals in that regard. Ellen and I already attend events in many of these towns, and I plan on expanding “my” Harrison County to include neighboring towns of Middleburgh, Fulton, Stamford, Harpersfield, Hunter, Jewett, Tannersville, and Haines Falls. Our plan is to continue *Quarterly*-like publications for this enlarged area.

We will continue to gather articles, photos, etc., and lay them out at HarrisonCountyNY.org so that any nonprofit historical society or library can repurpose the material to create their own publications—either electronic or physical—and to which they can add their society's personal notices and business reports as well as their own articles and local history. In this way, those who want to add and archive local history can gain experience doing it;

and those who want to enjoy what others have collected can share in the process. Starting in 2008, we've included on the cover page our mission of *learning, sharing, and preserving our history*—we will continue promoting these goals.

Let me tell you about our friend Ernest. He has a large family collection of photographs that his relatives were wise enough to annotate on the back, so we know the history. He understands the benefit of using the Internet to share with other people interested in local history, but he's not interested in learning about the computer and its applications. For Ernest and many others, we need a nonelectronic way to distribute and communicate these details. We can use the postal service, or we may want to hold meetings in a local library or other venue where we can share physical items and gain wider distribution through scanning, copying, recording, and reprinting materials.

The bottom line: if you have historical materials to share or want to see such materials, or both—please send me a note with complete contact information (names, postal and physical address, phone numbers, email address), *and please let me know what type of communication works best for you.* We do not want to lose contact with anyone interested in local history and/or who have materials to share. Our contact information is below.

Finally, thank you for the past ten years. Together we have met new people, exchanged ideas, and created and saved about 1,400 pages of historical documentation. Especially gratifying feedback have been letters from Florida, Texas, or Southern California saying that an article reminded them so much of their youth in the Catskills and have caused at least two readers to write memoirs that in turn renewed other people's memories and experiences.

We also have had letters from newcomers to the area, who thanked us because the *Quarterly* made them feel like they really belonged here and provided them with a community memory; and descendants from early families have credited *Quarterly* articles with increasing their own knowledge of northern Catskills history.



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Your name, address, and membership status appears on the label of the physical *Quarterly*: a * next to your name indicates a paid-up individual membership; likewise, ** indicates a paid-up couple's membership, and *** indicates a paid-up family. A single dagger † indicates lifetime membership and a double ‡ indicates a couple's lifetime membership. Please consider joining if you are not a member, and let us know if we have incorrect address information.

Membership Application Form

Name: _____ () Lifetime membership (\$100.00) \$ _____

Subscription format: Physical Electronic Both () Family membership (\$25.00) \$ _____

Email: _____ () Couples membership (\$15.00) \$ _____

Address:* _____ () Individual membership (\$10.00) \$ _____

_____ () Senior or student membership (\$7.00) \$ _____

_____ () Scholarship fund \$ _____

City: _____ () Gilboa Historical Society *Quarterly* \$ _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ () Gilboa History Center Building Fund \$ _____

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* Please provide any temporary address for our seasonal mailings. () Gilboa History Center Genealogy Area \$ _____

Seasonal address for mailings: Spring Summer Fall Winter () General fund \$ _____

Address: _____ () Memorial gifts† \$ _____

City: _____ Total amount enclosed \$ _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Gilboa Historical Society, Post Office Box 52, Gilboa, NY 12076

† The Board has a "wish list" of memorial gifts; please inquire of a board member, and provide the complete wording of the dedication, your name and address, and the name and address of a next-of-kin to be notified.

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