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## **Amity Reformed Church**

**History:** Amity Church was founded in 1802. Prior to this time, the church-goers in Amity (later known as Vischer Ferry) crossed the river and worshiped in the Niskayuna Reformed Church. The original church building faced east and was located on the site of the present sanctuary. By 1871, the congregation outgrew the first sanctuary, and decided to build a new and larger church. This second building faced south and seated 350 people; it was destroyed by fire in 1886. The present sanctuary was built in 1888. Amity Church is a member of the Reformed Church in America.

**Scope:** The collection consists chiefly of church histories, annual reports, and examples of church service programs.

**Size:** 4 folders.

Folder 1: Histories of organization and buildings: Sesqui-Centennial, Amity Reformed Church, 1802-1954. 11 p., mimeo or offset typescript. Five copies, one signed Howard I. Becker on p. 11 and with a newspaper clipping laid in showing Rev. Wm. DeYoung performing a marriage ceremony.

Folder 2: Histories of organization and buildings: Three typed copies of "Church Deed, 1802," one with words written in, signed "Dick Swart, Clem." Church Directory Update, date unknown, listing birthdays and anniversaries of church members; Amity Church Property in 1820, by Howard I. Becker, 1956, showing Lot #9 and Lot #8; and Amity Reformed Church Self Study, 1968. 36 p., xerox copy of typescript.

Folder 3: Annual Reports and Meetings. Report for 1956. Contains lists of officer's names, new members, and baptisms and financial records; Report for 1968. Contains enrollment statistics, lists of church officers, new members, baptisms, funerals, and marriages; Congregational Meeting, November 13, 1988, Agenda.

Folder 4: Orders of Worship, with dates between 1970 to 2000. Letter to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sims from Fred Stevens, Financial Secretary, dated Feb. 12, 1990.

# **Ballston Lake Country Club Association**

## **Archives**

**History:** This organization was organized August 13, 1936 from the T.E.R.A (Temporary Emergency Relief Administration) Relief Workers of the Town of Clifton Park. The T.E.R.A. Relief Workers group was formed in January 1935 for the purpose of "organization of the Relief workers of the town of Clifton Park and for discussion of interest of the unemployed and to formulate petitions for the correction and modification of the causes of grievances." Fifty three workers attended the first meeting on January 10, 1935 and several grievances were listed in the minutes of the meeting. The group continued to meet throughout 1935 and 1936. In August 1936 the group was re-organized as the Ballston Lake Country Club Association. Charles Goodness was the first chairman of the group and was followed by Emil Goodness, who became chairman of the Ballston Spa organization.

**Scope:** This collection consists of one manuscript book of minutes of the two organizations. The minutes, except for the first few in January 1935 which have more content concerning grievances of the T.E.R.A. group, are routine accounts of transactions at the meetings. The constitutions of both groups are included in the minutes.

**Size:** 1 folder, .30 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Donald Carlson.

**Contents:** Folder 1: Minutes of the organizations, January 1935-September 1936

(This collection is filed in the box containing the records of the Union Sunday School Association)

James Corsaro  
Archivist

# **Stanley (Spud) and Doris Bartow**

## **Collection**

**History:** Doris Bartow was the first postmaster of the Rexford Post Office from 1953 to 1972. Stanley (Spud) Bartow served as postmaster of Rexford from 1947-1953. Doris was the daughter of Harry and Nellie Ray, born in 1916 and was married to Spud Bartow at the Grooms Methodist Church on May 21, 1944. She died in 2007. Spud was born in Rexford, NY in 1916 and died in 2009. Both Spud and Doris Bartow were long-time members of the local Grange. Spud worked on farms and at other jobs, including for the Rexford Amusement Park. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and Doris worked at GE during the war.

**Scope:** This collection is comprised chiefly of two major series, newspaper clippings, many in scrapbooks and photographs, many in scrapbooks. There are many photographs, particularly of the Rexford hamlet and vicinity, including Bartow family, its home and vehicles, photos of the canal locks, aqueduct and bridges at Rexford, Mohawk River, businesses in Rexford, including McLane's Hotel and other topics. There are also newspaper issues of Schenectady, NY newspapers. There is very little material, other than photographs, of the Bartow family; e.g. no financial records and very little correspondence.

**Size:** 6 boxes, 6 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Stanley and Doris Bartow

### **Contents:**

**Box 1: Miscellaneous papers of the Bartow family and concerning the history of Rexford and vicinity.**

Folder 1: Biographical information, including a handwritten abstract of an oral history with the Bartows; also a photocopy of a marriage notice from a local newspaper May 21, 1944; color photo of Bartow, n.d., ca. 2005?. Handwritten recipes of Doris Bartow?

Folder 2: Military newsletters from World War II, probably received by Spud Bartow, incl.: *Crossroads*, Dec. 1945-Jan. 1946, 3 issues, 1391<sup>st</sup> AAFBU and *Snowball*, Feb. 17, 1945 (2 cop.), issued by the 1380<sup>th</sup> AAFBU, Presque Isle, ME.

Also, church program for Protestant Worship, Thanksgiving Day and Nov. 11, 1945, 1391<sup>st</sup> AAFBU,

Folder 3: Programs from school plays at Nott Terrace High School, Schenectady, NY and May 1933 issue of *Civic Players Magazine*, Schenectady.

Folder 4: Program, clippings, and other papers, of the Rexford United Methodist Church, ca. 1932-1998, including the program for the church's Sesquicentennial anniversary, 1839-1989; also other churches items.

Folder 5: Rexford School reunion program, June 1982, and a photocopy of a photograph of the Rexford School class, 1925-1928 with identifying notes; also, graduation items for other schools.

Folder 6: Valentine and other cards and World War II-era cartoons (Private Buck) by Clyde Lewis.

Folder 7: Political items, incl. a statement by the Supervisor of Clifton Park denying the application for the creation of incorporated village of Rexford, 1985 a proposed budget for a proposed Village of Rexford, letter to Bartows from Rep. C.J. King re: request for financial assistance for a Rexford Water District, 1971.

Folder 8: Three receipts to James S. McKain, dealer in hay, straw..., 1919.

Folder 9: Advertising brochures from various companies and a menu from the Meeting House in the Hotel Van Curler, Schenectady, NY, n.d., ca. 1950

Folder 10: Poems, and other papers re: to the anniversary of Minnie Eaton and Ezra Bates, 1935

Folder 11: *Rexford Chronicle*, issue for Sept. 1993; also typed chronology of McLane's Hotel demolition, Oct. 29, 1964; typed copies of articles from the *Schenectady Gazette* about old canal days at Rexford, new bridge at Rexford, 1922, and canal aqueduct at Craig

Publications:

Folder 12:

*Rexford History*, Catherine Molnar, 1991

*General Electric Scrapbook History*, 1953

*Moments in Time: A Century in the Life of the Capital Region, 1894-1994*, Schenectady Gazette, 1994

Folder 13:

*Panorama of the Hudson*

*Proposed Rexford Water District...An Explanatory Report, Town of Clifton Park, 1970*

Folder 14: Pamphlets about John McLane Hose Co.

*John McLane Hose Company, Inc. of the Rexford Fire District, 1983*  
(with a color photograph of a painting of the Hose Co. truck and station)

*Dedication of Firehouse, Rexford Fire District...Oct. 27, 2001*

*John McLane Hose Company, Inc., History from 1923*

*John McLane Hose Company: A Historical Records from 1923 to 1955*

Scrapbook of Invitations for marriages and commencement exercises, ca.1874-1906. This scrapbook is a "magnetic" type with sticky glue pages. After an attempt to remove these invitations from the scrapbook, they have been left in it for removal by a conservator.

## **Box 2: Newspaper Clippings, Loose and Programs for Plays and Graduations**

These newspaper clippings were found loose in various envelopes and are have been put into groups by topic. The entire group needs to be considered for photocopying and some clippings may be discarded if copies already exist (for instance, the newspaper may already be available on microfilm). Prior to photocopying, the Town Historian might weed the clippings to save only those considered worth keeping for historical research purposes. As noted below, regular history columns by Larry Hart and John Scherer have already been separated and placed in the Vertical Files of the Local History Room.

Larry Hart columns in *Schenectady Gazette*, "Tales from the Old Dorp"; columns and local history articles, A Bit of History, about Clifton Park by John Scherer been removed to be filed in the Vertical Files of the Local History Room.

Folder 1: Mainly personal news items (marriage notices, obituaries, stories about World War II servicemen, graduation announcements, etc.) from Clifton Park, Rexford and vicinity, mainly ca. 1938-1945

Folder 2: Clippings related to firefighting and fire companies in Clifton Park, ca. 1962-1997 with a copy of the 1998 calendar of the Rexford Fire Department and photocopies of a 1908 letter to John McLane re: a fire engine.

Folder 3: Clippings with articles about local history of Clifton Park, Rexford and Schenectady (no articles by John Scherer), ca. 1926-1999

Folder 4: General local news from Clifton Park and vicinity, mainly from the Schenectady Gazette and including stories about topics such as, development in the town, crime, politics, canal, Rexford places and events, etc., ca. 1916-1994.

*Photographs:*

Folder 5: Group of photographs of railroads and railroad scenes, including loading and unloading railroad cars, historical railroad engines, etc. This is a series of photographic prints that appears to have been published. There are no photographs of Clifton Park or the immediate vicinity. The locations of the photographs are not noted; the photos are undated and appear to be about 1940-1950.

Folder 6: Rexford School, 1925-28, class group photo with identifying notes and notes about the history of the school. Also, group photo of the Zipper Club of the Rexford Methodist Church, 1934 with clipping and notes about the club.

Folder 7: Postcard views of various places, incl.: canal locks at Rexford, Dolles Park Hotel, Schenectady, NY, and 3 other cards, total, 5 postcards. Also, miscellaneous loose photos.

Folder 8: Negative photographs of Lock 22, Rexford, NY and negatives of Rexford Store , McLane Hotel, trolley at aqueduct, Rexford Park and Rexford School

Folder 9: Miscellaneous loose photographs, incl.: several photos of a clambake that occurred at the McLane's farm, Aug. 1953; a photo of Tracey's Ice Cream Parlor, photo of an unknown woman, 1944; photo of an unidentified house and a postcard of logging trucks in the Northwest, 1975.

Folder 10: Programs for Plays, Graduations and other events, 1932-1933. Newspaper clippings.

**Box 3: Photograph Albums**

Photographs in some of these albums have labels and these photos have not been removed and sleeved. The pages in these albums should be photocopied or scanned prior to removal and sleeving of the photos in order to preserve the information in the labels.



**#1:** Photograph Album, white marbled binding, photos dated ca. 1920-1960. Most of the photos that are inserted in this album have labels. The photos here include pictures of the Bartows as children, McLane's Hotel., Bartow's gas station, National Biscuit Company horse and wagon and trucks, photo Christmas cards from family members. The photos have not been removed from the album.

**#2:** Photograph Album, album with picture of roses on cover. This album is a "magnetic" sticky glue album. There are a few newspaper clippings, many photographs and several postcards of Rexford and immediate vicinity, including Erie Canal, Rexford Bridge and Dam, including the construction, Aqueduct, Bartow home and other subjects. The photos date from about 1900 to 1965, with most of the photos dating from before 1940; an important photographic documentation of the Rexford area and Erie Canal. The photos have not been removed from the album.

#### **Box 4: Photograph Albums**

**#3:** Photograph Album, album with red binding, The album has many photos labeled and the photos have not been removed for sleeving. The photos are of roads, automobiles and trucks, Bartow childhood photos, family photos and reunions, horse and coach, canal and Mohawk River scenes, L.G. Rexford store, aqueduct. Photos include both summer and winter months. The photos date from about 1915-1971.

**#4:** Photograph Album, album with pictures of birch trees. The photos have not been removed for sleeving. Photos and postcards of trolleys, aqueduct, Luna Park, canal, dredging of the Mohawk River, family photos, The Hermitage store/gas station. The photos date from about 1920-1972.

**#5:** Photograph Album, green binder with photographs on "magnetic" sticky glue paper. The album has many photos labeled and the photos have not been removed for sleeving. Photos of Rexford locks, canal, and aqueduct, family photos, trolley, L.G. Rexford Store, automobiles and trucks, bar at Craig Hotel, explosion of American Fireworks factory, building of Rexford bridge.

#### **Box 5: Newspaper Clippings**

Newspaper clippings in this collection were pasted in scrapbooks with many loose clippings that were not pasted into books. The scrapbooks have been kept as they were received, while the loose clippings have been put into groups by topic. There are some loose clippings in the scrapbooks as well

and these have been kept in place if they appear to be related to the pasted items; otherwise they have been removed to the loose clippings file. The clippings should be photocopied by a volunteer, the copies filed by topic and the original clippings may be kept or disposed of.

### *Scrapbooks of Clippings:*

#1: "Scrapbook" in red binding: Mainly obituaries, marriages, news from General Electric, church news, school news, some national news events.

#2: "Scrapbook" in blue binding: Mainly obituaries, marriages, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, news of fires, accidents, winter storms, Clifton Park politics, ca. 1953-1991

#3: "Schenectady Gazette Scrap Book." This scrapbook, ca, 1900-1935, has many loose clippings as well as pastedowns and includes mainly clippings of wedding announcements, church news, obituaries, school news, etc.; mainly taken from the Schenectady Gazette. This scrapbook may have been compiled by one of the parents of Spud or Doris Bartow.

#4: "The Spiral" scrapbook: This scrapbook has a few obituaries, clippings about a woman named Gipsy Smith and many clippings from a "Helpful Hints" household hints column, ca. 1932-1935.

### *Newspapers*

In addition to saving newspaper clippings of local events, the Bartows saved whole issues of particular newspaper issues, including anniversary issues and other important events. The following is a list of the issues of newspapers saved:

*Schenectady News*, General Electric, 11/14/41 and 5/4/56 issues

*Schenectady Union-Star*, 10/3/47, 10/14/53 (GE anniversary edition), 4/22/55 (centennial issue of the Union-Star), 1967-68 pages from Union-Star compiled to make a *Clifton Park Scrap Book*.

*Schenectady Gazette*, 6/26/1916 (border war with Mexico), 9/18/1924 (Erie Canal to Erie Blvd.), 10/1.1994 (centennial issues of the Gazette).

Issues of the following smaller papers: *Pathfinder*, Washington, 4/23/1935; *The Gilead Companion* (newsletter of the Center Brunswick Gilead Lutheran Church), 10/1929; *American Agriculturist*, 12/12/1931; *Cloverleaf American Review*, Winona, MN, Feb. and May 1936 .

**Artifacts:**

Native American arrowheads, from Ray farm on Ray Road, Grooms Corners

Bottle that held 100 Tablets of Extract of Cascara Sagrada, a tonic, from Quinn's, Schenectady, NY

**Box 6: Scrapbooks (2)**

Scrapbook #1: A scrapbook in a blue binding, with many newspaper clippings with news, chiefly of Rexford, Alplaus and the surrounding vicinity, including obituaries, fires, spring floods, general news of businesses and government in Clifton Park and other news items.

Scrapbook #: A scrapbook in a red binding, which includes only original photographs. The photographs are labeled in most cases. The photographs include images of the Bartow family, including childhood photos of Spud Bartow, family group pictures, several photos of the National Biscuit horse wagon and truck driven by Spud Bartow's father, family photos in the Adirondacks, photos of Ollie Bartow's gas station, McLane's Hotel, family home and other subjects. The family photos date mainly from the Twenties and Thirties and the photos of the gas stations and cars date mainly from the Fifties. The photos are on very brittle paper and should be removed after photocopying or scanning in order to save the label information prior to removal to photograph sleeves.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

Gail Winters  
Librarian  
Additions, 2014

## Howard Becker

### Collection

**History:** Howard I. Becker was born in Watervliet, NY in 1895, married Beatrice M. Reid, and lived in Vischer Ferry for over 40 years. He died March 1, 1977. He was engineer with General Electric for many years and was awarded over 30 patents during his years with G.E. before retiring in 1957. He was the Town Historian for Clifton Park for many years and was also the historian for Long Lake, NY. He compiled and wrote several books about various aspects of the history of Clifton Park and of the upper Mohawk Valley region. He had a particular interest in the geography and mapping of the Mohawk River around Niskayuna, Vischer Ferry and the surrounding area. He was a member of the Amity Reformed Church in Vischer Ferry, and a member of several other fraternal and historical societies. He was married for many years to Beatrice M. Reid, who pre-deceased him. His collection of historical research materials was donated to the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library. The Becker Postcard Collection is stored separately from this collection and is being digitized for the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library website.

**Scope:** This is a collection of material collected by and created by Howard I. Becker, the former Town Historian of Clifton Park. He was town historian for many years and was named Historian-Emeritus in 1973. The collection includes original and copies of manuscripts, maps and photographs of the Town of Clifton Park and surrounding areas, Becker's research files of notes for his books, local government records of the town, including assessor's records and tavern licenses, and justice of the peace records. There are also some special collections including a file on the McIntosh family (creators of the McIntosh apple) and the records of the Independent Order of the Good Templars (Vischer Ferry lodge). There are files of Becker as Town Historian. There are some autograph books and many newspaper clippings, and a small group of complete issues of newspapers. Additional topics include the history of lands and maps in the town, canal history and Mohawk River history in the region, role of the town historian in New York State, historical homes and churches in Clifton Park. The inclusive dates of the collection are 1664-1972 and the bulk of the material collected dates from approximately 1940-1972.

Please note: A small amount of material donated by Howard Becker is located in other collections within the Clifton Park Collection, such as the Churches Collection.

**Size:** 11 boxes, 12 lin.ft.

**Donor:** Howard Becker.

**Contents:**

**Box 1: Town Government Records**

This box contains bound official records of various government offices of the Town of Clifton Park, as follows:

Assessor's List for Clifton Park, 1848, includes names of residents, acreage, real and personal valuation, and taxes, names of lessors of lands, names of non-resident with lands and taxes, account of the Select School, 1854-56.

Assessor's List of Clifton Park, 1853, includes names of residents, acreage, real and personal valuation, and taxes, names of lessors of lands, names of non-resident with lands and taxes

Assessor's List of Clifton Park, 1866, includes names of residents, acreage, real and personal valuation, and taxes and names of lessors of lands.

Assessor's List of Clifton Park, 1875, names of residents, acreage, real and personal valuation, and taxes, names of lessors of lands, and incorporated companies.

Assessor's List of Clifton Park 1878, names of residents, acreage, real and personal valuation, and taxes.

Assessor's List of Clifton Park 1882, names of residents, acreage, real and personal valuation and taxes. Copy.

Ledger Record Book of the Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Clifton Park, 1850-1877, includes names, age, nativity and "cause of pauperism," as well as financial accounts of overseers.

Same as above, 1877-1890, 1920, includes names, types of service received, and cost as well as financial accounts of the overseers.

Record book of Town Clerk of surveys of railroad and telegraph company lines running through school districts in the Town of Clifton Park, 1885-1899.

Day Book by Matthias Shear, John Fryer, Mich. Freligh, executors, Oct. 8, 1802-1820. This includes a detailed account of the expenses of the executors with the family, including widow Mary Volwider, and others; includes mention of the sale of a "negro boy" to Corn. Funda, 1806. Also, 3 loose clipping of obituaries. This is probably not a government record, but may have been filed by the executors with the Surrogate's Office of Saratoga County.

## **Box 2: Town Government Records**

Official records of Town of Clifton Park, continued:

Folders 1-6, Tavern license papers for taverns in the Town of Clifton Park, 1859-18 includes:

F. 1: Petition of residents to allow John G. Swett to have a grocer's license, 1850

F. 2: Petition of residents of 1<sup>st</sup> Election Dist. to allow Samuel Groom to have a tavern license at Groom's Corners, 1859

F. 3: Petitions of residents of the 2<sup>nd</sup> E.D., to grant a tavern license to Hamilton T. Shepard for "Inn, tavern or hotel" in the Village of Jonesville, 1863 and a petition of residents of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. E.D. for tavern license for Anson B. Smith in the Village of Jonesville, 1859

F. 4: Applications and petitions for tavern licenses for Clifton Park Village Hotel, for:  
Cornelius Fonda (1857), Isaac Rogers (1859) (1860), (1866), and (1869).

F. 5: Applications and petitions for tavern licenses for taverns in Amity and Vischer Ferry for: Amity: John Anderson (1859), Garret Cragier (1860), Philip Dutcher, Jr. (1863), Abram Travis (1864) and (1866); Vischer Ferry: Garrit Cragier (1863), (1864) and (1869).

F. 6: Applications and tavern licenses for Rexford Flats for: Nelson Cole (1855) (1855), C.W. Rexford (1859), Hiram Parker? (1863), Eleazer A. Rexford (1867), Cornelius R. Sheffer and Jacob A. West (1867), Hiram Parker (1869).

Lawsuits in the Town of Clifton Park: This is a small group of lawsuits handled in town courts in Clifton Park. The following is a list of these suits.

Folder 7: James A. Wright v. Abraham and Robert Best for damages re: purchase of apples, 1859-1863

Folder 8: Robert Best v. Abraham Best for threat by A. Best against R. Best, 1866.

Folder 9: John Sherman v. Sylvanus Arnold, for return of a Springfield rifle. Arnold was a hotel keeper in Ballston Spa, 1866.

Folder 10: Daniel Picket, sawmill operator, Grooms and Barney Road v. Joseph Paschal for non-payment of sawed logs, 1866.

#### Land Records:

Folder 11: Deed, Nicholas J. Clute, Supervisor of the Town of Clifton Park and Sebastian Cragier, for school house No. 16 in Vischer Ferry, 1869.

Folder 12: Maps and Field Books for Messrs. Nanning and Eldert Vischer of Nisqueunia, Seth Baldwin, surveyor, Ballston, 1794. This includes a map and survey notes for lots in the Kayderosseras Patent, possibly of lands in Clifton Park, NY.

Folder 13: School records of School No. 16, Vischer Ferry, Clifton Park, 1856-1862, including: deed betw. Sebastian Cragier and Trustees of School No. 16, 1856, tax lists for the school, 1861, 1862, vote on issues re: to movement and building of schoolhouse with names of voters, n.d., and account of trustee for expenses for teachers, firewood, etc., 1861.

#### Bound government records:

Docket book of proceedings of Adam Mott, Justice of the Peace, Sand Lake, Rensselaer County, NY, 1851 and same of Adam Mott, Justice of the Peace, Town of Clifton Park, 1861-1869; also clippings from newspapers of NYS laws, 1869 in a separate folder.

Record book of proceedings of E. B. Chamberlain, Justice of the Peace, probably Glenville, Schenectady County, NY, Jan. 1847-Sept., 1857 for cases involving assault and battery, property damages, debt, fraud and other issues; alphabetical index of litigants names; includes reason for case, disposition of the case, fines, and court costs. Back cover has printed lists of town officers for 1850-1854 pasted on.

#### **Ledgers, Account Books, Diary and Scrapbook**

Ledger of Benjamin Chamberlin, 3d

This bound ledger of accounts from 1805 to 1840 is from Benjamin Chamberlin 3d, probably from the Town Of Glenville, Schenectady County. **Additional Oversize Ledgers are Filed in flat boxes 12 and 13.**

#### **Box 3: Records of the Independent Order of Good Templars (I.O.G.T)**

This is a small group of material, chiefly publications of the Grand Lodge of New York, I.O.G.T., with a few manuscript items. The I.O.G.T.'s major purpose was to act as a temperance organization and no member could make, partake or sell alcoholic beverages.

Folder 1: *Journal of Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New York, I.O.G.T., 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, Syracuse, 1890.*

Folder 2: *Constitution and By-Laws for Subordinate Lodges, I.O.G.T., State of New York, Rochester, NY, 1888.* Also, sample constitution for county lodge and the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of New York. Also with this is a printed card with Subordinate Odes for I.O.G.T. lodges, including opening odes, initiation odes, closing odes, etc.

Folder 3: *Ritual for Subordinate Lodges of the Independent Order of Good Templars, ...Revised at...Saratoga Session, May 1887, Evanston, IL, 1887.* Three copies of this booklet and one copy has "Amity Lodge, No. 426" noted on flyleaf.

Folder 4: List of proposed members for Vischer Ferry, includes names, ages, when proposed as members and profession, 1889-1890; includes women as well as men. Also, a booklet entitled, *100 Propositions for Membership, I.O. of G.T.* with receipts torn out for persons proposed for membership; names matched those found on the list in this folder.

Folder 5: Group of receipts from the Treasurer of the Amity Lodge, mostly made to J.W. Van Vranken for rent of lodge rooms and to others for other services, 1889-1891. Also, letter and insurance policy for lodge at Jonesville, 1922.

Treasurer's Book, Independent Order of the Good Templars, 1889-1891.

### **Box 3, continued:**

#### **Autograph Books, Diary and Funeral Record:**

Envelope 1-5 Autograph Books:

Envelope 1: Auto. Book of Mrs. E.M. Becker of West Troy, NY, 1881-1889

Envelope 2: Auto. Book of Florence ?, 1887-1889

Envelope 3: Auto. Book of Hattie Simmons, Clifton Park, 1885-1887

Envelope 4: Auto. Book of Frank T. Taylor, 1884-1889

Envelope 5: Auto. Book of Carrie ?, 1898-1899, 1942



Envelope 6: National Pocket Funeral Record, 1934-1939, of unknown person, probably a funeral director. This booklet includes name, date of death, cause of death, and many other details related to the death and burial of the person. All the burials were in cemeteries in Clifton Park Center, Halfmoon, Crescent or Vischer Ferry.

Envelope 7: Diary of Helen Fort, 1869, includes entries noting the weather each day and what activities took up her day, including sewing, going to church, baking, cooking, cleaning house, etc. There were at least two Helen Forts in the town, both buried in Amity Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery: Helen died Sept. 17, 1918 and Helen M., 1846-1912.

#### **Box 4: McIntosh Genealogy and other Material**

Folders 1-9: McIntosh Genealogy and the history of the McIntosh apple. This is a file of correspondence, genealogy family group sheets and other data, clippings and articles about the apple.

Folder 1: McIntosh genealogy, file of original family group sheets of the McIntosh family and a family tree.

Folder 2: McIntosh genealogy, file of copies of family group sheets in Folder 1.

Folder 3: Family tree and notes by Becker about the genealogy of John McIntosh of Vischer Ferry, 1798-1871.

Folder 4: Correspondence of Becker, 1957-1989, related to the McIntosh family genealogy. Also, 2 copies of records of the Keeler family.

Folder 5: Photograph of Dr. P.A. McIntosh of Spencerville, Ont., Canada (2 cop.) and photograph of the graves of Alexander McIntosh, 1733-1802 and Janet, his spouse, 1736-1813, buried at Groom's Cemetery.

Folder 6: Articles, mainly newspaper clipped articles, about the history of the McIntosh apple, ca. 1953-1964.

Folder 7: Typed essay: *Mister McIntosh's Marvelous Apple*, by James Bannerman, n.d.

Folder 8: Obituaries of various people related to the McIntosh clan, 1910-1974.

Folder 9: Photographs (3) as follows:

Original McIntosh apple tree at Dundellia, Ont., with E. McIntosh and his cousin, Cora Ross.

Stone historical marker for the McIntosh apple tree, 1811-1906

Same marker, snapshot photo

**Box 4, cont.:**

*New York State and the Civil War.* This is a group of 18 booklets issued by the New York Civil War Centennial Commission, 1961-1963. Each booklet contain several brief articles about some aspect of the Civil War and New York State's part in that conflict. In 3 envelopes.

**Box 5: Howard I. Becker, Town Historian Files**

This is a file of annual reports of Becker as official Town of Clifton Park Historian and publications, correspondence, minutes of meetings,

Folder 1: Two annual reports of Becker as Town Historian, 1944 and 1946 (3 copies)

Folder 2: Minutes of a meeting, August 4, 1944 re: formation of an association of county historians, Constitution and By-Laws of the New York State Association of County Historians, Oct. 5, 1944 and program of the NYS Historical Association, Oct. 1944.

Folder 3-3a: Correspondence and other papers sent to local historians from NYS State Historian's Office, 1929, 1943-1972, including lists of historians by place, notices about important laws or events relating to history, etc. Also, a few items related to the Mohawk Valley Historic Association and the Upper Hudson Historical Federation. Documents related to formation of a group of researchers to write a history of Schenectady, n.d., 1940?.

Folder 4: Publications by or related to local history, 1939-1962; 3 issues of the Bulletin of the NY State Historical Association, 1944

Folder 5: Essay, typed, by Becker, 1957 entitled, *Local History Research*, and with particular emphasis and examples from Saratoga County.

Folder 6: Correspondence, legal filings, newspaper clippings, printed legislative acts, maps and other material related to Becker and others fight to stop the creation of the Colonie Reservoir at Stoney Creek and clippings related to the sale of Visscherdaal house on land to be flooded for the reservoir, 1950-1953.

Folder 7: First Annual report of the Town Historian of Niskayuna (Lloyd Brinkman), 1952, about Old Niskayuna, including photographs; also 2<sup>nd</sup> annual report, 1953 about early land owners of Niskayuna, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> copy of this; also, a few pieces of correspondence of Becker, 1948-1972.

Folder 8: Obituary clippings for Howard I. Becker, March 1978, from local newspapers.

### **Boxes 6-7: Research Files of Howard I. Becker**

These files consist of correspondence, typed drafts and final copies of articles and essays about various aspects of local history of Clifton Park and the surrounding region,

#### **Box 6: Research Files**

Folder 1: Indian names, including a list of local Indian names of children baptized in the Albany Reformed Church, 1683-1693 and a letter of Arthur C. Parker, 1950, related to name, Shenendehowa.

Folder 2: Elfun Hall of History: An Interview with Howard I. Becker, (General Electric, 1912-1956), by A.C. Stevens, 1977 about his work in the Electro-Mechanical Equipment Unit at G.E. and with Dr. Alexanderson; also, a copy of an article about Becker's work and retirement at G.E. with a list of his patents.

Folder 3: Correspondence of Becker with Col. S.E. Hammersley, Harvey Chalmers, Hugh Graham and others as well as copies of articles and maps related to the Henry Knox and the movement of cannon from Fort Ticonderoga during the Revolutionary War including the movement of the cannon across the Mohawk River.

Folder 4: Essay "Early History of Saratoga County," by Becker, 5 pp., original and photocopy; essay is mainly about roads and patents in the county.

Folder 5: Correspondence of Henry V.D. Speigel in California to his brother John W.V.D. Speigel and others in Bennington, VT, 1850-1852, 22 pp., two typed copies. Location of originals unknown.

Folder 6: Diary found with belongings of R.P. Walton (diary by him?), written Aug. 1-4, in either 1903, 1908, 1914, or 1925. Original pencil-written diary in 30 (15 double-sided) pages and 2 typed transcriptions by Becker.

Folder 7: Transcriptions of gravestones from Halfmoon cemeteries, including Gorseline, Williams, Fitzgerald, Coons Crossing and Millious cemeteries; some duplicates, by H.C. Ritchie.

Folder 8: Biographical essay about Rev. Thomas Romeyn, minister of the Dutch Reformed Church of Amity, 1806-1827 with photographic portrait of Romeyn, by Becker, 1943; essay also includes historical information about the Cent Society of the Amity Church and a catalog of the books in the church library, 18 pp. Also, a typed copies of obituaries about Romeyn and a second copy of pp. 8-18 of the essay. Also, program of order of exercises at Dedication of the Reformed Church at Vischer's Ferry, 1889.

Folder 9: "Brief Narrative History of the Founding and Erection of the Town of Clifton Park," by Becker, original and photocopy, n.d. (ca. 1940? "A WPA Project". This is a really a compilation of data about location of government records, and about Jonesville Academy, mill sites, patent documents, and a copy of names and other data from H.Child's directory of Saratoga County about Clifton Park.

Folder 10: Poems from Vischer Ferry and elsewhere. Becker collected these poems and transcribed them, most are by his wife, Evelyn M. Becker, his mother, Etta M. VanDenburgh Becker and his grandmother, M. J. VanDenburgh, also poems by Evelyn Becker Bishop, including some in a notebook which also was used as a sketchbook. Also, Dedication Poem written for the dedication service of Reformed Church of Amity by Abram Van Vranken, 2/12/1889 and Niskayuna Shakers Advice to Their Children on Table Manners (multiple copies). Some poems have several copies.

Folder 10A: Poems from or about Vischer Ferry, found (by Becker) in the Sebastian Cragier Papers. Cragier lived in Vischer Ferry, was a member of the Amity Reformed Church and died at age 77 in 1899. Most of the the poems in this folder are all handwritten, are anonymous and appear to date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> c. with a few by Maggie Reed Scrafford dated about 1902.

Folder 11: Early School Reports of Town of Long Lake, 1842-1864, transcript by Mrs. Jessie H. Stone, Long Lake Town Historian and retyped by Becker, 1957; includes names of teachers and pupils in the school.

Folder 12: Essays (3) by H.I. Becker, as follows:

Schenectady in 1798: Turnpikes, Ferrys and Toll Bridges, 9 pp., 1948, 2 cop.

Famous Greenfield Wolf Hunt and other Interesting History of Pioneer Struggles (by Mrs. Sarepta Dake Smith). 9 pp., original and photocopy

The Tent Caterpillar, 2 pp., 1957, original (2) and photocopy

Folder 13: Material about the Dutch Reformed Church of Amity, including:  
The Amity Church Buildings, essay by Becker, Nov. 1956, 5 pp.  
Draft of the Vischer Ferry Cemetery Association by-laws  
Programs of services for Sesquicentennial, 1952 and 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,  
1977, and 140<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary  
Notes about church deeds  
Clipping about 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 1952  
Dedication poem for Amity Reformed Church, 1889 (see also folder 10)  
Sheet with 3 views of different Amity Church buildings, 1802, 1871, 1888

Folder 14: Material about Rev. Abijah Peck and the Peck and Smith family,  
including obituary of Peck, family trees of the Peck-Smith family and a letter  
to J. Scherer from Clarence F. Smith, 1979 re: Abijah Peck.

Folder 15: Mount Pleasant Glass Works, 1844-1870, by L.E. Thiess,  
Schenectady, NY, 1936, 3 pp., 2 cop.

Folder 16: Remembered Memorials, The Painted Rocks at Amsterdam, typed  
copy from the *Canajoharie Courier*, 1889, by Rufus A. Grider; 2 articles.

#### **Box 7: Research Files of H.I. Becker**

Folders 1-8: *Vischer Ferry Bridge*. This is a file of correspondence, chiefly of  
George F. Smith of Schenectady, NY, newspaper clippings, printed legislative  
acts, petition, memoranda, maps and other papers related to the effort to  
have a new bridge built at Vischer Ferry. Earlier bridges built in 1900 and 1901  
were destroyed by the flooding Mohawk River and this was an effort that  
continued, unsuccessfully, from 1909-1934.

Folder 1: Correspondence, chiefly of George F. Smith, related to legislation  
and promotion of project to build Vischer Ferry Bridge, 1909-1934.

Folder 2: Petitions of residents of Clifton Park, Schenectady, Troy and nearby  
communities to the Legislature and Governor Charles S. Whitman to pass a  
law to construct a Vischer Ferry Bridge, 1916.

Folder 3: Memoranda and statements supporting the building of the Vischer  
Ferry Bridge, 1917, 1927, including a memorandum with a *Map showing the  
Proposed Location of Bridge at Vischer Ferry*. Also, resolutions from  
resolutions supporting the bridge construction from the Boards of  
Supervisors of Saratoga and Schenectady counties and from the State Canal

Board, 1916, 1917, 1927. Also, notes on Vischers Ferry Bridge built in 1900 by H.Becker, 1 p..

Folder 4: Legislative history of the Vischer's Ferry Bridge, 1910-1926, original and 5 copies, 1927. Also, a legislative history of the bridge, 1907-1916.

Folder 5: Bills before the NYS Legislature re: to construction of a bridge at Vischer Ferry, for construction of a bridge at Crescent and for highways in Saratoga County, 1917-1939.

Folder 6: Maps, as follows:

*Map showing the Proposed Location of Bridge at Vischer Ferry*  
USGS Geologic maps, Cohoes Sheet and Schenectady sheets, pasted together, annotated with road names, 1909-1912; Map showing Proposed Location of Bridge at Vischer Ferry, 7 cop.; scrap of map showing area around Mohawk River and Vischer Ferry.

Folder 7: Two advertising promotional pamphlets about Schenectady, 1914 and 1928 and printed minutes of the Board of Supervisors of Saratoga County, Feb. 1928.

Folder 8: Newspaper clippings about the Vischer Ferry bridge campaign and related topics, 1916-1929.

Folder 9: A manuscript of a story by an unknown author, 66 pp., which was "found in the Chamberlin Papers, Scotia/Schenectady" by H.I. Becker, 1950; may be an autobiographical account of the author.

Folder 10: Complaint and testimony of witnesses in case of assault and attempted rape of Delia Maria Harrison by John Jones and others, Oct. 1862, Clifton Park, NY. This record was possibly taken from the Justice of the Peace records.

Folder 11: Derick Volwider estate papers as follows:

Will of Volwider, Sept. 16, 1802 with approval by Surrogate of Saratoga County, Oct. 1802

Order of the Probate Court for sale of part of the Volwider estate, Sept. 1804

Memorandum of goods sold, no date, including the sale of "1 Negro sold, 25 pounds.

Inventory of the Goods, Chattels and Credits of Derick Volwider, Oct. 1802; detailed

Inventory of the personal goods, etc. of Volwider, incl. animals, furniture, tools, psalm book, "1 Negro boy slave," and other items.

Folder 12: Documents found in the papers of Dr. Michael Freligh of Mohawk View by H.I. Becker as follows:

An address to "Brother Farmers," by an unknown author written in what supposes to be a Dutch or German dialect, n.d., ca. 1820-1830? 2pp.

Two documents re: to the Shakers, incl.: a statement arguing against the exemption from taxes by the Shakers, n.d., ca. 1810-1820?, 4 pp., missing part of one page and a Representation re: to Waterford Canal and Shaker exemption from taxation, n.d., 1820? (note by Becker that the document may be in Dr. Freligh's hand), 4 pp.,(first part of this document seems to be missing).

A statement of the case of Geo. Freligh re: to the removal of a sloop during the war (Revolutionary War) and his demand for recovery of the value of the sloop, which was burnt by the British, n.d..

A letter of dismissal from the Reformed Dutch Church of East Greenbush for John Cotton and his wife to join the Amity Reformed Dutch Church, 1852.

Memorandum of lots drawn by Nanning Vescher, Oct. 23, 1793

Sale agreement for sale of land of Alida Fort to Abram Pearse, at Forts Ferry, Feb. 1857.

Receipt for payment of a mortgage, 1820

Lease for house, garden , orchard, stable to Abraham Lansing from Christopher Miller, at Niskayuna, 1798

Mortgage of Adam Van Vranken from Andrew Van Vranken, for land in Clifton Park, 1847.

Home insurance policy of Eldert Tymeson, Jr. of Niskayuna, NY 1867.

Letter to Eldert Tymeson from J.P. Ball, Albany, NY re: delivery of hinges, 1868.

Group of photocopies of papers related to the Freligh family, including school records for school districts in Waterford, a genealogical record of the Freligh family, and copies of some of the Shaker documents noted above.

Folder 13: Deed for Presbyterian Church meeting house at Coopers Corners, from William Clow to the trustees of the church, 1824.

Folder 14: Photographs of a page from the visitors book at General Electric, Schenectady, 1938 showing the signature of Richard M. Nixon, Lt., U.S. Navy with a copy of a letter sent by Becker to Pres. Nixon, 1970.

Folder 15: Group of photostats, some badly faded, of documents re: to the Dutch Reformed Church at Niskayuna, an academy at Bennington, VT and other matters.

Folder 16: Miscellaneous essays and research notes of H.I. Becker about the history of Clifton Park, including papers about: Christensen's Land at Vischer Ferry; paper given at a NYS Historical Association meeting about his research about boundary lines in Saratoga County; Early History of Saratoga County (2 cop.); cemetery record of Millious or Clifton Park Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery; What Do You Know About the Lower Mohawk Valley by Becker and Do You Know the History of the Mohawk Valley by the Montgomery County Dept. of History and Archives, 1952.

Folder 17: Typed copies of various documents by H.I. Becker, including: Pratt Camp on Fourth Lake, 1870; abstracts of deeds re: Groom's Church; Indian deed to Cornelis Viele, ca. 1700; applications for Appel Patent, 1709 and Nestigione Patent, 1708; Subscribers to History of the Adventures and Sufferings of Moses Smith, 1814; Kayadarosis Patent, 1708; deed to Nicholas Fort, 1734; School districts in the Town of Clifton Park in 1856 and 1945.

### **Box 8-9: Photographs**

#### **Box 8: Photographs**

(Spellings of names of people and places is given as found on the photographs)

Photographs on mounts:

This a small group of photographs separately filed; none are dated, but most seem to be late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century photos. The photographs include the following:

- Photograph of Wm. H. Van Vranken and James and Elsey McKain home, Riverview Road, east of Vischer Ferry

- Photograph of Wm. H. Van Vranken and James and Elsey McKain home, near Vischer Ferry, original construction

- Threshing grain, Adrian Fellows farm?, Vischer Ferry, 2 copies, 1 enlarged

- Cutting and loading ice on Mohawk River at Niskayuna, 3 photos

- Photos, 2, of Mill Pond at Vischer Ferry

- Photos, 2, of the Pearse family barn, after flooding of Mohawk River (ice floes near barn)

- Perse family house, east of Forts Ferry, after Mohawk River flooding, (ice floes on lawn)

Photograph Album:



This is a photo album of late 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs of people from Clifton Park, chiefly the area around Vischer Ferry. The following is an index of the photographs in the album.

1. Mrs. Cragier
2. Unknown young man
3. Unknown Civil War Union soldier
4. Grandis Deyoe
5. Cornelia B. Fonda
6. Charles Swilcks?
- 7a. Alida Bryan
8. Garit Cragier
9. Mrs. Cragier
10. Mrs. Cragier
11. Jane E. Nettle
12. Sally Vandeusen
13. Bingham Vandeusen
14. Ann Nettle
15. Ella and John E. Forte
16. B. Race
17. E. Race
18. Gertrude Spoonogle and children, George and Maggie
19. Mathia? Spoonogle
20. Unknown young woman
21. Lena V. Keeler
22. Mrs. John Forte (Mary Roing?)
23. Colored picture of Jacob's story from Bible
24. Unknown young man
25. John H. Visscher
26. Willie Shepherd (a baby)
27. Jennie Palmer
28. Anna L. Cragier
29. Mrs. J.W. Miller
30. J.W. Miller
31. Garry Visscher
32. Garret Visscher's children (2 girls)
33. Gen. Tom Thumb, his wife and child

#### Scrapbook with Photographs:

This is a scrapbook that is bound with wood and is entitled *My Scrapbook*. There are photographs of the Vischer Ferry Bridge (ca. 1900), street scene in Vischer Ferry, Dunsbach Ferry Bridge, grist mill at Vischer Ferry, Eldert

Vischer house, houses at Niskayuna, houses at Forts Ferry, views of Erie and Champlain Canal, Crescent Aqueduct, and Cohoes Falls, etc., 1907-1913.

Autograph Book of Mrs. Catherine Slade Gates, wife of Nathan P. Gates, born in Halfmoon 1844, married to Nathan P. Gates 1865 and died 1916. This autograph book includes miniature photographs of Catherine Gates and members of several families of Halfmoon, Waterford, Clifton Park and other places. Families such as Weaver, Slade, Vischer, Wood, Ide, Bassette, and others. Photographs are undated, but were taken approximately 1870-1890. Includes an obituary of Catherine Gates from the *Bellows Falls News*. There is also a group of photographs of each page of photos found in this autograph book.

Published photo album: *Vivid Panorama of the Flood*, 1913. This is a booklet of photographs of places from Fort Edward to Amsterdam showing flooded streets in cities along the Hudson and Mohawk rivers flooded in March 1913.

### **Box 9: Photographs**

This is a large group of single photographs of a variety of subjects, some older photographs and some photographs by H.I. Becker. The photographs are filed by topic.

Folder 1: Aerial photographs of the Mohawk River and the Barge Canal from Waterford to Amsterdam, NY, n.d., ca. 1940, 43 photos.

Folder 2: Photograph of painting of the Amity Reformed Church, n.d., 11 copies of the photo.

Folder 3: Photographs of homes in Town of Clifton Park, including photos of: Martin Cregier house, Hegerman house, Rosenkrance house, Doug Smith house, Cotton house, Henry Tourtellot house, old Vischer home, Fort house, Nanning Vischer house (Becker house), Dunsbach Ferry house, old Taylor barn, Dr. Freligh home, Jerome Van Vranken house and others. Also, photo of Schuyler house in Schuylerville and photo of Muller home near Castleton, NY.

Folder 4: Photographs of churches and other buildings, incl. photos of Amity Reformed Church, Noxon Bank Building, Vischer Ferry Hotel (photo of painting), St. George Episcopal Church, unidentified building (probably a fire house)

Folder 5: Photographs of people, incl. photos of Van Vranken family, a man from Long Lake, B.M. Becker and 2 other women, man in front building with sign "Geo. Crum," family group on porch, man and woman in a living room and two other interior photos of same home.

Folder 6: Photographs of Vischer Ferry/ Amity Reformed Church cemetery.

Folder 7: Photographs of places in Schenectady, incl, photos of homes, bank, hotels, railroad station, downtown street scenes, churches, and bridges.

Folder 8: Places and street scenes in the Town of Clifton Park, (mainly 4"x5"), incl.: farm pond on Becker farm, construction photos of shopping plaza at Rt. 146, Grooms Methodist Church (as a furniture store), street scene in Vischer Ferry, Vischer Ferry hotel.

Folder 9: Photos, 4"x5", of C. Beck's fire, Dec. 1973, in Vischer Ferry?

Folder 10: Photos, (6) of barn and house at Forts Ferry, 1905, showing ice blocks from Mohawk River flooding.

Folder 11: Photos, (2, incl. 2 cop. of 1 photo), of woman on the old towpath along Erie Canal at Vischer Ferry, 1956.

Folder 12: Photo (3 cop. of 1 photo and a enlarged photo of portion of the photo), of a reproduction of a Viking ship on the canal at Watervliet, on the way to the Chicago World's Fair, 1894-5?

Folder 13: Photo (2 cop.) of a photo, by H.I. Becker?, n .d. of Cohoes Falls, in the summer.

Folder 14: Photo, of parade, July 4, ca. 1905, at Clifton Park Village, passing Clifton Park Hotel sheds.

Folder 15: Photos (4) of the Dunsback Ferry, 1 photo from a glass plate of the ferry with 4 enlarged paper print copies.

Folder 16: Photos (2, 2 cop. of 1 photo) of Albany skyline showing construction on Empire State Plaza and Montgomery Ward building in Menands.

Folder 17: Photos (3), incl. photo of entrance of G.E. Plant at Schenectady, 1902, two photos of RCA laboratory and RCA Institutes, 1920.

Folder 18: Photo (2 cop., 1 enlarged) of the old Waterford Bridge (betw. Waterford and Cohoes), n.d.

Folder 19: Photo (2 cop., 1 enlarged) of the power company buildings a dam at Cohoes, NY, 1894. Also, photo (2 cop.) of canal outlet to mills in Cohoes, 1894; also, photo of canal between Rt. 9 and Cohoes, 1894. Also, photograph of Broadway bridge and canal locks at Watervliet, NY.

Folder 20: Photo (original, 1 reduced and 2 enlarged paper copies), of view of Erie Canal between Dunsbach Ferry and Crescent, with barn (burning brick).

Folder 21: Photos (4 with copies of 3 photos), of the aqueduct at Crescent, NY, 1890-1900.

Folder 22: Photos (2 with copies) of NY Central tracks on bluff on south side of Mohawk River, 1894 and photo of man and 2 boys fishing on dam looking towards south side of Mohawk.

Folder 23: Photos (6) views along the Mohawk River and Erie Canal, incl. view of the bluffs at Rexford, n.d., also, view of canal boats crossing the Rexford aqueduct.

Folder 24: Photos (16) of places in Vischer Ferry, incl: photos of pen & ink sketches of Shaker Island and a Mohawk view near Vischer Ferry, view from H.I. Becker's house, white oak tree on Jerome Van Vranken's farm, old bridge pier at Vischer Ferry, 1956, Clute's Dry Dock, 1959, piano at Amity Church, 1968, Vischer Mill Pond, and 5 photos of country roads, probably at Vischer Ferry, also photo (reproduction from a book, 7 cop.) of colonial mill, on the Steena Kill, Vischers Ferry, NY, on the Peters farm; also Vischer Ferry bridge photo on a calendar, 19095

Folder 25: Photos (2) of crane and workers on the Mohawk River, possibly a dredging project, n.d., ca. 1950?

Folder 26: Photos (2), of a glacial pot hole at Greenfield Center, n.d.

Folder 27: Photos (4) of people, incl: Col. John and Jane Campbell, 1971, 2 men on a boat in the Mohawk River, 1969, a family portrait on a porch, n.d., ca. 1890? and a photo of a portrait of a Middle Eastern man smoking, n.d.

Folder 28: Photos (7) of the following: Shaker Mill Pond, pine tree at Clifton Gardens development, view of creek near Rexford, 2 views of a creek at Elnora, old mill by the pond, Mohawk View, Shaker saw mill, Mohawk View.

Folder 29: Photos (4) Miscellaneous photos, incl: 4 photos on a sheet incl. views of the Staats houses at Castleton and views of ship on the Hudson River at Rensselaer, spoon from funeral of Christopher A. Yates funeral, 1802, photo of needlework list of students at a school in Halfmoon, 1821, paper copies of photo of cover of a H.I. Becker's book.

Folder 30: Photos (8) Unidentified views of farmland and other places; also, a composite photo of 51 prominent American men; copy of a broadside about boat line from Schenectady to Utica, 1815.

### **Box 10: Publications**

Folder 1: Clifton Park Telephone Directory, 1968

Folder 2: Supreme Court of NYS report of trial re: land suit for lands in Kayderosseras Patent, 1854-1863

Folder 3: (in box) Catalogue of Maps and Surveys ...Albany, NYega, by David E.E. Mix, 1851

Folder 4: A magazine, *The Metropolitan*, published by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., 1891, with brief articles about a variety of topics as well as information about insurance premiums, etc.. Also, a pamphlet, *Hamilton, Man and College*, by Walter Pilkington, Librarian of Hamilton College, 1957.

Folder 5: Ephemera as follows: 2 advertising cards from W.H. Frear's Troy Bazaar; Invitation to a private dance at Union Hall, Grooms, NY, 1902 (6 cop.); advertising card of Mertens and Phalen's clothing store, Troy, NY; advertising card of Broadway Market, West Troy (Watervliet), NY; advertising card for Lautz Bros. laundry soap; Christmas greeting card; greeting card; British stamps (3)

Folder 6: Negative sheets from H.I. Becker's *Maps of the Lower Mohawk*.

Four rolls of film, incl: Town of Clifton Park old road book (2 rolls), Boght Church Index and First Part.

### **Box 11:**

#### **Newspaper Clippings:**

This is a group of newspaper clippings, generally brittle and in need of photocopying, about historical topics or people or events in Clifton Park or

Saratoga and Schenectady counties. The clippings are divided into three groups: Clifton Park, Saratoga County and Schenectady County.

Folder 1: Clifton Park clippings

Folder 2: Saratoga County clippings

Folder 3: Schenectady County clippings.

#### **Maps and Papers related to Lands:**

Published or Printed Maps, including photographs and other copies of such maps:

Folder 4: Map of Saratoga County from the *Farmer's Pocket Directory, 1890*; the directory is not with the map.

Folder 5: *Rural Register of all farms of Schenectady and Southern Saratoga Counties*, Ithaca, 1939, includes a map indicating the location of the families listed in the directory.

Folder 6: *Historical Map of Schenectady County, 1931*

Folder 7: Photographs of parts of the *Land Use Map, Town of Clifton Park, 1961*, including title, and parts of the town showing area around Elnora and Jonesville.

Folder 8: Map of Town of Half Moon from reproduction of Beers' Atlas of Saratoga County, 1866, 5 cop.

Folder 9: Map of Town of Clifton Park from reproduction of Beers' Atlas of Saratoga County, 1866, 4 cop.

Folder 10: Map of the village of Vischer Ferry from reproduction of Beers' Atlas of Saratoga County, 1866, 28 copies; also close-up of part of the village and close-up of map showing area from Vischer Ferry to Forts Ferry.

Folder 11: Miscellaneous copies from reproduction of Beers' Atlas of Saratoga County, 1866, incl. area around Grooms Corners, village of Rexford Flats, Jonesvilles, Crescent, view of Jonesville Academy and title page of atlas.

Folder 12: Miscellaneous printed maps (3) incl: National Geographic map of Indians of North America, 1972, photocopy of part of a topo map of the Adirondack region around Blue Mountain and map of the world by General Electric Co. showing distances from WGY.

## Manuscript Maps:

These are hand-drawn maps, often with notes, correspondence, and other textual additions as well as photostat copies of early manuscript maps. Some maps are drawn by H.I. Becke; also transcriptions of deeds and other early land records. The maps are of the parts of the Town of Clifton Park and surrounding region. Some of the maps appear to have been drafts and were collected by Becker for his books, *Early Maps of the Lower Mohawk River* and *History Ca-Nas-Ta-Gi-O-Ne*. Some of the maps are not identified.

Folder 13: Map of the Patent of Kayaderosseras, by Donald Carpenter, Jr., 1964;

Folder 14: Maps by H.I. Becker, including: map of both sides of the Mohawk River from Alplaus to Vischer Ferry, map of Vischer Ferry area showing landowners in 1762, map of portion of Kayaderosseras Patent, Clifton Park area, 1773, map showing The Boght 1772.

Folder 15: 5 negative photostats of maps of Schenectady and Niskayuna; the maps of Schenectady are all mirror image and include the following: Reduced Copy of Map of Schenectady by Vroman, 1768; Bouwlands of Schenectady, 1664 and Plan of Schenectady, ca. Also, a photostat copy of a map of area west and north of Albany, n.d., probably late 18<sup>th</sup> c. (3 cop.)

Folder 16: Blueprint copies of maps of Town of Clifton Park, incl.:

Map drawn by H.I. Becker showing landowners along the Erie Canal between Rexford and Dunsbach Ferry, 1826-1829, drawn in 1943 (2 cop.); Map of Clifton Park alias Chonendahowa, John R. Bleecker, 1768 (3 cop.); Map of Clifton Park alias Shanendahowa, 1765 (4 cop.); also, negatives of maps, incl.: Clifton Park Patent, Clifton Park Patent from Sauthier's map, 1779, and Clifton Park, 1765 ?. Also, photograph prints (2) and negative of a map of the Clifton Park Patent from the Secretary of State's Office, 1765 and a copy made by H.I. Becker, 1923

Folder 17: Notes on the H.I. Becker farm, Vischers Ferry Road and notes on the Pickett Saw Mill, Grooms Road.

Folder 18: File of miscellaneous correspondence, field notes, drafts of maps, and notes by H.I. Becker related to his research about lands in Clifton Park.

Folder 19: Parts of an aerial map of Schenectady and surrounding area, n.d.

Folder 20: Miscellaneous genealogical and biographical material by H.I. Becker. Also, miscellaneous items, incl. pages from Becker's books,

Folder 21: A perpetual calendar from 1753-2059.

**Box 12: Ledgers and Account Books**

Account Book of Adam Mott, Clifton Park, 1860-1895, West Sand Lake, 1851-1853.

Diary of an unknown Assessor and Farmer, 1871.

Account Book of Grooms Store, Grooms Corners, Clifton Park.

1860 Record Book of Andrew Vandenburg, local school teacher and merchant. Includes class lists.

Ledger marked Schenectady Insurance Company, Schenectady, NY. Selected quotations, compiler unknown.

**Box 13: Notebook and Scrapbook**

Notebook of Alfred Hall, 1867, containing plan for breech-loading gun, list of books, lists of prominent persons, and original prose and poetry by A. W. Hall and students.

Scrapbook of Etta M. VanDenburgh Becker and Howard Becker, 1930-1943.

**Newspapers, Oversize: Filed in Flat File**

These are complete or nearly complete issues of newspapers and magazines that are oversize. Most have an article or articles about the history of Clifton Park/Schenectady/Niskayuna region, although not all. One or two are rare, possibly unique issues of newspapers. The following is a title/date list of these newspapers;

Schenectady Gazette, 11/24/1956, with a full page of pictures and story about Vischer Ferry.

Knickerbocker New, 11/25/1972 with article about possible bike path at Forts Ferry

Schenectady Works News, 3/18/1949, a G.E. newspaper

Forest and Stream Rod and Gun, magazine, 10/24/1889

The Housewife, 1913 Premium List

Facsimile of Public Ledger, 3/25/1836, Philadelphia, PA newspaper

Republican Sentinel, Saratoga Springs, 2/16/1866.

Western Spectator or Schenectady Weekly Advertiser, 12/16/1803

Crescent Eagle, Crescent, NY 4/6/1854



Schenectady Union-Star, 4/22/1955, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue with several historical articles.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

### **Anthony Baking Powder Mill**

The Anthony Baking Powder Mill was an active industry in Halfmoon in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The business began with the manufacture of Anthony's Universal Baking Powder in 1869. The company had a 25-year contract for baking powder for A & P in New York beginning in 1885. Other products were added later, such as corn starch and a variety of spices and extracts.

**Scope:** Most of this collection was indeed donated by Howard Becker, but the labels in Folder 1 were donated by Amy Poe, who with her husband owned the property in 2010. The 1876 Bicarbonate of Soda booklet was donated by Gail Winters

**Size:** 3 folders.

Folder 1: A one-page history of the Anthony family and the mill, probably typed by Howard Becker; 1876 Bi-Carbonate of Soda advertising booklet; undated advertising flyer for Anthony's Universal Baking Powder; 1875 Eastern New York Fair Certificate of Highest Merit; 1876 New York State Agricultural Society Certificate of Merit; A & P labels for such items as Extract of Celery and Essence Wintergreen; labels for Pistachio and Artificial Almond Compound.

Folder 2: Copy Photographs: 4 photos of mill complex of buildings; 2 photos of tower building in complex; 5 photos of Anthony family home; "Joshua Anthony when he was In his teens;" a later photograph of Joshua Anthony; family grouping with identification. Susan B. Anthony, a relative, is in this photo; 4 photos of family groups; photo of unidentified house; " Road Coming out of Sidney's home"; photo of bridge. There are multiples of several photos.

Folder 3: Copy Photographs, enlarged to 8 1/4" x 10". Some but not all are copies of the photos in Folder 2, and some have further explanatory writing on them. 6 photos have been hand-colored by Howard Becker; 15 have not.

Revised August 21, 2017  
Gail Winters, Librarian

**Boy Scouts of America  
Troop 28  
Clifton Park Center  
Scrapbooks**

**History:** Troop 28 of the BSA was organized in May 1950 and sponsored by the Clifton Park Center Baptist Church. Glenn Rapalee was the first Scoutmaster until 1951 and was succeeded by George Gage. In 1953, Edward Miller became Scoutmaster and served until 1975. Paul Tinney replaced Miller in 1975. The troop took many camping trips, did blood donor drives and other scouting activities.

**Scope:** There are three bound scrapbooks for this collection, 1950-1978. The scrapbooks include photographs, newspaper clippings, annual reports, correspondence, plans for camping trips and other materials. The scrapbooks are either “magnetic” (sticky pages) scrapbooks or clippings have been taped to the pages; the clippings and other items may not be able to be removed without the work of a paper conservator. Scrapbook #3 in addition to being a “magnetic” scrapbook has most of its pages wrinkled.

**Donor:** Keeler family?

**Size:** 1 box, 1.5 lin.ft.

**Contents:** Three scrapbooks related to the BSA, Troop 28, as follows:

Scrapbook #1, 1950-1978, incl. photographs of scouts and leaders at Camp Saratoga, 1950-51, programs for events, annual reports of troop, 1970-72, instructions for camping trip to Mt. Marcy, 1971 and other items.

Scrapbook #2: 1950-1970, incl. photocopies of programs and other items, photographs of Camp Saratoga, Indian Village at Lake George, annual reports, 1960-69, plans for camping trip, photos of Eagle Scout awards events, newspaper clippings about Troop 28. Scrapbook possibly was compiled by James S. Keeler, assistant advisor to the troop.

Scrapbook #3 1965-1975, is almost entirely newspaper clippings about the activities and events of the troop; a few letters, and 5 photographs of the scouts at a Christmas tree recycling event.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## **Churches Collection, Town of Clifton Park**

This collection consists of records, histories, pamphlets, and other information from churches within the Town, listed below. Please note that records of the Clifton Park Baptist Church, a larger collection, is housed separately and filed under that name.

**Amity Reformed Church, Histories**

**Clifton Park Methodist Episcopal Church (Grooms), Histories**

**Clifton Park Reformed Church (The North Church), Pamphlet**

**Jonesville United Methodist Church, Collection**

**Niskayuna Reformed Church, Histories**

## Clifton Park Baptist Church Records

**History:** This church, the first in Clifton Park, NY, was formed in 1794 and its first minister was Abijah Peck, which position he held until his death in 1848. The church was the mother church of several other local Baptist churches. The church's second building was constructed in 1837 and it still stands in the town.

**Scope:** This collection includes histories of the church and a biographical sketch of the first minister, Elder Abijah Peck; articles of faith and covenant of the church, deeds, probably related to the church property as Eld. Peck is involved in all three deeds. Other than a transcript of grave records in the church cemetery, there are no vital statistics records of the church, no church trustee minutes or records of any of the other groups of the church.

**Donor:** Except as noted, these records were received from Alfred C. Stevens.

**Size:** 1 box, 1 lin.ft.

### Contents:

Folder 1-4: Historical material of the Clifton Park Baptist Church as follows:

1. Typescript: The Old Paths or A Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Clifton Park Baptist Church... by Rev. W. J. Crumb, Feb. 15, 1853. This is a typed copy of this printed history of the church, published in 1853. 3 copies, one from Howard Becker.
2. Manuscript history of the church, unknown author, n.d.; a sketch of the church's history during its early years. May have been written in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
3. Newspaper article from a newspaper called the "Register." The article is a long religious biography of Abijah Peck, who died in Clifton Park at 90 years of age on Nov. 12, 1848. The newspaper is probably a Baptist newspaper.
4. Typescript: Baptist Church Cemetery Town of Clifton Park, an alphabetical listing of the graves in that cemetery, Henry Ritchie, 1954. Typescript: Clifton Park Baptist Church Membership List, 1940's?

Folder 5-9: Church documents, including:

5. Typed copy of the first covenant of the church, 1794
6. Articles of Faith and Articles of Practice of Clifton Park Baptist Church, manuscript, n.d., ca. 1840?
7. List of persons agreeing to pay for burying lots , June 1., 1856
8. Bottom half of a document, Oct. 6, 1811; the document appears to be a subscription list of members to pay for the building of a church building.
9. Letter of acceptance of pastorate to the church trustees from Rev. Wm. V. Onderdonk, 1899
10. Statistical report of the Second Halfmoon Church in Clifton Park Village, Saratoga Association, 1895.

Folder 11-14: Land records of the church as follows:

11. Deed of land of Thomas C. Smith, deceased, from executors of Smith's estate to Abijah Peck, Jr., for land in Clifton Park, NY, April 23, 1832
12. Deed from Thomas Huntington to Thomas Smith, for lands in Clifton Park, NY, Oct. 14, 1784.
13. Deed from Nanning Visscher to Abijah Peck, for lands in Clifton Park, Oct. 12, 1807.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

Folder 14-15: Celebrations

14. Birthday party invitation, 1896. Donors: Ruth Klin and Marjorie Shaw. Xerox copy: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 1794 to 1944, on cover: Elizabeth Greene, Elnora, NY. Pamphlet: "in Proud Humility we present our children, our church... and the needs of both," 1957, donated by Howard I. Becker.
15. Pamphlet: Bicentennial of Clifton Park Center Baptist Church, 1794-1994. 2 copies. Worship bulletin, Clifton Park Center Baptist Church (1794-1994). A Service of Worship Commemorating the Life of John Peck, with signature Ev Dash.

Gail Winters,  
Librarian

# **Clifton Park Civic Association**

## **Minutes and Other Papers**

**History:** This organization was formed originally as the Federation of Clifton Park Homeowners Organizations in 1979. That organization was made up of the presidents of several homeowners groups. The organization which was created as a non-partisan, non-political organization worked on issues of concern to the homeowners of Clifton Park, including zoning and development issues, road construction along Rt. 146, ridesharing programs, park and recreation space and development and other issues. The Federation of Clifton Park Homeowners Organizations eventually changed its name to the Clifton Park Civic Association.

**Scope:** This collection includes the minutes of the Civic Association, correspondence, by-laws of the various homeowners associations, newsletters, and newspaper clippings about the organization and development issues in the town of Clifton Park, ca. 1978-1980.

**Size:** 1 box, 1 lin.ft.

**Donor:** Donated by Joanna Smith of Vischer Ferry.

**Box 1:**

**Contents:**

Folder 1: By-laws, 1973-1980, of homeowners associations in the Town of Clifton Park, including:

Country Knolls Civic Association, Northcrest Civic Association, Clifton Knolls Civic Association, Vischer Ferry Association, Mohawk Active Voter Alliance, Woodland Hills Homeowners Association, Calico Colony Civic Association, Sherwood Forest Civic Association and the Federation of Clifton Park Homeowners Organizations; also, a copy of the certificate of incorporation of the Federation.

Folder 2: Correspondence received, 1978-79, including a letters with reports with financial statements regarding the Country Knolls Water Works, Inc., August and November, 1978.

Folder 3: Correspondence, sent, Jan.-Nov. 1979, about topics such as construction work on Rt. 146, zoning, ridesharing programs; also a blank copy

of a survey form sent to homeowners in the town in 1979 eliciting opinions about development and other issues in the town and a report on the results of the survey questionnaire.

Folder 4: List of members of the council of presidents of the Federation, Spring 1978. There is also a set of questionnaires completed by the presidents of the various homeowners associations about their organizations.

Folder 5: Letters naming alternate representatives of homeowners associations to the Federation, 1979.

Folder 6: Printed legal memoranda and other material related to development collected by a task force about growth and development in Clifton Park, 1979. Most of the memoranda are published documents of the NYS Dept. of State on topics such as: moratoriums on land development, spot zoning, regulation of mobile homes and other topics. There are a few legal memoranda from NYS counties relating to development. Most of the memoranda were published from about 1973-76.

Folder 7: Newsletters of some of the homeowners associations, 1978-79, incl. The Crest Courier, Mohawk Active Voter Alliance, Woodland Hills Homeowners Association, Vischer Ferry Association and Calico Colony Civic Association, Country Knolls Courier.

Folder 8: Meeting Minutes of the Federation from April 1978-May 8, 1980. The minutes of April 13, 1978 are previous to the formation of the Federation and the formation of the association was discussed at the meeting.

Folder 9: Clippings from various local newspapers, 1979, about events, people, and issues re: to Clifton Park.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## **Clifton Park Methodist Episcopal Church (Grooms) Histories**

**History:** The Clifton Park Methodist Episcopal Church, later known as the Grooms Church, had its beginning in 1788 as one of six circuits comprising a very large district. The following year the present congregation was established. The church served as a “mother” church to the Jonesville Church in 1825, the Mechanicsville Church in 1828, the Newton Church in 1828, the Rexford Church in 1839, the Clifton Park village church, and the Crescent Church, in 1852. The congregation merged with the Shenendehowa United Methodist Church around 1957.

The first building was built probably in 1793. It was made of logs and doubled as a schoolhouse. A second church, built in 1804, was used for 30 years. A third church building was built in 1834. A plain building with no steeple, painted white, it was known as “the White Church.” After the congregation merged with the Shenendehowa United Methodist Church, the old building became a furniture store. It burned in 1975.

**Scope:** History Grooms Church, Historical Address by Newman W. Adsit. Framed advertisement for 1915 event.

**Size:** One folder.

Folder 1: Historical Address by Newman W. Adsit, Delivered at the Anniversary Services of Old Clifton Park M. E. Church, September 14 and 15, 1935....” Typescript. 20 p. Contains names of leaders from 1799; Appendixes: Certificate of Incorporation, Deed for Church property (with names of signers). Stamp and Signature: Howard I. Becker.

History Grooms Church. Historical Address by Newman W. Adsit.... Reprinted by Grooms WSCS, May 21, 1958. Bulletin tipped in at back: The Shenendehowa Methodist Church...Elnora, New York, May 11, 1958. Ground Breaking Service.

Brief History of the Old Clifton Park Methodist Episcopal Church (Now the Grooms Methodist Episcopal Church)...Members and Officials of the Old Clifton Park Methodist Episcopal Church 1703 and Up, Indexed by Donald D. Hand. Typescript and Xerox copy (pp. 5-19).



## Clifton Park Players Records

**History:** The Clifton Park Players began as a group in 1993 and appears to have had regular productions in the summer, fall and spring annually in the 1990s. It continued into the twenty-first century. The group was founded to supply outdoor summer theater, using the stage in the town park. By 1995, the troupe had begun to have shows in other local venues in the other seasons. In 1995, the troupe created itself as a non-profit corporation with a 9 member board. In the summer of 1997, the group moved its production to Cohoes Music Hall and did not perform at the Clifton Park town park stage.

**Scope:** This collection consists chiefly of the business papers of this local theater group, including program ads, program layouts and advertising forms, meeting minutes of production committees, correspondence with Town of Clifton Park Office of Parks and Recreation. It is arranged by production. The main part of this collection is the program ad forms and program layouts for each show. There are many Clifton Park businesses noted as ad buyers in the programs.

**Size:** 1 box, 1 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Alison Fairbanks, CPP Historian

### **Contents:**

Folder 1: *Barnum*, with records chiefly from June-July 1995

Folder 2: *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, July 1994

Folder 3: *Canteen*, November 1995

Folder 4: *You Gotta Charleston*, November 19?

Folder 5: *Our Town*, March 1995

Folder 6: *The Ghost Train*, March ?

Folder 7: Programs for *Baby* (1995), *The Music Man* (1995), and *Give My Regards to Broadway* (1996). 1996 newsletter. Poster and copy of newspaper photo for *Murder on the Lake* (1996).

Folder 8: Copy of play, *The Queen of Hearts, a Story of Old Clifton Park*, by Marty Egan, c2002, 52 p. Program, 2 copies. Press release: Vischer Ferry Hotel Featured in New Historical Play. Email from playwright to John Scherer (undated). Photocopy of music of Red River Valley.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

Revised, 2014  
Gail Winters  
Librarian

## **Clifton Park Reformed Church (The North Church) History**

**History:** An early Dutch Reformed Church congregation met in a building built before 1800 on Clifton Park Center Road. It stood on the opposite side of Clifton Park Center road from the Millious Clifton Park Reformed Cemetery. As many members of the congregation lived in or near Vischer Ferry, a second church, Amity Reformed, was built there in 1802, The Clifton Park Center Road church became known as "the north church." The building was sold in 1862.

**Scope:** The collection consists of copies of a pamphlet, Clifton Park Reformed Church, ca.1795-1850, by H. I. Becker.

**Donor:** Howard I. Becker.

**Size:** One folder.

**Contents:** Clifton Park Reformed Church, ca. 1795-1850, by H. I. Becker. 9 copies. Typscript. All copies signed: H. I Becker 1952. 1 copy covered and with map of Clifton Park tipped in.

## Clifton Park Study Group Archives

**History:** The Clifton Park Study Group was formed in September 1942 by a group of women in the town, chiefly farm women, who because of the lack of easy transportation and the relative isolation of farm life, felt the need for socialization and intellectual stimulation. The women organized and met monthly at member's homes. A great diversity of topics and books were read and discussed at the meetings. Because of the efforts of these women in the Fifties, the Southern Adirondack Library System decided to schedule bookmobile stops in Clifton Park.

**Scope:** The collection includes two minute books, 1942-1946 and 1946-1948 and a copy of a newspaper with an article about the Group, 1976. The minute books include information about where the group met, election of officers and what topics or books were discussed.

**Size:** 2 folders, .30 lin.ft.

**Donor:** Betty Kleiner, Clifton Park, NY for the Clifton Park Study Club, April 2009.

### **Contents:**

Folder 1: Two minute books, 1942-1946 and 1946-1948

Folder 2: Copy of the *Clifton Park Journal*, March 24, 1976, with article about the Group; two letters to group members, 1944, re: to getting copies of a booklet called *Homes for the World*.

(Filed with the Union Sunday School Association)

James Corsaro  
Archivist

# **George T. Dows**

## **Collection**

**History:** George T. Dows was born June 30, 1894, the son of Adam and Hattie Dows. Adam Dows was the son of John L. and Mary L. Dows and he was born about 1862. George T. Dows was probably born in Halfmoon, NY and lived in Clifton Park, New York where he died in January 1982. He never married and was a automobile mechanic and served with the U.S. Army during World War I. His father Adam seems to have been in business as a lumber dealer (Werner & Dows), a roofing company, and a company (Dows & Spires) that repaired and sold cidar presses and other machinery. George T. Dows probably assisted his father in these businesses.

**Scope:** This collection includes Dows family records, including genealogy information, land records, tax records, automobile records, letters, and other related papers. There are many photographs of family members as well as of places, including Niagara Falls, Clifton Park, Troy, Cohoes, Adirondack region, Massachusetts and other places. There are also photos of vehicles, buildings and many photographic glass slides, mostly photos of Clifton Park United Methodist Church.

**Size:** 3 boxes, 3 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Received from the George Dows Estate, March 1984

### **Contents:**

#### **Box 1:**

Folder 0: Genealogy information about the Dows family.

Folder 1: Land records as follows:

Mortgage Transfer from E. Smith Strait to David Philips, of mortgage of Mary L. Dows, 1879 and 1880

Deed of Adam L. Dows to Hattie Dows, for land in Half Moon, 1913

Deed of Adam L. Dows to Hattie Dows and George T. Dows for strip of land in Halfmoon, 1837

Deed of Jacob W. Smith to Joseph Bramhall for land in Halfmoon, 1888

Bond of Joseph Bramhall to Melbern Van Voorhees, 1888

Tax sales of land to George T. Dows for land in Stillwater, 1929 and 1931

Folder 2: Letters (2) from Geo. Dows to his parents, Buffalo, NY, July 1918 after he was recruited for the Army and a letter to Dows from Troy YMCA, 1921 informing him that his application for an Ex-Servicemen's Scholarship was approved for him to take a course in automobile engineering.

Folder 3: Bill sent to Werner & Dows, 189? (for lumber) and many bills sent to A.L. Dows and to Dows and Spires for various supplies and equipment, especially from J.H. Eller & Co., Canton, OH for roofing supplies and from Monarch Machinery Co., New York, for cider presses and parts, mainly 1904-1905.

Folder 4: Automobile papers, incl.: NYS drivers licenses for Adam L. Dows, 1926-1933 and George T. Dows, 1951; gas ration card of George T., 1941; bill to George for a 1937 Nash sedan and for a 1941 Nash..

Folder 5: Tax receipts for collection of state, county, town and school taxes from George T. and Hattie Dows, 1942-1943.

Folder 6: Reports of teachers to School Dist. Superintendent of grades of individual students in various subjects, Town of Clifton Park, 1936-1940.

Folder 7: Miscellaneous documents, incl.: burial permit for Mary L. Dows, resident of Round Lake, NY, from Town of Halfmoon, NY May 18, 1898 who died May 16, 1898 of chronic bronchitis; letter to John Snyder of Clifton Park, April 9, 1896 from Saratoga Eagle newspaper re: to commissions; letter to Peter B. Simmons, Clifton Park, NY, Aug. 22, 1892 from A.J. Freeman re: his pension; Ticket for "Living Pictures" at Baptist Church, Clifton Park, '94; George T. Dows' membership card for the American Legion, 1921, two invitations.

Folder 8: Miscellaneous U.S. Post Office items, incl.: letters, 1898 re: to whether a stage line could be run on the same route as a postal route; a check to Adam L. Dows from the Post Office and a card re: to the Postmaster of Clifton Park, 1897.

Folder 9: Jonesville Methodist Episcopal Church items, incl.: program for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church, Dec. 12, 1926 with card with history of the church and a photograph of the church building.

Folder 10: Framed items, as follows:

Luncheon Menu from Webb's Coffee Shop, 1946

Recipes from Clifton Park Village Hotel, J.H. Brenneisen, proprietor, recipes for Feather Cake, Black Strap and Eggless Cake, ca. 189?

Newspaper clipping, Sept. 6, 1909, about a car hit by a train at Round Lake that killed Dr. Pierson C. Curtis and Mrs. Clarence E. Silvernail

Folder 11: Miscellaneous newspaper clippings about events in Clifton Park and obituaries of residents. Also, a pamphlet, *The Home of Kodak, Facts...Photographic Organization*, Rochester, NY, n.d.

Folder 12: Maps (2): Map of the Rural Delivery Routes, Saratoga County, NY, n.d. (poor condition) and Map of the Saratoga County Highway System, 1956.

## **Box 2: Photographs**

Folder 1: Photographs of George T. Dows individually and in groups of relatives and friends; also photos of Adam and Hattie Dows, John and Anna Dows, ca. 47 photos. The photos of George Dows represent him from youth to old age and include photos of him in uniform (U.S. Navy), fishing, camping, riding a motorcycle and in group photos.

Folder 2: Photographs of scenes in Clifton Park, mainly about Rt. 9 and in winter; also photo of the Episcopal Church of Clifton Park and of Fireman's Parade; also, a photo of the Clifton Park-Half Moon Emergency Corps ambulances; also, 2 color photos of Rt. 146 looking east; also photo of West Crescent and a photo of covered bridge at Crescent?, ca. 15 photos.

Folder 3: Tintypes of unidentified group photos, 3 tintypes

Folder 4: Photographs (8x10) including photo of MacAran farm home with Aunt Mary and another woman; also, photo of the Smith Carriage Shop (mutilated and missing part of photo possibly from rodent damage), and copy photos of Dunsbach Ferry, Erie Canal at Rexford, C. Smith's hotel at Vischer Ferry, unidentified hotel, telephone poles and lines in farm field, and unknown site (perhaps Rensselaer Park in Lansingburgh?)

Folder 5: Photographs of Niagara Falls and Niagara River, n.d. (ca. 1920 or earlier?), about 26 photos with negatives

Folder 6: Photographs removed from a photo album (empty album is filed in Box 1), including photographs of George Dow in automobiles, group photos at lakeside (Lake Champlain?) and the seashore, including photos of lighthouses, and windmills, family photos, photos of buildings, photos of airplane (ca. 1915), ca. 45 photos.

Folder 7: Photographs of the Adirondacks and Lake Champlain, including camping photos; also photos of Saratoga Lake and of Champlain Canal, ca. 18 photos.

Folder 8: Photographs of Massachusetts places, including Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, and the Wayside Inn (Longfellow home), 9 photos.

Folder 9: Photographs as follows: photos of Saratoga Battle Monument (3) and of Goodyear Blimp (2) and aerial view of Kodak Park, Rochester, NY, 1931.

Folder 10: Photographs of Troy and Cohoes, NY, 6 photos, incl. flood, 1913 in No. Troy, Rensselaer Park, Cohoes Falls, and River St. with Rice Bldg.

Folder 11: Group photos of unidentified groups, some formal group portraits of church or group from an organization and some informal group portraits, ca. 13 photos.

Folder 12: Three photos of construction of the National Commercial Bank (Key Bank) at corner of Rts. 146 and 9, Clifton Park, NY

Folder 13: Two photos of airplane and pilot, ca. 1917?

Folder 14: Photos of seaside scenes, including photos of Hampton, Long Is., Gloucester, MA, and Maine seacoast?, also photo of Anna Smith, wife of Amos Smith grave, unknown location, 10 photos

Folder 15: Photographs of individuals, many identified, including surnames, Flagler, Doty, Snyder, Zeh, Holstein, Harmon, Cramer, Butler, Noyes, Morris, ca. 19 photos.

Folder 16: Photographs of unidentified buildings and houses, also, photo of an industrial city, 10 photos.

Folder 17: Photographs of vehicles, incl.: 2 photos of a car being towed out of a ditch by a towtruck, ca. 1915?; a car parked on a mountain road, ca. 1935, a car and trailer parked next to a barn in the snow, n.d., a tank running along a road(France?), and a parade float of a nursing scene, ca. 1919?

Folder 18: Outdoor scenery, incl. Hudson River and Champlain Canal at Schuylerville, bridge on the Mohawk River?, Thacher Park, Albany County; New Brunswick, Can., scene in Rockies?, and other places, 25 photos

Folder 19: Two photos of cats and one photo of a dog.



### **Box 3: Photographs**

This box contains 3 small boxes of 4x5 glass slides, unidentified and not printed. There is a letter to John Scherer from Douglas Gallup with some explanation of these glass plate negatives, which appear to include photographs related to the Clifton Park United Methodist Church. There may be prints of some of these glass plate negatives in Box 2.

There are also 5 envelopes of negatives of photographs, most with prints found in Box 2.

Also 1 envelope with 2 small pieces of fabric printed with outdoor scenes and a fabric insignia and two cloth badges (NY and White's Electronics, Inc.)

#### **Books: Shelved in Artifacts Collection:**

*The Lost Cause; A new Southern History of the War of the Confederates* by Edward a. Pollard, c1867

A much worn volume of essays, poems and music without title page or early pages.

#### **Posters: Housed in Miscellaneous Collection, Oversize, Box 1, Folder 6**

*...Texas North ...and 1460 WOKO... proudly presents Country Superstar Helen Cornelius at Texas North...Friday, April 9m 1982....* Venue was the old Clifton Park Hotel.

*Auction, Adam Mott, Auctioneer, Tuesday, March 19, 1878.* Auction bill lists farm property and terms of credit.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

Revised  
Gail Winters  
Librarian

## **Elnora Post Office**

### **Record Books**

**History:** The Elnora Post Office was possibly opened in 1890 at Elnora as that is when the earliest records begin. Postmasters are listed below in the contents section of this inventory. The post office was located in the Jump and Peterson Grocery, as was often the case for rural post offices until larger post offices were built. The postmasters in the grocery store were Richard Jump and Lena Peterson, the spouse of the co-owner of the store, Nelson Peterson and later Lillian Payne. When the grocery business closed, the post office was moved to the front of the building. The post office closed in January 1976 when the Clifton Park Post Office was opened.

**Scope:** This collection is chiefly a group of the account and record books of the Elnora Post Office. The books are a source of names of people who used the post office from Clifton Park and who purchased or received money orders. There is a petition dated 1976 from residents in Halfmoon who wanted the name of the new Clifton Park P.O. to include the name of Halfmoon and there are 4 photos of postal workers at the Elnora P.O. in 1970.

**Size:** 3 boxes, 3 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Gift of Don Berthiaume

#### **Contents:**

##### **Box 1:**

Record and Postal Account Books of the Elnora Post Office. These are financial record books of the post office keeping accounts of the numbers and kinds of stamps and other postal materials received and sold each month, postal boxes rented, lists of unmailable material, etc.. Most of the books have a few official printed documents from the U.S. Post Office and there are miscellaneous scraps as well, including some receipts of the W.H. Turpit general merchandise store in Elnora. (Was this store the predecessor of the Jump/Peterson store?) The following records books are in the collection:

Book 1: Feb. 1890–Dec. 1894, Postmasters, W.L. Hubbs, E.D. Weed, Geo. T. Smith

Book 2: Jan. 1895–June 1897, Postmasters, Geo. T. Smith and E.D. Weed

Book 3: July 1897–June 1900, Postmaster, Elbridge D. Weed

Book 4: July 1900-June 1902, Postmasters, E.D. Weed, Avery Jewett, Geo. T. Smith

Book 5: April 1902-Dec. 1904, Postmasters, Geo. T. Smith

Book 6: Jan. 1905-Dec. 1907, Postmaster, Geo. T. Smith

Book 7: Jan. 1908-June 1910, Postmaster, Geo. T. Smith, and Wm. H. Turpit

### **Box 1:**

#### **Miscellaneous Material:**

Folder 1: File of speeches, instructions and other material for the zip code campaign by the U.S. Post Office, 1964-1967.

Folder 2: Photographs of postal workers at the Van Patten Club House, Christmas 1970 and photos of Elnora P.O. interior, 4 photos.

Folder 3: Correspondence, Nov. 1975 and Jan.-Feb. 1976, with petition of citizens to add the name, Halfmoon, to the name of the new post office.

Folder 4: Miscellaneous correspondence and printed notices from the U.S. Post Office, 1925, 1928, 1933, 1978, including post office notices about forged money orders, 1928.

### **Box 2:**

#### **Record and Postal Account Books of the Elnora Post Office:**

Book 8: July 1910-June 1913, Postmaster, Wm. H. Turpit

Book 9: July 1913-July 1916, Postmaster, Wm. H. Turpit

Book 10: July 1916-Dec. 1917, Postmaster, Wm. H. Turpit

#### **Money Order Record Books:**

The following are record books of money orders issued and received and the cash books for the money orders.

Register of Money Orders Issued at the Post Office, 1904-1909. The data in this book incl.: date, name of order remitter, name of payee, post office drawn upon, amount of money order and fee paid.

Register of Money Order Advices Received, 1904-1927. The data in this book incl.: dates, office where order was issued, remitter, payee, amount of order and date when the order was paid.

Register of Money Orders Paid and Advices Received at the Post Office, 1927-1942. The data in this book incl.: dates, office where order was issued, remitter, payee, amount of order, date paid.

**Box 3:**

Cash Book of the Domestic Money Order Office, 3 books, 1904-1909, 1909-1913, and 1913-1917. These books are accounts of the money received and paid out for money orders.

Printed Books:

*Postal Laws and Regulations of the U.S.A*, Washington, GPO, 1924.

*United States Official Postal Guide*, Jan. 1904.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## Evans Family Collection

**History:** Adam Caldwell, husband of Eliza Evans, is listed in the 1871 directory of Saratoga County as a farmer in Grooms Corners, Clifton Park with 175 acres. The Andrew Evans family had a farm on Sugar Hill Road in Clifton Park.

**Scope:** This collection includes several books of religion owned by the Evans family and others, including Abijah Peck. There are also photographs of Ruth Purdy Hoyt, niece of Ellen Caldwell; postcards of Grooms Corners and other places, and a testimony of an incident involving a student at school in Dist. 16 of Clifton Park.

**Size:** 2 boxes, 2 lin. ft.

**Donor:** This collection of Evans family books and papers was donated by Betsy Cotton.

### Contents:

#### Box 1:

Books as follows

*Life of Lady Guion...*New Bedford, MA, A. Sherman, Jr., 1805., vol. 1 of 2 vol. set only. Signed on front flyleaf "Abijah Peck's Book, 1808." #1

*A Practical System of Modern Geography...*by J. Olney, Hartford, CT, 1832, 10<sup>th</sup> ed.. On front flyleaf, "The Property of Eliza Evans, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1833." Also a note of a later date "Adam Caldwell's first wife." #2

*The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...*Cambridge, MA, J. Archdeacon and J. Burges, 1794. On title page and back flyleaf, "Abigail Evans Book." #3

*The Pilgrims Progress...*, by John Bunyan, Hartford, CT, Silas Andrus, 1828. Annotations "Andrew Evans Book." #4

*The Holy Bible...*Hartford, CT, Andrus & Judd, 1832. Front flyleaf note: "Eliza Evans Bible," and note "1<sup>st</sup> wife of Adam J. Caldwell, Rexfords, NY, Grooms Corners." #5

*The Works of the Rev. Andrew Fuller in Eight Volumes*, New Haven, CT, S. Converse, 1825, vol. 5 only. Note on front flyleaf: "Abijah Peck's Book, Price 15/," also note "related to 1<sup>st</sup> wife of Adam J. Caldwell." #6

*New Historical, Geographical...Dictionary of the Holy Bible*, by John Brown, Minister of the Gospel, Haddington, R. Morison and Son, Booksellers, Perth, 1796. Note on back flyleaf, "Abijah Peck's Book." Also slip of paper with note: From Aunt Ellen Caldwell's estate." #7

## **Box 2:**

Books as follows:

*Select Practical Writings of Richard Baxter with a Life of the Author*, by Leonard Bacon, Pastor of the First Church of New Haven, New Haven, Durrie and Peck, 1835, 2 vol.. Note that the set belonged to Ruth Evans, mother of Eliza Evans, Adam J. Caldwell's first wife. #8-9.

*The Holy Bible...*, New York, Daniel D. Smith, 1827. Book is in tattered condition with several pages badly torn; has a homemade leather cover and some pages at the front and back have been re sewn into the binding. This Bible has the Evans family record of birth, marriage and death records. These records have been photocopied and the copy is found elsewhere in this collection. Other family names in this record include Caldwell, Benedict, Brooks, Groot and DeGolyer.

## **Miscellaneous Evans Family Papers:**

These papers are filed in Drawer 2 of the Map Case.

Folder 1: Two issues of the newspaper *The Examiner, or N.Y. Recorder and N.Y. Baptist Register*, published by Edward Bright, New York, NY. Issues for July 21, 1859 and September 29, 1859. Both issues are folded and tattered with several tears. The issue for Sept. 29 may have been saved because there is a marriage notice of the marriage of Mr. L.S.Clark of Troy, NY to Miss Sophia Peck of Clifton Park, NY, Sept. 20. Papers appeared to have belonged to Mrs. Ruth Evans. The papers are stored separately from the collection in drawer 2 of the map case.

Folder 2: Family records of the Evans and Caldwell families, including photocopy of the Evans family records from the family Bible found in Box 2; Family Group Record sheet for the family of Elizabeth Snyder and Peter Caldwell of Clifton Park and members of the Clifton Park Center Baptist Church; a sheet of notes of Caldwell/Evans family data; 3 page genealogy of

the Wallace Family by J.P. Crayon of Rockaway, NY including data about the Wallace, Purdy and Hoyt and including Ellen Wallace, 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of Adam Caldwell of Grooms Corners.

Folder 3: Postcards (5) all dated 1913 in pencil. Two of the cards show buildings badly damaged by a cyclone in Crescent and 3 cards show a street and homes at Grooms Corners.

Folder 4: Photographs (8), including: 4 photos of Ruth Purdy (Hoyt) at Aunt Ellen (Wallace) Caldwell farm; photo of a ferry on the Mohawk River at Vischers Ferry?, 3 photos of Ellen Wallace Caldwell farm at Grooms Corners.

Folder 5: Transcript of testimony about an incident at a District 16 school in Clifton Park involving a boy named George Benaway, n.d.; in several pieces; a photocopy of the document is with the original. Also a few miscellaneous scraps.

Folder 6: American and Foreign Bible Society Life Member Certificate for Andrew Evans, 1918.  
2014-17.

**Donor:** Terry Maillet-Jones

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## Town of Clifton Park

### Family Genealogy Collection

**History:** This is a collection of family history files that have been gathered and collected by the library and town historian over several years. The collection grows regularly by the addition of new family genealogies. Some of the family history files were actually created by Howard I. Becker as Town Historian.

**Scope:** The papers in these files include family trees, vital statistics records, correspondence, miscellaneous notes and original records.

**Size:** 2 box, 2 lin. ft.

**Donors:** The family history files in this collection were donated by a various people, mainly family genealogists.

**Contents:** The following family records files are in alphabetical order. There are some files with more than one family with a large amount of information and these are listed as well. However, family surnames that have only brief mention are not indexed.

#### Box 1:

F. 1: Adsit-Groat-Pearse family history. Also, noted is the Emmons family.  
Arnold family: See Gage Family

F. 2: Baird, Robert and Alexander descendants  
Becker family: See Gage Family

F. 3: Bettys/Bettis family; includes two issues of the Ballston Journal, May , 1957 which include  
a history of the village of Ballston Spa.

F. 4: *Descendants of Valentine Brown, (1755-1817)*, by Charles P. Brown, 1974; includes among many families, Bowen, Burke, Young family data.

F. 5: Cookingham family

F. 6: *Cornell Cousins...*, 1971; descendants of Henry A. Cornell, son of Isaac.

F. 7: Fonda family

Fort family: See Vischer family

F. 8: Genealogical record of Jurgen (George) Freligh, Dutchess County, NY, 1743-1799 (photocopy); also photocopy of the Diary of Dr. Michael Freligh's trip from Schenectady to Plattsburgh, NY 1806; also Freligh family trees.

F. 9: Gage family; also Arnold, Becker families.



F. 10: Garnsey family  
F. 11: Groat family; also Lansing family. Also, see Adsit family  
Grooms family: See Vischer family  
F. 12: Hart family; also, Quivey family  
F. 13: Hubbs family  
F. 14: Keeler family; also Bentley, Reed, and Wagar families  
F. 15: Knowlton family  
Lansing family: See Groat family  
F. 16: McCourtie family, including copy photos of Thomas and Catherine Doty McCourtie  
F. 17A: Mix family; also Woodin family  
F. 17B-17D: Moe family  
F. 18: Nessel family; also Shepherd family  
F. 19: Descendants of Matthew Palmer  
Pearse family: See Adsit family  
Putnam family: See Vischer family  
F. 20: Henry Rexford family  
Root family: See Vischer family  
F. 21: Shepherd family (also see Nessel family)  
F. 22: Smith family of Elnora, NY  
F. 23: Capt. George Oscar Sokalski, 1839-1867

**Box 2:**

F. 1: Tourtellot family  
F. 2: Van De Bogart family, by Howard McConville, 1966  
F. 3: Van Schoonhoven Cemetery, copied by Durkee, 1877  
F. 4: Van Vranken family  
F. 5 - 6: Vischer Family, including Root, Putnam, Grooms, Fort, and other families. This large file also includes copies of Vischer family wills, (including original wills of Eldert Vischer, 1822 and Cornelius G. Visscher, 1880) photographs, family tree charts.  
F. 7: Volwieder family

James Corsaro  
Archivist

Revised, 2014  
Gail Winters  
Librarian

# George Farrall

## Collection

**History:** George A. Farrall was a well-known scientist at the General Electric Research and Development Center in Niskayuna and a resident of Rexford for many years before his death on January 20, 2010. He was also an amateur historian interested in the several amusement parks which operated in Rexford. Known first as Luna Park, which opened in 1906, and later as Dolle's Park, Palisades Park, and Rexford Park, the facility closed in 1933. Mr. Farrell built his own home on the site of these parks in about 1980 and published a book, *The Amusement Park at Rexford* in 2003. His interest extended to the history of the Erie Canal in the immediate area; he was organizing material for a book on this subject at the time of his death.

**Scope:** This is a collection of resource materials relating to the Rexford amusement parks and to the eastern section of the Erie Canal. Included are copies of newspaper clippings, many copy photos and a small amount of correspondence. Small binders contain the text and copy photographs for the unpublished book on the Erie Canal. Floppy discs contain similar information.

**Size:** 4 boxes, 5 lin. ft.

**Donor:** George A. Farrall

### Contents:

**Box 1:** A chronology of park events. Histories of the parks. Photos, copy photos, photocopies, postcards, and other materials used in *The Amusement Park at Rexford*. A folder of copy photos for use in the projected book, *The Erie Canal*; some photos are from the collections of Francis Spoonogle and Joseph Papp. Correspondance and color photos of Mr. Farrell, the Bridge at Rexford, and the Rexford shoreline.

**Box 2:** Two small, black binders containing a text and references to photographs for the book, *The Erie Canal*, with reference to the disks on which the text and photos can be found. A third, small, white binder containing numbered pages and photographs, ready for publication.

**Box 3:** A blue binder containing Xerox copies of newspaper articles and copy photographs about the Erie Canal. A white binder containing

the copy photographs to be used in *The Erie Canal*, with notes of the text page. Aerial photos of Park site, Rexford, and Mohawk River. Copy photo of boats crossing Rexford aqueduct.

**Box 4:** Floppy discs and one CD with text and photographs for *The Amusement Park at Rexford* and *The Erie Canal*.

## Garnsey Family Papers

**History:** The Garnsey family came from Connecticut to Saratoga County via Amenia, Dutchess County in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Nathan Garnsey was one of the sons of these Garnsey settlers and his son David married Esther Rogers. David and Ester Garnsey had 10 children and the papers in this collection are those created by this family. David graduated from Union College in 1800 and his children were educated in various academies, although 5 of them died before reaching 25 years of age. The most prominent member of this family was Lewis R. Garnsey, many of whose papers are found in this collection. Lewis R. was born in 1810 and died in 1878. He was a farmer in Clifton Park his entire life. He married Augusta S. Groom and the couple had 5 children. N. Sylvester's History of Saratoga County includes a picture of the home of Lewis R. Garnsey.

**Scope:** This collection includes substantial family correspondence, chiefly among the children of David and Nancy Garnsey, i.e. Elizabeth, David, Pliny, Lewis R. and others. The letters between these siblings are often written by them as they are away at schools (Cazenovia Seminary and Wesleyan University). Papers are also related to estates of Garnseys, tax records of Lewis R. Garnsey, land records and other material. There are a few photographs, unidentified, but possibly of Garnsey family members. There are also some papers related to the Grooms family of Clifton Park.

**Size:** 2 boxes, 2 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Acquired from Margaret Low Lavery (spouse of Lewis Lavery), Round Lake, NY, date??

### **Contents:**

#### **Box 1: Family and Other Correspondence**

- Folder 1: Lewis Rogers Garnsey, n.d. and 1833-1877
- Folder 2: Elizabeth Star Garnsey, n.d. and 1837-1840
- Folder 3: Same, 1841-1842
- Folder 4: David Garnsey, n.d. and 1837-1842
- Folder 5: Esther Rogers Garnsey, 1830-1833
- Folder 6: Nathan David Garnsey, 1841, 1890

Folder 7: Nancy Hunter Garnsey, n.d. and 1836

Folder 8: Livia (Livinia) Garnsey, 1839-1842, 1848

Folder 9: Pliny Garnsey, 1837-1849

Folder 10: Letter from a student, Katie ?, at NYS Institute for the Blind at Batavia to Mrs. Garnsey, April 30, 1878?

Folder 11: Letter from Wallace Groom to sister, (Augusta Groom Garnsey?), NY, 1873.

Folder 12: Letters (8) from W.H. Rockwell, Brattleboro, VT, 1859-1863 regarding receipts of payment for the care of Lydia H. Hubbell at Vermont Asylum and for

Folder 13: Postcards and business cards, 1874-1886 and n.d. to Garnsey family.

Folder 14: Letter from Abigail Close to Sarah Starr of Ridgebury, CT?, dated Salem, MA?, 1774.

## **Box 2: Various papers of the Garnsey and other families**

Folder 1: Nathan Garnsey estate papers, including accounts and inventory by executors of estate, 1824-1830

Folder 2: Federal tax returns of Lewis R. Garnsey, 1862, 1864, 1865, 1867. Also, a statement of assessment of payment to Union Insurance Company. Also, a lease for a grocery in Crescent, NY of George Houghtaling.

Folder 3: Wills of: Elizabeth S. Garnsey, Clifton Park, 1842 (copy made in 1845); Abijah Peck, Clifton Park, 1848; Herbert T. Bonesteel, 1938.

Folder 4: Certificate of Appointment of Lewis R. Garnsey as a Sergeant in the 144<sup>th</sup> Regt., 9<sup>th</sup> Brig. of the NYS Militia, Capt. Abijah Peck, 1826 with certifications of his attendance at training, 1828-1835.

Folder 5: Book of accounts of money received and paid, ca, 1829-1865; probably John Peck of Rexford Flats book; includes accounts of money spent for the care of Mrs. Lydia Hubbell in Brattleboro, VT.; also has a list of women who were members of some group. Also, deed from Joseph Peck to John Peck, in Halfmoon, 1813; also promissory note of John Peck, 1859; also, certification of letters testamentary on estate of John Peck, 1862.

Folder 6: Papers of Marguerite and Lewis F. Lavery, including mortgage for home in Round Lake, 1941, letters 1954-55 and n.d. Lewis F. Lavery was the son of A. A. Lavery and Lillian Garnsey Lavery of Round Lake; Lillian Garnsey Lavery was the daughter of Lewis R. Garnsey.

Folder 7: Recipes for grafting in trees and for ague in a woman, n.d. (ca. 1845?).

Folder 8: Guardianships (2) for Augusta, Louisa, Wallace, Phoebe Jane, Elbert, and Roxaphene Grooms, 1851.

Folder 9: Papers re: to David Garnsey, including leases for rent of lands in Half Moon, 1826; map of land surveyed by D. Garnsey, 1818; agreement to teach an "English school," in the Town of Half Moon, 1799; letter of Peter B. Garnsey to D. Garnsey and others re: to a mortgage, 1815; and statement by executors of D. Garnsey's estate, 1832.

Folder 10: Papers related to the estates of David, Elizabeth and Nancy H. Garnsey, 1843-1845.

Folder 11: Receipts for tuition payments, 1836-1841, for Elizabeth, David and Pliny Garnsey for attendance at Troy Female Seminary, Cazenovia Seminary and Wesleyan University; also, a detailed statement of David Garnsey's expenditures, June 1841-January 1842 at Wesleyan.

Folder 12: Printed "Prospectus of The New Era, A Weekly Paper," New York, ca. 1865 ( a Christian weekly.)

Folder 13: Group of cancelled checks of Rulison and Garnsey from the Manufacturers National Bank of Mechanicville, 1915-1922.

Folder 14: Survey field notes of lands in Clifton Park and Half Moon surveyed by David Garnsey and Nathan Garnsey, Jr., ca. 1805-1831.

Folder 15: Handwritten testimony from a trial in Justice's Court, of case Lewis R. Garnsey v. John E. McKnight, 1844.

Folder 16: Deeds of the Grooms family, Clifton Park, NY, 1834, 1842, 1849, 1873, 1884; also, letter of administration for estate of John S. Grooms of Lewis R. Garnsey, 1850

Folder 17: Field notes of A[braham] Moe's land, n.d., ca. 1810?

Folder 18: Abstract of title for lands in Winnebago Co., Wisconsin, 1859 with a postcard and form letter of Carter and Whipple, Attorneys, Milwaukee, WI; to L.R. Garnsey?

Folder 19: Garnsey family deeds, Nathan, 1794, David, 1817, Nathan D., Lillian (Garnsey) Lavery, and others, 1934.

Folder 20: Unidentified photographs of small girl, two older ladies, a 14 year old girl (1886), and 3 photos of the same man and four stereopticon slides. Also, a sketch of an unidentified house.

Folder 21: Empty used envelopes of the Garnsey family and others

Folder 22: Miscellaneous papers and scraps

**Box 2: Spiral-Bound Diary Transcriptions**

Folder 1: Glimpses of Life in Clifton Park, circa 1900, 42, 4 p., spiral-bound. Excerpts from the diaries of Carrie Raymond Birch DeLong (1893-1948) and Emma DeLong Hall (1882-1926), edited and transcribed May 1999 by George Hubbard and Marilyn DeLong Hubbard.

**Donor: George Hubbard and Marilyn DeLong Hubbard.** Editor's presentation copy, April 4, 2014.

Folder 2: The Diary of David Garnsey of Halfmoon, NY (Clifton Park - Rexford) from the years 1897 - 1913, 4, 92 p, spiral-bound. Photocopy of a photocopy of a transcription by Miriam Caldwell Dockstader in 1950.

**Donor: George Hubbard and Marilyn DeLong Hubbard.** Presentation copy, April 4, 2014.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

Revised, 2014  
Gail Winters  
Librarian

## **Grooms Tavern**

**History:** There has been a store or tavern on the southwest corner of Grooms Road and Sugar Hill Road since about 1800. It began as a grocery store serving families in the Grooms Corner area and the Clifton Park Center area to the north. The store went through various hands, and eventually was taken over by James and Catherine Groom in about 1826. The present building dates to around that time. By 1828, James Groom was operating a tavern there. The building was the site of the first town board meeting in 1828, and several subsequent town board meetings were held there as well. By 1858, James's son Samuel Groom was running an inn at Grooms Corners, along with a blacksmith shop. In the late 1800s, it was no longer an inn and was once again a store. The Groom family was owners until the early 1900s. After James Groom, son of Samuel and grandson of the first James Groom, died in 1922, his widow sold the store to Edward Klingbeil, Jr., and his wife, Mabel. He ran the store until he died in 1970, at which point Kenneth and Mary Jane Baird purchased it and ran it as a country store and gift shop, called The Emporium. Kenneth Baird died in 1988, and his widow sold the store to Robert Williams and his wife, Kathy Hedrick. They in turn sold it to the Town of Clifton Park in 1999. The Town restored the downstairs of the building and reopened it in 2007 as a historic and cultural center.

**Scope:** This collection includes histories of Grooms Tavern by John Scherer, Clifton Park Town Historian, and a few existing records dating from several previous owners. The Town of Clifton Park bought the structure in 1999. Plans for its eventual use by the Town and photographs of its renovation document this era. Papers from the Friends of Grooms Tavern demonstrate the role of this group in the Tavern's renovation. Some information about the Blacksmith Shop and the Mohawk Valley Grange is also included.

**Donor:** Records of Mabel and Edward Klingbeil (var. Klingbiel), Jr. and Kenneth and Mary Jane Baird received from Kathy Hedricks.

**Size:** 1 box, 1 lin.ft.

**Contents:**

**Folder 1: Historical material of the Grooms Tavern**

**Folder 2-4: Two previous owners of Grooms Tavern**

2. Receipts from Klingbeil's Store



3. New York State Liquor Authority licenses and Special Tax Stamps, 1959, 1961-1970 from Klingbeil's Store
4. Inventory Lists and New York State Sales Tax information from The Emporium, run by Kenneth and Mary Jane Baird.

**Folder 5-10: Clifton Park's Historic and Cultural Center**

5. Informational brochures, plot plans, and architectural drawings. Communication regarding sign.
6. Conceptual and possible uses of the historic site
7. Photographs of 1999 condition of Grooms Tavern and of its restoration. Asbestos report and well drilling information.
8. John G. Waite Associates assessment of the renovation. Town Resolutions regarding Grooms Tavern, 1999-2004.
9. Photographs taken in 2001 at Farm Fest.
10. Photographs taken by Ernest Hafner of the grand opening. Newspaper article and informational brochures.

**Folder 11: Blacksmith Shop.** John M. McDonald Engineering Firm Report April, 2013. Historic Preservation Commission, September 19, 2013 Agenda. Notes from meeting with representative from Bast-Hatfield. November 21, 2015. Photos of Shop condition, 2000?

**Folder 12: Mohawk Valley Grange.** Newspaper article: Mohawk Valley Grange Played a Vital Role, Community News, June 9, 2000. John M. McDonald Engineering Report, Revised, August 2007.

**Folder 13-15:**

13. Documents relating to the Grooms Tavern (Advisory) Committee and the Grooms Tavern Preservation Committee, and to the incorporation of the Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern.
14. Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern board of directors and membership lists; FoHGT capital contributions 2003; "Connecting Today's Generation with the Past," 27 pages; "Grooms Tavern Gazette," Fall 2001, Fall 2008, Fall 2013; miscellaneous fundraising efforts; plans for restoration and use.
15. Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern activities.

Gail Winters  
Tenaya Bannon  
Librarians  
2018

## Howard Hickam

### Collection

**History:** Howard Hickam and his wife Dorothy lived on Grooms Road, several houses west of Historic Grooms Tavern. Dorothy's maiden name is believed to have been Droms; she was perhaps a niece of Elmer Droms.

**Scope:** This collection consists of diaries of Howard Hickam, of Grooms Corners in Clifton Park, as well as materials relating to the Philathea and the Baraca Classes at the Clifton Park Baptist Church, Elnora, NY.

**Size:** 1 box, 1 lin. Ft.

**Donor:** Howard Hickam

#### Contents:

Folder 1 : A diary containing farming information pertaining to land on Rosendale Road, Niskayuna, kept from 1936-1961.

Folder 2: A diary of farming information from 1962 to early 1980. Inside front cover: F. A. Droms, 2368 Rosendale Road, Schenectady, NY. 11/24/54. He was perhaps a father or brother of Dorothy Droms Hickam.

Folder 3: A Household Inventory and Insurance Record supplied by the Schenectady Savings Bank, filled in by an unknown person, probably in the 1920's.

Folder 4: Items relating to the the Philathea and the Baraca Classes of the Clifton Park Baptist Church. *The Constitution of the Philathea Class of the Clifton Park Baptist Sunday School*, 4 p. A brief newspaper article and photo of the Baraca Class, Clifton Park Baptist Church, Elnora, N. Y, n. d, with a key to the men pictured A Yearly Statement for dues from 1919 to 1921 to the World-Wide Baraca and Philathea Union, with envelope addressed to the Union, signed by Mae Clark, Elnora, NY. The Baraca - Philathea News, October, 1922, 15 p.

Folder 5: *Secretary's and Treasurer's Book of Junior Philathea Class*, 1914-1922, of the Clifton Park Baptist Church, Elnora, N. Y.

Gail Winters, Librarian

## **Jonesville Cemetery Association**

**History:** The Jonesville Cemetery was opened in October, 1864 on 11.2 acres. 252 remains and monuments were moved from the Union Grove Cemetery on Main Street. An additional 50 remains in two family cemeteries were moved here in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Founders Roscius Kennedy, Garnesey Kennedy (brothers), Samuel Langdon, Morgan Finch, Alexander Hubbs and John Higgins designed the nondenominational, Victorian cemetery with named roads and paths and labeled sections such as Myrtle's Mound. A Pastoral Walk crossed the Longkill and connected the cemetery to land behind the Methodist Church. The Cemetery is owned and operated by the Jonesville Cemetery Association.

**Scope:** This collection contains the receipt for the lot of Daniel Date, April 27, 1865, and an Indenture, July 1, 1865. There are copies of Howard Becker's list of burials to 1877 taken from Durkee's Epitaphs. Folders 1 and 2 contain publications of the Jonesville Cemetery Association, which was very active in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Size:** 4 folders.

**Donor:** Jonesville Cemetery Association unless noted.

### **Publications:**

Folder 1: Keeping in Touch, 2006- ; Introduction: November, 2007 letter introducing the Newsletter from Edward Hughes, Vice President

Folder 2: Dedications, etc.: "A Victorian Resting Place for All" brochure; "The Story of this Special Place for Young People" brochure; Meneely Bell dedication, Oct. 22, 2008; Veteran's Memorial dedication, May 16, 2009; John Scherer Bus tour, Oct. 23, 2010.

### **Deeds and Financial Papers:**

Folder 3: Receipt for lot of Daniel Dater, April 27, 1864; Indenture, July 1, 1865, between Trustees and Daniel Dater.

**Donor:** Norma Davey and the Jonesville Cemetery Association. Donor information included.

### **Burial Information:**

Folder 4: "Jonesville Cemetery, Town of Clifton Park, Saratoga County, NY, Burials up to 1877 as Copied from Durkee's Epitaphs (sic), Vol 3, Pages 559-604"... H. I. Becker, '51. (5 copies)

**Donor:** Howard Becker

**Miscellaneous:**

Folder 4: Photocopy of "Map of Jonesville Cemetery, Saratoga Co., NY."

Folder 5: Compact Disc: Jonesville Cemetery Tour. 2011, Edward Hughes.

Gail Winters  
Librarian  
2014

## **Jonesville United Methodist Church Collection**

**History:** This church was organized on December 11, 1826, and was to be called The First Methodist Episcopal Church in Jonesville. The organization was at first part of the Half Moon circuit. In 1842, it became a station. The first building on the site of the church, erected in 1827, was used until 1855, when a larger building was erected in its place by George Higgins, builder. Extensive repairs were undertaken in 1881, the 1950's, 1987, and in 2009. A parsonage is maintained adjacent to the church.

**Scope:** The collection consists of church histories, information, and directories dating from the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Pamphlets written at times of celebration date from 1898 to 1959 are included. Materials are from the Church Historian Dan Moran except as noted.

**Size: 3 folders**

Folder 1: Histories of organization and buildings: c. 2001, The History of Jonesville United Methodist (sic) Church (2 copies); Faith under Construction, 1977-2002 (2 copies); Bell Tower Project History, c.2009; line drawing of JUMC by M. Howarth, 1990.

Folder 2: Celebrations: Reopening of The Jonesville Methodist Episcopal Church, January Second, 1899 (Donor: Linda Sanders, Town Historian of Stillwater); Christmas Souvenir, 1908 (2 copies); Jonesville Methodist Episcopal Church, 1826-1926; Ninety-Fifth Anniversary of the Jonesville, N. Y. Methodist Episcopal Church, 1921; 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Annual Old Fashioned "Stone" Clambake, 1950; Jonesville Methodist Church 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1826- 1951 (2 copies); Building to Serve, Building Fund Campaign, June 8-15, 1958; Service of Consecration, June 7, 1959.

Folder 3: Church Directories:1985, 1989, 1992, 1995, 1998-9, 2002, 2006 (Donated by Gail Winters)

# McLane's Hotel

## Records

**History:** McLane's Hotel was located at Rexford Flats (originally known as the Rexford Flats Hotel) and was bought by John McLane in 1897 by John McLane. McLane renovated the hotel, which became a well-known community place that had rooms for 100 guests. Its closeness to the Barge Canal made it a place of resort for "canawlers." McLane was a businessman who also held public offices, including Superintendent of Canals for the eastern division of the Barge Canal and Chairman of the Saratoga County Democratic Party. McLane's business include, besides the hotel, sales of cider, vinegar, building stone and ice as well as for teaming of horses.

**Scope:** This collection consists chiefly of financial record books, including ledgers and order books from the hotel as well as business correspondence and receipts. There are 23 record books. The general time period covered in the collection is 1895 to 1962 with the bulk of the material dated 1897-1916. The business correspondence is concerned chiefly with orders to John McLane for cider and purchases by McLane for hotel equipment and equipment for cider making equipment. The financial record books include accounts for purchases and sales of beer, apples and cider, ice and for foodstuffs for the tavern at the hotel and for sale by John McLane. Many of the books are indexed by name of account. The business correspondence and bills includes several trade catalogs and brochures.

**Size:** 7 boxes, 7 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Clark and Chris Wilson, Rexford, NY donated collection to the Town of Clifton Park for exhibit at the Grooms Tavern and it has been transferred by the Town to the Clifton Park-Half Moon Public Library.

### **Contents:**

#### **Box 1: Correspondence and other Papers:**

There are 18 folders of correspondence and bills and receipts of John McLane for, chiefly for his sales of cider and vinegar and for equipment for cider-making. There are also a few other documents of McLane related to other personal and business affairs.

Folder 1: Personal/family letters to McLane, 1908-1909

Folder 2: Letter and documents from the Secret Law and Order League of Ballston Spa, NY re: rules for liquor dealers, 1909.

Folder 3: Letters (2) of McLane with NYS Superintendent of Public Works re: building of a temporary dam on canal to harvest ice, 1909.

Folder 4: Summons and complaint of Saratoga County Supreme Court re: case of James C. Burk v. Mary Mulligan and others (including John McLain), 1908.

Folder 5: Letters from Walter H. Hildick, Apple Cider and Cider Vinegar, New York, NY 1908-1909, re: orders for cider.

Folder 6: Letters from William Zinsser & Co. re: McLane's purchase of benzoate of soda and cider isinglass, 1908.

Folder 7: Letter and catalog from Saratoga Star Spring Co., re: Saratoga Star Water, 1908

Folder 8: Letters (2), 1908, 1909 re: McLane's purchase of cider tank from Harder Manufacturing Co., Cobleskill, NY.

Folder 9: Catalogs from Conron & Co., New York, NY re: liquors for sale.

Folder 10: Letter (1910) and bills for car parts (1908) to McLane from Winton Motor Carriage Co., Cleveland, OH

Folder 11: Letter, 1909, from Keeler's Hotel, Albany, NY, to McLane re: sale of cider.

Folders 12-13: Letters to McLane, chiefly orders for cider, or regarding sales of items to McLane for hotel (piano, laundry equipment, etc.)

Folder 14: Contracts with Schenectady Illuminating Co., 1908-1909

Folder 15: Miscellaneous bills and receipts to McLane, with a few illustrated catalogs from manufacturers, 1908-1910.

Folder 16: Stamp certificate for John H. McLane as a tobacco dealer from the U. S. Internal Revenue, 1916, (in fragile condition)

Folder 17: Cancelled checks of John McLane with the Citizens Trust Co., Schenectady, NY, 1910 and 1917.

Folder 18: Empty envelopes.

**Box 2: Photocopies and Photographs of Documents re: to Rexford history**

These photocopied documents and correspondence as well as color photographs of artifacts of the McLane and related families, the McLane Hotel, and of Rexford Flats history generally were originally in a binder. The originals of these were kept by the Wilson family (the donors of this collection). There is much useful and interesting material in this binder re: the history of the McLane family, the hotel and Rexford Flats. The material is separated into folders by topics for:

Folder 1: Erie Canal, Amusement Park, McLane's Hotel, Bills, Beverages, Cigars/Cigarettes, Shipping, Sales Catalogs, Politics.

Folder 2: Advertisements/Supplies and Rexford Schools

Folder 3: Fire Dept., John McLane Hose Co.

Folder 4: Rexford Village, 20<sup>th</sup> Century People and Places

Folder 5: McLane Family

**Boxes 3-7: Financial Record Books:**

The financial record books include accounts with individuals and businesses for purchases of goods and services by the hotel, for room rent and for room and board at the hotel (possibly for canalers). There are also accounts for purchases and sales of beer, apples and cider, ice and for foodstuffs for the tavern at the hotel and for sale by John McLane. Many of the books are indexed by name of account. The books are in fair to poor condition with some broken bindings and a few with water damage or staining.

The record books date from:

Box 3: 1895-1896; 1897; 1900-1901; 1904, 1906-1908

Box 4: 1905-1906

Box 5: 1906-1909; 1908 (Includes only a few accounts in a mainly blank Schenectady Locomotive Works order book); 1908 (chiefly for apples and cider)

1908; 1909 (many purchases of ice)

Box 6: 1911; 1912; 1913 (This book has several loose bills and receipts, including bill cards from the Schenectady Illuminating Company); 1913 (2 Order books for this year)



Box 7: 1914-1915; 1916 (3 Order books for this year); 1920-1924; Undated ledger (ca. 1915?) Also, includes inventories of hotel artifacts and objects sold to antique dealers and others in 1962-1963. The hotel was about 1962. The State of New York bought the hotel and demolished it in 1964 as the property was needed for a bridge approach.

**Artifacts**

Folder 1: 2 tokens: McLanes Hotel, Rexford, NY, Good for 10c drinks

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## Miscellaneous Collection

**Scope:** This collection contains a variety of small manuscripts and items that have been donated to the Clifton Park Town Collection.

**Size:** 4 boxes.

**Donor:** Various donors, as noted.

### Box 1:

**Folder 1: Record of Canal Boat Tolls for 3 boats**, including that paid by E. Brown (?), Master of the Erie Canal boat Tory, of Dresden, 1861. One entry specifies "Mdse" from Albany to Vischer Ferry. The two other entries are from 1863 and 1864.

**Donor:** Unknown.

**Folder 2: 1 Letter on letterhead: A. E. Woodward Italian Bees, Honey and Beeswax**, Grooms Corners, Saratoga Co., N. Y., May 28, 1888, advertising the availability of beeswax. The envelope is addressed to J. I. Parent, Charlton, NY and is postmarked May 29, Grooms Corners, N. Y.

**Donor:** Lynn Calvin (Donation letter and business card included.)

**Folder 3: Record book of Urias Dater, 1865-1869.** Contains lists of items such as Produce, Apples, Stock, Sheep and Wool, and Potatoes, accounts of residents such as George Adams, and lists such as "Amount of Coal Drawn, 1873" and "Charlie Weeks by Labor." Form from First National Bank, Mechanicville, N. Y. for Urias Dater for payment of a note, Nov. 1, 1893. Also, receipt for payment of I. L. Taylor and Co., Custom Millers and Sawyers, Crescent, N. Y. from Wllm. (?) H. Filkins, Nov. 12, 1897.

**Donors:** Julia and Erik Roy. "From the home of Katherine (Flickinger) Dockstader and Clayton Dockstader."

**Folder 4: Dr. MacElroy, 1872-1954**, practiced medicine in Jonesville from 1894 until 1954. He was also health officer for the Town of Jonesville for 40 years and school physician for the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District for 19 years. Christmas card sent by Dr. MacElroy in 1934, with "1894," "1934" and a photo of the Doctor seated at his desk. Newspaper clipping of detailed obituary marked 1954.

**Donor:** Adella Harris

Photo of Dr. MacElroy on horseback, 2 photos of baby seated in a buggy and on horseback, photo of cows in pasture. Newspaper article: Dr. MacElroy named out-standing general practitioner of New York State for 1949 by the Medical Society. Photocopies of obituaries and newspaper articles.

Note: Miscellaneous Collection, Oversize Box 1, Folder 4 contains 3 undated photos of Dr. MacElroy and members of the Empire Beagle Club with their dogs.

**Donor:** Don MacElroy (grandson)

**Folder 5. Stencil Photographs:** 3 photographs of stencils from the front, east room of the Gould house on Riverview Road, Vischer Ferry. The home is the "3d house east of the church, "(Amity Church). "Room once used for school" written on back one photo. "House is on the west side of Harmon Van Vranken house" on donation envelope.

**Donor:** Unknown.

**Folder 6: Clifton Knolls Club House Menus, c. 1965-1970.** Menu, Clifton Knolls Clubhouse Dining Room; Wine List, The Bull Room; Lunch Menu, The Bull Room; The Sunset Happy Hour Bar guide; folder, Clifton Knolls Club House; donation letter with Plank Road Centre, the Park Plaza letterhead.

**Donor:** Robert L. Phillips

**Folder 7: Indenture for land leased in Halfmoon, NY, 1808.**

This agreement is between Isaac Garnsey and Samuel Brewster, both of Halfmoon. Other names referenced include Isaac Reynolds, Nathan Garnsey, Hugh Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Campbell Kennedy, and Thomas Huntington.

**Donor:** Frederick Talasco (donation letter included).

**Folder 8: Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors, County of Saratoga, 1852, 1854, 1855, and 1876.** 1852, 1854, and 1855 are reprints from the 1970's.

**Donor:** Of 1852, 1854, and 1855: Arthur E. Eggleston, Historian, Town of Corinth

**Folder 9: Writing Book belonging to Ellen Dunsmore, 1850.**

This "Writing Book sold by S. R. Gray, Bookseller and Stationer" of Albany, was used to practice penmanship.

**Folder 10: Wedding Invitations.**

Invitations are to the weddings of Callie R. Peck and Irving A. Button, 1883; Jennie E. Clark and Gilbert J. Brown, 1887; and Maggie Ella Fonda and Charlie Silvernail, 1893.

**Donor:** Ruth Kelin and Marjorie Shaw

**Folder 11: Remembering Ed Klingbeil**

DVD and Audio-Tape of event, "Remembering Ed Klingbeil," Dec. 7, 2007, Groom's Tavern.

Also, "My Recollections of Ed Klingbeil," by Fred Stevens.

**Donor:** Ernest Haffner

**Folder 12: Section of Photograph Album, c. 1900.**

Mounted photographs, including those of Grooms Methodist Church and Vischer's or Fort's Ferry

**Donor:** Holly Somerville and Marilyn Sysol

**Folder 13: The Old Homestead stationery, c. 1920.**

Letterhead stationery, The Old Homestead, James M. Adsit & Sons, Proprietors, Waterford, NY.

**Donor:** Terrence Adsit (Donation letter included.)

**Folder 14: Life on the Sunny Side, by Jennie M. Quivery**

Autobiographical essay, including description of the headless rooster on her father's Burnt Hills farm. Includes photograph of the Quivey Homestead; extract from Dec. 15, 1905 Union Star article about the headless rooster with photo; extract of Dec. 18, 1915 article on the same subject; and Feb. 3, 1938 letter from Dr. J. R. MacElroy, Birch Brae Farms, Jonesville, NY, on that subject .

**Folder 15: Country Knolls Floor Plans and Sample Photo Book**

Sample photo book has 9 color photos of homes and scenes in Country Knolls and the business card of Art Mabeus, Clifton Enterprises, Inc. in Elnora, NY. Xerox copies are of a 2-page pamphlet, "Clifton & Country Knolls, Quality Homes for Gracious Living," plot plans for properties in Clifton Knolls and Country Knolls, and floor plans for standard homes in these developments.

**Donor:** Barbara Meehan, 8 Hearthside Drive, Ballston Lake

**Folder 16: Long Meadow Airport, Garnsey Road, c. 1941-1959.**

Notes by John Scherer on Airport from Eugene Zych. Card, Gary G. and Carolyn Zych.

Letterhead and envelope, Long Meadow Airport. Map: Town of Clifton Park Highway System, 1955. Airport Map, New York State, 1953, in Dept. of Commerce envelope. Copy photos: souvenir envelope marking the first Jet air mail flight, June 21, 1946; GE Schenectady News article, Jan. 6, 1961 about Lockheed Vega; photo of Lockheed Vega; 3 aerial photos of the airport and vicinity.

**Donor:** Jerry Grigaitis

**Folder 17: Little League Baseball Team, 1965, in Vischer Ferry.**

Copy photo of game, 2 copies. List of names on baseball (in Artifacts Collection).

Handwritten and typed sheets of information on the team, team members, and other artifacts in same donation. (Accession # 2014 -05)

**Donor:** Jonathan Reed

**Folder 18: Papers of Margaret Simmons.** Cards, letters, and other papers relating to Margaret Simmons. Photocopy of newspaper article about Ms. Simmons, by John Scherer, *Community News*, 12/14//2001.

**Donor:** Kathleen S...

**Folder 19: Halstead Auto Sales and Service, Inc.**

Two checks from Halstead Auto Sales. One claim check from Geo. T. Smith & Son Farm and Home Supply, Inc.

**Box 2**

**Folder 1: Hayes Family**

Copy photos of members of the Hayes family, including Ralph Hayes and his wife Luella Kline Hayes and James Hayes, the Kessler family, and the Kline family. Many people and houses are identified. 2014-08

**Donor:** Tom Kessler

**Folder 2 A: Mosher Family Genealogy and Correspondence**

Genealogical information about the Mosher family of Rexford. Photographs of Orin (Orvin) Mosher and his wife, Lottie Philips. 2014-11

**Folder 2 B: Mosher Family Genealogy and Correspondence**

1890 to 1892: Orin from mother and brother, mother to Lottie. 1894 to 1896: Broadalbin to Cousin Orin (Orvin), Rexford Flats to Cousin Lottie. 1896: from Maple Ridge Farm, Broadalbin to sister Lottie. 1897-1900, Dearest wife, Dearest husband. 2014-11

**Folder 3: Religious Album belonging to "Carrie," student at Jonesville Academy, 1857.**

A collection of religious quotations and sentiments written by students and staff at Jonesville Academy to "Carrie" in 1857. Name, home addresses, and dates are given for each entry. These are interspersed with prints in a bound volume with cover title: "Religious Album." Also included: transcription and translation of the entry in Spanish by Ignacio Sanchez, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1857, "Un Cubano." 2014-18

**Oversize: Box 1**

**Folder 1: Inquiry regarding Reverend John McKelvy.** Photographs of four pages of a handwritten account of an inquiry, held in "The Church of Amity"

on August 7, 1828, as to whether Rev. McKelvy was seen drunk on the preceding June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Donor:** Unknown.

**Folder 2: Will of John Terpening, Halfmoon, August 15, 1803.**

**Donor:** Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library

**Folder 3: Copy of Original Canastigione or Nestigione Land Patent of 1708.**

This patent includes the southern part of the Town of Clifton Park, including Vischer Ferry and Forts Ferry. The original document is at the Albany Institute of History and Art. This copy is the same size as the original.

**Donor:** Van De Forge (a Van Vranken descendant who lived in Vischer Ferry).

**Folder 4: Three undated photos of Dr. John Rankin MacElroy and members of the Empire Beagle Club with their dogs on the steps of the Jonesville Hotel and in a field. 2014-03**

**Donor:** Don MacElroy (grandson)

**Folder 5: Identification of people in panoramic Jonesville Clambake Photo, 1922.** Copy photos with identification of known individuals done by George Hubbard. Worksheets with additional genealogical information. This material was used in Images of Clifton Park, pp. 122-123, by John Scherer.

**Donor:** George Hubbard

**Folder 6: Posters from Dows Collection**

*...Texas North ...and 1460 WOKO... proudly presents Country Superstar Helen Cornelius at Texas North...Friday, April 9m 1982....* Venue was the old Clifton Park Hotel.

*Auction, Adam Mott, Auctioneer, Tuesday, March 19, 1878.* Auction bill lists farm property and terms of credit.

**Oversize: Box 2**

**The "Trivia" Game of Clifton Park New York, Copyright 1984.** 2 boxed board games. This boxed game contains questions and answers of that era relating to Clifton Park. Board contains mention of Shenendehowa Key Club and list of individual sponsors. 2014-02

**Donor:** Jerry Grigaitis

**Clark Family Photograph Album.** "Memory Book," 1915-1917, 27 p. with interleaved sheets. Photographs of Robert Clark, George Clark, Leicester Clark, Sarah Grey, Charles Parnell, Dorothy Thierolf, Ellen Thierolf, and Grace

Reno. Photos from Baraca and Philathia of Clifton Park camping trips  
Saratoga Lake, 1914, 1915 and 1916. 2014-16.

**Donor:** Austin Saunders

Revised, 2014

Gail Winters

Librarian

# Niskayuna Reformed Church

## Histories

**History:** Although the exact date of the organization of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Canistota is unknown, it is likely that it was begun about 1750. No records exist of the first small "Prayer House," except that it was located on the site of a second building, constructed about 1760. The first church on the present site on the Troy Road was dedicated on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1829.

**Scope:** This collection consists of a history of the church to 1966, A Serving People, with Two pamphlets date from 1951 and 1956.

**Donor:** Howard I. Becker

**Size:** One folder

### Contents:

Folder 1: Histories of the Niskayuna Reformed Church as follows:

1. Spiral-bound book: A Serving People, A History of the Niskayuna Reformed Church, 3041 Troy Road, Schenectady, New York, Pastors, Ref. Douglas A. Walrath, Rev. John R. Grooters, by Elizabeth D. Shaver, Church Historian. 1966. 148 p. map, illus, bibliography. Following a General History, important events in the life of the church are listed in chronological order.
2. Niskayuna Reformed Church, Stop Twenty-One Troy Road, Schenectady, NY, Reverend William H.I Coons, Pastor. [1951?] Unpaged pamphlet, illus. Contains list of pastors, 1760-1951; Consistories in 1790, 1900 and 1951; Consistory members 1900-1951; names of officers of church organizations in year of their founding and in 1951.
3. Dedication Service for the Enlarged and Remodeled Church House of The Niskayuna Reformed Church, the Rev. William H. Coons, Pastor, Sunday, May 6, 1956. Bulletin. 8p, illus.

Gail Winters  
Librarian



## **Pearse-Painter Family, Forts Ferry, NY**

### **Property Records**

**History:** The Pearse family members were early settlers in the Town of Clifton Park. Jacob Pearse is listed on the 1723 Census of Albany County. There was a Jacob Pearse living at Forts Ferry in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and there are Pierce families shown on the map of the town in the Saratoga County atlas, 1866 and other maps of the area.

**Scope:** This is a collection of deeds, wills, tax records, correspondence and other papers all related to the property of the Pearse-Painter family in Clifton Park at Forts Ferry. The Pearse property deeds begin in 1706 and end in 1896. There are early deeds in the collection, but the deeds are in need of repair; most are in pieces or have folded and have tears and many folds.

**Size:** 1 box, 1 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Donated by Douglas V. Smith, who was the owner of the Pearse-Painter home and purchased the home from Everett Painter about 1968.

#### **Contents:**

##### **Box 1:**

Folder 1: One page of genealogy notes on the family and descendants of Jacob Pearse and Jannetie, early settler at Forts Ferry.

Folder 2: Transport (deed) of property on the north side of the Maquaes (Mohawk) River from Ryer Schermerhorn to Maes Ryksen, Sept. 10, 1706.

Folder 3: Deed of property on the north side of the Maquaes (Mohawk) River to Maes Rykse van Franke, Jan. 15, 1713.

Folder 4: Deed of property in the Schenandahoi or Clifton Park Patent, from Abraham Hun of Albany to Jacobus Parce, of Town of Halfmoon, April 25,, 1795.

Folder 5: Deed of property from Dirk A. Bratt and David Van Der Hyden and Gertrudt, his wife to Jacobus Pearse of the Town of Halfmoon in the Nistijuna Patent in the Town of Halfmoon, Sept. 1, 1807.

Folder 6: Deed of property from Abraham Pearse of the Town of Halfmoon to John Pearse, Jr. of the same place, in the Clifton Park Patent, at Forts Ferry, Nov. 18, 1813.

Folder 7: Articles of Agreement between John Pearse, Jr. and Eldert Van Vranken to build a road, Sept. 8, 1818; road to be 9 feet wide and run along the Mohawk River beginning at the "Publick Road."

Folder 8: Deed from John Pearse and Mary Josephine Pearse, his wife, of Hoosick Falls to Tunis C. Pearse of the Town of Clifton Park of land at Forts Ferry, April 7, 1886.

Folder 9: Deed for property at Forts Ferry?, in Clifton Park from Louisa E. and James S. Clute of Cohoes, executors of the estate of Nicholas J. Clute to Tunis C. Pearse of Clifton Park, April 1, 1896.

Folder 10: Two wills as follows:

Jacobus Pearse of Town of Halfmoon, April 3 1812; notes Maria, wife, sons John, Abraham, Jacob, daughter Rachel.

James Pearse of Town of Clifton Park, June 29, 1872, mentions wife Gertrude and sons John, Tunis C., Sebastian C., and James Jr. and daughter Harriet A. Cary.

Folder 11: Papers, 1914, 1959-60, related to permits for use of canal lands between the NYS Dept. of Public Works and the Pearse and Painter families.

Folder 12: Papers, 1961-62, between Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. and Everett S. Painter related to Niagara Mohawk purchase of lands for right of way. Also, a deposition of Grace E. Painter, 1961 re: estate of Tunis C. Pearse.

Folder 13: Tax receipts of Everett S. Painter, 1955-1964.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## Peck Family

### Papers

**History:** Dr. Elizabeth Peck was born in 1911 and died in 2008 and lived her entire life in Clifton Park. She was physician for over a half century in the town. Her parents were Guy and Mary Peck. Both of her parents served as Town Clerks for Clifton Park. Dr. Peck was married to Dr. Philip Greene, who was the physician for Shenendehowa schools for many years. Dr. Peck had an avid interest in family genealogy and local history and collected a good deal of material of local historical interest.

**Scope:** The collection has correspondence and other papers of the Schauber family, Civil War related papers of the Baldwin family, letters to Harold N. Hackett, a prominent engineer, on his retirement from General Electric, papers of the Mielke family of Waterford, NY, several publications, newspaper clippings, photographs of local people and places, a large number of bills and receipts of Dr. Buel Latcher of Yonkers, NY. The collection has material dated from about 1860 to the 2000.

**Size:** 4 boxes, 4.5 linear feet

**Donors:** Dr. Elizabeth Peck and her daughter, Marilyn Greene except as noted.

#### Contents:

##### Box 1:

Folder 1: Genealogical information about three families, including: the Peck, Schauber and Close families.

Folder 2: Schauber family correspondence, including Bailey family . This correspondence includes letters from Jane Schauber to (her sister?) and others to Esther S(chauber) Bailey, who was living in Ogle County, IL, 1870-1876; letters to Mary Schauber; letters to Aunt Eltie?, 1873; letters to Isaac C. Schauber, n.d., and 1862; letter to ? Schauber, 1864 and letter to Mary Ogg from brother Henry, Interlaken, Switzerland, 1869; letter ( partial only) to David Schauber from his son, 1831; bill to Mr. Schauber from Howland S. Barney & Co., Schenectady, NY for dry goods, 1861. Photographs of Mary Elizabeth Schauber, Mary E. Ogg, and the Schauber family home at Ballston.

Folder 3: Baldwin family papers, incl.: Charles P. Baldwin's discharge from Army, 1864 and 1865 and pension letters to Phebe Baldwin, 1912 and 1919. Ontario County Teaching Certificate for Phebe A. Baldwin, 1865. Letters to Mrs. Lily Baldwin, Wayland, NY. From her husband, Will, 1901-1902. Letter to "My Brother Will" in Schenectady from Max, in Milwaukee, WS, 1911. Letter to "Mother," Minneapolis, MI, 1917. Letter to Mollie Baldwin, 1916..

Folder 4: Letters to Mr. and Mrs. Guy Peck from Rev. C.K. and Mrs. Osborn in Anadarko, OK, 1956; poem, "The Deerslayer," by Irv. to his hunting partner, Philip Greene.

Folder 5: Photographs as follows: Dr. Strang at Grooms Corners, ca. 1911, portraits of Enoch Lavers, Round Lake, NY, Mrs. Louis Nashk, Guy F. Cranford, Rose Palkover, Yowkler family, postcard photos of Shenendehowa Central School and Grant Cottage and color photo of unidentified man, 1998. Also, sympathy card, obituary and photo of Enoch Lavers, 1932.

Folder 5A: Photographs as follows: E. C. Lavers, Father Losee and Mother Losee (parents of Wm and James Losee). Minnie Brooks Caldwell, Eva G. Seaman. Group Photo: Dr. N. Garnsey, Mary Garnsey, Eunice Garnsey Seaman, and Emma Garnsey Kingsley, Sept. 3, 1913. Lydia Anthony George and Ethyl Kellyes, Klingbiel's Store, Grooms, Mr. and Mrs. H. Kline, Vischers Ferry, NY., J. Henry Kline, June 21, 1953. Ambrotype of Rev. John Reynolds, pastor of Clifton Park C. Church and his wife, photographed by B. D. Dennison.

Folder 5B: Snapshots taken of Clifton Park Center and Moe Roads taken by D. Elizabeth Peck in 1953, in spiral-bound folder.

**Donor:** Linda Krause, a relative of Dr. Peck and her daughter, Marilyn Green.

Folder 6: Newspaper clippings, probably collected by Elizabeth Peck, about a variety of topics, including news of Clifton Park people and events and local history.

Folder 7: Miscellaneous material including:

Cancelled checks and bank statement of George Huff from Hudson, NY bank, 1927

Miscellaneous papers of Arlington Seeley, Troy, NY 1940  
Receipt, 1769, for pew rent at St. George's Church to

David Soper

1919

Letter to J.R. Jump, Overseer of the Poor, Elnora, NY

Receipts from Joshua Anthony, Clifton Park, NY 1896  
Poem by Margaret E. Sangster, A Vesper Song, n.d.

Rankin Long,	Memorial poem, She Mothered Five, memory of Jean
1857 and instruction	Bill from John B. Marsh from Mary Shauber for music
1863	Letter to John L. Hill from Henry Doolittle
1870	Deed to property in Michigan
1885-1955 1941	Minutes of meeting of School Dist. #6, Clifton Park,  Address of Dr. W.E. Peterson at A.B.A. annual meeting, 1958 (about dairy farming), Birch Brae Farms, Jonesville, NY, memoir (2 p.) by Jennie Quivey, Scotia, NY Photocopy of a hand-drawn map of part of Clifton Park. Receipt for \$3.75 from Buel Latcher, M.D. for rent, from
J. R. Monroe	
Undated order of J. R.	A bill for groceries "furnished to Daniel Richardson by  Jump, from W. R. Du Bois. Hand-lettered and bound book of poems

**Box 2:**

The following folders 1-4 contain letters, telegrams, newsclippings, and other items all related to the career and in particular the retirement and retirement party of Harold N. Hackett. Hackett was a an engineer with General Electric for nearly 40 years and was a pioneer in the construction of atomic power facilities and the mercury-steam power plant. He was the manager of construction at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, worked on the design of the power plant of the Seawolf submarine and worked for several decades innovating the development of the mercury-steam power plants. The material in these folders was removed from a scrapbook and the original scrapbook is found in the oversize box of this collection.

Folder 1: Biographical and other material about H. N. Hackett, incl.: biographical resumes, his agreement with GE concerning ownership of patents, 1925, the original patent for improvement of mercury boilers, 1935, a GE publication about the story of Mercury-Steam, fifty year membership certificates of Hackett in Masons and Order of Eastern Star (in oversize box), two copies of program for his retirement dinner, Feb. 1, 1956 and other items.

Folder 2: Letters of congratulations to H.N. Hackett on his retirement, 1956, with a few other letters from later years about other matters.

Folder 3: Photographs, incl.: photos of Hackett's retirement dinner, 1956, a photo of the Seawolf, photo of Mt. McKinley, family photos, chiefly of Gladys Rouen Hackett (Mrs. H.N. Hackett) and one photo of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Folder 4: Newspaper clippings, of H.N. Hackett's retirement, obituaries and retirement notices of others, chiefly G.E. engineers, ca. 1956-1989.

Folders 5-7: These two folders contain bills and receipts for goods and services, ca. 1900-1915, paid for by Dr. Buel Latcher of Yonkers, NY and High Falls, NY. Dr. Latcher was born in Edinburgh, NY ca. 1876 and was married to Elizabeth A. ?. The bills and receipts appear to be for both his medical practice as well as for personal and home expenses. No family connection to Dr. Elizabeth Peck Greene was found.

Folder 8: Correspondence, 1915-1934 of Mrs. Benedict M. Wisner, a clerk in various federal government offices, Washington, DC, with those offices regarding her employment and her record of absence cards for various years, 1922-1933. No family connection to Dr. Elizabeth Peck Greene was found.

Folders 9-10: Papers and photographs of the John Mielke family of Waterford, NY, incl.: naturalization certificate of Margarethe Elfriede Mielke, 1946, certificate of marriage of John Mielke and Margaret Specht, Bronx, NY, 1942, obituary and funeral papers of John Mielke, 1895-1969, and photographs of the Mielke family, taken mainly in Germany and New York City. The photographs are of unidentified people, although several photos are of one couple, which may be Mr. and Mrs. Mielke. Mielke was born in Germany and owned the Crescent Diner from about 1961-1969. He lived most of his life in Babylon, Long Is., NY. No family connection to Dr. Elizabeth Peck Greene was found.

### **Box 3: Publications:**

This box contains miscellaneous printed items found in the collection. Included in this series are:

Env. 1: *Chime of Bells*, Miss Emma A. Lent, Albany, 1883; with a poem titled Arbor Hill, about the Clifton Park Center Baptist Cemetery

Env. 2: *Golden Jubilee of the City Charter of Mechanicville, NY, 1915-1965*

*The Grist Mill, ... Journal of the Saratoga County Museum, A Teachers'*

*Bibliography of Saratoga County History*, Margaret Coffin, 1985; also issue for 1986.

*The Echo, Oneonta High School, 1930* (school news magazine)

Env. 3: Three catalogs: Adult Continuing Education at Shenendehowa Central Schools, 1976; history book catalogs of Harbor Hill Books, 1979 and R.O'Hare, Burnt Hills, NY

Env. 4: *Ladies' Indispensable Assistant*, New York, 1851, only title and pages 1-16

Env. 5: School graduation commencement announcements for Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake and Clifton Park schools, 1925-1932 and same for Easton, (PA) High School, 1900.

Folder 1: *Time Magazine*, Jan. 23, 1950 with story about Alice Nash

Folder 2: *Clothes That Worked in Saratoga, 1790-1820* and *Proposed...Town of Clifton Park Sewer System, 1970*

Folder 3: *Letters Gold Rush Days '49*, transcribed by Howard Becker, 1957

Folder 4: Miscellaneous publications of the Clifton Park Center Baptist Church, Burnt Hills Baptist Church and other Baptist churches, including bulletins, programs, clippings, etc. The following are a few of the items:

*Bicentennial of Clifton Park Center Baptist Church, 1794-1994*, a brief history of the church; also two worship bulletins, 1994; Abijah Peck was the first pastor of this church.

*All Saints Episcopal, Round Lake, NY, Concert...Commemorating the Round Lake Centennial, 1868-1968*

*First Baptist Church, Hamilton, NY Historical Sketch, 1796-1961*, by Howard D. Williams

Folder 5: Miscellaneous bulletins, clippings and other printed items of various churches including the Burnt Hills Methodist Church and two issues of *The Civic Bulletin* of the Christian Civic League, Albany, NY

Folder 6: Newspaper clippings of obituaries and wedding announcements, mainly ca. 2006-2007 with a few earlier.

Folder 7: Two typewritten memoirs (*Life on the Sunny Side* and *The Twilight Years*) of Jennie M. Quivey of Burnt Hills, NY, 1986 and 1987

Folder 8: Miscellaneous items, including a 2002 issue of the *Grooms Tavern Gazette*, flyers of the Schenectady Bird Club. "Aunt Jane," a typewritten pamphlet in honor of Jane Park, from the Saratoga County Pomona Grange. A 1920 Time Book,

Folders 9-10: Financial Diaries (2)

Folder 9: A ledger of accounts of fabric which seems to have been kept by William Barker, West Troy, NY, ca. 1873-1884

Folder 10: A "Wanamaker Diary" for 1919 of household expenses for a household in southeastern Pennsylvania

#### **Box 4: Town Government Records**

Envelope: Assessment Books of the Ballston Lake Dist. #2 (?) for Sept. 1936, April 1937 and Oct. 1938

Register of Voters, 1<sup>st</sup> E.D. of the 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly Dist., Town of Clifton Park, Ellsworth Smith, Jr., 1930 includes name of voter, residence, date of registration.

Folder 1: Election Poll Book, 1<sup>st</sup> Dist., Town of Clifton Park, NY 1907, incl. names of voters, residence. Election Poll Book, 2<sup>nd</sup> E.D., Town of Clifton Park, 1910

Folder 2: Election Poll Books, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3d Districts, Town of Clifton Park, Saratoga County, 1918 and 1919, include names of voters, residence.

Folder 3: Certificate: The Grand Chapter of the State of New York, Royal Arch Masons, Warren Chapter No. 23, Ballston Spa, June 23, 1927. To Harold N. Hackett for Fifty Years as a Companion of the Royal Craft.

Folder 4: Newspapers:

Ballston Journal, issues for 1976, incl.: Jan. 28, March 24, June 23, June 30, July 7 issues that all have articles re: to the American Revolution Bicentennial.

Jim Corsaro  
Archivist

Revised, 2014  
Gail Winters  
Librarian



# Cyrus W. Rexford

## Papers

**History:** Cyrus W. Rexford (1819-1900) was a descendant of one of the founder of Rexford Flats and became a prominent citizen of the village over many years. He was the largest landowner in the Rexford Flats, a farmer for many years and later a merchant there. He was also the owner of the Rexford Flats Hotel and owner of several tenement houses in the village. He also operated a canal boat line that ran from Schenectady to New York City carrying grain and other products. He was the major owner of the Rexford Flats Bridge Company. He was a Republican, was active in recruiting soldiers during Civil War, served as Town Supervisor and as Justice of the Peace. He was married to Hannah M. Haliston of Clifton Park and they had five children; Oscar, Jennie A., Cyrus W., Fannie and LeGrand, who was a partner with his father in the Rexford & Son store.

**Scope:** This collection is concerned with the Rexford family, particularly Cyrus W. Rexford, and the family's property and businesses at Rexford Flats, NY. There is a small amount of biographical material about Cyrus W. Rexford, a large quantity of documentation concerning the settlement of his estate by his son, LeGrand Rexford, many deeds, mortgages and other land records of the family, land and legal records of the Rexford Flats Knitting Co. and the Rexford Flats Bridge Co., both of which the Rexford family were primary owners. Some correspondence of Cyrus W. Rexford and some letters of Eleazer A. Rexford from California is also found in the collection.

**Size:** 1 box, 1 lin.ft.

**Donor:** This collection was donated by Julie Sproat.

### **Contents:**

#### *Biographical Material:*

Folder 1: Biographical material about C.W. Rexford, incl.: a draft biographical sketch from Gresham Publishing Co. and a letter to Rexford about Rexford genealogy from an unknown person in Jamesville, Wis., 1882.

Folder 2: Will of Alonzo L. Rexford, 1857 (brother of C.W. Rexford).

Folder 3: Will of Cyrus W. Rexford, three copies: handwritten will signed by Rexford , March 12, 1892 and 2 typed copies, Oct. 1900.

Folder 3A: Papers of Eleazer A. Rexford, C.W. Rexford's brother, incl.. two letters from him from Petaluma, CA, 1862 and 1864, and two letters from S. Collins to C.W. and E.A. Rexford, 1866 requesting that a debt owed by E.A. Rexford to F.W.Collins in Petaluma be paid; also document giving C.W. Rexford power of attorney for E.A. Rexford, 1858. List of items bought by C.W. Rexford at estate sale of E.A. Rexford. Also, notification and transcript from a lawsuit of Mary M. Rexford, widow of E.A. Rexford v. C.W. Rexford, 1871.

*Business and Legal Papers of C.W. Rexford, Rexford Family and others:*

Folder 4: Rexford Flats Bridge Company: Mortgage of the company with J.A. De Renner and W.T.L. Sanders, 1885. Also, affidavit and report (2 cop.) of the lawsuit, Emmor J. Caldwell v. Rexford Flats Bridge Co. and LeGrand Rexford as executor of the C.W. Rexford estate, Supreme Court, Saratoga Co., 1901.

Folder 5: Rexford Flats Knitting Company: letters, 1897 and minutes of meeting of Board of Directors, 1897; mortgage with Stephen Medberry, 1888 and draft of agreement between C.W. Rexford and the company, 1888. Also, a deed of C.W. Rexford and his wife, Hannah, to the Rexford Flats Knitting Co., 1888.

Folder 6: Deed of LeGrand Rexford and Electric Milk Co., 1905, Incandescent and Arc contract of L.Rexford and Schenectady Railway Co., 1903, subscription list for payment of electric lights for one year for church?, miscellaneous material re: to electric contracts.

Folder 7: Deeds (2), bond and mortgage of the Redmens Association of Rexford Flats, with John McLane and others, 1902, 1905, 1907; also minutes of meeting of Association, 1907.

Folder 8: Deeds, bond, mortgage, release of the Mohawk Lodge, No. 55 of Independent Order of Good Templars with various persons, 1891-95, 1901.

Folder 9: Legal papers related to a case of Jemima Rexford (widow of Eleazer Rexford) and others making a claim for relief because of appropriation of lands of the family for the Erie Canal, 1851-1855, 1885. Includes a printed copy of the opinion in the case of the NYS Court of Appeals, 1854 and a release of the Canal Board to Jemima Rexford, 1856, that has a detailed map of the canal, locks and adjoining lands involved in the case. Also, statement of the amount of the award granted to Jemima Rexford and others for lands appropriated by the state canal dept., 1844.

Folder 10: File of legal papers related to a claim in the NYS Court of Claims of Cyrus W. Rexford and his heirs for damages by the state in filling in a basin on the canal that has caused damage to the Rexford property, 1896-1901. Includes a copy of the Stenographer's Minutes of the case, Albany, Jan. 19, 1900

*Cyrus W. Rexford Estate Papers:*

Folder 11: Deeds to cemetery lots for Jemima Rexford, Greenridge Cemetery, Saratoga Springs, NY, 1857 and Cyrus W. Rexford, Vale Cemetery, Schenectady, NY, 1868.

Folders 12-15: Estate Papers of Cyrus W. Rexford. The executor of the estate was LeGrand Rexford and the papers date from 1900-1908. There are correspondence, cancelled checks, petitions, citations, executor's accounts, decrees, inventories of the estate's assets and property (F.15), and other material.

*Miscellaneous Papers:*

Folder 16: Accounts of settlement of the O.D. Rexford, grocer in Schenectady, NY, 1880. Including list of goods probably purchased at auction sale of the Rexford grocery by C.W. Rexford, Sept. 17, 1880.

Folder 17: LeGrand Rexford business papers, chiefly with the Schenectady Railway Co., 1903-04, including map of the Rexford, Veeder and Travis properties at Rexford Flats, 1903 and a map of the property of Rexford, Travis, Hunt, and Veeder, Rexford Flats, 1904.. Also two letters, 1916, regarding stock in the Morris Plan Co. of Schenectady.

Folder 18: Land records of LeGrand Rexford with John McLane, Rexford Flats, NY, 1905, 1907, 1918.

Folder 19: Letters to Cyrus W. Rexford, 1866-1899.

Folder 20: Deeds and mortgages of various people, 1844-1893, chiefly others than C.W. Rexford and mainly concerning lands at Rexford Flats and adjacent lands.

Folder 21: Miscellaneous material, incl. clippings re: the Schenectady City Bank, some receipts, used envelopes, and other items.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## William Scanlon Collection

**History:** This collection of material is from the Scanlon family from the decade of the Forties and the Peck family who lived in the same homestead that the Scanlon family later occupied.

**Scope:** Correspondence, land records, war ration books and tax receipts. The correspondence is of the Peck family of Grooms Corners, NY and the other material is from Scanlon family.

**Size:** 1 box, ½ lin.ft.

**Donor:** William Scanlon, 2010

### **Contents:**

Folder 1-3: Papers related to the Peck family found at King Crest Farm, Grooms Corners

Folder 1: Letters of Campbell K. Peck to his mother, Nancy (Mrs. Nathan K. Peck) written from Hamilton College, when he was about 17-18 years old, 1848-1849; also tuition bill for Peck from Jonesville Academy, April 1847

Folder 2: Letters of Nathan Garnsey Peck and his mother and to Nathan from unknown and D.A. Peck to his Aunt, n.d., 1844-1848 and miscellaneous scraps, including a list of candidates at an election.

Folder 3: Scraps of fabric found at King Crest Farm.

Folder 4: Property search and description of property of Newman E. and Barbara Adsit, at Grooms Corners; Deed of William Scanlon and Arcelia Scanlon to William Scanlon, Jr., Clifton Park, NY, 1939.

Folder 5: Receipts for state, county, town and school taxes for Wm. Scanlon, 1946-1948 and Porter Hennett?, 1928; also War Ration Books, 1943, of Barbara, William and Marian Scanlon; a memorial card of Wicks Rosell, n.d.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## **Ordie H. and Rose Shippee Collection**

**History:** Ordie H. Shippee was born 1882 in Vischer Ferry, married Rose Dunham and the couple had two sons (Lathrop and Roy) and a daughter (Isabella). Ordie Shippee owned a Shippee's General Store in Rexford for many years after taking it over from his father Jesse Shippee, was an Overseer of the Stoney Creek Reservoir, was active in the local Republican Party in Clifton Park, and served as party committeeman and a town councilman. He was a Charter Member of the Vischer Ferry Fire Company. He died in 1982. Rose Dunham was born 1906 in New York City but attended school and grew up in Clifton Park

**Scope:** This collection includes correspondence, diaries, business records of a general store in Rexford, NY, many family photographs of the Shippee family, newspaper clippings of obituaries and Clifton Park/Vischer Ferry news, diaries that enumerate some of the work on Stoney Creek Reservoir done by Ordie Shippee, many invitations and announcements of weddings and births and personal financial records of the Shippee family, particularly tax returns and receipts.

**Size:** 3 boxes, 3 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Shippee family

**Contents:**

**Box 1:**

Folder 1: Biographical Papers of Ordie H. and Rose Dunham Shippee Family, incl.: birth certificates of Rose Dunham, obituary and memorial card for Ordie Shippee, certificates of satisfactory passing of school exams of Rose Dunham in Clifton Park. Memorial book for funeral of Sarah C. Shippee, 1862-1955 (Ordie's mother) and an obituary of Jesse Shippee, 1855-1951 (Ordie's father)

Folder 2: Letters and postcards to Rose and Ordie Shippee, 1918-1986, mainly from 1943 about family events, etc.

Folder 3: Political/governmental papers of Ordie Shippee, incl.: election results, 1955; letter from Town of Colonie keeping Shippee as an Overseer at Reservoir; maps of highway system in Clifton Park, 1940 and 1955 and several

sheets of Town of Clifton Park letterhead with Shippee listed as Councilman. Also, campaign cards (many copies) for Shippee running for Councilman in Clifton Park, and single cards for Edward T. Bradt and Martin L. Jewett running for Supervisor. Also, printed land boundary description of Interstate Route #502, Latham-Clifton Park Section re: to Stoney Creek Reservoir.

Folder 4: Bills and other papers of Ordie H. Shippee, including of his general store business. Included in this group are blank copies of the general store bill; business certificate, 1945, of Shippee and Edwards, successor to business owned by Ordie Shippee; insurance policies, bills for 1938 and 1948 Oldsmobiles purchased by Shippee and other papers. Also, the will of Clara M. Cooper, Amsterdam, NY 1955

Folder 5: Federal and state income tax returns and receipts of payment for county and town taxes for Ordie and Rose Shippee, ca. 1940-1960.

Folder 6: Newsclippings of obituaries and wedding announcements.

Folder 7: Invitation and announcement cards sent to the Shippees.

Folder 8: Publications, as follows:

List of Enrolled Voters of the Town of Clifton Park...1958-1959

Constitution and By-Laws of the Eagle Crest Rebekah Lodge, No. 367, I.O.O.F., Batchellerville, NY, 1908

Directory of the Towns of Clifton Park and Halfmoon...1957?

U.S. Govt., How to Obtain Birth Certificates, 1956

Webster (Pocket) Dictionary, 1914 belonged to Rose Dunham, Vischer Ferry, missing

cover/title page; Identification page includes personal information about Rose Dunham

**Box 2:**

**Diaries:**

Diary of Rose Shippee, 1988 (entries, many brief, until August 9), family news, weather, etc.

Diary of Ordie Shippee, 1955, weather, news of work, especially on dam at Reservoir

Diary of Ordie Shippee, 1953, (July to Dec. 1953 entries) about his job at Stoney Creek Reservoir

Account book of Ordie's store and personal affairs, 1947-1955

Ledger of Ordie Shippee, 1922 (personal expenses/income) and general store ledger accounts, 1941

Scrapbook of clippings about recipes, baby announcements, invitations to showers, obituaries, clippings about men and women in armed services in World War II, story about Jesse and Sarah Shippee 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1947.

Folder of miscellaneous newspaper clippings.

Miscellaneous artifacts, incl.: Pencils (2) from campaign of Douglas Hudson running for State Senate, envelope with date of Aug. 27, 1981 of clip of unidentified person's hair and two cards; napkins from various anniversary dinners.

Fiftieth Anniversary book of Ordie and Rose Shippee, June 11, 1977, with list of attendees, in original box.

**Box 3:**

**Photographs (need sleeving)**

Oversize photograph of an unidentified family on steps of a front porch, ca. 1900.

Photographs of 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Rose and Ordie Shippee

Photographs of another anniversary of the Shippees

Miscellaneous photographs

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## **Florence Dunham Sims Scrapbooks**

**History:** This is a collection of material collected by Florence Hull Dunham Sims about variety of topics, chiefly the Amity Reformed Church and local history, particularly of Vischer Ferry, NY. Florence Sims was born in 1904 and died in Rexford, NY in 2001.

**Scope:** This collection consists of 2 scrapbooks and a few folders of clippings, pamphlets, some photographs and miscellaneous other material related to the history of the Amity Reformed Church and Vischer Ferry, NY. There are clippings of obituaries, mainly of deceased from Vischer Ferry and Clifton Park, NY. The two scrapbooks are the “magnetic,” type and the material is adhered so firmly to the pages that to attempt to remove the material will probably destroy it. Therefore, the best solution would be to photocopy or scan the pages in these scrapbooks to preserve the information. There are several group photos in the scrapbook with identifying labels that need to be removed along with their labeling and stored in photographic sleeves.

**Size:** 1 lin. ft., 1 box

**Donor:** Florence D. Sims

### **Contents:**

**Scrapbook #1:** This scrapbook is a “magnetic” scrapbook with sticky pages. The material in the scrapbook is adhered and cannot be removed without, in most case, destroying the material. Most of the contents is newspaper clippings. The content of the clippings is chiefly related to local history in the Capital District region, rather than only in the Town of Clifton Park and includes articles about the Erie Canal, Fox Hollow music festival, Joseph Hidley, a painter from Poestenkill, and so forth. There are also several clippings of obituaries; the dates of this scrapbook are ca. 1970-1984.

**Scrapbook #2:** This scrapbook is a “magnetic” scrapbook with sticky pages. The material in the scrapbook is adhered and cannot be removed without, in most case, destroying the material. This scrapbook is chiefly devoted to the Amity Reformed Church, Vischer Ferry, NY. There are clippings about and church programs from the Amity Reformed Church. There are also 16, mainly group photos, of groups at the church or of church



groups with labeling identifying all in the photos. There many obituaries, mainly of deceased from Vischer Ferry.

Folder 1: Newspaper clippings, some pasted on boards from a “magnetic” scrapbook, with clippings about local history of Vischer Ferry and other localities, obituaries and miscellaneous topics.

Folder 2: Issues of the newsletter of the Vischer Ferry Association, 1980, 1984 with some local history articles by John Scherer.

Folder 3: Amity Reformed Church material, including, directories of the church for 1980-81 and 1985, history of the church in a Sesquicentennial pamphlet, a leaflet about the church, a postcard photo of the altar of the church, miscellaneous papers about the church, 1986-87.

Folder 4: Photographs (6) of groups of people with one group identified, photo of a house, postcard photo of an unidentified group.

Folder 5: Material about the history of Vischer Ferry, NY, including: V.F. Canal Days, '88 pamphlet for a house tour of the village in May 1988; *Beautiful Vischer Ferry*, an illustrated souvenir guide to the village, n.d., (ca. 1920?). Also, two sheets of Avery labels with portrait bookplate of Florence Sims.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## **George H. Smith Collection**

**History:** George H. Smith was a carpenter and grocer in Vischer Ferry and served a Commissioner of Highways. He was a Republican and was possibly a Mason. His son, George F. Smith was an owner of the Vischer Ferry Hotel and his grandson Douglas Smith, the donor of this collection, was active in historical organizations and activities in Saratoga County.

**Scope:** Four ledgers and one check register of a general store in Vischer Ferry, pocket account/cash /day books of the store and personal affairs of Geo. H. Smith and others and diary of Geo. H. Smith as well as other papers of the Smith and his family. The owner of the store is not identified, but appears to have been George H. Smith. Two of the ledgers give little information beyond the name of the persons transacting business, but two of the ledgers provide not only the name of the persons, but what goods and food they purchased.

**Size:** 3 linear feet, 3 boxes

**Donor:** Douglas Smith, 1983, 1985.

### **Contents:**

#### **Ledger Books:**

This is a series of 4 ledger books of a general store in Vischer Ferry, NY and owned by George H. Smith.

#### **Box 1:**

**Ledger Book #1:** Includes surnames, date of transaction, what transacted (almost listed as Mdse. or Cash) and amount of money transacted. Includes an index of surnames many of them residents of Vischer Ferry (e.g. Clute, Reformed Church, Clifton Park Tele. Co., Fort, Groat, Lansing, Knowlton, Pearse, Van Vranken, Vischer.); ca. 1903-1907.

**Ledger Book #2:** General store in Vischer Ferry, (same handwriting as in ledger #1) with names of customers, what they purchased (e.g. food of all kinds, saw blade, lampblack, white lead paint, etc.) and price. No name index; March-Dec. 1907.

## **Box 2:**

Ledger #3: Same type of ledger as Ledger #1 with same type of information and indexing, ca. 1900-1907 (months and days are noted, without years) Same handwriting as ledgers #1-2.

Ledger 4: General store ledger in Vischer Ferry, Oct. 28, 1905-May 30, 1906;) with names of customers, what they purchased and price. No name index.

Check Register, 1906-1911, from the Citizens Trust Company, Schenectady, NY, belonged to George H. Smith, Vischer Ferry. Same handwriting as in the ledger books above and many of the checks are to food companies.

## **Box 3:**

### **Pocket Account/Day/Cash Books**

This is a series of small business and personal account books of cash received and spent and other business related books. The books include the following:

#1: Accounts of personal income and expenses, 1886-1892, unknown , includes lists of Christmas presents purchased and other interesting details

#2: Day book of George H. Smith, 1886-88

#3: Account book, chiefly of wages at Locks 19,20,21, 1905, 1909

#4: Account book of coal purchases from George H. Smith, 1886

#5: Accounts of personal income and expenses, 1899-1903, unknown

#6: Receipt book of G. H. Smith General Merchandise, Vischer Ferry, NY, 1911

#7: Account book of F. J. Vischer in account with J.C. Losee, Dry Goods and Groceries

#8: Diary, 1913 (1922), blank except for a few accounts and notes; diary belonged to

George H. Smith, Schenectady, NY, who used it in 1922. He gives physical details in

In 1922, including he weighed 170 lbs. and was 5'6'.

### **Miscellaneous Material:**

The following includes a variety of historical documentation found in this collection.

Folder 1: Material of and by Francis J. Vischer and his mother, Rachel Vischer, 1846-1890, including receipts for goods and services, a draft notice to Francis J. Vischer from the 29<sup>th</sup> Regt., NYS Militia, Jonesville, NY, 1864 and a list of household furniture and other items given to Francis J. by his mother Rachel Vischer, 1851. These documents were in a red leather wallet, which remains with the documents.

Folder 2: 3 Shares of stock of the Vischers Ferry Bridge Company issued to Geo. H. Smith, 1900.

Folder 3: Papers re: to operation of ferry at Vischers Ferry by T. E. Gavin, 1921 and sales agreement of sale of ferry scow and other related items to G.F.Smith and C.C. Sherman, 1921.

Folder 4: Agreements (2) to build barns of Geo. H. Smith, at the Gates farm, 1878, and at the Parsonage of the Reformed Church, Vischers Ferry, 1889, bond of Geo. H. Smith as Commissioner of Highways, 1892, and brief minutes of meeting to organize a Republican Club held at the home of Geo. H. Smith, 1888.

Folder 5: Miscellaneous items, including a group of bills of Charles Biele, Coffees and Teas, NY, NY to Henry Riekers, 1901; miscellaneous pages from a report of the Brooklyn Masonic Veterans; blank bills of Geo. H. Smith, Village Hotel and Livery, Vischer Ferry, NY; miscellaneous receipts and two letters to John Scherer from Smith family members, 1983 and 1985.

Oversize items (2): Filed in Map Case drawer.

Part of a page of a newspaper (Utica Globe) from Utica, NY 1907  
Schenectady Daily Union, issue for July 8, 1876

James Corsaro  
Archivist

# **Southern Saratoga County Woman's Club**

## **Collection**

**History:** This organization was begun on January 21, 1971 by women from Halfmoon and Clifton Park; it became a member of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs in May of that year. The group's objective is "community improvement through personal involvement." Members help women veterans at the VA. Hospital, support Guardian House (a shelter for homeless female veterans in Ballston Spa), and help at the Jonesville Food Pantry. Specific projects have included programs on bicycle safety and a major campaign for seatbelt safety in 1980-1982. Over the years the club has raised funds in support of organizations such as CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services and area fire departments. The group has a social side as well; members have progressive suppers and attended local musical entertainment together.

**Scope:** The bulk of the collection consists of photographs and newspaper articles about the group, fixed to colored paper in a scrapbook format spanning the years from 1971 to 1992. After that date, publicity clippings were collected and are in envelopes for each decade. For many years, each member received a little booklet, bound with wallpaper, with lists of programs, officers, and the names, addresses and phone numbers of members. The collection also includes organizational materials, reports, and membership lists.

**Size:** 3 boxes, 3 linear ft.

**Donor:**

**Contents:**

**Box 1:**

Folder 1: By-laws and Standing Rules, 1975-1976. Membership Application. Overview, 1985, and draft. By-Laws and Standing Rules, Revised 1996. Invitation to Clifton Park Woman's Club, 1972. Letterhead notecard with envelope. Pamphlet: GWFC - New York State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Folder 2: Membership lists and reports.

Folder 3: Statements of Receipts, Disbursements and Cash Balance.

Folder 4 - 5: Press Releases, 1977-1993, with correspondence, reports, meeting notes, etc. kept by Kathryn (Kitty) Gleason. Folder 5 includes the Newsletter, Nov.-Dec. 1990, of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Folder 6 - 7: "Buckle Up For Safety Campaign," 1980-1982.

**Scrapbooks:**

Folder 8: Scrapbook pages: 1971, 1971-1972.

Folder 9: Scrapbook pages: 1973-1975.

**Box 2:**

Folder 1: Scrapbook pages: 1974-1975, 1975-1976.

Folder 2: Scrapbook pages: 1975-1976.

Folder 3: Scrapbook pages: 1976-1977.

Folder 4: Scrapbook pages: 1977-1978.

Folder 5: Scrapbook pages: 1978-1979, 1979-1980, 1980-1981.

Folder 6: Scrapbook pages: 1981-1982.

Folder 7: Scrapbook pages: 1982-1983.

Folder 8: Scrapbook pages: 1983-1984.

Folder 9: Scrapbook pages: 1984-1985.

**Box 3:**

Folder 1: Scrapbook pages: 1984-1986.

Folder 2: Scrapbook pages: 1986-1989.

Folder 3: Scrapbook pages: 1989-1990.

Folder 4: Scrapbook pages: 1990-1991.

Folder 5: Scrapbook pages: 1991-1992.

Folder 6: Scrapbook pages: 1992-1993.

Folder 7: Booklets, 1993-1994, 1994-1995, 1995-1996. Newspaper clippings:  
1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010. Program: CAPTAIN of Shenendehowa, Inc.  
Annual Awards Reception, April 9, 1994.

Gail Winters, Librarian

2014

# Stony Creek Reservoir

## Papers

**History:** The Stony Creek Reservoir was built in 1952 and completed in 1953. The reservoir is owned by the Town of Colonie and was acquired by that town, after much public debate and litigation, by eminent domain and by private sale of lands. The reservoir was opposed by the Clifton Town Board and by many residents of the towns of Colonie and Clifton Park, especially residents of Vischer Ferry, where the reservoir was to be located. The residents sent petitions to the state government to oppose the construction and brought suits against the town of Colonie, but ultimately lost the battle against the reservoir. The opposition in Vischer Ferry was led by three residents, A.C. Stevens, Chester Hall, the owner of the Francis Vischer historic home and Howard Becker, the Town Historian and the owner of some land that was impacted by the dam and reservoir. Residents suggested the Ranney plan as a source of water rather than the reservoir. The Vischer house was moved to Menands, NY. The construction also caused the loss of Van Vranken Road, the oldest road in the town of Clifton Park.

**Scope:** This collection includes a variety of material that provides substantial documentation of the public fight over the construction of the dam and reservoir. It includes court documents, petitions of opposition to the reservoir, correspondence, publications and reports related to water supply, reservoirs and dams, maps, resolutions against the reservoirs, photographs, and minutes of meetings of Clifton Park Protective Association (opposition to dam/reservoir).

**Size:** 2 boxes, 2 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Howard Becker

**Contents:**

**Box 1:**

*Series: Proposals for Water Supply, Engineers Reports and Public Hearings*

This series includes the proposals and reports and cost estimates of Keis & Holroyd, engineers ; for the reservoir for the Town of Colonie and hearings



related to the proposal; also documentation about the Ranney Method of Water Supply.

Folder 1: Proposal, Contract, and Specifications for ...Water Supply from Stony Creek for the Latham Water District, Colonie, NY, by Keis & Holroyd, Engineers, Troy, NY 1949 used by the Town of Colonie requesting bids for the construction of the reservoir, ca. 290 pp.

Folder 2: Explanation of the cost estimate from the proposal for water supply, 1950, from Keis and Holroyd to Timothy F. Cohan, the attorney who represented the opposition to the reservoir.

Folder 3: File of publications and advertising flyers by and about the Ranney Method Water Supplies and letters to T. F. Cohan and William Sanford, Supervisor of Colonie, 1950; also a drawing of a proposal Ranney Collector for the Town of Colonie, 1950.

Folder 4: Stenographic records of minutes of testimony at public hearings of the NYS Water Power and Control Commission, Town of Colonie, Feb. 1, 1949 and April 18, 1950, (from Chester Hall.)

Folder 5: Report on proposed...Supply of Water for Latham Water District, Sept. 1949, submitted Keis & Holroyd, submitted to the Town of Colonie; also cost estimate explanation for the proposal, 1950 and costs figures, 1950.

Folder 6: Report on the Proposed Additional Supply of Water for the Latham Water District, Colonie, NY, Sept. 1949 made to the Colonie Town Board by Keis & Holyroyd, 3 copies.

Folder 7: Maps related to the creation of the reservoir and general maps of New York State and vicinity of the reservoir. These maps are filed in the map case.

Map of Saratoga County Highway System, 1938 and 1944(3 cop.)  
Highway Map, Schenectady County, NY, 1941  
Albany County,, 1949  
Map of the Adirondack Mountains..., 1928  
Albany, Sectional Aeronautical Chart, 1948  
Highway Map, Town of Niskayuna, 1938  
Latham Water District, Colonie, NY Additional Water Supply, Stoney  
Creek (Photostat  
and 15 copies of this map)  
Aerial photos of the reservoir, 10 photos

Map, handdrawn in pencil, of Vischer Ferry?, n.d. with names of residents and homes indicated.

*Series: Papers related to Opposition to the Stony Creek Reservoir*

This series includes petitions, litigation records, correspondence, minutes of meetings, resolutions in opposition to the reservoir/dam, and other papers produced by the opposition to the construction of the dam and reservoir and to the closing of Van Vranken Road by the Latham Water District.

Folder 8: Opposing Statement and Exhibits ...of the Town of Clifton Park vs. the proposed construction of a dam and creation of a reservoir on Stony Creek at Vischer Ferry, Jan. 1950, including a statement by the Town Board, a large number of petitions to the Town Board to oppose the project and resolutions by 22 organizations. Also, Decision of the NYS Dept. of Conservation, Water Power and Control Commission approving the Latham Water District proposal, June 1950 (2 cop.). Also, 2 letters to Chester Hall from law firms re: his opposition to the project.

Folder 9: Resolutions of various organizations against the dam/reservoir proposal from groups in Clifton Park and Schenectady County, 1950. Also, a list of organizations making resolutions and the number of members in each organization.

**Box 2:**

Folder 1: Letter/Statement of the Colonie Taxpayers Protective Association to residents of the Town of Colonie, Feb. 1951, opposing the dam/reservoir project and supporting the Ranney System for water supply. The letter was sent to 10,000 Colonie residents. (3 cop.). Also a Comparison Chart of the Dam/Reservoir with the Ranney System. Also, an Open Letter to the ...Town Board of Colonie, NY about Ranney System; also notes, probably by Howard Becker.

Folder 2: Correspondence of various residents of Clifton Park and Colonie, NY to Gov. Thomas Dewey, NYS Comptroller, Frank C. Moore, Commissioner of Agriculture, Perry Duryea and others opposing the dam/reservoir project and asking their support, mainly Feb. 1950.

Folder 3: File of meeting minutes of the Clifton Park Protective Association and notes (probably by Howard Becker) about meetings and work to be done to oppose the project, Nov. 1949. Petitions signed by landowners of land proposed for the reservoir proposed agreeing not to sell their lands, Nov. 1949. Also, mimeographed statements about disadvantages of project

to Clifton Park, list of newspaper articles about dam floods, and list of points to make in letters to Gov. Dewey. Also, minutes of meetings of opposition to dam/reservoir held at homes of Chester Hall and A.C. Stevens, Jan.-Feb. 1950. Also, list of enrolled voters of the Town of Clifton Park, 1947-1948.

Folder 4: File of correspondence from Timothy F. Cohan, attorney for opposition to project to various cities re: whether Solomon & Keis, Troy, NY did surveys, reports or built water supply systems and list of the replies received after the Keis testimony to the Water Power and Control Commission hearing on the project.

Folder 5: Letter, 2/13/1951, from Jared S. Horton, Colonie Taxpayers Association to William K. Sanford and Colonie Town Board, 4 cop.

Folder 6: Correspondence of H. Becker and Chester Hall with others, Dec.1949-Jan.1950; Also, a statement by H. Becker giving points to make at project hearing in Feb. 1950 and a copy of an article about law for riparian owners from the magazine, *Rural New Yorker*. Also, a chart by Howard Becker, showing curve of total assessed valuation in the Town of Clifton Park from 1945-1953.

Folder 7: Testimony of James G. Tripp and Frank R. Williams re: cost of river crossing and rebuilding of two roads before the Water Power and Control Commission, 1951, 3 cop.

Folder 8: File of papers re: to the Latham Water District application to close Town Road #16 (Van Vranken Road) incl.: the application, petitions against application, correspondence, litigation including, objections to the application by the town of Clifton Park, judgment in the case and other papers.

*Series: Publications related to Water Supply Issue and Historic Preservation*

Folder 9: Brochures and Press Release re: the creation of the National Trust in October 1949, sent to Chester I. Hall, Visscherdaal, Rexford, NY

Folder 10: Publications re: ground water, including two reports on ground water in Albany County.

Folder 11: Emergency Action Plan for Dam Failure, Stony Creek Reservoir, Colonie Dam, from Latham Water District, Effective Period, June 1985-June 1987, with letter to Clifton Park Supervisor, 1985

Folder 12: Two newspaper articles; on Visscherdaal house moved from Stony Creek to Loudonville, NY, 1953 and one on the building of the dam at Stony Creek, 1952. Article about the Ranney System in *Life*, Nov. 16, 1942

*Series: Photographs*

These photographs are nearly all taken by Howard Becker, Feb. 1950. The photos have been interleaved, but are not in photo sleeves. The Becker photos are separated into three groups: photos of the woods at Stony Creek, photos of men working (surveying, augering soil, etc.) at Stony Creek and photos of Visscherdaal (Chester I. Hall house) and other houses at Stony Creek. There are duplicates of most of these photographs. Also, smaller format photos of the following: Ranney Collector at Wallingford, CT, n.d., probably ca. 1950; Flooded area at Stony Creek?, n.d.; photos of people in a town hall meeting?, n.d., ca. 1950. Glass plate photograph of map of Stony Creek (prints of this map are with the maps in Box 1, Folder 7).

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## **Town of Clifton Park Justice of the Peace Records**

**History:** Justices of the Peace were appointed in New York State from 1777-1821 by the state Council of Appointment. By the Constitution of 1821, the justices began to be named by the supervisor and judges of each county. By 1830, the election of justices was a matter taken up at each town meeting. John W. Van Vranken, the main Justice of the Peace whose records are represented here, was first elected in 1853 and re-elected in 1865. The work of the Justice Court was concerned with criminal cases.

**Scope:** This is a series of records of the Justice's Court, i.e., the Justices of the Peace of the Town of Clifton Park, 1848-1869. The papers found in this series include: Depositions, Complaints and Answers of plaintiffs and defendants, Subpoenas, Affidavits, sworn statement, jury summons, leases, minutes of court proceedings and other items.

The types of crimes and types of documents from the trials conducted in the Justice's Court included minutes of trials, theft of cash and goods, trespass, canal boat accidents and damage caused by canal boats on lands and other canal boats, execution of judgments by constables, fraud, assault, property damage by animals, disorderly conduct, forgery and counterfeit, bonds, debt, violation of temperance act, minutes of evidence brought before the court, cases re: to labor on the canal, testimony of witnesses at trials, attempted rape, theft/fraud re: horses and other animals, arson, bigamy, vagrancy, and other crimes and documents.

Items of particular interest in this series include the names of many canal boats found in the records of various crimes committed on the canal and the great variety of crimes that occurred in the town, including assaults on women. The types of cases that are found most frequently include: assault, theft of personal property, violations of the temperance/alcohol sale law, damages to and by canal boats,

The Justices of the Peace include: mainly John W. Van Vranken as well as Nelson Cole, Abram V. Fowler and Rufus Palmer. Another name frequently found in these records is Philip Dutcher, the Constable of the town.

Some cases were conducted as Courts of Special Sessions with the Justice of the Peace presiding.

These records were originally filed in and were received with the gift of a small 19<sup>th</sup> century traveling trunk. The trunk remains a part of the library's collection.

**Size:** 2 boxes, 2 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Van Vranken family

**Contents:**

This collection is arranged chronologically into 40 folders from 1848-1869. The following is a list of the dates and folder numbers of the collection. There is one folder of miscellaneous material (F.40).

**Box 1:**

F. 1: 1848  
F. 2: 1850  
F. 3: 1851  
F. 4: 1852  
F. 5: 1853  
F. 6: 1854  
F. 7: 1854  
F. 8: 1854  
F. 9: 1855  
F. 10: 1855  
F. 11: 1855  
F. 12: 1856  
F. 13: 1856  
F. 14: 1857  
F. 15: 1859  
F. 16: 1860-1861  
F. 17: 1862  
F. 18: 1862  
F. 19: 1862

**Box 2:**

F.20: 1863  
F.21: 1863  
F.22: 1863  
F.23: 1864  
F.24: 1864

F.25: 1864  
F.26: 1864  
F.27: 1864  
F. 28:1865  
F.29: 1865  
F.30: 1865  
F.31: 1866  
F.32: 1866

**Box 3:**

F 33: 1867  
F.34: 1867  
F.35: 1867  
F.36: 1868  
F.37: 1868  
F.38: 1869  
F.39: No date

F.40: A file of miscellaneous material, some of which appear from the personal papers of John W. Van Vranken and some of which may have been related to his work as Justice of the Peace. Included in this small group of documents are: a list of students in Dist. #16, list of taxpayers in Dist. #16, a bill for the education of Gertrude Van Vranken at Jonesville Academy, an essay or speech about Roman history, a short poem, a return of the vote at a town meeting, 1863, a few letters and other items.

## **Samuel Wilbur Records Records**

Samuel Wilbur served as Justice from 1837 to 1841.

**Scope:** This is a series of records of Justices of the Peace from 1840 to 1841.

**Size:**

One bound volume and one folder

**Donor:**

Unknown

**Contents:**

The Docket of Justice Wilbur, a bound volume, lists cases heard between December 12, 1840 and Dec. 6, 1841 chronologically, giving names of

defendants and plaintiffs, decisions rendered, and financial settlements. An alphabetical index of names appears at the beginning of the volume.

F. 41. Two forms commanding any Constable of Saratoga County to summon persons to appear before Justice Wilbur. One form is blank. The other is filled in with the names Peter Laplant and George W. Kellogg, to appear on December 12, 1841.

**Box 4:**

**Adam Mott Records**

Adam Mott was first elected Justice of the Peace in 1861 and held that position until 1872. Born in Sand Lake in 1821, he had already had a long career in town offices in Sand Lake and in Rensselaer Country before moving to Clifton Park in 1855. He also served Clifton Park as Supervisor from 1876 to 1878. Sylvester's *History of Saratoga County* contains a page of biographical information of Adam Mott as well as portraits of him and his wife.

**Scope:** This is a series of Justice of the Peace Records from 1861 to 1970.

**Size:** 1 boxes, 1 linear feet.

**Donor:** Unknown

**Contents:**

**Justice of the Peace Records**

This section of the collection is arranged chronologically into 10 folders from 1861 to 1870. Two additional folders contain undated records. Summons issued by Adam Mott are included in each year.

- F.1: 1861
- F.2: 1862
- F.3: 1863
- F.4: 1864
- F.5: 1965
- F.6: 1866
- F.7: 1867
- F.8: 1868
- F.9: 1870



F.10: 1871  
F.11: Undated  
F.12: Undated

James Corsaro  
Archivist

Gail Winters  
Librarian

## **Town of Clifton Park Town Records, 1920-1930**

**History:** The Town of Clifton Park was the last town formed in Saratoga County. It was separated from the Town of Halfmoon in 1828. Geographically, it occupies a mid-southern position in Saratoga County. Its population remained fairly constant throughout most of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. By 1960, however, this figure had doubled to 4,512. In 1970 the population total had jumped to 14,867 and according to the 1990 Census the figure is around 32,000. The Town of Clifton Park has the largest population in Saratoga County.

**Scope:** This is a collection of early 20<sup>th</sup> century records of the Town of Clifton Park, including poll lists of electors at town meetings, 1896-1903 and financial records of the town, including bills, orders to pay and checking account statements and cancelled checks, 1920-1930. Many of the records include the names of persons in the town, including those who were electors and those being paid for providing goods and services to the town. The Library does not have a policy of collecting the official town records, which are maintained by the town government.

**Donor:** Town of Clifton Park

**Size:** 2 boxes, 1.5 lin. ft.

**Contents:**

Folder 1: Poll Lists of District No. 1, Town of Clifton Park, Mar. 8, 1893-March 7, 1894. There are two volumes of these poll lists, which also include poll lists of the district for the years 1896-1899, 1901, 1903 in volume 1 and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> volume 1897, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1901, 1903. The poll lists include the names of the electors.

Folder 2-7: Bills paid by the Town Supervisor and Orders to the Town Supervisor by the Superintendent of Highways to pay for goods and services, 1920-1930. The bills are in chronological order by year and include bills paid by Supervisors J.K. Losee and D. Van Hyning. Many of the orders to pay are for work done on town highways and ordered by Superintendent E. M. Tourtellot. Most of the bills and orders are dated 1920.

Folder 2: March-April, 1920

Folder 3: May-August 1920  
Folder 4: Sept.-Oct. 1920  
Folder 5: Nov.-Dec. 1920  
Folder 6: Dec. 1927-March 1931  
Folder 7: June 1929-October 1930

Folders 8-10: Cancelled checks and statements of the Town of Clifton Park, Town Supervisor with the Citizens Trust Company, Schenectady, NY, 1926-1930, Delazou Van Hyning, Town Supervisor. These statements do not include notes about what goods or services were being paid for; only the names of the payee.

Folder 8: 1926-1929  
Folder 9: 1927-1930  
Folder 10: 1928-1930

**Box 2:**

Additional records of the Town of Clifton Park including:

Town Highway Time Book, Jan.-Dec. 1921, E.M.Tourtellot,  
Superintendent

Order Book for the Use of the Town Superintendent, 1921

Orders to pay Supervisor of Town Highway from the Highway Fund, for  
labor on town highways, 1920

Certified/Approved payrolls, (3), 1920-1921

Bills/Receipts and cancelled checks for goods and services paid by the  
Town of Clifton Park, ca. 1927-1930

James Corsaro  
Archivist

**Union Sunday School Association  
of the Town of Clifton Park  
Archives**

**History:** The Union Sunday School Association of the Town of Clifton Park, a Methodist Episcopal Church group, was organized February 19, 1878 at Jonesville, NY. The purpose of the Association was to “promote thorough Sunday School work throughout the town.” It was formed by the church at Jonesville, the Amity M.E. Church at Vischer’s Ferry along with delegates of the Union Sunday School Association. In succeeding years, other churches joined the Association, including the Clifton Park M.E. Church, Grooms M.E. Church, Rexford M.E. Church, Amity Reformed Church and the Clifton Park Center Baptist Church. The Association seems to have been existence until at least 1960

**Scope:** This collection consists chiefly of two minute books of the Association, with a small number of miscellaneous other documents. The material dates from 1878 to 1960. The minutes provide a detailed abstract of the events and discussions at each meeting. There are manuscript and printed copies of the constitution of the Association in the minutes. The Adsit family was involved with the Association from its origin until at least the Thirties. The first member involved was George Adsit of Clifton Park Village and there are several items, some related to the Association, of the Adsit family in the collection. A brief history of the Old Clifton Park M.E. Church (later the Grooms M.E. Church) by Newman W. Adsit, 1935 in the local history collection of the Library.

**Size:** 4 folders, .30 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Fred Stevens

**Contents:**

Folders 1-2: Minute Books, 2 volumes, 1878-1943 and 1944-1960

Folder 3: Material, probably originally belonging to George Adsit, related to the Association and Methodist Episcopal Church in Clifton Park, including: *Origin, Articles and General Rules...of Ritual of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, with George Adsit certificate as a member of the Clifton Park Village M.E. Church, 1880; a printed list of books in the M.E. S.S. of Clifton Park Village library, typed report of Sunday School work in Clifton Park, 1941;

minutes of 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Association, 1941; miscellaneous printed items re: to Methodist Episcopal Church.

Folder 4: Papers of George Adsit, including, insurance policy for Adsit from Clifton Park and Half Moon Mutual Fire Insurance Association, 1890; Road Warrant by George Adsit, Overseer of Highways, Clifton Park, 1887; agreement of George and Lydia Adsit with Joseph Bramhall for the Old Mills farm, 1893; deed for Horse Shed between Adsit and LeGrand M. Turner, 1886; ballot used Adsit for Clifton Park offices, 1885.

James Corsaro  
Archivist

## Van Vranken Family Collection

**History:** The first settler of Clifton Park was Ryck Claes Van Vranken in 1672. Ryck Van Vranken divided his land between his three sons who established their homes near Vischer Ferry. The family remained in Vischer Ferry and vicinity until the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the family served in government as Town Supervisors, highway overseers, Justice of the Peace and other offices and in churches, particularly the Amity Reformed Church. The Van Vrankens were farmers for most of their time in Clifton Park and owned Idylwilde Orchard in the town.

**Scope:** This collection is made up of donations from four donors: Robert Van Vranken, William F. Van Vranken, Items from the Moses Van Vranken House and Alan and Barbara Maddaus. The donations are kept separate in this collection. The collection includes early deeds and wills from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, several photographs of people and homes, many of which are identified, land records for Van Vranken family property in Clifton Park, diaries, scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, catalogs of the Idylwilde Orchard, a Van Vranken farm, genealogical material about the Van Vranken family, and other material. The collection dates from approximately 1710 to 2003, with the bulk of the material dated from approximately 1850-1940. In addition to historical documentation of the Van Vrankens, there are photographs and other items concerning other families in the Vischer Ferry/Clifton Park area, including the Lansing and Fort families.

**Size:** 9 boxes, 9 lin. ft.

**Donors:** This collection was donated by several donors, including Robert and Lori Van Vranken, William Van Vranken, and Allen and Barbara Maddaus.

### Contents:

#### **Box 1: Photograph Albums, (from Robert Van Vranken)**

*#1, Photograph Album, Forte Family and others, ca. 1880, Vischer Ferry, NY*

This is a large brown photograph album with a raised decorated binding and photographs of identified people. The following index of names is in page order.

Witbeck (middle aged man)  
Gidley Palmer  
Alida Palmer  
Emma Forte  
Michael Forte  
Simon Forte  
Katherine Vrooman  
Edward Vrooman  
Vischer Forte  
Woman, unidentified  
Welden Forte  
Evangelist Sam Jones and Family  
Ella Judge  
Charles Forte  
Charles Forte  
Michael Wiltsey  
Angus Shumaker  
Memorial card for Abram Van Vranken  
Helen Forte, Nicholas Forte, Helen Forte, Charles Forte  
Unid. woman, Well Forte, unid. couple  
Harriet Forte, Simon Forte, unid. girl and boy(children of Harriet and  
Simon Forte)  
Eldert Timeson, Lyda Timeson, unid.man and woman  
Unid. girl, woman and man  
Unid. mother and child, unid. young girl, man Van der Worken, Eliza Van  
der Worken

*#2, Photograph Album, Sebastian Cragier of Vischer Ferry, ca. 1870.*

This is a small brown album with a loose binding in relief. The album was a gift to Cragier from his Sunday School. Only 3 photos are identified, incl. Adam Van Vranken as a boy and as young man and Vischer Cregier driving a horse and buggy. There are 27 photographs in the album. Photos are carte-de-visite and tin-types, including miniature photos

*#3, Photograph Album, ca. 1860-1870.*

This is a small brown photograph album with 34 photographs. All the photographs are unidentified and are probably of people local to the Town of Clifton Park and Vischer Ferry. There is a photo of the Tom Thumb wedding group. Photos are carte-de-visite and tin-types, including miniature photos.

*#4, Photograph Album, ca. 1870.*

This is a small brown photograph album with 25 photographs, all are unidentified, although are probably of local people. The photographic studios taking the photos are mainly from Albany with at least one by a studio in Waterford, NY. Note photograph taken in Waterford of woman with very long hair.

**Box 2: Photograph Albums and Photographs (from Robert Van Vranken)**

*#5, Photograph Album, ca. 1860-70*

This is a small brown photograph album with 39 photographs, most are unidentified, although are probably of local people. The following lists the identified photos.

A. Carry

Mary L. Smith

L.S. Schoonmaker, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. 51<sup>st</sup> NY Vols. (killed at Petersburg, VA, Aug 2, 1864?)

*#6, Photograph Album, ca. 1870-1890*

This is a large green photograph album with about 55 photographs, most are unidentified, although probably are of local people, many of the photos are by photographers from Troy and Mechanicville. Two are identified; a portrait of two boys, Adrian Fellows and Emmet Lansing. Although they are photographs of adults, there are also many photos of infants and children in this album. There are a several tintypes in the album, including a tintype of a trio driving a horse and buggy.

*Folder 1: Photographs: (from Robert E. Van Vranken)*

These are photographs that had been previously removed from albums; including carte-de-visite and tintypes. Almost all are unidentified; the following are identified: Alice Van Vranken Lape, Jonesville, NY and Allen H. Lape, Alplaus, NY, both with obituary notices. Also, a newspaper clipping of the wedding of Allen Lape and Alice V.V. Lape, 1895 and invitation for the wedding.

Folder 2: Deed for cemetery lot to Gerrit D. Van Vranken from Jonesville Cemetery Association, July 28, 1875.

**Box 3: Photographs from Moses Van Vranken Farmhouse, Crescent Road**

These photographs were found in the Moses Van Vranken farmhouse that was later owned by Elizabeth Dubb Van Vranken. The photographs are almost all unidentified. Some of the photos are faded and some need



conservation. The photographs include tintypes, carte-de-visites, cabinet cards, and collodion paper prints. There are three identified carte-de-visites: Isaac S. Wilber of the Sunday School of the Amity Church and two different cdvs of Zilla? Race of Vischer Ferry, NY.

Folder 1: Identified photos of Zilla Race and Isaac S. Wilber

Folder 2: Postcard of a railroad station, 1911, faded.

Folder 3: Tintypes, 9, including 4 of children

Folder 4: Carte-de-visites of unidentified people, taken by photographers in Albany, Mohawk, Schenectady, Utica and Wolcott, NY

Folder 5: Carte-de-visite photos, 10, of unidentified people taken by photographers in Illinois (mainly Freeport, IL and Springfield, IL with one photo done in Sioux City, IA; including 6 photos of infants and one photo identified, though faded which may be of Wm. C...krite?.

Folder 6: Cabinet photos, 4, of unidentified man, woman with infant, girl, woman, taken in Schenectady, Troy, Gloversville, NY and New Brunswick, NJ.

Folder 7-10: Collodion paper print photographs, all unidentified, including the following:

F. 7: 4 photos with horses

F. 8: Photo of men at a shipyard with a steam launch called Pigeon

F. 9: Photos, 11, of family group portraits, with at least one older woman who appears in most of the photos; photos are of the groups picking apples and sitting outdoors.

F. 10: Miscellaneous photos, including 3 photos of unidentified women, framed photo of unidentified woman and a newspaper clipping photo of Chester Wood, President of Club.

#### **Box 4: Photographs (Gift of William F. Van Vrankin, Concord, NH)**

This is a large group of photographs, some in albums, and in various formats, including carte-de-vistes, tintypes, cabinet photos, collodion photo paper prints, postcards, and copy photos. Some of the photos are identified and those are noted in the following description.

##### *Photographic Albums (3)*

Album #1: Photos of Bath 3 Club, houses in the Clifton Park region, Amity Church, Forts ferry at Vischer Ferry, aqueduct at Crescent, train station at Niskayuna, ca. 1913-1914.

Album #2: Photos of the Van Vranken and Lansing families, and Van Vranken house on Morgan Avenue, ca. 1910-1915.

Album #3: Photos of unidentified people, probably Van Vranken family members; also photos of houses, demolition of a barn, scenes on river.

*Cabinet Photographs:*

This is a group of cabinet photographs, ca. 1880-1890 (24); some are unidentified and those identified are listed below:

Witbeck (woman); (man)  
Cregier (Mrs. Wm. Van Vranken)  
Mary Clute  
Forte Pearse  
James Hatch  
Uncle Norm  
Harriet VanVranken  
Lulu Cronk and brother Cass  
Carry Lansing (2 different photos)  
Samuel Vandenburg  
Emmet Lansing  
Jennie Hatch  
William Arthur Van Vranken and Carry Elsey Van Vranken  
Tunis Cregier  
Wm. H. Van Vranken

Folder 1: Unidentified cabinet photos

Folder 2: Identified cabinet photos

*Postcard Photographs:*

Folder 3: This is a small group of 14 postcards of Mohawk River views, Vischer Ferry views and houses, probably at Vischer Ferry, as follows:

Stream and pond views at Vischer Ferry, 4  
Forts ferry views (2) and views (2) of canal and Mohawk River  
Views (6) of roads with houses, including a house with ice from the Mohawk River and a view along road in Halfmoon

*Folder 4: Tintype Photographs:*

This is a group of 3 unidentified tintype portraits and 10 identified tintype portraits, listed below:

Henry Hart  
Elizabeth Van Vranken  
James Forte and Olin Adsit  
Adrian Fellows and Emmet Lansing  
Domine W.W. Letson (pastor of Amity Church, 1868-1880)  
Vischer Cregier

James Forte  
Susan Forte, ca. 1870  
Group portrait outdoors with Wm. Holloway  
Grandma Forte

Folder 5: *Carte-de-Visites*

This is a group of 11 carte-de-visites, ca. 1860-1890, unidentified and 8 identified as follows:

Hazel  
Emma Clute  
Helen Forte  
Adam Van Vranken (Uncle Ad)  
Laury? Cregier  
Carrie Lansing  
Gert Lansing  
Emmet Lansing

Folder 6-7: *Collodion and other Photographs*

This is a group of small format collodion paper prints and other photographs, ca. 1890-1956. There are 27 photographs, 10 unidentified (folder 6) and 17 identified (folder 7) as follows:

Grandmother Dorcas and Uncle Sebastian Cregier  
Same two people with 4 others  
William Van Vranken, 2 different portrait photos  
Amity Reformed Church  
Ella Fellows, Mattie Pearse, Grace Pearse and 1 other  
Carrie Lansing and another woman  
Mattie and Grace Pearse  
Grandmother Van Vranken, Uncle Add Van Vranken, Aunt Gert Lansing,  
Father Van V.  
Carrie Lansing, Emmet Lansing, Gertrude V.V. Lansing, Dorcas Cregier  
V.V.  
Greeting card with photo of The Dunhams, a house, 1956  
High water from river taken from front lawn of McKain home (Van  
Vranken)  
Wm. Elscey (infant), Grace P. Van Vranken, McKain V.V.  
Photo of old mahogany chair  
Aunt Elscey Van Vranken McKain home (Uncle Jim McKain), Vischer  
Ferry, ca. 1940  
Daddy and William  
Taken on the beach at Ormond, FL, 1913, Mr. Wells machine  
(automobile)

## Folder 8-9: *Collodion and other Photographs*

This is a group of large format collodion paper prints and other photographs, ca. . There are photographs, (need sleeving) 5 unidentified and 10 identified as follows:

### Unidentified:

Elderly lady

Mother with infant

Group of high school students in a school

Group of children in front of a school?

Three photos of house and group photos of women, Round Lake, 1916.

### Identified:

Amity Reformed Church

Jenny (horse), March 1891 (a buggy in front of a house)

Adam Van Vranken and family

Dorcas Cregier, Wm. H., John Witbeck and Robert Van Vranken

Rev. James Graham, pastor of Amity Reformed Church

Susan Van Vranken

Aunt Rebecca Peters

Man: Probably Rebecca Peters spouse

Group at July 4, 1895 picnic

Group at July 4, 1895 picnic (watermelons)

Yacht "Elscey," on the Mohawk River, July 4, 1895

Camp "Maguase", July 4, 1895, group in front of tent

## **Box 5: Scrapbooks of Newspaper Clippings, (Gift of William F. Van Vrankin, Concord, NH).**

These are five scrapbooks compiled by Susan Fort Van Vranken of Vischer Ferry from about 1880-1915. The scrapbooks include newspaper clippings of poetry, local news, handwritten notes, national news, recipes, brief biographies of famous people, religious sentiments and religious poetry, etc. The "scraps" are pasted onto a trade catalog, magazines and a ledger of a blacksmith, probably located in Vischer Ferry. This ledger-scrapbook should have conservation work done by removal of all of the "scraps" so that the blacksmith accounts on the pages are readable. One scrapbook is almost entirely of recipes, handwritten and newsprint. One scrapbook, originally a catalog from "Your Bargain Book No. 7 of the Charles William Stores, NYC (1915), has many pages of the catalog still intact without clippings.

## Folders 1-5: *Scrapbooks #1-5.*

Folder 6: Miscellaneous items, including a group of photocopied documents re: to the Van Vranken family and a photocopy of a Van Vranken family tree;

original marriage certificate of Sebastian Cragier and Catherine Fellows, Vischers Ferry, July 15, 1860; resolution of the Town of Clifton Park named Feb. 9, 1998 Van Vranken Day in the town.

Folder 7: Sale of Negro woman (Nann) and infant boy (Yap) by Derrickje Van Vranken to Christopher Miller, 1786.

**Box 6: Copy Photographs and other Material: (Gift of William F. Van Vranken)**

Folders 1-6:

This is a group of copy photographs, the originals of some are also in this collection. These photos have not been sleeved and are group by topic.

Folder 1: Views along the Mohawk River and Erie Canal

Folder 2: Houses and mill site

Folder 3: Two photos of houses

Folder 4: Photos of identified people

Folder 5: Photos of unidentified people (some may be identified when compared with original photos in the collection)

Folder 6: Photos of houses, river scenes and other views

Folder 6A: Copy photos (3) of houses (Van Vranken homes?) sent by Bill Van Vranken, 1996 and sheet with multiple color photos of Bill Van Vranken and family

Folder 7: Negatives, appear to be chiefly of the copy photographs listed in F. 1-6. (need sleeves)

Folder 8: VHS tape, 6hr. tape of interview of Bill Van Vranken with John Scherer, done at the Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve, May 17, 1997.

Folder 9: Miscellaneous items as follows:

    Wedding invitation, 1869

    Anniversary invitation, 1894

    Invitation to an excursion to Catskill, 1837

    Invitation to a Donation Visit for Rev. George R. Williamson, 1851

Folder 10: Typed copy and photocopy of same of the Niskayuna Patent, April 22, 1708; also, photocopy of pages from book by H.I. Becker re: to Niskayuna Patent.

Folder 11: Three publications re: to canals, including a facsimile of *Traveler's Pocket Directory*, 1831 and two issues of canal magazines.

Folder 12: Miscellaneous copy photo and photocopies of photos of home.

Folder 13: Bible records of families from Helen Fort's Bible and Isaac Lansing's Bible with photocopies from another Bible owned by Rachel Clothier of Corinth, NY; records of Fort, Lansing, Van Vranken families. Also, original Bible record of John Van Vranken family.

Folder 14: Blank Book entitled *Poems*, but used as a scrapbook for clippings of obituaries of Van Vrankens, Forts, Lansings and other families. Also, group of news clippings of obituaries (brittle). Also, photocopy of obituary for William F. Van Vranken, 2003. Also, photocopies of news clippings of Van Vranken marriage announcements. Also, 2 letters from Nancy Van Vranken to John Scherer, 2003 re: her father.

### **Box 7: Documents from the Moses Van Vranken Farmhouse, Crescent Road**

This is a collection of original documents found in the Moses VanVranken home on Crescent Road. The documents date from 1774 -1858 . The documents are grouped by type and chronologically.

Folder 1: Account book of Richard Van Vranken, 1841-1853, for goods sold and costs of labor for people working for Van Vranken. This account book was used as scrapbook for newspaper clippings of mainly general items, (poetry, miscellaneous news items) none of which relate to local history. (If funding becomes available to remove the clippings from this book, it would make this account book more useful for researchers.)

Folder 2: Receipts to Adam R. Van Vranken for coffin and tombstone for Adam J. Van Vranken, 1858 and for medicine, medical services, a stall at Amity, 1830-1857. Also, receipt from Barent Brat and Ryer Gerritse as executors of estate of Jan Rosie, Albany, NY 1738.

Folder 3: Survey notes for surveys of lands of Maus and Adam VanVranken, and a letter from D.L. Powell, to Adam R.Van Vranken, 1855 re: land.

Folder 4: Land records of the Van Vranken family, 1774-1851, including deeds, land survey, contract, mortgage foreclosure case. Names appearing in these records include Nanning Vischer, Adam Van Vranken, Nathan Garnsey, Maus and Richard Van Vranken, John B. Miller, William Bell, Nanning V. Fort, Andrew Van Vranken, Abraham and Elizabeth Pearse, John Clute, Abraham Best and others.

**Boxes 8-9: Van Vranken Family Collection. (Gift of Alan and Barbara Maddaus)**

This is a collection of various items owned by George Van Vranken of Vischer Ferry and donated by Alan and Barbara Maddaus. George Freligh Van Vranken was the owner and farmer of Idlywilde Orchards in Rexford for many years. His spouse was Ruth Simmons Van Vranken, his sister was Mrs. Anna M. Des Forges, and two brothers, Charles E. and Adam Van Vranken. George F. Van Vranken was the owner of Idlywilde Orchards and Nurseries, one of the earliest orchards in the region; he was also a founder and director of the Menands Regional Market, an elder of Amity Reformed Church and member of other fraternal and agricultural organizations.

**Box 8:**

Diaries: This is a group of diaries by George F. Van Vranken, Mrs. George F. VanVranken and a Van Vranken woman. The diaries include notes about weather, daily activities in the home and in the orchard, farm work, going to church and to social events and other information. Entry for April 29, 1957 notes that "Three years ago today my dear husband passed away, 1954 at 6:20 p.m, Geo. Born 1872."

Diary by a Van Vranken woman, 1910

Mr. George F. Van Vranken, 1940, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1951

Mrs. George F. Van Vranken, 1945, 1949, 1957

Small account book of expenses in constructing Geo. F. Van Vranken's house, May 1918-Jan. 1919.

Miniature tintype photograph of an unidentified Civil War soldier.

Daguerreotype photograph of an unidentified man smoking a cigar

Catalogs of Idylwilde Orchards and Nurseries, Rexford,, NY, Spring 1915, Abram VanVranken's Sons: George F. Van Vranken and Chas. E. Van Vranken, 6 copies; Also catalogs for Spring 1912 (2), Spring 1913 (6), Spring 1914; also undated catalog, First Annual Price List of High Grade Nursery Stock, Ab'm Van Vranken's Sons (2).

Obituary of George Van Vranken, 82 years old, April 30, 1954.

**Box 9:**

Miscellaneous historical documents and other papers of George F. Van Vranken and the Van Vranken family.

Land Records:

Folder 1: Deed, Garret R. VanVranken to Adam Van Vranken, 1787, lands on north side of the Mohawk River.

Folder 2: Deed, Garret R. VanVranken to Adam Van Vranken, 1799, lands on north side of the Mohawk River.

Folder 3: Quit-claim deed, Jacob and Richard Van Vranken to Adam Van Vranken for land in the Clifton Park Patent, 1822

Folder 4: Deed, Adam Van Vranken to Adam Van Vranken, Jr. for land in the Clifton Park Patent, 1820.

Folder 5: Deed, Garrett and Rebecca Van Vranken to Adam VanVranken, Jr. for land in Clifton Park on the south bank of the Erie Canal, 1834.

Folder 6: Deed, Henry Z. Hayner to Adam R. Van Vranken, for land in Clifton Park, NY

Folder 7: Mortgage, Adam Van Vranken to Adam R. Van Vranken, 1840

Folder 8: Deed, Andrew Van Vranken to Adam Van Vranken, for land in Clifton Park, 1847

Folder 9: Survey notes of lot of land sold by Andrew Van Vranken to Adam Van Vranken, 1847

Folder 10: Warranty deed, Herman Vedder, et al to Adam Van Vranken for land on an island in the Mohawk River in town of Niskayuna, 1853

Wills:

Folder 11: Will of Adam Van Vranken, 1836-1837

Folder 12: Will of Adam Van Vranken, 1869, 1880

Folder 13: Release of Adam V.V. Van Hoevenbergh, 1841

Folder 14: Will of Ryck Claessen of Canastagione, 1688 (copy made in 1711)

Folder 15: Photostat of will of Ryck Claessen

Folder: 16: Will of Claes Ryckson (Fonckman -Van Vranken), 1713 (in Dutch)

Folder 17: Photostat of will of Claes Ryckson



**Folder 18: Writ of John Ten Broeck, Sheriff , Albany County in suit of Jacob Cuyler and Leonard Gansevoort v. Cornelius Christyonse, 1787, 2 cop.**

**Miscellaneous Documents:**

**Folder 19: Document in Dutch signed by Garret, Maas and Evert Rycksen, 1712**

**Folder 20: Correspondence of George F. Van Vranken with George H. Curry of Birmingham, MI, 1932-1940 re: VanVranken family genealogy. Also, photocopies of a 2 pp. list of Van Vrankens in the Revolutionary War.**

**Folder 21: Letter from Jaren Van Wagenen to George Van Vranken, 1938, with citation from Governor Lehman re: the Van Vranken farm as a Double Century Farm; also clipping from Dairyemen's League News re: the century farm.**

**Folder 22: Letters re: Panama-Pacific International Exposition, 1915-1917 at which the Van Vranken farm won a medal (medal is with this collection)**

**Folder 23: Correspondence of Ruth Van Vranken and Thomas R. Tillott, re: George Van Vranken's estate, 1954**

**Folder 24: Cancelled checks and account statements, Schenectady Trust and telephone bills, 1954-56.**

**Folder 25: Miscellaneous items, incl: 2 letters, blank letterhead of Idylwilde Orchards and partial land survey notes.**

**Folder 26: Photographs (8) of George Van Vranken and Ruth Van Vranken (?) sorting apples and in the apple orchard, n.d. (1940s?)**

**Folder 27: Will of Maas Rycksen Van Vranken, 1759**

**Folder 28: Photostat of will of Maas Rycksen Van Vranken**

**Folder 29: Concerning the Van Vrankens during the Revolutionary War**

**Folder 30: Contract between Christopher Miller and Cornellius Tymeson, 1798**

**Folder 31: Family Record Page from Van Vranken Bible**

**Folder 32: Van Vranken Family Record of Marriages, 1 p.; photocopy of this page and page of Births**

**Folder 33: Family Record Page from a Van Vranken Bible**

**Folder 34: Copy of Amity Church Deed, 1802**

**Folder 35: Mortgage, Amity Church and Nanning Fort, 1863**

**Folders 36-37: Inquiry into whether Rev. John McKelvy, Amity Church, was seen drunk, 1828**

**Folder 38: Sale of Land Next to Amity Church from Tunis Cragiere to Jeremiah Queeman, 1827**

**Box 10.**

**Objects: The following are 3-dimensional artifacts in the Van Vranken collection donated by the Maddaus family:**

**Medals:**

**Bronze medal from Louisiana Purchase Universal Exposition, 1904  
Medal of Award (4) from Panama-Pacific International Exposition, 1915**

**Coffin Plate from the coffin of John Whitbeck Van Vranken**

**Miscellaneous artifacts, incl: a wristwatch, Gillette razor with blade, boxes of marbles and pen tips, fountain pens, key chain, key and other items.**

**James Corsaro,  
Archivist**

**Revised, 2014  
Gail Winters  
Librarian**

## **Vischer Ferry Civic Association Collection**

**History:** This long-lived organization was active and influential in the Town of Clifton Park. Formed in 1973, it continued until c.1995. By-laws established the name as The Vischer Ferry Civic Association (VFCA) but the organization was also referred to as the Vischer Ferry Association (VFA).

The VFCA engaged in many civic and social activities. One major focus was on local history. In addition to social notes and notices of the many functions it sponsored, its newsletters contained essays on the history of Vischer Ferry, many by Clifton Park Town Historian John Scherer. The Association was instrumental in having the hamlet of Vischer Ferry placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Members were also directly responsible for the establishment of the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve in 1977 and continued in an advisory capacity after it was established by the Town of Clifton Park. Major undertakings for VFCA members were the many events of Canal Days, held annually from 1975 to 1983. The group became involved in a number of civic issues, notably that involving the excavation of a gravel pit virtually within the hamlet of Vischer Ferry.

**Scope:** This collection contains materials from the donors listed below, most of whom served as officers for the Association. Several kept folders of information on specific issues that they were personally involved in. Copies of annual reports on the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve were added from the Library's Vertical File.

As materials were in disarray, they were sorted and an order has been imposed on them. The collection begins with Administration and Membership documents and Publications and Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve documents. Canal Day materials include notes kept by those running the day's events as well as pamphlets produced for the event.

**Size:** 5 boxes, 5 lin. Ft.

**Donors:** Joanna Smith, Evelyn Dash, Ernest and Pat Haffner, Frances M. and Herman L. Finkbeiner, George Bonino and Peter R. Borrelli and John Scherer.

**Contents:**

## **Box 1: Administration and Membership**

Folder 1: Constitution and By-Law, 1973, 2 copies. Constitution and By-Laws, June 1973. Constitution, Revised, January, 1976: 2 copies, one with handwritten Synopsis. Constitution, Revised, November, 1976. Newspaper articles about formation of group. Mock-up of VFCA logo.

Folder 2: Minutes of Board Meetings, March 16, 1973 to March 2, 1988.

Folder 3: Financial Records: Treasurer's Reports, 12/2/1985 and 12/4/1986. Bills, from Nolan & Heller, Attorneys at Law, 12/31/1986 to 2/29/1988. Financial reports: for a Square Dance, dated 2/12/1983; for a picnic, dated 9/9/1980 and a picnic, dated 8/14/1982.

Folder 4: Miscellaneous Correspondence: To Price Chopper Supermarkets soliciting funds for "Greek Temples on the Towpath," 10/1/1983. Copy of letter from Supervisor Roy A. Speckhard to members of the Planning Board, Town of Clifton Park regarding growth and development within the Town, 2/27/1984. To Lee Palmer, Director of Community Affairs, Town of Clifton Park regarding bridge abutment at the end of Ferry Drive, 4/14/1984. With the Capital District Bicycle Racing Club regarding complaints, 6/13/1984 and reply, 6/22/1984. To Barbara Yake from John J. Criscione, Nolan & Heller, Attorneys at Law, regarding action brought by Mr. James Schillinger against the Clifton Park Planning Board, (Applewood Estates).

Folder 5. Correspondence and documents regarding the Vischer Ferry Historic District and proposed zoning for the hamlet. Copy of signed petition circulated by a group opposing historic zoning. Copies of newspaper articles about this group.

Folder 6. Correspondence referring to the operation of the Alphonse DeLucia gravel pit. .

Decision of State of New York Supreme Court, County of Saratoga, February 14, 1979. Agreement between the Town of Clifton Park with Alphonse DeLucia, 7/14/1975. New

York Crushed Stone Association, Bulletins No. 5, 5/9/1975 and Bulletin No. 6, 6/9/1975.

Newspaper articles.

Folder 7: Purpose of the Committee and meeting notes, VFCA Water, Sewer and Utilities Committee, 3/29/'73-10/1/'74. Correspondence

between George Banino and John E, Van De Car, Supervisor, Town of Clifton Park.

Folder 8: Membership. Membership lists from 1974-75, 1976-77 (2 copies, one with addenda), 1980-81, 1981-82, and 1987-88. Undated list of Officers and Committee Chairs, c.1983. Undated list with letter to membership. Six small Membership Cards.

Folder 9: Newsletters, 1973 to 1978.

Folder 10: Newsletters, 1979 to 1987.

## **Box 2. Publications, and Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve materials.**

### **Publications:**

Folder 1. Greek Temples on the Towpath, A History and Guide to the Vischer Ferry Historic District, by John Scherer, 1977; A Walk Through Historic Vischer Ferry, 1983, Vischer Ferry Telephone Directory, c. 1982. Correspondence regarding a second printing of "Crossroads & Canals," 11/23/1981-3/1/1982.

Folder 2. An original draft of Crossroads and Canals sent to Howard Becker for comment in 1975, with memo to History Committee members from Marie Morrison.

**Donor:** Marie Morrison.

### **Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve**

Folder 3. Vischer Ferry Historical and Nature Preserve, Prepared for: Town Board of Clifton Park.... Prepared by: Vischer Ferry Association, Inc. 26 p., spiral-bound. [1976] Pamphlet: A Guide to the Historic Sites within the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, n.d.

Folder 4. Rough drafts of Vischer Ferry Historical and Nature Preserve report, [1976] Newspaper articles.

Folder 5. Vischer Ferry Association. Wildlife Management Committee. Minutes, reports of Committee activities, and correspondence, December 1975 to December, 1978. After Sept. 1, 1976 the group name appears as the Vischer Ferry Historic and Nature Preserve Committee.

Folder 6. Correspondence, chiefly of Peter R. Borrelli, Vischer Ferry Historic and Nature Preserve Committee, relating to the management of the Preserve, 1985-1986.

Folder 7. Proposal to the Clifton Park Bicentennial Committee, December 4, 1980. Copy of Mohawk Valley article on the Preserve, Summer, 1983.

Folder 8. Press release from Power Authority of the State of New York, May 18, 1982. Unsigned, undated agreement between the Town of Clifton Park and the Power Authority of the State of New York. Correspondence regarding a recreational easement to be granted to the Town of Clifton Park,

Folder 9: Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve. Annual Reports, 1978-1979, 1979-1980, 1981, 1983.

**Photographs:**

Folder 10: Copy photos stamped "John P. Papp" in envelope stamped "Received Sep 1 1982, H. L. Finkbeiner." 13 color photos of Clutes Dry Dock and negatives in envelope marked 3/3/'97.

**Box 3: Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve Maps, Artifact**

**Maps**

The maps in this collection are of the Vischer Ferry Historic and Nature Preserve and were used by the e Committee. Barge Canal, State of New York, Eastern Division, March 29, '22, a composite of two large maps. Niskayuna Quadrangle, USGS 7.5 Minute Series, 1954. Niskayuna Quadrangle, USGS 7.5 Minute Series, 2d ed., 1974. State of N. Y. Dept. of Public Works, Erie Canal, Waterford to Lock 7, March 1, 1915. Photocopies of other maps.

**Artifact**

Vischer Ferry t-shirt, beige, with VFCA logo in brown.

**Box 4. Canal Days, 1987 to 1983, Newspaper Articles, Photographs**

Folder 1: Canal Day, October 18, 1975. Small pamphlet: *Canal Receipts, Old-Fashioned recipes from along the Erie Canal*. Committee meeting and organizational notes, publicity, thank you letters, photos, and

newspaper articles. This first Canal Day was a joint effort between the VFA's Canal Day Committee and the Clifton Park Bicentennial Committee. Minutes and notes of meetings of both groups are included.

Folder 2: Second Annual Canal Day, October 9, 1976. Program, 2 copies. Flyers, and notes of organizational meetings. Financial summary. Photo of "200 Years Ago" display. Notes and other information on crafts vendors. Plastic "master" of brochure cover. Newspaper articles.

Folder 3 : Canal Day '77. September 10, 1977. Program, Vischer Ferry Walkabout flyer. Financial summary. Organizational notes. Information on advertisers in program. Notes and other information crafts vendors. 2 photos of vendor area. 4 color photos of Canal Day activities with negatives in envelope 1977.

Folder 4: Canal Day '78, September 30, 1978. Program, 2 copies. Press releases, meeting notes and minutes. Notes and form letter soliciting ads for program. Crafts summary, form letter, and craftsperson information.

Folder 5: Canal Day '79, 1979. October 6, 1979. Program, 2 copies. Meeting minutes, correspondence, Literature Sales summary, and newspaper articles.

Folder 6: Canal Day '80, September 28, 1980. Program, 2 copies. Other organizational materials, meeting notes, and correspondence.

Folder 7: Canal Day 1981, September 26, 1981. Program, 2 copies. Welcome brochure and map. Insurance papers, meeting notes and correspondence. Newspaper articles.

Folder 8: Canal Day '83, October 8, 1983. Program, 2 copies, one with Special Events flyer. Vischer Ferry Tour brochure. Walking Tour booklet, 3 copies. Treasurer's Report. Insurance papers. Organizational meeting notes. Correspondence. Canal Era Trade Demonstrations, Crafts Sale and Art Show and Sale notes and correspondence. House Tour notes. "Reminiscing Booth" notes. Press releases. Newspaper articles.

Folder 9: Canal Day '83, October 8, 1983. Organizational meeting notes kept by Frances M. Finkbeiner.

**Photographs**

Folder 10: 9 undated photos of Canal Day activities. Contact prints of photographs of Vischer Ferry area. Copy photo marked "1890 River at Vischer Ferry, 2 copies. Copy photo with label "Landing Vischer Ferry N. Y." 2 copy photos of the Erie Canal areas in Albany with letter in envelope addressed to Dr. Herman L. Finkbeiner stamped "Received Oct 5 1979." Negative of map, Profiles of the New York State Canals Feeders. Copy photo of postcard of Vischer Ferry with negative, in envelope. Negative of postcard of Vischer Ferry, in envelope. Negative of map of southern Clifton Park in envelope marked "Herman Finkbeiner WBH." Negative of map of southern Clifton Park.

**Box 5: Photographs, Colored Slides**

Copy photos of Vischer Ferry area. Slides of designs for use on recreational signs in box marked "Finkbeiner."



## **Vischer Ferry Community Association Collection**

**History:** The Vischer Ferry Community Association was active between 1950 and 1956. This group used School No. 3, the one-room schoolhouse in Vischer Ferry, no longer used as a school after the consolidation of the Shenendehowa Central Schools, for a meeting place and for a library. This volunteer free library, opened in January of 1950, was a great success. In 1953 this small library had circulated 1262 books. In October of 1950, the Association mailed letters to those in the tax district for School No. 3 asking residents to donate their tax refund from the surplus of the School District to the Association for the purpose of acquiring the school for a Community Hall. When auctioned, however, the building was sold to a private citizen.

**Scope:** This collection consists of loose pages of copies of letters, minutes of Association meetings and committee reports.

**Size:** 1 folder, .25 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Joanna Smith

**Contents:**

(This collection is filed in the box containing the records of the Vischer Ferry Improvement Association and Box 1 of the Vischer Ferry Civic Association.)

# Vischer Ferry Improvement Association

## Records

**History:** The Vischer Ferry Improvement Association collection contains minutes of the Association from 1928 to 1936. One focus of the group was on improvements in transportation. Members attempted to get a bridge built across the Mohawk River at Vischer Ferry, for example, and to get have the road between Vischer Ferry and Crescent made a State Road. Snow removal was also addressed, as was signage. The group also arranged a few social functions, such as a supper in June of 1931.

**Scope:** This collection consists of one manuscript book of minutes to meetings between June 7, 1928 and September 8, 1936. Several loose sheets at the back contain minutes of a special meeting called on August 22, 1936.

**Size:** 1 folder, .50 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Joanna Smith

**Contents: Folder 1.** Minutes of the association from June 7, 1928 to September 8, 1936.

(This collection is filed in the box containing the records of the Vischer Ferry Community Association and Box 1 of the Vischer Ferry Civic Association.)

## Waite and Thierolf Family

### Photograph Albums

**History:** These photograph albums were collected by Marjorie Waite Kenney. Mrs. Kenney graduated from Scotia High School in 1925, married Ralph Kenney, who had degrees from Union, Princeton and Yale. Mrs. Kenney's uncle, Oliver H. Waite built 2 houses in Rexford near the town line. She was born in 1909 and home schooled until high school. She graduated from Albany State Teachers College and became a school teacher. The Kenney family lived on Salisbury Road, Delmar, NY. Mrs. Kenney was the mother of Alice P. Kenney, a well-known historian and author of the various books, including *The Gansevoorts of New York*. Mrs. Waite's father was Arthur Emmitt Waite and mother was Laura Grace Waite and her father was a deacon in the Clifton Park Center Baptist Church.

**Scope:** Three photograph albums, cal 1905-1936. The albums are typical photo albums of that era with photos mounted on black craft paper bound with cardboard covers and tied with string. The photos usually have notes identifying the people, places and/or time of the photo. There are several notes in the albums for photos that are not present. There are several families represented in these photos, including Waite, Thierolf, McKain and others.

**Size:** 1 box, 1 lin. ft.

**Donor:** Len S. Kilian, Box 175, Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150, 2006

#### **Contents:**

Photograph Album #1: Photos of: Arthur Waite family, including many photos of Marjorie Waite and Douglas Waite as infants and young children, and homes, Thierolf family, Methodist church, store, school and McKain's hotel at Rexford, canal scenes at Rexford, Jonesville Methodist Church and others, ca. 1905-1920.

Photograph Album #2: Photos: Ice on trees and fences along River Road, panoramic views of flood in Schenectady in 1903, Thierolf Sand Farm on Clifton Park Center road, family reunion at Waite farm, 1927, Thierolf, Knowlton and Van Hyning family photos, especially of children, Knowlton houses and family in Florida, family photos in Chicago and Hotze family photos in St. Louis, A. Lincoln's home in Springfield, IL, ca. 1912-1953, 1963.

Photograph Album #3: Photos: Group photos and views at Saratoga Lake, Lake George, college photos at Albany State Teachers College, Decker family photos, photos of Marjorie Waite as a student at Albany State, photos of Ralph P. Kenney at Princeton and Yale (Ph.D), photo of Elizabeth Peck, 1934, Marjorie Waite/Ralph Kenney wedding photos, 1936; ca. 1927-1936.

James Corsaro  
Archivist