



Gilboa Historical Society

Learning about, sharing, and preserving our history

SUMMER 2014 V. 16.2

CONTENTS — SUMMER 2014

- 2 The Rexmere
- 3 Stephen Churchill
- 5 Medical Education and Practice in the 19th Century
- 6 Steps Leading Up to the Rexmere, by Stephen Churchill
- 10 The Rexmere—The Success of a Major Catskill Hotel
- 13 Priests Buy the Rexmere, 1954, by the *Sunday Press*
- 14 The Rexmere Hotel as a Redemptorist Retreat, by Fr. Jack Kennington, CSSR
- 15 Catskill Mountain Educational Center, 1968 by the *Otsego Farmer*
- 16 BOCES Offices to Vacate Cyr Center
- 16 Rexmere Hotel for Sale
- 16 Rexmere Hotel/Cyr Center
- 18 I Recall the Stevens Homestead, by Joan Hess Mullen

- 21 A Great Work Projected (1896), by the *New York Times*
- 25 Farm Bureau (1929) by the *Mirror-Recorder*
- 25 Cattle Statistics for 1929
- 26 Cattle Drive on Shew Hollow Road, by Betty Matalavage
- 27 Drummer Boys
- 27 Orrin B. Curtis Letters, pt. III
- 33 Route of Sherman and Orrin Curtis on Modern Map
- 42 A Drum, January 1, 1887

Activities

- 5 Murders & Funky Stuff, by Karen Cuccinello
- 12 Flood Relief Organizations
- 19 Names of Gilboa Vets, by LaVerne Hubbard
- 19 Ice Cream Social
- 20 Around the Neighborhood
- 43 Membership Application



Please check your address on the back of this newsletter. Let us know of corrections or if you will have a temporary address at the time of our December publication. Asterisk(s) next to your name indicate that your membership is paid up. No asterisks? Use the application on page 39 to earn *your* star.

THE REXMERE (1898–2014)

A very special local landmark is gone. A fire on March 25, 2014, razed the Rexmere Hotel, which had hosted activities and events in Stamford since 1898. The fire, which engulfed the wooden structure in mere minutes, brought 26 fire departments and a total of nearly 300 first responders to the scene to contain the blaze.

As we recall our personal memories of the building and the surrounding park, we review some of the history of Stephen Churchill, the man whose vision created the noteworthy facilities in Stamford that culminated in the Rexmere. After thriving as a hotel, the Rexmere served other purposes, from a religious retreat to ground-breaking high technology.

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

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

The **Tourism Map**, Newsletters, and other items of general interest
 are available online at <http://www.gilboahome.com>.

Send feedback or suggestions on the Newsletter to
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STEPHEN CHURCHILL

Student and Educator

Extracted from Stephen Churchill's My Reminiscences of an Active Life

Stephen Churchill was born in 1841 in the Delaware boglands between Hobart and Stamford. He started his education at 4 years old at a one-room school called the Mud School.

About the same time, seminaries—preparatory schools for students who wanted further education—were successfully being established throughout the state in the 1840–1850s. [Popular names for *preparatory* schools were “academy” or “seminary.”] Local citizens in the village of Stamford built what would become the Stamford Seminary, and later, the owners again followed a trend and built a rooming house of 30–40 rooms for students.

Elijah Churchill was dedicated to having well-educated children, so his son was enrolled in the seminary. However, Stephen could not afford being a full-time student: instead, he would be a student in the seminary for one term, teach at a district school (usually in Jefferson) for the winter term, and work on the family farm the rest of the year.

Seminary enrollments shrank and the Rev. John Wilde was able to buy the seminary. In the summer of 1865, he hired Churchill as a teacher while allowing him to continue taking classes—Churchill jumped at the opportunity. He also took on student recruitment with great success.

With Churchill's marketing for the school, the fall term was so successful that Wilde placed the governing of the school in Churchill's hands, with Wilde and his daughters teaching humanities and classics and Churchill teaching mathematics and sciences. Later in that school year, Wilde told Churchill that he and his daughters wanted to go back to Washington, and offered to sell the school to Churchill (rather than sell the property for commercial uses). The result was that Wilde sold the property to Churchill and held the mortgage—the 25-year-old became the owner and principal of Stamford Seminary.

In September 1866, the school opened with his sister Sarah taking charge of the domestic department and his other sister, Frances, being an assistant instructor. The school opened with large enrollments drawn not only from the surrounding counties but from down along the Hudson and New York City to border counties of Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. It was a memorable year: enrollments were up, and the seminary

sponsored biweekly presentations by students and faculty. These programs with entertainment, music, essays, orations, or methods of teaching were open to the public. Churchill noted each person who was interested in these exercises, and would later persuade them to enroll in the seminary.

Expansion of Stamford Seminary: Stamford in the late 1860s was an insular hamlet: the seminary was an anomaly bringing a significant number of students into the area for 9 months of the year, and the performances brought overnight visitors every other week. Public housing and stables were frequently unable to accommodate all the people, horses, and vehicles.

The seminary buildings and driveway filled the space available, so Churchill started to purchase land south of the town along what is now Railroad Avenue, and then along Main Street toward current-day Tops. Churchill moved one building and raised the roof on another to make room for additional classrooms. He enlarged the gentlemen's hall and built a ladies hall about 100 feet away to separate the buildings in case of fire. The space between the residences provided recreational space for the students. When the school was closed during the summer, the Churchills opened the dormitory buildings as impromptu hotels.

Student tuitions and room-and-board paid the mortgage, salaries for staff and teachers, maintenance, taxes, and insurance. To pay for the expansions, Churchill borrowed money from war-time manufacturers and veterans who invested in the project. After the expansion, over 100 students came to learn and board in the village, joining the local youth for this excellent opportunity to prepare for business or college.

There is often tension between town and gown, or between economic classes, and at one time a mob threatened Churchill and his seminary property. To Churchill's disgust, the leader of this mob was later promoted to an important position in the church—*his* church. This incident, plus money concerns and conflicts with people battling against his plans, convinced Churchill to leave his sisters in charge of Stamford Seminary for the 1871–1872 school year and attend Yale University for his own education.

Excerpted from Stephen Churchill: My Reminiscences of an Active Life

330004.03

All Gilboa Historical Society Newsletters are available free at
<http://www.northerncatskillshistory/societies/Gilboa/>

Medical Education and Practice in the 19th Century

Stephen Churchill knew what he wanted—an advanced degree. During the summer of 1872, he closed the seminary, sold much of its property, and returned to Yale—but by 1874, he was getting impatient:

“I found that I could not graduate in another year’s study except in medical . . . Believing that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York City [aka Columbia University] was a stronger institution than the Yale medical college, and would give me greater prestige, I resolved to change to that institution . . . and in the autumn of [1875] I became a member of Columbia College’s medical department.”

He graduated as a medical doctor in 1876. While he had no real interest in practicing medicine, he also felt he needed to start “earning my bread.” When he was invited to visit the Scranton PA practice of an uncle of a student of his from Stamford Seminary days, he liked the appearance of the practice and was challenged by the energy of Scranton (the center of the anthracite coal region). He accepted the position.

However, Scranton was also the center of union unrest and labor riots (the Molly Maguire Riots in 1877). His father may understandably have exaggerated his health concerns and called his son home to Stamford, where Stephen was urged to buy the practice of a retiring local physician.

He relocated, and grew to enjoy rural medicine.

530001.01

Murders & Funky Stuff

Karen Cuccinello

Karen’s favorite funky stories in the Murders & Funky Stuff book are the man who tried to sell his wife for \$25, the man who slept for five years, the booby-trapped house and the supposed German spy.

Carpool a Friend

Wednesday, June 18 at 7:00

Gilboa Town Hall, 373 Route 990V

STEPS LEADING TO THE REXMERE

Culmination of 25 Years of Effort

In 1872, Churchill returned to Stamford on the new Delaware and Ulster Rail Road. He announced that he would be closing the Stamford Seminary, but people got together and built a new school on the hill north of town, kitty-corner from today's Belvedere Inn.

The Ulster and Delaware Rail Road was not only a reliable, less expensive way to ship products *to* the city, but it could also bring summer guests *from* the city. Churchill still owned the Ladies Hall, run by his sister Sarah, and it was open and advertising for summer guests.

The general public of the late 19th century loved oratory, and Churchill recalled "I would always go over to the Old Plymouth Church during a visit to New York City to hear the greatest orator I think that America has ever produced, Henry Ward Beecher." He sent an invitation to Beecher's congregational association and was surprised when it was accepted. Beecher, Lyman Abbott, about thirty clergymen, and all their wives came to Stamford. The visit was a hit: the local area rallied to hear the talks, the guests loved the area and the accommodations, and most importantly—for Stamford—Beecher went back to New York and praised his trip.

Churchill returned to New Haven, continued his education in New York, and returned for a visit in 1877. In those intervening years, Sarah Churchill had continued to operate Ladies Hall.

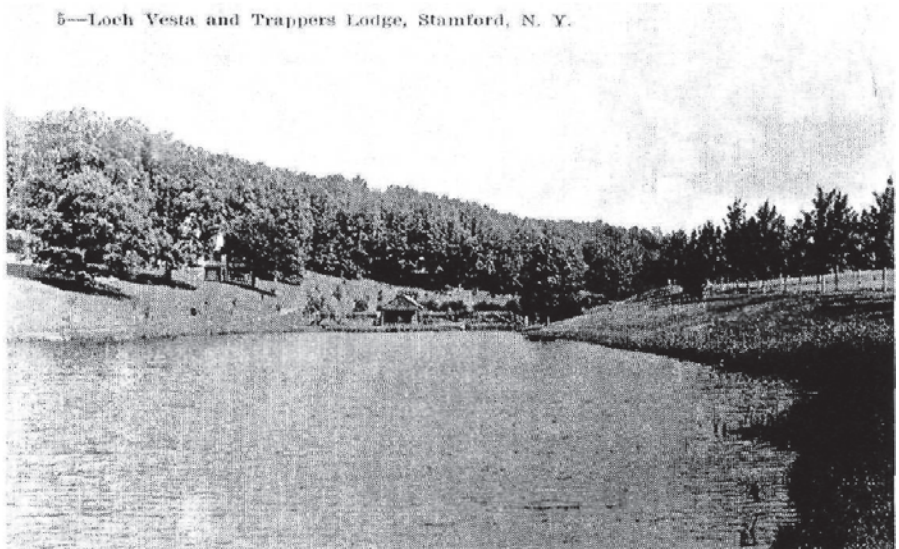
Churchill Park: Churchill returned to Stamford for good in 1877. He had to build his medical practice, and he wanted to develop a major hotel in town. He also coveted acreage that he loved to the west of town.

It had a stream of clear water that never ran dry, and the surrounding land was slightly rolling with mixed growth. He was finally able to buy this land, and possibly for the only time in his life, he spent money with no investment goal in mind. A long-term project was the excavation of four lakes (Loch Marion, Loch Alice, Loch Helen, and Loch Vesta going downstream); and he cultivated and seeded the land, constructed roads and walks, and opened it as a public park. He stocked the lakes with speckled trout, but his no-fishing policy caused friction with the neighbors. Generally, though, Churchill Park was praised by locals and visitors alike.



Windemere and Loch Marion. Photo courtesy of Carlton F. and Dorothy Bloodgood for permission to reprint the material in *A Post Card Portrait with memorabilia of The Queen of the Catskills Grand Hotel Era 1883-1942 Stamford, Delaware County, New York.* 500011.2

5—Loch Vesta and Trappers Lodge, Stamford, N. Y.



Loch Vesta and Trappers Lodge. Photo courtesy of Carlton F. and Dorothy Bloodgood for permission to reprint the material in *A Post Card Portrait with memorabilia of The Queen of the Catskills Grand Hotel Era 1883-1942 Stamford, Delaware County, New York.* 500011.1

Stamford Water Company: Ladies Hall was housing an increasing number of summer visitors, but Churchill knew that a modern hotel required an abundant supply of hot and cold water. Stamford needed a water company.

He had been unsuccessful in getting enough local subscriptions for a water company. He thought of applying to Major Cornell of Kingston, who was an experienced financier and the general manager of the new Ulster and Delaware Rail Road. Churchill thought Cornell would see the positive impact on the Stamford area, the UDRR business, and for investors such as himself.

Major Cornell liked the plan, advised Churchill on ways to proceed, and made a significant investment in the project. Cornell's endorsement primed other subscriptions and the Stamford Water Company was organized to create a municipal water system.

Churchill Hall: Now that the solution to the water problem was at hand, Churchill was determined to have a new hotel in Stamford for the summer of 1883. His plan was to move Ladies Hall (approximately across the street from the Village Hall today) to an adjacent property and build a new hotel, Churchill Hall, on that land.

Churchill Hall was moderately successful in that first season, but by 1886 the dining room could no longer meet demand, and more guest rooms were needed. A 1650 ft² addition provided a large new area for dining, and the second storey above it provided additional rooms.

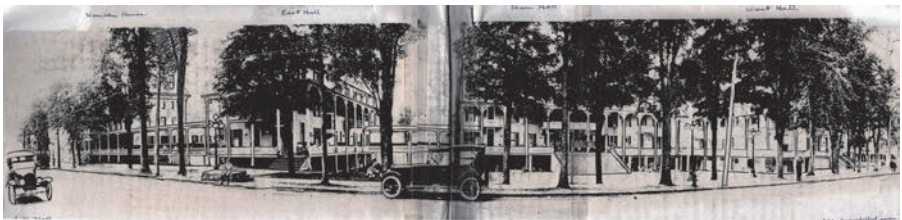
In 1890, Churchill built East Hall with a large music room for dancing and entertainments and guest rooms above—and still business grew. In 1891, a new building—West Hall—was built opposite the church. West Hall's basement was devoted to kitchen expansion, and the first floor housed family rooms and a library with a fine selection of books.

Churchill Hall's rooms were moderate in size with relatively narrow hallways. No patrons of 1883 expected a room with bath, but a decade later, the business was being hurt for the lack of these amenities. In 1892, Churchill constructed a big tower at the southeast corner of the building for a large number of private baths, and he converted rooms to toilets in the Main Hall.

By the end of the century, there were 4 hotels on Main Street stretching west from Railroad Avenue (the Hamilton House, East Hall, Churchill Hall, and West Hall). They covered an area about the size of a football field, and there was space between the buildings as a fire precaution. There was a covered front porch connecting all the buildings, so that patrons could stroll between the rooms and amenities of Churchill Hall.



Churchill Hall, Stamford, New York, the Catskills. Photo courtesy of Carlton F. and Dorothy Bloodgood for permission to reprint the material in *A Post Card Portrait with memorabilia of The Queen of the Catskills: Grand Hotel Era 1883-1942 Stamford, Delaware County, New York*. 500011.3



A panoramic view of the Hamilton House, East Hall, Churchill Hall, and West Hall. From this picture it appears to be about 50' between the buildings, and the faces of the buildings appear to be: Hamilton House, about 50' wide; East Hall about 30' wide; Churchill Hall less than 100' wide; West House was about 60' wide.

Rexmere Hotel: To appeal to newer, younger summer guests, Churchill decided to build a completely new and modern hotel, and realized that Churchill Park, with its forests and lakes and meadows, would be an ideal spot for the new hotel.

Churchill hired 2 really good foremen: one oversaw the construction of the new hotel, and the other managed the cutting, processing, and delivery of wood from a large farm in Davenport. The farm (now Eklund's home farm) had a magnificent forest of spruce trees and a saw mill and provided the lumber for the new hotel.

The construction foreman would make up an order for wood to be delivered the next day and give it to a drover. Timbering crews with the order would start their teams out at 3 AM, go out the old Susquehanna Turnpike that ran behind Robinson Terrace, reach the farm by daylight, and give the order to the mill foreman. Trees already at the mill were sawn, and any additional trees necessary to fill the order were cut, taken to the mill, and sawn to complete the order. The wagons would be loaded, arrive at the construction site around 4, and the lumber unloaded directly into the structure before nightfall. Live trees on the farm 14 miles away were converted into lumber and delivered for construction on the same day.

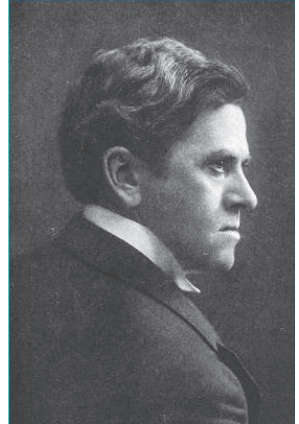
What to call the hotel? Rexmere: the king of the meadows.

THE REXMERE

The Success of a Major Catskill Hotel

In 1890, the Rexmere was majestic. It towered over trees and rolling hills, and overlooked manicured grounds. The building was spacious. Its halls and rooms were heated by steam and lit by gas and electricity. Suites had private baths. There was a music hall on the upper floor of the building so as not to annoy guests in the ground-level assembly room. It had one of the first passenger elevators.

The setting for the hotel was romantic—small lakes with boats for the guests—but also physical—bridle paths with ladies riding sidesaddle, and a



Prominent guests included aircraft pioneer Glenn Curtiss (without his planes or motorcycles), stage actress Julia Marlowe, and motion picture actor David Warfield

golf course designed by A. H. Fenn, the first famous American-born golf professional and course designer; and a swimming pool was installed in 1910. The Rexmere was ideal for wealthy young families wanting summer relaxation—and the hotel lived up to these expectations.

* * *

Local news and personals in old newspapers show how the Rexmere impacted on the quality of life in the community. The entertainment at the Rexmere was primarily aimed at the guests, but locals also attended.

The hotel also catered local events: in August, 1929, the Utsayantha Reading Circle had a picnic meeting in Rexmere Park. They watched the afternoon's entertainment, had their own missing-word contest, posed conundrums, and had readings. Tables were then set up and chairs placed for an elaborate supper. As evening fell, club members took their homeward way, voting the day well-spent—and you can bet they remembered that day!

The 1920s and 30s: Stephen Churchill died in 1917, and Nicholas Young bought the Rexmere in 1919.

During the 1920s, the Rexmere continued to offer name entertainment. Johnny Weissmuller started winning national and international swimming competitions in 1921, won three Olympic gold medals and one bronze in the 1924 Olympics; and two more gold medals in 1928. Overall, he won fifty-two



Gilboa School Trip to Stamford's Rexmere ca. 1926: left to right, Mildred Case King, Inabelle Hubbard, Marjorie DeWitt, Esther Richtmyer Tompkins, Prof. Hagadorn, Evelyn Young Haskin, Pauline Faulkner, Maude Bailey Haskin, Hilda Osborn, Evelyn Hubbard Taylor, and (possibly) Otto Vroman. Photo courtesy of Shirley Kutzscher

U.S. National Championships and set sixty-seven world records, as well as winning the 6 Olympic titles. He was a swimming instructor at the Rexmere from 1926 to 1929.

In the 1928 Olympics, Buster Crabbe won the bronze medal for the 1,500-meter freestyle, and in 1932 he won the gold medal in 400-meter freestyle. He followed Weissmuller's career in national and international swimming, entertaining at the Rexmere, and in the movie industry (the only actor who played Tarzan, Buck Rogers *and* Flash Gordon, the top 3 pulp fiction heroes of the 1930s.) In 1971, Crabbe broke the world swimming record for the over sixties in the 400-meter free style.



Olympic swimmers were great for the Rexmere: Weissmuller (at the Rexmere 1926 through 1929 and 5 gold and a bronze Olympic medals); Arne Borg (1929, 1 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze), Crabbe (1930, 1 gold and a bronze); Pete Desjardins (1931, 2 gold and a silver), and Marshall Wayne (1936, 1 gold and 1 silver). 500001.02

In 1929, Weissmuller wearing only a fig leaf made his first motion picture. Subsequently, he made the Jungle Jim television series and a total of 35 movies, including 12 Tarzan movies, and Screenshot from the film *Glorifying the American Girl* (1929). The film is in the public domain for the failure to renew its copyright. 500001.021

Flood Relief Organizations

- Blenheim:
and
Breakabeen:** { Rural Area Revitalization Effort, Inc., a non-profit at 125 Creamery Road, North Blenheim, NY 12131 (518 925-7700, rareny.org) and/or North Blenheim Presbyterian Church, Clauverwie Road, Middleburgh, NY 12122
- Middleburgh:** Village of Middleburgh Flood Relief, P.O. Box 789, Middleburgh, NY 12122
- Prattsville:** Prattsville Relief Fund, c/o NBT Bank, P.O. Box 380, Grand Gorge, NY 12434
- SALT:** Schoharie Area Long Term, 258 Main Street, Schoharie, NY 12157. (518) 702-5017 info@saltrecovery.org
www.saltrecovery.org

Binghamton, N.Y. Sunday Press of April 19, 1954

PRIESTS BUY REXMERE

Hotel at Stamford Will House Vacationing Students

Famed throughout the Catskills, the massive Rexmere Hotel in Stamford has been sold to priests of the Redemptorist Order as a summer vacation center for seminarians. . . . Included in the transfer was the 100-room hotel and some 60 acres of land, including Windermere Cottage, an outdoor swimming pool, a small lake, tennis courts, and other recreational facilities. . . .

The Rev. Albert Reisner, C.S.S.R. of Mount St. Alphonsus Seminary in Esopus, Ulster County, later disclosed that the hotel will be used during summer months to house some 96 seminarians of the order.

“We’ll paint the hotel, of course, but there isn’t too much to be done inside,” he added. “The interior is in excellent condition.”

All rooms in the hotel are equipped with either a bath or a shower, and the building is equipped with an elevator.

Several seminarians who will vacation at the hotel this summer eventually will be assigned to missionary work in Brazil, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, and Paraguay.

Father Reisner, in discussing the order, said the usual procedure is to have young priests serve outside the country before assigning them to missions in the East.

The full course of training for a priest of the order, he added, requires 13 years, including four years in high school.

Initially, Father Reisner said, the young men attend St. Mary’s College in Northeast, Pa., for two years of junior work, then have a one-year college work, and then have a one-year novitiate at St. Mary’s College in Ilchester, Md. Lastly, they return to Mount St. Alphonsus for two years of study in philosophy, and four years in theology before becoming priests in the order.

The Rexmere Hotel, situated in picturesque Churchill Park on the northwest outskirts of Stamford, was built by Stephen Churchill at the turn of the century. In its day, it attracted thousands of New Yorkers to Stamford and was known as one of the finest summer resorts in the East.

The hotel, despite the appearance of newer and more modern resorts in the Catskills, continued to function summers under the management of Mrs. Madeline Young, another trustee of the estate.

The transaction was the second involving Delaware County property and

a religious order recorded during the last six months. Last December, the Christian Brothers of Ireland purchased the 40-room MacLean Mansion at South Kortright for some \$50,000. The mansion soon will become a Novitiate House for the order, which operates Iona College in New Rochelle.

900008

The Rexmere Hotel as a Redemptorist Retreat

Fr. Jack Kennington, CSSR

I was twenty-two years old that July of 1955; had never stayed in a hotel and welcomed the accommodations which the old Rexmere offered me and my sixteen fellow Redemptorist classmates. We had just finished our first year of Philosophy at Mt. St. Alphonsus Seminary at Esopus, NY. The previous year had been our Novitiate, the equivalent of a U.S. Marine's boot training, so we were very much in the need of just the type of relaxation that a place like the Rexmere promised.

What made our two-month sojourn there so agreeable? Maybe it was the fact that we ran the place ourselves. We cut the grass, cooked all the meals and even washed the dishes. We did have Redemptorist Brother Jerome Metzger to show us how to cook and we took our turns helping him. We even had a crew of volunteer bakers who weekly turned out items as tasty as jelly donuts. We had our own crews to care for the pool, erstwhile plumbers for bathroom leaks and clearing the pipes for non-use months. When the front porch sagged in the late 50s, our own Jim Keaveney borrowed some equipment from Feeney's Boat Yard near Kingston, NY, raised it and welded in new steel supports.

I had mentioned about building Sod's baseball diamond. We only played one outside team nearly every year. That was the Irish Christian Brothers' team from South Kortright. They usually won because they had one player who hit four home runs in five at bats. As for golfing, we stuck to our own pitch-and-putt or the miniature course.

We did not have much work in creating a soccer field close to the hotel, and a pitch-and-putt nine-hole golf course on the property between the hotel and the cottage at Windemere. I remember putting in a nine-hole miniature golf, a bocce court, horseshoe pits, a volley ball court and croquet set-up. We took a certain pride in the work it took to add as many extra attractions to keep our Redemptorist confreres occupied during the two months we had off. I almost forgot to mention the six

horses we brought up from the seminary and the dozen or so clunker bicycles we had for their enthusiasts. Two of us bikers got a ride to Cobleskill, NY and from there biked to Auriesville, NY and back to Stamford at dusk, tired and hungry, having biked over one hundred miles.

Being seminarians and religious, we were not encouraged to socialize with the populace of Stamford. I think that some did go to the band stand on Sunday evenings for the weekly concerts held there. The Rexmere or Villa Alfonso experience was a real help to us, as we learned how to relax there while we were getting used to living the religious life. Those of us that were sent to the foreign missions were better missionaries, having worked, played and prayed together.

520030.01

Adapted from the
Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown, N.Y., January 11, 1968
CATSKILL MOUNTAIN EDUCATIONAL CENTER

The building and property of the Rexmere Hotel in Stamford has been donated to the Catskill Mountains Educational Center [CMEC] by Fred P. Murphy, who once caddied for golfers at the hotel which he purchased from the Redemptorist Fathers of New York in 1965.

CMEC is a non-profit educational corporation, chartered by the Regents of the University of New York under the state Education Law. It can receive funds that are not available directly to the public school system. It can, however, then contract with the Board of Cooperative Education Services [BOCES] and/or individual school districts to provide projects for improvement and expansion of educational opportunities.

November 10, 1963: the Rural Supplementary Educational Center under the aegis of CMEC submitted the first application to the Office of Education for a Federal Grant under P.L. 89-10, Title III. This program soon became a national and international model for bringing educational television into classrooms in Andes, Fleischmanns, Gilboa-Conesville, Grand Gorge, Jefferson, Margaretville, Roxbury, Stamford and South Kortright. During the summers of 1967 and 1968, additional towers were constructed and more schools joined RSEC: Boys Training School at South Kortright, Charlotte Valley, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Edmeston, Hunter-Tannersville, Laurens, Milford, Morris, Oneonta, Schenevus, Springfield, Windham-Ashland-Jewett, and Worcester.

520030.03

BOCES Offices To Vacate Cyr Center

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Nick Savin, district superintendent of the Otsego-Northern Catskills Board of Cooperative Educational Services (ONC-BOCES), states that their offices will relocate to available space in the occupational centers in Grand Gorge and Milford over the next year.

Rexmere Hotel for Sale

An offer to purchase the Rexmere had been accepted, and the closing was within days with a Neo-Expressionist artist and collector of Victorian antiques who has rehabilitated several historic properties.

Hunt Slonem wanted to make the restoration and renaissance of the hotel his lifetime goal. He is best known for huge oil paintings of tropical birds—lavishly colored canvases populated with rows of birds—rendered with thick brushstrokes. His work is featured in many museums throughout the world. The Rexmere was to be his home for his work and his Victorian antiques when his dream was destroyed.

Visitors and residents of the northern Catskills can empathize with Mr. Slonem's remorse, just as he can understand ours when we drive along State Route 23 and see Churchill Park without the Rexmere Hotel.

The Rexmere Hotel / Cyr Center

Anyone who has travelled through the Stamford area has a memory of the Rexmere Hotel as seen from State Route 23 just west of the village. Residents have memories of the Rexmere as a venue for outdoor activities (antique cars, fireworks, music, and plays) and indoor cultural meetings (Friends of Music, MURAL, Pop-Up Markets, weddings, and funerals).

Opposite above: The Rexmere Hotel ca. 2012

Opposite below: The Rexmere Hotel at 11:15 AM, March 25, 2014. Photo by Evelyn Kuhn
courtesy of the watershedpost.com 500001.011



In last issue's article about the Stevens Homestead, I misstated Bee Mattice's history of the house near the Manorkill Falls, reporting the house had been built by Rene Brownell. It was actually built by the Stevens family, long before Mr. Brownell lived there.

My apologies for this error.

I RECALL THE STEVENS HOMESTEAD

Joan Hess Mullen

When going to Maude Haskin's 100th birthday party, I was shocked to see that both house and barn were gone from the Stevens Farm. What a waste. A Victorian house with a gambrel roof and a sturdy barn. I do have many wonderful memories of both that house and the house in Broome Center where I spent my first 13 years. Unfortunately I remember nothing of the origins of the West Conesville house and barn except that it was previously owned and probably built by the Stevens family, prior to its purchase by Rene Brownell and then my folks.

My parents loved to renovate, and remodeled every house they ever lived in. I was rather unhappy that they removed the front stairway in the Stevens house: it was a lovely set of stairs, much nicer than the other stairway off the family room. Because of the front stairway, the upstairs bedroom near it had a very interesting curve in its wall.

Come to think of it, the family room stairway was also moved, but I can't remember exactly how that was done. Besides moving stairways, my parents made a three-room apartment for my grandmother Gordon. Those rooms were the original kitchen. The "new" kitchen was moved, as was the



Stevens Farm near the Manorkill Falls. Pictures from Joan Hess Mullins and in the Beatrice Mattice collection, 1990.

dining room that was part of a double-parlor. I wish I had made a sketch of the original layout, and what it looked like after my parents moved all the rooms. They really loved doing renovations, and it probably improved the floor plan. Billy Brainard was our hired man, and he and wife Grace had an apartment in West Conesville.

I wonder what caused the new owners (across the road people) to let the property run down.

I'm sure I have raised more questions than I have answered, and I wish I could remember about the origins of the barn and its date. I really was not much interested in barns for my father believed women belonged in a house, not milking cows in a barn! However, I do have a large oil painting of the barn, painted by my husband's uncle for my father's 80th birthday. I keep the painting in my bedroom, so that I can see it every day.



Joan Hess Mullen graduated from GCS in 1945, and went on to teach, marry a life-long partner, raise three children, and is working on being a grandma to two boys and a girl. She thought few Gilboans would remember her ("if so, they will remember red hair and freckles"), but she neglected to take into account her recent publication on Broome Center, available in our Museum. She can be reached at jcmullen@roadrunner.com

720032.01

LaVerne Hubbard Needs Names of Gilboa Service Personnel

LaVerne is developing the honor roll and needs reminders on (1) anyone who has served in the military and (2) has lived in Gilboa. 518 827-5239
106 Mulberry Lane, Middleburgh, NY 12122, clhubb@midtel.net

Ice Cream Social

The Esperance Band has kept up a tradition since 1946 of music at a summer Ice Cream Social. Always a great drawing card, the band will play as the sun is setting at the museum (weather permitting, otherwise at the Gilboa-Conesville Central School). Ice cream and toppings by Stewart's.

**Bring the kids, your own lawn chairs, and
carpool neighbors who don't do night driving**

Wednesday, July 16 at 7:00

Gilboa Museum, 122 Stryker Road, Gilboa, NY 12076

Around Our Neighborhood

More Info at northerncatskillshistory.com/event-calendar/

Gilboa Museum: Open weekends 12–4 July through Memorial Day and Columbus Day weekend 12–4 or by appointment (607 588-9413)

Best House Museum: Open Thursdays thru October, 10 am–3 PM, and by appointment (518 827-4239, 518 827-5142)

Zadock Pratt Museum: P.O. Box 333, Main Street, Prattsville NY 12468
Sat. & Sun. 10 AM–4 PM, large groups by appointment. 518 299-3395

Jim Planck, Musician and Composer, Gives a Noontime Porch Concert

June 21 @ 12:00 PM–1:00 PM, Zadock Pratt Museum, 14540 Main Street, Prattsville, NY 12468. 19th century poems of tanning & Prattsville set to music.

Living Cemetery History Tour of Sanford Cemetery, Dunraven

June 21 @ 4:00 PM–7:00 PM, Sanford Cemetery, New Kingston Road, Dunraven, NY. 1-hour guided group tours begin every 25 minutes starting at 4 PM, \$12 adults, \$5 ages 5-15. Reservations 845 586-4736

Music at the Mill with Mike Herman

June 22 @ 6:30 PM–9:00 PM, The Old Bunn Mill, 25 High Street, Richmondville, NY 12149. Acoustic Roots and Country Blues made possible in part by the Decentralization Program of the NYS Council on the Arts.

Ted Shuart, Schoharie County Historian

June 24 @ 7:00 PM–9:00 PM Middleburgh Public Library, 323 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY 12122. Refreshments. 518 827-5483, patwhite@midtel.net

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker—Pioneer Woman Physician

June 25 @ 7:15 PM–9:00 PM Basement, Zion Lutheran Church, 615 East Main Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043. One of the first woman physicians.

Notable Figures in Our History: D. F. Hasbrouck

June 28 @ 1:00 PM–2:00 PM Zadock Pratt Museum, 14540 Main Street, Prattsville, NY 12468. T. M. Bradshaw focusing on artist D. F. Hasbrouck.

Middleburgh Historical Picnic at Huntersland Schoolhouse

July 19 @ 12:00 PM–4:00 PM Picnic at Huntersland Schoolhouse. Bring a dish to pass, place setting, chair, drink. 518 827-5483, patwhite@midtel.net

Gilboa Ice Cream Social

July 16 @ 7:00 PM–9:00 PM. Gilboa Historical Society Museum, 122 Stryker Road, Gilboa, NY. The Esperance Band, ice cream and toppings by Stewart's, sun is setting at the museum.

Published April 20, 1896 The New York Times

A GREAT WORK PROJECTED

Plan to Extirpate Animal Tuberculosis in New York

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH TO ASK FOR A LARGE APPROPRIATION
FROM LEGISLATURE— CO-OPERATION OF DAIRYMEN AND MILK
CONSUMERS SOLICITED— INFORMATION CONCERNING EXTENT TO
WHICH THE DISEASE IS PREVALENT— BUT ONE REMEDY

Albany, April 19.—The State Board of Health has laid plans which it hopes will result in stamping out tuberculosis among the dairy herds of the State. The board has reached a conclusion to demand that the Legislature appropriate enough money to enable the health authorities to eradicate the disease, and will ask for an appropriation of \$300,000 to carry on the work.

At a meeting of the board, held in New-York City March 25, it was resolved that the Secretary of the board be directed to transmit to each Health Board throughout the State a number of copies of a circular on the prevention of tuberculosis, with the urgent request that it be given to the press for publication, in order that it might reach, not only dairymen and farmers, but the general public, who are equally interested in the suppression of tuberculosis among cattle.

The circular has been sent out by Dr. Baxter T. Smelzer, the Secretary of the board. Its substance is as follows:

The disease known as tuberculosis, and, when affecting the lungs, as pulmonary tuberculosis or consumption, is very common in human beings, and in certain domestic animals, especially cattle. More than one-seventh of all deaths occurring in human beings throughout the civilized world is caused by tuberculosis, and it is estimated that more than one-fourth of all deaths occurring during adult life is due to it, and that nearly one-half of the entire population at some time in life acquire it. It attacks people in all conditions of life, of all ages and occupations, in the country as well as in the city. The disease is essentially the same in animals and in man, and has the same cause. Among herds of high-bred cattle not infrequently more than 50 per cent are found to be suffering from this disease.

It has been proved beyond a doubt that a living germ, called the tubercle bacillus, is the cause and the only cause of tuberculosis. The germs which

are thrown off in the discharges from diseased portions of the body do not grow outside the living human or animal body, except under artificial conditions, although they may retain their vitality and virulence for long periods of time, even when thoroughly dried.

It has also been fully established that the milk of cows which are tuberculous, whether the udder is affected or not, may contain these living and virulent tubercle bacilli, and that the milk from such a tuberculoid cow, no matter how healthy the animal may appear, may cause the disease in human beings who use it. It makes no difference how far such milk may be carried or how much it may be mixed with milk from healthy cows, it is always dangerous, and its distribution for human consumption, if done knowingly, is criminal. Among stall-fed dairy cows, from 5 to 50 per cent are sometimes found to be affected with the disease. Tuberculous animals are also frequently killed for food. Their flesh sometimes contains the germs, and if not thoroughly cooked, is capable of transmitting the disease. Boiling the milk and thoroughly cooking the meat destroy the germs.

It thus follows from what has been said that tuberculosis is a distinctly preventible disease. It is a well-known fact that members of certain families and certain breeds of cattle are particularly liable to tuberculosis, and this liability may be transmitted to the offspring. In man, so marked and so frequent is this liability and so frequent is the transmission of the disease in particular families, that the affliction has long been considered hereditary. We now know that tuberculosis can only be caused by the entrance of the tubercle bacillus into the body, and that the transmitted liability at most only renders the individual a more easy prey to the germs when they once have gained entrance.

We know that the frequency of the disease in such families is in largest part due to the continued exposure to the infectious material which is cast off from the bodies of those who are diseased, by expectoration or otherwise, and in the absence of intelligent precautions is conveyed to the well in various ways which the intimacy of household life fosters. Similar conditions favor the dissemination of the infectious material among cattle herded and housed together.

In recent years, since the cause of tuberculosis has been known, sanitary authorities have been devising and urging measures of protection against the spread of the disease especially among the inhabitants of towns and cities. If man can be protected from tuberculous meat and milk, and the sputum of consumptive individuals can be properly disposed of or at once destroyed when discharged, the danger of the transmission of the disease from animals to men and from man to man can be greatly diminished.

Measures looking to this end are being put into force all over the world by intelligent sanitary authorities.

While the existence of tuberculosis in cattle has been known for a long time, it is only recently that we have learned how common it is. Even yet its frequency is not sufficiently recognized by farmers and cattle owners, and the great and increasing dangers to which they are subjected by the use of milk and butter from diseased animals, and the great and increasing financial loss to which they are liable from this disease, are not generally appreciated. In herds which are supposed to be perfectly healthy, from 2 to 25 per cent may be tuberculous, and in high-bred cattle the percentage of diseased animals is oftener greater than this.

The consumers of milk in cities are rapidly becoming informed, through the publication of Health Boards and the investigations of special commissions, of the risks to which they subject themselves, and especially of the risks to which they subject their children and invalids, by the use of milk which comes to them from unknown sources, or from cows which, often without the knowledge of their owners, are diseased and which may be giving off these dangerous germs at every milking. Municipal sanitary authorities and milk consumers are beginning seriously to demand a guarantee of protection against this real and growing danger.

This is the standpoint of the municipal health officers and the milk consumers. From the side of the farmers and dairymen, the condition of affairs demands immediate attention for two reasons: First, because they will soon everywhere be required by the consumer to give some guarantee, either directly or through sanitary officers, that none of the milk which they supply comes from tuberculous cows. Second, because the presence of disease in one or more animals of a herd is a serious menace, and may lead sooner or later to the loss of a large part of them, while, at the same time, the owners and their families are equally with those who buy their product subject to the danger of tuberculosis from the use of milk and butter from such diseased animals.

Tuberculosis is now so widespread in this State that no owner of cattle can be certain, no matter how well and healthy his animals may appear, that some of them are not already seriously diseased, and constantly affecting healthy animals with which they mingle in the stalls and pastures, or that the members of his own family are not being infected by the use of milk from such animals. As this disease is communicable from animal to animal and from animal to man, every intelligent owner of cattle can understand that it is for his own interest to have all the animals in a herd which he knows to be tubercular separated from the rest, and at once killed and destroyed. Destruction is the only proper mode of disposal of such animals, since their

continued presence threatens the remainder, and their sale for food or their use for milking is not only dishonorable, but may become criminal.

The tuberculin test affords a means of detecting with certainty the existence even of incipient tuberculosis in those cattle which appear perfectly healthy and give no sign of disease.

The owners of valuable cattle in many regions, after carefully watching its application, have become firm advocates of its value and safety, and so great has become the desire in some parts of the country to free the herds from this disease that the demand for its administration has far outrun the facilities for its supply and use. By the use of tuberculin and the destruction of cattle shown by the test to be diseased, it is possible to entirely free dangerously infected herds from tuberculosis, and to keep them free and sound by the admission to these herds of such cattle only as have been proved by the tuberculin test to be sound; provided that after the herds have been tested and freed from diseased animals, the stalls and stables are thoroughly disinfected.

The great loss which the destruction of diseased cattle involves will, of course, be uppermost in the minds of owners, and although the destruction of diseased cattle even at great immediate loss would in the long run be true economy, yet this loss must be seriously considered before the work is entered upon. It has been generally recognized that the State should, in some measure at least, compensate the owners for cattle destroyed, since under such conditions as now exist the fault is not usually with the cattle owner, and the gain in the suppression of tuberculosis is shared by all citizens alike. It would also seem just that the cost of ridding a herd of tuberculosis should be borne by the State only once, but that thereafter the owner should keep it free by admitting no animals without the proof of soundness which the tuberculin tests affords.

If the payment by the State for the tuberculous cattle destroyed be assured, as it can be by an act of the Legislature appropriating a suitable amount for this purpose, a way will be open for the gradual extinction of bovine tuberculosis in the State of New-York. If, then, the tuberculin test be required for all cattle entering the State, the herds here once freed may be kept free from disease. This means a great and material benefit to dairymen and farmers, to cattle owners and citizens alike of the entire State. It is the purpose of the State Board of Health of New-York to urge upon the Legislature such revision of the existing law upon this subject as shall insure certainty in the detection of the disease free of cost to the owners of cattle, and such appropriation as will secure for the owner a direct and speedy payment by the State for all cattle destroyed, at a fair and equitable rate. The appropriations in the past have enabled the authorities to commence the work and to secure an efficient organi-

zation, but have been far too meagre to attain even an approach to the wide suppression of the disease. There should be an appropriation by the Legislature for the current fiscal year of not less than \$300,000 for immediate use.

This matter is brought to the attention of the farmers and dairymen and cattle owners in the hope that they will co-operate in the attempt to free this State from a dangerous and costly pest, and thus promote their own private welfare as well as the interests of the public health.

Published on April 20, 1896, The New York Times.

240017.01

Abridged from a 1929 Stamford Mirror Recorder
FARM BUREAU TO EXTEND SERVICE
Forward Looking Program Ready for 1930
COUNTY COOPERATING

In the Forefront Are Dairying, Cauliflower Growing, and Poultry Keeping—
 Also to Be Given Attention Are Fruit Growing, Beekeeping, and
 Rural Engineering—The Program

The Farm Bureau in Delaware County has recently drawn up and adopted its program of work for 1930. This program includes every line of farm activity carried on within the bounds of Delaware County. It is exceedingly constructive and forward looking. It will be carried out under the direction of the board of directors cooperating with the College of Agriculture at Cornell. . . .

. . . Improve the livestock and the dairy business with the general use of cow testing . . .

240017.02

January 23, 1930, Mirror Recorder
Cattle Statistics for 1929

During the calendar year 1929, 73,057 herds, made up of 959,219 cattle, were tuberculin tested revealing 45,001 tuberculosis animals, or 4.69%. During the calendar year 1928, 70,353 herds, representing 850,177 cattle, were tested, 6.6% reacting.

240017.05

CATTLE DRIVE ON SHEW HOLLOW ROAD

Betty Matalavage

The cattle came down Shew Hollow Road from Route 10 east to Route 30. I don't remember if it was in the fall or spring, but it was a warm day and the noise of the cattle disrupted school. It was probably about 1932–1933—I was probably 7 or 8 years old—and there were about 10 or 12 children in the Shew Hollow School at that time. The teacher and all of the students came out and stood or sat on the big stone step of the school, watching the cows go by.

The teacher told us that these cows were sick and had to be destroyed for the health of the rest of the herds and to fight consumption in people. As I recall, inspectors visited every farm and vaccinated all cows in the dairy. This would protect the uninfected cows. Three days later, the inspectors would revisit the farm and check the rear of each animal: a lump underneath the tail was a reaction to the vaccination and indicated that the cow had tuberculosis.

The cows had been collected from dairy farms to the west of us. While I don't remember any cows coming down from the Wells or Decker farms, I am sure that their herds also contributed and that Papa had three cows and a young bull in the mix. Most of the cows were Holsteins, with a few Jerseys and Guernseys mixed in—overall, the color of the day was black and white—and there were at least two good-sized bulls.

I don't know how many animals were there, but I do remember that I first saw them approaching when they were abreast of where Dave Hartwell recently put in a new pond—and cows were still passing that spot when the leaders had passed the school at the corner of Souer Road and gone around the bend out of my sight on the way to the Clarks. There had to have been over 100 cows plodding along with men on foot controlling the march.

To my knowledge, there were no slaughterhouses in Jefferson, Stamford, or Grand Gorge. The slaughterhouse in Prattsville might've been operational at that time, or the herd may have been driven down Route 30 and loaded on an Ulster and Delaware train in Grand Gorge. I wondered what happened to the cows—were they destroyed or used for dog food?

I don't know how much the farmers were reimbursed by the state, but I know many farmers were able to buy cows in Canada to replace those that had been lost.

Drummer Boys

In the Civil War, drummers were an essential part of military life.

- Drums were used for communication in camps, reviews, and on battlefields. While classed as noncombatants, drummers and other musicians used their instruments to forward commands to units.
- When the fighting began, they generally moved to the rear, and stayed away from the shooting. However, Civil War battlefields were dangerous places, and drummers could be killed or wounded.
- After combat, drummers were expected to help medical personnel retrieving wounded soldiers, nursing in makeshift field hospitals, and even acting as surgical assistants during operations or amputations.

LETTERS OF ORRIN B. CURTIS PART III

Starting 22 May 1864 and Ending 14 March 1865.

Drummer in the 134th Regt. N. Y. S. V.

During a Three Year Enlistment at the Time of the Civil War.

Orrin B. Curtis was born 11 Sept. 1834, the son of Benjamin Curtis and Elinor Kien. He married Lydia Ploss, and his death occurred on 28 April 1911 when he was 76 years old.

The last letter in the March issue of the newsletter had been postmarked Gettysburg, April 22nd, 1864 as Curtis was trying to rejoin his 134th Regt. N.Y.S.V. in Georgia.

Cassville Cass Co. Georgia May 22, '64

Dear brother,

I will send you a few lines to inform you that I am enjoying good health, I wrote Father a line the 16th, I have not received a letter from him since I returned to the regt. I want some of you to write once a week at least. I suppose you would like a history of my adventures. I stand the marches first rate. Our Boys have been in one skirmish and one battle since we

moved from Lookout valley. In the skirmish our regt. lost 11 killed & 24 wounded. 2 were killed in Co. 5 Orderly sergt. Geo. R. Payne, & Nicholas Hallock, none wounded in either action. 6 in the regt. slightly wounded in last battle. Our boys were highly complimented for their gallantry in the last battle, they fought like tigers. I have seen but little danger to compare with the rest of the boys, although I have heard the bullets whistle & cut the leaves & pieces of shell hum past. My danger is little although we have to accompany the doctor where ever he goes. Some of our regt. want us to go with them to the front and pick up the wounded as they fall, but I have never known a drum corps to do so, & when they get us there it will be after this. Our Doctor was so courageous that he got scarred by a shell, and was not satisfied till he got a slight wound near his eye, & I guess he will be satisfied to keep further in the rear. His name is Murphy, from Albany. He is a fine man. We are allowed to forage all we can. I find the country different from what I expected. Some parts are well cultivated, others are dense forests, with here and there a small plantation with girdled trees & log shanties. This part of the country is quite level, & well cultivated for the south, with some good buildings. The folks have most all followed the reb army. Wealthy especially. We expect to march tomorrow, reports say to Savannah, to Red river, to Texas, but I think to Atlanta. Good news from Va. Prisoners say Johnson says if he could not hold his ground at Resaca he could nowhere. My love to all friends of mine.

O. B. Curtis

A lock of my hair for Lydia.

I send you a speech I like well. Perhaps you will. Give it to Ella after you read it.

29th. Called at daylight to gather leaves for hospital. Wounded being removed to Kingston. Firing steady 134th in front line of works. One wounded Co. H. P.M., all quiet. Rumors of reinforcement from Vicksburgh. Rebs attack our lines in night were repulsed with considerable loss. 30th. Easy times. Hospital removed. Moved across the road and pitched tent with Geo. Kniskern & Abe Sacia. Skirmish firing continues. Rebs tolerable quiet through the night. Slept in some leaves on the side hill, but did not rest very good. 31st. All is quiet unless a reb shows his head, or an occasional cannon shot. Done some washing and mending. Like Chancellorsville, the battle ground is in the woods, which are large oaks & pines. June 1st. Arose at daylight, carried

beef to the Regt. The rifle balls flew harmlessly past, 20 Corps relieved at noon, moved to the left, bivouacked near Gen. Hooker's Headquarters. Rather difficult marching through the bushes. 2nd. Rested 'till noon. Had orders to march, drew rations, had scarce time to deal them, rained. Marched about 2 miles. Rain poured in torrents. Covered a sick boy, James Weed, with my rubber blanket, pitched tents in woods in reach of reb shells. 3rd. Remained in camp. Quiet except picket firing & occasional artillery shots. Two shots passed near our Regt. doing no damage but it stopped card playing for a while. Orders to be ready to march, 134th at Lookout valley numbered 211 muskets, today it numbers 153. June 4th. 12 M. Damp & rainy. Some skirmishing in front. A peculiar fight. Rebs in woods but we environ them like the Boa constrictor, with sure and deadly grasp. 5th. Rained 'till 9 A.M. Regt. & Co. inspection. Rebs reported falling back. Do not fight like Lee's army in Va. Attended services at 7 P.M., at 33rd IT, Y. Col. Jackson requested me to sing for him. Welto, Warner, & I complied. 6th. Marched at 7 A.M. Skirmishers found that the rebs had not all gone to Atlanta. Took dinner and moved a short distance, went to building fortifications. Made our bed on some reb. shingles covered with leaves. Bundy's battery occupy the works supported by the 134th. 7th. No firing heard. Details of men are building works in front. A long order recd, by Colonel Jackson to prevent straggling and men bearing arms with wounded, noncombatants & musicians to do so.

We have been here 4 days. Expect to move in the morning. Have had quite a rest. The railroad is in operation from Chattanooga to within 4 miles of here. Our soldiers are in fine spirits, & expect to end the war this summer. I hear Wm. Curtis is sick, & Al Armstrong is going to marry in a few days. How is it? Write all the news. I want some of you to write once a week. Our mails leave quite irregular but come most every day. Do not wait for me to write. I will do so as often as I can.

Yours affectionately

O. B. Curtis

Tell Father to send me some postage stamps.

Camp 134th Hear Marietta, Geo. June 8th, '64

Dear Brother.

I take this opportunity to write that I am quite well. I have seen all of our boys & they are well. On the 6th I got Ella's letter, the first one recd,

from home. Tell her I am glad she thinks so much of me & I will remember her for it. I will draw off my diary from May 23rd 1864. Broke camp at 4 A.M. marched in a south-westerly direction. Weather quite warm. Plantations cultivated, large fields of corn growing. Marched ahead of my regt., threatened court martial for it. Crossed Etowah river & camped 1 mile beyond, marched 12 miles. 24th. Reveille sounded at 3 A.M., passed extensive corn & wheat fields & a large cotton house burned by rebs containing 800 bales & number of bales unburned at press. Marched over a mountain ridge covered with pines. Rained hard at dark. Geo. Morris (drummer) slept alone without tent. Marched 10 m. 25th. Marched at 7 A.M. Commenced skirmishing at 12 m. Found rebs, drove in pickets. 1st Brig. engag'd 2nd Brig. eng'd toward evening. 134 N. Y. & 33rd N. Y. drum corps ordered to division Hospital by Provost marshal. Went to rear, put up tents, rained, got wet, etc. 26th. Moved hospital toward front. Firing continues. One of our Regt. wounded in finger. Co. E all right. Drew rations of beef for Regt., worked all night to get it cooked. Had to carry it on our backs 1 mile, got it carried in wagon. 27th, Went to front with beef for 134th, found them in second line of defences in good spirits & unharmed. Bullets were flying. Returned to 20th corps hospital, gathered leaves for wounded to lay on. Commissary wanted us to cook beef. Could not see it. Co. cooks must do it. 28th. Isaac Van Kleek & Ham Bouck (drum corps) took beef to Regt. Dr. Gunkle pretended to report us to Corps Headquarters for not doing duty. Found himself mistaken. Heavy skirmishing in front. Rebs attempt to charge, got driven back. New drummers arrived with others of Regt. Called to nurse wounded. Eat hearty of fresh beef, was sick all night. Considerable firing through the night.

Thursday, June 9th. Had a chat with Wm. Mickle who feels his position as ordnance officer of Gen. Hooker's staff, but don't blame him. Had orders to march at 9 tomorrow. Bands playing at sunset, how pleasant to listen to sweet strains of music floating on the evening air. Groups are gathered here & there talking of home & friends. 10. Struck tents at 9 A.M. & packed up every thing, but did not move. Rained hard & lightning struck several times stunning men & horses but killed no one. Pitched tents at 5 P.M. So goes a soldier's life. Alvah Warner & John White at eve went out to prey with Dan Youngs & myself. Made up my mind to live better & felt more like a man. June 11th. Had orders to march at 8, but did not as usual. Our camp is 4 miles from Acworth. Good news from Gen. Grant driving Rebs back to Richmond. Reported loss of part of our wagon train. Rebs hold a strong position. June 12th Sunday. Cool, damp & rain falls almost unceasingly, mak-

ing it necessary to remain in tents or get drenched. Feel some lonesome. O! for Divine help to live a Christian, love God supremely, & be useful. 4 P.M., Orders to be ready to go to battle. Rebs supposed to be massing on our right. 8 of us went out to pray in secret at eve. 13th. Very rainy, cold, disagreeable weather. Had Regt. prayer meeting in eve. 6 resolved to start anew to serve God. Had a good meeting. Also a private meeting. Our increased to 16. Sergeant-major 134th Boughton from Summit a seeker also. C. Driggs found peace. 14th. Weather cool, & mud drying up. 134th went to rear to guard train, but were ordered to join Brig, before they got posted & went to front. Saw Rebs on a high hill. Battery threw shells in their works, got no reply. Formed by Div. in woods & stayed all night, 15th. Passed through fortifications to front. Gens. Sherman, Hooker, & others occupy a high hill, where Reb Gen. Pope reported killed. I ascended the hill, saw Reb works & 2 pieces on hill, playing on them. Also Marietta College on hill in distance & a large tract of country, as far as eye could reach with rolling hills covered with woods. I call this the wilderness of Geo. We fight an unseen foe. 134th on skirmish line, engaged in P.M. Geo. Judd wounded on lip slightly. 16th. Our troops building fortifications. 134th reserve skirling behind works. 3 slightly wounded. Our Regt. especially favored by Providence. Drum corps carried rations to front. Reb shell passed killing one battery man. Bundy's battery (our Brigade) silenced them. Heavy artillery firing. 17th. Eat breakfast & followed 134th, who with 2nd Brig, had advanced over Reb fortifications, which were strong, but well scratched with Yanky bullets. Advanced, found Rebs on another hill in woods, who opened a battery from field on right doing no damage. Ours drove them off when another opened from woods. Our infantry moved across the field & intrenched. 7 of our batteries concentrated fire on reb battery & lines making things jingle. I stood between batteries & saw our shells drop over the rebs thinking it not as hot as they deserve. When they dare fire a gun 42 cannons belched fire, & death to traitors seemed to be heard in the blast that rent the air. Bandy. Lieut. 13th N. Y. Artillery in his element. 134th skirmished. 2 wounded. W. Egnor, Co. E (mortally). 18th. Arose late, for it rains hard. Tents in rear of 2nd Div. in woods. Got a scrap from Lydia Wood. Rebs fire artillery occasionally, but receive prompt replies. 4th Corps press hard to cut them off at Lost mountain.

Sunday June 19th, '64. Rebs evacuated their strong built fortifications on hills in woods in the night. Followed in morn, passed their works. 134th supporting skirmishers & found rebs 2 miles in advance. C. Palmer Co. A, wounded. Opened batteries, & built 134th built breastworks. Rained hard in afternoon. Gen. Hooker in front. 20th. All quiet but pickets. Saw Gen. Howard. Moved

to right a short distance at noon. 4 P.M. our batteries opened on rebs 2nd Brig, expected to be relieved, but was not & lay in works all night under arms. Quite rainy, part of our drummers went farther to rear, got scattered. Tentmate & I slept on our bed of poles we put up before ordered to move. 21st. Our Brig, relieved by 4th Corps, moved toward the right. Rained hard. 134th put up breastworks. Boys out of rations, but got one days ration. Our right and left reported resting on the river Chattahoochee & reb train over & they can't pass for high water, must fight. Richmond evacuated.

O. B. Curtis.

Wilderness near Marietta, Ga., June 22nd, 1864,

Dear Brother and friends,

I am well & enjoy myself quite well for a soldier, who does not know where he may be a day or an hour to come. We are fighting the rebs every day & they are falling back from one line of fortifications to another & we are pressing toward Atlanta. Our loss is small for we advance cautiously and slowly, but surely, being confident of victory. Gen. Hooker & Sherman are the men that can whip the rebs every time. Howard does well too. He commands the 4th Corps. Lydia, in answer to your question, my money failed at Cincinnati but I took the cars & told the conductor I was broke & offered him what change I had & he gave it back saying it would do me more good than him. The conductor on the way to Nashville from Louisville was intoxicated, asked my seat mate for furlough & read it. It had expired, he handed him a letter of explanation, he supposed it was mine & passed by. At Nashville I found 2 of my Co. at barracks & went with them to our Regt. & feel thankful for Providential care. I am trying to live better. I want all to remember me in prayer. Give my love to all of my friends & my sympathies & regards to Wm. & Louisa. Tell all to write. I have recd, but 2 & these from Lydia. I hope to return home better than I came. Yours in love.

O. B. Curtis.

Hospital, 2nd Div. near Atlanta, Ga., July 23, '64.

Dear Sister.

I am quite well this morning. I am taking care of wounded at present, have been doing so the last 2 days. From this you will infer that our corps



Using a modern map to plot Sherman's (and Orrin Curtis's) path, Sherman's army left Chattanooga in April 1864, and fought south against Joseph Johnson's Confederate Army of Tennessee. The Confederate general put up a strong and organized defense, ceding territory only to overwhelming force, but the Confederacy wanted a more daring leader who would challenge the Union forces. Gen. John Hood met the Union Army in a series of seven damaging frontal assaults from July 20 until September 1. In the faceoff between Sherman and Hood, the casualties were 31,687 Union (4,423 killed, 22,822 wounded, 4,442 missing/captured) and 34,979 Confederate (3,044 killed, 18,952 wounded, 12,983 missing/captured). However, Sherman's losses totalled 28% of his army; Hood's loss was 54% and he became known as the most recklessly aggressive general in the Confederate Army. Atlanta fell on September 2, and set the stage for Sherman's March southeast to Savannah, GA; north to Columbia, SC; and northeast to Fayetteville, NC and then to the North Carolina coast.

Curtis's letters were sent from Cassville, GA (1); Marietta, GA (2); Atlanta, GA (3); Savannah, GA (4); and Fayetteville, NC (5)

was engaged in the 20 July fray fought 3 corps of rebs who attacked our lines on the afternoon as we were preparing to attack them. They massed on our division, & it recoiled on account of being flanked, for they were in advance, but rallied & drove the traitors back in confusion. I stood on a hill about half a mile or $\frac{1}{4}$ in the rear, & saw the rebs drive in our skirmishers & advance over a——field, waving their "rebel rag" to encourage their troops who were so intent in pursuit of our pickets that they broke and scattered & appeared like a swarm of bees, but our 3rd Div. were laying down under the hill in some bushes waiting for them & when they came up, rose & gave them volley after volley & drove them, & advanced our lines to our picket lines. Bunday's 13th N. Y. Battery gave

them canister & stockings full of minny balls which thinned their ranks with dreadful effect. I could not see our division, but could see plenty of pack mules & non-combattants making tracks for the rear. I walked back too, when the bullets began to fly near me. When I got to our breastworks, I stopped and urged several men with muskets to stand & hold the works, which some of them did. About this time Henry Creighton came along, slightly wounded near the ankle with a spent ball. I took my knife & got the ball out, done it up & carried his things about 3 miles back to our division hospital, where I now am. I saw him a little while ago. He is doing well. Alvah was well day before yesterday, when I started for hospital.

The casualties to the 134th are 5 killed, 15 wounded & 26 missing, supposed to be taken prisoners. Stanton & Andrew Sagendorf of Co. E are missing, or were when I came from the regiment. Levi Shafer was found dead, & was buried on the 21st. I saw him carried along just as I started for hospital. We now have not enough men to make one full company, in our whole regiment. We expect to be consolidated with the O P N. Y. our Colonel to command it, but he got his finger shot off & has gone to the hospital. Capt. McKaster is wounded, & one Lieut. missing. (Tell Mary Jane Labe Smith, a brother of Zach of Duanesburgh, is acting Adjutant 134th.) Our troops are within 2 miles of Atlanta, and judging from the booming of cannon & rattling of muskets heard yesterday, last night & today, Atlanta will be ours before this reaches you. The battle of the 20th was short & decisive, lasting only about one hour, (that is,) heavy fighting. Our men held the battle field.

I guess I have received all of your letters up to July 9th which contained some postage stamps. They came just in time for I had but one left & that I got for one envelope. Reports are that we are fighting Gen. Wood & that Gen. McPherson is killed. He command 3 of our corps. We are across the Chattahoochie & about east of it (Atlanta), or north east. Our wounded are being removed as fast as possible & will probably all be gone in a day or two when I shall return to the regiment. Lydia it is some warmer here than at home, but there is plenty of shade for it is almost all woods, but not so hilly as the other side of the river and I think the rebs can't hold us here if they could not there. But I must close. Give my love & best wishes to all of our folks, Father & Mother especially. Write me all the news, for all I get comes from you & Ella & Father. Yours in affection,

O. B. Curtis

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 20th, 1864.

Dear Brother Henry.

Yours of Sept. 4th was recd, day before yesterday, and it was indeed a welcome message, although it bore on its pages both good and bad news. I was sorry to learn that Maria and Nellie were sick, and glad also to learn from Lydia that they were better. It always gives me great pleasure to receive a letter from home, & especially to learn that all are in good health. You wrote about having a Sabbath School exhibition. If my term of enlistment had expired, I would be very happy to take part with you, for I have found such gatherings very pleasant, and look back to them as times never to be forgotten. They are to my mind like green spots in a desert, which always awaken pleasant memories & feelings. And I hope to enjoy similar occasions, "when this cruel war is over." I am glad to learn that you are getting along so well in your business in these hard times, while others are neglecting their business & leaving their homes to evade the draft & escape coming to war. Such men are not worthy to enjoy a free government, or the peace which will soon be ours to enjoy, if we maintain our integrity as a nation & stand by our brave soldiers, who have endured hardships & privations, & have seen so many of their comrades fall a prey to disease & the bullets of the enemy, all for what? To maintain the supremacy of the government & enforce its laws, which are a terror only to evil doers. What then is our duty as citizens of the United States of America? To hold up the hands (in the language of scripture), & encourage the hearts of our rulers, & also of the defenders of our beloved country. And how are we to do this? Simply by loyalty of speech, & also by words of encouragement, united with deeds of the same character. Can we do this by voting for a peace man? Such as McClelan acknowledged himself to be in his letter of acceptance? The idea is absurd in itself, to talk of peace to traitors, who avow they will not accept of peace on any terms, only the recognition of the Southern Confederacy. And who, who has a drop of patriot blood in his veins, will accede to any such things, when a few more men will subdue their armies, and restore peace on the only proper basis,—the acknowledgment of the supremacy of the government? What a responsibility rests on the people of the north in the coming election. I hope & pray that the people will be loyal to the interests of our country, & their duty to it & their God. If a peace man is elected at this present crisis, our soldiers have bled and suffered in vain, and their blood will cry out from the ground, & be required at the hand of the nation. Henry, I believe that if a man is elected who will sustain Genls. Grant & Sherman, we will

enjoy a permanent peace in 1865 which will never be broken up by the influence of Slavery. If Lincoln, or one who will pursue a similar policy, fails to be elected, our country is inevitably ruined, & we must submit to anarchy, & usurpation. For our laws are only a terror to evil doers, traitors & villains. I will now give you a little news concerning what is going on in Atlanta. Recruits are arriving for various regiments but none for ours & I do not know as we wish any unless they are from our county & Schenectady. All citizens are ordered from the town, which will probably be made a military depot, & be garrisoned. Furloughs have returned disapproved, which I take as an evidence that we are on the eve of another campaign, which will undoubtedly be more brilliant in success than the one just closed, for our enemies are disheartened, and if they could not hold us in check among the mountains of northern Georgia, they can nowhere. And give us 50,000 reinforcements & we will take the whole rebel army in Ga. or annihilate them, for since Hood has been in command we used up one half of his army. We prefer him to Johnson for he acted strictly on the defensive, while Hood charges on our works and is sure to get what he deserves, viz., a good sound drubbing! The people of Atlanta would prefer to remain for they stayed behind to get in our lines & acknowledge themselves deceived, for our soldiers act like gentlemen. Alvah, Robert Veley, & all of our boys are well. I had a chance to send a letter to Stanton by flag of truce this week & mailed one to him. My love to you & all of our folks & my regards to all inquiring friends. Write often to your friend,

Orrin.

Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 25th, 1864.

Dear Sister.

While our regiment is out on duty and most of those in camp are busy building their chimneys for cold weather, I thought I would spend a part of this Sabbath afternoon in writing to loved ones at home. I have my brick ready to build my chimney, but had to work 'till 11 o'clock last night to get them here so I could rest to-day. We have to carry or draw them about one mile and hand carts are scarce so I improved my time to use one last evening. Nights are quite cool here now, but we have no frost yet that I have noticed. But Lydia, I had rather sleep cool one night longer than to break the Sabbath when I am not obliged to. My health is quite good,

better than when I left home last spring. The boys from the Hill are all well. Our regt. has been out on a foraging expedition and came back with their wagons loaded with corn etc. They say it is a beautiful country where they went, and corn was growing in abundance. They have gone out today to tear up a railroad that is not in use to repair those in use. We hear good news from Grant & Sheridan and every thing seems favorable for a speedy termination of the war, Lydia, I think some of the people of the North are deranged in their opinions about a change of administration caused entirely by the fear of being drafted and the pressure of heavy taxes, augmented by appropriations to purchase exemptions or hire substitutes. All this they blame the President for. The president whoever he is, is sworn to uphold the constitution and enforce the laws, and is bound to maintain the supremacy of the government; when this is done, and the rebels are conquered we may expect permanent peace & not until then. And the idea that a change of administration will terminate the war is absurd. And I think soldiers ought to know as much about the war & the spirit of the rebellion as those who have never endured any hardships or imperiled their lives for country's sake, & never have seen or talked with a rebel soldier or citizen. And I think moreover if our country is ever saved, it will be by the strong arm and brave heart honest vote of the Soldier. Lydia, the only advice I could give to every citizen of the republic is to be loyal and true to God & our country's interests and pray fervently for God's blessing & guidance and we as a nation will come out of the crucible of affliction more firmly established in the principles of justice & truth "like gold tried in the fire." Be not desponding. Trust in God & all will be well. Our Chaplain has gone home and will bring \$100, to Jefferson for Father to take care of. He agreed to stop to see Father. I expect to stay in Atlanta this winter & have got a comfortable house built 7 by 10 feet sided and roofed with boards. So you see I expect to take some comfort with my partner who is a professor of religion. Give my love to father & mother Ella & all of the children, brothers, sisters, A regards to inquiring friends. I would like to take part in your exhibition, but am quite contented while trying to discharge my duties to God & my country. Remember us all in your prayers, & write often. Your affectionate Brother

Orrin.

Your letter of Sept. 25th is recd, also one from Dorns folk which I will answer soon.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 8th, 1865.

Dear Sister Lydia,

This pleasant Sabbath morning finds me in excellent health. I intended to go to church this morning, but was rather late, so I gave up going, but will have a chance to go this after noon & evening. Our Chaplain arrived yesterday, & will preach to us this afternoon. The weather is very pleasant. We have cool nights but the days are as mild as the most pleasant autumn day at the north. We have a pleasant camp. It joins a splendid park, consisting of pine trees with gravel walks & a fountain in it. The county jail is on our left, and was used by the rebels to keep negroes in for safe keeping, & also our prisoners. We use it for a guard house. As usual there is strong talk of our division garrisoning the city, but there is nothing definite about staying or leaving. But I am inclined to think the latter will be the case, although our division Gen. commands the city & has troops patrol & guard it. We want to stay, but it is too easy, or, as the boys say, "it is too soft a thing for the 134th"—"they are too good fighters." But there is now a good chance for old soldiers to re-enlist in the regular army as mariners. Heavy or light artillery, cavalry or Infantry with the remainder of their time counted in the 5 years enlistment, & a sixty days furlough & better bounty than we got, and Lydia, I think there ought to be one, of all of my relatives, who appreciates all the blessings our government has secured to us, & loves his country enough to do something in word, as well as deed, to maintain it, and enforce its laws, which have secured such a high standard of morals, & such attainments in the arts and sciences, & secured the admiration & excited the envy of the world. Although you may think me so weak minded as to be influenced entirely by what others say, as to adopt the sentiments contrary to my own irresistible convictions, Lydia I might well blush with shame, if all of my friends lacked love to their government as one ordained of God, to such a degree as to withhold from it that support in word and deed which is their duty as citizens and Christians.

And as you said "those who voted for Old Abe voted of course for some of your friends to go to war, I infer you meant me, for I am not ashamed to acknowledge that I voted for him, & I might say in retaliation and with as much & more propriety, those who voted for little Mo voted to have their friends killed off I consider it the positive duty of every one, to stand by the right in word & deed, no matter however much they may dislike going to war. One thing is certain in my mind. Opposition to established government or rebellion has caused more misery, suffering, & bloodshed, than loyalty could ever possibly do. Lydia I hope I am not so lost to the

pleasures of home & society, as not to prize them, neither so wedded to them, as to take a course which, if all should follow, would rob it of its most happy element, & make it, as well as my country—any thing but the abode of freedom and happiness. And this I can never do (neither can any American) without the strictest obedience to the laws of God & my country—which is but the essence of Loyalty, which exists in the mind and actions of some, only in name.

Near Fayetteville, N. C. Mar. 14th, '65

Dear Sister & friends.

It is with pleasure I seize this opportunity to inform you that I am “safe & sound” on the soil of North Carolina, on the north side of Cape Fear river, 4 miles above Fayetteville. We have had a long tedious march of 46 days since we left Savannah in which time (according to my diary) we have marched 375 miles by zigzag courses in order to tear up railroads, wade swamps, & procure forage which has been rather scarce in some portions of South Carolina & North also. The boys have some rare times foraging. We have a squad from our regiment mounted, who go out nearly every day when forage can be procured within 10 or 15 miles. We have no need of skirmishers, for the mounted foragers do that business for us, driving the rebs before them like sheep. Deserters come in occasionally & say the war is about ended etc., which I am inclined to think is the case from present circumstances for Genls. Sherman & Grant & Old Abe, hold the reins steady “in spite of stormy weather!” I expect the war will be closed about by the time I shall be mustered out of service & the present campaign ends, for I expect to take a trip to the Rebel Capital before I come home. I have seen considerable of the confederacy & expect to see considerable more. We have crossed 7 rivers with most of the bridges burned, but in a few hours our canvas pontoons were anchored in their currents & our invincible army under the indomitable Sherman were moving on, on their mission to teach transgressors the weight of the law when trampled on, or defied by perjured villains & their coadjutors in crime.

We have some rather rough times but the only or one consolation is—”only 6 months & so many days (8 at ___)” and we if alive can do as we please & shoulder straps will be played out & I am glad I do not stand in the boots of some of them in this regiment, when we are mustered out of the U.S. service. We expect to remain here four days & then we start for our base at Goldsboro which is 150 miles from here. We have orders to

write letters to day & the Gen. says he hopes to get our mails for us before we march, from here, if so I expect to hear from you by letter. Henry Creighton, Robert Vealey, Alvah & Wm. Cornell, are well. We generally have plenty to eat, but sometimes grub is rather scarce but we have not suffered. I have a mile to carry my things so marching is not so hard as in Ga. (Remember me in your prayers for I need them, & also by letter, for it is probable we will get our mail regularly after this.) Give my love to all inquiring friends, and especially to Father & Mother Brothers & Sisters & tell Henry to write to me once more, if he is still my friend. I am inclined to think some of my relatives do not care much for me, if I can judge by their not writing to me. Give my love to Ella & all of my little nieces & nephews, & write often to your unworthy brother.

Orrin.

Excuse this dirty sheet, for whatever we touch is covered with pitch-pine smoke.

I have "been accused of being overstocked with loyalty by some who do not think as I do—(and my friends at that) on the war, its cause, or, (if you please) the issue of the war & the necessity of enforcing the laws of the United States. It is an old adage that "God helps those who help themselves." Lydia, I believe God will, and does over rule our national affairs, and in spite of traitors in words & acts, in the south & north, we shall come out of the crucible of national affliction like gold tried in the fire. For I believe it will be with us as God promised it should be with Sodom if there were five righteous men in it I believe we have many, who are firm adherents to truth & justice & loyal in its true sense. And I wish ever to be ranked among that number, however unpopular they may be among politicians & also that class who would do anything, rather than have their friends make the sacrifice which I, & thousands of others have done for country's sake. The Scripture saith "Governments are ordained of God, and who so resisteth the same, resisteth the ordinances of God." Who has no duty to God & country? Or whose friends are exempt while others are not? I do not blame any one for not wanting to go to war, but they should not shrink from duty, but discharge it, trusting in God, for his merciful care is over all his creatures, and he is able to protect in the army, amid showers of shot & shell, & musket balls, as at our peaceful homes surrounded by all that is necessary to make us happy & useful. But I think we have corresponded on these subjects enough to understand

each other sufficiently well by this time. I hope I have sense enough to distinguish between right and wrong, irrespective of others' opinions and influence, as well as integrity enough to stand by the right, & reject the wrong. If I have not the former, I am not accountable for the latter. In regard to the close of the war, prospects are favorable for a speedy termination. There is quite a Union spirit in Savannah. The colored M. E. Church have dissolved from the M. E. Church South, & propose to join the M. E. Church North. They propose a system of self government & education, & only to dissolve the relation of slave & master & adopt a system of hired labor, & remain with their old masters and learn to use their freedom intelligently.

Our boys are all well. Alvah is here while I write & sends his regards to all. He says "Hurrah for Old Abe." He enjoys himself well, goes to meeting most every night. Our boys are all in good spirits, anxious to see the end of their 3 years. Uncle Sam will not get many veterans from the 134th. They say "let all the cowards at home come & spend 3 years in doing as well as they, & rebellion will be crushed & peace restored." I have recd, only 2 letters one from Mary Jane, & one from you dated Nov. 6th & a scrap from Maria since I left Atlanta. I love to get good news from home, Brothers & Sisters, Father, & Mother, & friends. But it seems from some cause, that pleasure is denied me, either by irregular mails, or negligence in writing, or both. You must all have learned that I cannot write at all times if I would, but letters are all the more acceptable on that account. I've sent Father a picture with a line in it & shall answer Mary Jane soon. Give my love to all & be assured that you still have the love and esteem of your unworthy Brother.

Orrin Curtis

Direct as before to Savannah, Ga.

These letters are the property of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Eklund, of Blenheim Hill, present owners of the Wood home.

The Gilboa Museum, 122 Stryker Road, Gilboa, NY 12076

OPEN WEEKENDS

July through Memorial Day, and Columbus Day,
and by appointment (607 588-9413).

Cold Springs Recorder,
Putnam County, January 1, 1887

A Drum

County Clerk Orr, of Erie County, New York, recently advertised for an owner of a drum which had been picked up on a southern battlefield and was in possession of Comrade Pleiffer of Buffalo. A few days since, Mr. Orr received a letter from Orrin B. Curtis of Eminence, Schoharie County, which says:

“I am the individual referred to in your advertisement. I was the only enlisted musician in Company D, 134th N.Y.V. which was mustered at Schoharie in 1862. My drum was carried in the battle of Lookout Mountain by a drummer boy named Smith, who became badly frightened and left it on the field. I would very much like to recover the drum, as I carried it from Fredericksburg to Gettysburg, and after that battle, our Corps, the 11th, was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland and accompanied Gen. Sherman to Atlanta and the sea.”

Comrade Curtis is very anxious to get the drum, and it will be sent to him.



The original drum head has faded letters reading: O. B. Curtis | Co E 134 N.Y.V. | 2nd Brig. 2nd Div. 20th Corps | To my dear neighbor, Earnest Wood, Ruth, N.Y. Drum and original head are the property of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Eklund, present owners of the Wood home.

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

Membership Application Form

Name: _____

Subscription format: Physical Electronic Both

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Address:* _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

* Please provide any temporary address for our mailings in early March, June, September, and December.

Seasonal address for mailings: Mar. Jun. Sep. Dec.

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City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

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

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