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Gilboa Historical Society

Learning, sharing, and preserving our history

v. 16.4

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

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Juul, Saturnalia, Dongzhi, Son of Isis, and many, many more

Gerry Stoner

The winter solstice—the longest night and shortest day of the year—has been celebrated as a rebirth of Earth by a majority of cultures and for over 5000 years. It has also been a time of extreme joyousness, notable for an excess of food, drink, and the giving of presents.

In this tradition, the winter issue of the GHS *Quarterly* has gifts ranging from digital copies of the Gilboa *Monitor* to an intensive look at our neighbor Grand Gorge to early lives in and around Gilboa.

We hope that you enjoy these presents now and into the future and that you will remember the winter 2014 *Quarterly* as a celebration of the rebirth of our land.

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Linda Newerla, Vice President

Janette Reynolds, Secretary

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Shirley Kutzscher, Recording Secretary

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

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

The Tourism Map, publications, and other items of general interest
are available online at <http://www.northerncatskillshistory.com/societies/gilboa/>

Send feedback or suggestions on the GHS *Quarterly* to
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GILBOA MONITOR ONLINE!

fultonhistory.com—*nyshistoricnewspapers.org*—*northerncatskillshistory.com*

Lee Hudson

The *Gilboa Monitor* (12/19/1878 – 10/10/1918) is now available on *fultonhistory.com*, and by early 2015 on *nyshistoricnewspapers.org*. Some issues of the *Monitor* can be found on *northerncatskillshistory.org*, with additional issues added continually through January 2015.

Fultonhistory.com is the extraordinary creation of Tom Tryniski of Fulton NY and contains over 28 million pages of searchable historical newspapers, mostly from New York State.

Nyshistoricnewspapers.org (Director, John Hammond) is part of the Empire State Digital Network, a vital service hub for the Digital Public Library of America.

Northerncatskillshistory.com, a local site hosted by Gerry Stoner, is host to the Gilboa Historical Society website and offers an impressive listing of resources and events sponsored by several local and regional societies.

These major websites have different collections of papers and differing search guidelines. They offer tips and videos on how to focus your search and look for particular names or topics, and how to print the information or save it to a file on your computer. Since they have digitally imaged the pages, you get as close to an old *Monitor* subscription as possible—at least until we format it for 3-D!

Spanning nearly 40 years of weekly publishing, all 9 editors¹ of the *Gilboa Monitor* knew that building readership was the lifeline of their paper. And not just for the money or news items they needed to run it—although they were not shy about asking for both. They hustled readers in every issue. They traded subscriptions for cords of wood in the winter, turkeys at holidays, trout whenever caught, gooseberries, apples, plums—and even a pair of socks! They gave complimentary subscriptions, held competitions for most subscriptions sold and best articles on a given topic, included puzzles and personals, and participated with other local—and national—papers in ‘exchanges’ of news.

These editors saw the *Monitor* as an upbeat civilizing force in a growing village, providing education, community building, loyal business expansion, and even village advertising. “Travelers, visitors, and people living at a distance mostly form their opinion of the character and enterprise of a place through the columns of the local paper,”² they would remind their readers

often, and it was a sign of a first-class progressive village to have one. Most villages didn't. Through personal calamities, floods, fires and ultimately the tragedy of their village destroyed, they were there.

So, assured of their blessing, we have moved the *Monitor* online, made its unique contents searchable, and expanded its readership beyond any they could have imagined—and certainly beyond those able to access a microfilm reader.

But it was a microfilm project that preserved over 1200 copies of the *Monitor* all these years. Town historian Richard Lewis saw to it that available copies were included in the US Newspaper Project in 1996, a national effort to microfilm and protect important newspapers sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. Ever since, those microfilms have been under the care of Mary Wyckoff, Gilboa's Town Clerk. This online project was able to build on their sustaining efforts.³

Led by President Connie Ruele, members of the Gilboa Historical Society considered and then endorsed the proposed online placement and discussed locating copies missing from the original 9 reels of microfilm. Society members Beatrice Mattice and Dorothy Pickett offered to check copies from their personal collections against the inventory on microfilm. An amazing additional 101 copies were found. Another four missing copies surfaced in the collection at the Stone Fort Museum in Schoharie. All will be added online as soon as they are microfilmed, a delicate process handled by Hudson Archives in Port Ewen.

We continue to look for additional missing copies. If you have or locate copies of the paper, check to see if they are among those missing from the online collection at gilboahome.com/monitor.

The *Monitor* is treasured by its readers for the information it holds, the lives it reclaims, and the memories it stirs. It remains one of few historic public records of the village and its surrounding early township—and it is the best. The weekly newspaper complements surviving individual accounts, memories, and photographs—and provides a broader context for them. It contains contemporaneous news, columns from 'correspondents' outside the village, advertisements from local businesses, letters to the editor, and occasional guest columns of historical information and perspective.

Doing what only local papers can, the *Monitor* gives us the townspeople and their stories—an inside view that influences our understanding of Gilboa's history. Professor Albert C. Mayham got it right when he described history as *so much more* than dates and events: "Seek first," he advised, "to know the everyday life of the people—their homes, occupations, progress.

Look beneath the surface of what is popularly known as history, to the soil from whence it issues.”⁴

Unfortunately Gilboa didn't have a newspaper during its pioneering 30 years after incorporated by law in 1848. The *Monitor* arrived at the end of 1878 and covered the next important developing 40 years. And it did so with encouragement, information, activism, and a supportive warm humor—always reflecting a deep pride in the central role it played in town communications.

1. Myron Dings, Chas. O. Laymon, Page T. Hoagland, Burton G. Griffin, Edith V. Griffin, Henry Becker, A.S. Thomas (Monitor Publishing Company), Eugene E. Howe (Monitor Publishing Company), and George Fuller. Mrs. Laymon didn't make it to the banner but she “took over the editorial stool” for issues when Charles was sick, 2/15/1883, 2/22/1883. The Gilboa Monitor was an extension of the previous *Catskill Valley Monitor* published for 27 issues. Hence the first issue of the Gilboa *Monitor* is Vol. 1 No. 28.
2. Gilboa *Monitor*, ed. Myron Dings, December 19, 1878.
3. Major advising for this project was provided by Jeff Sohn, Associate Librarian, NYS Library.
4. Albert C. Mayham, *Topical Outline in U.S. History*, from the preface, “History—A Story.” In *Albert C. Mayham Series Blenheim Hill*, published in The Jefferson *Courier* and Schoharie County *Chronicle*, Frederick L. Frazee, Editor.



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

440004.001

The Gilboa Museum

122 Stryker Road
 Gilboa, NY 12076

Open weekends

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

Online 24/7 at <http://www.gilboafossils.org>

STATUS OF GILBOA *MONITOR* DIGITIZATION

Gerry Stoner

The *Gilboa Monitor* was published on Thursdays from December 19, 1878 to October 10, 1918.

Although there were 2,078 Thursdays in this time span, we know that the *Monitor* did not publish every week. Despite often heroic editorial efforts, the paper did not appear at least 27 times due to holidays, vacations, illness, editorial changes, office moves or renovations, and the fire of 1890 which destroyed the *Monitor* office and stopped publication for over 3 months.

With 1361 copies online or in process, we continue to look for 690 missing copies and hope that you can help fill in the blanks.

- Dates printed in **bold** indicate issues missing from our collection.
- An X printed over a date indicates that an issue was not published.
- Dates printed in roman indicate available issues that should be online.

When you look through this list, please remember that the *bold numbers indicate issues that we need to find*. These bold numbers may be individual issues (e.g., December 26, 1878) or many months in 1884, 1885, and 1886.

When you are talking with people or institutions that might have these newspapers in their collections, please ask if we could photograph their originals so that we (and they) can have access to a complete collection.

December 1878: 19, **26**

January 1879: 2, **9**, **16**, **23**, 30

February 1879: 6, **13**, **20**, 27

March 1879: 6, **13**, 20, **27**

April 1879: 3, 10, 17, **24**

May 1879: 1, **8**, **15**, **22**, 29

June 1879: **5**, **12**, 19, 26

July 1879: 3, 10, **17**, **24**, 31

August 1879: 7, 14, **21**, **28**

September 1879: 4, 11, 18, 25

October 1879: **2**, 9, **16**, 23, 30

November 1879: **6**, **13**, **20**, 27

December 1879: 4, **11**, 18, **25**,

January 1880: 1, 8, **15**, **22**, **29**

February 1880: 5, 12, 19, **26**

March 1880: **4**, **11**, **18**, 25

April 1880: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

May 1880: **6**, 13, 20, 27

June 1880: **3**, **10**, 17, **24**

July 1880: **1**, **8**, 15, 22, 29

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October 1880: 7, 14, **21**, **28**

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February 1881: 3, 10, **17**, 24

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June 1912: 6, 13, 20, 27
July 1912: 4, 11, 18, 25
August 1912: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
September 1912: 5, 12, 19, 26
October 1912: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
November 1912: 7, 14, 21, 28
December 1912: 5, 12, 19, 26
January 1913: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
February 1913: 6, 13, 20, 27
March 1913: 6, 13, 20, 27
April 1913: 3, 10, 17, 24
May 1913: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
June 1913: 5, 12, 19, 26
July 1913: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
August 1913: 7, 14, 21, 28
September 1913: 4, 11, 18, 25
October 1913: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
November 1913: 6, 13, 20, 27
December 1913: 4, 11, 18, 25
January 1914: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
February 1914: 5, 12, 19, 26
March 1914: 5, 12, 19, 26
April 1914: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
May 1914: 7, 14, 21, 28
June 1914: 4, 11, 18, 25
July 1914: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

August 1914: 6, **13**, **20**, **27**
 September 1914: **3**, **10**, **17**, 24
October 1914: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
November 1914: 5, 12, 19, 26
 December 1914: **3**, 10, 17, **24**, **31**
 January 1915: 7, **14**, 21, 28
 February 1915: 4, 11, 18, 25
 March 1915: 4, 11, 18, 25
 April 1915: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 May 1915: 6, 13, 20, 27
 June 1915: 3, 10, 17, 24
 July 1915: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 August 1915: 5, 12, 19, 26
 September 1915: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 October 1915: 7, 14, 21, 28
 November 1915: 4, 11, 18, ~~25~~
 December 1915: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 January 1916: 6, 13, 20, 27
 February 1916: 3, 10, 17, 24
 March 1916: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 April 1916: 6, 13, 20, 27
 May 1916: 4, 11, 18, 25
 June 1916: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 July 1916: 6, 13, 20, 27
 August 1916: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
 September 1916: 7, 14, 21, 28

October 1916: 5, 12, 19, 26
 November 1916: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 December 1916: 7, 14, 21, ~~28~~
 January 1917: 4, 11, 18, 25
 February 1917: 1, 8, 15, 22
 March 1917: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 April 1917: 5, 12, 19, 26
 May 1917: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
 June 1917: 7, 14, 21, 28
 July 1917: 5, 12, 19, 26
 August 1917: 2, 9, 16, 23, **30**
 September 1917: 6, 13, 20, 27
 October 1917: 4, 11, 18, 25
 November 1917: 1, 8, 15, 22, ~~29~~
 December 1917: 6, 13, 20, 27
 January 1918: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
 February 1918: 7, 14, 21, 28
 March 1918: 7, 14, 21, 28
 April 1918: 4, 11, 18, 25
 May 1918: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 June 1918: 6, 13, 20, 27
 July 1918: 4, 11, 18, 25
 August 1918: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 September 1918: 5, 12, 19, 26
 October 1918: 3, 10

Advice as of January 1, 2015 for using the Gilboa Monitor

To search for a particular topic throughout all papers, use
<http://www.fultonhistory.com/fulton.html>

Advice: click on **FAQ_HELP_INDEX** in upper right corner and scroll down to read **TIPS & SOLUTIONS**. Then scroll down to **SEARCHING MADE EASY**

To search only in the Gilboa Monitor collection, use the above site and include **Filename contains Gilboa Monitor**

To access individual issues of Gilboa *Monitors*, go to
<http://www.northerncatskillshistory.com/GilboaMonitor/Annual/>

This will have a single PDF file for each 4-page Monitor to read online or downloadable for reading at your leisure. We will also be producing and selling 2 DVDs containing all newspapers in this format.

GROWING UP IN SOUTH GILBOA

Daisy Belle Rogers Willis De Silva (1898–1979)

I was the daughter of James Day Rogers and Cora Chichester, but I never knew my mother as she died giving birth to me. My father had a farm in Harpersfield, but as a widower on a small farm, he could not tend both the farm and the infant. I think he was one of the first area farmers to raise cauliflower as a cash crop.

I was raised by my aunt Alice on the farm of my grandparents, Patrick and Jane Foster Rogers—their Bald Mountain farm was at the end of a long path from Blackberry Street. Our neighbors were also small farmers: Solomon Darling, Liberty More, and Omer Lynch to the east; Cyremus Parsons and David W. Parsons to the south of us on Blackberry Street; and Dunn and Marshal, Gardner, and Choate off Kemper Mountain Road.

During my early years, I lived on Bald Mountain and was in grade school at the Forks-in-the-Road school, a long, hard walk. My first book was Barnes



Daisy's map of the area where she grew up from above Blackberry Street to what is now Route 23 and the Forks-in-the-Road Schoolhouse below Maham Pond. Her farm is in the top left corner. From the collections of Daisy De Silva and Anne Willis, courtesy of Anne Willis.



The farmhouse on Bald Mountain where I grew up. From the collections of Daisy De Silva and Anne Willis, used courtesy of Anne Willis.

830023.001 2685

Fifth Reader (not beginning school until I was seven). Everything but arithmetic was easy for me.

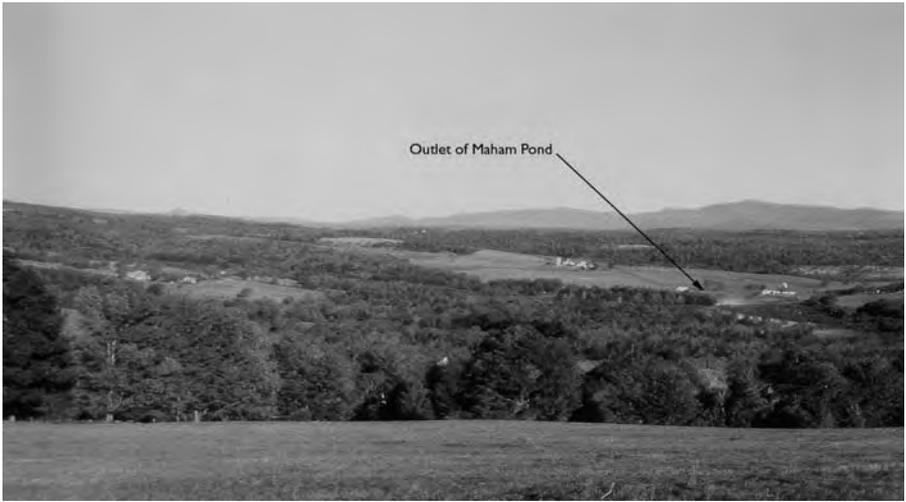
We had recess twice a day besides the noon hour. When we could, we'd go outdoors and play I Spy, Tag, Bull in the Ring, and other games common at that time. However, recess could also be unpleasant: kids who had prayers and Bible-reading in school often forgot those lessons and bullied and teased smaller kids in recess. I was small and wore glasses....

Once or twice a year we had programs and I got a lot of satisfaction from speaking pieces with gestures. I received a little jewel box from a teacher once that seemed perfectly magnificent at the time. Once we had a picnic where I had my first olive—not bad!



Daisy Belle Rogers as a student at the Stamford Academy. From the collections of Daisy De Silva and Anne Willis, used courtesy of Anne Willis.

830023.001 2676



Daisy Belle's daily walk to school from their farm. While the Forks-in-the-Road school cannot be seen, it is just beyond Maham's Pond that is marked. From the collections of Daisy De Silva and Anne Willis, used courtesy of Anne Willis. 830023.001 2693

At school, I tended to wear a dark flannel skirt with a white chemise and a middy blouse. Aunt Alice didn't wash them very often—there was no running water in the house, and buckets of water had to be brought from the spring and heated on the stove. Laundry day was long, and as a result, my clothing became greasy and kind of smelly from the combined odors of frying salt pork, kerosene fumes, Grandpa Patrick's pipe, wood smoke, and barn animals. One day, I was crushed because a boy told me that I smelled. (Probably many of the farm kids smelled the same way, and I remember kids in my class who came to school in overalls that smelled pretty barny.)

My daughter, Alice Willis McCauley who graduated from Stamford Central School in 1939, told me that the kids she knew in school still came from similar homes, still didn't have the best facilities for laundry, and that social gatherings of youngsters still had pungent odors. 830023.001

Digital copies of the Gilboa Monitor are becoming available free at <http://northerncatskillshistory.com/GilboaMonitor/Annual>
Email this address to friends & family.

MODELS OF FARM EQUIPMENT

Gerry Stoner

Margaret Tompkins was born in 1926, grew up in Gilboa, graduated from Gilboa-Conesville Central School in 1944, married Albert Hough, and lived west of Gilboa in Maryland, NY. However, she missed her Gilboa home and often visited the area. On one of these trips, she met a local craftsman and bought models of 9 pieces of farm equipment that reminded her of the farm of her youth. She told her daughter, Ruth Cole, that she would like these to go to the Gilboa Historical Society Museum.

Mary Chichester wrote an article about harvesting ice on her grandfather's farm, and used a photograph from northern Maine to illustrate the scoring process.

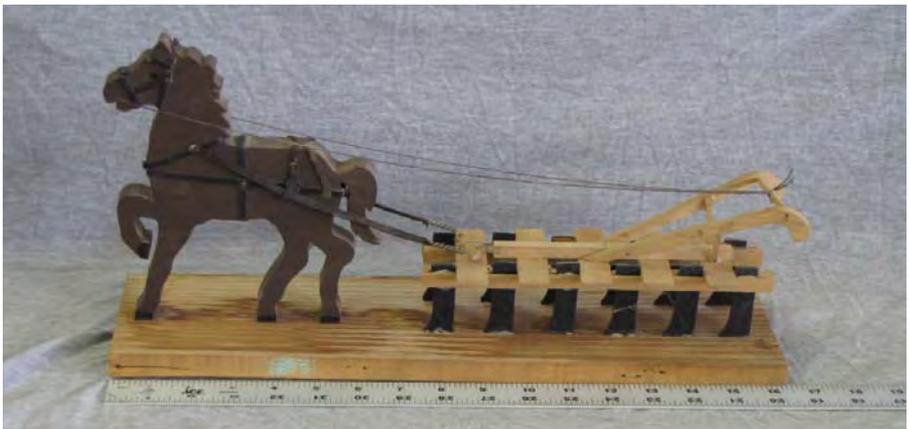
Photo by Paul Cyr © 2011 used courtesy of northernmainephotos.com.



In Margaret Tompkins' ice scorer (below), there are 2 parallel rows of 6 blades (the Maine photo had only one). The total length of either cutting surface might equal the single cutting blade from Maine, but having parallel blades provides two great advantages: the tool itself is balanced so that the person handling the tool does not have to hold it upright on the ice; and the two parallel lines means that every ice block will be identical in size and therefore easier to store for the summer.

I was especially charmed by this model and have tried to trace the craftsman—I've been told he's a Grand Gorge native who died in the early 2000s—but have not been able to pin down his name. Please call me if you think you can identify a craftsman whose model illustrates how farmers improve tools based on experience.

650010.08



GILBOA MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL

LaVerne Hubbard

We continue to develop an honor roll of everyone who has served in the military and has lived at some point in Gilboa.

- The military: U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Merchant Marine, U.S. Navy
- Service *regardless* of the location or time of their posting, and all *who have lived at some point* in Gilboa.

Have *you* served in the military?

Have any of *your sibs* served, or your *classmates*?

How about your *children*, or your *ancestors*?

If you're a teacher, how about your *students*?

The *neighbors*? Other folks that you meet socially?

As a nation, we take pride in our military. Please take a minute to make sure we miss no one!

Revolutionary War

Ellerson, David

Stewart, James

War of 1812

Clark, Amos

Efner, William M

Mackey, Daniel

Roe, Herman

Snyder, William

Sprague, Elisha

Wales, Levi

Civil War

Ackerly, Oscar

Ames, Francis C

Andrews, Grover L

Bailey, James L

Baldwin, William

Barlow, John

Barlow, Joseph

Batcheldor, David

Beach, William

Becker, William M

Beltman, John

Bevens, Dennis

Borthwick, Alex

Brewster, J L

Brewster, Otis

Brines, Harvey J

Cain, William

Chapman, Omer

Chichester, George

Clark, James

Creighton, David W

Creighton, Henry

Dayman, Charles

Desyliva, Andrew

Desyliva, Henry A

Desyliva, Homer

Disbrow, Charles

Driggs, Charles A

Duncan, Orra M

Eggnor, Nathan

Ellerson, Charles

Face, Erastus

Fanning, Benjamin

Franklin, Nelson W

Fraqhr, Arthur II

Finch, Stephen

Finch, William

Fox, Elmer

Fries, George

Friest, Wesley

Gardner, Charles

Gavit, Leander

Goodfellow, Martin

Gordon, Seth R

Harris, Roscoe

Hartwell, Charles

Hay, Alden M

Hay, Jefferson

Holdridge, Orlando

Houghtaling, Edward
 Houghtaling, Henry
 Houghtaling, Samuel
 Hubble, Solomon
 Jackson, David
 Jackson, Jeremiah
 Jenkins, John L
 Lafferty, Peter
 Lake, Martin
 Lawyer, Francis
 Lane, Perry
 Layman, Wallace
 Lee, Peter
 Lemily, Winslow P
 Mackay, James A
 Mattice, Alonzo
 Mattice, Henry C
 Mattice, Paul
 McGinnes, Barney
 McIntyre, Archibald
 Monroe, Henry
 Moon, Luman D
 Moore, Timothy S
 Newcomb, Sylvestor
 Peek, Alvah
 Proper, John R
 Reed, William L
 Rider, Reuben
 Roe, Daniel S
 Roe, Jinks P
 Saxe, Charles
 Schermerhorn, Hiram
 Schermerhorn, William
 Sellick, Whited
 Shafer, Thomas L
 Shoemaker, Abram
 Smith, Hiram
 Smith, John H
 Smith, Sylvester J
 Southwick, Calvin

Sowles, Lorenzo
 Stillwell, Hiram
 Thorn, William
 Tibbets, James
 Vroman, Albert L
 Vroman, William
 Warner, Milo
 Waters, John
 Welch, Michael
 Wiesmer, Malbone
 Wilber, Hiram
 Wilber, Philip C
 Wilber, Stephen
 Williams, George
 Wood, Charles E
 Wood, Charles N
 Wood, Joseph
 Wright, Eli
 Wright, George H
 Wright, John
 Yeomans, Charles
 Yeomans, George
 Yeomans, Horace

Spanish-American War

Benjamin, Philo
 Borst, George

World War I

Hallock, Warren
 Krieger, Earl
 Krieger, Henry
 Ledger, John G, Sr.

World War II

Bailey, Vernon
 Becker, Paul
 Bevins, Ernest
 Blakesley, Charles
 Blakesley, Rudolph

Boschetti, Armando
 Brandow, Richard
 Bremer, Ernest
 Buel, George
 Brosman, William F
 Chase, Victor
 Clark, Floyd
 Clark, Lestor
 Clark, Orville
 Clark, Richard
 Clark, William
 Connine, Douglas
 Conro, Carlton
 Cornell, Marvin
 Davis, John
 Dingman, Robert
 Eisner, Hollis
 Ekstrom, Clyde
 Ekstrom, Robert
 Ellis, Glendon
 Falkner, Louis
 Flower, Regnald
 Forgacs, John
 Gadrick, Edward
 Gaffney, Charles
 Gonzlik, John
 Hanley, Harold R
 Harrington, Anton
 Kaufmann-Harwood-
 White, Catherine
 Harwood, Hubert
 Haskin, John K
 Hilliker, David
 Hilliker, Donald
 Hilliker, Ernest
 Hinman, Robert
 Hogland, Guy
 Hubbard, Everett B
 Jones, Albert
 Kohler, Lewis

Laux, John
 Ledger, John G, Jr.
 Ledger, Paul R
 Ledger, William H
 Lewis, Donald
 Lewis, Richard
 Lord, Vernon
 Makley, Jerry Jr.
 Mattice, Ford
 Merwin, George
 Marchase, Michael
 Oakley, Fred
 O'Hara, James John
 Peckham, Vivian B
 Peterson, Everett
 Peterson, Harold
 Reed, Gordon
 Regular, Laurence
 Richtmeyer, Richard
 Schermerhorn, Warren
 Swartz, Edward
 Van Aken, Arthur
 Van Hoesen, Marshal
 Varrecchia, Clement
 Wally, Ronald M
 Wells, Randall
 Weir, Donald
 Whitbeck, Alton
 Wilson, Randolph

Korea

Beattie, Donald
 Brainard, Charles
 Brainard, Donald
 Brainard, Floyd
 Clark, Benjamin
 Clark, Louis
 Conley, Robert

Cook, Claude
 Heinzinger, Walter
 Johnson, Robert J
 Juried, Nicholas
 Latta, Wilfred
 Ledger, Raymond A
 Mace, Donald
 Mace, Victor
 Marsh, Joseph
 Peters, Everett
 Schermerhorn, Ward
 Standhart, John
 Starheim, Olaf
 Thorn, Frank
 Tompkins, Irving
 Tompkins, Norwood
 Wood, Jared Geradel

Korea to Vietnam

Brainard, Richard
 Brown, Franklin
 Buel, Endwell
 Carpinelli, Bernard
 Case, Clifford
 Clapper, Arnold
 Clark, George
 Conro, Darrell
 Conro, David
 Dent, Gerald
 Eglin, Ernie
 Ellis, Paul
 Freeman, Donald
 Gifford, Mark
 Haight, Manley
 Hallock, Glen
 Hubbard, Clifton L
 Hubbard, David
 Hubbard, Douglas

Hubbard, Gerald
 Hubbard, Marilyn
 Ledger, Carl R
 Marold, Paul
 Morkaut, Michael
 Slater, Ralph [Pete]
 Stoner, Gerald O
 Stryker, Carson
 Stryker, Monte
 Taylor, James Barry
 Wickert, Fredrick

Vietnam

Bellinger, James
 Lateula, Gregory
 Licursi, Albert
 Morrissey, Robert
 Orlando, Donald
 Paradowski, Rudolph
 Terry, William
 Truesdell, Larry
 Van Aken, Kipp

After Vietnam

Wood, Donald
 Wood, Michael

Iraq, Desert Storm

Beattie, Donald Jr.

Afganistan to Current

Clark, Josua
 Gifford, Shawn
 Jones, James
 Orlando, Michael
 Porter, Jason
 Rijos, Felix
 Wyckoff, Donald

NEWCOMB
AND
ROLLER
SNOWPLOW
COMPANY

IN THE LATE 1800s JOHN ANDERSON JR., A LUMBERING BARON AND STORE OWNER IN NEWCOMB (ESSEX COUNTY), STARTED THE NEWCOMB SNOWPLOW AND ROLLER COMPANY. HIS FACTORY MADE HUGE WOODEN ROLLERS THAT WERE PULLED BY TWO TEAMS OF HORSES...





... IN THE FRONT OF THE
ROLLER THERE WAS A DRIVER'S
SEAT AND AN ADJUSTABLE PLOW. A
SCRAPER BLADE KEPT THE WOODEN DRUM
CLEAN AND A LEVELER ATTACHMENT DISTRIB-
UTED THE SNOW EVENLY. THE ROLLER COMPAC-
TED THE SNOW FOR HORSE-DRAWN CUTTERS AND
SLEDS. THE COMPANY ALSO MADE THE ANDERSON -
GRIMES SNOWPLOW NAMED AFTER THE OWNER AND HIS
HEAD MECHANIC AND SUPERVISOR OF THE PLANT, HOWARD
GRIMES. THE PLOW COULD BREAK A 14'-WIDE SWATH IN ANY DEPTH
OF SNOW WHERE A TEAM COULD FIND FOOTING. NEWCOMB NATIVE
SAMUEL JOHNSON IMPROVED THIS PLOW BY ADDING ADJUSTABLE WINGS.
ON JANUARY 10, 1918, ANDERSON'S SNOW ROLLER AND PLOW FACTORY,
GARAGE, BLACKSMITH SHOP, STORE, AND WAGON SHOP BURNED.

© 2006 - MARTY PODSKOCH - SAM GRIMESMAN



View of Gilboa Village during the construction of the Gilboa Dam. Gilboa Hotel partly torn down behind the tram tower. This picture shows most of the business section of Gilboa with the gravel washer in the distance. Arrows point to the portal of the blow-off pipe (concrete) of the dam. It is about 500 feet long, about 8 feet high. An inverted horseshoe culvert and now they claim that the dam cannot be drained and cleaned. I don't believe it. Mabel Lewis' notes on the back of a postcard.

Postcard used here courtesy of Janette Reynolds.

74004r.001

GILBOA'S VIEW OF GRAND GORGE

Anthony and Lynette Liberatore

The hamlets of Grand Gorge and Gilboa were unusually close in the early 20th century. When the center of Gilboa life was condemned in 1915 by the construction of the reservoir, residents of the Town of Gilboa often came over the hill to shop and socialize in Grand Gorge, and to take advantage of its transportation infrastructure.

We hope to show you the Grand Gorge that would have been familiar to Gilboans after the construction of the reservoir.

Grand Gorge

The center of Grand Gorge is the crossing of Routes 30 and 23 (we tend to call this intersection “the square”). The following five pictures will show Grand Gorge’s businesses on the square, and then we’ll take a stroll on the “outskirts” of the hamlet—the crossroads of Grand Gorge that support the hamlet and made it of interest to Gilboans of the 20th century.



Gilboans might have been in the square as Earl B. Dudley American Legion Post marched in front of Joslyn’s Feed Store in a post-WWII Memorial Day parade. The parade is on Route 23 going west with the colors nearly at the square. 720703.148



Route 23 to Stamford from the square after WWII. The Schaffer House (not shown) was on the left opposite the H. D. Booth Grocery and Feed Store shown on right (Frank Kolts is in front). The Victory Market also occupied the west portion of the building, and there were a lot of businesses past Booth's. The first small building was Earl Taylor's liquor store (later across street in the building that is now Pizza Plus) followed by Wallace Hannah's butcher store. This later was Donald Savage's drug store where his wife Eileen had a beauty store in back. Next to it, Floyd and Raymond Cronk had a showroom to sell Dodge, Plymouth and Chrysler cars (aka, Edward and Arlene Rehbein's restaurant that later burned and now replaced by a closed diner. Next to the Cronk showroom, the brothers also had the Belmont Garage (see Texaco sign, and now the Grand Gorge Post Office). Past the garage was O. A. Maynard's Hardware Store, a big store later owned by Elmer Smith who had worked there straight out of school.

720703.121



Looking from the square to the north much earlier, Route 30 is a dirt road flanked by Booth's on the left and a small wooden building on the right, the first home of the Grand Gorge National Bank (1905). The Harley family (Agnes and Samuel/Lula More and Charles) owned most of the land from Route 30 to the Colonial Motel on both sides of Route 23.

720703.128



Looking from the square to the east ca. 1920, Route 23 east toward Prattsville shows the new Grand Gorge National Bank on the left corner. It became a branch of the National Bank and Trust (NBT) in 1957, and the lot is now next to Van's Family Store.

720703.129



The left two houses were Charles Harley's general store, and the three men in the door are Kenneth C. Joslyn (Wilbur's youngest brother), Albert A. Hull, and the owner, Charles Harley. Both portions burned about 1940. The lot was then used for an Oneida grocery store; Otto Steiner later had an appliance store with a small ice cream and sandwich place in part of it; then a drug store was run by Edward Gerstenzang and his wife (now Beauty Kreations and Country Hutt Antiques). The next building was the post office, later the insurance office of LaVerne Hubbard. The big building on the right was Charles Harley's Feed Store. It was inherited by long-time employee Wilbur Joslyn on the deaths of Charles and Lula More Harley. A building had been moved in after the feed store was torn down and was used by a shoemaker. Later it housed a liquor store and now Catskill Mountain Barbecue.

Photo courtesy of the Grand Gorge Fire Department.

720703.140

Route 23 East from the Square toward Prattsville

The road east from Grand Gorge has not changed much in the last 100 years although the purposes of the buildings have evolved.



The Grand Gorge Hose Company was formed in 1897, and this brick fire station was built in 1936 on Route 23. The hose company moved to a new building on Route 30 in 2003, adding square footage for equipment and a large, comfortable space for community gatherings (Van's Family Store).

Photo courtesy of the Grand Gorge Fire Department.

720703.124



Thomas Harley was a pioneer of the Ferris Hill area of Grand Gorge, and his great-grandson Samuel Harley was a merchant, postmaster, and the founder of Grand Gorge Bank. This is the back side of his home, just east of the village square on Route 23. It later became an inn and added exterior units (Colonial Motel).

Photo courtesy of the Town of Roxbury, Ronnie Ballard collection.

720703.107



Kitty-corner from the Colonial Motel and a few lots from the Harley stores, Schuyler Pindar had a livestock and livery stable. When his son, Frank, joined the business in 1915, he started the garage but also continued the livestock business for a few more years. The building behind the lone car was the barn. Olive Van Aken's father traded in a cow for a roadster in the 30s, but as the demand for livestock declined, that part of the business was dropped. Frank Pindar's son and grandsons all worked in the family business until it closed in 1991 (aka Military Collection).

Photo courtesy of the Town of Roxbury, Ronnie Ballard collection.

720703.156



Elwood Clark, possibly with help from his father-in-law, Omar Yanson, converted a horse barn to a hotel and restaurant called the Grand Gorge Hotel (aka, Hitching Post). Prohibition started in 1920 and the Clarks used the front of the building as a vegetable and fruit stand, and created a speakeasy in the back. Elwood reportedly picked up illegal beverages in Cairo while Edna brewed beer upstairs. Their grandson, Vern Bailey, recounted the story of his grandmother talking with a local policeman in the vegetable stand while watching an overflow of beer drip through the ceiling. Photo courtesy of the Delaware County Historical Association.

720703.146

Route 30 South from the Square toward Roxbury

The East Side of Route 30 South

The front of Joslyn's Feed Store faced on two state highways—its curved front was mainly on Route 23 but the western section also faced Route 30. South of Joslyn's along Route 30 was Maple Glen Farm.



Above: Maple Glen Farm—the original More farm and later bought by the Cronk family—butted up against the feed store to the north and used a lot of land toward Roxbury and up the hills to the east. In addition, the property across Route 30 that went up the mountain belonged to farm, and the day pasture was there just past Hinkley's garage. Cows were driven through the square in the morning and back in afternoon at least into the 1950s.

720703.108

Below: Maple Glen Farm evolved into a major tourist venue in the early 1900s. Note the combination of elegant dress and youthful appearance!

720703.110



The West Side of Route 30 South

The southwest corner of the square seems to have always catered to travelers, starting with the Schaffer House, and with a series of businesses to the south.



The Schaffer House (above) changed its name to Murphy's Hotel when Seymour Murphy married a Schaffer daughter, and changed its name again when Murphy sold the business to Roy Streeter in 1932. 720703.165

The Streeter Hotel burned down in 1940, so the Streeters replaced it with a diner (below) called the Village Square Diner. It was so successful that they added a large dining room to one end and continued for about 25–30 more years. It was replaced by the Corner Store and gas station in the 1990s. 720703.173





Harold Kellerhouse's garage was south of the Schaffer House. He ran or leased it for a while, until Mike Ciaravino bought the building in 1966. The business is still being run as an auto repair shop by his son, Mike Jr. During the renovation of the building in 2012, Mike Jr. removed the siding and found the earlier Cities Service front still intact (above).

From the collection of Mike Ciaravino, Jr.

720703.180



Lester Joslyn's Garage was the next business to the south (left). Originally a blacksmith shop, it was converted to a garage when cars started to become more popular than horses. Joslyn is seen here in 1923. The next owner was Chester Sauveur who ran it for about 40 years. Chester's grandson, Tim, has a short article in this *Quarterly* on the Grand Gorge offices of the NYC Board of Water Supply.

720703.149

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized locally in 1895. The building just to the south of Joslyn's Garage also showed the first movies in the Town of Roxbury (1910) and later hosted the Harlem Globe Trotters. The IOOF was disbanded in 1934 and the building razed in 1946.

720703.154



Next door to the Odd Fellow's Hall was Jordan's Ice Cream (above). It was a popular stop to get lunch, sodas, and ice cream—or even to bowl a few games. It later became the Village Inn.

720703.147

Tompkins Garage (no photograph) was next door to Jordan's and was the first commercial garage in the hamlet. As a young man, Basil Rowe was a mechanic there and went on to become an early pilot and a friend of Charles Lindbergh. Rowe once asked Lindbergh to carry some sacks of mail for him—this was the only time the *Spirit of St Louis* actually carried mail. Rowe went on to become the chief pilot for Pam American World Airways and wrote a classic book on flying called *Under My Wings*.

Another early mechanic was Albert (Mike) Haddon who later built a successful garage across from the Grand Gorge Hotel on Route 23. The land of the Village Inn (Jordan's) and the Tompkin's Garage were the lots for the current fire department.

Further South on Route 30 toward the Railroad

By 1866, Grand Gorge was in a favored commercial position with a modern east-west road running through the center of the community, and intersecting with another state highway going north-south.

When the railroad arrived, it spurred another period of growth about a mile south on Route 30 based around the railroad. A railroad station was built, a creamery and railroad siding was established, and rail service started in 1872. Of immediate importance, agricultural products—especially dairy, but later ice, broccoli, and other produce—could be quickly transported to markets in New York City.

But as important, the railroad also promoted a soon-to-be steadily increasing flow of vacationers for inns and boarding houses not only in Grand Gorge, but also in the surrounding area. Locals—and notably Gilboans—would meet the trains and drive these vacationers to farms on Flat Creek, Nickerson's Campground, and throughout the area.



In 1897, T. W. Decker and Sons built and operated this creamery near the Ulster & Delaware Railroad tracks. Later, the creamery was bought by the Hobart-based Sheffield Farms-Slawson-Decker Company. Raymond F. Cronk rebuilt the creamery in 1917, and it eventually closed in 1963. The site is now owned by Becker's Tire Service. The large building in the foreground with a vertical elevator was the ice house for the creamery. Photo courtesy of Preston Van Dusen.



The Ulster & Delaware Railroad arrived at the Grand Gorge railroad station (mile post 65) in 1872. The railroad closed in 1954, and the station was torn down around 1960.

720703.132



Beginning in the early 1800s, this location was home to a grocery store. The last grocer, Samuel J. Draffen, operated the store and added a small sandwich operation next to the rail crossing on Route 30. In the 1930s, George and Anna Ploutz moved from their Roxbury home to run a bar and restaurant here, and Anna continued to run the business after George's death in 1956. After her retirement, their daughter, Elsie Proper, ran the restaurant. Photo courtesy of Mark Proper

720703.161

Route 23 West from the Square toward Stamford

Looking west from the square toward Stamford.



Draffen's store was originally a butcher shop built in the 1880s by Christopher Deyo. William H. Draffen purchased the store in 1898, first selling dry goods and later specializing in shoes (ca. 1915). In 1930, Draffen sold the business to his son, Ralph, who ran the shoe store until his death in 1956. His widow, Helen, continued running the store into the 1970s. It then became a Montgomery Ward outlet, and currently is a residence just to the west of Pizza Plus.

Photo courtesy of Preston Van Dusen.

720703.113



The Belmont Garage opposite Draffen's Shoe Store was busy after the March 1928 blizzard. It was one of three service stations in the hamlet.

720703.104



The Truck Stop Diner, on Route 23 west of Grand Gorge, grew from a gas station into a diner that also offered curb and roadside service, tourist homes, cottages, a gas station, and a trailer park. Owners Henry and Josephine Widemann operated the business until 1964 when Walter and Herminia Behrens purchased the diner and operated it until 1970. The building was painted pink for a time, and the business was nicknamed the Pink Pig (Creekside Restaurant).

Photo courtesy of Lynda Stratton.

720703.177

Route 30 North from the Square toward the Bearkill

Grand Gorge is on the northern edge of the Town of Roxbury, and the land there goes steeply up Grand Gorge Hill—the only patches of reasonably level land are along the Bearkill Creek. Ed Hinkley related this story about the land on the east to the north of the creek.

“My grandfather, Winfield Hinkley, was a farmer in Roxbury and had an occasional gig driving 3 fellas between the railroad station and the cabin of a friend of theirs. After doing this for a few years, the Hinkley barn burned down and the family was trying to plan their future—farming was hard-scrabble and not truly my grandfather’s cup of tea. He was good with people, a great mechanic, and wanted to open a car dealership. He called one of these fellas, who pointed out that there was already a Ford outlet in Roxbury, and thought he should apply for one in Grand Gorge. His part-time job had been driving Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, and Henry Ford to the cabin of John Burroughs. As Paul Harvey would say, ‘And that’s the rest of the story!’”



This Grand Gorge school (ca. 1915) was opposite the current Hinkley Ford dealership north of town. The construction of a new school next door allowed the house to become available, and it became the Hinkley family home.

720703.125



The Grand Gorge Dutch Reformed Church was torn down in the late 1920s, and a new central school operated from 1930 until 1980, graduating more than 700 students. The original two-story structure was made over into apartments, and a new wing houses a cafeteria for senior meals and other community events. The school's gym is available for youth sports and elder exercise, and some classrooms are designated for special education and the Roxbury town court. The complex is the Civic Center and the Senior Apartments.

720703.126

Retrospective

This cannot be an all-inclusive retrospective on Grand Gorge, but I hope it reminds you of a few of the attractions that Grand Gorge offered to the people of nearby communities.

I cannot not name all of the area farmers in this limited space that people might come to visit—Cottone, Dent, Faoro, Murray, Powell, Simonson, Simpson, Thorington, and VanDyke—or families that impacted our area like Becker, Cronk, De Silva, Hardenburg, and so many others.

The telephones for most of the Town of Gilboa and the hamlet of Grand Gorge carry a common 588 designation, and many people who died in the general area were tended by the Ouderkirk Funeral Home in Grand Gorge.

The railroad certainly benefitted all in the area, and the automobile dealerships might well have provided wheels (although I doubt that earlier generations would have used that word) for *your* family. Grand Gorge restaurants, markets, and gas stations served us all, and I wonder how many of our ancestors drove to Grand Gorge in a vehicle bought through Belmont, Pinder or Hinkley dealerships; got their groceries at Booth's or the Victory Market; did general shopping for clothing, hardware, or farm supplies at the local merchantiles; gassed up before meeting a visitor arriving by train or bus; and returned home with a feeling that the day was very well spent.



Anthony Liberatore has always had an interest in local history and has learned much from mentors like Ron Ballard, Dan Underwood and Olive Van Aken (Olive continues as a source of information, bringing a lot of insight and remembrances to this article as well).

He was appointed the Town of Roxbury Historian in 2006, and is also the clock keeper for the 119-year-old tower clock in the Roxbury Methodist Church. Lynette Hinkley Liberatore is an avid quilter, and can trace her Roxbury ancestors back to the early 1800s.

The photos used in this article were collected for *Images of America: Around Roxbury*, Arcadia Press, 2010. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of Anthony and Lynette Liberatore

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Gilboa Historical Society Donations

We are always making plans for more activities and improved facilities: there are always things to be done.

If you want to donate to these (or other) activities, please get in touch with a GHS board member or send us a note with the membership application form on page 39 of this *Quarterly*.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

Two Other Buildings Important to the History of Gilboa

Tim Sauveur

We often forget the local people who work in support of the reservoir. These people may (like myself) be fourth-generation residents, or they may be imports from other areas. Nevertheless, they all become natives over the years.

Below, a 1921 photograph shows five members of the BWS police in front of their headquarters at the 2nd story of the First National Bank of Grand Gorge. Note the original bank building attached to the rear of the brick structure. Later, a new home was built for the BWS offices on Route 30 that later served as home and office for doctors Francis J. Malone and later for Stephen Naso. More recently, it became the home of Ed and Maureen (O'Brian) Weidemann (their ice cream store was next door).



Board of Water Supply. p.6.
Board of Water Supply Police.
Grand George Precinct.
Board of Water Supply police
station and men. First
National Bank Building,
Grand George, NY. 09-09-
1912. (Image ID: p010989)
Photo courtesy of the NYC
Department of Environment
Protection Archives. 740042.001



Board of Water Supply office,
Grand Gorge, N.Y. in the
Catskills. Postcard in the collection
of Anthony Liberatore, photo courtesy
of Anthony Liberatore.

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

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

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