



Gilboa Historical Society

Learning, sharing, and preserving our history

v. 17.2

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GILBOA HISTORICAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP

Jay Gould Memorial Reformed Church

No expense was spared in the Gould Church—designed by Henry Jane-way Hardenbergh (who also designed the NYS Capitol, Plaza Hotel, and Dakota Apartments), with memorial stained glass windows by Tiffany Glass and Maitland Armstrong, a Ferrand & Votey Roosevelt pipe organ, and an immense bell by the Clinton H. McNeeley Bell Company.

Wednesday, August 19

Put it on your calendar.

Bring the kids. Carpool your neighbors.

We will caravan from the Gilboa Town Hall at 6 PM

Published by the Gilboa Historical Society, Post Office Box 52, Gilboa, NY 12076

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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>

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

Send feedback, suggestions, and information about pictures and postcards to the GHS Quarterly gerrys@gilboahome.com or HUDSONLEE2@AOL.COM
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CORPORAL WILLIAM BARRINGER

The Rest of the Story

Mark Sullivan

In a recent Gilboa Historical Society *Quarterly*, there was a photo of the gravestone of William Z. Barringer, buried in a small cemetery in Franklinton (Town of Broome, Schoharie County), New York. Here is the rest of the story on Cpl. William Barringer.

William Barringer enlisted for three years in I Co, 76th NY Infantry, on October 4, 1861 at Livingston. The Seventy-Sixth Regiment, New York State Volunteers, was raised from the small towns and farms of central New York State. Organized at Cortland and Albany, the regiment was mustered in January 16, 1862 and left for Washington, D.C. on January 17, 1862. It was first attached to the Army of the Potomac in the defenses of the Capital and in most of the battles in the eastern theater of the war. In all, 83 men from Schoharie County joined this regiment.

Pvt. Barringer began his service in the defenses of Washington, D.C., on duty at and near Fredericksburg, Va., until August 1862. Then, he was called upon for this service:

- Gen. Pope's Campaign in Northern Virginia, August 16–September 2: Forts of the Rappahannock, August 20–23; Battle of Gainesville, August 28; Battle of Groveton, August 29; and the Battle of Second Bull Run, August 30.
- Maryland Campaign, September 6–22: Battle of South Mountain, September 14; Antietam, September 16–17.
- at Sharpsburg, Md. until October 29; the advance to Falmouth, Va., October 29–November 19; Battle of Fredericksburg, Va., December 12–15; and finally the "Mud March" of January 20–24, 1863.

He was reported as sick on February 28, 1863 and sent to Camp Convalescent, near Alexandria, Va, in April, 1863 "with diarrhea." He was then transferred to C Co, Thirteenth Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps, on July 20, 1863. The Veteran Reserve Corps (originally the Invalid Corps) was a military reserve organization created within the Union Army during the Civil War to allow partially disabled or otherwise infirmed soldiers (or former soldiers) to perform light duty, freeing able-bodied soldiers to serve on the front lines.

Pvt. Barringer re-enlisted in VRC for three years on May 7, 1864 at Gallop's Island, Boston Harbor, Mass. The City of Boston leased Gallop's Island to the federal government during the Civil War for training replacement troops to fill out existing units. The Island held a wide assortment of buildings including twenty Civil War barracks; six sets of officers quarters; one headquarters building; a commissary; a storehouse; stables; a hospital; main guard house and a wharf based guard-shack; an "old house" with associated officer's dining room; four wells; a church; and a library.

Pvt. Barringer continued his duties with the VRC training new recruits as well as several special details such as "on detached service guarding recruits to the army." He was promoted to corporal on June 30, 1864. All seemed to be going well until February 20, 1865. On that day, he was given a detail to escort a prisoner to Albany but was accidentally shot by his commanding officer, Capt. Andrew Bayne. He died in the early morning of February 21, 1865 at the Gallop's Island Post Hospital, Boston Harbor, Mass.

Capt. Bayne wrote a letter to William's father, dated on March 11, 1865, detailing the tragic accident which ended Cpl. Barringer's life:

Hqtrs Draft Rendezvous, Provost Marshall's Office, Gallop's Island,
Boston Harbor, Mass, March 11, 1865

Sir,

I duly received your communication of Mar 4th, '65 and am sorry to say your son, Wm. L. Barringer, was accidentally shot by me. He was ordered to take a man to Boston and in handing him a Revolver (supposed by me to be unloaded) one of the cylinders exploded the ball taking effect in the upper part of the abdomen. All the surgical skill can do, was done but unfortunately he sank under ill, and expired at half-past 5 A.M. next morning, Jany (sic) 21, '65, much begretted by me, his officers and companions in arms by whom he was much liked.

[Capt. Andrew Bayne]

The Asst. Surgeon at the Post Hospital filed a medical report on the wounds:

Corp. William Barringer was admitted to Post Hospital, Gallop's Island, Boston Harbor, Feb 20, 1865 with accidental pistol shot which occurred at the Provost Marshall's office about 10 A.M. while presenting a pistol to be used while on guard in transporting prisoners to the penitentiary at Albany, NY. The ball entered directly in front of right side two inches from the median line, just below the lower rib crazing the lower edge of

the rib and lodging between the two lower ribs on the back three inches from the spine and just below the skin. Patient very soon after the accident commenced vomiting and so till he died, complaining of excessive pain in the back and lower portion of the abdomen. About two hours from the accident he vomited urine which was very strong tinged with blood which led me to infer that the ball had passed through the kidney and lodged in the long muscles of the back. The ball was removed about 5 P.M., attended however with no relief from pain. He remained during the night until 5 A.M. which time he sank from exhaustion produced by internal bleeding. He died 5 o'clock A.M. Feb 21, 1865. Body removed from the Island.

F.L. Ausworth, Asst, Surgeon, US Army

* * * * *

William Barringer, father of Cpl. William Barringer, filed a case for the arrears of pay in May 1867 to the Pension Office. The case was approved in May 1868 with several months of back pay given to the father. Rhoda Overocker testified in the pension application that William Barringer, Sr., was a "farm labor and has been all his life. That he is lame now and has been for a great many years previous to 1865. The cause of his lameness was frozen feet and one foot was cut while chopping wood some 40 years ago." William Barringer, Sr., died on Dec 9, 1884 in Broome, Schoharie Co. Edgar E. Brayman, practicing physician, "attended him during his last sickness and death. I was not able to discover any particular disease about him and in my judgment he died of old age and was worn out. He was very old at his death and about 74 years old."

* * * * *

Catharine Barringer, mother of Cpl. William, filed for a Pension of a Mother in May 1887. She claimed that "No person has ever been bound legally to support me since the death of my son and my husband. I have been supported by the town in which I live at the rate of from 50 cents to \$1.00 per week as a town pauper and also further support from my children. As to the exact amount, I am now unable to state but on average including my physician bill, about 3 dollars a week." She was awarded a pension of \$12 per month in May, 1890.

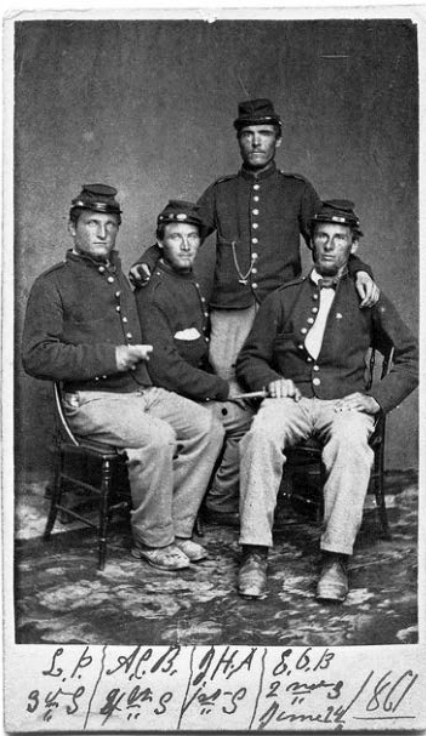
Absalom Graham¹ testified that "he is well acquainted with Catharine and her whole family who are very poor, honorable people and that Catharine is in a very needy circumstance and in a helpless, feeble condition. I am a merchant in business in Franklinton and know that Catharine is supported by the town in which she lives (Broome). The order of the

town has grown from fifty cents a week to \$1.00 per week. I now hold an order of \$1.00 per week up to February 1890 for her support or relief.”

Catharine Barringer died in 1895 and was buried at the Franklinton Cemetery, Town of Broome, alongside her husband, her son William, and her two other children.

* * * * *

Capt. Andrew Christie Bayne was born on May 21, 1841, in Scotland. He came to America as a child and settled in New York Mills with his family. He worked in a mill for a time but did not like that work. He tried farming for a while until the Civil War broke out. He was the first to enlist from the Town of Morristown, enlisting in the Sixteenth New York Regiment, mustered in as a Sergeant in Company G on May 15, 1861. He participated in the July 1861 Battle of First Bull Run, and in the 1862 Peninsular Campaign in the Battles of Yorktown, West Point, Fair Oaks and Gaines Mill. In the latter battle he was severely wounded in the head and right thigh, but recovered enough to participate in the August 1862 Battle of 2nd Bull Run. He rose in rank during the subsequent fall, being promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on September 13, 1862, and 1st Lieutenant on October 21,



Ranking Sergeants of Company G,
Sixteenth Regiment, NY INF

Carte de visite by an anonymous photographer. The Civil War was two months old on June 24, 1861, when these New Yorkers left their camp in Bethlehem, N.Y., and posed for their portrait brandishing weapons and an air of confidence.

3rd Sgt. Luther Lee Partridge, 4th Sgt. Andrew Christie Bayne, 1st Sgt. John Henry Austin, and 2nd Sgt. Edwin O. Betts all served in Company G of the Sixteenth New York Infantry.

Photo: US Army History Institute. 825002.002

1862. He fought with his regiment in the September 1862 battles of Crampton's Gap and Antietam (where he was again wounded), the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg, and in the May 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville. In the last battle he was severely wounded once more, this time enough to end his field service for good. He was honorably discharged due to disability on June 3, 1863 at Albany, New York. A month later he re-joined the Union Army, this time with a commission of 1st Lieutenant in the Veteran Reserve Corps (July 16, 1863). Promoted to Captain of Company E, 13th Veteran Reserve Corps on May 24, 1864, he served until well past the end of the Civil War, finally being mustered out of the Volunteer Service on September 14, 1866.



After his military service he became Vice President of the Aetna Insurance Company, based in Hartford, Connecticut. He died on October 12, 1893 in Newport, New York in the midst of a carriage ride with his family. In his obituary in the *Rome Sentinel*, "Capt Bayne had not been in the best of health of late and decided on a carriage ride from Hartford to St Lawrence County, where his wife's family resides. Mr. Bayne has suffered more or less from heart trouble and there is supposed to have been the cause of death. Capt. Bayne was a brave soldier and an honest, upright man. He had many friends who will mourn his loss." He was buried at the Glenside Cemetery, New York Mills, Oneida County.

Biography

Lindemann, Peter. *A Crooked Gun: The Civil War Dead of Schoharie County*. Private printing, 2014.
 National Archives and Records Administration. Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans Administration, Civil War Pension Files, Union, Civil War. Parent Pension of William Barringer, #352067
 Smith, A.P. *History of the Seventy-Sixth Regiment New York Volunteers*. Cortland, NY: J.P. Davis & Speer, 1867.

Notes

1. There was a George Graham in Franklinton in the 1899 *Scho. Co. Directory* as a merchant and post-master with 100 acres.

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

THE ROADS OF GILBOA

1917 and 2015

Gerry Stoner

We had difficulty identifying road names in the 1917 village of Gilboa: the *Gilboa Monitor* did not publish addresses and the Board of Water Supply (BWS) used generic names (*Road to Broome Center*) instead of names used locally (*Flat Creek Road*). Thanks to Town Clerk Mary Wyckoff and Assessor George Wilson, we were able to find the street names that were used by the *local* assessor in the tax rolls. In these articles, we have tried to refer to primary references from native Gilboans.

There were three ways to access the village on each side of the creek. These six access roads are shown in *bold italics*.

Roads on the East of the Creek

Main Street ran out of the village to the southeast and up the hill to intersect with today's State Route 990v just below the Manorkill Falls. Outside of the village, people referred to it as the *Conesville Road* if that were their destination, or the *Prattsville Road* if they were planning to cross over the old Manorkill Falls bridge and follow today's route to Prattsville.

Northbound *Main Street* split in three north of the business district.

Back Road was the right branch and curved sharply to the east, continued up the embankment and then went toward Broome Center. Part of that road today is called *Wyckoff Road* and the north portion uses the original name.

The left branch of *Main Street* was *Lower Road*, ran parallel to the creek, and then turned to the northeast as *Flat Creek Road*.

Other roads east of the creek:

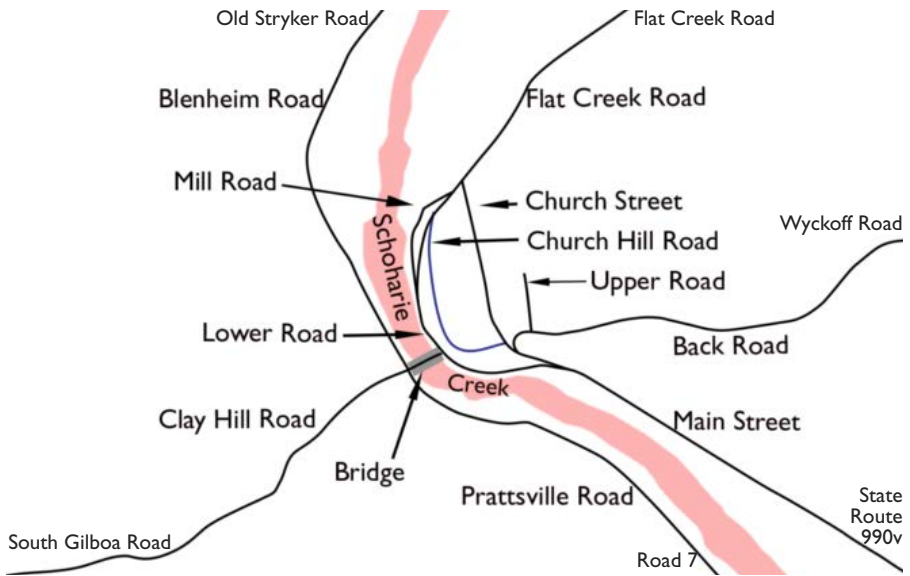
Church Street was the middle branch of *Main Street* through a level plateau of modest homes, and ended in a T with *Flat Creek Road*.

Church Hill Road was roughly parallel to *Lower Road* and *Church Street*. The local assessor in 1917 called this route *Church Hill*, not *Church Hill Road*—we have added the “Road” for clarity, as also villagers tended to call the hill to the east of the creek “*Church Hill*.”

Mill Road was a creek-side jug handle off *Lower Road*.

Upper Road was a short side street off *Back Road*.

There was a *Blenheim Hill Road* as a river route to *Blenheim* on the east of the Schoharie. However, it had been abandoned by 1917.



Street Map of the Village of Gilboa, 1917. The current names of the 6 roads that fed into the village are in smaller type on the borders of the map.

Roads on the West of the Creek

Clay Hill Road generally followed the Susquehanna Turnpike, winding parallel to Clay Hill Creek and going up the grade to join today’s State Route 30. Travellers called it *Grand Gorge Road*, *South Gilboa Road*, or *Blenheim Road* depending on their destination. The area north of the creek was called Clay Hill. Note: City BWS maps renamed Clay Hill Creek as the Kill.

Prattsville Road turned south from the bridge as a river route traveling to the south and meeting up with parts of current day Road 7.

Blenheim Road followed the Schoharie north, met what we now call *Old Stryker Road* at 990v, and followed that path north to join State Route 30.

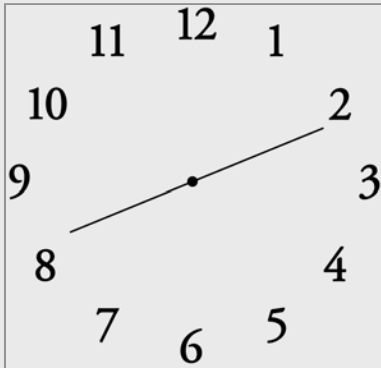
Clay Hill

Clay, especially water-soaked clay, has a low “angle of repose”—it will tend to slide (or avalanche) when soaked in a rainy season. This may be why the name “Clay Hill” is so common in the Catskills.

This structural weakness was recognized by villagers and presented a problem for Board of Water Supply engineers constructing Road 9 in 1919. It was a problem again 90 years later during the dam reconstruction.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE VILLAGE OF GILBOA

Using Today's DEP Dam as a Benchmark



Imagine being in a helicopter over the Gilboa Dam and using your watch as a compass.

Hold the watch so the western pylon of the dam would be over the 8 on the clock's face, and the 2 as marking the eastern end of the spillway. The position of the hands will be the dam's face, and the length of the hands will represent the dam's quarter-mile (1320') length.

Without moving the clock, 12 points to the north; the western pylon of the dam marks the creamery; the face of the dam marks the upstream edge of the 220' bridge. Main Street goes toward four o'clock and passes very near the overlook when we get it back.



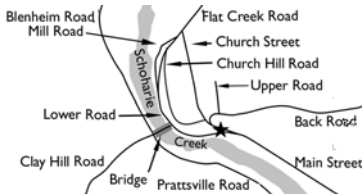
WALKING NORTH OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT

1917 in the Village of Gilboa

Gerry Stoner and Lee Hudson

Land use in the village north of the business district was a mix of manufacturing and commercial enterprises, elegant homes and middle-class housing, and agriculture.

North of the business district, Main Street split in three: Back Road curved to the right; Church Street went straight; and Lower Road forked to the left. There were two businesses at the start of Lower Road: Luman Hildreth's shop on the right in the vee and Frank Lewis' Garage on the left.



Luman Hildreth Shop

Lot number: 104, on Lower Road
Lot size: 0.10 acre on landward side
Owner: Luman Hildreth

This curiously shaped lot was originally owned by a tannery that went out of business and left a narrow strip of land around the escarpment.

The building had many lives—as a blacksmith's shop, and then as Daniel Rivenburgh's wagon-making shop for nearly 20 years. Mrs. Daniel Rivenburgh sold the property to William Shutts and his wife Hattie in 1908.

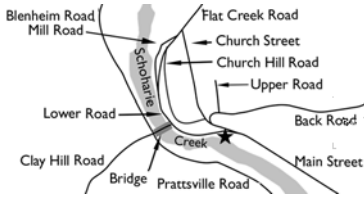
Shutts repaired the building, leveled off some ground, and operated it as a paint shop. The Shutts sold the property in 1910 to Luman Hildreth, a harness maker who put some hens in there one winter but whose prime use



Luman Hildreth Shop.

Courtesy of the Gilboa Historical Society 741104

of the building was to store his beloved automobile. Although Dr. Persons claimed to have bought Gilboa's first 'running' car, Hildreth's was likely the first, and its bad brakes and engine troubles were legendary.



Frank Lewis' Riverside Garage

Lot number: 110, on Lower Road

Lot size: 0.10 acre on creek side

Owner: Frank Lewis

Lewis' garage was opposite Luman Hildreth's building on the creek side of Lower Road. Deeded from Ira and Lillie Case in 1916, Lewis bought the lot to build a garage and repair shop and didn't use the two-forge blacksmith shop already on the property.

T. C. Hitchcock and Robert Benjamin helped build the garage and his father, Emery A. Lewis, provided the lumber. The one-story building had sliding doors on the front, a basement, stock room, and work room, and



Lewis' Riverside Garage. Courtesy of the Gilboa Historical Society Museum

was wired for lights. He also had a Gilbert & Barker 500-gallon gasoline tank and pump out front.

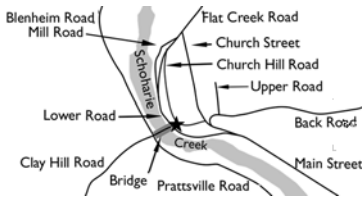
Lewis called it “The Riverside Garage” and put up a sign against the rock at the iron bridge crossing into the village directing visitors to his location.

Gilboa’s Bridges over the Schoharie

The road downstream from Lewis’ property was hemmed in by the creek on the left the escarpment going up Church Hill on the right—there literally was no room for buildings along this first 1400 feet of Lower Road.

This section of Lower Road was where bridges crossed the Schoharie—the first was a wooden trestle bridge built in 1835 that washed out in 1837; its replacement washed out the next year; and was replaced by a lattice bridge in 1839. This third wooden bridge lasted until the flood of 1869.

The iron bridge was then built at a reported cost of nearly \$13,000. This single-span bridge was constructed on top of abutments incorporated into protective stone walls. The plaque on the deck plate of the bridge read “Built by S. DeGraff bridge builder of Syracuse, NY, 1870,” and it used the 1841 patent of Squire Whipple.



Schoharie Iron Bridge

Perpendicular to Lower Road to the west
Finished in 1870

The two cast-iron bow-shaped girders were made in 10 segments, with vertical wrought iron tension rods hanging down from each segment. Each pair of tension rods were bolted through large floor joists that spanned the 25-foot width of the bridge.

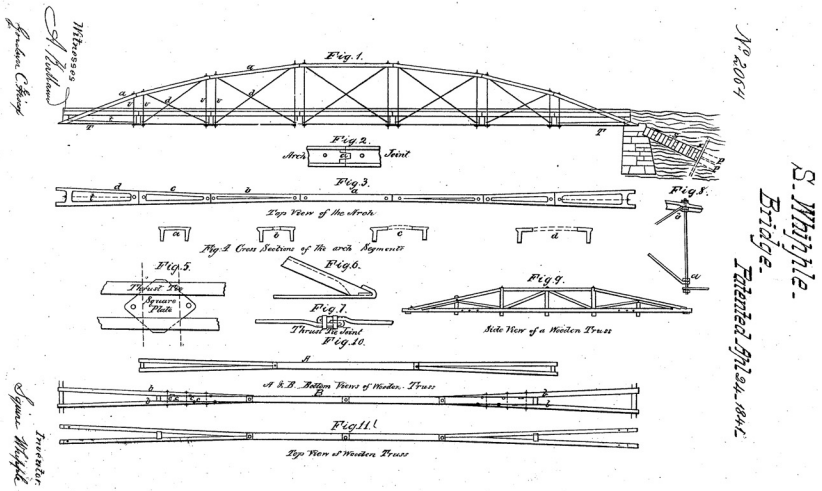
Trusses running the length of the bridge were fastened to the joists, and transverse planking provided a solid road surface. For durability, a second roadway of 2-inch thick oak planking ran lengthwise on the bridge.

The roadway was over 20 feet above the creek; the length of the bridge between the abutments was 132 feet; and two bridge extensions attaching the bridge to the stone abutments provided a 137-foot roadway.

The bridge withstood many freshets, and villagers said that you could lay down on the bridge and put your hand in the water during the 1893 flood.

Between 8 and 10 every morning, roads leading to the creamery were lined with heavy spring wagons carrying hundreds of pounds of milk in rented

cans on their way to the creamery. The creamery was just over the bridge and often traffic was held up by farmers waiting to unload their milk. The iron bridge served east-west through traffic for lumber and freight haulers, as well as personal vehicles travelling throughout the area. Fortunately, two teams could easily pass on the bridge.

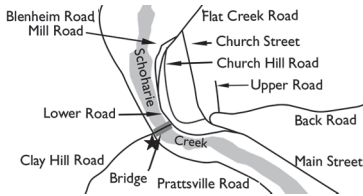


Above: the 1841 patent of the Whipple Cast and Wrought Iron Bowstring Truss Bridge. There are at least four other Whipple bowstrings still standing in Central New York state and one in Newark, Ohio. Below: Sightseeing in Gilboa. Besides running a successful farm, Imer Wyckoff raised and trained horses. Here, around 1910, he uses a team of four horses to pull a wagonload of tourists on a sightseeing venture. They are crossing the Iron Bridge across the Schoharie Creek.

Courtesy of Kristen Wyckoff

741107A.01





Gilboa Creamery Company

Lot number: 107 on Clay Hill Road

Lot size: 0.300 acre on south side of road

Owner: Gilboa Creamery Company

The Gilboa Creamery Company began as a farmers' cooperative on land deeded to them by Luman Reed and \$4,000 raised by selling 80 shares of stock at \$50 a share. The cooperative hired True Dairy Manufacturing Company from Syracuse to build the plant and install the machinery in



Stonework protected the building from both the Schoharie and Clay Hill creeks. The iron bridge over the Schoharie is on the left, feeding traffic onto Clay Hill Road in front of the Gilboa Creamery and then going west to South Gilboa.

The Clay Hill Creek ran parallel to Clay Hill Road, draining the land along current State Route 30.

The road running horizontally in this picture is a river route paralleling the Schoharie Creek: travellers can follow the left road to Prattsville and Grand Gorge; or take the right road over a single span bridge to Blenheim.

Courtesy of the DEP Office of Public Affairs.

1896–1897 on a foundation blasted out of a rocky bluff positioned where four roads met at the end of the bridge.

Shareholders in the creamery didn't receive dividends for the first 3 years. As a result, some local investors sold their shares, typically to current managers of the creamery—John H. Gilmore, Noble H. Dickinson, or Imer C. Wyckoff. Later, when the dividends began returning good profits (13–40% per year), shares were routinely bought and sold in the community. Later, Wyckoff, as an unpaid purchasing agent, bought the outstanding shares and sold them to S. Seeley Brown, who became the owner in 1908.

The farmers were divided over the loss of control of the creamery versus their aversion to the increasing responsibility of operating it. Brown, owner and manager of the S. S. Brown Company, ran 3 additional creameries out of his New York City office. He continued to use *Gilboa Creamery* as a trade name until the creamery closed around 1920, transporting *Gilboa Creamery* cream, butter, and pot cheese by teamster Marcus Aldrich to the Ulster and Delaware railroad station in Grand Gorge for resale in New York City.

From the 17,000 pounds of milk unloaded daily under its covered drive (alternate days in winter), the creamery produced milk, cream, butter, pot cheese, and casein—the main protein in milk used in cheese and for sizing paper, collar buttons, adhesives, paints, and other industrial products.

The creamery building had a portico over the drive that protected the scale on which each delivery vehicle was weighed, unloaded, and weighed again. The scale pad was built into the roadway under the porch, and the face mechanics were built into the outside wall supporting the portico.

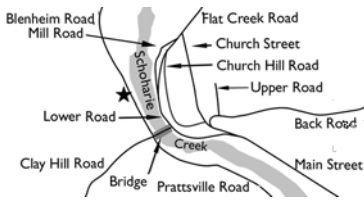
A “milk can” does not have a universal capacity, but each creamery generally owned the cans and would accept only their own standard size from their farmers. The Gilboa Creamery used a can weighing 15 pounds empty and held about 10 gallons. A full can would weigh about 100 pounds depending on the specific density of the milk.

Dozens of local farmers brought their milk, weighed it, and received a receipt showing amount delivered and percentage of fat. One of the notable smaller producers was Milo Warner, remembered for bringing his two cans of milk daily by an old wood wheelbarrow. He would have been credited with around 170 pounds of milk, while larger farmers might produce up to 1000 pounds. The farmers could take butter, cream, or milk on credit for local sale or personal use, and would routinely head from the creamery into the village to shop. They were paid twice a month.

The creamery was a 1½ story main building adorned with a tall cow-topped weather vane. Inside the creamery, there was an engine room to pump received milk to separators, vats, and 300 gallon agitators that pas-

teurized the milk. The milk would be cooled, moved to a room for processing by churns and cheese vats, and then stored in a chill room. Vats upstairs stored the casein. Outside of the creamery building were a boiler room with an iron stack and an ice house with a 20-foot-high metal roof.

Luman Reed's brick store had been directly across Clay Hill Creek from the creamery. When the store was flooded in 1869, he built his first store in the village and later sold that corner property to the creamery. From then on, waste from the creamery was piped underneath Clay Hill Road and the creek to a septic system built on that site.



The Cotton Mill Cooperative

Lot number: 76 on Clay Hill Road

Lot size: 46.800 acres on east side of road

Owner: Jason B. Cronk

Sidney Tuttle was president of the Gilboa Cotton Mill Cooperative in 1837, and the company had raised \$50,000 by issuing stock to hire Burr Hinman to build a four-story cotton mill and purchase 100 looms. The cooperative



The remaining cotton mill structures. Courtesy of the Gilboa Historical Society

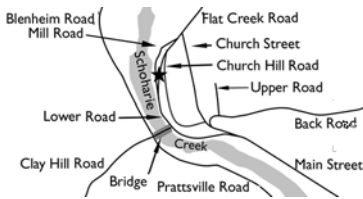
had a large barn, wagon house, engine house, boarding house, and 6 other houses in a row facing the road parallel to the creek where the estimated 80 employees and their families lived.

Burt G. Morss and Luman Reed's company assumed ownership, but the flood of 1869 decimated the mill and boarding houses, leaving only a few of these buildings. The remaining mill structure was still being disassembled in 1881, supplying all useable lumber for a new grist mill on Roses Brook.

Reed subdivided the property, selling a fraction of an acre for use as a septic field to the creamery, and the rest of the property to Hiram Benjamin who subsequently sold it to Louis C. Baldwin.

In 1913, Jason Cronk purchased this land (with a house and outbuildings) and combined it with the land of his mother, Lucey E. Brown, as conveyed by his father Lawrence J. Cronk (also including a house, and outbuildings). From this package, Jason Cronk rented the Baldwin house to a Mrs. Carey; rented his mother's house to W. J. Garlinghouse; and retained use of the lush pasture to feed and display his stock for sale—farmers visiting the creamery could not help but notice the fine dairy herd. Jason himself lived across the stream on parcel 77.

Let's retrace our steps back over Schoharie bridge, and continue on Lower Road to the north.



Gilboa Foundry (in ruins)

Lot number: 86 on Mill Road

Lot size: 0.10 acre on right side of Mill Road

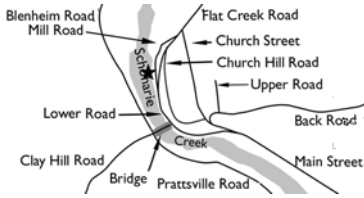
Owner: William A. Gilbert & Frances Gilbert

Gilboa's first foundry (furnace) was likely built on this parcel by A. H. Jackson in 1832. It closed after a few years and a second larger one, the Gilboa Foundry, was not built until 1877 by Andrew M. Gilbert & Co. after acquiring the property from Emery S. Robinson and wife Caroline.

Foundry ads in the *Monitor* promised "panic prices" for their plows, scrapers, and one- and two-barrel kettles, cultivators, sleigh shoes, box stoves, hop stoves, sledges, and other job work.

The foundry recycled scrap iron with Jim Ellis at the furnace and featured original products like the Gilbert's Crow Exterminator. They were an expanding operation employing dozens of men and women like moulders John Wright and William Veltman (fondly known as "Passpay Smash").

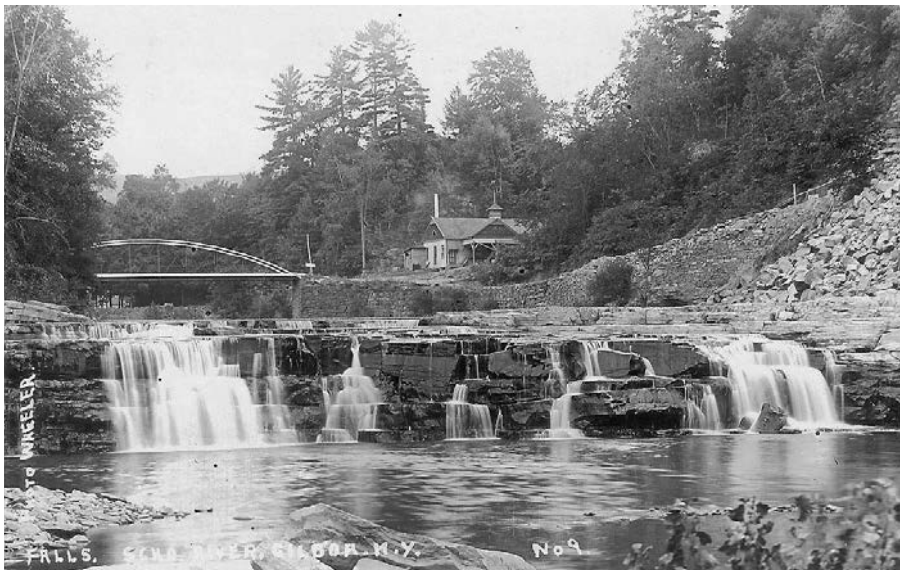
Similar to Gilboa's cotton mill, the foundry provided housing for employees and was deeded water rights from the Schoharie to propel their fans and tumblers for so long as they were operating.



Gilboa Falls

Location: About 600 feet below the iron bridge.

The power of falling water to turn water wheels has been used for more than 2,000 years, and, despite losing a top ridge of rock during the 1869 flood, these natural falls about 600 feet below the iron bridge were still impressive. Gilboa's first log and timber dam was likely built by settler John Dise near the end of the 18th century to power his grist mill. The mill later became the Crosswell & Brace grist mill, until it collapsed. Crosswell moved the site and rebuilt the mill and a dam above the bridge. The falls were adapted to textile, leather, and machine-shop industries in the 19th century, and the mill was bought by Platt, Potter & Co. and then sold to Luman Reed.

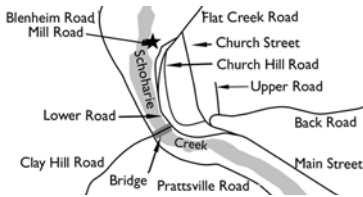


Upstream of the rapids is the iron bridge over the Schoharie Creek carrying traffic to the Gilboa Creamery in the center of the picture.

Photo courtesy of Amy Sternstein

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During 1879–1885 Luman Reed acquired the properties that included the mills and water rights. He disassembled the old Croswell grist mill, rebuilt it below the bridge adjoining the Robinson saw mill, and constructed the next log and frame timber dam with a connecting wooden penstock or flume directing water to the wheels powering both the grist and saw mills.



Tri County Light & Power Company

Lot number: 85 on Mill Road

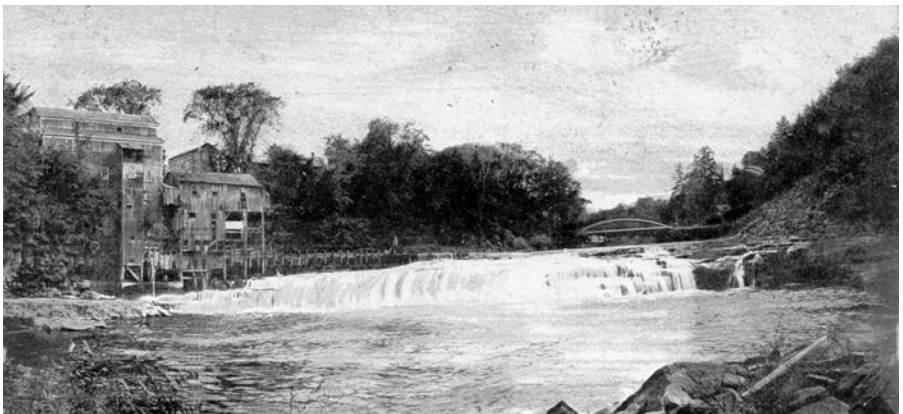
Lot size: 7.400 acres on west side of road and with the majority of land across the creek

Owner: Tri County Light & Power Company

Lot 85 was on both sides of the creek. Earlier, there had been mills on both sides, but by 1917, the western portion was vacant land, and the eastern portion had two mills and the electrical generating plant. Although on the same property, these three operations had separate histories.

Saw Mill

Owned and operated by H. A. and Emery S. Robinson, this saw and planing mill “at prices to suit the times” also featured scroll sawing and all kinds of saw gumming (sharpening). It was on a parcel purchased by Luman Reed and adjoined the larger grist mill on the upstream side.



This photograph was after the flood of 1903 that hit both the saw and grist mills. The lower building to the right is the saw mill in disrepair. The dam for the grist mill to the left had been repaired and the mill was again operational using a sluiceway from its “own” portion of the falls.

Courtesy of Beatrice Mattice

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Grist Mill

The first miller mentioned in the Gilboa *Monitor* was A. Haverly, and then later a series of millers managing the operation: George A. Hartwell, Luman Reed, Mr. Bullock, Charlie Deane, Obadiah Stevens, and assistant Sylvenus Hildreth.

For industry at the end of the 19th century, natural waterfalls powering mills was seen as inefficient: the variations in water flow could not be tolerated, and hydroelectricity to power plants as well as to serve sizeable communities was becoming common.

Water rights and the electric generation plant

After Reed died in 1896, Stamford's Dr. S. E. Churchill bought the property and water rights from the Reed estate in 1899. Churchill had talked with a friend, John Grant, about building an electric power plant to transmit electricity to Stamford and his hotels—Churchill Hall and the Rexmere. Their long-range goal was to build a single dam completely across the creek upstream of the falls that would trap a sufficient amount of water for year-round operation of the mills and at an elevation capable of developing a sufficient “head” to run the the proposed equipment. After the flood of 1903, Churchill rebuilt the small dam as a stopgap in order to power the grist mill, but he did not work further on the Gilboa power plant.

The relevant deeds dated back to settler John Dise and contained property and water rights from Luman Reed and Burton G. Morss. Nine years later, Churchill sold these deeds to Robert Nichol who transferred them directly to John P. and Carrie Powell Grant—they now owned and managed both the Gilboa operation—Tri County Light and Power Company—and the Stamford-based West Branch Light & Power Company.

Tri County's goal was to manufacture electricity for street lighting, heating, and lighting public and private buildings in a service area of the villages of Gilboa, Prattsville, Grand Gorge, Roxbury, Stamford, Hobart, and South Kortright—connecting the counties of Schoharie, Greene and Delaware. Authorized twice by the Public Service Commission, the company issued 500 shares of stock at \$100 per share for its initial \$50,000 capital.

Grant hired Gaylord B. Decker to build the first concrete dam for his power plant farther upstream than earlier dams. The dam used an arch-shaped footprint rather than going straight across the creek, and the top of the dam was only 5.25 feet above the bed of the creek at that point. Early mills used a sluiceway (an open channel to allow water to flow by gravity to a waterwheel) to deliver power. The Gilboa plant instead used a penstock—a large pipe sloping from the dam down through the height of the rapids to



In 1912, John P. Grant started building the dam, a penstock, and an electrical generation plant. He planned to eventually use electricity to power the grist mill, so he disconnected the grist mill's existing mechanical power train during the construction of the dam, but was never able to electrify the grist mill before the Board of Water Supply took title. In this picture, the grist mill is built into the escarpment, the mill's front door on the other side of the building opens onto Lower Road while the top floor of the mill overlooks Church Hill. The mill's vertical power drive has been cut off, the electric generation plant is the white building under construction on a concrete foundation, and the penstock is sloping down to that foundation. Note the slight increase in slope as it nears the plant—this added an extra 2-feet of head (power). Courtesy of Beatrice Mattice

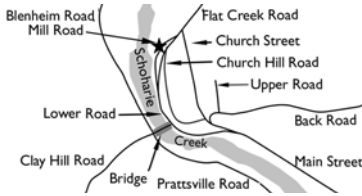
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an enclosed turbine. In addition, the foundation of the mill was dynamited down an additional two feet and “flash boards” could be placed on the top of the dam to raise the water level an additional 3 feet before the summer.

The single dam across the Schoharie was completed in 1914, and Tri County Light and Power Company first claimed all the power from its watershed of 314 square miles. The 35-inch Sampson Lefell turbine wheel was connected to a Westinghouse generator and created a 2300 volt circuit current that was stepped down to 110/220 volt for Gilboa's street lights and domestic use before transformers stepped it up to 6600 volts for long distance transmission.

The plant ran from 5 AM to 1 AM the following day. The power plant accessed an estimated stream flow of over 600 cubic feet per second to create 1500-horse power and generated over 5 million kilowatt hours per year.

If Grant had been able to capture all the potential of the site, the capacity would have risen to nearly 11 million kilowatt hours per year.



Mill Road rejoining Lower Road

After the electric generating plant, Mill Road rejoins Lower Road just beyond Church Hill Road and before Church Street.

We will turn sharply right here, and go south and east on Church Hill Road.

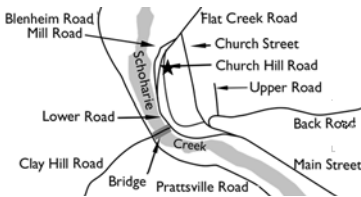
Properties along Lower Road and Church Hill Road

Church Street appears to have been the first road on Church Hill, and most of the properties on the west side of the street are deep lots that run to Church Hill Road or Lower Road and carry Church Street addresses.

Lower Road addresses: The narrow strip of land between Lower Road and Church Hill Road has a few small lots (83, 90, 91, and 92) that were subdivided from Church Street lots and have a Lower Road address.

Church Hill Road addresses: Properties on lots 89, 93, and 94 may have been subdivided from lots 95, 96, and 88 on the west side of Church Street. These lots face onto Church Hill Road and have addresses there.

We will cover these properties together.



Frank J. Mackey

Lot number: 83 on Lower Road

Lot size: 0.030 acre

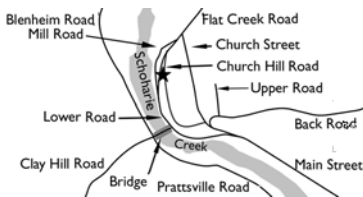
Owner: Frank J. Mackey

Lot 83 is a very small piece of land probably subdivided from Helen I. Mackey's acreage on the west side of Church Street (lot 84). It is listed as a shop on the tax roll.



Frank J. Mackey shop. Courtesy of the Gilboa Historical Society

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William H. Decker

Lot number: 89 on Church Hill Road

Lot size: 0.300 acre on east side of road

Owner: William H. Decker

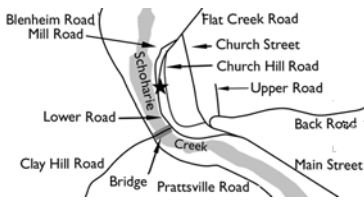
Decker may have bought this property as an investment. The western portion of land was across Church Hill Road and it was split off as lot 90 with a Lower Road address.

After her husband Darius Partridge died, Decker bought the house, barn, and half acre lot from widow Margaret and her four children: daughters Safrona Pelham, Flora Keator, Ella Blumberg, and son Anibel. He rented it to Mr. Reed. The home caught fire four months before the city took title on May 26, 1917 with damage to everything except the foundation.



William H. Decker Courtesy of the Gilboa Historical Society

741089



Unknown

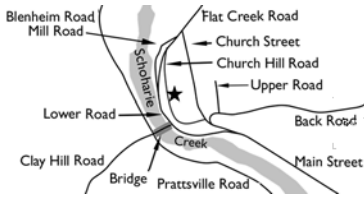
Lot number: 91 and 92 on Church Hill Road

Lot size: very small, on east side of road

Owner: Unknown

An empty lot with no buildings shown on map, no name on register, no pictures. Also, 91 and 92 are “unknown” on the register, are very small, and have these buildings on them.





Sarah Davis

Lot number: 93 on Church Hill

Lot size: 0.600 acre on east side of road

Owner: Sarah Davis

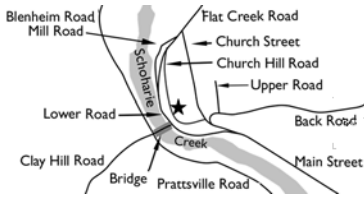
Sarah Davis was deeded this property from Martha Reed in 1908 and with her husband added new siding, window casings and two chimneys. With a barn, new pig pen, hen house, and hog house across the road, the Davis home was profusely landscaped and enjoyed village water. They added 24 fruit trees and currant bushes to the abundant small orchards and maple shade trees in their Church Hill Road neighborhood.

There appears to be an immense smokestack behind this house that overlooks the ruins of the foundry, the two mills, and the electric company. Those operations all ran on water power and therefore had no need for smoke stacks like this one.

We have found homes with this type of chimney that were built for height to provide sufficient draft on the side of a hill. We are searching for more pictures of Sarah Davis' residence to see if this stack is attached.



Sarah Davis Residence. Courtesy of the Gilboa Historical Society



Peter W. Richtmyer

Lot number: 94 on Church Hill

Lot size: 0.600 acre on east side of road

Owner: Peter W. Richtmyer

Peter Richtmyer's wife Jemima V. and daughter May, an only child, continued living in the home after Peter's death in June, 1918. The house had been owned by Noble H. and Florence M. Dickinson, Eugene Howe before, and Mr. Gilbert and brother Martin earlier. With a clear view over the stream to the creamery, this two-story Church Hill Road residence had a galvanized steel roof with ornamentally shingled gables and a veranda all across the front and side of the house with amenities of village water, indoor plumbing, electric lighting, a finished attic and even a barn with a basement. In addition to a garden, the yard's orchard had dozens of plum, apple, and cherry trees with 6 maples and currant bushes.



Peter W. Richtmyer residence. Courtesy of the DEP Office of Public Affairs.

Return to our starting point

Church Hill Road will bring us back through the campus of the school and the Reformed Dutch Church to the intersection with Church Street. We will explore this campus and residential sections of the village starting with Church Street in the fall issue of the *Quarterly*.



On May 30, 1836 when this area was still part of the town of Broome, Thomas O.H. Croswell and Abel Brace gave land to the Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church for the exclusive purpose of locating a church and public schoolhouse near Gilboa village. The consideration was \$10. The governing authority (Consistory) included: O. H. Croswell, Abel Brace, Pastor Winslow Paige; Barent Stryker, James Lewis (Elders); and John F. Stryker (Deacon). In 1905 the Church governance shifted from Consistory to Incorporation.

Campus for the Gilboa School, Reformed Dutch Church, and the church parsonage. The camera was behind us on Back Road; the house on the right was owned by Albert Layman (lot 99) and the house to the left was owned by William and Frances Gilbert (lot 118). Photograph courtesy of Beatrice Mattice

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Sources

Dr. Benjamin Fanning, "Old Gilboa," I & II, *Gilboa Monitor* (April 20, May 11, 1916); William E. Roscoe, *History of Schoharie County* (1882), pp. 119-130; W. Earl Lewis, "Memories of Old Gilboa in the 1900s" (1978), Gilboa Historical Society Collection; Board of Water Supply of the City of New York Civil Case Files, 1917-1932; and the *Gilboa Monitor*.

ON THE ROAD WHERE OLD MEETS NEW

Intersections of Roads from 1917 to 2015

- The remnant of *Main Street* intersecting with 990v is DEP Gate 13 at the Gilboa-Conesville town line.
- *Back Road's* junction with Wyckoff Road is DEP Gate 15 about 200' north of the Gilboa-Conesville Central School.
- At the south end of Flat Creek Road, you can look across 990v to see the remnants of *Flat Creek Road*. It's a flat path marked by small concrete pillars and a wire mesh fence tucked up right next to 990v behind the DEP Police Station.
- *Clay Hill Road* continued across Route 30 to South Gilboa Road and is seen as the driveway at the Walsh residence at 422 Route 30.
- You can only visualize *Blenheim Road* by standing at Old Stryker Road near the current Gilboa bridge and looking upstream toward the dam.
- The *Prattsville Road* joined present-day Road 7, and we're trying to find the remains of that junction.

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

THE FOOTE FARM

369 South Gilboa Road

Bobbi Foote Goldman and Bob Foote

We were early baby-boomer twins that grew up on a family farm. From what we found, the first Footes on the ground (pardon the pun) were our paternal grandparents, Harriet VanHoesen and Clyde Leland Foote.

The second generation was our parents: Arthur Leland Foote had it all planned out—he would woo and win Marie Mowers, buy the family farm, and raise their children as he was raised. One of his temptations for Marie was when he wrote her a note: “we’ll have electricity in another week or two.” He was well on the way toward these goals by the end of the war: married in September 1940, owner of the farm, and father of two.

Dad was really an American gothic—no swearing (except for “Halifax”), no drinking, very hard working, and wouldn’t ask another to do anything that he himself couldn’t do. He didn’t like guns, and kept a 10-gauge shotgun only for the protection of chickens (the stock of the gun was broken when he used it as a club on a fox). Dad was strict but fair in his corporal punishments, and watching a job being done was promoted as a learning experience. One day, Allie Oakley, the father of our friend Pauline, was burning brush and we thought that we could do that. We made one behind the town garage where the Walters snow-removal equipment was stored, but someone turned us in to Dad. We definitely didn’t do it again.

Mom was different: she had been a pastry chef at the Rexmere, became a teacher, was a “people person,” but she sometimes seemed unhappy and maybe it was harder for her to be the wife in Grant Wood’s painting. Nevertheless, in the mid-1950s, Dad showed his love for her by having a housekeeper, Jeanie. (Mom still did the baking and cooking, though!)

The original farmhouse has been expanded—then, it had a single bath and half the footprint of the current structure. The barn behind the house was for dairy cows (mostly Jerseys), 2 smaller barns for pigs and horses, 3 little coops for chicklets (we raised our own chickens), a woodshed, and a 2-story hen house for 5000 layers to the east on South Gilboa Road. Further east, the first house just past the intersection with Cape Horn Road was bought by our grandparents when they moved from the farm.

The farm had 142 acres spreading to the east along South Gilboa Road, and north over the mountain, swinging around to butt up on Cape Horn

Road. That land was used as pasture during the summers for heifers, and we only had about 42 tillable acres.

As most farmers in the area, we made maple syrup and had a sap house on the hill behind the house. And, also like many farmers, the sugaring business was not a great source of revenue and the big sap house burned down. As children of farmers, Jim Bellinger and Bob also experimented with a flat pan used as an evaporator over an open fire. They ran out of wood, though, tossed a tire on the fire, and melted the solder on the pan.

We got a tractor in 1953, but hay was still cut with horse-drawn equipment. However, we rented a bull to breed the cows and the bull's horns gored one of the horses. We mechanized more quickly, and only Teddy, an old white horse, was left to pull the dump rake and let us ride atop him.

One year, we got the mumps and passed them onto Dad. That year, he couldn't hay so our neighbor, Maurice Bellinger, came down to do the haying. He brought his equipment, and that was the first time we had baled the hay in the barn. We were used to a barn full of the loose hay, and now we had baled hay that took up only one small section—I was afraid the floor was going to fall with all that weight in one spot.

Growing up, hired hands and neighborly help

Growing up, everyone was expected to pitch in with the chores. However, Bob seemed to do most of the barn work while Bobbi worked in the house. Both of us would pitch in on the field work, however.

We knew a couple of neighboring farmers who helped out, and who Dad helped in kind: Levi Gregory and Paul Harvey bought a farm on Route 23, and Fred Smith had a farm on Blackberry Street. One year was exceptionally dry, and we had a spring that provided all the water our farm needed and never ran dry—a really great source of water. I remember that year when Levi, Paul, and Fred would come over and get water from our spring for their animals.

Springs bring surface water downhill and are easily contaminated compared to deep wells. The spring—the life-blood of our farm—later became contaminated due to faulty septic systems in the neighborhood, causing the need for a deep well to be dug for potable water. NYC DEP has subsidized the septic systems in that area, and we expect that the springs are again running clear.

Farm Cadets: Dallas Briggs worked on the farm in the late 1940s. The first Farm Cadet we had was Bill Foley, and then we had another before we had Gene Konkoski for 1953–1955. Uncle Stanton (Harper) had one, and I think there were a couple more. The farm could never afford a full-time,

year-round hired-hand, so the Farm Cadet program was really a wonderful way to get jobs for kids and keep the farms going.

* * *

One Sunday in the fall of 1955, we went onto the hill to pick hickory nuts. Dad went up in a tree to shake the nuts down, but fell and died that night at Stamford's Bathgate Hospital. Later—after Mom died—we sold the house, barn, and 4 acres, and then split the rest of the land. Bob sold his east half to Fred Murphy. Later, Bobbi built a new home for her family on some original farmland in 2005, and has recovered some more of the family's original land.

Bobbi has had 3 careers: she earned a BSA from the University of Buffalo and worked as a public health nurse in New York state counties for about 15 years and in Canada for 1 year; she also earned an MFA in sculpture from SUNY Albany and has been working in the arts since the early 1990s, currently at the Mural Gallery in Hobart; and the third career started when she married Jeff Goldman in 1968. They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. The family lived in Oneonta from '74 until 2005 when we built a house on my old homestead in South Gilboa. It's heaven.

Bob graduated from Stamford Central School in 1963, went into the army in September 1965, and served in Viet Nam with the 1st Infantry Division in Phu Loi. He was discharged in 1967 and worked as a lineman for New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) from then until 2000. A widower, he lives in Davenport and has 5 children and 10 grandchildren.

The Gilboa Museum

122 Stryker Road
Gilboa, NY 12076

Open weekends

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

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

Civilian Support of Our Armed Forces

In 1917, New York State's Farm Cadet program authorized students to leave school and work on farms, fulfilling their high school P.E. requirements and helping solve the labor shortage on New York's farms during the war. Farm Cadets received school credit for their participation.

The program was revived during World War II and continued through the mid-1950s. An oral history of this second phase of Farm Cadets is at:

<http://oralhistory.ashp.cuny.edu/pages/farmLabor/farmLabor.html>

Schenectady Gazette, 5/21/1948

SCHOHARIE COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN FARM CADET PROGRAM

SCHOHARIE—Schoharie county has been selected by the New York State Employment Service cooperating with the New York City Board of Education as one of seven counties in New York State where farmers will again have the opportunity to employ New York city high school boys this summer.

Joseph Pendergast, county agricultural agent, announces that Francis Thompson of New York city will act as farm labor representative and will assist Leslie Kelknap, manager of the state employment service of Schoharie county. Mr. Thompson for the past four summers has been in charge of the farm cadet program and is well known to many Schoharie county farmers.

Mr. Thompson will begin his duties as farm placement representative on June 14 and will work out of the county employment office located in the Wellman building in Cobleskill.

Since the farm cadet program started four years ago, nearly 300 boys from New York City have worked on Schoharie county farms during the summer months under the supervision of Mr. Thompson. Boys who work on farms this summer must have reached their 16th birthday, according to Mr. Thompson.

Farmers in this county who need cadet assistance this summer are advised to contact Mr. Kelknap at the employment office at once.

SUMMERTIME IN SOUTH GILBOA 1953–1954

Eugene Konkoski

Growing up in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, during the summer as a teenager was very lonely for me. Most of my friends went somewhere for the summer. My family could not afford to go anywhere so the streets became my second home.

I was going to Long Island City High School in early 1953, when I learned about a farm program that was looking for young men at least 15 years old who might want to work on a farm upstate New York. I jumped at the chance. I was three months shy of my 16th birthday. We had to be a certain weight and in good physical condition. The school transported us by bus to Cobleskill, New York, where farmers would come and select one of us. I was very fortunate to be picked by Leland Foote who owned a dairy farm that was about 150 acres in South Gilboa. We proceeded to the farm where I met Leland's wife Marie and his two twin children, Roberta and Robert.

My first week was probably as tough a week as I have ever experienced in my entire life. (Navy boot camp would come close.) Around 4:30 AM, Leland would be knocking on my door. (I was told to bring a pair of high boots. I would quickly find out why.) I dressed and walked outside where the morning dew was a few inches high. You could not even see the ground. There was a long winding road going up a hill that I had to travel on in order to find 48 milking cows. I had to count every single one. Most of the cows were big Guernseys and some Jerseys as well. It amazed me how every cow knew just where to go in the barn. With my luck we would be milking within an hour or so. I hooked up the vacuum machine. The pump would do two cows after which Leland would strip them by hand. The milk was filtered. Some was put into quart bottles for family consumption, while the rest was put into dairy cans for sale. When we were done with cows, it would be off to the hen house.

The milk he sold brought in just enough money to buy feed for the 350 laying hens. The good hens would give two eggs each day and when production fell off to one every other day, they became dinner. We ate a lot of chicken. He had approximately 1,000 pullets getting ready to take their places. He also had a rooster to keep the girls in line. We would collect the eggs after feeding and sometime later we would candle, clean, and weigh

each egg that would then go into large cardboard crates.

* * *

Finally breakfast!!!

It would be around 7:00 that we would finally eat something. Did I ever eat eggs, pancakes, bacon and a full quart of milk that was 1/3 cream, as it was only filtered. I ate like a man on death row. By 8:00 we were ready to start doing some real work.

One of the first jobs Leland planned for me was cleaning the hen house floor. There was probably two to three feet of dry chicken poop caked to the floor. It took me and my pitch fork a week in between jobs to finish it. This was one of the chores I didn't like. The other one was cleaning the gutters out in the dairy barn. This had to be done at least once or twice a week. Leland would back a wagon into the barn and I would shovel out the troughs into the wagon that we would take out to the fresh harvested hay fields and distribute it the best way I could. When I returned the following year he showed me the fields with the new hay growing. I noticed that the fields I fertilized grew twice as high.

Leland had a plan for every day and every bit of work that I did was that much less he had to do. June and July would be the months for getting the dry hay into the barn lofts. He would cut the hay, rake it into windrows and then collect it into the hay wagon. The hay loader would bring the hay to the top of the wagon and my job would be to pull it with my pitchfork and keep spreading it until the wagon was full. Then it was down to the barn and unloading it into the hay loft. When we started in June, the lofts were empty. When I left in September they were full. Some of the excess hay that would not fit in the barn he had bailed by someone he knew.

One experience I would not forget was when one of our cows was in heat and needed to be fixed. There was a neighbor down the road with a very big dairy farm that had the only bull around. We brought the cow to his barn and when I saw the size of the bull, it was frightening. He was huge and even had the big ring in his nose. He made two or three passes by our cow and then wham it was over in less than ten seconds.

Our cow was happy after that episode. No more bulling. I did not know that after six or seven months, cow would dry up and have to give birth to continue producing milk. Leland had a veterinarian who would come to the barn and perform artificial insemination whenever necessary. We tried to keep a cow that was getting close to giving birth in the corral so she could be taken care of quickly. However, one morning when I was tracking down the herd for milking, one cow had given birth. It took me a while to find her because she strayed from the herd and tried to hide while giving

birth. What an exciting moment for me when I found her with the little calf trying to stand up. Finally it did. Just hours after being born, standing up! I found that incredible.

Another time, when I was herding the cows for morning milking, I noticed that five cows had porcupine quills in their faces. I brought it to Leland's attention. We began to pull the quills as Leland instructed me how to do it. I saw how painful it was and felt so bad for the cows. Later that week I saw a porcupine and made sure that our cows were kept well away.

Towards the end of the summer, usually the last two weeks in August, we would be cutting the green feed that would go in the silo. There was a ladder inside and outside the silo with access doors every so many feet to get in and out. My job inside was to keep spreading it evenly and stomping it down to get in as much as possible. I'm not sure which was worst, pulling in dry hay in 95 degree sun or spreading the green feed in the silo heat which was well over 100 degrees.

One of the things I learned to do was to hoe a field and plant potatoes. We also had a large vegetable garden. We grew tomatoes, cucumbers and other vegetables. The Lelands had a set of twins, Robert and Roberta. They were eight (8) years old in 1953. I tried setting them up with a vegetable stand in front of the house on South Gilboa Road. There was very little money made due to the little traffic, but the three of us had fun.

Sunday was my day off. I only had to do some chores in the morning. After breakfast the rest of the day was mine. Leland would drive me into Stamford occasionally or I would walk to town about four miles. I went to Mass at the Catholic Church at the end of town. After Mass my first stop would be Hillson's Ice Cream Parlor for a banana split or some other sweet treat. Then it was either the swimming pool or a movie depending on the weather and how I felt. We would set a time for Leland to pick me up and get home in time for dinner. After we ate, a game of canasta with the twins would usually follow. The twins taught me to play canasta and croquette and I in turn taught them how to hit a Whiffle ball. One Sunday, we went to a state fair in Walton and had a lot of fun.

There was a young lady helping out with the house in 1953, since Marie had some type of operation and could not do all the housework. Marie could still cook though and her meals were outstanding. The young lady's name was Loretta Jean Mattice and after I left the farm we wrote to each other for a few years. I had a crush on her but she was 19 and I was only 15.

In 1955 I joined the Navy. Shortly after that, Loretta Jean wrote to tell me that Leland fell out of a tree and died. I think he was forty-five years old. The news was heartbreaking. I went back to the farm with my family in

1966. We found the house and Marie was there with her brother and sister-in-law, sitting in the kitchen playing cards. She remembered me and we had coffee, maybe stayed for an hour. I left with a very sad heart. I so looked forward to seeing the place again, but finding it run-down without a single live animal was as depressing as it could get.

On January 21, 2015 my friend John who owns a log cabin in Schenevus, New York, and I stopped in Stamford at the T.P.'s Cafe. The owner, Heather, knows Roberta Foote Goldman and we were able to find her phone number and called that night. We stopped by her home the next day that was very near the old farm house. It was a very emotional meeting for me since it was sixty-one years that we had not seen each other. Roberta's husband, Jeff, explained more about themselves and some additional background history. Roberta showed us her artist loft above the garage. I was amazed at the loft but most of all by the gifted artist. She told us that she had several showings of her artwork in Soho (a fashionable Manhattan art district) and she has sold several pieces of her artwork.

On Friday February 6, 2015, I spoke on the phone to her brother Robert, who is now living in Florida. Even though our conversation was only a half hour, it took me back those 61 years and he detailed the good times we had together.

My hope is that one day we all could meet again and it would be a nice end or beginning to this incredible journey God has put me on.



I cried every morning that first week I worked on the farm—I had never worked so hard for so long in my life, but I grew to love that routine and could not wait to go back when returned I to the City. After high school, I joined the navy on aircraft carrier Coral Sea and then on destroyer Harry E Hubbard. Between farm and navy life, I had become a mature person of 21 with knowledge of what life could be like with a positive attitude I wish for all 21-year-olds.

Please check your address on this *Quarterly* and send us corrections.
Going south?

Let us know—we'll send your *Quarterly* to meet you wherever you are.

Asterisk(s) next to your name indicate that your membership is paid up.

No asterisks? Please join (application on page 43) and earn *your* star.

HOW I WORKED ON THE FARM, *Found Happiness, and Lived Happily Ever After*

Averil Mullenix

My family moved to New York City in 1937, and I was born there a year later. However, my grandparents were still in the country—Arkansas and Oklahoma—and we visited them every summer. From them, I learned to love country living, and I wanted the summers to last forever!

Early in 1953, I learned about the Farm Cadet program and applied immediately. This was a no-brainer for me—I loved the clean air of rural America, enjoyed farm work, and didn't like the city. To this day, I thank that program for all it has given me.

I gladly hopped on a bus that took us to downtown Cobleskill. The bus had difficulty navigating the traffic jam in that town: there were cars and trucks double-parked on both sides of the road, and other busses blocking the middle of the road. I don't remember the store that we ended up in front of, but my to-be hostess, Kitty Raso, was able to find me and drove me to my summer home of 1953 and 1954.

Right from the start, I loved the northern Catskills and happily settled in on the Raso farm. The farm immediately to the south was owned by the Eklund family: Carl Eklund, his wife Elsa Anderson and their children Carl Jr. and 15-year-old Margaret.

I have not met Gene Konkoski, but we seem to be brothers in making friends in the new neighborhood. In my case, Margaret was often visiting at the Raso farm. We immediately became the best of friends, she asked me to a school dance, and we dated through the summers of '53 and '54. We continued the summer of '55 when I worked on the Bill Taylor farm in Jefferson.

After high school, I had a job in the City, then enlisted in the Air Force, spending two years in the Pacific. Margaret and I corresponded regularly—boy, what a way to propose—and we were married after I returned from the Pacific and before I reported for duty in Nebraska. Currently, we are on our 56th year together, restoring a farmhouse in Gilboa below Blenheim Hill, making honey, and enjoying our retirement in the Catskills.

Averil and Margaret moved back to this area and Averil worked as a carpenter and helped build the NY Power Authority. In 1998 he started carving a piece of butternut. That piece was bought by the president of Finch Pruyn, and his work is sold or has been given to their son and 3 daughters, 7 grand- and 5 great-grandchildren. All carvings and turnings are made from wood he has harvested on the farm.

The GHS *Quarterly* is available free at
<http://www.gilboahome.com>
Email this address to friends & family.

PhotoShare GILBOA

Do You Have Photos or Postcards of Gilboa 1848–1925?

Gilboa Historical Society *Quarterly's* PhotoShare GILBOA program asks families and friends to allow Gilboa photos or postcards to be scanned for historical purposes and preservation. The scanning is quick and will not harm originals, and participants will leave with their originals, a digital copy for preservation, and an illustrated place in Gilboa's history.

Gilboa was incorporated as a town in 1848 and lost as a village for the construction of the Schoharie Reservoir in 1925. "Those early years capture an exceptional time for Gilboa," *Quarterly* editor Gerry Stoner noted, "but family and community history can be lost with each passing generation so we want to do all we can to preserve, describe, and celebrate it."

So, whether your Gilboan ancestors or friends were building a barn, showing off a fishing catch, attending the Masonic Lodge, a church picnic, family reunion, one of Gilboa's Old Home Days, a dance at the Grange, milking the cows, grabbing an ice cream at Fuller's, cooling off at Gilboa Falls, or putting in a garden at home on Church Hill—we would like a copy of these people-and-places photos.

The Gilboa Historical *Quarterly* is a publication of the Gilboa Historical Society dedicated to learning, sharing, and preserving Gilboa's history (gilboahome.com). The PhotoShare GILBOA project will help build a database of images of people who lived in Gilboa during 1848–1925 for historical publications and other nonprofit educational efforts.

Bring photos or postcards to our office in South Gilboa or arrange for us to come to you. To schedule, contact Gerry Stoner for more information at (607) 652-2665 (gerrys@gilboahome.com).

GILBOA MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL

LaVerne Hubbard

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

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

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

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

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

Ackerly, Oscar (CW)
Aleksejczyk, Walter W (II)
Ames, Francis C (CW)
Andrews, George (CW)
Baile, James L (CW)
Baldwin, William L (CW)
Barlow, John (CW)
Barlow, Joseph (CW)
Batchelder, David (CW)
Beach, Willard O (CW)
Beattie, Donald (K)
Beattie, Donald J (DS)
Becker, William A (CW)
Becker, William M (CW)
Becker, Paul (II)
Bellinger, James (V)
Beltman, John (CW)
Benjamin, Philo (SA)
Bevins, Dennis (CW)
Bevins, Ernest (II)
Blakslee, Charles (II)
Blakslee, Rudolph (II)
Bliss, Samuel (AR)
Bliss, F. Walter (I)
Bliss, Donald (K-V)
Borst, George (SA)
Borthwick, Alex (CW)
Boschetti, Aramando (II)

Brainard, Charles (K)
Brainard, Donald (K)
Brainard, Floyd (K)
Brainard, Richard (K-V)
Bremer, Ernest Sr (II)
Brewster, JL (CW)
Brewster, Otis (CW)
Brines, Harvey J (CW)
Brosnam, William F (II)
Brown, Franklin (K-V)
Brown, James (V)
Buel, George (II)
Buell, Endwell (K-V)
Beth Burkett (AC)
Cain, William (CW)
Cain, Ruben (CW)
Callahan, Arnold (II)
Carpinelli, Bernard (K-V)
Case, Charles (I)
Case, Clifford (K-V)
Chapman, Omer (CW)
Chase, Victor (II)
Chichester, George (CW)
Clapper, Arnold (K-V)
Clark, Amos (12)
Clark, James (CW)
Clark, Floyd (II)
Clark, Elwood Jr. (II)

Clark, George (II)
Clark, Lester (II)
Clark, Orville (II)
Clark, Richard (II)
Clark, William (II)
Clark, Benjamin (K)
Clark, Louis (K)
Clark, Benjamin (K-V)
Clark, George (K-V)
Clark, James (K-V)
Clark, Kenneth (K-V)
Clark, Richard (K-V)
Clark, Charles (V)
Clark, Frank (V)
Clark, Larry (V)
Clark, Joshua (AC)
Connelly, Robert (K)
Connine, Douglas (II)
Conro, Carlton (II)
Conro, Darrel (K-V)
Conro, David (K-V)
Cook, Claude (K)
Coon, Timothy P (CW)
Cornell, Lawrence (II)
Cornell, Lyndon (II)
Cornell, Marvin (II)
Creghton, David (CW)
Creghton, Henry (CW)

- Cronk, Kenneth F (II)
Curtis, Richard (II)
Cutler, Ralph (K)
Damm, John (II)
Davis, Keyes (I)
Davis, John O (I)
Davis, John (II)
Dayman, Charles (CW)
Dent, Gerald (K-V)
Desyliva, Andrew (CW)
Desyliva, Henry A (CW)
Desyliva, Homer (CW)
Dingman, Robert (II)
Disbro, Charles (CW)
Driggs, Charles A (CW)
Duncan, Orra M (CW)
Efner, William M (12)
Eggnor, Nathan (CW)
Eglin, Ernie (K-V)
Eisner, Hollis (II)
Eklund, Carl (K-V)
Ekstrom, Clyde (II)
Ekstrom, Robert (II)
Ekstrom, Eugene (K)
Ellerson, David (AR)
Ellerson, Charles (CW)
Ellis, Glendon (II)
Ellis, Paul E (K-V)
Face, Erastus (CW)
Fanning, Benjamin (CW)
Feiterling, William (K-V)
Finch, Stephen (CW)
Finch, William (CW)
Fisher, Joseph A (II)
Flower, Regnald (II)
Foote, Robert (V)
Fox, Elmer (CW)
Franklin, Nelson Willard (CW)
Fraqher, Arthur (CW)
Freeman, Donald (K-V)
Fries, George (CW)
Friest, Wesley (CW)
Gadrick, Edward (II)
Gaffney, Charles (II)
Gardner, Charles (CW)
Gavit, Leander (CW)
German, Stanley (II)
Gifford, Mark (K-V)
Gifford, Shawn (AC)
Gonzlik, John (II)
Goodfellow, Martin (CW)
Gordon, Seth R (CW)
Gordon, Stephen (CW)
Gordon, Ralph (K)
Haight, Manley (K-V)
Hallock, Warren (I)
Hallock, Glen (K-V)
Hanley, Harold R (II)
Harrington, Anton (II)
Harris, Roscoe (CW)
Hartwell, Charles (CW)
Hartwell, Donald (K-V)
Harwood, Hubert A (II)
Hay, Alden M (CW)
Hay, Jefferson (CW)
Heinzinger, Walter (K)
Hilliker, David (II)
Hilliker, Donald L (II)
Hilliker, Ernest (II)
Hinman, Avery (I)
Hinman, Robert (II)
Hoagland, Guy (II)
Holdridge, Orlando (CW)
Hollis, Eisner (II)
Houghtaling, Edward (CW)
Houghtaling, Samuel (CW)
Hubbard, Everett B (II)
Hubbard, Clifton LaVerne (K-V)
Hubbard, David (K-V)
Hubbard, Douglas (K-V)
Hubbard, Gerald (K-V)
Hubbel, Dr. Richtmyer (CW)
Hubble, Solomon D (CW)
Jackson, David (CW)
Jackson, Jeremiah (CW)
Jenkins, John (CW)
Johnson, Robert (K)
Jones, Albert (II)
Jones, James (AC)
Juried, Nicholas (K)
Karlsen, Per B (II)
Kaufman, Catherine Harwood White (II)
Koerner, Paul (II)
Kohler, Lewis (II)
Krieger, Earl (I)
Krieger, Henry (I)
Lafferty, Peter (CW)
Lake, Martin (CW)
Lane, Perry (CW)
Lateula, Gregory (V)
Latta, Wilfred (K)
Laux, John (II)
Lawyer, Francis (CW)
Layman, Wallace (CW)
Lee, Peter (CW)
Leger, John G (I)
Leger, John G (I,II)
Leger, John (II)
Leger, Paul (II)
Leger, William (II)
Leger, Raymond (K)
Leger, Carl (K-V)
Lemlily, Winslow P (CW)
Lewis, Donald (II)
Lewis, George Harlan (II)
Lewis, Richard (II)
Licursi, Albe (V)
Lindsay, Horace W (II)
Lord, Vernon (II)
Mace, Donald (K)
Mace, Victor (K)
Mackay, James A (CW)
Mackey, Daniel (12)
Marchase, Michael (II)
Marold, Paul (K-V)
Marsh, Joseph (K)
Mattice, Alonzo (CW)
Mattice, Henry C (CW)
Mattice, Paul (CW)

- Mattice, Abram (I)
 Mattice, Leo (I)
 Mattice, Ford (II)
 McGinnes, Barney (CW)
 McIntyre, Archibald (CW)
 Meeghan, John (K-V)
 Meeghan, David (V)
 Monroe, Henry (CW)
 Monroe, Paul (CW)
 Moon, Luman D (CW)
 Moore, John (SA)
 More, Timothy S (CW)
 Morkraut, Michael (K-V)
 Morrissey, Robert (V)
 Mower, Leroy (K-V)
 Mueller, Herb (K-V)
 Mueller, Robert (V)
 Mullenix, Averil (K-V)
 Nakoneczny, Kenneth (AV)
 Newcomb, Sylvester (CW)
 O'Hara, James John (II)
 Oakley, Fred (II)
 Oakley, Richard (DS)
 Orlando, Donald (V)
 Orlando, Michael (AC)
 Palmeri, George (II)
 Paradowski, Rudolph (V)
 Parker, Lewis Jr (K-V)
 Peckham, Vivian B (II)
 Peek, Alvah (CW)
 Peters, Everett (K)
 Peterson, Everett (II)
 Peterson, Harold (II)
 Pickett, Robert (K-V)
 Porter, Jason (AC)
 Proper, John R (CW)
 Reed, William L (CW)
 Reed, Morton (I)
 Reed, Gordon (II)
 Regular, Laurence (II)
 Richtmeyer, Richard (II)
 Rider, Ruben (CW)
 Riedman, Valentine (K)
 Rijos, Felix (AC)
 Roe, Herman (12)
 Roe, Daniel S (CW)
 Roe, Jinks P (CW)
 Ruehle, Alfred (K)
 Safford, Owen D (II)
 Sauveur, Timothy (AV)
 Saxe, Charles (CW)
 Schermerhorn, Hiram (CW)
 Schermerhorn, William (CW)
 Schermerhorn, Warren (K)
 Schwartzwaelder, Allen (I)
 Sellick, Whited (CW)
 Shafer, Thomas L (CW)
 Shaffer, Nelson (12)
 Shaffer, Nelson (SA)
 Shoemaker, Abram (CW)
 Slater, Ralph [Pete] (K-V)
 Smith, Hiram (CW)
 Smith, Sylvester J (CW)
 Snyder, William (12)
 Snyder, Derrick (AC)
 Southwick, Calvin (CW)
 Sowles, Lorenzo (CW)
 Sprague, Elisha (12)
 Standhart, John (K)
 Standhart, James (AV)
 Starheim, Olaf (K)
 Stewart, James (AR)
 Stillwell, Hiram (CW)
 Stoner, Gerald O (K-V)
 Stryker, Carson (K-V)
 Stryker, Monte (K-V)
 Swartz, Edward (II)
 Taylor, James Barry (K-V)
 Terry, William (V)
 Thorn, Frank D (K)
 Tibbets, James (CW)
 Tompkins, Irving (K)
 Tompkins, Norwood (K)
 Truesdell, Larry (V)
 Van Aken, Arthur (II)
 VanAker, Kipp (V)
 Van Hoesen, Marshal (II)
 Varrecchia, Clement (II)
 Vonderhide, Marilyn Hubbard Harris (K-V)
 Vroman, Albert L (CW)
 Vroman, William (CW)
 Wales, Levi (12)
 Wally, Ronald M (II)
 Warner, Milo (CW)
 Waters, John (CW)
 Welch, Michael (CW)
 Wells, Randall (II)
 Whitbeck, Alton (II)
 Wickert, Fredrick (K-V)
 Wier, Donald (II)
 Wiesmer, Malbone (CW)
 Wilber, Hiram (CW)
 Wilber, Philip (CW)
 Wilber, Stephen (CW)
 Williams, George (CW)
 Williamson, Josh (AC)
 Wilson, Randolph (II)
 Wood, Charles (CW)
 Wood, John (CW)
 Wood, Charles N (CW)
 Wood, Philip (II)
 Wood, Jared L. (K)
 Wood, Donald E (AV)
 Wood, Michael E (AV)
 Wright, George (CW)
 Wright, John (CW)
 Wyckoff, Donald (AC)
 Yeomans, Charles (CW)
 Yeomans, George (CW)
 Yeomans, Horace (CW)
 Zimba, Stanley (V)
 Zinner, Henry Carl (II)

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