

# Gilboa Historical Society

Fall 2007

Volume 9, Issue 3

## LOCAL BALL GAMES

*Beatrice Mattice*

*October 22, 1908, Potter Hollow:*

The present ball team defeated the "old boys" Thursday to the tune of 14 to 6.

*Two items from Manorkill (probably circa 1920 from the Monitor or Prattsville News):*

Medusa [a hamlet in the town of Rensselaerville] and Manorkill played ball at the grounds here, Geo. Rickard's flats. Our boys got slightly trimmed, but of course it is only chivalrous to give the visitors the victory. [no date]

Last Saturday afternoon our Manorkill baseball nine went over and played a real game with the Potter Hollow boys and defeated them on their own grounds by the score of 24 to 5. [no date]

*Gilboa Town Ball Team 1928:*

Maude Haskin went along to many of the games as her brother, George Bailey, was on the team. She doesn't know where they had the home games, how they raised the money to buy uniforms, or what other teams they played.

**Please turn to page 8**



The 1928 Gilboa Baseball team: front row: Merel Hubbard Sr., John Henry Briggs, Clifton Hubbard, Earle Hubbard; back row: Everett Wood, Clayton Jackson, Eniel Briggs, Leland Jackson, George Bailey photo courtesy of Beatrice Mattice

## BROOME CENTER STORE

*Clyda B. Mace*

Daddy ran a country store in Broome Center. They say the day I was born my brother was in East Conesville with the grocery wagon, drawn by a team of horses. Word of the new arrival had been telephoned ahead to a cousin on his route. Apparently, it was an event awaited with great anticipation for he turned immediately for home, whipping up the team so joyously that Lena, the cousin, screamed, "Don't kill the horses! She'll be there!"

Of course, I was and my big brother became a great favorite in my life. Alas, the horses were gone before my memory developed, a fact I've always mourned. But the store was a fact of life and, with a child's gift for acceptance, I wasn't impressed. Only now, looking back through the mist of years, do I realize we were living in the end of an era.

That store wasn't a pretty or quaint affectation. It wasn't a handy convenience of odds and ends to save the neighbors a trip to the supermarket for some forgotten item. There were no supermarkets. That was The Store. There they bought their supplies and I'm amazed now at how few supplies were considered necessary. I never heard of anyone starving, and cleanliness was considered a virtue. "Water's free and soap is cheap" was an oft-heard reproof of those who didn't worry overmuch about it. Daddy's store supplied the necessities for keeping body and soul together in decently clean self-respect. Nor did it contribute to one of our modern problems, the Great Garbage question.

Flour, sugar, brown sugar, rice, cornmeal, tea, etc., were stored in large metal barrels. We weighed them out, poured them into the proper sized paperbag and tied it with a string. Nor were those bags tossed in the garbage when the customer got home. No, sir. They were carefully saved and used. Bacon was drained on brown paper bags, as were the delicious, crisp-on-the-outside homemade doughnuts fried in lard. There were dozens of practical uses for them in those pre-papertowel days. Cheese, cut from the big wheel of cheddar, was wrapped in heavy paper from a large roll in a castiron holder firmly anchored to the counter. Anything not bagged was

**Please turn to page 8**

## Why Not Write on Local History?

Gerry Stoner

The first step in writing an article on local history is to evaluate your own personal resources. If your family has a long history in Gilboa, you might look through the attics of your house or outbuildings to take an inventory of physical items of interest to your friends and neighbors. For instance, would your house, barn, or other building physically have special significance to the area (such as the article in the last issue on the Decker-Starheim barn)? Do they hold tools, artifacts, clothing, or documents that relate to the past of our area or the Catskills? How about picture albums, family bibles, deeds or maps, and other one-of-a-kind heirlooms? For example, Joan Mullen has forwarded pictures and artifacts from her mother who taught at the Owlsville and Doc Leonard schools as well as the new Gilboa-Conesville Central School.

Another fertile ground for personal inventory is the *attic of your mind*. For instance, we hope to have articles on how the roads of our community had been built and maintained or baseball in the hilltop towns in forthcoming issues.

You might be a newcomer to Gilboa with no special knowledge of the area, but you still have a *mental* attic that could provide grist for the mill of local history. For example, we are also working with a couple whose passion is bottles of the early 19th century—a historic technology not strictly tied to Gilboa but which would have been essential to the culture of the area—another article for a forthcoming issue.

Do you have interest or experience with railroads or race horses? Baseball or basketball? Guns or hunting? Music or dance? Cooking or crafts? Nature or natural history? In these and many more areas, we will be fascinated by your interest and knowledge if you will share it with us.

Many say “I can’t write an article—I’m not a writer.” Nonsense!

In most cases, you are a better writer than you might think—please try it, and let’s see. If you need additional data, you can use the *Newsletter’s* “Information Needed” exchange to find local resources that would help you apply your interest

to local experience. For those with phobias about writing, we could interview you so that you could orally document your knowledge. Or how about having your teenage children or grandchildren interview you? This is a fantastic cross-generational bonding experience—it makes your experience and life-learning available to your family, and allows your descendants to see a “different” you. Their article *on you* can earn extra credit in school, give them an item of interest for job or college applications—and by sharing your history, hobby, or interest with a person dear to you, you’re passing your culture along and helping a budding author become published!

**Starting in mid-November,  
please bring nonperishable  
items to the Gilboa Town Hall  
for the holiday food baskets.**

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Gerry Stoner, Linda Stratigos, and  
Kristin Wyckoff, Directors

**The Gilboa Historical Society meets at  
7:00 PM at the Gilboa Town Hall on  
the third Wednesday of the month,  
March through December**

The **Gilboa Museum** is located at  
122 Stryker Road behind the town’s garage.  
It is open Saturday and Sunday  
July–Labor Day, Columbus Day weekend,  
and by appointment for groups (607 588-9413).

The **Tourism Map, Newsletters**, and other  
items of general interest are available online at  
[ftp://ftp.genericcomp.com/GHS\\_Publications](ftp://ftp.genericcomp.com/GHS_Publications).

Please contact Gerry Stoner  
with feedback or suggestions on the Newsletter  
(607 652-5988, [gerrys@gilboahome.com](mailto:gerrys@gilboahome.com)).

## FALL GHS SCHEDULE

### September 19 at 7:00 P.M.

At the regular monthly meeting in the Gilboa Town Hall, Mike West, a collector of historical legal documents, will share part of his personal collection.

### September 29 at 10:00 a.m. Archaeological Day School

At Royal Oak Farm, 1827 State Route 30, North Blenheim NY, the archaeological day school hosted by Amy Wilson will present a brief introduction to archaeology, artifact identification, and hands-on practice (see page 5).

### October 17 at 7:00 P.M.

At October’s meeting in the Gilboa Town Hall, Bill Massoth of Patersonville will discuss the history and examples of unusual names—how places were named and then renamed, and why this happened. A fun talk.

### Wednesday, November 14 Note different date & location

November’s monthly meeting will be held a week earlier and at a different location—7:00 P.M. at the NYSPA Theater (1378 State Route 30). We will introduce the new documentary video of Gilboa’s past, present, and future developed by Samantha Clark and the Gilboa Historical Society.

### December 19 at 7:00 P.M.

The Historical Society’s Annual Holiday Bottle Auction offers you the ability to help your Society, purchase an attractively wrapped bottle of anything, and provides a chance to socialize and partake of great desserts before the winter sets in. Remember to BYOB (not necessarily alcoholic). And, please bring nonperishable foods for the winter food baskets.

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## HINTS ON PRESERVATION

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*Paul Schlotthauer*

Many of us who own old family documents and mementos that we want to pass along to future generations probably don't realize the importance of proper care and storage. Following is some information that can help you prolong the life of your irreplaceable family treasures.

### **Papers**

Most paper from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries contains acids that cause deterioration, so you will want to slow down the process by storing your paper documents in buffered folders (i.e., folders with neutral acidity; such paper should be advertised as acid-free and lignin-free). Ordinary manila folders are acidic, and envelopes can cause damage to documents as they are removed and replaced. Folding causes tears at the fold line, so be sure to unfold the documents before placing them in the enclosures. Because staples and paper clips rust, it's best to remove them unless the paper is so brittle that doing so may irreparably damage it. Never use a staple remover, which will tear the paper; instead, use a pair of tweezers or a thin knife to bend up the edges, after which you can gently pry the staple out. For paper clips, slide a stiff piece of plastic under each side of the clip and then gently slide the clip off the plastic.

### **Photographs**

If you want to preserve color photographs, have a photographer make black-and-white prints as backups—color film and slides have a shorter life span than black and white. Transferring photos to video is not a guarantee of longevity because videos deteriorate over time. Individual photographs and postcards should be kept in protective sleeves made of chemically inert plastics such as polyester (known by brand names such as Melinex 516 or Mylar D), polyethylene, or polypropylene. Don't use vinyl or PVC, which can cause chemical reactions. These sleeves, which come in many sizes, will provide support, allow handling without smudging, and protect emulsions that can often flake and peel with the passage of time. Then store the photos flat and upright (not on top of each other) in buffered or metal boxes—no rubber bands or paper clips! If you want to store photos in an album, make sure the pages are made of the same inert plastics or buffered paper. Never glue the photos onto the pages; instead, use mounting corners available from photography and archival suppliers. Make sure to record information—date, place, people, events—on the back of each photograph or else future generations will have no way of knowing what they are looking at. Press lightly when writing and use archival-quality markers, pens, or pencils.

### **Newspapers**

Newspaper articles, obituaries, and marriage and birth announcements are among the most common documents that families want to preserve. Unfortunately, newsprint is

very acidic and quickly turns so brittle that eventually it crumbles at the slightest touch. The best solution is to photocopy it onto buffered paper that is both acid- and lignin-free. The copies will last far longer than the originals. Printing out a legible image on buffered paper from a scanner or digital camera is another option. (When choosing paper, beware of the word "archival"; many manufacturers use that term to describe paper that in fact doesn't meet accepted preservation standards. It's best to purchase photocopying paper from archival suppliers.) If the article is already too fragile for photocopying, carefully place it in a sleeve like those described above for photographs.

Never fold a long or wide newspaper article before storing it; once it becomes brittle, it will simply fall apart at the fold. Since most newspapers print articles in columns, it should be possible for you to carefully cut the article into several pieces—provided it is printed on only one side of the page—and then lay the columns next to one another in a sleeve or use more than one sleeve. If the newsprint is so brittle that even the act of putting it into a sleeve might crumble it, your best bet is to keep it flat in a buffered folder. If a folder is to contain multiple pages, place a sheet of buffered paper between each page to prevent acid migration.

### **Books**

Books should be shelved upright and supported by bookends if necessary (very large volumes should be stored flat). Make sure the shelves are deep enough to prevent the ends of the books from hanging over the edge. Don't pack books so tightly on a shelf that you have to tug one to get it out, and never pull on the top of the spine, which will eventually tear (pushing the books on either side will help remove the book in the middle). For old books such as family Bibles, it might be best to use archival quality enclosures such as phase boxes or clamshell boxes, which will protect the books from light and dust. Different sizes of pamphlet enclosures are available to house smaller printed items such as programs, menus, and brochures. Don't lay an open book face down, and don't press down the book's pages to ease a stiff binding—you might break the paper and/or the spine.

Most people keep books on wooden shelves, but in fact wood is unkind to books. Like cardboard and certain plastics and metals, wood emits acids and chemicals (a process known as "offgassing") that react with paper and cause deterioration. Archival bookshelves are made of steel

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## Genealogical Corner

Janette Reynolds

Well, how many of you pestered your parents or grandparents with questions about relatives or growing up? If it was hard to get answers, here is an idea. Give them a notebook. When they remember a story or experience, have them write it down. Years from now, these written memories will be priceless.

Go through the old family albums with your parents and make sure each picture lists who the people are and dates written lightly on the back. If this is not done, your children will have no idea of their ancestors. Nameless people don't mean too much 100 years from now.

Take a trip to the Town Clerk office. Call ahead first so there is time to get out the old record books and find the information you are requesting. You can do a genealogy search for records over 50 years. Most town clerks have the records on births, marriages, and deaths for that town.

Gilboa's Town Clerk, Mary Wyckoff, has records from 1883 to current. A genealogy request form needs to be filled out. There is a \$22 fee for a 3-year span and \$42 fee for a 4- to 10-year span. Call for information that is available to you.

The *Gilboa Monitor* newspapers are on microfilm at the Town Hall for the years 1878–1918. Also the NYC water supply testimony case files from 1917–1931 are on microfilm. Call ahead for availability (607 588-6400). The hours are Monday through Friday 9 to 12 noon and 1 to 4 PM.

## GHS MUSEUM

Kristen Wyckoff

It's been a great year for the museum with our interesting kitchen theme. Folks love playing with the kitchen items and guessing what they were used for!

Two hundred eighty seven people came through the museum so far this year and we still have the Columbus Day weekend coming up.

Gardens by Trista will be planting the memorial trees in October so you still have time to send in requests for plantings. Naturally, there will be additional plantings in the spring and fall of each year as donations are received. We might be holding a dedication ceremony in the spring once the initial plaques have been installed.

We finally received a partial payment toward the grant for improvements and we were able to get the Gilboa Museum sign up on Route 30. It was just in time for Labor Day weekend and will increase interest and attendance for years to come. Drive by—it is really stunning and the “open now” portion is easily removable as the seasons change.

### Fuller District Schoolhouse Dedication

Jefferson Schoolhouse #4, donated by Ruth Moore to the Town of Jefferson, has been restored by the Jefferson Historical Society and the Girl Scout Cadet Troop 1384. It will be dedicated on September 16th at 1 P.M. with a short address by Supervisor Dick Kuhn, the dedication of a plaque, the awarding of a flag to Ms. Moore, and followed by refreshments provided by the Girl Scouts.

The school is located on North Harpersfield Road (the back road to Oneonta) next to the town hall.

## LEONARD HILL FIRE TOWER UPDATE

Linda Newerla

Region 4 Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) still considers the Leonard Hill Fire Tower rehabilitation a high priority for the region to the extent that the Region 4 forester has given his consent to develop a plan for work on the tower. Despite the lack of interest from the DEC Engineering Department for a structural analysis, the plan will outline the requirements for the renovation—assuming the steel structure is sound.

Included in the preliminary work will be replacement of the steel for the first two landings. DEC believes that the steel was removed and stored somewhere! The Region 4 Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO), in his list of many responsibilities, will try to locate the same steel or steel of the same style and lengths (remember, this is probably the highest tower in the state). He also has a Boy Scout troop willing to work on this. Clean-up of the site will also be done.

This is great news for all of us who are interested in the fire tower, but keep in mind that progress will be incremental. However, I am hopeful that my list of volunteers can be updated:

- I need your name, signature, and social security number for the “Adopt a Natural Resource” form for DEC; and
- I need your contact information (address, phone number, and email address) to keep you up to date.

Please send me a card/letter with this information c/o Stonecrest Industries, 152 Starheim Road, Stamford NY 12167, or email me at [lindan@gilboahome.com](mailto:lindan@gilboahome.com).

## ARCHEOLOGICAL DAY SCHOOL

Amy Wilson

The Archaeological Day School, hosted by Amy Wilson, will take place on Saturday, September 29, 2007 at Royal Oak Farm, 1827 State Route 30, North Blenheim NY.

The day school will begin at 10 A.M. with a brief introduction to archaeology, followed by hands-on practice with artifact identification. **Please bring any personal artifact collections** for discussion by Amy and the class!

Afterward, there will be a break for lunch (be sure to bring a [hearty] bag lunch), and the rest of the day will be spent using archaeological field methods to detect the original location of Fink's hotel, a historic tavern on the river road that played host to both the sheriffs and the indians during the anti-rent wars. It figured centrally in Mayham's *The Anti-Rent War on Blenheim Hill*, and copies of that reprint will be available. The hotel was subsequently moved and became the Wilson farmhouse.

Please dress warmly (layers are best), wear old clothes that may get dirty, and bring a bag lunch.

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, the day school will take place on the following day, Sunday, September 30, 2007.

Most important, **please RSVP** by Thursday, September 20, 2007 to [amymwilson@gmail.com](mailto:amymwilson@gmail.com) to let her know you will be attending. This is necessary to make sure that enough equipment is available. Remember, you can simply observe, or participate fully throughout the day—the goal is to learn and have fun. This FREE event is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Photo of the original Fink's Hotel (left) and its reincarnation as the Wilson farmhouse, photo courtesy of Amy Wilson.

## LETTERBOX UPDATE

Kira Weaver

So, did you find the letterboxes we hid this spring? Apparently some people did, as there were eleven visitors between June and September at both the fossils display and at the Museum. People were from Danbury CT, and Arkville, Kingsbury, and Highland in New York. There were local visitors too, including from Middleburgh and Gilboa. These same people also visited the Museum letterbox.

Would you like to find out more about letterboxing? On the Internet, go to [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org) where you will find the history of letterboxing, clues, and more information about letterboxing. To find the clues for the local boxes, look for the Hudson Valley area in New York State and then look under Schoharie County.

We understand from one of the guides that the letterboxes actually drew people into the Museum. Keep looking for more updates—who knows, maybe next issue I'll have added another box . . . stay tuned!

The **Gilboa Museum** is located at 122 Stryker Road at 990V, behind the town's garage. It is open Saturday and Sunday July-Labor Day, Columbus Day weekend, and by appointment for groups (607 588-9413).

The early GCCS bus fleet, with enlarged pictures of the crew. Can you identify these people? Photo courtesy of Joan Hess Mullen.



### A Letter from Joan Hess Mullen

I am much interested in the research being done on schools in the town of Gilboa, and loved reading Kristen Wyckoff's article. My mother taught at Owlsville, and it was quite a hike from where she lived in Flat Creek. Before I go any further, perhaps I should identify myself.

I am the daughter of Franklin Hess and Muriel Gordon Hess. When he was a child, my father lived in Broome Center and Franklinton, while my mother lived in the house now owned by Vernon Pickett in Flat Creek. My father was postmaster in Gilboa at the time the dam was being built. He and my mother bought the Raymond Brown farm in Broome Center, and I spent the first 13 years of my life there. When I was a teenager, we moved to the house opposite the Waterfall House. I have so many wonderful memories of Gilboa and Broome Center, and still have a variety of fourth cousins living in the area . . . including Bee Mattice, Bill Thorpe, Betty O'Hara, LaVerne Hubbard, and several others. It will always be "Home" to me.

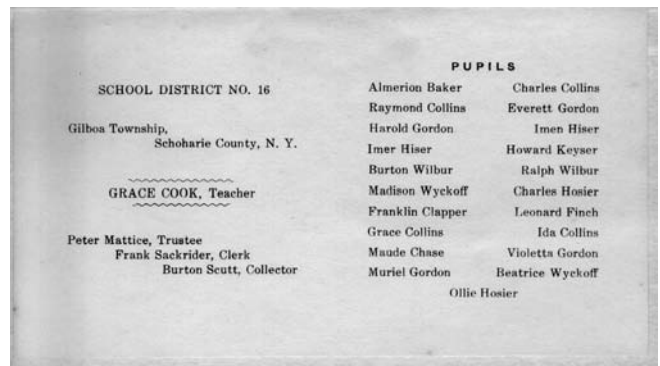
Back to the subject of schools. You are welcome to keep and use all the items in the package I'm sending. . . . One more thing I just remembered: my mother substitute taught up on Doc Leonard's Mountain several times. I went along and remember so well the old building, with its water bucket, lunch pails, and pot-belly stove. I believe this was the Rowe District. I remember there being only a few pupils. Mother once said when she taught in the winter, she had to arrive early in order to start the wood stove before the kids got there. How things have changed.

Joan Hess Mullen, Class of 1945, 518-747-7234 or e-mail cooja@aol.com

**From the editor:**

The attachments Joan mentioned in her letter were a lode of goodies, including the test items shown on page 7 (the test is available as a PDF download at [http://ftp.genericcomp.com/GHS\\_Publications](http://ftp.genericcomp.com/GHS_Publications)).

In addition, there were pictures of graduating classes from Chapel and Franklinton schools; a teaching certificate, paychecks, and teacher contracts; and some mementos used as graduation keepsakes by teachers at that time. Some of these items are shown below.



The outside (left) and inside (right) of a graduation card given by Grace Cook (Kingsley) in 1914, photo courtesy of Joan Hess Mullen



The new Gilboa-Conesville Central School, photo courtesy of Joan Hess Mullen



Teachers at the new Gilboa-Conesville Central School, photo courtesy of Joan Hess Mullen

State of New York  
**COMMISSIONERS EXAMINATIONS**

*School file*

**ELEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR PUPILS IN GRADES FIVE  
 TO SEVEN INCLUSIVE**

This envelop contains questions on  
**ARITHMETIC, READING AND SPELLING**  
 to be used

**TUESDAY FORENOON, DECEMBER 20, 1910**  
 and at no other time

This envelop must be safely kept, and must be first opened in the presence of the class.

Xw228-N10-18,000 (7-867)

**TUESDAY FORENOON  
 STATE OF NEW YORK**

**COMMISSIONERS GRADE EXAMINATIONS**  
 based on the State elementary course of study  
**FIFTH, SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADES**

These questions have been prepared by a committee of school commissioners appointed for the purpose.

**FIRST TERM**

**TUESDAY FORENOON, DECEMBER 20, 1910**

**DIRECTIONS**

1 Allow no communication and no recess. Seat the pupils so as to avoid the temptation to secure or give aid. The questions must not be exhibited prematurely. Pupils must not be given any assistance whatever. No alteration, rejection or substitution of questions is permitted. Dishonesty in conducting the examinations will be sufficient ground for revoking a license to teach.

2 Pupils can not become entitled to term certificates of promotion without passing the examination in all the subjects prescribed for the respective grades. Teachers should promote, without certificates, pupils who fail to pass in one or more branches, if promotion can be made without detriment. First term standings must not be allowed toward second term certificates. The judgment and honesty of the teacher are tested in conducting the examination and in marking the answer papers.

3 Failure to send a copy of the report to the school commissioner within two weeks after the examination and to leave a copy in the school register will be regarded as a dereliction of duty on the part of the teacher. Blanks for report are in the register.

4 School commissioners may call in for review any and all answer papers rated by the teacher at a passing mark. When not called in, such papers must be kept on file in the school building for one year.

**READING**

The test in reading shall be on the ability of the pupil to read orally plain English prose equal in difficulty to the matter prescribed for the respective term. The selection shall be made by the teacher from matter with which the pupils are not familiar. In estimating the standing attained, regard shall be had to position, pronunciation, enunciation, fluency and expression.

The test may be given either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Our Newsletter uses bulk mail for the lower cost, but it also means that the newsletter will not be forwarded by the Post Office. Please notify us if you have a temporary address during our mailings in early March, June, and September (there is no winter issue). 607 652-5988, GHS@gilboahome.com

**ARITHMETIC**

NOTE.—All the operations except very simple ones must be indicated.

**FIFTH GRADE**

Answer any 10 questions.

- 1 a Change 33 ft to in.  
 b Change 80 pk to bu.
- 2 Write as decimals: five tenths; twenty-five thousandths; two and one hundred thirty-five thousandths.
- 3 Change each of the following to a common fraction: .25; .005; .7; .875; .96.
- 4 Multiply 5.125 by 1.29.
- 5 How many cubic inches are there in a bushel? How many cubic inches in a gallon?
- 6 Express in cents the value of each of the following fractional parts of one dollar:  $\frac{3}{10}$ ,  $\frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{10}$ ,  $\frac{1}{12}$ .
- 7 What is the cost of paving a driveway 370 ft long and 13.5 ft wide at \$.25 a sq. ft?
- 8 The length of a field is 80 rd and its width is 30 rd; how many acres are there in the field?
- 9 A room is 20 ft long by 18 ft wide; find the cost of covering the floor with yard wide matting at \$.60 per yard.
- 10 A man sold 630 lb of wool at  $21\frac{1}{2}$  cents per lb; how much did he receive?
- 11 A farmer paid \$2205 for  $36\frac{3}{4}$  acres of land; how much did he pay per acre?
- 12 In one year a farmer's herd of seven cows produced milk as follows:

Cow no. 1	.....	4625	lb
" 2	.....	5337	"
" 3	.....	4125	"
" 4	.....	6878	"
" 5	.....	5987	"
" 6	.....	4651	"
" 7	.....	6724	"

What was the total amount of milk produced?

X606-N10-122,500 (7-866)

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**Information Needed**

- Diane DiGiovanni would like input on School #8 on Stone Store Road in Broome (didigi@optonline.net).
- Sean Harrigan (Bremer and Allen Hill Roads) wanted to clean an existing pond and found a solid, flat floor 8 feet down and over 60' x 60' in size. Any ideas of what this is (was)? An Atlantis of the Devonian Sea?
- What were the names and locations of the creameries in Gilboa-Conesville and the surrounding towns?

Please send info to GHSInfo@gilboahome.com

**Gilboa Baseball**, *continued from page 1*

She does remember going to the Partridge Nest where there was a ball field, a pavilion, and was a favorite picnic and swimming area on the Schoharie Creek in Fultonham.

One time after a game, some of the boys had all the young girls line up by the pavilion, and they chose three to go with them to Proctor's Theater in Schenectady to a movie. The boys were Earle Hubbard, Clifton Hubbard, and Everett Wood. The lucky girls were Margie DeWitt, Lorraine Hubbard and Maude. The fellows told the other girls to go on home. Everyone at the theater looked at them like they were big-league ball players as they were wearing their uniform and spikes. For supper they pooled their money and bought Fig Newtons and bananas.

*Ball Games from the 1950s:*

Waterfall House Town Team, played behind the Grand Gorge Civic Center, against Middleburgh, Stamford, Hobart, and Bloomville. Bill Snyder was the catcher until he turned 40, in 1970. Some others on the team when he played were Preston Vandusen, Sam Tompkins, Duane Ely, Frank and Ernie Saccaro. They had games Sunday afternoons and one night a week. John Casmer and Joe Magro also played with these men from the Grand Gorge area. Merle Hubbard, Jr. and Willie Latta played on the town ball teams for many years in the 1950s and '60s.

There also was a Basketball Town Team in the 1940s. Bill remembers when he was on the Grand Gorge High School Varsity, they played against the Town Team.

*Ball Games—Present Day:*

Ted Latta played on the local town teams from the age of 16, 1976 to about 1993. His father was Willie Latta who played on the teams all the time Ted and his sister were growing up. This was, and still is, a family affair. Very often the children of the players formed teams and would have their own ball games while their fathers are playing.

Ted and his friends played on Sundays. In the earlier days, they played on DaBramo's field in Conesville. Local businesses sponsor the teams. Some sponsors are the Prattsville Tavern, Waterfall House, Clark's, and for a time, Hughes Lumber, the Rondevoo, and Shirley's. Later they played at Minekill, Stamford, and now most games are at the field in Prattsville. They have tournaments occasionally and played at the CCC Camp in West Fulton, at the Covered Bridge and Boreali's near Cobleskill.

Forrest Ballard and Kelly Smith were the organizers of the teams for years. Here are just a few of the players: Wayne Clark, Willie Karlau, Joe Haskin, Randy Mudge, Ken Clark, LeGrand Buel, Raymond Buel, Pat Buel, Daryl Buel, Tony Marsh, Gene Brainerd, Pat Marsh, Bob Gurley, Jim Higgins, Doug Wisse, and Marty Fleischmann.

Today there are several Town Teams in this area with active teams. Town Team Ball Games have been entertainment here in the hills since the 1800s.

*Told to Bee in 1976 by Paul Stryker (1892–1981)*

"Ball games between village teams were very exciting events. Those old-time boys could really play ball! There were a few heated arguments but on the whole everyone had a good time. Games would be played on "Stubbie's Flat" near Diamonds or on the large field where H. B. Scarey and Jerry Hughes have recently built homes.

From E. R. Eastman, *Journey to the Day Before Yesterday* (Prentice Hall): "Now, you may be a modern baseball fan as I am, and watch every big league game that you can, but if you never attended a baseball game between the teams of two neighboring villages 50 years ago, you have never seen a real ball game.

**Broome Center store** (*continued from page 1*)

wrapped in that paper and those sheets were saved for many a household use, too.

About all the tinned goods my sister and I can remember the store stocking were sardines, salmon, mackerel, Vienna sausages, and a small supply of canned tomatoes and peaches. Everyone grew their own vegetables, most folks had a pig and a few hens. They didn't buy that stuff, they canned their own.

As I haul my crammed bags of garbage to the garage for the garbage collector, I marvel. This is Progress, I ask? What is all this junk? It's dog food cans (unheard of back then, our dogs ate what we ate), wads and wads of plastic once swaddled around fresh fruit and vegetables, plastic trays that held meat, plastic cartons, plastic packing squiggles, everything is throw-away packed. What I pay to have it hauled away would have fed a family in my childhood. And what the Town pays for a place my garbage collector may take it boggles the mind; almost half the amount of the entire Town budget in 1952!

Daddy's store wasn't fancy. There were large windows across the front, one each side of the door. Mom painted the shelves, oiled the plain wooden floor, and kept the windows bright with flowering plants. The counter was across the back and the shelves beneath held a glory of penny candy and nickle candy bars. A stack of glass-topped cookie cartons sat along the front. In a back corner was the hand-cranked kerosene pump. Shelves held essentials: Argo starch, bluing, bars of yellow laundry soap, Lifebuoy and Ivory soap, flystickers, oatmeal and (for the affluent) cornflakes, yeast, baking powder, salt and pepper, crackers, matches, tinned goods, etc. A rack behind the counter contained some home remedies like spirits of ammonia and nitre, wintergreen oil for toothache, camphorated oil, castor oil (of "ugh" memory), iodine, aspirin. Another rack held



**Hints on Preservation**, *continued from page 3*

with baked-enamel finish, but few of us are going to go out and purchase these for our homes—for one thing, they're ugly! So if you are storing your family Bible on your grandfather's hand-made oak shelves, use a buffered book enclosure to protect it from the effects of the wood.

**Textiles**

Don't store articles of clothing by hanging them up. Over time, gravity will pull on the seams and separate them, especially if the garment is heavy, such as a satin wedding gown. Instead, fold it (buffered tissue paper can be used to minimize creases) and store it in an archival-quality box. If you must use a box made of chemically active materials such as wood or plastic, line the interior with a protective barrier such as heavy-duty aluminum foil. Don't use plastic bags or tightly sealed containers to store textiles, as these can generate high humidity that will result in mildew. Clean the fabric by vacuuming. If the article is large or sturdy, you can vacuum with an up-and-down motion through a sheet of flexible plastic screening (lift, don't drag, the nozzle). For more fragile items, gently dust with a soft brush directly into the nozzle of the vacuum.

**Storage**

Attics and basements are often used for storage, but these places are usually not the best homes for old artifacts. Books, photographs, and papers need to live in environments with moderate and stable temperatures and relative humidity. Extreme heat and temperature fluctuations can make paper brittle (the fibers weaken as they constantly expand and contract), while high humidity causes mold and mildew. Keep books and papers away from direct sunlight or bright artificial light to prevent fading and damage from ultraviolet radiation. Valuables should not be stored near potential sources of water damage (such as basement floors that may flood, water pipes, and washing machines) and heat damage (such as radiators, fireplaces, and appliances that produce heat). Dehumidifiers and fans that circulate clean air can help if you must use your attic or basement. Dirt and dust are no friends of longevity, so good housekeeping is a must.

**Suppliers**

Following is a partial list of reputable firms used by archives and other professional institutions for storage and preservation materials. They all have Web sites where you can shop online, but most will send paper catalogs upon request. Their merchandise isn't cheap, but the disadvantage of spending a few extra dollars will be far outweighed by the knowledge that you are helping to preserve your family's mementos and treasures and making it possible for your descendants to enjoy and take pride in them.

Archival Methods 235 Middle Road Henrietta NY 14467 (866) 877-7050	Hollinger Corporation PO Box 8360 Fredericksburg VA 22404 (800) 634-0491	Metal Edge, Inc. 6340 Bandini Avenue Commerce CA 90040 (800) 862-2228
Gaylord Brothers Box 4901 Syracuse NY 13221-4901 (800) 448-6160	Light Impressions PO Box 787 Brea CA 92822-0787 (800) 828-6216	University Products PO Box 101 517 Main Street Holyoke MA 01841 (800) 336-1912

Paul Schlotthauer has been an archivist and librarian at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Teachers College at Columbia University, and the Queens Borough Public Library. He is currently the archivist of Pratt Institute and lives in New York City. He will also be providing two short articles for the March issue of the Newsletter: how to relax paper (so that it can be unfolded) and how to remove the musty smell from old books easily and safely.

**Broome Center store** (*continued from page 8*)

notions—thread, shoelaces, safety pins, buttons and snaps, and so on.

I grew up behind that counter. Early in life I was adept at pumping kerosene, weighing out flour and other staples, totting up totals and making change. No wonder I won the arithmetic prize in third grade!

Best of all, I knew everyone in the countryside, all their kids, most of their dogs, and just about where everyone was at any given moment. The little store was a focal point, a social center, and an information booth. I could tell you who had pigs for sale and who wanted to buy one. A stranger didn't stand a chance. One trip to that store and anonymity was lost. I once covered myself with glory by directing the troopers to a guy even the mailman didn't know.

Yes, the store and the mail order catalogs supplied most of life's needs back then. Sometimes, as I hurry to the car, tear through the supermarket, haul my purchases into the house, lug out the garbage, and only see my neighbors as they drive rapidly past the house, I think we've sold our birthright for a mess of plastic.

**Honey in the Horn**

Beatrice Mattice

*Honey in the Horn* is a collection of Clyda Mace tales like the "Broome Center Store"—tales of nature and life in the hills, and the people who lived there in years gone by.

Clyda Mace was a popular columnist for Cobleskill's *Times Journal* and Stamford's *Mirror Recorder* from 1986 to 1994. She was born in Broome Center and lived on a farm in Mackey with her husband, former Gilboa Town Supervisor Stewart Mace. Her writings are now being republished and will be for sale at various places in the area.

For information, contact Beatrice Mattice (607 588-9487, [beatricemattice@hotmail.com](mailto:beatricemattice@hotmail.com)); Laurel Mattice (607 588-9480, [laurtrue@hotmail.com](mailto:laurtrue@hotmail.com)); or Cindy Buel (518 827-6332, [clbuel@midtel.net](mailto:clbuel@midtel.net)).

Elementary Examinations, *continued from page 7*

**SPELLING**

NOTE.—Pupils should be instructed that only proper names should begin with capitals. Definition of the word should be given by the teacher when necessary.

**FIFTH GRADE**

- |               |             |           |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 salt        | 18 dairy    | 35 sauce  |
| 2 farming     | 19 rabbit   | 36 wheat  |
| 3 cider       | 20 coffee   | 37 canal  |
| 4 worry       | 21 addition | 38 deer   |
| 5 Delaware    | 22 saliva   | 39 dear   |
| 6 strait      | 23 adverb   | 40 lumber |
| 7 message     | 24 square   | 41 Albany |
| 8 harvest     | 25 George   | 42 forest |
| 9 active      | 26 hound    | 43 market |
| 10 New Jersey | 27 Hudson   | 44 hunger |
| 11 forty      | 28 doubt    | 45 extra  |
| 12 stream     | 29 chirp    | 46 hatch  |
| 13 oxen       | 30 woman    | 47 senate |
| 14 child's    | 31 moist    | 48 coral  |
| 15 plow       | 32 crown    | 49 torch  |
| 16 Buffalo    | 33 chalk    | 50 season |
| 17 olive      | 34 Syracuse |           |

**SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADES**

- |              |              |             |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 second     | 16 social    | 31 model    |
| 2 decade     | 17 chickadee | 32 pencil   |
| 3 grassy     | 18 February  | 33 travel   |
| 4 happy      | 19 gallon    | 34 certain  |
| 5 glance     | 20 dozen     | 35 squirrel |
| 6 forever    | 21 bushel    | 36 purple   |
| 7 Arctic     | 22 account   | 37 Omaha    |
| 8 creature   | 23 solemn    | 38 choir    |
| 9 waves      | 24 Portugal  | 39 pansy    |
| 10 ocean     | 25 truant    | 40 bluebird |
| 11 afraid    | 26 women's   | 41 salmon   |
| 12 England   | 27 sparrow   | 42 celery   |
| 13 product   | 28 talking   | 43 kitchen  |
| 14 cipher    | 29 sound     | 44 oyster   |
| 15 Liverpool | 30 silent    | 45 pitcher  |

Dictate the following sentences and allow *two* credits for each italicized word:

- 46-48 Kind *hearts* are more than *coronets*.  
 49-50 *Sorrow* *depresses* the heart.

X606-N10-122,500 (7-866)

**SIXTH GRADE**

Answer any 10 questions.

- Copy and add the following: 7894; 421; 6923; 1009; 24; 9788.  
 [No credit is to be given unless the answer is absolutely correct.]
- Define *three* of the following: percentage, fraction, quotient, mixed number, base, numerator.
- a What per cent of 45 is 9?  
 b Find 15% of \$4424.
- Express *each* of the following decimals in per cent: .25; .333; 1.25; .5; .375
- A man sold a horse for \$200 which was  $\frac{1}{3}$  less than the horse cost him; what was the cost?
- How many square rods are there in a field containing  $16\frac{1}{2}$  acres?
- A farmer owning 350 sheep sold 20% of them. How many sheep did he sell? How many did he have left?
- A certain number is  $\frac{2}{3}$  of 96; what is the number?
- Find the cost of digging a cellar 27 ft long, 15 ft wide and 9 ft deep at 18 cents per cubic yard.
- A flock of 75 hens averages 120 eggs per hen for the year; what is the value of the eggs at 30 cents per dozen?
- How many gallons of water will be contained in a tank 7 ft long, 5 ft 6 in. wide and 4 ft deep?

**SEVENTH GRADE**

Answer any 10 questions.

- $591744 \div 92 = ?$   
 [No credit is to be given unless the answer is absolutely correct.]
- a  $17\frac{1}{2} - 12\frac{3}{4} = ?$   
 b  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 14 \times 6\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4} = ?$
- Express *each* of the following decimally: 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %, 6%,  $\frac{1}{4}$ %, 175%, 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ %.
- If 8 bushels of potatoes cost \$4.00, what will 20 bushels cost at the same rate? [Solve by proportion.]
- A farmer raised 225 bu. of potatoes; he sold  $\frac{2}{3}$  of them to one merchant and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the remainder to another. How many bushels remained unsold?
- How many yards of carpet 27 in. wide are required to cover a room 9 ft long by  $13\frac{1}{2}$  ft wide?
- A bin 15 ft square is filled with oats to the depth of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  ft; how many bushels of oats are there in the bin?
- Write a 60 day note for \$100, interest at 6%, with your teacher as payee and yourself as maker.
- In what time will \$320 at 5% amount to \$360?
- A boy deposits \$20 in a savings bank paying 4% interest credited semiannually; how much money will the boy have in the bank at the end of two years?
- T. O. Coon bought of J. M. Clark 360 lb of wheat at 95 cents a bushel; he gave his check on the First National Bank of Weston in payment. Write the check.
- Find the interest on \$8040 from Feb. 17, 1908 to May 13, 1910 at 6%.

The Franklinton graduates (below), photo courtesy of Joan Hess Mullen





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

### Gilboa Historical Society Plantings

The Society is raising money for landscaping the museum. The listed cost includes the plant, mulch, labor, and a commemorative plaque. *Gardens by Trista* is donating labor and installation.

**Trees:**

Pin Oak Tree: 2"-2½" trunk	\$245
Pin Oak Tree: 5 gal. cont.	\$56
Sugar Maple Tree: 7 gal. cont.	\$80
Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple: 2"-2½" trunk	\$270
Crab Tree : 2"-2½" trunk	\$170
Crabapple Tree: 5 gal. cont.	\$80
Blue Spruce Tree: 4'-5'	\$155
Blue Spruce Tree: 4 gal. cont.	\$56
Hydrangea Tree: 5 gal. cont.	\$100

**Trees: (continued)**

White Concolor Fir Tree: 5'-6' 2 gal. cont.	\$170 \$44
White Birch Clump: 7 gal. cont.	\$100
Magnolia Tree: 5 gal. cont.	\$74
Crabapple Tree: 5 gal. cont.	\$80
Weeping Willow Tree: 5 gal. cont.	\$80
Pear Cleveland Tree: 5 gal. cont.	\$80

**Bushes:**

Lilac: purple 2-3 gal. cont.	\$50
white 2-3 gal. cont.	\$44
Mock Orange	\$44
Forsythia	\$44
Peony	\$32
Weigela: 2 gal. cont.	\$44
Dbl. Pink Rose of Sharon 3 gal. cont.	\$44
Honeysuckle: Arnold Red	\$44
Hydrangea: Annabelle	\$44
Red Twig Dogwood: Shrub	\$44
Rhododendron	\$50

#### Membership Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:\* \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership (\$10.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime membership (\$100.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior or student membership (\$7.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple membership (\$15.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family membership (\$25.00)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial gift†	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping‡	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gilboa Historical Society Museum	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Old Gilboa video	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> General fund	\$ _____

\* Our Newsletter uses bulk mail and will not be forwarded by the Post Office. Please notify us if you have a temporary address during our mailings in early March, June, and September (there is no winter issue).

† For memorial gifts: please attach the name and address of the next-of-kin so that we may tell them of your donation.

‡ For landscaping gifts: please attach a list of the plant(s) to be purchased; for memorial plantings, please also attach the wording of the dedication, and the name and address of the next-of-kin so that we may tell them of your donation.

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

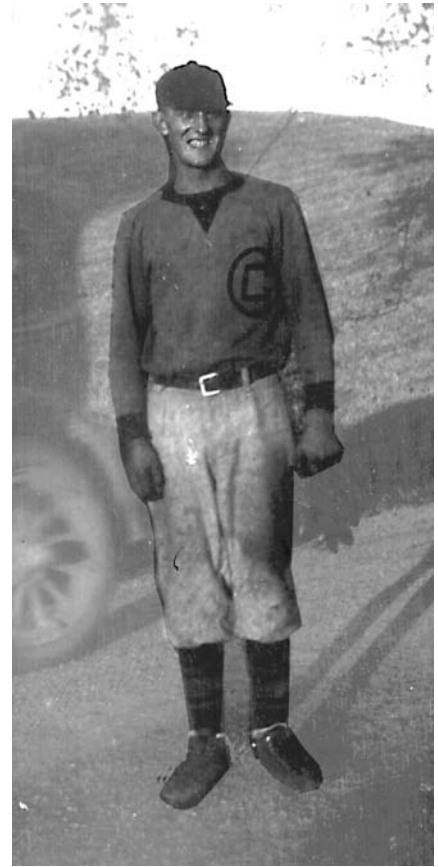
**Gilboa Baseball**, *continued from page 8*

“In the first place, we knew every man on our own local team, so that we were bitterly partisan for our own boys. The crowd was so close to the base lines that the local constable couldn’t prevent masses of people from surging onto the diamond and taking part in an argument when there was one—which occurred in practically every inning. And God help the umpire! There never was but one, and how he ever survived the rows which usually centered around him, I’ll never know. About the only peace that prevailed during the entire game was when the boys lost a ball and all hands joined to help find it. Those old-time boys could play ball. I have seen some games with low scores played by town teams that were just as good as those played by professionals today.”

### Star Program

As you may have read in the paper, the STAR Tax Rebate program provides a school property tax rebate to people with a primary residence here. Those over 65 and who were enrolled in the program last year should receive their checks automatically. For others, however, the State’s Tax and Finance Department is scheduled to mail a short application form on September 10, and this will have a “Rebate Code” that you will need to include when filing. The deadline for application is November 30, and it is recommended that you apply on line at <http://www.nystax.gov/>.

If you have questions about your status in this program, you should call the state at 877 678-2769. Contrary to the web site’s recommendations, the local assessors and clerks do not have the forms or information to assist you, and this program is not handled by the county office of real property service (ORPS).



Raymond Maybie (1907–1990) played for the Gilboa team, photo courtesy of Maude Haskin

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