



Summer Camp with a Twist

Summer camp memories have long been created in the Catskills (though not this summer, thanks to COVID-19). Marilyn Kaltenborn recently donated to HSM a booklet recounting the fun and games from the summer of 1921 at Rosedale Manor Camp for girls in Fleischmanns.

This was no ordinary camp, as it operated from the former Fleischmann family compound, occupying the elegant 'cottages' of Charles Louis Fleischmann and son Julius. The illustrious family had decamped for their Cincinnati home base in 1914, and the property was acquired by Joseph Rosenthal of Brooklyn in 1915.

It's not clear when he converted it to a summer camp, expanding Julius' house and adding a concrete pool. But in early 1921, some 400 girls gathered for a camp 'reunion' at the Hotel Astor in Manhattan. The Feb. 27, 1921 Brooklyn Daily Eagle reported that Joseph Rosenthal, 248 Carlton Ave., who conducts the camp, and Mrs. Rosenthal were hosts. "A program of recitations, songs and dances was given . . ."

That summer, the girls staged stunt nights, theatricals,



Undated postcard of the former Fleischmann estate turned summer camp. The closer house was Charles Louis Fleischmann's, the one in the background had been Julius Fleischmann's. The low addition in the center, believed built by the camp owner, may have housed additional bedrooms or a dining room.

concerts and spelling contests at the Fleischmanns camp. Thirty-three of them learned to swim in the pool. They were awake with the birds and marveled at the stars on deep dark Catskill nights.

But the big adventure of the summer was a hike "over the mountain" to Roxbury. They visited the Kelly Corners

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The annual Cauliflower Festival has been canceled this year but we will remember this important aspect of our agricultural heritage on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2 p.m. at the unveiling of a historic marker at Margaretville Mountain Inn where the commercial cauliflower growing industry began in the 1890s.



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Post Office, ate lunch (delivered by car from camp) at Hubbell's Cove on Lake Wawaka in Halcottville, and set up camp at Deckers' farm. (Roxbury Historian Anthony Liberatore surmises this was Howard Decker's farm, later Dick Bouton's, now Madeline Warren's, on Route 30 south of the hamlet.) The account says some went for a dip in the stream (the East Branch) then "took a brisk

march home, singing songs. We rolled in our blankets and talked each other to sleep."



Above: Camp staff, 1921.

Left: Swimmers on the edge of the pool.



In August of 1922, the *Catskill Mountain News* reported on a fire at the camp, but in the following issue apologized to Mr. Rosenthal for sensationalizing the incident.

On June 30, 1927, the *News* reported that "Five bus loads of children were brought here from the boat landing in Rondout, all of them being camp girls at Rosedale Manor, 126 besides the instructors. On July 4 a pageant was held at the camp and nearly the entire personnel took part. They did exceedingly well — a large number of guests were invited for the occasion."

It appears the camp stopped operating in the late 1920s. Around 1930 Rosenthal turned it into the Hotel Savoy and by 1940 it too was defunct. An ad in the May 10 *News* that year showed

Max Silberman and Kenneth Avery offering "At Fleischmann Hill, known as Rosedale Manor Camp, 90,000 feet of lumber, oak flooring, French doors, all sizes."

Rosenthal's other enterprise, the Rosedale Hotel (aka Villa) had been a Wagner Avenue fixture since 1910 when he purchased a lot from Harrison Mayes who then constructed a large hotel for the Brooklyn entrepreneur. It later became known as The Palace, and still stands.

Postcard courtesy Museum of Memories; camper images from 1921 Rosedale Manor Camp yearbook now in the HSM archives.

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July 30 was a red letter day for HSM: Our collection of historic materials was moved from the Town Hall to the Fairview Public Library garage. There we are beginning to develop a proper archives, where items will be catalogued, cared for and ultimately made available for research, exhibits and programming. Interested in volunteering? Email us at history@catskill.net.



From the attic, down a long narrow flight of stairs, the collection was moved box by box to spacious quarters across town, where shelving was moved and assembled by Nate Hendricks and Geoff Samuels.

A huge thank you to those who did the heavy lifting – wearing masks on a sweltering day. L. to r. Terry Lehn, Henry Friedman, Bill Blish (in truck), Amy, Eli and Lil Taylor, Pat Moore, Jeff Lehn, Josef Schoell, Alex Zurita and Chris Dabritz of B&D Motors which generously provided the truck.





This was the Archibald/Fredenburgh barn, located just north of Margaretville, in early 2020. Note the elevator shaft installed to carry eggs and people. The barn burned to the ground June 27.

The destruction by fire of two venerable Middletown barns earlier this year erased the tangible evidence of a way of life once prevalent in our region. The former Streeter barn on Little Redkill Road, and the former Archibald and Fredenburgh barn just north of Margaretville were well kept, handsome structures, which makes their loss all the more tragic. Our sympathies go out to Ivy Yin and Tiffany Schauer, owners of the Redkill farm, who are establishing an animal sanctuary there and plan to rebuild; and to James Ferrante, owner of the Margaretville property. In tribute to their predecessors who built the barns and ran those farms, here is a brief history of each.

The Streeter Farm

James T. Streeter (1810-1883) was born in Halcott (then part of Lexington) to William and Mary Payne Streeter. James appears to have established his own homestead

on what is now Streeter Hill Road in Redkill. He acquired a significant amount of land in the area, and in December of 1870, with wife Sarah (Bellows), sold a 70-acre parcel on Little Redkill Road to their son Florus, whose son Berdine and grandson Howard would in turn run the dairy farm for nearly a century.

Florus Streeter (1846-1895) was one of 11 children of James T. and Sarah. Florus and bride Elizabeth "Libbie" Kelly (they were married in 1869), set up housekeeping on the Redkill farm that had been occupied for many years by Franklin Bellows before the Streeters purchased it.

Florus and Libbie (1848-1942) raised three children, Berdine Brown, Lillian (Kelly) and Bessie (Combs) on the Little Redkill Road farm. Berdine (1871-1948) was 20 years old when he and his father, and we might suppose many neighbors, built a beautiful new barn. Someone carved '1891' into a massive foundation stone.

Berdine Streeter reads the *Catskill Mountain News*, joined by son Howard, wife Satie and daughter Beatrice, probably 1930s. — Steve Morse

Just four years later, in 1895, Florus died at age 49. It was up to Berdine to carry on with his widowed mother and his sisters Lillian, 18, and Bessie, just five years old. In 1898 Berdine, who also taught at the nearby District 14 one-room school, married Satie Moseman, daughter of Gilbert and Harley Bouton Moseman of Halcott. Satie was just 18 and within a year would bear the first of seven children.

Those seven children – Leora (Kittle), Gerald, Gilbert, Howard, Blanche (Roberts), Dorothy (Morse) and Beatrice – grew to adulthood on the farm. Howard and Beatrice did not marry and remained with their parents. In 1940, Beatrice, a bank clerk in Fleischmanns, died at age 40, and in 1946 Howard suffered a stroke whose effects lingered. In 1948 father Berdine passed away.

Howard's sister Dorothy and her husband Marion Morse moved into the house, with their son Ron. The extended family kept a few cows. Ellis Tobin, who spent summers in the 1950s and '60s at the nearby Kaplan family compound, remembers going to the barn to watch Howard milk the cows. "As a city boy I was always amazed at where milk came from. Howard always squirted some at the cats. He used to bring the horse-drawn hay wagon down the road and us Kaplan kids would get on it for a ride to the farm. Occasionally the cows would escape, and Howard would come down the road to capture them."

Satie Moseman Streeter died in 1960. Her funeral was held from the house where she had lived for 62 years. Her surviving children sold their share of the farm to their sister Dorothy and Marion Morse. Son Ron and his young family lived in an upstairs apartment for a time. Howard died in 1970. Dorothy, Marion and Ron Morse passed away in 1995 and 1996.

Lots were sold off in the '80s leaving the house, barn and other buildings on eight acres. Subsequent owners of this home farm parcel included Steve Delibert and Kris Reed, and John and Courtney Fairbairn before the current owners acquired it in 2018.



Florus and Libbie Streeter, who began farming on Little Redkill Road as newlyweds in 1870. — Steve Morse



This grainy image shows members of the Streeter family in the orchard in front of the house, with the 1891 barn showing through the branches of an apple tree. Steve Morse

Howard Streeter (1911-1970) bringing in the cows. Note the barn in the background.



Foundation stone carved with the year the barn was built. It will be incorporated into the foundation of the new barn which will rise on the ashes of the old.



This farm was first settled by Pardon and Rhoda Stanton Austin in 1799 and was operated by four generations of Austins over a span of 115 years.

Pardon and Rhoda had been married in Lee, MA in 1793, and by the time the 1800 census found them in Middletown, they already had four of an eventual eight children. Their 147-acre farm was located near the intersection of today's NYS Route 30 and the Arkville cut-off road (County Highway 38), an area that came to be known as the Austin's Bridge district for the covered bridge, and the family, that identified it.

Samuel, Thomas, Freeman and Jonathan Austin, perhaps siblings of Pardon, also appear on the census and tax rolls of Middletown in the very early 1800s.

Pardon was a shoemaker and a tanner who established a tannery near Arkville. The 1895 Delaware County Biographical Review said Pardon "bought the frame of a grist-mill on White Brook and built a house, and also put up the first frame barn in Middletown." In the mid-1820s, Pardon and Rhoda, turning the farm over to son Alexander and his wife Deborah Dean Austin, moved first to western New York and, by 1840, to Conneaut, Erie County, PA.

Alexander and Deborah added 130 acres to the farm and raised nine children there. Alexander, said the Biographical Review, "worked on the home farm, going



This photo taken by Norman's Studio in October 1963 shows the house, the main barn converted to a poultry operation by Robert Fredenburgh, and a second barn closer to the road which was taken when the state rebuilt Route 30.

forty-five miles to the nearest market, carrying with him the cloth which his wife had spun from the flax and wool of their own raising."

When Alexander died in 1861, son Theophilus took over the farm. He and Huldah Allison had four kids. In 1888, they gave the land for a schoolhouse, District 16, across the road, where the Amundsen house is today. By 1895 they had remodeled the farmhouse, built a new barn (presumably the one that just burned), a wagon-house and other outbuildings, and laid 5,000 rods of stone wall.

Upon Alexander's death in 1900, son William Austin became the owner until 1914, when he sold it to Andrew Archibald of New Kingston.

Andrew and Margaret Adee Archibald had four sons and six daughters who were expected to do their share of work on the dairy farm. But photos from a family album show they also had a lot of fun during the Roaring '20s. In 1930, Andrew and Margaret and their three youngest – Ralph, 21, Dorothy, 17 and Maud, 13 – were still on the farm. Then failing health prompted the parents to move into the village, and in 1932 Andrew died of heart disease. By 1935, Margaret lost the farm to the bank.



A one-horse sleigh and its unidentified driver prepare to leave the Archibald barn for a winter ride. Carol Fredenburgh Archibald

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Andrew and Margaret Archibald with 9 of their 10 children at the Route 30 farm. — Carol Fredenburgh Archibald

After a few owners, the farm went through foreclosure again in 1954. Robert and Inez Rappleya Fredenburgh bought the buildings at auction, and Robert Tiffany bought most of the land. The Fredenburghs set to work transforming the barn from one where cattle were housed, to one that would eventually accommodate 5,000 chickens. Eggs would be the business of River View Egg Farm for the next several decades. Many people recall stopping by the barn to pick up a dozen or two.

The Fredenburghs' daughter Carol fed chickens before school and gathered eggs after school. She recalled that her father built a three-story electric elevator on one end of the barn to make the latter task a bit easier. "To carry a bucket of



eggs down 3 or 4 flights of stairs . . . you just hoped you didn't trip," she said.

In 1961 Carol married Ron Archibald, son of Ralph who had grown up on the farm. Carol's father-in-law, a son of Andrew and Margaret, had milked cows in the same barn where she later tended chickens.

The death of Robert Fredenburgh in 1983 meant the end of the poultry business, and the end of agriculture, at this storied farm.

Blanche Archibald (Quinn) posed as she painted the porch spindles in 1921. She had a restaurant on Bridge Street in the 1930s, and at the age of 42 joined the Women's Army Air Corps in January of 1943. She served for almost three years as a communications specialist in the Signal Corps. — Carol Fredenburgh Archibald

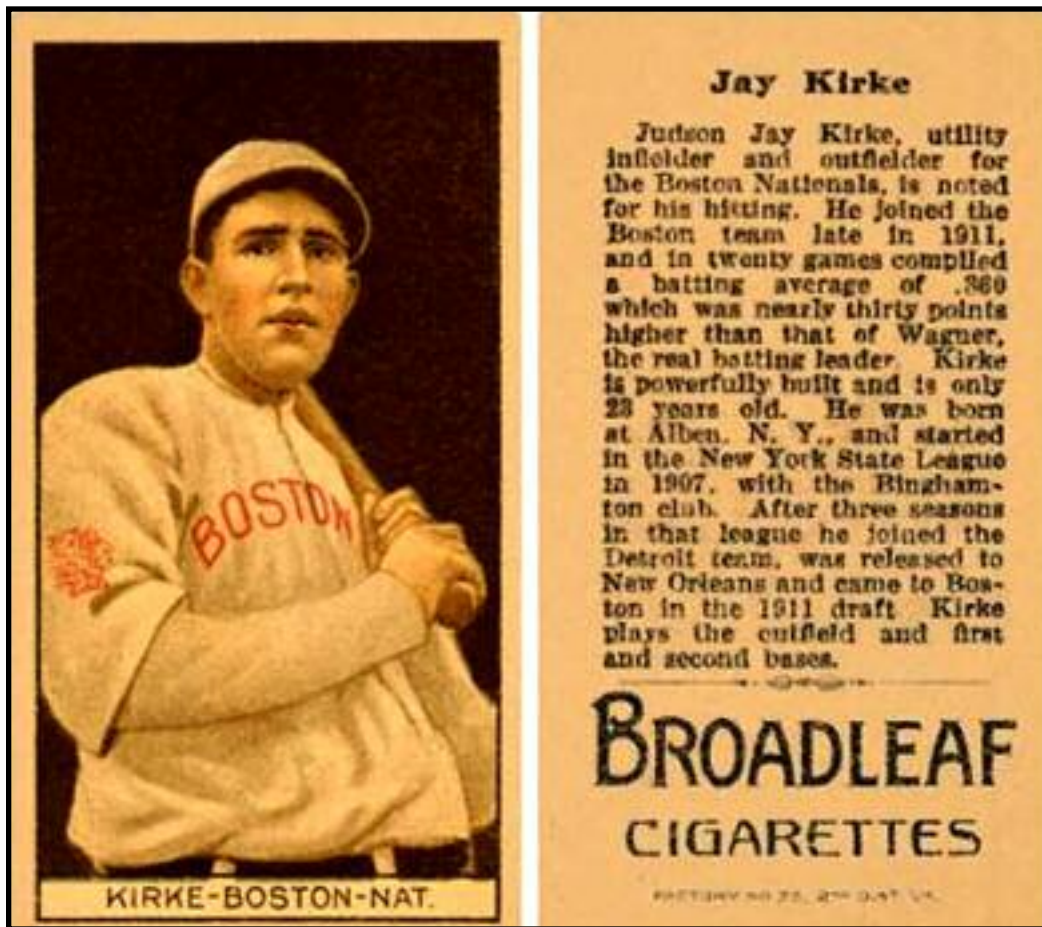
The Nor'easters Metal Detecting Club made its fourth visit to Middletown August 15 and 16 to search for buried history on several special properties. A hunter follows a signal at the former Sanford/Potozky/Spielman farm on Cape Horn Road, Hubbell Hill; 19-year-old Megan Woodworth does the same at the Kolbert House on Dry Brook Road, Arkville; and Doug Killmer displays some of the items he unearthed at the Smith/McMurray/Moses property in Dunraven. This event, an important fundraiser for HSM, was significantly modified because of the pandemic. We thank the property owners who allowed their lands to be searched, yielding, among other things, an 1842 large penny, a civil war bullet, an inlaid Victorian button, a metal plaque from a milk separator, c. 1890, and a cast iron fence finial.



COVID-19 may have cancelled most programming for 2020 but projects have kept our volunteers busy. Halcottsville's two cemeteries – the main, active one, and an older burial ground originally known as the Kelly Cemetery – received some needed attention in May. Ros Welchman, Paul Jensen, Robert Axelrod and Ben Erickson (pictured below) invested some sweat equity in the historic cemetery by filling holes, cutting brush and planting perennials. They also cleaned several headstones, like this one of the man who gave the hamlet its name. A crew of eight people, including Iris Mead and Kathy Roberts, and brothers Larry and Rich Kelly, (also Connie Spielman, Tina and Mary Greene and Anne Sanford) re-inventoried headstone inscriptions in the main cemetery. The revised, corrected and expanded spreadsheet, prepared by Emily Vieyra-Haley, will soon be on the Cemeteries page of the Delaware County History and Genealogy website.







THE 55¢ POST

THE 55¢ POST is an exclusive feature for members who receive *The Bridge* via e-mail. Because your newsletter requires no stamp, you get an "extra"!

Who was Jay Kirke?

With the 2020 baseball season upended by COVID, let's travel back in time to the days when every town had a team and competition between them on the diamond was fierce. Sometimes, a player stood out in the crowd. [Click here to read Collin Miller's description of the life and career of "Griffins Corners" homegrown major leaguer.](#)

A Notable Bicentennial

The venerable Old Stone Schoolhouse is 200 years old this year! Several board members of the Stone School Association gathered in the school's front yard this summer to post a banner recognizing the milestone. They are, l. to r., Jeff Warner, Bill and Ken Taylor, Roy Todd, Len Utter, Karen McMurray and Barbara Moses. A history of the landmark and the families of District #10 will appear in the next issue of *The Bridge*.

