

## “Centenarian” Mountain News is Ready for its Closeup!

One of HSM's top priorities when it was formed in 2004 was to preserve the Catskill Mountain News on microfilm. That goal is about to be reached!

On December 16, 20 bound volumes of original newspapers spanning the years 1902-1937 (1920 and '25 are missing) were picked up and carefully transported by Hudson Microimaging to its Port Ewen (Ulster County) plant where they will be filmed. This meticulous process preserves images of the fragile pages so that if anything should happen to the originals, their content is not lost forever.

Microfilm can be read on special viewing machines. One set of microfilm reels will be provided to the New York State Library, which already has microfilm of the *News* from 1938 through 1973.

Microfilm can also be scanned (digitized) and made searchable so that researchers everywhere may read these newspapers online. That's what we hope to do with all of the *News* microfilm, though details are still being worked out for that phase of the project. (An example – Northern New York Historical Newspapers placed online by the NNY Library Network – may be found at <http://news.nynln.net>.)

HSM is indebted to the A. Lindsey and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation which awarded a \$5,000 grant for this undertaking. We are also grateful for the generosity of the late Ed Scheider, as well as Herman Gottfried and *News* Publisher Dick Sanford, whose donations matched the O'Connor grant.

The Town Board of Middletown also contributed \$1,000 towards the project in the town's 2007 budget.

Fairview Public Library, where bound volumes of the *News*

through 2001 are available for careful use by researchers, is an important partner in this project.

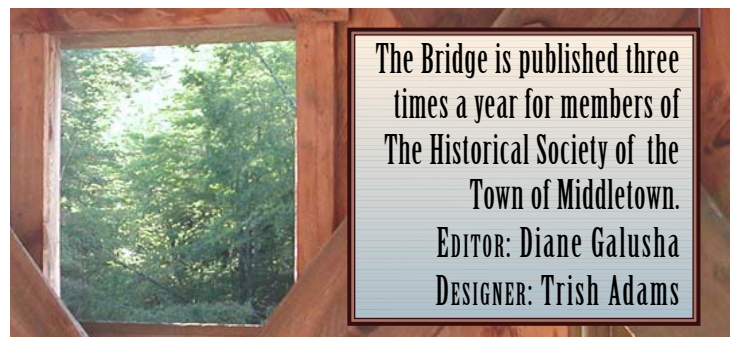


Details on how and where micro-filmed and digitized versions of the *News* can be accessed will be made available later this year.

Toya Dubbin, left, vice president of Hudson Microimaging, met in December with (l to r) *Catskill Mountain News* Publisher Dick Sanford, Fairview Public Library Board President Steve Tanzer and Library Director Donna McGuire to discuss the forthcoming *News* microfilm project.

### WRIT IN STONE Cemetery Friends to Meet

The Friends of Middletown Cemeteries will meet Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. at Fairview Public Library in Margaretville to discuss 2006 accomplishments and potential 2007 projects. Completion of an inventory and map of the Margaretville Cemetery will be a major goal this year, according to Chair Tina Greene. Call Tina (586-2029) to get involved, or just come to the February meeting. It's interesting, enjoyable and meaningful work, and everyone is welcome!



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# WHAT'S COOKING IN 2007?



We'll keep you up-to-date on these HSM programs and activities over the coming months:

**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 2** Rediscovering Margaretville in Photos and on Foot: We unveil a self-guided walking tour of historic village buildings, and an accompanying photo exhibit.

**WEDS.**  
**JULY 11** Old Fashioned Band Concert & Ice Cream Social, preceded by a group portrait of Middletown elders (tentative date).

**SUNDAY**  
**SEPT 9** HSM Annual Meeting, with a talk by Nancy Cannon on life in Delaware County before the Civil War.

**SATURDAY**  
**SEPT 29** Fifth Annual Margaretville Cauliflower Festival, with Antique Appraisals in the History Tent all day long!

**SUNDAY**  
**OCT 14** The Dutch Influence on American Kitchens & Life, a slide show by Peter Rose, preceded by a look at Middletown's early Dutch settlers, and followed by a sampling of Dutch treats!

**SATURDAY**  
**NOV 3** The Evolution of Firearms, in Wartimes and in Peace, with Warren Johnson and Bill Holland.  
A house tour and a bus trip to area historic sites are under consideration, so stay tuned!

## DORIS STAHL'S BOOK OF DAYS

Every morning, after the breakfast dishes have been cleared away, Doris Stahl gets out a well-worn spiral notebook and records yesterday for posterity. Work, food, visitors, weather. Especially weather. She and husband Bill have kept a rain gauge and measured snowfall on their Hubbell Hill farm every day for more than 40 years.

It helps them put this year's odd winter into perspective.

Doris' very first diary entry, for example, was written Jan. 1, 1966: "44 degrees. Cloudy but simply beautiful weather for this time of year. Milked with the barn door open." More normal New Year's weather was recorded three years later: "12 degrees when Bill went to the barn; 6 degrees when I went out. Awful cold day, wind never stopped."



The words in Doris' notebook recount the matter-of-fact ebb and flow of life on the farm. Which cows had freshened, which meadows were cut, what neighbors were sick.

Dec. 20, 1968: "15 degrees, beautiful day. Clothes dried awfully well." July 28, 1986. "Pickled beans, made cake, pie and applesauce. Butlers came over." Nov. 8, 1988. 34 degrees. "Stirred up rolls before breakfast was over. Men got all the wood buzzed and buzz saw put away by noon. We went to vote in p.m., and for our flu shots. George Bush won the election."

Doris still hangs the clothes out to dry, still loves to make pies (cherry, Bill's favorite, will be served when he turns 85

at the end of January.) And a George Bush is still in the White House.

Other than that, Bill says, "Nothing's like it used to be." It rains more: 46 inches last year, the most he's seen since 36 inches fell way back when, sending water racing between the rows of corn, knocking down the stalks. It costs more: \$40 to fill up the car when it used to cost \$16. And while a car sighting on their dead-end road is still notable enough for mention in Doris' diary, more people and more houses are encroaching on their idyllic farmstead. "I can see a house up there on the ridge this morning. They brought it in yesterday," Bill reported on Jan. 5.

The dairy herd was sold in 1984. Bill stopped haying this past summer, and sold his sapping equipment at the end of the year.



But the memories of the days when Hubbell Hill was farm country, when winters were cold and raspberries grew to the size of your thumb along the sunny stone wall by the barn, linger fresh on the pages of Doris Stahl's diaries.

"It's kind of fun to look them over," she says. "We just take each day as it comes."

A longer interview with Doris and Bill Stahl was recorded in 2006 as part of HSM's oral history project. If you would like to be interviewed, know area elders who would like to share their stories, or if you would like to borrow equipment to record relatives or neighbors yourself, contact Diane Galusha, 586-4973; cybercat@catskill.net.

## "H.S.M. 2006": HERE'S SOME MEMORIES!



Gordon Ingles was among exhibitors at Middletown History Day held in October at Margaretville Central School. Visitors got an eclectic look at local history as displayed by some 20 exhibitors.

Meanwhile, back at the HMS History Tent at the Cauliflower Festival, these fellows abandoned their vegetables to taste test the authenticity of some hard cider. David France (left) and Andy VanBenschoten shared some heritage brew with Margaretville Mayor Bill Stanton and Larry Bauer.



Antique fans got frank and enthusiastic appraisals (in this case, of a 19thc. hatbox and tophat) at the Cauliflower Festival from expert antiques assessor Bob Connolly (above right). Mr. Connolly had such a good time at the HSM History Tent last fall he's promised to stay all day long at this year's festival!



Myrna Greenhall (right) was among those who navigated the narrow curving staircase of Fran Faulkner's 1853 New Kingston home, which was one of four homes on HSM's festive Holiday House Tour on Dec. 10. Myrna also won a holiday gift basket created and donated by Dale Trethaway at the event. The Molnar family, Carolyn Konheim and Brian Ketcham, and Donna Hollan and Michael Moriarity also generously opened their lovely homes for this Society fundraiser.

## EVERY LIFE IS A STORY

Have you ever wanted to write down your memories, special stories from your childhood, recollections of people and places you have known? Maybe you'd just like to spend time remembering the passages of your life, or you want to compile a personal or family history for your children. Perhaps you've always 'featured' writing a short story based on a specific episode from your past, but you just need a boost to get started?

Consider signing up for "Connecting the Dots: Past, Present and Future," a memoir writing workshop that will run Monday afternoons from April 9 through May 14. Historian and author Dorothy Kubik of Hamden will lead the sessions, which begin at 1 p.m., in the newly renovated Community Room (the former garage) of Fairview Public Library, Walnut Street, one block off Main in Margaretville.

The fee is \$12; register by sending a check to HSM, PO Box 745, Margaretville, NY 12455. For more information, call Diane Galusha, 586-4973.

The workshops will focus on different topics each week (Earliest Memories, Unforgettable People, Turning Points, Arts, Sports and other topics). Group discussion will serve as a means to jump start individual memories and the writing process.

Personalized computer instruction will be available for those who wish to record their work on disc to make it easier to revise, correct and print multiple copies. Participants may provide excerpts or essays for inclusion in a booklet to be formatted and produced by staff at Delaware County Historical Association. (Submissions are voluntary.) HSM also encourages Middletown participants to consider submitting completed memoirs to its collection.

The program is made possible by a grant awarded to HSM by the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program, administered in Delaware County by the Roxbury Arts Group.

# THANK YOU, DONORS – GOOD TEAMWORK!

We are grateful to the following people who recently donated historical items to the Society's small but growing collection, housed for now in the Town Hall until we have an exhibit space of our own.

- ✧ Ron Ballard: cauliflower planter (transported and stored by Bob Hubbell)
- ✧ Carl and Marietta Blazejewski: photo of 1913 basketball team
- ✧ Terry Cohen, Bill Sanford & Bob Vredenburg: WWII memorabilia
- ✧ Helen Shaver Lewis: newspapers, photos & other items from the collection of her father, Elton Shaver
- ✧ Skip & Barbara Jester: 1837 Noah Dimmick journal
- ✧ Chuck McIntosh: framed cauliflower crate label
- ✧ Howard Raab: fish spear, New Kingston Whoop-de-doo T-shirts
- ✧ Rina VanValkenburg: 1940s-50s catalogs, local store flyers & recipe books
- ✧ Alton and Naomi Weiss: 21 glass plate negatives



The Margaretville High School hoops squad won the Delaware County Championship trophy in 1913. This photo was donated to HSM by Carl and Marietta Woolheater Blazejewski in honor of Marietta's father, the late Lawrence Woolheater.

**HSM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** Diane Galusha ♦ PRESIDENT  
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**PO Box 745 MARGARETVILLE, NY 12455**

## UNWRITTEN LAW AGAINST AUTOISTS

**Jury of Margaretville Farmers  
Acquit Man Who Shot  
at Speeders.**

**ANGERED BY A KILLING**

**Motor Car Driver Who Ran Over a  
Boy and Sped On Responsible  
for Feeling**

*Special to The New York Times.*

MARGARETVILLE, N. Y., JULY 16—The farmers of this section have formulated a new "unwritten law" for themselves. They have declared that any man may open fire upon a speeding automobile and escape all legal consequences.

Isaac Bouton, a New Kingston farmer, who shot at a party of automobilists on the road between here and Fleischmann's, was declared not guilty by a jury of farmers in Justice Austin's court here to-day.

On Wednesday of last week, Bouton was coming to Margaretville, and about a mile from here met an automobile containing five passengers. He held up his hand for them to stop, but they did not do so, and he pulled a revolver from his pocket and

fired. The bullet struck near the machine, which was quickly stopped.

His act was typical of the feeling among the farmers of this section against automobilists since Henry Gordon, a fourteen-year-old boy, was run over and killed here three weeks ago. The automobile did not pull up and its occupants went on without trying to find out how much injury they had caused.

A number of pistols have been purchased here and at Arkville, and farmers declare they will shoot the first automobile driver who does not stop when they signal. In fact, a new unwritten law has to all intents been formulated, and the people of the district regard the Bouton prosecution as a test of its validity.

The farmers flocked from miles round to hear the trial, and Olympic Hall, which seats 500, was crowded to its capacity.

The witnesses for the defense were outspoken and vehement in their expressions of hatred against automobiles, and their declarations brought forth many exclamations of approval from the crowd. Some of the went so far as to say under oath that automobilists ought to be shot.

There was a demonstration when Bouton was pronounced not guilty, and he is regarded as a hero.

There was another popular demonstration against automobiles yesterday at the Coroner's inquest on the body of Henry Gordon. Howard W. Albrox and John Scanlon of New York City were held in \$1,000 bail each to answer at the next Grand Jury the charge of having caused the death of young Gordon.

## THE 39¢ POST

"THE 39¢ POST" IS A feature exclusively for members who receive *The Bridge* via e-mail. Because your newsletter requires no postage or label area, you get an extra feature — 39¢ cents' worth, to be precise!

### Road Rage! c. 1907

When cars were new, "automobilists" were targets in Middletown, according to this *New York Times* article, though it seems the term "hit and run" was not yet a "sound bite."

**The New York Times**

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