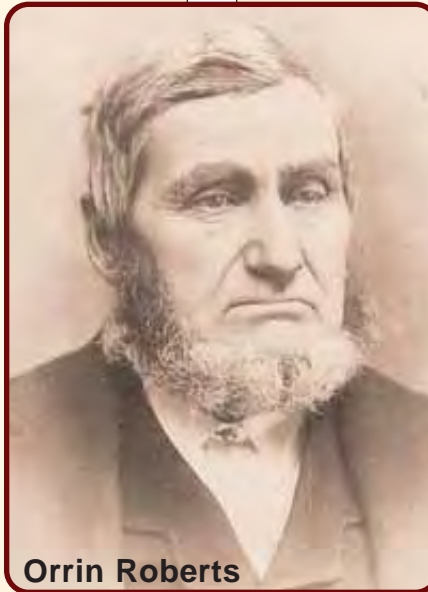


### The Way West: A Family Account by Keith C. Brimhall

Long before the 1865 advice from Horace Greeley to "Go West, young man," a number of families left Delaware County for the fertile soil of Illinois in the 1830s. Many of them were residents of the Town of Middletown, and most settled in Ogle County, IL about 100 miles west of Chicago.

Among my ancestors who went west were the Osterhoudts, Roberts and Kittles. Zachariah Osterhoudt moved with his family to Buffalo Township, Ogle County in 1839. He and his wife, Jane Smith, had eight sons and five daughters. Zachariah was born in Ulster County in 1781 and many of the children were born in Middletown. He died in 1857. Jane died in 1871 and both are buried in the Brick Church Cemetery in Eagle Point Township, Ogle County.



Orrin Roberts

Some of the Osterhoudt children married those who had also lived in Middletown. It is likely that they knew each other before they moved West. Dolly Ann Osterhoudt married William W. Sanford in 1840 and they had four children. William was born in Middletown in 1816 on Hubbell Hill, the son of Cyrenus and Anne Hubbell. Like Dolly Ann, William came to Buffalo in 1834 with his parents. He died in 1857 in Sanfordville, Whiteside County, IL. Dolly Ann died in 1898.

Elias Osterhoudt, son of Zachariah and Jane, married Susannah Sweet in 1855. She was the daughter of Thomas and Almira Sweet and was born in Middletown September 6, 1835. Elias was also born in Middletown, on March 12, 1831.

Ira Roberts and his wife, Phoebe Baker Roberts, came to Bragg Hollow, Halcottsville in 1815 from their native Putnam County. He died shortly after they arrived, leaving his wife with eight children. He is buried in the Old Halcottsville Cemetery. Two of the Roberts' sons, Benjamin and Orrin, made the trek west.

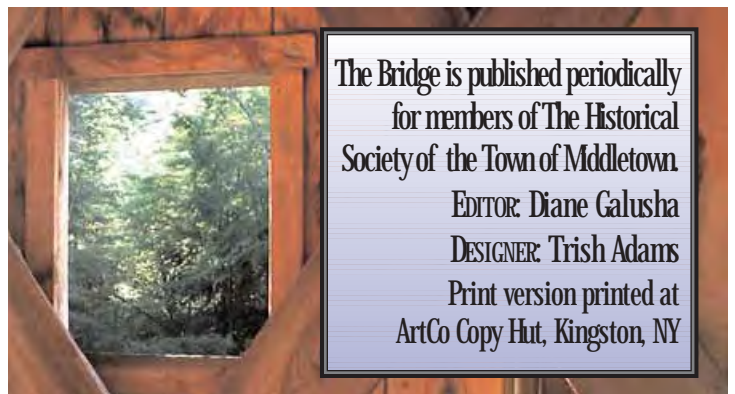
Benjamin settled in Whiteside County, Illinois just east of Ogle County with his wife, Sarah Bellows. They had five children. Sarah died in 1846 and Benjamin married Pricilla

*continues on next page*

### Vandal Scandal



Satisfaction gave way to sorrow August 7 when we learned that Margaretville Cemetery, the focus of a wonderful living history tour June 30, had been vandalized. Someone cut the lock off the upper gate to the cemetery road and knocked over several stones in the old part of the cemetery, on the knoll beneath the pines. State Police are investigating, and the Village is offering a \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest of the vandal(s). Please call the Village Office at 586-4418 if you saw anything amiss the night of August 6.



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# The Way West: A Family Account

*continued from page one*

Doty in Ogle County in 1848. They had four children. After 1860 they moved further west to Stephenson County, IL and are buried in Florence. Elizabeth, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah, was married in 1851 to James R. Deyo, who was also a Middletown native. He was born in 1829 to Garrett Freer Deyo and Rebecca Atherton. The Deyo family was in Buffalo Township by 1840.

On November 18, 1839 Orrin Roberts married Julia Ann Osterhoudt one of the daughters of Zachariah. In 1976 I asked at the Ogle County Courthouse if they had a marriage record for Orrin and Julia Ann, my 2nd Great Grandparents. I watched with amazement as the clerk opened a filing cabinet and pulled out a stack of old marriage licenses, took off the rubber band and handed the 1839 record to me to copy. Julia and Orrin later moved to Boone County, Iowa.

Arriving sometime after 1850 were Jeremiah Kittle, the grandson of Frederick Kittle, one of the first settlers of Middletown. Jeremiah, born in 1824, wife Julia Ann and their two daughters moved to Buffalo Township. Sometime after the birth of daughter Emma in 1860, Julia died and was buried in the Buffalo Grove Cemetery. The couple's oldest daughter, Mary, said her mother's maiden name was Hull but we do not know which Hull family she was a part of. Jeremiah

remarried and returned to Middletown. He died in 1900 and was buried in Margaretville Cemetery.

For those interested in doing research on Middletown people who went to Ogle County and the surrounding area, the State of Illinois hosts some wonderful resources on line. The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index has records from 1763-1900. Death certificates from 1916-1950 are on line. Cemeteries of Ogle County has pictures of many headstones and well as cemetery records. The Public Library in Polo, Ogle County has good histories. It is easy to access these websites by entering them in "Google" search.

Happy researching! You can contact me via e-mail at [kjbrim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kjbrim@sbcglobal.net)



**Julia Roberts**

*"I was offered 80 acres today, with a house on it, that is a log house, for \$250 .. Anyone can't get lonesome here, it is such a lively place."*

Linus Webb, April 19, 1872,  
writing from Wiota, IL  
to his fiancée, Julia Roberts,  
niece of fellow emigrants  
Benjamin and Orrin Roberts



## "Monumental" Repairs

The restoration of the Arkville Cemetery resumed in August when two Hubbell Inc. crew members, John Ferraro (in cab) and Scott Gray (standing), along with Joe McKeon and Brian Wheaton (on ground) righted seven large monuments and cemented them to their bases.

More than 50 stones have been repaired, straightened and righted over three summers. The project, coordinated by the Friends of Middletown Cemetery, is funded by a member item from Assemblyman Clifford Crouch. Additional work days will be scheduled. If you would like to help, call Brian, 586-2294.

# Crowded House: HSM's Home is a "Happening" Joint



The HSM Board (l to r) Lucci Kelly, Roger Davis, Diane Galusha, Carolyn Konheim, Phil O'Beirne (and not shown Marilyn Pitetti and George Hendricks) welcomed the crowd.

And on July 25, a standing-room-only audience enjoyed a lively slide show of historic Margaretville images, presented by Lynda Stratton and Kathy Roberts. Howard "Bonnie" Etts, standing, offered recollections of many of the people and places pictured.



Our new home (former New Kingston Valley Grange, and before that the Izaak Walton League clubhouse) has been a busy place since our May 19 Open House, when 80 people, including members Richard and Ann Hebert (below), signed the guest book.



On June 16, John Duda (pictured) organized a Post Card and Ephemera Show and Sale which proved very popular.



## HSM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Diane Galusha ❖ PRESIDENT

Carolyn Konheim ❖ VICE PRESIDENT

Marilyn Pitetti ❖ TREASURER      Lucci Kelly ❖ SECRETARY

TRUSTEES ❖ Roger Davis ❖ Phil O'Beirne ❖

❖ George Hendricks, Jr. ❖

❖ [www.mtownhistory.org](http://www.mtownhistory.org) ❖ [history@catskill.net](mailto:history@catskill.net)

## Research Vols Needed!

Do you have a nose for history? Got a little spare time, a computer and access to the internet?

You can help us put flesh on the bones of Civil War veterans from Middletown by researching their lives and families for an inventory project we are conducting during the war's sesquicentennial period through 2015. Much of this research can be done online. For more info, or to get started, call Diane Galusha, 845-586-4973.

# Reunited at Last: Living History Cemetery Tour



More than 130 people took the tour of the Margaretville cemetery on a perfect summer evening. Docent Anne Sanford (above) practices her script during rehearsal. Thanks to scriptwriters Joyce St. George, Mary Barile and Trish Adams.

John Bernhardt (left) played Doctor Orson Allaben, early champion of the Village of Margaretville. Several of the boys he delivered were named for him.

John Hartner (below, left) was a very convincing undertaker, portraying Charles Gorsch.

Fred Margulies and Beth Sherr (above, right) were artists J. Francis and Adah Murphy for the evening. They are seated on the Murphys' unique bench gravestone, which the Murphys probably designed so cemetery visitors would sit and take in the gorgeous mountain panorama from their gravesite.



Teddy Slater Margulies and Barb Atkin greeted tour goers in full costume, borrowed from the Town of Roxbury vintage dress inventory.



Playing Ward and Margaret DeSilva for an appreciative audience were Ken and Amy Taylor.

# Local Ancestors Come to Life for One June Evening



George Hendricks (above) waits for rehearsal to begin. He played his great-grandfather, George Hendricks.



Watching the DeSilva portrayal were Terry McKiernan, above right, the couple's grandson, and his family who came from Massachusetts for the tour. At center is his daughter Adele, named for Terry's mother, one of the DeSilvas' orphaned daughters.



Memorabilia of Erastus Clute loaned by Robert Haines of Kingston.

Joe Hewitt portrayed Erastus Clute, an Arena log raft steersman.



The cast and docents of HSM's Living History Cemetery Tour included (l to r) Frank Canavan, director; Amy and Ken Taylor, John Hartner, Gretchen Balcom, Anne Sanford, Beth Sherr, Director Joyce St. George, Kent Brown, Michael Fairbairn, and, standing in rear, George Hendricks, Jr., Joe Hewitt and Fred Margulies. Not pictured were John Bernhardt and docents Tina Greene and Barbara Atkin.



## Did you miss it?

By now you've heard someone say how fantastic it was. Come see for yourself Saturday, Oct. 6 at 4 and 7 PM when we'll screen the tour video produced by Nick Bibbo at Historical Society Hall, 778 Cemetery Rd., Margaretville. Admission \$4. Free Popcorn!

## Barn Again: A New Look at a Rural Icon

Nothing epitomizes the Delaware County landscape like a barn, surrounded by pastures edged in stone walls. Sadly, those rural icons are fast giving way to time and the elements, so that country roads once defined by working farms have become devoid of their barns.

That's why HSM launched an effort a few years ago to photograph remaining standing barns in Middletown and contiguous areas like Hardenburgh, Halcott and parts of the Town of Roxbury. Several volunteers, cameras in hand, drove every road looking for barns and farm outbuildings. Their histories have begun to be collected.

The results of this project will be exhibited in the History Tent at the Margaretville Cauliflower Festival September 29. A continuous slide show of barn images, binders containing barn locations, past owners and capsule histories will be available to peruse, and farm artifacts will be on display. Information on barn restoration and tax credits available to barn owners will be provided.

Of course, the history of cauliflower growing in this region will also be featured.

Please bring any information you may have, and photos of the barns in their prime.

Still standing tall, this barn on West Hubbell Hill Road was once part of the farm of Philo Benedict, and is now owned by the Piacquaddios.



### Double Our Money through a Matching Grant Challenge

The Historical Society is grateful to the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation of Hobart for a generous \$3,500 matching grant which will be used to upgrade the electrical and water systems in the HSM hall. The work will be done over the fall and winter.

Your contributions toward matching this grant will be most appreciated. Please send donations to HSM, PO Box 734, Margaretville, NY 12455, or go to our website, [www.mtownhistory.org](http://www.mtownhistory.org) to donate via PayPal. We thank you!

### FOR SALE, 1948

From the May 21, 1948 *Catskill Mountain News*

WE HAVE 6 village homes for sale. All but one has all improvements. Price range, \$8,000 to \$9,000. Have 130-acre mountain top farm. House and bam priced at \$1,500, half cash. How about one-acre 3-room house, furnished, price \$1,500. Mountain camp, two rooms, price \$1,000. 220-acre farm, 9-room house, all improvements, 50-ft. dairy bam, 30 head stock, machinery, tools, price \$13,500, cash \$5,000. Or sell the farm without equipment. Price \$8,500, \$2,500 cash. Send for our free real estate catalog.

-- REDMOND AGENCY, ARKVILLE

## Of Grist Mills . . . and Civil War Deserters?

A surprise awaited in the HSM mailbox a few months ago when an envelope sent by Carl Blazejewski of Albany contained a photocopy of a letter written in Margaretville November 9, 1863. The letter was penned by J. P. Willsey to his brother Henry in Coeymans, Albany County.

"We are all well," he wrote. "I have built a new grist mill with 3 runn of stone, have it all completed and running, doing good work. I shall probably work in the wagon shop again this winter. Angeline and her husband are living with us and perhaps will all winter, he has purchased a house and blacksmith shop and has commenced business with 2 journeymen doing a thriving business, he is a Connecticut Yankee and thus far I like him well."

A bit of research turned up the fact that John P. Willsey (also spelled Wilsey, Wilsie and Wiltsey) was a carpenter and millwright, was born about 1814 and married Lydia Bond. They lived in Gilboa in 1850 when they appeared to have her parents, Joseph and Lucy Bond, in the household. In 1860, though, they resided in the Town of Middletown on the farm of Cyrus Bond (referred to in the letter as "Uncle Cy,") who was a prosperous farmer.

From those two census records, it's clear that Lydia and John had at least seven children. One of them was Angeline, who married William Hubbell, that industrious Connecticut Yankee. Another of their offspring was named Cyrus, born in July 1840. He enlisted in Co. G of the 144th Regiment in August of 1862, but the Middletown Town Clerk recorded in 1866 that Cyrus "deserted" the local unit and reenlisted in Pennsylvania where he "fought through the war (and was)

honorably discharged July 10, 1865."

A quick search of online records did not find Cyrus among Pennsylvania's Civil War veterans, and in the 1863 letter, his father seems to allude to his son's flight. "I hear from Cyrus quite often," wrote John to his brother. "He is to work at carpenter work and (is) doing very well and appers (sic) to feel safe. But I think the boy has acted very foolish and gives Lydia and me a great deal of trouble. I hope that God will order all things favorable for him."

Whether or not he served in the war, Cyrus seems to have lived a long life in Canton and Williamsport, PA. He married Louisa Crandle (Crandall) in January, 1865. One child died in infancy the following year. Two others – Warren and Hattie – lived to adulthood. Louisa died in 1923, Cyrus in 1927.

Cyrus' perplexed father, John, appears to have died or departed within 18 months of writing to his brother. The 1865 census finds his wife Lydia Wilsey, age 52, "retired" and living with William and Angeline Hubbell, their three small children and Lydia's youngest child, Minnie, 14.

And what of the "new grist mill" John Willsey built in 1863? We don't know where it was, or who may have operated it after him. Nor do we know where he and Lydia are buried. If anyone can shed some light, please email us at [history@catskill.net](mailto:history@catskill.net).

Meantime, we appreciate it when HSM friends pass on these gems for our collection. "Material of this vintage (1863) of rural America is becoming scarce," Mr. Blazejewski wrote." Hope it will serve the community well."

It does indeed.

## 🌸 The 1960s? Yeah, They're History Too 🌸

For those of us of a certain age, the Sixties seem like yesterday. To see how long ago that really was, check out the newest additions to the online *Catskill Mountain News*, which now extends through 1967. Visit <http://history.catskill.net> to find this treasure trove of history.

Researchers can search and browse the newspaper from July 13, 1902 to June 29, 1967. HSM is steadily working to have the *News* digitized through 1973. This ongoing project is made possible by several individual donors and the O'Connor Foundation.

Recently added issues take readers back to a time when dial telephone service began (April 26, 1962), the Arkville School closed (August 16, 1962), Halcottsville Pond was eyed for a town park (Feb. 21, 1963), and, in the some-things-

never-change department, a community pool was proposed for the Arkville flats (July 22, 1965).

There were many openings — the new lodge at Belleayre Ski Center (March 1, 1962), the BOCES center at the former Rexmere Hotel in Stamford (Jan. 13, 1966), the A&P store on Bridge Street, Margaretville (Jan. 12, 1967), and Roxbury Run Village (late 1965).



The Rexmere Hotel in its glory "postcard" days; most of us know it as the Cyr Center in Stamford, home for more than four decades to BOCES.

The August 15, 1963 issue contains a special history section for the Bicentennial observance of Middletown's settlement, and the Nov. 28, 1963 issue describes local reaction to President Kennedy's assassination.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**TUES**  
**SEPT**  
**4**

Reception for opening of permanent exhibit, "Time and Time Again," photo collages of historic/contemporary images by Michael Musante. 5-7 PM, Middletown Town Hall, 42339 State Route 28, between Margaretville and Arkville.

**SAT**  
**SEPT**  
**29**

Ninth Annual Margaretville Cauliflower Festival. Food, music, tractor parade, art, history, fun! Timber framing demo by Wayne Ford. Barn survey exhibit in the History Tent! Village Park, Margaretville. Free, 10 - 4.

**SAT**  
**OCT**  
**6**

Video of HSM's June 30 "Living History Tour of Margaretville Cemetery," produced by Nick Bibbo. HSM Hall, 778 Cemetery Rd., Margaretville. \$4, Screenings at 4 and 7 PM. Free popcorn!

**SAT**  
**OCT**  
**20**

HSM Annual Meeting and Luncheon, with an illustrated talk, "Jay Gould's Map," on the 1856 map of Delaware County created by the 16-year-old future railroad tycoon, by Meredith Historian Frank Waterman. \$15.

Watch your mailbox for reservation form, HSM Hall on Cemetery Road, 12-2:30 PM.

## Fairbairns to Reunite

There will be a reunion of the descendants of John and Elisabeth Fairbairn who came from Roxburghshire, Scotland, and married at Bovina in 1841, later residing in New Kingston, Delaware County, and Hardenburgh, Ulster County on Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Margaretville-New Kingston Presbyterian Church, Corner of Orchard Street and Mountain Avenue, Margaretville.

The gathering begins at noon. Please bring a dish to pass for a crowd and any family photos/memorabilia to share. Come and meet your relatives! To RSVP, call Shirley Davis at 845-586-4618.

## UNEARTH YOUR ANCESTORS!

For the first time, web users can peruse inscriptions of more than 2,000 headstones in the Margaretville Cemetery, thanks to the hard work of volunteers from Friends of Middletown Cemeteries. The cemetery listings and map are posted at the Delaware County Genealogy and History website, [www.dcnhistory.org/MvilleCemIndex.html](http://www.dcnhistory.org/MvilleCemIndex.html).

Entries include birth and death dates recorded on headstones, along with military service information, epitaphs and inscriptions about family members. Some entries include clarifications or additional information gleaned from other sources if questions or discrepancies arose during the inventory. The database was assembled by Trish Adams. It can be searched by name or dates, and is organized alphabetically by last name.

## THE 45¢ POST

THE 45¢ POST is an exclusive feature for members who receive *The Bridge* via e-mail. Because your newsletter requires no postage or label, you get an "extra"!

## Lost: Another Piece of History



Main Street, Margaretville lost another building to flooding in February, when a house damaged by Irene last summer was demolished. The house, which had been occupied by Joan Masullo's mother, was built in the 1930s and had served in the 1940s and '50s as the State Police

substation. Berna VanBenschoten, who lived across the street at the time, recalled fixing breakfast for the troopers who would pay for the meal at her home. As many as seven troopers were based there in 1950. Glen George says the house was still the substation in

1956, but when he became a trooper in 1962 it had been relocated to Route 28 in Arkville, where the Arkville Animal Hospital and Follender Law office are today. It wasn't until 1970 that the State Police built the current barracks in Dunraven.