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# Spindle City Historic Society

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Volume 6 Issue 1

Spring 2003

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## DID YOU KNOW

...that a great variety of businesses have occupied 302 Ontario Street in the past 100+ years? Built in 1864, the building housed Troy Manufacturing Co. and in 1901, Troy & Cohoes Shirt Co. Then came Mohawk Brush Co. and Laughlin Manufacturing Co. (knit goods) in 1910. LB Supply was added in 1925 and by 1930, the *Cohoes American*, John St. Aubin, (barber), and Trojan Manufacturing Co. (shirts) were tenants and, in 1935, Cohoes Taxi Service. By 1940, Kyle Laughlin Insurance, Charles Gildea, (lawyer), Pyramid Brands Inc. (pickle makers) and Stillman & Kagan Co. (women's wear manufacturer) occupied the site. Leisure Living Inc. (furniture) was located there in 1955 and in 1960, The Empire Market. Pompei's Upholsterers and Home Decorators were there in 1965 and in 1970 the Food Circus Market was doing business at that location along with the Smith Electric Co. warehouse. Today it is home to the Spindle City Market.

...that in 1860, the village trustees declared that it was illegal to "...place within the boundary of the village any dead animals."?

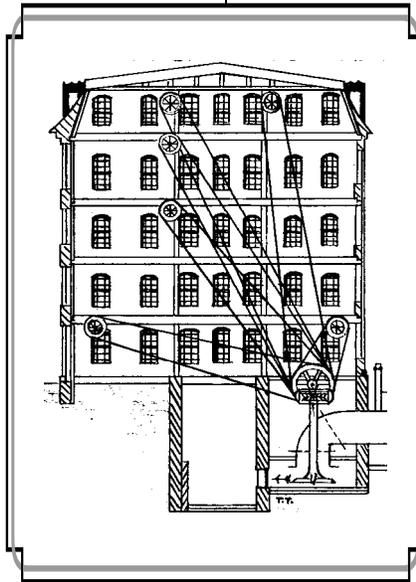
...that the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, stationed at the Stratton Air National Guard Base in Glenville, includes a plane christened the "*City of Cohoes*"? In 1999, the plane traveled to Antarctica to transport the director and crew for a documentary filmed there. Check out the picture at [www.ci.cohoes.ny.us/abcohoes/airplane.html](http://www.ci.cohoes.ny.us/abcohoes/airplane.html).

...that Cohoes was located on an abundant supply of clay, the basic ingredient of brickmaking? Brick manufacturing in Cohoes spanned 100 years and included three yards operated by Patrick Rogers beginning in 1842 and one by John Nash from 1866 to 1870. Then there was the John Murray Brick Co., Carey Brick Co. and Cohoes Brick Co., the last two operating until 1941.

...that in 1918 the Cohoes Armory was a temporary hospital for victims of the influenza epidemic?

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Spindle City Historic Society welcomes the *Joel Berthiaume Family, Donald J. Cosgro, Pauline Fealey, Leona Kimball, Genevieve Krawiec, Therese Landry, Louis Langlais, Nancy Messier-Grilli, Walter Ozbut, Stanley Pobran, Bill and Tara Ricard, Caroline Walsh, and Helen Williamson.*



## HISTORIAN'S NOTEBOOK

### The Blizzard of 1888

Monday morning March 12, 1888 began as any other winter workweek back then in Cohoes. But overnight the temperature had plummeted, and overhead, as Cohoesiers hustled along the icy paths, ominous dark clouds prepared to release their burden of snow. Nature was setting the scene for an event that would test the resiliency of this hardworking community.

As the morning progressed, gentle snowflakes turned into icy darts propelled by escalating winds. At mid-morning, in the West Harmony Elementary School on Mangam St., Principal Lillie Bowman exercised her authority and excused all of the children, along with her 11 assistants. Although no communication existed among the dozen or so schools throughout the city, all other schools closed by noon as well. All local forms of transportation became paralyzed by the end of the day. The horse-drawn railroad schedule, with travel at half-hour intervals to Lansingburgh, Troy, and Waterford, soon deteriorated. The Waterford Green Line ceased operation by noon. Trips to and from Lansingburgh and Troy continued at random as teams of

men valiantly shoveled snow away from the tracks, but eventually to no avail; by three in the afternoon they had abandoned their task. Two young men, stranded in Lansingburgh, foolishly decided to walk to their homes on Younglove Ave. Collapsing in exhaustion as they climbed the High St. hill, they were rescued by the patrons of Jennings High Street Saloon and brought in to be "thawed out." One of the young men's hands was severely frostbitten.

Jesse Fonda, a farmer living outside the city, was determined to deliver milk to his grocery customers. With four cans of milk strapped to his sled, he set out in the blizzard. He slogged down Mohawk St., and arrived with his cargo at the corner of Remsen and Oneida Sts. However, he miscalculated a turn and a runner of his sled struck a snowbank, and capsized in a drift. The snow quickly absorbed the day's profits.

As Monday evening arrived, Cohoesiers were hunkered down in their homes, never expecting the storm to continue for another thirty hours and deposit close to four feet of snow.

Tuesday, the second day of the blizzard, saw a few  
*(continued on p.7)*

# A HISTORY OF THE HOUSE AT 55 WESTERN AVENUE

*By Bob Addis & Christa Hay*



*The House as it was*



*...and as it appears today*

## **“A Map of the Manor Renselaerwick”**

In 1767, Stephen Van Rensselaer II commissioned surveyor J.R. Bleeker to make a map of his lands. Manor Renselaerwick (sic) was a rectangular parcel 24 x 48 miles more or less centered around Albany and Troy, and Bleeker noted 276 family dwellings on his map. Our house was 40 years old when the surveyor came by.

## **Our Purchase, or Who’s Buried in the Back Yard?**

In December, 1999 we started looking for a house in the Capital District, and 55 Western Avenue was on the market. We had visited literally 100 homes in our quest, made and broke a purchase contract on this, but were drawn back to this one. On the negative side, the house is too close to the street (18”), there’s no heat upstairs, the upstairs ceiling height is exactly 6 feet, the bathroom is on the first floor, and it needed work. On the positive side, we could afford it! Actually, there was something intriguing about the house and its old tilting floors. The previous owners thought it was old and that the beams in the living room “were important”. It is an old Dutch brick farmhouse surrounded by hundreds of newer homes built on the original homestead. And then there was the two tombstones lying flat in the back yard – Dow I. Fonda, d.1842, and his wife, Matilda, d. 1849. What was that all about?

## **Our Research**

Our research into the house at 55 Western Avenue and its previous owners has led us down many tangled paths, but finally we enlisted the aid of personnel from the NYS Historic Preservation Office. Paul Huey has written a solid 12 page history of the families believed to have lived there, and it raised questions requiring another 12 pages to answer. We also received considerable assistance from John Bonafide.

Factors complicating research:

- The early Dutch settlers often reversed first and second names in naming a child. Issac Douw Fonda named one of his sons Douw Iassac Fonda, who named his son Issac Dow.
- “I” and “J” were interchangeable and misspellings common.
- There’s Douwe, Douw, and Dow, sometimes for the same person!
- Dutch names could get converted to English, thus Maghtel is Matilda.
- In the early 1800s near Columbia Street, there lived 3 farmers named Dow (or Douw) I. (or J.) Fonda, 2 had married a Matilda, and the men were all cousins from the same grandfather!

Paul Huey writes, “Depending on whether the 55 Western Avenue house descended to Anthony Fonda or Douw I. Fonda, key dates for the possible construction of this house are the marriages in 1708, 1727, and 1748 or 1750. Possibly 1727 is the most likely date, representing the marriage of Douw I. Fonda, whose grandson married Maghtel Lansing and was buried in 1842 in the back yard of the house. How the farm may have descended to Anthony Fonda remains unclear.”

“Gerardus Clute (Cloet), who died in 1746....mentions his “farm in the Boght of the Cahoos”, and this could refer to the house at 55 Western Avenue. Gerardus could have built a house about 1725, when he was married. Neither the location of this Gerardus Clute farm nor the relationship of Walran Clute to Gerardus Clute has been determined.”

The deeds from the 1700s are difficult to trace, and we have another gap in our research from 1849 to the 1920's, but continuing efforts reap rewards. A neighbor in a modern house three doors away said that her grandfather had rented the house once and that he would be happy to talk to us. Our next door neighbor and another one nearby on the Boght Road have filled in many details from 1930 to the present. Obviously much more needs to be done.

### **Major Remodeling**

1. Circa 1790 – the two old Dutch jambless (without sides) fireplaces were replaced with a “modern” Federalist style fireplace and a wood stove. The telltale markings are in the basement and the attic.
2. Circa 1900 a major change occurred requiring that the kitchen wing be cut in half. This could have been a house fire, or new wealth from the affluent days of Cohoes:
  - Tin ceilings in the foyer, dining room , bath, kitchen
  - Oak flooring 2” wide throughout the first floor.
  - Roadside face was bricked in the traditional (“modern”) method .
  - Two column and kneewall entrances into and out of the kitchen.
  - Window areas were rounded.
  - Probably hardware was changed.
  - Maybe a porch was added.
3. 1960-70 – Kitchen remodeled and mud room added on a slab in rear.
4. 2000 – Garage built. Original barn was across the street and long gone.

### **What's Left of the Original Features?**

1. Pit sawn timbers and lumber, floor boards.
2. Those lovely and intriguing ceiling beams in the living room with their corbels (curved wall braces).
3. Brick laid in the English bond on two sides with several nice old wrought iron brick anchors.
4. “Shadows” in the paint of the old Dutch hardware.
5. Upstairs railing, possibly reused. (It looked like something from Home Depot to us, and we were almost ready to scrap it! We're learning!)
6. An original early Dutch window frame is stored in the attic, apparently saved when remodeling. It might be the only surviving example in this area, says SHPO.

### **Projects for the Immediate Future**

1. SHPO has graciously assisted us in getting the application in for the National Register of Historic Places. If successful, this means we will have the right to purchase a \$250 plaque to attach to the house!
2. Downstairs bath is being remodeled. Most likely SHPO will visit us when the walls are torn apart for a glimpse inside.
3. Porch ceiling and painting this summer.
4. This list goes on forever!

No, there are no ghosts that we or the cats can detect living in the house.

Yes, Cohoes was the birthplace for Henry, Peter and Jane Fonda, but they may not be the Fondas that you recall.

Yes, a branch of this Fonda family traveled west to found the village of Fonda.

Mainly we are going to sit back and enjoy living there, realizing that we are only the current in a long line of stewards protecting a small piece of our Dutch heritage. Stay tuned for more research.



## Off the Top...

SCHS is three months into its second year at the Cohoes Visitor's Center. The second Saturday of each month has featured a wide array of presentations. Our first two offerings this year were a great success, thanks in large part to the audiences. "Got Milk?" in January had our little theater packed to the rafters. We had over 10 dairies represented and several local milk bottle collectors. For many, it was their first trip into the Visitor's Center. The Cohoes Mastodont was our February visitor complete with its history and the details of the reconstruction of the skeleton. It is on display in the lobby of the New York State Museum.

As this issue goes to press, our March program, titled "Horace B. Silliman: His Life and Legacy & Roundtable Discussion - Creating a New Park in Cohoes", will be taking place. We now have programs scheduled through the Fall; the events of the next few months are listed on the back page of the newsletter. These include our Annual Presentation with guest speaker Mark Thaler, "Images of Cohoes Life" by Tom Bessette, and, in August, our actual and virtual tour of the Erie Canal in Cohoes.

We need your help with our mid-September event. In mid-September, the touring Vietnam Memorial will be showcased at Lansing Park. SCHS would like to pay tribute to all Cohoes Veterans and Gold Star Mothers. We plan to post photos (formal or casual) of as many Cohoes Veterans as we can. You can provide us with a copy of a photograph and a brief caption, or we can arrange to make copies of your pictures for use in this exhibit and for our archives. Please see the back page of this newsletter for more information.

If you have photos of Cohoes or know someone who does, please call us at 237-7999 and leave contact information. We will arrange with you to do the copying. Many people have brought us Cohoes photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts for donation and display and our collection is growing. Each offering makes a difference and together they make an impact.

Our regular meetings are the last Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in the Cohoes Visitor's Center at 58 Remsen Street (the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the historic Cohoes Music Hall). Many meetings include a short program. Hope to see each one of you at a meeting or presentation. Let's keep Cohoes' memories alive.

Paul D. Dunleavy  
President

## Preservation News - The Locks of the Enlarged Erie Canal in Cohoes

The February 11 Cohoes Common Council workshop featured a presentation by the Cohoes Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission is recommending that the Council vote to designate as municipal landmarks the locks of the enlarged Erie Canal in Cohoes. Cohoes is unique in having such a large number (Locks 9-18) of locks within its city limits, with several of them largely intact. This informational session included remarks on the historical significance of the canal and the importance of Cohoes in canal history from P. Thomas Carroll of the Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway, F. Andrew Wolfe and Denis Foley of Union College, and Cohoes City Historian Walter Lipka. Also speaking were Eric Hamilton from the Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway Coalition, and SCHS Trustee Mary DeRose, who addressed the economic benefits of heritage tourism. The



*A view inside Lock 15*

presentation also included a "virtual tour" of the lock sites. It is expected that the Council will vote on this measure within the next few months.

The locks in Cohoes have also been gathering attention from other sources. Fifth-grade students at the Hewitt and Riverside Schools in Rockville Centre on Long Island have decided to "Adopt a Lock" in Cohoes, and have embarked on a fund-raising project to support preservation of these Erie Canal sites. We are grateful to the students, teachers Joseph Paluseo and Maureen Dockery, and Hewitt School Principal Joanne Spencer for their efforts, and are encouraged by their enthusiasm for the canal and its history.

## Historic Preservation in Cohoes

On December 14, Daniele Cherniak, SCHS Second Vice President and Chair of the Cohoes Historic Preservation Commission, presented a slide show on historic preservation in Cohoes. The presentation discussed the role of the City's Historic Preservation Commission and described the city's historic districts and other historically significant sites. The show also included a "virtual walk" down Remsen Street, which highlighted the architectural features of historic downtown Cohoes and showed examples of the elements of good urban design.

## Got Milk? The Dairies of Cohoes

On Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> the Spindle City Historic Society started off its year with the program "Got Milk?" highlighting the history of the many dairies that were once in Cohoes. SCHS President Paul Dunleavy showed a slide presentation featuring milk bottles from many of these dairies, with bits of historical information about them. The program was further enhanced by the presence of Dino Valentini, who shared his many recollections of years of work in Doc's Dairy. Several other dairy owners and former milkmen were in attendance, and recounted their own dairy tales.



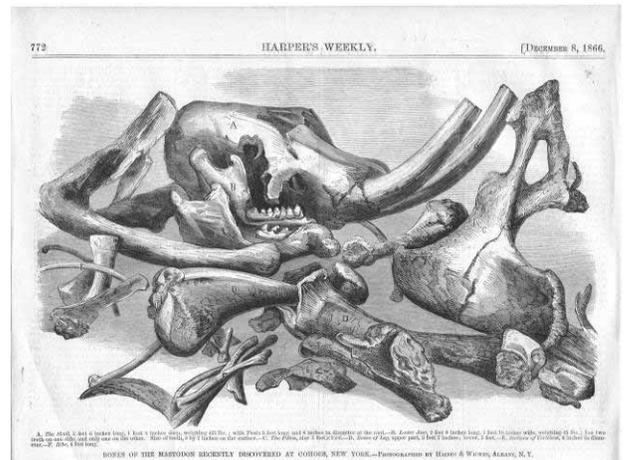
*The "Got Milk?" presentation included a group of milk bottles from Cohoes dairies on display in the Visitor's Center*

Below is a list of dairies in Cohoes we have come across in our research. We welcome any information you have to share about Cohoes dairy history.

Alfalfa Hill Farms (Walter A Wagner), Nelson J. Belanger-30 James St., Brooks Dairy Store, Broderick, J.P. Byson, Capitol Dairy, Capitol District Milk Co.(John Healey)-239 Remsen St., Capitol District Milk Co. (Nicholas Konyk), Leopold H. Caron, City Creamery, City Creamery Inc., Wm. J. Charbonneau - 67 Remsen St., Cohoes Dairy - 15 Johnston Ave 1931, George A. Crapo - 167 Vliet 1943, Doc's Early Morn Dairy (Dino Valentni), Elm Farm(Godfrey), Fairview Ridge(J.K.Lansing), Chas. E. Fonda, Isaac W. Fonda (off Erie), Leslie Gaffers, Alcide Gagnon, Arthur Gagnon, G.A. Gagnon - City Creamery, Lester Graffin, Michael Grasso, Kenneth F. Gregory, Imperial Dairy Products, Imperial Dairy (Thomas & Mabel Maycock)-71-75 Columbia St., H.J. Kalbfleisch, Kearney's Tri-City Creamery, T. Koniowka, Konyk's Cohoes Dairy Inc.-15 Johnston Ave., J.K. Lansing, Lindsey, Armand J. Longtin, Stewart Lueck, McLaughlin-28 Division, Mohawk Heights, Normanskill Dairy Store, Ouimet & Perry-8 Columbia St., Joseph Pelletier, Perry, Phoenix Farm Dairy, Edward A. Phoenix, Pikes Dairy Farm- 1 87 Manor Ave., Reamer, Raymond J. Riberdy.- 69 Mohawk, Roft, Rowe, Rush-On Dairy, Wm. Safe - 157 Manor Ave., Suburban Dairy, Van Schaick (Ryan), Wickes Dairy, Robert R. Wickes, Stanley Zeglen

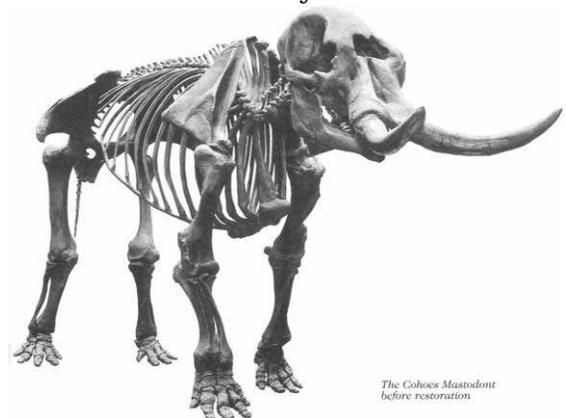
## Discovering the Cohoes Mastodont

The second Saturday in February was Mastodont Day at the Visitor's Center, with the program "Discovering the Cohoes Mastodont". The two-part presentation began with Paul Dunleavy's overview of mastodonts, in which he described features of these furry creatures, and how they differed from other proboscidean mammals like elephants and mammoths. He also described the circumstances of the discovery of the Cohoes Mastodont, and the press coverage, public enthusiasm, and controversies that ensued.



*An 1866 drawing of the Cohoes Mastodont's bones from Harper's Weekly*

The second half of the program featured New York State Museum Exhibit Specialist Gay Malin, who spoke about her work on restoration of the bones of the Cohoes Mastodont. After many years in storage, the bones were cleaned and prepared for mounting and redisplay in the lobby of the State Museum on Madison Avenue. Gay, who is trained as a sculptor, explained the methods used in restoration and described the painstaking process of cleaning the bones of old plaster and paint, the reconstruction of damaged and missing portions of the skeleton, and the final careful reassembly of the bones.



*The Cohoes Mastodont before restoration*

## My Life in the Brickyard

*By Maurice Nadeau, as told to his daughter, Anne Marie Nadeau*

I was born in the Eastern Township of St. Christine, Quebec on September 8, 1908. I grew up on a farm with cows, horses, pigs, chickens and a few ducks and went to school in a one-room schoolhouse until the fifth grade. On August 26, 1926, I left from Windsor Station in Montreal to come to the United States. I took the milk train at 10:30AM and arrived in Troy at 5:30PM. I could speak no English. My brother, who was living in Watervliet, met me at the station. My uncle owned the Bleau Brick Co. in Watervliet and I started working there on Monday. My first job was to feed the horses and drive them to bring clay to the granulator. Because this brickyard had what was known as an “open yard”, it operated only in the late spring, summer, and early autumn. When the brickyard shut down for the winter, I went to work on Riberdy’s farm in Waterford. I milked cows, cleaned the barn, put corn in the silo, plowed land for the following spring, and chopped wood up on Shaker Road.

I was back at the brickyard in the spring of 1927 driving horses to and from the granulator, earning \$24 a week. That was “big money” then because I was making nothing back in Canada. I learned how to operate both a gas-powered shovel and a steam shovel. When the brickyard closed for the winter, my cousin offered me a job. I went to Berlin (east of Troy) and hauled logs out of the woods for \$1 a cord. Sometime the snow was up to my butt, but I was young! After hauling the logs to the road, they were picked up by a truck and taken to the brickyard in Watervliet. Back then, wood was used to “burn the kiln” to fire the brick. In the spring of 1928, I was put to work as a “mold pusher”. A machine pushed through 19 molds a minute. Each mold contained 6 raw bricks and in a 7 hour shift, we made 43,000 bricks. The green bricks were put on drying racks before being fired. I hated this job, so I left the brickyard and went back to Canada for a visit.

When I returned, I went to work at what was known as the “poor house” (National Automotive Fibers) in Waterford; we tore apart old mattresses to make some type of insulation for automobiles. I worked there one winter and got laid off. In order to survive, a friend and I went to Massachusetts and found jobs in a lumber camp, chopping wood to make railroad ties. By now, it was the Depression, so I spent the next few years doing some work at the brickyard and chopping wood in the winter.

I got married in 1934 and that first winter was very difficult. I was chopping wood in Cohoes, but that didn’t bring in very much. My wife was earning \$3 a week taking care of an elderly woman. By 1935, we were living on Main St. in Cohoes. I received word that my cousin wanted me back at the brickyard. I didn’t have the money to take the trolley so for my first week I walked to and from Watervliet until I got paid. I then took the trolley until I had enough money to pay for the registration on my light blue 1933 Willys. I had saved a \$20 bill all winter long in case one of us got sick. I still had the \$20 bill.

Now I was operating the steam shovel, which I liked very much. There was a medallion inside the cab as proof that I had passed the “steam test”.

Unfortunately, I fell off the shovel and spent the rest of the summer in the hospital. In the fall, we moved to N. Erie Street. We were expecting our first child. In the spring of 1936, Mr. Bleau asked me to come back to the brickyard and drive the BIG TRUCK! I was so thankful to have a full-time job. I delivered brick everywhere – Schenectady, Gloversville, Amsterdam, North Adams, Lenox, Lee. Jack Gaudette and Billy Nadeau drove the smaller trucks for local deliveries. Later, Mr. Bleau brought the former Troy Brick in North Troy on Oil Mill Hill. That brickyard could operate all year long.



During World War II, I worked night and day, some weeks 100 hours due to the manpower shortage. Most of the men who worked in the brickyard had been drafted: Billy Nadeau, Jack, Joe, Franklin Gaudette, Mickey, Guy, Oscar Gilbert, Richard, Wilfred and Lawrence Bleau. The only ones left were Gene and Joe St. Pierre and a few men from Mechanicville. Bleau Brick could not make brick fast enough to meet the demand so we bought from a supplier in East Kingston. I would leave my home at 5AM to get to East Kingston. There, a crane operator would load the truck with 7,000 bricks. Then I drove to the Schenectady GE, dropped off that load and, by noon, was back in East Kingston for a second load. When I wasn’t hauling brick to Schenectady, I

was making trips to Pittsfield or Gloversville. Travel was on Routes 9, 7, or 20, the main roads of the day. After my regular workday, I would spend a few hours repairing machinery. I would get home about 4PM, eat supper, rest and go back at 6PM to tend the kiln with Joe Leclair. At midnight, Joe St. Pierre and Joe Ten Eyck took over tending the kiln, which burned 24 hours a day for 5 to 6 days.

Some Sundays I went to 6AM Mass, then to the brickyard and loaded a railroad boxcar. By noon, the boxcar was loaded with 32,000 bricks. The load had to be spread the length of the boxcar, the weight balanced evenly over the wheels of the car so it wouldn't sag in the middle. I would toss 6 bricks at a time to Joe St. Pierre, who would then toss them to a man with a wheelbarrow who would unload his bricks into the boxcar. An unfired brick weighs 8 pounds but after being fired it weighs 6 pounds. So when I was tossing bricks, I was handling 36 pounds each time. I had muscles back then!

When the veterans returned from service, we could make 43,000 bricks a day. I worked for Bleu Brick for almost 26 years. In 1952, I bought my own truck and became a tractor-trailer driver between Boston and Chicago.

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*Historian's Notebook (continued from page 1):*

sturdy souls head out for work; very few reached their duties. Two knitting mills, the Anchor Mill and the Victor Mill, started. With so few operatives on hand, and ice clogging the water wheels, production came to a halt. The Harmony Mills, despite having only one-third of their workforce on hand, still operated a full day. Late in the afternoon, with the snowfall approaching three feet in depth, the hands were sent home.

Just before dawn on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> the snow stopped. Large drifts settled everywhere. Cataract Alley was blockaded by a mountain of snow, the old firehouse obliterated. The two lampposts in front of St. Joseph's Church were covered by a huge drift. Mrs. Lamb's bay window facing Howard St. was completely covered, along with much of that side of the house. Tunneling out of their residences, the resilient Cohoes workforce went to their jobs. The mills ran at full capacity on that day, as the operatives knew well "no work - no pay." Meanwhile, gangs of men set to work clearing the roads, tracks, and sidewalks. Three days later, on St. Patrick's Day, the annual parade assembled mid-morning, followed by a day of celebration, with little attention paid to the accumulated snow.

One week later, the frozen body of Henry Bumgart, the only casualty of the storm, was extracted from a snowdrift near James St. Late on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>, Henry, while walking home from his job in Green Island, collapsed in exhaustion 300 yards from his lodging and subsequently froze to death.

It was "the largest storm ever seen in these parts", dumping 46.7" of snow, a three-day record that still stands. Over the years, the storm has assumed legendary proportions; in Cohoes, except for the tragic death of Henry Bumgart, the storm seemed just an inconvenience.

*Walter Lipka*

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## Spindle City Historic Society Membership Application

[www.timesunion.com/communities/spindlecity](http://www.timesunion.com/communities/spindlecity)

President - Paul Dunleavy

First Vice President - Linda C. Christopher

Second Vice President - Daniele Cherniak

Secretary - Helena Keilen

Treasurer - June Cherniak

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional Membership	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen Membership	\$ 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Membership	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership	\$ 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	\$15.00		

*We have great plans in our new home in the Cohoes Visitor's Center!*

*Please help if you can with an additional donation to support our upcoming programs:*

\$5.00     \$10.00     other

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form with membership fee, payable to Spindle City Historic Society, to:  
 June Cherniak, Treasurer, 415 Vliet Boulevard, Cohoes, NY 12047

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Wednesday, March 26** - Spindle City Historic Society monthly meeting, 7 p.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center.

**Saturday, April 12** - A presentation by preservation architect Mark Thaler, 1 p.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center

**Wednesday, April 30** - Spindle City Historic Society monthly meeting, 7 p.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center.

**Saturday, May 10** - Opening of "Images of Cohoes Life": photographs by Tom Bessette, 7 p.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center. This show will be on display in the Visitor's Center through June 21.

**Wednesday, May 28** - Spindle City Historic Society monthly meeting, 7 p.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center.

**Saturday, June 14** - Meet the artist – Tom Bessette, 1 p.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center. Meet photographer Tom Bessette, whose "Images of Cohoes Life" will be on display in the Visitor's Center May 10 - June 21.

**Saturday, August 9** - Tour of the Erie Canal in Cohoes, 9:30 a.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center. Co-sponsored by the Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway.

**Collecting Veterans' Memories** - In conjunction with the visit of the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall to Cohoes in mid-September, the Spindle City Historic Society wishes to recognize the history and memories of Cohoes veterans of all wars and military service, as well as those of Gold Star mothers. If you have photos or memories of your own experiences, or those of a relative or friend you would like to share to be included in a display in the Visitor's Center, please contact us at 233-8613 or 237-6643. Photos will be reproduced and returned unless you wish to donate them to the society.

### WANTED

- ☞ Photos or information about Cohoes Mayor Daniel J. Cosgro (in office 1922-1930)
- ☞ Information on Gilbert and/or John Stalker/Stoliker prior to 1850
- ☞ Photos or information about M. Adelaide Dickey (La Petite Adelaide) 1884-1960
- ☞ Information on Phillip E. Lamoureux (1872-1939)
- ☞ Information about Michael Keeler and Mary Fitzgerald Keeler
- ☞ Information about Peck's Edge Tool Co.
- ☞ Photos of Peck's Coal from the Rt. 32 side
- ☞ Information or photos of George H. Dessingue and bottling company, late 1800s - early 1900s
- ☞ Information about George, Alfred, or Cornelia Nest Curtis
- ☞ Information or photos of the Washington Ave. (Van Schaick Island) firehouse
- ☞ Information about the Charles LaCombe Family
- ☞ Information about the Cohoes Wheelmen (bicycle club)

Spindle City Historic Society

P.O. Box 375

Cohoes, New York 12047