



THE JEFFERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2022

EGGBEATERS of YORE

By Stephanie Ruquet

**THE TRANSFORMATION OF
THE KITCHEN OF
PIONEERING DAYS INTO
TODAY'S STREAMLINED AND
EFFICIENT KITCHEN IS THE
STORY OF INNOVATION IN
LABOR-SAVING DEVICES.**

In the two centuries since housewives in Jefferson cooked the family meals in open fireplaces in their small log homes, thousands upon thousands of different kitchen utensils, gadgets, and appliances have been invented, patented, manufactured, marketed, and sold, all designed to make work in the kitchen less labor-intensive. Nowhere is this more evident than in the proliferation of devices to make the beating, whipping and mixing of eggs, cream, and ingredients easier.

On December 23, 1856, the first patent for what would become the most popular time- and energy-saving kitchen tool was granted to Ralph Collier. His design for a manual rotary eggbeater was never produced, but over the next hundred years over a thousand variations of the manual eggbeater would be patented, manufactured & sold: eggbeaters made of cast iron, tin, stainless steel, and aluminum; ones that worked with gears, turbines, or propellers; Archimedean versions that worked like mechanical toy tops; ones with splash guards and

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Silver and Company's Eggbeater No.3. Made circa 1910 in Brooklyn. Features a square glass measuring container for wet and dry ingredients. The wire whips of the mechanism fit into the glass, eliminating splashes during mixing. The company logo molded in the bottom of the glass includes an image of the Brooklyn Bridge.



Lyon's Egg Beater & Cream Whip. Patented in 1897. Made in Albany. Features a pair of propellers as part of the mixing mechanism. Each propeller turns in a different direction.

WHERE WE ARE — WHERE WE'RE GOING

By Kevin Berner, President JHS

The Jefferson Historical Society continues to be very active. Recently, Kathryn Greenwold gave a talk about heirloom quilts and why appraisals are important, and people in the audience brought in quilts to display and describe the histories behind them. Kathryn appraised many of those quilts for their owners. Another talk was given by Peter Rose who studies old family recipe books. She gave a fascinating talk about how these books reveal the history of a culture or period. Several attendees brought in their old family recipes and talked about them.

We continued our tradition of holding a fall indoor/outdoor yard sale. Judd Hall was filled with items and shoppers donated what they thought an item was worth or what they could afford. No haggling was needed, and nothing was left on the shelf because the price was too high. The sale netted JHS \$2,300 thanks to Stephanie Ruquet, Diane Ericson and the crew of volunteers.

Restoration of Judd Hall continued with Emily Wilson replacing the deteriorated front porch deck and removing the last evidence of long-term water damage to ceilings in both bathrooms and the foyer outside of them. Emily also replaced the kitchen window, which was not functioning properly. Rickie Mickle replaced missing fascia boards on the back of the building and removed spray foam insulation that had escaped through cracks between the clapboards. Paige Washington constructed an interactive display unit to show information about the history of the Masons and Order of the Eastern Star, and also he added shelves in the archive room.

We are in the process of developing a book about Carl Skidmore, who was the only Jeffersonian to die in World War I. It will include letters he wrote, and letters sent to him while he was serving in France, as well other details about his short life. There also are books in various steps of development on the barns of Jefferson, the old Jefferson cemetery, as well as additional volumes of *Jefferson Then and Now* and *The Schools of Jefferson*.

Be sure to check out our Free Music & More Series in this issue. We plan to open many more days in 2022 offering music, art exhibits, and activities for our community. We look forward to you joining us for these exciting events.

Membership in the Jefferson Historical Society is based on the calendar year. If you haven't renewed yours recently, you can do so by using the form included in this newsletter or going to our website. If you are not a member, we hope you will join us in 2022.

Nicholas J. Juried Family Foundation

Nick Juried is an exceptional benefactor of historical and community organizations in Schoharie County and the surrounding area. Nick has been a major contributor to the Gilboa Historical Society in developing their museum complex. He has also supported the Pratt Museum, the Iroquois Indian Museum, the Sharon Historical Society, the Dr. Best House Museum, the Middleburgh community, the Old Stone Fort, and many other entities. Nick has consistently stepped up to help the Jefferson Historical Society in our work on Judd Hall. When we had a short timetable to raise the funds to buy Judd Hall, he donated one half of the needed funds. He reviewed our bids to replace the desperately needed roof shortly after we purchased the building and paid the full bill. Since that time, he has provided other significant donations. Recently, Nick asked me to submit a "wish list" to him and I did. That Judd Hall list included building a silo for the elevator, windows on the first floor, insulating the same floor, installing a security system, developing the handicapped entrance, adding track lighting on the first floor, building an addition to provide general storage/archival material space, and mounting gutters on the porch. I supplied the list, justifications for individual items, and price bids for many of the items. Nick responded quickly by committing to send us a \$100,000 contribution from his family foundation. This will allow us to rapidly move forward in completing these projects without years of additional smaller scale fund-raising to accomplish them. We cannot begin to thank Nick enough for his generosity and sustained support of the Jefferson Historical Society.

EGGBEATERS OF YORE

continued

bowls; squeeze versions that could be used with one hand; eggbeaters with gear wheels encased in plastic for easier cleaning; ones with metal handles, colorful painted wooden handles, and Bakelite handles; and even a variation with three dashers.

Jefferson housewives in the late 19th century and into the first quarter of the 20th century were able to purchase eggbeaters made in New York State factories for the growing consumer market. Silver and Company in Brooklyn was established in the 1870s and was still turning out its eggbeaters well into the early 20th century. Nelson Lyon's company produced eggbeaters at their facility on Green Street in Albany about 1896-1901. His brother George opened a factory on Dewitt Street in Albany about 1899 which also made eggbeaters. About that time, Nelson relocated his operation to Tarrytown, joining forces with Thomas Holt to create the Holt-Lyon Company which was in business about 1904-1919. The A&J Manufacturing Company of Binghamton started in 1909 with a hand-made "up-and-down" or Archimedean style eggbeater, and before long was the largest producer of kitchen tools in the US. In 1929, A&J was purchased by Ekco of Chicago. The Ekco brand remains in production today.

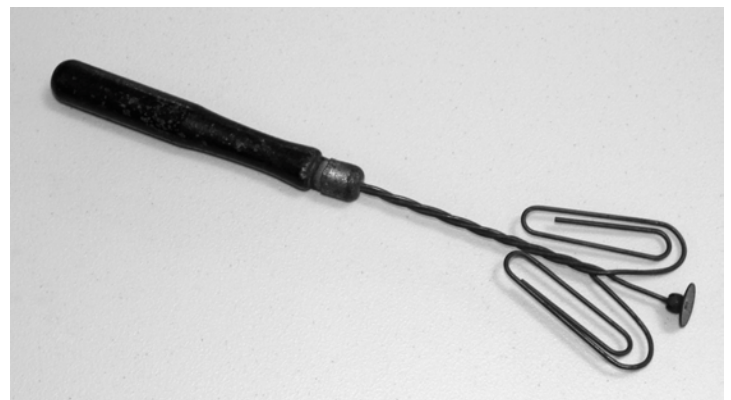
These days, electric mixers and the availability of prepared food items have pretty much superseded the need to use grandmother's old manual eggbeater, relegating these wonderful old kitchen helpers to the back of utility drawers. The eggbeaters' amazing variety of shapes, mechanisms, designs, and materials makes the eggbeater a popular collectible today. Vintage egg-

beaters can be found in flea markets, antique shops, and online auction and marketplace websites; the more common ones offered for very low prices while the rarer, more unusual ones sell for hundreds of dollars each.

BELOW
Holt-Lyon's side-handle eggbeater.
Patented in 1897 & 1900. Made in
Tarrytown.



RIGHT:
A&J's up-and-down
mechanical eggbeater.
Patented in 1907.
Made after 1909 in
Binghamton. The
bottom knob was an
improvement over
their first model—its
purpose was to
prevent sliding in a
bowl or glass.



The Eggbeater Chronicles: the Stirring Story of America's Greatest Invention by Don Thornton (Thornton House, 1999) is an excellent source for further information on the history and variety of eggbeaters and features photographs of over a thousand different beaters, whips, and mixers.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

JEFFERSON TOWN GREEN TIMELINE

By Kevin Berner

Many of Schoharie Counties early settlements were developed by Germans or the Dutch. Town Greens are an English tradition and common throughout New England. Within the county, most of the early settlers in Jefferson and Lawyersville were from New England states such as Connecticut and Massachusetts. They brought their traditions and the only town greens in the county to their communities.

1793 – Strasburg Patent portion (all but the east edge of Jefferson) was surveyed into lots.

1817 – The land for the Town Green is donated by Col. Stephen Judd. It is established as a military training ground.

1872 – Cattle, sheep, horses are prohibited from roaming on Green or in hamlet.

187? - Dumping of debris is no longer allowed on Green (shingles, boards, pump logs had been dumped there).

1879 – Reverend C.H. Travis of the Methodist church arranges to have 120 maple trees planted on the edges of the Green with double rows on the north and south sides. This was known as the Bridal Path or Lover's Lane.

1894 – The Park Association meets in the Jefferson House (today's Heartbreak Hotel). They had a fountain put on Green within a 6 x 6 ft wooden frame. Two evergreens were also planted.

1900 – The Jefferson Cornet Band has the Bandstand built. Designed by George W. Harris and built by his brother Fred Harris, it was the site of many Saturday night concerts and ice cream socials.

1922 – The town provides money to trim trees on the Green.

1923 – A fund-raising effort leads to the creation of the playground on the Green.

1931 – Town funding is used to grade and seed the Green to facilitate mowing.

1966, 1967, and 1968 – Boy Scouts replace some maple trees.

1969 – The wooden World War II memorial board on the Green opposite the hotel is removed and replaced by a large boulder with a plaque recognizing veterans of all wars.

1975 – Hardware Store owner Walter Dittmaier and Town Supervisor Charles Buck Sr. each plant an evergreen on the Green.

1976 – The town has repairs done to the bandstand and trims the hedges around it. Inmates from Camp Summit help with the work. Augustus Jones provides \$40 to plant trees on the Green in memory of Roscoe Jones.

2020 – A tree committee is formed by Gail Rentsch, Barb Palmer, Ken Cole, and Paul Trotta. The Jefferson Historical Society and the Town of Jefferson plant nine sugar maple trees around the Green, acknowledged with a plaque on the veterans' boulder. Local sponsors who contribute \$200 for the trees are recognized at a ceremony dedicating the trees, and sponsors' pavers are placed in front of the veterans' boulder.

2021 – The Jefferson Historical Society and the Town Board plant four more sugar maple trees in gaps around the perimeter of the Green and one hydrangea bush on the southwest corner under multiple low-hanging electric lines. Patty Tully joins the tree committee to plant flowers in containers around the green.

RECENT JHS EVENTS IN PICTURES



Left: Good finds were grabbed up at the September JHS yard sale.



right: Clara Clack preparing to restore an 1856 map for the JHS museum.

right: "Schoolmarm" Bonnie Dailey gives a tour of the Fuller District schoolhouse to visitors. The red school-house on N. Harpersfield Rd. was open two Sundays each month between Memorial Day and Columbus Day weekends and will be open again next summer.



below: Food historian Peter G. Rose talks about heirloom cookbooks and recipes as documents of social and family history. She also commented on family cookbooks brought in by the audience.



above: Halloween at Judd Hall, where neighborhood kids spooked us and left with a packet of candy.

RESEARCHING HISTORY: the Challenges & Obstacles of Names

By Stephanie Ruquet

I've been doing research for about five years now on Jeffersonians who served in the Civil War. With all the resources available on the internet, you might think it fairly easy—look up the name and find the information. But it's not that simple. People's names can be incredibly unreliable when doing research. I came across that often. People could and did change their names at will. Others were illiterate and weren't able to spell even their own names, and so names were often recorded spelled as they sounded by census enumerators and military scribes. And with no birth certificates or drivers' licenses back then, there was no "official" or standardized spelling of an individual's name.

Epenetus Scrum was Jefferson's first casualty of the Civil War. His headstone in the old Jefferson cemetery spells his name as Epnetus. Or is his first name really spelled Epineatus, Epinetus, Appenetus, or even



Epaphras as found in other sources? Seems the military were taking no chances—the soldier's first name was recorded merely as the initial E.

The soldier whose surname proved the most exasperating to research was James V. Wedeman. Wedeman had been a corporal in the 134th Regiment and had died in Georgia in 1864 from wounds received during the Siege of Atlanta. With dogged determination, I followed every trail, every lead, to find as much information as I could about him. It wasn't easy. In the various documents the soldier or his family members were listed on, the surname was found spelled many different ways including Wediman, Weidman, Widderman, Widoman, Wideman, Widarman, and Weidaman.

Finding where he was buried was particularly challenging. In his book *Military Records of Schoharie County Veterans of Four Wars*, George H. Warner wrote that James was buried in Marietta National Cemetery. Well, he is buried there, but not under Wedeman or Weidman or any other spelling variation I had previously found. Without that information from Warner I would never have found James' final resting place. The surname on his headstone is Weiderman.

Albert J. Crapser is a name listed on Jefferson's Civil War monument but he is Jesse A. Crapser in most records, and when he died at Andersonville Prison while a POW, he was



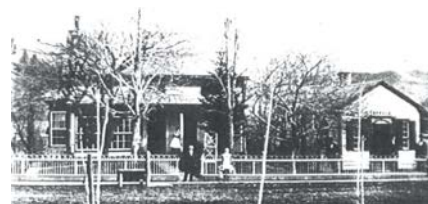
buried as J. A. Crapen. Another name on the monument is Harvey J. Brown. Warner has him correctly listed as J. Harvey Brown in his book but nearly all other sources have him listed as James H. Brown. In his first enumeration for the census when he was a child, Ezra A. Buck of the 91st NY Infantry was listed as Amos E. Buck.

My favorite example is Thomas O. Burnett's brother. Whenever I identified a Civil War soldier with a Jefferson connection, I searched to see if there were any brothers of that soldier who had also served in the war. According to the censuses of the 1850s, Jefferson-born & raised Thomas O. Burnett, who served in the 1st NY Light Artillery, had an older brother named Levi O. Burnett. There was no one of that name who served in a New York State regiment according to the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors online database.

cont. on p.8

A Tale of Two Quilts

In September of 2021, Quilt Historian Kathryn Greenwold gave a presentation on heirloom quilts for JHS. The idea for hosting this program came from the recent donation of 3 quilts that JHS plans to display in the Nicholas Juried Museum at Judd Hall. One, donated by Lois Smart, is a vibrant crazy quilt, that came from her grandmother Lois Wilcox Smart. In the early 1900's the Wilcox family lived at 106 Park Ave. on the Town Green (the Jefferson House Airbnb today). The embroidered initials of 8 members of the Beard and Wilcox families, along with the dates of the various marriages decorate this beautiful and well-kept quilt. Lydia Gaylord Beard (1836-1928) and her husband Moses Swift Wilcox (1835-1918) are the earliest family members noted. According to Greenwold, dates on crazy quilts did not indicate the date when they were made, but were included to memorialize important family events from the past. However, Lois Beard Wilcox's initials (LBW 1898) are the most recent, and because of their prominent placement, Greenwold thinks that Lois made the quilt herself, adding the date of her wedding (6/25/1902) later. Her father Moses Wilcox left the house to Lois in 1919. Lois ultimately sold the house to Alvin Lines in 1958.



106 Park Ave.



Quilt donated to JHS by Lois Smart

Below, detail with initials LBW 1898



Joyce showing her grandmother's quilt, above, and embroidered pillow sham below. Joyce jokes that the initials BED might also have been directions for where to put the sham.



Program attendees were invited to bring quilts for show and tell. Joyce Barber of Hobart, granddaughter of Alvin Lines, showed the quilt that her great grandmother Blanche Elizabeth Dart made—another beautiful and vibrant crazy quilt. She also stitched her initials on the pillow sham that she made to go with the quilt (BED). Joyce reports that the quilt is thought to have been made in 1895. At that time it was common for women to share scraps of silk left over from the dresses they made, which accounts for the similar look of many quilts of the day. More important than the fabric, however, was the style and execution of embroidery. Each piece of Joyce's quilt shows a different stitch style. Both quilts discussed here show exceptional stitching technique and style. Joyce has fond memories of visiting her Lines grandparents in Jefferson at their home at 106 Park Ave., and she cherishes the quilt, made by her great grandmother Blanche and left to her by Blanche's daughter, May Belle Lines. What an extraordinary coincidence that these two exquisite crazy quilts, probably made at roughly the same time would have come from the same home. We can't help but wonder if Blanche and Lois were friends and worked on their quilts together. And what a coincidence that both quilts would be shown at an event hosted by JHS in 2021!

106 Park Ave. today,

The Jefferson House





Move over Ken Burns. A little over a year ago Alex Berner proposed to create videos and original music for a series about Jefferson that could reach a broad audience. His first two videos were about Judd Hall and the Town Green. This fall, he came to Jefferson for three days to collect footage for three more videos.

Alex, who is Kevin Berner's son, recently finished a wonderful video on the Fuller District Schoolhouse, with Bonnie Dailey describing one-room schoolhouses in general and the

history of this schoolhouse, and Barb Palmer telling about Cleo Moore restoring the building. In a related video, Clara Clack describes the restoration and history of a 1850s map in the school. The next video to be released will describe the historic businesses in Jefferson. All videos will be available on our new historical society YouTube site at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvUkiAnAt_v3VrzKz9gvBjg

Bob Glas is our master of Judd Hall and the Maple Museum, responsible for keeping them in good condition, supervising new construction, and planting new historic signs. Most recently, we received an historic marker, courtesy of the William C Pomeroy Foundation. In other instances, Bob has repaired existing markers that needed sanding and paint. For example, he repaired the marker on the Green about Col. Judd donating the land for the green, and he also restored the Revolutionary War Battle marker on Rt 10 near camp Oorah.



cont. from p. 6

One day I received a package containing a sample copy of a Civil War veteran's pension application file. It was sent to me by Mark Sullivan, a meticulous researcher and prolific author of Schoharie County history to whom I had turned for help to learn how to better and more completely research Civil War soldiers. This sample showed me

the wealth of information that could be found in pension application files. But it also unexpectedly showed me something else. The file was the pension application of one Oswald Burnett of Binghamton, NY, who had served in both the 134th NY Infantry and the 1st NY Light Artillery. Reading through the papers, I learned Oswald had

a connection to Jefferson, so I started researching Oswald and discovered he was actually Levi, the older brother of Thomas O. Burnett. I hadn't found him before because from the time of his enlistment in the 134th in 1862 to his death more than fifty years later, he was always listed as Oswald Burnett, not Levi.

FREE MUSIC & MORE SERIES 2022

(Exact dates to be determined)

January:

- Afternoon presentation of Then & Now Videos, Judd Hall
- Paul Trotta introducing his Blacksmithing Video, Judd Hall

February:

- Dick Herodes: A History of the Czechs and the personal account of his grandparent who settled in Jefferson, Judd Hall

March: Events to come

April: Events to come

May:

- Stephen Judd Birthday Party Gala, Judd Hall, Sunday, May 1
- Bird Day: Andy Mason Bird Walk (Peterson Preserve)
- Barb Palmer and others' Nature Photos on display, Judd Hall
- Silent Auction, Maple Museum

June:

- Grand Opening of the Nicholas J. Juried Museum in Judd Hall
- Alumni Reception, Saturday, June 4

July:

- Upper Catskill String Quartet, Sunday, July 3, 2pm Maple Museum
- Mark Twain visits Heritage Day, Judd Hall
- Blues Maneuver under the tent, Saturday, July 9, 7pm on the Green
- Leonata String Ensemble, Sunday, July 24, 4pm Maple Museum

August:

- Whimsical Sculptures by John Jackson, art exhibit, (1 or 2) weekends, Judd Hall
- Indoor Yard Sale, Fri., Sat., Sun. August 26, 27, 28 (9-3) Maple Museum
- Wind in the Willows Pleine Aire art show, Judd Hall
- First Call Brass Band, Bandstand on Green

September:

- Indoor Yard Sale, Fri. Sat. Sun. September 2,3,4 (9-3) Judd Hall
- Werner Rentsch, A Jefferson Artist's Story with exhibit, 1 weekend, Judd Hall

October:

- Halloween activities

Wishing you and your family a healthy and happy 2022 filled with much to enjoy.

We look forward to sharing our events with you in our restored Judd Hall, our soon-to-be-opened history museum, in the Maple Museum, and the historic Fuller District Schoolhouse. Our doors will be open more frequently this year and we invite you to come in when you see our "Open" sign. You will always be welcome.

JEFFERSONIAN HONORED AT 1893 CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR

At the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, Martha Danforth received an Award of Excellence for butter judged on its flavor, grain, color, salting, and packing.

The award was given to Mrs. G.W. Danforth of Jefferson's Danforth Farm for butter produced from her herd of Jersey cows. Martha Danforth ran the farm after her husband, George Washington Danforth, passed away suddenly at age fifty. It was up to Martha and her oldest daughters, Hattie and Maie, to keep the farm alive and they turned to making butter, the same butter that went to the Chicago World's Fair, and for which Hattie also won a certificate for assisting their mother.

Martha produced her award-winning butter until her only son, Everett, was old enough to take over, and Martha continued to live on the farm into her nineties. Her butter-making tools and her beautiful Award of Excellence were passed along to later Danforth generations and are considered great family treasures. Local historians claim that Martha's award is the only World's Fair award for making butter that is known in this area.

Today, the Danforth Farm is run by Shannon Finn, a sixth-generation Danforth who was inspired by her great, great grandmother Martha to return the farm to butter-making, which is marketed and sold under the brand Cowbella. Also descended from Martha's farm are the Jersey cows that graze the Danforth pastures today — one of the longest, continuously-running Jersey herds in the country.



JEFFERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Membership Categories (Please circle one)

Address: _____

Individual....\$15

Couple/family....\$25

Email: _____

Individual lifetime..\$100 Couple lifetime...\$150

Members get a 10% discount on JHS merchandise and are welcome to attend JHS monthly meetings on the first Tuesday each month.

Donation Opportunities

General \$_____ Judd Hall \$_____ Schoolhouse \$_____ Trees on the Green \$_____ Fund for the future \$_____.

Maple Museum _____ Other (please specify) _____ \$_____

My donation is in memory of/in honor of _____

Please make your check out to the "**Jefferson Historical Society**" and mail it together with this form to P.O. Box 143, Jefferson, New York 12093. The Jefferson Historical Society is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Thank you for your support!

Book orders	Unit price	# Books or T-shirt size	Member Discount	Cost
Schools of Jefferson	\$25			
Jefferson Then and Now - Volume 1	\$20			
Jefferson Then and Now - Volume 2	\$20			
Jefferson Then and Now - Volume 3	\$20			
Maple Festival - The Jefferson Years	\$20			
Willard Rising Stewart 1933 Diary	\$20			
History of Jefferson – Sesquicentennial, 1953	\$5			
Generations Remembered – Jefferson	\$20			
Generations Remembered - Harpersfield	\$20			
Jefferson L.A.S. Cookbook, 1924	\$10			
History of the Jefferson United Methodist Church, 2019	\$5			
Slougher's Hilariously Illustrated History of Schoharie County	\$10			
JHS Tee shirt: sizes M, L, XL, 2X in navy	\$15			
Postage & Handling per each item	\$5			
TOTAL				

Jefferson Historical Society
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or Become a Member Now***