

Greene County Gleanings

by Raymond Beecher

The several West Shore freight and passenger stations are a part of Greene County's local history; at one time they were busy stops. Passenger service was the first casualty; the freight followed. Many readers should be able to recall both types of stations at Catskill, West Athens, West Coxsackie, and New Baltimore stations.

The New Baltimore Station, as its name indicates, was some distance from the hamlet of New Baltimore on the Hudson, a fact that was an inconvenience for many passengers such as Edward Ely Sherman commuting weekends from New York City. In several of that family's substantial collection of family papers are descriptions of such railroad trips to Jersey and New York City.

The first rail tracks were laid for the so-called White Elephant Railroad, later taken over by the West Shore line. Around these stations developed various firms, especially ones dealing in bulky and heavy merchandise. The Clarence Albright barrel factory was to be found operating here in the early years of the 20th century. (See Heritage of New Baltimore, pg. 218.)

In the Matter brothers' recent gift of "tin box" papers are some pertaining to the farming operation of Andrew Hotaling at the end of WWI. Purchasing a big piece of farming equipment was no small matter and farmers usually paid "half in cash and half in credit," a debt secured by a promissory note for six months. In such a manner did Andrew Hotaling on Oct. 18, 1918 purchase his "harvesting ma-

chine" for \$200. The seller was H.D. Baldwin, dealer in "Harvesting Machinery and Agricultural Implements." He was the successor to C.V. Baldwin.

Also at New Baltimore Station was Frank Albright then dealing in "Flour, Feed, Grain and Fertilizer," as well as "Automobile Oil and Supplies." Here for a time Hotaling purchased his chicken feed, saving a longer trip to West Coxsackie where Levi Bedell opposite the West Shore Depot was serving both wholesale and retail customers in "Grain, Flour and Feed, Salt, Fertilizers, Hay Bands, etc. Custom grinding a specialty."

Echo Grange #1438, Patrons of Husbandry, was established at New Baltimore Station on Dec. 12, 1918, first meeting at private homes but after 1927 in their new building in that section of the township. Like many family farms in Greene County, the Granges have been falling victims to changing times.

New Baltimore Station is now more easily recognized as Hannacroix.

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