

# Greene County Gleanings

by Raymond Beecher

Local historians have a way of jotting down "bits and pieces" of information. Sometimes these lead to researched articles and at other times they fill up the file folders. Here are a few such notations about the village of Catskill, centered around building site activities:

May 1870: The Old Brace Mansion standing on the corner of Main and Canal Streets, is getting a new front. [Drugstore?]

April 1870: The academy premises on William and Spring Streets were turned over to Joshua Fiero Jr. on the 1st inst. The brick building is to be immediately reconstructed into a large and handsome private residence.

July 1870: A force of masons on Goat Island are building the middle pier for the new bridge. A derrick is in place and the work will be pushed forward.

July 1870: A new bell is being installed at the Presbyterian Church.

May 1894: The large sheep pen located near the upper bridge [used by drovers] was torn down this past week.

September 1894: The old retaining wall that has done service in front of the Methodist Church in this village ever since the church was erected, has been replaced with a new Catskill Mountain granite wall from the Geo. W. Holdridge quarries. The masonry has been surmounted by a new and very artistic iron fence.

January 1895: The altar for new St. Luke's Episcopal Church, presented by the Rev. Townsend Jackson of Flatbush, Long Island, has been shipped to Catskill in 8 wooden boxes, 9½ feet in length, they weighing 2 tons; cost of altar

\$700. The boxes have been placed in temporary storage until ready for assembling.

September 1895: When relaying the sidewalk in front of Cowles Grocery this week, a piece of brick sidewalk in perfect condition was uncovered. It had been entirely forgotten by Catskillians and must have been buried at least 50 years.

December 1895: Workmen have been engaged the past week putting in a new time lock on the vault at the Tanners Bank. Two watchmen were employed to sit up nights and guard the vault.

November 1899: On Monday week, the Catskill-New York Steamboat Company awarded to Lampman & Son the contract to erect a new storehouse recently partially destroyed by fire. Dimensions 38 x 80', 3 stories and to allow for passageway between it and the

Sage coal shed on the south.

November 1899: A plate glass window recently removed from the DuBois Drug Store in Catskill contained shot holes made through it in 1861 when the "Recorder" office was mobbed on account of Civil War sentiments.

March 1910: Ground was broken this week by contractor George W. Holdridge for the foundation of the new wing of the Catskill National Bank, the front of which will face Bridge Street.

March 1910: The immense steel safe--weight 78,700 lbs. for the new Tanners Bank building, yesterday was placed inside the bank by Capt. Ben Plusch and Charles Holcomb, who had been awarded the job of moving the safe from the West Shore depot. The motive power was furnished by the trolley company and Charles Deyo's steam traction engine. G.C. News 5/5/1994