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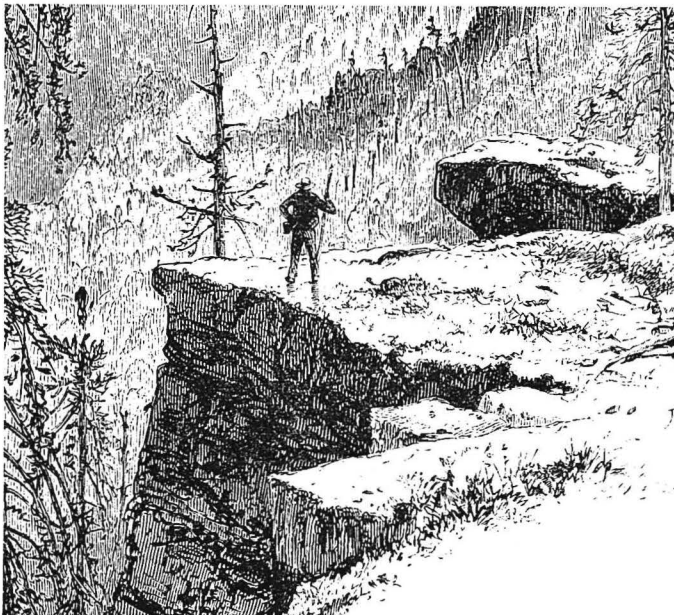
HARRY FENN, ILLUSTRATOR

—Esther H. Dunn

A certain Mr. Harry Fenn was a famous and prolific illustrator of books in the mid- to later 1800's. Though few people today know his name, it was then in company with such others as F. O. C. Darley, Howard Pyle, Kensett, Casilaer, Winslow Homer. The role of an illustrator is to portray the author's thoughts, and to enhance the text.

The perfect example is John Greenleaf Whittier's classic poem *Snow-bound*, published as a special gift book by a Boston firm in 1868 and illustrated by, yes, Harry Fenn. The poem starts on a short December day, the sun rises cheerless over hills of gray, the light at noon is sad. Terrific snow comes at night — wood has been brought inside, the animals are in the barn, the family indoors, reminiscences told. The winds shriek, boughs moan, the north wind roars. The brook is silent.

One week goes by before the storm lets up. Then a carrier brings the village paper, the mink goes fishing again at the river's brink, a woodchuck looks at the new world outside from the entrance to his hole. A double team of oxen drawing a plow lunge forward wildly in their effort to break through the deep drifts on the highway. Presumably oxen can lunge, because the artist so shows them and he was an accurate observer. Many of the illustrations, and they keep pace with the text, are small views and vignettes.



Segment of Fenn Illustration — Sunset Rock
from *Picturesque America*

STANTON HILL IN THE 1870'S — THE MOSES BEDELL DIARIES

—Raymond Beecher &
Frances Dietz

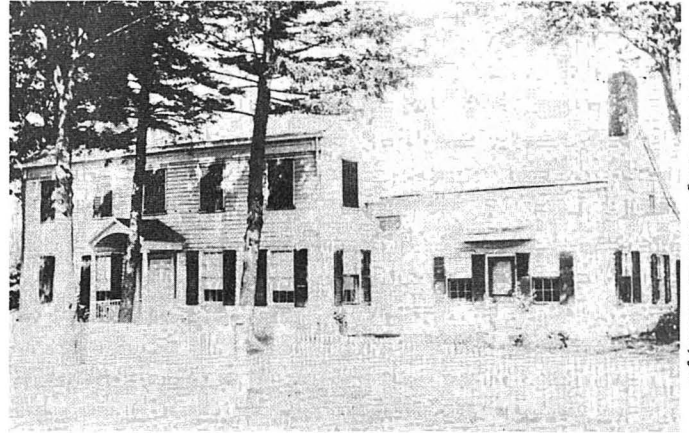


Photo Courtesy Walter E. Burke, Jr.

Bedell Homestead — 1880 View

In six surviving diaries, written between the years 1875 and 1881, Moses Bedell (1843-1912) depicts a way of life among the hill farmers of the township of New Baltimore. Many of these descendants of the first post-Revolutionary war settlers were members of the Society of Friends. From their narrow upland valley acres they wrested what many today would consider a marginal livelihood. Fortunately, their life style limited their need for large monetary incomes.

It would never have occurred to Moses Bedell that more than a century later his cryptic diary entries would be studied for their local history content. For him they served to record business transactions, were a reference to farm activities, and otherwise marked the years' passage.

These diaries as well as family photographs were made available to the Greene County Historical Society for research purposes by Moses Bedell's great grandson, Walter E. Burke, Jr., Fort Myers, Florida. Mr. Burke is a man dedicated to the preservation of local history and has been a catalyst for the development of the Southwest Florida Historical Society. We are grateful for this fellow historian's cooperation.

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At the opening of this book the poet Whittier takes a full page, nicely type-set, to say to his readers:

In the present edition of *Snow-bound* the illustrations are drawn by Mr. Harry Fenn, from sketches made by him during a visit to the scene of the poem

It gives me pleasure to commend the illustrations which accompany this edition of *Snow-bound* for the faithfulness with which they present the spirit and the details of the passages and places that the artist has designed them to accompany.

J. G. W.

Nice credit from a very great poet. This happened to be the young illustrator's first book.

Harry Fenn was born in Surrey, England, in 1845. He came to America at the age of 19, experienced as a wood engraver. He came ostensibly, the record says, to see Niagara Falls. When here, his interests turned to watercolor and illustration. In this field he was to travel extensively — within the U.S.A., then to Europe, to Palestine, and to the Orient. He was a founding member of the American Watercolor Society and exhibited almost every year; a member of the Society of Illustrators; charter member of the Salmagundi Club; winner of the Medal of Gold at the Chicago Exposition of 1893; a lecturer on the Orient.

The circumstance that rocketed his name to fame was the introduction of a sumptuous 2-volume book, more profusely illustrated and with an art value not seen before. Every detail of the book was fine-tooth-combed. *Picturesque America*, issued by D. Appleton & Co. in 1872-74, became a landmark in the publishing world. Its financial success was tremendous. Many editions followed the first.

Prominent writers produced the text for chapters describing the selected regions. Name illustrators made coordinated drawings showing the public the picturesque world of America. Each illustrator had been asked to make on-the-spot sketches to assure exactness of scenes, which of course involved considerable travel.

Each illustrator's name was given prominence by the publisher. Often it appeared right under the chapter title. Steel engravings rated a listing of their own, following the contents pages. Both artist and engraver were credited. Names had much meaning to the avid readers of that day. People then had great interest in matters of daily life, fashions, literature, music, art, travel. Nobody had a television or radio.

Harry Fenn was given by far the lion's share of chapters to illustrate. The front piece to the book is a large steel engraving titled "Niagara." A second steel engraving stands opposite the opening chapter; a third steel engraving introduces Chapter II. All are

Harry Fenn's work. So to him is given the added honor of the opening position in the book.

Two years later Appleton brought out a sister book titled, *Picturesque Europe*, followed by *Picturesque Palestine, Sinai and Egypt*, a 4-volume set. To develop sketches for these books Harry Fenn lived for two years in Europe, spent two winters in Palestine and the Orient, to do on-site work.

Appleton's Journal, a monthly, prior to the publication of these three related books had featured illustrations by Harry Fenn and other men of note. They had engaged Fenn to do an exclusive series of views, announcing to the public in their pages that he would be visiting South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia, then go to sections of the North and West. When summer heats were over, he would go to southern localities. So Harry Fenn started early in his travels. His work was more than well known.

Volume II of *Picturesque America* contains a chapter titled: THE CATSKILLS, With Illustrations by Harry Fenn. The views are likely familiar to many who relate to our Greene County and eastern mountain region. The chapter writer is Henry A. Brown, a prominent author of that day. He and Harry Fenn travelled together up the Hudson River by train in mid-August from New York, crossed to Catskill by ferry, crossed our rolling but dusty valley lands with the smell of cut hay in the air, and went up the steep mountain front. Maybe 300 or 400 guests were at the famous hostelry. As a result of the trip the Mountain House, South Lake, Kaaterskill Falls, Sunset Rock, Boulder Rock (pudding stone), the five cascades in the Clove, the bridge down there, Stony Clove and other nostalgic spots to a count of sixteen drawings are shown in large and smaller views. If sometimes Harry Fenn's renditions seem exaggerated, just wait.

Our mountains are unpredictable. They change. They move. They are fanciful mountains. The steel engraving allotted to this chapter on the Catskills is titled, "Sunrise from South Mountain." It is not unreal. Rocks along the whole South Mountain ledge are extraordinary — in size, in shape, in the dangling and projecting positions they sometimes hold. That big split rock in the drawing is normal in its location.

Very early in the morning the two men, artist and writer, had gone to the ledges, dropped down 100 feet to a narrow ledge (which dropped off 500 feet) and watched the sun rise. The heavy mists in the valley, ever moving, and the changing lights and clouds in the sky do the same today. Guests at the hotel got up, pre-dawn, to see this spectacle.

Henry Brown's judgment of his fellow artist's drawings of our mountain scenery was: that the most famous beauty is of the Kaaterskill Falls; one of the

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HARRY FENN (continued from page 22)

most picturesque views is Sunset Rock with its westward scene of the clove, Haines Falls and beyond; and one of his most beautiful works is the cascades in the ravine below Haines Falls. This he writes in his chapter on the Catskills.

In Roland Van Zandt's book, *The Catskill Mountain House*, he states that to him Harry Fenn's picture of the Kaaterskill Falls (used in his own book), though dramatic and giving impression of exaggeration, is actually the more realistic. It is the only picture he knows that captures the violence of the scene. The drawing is from across the gigantic hole into which the stream waters rush and drop. Considering the great number of artists who have painted these falls it is surprising the turmoil, the breaking bubbles, the wafting mists, bending trees, the water-drenched greenery at the bottom and at times on the rock-bound sides, are seldom delineated. Thomas Cole did a pencil drawing which breathes of these truths.

Perhaps more than had been anticipated, the beauty of the illustrations in *Picturesque America* was a major appeal. Part of that reason has been attributed to their being wood engravings, then a very popular medium; and being admixed with the smaller number of renderings on steel. In the sumptuous new book with its many pictures ". . . . the harmony between their rich, warm blacks and the silvery tone of the handsome steel engravings, plus the selected type-face," in the words of the expert Linton, "made it an example of 19th century graphic style at its best . . . a monument to a period about to end." A new, more rapid means of reproduction, a photo-mechanical process, was about to begin.

Nearing the close of the century a book titled *American Illustrators* was published by Scribner, written by F. Hopkinson Smith. He was a traveler and illustrator as well as an author. In praise of Harry Fenn he said: "His illustrations in *Picturesque America* entitle him to be called Nestor of his guild — for the delicacy, truth and refinement of his drawings."

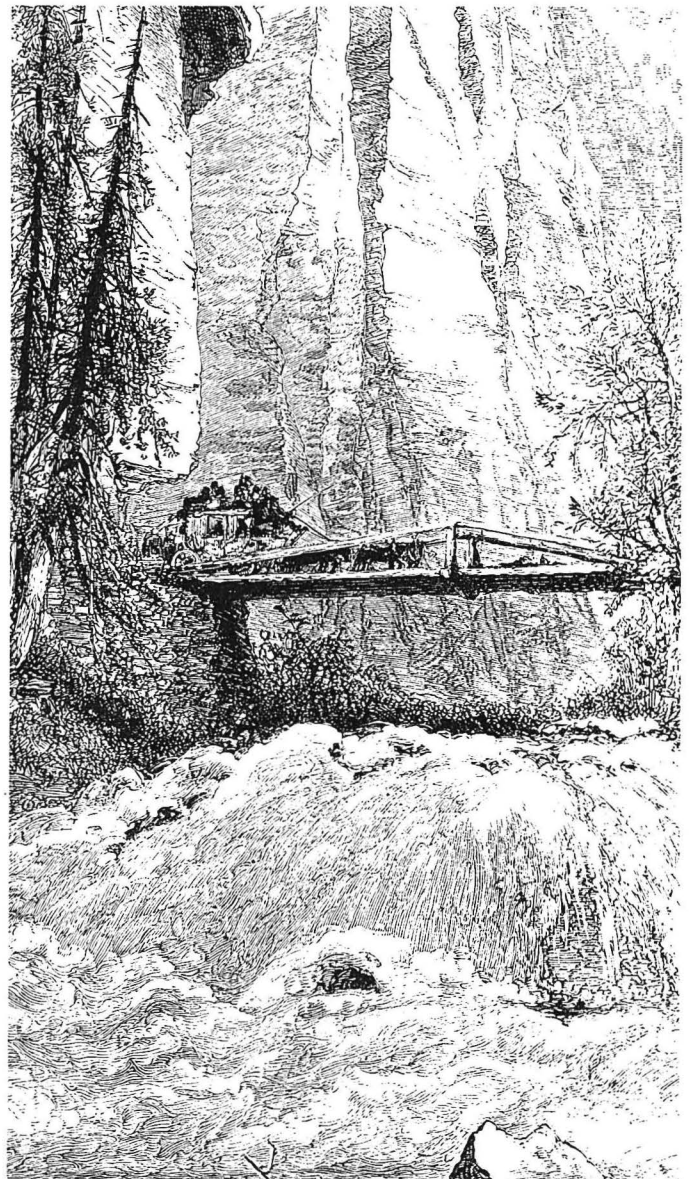
Landscape was Harry Fenn's forte. A quality of spirit was intrinsic to his art. Wood engraving for some reason lent itself to letting this quality come through, even as it did in that first book illustrated for the poet Whittier, and so nicely accredited by him in print to Mr. Harry Fenn, illustrator.

This past spring a small and choice exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York featured articles selected from various departments which had been purchased in the past few years for under \$5,000. The object was to show that price alone is not a criterion of fine art, for a museum or a private owner.

Two watercolors by Harry Fenn were included. "Everglades" depicts murky, steaming swamplands amid palm trees; a shack and two men cutting a tree. "Caesarea Philippi," is a scene near the head of the Jordan River. A man leading a camel is about to cross an ancient stone bridge, far below which flows a narrow stream, mountains rising sharply upward at the back. It is a memorable work, the color tones exquisite.

Editor's Note: Esther Haines Dunn is no newcomer to this Journal's pages. She has, in past years, shared her knowledge of and appreciation for the Catskill Mountains with Journal readers. A thorough researcher, she combines her personal knowledge of the eastern Catskills with information gleaned from libraries and museums in New York City.

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*Segment of Fenn Illustration — Bridge in Catskill Clove
from Picturesque America*

STANTON HILL – BEDELL DIARIES

(continued from page 21)

In 1875 Moses Bedell was the nominal head of family for a household of five persons residing in a federal style, two story, wood framed farmhouse situated on Stanton Hill, now Route 51, in the Town of New Baltimore. The unit consisted of Moses, age 32; his widowed father Joseph, 72; Moses' two daughters, Clara May 3½, and Ada, 16 months; and Mary Jane Gurney 48, financially independent, aunt of Moses Bedell's late wife, Sarah Powell Bedell.

Sarah was the daughter of David Powell and Jerusha Gurney whose very large farm operation was in the extreme northwest corner of the township of New Baltimore. Sarah had died at the age of 24 only two months before Moses' first diary entry available which was January 1, 1875.

Mary Jane was the daughter of Joseph Gurney and seems to have been functioning as household chatelaine, looking after the care of the two little daughters, and supervising the hired girls.

Aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, friends and neighbors carried the surnames of Gurney, Powell, Garrett, Greene, Underhill, Carman, Sarles, Hoag, DeFrate, Lisk, Dean, Harden, Coonley, Halstead, Possons, Palmer, Thorn, Beach, Stover, Titus, etc. Many resided in close proximity in this Stanton Hill section of the township of New Baltimore; a few were over the town lines into the Coxsackie and the Coeymans areas. Visitations to the Bedell home for social, business or religious purposes were frequent. Moses appears to have been a leader for this inland community. Not only was he a progressive young farmer with an eye to changing economic conditions but he also served as an informal banker. Several thousand dollars were available for notes and mortgages. Just how Moses accumulated this capital is unclear. His father was still living; some money may have come as a result of high prices for crops during the Civil War years; his wife's death could have brought him some inheritance and insurance money. Moses was also trusted by his relatives, being named as one of the executors of his brother-in-law Edward Garrett's estate.

The Stanton Hill residents owed thanks to Moses for his effort in revitalizing the Friends Meeting House. In connection with this, he made frequent trips and also corresponded with Quakers in the Hudson Valley – north as far as Glens Falls and south into the Nine Partners Patent (Millbrook, Stanfordsville, Clinton Corners). The Bedell family connection was also maintained with those who had migrated westward to Kansas, Iowa and Wisconsin. He became interested in genealogy long before it came to be the fashion.

Unlike many of his neighbors Moses had a touch of the wanderlust spirit. In 1876 he and Mary Jane spent several days in Philadelphia at the Centennial Exposition marking the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A few weeks later his older brother and wife, Smith and Elvena Bedell of Coxsackie and, still later on, neighbors George L. Coonley and his wife of Stanton Hill took in the Exposition. Moses mentioned meeting "Dentist Jackson from Coxsackie" while he was on the exposition grounds. The winter of 1878 Moses spent in the St. John's River area of Florida where he bought land on which he built a small house and set out an orange grove. Co-venturers in this project were George Coonley and Jacob Lisk of New Baltimore and Cousin Otis T. Bedell who was at that time living in New York City.

The Moses Bedell farm, consisting of 100 acres more or less, had been the original homestead of his great grandfather, Jeremiah Bedell (1751-1815). The Bedell life style, like that of the neighbors, was controlled by the weather. From early spring until late fall, the planting, cultivation and harvesting of the crops demanded attention. The winters were the longest stretches of time with farming activities limited by nature. Doing household and farm chores, cutting ice on the Hannacroix at Dean's Mills pond, chopping and sawing wood for fuel, mending the harness sets, keeping the roads open, making marketing trips to Albany and to the nearer Hudson River settlements, as well as participating in the social and religious life of the township were all winter time occupations. Even jury duty at Catskill was a welcomed winter change of pace. Usually Moses took the winters in stride but occasionally he would note their isolation: "Snowstorm – no teams passing today and only one man on horseback."

It was small scale farming – hay, buckwheat, corn, rye, oats and a little wheat were the mainstay crops. Fruit production grew in importance as Moses cut down the older trees and set out young trees – over 800 in 1875. The livestock ranged from a few head of cattle for beef and milk to swine, sheep, horses and flocks of poultry. Oxen were considered at one time but never purchased. Each farm had a garden plot of spacious proportions. In addition to vegetables for the table, turnips, potatoes, pumpkins and cabbage were also raised for animal fodder.

Surplus food from the land as well as slaughtered beef, pork and lamb was exchanged – there was always a neighbor ready to take part of it on cash or credit terms. Poultry could be had at any time for a quick company meal or for the Albany market.

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STANTON HILL – BEDELL DIARIES

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A series of vignettes to be printed in this and subsequent Journal issues will serve to bring post-Civil War life at Stanton Hill into sharper focus, a life style seen through the eyes of Moses Bedell.

COOPERATIVE LABOR was a way of life. Tasks too big for one farmer were tackled by friends and neighbors. House and barn raisings and movings were accomplished by such work bees. When Henry Powell's house burned down on May 2, 1877, within five days the men were hard at work replacing the structure, Moses among them.

May 7, 1877. Went to Henry Powells to a bee. We cut timber for his house [unseasoned wood] and drew it 50-odd sticks. Drewed 6 loads of stone from the quarry and cleared away for the foundation. Drewed a plan for Henry Powells house 29 x 30 ft. and a lean to 12 x 26 ft.

May 11, 1877. Henry Powell had a bee to draw up lumber.

May 30, 1877. Went to Henry Powells to help raise his house.

Moses and Peleg Lawton helped Jacob Bedell shingle the upper barn, helped George Ladd raise a barn, and on May 24, 1878, "went with G. L. Coonley to S. C. Carmans to help raise his barn."

On May 15, 1879 Moses went to Albert Bedell's for the raising of a shed 70 feet long.

In the summer of 1879 brother Jacob Bedell was cutting Moses' wheat while Moses was mowing hay for Abram D. Tuttle and drawing in three loads of hay for Jacob. A year earlier on a June day Moses had been off to Wm. E. Possons' to a bee to move the hay barn by means of a tackle.

Whether it was a framework raising bee, moving household goods, harvesting crops, road work, marketing farm produce at Albany, or corn husking, these Stanton Hill neighbors were most generous of their time and effort.

FIRES were an ever-present danger to rural residents with no volunteer fire departments to call upon. Each family tried to budget money for fire insurance with one or more of the Farmers' Mutual companies; the coverage was usually inadequate. These companies had little in the way of cash reserves, it being the practice to assess each policyholder a fractional part of the insured's loss.

Over the several years Moses Bedell noted the destruction by fire of houses and/or outbuildings. In January of 1875 Eli Nelson "burned up today." In the fall of that year "Finch had 3 barns burned." When Ambrose Powell's house caught fire at 10 o'clock on the evening of February 10, 1879, Moses noted afterward that the fire started in the kitchen.

It caused a total loss with only a few things saved including some pork in barrels.

Brush fires were another hazard. It must have been a dry spring in 1881 when Moses wrote: "Fire in woods in honey hollow [Grapeville area]."

Another Powell house, the residence of Henry Powell, caught fire one noontime on May 2, 1877. The fire started in the Powell woodhouse. Here again some pork was saved from the cellar – insurance amounted to \$1,200.

In October 1876 Moses acquired the agency for selling a patented fire extinguisher; his sales territory included the townships of New Baltimore, Greenville and Coxsackie. It required a substantial investment for the time – the first two extinguishers cost him \$120 each on a 3-months note, the next two were \$30 each and the remainder ordered could be had for \$45 apiece.

Selling extinguishers called for demonstrations of their effectiveness. In preparation for one such event, Moses filled some old barrels with leaves and set them afire, putting out the flames with his agency's extinguisher. On Friday, November 24 of that year around noontime he went to New Baltimore, stopping long enough at the top of the hill to take some of Henry Harden's wood. At the hamlet Moses split the wood, poured kerosene on the pieces and demonstrated the effectiveness of the device. But while Moses was busy talking to potential customers, some lads began squirting each other. The final task that day was to recharge the extinguishers. On the following day Moses was at Coxsackie distributing advertising handbills. There is no indication that he sold very many extinguishers nor made it a profitable side income.

HOUSEHOLD CHORES – the ever-necessary hired girl usually stayed a season, and Moses was sometimes hard put to find a prompt replacement (at the going rate of \$2.00 the week). Extra help was hired for a few days of spring cleaning. In the brief intervals when no one was at hand, Moses often records "Helped do the wash. Got done around 12 o'clock." One time he helped do the ironing. He tried out the lard at butchering time, made the sausage and headcheese, cured and smoked the pork and beef, and packed eggs by the score of dozens for market. On hot summer days he froze ice cream. Father Joseph was also known to turn a hand for special projects such as making soap.

Water came through a lead pipe from the Bedell Hill woods south of the farm. The pipe frequently froze up in winter or sprung a leak. When that

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STANTON HILL – BEDELL DIARIES

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occurred Moses would haul water from the creek, especially on laundry day. A dug well provided some cooking and drinking water and occasionally it was necessary to retrieve the bucket when the rope broke.

Each late fall leaves and straw were banked around the farmhouse foundation to reduce floor drafts; each spring it had to be removed. The milk cellar required an occasional whitewashing. Wallpaper was restricted to the downstairs main rooms; like many of his contemporaries Moses could manage to apply paper.

The dining area was in frequent use, heated with a stove. One early spring Moses "Bo't a carpet for the dining room \$1 the yard – 36¾ yards." The next week he found time to measure and cut the carpeting (probably Brussels type). "Had time making it match." After several months it was necessary to empty the room of its furniture and "stretch the carpet."

The sitting room was also heated by a coal stove, fuel being hauled in by sleigh or wagon from Coxsackie Landing or New Baltimore in small amounts. Coal varied in price from \$3.15 to \$3.60 per ton, usually a mixture of stove and chestnut. Blackening the stove with polish was a periodic task, and there was always the autumn and spring ritual of putting up and taking down some of the stoves.

One reads of the primitive method of food preservation. On a December day Moses was busy fixing the sausage with a lard covering and "sat it upstairs in a cold room." One wonders about the day in June when the thermometer stood at 93° and Moses took a 7½ pound lot of lard to New Baltimore to sell to storekeeper Tallmage. Hopefully it was in a crock!

Cull pumpkins, potatoes and turnips were boiled on the cookstove or outside in the big iron kettle for feeding the chickens, pigs and other farm animals. The farm dog was trained to operate the churn treadmill. Moses frequently took charge of the churning. He calculated that he sold over 1600 pounds of butter in a year. This does not include the large amounts used on the family table.

The only mention of spinning, a dying art, was on September 8, 1879 when Moses wrote "Father took wool to Ed. Carharts for Ann to spin." Clothing could be purchased at Albany during the various marketing trips. The diaries always noted such expenditures, as when Moses brought home yard muslin for men's shirts. The Bedells owned a sewing machine and Widower Bedell delighted in operating it. On a January day in 1877 "sewed on the machine

today making my shirts." He made daughter Clara a hood, himself a dressing gown, and while spending the winter of 1878 in Florida sewed on the wedding dress of his landlady's niece. There was an exchange of mitten patterns among the farmers of Stanton Hill in 1875, and Moses cut out (wool or leather?) and sewed himself a pair or two.

Little or no mention is made of feather beds or pillows but corn husks were known to be used to stuff bedding. One day Moses "picked husks and filled 2 beds while it rained in the morning." There must have been enough good featherbeds on hand since on one occasion "Father took feathers and rags to New Baltimore to sell." Feathers sold at Mr. Bull's store for 12¢ a pound in trade.

There were always miscellaneous chores to take up the time such as smoking herring, shearing the dog, cleaning the gun, fixing the cords on the clock, sawing the cask in half and getting out 15 lbs. of sugar, going to the hamlet to get the tea kettle mended at a cost of five cents. Moses often mended his own pans.

BOOKS, MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS found their way into the Moses Bedell household. These reflect their religious, scientific and other interests. Money was generally available for reading material.

January 16, 1875: Sent for the *Phrenological Journal* [a popular publication of the period dealing with the analysis of character and the development of faculties by the studying of the shape and protuberances of the skull] 3 months .50

January 24, 1875: Paper came – *New York Witness* [religious publication].

October 13, 1875: A new paper called *The New Baltimore Sun* came the first of the week.

November 17, 1875: Subscribed to *Scientific American*.

December 13, 1875: Paid *Coeymans Herald* until January 1, 1876.

January 11, 1877: [In Albany] Bo't the Memorial and Poetical Works of Alice and Phoebe Carey for Mary Jane [Gurney] \$2.50.

March 3, 1877: Subscribed to *Coeymans Herald* to be paid for with 1 barrel of apples.

October 22, 1877: [In Coeymans Hollow at a lecture] Bought a book for \$1.75 (like it well).

June 21, 1881 [In Albany] New version of New Testament 45 cents.

JURY DUTY at the county seat was welcomed by many farmers if they were called during the winter months when farming activities were at a low ebb. In December of 1879 Moses was called to serve on a petit jury; two years later he appears to have served on a grand jury. This civic duty meant securing overnight accommodations at Catskill for the length of the court sessions.

On December 8, 1881 Moses either walked or secured a ride to the hamlet and came down to Catskill on the steamboat *Eagle* at a ticket cost of

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MIKE DOLAN'S COMPANY STRIP MINES MOULDING SAND

—Raymond Beecher

Under a layer of topsoil, close to the surface of farmland stretching along sections of the Hudson Valley between Athens and the vicinity of Albany lay extensive deposits of a fine grade of sand much in demand by late nineteenth and early twentieth century metal foundries. Albany moulding sand was of the finest of textures with few impurities; Cocksackie area sand was almost as desirable. The nearness to water and rail transportation greatly enhanced the sand's value. It was used for brass and iron castings or for the beds in which to run pig iron bars. Designs were made by skilled pattern makers and impressed in a boxed sand bed; standardized castings of good quality were the result. Many stove plates were made by this method. It is a process now outdated.

Ever alert to business opportunities which he envisioned would make him a business tycoon, in the 1880's Michael Dolan of Cocksackie Landing became deeply involved in such an enterprise. With little regard to the need for capital, Mike Dolan went into debt to secure title to sand lots, leased others from willing landowners, rented wharfage space and, after the West Shore Railroad was constructed, railroad sidings. Farming was on the decline in Greene County and local landowners were not averse to selling their mining rights. For those fortunate enough to have deposits of moulding sand, it meant approximately \$250 the acre. In a few cases leases required the topsoil be respread but frequently the land was left in a gutted state. Seldom was the sand found deeper than under ten inches of loam. (This is one reason Indian artifact hunters avoid such disturbed fields.)

Dolan was not the only one interested in making a livelihood on this geologic natural resource. The New York Sand and Facing Company (originally Catskill interests) mined and shipped from a large dock jutting out into the Hudson in the Four Mile Point area (Beecher Road). The Whitbeck Company operated from New Baltimore. Claude DeFrate had contracts in the Village of Cocksackie. The Albany Sand Company operated in the adjacent county. But Michael Dolan wanted to be the biggest and for a time he was.

Within a few years Dolan was shipping moulding sand to many northeastern foundries and on into lower Canada. It soon became apparent a more businesslike manner of operation was necessary. On March 31, 1902 the Dolan Sand Company was incorporated with Michael Dolan the principal stockholder, president and general manager. Of the \$35,000 of stock authorized for issuance, only \$1,384 was purchased for cash; \$23,416 represented

Dolan's mining rights, shipping facilities and equipment.

A study of the firm's 1903 balance sheet clearly reveals this lack of working capital, a situation which would plague the company for its entire lifetime and lead to legal difficulties.

Balance Sheet, Dolan Sand Company January 1903

Resources	
Mining Rights and Privileges	\$12,500.00
Horses, Wagons and Harness	7,639.25
Office Furniture and Fixtures	261.90
Sand Contracts	750.00
Fire Sand (Inventory)	120.00
Advance Acreage (mining rights)	2,568.90
Cash in Banks	158.39
Real Estate (Bridge at Crescent)	281.43
Tools and Implements	259.20
Moulding Sand (Inventory)	6,737.60
Accounts due, incl. freight	4,555.14
Total Resources	<u>\$35,832.11</u>
Liabilities	
Capital Stock (actually issued)	24,800.00
Bills payable (incl. notes)	248.76
Undivided Profits	148.29
Freight credits due customers	1,138.30
Accounts Payable	9,075.81
Gain or Surplus	420.95
Total Liabilities, etc.	<u>\$38,832.11</u>

By October 16, 1905, the company was so indebted to Michael Dolan that he was granted a chattel mortgage on the firm's assets — it was a poor substitute for his unpaid salary and for the rentals due him.

Jesse J. Bowen was employed as road salesman to call upon potential industrial customers. The Dolan Sand Company was prepared to ship "all kinds of Cocksackie and Albany Moulding Sand, fire sand and fire clay by rail or water in carload or boatload lots." And ship it they did. Barges such as the *Charles H. Jacobus* took 450 tons, the *Anthony Houck* 361 tons, the *Matilda Monck* 500 tons, the *Maggie Monck* 245 tons and the *James J. Doherty* 800 tons. By river, canal and rail it went to such firms as the Gould Manufacturing Company (pumps and hydraulic machinery) of Seneca Falls; the Hecla Iron Works of Brooklyn; the Johnson Harvester Company of Batavia; Wheeler and Wilson Manufacturing Company (sewing machines) at Bridgeport, Connecticut; and the Phenix Foundry (bleaching and dyeing machines) of Providence, Rhode Island. Inquiries and requests for sand samples came from many distant points — as far away as the Jenckes Machine Company of Sherbrooke, Quebec and the P. C. Holmes Company (turbines and water wheels) of Gardiner, Maine.

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MIKE DOLAN (continued from page 27)

When shipping by water, the Dolan Sand Company utilized the towing services of the Cornell Steamboat Company for work between South Roundout, Newburgh, Hudson and Coxsackie. In and about the New York harbor it contracted with The Flannery Towing Line, The White Star Towing Company and The Blue Line. Propellers (tugboats) often used were the *Golden Ray*, the *Wm. H. Walker* and the *Thomas Flannery*.

Captains responsible for sand cargoes endorsed the bills of lading. James Fallon signed with the wording: "Shipped in apparent good order and condition by the Dolan Sand Company on board the boat called *John J. Fallon*, whereof the undersigned is now present Master, now lying at the port of Coxsackie, N. Y. and bound for Brooklyn, N. Y. with 70 gross tons of No. 3 Moulding Sand, all of which I promise to deliver in like good order and condition at the aforesaid port of Brooklyn, N. Y., unto the Hecla Iron Works or to their assigns, he or they paying freight on the same at the rate of 60¢ per gross ton delivered in their carts."

Such shipments were generally insured with marine firms as the Greenwich Insurance Company of Pine Street, New York, for whom Charles A. Wardle of Catskill was local agent. When one cargo of sand on board the *Arthur and Eddy* was judged a complete loss, the Greenwich Company paid the claim of \$300 under policy 337744, less \$50 average.

Canal shipment of cargoes on barges such as the *Ellen L* serviced foundries in the more western parts of the state before the "freezing over" Michael Dolan and the Dolan Sand Company had constructed a dumping bridge, spanning the Erie (Barge) Canal, on land leased from the Wemples of Half Moon, Saratoga County. Under date of May 28, 1901, the State of New York issued approval for such an arrangement for filling canal barges "within the blue line of the Erie Canal, east of bridge #38, the docks to be used for the shipping of moulding sand, and of at least twelve feet in height in order for all canal boats to pass under the same."

Few shipments caused as many problems for the Dolan Sand Company as one ordered for a Seneca firm. Neile F. Towner, the Albany attorney for the Dolan interests, was consulted about the latter's liability for nondelivery. The barge had not reached its contracted destination prior to the winter's freeze. Correspondence quotes numerous legal cases relating to such canal shipments. If it could be proven that other canal boats during this time interval had reached Seneca Falls prior to the canal's closing down for the winter, the captain handling the Dolan

sand could not collect for storage or for other fees caused by his neglect. The captain's letter, attempting to explain his version of the story reads:

Durhamville, N. Y.
Nov 24th 1903

The Dolan Sand Company,
Messers

I thought you might be anxious to know something about your sand. We are on Durhamville Dry Dock to get new bow plank put in the head boat. We run in ice since Friday cut through 2½ inch white oak plank. Had 12 head of Mules pulling us through until we found the water coming in. Had all we could do to keep her afloat to the Dock. Had 2 ft. of water at one time. I will get off and go as far as Canastota tomorrow and if the ice thaws up will go on. I have written the Gould Mfg. Company to learn if that canal was froze over as I do not mean to cut the Boats through again. What I wish to know is would you like me to get the Boats to some Sand Dock if we must freeze in. And if you will send me \$50 to Canastota at once. We are 25 miles from Syracuse. By protecting the bows with boards we might get there. Please write or wire me to Canastota N. Y. on receipt of this and oblige.

/s/ Capt. F. McClenthan
Canastota, N. Y.

Very Respectfully yours
P. S. I think you better wire
your ideas.

When shipment dictated using the railroads, the Dolan Sand Company worked from their siding rented from the New York Central and Hudson River Rail Road Company. Michael Dolan had arranged to lease what remained of the northern end of the old "White Elephant Railroad" which had run from Brick Row area, Athens, to West Coxsackie. Unfortunately the White Elephant tracks were no longer in good condition and the New York Central engineers refused to switch cars below the Plank Road crossing. This necessitated continual delays in Dolan Company shipments until Mike Dolan's men could move the loaded cars nearer the main tracks, a task requiring the use of his teams of horses. Disputes with the railroad over the weight of shipments were also prevalent. Customers frequently wrote of being "short changed." In desperation Dolan decided to arrange for the use of John Brown's lumber yard ground level platform scales at West Coxsackie for bulk weighing purposes.

Not content to ship Coxsackie and Albany moulding sand, Michael Dolan began to purchase, for transshipment, fire sand and fire clay from banks in New Jersey. (New Jersey was noted for its clay banks which for generations supplied the Clark Pottery at Athens with its raw material.) It was a side operation the Dolan Company could ill afford to pursue; it yielded little profit.

Laborers and teamsters were generally hired from the areas in which the Dolan interests operated,

(continued on page 29)

STANTON HILL – BEDELL DIARIES

(continued from page 26)

35 cents. Board and room was secured at Peter J. Fitchett's, 57 Thomson Street, for 75 cents the day. Court was convened at 2 p. m. when the roll was first called and the grand jurors went into session. Moses mentions 111 cases on the court calendar. The next day Moses was at the jail to see the negro prisoner who shot Mr. Losee and John McCabe, both of New Baltimore.

Evening entertainment consisted of attending a temperance lecture at the Methodist Episcopal Church and on another evening going with a group of men to the Opera House "to see the show *The Great Divorce Case* and *Bandit Chieftain* at a cost of a 25¢ ticket."

On his jury stint in 1879 Moses earned \$22.50 for 10 days and 25 miles travel. He returned home on the railroad for 30 cents travel cost between Oak Hill Station (opposite Catskill on the eastern shore) and Newton Hook. It cost him another 10¢ to again cross the Hudson to Coxsackie Landing.

[to be continued in Winter Issue]

PLAN TO ATTEND FALL LECTURE SERIES
WATCH NEWSPAPERS FOR PUBLICITY

MIKE DOLAN (continued from page 28)

Coxsackie and Albany

MOLDING SAND is what every foundryman needs to make good castings. We have it in all grades, ready for shipment by rail or water, in large or small quantities as desired.

We also have **FIRE SAND** and **FIRE CLAY** —the genuine stuff. Try it in your cupola and see how much longer the lining lasts.

Write us for prices, shipping rates and other information. It will pay you.

The Dolan Sand Co. M. DOLAN,
COXSACKIE N. Y. General Manager.

i. e. Delmar and Albany for that phase, Coxsackie for local work. But applications for employment did come from a distance. In an era when labor benefits were not as prevalent as today, men were willing to move further from home. Chester Whitaker, in his own style of spelling, wrote from Middleburgh, Schoharie County, on March 22, 1904:

Sir, Will you give me work in your sand Bank or do you no of eney persin that Does want to hire a man i had expearinc shovling sand am sober and stidy can refer

(continued on page 30)

VEDDER LIBRARY NOTES

□◇ Additions to the book collection from the library of Brooks and Oriana Atkinson include Trevelyan *English Social History*; Roberts *Moreau de St. Mery's American Journey 1793-1798*; Brant *James Madison, The Virginia Revolutionist 1751-1780*; Morison and Commager *The Growth of the American Republic*; Baird *The Painter, Gilder, and Varnisher's Companion* (1866); and *The Publications of the American Tract Society* (Vol. IX.). The Atkinsons, via Hope Farm Bookshop, made selections from their personal library available to the various public library facilities in the area — a generous gesture.

□◇ And in keeping with its policy of acquiring volumes relating to Greene County, the library fund made the following purchases: *Saint John The Baptist Church, Greenville, New York*; *To Walk With Nature: The Drawings of Thomas Cole*; *William Cullen Bryant and the Hudson River School of Landscape Painting*; and Matthew Baigell's *Thomas Cole*.

□◇ The American Antiquarian Society has requested a photocopy of the Masonic Certificate for Harmony Lodge No. 31 of Catskill, New York, 1795 for inclusion in a revised edition of Stauffer and Fielding's volumes *American Engravers on Copper and Steel*.

□◇ *The First Dutch Reformed Church Celebrates Its 250th Anniversary* is the title of a series of celebration articles by Francis Hallenbeck. A copy is now catalogued.

□◇ Barbara Roe Simpkins, a member of this Society, in connection with a college history course, researched and duplicated a family genealogy of more than passing interest. She ties the Roe family with the Bronck line in Greene County. It is another addition to the genealogical holdings.

□◇ *Hix (Hicks) Heads of Families 1790-1850*, a 67-page printed volume is the gift of Gayle D. Hix of Houston, Texas. There are a number of Greene County families listed therein.

□◇ A folder has been set up for General Elias Wright who was born in Durham, New York but removed to New Jersey to develop Wharton's Pineland Empire. Mrs. George Wheeler has sent newspaper articles, a brochure and other related material.

□◇ Helen and Mary Becker have alerted the Society that they have the print from which the *Hope Mill* scene on Catskill Creek was taken for the Staffordshire tureen platter illustrated in the *Journal* for Spring 1982. It is a rarity.

□◇ Dr. Fred R. Van Valkenburg, Billings, Montana is anxious to correspond with descendants of William Henry, Isaac or Peter Van Valkenburg. The National Association of the Van Valkenburg family is planning to publish Volume III *The Van Valkenburg History in America: Tales, Anecdotes, Stories*.

□ □ □ □ □

MIKE DOLAN (continued from page 29)

you to peopel of my town for recommend i can come at any time i can work at any thing in line of common labor i am no teamster hoping to here from you.

Mike Dolan wrote in reply stating the company would pay \$36 the month in wages plus housing provided at a rental of \$6 for the same period of time. To which Chester Whitaker replied:

Sir received your letter i am married man my family is small myself and wife and 1 Boy he is 18 years old he is lerning Black smith trade has worked at trade 2 years can Dew all of the flore work if i move he would like to get a shop to work if i get work of you i would want my family with me for what i would havt to pay for Borde would nearly keep my family if you thinck it adviseabel for me to Due so I will come and see you hoping to here from you i remain yours truly

From a study of the available payroll records it does not appear Chester Whitaker ever came to work for the Sand Company.

In the early years, little mechanical machinery other than a derrick was used, the excavating, movement and loading being done by human muscle and shovel. Horses pulled the two-wheeled dump carts with their iron-rimmed oversize wheels. Matt Moran, the Cocksackie blacksmith who did "Carriage Ironing, Horse Shoeing and General Blacksmithing" in his shop opposite Larabee's Hotel, was frequently called upon to make new poles for the sand wagons, new sand boxes for the frames and to shoe the horses. In 1902 he even constructed three sturdy sand wagons for the price of \$250.

Men worked by the day, sometimes supplying their own teams. Del Van Wie worked almost the entire months of July, 1902, at a wage of \$4.50 the day, team included. At times the men were in the fields excavating moulding sand, at other times they were on the Mead Dock (adjacent to the Dolan Opera House).

Dissatisfaction with hired water transportation led Michael Dolan to decide his company should have its own barge and tugboat. The *Walter Sands* barge was purchased but after its involvement in a river accident, it ended up at Glasgow where one of the Mayones purchased the hull for \$25. The tugboat *Leonard Richards* was an equally dismal story. Purchased for \$5,500 in cash of William Carter, repairs at the Burlee Dry Dock in September, 1907, cost \$1,172.99. Michael Dolan managed to pay \$1,000 on that bill. Another accident on the water led to its sale to a firm engaged in hauling garbage from New York City to be dumped at sea.

A number of contracts for the purchase of sand rights have been preserved. To be assured of a steady supply, such agreements were frequently signed a year or two in advance. Theodore Blossom of Johnny Cake Lane, Cocksackie, was one such individual who sold for \$250 the acre, reserving the first ten inches

of top soil; the life of that contract was for six years. Mrs. Christina Delamater contracted for the flat sum of \$1,000 for her land's mining rights in the Village of Cocksackie. Mary Campbell, a neighbor of Blossom, sold for \$850. Dolan also purchased up established contracts such as the one between Franklin Giblett of Brooklyn and John C. Nelson and Robert Bronk of New Baltimore. Sarah Adams of Cocksackie, for \$1,200, sold her sand rights on her farm south of the Village of Cocksackie for \$100 the acre. Prices depended upon quality and depth of sand deposits, the number of acres and the location. Owners of the old fair ground site in Cocksackie Village also were ready to sell.

As the years progressed, Michael Dolan became involved in other enterprises. He had already built the large Dolan Block in which he had offices, the Dolan Opera House, rented apartments, had a grocery store, and saloon. He founded the Farmers Freighting Line Company which shipped hay, grain and fruit to the New York City area; he also operated the Hamilton and the Lampman Farms. In later years the Dolan Sand Company operated on a diminishing scale until with the crash of 1929 business came to a standstill. His lack of operating capital, and his inability to concentrate on one or two of his more promising enterprises were his downfall. But Mike Dolan is part of the economic history of this section of Greene County. One could never fault him for trying.

Author's Note: The research for this article is based on the personal and business records of Michael Dolan and the Dolan Sand Company, a part of the Julia M. Dolan Collection at Bronck Museum. Julia Dolan, the daughter, acted as the firm's secretary. Until shortly before her death she continued to reside in the Dolan Block. Mrs. Thelma Dolan arranged for the transfer of the records to the Vedder Memorial Library.

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