

Colchester History Connections Newsletter

June 1, 2016, Colchester Historical Society, Box 112, Downsville, New York 13755

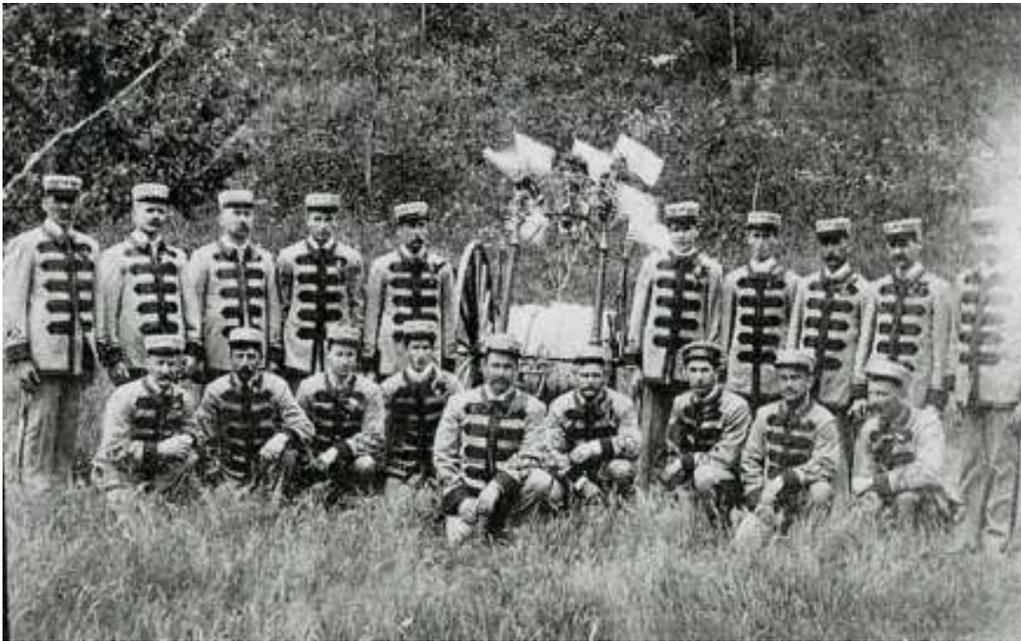
Volume 6, Issue 2 Preserving the history of Downsville, Corbett, Shinhopple,
Gregorytown, Horton and Cooks Falls

Website: www.colchesterhistoricalsociety.org

Historical Society Room, 72 Tannery Road, Downsville is open the third Saturday
of each month 11 A.M.-3 P.M. and by appointment, please call
Kay Parisi-Hampel, Town Historian at 607-363-7303

Displays

The Colchester Historical Society and Town Historian, Kay Parisi-Hampel will be working with the Downsville Fire Department to create a display at the Firemen's Field to celebrate its 120th and the EMS 50th Anniversary.



Early Downsville Hose Company members with hand pulled pumper

The Downsville Fire Department will be hosting the County Firefighter's Parade on July 23, 2016. Festivities go from 10 AM to Midnight and will include a Parade with Fire Companies from around Delaware County. At Firemen's Field there will be food vendors, children's games, market vendors, live music, as well as the Historical Society display.

The Firemen's first Field Day on the Butcher Brother's property was held in 1907 and netted close to \$700. Firemen's Field Days continued to be very popular events and drew large crowds from surrounding communities, especially for their dazzling firework displays. These Field Days provided the company with funds to buy fire fighting, EMS, and safety equipment and also provided additional fire training for the department. The Fire Department eventually purchased the Liddle property and dedicated their new 18 acre Volunteer Fireman's Park on August 21, 1976.

Our dedicated volunteer Firemen have fought many fires since their formation one hundred and twenty years ago and continue to provide extremely valuable service to their community, as well as, becoming an important social group. Please come to see our exhibit and support our dedicated Fire Departments.

National Geographic-The Scenic, Wild Delaware River Geotourism Program Recognition

We are happy to announce that we have received three designations under the Scenic, Wild Delaware River Geotourism program. The program recognizes us for our support in sustaining and enhancing the unique geographic character to the region through our commitment to aesthetics, culture, environment, heritage, and the wellbeing of the regions' residents. We nominated and have been accepted for the Downsville Covered Bridge, Corbett Roebling Suspension Bridge and the Colchester Historical Interpretative Signs Driving Tour. Visit the website at: **DelawareRiver.NatGeotourism.com**



Downsville Covered Bridge



Corbett Roebling Suspension Bridge



Colchester Historical Interpretative Signs Driving Tour

Pepacton Village Records Research Continues

Town Historian Kay Parisi-Hampel, Diane Galusha, Town of Middletown Historical Society and Jim Andrews and Harold Hugeto from the Andes Historical Society spent a second day, scanning documents and photographs from the files of the New York City Water Supply compiled during the construction of the Pepacton Reservoir. These files hold a wealth of information about the people who lived in these villages that were taken for the reservoir construction. Detailed records show the property details, survey maps, photos of the houses, outbuildings and lists of residents that resided and worked on these properties. These files will be added to the Historical Society's collection and they provide a view into the lives of the people who lost their homes to the construction of the Pepacton Reservoir.

A few photos from the Pepacton files:



Jake Bouw Pepacton Farmhouse



Pepacton Covered Bridge showing logs being floated to Gleason Tiffany Sawmill

Map File

Our latest addition to the preservation tools at the Historical Society is a five drawer flat map file. This file allows us to properly store our map collection. The Historical Society has historical maps, survey maps, Colchester and County highway maps, New York State and U.S. topographical maps, and cemetery maps.



Our new five drawer Map File.

Gravestone Cleaning Workshop

May 14, 2016 Marianne Greenfield, owner of Gravestone Cleaning Service and trustee of the Woodland Cemetery Board, gave a brief talk about the types of gravestone materials, procedures for cleaning the stones and historical practices of local cemeteries. After the talk workshop participants went to Downsville's Paige Cemetery for a demonstration and hands-on practice of proper gravestone techniques. Gravestones in the Downs lot were cleaned with a biological, biodegradable, non-toxic cleaning solution D-2, which is safe on all masonry gravestones and monuments and recommended by the National Parks Service. Lichens, moss, molds and dirt were gently removed from the gravestones; the D-2 was applied and then rinsed with water. Inscriptions and carvings hidden before the cleanings were clearly visible afterwards.



Clyde Klindt cleans a child's gravestone



Gary Klindt Jr. cleans a Redmen Gravestone



Marianne Greenfield sprays a water rinse



Betty Watson, Judie Smith, Carol Hines and Susan Koon clean stones in the Downs Lot.

Marianne Greenfield currently has the contract with the New York City Board of Water Supply to clean and do restorations in the Pepacton Cemetery. Bodies from the cemeteries in the villages taken for the construction of the Pepacton Reservoir were reinterred in this cemetery. The public is invited to visit this cemetery to view the progress of this historic preservation project.

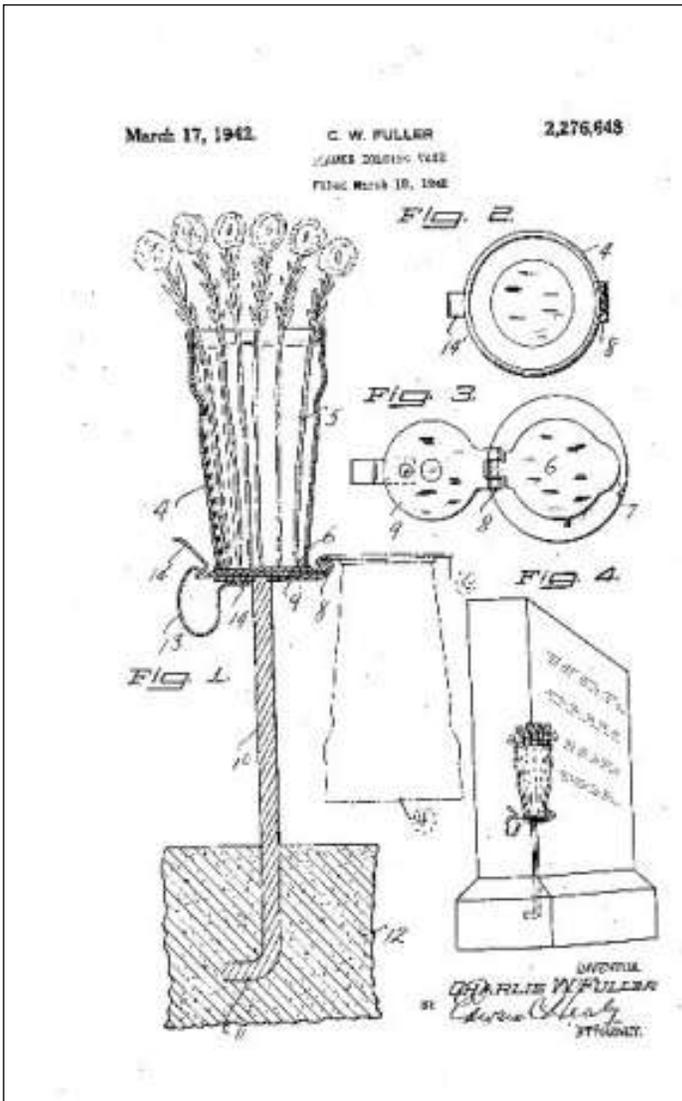
Downsville Native and Inventor of the Angled Toothbrush and Gilhoolie Jar Opener

Clarence Wendel Fuller was born in Downsville on June 29, 1880. Fuller graduated from the Baltimore College of Dentistry at the University of Maryland in 1908 and opened a dental practice in Yonkers, New York. After his retirement from dentistry he devoted himself to inventing. His angle toothbrush idea was bought by E. R. Squibb and Sons. Another invention was a cap that attached to toothpaste tubes. Fullers other patented inventions included a device to replace a door chain, a vase holder for gravestones, a flexible golf tee, removable golf shoe spikes, and an arm guard to guide a golfers swing. His most well known invention was the Gilhoolie Jar Opener which he invented in 1953 and for which he won the Mechanix Illustrated "This Month's Prize Gadget in March 1953. This patented gadget was a jar and bottle cap opener and sealer or as it is described in the patent as, "a cam operated sliding jaw closure remover."

When asked about how he did his inventions, Fuller said, "Oh, if I have any technique at all, it simply consists of making one new model after another until I happen to hit on the one that seems likely to work best." (Applied Imagination by Alex Osborn, 1953) Dr. Fuller admitted that some of his inventions were "duds" and that others were very successful.



Fuller's invention—the Angled Toothbrush



Patent drawing for Flower Vase Attachment

THIS MONTH'S PRIZE

Gilhoolie- JAR OPENER

WIN \$50

Dreamed up a neat gadget? If you're pretty keen about that pet project of yours, get busy and work it out in your shop. Then send pictures and a description of your invention to the Gadget Editor, *Mechanix Illustrated*, 87 West 44th Street, New York 36, N. Y. Each month the best entry gets a cash prize of \$50.

A retired Yonkers, N. Y. dentist, C. W. Fuller, has filled a prescription for opening stubborn bottle tops, caps and corks with his new invention called the Gilhoolie. It even can be used for some corks such as stoppers on champagne bottles. The Gilhoolie is a 10-ounce gadget of heavy chrome plate which can be opened to accommodate a bottle or jar cap up to four inches in diameter. When the handle is squeezed, grips are forced against the cap, holding it tightly. It is so easily applied "a child can use it," asserts Dr. Fuller, whose invention has won him MI's \$50 prize. It is manufactured by the Riswell Company, N. Broadway, Yonkers, N. Y. •

Dr. Fuller uses Gilhoolie on jar. left. Gadget opens soda bottle and it will also reseal cap, below, to insure freshness of liquid.

Gilhoolie is handy for opening jars with pry-off caps. Wedge on handle end is inserted beneath cap, twisted and off comes cap.

Mechanix Illustrated Gadget of the Month, March 1953

Check out the new Town of Colchester Historian Facebook Page.

For other glimpses into the past life in Colchester, please join our monthly meetings. Meetings are generally held the last Tuesday of the month at the Colchester Town Hall, 72 Tannery Road, Downsville, New York 13755

2016 Historical Society Meetings:

June 28, 2016 at 10 AM

July 26, 2016 at 7 PM

August 30, 2015 at 10 AM

September 27, 2016 at 7 PM

October 25, 2016 at 10 AM

November 29, 2016 at 7 PM

December 27, 2016 at 10 AM