

The Rensselaerville Press

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RENSSELAERVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Today is Tomorrow's History"

Late Spring 2021

Two of Our Artist Community Passed Away This Year 2021 Art Show Dedicated to Them

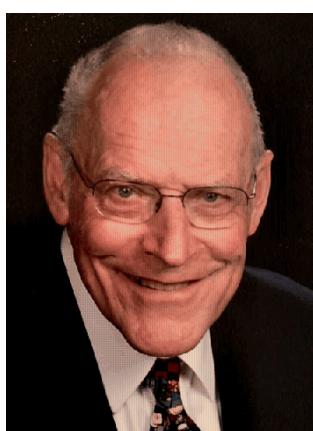
David McCabe, the photographer who famously documented a year in the life of a young Andy Warhol, died on February 26, 2021. David was born in 1940 in Leicester, England, McCabe was raised in the shadow of WW2 bomber planes, educated in graphic design and photography, and sent to New York to fulfill his promise as a prize-winning photographer. In 1963, at the age of 23, he received his first big assignment, from Condé Nast. His career took off. And then, it took a turn for the strange. McCabe's work had caught the eye of Warhol, who was looking for a photographer to shadow him as he made his mark on New York's nascent Pop art scene. The gig went to McCabe. By day, McCabe worked at his midtown studio; after, he'd wander over to Warhol's famed Factory to see where the night would take him, tagging along as Warhol partied with the likes of William Burroughs, Mick Jagger, Rudolf Nureyev, Judy Garland, and Salvador Dalí. The assignment ended after one year, at which point McCabe had amassed more than 2,500 photographs. Warhol didn't have a plan for them, so McCabe stashed them in a file cabinet and forgot about them-for nearly 40 years. In 2001, he was contacted by the director of the Warhol Museum, who had heard rumor of the buried treasure. Their conversation ultimately resulted in the 2003 book *A Year in the Life of Andy Warhol* (Phaidon), a surprisingly intimate portrait of one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. McCabe's images have appeared in the pages of LIFE, Harper's Bazaar, Mademoiselle, Cosmopolitan, Vogue, The Times of London, The Guardian, and The New York Times Magazine. His work has been shown in museums and galleries around the world. Most recently, he had found inspiration photographing landscapes in and around the tiny Catskills hamlet of Rensselaerville, his home for the past 15 years.



David McCabe looking at his photograph at a show at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. Photo by his wife, Susan Cipolla.

-From *The New York Times* obituary, March 9-10, 2021 (<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nytimes/obituary.aspx?n=david-mccabe&pid=197968267>)

Robert Lynk died at his Delmar home on April 13, 2021. He was born near Sharon Springs, N.Y. in 1932. He attended Cornell University. He married Nancy Rarick in 1955 and shortly afterwards Robert was



deployed to Korea to fulfill his ROTC commitment as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. Robert's two years of active duty included 16 months of artillery service in Korea. When Robert returned from Korea, he made his way back to Cornell University and graduated in 1961 as a veterinarian. For 37 years, from the home base of the Delmar Animal Hospital, Robert practiced veterinary medicine, caring for the large and small animals near Delmar and in the rugged Helderberg Hills. In 1998, Robert exchanged the examining table and scalpel for an artist's palette and paint brush. The barns, flora, fauna and scenic vistas of the Catskills and Helderbergs inspired his watercolors. Often described as life affirming and beautiful, his paintings adorn homes from Maine to California.. Nancy and Bob spent their summers in their Crystal Lake home.

-From *The Times Union* obituary April 25, 2021 (<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/timesunion-albany/name/robert-lynk-obituary?pid=198428210>)

Revolutionary War Soldiers... *Continued from Page 7, Spring Issue*

Here is a continuation from the last issue of the *Rensselaerville Press*. These are the brave men who fought during the Revolutionary War and settled for all or a portion of their lives in Rensselaerville after the war. We honor their service.

James B.Borthwick* – James was one of the sentinels of the Middle Fort near Middleburgh while serving in the Revolutionary War.

Theodorus Devereux* – Theodorus served in the Willett Regiment, New York.

Levi Greene* – Levi served in the 3rd Connecticut Regiment 1781.

Saunder Haynes* – He was in the 4th regiment, New York from June – October 1775 and mustered out as a sergeant.

Samuel Jenkins – On November 2, 1780 he was a drummer in the 2nd Regiment. In 1782 he was a private at the age of 17 in the 8th Company of Colonel Samuel B. Webb, Connecticut. On January 12, 1783 he served in the 3rd Regiment. His company was immediately marched directly to the City of New York where he stayed two days and then marched across the river to Bergen Point in New Jersey.

Jonathan Joice* – Jonathan was a Lieutenant in the Regiment of the Green Mountain Boys.

Jonas Kelsey – He is buried on the Mackey Farm, Preston Hollow. His name appears in the Revolutionary War Manuscript of the Colony and State of New York, November 7, 1776.

Eliphas Kilburn – He entered service in April 1776 in Canaan, New Hampshire as a private and served in Captain Whetherly's Company. The company immediately went to Ticonderoga, New York where he became ill in September and was discharged. He moved to Tolland, Connecticut in 1777 where he was drafted under Colonel Chapman. He was discharged and again enlisted at Peekskill and served at Stony Point. He witnessed the execution of Major Andre by hanging. He later performed garrison duty in Rhode Island and was then marched to a place near Horseneck, Connecticut where he stayed until about January 1, 1778 when he was again discharged.

Rueben King – While residing in Claverack, NY, he enlisted in May 1780 as a private in Captain Walter Vrooman's Company, Colonel John Harper's New York Regiment. His entire service was as a guard at Johnstown and Fort Stanwix. He is buried in the Rensselaerville Cemetery.

Samuel Lindsey – From his tombstone: Revolutionary War soldier, died in Ontario County, NY February 27, 1817.

Alexander Mackey Sr. – In the spring of 1776, at the age of 12, he enlisted and served five months as a fifer in Captain John Nichol's New York Company and then with the drum corps with a branch of George Washington's army stationed in New Jersey. He served as a substitute for his brother William Mackey in 1780. He served in several companies through 1781. During this time he joined Governor Clinton's guard.

George William Mackey – Buried in Preston Hollow.

William Mackey – Buried in Preston Hollow. The word "General" is on his tombstone.



Mathew Mulford
Photo by Karen Haseley

Apollos Moore – Moore is buried in the old part of the Rensselaerville Cemetery. He joined the revolutionary army at the age of 16. While a resident of Pittsfield, MA, he enlisted on January 1, 1781 and served as a private, corporal and sergeant in Captain Ebenezer Smith's Company of Colonel Michael Jackson's Massachusetts Regiment. He was in frequent skirmishes and was discharged on August 11, 1783.

Frank Moore – Served under General Burnside.

Chester Moore – No information.

Mathew Mulford – At the age of 20 he was a 1st sergeant in Captain Ezekiel Mulford's Company 12 of the 1st Suffolk Regiment under Colonel Smith and was present at the battle of Long Island and lost an eye in this battle.



Revolutionary War Soldiers... *Continued from Page 2*

Ariel Murdock – Murdock was a private in the company of the 1st Connecticut Regiment. He was engaged in battles at Germantown, Monmouth, Valley Forge and Stony Point.

Irving Murdock – He served from 1771 to 1780 and wintered at Valley Forge.

Samuel Preston – He enlisted in Albany with the 16th Company, Van Woer's Regiment.

Sylvanus Purrington – He enlisted as a private in the 3rd Continental Infantry in Colonel Larnard's Regiment under the command of Captain Isaac Wood (presumably) at Marlboro, MA in December 1775. He participated in the Battle of Princetown, marched further to East Chester, and was discharged at Trenton in January 1777.

Job Rider – He was a member of the Dutchess County Militia, 5th Regiment, and the 4th Company, 2nd Regiment. Rider is buried in the Rensselaerville Cemetery.

Joseph Rolo – Rolo was a private and his wife, Polly, received his pension.

Daniel Shay – He fought at Bunker Hill, Saratoga and Stony Point.

Jonas Shultes – Shultes enlisted on April 27, 1777 at Rhinebeck.

Josiah Skinner – Josiah enlisted in New Lebanon N.Y. He was a private 1775-1780, under Captains Baldwin, Nehemian Fitch, Quartermaster and Halest Canne. In 1781 until the end of the war he was a Lieutenant. He was at the surrender of Burgoyne and had skirmishes with the Indians the same as Levi Greene.



George Smith – No information.

Jeremiah Snyder – Captain captured by Tories and Indians and taken to Fort Niagara where he eventually escaped. He was in the 1st Regiment Ulster County Militia. He is buried in Snyder Cemetery on Wilsey Road in Rensselaerville, no stone.

Nathaniel Spring – (possibly from Rensselaer)

Silas Sweet – He was part of Henry K. Van Rensselaer's Regiment, Albany County, New York Militia. He is buried in the Rensselaerville Cemetery.

Elijah Sweet – He volunteered under General Schuyler's command. Sweet guarded Jane McCrea, the accomplished and beautiful fiancée of an American Loyalist. McCrea was murdered by an Indian escort taking her to a British camp.

Job Tanner – He was commissioned as a lieutenant in the 5th NY Regiment.

Levi Tracey – Tracey enlisted at Preston, Connecticut in May 1775 and served as a private in Colonel Hinman's Connecticut Regiment serving under Captain Edward Mott. He marched to Ticonderoga. On his return he became sick and was unable to reach home until December 1775. He enlisted again in February 1776 and served as a 1st corporal in Captain Mott's Company in Colonel Erastus Wolcott's Connecticut Regiment and assisted in building Fort Griswold. He served as a sergeant with two more companies. He fought at the battle of White Plains and again in 1777 with Sullivan's Rhode Island Expedition.



Nathan Tuthill – He has a Daughters of the American Revolution marker on his grave in Preston Hollow – (cannot find any other record of service).

Peter West – He enlisted under Captain Lucas DeWitt's 5th Company, the first of the northern regiments of Ulster County militia commanded successively by Colonel Johannes Hardenburgh, Colonel Abraham Hasbrouck and Col. Johannes Snyder.

David Williams – He was a private in the irregular militia, one of three patriots who captured Major Andre, a spy and co-conspirator with Benedict Arnold.

Hans (Johannes) Winegar – He enlisted in Lee, Massachusetts. No other information.

Abraham Wood – He enlisted in Dutchess County, New York Militia under Colonel Dubois. in 1775 where he fought in the Battle of Bennington. He served different periods of time from 1775-1780.

Remembering the Institute on Man and Science

Every life has its memorable moments and one of special significance in mine occurred in 1963, after my junior year at Williams College. One bright July morning that summer I found myself transporting Nobel Peace Prize winner Sir Philip Noel-Baker from the train station in Albany, New York to the village of Rensselaerville where he was to speak on nuclear disarmament. At the time I had little interest in politics and world affairs, only marginally aware of talks between the United States and the Soviet Union that would later culminate in the world's first nuclear test ban treaty. The previous October I had huddled around a basement TV set with a group of Williams classmates watching news of the Cuban Missile Crisis, fearful in a vague sort of way of how war, especially nuclear war, might change our young lives in unfathomable ways. But hours passed, then days, and with them most of our fears. It had been a New England October after all, football and house parties were in the air, and I was a twenty-one-year-old college kid with many more pleasant things to occupy my mind.

Picking up Sir Noel-Baker and driving him the thirty-or-so miles by car from Albany to Rensselaerville was one of the duties of my job that summer. My employers were village residents Lee and Katherine Elmore or, more properly, the Rensselaerville Institute on Man and Science of which they were co-founders and directors. I got the job through inside connections — my Aunt Frances and Uncle Ray Simches

also lived in Rensselaerville and had helped in some way with getting the new institute up and running. Even so, I suspect the pool was a slim one. My fellow "gopher" was Jonathan Prude, a couple of years behind me at Amherst with inside connections of his own. Jon's mother was the famed dancer Agnes de Mille, an old New York City friend of the Elmores. In addition to ferrying dignitaries around, our job was to prepare the lecture hall for invited speakers: set up tables and chairs, move blackboards, easels, and audio-visual equipment into place, take everything down at the end of the day's program. I heard many prominent, sometimes world famous speakers that summer of 1963 and learned things that forced me to



In 1961 Raphael Simches and his wife Frances made the Baptist Church into their residence. It was used as a ceramic studio and showroom for Frances, an artist of ceramic and pottery.

Photo by Francis (Bud) Rivenburgh

think more seriously about life and those now historic times. But it was Sir Noel-Baker, in the hour or so I spent with him in the institute car, who challenged me in ways beyond the others, and changed my life.

The Rensselaerville Institute on Man and Science was situated on a one-hundred-acre private estate in the foothills of the Helderberg Mountains. The grounds, owned since the nineteenth century by the industrialist Huyck family, were surrounded by state-protected forests and commanded a magnificent view of Lake Myosotis. Lee Elmore had a background in New York City retailing and Broadway theater production. He and Katherine had retired to Stonecrop, a fine home adjacent to the Huyck Preserve. Huyck House, the Dutch-inspired stone and shingle summer house built in 1897 by Katherine's uncle Edmund Huyck, was owned at the time by Everett Clinchy and his wife, Winifred. Everett Clinchy was an ordained Presbyterian minister, founder and first president of the interfaith National Conference of Christians and Jews. In the establishment of the Institute on Man and Science, the Elmores and Clinchys both deeded their homes to the endeavor along with the



Philip Noel-Baker
Photo by NobelPrize.org



Stonecrop
Photo courtesy of the Carey Institute for Global Good

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100 acres. Jon Prude and I had rooms in the service wing of Huyck House.

The new institute was intended as a public forum where notable individuals from the sciences, social sciences, and government were invited to speak. While topics ranged widely, many featured advances in the sciences and the roles of mutual toleration and understanding in the promotion of world peace. In this latter respect especially, the institute was not new at all but a restoration of the Country Forums on Human Relations begun in Rensselaerville in 1924 by Katherine's mother, Laura Talmadge Huyck. Horrified by the



Laura Talmadge Huyck
Photo courtesy of the
Carey Institute for Global
Good

carnage of World War I, Laura Huyck had dedicated her wealth and resources to the goal of deterring future wars. Among those she had invited to her home were the socialist-pacifist Norman Thomas and Margaret Sanger, who advocated for birth control as a necessary step towards peace.

While the trip to Rensselaerville with Philip Noel-Baker is the most enduring memory of my 1963 summer, it is not the only one. Another driving trip remains vivid to this day. One afternoon Lee Elmore took me aside and told me I was to leave in the morning to drive Eugene Rabinowitch to his summer home in Vermont after his scheduled talk. Trained both in chemistry and physics, Dr. Rabinowitch had been a founder, and remained the editor, of the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* who believed scientists had a moral obligation to speak out on the dangers of nuclear proliferation.

As his English was somewhat fractured, there were many periods of silence on that long trip. He seemed rejuvenated when we finally pulled into the driveway of what I recall as a sort of dacha-in-the-woods. His wife, her hair bunched up in a colorful babushka and a look of joyful relief on her face, ran to greet him. Even though it was July, a samovar was on the stove and we drank hot tea with dense Russian pastries. Mrs. Rabinowitch, noting the late hour, insisted that I spend the night. I remember a narrow bed with no mattress, just a few thin bed covers over wooden slats — very Russian she assured me.

As Jon Prude and I were installed in Huyck House, we were invited to have meals, most often breakfast, with Katherine and Lee. Their frequent guests were introduced to us, briefly, so it was only later that we learned much about who they were and why they were there. One morning especially stands out. Around the table, in addition to Lee and Katherine, were Jon's mother, Agnes de Mille with her animated good humor and, more than thirty years after his first visit to Rensselaerville at the invitation of Laura Huyck, Norman Thomas by invitation of her daughter this time. Also present was Professor Harlow Shapley, the eminent Harvard astronomer and pacifist. So too was Harvard's Dr. Kirtley Mather, geologist, socialist, and tireless advocate for peaceful co-existence between the Soviet Union and the West. Kirtley Mather, I learned much later, had been recruited by Clarence Darrow to give scientific testimony in the 1925 Scopes Trial. Over the years I have thought frequently about questions I would certainly have been too timid to ask even if I had had curiosity enough to ask them.

The Institute was a place where serious ideas were treated seriously, remembering always that the institute's audience was made up almost entirely of the general public. One guest speaker that summer stands out in my memory for treating a serious idea, human overpopulation, in a decidedly unserious way. Kenneth Boulding was a professor of economics at the University of Colorado, a Quaker, and an internationally-known pacifist. An imposing figure at the lectern whose wildly bushy eyebrows suggested more than a hint of the mad professor, Boulding announced his subject: A Green Stamp Plan for World Population Control. At the time, S&H Green Stamps were a popular promotion. The stamps customers got



Huyck House Photo courtesy of the Carey
Institute for Global Good

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Library at Huyck House

Photo courtesy of the Carey Institute for Global Good The special beauty of his proposal, according to Boulding, was the extra stamps would be bought by people of means, resulting in the rich having more children than the poor, the opposite of the usual case, and creating over time a subtle but desirable redistribution of wealth! It took little time for the cautious smiles on audience faces to turn to laughter at the professor's sly satire.

And then there was Philip Noel-Baker. By 1963, Noel-Baker was seventy-four years old and by any measure a striking man. His height and angular frame, owlish eyeglasses and shock of white hair along with his impeccably-tailored English suits, all suggested peerage stemming from a long line of English gentlemen. Noel-Baker's, however, did not. His father was a Canadian Quaker and London businessman. Sir Philip's education in the finest English schools, his keen interest in politics, and his world-class athleticism together brought him success and early acclaim. In 1907, at the age of eighteen, he had been a member of a British delegation to the Hague Conference, the failure of which to adopt international armament controls disappointed him and led, he believed, to World War I. It was from this experience, among others, that Noel-

Baker's lifelong dedication to world disarmament had its origins. In 1920, as a member of the British Olympic team in Antwerp, he won a silver medal in the 1500 meter run, making Philip Noel-Baker the only person in history to win both an Olympic medal and a Nobel Prize. He spoke seven languages. As a member of the British Foreign Office after World War I, he helped draft articles for the formation of the League of Nations with its quixotic hope of preserving world peace. He held a Labor Party seat in Parliament for nearly forty years. But it was Noel-Baker's yearslong efforts in the quest of arms control that led to the



Guggenheim Photo courtesy of the Carey Institute for Global Good

Nobel Peace Prize in 1959, efforts widely seen as contributing to the Test Ban Treaty in 1963.

I knew none of this in July 1963. With his summer overcoat and suitcase stowed in the trunk and Sir Philip settled in the passenger seat, we set off along the winding, mostly county, roads leading from Albany southwest towards Rensselaerville. Unlike Dr. Rabinowitch, Noel-Baker seemed eager to talk. He had come to the U.S. directly from a nuclear arms control conference in Europe, as I recall, and told me he was concerned that the War in Vietnam might draw in the Soviet Union, the world's other major nuclear nation, and China, on the cusp, in 1963, of becoming another. He wondered what I knew about Vietnam, the origin of the war, and the role played in its expansion by the United States. I realize now in retrospect that his question was a calculated one. I answered I really didn't know much beyond that North Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh, probably with the secret support of Russia and China, was waging unprovoked war on South



Porch at Huyck House

Photo courtesy of the Carey Institute for Global Good

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Vietnam and that without America's help Communism would soon engulf Asia. Sir Philip was not finished. Did I know anything of the history of the Indochina War, the 1954 Geneva Agreements or the role of the United States in their aftermath? he asked. I admitted I knew next to nothing about those things. Slowly, over the next hour, Sir Philip answered his own questions in ways that left me shaken and confused, answers that implicated my country in an essentially single-handed effort to undermine the agreements reached in Geneva between France and Vietnam, supposedly ending the nearly decade-old Indochina War. The U.S. had had its way and the borders provisionally splitting Vietnam into northern and southern areas had become permanent, the commitment agreed to by the signatories to hold unifying elections in 1955 sabotaged. Instead, in America's effort to stop what it considered a Communist takeover of the entire country, it had installed a puppet regime under Ngo Dinh Diem in what the United States and its allies insisted was now the independent nation of South Vietnam. But wasn't the U.S. justified in its concerns over

Ho Chi Minh and Communism? I suppose I asked. Sir Philip's answer was yes and no. By 1963 Ho was openly a Communist, but he hadn't started out that way. He had worked for decades to rid Vietnam of French colonial rule and in the wake of President Roosevelt's wartime declaration that at war's end America would support the anti-colonial aspirations of people around the world, Ho held justified hopes for his beloved Vietnam. Roosevelt's death, and America's desire for French membership in NATO, the price for which, de Gaulle privately insisted, was hands off France's colonial interests in southeast Asia, sealed Vietnam's fate.

Ho Chi Minh, viewed by most Vietnamese as the George Washington of his country, his hopes for American support now dashed, turned to the Soviet Union, the only place that

offered help. Sir Philip's implication was clear: the United States had betrayed Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh, driving them into the hands of the Communists. His concern that morning was also clear: few Americans knew the history of the war to which more and more American lives were being committed, and lost. He wanted me to know the truth.

In the years since 1963, I have come to accept that history is never quite so black and white as America's role in Vietnam seemed increasingly to have been that morning as I listened to Sir Philip's impassioned recitation. Questions of means and ends are rarely easy ones. It is true that the Pentagon Papers, the so-called secret history of how the United States became involved in Vietnam, published in 1971, largely supported Sir Philip's narrative, and through their revelations of our government's over twenty years of secret dealing and obfuscation, slowly helped to change American public opinion about the war that had cost so many lives. Whatever the complex truth of that dark period in U.S history, Sir Philip Noel-Baker jolted me out of any easy assumptions I had about America's role in the world. He made me face difficult questions about how much truth a democratic government owes its citizens. He started me on a now nearly sixty-year interest in politics and government. To this day I retain a healthy skepticism about what I read and hear.

As a tennis player myself, my duties in 1963 included maintaining the institute's old clay court. I can still see Sir Philip the morning after his talk, walking across the lawn toward me as I was rolling the clay. I can still hear him ask if when I was done I might find an extra racquet and give him a short rally. I did of course. My reward was a few more minutes with Sir Philip, that great man, that wonderful man, who had taken time



Peace Discussed in Peaceful Surroundings

C.V. Narasimhan, then 36, editor of UN Secretary General U Thant, left rear, in front of their office during a break in the United Nations meeting. Although the international body has experienced some failures, it will be an effective instrument for securing peace. The diplomats, representing countries throughout the world, were attending a friendly gathering at Rensselaerville and sponsored by The Institute on Man and Society.

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for me and set me on a course that changed my life but who in that brief moment was simply an old man playing tennis and having fun.

Charles Heyward



Doug Riter
Heather Hutton and
Peggy Bellenger

Summer Outdoor Concert

Dedicated to the memory Janet Haseley

Stringplicity, a string trio from the Rochester area, is playing a free concert Thursday, July 22 at 7:00pm on the side lawn of the Haseley family home at 44 Methodist Hill Road. Bring your lawn chair and blanket and enjoy the music. Donations will be accepted and they will all benefit the Rensselaerville Historical Society. Doug Riter, the curator of the Grist Mill art show, is a member of Stringplicity and has generously offered his trio to play this benefit concert.

Art Show

There are still openings for this year's Art Show, July 16-25, 2021. You can now sign up online (click the link below) or contact the Historical Society by email at rensseaervillehistoricalsoc@gmail.com.

Click on the link below for the 2021 Art Show application:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14Fjt5cDfxyR49pS1o7DIkQWEjuzvIR-1gDLjvZXDTzo/edit>



Photo by Bob Lynk

Covid-19 Country Style

The Albany County Sheriff's Emergency Medical Services Squad unpacked their van Sunday afternoon at the town hall in Rensselaerville and began giving shots. Those entitled had to be over 65; thus there was much gray hair, some canes and walkers, some oxygen canisters, and one wheelchair waiting in the narrow hall outside the main room. The wheelchair held a 93 year old lady, much loved and even more respected.



You could call her our local symbol of what it means to be tough and reliant out here in rural Albany County where on a clear day the Catskill Mountains seem close enough to touch.

I've lived in this community for over fifty years, arriving as an innocent, a tyro at the skills of country living, a total babe in the woods concerning the large and the small involved in fresh air survival. The large issues most often arriving on a frigid night in January when the furnace gives a polite cough of apology, turns up its toes and dies. The small, an overturned garbage can strewn across your back deck and a very large racoon burrowing within.

But back to the Covid vaccination clinic: impromptu, not very well advertised but the good news passing word of mouth as people do, well-organized, with the sheriffs' deputies deftly coordinating the dance: check in, establish eligibility, take a seat and wait your turn, when called turn left into a room of tables, sign up,

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Covid 19... *Continued from Page 8*

then back out and down the hall to get a shot. All done with good nature. No jumping the line. No grumbling about small inconvenience, no impatient throat clearing, and a fair amount of well-intended conversation.

Of course most everyone in the building had reason to be in a good mood. The long, tense time waiting for those of us past our prime, a time, according to the media, of extra vulnerability to the virus as they list the fatalities from the virus by age, was over. But what cheered my heart was the willingness in the crowd for everyone to be taken care of. And some of us, from the looks of us, really did need extra caring.

Jobs are scarce in the countryside and those that are available are low-paying. The romantic myth of the self-sufficient farming family has vanished – if it ever had flourished to the degree some would like to fondly imagine. And scarce work leads to a slow, dignified poverty, but poverty nevertheless.

But good will, wishing well for your neighbors as well as yourself, went a very long way to create a close comfort last Sunday afternoon. You could feel it in the room; you could mark it in the eyes, and in what you could see beyond the masks that all were dutifully wearing. The long vigil against the disease was finally waning. It was good: each of us country sorts, nodding in recognition to our long-term neighbors, sighing with collective relief, wishing each other to be and helping each other to be well. It was community.



Barbara DeMille

Research

The research group has been very busy since December. They have answered 25 requests; many of the individuals are researching family genealogy or information on houses or property. Several names have never been researched before — two individuals were looking for information on the Hanes/Haines family and the Culver family as well. Several additional Revolutionary War soldiers we were able to add to our index. The last of the Rensselaerville Historical Markers are just about ready to be put up. At least one has to be relocated because of road salt damage to the pole and sign. This spring the family bible for the TerBush family was sent to the RHS from Wisconsin. If you are related, stop in at the mill this summer and browse through it. We are open Wednesdays from 11am-2pm. The Rensselaerville Academy-School 16 inch school bell will be re-hung near the Rensselaerville Academy Historical Marker on the property of Kuhar Family Farm Market and Café.



Do you know the answer?

- Who owns School House number 11 located on Scutt Road?
- Do you have any information on Saunders Hayes?
- The Abrams family is looking for photos of George and Pearl Abrams of Medusa.
- Who is buried in the cemetery at Crystal Lake?
- Do you have any information on Jonathan Joice?
- Do you know where Ezekial and Elinor Pinckney are buried?
- Do you have any information on the death of Visa Shurtleff Foster, wife of Edward Foster Jr?
- We are searching for any information on Bertha Haines and her twin sister Bessie (Elizabeth), plus two brothers, Dewitt & Floyd. They lived on a farm in Rensselaerville. Bertha had a son, Clarence Harold Haines, born in 1920. She put Clarence in foster care about 1924 where he was adopted and changed his name. Who was his father? Why did Bertha end up in Poughkeepsie Mental Hospital? Lots of unanswered questions!
- Do you have any family information on Henry Dampier Lapaugh, born in October 1823 in Rensselaerville?

Date: _____

Name: _____

Membership (new or renewal)

Street or PO Box: _____

Town, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Alternate Mailing Address and when to use this if you are a "seasonal" resident (the post office will not forward our newsletter or other third class mail): _____

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The Rensselaerville Press is published quarterly by
 The Rensselaerville Historical Society
 P.O. Box 8,
 Rensselaerville, NY 12147

◊ Newsletter ◊

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