



Dear Friends and Members of the Hague Historical Society:

Here we are again . . . Only weeks away from our Annual Meeting, I find myself looking back over the last year, and in particular, the last six months. Good things have certainly happened.

- ◆ In March we sponsored a well-attended program on Adirondack ice with author Caperton Tissot presenting images from her book. We'll be raffling off a copy of that book at our August program. You can buy raffle tickets at any of our upcoming programs.
- ◆ We now have a bulletin board of our own on the front porch of the Community Center (see photo and story on p. 4). We will keep "Dates to Remember" there for your convenience as well as special program announcements.
- ◆ We purchased at auction a flat map cabinet for improved storage of oversized documents, maps, posters, etc. The cabinet sits on a custom-designed base that has provided us with badly needed additional storage space.
- ◆ We've begun work on a roadside marker for the area where the Garfield/ Phoenix/Beachside Hotel once stood, representing the era of Hague's early hotels.
- ◆ On June 28th the new edition of *Adirondack Life* will hit the newsstands and there's to be a piece on the Rising House complete with a photograph provided by our Museum. Keep an eye out for it!
- ◆ Our "Tourism Team" has spent months researching tourist accommodations and services. Their work enriches our knowledge of another era in our history.
- ◆ The "Looking Back" column in *The Hague Chronicle* has been well-received by the public. We've recently compiled copies of the columns from 2007-2010 and they're available in a binder in the Museum.

I can't say enough about our Board of Trustees and the support and energy they bring to the table. As a community, we are fortunate to have them on our history team. In addition to the Board, Jim Henderson, Ginger Kuenzel and my husband Dennis have played important supportive roles and it's great to have the extra "hands".

We hope to see you at our programs this summer. You'll enjoy them!

Pat McDonough

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, June 28th, 7pm
Annual Meeting and
"Tourism" Program

Thursday, June 30, 8pm
Watson Hall at Silver Bay
Seneca Ray Stoddard

Tuesday, July 26, 7pm
Kevin Johnson, Penobscot
Maine Museum, Searsport,
ME; Eastern Illustrating
Glass Plate Photos of the
Adirondacks

Wednesday, August 10, 7pm
Outboard Regattas
Presented by
Ginger Henry Kuenzel

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Inside this Issue:

Pages 2 & 3	Susan DeLarm Sandman, My Father: William Keith DeLarm
Page 4	What We've Been Up To . . .
Page 5	Membership Renewal Form
Page 6	Tourism Team

My Father: William Keith DeLarm

By Susan DeLarm Sandman

Most of you who were acquainted with Keith DeLarm knew him as the owner and proprietor of DeLarm's Dairy throughout the 1950's and 1960's, the owner/operator of Wintergreen Lake Campsite during the 1970's, or as the Supervisor of the Town of Hague for nearly 20 years. While my frame of reference was somewhat different, knowing him as a father, I did not know much about his early years until this winter when I came upon a treasure trove of his letters, written home from college and Marine Officer Candidate School during World War II. It was enlightening to say the least as they provided a glimpse of those early experiences that shaped the man he became.

William Keith DeLarm was born on June 19, 1922, on the family farm in West Hague, son of Ethel Fitzgerald DeLarm and Rollin Keith DeLarm. Some nine years later, a brother Jim arrived, completing the family. Keith grew up loving farm life, but he was also a natural athlete, as well as a gifted scholar. He played sports throughout school, including baseball and basketball. In 1941, he graduated first in his class from Hague Central School.

Ambitious from a young age, he had set his sights beyond Hague, wanting to pursue higher education in the field of agriculture at Cornell University. He was able to afford to attend Cornell through a variety of grants and scholarships, including a Sears and Roebuck Scholarship and as a participant in the ROTC program.

Never afraid of hard work, he held a number of jobs throughout college, but his experience on the farm landed his first job cleaning out the stables on the Ag campus before attending classes in the morning. To help defray the high cost of living while away at college, his mother would ship a suitcase outfitted with many small pockets filled with fresh eggs from the farm. Jim remembers his mother lovingly selecting the choicest eggs for the trip to Ithaca, which miraculously managed to make it without becoming a soufflé! At one point he was quite literally "eating high on the hog" with pork chops and sausages also sent from the farm, before he finally began earning his board by acquiring a job in a campus dining hall.

While at Cornell, Keith also played on the varsity baseball team, pitching side arm as the relief pitcher for the "Big Red". In one of his letters home, he muses about the "big money" offer that a fellow teammate (and starting pitcher) had received to play professional ball with the Chicago Cubs for \$700 per month. Enticing as the major leagues may have seemed, it was not for Keith, as he continued to advise his folks from afar on running the farm with his newly acquired education.

By the end of his third year at Cornell in 1944, WWII had escalated and like many other students he left college to serve his country. He attended the US Marine Corps Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Va. He wrote often how extremely rigorous the training was physically, mentally and emotionally, as many candidates fell by the wayside who were not deemed officer material. He felt his patience was tested endlessly, but he endured, graduated as a Second Lieutenant and was sent to Camp Pendleton in southern California. Shortly thereafter, he shipped out to Pearl Harbor and eventually Okinawa where he remained until the Japanese surrendered in August of 1945.

Keith returned to Hague following the war and began plans to run a small dairy operation on the family farm, but first he needed to complete his final year at Cornell. Fate intervened that summer, when a lively, leggy blond who was waitressing at the Island Harbor House caught his eye. Nancy Perry was spending the summer with her Aunt Ethel Clifton before starting college in the fall. Their courtship ensued and a year later they introduced Nancy's college roommate, Penny, to Dick Bolton which led to a similar outcome.

Nancy and Keith married in October of 1948, but wedded bliss was interrupted not long after as Keith was called back into service due to the Korean Conflict. Again, he was stationed at Camp Pendleton, this time in charge of the large motor pool. They lived in Oceanside, California until his tour of duty ended in 1953.

Upon their return to Hague, they poured their energy into growing the dairy business (by then located on the

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main street of Hague in the building next to the general store). They had their first child, daughter Susan. She was followed by two more daughters, Sally and then Sheri, before a son was born. The townspeople got quite a kick out of the little blue overalls that Keith proudly displayed from a flagpole over the dairy to announce the arrival of his son David.

DeLarm's Dairy was a hot bed of activity in those days with people often stopping by; practical jokes abounded. On one occasion, an employee ready to leave work for the day was astonished to find his VW Beetle perched upon milk crates behind the dairy. Each year Keith made his special holiday eggnog which generated a steady stream of townspeople stopping by to sample that season's offering. They often brought along applejack or other spirits to make it just a bit more festive!

The Memorial Day parade was another particularly important event in town each year and Keith, a Captain, was the highest ranking veteran which gave him the honor of leading the parade. He maintained in his characteristic understated way that the real reason was that he was the only one in town who could still fit into his uniform! The highlight of my young life (and later my siblings) was the thrill of being allowed to run out and march along my father's side for those last few hundred feet of the parade.



In 1957, Keith, ready for another challenge, ran for Supervisor of the Town of Hague as a Democrat in a town that was almost 4 to 1 Republican. He won and continued to serve for 19 years and for a portion of that time, as the only Democratic supervisor in Warren County. Some of his proudest accomplishments were implementing zoning to ensure orderly development within the town, building sidewalks through the town center, expanding the town park with slips for boaters and working at the County level to create a bike path throughout Warren County which was dedicated

and named for him. He was well respected and served as Chairman of many committees at the County level. It was said of him that with his reserved manner, "he did not speak often, but when he did everyone listened". At the end of his 19 years as Supervisor, he was honored by the town he served with "Keith DeLarm Day", a day that celebrated his accomplishments and demonstrated the townspeople's appreciation.

The development of Wintergreen Lake Campsite was his final undertaking, as the dairy business waned due to market conditions (large companies forcing out the small independent dairies). He sought to capitalize on the camping craze of the 1960's and bought the farm land from his father. With the assistance of the entire family, he turned what had been known locally as "The Marsh" into Wintergreen Lake Campsite. This endeavor also provided him the perfect opportunity to venture into an area that held special fascination for him, alternative energy. He built a 1200 gallon underground tank and created solar panels of his own design to supply hot water for the bathhouses at the campground. He was so encouraged by this success that he developed a closed heating system in our home to alleviate the need for oil. He ran water to radiators throughout the house heated by the wood burning fireplace. Truly a visionary, he began thinking of ways that he would create wind power. Nancy feared that we would wind up with a windmill on our lawn! Unfortunately, fate again intervened and he became ill with colon cancer, never realizing his dreams for wind power. He passed away in January of 1979.

Many would say that Keith DeLarm was a true Renaissance Man; he would say that he was a "jack of all trades and a master of none". As his daughter, I would say that he was a man of honor, an entrepreneur with a pure heart, with a love for his country, town and family that knew no bounds. He gave much, asked little and his legacy (as in the Emerson quote) is that he left the world a better place having been here.



Susan, Sally, Sheri and David with parents Nancy and Keith at Wintergreen

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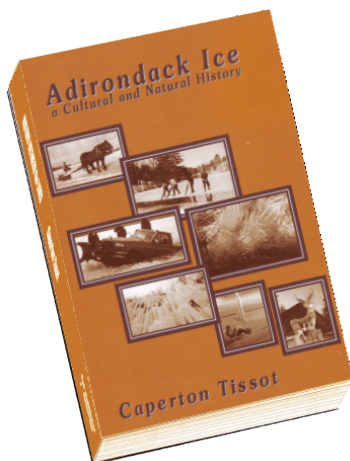
What we've been up to . . .



Have you noticed the Historical Society's bulletin board on the front porch of the Community Center? It's where you can find dates of our upcoming programs and other items of interest. The cabinet was originally built by **Jim Henderson**; cut in half by **Steve Davis** to allow the glass front to swing open; and engineered and installed by **Dennis McDonough**. We are indebted to them for making this happen for us!



At the end of March Caperton Tissot presented a program on Adirondack Ice and its effects on our lives and culture both today and through history. Here she is with her book on that subject, a copy of which will be raffled at our August meeting. The evening was well attended and enjoyed by those who joined us.



Raffle tickets are available for "Adirondack Ice". If you missed a chance to purchase raffle tickets at the beach on Memorial Day, you can still get them at any of our programs this summer. \$1/ticket or 4 tickets for \$3. Please help support your Historical Society's efforts. We thank you!



Enid and Ken Engler had the fun assignment of scanning 48 postcards from the Museum's collection, having them printed and installed in this antique postcard rack. The cards were real attention-getters at our March program and we've since had additional copies printed to sell to the public. You can enjoy the cards at any of our programs this summer. Come by and have a look. Framed, they would make a great gift item for any Hague-lovers on your list.

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Hague Historical Society
P. O. Box 794, Hague, NY 12836-0794

Membership/Renewal Form – 2011

Membership dues remain at \$5/person and your check can be made out to “Hague Historical Society” and mailed with this form to the address above.

We also welcome contributions. While the Town supports us through the purchase of major items, we cover all other expenses with your dues and contributions. Our expenses include mailings and postage, office supplies, workshops, printing costs, memberships, and other miscellaneous expenditures related to our projects and the management of the Museum. This spring we funded the purchase of the map cabinet and platform on which it sits.

Name _____

Permanent Address:

Seasonal Address (if applicable):

Phone _____

Phone _____

email _____

email _____

May your email be used in lieu of notifications by postal mail? _____

\$ _____	Dues @ \$5/person
\$ _____	Contribution
\$ _____	Total

Thank you for your generosity!

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HAGUE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
PO BOX 794
Hague, NY 12836

Phone:
(518) 543-6725

email:
haguehistoricalsociety@
yahoo.com

On the Web!
See the link on the Town of
Hague Home Page



Researchers: Seated—Judy Stock, Kathi Ramant, Pam Bresett; Standing — Dorothy Brauner, Sally Rypkema, Sandy Rypkema, Judy Schultz, Mary Ann Eaton, Enid Engler, Carolyn Dunn, and Pat McDonough. Absent — Gale Halm.and Mary Keefer.

Pictured above is the “Tourism” team which began its meetings in January when they took on assignments of places to research. Many of them had been on the Hotels research team so it was interesting when they came back to report on their work, they said “This one is really harder. There’s less documentation available.” But as they dug deeper, one thing became very apparent. The places we were looking at had been owned, managed, frequented, rented, etc. by folks who are still with us and who were more than willing to share their memories, pictures and printed materials. The team has encountered many people from near and far who were extraordinarily helpful on the project. The Society thanks our dedicated researchers and all those who enriched their reports with personal reminiscences, photographs, and other ephemera.

Be sure to come out on June 28th to see the results!

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 794
HAGUE, NY 12836

