

Preserving and Promoting our History

Dates to Remember:

March 29, 2011
"Adirondack Ice"
Presented by Author,
Caperton Tissot

June 28, 2011
Annual Meeting
Tourist
Accommodations and
Services

July 19, 2011
Hague's Outboard
Regattas
Presented by
Ginger Henry Kuenzel

All programs are at
7pm at the Hague
Community Center

Board of Trustees

Pat McDonough, President
Gale Halm, VP
Judy Stock, Secretary
Kathi Ramant, Treasurer

Pam Bresett
Susan Darrin
Enid Engler
Pam Peterson
Ray Snyder

Gerald Crammond, Town
Historian
Edna Frasier, Town Board

Dear Historical Society Members and Friends,

As I look back over 2010, I'm happy to say that we've had a banner year. Our Board continues to be enthusiastic and productive! The proof is in the pudding:

- ✓ Our hotels research committee developed the information for two "Heyday of Hague's Hotels" programs that were very well attended
- ✓ We took our programs to audiences at the Silver Bay YMCA, the Kiwanis Club, and the Hague Seniors Club
- ✓ We installed a Town-purchased PC in the Museum that has all our recent programs, with voice-over, for the public's viewing pleasure
- ✓ Our library of binders in the Museum continues to grow and offers interesting reading and information for the public
- ✓ We continued our oversight of the Hague Heritage Cemetery with clean-ups, care of the gravestones and the Town installation of new stairs and a handrail
- ✓ We designed and oversaw the installation of an historical marker on the Graphite mountain road
- ✓ We participated in Warren County Historical Society special events and are working with the Lakes to Locks staff on video minutes that will be seen on the Stewarts' shops screens
- ✓ We offered at least three other programs to the public
- ✓ And . . . we now have a logo of our own in plenty of time for our 50th anniversary in 2013! **(See page 6!)**

Continued on Page 6 . . .

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2-3 A Visit with Jim DeLarm
- 4 What we've been up to
- 5 Membership Form
- 6 New Logo!

A Visit with Jim DeLarm

by Pat McDonough

If you're interested in Hague History, one of the folks it's most fun to visit with is Jim DeLarm. He knows so much of what has transpired in his family and with those around him, and he loves telling all these tales. His conversation is peppered with "I know it for a fact." I expect his father was just as good a story teller and the source for much of Jim's material. Judy Stock and I spent two hours videotaping Jim in September 2009 and here is some of what he shared.

The roots of the DeLarm clan in Hague seem to begin with Richard DeLarm. He was a trained Wesleyan minister who had served briefly in the Civil War and received a medical discharge due to tuberculosis. He found his way to Hague after his discharge and rode the circuit from church to church. When he married Emeline Kelly, they settled down on 200 acres of farmland he bought from the Rising family. Emeline's family farm was in Coldwater Canyon where the Dykstras now live.

Richard and Emeline had a large family. One son, William Wilder, was the first in the family to receive a college degree. He attended Troy Business College. Apparently he wasn't always happy about being away from the farm and wrote home asking to leave Troy, but his father was hell-bent on him getting an education and wrote back "You stay there until you finish." He did! His 1885 framed graduation certificate now hangs over Bruce DeLarm's mantle!

Having his degree, he was qualified to teach and became the local teacher over towards Tuffertown on New Hague Road. The core of Ralph Denno's home was that schoolhouse. It was a four-mile walk from the farm to the school, so on good weather days father Richard allowed him to take the pony. But in bad weather, to protect the pony, William had to walk the eight-mile round trip. The school had a potbelly stove for which he daily cut a supply of kindling and carried that, along with his lunch bucket. All this for \$1/day and after a while they raised him to \$6/week.

William married Hannah Jenkins in 1889 and took over the farm when his father died in 1887. They had nine children: Cecil, Rollin, John, Leola, Gertrude, Verner, Mona, Kenneth, and Dulcie who didn't survive. It was a bustling household.

Jim recalls the story of young Gertrude coming down sick and her father, being sure it was appendicitis, put out a call to Doc Cummings in Ti to come quick. The doctor arrived on the scene, ordered the children out of the house, and requested a white sheet to cover the kitchen table and a pot of boiling water. "I'm going to operate in ten minutes." And so he did – successfully – because Gertie lived 80 more years! And, as Jim says, the next day they were back to shelling peas on the kitchen table!

The oldest of William's clan was John who ran the store and the post office at Graphite. Brother Kenneth worked in a machine shop in Springfield, VT, and he enticed his brother Rollin to come and work with him, but farming was in Rollin's blood and he returned to Hague where he bought his father's farm in 1920. Kenneth later moved to New Jersey where he ran a successful chicken farm.

Cecil, known as "Zeke", remained in Hague and ran the saw mill on Dodd Hill Road. They also had two rows of cottages, 13 in all, on their property. Some of those cottages remain today as the semi-circle known as Lakeshore Hills at the corner of Dodd Hill and 9N. There was also an ice cream store there across from Judy Stock's red barn. Cecil's sawmill was a good local employer especially during World War II when he was supplying lumber for the government's war efforts. Men who worked there didn't have to serve in the armed services. Jim recalls working there as a youth and finding it to be one of the hardest jobs he ever had.

Leola died after childbirth, leaving her daughter Dulcie (Palmer) in need of care. Dulcie's father was not able

to care for her on his own so her Aunt Gertrude and husband Andrew Lewis took her into their home. Dulcie's father never allowed her to be adopted.

The DeLarm farm was enlarged by 100 acres when Jim's grandfather bought the Swamp Gore property from Gene Doolittle, a local trapper. In time Rollin bought the farm from his father William.

One story Jim loves to tell is how Leroy ("Roy") Balcom came to sell his farm to the Graphite company running the mill at the time. Seems Roy owned 300 acres on which the company was dumping sand from the refining process around the turn of the century. The company began to worry that Balcom would sue them. Not wanting to tip their hand, they sent a farmer to speak with Leroy about buying his acreage. Leroy said "you come around and I'll give you a tour". The farmer expressed interest and asked, "How much?" Roy said, "Make me an offer;" the farmer responded, "\$5000." Balcom was beside himself with glee and headed lickety-split off to Ti to have a deed drawn. Years later, standing about up at the Graphite store, Leroy recalled at some great length what a "killing" he had made. An official from the company was among his listeners and could hold his tongue no longer; "You could have gotten twice as much -- \$10,000 -- that old farmer was working for us and we now own the land." That must have blown some wind out of Roy's sails! After the sale he moved on to Brant Lake for a bit where he ran a bakery, but it didn't work out so he returned to Hague, bought a house (presently O'Toole's) and being a talented carpenter, made his living building houses.

Years later Lonergan from the Graphite company came to see Rollin and offered to sell him 200 acres of the original Balcom land. He said the company had no use for it. Rollin said, "Well, I couldn't pay \$5000 for it.", but Lonergan said if Rollin would take it off their hands that year, he could have it for \$700. The deal was made and brother Cecil later cut \$700 worth of timber off that land! The farm now amounted to 500 acres and presently Jim's house sits on a piece of that Balcom land.

Jim recalled tales of the Brace family who lived not far from the DeLarm farm. The father was a hired hand on the farm and was known to be a bit light fingered. He'd leave for the day with a couple of eggs from the chicken coop. When questioned by Jim's grandmother, he'd say, "I only borrowed them." Tools frequently disappeared as well and so on occasion they'd take a big wagon over to Brace's, have a cup of tea with him, and Grandpa and Brace would load up the tools for return to the farm. Before long the same tools began to disappear again and the recovery routine repeated itself!

Rollin DeLarm had a bad hunting experience when he was about 17 years old. It was 1916 and he was out trapping toward Brandt Lake and the Spring Hill Farm. It was deer hunting season, he had his rifle with him, and there was a deer drive underway when he was hit by two quick shots. One entered in his chest and exited out his back; the second hit his hatchet case. He was able to stem the bleeding some by putting his finger in the entry hole. The hunters arrived on the scene and the young hunter, who had shot him, threw his gun and ammunition away, saying he'd never hunt again. Rollin wanted to walk on home, but the hunters insisted he go with them up to the store at Graphite looking for help. DeLarm kept drinking whatever water he could find on the way -- puddle water included -- and when they arrived at the store, his brother John said, "What happened to you, Rolly?" Of course, he was bleeding all the way, but they were able to get him a ride home and in the meantime, someone called the doctor in Ti and told him to come to the DeLarm farm. The doc arrived before Rollin did, and old William said, "Doc, what are you doing here?" "Got a call," answered the doctor. "Well, there's no one hurt here, but come in for a cup of coffee as long as you're here." No one had thought to let Rollin's parents know so they were surprised when he walked in with a bullet hole in him.

The doctor said he didn't know how Rollin was still alive, but he threaded an alcohol-soaked rag through a needle which he pumped back and forth through the wound. Rollin said the treatment was more painful than being shot, but he did survive and was instructed to take bed rest for three months while it healed. Despite Rollin's objections, his father kept him strictly to the bed rest for as long as he could, but after two months Rollin was back to work on the farm though he did cause damage to the wound. Jim believes that opening of the wound was probably a good thing because it allowed any festering to leak out.

[Continued on Page 5](#)

What we've been up to . . .



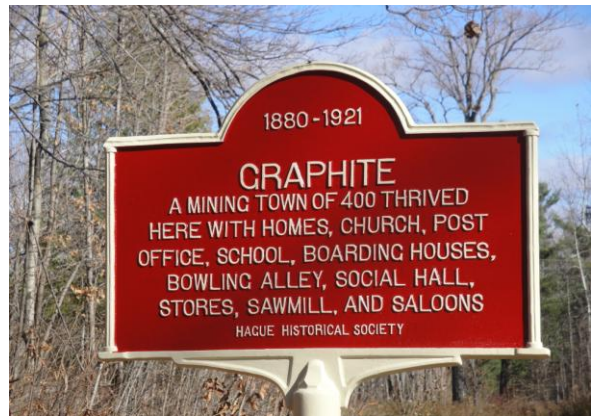
Kathi Ramant at gravestone care and restoration workshop in Thurman



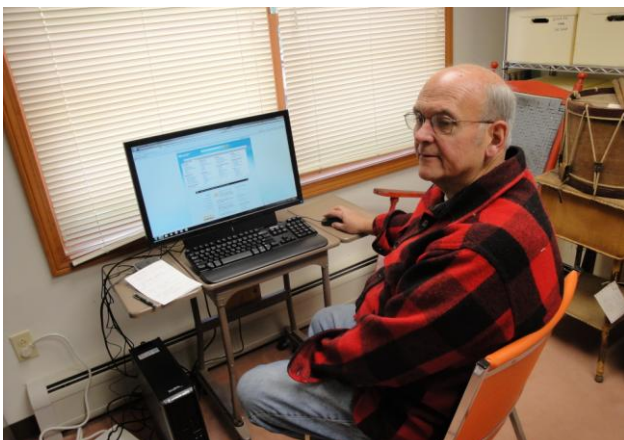
Myles and Pam Peterson with Ginger Kuenzel doing the October raking at the Heritage Cemetery Ray Snyder had left before the photo!



HHS exhibit at Warren County History Day included Hiram Sexton's Civil War compass and letter written home to his family.



Above: Graphite's new roadside marker. Below: Jim DeLarm being interviewed by Adirondack Museum Staff for a new project on Adirondack Mining.



Jim Henderson at work on installation of the Museum computer



A visit with Jim DeLarm . . . continued from page 3

Though his horses were generally docile, one time Rollin was kicked by one and suffered a compound fracture of his arm. It needed to be casted and Rollin told the doctor to “make it extra heavy.” “Why?” inquired the doctor. “Just want it that way,” was the response. He never told the doctor that it was because he wanted the cast to be strong enough to hold a maple sugaring pail! He could sugar, but couldn’t milk so his brother-in-law Henry Watts (Jane Crammond’s father) came up to the farm every day in his Model A to do the milking.

Jim’s Pa, Rollin, ran the family farm and he and his wife Ethel (Fitzgerald) had two sons, James and William Keith. We’ll learn more about Keith in our next newsletter when Susan DeLarm Sandman shares her memories of her father.



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.

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.

**HAGUE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

P. O. 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

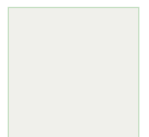


Continued from Page 1

We are very encouraged by and appreciative of the support of the Town of Hague Board and the many community citizens who have come out for our programs, contributed financially, and shared photos and artifacts to add to our collection. We thank you and look forward to 2011 and another successful and historic year.

Pat McDonough

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 794
HAGUE, NY 12836



RECIPIENT NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST ZIP CODE