

Colchester History Connections Newsletter

March 1, 2017, Colchester Historical Society, Box 112, Downsville, New York 13755

Volume 7, Issue 1 Preserving the history of Downsville, Corbett, Shinhopple,
Gregorytown, Horton and Cooks Falls

Website: www.colchesterhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/colchesternyhistorian/>

Historical Society Room, 72 Tannery Road, Downsville, New York is open
by appointment, please call

Kay Parisi-Hampel, Town Historian at 607-363-7303

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting for the Colchester Historical Society will be Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 7 PM in the Historical Society Room on the basement level of the Colchester Town Hall. Election of Officers and Board members will take place at that meeting and a planning session for 2017 will also be on the agenda. We invite the public to become members and volunteer. We always have a variety of jobs and tasks and we can tailor them to your talents and skills. Please send us an email at: info@colchesterhistoricalsociety.org to volunteer.

Displays

April-October—World War 1

April 2, 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entrance into World War 1. Military items from Colchester veterans will be on view in the Town Hall display case.

One of our World War 1 veterans, William A. Young, was from Horton, NY. William entered the Army on November 22, 1917, he served in the 6th Co. 153 Depot Brigade until December 3, 1917, then Co. K Infantry to December 12, 1917 and finally in the Machine Gun Co. 7th Infantry to discharge on February 19, 1919. He was severely wounded on July 15, 1918, in the Second Battle of the Marne in the Champagne region of France. 12,000 U.S. troops were injured or died at the Marne. The Second Battle of the Marne was the last major German offensive of World War 1.

William returned to Colchester after his service and lived with his wife Ruby E. Gregory Young and family in Colchester, working as a teamster, tinsmith and finally as a farmer on Wilson Hollow in Downsville.



William A. Young



Postcard sent by Young from Fort Dix

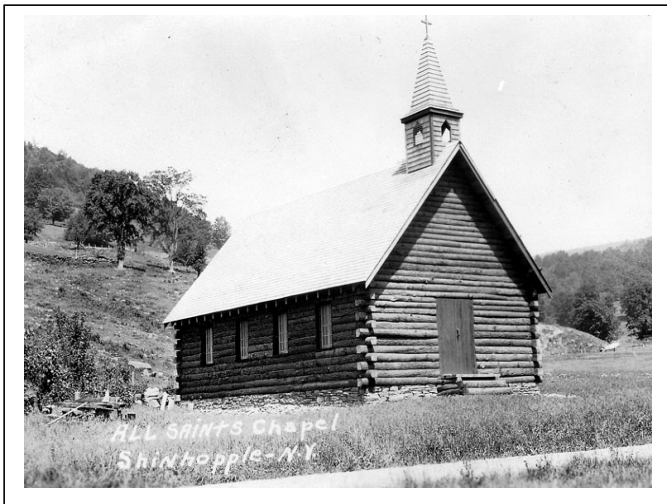


William A. Young in France

Shinhopple Memorial Center/All Saints Chapel--Shinhopple, New York

In 1932 community members felt that they needed a permanent place to worship. Property was donated and church construction funding was provided by philanthropist Angelica L. Gerry who also funded the building of the Episcopal church in Lake Delaware. In December, a foundation of local bluestone was laid and in January of 1933 the construction of the rustic log church was begun and finished in time to hold services on Easter Sunday of that year. The building was in use as an Episcopal church until 1950 when age and declining membership forced its abandonment. The chapel was then incorporated on May 30, 1951 and turned into a community center. The Shinhopple Memorial Center was dedicated on July 4, 1951. The center was dedicated to four local veterans who were killed in action: Richard O. McCarthy, Leonard I. Tompkins, William D. Francisco and William R. McKune. On November 3, 1952, the land and building payments were completed and turned over to the community. The center has a new Board and officers and is moving ahead with plans to finish renovations and preservation work to ready the building for future community use. Check out the work they have completed and future plans on their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Shinhopple-Memorial-Center-1036605579816987/>

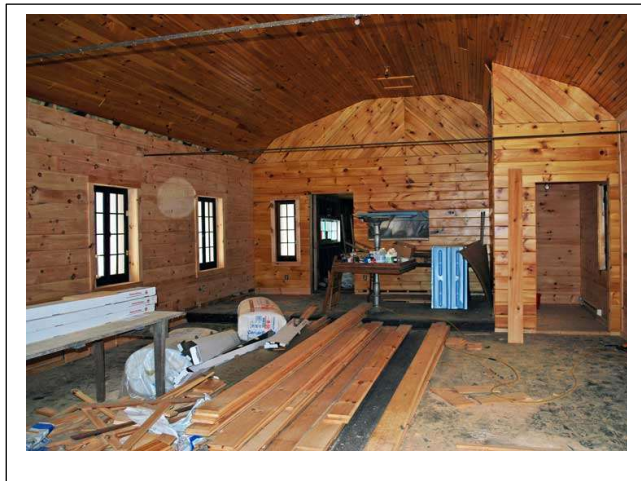
The Memorial Center will be hosting a Wilson BBQ fundraiser for the Center renovations on Saturday, May 13, 2017 on the corner of Main and Tannery Road, Downsville, from 10 until sold out. Come out and support their preservation efforts.



Early postcard of the All Saints Chapel



2017 Showing new roof and restored bell tower.



The interior has been insulated; new electric service; tongue and groove interior installed. Plans include the installation of a new handicapped bathroom, new well and septic systems, kitchen facilities and handicapped entrance ramp.

A look back at the Downsville Village Dissolution: *Catskill Mt. News, March 2, 1951*

Validates Downsville Dissolution: The Assembly last week validated the dissolution of the Village of Downsville, voted at a referendum in March 21, 1950.

At the same time, approval was given to the establishment in September, 1950, of the Downsville Lighting District.

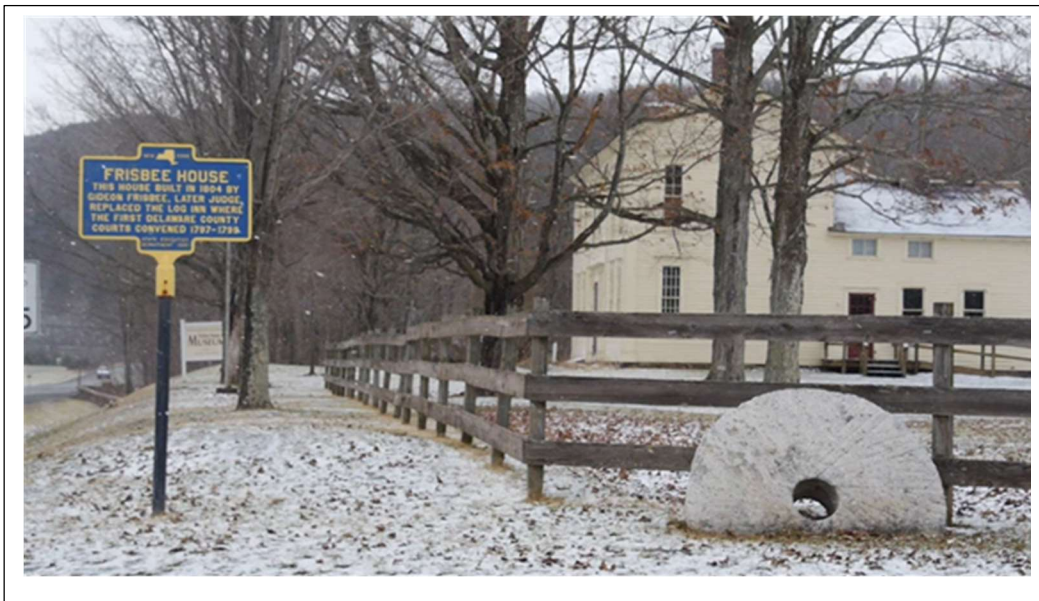
One reason for the dissolution is to secure lower taxes. New York's big Pepacton dam will carry most of the taxes in the township of Colchester. The village of Downsville would not take part in this if it remained a separate unit. But as part of the township it will enjoy township taxes.

History Conference—Saturday, April 29, 2017

Making History in Delaware County, 1 PM-4PM at the Delaware County Historical Association, State Highway 10, Delhi, New York. Biennial Historical Society Conference designed for town and village historical society members in Delaware County. Attendees are asked to bring questions of concern for the round-table discussion, as well as dates of planned events, and handouts which can be shared for cross-promoting. Free admission. Call 607-746-3849 to register.

Birthplace of Delaware County

Check out the Fox 40 presentation on the Frisbee house: <http://www.wicz.com/story/34706227/how-a-revolutionary-war-vets-home-became-the-birthplace-of-delaware-county>

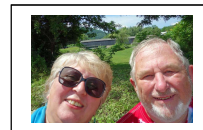


Urges History Fans to Support Effort with #HistoryRelevance Social Campaign

The American Association for State and Local History today joins more than 100 historical organizations around the country to endorse the History Relevance Value Statement and declare the importance of teaching and learning history.

To celebrate, AASLH is encouraging history fans to post a selfie of themselves enjoying their favorite historical spot, and use the hashtag [#HistoryRelevance](https://www.historyrelevance.com).

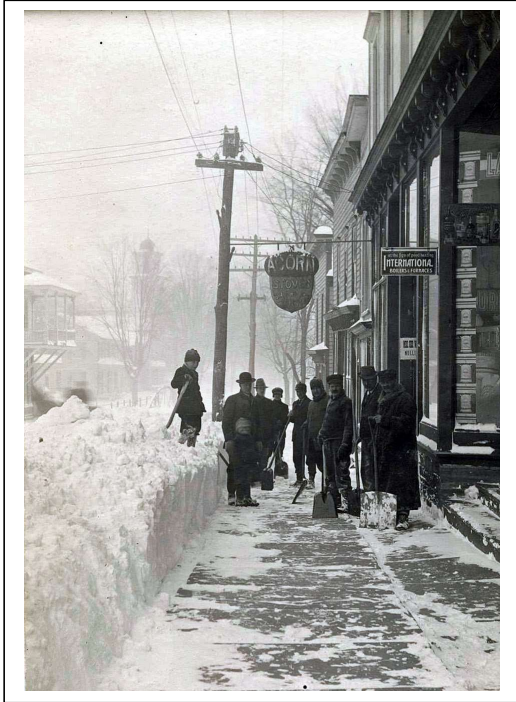
Downsville Covered Bridge#HistoryRelevance



The Value Statement is comprised of seven distinct tenets delineating critical ways the study of history is essential to individuals, communities, and our shared future. The full Value Statement can be found at <https://www.historyrelevance.com/value-statement>.

Snowstorms

We have just survived the blizzard named **Stella** on March 14 and 15th. Here are some photos of other blizzards in Colchester. If you have some good photos of Stella hitting Colchester, please send them to me for our Historical Society files: hampelk@colchesterhistoricalsociety.org



Mid 1900's



Mid 1900's



February 1945



March 1959

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:

2017 Annual Meeting March 28, 2017 at 7 PM

April 25, 2017 at 10 AM

May 30, 2017 at 7 PM

June 27, 2017 at 10 AM

July 25, 2017 at 7 PM

August 29, 2017 at 10 AM

September 26, 2017 at 7 PM

October 31, 2017 at 10 AM

November 28, 2017 at 7 PM

December 19, 2017 at 10 AM