



Hadley – Lake Luzerne Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 39 Issue 1

Spring 2024



WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY'S PAST A PART OF ITS FUTURE

STAYING AT THE WAYSIDE

By *Richard B Dressner* I recently came across a letter written in 1902 from a guest at The Wayside Inn on the hotel's stationery. The writer, Ms. Perkins, offers a detailed account of her stay at the hotel and is one of the few first-hand descriptions we have of the hotel's amenities. A portion of the letter and a complete transcription of the letter are on page 4 – but first a few words about The Wayside.

After the Civil War, Luzerne was already a well-known summer resort community attracting wealthy tourists and vacationers from the New York City area. The Wayside was built by [Colonel Benjamin C. Butler](#) in 1869 and at the time of Ms. Perkins' stay, was still one of the grand resort hotels of the Adirondacks. Located on a twenty-acre site overlooking the lake, the majestic, Victorian building housed 200 guests with an additional ten large "cottages" rented by wealthy families for the season. There was a separate [casino and game building](#), grass tennis courts, riding stables, gardens, and a boathouse and dock on the lake.



The Wayside Inn

There was a separate [casino and game building](#), grass tennis courts, riding stables, gardens, and a boathouse and dock on the lake.

See **WAYSIDE Pg 4** ►

Thank you to the following for your recent financial contributions

Marsena Campbell, Gary and Judy Askins, Harriet Eggleston, Casandra Lawrence, Ruth Roider, Pricilla Edwards, Renee & Tom O'Brien, Suzanne Robbins, Wendy & Chuck Haugh, Helen Williams, Darrah Land Surveying, Barbara Carr, Murray and Marsha Jaros, Robert Forte, James and Barbara Green, Jane and John Granich, Jim and Geraldine McCauley, Stanley and Patricia Goldberg, Maryann Widman (in honor of her Parents, Alice and Ted Widman)

Sally Goodhart, Treasurer

HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Hadley-Lake Luzerne Historical Society President Sue Wilder is pleased to announce that two new board members have joined the leadership team, and the organization is welcoming Roberta VanDerzee and Aileen Sheil who joined the board in January. These individuals bring a wealth of organizational experience and drive to our cause. Throughout the half-century of the society's existence, numerous community members have stepped up to make a difference, and like those who came before them, Roberta and Aileen's appointments come at a time of significant momentum for historical preservation in the southern Adirondacks.

See **BOARD Pg 2** ►

Inside This Issue

President's Letter	Pg 2
Saving the Bow Bridge; How it started . .	Pg 3
Pine Hill Colony	Pg 4
Mystery Photo Answer	Pg 5
Luzerne Ice Industry / Racing on Ice	Pg 5
Membership Form	Pg 5
Mystery Photo	Pg 6
Puzzle / History Resources	Pg 6

We Need You !!! Are you friendly, outgoing, enjoy talking on the phone, and have some time to donate to the Hadley- Lake Luzerne Historical Society? In order to prepare for the upcoming summer season, the HLLHS is in need of a Volunteer Liaison. This position would entail you reaching out to members who indicated an interest to volunteer for the society. Your job would be to welcome them to the society, find out where their interests and strengths as a volunteer lie and then direct them to the right spot that fits their interests and expertise. If this sounds like a job for you, please call us at [518•696•4520](tel:5186964520) and leave a message. One of our board directors will get back to you. Hope to hear from you soon. *Thanks!*

From the Office of the President

Dreams, Goals and Successes!

Emotions erupted when the reality of being elected to the position of the historical society's president really hit me. I'm honored, humbled and frankly a little horrified all at the same time.

Where does one start? It begins with a dream. Dreams composed of thoughts and ideas for the future of the Hadley-Lake Luzerne Historical Society. Do we create a history center to tell our story in words, pictures, and voice? Do we maintain a place where the door is always open for all to enter in? Are there enough like-minded volunteers striving to contribute to the betterment of the historical society? Embarking on the unknown is always a challenge.

Dreams kick start us to look to the future. They become realities when we set goals. Some goals are huge, some are long-range and take much time to accomplish, some are the right size and at the right time so we can achieve immediate success! Like the possibility of someday adding digital technology to the Kinnear Museum of Local History. A goal we are pleased to announce we have achieved. We have added computers, printers and a digital camera to our office which brings Internet and Wi-Fi and lots of other possibilities too. This success will drive us closer to achieving our next goal.

We are all volunteers giving our best to the community we love thereby preserving our local story for future generations. I'm honored and blessed to have a full board of volunteer men and women with a blend of talents and experiences capable of bringing to fruition the dreams and goals of the Hadley-Lake Luzerne Historical Society.

Let us work together to make our Past a part of its Future!



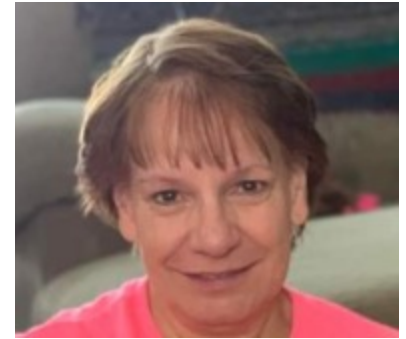
Sue W.

BOARD

Cont'd From Page 1

ROBERTA VANDERZEE

Newly appointed Board Member Roberta VanDerzee made Lake Luzerne her permanent home in 1985. It was the draw of [Painted Pony Ranch](#) (where she successfully competed in Rodeo Competitions) that brought her here and where she remains as one of our many notable civic contributors. Roberta's first introduction to local history was through working with Lester Thomas (author of Timber, Tannery, and Tourists) and the bicentennial celebrations. Since that time, Roberta is a familiar face in everything from voluntary food collections to helping those in need. Her special areas of interest are the French & Indian War, the American Revolution, and Civil War, and the local connections with each of these historic events. Roberta retired from a 40-year career with a major insurance company in 2021. She currently works part time at the [Caldwell-Lake George Library](#) and enjoys spending time with her three-year-old twin grandsons. Roberta also dedicates time to volunteer for [Woofs for Warriors](#), Inc, and has a true appreciation for those who have fought for our country.




Roberta VanDerzee

AILEEN SHEIL

For three generations, the Sheil family has been in Lake Luzerne, and Aileen has made the conservation of the local environment and historic preservation an important part of her life. She is active in the New York State [Loon Conservation](#) program and volunteers diligently to protect wildlife in the Lake Luzerne Watershed. Professionally, Aileen works with the [NYC Parks Department](#) as Environmental Remediation Coordinator, where she identifies issues and potential solutions throughout the life of the many remediation projects which are ongoing. Aileen's



Aileen Sheil

impact is already being recognized in our community for the outstanding programming she is coordinating for the 2024 season, which is now underway. While the entire program's season will not be announced until late April, it is assured to be full of meaningful speakers, demonstrations, and local flavor. As Aileen herself says, "I am happy to be part of a local organization like the Historical Society which truly makes a real difference in our community. Even before joining the board, I saw the impact the people of the Society makes and am now delighted to be a part of it." 

Officers and Directors

PRESIDENT	DIRECTORS
Susan Wilder	Matt Hanlon
VICE PRESIDENT	Richard Dressner
Howard Schaffer	Stanley Goldberg
SECRETARY	Roberta VanDerzee
Christine Blakely	Aileen Sheil
TREASURER	David Cranston
Sally Goodhart	

Hadley - Lake Luzerne
Historical Society
52 Main St ~ PO Box 275
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846

518 • 696 • 4520

Website: www.HLhistory.org
Email: Info@HLhistory.org

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE ?

Visit us on the web at www.HLhistory.org to read our latest news, view part of our collection, a few items in our Gift Shop, and more.

We're also on Facebook at
www.FB.com/hadleylakeluzernehistoricalsociety



IT ALL STARTED WITH THE DETERMINATION OF ONE PERSON

By Judy Hughes, former Hadley Town Historian

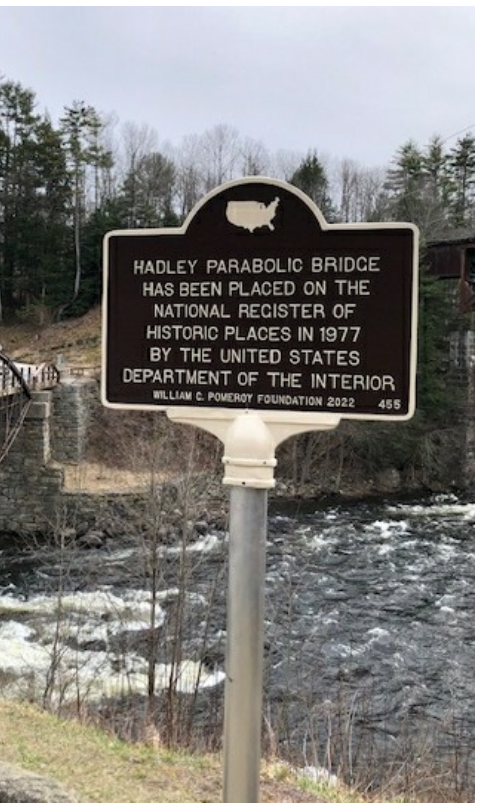
Lost in history over the last 50 years is the little-known fact that Hadley's Bow Bridge was put on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) to the efforts of one woman. Her name was Grace Butchino. I first met Grace in 1970 when I was 19 and she was the Hadley Town Clerk. My husband and I went to see her to buy our marriage license. Grace was a very friendly woman who always did her job and tried to be helpful to any and all that came to her window seeking assistance. She was born and raised in Schroon Lake, NY. She moved to Hadley after she [married](#); she and her husband, Dick, had two sons. Grace loved history, all kinds of history, but took special delight in doing [genealogy research](#) especially of her maiden name; Aiken (a good old Vermont name)! I was her soul sister in this area. Although historians will often say, "history is history and doesn't include genealogy", Grace and I felt that was untrue because you cannot have history without people. We became fast friends.

She first mentioned the idea of the Historic Register in about 1973. She researched Had-

ley Town minutes from meetings held back before the building of the bridge to find the thread she needed to prove and build her case for the national register. I would see her often and she would tell me all about the old minutes and interesting facts about Hadley. She eventually found everything she needed and proudly set the paperwork in motion. With her fingers crossed for good luck, she filled out the papers, and sent and resent many documents she had found. This process took quite some time. Eventually, she got the registration through.

The bridge was on the National Register of Historic Places. But, as in most things, the hierarchy of an organization needs more.

At that point, the Town of Hadley and Saratoga County became involved. Then everything expanded, years went by, changes had to occur to keep the bridge, etc. All these things are well documented.



Historic marker at Hadley's Bow Bridge

But, the one thing that will always remain was the fact it all began with a woman who enjoyed history. Grace worked with patience and determination to make her dream of the Bow Bridge a reality.

Remember, one person can truly make a difference.



At left: Grace Butchino with a plaque presented to her from the Society in 2003, for her dedication to Genealogical work. Former Society Board member Bruce Cole is behind Grace.

NEW ENTRANCE RAILING ADDED

From our Maintenance Committee

Our Maintenance Committee was notified that our entrance steps can be challenging at times. The committee tackled the problem had new hand railings added. For those who choose not to climb steps, a nearby ramp is available.



New railings on the steps of our entrance

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOURS

May & June - Saturday 12 to 3


(Starting July 1st, Thursday thru Sunday 12-3)

We are open based on volunteer availability. Before visiting us it is suggested you call during open hours to be sure we are open

You can also e-mail us at Info@HLhistory.org to make an appointment for any day or any time

WAYSIDE

Cont'd From Pg 1

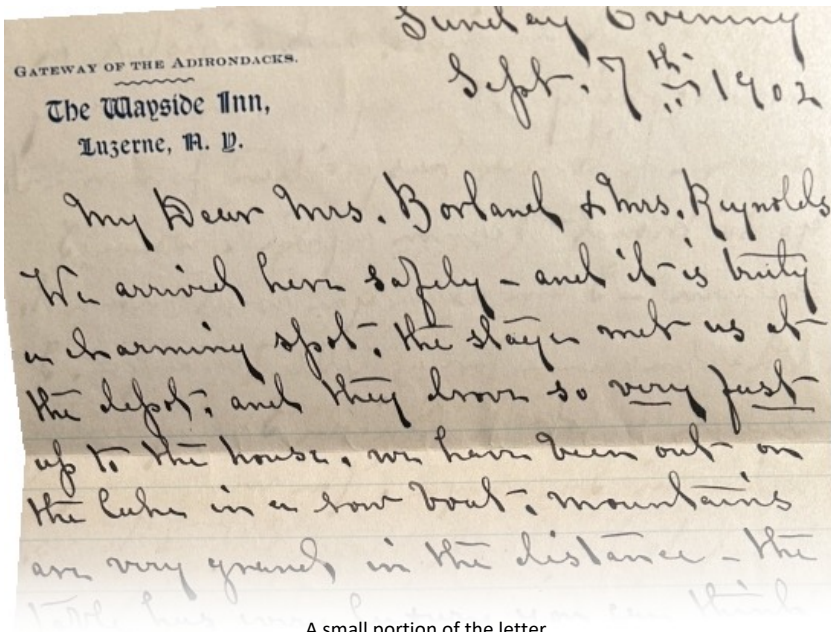
Although The Wayside was [destroyed by fire](#) in 1938 and would no longer be enjoyed by guests, Lake Luzerne remains in Ms. Perkins' words, "one of the loveliest nooks among the mountains that you can possibly think of." 

Sunday Evening
Sept. 7th, 1902

My Dear Mrs. Borland & Mrs. Reynolds

We arrived here safely – and it is truly a charming spot. The stage met us at the depot, and they drove so very fast up to the house. We have been out on the lake in a row boat – mountains are very grand in the distance – the table has every eatery you can think of. I have to deny myself very many things – but I have plenty of fresh fish so I do not take beef or lamb – only chicken and turkey. Ice cream every day and puddings and pies. All kinds of vegetables, even mushrooms. All kinds of soups – even the famous ox tail. This is one of the loveliest nooks among the mountains that you can possibly think of. They gave us an elaborate dinner at Saratoga as a farewell dinner. And insisted on our stopping there again on our way back. And Fred (?) has written for me to go to Mount Vernon again when I return – I am glad you went down to Chappaqua for a little change. I drank a lot of Lincoln Spring water while in Saratoga. You were very kind to forward those letters to us. I am writing this at twilight – just before supper- and I can hardly see – can't write well – but want to mail it – for the early morning mail. With lots of love to you all – and hoping to hear good news from Dimple – Ever and always yours most lovingly

M. Jennie (?) Perkins



A small portion of the letter

Complete letter transcribed by Richard B Dressner

A BRIEF GLIMPSE INTO PINE HILL COLONY

From our Collection Management Committee

This article is a small portion of a booklet produced by Judy Weinstein. She graciously donated a copy of her booklet to us and allowed us to use this article. The booklet goes into great detail about the history of [Pine Hill Colony](#) and the various cottages, along with notes about several Luzerne residents who were instrumental in settling the area. The complete 43 page booklet is available for reading at the Kinnear.

A HISTORY OF THE PINE HILL ASSOCIATION

(Based on minutes of Association meetings)

The first meeting of the Association was on July 5, 1952 at the Weinstein Cottage. All owners were present: Max Weinstein, John O'Grady, Morris Kaye, Jules Goldsmith, Nathan Proller, Nathan and Miriam Propp, Sam De Palma, Jacob Pliskin, Sam Levy, Louis and Rose Levin. They felt the need for an association because of "mutual interests," related to commonly held property and "some method by which these interests could be best served." They settled on a name ("Pine Hill Association"), elected officers, and set dues at \$10.

The next summer's meeting brought up an issue that was a problem for years: when to turn on and off the colony water supply. At that time the town controlled a valve near the gazebo. Other issues were paving the roads, sand for the beach ("brought in by truck on the ice"), need to replace the dock, and writing a constitution.

At the 1954 meetings beach sand was still an issue and the dock was being repaired. It was agreed to advise the town of the dangerous situation created by water skiing. They asked the town to put up buoys at 600 feet. The questions of bringing in the dock and locking the gate in the winter came up. The Association passed a motion to ask the town to pass an ordinance stating "that no inboard motors be permitted on the lake, and that no outboard motors be permitted to exceed a 10 hp rate." Nathan Proller signed the letter to the town.

In 1955, a big issue was keeping the beach "tidy." Children were fishing from the dock and fish hooks were found on the beach. It was agreed to purchase insurance for the beach.

RAYMOND F. TIGANI

According to the Lake Luzerne Historical Society, Raymond Tigani built the [Lake Luzerne Inn](#) in 1923. It had 17 rooms and three cottages, and was located on the lake across from the intersection of Rt. 9N and Summit Place. It was demolished in 1955, and replaced by the Lake Luzerne Motel. Raymond F. Tigani was born 17 March, 1876, in Italy. According to the 1920 Census, he emigrated in Feb, 1903. His declaration of naturalization was on April 24, 1905 in Brooklyn, NY. In the [1904 Brooklyn City Directory](#) he was a "collector, 347 Greene Ave Brooklyn, NY." By the 1910 Census his daughter was 12, two sisters (a sales lady and dressmaker) and an Italian boarder. He was a widower and worked as a collector in a brewery.

His World War I draft registration lists him as working at Fidelia Brewery, Inc., New York, NY. His nearest relative is his daughter. Prohibition started in 1920, which may have been a reason Mr. Tigani became an inn keeper. In the 1920 census he is a widower living in the Bronx with his sister, Celestina, 55 and his daughter Frances, 20. In an article in the Glens Falls Post Star (July 18, 1922) he and G.M. Priore are described as the owners of the Lake Luzerne Inn. They are described as "New York gentlemen, who some time ago purchased the property." It seems to have been successful, according to the article from the Post Star. Raymond Tigani died on January 14, 1934 at Lake Luzerne.

His World War I draft registration lists him as working at Fidelia Brewery, Inc., New York, NY. His nearest relative is his daughter.

Prohibition started in 1920, which may have been a reason Mr. Tigani became an inn keeper. In the 1920 census he is a widower living in the Bronx with his sister, Celestina, 55 and his daughter Frances, 20. In an article in the Glens Falls Post Star (July 18, 1922) he and G.M. Priore are described as the owners of the Lake Luzerne Inn. They are described as "New York gentlemen, who some time ago purchased the property." It seems to have been successful, according to the article from the Post Star. Raymond Tigani died on January 14, 1934 at Lake Luzerne.

Description of the Lake Luzerne Inn from the Warren Cnty. Web site:

"The Lake Luzerne Inn stood near the road on Lake Avenue and was on Lake Luzerne. It also had two cottages from the Wayside Inn on the other side of the road. In one of the cottages Mayor of New York City Jimmy Walker stayed. The Inn had been the minister's cottage of the Estate of Mrs. Lily Price. When it was made an Inn it had an addition added. It was a popular hotel owned by Mr. and Mrs. Tigani and the last owners were Mr. & Mrs. Otto Cimler and Mr. & Mrs. Louis Martin. It was bought in the 1950s by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brunetti of Carlstad, and demolished. On the land they built the Lake Luzerne Motel and a beautiful home on the Lake for themselves."

This article has been briefly edited to fit the space

To join or to renew your membership on-line, visit www.HLhistory.org. To pay by check download the form [here](#), or complete the form below and remit to:

Hadley - Lake Luzerne Historical Society
PO Box 275, Lake Luzerne, NY 12846

Thank you for your Support !

Memberships are on a calendar year basis

Individual \$ 10 Family \$ 15 Business \$ 20

Name _____ Membership dues \$ _____

Postal Address _____ I would like to make an addtl donation of \$ _____

_____ **TOTAL** \$ _____

Email address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Membership: First time Renewal

How would you like to receive our newsletter ? Postal Mail E-mail (pdf)

WINTER MONEY AND MALARKEY IN LAKE LUZERNE

From our Oral History Workgroup

By Maureen Jones As winter loses its grip on Lake Luzerne and Hadley, our Oral History Collection provides an "in-person" look at a time when several businesses thrived on the presence of winter ice.

Gerald Roider was interviewed and recorded by both Bea Evens (when Bea was Town Historian) and by Jan Letteron (1987). Roider was a local resident who became involved with harness racing nation wide. Each recording is about 30 minutes long and of good quality. The following is a summary of those interviews:

Gerald mentioned his father (George) had a [livery business](#) based in a barn on Mill Street for years. He sold that business in the early 1920's when the age of Automobiles began. George made harness racing his life work, training harness horses for well known owner Ellis Gilmore for over 35 years. The light weight carts, known as 'sulkies', were just right for track or ice racing. George also helped design the Saratoga Harness Track and was a [charter member of Van R. Rhodes fire company](#). After retiring from the harness racing business, he worked as curator at Luzerne's Pulp Mill Museum. He died at the age of 93 in 1978.



97.35.157

Ice Trotting on Lake Luzerne



Winter Newsletter Mystery Photo Answer

The Mystery Photo in our Winter Newsletter (shown below) was located on [Hill Street](#). At one time Hill Street was known as Stevens Hill. The building in the photo was Rice's Dairy.



H-LP 732

Winter Newsletter Puzzle Answer

Sue Wilder correctly guessed the puzzle in our Winter Newsletter. The answer to the tile puzzle was:

**WINTER MYSTERY PHOTO IS
RICE'S DAIRY ON HILL STREET**

Many area residents owned horses that were trained to harness race. Walt Andrews (Hadley), Lester Sutliff (Corinth), and Charlie Bancroft (Hadley) were just a few of the local owners. Jack Ross of Hadley owned Dixie Grattan, one of the big winners of our ice racing days.

Winters were long and quiet. Horse racing on ice livened things up. Winter harness racing on ice took place on Sunday afternoons on Lake Luzerne between 1933 and 1939. The owners would "pass the hat" to pay for the plowing of the track. Informal betting took place, and the school made some activity money for the annual Easter trip to Washington, D.C., by setting up food booths for the crowds. Spectators and owners came from both Saratoga and Warren counties. Former local resident and past Historical Society President Rosemary Stanton noted, as she and I watched a Horse Racing on Ice video together, that she recognized her husband, Bud Stanton, as a child in the video. Twelve races were held each afternoon. During the winter, the lake was also used for [harvesting ice](#) for local businesses and residents. Ice was also cut from Stone's Pond and from the bay in the Hudson River. You can still see an authentic ice box at the Kinnear Museum of Local History.

A Horse Racing Club existed in the Luzerne / Hadley / Corinth area. Its official name was "The Warren County Driving Club". The club would organize races on Lake Luzerne until late winter. Betting did take place, called "making book", and local police looked the other way. Visitors enjoyed this added excitement. When Lake George had at least a foot of ice, the races moved there.

A Spring Banquet signaled the end of the racing season with a banquet at a restaurant between Lake George and Glens Falls. Roider recalls that the "Horse of the Year" was actually brought into the restaurant for a round of applause.

Gerald Roider also recalled hearing his father say that in 1939, a big money race that took place with a horse owned by Ellis Gilmore, one of the founders of the American Locomotive Company, also known as ALCO. Gilmore's horse was one that "had never lost a race on ice".

RESOURCES

We often get calls with questions about local history. Sometimes we can answer the questions and sometimes we hit a roadblock. When we're stumped, the Curator turns to a few websites for help. Below are a few websites the Curator uses:

- **Newspapers:** www.fultonhistory.com www.chronicalingamerica.loc.gov
- **Assorted Collections:** www.loc.gov www.nyheritage.org
- **Images, texts, videos, & sounds:** <https://dp.la>
- **Saratoga County cemeteries:** www.saratoganygenweb.com/sarcocem.htm

OTHER INTERESTING WEBSITES

- **Maps, documents, and images from the Adk branch of the D&H railroad:** [www.brasshistory.net/Website RR/index.html](http://www.brasshistory.net/Website%20RR/index.html)
- **Mountains and a mountain's parent:** www.listsofjohn.com
- **A bit of nostalgia: A simulated Solari Board showing the status of Amtrak trains in real time:** <https://dixielandsoftware.net/Amtrak/solari/>

Memberships are on a calendar year basis.

Your membership is good to the end of the year shown in the email message you received with this Newsletter. Join or renew on-line at www.HLhistory.org or click [here](#) to download the membership form and pay by check. We are a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization as determined by the IRS.




The Village Store (1952-1980) on Bridge St. Originally there were 2 buildings on this site. The W.T. Garnar store was on the left and the Marion Connor apartments on the right. A narrow alley was between the buildings; about where the door to the Village Store was.

ROIDER The race pitted Gilmore's horse against a local horse. Each owner put up \$500 for the \$1,000 prize. Roider could not accurately recall who won.
Cont'd From Pg 5

When the Saratoga Harness Track opened in the 1940's with considerable cash prizes and organized betting, the casual harness horse races in Warren County came to an end. The tradition of "local" harness racing does continue at some county fairs in our area and nation-wide.

As for Gerald Roider, he followed in his father's footsteps and built his career around horses. He worked as a teen driving a horse named Scudder in races and as a delivery wagon horse. He delivered groceries to "shut-ins" for [W.T. Garnar's](#) and Reed's grocery stores in Lake Luzerne. Later in life he continued a professional career in harness racing, riding in races from Saratoga's track to tracks in California and Arizona.

Thanks to long time Society member Ruth Roider for her help in contributing to this article.

Our oral history and video collection is available by making an appointment. To make an appointment call us at [518 • 696 • 4520](tel:518-696-4520) or send an email to: Info@HLhistory.org . 

Oh no! The Editor had a problem!

The Editor took a picture of a historic marker, but all the characters disappeared! All the characters appear under the image below. Can someone please put the lettering on the historic marker so the sign reads correctly. Send us an email at Info@HLhistory.org and tell us what the historic marker should say.



8	1999	ERECTED	MET
11	1ST	GUESTS	OF
12	AT	HADLEY	STATION
1865	BEEN	HADLEY	STATION
1902	BY	HADLEY	STATION
1958	CLOSED	HADLEY	TO
/	D&H	HAS	TOWN
/	DEMOLISHED	HOTEL	TRAIN
/	DEPOT	MERGED	WITH

Events at nearby Historical Societies & Museums:

(If you attend an event, tell them you heard about it from us)

- **Saratoga County Hist Society:** www.brooksidemuseum.org/events
- **Warren County Hist Society:** www.wcnynhs.org/special-events/
- **Chapman Museum:** www.chapmanmuseum.org/events/
- **Greenfield Hist Society:** www.greenfieldhistoricalsociety.com/

Mystery Photo

Do you know where this business was located or do you recall being a customer of this business? Take a guess and email your thoughts to us at: Info@HLhistory.org (Please put "Mystery Photo" in the subject line of your email).



"The wise are not wise because they make no mistakes. They are wise because they correct their mistakes as soon as they recognize them."
(Orson Scott)

Newsletter Contributors:

Judy Hughes
Judy Weinstein
Maureen Jones
Richard Dressner
Sue Wilder

Thank You!