

## Researching Delaware County at the DCHA

What we do have:

- Church records – DCHA has a few church records, mostly photocopies and/or transcripts. Some include minutes of trustees or the session and a very few of these include baptismal or marriage records.
  - \* Kortright – Gilchrist Presbyterian - includes index of baptisms, 1810-1886; photocopy of membership roll and baptisms for scattered years into the 1960s (these have been transcribed and/or indexed and can be view at the Delaware County genealogy site at <http://www.dcnhistory.org/kortrightindex.html>).
  - \* Masonville – First Federated Church, First Presbyterian Society
  - \* Roxbury – photocopies of records of 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church of Christ; personal data abstracted from records, 1816-1963
  - \* Stamford – photocopies of records of South Kortright Presbyterian Church. Includes indexes to: death records, 1810-1818, 1887-1924; baptismal records, 1810-1885; marriage records, 1809-1923 (these have been transcribed and are available on-line at the Delaware County genealogy site at <http://www.dcnhistory.org/stamfordindex.html>)
  - \* Walton – transcripts of records of the Christ Church (Episcopalian) and 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church (some transcripts of these are at the Delaware County genealogy site at <http://www.dcnhistory.org/waltonindex.html>)
- Diaries – we have a selection of over 100 diaries of Delaware County residents (49 of these are Walter Coulter's). These are indexed in our card catalog. Some samples include:
  - \* Betsy Bryden, Andes, 1875-76
  - \* Lizzie Coulter, Bovina, 1868 – travel diary to Virginia where she was going to teach freed slaves.
  - \* Walter J. Coulter, 1869-1919
  - \* Sheldon W. Crawford, 1870-1892 – farm diaries
  - \* C.P. Dedrick, 1894 – farm diary.
  - \* Morris Farrington, 1837-1881, Delhi – farm diaries
  - \* William Flynn, 1888
  - \* J. Hull, Roxbury, 1868-1873
  - \* Lecia E. Johnson, Franklin. Farm diary, 1905-1933
  - \* Andrew Littlejohn, 1859-1908
  - \* Elizabeth George Mable, Delhi, 1902 – school girl diary
  - \* John Milton (J.M.) McFarland, 1873, Delhi
  - \* Daniel McMullin, 1897, Delhi – farm diary
  - \* Fannie Roberts, Bloomville and Delhi, 1900-05 (photocopy) – Fannie was 13 when she started this diary
  - \* Peter Scott, 1878-1900
  - \* Sarah Signor, 1890-1906, Originally from Downsville (transcript with index)
  - \* James B. Thomson, 1876-1893 (scattered years)
  - \* James H. Thomson, Roxbury, 1836-1903 (gap from 1842-56), four volume transcription

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- Family bibles – DCHA has a small collection of family bibles in various conditions. Surnames represented include Armstrong, Archibald (Bovina), Arnold/Sands, Beardsley, Byse/Boice, Cumming, Dumond, Felton/Dale, Frisbee/McMullin, Fuller, Gilmore, Hanford & Smith, Hutson, Jennings/Smith, Lovell, McKenzie/Boggs, Mullin, Patterson, Pierce/McLaughlin, Reinmund, Sloan, Smith/ Fischer, Vanderwerken/DeForest, Wood/ Olin. Call or e-mail for more details.
- Genealogies and genealogical material
  - \* Indexed in the card catalog
    - ◆ four shelves of published genealogies
    - ◆ two file drawers of smaller genealogies
    - ◆ one file drawer of genealogical correspondence
  - \* Mary Boice Gale genealogical collection includes information on the Boice, Knickerbocker, Herrick and Smith families
- Land records – DCHA has a scattered collection of land records from a number of sources.
  - \* A variety of land indentures.
  - \* The Cora Livingston Barton rent book covers leases in the Hardenbergh Patent, Great Lot 40. It has been indexed.
  - \* Edgerton Collection includes tax receipts.
  - \* The Ebenezer Foote papers included powers of attorney to act as land agent for absentee landlords.
  - \* Kortright Patent Collection has a variety of scattered documents, including rent receipts, letters and other documents.
  - \* Youmans Collection has a variety of land records from 1794 to 1904.
- Newspapers – DCHA has a selection of Delaware County newspapers, on microfilm or in hard copy. Some of the larger runs include:
  - \* *Andes Recorder* - 1867-1938 (with gaps)
  - \* *Bloomville Mirror* - 1852-1858; 1860-1875
  - \* *Delaware Express (Delhi)* - 1911-1915; 1928-1938
  - \* *Delaware County Times (Delhi)* – 2001-2004
  - \* *Delaware Gazette (Delhi)* - 1820-Feb 1822; 1856-1898 (selected issues only); 1901
  - \* *Delaware Republican (Delhi)* - 1870-1878; 1890-1913; 1915-1930; 1939-1948; 1950-1957; 1961-1967
  - \* *Hancock Herald* - May 1883-December 1889; April 1927-April 1948
  - \* *Stamford Mirror-Recorder* - 1896-1905; 1911;1919; 1928; 1931; 1933-1965; 1967-1987
  - \* Newspaper abstracts
    - ◆ Abstracts of marriage and death notices from the Delaware Gazette from 1819-1899.
    - ◆ Abstracts of proper name references in Walton newspapers from 1850-1880.

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- Photographs
  - \* The main collection of photographs is the Bob Wyer collection. Wyer was a Delhi photographer who donated his negatives to the DCHA. The collection has over 100,000 photographs, including weddings, school pictures and aerial photographs taken in 1946. The collection has a card index identified by person, business or place.
  - \* The Ralph Davidson slide collection dates mostly from the 1960s and has images predominantly of Delhi.
  - \* John Crocker collected a wide range of images mostly focused on Delhi.
- School records
  - \* DCHA has a scattered collection of school related records, including minutes, school registers, school censuses and ephemera. The date spans and geographic areas covered vary widely.
- Town histories
  - \* Vertical file – contains various odds and ends, including news clippings, small histories, church histories, cemeteries, pamphlets
  - \* Published histories
  - \* Pamphlets
- Other collections
  - \* John D. Monroe collection – John D. Monroe (1878-1953) was the Delaware County historian and wrote Chapters in the History of Delaware County, New York in 1949, published by the DCHA. This collection has many of his research notes for this book and for other writings he did as historian. The collection has a folder list.

What we don't have:

Local Government Records:

- **Birth, marriage and death registration** have been required since 1880. These records are kept at the town, village or city in which the event took place. You need to contact the town or village clerk where the birth, marriage or death took place. There are fees, set by the State of New York, to get copies of these. Before 1880, such registration was not required, so such certificates generally do not exist. In some instances, you may find birth/baptismal and marriage records with a specific church, but many of these records are long gone or were never created.
- **Records of wills and letters of administration** may be found at the Delaware County Surrogates' Court.
- With the exception of some specific collections, the DCHA does not have **deeds and mortgages**. The Delaware County Clerk's office is the official holder of deed and mortgage records.

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- **School records** of one-room school houses, except for the few items at DCHA, can be found at either the town in which the school was located or with the central school district that absorbed the school when it was closed. The New York State Archives has very useful statistical records of schools. Schools had to file these reports annually. Some of these reports also are available at the Delaware County Clerk's office.
- **Tax rolls** are created by the county, though the assessments are set by the towns. The taxes also are collected by the towns. A set of the rolls stays with the town, with another set going to the county. The tax rolls from 1860 to 1930 have been microfilmed and are available at the Delaware County Clerk's office or at the New York State Archives
- Some **town minute books** have been microfilmed. The film is available at the Delaware County Clerk's office and at the New York State Archives. Microfilmed records include town clerk's record and minute books and (in some instances) other records for the towns of Andes (1820-1993), Bovina (1820-1993), Colchester (1891-1993 with gaps), Davenport (1930-1993), Delhi (1823-1994), Deposit (1881-1994), Franklin (1793-1994), Hamden (1825-1994), Hancock (1879-1993), Harpersfield (1787-1994), Kortright (1829-1994), Masonville (1930-1993), Meredith (1891-1993), Middletown (1851-1994), Roxbury (1799-1993), Sidney (1801-1994), Stamford (1793-1993), Tompkins (1806-1993), and Walton (1797-1995).

## Church Records

- Except for the ones noted above, DCHA does not house church records. You will need to contact the local church directly for further information.
- The Delaware County Genealogy and History website (<http://www.dcnhistory.org/>) has transcripts of the churches of several communities in the county.