

Colchester History Connections Newsletter

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

Volume 7, Issue 3 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

Displays—November-December

Downsville Civic Club & Women's Club Anniversary

The Downsville Women's Club is celebrating their 75th anniversary. Stop in at the Colchester Town Hall to find out more about how the Women's Club has impacted life in Colchester, such as naming Downsville's streets, getting a traffic light installed at Maple and Main Streets and to learn about their other community betterment projects.

Shinhopple Memorial Center Fundraiser

A free-will Pancake Breakfast will take place at the Downsville Fire Hall on Saturday, September 16, 2017, from 7AM to Noon. Proceeds from the Breakfast will go toward matching funds from an O'Connor Foundation grant to drill a well and install a septic system at the Memorial Center. The fundraiser will allow the Memorial Center to preserve this historic building while bringing the property up to current codes insuring its continued use for community programs and meetings space.



2018 Calendar Historical Society Fundraiser—Pleasant Valley to Pepacton Reservoir

Construction of the Pepacton Reservoir is the theme of our 2018 calendar. This expanded calendar features 25 pages of captioned photographs, plus a total of 57 images from the Colchester Historical Society's archives showing every phase of construction from the initial construction site setup in 1947 to the first water over the dam spillway in 1953. Calendars can be purchased for \$25 at Colchester Town Hall, the Downsville Diner and through online orders:

<http://www.colchesterhistoricalsociety.org/Publications.htm> at the Society's website. **Early bird calendar special: buy two calendars by November 15, 2017 and pay only \$45.**

Pleasant Valley to Pepacton Reservoir A Pictorial History of the Pepacton Reservoir Construction



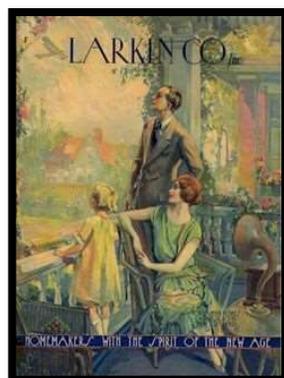
2018 Calendar
Colchester Historical Society

Shinhopple' s Larkin Soap Club



L to r: Margaret Gregory Engert, Carrie Gregory, Ethel Brodek DeShay, Mayme Krom, Julia Tiffany, Mary Fuller, Mary Stone, Lula Mercile, Jennie Ingrahm, Mary Finch—photo and club information donated from Linda Mills collection.

The Larkin Soap Company was founded in 1875 in Buffalo, New York. In the early 1900's the company developed the "The Larkin Idea," which was one of the first direct-marketing campaigns designed to sell their products to home consumers. They started putting Premiums such as handkerchiefs and towels in every box of soap and later provided a whole catalog of furniture and household items that buyers could redeem with Premium coupons. The Larkin company promoted the formation of Larkin Clubs. The "Larkin Secretaries" or "Larkinites," organized a club of ten members. Each month one Secretary would order a \$10 Combination Box of soap and Larkin products and each member would pledge to order \$1 of Larkin products from that box. The Secretary for that month would receive the \$10 Premium and the next month it would go to another member of the club. A housewife would browse the Larkin catalogs and redeem her Premiums to decorate her home with Larkin furniture, rugs, silverware, table lamps, clocks, and a variety of other Larkin goods. By 1912 the Larkin Catalog rivaled the Sears Catalog in sales and variety of products offered by mail-order.



Larkin Catalog



Larkin Desk—a \$10 Premium item

Gray Riders Anniversary

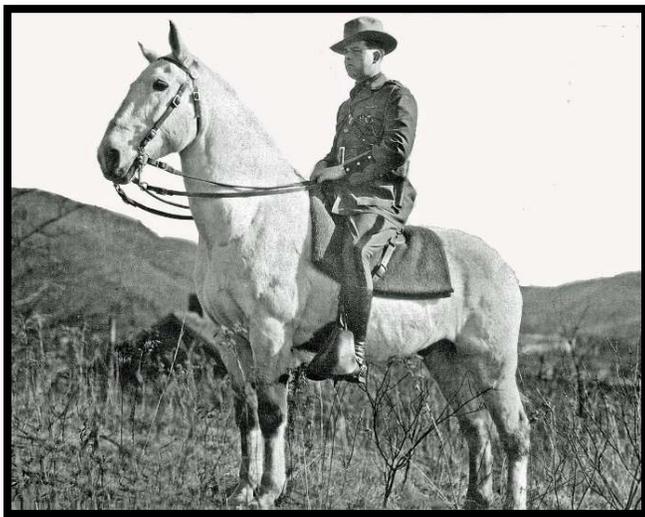
2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the "Gray Riders," or New York State Troopers. In 1913, Moyca Newell and Katherine Mayo started a movement to form a State Police force to protect the rural areas in New York. They formed this advocacy group after the construction foreman who was building Newell's home was murdered and she was disappointed when her local police force failed to capture the murderers. The need for police protection in New York's rural areas was finally recognized after several years of lobbying efforts; the State Legislature passed and established the New York State Police on April 11, 1917. The original force was comprised of an elite group of highly educated men, many with military backgrounds who could pass both the rigors of the physical and mental exams.

One of the first 25 elite mounted "Gray Riders" troopers, Joseph Higgins Riseley III, came from Cooks Falls. Riseley, had a journalism degree from Columbia University. He served until October 1918 when he resigned to become the editor of the Liberty Register.

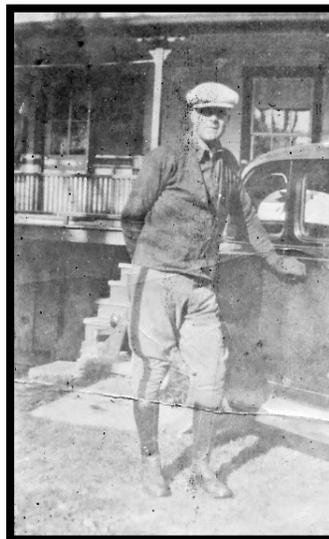


Trooper Joseph Higgins Riseley III

Another Colchester "Gray Rider" was Raymond Dalrymple. Dalrymple and his wife, Marian Boyd lived in Downsville beginning in the 1930's while he served in the Trooper Companies C and K.



Trooper Dalrymple on patrol in Colchester 1930
Patrols were from 1/2 mile to 30 miles a day.



Dalrymple in front of Boyd house
Later the Klindt home.



Model T's were used as trooper cars beginning in 1918.

Dalrymple patrolled on horseback in Colchester and later in Sullivan County. He was assigned in the late 1930's to the Wurtsboro Satellite substation. He was involved in investigating the Sage murder case and several other murders perpetrated by the gang known as "Murder Inc".



FLOYD LINDSLEY, THE ALLEGED MURDERER OF GEO. SHAW.

Colchester Murderer, April 1917-Downsville News

George F. Shaw, age 43, former Colchester resident and proprietor of the North Side Taxicab Company in Binghamton, was murdered just after midnight on March 31 by 16-year-old Floyd Lindsley, formerly of Lindsley Hollow in Downsville and who had been employed on the James Hoy farm in Wilson Hollow.

Lindsley along with three other men, Leon Perkins, Teddy Gates and Charles Faatz hired Shaw to take them on a joy ride. According to Perkins there was no argument or motive for the crime. Shaw's taxi became stuck in the mud and he told the men he could go no further. They all exited the cab when Lindsley turned and pulled a 32 - caliber Iver Johnson revolver from his belt and fired two shots into Shaw.

Lindsley fled the scene, discarding the revolver in the mud, hiding in the woods. He turned up several days later in Johnson's Diner in Elmira, the police were called and Lindsley surrendered saying his name was Hershel Roby not Floyd Lindsley.

A reporter asked his landlady if Lindsley had ever shown any signs of insanity? She answered that he was a "nice boy." She said he dressed in cowboy clothes and boots, making the outfit himself. "He never seemed to work but always carried a large roll of bills in his pocket. He never got out of bed until noon and then he'd go out and wouldn't show up again until after midnight. But he was always fine with me."

Charles Faatz, Theodore Gates and Leon Perkins were arrested with Lindsley on the murder charge, but indicted for robbery in the first degree, for the theft of money from the body of George Shaw. Faatz a navy deserter from the Brooklyn was sentenced Elmira reformatory, charges on Gates and Perkins were dropped. After a psychological examination, the District Attorney offered and Lindsley accepted a plea bargain of second degree murder.

Lindsley explained the Western Dime novels prompted him to murder Shaw. "I always wanted to make 'em think I was wild like guys in books and pictures. It was a good bluff, wasn't it?"

"A former resident of Downsville made the following statement. "The very place in Downsville where he comes from is called Lindsley Hollow. It was named after young Lindsley's grandfather, who was known in that section as "Crazy Lindsley," and his stunts in the Hollow will never be forgotten. Young Lindsley's father, too, was an inmate of an insane asylum at one time."

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

2017 Historical Society Meetings:

September 26, 2017 at 7

October 31, 2017 at 10 AM

November 28, 2017 at 7 PM

December 19, 2017 at 10 AM

November is New York State History Month!