

The
Courier
Bi-Monthly Newsletter
of the
Lansingburgh Historical Society
June 2015

From the desk of the Acting President

It is a special honor and privilege to accept the position of Acting President of the Lansingburgh Historical Society. This is especially true since LHS celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. Our area has a unique and rich history that we will continue to promote. Past presidents Dave Marsh and Liz Van Buren have done phenomenal work preserving Melville House and Lansingburgh history. They will be a tough act to follow.

I grew up in the Burgh, played in most of its playgrounds, had a paper route there, attended St. Augustine's and Catholic High, and hunted the hills across from Oakwood Avenue. It was a wonderful time that still provides me with warm memories of the Burgh. With the donation of time and money from our members, sponsors, and friends we can preserve that history before it changes or is forever lost. With your help we can do this!

Your LHS recently received word that it will be awarded a small grant from the City of Troy which will be used to restore some of the garden space at Melville House and supply a US flag and a solar powered light to illuminate the flag on the grounds of the Lansingburgh Village Burying Ground. Trustee Leslie Tash was instrumental in securing the grant.



The Titus Eddy Family

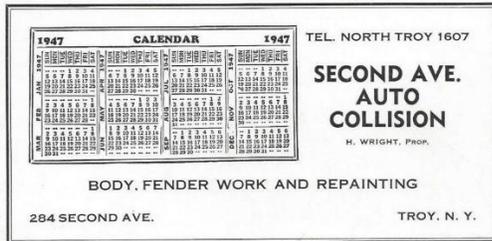
As I began to study the Titus Eddy family I already knew that he was known for having been an engraver and that he had contracts with the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing to supply ink for the printing of US currency. The investigation of his genealogy revealed a very creative and accomplished family who brought much to Lansingburgh and the surrounding community.

John and Samuel Eddy were the first of the Eddy line to come to North America from Kent in England. They settled in Watertown, Massachusetts in 1630. Four generations later Newbury Eddy appears in Thetford, Vermont, later moving his family to Weathersfield, Vermont where Isaac Eddy is born. Isaac had as his first wife Lucy Tarbell who was mother to Oliver Tarbell, Sarah, Titus, Benjamin Franklin, Leonora Jane, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington Eddy. Isaac Eddy married his second wife, Susannah Foster in 1830 giving issue to Lucy, Susan, Desdemona, Castella, Espeanza, Evander and Isaac Foster Eddy. Titus Eddy and his children brought noteworthy contributions to the growth of the Town of Lansingburgh, Troy, Waterford, NY and Bennington, VT.

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In this our 50th Anniversary year we will recognize the founding members of the society and Frances Dotter Broderick in particular. Mrs. Broderick was Lansingburgh's historian for many years, a professional genealogist and an early president of LHS. We will be rededicating the Village Burying Ground in September as part of the anniversary celebration. Frances Broderick wrote a book about the Burgh cemeteries which has been very useful in cataloging the graves. Look for a special edition of the Courier in August which will be dedicated to Mrs. Broderick's service to this community and as a founder of the Lansingburgh Historical Society.

John Ward



Events and Programs

June 11, Thursday, 5:00PM, Lansingburgh Veterans Club – An Evening with Sgt. Rice Bull, NY 123rd Volunteer Infantry. Please note that this is a change in date - Robert Mulligan, a retired NYS Museum Curator, will impersonate Rice C. Bull, a Union soldier who fought at Chancellorsville and with Sherman's march through Georgia which devastated every railroad, ridge, town, village, and plantation from Atlanta to Savannah in the US Civil War. Cocktails 5:00-6:15. There will be a sit down dinner at 6:30 with choice of roast beef, chicken or haddock. A basket raffle will follow at the end of the evening. You must make and pay for your reservation by Jun 3. The \$30 reservation fee covers dinner and the entire evening. Absolutely no tickets will be sold at the door. The basket raffle will offer for bid a variety

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In 1826 Isaac moved with Lucy and their children to Troy. Isaac was an engineer and had learned engraving as a young man. He is said to have started the first printing plant in Dresden, NH (now Hanover, NH). Some of his engravings are in a collection at Dartmouth College. He took on his son Titus as an apprentice engraver and printer at the Dresden shop. Titus was more interested in the ink used in the printing than he was in the engravings. When he arrived in Troy, 23 year old Titus began manufacturing lamp black, one of the components of the ink for printing engravings.

The process for making lamp black in the 1800's was rather simple. Any oil, fat or resinous plant material when burned in an oxygen limited oven (roasting) will produce free carbon as one of the end products. Bones make a good source because the marrow is mostly fat which comes out as the bones are heated. The carbon particles are buoyant, so as the heated air lifts the carbon particles away from the heated bone, the carbon laden air is directed into a cooling chamber where the sooty residue collects. Lamp black is a high quality black pigment which remains opaque and will not fade in bright sunlight. It is very light in weight and has been used for making black inks for many purposes.

Eddy's techniques used cooling huts in which the carbon (lamp black) collected over time. It was gathered periodically from the walls and floor of the huts. Eddy mixed the lamp black with other ingredients in a secret concoction which made an indelible ink. He kept the formula a secret which he only shared with his son James Albert Eddy. It was this indelible ink which was supplied to the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The Eddy contract with the US Government continued in effect from 1861 (when paper currency was first used in the USA) until 1908.

Titus Eddy acquired about 120 acres of land in what is now Eddy Lane, west of the present Oakwood Avenue, in the Town of Lansingburgh. The present Frear Park Lake connected to two other ponds west

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of tempting palatables and comestibles, books, entertainment items, and collectibles. Only persons who have paid reservations may participate in the raffle. Raffle winners must collect their items at the end of the evening. Send payment for reservations, including dinner choices to: Lansingburgh Historical Society, PO Box 219, Troy, NY 12182.

June 13, Saturday, 10:00AM to Noon – Open House at the Melville House – Volunteers will be present to show the house, discuss its history, talk about Lansingburgh people and tell you about Herman Melville's life here.

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August 1, Saturday, 3rd Annual Herman Melville Birthday Party, 9:00AM to 2:00PM at Melville House, 114th St. and First Ave. – Dr. Laurie Robertson-Lorant, author of *Melville: A Biography* (1996) and *The Man Who Lived Among the Cannibals: Poems in the voice of Herman Melville* (2005), will speak on the life and work of Herman Melville. The exact time of Dr. Robertson-Lorant's talk will be announced closer to the date of the event. Refreshments and Herman's birthday cake will be available.

August 16, Sunday, DATE CHANGE, 1:00PM, 3rd Annual Clam Steam, Steak & Chicken Roast at Lansingburgh Vets Club Pavilion – Jointly sponsored by We Were Burghers Once, and Young and LHS. Raw and steamed clams, hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage & peppers, chowder, beer and soda served all day. Complete steak or BBQ'd chicken dinner. There will be a 50/50 raffle. Send reservation request to Marcia Chalifoux at 1108 O Street, Troy, NY 12182. State steak or chicken preference. Only reservations with payment are accepted. This is a fantastic event. Don't miss it!

September 12, Saturday, 10:00AM to Noon, Open House at Melville House – Volunteers will

of Oakwood Avenue by Piscawankill Creek. Titus used the water flow to establish a mill. The land was all part of his farm. Their home on the farm was Glenwood, a stately Greek revival mansion overlooking the Hudson Valley. One of the buildings on the farm was equipped with facilities for manufacturing lamp black. That included furnaces for roasting animal bones which he acquired from his own production as well as that of neighbors. Judging from the nonpopulation (agricultural) schedule of the US Census, Titus' farm was the typical general farm of that period with horses, dairy cows, swine, and beef as well as acreage growing rye, wheat, corn, oats, and an undeveloped woodlot.

Titus and his wife Ann Eliza Euson Eddy had a total of nine children. In 1850 the farm employed six farm laborers and house servants in addition to the family members. The children of Titus and Ann Eliza married well and were all successful. Lucy Jane Eddy, b. 1830, married Rev. Alexander Blyth Bullions, a graduate of Yale and Princeton who served a congregation in Coila, NY near Cambridge (Washington County).

Charlotte McGill Eddy, b. 1832, married Stephen Eustace Haskell, an RPI graduate from Weathersfield, VT. Stephen was the son of John and Randilla Whipple Haskell. Stephen and his brother Robert were involved in the oil cloth manufacturing industry in Lansingburgh. One of the former primary schools in the Burgh, Haskell School, was named for the Haskell family.

James Albert Eddy b. 1833, married Elizabeth Hart Shields, daughter of Capt. Hamilton Leroy Shields, a Virginian, veteran of the Mexican War and a Union officer in the US Civil War. Elizabeth's mother was a Hart, a name well known in Troy history (a former mayor of Troy and the Hart-Cluett Mansion which houses the Rensselaer Co. Historical Society). James A. Eddy attended RPI at the same time as his brother Titus Egbert Eddy. James was the only person with whom his father shared

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September 20, Sunday, 1:00PM – Champlain Canal Cruise on the Caldwell Belle (paddle wheeler). Narrated cruise on the historic Hudson/Champlain Canal waterway. This peaceful and scenic area was central to the battle of Saratoga, "Turning Point" of the Revolutionary War. Rain or shine our journey begins at 1:00PM, lock C5, Rtes. 4 & 32N, Schuylerville, NY. The cruise will head south, pass the Saratoga Battle Field and return at 4:00PM. Those wishing to carpool can meet at Melville House at 11:45AM. Light refreshments available on board and you may bring a bag lunch. Cost is \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$20 for children. Send your check for a reservation to Lansingburgh Historical Society, P.O. Box 219, Troy, NY 12182 by September 15.

September 26, Saturday, 50th Anniversary Celebration. At **11:00AM** there will be a rededication of the **Lansingburgh Village Burying Ground at 107th St. & 32rd Ave.** There will be a reading of the history of the cemetery, a tribute to several Lansingburgh people buried there, the placement of floral tributes and a remembrance of the several Lansingburgh veterans who lie there. In the afternoon at **1:00PM** there will be a luncheon at the **Veterans Club of Lansingburgh, First Ave. above 121st St.** We will celebrate the 50 years of the Historical Society remembering the life and contributions of Frances Dotter Broderick, a founder of the Society, historian and genealogist of the community. We have invited living founding members and others who have served the society over the years. Come join us at these events. While both events are free, we will ask for donations to help support the work of the historical society.

the formula for compounding the ink sold to the US Government for printing US currency. He continued manufacture of the ink after Titus Eddy died. It was during the life of James Albert Eddy that a fortune was accumulated which was later donated to establish a nursing care facility for "gentlewomen" in Troy. That became the present James A. Eddy Memorial Geriatric Center on Burdett Avenue across from Samaritan Hospital. When James died in 1918 Elizabeth spent more time in a summer home that they owned in Old Bennington, VT. Their one child, Ruth Hart Eddy, lived her late adult life there rather than in what had been the family home on First Street in Troy. Ruth traveled extensively in Europe in the 1920s and had an interest in fine arts.

Titus Egbert Eddy, b. 1833, was the twin of James Albert Eddy. As mentioned earlier he attended RPI with James in the 1850s. He married Mary Lowery Seymour and they had one child. Titus E. Eddy was a druggist in Troy for a time after the marriage. They later moved to Manhattan and lived with Mary's mother. He worked as a druggist there and also produced white lead, a bright white pigment used in the manufacture of oil based white paint.

Anna Eliza Eddy, b. 1839, married David J. Johnston of Cohoes and Watervliet. From the late 1860s until the early 1890s David was the Superintendent of the Harmony Mills in Cohoes. His father, Robert Johnston, was Manager of the Harmony Mills. This was the largest cotton mill complex in the world in the 1870s. David Stuart Johnston, son of David J. and Ann Eddy Johnston, was manager of Orkney Mill and other cotton mills in Cohoes. Johnston Avenue in Cohoes was named for the Johnston family whose home was on that street.

Mary Alice Eddy, b. 1841, married Warren Todd Kellogg. He owned the Empire Portable Forge Co. in Cohoes and Lansingburgh (1890). The company's main product was a line of blacksmith forges which could be transported easily. They also

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Then & Now

580 First Ave



This Dutch style home, built as a farm house, is one of the oldest remaining buildings in Lansingburgh. It was built in 1770, even before Abraham Jacob Lansing laid out his village plan. It is a house with a Gambrel roof , 1 ½ stories high rather than 2 ½ stories which was more common in early Lansingburgh. The street was first called Water Street, then River Street and finally First Avenue.

Dr. Aaron Hinman owned the house and the little building north of it which he used as his office. In 1790 he moved and connected the little building to the home.

Quite a few people owned it over the years. Among them John Drake, Elijah Chichester (who owned a store before he became a minister), David Flack and James Hoffman. Today David Chambers owns the building and has done a great deal of work on it.



Kathleen DeRosa

From Pg. 4, Col. 2

made drills for making mortised joints in the fabrication of doors and windows. The Kellogg's raised their children in the Burgh where they lived at 450 Second Avenue.

Elizabeth Agnes Stewart Eddy, b. 1846, never married. She lived at Glenwood, the Eddy family home, most of her life. Late in her life she lived with her sister Delia Emma Eddy Nash and her nephew Howard Nash, in the Nash family home on Second Street in Troy.

Delia Emma Eddy, b. 1849, married Charles Nash. It is not clear how Charles Nash made his living but some census records indicate he was in some sort of manufacturing. Nash had been a Director and Vice President of the Manufacturers National Bank in Troy. He owned an interest in the Pafraets Book Company located in the Cannon Building. The company was a publishing house and dealer specializing in rare books, classical Greek and Roman culture, and classical British literature. Their son Charles Howard Nash never married and was an avid hiker and mountain climber. He was an Adirondack 46er. Their daughter Margery was married to Harry Shattuck Ludlow, the son of Henry G. Ludlow, founder of Ludlow Valve Co. of Waterford and Lansingburgh. Ludlow Valve at its peak was the world's largest manufacturer of fire hydrants.

There was another daughter of Titus and Ann Eliza Eddy. Maria C. Eddy, b. 1835, never married and lived out her life at Glenwood. She was also known by the name Selestine. Little is known about her.

Glenwood was donated by the Eddy family to Russell Sage College in about 1940. It was used as a social hall and the grounds for athletic programs. The building was acquired by the City of Troy and has served as the headquarters of the Troy Housing Authority. The Martin Luther King Apartments was built on the Glenwood grounds at the end of Eddy Lane.

David Marsh

Our membership year begins on April 1st. Those joining in January, February or March extend their membership through the next membership year. Consider upgrading your Regular Membership to a Sustaining Membership or either of those to a Life Membership. Encourage friends to join. Regular Membership \$15/year, Sustaining Membership \$40/year, Life Membership \$150. Student/Senior Membership \$5/year. Corporate/Professional Membership \$200/year.

Donations are always welcome! . **Rates currently in effect since 1 July 2014.**

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing address _____ City & State _____ ZIP _____

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Send to Lansingburgh Historical Society, P.O. Box 219, Troy, New York 12182-0219

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