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# ***Allegheny Area Historical Association***

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April 2010

[www.aaha.bfn.org](http://www.aaha.bfn.org)

Issue XXIX Vol. 2

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

In our last newsletter, I told you about the art-history project the fourth grades of Allegheny Elementary School were doing. The reception for the students and the silent auction of their drawings was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the auction proceeds benefitting AAHA. We received \$1,370.00!!!! The kids had a great time showing off their drawings. James Buttram, the SBU history student involved with the project, showed his Power Point presentation to the parents in attendance, and I got a lot of feedback that they learned things about Allegheny that they never knew before. A very worthwhile project for all concerned. Speaking of James Buttram, he will be the speaker at our next meeting, and will show the Power Point presentation for us. See the information about our next meeting.

Our new on-demand hot water tank has been installed. I'm sure that our gas bill will go down now that the old tank which ran all the time is gone. But the toilet in the ladies room sprang a big leak. If it's not one thing, it's another. Joe Catalano came to our rescue, and fixed not only the ladies room toilet but did a preemptive fix on the toilet in the mens room also. We should be good for years to come!

We have two deaths to report. Tom Geary died March 12th. If you were like me, you bought a lot of your appliances from Tom at his Geary Furniture and Appliances Store. He later ran Geary's Early American Store in the former Smith and Schultz building. He loved to talk about Allegheny and its past. Genevieve (Jenny) Scarlato died March 2nd. An Allegheny native, Jenny worked at the Allegheny Post Office from 1933, right out of high school, until she retired in 1971. She was really the "face of the Post Office" for everyone in town, and always had a good comment or two on the events of the day. Judging by some pictures we have at the historical association, she was quite a lady in her day. Both of these Allegheny people will be missed.

We received a small 3 ounce glass bottle, with an embossed inscription on it reading "The Allegheny Pharmacy C R Cox Prop Allegheny, NY." None of us had ever heard of the Allegheny Pharmacy, so we did some digging in our files. In a 1918 City Directory we found "Allegheny Pharmacy, Clarence W. Cox, M.D., Prop., 65 Main St." Also listed was "Wife, Mary S., lived on Dey [Day] St., N[ea]R school." By the 1920 City Directory all mention of Allegheny Pharmacy was gone, so it was a short-lived business.

**FRANCIE POTTER, PRESIDENT**

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*We have many treasures in our collection, one of which is a booklet from Carol Ruth, who donated it to us in June of 2002. She belongs to the Bockmier clan, and went through all the issues of the Allegany Citizen and excerpted out every mention of the Bockmier family and relations, starting July 4, 1892. A quick read through is to read the history of Allegany in miniature. We have included some examples of the entries.*

March 28, 1896 - The river bridge is received of a new coat of paint. John Bockmier, one of our efficient knights of the brush, is doing the work, at whose hands a good job is assured.

June 5, 1897 - Mr. John Walley, who has been in the employ of James McAuliffe the past five years, has resigned his position & embarked in business for himself at Simpson. Pa. where he will make his future home. George Bockmier now assumes the responsibility as head clerk in McAuliffe's store.

October 28, 1899 - Strawberry blossoms in October are a rare thing, but John. B. Bockmier showed us a bunch yesterday he picked from the side of the Erie tracks.

November 4, 1899 - A nice plump partridge burst through an upstairs window of the residence of Mrs. H. J. Bockmier on First St. last Monday morning, taking with it sash and all, dropped dead on the floor.

May 23, 1903 - Messrs. Dave Forness, Jule Nenno, Leo Nenno, Charles Dietman, Ben Smith and Misses Dora Bockmier, Dolly Kerwin, Kitty

Bockmier, Anna Karl & Mildred Young represented Allegany at a party given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Meara at Chipmonk Tuesday evening.

February 4, 1911 - Edward Bockmier is erecting a standard fresh air chicken coop. He is placing it crosswise on the lot so John Ryan can't rubberneck into the coop every time he goes by.

November 4, 1911 - The coming marriage of the following young people was announced from the pulpit of St. Bona's Church last Sunday: George A. Bockmier & Hattie Nenno; Edward J. Bockmier & Agnes Gallets. (*Ed. Note - this item bears out my theory that everyone in Allegany is related, one way or another, to everyone else.*)

August 30, 1924 - John B. Bockmier of Olean called on his old-time friends & relatives in town Friday. Mrs. Joseph Bockmier of Union St. entertained Mrs. Ruth and family of Olean Sunday.

*This is just a sampling of the very interesting items in this booklet. The Allegany Citizen certainly carried "all the news that was fit to print".*

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## Memorials



*For: Ed Dornow*

*From: Bob and Nickie Bergreen*

*Charles and Pat Dodd Dominessy*

*Bill and Louella Keim*

*For: Tom Geary*

*From: Bob and Francie Potter*

*John and Jillian Walsh*

*For: Martin T. Gleason*

*From: John and Jillian Walsh*

*For: Genevieve Scarlato*

*From: Bob and Francie Potter*

*Duane and Caroline Clark*

*Kathleen Karl*

*Celestine Welsh*

*For: Paul Nenno*

*From: Clark and Sandy Tucker*

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## CHEESE FACTORIES

The following was received from Gertrude Schnell.

*"I am sending a little article about cheese factories. In the many years we traveled the Birch Run Road to my Grandmother's house my Dad would point out a narrow lane just before Richard Zink's house that he said went down to a cheese factory in earlier days. Just beyond the gravel pit, where the pit filled in a field with sand, he said celery used to be grown there. Has anyone else ever been told about that?"*

*My Mother's Father, Charlie Mallory, was a cheese maker in the early 1900's, working in several factories - always moving for more money! My Mother and her two sisters were born in different cheese factories. I have some of his records and utensils he used."*

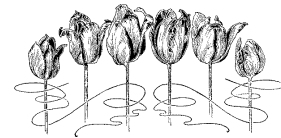
## CHEESE FACTORIES

Older maps of this area always show many cheese factories. Some were owned by businessmen with a few privately owned. Factories were about six miles apart. This gave the farmer about three miles to draw his milk to the factory with horse and wagon and then to return home to attend to other chores on the farm. Towns and settlements often started around the factory since after delivering the milk, the farmer many times went into the store to purchase a few items and talk with his neighbors before returning home.

Farmers were paid by the weight of their milk and were allowed to take home an equal amount of whey (a by-product) which was fed to calves and pigs. Then the milk cans had to be washed and ready for the next day. Cheese was usually made from March to October or November. In the winter the cows were dry and milk was not available for the factory. The cheese maker and his family lived upstairs over the factory. Cheese makers found odd jobs to do in the community in the winter and often ran up a bill at the local store until the next spring. Records of my cheese making grandfather, Charlie Mallory, show that pay was \$35 to \$44 a month for those months that cheese was made. These figures are from the early part of the 20th century.

Since there was a need for wooden boxes to contain the cheese, factories for their manufacture often were established nearby. Most of the cheese to be sold was taken to Cuba (N.Y.) which required an overnight trip with the horse and wagon. Some was shipped on the

railroad. Today the cheese factories are no longer standing and the numerous farms that supplied the milk are almost a thing of the past.



New Bookcases adorn our walls.  
Built by Joe Crisafulli.



*Another item in our collection is the diary of Henry C. Altenburg. Here are some entries from 1899.*

July 1. The canning factory is running full blast with about 150 girls shelling peas. Russell's well began to pump oil last night and she put a 65 barrel tank full before morning. They have erected a 250 barrel tank today.

July 4. There has been no celebration in this vicinity this year. Last night in a saloon fracas up Chipmunk one of the Ottera boys killed a man with whom he was fighting.

July 6. I went to town quite early this morning. John Bockmier rode up with me and took the trolley to Olean to get his teeth pulled. I gave him \$17.00 which with the \$1.00 I gave him last Sunday makes his months pay of \$18.00.

July 12. It rained quite hard last night with thunder. We cut the weeds around the house and along the road in the forenoon and worked in the garden this afternoon. Tonight a dance is held in Schuman's new barn which is hardly finished yet.

July 14. Mike Rehler came down and got a check for \$25.00 which is part payment for wood furnished to our Cheese Factory. He has a lot of girls picking peas for him.

July 18. I took a pail and went up Mount Mari after raspberries. I found blackberries were getting ripe. I ascended to the very pinnacle of the old mountain where I had an excellent view of the surrounding country. We got in two loads of hay.

July 21. We went over to Hank Grimes after lumber this forenoon. Nobody over on that side of the river has got through haying and of course it is all suffering. We have had a very wet time ever since the 4th of July. We went down to the mill and got all the lumber which we were sure of as being ours and that was 60 battens.

July 27. I finished the checks this afternoon. I then did a little trading in town and paid \$2.00 to square up my account at Jim McAuliffes.

July 28. I got up quite early and milked the cows. Then I went up on Mount Mari and picked six quarts of blackberries, and canned four cans of them. Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show is in Olean. Sid Brooks had a weather flag signal out and it told of rain. Sure enough we have had a short shower tonight.

Aug. 1. Lippert finished reaping my oats and I had them all set up by noon. Jake Karl was made Trustee at the school meeting.

Aug 4. I had help picking beans all day and took them up to the canning factory tonight. We had 248 lbs. at 1 1/2 cents each. The inspectors were here to test the milk.

Aug. 10 The weather is very dry. Our fence line caught fire and burned so we had to keep the cows below the road. Night before last we had a light frost.

Aug. 13. No rain yet. I never saw the roads so dry and dusty. Sid Brooks had a weather signal out last night that spoke for rain but there is an old proverb running like this "All signs fail in dry weather." There was an excursion to Portage Bridge.

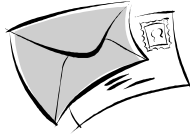
Aug. 19. Tonight P. J. Nenno was down and bought my steers for \$18 apiece and my two hogs. A very warm dry day. Everything is on fire, it seems, and every morning the fog and smoke is very thick.

*I think historians of the future will have a hard time showing life as it used to be, due to the use of e-mail and other communication devices - nobody keeps diaries or writes letters anymore.*

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## WE GET MAIL



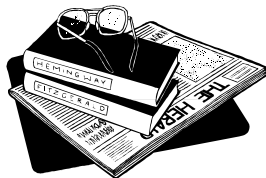
We received a nice note from Celestine Welch, who sent a memorial for Jenny Scarlato saying, "Jenny was a shining light in the Post Office for many years. She brought smiles to so many in the days of World War II, and all her life."

A note came from Charles and Pat Dodd Dominessy who live in Florida. Pat worked for Ed Dornow, and this is what she wrote. "I have just received my March newsletter and while reading Francie's report, I realized that I had a way of honoring one of the nicest bosses I can remember. I began my working career at age 15 working for Karl and Ed Dornow. I worked at Dornow's starting as a soda jerk, which entailed lonely hours in the basement, working on a hot plate, preparing simple syrup, hot fudge, etc. After the soda fountain I think I graduated to Hallmark card inventory and magazines. I loved working for Karl and Ed and learned much from them which eventually guided me to a career in pharmacy. They saw to it that I obtained an apprentice license and I worked beside them counting pills, etc. I worked for Ed on weekends when I came home from college and always had a job when school was out for the summer. Ed was very pleased to hear that I married a pharmacist and the three of us attended meetings in the Olean area and also in Buffalo."

Nickie Bergreen wrote to say that as a teenager, her husband Bob worked in the drugstore for Karl Dornow in the early 1940's. At that time the store was located on the site of the Hickey Tavern. He was known in the jargon of the day as a "soda jerk."

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## HELP NEEDED



Member Mary McClure of Albuquerque, New Mexico is researching her father's genealogy and needs some help. "I know my facts so far, are true, but I need proof in writing acknowledging father and son - Chester McClure and son, Edwin R. McClure, who moved from Otsego, N.Y. to Cadiz in Franklinville when a small child. I thought Edwin's death certificate would do the trick, but for some strange reason the information given was Chester McClure, father and Betsey, mother. Edwin was the only one of his siblings who remained in the area; the rest of the family moved and settled in Wisconsin and I traced all of them there.

The sticking point is the fact that I have Chester McClure married to Chloe Mehurn in 1812 in Rutland, Vermont - not Betsey. I can even fit him in on the census records of 1820 and 1830 where only appx. ages of children are listed, but I need something definitive to clear this up."

*I know we have members in the Franklinville area - perhaps one of them might be able to furnish some information for Ms. McClure. If you can, contact Francie Potter at POB 162, Allegany, NY 14706, and I will forward the information.*

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## NEXT MEETING



We will meet on Sunday, May 2 at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Center, 25 North Second Street, Allegany. Our speaker will be James Buttram, a history major at St. Bonaventure University. He will show his presentation about the buildings of Allegany that was shown at the Quick Arts Center. It was part of an internship James conducted between the Quick Arts Center and the Allegany 4th grade classes. He gave the students the history of 20 Allegany buildings which then became the subject of an art project. The students artwork was auctioned off with all proceeds benefiting AAHA.

James was born and raised in Sewell, N.J. and homeschooled with his seven siblings by his mother. He attended Gloucester County College for two years, took a year off, and transferred to SBU in 2008, and he will graduate this May. He loves to travel and studied abroad in Spain last year. After graduation he hopes to return to Spain for a teaching assistantship or volunteer abroad. But this summer he is working in a summer institute at SBU, with twenty Latin American students coming to learn about United States culture and history. Their trip climaxes in August with a road trip to Boston, New York City and Washington, D.C.

James is a very interesting young man and worked very hard on his project for the 4th graders. They learned a lot about Allegany, as did their parents. I am sure you will too.

Be sure to join us on Sunday, May 2 at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Center.

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**Allegany Area Historical Association  
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Allegany, NY 14706**

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INSIDE SPECIAL ISSUE:

Presidents Report

Say C H E E S E!

Drug Store Tales

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