

**Artifact Donations for Collections Committee Review
July 2023
Prepared by Mackenzie Lindsay, Collections Intern**

♦Susan Blodget

[TCR 122]

Susan Blodget from Hopewell Junction, NY offers a sewn school ledger.

• Ledger - Sewn Paper

In poor condition. The cover is tattered and the paper shows spots and signs of aging. The binding is intact. There are two titles written on the cover, 1. School Records; District No. 4 Charleston June 26, 1813 2. School Records District No 5 [Root?] 7th May 1823 Both titles appear on cover page; title 1 one is above title 2; records appear to date as far as 1839 or 1842.

Historic/Collections Note:

Charleston, NY is a town in Montgomery County. The ledger provides information on the financial transactions of both districts, meeting minutes, and what supplies they kept in their schools. There are some pages that appear to record census/tax information for individual heads of household (acres, real and personal estate values, etc). It is not a duplicate of anything in the collection and is a good resource for local history.

Date of Offer:

10/29/2021

Condition:

Poor

Recommendation:

ACCEPT

◆**Bonnie Kerr**

[TCR 112]

Bonnie Kerr from Fort Plain, NY has made previous donations to the museum and offers two items related to Lauren Ford

●**Book, "The Little Book About God," by Lauren Ford**

The Little Book About God was written and illustrated by Lauren Ford. The title page has the name "Bonnie R. Young" written in pencil on it. It details stories from the bible such as the story of Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, and the birth of Jesus. The book is in good condition.

●**Print, "The Country Doctor," Lauren Ford**

Historic/Collections Note:

Lauren Ford was an American painter and author, who spent most of her career in New York. The Arkell is in possession of her painting *The Country Doctor*. The book and print, while good showings of the artist's work would most likely not go on display and are better suited for our artist files, where they can be accessed as a resource on the artist by staff.

Date of Offer: 06/15/2022

Condition:

Good

Recommendation:

ACCEPT for collections research/ artist files

◆Fort Plain Free Library (via board member Eileen Chamber)

[TCR 133]

The Fort Plain Free Library has been reviewing their history files, and has been offering us items related to Canajoharie, and items that can be better stored and shared by a museum.

● **Black and White photo of 9 woman; 3 are dressed as men in a mock wedding ceremony**

Taken at the Artcraft Studio in Fort Plain. There is a note on the back dating the photo Sept. 19, 1923.

● **B/W photo of Canajoharie Creek**

● **B/W photo of 10 male baseball player w/ letter identifying the team/players**

On the back of the photograph are the names of each player and their position. The accompanying letter identifies the team as “The Clippers”, a Canajoharie based team, and the photographer as B.W.Spencer.

● **Pamphlet “Rembrandt Easel in the Canajoharie Art Gallery” by Nelson Greene**

Discusses Rembrandt as an artist, the history of the easel and how it made its way to Canajoharie.

● **8-page type written document by Nelson Greene, dated Jan. 30, 1947**

The document appears to be a rough draft for the introduction to “History of Canajoharie” written by Harry V. Bush in which Nelson Greene discusses Harry V. Bush as a historian and former mayor of Canajoharie.

● **The Buick Magazine July 1938 “Metros along the Mohawk”**

Magazine has two photographs stuck to the back of it that cannot be removed without damaging both the photos and magazine.

Date of Offer:

1/24/2023

Condition:

Good

Recommendation:

ACCEPT

-all photos

ACCEPT for curatorial research

-pamphlet by Nelson Green

ACCEPT for local history

-history of Harry V. Bush by Nelson Green

DECLINE

-Buick Magazine

◆**Susan Werner Thoresen**

[TCR 127]

Susan Werner Thoresen from Portsmouth, NH offers a family artifact; she is a member of the Ellithorp family with close ties to Beech-Nut and has been a generous benefactor in the past.

●**Memory Box, Display**

Glass topped box with hinged lid and interior glass insert. Display items arranged and fixed inside lid and interior. Display items include b/w photos of residences; daguerreotypes (?); arrowhead; coin, glasses etc. There is no identifying information for who the included photos depict.

Historic/Collections Note:

The box would take up a good amount of space in collection storage and would be better suited for a space where it can be used as an educational resource, given that it contains examples of historic items. It is not suitable for museum display but it is in good condition and is able to be handled. It could also serve as a workshop or project example.

Date of Offer:

11/15/2022

Condition:

Good

Recommendation:

ACCEPT for education collection

♦**Mary McMunn**

[TCR 134]

Mary McMunn from Bexley, OH offers two letters.

●**Handwritten letter Canajoharie March 9th, 1861**

In good condition. Features names, birth dates, marriage listings and farm prices. Written by Chas R Van Evera.

●**Handwritten Letter Ames February 23, 1849**

In good condition. Written to Mr. R. Tinklepaugh. Letter seeking employment in the region. Mentions many people leaving for California in groups.

Historic/Collection Note:

The letters contain information on people and events from the area and can provide insight into local history.

Date of Offer:

9/20/22

Condition:

Good

Recommendation:

ACCEPT

♦**Gale Desmond**

[TCR 132]

Gale Desmond from Canajoharie offers 3 photo albums.

●**Photo Album with construction photos**

There are some loose photos in the front of the album, all others are mounted on sticky album paper. Pictures are dated between February and March of 1985 and are related to a new boiler being placed in the Beech-Nut Manufacturing plant.

●**Photo Album with construction photos**

●**Photo Album titled "Job Pictures 1949-76"**

There is a label on the front of the album that reads “Beech-Nut Blds., Demolish (?) 1954, St. James Church 1956, Arkell Hall 1957, Fort Plain School Garage 1956, St. Johnville Sewer 1974, Canajoharie Sewer PL. 1976” All photos are mounted on sticky album paper.

Historic/Collections Note:

The photo albums provide information about the work that has been done on the Beech-Nut plant, as well as the town of Canajoharie. Regrettably, the quality of the images and sticky-page mounts make the items unsuitable for Museum Collections.

Date of Offer:

6/28/2023

Condition:

Good

Recommendation:

ACCEPT for Local History

♦James Mastracco

[TCR 135]

James Mastracco from Washington, DC has a family connection to Beech-Nut and offers Life Savers ephemera.

● **Life Savers desk**

The Life Savers desk set is in good condition and contains a sealed pack of Life Savers branded pencils, an eraser in the shape of a Life Savers and a pencil sharpener in the style of a tube of Life Savers.

Historic/Collections Note:

The desk set was most likely given to employees of Life Savers. While the museum's collection mainly focuses on Beech-Nut items, Life Savers Inc. is an important part of Beech-Nut history, both companies having been owned by Squibb at one time, and the desk set will compliment Beech-Nut and some Life Savers ephemera already in the collection.

Date of Offer:

7/07/2023

Condition:

Good

Recommendation:

ACCEPT

◆Cheryl Benninger

[TCR 130]

Cheryl Benninger from Canajoharie offers several objects pertaining to Beech-Nut Patents.

- Beech-Nut News Vol. 1 No. 2-6
- Beech-Nut News Vol. 2 No. 6
- Beech-Nut News Vol. 3 No. 2and 9
- Beech-Nut News Vol.4 No. 9
- Beech-Nut News Vol. 5 No. 5 and 8
- Beech-Nut News Vol. 6 No. 7 and 8
- Sweet Talk the Magazine of Life Savers, Winter 1974
- Binder detailing early jar history of Beech-Nut Packing Co.
- Ticket to Beech-Nut Country Dance, June 14, 1958
- International Patent Documents

2 Canadian Patent Documents. One for a “Hermetic Sealing Apparatus” from July 17th, 1906 and the other for “Hermetic Closures for Receptacles” August 17, 1906. 2 German Patent Document from February 1905. 3 UK Patents from 1904 for “Improvements in Hermetic Closure for Receptacles”.

●U.S. Patent for “Hams and Bacon”

In good condition. There is a sticker on the front page of the document that reads “Before the Examiner of Interferences Beech-Nut Packing Company vs. Carl A. Fulter”.

●Packet of correspondences concerning “Lorenz and Honiss Patents”

●Framed letter

The letter states the terms of purchase for Imperial Packing Co.’s purchase of Vacuum Can and Jar Co.’s jar closure technology. It contains information about price and process of purchasing the rights.

●Binder of articles concerning Beech-Nut court cases

The binder contains copies and original versions of newspaper articles glued to album paper.

●Packet of Beech-Nut Land Deeds

●Ad “Ease the Tension with Beech-Nut Gum”

In good condition and not a duplicate of any ad in the collection.

●Pictures of the Beech-Nut Plant

● Good Manufacturing Practice Presentation Slides

A set of slides from a presentation about safe practices in the work place.

Historic/Collections Note:

The museum is already in possession of several volumes of Beech-Nut News. Those that are duplicates will be kept for the local history room and non-duplicates will enter the collection.

The patent documents and all material related to them (binders and correspondences) are a valuable resource for Beech-Nut manufacturing history and will serve as excellent research material for staff.

Date of Offer:

4/26/23

Condition:

Good

Recommendation:

ACCEPT

- Beech-Nut News
- Sweet Talk Magazine
- slides and pictures
- advertisement
- ticket to Beech-Nut Dance

ACCEPT for Curatorial Research

- all patents and related patent documents
- land deeds
- both binders
- framed letter
- packet of correspondences