The “Hustle & Bustle” of Whiteport

Bailey’s Whiteport Hotel (top) was started by Francis H. Bailey prior to 1872 and still operated by the Bailey family in 1895 under the management of Mrs. Gracenzia Bailey who was Francis Bailey’s widow. The hotel was located on the corner of Beyersdorfer and Whiteport Road.
Dear Friends of Century House:

Welcome to our latest newsletter!

I’m sitting down to write to you, after spending this cold and sunny day outdoors with many other CHHS volunteers for our Annual Clean Up Day. We had a lot of assistance but—toning up the site for the winter, and we can’t thank you enough.

We have some very good news to report to you: our mortgage was paid at last as of July 2015. $400,000 over 25 years has finally come to an end. While we jump for joy, we also proceed cautiously and save our pennies as the deferred maintenance on the property continues to be a challenge. We look forward to the next year’s projects.

Our event season took shape with our second annual sculpture exhibition (curated by Laura Johanson), nearly 300 people came to see Taiko Masala and their massive Japanese drums, Andrey Tamarchenko gave us Inner Space II, and we celebrated the 25 Annual Subterranean Poetry festival (curated by Bethany Ides). For another year, thousands of people have visited Century House and were wowed by the Widow Jane Mine and the history of the cement industry.

Join us on December 5, 2015 for our annual meeting when our speaker will be Tony Musso, author of many books, including Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley.

Be in touch if you’ve like to become involved with Century House. We can’t do it without you.

See you in the spring!

Anne Gorrick

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The historical society thanks Barbara Sickler for the donation of the Whiteport photos which have been added to our collections. Below are students of the school assembled for a group photograph. Both the location of the Whiteport school and the Bailey Hotel appear in the Beers 1875 Atlas. We need to count on you to identify these students!

Whiteport, in the north-east part of the town, is about four miles north from Rosendale. It contains the Newark & Rosendale Lime & Cement Works, and a population of about 1500, including what is known as Hickory Bush. The village has been built up almost wholly by the Cement Works.

Referring to the communities that comprised Rosendale: There are seven school districts, employing nine teachers. The number of children school age is 1,256; the number attending school is 775; the average attendance, 347, and the value of school houses and sites, $7850. The population in 1870 was 3,625 with an assessed value of $442,920.

From Gazetteer and Business Directory of Ulster County for 1871-2 Compiled and published by Hamilton Child
Beers 1875 Atlas of Ulster County: But Who Was F.W. Beers?

The Beers 1875 Atlas of Ulster County is the standard “go to” first stop to find the locations of places long lost to us. The location of the Whiteport school was found in just that way for the story in this newsletter using one of the numerous detailed map inserts it contains. The engravings of industry and homes of the wealthy may have been done with some artistic license. Plumes of smoke rising from the chimneys of Rosendale Natural Cement works are always contained in a narrow line; orderly and neat. Nonetheless, the atlas gives us a feeling for the vibrancy of the communities of Ulster County during that time period. Recently, member Todd Snyder donated a copy of the atlas on behalf of family in memory of their mother Georgianna Beatrice Snyder for which we are deeply appreciative. This was the perfect time to set about answering the question: just who was F.W. Beers.

Looking north over the Rondout in Lawrenceville showing the Lawrenceville Cement Works in the foreground and the lands of AJ Snyder I in the background.
F.W. Beers published a proliferation of county atlases so it was hoped that an academic dissertation or a biography would spring forward on his life and work but this was not the case. The information on F.W. Beers was garnered from mostly auction sites seeking to sell the volumes at a substantial price or ephemera dealers hoping to interest you in plates that had been removed (“suitable for framing” always read the description) from the atlas. Here is a compilation of information on F.W. Beers:

**Frederick W. Beers 1839—1933: Editor, Surveyor, Cartographer and Clever Businessman**

Frederick W. Beers was a prominent atlas and map publisher from the Beers family of cartographers. In 1867, then located at 95 Maiden Lane in Manhattan, Beers published his Atlas of New York and Vicinity in collaboration with A.D. Ellis and G.G. Soule. In 1870, Frederick joined his cousin, James Botsford Beers in founding J.B. Beers & Company, in New York. As this suggests, the Beers family members sometimes worked individually, and other times in collaboration with each other and/or with other surveyors and publishers. Between 1865 and 1900, the Beers family and collaborators produced atlases of more than 80 counties in 10 states including Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and Michigan, as well as city atlases, separately issued maps, and county histories. F.W. Beers lived in Brooklyn, where he was also employed as head of the map division in the Brooklyn Office of Public Records for 35 years. His long career continued until his retirement at the age of 90.

F.W. Beers came from a family of surveyors, cartographers and publishers originally from Newton, Connecticut. He began work as a surveyor, but later set up on his own as a publisher, becoming partner in Beers, Ellis & Soule. Still later, the firm became F.W. Beers & Company based in New York City. The Beers family is noted for its contribution to the publication of county and state atlases of the United States.

The maps include the names and locations of residents and businesses as well as the locations of schools, churches and cemeteries and in addition to maps, the county atlases provide statistical information, engravings of important businesses, town histories, and biographies of prominent citizens. Many of these atlases are found in local libraries and historical societies; they are rare and should be treated with care.

Referring to his Atlas of New York and Vicinity (1867), according to Donald A. Heald, Rare Books, Prints & Maps: It has been observed that various issues of the atlas were published in that year and the following with significant differences in the number and selection of maps included by the publisher. This was the result of clever marketing by Beers, intending to sell the atlases to customers in specific regions.

New York and Rosendale Lime & Cement Company engraving from the Beers 1875 Ulster County Atlas. The works was located in the Willow Kiln Park in back of the Rosendale Theatre. The kilns are currently undergoing restoration. The Delaware & Hudson Canal is in the foreground.
Ford Model A Tour

CHHS PROJECTS 2015 EXCAVATE
Curated by Laura Johansen

TAIKO MASALA plays to a FULL House !!!

A big crowd followed geologist & board member Steve Schimmrich on their way to explore the geological offerings of the site on the season opening afternoon.

2015 SEASON
INNER SPACES II: The Widow Jane Mine transformed into a Cathedral of the Arts

Fishkill Fencers 8th Circle Epee Open

Bethany Ides curated the 25th Annual Subterranean Poetry Festival

Fall Clean-Up Day: An opportunity to do a massive removal of trash trees and brush from behind the carriage house. The concrete culvert is now clear and ready for action!
THE BALCONY BRACKETS OF ROSENDALE: Visitors often remark that Main Street Rosendale bares resemblance to a western mining town. A feature of particular interest are the cantilevered balconies seen around the community with attached metal brackets that serve a decorative purpose.

The Rosendale Café & Bywater Bistro boast their brackets!