

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 83
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Editor
Gail M Cramer



STEWART WILSON The Hermit of Sacandaga Park

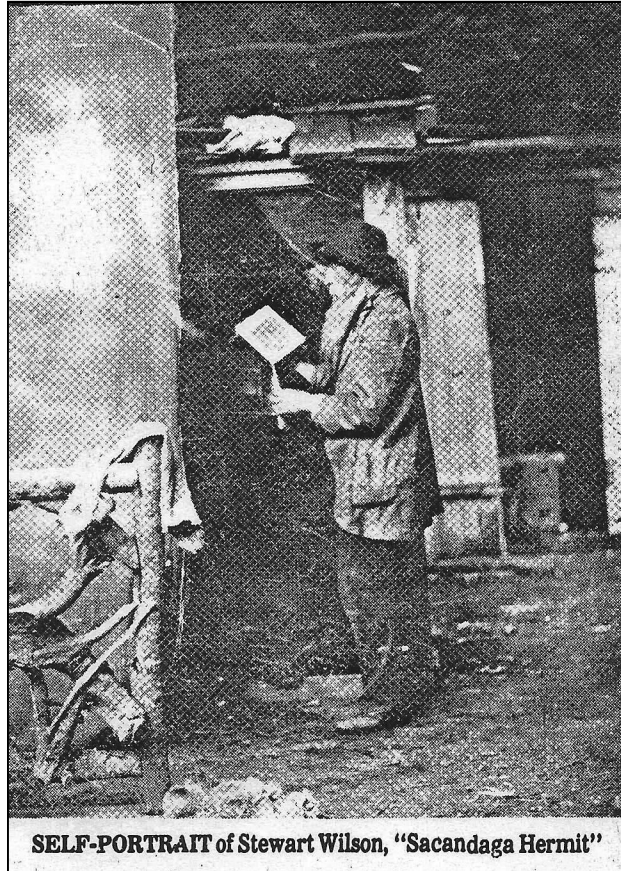
Stewart Wilson was the resident hermit in Sacandaga Park. He was born in the late 1830's or early '40's, in Jackson Summit, which is near Mayfield, NY.

He constructed his living quarters out of scrap tin on a piece of property in the park, that he had bought. He moved several times because his neighbors were not in favor of his ramshackle housing.

There was no heating arrangement in his shack except for a small wood stove which could not possible have heated more than 10 percent of the shack. Charles H. Osborn, Superintendent of the Park, made it possible for Mr. Wilson to spend the winter in the railroad station. He slept on some old newspapers for a mattress and covered only with scraps of blankets.

Mr. Wilson (as everyone called him) was a self employed photographer of tin type. It's unknown how he mastered the rudiments of his trade, but he made a living as a concessionaire in the Sacandaga Park.

He met a tragic death when he moved into a house in Osborn Bridge. He was not feeling well, so went to bed. He didn't bother to get up and keep the woodstove burning. He had put every piece of cloth in his house over him, but his feet froze, gangrene set in. A neighbor found him, called Dr. Collie Robinson from Northville, but it was too late, he died February 9, 1922.



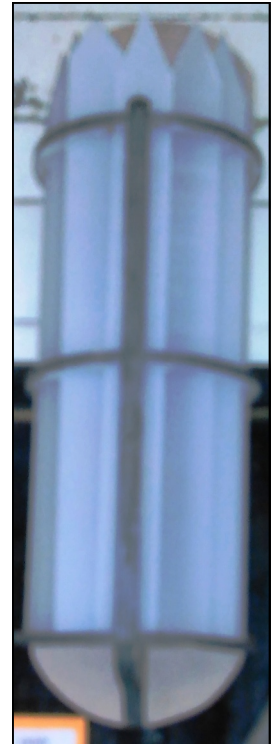
SELF-PORTRAIT of Stewart Wilson, "Sacandaga Hermit"

MUSEUM NEWS

Those of you that attended the Star Theater should remember the light fixture along the walls.

Someone bought this one from Bill Conover but never hung it. They recently donated it to our museum.

Come in and see it, it will bring back good memories.



Read a more complete story of Mr. Wilson's life from a booklet by Harry E Resseguie in the historians office or museum.

THE NORTHVILLE POLICE ASSOCIATION
1971



From left to right

Gordon Blowers
Sheldon Ginter
George Scunziano
Al Graham
Jim Winchell
Phil Wilcox
Skip Wilson
Roy Vanderhide
Guy Poulin

THE NORTHVILLE BANK IN 1971
(Before the glass enclosure)

PLAIN AND FANCY BOX FACTORY

North Second Street in Northville

There was a Plain and Fancy Box Factory in operation in Northville from late 1800's to 1931. It was located on North Second Street. The Baptist Church bought the building, tore it down and made a parking lot for the church.

History shows that Fred Vibbard, was the first owner of the Box Factory. He was born in Northville in 1865, son of Rueben and Maria Clapp Vibbard. Fred is mention in the 1890 census as a manufacturer. After he sold the business, he worked for Harry Drake

According to a business statement, Chas G. Van Brocklin succeeded Vibbard as owner. Mr. Eli Van Brocklin owned a knitting mill just down the street from the box company. (Corner of 2nd and Division) A business statement shows he was buying boxes from the box company. He needed boxes to sell and transport his products of fine underwear etc.

Harry D Drake bought the business in 1920, and operated it until about 1931. He sold the business to a box factory in Gloversville and the building to the Marvel Glove Co.



Mary Gifford between Marie and Hazel

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STATEMENT.

Northville, N. Y., Aug 1 1903

M. Van Brocklen & Sons.

Chas. G. Van Brocklen SUCCESSOR TO

In Account with **FRED VIBBARD,**

Manufacturer of

Plain and Fancy Paper Boxes.

STATEMENT.

NORTHVILLE, N. Y., June 1 1905

Messrs Van Brocklen & Son.

In account with **Chas. G. Van Brocklen,**

MANUFACTURER OF

PLAIN AND FANCY PAPER BOXES.

TERMS:—

STATEMENT

Northville, N. Y., II / I / 19., 190

M. Eli VanBrocklen & Son.

IN ACCOUNT WITH **Harry D. Drake,**

MANUFACTURER OF

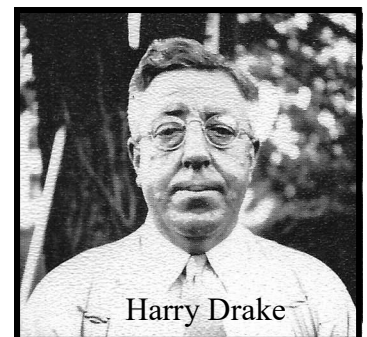
PLAIN AND FANCY PAPER BOXES.

TERMS: Cash Less 2%

Back row:
Gussie Davis
Bill Gaingell (boss)
Marie Culver

Edith Culver in front of Bill G
Standing: Cassie Burdette, Grace
Morris, Hazel Darling.

Seated: Nellie Morrison, Hilda
Fuller,



Harry Drake was a member of the Northville Fire Dept.



A typical early Box Factory



Boxes made in a Box Factories. None of these were made in Northville.



Unidentified picture, donated locally.

Do you Recognize the Mountain Range or the River?