

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor
Gail M Cramer



What is an INK BLOTTER?

Those of us (however few that are left) remember the ink wells on our desks. We started out in 5th grade (teacher was Miss Williams) using dip pens that we had to dip into the ink well on our desk. The handle was made of wood and the nib was a metal of some kind. I remember that somehow I bent the nib and was afraid to tell the teacher, so my writing in penmanship class was very scratchy until one day the teacher discovered my dilemma and gave me a new nib. (and she didn't holler at me as I thought she would) The ink often made big blots on our papers. We had "blotters" to soak up the excess ink. We also used a blotter on what we had written on our paper so that it wouldn't smudge.

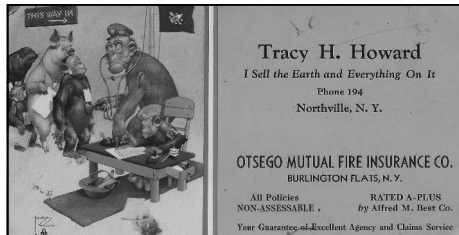


Nib



A hole in the desk to hold the bottle of ink

The term ink blotter refers either to a handheld rocking device or simple blotting paper, both used to absorb excess ink. Blotting paper is a textured, thick paper specifically made to quickly absorb excess ink. Before blotters



were invented, the preferred method was sprinkling salt over fresh written text to speed the drying process. Often blotters were made to advertise a certain company or product and given out free. Here is a copy of a local advertisement of Tracy Howard's Insurance Co. The blotter was on the back side.



The history of the ink blotter is as long as writing with ink itself. If we go back to 400,000 B.C., pigment was already being made in Africa and mixing tools suggest that sand and clay, combined with the sun were being used to dry and fix the ink. In the 26th century B.C. ink made from hide glue, carbon or bone pigment, ground into a paste and then dried in ceramic bowls, was being sprinkled with pounce to avoid smudging on papyrus. In fact, pounce, made from the bones of cuttlefish has a long history of use for preparing paper prior to writing and also setting paper afterwards. This fine powder was still in use during medieval times when monks were copying manuscripts and even in the 18th century as a more economical alternative to sprinkling salt on drying ink, a new, more expensive practice of the bourgeoisie. <http://www.galenleather.com>

In the early 1800's hand blotters arrived. These blotters were often made of wood, stone, metal, porcelain or glass and had a small handle, curved base and felt bottom that could be rocked over the text to remove excess ink. By the mid 1800's paper often replaced the felt. This paper was soft, had a cardstock-like weight and was generally made with fibers of cotton, flax seed and rice, all absorbent entities to aid in soaking up ink and providing a quick drying time. <http://www.galenleather.com>

A page from the Northville Fire Department's monthly meetings
June 1919

June-2-1919. 17

Regular meeting of Northville Fire Dept.
held in the Company's rooms June 2nd 1919.
Meeting called to order by President Wright.
at 8:05 P.M.

Minutes of last meeting ~~read~~ read.

Roll call - 10 members present.

Treasurer's report received. \$362.46 on
hand.

Moved and carried that our President,
Franklin M. Wright be elected as delegate
Tri-County Fireman's Association.

Moved and carried that C. H. Duncan
be appointed as an alternate to Tri-County
Fireman's Association.

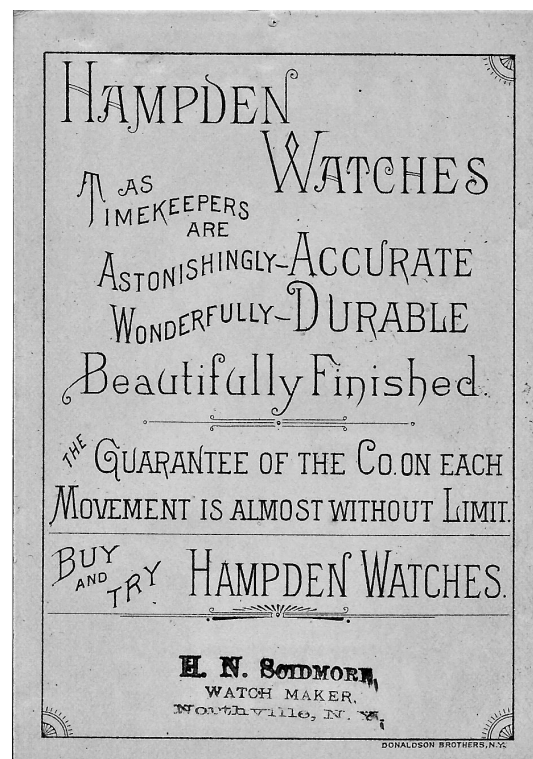
Harry Drake, W. H. Lehman, David
Sanders appointed committee to act on
charge against Clark Chequer. Complaint
made by Chief. Wearing hat & Coat out of place.

Harry Savage and David Sanders appointed
auditing committee. temporarily.

Bill of Leader - Republican of \$17.00
approved. Dues to tri Co. Unit of \$2.00 ordered paid.

Minutes approved as read.

Motion made to adjourn. F. N. Wright Pres.
Philp Chamber, Sec.



When Henry Nelson Scidmore was born on July 4, 1830, in Malta, New York, his father, Elijah, was 26 and his mother, Mary, was 25. He married Thankful Amelia Phillips in 1852. They had five children in 16 years. He died on August 6, 1905, in Johnstown, New York, having lived a long life of 75 years, and was buried in Northville, New York *Ancestry.com*

Henry was a jeweler and watch maker in what is now the building of the restaurant, Timeless Tavern. O. A. Harrington was an Optician and Jeweler, operating out of the same building with Henry Scidmore.

NORTHVILLE, July 22.—O. A. Harrington, the jeweler, went into his cellar through a trap door Friday night after some article. He found upon his return to the door that some one had closed it and was standing on it. Thinking it was some joke he proceeded to crawl through a rear window to show them that there were other exits and when arriving at the front of the store discovered it was not a joke, but that the culprit had flown, taking with him several valuable articles.



Sam's Popcorn Truck Preservation

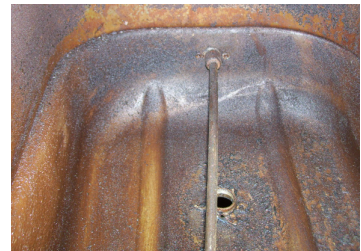
By Larry Cramer and Terry Warner

When we had the truck moved from the Vail Mills area to Northville, we were able to borrow a place to put it so we could determine what it needed, and be able to get it running, rolling and stopping. Records that came with the truck indicated that the engine had been re-furbished in 2006, and brake work had been done.



We squirted WD40 penetrating oil on the accelerator and choke cable to get it free, Then we installed the battery that came with it, which was at full charge, squirted some gas in the carburetor, and pushed the starter. It turned over a couple of times and started, and ran briefly while trying to feed the right amount of gas with a squirt bottle. With some gas in the tank, we tried again but it wouldn't suck gas. Tracing the line we found it had broken off from the tank. After some discussion we took the tank out. After more discussion, and a picture of the inside of an identical tank from the internet, decided it had to be opened up for cleaning and inspection of the pickup pipe..

I have done this procedure several times with Hudsons, so we dumped the gas out into a can, then flushed it with kerosene to absorb what little gas remained, which rendered it non-explosive. The outside was wire-brushed. I then cut 3 sides of a hole in the top with a thin cut-off wheel on my grinder, and bent the remaining side open. Looking inside, the tank and pickup line were very solid, with some loose crusty stuff in there. Most of that came out with the shop-vac and a light wire brushing. The gas-line was broken off at the front, and the plan is to drill and tap for a shut-off, a hose connection, and some flexible hose, then a new fuel line to the pump. This will prevent a vibrating hard fuel-line stressing the attachment to the tank, which broke it off in the first place in my opinion.



We next installed a new brake master cylinder when the 17-year-old repair to the old one wouldn't work, then proceeded to bleed the brakes beginning with the furthest from the master. The rear wheels got some fluid, and we got a little resistance at the brake pedal but when we went to the front wheels the cylinders were leaking badly. New cylinders are on order.

