

Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark 1863 School House Museum

Town of Deerpark Historian, 25 Grange Rd., Huguenot, NY

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The Hagens of Cahoonzie

Part 2

Brookside Cottages 1903 Tax Map of Cahoonzie Upcoming Programs

The Hagens of Cahoonzie Part 2

Augustus C. Hagen: Criminal, Farmer, & Politician

By Marie Louise Hagen

The first of the Hagens to live full-time in the house I now own in Cahoonzie was my great grandfather, Augustus C. Hagen. Unlike his father, he was less of a hero than rascalion. Augustus was born in St. Louis on June 1, 1860, to Wilhelm Christian and Rosina Flammer Hagen, who had one other child, five year-old Clara Louise. He spent his youth in Newark, New Jersey. When he was twelve, he suggested to his neighbors that they name their newborn daughter after his sister. Young Augustus was said to have been fascinated with Clara Mathilde Dilly from the moment of her birth. He married her on September 1, 1888. She was sixteen; he was twenty eight. Their first child, my grandfather, Charles William Hagen Sr., was born in New York five and a half months later. Two years later they had a daughter, Clara Louise Hagen, whose nickname was "Lala."

Before his marriage, Augustus Hagen was living with his parents in Newark and working as a bookkeeper's apprentice. He was still working as a bookkeeper in the early 1890s, employed by the American Exchange



National Bank. In early April of 1894, Augustus and a client, Charles E. Bartholomew, were accused of embezzling \$34,000 from the bank – several hundred thousand dollars in today's money.

According to an account in the New York Times on April 2, 1894, "Dr. Hagen says his son left the bank Jan. 5 when he appeared to be suffering from nervous prostration, which had wrecked his intellect. Hagen went to relatives in Connecticut, and sent his resignation to President Clarke. Hagen's mental condition became aggravated and he had to be kept under strict surveillance."

The article continued, "Although his friends watched him closely, Hagen evaded them and disappeared, and his father and brother-in-law Richard Dieffenbach, when a commitment in insanity had been pro-

cured, employed a detective, who found him wandering aimlessly in the neighborhood of Newark. He was placed in the Essex County Insane Asylum, but escaped within a week. It is supposed that Bartholomew supplied him with funds to get out of the way, and that Hagen's ultimate destination is Sidney, New South Wales.

Bartholomew lived with his wife and five children in Glen Ridge, N.J. He gave up his business in February, it is alleged, through lack of funds, he having squandered what he earned in printing and publishing the proceeds of his conspiracy with Hagen in speculating in "puts" and "calls." Bartholomew came to New York Saturday to look after some of his business affairs, and Marshal Grant arrested him in College Place."

While Bartholomew was apparently regarded as the initiator of the embezzlement, it is unlikely that Augustus was without blame. His father claimed to have made considerable money on his investments, especially during Reconstruction in the South. It is suspected that Augustus thought he could invest bank funds, turn a quick profit, and return the money without the bank knowing what had happened. Unfortunately, the gambit failed and the "borrowed" funds simply disappeared into the abyss of the market.

Augustus did flee the country after escaping the asylum. *The Los Angeles Herald of May 12, 1894* wrote, "It transpired today that Augustus C. Hagen, defaulting cashier of the American Exchange Bank of New York, was a passenger to Australia on the last trip of the Alameda, but he

landed in Honolulu. Hagen had taken passage to this city and James Bennett, employed by the bank to shadow him, started on the same steamer. Hagen is said to have learned Bennett's identity and purpose and to have had a personal altercation with him. Bennett had no papers and could not prevent his landing at Honolulu. The defaulter took passage on a vessel about to sail for Apia, Samoa. An effort will be made to apprehend him there."

He did not get beyond Apia. According to the *New York Times* a month later, "United States Deputy Marshal P. H. Malowney of San Francisco arrived here yesterday afternoon with Augustus C. Hagen, who is under indictment for embezzlement. Hagen was arrested in Apia, Samoa. He was a bookkeeper in the Exchange National Bank of this city, and is charged with stealing \$30,000 with the aid of depositor, C.E. Bartholomew. The prisoner was locked up in Ludlow Street Jail pending examination."

Augustus pled guilty on June 19, 1894 and was sentenced to seven years in Erie Penitentiary. President Grover Cleveland commuted the sentence to five years in December, 1896. By 1898 Augustus was out of prison, upon the recommendation of the Attorney General who stated, "That the good conduct of the petitioner since his release being certified to by responsible citizens, I advise that a pardon be granted in order to restore his civil rights." On September 19, 1898, President William McKinley pardoned Augustus and his civil rights were restored.

After his release, Augustus moved to the Cahoonzie farm where he lived in what was exile from New York City and the Newark area for the rest of his life. He raised livestock, grew crops and took in summertime boarders. A mention in the *Tri-States Union of March 20, 1902*, brags, "Did you see that Holstein-Friesian bull Gus Hagen bought in Jersey? Take a look at him and draw your own conclusions. Gus thinks he'll make a prize winner."



Pumpkins apparently grew quite well on the Hagen Farm. In the fall of 1918, an eighty-five pound pumpkin grown by Augustus was displayed at Rueling's Market on Pike St. in Port Jervis. Also a seventy-five pound pumpkin grown by his daughter was sold for the benefit of the Junior Red Cross for \$38.25.

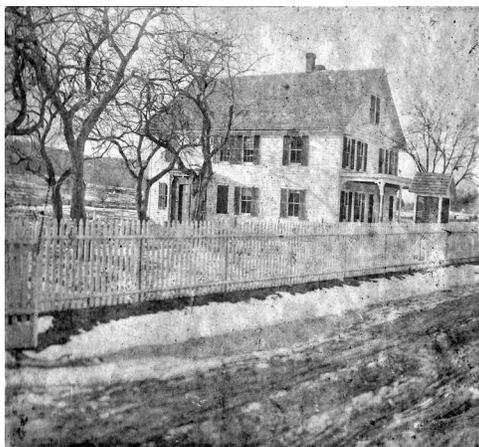
The Hagen Farm was locally famous for its apple trees, a few of which survive today. Noted in Howard J. Dean's book, *Where We Came From*, "The Hagan [sic] farm on the state road had the best sheepnose apples (they were good for eating, and also for throwing!). Hagen's had several trees that were especially good: Sheepnose, Baldwins, Pound Sweets, a small, but real sweet apple that could be carried easily in ones pockets."

Augustus became involved with

local politics after settling in Cahoonzie. For several years, he served as a Republican County Committeeman in the third district of the Town of Deerpark. He was elected as clerk of the Cahoonzie School District in 1921, a school that his children had attended. A few months later, he was also elected as a Democratic Committeeman with Frank Patterson. He was edged out in the Republican vote by Mrs. Anna Whitaker. Family lore has it that certain Republicans tried to push him out, so he ran for both parties. Two years later in 1923, he was elected Chairman of the Republican County Committee of the Town of Deerpark.

Augustus Hagen was a member of the Port Jervis Automobile Club. In a March, 1921 article in the *Port Jervis Union*, as a member he stated "that another patrolman was needed on the State Highway from Port Jervis to Rio and the club moved to take up the matter with Senator Baumes to appoint said patrolman on Road 448." I could not find any reports that the patrolman was ever appointed, but whatever policing of that road that passed in front of the Hagen Farm was in effect a few years later was insufficient to prevent the tragedy that befell my family.

On October 10, 1925, Augustus and his three-year old grandson Billy Hagen had gone out at night to collect apples from the orchard that was located along the road outside of the house. Two cars came speeding by, apparently racing each other and hit both of them. A short time later a person knocked at the farmhouse door and told the family that there was a person lying by the side of the road. My uncles, Charles Jr. and his



brother Donald, both remembered watching from the top of the second floor stairs as the family brought the badly injured little brother and grandfather into the house. Augustus died shortly thereafter. Billy survived though he was afterwards in bad health, and drowned while swimming four years later. The drivers of the cars that hit the two were never apprehended. After the person, who alerted the family to the accident, died in the 60s or 70s, his daughter told my uncle Don that her father was the driver of the car that killed his grandfather.



Augustus Charles Hagen

In a future edition of the *Deerpark Diary*, Marie Hagen will relay more stories about her family. Thank You Marie and your cousin Ronald E. Hagen, the family historian.

Brookside Cottages

Inquiries that come into the historian's office never cease to spark our curiosity which leads to further research. When looking for information about their ancestor, the caller will explain their family's connection to Deerpark, citing a location, business, school or farm. A recent call came in about the McGuire Family's turn-of-the-century boarding house in Cahoonzie called the Brookside Cottage.

The popular boarding house was located on the corner of PeenPack Trail and Route 42, a location I have driven by all of my life. I wanted to know more. Mr. Frank H. McGuire ran a successful funeral parlor, located at 578 Park Place, Brooklyn, New York. He bought the house in 1888, which was originally the John Van Etten farm. His intention was to create and maintain this establishment for his own circle of friends and family. The old house was rebuilt and updated and even a post office was included. The boarding house with its picturesque scenery soon became a popular summer retreat for the Brooklynites. In 1891 after a serious fire, a larger more commodious house was built to accommodate thirty guests. When there was an overflow of guests, sleeping quarters were provided in adjacent cottages. The ground floor

contained a spacious parlor, a large dining room, a grand hall with spiral staircase, and



Little Girl's Croquet Outfit

two kitchens. The property boasted a spacious lawn for croquet and tennis, an orchard and lots of nooks and crannies for reading and romance. The clear and cool waters of the Shinglekill, which ran along the property line, provided refreshing breezes during the hot summers.

Owners left entertainment to the guests to create. Ice cream socials were elaborate affairs with ruffles, flourishes, and decorated archways covered with ferns, leaves and flowers. Skits were performed, songs were sung and poetry was recited. A young female guest was so disappointed at missing a wedding in the city, that her friends staged an entire mock wedding and reception complete with costumes and décor, much to the girl's surprise and delight. Neighboring boarding houses would combine trips to scenic locations and "hot spots." One such party saw 25 guests from the Brookside alone combine with guests from Willis Banks' house in two large wagons driven by George Dean and Charles Gumaer. The huge party went



to Port Jervis and then came back by way of Huguenot.

A September 1898 article in the *Tri-State Times Union* credits McGuire with bringing a new vitality to Cahoonzie prompting other businesses to open near-by to cater to guests. However, the paper did site one major complaint and that was the terrible condition of the roads. One can imagine quite a ride for quests after they stepped off the train in Port Jervis and loaded themselves and their belongings onto their host's horse drawn wagon to be driven to their summer retreat. This ride did not seem to dampen the spirit of the guests in this heyday of Cahoonzie boarding houses.



The fashions featured were described in the *Port Jervis Times Union* of July 22, 1897. Black and white checks were all the rage.

Upcoming Programs

Sunday May 21, 2017 3PM
Frank Salvati presents:
“How George Washington Started the First World War”

The Deerpark Museum
25 Grange Rd
Huguenot, NY 12746
Refreshments

Sunday June 11, 2017 3PM
Delaware Valley Raptors

Lecture and Exhibit of live native raptors including hawks and owls
The Nerversink Valley
Grange Building
Grange Rd
Huguenot, NY 12746



Tri-State Veteran's Memorial Update and Reminder

Spring is coming soon. Construction will begin again on the **Tri-State Veteran's Memorial** located at The Fireman's Memorial Park on Main St., Sparrowbush, NY. Honor your loved ones who have served and sacrificed in the armed forces by purchasing a paver stone with their name and service branch etched on it. The pavers will be placed inside the walls of the memorial. All work done on this memorial has been accomplished through the efforts of volunteers. Please contact the Deerpark Town Hall for paver stone details and order forms.



A Genealogical Conundrum

Here is a unique take on family relationships in a vintage news article submitted by Diane Eakman.

A Singular Suicide

“William Harmon committed suicide at Titusville, Pa., recently, from a melancholy conviction that he was his own grandfather. He left the following letter:

I married a widow who had a grown daughter. My father visited our house very often, and during those visits, he fell in love with my stepdaughter. They were married. So my father became my son-in-law, and my stepdaughter became my mother, because she was my father's wife. Sometime afterwards, my wife had a son – he was my father's son-in-law, and my uncle, for he was the brother of my stepmother.

My father's wife, i.e., my stepdaughter, also had a son; he was of course my brother, and in the meantime my grandchild, for he was the son of my daughter. My wife was my grandmother because she was my mother's mother. I was my wife's husband and grandchild at the same time. And, as the husband of a person's grandmother is his grandfather, I was my own grandfather.”

Paradise Farm Resort Inquiry

The historian's office has had requests for information on the history of the Paradise Farm Resort. If you have any stories or information about its origins, please contact us here at the Deerpark Museum. 845 856-2702 or deerparkhistorian1863@gmail.com

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