



Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark 1863 School House Museum

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Tri-State Area Tourism Boom Time

The Tri-State Area, at the turn of the 20th Century, was in the throes of a tourist boom. Resorts and boarding houses were everywhere. Whether staying at a 100 room hotel or a 5 to 10 room farm house, guests eagerly booked accommodations to enjoy the fresh air, home-cooking, beautiful scenery and varied attractions offered by competing establishments. The growing tourism business had a significant economic impact, especially during the peak summer months.

Tri-State Union, 30 August, 1900 Expect To Enlarge

"Summer-boarding business in this valley seems to be on the increase. All the resorts from the magnificent Inn at High Point and the unsurpassable Eddy Farm at Sparrowbush down to the smallest house that can accommodate boarders are now full. Hundreds of applications for rooms have been rejected, and a canvass of the situation shows that, had there been suitable accommodations in the immediate

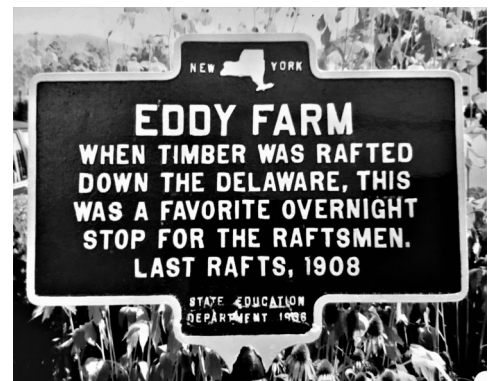
vicinity, our summer population during July, August and a part of September, would have been larger by 400.

"Some of the proprietors of resorts are planning enlargements of their houses. This, morning, in conversation with Mr. John R. Patterson, of Eddy Farm, we learned that he has turned down over 100 applications for room and board. He will, during the winter, enlarge his house to accommodate 40 more guests, swelling his capacity from 70 to 110. He will put in a new dining room 30 by 60 feet, on the ground floor with 24 sleeping rooms on the two floors above and make other improvements in his fine properties.

"Port Jervis ought to be the center of a really important business in the way of summer boarding. Such places as High Point, Eddy Farm, the Bell Place and the Pocono Farm are unsurpassed in the country for beauty, scenery, purity of air and water, rambles, fishing, boating, hunting, biking and driving. High Point would draw 500 guests as easily as it now draws 150. Eddy Farm would draw 250-300 just as easily as it now draws 50. Mill Rift, Cahoonzie, the Huguenot and other valleys and a score of mountain tops and lakes offer superb sites for summer resorts. The business of the village would be largely increased by the extension of the summer-boarding interest, and our community would be benefited in all material ways.

"If during the season of 1901 Mr. Patterson finds his capacity still to be too small he hopes to make further enlargements and contemplates making this addition next season with this end in view, In due course of time Port Jervis people may see "Eddy

Farm" House able to accommodate 400 or 500 guests."



History of Eddy Farm By Mrs. Edward Hanlon (Written early part of the 1900s)

Eddy Farm

"Situated on the banks of the Delaware River, overlooking the beautiful Patterson Eddy, is one hundred acres of fertile land known as "Eddy Farm." Patterson's Eddy was once called Jerry's Eddy, named for one Jerry Patterson of Paterson, NJ.

"Joseph Patterson, great grandfather of Eddy Farm proprietors Frank and George Patterson, was born in Paterson, NJ, which city was named in honor of his family. The property was formerly owned by Timothy Anson Raymond, father of Harriet Raymond, a retired school teacher who lived in Port Jervis. Samuel Patterson, grandfather of Frank and George, in early life was engaged in the rafting and lumber business and later purchased and sold ship timber, beside(s)

carrying on his farm work. The home was a celebrated rafting resort for raftsmen from Sullivan County. John Raymond Patterson, son of Samuel and Nancy R. Patterson, was born March 7, 1836 and was the second of nine children and the father of Frank and George. He remained with his parents on their home farm until their death, in the meantime assisting his father in the ship timber business. When he became of age, he embarked in that occupation for himself, cutting in the woods near the Delaware. The homestead was a large, old-fashioned farm house, a part of which stands and with modern improvements is used as a home for farm help. The farm was a favorite stopping place for rafts. Natural conditions that contributed to its popularity, only a short distance above the Eddy, are a saw mill and Butler Rifts. Considered to be the most dangerous places on the river, there was hardly a day that some raft did not meet with mishap on one or the other of these rifts. John R. Patterson's expert services and his ready boats were often called upon by unfortunate river-men. The quiet waters of the Eddy made repairs an easy matter and the doors of the old homestead were always open for the river farers.

"The first city guests to partake of the hospitality of the home were Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Schoonmaker and daughter, who were sent to the farm by a Dr. Hanford of New York City, of whom Mr. Schoonmaker was a patient. Dr. Hanford also owned a stock farm in Cahoonzie on the property now owned by Robert Coulter. Mr. and Mrs. Schoonmaker were so charmed with the beauty of the place and she was so greatly benefitted by her stay that she named the place "The Eddy Farm." The family was summer guests all the remaining years of their lives. Frank and George Patterson became the proprietors of Eddy Farm at the death of their father, John R. Patterson and with their wives, have been untiring in their efforts to make the place a most attractive and popular summer resort. From an old-fashioned farm house with one family as guests has sprung the up-to-date, five floor building and a large three-floor annex, with all the modern improvements, accommodating 250 guests. Boating, bathing, fishing, tennis, croquet and baseball are among the out-

door sports, while spacious parlors, reading rooms and ballroom with an immense expanse of open porch for indoor pleasures and comforts. They employ an efficient corps of forty men and women in carrying on the work that must be done in looking after the welfare of so large a number of guests. Many of the boys and girls of Sparrowbush found their first employment here.

"Several years ago about twenty acres of the land on the Pennsylvania side of the river was purchased by Mr. Patterson, that no axe man could rob it of its grandeur. Its high rocks towering over the Eddy, capped with beautiful trees, its cool resorts and natural waterfalls are a source of delight to summer guests. Any will recall the delightful rides down the river to Milford in the "Eddy Belle," a twenty-four foot boat built by John R. Patterson and manned by two oarsmen. Mr. Patterson and James Van Fredenburg steered through the rifts with a large rudder at one end of the boat. The boat was too large to bring back upriver. Teams of horses were sent to Milford to bring it back and also provided transportation for the guests returning to the resort."

This account of the history of Eddy Farm was written by Celestia "Lettie" Taft Hanlon, who was the wife of Edward Hanlon. She was born in 1869 in

Binghamton, NY, and died in Sparrowbush in 1941. She married Edward in 1895. Edward was born in Sparrowbush in 1865 and passed away in the same town in 1950. His mother was Abby Doty Hanlon sister to John R. Patterson's wife, Mary.

Note — John R. Patterson passed away the 19th of January 1907.

Frank Patterson was born 11 Sept. 11, 1865 and died 15 June 1950.

George Patterson was born March 1883 and died April 1973.

Tri-State Union 19 August, 1897

EDDY FARM NOTES ITS POPULARITY WITH WHEELMEN

Some of the Boarders and Advantages of This Charming Resort

"One of the nearby summer resorts whose prosperity is built on a foundation of solid merit is Eddy Farm at Sparrowbush, owned and managed by John Patterson. Most of the readers are familiar with the location and will agree with us that a more charming spot in which to spend the hot months of the summer does not exist in this region. Even in the hot weather of dog days Eddy Farm has a cool appearance and seems like an oasis of refreshing coolness in the surrounding sultriness. With the Delaware river wending its way along its southwestern boundaries and the picturesque and beetling Pennsylvania cliffs looming up in front and the



pastoral scenery of the country north and east with Port Jervis and Sparrowbush in the perspective Eddy Farm has a setting which is unsurpassed and a charm that never palls the visitor.

"Wheelmen and women find Eddy Farm a particularly delightful place to sojourn as Mr. Patterson has taken pains to provide them with every facility for the storage and care for their wheels. In this connection we may add that he is now building a cinder path running parallel with the wagon road leading from the highway just below the railroad track along the river to Eddy Farm. This road greatly shortens the distance of the farm and obviates the necessity which previously existed of crossing the railroad track twice to reach the farm.

"One of the charms of the place is the roomy pavilion in front of the house sheltered by an awning upon which the guests may sit or recline at their ease and enjoy the unrivalled scenery and the refreshing breezes."

Cliffs

Tri-State Union 12 April, 1900

"Messrs. John R. Patterson and Son, proprietors of Eddy Farm, recently purchased from Mr. Sol Hazelton, of Mill Rift, his part of the wood cliff on the Pike Shore of the Delaware River, extending from the edge of the stream up to the mountain highway. Now they are buying from Mr. Thurling, proprietor of the Glass House

Estate, that part of the bluff reaching from their line down to the lower cove. This purchase will give them the room to lay out a fine ramble and put up several rustic retreats for their city boarders. A wilder and more beautiful cliff is not found in the country."

The Eddy Farmers Raft-Ride on a rushing, Roaring River in Rattling Rain

Tri-State Union, 31 July, 1902

"Sparrowbush, July 25th, - A merry party from Eddy Farm made a trip to Milford via the Delaware and a "pony" log raft yesterday. The party consisted of fourteen passengers.

"The raft was that of Alderman S. Gariss, which had been brought down from Pond Eddy on Wednesday. The party boarded the raft at Eddy Farm at 2 o'clock, and pulled out into the current. Steersman John R. Patterson did the "Jersey" and "Pennsylvania" oratorical stunt which is a part of piloting on the Delaware. His second was Mr. Frank Gordon, an experienced oarsman.

"The threatening clouds soon began to fulfill their threat of rain. The raft was banked at Sheep Pasture, south of Port Jervis, in order to let the passengers get under shelter from the downpour rain.

"After a stop of an hour the trip resumed, and the raft reached Milford shortly after five o'clock. There were two of the Eddy Farm carriages await-

ing them, and the party reached home shortly after 7 o'clock.

"The visitors are enthusiastic over the beauties of the Delaware, as well as the very wet wetness of the precipitated contents of the clouds, but they considered none of the other points between Pond Eddy and Milford equal to Eddy Farm and the Hawk's Nest in beauty and grandeur.

"Very few summer guests at any resort in the country can enjoy the experience of a regular raft ride. The Eddy Farmers enjoy that distinction. Before leaving Milford, the tourists telephoned to Eddy Farm to "turn on steam," as they are all soaked. We hear of no bad results from the drenching they received."

DOWN THE DELAWARE Initial Trip from Sparrowbush to Milford Successful. A Pleasant Novelty Excursion

Tri-State Union, 20 August, 1903

"Sparrowbush, Aug. 18th. - The first trip of the "Eddy Belle" between Eddy Farm and Milford on Monday afternoon was a success. There were 24 persons in the party. The new boat was covered by an awning and the excursion was delightful in every way.

"Mr. John R. Patterson acted as Captain and pilot, and Mr. J. A. Van Fredenberg served as first mate, Boat-swain and crew. The passengers furnished the Shriekers and Exclamationists and Administrationists of the superb scenery.

"The start was not made from Eddy Farm until 1.45 o'clock p.m. As the Delaware is very low, the boat made slow progress, especially on the still stretches of the river below Tri-States Rock. Some rowing was necessary on these stretches.

"It was nearly 5 o'clock when the "Eddy Belle" reached Milford. The passage was marred by no mishap, and nobody "rocked the boat." On some of the bars and shoals the boat touched bottom, and in the rift near Milford it collided with a large rock, but escaped damage.

"At Milford the passengers were met by two carriages and whirled homeward over the famous Pike Road, reaching Eddy Farm at about



7 o'clock. The "Eddy Belle" was escorted home on a truck by John Darragh, with Boatswain Van Fredenberg as chaperone.

"On the return trip the "Eddy Belle" as "held up" by the resorter pirates and piratesses at the Pocono Farm House, near Matamoras, and twenty of the pirates insisted on making the trip into Port Jervis on the craft. They climbed in and took possession and sailed across the Barrett Bridge in a breeze of gayety.

"The record of this trial trip shows that only when the river is fairly high can the passage be made. At Sim's Clip and on the bars the water is already very shallow, and only a pilot with Captain Patterson's accurate knowledge of the Delaware could find a navigable current. As it now stands, Sparrowbush has become a seaport, with Eddy Farm for the port of entry."

***An Unprecedented Number
Here This Year.
-Every Summer Home Full***

Evening Gazette, 27 August, 1907

"It is estimated that there are at the present moment more than 2,500 summer people stopping within the radius of ten miles from Port Jervis, Milford people say there are 800 people in the village and at the resorts in the hills. In this vicinity there are 80 people at Pocono Farm and Thurlings and the Bell Farms at Matamoras are running full to running over.

"Eddy Farm has 80 guests and all the many summer homes at Sparrowbush and Cahoonzie are crowded.

Ebbick's new summer resort on the berme side road is full to the roof. The High Point Inn has about 150 guests, Kerr's Farm 65 and the Schneider Farm, on the river road, all that they can accommodate. Huguenot Spring House has 65, the Douglas Cottages 50 and the Working Girls Home at Huguenot about 35.

"The Pocono Farm has had a full house since the first of July and now they are sleeping their guests wherever they can get accommodations convenient to the house. Some guests are being roomed at the Allen House, in the village of Matamoras."

A Remembrance

Dudley Patterson, grandson of John R. Patterson, reminisced about his grandfather in a *Times Herald Record* interview, September 23, 1976.

"When John R. was 60, some 20 odd years after the hotel began, he decided to retire. For him, that meant building a boat, the "Eddy Belle" to take guests on trips downriver to Milford and back; a big time in those days. He remains one of the hotel's most colorful personalities."

