

**Excerpts from *The Charlotteville Phoenix***  
*(bullets and items in brackets were added by transcriber)*

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**Volume II, Number 39**  
**Charlotteville, Schoharie Co., N.Y.**  
**Wednesday, June 29, 1881**

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**Dead Body Found at Smithton Schoharie Co.**

Last fall we published an item in the MONITOR, relative to the sudden disappearance of a twelve-year-old boy named David Decker, who lived in the town of Broome between Smithton and Broome Centre with Hiram L. Smith, a well-to-do farmer. The boy disappeared on September 12th, after which considerable inquiry was made as to his whereabouts, but nothing could be learned. The people of the neighborhood soon became aroused and one day over a hundred men turned out and searched the premises of Smith and adjoining lands, but could discover no traces of the missing lad. Smith said he sent the boy out to watch a flock of sheep, and that was the last he saw of him. The excitement over the matter had all died out, and the incident was nearly forgotten until last Sunday, when the mystery was brought to light in a very startling manner. While John Cook, accompanied by a boy was going to church, he took a shorter route by crossing the farm of the said Mr. Smith. In crossing a sort of a gully, the boy found a human skull, and told Mr. Cook to look. Mr. C., supposing it to be the skull of a sheep, was about to walk on when the boy again called his attention to it, and upon a careful investigation, not only a skull, but other human bones and pieces of clothing were discovered. The neighborhood was at once aroused, and soon there was a crowd of people on the spot, when Mr. Smith and others identified the clothing as having belonged to young Decker, and said that the size of the skeleton corresponded with the size of the boy. The remains were found scattered around over several acres, some small bones being picked up nearly half a mile apart, and some of them look as though they might have been gnawed by some animal. On Monday Mr. Cook came to Gilboa and notified corner Zeh, who commenced inquest on Tuesday. After all the remains had been viewed the coroner ordered them buried and then all repaired to Alma's hotel, Broome Centre, where the inquest was held. Two days have been occupied in taking testimony, and we go to press without the verdict, which will doubtless be, that the deceased came to his death by cause unknown to the jury. Over three hundred people are in attendance at the inquest, and the excitement is great. – *Gilboa Monitor*.

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**Vicinity Excerpts**

- The Schoharie county Fair comes off at Schoharie, on the 20th, 21st and 22d of September.
- The Methodist Camp Meeting, to be held at Bailey's Grove, near Howe's Cave, will open on Saturday, August 13th, and close on Saturday, August 20th, 1881. All tents must be erected before 10 a. m. of the 13th at which time the first services will be held.
- At a convention held at Oneonta, June 21, arrangements were made to give a series of Trotting Meetings, commencing at Schoharie, Aug. 2d; Cobleskill, 9th; Oneonta, 16th; Morris, 23; Norwich, 30th. Two days races at each meeting, and two races each day. – Large bills and programmes will soon be issued giving full particulars.

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**Local Department**

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**CHURCHES**

- M. E. CHURCH. – Charlotteville – Rev. A. M. Gay, pastor. Services every Sabbath at 11:00 a. m. and 7:00 p. m. Sunday school at 9:45 a. m. Class meeting at the close of morning service. Prayer meeting Thursday evenings, at 7:30. Seats free. Strangers always welcome.

- FREE METHODIST CHURCH. – Rev. R. M. Snyder pastor. Services every Sabbath at 10:30 and 7:30 p. m.
  - BAPTIST CHURCH. – Rev. I. Powers, pastor. Preaching every Sabbath morning at 10:30 a. m. Sabbath school immediately after close of meeting. Prayer meeting Wednesday evenings at the church.
  - M. E. CHURCH – Summit – Alternately Sabbath mornings, Summit and Westkill Hollow at 10:30 a. m. Morseville at 2:30 p. m. Prayer meetings at Summit and Westkill Hollow every Thursday evening; at Morseville each Wednesday evening.
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- A frost nearly every night last week. Bad corn weather.
- Supervisor Crowe gave us a pleasant visit again last week.
- John Hyney, of Argusville, is 92 years old, hale and hearty.
- Ex-Supervisor Patrie, of Seward, has purchased a very fine team.
- Geo. H. Campbell, of South Worcester, has moved to Davenport.
- Hon. Chas. Bouck is erecting a tenement house near Fultonham.
- Rev. D. Herron, of Jefferson, will make a trip to Europe this summer.
- Mrs. Henry Smith, of East Worcester, visited her old home last week.
- Hogan & Borst's, Cobleskill, is the place to buy paints, oils, medicines, etc.
- D. W. Thurber, of East Worcester, is yet confined to his house by sickness.
- School Commissioner Ostrom visited the schools in this section last Thursday.
- Take your wool to M. N. Bradley's Richmondville. See "ad." in another column.
- Richmondville items too late last week. We were sorry but could not make it different.
- The Breakabeen and Jefferson bands will discourse the music at Cobleskill on the "Glorious Fourth."
- Send in all the local happenings within 25 miles of us. Don't wait for an invitation in person.
- The store of John Stever, Central Bridge, was entered on the evening of the 18th inst. by burglars.
- D. E. Butler, of Portlandville, caught in one day, in Crumhorn lake, 69 pickerel. How is that?
- A four horse team will convey the mail and passengers between Cobleskill and Canajoharie after July 1st.
- John H. Schermerhorn of Argusville, formerly of this place, is now owner of the Carlisle mills again.
- Gideon Becker, of Gallupville has the most stylish and ornamental fence about his Dwelling in that town.
- Hops in Otsego and Schoharie counties generally speaking, now bid fair to fall very far short of an extra crop.
- Mrs. C. L. Pritchard and daughter, of Dubuque, Iowa, are visiting at her father's, Mr. H. W. Herron, of this village.
- Schoharie county is entitled to one free scholarship at Cornell University each year. Who will receive it this time?
- Peter S. Mann, of Cobleskill, was in town last Wednesday and Thursday. He was looking after the insurance business.
- Farmers are disappointed in their hay crop. The frost has hurt the grass and the crop will not be as heavy as reported.
- Mr. Josiah Multer, and Mrs. Mary Titus have returned from Altona, Ill. Mr. Multer will return, but Mrs. Titus is expected to remain.
- Hon. F. R. Gilbert, of Stamford, will deliver the oration at Cobleskill on the Fourth. Mr. Gilbert is an able man and a good speaker.
- The friends of Mrs. Stanton Waterman will regret that she is yet confined to her bed with fever. It is earnestly hoped that she will recover in a short time.
- Read Johnson's story, the first chapter of which may be found in this paper. It will continue for about three months, and is well worth reading by anybody.
- Our Juvenile Sunday school scholars, as a whole, possess extra talent for vocal music, and there is just reason to believe that with proper cultivation we will in time have the "crack" singers of the town.
- M. & N. Van Patten have lately repaired the old borouche owned by the father of V. D. Becker, of South Worcester. It is really a relic of old times, and is much cherished by the present Mr. Becker.
- The Middleburgh *Gazette* says W. E. Basler, of that village, has been elected President of the Board of Trustees, at Starkey Seminary, located at Eddytown, N. Y. It is a selection most worthily bestowed.

- The Moyer farm buildings on Cross Hill, about 3 miles south-west of Warnerville were totally destroyed by fire on Saturday evening, the 18th inst., supposed to be the work of an incendiary. Insured in the Fire Association of Philadelphia Pa., by S. T. Thatcher, of Cobleskill.

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- Our street lamps are here.
- Our cemetery fence does not go up very fast.
- Summit boarders take a ride thro' here occasionally.
- Our Esperance correspondent has moved to Amsterdam.
- E. M. Stevens has gone to Canada, after a span of horses.
- The Howe boys at Worcester recently shipped 300 calves to New York.
- Caty Wilsey and Mrs. Wm. A. Spencer have gone to Saratoga Springs to visit friends.
- Triple plated table knives, fully warranted at \$4 per doz. at Ferguson's Cobleskill, N. Y.
- A. B. Borst, of Cobleskill, is having a big furniture trade. It is because he sells goods cheap.
- Andrew Reese has swapped horses with David Wayman of Summit, and we think, has the heaviest team in this vicinity.
- There will be a strawberry festival at the Lutheranville church Thursday Eve. July 7th. A general invitation is extended.
- \$30 will buy the best kind of a sewing machine, with two drawers, cover and drop-leaf at H. Rifenbark's, warranted for five years.
- "NOW ER NEVER!" – Only twenty five Bbls. of Buckwheat Fertilizer left at J. L. Hartwell's. No more to be had this season after this week.
- Mrs. Geo. Ostrander, of Warnerville, died at her home last Friday, she was a daughter of Wm. J. Tingué and was a much respected woman.
- Don't expose yourself to sun and rain when you can buy a carriage top for \$15, of A. Ferguson Cobleskill. N. B. A better grade for \$20 and \$25.
- WOOL WANTED – I will pay the highest (cash) price for 5000 lbs. of wool. Don't sell till you see me. MYRON RYDER, CHARLOTTEVILLE.
- MILLINERY – When you visit Worcester, call and see the stylish hats and bonnets where you see sign of the BIG POKE bonnet. Cor. Main and Depot Sts.
- We desire to buy Ginseng Root, and will pay the highest market price for it, delivered at our Drug Store at Cobleskill N. Y. DILLENBECK & ROWE.
- Shade hats 25 cents; children's hats \$1.25 to \$4.00; ladies hats and bonnets \$1.50 to \$16.00; sash ribbon 25 cents to \$1.50 per yard, at Mrs. Trickey's Millinery Store, Worcester.
- IMPORTANT TO TRAVELERS. – Special inducements are offered you by the Burlington Route. It will pay you to read their advertisement to be found elsewhere in this issue.
- The following letters remain uncalled for at the Charlotteville Post Office, Viz.: Mrs. Josephine Johnson and Hattie Bixler. Persons calling for them will please mention that they are advertised. S. Lape P. M.
- 500 suits of ready made clothing, just purchased at greatly reduced prices will be sold during the next ten days, at astonishing low figures. All who wish good bargains will do well to call and examine goods and prices at Flint & Taylor's, Worcester, N. Y.
- Several of our townsmen will go to Delaware county to assist the farmers in making hay. The wages paid will be from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day according to how much muscle a man carries. It is not expected that haying will last longer than four weeks if it does that.
- It is reported here, that Rev. W. H. Humphery, of South Valley, who preached at the Dugway, recently fell from the loft of a barn while filling a straw-tick, and broke his collar bone. This accounts for his not filling his appointment here last Sunday. His friends here will regret very much to learn of his accident.
- On Tuesday of last week, during a heavy thunderstorm, a house between Afton and Nineveh, occupied by Charles Hildreth, was struck by lightning. The family were sitting on the bed at that time. Two of the children had one foot each hanging off the bed. The shoe was completely torn off one and the other was not injured. The house was badly torn to pieces, and the carpet was set on fire, but was extinguished. – Ex. Mr. Hildreth and family moved from this place two years ago, and his friends here will regret to hear his house was damaged, but will rejoice that none received injury.

## Local Correspondence.

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Correspondence solicited from all the neighboring towns. Communications received later than Monday of each week will not be inserted.

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### Richmondville.

- Corporation tax is the next thing.
- Mr. Harry Butler is on the sick list.
- A good tailor is needed in this village.
- James Harroway is building a new barn.
- Miss Minnie Foster is passing vacation at home.
- Street Com. Felter has again commenced operation.
- Geo. Sutphen of Bondville, Vt., will pass the summer with his parents here.
- Mrs. Felter has placed a new stone walk in front of her residence of West Main St.
- Yankey Sullivan has charge of the gravel train with about 50 Italians. He is the boss.
- Dr. T. B. VanAlstyne has decided to locate here. His office is over Lamonte & Loveland's store. Success to our friend Tom.

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- The PHOENIX (devil) passed Sunday here.
- Mrs. Olendorf is visiting friends at Utica.
- Ed. Felter, of Troy, passed Sunday in town.
- Mrs. Geo. Ryder is visiting friends in Albany.
- Master Floyd Loveland has returned from Hoboken, N. Y.
- The great Metropolitan circus will show here June 30th.
- Friends from Westford, Otsego Co., are visiting at Mr. Bissell's.
- Mrs. Bradley is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Shell, in St. Lawrence-co.
- Warren Jaycox and Mr. Cleveland have been painting and repairing their houses.
- Peter Houghtailing and wife, of Cooperstown, are the guests of A. D. Frasier.
- Jas. Groat and Wife, of North Harpersfield, passed Saturday and Sunday in town.
- Mrs. H. J. Ackerman, Miss Matie Ackerman and Mr. P. C. Ackerman, of Hoboken N. Y., are stopping at F. Loveland's.
- A large stone weighing about 50 lbs., from one of the blasts of the rock cut near the depot went through the roof of a house near the cemetery. No one hurt.

### Cobleskill.

- Mr. H. H. Johnson, the gentlemanly agent at Hyndsville, was in town a few days ago.
- Mr. Kennedy lost a fine little boy of six summers. Diphtheria was the cause of his death.
- Hess, the photographer, was called to Canajoharie Thursday to attend the funeral of his brother.
- The picnic was a splendid affair. A large turnout, and some very fine speeches made by the ring; and excellent music discoursed by the Breakabeen Band.
- Minard Harder shipped last Tuesday one of his fearless thresher to the State of Delaware, Wednesday one to Mich., and Friday one to Texas. For the last one he gets \$600.
- Van Voris & Harder raised a stone from their quarry on Sapbush Hill, measuring 14X46 ft., three and one-half inches thick, and all sound. Where is Roxbury and Stamford? It had an area of surface measuring 644 square feet.

### Middleburgh.

- Hay harvest commenced here on the 20th inst.
- The corn crop will be a light one this year in this town.
- There will be no public demonstration on Independence Day in this village.
- The ice-cream and strawberry festival at the Lutheran church last Thursday evening, was a very cool affair. Most of those that attended after a little while were anxious to find something warmer.
- Mr. David Zeh, ex-County Supt. of poor, after a short experience of single blessedness has gone and done it. He arrived home a few days since, after a short absence, with a partner for life. Miss Decker, daughter of T. Decker, formerly of this town, is the fortunate person that has secured the affections of our genial townsman.