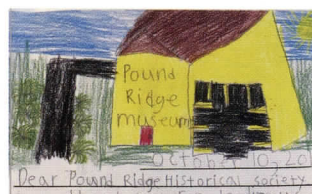
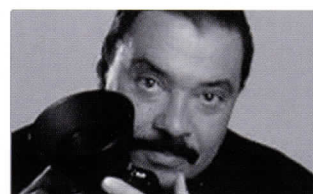


**FROM THE
ARCHIVES**
WWII
Mystery Solved



2019
The PRHS
Year In Pictures



**THEY
LIVED HERE**
Special
Photography Issue

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE POUND RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2020

VOLUME XXXIX No. 1

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words

*The stories of our
lives, our histories.
No need for words,
a picture says it all.*

Events momentous and mundane, recorded for posterity such as the c. 1920s group of men with their trucks harvesting ice on Cross River Reservoir seen here (*at right*). You can feel the cold wind blowing out on that frozen water. No words needed.

Today the Android and iPhone capture the bits and pieces of our lives with ease. But it wasn't always so. The Historical Society is undertaking the daunting task of digitizing Pound Ridge photos — historic and current. Each precious picture is a key to our past and must live on for future generations.



Ice harvesting on Cross River Reservoir, c. 1920.

We want to share some unique finds which Susan Grissom, our collections manager and Kerry Sclafani, our Archivist advisor, discovered tucked away in a dusty box. They are fascinating examples of early photographic processes handed down from Alice Thatcher

Tomlinson, the last of the Lockwoods, one of the earliest Pound Ridge families.

In Susan's words: "A great surprise awaited us as we delved into that dusty box. Along with other family treasures, were two scrapbooks of cyanotypes and early

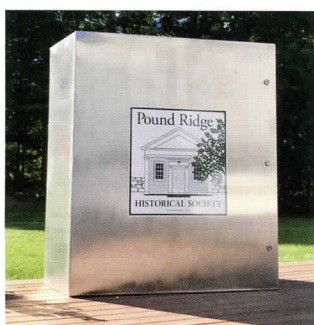
albumen prints that captured Alice's family camping trips to the Adirondacks. And it didn't end there. In a box within the box, we found 12 miniature framed Lockwood family portraits and examples of three photographic processes from the 1800s — daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and tintypes — a history of early photography.

The challenge was how to photograph them all for inclusion into our software program. Our first attempts yielded only glare or mirrored images of ourselves. Rescued by Google, we found out that we needed to put matte black paper over our phone leaving a small hole for the lens. Voila Success!

Continued on page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Time Capsule Update



By now, we hope that all Pound Ridgers are aware of our 2020 Time Capsule project.

Every organization/business in town has been invited to participate by giving us something to tell future townsfolk about themselves when the Time Capsule is opened in 100 years and

something to display at our museum exhibition.

**Save the date for
our museum opening:**

April 26th. More town wide information will follow in the coming weeks. Contact Time Capsule curators, Gillian Van Schaick or Brian Fortune by leaving word, at **764-4333**, with any questions. ■



A Picture...

Continued from page 1

Here is an introduction to these early techniques and how to identify them.



Daguerreotypes

began in Paris in 1839 and quickly became popular in New York.

Daguerreotypes are images on a silver coated copper plate. They exhibit the characteristics of a mirror at many angles and are always encased.

To date a daguerreotype, observe the mat that surrounds the photo.

The earliest had a pebble-like texture in octagon or oval shapes.

After 1845, there were nonpareil acorn, elliptical and double elliptical mats.

Perhaps, the best dating is based on what kind of case was used and the clothing worn by the subject.

Historically, daguerreotypes were the first practical photograph of early subjects with superior image quality.

The **ambrotype** was patented by James Ambros in 1854.

Ambro, from the Greek, means imperishable.

It was cheaper than a daguerreotype.

Made on a transparent glass plate with a black

backing, it was mainly coated with a silver solution. It was only popular for 10 years as it was delicate and easily damaged. Often color was added to add tinting to cheeks, lips, and gold highlights on jewelry, buttons and buckles.

The **tintype** was introduced in 1855 and its popularity waned by 1900.

The image would be developed on a thin iron

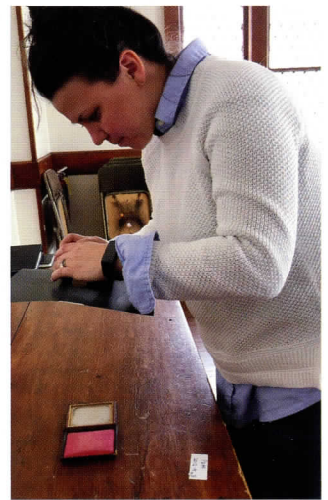
sheet. Tintypes were encased in a similar manner to daguerreotypes and ambrotypes.

During the Civil War, tintypes documented soldiers from the North and South, as well as horrific battle scenes.

It was so easily produced that itinerant photographers captured the American West working out of covered wagons.

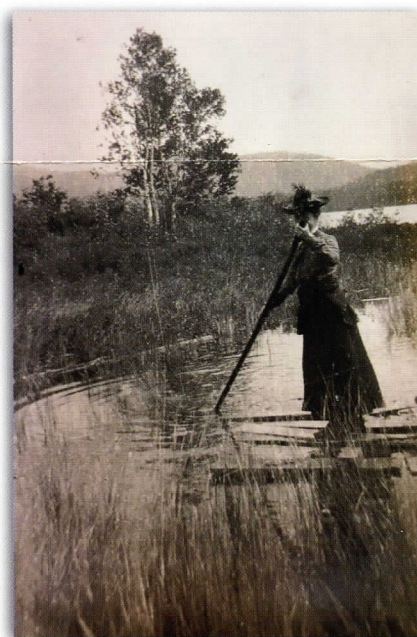
As **albumen** prints on paper became popular in the mid-1860s, tintypes became less popular, but survived another 40 years as a carnival novelty.

Cyanotypes and Albumen prints were



processes that printed the images on paper. They became the dominant form of photography from c. 1855 to the start of the 20th Century." ■

*By Susan Grissom,
Collections Mgr.*



Pictured (left-to-right): Modern snapshot of Alice Thatcher Tomlinson, the last of the Pound Ridge Lockwoods, one of our earliest families; an early image printed on paper from Alice's album; Archivist, Kerry Sclafani at work. **Pictured (below, left-to-right):** Examples of Daguerreotypes, Ambrotypes and Tintypes.

