



# Good Old Days Country Shop Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 1

## Special points of interest:

- What's happened this past year
- Things new in the shop
- Stoneware History
- How Stoneware was made
- Our Calendar



Reproduction folk art like this piece is abundant in the shop. We also carry dozens of reproduction cupboards and other primitives

## Good Old Days Country Shop

### Reflections of last year

I am writing this newsletter from 7000 miles away while taking a break from tending to our brand new 2 week old Granddaughter, Morrigan. So we have had some downtime to reflect on last year and to give you some insights as to what to expect this year. We opened last year with our Spring Open House the last weekend in March. As a special surprise at this Spring Open House, we had Chris Wilson playing live music. We also gave out free gifts, free refreshments, and had the shop full of new arrivals for everyone to marvel. The back porch that was recently winterized was open and decorated for Spring. The lines

moved faster and everybody was in good cheer. In June, we held our 2nd annual customer appreciation day. At this event, we typically have many items marked way down and give away free lunch to express our gratitude for shopping with us. Last year was no exception. John cooked pulled pork and gave away dozens of sandwiches with all the fixins. The shop also had special occasions on the 2 Pultneyville events, *Homecoming Weekend* (always the 3rd weekend in July) and *Garage Sales Day* (always the 3rd Saturday in September). This year, we added a new event to our calendar - Fall Harvest Weekend in October. Here we had specials throughout

the shop including 25% off any upholstered furniture ordered that day. Also, we gave out free ice cream cones. Of course, the first weekend in November, we hosted our huge Christmas Open House, which is always the biggest and grandest event of the year. We close the shop for 4 days prior just to prepare and decorate the shop. After the Christmas Holiday, we held a huge inventory reduction sale to make room for more inventory. Then on January 1st we closed for the winter, and as always opened the doors for those that made appointments. During all this time, our internet sales were active throughout the entire year.

### What's New in the Shop

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Last winter, we hosted our brand new on-line shopping site at [www.goodolddayscountryshop.com/shop/index.php](http://www.goodolddayscountryshop.com/shop/index.php). On this site you will find many of our popular items as well as a few antiques and specially made items. We also created a new "farm tables" page where information is given about our custom made farm tables. When we open on March 27th, you will now see 2 new lines of SOY candles. We looked at several lines of soy candles and decided on two selections. You, the customer, will make the final deci-

sion on what brand we finally carry in the shop.

New this year, on the 2nd floor, you will see a brand new room we decided to open. We call it "The Gathering Room".

Your going to see a new line of primitive sconces all made by John. Look for these at the Open House because they will be flying out the door.

We also have several new painted cupboards both old and new that we think you will like. In addition,

we have stocked up a on a lot of home accessories that you can accent your primitive, country, or colonial home with. As usual during the off-season, we have attended several buying shows and brought home truck loads of products we think you will enjoy. Also John has been busy acquiring antiques that we think you will find pleasing. Please join us at the Good Old Days this year, opening Friday, March 27th at 9:00 AM and running through Sunday, March 29th at 5:00 PM.

## Good Old Days

### Stoneware in Western NY (an excerpt from a document posted on our [website](#))



This Harrington - Lyons 3 flower crock now has a happy new owner.

*“Hundreds of pieces of stoneware could be seen stacked on the docks of the canal ...”*

**LYONS:** Around 1822, George Williams was to build and operate the Lyons Pottery in a location where the new Erie Canal was to open. The original pottery was situated on a farm land east of Phelps St. Later, the Pottery moved to a wide basin on the canal, south of Catherine and Spencer Streets between present day Canal St and Montezuma St. In the latter days, the Pottery was situated in what is now the Lyon’s Town Barn on Montezuma St. George Williams built the Lyons Pottery up to where it flourished, when in 1835 Williams left to build and manage a new branch in Mt. Morris. It was at this time that Thompson Harrington took over management of the Lyons Pottery but the name remained as “*N. Clark & Company*”. Between 1835 and 1852, Harrington would be allowed to occasionally mark a few pieces with his name. In 1852, Thompson and Amos Harrington brothers took control of the Clark Pottery Company in Lyons. A few years later, Amos fell ill and left the business but was replaced by a third brother. During this period, the wares were stamped “*Harrington & Co*”, “*Harrington*”, or “*T. Harrington*”. Thompson Harrington worked and managed both the Lyons and the Rochester Branch until 1872 when Thompson Harrington leased the Pottery to Jacob Fisher. Jacob immigrated from Germany in 1853 and married the daughter of John Burger Sr. who was operating the Rochester branch at the time. Fisher had worked for Burger at the Rochester branch since 1863. Fisher teamed up with George Lang, who was also a son-in-law of John Burger and was one of Burger’s partners in Rochester from 1871 to 1876. Even though George Lang was Fisher’s partner in the Lyons Pottery, Lang continued to reside in Rochester. During these years at the Lyons and Rochester Potteries, it was evident there were close family and employee relations. In 1878, Jacob Fisher bought the Lyons Pottery outright from Lang. Fisher’s daughter (Louise) and son assisted with the business affairs. It was during this time period that the business flourished like never before. Jacob Fisher had 2 of his own canal boats used to bring in clay from NJ and Long Island and Albany. These boats also delivered finished wares all along the canal. Wares were also distributed all over the northern counties of NYS bordering Lake Ontario from Syracuse to Buffalo by horse drawn wagons. The pottery grew in size and production during this time. Hundreds of pieces of stoneware could be seen stacked on the docks of the canal awaiting shipment. It was at this time that approximately 18 potters were spinning their wares. By 1896 the Fisher Pottery was the largest in the state. Around 1902, Jacob Fisher retired and decided to close the pottery because of increased competition from molded clay vessels being manufactured and distributed from Ohio. The crocks and jugs being mass produced in Ohio were attractive, cheaper, and could be produced 10 times faster than the hand made potters could produce. This was the downfall of all the Potteries in Western NY. Once Jacob Fisher closed the factory, some of the men who worked there decided to give it one last attempt. They re-opened the factory a few hundred yards down the road in what is now the Lyons Town Barn, and started to turn out stoneware. This business was called the “*Co-Operative Pottery Co.*”. This noble effort didn’t last very long. A few years later, after a fire destroyed a portion of the Pottery, the company closed it’s doors.

**Mt. Morris** – In 1835, George Williams left the Lyons branch to build and manage the Mt. Morris Pottery. This operation was substantially smaller than the Lyons operation. However, in keeping with the Clark tradition, this Pottery also employed it’s own boats to move the Pottery throughout the state. This Pottery did not flourish like the Lyons and Rochester branches, and around 1850 had closed up.



Antiques like this wonderful blue tilt-top can be found in the shop. Can you believe this early piece sold for under \$1000? We have great prices!!!

**Rochester** – Around 1838, Nathan Clark established a third branch in Rochester. This Pottery was also known as “*Clark & Co.*” until 1846 when it became the same name as the other branches, “*N. Clark & Co.*”. John Burger, who worked under Harrington in the Lyons Pottery, was named manager in 1841. It was always the policy of Clark that the most “skillful” potters would be set up in business for themselves. So it came to be that John Burger managed the Rochester Pottery much in the same manner of the Lyons Factory. In 1852, John Burger teamed up with Thompson Harrington and bought up Nathan Clark’s shares of the business and operated this Pottery together under the name of “*Harrington and Burger*”. In 1854, John Burger became the sole owner and marked his wares as “*John Burger*”. It was in 1861 that Burger’s son, John Burger Jr. joined the business as a potter. In 1867, the business was re-organized as “*Burger Bros. & Co.*” which included John’s

brother George along with his son John Jr. This lasted 4 years when George Lang (from the Lyons factory) entered the Rochester business. So in 1871 the factory started marking their wares as “Burger & Lang” as well as “Burger & Co.”. In 1878, John Burger Jr. assumed full control and stamped his wares as “J. Burger Jr.”. This Pottery operated under this name until 1890 when John Burger Jr. retired and closed the factory.

### Making the Pottery:

The exterior of the vessels is called the “salt glaze” while the brown interior is called “slip”. If the clay is of the brown type, this would be called “Albany Slip”, as the clay typically would be shipped in from Albany, NY. When the kiln gets hot enough, salt was thrown on the fire. The heavy fumes from the salt would coat the wares creating a smooth glaze on the outside and inside. Sometimes, when the salt was thrown into a hickory wood fired kiln, it would stir up the ashes and some of the ash would get applied to the glaze. This would result in what appears as “specks”. The earlier hickory fired kilns were replaced with coal-fired kilns that resulted in a smoother more even finish. Often times, if there were tiny pebbles in the clay, they would heat up in the kiln and pop out. This was somewhat common and is known as a “stone ping”. This is not a defect when seen on stoneware, just a circumstance that occurs during the making. The same is true for “stack marks”. Often the vessels would be stacked on top of each other or too close to each other resulting in what is known as a stack mark. Although not as desirable as a piece without these marks, this is also not a defect. The blue decoration is a diluted solution of clay and cobalt blue coloring. It was applied either with a brush, quill, or by “squeezing” it on. This blue addition to the wares was a means to identify the maker, identify the vessel’s capacity, and to add decoration. When the Harrington brothers ran the Burger Pottery, they created the most elaborate and beautiful decorations of all. The best color was created by the hickory-fired kilns that darkened the cobalt blue.

*“The earlier hickory fired kilns were replaced with coal-fired kilns ...”*



At the “Good Old Days”, we always have around 30 pieces of various styles of authentic stoneware to choose from

## Odds & Ends

### Our address is:

7643 Jay Street  
Pultneyville, NY 14538  
Phone—(315) 589-2775

You can always check our website for more information at <http://www.goodolddayscountryshop.com>

### Our hours are:

Mon-Fri from 11:00 A.M. till 5:00  
Saturday from 10:00 A.M. till 5:00  
Sundays from 12:00 P.M till 5:00

Our antiques website is [www.roosterrunantiques.com](http://www.roosterrunantiques.com).

Keep an eye on our website. There you will find links to our

[on-line shopping cart](#), [farm tables](#), [stoneware guide](#), and other useful tips.

Great new products will be introduced at the open house. Get there early and be sure to get in on the rush.

## Calendar of Events - Please refer to our website for details on all these events

### March 27th, 28th, 29th

- Spring Open House,  
9:00 - 5:00

### April 4th, 10:00—5:00

- Adult Easter Egg Hunt—find a hidden egg with discount coupons inside. Redeem at sales counter to find out what your discount will be on your sale (1 egg per customer)

### May 4th—9th

- Mother’s Day Celebration Week—Specials all week long

### June 6th—Customer

Appreciation Day

### July 18th, 19th -

Pultneyville Homecoming Weekend

### August 29th, 30th -

Summer Doldrums Days

Sept 19th - Pultneyville Garage Sales

### October - 10th, 11th

- Fall Harvest Days

November 6th 7th, 8th

- Christmas Open House



We always offer wonderful antiques like this jelly cupboard which can be used to show off your stoneware.