



William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute

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Miner Institute Progress Report

HEART'S DELIGHT FARM CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Preparations are continuing for the Grand Opening of the Heart's Delight Farm Heritage Exhibit, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the building of Heart's Delight Farm by William H. Miner. The exhibit, located on the grounds of the William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute in Chazy, NY, uses audio-visuals, original historical artifacts and scale models to tell the story of Heart's Delight Farm and celebrate the continuing vision of Mr. Miner. In addition, the Wayside Heritage Walk takes visitors along a beautifully landscaped path through the original stone entrance gates of the farm to the former site of Heart's Delight Cottage. Along the way, historic photographs depict Heart's Delight Farm as it was in its heyday.

A true rags-to-riches story, William H. Miner first arrived Chazy as an orphan in 1871 to live with his aunt and uncle on his grandfather's farm. At age 18, Miner left the family farm for bigger opportunities. He studied engineering and worked in the railroad industry, ultimately inventing many devices--most notably, a shock absorber--that revolutionized the industry. In 1903, Miner returned to the family farm in Chazy a wealthy man. A true "gentleman farmer," he developed the farm, which he called "Heart's Delight," into a showcase of modern farming techniques. Eventually, the farm grew from its original 144 acres to encompass more than 15,000 acres. It's true—the Heart's Delight dairy barn had electricity before even the Governor's Mansion in Albany!

But Miner and his wife, Alice, were also interested in using their great wealth to benefit the local community. Amongst the most notable of their projects are the creation of the Chazy Central Rural School, Physicians Hospital (now CVPH) and the Alice T. Miner Museum. His philanthropy continued even after his death in 1930. In his will, he provided for the creation of Miner Institute—a research and educational facility charged with teaching farmers and students the most efficient, up-to-date farming techniques. The Miner Institute continues to carry on this vision even today through its ongoing research projects and numerous educational programs.

The Heritage Exhibit is open to the public at no charge beginning August 11, 2003. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. weekdays, May through October. Both the Heritage Exhibit and Wayside Walk are fully handicap accessible. A shaded picnic area on the Institute grounds is located next to the exhibit. For more information or to schedule a group tour, please contact Julie Layne at layne@whminer.com or (518) 846-7121 ext. 113.

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