

Treasures in the Attic

by George Holdren

Editor's Note: Whenever I see George Holdren at the Society, he always has something fascinating to share. He can ferret out and solve a mystery with the best of them. Here's an account of his latest discovery. We look forward to hearing about his further adventures.

Reg Wright of Bloomsburg had kept a box of fifteen books, which included a metal-clasped photo album for 45 years. He discovered them when he lived in a half-double at 406 W. First Street in Bloomsburg from 1966-1972. Lester and Grace Spayde lived in the other half at 408 W. First. After being the caretaker of these treasures for so many years, Reg recently decided to donate them to the Columbia County Historical and Genealogical Society. They appear to have been the property of Harvey and Cora Nuss Spayde.

Within the pages of the books and the photo albums were hand-written and printed articles which told a lot about their owners. The most recent book was dated 1903, the others were from the late 1800s.

One example was a coupon from the National Cigarette and Tobacco Co. which promised delivery of a clothbound printed book upon the receipt of fifty coupons. It is evident that someone, possible Cora's husband Harvey D. Spayde, took advantage of the offer. The very first book offered for redemption was "East Lynne" by Mrs. Henry Wood and that book was one of the fifteen in the box. The inside page was inscribed, *Mrs. Cora E. Spayde, 1889.*

Closer examination of vital records held by the Society and on Ancestry.com reveals that Cora Elizabeth Nuss Spayde, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Levan Nuss, was born on 06 Aug 1872 and died 25 Apr 1925 in Bloomsburg of acute indigestion. She married Harvey Daniel Spayde 07 Jul 1888, son of Urias and Sarah Jane Bauman Spayde. They had three children; Arthur, Clara, and Lester (see above). Clara died 05 Oct 1900 at age 4 of La Grippe. One of the gems contained in the treasure box was a hand-drawn sketch of Arthur (on the back of a Democratic Standing Committee note dated 10 Oct 1892), shown below. Arthur Edward Spayde, b. 08 Sep 1889, d. 21 June 1950 was living on 7th Street when he died. (*The Editor enjoyed working with his son, Donald E. Spayde, for many years at Magee Carpet Co.*)

George is currently hot on the trail of a large portrait he believes exists of one of the early inhabitants of the double house in Fernville. We eagerly await the outcome!