



Before the railroad came to Coleman Station in 1851, farm goods were taken by oxen to the Hudson River and shipped south to New York City by barge. Amasa D. Coleman successfully petitioned the New York and Harlem Railroad for a depot stop, thus the name Coleman Station. Once the stop was established, local goods were shipped to New York City by rail, traveling faster and arriving fresher than ever before. By 1911, Coleman Station had its own commercial dairy, Sheffield Farms. Sheffield Farms was one of the model commercial

farms in Dutchess County and one of the largest suppliers of milk to New York City.

On September 30, 1993, the Coleman Station Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Coleman Station is one of the last areas in Dutchess County to retain its original historic and architectural integrity. Still in use today are early homes, Sheffield Farms' row houses, and Hiddenhurst Mansion.

COLEMAN STATION



TWO-LINED SALAMANDER
(Desmognathus bimaculatus)
This three-inch-long amphibian has two dark brown/black stripes running from each eye to the tip of its tail. In the Harlem Valley, this is the most common salamander in small streams.



HAIRY WOODPECKER
(Picoides villosus)
The hairy woodpecker can often be seen feeding on wood-boring insects hidden in tree trunks. Special claws and tongues enable this bird to dig prey out of wood and bark, and its bill grows continuously against the constant wear. Look for the red patch on the back of the males' heads.



SHEFFIELD FARMS
The Sheffield Farms bottling plant opened in 1911 and remained in operation until 1928. This photo shows local farmer Joe Husted bringing his milk to the plant by horse and wagon. After local farmers delivered the milk, it was tested, pasteurized, and bottled. The bottled milk was loaded into milk express rail cars for a quick trip to New York City.



INSIDE SHEFFIELD FARMS
Sheffield Farms was conscientious about keeping conditions sanitary as is apparent from the factory workers' clothing and factory. The plant had a boiler house to produce steam and scalding hot water to sterilize all equipment and to pasteurize the milk.



COLEMAN STATION
The passenger cars awaiting the arrival of the train in Coleman Station in this circa 1915 photograph are a reminder that the invention of the automobile contributed to the railroad's decline. In the background are the milk factory workers' row houses, which are still visible today. A restored station, now a private home, is located south of here at Sharon Station.



HIDDENHURST
Hiddenhurst was built in 1903 for Thomas Hidden, a retired paint manufacturer. The house and stables were constructed by the Eggleston Brothers of Sharon, Connecticut. Hidden raised race horses and built a half-mile track for competitions. He died in 1918, and in 1923, his heirs sold the estate to Sheffield Farms. The stable, shown here, burned in 1940, but the house has been restored and is still a beautiful private home.



THE "BLIZZARD OF 1888"
On March 16, 1888, five locomotives pushing the snowplow, "Old Eli," derailed while clearing a rock cut north of Coleman Station. Five employees were killed and four others were injured. The locomotives, traveling at 40 mph or faster, hit the hard-packed snow causing the deadly wreck. The Rail Trail passes through the rock cut, which was dug before the advent of power tools.



BIG BLUESTEM GRASS
(Andropogon gerardii)
This non-native tallgrass can grow in very dry, nutrient-poor sites. It probably arrived in the area as seeds from points south and west, lodged in mooks and crannies of the railroad cars.



EASTERN GARTER SNAKE
(Thamnophis sirtalis)
This common snake is most easily recognized by the three yellowish stripes running the length of its dark-spotted body. Highly adaptable, it can be found in almost any habitat provided it can find food and shelter. Although non-venomous, it becomes aggressive if confronted and will spray a smelly musk if captured.



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF DUTCHESS COUNTY
A driving force for philanthropy in Dutchess County since 1899, the Community Foundation of Dutchess County has provided financial support for a wide range of programs and projects that make up its endowment. The foundation channels much-needed resources to community organizations and provides scholarships to hundreds of worthy students across Dutchess County.
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