

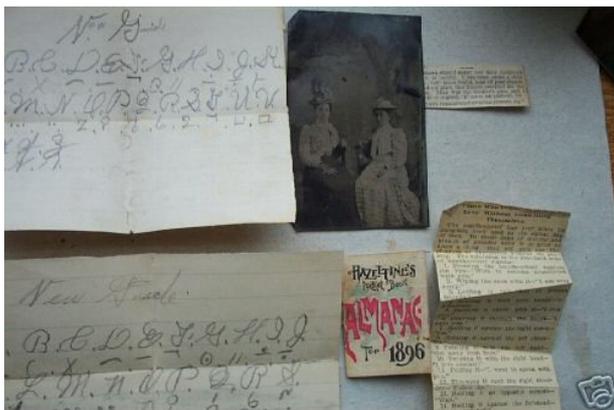
2. Diary 1896: Mr. Moose (?), probably Springwater, near Dannsville, New York State



This is a black pocket page-a-day diary with a flap closure from the year 1896. The diary is about $\frac{3}{4}$ filled. It contains newspaper clippings, a tintype picture of two women, a miniature calendar for 1896, and some intriguing passages written in a secret code, presumably giving some details of the inner life of the diarist. The codes seem to be based on the alphabet, numbers and signs – but the code has yet to be cracked. The author seems to have been a keen reader of detective novels, a taste which may be

related to his liking for secret codes and disguised identities - this diarist might well be twinned with Mr. Pooter in *The Diary of a Nobody* – a novel that might interest whoever researches this diary is Billy Liar by Keith Waterhouse.

Alphabet code, pictures and newspaper cuttings -



And here's a letter from Mr Douglas Morgan, who also bid for this diary (on e-bay):

“Congratulations on winning the Moose diary. I would have liked it, but it was too rich for my blood for a single item. Once you get the diary, if you would like to exchange some information, I would be glad to share with you the Moose family information that I have collected over the years. I have many letters from Lloyd Moose and I have a ledger from

Morgan Moose. I have interviewed Alice Oakes (Moose family historian) and I am related to Moose through marriage. Are you a Moose family member? My in-laws live just a few miles from the area of Sparta where most of the Moose lived. Anyhow, congrats on the diary and hopefully we can share Moose family information.

Regards, Doug Morgan

Livingston County Historical Society <http://www.livingstoncountyhistoricalsociety.org/>

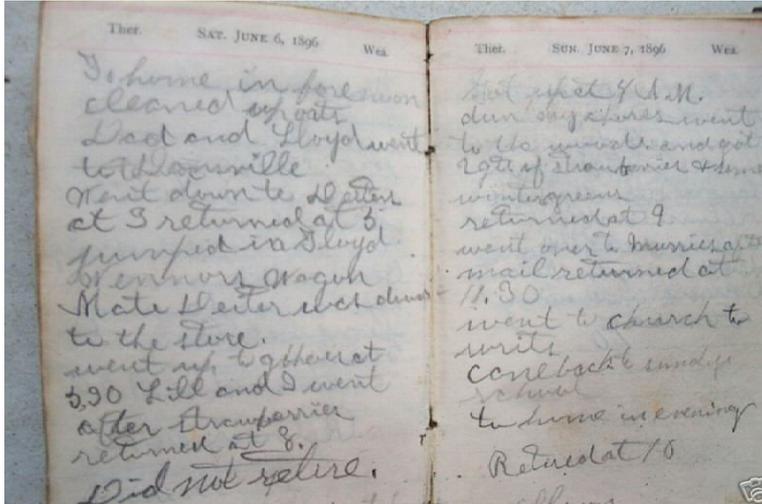
Identity: Several names and addresses are given in the back of the diary but we can't be absolutely sure of the identity of the diarist. The seller of this diary thought that this young (?) man's name was probably Moose and that he probably came from the area around Springwater, Dannsville, New York State. Here's a sample entry with a reference to Springwater ~

Floyd & Mother went to Springwater. Swore off drinking. Went up to? Met Lillie, Maud & Nell. When I came back from GHG, Lillie and I went down past the haunted bridge. William Bryan spoke in Hormelsmith (?) Today, I would give any price to see Lillie, I'm sick in love. Have invented a

combination lock, works to perfection. 4 months today swore off drinking...

And here's another entry, rather more sinister ~

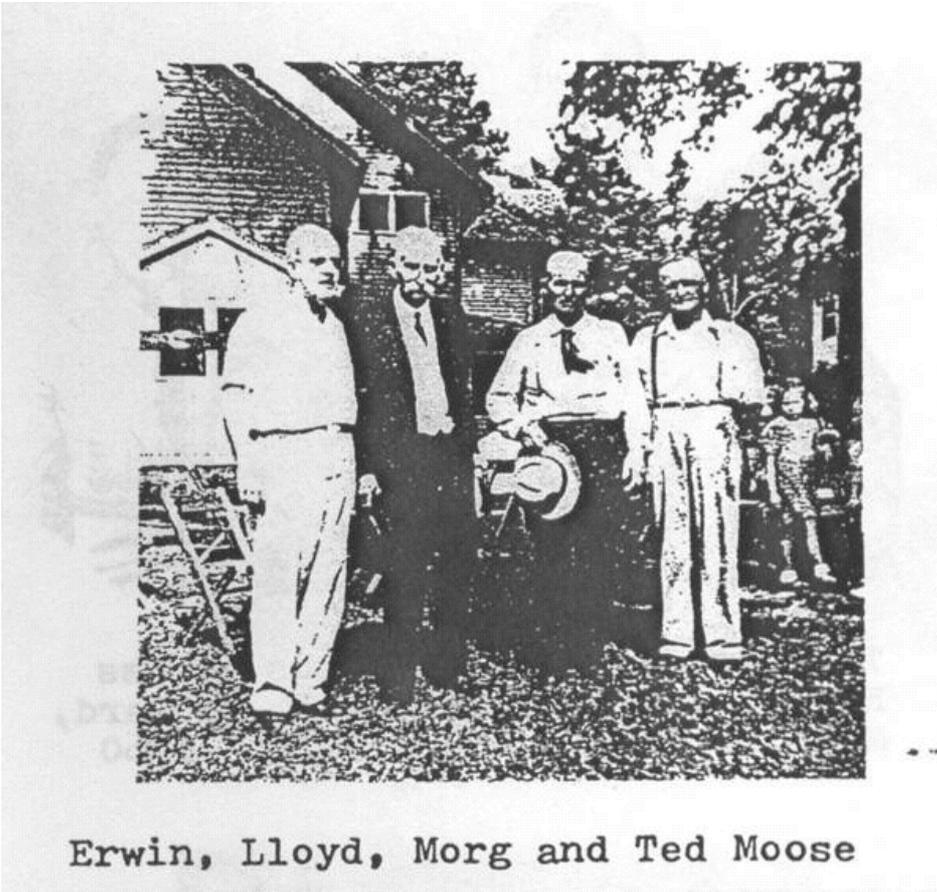
That was me in the white coat sleeves, I watched Hartman's house, I saw Lill necked, I am stuck on Kate, love her with all my heart, will seek revenge...



The diarist also writes about being with Consuelo Vanderbilt, scion of the Vanderbilt dynasty. Consuelo was forced by her parents to marry the Duke of Marlborough, a marriage that ended in divorce. We cannot be sure whether the diarist really met Consuelo Vanderbilt.

Finally, here's a photograph of the family that the diarist may have belonged to, the Moose

family ~ Erwin, Lloyd, Morg [Morgan?] & Ted ~



Erwin, Lloyd, Morg and Ted Moose