



THE CHAUTAUQUA-ERIE GRAPE BELT RESOURCE NETWORK

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MEMO FROM: JOHN THOMAS SLATER

DATE: December 1, 2010

TO: Marshall D. Brainard

SUBJECT: Enclosed

Dear Marshall,

Since it has been some time since we last spoke, I want to thank you again for all of the fabulous material you have furnished to the Resource Network over the past year. I am sincerely appreciative of your kindness and your support of our ongoing research project involving the Chautauqua Erie Grape Belt and its history.

Enclosed are a few items I hope you will find of interest. The first is a complimentary copy of the Fall issue of *Western New York Heritage Magazine*, which contains a lead feature article under my by-line entitled "Before There Was Grape Juice." In it, I have traced the evolution of the Concord table grape shipping business in Chautauqua County, New York and Erie County, Pennsylvania and am pleased to inform you that the Brainard Shipping Company is given mention. There is also a photo of C. L. Brainard with his crew at Brainard's Switch, which was provided from the collection of the Portland Historical Museum. This appears to be the same photo that is in your book on the Brainard family.

Thanks to a colleague of mine in Fredonia, we have located a Brainard Basket Mfg. Co. Inc. delivery receipt dated July 15, 1930. This item has been digitized and is now part of our growing archive. I am enclosing a copy for your files. Another friend and colleague, Westfield Village Historian Marybelle Beigh, discovered several newspaper ads while researching another subject in the Westfield Republican and provided me with scans, copies of which are also enclosed.

Please accept these items with my compliments. I found them to be quite interesting, since so little similar material on the Brainard Basket Mfg. Co. has previously been discovered.

I trust all is well and hope you will accept my sincerest best wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season.

Cordially,