

Cornelius H. Delamater (1821-1889)

Foundry Owner, Industrialist & Eatons Neck Estate Owner

Eatons Neck's Cornelius Henry Delamater, a man who was given co-ownership of what amounted to little more than a blacksmith shop in New York City, rode the industrial revolution into a position of such success that he turned his business into a major foundry, iron works and construction activity, and shaped the course of events of the Civil War through his support of iron-clad ships for the United States of America. Closer to home, he developed an estate on Eatons Neck that grew to thousands of acres and an incredibly productive farm operation.



From nearly the first, the career of CH Delamater was intertwined with that of the volatile, quixotic inventor John Ericsson of Sweden. He helped the inventor build a ship called *The Princeton*, a US Steam Sloop which was all the rage in the early 1840s – until 1844 when President Tyler, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of State, and a number of other important folks in Washington DC were nearly killed in a demonstration of the vessel's weaponry that went terribly wrong.

It took a dozen years for Ericsson to reclaim his reputation, but he and Delamater did so with a vengeance with the creation of the US Navy's iron clad ship *The Monitor*. History records that it was Delamater who managed to gain the confidence of a doubtful Federal establishment to give Ericsson a chance – and who was involved in construction of significant elements of the vessel which would help defeat the Confederacy and alter the shape of naval warfare.

Closer to home, Delamater capitalized on his success to amass nearly two-thirds of Eatons Neck property. Aided by an innovative farm manager by the name of William Crozier, the Beacon Farm operation grew to become an estate of important ranking as a breeding ground from which livestock such as pedigree cattle, Beacon Downs sheep and other stock spread through Long Island. It was Crozier, under Delamater's authority, who brought Jersey cows to Long Island, for example. There was also stock in such animals as a fine line of imported Berkshire pigs; white and bronze turkeys; Peking Ducks; Plymouth Rock and other chickens, and more.

Delamater is also responsible for a number of the handsome structures, which remain on Eatons Neck from the era of his farm operations, both for he and his family and for the extended group of people involved in making the farm a success.