

## From the Archives

by Patricia Patula, Town Archivist

### "Boxes and Eggs"

Grove residents have shown an enviable degree of creativity and frugality. An example of this is the collapsible wooden box dating back to the early 1900's which is in the Town archives. The black lettering on the back reads "The Day Collapsible Box Co. of Washington Grove, Md. "

This box, made of thin (and now aging) wood, measures 12-1/2" wide x 6" deep x 9" high when it is in full usable position, and has a thin wire handle. Both the top and the bottom are hinged with hooks for closure. Each side has a vertical hinge to allow for the folding. An unusual item is inside—a damaged egg carton.



The information about the Day Collapsible Box Company is sparse. It is listed as one of the primary "Parcel Post Egg Containers" suppliers in the book *Every Step in Canning* by Grace Viall Gray, who was a Home Economics Professor at Iowa State College. This book, published in 1920, can be read in its entirety free of charge on line at [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org).

A note from Philip Edwards in the archives states that the Day Company was located on Railroad Street and that these boxes were used to transport produce to Washington DC by train. On the return trip, presumably emptied, the boxes would be folded thus saving transportation fees due to their reduced size. *Please visit the Town website to see photographs of the box.*

#### Do you. . .

- know where the Day Company building would have been?
- know when the Company would have started or ended?
- know who might have worked there?
- have another one of these boxes?

Would you like to help reconstruct one for a future exhibit?

**Answers are greatly appreciated. Contact us at Town Hall.**

*Many thanks to Kathy Lehman for her contribution to this research.*