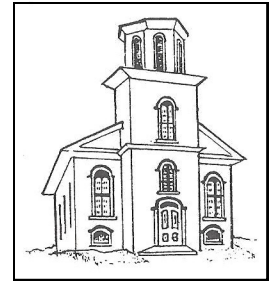


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

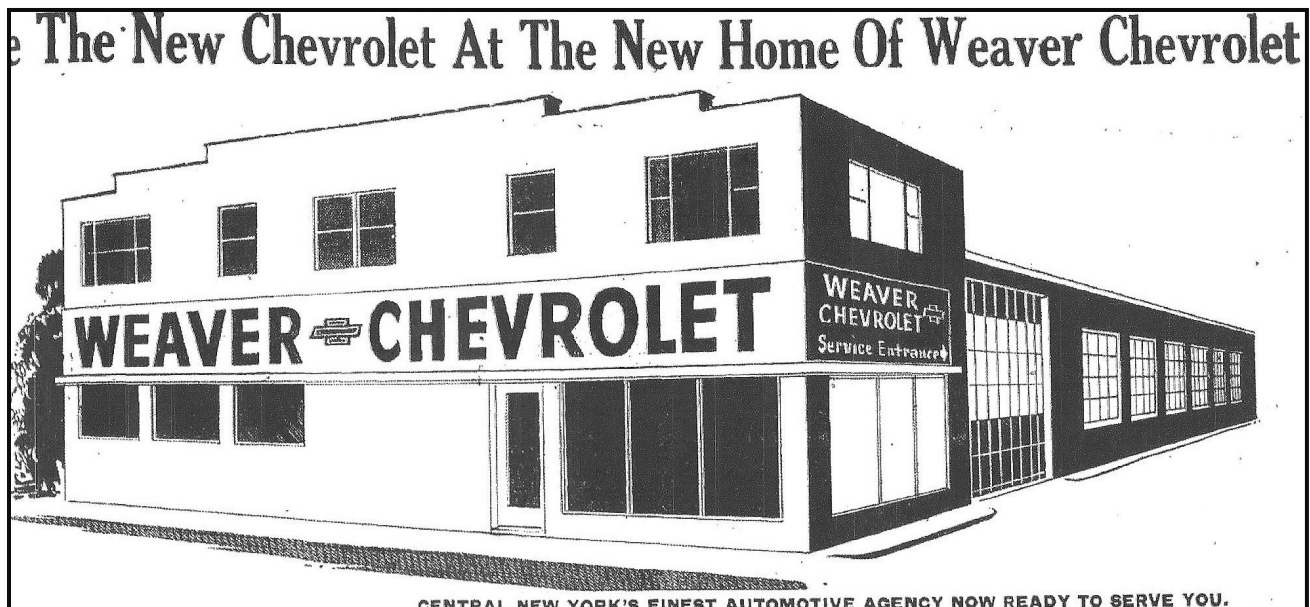
January 2018

WELSH COMMUNITY IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

Immigrants from several countries have settled in Oneida County. One of the first groups dating from the 1790s were the Welsh from Wales. Many were poor tenant farmers who saw a great opportunity in the new country.

To tell this interesting story at 2 p.m. on January 14, 2018 will be Clinton native and attorney Jay Williams III. In addition to his legal practice Jay has written two books about the Welsh here, has directed several Welsh Hymn sings, has been president of St. David's Society of Utica, and has been involved with the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

Williams graduated from Hamilton College and Albany Law School; he will relate the Welsh immigrant experience for listeners.



In 1953 Chuck Weaver built this car dealer showroom and service area at 29 Meadow Street, now one of the Clinton Tractor (Calidonna family) facilities. Max Figary operated it until 1969 when Robert Grazaidei and then son George Grazaidei owned it until it was closed in 2010.

Clinton Historical Society
Founded in 1962

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WEST PARK ROW HISTORY

West Park Row remains the hub of Clinton businesses despite the exodus of such large stores as a Victory, a CVS, an A & P, and a Rexall Drug Store over the years.

The original blocks were wood and all burned in two major fires.....one in 1863 and one in 1872. The current blocks have brick facades and can be considered the second generation of blocks.

Former town historian Mary Bell Dever wrote her book called *The History of Clinton Square* in 1961 and is the reference for much of this story plus more recent information. Changing store fronts occur periodically as owners come and go associated with retirement, death, business failure, and fire.

Clinton's founder Capt. Moses Foote arrived here in March 1787 and was the community leader until his 1819 death. Foote built a home at W.P.R. and College Street and his son Moses, Jr. ran a hotel and boarding house there.

This was a two-story wooden structure with the main building fronting the park and a wing on College Street. It had an open porch facing the park.

The picture below shows WPR around 1910 after light poles, but one auto is at right center with a spare tire on the side. Horses and wagons complete the scene. The buildings are the same as today although many facades have been altered such as the Clinton House hotel, now Nola's.



ALCOHOL IN CLINTON

Alcohol use has had a contentious history from the Whiskey Rebellion in the 1790s to Prohibition in the 1920s to today's young adult who binge drink.

Clinton has had alcohol users for years and here's the story of the 1880s.

In December 1886 ten hotels in Clinton were given a license for a \$30.00 fee: M. Freeman, F.L. Tower, P. Blake, T.D. Finnegan, J.A. Hughes, J.W. Belliner, P. Pluckett, John Coombs, J. and Hannah Youngs.

A hotel back then might have had only few rooms, but called hotels. Two drug stores received licenses: C.W. Watson for \$30.00 and Root Brothers for \$25.00.

16 saloons were also licensed such as J. Campbell, O. Burns, H. Larkin, H. Vann, Peter Pegnim, F. Fitzpatrick, and T. Donovan.

In Kirkland was a Law and Order Movement which had general charge of temperance work and lobbied against the use of alcohol. The *Clinton Courier* printed many articles against alcohol, too.

The laws at that time had these provisions:

1- only those with a license may sell intoxicating liquors in less than quantities of five gallons at a time

2- sales are not authorized between 1 and 5 o'clock a.m. nor to any Indian or apprentice, nor to a minor under the age of 18 years without consent of his father, mother, or guardian, nor to any minor under the age of 14 years, nor to any intoxicated person, nor to any habitual drunkard

3- the book of minutes of an excise board shall be kept by the excise commissioners

4- a complete record of all persons licensed shall be kept by the excise commissioners.

Three types of licenses to sell intoxicating liquors were established: hotel keepers, store keepers, and beer licenses.

Penalties for selling without a license were \$50.00 for each offense, for selling to a minor under 18 \$10.00, for selling to intoxicated persons \$10 to \$25.00, for selling to a habitual drunkard \$20.00 to \$50.00, and for selling or giving away liquors on a Sunday or election day \$30.00 to \$200.00.

Each town at that period had an Excise Board of three commissioners who over saw the use of alcohol. They granted licenses, but enforcement was left to sheriffs, constables, and policemen. They were to take those arrested to any magistrate of a town who must try him or hold him to bail.

The *Clinton Courier* in the 1880s carried many articles on the issue of public intoxication slanted against drinking and written in a humorous way. One told of a gray-haired farmer who drove his team to the Augustus Fake store on North Park Row where firehouse # 1 is today.

He "pitched headlong under his horses; being hauled out his knees performed a double back action feat and down the old man landed again in the ditch. By this time Officer Lawrence appeared on the scene and escorted the limber-jointed customer to the lockup. He gave his name as John Burgess of College Hill, and paid five dollars for his foolishness and one dollar for smashing a lamp in the "coop" (lockup)."





New intern Cory Patterson tackles one of his first assignments: painting the frame for the Stone Church clock faces which are on display on the lower level.

Cory is a junior at Utica College and is a history major with aspirations to teach history. He's in the right place!

OLD UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The Universalist denomination was very strong in the county back in the 1800-1850s period. With donations from Joseph Stebbins, Esq. and other Clinton Universalists the Free Church was built at 8 Utica Street in 1821. The Universalists used this church from 1821 to 1870 when it built the former Masonic Temple across Williams Street from St. James Episcopal Church and used it until 1899 when the denomination left Clinton. Before being remodeled into a house, 8 Utica Street was used as a storehouse for many years. It has been a private home since 1925.

Unfortunately no pictures of it as a church prior to 1925 have been located.

