

PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



April 2011

KIRKLAND CEMETERY ART

CALENDAR AHEAD

May 4, 2011– annual meeting and socializer 7-8:30 at the Society

May 12, 2011– Clarence Aldridge will tell all about the fraternities at Hamilton College, 7:30 at the Society

June 11, 2011– Storytelling Festival– all day

June 27– July 4– Fortieth **Annual Historic Clinton Week**—details to follow

May 1, 2012– 50th anniversary of the founding of the Clinton Historical Society

Sue Lorraine has traveled to most of the 360 plus cemeteries in Oneida County doing research and taking pictures. She has put together a fine collection of pictures of the various images and art renderings on gravestones in the Town of Kirkland.

Sue will present this special, interesting program on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 2 PM at the Society. Sue was a participant at last October's History Day in Marcy and has given presentations at various towns around the county.

She brings a sincere enthusiasm and fondness for the cemetery art she will show.

Sue has led several tours at Grandview Cemetery in Whitesboro and comes highly qualified to discuss cemetery art.

NEW BOOK ON ORISKANY CREEK

The Society's editor and past president Richard Williams has written another book which should be available in late April 2011. It is called Along Big and Oriskany Creeks and tells the story of the Oriskany from its source to the Mohawk River. Included are sections on the geology, the fishing, the flowers and trees, and the wild animals.

Williams traces the history of the hamlets and villages along the way from Solsville and Waterville to Oriskany. The 128-page book has 65 pictures and will sell for \$22.00. It will be sold at the town clerk's office, village clerk's office, Kirkland Town Library, Harris Brothers Jewelry Store, and at the Society. Book signings will be scheduled in late April and May.

Clinton Historical Society
Founded in 1962

DIRECTORS

Midge Bakos
Faye M. Cittadino-president
Cynthia Crossley
Evelyn Edwards
Chris Fox– secretary
Patricia Fox– treasurer
Paul Frey– vice-president
Peggy Jury
Fran Lallier
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OPEN HOURS

Wednesday 1-3; Saturday
11-2; and 1st Wednesday 6-8

Editor

Richard Williams

Hi Everyone,

Our year is almost over. It has been quite a busy one and we are happy to say we accomplished many important goals and began several initiatives including:

Reaching out with many other community businesses & non-profit groups to provide even greater opportunities for our entire community to learn more about Clinton and Town of Kirkland history.

Providing another very successful history camp for our students to learn and appreciate their community and their “roots”. (Don’t forget the **2011 Summer CHS History Camp** August 1 to 5).
Accepting George Mair’s kind donation of his historic clock which was created right here in Clinton.

Continuing quality monthly programs plus a number of extra programs to help us gain more knowledge about our community’s past and present and its place in the local, state and national history.

Getting insurance on our collection of historic artifacts and documents, continuing accessioning many new donations from members and others, and updating our computer database.

Expanding our technology with security equipment and adding Internet access.

Participating in Oneida County History Day in Marcy, New York.
Purchasing a new copier to replace our troublesome and repair prone old one.

Exploring adding a much needed addition to our building.

Encouraging many members to become volunteers, authors, and/or speakers.

Kevin Bering, working with our Society, initiated his successful Eagle Scout Project to repair and clean tombstones and grave markers at the Old Burying Grounds.

Designing new signage for our downstairs museum, locks for our display cases and a call for our members to consider displaying their collections at the Society.

Enhancing our museum displays with two computer presentations.

Repairing and updating major plumbing and sewage issues.

Keeping our building open the first Wednesday night of each month to better serve our community.

Continuing our Veteran’s Day Program.

Purchasing hand held tape recorders and new computer monitors.

Moving our monthly programs to Sunday afternoons which helped bring greater attendance than ever.

Receiving a Certificate of Distinction from Oneida County for our successful college intern program.

Beginning a Facebook account. Information about our Society's upcoming events, historic images, and a link to our website is available by going to **ClintonHistorical**.

Don't forget on Sunday, April 10, at 2 pm, Sue Lorraine will present **Cemetery Art in Kirkland**.

At this time I want to thank everyone for all they've done this past year. There are far too many names to list them all! We continue to dream of attracting more members, volunteers, and donations of artifacts and photos. We could not have had such a successful year without all of you and for this I say, "Thank You!"

Don't forget our **Cabaret Night and Elections** at 7 pm on **May 4**. Hope to see all of you there.

Take care and have a wonderful spring.

Faye Cittadino, President



THE SOCIETY AND ITS NEIGHBORS

While we know that the Society building was put up in the 1831-32 period, what about the two neighboring homes?

3 Fountain Street dates back to the 1830s also when Walter Gillespie, a blacksmith with his shop "next door south in the hollow," built it. In the 1860s Dr. James I. Scollard, a prominent physician, lived there followed by Simeon Gunn. Scollard moved to 7 East Park Row (today's Artful Lodger) in the 1870s. Gunn had left 54 Kirkland Avenue, later called "Baker's Acres." Harold L. Dickie, a postal carrier, was at 3 Fountain Street in the mid-20th century, and Harold C. Heintz, Jr. now rents out offices, shops, and apartments in the restored structure.

The corner of Fountain, East Park Row, and Kellogg is the White Building, owned today by David R. White. This is traced to about 1840 when Orrin Gridley built it for his son Albert. Various owners have had it through the years as it was broken down into apartments and offices. Clinton Florist is in the back rear which formerly was the first site of the KAC's "Down Under Shop."

Picture is courtesy of Dwight Dibble who took it from the tower of the Stone Presbyterian Church, 2009.

DUES ARE DUE

Enclosed with the March Newsletter was the dues notice for the April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012 year. Members are encouraged to join at a higher tier and to make extra donations as well.

Dues is the major source of income so your prompt remittal is welcome. Use the envelope enclosed with the March Newsletter.

A major expense this winter was replacing the waste water line in the rear of the building to the village main sewer line.

CLINTON WAS SETTLED
MARCH 3, 1787—224 YEARS AGO

**RETURN SURVEY FORMS
SOON**

PREPARING THIS NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter comes to you, our members, 8-9 times a year with announcements of Society events, local history, and a message from the president.

Your editor attends Board meetings to gain news of events and also does research to prepare articles on Clinton/Kirkland history. Your editor types the 4 pages using Microsoft Publisher software.

Our good friends Deb, Yvonne, and Matt at the Hamilton College Print Shop print about 550 copies of the Newsletter which is folded.

In the meantime Midge Bakos and John Burdick have been putting labels on # 10 pre-printed envelopes which are delivered to Arlene Vivyan. Your editor takes the finished Newsletters to Arlene who stuffs and checks each one.

Then John or Midge take the 550 Newsletters to the post office for mailing. After all this is done over a two week period, the Newsletter arrives at your door.

CLINTON HISTORY TIDBITS TO PONDER

A 1967 letter from Society founder Ed Stanley to another founder Phil Munson raised some interesting questions:

Ed "often wondered" what College Street was called before there was a college (1812)

What Utica Street was called before there was a Utica (1798)

What Water Street (now Kirkland Avenue) was called before there was water in the Chenango Canal (1836)

Ed also mentioned that Sanford Avenue used to be called Stump Street

And that Franklin Springs used to be Franklin Iron Works, but it was also called "Sodom" in the *Courier* in the late 1800s; Ed wondered if it was named after Benjamin Franklin

Harding Road was named after Lyman S. Harding who farmed there in the mid to late 1800s; why wasn't it named Kirkland Avenue after Rev. Samuel Kirkland who began to build what we call today the Harding Farm?

Fountain Street was formerly called Unadilla Road because it led to the Unadilla Valley over Bridge-water way; Phil always thought it should be Gridley Road after the several Gridleys who owned homes there

Ed and Phil concluded that our early settlers probably gave little thought to formal names for their streets and roads. Many early deeds simply say a parcel was on the road to..... or the road betweenand