

CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2012

HENRY FORD AND MODEL T FORDS SHOW

The Society will host a special program for old car buffs and fans of local history. Steve Grant will discuss the famous Model T Ford of the earlier 1900s.

Henry Ford changed America and the way we traveled, the way we conducted business, and the way we spent our leisure. Henry Ford obsoleted the horse.

Using a collection of period photographs, including many local ones, Mr. Grant will look back at Henry Ford and the Model T.

The program begins at 2 PM Sunday, April 22, 2012 at the Society at 1 Fountain Street.

Mr. Grant lives in New Hartford and has been fascinated with the Model T's since a youngster. He owns two Model T's: a 1920 open express wagon and 1922 center door sedan. He's also president of the CNY chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America.

Come and enjoy the early auto years of the iconic Model T.

ORISKANY & BIG- CREEK STORY

PROGRAM

Last April town and village historian and former president of the Society Richard Williams released his latest book *Along the Oriskany and Big Creeks*.

The 135-page book relates the history, economy, culture, and educational past of the 26-mile long valley and its hamlets and villages.

Williams will present a PowerPoint presentation on Sunday, May 6 at 2 PM. 145 pictures will trace the creek from Solsville to Oriskany.

Copies of the book will be for sale and signing for \$24.00. All proceeds benefit the Society.

DUES YEAR NOW

Dues notices for the April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 year were mailed with the March 2012 Newsletter. Over 350 members have paid their dues already. Many THANKS!!

Check the date on your envelope and see to when your dues are paid.
Please pay by May 1, 2012.

Clinton Historical Society
Founded in 1962

DIRECTORS

Midge Bakos
Faye M. Cittadino
Frank Cittadino
Evelyn Edwards
Chris Fox— secretary
Patricia Fox— treasurer
Paul Frey— president
Peggy Jury
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OPEN HOURS

Wednesday 1-3; Saturday
11-2

Editor

Richard Williams

Dues- \$10.00 individual;
\$15.00 businesses/families;
\$25.00 friend; \$50.00 contributing member

DONATIONS— THANK YOU

Ray Savicki has donated several souvenirs of Hamilton College: a baseball cap, bow tie, frisbee, and beer cup.

Jim Miller has given a Dey Chevy calendar and a 1947 Community Day ticket for the Clinton vs. New Hartford football game

KIRKLAND AT 185 YEARS

The Town of Kirkland's 185th anniversary was on April 13, 2012, and a celebration was held at the Municipal Building in Franklin Springs on April 9, 2012. Kirkland was in many different towns and counties since colonial times.

First, a part of the Iroquois Indian territory this area in the 1770s under British control was in Albany County and in 1772 Tryon County. After the Revolutionary War and independence this section was a part of Montgomery County in 1784 in the German Flatts district. The Town of Whitestown was formed in 1788 and consisted of most of the rest of the state from Pennsylvania to the St. Lawrence and west to the Niagara Frontier. Whitestown, because of its large area, was called the "Mother of Towns."

Herkimer County was broken off from Montgomery in 1791, and in 1792 the Town of Paris was formed, and this area was a western part of it. Oneida County was begun in 1798, and finally in 1827 the Town of Kirkland became a new town. Two years later in 1829 the Town of Marshall was taken from Kirkland.

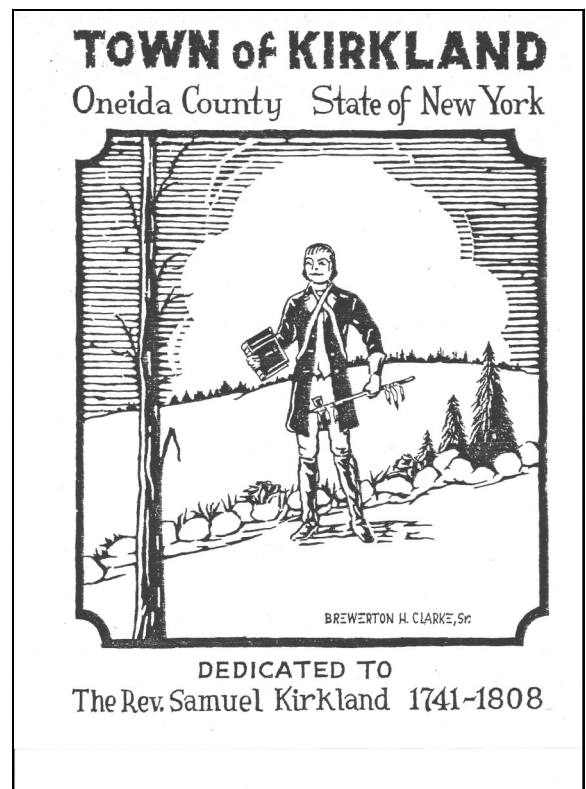
First elected Kirkland town officers were Othniel Williams, supervisor; Isaac Miller, clerk, and several appointed officials such as assessors, overseers of the poor, commissioners of highways, constables, pound masters, fence viewers, commissioners of common schools, and inspectors of common schools.

Highways and aid to the poor were the two main functions. The road budget in 1827 was \$230.00 and the poor budget as \$150.00.

At first only an annual meeting was held, not monthly ones like today.

In an 1842 gazetteer Clinton had 800 residents in 100 dwellings, 3 taverns, 8 stores, Hamilton College with 91 students, and 4 churches. In 1850 Kirkland had 3421 residents, in 1860 4234 residents, and now over 10,000.

The 1860 census listed 697 horses, 1131 oxen, and 1255 cows.



TOWN OF KIRKLAND 185 YEARS OLD

Kirkland officials, led by Supervisor Robert Meelan, celebrated the 185th anniversary of Kirkland's formation, which was back on April 13, 1827. An open house and brief history of the town was given between 6 and 7 PM on Monday, April 9 at the Municipal Building in Franklin Springs.

The Historical Society had a small display of pictures, atlases, and books, and town historian Richard Williams gave a brief slide presentation on Kirkland history.

FROM THE COLLECTION- BROTHERTOWN MUG & HAT

The Society proudly displays part of its collection here. Below are two artifacts bought from the current Brothertown Indian Nation in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

The Brothertowns came here in the mid-1780s from Long Island and Connecticut. Advancing and encroaching whites wanted their lands in southern Town of Kirkland and the Town of Marshall. By the 1840 period most had migrated to Wisconsin near the Oneida and Stockbridge Indians who also had moved from central New York.



Today the Brothertown Nation seeks federal recognition which it lost in 1839. It has no land, but maintains offices in Fond du Lac to carry on tribe business and such activities as bingo, picnics, festivals, tribal meetings, and reunions.

Its web site is www.brothertownindians.org.

T. W. FITZPATRICK

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Franklin Springs, N. Y.

Fitzpatrick's store was where the post office in Franklin Springs is today. This was an ad in the 1923 *Oneida County Home Bureau Cook Book*. One suggestion to remove grease stains was 3 ounces of alcohol, 3 ounces of chloroform, 1 ounce gasoline, 1/2 tablespoon ammonia; rub well and dry in shade. WOW!!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

Happy spring! I hope you all are taking advantage of the great weather. We are wrapping up another eventful year of activities for the society and preparing for the next. I've listed activities to come below.

This month's program is entitled "Henry Ford and The Famous Model T" presented by Steven Grant. Steve is an enthusiastic historian and collector of Model T automobiles. This program should fit in well with Dick Williams' recent *Clinton Courier* articles on "Automobile Dealers in Clinton." Weather permitting, Mr. Grant will bring one of his Model-T's to the presentation!

The new book, written by past presidents, Faye and Frank Cittadino, was recently released with much enthusiasm at last month's program. Although it can be purchased at major book stores and sites such as Amazon; your book purchases through our Society generates major revenue for us. Consider buying a book for friends and family. It will definitely add to your appreciation of our rich heritage as it is packed with excellent photographs and information.

Evelyn Edwards's post card display is of early 1900's Easter Postcards. I am amazed at the wide variety and the depth of topics in her postcard collection

Our Schooltown Quester display case is showcasing special items from member Bonnie Hyde's personal collection.

Thanks to Faye Cittadino, the Society's display cases have photographs and memorabilia reflecting the rich history of the Town of Kirkland. The Kirkland Town Library requested, and our Board approved her to install a special display of Civil War artifacts at the Library this month.

We have been busy with the selection process for Board of Directors nominations. We have a group of candidates with a wide range of experiences that will provide us with a base to enhance the services, operations, and expand the programs the society provides. This process was delayed by the receipt of erroneous information about who should select the candidates. We hope to have the selection process completed soon. I am excited and look forward to working with the new board members. These board members will set the tone and direction of the society for next 50 years.

At this time, our Annual Business Meeting and Dinner is scheduled to take place at Hamilton College's historic Hall of Commons on June 6, 2012 along with the 50th anniversary celebration as published in the CHS Annual Program back in August 2011. Your Board will be mailing you a postcard with information detailing the exact times and schedule of events. Proxy forms for voting for the Board of Directors and bylaw changes will be mailed to everyone. If you cannot attend the general meeting, please fill out the form and mail it back.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT TO THE WELLBEING OF YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY!!!

The 50th anniversary celebration will take place on June 6, 2012. The celebration will take place at Hamilton College Campus. We plan to have a wide variety of activities including tours of Root Glen, the Samuel Kirkland Cottage, and the Chapel from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm weather permitting. Clarence Aldridge has agreed to do a special tour of the oldest buildings on campus along the historic quad. There will be a cash bar, dinner, and a Terry Hawkridge presentation followed by the board of director's vote.

We are familiarizing ourselves with the new PastPerfect museum software that we use to keep track of our collection. We are awaiting the arrival of a server, two workstations, software, scanner, and a digital video camera. We are in the process of getting three interns for the summer. The Wednesday volunteer crew is organizing the Society's holdings and adding new material we receive from donors. We thank them for their help.

Paul Frey

Paul Frey, president