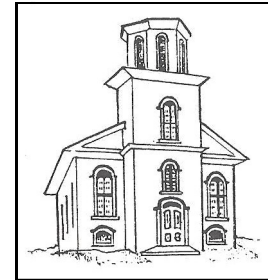


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



February 2012

THE BUILDING OF UNION STATION IN UTICA

When the trains were in their heyday, Utica's Union Station epitomized the architectural grandeur and extravagance of the golden era of railroads. To recapture how and when the station as built, join us on Sunday, February 12 (Lincoln's birthday in 1809) for a fine presentation of the structure on Main Street.

Our presenters will be Douglas Preston and Bob Steffenson, who have long been active in local historical and railway groups. They know the subject well and will show and narrate many photos of the station during its construction.

Preston directed the Oneida County Historical Society for about 25 years until 1997 and is now president of the Utica and Mohawk Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. Steffenson has dealt with 1000s of old photos as a volunteer at the Oneida County Historical Society and is Photo Archivist for the U & MV Chapter of the NRHS.

The program begins at 2 PM at our quarters at 1 Fountain Street and will be followed by refreshments.

Oneida Historical Society Collection Policy

In 1887 the Oneida Historical Society in Utica solicited these items:

- 1-old letters, journals, manuscripts, sketches of prominent citizens
- 2- Indian implements, ornaments, and curiosities
- 3- pamphlets, magazines, books relating to American history, maps, genealogy, coins, medals, portraits, paintings, statues, and engravings
- 4- specimens of conchology, mineralogy, and geology of the county

The O.H.S. is now the Oneida County Historical Society at 1608 Genesee Street in Utica and continues to accept items of county history as does the Clinton Historical Society. The CHS collection policy states that the donation must be about some aspect of Kirkland and Clinton history. The donation must also be in a proper condition. Items which are moldy, for example, will not be accepted.

Clinton Historical Society

Founded in 1962

DIRECTORS

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Faye M. Cittadino

Frank Cittadino

Cynthia Crossley

Evelyn Edwards

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OPEN HOURS

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

6-8

Editor

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Dues- \$10.00 individual;
\$15.00 busi-
nesses/families; \$25.00
friend; \$50.00 contribut-
ing member

BEGINNINGS OF OUR SOCIETY

As this year 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of our Society, we will print some historical facts from time to time.

What's the background for having our collection? Thanks go to some dedicated women who ran the Kirkland Town Library and opened the Historical Room there on August 24, 1923. The Historical Room was in the front left just inside of the old front doors which were previously the main entrance.

It opened at the annual meeting of the Library Association that summer when James Benton told the story of Kirkland to those in attendance. After his speech everyone took advantage to inspect the historical collection which was mostly books and artifacts such as a wood plow and a spinning wheel.

The *Clinton Courier* article said that in a recent issue of *New York Libraries* the Historical Room was called "one of the best examples to be found in the state of what a small village library can do to foster history."

The Library continued to collect historical books, records, documents, and artifacts and, after the Society was formed in 1962, all except some books were given to the Society and became the basis for today's Munson Library.

ONEIDA COMMUNITY WEB SITE

If you enjoyed the talk by Anthony Wonderly on November 13th, you may wish to look at the Mansion House web site at www.oneidacommunity.org.

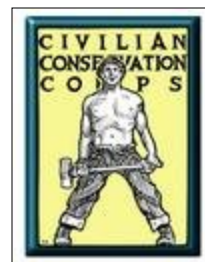


CCC CAMP IN DEANSBORO

During the Great Depression unemployed young men could join the quasi-military Civilian Conservation Corps. A camp was established about one mile south of Deansboro on the west side of Route 12-B on a curve. Today some mobile homes occupy that site.

Recently the Marshall Historical Society was given a copy of the camp newspaper, the *Chenango Trail News*. It came out in September 1940 a few months after the camp opened, having been relocated from Sheds, New York. It contains a roster of all men at the camp. Most were jobless young men from Oneida County.

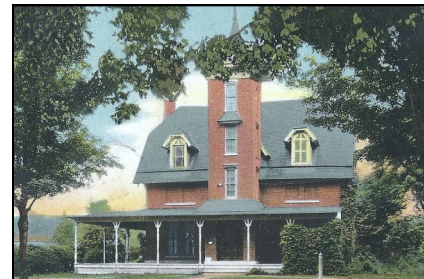
It can be found at www.marshallhistsoc.org under "Historical Articles."



RECYCLING CLINTON BUILDINGS— Part II of a series

Last issue this series began with a brief description of the KAC, Grange Hall, and Marvin Street School.

4— Down at 55 & 1/2 College Street today the Kirkland Town Library occupies what at first was the Sigma Phi fraternity house from Hamilton College, the farthest away fraternity. College boys lived here and had to walk, bike, or catch a ride on a horse-drawn conveyance to attend classes and return. The building had no kitchen so the members had to board out at village homes, a common practice then. Built in 1872 the fraternity moved on the hill in 1900 when it built a new house on the area just off Campus Road next to the Burke Library. Today it's the admission office.



In 1901 the newly-established library rented the front two rooms and bought it a few years later taking over the entire building. For a few years the second floor with the high ceilings was used as a gym by boys from the Clinton Preparatory School located on the site of the Clinton Middle School.

The Kirkland Art Center, now KAC, began on the second floor in 1960 and moved to the former Methodist Church on East Park Row in 1965. The Clinton Historical Society held its first meetings there and continued to store its collection and hold open meetings until 1993 when it moved to the former Baptist Church at 1 Fountain Street.

In the early 1990s the Library started a fund drive and successfully raised money to put a large addition at the rear along with other facilities' updates such as a lift. It continues as a very popular spot for those of all ages for books, tapes, Internet access, children's story hours, leisure reading, and research.

5— For the variety of owners and uses no other building can compare with the former Masonic Temple on Williams Street across from St. James Episcopal Church. It has been owned by two different church denominations and has served alternately as a dance hall, gymnasium, and ethnic society hall.

Originally it was the Clinton Universalist Church, built in 1871. The Universalists were one of Clinton's earliest churches starting in 1821 at 10 Utica Street in the red brick structure now a private home. They constructed the Williams Street church, but dwindling membership caused them to cease worship in 1897 when it was bought by two local organizations...the Maccabees and the Sons of St. George (descendants of the British Isles). It was named Society Hall and used for dances, concerts, basketball games, and entertainments by traveling troupes.

In 1909 as the old St. Mary's Church at Marvin and Prospect was being replaced the Catholics needed a place to worship while the new St. Mary's went up. St. Mary's purchased the Lyceum or Society Hall. After the new St. Mary's opened, Father William M. Dwyer had the temporary church remodeled, and it reopened in 1916 as Holy Name Lyceum.

Having begun in November 1849 the Clinton Lodge No. 169 F.&A.M. had met in various rented rooms around the village such as the second floor of 22 Utica Street owned by Brother Willard. In June 1896 it moved to the Onyan Opera House, the third floor of the Allen/McHarris Block at College and Williams streets.

Seeking its own quarters in 1938 the Masons bought the Lyceum, and it was dedicated February 17, 1939.

The Masons merged with the Hampton Lodge of Westmoreland and sold the former church in 1994 to Tom Bogan who, in turn, sold to Larry Alder in 2000. Adler redid the place for his private home. *To Be Continued*

