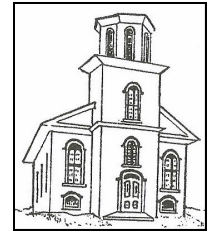


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



# CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2013

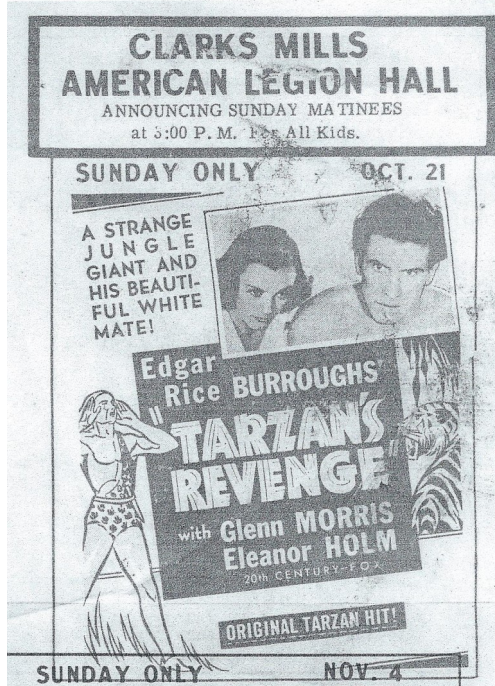
## V-P JAMES SHERMAN STORY ON JANUARY 15TH

Start the New Year by learning all about James Schoolcraft Sherman, US vice president under William Howard Taft, on Sunday, January 13, 2013 at 2 PM at the Society.

Presenter will be retired Observer-Dispatch editor and columnist Frank Tomaino, who has become a popular speaker on local history in recent years. Frank is a Society member, lives in Clinton, and has spoken previously at the Society.

Frank will tell about Sherman's family connections to Clinton and his career which included being mayor of Utica.

Refreshments will follow the program. Join us on a cold January Sunday and be warmed up by the tale of the County's only native to achieve the vice-presidency.



At left is an ad for a movie at the Clark Mills American Legion for "Tarzan's Revenge." Sunday matinees were regularly held at the Legion, the former Arthur Hind Club, in the late 1940s and 1950s.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes new members:

Megan Burdick, Eric Genato, Mary Hayes Gordon, Ashleigh Smythe and Derek Berwald, and John Hayward.

Clinton Historical Society

Founded in 1962

# **DIRECTORS**

Mary Benson Byrd

Daryl Chesebro-treasurer

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Richard Williams- secretary

## **Web Site**

[www.clintonhistory.org](http://www.clintonhistory.org)

## **Facebook**

Clinton Historical Society  
(Original)



## **E-Mail Address**

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## **Phone**

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## **Mailing Address**

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## **OPEN HOURS**

Wednesday 1-4

Saturday 9-12

## **Editor**

**Richard Williams**

**DUES-** \$10.00 individual, \$15.00 families/businesses, \$25.00 friend, \$50.00 contributing

## **SCENES FROM WINTERS PAST-Outdoor Rink**



The picture above shows the old outdoor rink between Meadow Street and Franklin Avenue ca. 1940. The view is east towards Chestnut Street. This outdoor rink served the village for hockey, figure skating, and public skating sessions.

In the fall of 1926 David Kilbourn offered this land to a joint committee of the Board of Trade and Clinton Chamber of Commerce. Fred Goering chaired the committee which consisted of J. W. Dawes, Frank Blake, A.E. Swartwout, R.C. Brockway, and A.E. Prettyman.

The group collected \$500 to grade the land and \$500 to maintain it the first season. Teams of horses and school boys helped grade the area. By December 1, 1926 the work neared completion. A 3'-high board fence was built around the ice area.

It was announced that season tickets for public skating were for sale for adults, \$3.00, and for juniors \$1.00.

The rink opened for skating and the high school hockey team on December 7, 1926. The first official hockey game held there occurred on December 18, 1926 when the brand-new Clinton High School team tied a squad from the Yahnundasis Golf Club of New Hartford 4-4.

The rink committee wanted all to know that the rink was not exclusively for Clinton, but for all residents of the Town of Kirkland and the Clinton school district providing they purchased season tickets.

The first season's budget was \$1332.46 and included the club house- \$365; fence repairs- \$35; painting of fence and club house- \$60.00; operating expense- \$747.46; additional lights- \$25; and prepare a new ice bed for kids- \$100.

## OUTDOOR RINK *continued*

In a long tradition here of community financial support for civic groups, the rink committee suggested that 100 citizens each donate \$5.00 to get the project rolling and \$5.00 at a future date as the money was needed.

The outdoor rink hosted hockey games of the Clinton hockey Club formed in 1928 by Edward W. Stanley as well as the high school team.

Fred Goering chaired the original committee and directed all activities at the rink for the first 16 years as a volunteer. Goering kept a brief log of his chores at the rink which is in the Society's archives. The entry for December 10, 1927, the rink's second year, reads: "temperature 28 to 30 degrees, coat of water AM and 1 flood coat at night after skating, skating, morning, yes; afternoon, yes; night, yes, started skating for the first time, ice good, attendance good."

Goering's pencil-written entry for January 21, 1928 was: "temperature 10 AM was 12 degrees, 4 PM was 16, 10 PM was 18 degrees; two coats of water, skating in afternoon and night; Clinton H.S. game versus Utica Free Academy (Clinton won 13-1), attendance good; weather stormy, clearing in afternoon."

The warming building 18' by 20' served as a dressing room, too and was situated near the Franklin Avenue side of the lot now occupied by Clinton Tractor and formerly by Dey Chevrolet dealership. The rink had a standard size ice area.

The first ice carnival was sponsored by the Clinton sophomore class in January 1928. The skaters were urged to come "in fancy costumes" and prizes were awarded. Music and refreshments were provided. Various timed races of 440 yards, 220 yards, and 880 yards were staged.

The next month was an exhibition of "trick skating" by Red Roberts of Utica.

While lights are mentioned in the first budget, the better lights for night hockey games did not get installed until 1936. The first lights were simply flood lights for night skating, not games.

The Clinton Village Board supported the rink in 1932 with a \$200.00 donation, and that increased to \$300.00 in 1938 after voters approved it in the March elections.

However, the rink's finances were never robust. In 1930 the balance, after the season, was \$135.00 on total receipts of \$1277.07.

Hockey players and skaters had to contend with wind in their faces, blowing snow, and freezing temperatures. The ice had to be cleaned off manually and water sprayed on by a man and a hose, too.

After a bad snow storm, Kilbourne would bring his team of horses to pull a big scoop across the ice a job now for the Zamboni at most arenas.

In the mid 1930s weather caused severe ice problems on some days causing events to be cancelled at the outdoor rink. Sentiment for an enclosed rink grew. A committee studied the situation and visited other arenas in Canada. The Hamilton College's Sage Rink was built in 1921 so that only one mile away was a then-modern ice arena.

The committee in 1939 proposed an enclosed rink for \$90,000 on the site of the open one. Plans were made for a 100' by 212' building with a 40' curved roof, and Edward W. Stanley was now involved in a fund drive.

In May 1940 it was announced that plans for a new rink had been given up as funds were short. Only \$6000 of \$10,000 needed had been pledged, and no money had been collected. *To be continued.*



## BEER AND LIQUOR LICENSES

In the 1890 period a tavern or a store which desired to sell alcoholic beverages had to post a bond and apply for a license to the Kirkland Town Excise Board which consisted of the supervisor and the justices of the peace. A local temperance group consistently opposed these licenses.

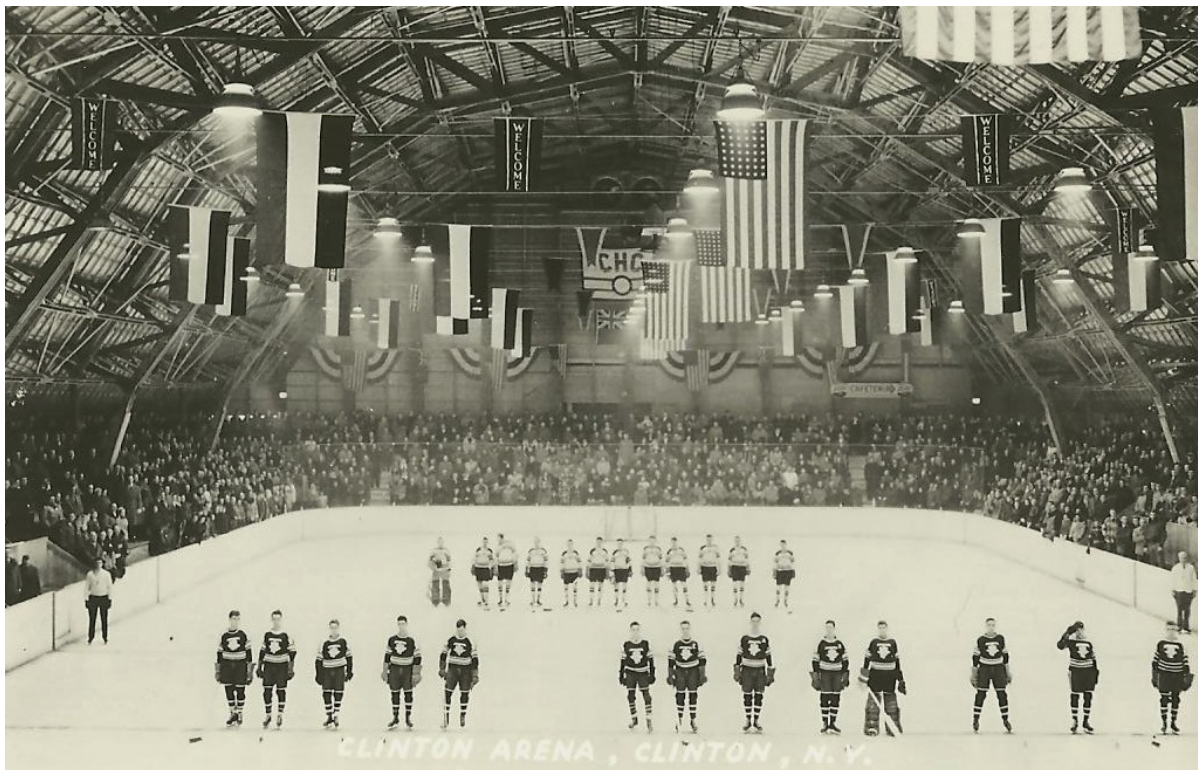
The following stores received licenses in May 1890– F.J. Root– West Park Row and J.T. Watson– College Street; both were drug stores

Innkeepers receiving licenses– Thomas G. Finnegan– College Street; Frank S. Hill– Hamilton House Hotel College Street; James Coombs– Kirkland Avenue; and John Martin– Kellogg Street

Taverns for beer and ale only– James Mahanney– College Street; Hugh Larkin– Franklin Iron Works; J.R. Birge– railroad eating house Water Street (Kirkland Avenue); Thomas Bradbury Water Street; Patrick J. Rooney, Franklin Avenue; Florence D. Fitzpatrick, Franklin Iron Works; Michael Kellicher– Beatty Avenue; Richard Ashcroft– New Street; H.B. Vann

**Explanations**–some bars were on Kirkland Avenue (then Water Street) at the railroad (area of Clinton House apartments and Agway where the N.Y.O. & W. R.R. went through to cater to railroad men and travelers; the New Street, Kellogg Street and Beatty Avenue bars catered to the miners in the iron ore mines off Brimfield Street, New Street and Dawes Avenue; the blast furnace was still operating in Franklin Iron Works (Franklin Springs). The changing economy since 1890 has also altered where intoxicating beverages may be bought and consumed.

## SCENES FROM WINTERS PAST– 1ST ARENA 1950



Interior shot of the 1st arena with players lined up for the National Anthem, ca. 1950.

Note the wooden trusses.