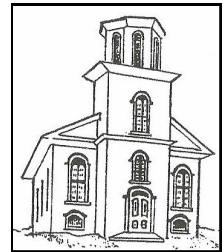


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



January 2015

WHEN HOPS WERE KING AND TODAY'S REBIRTH

Hops dominated the rural economy here back in the 1880s and 1890s and into the 1920s. Nearby Waterville was hops capital of the world.

Madison County was where hops first were cultivated in the state so it's natural and proper that we learn all about what has happened in recent years from Matt Urtz, the current Madison County Historian.

The first program of the 2015 year will begin at 2 PM on Sunday, January 11 at the Society to hear his topic "Hops Growing In Central New York."

A graduate of VVS High School Matt has been Madison County Historian for four years and does several historical programs. He also prints a monthly list of events and programs at historical societies in Madison County. Matt has degrees in history from SUNY at Oswego. One project he has done is recording the stories of seven World War II veterans from Madison County.

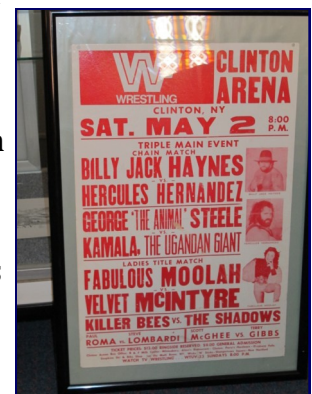
Matt serves as a trustee and a regional coordinator for the Association of Public Historians in New York State (APHNYS). Refreshments will follow the meeting. Start the New Year with us and learn the local story about HOPS!!!!

FROM THE COLLECTION



At left- A cash register from the 1930s made by National. It's heavy metal and not electronic. The amount of the sale pops up on one of more small metal signs seen through the window.

At right- Wrestling matches were held at the Clinton Arena in the 1950s. This poster features Hercules Hernandez in a match.



Clinton Historical Society
Founded in 1962

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and Saturday 1-3; call 1st to
make sure a Saturday volunteer
is on duty

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

LITHIA WATER IN FRANKLIN SPRINGS

Our concluding segment on our neighboring hamlet to the south will discuss the lithia water industry there between 1890 and the early 1970s.

Lithia water and the ensuing mineral water and restaurant business kept Franklin Springs commerce humming after the demise of the blast furnace in 1913.

Fred Suppe discovered lithia water on his Dugway Road farm in 1888 and by 1902 some seven firms and individuals were engaged in bottling and selling lithia water soft drinks.

William Brandis, Franklin Mineral Springs, J.B. Coates, GT. DeNike, Kirkland Mineral Springs Co., Frank Sloan, F.H. Suppe, and A.W. Warner were early bottlers. Split Rock beverages lasted until the early 1970s.

Another sign of the fading of the iron industry was the change of the post office from Franklin Iron Works to Franklin Springs.

During Prohibition in 1923 the Franklin Springs Club opened on the Dugway Road. It was the fourth house on the left off the Deansboro Road. It was advertised as a "modern resort where dancing and dinners may be enjoyed by the public."

This was a well-known nightspot of the Prohibition days where on Saturday nights bands held forth, and liquor of whatever type was available. Grant Emmons was the proprietor.

The Lithia water was said to have minerals beneficial to health and was advertised as such.

However, the industry was gone by 1974 with Split Rock being the last to operate and close up shop.

Your editor recalls Split Rock delivering cases of orange, ginger beer, ginger ale, and birch beer to our home in the 1950s. Often we'd return the empty bottles to the Suppe plant on the Dugway.

Some people did not like the taste of Clinton municipal water so they bought the lithia water in five gallon glass bottles set in wood frames which tipped to pour out the water.

Now Franklin Springs exists with no post office, no canal, no railroad, no lithia water or iron businesses, no restaurants, no Nice 'n Easy, no Joe Phillips barber shop, no Fred Schuck gas station, no Dot and Lee's Tavern (Mim's Grill), no paint mill, and no Rhodes plant, which just closed.

Now except for a physical therapy business, Clinton Auto Service, a veterinarian, the American Legion, a chocolate shop, and town offices and highway garage, the hamlet has much less business activity than in the past. The old cheese factory, the stores, and the farming sector have been replaced mostly by suburban homes.

When Franklin Springs was booming with the blast furnace and trains, the station at right took care of passengers and freight. Iron ore was brought from a spur off Brimfield Street, limestone and coal were brought from local quarries and Pennsylvania respectively.



The Helmuth-Ingalls American Legion in Franklin Springs at left. It was built in the mid-1920s as a two-room school. After World War II the Legion bought it and has remained there since.

WORLD WAR I on the Homefront

The war began in April 1914 when Archduke Franz Ferdinand and wife Sophia were assassinated by a Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo. The US stayed out until declaring war on April 2, 1917. Things rapidly changed here then.

The Clinton Courier reported two weeks later that 23 of the older boys of the Clinton High School have left school to work on farms. This was in accordance with a plan by the State Education Department "to help farmers in raising increased crops this year."

With European fields devastated by three years of war the US became the bread basket and major exporter of food to the Allies.

During the Great War civilian conservation was stressed. Food and fuel were targeted for conservation. War gardens became common. In neighboring Syracuse factories sent some of their workers to help on farms. Young women, called Farmettes, were gathered and sent to farms to work.

The Clinton Historical Society depends on the generosity of its members. Wouldn't it be great if all 500 members left the Society just \$1000 in their will? Help us advance our task of preserving Kirkland/Clinton history by remembering us in your will and estate plans.



President Erik at the Oneida County History Day in Remsen in August in the replicated train station.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that everyone had safe and happy holidays! Let me be the first to welcome you to 2015. Even though the year has changed, we are back to business as usual. Be sure to come to the society on January 11th to hear Madison County Historian Matthew Urtz's talk on the history of the hops industry in Central New York.

December was a busy month for us. We received \$5,000 from Hamilton College via the Town-Gown Fund, to help with the costs of painting the exterior of the building. We are so grateful for their contribution and would urge you to stop by the society and see how the building looks with a new face lift! We have been working diligently on new tech upgrades at the society. We will soon have a new website that will be more suited to our continued goal of educating others about the history of Clinton. We also now have Wi-Fi throughout the building, which will make it easier for people to come in and conduct their research.

I would like to take the time to thank all of our members and volunteers who have helped out at the society over the past year; whether the Farmers' Market, providing meeting refreshments, putting up holiday decorations, sorting documents, conducting research, or helping to clean and maintain the building. The Board of Directors and I would like to express our sincerest gratitude because without you we could not operate.

Erik Genalo

NYO&W Promotes Area For Summer Homes

The trains through Clinton started in 1866 and ended in 1957. In the 1870s period the firm printed a promotional booklet called "Summer Homes." This stressed the beauty, good climate, and pleasant villages along the tracks from Weehauken to Oswego. Here's an excerpt:

"The high elevation of our road, rising with hills to nearly 2000 feet, is a characteristic which especially commends it to summer tourists for the bracing and health-imparting breezes which even in the hottest days of summer sweep over these hills.

The region traversed by the NYO&W RR is not only remarkable for the variety and beauty of its scenery, but for the uniformity and salubrity of its climate, the purity and bracing influence of its air, and the moderate range of its temperature during the summer and autumn months.

The whole region is free from malarial fevers, which are now proving so formidable and pestilential in all our large cities. The greater part of the region is above the limit of hay fever and rose colds; and its comparative dryness and uniformity of temperature, and the resinous perfume of the pines, hemlocks, and cedars, make it a desirable region, at least in the summer and early autumn, for persons afflicted with pulmonary or rheumatic diseases."

We wonder how many New York City area passengers decided to build summer homed along the tracks and take advantage of these delightful attributes of our area.