

CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER JULY 2009

P.O. Box 42
Clinton, New York 13323

39th HISTORIC CLINTON/KIRKLAND WEEK PLANS

The Society is pleased to present Clinton and Kirkland residents and visitors its 39th annual **HISTORIC CLINTON /KIRKLAND WEEK** June 28 to July 5, 2009. More events than ever are on tap for an interesting, informative, and fun week.

Sunday, June 28th- opening reception for student photography show "Photographs of Everyday life in the Town of Kirkland" from 2 to 4 PM at the Society

Monday, June 29th- walking tour of the Historic District and Park starting at 7 PM at the Society; view 10-minute DVD of Park monuments followed by a tour of the Park and business district

Tuesday, June 30th- free film entitled *The Barn* at 7 PM at the Society; this features the architectural and cultural influences of Central New York barns

Wednesday, July 1st- Historic Car Cruise-In at South Park Row village parking lot plus view photo exhibit in the quarters 6:30 to 8:00 PM; bring your old car or truck

Thursday, July 2nd- walking tour of historic Chestnut, Williams, and Marvin streets pointing out building architecture and former private schools; 7 PM from the Society

Friday, July 3rd- old-fashioned ***Soda Shoppe!*** Remember the days of Hogan's, Sweet Shop, College Inn; buy phosphates, soda creams, shakes, and more 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the Society

Saturday, July 4th- Society open 11:00 to 4:30; parade at 5:00 PM

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC; modest prices for Soda Shoppe items.

**CELEBRATE THE RICH HISTORY OF OUR COMMUNITY!!!
222 YEARS OLD!!!**

**CLINTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Founded in 1962

DIRECTORS

Midge Bakos
Frank Cittadino
Fay Cittadino
Evelyn Edwards
Christopher Fox
Patricia Fox
Paul Frey
Walt Jury
Wade Lallier
Chris Marson
Jon Scott
Robert Tegar

WEB SITE

www.clintonhistory.org

QUARTERS

Former Clinton
Baptist Church, built
in 1832, at 1
Fountain Street

PHONE

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**Curator- Esther
Delaney**

**Editor- Richard
Williams**

**OPEN
HOURS**

Wednesday 1-3

HISTORY CAMP SET 8/3-8/7

The Society will hold the summer HISTORY CAMP for students entering grades 3 to 6 August 3 through August 7. This popular learning experience for youngsters will feature activities which teach about Clinton/Kirkland history in an engaging and fun way. Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of our rich history. Contact Faye Cittadino with questions or register to Summer History Camp, P.O. Box 261, Clinton, New York 13323.

Funding is provided by James Scala, Hamilton College Town/Gown Fund, and the Society. Families of participants are asked to join the Society.

SOCIETY RECEIVES BEQUEST FROM MACLEODS

The Society has received a generous bequest from the Ian and Nella MacLeod Family Trust. Nella and Ian lived on Kellogg Street where they raised their family. Ian was an electrician. They retired to Virginia to be near their daughter Diana where they passed away .

Some may remember daughter Jane who ran, with husband Terry Keenan, the Blue Fox Bookstore at 6 East Park Row in the 1970s.

SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

Why not take a book out to the porch or hammock this summer? Why not buy a local history book available at the Society or McHarris Gifts?

Farms and Barns of Kirkland, \$25.00

Forty Years of Clinton History, \$8.00

Kirkland Since 1827, \$10.00

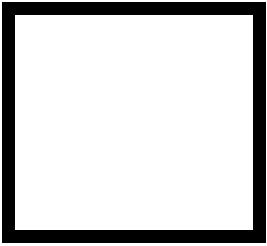
Sauquoit Valley, \$21.00

Isaac Williams, Deacon \$7.00

Maps and postcards are also for sale.

EAGLE SCOUT TO HELP AT OLD BURYING GROUND

Kevin Bering is hoping to do a project for his Eagle Scout Award by restoring some of the broken headstones and markers at the Old Burying Ground.



SCHOOLTOWN QUESTERS HELD 50TH YEAR GALA MAY 2

The Schooltown Questers Chapter held its 50th anniversary party at the Society on May 5th. The Open House drew many members and visitors to view the wonderful displays of the Quester members and to enjoy the delicious refreshments.

AWARD



Cynthia and John Crossley are shown at left with President Frank Cittadino receiving the Society's AWARD OF MERIT at the annual meeting held on May 5th. The Crossleys have done numerous chores and held several positions in the Society through the years. John was treasurer for five years, and Cynthia has setup numerous refreshment tables for regular meetings and the recent Annual Meeting and Cabaret Night. She also takes an active role in the Schooltown Questers and did much work for its recent 50th anniversary celebration. Both are always ready and willing to help. Congratulations!

OBG EPITAPH

Last issue (April) the Old Burying Ground was featured. Here is an epitaph from the old cemetery:

Althea, consort of Samuel Bingham
Aug. 12, 1822 68 yrs.

“Lord, she was thine and not mine own
Thou hast not done me wrong
I thank thee for the precious loan
Afforded me so long”

HOTELS IN 1887

Clinton had three hotels in 1887: The Willard House on South Park Row now the village parking lot site, The Clinton House at 9 West Park Row where Parkrow Booksellers is today, and The Hamilton Hotel at 9 College Street where Pondra's Real Estate is located now.

1918-1919 FLU

Society member Vincent Romanelli has given us this “onion story” from World War I. His father was aboard a ship headed for France at the time of the flu epidemic. He was worried about eating contaminated food so he avoided all but baked bread.

He found in the cargo hold sacks of onions and potatoes, which were mostly rotted or rotting. However, he found a few onions that were okay so he stored a few in his pockets and ate raw onions for the rest of the trip.

Antonio Romanelli survived the voyage and served in France to September 1919. He lived to be almost 90. Antonio was proud to be an Army veteran of World War I and proud of his service to his country.

THE TOGGLETOWN DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

Today the **TOGGLETOWN** area contains 22 homes on large lots on both sides of Toggeltown Road just east of Robinson Road off Utica Street. From where did the name “Toggletown” come?

This area of the Town of Kirkland is near Mud Creek, formerly known as Mitchell Brook. The brook tunnels under Utica Street at Robinson Road after flowing north from Brimfield Street where it crosses in the big dip east of Dawes Avenue.

The name Toggletown labeled the entire area on both sides of Utica Street and acquired that name due to the prevalence of a rail-type fence. The dictionary doesn't help too much but does define a toggle switch, a toggle joint, and a toggle bolt. So, we really don't know what a toggle fence looked like.

During the 1820s and 1830s this part of town was a beehive of business activity, according to Clinton Historian Phil Munson in the 1983 Clinton Historical Society Newsletter.

On the street was once a chair and cabinet shop, a cooper shop, a manufactory of spinning wheels, swifts and reels, a cider mill, a turning shop, and a little school house on the hill. These firms were flourishing between the War of 1812 and the 1830s.

One artisan was Daniel Northrup, an ambitious and industrious young mechanic, who made spinning wheels, a necessity in those days to make clothes.

An account in the *Clinton Courier* of the 1885 period stated that Northrup began to stock the country with the necessary homestead machinery with which mothers and maidens of that day used to spin and weave the textiles needed in home use. The power Mr. Northrup employed to run his shop was not horse power, but one man power, and it was claimed by him that he cleared in one year by his own labor at wheel making \$1000.00.

In March 1988 Sexton Realty at 41 College Street then offered the 20+ lots for “gracious and quality living” in the Mitchell Brook area on Toggletown Road. Property owner Gregory W. Batt laid out 22 lots on a new road cut in south from Utica Street (Route 12-B). The lots ranged from \$37,500 to \$47,500 in the brochure from Sexton.

Initially three lots had sold and three were pending. Now all have homes.

The brochure touted location, privacy, spacious “metes and bounds,” historical background, a wonderful view, deed covenants, and varied elevations” with close proximity to the Clinton community, places of art and leisure, medical services, and places of recreation.

This is one of many developments that have been constructed over the years in the Town of Kirkland. This one is in the upper range in price, has Mohawk Valley Water Authority water, but is not on a municipal sewer system.

At right is a view, circa 1890, of West Park Row looking south showing the steeple (torn down 1923-24) on the Stone Presbyterian Church. Note dirt streets and trees in the Park.

