

PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



July 2011

CALENDAR FOR HISTORIC CLINTON WEEK

The Clinton Historical Society started Historic Clinton Week in 1971 as a low-key way to remind residents of Clinton's and Kirkland's rich history. Continuing in that vein the Society is pleased to present the 2011 schedule of events. Residents are asked to fly their flags during the week.

Monday– June 27– walking tour of St. Mary's Cemetery led by John Burdick, 7 PM; use entrance off St. Mary's Avenue

Tuesday– June 28– book signing at the Society* with Richard Williams and his new book *Along Oriskany & Big Creeks*, 7 to 8 PM

Wednesday– June 29– Car Cruise In at village parking lot on South Park Row 6:30 PM; bring your old car or truck for all to see

Thursday– June 30– History of Hamilton College fraternity houses by Clarence Aldridge 7:30 PM at the Society*

Friday– July 1– Robert Tegart and Clinton in the Civil War and book signing for "With Courage and Honor"

Saturday July 2– Mark Twain historical performance by Richard Enders 2 PM at the Society*

Sunday, July 3– Opening Reception for Photo Show "Images from the Oriskany Creek Valley" 2 to 4 PM at the Society*

Monday– July 4– Fourth of July parade 7 PM

DIRECTORS

Midge Bakos
Faye M. Cittadino
Frank Cittadino
Cynthia Crossley
Evelyn Edwards
Chris Fox— secretary
Patricia Fox— treasurer
Paul Frey— president
Peggy Jury
Fran Lallier
Wade Lallier
Robert Tegart— vice president

Web Site

www.clintonhistory.org

E-Mail Address

clintonhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Phone

315-859-1392

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 42
Clinton, New York 13323

OPEN HOURS

Wednesday 1-3; Thursday 5-8;
and 1st Wednesday 6-8

Editor

Richard Williams

CHECK ENVELOPE LABEL

Check your envelope label to see if you are current in your dues. If the date is 3/31/2011 or earlier, the Society has not received your dues for the current year. A red line has been drawn around dates which are past due. Please remit \$10.00 (individuals), \$15.00 (business/families); \$25.00 (friends), and \$50.00 (contributing).

A dues card and return envelope were in your March Newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We have some exciting times ahead as we enter into our 50th year. A time to celebrate the vision and hard work of all the individuals that built the society to the state it is today and plan for the future of the society we would like to build for the next 50 years. If you have ideas on how you can help us celebrate and plan for the future let us know by calling the society or dropping us a note.

We have **Historic Clinton/Town of Kirkland Week** starting June 27 I hope to see you there.

Have a great summer!

Paul

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

A large crowd of members attended the annual Society business meeting and cabaret night on May 4th. Great refreshments and fellowship of friends and other members were enjoyed by all.

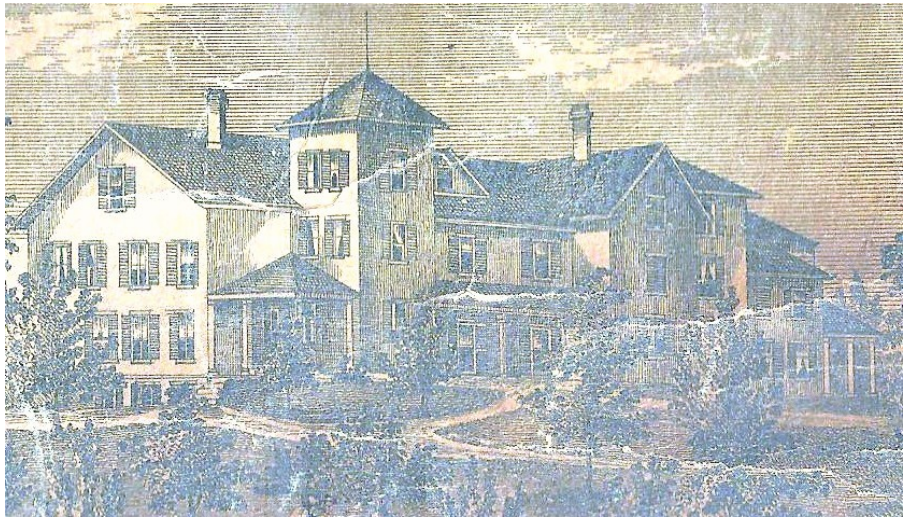
Official business was conducted. New president is Paul Frey; vice president is Robert Tegart; and Chris and Patricia Fox continue as secretary and treasurer respectively.

New directors are Margaret Jury and Frank Cittadino. Outgoing president Faye Cittadino will continue as a director and was applauded for a job well-done and presented with a certificate of appreciation.

LANDMARKS SOCIETY COMES TO CLINTON

The Landmarks Society of Greater Utica will come to Clinton on Monday evening, August 8 at 6 PM for a "Chestnut Street Stroll" led by Clinton/Kirkland historian Richard Williams.

The tour will discuss the homes on Chestnut Street between Fountain Street and Franklin Avenue. A brochure will be available which details the history of each house. After the tour all are invited to **Artisan's Corner, the former McHarris Gifts.**



Pictured above is the former Home Cottage Seminary at 23 Chestnut Street.



MOVIES HERE IN THE 1930S

The movie enthusiast back in the 1930s attended shows at the Grange Theater, 4 Fountain Street, formerly the Cannonball Cinema and now offices.

This playbill from the late 1930s has Rita Hayworth in "Renegade Rangers" and Jane Withers in "Keep Smiling."

Thanks to member Mark Klausner, who gave this to the Society.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON INN REMEMBERED

At right is a 1946 picture of the Alexander Hamilton Inn, a popular upscale restaurant which suffered fire damage in December 1977. During the renovations the front porch was unfortunately removed leaving the steps with no covering.

Luckily the porch on the left has been retained. The 1830-era structure is shown here minus the two additions added in the 1950s and 1960s. Note the World War II-era cars parked on the street.



O'Connor's Alexander Hamilton Inn was foreclosed by a local bank in 2006, and the Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization opened on Constitution Day, September 17, 2007. Principal partners in the formation of the Institute are Hamilton professors James Bradfield, Robert Paquette, and Doug Ambrose. Originally planned to be part of Hamilton College, opposition from faculty and the administration caused the founders to seek financial support elsewhere which they did. It now functions independently from Hamilton but has participation and support from alumni and students.

SOCIETY RECEIVES WILLS FROM COUNTY

The Clinton Historical Society has received from the Oneida County Surrogates Office, ten boxes of wills and related documents from residents of the Town of Kirkland. The documents cover the period from approximately 1835 to 1950. This collection contains information on 624 town residents. The collection contains will and probates for such well known members of the community as John Kirkland, Barnabas Pond, Othniel Williams, and Ozias Marvin.

This provides the Society with a great tool for genealogical research and an insight into the social life of the village and Town. From a genealogical standpoint the collection provides names, ages, and place of residence for all heirs and of course provisions for settlement of the estate. A copy of the notice of Probate which was published in local press is included as well as notices sent to all heirs. The files are full of fine Victorian script writing.

From a social and economic standpoint, the collection provides a breakdown of the value of the deceased's estate. For some of the businessmen it gives a ledger account of debts and credit for their business. In other cases, when there is no will, an inventory of a person's estate is performed.

These wills are available for research. Contact vice-president Bob Tegart who has been looking through the boxes of wills.