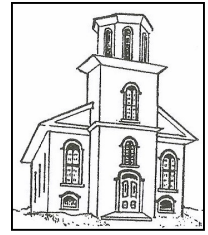


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2013

HISTORIC CLINTON WEEK EVENTS

The Society has held Historic Clinton Weeks since 1971 so this is our 42th time we have celebrated our rich heritage. This year the days are July 1 through July 8.

July 1– Monday– a tour of the historic Kirkland Cemetery on French Road just off Route 5 in Kirkland. Numerous veterans of several wars are buried here plus the Clark family which founded Clark Mills in the 1845 period. Convene at 7 PM.

July 2– Tuesday– films from the 1930s and 1940s showing Clinton school events, parades, sports teams, some were taken by Principal Howard Shineman 7 PM at the Society

July 3– Wednesday– Open House from 7-8:30 at the Society to view exhibits and meet members

July 4– parade with Society convertible, borrowed from John Burdick for the occasion

July 6– Society will have a booth at all-class reunion at the Clinton Arena 7 to 9 PM; books and memberships for sale

July 8– Churches of Clinton– Bob Tegart will lead this Landmarks Society of Greater Utica tour beginning at 6 PM from the Park; Stone Presbyterian Church, St. James Episcopal Church, and St. Mary's Catholic Church will be toured

Residents are asked to fly their American flags during the week.

Clinton Historical Society

Founded in 1962

DIRECTORS

Mary Benson Byrd— secretary

Daryl Chesebro-treasurer

Faye Cittadino

Frank Cittadino

Barbara Decker

Paul Frey

Eric Genalo

Ceil Gilbert

Fran Lallier

Barbara Owens— vice-president

Diane Parrish

Robert Tegart— president

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OPEN HOURS

Wednesday 1-4

Editor

Richard Williams

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

CLINTON COURIER AT 167

Question- What is the oldest business in Clinton and how old is it? Answer- The *Clinton Courier*

July 7 in 1846 Lewis W. Payne, a printer, started the newspaper business in Clinton when he published the *Clinton Signal* for the first time.

The subscription was \$1.25 per year payable half yearly, and the paper's masthead proclaimed "A Family Newspaper: Independent in Politics: Devoted to literature, Agriculture, and Foreign and Domestic Intelligence".

Indeed, much of the first issue had fiction, anecdotes, poems, legal notices, witty sayings, an obituary, a wedding notice, foreign dispatches from Russia, Mexico (Mexican War was going on), and dispatches from Washington, D.C..

Today's weeklies usually avoid the fiction, the foreign and national news, and the poems.

The *Clinton Courier* also had different names in the early years. For one year it was *The Radiator* (run by Hamilton College students in 1848-9), *The Oneida Chief* in 1851, and finally the *Courier* name has graced the masthead since 1857.

A rival weekly held forth between December 1899 and March 1911; it was called *The Clinton Advertiser*. Here's the rundown of owners since 1846:

1846- Lewis W. Payne as the *Clinton Signal*

1848- Hamilton College seniors took over as *The Radiator*

1851- Ira D. Brown as *Oneida Chief*

1855- Francis E. Merritt as *Oneida Chief*

1857- Galen H. Osborne as *Clinton Courier*

1859- M. D. Raymond- office in Narrows Block on West Park Row

1875- James Bennet Sykes and son Henry B. Sykes— office moved to new a building at 1 Kirkland Avenue around 1890

1922- Jamie W. Stepp, a son-in-law of Henry Sykes

1928- Charles A. Kimball

1942- Edward W. Stanley

1947- John E. Hammond

1951- Robert L. Dartt
1952-Stanley A. and Nora B. Knisely
1953- Arthur C. Youngberg
1955- John W. and William Boynton
1973- Rome Sentinel owner George Waters
1978- Michael Milmoie who also owned the *Canastota Bee and Journal*
1982- Gary and Marjorie Meyer– office was moved to 32 College Street
1992- Charles and Cynthia Kershner; Chuck died in May 2013, and Cynthia continues to operate the weekly.

The community appreciates having a local paper for news, sports and features. Congratulations to Cynthia Kershner for continuing the oldest business in Clinton since 1846.

SUMMER HOURS AND OTHER NEWS

Three interns will work at the Society this summer allowing more open hours to members and the public. Saturday hours are suspended until after Labor Day, but the Society will be open Monday through Friday 12 noon to 4 PM.

Additionally the Society will have a table in the park during Farmers' Market each Thursday weather permitting.

Interns this summer from Oneida County are college students Emma Garcia and Kelsey Wooldridge plus Clinton High School junior Dan Martini. All live in Clinton.

PROGRESS AT YOUR SOCIETY

On several fronts progress is occurring at your Society under the leadership of President Bob Tegart. Our regular volunteers continue to sort, scan, and catalog our collection.

1- Painting the old church– during renovations in 1999 to 2001, the old Baptist Church was painted the grey and cranberry colors. About six years ago state prisoners painted the facade. Now the entire buildings needs attention, and the directors have quotes from two paint contractors. Concerns on how to repaint a 181 year-old building with today's restrictions on lead paint disposal and preparation are being addressed.

2- The Society is pleased to announce that member Richard Clark of Virginia Beach died in January 2013. His estate left \$25,000 to the Society. Mr. Clark was related to the Goering family of Clinton and was a second cousin to former Clinton mayor Gill Goering. Clark's brother is buried in Sunset Hill Cemetery.

3- New directors Ceil Gilbert and vice-president Barbara Owens will help with keeping track of membership data. Eric Genalo is working on the framed paintings to preserve them properly. Ceil will also help with publicity, and Barbara will oversee the annual brochure which accompanies the September Newsletter.



Former Masonic Temple on Williams Street, at left, will be part of the tour on Monday, July 8 as part of the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica summer Monday Night program.

CHS President **Bob Tegart** will lead the tour which also includes St. James and St. Mary's churches. Meet at 6 PM in the park.

This event concludes Historic Clinton Week.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Members,

Looks like another busy summer ahead with our three interns working on the downstairs displays, cataloging and preserving our collection, and generally learning to run the shop. We are also installing a new computer system, which was funded by the Town Gown fund which will give us state of the art equipment including Wi-Fi, new fast computers and PowerPoint displays. We are busting into the 21st century! So stay tuned, enjoy Historic Clinton Week and have a happy and safe summer!

Bob Tegart