

CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2009

P.O. Box 42
Clinton, New York 13323

GET THE LOW DOWN ON STICKLEY FURNITURE MARCH 8TH

The Society is pleased to welcome an expert on Stickley furniture to present the history of that popular and famous line on March 8th at 2 PM at the Society.

Greg Vadney is the curator and executive director of the Stickley Museum in Fayetteville, and he put together the new 8000 square foot exhibit in the former Stickley Factory, which is now the Fayetteville Free Library.

He holds a masters degree from the Cooperstown Graduate Program and has spent time at the Fenimore Art Museum and was an intern at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Craftsman is the term Gustav Stickley adopted to describe his application of the Arts & Crafts philosophy in America. Pictured at right is a Spindle Chair from the 1905-09 period. This chair incorporates delicacy into typical rectilinear designs.

Mr. Vadney will describe in detail numerous items from the Stickley Museum collection so join us for our popular "Sunday in the Winter" series. Refreshments will follow this program..



DUES TIME AGAIN

The Society's dues year runs from April 1 to March 31 so your annual dues bill is enclosed. This year is a bit different. The statement has your mailing label on it. Mark the dues level and any additional donation, and add your phone number and e-mail address. **Tear off the end part and keep as your membership card.** This will save many hours for your volunteer members who do the mailing and keep the membership records. Return the larger part of the dues bill containing your mailing label with your check.

A self-addressed envelope is enclosed so you may return your dues payment promptly. Just affix a 42 cent stamp. **LIFE** members and those who have paid ahead should ignore this notice. Dues have remained the same even though utility and insurance expenses have increased.

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| DUES Categories- | \$ 2.00 Student | \$25.00 Friend |
| | \$ 10.00 Individual | \$50.00 Contributing |
| | \$ 15.00 Family/Business | \$500.00 LIFE |

Members are encouraged to move up to higher levels of membership!

**CLINTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Founded in 1962

DIRECTORS

Midge Bakos
John Burdick
Frank Cittadino
Christopher Fox
Patricia Fox
Paul Frey
Walt Jury
Wade Lallier
Glen MacGregor
Chris Marson
Brian Rand
Robert Tegart

WEB SITE

www.clintonhistory.
org

QUARTERS

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

PHONE

859-1392

**MAILING
ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 42
Clinton, New York 13323

E-MAIL ADDRESS

clintonhistorical
society@yahoo.com

Curator- Esther
Delaney

Editor- Richard
Williams

OPEN HOURS

**Wednesday 1-3
Saturday 11-2**

KIRKLAND CEMETERIES- CHUCKERY/KELLOGG

Last month we told the story of the old Chuckery (Kellogg Street) Cemetery. The burial of Glenn H. Evans was questionable due to the date of his interment some 75 years after the previous one.

"Ask and you will receive" aptly describes the delight in reporting this update thanks to Society members Bonnie Jones Reynolds, Ray Savicki, John Burdick, Laura Perkins, and Gwen and Fran Lallier.

Glenn H. Evans had a farm with 30 cows or so on the north side of Red Hill Road. Ray Savicki recalls picking up Evans' milk. Evans never married and died April 7, 1977. A brother Elbert E. and wife Gladys lived next door. Elbert died in 1981 and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Evans sold his farm to John Barkett in 1973 and with failing health went to a nursing home. He left the Crown Hill Cemetery contiguous land in his estate.

Levi Comstock (1783-1859) was one of the earliest settlers in Chuckery and became a successful farmer and property owner there building many of the farms and farmhouses. His wife was Lucy, not Lois, as the February Newsletter reported, according to Bonnie Jones Reynolds. Lucy, Reynolds said, descends from Ann Hutchinson and other very early Massachusetts immigrants.

A Comstock daughter married a Woodin and numerous offspring built and lived in Chuckery homes. Giles Woodin was a carpenter by trade.

Glenn Evans was a descendant of Levi Comstock and asked to be buried in the same cemetery as his other Comstock and Woodin relatives. Glenn Evans' grandmother was Hannah Lucy Comstock Evans. Hence, the connection to other Comstocks buried at Chuckery.

It's unclear who had jurisdiction over that abandoned cemetery, however, Evans' cremated remains were interred there in the fall of 1977.

Society Director John Burdick recalls selling the grave marker to Evans' sister Gladys Sutherland Evans of New Hartford in 1977 and having his crew set it in the ground.

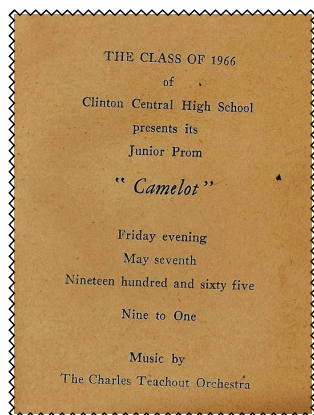
So, the mystery has been solved thanks to our many members who knew and remembered Glenn H. Evans. May he R.I.P. in the old Chuckery Cemetery.

RECENT DONATIONS

The Society always is grateful for those who add to the Munson Library collection.

1- Hezekiah Webster gave a soft drink crate from the lithia water beverage business in Franklin Springs.

2- Society director Brian Rand has given an old school desk, some old school books, and a few items from the 1965 Clinton High School Junior Prom The president of the Class of 1966 was Society Secretary Chris Fox.



3- Fred Griffin has donated the three coffee-table books by Emily Williams and Helen Cardamone: *Canal Country*, *Stagecoach Country*, and *Cherry Valley Country*.

RECENT NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes these new members since December 2008: Scott Adams & family, Kevin Bering & family, Paul Cobb, Roger Elliott, Bonita Gandhi, Leslie & Frederick Hager, Wayne Harrer, Marcia & Patrick Knapp, Robert & Rebecca Lewis,, Alberta Martino, Nancy Platz, Mackay & Sharon Rippey, Janice Reilly, Shirley Carlson, Mary Lenhardt, and Mrs. Harold Heintz.

The Society has over 500 members.

ESTATE PLANNING

The generosity of past members allowed the Society to begin renovations in 1999. Please remember the Society in your will and estate planning.

Thank you

ADS FROM HAMILTON LIFE 1924

TAXI?

ALWAYS A CAR AND PHONE

AT HEAD OF PARK

Phone 249

WHEN AND WHERE?

DeVinney & Timian

Clinton, New York

BIRGE-THE-GROW-SIR
The Best in Fancy Fruits,
Groceries and Vegetables

WE CATER TO HOUSE PARTIES
Telephone 169, College Street

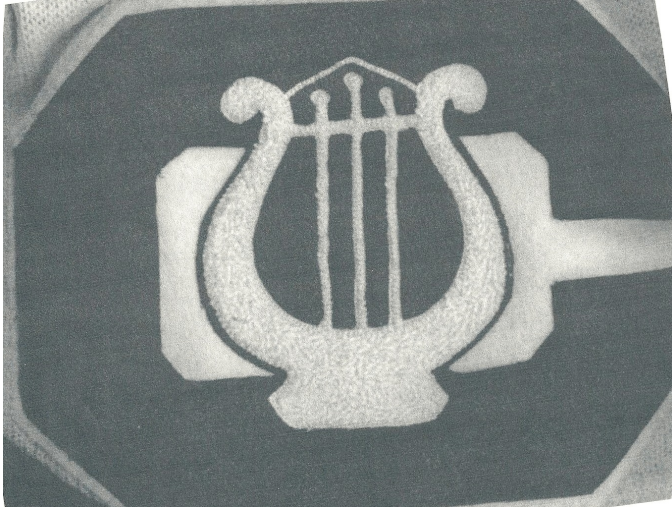
THE COLONIAL INN
HOME COOKED MEALS

East Park Row

Clinton

Taxis took students and riders from the end of the trolley on the south end of the Park; Birge had a store on the south side of College Street; and The Colonial Inn was a restaurant at 2 East Park Row.

FROM OUR COLLECTION TO YOU



CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC BLOCK 'C' FOR YOUR SWEATER

SOCIETY NEWS

1-The *Clinton Courier* has been placed on the interesting web site www.fultonhistory.com . This will allow searches for any word ever appearing in the weekly. Check it out.

2- The Annual Meeting and Cabaret Night will take place Wednesday, May 6 at the Society. Mark your calendars for a good evening of history and fellowship similar to 2008.

3- Over 75 people attended both the January and February Sunday programs by Richard Williams on Kirkland farming and by Steve Best on the Charles Borst family and the hematite mines.

4- **Historic Clinton Week** will be June 27 through July 4, 2009. Plans for Park and cemetery tours, Car Cruise In, and parade participation are being discussed. Details will come in June.

5- Program ideas are sought for 2009-2010 season. Contact Frank Cittadino or Bill Rudge with suggestions on speakers.

SOCIETY NEWS ,CONTINUED

6- Bob Tegart wants any items of Kirkland/Clinton veterans from the Civil War such as artifacts, diaries, photos, and letters from soldiers. Call Bob at 853-3026.

7- Volunteers for Saturday open hours and for Monday and Wednesday work sessions are always needed. Contact Frank Cittadino.

LOGO FOR CHAMPLAIN

2009 is the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery of the Hudson River, Samuel de Champlain's discovery of Lake Champlain, and the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's steamboat. Many events and activities are being planned for this summer in Eastern New York.



REV. SAMUEL KIRKLAND JOINED THE MASONIC ORDER

Rev. Samuel Kirkland, after whom our town is named, joined St. Patrick's Lodge in Johnstown, New York on February 6, 1767. This Lodge, the oldest in New York State, was founded by an Irishman Sir William Johnson, the English Indian Superintendent, who built Johnson Hall, and who had great influence over the Mohawks in the Colonial period. Johnson was the first Lodge Master.

An article in the Masonic Family Magazine in 1951 told Kirkland's life story. It described how Kirkland was born in Norwich, Connecticut in 1741, the son of Rev. Daniel Kirkland. He studied at Rev. Eleazar Wheelock's academy in New Lebanon, Connecticut, and learned the Mohawk tongue from some Indian boys attending also.

Kirkland received a degree in 1765 from Princeton "in absentia" as he had left in 1764 on an "adventurous and difficult mission" to the Seneca Indians in Western New York. At age 23 Kirkland went to the Senecas, the most remote of the Six Nations and thought to be the most powerful and warlike. No Protestant missionary had ever dwelt amongst them nor tried to convert them.

In 1761 Kirkland, then a student, had already been at Oneida Castle with Joseph Brant, the Mohawk chief and also a Wheelock student. Brant became a Mason himself in 1776 at the Falcon Lodge in London, England. As a Loyalist or Tory he went on to lead Mohawks and some other Iroquois against the Colonists during the Revolutionary War.

Wheelock called Kirkland back from the frontier in 1766, and he was ordained in June 9, 1766. At that same time he received a commission from the Connecticut Board of Correspondents for the Honorable Society in Scotland and was dispatched by the Missionary Board to minister to the Oneidas at Kanonwarohale near Oneida Castle.

During the Revolutionary War Rev. Kirkland served as a chaplain in the Continental Army and was appointed by the government to hold the Six Nations in a state of neutrality. Most of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras remained firm with colonists, but the Mohawks, Senecas, Onondagas, and Cayugas generally sided and aided the British.

Oneida Indians were used as scouts and also fought at battles such as at Oriskany in August 1777. Kirkland also went as brigade chaplain to the 1779 Sullivan-Clinton expedition which wiped out numerous Indian villages and crops in Western New York.

After the war Rev. Kirkland returned to the Oneidas and found them desolate, poor, morally depraved, their habits of industry broken, and their schools and churches almost forsaken, according to Gridley's 1874 History of the Town of Kirkland.

However, Kirkland resumed his work with hopefulness and ardor and also attended various Indian treaty councils as a mediator and interpreter such as at Buffalo Creek in 1788.

At this point the Indians decided to grant Kirkland land for his "good and kind services" to them so the Oneidas and New York State gave him 4760 acres, known as "Kirkland's Patent," which is about two miles square and extended from the Oriskany Creek along the 1768 Property Line westward to the Skyline Drive area today.

Included in this area was most of the current Hamilton College campus. Kirkland donated 300 acres of this land to the fledgling Hamilton-Oneida Academy in 1793 when he proposed his "Plan of Education of the Five Nations." Not much happened until Kirkland traveled in 1793 and met with George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and other prominent men such as Col. Pickering and General Knox in the new government at the then capital, Philadelphia.

Washington gave "his approbation of the proposed seminary, as well as that part of the plan which has been adopted for introducing and promoting agriculture among the Indians."

The article claimed that Alexander Hamilton had been a Mason, too, belonging to New York Lodge, and Hamilton consented to be a trustee and to "afford it all the aid in his power." However, Hamilton never came here and never donated anything as far as we know today.

Another Mason, Major General Baron Frederick von Steuben, who was a member of the Holland and Trinity Lodges in New York City, laid the cornerstone for the new academy (seminary) on July 1, 1794 with Oneida Chief Skenandoa, local residents, the board of trustees, and Rev. Kirkland witnessing the event. Within a few years a new building had been erected, but never fully completed.

By 1798 a few rooms were finished, and John Niles had been appointed the first principal. The school slowly increased in enrollment although very few Indian youth attended. Kirkland never lived to see his academy become a college as he died on February 28, 1808. His grave is adjacent to Chief Skenandoa's in the Hamilton College Cemetery off Campus Road.

On May 22, 1812 the Board of Regents gave a charter and a \$50,000 grant to the school to become Hamilton College. This was the third liberal arts college in the State after Columbia and Union.

Rev. Kirkland not only became a Mason early in his career, but he labored for nearly 45 years amongst the Iroquois Indians trying to bring Christianity, industry, farming, and a general uplifting spirit to the Native Americans.

CAWLEY'S CLOSED IN APRIL 2000

Now a bit of Clinton business history; Cawley's dealership on East Park Row closed nine years ago. Thomas Cawley opened in 1935 and sold Fords. He expanded into farm machinery. Bolens garden equipment was sold

in the 1950s, and in 1955 Mercury cars were offered to the public. Son Don Cawley took over from his father in 1970, and his sons Mike and Peter worked the business with Don until the doors closed in April 2000. This is thought to be the oldest business site in Clinton dating from 1800 when Jedediah Sanger sold general merchandise. Sanger was also a founder of New Hartford and had numerous business ventures around the State. Originally two buildings, a false front has covered the facade for over 100 years. Today Grande's Pizza Parlor and Fisher Auto Parts continue the commercial tradition at 10 and 12 East Park Row.



President's Message

Although we have only entered 2009 a little over a month ago, our Society has enjoyed an incredibly busy series of excellent programs and events. We appreciate the dedication of our presenters and the enthusiasm of our members and guests. It is evident that interest in our local history has never been greater!

One of our many goals for this spring is to welcome new volunteers to help our Society meet the needs of our community. Volunteers are needed to serve as docents to keep our building open and welcome visitors while other volunteers are needed to help us catalog the many donated artifacts and photographs that our members and community so generously donate so future generations may better understand our heritage. Still other volunteers are needed to help us maintain our beautiful and historic building. Please contact us.

I am personally so proud of our community's nickname of "schooltown"! It reflects the importance we have consistently placed on academic achievement and learning. Forty-one schools were in operation in the Town of Kirkland from 1790 to the present day! What a legacy! Please help us in our desire to develop a section of our permanent museum exhibition to schools with your donation of artifacts and historic photographs related to Hamilton College, Clinton Central Schools and the many other schools located throughout our town!

Mark your calendars for our Sunday, March 8th program. AT 2:00 PM, Mr. Greg Vadney, the Curator of the Stickley Furniture Museum, will present a program focusing on the world famous Stickley furniture. This high quality furniture is characterized by the inscription Gustave Stickley originally put on each piece, "*Als Ik Kan*" – "to the best of my ability." This fascinating program will allow us to better understand the historical and artistic significance of Stickley design. Why not invite a friend or relative who is not as yet a member? We will have a special incentive for people to join that day.

Plans are underway for a number of exciting events for spring and summer including a luxury bus trip to a historic site! See next month's Newsletter for details.

Frank Cittadino,
CHS President

