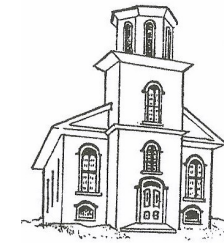


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

# CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2011



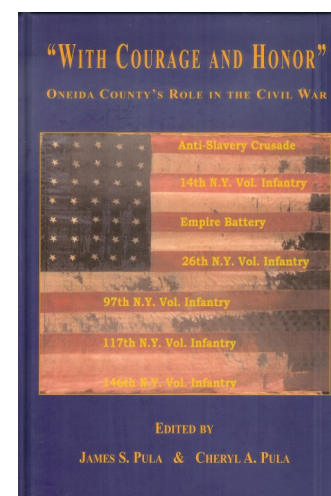
## ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Join us Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 2 PM for the story of the Roman Catholic parish here in Clinton. Rev. John Croghan will present the program and is keenly qualified to do so.

After schooling in Utica at St. Francis de Sales and Notre Dame he studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary in Ogdensburg and St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester.

He first came to Clinton in 1982 as Catholic Chaplain at Hamilton College and Associate at St. Mary's. Leaving in 1988 for MVCC Father Croghan returned in 1996 as Administrator of St. Mary's and was made Pastor in 2008 making him eminently capable of informing us about the parish which can be traced back to November 21, 1850 when Rev. William C. Coghlan was appointed the first pastor.

### NEW BOOK OUT ON CIVIL WAR



The Society is pleased to announce a new book to which our own Bob Tegart has contributed a chapter on the 26th New York Regiment. *With Courage and Honor* details the role Oneida County men and women had in the Civil War. This included those in service, abolitionists, the five Oneida County regiments, and underground railroad conductors. Prominent luminaries such as Daniel Butterfield, Roscoe Conkling, Francis Kernan, Horatio Seymour, and others are discussed. It's available at the Society or via mail order from our web site for \$29.95.

Bob also seeks information on any local Kirkland vets of the war and their relatives who may have served in the Civil War 1861-1865. Call Bob at 853-3026.

CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1962

DIRECTORS

- Midge Bakos
- Faye M. Cittadino, president
- Cynthia Crossley
- Evelyn Edwards
- Paul Frey, vice-president
- Christopher Fox, secretary
- Patricia Fox, treasurer
- Farm Lallier
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- Chris Marson
- Ron McClusky
- Robert Tegar

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OPEN HOURS

Wednesday 1-3  
Saturday 11-2  
1st Wednesday 6-8

EDITOR

Richard Williams

CLINTON IS  
224 YEARS  
OLD

CLINTON GIRL

WED BY KU KLUX KLAN

Unusual interest was attached to the filing of a wedding license with Francis J. Burns, Kirkland town clerk, about a wedding at a meeting of the Ku Klux Klan north of Utica on Newport Road.

The certificate filed by Rev. K. Jeffries Whaley, Watertown said that Gertrude Angeline Helmer, age 17, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Sewell

Helmer of Franklin Avenue, became the bride of John Arnold, age 26, of New York Mills. The place of the marriage was given as "Eugene Weeks Farm, East Schuyler."

The Klan ceremony was performed on a platform in a lot just off Newport Road. The organist and male quintet, as well as Mr. Whaley and the bridal party

were all dressed in Klan regalia. The Methodist ring ceremony was used.

So far as we know Miss Helmer has the distinction of being the first from this neighborhood to be united in marriage through the auspices of the Ku Klux Klan.

This article originally appeared in the *Clinton Courier* of October 15, 1924.

DUES ARE DUE BY APRIL 1

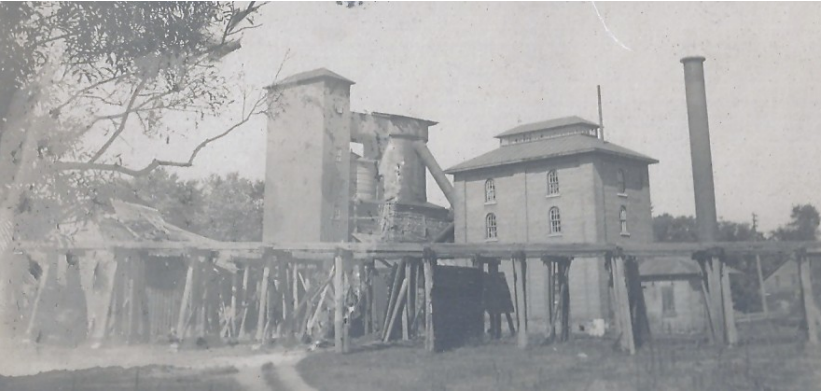
Enclosed with this Newsletter is the dues notice for our fiscal year April 1 to March 31, 2012. Please return the larger portion of the statement with your check in the **self-addressed envelope**. Check label for date your dues are paid.

You may also use **Paypal** by going to the Society's web site at [www.clintonhistory.org](http://www.clintonhistory.org) and click on PAYPAL logo. You need not have a PayPal account to use this procedure, but you must have a credit card.

Society By-Laws state that those in dues arrears after six months will no longer be members. Please renew. We need **you now!** Dues are the Society's main source of income so help us "preserve the past for the future."

IRON BLAST FURNACE IN KIRKLAND 1870-1913

The Clinton Iron Works, at right, operated between the 1870s and 1913 at the Oriskany Creek and Seneca Turnpike. It used local hematite ore.



Dear Members,

Another month has flown by already! Spring is right around the corner.

Many people have been asking how they may help our Clinton Historical Society. Some suggestions are:

Take photographs of houses, businesses, street scenes, Firemen Field Days in Clinton, Clark Mills and Franklin Springs so we have a collection of what our communities/town looks like today. Remember the everyday scenes of life today become tomorrow's treasures.

Organize our collection of yearbooks in chronological order

Scan photographs into our data base

Take photographs of artifacts in our collection at the society

Why not feature your collection in one of our (locked) display cases?

Greet visitors on Wednesdays or Saturdays during our public hours

All help will be greatly appreciated.

Our membership continues to grow, and we thank all who have helped us. The successful operation of the Historical Society depends on your dues and donations. Remember, we are entirely a volunteer organization. We now have 517 paid memberships plus some paid business memberships. We are aiming for 600! Please help us grow by giving a gift of membership!

Our March program will feature Father John Croghan speaking on the rich history of St. Mary's Church and Parish. The program will begin at 2 pm on Sunday, March 13. Hope to see you all there!

Regards,

*Faye Cittadino, President*

**Return survey  
form with your  
dues.**



The Clinton Knitting Mill is shown above in the 1930s or early 1940s. This is a view east from Kirkland Avenue across from the Clinton Agway. Parallel to the building were the tracks of the NYO&W railroad. Note the high wheeled

baggage cart at right. The tracks were between the cart and the mill covered with snow in this picture.

After the mill closed in 1951 this was a lumber yard and later a Genuine Auto Parts Shop. It was torn down around 1970 to make way for the

construction of the Clinton House Apartments which now occupy that entire site.

The former freight station of the NYO&W is now the garage annex for the residents. It was moved several yards east to its current location.

*"Mill occupies Clinton  
House site."*

# CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## HELP NEEDED

Frank Cittadino needs a few people to help him update the Historical Society's inventory of equipment and its collection of rare historic documents. Meeting/work dates can be arranged around your schedule. Please call Frank at 859-1055 or [italyartist70@hotmail.com](mailto:italyartist70@hotmail.com).

The Society has been located at 1 Fountain Street since early 1994 when trustees of the Clinton Baptist Church turned over the property. The building was in poor shape but was used to store the Society's collection of Kirkland and Clinton history (artifacts, documents, pictures, etc.) which previously were at the Kirkland Town Library.

In 1999 the Society began a fund drive and a complete renovation project to change from a church to an historical society.

That project was successfully accomplished, and the renovated church had a formal opening in July 2001.

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The Society seeks **new members** who have an interest in historical preservation and local history.

**Dues** are \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for businesses and households, \$25.00 for friends, \$50.00 for contributing members, and \$500.00 for **Life members**. **Give the gift of**



Mrs. King called the girls "giddy teenagers" and wrote that "their beaux, I suspect, may have cast their eyes in the direction of these charming on-coming youngsters." Note the late Victorian fashions.

## TRUNDLE BED TRASH

This picture was donated by Helen Garlinghouse King, whose father was Clinton dentist Dr. Garlinghouse. James Francis took over Garlinghouse's practice on Williams Street in the 1940s.

This picture was taken by "Carpenter" of Clinton in 1893. Mrs. King wrote on the back of the photo that these Clinton girls formed a club called T.N.T. Mrs. King suspects that Julia Stebbins, Grace Hayes, and Caroline Owens were in it plus 3 unidentified gals.