

CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009

P.O. Box 42  
Clinton, New York 13323

## LEARN ABOUT KIRKLAND BIRDS & NATURALISTS

Start our 47<sup>th</sup> year of local history programming by joining naturalist Matt Perry who will speak and show video clips about the "History of Birds and Naturalists in Central New York" on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at the Society.

Perry, an officer of the Utica Marsh and the Kirkland Bird Club, has been conservation director at Spring Farm CARES in Chuckery for 10 years. He has done much research into local fauna. Rev. Wicks (1855-1910), in addition to being rector at St. Paul's on Paris Hill, also was an avid naturalist who Perry has studied. Naturalist Egbert Bagg of Utica will also be included in the program. This natural slant on local history will be a fine program to begin the year so plan on attending. Refreshments will follow the program.

## BUSY SUMMER AT CHS

Your Society has had a busy and successful summer:

- 1- **Historic Clinton Week** kicked events off with walking tours, Car Cruise In, "Barn" video, Olde Fashion Soda Shoppe, open houses, and participation in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. Over 350 people alone enjoyed old ice cream counter delights on 7/3 as Ron Marson served up great-tasting treats along with nostalgia.
- 2- **History Camp** for middle school-age children ran 8/3 to 8/7 and provided youngsters with knowledge of Clinton history in an enjoyable way.
- 3- Two **Interns**, Sarah Hecklau and Jason Torres, each worked 200 hours on the collection and the permanent exhibits. Hecklau scanned numerous pictures and digitized them into PastPerfect museum software. She attends Gettysburg College. Torres worked on displays and exhibits and will be a junior at Hamilton College this fall. ½ of their salary was from the County Workforce Development program.

## DUES ARE DUE

Please check the date on your envelope label; it tells the date to which your dues are paid. If **3/31/2009** is printed, then we expect your dues for the current dues year (April 1, 2009-March 31, 2010) soon. Please remit your dues check now to maintain your member status. \$10.00- individuals; \$15.00- families/businesses; \$25.00- Friends; \$50.00- Contributing. Thanks to the other 400 members who have paid.

Our Bylaws state that dues must be paid within six months or membership will be suspended. We want and need you to keep current as dues constitute over 75% of our yearly operating budget. **THANK YOU!!!**

**CLINTON  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

Founded in 1962

**DIRECTORS**

Midge Bakos  
Frank Cittadino  
Faye Cittadino  
Evelyn Edwards  
Christopher Fox  
Patricia Fox  
Paul Frey  
Walt Jury  
Wade Lallier  
Chris Marson  
Jonathan Scott  
Robert Tegart

**WEB SITE**

[www.clintonhistory.org](http://www.clintonhistory.org)

**QUARTERS**

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

**PHONE**

315-859-1392

**MAILING  
ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 42  
Clinton, NY  
13323

**E-MAIL  
ADDRESS**

[clintonhistorical  
society@yahoo.com](mailto:clintonhistorical<br/>society@yahoo.com)

**Editor-** Richard  
Williams

**Collection  
Manager-** Esther  
Delaney

**OPEN HOURS**

Wednesday 1-3  
Saturday 11-2

## **KIRKLAND'S WILL and ESTATE**

Samuel Kirkland (1741-1808) was missionary to the Oneida Indians and was immortalized when our town was named after him in 1827. Rev. Kirkland's first missionary work was with the Senecas in 1761, but he spent most of his career with the Oneida tribe and working as missionary, an interpreter, chaplain, and agent for the US Government (during the Revolutionary War and for subsequent Indian treaty meetings).

After his death in 1808 his will was probated in Oneida County. Kirkland made his will in January 1808, a few months prior to his death on March 28th.

1- His (second) wife, Mary, and his daughter Eliza received land in the vicinity of the Oriskany Creek, Harding Road and College Hill Road and just west of the 1768 Line of Property designated at the Treaty of Ft. Stanwix that year.

2- His son John Thornton Kirkland got land as payment for loans he had made to Rev. Kirkland.

3- The remainder of his land in the Town of Paris (Kirkland was then in the Town of Paris) and his parsonage lot in the Town of Westmoreland was left for his executors' discretion to dispose of.

4- Kirkland gave wife Mary and daughter Eliza the right to "occupy and improve my dwelling house as joint tenants." His house was on Harding Road, and today is referred to as the Harding Farm.

5- Mary got the "whole of his household furniture" and "my silver watch."

6- Mary got sole ownership of one horse, one cow, one pair of steers, 20 sheep, "having purchased with the fruits of her own industry."

7- Mary also got rent from a lot of land amounting to ten dollars a year.

Never a rich man, financially depleted by son George Whitfield Kirkland's poor investments in the West Indies, and usually short of cash, Kirkland left only what he had: a home and land. In 1788 New York State and the Oneida Indians had granted Kirkland and his two sons, John and George, 4750 acres of land which basically extended from the Oriskany Creek to Skyline Drive and included the Hamilton College campus.

In 1808 Kirkland had three sons (the exact date of George's death is uncertain) and two daughters living, but only mentioned daughter Eliza and son John in his will along with his second wife Mary. All children were by his first wife Jerusha Bingham, who died in 1788.

Twin sons John and George were born August 17, 1770 at General Herkimer's home where Kirkland had left his family while he went west to minister to the Iroquois. John attended Phillips Academy and Harvard and became a prominent Unitarian minister. In 1810 Harvard University tapped him for its presidency, and he served until 1828.