



## CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September 2012

### LEARN ALL ABOUT THE CHENANGO CANAL

For about 40 years Clinton had a canal— The Chenango—which went between Utica and Binghamton up the Oriskany Valley and down the Chenango Valley.

Join us for the first meeting of the new year on Sunday, September 9, 2012 at 2 PM at the Society to hear Wade Lallier discuss the “History of the Chenango Canal.”

Wade, one of our directors, has researched the Chenango Canal for years and did a program a few years ago on the canal. Wade lives on the Deansboro Road and works for the New York State corrections department.

Wade will present his research in a PowerPoint production, which has many pictures of the canal in Clinton and Kirkland. This will be a rewarding program, and all are invited to attend. Refreshments will follow.

### COZACK ROAD REMAINS A MYSTERY

In the July Newsletter the name Cozack Road was in a brief article asking for any information about its location. The term “Cozack Road” was on a 1930s Town of Kirkland form of the County Highway Department which listed several roads for repair and patching. Other roads listed included Austin Road, Reservoir Road, Norton Avenue, Sawyer Road, White Street and Dugway Road.

Here are responses received:

- 1- The late Gordon M. Hayes wrote on July 1 that he recalled a John Kozak who had a farm on Skyline Drive near Bryden Road opposite the College reservoirs.
- 2- Joan Jones browsed the 1915 and 1925 NYS censuses and the 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940 federal censuses and could not find a Cozack family at all.
- 3- Your editor did find John Kozak's name on a 1944 school tax roll for the College Hill District # 15. His street was listed as “Red Hill Road” in the Town of Westmoreland, and he had a 48-acre farm. This is confusing because now Red Hill Road connects Chuckery Corners to Chadwicks.

The mystery continues; can anyone help tell us where Cozack Road was?

Clinton Historical Society  
Founded in 1962

# **DIRECTORS**

Mary Benson Byrd  
Daryl Chesebro— treasurer  
Faye Cittadino  
Frank Cittadino  
Rick Heintz  
Paul Frey  
Fran Lallier  
Wade Lallier  
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president  
Diane Parrish  
Robert Tegart-president  
Richard Williams— secre-  
tary

## **Web Site**

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## **OPEN HOURS**

Wednesday 1-3, Saturday  
11-2

## **Editor**

**Richard Williams**

**Dues-** \$10.00 individual;  
\$15.00 busi-  
nesses/families; \$25.00  
friend; \$50.00 contributing

# **ONE-ROOM SCHOOL MEMORIES**

Between the years of 1941 and 1946 I attended the one-room schoolhouse on Old Bristol Road. When it was closed, it was sold to Abe and Ann Joseph, who remodeled it. It basically still looks like a brick schoolhouse similar to one on Route 5 across from Breakfast at Tiffany's.

The school had a large yard with a sidewalk stretched from the front door out to the road.

Inside was a wood-burning pot-belly stove at the back of the room. Sometimes, in cold winter days, we would arrange our desks in a semi-circle around the stove to keep warm.

There were large windows on both sides of the room, and, on one side, a shelf underneath the windows to hold our lunch boxes.

We had roughly 20 students, but that number fluctuated at certain times of the year. In late spring or early fall we would have a few black kids who lived in the migrant camps nearby and were here to pick beans, peas, etc. for the local farmers from Kirkland and Clark Mills.

Our teacher was Viola Smith, who lived on Utica Road, and never drove a car here. Someone in her family must have dropped her off and picked he up each day. She was a great teacher, and we got a good dose of reading, writing, and arithmetic.

During recess we played kick the can, tag, hide and seek, baseball, hopscotch on the sidewalk and other games.

We had grades one through five, and often times, when I was in fifth grade, and my work was done, Mrs. Smith would let me help her and I would listen to the first and second graders read or help them with whatever they were doing.

Outside in the yard was a well and hand pump where we would pump water into a gallon pail, then empty it into a blue and white stripped water jug inside the school. That was our drinking and washing hands water.

An outhouse was attached to the back of the building with a hallway in between. On the door of the outhouse we had a sign made of two circles secured with a tack. If it was occupied, the green circle would be on top. Then when you went to use it, you put the red circle on top.

We had one tall, lanky kid named "Charlie" who used to pass gas frequently in the classroom, and it was said that his family ate pork 'n beans for dinner each night.

We lived almost across the road from the school, and we used the schoolyard to play in often after school, weekends, and during the summer.

Unbeknownst to our parents, we used to climb up on the schoolhouse roof and slide down the outhouse roof, which ended up pretty close to the ground. It was even more fun, knowing it was not supposed to be done. My mother never knew why we wore out our clothes so fast.

*Editor' note: we thank member Ceil Wampfler Gilbert for this delightful reminiscence of her World War II days in the Kirkland one-room schoolhouse just off Route 5. All members are welcome to submit their memories.*



## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Shown at right at the June 6, 2012 annual meeting are newly-elected directors and officers from left: Richard Williams, secretary; Barbara Owens, partially hidden, vice-president; Faye Cittadino, director; Mary Bryd, director; Diane Parrish, director; Robert Tegart, president; and Daryl Chesebro, treasurer.



**CORRECTION**— The caption for the home at 37 College Street in the last Newsletter incorrectly said that the home was built by Arthur Easingwood ca. 1885. Former Newsletter Editor Phil Munson wrote in the April 1981 issue that 37 College was built in the 1835 period. Easingwood's father-in-law Peter Keck did live there, however, between 1898 and the mid-1930s.

## NEED JOB EXPERIENCE? BETWEEN JOBS OR RE- TIRED? SUFFERING EMPTY-NEST SYNDROME?

The Society has the answer for you by volunteering. What's needed? Data entry, Researchers, Writers, Bakers, Library aids, Sorting donated collections, Making displays and exhibits, Greeters, Cleaners, Scanners, and Mailing help.

What do you like to do? Stop in or contact President Bob Tegart at 853-3026 or [rttegs@gmail.com](mailto:rttegs@gmail.com).

The CHS depends upon the generosity of its members. Please help us advance our mission by remembering CHS in your will and estate planning. The CHS is a 501c3 organization making donations fully tax deductible. Matching gifts from your employer double your giving.

## TRAMPS AND GYPSIES REMEMBERED

Your editor's "Clinton Scene" column in the *Clinton Courier* about tramps and gypsies a few months ago brought this note from Gina Scala Bachner:

"Having grown up in Clinton during the 1930s and 40s the story struck close to home, my home. As youngsters, my brothers and I had the experience of meeting one of the gentlemen whom my family referred to as a "hobo."

Somehow he chose our door to knock on for work in exchange for a meal. Mother being a kind and caring woman, set up a table on our back porch and fixed him a meal.

This man whom we came to call Ted appeared at our door two or three summers in a row. As I remember he was always polite and seemed to appreciate a meal.

Mrs. Bachner ended by writing, "thanks for a bit of Clinton history that makes me feel grateful to grow up in such a charming village."

## TRACING YOUR FAMILY IN 1940

The 1940 census was released in April 2012 and contains much information about your family members living then.

One Internet site that can be searched is [www.1940censusArchives.gov](http://www.1940censusArchives.gov).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a busy summer!

Our interns, Emma Garcia and Garret Wyckoff, have updated or inputted 1114 photos, books or objects in our Past Perfect System. They have also been working on the business ledgers and have updated accession information, cleaned, and covered 60 of them in archival safe material

This gives us a total of 302 archives, 115 books, 611 objects, and 2423 photos for a total of 3451 items entered into Past Perfect!

Emma set up an email mailing list of our members who have provided their address – we plan to do a mailing soon.

Our photos have been moved into archival safe boxes and are in the process of being sorted.

We would like to thank Clinton Kiwanis who gave us a gift of \$900 in honor of Harlan Lewis to help fund the internship program.

A display has been put together on Clinton Pottery.

We have received several donations over the last few months including a large 1855 County map, a collection of memorabilia from the estate of John Waryha, and Clinton High School sporting memorabilia.

Historic Clinton Week was very successful with approximately 150 persons attending the tours and open house. We also conducted a walking tour of Clinton for the Landmarks Society which attracted 50 participants.

We have set up a Facebook account which features historic photos, announcements of activities, and articles written by members on Clinton History. Check it out if you are on Facebook – if you are not it's easy to sign up and view the information and photos. Call if you need help doing that.

We conducted a docent training session in August and have about 12 people who have volunteered for duty. Wednesdays have been busy with volunteers doing projects, people donating items, and research being conducted.

So it indeed has been a busy summer! The fall looks to be busy as well with more volunteer projects and the beginning of our general meetings!

Robert Tegart

## HAYES BANK PRESIDENT DIES

The recent death of Gordon M. Hayes reminds us of the banking history of Clinton. Two of Gordon's ancestors, Cory D. and Nathan L. Hayes, came to Clinton from Mt. Upton, New York and purchased the banking business of Elliot and Hill on East Park Row on March 7, 1878. They did business as "The Clinton Bank, Hayes & Co. Bankers."



112—The Bank Building, Clinton, N. Y.

Expanding in 1896 Cory D. Hayes bought the old Seth Hastings home at 1 Kirkland Avenue and remodeled it into a banking office. As the advantages of a private bank became less attractive and after the death of Cory Hayes on November 22, 1911, a decision was made to become a nationally-chartered bank.

On November 19, 1912 The Hayes National Bank of Clinton came into existence with Owen J. Burns, Gilbert J. Cauldwell, Joseph Rudd, Charles H. Stanton, Edwin Fuller Torrey, Nathan L. Hayes, and Robert Ur Hayes as directors.

In 1926 the former Hastings home was extensively renovated with a second vault in the center rear and the current façade installed.

In 1973 Charter New York bought Hayes stock, and then Irving Bank was the owner shortly thereafter. In 1988 Irving merged with the Bank of New York, and in March 1989 NBT of Norwich, New York bought the former Hayes bank and three other Bank of New York branches. NBT continues today in the former Hastings home.