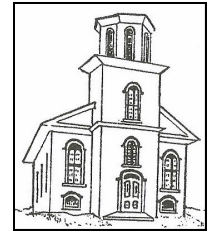


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



# CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September 2013

## LOCAL BLAST FURNACE STORY BEGINS THE NEW SEASON OF PROGRAMS

Join us on Sunday, September 8, 2013 at 2 PM for the first program in our 51st year of telling the interesting accounts of Clinton history.

Underneath this area lies millions of tons of Clinton hematite, a red iron ore. Mines operated between 1800 and 1963. Much of the iron ore between 1851 and 1905-6 went to two blast furnaces right here in the Town of Kirkland: one in Kirkland and one in Franklin Springs.

Munnsville resident and writer about the New York Ontario & Western RR. John Taibi, will discuss the "Franklin Iron Works." Located between Furnace Street and the Oriskany Creek this large operation turned out cast iron on and off as the demands of the national iron market were felt locally.

Taibe is a prolific writer about the NYO&W railroad and has a major chapter in his 2003 "Rails Along the Oriskany" published by Purple Mountain Press in Flesichmanns, New York about the Franklin furnace.

## COMPUTER HELP NEEDED

The Society has purchased new computers with funds from Hamilton College. President Bob Tegart wants to form a **computer committee** of Society members to help with the initial installation and continual oversight of the operation of the two terminal network.

Those members with network computer expertise should contact Bob at 853-3026.

## OUR WISH LIST

Your Society seeks the following items to augment its extensive local history collection:

Old clippings and photos of Clinton, your family trees, pictures of the Town of Kirkland, interior photos of businesses and homes, your house history abstract, diaries of Clinton residents, history of any organization in the Town of Kirkland. Stop in during open hours or call President Tegart.

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 Tegar— president

### Web Site

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

### Facebook

Clinton Historical Society

(Original)



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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

## DWIGHT'S RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

Among the 60-70 local private schools which operated here in the 19th century was Dwight's Rural High School located on the southwest corner of Elm Street and Norton Avenue. Rev. Benjamin W. Dwight owned the school and had previously run a similar boarding school for boys in Brooklyn.

He moved to Clinton in 1857, but the school burned in 1865 and Dwight's successor David A. Holbrook moved the school to 96 College Street.

A catalog for the school, dated August 1861, set out the rules of behavior which were expected of the boys.

Here are a few:

"Wanton damage to the School premises or furniture, when not reported by the authors or others, will be chargeable to the School at large."

"Should any pupil be found, on a thorough trial, to exert a baneful influence on his comrades, he will be required to withdraw from the School. No tobacco is allowed to be used by any pupil. Our experience leads us to condemn it utterly, as exceedingly injurious to the manners, tastes, habits, progress, and indeed both the mental and moral energy of the young." That's quite a statement against tobacco some 100 years before the anti-tobacco campaign started here.

"All the arrangements of the School, in respect to the conveniences of the house, the order and variety of the exercises appointed for the pupil, and the constant watchful care of teachers, are directed to exclude those temptations which are so common in boarding schools and in college."

A merit roll kept track of pupils' behaviors with a demerit system of points and included this sentence:

"Truancy and breaking of pledge—to abstain entirely from the use of liquor and tobacco—are marked from ten upwards, according to the aggravation of the case."

The catalog had many references from college professors and clergymen. Dwight was described as a "man of sound Christian principles and of accomplished scholarship. His well-known success for preparing boys for college has earned him a high degree of public confidence."

## DOROTHY MCCONNELL HONORED

Our member Dorothy McConnell has also been Town of Marshall historian since 1989 and has led the Marshall Historical Society to become an active part of Deansboro. She has also written several books about Marshall and Deansboro.

In April the Association of Public Historians in New York State (APHNYS) at its annual conference gave Dorothy the Franklin D. Roosevelt Historian Professional Achievement Award. Roosevelt was the town historian in Hyde Park in the mid-1920s.

The Clinton Historical Society has recently heard Dorothy's program on the Musical Museum in Deansboro. Marshall Society President Yvonne Brady, also a member of CHS, accompanied Dorothy to Liverpool for the award presentation. Congratulations!!!!

### FROM THE COLLECTION

The old cash register pictured at right came from the former Allen's Hardware store located at 1 College Street between the mid-1880 and 1977 when it moved to the Meadow Street Shopping Center.

Note the cracked marble shelf on top of the drawer. This is on permanent display at the Society.

It did not calculate the bill, it did not have a register tape, and it did not figure out the exact change. Clerks in the past had to count, add, and subtract in their heads. The heavy iron register probably dates from 1900. The currency slots are wider than today which indicates use prior to the circa 1930 period when currency size was reduced.



### HOUSE PHOTOS LOANED

Thanks to Doug Reed, who let us borrow old photos of his home on Marvin Street. We have scanned and added them to our digital collection. Do you have interior or exterior shots of your home or of a local event which we could borrow to preserve for future generations?

# NEW YORK CENTRAL MENU



The New York Central RR featured Hamilton College on a menu cover back in the 1940s, shown at left.

“Thus for eleven decades New York Central has served students, faculty, and alumni of Hamilton through the mainline station at Utica from the days of the famous locomotive “Lightning” to the modern streamliners of today such as the Empire State Express, The Commodore, The Upstate Special, and the New England States.”

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Well summer is coming to a close. We had a great Historic Clinton Week with good attendance on our Church Tour (about 120 people!), Movie night and the walking Tour of Kirkland Cemetery.

The interns have been working hard and scanned and cataloged over 800 items into Past Perfect. They completed cataloguing ALL our photos – a project started more than 10 years ago!

Our building was open on a daily basis, and we participated in the Farmers' Market. New contacts and new memberships were made. Wade Lallier has been working on the downstairs displays, and things are coming along nicely.

So what's next? We should continue to catalogue and digitalize our documents and to organize the collection. If you are interested in helping please stop in – we have a lot of jobs to offer.

We also need volunteers to staff the building on Saturdays in the fall – we have momentum generated by the interns, and we need to keep it going. Let us know if you are interested in helping.

Thanks to Bill Rudge, our program chairman, we have an exciting schedule of programs for our 51<sup>st</sup> fall season. We look forward to seeing you in the fall. The brochure is enclosed.

*Robert Teyart*