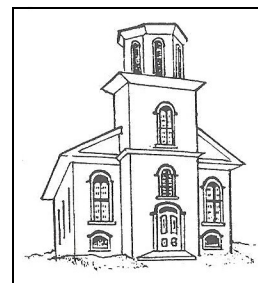


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



April 2015

INTERESTING CIVIL WAR TALE MARCH 12TH

Our first program for spring, which is coming, will be held on Sunday, April 12 at the Society's quarters at 2 PM. The topic is "Private Lyons Wakeman- Uncovered Female Civil War." Learn about the life of Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, a.k.a. Pvt. Lyons Wakeman and see how one woman's letters blew a hole in the U.S. government's post-Civil War propaganda.

Presenting this unusual story of a female soldier will be Melanie Martin of Morrisville, New York. Melanie has participated in the Peterboro Civil War Days since 2005 and the 19th century Music Festival in Windham, N.Y. since 2008.

SEND IN YOUR DUES

Thanks to the 280 members who have already re-mitted their dues for the April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 year.

Each March the Society sends out dues renewal cards, a return envelope, and requests a speedy return. If a red X is on the top of page one, the Society had not received your renewal as of March 13, 2015.

Do your treasurer Daryl Chesebro a favor by getting all the dues in soon this year. Much needless volunteer time is taken to remind those who don't pay up right away.

Use PayPal by going to our web site and look for the icon. You need not have a PayPal account to use this way to send your dues.

ANCESTRY.COM NOW AVAILABLE

One great resource for searching about your family is the internet site Ancestry.com.

The Society now subscribes to this site so members can visit and use the Society computer to search for family. Come during our open hours Wednesday 1 to 4 and Saturday 1 to 4.

Moses Foote started Clinton settled Clinton on March 3, 1787....some 228 years ago .

Clinton Historical Society
 Founded in 1962

DIRECTORS

- Mary Benson Byrd– secretary
- Daryl Chesebro– treasurer
- Ruth Cosgrove
- Barbara Decker
- Lisa Firsching
- Erik Genalo– president
- Robert Goering
- Susan Goodier
- Fran Lallier
- Barbara Owens– vice-president
- Gerry Semchenko
- Pat Smith
- Robert Tegart–Coordinator
- Richard Williams– editor

Web Site

www.clintonhistory.org

Facebook

Clinton Historical Society
 (Original)



E-Mail Address

clintonhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Phone

315-859-1392

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 42
 Clinton, New York 13323

OPEN HOURS

Wednesday 1-4, and
 Saturday 1-4

DUES- \$10.00 individual; \$15.00 families/businesses; \$25.00 friend; \$50.00 contributing

SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS

1- Take a look at our new, revised web site at the same address: www.clintonhistory.org. The site has a new template from wordpress.com and was developed by Phil Gogol who runs the IT department at Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute in Utica.

On it you'll find many pictures, announcements, member information, and the old newsletters back 6-7 years.

2- The Society wishes to acknowledge and express thanks to the Hamilton College "Town-Gown" fund for providing a substantial part of the money which allowed the Society to repaint the 1832 former Baptist Church last fall.

3- Keep these dates open for **Historic Clinton Week** events: June 28 through July 5, 2015. This will be the 44th summer the Society has held special events to commemorate our rich history. The June newsletter and local media will carry the various events.

4- Society director Francis Lallier has written an interesting story about the one-room school he attended at Snowden Hill and Red Hill roads east of Chuckery. It will be available for sale soon so watch for details.

5- On the one-room school issue, the Society solicits any pictures or memorabilia of Kirkland one-room schools prior to centralization in 1931. Contact Coordinator Bob Tegart who can scan the originals and return them to you or you may donate them to the Society.

6- While most visitors are local, the Society does welcome out-of-town guests to use the Munson Library and view the exhibits. Recently a Yates County (Penn Yan) New York woman Donna Copson with husband Ray came to do research about her Mary Bitley ancestor who attended the female division of the Clinton Liberal Institute at 13 Chestnut Street in the late 1850s. Mrs. Copson found much information to her delight, and she thanked us by joining the Society and leaving a generous donation, too.

7- Last month information about Stone Presbyterian Church was provided. It is the oldest church in the town dating from 1791 when the Society of Clinton formed. Until about 10 years ago the Stone Church also owned the village park, but now the village has title. For most of the ensuing time the village paid to maintain the park.

TRIBUTE TO PHIL MUNSON

Long-time members recall Phil Munson as one of the Society founders and also the writer of the newsletter from 1963 to his death in November 2000.

This is a salute to Phil, who wrote and researched all those issues. He was a model local historian who dug deep, took his time, and found out so much of our history. His legacy remains as the newsletters have been indexed for others to use.

The newsletters through 1965 contained mainly Society news and announcements, however, in the May 1966 issue was the first of many historical items which Phil wrote:

“On Sunday, May, 1966 the Methodists moved to their new church on Utica Road, leaving their old church which has been a landmark on East Park Row for nearly a century and a quarter. Built in 1842 through the efforts of early residents, Walter Gillespie and Dr. Joseph Cornell, it was extensively remodeled in 1867. The building is considered a fine example of the pre-Civil War church architecture, and will become the new home of the Kirkland Art Center. The large bell, cast in Troy, N.Y. and placed in the steeple in 1883, has been removed and will eventually be placed in the new church on Utica Road.

This building, although one of the oldest existing church structures in the village, is not the oldest. The Baptist Church at the corner of Fountain Street pre-dates it by ten years, 1832. The existing Presbyterian “Stone” Church (the name incidentally is derived from the building material), the other one of three on the Park was built in 1878, replacing the former “Stone” Church built on approximately the same site in 1835-36, and destroyed by fire in 1876, in turn, had replaced the original church of this congregation, and Clinton’s first church, popularly known as the old White Meeting House, erected within the present Park area in 1796, and torn down about 1836.”

Editor’s note- the Baptist Church Phil mentions is, of course, our Historical Society quarters at 1 Fountain Street. The Kirkland Art Center started over the Kirkland Town Library in 1960 inspired by Clinton art teacher Howard Chaney, who later was CHS president. It moved into the Methodist Church in 1966, and today is very active with concerts, art exhibits, art and dance classes, etc. Walter Gillespie was a black smith whose shop was in the hollow (dip) just south of the Society on Fountain Street.

From October 1967 Phil wrote “A Note About Mulberry Street”

“This was an early one, opened shortly after 1800. It was so called because mulberry trees that then existed in the rear yard of the Kellogg Seminary which was located on the northeast corner of Kellogg and Mulberry streets. (No. 23 Kellogg). The original street extended from Utica Street to Kellogg. The portion that extends from Kellogg to Chestnut was of a late vintage, and became popularly known as “Upper Mulberry. Since a village dump occupied the general area between Fountain Street and the present upper Mulberry, the Mulberry extension was probably only the access thereto. “

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's been another productive month here at the society. We had some people from the Yates County History Center come and conduct research on a young lady who attended the female division of the Clinton Liberal Institute. The institute operated in Clinton during the mid to late 1800's and taught Clara Barton, Founder of the Red Cross.

It is times like these that help to remind me of the amazing collection that we have here at the society. Though I have been around it so much over the past couple of years, there is always something new to discover and always something to learn. I really do urge anyone that can, to stop on in and look through our archives. You just never know what you might find.

I hope that everyone has enjoyed this year's speaker series as much as I have, we always seem to get some great speakers with fascinating topics.

The annual meeting is coming up next month, and it is sure to be a good time. With that being said, there are some officers whose term will be up this year, and we are looking for people to fill their shoes. If you or someone you know may be interested in being on the board of directors, send us an email, and we will make sure the nominating committee gets it. Enjoy the warmish weather we've been having, and I hope to see you around the society!

Erik Genalo



Pictured are President Erik Genalo on right and Immediate Past President Robert Tegart standing next to a World War I Army uniform after their talk on March 8th. Over 60 attended.

