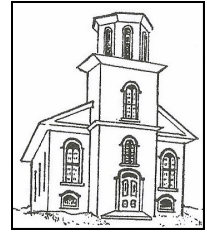


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2014

CIVIL WAR ISSUE

This month we present various items about the Civil War here in Clinton/Kirkland as researched in the *Clinton Courier*. Thanks to President Tegart for his contributions.

DUES CARD ENCLOSED

Member dues for 4/1/14 through 3/31/15 are now due. Use enclosed card or PayPal.

ROLL OUT THE BARREL

Let's have a barrel of fun!!!!!!

The program for Sunday, March 9 will be the West End Brewery in Utica and include the brewery's history back to 1888 when F.X. Matt began the operation with 12 employees. A spokesperson for the brewery will give the presentation.

Today the Saranac label has become very popular with numerous different varieties from ale to porter to stout.

Refreshments will follow the program. Plan to join us.

“THE THUNDERCLOUD OF WAR HAS BURST” was the lead sentence in the *Clinton Courier* of April 18, 1861. The editor was M.D. Raymond who went on to write, “The ball is opened. War is inaugurated. Southern treason has culminated in open and unprovoked attack upon the Federal Government. Ft. Sumpter has fallen before the thunder of cannon.”

“The 12th of April will be remembered as a sad day in our nation's history, for on that day, men blinded by passion and led on by traitors, lifted their arms against the country which gave them birth.”

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 Tegart— president

Web Sitewww.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; Saturday 1-3

Editor**Richard Williams**

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

Volunteer Workers Needed

President Tegart has been reorganizing the Society's collection in the Munson Library. Volunteers are needed on Saturdays between 1 and 3 to sort, file, and help put the collection in tip-top shape for research. Stop in.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

To honor the 100th anniversary of World War I the Society is offering a new service to the Community. We will research any veteran from any war. Our staff of trained researchers can trace the service of your veteran, tell you what battles he / she was involved in, provide unit history and more. All this will be done at no cost or for a small donation to the Society. Please contact us through Facebook or call 982-1015. Let's preserve the memory of those who served.

We are busy in the archives. Ruth Cosgrove is cataloguing our library into "Library Thing" an online site so the collection can be reviewed on the internet. Our other volunteers including George Fogg, Brian Rand, Fran Lallier, and Margaret and Ron Bornick are going through our files to organize and preserve delicate items. We are finding all sorts of interesting items which we had forgotten about.

Wade is finishing up the downstairs exhibit. Stand by for a ribbon cutting ceremony! Eric is in the process of restoring a framed picture of Abraham Lincoln for the Kirkland Town library. The Bristol Chair in the Apothecary shop is being repaired. Walt Jury and Fran Lallier continue to manage the building.

John Burdick and Dick Williams continue to work on the research questions we receive. Paul Frey and Jerry Semchenko are just about ready to unveil a new computer system with on site Wi-Fi! We would like to give a special thanks to Dave Burns and the Lumbard Hall Commission who have allowed us to store items in the basement of Lumbard Hall and to Walt Jury, Barb Decker, Bill Rudge and Fran Lallier who moved the items over.

Lots of things happening!

Bob Tegart

WAR MEETING!

A Union Meeting for the Town of Kirkland, will be held at

THE STONE CHURCH, AT CLINTON,

Commencing at 7-1-2 o'clock,

Tuesday Eve., Sept. 23d,

Reports will be made respecting the Volunteers from this Town, and the Bounty Fund raised for their benefit, and also respecting the Fund raised for their families.

PRESENTATION.

A Sword and Uniform,

Will at the same time be presented to LIEUT. JAMES STEWART, by the citizens and Ladies of the town. Addresses will be made by citizens, and

MUSIC BY THE CLINTON CORNET BAND.

Dated Sept. 22, 1862. By Order of the War Committee of the Town of Kirkland, **SAMUEL BROWNELL, Jr.,** Chairman.

CLINTON COURIER JOB OFFICE PRINT.

This broadside announced a meeting in Stone Church five months after the Civil War began. Earlier on April 25th the *Clinton Courier* reported that "manifestations of loyalty and patriotism of the good people of this vicinity are not wanting." Flags floated everywhere. "Union cockades and rosettes, bespangle the bosoms of the fair and the brave and unite all to the Union and constitution." Many young Clinton men were eager to leave for the scene of action.

Later that week a recruiting office was set up in Clinton at A.S. Taylor's saloon in the Nalton Block, on West Park Row. The owner of the saloon was a Lieutenant in the New York Militia. "All who are desirous of serving their country" were invited "to call and sign the roll."

As the war fever grew other local units were formed. At this time Clinton was well known for its gristmills on the Oriskany Creek. Farmer's Mills was one of those mills located on the Dugway Road along the creek. The operator of Farmers Mills, Willard H. Healy, formed a unit to fight for the Union. It was named "The Farmers Independent Rifles," and consisted of 21 of Healy's employees. Two local tailors, George Burwell and William Ives, who ran a shop on West Park Row in the Mannering Block over James Bronson's grocery store, designed their uniforms:

"New Uniform- Messrs Ives and Burwell are getting up a new and very neat uniform for the "Farmer's Independent Rifles." The coat is black with red and blue.

On May 30th twenty members of the Farmers Rifles including their "Patriotic and popular Captain" and several Hamilton College students purposed to join Captain Landon's company forming up in Vernon. However their departure must have been held up for in August the Farmers Rifles was having their first annual Military festival in their hall including a dinner and a target shoot. The target shoot according to the *Courier* was quite a success and attracted quite a number of sporting gentleman and others. Sergeant George Bartholomew took first prize, a "splendid copy" of "Perry's Japan Expedition." After the shoot the unit went through some drill acting as skirmishers. It was reported that they made a very creditable appearance in their new uniforms.

A Military company of eighty students was also formed at Hamilton College under Mr. James Stewart, later of the 146th New York Volunteer regiment, and others who purported to know something of military tactics. They drilled every night and studied the "science of war." They made a banner, which was unveiled with great ceremony and flown from the College Chapel. A few weeks later an effigy of Jefferson Davis was found hanging across College Street. It was pulled down by a boisterous group of students and burned by the cheering crowd. The Company offered their services to the U.S. Government for a term of three months however at that time they were only accepting two year enlistment and most of the students, feeling that they could not leave their studies for that length of time returned to their studies. Elihu Root, a noted Clintonian, later Secretary of War, Secretary of State under Theodore Roosevelt and Senator from New York, was a student participant.

In July of 1861 The Skinner's Guards, a military company of students from the Clinton Liberal Institute, another school in Clinton, was organized under Captain Colvin. The unit according to the "Courier" made great proficiency in military tactics and has given several street drills and parades which would do honor to older and more celebrated companies. The patriotic ladies of the village made articles for the 26th Regiment including: 76 Havelocks, 146 hospital towels, 55 coarse towels, 46 flannel bandages, 72 pairs woolen socks, 42 pillow cases, 21 hospital shirts, 12 cotton socks, 100 pin cushions. 56 pocket handkerchiefs."

VOLUNTEERS.—We have the following additions to make to the roll of honor since last week:

Lieut. W. H. Sanford, Charles Johnson, Henry Fuller, Gilbert Welch, Luke Melton, Tester Howe, E. Allen, Mathew Stack. This makes 18 who have enlisted from this town within the past two weeks, and is quite a reduction of our quota under the conscription, as we understand that every town is to be credited with the number of volunteers up to the time of drafting. There is still an opportunity for patriotic young men to get honor, and glory, and a bounty!

Bob Tegar