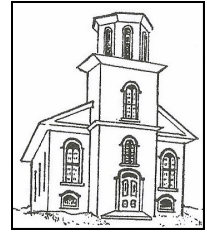


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



## CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2015

### HISTORIC CLINTON WEEK SCHEDULE

The Society has sponsored Historic Clinton Week since 1971, and this year's schedule is as follows:

Monday, June 29– 2 Events: **American Girl Doll** from 10:30 to 12 noon– the debut of Felicity (1774) and Julie (1974) at the Society; children grade 2 and up are invited.

The Landmarks Society of Greater Utica tour of the historic **Old Burying Ground** will take place starting at 6 PM. 47 Revolutionary War veterans and Clinton's earliest families are buried there, many in unmarked graves. Gather at 6 PM at the cemetery on the corner of Norton and Kirkland avenues.

Tuesday, June 30– Book signing at CHS at 6 PM by Francis Lallier for his new book *Little Country School District 12*. Fran attended this school and has compiled an interesting story about the students, teachers, and history of that district over the hill from Chuckery. It will be available for Fran to sign and to purchase.

Wednesday, July 1– **walking tour of park** and business district, 6:30 PM, presented by Ruth and Mike Cosgrove; gather at the Gazebo; and **Society Open House** 1-4 PM

Thursday, July 2– visit the Society's booth at the **Farmer's Market**

Friday, July 3– the **Founders' Monument** in the park has seen better days. A new one, donated by Burdick & Enea Monuments on Utica Street, will be unveiled and replace the old one dating from the 1870s. Gather at 7 PM at the south end of the park.

Saturday, July 4– **parade** with fire works to follow at the school.

Local CHS members are asked to fly their **American flags** all week.

Clinton Historical Society

Founded in 1962

### DIRECTORS

Mary Benson Byrd– secretary

Ruth Cosgrove-vice president

John Crossley

Barbara Decker

Eric Genalo

Robert Goering

Susan Goodier

Lisa Firsching– treasurer

Fran Lallier

Barbara Owens–

Jerry Semchenko– president

Pat Smith

Robert Tegart– Coordinator

Richard Williams– Editor

### Web Site

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

### Facebook

Clinton Historical Society

(Original)



### E-Mail Address

[clintonhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:clintonhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)

### Phone

315-859-1392

### Mailing Address

P.O. Box 42

Clinton, New York 13323

### OPEN HOURS-July/August

Thursday 1-4 or by appointment

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

## INTERNET HISTORY

1971– first e-mail; 1989– AOL started; 1992– first photo sent; 2006– TWITTER began; May 2015 AOL was bought by Verizon.

## ANCESTRY.COM FREE

One benefit of Society membership concerns the free use of the huge genealogy site

ANCESTRY.COM.

It is purchased yearly by the Society, and members can come during open hours to find their relatives.



Pres-

idents– Incoming president Jerry Semchenko, immediate past president Bob Tegart, and outgoing president Erik Genalo pictured at May 6, 2015 annual meeting. Also chosen were new director John Crossley, treasurer Lisa Firsching, vice-president Ruth Cosgrove.

## **DUES ARE DUE NOW!!!**

**Dues** time again. Thanks to the 400 members who have renewed. Each March the Society sends out dues renewal cards, a return envelope, and requests a speedy return. The budget year is April 1 to March 31 so, if a red mark is on the envelope label, the Society had not received your renewal as of June 10, 2015.

# CLINTON ECONOMY GROCERY

CLINTON HOUSE BLOCK

**Big Thursday, Friday, Saturday Sale**  
Do Your Trading Here and Save Money

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Rich Whole Milk Cheese,<br>Per pound, 17c. | <b>BIG SPECIAL.</b> Order Now.<br>8 lbs. Rolled Oats, 25c. | Fresh Creamery Butter, 30c.<br>There is None Better. |
| Karo Corn Syrup, 9c.                       | 4 Cans Corn, 25c.  | 10 lbs. Sweet Potatoes, 25c.                         |
| Corn Starch, 7c.                           | 3 Cans Peas, 23c.  | 3 Grapefruit, 25c.                                   |
| 3 pkg. Hotel Astor Rice, 23c.              | 3 Cans Kidney Beans, 23c.                                  | 8 Bars Master Soap, 25c.                             |
| Large Glass Beechnut<br>Bacon, 30c.        | 3 Cans Campbell's Beans, 23c.                              | 8 Bars Lenox Soap, 25c.                              |
| Large Glass Dried Beef, 25c.               | Tall Can Salmon, 9c.                                       | Snow Boy Washing<br>Powder, 4c.                      |
| Macaroni, per pkg., 8c.                    | Premium Salad Dressing, 22c.                               | Old Dutch Cleanser, 8c.                              |
| 25c. pkg. Banner Oats, 20c.                |  |  |
| <b>SALT PORK</b><br>16c. per lb.           | 4 lbs. Ginger Snaps, 26c.<br>3 lbs. Lemon Cookies, 25c.    | <b>SMALL CALA HAMS</b><br>14c. per lb.               |

**WE SELL THE BEST OF EVERYTHING**

## ECONOMY GROCERY

This ad appeared in the Clinton Courier November 3, 1915 for a grocer in the Clinton House block. Today that would be where Paddiwacks is located.

At that time several grocery stores and meat markets were around the park. Shoppers would take their list to the counter and ask for various items. Then the clerk would go get the items, add up the bill, and make change.

Corn starch cost 7 cents, a tall can of salmon cost 9 cents, and 3 grapefruit cost 25 cents.

Clinton House was a hotel between ca. 1810 and until 1920 when it closed to be replaced by Ford's Market.

## ERNEST CLIPSTON DIED OF PNEUMONIA IN FRANCE

World War I occurred 100 years ago causing death and destruction. One Clinton man, Ernest Clipston, had come through some of the hardest fighting without harm. His obituary stated, "that he should escape death on the battle field and meet it later because of illness makes his passing seem all the harder to those who knew and loved him.."

Continuing, "he was a member of the 308th field artillery and had written just after the armistice that he was in good health and anticipating coming home."

Private Clipston was born in Vernon January 19, 1892 and attended Clinton schools. Five sisters and four brothers survived him. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Clipston, who had moved to Utica.

Clipston had worked at the Clinton Knitting Mill on Kirkland Avenue prior to his being drafted in April 1917 and left Clinton with his contingent on the train.

He died January 13, 1919 and was not buried in Forest Hill Cemetery off Oneida Street in Utica until September 20, 1920.

In the journalistic style of the period Private Clipston was described as "a bright and likeable young man, faithful, and dependable in his work, and he had the respect and good will of all who knew him."

"He was glad of the chance to serve his country, and he gave the best that was in him at all times."

The Society thanks Jane Clipston Miller, who sent us his obituary. Clipston was Jane's uncle.



# DID YOU KNOW? CLINTON

from the Clinton Historical Society



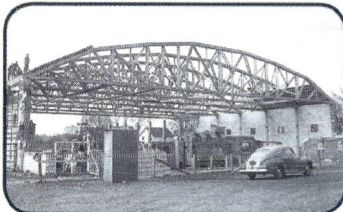
Clinton was settled in March 1787 and named after Governor George Clinton.



Clinton-born Elihu Root won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1912.



Millions of tons of Clinton Hematite iron ore remain under ground here; it was mined from ca. 1800 to 1963 and used for cast iron.



The outdoor skating rink at Meadow Street and Franklin Avenue opened in 1926 and ended in 1948 when the first Clinton Arena on Kirkland Avenue opened.



Prominent American Red Cross founder Clara Barton attended a private school here.



Railroad builder Leland Stanford also attended a private school in Clinton.

Thanks to Sharry and Lance Whitney, Kellogg Street residents and Society members, for publicizing Clinton and the Clinton Historical Society in the December 2014 issue of their new monthly Mohawk Valley Living, the print version of their popular Sunday morning show Mohawk Valley Living.

Note— the picture of the arena under construction at the lower left is the second arena built in 1953-54 after the first one burned in September 1953.





## LOST LETTERS IN FUTURE

History has been maintained and recorded throughout written history, and we now know so much because it was written by scribes, monks, etc. The Bible has some of the oldest history.

Today there's a new game of digital communications with folks e-mailing, twitting, twit-tering, facebooking, and instant messaging. These messages are kept out in the ether or the cloud somewhere.

Few people write letters anymore. When's the last time you received a personal letter via US Mail? How will museums and historical societies document life in 2035 with no physical evidenced available? Pictures are also now "out there" somewhere, but will they be available in 100 years to show a new church or school? Now soldiers send "twitters" or "tweets" not letters home.

Write articles, print them out, keep them. 1000s of pictures are easily taken today by phones and cameras. Where are the prints? Where are the images and where will they be in 100 years?

ADVICE- PRINT OUT ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING.

Thanks to an article in the *Washington Post* and the April 2015 Town of Paris Historical Society *Newsletter* from where we've paraphrased freely. RW, editor

## OLD TIME DISEASES

Quinsy- tonsillitis

Rose Cold- hay fever or nasal symptoms of an allergy

Rubeola- German measles

# PROSPECT HILL REMINISCENCES

Situated on the east side of Skyline Drive between Reservoir and Champion roads Prospect Point was one of 500 survey stations established by the state and was marked by a polished cone raised 35 feet above the ground so it might be seen from other stations some distances away.

The height of the cone from New York Harbor was 1380 feet and was 376 feet above the dome of the College Chapel. This makes it approximately 1000 feet above the Con-rail/Amtrack railroad tracks in Utica.

The formation of the hill is limestone rock and from its eastern slope flows the large spring that provided the village with municipal water through Miller Brook. The village reservoir was at Ernst and Reservoir roads and now has been demolished .

This and adjacent land lies on the Samuel Kirkland Patent given to Kirkland by the Oneida Indians and the State of New York in 1788. Kirkland deeded or leased the lands for income in lots of about 50 acres.

One early landowner was Charles Bartholomew who rented 50 acres from Kirkland from July 1796 for four pounds "lawful money of the State of New York."

A lime kiln operated in the 1790s. and the lime was used in the first Hamilton College building. Seth Blair, Zina Blair, Levi Merritt, James Hinds, and Eleazer and Andrew Warner were other early settlers there.

Log homes were the norm with barns 30' x 40'. A pod auger was used that had no screw to draw, and all had to be done by the downward pressure of the hands.

From the *Clinton Courier* in 1894, no date, reminiscences by Seth Kirkland Blair.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Annual meeting was held on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2015. Elected to the following positions were: President, Jerry Semchenko, Vice President, Ruth Cosgrove, Secretary, Mary Byrd, and Treasurer, Lisa Firsching. All terms are for one year. John Crossley was elected to the Board of Directors for a three year term. Elections were held to fill positions vacated by: Erik Genalo (President) Barbara Owens (Vice President) Daryl Cheseboro (Treasurer) Jerry Semchenko and Ruth Cosgrove (Directors). Erik Genalo and Barbara Owens will remain on the Board Of Directors until their terms are completed, thus filling the two vacant Director positions per the elections. Therefore, all the vacant positions were internally filled.

Now it's on to the business at hand. Again we have a booth at the Clinton Farmers Market which started Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup>. Our plans are to be open from 10:00am till 3:00pm at the Society which will coincide with the Farmers Market dates and times through July and August. During these months our Saturday hours will be suspended. The Society will open by request or reservation. Thus no regular Wednesday hours until September. Regular business hours will return on Wednesday and Saturday in September shortly after Labor Day. The next exciting event on our calendar is our **Historic Clinton Week** (June 28 thru July 4, 2015) which will be filled with many festivities and programs. We hope you can join us to celebrate our community and its heritage. Please note that we are in the process of finalizing future program selections for this year and into 2016. We will get this information out as soon as possible.

Have a Great Summer and be safe.....Jerry Semchenko.