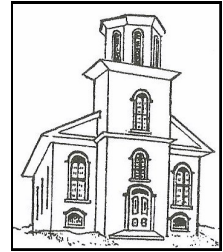


**PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE**

# **CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**



**October 2014**

## **BATTLE OF ORISKANY AND GENERAL HERKIMER**

Learn all about the bloody Battle of Oriskany at the October 12th program starting at 2 PM at 1 Fountain Street. Presenter will be Paul A. Boehlert, who has recently written a history of the battle which took place on August 6, 1777 between Oriskany and Stanwix Heights off today's State Route 69.

American colonial troops of the Tryon Militia and some Oneida Indians walked into an ambush by British and Loyalist soldiers plus some Mohawk Indians.

Boehlert is a native of this area and holds memberships in several local historical societies.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

It is a pleasure to welcome recent new members over the summer and early fall. They join nearly 500 others making the CHS one of the largest societies in the area.

Richard Hatfield, Denise Dee Kitchen, Pat Fiethumel, Brian Mattison, Ian Gapp, Mary Chamberlain, Rojo family, Eric & Nancy Huckaby, and Anita Vitullo plus her firm Staffworks.

Also Lawrence & Kathleen Chrysler, James Kinney, Anthony Oertel, Doug & Janice Reed, Will Becker, Tim Thomas, Margaret Morgan-Davie, and Stacy Williams.

## **MEMBER BROCHURE CHANGES**

A couple of errors and omissions from the September program brochure are hereby corrected:

Name is corrected to

William E. Sequin & James F. Grande  
Frank & Faye Cittadino are Contribution members:

Frank & Faye Cittadino (C)

Barbara Meelan is listed as The Hedges B & B on Sanford Avenue

The Society regrets these mistakes. If any other members are listed wrong, please notify the Society.

Clinton Historical Society  
Founded in 1962

### **DIRECTORS**

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

### **Web Site**

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

### **Phone**

315-859-1392

### **Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 42  
Clinton, New York 13323

### **Facebook**

Clinton Historical Society  
(original)

### **E-Mail Address**

[clintonhistoricalso-ciety@yahoo.com](mailto:clintonhistoricalso-ciety@yahoo.com)

**Open Hours:** Wednesday 1-4  
and Saturday 1-3; call 1st to  
make sure a Saturday volun-  
teer is on duty

**Dues-** \$10.00 individual;  
\$15.00 families/businesses;  
\$25.00 friends; \$50.00 con-  
tributing

## **HAMLET OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS**

Neighboring Clinton to the south about a mile away sits a small hamlet called Franklin Springs. It has not always been known as Franklin Springs however.

Early maps mark it just Franklin, and we assume it was named after Benjamin Franklin, early American inventor, printer, diplomat, intellectual, and statesman. This "fact" can not be verified.

Early settler Levi Barker built and then operated the house still standing on the corner of State Route 12-B and Furnace Street, known then as the Barker Tavern. Now it's the home of Emily Phillips.

A gazetteer from 1836 described Franklin as having one saw mill, one tavern, two stores, and 15 dwellings.

As late as the 1840s it was still just Franklin, but things were about to change with the building of the Franklin furnace.

Iron ore, called Clinton Hematite, had been discovered in 1797 near Bristol Road and elsewhere within the area at an elevation above sea level of about 680 feet on both sides of the Oriskany valley.

The red ore was first taken by horse and wagon to forges in Constantia, Forge Hollow and Taberg. In 1850 a new company was formed with a capitalization of \$16,000 to build a blast furnace in Franklin near the Oriskany Creek.

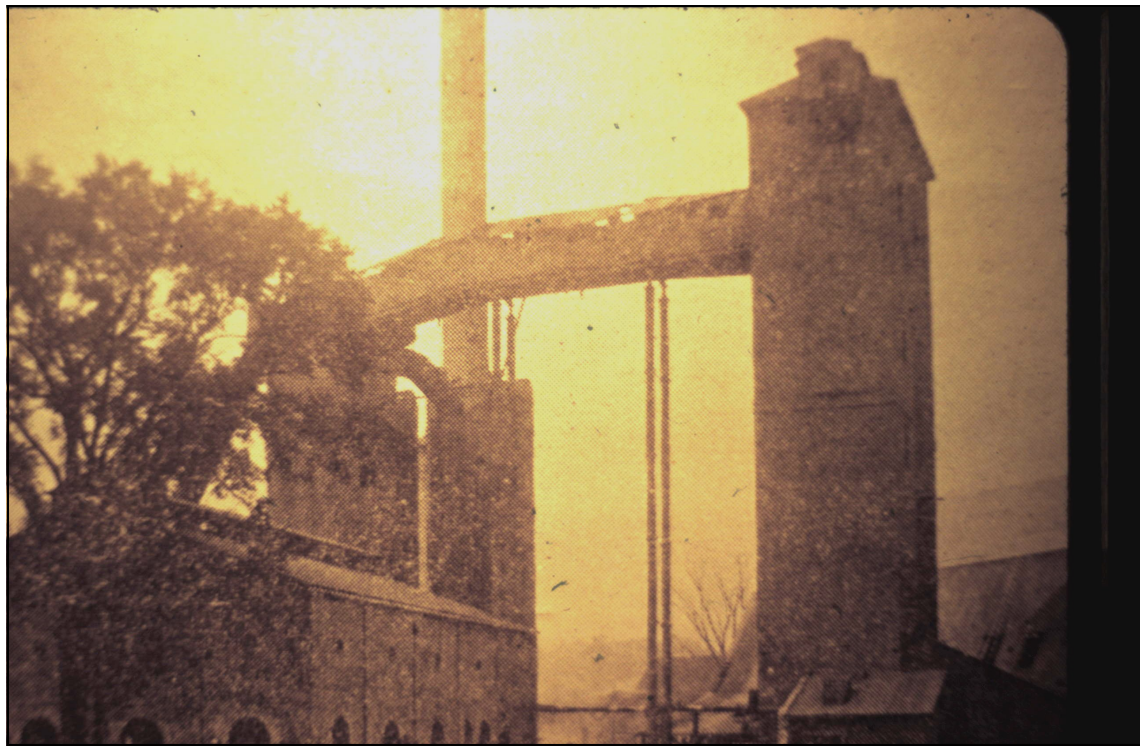
From then through the next 55 to 60 years red ore was trucked by horse and wagons and later the railroad from mines on and near Brimfield Street and New Street to Franklin. This left a trail of red dust on the dirt roads and adjacent homes and barns.

The firm expanded in 1864 and reorganized with \$100,000 in capital. A 55 foot high stack with a closed top enabled the company to reuse gases and heat to make steam. Could this have been a pioneer in reuse and recycling of energy in this county?

The furnace attracted visitors at night when the laden materials were poured off illuminating the night sky for miles around.

As the hamlet grew a post office was opened on September 21, 1867 with Henry S. Armstrong as postmaster. Officially the name was "Franklin Iron Works," a very descriptive name for this community dominated then by the blast furnace and the 200-300 workers at various times.

*More on Franklin in the November Newsletter*



This is a technically poor picture of the Franklin Furnace showing the stack house, stack, and charging tower. After 1867 the NYO&W railroad served the complex and drew ore from the mines, limestone from local quarries, and coal from Pennsylvania to make the cast iron.

## RECENT DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTION

Always grateful for donations the Society is continually impressed with the generosity of the members. Here are some recent items:

- 1- Carol Hernandez has given a china cabinet and her father's World War II Navy uniform for Welcome Ferguson, Baker 3rd Class
- 2- Betty Hanley has left military ephemera of Robert Hanley, Tech Sarg, World War II plus uniforms and decorations
- 3- Howie Schaffer has given Clinton business ephemera, a Cawley's auto print, and ABC House
- 4- Joyce Wagoner Cameron has given a Bristol-Myers letter 1965, clipping of Robert Wagoner's Apothecary Shoppe opening in 1965; Mrs. Cameron donated the Apothecary Shoppe to the Society which was located in Wagoner's Rexall store on West Park Row where Ali-Linz is.
- 5- Cynthia Kershner has given several copies of the Clinton Courier, boxes of photos, five binders of negatives taken by Chuck and organized by date and topic
- 6- Ann Hameline has given a map of Clinton's Historic District
- 7- Michael Cosgrove has given photos of a Clinton bowling league in 1957 and of the corn harvest in 1955
- 8- Hezekiah Webster has donated a cup from the "Ye Old Dog House" which was run by his brother Robert at 2 Franklin Avenue in the 1970s

## SOCIETY BRIEF ITEMS

- 1– From the September 1854 Oneida Chief, predecessor to the Clinton Courier, was this announcement, “Evening School to accommodate laborers and mechanics, branches normally studied in common schools, 3 evenings a week, \$2.00 a term of 12 weeks.
- 2– In 1916 H.W. Peckham, Ford dealer on Meadow Street, advertised a Touring Car for \$360, a Sedan for \$645, and a Town Car for \$595.
- 3– **Kewpee** Restaurant at Oneida Square in Utica opened in July 1939 and closed in 1972. The famed Kewpee Doll that rotated was razed, and now Dunkin’ Donuts has that space with much less nostalgia and ambience.
- 4– The story of Chestnut Street drew about 75 people on September 14th for Dick Williams’ power-point show.
- 5– CHS President Erik Genalo set up a table at the **Oneida County History Day** on August 16th at the replicated Remsen train station. Over 10 historical societies had booths there.
- 6– M.W. Stryker was Hamilton College president between 1892 and 1917. His father Thomas H. Stryker’s estate left President Stryker with an inheritance of \$452,010 in 1916.
- 7– CHS Directors Barbara Decker and Susan Goodier will lead a tour for Hamilton parents and alumni of the park and business district at 1:30 October 11 starting from the Society.

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Who can believe that it is already October? The leaves are changing, the weather is getting cooler, and we are now into our fall program schedule. I would like to thank our town historian Dick Williams for his presentation on Chestnut Street and look forward to Paul Boehlert’s upcoming talk on the Battle of Oriskany & General Nicholas Herkimer.

As I mentioned in last month’s newsletter we are going through some technological upgrades that have been needed for some time. These new changes have given us another work station for visitors to use, and we also have WIFI available to those who bring in any number of portable technological devices. Also, we will be upgrading our website soon so be on the lookout for that as well! I want to give a special thanks to Paul Frey, Jerry Semchenko and Phil Gogol for the time and effort they have put into this task.

We will be hosting an event in cooperation with the Kirkland Town Library on Monday Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> for all the local area children. The event would include a historical scavenger hunt in which the children would have to visit local landmarks and collect answers to questions about those places. Once they have completed the hunt they can enter their answers into a drawing for a grand prize! If you have any questions either contact the Kirkland Town Library or me at: [egenalo@gmail.com](mailto:egenalo@gmail.com)

With all these new and exciting changes you should come and visit us sometime and see them for yourself. Or like us on Facebook and stay informed on all the happenings at the society and see the great historic Clinton photographs we post every week!

*Erik Genalo*