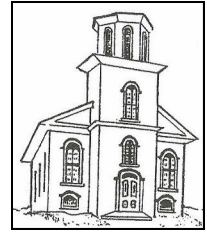


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



## CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September 2015

### NEW YEAR BEGINS WITH PIONEER CLOCK MAKER

The Society's 53rd year of local history programming begins on Sunday, September 13 with the story about early Clinton bell and clock maker Timothy Barns.

G. Russell Oechsle from Homer, New York has researched many upstate New York clocks and clock makers, and has written articles and a book: "An Empire In Time-Clocks and Clock Makers of Upstate New York."

Oechsle will focus on the life and unique clocks made by Barns, who has been identified as one of the most important early tall clock makers in America. Barns came here in 1799 from Cooperstown and became the first clock maker and bell founder here.

Learn all about our first clockmaker at 2 PM on September 13, 2015 with Oechsle's program entitled "Timothy Barns-Pioneer Clock Maker of Clinton, NY."

### NEW COUNTY HISTORY

Five local historians have put together a new book on Oneida County history. It is richly illustrated and profiles several businesses.

Chapters topics are agriculture, immigration, refugees, industry, transportation and communication, hospitals, parks and recreation.

It may be purchased at the Oneida County Historical Society bookstore at 1608 Genesee Street in Utica, corner of Avery Place for \$35.95.

A good idea for Christmas giving.

### HISTORY BRIEFS

1- The Society qualifies for matching donations from the GE Foundation. Your donation (DUES) is equaled by the GE Foundation.

2- The Society depends on the spontaneous and generous donations of members. Help us advance our exhibits and endowment by remembering the Society in your will and estate planning.

3- Clinton had a population of 1478 in 1940, 1630 in 1950, and 1855 in 1960. Today about 2000 live within the corporate limits.

Clinton Historical Society

Founded in 1962

### DIRECTORS

Mary Benson Byrd– secretary

Ruth Cosgrove-vice president

John Crossley

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Lisa Firsching– treasurer

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Barbara Owens

Jerry Semchenko– president

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### Web Site

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

### Facebook

Clinton Historical Society

(Original)



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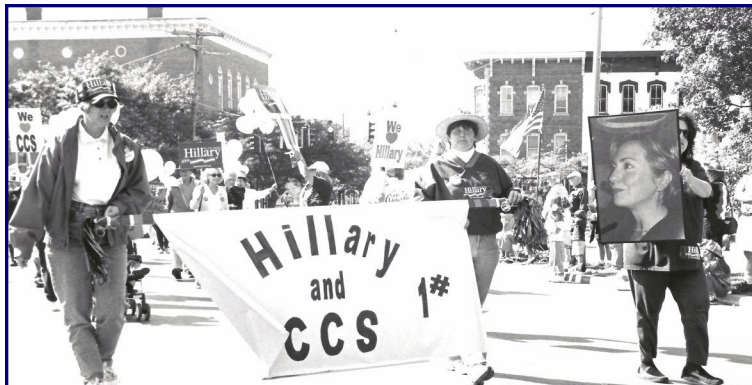
P.O. Box 42

Clinton, New York 13323

### OPEN HOURS-September

Wednesday and Saturday 1-4 or by appointment

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



In 2000 then US Senate candidate Hillary Clinton stopped here on her listening tour. She lunched at the Alexander Hamilton Inn and shook hands with several at a Thursday Farmers' Market prior to zipping off to her next stop. This was a parade later. Will she return if a presidential candidate in 2016?

### GOOGLE STREET VIEW– NEAT!

Directions: Go to [www.google.com/maps](http://www.google.com/maps). Type in the city and country. Zoom in and out using + or – buttons.

Click on the yellow man at the bottom right and almost all the roads will turn blue. Drag the little yellow man over to a road you are interested in and when the blue circle is over the road, then just unclick, and the screen will change to the street view. Then you may maneuver the controls to the exact address desired. Very neat and you will view your home or whatever address you insert.

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

Thanks to the 450 members who have renewed. Each March the Society sends out dues renewal cards, a return envelope, and requests a speedy return. Those members not paid by October 1, 2015 will be suspended. Please check the date on the envelope label and pay up if the **date is 3/31/15**. This is the date to which your dues are paid up. THANKS!!!!

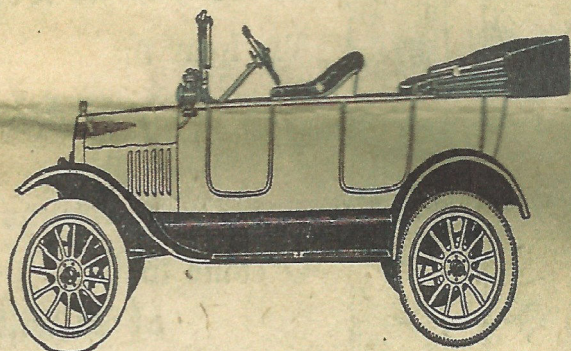
## OLD TIME DISEASES

Rickets- disease of the skeletal system; Rubeola- German measles; Paroxysm- convulsion; Phthiriasis- Lice infestation; Pott's disease- tuberculosis of the spine; Putrid fever- diphtheria; Puerperal Exhaustion- death due to child birth

# Ford

## THE UNIVERSAL CAR

Three strong reasons urge you to buy the Ford car: First, because of its record of satisfactory service to more than fifteen hundred thousand owners; Second, because of the reliability of the Company which makes it; Third, because of its large radiator and enclosed fan, streamline hood, crown fenders front and rear, black finish, nickel trimmings, it is most attractive in appearance. To these must be added its wonderful economy in operation and maintenance—about two cents a mile; likewise the fact that by reason of its simplicity in construction anyone can operate and care for it. Nine thousand Ford agents make Ford service as universal as the car. Touring Car \$360, Runabout \$345, Coupelet \$505, Town Car \$595, Sedan \$645—f. o. b. Detroit. On sale by H. W. Peckham, Ford Service Station, Meadow Street, Clinton, New York.



## FORD AD

This ad ran in the December 13, 1916 *Clinton Courier* extolling the features and virtues of the 1916 Ford.

Prices looked good: \$360.00 to \$645.00 f. o. b. (freight on board) in Detroit.

Peckham Motors was on Meadow Street about where the Kinney Drugstore is located today.

## FIRST COLLEGES

While we're proud of Hamilton College, founded in 1812, others came before that in the colonial period.

Here are the 1st six colleges:  
Harvard- 1636; College of William & Mary- 1693; Yale University- 1746; Columbia College- 1754; and University of Pennsylvania- 1755



## REMINISCENCES FROM CLINTON IN 1815

Our first newsletter editor Phil Munson (1912-2000) wrote a series of articles in the 1982 period about early Clinton, written, he assumed, by Gaius Butler, identified as "B" in the *Clinton Couriers* of the 1868 period. Some are worth repeating here.

Butler was a native Clintonian and early surveyor. He was born in 1798, the son of Revolutionary War veteran Salmon Butler, who arrived here in 1788. Gaius died in 1880. Gaius' brother was Benoni Butler, an early Clinton merchant.

Butler wrote, "The lapse of half a century has, of course, wrought many changes. The 'green' at that time presented nearly its original surface; a knoll of four to six feet elevation above the present surface formed the site of the old 'Meeting House' (1) on the southerly portion. 'Meeting House' was the name by which our Fathers called their house of worship. This house was built in the usual style of those days, with folding or double doors on the East and West sides and at the South end. (2) The side doors in the after years closed, and the connecting aisle converted to slips or pews."

"It may not be known to the younger part of our citizens that the first and best toned bell ever sounded from the old 'belfry' was cast in the village on the premises now occupied by George Haver. (3)

"The Post Office was located on the east side of the green, a few steps south of Mr. J.L. Cook's residence. It was also the law office of Joseph Simonds, William Hotchkiss, and Ebenezer Griffin, Esqs. who successively held the office of P.M." (4)

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Footnote (1)- The Meeting House, completed in 1801, was torn down in 1836. It was located on the southeast corner of the green facing the village parking lot at the corner of Fountain Street and South Park Row. "B" wrote that "the bearing of its NW corner to the NE corner of the Mills Block (today's Krizia Martin at 20 West Park Row), was found to be N 35 degrees W, distance 3 chains, and 8 links. The knoll mentioned was eventually removed, probably used to level off the green to somewhat the contour we see today. Various sources indicate that the site in earlier days was actually a swamp. This church was the Society of Clinton house of worship, formed in 1791, now the Stone Presbyterian Church on South Park Row.

Footnote (2)- with photography predating the old Meeting House, all we can view is the drawing in Gridley's "History of the Town of Kirkland" in 1874. As there is no door on the west side, it would indicate that the artist sketched it after the remodeling mentioned by "B".

Footnote (3)- In 1868, when Butler was writing, he was a carriage maker who lived on the SE corner of Marvin and College streets. On this site which today would be behind the Owens-Pavlot-Rogers funeral home Timothy Barns cast the "first and best toned bell" to which "B" referred. Barns had come here from Litchfield, CT. Barns will be the topic for our September 13, 2015 meeting."

Footnote (4) - Cook lived in what is now the Heintz Funeral Home and "a few steps south" would be the Kirkland Art Center, until 1966 the Clinton Methodist Church. The building "B" mentioned must have been removed or demolished when church construction began in 1840. This must have been the first post office location as Joseph Simonds was appointed post master in 1802. The first three postmasters were lawyers. Nothing is known of Simonds, but Hotchkiss was a stockholder in the Clinton Woolen Mill on Norton Avenue at the bridge and very successful during the War of 1812.

## “B” *continued*

Ebenezer Griffin was a son of Nathaniel Griffin, who arrived here in 1790 and built the Herbert Heintz home on Bristol Road just north of Foote Road. Ebenezer Griffin attended Hamilton-Oneida Academy, Hamilton College's forerunner, and graduated from Union College in 1809, where upon he studied law in the office of Simonds and Hotchkiss in Clinton being admitted to the Oneida County Bar in 1811. Ebenezer moved to Rochester in 1828.

More from “B” - “The horseback mail to Lairdsville (5) was at length superceded by one direct to Utica semiweekly. In winter, the New York papers often required a thawing out before they could be distributed owing to the length of time on the way and the open vehicles. Our former citizen, Mr. John Herrick, was for a long time stage proprietor and mail carrier, and the Utica papers, the ‘Western Recorder’, ‘Patriot’, ‘Patrol’, and ‘Columbian Gazette’ of those days, as now, came in packages outside the mail.’

(5) Mail to Lairdsville seems rather incongruous today, Munson wrote, but the statement points out a fact about the early days and the importance of Norton Avenue. It then was just the road to Laird's Tavern on the Genesee Road. It was at Laird's evidently that Clinton folks first met the stages, not at Middle Settlement or Manchester (Kirkland).

## BLACK GIRLS ATTENDED KELLOGG'S SCHOOL

Rev. Hiram H. Kellogg opened the Young Ladies Domestic Seminary at Kellogg and Mulberry streets in 1843. Kellogg graduated from Hamilton and had strict abolitionist sentiments.

Kellogg's school taught sewing and spinning “to secure practical acquaintance with housewifery.” New to the school were three colored girls, who the others were expected to treat with courtesy. They did, and the innovation of having black students “scarcely produced a ripple in the tenor of the school where boarders sat side by side with them and the usual harmony prevailed.”

Kellogg left in 1841 to become president of Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. He sold his school to the Free Will Baptists who called their school, Clinton Seminary.

The Baptists were abolitionists also and ran this ad in the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* of December 22, 1841, “The Friends of the Oppressed should be informed that Clinton Seminary is accessible to all persons of good moral character, whatever may be their complexion. We had, during the last term, among our pupils, a native Indian, and seven colored youth.”

“While most of the literary institutions of the land exclude such persons from their halls, if permitted, treat them in such a way as to deter most from entering, we invite all of these wronged and suffering classes of our fellow citizens, who wish to qualify themselves for usefulness, find a home and protection and all the facilities for improvement we can afford them.”

“We call on the friends of the oppressed to aid us in carrying out these plans.”

The principal of the Free Will Baptist School was John Jay Butler, who graduated from Bowdoin College and was an ordained minister. He received the degree of A.M. from Hamilton College in 1849.

Another teacher at the Baptist School was Daniel S. Hefferon who taught in the male department and later at the Whitestown Seminary in 1848. Hefferon became superintendent of Utica City Schools in the 1850s.



## TOWER REPAIRS

Society contractor Dwight Dibble made all the renovations back in the 1999-2001 period when the old church was transformed into our renovated and modern quarters. 15 years later Dwight is shown here 40' up on the tower replacing boards which had rotted and making general repairs to the tower structure.

Painting and restoration was funded by the Hamilton College Town-Gown grant.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

With the summer coming to a close and the fall right around the corner, we are busy at the Clinton Historical Society making preparations for the upcoming Annual Program schedule. This year we have a range of subjects and a diverse group of speakers who will share their knowledge, experience, facts, figures and anecdotal stories.

In the past attendance and participation has always been very strong. I am confident that this year will be even better. The program schedule is enclosed in our Annual Brochure.

During the past few months I have had the opportunity to meet many people from Clinton, and other surrounding communities as well as people who come back to the village during the summer to visit friends, family, or kindle memories of days past. Many have stopped by our table on Thursdays at the Farmers Market to share their memories and stories. The table is a great facilitator for stimulating interest and attracting new members. Many people visit the Historical Society Building after they leave the table. Our great staff of directors and volunteers enhance their visit by providing research, tours and answering questions.

To date, we have fifty new members and our membership growth is ten percent better than last year's number. We are fortunate to have such a great following and a great staff of directors and volunteers.

I am looking forward to this year's programs and hope to see familiar faces in the audience as well as new fans of the Clinton Historical Society. Don't forget to "like" us on Facebook and share your thoughts and comments.

*Jerry Semchenko.*