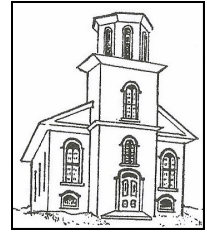


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 2015

ENSIGN BURNS STORY FOR JOINT MEETING

World War II touched many families in Clinton including that of Robert and Rose Burns, who lived at 37 Williams Street. Their son Robert O. Burns, Jr. became a Navy pilot/flier and was lost in the Pacific theater.

The Society was recently given much Burns family information and artifacts which Wade Lallier has fashioned into the program for the combined meeting with our friends from the New Hartford Historical Society. Join us at 2 pm Sunday, November 8th. Park across Fountain Street.

Lallier is a former CHS board member and an active researcher on many topics, especially the Chenango Canal.



Thank You, Veteran!

VETERANS' DAY NOVEMBER 11TH

The Society salutes all veterans of all services for their devotion and dedication to their country. Military life differs from civilian life and gives a member satisfaction for doing positive duty for his or her country.

This year veterans will be recognized here and at the November 8, 2015 joint meeting with NHHS.

BLACKS IN COLONIAL NEW YORK

Statistics found in the *Documentary History of New York* show that in 1756 Albany County, the one closest to central New York, had 14,805 whites and 2,619 blacks. This included 658 male blacks under 16, 604 male blacks above 16, 496 female blacks under 16, and 603 female blacks over 16. Slavery was not phased out in New York until 1827.

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

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OPEN HOURS

Wednesday & Saturday 1-4 or by appointment

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

YEAR-END APPEAL MADE

Your Society had to erect a metal fire escape at the rear door of the main level in order to accommodate over 50 people at a meeting or event. This was based on new building codes.

Now with the new fire escape the Society can handle over 100 people. That cost about \$8000.00 which came out of the Society's account.

This year the Society makes a year-end request for members to replenish this amount. Your 2015 itemized tax return may include the amount of your donation.

A remittance envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Please consider the Society in your year-end giving.

RECENT DONATIONS

The Society gratefully acknowledges these donations to the collection:

Jerry and Civita Schilling– 2 photos of school classes

Donald McHarris– Army uniform, 1960s era

Jack Marcellus– Robert O. Burns, Jr. war items: pictures, insignia, medals, letters, portrait, and Navy cap

Judith Bentley– pictures from Clinton soldier Etan Puls who served in World War I

Ken and Bev Mangine– Epworth League Clinton Methodist Church, song book

Eleanor Dawes– World War I and World War II ephemera for her father Seymour Lloyd and husband Robert Dawes

Alison Peto– wedding dress of Helen Tournay, who married Stuart Burdick

Jill and Roger Gates– various old tools and kitchen items: axe, 4 augers, 2 buggy wrenches, yoke, 5 candle snuffers, 2 ice hooks, 8 molding planes, ice tong, boot jack, powder horn, 2 rug beaters, bread spatula, chestnut roaster, sheep shearer, 2 cheese curd tools, scythe, ox shoe, 3 hay knives, egg cutter, 3 horse weights, corn knife, hop pole digger, 4 foot warmers, 3 pairs ice skates, wooden ice skates which belonged to Bishop Coley, Episcopal Diocese of central New York, and mouse trap

Brian Rand– photos of Clinton Courier staff

Vivien Rose– "Seasons of the Year" book, 1858

Jon Landers– Milk bottle with inscription "FM Browning, Clinton, NY"

REMINISCENCES FROM CLINTON IN 1815

Here's more of Gaius Butler's recollections from Phil Munson's CHS Newsletter of May 1982.

"On the site of the Baptist Church formerly stood the blacksmith shop of John Gilbert. The shop was destroyed by fire. The owner was unable, without embarrassment, to erect another. To show that some things can be done as well as others, according to the saying of Sam Patch, "Where there is a will here is a way," the neighbors and citizens shouldered their axes, went to the woods, and from tress then standing, a new frame of large size was erected in scarcely more than 48 hours after the old one was consumed (10)."

"The opening of Mulberry Street by Judge Blackstone (11) after purchasing a section of land extending from Kellogg to Utica Streets and embracing both sides of the former; the laying out of the whole in convenient building lots and their ready sale, and the early erection of dwellings on the most of them was a dawn of a new era. It was seen at once that growth requires room."

Footnote (10)- The blacksmith, John Gilbert, mentioned here was a son-in-law of Timothy Barns, who cast the bell for the first church, the White Meeting House on the Green, and a brother-in-law of Erastus Barns, Clinton's first potter. Coming to Clinton from Connecticut, he married Eunice, a daughter of Timothy Barns, in 1803, and moved on to Le Roy, New York in 1814. This would indicate that his blacksmith shop occupied the church site before 1814. The Baptist Church was built in 1832, and in 1993 the Clinton Historical Society acquired the building for its quarters.

Footnote (11)- Judge Stephen F. Blackstone was a relatively late arrival to Clinton who had earlier settled in Madison, where he became a judge of the Madison Count Court of Common Pleas and a member of the State Assembly. He came to Clinton in 1832 and occupied on East Park Row the home of the Pegnim family torn down in 1975 to make a parking and sales area for Cawley's Mercury sales. The Pegnim house was between Heintz Funeral Service and Giovanni's Pizza.

During 1831 and 1832 Blackstone purchased 12 acres of land from Aaron Kellogg who lived on the southeast corner of Kellogg and Mulberry Streets and another large plot at a foreclosure sale to settle the estate of Richard Sanger, and opened Mulberry Street.

The street which, tradition has it, received its name from the mulberry tress that once grew in the rear yard of the Kellogg Seminary, had its start that year. In 1834 building lots were bought by William Bliss, Julius Foster, Henry Hayter, and Jesse Willard, in 1835 by Nathan H. Bolles, Samuel L. Hubbard, and Thomas Ralph, in 1836 by Henry Parkis, William T. Richmond, Lewis Pond, and David Leut.

Aaron's son, Rev. Hiram Kellogg, a Hamilton graduate, became a staunch abolitionist. After operating the Seminary a few years, he left Clinton to become president of Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, but returned to run a water cure sanitarium at the 23 Kellogg Street house in 1851.



In the 1952 presidential campaign most locals favored the Republican candidate Dwight Eisenhower. Numerous “IKE” buttons were obvious around town. Now Democrat candidates do better in Kirkland, which used to be a Republican town.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS-Those who research women’s rights in the early 20th century have stopped at the society to peruse the collection about the Clinton Women’s Equality Club. Our director Susan Goodier used the collection in her recent book, and now a senior historian from the New York State Museum, Jennifer Le Mack, will visit.

Strategic Financial Services briefed the directors about the status of the Society’s invested funds at the October 5th meeting. Judy Sweet and Doug Waters explained the performance of the portfolio for the past year.

Christmas Shoppers’ Stroll, a long-time Clinton tradition, will occur Friday, November 27. Open hours at the Society will be announced in local media.

The *Kirkland News Online* was published by Gary Meyer and is now being donated to the Society for research. Thank you, Gary!

Research query- “Where was the Skyline Poultry Farm and in what year did it go out of business?” Yvonne Brady tells us that the farm was on the west side of Skyline between College Hill Road and Route 5. It was owned by the McFadden family and was active to 1992. Two of the family’s sons were Milburn and Ronald McFadden. Mr. and Mrs. Lennis McFadden started it in 1952 and closed the business in 1992.

Christmas Holiday Socializer– All members and guests are invited to come and meet old friends/members and some new ones on December 9, 2015 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. It’s the Society’s free Christmas gift to all loyal members. Mark your calendar for 12/9.

Two opera houses held forth here in the 1880s and early 1900s. The longer lasting was the **Scollard Opera House** over today’s China Sea Restaurant and Clinton Shoe Center run by Mayor Jack Lane. On the third floor of today’s 1 College Street, Artisan’s Corner, was the **Onyan Opera House**. The Scollard House ran until the 1930s, but the Onyan House ended prior to 1900 and was the place where the Clinton Masonic Lodge met in the 1920s and 1930s before buying the former Society Hall (Universalist Church), the brick building across Williams Street from St. James Church.

The two venues provided stages and seating for public meetings, dances, traveling performers and amateur shows. The Scollard Opera House showed silent films in the 1920s.

CLINTON SCENE

CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL 1898-9

The high school in 1898 was in the Marvin Street building, now apartments. It opened in 1893 as the first public high school in Clinton. These article excerpts from the 1898 period were in the *Clinton Courier*.

1- "The annual catalogue of the Clinton High School for 1898-99 has been issued from the COURIER press and will be ready for general distribution the last of the week.

Copies may then be procured from Principal Wight, President E. S. Williams or other members of the Board of Education. The total attendance last year was 471, an increase of six over the previous year. *Note*— this was for grades 1-12

The non-residents number 54, an increase of five over last year. The graduates numbered five. The school opens for the fall term Sept. 12, 1898.

The Librarian requests that all books belonging to the school library be returned on Friday of this week. No more books will be issued until Sept. 16th."

2- **Arbor Day** at the High School was the headline in the May 11, 1898 *Courier* telling about Arbor Day.

"Arbor Day was observed at the Clinton High School last Friday by appropriate public exercises in the forenoon, followed by a holiday during the rest of the day, which was greatly enjoyed by the children, as it was the first fair day in a week or two."

3- "On next Monday, the opening day, the schedule of studies in the academic department will be made out for the first half year. Therefore, it will be to the interest of pupils who contemplate entering a few weeks late, to be present on Monday morning that the schedule may be arranged so that their studies will not conflict, as the schedule cannot be changed after it is once made out.

The outlook for an increased number of non-resident pupils is encouraging. Parents and employers should bear in mind that *all* children between the ages of 8 and 12 years are required by law to attend school every day (and throughout each day) between Oct. 1st and June 1st. The same is true of children between 14 and 16 years, who are not regularly employed at some useful occupation After Oct. 1st, children between 12 and 14 years of age must attend 80 consecutive school days before they are entitled to a certificate allowing them to be employed.

The new catalogue shows that, out of the 17 boys who have graduated from the school, 16 entered college. Two who did not graduate entered on the principal's certificate."

Number 3 was in the September 7, 1898 *Clinton Courier*.

NOTE— District # 4 covered most of the village so pupils in the Kirkland one-room schools who desired high school classes were called "non-resident" and had to arrange their own transportation or board with a village family. 1898 was prior to the automobile so horse power was it! The youth employment rules differed from today especially in the 80 consecutive day requirement.



The **Clinton Figure Skating Club** started in 1949. Dr. Robert C. Hall was first president. Pictured here in the 1951 show "Swing Number" from left are Mary Suppe, Claudia Zo-eckler, Annette Rogers, Claire Kelly, Mary Louise Burdick, Doris Shorey, Elizabeth Mitchell, Joan Ver-minski, and Cecily Dickson. This show was held in the first arena (1948-1953).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

What can the Clinton Historical Society provide for individuals and the community overall?

That's a question we the governing body discuss and challenge ourselves to answer.

We do know that without your continued support it becomes an arduous task to sustain our level of research, promote our organization, and offer quality community service that is our standard here at the society. Our goals are to present informative and entertaining programs, new and significant displays, increase the level of volunteerism, stimulate new membership, retain current members, and of most importance: preservation of our historical documents, photographs, books, collectibles and legacy for future generations.

These are challenges that we accept and are enthusiastic to address. However, as previously stated, we appreciate your help. We are happy to accept monetary donations, antiques, heirlooms, art, collectibles, historical documents, anecdotes etc.

We also need people to assist and support our ability to retain the physical integrity and quality of said items.

If you are looking to volunteer your services, perhaps brush up on your local history, do research for a book or school project, check out your ancestry, or work with archives and artifacts, then we are the place for you. So come on down to the society on a Wednesday or Saturday. We are open from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm on both days. You can also prearrange a meeting by calling (315) 859-1392 or emailing the Clinton Historical Society at clintonhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com. We are delighted to assist you in your endeavor.

Looking forward to meeting you.

Jerry Semchenko