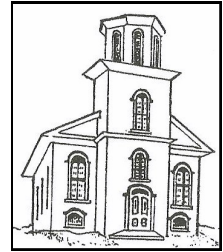


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

**CLINTON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**



January 2016

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES AT HAMILTON

Hamilton anthropology professor Nathan Goodale will take us on a detailed tour of three college structures: Edward North House, Powell House, and 1793 (Anderson) house. Since 2012 archaeological work has been done on these three buildings by Goodale and his students. The Society's archives have been used also. Dr. Goodale will discuss the findings of these investigations, student experiential learning, and ties to the College's policy on dealing with cultural heritage management.

Join us at 2 PM on Sunday, January 10, 2016 to start the new year by learning about these three early Hamilton buildings. Goodale does research in the origins of villages, prehistoric population changes through time, and stone tool technology. He has conducted research in Ireland, Southwest Asia, the Pacific Northwest, and the College campus.

THANKS TO YEAR-END DONORS

The Society's appeal for donations to replenish funds used to replace the wooden fire escape with a metal one out the rear of the Society has resulted in over 50 members sending over \$3000. These donations are as of December 9, 2015.

Names of donors: Hendrik Booraem, Dale and Edith Eggen, Judith Sweet, James Grande and William Sequin, Kernan Kennedy, Margaret LaLonde, Ron and Margaret Bornick, Janet Cackett, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wollin, Lori and Warren Scoones, Marion and Joseph Amico, Les and Nan LaBrecque, Dom and Sandy Trasatti, George Mair, Thomas and Patricia Evans, Linda Manning, Mr. and Mrs. Donald McIntosh, Christine and Peter Lotto, Ed and Honore Jones, John Dahlin and Alice Root, Donald Crane, Maryan McCarthy, Robert Galinski, Dale and Kelly Jewell, Jay and Hermine Williams, Jerome and Civita Schilling, Frederick and Mary Burrows, Mrs. Edward E. Duffy, Anthony Oertel, Mrs. Robert Sheridan, William Falk, Joseph and Linda McHarris, Mary Seyse Richer, Harold and Lucy Zohne, Archie and Regina Burton, Sharon and Bob Dicks, William and Margaret Thickstun, William Gale, David and Shelly Whiting, Alma Ingalls, Steve Orvis, Betsy Beckman, Irene Hummel, Mary Byrd, Dick and Jean Williams, Paul Van Allen, Charlene Zebley, Frank Elliot.

The Society expresses its gratitude and sincere thanks to all who donated. The Society has I.R.S. 501 © (3) section status as a non-profit charitable organization. The New York State Attorney General also has granted the Society charitable status making donations tax-exempt..

Clinton Historical Society
Founded in 1962

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Dues- \$10.00 individual;
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\$25.00 friends; \$50.00 contributing



Above is Society president Gerry Semchenko at the dedication of the historic marker for St. Mark's Church in Clark Mills on November 1, 2015. Town Historian Richard Williams made some brief comments and was joined by other Society members.

SOCIETY FOUNDERS' AIMS IN 1962

Society bylaws stipulate these aims:

- 1- "To bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of the Clinton area
- 2- To discover and collect any materials which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area
- 3- To provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine and study it
- 4- To disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past by publishing historical material
- 5- To acquire by lease, gift, purchase or otherwise, both real and personal property, to solicit funds from the public; and to do all things as are incidental of conducive to the attainment of the above purposes and object."

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY IN 90TH YEAR

This month marks the beginning, 90 years ago, of the Clinton High School hockey team and deserves a few comments here.

Hockey came to Hamilton College when Albert Ira Prettyman became College director of athletics in 1917. He started a College hockey team. Quickly village boys picked up the winter sport helped by Prettyman's son Bert and his Clinton hockey buddies.

They played with old stocks and pads some left over from the College team on sections of the old Chenango Canal and McLaughlin's Pond off Chestnut Street. Other early high school players were Bob Williams, Ed Ganey, Gordon Bryant, Ed "Biff" Bates, Howard Chappell, Red Goering, Bob Suppe, Paul Gaffney, Glyn Davies, and Bert Prettyman.

But, one problem existed, and came to light very soon. The Marvin Street School was the Clinton High School in 1926, and the school had a basketball team which consisted of some of the ones who wanted to play hockey.

Clinton's principal then was Ray Smith, who found out that two of his basketball players had missed practice one day in December 1925. They readily confessed they had been busy beating a Hamilton freshman hockey team in a pickup game.

At a meeting held on December 10, 1925 it was decided to sponsor a high school hockey team here, and Principal Smith was recruited to be coach although he had had no hockey background. The school quickly disbanded the basketball team.

McLaughlin's Pond was to be used for practices, and negotiations began with Hamilton College to use the relatively new Sage Rink for games.

The Clinton Courier reported in the December 23, 1925 issue that the team had permission to play three games at Sage Rink, and that the team "expects to take on some strong opponents as they themselves feel they can meet stiff competition."

Trivia question: when was the first official Clinton High School hockey game? Answer: on January 16, 1926 at Sage Rink against Hamilton College freshmen. Clinton won 4-3 as Bob Williams netted three goals, and Bert Prettyman added one goal.

The second game occurred at the annual winter carnival in Utica where Clinton beat the Yahnundasis Country Club 2-0 in a game reflecting "speed, better teamwork, and youthful aggressiveness." Ex college players skated for the Yahnundasis sextet.

The season ended when the locals defeated St. John's Military Academy of Manlius 5-0 ending the first season of high school hockey with a 5-2 record. Not bad for the first year!!

Clinton and Kirkland were truly leaders in establishing hockey as a major winter sport at the secondary level in central New York.

The Clinton Historical Society depends on the generosity of its members. Wouldn't it be great if all 500 members left the Society just \$1000 in their will? Help us advance our task of preserving Kirkland/Clinton history by remembering us in your will and estate plans.

Rural High School.

TO OUR PATRONS AND THE PUBLIC: In the Spring of 1866, the building formerly occupied by this School was totally destroyed by fire. We thankfully state that great as was the destruction of property, no lives were lost, nor was the School but temporarily interrupted. The residence of Prof. CHARLES AVERY, on College Street, was purchased, and the School transferred to it, the Spring term opening at the usual time. We are happy to state that the experience of the past six years has shown that in all essential features, the present location is not inferior, while in many respects it is superior, to the one previously occupied.

The grounds are beautiful, finely shaded, and present a pleasing variety of scenery. The House has been completely renovated, and for comfort, convenience and attractiveness is rarely surpassed. The School Building (formerly the Clinton Grammar School, established in 1815,) has been thoroughly repaired and remodeled, supplied with Boston school furniture, and is very attractive and convenient. And in the new location the school is more of a family, while the health, content and happiness of the pupils show that the change forced upon us by the calamity of fire has not proved detrimental to the institution.

As heretofore, no effort will be spared to maintain to the full the past reputation of the School, for excellence and thoroughness in its intellectual and moral processes and results.

RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

Clinton held the title "Village of Schools" in the 19th century. Some lasted a few years and others lasted 30+ years.

At the corner of Elm Street and Norton Avenue stood Dwight's Rural High School for young boys. It was a secondary-level boarding school between 1857 and 1868 when fire consumed the buildings.

It then merged with the Clinton Grammar School at 86 and 96 College Street and then a final merger with Dr. Best's School until it closed in 1891.

The page at left is from the 1873 catalog of the school in the society's archives.

AT RIGHT:

Your editor Richard Williams holds a bottle of Spit Rock ginger beer in front of the Lithia water display on the lower level.

7-8 bottlers in the Franklin Springs and Dugway Road area sold the soft drinks and drinking water in carboys. The water was discovered by Fred Suppe on his Dugway Road farm in 1884.

