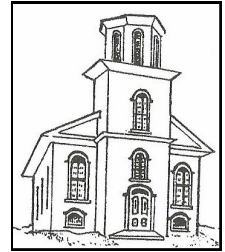
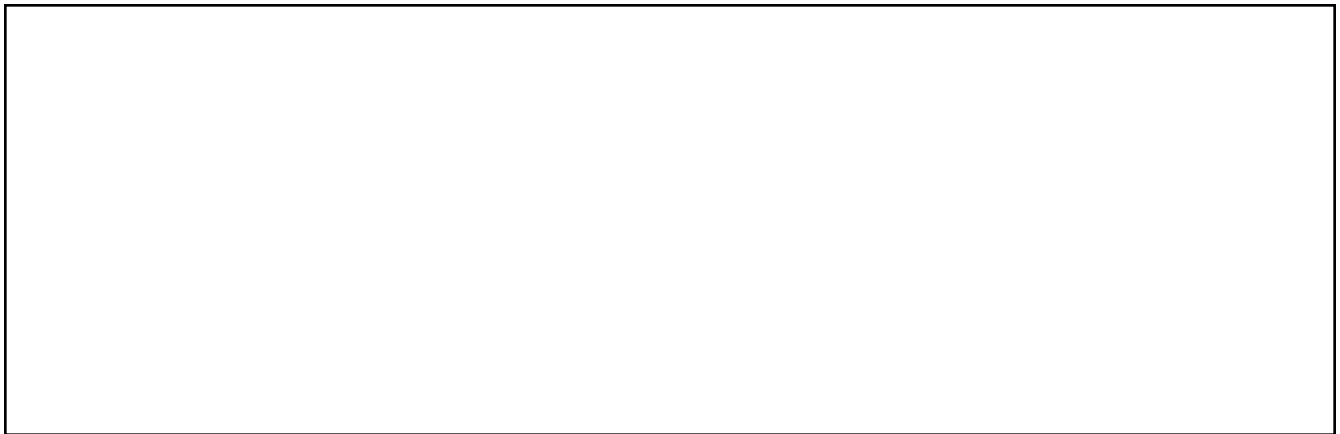


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

**CLINTON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**



April 2016



Clinton Historical Society
Founded in 1962

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and Saturday 1-4;

Dues- \$12.00 **individual** for
1 year or \$30.00 for 3 years;
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\$45.00 for 3 years; \$25.00
friends; \$50.00 **contributing**

CLINTON'S FOUNDING

Robert Tegart gave the February program on Clinton's beginnings in 1787. Here Mr. Tegart gives readers an interesting sample of his report.

In 1785, after hearing about the opportunities in the west, a group of pioneers, with Captain Moses Foote as its leader left the Waterbury, Connecticut area headed for the Mohawk Valley. The Revolution had ended, the peace treaty had been concluded and the open frontier called them.

The small group of hearty souls first settled in German Flatts and spent "two harvests" there. In 1786, Moses Foote and his followers went out to explore the lands to the south. Moses Foote may have travelled on the Old Moyer Road, which was a major East-West trail leading to Western New York. They probably travelled from German Flatts to Paris Hill; then west along what is now Maxwell Road to Lombard Road along the Oriskany Creek, across the flats and swamps to a "dry knoll", the site of the current Village Green.

Part of the group split away at Paris and found an elevated plain which they felt was a suitable spot for settlement 1½ miles east of the knoll Captain Foote choose. It was not an easy decision with both parties unwilling to compromise on the site for settlement. They met on the banks of a small creek but could not come to an agreement. They adjourned and a different group met the next day to continue the discussion. Finally Moses Foote persuaded the group to accept the current location which would become Clinton.

The Village Park is perfectly located on a knoll which is elevated. If one drives around the village they will notice that the village green is on an elevated plain well above the water level. This is indeed a perfect geographic spot to establish a community.

Tradition has it that Ludim Blodgett, part of this early group, in the Fall of 1786 built a small log hut on the "Corner of the Village Park and Kellogg Street" Later in February of 1787, James Bronson, another of the early explorers, was said to have slept on what is now the village park, sheltered from a winter storm under the upturned roots of an large Hemlock.

the next few months the population rose to 13 families, then It was on March 4th of 1787, that the main group of eight families arrived in what is now Clinton. They came on foot with ox carts carrying all their worldly possessions. Within the next few months the population rose to 13 families, then by autumn to 20 families. The movement had begun and settlers were flowing into Clinton and the Mohawk Valley. Elkanah Watson, who travelled the valley in 1788 and 1791, wrote in his journal:

“Settlers are continually pouring in from the Connecticut hive, which throws off its annual swarms of intelligent, industrious and enterprising emigrants... numerous bateaus coming up the river freighted with whole families, emigrating to the land of promise.”

Clinton and Kirkland grew dramatically in the first 10 years of existence. The population of Kirkland increased 500% from 1787 to 1790 and then 400% in 1800. Throughout the first quarter of the nineteenth century it continued to climb. By 1801 the Seneca Turnpike, previously an Indian Trail, was chartered connecting Kirkland to the communities to the East and West.

In 1803 Samuel Kirkland described Clinton in his journal:

January 9, 1803.

L.D. Clinton. Attended the service with Revd Mr. Norton at this place. Wonderful has been the goodness of God to this people! Upwards of one hundred communicants! What has this once howling wilderness, this solitary desert, produced in the course of fourteen years! What a rich harvest to the Divine Redeemer!

Clinton had quickly grown into a thriving community!

rarely been out

The Clinton Historical Society is an I.R.S. 503 (c) (3) charitable organization and is also recognized by the NYS Attorney General as a non-profit organization. Dues and donations are tax deductible.

The Society appreciates members who consider it in their wills and estate plans.

PRESIDENT' S MESSAGE

From President Jerry Semchenko:

Jerry