



CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2016

BOB TEGART LEAVES

The Society's three-time president and current coordinator Bob Tegart has saddened the Society board of trustees with his announcement that Beth and he will move to Bennington, Vermont in October.

Tegart brought his love for history and documents, for reenacting, for preservation of landmarks, and for being a model civic volunteer to Clinton some 30 years ago.

After graduating from SUNY at Geneseo he went into a career in insurance commuting to Syracuse for years.

Recently retired he was able to devote more time to the Society and volunteered to become coordinator with no salary.

As the Society has grown significantly in membership and in the size of the collection since moving to the old Baptist Church in 1993, a need existed for someone to oversee the operation.

Bob fit that need and performed admirably from scanning photos to meeting visitors to doing PowerPoint programs, to reaching out to Clinton schools, and to doing displays at NBT Bank.

Farewell and thank you for your hours of work and devotion to the Society.

ARTHUR HIND STAMP COLLECTOR NEXT

Join us and learn about the operation of the Hind & Harrison Plush Co. and its owner Arthur Hind on Sunday, October 9, 2016.

Another aspect of Hind, which will be covered, was his extraordinary stamp collection and his ownership of one of the rarest stamps in the world.

To bring this seldom-told tale to the public will be Kirkland and Clinton historian Richard Williams.

The program also will include some history of the hamlet of Clark Mills.

The time is 2 PM at the society on October 9th followed by delicious refreshments.

LUMBARD HALL

Many of use pass it daily; how many know that it opened in September 1926...some 90 years ago.

Originally Lumbard housed the post office until it moved to College and Chenango streets in 1993.

Now the village and town offices still use the first floor.

Clinton Historical Society
Founded in 1962

DIRECTORS

Mary Benson Byrd– secretary
Ruth Cosgrove– vice-president
John Crossley
Barbara Decker
Joe Ellis
Lisa Firsching- treasurer
Erik Genalo
Robert Goering
Susan Goodier
Wade Lallier
Barbara Owens
Jerry Semchenko- president
Robert Tegart– coordinator
Richard Williams– editor

Web Site

www.clintonhistory.org

Facebook, too

E-Mail Address

clintonhistoricalsociety1@gmail.com

Phone

315-859-1392

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 42
Clinton, New York 13323

OPEN HOURS

Wednesday 1-4; Saturday 1-4

Dues- \$12.00 individual 1 year,
30.00 3 years; \$17.00 business-
es/families 1 year, \$45.00 3
years; \$25.00 friend; \$50.00 con-
tributing member

BEES IN CLINTON

One of Clinton's early settlers was John Bee who owned land on South Park Row and College Street in the 1830s period. John was a tailor and an active Mason. His son Frederick Alonzo Bee became a prominent advocate for Chinese immigrants and was a consular at the Chinese consulate.

Frederick A. Bee was born in Clinton, New York September 9, 1825. He married Catherine Maxwell, who was born March 7, 1828. A son of Frederick Bee, Frank Bee, was born August 11, 1851.

Frederick Bee moved west in 1849 and settled in the San Francisco area. However, he came back to marry Catherine Maxwell.

Frederick Bee arrived in New York City on September 23, 1850 on the "Ohio." Catherine Maxwell and Frederick Bee were married in Ballston Spa, New York on Thursday, October 17, 1850.

Marriage announcement in the *Ballston Spa Journal*, Oct 22, 1850 as follows: "In this village, on the 17th inst. by David Maxwell, Esq. Mr. Frederick A. Bee to Miss Catharine Maxwell, both of this village."

Frederick Alonzo Bee was an early opponent of Anti-Chinese sentiment in the United States. He was a California Gold Rush pioneer, miner, merchant, manager of the Pony Express, builder of the telegraph over the Sierras, developer of Sausalito, California, lobbyist for the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, official at the Chinese Consulate, and vineyardist near Martinez, California.

Bee Street in Sausalito was named after him. Bee was appointed as Consul by the Chinese government after he effectively represented the interests of the Chinese community in front of a Congressional committee and settled disputes in Chinatown. Bee acted in an official capacity to represent the interests of Chinese immigrants, and appeared in federal court cases; his efforts to preserve harmony were recognized by the Emperor of China.

From **Wikipedia**: Frederick Bee spent most of his time between 1882 to 1892 making appearances in the Ninth District Court in San Francisco to testify whether Chinese passengers should be allowed to stay in California and investigating killings of Chinese residents in other states.

Frederick's father John, his brother, John, Jr. and his wife Elizabeth Bee were buried in the Old Burying Ground on Kirkland Avenue in 1833, 1836, and 1831 respectively. Frederick A. Bee died in 1892 in San Francisco.

FROM THE COLLECTION



REALTOR SIGN

Donated by Mrs. Ormond (Rita) Ewers; Erle Davis was Rita's first husband and sold Clinton real estate in the 1970s.

HARNESS MAKER'S BENCH



Mrs. Ewers also donated the harness maker's bench at left. It was owned by Felix Stern who operated a harness shop at 14 College between 1897 and 1952. Stern was an immigrant from Thannheim, Germany in 1891 where he apprenticed as a harness maker.

He was active in Clinton community affairs as a Clinton volunteer fireman and a member of the village board.

Stern married Kunigunda Fleishmann in 1888; she died in 1926.

The Sterns were members of St. Mary's Church. They had three sons and a daughter.

Stern died January 22, 1952 and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery later in the spring of 1952.

The *Clinton Courier* noted that "Business places in Clinton are expected to follow their usual custom of closing their doors for one hour, from 9:30 to 10:30, during the funeral services."

POETRY PATH

If you've noticed the 12 sign posts with a green and white slanted top around the village, you've seen the **Poetry Path** project of Eagle Scout Paul White of Clark Mills Troop 44.

The sign in front of the Society has a poem by Clinton Scollard, a Clinton native and Hamilton College graduate and later English teacher. His father was Dr. James I. Scollard, prominent Clinton physician and businessman, and owner of many farms and commercial parcels in the town and village including the block where the Clinton Shoe Center is today.



The winter picture above was loaned by Michael Stuttard and is one we've not seen previously. It dates from the 1900-1910 period when the Society quarters had a conical steeple on top of the tower. We do not know exactly when this steeple was removed. The Park Hotel at right burned in January 1961 and was razed.

The Society gratefully acknowledges Hamilton College for printing this newsletter. The College donates four of each year's newsletters by its print shop. This has occurred for years and is much appreciated. This is another example of cooperation between the College and the Society in the village.