

The Museum at The Creamery

THE SKANEATELES HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May-June 2014

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Laurie Winship, Editor



MAY PROGRAM-- Glenside Stories

Come hear Charlie Major tell Glenside Stories on Tuesday, May 27, at 7:30 p.m. at The Museum at The Creamery. He'll talk about the oral history of the mills and way of life of the workers; the community called the Glenside and greater Skaneateles Falls area along the creek; and the area referred to as "down the road."

Charlie wrote an article in the last issue of the newsletter on this topic, so be sure to come hear the rest of the story.



Skaneateles Falls, N.Y.

COME SEE OUR NEWEST EXHIBIT!

How many of you remember this iconic sign from the old Colonial Theater? It was taken down in 1979 and has been stored in the attic at The Museum at The Creamery. Now he's back in public, and we're looking for money to preserve him. Stop in and visit him and leave a donation!



The purpose of the Skaneateles Historical Society is to conduct and encourage historical research and to collect, preserve, and exhibit historical material in connection with the Town of Skaneateles.

Notice of Annual Membership Meeting**CREAMERY HOURS, MAY-JUNE**

Fridays and Saturdays, 1-4 p.m.
or by appointment

On Tuesday, June 24 at 7:30 p.m., a brief annual meeting of the Skaneateles Historical Society will be held before the program begins. Board members will be elected and the 2014-2015 budget presented for approval.



The Duck Dash is coming! On Friday, July 18, at 6:30 p.m., up to 6,000 rubber ducks will be released into the lake outlet behind the Kinney Drugs building. The first 10 ducks to cross the finish line will receive a cash prize or a gift from a local merchant. The first-place winner will receive \$1,000! The last-place duck will receive \$100. Tickets are only \$5.00, and while this event is run by other local organizations, we make \$2.50 for each ticket we sell. So please, stop in our gift shop from May 1- July 14 to buy your tickets and help us earn money! If you'd like tickets mailed to you, we will be happy to do that--just send us a check, made payable to the Skaneateles YMCA Community Center, for as many tickets as you'd like. The more you enter, the greater your chances of winning!

JUNE PROGRAM--THE STANFORD WHITE MYTH

Stanford White is perhaps America's most famous, and infamous, architect, whose life story has been detailed in history, fiction and films such as *Ragtime* and *The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing*. The most eminent architect of the Gilded Age, White's houses were beautiful inside and out, and those that survive sell for millions of dollars on the rare occasions when they change hands. So it is not surprising that White's name has been attached to more than a few homes and buildings that were actually the work of other architects, nor is it surprising that a few of those would-be White houses are in Skaneateles. Kihm Winship will take us through the local examples one by one, and show us the one house in our village that truly bears Stanford White's touch.

Please join us on Tuesday, June 24, at 7:30 p.m. at The Museum at The Creamery. Bring a friend or neighbor!

The Skaneateles Historical Society 28 Hannum St. Skaneateles, NY 13152 315-685-1360

www.skaneateleshistoricalsociety.org
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FAREWELL TO RIDDLER'S by Kihm Winship

The building that last housed Riddler's was built by Lemuel Hall, a dealer in lumber and real estate. Ground was broken on April 17, 1896, and the *Skaneateles Free Press* noted that Hall already had a tenant, "a well-known local attorney," Charles R. Milford. When the building was done in September, Milford bought it outright for \$2,000. The red brick building at 4 Jordan Street was in his family for decades: Charles' grandson, Robert S. Milford, moved in to practice law in 1951.

Meanwhile, in September 1957, an Army retiree named Ed Riddler came to town and learned that Earl Lynch's newsstand at 3 E. Genesee Street was for sale; he bought it, and in the next 18 years came to know more than 5,000 people here by name. Barry Crimmins wrote:

"Ed seemed to wear the same clothes for a few years at a time (often topped by an army issue jacket with RIDDLER embroidered across the left breast pocket). His round and creviced face never appeared to have been shaven within the previous 48 hours. He always had the remnant of a stogie in the corner of his mouth... his visage was scary until you realized he was actually a more than halfway decent fellow. If you were a kid who got past his initial attempts to spook you, and he decided you could be trusted, he'd find little tasks for you to do that were rewarded with the best kind of currency: baseball cards, comic books, candy or soda."

In December of 1965, the E.T. Taylor store at 1 E. Genesee expanded into the space occupied by Riddler's store, just as the little brick building around the corner became available. And so, in January of 1966, Ed moved Riddler's to 4 Jordan Street. The *Skaneateles Press* reported, "Partitions have been taken down, the whole place painted, a new floor laid, and a new ceiling installed... Just how great a change may be expected can be gathered from the fact that Norm and Dave, the two young men who help keep the place clean have been presented with new mops and brooms."

In 1974, Ed Riddler sold the business to Don Herb, and it became Herb's. In 2002, Bill Eberhardt bought the business and renamed it Riddler's, as it was known when it finally closed its doors in March of 2014.

Recent Acquisitions

Child's skating chair (modified--runners replaced with rockers)

Lions Club memorabilia, including Braille typewriter

Skaneateles Country Club 16 mile race flag--1944?

Sharing My Stones, by Marianne Angelillo

Village of Skaneateles Jails & Lockups: A history of the Village of Skaneateles 3 jails, 1857-1977, by Jorge Battle

Tragic Tales of Skaneateles, by Beth Battle

Scrapbook of Effie Palmer--early 1900s

Meals on Wheels papers

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Customers who shopped at Harse's Market in the late 1800s always got a good look at the meat they were buying--no pre-packaging here! Their store was on the corner of Genesee and State Streets. Pictured here are Henry and Fred Harse, in 1895.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Our Jan./Feb. newsletter announced membership renewal time, and many have responded. Thank you! We need your annual support. Please, if you haven't already done so, look at the address label on this issue. Do you see 2012Y or 2013Y on the label? That is the last payment date of record we have for you. If you are a Lifetime Member or if you paid after September 2013, you need not renew at this time.

Please use the renewal form printed below, and return it to me with your payment. Be sure to include the "Office Use Only" square and your e-mail address if applicable. (We only use email addresses for program announcements or an occasional S.H.Society business subject.) Thank you.

David Bates
Membership Chair
davebates3@gmail.com
(315) 497-3446

Make check payable to The Skaneateles Historical Society and mail to David Bates, 5623 Mack Road, Skaneateles, NY 13152.

-----Clip & return-----

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Special thanks to...

Kenneth Wooster, for his many years of service as our web master extraordinaire.
The Board is purchasing a paver in his honor.

Upcoming Events

Our annual fund drive letter is coming later in May. Please help support our general operating budget to purchase supplies, prepare displays, pay for maintenance, etc.
House tour of the Feldmann house, 28 West Lake St, and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (refreshments available,) on Saturday, August 16, 10 am-4 pm. Save the date!
And if you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at 685-1360.