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.
FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Ben Porter

Born in Skaneateles, trained at Annapolis and tested in the fires of the Civil War, Ben Porter was a truly heroic figure, but, in the words of one of his commanding officers, “brave to a fault.” Whether standing by his guns on Roanoke Island when every other man had been shot down, probing the underwater defenses in Charleston Bay under the cover of darkness, assaulting Fort Sumter with a handful of men, or charging North Carolina’s impregnable Fort Fisher carrying only a flag and a holstered pistol, Ben Porter never gave a thought to his personal safety, but only of the objective to be won. Kihm Winship will trace Porter’s life from his childhood here through his naval career, and his final journey back to Skaneateles.

Ben Porter’s signature from Mary Bartlett’s autograph book (in our collection) on a visit to Skaneateles, dated November 15, 1859. The quoted verse was common at the time.
We’re now on Facebook!
Let us know what you’d like to see on our page! It’s under Skaneateles Historical Society.

NEW CREAMERY HOURS
Jan-June, Fri-Sat, 1-4 p.m.
Or by appointment
Please note we are now open on Saturdays throughout the year!

AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM
Do you shop at Amazon? If so, they have a program that donates a percentage of all eligible sales to a charity of your choice. The Skaneateles Historical Society is now participating, so all you have to do is go to:
http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7339639
and shop as usual. No cost to you, a benefit to us--what a great deal! Give it a try!

IRA Charitable Rollover Benefits
Donors and Charities
There is good news for the Skaneateles Historical Society and our friends who are 70½ years of age or older. As part of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015, President Obama recently signed into law legislation that makes permanent the IRA Charitable Rollover.

The IRA Charitable Rollover allows taxpayers who are 70½ years of age or older to make tax-free charitable gifts of up to $100,000 per year directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts to eligible charities, including the Skaneateles Historical Society. The transfer of funds is free of federal income tax and qualifies as the donor's annual required minimum distribution (RMD). Donations must be received directly from the IRA administrator to the Skaneateles Historical Society to qualify.

The IRA Charitable Rollover offers donors the opportunity to reduce their taxable income and benefit the Historical Society at the same time!

Please contact your IRA administrator or financial advisor regarding how the IRA charitable rollover applies to you.
A Grebe

— From Another Book for Old Bird Watchers but Not Too Old, with Woodcuts from Thomas Nuttall’s Manual of Ornithology, 1832-34, and Others (1972) by Clement C. Sawtell, the nephew of E. Reuel Smith.

The old Skaneateles Savings Bank, circa 1895. It is now M&T, after undergoing a number of name changes. The store to the right is G. B. Hardwood, whose bill heading from 1899 states “Manufacturer of and dealer in all kinds of Harness, Trunks, Whips, Robes, Blankets, Brushes.”

**RECENT ACQUISITIONS**

Postal History items, including stamp-less envelopes from 1846 & 1850

Etched glass sign from Kopp Glass Grinding

Tool used for laying railroad track

Brass door plate

Brass door plate from Tucker-Krebs Co.

Soapstone foot warmer
THE MARBLE MAN

by Jorge Batlle, Village Historian and Beth Batlle, Town Historian

Did you know that there was a marble company in Skaneateles? The proprietor was Orson Young, who was born in Danby, Vermont in 1823. He was married in 1849 to Helen (Stiles) of Arlington, Vermont and they had one daughter, Mary.

The family moved to Skaneateles in 1851. The 1856 Census records indicates that they lived on West Elizabeth Street. The 1875 Census shows that they moved to 38 West Genesee Street, the present home and office of dentist Dr. Carlile. The Census also shows that the Youngs had a servant.

The Skaneateles Marble Works was located in a small wooden building on the northwest corner of East Genesee Street and State Street (where the M&T Bank is now located). He was a skilled craftsman, conducting the business for 36 years. Mr. Young enjoyed the esteem and friendship of everyone with whom he came in contact. He was respected by all, and possessed a mild and pleasant disposition; he made no enemies. Mr. Young was a Trustee of the Methodist church and a commissioner of Lake View Cemetery from March 13, 1892 to his death in October of that year.

Death was from cancer, according to his October 19, 1892 obituary. His funeral was held at his home on West Genesee Street and he is buried in Lake View Cemetery. Ironically his grave marker is of granite, not marble.

Municipal historians receive some interesting requests for information on buildings, artifacts and personal histories. A recent call was from a SCUBA diver asking about information on a sunken boat on the west side of Skaneateles Lake. She said that this boat had some marble-like spheres with "Skaneateles Marble Company" on them.

The engraving on the marble of "Skaneateles Marble Company" sent the Historians to the on-line source called "Fulton History." There an ad from 1857 appeared for the "Skaneateles Marble Works." It touted the receiving of large assortments of marble from the quarries in Vermont. It goes on to say that the company makes monuments, head stones and fence posts "furnished to order."

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The Skaneateles Historical Society  28 Hannum St. Skaneateles, NY 13152  315-685-1360
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FROM:  
THE SKANEATELES HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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Skaneateles, NY 13152

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