

The Museum at The Creamery

THE SKANEATELES HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May-June 2016

Vol. 31, No. 3

Laurie Winship, Editor



MAY PROGRAM

New Mailboat Comes to Skaneateles

This year brings the excitement of having a new mailboat built for Midlakes Navigation to service Skaneateles Lake. She'll be arriving in time for the first scheduled mail delivery on July 1st. The Wiles family has decided to call the new vessel the "Spray" in honor of the former "Spray" launched in 1939 by the Stinson family, owners of the Stinson Boat Line (1939-1968.)

The Wiles family purchased the Stinson Boat Line in 1968 and have continued to operate on Skaneateles Lake ever since. They have expanded their services to include tours and lovely dinner cruises. Sarah Wiles and Bill Stinson III will be presenting a talk on their respective family businesses. The history of the "Spray" also harks back to an earlier time on the St. Lawrence River in the Thousand Island area of Clayton.

Come join us on May 24th at 7:30 pm to share the reason why the "Spray" will continue into its second century, proudly providing service of mail delivery and more on beautiful Skaneateles Lake. Pictures of both the past "Spray" and of the new "Spray" will be presented. Hope you'll come and enjoy the trip!

Notice of Annual Membership Meeting

On Tuesday, June 28 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 2016-2017 budget will be presented for approval.

Would you like to see all the new items we receive?

We need a volunteer to help process incoming artifact donations. We'll show you how to do everything--you don't need any prior experience. You do need some basic computer skills, organizational skills, and be willing to come in one afternoon a week (Tuesday has traditionally been volunteer day here.)

If you think you might be interested, please call Laurie Winship at 685-1360.

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.



JUNE PROGRAM

Steamboats of Skaneateles Lake

In June we'll go back even further with our strong nautical background on Skaneateles Lake. Don Quant will be our featured speaker talking about steamboats that spent time on our beautiful Lake, which include the "City of Syracuse" and the "Ossahinta".

Don has been doing research since the 1980's on various vessels in the Finger Lakes region and other related areas. This past year Don freshened up our scale model of the "City of Syracuse" which can be seen in the Creamery building on the 2nd floor where many people have admired his work. His research includes newspaper articles from that period and local libraries microfiche collections that give him insight into these wonderful ships of the past.

Come join us at 7:30 pm on June 28th for another look into the colorful past when steamboats supplied passage and cargo service around Skaneateles Lake. Hope to see you all!

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>

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Do you know that we have a researcher every Friday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. who is available to help the public with their searches for local history, information on houses, genealogy research, and much more? We have one of the most extensive research collections in the area, and we are always happy to help anyone who has a question that relates to Skaneateles history. If you can't come on Fridays, you can email us at skaneateleshistoricalsociety@verizon.net or send us a letter.

BOARD MEMBERS: President, David Bates; V-P, Bill Stinson; Secretary, Mona Smalley; Corresponding Secretary, Karen Lengyel; Treasurer, Betsy Foote; Town Historian, Beth Battle; Village Historian, Jorge Battle; Members-at-large, Dan Bangs, Julie DiBagio, Doug Hamlin, David Miller, Karlene Miller, Barbara Patrick, Joseph Spalding, Susan Spalding, Lewis Wellington, Richard Whalen
MUSEUM DIRECTOR: Laurie Winship

CREAMERY HOURS

May-June, Fri.-Sat., 1-4 p.m.
 July-August, Fri.-Sun., 1-4 p.m.
 Or by appointment



Providing website support

Membership Chairman's message

from David Bates

Dear SHS members,

We would like to convey our sincere thanks to those of you who responded so generously to our January 2016 membership letter. An impressive 35+% of current membership subscribers renewed, and many even increased their membership level for 2016. This money all goes into the general operating fund that keeps our museum and society running.

The Society and its Museum at the Creamery, to quote our bylaws, exists to "*conduct and encourage historical research and to collect, preserve and exhibit historical material...and ...operate as an educational resource for the public, a repository for its collections, and a place to present exhibits and educational programs.*"

Thank you again. And if you haven't yet renewed, we'd be very grateful if you did so as soon as possible. If you're receiving a print copy of the newsletter, and your label has 2014 as the date, your membership is overdue. Please renew so we can keep you on our membership list.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Photo album with Ansom Lapham's name embossed on leather cover; Willetts name written in pencil inside.

From 1800s

Skaneateles High School Marching Band cape

Aviation in Skaneateles by Beth Battle

Record book of the formation of the Lake View Cemetery Association, 1871. Transcribed by Jorge Battle

Restoration of 'City of Syracuse' model by Don Quant

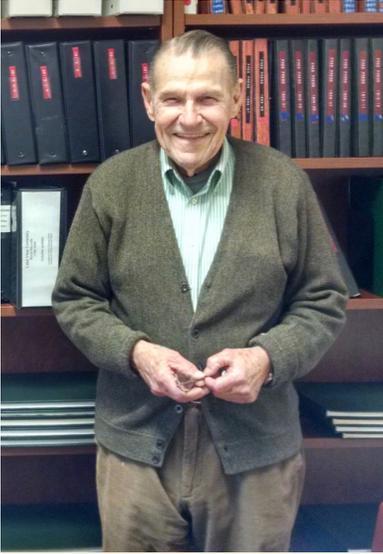
Outboard motor used on the lake during World War II

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

www.skaneateleshistoricalsociety.org
skaneateleshistoricalsociety@verizon.net

Active Volunteer Jim Dougherty Retires

by Barbara Spain



In 1990, after retiring from 40 years of work in the specialty steel industry in and near New York City, Jim Dougherty, a former Skaneateles resident, followed through on an opportunity to purchase his great grandparents' Skaneateles home. Later that year, he visited the Skaneateles Historical Society, then on the 2nd floor of Town Hall, and met Ted Prindle. This meeting was the beginning of a 25-year partnership of volunteering at the Society and making important records available to researchers of their homes, businesses, families, and other topics. When the Society moved to the Creamery, Jim and Ted were naturals in being appointed to co-chair the Archives and Research Department there.

When asked what he thinks has made the Skaneateles Historical Society's Archives and Research Department significant, Jim said he believes that cooperation between the Society and the Skaneateles Library and Auburn's Seymour Library was very important. He explained that in 2001, Dick Kokosa, President of the Skaneateles Library Association, suggested that costs associated with archival duplication of Skaneateles newspapers be shared by the two organizations. "We acquired sixty rolls of microfilmed newspapers, bringing us up to the year 2000," Jim said, adding that, if it had not been for former Skaneateles historian/author, E.N. Leslie, who saved early newspapers such as *The Columbian* and *The Skaneateles Free Press*, this information would not be available today. The cooperation received from the Seymour Library in use of their microfilm reader/printer, with our microfilmed Skaneateles newspapers being extracted and indexed by volunteers, were all important factors. Yet another factor was Tom Tryniski, who digitized newspaper microfilms that could then be searched. Today, Tryniski's FultonHistory.com site has over 200 different newspapers available for searching. Jim believes we were second in area Historical Societies with digitized, microfilmed newspapers.

"I am amazed at the volume of material saved by former historians but needing to be indexed and catalogued in order to be useful. Computer availability, assistance from Skaneateles and Seymour Libraries, and the many volunteers indexing such things as 1850-1940 Federal and State Censuses, all combined to make our Society one of the best around," according to Jim.

Of course, we all know that Jim Dougherty is one of those sincere, selfless volunteers who contributed a countless amount of time and effort toward making our Society, "one of the best around." A brick paver has been placed in the front walkway at the Creamery in Jim's honor.

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Roger L. Patrick



The garden area behind the museum has been designated a certified wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. This is a designation, not a restriction. Basically it means that a garden space has been created which provides natural food sources, clean water, cover and places to raise young. Our goal is to encourage birds and butterflies as we plant flowers native to the area. Please feel free to stop and visit this peaceful place.

Julie DiBagio

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FROM:
THE SKANEATELES HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
28 Hannum St
Skaneateles, NY 13152



Trolley tracks being laid on Genesee St., circa 1900. The public water fountain that was in the middle of the street, closer to Jordan St., was removed around the same time to make room for the tracks.