JANUARY PROGRAM:  
Alton Shader

Welch Allyn President and Hill-Rom Senior Vice President Alton Shader will be giving us an overview of how Hill-Rom, the company who bought Welch Allyn in 2015, views the future of Welch Allyn in Skaneateles.

Welch Allyn has been a major part of the Skaneateles community from its founding in 1915 by Dr. Francis Welch and William Noah Allyn. Many of us remember the success son William G. Allyn and his sons Bill and Lew brought to the company, which became our area’s major employer. More importantly, the company’s strong corporate culture grew out of W. G.’s favorite saying: “be always kind and true,” which fostered the wonderful support the Allyn Family have always given our community.

As the company grew and markets changed, it became clear that to ensure its future success an acquisition by a larger company with a wider global presence would be beneficial.

Alton and his family moved to Skaneateles in September of 2015, even as the acquisition was still underway, in order to enroll the children at the beginning of the school year.

Please join us on Tuesday, January 24 at 7:30 pm at The Museum at The Creamery to learn about the latest plans.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM
To be announced. Stay tuned for exciting details on our Tuesday, Feb. 28 program.
Historic Moment - Gasoline Stations
by Jorge Battle

Do you remember these national brands of gasoline? Shell, Esso, Atlantic, Texaco, Gulf, Mobil, Sunoco, Sinclair, American? All these national brands were available in the Village and Town of Skaneateles. In the 1940s and 50s there were approximately 12 gasoline service stations in and around the Village.

In the Village there was Bentley & Thomas, once called Bowen's Garage, at 7 Hannum Street. The building is still there, now known as Les Hunt's Garage. They sold Chrysler cars and Socony gasoline (Standard Oil Company of New York.)

Another was Trabold's at 28 Jordan Street. Trabold sold Sinclair and later Texaco gasoline. Before Trabold it was Barnett's Garage and they sold Sunoco products. Mr. Trabold was very opinionated and expressed himself without hesitation. For example, written on the side of his gas pump, referring to the price rise in May 1979 to 94.7 cents a gallon, “I don't like it any more than you. P.T.” And referring to the 'gasoline shortages' he states, “We Are Caught between The Government Asses Who Protect The Gas Company's Shady Brokers. They Won't Stop. Write your Congressman To Remove Scruoy Allocations.”

At the corner of Kane Avenue and West Genesee Street was Barnett's Genesee Garage which sold Sunoco products. It later became Grandy Motors who also sold Pontiac cars. That site was rebuilt for Vic D'Carlo's Shell station, and is now the site of the Fire Station.

At the corner of Fuller Street at 108 West Genesee Street was the Atlantic station operated by Arrain & Baker. In 1946 it was called Charley's Atlantic Service. This gas station site became a Mobil station operated by Petr-Al company. In October, 1990 a customer forgot to remove the hose from their vehicle and drove off. Not having today's breakaway hose and dispenser cut-off valving, a leak developed, mainly underground, contaminating the area as far north and east to the middle of Highland Street. It took years to clean up the mess. The building is gone, and the site is part of a development presently before the Planning Board.

Stott's Garage was in the heart of the Village at 18 West Genesee Street. This large 2 story block building sold Tydol gas and in the mid 60's sold American gasoline. They sold Dodge & Plymouth cars, and serviced used cars. There was a popular walk-up snack bar in front, extending out to the sidewalk. Large portions of this building were demolished in 1967 and it became the Bridge Market. Later it was again remodeled into Valentine's and other retail stores. The rear block portion is all that remains of the original structure.

Tallcot Milling Company, more popularly known as the Old Stone Mill, sold Agway branded gasoline and diesel fuel.

Out in the Town there were numerous gasoline stations. Just outside the Village on Route 20, was Frank Hudgin's Esso. That building is still there, painted brown, to be part of a development before the Planning Board.

Up on the west hill, on the south side of Route 20, was Benny's Rotary and Evan's Mobil. Both buildings are still in the vehicle sales & service business but not selling gasoline.

On the east side on Route 20, there was a Sunoco, station who had a gasoline spill in October of 1980. That building is still there.

An ad from 1946 shows Chapman's Garage selling cars and Esso gasoline. This is now Wirth's Garage.

Don Clark on Fennell Street sold gasoline at the office building site.

The present Skaneateles Falls Post Office building was a Sunoco gas station.

Roy Hollier had a Socony gas station on Onondaga Street at the corner of Highland Avenue. That building is still there.

Probably the County's smallest gas station was on West Lake Road near Greenfield Lane.

We had over a dozen gasoline stations serving Skaneateles. Now there are none in the Village and two on either side of the Village. On the west is the Quik Fill operated by United Refining Co. of Pennsylvania; they refine their own gasoline. On the east is the Byrne Dairy station. While Byrne has 54 stores, only 12 sell...
We’re now on Facebook!
Let us know what you’d like to see on our page! It’s under Skaneateles Historical Society.

BOARD MEMBERS: President, David Bates; V-P, Bill Stinson; Secretary, Mona Smalley; Corresponding Secretary, Karen Lengyel; Treasurer, Tessi Spearning; Town Historian, Beth Batlle; Village Historian, Jorge Batlle; 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
Jan-June, Fri-Sat, 1-4 p.m.
Or by appointment

Please note our closing policy
If Skaneatele Schools are closed on the Tuesday of our monthly program meeting, the program will be cancelled.
If schools are closed on a Friday, the museum and gift shop will be closed.

From the January 29, 1874 issue of the Democrat newspaper in Skaneateles: In 1865, John Dunn sent a letter to his son Thomas, then a seaman on board a sailing vessel, to London, England. It was not picked up, so the letter was mailed to Liverpool, England, where it still missed its intended recipient. It then went to New York, where it remained until it was sent to the Return Letter office in Washington. It was finally returned to John Dunn in 1874, nine years after he sent it.

Our thanks to Beth Battle for finding this gem.

Recent Acquisitions
Collection of papers from Lambert Weeks related to his polio and recuperation at Warm Springs, GA with Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s (see article on p. 4 for more information)
Liberator Vacuum Cleaner, manufactures by Flannigan Industries in Skaneateles
Wikstrom farm photos
Skaneateles Railroad and Auburn-Syracuse Electric Railroad collection
Framed photo of St James Church, circa 1910

AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM
Do you shop at Amazon? If so, they have started a new 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:

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and shop as usual. No cost to you, a benefit to us--what a great deal! Give it a try!
Lambert Weeks was born in Auburn in 1889 and moved to Skaneateles with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. C. Albert Weeks, when he was a boy. He worked in the family’s paper mill for a time, won the Skaneatele Country Club Golf Championship in 1926, and then contracted polio, or infantile paralysis, in 1927. The treatment for polio was just developing, and there was a facility in Warm Springs, Georgia, that Franklin D. Roosevelt had heard of and visited after he was diagnosed with polio. After FDR’s own improvement from bathing in the warm water ponds, he helped develop the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, a non-profit foundation that offered people the use of its facilities to receive treatment. Lambert Weeks also went to Warm Springs and, as seen in the note above right from FDR, Weeks was considered the first “graduate” of Warm Springs; in other words, he was cured far beyond most peoples’ expectations. He eventually was able to walk without even a cane.

The article above left is from The Polio Chronicle, published by the National Patient’s Committee which Weeks remained very involved in. He helped the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation raise money to improve the facilities, and maintained his friendship with FDR, even being invited to his inauguration as President in 1933. In 1934, Weeks married Blanche Horsington and lived in Skaneateles until his death in 1944 at the age of 55.
Queen Victoria visited the Skaneateles Historical Society’s castle on December 11. The year was 1842. The purpose of this gathering was for the Queen to educate her subjects on the history and proper etiquette when hosting a tea. In attendance were many leading citizens from Skaneateles & surrounding castles. Three generations were present to meet the Queen, who was accompanied by her daughter Princess Victoria.

Having a Tea at one’s castle means you must follow proper etiquette. This of course varies depending if you are having a high tea, a low tea, or a sweet tea. The time of day of the tea will have a bearing and determine what tea you are having and what is to be served.

The Queen’s staff, consisting of Micky Bangs, Tessi Spearing, Sue Spalding, and Lisa Riordan, spent weeks in preparation for this occasion. Various parties and scones were prepared. With scones you must have clotted cream, and it requires 20 hours to transform cream to the clotted cream that is required for a perfect scone. The clotted cream and tea was prepared by Lisa Riordan. Mrs. Riordan was emphatic that the water for the tea must be boiling, not just hot. This is the proper way to make tea.

The tables were set to a Queen’s liking. The silverware formerly belonged to Tessi Spearing’s grandparents, thus almost dating back to the Queen’s reign. Fine bone china tea cups & saucers, silver tea pots, and three-tier serving dishes for holding pastries were on each table. Centerpieces were created by Lisa Leubner.

Knowing the proper etiquette is essential if you are to have a proper Tea. For example, you must know how to stir your tea. The spoon is to be held thusly and it is never to touch the side of the cup. In fact, you do not stir your tea, you fold it.

Following the presentation young William Lynn wanted to know why the Queen was not wearing a crown. The reason is because when the Queen is outside the Castle in the winter, she must wear a hat to keep her head warm.

The Historical Society would like to thank Dan Bangs for all the time he spent coordinating this festive event. Dick Whalen
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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From the *Democrat*, January 22, 1874: The Methodist Society has ordered a bell of heavier weight. The one they had recently hung is a very fine toned one, but is keyed nearly the same as those of the Baptist and Presbyterian churches (which both were in the key of G,) so they returned the bell to the factory.

Then, on March 5, 1874: The new methodist church bell is in position in the tower. It weighs, with its trimmings, 2,350 pounds. The bell is several hundred weight heavier than any in town. It is of excellent tone; the key is F#. Again, thanks to Beth Battle.
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A great ad from the Skaneateles Free Press, March 23, 1901

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