The Museum at The Creamery

THE SKANEATELES HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

No. - Dec. 2017    Vol. 32, No. 6    Alexandra (Sasha) Farrell, Editor

Museum Hours: Friday & Saturday 1 - 4
Sunday during the holidays and anytime by appointment
Group Tours available upon request, Research Assistance available Fridays

January 2018 Monthly Program
Tuesday 1/23 @ 7:30

Our Community Museum: A History of The Creamery

In September of 1989 the Village Board was offered what was called by some "the most derelict building in the Village." This was the long vacant, run-down gray building at the corner of Kelley Street and Hannum Street. Inside was an assortment of junk, tires, trash, and critters.

Looking for a new home after being told by the Town that their space on the second floor of Town Hall was needed for expanded Town operations, The Skaneateles Historical Society, took on a massive project with the help of its community. The Town and Village departments, a very successful fund raising campaign and the in-kind donations of many local businesses and residents helped to create a very special place.

Our upcoming program presents this project, from start to finish, over the course of 3 years. The new building was state-of-the art, with zoned in-floor heating, museum grade windows, movable display panels, and a top grade research department.

It is now one of the jewels in Skaneateles' community crown.

Disaster Relief Efforts:

With natural disasters hitting much of the world, historical societies have been no less affected. This Fall, the Inlet Historical Society, of our neighboring Adirondacks took up a fund for the Heritage Society in Houston Texas. Flooding in Texas has caused damage to their permanent collection and historical sites.

The Skaneateles Historical Society has picked up the baton and have collected $200 thus far - if you would like to support this cause we welcome your contribution; please note “Flood Relief” with your donation. The Collection will be sent out in January of 2018.

http://www.heritagesociety.org/about-ths/
A Message from our Museum Director:

As we wrap up 2017 it feels great to think about all the Museum has accomplished this year:

- New board members and fond farewells to retiring members
- Fond farewells to Laurie Winship, our Museum Director
- A new searchable Newspaper database
- A Successful “Holidays at The Creamery” event series
- A Wonderful Historic House Tour over the summer
- A dozen or more group tours
- Countless visitors and researchers
- Exploring the next step with a new Director and expanding volunteer base
- Many donations to our collection from postcards to photographs to tea sets
- The First half of our 25th Anniversary Celebration, kicked off with a Membership gathering
- A completed Museum Assessment Program with the American Alliance of Museums
- A public input session where our community gathered and shared in envisioning next steps for the Museum

We certainly have a lot to celebrate this holiday season and I would like to thank everyone who has supported us during 2017! Have you made your contribution to The Shamrocks Historical Society Museum at The Creamery this year? We are about 2/3 of the way to our fundraising goal of $25,000 for our 25th year. We ask that you show your appreciation of our community museum by sending in your donation this holiday season. Have you considered volunteering with us but just haven’t picked up the phone or sent that email? Make this new year your excuse to take action now! We would love to have you.

Thank you all; Happy Holidays and I hope to see you soon!

~ Sinha

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We have 32 people who have selected us as their donor benefit;
Help us reach 50 by the end of the year!
This Fall we lost a dear member of our community, wonderful researcher and cherished volunteer - Jim Dougherty. He will be missed and thank him for his years of dedication to the Skaneateles Historical Society. In his memory, we are re-printing an article written last year for his retirement.

A number of our members have sent in donations in his honor and we welcome you to do the same. Please note “Dougherty Memorial Fund” with your contribution. As Jim spent countless hours in our Research room, we will put good use to this memorial fund by making improvements to this area of the museum.

Active Volunteer Jim Dougherty Retires by Barbara Spain, Re-printed from Spring 2016

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.
SHS NEWSLETTER

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& 
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