Welcome Nina Farrell to The Creamery Family!

Our Director Alexandra (Sasha) Farrell gave birth to baby Nina just before the Easter weekend. She weighed 6 lbs 8 oz and, as you can see, she came with a full head of black hair. Mom and baby are doing just fine and we hope to see Sasha back at the Museum soon; but not before Mother and Daughter have enjoyed quality time together.

Museum Hours: Friday & Saturday 1 - 4
Group Tours available upon request, Research Assistance available Fridays

At the Movies 1950

Kihm Winship, to whom we owe thanks for a copy of this ad, wonders why the classic Asphalt Jungle would be second billed to Skipper Surprised His Wife at the Colonial theater, then located in Legg Hall in the Village.

Weekend? Check in with us on facebook or give the museum a call.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Skaneateles-Historical-Society-113458938688602/posts/?ref=page_internal

Courtesy Kihm Winship from kihm6.wordpress.com
A Message from our Museum Director:

A big hello to all our Members,

I hope you have been staying warm and cozy this winter/spring and enjoying our days of sunshine as they come. We kicked off our year with a fantastic program which shared the story of The Museum at the Creamery's renovations 25 years ago. Then we enjoyed art and poetry created right here in Skaneateles, which we followed up with a glimpse into the Civil War. We then learned about an eccentric early settler, James Sackett. Each month I have had the joy of learning a little more about this dynamic area; we are lucky to have so many people willing to share their passions related to this wonderful town and village we call Skaneateles. I hope you will join us for one of our upcoming programs!

We also had our 2018 Membership drive and I would like to say thank you to all of you who have chosen to become members or have chosen to continue to be a part of the Historical Society and our mission. We expanded our membership opportunities to include families and businesses, and I am happy to report that many of you chose to take advantage of this. OUR family is growing! If you have a friends you think might like to join in the fun, tell them about us!

All of us here at the Museum are excited to share a variety of new exhibits and gift shop items with you, including a special Lightning exhibit in honor of the upcoming 80th Anniversary Regatta.

Thank you all for your continued support; I hope to see you soon!

~ Sasha

AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that they will donate a percentage of all eligible sales to a charity of your choice?!

All you have to do is go to: www.smile.amazon.com
No cost to you, a benefit to us--what a great deal!!

12 Members have made eligible purchases already this month! Thank you!
The blue-green algae bloom on our lake last year has made our community aware of the importance of making every effort to help maintain the healthy balance of nutrients in the lake water.

Please join us as we hear about the important work the Finger Lakes Land Trust in these critical times.

Monthly Program:
Tues. May 22 at 7:30
“Land and Water Conservation in the age of Toxic Algae”
a talk given by Andy Zepp

The Finger Lakes Land Trust’s Executive Director, Andrew Zepp, will present the organization’s regional conservation agenda along with information on specific steps the organization is taking to address the threat of toxic algae. Details on recent and proposed conservation projects within the Skaneateles Lake Watershed and the eastern Finger Lakes will also be shared.

The Land Trust was established in 1989 and it has worked cooperatively with landowners and local communities to conserve more than 21,000 acres of the region’s undeveloped shoreline, rugged gorges, majestic forest, and scenic farmland.
For the past 60 years Skaneateles Country Club and Lightning Fleet #1 has been the host of this outstanding event. Every ten years, Lightning sailors from around the world find their way back to the birthplace of the Lightning Class Sailboat, to celebrate this truly unique one design boat and its community. Activities begin with registration on Fri. July 6th with racing and social activities on the 6th, 7th and 8th. Volunteers need to email vanessadyates@gmail.com.

The Creamery Museum will hold an Open House with refreshments on Friday July 6th from 6:00 to 8:00 for sailors to pay homage to Lightning #1 on display in the Boat Museum.

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Several years ago Julie DiBagio decided the neglected garden areas surrounding the Creamery needed some TLC. She recruited retired professional gardener Colleen Plimpton and together with volunteer Sue Warburton they set about creating an organic garden emphasizing native plants and those which provide food and shelter for birds, amphibians, butterflies and other wildlife. Challenges include a steep streamside back slope, poor gravelly soil, and depredation by beavers. Each year Julie, Colleen and Sue plan, plant, and maintain the flower and shrub-filled space through spring, summer and autumn. They were honored two years ago when the Creamery garden was certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife Habitat site.

Plantings include shrubs: lilac, dogwood, PJM rhododendron and buddleia; annuals: geranium, petunia, marigold and fibrous begonia; perennials: Shasta daisy, Black-eyed Susan, daylily, obedient plant, Rose of Sharon, iris, bleeding heart, chives, hosta, and aster.

The garden is a labor of love, and the gardeners would love to have you visit!!
Two hundred years ago David Hall Sr., his wife Molly and five sons, David, Seth, James, Ralph and William, relocated from New England to Skaneateles between 1806 and 1820. At that time there was no village. Skaneateles was a part of the Township of Marcellus and the foot of the lake was swamp land. They decided to move “uphill” and built homes on Onondaga St...#24, #26, and #28.

The Halls were industrious and left their marks that still exist today. David Jr. shared his skills and expertise of carpentry. He was responsible for the building of the Presbyterian and the Methodist Churches which he personally funded, hence the name “Deacon David.” He was also a land owner. His holdings were so extensive at the south end of the lake the area was called Hallsburg. He was responsible for the building of the house that became the Glen Haven Water Cure. Together with his brother Seth he owned the Indian Queen Hotel at the corner of East Genesee and Jordan Streets.

Seth and James, known as Captain James after serving in the New York State Militia, ran a very successful carriage and sleigh manufacturing factory with three locations on Genesee, Onondaga and Jordan Streets. The latter site still exists and is the location of Moro’s Kitchen. The Hall families were large, leaving many descendants and of course as in all families there were many stories. A most interesting story surrounds one of Ralph’s sons, David II. David was born in 1820. In the 1850 census he was listed as a clerk and head of the household with his wife Mary and two young sons, Thomas and John. On Christmas Day in 1855 he left to search for gold in Australia. He wrote letters home describing his adventures and hardships. The last letter sent to his family was in 1855. He was never heard from again. This remained a mystery until, through some serendipitous circumstances, in 1996 his remains were found in a common grave in Heathcote, Australia. A plaque marks this site. He had died in 1889. His wife Mary was a paid companion to Eliza Jewett Marvin, living in the Freeborn Jewett mansion from 1852 until her death in 1880.

We will be pleased to welcome descendants of the Hall family on June 16th to the Museum where they can view artifacts and share memories of this well-known family.
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The Society, through the efforts of many dedicated volunteers, has created and collected extensive archives for historical and genealogical research: an amazing resource which serves the community and visitors alike.

This space is where we will try to tell a success story each issue.

Researchers are available every Friday from 1 - 4 PM

FROM BETH BATLLE, Town Historian;

One Friday, working in the Research area, I overheard a woman lamenting that her school wasn't in our Rural School Book. I approached her and asked for the name of her school. She replied, “Mudcoe.”

This wood-frame school house, established in 1845, was located on the southwest corner of County Line Road and Miller Road, at the intersection with Sheldon Road.

I flipped some pages and said, “Here it is.” She touched the page with her hand and said, “But my teacher isn't here.” I turned the page over. Now she was really excited because there in the middle of the class photo was her teacher. Her companion inquired as to why the school was called Mudcoe.

One day, I explained, it had rained particularly hard the night before and two girls were gingerly making their way along the side of the road. Eying a formidable mud hole, the leader remarked, "I declare, I never saw so much mud in my life. They call our neighbor Pantico; this school should be named Mudcoe for there is nothing but mud in all four roads that lead to it."

Her companion, following behind with lifted skirt in one hand and books in the other, agreed. "Mudcoe it shall be then," she said. The name apparently appealed to the other youngsters in the school and the school is still referred to by that name today. Eventually the school was closed and today it is a private residence.

This is what we do in the research area – connect people with their past.
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Museum Director:
Alexandra (Sasha) Farrell

Don’t forget to “Like” us on Facebook for regular updates!