A Message to the Membership from Doug Hamlin, President

Greetings! It is my humble honor to be writing as the new President of the Skaneateles Historical Society. While I will never know as much about our history as the collective brain trust of our members, I look forward to learning from each of you, and I believe I can bring new energy and perspective to a unique and dedicated operation.

First, I need to take a moment to thank David Bates for his tireless effort over these past six years as our president. Dave has set for me (and all of us) a great example to follow.

My interest in Skaneateles history stems primarily from my mother and her brother who grew up on West Genesee Street. My childhood was filled with trips here from Binghamton and Albany to visit grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. My great-grandfather Oscar Fisher and his wife Hattie had a small farm on County Line Road. They had five kids, a boy and four girls. The girls all had careers as teachers, telephone operators and secretaries. The boy, Joe (my grandfather), began working at the post office at the age of sixteen. He soon was assigned the coveted RD #1 route, which encompassed West Lake Road, up to Old Salt Road, over to Benson and everything in between. Joe delivered mail on that route for 44 years, from 1916-1960.

My mother Mary Jane (class of '52) and my uncle Jim Fisher (class of '53) have the fondest memories of growing up here. It was in many ways similar to today, but possibly at a slower pace. Mom moved (Continued on Page 5)

The Archives and Collection of the Skaneateles Historical Society includes thousands of photographs, postcards, letters, scrapbooks and newspaper articles chronicling summers gone by on the Skaneateles Lake. This exquisite photo of Willowbank Boathouse is just one example. We hope our readers are creating and documenting their own treasured summer memories this year.
From the Director’s Office:

Six months have gone by since I started my tenure as the Museum Director for the Skaneateles Historical Society at the Creamery. I have made dozens of new friends, learned a tremendous amount about the history of this very special community, and participated in programs and events that were enriching, enlightening and entertaining. Like many folks in the greater Skaneateles area, I had not been an active, nor paid member before. As an avowed museum person, I am somewhat ashamed to admit that! When I was asked why not during my interview (and although I answered them truthfully, they hired me anyway, for which I am so grateful), my answer was “because I didn’t think you needed me.” As I’ve written before, I have been a very active volunteer since we moved to Skaneateles sixteen years ago, but mostly in activities that my children were involved in. We made the obligatory visit to the Creamery with school classes and Scouts and when we had company. But I wasn’t a regular. Or a supporter financially. Like many folks, I thought the SHS had a comfortable endowment. Which I now know it does not. Membership dues, special donations, and the Annual Fund Drive supply the funds that run and maintain the facility. One of my tasks in my new role is to spread the word about what we do here. And encourage people to support us. By visiting. Attending programs and events. Donating. Whether it be their time as a volunteer, items for the collection and archives, and/or financially. It’s an easy task for me to do, because I believe in it so strongly. Please stop in anytime, and I’ll share why. And thank you in advance for considering joining me in celebrating and helping to support our unique community treasure. It’s never too late.

Warm Regards, Geralyn Huba

The Skaneateles Historical Society’s fiscal year is July 1st - June 30th. The new Board of Directors & Board Officers for the 2019-2020 year are listed below. Our heartfelt thanks to them for their commitment to our organization.

**Board of Directors:**
- President - Doug Hamlin
- V.P. - Karen Lewis
- Recording Secy - Scott Hauver
- Corresponding Secy - Julie DiBagio
- Treasurer - Tessi Spearing
- Town Historian - Beth Batlle
- Village Historian - Jorge Batlle
- Kate Cooper - Director at Large
- Betsy Foote - Director at Large
- Dave Miller - Director at Large
- Barb Patrick - Director at Large

**Past President** - David Bates

**Gift Shop:**
- Barbara Patrick

**Artifacts:**
- Susan Spalding

**Docent Coordinator:**
- Julie DiBagio

**Research:**
- Ted Prindle, Barb Spain,
- Judy Bragg, Sally Holben

**Museum Director:**
- Geralyn Huba

28 Hannum St, Skaneateles, NY 13152
315.685.1360
[www.skaneateleshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.skaneateleshistoricalsociety.org)
[skaneateleshistoricalsociety@verizon.net](mailto:skaneateleshistoricalsociety@verizon.net)
July Program Night, 7/23/2019

Seeing Skaneateles lake life through the eyes of the Mailboat

**Guest Presenter Brian O. Ackles** will be discussing his fascinating career as the pilot of the Mail Boat, and share stories about his years delivering the mail by boat on Skaneateles Lake.

Brian was born in Syracuse, and lived in Skaneateles until he was five. He has spent every summer on Skaneateles Lake at the family camp in Borodino. After many years living in Illinois and Texas, he moved back to Borodino with his family in 1997 and began teaching vocal music for Homer Jr./Sr. High School. He is currently the Vocal Music teacher for Marcellus High School and Choir Director at the First Presbyterian Church of Skaneateles.

For the past twelve summers, Brian has worked at Midlakes Navigation. He began as a crew member in 2007, and a few years later completed his training to become a captain for the U.S. Mail Boat. In 2017 he received his Masters License, and now also pilots the Judge Ben Wiles.

Be sure to mark your calendar for July 23rd **at 7:30 PM** and join us for what we expect to be a delightful evening at the Creamery Museum.

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**BRAVO:** On June 25th the first Inter-Society Collaborative Program was held at the former Grange Hall in Borodino. The Spafford Area Historical Society, along with the Glen Haven Historical Society and the SHS, combined to co-host the event. Over 120 people gathered to hear SHS Board Member Dave Miller give a fascinating talk on Steamboats on Skaneateles Lake. Afterwards the SAHS volunteers served everyone varied and delicious refreshments. We are already gathering ideas for next summer’s topic! Many thanks to everyone involved in making this first-time event such a success ~
COMMITTEES OF THE SKANEATELES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The organization has fourteen standing committees, which assist the Board and Museum Director in the operations and maintenance of the Creamery, and serving the mission. Committee members may be either from the Board and/or from the general membership. If you are interested in learning more about this vital part of the museum operations, or in joining a committee, please contact the SHS office at 315-685-1360.

A. Acquisition and Collections Committee - This committee handles all of the paperwork and data entry on new acquisitions, and oversees the care of the permanent collection.
B. Archives and Research Committee - This committee is responsible for the supervision and use of the historical records and archives, and shall conduct and assist in historical research.
C. Exhibits Committee - This committee prepares and maintains rotating exhibits in the Museum and at the First National Gifts bank vault.
D. Finance Committee - This committee is chaired by the Treasurer and shall consist of the President, the Treasurer, a member from the Museum Operations Committee, the Museum Director, and a member from the general membership. The Finance Committee reviews and recommends the annual budget. The recommended budget is to be presented to the Board for review at the May meeting, and for approval at the June meeting.
E. Fund-Raising Committee - This committee will work with the President, the Finance and the LTP Committees, and the Museum Director, to plan, create and implement fund-raising goals.
F. Gift Shop Committee - This committee is responsible for the operation of the Gift Shop, including selection and purchase of items for sale, pricing of the items, inventories, displays and staffing of the shop. The Chairperson shall also be responsible for the maintenance of records of purchases, sales, and sales tax collection. This committee, with Board approval, may arrange for gift shop items to be sold at commercial outlets off-site.
G. Hospitality Committee - This committee ensures that light refreshments are served at each monthly Society program and at any other Society functions as needed.
H. Long-Term Planning Committee - This committee has been tasked with the planning of objectives for a 5 - 10 year period. This team will guide the continuing execution of the 2017 MAP report.
I. Marketing Committee - This committee will assist the Museum Director and other committees with promoting the mission, programs, events, and exhibits of the SHS.
J. Membership Committee - This committee is responsible for assisting the Museum Director in the annual membership renewal, and the new members drives. Responsibilities could include writing the appeal, collecting the dues, depositing of the funds, forwarding banking paperwork to the Treasurer, issuance of written ‘thank you’ letters, and maintenance of a current membership list and database. The committee will provide the Treasurer with a yearly record of dues collected.
K. Museum Operations Committee - This committee is responsible for the maintenance, repairs and renovations of the grounds and facility.
L. Nominating Committee - This committee, made up of the Executive Committee of the Board, will convene in April and seek nominations from the entire SHS membership after developing a slate for expiring positions. The Committee will present the new slate at the May Board meeting for consideration; the slate will then be voted on at the June meeting.
M. Programming Committee - This committee will be chaired by the Vice President and will work with the Museum Director to seek out speakers for the monthly programs, assist in handling the specific arrangements for each speaker, including the set up of AV equipment, etc., and write appropriate thank you letters.
N. Short-Term Planning - This committee has been tasked with assisting the Museum Director with the planning and execution of day to day operational activities on a rolling 6 month basis.
A Message to the Membership from Doug Hamlin, President
(continued from page 1)

away when she married Dad, but needed to find a way back to the water, so in 1978 they bought a cottage just north of Carpenters Point. That cottage became the center of the universe in the summer. It still is. Mom and Dad are gone now, but me, my sister and our spouses still proudly own that cottage.

A few years before we were lucky enough to retire early, my wife Pam and I would daydream about spending that retirement here on Skaneateles Lake. We decided that if the stars ever aligned, we’d take a shot at it. Well, they did, and in 2012 we bought some land in Mandana (just 4 miles from the cottage), spent a year designing our dream home, another year building it, and we moved here for good in August of 2013.

Finally, while my title may be President, I firmly believe this is a team sport. I am truly excited about working with Geralyn Huba. Her energy, knowledge, contacts and experience are exactly what we need right now. If you haven’t yet, stop in and introduce yourself, you’ll see what I mean. We have a dynamic and committed Board of Directors, each of whom gives freely of their time and talents to make our organization tick. And we have our members. It is you that make the Creamery and the research of our history what it is. There are a million ways to get involved, so don’t be shy about stepping up! (We won’t be shy about asking!).

All the Best, Doug

An Update on the Creekside Planting program by Julie DiBagio

The Plant Sale in May was a huge success. Many thanks to all who participated. Money from the sale will be used to continue garden work and our efforts to stabilize erosion of the bank along the creek behind the building. This work began in 2010 when local Eagle Scouts were looking for a community service project. Through their efforts, the area behind the museum was cleaned, a brick patio and walkway were installed, and a small garden established. In 2015 SHS members Colleen Plimpton, Sue Warburton and myself, all avid gardeners, continued work in this area. The area was again cleaned, native perennials planted and a side garden established. The Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Skaneateles Lake Association Watershed project are interested in providing assistance with stabilization of the creekside bank. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. The plant sale will be held again next year. Plants were shared from many gardens. Remember if it grows in our garden, it will grow in yours.
this month’s article is by Susan Spaulding,
Acquisitions Chair

What happens when you donate your cherished object, made in Skaneateles and given to you by your great aunt, to the Skaneateles Historical Society? Well, we at the Creamery Museum have a system to handle all donations.

First they are evaluated by our Museum Director and a committee of volunteers. What relation does it have to Skaneateles and do we have anything just like it already? Then it is sent to the Acquisitions Department. That is where the Acquisitions Chair takes over. Your item is given a number. This will include the year and the number of items we have received that year. Then properly tagged, the number and the item with a description is entered into a computer program which catalogs all the donations. After that three copies of a Gift Agreement are generated. The Society keeps one and two will be mailed to you along with a letter thanking you for your donation. You should then sign the Gift Agreement and return one copy. The Gift Agreements are kept in a notebook by year which provides a backup file for the computer.

But what happens to your donated object? It is given protection such as an archival box or envelope. If it is clothing, it is carefully packed in archival tissue. Fortunately we currently have a volunteer who is an expert on caring for and dating clothing. Then your object is carefully filed on shelves in our storage room. Its location is entered into the computer. When the Exhibits Committee needs an object such as yours, it will be located and put on display. The Acquisitions Chair works closely with the Exhibits Committee to be sure that we put anything relevant to the planned exhibit on display.

I am Susan Spaulding and I am the current Acquisitions Chair. I was trained years ago by Pat Blackler who gave untold number of volunteer hours to the Museum. We have over 5,000 artifacts carefully recorded and stored. We can locate any one of them at any time. We thank all of you for your contributions to our Museum.

Researchers are available every Friday from 1 - 4 PM

The Society, through the efforts of many dedicated volunteers, has created and collected extensive archives for historical and genealogical research; it’s an amazing resource which serves the community and visitors alike.

Our researchers, who include our Town & Village Historian along with other experienced volunteers, help a variety of visitors just like you! Members and non-members come in to research the history of their homes, their families, or other subjects of interest. Some are working on a personal project and many are completing projects for their work life. Plan a visit to our research room and start on your own path to your history!

Interested in some research but can't make it into the museum?
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FROM:
THE SKANEATELES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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