A message to the Membership
from Doug Hamlin, SHS President:
Greetings Everyone! Although we were theoretically “closed” during January and February, you would never know it. There were a number of tours by appointment, the usual research effort never slows down, and it gave Geralyn and our awesome volunteers a chance to clean almost every inch of the building. On top of that, the gift shop hit record sales in December! Normal hours {Friday and Saturday 1-4} begin again in March, as does our regular program series on every 4th Tuesday evening. See inside for more details. Our membership drive letters have been mailed, so please remember that none of the great work, programs and building maintenance can be done without your generous support. Also, don’t forget that you can easily donate online anytime. We all owe our ongoing thanks to Geralyn’s tireless efforts on promoting our great museum and efforts all over town. She (along with a small army of dedicated volunteers) is doing a fantastic job weaving us more tightly into the fabric of Skaneateles. Finally, on a personal note: I was sidelined with some health issues since just before Christmas, and I want to thank so many of you for your support and well wishes to both me and Pam. It really means a lot. I’m feeling much better and looking forward to a very busy spring!
Best to All, Doug
From the Director’s Office:

“Good Morning {afternoon, evening}, how may I help you?” is how one of the most charming men I ever met, Mr. Telmo Viteri, answered each and every phone call. He loved to talk to people, was genuinely interested in their lives and their stories. I think of him every time I answer the phone and try to convey that same welcoming sincerity. With emails and texts it’s a bit more challenging, but I had a fun exchange recently that made me smile and think of my dear friend. Nickie Marques, Librarian at the Skaneateles Library, emailed asking if we had phone books from a certain time period. I went into the archives room and located them, and emailed her back. She was thrilled as a gentleman was looking for the phone number from his residence - in the 1960’s! I found it, sent it to her, and we were both happy that our systems worked, and that we were able to assist this person. That’s what we do here at the Skaneateles Historical Society, each and every day. Answer questions about Skaneateles history, genealogy, homes, industry. Please contact us if you have any, and we will be happy to help. Mr. Viteri would be pleased. Warm Regards, Geralyn Huba

The SHS 2020 Membership Drive is Underway

The SHS counts on the support of our membership to fulfill our mission. That support matters even more today as we embark on our Strategic Plan. Please renew at the level you are most comfortable with. A membership also makes a wonderful gift to a family member or new community member. When renewing, please also let us know if you would prefer to receive our newsletter and any communications via mail or email. Thank you~
Calendar News:

After an extremely busy few months of tours and research assistance being provided by appointment only, our regular hours of operation will be resuming in March. For both March and April we will be open for guided tours with trained docents Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Research assistance with our incredible team of trained researchers will be available Fridays from 1:00 - 4:00, or by appointment. The SHS Gift Shop will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 - 4:00 also, or again by appointment. The Board of Directors is reviewing the feasibility of expanding our hours for the busier spring and summer seasons, so stay tuned for more information about that exciting possibility. *The Past Is Here*, we hope you will plan a visit with us soon.

**PROGRAM NIGHTS RESUME!**

Returning to the 4th Tuesday of each month, **now starting at 7:00 p.m.**, we will begin on **Tuesday, March 24th** with **Guest Speaker Colleen Plimpton** who will present a talk entitled: *The Woman’s Club Movement 1890-1920.* “By 1890 women in America were feeling their oats. Since the Industrial Revolution society had been changing rapidly, allowing women more opportunities, and they were increasingly interested in social reform, including temperance, suffrage, prison reform and education. For the first time in history women, including Skaneateles women, formed clubs to address these issues in a powerful, unique manner.” Colleen is a retired lecturer, active gardener and tutor who revels in the stories of the past. She lives in Skaneateles with her boyfriend, a granddaughter, two cats and a bird.

On **Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00 p.m.** **Ed Evans** will be giving a fascinating talk on **Franklin Cars.** The Franklin Automobile Company was a marketer of automobiles in the United States between 1902 and 1934 in Syracuse, New York. Highlights of Ed’s talk will include the beginnings of his interest in the cars, his personal collection, and a history of the Franklin Cars unique place in Upstate New York history.

As always, our Program Nights are free to the public, and light refreshments will be served after a Q & A period. We hope you will join us for these enriching evenings.
NEW DISPLAY - COMMODORE STAGG & FAMILY

Howard J. Stagg IV, now living in Sacramento, came to us with the idea of honoring his grandfather Howard J. Stagg Jr. and his family for their enthusiastic support of sailboating on Skaneateles Lake. Howard remembers the good times the entire family had at their grandparents’ cottage on East Lake Rd. where sailing was a big part of everyone’s growing up.

Howard Stagg Jr. was a leading metallurgist in the tool steel and exotic alloy industry, eventually becoming Assistant General Manager at Halcomb/Crucible Steel in Syracuse. In 1925 he and his wife Aleda built a cottage on one of the Shotwell plots near Shotwell Brook where each of their five children spent summers on the Lake. Mr. Stagg eventually became Commodore of the newly formed Skaneateles Sailing Club which held competitive regattas nearly every weekend on Skaneateles and other lakes nearby.

The Stagg Family Display is located up on the mezzanine near the display for the Laura, a famous Skaneateles sailboat, which was included in many of the regattas along with the Stagg family Mower, Comets, various cat-boats and home-built boats.

Some of the display elements are shown below:

With a generous donation to the Creamery, Howard J. Stagg IV was able to honor his family pictured above: Sedge, Howie, Jere, David and Billie with Howard Jr. and Aleda, c. 1960’s. Howie is HJS III (HJS IV’s father) and Billie Kresge is his Aunt, who still summers at the Cottage on E. Lake Rd.
Horse Watering Trough

A few years ago, former Skaneateles Fire Chief Jim Buff noticed this old stone watering trough up on the DPW grounds and thought it needed to be rescued. So he took it home on Buff’s Bluff where it became a flower bed at his son Andy’s house. A few years later he thought the Creamery Museum would be a better home for the trough; thus began the great “Trough Caper”. Jim mentioned it to Beth Batlle and Dave Miller and we asked (now deceased, but well remembered) Don Trabold to volunteer his tow truck and services.

Dave and Don went to Andy Buff’s house to pick up the trough but Jim had forgotten to alert his son Andy that the trough was to be moved. There was talk of “trough theft” for a few seconds before we were able to pick up the rather heavy stone, using chains and the wrecker boom, and install it in front of the Creamery between the sidewalk and the old milk dock.

The trough can be seen below in its original location on Jordan St. near Riddler’s/Herb’s/Local Branch. The date 1901 can barely be seen engraved on the front of the trough.
Many people over the past five plus decades have donated to the collection of the Skaneateles Historical Society. Just a few years ago, the SHS might receive one or two items per month for consideration for inclusion into the collection. Whether it be an object, photograph, paper artifact or piece of art, the process is the same. A team of dedicated and experienced volunteers review each potential donation. They research the history, confirm the provenance (prior ownership), determine its category and if it’s a duplicate or not of an artifact already in the collection, and once approved for addition, assign it an accession number and storage place. In the past year the number of potential items for consideration has grown to 3 - 4 PER WEEK! We are so grateful that we are known as the appropriate repository for items of a historical nature related to the history of Skaneateles. With the incredibly generous memorial gift donations that have come in memory of Pat Blackler, we will be able to reorganize the collections spaces in the northwest and northeast attics to accommodate the increases. Work is underway, updates will be provided, and a grand unveiling of the space will be held upon completion. If you are interested in contributing to this very important part of our mission, please contact us for more information.

**Mystery Photo:**
This edition’s mystery photo was included in the Thorne Family subject file in our archives; on the back is written “Oct 1890”. Any assistance with identifying these charming ladies would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the office @ 315-685-1360 or email skaneateleshistoricalsociety@verizon.net. To inquire about getting help identifying your own mystery photos, call or email, or stop by with them!
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MARCH-APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER
Vol. 34, No. 2

Lightning Ice Sculpture In the Water Trough