



THE SKANEATELES HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

skaneateleshistoricalsociety.org

Sally Holben, Editor

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EARLY POST AND BEAM FARMS OF THE FINGER LAKES

At the Society's May meeting, Rich Haven of Fayette (Seneca County) will present a program on early post and beam barns and how they were constructed. He will display hand hewn timbers and the tools used by the master craftsmen to construct these barns, and we will see how the post and beam barns of the 1800s were shaped and raised. Join us for the program on Sunday, May 31, at 2 at the Creamery.

JUNE 23 MEETING: VOTING AND TOUR OF THE ICE HOUSE

On June 23, the Society will hold its annual meeting, at which we will get to vote for Board members (see article on page 4). We will also have a chance to tour the recently completed ice house addition on the creekside of the Creamery. Both the exterior and the interior of the addition should be finished; we are waiting for Senator Barclay's grant to arrive, so we can furnish the room with necessary shelving, tables, etc. Please come for these two exciting events on the 23rd, at 7:30.

The purpose of the Skaneateles Historical Society is to conduct and encourage historical research and to collect, preserve, and exhibit historical material in connection with the Town of Skaneateles.

GREGORY AND HENRY MEMORIALS

In the past several weeks, the Society has been honored to receive substantial donations in memory of two long-time Skaneateles residents, Helen Stott Gregory and Dr. John Henry. ~~Both Mrs. Gregory and Dr. Henry were valued and admired members of the community. The Society is grateful both to the Gregory and Henry families for selecting it as a recipient of donations and to the donors themselves.~~

EXPANSION UPDATE

As anyone driving past the Creamery has noticed, the exterior of the additions is being completed: The siding, the windows, and doors are mostly in place. The new covered entrance to the connecting building and the replacement exit from the Creamery on the creekside are finished. We expect that the brick walls of the boat museum will be painted and the ice house addition will be ready soon. The completion of the interiors and the creekside landscaping will have to be on hold until we receive more money. So come to the fund-raiser!

PAINTERS?

As the ice house nears completion, we will need volunteers to paint its interior. A couple of people have already offered their services, but we could use more. The expected time is about the middle of June. If you can help, please call the Creamery (685-1360).

THANK YOU, THANK YOU Karlene Miller, President

The Skaneateles Historical Society's Board of Directors and the Steering Committee for the museum expansion would like to express our sincere appreciation to several people who have done pro bono work for our Expansion Project. Architect Robert O. Eggleston has done all the architectural planning and design and has put in countless hours at construction and other meetings. The community owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude. A million thanks, Bob!

Attorneys Peter Elliott and Richard Lynch have provided legal services. Salvins Strods, a landscape architect, has helped us with methods for stabilizing the creek bank. M. Hubbard Construction provided a crane and operator for roof work on the boiler plant and the connector building. We are extremely grateful to these people for their expertise and for their generous contributions to this valuable community project.

"SAILING THROUGH HISTORY" Ros Schwartz, fund-raiser co-chair

On Saturday, June 13, at the Skaneateles Country Club the Society will hold a fund-raiser, Sailing through History, to benefit the museum expansion. This event will cost \$75 per person and will start at 6 pm. From then until about 8:30, there will be an open bar, passed appetizers and 2 food stations. There will be historical displays, a silent auction, a live auction, and an interesting addition to the auctions: Take a chance on "What's in Your Box?" with a limited sale of \$50 chance tickets to pick a box that will contain an item or items valued at \$50 or more. Coffee and cookies will complete this bountiful feast. The Barrigar Brothers and Harvyn Tarkmeel will present musical interludes.

Mark your calendars now, for June 13, at 6 pm at the Skaneateles Country Club, for a splashy nautical event. Let's make remarkable waves to push this expansion forward and to the finish line. As you know, the additions will expand space for the showcasing of boats that had a history in Skaneateles. It will also provide additional room in the Creamery for archives and research and for displaying artifacts now in the Creamery. This museum expansion will provide a more complete experience of Skaneateles's history for the community and visitors alike. The support of you and your friends is very important. Let's make it happen!

For additional information, call Joan Thomsen (685-2325) or Rosalind Schwartz (685-3394).

SUMMER HOURS AT THE CREAMERY

The Creamery is now open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1 to 4. Research assistance is available on Fridays, or by appointment. The Gift Shop will also be open those days and hours, or you can check out our web site that lists some of our gift items.

EXPANSION DEEMED DUCKY

At least one neighbor of the Creamery has made it very clear that she completely approves of the museum expansion. Mrs. Mallard, a long-time waterfront resident, negotiated an arrangement with the construction workers to move into the connector building. Once there, she immediately started on a family. The workers have been very solicitous of her privacy and safety, providing music to calm and cheer her as well as a protected home. At the moment she is expecting the arrival of nine offspring. We all wish her the best and are grateful for her acceptance of and seal of approval on the expansion.

FUNERAL HOMES AND UNDERTAKERS Laurie Winship, Creamery Director

For a small village, Skaneateles has had a surprisingly large number of funeral homes and undertakers. We have discovered references to 20 so far, and are still looking.

The earliest record we have is in 1872 for W.H.H. Crosier on Genesee Street, "Dealer in Cabinet Ware, Parlor and Chamber Suits, Burial Caskets, and Coffins." By 1882 he had added upholstery to his services. Combining furniture sales and undertaking was not uncommon: F.A. Sinclair did undertaking in addition to running his chair factory and furniture store in 1883.

Businesses often merged or passed from one partner to another.

Others we have references to include

Horace Prentice, 1881-1884? Sold to Hall & Stackus

Hall & Stackus, 1884-1930--became Hall, Poole & Dell

Cole & Meagher, Furniture and Undertaking, 1896-1902

Waterbury Upholstery and Undertaking, 1898

Meagher, 1910-1940?

Bernie O'Neil & Son, 1929-1975?

Hall, Poole & Dell, 1930-1939

O'Neil & Redman, 1930-1931?

Fitzgerald, 1933-1951

Redman, 1934-1937?

Hall & Poole, 1939-1952

Dell, 1950-1968

Poole, 1952-1963?

Bush, 1972-2000; run by John Wilson, 1977-1978

Bertini & O'Neil, 1975-1995?

Robert Gray, 1976-present

Among the artifacts the Historical Society has from various funeral directors are a folding chair from Hall & Stackus that was taken to homes where funerals were held, a wooden thermometer and a yardstick from Meagher that were used as promotional materials, and bottles of smelling salts from Fitzgerald Funeral Home.

If anyone has additional names of funeral directors or artifacts from funeral homes, please let the Society know.

JUNE ELECTION

At the June meeting, members will be asked to vote on the following slate: Karlene Miller, President; Barbara Patrick and Jeff Havemeyer, Board member (there are two openings). If you would like to nominate someone for any of these positions, you may do so from the floor at the June meeting.

Many thanks to our outgoing Board members, Margaret Chase and Ken Wooster. We very much appreciate their hours of hard and varied work.

THE FIRST SKANEATELES CREAMERY

"The Skaneateles Creamery Company...closed a contract...for a complete working outfit. Plans for the building are under consideration....It is proposed to erect a tasty building."
Skaneateles Free Press March 10, 1899

"The Skaneateles Creamery Company has a model plant, both as a building and outfit....The building is eligibly located....The boiler and engine room is 28 x 18 feet....The boiler is bricked in, and a substantial brick chimney is built just outside the south end of the room....The location of the plant is such that no odor or contamination can exist. The building is isolated on all sides, yet it is central and of easy access from three roads." Skaneateles Free Press May 23, 1899

"...The creamery and skimming station, in round numbers, had received 2,400,000 pounds, or 1,200 tons of milk, during 1900, and had made about 120,000 pounds, or sixty tons, of butter, the sale of which brought \$24,000. Besides allowing \$500 for wear and tear of plant and equipment, and paying a 6 per cent dividend, the earnings of the creamery show a surplus."
Skaneateles Free Press January 1, 1901

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES -- ONLY \$10 PER PERSON PER YEAR!

As in any organization, it is important that the Skaneateles Historical Society maintain a current and active membership. Help us increase our membership by signing up your friends, neighbors, and family members for the year 2009 and beyond, at only \$10 per person per year. Don't forget that membership means a 10% discount at the Society Gift Shop.

Memberships @ \$10 each	\$	_____
Small Jobs Fund donation (for jobs volunteers can't do)	\$	_____
TOTAL	\$	_____

Please make your check payable to Skaneateles Historical Society and mail to our Membership Chair: David Bates 5623 Mack Road Skaneateles NY 13152.
Thank you very much!