

TOWN RESIDENTS FORM TO DRIVE MASONIC HALL RESTORATION

A group of Clinton residents have formed to provide a direction for the restoration, maintenance, and use of the Warren Lodge Masonic Hall in Schultzville. They have met twice at the Hall to discuss needs and support for this community project so that they can recommend a plan to the Clinton Historical Society. The Society plans to accept donation of the landmark property from the Warren Masons if long term community support can be shown for the project. It would sponsor the restoration and use of the property, and oversee the independent residents' preservation group. This group would solicit volunteer labor and donations from the community, and plan and supervise the restoration activities. Both groups would work together to seek uses for the landmark property which would benefit the Clinton community.

We have already received several offers of help from local residents and professional contractors, as well as some monetary donations. This is very encouraging, and plans are being firmed up for fund drives which will demonstrate the level of community interest for this project. An

information booth is planned at Clinton Community Day to answer questions and seek donations and volunteers. One immediate challenge is payment of property tax bills coming due in late September and February, and we need to raise \$1400 for this. The Society is applying for property tax exemption which would reduce the burden of maintaining this facility in the future.

Many ideas for use of the building have been proposed by the preservation group and other residents. These include becoming a place for town organizations to hold meetings and events, for residents to hold private affairs, for performances and exhibits, and if needed, for income-producing rentals to tutors and other small entrepreneurs needing temporary quarters. A computer instruction facility for seniors and children was proposed, as was an on-going exhibit related to Masonic history. We are seeking additional ideas that would help make this historic landmark continue to play an active and beneficial role in our Town.

WE NEED YOUR SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT TO CONTINUE....HELP SAVE OUR LANDMARK!! See page 2 to send your pledge or donation....Thank-you!

AUSTRIAN STUDENTS ARRIVING

Our society will again host 24 Austrian students from the Town of Villach who are visiting for 3 weeks to be immersed in the American culture which they have been studying in school as English students. All speak excellent English, are 16 years old, and will be escorted by one of their professors. As last year, a varied and interesting agenda of visits to historical sites, NYC, and popular shopping malls is planned for each afternoon. Mornings will be spent in formal ESL classes (English as a Second Language) which will be held in the Masonic Hall in Schultzville. As an expression of their thanks to the Clinton community for our hospitality, the students have volunteered to work one afternoon scraping and painting the Masonic Hall as part of the community restoration project. This student visit is being managed and supervised by Education First, an international student placement program organization.

We are asking Clinton and area residents to help in the following:

- **Host family:** all students are placed except 2 boys and 2 girls. Can you provide room and board for the 3 weeks of Sept 20 thru Oct. 10? Host families from last year reported this to be a very positive experience...the Austrians are especially polite, appreciative, and helpful.

- **Donation of turkeys:** we need 8 turkeys (20# ea.) for the dinner to be held with the students and their host families.

- **Carpooling:** drivers are needed to convey the students to the various field trip sites. This can be one-time.

- **Refreshments:** an informational meeting on Sept. 14 is planned for the host families to cover final program details; refreshments are needed and appreciated.

Please help....contact co-chairs:

Laurelyn Mayen - 266-3543 or

Dee Dee Lumb - 266-5349

-- THANK YOU --

CLINTON COMMUNITY DAY

Our Society will once again be very visible at the annual Clinton Community Day to be held Saturday September 5 in Clinton Corners. Be sure to visit our booths:

Rail History Show...."CONNECTIONS" details the history of business which grew along the rail lines in Dutchess County. During the years from 1868 to 1892, four railroads were constructed connecting the Hudson River and the two existing rail lines with every town in the county with quick passenger and business transportation to places far from home. Many vintage photos and maps are displayed which form an almost entirely new exhibit from last year.

DON'T MISS THIS EXHIBIT

WHICH ENDS SEPT. 13. WEEKENDS 10-4PM

Masonic Project/Austrian Student Visit...this booth will provide information about the Schultsville Masonic Hall Restoration Project, and will collect donations and enlist volunteer labor. Residents considering becoming Host Families to the Austrian students will get information first hand from last years hosts. Historical Society membership forms and info will also be available at this booth.

Promise Tree...stop by and view the list of the varied contributions by Society supporters. You'll find homemade treats, crafts, gifts, and interesting services. The 'Tree' is one of our major fund-raisers...be a donor AND a buyer! Thanks!

50/50 Raffle...please support our Creek Meeting House Fund which helps enable our building restoration and maintenance, and our programs.

Food Booth...once again we will be the primary food booth for Community Day. Come for tasty treats and a cold beverage while helping support our Society.

Historical Publications....by our Society, at the Rail Exhibit entrance 'ticket booth'. They make great gifts!

AND....THANK YOU, BOOTH VOLUNTEERS !!

FUND RAISING TO BEGIN

As announced in previous issues, a major fund-raising campaign is being launched by our Society to insure the future protection and preservation of our 1777 Creek Meeting House and our archive of historic publications and artifacts, and the continuation of the Society's varied programs. With the recent offer of the Warren Masons to donate their Lodge building to the Society, the fund campaign is being modified to help residents and area supporters designate their donations to the general fund or specifically to the Masonic Hall restoration project.

A fund-raising mailing is planned shortly and will cover both projects. All donation checks are to be payable to the **Clinton Historical Society**, with a notation on the check for either "**1777 Meeting House Fund**" or "**Masonic Hall Fund.**" All donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be mailed to:

Clinton Historical Society
P.O. Box 122
Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514

... Thank you for your support!....

"FRIENDS OF C.H.S." FORMED

To aid in the support of the Clinton Historical Society and its programs, a group of residents has met to develop plans and actions to raise funds and solicit volunteers. Everyone is welcome, and is encouraged to invite their friends and neighbors who would like to support this community endeavor. One immediate project is the **PROMISE TREE** at the Clinton Community Day booth of the Society. Donations of gifts, homemade goods, and services are being sought. Please help!

Contact **Glenda Schwarze** at 266-5203.

--We appreciate your contribution--

Next "FRIENDS" mtg: Tues Sept. 15 7:30PM
at the Historical Center

"JOIN US !"

NEXT MEETING: FRI. SEPT. 11

7:30 PM

"VANDERBILT GARDENS"

by

Marguerite Spratt

You've heard about the Vanderbilt Gardens! Now you'll have an opportunity to hear from long-time Garden member Marguerite Spratt about the history of this formidable and successful project, and see slides of the enviable result. Marguerite will also speak about the history of Fredrick W. Vanderbilt's 'cottage' which goes back to the 1600's. She'll cover the activities of the Garden group, how they started, and why. Join us for an enjoyable 'picture tour' of the famous gardens!

DUES ARE DUE!

We still have active members who have overlooked payment of their dues.

... \$5.00 Individual \$8.00 Family

Payable to: **Clinton Historical Society**

Send to: **Mr. James Carberry, Treas.**

RR1 Box 348

Staatsburg, N.Y. 12580

--Be sure your correct address is on your check--Thank-you --

NOTE: Please look at the address label on this newsletter. It shows the year for which your dues are paid. If it does not show '98, please bring your dues current.

--- *We Appreciate Your Support!* ---

UPCOMING EVENTS

RAIL HISTORY EXHIBIT

Weekends Jul. 4 - Sept. 13

10AM - 4PM

CLINTON COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday September 5

10AM - 4PM

AUSTRIAN STUDENT VISIT

Sept. 20 thru Oct. 10

Masonic Hall & local points of interest

CALENDAR OF SPEAKERS

Friday Sept. 11

"Vanderbilt Gardens"

by Marguerite Spratt

Friday Oct. 2

"Vintage Victorian Clothing"

by Tom Tierney

Friday Nov. 6

"Clinton's Earliest Hamlet"

by Bill Benson

Friday Dec. 4

"Annual Holiday Dinner and Auction"

-- All meetings at 7:30 PM at the Historical Center, Clinton Corners --

Clinton Historical Society
Box 122
Clinton Corners, N.Y.
12514



**NEXT MEETING:
FRI. Sept. 11 7:30PM**

MS ELEANOR ROGERS-98
RRI BOX 525, ALLEN ROAD
SALT POINT, NY 12578

***"See you at Clinton
Community Day"***

**Join us for the Vanderbilt Garden "tour" -
- see inside -**