

Remember - Clinton History Days
July 21 & 22
Noon - 5PM.
Square Dance July 21 @ 8PM

The Clinton Historical Society
Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514

The Clinton Historian

TOWN OF CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Clinton Historian
Bill Mc Dermott, editor

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WHEN WAS CLINTON FIRST SETTLED?

Bill Mc Dermott

That's a question which is asked in a variety of ways. How old is the oldest house in town? How long has a certain parcel of land been farmed? These and other similar questions are addressing the same issue - when and where did the town originate. The answer is not a ready made one but at present research which will give some approximate answers is underway. The answer when it becomes available may not pinpoint the place or the year but will provide enough information to permit a good estimate.

Let's look at the information which is firm. A list of dates certainly has its own limitations but the list below will provide a reference source for some related questions you may have.

1697 - The Nine Partners received the grant of land which bears their name. It includes the towns we now know as Amenia, Clinton, Hyde Park, Pleasant Valley, Stanford, Washington and the lower 2/3 of Northeast.

1699 - land along the Hudson River between the Crum Elbow and the Poughkeepsie line was divided into nine lots called Water Lotts - one for each partner.

1697 - 1725 - at present there is no evidence of settlement.

1725 - A request by the Nine Partners Company to further subdivide the patent is rejected by the New York Legislature.

1730 - Indians demand to be paid for the greater part of the patent saying they had only been paid for land between the Hudson and the Fallkill. They were paid.

1730 - Finally permission to subdivide is received based on a legal technicality discovered by the surviving member of the original Nine.

1734 - 36 large lotts surveyed and

mapped. These lotts extended from a north and south line about 1/4 mile west of Walnut Lane through Amenia.

1736 - Nelson's Purchase of 1300 acres. This parcel extended along the Crum Elbow Creek from approx. East Park to the Fallkill Road.

1737 - John and Roelof Oostrom purchased 350 acres roughly abutting Water Lotts 2 & 3 near the present site of the village of Pleasant Valley.

1738 - Williams and Van Dyck purchase 1000 acres on the Crum Elbow Creek abutting the Nelson Purchase on the south and extending north to roughly where the north end of Creek Road joins 9G.

1740 - 15 smaller lotts surveyed and mapped. These lotts abutt the 9 Water Lotts on the south, the Crum Elbow Creek on the north, and the 2 parcels along the Crum Elbow Creek in the middle section. One other parcel divides some part of the small lotts from the Crum Elbow. This is described next.

1741 - Frans Van Dyck, Adolph Banker and Joost Garrison purchase a 700 acre parcel east of and adjoining the Williams and Van Dyck purchase.

Of the sales made to specific individuals as listed above, only part of the Williams-VanDyck purchase and part of the VanDyck, Banker & Garrison purchase extended into Clinton. Additional evidence from the first tax list(1738) which treats the Nine Partners Precinct as a separate entity indicates that both Aart Williams and Frans Van Dyck paid taxes. However, it is not clear whether they lived in the Hyde Park portion of their tract or the Clinton portion. There is also evidence of squatters in the Precinct in the 1720's. They too were taxed but none of them appear to have lived in Clinton. In fact, including squatters there were only 56 tax paying

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CONGRATULATIONS

Putt & Richard

cont'd from col. 4

At the Annual Meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society on June 23, 1979 two members of the Clinton Historical Society were introduced. Putnam Davis was elected Clinton Town Vice President of the Dutchess County Historical Society. In this capacity he sits with the Executive Board of the County Society.

H. Richard Van Vliet was also introduced as Clinton Town Historian. In this capacity Richard attends historical materials in the town and responds to inquiries. Its good to see Richard's special knowledge of Clinton being used.

Clinton's representation at the D.C.H.S. meeting was remarkable. It was one of the larger contingencies at the meeting. Those who attended were:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Julie Euglion | The Guernseys |
| Putnam Davis | The Mc Dermotts |
| The DeGraffs | The Rymphs |
| The Freers | The Sinnotts |
| The VanVliets | |

Perhaps the contingency from Clinton will be larger next year. The County organization offers interesting activities. Visits to various parts of the county are sponsored each year. A newsletter is published quarterly. And of course, the Annual Yearbook of 140 pages is published regularly. The Yearbook alone is worth the \$7.00 membership fee. It is the source book of Dutchess County history. Articles about Clinton have often appeared during the Yearbook's 65 years of publication. The current yearbook contains 4 articles authored by Clintonians - 2 about Clinton.

If you are interested in membership you may send your check for \$7.00 with your name and address to

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Box 88
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12602

families in the entire 150,000 acre Nine Partners Patent in 1738.

Who settled in Clinton first? At present it appears the initial settlement probably occurred after 1740. And where? Perhaps Joost Garrison, who settled west of the Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church in 1743. But let's wait until further evidence is gathered before drawing a conclusion.

ANNUAL MEETING

Well attended again. 65 members enjoyed a good meal and a full program. Following the review of last year's program by the outgoing president, new officers were elected. The recognition awards were a highlight of the evening. This year's recipients were:

1. Emma Link for her meticulous maintenance of the landmark home of John De Witt, who served in the Revolution and held a number of town and county offices. Emma has served the Society as a member & officer.
2. Ethel Timmer - organist at the Presbyterian Church for over 50 years and former clerk of the Oak Grove School. Ethel presented the Clinton Historical Society with a full history of the Oak Grove School (1852-1950) in the form of its minute book.
3. H. Richard Van Vliet - do you want to know of the humorous or sometimes sad experiences of the early town people? ask Richard. Do you need to identify an early owner of a farm? ask Richard. Do you wish to talk early politics? talk to Richard. In other words if its the human interest angle of history you wish - ask Richard.
4. Kelsey Wirehouse - a memorable character if there ever was one. Kelsey has been an active member and officer of our Society from its beginning. Kelsey's willingness to share his historical knowledge in his special style adds a dimension to our history which is surely unique.

"CLINTON HISTORY DAYS"

NEW OFFICERS

Come one, come all and have lots of fun while you learn more about our town! We have something for everyone - pie eating contest for hungry appetites, old pictures and maps to bring back memories, horses and oxen to show you how farming was done in the 'good ole days', a blacksmith and spinning demonstration, herbs and beekeeping, an old-fashioned kitchen complete with butter churning and ice-box, farm animals (pigs, goats, chickens, sheep and we hope a cow), a square dance and live dramatics are also on the bill of fare.

*****REMEMBER the dates July 21 & 22***
from NOON to 5 PM.

Square dance and play at 8 PM on July 21. All of this and more is at the Town Hall so invite your relatives and neighbors to enjoy themselves. If you are busy on Saturday, you can still come Sunday. If you have something to share with your townsmen, bring it along. I forgot to mention we are also having an antique clothing parade. Go through your attic and see what's there, you may even win a prize. There will be a small admission charge to help cover our costs. Even with the biggest gas-guzzler Detroit makes you can't use more than a gallon of gas to get there and back.

Julie Buglion

P.S. look below. Cut the coupon to bring with you.

This coupon entitles the bearer to
one(1) free drink
at the square dance at 8 PM. Sat. July 21.

Note from the editor

We come together as a town only twice a year and this is one of those times. Julie has worked hard with her committee to bring this to us. Let's join her on the weekend.

At the Annual Meeting the following officers were elected and installed in the Clinton Historical Society:

- Pres. William Benson
- Vice Pres. Julie Buglion
- Treasurer Henry Schott
- Corr. Sec'y Alan Mueser
- Rec. Sec'y Mary Jo Nickerson
- Trustees Margaret Freer 4 yrs.
Putnam Davis 3 yrs.
K. Wirehouse 2 yrs.
Bill McDermott 1 yr.
- Trustees serve four years.
- Editor Bill McDermott

Congratulations!! We'll all help you with your programs for the coming year.

Thanks to the Election Committee Fran Monahan and Margaret Freer for providing the good slate of officers for the coming year.

Thanks is also in order to the Awards Committee Alan Meuser and Barbara Oberly for their fine and deserving choices this year.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The Clinton Historical Society year runs from April 1 to March 31. If you have overlooked sending in your dues please clip out the following application for renewal and send to

Henry Schott, Treas.
Clinton Historical Society
Allen Road
Salt Point, N.Y. 12578

family \$5.00 individual \$3.00

Name: _____

address: _____
