

Square Dance & Play Sat. at 8 P.M.

Remember - Clinton History Days
July 26 & 27, 1980
Noon to 5 P.M.

Clinton Historical Society
Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514

The Clinton Historian

TOWN OF CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Bill Mc Dermott, editor

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A MISSION

On May 17th at 10 A.M. several vehicles converged on an isolated spot on Browning Rd. about one mile south of Clinton Hollow. The spot looked like any other point on this quiet stretch of road. Brush arranged by nature in thick entangled masses, barbed wire, stone walls and other marks of settlement were found there. Although the spot at which this small band of people stopped appeared like any other, a special aura surrounded the area. The group left their vehicles with an air of reverent expectation.

Wire cutters soon appeared to part the wire fence. The group stepped haltingly over the stone wall fallen in places after years awaiting care. Up the knoll and through the thick brush went the small quiet group until they discovered what they had hoped to find. Not much was said. A few words were exchanged and the group of seven divided. One group returned to the stone wall while the other group crossed the top of the knoll. Then silently each person took a cutting instrument and began to clear entangled brush and vines which had crowded the reverent place over many years. Trees no longer breathing life were felled. Three hours passed punctuated only by the friendly banter and the sound of brush trees and stone. The entangled mass of growth which had presented itself earlier gave way to a small clearing. Fallen stones were returned to their resting place surrounding this place of reverence.

One of the group took a small clean white card from a shirt

pocket which showed by then the morning's labor. On the card was a neatly typed list of fifteen names. These names were compared with thirteen headstones the group had hoped to find. A few smiles and some congratulations intruded the air of reverence surrounding this hallowed ground. The cemetery of the old Methodist-Episcopal Church revealed its reminders of early members.

Near a large tree resting alone were the two young wives of trustee William Armstrong. William and Deacon Richard A. Chalker had signed the church corporation papers which were filed on March 30, 1843. To their names were added Edwin Traver and L. Samuel Palmer who had also been elected trustees on June 27, 1842. But the 1834 date on one of the headstones attests to the church's presence near this burial site at an earlier date.

The congregation was probably a small one which may have survived only the life of the original congregation. The appearance of the church on an 1850 map but not on an 1858 map confirms the short period of worship at that site. Also the headstones are dated primarily 1830 - 1850 indicating a relatively brief period of activity. Two late burials of 77 year old members in 1868 and 1870 close the period of activity at the burial ground. Old Gravestones of Dutchess County by J. Wilson Foucher and Helen W. Reynolds explain the church began in 1830 and its congregation became extinct in 1850 about the time the church building was moved. Perhaps these authors

cont'd from previous column

DOG CENSUS 1909
Gwynne Oberly

obtained their information orally from George S. Van Vliet who recorded the names in the cemetery in the summer of 1913. Two of the fifteen headstones recorded at that time may be missing.

The names found on the thirteen headstones remind of early Clinton residents. Armstrong(3), Boughten, Briggs, Hadden, Hoag(4), Van-Wagner(2), Ward(2) and Witherwax listed in 1913 and except for one Armstrong and one Van Wagner remain today.

Although there is further work needed at the burial ground to return it to its early appearance, thanks is extended to the Bensons, Julie Buglion, Bill Mc Dermott, The Schaefers and Francis (Rip) Van Suken for their dedicated labor during the resurrecting activity on Saturday May 17, 1980.

The following letter was received from the Cemetery Association.

The Friends Cemetery surrounds a Clinton landmark - Creek Meeting House now known as the Upton Lake Grange. The Cemetery Association has been struggling to pay for the yearly upkeep of this historic cemetery and is now in need of help or else the cemetery could go to the State. This non-denominational cemetery has burial plots available for purchase. Those interested in making a purchase or helping through a donation please contact Treasurer Glenda Schwarze 266-5203 or President Harold Fountain, Secretary Sally Sinnott and Trustee Bill Mc Dermott.

The following is a record of the number and types of dogs in Clinton in 1909.

Beetle Hound-2	Gray Hound-1
Bird-2	Hound-6
B. Hound-1	House Dog-3
Black Dog-3	Irish Setter-1
B.& W. Dog-1	Mongrel-4
B.& W. Shepherd-2	Newfoundland-2
Black Shepherd-4	Part Bull-1
Black Tan-5	Red Colly-1
Boston Bull-1	Shepherd-57
Bull Dog-4	Spaniel-3
Bull & Shepherd-1	S. Shepherd-1
Collie-4	Water Spaniel-2
Dog-1	Yellow-1
Fox Hound-6	Yellow Cur-1
Fox Terrier-16	Yellow Dog-1
Good for Nothing-2	

The total number of dogs in Clinton in 1909 was 140 which represents about one eighth the number in town in 1980. Most of the dogs in Clinton at present represent the kind of dog referred to above as House Dog. We regard our dogs as pleasant pets for our children or ourselves. Sometimes we think of them as good watch dogs. In any case few dogs in town have a specific function through which they might earn their keep.

This was not the case in 1909. Perhaps the last item in the listing on the left best describes the attitude toward dogs in 1909. A dog was required to have a job like any other member in a rural community. Shepherds appear in the list above several times. They number 65 and represent about half of all the dogs in town. A Shepherd at that time was a working dog. The list above clearly indicates dogs had a purpose.

CLINTON HISTORY DAYS

Summer is here and once more all of us look for some pleasant diversions. For the third time in as many years Clintonites can anticipate a unique weekend in 'downtown Schultzville'. Again the Clinton Historical Society is sponsoring "CLINTON HISTORY DAYS", July 26 and 27 have been set aside for great expectations.

To date we have lined up our mini-farm, horses working in the fields, chair caneing, apple and bisque, quilting, Grange refreshments, beekeeping, natural dying, herb garden, square dance, old-time drams, antiques and photos from bygone times. New additions are our two local fire departments and on Saturday, Jim Boice will present some of his fantastic old engines.

There will be more to come as we think of things and can corral participants. Please give us all the ideas you have and rest assured that we need all the manpower we can get and welcome volunteers - if you don't volunteer we'll ask you anyway. Set aside the dates and bring neighbors and relatives. The fun runs from noon to 5PM on Saturday and Sunday July 26 and 27. Square dance and play are at 8PM on Saturday.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Julie Buglion

Editor's note- The Clinton History Days committee begins its work in January. Your presence on July 26 or 27 will be a sign of appreciation.

Minutes of the May Meeting

Speakers at the May meeting were John Luhman and Harvey Rymph. They spoke about East Clinton and West Clinton fire departments from a historical perspective. In addition to discussing the origins of each of the departments John and Harvey added many amusing anecdotes. The talk was taped and will be transcribed to become part of Clinton's oral history.

The business meeting covered several subjects one of which was a report on an activity completed on May 17 through the joint efforts of members of the Clinton Historical Society and the Falkkill Grange. This group visited the Methodist Church burial ground on Browning Road to search for its gravestones and to clean up the forgotten cemetery. Of the fifteen nineteenth century stones recorded thirteen still survive.

Also discussed at the business meeting was Clinton History Days. A good deal of work has already been completed but there is still a great deal to do. Many programs have been arranged. While good progress is being made, Mrs. Buglion continues to look for people to help with other programs. Those individuals who will not be presenting a program but would like to help are welcome. There are many jobs which require sheer manpower and muscle. Please volunteer by calling Mrs. Buglion. The success of last year's programs encouraged continuation of Clinton History Days. It is one of the two activities in the town which bring all Clintonites together.

Gwynne Oberly, secretary