



Clinton Historical Society  
Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514

The Clinton  Historian

TOWN OF CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. VII

No. 3

NOVEMBER 1990

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the Christmas season. We are having our Christmas party at the next meeting. It is always an enjoyable event. This time we are holding it in a special place, the Masonic Hall. This special occasion will include an interesting talk by the O'Sheas, Christmas refreshments, and our holiday auction. Join us and examine the Masonic Hall. Perhaps we may also be treated to a peek at the temple.

Our negotiations with the officers of the Warren Lodge (Masonic Hall) are moving along amiably and optimistically. We hope to reach a conclusion before our next Society meeting (February). To that end I am in the process of completing an application for a newly named organization which will recognize that we are embarking on a place (museum) where we can store and display historical objects which we have at present and will continue to collect. Regardless of the outcome of our negotiations with Warren Lodge, this preparatory step will make it possible to have our own place. I am going to ask the members at the next meeting to vote on a new name for the organization. The new name will 1) honor the individual after who the town is named, George Clinton - first and longest serving governor of New York State, and 2) reflect more correctly the purpose of our Society. The name I will propose will be THE GEORGE CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY CENTER. We could change the word CENTER to MUSEUM, but that would require that we meet much more stringent and costly preservation policies imposed by the New York State Education Dept. The word CENTER will allow us to collect, display, and preserve initially in a manner in which we are presently equipped to handle.



*"HAVE AN ENJOYABLE  
HOLIDAY SEASON !"*



## PRESERVATION AWARD

Around this time of the year we begin to think about members who have contributed to the Society's program. We regard the recipients of any award as a special member but we hold in the highest esteem that individual who is the recipient of the PRESERVATION AWARD. Who gets the award? It is given to an individual who has made a special effort to preserve the character of the town or some significant aspect of it. In some historical organizations this award is sometimes given to an individual who has restored a house, but in our Society we prefer to honor individuals who have contributed to the preservation of the town as a whole or some significant part of it.

Perhaps the finest example of that kind of effort occurred when the work to have all of our hamlets designated as Critical Environmental Areas was completed. This designation helps preserve the integrity of each hamlet. The CEA designation requires that any change or development in any hamlet be reviewed as usual with regard to matters of site plan, density, etc., but also with special attention to how a new structure might impact the special character of the hamlet. This is particularly important, if we are to maintain the qualities in the town which we admire.

The recent construction of a shopping center (not yet complete) in Pleasant Valley is one good example of how the character of a town can be changed forever. While some may regard the new buildings as attractive, few admire the unscreened parking lot. Moreover, the traffic in Pleasant Valley which had already increased markedly will soon overwhelm it.

Oh yes, recipients of the annual PRESERVATION AWARD follow:

Allan Mueser	-initiating GASP
Noreen Collier	-hamlet CEA designation
Carol Valentine	-scenic roads designated
Emil Schoch	-landmark homes program

(cont'd - overleaf)

### \*\*\* THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION -- THE BRITISH VIEWPOINT \*\*\*

(Note: by request, member Bill DiFrenza wrote this article as a follow-up to his presentation at the last Society meeting...thanks, Bill)

The American Revolution was just one in a series of wars between Britain and France in their struggle for empire, which began in 1689 and ended in 1815. This struggle was a world-wide affair which often involved other European nations such as Spain, Prussia, Portugal, and the Netherlands.

The Treaty of Paris of 1763 ending the Seven Years War, also known as the French and Indian War, brought major changes to the North American Continent. France was eliminated as a colonial power. To Spain, she ceded all French territory west of the Mississippi; to Britain, all French territory east of the Mississippi plus Canada. Britain also received some of the French Caribbean possessions as well as Spanish Florida.

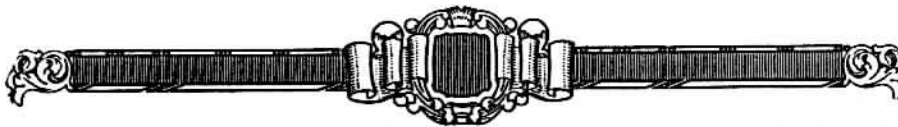
In France, the terms of the treaty stimulated a natural desire for revenge. To this end, the French worked to rebuild their navy and to strengthen their ties with Spain in the years after the war. They also realized that another way to get revenge was to encourage and stimulate the growing unrest which was now showing itself in Britain's American colonies.

From the time of the earliest settlements to 1763, Britain virtually neglected her colonies. She was preoccupied by other wars, both internal and external. As a result, her American colonies exercised virtual self-government and evaded British mercantilist restrictions on their colonial economies. Britain now was determined to change her policy toward her American colonies. She believed that the colonies had gained much from her recent victory over the French and Indians, and that the colonists should help pay the cost of fighting the war.

To this end, Britain's new policy toward her American colonies was 1) to keep a standing army, in America; 2) to regulate western expansion and Indian affairs; 3) to enforce the navigation acts to make them effective and increase revenues; 4) to raise money in the colonies by parliamentary taxation. As a result of these policy changes, and laws enacted to carry them out, the colonists felt that their rights as Englishmen were being violated. As Parliament passed more tax acts and continued to tighten up enforcement of existing laws, the colonists began to protest and organize resistance to the new changes, and eventually started a revolution for independence.

It is the British point of view that Parliament had the unquestionable right to legislate for all parts of the Empire. Each member of Parliament represented not only the people who elected him, but all Britishers in the Empire. The taxes that were levied in the colonies were being used for the defense and government of the colonies, and the colonial defiance of British authority made harsher laws necessary. King George III considered the colonists ungrateful and disloyal, so he rejected efforts at compromise and pursued a policy of suppressing the colonies by force.

As the colonial war for independence progressed, Britain found herself having to fight her old enemies as each in turn entered the war on the colonial side, first France then Spain and Holland. She could no longer concentrate her full efforts on suppressing the colonists. In addition, British public opinion was divided on supporting the war. Many influential British statesmen publicly defended the colonial cause. For these and other reasons, when Lord Cornwallis's army surrendered at Yorktown in October 1781, colonial independence became an accomplished fact. --(Bill DiFrenza)





\*\*\* REMINDER \*\*\*

NEXT MEETING:  
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
PARTY

- FEATURING -

"A BRIEF LOOK AT  
19th CENTURY  
SILHOUETTES"

"MYSTERY AUCTION"

"HOLIDAY DESSERTS"

7:30 PM DEC. 7

MASONIC HALL ←

SCHULTZVILLE

PLEASE BRING A

WRAPPED MYSTERY

GIFT & DESSERT



## PRESERVATION AWARD (cont'd)

### SELECTION PROCEDURE

Typically, the candidates for the award have been reviewed by a committee made up of past winners and the president of the Society. This committee will meet again in early Spring. There is no application for the award; an individual's contribution to the preservation of Clinton speaks for itself. However, if there is an individual which you would like to see receive the award, please write a paragraph or two describing the contribution and how you believe it has special merit. You may give the written material to anyone on the committee or mail it to Clinton Historical Society, Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12572

### LANDMARKS

Applications for designating a site or a home are being received by the Landmarks Committee. The time for presenting an application to be reviewed this year is growing short. The process takes a couple of months in order to present the awards at the annual meeting the first week in April. You may obtain an application from Emil Schoch or any other person on the Committee at our regular meetings.

The Society with the help of Fran Monahan is planning to create a brochure which will contain descriptions of Clinton's Landmarks and a map which could be followed for those interested in seeing these sites.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The Clinton Historical Society year runs from April 1 to March 31. If you have overlooked sending your 1990 dues, please clip out the following application for renewal and send it with your check payable to "Clinton Historical Society" to:

Florence Smith  
RR2 Box 63  
Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514

Family \$8.00

Individual \$5.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_