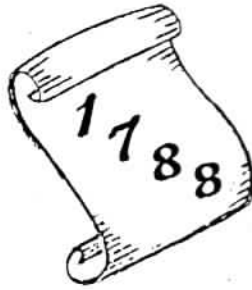


Clinton Historical Society
Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514

The Clinton



Historian

TOWN OF CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

If you missed the Annual Meeting on April 5 at the Masonic Hall in Schultsville, you missed a special occasion. Craig Marshall, almost single handed, gathered, mounted, and demonstrated a mini-museum. He presented a great many objects, photos, maps, portraits, a World War I uniform, books, ledgers, a Bullshead crock, etc. The list could go on and on. Especially appealing was the contributions he received from a number of Society members and a few who were not yet members. A lot was accomplished in a short time. Imagine what could be done when we establish a museum in Clinton! Thanks Craig, for this special preview.

And thanks also to the O'Sheas....Edie, Tom, and Katie for serving up a bountiful and tasty home-cooked dinner for our Annual Meeting! Delicious!!!

Guess who I met on the road the next day - the Hoffmans. They are new members recently returned to Dutchess County with great enthusiasm for history. When Louise and I spotted Susan and Jeff, they were tracking down unidentified homes and barns which were in their recently acquired vintage photo collection. What sleuthing! They found an important early home and were able to identify the out-building from the photos taken 50 or more years earlier.

Want to read an interesting article? The Library has received an article about Rev. Amanda Deyo (1838-1917). Born and raised in Clinton, she became the first clerqywoman in Dutchess County. She traveled from New York to California and finally to Paris where she was recognized for her contributions to the peace movement from 1871 on.

* LAST CALL *

On Wednesday, May 8 we have an appointment with a microfilming company. They will return any items we provide within 72 hours. As you may have read in our earlier newsletters, if it is photographable, we want it on microfilm. The list is endless - if in doubt, ask us to pick it up. Check the last newsletter (#5) for the long, long list... or better yet, just assume you are correct and call us: Macy Sherow 266-3907 or Bill McDermott 266-3819.

ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes of CHS Annual Meeting held at the Masonic Hall, Friday April 5, 1991:

1. President reviewed briefly the activities of the year.
2. Status of application to New York State for incorporation prior to acquisition of Masonic Hall was reported.
3. Treasury report - Balance YE = \$6,700.
4. Landmark Awards:
 - a. Bialek home (Dr. Edwin Barnes)
 - b. Bowmans (Clinton Cnrs Schoolhouse)
 - c. Molyneux home - Mt. View Rd.
 - d. Schoch home - Fiddlers Bridge Rd.
5. Achievement Awards
 - a. Ruth Estes - organized removal of overgrown portions of Friends Cemetery.
 - b. Barbara Dickett - organized for preservation early records of historical value in the Town vault.
 - c. Donald Bowman - retired after 29 years as commissioner of East Clinton Fire Dept.
 - d. Craig Marshall - newsletter, mini-museum, etc. - gift of 1915 Poughkeepsie H.S. yearbook.
6. Preservation Award
 - a. Bill McDermott - organizing, writing, & editing book - "Clinton: A History of a Town."
7. Report of Nominating Committee
 - Pres. Bill McDermott
 - VP Craig Marshall
 - Sec'y Suzanne Marshall
 - Treas. Florence Smith
8. Committees:

Hospitality	- Rosemary Lee
Landmarks	- Emil Schoch
Microfilm	- Macy Sherow
Membership	- Al Mueser
Public Rel.	- Betty Kinney
Museum	- Bill McDermott
	- Craig Marshall
Steering	- Bill McDermott
	- Tom O'Shea
	- John Pruitt
	- Craig Marshall
9. Highlight of the evening:

Mini-museum - artifacts, portraits, posters, ledgers, photos, etc. on display for the evening.

(Report submitted 4/6/91 by Wm. McDermott)

THE HIGH DUTCHERS

In the late 1730's the Nine Partners, interested in selling their land, advertised in a New York newspaper, The New-York Weekly. This paper's editor was a German, Peter Zenker, who had arrived in New York in 1710. These Germans were often referred to as the High Dutchers or High Germans to distinguish them from the Dutch or Low Germans. Perhaps it was this advertisement which drew several High Germans to the Nine Partners and their land. We do know there were discussions between these two groups which probably resulted in a sale.

All this is simply preface to the fact that the Germans were among the earliest settlers in Clinton. Their presence in town and their impact deserves study. Good fortune smiled on these Germans recently when Melissa Tompkins, daughter of Councilman Bob Tompkins, inquired if there were some historical projects she could participate in. She is a third year student in history at the State University at Binghamton. And, German history is part of her studies. Needless to say, she found a project to do.

Let me tell you what it is. After a couple of meetings we decided to study the Germans who arrived in the northwestern corner of Clinton. Several families, the Travers being the most prominent, settle along Mountain View Road and its environs. They came early but just how early has become one of the questions for the study. Those of you who have copies of the 1867 map of Clinton can find the boundaries of the study by tracing the boundaries of School District #2. Melissa will study the period 1750-1850. The intent here is to compile information about every individual, family, etc. From this information we plan to write a social history of the residents in that school district with particular focus on the Germans.

Tune in for more during the summer when she begins. This is a fun and very educational method of understanding our community during its early period.



MAY 3: A SPECIAL PROGRAM

Not far from the Town Hall is Breezy Hill Orchards. Elizabeth Ryan and her husband have nursed that agricultural enterprise for the past several years. They have breathed new life into an established orchard.

Equally important is their historical work. For several years, they have been gathering information about the history of fruit growing in the Hudson Valley. Yes, they have used the usual sources found in libraries, town halls, agricultural societies etc. But they have gathered a lot more information from the many, many interviews they have conducted over the years. These oral histories give new understanding into one of the oldest agricultural activities in the Hudson Valley - growing fruit.

Their slides, photos, and oral histories present a fascinating picture which has stimulated broad interest in their work. As a result, their work will be presented next year in the Albany Institute of History and Art. Our April 3 meeting will preview that exhibition - 7:30 PM.

VIDEO LIBRARY

Our Society Video Library is growing! The following is currently available for loan... just call Bill McDermott (266-3819) or Craig Marshall (266-5684):

Senior Citizen Interviews

- * Kelsey Wirehouse
- * Ethel Timmer
- * Ruth Hoyt
- * Dr. Henry Allen
- * John Luhman
- * Morris Smith

Meeting Presentations

- "German Architecture: Clinton & Rhinebeck"
(Neil Larson)
- "Ice Industry on the Hudson"
- "Montgomery Place Restoration"
- "Early Dutchess Co. Railroad Industry"
- "Clinton Artifacts"
(Toby Ricciardelli)
- "Revolutionary War: British View"
(Bill DiFrenza)
- "Early Clinton Politics"
(Bill McDermott)

N.Y.S. CONFERENCE

*** REMINDER ***

NEXT MEETING:

FRIDAY MAY 3

7:30 PM

TOWN LIBRARY

-FEATURING-

"SOCIAL HISTORY

OF FRUIT

GROWING IN THE

HUDSON VALLEY"

by

ELIZABETH RYAN

You want to have some fun with history? The annual conference on New York State History is coming to Dutchess County for the first time. It will be held at Bard College on June 7-8, 1991. It is open to anyone interested in history.

This is the annual gathering of historians, some academic, some town historians, others like Dr. Ryan, who will speak to our Society May 3. It is the time when they present findings from their work from the previous year. Many of these talks include slides and other visual types of presentation.

Topics include:

World War II
Women & domestic activity in the past
Religion in early New York
Crime & prisons during the 19th Century
Indians - relationships between tribes
Slavery
Ethnic identity in upstate cities
Settlement after the Revolution

Also, the keynote address given on Friday evening, June 7, is especially interesting. Given by Dr. David Cohen, it is entitled: "Peering Into the Pot: Reflections on American Ethnicity"

* 1991 *

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The new membership year for our Clinton Historical Society has begun, starting April 1. Dues for the new year should be mailed to treasurer Florence Smith now if you did not send payment with Annual Meeting/Dinner reservations. Please make your check payable to "Clinton Historical Society" and mail it to:

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

Family \$8.00 Individual \$5.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

* 1991 *

PRESERVATION AWARD

BILL McDERMOTT

CONGRATULATIONS!