

FRIDAY NOV 1

NEXT MEETING:

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

Eleanor Rogers  
525 Allen Rd.  
Salt Point, NY 12578



Clinton Historical Society  
Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514

# The Clinton Historian

TOWN OF CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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# P R E S I D E N T ' S                      P A G E

Where does the time go? Seems like we just had our meeting, but it's already a month ago. Perhaps it is because Bob Hancock's reminiscences about Clinton are still fresh in our ears. I can't tell you how many people said how much they enjoyed Bob, his memories, and particularly his style.

Since that meeting, Louise and I attended a three day history conference at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. Learned a lot and the setting was beautiful. It's almost as nice a place as Dutchess County. And there were some surprises.

We discovered that the Civil War is still noted frequently. While there is much of historic interest in that area, the Civil War seems to overshadow all else. We were not immune to it either. We visited the monument of the Dutchess County 150th Regiment which was erected at Gettysburg a number of years ago. As you might suspect, we returned with a photo of it.

We couldn't pass up one other photo. The Quaker meeting house called the Hopewell Meeting near Winchester is a stone building very much like the stone Quaker Meeting in Clinton Corners. In fact, a casual glance might fool one to think they were the same building.

## MASONIC LODGE

Craig Marshall, Tom O'Shea, and John Pruitt, representing the Society, had a first meeting with Warren Lodge members Donald Bowman and Alan Meuser regarding the conditions of transfer of the Lodge building and property. This meeting was simply to gather information from Lodge representatives. A great many steps have been taken by those two hard working Lodge members. All their members had to be canvassed about this plan. Also, approval of the Masonic hierarchy had to be obtained even before this meeting could be held. There has been a great deal of progress. We will keep you informed as information becomes available.

You saw their booth at Community Day. Perhaps you didn't get a chance to sign up or maybe it was not clear what they were up to. The road in front of your home is available for adoption. This simply means that once a month you walk down that lovely corridor and pick up any refuse left by passersby who don't care for the town as much as you do.

There are benefits in this process beyond just keeping the road clean. It may be a chance to say "HI" to your neighbor. It is a good excuse to take a walk and if you are not careful you might even slip in a little exercise. And beyond these, you will be carrying on a tradition which has only faded recently.

There was a time when each farmer was responsible for maintaining his own road frontage. This included a lot more than simply cleaning - it meant actually maintaining the road. Next time you see Clifford Buck, ask him about the books he read while he had his cows along the road feasting on the brush he was responsible for cleaning.

Preservation is not simply restoring an old house or barn - it is keeping what one already has. The beauty of our roads is worth keeping. Interested? Contact Carol Valentine 266-3128 or Tom Hurley 266-8312.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

This year it's December 6, the day before Pearl Harbor. We announce it now just so you can mark your calendar. Last year we had a grand time at the Masonic Lodge. Remember Tom O'Shea's silhouettes?

What form would you like this year's party to take...?



\* TWO CONTRIBUTORS \*

RUTH ESTES

Perhaps it is too early to call Ruth museum curator, but she spent a recent Saturday morning sorting through dusty files set aside by Barbara Dickett for the Society. These files, all town records from the 1930s and on, were being discarded according to New York State guidelines. Their time of service was over.

But as you know, history has no expiration date. Many of the records reviewed by Ruth have historical value. Records of wages paid, cost of materials, purchases made, etc. contribute to an understanding of how the town government functioned. These together with other records which the Society has preserved, provide the basis of a history of Clinton during the twentieth century.

JOHN PRUITT

Quietly like a wise owl, John, after finding his way around in the Society, picks places he can contribute. He is around like any other member but his contributions are too obvious to notice.

Who took all those good photos at the Annual Dinner? John did. Who thought the Society could use a photocopy of the handwritten manuscript of the 1790 U.S. census? John did. Who saw the need for a volunteer on the steering committee and quietly attended to its business? John did. Who built those screens which were used during the archaeological dig at the Masonic Lodge? By jove, you've got it. John did.

THANKS FOLKS - we appreciate all your contributions.

\* NEXT MEETING NOV. 1 \*

"WORLD WAR II - 50 YEARS LATER"

Speaker: You, the audience...AND

AND Who? This is the time to bring individuals born during or after the War to the meeting. It will be an opportunity to share your experiences with your children or other younger folks in the community.

It was a war to end all wars...again. We survived it...again. In a way, we understand it better now. Fifty years have a way of adding perspective which is hard to find, when one is in the midst.

The question is - How did you get through it? Where were you when Pearl Harbor was bombed? What do you remember about the years which followed? How did your family cope with the many, many changes the war brought?

Everybody served the war effort in some way. Perhaps you or a member of the family was in the service. Many men and women stayed home to serve in efforts vital to the war. How did your family participate?

The coming meeting is dedicated to you who lived during those difficult times. We would like you to share your experiences with us. Food shortages, farmers efforts, women working, the draft, interrupted education, and many other experiences were new. Also valuable are your memories of U.S. propaganda to keep morale high. What do you remember of that?

MEMORABILIA - don't forget those keepsakes you have to remember those times. We want to see them. Ration books, medals, buy bonds, uniforms, newspaper articles, posters, victory gardens, etc.

Happy Halloween

## THE AMERICAN FRONTIER



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

NEXT MEETING:

FRIDAY NOV 1

7:30 PM

TOWN LIBRARY

-FEATURING-

"WORLD WAR II -  
50 YEARS  
LATER"

by

YOU,  
THE AUDIENCE

The early American frontier conjures up in our mind images of vast uninhabited open space. Occasionally, we remember those who lived in these spaces. We, like Columbus, refer to these inhabitants as "Indians." When we include these people in our picture of the frontier, we usually see them on horses and often with guns or bows and arrows. Hunting or fighting comes to mind as we muse about how things once were when the "savage," as the Europeans referred to them, ran freely on the Western plain. While there are numerous misconceptions in these images, only the question of "Where was the frontier?" is addressed here.

First, a basic definition of the concept "frontier" is simply - the border region which separates one nation from another. Inherent in this definition is the recognition that another "nation" existed in that region we often think of as vacant space. Perhaps we could also include in our definition that the frontier was the contact point between two long established cultures, one of which was intruding.

The frontier was neither a fixed region nor was it "out West" during the colonial period. In fact, for many or perhaps most settlers it was next door, so to speak. In New York before the French & Indian War, it was barely 30 miles from the Hudson River except along the Mohawk River where settlement had reached further. But in New England, which is certainly not the West, the frontier covered most of Maine. Only on the coastline was the Euro-American culture dominant. In fact, some settlers in Maine were so influenced by the ways of the Indian-American that they were often referred to as "White Indians."

Regarding Clinton, the term frontier does not apply. Indians had abandoned the area well before settlers arrived in the Nine Partners Patent.

Wm. McD.

## 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

