

REMEMBER - AT THE
GRANGE HALL!

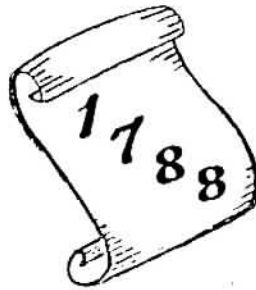
FRIDAY JUNE 4

NEXT MEETING:

*** REMINDER ***

Clinton Historical Society
Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514

The Clinton



Historian

TOWN OF CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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JUNE 1993

Everything was used to get the the job done. What was a "crazy quilt" but a bunch of scraps fashioned into a very warm bed cover. This Society has been given a real opportunity through the use and stewardship of the Upton Lake Grange, formerly the Creek Quaker Meeting House. Many of us lament the fact that we in Clinton have no single unifying entity such as a school, a post office, etc. to provide a sense of "place." So we have to make do with what we have.

But we have a lot to work with. By September we should be fully installed in new quarters. This place is our opportunity, to make a sense of "place" for Clinton. It was once so when the Grange was in its heyday. It can become that again through our efforts & guidance. Let's all pitch in to achieve that goal.

We, as a Society, accomplished a great deal, particularly in our preservation efforts. But simply capturing what we have is just a good beginning. Now we can reach into the community and make an even larger contribution by developing programs which give Clinton that sense of "place."

Your knowledge about the community and help in our programs are the fuel we need to achieve that goal. Its time to roll up our sleeves and get to working. Lets make our quarters the hub around which the community can gather.

One place to start is with Community Day. Perhaps, if you wish, we can take the lead in that event this year. It would be a great new chapter in the Society's future.

Well, we said we could do it in one day and we almost did. Of course, the day was 98 hours long but who's counting. Yes, as promised, the Grange Hall has been painted. And with new curtains up it has been transformed into a much brighter interior. Even the swarm of bees who visited the building must have thought so. Fortunately, they appear to have left.

How do you get 98 hours in a day? Cheat. You start on a Friday nite, work till 8:30 PM Saturday and come back Sunday morning. But the best way is to have the many hours of help provided by energetic members. Thanks to all of you. Special thanks to Linda & Bill DiFrenza who put in almost 25, yes, that's 25 hours swinging a paint brush.

Also, thanks to Tom Hurley, whose business is painting and decorating, for spending time with us on two of the days guiding us.

The highlight of the event was Linda in...and I do mean IN...the windows. At first, it was in the window on what was the Women's side of the Quaker Meeting but when she next turned up in the window on the Men's side of the Meeting House, eyebrows were raised. One could hear the Quakers deciding what to do should that happen again in the future. But having painted the place in conservative tones, I do believe they were reassured of our good intentions.

We did leave some painting for the future - not wishing to hog all of it just for this group. We are in the market for volunteers. But we can't allow anyone in the windows.

HAVE A NICE SUMMER!

PLANNING COMMITTEE

CLINTON COMMUNITY DAY

"How will we develop our new Museum?"

"Where will the funds come from to support it?"

"Does this new facility provide a new opportunity for the Society to expand its role in the community?"

These questions have been the focus of recent brainstorming sessions by a group of Society member volunteers who wanted to help the Society plan and organize for our new venture. Four sessions, often late-night, culminated in proposals that will be brought before the Society at the next regular meeting (June 4). The full Society will then add ideas and direction so that more specific planning can be done.

The committee will present the following:

1. An expanded direction for the Society for more involvement in the community using its new facility (Creek Meeting House/Museum) as a center for community affairs.
2. A list of 44 specific fundraisers that have real potential in the town. Further, a recommendation on what items we might try first.
3. Events for August, September, October, and December that have volunteer leaders. These will help publicize our Museum project, and will raise funds. Committee help is needed.
4. A list of ideas to help increase Society membership, which will be important in supporting our Museum and other programs.

Our thanks to those in this Planning Committee who gave their time and ideas:

Bill & Linda DiFrenza
John & Lisa Lacey
Jeff & Sue Hoffman
Bill & Cherie Donnelly
Jack & Barbara Cleary
Donna Calkins
Jim Montross
Hanford Hanaburgh
Bill McDermott
Craig Marshall

It always seems it's never going to happen but it always does. This year is no different. There is no lead group to act as its pilot. Should WE do it? Some of us think, "yes." What do you think?

Some members full of energy have met together and with last year's organizer, Maryann Thompsett. We have established that the project is do-able. So what's new - it's been done for 78 years, a great many of those years by the members of the Upton Lake Grange. Why not us?

What do we need to do? Primarily, we need members to act as guides and bird dogs. Most of the groups who participate already have in place a working system. We could be the glue to keep it together.

Committees, many of which already have a chairperson awaiting our decision, need to be filled. Here is a list.

- 1) Publicity -
- 2) Administrative- letters to be mailed & phone call follow-up
- 3) Events - frog jump, baby show, etc. Person needed to bird dog & issue awards
- 4) Children's games - liaison person needed
- 5) Parade - liaison person needed
- 6) Booths - make sure vendors, demonstrators, etc. are at the booths assigned.
- 7) entertainment - liaison person

Last year 2 people, Maryann & Linda Thompsett did the whole thing. Helen Kane did children's games and the Martins fielded phone calls, but most of the work was done by 2 people. With 8 or 9 we should be able to follow that act pretty well.

Now we need a theme. How about...
"Clinton - Together As One."

NEXT MEETING:

QUAKER MEETING HOUSES

*** REMINDER ***

NEXT MEETING:

FRIDAY JUNE 4

7:30 PM

GRANGE HALL

CLINTON CORNERS

-FEATURING-

PATRICIA GRAFF

"LOCAL QUAKER
MEETING HOUSES"

Patricia Graff, who admits she is not an expert, will speak on Friday June 4 at 7:30 PM at the Grange Hall. The project she is studying is timber framing in early buildings. At this point she has gathered slides of the wooden structures of 4 meeting houses in Dutchess County, 3 of which are the oldest. Starting in Pawling and its frame building she follows the builders to the brick structure in Millbrook. Her next stop is the stone building in Clinton and finally the frame structure on Quaker Lane.

These are a good mix of buildings to examine. Perhaps we will get a few answers about the buildings and the builders but we are as likely to be left with a number of questions. In any case we will leave knowing more about early buildings and their survival.

CRAFTS EXHIBIT

As previously announced in the past monthly meetings, the Society will be sponsoring a Crafts Exhibit of local craftspeople at Clinton Community Day in September. This exhibit will be set up in the Creek Meeting House.

A copy of the letter enclosed with this issue of the HISTORIAN was recently sent to known Town of Clinton craft people. If you know of a Clinton craft person that we may have overlooked, please give this letter to them and encourage their participation.

We are also interested in including locally-made historic craft items, or the tools and equipment used to make such items, in our exhibit. If you have something you would like to loan for this exhibit, please call Bill DiFrenza at 266-5684. Please help get the word out!

--- T H A N K S !! ---

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please send along your member dues. Enclosed is a statement if your 1993 dues have not been received. While the dues alone do not keep the Society going, they certainly are critical. This is your way of helping. Thanks.

And as a reminder - donations are tax deductible and for those who are employed in businesses which provide matching funds, let us know and we will follow through.