

GRANGE HALL, CLINTON CORNERS

AT THE

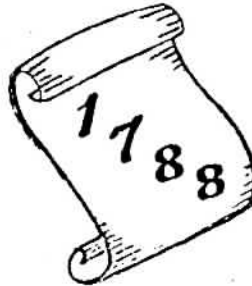
FRIDAY MARCH 5

NEXT MEETING:

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

Clinton Historical Society  
Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514

The Clinton



Historian

TOWN OF CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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February 1993

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

On Valentine's Day but one, eight hardy Society members braved the snow and ice to ascend into the lofty attic built 200+ years ago by a visionary group of Quakers. Over the years the attic of the Creek [Quaker] Meeting House, used by the Upton Lake Grange for most of the 20th century, had accumulated a great many items which were thought to be of some use at another time. Much of this material was discarded wood; very little else remained. Truly useable items had been removed a number of years ago. Like ants around a nest these hardy souls, working in a cloud of dust, removed the discardable wood, etc. in record time. Our next work session will be devoted to removing debris by the shovelful after which the attic will be returned to a useable storage space.

Thanks Dorothy Burkowske, Linda & Bill DiFrenza, John Lacey, Bill & Louise Mc Dermott, Glenda Schwarze, and Grange Master Mark Tallardy.

## ANOTHER EARLY RESOURCE

This time from California. You may remember our last store ledger came from Florida, but our newest acquisition is from California. Debra Wiley provided the Society with a complete transcript of a Day Book, 1809-19, of her Wiley ancestor, who appears to have been a weaver near BullsHead. And what a complete piece of work she has done. While the day book remains in her relative's hands in California (who knows, it may come to us someday) this transcription is full of valuable information about that part of town. We too are weavers, not of cloth but of history, and Debra's work adds yet another resource to our growing archive.

It is a particularly important addition because that period in town history is a bit difficult to track since town records for that period are missing.

## ONE ROOM SCHOOLS -- 2 STUDIES

ELEANOR ROGERS - again - has begun a social history study of the Oak Grove School. It will be an important addition to our understanding about how school districts functioned and the people in the district who supported them. She is researching every family in the district. A number of factors are included in her intensive study. These include family history, size of farms and their value, school minute books, cost of materials, teachers, probate records. The list is too long to continue but when it is finished we will have our first real understanding of schools in Clinton.

VIOLA COOKINGHAM SCHOCH of Primrose Hill Farm was a student at the Pleasant Plains one room school. She is approaching her study from a different angle. After identifying fellow students and compiling info about them, she has sent out questionnaires to gather info about their memories of the school and their experiences at it. Lots of success here. A great number of the students were located and most answered her questionnaire. When she compiles the info, she will share her findings and these will add yet another dimension to Clinton history during the early years of the 20th century.

## THOUGHTFUL & TIMELY

Having read our appeal for furniture etc., Roger Hof called to receive a list of needs from us which he will present at his place of employment, Texaco. No guarantees, but Roger's quick and thoughtful response was welcome and particularly timely. At our regular Wednesday afternoon meetings, the need to furnish our team with more efficient working surfaces becomes evermore apparent.

## MORE SUPPORT FOR FAMILY HISTORY

Alson Van Wagner, member of the Van Wagenen families who came to Dutchess around 1700 has donated transcripts of Quaker births and deaths in the Clinton Corners area and the area near Quaker Lane. These early records are working substitutes for missing Quaker Meeting records. Also, Alson contributed handwritten and typewritten copies of genealogical work completed during the early decades of this century by George Van Vliet, Richard and Helena's father. As you might have suspected, the Van Vliet's were related to a number of families who settled in Clinton and Rhinebeck. These approximately 500 pages of notes will be quite helpful in tracing some of the early families. In addition, Alson contributed 2 disk drives for our Apple computer and several texts regarding agriculture. Thanks, Alson!

### ...AND STILL MORE

The Society received another request for family genealogy information, this time from a Red Hook resident researching the family lines of Christian Otto Schultz (1712-1785). Christian's grandson John F. Schultz settled the hamlet of Schultzville in 1792. The Society was able to provide a 40 page manuscript detailing much of the family's lineage, as well as excerpts from two volumes on local history. No doubt there is much more genealogy information available on Clinton families from Society members and other local residents....a central repository of copies of this information within our Museum will be a valuable addition!

## \*\*\*NEXT MEETING\*\*\* "DEVELOPING A MUSEUM"

The Kingston Trolley Museum folks continue to help our Society. You remember that they generously donated those large self-standing display (partition) sections sorely needed for our Museum. Now, at our next meeting, Roy Ickes will represent their group in giving us pointers in setting up and operating a museum. Those of you who have visited their Trolley Museum saw their success in a very large undertaking. We hope to benefit from their experience in hearing how they...

- ...acquire artifacts
- ...raise funds
- ...form exhibits
- ...staff the museum
- ...preserve artifacts
- ...handle security

Please bring any questions you may have for Roy.

**REMEMBER !**  
at the GRANGE HALL !

### A DAY TOO EARLY

Scrambling over and under things in the dusty attic of the Upton Lake Grange building with Patricia Graf, our speaker for June, was a trip. A trip into the past. Had it been even a day later, we would have had less to climb over. The aim of our 3 hour scramble was to photograph the structural members of the building to appreciate how the building was constructed by the Quakers. The rush job was because she was attending a Historic Timber Framing conference in Syracuse the following day and the photos would serve her well while she picked the brains of the experts. The Society will benefit first in her talk in June, and beyond that, in exhibits we may present in the future.

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

NEXT MEETING:

FRIDAY MAR 5

7:30 PM

GRANGE HALL,

CLINTON CORNERS

-FEATURING-

FRED ICKES

"DEVELOPING  
A MUSEUM"  
(Kingston Trolley  
Museum Example)

WELCOME ABOARD  
- ANN D'ATTORE

Ann has joined our contingency of Wednesday afternoon researchers. Ann is a photographer who has begun to copy photographs from our collection and will begin to copy photographs of those individuals who are willing to lend theirs. Are we glad to see Ann! Photographic work is an important documentary tool. Video work is another skill she brings to us from her experience video taping weddings and other events.

## FROM THE ATTIC FLOOR

Found on the floor of the Grange attic during the cleanup was a program from an early Clinton Community Day schedule of events. Excerpts from this 1932 event include:

\*\* Saturday, October 15, 1932 \*\*

### JUNIOR EXHIBITS

Calves, Rabbits, Pets, Chickens  
1st prize 75c  
2nd 50c  
3rd 30c

### BABY SHOW

6 mo. to 18 mo.  
18 mo. to 3 yrs.  
\$1.00, 75c, & 30c each class

### HORSES

Teams under 2600 lbs  
Teams over 2600 lbs  
Draft Horses and Drivers  
Mares with foal at foot

The program that day included a:

"Mammoth and Gala Street Parade"  
"Athletic Exhibitions"  
"Community Singing, Richard Talleur"

And.....8 PM to Midnight...

"Old-fashioned and Modern Dance"

Also in the program 10 school districts were mentioned, 3 from neighboring towns. By the way those \$1.00 prizes were hefty prizes at that time. The equivalent in 1992 dollars based on the Consumer Price Index would be about \$10.

THANKS BILL P.

Bill Paroli has contributed to the Society an 80 year old framed copy of a map made by Jacob Smith in 1792. It is a survey of a large tract of land along the Crum Elbow Creek and nearby. Maps make significant visual impact on viewers of exhibits and they also contribute considerable information about land use during the early years of settlement.