

NEWSLETTER



TOWN OF CLINTON
Historical Society
Clinton Corners, New York



Volume III

Number 2

September 1977

MEETING
Clinton Historical Society

speaker
Bill Mc Dermott

Clinton Corners Physicians

Town Hall - Schultzville
Friday September 16, 1977
7:45 PM

Clinton Corners Physicians

Medecine in the rural area ordinarily seems like a ho hum subject especially in the early period of a community. This was not the case in Clinton Corners. The period between 1790 and 1860 was rich in several interesting ways. Contrary to what one might expect Clinton Corners was served by a prominent physician as early as the 1790's. He published the very first article on an ailment that plagues each of us even now and also wrote a textbook used for over 75 years while ministering to the needs of the people of the town. Another physician was an early member of a movement which brought dramatically improved medical treatment to the people of the community in spite of its rejection by the medical establishment. These and other notable developments will be discussed at our September meeting.

See you on Friday
Sept. 16 at 7:45 PM

President's message

THANKS RIP

for two informative and pleasant trips through our town viewing native wildflowers and the sites and remains of our early mills. We are looking forward your leading us again in October (specific date to be announced) when we will view the workings of a pre-machine age farm, oxens and all.

The Bicentennial Committee completed its work quite successfully and the Historical Society became a beneficiary. Their surplus, \$240.78, was given to the Society and it has been earmarked for special projects when they come along. Also over 100 copies of the Bicentennial History of Clinton has been given to the Society. Proceeds from future sales of this fine work will be added to the special fund.

Our speaker for September was unable to make this meeting. When we made arrangements with him in April he was unable to forsee the pressure of current commitments. Another program was arranged which we hope will be an interesting replacement. Please read the announcement on this page.

We would like to discuss the feasibility of moving our Annual meeting to a restaurant nearby where we could review the year and have a speaker while we were enjoying a pleasant meal and maybe a bit of the old sauce.

Bill Mc D.



The Doctor's House

The house pictured above is located on Salt Point Turnpike just east of the Taconic Parkway and is owned by Glenda and Paul Schwarze. Changes since these photos include attractive landscaping and the removal of the window on the east side thereby returning the house to its original state.

A search of deeds, mortgages and other records shows this house was occupied continuously from 1813 to 1874 by a series of physicians who served the Clinton Corners community. Further evidence such as tax lists, town minutes, Quaker records and genealogical information show that this was probably the same house occupied by a prominent Quaker physician from the mid 1790's to 1806. The period between 1807 & 1813 is the only unclear period. This physician and a later prominent physician and their special brand of medicine will be discussed at the September meeting.

These photos are particularly interesting for two other reasons. The photo at the left depicts conditions following the hurricane of 1938 which was an especially destructive one. Also note that Salt Point Turnpike was a dirt road. The road is closer to the

house in these pictures because they predate the change in Salt Point Turnpike in the 1950's to accommodate the new parkway (Taconic) and its overpass. As you pass the house on your next trip note the remaining evidence of the original road bed on the adjoining property westerly. The two lines of old trees and the culverts under what was the old road remain as silent reminders of an earlier time.

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Treasurer's report - 8/31/77

Previous balance	\$391.85
Income	
Membership dues	255.00
Bicentennial Comm.	<u>240.78</u>
	\$887.63
Disbursements	
Newsletter, postage, etc.	<u>102.34</u>
On deposit	\$785.29
FNB Rhinebeck	
Poughkeepsie Savings	

Members

family	-	42
individual-		15
total	-	99

REMINISCENCES

Helena Van Vliet

When we oldsters think of west-Clinton it falls into line with the mapping of the present fire districts. Why? When we try to reason it all out, we must go back to the early lines of communication. Roads here led to the river at Rhinebeck and Hyde Park and thence down the Post Road to Poughkeepsie. It is hard to believe that anyone from the east side of Clinton ever went to Hyde Park or Rhinebeck. The Salt Point Turnpike was their outlet, and it is still evident that in spite of good east-west roads the flow of traffic still remains the same.

Some of this probably accounts for my own ignorance of the east side. However I do try to be all inclusive and ride the roads for the pure joy of viewing our landscape and trying to figure out how, when and why the old houses were built as they were.

Comparatively speaking Clinton was remote and rural, tho it had its compensations; good water power good land and people who loved their surroundings.

Bill Mc Dermott has compiled a list of Revolutionary contenders which has been posted in the Clinton Corners P.O. In addition we have others who have contributed in other ways.

Cyrus Fields - Atlantic Cable
Lew Wallace - Ben Hur

It is difficult when considering history not to go beyond and before 1821 when we were much larger. However, I will try to stay within our present bounds.

As a small brat acting more or less as a stable boy I took my father up to see Cyrus Fields. A light being on in the rear of the house and a place to tie the horse nearby; we approached the back door and on knocking heard a muffled "Come in". We entered to find the gentleman facing a small mirror hanging over the kitchen sink shaving. Apparently the sound of

voices attracted the lady of the house and on entering she was aghast at having a female seeing her husband shaving. She requested me to follow her and she would show me the ballroom; a huge room with polished floor surrounded by gilded chairs with blue satin cushions, and a huge square piano elevated a one end of the room. We both sat teeth chattering in the cold till we were rescued by my father dragging me out to return home and welcome being buried the old buffalo robe.

As memory has it a very few of the houses pre 1920 had running water be they high class or low. At that time I was attending High School in Rhinebeck about 1915. The automobile was appearing on the scene and many Rhinebeckers with excellent saddle horses were neglecting the beasts; to my advantage, who believed a horse to be the ultimate pastime. On one occasion mileage piled up and I found myself on Milan Hollow Road in the north of Clinton, and seeing a tub of water filling from a pipe in the hillside felt that both the horse and I needed to indulge. It was at the Teller-Stoutenberg stone house at that time owned by Harry Husted. He was a loner and welcomed me as someone to chat with showing me the house which he proudly stated was the first house in the town of Clinton to have running water i.e. from the same source I was indulging myself and the horse. That house was also the first house to have been built in the town of Clinton, and had a hidden cellar supposedly as a hideout from Indian attacks, however these never materialized. Later this was used as a station on the underground railroad. I have been there in recent years and have been told by the new owners that this has been filled in however they hope to bring it back to life.

Further information can be obtained:
Teller-Stoutenberg house from Helen Reynolds - Old Dutch Houses
Cyrus Fields - Report on Laying Atlantic Cable by Mc Clenachan 1859
Printer- Edmund Jones Co.

