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Town of Clinton Historical Society
THE CLINTON HISTORIAN

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FARMING IN CLINTON 1967

by Steve Dunham

In June 1967 I worked on a large dairy farm on Hollow Road that Frank Sietz rented from Paul Buchelle. I would like to share some of the memories from that summer 54 years ago.

I am a native of Dutchess County. My very first farm home was Sky Acres Farms in Moores Mills. It had been a thriving, beautiful dairy farm for many years before it became the airport it is today, beginning around 1965. My father was farm manager at Sky Acres from 1942 to 1949.

We departed Sky Acres in 1949 and settled in Wappingers Falls, where my father rented a 400-acre dairy farm from 1953 to 1960. In 1960 we moved to the Troy area and bought a dairy farm that my father farmed for twenty years.

What was most notable about the Buchelle farm on Hollow Road was its huge dairy barn, which was at least 250 feet long and held 80 cows in the stalls. The farmstead was set off the road with the barn on top of a hill.

I returned to Dutchess County—which I had gotten very homesick for—and landed the job at the Sietz farm in the spring of 1967. My working day began at 4:00 AM; my first chore was to round up the large herd of one hundred milk cows in the pasture on foot. We could only milk twenty cows at a time in the barn. There were three full-time workers on Frank's



farm: Frank, the herdsman Bob Morrison, and me. Bob did almost all the barn work and helped Frank and me milk the cows twice a day, starting at 4:30 AM and 3:30 PM. With three of us milking, the hundred cows could be milked in two-and-a-half to three hours.

Six milking machines were used with a 1000-gallon tank holding the milk from each milking. A DeLaval pipeline milking system was used. The cow's milk went from the udder into a hose that connected to the pipeline just above the cows, then through the pipe into the milk room to the large tank. Each day a large 18-wheel milk tanker picked up the milk at Frank's barn.

Frank's cows were kept inside the barn during pasture season from May to November, but they were on pasture every night. Frank used this method to keep the cows out of the very hot weather. It was cooler in the barn with large fans running and they were fed twice a day in the barn. And the cows had easy access to all the water they wanted in the barn, but not so in the pasture. Keeping them in the barn yielded higher milk production. The

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Summer Events at the Creek Meeting House



Friday & Saturday, July 9 & 10
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Donate your gently used items!

Leave items on the porch of the Creek Meeting House starting on June 28.

Please no upholstered furniture, clothing or electronics.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, work the sale and to donate homemade baked goods. To lend a hand please email us at info@clintonhistoricalsociety.org

See you in person on July 9 & 10.

AUGUST EXHIBIT



Steamboats of the Hudson River

Saturdays & Sundays
August 7-29, 1:00-4:00 pm

Over 200 vintage images document the history of Hudson River steamboats from the first Robert Fulton vessel, through the Golden Age, to the eventual decline.

NEWS & NOTES

Members are encouraged to submit information of interest to the Society at large. Please send your emails to us c/o craigmarshall266@aol.com.

Our thanks to the Clinton Community Library for inviting us to join its annual Book Sale. We were able to sell de-accessioned books from our archives and various CHS publications to raise funds for our programs.

We are very grateful for Julia Ahlquist's donation of a significant collection of history reference books that belonged to her late husband Roy. After much research, Roy published the history of postal systems in 14 towns and cities of Dutchess County—including Clinton.

Plans are underway for the 2021 Progressive Dinner to be held in early October! Details in the Fall newsletter.

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Clinton Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization established to preserve, maintain, promote, and educate on matters of historical significance and interest in the Town of Clinton and Dutchess County.



Friend us on Facebook at Clinton Historical Society clinton_historical_society.

Farming in Clinton *continued from page 1*

herdsman was kept busy with the herd each day. Lots of ensilage feeding to do, grain feeding, bedding the cows, dealing with health problems, cleaning the barn, clipping the cows, and other things to tend to.

As part of my employment package, I was given use of a small cottage and paid a weekly wage. I had one day off every two weeks. I had all three meals with the Sietz family. Breakfast was a one-hour break and lunch was thirty minutes. All farm work for the day would be finished before supper, right after the nightly milking was done around 5:30–6:00 PM.



There were two large silos on the farm, each holding three hundred tons of silage when full. As soon as all the field corn was planted, silo filling began. An empty silo was filled with chopped grass silage that was used for feed twice a day for about four months (from June to October), as long as it lasted. From two other farms that Frank rented, I pulled the silage wagons with a tractor over Sleepy Hollow and Sodom roads to the silage barn at the homestead. By the time all the corn was harvested, both silos would be full of corn to carry the herd through the winter into spring.

Around this time (the mid-1960s), farming in the county changed dramatically. Many farms were being sold off for development, especially in southern Dutchess in large part due to the expansion of IBM. Prices for three-bedroom houses with one acre of land began at \$11,000. The farm we rented in Wappingers Falls for seven years (until 1960) was sold for houses in 1965 and became Angelbrook Estates.

I really enjoy writing of my memories of years gone by and sharing them with others.



2021 DUES

Your CHS membership is important! The address label on this newsletter shows the most recent year of paid dues.

Student.....	\$10
Individual.....	\$20
Family	\$35
Friend.....	\$75
Donor	\$150
Patron	\$250
Benefactor.....	\$500
Visionary.....	\$1,000
Life.....	\$5,000

Please make checks payable to:
Clinton Historical Society
and mail to:
PO Box 122
Clinton Corners, NY 12514

WELCOME

New Members

- Agnes Devereux
- Jason Harper
- Catherine Valentine

New Trustees



Barbara Sweet



William Holman



Robert Schoch

And thanks also to those trustees who volunteered to stand for reelection to their positions.

“THE WILLOWS” at 2497–2499 Salt Point Turnpike National Register of Historic Places

by Cynthia Koch

The “Willows,” located at the intersection of Salt Point Turnpike and Schultzville Road, is an impressive stucco and stone Craftsman style home. It is one of five properties in Clinton on the National Register of Historic Places. Benjamin Tousey built this home in 1914 on land once belonging to his father Charles, who began farming it in 1871.

The Craftsman style is part of the Arts and Crafts Movement, which was a reaction against the Industrial Revolution and machine production. It emphasized handwork over mass production. In both the U.S. and Britain, the movement’s philosophy encouraged simplicity of form, use of local natural materials, and the visibility of handcrafted elements. It was a reaction against the “overdecorated” look of the Victorian era.

The Bungalow style, which made small, well-designed homes available to the middle class, was a popular Craftsman-style house in the early 20th century. High-style examples such as the Willows are rare, especially on the East Coast. Greene and Greene, an architectural firm in Pasadena, began designing simple bungalows in California in 1903 and by 1909 had designed several landmark examples similar to the Willows. Frank Lloyd Wright also designed in the Craftsman style.

Benjamin, who was nearly deaf, took special delight in overseeing his property, including his apple orchard and expansive vegetable gardens, as well as hundreds of gladiolas planted around the Willows. He added a tennis court behind the house, which years later became a swimming pool.

Bill Tousey, Benjamin’s son, grew up in the house and recalled his memories of the great hurricane of 1938 for an article in the Clinton Historical Society newsletter. “Dad was a great lover of trees,” said Bill. “In the area between our house and the big stone wall entryway he had planted dozens of locust trees. And all along the little stream running up from the Webster [*now Meadowland*] farm on Schultzville Road, my dad had planted lots of weeping willows.”

As Bill looked out the window during the storm, “The wind was so strong those locusts were falling like matchsticks. It was really something,” he recalled. “What was worse,” he added, “was that we had five acres of lawn with beautiful maple and willow trees. . . . By the time the hurricane was over, we had lost practically all the locust trees, lots of the willows, and even a few of the maples around our circular driveway. Some of the big willows were really gorgeous, nearly three feet in diameter.”

The rock used throughout the large three-story house were blasted out of the basement area. “And that meant,” Bill explained, “we had a great big cellar—big enough to use as a roller-skating rink!” The stone was laid up by Italian stonemasons working on the Deitrich estate in Millbrook.

But home life was not a totally pampered existence for Bill and his older brother. “We boys slept year-round in two unheated sleeping porches,” Bill recalls, “and we made sure we bundled up on those cold winter nights.” Bill’s sister Ruth enjoyed warmer quarters inside.

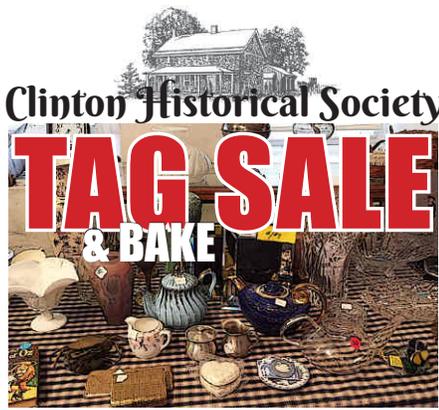
Bill fondly remembers local butcher Harry Ostrander making deliveries of “really good meat” from his shop in Salt Point. Eventually Bill’s sister Ruth married the butcher’s son Harry, Jr. They raised their four children at the Willows in an adjacent apartment called the “Barnola,” which had living quarters built above a two-stall horse barn in a building that also had a workshop and hayloft.



Above photos: *The Willows* as it looks today, the main house, other buildings on the property, and the southside entrance.

(Adapted from *The Clinton Historian*, Winter 2012–2013 and March 2002)

TOWN OF CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 122
CLINTON CORNERS, NY 12514



Clinton Historical Society
TAG SALE
& BAKE

Friday & Saturday, July 9 & 10
9 am - 4 pm

2433 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners

Stop by to shop and visit with friends!

SUMMER EXHIBIT...WEEKENDS IN AUGUST
Steamboats of the Hudson River

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2021 FIRST FRIDAY PROGRAM MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 10, 7:30 P.M. VIA ZOOM

The Roosevelt Women (by Marriage)
Presented by **Jeri Diehl-Cusack**, formerly of the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Partnership.

Meet three other women who married into the Roosevelt family: Eleanor's grandmother, Martha Bullock "Mittie" Roosevelt, whom she never knew; Eleanor's mother, Anna



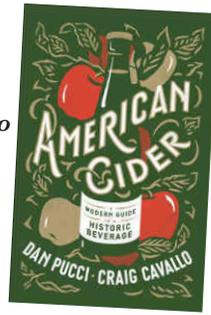
Rebecca Hall Roosevelt, whom she barely knew; and Eleanor's mother-in-law, Sara Delano Roosevelt, whom she knew perhaps a bit too well.



OCTOBER 1, 7:30 P.M. IN PERSON

American Cider: A Modern Guide to a Historic Beverage
Presented by **Craig Cavallo** and **Dan Pucci**, authors.

New York's Hudson Valley is home to commercial apple growing in the United States. With a moderate climate and a quickly developing urban hub in what became New York City, the region was primed for supplying local markets with fresh eating varieties. Today the Hudson Valley produces nearly half of New York State's total apple production, and some of the best cider in the country is made right in our backyard. Listen in as Craig and Dan explain how this came to be and where orchards and cider are heading in the future.



NOVEMBER 5, 7:30 P.M. IN PERSON

Invisible People, Untold Stories: The Role of the Non-Native Community in the Recovery of Voices of Native People
Presented by **Bill Jeffway**, Executive Director and **Melodye Moore**, Chair of Collections, Dutchess County Historical Society

Only Native People themselves can share the perspective, values, and history of their community. But there is a role for the non-native community as well in helping to protect and preserve archaeological sites and ensuring that our history is inclusive of a variety of perspectives. In addition to preservation priorities and methods, we'll examine iconic examples of the "one story, one truth" model and discuss the tensions that can arise when balancing a wish to unite in a common identity involves the erasure of distinct communities.

