

## **MASONIC HALL TRANSFERS TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

A formal deed transfer was completed Tuesday February 23 by the Warren Lodge #32 Masons with our Society as grantee. The transfer included the 0.44 acre land, the historic 1865 Hall, and all furnishings and kitchen implements in the building with the exception of the Lodge ceremonial furniture and ceremonial items. These will be kept in the Hall for periodic Lodge meetings. Warren Lodge #32 has been designated a "Historic Lodge" which will allow it to keep its 192 year old charter under special meeting provisions granted by the Grand Lodge. The beautiful antique organ also remains with the Lodge, but it has been offered for sale to the Society. Very notably, the outstanding full-size antique portrait of benefactor Theodore A. Schultz c. 1865 was conveyed to the Society as part of the generous donation by the Lodge. The Warren Masons had several options for their property disposition, and on behalf of all the residents in our town of Clinton who will benefit from their generosity, we express our deep appreciation. As stated before, the Masonic Hall Preservation Group and the Society will be good stewards for these historic treasures.

As a further note, application was made to our town assessor before the March 1 deadline to declare the Masonic Hall property exempt from property taxes as permitted under the Real Property Tax Code (420b) for historical organizations. Based on an earlier preliminary review by the assessor, we expect approval to be granted.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

**Friday April 2 7:30PM**

**Nominations for trustees and officers are sought. Please call Macy Sherow at 266-3907 if you have a nomination or would like to serve. There is an opening for Vice President, as Tobias is planning to move from the area.**

## **ST. VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER & PERFORMANCE A SUCCESS!**

**-- \$ 2,100 RAISED --**

In one of our most well-attended and memorable events, 94 members, residents, and Masonic Hall project supporters reveled in great food and great music. This was the first major fund-raising social event for the project and again demonstrated the significant community interest in the Masonic Hall preservation. Many guests brought their special dishes to help defray expenses, and Linda and Gary Stokes of the Schultsville General Store supplemented with their own tasty offerings at cost. All who came were heard to complement the variety and abundance of our 'tables of plenty'. A surprise birthday cake and celebration was given to long-time resident Olga Smyth, who was presented with beautiful orchids grown by Gerda Cooke. Live folk music was presented by Hudson Valley Folk Guild members Denise Jordan Finley, Vince Sauter, and Joe Murray in the upstairs "cabaret" room. All remarked on the beautiful candlelit atmosphere and great acoustics that this room provides. Another performance is planned (see related article).

Our thanks to the Friendship Garden Club and the Clinton Library Association for their help, and to the many paint-party volunteers who worked feverishly to restore the dining and serving rooms. Traffic control officer Ray Oberly and our shuttle drivers did superb! Special thanks go to Marian Thompson and her committee for organizing this very special event!

### **PAINT PARTY -- THANK YOU!**

17 residents and members came armed with energy Sat. Feb. 6 (and another 11 the Saturday before) to do some serious scrubbing, spackeling, and painting to prepare the Hall for the Valentine's Buffet. The dining room has been completely painted and sports new draperies made by Sheila Dwyer. The back room has been completely transformed with new paint, draperies, and great new carpeting installed by Mike Spitzer. A labor of love was undertaken by Bob Wilkinson to replace the forelorn rubber baseboards with period wooden mouldings (door mouldings too!). Bill Dickett updated our electrical system, and Barb & Jack Cleary ("Mr & Mrs. Clean") tackled the kitchen cabinets, stove, windows, and walls. THANKS EVERYONE!

## NEXT MEETING: Mar. 5 at 7:30PM

### "BANNERMAN'S CASTLE"

Many of us have been reading about the restoration efforts underway for the landmark Bannerman's Castle situated on the Hudson River near Cold Spring. We are pleased to have Neil Caplan tell us about the history of this unique structure, and show us slides of earlier times and present status. Neil is President of the Bannerman Castle Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration. His group is working with the current owners of the property, NYS Parks Commission, to plan the restoration, preservation, and public use of the property. Like our Hudson River lighthouses, this water-surrounded site offers a unique tourist attraction...but gives some work challenges also. Come see the fine photography of V.P. Tom Johnson which will capture your interest and imagination in this former ammunition depot.

### CLINTON "COFFEE HOUSE"

The Hudson Valley Folk Guild's performance at the Valentine's Dinner in the Masonic Hall recently was very well received. So well, that the Preservation Committee is planning an "open mike" performance Saturday March 27 for Guild and other local musicians, with all residents invited to listen. These sessions held elsewhere are typically family-attended and the cost of ours would be a nominal \$5 per adult, kids free. This is a fund-raiser, and beverages and fingerfood will be offered for sale as well (no alcohol). The music will be folk, country, bluegrass...whatever the performers bring as their talent. The location has not been set, and depends on parking availability. Announcements will be posted in our newsletter and around town. This is a unique chance to hear original music in a truly informal and comfortable local surrounding. **Mark your calendar: MARCH 27.**

Clinton Historical Society  
P.O. Box 122  
Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514

NEXT MEETING:  
FRI. Mar. 5 7:30PM

## 1999 CALENDAR OF SPEAKERS

- Friday Feb. 5 "Digging for Old Bottles"  
by Mike Spross
- Friday Mar. 5 "Bannerman Castle"  
by Neil Caplan
- Friday Apr. 2 **Annual Dinner 6:30PM**  
- pot-luck or catered dinner -  
- annual elections -
- Friday May 7 "*Hudson Valley Mansions*"  
by Tom Daley
- Friday Jun. 4 "*Canal Life of Yesteryear*"  
by Dick Valinski
- Friday Sept. 10 "Madam Brett Homestead"  
by Lorraine McCauley
- Friday Oct. 1 "*Farming in Clinton: History*"  
by Dave Tetor
- Friday Nov. 5 "*Stoutenburgh of Hyde Park*"  
by James Spratt
- Friday Dec. 3 "Holiday Dinner & Auction"

-- 7:30 PM at CHS Historical Center --  
-- no meetings Jan., July, August --

### INTEREST SURVEY !

We want to hear from you on what your interests are in the Society's programs and projects. Please return the form that was enclosed with the last newsletter. Thanks!

Editor: Craig Marshall 266-5684



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