

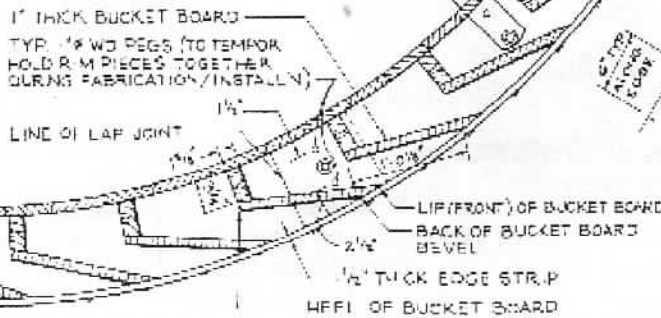
THE CLINTON HISTORIAN

The Town of Clinton Historical Society

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May 2002



THE DAM AT SILVER LAKE

by William Bartles

When the Bartles family moved to the Town of Clinton in the early 1920s, our small farm abutted Silver Lake, a spring-fed body of water known for its large-mouth bass, pickerel, yellow perch, sunfish and bullheads. A 200-foot long dam (earthen) at the south end of the Mill Pond, approximately 6 feet to 7 feet high and perhaps 25 feet wide at the base, controlled the depth of the lake. A makeshift sluice-way in the dam allowed the mill to draw off water for its operation on the small stream, which ran from the dam past the mill. The only reason a stream developed was because the dam leaked so badly. The sluice was crude to say the least.

Not only did the sluice-way itself leak badly, but the high water in the spring after the snows melted caused some washing of the dam itself. Gravel had to be constantly brought in to prevent further erosion. I'm sure that if it weren't for the root system of a very large maple tree in the center of the dam, which bound the earth together, a much more serious washout could have taken place.

The size of the tree makes me think that the dam had been constructed sometime in the early 1800s. I'm sure that the tree just grew by itself in the earth when the dam was built.

As we grew older, my brothers and I decided that it was time to give up trying to

plug leaks around that old sluice-way and to build a more dependable structure. Our small farm operations had ceased and the waterfront lands had been surveyed for bungalow sites. It was now very important to maintain the high level of the lake so boats could reach the shores. So we drew up a plan to pour a concrete sluice-way with a 3-inch slot in each side to take 3 by 12 by 36-inch planks. By taking out a plank or adding one, as needed, we could pretty much maintain a uniform level of the body of water. It worked out well.

In the spring, removal of a plank or two allowed the heavy runoff to be handled and, when that subsided, we put the planks back as needed. It worked fine especially as compared with what had been there.

All engineers were not once farmboys, but all farmboys had had to be, of necessity, a rough type of engineer, and our sluice design and completion gave credence to this belief. Anyhow, we felt pretty proud of ourselves because it worked.

I neglected to mention that we used 2 by 12-foot T and G concrete planks to line the sides of the sluice-way, to prevent the earth from falling in. These were donated by a summer resident.

Bill and Maud Bartles are charter members of the Clinton Historical Society. Silver Lake is near Bulls Head, in north Clinton.

WHO WERE THE NINE PARTNERS?

During the last fifteen or twenty years of the seventeenth century there was a land-grabbing movement, when men who had influence enough with the provincial government acquired patent rights to all the vacant lands along the Hudson River. One of the last and one of the largest of these grabs was that of the Nine Partners in Dutchess County, granted May 27, 1697.

The so-called Nine Partners were:

Caleb Heathcote (surveyor and member of the New York Provincial Council)

Augustine Graham (great-grandson of James Graham, the "Great Marquis of Montrose" of Edinburgh, Scotland and son of James Graham, Attorney-General of the Province of New York)

James Emott (prominent lawyer and counselor in New York during the 1690s)

John Aertson (perhaps an Ulster County man)

Lt. Col. Henry Filkin (in 1684 Excise Collector for all of Long Island)

Hendrick Ten Eyck (referred to in deeds as "mariner" of New York City)

Jarvis Marshall

David Jamison (Chief Clerk of the New York Governor's Council)

William Creed (a lawyer whose home was at Jamaica, Long Island).

Practically all of these men were in one way or another connected with the colonial government or had influence with others who were.

(Continued on page 2)

Preserving Clinton's Heritage

Nine Partners *(Continued from page 1)*

The tract of land covered by this patent extended along the Hudson River from the Marmense and Sander Patent (which included the northern part of the Town of Poughkeepsie) to the Crum Elbow Creek, which flows into the river at what is now Hyde Park; then its northern and westerly boundary followed the creek northeasterly practically to its source; then a line ran east to the boundary between New York and Connecticut and finally, from the Connecticut line the south boundary ran west to the Hudson.

Although the patent was granted in May 1697, it was not until November 4, 1737, that a satisfactory deed was granted by the Indian owners of these lands.

Source: J. Wilson Poucher, Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook



FLORENCE WRITES...

Many of us fondly remember our former Treasurer Florence Smith, who retired to North Carolina six years ago. We are pleased to hear from her that she is doing well, and that she recently moved to a nursing center in her neighborhood. Florence has 15 children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, several of whom helped with the move. She writes "Now it's time for me to enjoy my meals without having to do the planning, shopping, cooking, and the dishes! Plus- I will be able to read to my heart's content!" We're glad that Florence continues to read and enjoy the "Historian" and keeps in touch with us. She can be reached at (919) 644-6105 or Brookshire Nursing Center, c/o Florence J. Smith, Room 527, P.O. Box 1107, Hillsborough, N.C. 27278

ARCHAIC MEDICAL TERMS



by Richard W. Eastman, Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

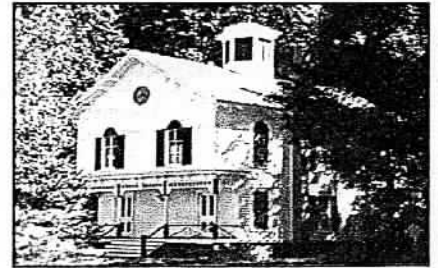
Family records and death certificates say that great-aunt Millie suffered from "green fever" while great-great-uncle Bert died of "natural decay." What are those diseases? Are they really exotic medical conditions of yesterday? Or are they old names for something that we know today?

Paul Smith, a British doctor, explains many of the medical terms found in genealogy research, including:

- Trench fever, ship fever or jail fever: all names for typhus, based on where people tended to catch it—crowded and dirty places where body lice thrive
- Marsh fever and jungle fever: terms for malaria, which is transmitted via mosquito bites
- Grocer's itch: a skin complaint caused by mites in flour and sugar
- White blood: leukemia
- Green fever: anemia
- Suffocative breast pang: angina
- Abelpsia, ablepsy, and abopsia: blindness
- Grog blossoms: pimples on the nose
- Scrivener's palsy: writer's cramp (It seems that repetitive stress injury has been around for a while.)
- Milk leg: deep vein thrombosis in the thigh, seen after childbirth. Doctors used to think it was caused by milk being misdirected down the leg.
- Phossy jaw: a nasty disease that people working in match factories were prone to get. The phosphorus in the matches ate away at their jawbones.
- General paralysis of the insane: syphilis of the brain. Smith says he receives more inquiries about this term than any other on his list.

Oh yes, great-great uncle Bert's death by "natural decay"? That term really means "old age."

1865 Masonic Hall



Building Improvements Continue

A work party recently held at the Hall resulted in improvements to the cosmetic and operational aspects of the landmark building.



The entrance hallway now sports a fresh coat of paint to welcome visitors, and a "sandwich" road sign completed to help direct event attendees to the town garage shuttle parking. Also, a commercial carbon filter system was installed for the water system for improved treatment. Thanks go to our volunteers Steve Keogh, John Cassaboon, Harry Henck, Mike Spitzer, Ray Oberly, Eric Sternberg, and Craig Marshall.

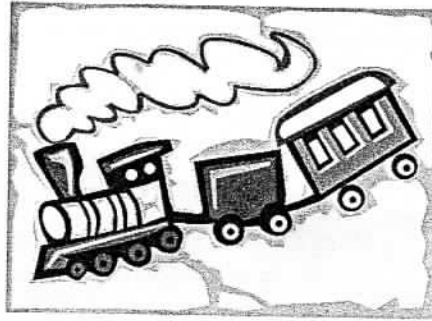
New Committee Members

The Masonic Hall Preservation Group is pleased to welcome Steve Keogh and John Cassaboon as new members to this CHS committee which plans and organizes the building's preservation and use. The group is now making plans to replace the badly deteriorated shingle roof of the 1958 addition. Their goal is to install a "standing seam" metal roof identical to the roof of the main building. More funds are needed to complete this project.



MT. BEACON INCLINE RAILWAY 1902-2002

This year the Mt. Beacon Incline Railway Restorations Society celebrates the building of the historical notorious "8th Wonder of the World."



The engineering feat built with men and mules by the Otis Elevator Company of Yonkers was completed in the spring of 1902. It extended 2200 feet from the base to the top and was the steepest incline at the time of its construction. Two balanced cable cars carried millions of passengers up and down the mountain for decades to come.

The Incline opened on Memorial Day in 1902 bringing over 1000 people up to the top of Mt. Beacon on that opening day 100 years ago. At that time, riding the Incline to the summit culminated in a visit to the casino, restaurant and dance hall, where lively bands played and visitors could stroll on footpaths or peer at the 75 miles view through telescopes mounted on the veranda.

By 1908, the Beaconcrest Hotel with 60 rooms became the new star attraction for guests from great distances. The spectacular views enjoyed during an era gone-by are still enjoyed by hikers today.

When one visits Mt. Beacon on foot today, one can only imagine the spirit of enjoyment from 100 years ago-- the muffled sound of the bands, the laughter of guests, dancing feet, people in suits and long skirts strolling beneath parasols, children playing. In the background would have been the creaking sounds of the cable car as it slowly made its ascent and descent.

Present day visitors will find a DAR monument atop Mt. Beacon.

Courtesy of the Mt. Beacon Incline News, January 2002.



PROMISE TREE CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

The Society is seeking an ambitious volunteer (or duo) to chair the "Promise Tree" committee for the annual Clinton Community Day being held September 2. The Promise Tree is one of our major fundraiser events and gives our community the opportunity to participate as donors or buyers.

The chairperson (or chairpersons) will form and lead a committee to:

1. Solicit donations of goods and services. These will be sold at Community Day to benefit the Society's programs.
2. List donations with brief description and price (which is set by the donor)
3. Give Promise Tree publicity informa-

tion to Ray Oberly for the Clinton column (Taconic papers)

4. Staff the Promise Tree table at Community Day to sell donations

This is a very satisfying volunteer assignment, as one gets to know Society members and meet community members while helping the Clinton Historical Society financially. **We thank Glenda Schwarze** for her dedicated support since the inception of the Promise Tree, and she will give guidance to the new chairperson (or chairpersons) and committee. To volunteer as a chair or committee person, get more information, or offer a Promise Tree donation, please call Glenda at 266-5203.

1777 Creek Meeting House

CHS Announces Two New Publications

- 1) limited edition of the 1876 town of Clinton map (17" x 14"). Included on this sharp photographic reproduction are the locations of homes (and names of owner), mill sites, stores, topographical features, etc. \$35.00.
- 2) reprint of a cookbook designed and produced by local residents in 1956. Many of the recipes had been in the community for several generations. \$8.00.

Ordering - Call Bill Mc Dermott
266-3819.

Historic Houses Tour

The Society is pleased to announce its first annual historic houses tour. Held on **Saturday June 15** the tour will visit six homes. At each site architectural features inside and outside will be described. Also, early residents, occupation of the first resident, and related other information will be discussed. Lunch is included.

Limited to 50 individuals. the tour will start at 10 AM with a short talk. Fee - \$22.50.

Reservations must be made by May 31, 2002. Call Bill Mc Dermott 266-3819.



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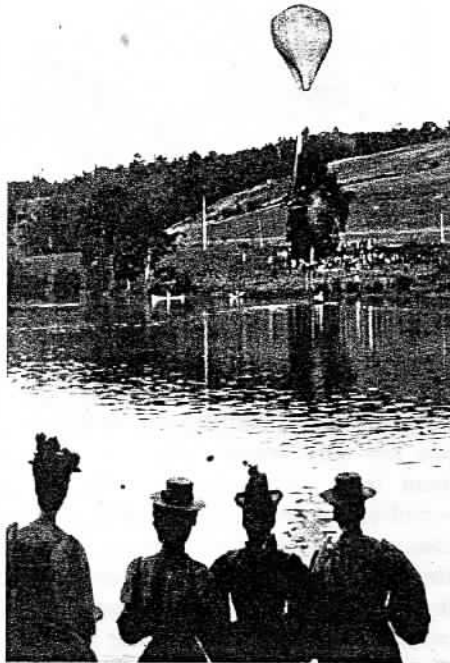
Coffee House at the
1865 Masonic Hall,
Schultsville



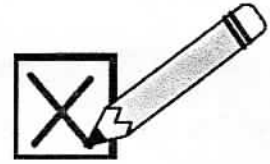
Features for 2002

April	27	"Helen Avakian"
May	25	the "Moose"
June	22	"Kurt Henery"
July	27	"Stefanie Fix"
August	24	to be announced
Sept.	28	"Sheila Velastro"
Oct.	26	"What Four"

All sessions begin at **7:30pm - New Time**
Open mic performers sign-up at door 7:00.
Shuttle parking at the Town Garage.
Proceeds to restore the
Masonic Hall landmark.
Home baked treats and beverages
available.
Donation: \$ 5.00 Info: 266-3899



*Balloon ascent at Upton Lake
circa 1910*



**ANNUAL
ELECTIONS HELD**

At the elections held April 5 at the Annual Meeting & Dinner, President Mike Appolonia, V.P. Bill McDermott, and Secretary Amy Sheehy were re-elected. Clinton Kershaw was elected as Treasurer replacing retiring treasurer Jim Carberry. Richard Collier and Gerianne Hannibal were re-elected as Trustees. We thank all officers, trustees, and Advisory Council members for their continued service to our Society. And a **special thanks to Jim Carberry** who served as Treasurer for six years and gave us his dedicated support as our treasury grew significantly larger during this time of expansion.

President Franklin Roosevelt was very personally involved in the architecture and construction of many Dutchess County public buildings, such as post offices, school buildings, and Val-Kill in the 1930's. Cynthia will show us views of these buildings and will relate to the historical references used by Roosevelt in planning these buildings. She will also include views and information about the Olin Dows murals featured. Why was Roosevelt so interested in stone architecture? Come find out why, and enjoy a 'state of the art' PowerPoint presentation as well (yes, your slide projector is now obsolete)!

"FDR's Love of Dutchess County's Stone Architecture" by Cynthia Koch, Director, Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum.



**Next Meeting May 3
7:30 pm**

The Town of Clinton Historical Society
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Clinton Corners, NY 12514
(845) 266-5494

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