



# Town of Clinton Historical Society THE CLINTON HISTORIAN

Est. 1975

Volume XXXIII, Number 3 • Craig Marshall, Editor, 242-5879 • FALL 2020

## YEAR OF WOMEN'S VOICES AND TALENTS 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women's national suffrage.

The Dutchess County Historical Society has launched a year-long program to celebrate this event by focusing on women's voices and talents. CHS will participate in the program with featured articles of notable Clinton women in this year's newsletters.

### AMANDA DEYO, CLINTON PEACE ACTIVIST

by John Lacey

*“Every girl should have the power to earn her own livelihood.”*

This assertion received overwhelming approval in 1980, when women around the country were beginning to realize their place in the modern workforce, but Amanda Deyo spoke these words in 1880 to a crowd of thousands at the Connecticut Peace Society's annual meeting. Amanda was a pioneer in the growing peace movement after the Civil War, and this was not the first time her views foreshadowed those of modern times.

Amanda Halstead, born Julia Amanda in 1838, was raised on a 110-acre farm not far from Clinton Corners, owned by her parents Joseph G. and Hannah G. Halstead. Raised in the Quaker tradition, she graduated from the Poughkeepsie Female Collegiate Institute at the age of 17. She married Charles Deyo in 1857 and moved to a farm on Hollow Road, only a mile from her childhood home, in 1868.

Amanda and her husband provided the spark in bringing the peace

movement to Dutchess County in 1871. She served as secretary and he served as president of the newly formed Dutchess County Peace Society for seventeen years. Amanda's energy and enthusiasm helped



the Peace Society grow to three thousand members by 1876. Focusing on women's suffrage, religion, and temperance, she spoke to large crowds throughout the Northeast. Amanda's focus on peace and religion reached a pinnacle in 1885 when she received a license from the New York State Universalist Association to preach. Two months later the now “Reverend” Deyo began preaching in the Universalist Church in Poughkeepsie and was hailed as the only female pastor in Dutchess County.

In 1888 Amanda was called to be pastor of the Universalist Church in Oxford, New York. She was appointed to represent the Universal Peace Union at the Peace Congress held during the Paris Exposition in June 1889. While in Paris, she spoke of a “United States of Europe” in which nations would exchange “their produce, their industry, their arts, their genius with the United States.” In consideration of the present-day European Union, Amanda Deyo was a hundred years

ahead of her time.

After establishing the San Diego Peace Society in 1894, Charles's failing health brought Amanda back to Highland, New York. Charles's passing in 1897 slowed the indefatigable Deyo only briefly and she was soon speaking again for the National Council of Women, sharing the podium with notables such as Susan B. Anthony in 1901. She died in 1917 and was interred in Highland. Reverend Deyo's words spoken in 1880 (“Take the peace out of religion and what have we left?”) attest to a legacy that is as salient now as it was 140 years ago.



*Note:* Amanda Deyo's home (built in the late 1700s) at 1245 Hollow Road, which she lived in from 1868 to 1886, was designated by CHS as a Clinton Landmark in 1994.

*(This updated article first appeared in the Clinton Historian in 2003)*

# NEWS & NOTES

*Members are encouraged to submit information of interest to the Society at large. Please send your emails to us [clo\\_craigmarshall266@aol.com](mailto:clo_craigmarshall266@aol.com).*

To promote awareness of CHS, two hundred copies of the Coronavirus Pandemic: Special Issue newsletter, along with brochures about the Society and membership forms, were distributed in public places around the Town of Clinton. We received a number of highly complimentary comments about the special issue, as well as new members and donations.

## Board of Trustees

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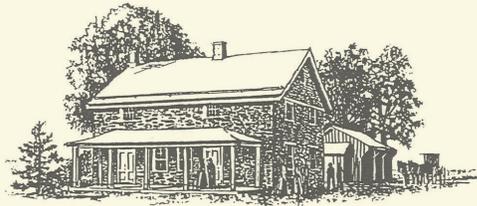
We thank former CHS Board member Samantha Karchmer for her dedicated work and wish her well in her new locale and endeavors.

*Newsletter Team: Craig Marshall, Judith Grabowski, Trip Sinnott, and Eliot Werner.*

*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 and follow us on Instagram, [clinton\\_historical\\_society](https://www.instagram.com/clinton_historical_society).



## TOWN OF CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1777 Creek Meeting House • 2433 Salt Point Turnpike • Clinton Corners, NY 12514

Dear Members,

This summer has shown that much as we might have wished otherwise, the coronavirus pandemic is still with us. When we published our special COVID issue of the newsletter in the spring, we hoped that by now we would be preparing to resume our normal activities. But the leadership of the Society, after much careful consideration, has decided that we must continue to practice social distancing for the foreseeable future.

It is true that legally we can host small gatherings with masks and social distancing, but we think that an abundance of caution is the better approach. So it is with real regret that we are canceling the Progressive Dinner, tag sale, driving tour, holiday dinner, and craft sale.

That's the bad news, but as you will see throughout this newsletter, there is also good news. We will be holding First Friday programs via Zoom. The first is scheduled for October 2, when—as we face record unemployment—I will talk about the jobs programs of the New Deal and how they made a lasting contribution to our national life. On November 6, Craig Marshall will present the program previously scheduled for last spring on the history of our Town Hall complex and Wing's Hall. Cathy McMahan, our secretary and IT guru, will send the link for the Zoom programs in advance, along with information on how to download the necessary app.

You will also see in this newsletter that two important planning projects are in preparation—the strategic plan and the preservation plan for the Creek Meeting House. So we have been busy, if only remotely. The Expanded Executive Committee (officers plus committee chairs) has been meeting online during the summer and in the fall will begin meeting—either with social distancing or via Zoom—with the full Board.

With the cancellation of the Progressive Dinner, tag sale, and craft sale, we need your support more than ever. These cancellations have real economic consequences for the Historical Society, so if you have not renewed your membership for 2020, please do it now. And even if you have already renewed, please send us an extra contribution if you can.

I hope you and your friends and family are well. Let us all stay that way until this crisis is passed.

With all best wishes,  
Cynthia Koch, President

## CHS Wins Grant for Strategic Planning Project

With a look to the future, the CHS Board of Trustees unanimously passed a motion last March that the Board engage in strategic planning to ensure our long-term success. Toward this end we applied for a grant from the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY), which provides strategic planning assistance to nonprofit groups. Recently the DHPSNY notified us that we were one of four nonprofits in the Hudson Valley region to win this year's grant competition.

Through strategic planning the Board will create a roadmap for effective decision making. Working with a professional facilitator, the Board and invited volunteers are conducting an assessment of the organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges in order to unify around a set of common goals. The final document—a three- to five-year strategic plan—will establish the following parameters.

- A common vision.
- An outline of strategic goals and objectives.
- Recommendations for the effective allocation of resources.
- An organizational structure for implementation.

These assessments will include decisions about our 1777 Creek Meeting House (future use, preservation, and upgrades), archives, educational programs, finances, and membership goals.

We circulated the DHPSNY comprehensive survey to all project participants, received the summary report of findings, and are scheduling our first workshop to discuss these responses. Vice President Craig Marshall is the designated project leader and liaison to DHPSNY and the facilitator. Our goal is to develop the final plan by October 31 and we will keep members informed through our newsletter.

—Craig Marshall



Creek Meeting House's interior first floor looking south.



Second floor, west side of the Creek Meeting House.

## Planning for the Future of the Creek Meeting House

by Cynthia Koch

In 2019 the Historical Society received a grant to help us plan for the future use and preservation of the Creek Meeting House. As many of you know, the heating system in the building is outmoded, there is no air conditioning, and there are other ways in which the building could be improved. But before making big changes, we wanted to survey the structure to make sure that any improvements will enhance current and future program uses, while preserving (and perhaps restoring) aspects of the interior of the historic structure.

The Preservation and Interpretive Plan for the Creek Meeting House was completed this summer. It was produced by the architectural firm WSA/Modern Ruins under a grant awarded to the CHS by the Preservation League of New York State. The consultants noted that the Creek Meeting House is one of eight Dutchess County Quaker meeting houses that are listed in the thematic resource nomination of the National Register of Historic Places. According to the report, "With these remaining intact structures representing only a fraction of Quaker life in the Hudson Valley, the importance of Creek Meeting House as an historic resource and interpretive property is undeniably significant."

The architects evaluated the existing building conditions of the Creek Meeting House, conducted historical research, visited nearby Quaker meeting houses, and conducted surgical "probes" of the CMH building fabric to understand the historic character of the meeting house interior. Structurally the building is in excellent condition, but before the problems with heating and cooling can be addressed, the Society must make decisions about how we plan to use the interior space in the future. Is the archive located on the second floor the best use of that space? If so, it must be relocated to the perimeter because the weight is "potentially destabilizing" and the space should be heated and cooled. The attic should be insulated. Exterior access for people in wheelchairs is difficult.

But the biggest decision we face is the extent to which the interior should be "restored." Should some system for reopening the historic second-floor gallery be considered? Should the original interior finishes be reinstated? Should the restrooms and kitchen be updated? If you are interested in helping us make these decisions, contact us at [info@clintonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@clintonhistoricalsociety.org). Copies of the report are available on request.

*The Strategic Planning Project is of great importance to our Society to help ensure the future viability of our organization and the preservation of our Creek Meeting House. With COVID-19 casting uncertainty on how we operate in the future, the timing is perfect for the Board to develop a consensus on our goals and how to achieve them.*

—Cynthia Koch

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



**First Friday Zoom Meeting  
 Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**2020 FIRST FRIDAY PROGRAM ZOOM MEETINGS**

*Members will be sent the link for the Zoom programs in advance, along with information on how to download the necessary app.*

**No September meeting**

**October 2, 7:30 p.m.**  
***FDR, the WPA & National Arts Program***  
 Cynthia Koch will talk about the jobs programs of the New Deal and their lasting contribution to our national life.

**November 6, 7:30 p.m.**  
***History of the Clinton Town Hall Center & Wing's Hall***

Town Historian Craig Marshall will present the histories of the Town Hall, Library, Masonic Hall, Spooky Hollow schoolhouse, and Wing's Hall—the latter a major social venue in Clinton Corners for almost fifty years.



**Membership**

**2020 DUES**

Your CHS membership is important. Your 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