

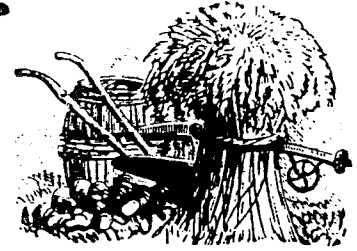
FLY CREEKER



NEWSLETTER OF THE

FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 124, Fly Creek, NY 13337

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1 * WINTER, 1990



EDITOR: Bill Deane. ASSOCIATES: Musa Gumone, Florence Michaels, Freida Snyder.

ANOTHER DECADE IS HISTORY

Welcome to the Society's first newsletter of the 1990s! Any member missing either of the two previous editions of the "Fly Creeker" may contact the editor, who still has several copies of each on hand.


**FROM THE
EDITOR**

Members are encouraged to submit ideas and articles for future editions of the newsletter. They need not be polished journalistic efforts, as we don't want to make the editor's job too easy! Suggested topics would include historical profiles of an area business, house, church, or cemetery.

Some members may wonder why the newsletter contains information on past meetings and activities. This is for the benefit of not only those people unable to attend the meetings, but also future historians who may someday want to document the history of our Society. The "Fly Creeker" is a newsletter today, and will be a historical document tomorrow. So, Happy New Year to those of you reading this in 1990, and special greetings from the past to those reading it in 2090!

FCAHS MEETINGS REVIEWED AND PREVIEWED

Meetings of the Fly Creek Area Historical Society (FCAHS) are ordinarily scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 P.M., in the Fellowship Hall (basement) of the Fly Creek United Methodist Church. Mark your 1990 calendars with the dates of the next three meetings:

Wednesday, January 24, 7 P.M.
Wednesday, February 28, 7 P.M.
Wednesday, March 28, 7 P.M.

Other 1990 meetings will be slated for the following dates: April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22 (annual meeting), September 26, October 24, and November 28.

Current Program Committee plans for upcoming meetings include a presentation on Fly Creek Post Offices, by Ron Bouton and Elaine Harvey (January); a discussion of area schools, featuring "Schoolhouse John" Hall as guest speaker (February); and coverage of the subject of historical preservation, with a speaker from the New York State Historical Association (March). All meetings are open to the public, and refreshments are served.

FCAHS MEETINGS (Continued)

The FCAHS has held two meetings since publication of the Fall, 1989 newsletter: on October 25 and November 29, 1989. The December meeting was cancelled due to the Holidays.

During the October meeting, Lester Sittler told of his purchase of the old Fly Creek trolley station, and his plans to restore it. The guest speaker was Anita Harrison, of the Town of Hartwick's historical society, who gave insights and ideas on fund-raising.

The highlight of the November meeting was an outstanding slide show, featuring the old trolley passenger system that ran through Fly Creek from the turn of the century until the 1930s. The show was presented by Carl Strauss, of the New York State Electric & Gas Corporation's speakers group.

Other activities included the display of old books, maps, photographs, and post cards relevant to area history; and updates on the progress of various projects, such as the search for Fly Creek's date of establishment (and impending bi-centennial anniversary), and the ongoing oral history compilations.

THE NYSHA LIBRARY.



We are fortunate to have, right in our proverbial backyard, an outstanding source of information on area history: the Library of the New York State Historical Association (NYSHA), located adjacent to the Fenimore House on Lake Road, Cooperstown.

Among the holdings of the NYSHA Library, which was founded in 1899, are genealogical documents, New York State census records (1790-1910), vital records, telephone directories, maps, and newspapers. Following are Cooperstown newspapers available on microfilm: the Otsego Herald (1795-1821), Impartial Observer (1808-09), Federalist (1809-17), Watch-Tower (1817-31), Freeman's Journal (1817-present), Otsego Spy (1826), Otsego Republican (1829-1911), Nullifier (1833), Pedobaptist (1839), Castigator (1841), Otsego Democrat (1847-55), Otsego Examiner (1854), Graphic Junior (1875), Otsego Farmer (1877-1972), Fourth (1883), New York Farmer (1893-1901), and O-te-sa-ga Gazette (1957-60). There are also newspapers from towns such as Hartwick, Oneonta and Richfield Springs, and even three short-lived publications from our own town: the Fly Creek Pastoral Visitor (1882-84), Gazette (1885), and Hustler (c. 1893).

FCAHS members are encouraged to stop in and familiarize themselves with some of the available resources at the NYSHA Library. Research-- the thought of which evokes emotions ranging from apathy to dread in many people-- can be a fascinating and rewarding experience!

The NYSHA Library (telephone: 607-547-2533) is open to the public, with no appointment necessary. The library's normal operating hours (resuming January 22, 1990) are 9 A.M. to 10 P.M. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Tuesdays and Fridays; and 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Saturdays. Available to assist patrons are a Head Librarian (Amy Barnum), a Technical Services Librarian (Wayne Wright), and a Special Collections Librarian (Eileen O'Brien).

FCAHS MEMBERSHIP TOTAL REACHES THREE DIGITS

As of the first of this year, the FCAHS membership-- which started with a group of 13 people last May-- has swelled to a total of 136 members, including 54 individual memberships and 41 family memberships. The 84 original members were listed in the Fall, 1989 newsletter. Following are the 52 newest members-- including ones from New Jersey, Virginia, Colorado, and Texas-- whom we heartily welcome to the Society:

AUFMUTH, Jayne	MORRIS, Ken & Betsy
BAKER, Mable H.	MURDOCK, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
BARNOWSKY, Dr. & Mrs. Laurence	OBERRITER, Don & Sharon
BOYD, Louie & Dot	OLIN, Don & Gail
CAMPBELL, Bernice B.	OSTAPECK, Lady
CARR, Richard D.	PETRI, David
CLAYTON, Robert E.	REILLY, Edward
FAMULARE, Dorothy	REZEN, Paul & Sarah
FIRMAN, Dot	ROGERS, Mrs. Harriet R.
GOTWALD, Stephen M.	SCHLATHER, Mr. & Mrs. Robert B.
HANOR, Katharine B.	SHEPARD, William & Selma
HEITZ, Tom	SITTLER, Lester & Karen
JACOBS, Wilma	THORNE, Edwin & Joyce
JAMES, Mary	VAN WOERT, Peter T.
KEATING, Mr. & Mrs. William	VREDENBURGH, David
KNAPP, Jean	WHITE, Helen M.
LAUGHLAND, Mr. & Mrs. Milton, Jr.	YULE, James A., Sr.
LEVINE, Mr. & Mrs. Harry	
MECKLENBURG, F. H. V.	
MICHAELS, Charlie & Barbara	

FROZEN FLY CREEK

The bitter cold of last month is nothing new in this area. Let's turn the clock back 150 years, to the weather as reported in the January 20, 1840 edition of the Cooperstown Freeman's Journal:

"On Thursday morning last ... we understand that at Fly Creek, three miles from this place, the thermometer showed a freezing coldness equal to 31 degrees below zero, the coldest weather that has been experienced in this region for a number of years." (Submitted by Tom Heitz)

ATTENTION, BABY BOOMERS!

Fly Creek's "younger generation" has not been well-represented at FCAHS meetings. Regular attendees include several bright senior citizens who have a wealth of first-hand information to share about the area's history, some going back to the early part of this century. Younger people would prosper to learn from these knowledgeable people during the Society's monthly meetings. After all, it will be up to you to "pass the torch" to future generations of area residents, or to let Fly Creek's history fade into oblivion.