

FLY CREEKER



NEWSLETTER OF THE

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



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2 * SPRING, 1991

Editor: Bill Deane. Associates: Carol Mezger, Paula Schaeffer.

SPRING MEETINGS SLATED, WINTER GATHERINGS RECAPPED

"Otsego County Area Clocks and Clockmakers of the 1800s" will be the featured program at the April 24 meeting of the Fly Creek Area Historical Society (FCAHS). It will be presented by Russell Oechsle of Homer, NY, and offer information on and examples of rare clocks of various nineteenth-century clockmakers of this area. Mr. Oechsle is past President of the Central New York Chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors.

Katherine Hanor and Edward Reilly of Cooperstown will present a slide show on "The Trolley Line" at the May 22 meeting. Plans for the June 26 meeting call for a program on "Slovene History": a microfilm story from the Library of the New York State Historical Association, or talks and music by members of the group. All FCAHS meetings are held at 7 P.M. at the Fly Creek United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall, and are open to the public.

Three meetings have been held since publication of the last Fly Creeker: on January 23, February 27, and March 27, 1991. The January program was given by Willis Monie of Cooperstown, who spoke on "Collecting and Evaluating Old Books". His talk included a history of the development of printing and book-binding, and explained different approaches and aims in book collecting. After a short business meeting, Mr. Monie stayed on to evaluate books brought by some of the attendees.

At the February meeting Robert Banta of Cooperstown gave a very fine slide show and talk on "A Hop Crop". Hop-growing was a major area industry from the 1820s until the turn of the century. Some of the century-old photographs showed groups of workers in the hop fields, looking directly at the camera and seemingly enjoying the picture-taking ritual. No candid pics in those days! Many shots of the old hop barns were shown and, though most of these split-level buildings are no longer standing, they were recalled by some of the attending members.

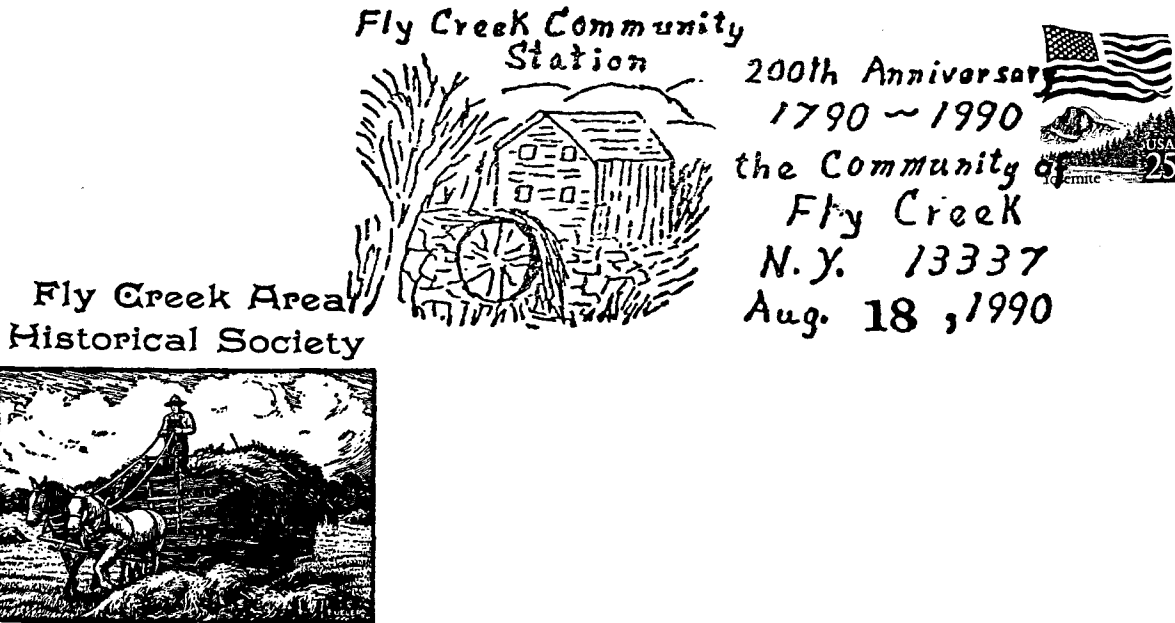
In March, Marjory Estigo of Richfield Springs, NY spoke on "Preservation of Old Buildings in the Area". Mrs. Estigo spoke of her personal experiences involving genealogy and deed research in tracing the history of old buildings, and of her helping to form the Richfield Springs Historic Preservation Association. She also brought several valuable books relating to historically-significant structures in New York State. (Submitted by Carol Mezger)



Howard P. "Hi" Michaels, a charter member of the FCAHS, died January 13, 1991 at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown. He was 85.

Mr. Michaels worked in the family business, Michaels' Market, for many years, becoming a partner in 1938 and retiring in 1976. He was a member of numerous clubs and organizations, including the Cooperstown Rod & Gun Club, the village of Cooperstown Fire Department Co. 2, the Fly Creek United Methodist Church, and Otsego Lodge F. & A.M.

Born July 25, 1905 in Cooperstown, he graduated from Cooperstown High School. On June 20, 1930, he married Jane F. Simons, who survives along with two children, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, three sisters, and several nieces and nephews. The FCAHS extends its condolences to Hi's family and friends.



Above is a copy of the commemorative cancellation issued by the U.S. Post Office at Fly Creek during our Bicentennial celebration, August 18-19, 1990. The cancellation was designed by Freida Snyder, and the envelopes were sold by the FCAHS. This is one of three different envelope designs that were printed up.

NEWS BRIEFS

* Lester Sittler has opened the old Fly Creek trolley station as a law office. Mr. Sittler purchased the building-- the last remaining station from the old Southern New York Railway-- in 1989, and moved in this past December. Under Mr. Sittler's direction, Wheathill Contractors of Milford, NY have done a wonderful job of restoring the station to its original appearance. An open house is planned for sometime this Spring.

* Oaksville lost a 200-year-old barn to fire on February 17. An unattended woodstove apparently ignited the fire, which totally destroyed the large former dairy barn owned by Barry Clarke.

* The "Roll of Membership" on the opposite page lists those whose dues are paid up as of April 15. There are currently 136 members, including 58 individual members and 39 family memberships. Those who joined by July 26, 1989 are denoted as "charter members".

FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ROLL OF MEMBERSHIP, 1990-91

- *ATWELL, Dr. James
 AUFMUTH, Jayne
 *BADGLEY, George
 *BALDWIN, Rev. Kenneth
 BARNOWSKY, Dr. & Mrs. Laurence
 *BERTINO, Dr. Joseph
 BERTINO, Laurie
 BLANCHARD, Sally
 BLOCK, Walter
 BOUTON, Ronald & Carol
 BOYD, Louie & Dot
 BOYD, Spike & Joyce
 *BRESEE, Philip & Ruth
 *BURNHAM, Katherine
 CAMPBELL, Bernice
 CAMPBELL, Grant P.
 CARR, Richard
 CLARK, Mr. & Mrs. F. A.
 CLAYTON, Robert
 *CURLIS, Irwin & Virginia
 *DAY, Mr. & Mrs. Irving, III
 *DEANE, Bill & Pam
 *DEVENPECK, Hattie
 *DYMOTT, Marie
 *ELDRIDGE, Margaret
 ELLIS, Mrs. Madeline Carr
 FAMULARE, Dorothy
 FARMER, Dr. & Mrs. Edward
 FELSKE, Beverly Campbell
 *FINCH, John & Jean
 FOUTCH, Maude
 HANEY, Craig
 HANOR, Katherine
 *HARVEY, Elaine
 HECOX, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene
 HEITZ, Tom
 HOKE, Rufus Wikoff
 HOLDEN, Jeannette
 JACOBS, Wilma
 JENKINS, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur
 *JENSEN, Margaret
 JONES, Robert L.
 KEATING, Mr. & Mrs. William
 KNAPP, Jean
 LAUGHLAND, Mr. & Mrs. Milton, Jr.
 *LAUT, Dorothy P.
 *LAVRINOS, Nicholas & Alice
 LEVINE, Mr. & Mrs. Harry
 LUDLAM, Mr. & Mrs. Henry
 MacDOUGALL, Mr. & Mrs. Hugh
 MACKIE, Dr. & Mrs. Robert
 *MARTIN, Peter & Dorothy
 McLEAN, Mrs. Carolyn
 MECKLENBURG, F. H. V.
 *MEZGER, Carol
 MICHAELS, Charlie & Barbara
 *MICHAELS, Florence
 *MICHAELS, Jane
 MILLER, Bruce & Susan
 MURDOCK, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
 *NORRIS, Robert & Pat
 OLIN, Frank
 OSTAPECK, Lady
 *PLATT, Alice
 *POTTS, Maxine
 PRESTON, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas
 *PRESTON, Mrs. Robert
 REILLY, Edward
 REZEN, Paul & Sarah
 ROGERS, Harriet
 *SCHAEFFER, William & Paula
 SCHLATHER, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
 *SELAN, Inabelle
 SHARPE, Mr. & Mrs. Stuart
 *SHAW, Ethel
 *SHEPARD, Jean
 SHEPARD, William & Selma
 SMALE, Captain & Mrs. Gordon
 SMITH, Zoe
 *SNYDER, Art & Freida
 STACK, Mr. & Mrs. Edward
 SUSMAN, Paul
 *TALBOT, Hazel
 TALBOT, Mr. & Mrs. William
 THORNE, Edwin & Joyce
 TILLAPAUGH, Marjorie
 VAN WOERT, Mrs. James
 VAN WOERT, Peter T.
 VAUGHN, Mrs. Bernice E.
 VREDENBURGH, David
 *WALKER, Mildred
 WHITE, Helen M.
 *WINNIE, Ernest & Gerda
 WOLFF, Jim
 *WOOD, Betty C.
 *WYCKOFF, George & June
 YULE, James A.
 YULE, Ruth
 *Charter Member

IN MEMORIAM

- *MICHAELS, Howard (January 13, 1991)
 OLIN, Beatrice (August 28, 1990)
 SUSMAN, Elizabeth (November 1, 1990)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Fly Creeker will print letters of general interest about the Society or the newsletter itself. Please address all correspondence to the Editor, Bill Deane, at P.O. Box 47, Fly Creek, NY 13337.

"The note in the 7th issue on the Byard house rang a bell. When I was very little I went with my grandfather, riding on a bobsled pulled by 'Colonel', just past Jim Byard's house and turned right, along a fence, up a hill, across a field, to a pile of stones. We went to get stove wood from what originally was known as the 'Marietta Coleman Woodlot' (I think). We still own this woodlot and the tax bill says it is on Bedbug Hill Road."

Mrs. Dorothy Potts Laut
Ormond Beach, FL

"I have heard that a stamp honoring Fly Creek is to be issued, but so far no word of it at the Post Office. If it is to be issued and you know the time, please put it in your bulletin... I remember the electric car from Fly Creek to Cooperstown; as a kid I used to take milk from the farm to the depot by horse and buggy. Also Dr. Horrel was our doctor when my family lived there... I enjoy the articles."

Rufus W. Hoke
Redlands, CA

(Editor's Note: no stamp honoring Fly Creek has been issued. Mr. Hoke is undoubtedly referring to the commemorative cancellation that was issued during our Bicentennial celebration. A copy of the cancellation appears in this newsletter.)

FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Post Office Box # 124
Fly Creek, New York 13337

