

# *Fly Creeker*

NEWSLETTER of the FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Editor: Bill Deane, P.O. Box 47, Fly Creek, NY 13337; Telephone (607) 547-5786.

Assistants: Jim Atwell, George Badgley, Margaret Eldridge, Carolyn McLean, Paula Schaeffer.

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3 \* SUMMER 1994

## NEWS BRIEFS

- We are five years old! The Fly Creek Area Historical Society (FCAHS) was formally chartered on July 26, 1989, with 55 members. The final 1993-94 membership total was 142, including 44 of the charter members.
- Speaking of membership, it's time to renew yours! 1994-95 dues are payable by August 1, 1994. An application appears on page three of this newsletter.
- Since 1854, the hottest temperature ever recorded in this area is 99° Fahrenheit, according to Cooperstown's National Weather Service observer Harold Hollis. This reading was reached on July 9 and 10, 1936. The hottest so far this year is a mere 92°, reached on June 17 and 18.
- The Spring *Fly Creeker* asked about long-lived area natives. Carolyn McLean submitted the obituary of Emily Hinds Pickens (1805-1905), who died just short of her 100th birthday. Mrs. Pickens, the great-great grandmother of FCAHS member Sally Rezen, was interred at "the old family burying ground on Twelve Thousand."
- The annual Community Sing will be held at the new Fly Creek fire house on August 21, 1994, beginning at 2 P.M. Various events are planned, and bake sale proceeds benefit the FCAHS. Members who wish to contribute home-baked goods are asked to have them there by noon that day. Monetary contributions are also welcome; please deliver checks to Florence Michaels, the bake-sale chairperson, or mail them to the Society.
- The FCAHS still has a number of promotional items available for sale during Society meetings. Included are plastic tops, imprinted "Fly Creek", 50 cents each; potholders, inscribed with the Society's name, \$2 each; copies of the post card booklet, *Fly Creek Area Yesteryear*, \$7 each; and sets of ten historic Fly Creek post cards, now at the clearance price of \$5 per set. These items (except the tops) can also be ordered through the mail; please add \$1 per item for postage and handling.
- There was a golf course atop "Fly Creek Hill" on the north side of Route 28/80 at one time. Does anyone have a scorecard for or recollection about this course? Please contact the editor with any information.
- Following are the answers to the Fly Creek area historical quiz questions, submitted by Florence Michaels and published in the last newsletter. Nobody answered all six correctly. The source for the first three answers is a program for the dedication of the Fly Creek Honor Roll; the source for the last three is an *Otsego Farmer* article dated November 14, 1952.
- Quiz answers (see above): 1. The Fly Creek Honor Roll was dedicated on October 1, 1944; 2. The Hon. Orange L. Van Horne gave the dedication speech; 3. The parade started at the Fly Creek school house and ended at the four-corners; 4. The Fly Creek Fire District was organized in 1951; 5. It included the Town of Otsego in Fly Creek, Oaksville, Toddsville, and along Fly Creek Valley; 6. There were 600 voting residents in 1952. (More news briefs appear on page 3)

## MEETINGS

The next three meetings of the FCAHS will be held on July 27, August 24, and September 28, 1994. In July, Richard Ranieri will speak on "CCC Camps in the Fly Creek Area", and in September, Al Bullard will present "Hops Growing in Otsego." The August gathering is the Society's Annual Meeting (preceded at 6 P.M. by a covered-dish supper), featuring committee reports for 1993-94 and election of officers for 1994-95. Meetings are held in the basement of the Fly Creek church beginning at 7 P.M., and are open to the public.

The three most recent meetings were held on April 27, May 25, and June 22, 1994. In April Robert Murdock, General Manager of the R.E.A. in Hartwick, spoke on "Rural Electrification." He spoke of the 1942 establishment of an Otsego electrical co-op and the 1944 opening of the Oaksville sub-station, the first rural sub-station in New York. The R.E.A. now has six sub-stations, 675 miles of line, and 3,500 customers. Mr. Murdock also donated two books on the subject to the Society.

In May, Inabelle and Ed Selan gave an interesting talk on antique toys and collectibles. Drawing from their own fine collection, the Selans displayed a number of pieces and told of their history and value.

The June meeting convened at the Fly Creek Village Cemetery (its name since 1901), across from the Grange Hall on Cemetery Road. There, Louis Grippe summarized his research on and full-scale restoration of the graveyard, which began as a "little clean-up" four years ago. Mr. Grippe appeals to donations from Fly Creekers, as the project so far has largely been funded by him and by the generosity of area businesses.

The FCAHS treasury balance, as announced in the last business meeting, now stands at \$7,250.36. (Submitted by Jim Atwell)



The following anonymous poem was submitted to the Fly Creeker recently:

### WHICH ARE YOU?

Are you an eager member, the kind that would be missed,  
Or, are you just contented that your name is on the list?  
Do you attend meetings, and mingle with the flock,  
Or, do you stay at home and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along,  
Or, are you satisfied to be the kind that just belongs?  
Do you ever voluntarily help at the guiding stick,  
Or, leave the work to just a few and talk about the "clique"?

Come to meetings often and partake with hand and heart,  
Don't just be a member-- take an active part.  
Think this over, member, you know right from wrong:  
ARE YOU AN EAGER MEMBER, OR DO YOU "JUST BELONG"?!  
**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

**MORE NEWS BRIEFS (Continued from Page 1)**

- Elaine Harvey turned in a copy of an advertisement found in the *Otsego County Grange News* of June, 1939. In it, Cooperstown's Grand Union market listed Fresh Pack Corn Flakes at 5 cents, Crisco & Spry (3 lb.) at 48 cents, jumbo oranges at 12 for 29 cents, brine cure salt pork at 10 cents per pound, pork sausage at 19 cents per pound, and regular bacon at 19 cents per pound.
- During the May 25 FCAHS meeting, Florence Michaels misplaced two 8 X 10" photographs of the "Foote House" in Oaksville. If anyone knows what happened to these photos, please give Florence a call at 547-9212.

The Society has learned of the death of one of its oldest members. Bernice Elizabeth Hoke Vaughn of Hemet, California, died December 25, 1993, aged 92.

Born on Rum Hill near Cooperstown on July 21, 1901, Mrs. Vaughn grew up on the Cooperhead Farm in Fly Creek. She graduated from U.S.C. and became a dental hygienist in California. Mrs. Vaughn was involved in many organizations, and enjoyed gardening and genealogy. In 1992, she donated to the FCAHS her self-published *The Family of Irving and Anna (Wikoff) Hoke and Their Ancestry*.

Mrs. Vaughn was predeceased by her husband of 44 years, Charles P. Vaughn, and is survived by a brother, Rufus Wikoff Hoke of Redlands, California.

***Fly Paper***

By Tom Heitz, Contributor of the *Freeman's Journal's* "Bound Volumes" Column

Should Fly Creek change its name? This question was addressed a century ago, as reported in the June 21, 1894 edition of Cooperstown's *Freeman's Journal*:

"The adjourned meeting of the Leatherstocking Literary Association to discuss the resolution to change the name of our village was largely attended. The public, or all getting their mail from the Fly Creek post office, were invited to take part. Fully two hundred were present. Much enthusiasm was shown by the audience when the name, history, past and present, of Fly Creek was spoken of, showing that our people still believe the name of Fly Creek has not outlived its usefulness, and that in the future as in the past the name... will ever be held in love and loyalty by the sons and daughters of our beautiful and thrifty hamlet. The affirmative was opened by John B. Hooker Jr. The negative was taken by S. C. Bailey, Charles Babbitt, C. E. Carr, S. W. Cheney, J. S. Byard and A. H. Clark. Before the adjournment an expression of the meeting was called for an out of the two hundred present only four voted for a change. All honor to the old name!"

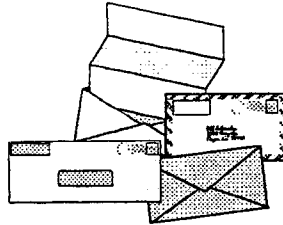
**1994-95 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 87, Fly Creek, NY 13337**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ New Membership \_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check applicable box(es):

- Please register me as a member of the FCAHS. Enclosed is a check for \$5.
- Please register us to a family FCAHS membership. Enclosed is a check for \$8.
- Please accept the enclosed donation, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum \$10), and enroll me/us as a contributing/sustaining member(s).



### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

The *Fly Creeker* will print letters of general interest about area history, the Society, or the newsletter itself. The Editor reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, space, etc. Please address correspondence to Bill Deane, at P.O. Box 47, Fly Creek, NY 13337.

"I read with interest the article on Fly Creek baseball and your request for information. In the early 1920s Fly Creek had a home team which played in the flat below the Methodist church, near the creek. When it was too wet, home games were moved to an area near the home of Harold Carpenter (who served as umpire) in Toddsville.

"Members I can recall were John E. Potts (my father), J. Hervey Smith (catcher; later owner of the feed store), Howard Aufmuth, Sr., Stanley Allison (pitcher), Guy Roberts, Vince Jones, Paul Clark, Darwin Wheeler, Sherril Woodbeck (catcher), and Ernest Skinner. There were no uniforms; everyone had his own equipment, such as it was.

"The games were sometimes played after work, but usually on Sunday afternoons. The team frequently went to such places as Burlington Flats, Roseboom, and Westford, in which cases families came along with picnic lunches. It was a social event."

Zoe E. (Potts) Smith  
Victor, NY

---

**FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O. Box 87**  
**Fly Creek, NY 13337**

---

---

---