

Fly Creeker

NEWSLETTER of the FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (FCAHS)

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.

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NEWS BRIEFS

- Helen Winne offers an addition to the list (see previous issue) of long-lived area residents: her mother-in-law (and FCAHS member Ernie Winnie's mother), Dora Shillieto Winnie. Dora was born in the town of Burlington on July 28, 1884, and lived most of her life in Fly Creek. She was active in the Fly Creek Methodist Church, Grange, and 4-H Club. She died April 22, 1984, aged 99 years, 8 months.
- According to the *Otsego County Bi-Centennial Engagement Calendar* (1991), Fly Creek is now marking a couple of notable anniversaries. The Fly Creek Grange (#844) was organized about February 1, 1895, thus is approaching its 100th birthday. And, the current Town of Otsego Building on County Road 26 hosted its first town board meeting 20 years ago this month, on January 8, 1975.
- The FCAHS is offering clearance prices on several of its promotional items. Plastic tops, imprinted "Fly Creek", are 50 cents each; pot-holders inscribed with the Society's name, and featuring Freida Snyder's artwork, are down to \$1.50 apiece; and historic Fly Creek area post cards are 55 cents each, or \$5 for the complete set of ten. These items are available for sale during FCAHS meetings; pot-holders and post cards can also be ordered through the mail (please add \$1 per item for postage and handling).
- The editor has prepared a four-page index to the *Fly Creeker*, covering all 23 issues published to date. Copies of this will be available during upcoming FCAHS meetings. Anyone wishing to have a copy of the index mailed to him or her should send a self-addressed, stamped long envelope to the editor at the address listed above. And, incidentally, the newsletter committee plans to hold its annual meeting on Saturday, March 11, 1995, at 1 P.M. Please contact the editor if you are interested in participating.
- Final reminder: 1994-95 membership dues were payable on August 1, 1994. If your name is not listed on the FCAHS roster printed on the following page, it is because we have not received your dues. An application appears on page three of this newsletter. Please continue your support of our Society.

MEETINGS

Time to mark your 1995 calendar with the dates of this year's FCAHS meetings: January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23 (Annual Meeting), September 27, October 25, and November 15. Meetings are open to the public, and begin at 7 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall (basement) of the Fly Creek United Methodist Church on County Road 26.

We members will provide our own program for the January meeting: reminiscences of times past. Members are asked to be prepared to exchange memories of people, places, and things of yesteryear, particularly in the Fly Creek area. In February, Peter Martin will speak about the Old Chapel Burying Ground. And, in March, MerriLynn Fish will present a History of the Fly Creek Fire Department.

The most recent gatherings were held on October 26 and November 16, 1994. In October, Rev. Joseph Timlin spoke on "The Archaeology of Native American Indians". Rev. Timlin gave a slide presentation on digs he participated in in Seward and Hyndsville, and brought in various artifacts gathered during his searches. In November, Pat Yourho -- whose memories of this area date back to the early 1920s -- gave an encore performance of his January 26, 1994 presentation, contrasting lifestyles and prices of yesteryear with those of today.

FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1994-95 Roll of Membership

*ATWELL, Dr. James
 AUFMUTH, Jayne
 *BADGLEY, Mr. & Mrs. George
 BAKER, David & Scottie
 BARNOWSKY, Dr. & Mrs. Laurence

*BERTINO, Dr. Joseph
 BOUTON, Ronald & Carol
 BOYD, Louie & Dorothy
 BOYD, Spike & Joyce
 BULLARD, Albert & Sandra

*BURNHAM, Garfield & Catherine
 CAMPBELL, Bernice
 CAMPBELL, Grant
 CARR, Richard D.
 CLARK, Mr. & Mrs. Francis

CLAYTON, Robert E.
 *CURLIS, Irwin & Virginia
 *DAY, Irving III & Kathleen
 *DEANE, Bill & Pam
 *DEVENPECK, Hattie

DODGE, Martha
 ELDRIDGE, David
 *ELDRIDGE, Margaret
 FARMER, Dr. Edward & Mary
 FISH, Jim & MerriLynn

FOUTCH, Maud
 GOODSPEED, Charles & Ann
 HANEY, Craig
 HANOR, Katherine
 *HARVEY, Merritt & Elaine

HECOX, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene
 HEITZ, Tom & Ginger
 JENKINS, Arthur & Ruby
 *JENSEN, Margaret
 KEATING, William & Evelyn

KING, Horace & Marie
 KNAPP, Jean
 KUZMINSKI, Adrian
 LAUT, Dorothy & Kenneth
 *LAVRINOS, Nicholas & Alice

LEVINE, Harry & Ellen
 LUDLAM, Henry & Toni
 LYONS, Irving & Joan
 MacDOUGALL, Hugh & Eleanor
 MACKIE, Dr. Robert & Lidie

*MARTIN, Peter & Dorothy
 McLEAN, Carolyn
 *MEZGER, Bernard & Carol
 MICHAELS, Charles & Barbara
 *MICHAELS, Florence

MUMFORD, Mr. & Mrs. Rolan H.
 NAFZIGER, Dr. Anne
 *NORRIS, Robert & Patricia
 POPE, Janice
 *POTTS, Maxine

REILLY, Edward
 REZEN, Paul & Sally
 *SELAN, Inabelle
 SHARPE, Stuart & Bonnie
 SMALE, Capt. Gordon F.

SMITH, Zoe
 *SNYDER, Art & Freida
 STACK, Edward & Christina
 TALBOT, William & Evelyn
 THORNE, Edwin & Judy

TODD, Phyllis
 WHITE, Helen M.
 *WINNIE, Ernest & Gerda
 *WYCKOFF, George & June
 YOURNO, Albert & Ann

YOURNO, James
 ZYSKOWSKI, Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence

*Charter Member.

DECEASED MEMBERS

BLANCHARD, Sally (1/12/93)
 BLOCK, Waldemar (10/27/91)
 KNAPP, Ernest (10/19/93)
 MECKLENBURG, Frederick H. von (6/13/91)

*MICHAELS, Howard (1/13/91)
 OLIN, Beatrice (8/28/90)
 *PRESTON, Mrs. Robert (5/18/91)
 SMALE, Elizabeth (7/29/91)
 SUSMAN, C. Paul (4/22/92)

SUSMAN, Elizabeth (11/1/90)
 *TALBOT, Hazel I. (10/3/91)
 TRINKAUS, John (4/13/93)
 VanWOERT, Esther (2/11/92)
 VAUGHN, Bernice E. (12/25/93)

A STORMY ROMANCE

Following are selected entries from the diary of Betsy Pierce (1821-1909), a resident of upper Fly Creek Valley. The entries are from February and March, 1888, including the notorious "Blizzard of '88". Among those mentioned are Betsy's widowed nephew, Gene Bourne, and her niece, Ella Mann, who were among the at least eight people living in the Bourne household at that time. Betsy seems less than enthusiastic about her nephew's current romance.

Sun. Feb. 26-- Squalls... Gene is away this eve, no strange event.

Fri. March 2 -- Snow, rain and blow. It is another day for Gene to go. He goes to Richfield to get a girl to take to Oaksville to a Universell social. Great doings.

Sat. March 3-- Cold, snow and blow. When we was at breakfast Gene and girl came. It storms so bad she stays until better weather.

Mon. March 5-- Very nice...Gene went to take that girl to I do not know where and care less.

Sun. March 11-- Fair...Gene went to see that girl. It commenced to snow just at night and only just increased as long as any of us were up.

Mon. March 12-- Snowing and blowing... It is wallowing to get the chores done and a continued coming down of snow.

Tues. March 13-- Snowing. No stirring yet. It is gloomy and lonely. Gene away. Baby thinks a long day since he saw his papa.

Wed. March 14-- Clear. The men are trying to make a road but it is slow and hard work.

Thurs. March 15-- Clear... Lanie is sick. Little Walter is sick. Ella is no better. It is rough to be sick and no roads.

Wed. March 21-- Rain. Medicine worked better on Walter. The rest are miserable set and no mistake about it. Carrie and her ma call in every day to see the misery. A snow slide and water roared down off the rocks like fury.

(Submitted by Carolyn McLean)

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).

WOLVES AND FOXES AND BEARS-- OH MY!

While the Fly Creek area still has its share of wildlife, it is considerably tamer than it was two centuries ago. According to the 1877 History of Otsego County, New York, "in those early days wild animals were in abundance, and the settlements were much annoyed by the depredations of wolves and bears. Wolves were great cowards during the day, but in the night season made havoc upon the sheepfolds (and disturbed sleep with their demoniac howls). Bruin was not considered dangerous to human life, but had a propensity for visiting the pig-pens; and woe to the unfortunate 'porker' that came within his grasp. It is related of Mrs. Lathrop (an early settler from Connecticut) that she once made a charge with a broomstick on a bear that was making it unpleasant for the pigs, and succeeded in driving him from his prey."

AREA NATIVE MAKES IT BIG IN FICTION

According to the 1877 History of Otsego County, New York, the hero of James Fenimore Cooper's famous novels was based on a resident of our area. David Shipman, fictionalized as "Leatherstocking", "Deerslayer", and "Natty Bumppo", lived in a log cabin on the east bank of Oaks Creek, about equi-distant between Toddsville and Fly Creek. He dressed in tanned deerskin, carried a long rifle, and roamed the forest with his dogs in search of deer, bears, and foxes. He moved west for a while, but returned to this area for the final years of his life. He is said to be buried in an unmarked grave in the Adams cemetery, at the corner of County Road 26 and Day Road. Shipman had one son, Samuel, who reared a large family of sons and daughters.

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