

Fly Creeker

NEWSLETTER of the FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (FCAHS)
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NEWS BRIEFS

- **A strong constitution ...** Included with this issue is a revised version of the Society's Constitution and By-Laws, as prepared by President Jim Atwell. Be sure to keep it in a safe place.

SALE STATEMENT.

Fawn Brook, N. Y., Sept 11 1883

S. Quaif's Cheese Factory.

IN ACCOUNT WITH

Mr G. Smedeker

Sold _____ and _____

No. Boxes		56
26769 Whole No. lbs. Milk		
No. lbs. Milk you furnished		
Price per lb. of Milk		
2665 Whole No. lbs. Cheese sold.		
Sold at _____ c.	Amounting to \$	
Date of Sale	<i>Sept 3</i>	
Amount of Milk		10000
Milk per lb., Cheese		100
Pounds of Cheese		
Price per Pound	<i>9 3/8</i>	
Matang,	<i>120</i>	
Net Balance,		<i>8.42</i>

S. QUAIFF.

- **Where were they? ...** Carolyn McLean has questions about the locations of two former local businesses. She has a little folder advertising flour, ending with the words "These flours are sold by: F. H. Robinson, Fly Creek, N.Y." Carolyn also has an invoice, dated June 1886, for tub butter shipped to Robinson. Can anyone tell us where Robinson's store was? The other establishment in question is the Fawn Brook Cheese Factory (see copy of sale statement at left). Deb McCaffery, Library Assistant at NYSHA, was able to determine that this factory was owned by Samuel Quaif in Fly Creek. Does anybody know where it was located?

- **Fourscore and 17 years...** Mary Eldred, a Fly Creek resident for 70 years, died recently at the age of 97. She thus became one of the longest-lived Fly Creekers of all time. Following is a list of the oldest known area residents, with ages in years and months:

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Age
Elvira Sophronia Pierce Bourne	10/ 3/1836	7/15/1942	105-9
Dora Shillieto Winnie	7/28/1884	4/22/1984	99-8
Emily Hinds Pickens	10/20/1805	1/11/1905	99-2
Mary E. Wright Eldred	5/29/1899	1/31/1997	97-8
Leander Weldon	8/12/1830	12/14/1927	97-4
Orlando Bourne	1 /1828	8/12/1925	97-4
Harvey M. Hull	2/26/1848	6/12/1944	96-3
Ella Mann	2/11/1866	11/ 1/1961	95-8
Nancy Jane Sibley	4/16/1855	12/25/1950	95-8

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

- **Bourne again ...** See Carolyn McLean's item about Orlando Bourne elsewhere in this issue. Carolyn notes that Bourne was "apparently mentally and physically active all his years, which seems to be rather common for long-time residents of this area. Will this hold true for the future? One hopes. Even if it doesn't, this is a great place to live."
- **Taylor-made ...** Carolyn McLean also points out that the *History of Otsego County, NY* remarks on the longevity of Fly Creek Valley's Taylor family, with many members living well into their 70s and 80s (not so remarkable now!). Erastus Taylor was one of the area's earliest settlers, coming from Bennington, Vermont at a time when there were only three log houses in all of Cooperstown. He settled on land about 3½ miles above the present Fly Creek village.
- **Cancel your other plans...** On Sunday, July 21, 1997, the Fly Creek Post Office will mark its 175th anniversary with a special postal cancellation during the Fly Creek Music Day.
- **A time for renewal...** We recently received a new membership application from Wilma Weigel, and renewals from Stuart & Bonnie Sharpe and charter member Rev. Kenneth Baldwin (recently spotted appearing in a local theater production of *Gigi*). Our 1996-97 membership total stands at 117.
- **What's in store ...** We eagerly await the Fly Creek General Store, scheduled to open this spring at the site of the former Aufmuth's market. Owner Tom Bouton seems determined to preserve history as much as possible, and may provide space for the FCAHS to display some of its artifacts to the public.
- **A bad spell...** Apologies to Jim Havener, guest speaker at our November 1996 meeting, whose name was misspelled in the last issue.
- **A bad spill...** Founding member Maxine Potts was hospitalized recently after falling and suffering a broken hip. She is now undergoing therapy in New Jersey, where she can be contacted c/o Mr. & Mrs. Harry Levine, 147 Crestview Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540. We wish Maxine a speedy recovery.

MEETINGS

The next three FCAHS meetings are scheduled for April 23, May 28, and June 25, 1997. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall (basement) of the Fly Creek United Methodist Church beginning at 7 P.M., and are open to the public.

Elaine Harvey will speak about "The Old Steere Homestead" during the April gathering. May's guest speaker will be Anna Hosford, discussing "Creative Memories: The Valuable Tradition of Preserving the Past Through Pictures." And, in June, Hugh MacDougall will tell us "How the Fly Creek Band Helped Win the Civil War."

The most recent meetings were held on January 22, February 26, and March 26, 1997. The January meeting featured the FCAHS President, Dr. James Atwell, speaking on "The Meneely Bell Works and the Fly Creek Methodist Church Bell." Jim pointed out that the 1,028-pound church bell, which has served our community for nearly a century-and-a-half, belongs to the hamlet of Fly Creek, not to the church. The Meneely Bell Works (of Troy, NY), makers of the bell, also replaced the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall in Philadelphia which -- according to Jim -- makes that historic bell a "cousin" to ours.

In February, attendees provided their own program with the annual "Remembrances of Times Past." Practices and axioms related to planting and haying were the chief topics. And, in March, John Phillips demonstrated and described a large variety of "Old Swords and Guns," dating from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW ...

Fly Creek's first mail carrier, on its first Rural Free Delivery route (Fly Creek and Fly Creek Valley), was Ed Jarvis. Mr. Jarvis got the position in 1904, and proudly kept the letter confirming his appointment for the rest of his life.

Edwin M. Jarvis was born July 27, 1874 on a Christian Hill farm. He was a Seventh Degree Granger, serving as Master of the Fly Creek Grange on three occasions during some seven decades of membership. Jarvis retired from farm life in 1944 and attended to his many hobbies, including rug-weaving and gardening. The December 16, 1959 *Oneonta Star* had a feature article about Jarvis, then 85 years old and still going strong. [Submitted by Freida Snyder]

4,000 VISIT FLY CREEK

[Editor's note: the following comes from an unidentified newspaper clipping from 1910, and was submitted by Carolyn McLean.]

The Fourth of July celebration in this village was the most successful and largest gathering that has occurred in this place for years. If ever as large an assemblage met on the commons [editor's note: does anyone know where "the commons" was?] we have not heard of it, and while as a village there have been many pleasant and notable gatherings we feel confident in asserting that none ever passed with more satisfactory results in every way.

There were sufficient food preparations for feeding a multitude beside the 4,000 present. Thirty-seven automobiles were to be seen on the streets of our village at one time, and many of the autoists remained until evening. With the crowds that thronged the central portion of the village, and the fact that the use of dynamite cartridges, cannon crackers, etc., were allowed, it is no small matter of congratulation that no serious accident occurred to mar the pleasure of the day.

The features of the parade which included the Cooperstown Fire Department, Fort Dayton Band, Sons of Veterans, Veteran Fireman's Association of Oneonta, Richfield Springs Fire Department and a number of other organizations, were the historical and fraternal floats and the Great White Whale Fusilier companies. Some of the hits on recent political history were exceedingly funny and the crowd enjoyed them to the utmost.

The oration of the day was delivered by County Judge A. L. Kellogg of Oneonta and it was listened to by a large crowd. Fly Creek did herself proud and those who attended will long remember the day.

The following prizes for field sports were awarded:

Foot race, boys under 15: James Aplin, first; Harlan Van Valkenburgh, second.

Three-legged race: Fitheern and Congdon, first; Green and Shepard, second.

Potato race: Robbins, first; Congdon, second.

100-yard dash, free for all: Fitheern, first; Robbins, second.

Wheelbarrow race: Fisher and Johnson, first; Tucker and Pierce, second.

Sack race: Van Valkenburgh, first; Robbins, second.

Greased pig contest: Robbins.

Pie-eating contest: William Johnson, first; Green, second.

The decorations about town were beautiful, those at the places of F. H. Robinson and S. S. Alger being especially worthy of mention.

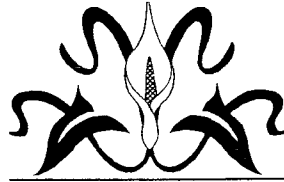
ORLANDO BOURNE, 96, "YOUNGEST" AT THE FAIR

Orlando Bourne of Fly Creek, 96 years of age, was the oldest person, so far as is known, to attend the Otsego County Fair. Mr. Bourne was the youngest of the young and seemed to heartily enjoy everything, visiting all the different departments and taking a great interest in all he saw, as has been this old gentleman's custom for many years past.

While his juniors shivered with cold from the icy winds and drew great coats about them in a vain attempt to keep warm, Mr. Bourne strode about in a blue street suit with never a bit of evidence that he was at all affected by the cold. He wore no rubbers and, although he carried a cane, it was very apparently not out of necessity.

Mr. Bourne hasn't missed a Fair for years and, despite his advanced age, bids fair to be present at many more in the seasons to come.

[Editor's note: the preceding article appeared in the *Otsego Farmer* on September 12, 1924, and was submitted by Carolyn McLean. Carolyn notes that Bourne died August 12, 1925, after being sick only a week. His obituary described him as a "great reader" who "possessed a fine, retentive memory," and credited his long life to "temperate habits" and "life-long industry." Bourne was a widower -- no connection implied to his long life! -- and was survived only by a daughter.]



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