

# Fly Creeker

NEWSLETTER of the FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (FCAHS)

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## NEWS BRIEFS

- **Old Postmasters never die -- they just lose their ZIP ...** In a surprise move, Elaine Harvey retired as Fly Creek Postmaster on August 15, 1998. Elaine had worked for the U. S. Postal Service since 1962, and had been our Postmaster since January 4, 1986. In the past 150 years, only Silas Alger (1861-85), Samuel Hunter (1915-43), and FCAHS member Ron Bouton (1973-86) had served Fly Creek longer in this capacity. We await a permanent replacement, but whoever it is will have a tough act to follow. We wish Elaine a long, happy retirement!
- **Second-best ...** A warm welcome to ten people who have recently become members of the FCAHS: Wayne Clinton; Cynthia Ekeland; Sam, Peg, Matt & Andy Hoskins; Carole Mihalko; and Paul, Semel & Rochelle Poulos. Those, along with Joan Lyons's renewal, brought our final 1998 membership total to 149 -- second-highest total in the Society's history, and just four behind our record of 153 in our founding year of 1989-90. Keep it growing!
- **Checks in the mail ...** 1999 dues are payable by the end of this year, so please use the form on page 5 to renew your membership. And, with the Holidays just around the corner, how about getting a gift membership for someone special?
- **A record to shoot for ...** After attending 70 consecutive FCAHS meetings, Elaine Harvey finally missed one on July 22 of this year. Elaine had last missed a meeting back in November, 1991.
- **Shave & hair-cut, two bits ...** To the right is a copy of the front and back of a business card in the possession of Elaine Harvey. Don's Barber Shop was located on County Route 26, across from the church, in the home currently occupied by Laurie Bertino.
- **Pancakes raise dough ...** Treasurer Alice Lavrinos reports that our pancake breakfast -- held September 12 in conjunction with the well-received Central New York Tractor Festival -- raised over \$300 for the Society. It is hoped and planned that both will become annual community events.

Phone LH 7-9495

### DON'S BARBER SHOP

Fly Creek, New York

Monday and Tuesday -- 9:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Closed Wednesdays

Thursday -- 9:00 to 9:00      Friday -- 9:00 to 8:00

Saturday -- 9:00 to 6:00 P. M.

I DON'T CARE

how far I am in the

dog house . . .

as long as I can

have my tail outside



**MENTIONS of FLY CREEK in the BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW of OTSEGO COUNTY, NY (1893)**  
**Compiled by Peter Martin**

PG	ITEM
16	Harvey Baker was installing water wheels in 1841: "he then had his supply for the ensuing two years cast at Metcalf's foundry in Fly Creek."
39	Capt. Uriah B. Kendall of Fly Creek, born New Lisbon 3/28/1819; third wife (2/1889) was Phebe Williams of Fly Creek, daughter of Luther & Phebe (Davidson) Williams.
42	Ida Brownell (adopted daughter of Alfred & Eliza Reynolds Brownell, and niece of Alfred) born 12/20/1867; married Clarence Woodbeck and now resides in Fly Creek.
47	Otis H. Babbitt, M.D., born in Town of Otsego 3/19/1854. His father, Roswell Babbitt, married Elizabeth Brown, whose father, Clark Brown, was married to Elizabeth Davidson, daughter of Richard Davidson. Mr. Brown engaged in the mercantile business at Fly Creek, and drew the plans and built the first power loom in Otsego County. He died in Fly Creek, aged 89, on 7/19/1878, 12 years after his wife died at 75. Their children were Franklin H., Lucian E., Ellen L., Emma C., Otis H., and Grace M. Brown.
53	Frederick T. Jarvis was the grandson of Ashael & Abigale (Griswood) Jarvis. Ashael was born in Lansboro, MA 2/15/1760, and purchased land on the banks of Fly Creek in 1795. He learned the trade of wheelwright, and erected a shop and manufactured carding machinery and spinning wheels. He died 9/10/1823, and his wife followed on 9/26/1862. Their son, Chester, was Postmaster and Justice of the Peace in Fly Creek. Chester's son, Frederick T., was a Civil War veteran and died 4/10/1870.
75	Alfred Bliss, born in the Town of Otsego 5/25/1835, was educated in Fly Creek and learned the trade of moulder. He followed the trade for 30 years, and was forman of the foundry in Norwich. He now is retired and living in Fly Creek. He is a musician, playing any kind of horn, and was with the 103rd Regiment Band in Norwich. He married 12/25/1860 to Marcia A. Cheney, daughter of Stephen and grand-daughter of Joseph & Lydia Cheney.
82	Celijando Taylor was born 3/30/1828 in the town of Otsego, the daughter of Thomas Taylor (Taylortown Farms). She married Elisha Gibbs.
98	John Kensington Leaning, M.D. graduated from Castleton Medical College in 1849. He practiced in Fly Creek until moving to Cooperstown in 1890.
102	Howard E. Jones was born at Milford, 1/5/1858, and learned the trade of tinner. After two years at Phoenix Mills, he established the hardware store in Fly Creek in 1882.
152	Frank Davidson was born in the Town of Otsego 6/23/1843, the son of Titus D. & Nancy Taylor Davidson. Frank, a Civil War veteran, now resides in Fly Creek.
186	Charles Babbitt was the son of Daniel and the grandson of Warren Babbitt. A carpenter, he lived near Oaks Creek.
256	Lucian Hinds of Milford was born in the Town of Otsego 9/24/1828, the son of Nehemiah (1785-1/15/1870) & Sarah Willis (1792-c. 1872) Hinds. On 1/2/1851, after living with his parents for 22 years, Lucien married Barbara A. Stephens, who was born in the Town of Otsego 11/15/1828 and died 3/17/1891. Their children, both born in Fly Creek, were Hattie E. (2/25/1855-2/3/1878), and Joseph L. (7/19/1856-10/23/1889). Lucian worked a farm on shares for one year, rented a farm from his brother, George, for one year, then bought a pail factory in Fly Creek and conducted business for three years.
273	Horace C. Hooker, a stone mason, came from Connecticut to Edmeston in 1822. He assisted in erecting the Hoboken Factory at New Berlin, the County Courthouse, and a factory in Oaksville. He left Edmeston for Saquoit in 1832, then for Fly Creek five years later. He died there 6/20/1877. His son, John Barton Hooker, was born in Edmeston 3/21/1826. John was educated in the common schools and attended Clinton Liberal Institute for three terms. After this, he was engaged in the manufacture of pails at Fly Creek for five years, and horsepowers for eight years.

## FCAHS PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: 1998 Annual Report

[Editor's note: following is the text of the annual report delivered by Jim Atwell, on the editor's behalf, during the Society's Annual Meeting on August 26, 1998.]

The Publications Committee consists of Jim Atwell, George Badgley, Carolyn McLean, and Bill Deane. We held our annual meeting here in the Fellowship Hall on July 22, 1998. Besides publishing our quarterly newsletter, ... the Committee handles publicity work for the Society, including posters and news articles about our monthly meetings and special events, and mass-mailing letters on various subjects.

We'd like to give special thanks to Carolyn McLean for the volume of contributions and help she has given to our Committee and our newsletter. Other ... Society members who have been particularly helpful to us over the past year include, alphabetically, Pam Deane, MerriLynn Fish, Elaine Harvey, Alice Lavrinos, Barbara Michaels, Florence Michaels, Sally Rezen, and Freida Snyder.

The Committee again published four newsletters over the past year, making a grand total of 37 issues and 160 pages since 1989. The Autumn, 1998 issue is expected out in October. We also updated a six-page index to the *Fly Creeker*, covering all issues from 1989 through 1997, not a small task. When we offered free copies of this index to members in the past two issues, we received only one request for a copy. We're not sure what this tells us about the membership's interest in the newsletter. In any case, until they are gone, remaining copies of this index will be available on a table here during meetings.

We will dispense with the usual lecture about needing more people to get involved in helping to preserve area history.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Deane, Chairman, Publications Committee

The Society mourns the death of Margaret Elkan, a FCAHS member since 1992. Mrs. Elkan, 94, died at her Fly Creek Valley home on August 17, 1998.

The former Margaret Hirschfeld was born May 10, 1904 in Frankfurt, Germany. Margaret studied the diverse subjects of violin, horticulture, X-ray and clinical laboratory science. She came to the U.S. shortly before World War II, and married Walter B. Elkan in 1943. Besides being an excellent lab technician for 20 years at Bassett Hospital, Mrs. Elkan was an accomplished violinist, belonging to several musical groups. Until earlier this year, she hosted weekly meetings to discuss German literature.

Mrs. Elkan had been a widow for 41 years, but is survived by a sister, a brother, a son, two stepsons, ten grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

### 1999 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 \$10.
- Please register us to a family FCAHS membership. Enclosed is a check for \$15.
- Please accept the enclosed donation, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum \$20), and enroll me/us as a contributing/sustaining member(s).

## OCTOBER 28: "AN EVENING OF GHOST STORIES"

The final two FCAHS meetings of 1998 will be held on October 28 and November 18. Attendees will provide the October program: "An Evening of Ghost Stories." In November, Arrie Hecox will share some of his voluminous "Fly Creek Area Memories." 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.

The most recent FCAHS meetings were held on July 22, August 26, and September 23, 1998. The July gathering featured Wolfgang Merk and Jim Atwell, discussing "The Old Stone Mill." The mill was located on land now owned by the two, on Oaks Creek near Bissell Road, and remnants of it can still be seen. Wolfgang and Jim displayed photos and artifacts related to the mill.

The Society's Annual Meeting, preceded by a covered-dish supper, was held in August. Annual committee reports were read, and -- in absence of the Nominating Committee -- President Jim Atwell, Vice-President Jim Fish, Secretary MerriLynn Fish, Treasurer Alice Lavrinos, and Trustee Ed Thorne were re-elected. John Phillips was nominated to complete the term of Trustee Maxine Potts, who had asked to be replaced.

In September, Dr. Edythe Ann Quinn, an assistant professor at Hartwick College, presented "From Coal Fields to Dairy Land: The Influence of Eastern European Immigrants on the 1930s Milk Strike." Included was the role of the Slovenian community in Fly Creek's dairy industry, which Dr. Quinn researched partly by interviewing descendants of immigrants to the Fly Creek area.



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P.O. Box 87  
Fly Creek, NY 13337

