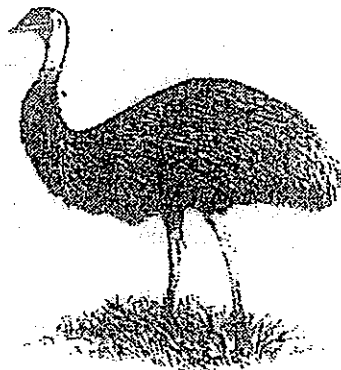


# *Fly Creeker*

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, Carolyn McLean.  
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1 \* WINTER, 1998

## NEWS BRIEFS

- **Putting us on the map ...** Fly Creek has made it to the big leagues. The October 17, 1997 edition of *USA Today* had a full-page feature entitled "Cooperstown, a Fall Classic." Naturally, most of the article focused on what Jim Atwell calls "our largest suburb," but there was also prominent mention of Fly Creek. It is shown on a small map accompanying the article, and the Fly Creek Cider Mill is among the nearby attractions listed. There was even a photo of our own Barb Michaels, trying to hustle the price of a candied apple from a young customer!
- **More national exposure ...** John Deere & Company recently visited the Fly Creek Cider Mill in preparation for a company promotional video. They filmed Charlie Michaels using his 1924 Waterloo Boy stationary gas engine, and his 1938 John Deere Model H tractor. The segment will be included in the 1998 John Deere Day video, distributed to every Deere dealership in the nation.
- **Newlyweds ...** Congratulations to three FCAHS members who have recently tied the knot: Jim Atwell, Martha Helfand (formerly Hecox), and Rolan Mumford. And welcome to their spouses, Anne Geddes Atwell, Elliot Helfand and Trula Mumford, who have joined our Society. Welcome also to new member John Phillips.
- **Renewing our vows ...** Second reminder: annual dues for the 1998 membership year are due. The 85 people who have already joined or renewed are listed on the Roll of Membership on page 3, and their membership cards should be included with this mailing. Since we had 132 members last year, many of us are remiss! If you fit that category, please use the application on the bottom of the same page to renew your membership.
- **Flightless in Fly Creek and Florida ...** The last newsletter told the story of an emu (see below) seen in Fly Creek this past summer. Carolyn McLean, still stationed in Florida (Fairlane Harbor, 100 N. Harbor Dr., Vero Beach, FL 32960), reports a very similar story from her part of the country. Following numerous reports from startled residents, an emu was caught in Vero Beach on December 2, 1997. As was the case with our big bird, nobody claimed ownership of the flightless Floridian.



EMU: AKA BIG BIRD

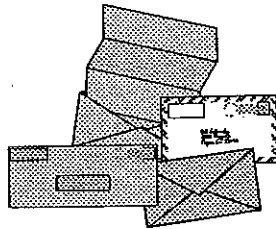
## 1998 MEETINGS SLATED

Time to take down your 1998 calendar and mark the dates of this years FCAHS meetings: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, and November 18 (the fourth Wednesday of each of the first ten months, and the third Wednesday in November). 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.

Dot Martin will speak on "Early Fly Creek during the January meeting. In February, attendees will provide their own program with the fourth annual "Remembrances of Times Past." And, in March, John Phillips will present "Sailing on Square Riggers."

The final two 1997 meetings of the FCAHS were held on October 22 and November 19. The well-attended October meeting -- held in the church sanctuary -- featured Niles Eggleston, author of *Eva Coe, Murderess*. Mr. Eggleston detailed very interestingly the story of the murder which, at the time, shocked and touched many lives in this area. Coe was found guilty of murdering Harry Wright in the Town of Milford on June 14, 1934, and was executed for the crime on June 27, 1935. Among the jurors were two Fly Creek residents, Henry Konkofske and Felix Rode. Also during this meeting, various historical documents, donated by Carolyn McLean, were presented to the Society for accessioning.

In November we visited Heartworks, the quilting store recently opened by Bunny and Jim Wolff. After a tour of the new building, Bunny showed and described some of the different types of quilts she had made or restored. She also gave valuable information on the care and storage of quilts. Members felt fortunate to learn from an expert about the art and preservation of heirloom quilts. During the business meeting Florence Michaels mentioned a butter churn, inscribed "Fly Creek, NY," which she had seen at an antique shop. It was decided that the Society look into purchasing the churn. [Submitted by George Badgley]



### LETTER 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.

"We would like to comment on and praise the new Fly Creek brochure. We were so glad to have it at the mill. Not only was the brochure well done, it served to add dimension to all our customers and tourists as added information about our area and community. Our customers enjoyed having it."

Barb & Charlie Michaels  
Fly Creek Cider Mill

**FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1998 Roll of Membership**

\*ATWELL, Dr. & Mrs. James  
 AUFMUTH, Jayne  
 BARNOWSKY, Lawrence & Joyce  
 BOUTON, Ronald & Carol  
 BOYD, Louie & Dorothy  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*BRESEE, Philip & Ruth  
 CARR, Richard D.  
 CLARK, Mr. & Mrs. Francis  
 CLAYTON, Robert E.  
 CRESWELL, Marion S.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*CURLIS, Irwin  
 DALY, Gail  
 \*DAY, Irving III & Kathleen  
 \*DEANE, Bill, Pam & Sarah  
 DERINGER, Dr. & Mrs. Paul  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DODGE, Martha  
 ELKAN, Margaret  
 ELLSWORTH, Jerry & Cathie  
 FAMULARE, Dorothy  
 FARMER, Mary  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOUTCH, Maude  
 GOODSPEED, Charles & Ann  
 HANEY, Craig  
 \*HARVEY, Merritt & Elaine  
 HELFAND, Elliot & Martha  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*JENSEN, Margaret  
 KEATING, William & Evelyn  
 KELLOGG, Rev. Eileen  
 KING, Marion  
 KNAPP, Jean  
 \_\_\_\_\_

LANE, Timothy & Alison  
 \*LAVRINOS, Nicholas & Alice  
 LEVINE, Harry & Ellen  
 LIPPITT, Gregory & Phyllis  
 MacDOUGALL, Hugh & Eleanor  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 McLEAN, Carolyn  
 MICHAELS, Charles & Barbara  
 \*MICHAELS, Florence  
 MOSHIER, Robin  
 MUMFORD, Rolan & Trula  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*NORRIS, Robert & Patricia  
 PERNAT, Mary  
 PHILLIPS, John  
 \*POTTS, Maxine  
 REILLY, James R.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 REZEN, Paul & Sally  
 SCARZAFAVA, John & Jean  
 SHARPE, Stuart & Bonnie  
 SMITH, Zoe Potts  
 \*SNYDER, Art & Freida  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 SNYDER, Ben & Juliana  
 TILLAPPAUGH, Marjorie  
 WEIGEL, Wilma  
 WINNE, Helen  
 WYCKOFF, George & June  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 YOURNO, Albert, Ann & James  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\*Charter Member.

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**1998 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).

## THE ELDREDS

It is safe to say that no couple experienced as much history of Fly Creek as Ray and Mary Eldred. The two were married for 78 years, living all but eight years of that time in our area.

Raymond Eldred was born in Oaksville on December 22, 1896. Mary E. Wright was born in Exeter on May 29, 1899. Their romance began in 1915 at the roller skating rink at Richfield Springs's Canadarago Park, and they were married August 31, 1917. The childless couple lived on County Route 26, Fly Creek, from 1921 until they moved to The Meadows, Otsego County's nursing home, in November, 1991. They celebrated their 75th anniversary with family and friends there the following summer.

Ray worked at the local creamery and at various area dairy farms. He later delivered milk for Iroquois Farms (in horse-drawn cart) and Bruce Hall. Among his other employers over the years were Remington Arms and Harrison Feed. He also did carpentry work, for Marshal Hunt and others, until his retirement at age 80. Mary worked for a knitting mill in Richfield, and spent 20 years house-cleaning for Ambrose Clark. The two roller-skated together into their 80s, and kept their skates with them to the end.

"It's been wonderful to see how close they are to each other," said Meadows head nurse Sandy DeRosa in 1992. "They're really devoted, and kind of an inspiration for married couples." Ray died May 30, 1996, and Mary followed on January 31, 1997. [Submitted by Sally Rezen]

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**FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**P.O. Box 87**

**Fly Creek, NY 13337**

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