

Fly Creeker

NEWSLETTER of the FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (FCAHS)

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VOLUME 14, ISSUE 4 * AUTUMN, 2002

NEWS BRIEFS

- **New Winter Coat ...** In case you haven't noticed, the exterior painting of our Society's building has been completed by Mariotti Painting and Decorating. The total cost of \$3,920 was *not* covered by the grant reported in the last issue. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation toward this project, please send a check with 'paint campaign' in the memo section to FCAHS, PO Box 87, Fly Creek, NY 13337. And thanks to those who have already sponsored gallons of paint: Michael Ainslie, Richard D. Carr, Robert E. Clayton, John & Jean Finch, Katharine Hanor, Angela Harrington, William & Evelyn Keating, Henry Ludlam, Toni Ludlam, and Sarah V. Rezen.
- **Renewal Time ...** Dues for 2003 are due by the first of the year; please use the application on page 5 (copies are fine) to renew your membership, or buy a gift membership for someone special. Also, note the new Tribute Program. And, welcome to our newest members, Chuck & Susan Newman, John & Violet Schallert, and Judith A. Vidal. These, plus renewals from Janice Pope and Sherlee S. Rathbone, brought our final 2002 membership total to 174, down 14% from last year's record 203.
- **Programmed for Success ...** After serving since the founding of our Society, Elaine Harvey and Freida Snyder have stepped down as Program Committee Co-Chairpersons. Jim Atwell has volunteered to take over the committee, and is looking for an assistant. Elaine and Freida provided us with 13 years of hard, thankless work, producing 133 diverse and interesting programs (see page 3). At the October 5 dance, they were presented certificates of appreciation for their work. This committee has been the life-blood of our organization's growth and success, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to Elaine and Freida. Thanks a million, ladies!
- **Youth Movement ...** During the Annual Meeting, Jim Atwell noted that we ought to be trying to attract younger members to the Society; Carl Roemer voiced the same idea at last year's Annual Meeting. The Editor will chime in, too: when the Society was founded he was, at 32, one of the youngest members. Now, at 45, he is *still* one of the youngest members. While it does wonders for his ego to be the youngest *anything*, it doesn't bode well for the future of our Society. Let's think of ways to attract the younger generation, and ensure that our Historical Society outlives us all.
- **County-Wide ...** An Otsego County historical society is being formed, and the FCAHS plans to be involved. The idea is to coordinate the efforts of the various local societies. FCAHS President MerriLynn Fish was slated to attend an organizational meeting at the Hartwick Library on October 17. We'll keep you posted on the new group's progress.
- **Starting Young ...** It's never too early for community service. On October 10, Amy Parr – an eighth grade teacher at Cooperstown Central School – brought a group of her students to the FCAHS building. The group helped with a variety of building and grounds chores. Thanks, Ms. Parr and class!
- **Save the Last Dance ...** The final Society-sponsored square and round dance event for 2002 will be held on November 2. As usual, it will be at the FCAHS Building/Grange Hall on Cemetery Road from 7-10 PM. Admission is free, and refreshments are available for purchase.

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

- **Story of My Life ...** October is Family History Month. Use it as a reminder to act upon the suggestion in the last issue: to record some of your biographical information and area memories on paper, for the FCAHS archives. Take pen, pencil, typewriter, or word processor in hand, write down a brief biography of yourself, and include whatever else you think is relevant or interesting – information about your house, your family, etc. Papers may be submitted to the editor at the above address.
- **We'll Take a Yard ...** Despite inclement weather, the third annual Community Day Yard Sale on August 24 netted \$1,285.49 for the Society (and thousands more for its residents). Thanks to all who worked hard to make it a success.
- **Memory Refresher ...** reminder: those in charge of refreshments for the next two meetings are Judy Thorne & Joan Smith (October), and Ann Carr & Genevieve Licci (November).

FLY CREEK'S FOURTH MAIL CARRIER

[Editor's Note: The following is condensed from handwritten notes by Kenneth McRorie, and submitted by Elaine Harvey, who got them from Nadine Phillips of the Hartwick Historical Society. Ron Bouton also provided some information.]

In the early days of the Fly Creek Post Office, dating back to the horse and buggy days, there was only one mail carrier. I was Fly Creek's fourth regular carrier, following Edwin Jarvis, Earl Preston, and Earl's son Robert in that role. I passed my civil service examination on June 22, 1918, and made my first trip on September 16 of that year. Lynn Taylor, who had also subbed for Robert Preston, was my substitute carrier.

I always tried to make my trip but sometimes, in the spring of the year, roads were impassable. I would go as far as I could, then unhitch my horse and either put it in someone's barn and make the rest of the trip on foot, or complete it on horseback. In those days there were no snow plows, so we had to break our own roads in winter. In 1919 I bought my first car and used it for delivery during the summer, but had to go back to the horse and buggy in the fall.

One day I drove my wife's horse, and it got scared when a chipmunk ran across the road. The horse jumped and broke the harness, kicked, and cleared himself from the wagon, which I was still in. He started on a run up the road to the end of the mail route, then turned around and came back. I finished delivering the mail that day on his back.

With improved highways, I was finally able to use an automobile exclusively. For many years my faithful dog, Chucky, made most of the trips with me. Chucky died in 1953.

There were many changes on my route during the years I carried. Most of the farms changed hands during that time, though I still served a few of my original patrons. The office was changed from fourth class to third in 1944. I always tried to live up to the carriers' motto, "Service with a Smile." I enjoyed my work with Uncle Sam very much.

There were 94 mailboxes on my 21.6-mile route, and I worked under three Postmasters: Samuel H. Hunter (1918-43), Eugenia Barber (1943-44), and Marie Gardner (1944-58). It was a pleasure to work with each of them, as they were pleasant and considerate. After 40 years delivering mail I retired to my farm with my wife, Lena (who was President of the Ladies Auxiliary of Otsego County in 1948-49). After a short interval, Ron Bouton took over as Fly Creek's regular carrier in 1958.

FCAHS MEETING PROGRAMS, 1999-2002

Following is a list of programs presented at FCAHS meetings for the past four years (1989-98 meetings were covered in the Winter 1999 issue). The October-November, 2002 programs are listed as currently scheduled. Elaine Harvey and Freida Snyder comprised the FCAHS Programs Committee for our first 13+ years, and they are now succeeded by Jim Atwell, who is looking for an assistant, and open to suggestions for future programs.

Date	Speaker/Presenter	Topic
1/27/1999	FCAHS Members	Collectors' Show & Tell
2/25/1999	Dr. Edythe Ann Quinn (Hartwick College)	The Hills
3/24/1999	Elaine Harvey	Old Mills on Oaks & Fly Creeks
4/28/1999	Dale All	History of the Grange
6/ 2/1999	Otsego County Pomona Grange/FCAHS	Passing of the Deed
6/23/1999	Angelo Carreras	The Art of Wood-Carving
7/28/1999	Betty Smith	Roy Rogers
9/22/1999	Elizabeth Partlow	Shoeing Horses
10/27/1999	FCAHS Members	Round-Table Discussion
11/17/1999	Len Price & Elaine Harvey (Sr. Renditions)	History of Patriotic Songs
2/23/2000	Bill Deane	Historic Home Videos
3/22/2000	George Rutler	Old & New Soap-Making
4/26/2000	Sandy Bullard	Hop Time!
5/24/2000	Warren Ainslie	Making Colonial Corn & Besom Brooms
6/28/2000	Dick Smith	Old Phonographs & Phonograph Records
7/26/2000	Peter & Dorothy Martin	Research on Old Houses of Fly Creek
8/23/2000	Kermit Weaver	History of Social Security
9/27/2000	Louise Isabelle	The Loomis Gang
10/25/2000	Ed Thorne & Scott L. Bradley	Boy Scouting in the Area
11/15/2000	Merri Lynn Fish & Dorothy Martin	Donations to the FCAHS
1/24/2001	Katherine Hanor, Sue Drake & Ed Reilly	Pierstown in Years Past
2/28/2001	Bob Banta	Travels of the Trolley
3/28/2001	Gary Bush	Model Railroading
4/25/2001	Senator James Seward	History of the Erie Canal
5/23/2001	Esther Hutchinson	History of Buttons
6/27/2001	Cooperstown Central School Students	History of Local Businesses
7/25/2001	Peter Martin	The Old Chapel Burial Ground
8/22/2001	Lady Ostapeck	Vintage Clothing
9/26/2001	Elaine Harvey	Hattie Devenpeck & Erastus Bouton
10/24/2001	Frederic Blatt	The Business of Sculpture
11/28/2001	John Mott	Sequence of the Barn: New England-Otsego
1/23/2002	Elaine Harvey & FCAHS Members	"Show and Tell"
2/27/2002	Jim Atwell & FCAHS Members	Poetry They Used to Make us Memorize
3/27/2002	Wendy Weeks (Farmers' Museum)	Making Old-Fashioned Wallpaper
4/24/2002	David Rickard (Fenimore Art Museum)	Native American Culture
5/22/2002	Homer Martin	Antique Printing techniques
6/26/2002	Marion Brophy, Town Historian	Researching Local History
7/24/2002	Ed Olsen	Tour of Charlotte's Vineyard
9/25/2002	Patrick MacGregor (Farmers' Museum)	1840s Medicines and Medical Procedures
10/23/2002	Bill Gates	What's Up in Fly Creek and Town of Otsego
11/20/2002		Springfield's Amish Community

MEETINGS

As usual, Society meetings are held at the FCAHS Building/Grange Hall on Cemetery Road beginning at 7 PM, and everyone is welcome. The final gatherings of 2002 will be on October 23 and November 20. In October, Town Supervisor (and former *CoopersTown Crier* editor) Bill Gates will present "What's Up in Fly Creek and the Town of Otsego." Tentative plans for November have a representative of Springfield's Amish community coming to speak.

The three most recent meetings were held on July 24, August 28, and September 25, 2002. The July meeting began on Hubble Hollow Road in Middlefield Center, where more than 20 people attended a tour of member Ed Olsen's winery, Charlotte's Vineyard. The enjoyable tour was followed at the FCAHS Building by the monthly business meeting. Among the items discussed were that Mr. Empee of Key Bank will provide a community service team to help with this building's restoration. It was put to the membership to come up with ideas both on how to assign the team and how to decorate the building.

Our Annual Meeting was held in August, preceded as usual by a pot-luck meal. Among the annual reports read were those for the Treasurer (by Cynthia Ekeland), Publications Committee (Bill Deane; see page 6), Trustees (Jim Wolff), and Nominating Committee (Barbara Murray). MerriLynn Fish (President), Wes Ciampo (Vice President), and Joan Smith (Secretary) were re-elected, while former President Jim Atwell was added to the Board of Trustees, replacing Ed Thorne.

And in September we heard Patrick MacGregor, head of Dr. Thrall's Pharmacy (formerly located in Hartwick) at the Farmers' Museum, tell us about medicines and medical procedures in the 1840s. Patrick brought in various "show-and-tell" items, including medicinal herbs and a leech.

FCAHS COMMITTEES

The FCAHS Board of Trustees is in the process of redefining and codifying the various committees and their responsibilities. Article Four of our By-Laws states that we shall have four standing committees (Library, Publications, Program, and Membership), and that "Other committees, standing or special, may be appointed by the president as directed by the Society or by the Board of Trustees." Following are the Society's current committees and their chairpersons, according to the President:

Library	MerriLynn Fish
Publications	Bill Deane
Program	Jim Atwell
Membership	Barbara Murray
Fund-Raising	Elaine Harvey & Freida Snyder
Grants	Jim Wolff & Jim Atwell
Genealogy	Peter Martin
Sunshine	Elaine Harvey

Anyone interested in joining or helping with any of these committees is asked to contact the respective chair-persons (and if you know of a Society or community member that could use a little "sunshine," contact Elaine Harvey). Among the former committees being re-evaluated are the Building Renovation and Maintenance, and Social Events Committees, while new committees may also be formed.

ODD JOBS

The Spring, 2001 Fly Creeker listed old-time terms for past and present occupations. On the next page are some more (submitted by Peter Martin), reprinted from the Nov/Dec 2001, Jan/Feb 2002, and Mar/Apr 2002 issues of the *CSG Newsletter*, publication of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.:

ODD JOBS, Cont.

- Glazier** – glass maker.
- Hoper** – one who made hoops for casks and barrels.
- Owler** – a smuggler of sheep and/or wool out of England.
- Peregrinator** – itinerant wanderer.
- Plumber** – one who applied sheet lead for roofing and set lead frames for plain or stained glass windows.
- Scrivener** – a clerk specializing in drawing up bonds.
- Supercargo** – a ship's officer in charge of the cargo and commercial transactions.
- Teamster** – a driver of wagons pulled by oxen or horses.
- Tinker** – one who repairs utensils made of tin; an itinerant tin pot and pan-seller and repairman.
- Tipstaff** – a policeman.
- Vulcan** – a blacksmith.
- Wainwright** – a wagon maker.
- Webster** – a weaver or loom operator.
- Whig** – a Scottish horse drover.

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

To make a gift to this program, please fill in the information below and make check payable to
 FCAHS Tribute Program:

THIS TRIBUTE GIFT OF \$ _____ IS GIVEN BY: PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name _____

Address _____

IN MEMORY OF / IN HONOR OF (circle one): Name _____

- OCCASION (circle one):
- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| Birthday | Anniversary | Wedding | Graduation | Birth |
| Get Well | Thank You | Promotion | New Home | New Job |
| Communion | Confirmation | Bar/Bat Mitzvah | Other _____ | |

**2003 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
 FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 87, Fly Creek, NY 13337**

Name(s): _____ Renewal ___ New ___

Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ E-mail address: _____ @ _____

- Please register me as a member of the FCAHS. Enclosed is a check for \$10.
- Please register us to a family membership (note: this extends to all family members living in one domicile). Enclosed is a check for \$15.
- Please accept the enclosed tax-deductible donation, in the amount of \$ _____ (minimum \$20), and enroll me/us as a contributing/sustaining member(s).

FCAHS PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: 2002 Annual Report

[Editor's note: Following is the text of the Publications Committee's annual report, as delivered by its Chairman at the August 28, 2002 FCAHS meeting.]

The Publications Committee consists of Jim Atwell, George Badgley, Deborah Dickinson, Carolyn McLean, and me. Besides publishing our quarterly newsletter, the Committee is entrusted with publicity work for the Society, including posters and news articles about our monthly meetings and special events. We held our annual meeting in the Fly Creek Church on March 27, 2002.

The Committee as usual published four newsletters over the past year, making a grand total of 53 issues and 254 pages since 1989. The Autumn, 2002 issue is expected out in October.

This spring, I was presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" by the Society, for my work as editor of the *Fly Creeker* since its founding. It said "Thanks for informing, educating and amusing us with more than 50 issues of our wonderful newsletter." This was much appreciated, but I would point out that I don't do the newsletter by myself. I wouldn't have much to edit or print if it weren't for the interesting contributions of others, especially Carolyn McLean, Elaine Harvey, Sally Rezen, and Pete Martin. Other members who have been particularly helpful to us over the past year include, alphabetically, Cynthia Ekland, Larry Gardner, Robin Moshier, and Jim Wolff. Thank you all for making me look good.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Deane, Chairman, Publications Committee

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