



NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 124, Fly Creek, NY 13337  
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 \* SUMMER, 1989



MEETING OF FCAHS ON JULY 26



Mark Your  
Calendar!

You may have wondered about the origin of names such as "Fly Creek", "Bedbug Hill", and "Cat Town". These questions will be answered at the next meeting of the Fly Creek Area Historical Society (FCAHS), which will be held on Wednesday, July 26, at 7:00 P.M., in the Fellowship Hall (basement) of the Fly Creek United Methodist Church. All interested people are invited to attend.

At this meeting the friendship quilt with "Fly Creek", "1898", and the names of 296 people embroidered on it, will be on display. The Society has decided to purchase this quilt, at a cost of \$400, and donations are encouraged (see application below). Also at this meeting, the Society's Constitution and By-Laws are scheduled to be approved. Those present and joining will sign the secretary's book and become charter members of the FCAHS. A formal election of officers will also be held.

FORMATION OF FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There have been three previous meetings of the FCAHS. The first, an informal organizational meeting, was held at the home of Florence Michaels on May 2, 1989. Thirteen people were in attendance, and a temporary slate of officers was nominated: Florence Michaels (President), Dorothy and Pete Martin (co-Vice-Presidents), Betsy Morris (Secretary), and Maxine Potts (Treasurer).

The second and third meetings were held at the Fly Creek Church on May 31 and June 19, respectively. Among the activities at these meetings were a presentation by Harriet Rogers, President and Historian of the Middlefield Historical Society, with insights on the formation and growth of such an organization; the display of artifacts, pictures and post cards relevant to the history of the Fly Creek area; formation of specific committees and nomination of chair-persons of same; discussion of the Society's short- and long-range objectives and financial strategies; and distribution of proposed Constitution and By-Laws of the FCAHS.

The objectives of the Society are to research, document, preserve and present historical information and artifacts pertinent to Fly Creek, as well as the neighboring hamlets of Oaksville, Pierstown, Fly Creek Valley, Forkshop, Toddsville, Index, Christian Hill, Phoenix Mills, and rural Otsego. Long-range ideas include the publication of a history of the Fly Creek area, and a book listing the history of area houses.

The idea for the formation of the Society stems from lengthy conversations between Florence Michaels and George Tillapaugh, a wealth of knowledge about the area's history. Unfortunately, Mr. Tillapaugh died unexpectedly before the idea became a reality. We dedicate this newsletter to the memory of George Tillapaugh.

FLY CREEK REPRESENTED IN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME



Doubleday Baseball

In the museum archives of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown are two items donated by Mrs. Mary Dulin of Fly Creek in 1975. They are a baseball trophy, won by members of the Fly Creek Athletic Association (FCAA) as winners of the Cooperstown Twilight League championship in 1934; and a heavy flannel uniform top (with "FCAA" on the front and "9" on the back) worn by Mrs. Dulin's husband as a member of this club.

Fly Creek's real claim to fame at the Hall, however, is the famous "Abner Doubleday Baseball", on display in the museum's Cooperstown Room. The inscription accompanying the tattered, home-made ball reads as follows:

"This relic was discovered in an attic trunk in 1935 by a farmer living in Fly Creek, a crossroads village three miles from Cooperstown. It had belonged to Abner Graves, an ancestor of the farmer. Graves was the man whose letter claiming he was present when Doubleday invented baseball served as the basis for the Mills Commission's decision."

The Mills Commission was the one that, in 1907, reported that "the first scheme for playing Baseball, according to the best evidence obtainable to date, was devised by Abner Doubleday in Cooperstown, N.Y. in 1839." The finding of the "Doubleday Baseball" lent credence to this report, and philanthropist Stephen C. Clark purchased the ball for \$5. It soon became the centerpiece for an exhibit which evolved into the National Baseball Museum in 1938. The Hall of Fame was officially dedicated on June 12, 1939. (Submitted by Bill Deane)

"VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1"



This is the premier issue of the FCAHS newsletter. Musa Gumone, who had been appointed editor of this publication, was hospitalized last week. Bill Deane volunteered to "pinch-hit" as acting editor for this issue, with Musa's ideas forming the foundation, and Florence Michaels and Freida Snyder also providing valuable input. We all wish Musa a speedy recovery.

Current plans are that the newsletter will be published quarterly, with size dependent on amount of material submitted. One idea is to feature the history of one area business in each issue. We welcome comments, ideas, and submissions for future newsletters. Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone you think would be interested.

A contest to name the newsletter will be conducted with a suggestion box at the July 26 meeting. The author of the winning suggestion will earn a year's free membership to the Society, or \$5 credit toward a family membership. Put on your thinking caps and make a suggestion!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

c/o Maxine Potts, P.O. Box 124, Fly Creek, NY 13337

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check applicable box(es):

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please register me as a member of the FCAHS. Enclosed is a check for \$5.00. | <input type="checkbox"/> Please register my spouse and me to a family membership. Enclosed is a check for \$8.00. | <input type="checkbox"/> Please accept my enclosed donation, in the amount of \$ _____, toward the purchase of the friendship quilt. |
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