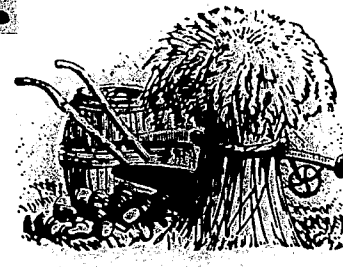


FLY CREEKER



NEWSLETTER OF THE

FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 124, Fly Creek, NY 13337

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2 * SPRING, 1992

Editor: Bill Deane. Associates: Carol Mezger, Paula Schaeffer.

NEWS BRIEFS



* Bernice Elizabeth (Hoke) Vaughn has sent to the Fly Creek Area Historical Society (FCAHS) a copy of her self-published The Family of Irving and Anna (Wikoff) Hoke and Their Ancestry. It is a wonderful effort in genealogical research.

* Lady Ostapeck has donated several journals, dating back to 1888, which she "rescued from the garbage." Lady also donated a number of her matted photographs of area sights. She is working on a project to make post cards of the Fly Creek area available for sale to the public.

* In the first 'News Briefs' item in the Winter 1992 issue of the "Fly Creeker", "milking" should read "millinery". The free membership offer is still up for grabs, reports president Peter Martin.

* Barbara Michaels reminds us that two special cancellation envelopes-- one marking the 135th anniversary of the Fly Creek Cider Mill, the other the tenth annual Applefest-- are still available for sale at \$1.35 each (including postage and handling). All proceeds go to the Fly Creek United Methodist Church Applefest Fund. The ordering address is Fly Creek Cider Mill Gift Shop, RD 1 Box 38, Goose Street, Fly Creek, NY 13337.

* The Lake House restaurant in Richfield Springs has on display a document, dated May 16, 1893, certifying DeWitt Badger as Postmaster of Fly Creek (he served in that capacity from 1885-90 and 1893-97). It is signed by Wilson S. Bissell, Postmaster General. Frank Rollyns has graciously photographed this certificate for the FCAHS.

* President Martin asks members to consider long-term goals for the Society, such as the establishment of a permanent building fund, the display of acquisitions, the need for regular fund-raisers, etc. Feedback will be welcome.

* Ann Adams of Hartwick picked up an old cheese box at a rummage sale, and noticed the inscription "T. N. Doubleday, Fly Creek, New York." Can anyone tell Ann where and when this establishment operated?

* Lady Ostapeck recently met a descendant of Fly Creek's Towne family in Utica. Can someone tell Lady anything about the Towne family?

* The FCAHS welcomes four new members: Adrian & Antoinette Kuzminski, and Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Ostapeck. Renewals were also received from Mr. & Mrs. Garfield Burnham, Maude Foutch, Ernest & Jean Knapp, Robert & Pat Norris, and Lester & Karen Sittler.

* On the following page is page one of the Constitution and By-Laws of the FCAHS. Pages two and three will follow in future newsletters. Please read and hold on to these important documents.

FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

Article I

Name

The name of this society shall be THE FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Article II

Purposes

The purposes of this society shall be:

- a. To promote and encourage original historical research;
- b. To disseminate and encourage a greater knowledge of the history of New York and particularly of Fly Creek and its environs;
- c. To research, record, retain, preserve and make available for study, artifacts, relics, books, manuscripts, papers, photographs, and other records from the late 18th century to the present, items relating to the history of New York and particularly Fly Creek and the surrounding area;
- d. To encourage the suitable marking of places of historic interest.

Article III

Membership

Members shall be of three classes:

- a. Individual active members-- Any person interested in the purposes of the society shall be eligible.
- b. Family members-- Any family group living in one domicile, interested in the purposes of the society shall be eligible.
- c. Contributing and sustaining members-- Any person, group, or firm, offering special support to the objectives of the society shall be eligible.

Article IV

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting shall be held during the month of August.

Article V

Officers and Board of Trustees

Section 1. The officers shall be a president, a vice-president, and a secretary, who shall be elected for a term of one year; and a treasurer and three trustees, who shall be elected for a term of three years. At the first election the three trustees shall be elected for terms of one, two, and three years, respectively. Each year thereafter one trustee shall be elected to a term of three years to fill the vacancy of the one whose term expires.

Section 2. The officers and trustees shall constitute the Board of Trustees.

Article VI

Election of Officers and Board of Trustees

Section 1. All officers and trustees shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast at the annual meeting by a show of hands.

Section 2. Not less than two months prior to the annual meeting the Board of Trustees shall appoint a nominating committee to select a candidate for each office to be filled at the annual meeting.

Section 3. Nominations may also be made by a member of the society at any time prior to the balloting at the annual meeting. Any such nomination shall be added to the nominations given by the nominating committee. A candidate for election shall be an individual active member.

Section 4. Elected officers shall be presented and assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting and shall serve until their successors have been duly elected and installed. In the event of the resignation or incapacity of any officer except the president, or any trustee, the vacancy may be filled by a vote of the Board of Trustees for the unexpired term of office.

(To be continued)

OBITUARY

Esther Steere Van Woert of Oneonta died February 11, 1992 at Fox Hospital. She was 79.

Born December 18, 1912, "Essie" graduated from Oneonta High School and Oneonta Normal School (SUCO). She taught elementary school in the state, and was very active in music. She was a founder of the Oneonta (Catskill) Symphony Orchestra, and was the Eastern Division Concert Coordinator from Community Concerts, a division of Columbia Artists Management, Inc.

In 1936 Essie married James D. Van Woert, who predeceased her. The couple had two children, James W. Van Woert (Harpursville) and Lynda Lee Hamilton (Oneonta), who survive along with four grandchildren and many other relatives and friends. She will be missed.

THE MOHICAN CRAFTSMEN SHOP

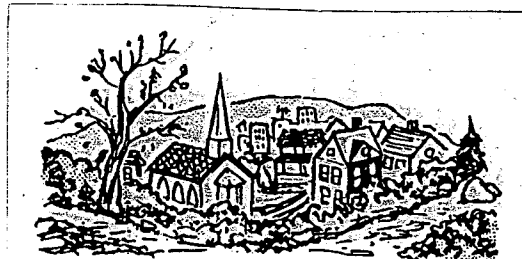
The Mohican Craftsmen Shop was established in November, 1951 by Paul and Florence Michaels. It was originally housed in the basement of the Michaels' home on Goose Street, across the creek from the Fly Creek Cider Mill. Paul repaired, restored and refinished furniture and antiques there, and the business soon expanded to include upholstery (Florence made the cushions) and general antique dealing.

By 1958 the business had outgrown the 1200-square foot basement. A peg-barn was purchased and removed from the Fred Beach property on East Goose Street, and erected behind the Michaels' home. The framework was used to build a two-story edifice. The first floor was used as a work area, including a finishing room and an upholstery room. The second floor served to store and display miscellaneous antiques. The shop's original quarters became a showroom for antiques, furniture, dishes, etc.

Among the help employed was David Palmer, who later established his own upholstery business in West Winfield. Paul and Florence's nephew, Charlie Michaels, worked in the business for several years, and their son Mac helped during breaks from college.

In 1971 the Michaels' daughter, Paula, and her husband, Bill Schaeffer, returned to Fly Creek and entered the business. Paula learned upholstery while Bill learned the crafts of restoring and refinishing, both becoming very proficient. This gave Paul more time to devote to buying and selling antiques, and working with clocks and lamps.

Following Paul's death in 1977 the Schaeffers carried on the business for a couple of years before moving on to other lines of work. Florence continued the antique dealing portion of the business until 1982 when she decided that, after a 30-year successful run, it was time to retire. Tins & Bins is now operating at the former home of the Mohican Craftsmen Shop. (Submitted by Florence Michaels)



MEETING SUMMARIES

The three most recent meetings of the FCAHS were held on January 22, February 26, and March 25, 1992. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for April 22, May 27, and June 24. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. in the basement of the Fly Creek Church, and are open to the public.

In January, codes enforcement official Neal McManus spoke about ways the Society can work with him on historic preservation. He told of the Fly Creek Community Resource Commission, which is compiling a list of existing resources in the Fly Creek area. He also suggested that members of the FCAHS might compile an inventory of historically-significant structures in our vicinity.

In February, Sally Rezen presented a history of the Fly Creek Valley region. She spoke of the earliest settlers (many of whom are ancestors of Sally), farm locations, and colorful characters in the area. Sally shared some of her own personal reminiscences, as well as the poetry of her mother, Emma O. Van Horne.

In March we heard from Dave Baker, owner of Fly Creek's Schoolhouse furniture store, and Historian of the 1300-member Wooden Canoe Heritage Association. Dave gave a presentation on early wooden canoes, including their history and use. He accompanied his talk with an interesting slide show, and brought along an antique (c. 1896) Rushton sailing canoe, measuring 15' long and weighing 53 pounds, which he had restored. The beautiful one-of-a-kind boat was made of white and Spanish cedar, red elm, and cherry wood.

In April the FCAHS will hear the fiddle and piano music of Bill Powers and Nellie Balcom. In May, Betty Russ will speak on "Life in Colonial America." And, in June, the meeting will feature Harriet Rogers on the Child's Homestead (now Toad Hall) in Oaksville. Marge Tillapaugh is also scheduled to give a presentation during this meeting. (Submitted by Paula Schaeffer)

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