

# FLY CREEKER



NEWSLETTER OF THE

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

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3 \* SUMMER, 1992

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

\* Time to pay your 1992-93 dues! Payment is due by August 1, 1992, just a few weeks away. Dues are still only \$5 for individuals and \$8 for family groups living in one domicile. An application appears on page 3 of this newsletter.

Curious that you advertise in our newsletter? You can't miss it in the daily paper. It's the only one in the area that covers the election taking place in the town.

NEWS \*\*\*\*\*  
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BRIEFS \*\*\*\*\*  
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\* Fly Creek hosted a winter chautauqua in 1915-16. Florence Michaels wonders if anyone can share a program of or any knowledge about this event.

\* A softball game caused Bill Deane to miss his first monthly meeting of the Fly Creek Area Historical Society (FCAHS) on April 22. He had attended all 32 previous formal meetings of the Society, dating back to May 31, 1989. Does anyone else have a streak going?

\* Fly Creek's Grange Hall, located on the east side of Cemetery Road, will be marking its 100th anniversary with a celebration on October 10-11, 1992.

\* Florence Michaels wonders if anyone can recall the locations of cheese factories, blacksmith's shops, or icehouses once situated in Fly Creek.

## "OLD COUNTRY POETRY" ON JULY 22

"Old Country Poetry" will be the program presented by George Badgley at the July 22 meeting of the FCAHS. Included among the readings will be poems about the Fly Creek area.

Meetings of the FCAHS are held in the basement of the Fly Creek church, and begin at 7:00 P.M., usually on the fourth Wednesday of each month. On August 26 will be the Annual Meeting (preceded by a covered-dish dinner), including elections for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Trustee; annual reports will also be given. The program for the September 23 meeting has not yet been announced.

Recent FCAHS meetings were held on April 22, May 27, and June 24. In April, Bill Powers, Nellie Balcom and Dorrance Weir presented a musical program of fiddle tunes and anecdotes. Betty Russ told us of some curious early customs in May, during her program on "Life in Colonial America."

41 attended the June meeting, featuring two guest speakers: Marge Tillapaugh, historian of the Mary Imogene Bassett Auxiliary; and Harriet Rogers, president of the Middlefield Historical Association. Ms. Tillapaugh spoke on early medicine in the Cooperstown area; on the area's first hospital, the Thanksgiving Hospital, founded in 1868; and on Dr. Bassett (1856-1922), born in Mt. Vision, who started a practice in Cooperstown in 1893, and became chief-of-staff of the hospital bearing her name when it opened to the public in June, 1922. Ms. Rogers talked about her ancestor, Charles Childs, whose Oaksville residence now serves as the site of Toad Hall on Route 28. The Childs family was related by marriage to famous American inventor and artist Samuel Morse.

## Article VII

### Distribution of Assets Upon Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, all assets and property of the institution shall, after necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to such organizations as shall qualify under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or to another organization to be used in such manner as in judgment of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York will best accomplish the general purposes for which the society was formed. Organizations to which assets and property are distributed, if such assets of property are in the nature of scientific or cultural material, shall have collections management policies similar to those of the society.

## Article VIII

### Amendment

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting provided notice was given at the previous meeting; or it may be amended at a special meeting called for that purpose, with previous notice and a two-thirds vote. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.

## BY-LAWS

### Article I

#### Membership and Dues

- Section 1. Any person interested in the history of the Fly Creek area and who applies for membership in an appropriate classification of membership and who tenders the necessary dues shall thereby become a member.
- Section 2. Annual dues for individual and active members shall be \$5.00.
- Section 3. Annual dues for a family group living in one domicile shall be \$8.00.
- Section 4. Annual dues for contributing and sustaining members shall be a minimum of \$10.00.
- Section 5. Annual dues shall be payable in advance at the annual meeting.
- Section 6. Members in arrears more than six months after payment is due shall be dropped from the membership.

### Article II

#### Schedule and Quorum for Meetings

- Section 1. Regular meetings shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month except when it conflicts with a holiday. In such a case the president or the Board of Trustees shall set an alternate date.
- Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the president; each member shall be notified of such meeting.
- Section 3. The Board of Trustees shall meet every three months. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by the chairman of the Board.
- Section 4. Ten of the active members of the society shall constitute a quorum.

### Article III

#### Duties of Officers

- Section 1. The president shall have executive supervision over the activities of the society within the scope provided by the by-laws and shall preside at all meetings. The president shall report annually on the activities of the society and shall appoint members of committees not otherwise provided for.
- Section 2. The vice-president shall assume the duties of the president in the event of absence, incapacity, resignation or removal from office.
- Section 3. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the society and the Board of Trustees, maintain a list of members, and render an annual report at each annual meeting.
- Section 4. The treasurer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of society funds, for maintaining adequate financial records, and for depositing all monies with a reliable banking company in the name of THE FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Monies shall be paid out by numbered checks signed by the treasurer or the president. The treasurer shall collect dues, and shall ren-

OBITUARY

C. Paul Susman, 88, died at Bassett Hospital on April 22, 1992. The FCAHS has thus lost its tenth member to death in the past two years. Paul's wife, Betty-- also a FCAHS member-- had died November 1, 1990, following 60 years of marriage.

Paul was born at Little Falls, NY on July 5, 1903. He spent more than 40 years as manager of the Atlantic & Pacific Groceries, mostly in Cooperstown. Paul was a member of the United Methodist Church of Fly Creek.

He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Hamdy; his son, Daniel Susman; four grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.



The Grange Hall, located on Cemetery Road, Fly Creek, enjoyed decades of activity. It was used for voting, movies, theatrical performances, and public suppers, to name a few things. In the 1930s, hikers would walk from Cooperstown to the Hall, where they were served dinner. Owned now by Pomona

Grange, the building celebrates its centennial anniversary this year (see page 1).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION\*\*\*\*1992-93

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Renewal  New Membership

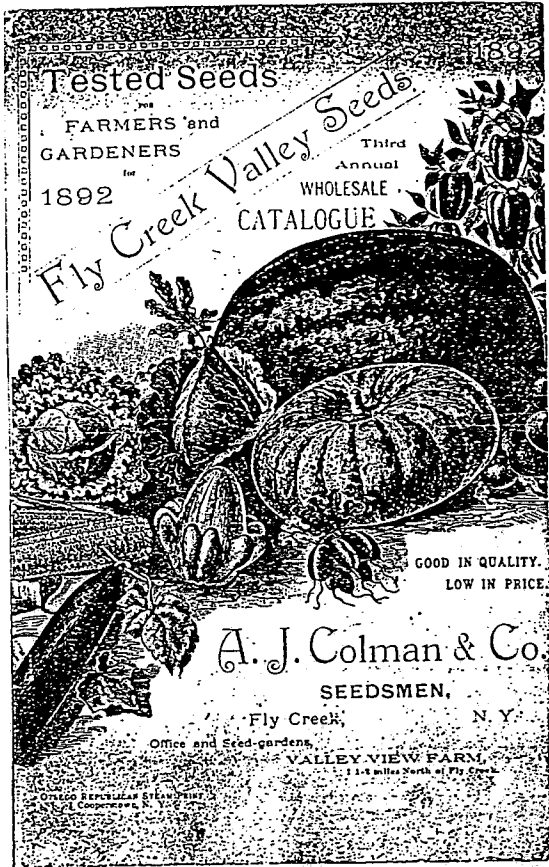
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check applicable box(es):

- Please register me as a member of the FCAHS. Enclosed is a check for \$5.00.
- Please register my spouse and me to a family membership. Enclosed is a check for \$8.00.
- Please accept my enclosed donation, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum \$10), and enrol (me/us) as a contributing/sustaining member(s).

VALLEY VIEW FARM

This copy shows the cover of the third annual seed catalogue issued by A. J. Colman & Company (successors to Colman and Doubleday), published exactly a century ago. Colman's Valley View Farm was located on the southeast corner of Stonehouse Road and County Road 26 in Fly Creek, currently the home of Carol and Bernard Mezger.



The catalogue boasts that Colman's "business last year increased four-fold," and reports that a new seed store and greenhouse had been erected on the farm in the past year. Testimonials were published from a number of satisfied customers, but the crowning one appeared in the Oneonta Press, January 1, 1891:

"An item was published recently in the New York World, stating that a Kansas farmer had raised a turnip weighing 11-3/4 lbs. John W. Thayer of this town, who is known as one of the best and most prosperous farmers in this section, brought to our office yesterday a turnip which weighed 15 1/2 lbs. ('grown from seed sold by us', according to the catalogue), and says he has many more that will weigh from 12 to 14 pounds each. Mr. Thayer is entitled to the cake thus far." (Submitted by Carol Mezger)

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