

FLY CREEKER



NEWSLETTER OF THE

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

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4 * AUTUMN, 1993

Editor: Bill Deane. Associates: George Badgley,
Margaret Eldridge, Marie King, Paula Schaeffer.

PETER MARTIN RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT, GEORGE BADGLEY BECOMES VICE-PRESIDENT

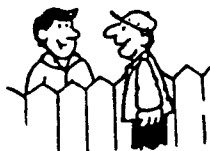
Elections for officers of the Fly Creek Area Historical Society (FCAHS) were held during the Society's Annual Meeting on August 25, 1993. Peter Martin was elected to his third term as President, while George Badgley succeeded FCAHS founder Florence Michaels as Vice-President, and Gerda Winnie became a Trustee. Following is the current slate of officers, including the year each officer's term expires:

President:	Peter Martin	(1994)
Vice-President:	George Badgley	(1994)
Secretary:	Paula Schaeffer	(1994)
Treasurer:	Alice Lavrinos	(1995)
Trustees:	Elaine Harvey	(1994)
	Ed Thorne	(1995)
	Gerda Winnie	(1996)

Retained as Committee Chairpersons were Elaine Harvey and Freida Snyder (Programs), and Bill Deane (Publications). Also during this meeting (preceded by a covered-dish supper), Craig Haney related experiences from his 78-day cross-country bicycle trip earlier this year.

Other recent meetings were held on July 28 and September 22. The speaker for the July meeting was Dolly Fikes, A.K.A. "The Slate Lady". She gave an interesting talk on her unique style of art: she and her sister collect slates from old rooftops around New York state, hand-cutting and painting each one. The September meeting featured Wayne Wright of the New York State Historical Association (NYSHA) Library, speaking on research in general and the Library in particular. The NYSHA Library's fall hours are Monday-Friday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. (plus evening hours until 9 P.M. on Mondays and Wednesdays); Saturday, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 P.M.

The final two meetings of 1993 will be held on October 27 and November 17. In October we will be treated to "Historical Tales of Otsego County", as told by story-tellers Khuki Woolever, Elsie Lewis, Gladys Anderson, Bill Swain, Bob Engstrom-Hegg, and Joyce Mallery. The November speaker will be Ann Vickary of Oaksville, who will discuss "Weaving Throughout History". Meetings begin at 7 P.M. in the basement of the Fly Creek Church, and are open to the public.



**TELL YOUR
NEIGHBORS**

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

At the FCAHS meeting of November 18, 1992, Bruce and Sue Andrews shared epitaphs copied from tombstones in Otsego and elsewhere. They were selected from among the hundreds of epitaphs the two have accumulated over the past three years. Their unusual hobby began with the continuing search for the gravesite of Bruce's great-grandfather, James Andrews, who is believed to be buried in this area.

Bruce and Sue noticed that many epitaphs are no longer legible, and decided to begin recording those that are for posterity. They found it to be a wonderful way to share a quiet day together, and now rarely leave home on a nice day without a natural fiber brush, sponge, and water (to safely clean off the old stones), a notebook and pen (to record the epitaphs), and a picnic lunch.

One of their favorite epitaphs so far is the classic from Key West, Florida: "I told you I was sick." Below are a few selections from closer to home. In recent years, colorful epitaphs seem to have been replaced by "in memoriam" notices in the newspapers.
(Submitted by Bruce & Sue Andrews)

Henry Hopson
October 1, 1852
2 years & 20 days

A lovely rose so innocent,
Nipped off in early bloom;
To fill a place in paradise,
Where we are told there yet is room.
He died in beauty like a rose,
Nipped from its parents stem;
He died in beauty like a pearl,
Dropped from some diadem.
(Columbus Corners Cemetery)

Phyann Ayres
Our mother fell asleep
September 7, 1848
25 years
When will the morning come?
(Goose Street Cemetery)

Lilya Tice
June 10, 1811
11 weeks, 5 days
Rest Sweet Bird.
(Schuyler Lake Cemetery)

Margaret Patten
April 24, 1880
75 years

We miss thee in thy place at home,
In silence seek thee yet,
Where in its own familiar nook,
Thy fireside chair is set.
(Red House Hill Cemetery)

Our Baby Garlick
died before he had
tasted sorrow at
3 days old, April 17, 1870.
(Schuyler Lake Cemetery)

Robert H. Johnson
August 4, 1854
25 years, 2 months, 2 days
The deceased in the bloom of youth,
health, and strength was gored by a bull
and survived the attack only about 4 hours
If youth have then so short a date
And life so soon be past,
What wisdom to secure a slate
Where pleasures ever last.
(Cherry Valley Cemetery)

Capt. Joseph Jones
February 1799
This space is all I occupy.
(Pratt Cemetery)

* The Native American had a visible presence in this area during its early days of settlement. It is said that wigwams of Oneida Indians could be seen along the Great Western Turnpike between Cooperstown and Fly Creek.

* Toddsville was named after Jehiel Todd, an early settler of that area. Todd, who hailed from Connecticut, built this area's first paper-mill.



(The following is the text of the Publications Committee's annual report for 1992-93, as prepared by Bill Deane, and read by George Badgley during the August 25, 1993 meeting of the FCAHS.)

The Publications Committee currently consists of George Badgley, Margaret Eldridge, Marie King, Paula Schaeffer, and myself. We held our annual meeting at my home in March, and we are always looking for volunteers to help in gathering news or submitting articles for the newsletter. Among those that have been particularly helpful in that regard are Pete and Dot Martin, Alice Lavrinos, Elaine Harvey, and Sally Rezen.

The Summer 1993 "Fly Creeker" was the seventeenth newsletter published by our committee. We will continue to plan a four-page, quarterly newsletter to be published in January, April, July, and October each year. The Autumn 1993 newsletter is expected to be ready in time for the Applefest weekend in October.

Over the past three years I have spoken of a proposed long-term goal for this committee: to publish a research journal containing articles relevant to the Fly Creek area's history. This project continues to stagnate due to lack of interest and support from the membership. In the past year, I have received exactly two article submissions, one from someone who is not even a member of the Society.

I am frustrated by this, and I think it is reflective of the entire Society's lack of initiative. Perhaps it is time to remind ourselves of the purposes of this Society, as stated in our Constitution: "to promote and encourage original historical research; to disseminate and encourage a greater knowledge of the history of... Fly Creek and its environs; to research, record, retain, preserve, and make available for study (records) relating to the history of... Fly Creek and the surrounding area." These purposes are the responsibility of not just the officers and committee chairpersons, but of all the members. And, our responsibility is to not only ourselves, but to future generations of area residents and FCAHS members, and to the public at large.

As for the research journal, I hereby abandon the project due to lack of interest. I will leave it up to the membership to tell us what the newsletter committee should be doing to preserve the history of the Fly Creek area and what they are willing to do to support us.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Deane, Chairman, Publications Comm.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION****1993-94

FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 87, 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).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Fly Creeker will print letters of general interest about the Society or the newsletter itself. Please address all correspondence to the Editor, Bill Deane, at P.O. Box 47, Fly Creek, NY 13337.

"In response to the question, 'Does anybody know where (the Fly Creek Novelty Works) was located?' (Summer 1993 Fly Creeker): it was located along the creek by the current site of Hahn's Antiques on Route 28. The Fly Creek Cider Mill has an iron, horse-drawn potato hiller which they have displayed upstairs in the 'Cider Gallery' until November 30. Also there is the front part of a cast-iron wood-burning box stove, stamped 'Metcalf & Livingston, Made in Fly Creek, N.Y.'

"The cider mill also owns two Cheney hammers, and would like more information on where they were made. Contact Charlie or Barbara Michaels at 547-9692."

Charlie Michaels
Fly Creek, NY

"I want to tell you how much I enjoy your Fly Creeker. I read it from cover to cover, but seldom if ever (fail to) find a familiar name, which is not surprising... as I celebrated my 94th birthday in February. I do like to read about your doings, etc. ... Thank you for the paper."

Mildred C. Walker
Ilion, NY

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