

# *Fly Creeker*

NEWSLETTER of the FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (FCAHS)  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

- **Social event of the season...** Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 14 -- the date of our annual Community Music Day. This event will be held at the Fly Creek Firehouse beginning at 1 PM. As most of you know, the Music Day features fine music, good fellowship, and tasty refreshments of all kinds. What you may not know is that it is the FCAHS's only annual fund-raising event. With less than \$9,000 in our treasury, our primary goal -- to obtain a permanent building in which to hold our meetings and display our growing collection of artifacts and documents -- is a long way away. We hope that you will help support our goal by participating in the Music Day, if possible, and/or by donating money toward our Building Fund. Checks may be made payable to the FCAHS. Thanks for your support, and we hope to see you on July 14!
- **Dues and don'ts...** It's that time again: 1996-97 FCAHS membership dues are payable by August 1, 1996. An application appears on page three of this newsletter. For the first time since 1989, the dues have increased: it now costs \$10 for individual memberships or \$15 for family memberships (still very reasonable in comparison with other historical groups). The good news is that the 1996-97 membership will extend until December 31, 1997, giving you a full 17 months' membership for your money. Also, members will now get membership cards each year. Starting in 1998, the membership year will coincide with the calendar year. These changes were approved during a Trustees' meeting in May.
- **Weekly work schedule...** Anne Nafziger submits the following old ditty in response to Elaine Harvey's request (Spring *Fly Creeker*): "Wash on Monday, Iron on Tuesday, Bake on Wednesday, Brew on Thursday, Churn on Friday, Mend on Saturday, Go to meeting on Sunday."
- **Low interest rate...** In the last issue, we mentioned the prospective brochure to highlight the history of, and promote the businesses in, our community. Since then, we wrote letters to each of the more than 50 businesses and services in the Fly Creek area, inviting them to submit information for such a brochure, and/or attend a meeting on June 10 to discuss the subject. Disappointingly, only 13 businesspeople have responded by mail or telephone, and just three were represented at the meeting.
- **Help wanted...** Elaine Harvey and Freida Snyder have done a wonderful job of slating meeting programs each month during our seven-year existence. After more than 70 programs, however, they are running short of ideas. Suggestions will be eagerly received!
- **Come vly with me...** A body of water in New Scotland, NY, just south of Albany, is called the Vly Creek Reservoir. This appears to lend credibility to the theory that our village name is derived from the Dutch word "vlie," meaning swampy area.
- **Back to school...** Carolyn McLean submits a correction to the "Fly Creek Valley School Days" article in the last issue. The cost of the school's wood in 1850 was \$11.62, or 75¢ (six shillings) a cord. According to Sally Rezen, the building was known as the "12,000 Schoolhouse."

(More News Briefs on Following Page)

## NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

- **One-eighth of a thousand...** The Society's 1995-96 membership total finished at 125, with the addition of Albert & Sandy Bullard to the rosters published in previous newsletters. The 1996-97 membership roster will be published in the Autumn *Fly Creeker*, so get your dues in early!
- **Taking a stand...** At the June 26 FCAHS meeting, a motion was made by Jim Atwell, seconded by Henry Ludlam, and approved by the attendees, as follows: "The Fly Creek Area Historical Society goes on record as urging any purchaser or lessor of the Aufmuth store building to maintain, as far as possible, the historic appearance of the building and the four-corners of Fly Creek." The store closed earlier this year after decades of service to the community (see picture on back page).

Ruth Michaels Mumford died May 19, 1996, at Melbourne, Florida. Mrs. Mumford, a former area resident, had been a continuous FCAHS member since June, 1991. We offer our condolences to her husband, Rolan, and her other loved ones.

### DECEASED FCAHS MEMBERS

BLANCHARD, Sally (1/12/93)	*PRESTON, Mrs. Robert (5/18/91)
BLOCK, Waldemar (10/27/91)	SMALE, Elizabeth (7/29/91)
CAMPBELL, Bernice (5/1/95)	SUSMAN, C. Paul (4/22/92)
HECOX, Eugene W. (10/26/95)	SUSMAN, Elizabeth (11/1/90)
KNAPP, Ernest (10/19/93)	*TALBOT, Hazel I. (10/3/91)
MECKLENBURG, Frederich H. von (6/13/91)	TRINKAUS, John (4/13/93)
LAUT, Kenneth (3/22/95)	VanWOERT, Esther (2/11/92)
*MICHAELS, Howard (1/13/91)	VAUGHN, Bernice E. (12/25/93)
MUMFORD, Ruth M. (5/19/96)	
OLIN, Beatrice (8/28/90)	*Charter Member.

## MEETINGS

The next three meetings of the FCAHS are slated for July 24, August 28, and September 25, 1996. In July, Ms. Glen Miner of the Farmer's Museum staff will present "Heirloom Gardens," a program postponed from an earlier date. The August gathering is the Society's Annual Meeting, during which officers will be elected and committee reports will be given. It will be preceded at 6:00 by a covered-dish dinner. And, the September meeting will feature guest speaker Linda Medwid of The Classical Forms Bookstore in Fly Creek. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall (basement) of the Fly Creek United Methodist Church beginning at 7 P.M., and are open to the public.

The most recent meetings were held on April 24, May 22, and June 26, 1996. At the April meeting, Howard Talbot, the baseball museum's long-time Director, spoke on "Behind the Scenes at the Hall of Fame." He recounted the story of what is called the "Doubleday Baseball," an early ball found in a trunk in a Fly Creek attic (probably George Turner's house, the second on the left after Feed Store Road). Mr. Talbot also described the early problems and unexpected growth of the museum, and easily held everyone's attention.

In May, Chris Ohrstrom, Principal of Historic Paints, Ltd. (makers of 18th- and 19th-century-style paints for restoration purposes), gave a slide show illustrating early painting methods and implements. He then gave a demonstration of paint mixing, showing various colored bases and manuals used in that process.

In June, Jerry Ellsworth did a presentation entitled "Raisin' Cane," an examination of walking sticks over the years. Mr. Ellsworth showed and passed around his fascinating collection of canes, some dating from the 1800s. Most were made of intricately-carved wood, but other materials were represented as well. There was even a glass cane. (Submitted by Carolyn McLean)

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Elaine Harvey

(Editor's note: following are some summertime historical tidbits collected during Elaine's continuing research of area history. The items are from the book, *History of Cooperstown*.)

Five voting machines were purchased by the Otsego Town Board, and will replace paper ballots in the next general election in the fall. At the same time the Town Board cut from seven to five the number of election districts in the township, eliminating those in Oaksville and Pierstown. Oaksville will cast their ballots in Fly Creek and Pierstown in District 4 in Cooperstown. (*History of Cooperstown*, August 5, 1937.)

Dr. Floyd J. Atwell, Obstetrician-in-Chief at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital since 1922, died at the age of 55. A native of Fly Creek, Dr. Atwell delivered over 3,000 babies, and served in the Army Medical Corps for 18 months during the World War. (*History of Cooperstown*, August 24, 1940.)

P.F.C. Chester J. Caulkins of Fly Creek died of wounds received in action on the island of Saipan in the Pacific. (*History of Cooperstown*, July 8, 1944.)

P.F.C. Norman L. Goodspeed, aged 26, of Fly Creek was reported missing in action and later as killed in action, in France while serving with the U.S. Army invasion forces. (*History of Cooperstown*, August 24, 1944.)

The 978th Ordinance Depot Company, commanded by First Lieutenant Edwin Tipple of Fly Creek, and which includes a number of local and area men on its rolls, was alerted for active duty effective September 11. It is the first Otsego County Reserve unit called into active Federal service since the Korean Crisis developed in June. (*History of Cooperstown*, August 15, 1950.)

The Cooperstown Central School District's new Elementary School, on the site of the old Otsego County Fairgrounds on Walnut Street, opened for the first time. A total of 620 pupils in Kindergarten-Grade 6 are enrolled there, including children from the Fly Creek and Toddsville schools which have been closed. (*History of Cooperstown*, September 6, 1955.)

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### 1996-97 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. Box 87, Fly Creek, NY 13337

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ New Membership \_\_\_

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

Check applicable box(es):

- Please register me as a member of the FCAHS. Enclosed is a check for \$10.
- Please register us to a family FCAHS membership. Enclosed is a check for \$15.
- Please accept the enclosed donation, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum \$20), and enroll me/us as a contributing/sustaining member(s).

(Note: dues are payable by August 1, 1996)



Route 28 West, showing H.J. Aufmuth Sons General Store (far right) before it was moved back from the road. The Post Office was in this building at one time, and George Bailey's undertaking supplies were stored in the basement.

(From *Fly Creek Area Yesteryear* -- see news brief on page 2)

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