

# *Fly Creeker*

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

- Final reminder: 1995-96 dues were payable by August 1, 1995. If your name was not listed in the directory in the last newsletter, or in the news item at the bottom of this page, please use the application on page three to renew your membership. Thank you.
- Two more nineteenth-century Town of Otsego Cemeteries, including one not listed in the Spring 1995 *Fly Creeker*, have been documented. The Whipple Cemetery is on the south side of Glimmerglen Road, about 1.3 miles from Route 80. The stones are just before the Windy Meadows Farm, about 95 yards from the road, through a field, near the tallest pine tree at the edge of the woods. They are lying on the ground, nearly hidden, and most of the legible ones mark the resting places of people named Whipple. Another cemetery is in the back yard of the Eugene Miller property on Christian Hill Road, about nine-tenths of a mile south of Allison Road. The graveyard is enclosed by a stone wall less than 100 yards from the road, and "Morris" is the most common legible surname.
- The 1994-95 Treasurer's report indicated that the FCAHS rolled out some \$710 in disbursements for the year. Receipts from dues were \$521, and other receipts totaled \$587.
- Welcome to our newest members: John & Agnes Burns, and Betty Smith. Those three, plus 23 recent renewals, bring our 1995-96 membership total to 122. Following are the additions to the roster published in the Autumn 1995 newsletter:

BOYD, Louie & Doothy  
BOYD, Spike & Joyce  
BURNS, John & Agnes  
CAMPBELL, Grant  
ELKAN, Margaret

\*FINCH, John & Jean  
MACKIE, Dr. Robert & Lidie  
MUMFORD, Mr. & Mrs. Rolan H.  
NEFF, Mrs. Richard  
OSTAPECK, Lady

\*SELAN, Inabelle  
SMITH, Betty  
STACK, Edward & Christina  
TODD, Phyllis  
WHITE, Helen M.

\*WINNIE, Ernest & Gerda  
\*WYCKOFF, George & June

\* Charter member.

Eugene W. Hecox, a FCAHS member since August 1989, died in Ft. Myers, Florida, on October 26, 1995. He was 65.

Mr. Hecox was born at Cooperstown on October 9, 1930, and grew up in Richfield Springs. Following a stint in the U.S. Navy, he owned and operated several area businesses before moving to Florida in 1974. Mr. Hecox was active in numerous organizations, including the Masonic Lodge, the Rotary, and the American Legion. We extend our condolences to his widow, FCAHS member Martha "Marty" Hecox of Cape Coral, Florida. Other survivors include a daughter, step-daughter, and five grandchildren.

## FLY CREEK'S WINTER CHAUTAUQUA

Fly Crcek hosted a Winter Chautauqua during the winter of 1915-16. I have been searching for information about this event for many years. Letters were sent to various Chautauqua centers and to individuals who might have some knowledge, but most knew less than I did! But, I have turned up a brochure about a Winter Chautauqua.

The brown, decorative brochure covers the months of December through March. It tells us the cost for the "Tour Course is \$1.00 Single Admission, 25¢." Tickets were available at Cheney's Store, and there were "special electric (presumably trolley) cars north and south after the entertainment" (which was planned by the White Entertainment Bureau of Boston, MA).

The folder describes some of the evening programs. THE APOLLO CONCERT COMPANY consisted of five members -- Mrs. Alta R. Wells, Miss Gladys Harding, Mr. Arthur Wells, Mr. Walter Suede, and Mr. George Shutts -- who had invested \$1,000 in new musical instruments, including an "APOLLOPHONE": a 16-foot-long box that could be played by the entire company, and having "all the musical possibilities of the Steinway Grand Piano."

THE SAXOPHONE QUARTET would use instruments furnished in 22-carat gold, made by the Buescher "True Tone" company. THE BREWER MUSICAL ENTERTAINERS were Grace M. Brewer on violin, trombone, piano, and as a soloist; Ruth M. Brewer as a reader and clarinet soloist; and Eleanor E. Brewer, the accompanist and manager.

The main attraction seems to have been Miss Grace Sage, an unusual impersonator from New York City. Her four selections were *Peg o' My Heart*, by J. Hartley, in four acts; *Cousin Kate*, by Hubert Henry Davies; *Madame Butterfly*, by John Luther Long; and *Daddy Long-Legs*, by Jean Webster.

There are press releases written for all the groups, telling of the joy and beauty experienced by members of their audiences.

During my research, I received one letter advising me that Chautauquas were summer events, while the winter versions were known as Lyceums. Perhaps I should have been contacting people who might know about Lyceums. In any case, I think I am through with Winter Chautauqua research. (Submitted by Florence W. Michaels)

### OFFICERS OF THE FCAHS, 1989-95

**President**

Florence Michaels      1989-91  
Peter Martin              1991-95

**Vice-President**

Peter Martin              1989-91  
Florence Michaels      1991-93  
George Badgley          1993-95

**Secretary**

Irwin Curlis              1989-91  
Carol Mezger              1991-92  
Paula Schaeffer          1992-93  
Florence Michaels      1994-95

**Treasurer**

Maxine Potts              1989-92  
Alice Lavrinos            1992-95

**Trustees**

Bill Deane                1989-90  
Ruth Bresee              1989-91  
Margaret Jensen        1989-92  
Alice Lavrinos            1990-93  
Elaine Harvey            1991-94  
Ed Thorne                1992-95  
Gerda Winnie            1993-95  
Craig Haney              1994-95

## MEETINGS

Please note the scheduled dates for the 1996 meetings of the FCAHS: January 24, February 28, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28 (Annual Meeting, preceded by a covered-dish dinner at 6 P.M.), September 25, October 23, and November 20. 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 guest speaker during the January meeting will be Seth Johnson, on the subject of "Restoring Old Homes." The March program, "Heirloom Gardens," will be presented by Ms. Glen Miner of the Farmer's Museum staff. And, in February, we members will provide our own program -- "Reminiscences of Times Past" -- much as we did in January, 1995. Members are encouraged to bring along historical artifacts or news clippings for discussion.

During the most recent FCAHS meeting, on October 25, 1995, Jim Atwell spoke on "Writing In & About Fly Creek." Jim proved to be as good a speaker as he is a writer, reading four of his entertaining and insightful compositions: "Ball One," "Under the Floorboards," "Reasons Unknowable," and "The Step-Monster." The gathering scheduled for November 15 was canceled due to inclement weather.

## PERFECT ATTENDANCE

According to our sign-in book, only one person -- Elaine Harvey -- managed to attend all ten FCAHS meetings in 1995. Ten people made it to nine meetings apiece: Bill Deane, Alice Lavrinis, Pete and Dot Martin, Carolyn McLean, Florence Michaels, Freida Snyder, and Pat, Anne, and James Youрно.

Elaine -- the Cal Ripken, Jr. of the FCAHS -- has now attended 43 consecutive meetings, since missing in November 1991 due to an important work-related function. She has also made it to 67 of the 70 gatherings recorded in our book since 1989. Following are the top five performances for both total and consecutive meetings attended:

<u>TOTAL MEETINGS ATTENDED</u>			<u>CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS ATTENDED</u>		
67	Elaine Harvey	(95.7%)	43	Elaine Harvey	(Jan. '92 - Oct. '95)
66	Pete Martin	(94.3%)	34	Pete Martin	(Aug. '90 - Aug. '93)
65	Dot Martin	(92.9%)	32	Bill Deane	(May '89 - Mar. '92)
65	Freida Snyder	(92.9%)	30	Dot Martin	(Aug. '90 - Apr. '93)
62	Bill Deane	(88.6%)	23	Freida Snyder	(Oct. '89 - Oct. '91)

### 1995-96 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 \$5.
- Please register us to a family FCAHS membership. Enclosed is a check for \$8.
- Please accept the enclosed donation, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum \$10), and enroll me/us as a contributing/sustaining member(s).

Nellie Blake  
 Guide  
 Hiram  
 Semant  
 Marshal - Witness to Defense  
 Miss George Coleman, Don Bancroft  
 Curt Jones, Fred Lake, Mrs. Fred  
 Williams, Mrs. Ken Farshull, Nora Wynn  
 Judge - Fred Dunin  
 Ed Jarvis - Washington Lee  
 John Barber - Sadie Ann  
 Mattie Kane - Man with Socks

December 16 '38  
 "A Poor Married Man"  
 Professor John B. Wise - R.J. Omerzu  
 Dr. Mathew Graham - Fred Dulin  
 Billy Blake - L. Hanson  
 Jupiter Jackson - D. Bancroft  
 Mrs. Iona Ford - P. Omerzu  
 Zoie - Nellie Omerzu  
 June Graham - Elsie Omerzu  
 Rosalind Wilson - Stella Georgia

### THE WRITING ON THE WALL

What is the writing on the wall? Florence Michaels said that there was some kind of writing on the wall of the Fly Creek Grange Hall, and that she would like to see or get pictures of it before it was eradicated. Since I am a Granger, she asked if I would get in touch with someone connected with the Grange in hopes of gaining entry, and either take her with me or take some pictures.

I tried to get there some time when the Hall would be unlocked, but to no avail. I finally contacted Ruth All in Worcester, and she allowed me in the building. Sure enough, on the wall of the stage was graffiti giving the titles of plays (that presumably were staged there), along with names of the characters and the actors and actresses that portrayed them. Listed were more than a dozen groups, including many local people, dating back to 1938. Evidently, the Grangers (or whoever staged or participated in the plays) wrote down these names over the years, and the names have so far been spared from the painter's brush.

Now we have a record of some of them. After worrying Ruth for fear I would fall down the stairs, I got pictures of Florence's "Writing on the Wall." Thankfully, the pictures came out quite well, and parts of two of them accompany this article. (Submitted by Dorothy Martin)

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**P.O. Box 87**  
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