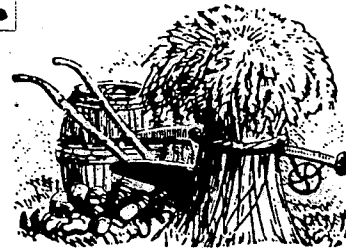


FLY CREEKER



NEWSLETTER OF THE

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

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4 * AUTUMN, 1990

EDITOR: Bill Deane

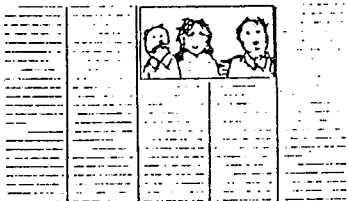
ASSOCIATES: Irene Dusenbery, Carol Mezger, Paula Schaeffer, Freida Snyder.

WE SHOULD DO THIS EVERY 200 YEARS!

Intermittent rain washed away a few of the scheduled events, but did not dampen the spirits of the hundreds of people who participated in the Fly Creek Area Bicentennial Celebration on Saturday and Sunday, August 18-19, 1990. 3000 souvenir envelopes, 362 T-shirts, and 382 copies of the booklet Fly Creek Area Yesterday were sold to benefit the Fly Creek Area Historical Society (FCAHS), which conceived and co-sponsored the event.

The U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative cancellation at the Fly Creek office on both days, while an assortment of booths and exhibits filled the church parking lot. A parade and chicken barbecue were held on Saturday, and an ice cream social and a town ball game (won by the Cat Town Scholars over the Fly Creek Bees, 21-8) highlighted Sunday's activities.

NEWS BRIEFS



* This is the sixth issue of the Fly Creeker, a quarterly newsletter begun in Summer, 1989. A limited supply of back issues is available through the FCAHS at \$2.00 a piece. Please enclose a check with your request for specific issues.

* Any member who has not received a copy of the Society's Constitution and By-Laws is asked to contact either Maxine Potts or Peter Martin in care of the FCAHS.

* Research and information for the "Fly Creek Area Post Offices" article in the Summer, 1990 newsletter, was provided by Helen Elwood. Her name was inadvertently misspelled in that issue.

* The FCAHS welcomes its 13 newest members: Walter Beck, Madeline Carr Ellis, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Jenkins, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ludlam, Mr. & Mrs. Hugh MacDougald, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Susman, Mr. & Mrs. William Talbot, and Marjorie Tillapaugh. A complete roster of FCAHS members will be published in the Winter, 1991 newsletter.

* FCAHS membership renewals for 1990-91 were due by August 22. No further newsletters will be mailed to those whose dues are not paid up. A membership application is on the bottom of page 3 of this issue. Please continue your support of our Society.



reminder

MEETINGS AND MORE MEETINGS

The FCAHS has had three meetings since the last Fly Creeker: on July 25, August 22, and September 26, 1990. The July meeting featured an informative and interesting program on "The History of Area Churches", presented by Florence Michaels. Ilion artist Jim Parker was a guest, giving a progress report on his painting of turn-of-the-century Fly Creek, while members of the Bicentennial Committee also gave progress reports, on plans for the August 18-19 celebration.

August saw the Annual Meeting of the FCAHS, preceded by a covered-dish supper. Reports were given by the various officers and committee chairpersons, and the Society's first-year growth and progress was reflected upon. Elections of officers were held, with the President, Vice-President, and Secretary being reelected. Alice Lavrinos was elected as a Trustee for a three-year term, replacing Bill Deane, whose term expired and who did not seek reelection. Following are the current FCAHS officers, including the years their terms expire:

President:	Florence Michaels	(1991)
Vice-President:	Peter Martin	(1991)
Secretary:	Irwin W. Curlis	(1991)
Treasurer:	Maxine Potts	(1992)
Trustees:	Ruth Bresee	(1991)
	Margaret Jensen	(1992)
	Alice Lavrinos	(1993)

Committee chairpersons include Dorothy Martin (Programs), Bill Deane (Publications), and George Badgley (Membership).

The September meeting's program was "Fly Creek Teaching Memories". An essay, written by former instructor Ed Munroe of Schuyler Lake, was read by Elaine Harvey. Former area teachers Frances Butler and Florence Michaels recounted some of their teaching experiences, providing for an enjoyable evening of nostalgia. Also during this meeting, members discussed the formation of a committee to study the preservation of historically-significant area buildings and landmarks. Lester Sittler agreed to chair this committee and offer legal guidance.

Just two more FCAHS meetings will be held in 1990, on October 24 and November 28, with no meeting slated for December. All meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall of the Fly Creek United Methodist Church, and they are open to the public.

The October meeting will feature Philip Bresee's videotape of the Fly Creek Area Bicentennial Celebration activities, including the parade. The Bell-ringers, from the Pathfinder's Village, will present a musical program during the November gathering. (Submitted by Carol Mezger)

OBITUARY

Beatrice Quaif Olin, 79, died unexpectedly at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital on August 28, 1990. The FCAHS has thus lost its first member to death.

Bea, as she was affectionately called, attended grade school in Fly Creek and high school in Cooperstown. She was active in the Rebecca Lodge and the Fly Creek United Methodist Church, as well as our Society. Just six days before her death, she attended the August 22 meeting of the FCAHS.

Other "old-timers" who grew up with Bea have lost a dear friend, and a ready and willing voice of Fly Creek's history. We extend our sympathy to her husband of 60 years, Francis "Frank" Olin; their sons, Don and Dick; and the rest of her large family.

ANONYMOUS HISTORIAN

During the January meeting of the FCAHS, an interesting essay on the history of the Fly Creek area was read. The essay had been left in the 1970s with Ron Bouton, who was then Postmaster of the Fly Creek Post Office, by a local student. Unfortunately, the essay's author is not identified, nor does Mr. Bouton recall who it was. Can anyone identify this anonymous Fly Creek historian?

The essay begins "it was a pleasant Saturday afternoon in front of Art Algers' black-smith shop." Based on interviews with Ben Barber and Erastus Bouton, and information from Otsego County's Gazeteer (1860), Directory (1872), and Biographical Review (1893), the essay goes on to describe early settlers and industry in the Fly Creek area. Excerpts follow:

Between 1784-88 the first settlements were made in Fly Creek. The first pioneers in the territory were two brothers, Asel and Dr. William Jarvis. Dr. Jarvis was the first practicing physician in the township of Otsego, while his brother erected the area's first foundry around the turn of the 19th century.

Soon after their arrival, Dr. and Mrs. Jarvis had a son born to them. They named him William Cooper Jarvis, after Judge William Cooper. He was the first child to be born on the Cooper patent.

Other early settlers in the region included Abraham Martin, who constructed the first saw and grist mill on Oaks Creek; Ira Olendorf, who operated the village's first hotel; John Rockwell, who established a clock-making business; John Hooker, a prosperous farmer, and his brother Horace, a mason.

It wasn't long before industries began appearing along the Fly and Oaks Creeks, taking advantage of the strong water-power. Among the early businesses were a pitch fork factory, which at one time employed 30 men and had a capital of \$75,000; the Otsego Iron Works, established in 1812; the Badger Horse-Power-Works, later known as Otsego Agricultural Works; the Fly Creek Valley Cheese Factory; and a pail factory, now the site of the Fly Creek Cider Mill.

As steam power replaced water power in U.S. industry, most of the area mills closed up, many of them being moved elsewhere. By the twentieth century, the once-thriving industrial area of Fly Creek had become an idle little hamlet.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION****1990-91

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 \$ _____.



By now most of you have seen Fly Creek Area Yesteryear, the FCAHS booklet containing 56 photos and post card views of our region. The book had to be published in 1990 to meet the conditions of the New York State Council of the Arts grant, and the publication date was moved up to August to coincide with the Bicentennial Celebration. As a result, almost all of the editorial work on the book wound up compressed into a six-week period this past Spring. This did not leave time for incidental research and, consequently, too many captions included dates such as "around the 1940s"--regrettable for a historical society publication. This is not to condemn the final product which is, overall, a fine piece of work. Over 400 books have been distributed, and no complaints have been heard here. Copies, incidentally, are still available for \$7.00 plus \$2.00 postage each.

The chairman of the Publications Committee vows that our Society's next publication will be less-rushed and more historically-accurate. It is proposed that we begin work on a research journal, a book containing articles relevant to the history of the Fly Creek area. These could be on either broad or specialized subjects, and might vary in length from one page to five or more per article. Suggested feature topics include any particular area house, business, or cemetery. Some of these articles will have appeared here in the Fly Creeker.

Submissions are eagerly sought for this project. They need not be polished journalistic efforts; as long as the editor has all of the important facts and dates, he can make it into an article. Please deliver any articles or potential articles to the editor, Bill Deane, at P.O. Box 47, Fly Creek, NY 13337.

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