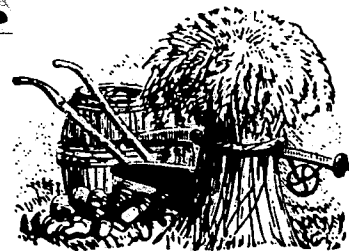


FLY CREEKER



NEWSLETTER OF THE

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

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2 * SPRING, 1990

EDITOR: Bill Deane

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

\$400 GRANT AWARDED TOWARD FCAHS POST CARD BOOKLET

The Fly Creek Area Historical Society (FCAHS) has been approved for a \$400 grant from the Upper Catskill Community Council of the Arts, toward the 1990 publication of a booklet of Fly Creek area post cards and photographs. The FCAHS had been seeking \$1,500, but an anonymous donor has offered to pay the balance of the production costs. The Council of the Arts can satisfy only a small percentage of its large volume of grant requests, and it is very unusual for a two-month old organization-- as the FCAHS was at the time of application-- to be selected for even a partial grant.

It is now "all systems go" on this project. The FCAHS actively solicits submissions of historically-interesting post cards and photos depicting sites and events in Fly Creek and its environs. All submissions will be returned, and all those used will be acknowledged in the book. The booklet must be published in 1990 to qualify for the grant, and plans call for it to be ready in time for the Fly Creek Applefest in October. To meet this deadline, all cards and photos must be selected, and all captions written, by early August. Anyone interested in helping or contributing in any way should contact Peter Martin (547-2655) or any of the other FCAHS officers or trustees. Let's make our first book something to be proud of!

FLY CREEK BICENTENNIAL

The following summarizes the research findings in the quest to establish 1990 as the bicentennial anniversary of Fly Creek-- and hopefully, to have the U.S. Post Office issue a commemorative cancellation to mark the occasion.

A map of "part of Col. (George) Croghan's Patent at and near lake Otsego", dated June 1774, names both "Fly Creek" and "The Oaks Creek". After Croghan went bankrupt, William Cooper acquired the land and, in November 1789, we find the earliest recorded settlers of the Fly Creek region buying their land from Cooper: Jesse Pierce, Bill Jervis, John White, Stephen White, and Abijah Hubbell, all jointly purchasing 3,493 acres of land for the bargain price of "one thousand three hundred and ninety seven pounds four shillings." Their acreage began "at the Junction of the Oakes & Fly Creeks." In his Land Book, Cooper consistently wrote "Fly Creek" next to the names of the first settlers in that area.

There is plenty to suggest that Fly Creek was called Fly Creek much earlier than 1790, and that settlers were arriving before that date, too. But, The History of Otsego County (page 250) unequivocally states that "John Adams, a pioneer, located in Fly Creek valley in 1790." The same John Adams appears in the 1790 Census of "Otsego Town" (which included Fly Creek, Oaksville and Cooperstown). These facts give us clear and convenient proof with which to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Fly Creek Valley in 1990. (Submitted by Irene Dusenbery)

REVIEW AND PREVIEW OF FCAHS MEETINGS

Three meetings of the FCAHS have been held thus far in 1990: on January 24, February 28, and March 28. At the January meeting, Elaine Harvey and Ron Bouton presented a history of sites and Postmasters of post offices in Fly Creek and surrounding communities. Ron read an essay contributed by a yet-to-be-identified student, and Elaine read an account written by Mrs. Helen Ellwood about her years in the Oaksville Post Office in the 1920s and '30s.

During the February meeting, "Schoolhouse John" Hall of Hartwick gave a whirlwind tour of one-room schools in Otsego County by way of a slide presentation. At one time, there were some 1,500 one-room schools within a 50-mile radius of Fly Creek. John's slides contained scenes of the schools as they looked in their hey-days, and as they appear now in use as homes, garages, shops, etc.

Tom Heitz, Librarian at the National Baseball Hall of Fame, presented a program in March on maintenance of accession records, and on preservation of archival materials. Tom made interesting, subjects which are dreary but important.

The next three meetings of the FCAHS are scheduled for April 25, May 23, and June 27, 1990. Each will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Fly Creek United Methodist Church, and all meetings are open to the public.

The April meeting will feature a presentation of old-time country music with the Weir and Talbot families. The Weirs are mentioned in the book Old Time Music-makers of New York State, by Simon J. Bronner.

Tapes of interviews with senior members of the community, including Erastus Bouton, will be played during the May meeting. The FCAHS has a tape recorder available for use in conducting such interviews, which will become interesting and valuable sources of area history. Anyone interested in participating in this oral history project may contact Peter Martin (547-2655).

Plans for the June meeting call for a guest speaker on the subject of genealogical research. (Submitted by Paula Schaeffer)

NEW MEMBERS

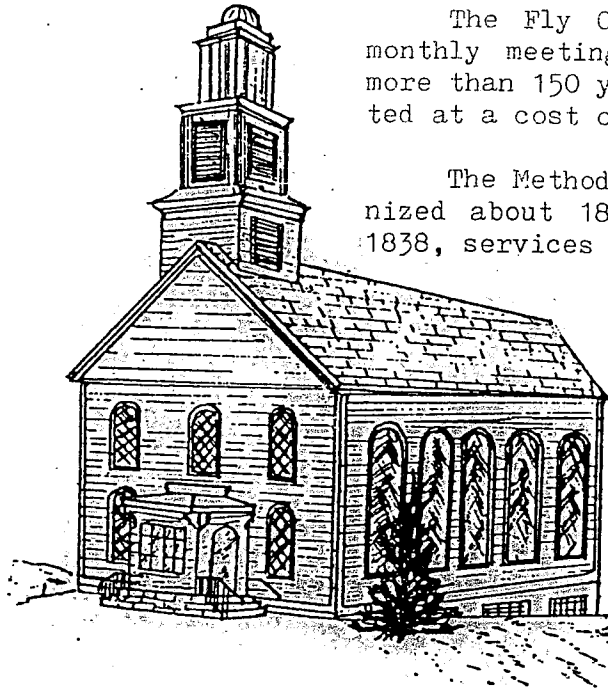
Eleven people, including one from Iowa, have joined the FCAHS since the first of the year. This brings the total membership up to 147 as the Society approaches its first birthday. The FCAHS welcomes its newest members:

BOYD, Spike & Pat
FARMER, Dr. & Mrs. Edward
HOKE, Rufus W.
PRESTON, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas
SMALE, Captain & Mrs. Gordon
VAUGHN, Mrs. Bernice E.
WILES, Tim

NATTY BUMPO SLEPT HERE

According to David O'Connor's 1982 booklet, Old Otsego County in Post Cards, David Shipman, the "Natty Bumpo" of James Fenimore Cooper's famous novels, was a resident of our area. Shipman lived in a log cabin on the east bank of Oaks Creek between Toddsville and Fly Creek. He is said to have dressed in tanned deerskin and carried a very long rifle. Known in the area as a great hunter, Shipman spent his time roaming the forests with his dogs. Legend has it that he died in Otsego

THE FLY CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Fly Creek United Methodist Church, site of the monthly meetings of the FCAHS, has a history dating back more than 150 years. On June 9, 1838, the building-- erected at a cost of \$1,500-- was dedicated by Dr. Elias Bowen.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Fly Creek was organized about 1812 by the Reverend Seth Matteson. Prior to 1838, services were held in the old Episcopal Chapel.

The church building was renovated in 1874-75 at an expense of \$2,500. Electric lights were installed in 1917. The basement, called Fellowship Hall, was completed in 1958.

From 1927-77, the Fly Creek and Cooperstown Methodist Churches were united as the Cooperstown charge. Since 1988, the Fly Creek Church has been yoked with the one in Schuyler Lake.

Following are pastors who have served the Fly Creek United Methodist Church since 1853:

1853-54	A. R. Wells	1903	R. E. Wilson
1855-56	George Parsons	1904-05	W. D. Lathrop
1857-58	D. L. Pendell	1906-10	H. N. VanDeusen
1859-60	S. Comfort	1911-12	S. A. Terry
1860	H. F. Rowe	1914-15	W. H. Horton
1861-62	William Watson	1916	F. A. Mattison
1863-64	William C. McDonald	1917-21	T. F. Hall
1865-67	J. W. Rawlingston	1922-24	C. F. Newell
1868-69	H. V. Talbott	1925-26	W. H. Swope
1870-72	George Parsons	1927-31	H. W. Thomas
1873-74	H. A. Blanchard	1932-33	F. W. Young
1875	A. J. Cook	1934-40	Wilber C. Dodge
1876-78	J. Rider	1940-46	Frederick W. Connell
1879-80	H. G. Harnerd	1946-49	Clarence L. Andrews
1881-83	B. P. Ripley	1949-55	Theodore J. Stone
1884	P. R. Tower	1955-58	Robert H. Sheehan
1885-87	Abel Wrigley	1958-61	William A. Highfield
1888	H. E. Wheeler	1961-69	Albert Almstedt
1889-90	J. S. Southworth	1969-72	Harold Saxton
1891	H. A. Williams	1973-77	Robert Allen
1892-93	J. L. Thomas	1977-84	Thomas Doyle
1894-96	A. M. Colgrove	1984-88	Michael Willis
1897-1900	E. E. Pierce	1988-	Kenneth R. Baldwin
1901-02	E. L. Jeffery		

Rev. Highfield is now Pastor in Vestal, NY; Rev. Allen is Pastor in Oxford, NY; and Rev. Willis is Pastor in Noxen, PA.

Most of the information in this article was borrowed from the 125th anniversary booklet of the church, published in 1960 by a committee chaired by Florence Michaels. (Submitted by Rev. Kenneth R. Baldwin)

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.

"Enclosed are my application and check for membership in the FCAHS... My mother, Florence Fish Clayton, was born in Fly Creek approximately 1884. Her father, Lewis E. Fish, was born in 1843 in Fly Creek, and lived there all his life in a house his father-in-law built across from the cemetery. I think it still stands... I am pleased to hear of your organization and would also be pleased to receive news of your activities."

Robert E. Clayton
Denver, Colorado

"Another great 'Fly Creeker'! A wonderful job... I continue to be amazed at the growing membership and interest in FCAHS. May it continue... Another surprise was the grant approval... Also, the generous donor who is to make possible publication of the post card book... I was also excited when Pete Martin called to tell me."

Florence Michaels
Brownsville, Texas

(Editor's note: Mrs. Michaels, President of the FCAHS, is due back in Fly Creek later this month.)

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Post Office Box # 124

Fly Creek, New York 13337

