

# FLY CREEKER



NEWSLETTER OF THE

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

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3 \* SUMMER, 1990

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## COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARK, POST CARD BOOKLET TO HIGHLIGHT FLY CREEK COMMUNITY BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, AUGUST 18-19

Plans are well under way for our area's bicentennial celebration, to be held Saturday and Sunday, August 18-19, 1990. To mark the occasion, the U.S. Postal Service will be issuing a commemorative cancellation at the Fly Creek Post Office on Saturday from 8-12 A.M. and 2-5 P.M., and on Sunday from 9-12 A.M. and 1-4 P.M.

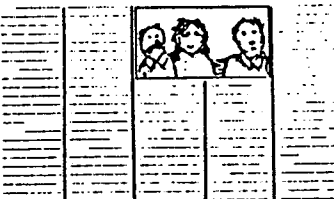
Fly Creek Area Yesteryear-- the eagerly-awaited post card and photograph booklet published by the Fly Creek Area Historical Society (FCAHS)-- is expected to be available for sale just in time for this event. Also expected to be available at that time is a limited-edition painting, depicting our area in the late nineteenth century, by Ilion artist James Parker. Other special items for sale will include souvenir envelopes and T-shirts.

Saturday's events will include a parade, followed by a chicken barbecue and an evening of dancing. Sunday's schedule contains an ice cream social and a town ball match. Various booths and exhibits will be open, and a guided historical walking tour of Fly Creek will be offered.

Please consult The Freeman's Journal for times and further information about this gala event. Anyone wishing to help or participate in any way should contact Florence Michaels at 547-9212. We want the whole area to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime celebration!



## NEWS BRIEFS



\* The Fly Creeker is now on file at the Library of the New York State Historical Association. Previous issues have been donated to the Library, and NYSHA is on our permanent mailing list.

\* The article on the Fly Creek United Methodist Church in the Spring, 1990 Fly Creeker, regrettably contained numerous minor errors (mostly involving spellings and service dates of former pastors). This resulted from referring to the church's 125th Anniversary Booklet (1960) rather than the more up-to-date 150th anniversary publication (1985). Rather than list the errata here, we will plan to publish a corrected history of the church in a 1991 issue of the Fly Creeker.

\* The FCAHS began with an informal meeting on May 2, 1989, but the Society was officially chartered on July 26 of that year. So, Happy Anniversary to us!

\* Six new members raised the final 1989-90 FCAHS membership total to 153. A complete list of 1990-91 members will be published in a future newsletter. Welcome to our sextet of newcomers: Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ellsworth; Stewart & Bonnie Sharpe; John Trinkaus; and James Wolff.

## FLY CREEK AREA POST OFFICES



The January meeting of the FCAHS featured a history of Fly Creek area post offices, presented by Ron Bouton and Elaine Harvey. Research and information on this subject was provided by Helen Ellwood, Margaret Jensen, Sally Rezen, and Freida Snyder. Here follows a summary:

Fly Creek's first Post Office was established in 1822. Mail was first brought there by stagecoach from Albany along the old Cherry Valley Turnpike. In the early 1900s the trolley system provided mail delivery and pick-up. Next came a bus service which ran from Utica to Binghamton and back each day. Today, mail is delivered by trucks coming from Utica.

Ten different locations have been identified as sites of the Fly Creek Post Office. These, not necessarily in order, follow:

- 1) Stephen North's store, a small building that still stands on Margaret Eldridge's property, was the first location.
- 2) A building, since torn down, on the site of the Gordon Robinson home directly south of the Methodist Church.
- 3) In a store owned and operated by Arthur W. Cheney, now the site of the Up The Creek antique shop.
- 4) At the site of the current Crossroads Inn.
- 5) At the old Badger house, located in the "Y" of Cemetery and Toddsville Roads, and now a multi-family home.
- 6) In a small building once used as a meat market by Frank Allison. This was located between the Badger house and the house beside the Grange Hall, and now belongs to the Ed Young family.
- 7) In Sam Hunter's store, located at the site of the present business of Donald Davis. The old store was moved and is now a barn behind Sandy's On 26 hair salon.
- 8) At H. J. Aufmuth's Sons store on the ground level, when the building was used by an undertaker, and before it was moved back to make room for the paved highway. At another time it was on the upper floor of this building.
- 9) In the third house up the street from Aufmuth's store, now belonging to Richard Bird.
- 10) In its present location, the first house on the left behind Aufmuth's.

There were also Post Offices in Fly Creek Valley (1900-04), and in Oaksville at various times between 1814-1932.

Following is a list of Fly Creek Postmasters and their dates of appointment:

William Sprague	6/17/1822	S. Wilson Cheney	5/20/1897
Chester Jarvis		Arthur W. Cheney	6/ 4/1907
Ceylon North	2/11/1851	Samuel H. Hunter	6/ 1/1915
Ezra Badger	6/16/1853	Mrs. Eugenia D. Barber	8/ 1/1943
Silas Alger	5/10/1861	Mrs. Marie Gardner	2/ 9/1944
Dewitt Badger	8/25/1885	Ronald Bouton	1/30/1973
Theodore M. Doubleday	4/14/1890	Mrs. Elaine Harvey	1/ 4/1986
Dewitt Badger	5/ 5/1893		

(Submitted by Elaine Harvey)

75 FOOT-STOMPING PEOPLE AT APRIL MEETING; ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD AUGUST 22

A new FCAHS attendance record was set at the April 25 meeting, as at least 75 people of all ages stomped feet and clapped hands to the music of the Weir, Talbot and Schallert families. The sounds of fiddles, guitars, the banjo, piano and spoons filled the building in the "old-time country music" performance.

The May 23 meeting featured an audio interview with the late Erastus Bouton, taped by Ruth Yule in the late 1960s. Bouton recalled life in Oaksville at the turn of the century, including the area's homes and mills which flourished at that time. Other oral histories will be played at future meetings.

On June 27, George Badgley presented an interesting program on genealogical research, sharing recommended procedures and strategies, and personal experiences.

The next three meetings of the FCAHS will be held on July 25, August 22 (Annual Meeting), and September 26, 1990, each beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the Fly Creek United Methodist Church. All meetings are open to the public.

Florence Michaels will present a program on "Churches of the Fly Creek Area" during the July meeting. She and Frances Butler-- both former Fly Creek teachers-- will offer their "Fly Creek Teaching Memories" at the September gathering.

A covered dish supper at 6:30 P.M. will precede the August meeting. Annual reports, recapping our first year's activities, will be read, followed by elections for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and one Trustee of the FCAHS. All members are urged to attend this important meeting. (Submitted by Freida Snyder)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

This newsletter, the fifth published by the FCAHS, marks the completion of our 1989-90 membership benefits. Any member not having received any of the previous four issues of the Fly Creeker (Summer & Autumn, 1989, Winter & Spring, 1990) should contact us as soon as possible, as our back-issue supply is limited.

Membership renewals for 1990-91 are due by the Annual Meeting on August 22, 1990. Please fill in the application below and deliver it, along with your check, to the FCAHS by that date. Thank you for your continued support!

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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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

## BASEBALL WITH A HISTORICAL TWIST



The Fly Creek Bees and the Cat Town Scholars are among the four<sup>3</sup> teams represented in the Leatherstocking Town Base Ball League this year. The league was formed as a product of the Leatherstocking Base Ball Club (LBBC), which was founded in 1985. The LBBC is devoted to the re-creation and re-enactment of base ball as played in the early 1800s.

Principal differences between the "town ball" played by these teams, and baseball as we know it today, include the use of four-foot wooden stakes in a square formation, rather than canvas bases in a diamond; and the throwing of the ball (a rag-ball wrapped in leather) at the runner to put him out, rather than tagging him or the base. The batter is called a "striker", a hit is a "knock", and a run is a "tally". Players (including women) range in age from the teens to the sixties, and wear special nineteenth-century-style uniforms, but no gloves or other "modern" equipment.

The league's games are played at the Village Crossroads of the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown. Nine more matches are scheduled for this season, on the following dates: July 22, July 29, August 4, August 12, August 19, August 26, September 2, September 9, and September 30. Games commence at 1:30 P.M., except for the final one (the Championship Match), which begins at 3:00.

For further information, contact the LBBC at P.O. Box 901, Cooperstown, NY 13326. (Submitted by Tom Heitz)

FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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