

Fly Creeker

NEWSLETTER of the FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4 * AUTUMN 1994

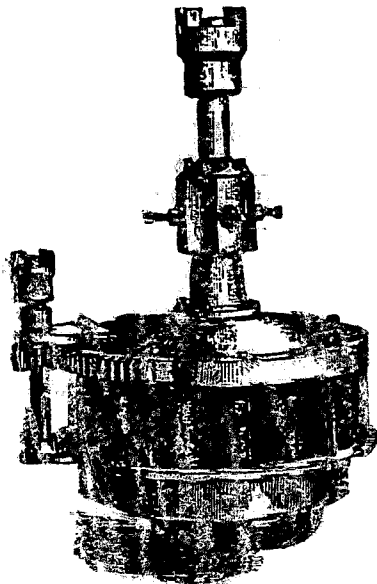
NEWS BRIEFS

- The Spring *Fly Creeker* asked about long-lived area natives. Sally Rezen and Carolyn McLean have submitted obituaries of several people, mostly from the Fly Creek Valley region, who lived to age 95 or older. Following is a listing of these, with age in years and months:

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Age
Elvira Sophronia Pierce Bourne	10/ 3/1836	7/15/1942	105-9
Emily Hinds Pickens	10/20/1805	1/11/1905	99-2
Leander Weldon	8/12/1830	12/14/1927	97-4
Orlando Bourne		8/12/1925	97-4
Harvey M. Hull	2/26/1848	6/12/1944	96-3
Ella Mann	2/11/1866	11/ 1/1961	95-8
Nancy Jane Sibley	4/16/1855	12/25/1950	95-8

- Mrs. Elvira "Grandma" Bourne, the champion among the "old-timers" listed above, was born in a one-room cabin on Fitch Hill in the town of Otsego, the daughter of John & Sally (Kinney) Pierce. Elvira attended District School (where she later taught for eight years) and Cooperstown Seminary. She married Menzo Bourne on December 7, 1856, beginning a union that lasted nearly 60 years. Menzo died on October 24, 1916. Elvira was in good health until age 103, and was listed as Otsego County's oldest resident at the time of her death. She was survived by a grandson, Floyd Bourne, and buried in the Fly Creek Valley Cemetery.
- The annual Community Sing was held at the new Fly Creek fire house on August 21, 1994, and raised some \$250 for the Society. A big "thank you" to all those who helped make it a success, including the musicians, volunteers, and donors of bake sale goods, door prizes, and money.
- The Winter 1994 *Fly Creeker* printed a copy of a stock certificate for "The Twelve Thousand Acre Tract Association" (which existed between 1914-24), asking if anyone knew the origin or purpose of this corporation. Thanks to Sally Rezen, we think we have solved this mystery. According to the *History of Otsego County Granges* (Otsego County Pomona Grange, 1972), Fly Creek Valley Grange #790 "meetings were held in members' homes and a vacant tenant house. In 1914, a stock company was formed and shares sold to raise money to build a hall." Sally notes that George Wait, President of the Twelve Thousand Acre Tract Association, was an active member of the Fly Creek Valley Grange.
- The FCAHS welcomes its newest members: Albert, Pat & James Yourno of Hartwick, and Phyllis Todd of Lincoln, Nebraska. Ms. Todd was in the area researching family history recently, and attended a FCAHS meeting.
- During the May 25 FCAHS meeting, Florence Michaels misplaced two 8 X 10" photographs of the "Foote House" in Oaksville. If anyone knows what happened to these photos, please contact Florence.
- Second reminder: 1994-95 membership dues were payable on August 1, 1994. An application appears on page three of this newsletter.

RE-INVENTING THE WHEEL



Pictured on the left is the Lesner improved cast-iron turbine water-wheel, manufactured by William B. Wemple & Sons in Fultonville, NY, circa 1872. This popular wheel was used in mills throughout central New York, and in locks along the old barge canal.

The Lesner wheel in the Fly Creek Cider Mill is said to have been used prior to 1948 by the Aqueduct Association (later known as the Cooperstown Water Company Waterworks). It was refurbished in 1995 at Mendout Woodworking in Saugerties, NY. The process included replacement of the register gate gear mechanism.

TURBINE WATER WHEEL

Pat. Sept. 5th. 1872 and Oct. 16th. 1872.

26-October 26, one can usually see the Beschert hydraulic press set to motion by the initial turn of this restored water-wheel. As the season reaches its peak, between September and October, visitors enjoy seeing the 1889 Boomer & Beschert hydraulic press set to motion by the initial turn of this restored water-wheel. As the season reaches its peak, between September and October, visitors enjoy seeing the 1889 Boomer & Beschert hydraulic press set to motion by the initial turn of this restored water-wheel. As the season reaches its peak, between September and October, visitors enjoy seeing the 1889 Boomer & Beschert hydraulic press set to motion by the initial turn of this restored water-wheel. (Submitted by Barb Michaels)

FECAHS PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: 1993-94 Annual Report

The Publications Committee currently consists of Jim Atwell, George Badgley, Margaret Eldridge, Carolyn McLean, Paula Schaffer, and myself. Our two newest members, Jim and Carolyn, have been especially helpful in improving our network and productivity. The committee held its annual meeting at my home on March 12.

Other FECAHS members who have been particularly helpful to our committee over the past year include, alphabetically, Brian Harvey, Alice Lavin, Peter Martin, Barb Michaels, Florence Michaels, Sally Reznik, and Feida Szyder. We would like to see more people get involved as well.

The Summer 1994 *Fly Creeker* was the twenty-first newsletter published by our committee. The Autumn 1994 edition is expected to be ready in time for the Applefest weekend in October. A major development this year was my acquisition of a new computer and word processor system. This has enabled me to work much more efficiently on the newsletter and, I believe, to enhance the quality of the finished product. One project I am using it for is to create an index of past issues of the *Fly Creeker*.

I am pleased to report improved feedback from our members, resulting in a surplus of articles on file for future issues of the *Fly Creeker*. Among these are articles on the Grange, the Fly Creek Valley School, the Cider Mill, local cemeteries, and Fly Creekers in the Civil War. This is not to say that we are not seeking more material; on the contrary, we are always on the lookout for articles and ideas or research for articles. If we get enough of a surplus, we will consider expanding the newsletter from four to six pages, or issuing it bi-monthly instead of quarterly.

As always, we welcome feedback on what our committee is or should be doing.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Deane

Chairman, Publications Committee

MEETINGS

The last two FCAHS meetings of 1994 are scheduled for October 26 and November 16 (there is no meeting in December). In October Joe Timlin will speak on "The Archaeology of Native American Indians". On November 16, Pat Yourno will discuss "Local History", continuing his informative presentation given during the January 1994 meeting. Meetings are open to the public, and begin at 7 P.M. in the basement of the Fly Creek Church.

Our three most recent meetings were held on July 27, August 24, and September 28, 1994. In July, Richard Ranieri spoke on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), an organization formed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The CCC, run by the U.S. Army between 1933-41, was designed to supply employment, and develop and protect our forests, parks, fields and streams. The CCC was made up of single men, ages 18-25, who supported their parents (see the letter to the editor on page 4). The men wore World War I uniforms and earned \$30 per month. Their training ultimately contributed to the U.S. military effort during World War II. Gilbert Lake State Park in Laurens resulted from a CCC project. Mr. Ranieri, a Unatego teacher, has been a Gilbert Lake seasonal employee since 1984. He started a museum there, where photographs of CCC members and their work are on display. He asks for help in identifying some of the CCC members depicted.

In August, the Society's Annual Meeting was preceded by a pot luck supper. Committee reports were read (see the Publications Committee report on page 2 of this newsletter), and elections were held. Elaine Harvey and Freida Snyder were retained as co-chairpersons of the Programs Committee, while Bill Deane remains chairman of the Publications Committee. Florence Michaels volunteered for and was elected to the vacated post of Secretary, and Craig Haney was elected Trustee, replacing Elaine Harvey, whose term had expired. Following is the current slate of FCAHS officers, including the year each term expires:

President:	Peter Martin	1995
Vice-President:	George Badgley	1995
Secretary:	Florence Michaels	1995
Treasurer:	Alice Lavrinos	1995
Trustees:	Ed Thorne	1995
	Gerda Winnie	1996
	Craig Haney	1997

In September, Al Bullard of Milford gave an entertaining and fascinating program on hops growing in this area. He showed slides of old hop barns and kilns, and displayed various tools and items used in the raising and harvesting of hops, an important part of this area's economy in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (until Prohibition halted it in 1920). At one time, Otsego County produced 10% of the world's hop crop, according to Mr. Bullard. (Submitted by Carolyn McLean)

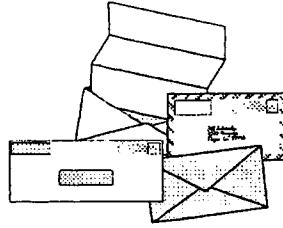
1994-95 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 87, Fly Creek, NY 13337

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).



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Fly Creeker* will print letters of general interest about area history, the Society, or the newsletter itself. The Editor reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, space, etc. Please address correspondence to Bill Deane, at P.O. Box 47, Fly Creek, NY 13337.

"I read in the Summer 1994 *Fly Creeker* about Richard Ranieri's talk on CCC camps in the area (see 'Meetings' on page 3). I was a member of the CCC during 1939-40 and was at Gilbert Lake State Park approximately spring and summer of 1939. We built cabins and hiking paths, etc., while I was there. I was then transferred to a camp near Glacier Park, Montana. I remember Gilbert Lake State Park, and trips to Laurens and Oneonta, very well.

"Some time when I am visiting my relatives in Cooperstown and Richfield Springs I hope to attend one of our meetings, as I have never had the opportunity to do so. I would love to meet and talk with the members of the Fly Creek Area Historical Society."

Robert E. Clayton
Denver, CO

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