

# *Fly Creeker*

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

- Second reminder: 1995-96 dues were payable by August 1, 1995. If your name is not listed in the directory on page 5 of this newsletter, please use the application on the bottom of that page to renew your membership. While everything else goes up, our dues are still a modest \$5 per year for individuals, or \$8 for family memberships.
- An article of local interest appeared in the *Sheridan, Wyoming Press* on May 7, 1956. It profiled Hulett, WY resident Fred Sutton, who owned a rare antique grandfather clock, inscribed "Made in 1806, Fly Creek in New York." According to Sutton, his grandmother, Angelia Adams -- a cousin of John Quincy Adams -- had two of the clocks made to order. The clock, entirely made by hand, contained 15-pound pig-iron weights, was held together by wooden pegs, and was encased in solid walnut. It was moved to Wyoming in 1937.
- Mention was made in the Summer 1995 *Fly Creeker* of a cemetery on the Ed Timm property on the east side of Bissell Road, about three-tenths of a mile from Route 28. Legible names recorded on the stones (dated in the 1830s and '40s) there include James Fitch, William H. Steer, Thomas Montgomery, Susan E. Clark, and Charles Pierson.
- Elaine Harvey submits this autumn item, from Samuel Shaw's *History of Cooperstown, 1839-1885*: "This Fall (October 2, 1887) the new road through the 'gulf' leading west from Cooperstown to Fly Creek was opened. In this project the village was assisted by the people of Fly Creek."
- Two former FCAHS members died in recent months. Musa Gumone -- who had been appointed first editor of this newsletter, until health problems forced her to relinquish these duties -- died July 25, 1995, in Grand Junction, Colorado, aged 67. She had operated the Stocking Homestead Bed & Breakfast in Fly Creek before moving to Colorado in 1992. Violet Decker died at her Christian Hill home on August 8, 1995, aged 84. She was a member of the Fly Creek United Methodist Church.
- Among the 97 paid-up members listed on page 5 are five newcomers: Emera Bridger, Joann Christmann, Marion S. Creswell, and Harry & Betty McManus. Welcome aboard!
- FCAHS member Ken Baldwin, former pastor of the Fly Creek United Methodist Church, sends greetings. Rev. Baldwin is now pastor at the Andes United Methodist Church in Andes, NY. He recently scored an 86 at the Ouleout Creek Golf Course -- "not bad for an old coot," he says. Ken and his wife, Nan, spent ten days in Denmark and Sweden last month.
- Elaine Harvey recently came into possession of an interesting item: the Jones Sprayer, designed "for applying poisonous liquids or dry powders on animals and plants." According to the label, the item was "manufactured and sold by THE FLYCREEK BUTTER PAIL and GALVANIZED IRON EVESTROUGH WORKS, Flycreek, N.Y."
- The average attendance at FCAHS meetings was 28 in 1994-95, up about 10% from the previous year, according to President Peter Martin. (More News Briefs on following page)

## NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

- A meeting of FCAHS trustees and committee chairpersons was held on September 11, with eleven present. Among the issues discussed were a proposed dues-hike, scheduled for 1996-97, and the production of membership cards.
- Jim Atwell, a member of our newsletter staff, has been penning a weekly column -- "From Fly Creek" -- in the Cooperstown *Freeman's Journal*. He will be speaking about his experiences during the October 25 FCAHS meeting. His August 20, 1995 column gives a touching first-hand account from Arrie Hecox, Jim's neighbor, about a celebrity who spent some time right in our neighborhood. While famed aviatrix Amelia Earhart gave flying lessons at the Frankfort, NY airport in August 1924, she boarded in what is now Peg Famulare's house right here in Fly Creek, and befriended the ten-year-old Arrie.



## MEETINGS

The final two 1995 meetings of the FCAHS will be held on October 25 and November 15. At the October meeting, Jim Atwell will speak on "Writing In & About Fly Creek." The November meeting will feature the Otsego County Storytellers. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of the Fly Creek church beginning at 7:00 P.M., and are open to the public.

The Society's three most recent meetings were held on July 26, August 23, and September 27, 1995. The July gathering feature a "box social" (raising \$19.25 for the Society), after Charlie Michaels -- assisted by wife Barb -- gave a talk and video presentation entitled "Down by the Old Mill Stream." It profiled the Fly Creek Cider Mill, certainly one of the hamlet's best-known present features. A relaxed and effective speaker, Charlie told us of his and Barbara's development of the mill's business, described the processing of apples into cider, and showed several types of antique apple peelers and corers.

August brought the Society's Annual Meeting. After a covered-dish supper, attendees watched Philip Bresee's videotape of the 1990 Fly Creek Area Bicentennial celebration. During the business meeting, George Badgley was re-nominated for Vice President, Florence Michaels for Secretary, and Ed Thorne for a new three-year term as a Trustee. While the Nominating Committee seeks available candidates for the offices of President and Treasurer, Peter Martin and Alice Lavrinos will continue to hold the posts. Annual committee reports were also read during this meeting; the Publication Committee's is reprinted on page 6.

At the September meeting Rev. Horace King introduced his colleague, Father Douglas Smith, Rector of Cooperstown's Christ Church. A Civil War scholar and re-enactor, "Private" Smith appeared in a Union uniform and gave a riveting history of the War Between the States. It focused on four Fly Creek area youths -- Eugene and Freman Alger, James Lindsay, and Horace Field -- who enlisted for New York's 121st Regiment in August, 1862; all four were dead within 21 months. The talk was rich with poignant detail and held the attention of a very large audience.

The FCAHS treasury balance, as announced during the last business meeting, stands at \$7,740.36 in a Certificate of Deposit and \$656.20 in the checking account. (Submitted by Jim Atwell)

The Society has learned of the death of Kenneth Laut on March 22, 1995. Mr. Laut, a member since 1993, had lived in Ormand Beach, Florida. We extend our belated condolences to his wife, Dorothy.

Following is a list of Town of Otsego Supervisors (since 1804) and Clerks (since 1825). These were compiled from minutes-books on file at the Office of the Town Clerk (who happens to be the editor's wife) in Fly Creek, and the 1877 book History of Otsego County, New York. Names are followed by years taken office:

TOWN SUPERVISORS	
Elijah H. Metcalf	1804
Robert Campbell	1809
Oliver Cory	1812
A. Metcalf	1818
William Sprague	1820
Samuel Starkweather	1824
George Morell	1825
Orestes Badger	1832
Elihu Phinney	1833
George A. Starkweather	1841
Elisha Doubleday	1846
Seth Doubleday	1847
Henry Phinney	1849
George Jarvis	1850
Lewis R. Palmer	1851
Eliab. P. Byram	1853
John F. Scott	1854
Eliab. P. Byram	1855
Levi C. Turner	1857
George W. Ernst	1858
Marias B. Angell	1862
Horace M. Hooker	1863
George W. Ernst	1865
John K. Leaning	1866
Samuel S. Edick	1868
S. Wilson Cheney	1869
Samuel S. Edick	1870
Fayette Hinds	1871
John K. Leaning	1872
Fayette Hinds	1873
John Lewis	1875
James A. Lynes	1876
James F. Clark	1877
George Van Horn	1878
Luther I. Burditt	1879
William A. Thayer	1880
Charles D. Olendorf	1883
Fay E. Taylor	1884
William Dean Burditt	1885
Thomas Laidler	1886
Albert S. Potts	1888
George Van Horn	1890
Albert S. Potts	1891
Clement M. Allison	1893
Albert S. Potts	1894
George M. Wedderspoon	1896
James J. Byard, Jr.	1898
George M. Wedderspoon	1899
Clement M. Allison	1903
J. Dana Whipple	1909
Clement M. Allison	1911
J. Dana Whipple	1914
Melvin C. Bundy	1924
Matthew T. Chapman	1936
Alton G. Dunn	1944
Alton G. Dunn, Jr.	1964
Joseph M. Clancy	1970
Robert B. Murdock	1972
David F. Bassler	1990

TOWN CLERKS	
George Pomeroy	1825
John Hannay	1840
Hiram S. Babcock	1841
Henry P. Metcalf	1842
George Jarvis	1845
Lewis M. Doubleday	1850
J. A. Nellis	1851
Richard A. Lesley	1852
Edmund D. Persons	1853
Hiram S. Babcock	1856
Henry P. Metcalf	1856
Marias B. Angell	1860
Luzerne M. Bolles	1862
John E. Brown	1863
Henry L. Hinman	1865
Benjamin F. Murdock	1866
Charles R. Burch	1867
Henry W. Cory	1869
Charles R. Burch	1871
Ellery P. Cory	1872
George Jarvis	1873
Ellery P. Cory	1875
Stephen S. McFarran	1880
Ellery P. Cory	1881
William P. K. Fuller	1882
George B. Cole	1884
Charles R. Alger	1886
William D. Boden	1888
William J. Smith	1889
Jesse Bell Johnston	1890
Charles Kenney	1892
Frank Hale	1893
Claude J. Burrell	1894
E. H. Bailey	1898
Albert T. Van Horne	1898
Frank B. Shipman	1899
Charles Kenney	1901
Lavern Hollis	1905
Harry Freeman	1907
William J. Averill	1909
Leon H. Ellsworth	1911
Joseph F. Wicks	1914
Moir P. Tanner	1922
Clyde S. Becker	1924
Floyd Mumford	1930
Gordon S. Winnie	1944
Leslie J. Woodbeck	1946
Dorrance Weir	1950
G. Wayne Butler	1952
Ray F. Smith	1953
Donald C. Reed, Jr.	1954
John A. Shipman	1958
R. Stuart Peaslee	1968
Dorothy K. Firman	1970
Mary Pangborn	1972
Betsy B. Goddard	1976
Irwin W. Curlis	1982
Maria Folts	1984
Debbie Selan	1988
Pamela A. Deane	1992

## THE GRANGE

The Grange movement was started in 1867 by Oliver Hudson Kelly and several other men. It was designed as a rural, family-oriented, fraternal organization, active in creating legislation beneficial to agricultural and rural affairs. Over the next three-quarters of a century, the Grange became a vital institution in rural America. It was a place where farm families could gather to discuss their economic problems and to socialize. Dances, suppers, cooking and sewing contests, and local fairs were among the events hosted by a typical Grange Hall.

The Grange was organized as a secret society and remains so to this day. A member initiated into the group learns a password and certain signals, which are to be used in the group gatherings and nowhere else. From the beginning, men and women were equal participants in holding office and in conducting the ritual at the business meetings. In 1904, Juvenile Granges were established in New York state for children under 14, at which age they could become members of the Adult, or Subordinant, Grange.

A typical county Subordinant Grange would organize as a Pomona Grange. Pomona is part of a State Grange, which in turn is associated with the National Grange (headquartered at Washington, DC). The Pomona Grange meets quarterly, usually at a different Grange Hall each time. The State and National Granges meet annually at different locations in the state or nation.

The country's first Grange was founded April 16, 1868, at Fredonia, Chautauqua County, NY. It was designated No. 1, with those that followed numbered in sequence. The Fly Creek Valley Grange, No. 790, was founded in 1894, and the Fly Creek Grange, No. 844, was established in 1898. Growth continued; in 1914, for example, there were 36 new Granges, with a total membership of 4,688, recorded in New York. Probably the last Grange formed in Otsego County was the Red Creek Valley Grange, No. 1583, in 1940. The New York State Grange is located in Cortland.

The first Master (presiding officer) of the Fly Creek Valley Grange was Ulysses Van Horn, and the Secretary was Frank Chamberlain. This Grange still exists, albeit with a small membership composed mostly of two families.

The Fly Creek Grange's first Master and Secretary were J. B. McManus and Peter McDonough, respectively. In recent years, the membership had dwindled to the point where those few who remained could no longer support its functions; it was finally dissolved, with its charter surrendered. The Otsego County Pomona Grange took over the property, located on Cemetery Road in Fly Creek, and is in the process of restoring the building and updating its facilities, so it can be used for activities of the Grange and other organizations.

Deputy Grange Masters of Otsego Pomona Grange represented the State Grange Master by making periodic official visits to local Granges. Among those who served in this capacity were W. H. Chamberlain, Charles W. Allen, George H. Ritter, Albert H. Straight, John W. Chase, Lester E. Hardy, Kenneth Anguer, Mattias Smith, Stanley R. Wilber, Murry Ames, Harold Bice, Eena Carvin, George H. Harrison, and Louise Armstrong. (Submitted by George Badgley)



**FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**1995-96 Roll of Membership (as of October 4, 1995)**

- \*ATWELL, Dr. James
- AUFMUTH, Jayne
- \*BADGLEY, Mr. & Mrs. George
- BAKER, David & Scottie
- \*BALDWIN, Rev. Kenneth
  
- BARNOWSKY, Dr. & Mrs. Laurence
- \*BERTINO, Dr. Joseph
- BOUTON, Ronald & Carol
- \*BRESEE, Philip & Ruth
- BRIDGER, Emera
  
- \*BURNHAM, Garfield & Catherine
- CARR, Richard D.
- CHRISTMANN, Joann
- CLARK, Mr. & Mrs. Francis
- CLAYTON, Robert E.
  
- CRESWELL, Marion S.
- \*CURLIS, Irwin & Virginia
- \*DAY, Irving III & Kathleen
- \*DEANE, Bill & Pam
- \*DEVENPECK, Hattie
  
- DODGE, Martha
- DRUMM, Suzanne
- \*ELDRIDGE, Margaret
- FARMER, Dr. Edward & Mary
- FISH, Jim & MerriLynn
  
- FOUTCH, Maud
- GOODSPEED, Charles & Ann
- HANEY, Craig
- HANOR, Katherine
- \*HARVEY, Merritt & Elaine
  
- HECOX, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene
- JENKINS, Arthur & Ruby
- \*JENSEN, Margaret
- KEATING, William & Evelyn
- KNAPP, Jean
  
- LAUT, Dorothy
- \*LAVRINOS, Nicholas & Alice
- LEVINE, Harry & Ellen
- LUDLAM, Henry & Toni
- LYONS, Irving & Joan
  
- MacDOUGALL, Hugh & Eleanor
- MARTIN, Homer & Leila
- \*MARTIN, Peter & Dorothy
- McLEAN, Carolyn
- McMANUS, Harry & Betty
  
- MICHAELS, Charles & Barbara
- \*MICHAELS, Florence
- NAFZIGER, Dr. Anne
- \*NORRIS, Robert & Patricia
- POPE, Janice
  
- \*POTTS, Maxine
- REILLY, Edward
- REZEN, Paul & Sally
- SHARPE, Stuart & Bonnie
- SMALE, Capt. Gordon F.
  
- SMITH, Zoe
- \*SNYDER, Art & Freida
- TALBOT, William & Evelyn
- THORNE, Edwin & Judy
- TILLAPAUGH, Marjorie
  
- WINNE, Helen
- YOURNO, Albert, Ann & James
- ZYSKOWSKI, Dr. Lawrence

\*Charter Member (continuous membership since the Society's founding in 1989).

**Note: if your name is not listed above, please use the application below to renew your membership. Thank you all for your continued support!**

**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).

**FCAHS PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: 1994-95 Annual Report**

Following is the text of the FCAHS Publications Committee's 1994-95 annual report, as delivered by committee chairman Bill Deane during the August 23 meeting:

The Publications Committee, consisting of Jim Atwell, George Badgley, Carolyn McLean, and myself, held its annual meeting at my home on March 11, 1995. Other FCAHS members who have been particularly helpful to our committee over the past year include, alphabetically, Elaine Harvey, Alice Lavrinos, Hugh MacDougall, Peter Martin, Florence Michaels, Sally Rezen, and Freida Snyder -- essentially, the same list of names we report every year.

Among our committee's accomplishments in the past year were publication of our first six-page edition of the *Fly Creeker* (Spring 1995), and preparation of an index of past issues, covering Summer 1989 through Winter 1995. The Summer 1995 *Fly Creeker* marked our 25th newsletter, totaling 100 pages. We plan to continue publishing quarterly (in January, April, July, and October each year), with length dependent on the amount of material available. The Autumn 1995 edition is expected to be ready in time for the Applefest weekend in October.

Because we have received very few new articles during the past twelve months, the surplus of articles we reported last year has dwindled to a small backlog. Articles that will appear in future editions include ones on Otsego Town Supervisors and Clerks of the past; the local Grange; the poetry of former Fly Creek resident Phyllis Talbot; the Fly Creek Valley School; and Fly Creek's connection to the Baseball Hall of Fame. We hope that more members will submit research findings and potential articles, enabling us to publish more six-page newsletters.

As usual, we welcome the input and advice of the FCAHS membership as to what our committee is doing or ought to be doing.

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**FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**P.O. Box 87**

**Fly Creek, NY 13337**

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