

Fly Creeker

NEWSLETTER of the FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (FCAHS)

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VOLUME 19, ISSUE 4 * AUTUMN, 2007

NEWS BRIEFS

- **Pancake breakfast, October 28 ...** The FCAHS/Grange Building will host a donation pancake breakfast on Sunday, October 28, from 8 AM to noon. There will be our regular full menu of pancakes with local maple syrup, orange juice, eggs, sausage, home fries, applesauce, donuts, and beverages. We ask that our members and friends support these local businesses which have contributed food items to this FCAHS fund-raising event: W. L. Taylor & Son, Stewart's Shop (Cooperstown), P&C Foods, Hannaford Supermarkets, Byrne Dairy, Ar-De's Great American, and Price Chopper. We're looking forward to having all the members "over for breakfast." Also, volunteers are needed for food and time donations; please contact Jim Wolff (547-2501) for details.
- **Just due it ...** FCAHS dues for 2008 are payable by the end of this year, and paid-up members will be listed in the next issue. Please use the application on page 5 to renew your membership, or to join or rejoin the Society. Thanks.
- **Survey says ...** Pages 3-4 of this newsletter consist of a survey devised by the FCAHS Board of Trustees. Please take the time to complete it and return it to the Society at P.O. Box 87, Fly Creek, NY 13337.
- **Parr value ...** On October 12, Cooperstown Central School teacher Amy Parr, accompanied by many of her students, made her annual expedition to do clean-up and beautification work at the FCAHS/Grange Building and the cemetery across the road. Ms. Parr has been doing this quietly each year since 2002, and deserves our heartfelt thanks.
- **Lucky seven ...** Welcome to our newest members: Wendy Alley, Ed & Judi Cook, Dagmar Federlein, and Tom & Kelly Steele. These, along with renewing (contributing) member Claire Kepner, made our final 2007 membership total 189, a 22% decline from last year's record of 243.
- **We need to be refreshed ...** Please contact refreshments Committee Chairperson Anna Montesano (965-9809) to volunteer to provide refreshments for upcoming meetings. Anna needs someone to help her with the task for the October meeting, and two people are needed for the November gathering. Also, a sign-up sheet for 2008 will be passed around during these meetings.
- **Toddsville Bridge becomes a *Star* ...** The September 22-23 issue of the Oneonta *Daily Star* had a feature article about the history of the Lower Toddsville Bridge.
- **Deceased members ...** The Summer issue listed deceased members of the FCAHS. It should be noted that these include only people who died while active members of the Society.
- **Building for Rent ...** The FCAHS has set a fee schedule for rental of its building. For full-day use, the rate is \$200 for profit-making organizations, \$100 for 501 C (3) non-profit organizations, and \$50 for FCAHS members; the respective rates for half-day use are \$100, \$50, and \$25. There is no fee for FCAHS-sponsored events. A security deposit equal to the user fee, and proof of \$250,000 liability insurance, are required. There are also fees for a custodian (\$10/hour, minimum \$40), and for heat, if required (\$50). Contact the FCAHS President for further information.

FCAHS MEETING PROGRAMS, 2003-07

Following is a list of programs presented at FCAHS meetings for the past five years (1989-98 meetings were covered in the Winter 1999 issue, and 1999-2002 were listed in the Autumn 2002 edition).

Date	Speaker/Presenter	Topic
1/22/2003	Bill Deane	Chronic Care Financial Planning
2/26/2003	Sherlee Rathbone & local seniors	Once Upon a Time in Fly Creek
3/19/2003	Jim Atwell	Robert's Rules Made Easy
4/23/2003	Dr. Gilbert Vincent	Stewards of a Building's History
5/28/2003	Susan Melchior (Catskill Poetry Theatre)	Catskills Roding, a Poetry Play
6/25/2003	Tim Wiles (Baseball Hall of Fame)	Where'd Baseball Come From
7/23/2003	Don Drake	Let's Meet at the Grange
9/24/2003	Elizabeth Partlow	Mules!
10/22/2003	Town of Otsego Candidates	Meet the Candidates
11/19/2003	Bill Gates	Hail and Farewell!
1/28/2004	Dominick Reisen	Otsego County Historical Association
2/25/2004	Pete Martin & Richie Carr	Old Chapel Burying Ground
3/24/2004	Amy Donnelly	What's Under Fly Creek
4/28/2004	Dr. Sherilynne Lacy (Hartwick College)	Do as I Say, Not as Your Mother Told You
5/26/2004	Parlor Players	Old-Time Music
6/23/2004	Pete Martin	Cheese Factories in Otsego Township
7/28/2004	Jim Atwell	It Happened Right Over There
9/22/2004	Susan Melchior (Catskill Poetry Theatre)	In This Whip of a Road
10/27/2004	Bill Deane	Chronic Care Financial Planning
11/17/2004	Sherlee Rathbone & Local Seniors	Story Time
1/26/2005	Jessie Ravage	Fly Creek: How to Save What You Have
2/23/2005	Gail Rogers	Trace Your Roots
3/23/2005	Jim Loudon	Leatherstocking Rails
4/27/2005	Dennis Corcoran	The Conspiracy of B. Arnold and J. Andre
5/25/2005	Mary Leonard	Container Gardening
6/22/2005	Scottie Baker	Preserving Classic Wooden Boats
7/27/2005	Sherlee Rathbone	Where the Bones Are Buried
9/28/2005	Dick & Sandy deRosa (Hawthorne Hill)	The Best of All Perennials: Daylilies
10/26/2005	Jerry Selan	Firearms & Hunting in the Fly Creek Area
11/16/2005	Mary Lou & Richard Votypka	Preserving our Little Corner of Fly Creek
1/25/2006	Dr. John Leahy	Agriculture & Farming in Otsego County
2/22/2006	Ann Vickary	Spinning & Weaving of Historic Textiles
3/22/2006	Rev. Doug Burleigh	Advanced Directives
4/26/2006	FCAHS Members	Strategic Planning for the FCAHS
5/24/2006	Kathleen LaFrank (NYS Hist. Preservation)	Fly Creek Historic District
6/28/2006	Tom Heitz	Creation Stories and the Cardiff Giant
9/27/2006	Wes Ciampo	1903 Atlas of the Area
10/25/2006	Richie Carr	Woodworking as a Hobby
11/15/2006	Al Bullard	Hop-Houses
1/24/2007	Bill Deane	History of the <i>Fly Creeker</i>
2/28/2007	Robin Lettis	A Visit to Africa
3/28/2007	Donald Drake	History of Otsego County Pomona Grange
4/25/2007	Marcy Birch, Jean Finch & David Petri	History of the Toddsville Bridge & Area
5/23/2007	Ed Kukenberger & Slovenians	History of the Corn Field
6/27/2007	Dr. John Davis	History of Bassett Hospital, 1844-Present
7/25/2007	Bill & Betsy Hayes	History of the Toddsville Hotel, 1827-2007
9/26/2007	Dr. Lee Robbins	Herbal Medicine in Early Otsego
10/23/2007	Tara White	Historical Archives
11/28/2007	Bruce Markusen	Ghost Stories of Otsego County

Fly Creek Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 87, Fly Creek, New York 13337

SURVEY

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH YOUR DUES
THANK YOU

Name _____

Mailing address _____

Phone number(s) _____

E-mail address _____

Would you be willing to receive your *Fly Creeker* by e-mail? _____

How long have you been a member of the FCAHS? _____

How long have you lived (or did you live) in this area? _____

Do you attend three or more meetings a year? _____ If not, why not?

What could be done to make this a more meaningful, fun, interesting,
educational, or relevant organization to you? _____

[Continued on back]

We have a number of committees. What committees would you be willing to serve on?

* Building and grounds (oversee care and be aware of repairs and upkeep that is needed) _____

* Library (collect, catalog, and care for items in our collection) _____

* Publications (work on newsletter and research projects, publicize meetings and events) _____

* Finance _____

Do you have any ideas for fund-raising? _____

* Activities (special events) _____

* Program (arrange for speakers) _____

Would you be willing to be a speaker at a meeting? _____

What topic(s)? _____

* Membership (attracting members) _____

* Genealogy _____

* Special committee: Refreshments (arrange for refreshments at meetings, keep abreast of supply needs) _____

* Special committee: Veterans Sign (reproduce a sign once in our hamlet that honored our veterans, and would be exhibited in our building. A photo of the original is available) _____

* Officer (the positions are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and three Trustees) _____

OTHER COMMENTS _____

Thank you for your interest and for being a member of the Fly Creek Area Historical Society.

FLY CREEK A CENTURY AGO

[The following items are reprinted from the October 10, 1907 Richfield Springs *Mercury* ("From Our Special Correspondent" in Fly Creek), and were submitted by Tom Heitz.]

Every day is bargain day in Fly Creek, a fact which many from our neighboring villages have appreciated for years. It is not uncommon for residents of Cooperstown and beyond to come to Fly Creek to do their trading.

Stephen Wiltse, proprietor of the hotel here for several years, has rented Dutcher's saloon in Cooperstown. He will continue to conduct the hotel here until the expiration of his lease.

The trolley cars have been making quite a run on dogs down this way of late. Of the three bird dogs run over D. C. Badger's met the saddest mishap. He had his tail cut off twice. The car cut his tail off and probably from fear of ridicule he hid under the M. E. church for two days, but to add still more to his humiliation Dr. Young of Cooperstown was employed to cut it off again.

A most enjoyable and interesting meeting of the Grange was held at the hall on Saturday evening, Oct. 5th. Mr. and Mrs. Don J. Wood of West Exeter were present and Mr. Wood and others discussed the subject of Winter Dairying... The meeting was concluded with a banquet. The report of the committee showed that the Grange took seventy-eight dollars in premiums at the Cooperstown fair. Prof. Baird is planning to put on a play for the benefit of the Grange in the near future.

The twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Alex H. Clarke was made memorial by the gathering of friends and neighbors to the number of one hundred and fifty or more, at their spacious residence on West Main street, in this village, on the evening of Oct. 4th, 1907. At about the same hour a gathering of friends assembled at the home of the bride in Oaksville, twenty-five years ago. The Rev. B. P. Ripley, then pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of this village, [officiated] at the marriage ceremony. Earl D. Preston, now of this village, was groomsman, and Miss Nettie Armstrong, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid; she now resides in Utica, the wife of Eugene Atwell, at one time a resident of Oaksville. After a brief time passed in interchange of courtesy and the dressing of the bride for the occasion, Mr. and Mrs. Clarke were conducted to the sitting room, where the guests had arranged the gifts, tokens of esteem, for presentation. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke were seated in two handsome easy chairs, with six of their children beside them.

2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 87, Fly Creek, NY 13337

Name(s): _____ Renewal ___ New ___

Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ e-mail address: _____@_____

- Please register me as a junior member of the FCAHS (age 21 or under). Enclosed is a check for \$5.
- Please register me as a member of the FCAHS. Enclosed is a check for \$10.
- Please register us to a family membership (note: this extends to all family members living in one domicile). Enclosed is a check for \$15.
- Please accept the enclosed tax-deductible donation, in the amount of \$_____ (minimum \$20), and enroll me/us as a contributing/sustaining member(s).

MEETINGS

The final two FCAHS meetings of the year are slated for October 23 and November 28, 2007. Society meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 PM. Open to the public, from April through October they are staged at the FCAHS Building/Grange Hall on Cemetery Road, Fly Creek, one-tenth of a mile from the blinker light; and, when that building is closed (November through April), they are held in the Fly Creek United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall (basement).

Tara White will speak on "Historical Archives" at the October meeting. Tara is a lecturer in history at the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies, and has worked in museums for over a decade. She is a doctoral candidate in public history at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. Her areas of specialization are twentieth century southern history, women's history, and archives. (As a bonus, Tara has agreed to work with us in organizing our own archives!) And, in November, Bruce Markusen will tell "Ghost Stories of Otsego County." Bruce is an author, and also runs the ghost tours in Cooperstown.

The most recent meetings were held on July 25, August 22, and September 26. In July, Bill and Betsy Hayes gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Toddsville Hotel, 1827-2007. The building on the southwest corner of Greenough Road and County Highway 59 was built by Caleb Todd (a relative of Mary Todd Lincoln). The Hayeses bought the nearly-condemned building in 1998, and have done a remarkable job of restoring it. They shared before & after photos taken throughout the process, along with some artifacts discovered along the way. August saw the Society's Annual Meeting, featuring committee reports and FCAHS elections. By a one-vote margin over Sherlee Rathbone, former Secretary Claire Kepner was elected the Society's new President, replacing Wes Ciampo. Meanwhile, Wes became a Trustee, replacing Bill Deane. Peter Martin was retained as Vice President, while Judi Cook was elected Secretary. In September, Dr. Lee Robbins discussed edible plants and herbs in "Herbal Medicine in Early Otsego." Dr. Robbins, a former E.R. doctor at Bassett Hospital, gave a PowerPoint presentation featuring plants and herbs used for medicinal purposes, particularly in the nineteenth century; some of the remedies had merit, some did not.