

Fly Creeker

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

- **Newbies ...** Welcome to our newest enrollees, Lyn Edinger, Richard & Alene Foutch, Kate Johannesen, Kevin & Patricia Murphy, and contributing members Audrey & Jeffrey Murray, M.D. We also received renewals from George Badgley & Deborah Dickinson, Homer & Leila Martin, and Mark & Sarah Wilcox and family, bringing our 2003 membership total to 165, down nine from last year.
- **Re-newbies ...** Dues for 2004 are due by January 1; a list of paid-up members will appear in the next newsletter. Note that the price has not increased since 1996. An application appears on page 3; please also consider a gift membership or the FCAHS tribute program. Thanks for your continued support.
- **Stepping Back ...** Here are a couple of recent entries of interest from "Step Back in Time," the *Daily Star's* column featuring news items from 25 and 50 years ago, and one from a similar column in the *Freeman's Journal*, submitted by Elaine Harvey:
 - August 4, 1953 – "I've heard people say that they have seen flying saucers but thought they were kidding, but I saw one last Friday and I know they actually exist," said William Munford, Cooperstown yesterday. At 1:30 p.m. last Friday [July 31], Mr. Munford said he saw a heavy bomber flying high over Cooperstown, traveling east to west when suddenly an object about 10 feet in diameter appeared to shoot out from the plane. While delivering newspapers on Nelson Avenue, Clairborne Sherman, 11, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sherman, 106 Fair Street, and Charles Strait, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lysle Strait, 22 Church St., said that they noticed the flying saucer but they did not see a bomber.
 - July 25, 1978 – The National Commerce Bank's Cooperstown branch has been serving for the past two years as a "showplace" for local artists, artisans and hobbyists. During the month of July, bank customers and visitors are enjoying a pictorial showing titled, "The Man in My Life." The portraits are the creation of Lady Ostapeck of Fly Creek, a well-known pictorial portraitist. There are 29 portraits hanging in the spacious lobby of the bank.
 - September 27, 1978 – The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, conducted by Buddy Morrow, will be appearing at The Tavern in Fly Creek on Wednesday, October 4, for your dancing and listening enjoyment.
- **Even Farther Back ...** Freida Snyder submits an unidentified news clipping, dated December 18, 1942: "A Service Flag honoring thirteen men of [Fly Creek] who are now in the armed forces of the United States and one other, Edward Cross, III, who died while in training, was dedicated with fitting ceremonies at a service held Sunday evening [December 13] in the Fly Creek Community church. Others on the Honor [Roll] are: Howard Aufmuth, Jr., William Barber, Hartwick Christiansen, Julian Herring, Harlan Kane, Vernon Kane, Donald Semple, Richard Semple, Claude Shrauger, Earl Spraker, Edwin Smith, Clinton Truax, Jr., Ernest Winnie. The pastor of the church, the Rev. F. W. Connell, presided, and the service included patriotic hymns, the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States with 'God Bless America' as the prayer song."
- **Refreshing Your Memories ...** Reminder: those in charge of refreshments for the remaining 2003 meetings are Jim Fish & Claire Kepner (October), and Pam Deane & Ann Carr (November).

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

- **Save the Last Dance ...** Square and round dances are held at the FCAHS Building/Grange Hall on Cemetery Road on the first Saturday of each month, May through November, from 7-10 PM. Admission is free, and refreshments are available for purchase, with proceeds going to the FCAHS. Elaine Harvey reports that the October dance was our biggest yet, with more than 80 participants. The final dance for 2003 is slated for November 1.
- **They're Never Board ...** The FCAHS Board of Trustees scheduled the following dates for meetings for the coming year: December 10, February 11, April 14, June 9, and August 11. Among the items discussed at the most recent meeting were electric, light, heat, temperature and humidity control, and handicap-accessibility needs in our building; and a decision for the Society to join the Upstate History Alliance, which conducts training and workshops for museums and organizations.
- **We're Historical ...** Steps have been taken to add our building to the state and national registries of historic places. The application has been through committee at Albany and is awaiting appropriate signing. Stay tuned for further developments.
- **A Journal of Fly Creek ...** Marc Fleishman, an artist and photography instructor at Boston's New England School of Photography, has created a photographic journal entitled *The Land Speaks: A Journal of Fly Creek*. FCAHS members are invited to Mr. Fleishman's free lecture, "The Process of Fine Art Photography: From Artistic Vision to Finished Print," featuring prints from this book. It will be held at Annie's Community Darkroom, 18 Lewis Street, Oneonta, on Friday, October 31 at 8 PM. Hostess Adrienne "Annie" Gohde says "His artistic depictions of Fly Creek's antiquated structures are complemented by his in-depth observations and personal anecdotes of the area. The beauty and grace that he has captured in his work are phenomenal." For reservations and additional information, call Annie Gohde at 431-2582 or 547-2047.

MEETINGS

The final two FCAHS meetings of 2003, both rescheduled from earlier dates, will be held on October 22 and November 19. After our traditional December break, we'll resume our monthly meeting schedule on January 28.

At the October meeting the Historical Society will welcome this year's candidates for Town offices: John Schallert and Tom Breiten for Supervisor; Nancy Iverson, Les Weir, and Wes Ciampo for Town Board; and Jim Wolff, Dora Cooke, and Lawrence Pelovsky for Town Justices. Each candidate will have up to five minutes to address us, with time after each category for our questions about historical preservation or any other matters.

"Hail and Farewell!" is the title of November's program. Outgoing Supervisor Bill Gates, about to move to Arizona, will talk about the Town of Otsego and his years in office. If complications of his move block Bill from being with us, the program will invite members to reminisce on "Thanksgivings as I Remember Them," recalling holiday food and activities from their youth.

Society members have enjoyed several interesting programs in recent months. On July 23 Don Drake talked to us about the past and present of the Grange movement, and his years in the organization. He explained that, under the aegis of the Agriculture Department, the Grange was founded as a locally based self-help, social, and educational organization for farm families. From the start, women had equal rights to be members and officers, and children were welcomed to junior membership. Don pointed out that our own Grange building once housed an active co-op store, where Grangers could buy goods and food staples at reasonable prices.

MEETINGS, Continued

August 27 saw the annual meeting, preceded by a covered-dish dinner, and featuring annual elections and committee reports. Newly-elected officers include Wes Ciampo (President), Peter Martin (Vice-President), and Claire Kepner (Secretary), while Jim Wolff was re-elected as a Trustee. Certificates of appreciation were presented to outgoing Secretary Joan Smith, and to Ed and Judy Thorne, for their tireless contributions to the Society.

Those at the September 24 meeting heard Elizabeth Partlow discuss "Mules!" Liz brought five visual aids with her: Bill and Jim, two huge half-Percheron mules who munched hay on either side of our sign out front; and three donkey: adults Clementine and Oprah, and Oprah's little daughter, only a week old. Liz delighted the audience with stories of her adventures and mishaps while training mules. Also present during this meeting was Dominick Reisen, President of the newly-formed Otsego County Historical Association, which meets at the Kinney Library in Hartwick at 7 PM on the second Thursday of each month. [Submitted by Jim Atwell]

TRIBUTE PROGRAM FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. Box 87, Fly Creek, NY 13337

To make a gift to this program, please fill in the information below and make check payable to
FCAHS Tribute Program:

THIS TRIBUTE GIFT OF \$ _____ IS GIVEN BY: PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name _____

Address _____

IN MEMORY OF / IN HONOR OF (circle one): Name _____

OCCASION (circle one): Birthday Anniversary Wedding Graduation Birth
 Get Well Thank You Promotion New Home New Job
 Communion Confirmation Bar/Bat Mitzvah Other _____

2004 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 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).

FCAHS PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: 2003 Annual Report

[Editor's note: Following is the text of the Publications Committee's annual report, as delivered by its Chairman at the August 27, 2003 FCAHS meeting.]

The Publications Committee consists of Jim Atwell, Carolyn McLean, a couple of anonymous members, and me. We held our annual meeting here at the FCAHS building on May 28, 2003. Besides publishing our quarterly newsletter, the Committee handles publicity work for the Society, including posters and news articles about our monthly meetings and special events.

Besides Jim and Carolyn, FCAHS members who have been particularly helpful to our committee over the past year include, alphabetically, Art Andrews, George Badgley, Ron Bouton, the late Marion Brophy, Wes Ciampo, Deborah Dickinson, Cynthia Ekeland, Katharine Hanor, Elaine Harvey, Pete Martin, Sally Rezen, Freida Snyder, and Jim Wolff.

The Committee again published four newsletters over the past year, making a grand total of 57 issues and 278 pages since 1989. The Autumn, 2003 issue is expected out in October.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Deane, Chairman, Publications Committee

The Society mourns the losses of four of its members in recent months. We extend our condolences to their loved ones.

Pat and Anne Yourno, FCAHS members and regular meeting attendees since 1994, passed away during the summer. Pat died July 21 in Little Falls, and Anne followed August 27 in Cooperstown, both at age 87.

Anne Phillips was born June 17, 1916 in Clifton, NJ. Her family moved to this area in 1922 and began farming. She graduated from the Schuyler Lake School as valedictorian in 1933, and following advanced education became a legal secretary. She returned to help run the family farm in 1942.

Albert "Pat" Yourno was born April 22, 1916 in West Winfield, the youngest of 11 children. He began dairy farming in 1935 and ten years later bought a farm 2½ miles south of Schuyler Lake, across the road from the Phillips farm. He and Anne were married on November 20, 1948, and brought up three children.

Pat served as a Justice for the Town of Otsego from 1985 until his death. The Yournos are survived by their son, Jim, an active FCAHS member, along with two daughters; also, siblings, cousins, nephews, and nieces. We are grateful for the memorial donations received by Richard & Dora Cooke and Cynthia G. Ekeland, in memory of Pat and Anne. They will be missed.

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Annie Goodspeed, a member since 1993, died in Texas on July 31, aged 81. Anna Lulek was born in Fly Creek Valley on August 6, 1921, and married Charles Goodspeed in 1946. The couple farmed in Middlefield Center for 33 years before moving to Texas to be near their daughters. Charles, also a FCAHS member, survives.

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Margaret Andrews, a member since 1998, died in Cooperstown on September 13, aged 73. Marge was born August 2, 1930 in Yonkers, and married Arthur Andrews on February 13, 1949. She held various jobs over the years, and was very active in the Cub Scouts, receiving the Silver Fawn Award for her 17 years of service as a den mother and trainer of den mothers. She is survived by Art, a FCAHS Member, along with their two sons and daughters-in-law, two grandchildren, a sister, and several cousins.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE BEADLES!

Erastus Beadle, born in Pierstown on September 11, 1821, is in the Baseball Hall of Fame, though – as far as we know – he never played the game. To be exact, his handiwork is in the institution's National Baseball Library & Archive. Beadle earned his place in the national pastime's history by being the first to publish books on the rules of baseball. It all began with feed bags.

Erastus was the sixth of ten Beadle children. In 1833, the family moved to Portland (now called Barcelona) on Lake Erie in Chautauqua County, New York. When Erastus was old enough, he worked for a miller. This job included marking the farmer's feed bags. In doing so, Erastus became so good at carving the wooden print letters that, after his family returned to Cooperstown in 1838, he and a younger brother (Irwin, born April 9, 1826; died June 9, 1882) were able to earn a living by going around the countryside marking feed bags for farmers.

Soon after, Erastus became an apprentice to Elihu Phinney, publishing school books (ironically, Phinney was the owner of the cow pasture later named as the birthplace of baseball, and turned into Doubleday Field). It was there in Cooperstown, at age 17, that Beadle learned the art and business of publishing. He remained with Phinney until 1848, by which time Erastus had married Mary Ann Pennington (born in England August 26, 1822; married April 22, 1846; died May 13, 1889). The couple and their son, Irwin (born September 20, 1847), moved to Buffalo, which was becoming something of a literary center. Erastus set up a stereotype foundry, and soon added a printing office. In 1852 he began his first series of publications, *The Youth's Casket*. He later started a monthly magazine, *The Home Monthly*. These were both very successful and profitable.

On March 9, 1857, Erastus embarked on a trip to and from, and tour of the Nebraska territory, where the Beadles had land holdings. Among his modes of transportation were sleighs, boats, trains, and stagecoaches. During his return trip, national economic problems caused banks to fail. Erastus lost a great deal of money and was unable to obtain the liquid assets he had counted on. He had only \$15 cash to complete his trip back to New York, where he rejoined his wife and children (now including Sophia, born in 1849, and Walter, born May 11, 1850) in Cooperstown on August 15.

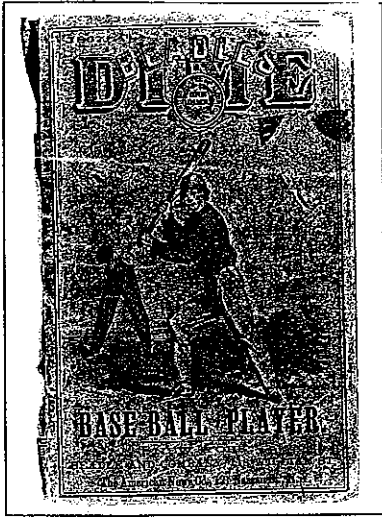
Beadle's diary entry of September 20, 1857 tells that he and "brother Frank" (Benjamin Franklin Beadle, a shoe- and boot-maker and merchant; born April 17, 1817; died March 17, 1886) walked to "the old homestead" on son Irwin's tenth birthday, a pilgrimage to "this place where he was born." According to Pierstown expert Katharine Hanor, this house is now the home of Thelma Pomeroy on Armstrong Road, about four miles from Cooperstown. Beadle refers to the homestead as being on "Sidling Hill."

Erastus moved his business to New York City, the publishing capital of the nation, in 1858. His brother Irwin, involved in the newspaper business in Buffalo, was also selling sheets of song lyrics. These were so popular that they led to *The Dime Song Book*, the first of dozens of "Dime" and "Half-Dime" titles, on various topics, published by Beadle. As the names imply, the books cost five or ten cents each. The *Song Book* also marked the beginning of "Beadle and Adams," a very successful firm consisting of the two Beadle brothers and Robert Adams.

Beadle's first "Dime Novel" was *Maleska, the Indian Wife of the White Hunter*, in 1860. The author, Ann Sophia Winterbottom Stephens, was an editor and writer who was well-known in Europe. Erastus insisted on writers of the highest quality, with accurate knowledge of their subjects.

Consistent with these high standards, Henry Chadwick was the writer/editor of *Beadle's Dime Base-Ball Player* (1867 cover pictured on the next page), which was apparently printed annually (with two exceptions) between 1860-81. Chadwick was a pioneer baseball reporter, and in 1938 became one of the first 16 men elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. The handbooks included the fledgling game's rules, and information on the activities of teams and players in the previous season. These are the earliest known baseball guides, and are treasured by researchers of nineteenth-century baseball. [Continued on back page]

BEADLES, Continued



Beadle's Dime Books were of high quality, read by thousands, including Abraham Lincoln. Success attracts imitators. Unfortunately, the imitators produced works of dreadfully inferior writing and language, tarnishing the reputation of Dime Novels in general. Beadle maintained his high standards, however. When *Maleska* was reprinted in 1928, the *New York Times* described it as "decorous" as anything written by James Fenimore Cooper, similar in style and subject.

Erastus Beadle retired in 1889, moving to Cooperstown, where he had previously summered. He built, rebuilt, or remodeled numerous Cooperstown houses in his final years. He died December 18, 1894, and was buried beside his wife at Lakewood Cemetery in Cooperstown. Erastus was a multi-faceted person, excelling in many areas. One of these was tracking down lost relatives. One of his cousins, an Indiana Supreme Court Justice named Horace P. Biddle (a name change resulting from a misspelled legal document), wrote in 1865 that all Beadle family members owe a debt of gratitude to Erastus for finding them, so that they could maintain contact with each other. Since the grandfather, Benjamin Beadle, married three times and fathered 23 children, this was a formidable task indeed, involving many different connections. At least one of these connections comes right back to the early Fly Creek area. [Submitted by Carolyn McLean, who has compiled a great deal of information on the Beadle family, whose other Fly Creek-area connections include the Bourne, Pierce, and McRorie families. Sources include *Samuel Beadle Family*, self-published by Walter J. Beadle in 1970; the 1893 *Biographical Review of Otsego County, New York*; *To Nebraska in 1857: A Diary of Erastus F. Beadle*, published from the original manuscript by courtesy of the owner, Dr. Frank P. O'Brien; U.S. Census records; and unidentified scrapbook clippings.]

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