

# ~The Vista~

Volume 3, Issue 2

September 2010

**Schuyler County  
Historical Society**  
Brick Tavern Museum  
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**Benefits of SCHS  
Membership:**

- Subscription to the 16-page *Journal* and our new newsletter *The Vista*.
- Free use of our Research Library.
- Invitation to special Society programs and events.
- Full voting privileges to help shape our Society's future.
- The opportunity to help preserve Schuyler County history!

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## 50th Anniversary Gala Come Celebrate at Logan Ridge

The Schuyler County Historical Society will celebrate its 50th anniversary in style at Logan Ridge Estates, 3800 Ball Diamond Road in Hector.

The Gala will be held **Saturday, October 23rd from 6 to 11 pm** with catering by Carol Bower. Music will be provided by DJ Ultimate Sound and Lites.

There will be a number of themed gift baskets to buy chances on, as well as a larger prize (see page 3) the winner of which will be drawn at the Holiday Open House on December 12th.

Cartoonist Diane Bur-



rows will be there from 6-8 pm to draw your caricature.

In the background we will have a slide show of pictures from our photo and postcard collections for you to enjoy.

The evening should be filled with a lot of fun and good cheer.

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$350 for a table of eight. Deadline to purchase tickets is October 9th. Tickets will not be sold at the door so make sure you secure your ticket now.

We hope to see many of you there to help celebrate such an important milestone.

Please contact the Museum at (607)535-9741 or [info@schuylerhistory.org](mailto:info@schuylerhistory.org) to buy tickets or for further information.

Thank you!

## Museum Open House, September 16 Kick-Off of 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign

The Brick Tavern Museum will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, September 16th from 4-6 pm to officially kick-off the 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign.

Many of you know that we have been running a quiet campaign for the past six months. It is now time to announce our progress to date and the many ways you can help us to reach our

campaign goals.

Please contact the Museum at (607)535-9741 or [info@schuylerhistory.org](mailto:info@schuylerhistory.org) if you'd like to join us or make a donation to the Capital Campaign.

## The Historical Society at Work

Volunteer Joann DeLeury has been very busy. She has copied out every name that appears in the 1874 Atlas of Schuyler County... and checked it twice!

Joann began the project this past winter, has plugged along steadily, and is now almost done. Every surname that she copied out has been placed into the computer under the page from the Atlas the name appears on, and in many cases, what school district number.

The surnames can now be indexed for easy searching.

The 1874 Atlas is a great tool for researchers. All the townships and many of the villages appear with the names of each household or property owner noted next to a small plotting of their property.

Do you know that your family lived in the village of Watkins in the late 1800s but not exactly where? Now you can look up their name and find them right on the map!

The index will soon appear on the web at [www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org) under *What's New*.

Also, the Historical Society is considering reprinting the 1874 Atlas in the near future to have for sale here at the museum. The addition of Joann's index would make the Atlas easier to search and use.

Thank you Joann for all the time and effort you put into this project!

## Area Photos by Photos Royale on Display

Local photographer Dr. Mrugendra Mehta shows off his work

Local Montour Falls photographer Dr. Mrugendra Mehta currently has his beautiful photos of Schuyler County on display at the Brick Tavern Museum.

You will see them as you ascend the staircase to the second floor and a few more on the second floor itself. His local scenes, such as Shequagah Falls in the spring at

right, are available for sale as postcards at the museum for \$.50 apiece.

He also has scenes of Watkins Glen harbor, the Gorge, Seneca Lake, and



many more.

To see more of Dr. Mehta's work come to the museum or visit his website at [www.photosroyale.com](http://www.photosroyale.com).

## Remembering Museum Friend and Volunteer Gertje Turk

The Historical Society has lost a great friend and volunteer, Gertje Turk, who passed away on June 20, 2010.

Gertje served the Society in many capacities over the years, at one time be-



Have a cup of tea in remembrance of Gertje.

ing president of the Board of Trustees.

She was also one of the founders of our annual Victorian Tea hosted here at the museum.

Gertje had a sharp wit and

inquisitive personality. She enjoyed talking about current events, politics, and anything else that would get the conversation flowing. She also enjoyed her needlework projects and was very creative. We will all miss her here at the museum.

## New Project for Volunteer Ginny Bruckner

Volunteer Ginny Bruckner, author of *The Montour Falls Business District: West Main Street's Proud Past and Hopeful Future*, has started a new ambitious project to record the particulars for all houses and buildings erected in the village of Montour Falls between 1795 and 1921.

Ginny enjoys researching deeds and assessment rolls for the many older homes in Montour Falls. She got the idea to compile a reference book when she

noticed that many local visitors to the museum would often ask about the history behind their particular houses.

Ginny would like your help with the project. She is looking for information or photos of the homes she is researching or the individuals that lived in them. If you have any info about homes built in the village between 1795 and 1921 please contact her at (607)594-6331 or bruck30a@empacc.net. *Thank you!*

### Books Available at the Museum

*Watkins Glen Tour Guide* by Gordon Cooper (\$32.50)

*Schuyler County Days Bygone* by Barbara H. Bell (\$26)

*The Montour Falls Business District: West Main Street's Proud Past and Hopeful Future* by Virginia Steil Bruckner (\$21.50)

*Schuyler County New York: History and Families* edited by John Potter (\$21.50)

*A Walk Through Watkins Glen: Water's Sculpture in Stone* by Tony Ingraham (\$26)

Visit [www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org) for a complete list of books available for sale.

## Watkins Glen Tour Guide Wins Award

*Watkins Glen Tour Guide* by Gordon Cooper took Gold in the Travel Guide category of the 2009 Book of the Year Awards from ForeWord Reviews.

ForeWord Reviews recognizes the best independently published books from around the country.

We here at the museum are espe-

cially proud of Gordon as he did much of his research in our own Research Room.

Gordon is a native of Watkins Glen now living in California. We always looked forward to his visits back home when he would drop by the museum to locate a photo or confirm a date or place for his tour guide.

He often brought interesting topics to our attention while digging in our files. Gordon was also a major impetus for the reorganization of our files to make them more researcher friendly. The Society congratulates Gordon on a job well done!

*Watkins Tour Guide* is available for purchase at the museum for \$32.50

## Win a Week in Williamsburg!

Board of Trustees member Shirley Craver has generously donated a 7 night stay in a two bedroom, two bath condo in Williamsburg, Virginia for 2011. The week stay is not predetermined and scheduling is flexible for the lucky winner.

Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25. The winner will be drawn at

the December 12th Museum Holiday Open House. Ticket proceeds will benefit our 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign.

To purchase tickets please contact the museum at (607)535-9741 or [info@schuylerhistory.org](mailto:info@schuylerhistory.org).

Good luck!

### Mark your Calendars for these Upcoming Events!

*September 16*—Museum Open House and Capital Campaign Kick-off, 4-6 pm.

*October 23*—50th Anniversary Gala at Logan Ridge, 6-11 pm.

*December 12*—Holiday Open House, 2-4 pm.

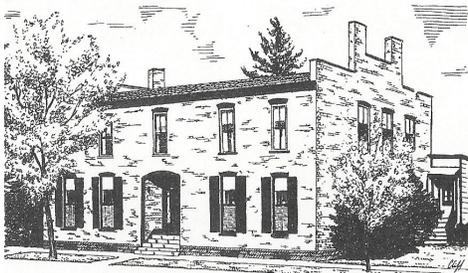
*December 18*—Closed for winter.

**SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Watkins Glen, N.Y.



*We're on the Web!*  
[www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org)

## Thank You for Your Membership In the Schuyler County Historical Society!

The Board of Trustees and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your Society membership. Your membership dues are very important to our operating costs and your annual renewals are much appreciated.

Please feel free to share *The Vista* with non-members and encourage them to join. They may go to [www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org) and click on "Membership" for a membership form. Thank you!  
Andrew Tompkins, Museum Director



Undated photo of a canal dredger on the Chemung Canal in Montour Falls. Notice the Cook Academy tower in the left background. The tower was dismantled c. 1920.