

~The Vista~

Volume 2, Issue 1

April 2009

Schuyler County
Historical Society
Brick Tavern Museum
108 N. Catharine Street
PO Box 651
Montour Falls, NY 14865
(607)535-9741
www.schuylerhistory.org
Info@schuylerhistory.org

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!

Inside this issue:

<i>Historical Society at Work</i>	2
<i>Freeman Middle School-Competition</i>	2
<i>Victorian Tea 2009</i>	2
<i>Microfilm Viewer added to Research Room</i>	3
<i>Constitution to be Revised</i>	3
<i>Fossenvue Quilt on Display</i>	3
<i>Membership Application</i>	4

Annual Meeting and Presentation Gary Emerson to Speak on the Magee Family

The Schuyler County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd at the Human Services Complex on Route 14 in Montour Falls. The meeting will start at 7pm.

The annual meeting will cover the past year's events, proposed revisions to the Constitution, and plans for the future.

This year's annual meeting will include a presentation on the Magee family of Watkins Glen by local historian, teacher, and author Gary Emerson.

The Magee family was a wealthy and influential family from Watkins Glen. They were well connected to the national

political scene of the times, hosting famous people at their home. They owned area railroads and the Fallbrook Coal Company.

The building of their home, the Magee Manor, aka "Glenfeld," began in 1869. It was at the time the most modern building in Schuyler County. The manor itself had running hot water, gas lights, and a bowling alley. The property featured horse



The Magee Manor, also known as Glenfeld, in Watkins Glen. The Manor was demolished in 1960. (SCHS photo collection)

stables, a greenhouse, and many other interesting features. It was unfortunately demolished in 1960 due to disrepair.

Please contact the Museum at (607)535-9741 or info@schuylerhistory.org for further information.

Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 19-25 More Volunteers Sought

National Volunteer Appreciation Week runs from April 19-25 this year. If you know any volunteers be sure to thank them.

The Society would like to thank the following vol-

unteers, besides our active Board members, for their efforts at our museum. Please thank them as well if you see them out and about!

Shirley Shaffer, Joann DeLeury, Barbara Berg-

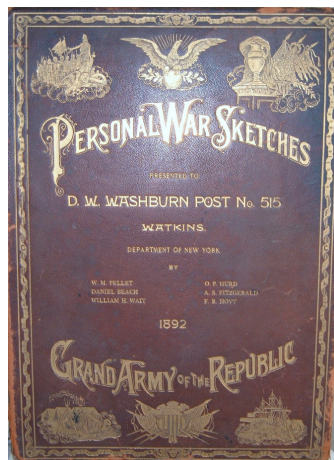
hoff, Ginny Bruckner, Nellie Munroe, Brian O'Donnell, Edyth Jones, and many more.

Please contact the Museum at (607)535-9741 or info@schuylerhistory.org if you'd like to join us.

The Historical Society at Work

This past October we received a wonderful donation from Frank Luppino of Glenview, Illinois. It is a 10" x 16" leather-bound book of the members of the D.W. Washburn Post #515, Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), Watkins Glen, New York.

"A Collection of Personal Hand-Written Sketches by the Members of the D.W. Washburn Post #515 G.A.R. Department of New York" (1892) is the actual title and the book is an absolutely



wonderful resource. Each page lists an individual member's name, date of birth, birthplace, date enlisted and discharged, and in many cases, a short record of their wartime experiences. For those doing research on a Civil War ancestor, or on veterans from Schuyler County, this book is invaluable.

Volunteers Barbara Berghoff and Joann DeLeury have transcribed and indexed all the veterans' names for easy look ups by researchers.

To see if your ancestor is in the book go to our website, www.schuylerhistory.org, and check the list posted under "Collections" and "What's New." The list is posted in pdf format.

For further information e-mail info@schuylerhistory.org or call (607)535-9741.

Freeman Family Foundation Grant Competition

Watkins Glen Middle Schoolers to complete Regional History Projects

The Society will partner again this year with the Freeman Family Foundation to offer the second annual New York State Regional History Competition for the Watkins Glen Middle School.

Foundation president Peter Freeman of New York City (originally from Watkins Glen) hopes to keep middle schoolers involved and in-

terested in local and regional history.

Judging will commence in May by a mix of teachers and Society volunteers and winners will be given a certificate, free membership, and a check by the Freeman Family Foundation during their middle school awards assembly.

Last year's winners completed projects on such topics as the Glen Springs Hotel, the founding of Watkins Glen, the Chemung Canal, and Hazlitt's Winery.

For further info contact the Museum at info@schuylerhistory.org or (607)535-9741.

Victorian Tea 2009!

This year's Victorian Tea will be held on Saturday, May 9th at the Brick Tavern Museum. There will be two seatings, 11:30am and 1:30pm.

Price per person is \$12, ages 10 and under \$6. Please call



Victorian Tea at the Brick Tavern Museum.

ahead for reservations. Groups of 6 or more must pay in advance.

A variety of tasty teas were served last year, such as Sencha, Irish Breakfast tea, Mango, and Strawberry. We had fun dressing up and serv-

ing all our guests. Help us make this year's tea a success!

Light refreshments will also be served.

For further info contact the Museum at info@schuylerhistory.org or (607)535-9741

Microfilm Viewer added to Research Room

The Museum Research Room now has a working microfilm viewer. The viewer is set up to view our limited rolls of film but is not able to make copies of the newspaper articles you are viewing. Therefore the researcher must take hand written notes for information found on the rolls.

Although not ideal, the researcher will at least have the ability to view some great old newspaper articles to find out what was going on in Schuyler

County at the turn of the 20th Century. The rolls we currently have are:

► Watkins Democrat, 1876-1905

► Montour Falls Free Press, 1895-1901

Please call ahead for an appointment if you would like to view these rolls or for further information- (607)535-9741.

Books Available at the Museum

Schuyler County Days Bygone by Barbara H. Bell (\$24) NEW!

The Montour Falls Business District: West Main Street's Proud Past and Hopeful Future by Virginia Steil Bruckner (\$20)

Schuyler County New York: History and Families edited by John Potter (\$50)

Seneca Dawn: The Pioneer Journey of John Dow by Frank Steber (\$15)

A Walk Through Watkins Glen: Water's Sculpture in Stone by Tony Ingraham (\$23)

SCHS Constitution to be Revised

In October 2008 the Society adopted Strategic Plan 2008, which can be seen on our website at www.schuylerhistory.org. Following this the Executive Committee began a review of the Society Constitution and By Laws to ensure they were relevant to conditions in which the Historical Society operates today. This review resulted in recommendations to change certain portions of the Constitution.

The major proposed revisions to the constitution are; delete the requirement to have a

representative from each township on the Board of Trustees (best efforts will be made to do so, however); and, change the past-president position on the board from "appointed" to "elected". The number of trustees remains at fifteen (15).

These changes pave the way for the Society to attract more persons with an interest in local history and varying skills to actively serve on the Board of Trustees. There are other changes as well. Copies of the proposed re-

vised constitution are available for review at the Brick Tavern Museum.

The changes to the Constitution recommended by the committee have been approved by the Board of Trustees and will be presented to the membership for approval at the annual meeting.

The revised Constitution can also be seen on our website, www.schuylerhistory.org.

Fossenvue Quilt on Display

The Schuyler County Historical Society is pleased to display the Fossenvue quilt, recently highlighted in local news media, this April. Using a design by Catherine Pratt of Montour Falls, eight women contributed their time and quilting expertise over a three year period to completing the "memory" quilt.

Fossenvue was a summer camp located on the eastern shore of Seneca lake north of Valois. It was founded in 1875 and was a summertime retreat catering to people mostly from the Geneva area. "Embers from Fossenvue Backlogs, 1875-1900" was published in 1901 detailing activities at the camp. Come see it!

Mark your Calendars for these Upcoming Events!

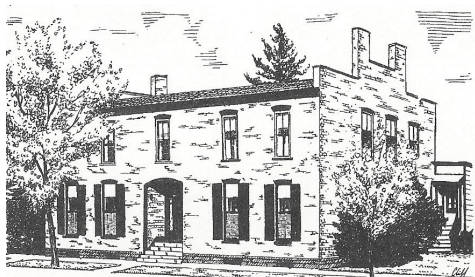
April 22—Annual Meeting & Gary Emerson presentation, Montour Falls Human Services Complex, 7pm.

May 9—Victorian Tea, 11:30am and 1:30pm seatings, \$12 per person, age 10 and under \$6.

SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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We're on the Web!
www.schuylerhistory.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #4
Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Join or Renew Your Membership In the Schuyler County Historical Society

Please send to:
Schuyler County Historical Society
PO Box 651
Montour Falls, NY 14865

Levels of Annual Membership (choose one)

- ☐ New ☐ Renew ☐ Gift
- ☐ Individual (\$20) ☐ Couple (\$25)
- ☐ Organization (\$40) ☐ Business/Patron (\$50)
- ☐ Benefactor (\$100) ☐ Donor (\$250)
- ☐ Student (\$5) [18 years and under]

The Schuyler County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3)
tax exempt non-profit organization.

NOTE: Annual memberships are now based on a
calendar year. **Please pass this form to family and
friends if you are already a member!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

☐ I'd like to get involved and volunteer.