

# Schuyler County Historical Society

## ~The Vista~

Volume 4, Issue 3

December 2011

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

- Subscription to the 16-page *Journal* and our 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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## December 11th Holiday Open House & County Historian Barbara Bell's Retirement Reception

The Schuyler County Historical Society's Holiday Open House will take place on Sunday, December 11th from 2-4 pm at the Brick Tavern Museum.

This year's Open House will include a special reception to thank and honor County Historian Barbara Bell, who is retiring at year's end.

Barbara has been Schuyler County Historian since



1980, currently New York State's longest serving county historian.

The Open House will also include a

book sale on our regional history books, just in time for the holidays.

Included in the book sale is Barbara's latest book, "Schuyler County Days Bygone," published in 2009.

Please join us for a special afternoon of refreshments, good cheer, and to honor our County Historian, Barbara Bell.

Free and open to the public.

## 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign Status Campaign Reaps Results

The Schuyler County Historical Society wasted no time in putting your donations to work on the Brick Tavern Museum.

The workers have nearly completed a long-

list of items needing attention at the Museum.

Extensive exterior work has been done, including brickwork, windows, shutters, and roofing issues. The back porch and handicap ramp have

been repaired— and much more.

Thanks to all campaign contributors! See inside this issue for the list of all who have given to support our mission.

# 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign

## List of Contributors

The Schuyler County Historical Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Campaign, which ran from September 2010 to September 2011, was successful in raising \$105,000. We are so grateful to the following members, friends, organizations, and businesses for believing in our mission and purpose. Words fail to express our sincere gratitude.

### LEAD GIFTS (\$1,000 or more)

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Some of our donors gave in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone living.

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## IN HONOR OF

Barbara Bell  
All Historians of Schuyler County  
Barbara Bell  
All Volunteers  
Peter, Linda & Victoria Freeman  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Habbershaw & Hodge Families  
Katherine Knoll  
Roy & Shirley Craver  
Marian Boyce  
Jean Bishop

The preceding donor lists have been compiled over the course of the capital campaign. Any omissions or misspellings are purely unintentional and will be corrected in subsequent donor compilations.

## Images of the Capital Campaign Renovations



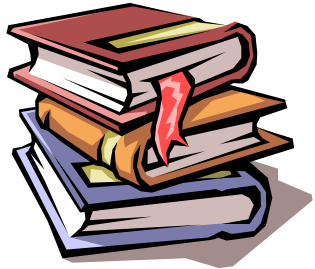


## Books Available For Sale at Museum

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

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

*Letters to Suzanna: The First Twenty Years* by Barbara H. Bell (\$16.25)



Books make great gifts !

*Schuyler County New York: History and Families* edited by John Potter (\$21.50) (\$32.50 leather)

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

*Town of Catharine History* by Carol Tetz Fagnan (\$43.20)

*Around Watkins Glen, Images of America* by Charles Mitchell & Kirk House (\$21.50)

*Seneca Dawn or Seneca Sunrise* by Frank Steber (\$16.25 each)

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

## Wedgwood Building Update

Besides acquiring a new set of front stairs and a handicap ramp courtesy of our great volunteers, the old Wedgwood Schoolhouse on Route 414 in the town of Dix now contains five donated exhibit cases in various states of disrepair.

Thanks to donors Bruce and Virginia Bruckner and Randy Randall, the five cases will house farming,

cooking, and carpentry tools from our collections once the Wedgwood is converted to a rural life/agricultural museum.

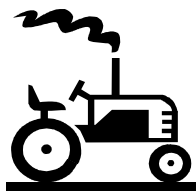
Thanks also go to Roy Evans for replacing a broken window

in the rear of the building, and Dan Teed for starting work on the ceiling. There is still much to be done. If you have any interest in donating time to refurbish the exhibit cases please contact the Museum at (607) 535-9741 or [info@schuylerhistory.org](mailto:info@schuylerhistory.org).



## Museum Collections to Pique Your Interest

The Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) (and its earlier variations) turned 100 years old this year. To honor the help Cornell has given to area farmers over the years the Museum dedicated a front exhibit case to the CCE in the month of October.



Come help us with our 4-H collection.

As the Museum was collecting items for the case, a large donation of materials from the Schuyler 4-H Club and the Schuyler County Youth Fair appeared on our back porch.

This collection contains

many unlabelled photos that we need help identifying. If you were active in the 4-H or the youth fair please drop by the Museum and take a look.

Thank you!

# 1873 Village of Watkins Map Reproductions

Many visitors to the Museum have admired the framed village of Watkins map from 1873, which hangs prominently in the dining room.

The map shows an artist's rendering of the village as if seen from the air

(perhaps a hot air balloon?) and is drawn in great detail.



Map of the Village of Watkins in 1873, which hangs in the Museum dining room. Reproduction of the map will be offered for sale.

Streets are all marked (some with names no longer used) and prominent buildings are noted. Steam-

boats coming into harbor are also shown.

As a benefit to the Society, we plan on offering reproductions of the map for sale at \$29.95 unframed and \$89.95 specially mounted.

A limited number of unframed maps will be available for purchase at the Museum's Holiday Open House on December 11th from 2-4 pm. More can be ordered from the Museum.

## New Book by Frank Steber Coming Soon

A new book by local author Frank Steber will be coming out soon. Published by Preston Woods Publishing, *Seneca Hope* is based on the life of the artist Captain James Hope, who moved to Watkins after the Civil War and built an art studio and lived in the Glen.

Known to be part of the Hudson River School of painters, Hope is

locally known for his beautiful landscapes of the Glen, two of which hang in our Museum. He is also well known for his huge Civil War battlefield depictions on display at Antietam National Park in Maryland.

*Seneca Hope* will be the third book in Steber's trilogy of depicting the lives of prominent area residents

through extensive research. His fictional accounts bring their lives to life and offer compelling stories.

Steber's *Seneca Dawn* follows the life of early area pioneer John Dow, and *Seneca Sunrise* follows Watkins businessman Frederick Davis, Jr. Both are available for purchase at the Museum.

## Join Us on Facebook!

Follow us on



Did you know the Society has a Facebook page? Keep up-to-date with news and events, and check out cool old uploaded photos from our collections. Go to [www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org) and

click on the Facebook logo on the lower right. "Like" us and you will receive updates about us on your Facebook page.

Thank you!

## For Your Calendar

**December 11: Holiday Open House and Book Sale, 2-4pm**

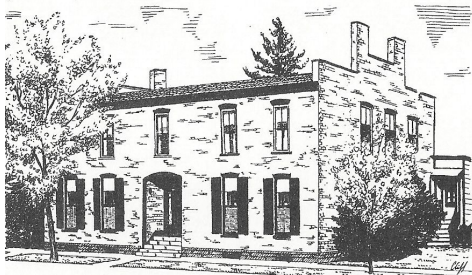
**December 23: Museum Closed until April 3**

**March 11: Benefit Breakfast at the Montour Moose Club, 8-11am**

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[www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org)

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

If you have not renewed your membership for 2012 now is a good time. Your membership expiration date is noted on your address label above.

We have included a membership renewal form insert with this month's newsletter for your convenience.

If you are not a member, won't you consider joining us? Your dues are an important source of income to cover our operating expenses and are very much appreciated.

**Thank you for your continued support or for joining as a new member!**



Here is a picture of US Army soldiers and family members waiting for the train at Watkins Station in September 1917. The "doughboys" are heading overseas to fight the Kaiser and the Hun during World War I.