

# ~ The Vista ~

NEWSLETTER OF THE SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Members Meeting Cancelled; Annual Report, Ballot Enclosed

Dear Friends,

A month ago the Schuyler County Historical Society was well underway with plans for several upcoming programs, including our SCHS Annual Meeting in April and celebration of our 60th anniversary. As you might expect, we were looking forward to sharing our programs and our accomplishments from the past year with you, our members and supporters.

Then something happened, an unimaginable global pandemic arose as if pulled straight from the history books. The Spanish Influenza of 1918-19 resonates closely with what our global community is now coping with on a day-to-day and month-by-month basis. As with the Spanish Influenza, this current pandemic shall pass. The outcome is hinged on our ability to work in concert with each other to ensure a healthy future for all.

What does this mean for us at the Historical Society? We have taken action and shifted our gears into remote mode, working from home via the digital sphere on the same things that occupied our world pre-COVID-19. Glenda Gephart, executive director of our Brick Tavern Museum, is checking phone messages and email inquiries on a daily basis, while maintaining general programming needs.

Currently, the museum is closed to the public until further notice.

Meanwhile, in this newsletter you will find our 2019 annual report and a ballot for our Board of Trustees election. Both would have been presented at our annual meeting, which had been scheduled for April 30 at the Burdett Fire Department.

We ask that you review the ballot and, if you are a 2020 paid member of the Historical Society, fill out the ballot by checking off your vote for each of the nominees or writing in the names of your own nominees for each position.

Please mail your completed ballot to the Historical Society at P.O. Box 651, Montour Falls, NY 14865.

You also may scan the completed ballot as a PDF and email it to us at this address: [director@schuylerhistory.org](mailto:director@schuylerhistory.org).

Some of you may have heard through the grapevine that we were in the early development of a capital campaign for a modest addition to the Brick Tavern Museum. We are very sad to say our campaign plan is now on hold until a later date.

Nonetheless, the development of this effort has brought our mission into focus, helping us to understand the future needs and growth areas of the Historical Society and the Brick Tavern Museum.

Ahead of us inevitably is a more pronounced digital capacity from which non-profit organizations like ours will have an expanded sphere for public accessibility and engagement. This does not suggest that our physical collection will lose standing or that our programming will be supplanted by a virtual surrogate. A stronger digital presence will complement our current programming and provide a deeper form of engagement with our historical archive, allowing visitors virtual access to Schuyler County history.

This development of the digital realm will offer much greater potential for increased re-

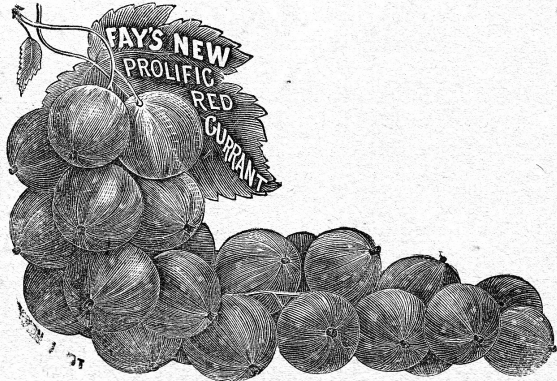
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Mark Welch, manager of the Hector Grazing Association, left, and distinguished cattle breeder Robert Groom were the speakers for the first presentation in the 2020 Harvesting Schuyler's Heritage, Conversations About Agriculture Across Time speaker series. The talk was March 11 at the Burdett Fire Department and featured a meatloaf dinner prepared with locally produced beef. The April 8 session on the county's dairy industry has been postponed. The new date will be announced. The speaker series is a partnership between the Historical Society and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County. It explores the past, present and future of different agricultural sectors in the county.

**RASPBERRIES AT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.**

ALSO  
 Currants,  
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—o—

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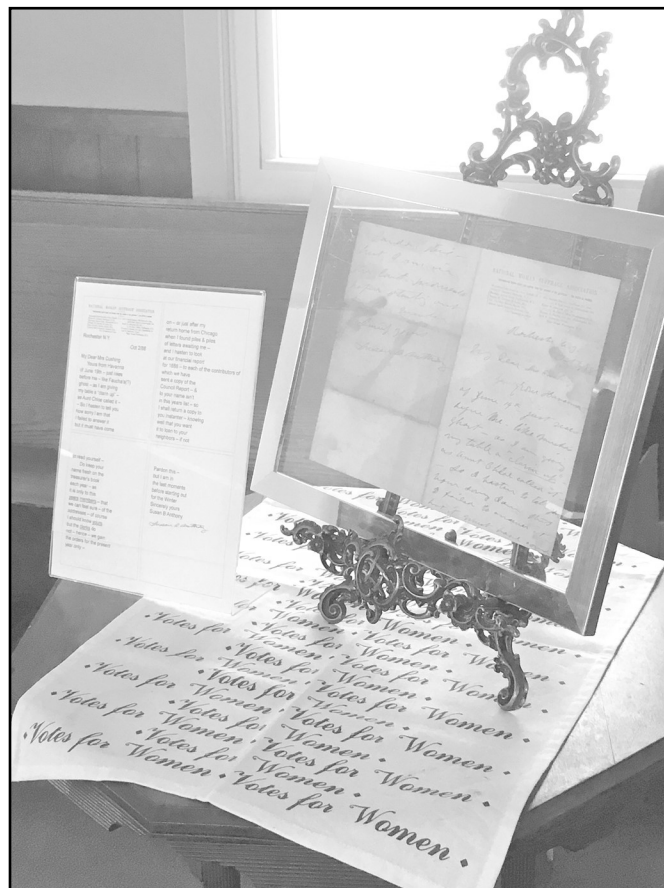
This business ad from the 1886 Farmer's Record was among the images posted on the Historical Society's Facebook page on March 24. Our Facebook page - at Schuyler County Historical Society, NY - shares a lot of interesting images, especially on 'Throwback Thursday.' Check it out!

# Happy Birthday, Susan B. Anthony!

On Saturday, Feb. 15, Anita Gaston of Penn Yan portrayed Susan B. Anthony for an audience of 30 at Fiddlesticks Tea Shop in Odessa. Gaston's enthralling presentation came appropriately on the 200th anniversary of Anthony's birth. The suffragette leader was born on Feb. 15, 1820, in Adams, Mass. She died in Rochester on March 13, 1906, 14 years before the 19th Amendment to the Constitution gave women the right to vote. The Amendment was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920.



The Schuyler County Historical Society is proud to have a letter written by Susan B. Anthony in its collections. The 1888 letter was written to a Mrs. Cushing of Havana and refers to financial support of the suffragette movement. The letter is displayed in the Brick Tavern Museum parlor.



## Capital Campaign on Hold

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search and interaction from local and global audiences. We are fortunate to have a robust collection of cultural artifacts, and we would be remiss if we didn't find other ways to share their histories with our viewing public.

As president of the Board of Trustees for the past two years, I have had the good fortune of working alongside a strong group of individuals who have volunteered their passion and time for the preservation of our county's history. Collectively, we have produced some excellent programs, exhibits and experiences for our members and the public.

I take very seriously our commitment to Schuyler County, but I am sad to say that I am not seeking re-election as president due to family and work obligations that have me stretched across the state and beyond. I will, though, find



**PAUL BARTOW**  
Board President

a place among you as a Historical Society member, volunteering from time to time with programs and special events.

On the ballot you will find Jean Hubsch's name for election as president for the next two-year term. I am thankful to Jean for stepping up, once again, to take the helm. Jean represents the historical legacy of the Society and knows well the challenges and potential of our collective endeavor to preserve and share the history of Schuyler County.

Lastly, I am disappointed that I am not able to see you all at our Annual Meeting, as it is always a pleasure to say hello and shake hands in person. For those who see me out and about, after the "social distance" between us has receded, please do not hesitate to say hello. Please stay healthy and support our community in any way that you can during this global test of will. I look forward to our collective future, where our generous spirit exceeds our limitations.

Thank you,

*Paul Bartow*

### Thank you to our 2020 Business Members and Supporter Members

American Legion Seneca Post #555 ✧ Nick Anagnost ✧ BMS Manufacturing Co., Inc. ✧ David Bartone  
George Bulin ✧ Donald Bullen ✧ Chemung Canal Trust Co. ✧ James and Ellen Coleman  
Cotton-Hanlon, Inc. ✧ George and Lynn Eldridge ✧ Famous Brands  
Finger Lakes Distilling ✧ Halpin Law Firm ✧ Lake Grove Park ✧ Jr. Specchio's  
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Watkins Glen Supply, Inc. ✧ Watkins Sporting Goods ✧ Lindsay Wickham and Patricia Schucker

The Schuyler County Historical Society and its museums are supported in part by a TAP grant administered by the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce.

## Thank You to Our 2019 Annual Appeal Donors

James Allen, Joseph Allen, American Legion Seneca Post 555, Mary Anagnost, Nick Anagnost, J.C. and Joan Argetsinger, George Baldassarre, David Bartone, Angela Bartow, Nancy Beers, BMS Manufacturing, John Bond, Diane Broadhurst, George Bulin, Shirley Callahan, Tony and Gail Cashen, James and Lois Carter, Robert and Barbara Chapman.

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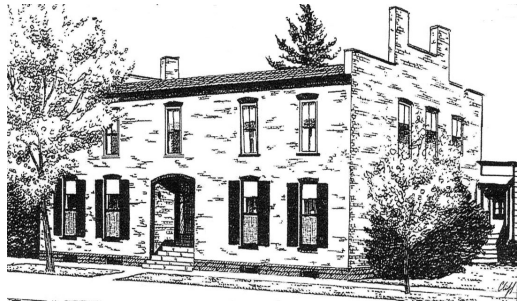
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Schuyler County Historical Society




**The Brick Tavern Museum**

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Montour Falls, NY 14865

(607) 535-9741 / [info@schuylerhistory.org](mailto:info@schuylerhistory.org)

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

 Schuyler County Historical Society, NY

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## *Are you a 2020 Historical Society member?*

You are receiving this issue of *The Vista* as a member or friend of the Schuyler County Historical Society. We are truly grateful for the support of our members. If you have not yet renewed or joined for 2020, we hope you will consider doing so. If you need a form, please go to our website at [www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org) or contact us by phone or email and we'll send you one. Your continuing endorsement shows that you understand the value of ensuring the preservation and sharing of the rich history of Schuyler County.