

~ The Vista ~

NEWSLETTER OF THE SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 24

Annual Meeting and Presentation Gail Sudore to Speak on Sailing on Seneca

The Schuyler County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 24th at the First Presbyterian Church, on 6th St. in Watkins Glen. The meeting is open to the public and will start at 7pm.

The brief annual meeting will cover the past year's events, election of Board members, and plans for the future.

This year's meeting will include a **presentation on the sailing and maritime history of Seneca Lake, including sailing ships and regattas, by Gail Sudore**, nationally renowned professional consultant, advisor, author, speaker, and Burdett resi-

dent.

Once known as the "sailing capital of the East," Seneca Lake has a long and distinguished maritime history. In the late 1800s the village of Watkins played host to well-attended regattas, bringing in visitors from all over the Northeast and beyond to see the races.

Gail is interested in bringing back excitement on the lake by developing an historical attraction which she has named the "Finger Lakes International Living History Maritime & Sailing Center." She has partnered with

many influential organizations and continues to seek support for her endeavor.

In the meantime, the Historical Society is pleased to have her present some of her research on the maritime history of Seneca Lake. We hope to see you there.

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



facebook



Besides our informative website, www.schuylerhistory.com, the Schuyler County Historical Society has expanded its internet presence on Facebook. Our Facebook page is closing in on 400 "likes" and we are always looking to expand our reach on the web. Over the winter a number of great Schuyler related photos have been posted from our collections. To see them just go to

http://www.schuylerhistory.org/Contact_Us.html

and click on the Facebook logo, which will bring you directly to our Facebook page. Recently posted are some great winter shots of the area, including some of frozen over Seneca Lake in 1912.

Who says we're Old Fashioned?

FROM THE PRESIDENT

RICHARD OWLETT

Welcome to the “new” *Vista*, the newsletter of your Historical Society and its Brick Tavern Museum. The difference is in the number of pages - we’ve added two for this issue and may add another two later in the year. That means more information about the museum, our events and programs. We hope you like it, but please bear in mind that this is a

work-in-progress and will likely change a bit from issue to issue. Another obvious difference you have probably noticed is what appears to be advertising at the bottom of pages 2, 3, 4 and 5. These are four businesses who agreed that it is important for us to provide our members with better and more frequent information. These are **Commercial Patron** members whose rather

substantial dues (\$250) will offset the cost of additional pages and issues of this newsletter. The ads are a benefit of their level of membership.

We will be highlighting the Museum’s many resources in the future issues. Let us know your thoughts and suggestions.

Enjoy!

NEWS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE BRICK TAVERN MUSEUM

The Museum re-opens Tuesday, April 16 at 10 am. It will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 4 pm from then until the third week of December. As usual, there is no admission fee, even for the public. There is a fee for research for the public, but not for paid members. It is best to call first before coming in to do research, just to make sure there is someone here to assist.

J. Kelsey Jones has been on our Board for a number of years now, but recently was appointed **Chemung County Historian** by the

Chemung County Legislature. For a couple weeks, we actually had two county historians on our Board: Kelsey and the Schuyler county Historian, Marian Boyce. Kelsey tendered his resignation at our last board meeting and **Donna Wickham** was elected to serve the remainder of the term.

The terms of three Trustees will expire at the end of the month, and the Nominations Committee recommended that the three, **Heidi Berghoff, Doris Pike and Nancy Whipple**, be renominated. It was so moved and passed by

the Board. Voting will take place at the ANNUAL MEETING, 4/24.

Upcoming Programs & Events At the Museum & Elsewhere

A number of historical presentations are being planned for the Museum and other locations around the county. Notification of their dates and locations will be printed in the next *Vista*. The **Scanning Digital Workshop** program will begin May 15 and continue throughout the year. Call 535-9741 or e-mail info@schuylerhistory for info!



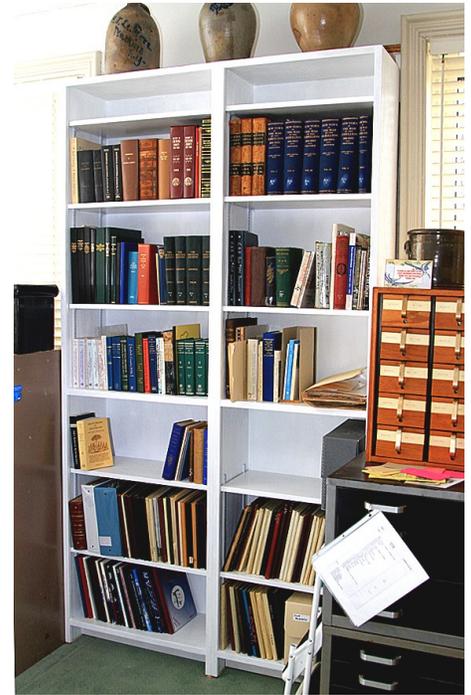
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Winter Renovations at the Brick Tavern Museum

During our Museum’s winter closed period, our volunteers have been busy with interior renovations to two main exhibit spaces, a storage room, and the research room. Under the leadership of Board of Trustee’s member and Building & Grounds Committee chair David Lisk, the volunteers have completely transformed the former “Father’s Room” upstairs. Removing stubborn wallpaper, skim-coating the old plaster walls, priming and painting, and adding museum quality track lighting was first on the agenda for that room, which has not seen change since the Society purchased the building in 1974.

Next on the agenda was the dining room floor. After lifting up the existing coffee-stained carpet we noticed nice hardwood floors underneath. With a little elbow grease we were able to sand, stain, and coat the floors with polyurethane. The difference the polished floor has made to the room is remarkable. It has brought back the classic feel of the old Brick Tavern. The dining room will now become a gallery to showcase our many paintings and photographs that have not seen the light of day in sometime.

As storage space in the Museum is always an issue, a rear upstairs room has been converted to a dedicated storage area, with



New Shelving in Research Room

shelving units along the walls. A neighboring hallway closet has now been freed up to house a planned exhibit on sports in Schuyler. The research room has also added a large volunteer-made shelf for reference materials. The added shelf space will allow us expand some of our regional history holdings.

Although having the Museum closed from January to April may seem like a long time to some, the months flew by as we tried to upgrade the Museum and our visitors’ experience for 2013. We hope you will come by and see some of our changes and spread the word about the hidden gem that is the Brick Tavern Museum.



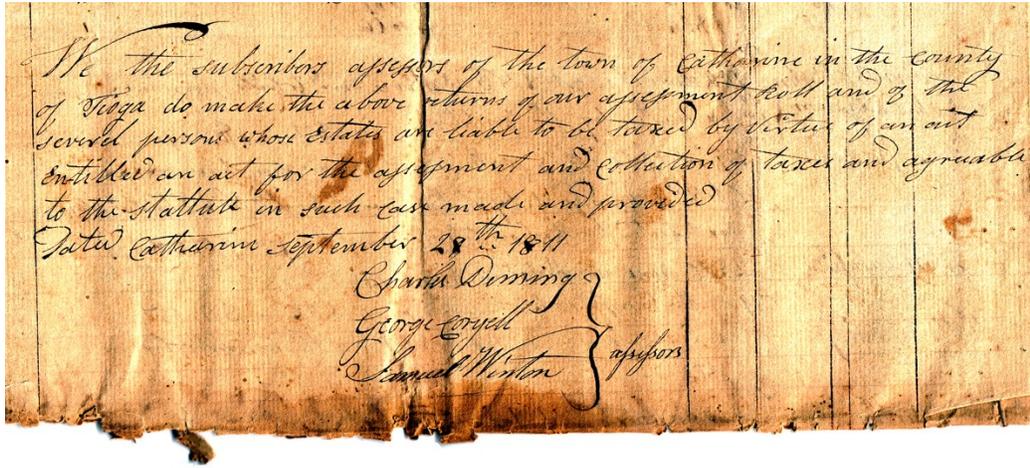
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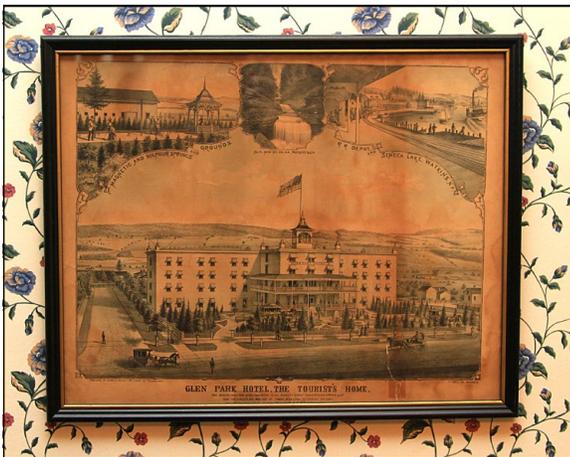
MUSEUM RESOURCES

HIDDEN TREASURES



A lot of families have stories of a relative who used to hide their valuables in odd places, like money in books. Some of those stories may even be true. Wouldn't hurt to check...

The document shown above - an assessment list of the town of Catharine, County of Tioga - is dated September 28, 1811 and is probably the oldest in the possession of the Brick Tavern Museum. It was found hidden behind some books on the top shelf of the original white bookcase in the Research Room. How it got there, or how long it had been there is unknown. The important thing is that its no longer hidden.



Remember this picture in the dining room next to the kitchen door? Imagine our surprise when we took it down to prepare for sanding the floor, only to find there was more on the back than the front! There were stereo cards, the original auction receipt from the donor, a newspaper clipping and more.

We're with you every step of the way.
 Montour Falls: 303 W. Main St., Montour Falls, NY 14865 (607) 535-7103
 Watkins Glen: 318 N. Franklin St., Watkins Glen, NY 14891 (607) 535-7186

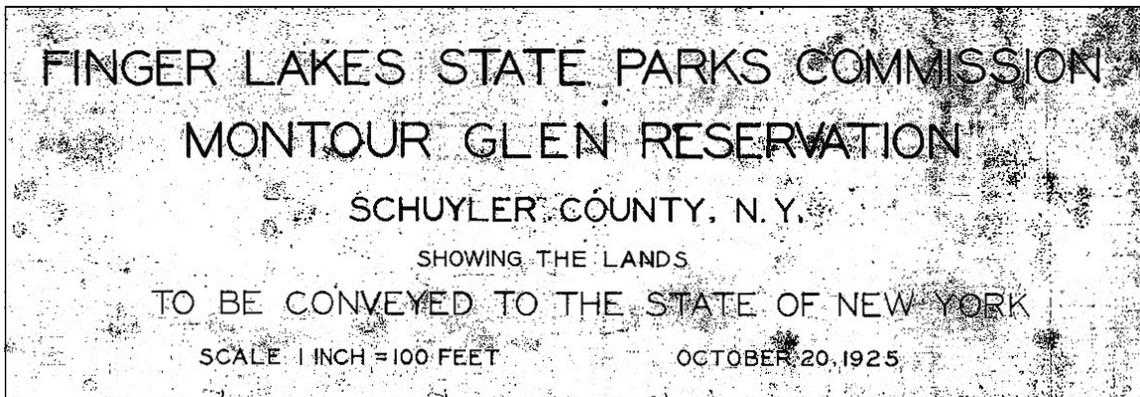
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MUSEUM RESOURCES

RECENT ACQUISITIONS



This *carte de visite* photo album was a gift of an anonymous donor. Usually, these albums contain unidentified photographs of people with no clue as to who they were. What makes this gift valuable, is that most photos are identified, and they are names important to the history of Schuyler County: Cook, Payne, Ransom, Gaylord, Taber, Kellogg and others. The album is as fragile as it is historically valuable.



This is the title panel of a blueprint donated by attorney Connie Fern Miller. The blueprint is huge - ten feet long - and contains information on all the properties that would have comprised the so-called “Montour Glen Reservation.” The area was usually referred to as Havana Glen and still is. Source materials like this are how research projects get started. This blueprint is the first any of us have heard of the Montour Glen Reservation proposal, so you will likely hear more about it in the future.

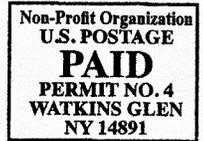


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Editors:

Andrew Tompkins & Richard Owlett



Victorian Tea May 11

THE TRADITION CONTINUES

The annual Victorian Tea at the Brick Tavern Museum will be held Saturday, May 11th, the day before Mother's Day.

Our annual tea has become quite a yearly occasion, with many enthusiastic participants returning year after year.

As usual there will be many exciting tea flavors making the rounds and wonderful finger foods, cookies, cakes, and petit fours to follow. Museum volunteers serve as wait staff, complete with white dress

shirts, white gloves, and black bow ties.

Many attendees also enjoy dressing up in gowns and fancy hats, colorful spring ensembles, or just business casual- your choice.

Attendees can choose between an 11:30 am or 1:30 pm seating. There is limited space at the Museum for both seatings so **RSVPs** are requested no later than Thursday, May 9th by 4pm.

Tickets are \$15 per adult and \$8 for children 10 and under. Groups of six or more must pay in advance. The

Museum accepts cash or check only.

To reserve your space please call the Schuyler County Historical Society at (607)535-9741 or e-mail info@schuylerhistory.org. We hope to see you there!

