

Schuyler County Historical Society



~The Vista~



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December 2012

**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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Holiday Open House & Book Sale

The Brick Tavern Museum will be hosting our annual Holiday Open House & Book Sale on Sunday, December 16th from 2-4pm.

Come join us in celebrating the holidays with our festively decorated Museum and Christmas tree.

We will also be offering some great sales and deals on regional history books, an 1874 Schuyler Atlas reprint, and an 1873 map reprint of Watkins.

All of these items would make great holiday gifts and will be priced to move.

Among the books we will have offered are some by W.E. Morrison & Company,



publishers of quality histories of the local area.

Wayne Morrison passed away this year and we were able to secure the last of some of his works, many of which will likely never be published again. Once these titles are gone they will be very hard to find in hardcopy.

So come on by December 16 to see the Museum and the great gift items we have to offer.

See you then!

Society Received GO! Grant Funding \$500 to attend Museum Institute at Sagamore

The GO! grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and administered by Museumwise, was put towards the cost for Museum Executive Direc-

tor Andrew Tompkins to attend the September 18-21 museum professionals' workshop at Great Camp Sagamore in the Adirondacks.

The intensive 4-day workshop brought together museum professionals from around the state to learn from peers and leaders in the field. Congratulations!

From Society President *Richard Owlett*

The primary mission of the Schuyler County Historical Society is to preserve, protect and present our unique history for current and future generations to explore and enjoy. To this end, we operate the Brick House Tavern Museum, the Lee School and are developing the Wedgwood School.

Because your membership dues support the historical endeavors of the Society, keeping you informed of our activities is another primary mission. The **VISTA** was begun as the newsletter of the Society, published 2 or 3 times a year. Next year, we will be sending

you **four issues** with information on Society news, upcoming museum exhibits and events, recent acquisitions, as well as available local history books and collector prints. We have created a new membership category to help defray the cost of the extra mailing. It's called **Commercial Patron** and has the added benefit of advertising space in the **VISTA** at a cost of only \$250 per year.

The response to our **Annual Appeal** was absolutely tremendous! Personally, I found it heartwarming that so many members would respond so

quickly and so generously. Thank you so much - it really means a lot.

At times, it may appear that we are like ducks on a pond, drifting in the wind, but trust me, under the water's surface, we are paddling furiously. One of the reasons for this is that we no longer have a staff person to assist Director Andrew Tompkins. We are working on this, but for 2013, we will need to have **Volunteers** to help greet visitors, answer the phone and give tours.

Please think about it.- could be fun!

Events and Program Highlights of 2012

On April 26 the Society held their annual meeting with a presentation by local author **Katherine Aldridge**, who edited "No Freedom Shrieker: the Civil War letters of Union Soldier Charles Biddlecom."

On June 6 & 7 over one hundred fourth graders of Watkins Glen Elementary toured the

one-room Lee School and the Brick Tavern Museum as part of their regional history curriculum.

On October 20 **Gary Emerson** presented on wealthy industrialist John Magee and his impact on Watkins and Schuyler.

On November 7 Society President **Richard Owlett** present-

ed old photos of Schuyler County at the Montour Falls Library.

On November 17 Seneca County Historian **Walt Gable** gave a fascinating presentation on the history of Valois Castle and the man for whom the hamlet of Valois was named.



2012 Summer Interns

The summer interns at the Museum provided invaluable service to Director Andrew Tompkins.

Chelsea Owen, a student at Cazenovia College, designed logos, trifold brochures, palm cards, and a new website to

increase our visibility. She also helped with planning out the new Wedgwood agricultural museum.

Intern **Connie Randall**, an anthropology major from SUNY Oneonta, cataloged and identified items from our Na-

tive American collection. The process included photographing and inputting the collection into a computer database.

They were both hard workers and we wish them well in all their future endeavors.

2012 Annual Appeal Donors

The Schuyler County Historical Society exceeded its modest first annual appeal goal of \$2,000. We are grateful to those listed below who generously donated. The donor list is as of November 28, 2012.

Anonymous (several)
 Mary Aarons
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 Delores Vine
 Mary Ann Webster
 Priscilla Weir
 David Wickham
 Ken Wilson

Memorial Donations Made to Society

In Memory of William Cronk Elmore & Eleanor Elmore:
 David & Janet Elmore

In Memory of Dorothy & Francis Ervay, Ada Hall, &



Mary Stoddard:
 Stuart Ervay

In Memory of John & Ramona Barton:
 Deborah Barton
 Keammerer

In Memory of Jay &

Mildred Holly: David M. Holly

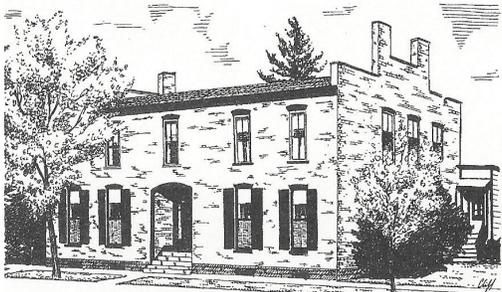
In Memory of Helena Howard:
 Ken & Peggy Field, Tom Viglione, Greeba Conklin, Fran & Art VanDyke

In Memory of Ruth Morris: Jackie Bailey

Schuyler County Historical Society

Post Office Box 651
Montour Falls, New York 14865

Our website:
www.schuylerhistory.org
Check it out!



The Brick Tavern Museum will close for the winter on December 21 and reopen in April. Members, however, will still have access to the Research Room by calling in advance.

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2013 Membership Renewal

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2013 **NOW IS THE 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 a very 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 postcard of "The Wigwams" of Montour Falls. The "wigwams" were summer accommodations for tourists visiting Havana Glen and the area in the early to mid-1900s. The office still stands, but the "wigwams" have recently been razed.

Come to the **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** on December 16th from 2 'till 4PM and **save from 10% to 60%** on local history books!