

~ The Vista ~

NEWSLETTER OF THE SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

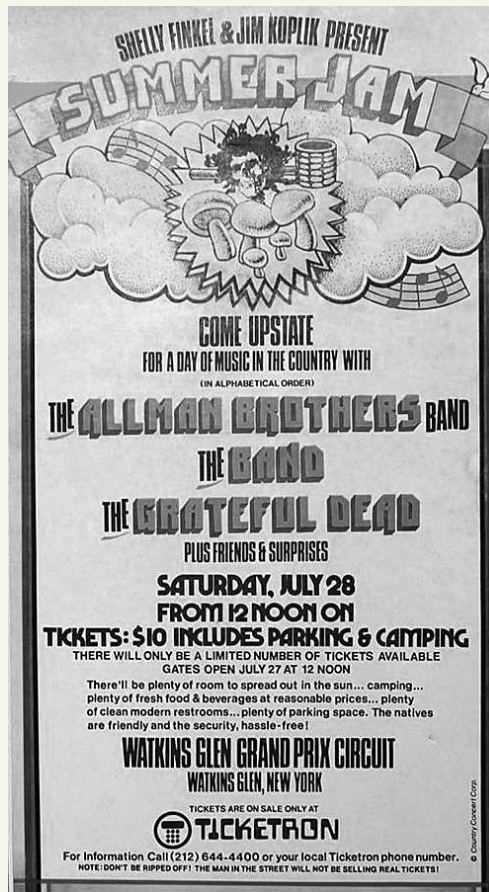
40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUMMER JAM!

The Grateful Dead, the Allman Brothers, and The Band took Schuyler County by storm in the Summer of 1973

For many around Schuyler County it is hard to believe that this coming July 28th marks the 40th anniversary of Summer Jam.

Back in July 1973 well over 600,000 people descended upon Schuyler for a rock & roll festival up at the racetrack that would come to dwarf the earlier Woodstock NY Festival.

The huge influx of people, into a county with a population of barely 18,000, brought about many problems. So many in fact that the county passed laws limiting the size of such



events in the future.

Property damage, abandoned vehicles, drug dealing and overdoses, theft, etc. were all part of Summer Jam.

Great music, camaraderie, and friendships were a bigger part of the whole experience, making it an unforgettable event for many of that generation.

The Society archives have local newspaper accounts of Summer Jam, along with documents discussing the aftermath of the "invasion" of mostly teenagers and young adults looking for a good time.

Contact the Museum if you have any Summer Jam artifacts you would like to donate.

facebook



Have you "liked" us yet?

Our Facebook page currently has over 400 "likes" and we are always looking to expand our reach on the web. We try to post regularly and inform our friends on what is going on at the Museum and Society. There are also many old photos posted with more added every week.

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. Thank you for your support!

FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

ANDREW TOMPKINS

The Schuyler County Historical Society is in the design stage of the process of producing a FULL COLOR tapestry throw of local Schuyler history.

It will be 50" x 68", 100% cotton, made in the USA and have Schuyler County buildings and scenes.

The throw will include our Brick Tavern Museum and Lee

School, along with grapes, a waterfall, Seneca Lake, auto racing and other familiar scenes.

When the design stage is completed, an actual sample will be at the Museum and will also be able to be viewed on our website and Facebook page.

Cost is projected at \$50 plus \$4 tax. Shipping will be extra if you cannot come to the Museum for pick-up.

The throw would make a wonderful Christmas gift, or as a gift for a Schuyler native far from home.

Pre-orders will be taken beginning August 6th by calling or emailing the Museum.

The Museum can be reached at (607)535-9741 or info@schuylerhistory.org

NEWS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE BRICK TAVERN MUSEUM

The Annual Meeting of the Society took place on April 24th. Board members **Heidi Berghoff**, **Doris Pike** and **Nancy Whipple** were reelected to three year terms. **Gail Sudore** delivered an interesting presentation on the sailing history of Seneca Lake.

In addition to the regular hours of Tuesday–Friday, 10am–4pm, the Museum will be open on the following **Saturdays from 9am–1pm: July 13 & 27, August 3, 17, 31 and September 14 & 28.**

The Society Board recently voted to pay for an engineering study

that would enable the Society to pursue a more robust climate control system in the Museum. A prior preservation study done on the Museum recommended measures to insure proper humidity control to preserve our artifacts. The study, it is hoped, will give the Society an advantage on any grants it may pursue.

Society President Richard Owlett has applied for a competitive grant through the Pomeroy Foundation to mark the location of Chemung Canal lock #1 in

Montour Falls with one of the blue cast iron historical event signs. The Chemung Canal played a key part in the development of Havana, now Montour Falls, and should be recognized. Keep posted for further developments.

The Society had a booth at the June 15 Watkins Glen Waterfront Festival & Cardboard Boat Regatta to raffle off a kayak donated by local business **Famous Brands**. The raffle was a great success with **Rochelle Stack of Athens, PA** drawn as the winner.



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Watkins Glen Elementary 4th Graders Visit Museum & Lee School

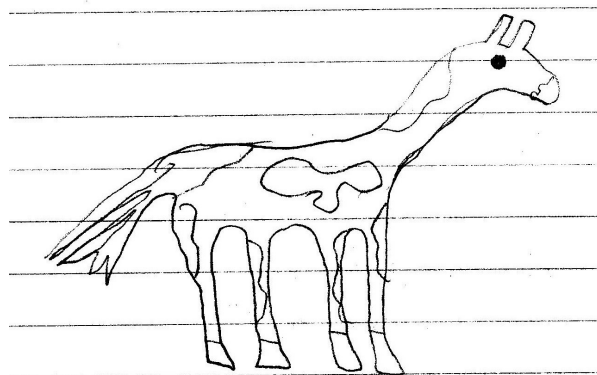
On May 29-30 the 4th grade classes of the Watkins Glen Elementary School visited the Museum and the Lee School.

Museum staff toured the students through the Brick Tavern, stopping to answer the many questions that the interesting artifacts brought about.

The chamber pots confused many of the children, who could not grasp the idea of not having in-

door plumbing. The large loom in the textile room also stumped many of them. "Why couldn't they just go to Walmart?" was the question often heard.

At the Lee School the students were able to see for themselves, with the help of retired teacher and Catharine town historian Carol Fagnan, what it was like to be students in a one-room schoolhouse.



Emily, our carousel giraffe, by Devan

Mrs. Fagnan demonstrated the Palmer Method of writing on the blackboard and had the students practice the alphabet on lined paper.

She showed them the birch switches used for discipline and the dunce cap. Luckily she did not require the use of either, as the kids were very well-behaved.

The Society looks forward to the 4th graders touring every Spring and we encourage other student and social groups to tour our facilities. The more people who know about, and appreciate, our resources the better!

We also received a pack of thank you notes from the kids after the tours. We look forward to the often funny notes every year.

May 30 2013

Dear Montour Museum Staff,

Thank you for giving me the tour. I learned that Watkins Glen had a trolley and trolley rails. I also learned that Queen Catharine was a chief and that when her village was burned out she moved to Canada. I learned that a wedding dress could be blue instead of white. I thought it was cool that you could learn about your history.

Sincerely,
Briana

A thank you letter from Briana



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MUSEUM RESOURCES

HIDDEN TREASURES

GLEN THEATRE
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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

JULY 9

10-11-12

RIOTOUS COMEDY... MAGNIFICENTLY SPECTACULAR!



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M-G-M PICTURE

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

JULY 13

14-15 EVES

VAN JOHNSON • ELIZABETH TAYLOR

IN THE LAUGH BINGE!



THE BIG HANGOVER

SATURDAY

MATINEE

AT 2:30 P.M.

JULY 15

TOM NEAL & "SHEP"

IN

MY DOG SHEP

PLUS 3 - TECHNICOLOR CARTOONS - 3

These Glen Theater advertisements are from July 1951. We recently found these weekly ads for the years of 1950-51 in the archives of the Museum. Do you remember some of these movies?

We're with you every step of the way.

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Watkins Glen: 318 N. Franklin St., Watkins Glen, NY 14891 (607) 535-7186

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MUSEUM RESOURCES

BARBARA H. BELL



Barbara H. Bell
May 7, 1920—April 22, 2013

As many of you know, longtime Schuyler County Historian **Barbara H. Bell** passed away on April 22nd at age 92. With her passing we have lost an almost irreplaceable resource.

Barbara was a charter member of the Society and founder and past editor of our *Journal*. For many years she worked as a journalist and feature writer for the *Ithaca Journal*, developing a simple yet captivating writing style.

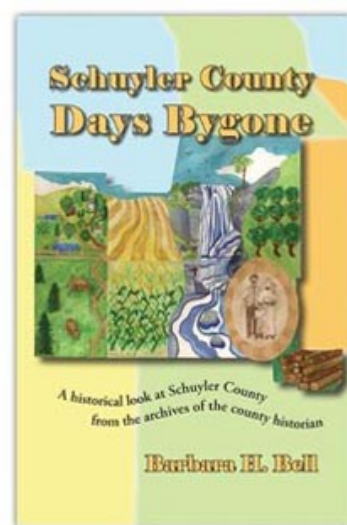
She had served as Town of Reading Historian since 1954 and Schuyler Historian since 1980. Her knowledge of Schuyler County history was second to none. Her ability to recall obscure anecdotes and overlooked aspects of Schuyler history was amazing.


Barbara's prolific writing left hardly any part of our history unexplored. She was truly a unique resource, and luckily for us, she has left her books and articles behind to enjoy and inform for years to come.

Look for an upcoming memorial *Journal* dedicated to Barbara with some of her great articles included.

On *Schuyler Count Days Bygone*, Barbara's last book, published in 2008 by Preston Woods Publishing and available at the Museum:


This book is basically a collection of some of the columns, now all in one place, which I have been writing since 1954. When I started writing, I was a stringer for several newspapers and other publications. Stringers get paid according to how much the editors decide to print. If I submitted a news item, chances are that staff reporters beat me to it and I got zilch for my efforts, but nobody was writing local history so I could be fairly sure of earning income with that. I would interview some of the oldest area residents. They told interesting stories but I had to learn, also, how to research and "flesh" out their information. I had detested history in school but, once I began to learn local history, I was "hooked." -Barbara-



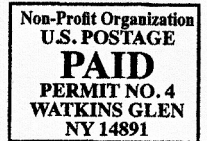


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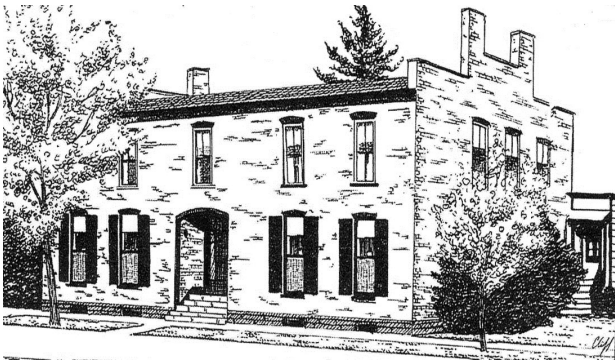
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Editor:
Andrew Tompkins



Operation of the Brick Tavern Museum is partially funded by a grant administered by the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce and authorized by the Schuyler County Legislature.

Victorian Tea Report

20TH ANNUAL TEA HELD

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

The Society held it's 20th Victorian Tea and everything went splendidly. Wait staff donned their black bow ties and white gloves to serve the beautifully dressed guests.

Attendees had a choice of ten different teas, all steeped to perfection. The tasty breads, petit fours, and other treats complimented the entire experience.

Participants voiced their satisfaction through both 11:30am and 1:30pm seatings. The Society is looking into ways of capitalizing on the Tea's popularity for next year by possibly expanding or adding to the overall experience. Stay tuned for further developments.

Special thanks goes to Tea coordinator Mia Clemens, who also serves as vice-president of the Board of Trustees. Her professional demeanor and organizational skills insured success.

Here's to another 20 years!



Photo by Charles Haeffner