

~ The Vista ~

NEWSLETTER OF THE SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTOUR FALLS COMMUNITY YARD SALE

The Brick Tavern Museum will take part in the Montour Falls Community Yard Sale on August 17th.

to sell at the event the Museum will be accepting donations from Monday, August 12 to Friday, August 16.

days. Please no clothing, electronics, or books.

Items can be dropped off at the back porch from 10am to 4pm on those

The Montour Falls Community Yard Sale has taken place for a number of years now and the Museum, with its

The Schuyler County Historical Society's Brick Tavern Museum on Route 14 in Montour Falls will take part in the Montour Falls Community Yard Sale on Saturday, August 17th.

Items for sale will benefit the Society and WILL NOT be from the Museum's collections, although the Museum will be open for touring that day from 9am to 1pm.

If you would like to donate items for us



centralized location, could really benefit from such an event. The Society plans on having items for sale out in front of the Museum and on the back porch if need be.

For further information, or if you would like to volunteer that day, please contact the Museum at (607)535-9741 or info@schuylerhistory.org.

Photo of Montour Falls, circa 1915.



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!

Have you "liked" us yet?

FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

ANDREW TOMPKINS

Schuyler County historian **Marian Boyce** was recently contacted by representatives of the Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS) to hold a conference this year in Schuyler County.

Schuyler County, as part of Region 10 along with Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Tioga, and Tompkins, is due to play

host for the region's yearly conference, which will be held October 26th in Watkins Glen.

Still in the planning stages, the conference will discuss the association's mission and objectives, becoming a registered historian, and feature presentations by local historians. Keep posted for further developments.

The Museum is always in need

of items for everyday maintenance. Currently there is a need for a lightweight **vacuum cleaner**. If you have one to donate please contact the Museum.

The Museum has recently taken on an intern, **Aviva Safir** of Montour Falls. She will be spending a year abroad in Israel at the conclusion of the summer.

NEWS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE BRICK TAVERN MUSEUM

Long time Society member and supporter **Janet Cotton** passed away on July 9th. Matriarch of the Cotton family of Cotton-Hanlon, Inc., Janet was always supportive of Society needs and initiatives. She will be greatly missed, not only by us, but by the community at large.

As Buildings & Grounds Chairman, Society trustee **David Lisk** has been busy preparing a list of items to include in a pos-

sible grant opportunity with the village of Montour Falls. Some of the items include humidity control, second floor storm win-

dows, and a handicapped accessible bathroom. We hope for success in securing the grant.

The Museum currently has a front case exhibit on **Summer Jam 1973**, which has stoked a lot of hazy memories from visitors, who are astounded that this month is the 40th anniversary of that epic event. The case contains local newspaper coverage, photos, and copies of event tickets and posters. The exhibit will remain through August.



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SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TAPESTRY THROW

After a lengthy planning process, the design for the SCHS tapestry throw is complete.

Conceived as a fundraiser for the Society, the throw features familiar Schuyler County buildings and scenes that will appeal to Schuylerites everywhere.

Most of the scenes were created by well known local artists or photographers such as Talitha Botsford, Linda McIntyre, Cynthia Cratsley Harrington, and Rick Cornell.

The throw measures 50" x 68", is 100% cotton, and made in the USA.

Along with a grape and grape leaf border, it includes our Brick Tavern Museum and Lee School, the Rainbow Falls, Seneca Lake, au-

to racing, the Townsend Grange, the Burdett train station, the Glen Springs Hotel, Lamoka & Waneta Lakes, and

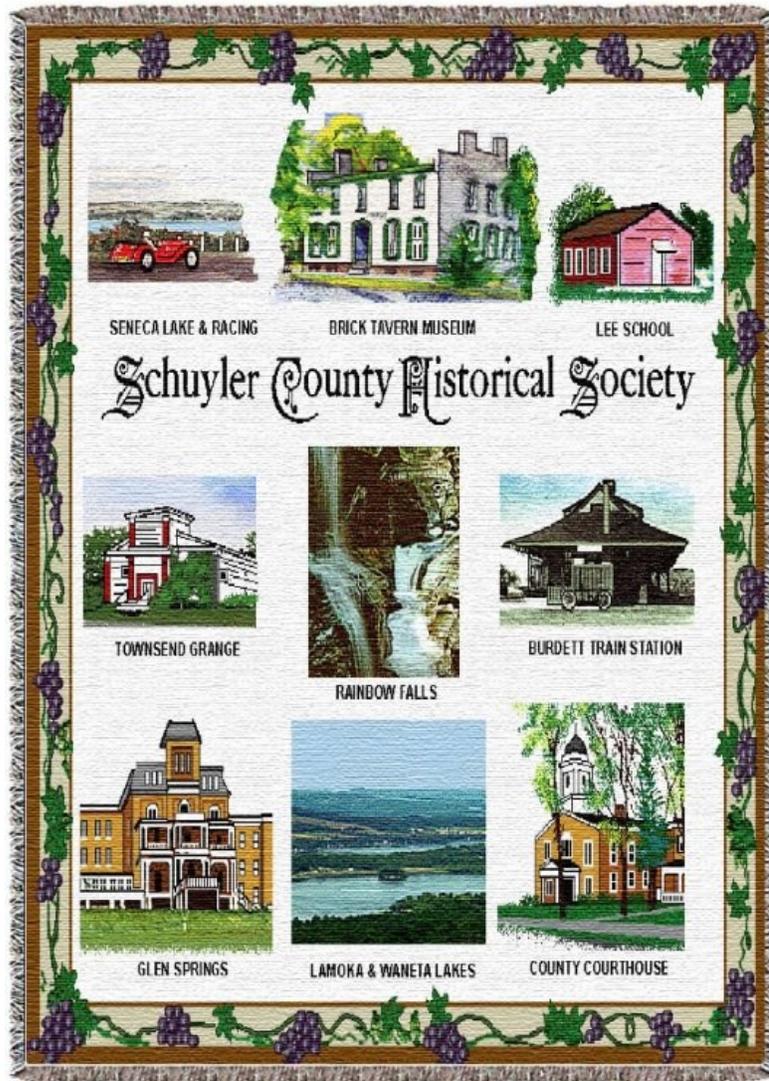
the County Courthouse.

An actual sample will be at the Museum to view. Besides shown here below, it will also be on our website and Facebook page.

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

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

Pre-orders will be taken beginning August 6th by e-mailing treasurer@schuylerhistory.org or calling the Museum at (607)535-9741.



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MUSEUM RESOURCES

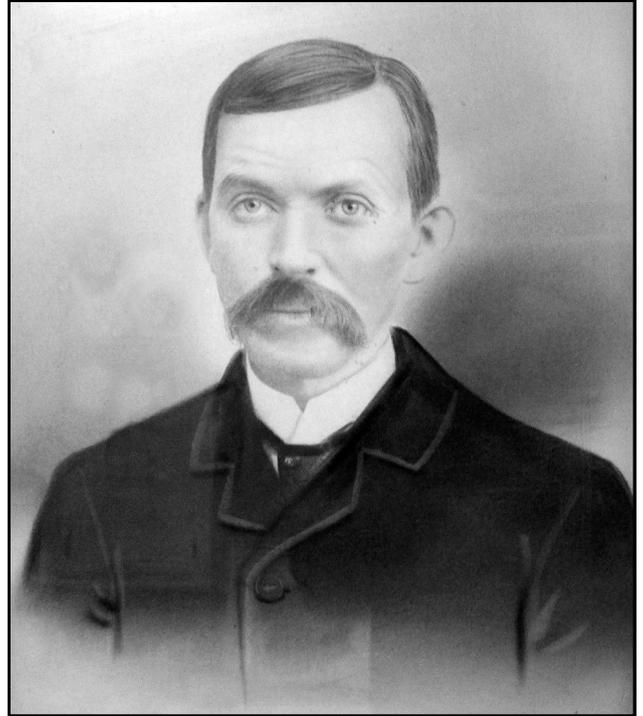
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

A charcoal drawn portrait of **Stephen W. Burrell** was recently donated by descendent Stephen J. Lawton of Watkins Glen. After a little research we learned that Burrell was a mason by trade and at one time lived on the old road between Montour Falls and Odessa.

Burrell, and others, laid the native stone for the beautiful Lawrence Chapel on Cayuta Lake neighboring the Fountainbleau Inn. He was born November 22, 1844 in Reading, the son of Catharine Carrington and Walter M. Burrell.

On January 24, 1872 he married Delphine Wickham and they had three children, George W., Walter M., and Madge, wife of G.R. Lawton.

Portrait of Stephen W. Burrell, right, donated recently by Stephen J. Lawton. Below is a Society collection photo of the Lawrence Chapel as it appeared in October 1949.



The building of Lawrence Chapel commenced in August 1880. Abraham Lawrence, of the wealthy and influential Lawrence family, made provisions in his will for the building of the memorial chapel.

The chapel is about 60 feet long and 30 feet wide with walls of native stone capped with granite and beautiful stained glass windows. Today it is owned and operated by the Chemung County Historical Society and often hosts weddings and other events.

Stephen W. Burrell died on April 3, 1929 and is buried at Glenwood Cemetery in Watkins Glen.

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

BERT C. CATE FILES

Recently donated by the Odessa-Montour School District were the inherited files of Cook Academy Principal **Bert C. Cate**. Cate served as Cook Academy Headmaster from

1921 to 1941. The files contain the names of most of the students who attended the coeducational college preparatory school in Montour Falls during that time.

The files are arranged in alphabetical order by student surname. Most of the files contain a card for each student with their full name, birthdate, par-

ent names and occupations, course load, and any correspondence Cate had with the student's parents.

The information contained in the files is fairly benign, with the exception of one section of the student record showing tested I.Q. level. This could either be a point of pride or source of embarrassment for a former student or family member researching the files. For this reason, and the fact that some of the former students are still alive and live in the community, researching the Cate files will be at the discretion of the Society staff.

Nevertheless, the Cate files are a great resource and we are happy to have them for their genealogical value.

Reading through the files, one realizes that not much has changed since we were in school. The letters to Cate from concerned parents are often quite funny.



The Cook Academy Faculty in October 1921. Bert C. Cate is in the front row on the left.

One concerned parent writes in 1928, "Would like your opinion as to the cause of [my son's] failures. Doesn't he study; has he too many studies, or is he too dumb to learn?"

Cate replies, "He is far from dumb and he does not have too many stud-

ies...What he does off the campus is outside my control but I suspect he wastes his evenings, to judge by his work in the class room."

Volunteers are currently reorganizing the files and compiling a list of all the students that appear in Cate's records. Acid-free file folders will also replace the deteriorating old folders.

The completed list will be available soon on our website, schuylerhistory.org, along with other lists and indexes to resources found in our Research Room.



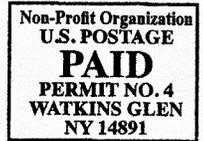


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Editor:
Andrew Tompkins



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.

Memorial Donations

On the passing of longtime Schuyler County Historian **Barbara H. Bell** a number of donations were made to the Society in her memory. We thank those for their generosity and are honored that Barbara named us as one of the organizations to receive any memorial donations. Her family was given a list of donors so that they could also thank them.

Recently we have received memorial donations from:

Rose-Marie Kleinspehn in memory of Charlotte Callahan

Leopold & Mary Jo Marks in memory of Margaret & Walter O'Grady

Carlton & Carol Fenton in memory of

William Fenton

The Society is always deeply honored to receive memorial donations and bequests from people with strong Schuyler roots. Our Society was able to purchase the Brick Tavern Museum with a bequest from longtime Society supporter **Dorothy Longnecker** in 1972.

Without Dorothy's generosity and planning the



Dorothy Longnecker's 1830s carousel giraffe "Emily"

Society would not have a museum to showcase Schuyler's great history, and we are forever indebted to her.

If you would like to make a memorial donation, or name us as a beneficiary in your estate planning, please contact the Society. The Society is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit charitable organization.

As with Dorothy Longnecker, the legacy you leave behind could benefit the Schuyler community for years to come.