

# Schuyler County Historical Society

## ~The Vista~

Volume 4, Issue 2

September 2011

**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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## **Museum Refurbishment Underway Heritage Builders Hard at Work**

Painters and carpenters from Heritage Builders/Perfect Painters out of Ithaca have started with the exterior refurbishment of the Brick Tavern Museum.

With over thirty years experience refurbishing historic properties, Heritage Builders was chosen by the Board of Trustees after a rigorous selection process.

Their mission is to remove flaking paint from old brick, replace any water damaged



wood trim, refurbish window shutters, paint window frames and doors, fix roof flashing, empty and rehang gutters, and

point out any other pressing concerns.

Funds for the much needed refurbishment have been raised by the 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign, which many of you have contributed to.

The Society would like to thank all of the wonderful supporters out there for your help. Refurbishing and maintaining the Museum, the Society's biggest asset, will insure many more years of preserving and exhibiting Schuyler County history.

## **50th Anniversary Capital Campaign Status One Year Campaign Coming to an End**

The Schuyler County Historical Society is pleased to announce that our yearlong fundraising campaign has raised \$104,000 in pledges, donations, and in-kind services.

The Society has wasted little time in starting on planned projects, such as the refurbishment of the Brick Tavern Museum and the Wedgwood building.

We are indebted to our

members, friends, and volunteers for all their generosity and hard work during the campaign.

There is still time to contribute. Visit [www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org).

## The Historical Society at Work

### Redesigning the Historical Society Journal

As you probably noticed, the Schuyler County Historical Society *Journal* has been re-designed.

The latest August 2011 *Journal* featured a thicker crème colored cover page, table of contents on the front cover, and new cover title font using 19th Century style lettering.

Board member and Publication Committee Chairman

Richard Owlett worked closely with other members of the committee to come up with an updated *Journal* done in a classic style.

The table of contents on the front cover, as in publications such as *National Geographic*, was done for easy location of *Journal* articles. Instead of flipping through each *Journal* to find articles of interest the reader can now just check the front.

The thicker crème colored cover page was done to add durability and class to the *Journal*, which we intend to become *the place* for well written articles on Schuyler's rich history.

If you would like to write an article for the *Journal* please e-mail [info@schuylerhistory.org](mailto:info@schuylerhistory.org) or call for writer's guidelines.

## Working on the Wedgwood Building

### Volunteers install new stairs and handicap ramp

The old Wedgwood Schoolhouse on Route 414 in the town of Dix now has a new front door staircase and handicap ramp thanks to Society volunteers.

The Wedgwood building was acquired by the Society from the town of Dix in late 2008

with the eventual intention of converting the building into a rural life/agricultural museum.

With recent funds raised by the 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign and earmarked for the Wedgwood, lumber and other materials were finally purchased for the project.

Volunteers David Lisk, Dan Teed, Roy Evans, Bob DeYager, and Museum Director Andrew Tompkins were able to complete the stairs and ramp in one day of hard work.

Next up will be interior sanding and painting!

## Museum Collections to Pique Your Interest

The Brick Tavern Museum houses many items of local interest.

Did you know that we have old yearbooks for Watkins Glen and Odessa-Montour High



Schools? We also have Cook Academy yearbooks stretching back to the 1870s.

Besides school photos, we also have many photos of area businesses, such as

Shepard-Niles Crane and Hoist Company. Photos of the cranes, hoists, and other items manufactured there, as well as the employees, are in our archives or research room.

Come by and take a look!

## Freeman Family Foundation Middle School Competition

The Freeman Family Foundation has partnered with the Schuyler County Historical Society to hold the 2011-12 Regional History Competition open to all Watkins Glen Middle School students.

The competition will offer cash rewards for first and second places in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade categories and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade categories.

For each category first place will be awarded \$150 and second place \$75. There will also be honorable mentions. The classroom of the first place winner in each category will also receive \$25.

The purpose of the competition is to promote learning, enhance awareness of, and instill pride in, our regional heritage by providing a competition where individual students compete by creating a presentation (project display) based on local and regional history themes.

The presentation can consist of a chart, display, graph, photo collage, computer-based project (website or Power-Point presentation), or a project agreed upon with the student's teacher.

The next competition will start in October 2011 instead of next Spring. More information will be forthcoming.

### Books Available at the Museum for Sale

*Watkins Glen Tour Guide* by Gordon Cooper (\$32.50)

*Schuyler County Days Bygone* by Barbara H. Bell (\$26)

*Town of Catharine History* by Carol Tetz Fagnan (\$43.25)

*Schuyler County New York: History and Families* edited by John Potter (\$21.50)

*A Walk Through Watkins Glen: Water's Sculpture in Stone* by Tony Ingraham (\$26)

**Visit [www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org)  
for a complete list of books  
available for sale.**

## Society's Falls Harvest Festival Booth

On Saturday, October 8th the Society will have a booth set up from 1 to 8pm at the Falls Harvest Festival on West Main Street in Montour Falls.

As in previous years, the Society's booth will have regional history books for

sale as well as homemade baked goods.

Come support the Society at the Festival- buy some books for Christmas gifts, and enjoy some delicious baked goods.

See you there!



## Society on Facebook!



The Society now has a Facebook page which can be accessed by going to our website [www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org) and clicking on the Facebook logo on the bottom right.

The Facebook page will be another avenue for the Society to keep in touch with its members and

friends. Historic photos of Schuyler, upcoming events, museum refurbishment progress, and much more will be posted to Facebook, so be sure to go to the site and "Like" us so that you can receive updates.

Thanks for your support!

### Mark your Calendars for these Upcoming Events!

**October 8th (Saturday) - Falls  
Harvest Festival Booth, 1-  
8pm**

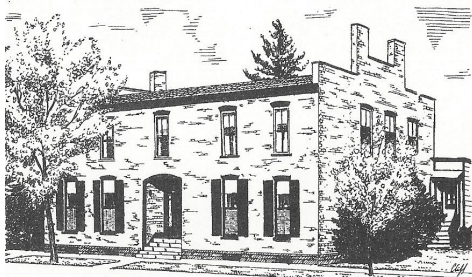
**December 11th (Sunday) -  
Holiday Open House, 2-4pm**

## SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit #4  
Watkins Glen, N.Y.



*We're on the Web!*  
[www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org)

## Thank You for Your Membership In the Schuyler County Historical Society!

If you have not renewed your membership for 2012 now is a good 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 an 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 picture of the Odessa Union School, built in 1877. This photo was taken sometime after 1906 when the school was raised up to accommodate a new addition built underneath it. The building was replaced in 1937 with the completion of the Central School.