

# Schuyler County Historical Society

## ~The Vista~

Volume 5, Issue 1

April 2012

Schuyler County  
Historical Society  
Brick Tavern Museum  
108 N. Catharine Street  
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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!

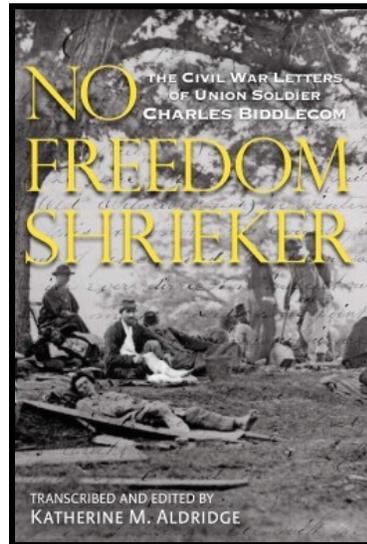
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## Annual Society Meeting Set for April 26 Will include program on Civil War book

The Schuyler County Historical Society's annual meeting will be held at the Human Services Complex, 232 Owego St. in Montour Falls on Thursday, April 26th at 7pm.

This year's annual meeting will include a presentation by local author Katherine Aldridge, who transcribed and edited the Civil War letters of Union soldier Charles Biddlecom of the 147th NY Infantry.



Found abandoned in a box in her historic Alpine barn, the letters, which number over one-hundred, were published re-

cently as "No Freedom Shrieker: The Civil War letters of Union soldier Charles Biddlecom" by Paramount Books.

Eloquently written, yet often filled with raw emotion, the letters span the entire war, 1861-65, and were written to his wife Esther. The book can be found online at Amazon.com and on Kindle.

Free and open to the public.

## New Schuyler County Historian Appointed Marian Boyce takes over after Barbara Bell retirement

The Schuyler County legislature appointed Marian Boyce of Townsend as new County Historian. Boyce, a member of the Society's Board of Trustees, has served Schuyler in many roles

over her long career. She brings a wealth of local history knowledge and has been invaluable to the Society in many ways. Whether it be in the research room looking up inquiries, writing

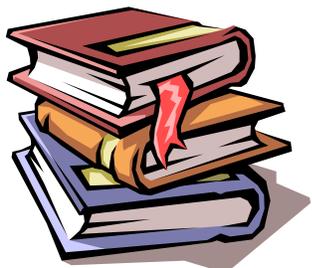
articles for our Journal, or chairing our membership committee, Marian is always helpful. She will make a great county historian. Congratulations! She can be reached at (607)535-4730.

## Books Available For Sale at Museum

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

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

*Letters to Suzanna: The First Twenty Years* by Barbara H. Bell (\$16.25)



Books make great gifts!

*Schuyler County New York: History and Families* edited by John Potter (\$21.50) (\$32.50 leather)

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

*Town of Catharine History* by Carol Tetz Fagnan (\$43.20)

*Around Watkins Glen, Images of America* by Charles Mitchell & Kirk House (\$21.50)

*Seneca Dawn or Seneca Sunrise* by Frank Steber (\$16.25 each)

*1873 Village of Watkins Map* poster, unframed (\$32.35)

More maps & historic posters to come!

## Annual Victorian Tea to be held Saturday, May 12th

The annual Victorian Tea will be held on Saturday, May 12 at the Brick Tavern Museum.

Seatings will be at 11:30am & 1:30pm, with only 40 seats available at each seating, so make sure to RSVP with cash or check early.

Cost will be \$15 per person and \$8 for ages 5 to 10, under 5 free.

Light refreshments will be served along with such tasty tea flavors as Sencha,



Darjeeling, Irish Breakfast, and Mango.

Please contact the Museum to make your reservations, (607)535-9741 or [info@schuylerhistory.org](mailto:info@schuylerhistory.org).

We hope to see you there!

## Recent Memorial Donations Made to Society

In Memory of Ada Hall:

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Foley  
Mary Ann Aarons  
Alan Eldridge  
George Eldridge  
Mr. & Mrs. JC Shimala  
Ms. Betty Sinew  
JJ & AM Zielinski

Leon Zabinski  
Ron & Pat Spicer  
Tim & Cathy Spicer  
Bill & Jessica Spicer  
Donald Kusak

In Memory of June Magura:

Marian Boyce  
In Memory of Bob Burnside &

Bill Fenton:

Ken & Peggy Field  
In Memory of Norma McCawley:  
Claire Kanaley  
In Memory of Lyle Bastian & DeeDee Miller:  
John Musser

# Capital Campaign Donors

## Successful Campaign Officially Over

Last December's issue of *The Vista* included a list of donors to our 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign.

In compiling our list we inadvertently left off a few key donors and also received a few additional donations after December's publication—we list them here.

### LEAD DONORS:

JC & Joan Argetsinger  
Freeman Foundation  
Dr. James & Jane Marshall  
Wickham Family

### DONORS:

Marcia Douglas  
WG Elks Lodge #1546  
James Ganung  
Kathy Ganung Kennedy  
Sue & Jim Hazlitt  
Jim Howell

We are so grateful for the support we received in our fundraising efforts. So many of you stepped forward to support our mission and we are so proud of the fact that we were able to raise a little over \$105,000 in little Schuyler!

Thank you!

## Summer Interns at Society

The Society will be fortunate to have two interns working at the Museum this summer.

Chelsea Owen, a student at Cazenovia College, will start an internship in mid-May. She is a graphics design major with a minor in museum studies.

She hopes to help us with publicity and marketing, such as designing logos, trifold brochures, palm cards, etc. to increase our visibility. She may also help with planning out the new Wedgwood agricultural museum.

Our other intern, Connie Ran-

dall, is an anthropology major from SUNY Oneonta. She hopes to help us with our Native American collection. She has visited the museum and is impressed with our mix of Lamoka and Seneca Indian tools and implements.

Welcome aboard!

## Join Us on Facebook!

Follow us on



Did you know the Society has a Facebook page? Keep up-to-date with news and events, and check out cool old uploaded photos from our collections. Go to [www.schuylerhistory.org](http://www.schuylerhistory.org)

and click on the Facebook logo on the lower right. "Like" us and you will receive updates about us on your Facebook page.

Thank you!

## For Your Calendar

**April 18:** Business Expo at WGI, 3-7pm

**April 18:** Chemung Canal Talk, MF Library, 7pm

**April 26:** SCHS Annual Meeting, 7pm

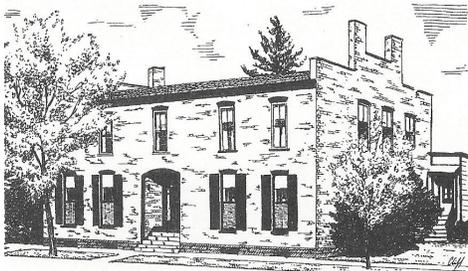
**May 12:** Victorian Tea

**May 16:** Bethesda Sanitarium Talk, MF Library, 7pm

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



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

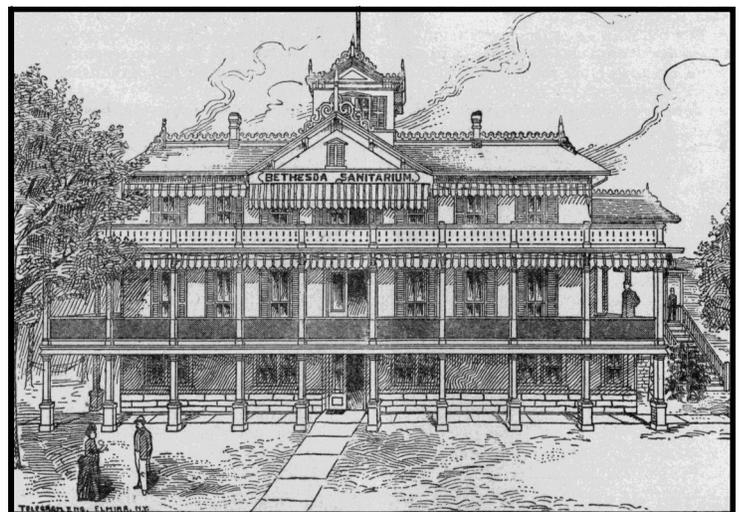
## Thank You for Your Membership In the Schuyler County Historical Society!

If you have not renewed your membership for 2012 it is not too late. 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 drawing of the Bethesda Sanitarium used in advertisements in the 1880s. Museum Director Andrew Tompkins will be giving a free presentation on the Sanitarium on May 16 at the Montour Falls Library, 7pm.