



Schuyler County Historical Society

108 N. Catharine Street, P.O. Box 651
Montour Falls, New York 14865
607-535-9741 / www.schuylerhistory.org

Schuyler County Historical Society 2021 Annual Report

The Schuyler County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, membership organization with the mission to collect documents and artifacts related to the history of Schuyler County and the area and to ensure their preservation and availability for present and future generations. The Historical Society has offices in its Brick Tavern Museum at 108 N. Catharine St., Montour Falls. The Society's other facilities are the Wickham Rural Life Center, adjacent to the Brick Tavern Museum; the Lee School Museum at 1952 Route 14 South, Montour Falls; and the Lawrence Chapel and Cemetery, 2770 Route 228, Alpine. The Brick Tavern Museum and Wickham Rural Life Center are open year-round, Tuesday through Friday (with evening hours on Thursday). Saturday hours are added in July through October. Admission to the museums is free. The Lawrence Chapel, acquired in November 2021 from the Chemung County Historical Society, is rented to the public for events.

MEMBERSHIP

- 2021 membership: 339 members, including individuals, businesses and other organizations. Of the total, 70 were new members.

FINANCES

The 2021 budget totaled \$61,050. The Historical Society is financially supported by membership dues, general donations, fundraisers and grants. The Historical Society received a \$19,400 Tourism Assistance Program grant for general operations in 2021. The TAP grant is managed by the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce. In 2021, the Historical Society received financial support from all eight towns in Schuyler County and all four villages. This was the first year in several in which all municipalities supported the Society's operations. The Historical Society has a paid, almost-full-time executive director.

PROGRAMMING

- Honoring Schuyler County residents in World War II, special exhibit, Sept. 2, 2020 - March 19, 2021.
- Stoneware of Havana, special exhibit, April 1 - Aug. 14.
- Squires Junior Drum and Bugle Corps, special exhibit, Sept. 1 - March 18, 2022. (This exhibit was created under a federal grant program managed by the Museum Association of New York.)
- Annual membership meeting online, April 22.
- Lee School Open House, May 15.
- Two-part class on creating "Havana" pottery at the Brick Tavern Museum, June 5 and 12.
- Saturday hours at the Brick Tavern Museum and Wickham Rural Life Center start in July and go through the end of October.



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- Watkins Glen History Walks, twice a month, start in July and go through September.
- Beginning Cross Stitch Workshop at the Brick Tavern Museum, July 17 and Oct. 30.
- Beginning Genealogy Workshop at the Brick Tavern Museum, Aug. 19.
- Talk by Mike Hanlon for the 100th anniversary of Cotton-Hanlon, Sept. 26 at the Odessa Village Community Room.
- Genealogy Workshop at the Brick Tavern Museum, Aug. 19
- Watkins Glen Race History Walk with Bill Green and Jim Saptura on Franklin Street, Oct. 2.
- Montour Falls Cemetery Walk led by Gary Emerson, Oct. 30.
- Holiday Open House at the Brick Tavern Museum, Dec. 5.
- The Historical Society is active on Facebook, with 3,600 followers.

VISITORS and RESEARCHERS

- 2021 visitors to tour the Brick Tavern Museum and Wickham Rural Life Center or use the Gift Shop: 610.
- 2021 researchers from across the region and the U.S. using the Brick Tavern Museum Library: 116. (Note: In 2021, Historical Society staff or volunteers assisted with 103 research requests received by phone, email or through the website.)

COLLABORATIONS and PARTNERSHIPS

- The Historical Society is collaborating with Finger Lakes Media, owner of the Watkins Review & Express, to digitize and make available to the public issues of the Watkins Express, Watkins Review and Watkins Review & Express.
- The Historical Society executive director represents Schuyler County on the advisory board of the Finger Lakes Boating Museum in Hammondspport.
- The Historical Society has a small exhibit about the Watkins Glen State Park at the Chamber of Commerce's Visitor Center.
- The Brick Tavern Museum is a host site for the Senior Community Service Employment Program, operated by Pro-Action of Steuben and Yates.
- The February online Chamber of Commerce mixer was hosted at the Brick Tavern Museum, Feb. 3.
- Tammy Waite of the Schuyler County Office for the Aging filmed a segment for her WENY-TV show, Senior Notebook, at the Brick Tavern Museum, April 8.
- The Montour Falls Public Library board had their regular meeting at the museum on April 20.
- For the second consecutive year, the Historical Society partnered with the Schuyler County Public Health Department's HEAL program for a history scavenger hunt. In 2021 it was in Watkins Glen. (2020 was in Montour Falls.)
- The Mother's Day breakfast presented by the Burdett Fire Department partially benefitted the Historical Society.
- Bradford Central School fourth-graders toured the Brick Tavern Museum, Wickham Rural Life Center and Lee School museum, June 2.



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- The Historical Society sponsored the June 17 session of the Montour Falls Library's monthly Community Reads program.
- The Brick Tavern Museum is a New York State Path through History site. It was open for Path through History Weekend on June 18-19 and Oct. 8-9.
- The Historical Society hosted a teenager in the Schuyler County Youth Bureau's Summer Youth Employment Program.
- The Historical Society participated in a New York State Main Street Grant application with the Montour Falls Village Board.
- The Historical Society participated in the Montour Falls Harvest Festival on Oct. 2 with a table on Main Street and open hours at the Brick Tavern Museum and Lee School Museum.
- The Brick Tavern Museum was open for Small Business Saturday, sponsored by the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce, Nov. 27.

****NOTE: Approximately 350 people participated in Historical Society programming or in collaboration/partnership events.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS

President Jean Hubsch (2020-2022)

Secretary Joyce Hill (2021-2023)

Vice President Marty Evans (2021-2023)

Treasurer Jane Leszyk (2020-2022)

Trustee Andre Boutoille (2019-2022)

Trustee and County Historian Gary Emerson (2021-2024)

Trustee Maggie Field (2021-2024)

Trustee Claudia LaFace (2020-2023)

Trustee Ennie Lattin (2021-2023)

Trustee David Lisk (2021-2023)

Trustee Jean Gardner (2021-2024)

Trustee Julie Morris (2020-2022)

Executive Director of Museums Glenda Gephart

Volunteers (including trustees): Approximately 30, donating an estimated 1,650 hours