

# ~ The Vista ~

NEWSLETTER OF THE SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## BRICK TAVERN MUSEUM HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & BOOK SALE

The Brick Tavern Museum will hold a Holiday Open House and Book Sale on Sunday, December 15th from 2-4pm.

Wayne Morrison passed away last year and we were able to secure the last of some of his works, many of which will likely never be published again.

great gift items we have to offer and help us celebrate a festive and joyous time of year!



Come join us in celebrating the holidays with our festively decorated Museum and Christmas tree! There will also be punch, coffee, and light refreshments to enjoy.

We will also be offering some great sales and deals on regional history books, an 1874 Schuyler Atlas reprint, and an 1873 map reprint of Watkins. All of these items would make great holiday gifts and will be priced to move.



Among the books we will have offered are some by W.E. Morrison & Company, publishers of quality histories of the local area.

Once these titles are gone they will be very hard to find in hard-copy. So come on by December 15th to see the Museum and the

*Photo of Chequaga Falls, c. 1915. Note the Civil War cannon on the lower left? It was melted down for scrap during World War II.*

## TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is coming time for most paying members to renew membership for 2014. To make renewal as seamless as possible we have included a colored membership application insert in this issue. Our membership application has changed a little from last year. It now includes questions on willing-

ness to volunteer, if you have any history to share, and the possibility of receiving the newsletter electronically in the future. Membership is a major source of our revenue and we appreciate your prompt renewal. We wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a fantastic New Year!

## FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

ANDREW TOMPKINS

The **Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS)** held their Region 10 conference in Watkins Glen at the Presbyterian Church on October 26th. As part of the conference, retired Watkins Glen teacher **Frank Steber** and local historian and history teacher **Gary Emerson** gave presentations on local Schuyler history, both of which

were very well received by attendees.

The **Decorate the Empire State** competition, held by the NYS Office of General Services, was won by **Jean Hubsch** and **Cynthia Cratsley Harrington**. The competition, to find original tree ornaments to decorate the State tree in Albany, was held in each NY county. Ornaments were to symbolize the unique character-

istics of each county. The Hubsch ornament was an embroidered view of the pier in Watkins Glen. The Harrington ornament was made of molded plastic and highlighted Seneca lake and the wine industry. Congratulations ladies!

Just a reminder this winter- the Museum may experience **unscheduled closings** due to inclement weather.

## NEWS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE BRICK TAVERN MUSEUM

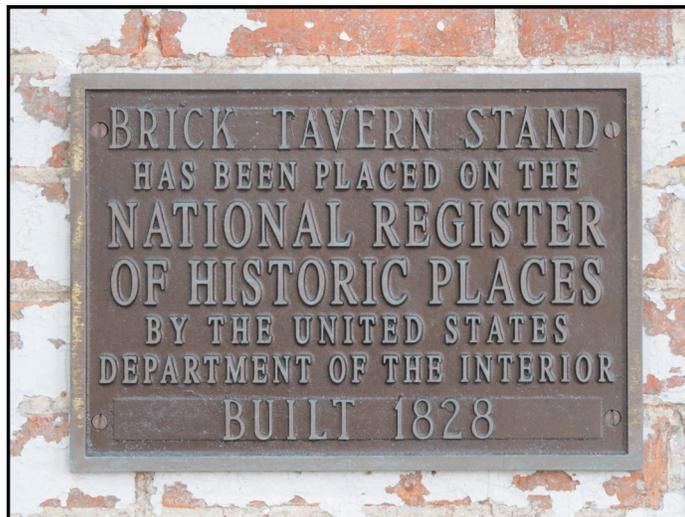
Montour Falls village historian **Al Sweet** presented on the stoneware of Havana at an October 10th museum program. Enthusiastic attendees brought in personal stoneware to be evaluated and appreciated before listening to a fascinating history of the local potters active in Havana from 1850 to 1888.

In honor of Veterans Day, local veteran **Tony Specchio** presented on growing up in Reading Center,

going off to fight in the Korean War, and his involvement with the American Legion and VFW.

Highlights of the November 14th talk were his witnessing of the atomic bomb testing in the Nevada desert and his impressions of war-torn Korea and fighting along the 38th parallel.

The **second annual appeal** has been very successful and has exceeded the \$5,000 goal thanks to many of you. A donor list can be seen on page 5 of this newsletter. Thanks again for your donations!



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## SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TAPESTRY THROW IN STOCK FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Conceived as a fundraiser for the Society, the throw measures 50"x 68", is 100% cotton, and made in the USA.

The tapestry throw makes a wonderful holiday gift, or as a gift for a Schuyler native far from home.

It features familiar Schuyler County buildings and scenes that will appeal to everyone.

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.

Along with a grape and grape leaf border, it includes our Brick Tavern Museum and Lee School, the Rainbow Falls, Seneca Lake, auto racing, the Townsend Grange, the Burdett train station, the Glen Springs

Hotel, Lamoka & Waneta Lakes, and the County Courthouse. An actual sample is at the Museum to view.

The cost of the throw is \$54, which includes tax. Throws are available at the Museum, shipping would be extra.

To reserve your throw, call the Museum at (607)535-9741 today!

## WAYNE MORRISON EXHIBIT

The Holiday Open House and Book Sale will offer many Schuyler and regional history books for sale. A number of them have been published by **W.E. Morrison & Co. of Ovid, NY.**

Wayne Morrison was a quality printer of the old school. He used old-fashioned printing presses with fonts and designs not found on modern printing software. In fact, the old style font used on our letterhead and the masthead of our website was created by Wayne.

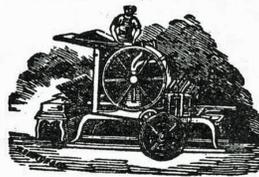
Society President Richard Owlett was friends with Wayne and has a number of items relating to his publishing operation. These items will be on exhibit at the

Museum in December.

The Society inventory currently has several of Wayne's beautifully printed and bound books in stock but once they are gone

they will not be reprinted, so stock up now for friends and family.

Of particular interest is Wayne's Havana book, which he researched and compiled over a number of years and is the primary source for early Havana history.



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## MUSEUM RESOURCES

### BOOKS FOR SALE

The list below are books and maps that are available for purchase at the Museum. All prices include tax. They are listed here as a preview to our **Holiday Open House and Book Sale**, which is taking place on **Sunday, December 15th**. **Most of these items will be discounted from 2-4pm on the day of the Open House only, so make sure you stop by.** They all make wonderful holiday gifts. See you at the Open House!

**Home in These Hills: A Young Woman's Diary**

Author: Viola Coolbaugh / Published: 2010 - 82 pages /  
Price: \$10.35

**A Link in the Great Chain: A Hist. of the Chemung Canal**

Author: Gary Emerson / Published: 2004 - 100 pages /  
Price: \$13.50

**The Stoneware of Havana, N.Y.; and its makers 1850-88**

Author: Allen F. Sweet / Published: 2011 - 87 pages / Price:  
\$24.30

**Around Watkins Glen: Images of America**

Author: Charles R. Mitchell & Kirk W. House / Published:  
2006 - 128 pages / Price: \$21.50

**Schuyler County Days Bygone: An Historical look at Schuyler County**

Author: Barbara H. Bell / Published: 2008 - 338 pages /  
Price: \$26.00

**History & Families: Schuyler County, NY**

Author: John Potter, ed., Schuyler County Historical Society / Published: 2005 - 144 pages (hardcover) / Price:  
\$21.50 or \$32.40 (leather)

**Seneca Hope: The Life and Landscapes of James Hope**

Author: Frank W. Steber / Published: 2012 - 118 pages /  
Price: \$16.25

**Seneca Dawn: The Pioneer Journey of John Dow**

Author: Frank W. Steber / Published: 2007 - 114 pages /  
Price: \$16.25

**Seneca Sunrise: The Life and Times of Frederick Davis, Jr.**

Author: Frank W. Steber / Published: 2002 - 134 pages /  
Price: \$13

**Watkins Glen Tour Guide**

Author: Gordon D. Cooper / Published: 2009 - 320 pages /  
Price: \$32.50

**Town of Catharine History, Schuyler County, New York**

Author: Carol Tetz Fagnan / Published: 2003 - 408 pages  
(hardcover) / Price: \$43.25

**The History of the Town of Catharine, Schuyler County, NY**

Author: Louise Cleaver / Published: 1945 - 686 Pages  
(hardcover) / Price: \$54

**Early History, &c., The Village of Havana, NY, Illustrated**

Editor: W.E. Morrison & Co. / Published: 1976 - 400 pages  
(hardcover) / Price: \$59.50

**Early History, &c., The Towns of Catharine, Hector, Veteran, Catlin, Dix & Montour, 1798-1870**

Editor: W.E. Morrison & Co. / Published: 1976 - 100 pages  
(hardcover) / Price: \$37.80

**1873 Village of Watkins Map reproduction, 23"x17"**

Price: \$32.95

**1874 Atlas of Schuyler County reprint**

Price: \$53.95



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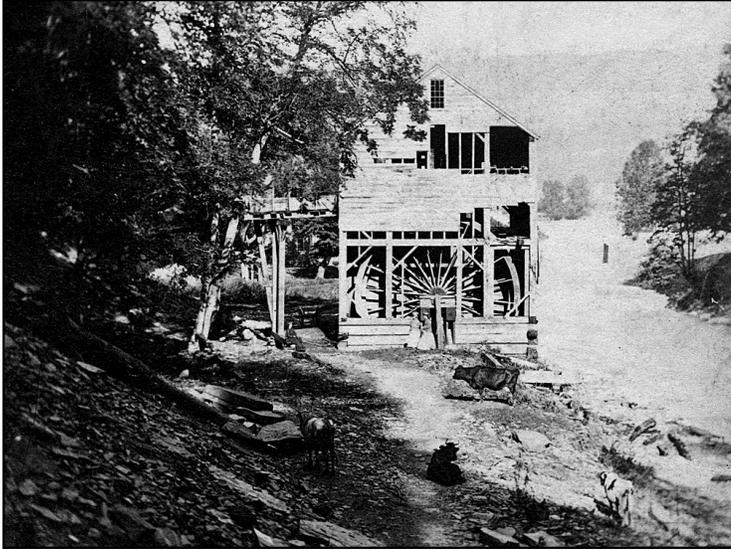
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## MUSEUM RESOURCES

### HISTORICAL PHOTOS



Ruins of the grist-mill erected around 1831 by Dr. Samuel Watkins in the Glen Entrance Amphitheater. In this photo you can see cattle grazing in the foreground. Morvalden Ells purchased and opened the Glen in 1863 for use as a tourist attraction. The old grist-mill was removed in 1869. This photo was probably taken right before its removal.



Below is the view looking out the front door of the "Bazaar" souvenir shop located at the top of the Watkins Glen park in the late 1800s. Notice the gas lighting?



*For more than half a century, commencing in 1860, the familiar caravan of Gypsy Josh (above), his wife, and his family, arrived at this place [Havana] during the spring of the year. The Gypsy king was born in England as Joshua Small, and was known far and wide, having traversed every state of the union. One of his favorite routes passed through the valley of Catharine Creek and beyond. Upon his death, he was buried at Hornellsville, Steuben Co., with his wife and others of his family (text taken from Morrison's Early History of Havana).*



An amazing photo, circa 1900, showing the intersection of Fourth and Franklin Streets in Watkins. The light-colored structure on the left is the Jefferson House, built by Dr. Samuel Watkins in 1835 and torn down in 1978. Directly across the street on the right was the Opera House, now Jerlando's Italian Restaurant. In the distance is the spire of the Methodist church, which burnt off in a 1927 fire.

## SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

### BUSINESS MEMBERS

Below are **Business Members of the Society**, most have supported us for many years. Their membership is important to the ongoing operation of the Museum, as Society membership is a key source of our revenue. We list them here in appreciation for their support and as an appeal to our other members to patronize and support their businesses. Please contact the Society if you would like to join as a Business Member. Thank you!

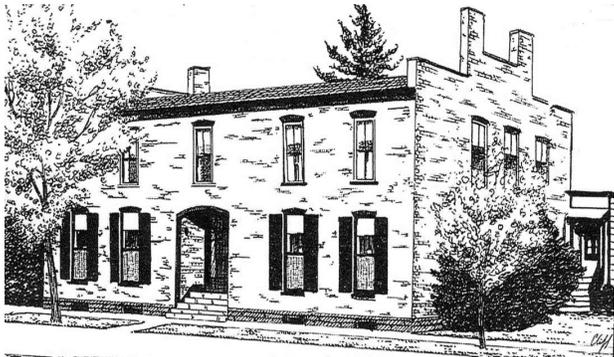
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**Editor:**  
**Andrew Tompkins**



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.

## *Shepard Niles Christmas Party 1935*

