

~The Vista~

Volume 3, Issue 1

April 2010

**Schuyler County
Historical Society
Brick Tavern Museum
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Benefits of SCHS Membership:

- Subscription to the 16-page *Journal* and our new 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 Meeting and Presentation John Potter to Speak on the Glen

The Schuyler County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 21st in Conference Room 120 at the Human Services Complex on Route 14 in Montour Falls. The meeting will start at 7pm.

The annual meeting will cover the past year's events, revisions to the Constitution, new Board members, and plans for the future.

This year's annual meeting will include a presentation by former Brick Tavern Museum director and current Yates County Genealogical and Historical Society director John Potter en-

titled "A Short History of the Glen from the Beginning of Time."

Based primarily on his own research, Potter will touch on the formation of the Glen, past floods, the importance of the Glen to local mills, past owner-ships, and the development of the Glen as a major attraction.

We hope to see many of our members and guests there.



Pluto Falls at Watkins Glen

Please contact the Museum at (607)535-9741 or info@schuylerhistory.org for further information.

Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 18-24 More Volunteers Sought

National Volunteer Appreciation Week runs from April 18-24 this year. If you know any volunteers be sure to thank them.

The Society would like to thank the following vol-

unteers, besides our active Board members, for their efforts at our museum. Please thank them as well if you see them out and about!

Joann DeLeury, Barbara Berghoff, Ginny Bruck-

ner, Alice Garey, Judith Hatsell, Bob DeYager, and many more.

Please contact the Museum at (607)535-9741 or info@schuylerhistory.org if you'd like to join us.

The Historical Society at Work

While the Museum has been closed to the public this winter, two of our volunteers, Alice Garey and Barbara Berghoff, have been doing an inventory of our collections.

Besides "discovering" some interesting items that we have here, they also felt that the Society membership should be made aware of our many reference books that are available to read in our Research Room. They have made a list of some of the more interesting refer-

ence materials for inclusion here:

Native American information; collecting items such as hand tools, china, silver, buttons, and dolls; Victorian architecture; crafts such as stenciling, wall painting, and samplers; canals, and railroads.

If any of these topics interest you please come by the Museum to look at what we have.

Moose Club Breakfast

The Moose Lodge in Montour Falls recently hosted a benefit breakfast for the Society. The breakfast was held on Sunday, March 7th and very well attended.

We wish to thank the Moose Lodge, all of our volunteers, and the Interact Club from Watkins Glen High School for their hard work.

Freeman Family Foundation Grant Competition

Watkins Glen Middle Schoolers to complete Regional History Projects

The Society will partner again this year with the Freeman Family Foundation to offer the third annual New York State Regional History Competition for the Watkins Glen Middle School.

Foundation president Peter Freeman of New York City (originally from Watkins Glen) hopes to keep middle schoolers involved and in-

terested in local and regional history.

Judging will be done in late spring by a mix of teachers and Society volunteers and winners will be given a certificate, free membership, and a check by the Freeman Family Foundation during their middle school awards assembly.

Last year's winners completed projects on such topics as the Watkins Glen State Park, Big Gully, football legend Ernie Davis, Lehigh Valley Culvert.

For further info contact the Museum at info@schuylerhistory.org or (607)535-9741.

Victorian Tea 2010!

This year's Victorian Tea will be held on Saturday, May 8th at the Brick Tavern Museum. There will be two seatings, 11:30am and 1:30pm.

Price per person is \$12, ages 10 and under \$6. Please call



Victorian Tea at the Brick Tavern Museum.

ahead for reservations. Groups of 6 or more must pay in advance.

A variety of tasty teas were served last year along with some scrumptious finger foods. We had fun dressing up and serving all our guests.

Help us make this year's tea a success and make your reservations soon!

Light refreshments will also be served.

For further info contact the Museum at info@schuylerhistory.org or (607)535-9741.

New Glen Springs Hotel Collection on Display

Our front entrance rotating exhibit case currently has items from a recent large donation.

The items were from William Leffingwell, owner and proprietor of the Glen Springs Hotel, and family and were left in his home when the donor purchased it in 1979. The current owner of the items is moving out of the area and donated most of Leffingwell's papers, photos, and brochures from the heyday of the Glen Springs Hotel.

Leffingwell also was active in Democratic politics at the time, and

was an automobile enthusiast. There are items pertaining to local and state politics and the various automobiles he purchased.

The bulk of the items are wonderful, never used, brochures and pamphlets on the Glen Springs. Come and see them!

For further info contact the Museum at info@schuylerhistory.org or (607)535-9741

Books Available at the Museum

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

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

The Montour Falls Business District: West Main Street's Proud Past and Hopeful Future by Virginia Steil Bruckner (\$21.50)

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)

SCHS Constitution to be Revised

At the annual meeting the Society membership will be asked to approve proposed changes to the constitution relating to changes in honorary membership definitions and the composition of the Board of Trustees.

The proposed changes were approved by the Board of Trustees on February 24, 2010.

Proposed changes:

Honorary memberships will be voted on by the Board of Trustees.

Also, the number of elected trustees will change from nine (9) to ten (10) because the Legislative Representative is being changed from an appointed to an elected, at-large, position.

tion. The total number of trustees will remain at fifteen (15).

Details of the proposed changes can be found at the SCHS website www.schuylerhistory.org.

Copies of the proposed revised constitution are also available for review at the Brick Tavern Museum.

Civil War Exhibit Case

There is a new exhibit case featuring Schuyler County in the Civil War. Schuyler County raised and recruited a significant amount of men and material for the Union war effort.

On display are artifacts from our collections, such as a homemade spoon and knife used by a local

Reading boy while in captivity in the South, a set of cavalryman's boots, a bayonet, a major's coat, ammunition pouch and cap box, GAR pins and medals, and photos.

2010 marks the 145th year since the end of the war. Come by and see our interesting items on display!

Mark your Calendars for these Upcoming Events!

April 6—Museum reopens

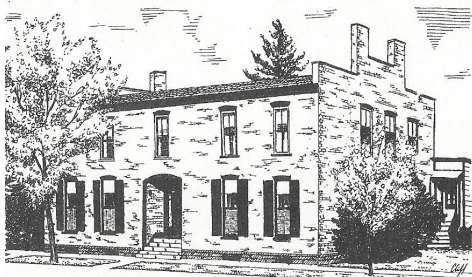
April 21—Annual Meeting & John Potter presentation, Montour Falls Human Services Complex, 7pm.

May 8—Victorian Tea, 11:30am and 1:30pm seatings, \$12 per person, age 10 and under \$6.

SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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We're on the Web!
www.schuylerhistory.org

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

Join or Renew Your Membership In the Schuyler County Historical Society

Please note on the above address label the date of your Society membership expiration. If it reads 12/31/09 or before your membership is now due and *The Vista* has been sent to you as a courtesy reminder.

Please fill out and send in the enclosed membership form so that we can update your membership. If your membership is current, please feel free to share *The Vista* with non-members and encourage them to join. Thank you!



The Bethesda Sanitarium in Montour Falls, circa 1910
Owned and operated by Dr. Charles D. Clawson,
past owner of our Brick Tavern Museum.