

Schuyler County Historical Society

~The Vista~

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 2008

**Schuyler County
Historical Society
Brick Tavern Museum
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www.schuylerhistory.org
info@schuylerhistory.org**

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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Concert at Lawrence Chapel

"A Musical Afternoon at the Lawrence Chapel" will be held on Sunday, September 14th at 2pm. Musicians Roxanne Ziegler and Mitzie Collins will play a selection of American standards, old hymns, and Celtic music on the harp and hammered dulcimer in the beautiful setting of the Lawrence Chapel, which overlooks Cayuta Lake on Route 228 between Odessa and Mecklenburg.

The Chapel is rarely open to the public so be sure to reserve the date on your calendar. The chapel was built in 1880 as a memorial to the children of Samuel and Elizabeth Lawrence. Nine of their ten children are buried in the nearby cemetery.

Today the Lawrence Chapel is mostly open for weddings, the first one being held there in 1882. Mrs. Adelaide Willett, heir of the Lawrence estate, deeded the chapel to the Chemung County Historical Society in 1972.

This project, as well as the stitching course described below, is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts' Decentralization Program adminis-



Beautiful Lawrence Chapel built in 1880.
Photo by Chemung Valley Historical Society.

tered locally by the ARTS of the Southern Finger Lakes.

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

Stitching Courses Offered at Museum

Two of the stitching classes, *Mystical Stairs and Hardanger Ornament*, have already been offered this summer but there is still time to sign up for our last course, *Finger Lakes Sampler*.

Each class has two sessions and attendance at both is highly recommended to fully learn the individual techniques.

Finger Lakes Sampler (cross stitch on linen), August 2nd and 16th, kit

cost \$18 [RSVP by July 19]

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

The Historical Society at Work

The Historical Society is often asked for help locating relatives or ancestors for genealogical purposes. A recent request to Board member and volunteer Marian Boyce bears repeating here.

In October 2007 Marian received a request from a woman in Norwalk, CT for information on a relative. A baby boy, born in 1919 in Bridgeport, CT, was brought to Watkins Glen when 2 weeks old and left with relatives. The immediate family never had contact with him again. The woman and her family wanted to know what ever happened to the boy.

Marian searched and searched and in reading one of the Schuyler County Red Cross monthly leaflets sent to servicemen and their families in World War II, noted he had tragically been killed in action in the Europe Theater in April 1945. On checking with Phil Smith of the local veterans office, he found the young soldier had been returned home for burial in a cemetery in Poughkeepsie, NY.

The search was still on, however, for a picture of the long-lost relative. In March 2008, on looking at newspaper clippings recently donated to the Museum, Marian found him as a young lad in the Schuyler

County Boys Band. The following week a friend of Marian's called to say she had her father's 1938 Watkins Glen High School yearbook with the person's photo in it. A member of the class also gave permission to have the family contact them for added information.

The family now had two photos of their relative, one as a boy, and one at high school graduation. Recently a third photo of him in uniform turned up. Marian received a tearful telephone "thank you" from the woman and her family and a great sense of accomplishment at being able to help bring closure to their search. Thank you Marian!

Freeman Family Foundation Grant Competition

Watkins Glen Middle Schoolers complete Regional History Projects

The Society recently partnered with the Freeman Family Foundation to offer the first 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) wanted to target middle schoolers as he felt they

are often overlooked and keeping that age group interested in history was very important.

Judging was completed in May by a mix of teachers and Society volunteers and winners were given a certificate, free membership, and a check by the Freeman Family Foundation during the June 24-25 middle school awards assembly.

Winners for the 7th and 8th Grade:

1st Place Jessica Brogdon, 2nd Place Austin Stephany, Honorable Mention Chelsea Kennard

Winners for the 5th and 6th Grade:

1st Place Madison Gates, 2nd Place Emily Doppel, Honorable Mention Natasha Patel.

Winning projects are on display at the Museum through July.

Victorian Tea 2008 & Recent Book Signing Recap

This year's Victorian Tea was held on Saturday, May 10th at the Brick Tavern Museum. Volunteers prepared and served around 80 attendees in two seatings.

A variety of teas were served, such as Sencha, Irish Breakfast tea, Mango, and Strawberry.



Victorian Tea at the
Brick Tavern Mu-
seum.

Light refreshments were also served. Our thanks to all involved for a successful tea!

On Saturday, June 7th Upstate author Anita Sanchez spoke and signed copies of her book *The Teeth of the Lion: The Story of the Be-*

loved and Despised Dandelion.

Ms. Sanchez gave a brief history of the dandelion, answered questions, and ended with participants tasting dandelion tea. It was a pleasant afternoon for all involved. Copies of the book are still available at the Museum.

Display your Hobby or Collection at the Museum

The Brick Tavern Museum would like to display your hobby or collection in our front lobby display case. Your hobby or collection does not necessarily have to do with Schuyler County but should be of general interest to the citizens of the county and visitors.

Your collection, or part of it, must fit in our front dis-

play case. The display case is roughly 6 feet high by 5 feet long, and 1 foot deep. Please contact the Museum at (607)535-9741 or info@schuylerhistory.org for us to consider displaying your hobby or collection.

Please keep in mind your hobby or collection will be on loan to us for at least a month for display purposes.

Committees Forming at the Historical Society

The Historical Society has recently decided to form a number of committees to further its mission to record and protect Schuyler County history. In forming these committees we hope to get our membership to help with new ideas or share their expertise.

The committees are open for members to join.

They are: Finance, Collections, Education, Planning, Building & Grounds, Programs, Membership, Nomination, and Public Relations.

If you are interested in joining any of these committees please contact the Museum at (607)535-9741 or info@schuylerhistory.org.

Membership Appreciation

The Schuyler County Historical Society would like to thank all its new and renewing members for their 2008-09 dues. As you know, we can not operate without your generous support.

Also in the past year we have seen donations of a new computer and scanner, a map file drawer, and stor-

age shelving just to name a few.

Reminder: Dues paid now will go until December 31, 2009 as we are changing our membership year to a calendar year. Starting in 2010 your membership will run January to December instead of May to April as in the past.
Thanks again!

Silent Auction

A silent auction of a watercolor painting entitled "Hibiscus" by Ellen S. Parker is being held by the Society.

Ellen S. Parker (1896-1985) was a local Watkins Glen artist and a long-time fine arts teacher at Watkins Glen High School.

Come by the Museum to view "Hibiscus" and write your name on the bid sheet. Each increase must be \$2 or more, whole dollars only. If you wish to remain anonymous, see a staff member for a bidder number.

The auction will end October 18th and the winner will be notified by phone. All proceeds will benefit the Society.

Thank you and happy bidding!

Items and Volunteers Sought

The Society can always use donations of postage stamps, reams of copy paper, and packing envelopes of all sizes. Also a step and extension ladder.

We are also looking for volunteers to index a number of scrapbooks that were recently donated. The indexing could be done on your home computer. Please contact the Museum at (607) 535-9741 or info@schuylerhistory.org.

Mark your Calendars for these Upcoming Events!

September 14—Lawrence Chapel Concert, 2pm

October 4—Eileen Patch, living history in 1883, Museum, 1:30pm

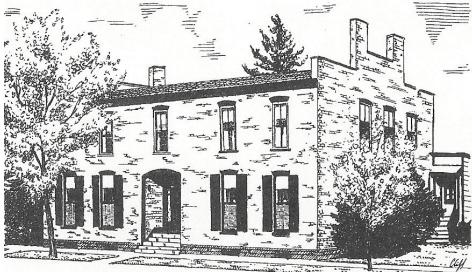
November 19—Barbara Bell, presentation on Seneca steamboats, Human Resources Building, 7pm

SCHUYLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Phone: 607-535-9741
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Non-Profit Org.
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Watkins Glen, N.Y.



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

Join or Renew Your Membership In the Schuyler County Historical Society

Please send to:
**Schuyler County Historical Society
PO Box 651
Montour Falls, NY 14865**

NOTE: New membership year. Dues paid now are good through December 31, 2009!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

I'd like to get involved and volunteer.

The Schuyler County Historical Society is a 503(c) tax exempt non-profit organization.

New Renew Gift

Individual (\$20) Couple (\$25)

Organization (\$40) Business/Patron (\$50)

Benefactor (\$100) Donor (\$250)

Student (\$5) [18 years and under]