

Virgil Historical Society Newsletter

November, 2018

Virgil, NY

Issue #6

Meeting times: third Thursday of September, November, March, and May

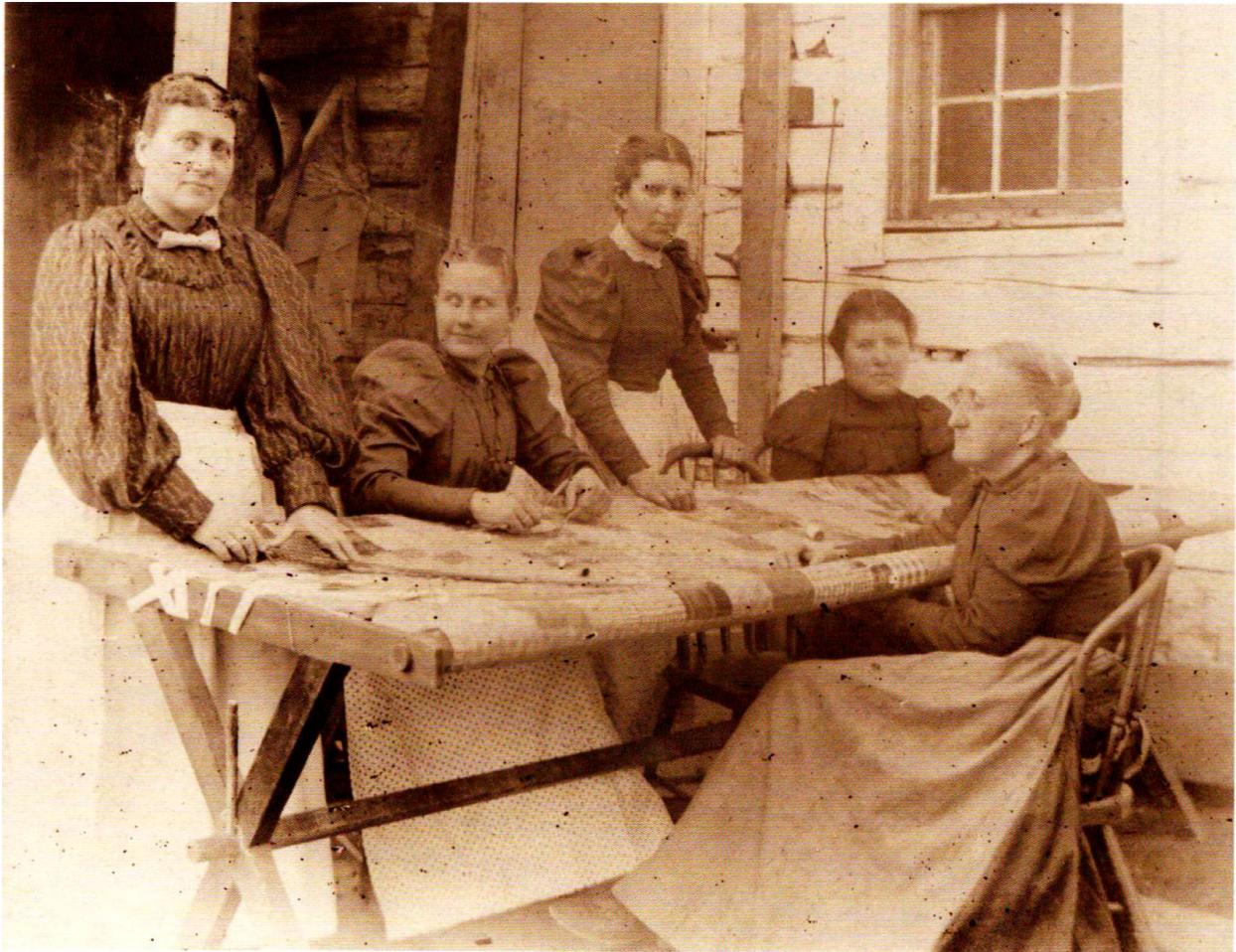
7PM

Virgil Town Hall, 1176 Church St, Virgil NY

Next meeting: November 15, 2018

Special Guest Speaker: Barbara Ackley “Quilting: Past and Present”

Noted local quilter Barbara Ackley will talk to us about the history of quilting, and how quilts grew from recycled necessities to works of art. Did you know Virgil has a quilt at the Smithsonian? Come and find out about it, and examine some local handiwork.



Pioneer Quilting Bee, photo p. 31 of *The Quilt that Walked to Golden* by Sandra Dallas

Past events:

We had an interesting presentation in September by Dr. Ellie McDowell-Loudan, Professor of Anthropology at SUNY Cortland. Dr. McDowell-Loudan told us about the native people of Cortland County and a few of the areas she and her students have investigated. A few days later, she was invited back to look at a potential site for artifacts scouted out by our own archaeological member, Gary Pelton. Gary thinks that a knoll that sits between Gridley Creek and Virgil Creek might yield some interesting prehistoric material. One tribe likely travelled from the Tioughnioga River up Gridley Creek on hunting trips, while another might have come up Virgil Creek from Cayuga Lake. The two streams come close to one another on either side of this knoll, and Gary thinks it would have been a natural site for trading and ceremony. We spoke with the Benners who own the property, and they may be willing to allow an archaeological survey group (us) to follow behind them when they plow and disc in the spring of 2020! Get the boots and the eagle eyes ready!

We had a spooky good time on October 27 at the Virgil Cemetery Tour.



In the brick crypt

The weather was terrible: rainy, sleet/snowing, grey. Who would have predicted that 16 brave and hardy souls would show up for the tour?!! Historian Marsha Powell told us about the history of the two cemeteries. She introduced us to some of the stone carvers and demonstrated their patterns, and told the stories of several notable and notorious citizens now residing underground. A great time was had by all, and afterwards we enjoyed Hollenbeck's cider and doughnuts. We fattened the Historical Society coffers as well as our stomachs. This will have to be an annual event!



Storytelling in the graveyard

We will have a monetary decision to make at this November meeting, so please be mulling it over. Great progress has been made on collecting stories of Virgil for the oral history book being assembled by Lynn Olcott and Sue Connelly. There are over 30 submissions with photos, and it's time to think about printing some booklets. The idea will be to sell the booklets as a money-maker for the Virgil Historical Society. These items have sold very well in other small towns, and the initial investment will undoubtedly pay off. Lynn and/or Sue will present their pitch at

the November meeting, and will probably be asking the Society to front around \$800 for printing. An exciting project!

Upcoming Events:

Ongoing oral history project for an eventual book about Virgil's history. Contact Lynn Olcott

“Quilting: Past and Present” by Barbara Ackley, November 15th at 7pm, Virgil Town Hall. The talk will be followed by a business meeting for Historical Society members.

Next Virgil Historical Society meeting after November will be March 21, 2019

November 7, Lunch & Learn, “History of the Cortland Water Board” by Mike Dexter
12:10 PM, Cortland County Historical Society, 25 Homer Ave, Cortland

November 10, “Second Saturdays at the Suggett House Museum”. Free admission from 1-4pm, with funerary and mourning items featured. Local baseball historian Tony Kissel will be there from 2-3pm to sign copies of his new book “Young John McGraw of Truxton.” Copies are \$9 each.

Nov 15, “Chenango County’s Land and People: Third Thursday Talk” by Henry Drexler
45 Rexford St, Norwich NY, 7-8:30pm. A history of the people and places that make Chenango County so unique.



Coming right up...