

Historians' Bulletin

August 2010

3rd issue

Greetings Municipal Historians!

As the fall approaches, summer events are winding down to a close and we prepare for a new school year. I hope you all have an enjoyable Labor Day and hope to see you at the upcoming historians' meeting.

Minutes from Historians' meeting 6-11-2010 at Montgomery County Dept. of History & Archives

Attended: Rob von Hasseln (City of Amsterdam), Bill Maring (Root), Lorraine Whiting (Charleston), Ryan Weitz (Fultonville), David Manclow (Palatine & Minden), Anita Smith (St. Johnsville), Steve Helmin (Glen), Kelly Farquhar (Montgomery County)

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

David Manclow provided a great slide presentation of images, many digitized from Myron Saltsman's slide collection, of Fort Plain and the surrounding area.

Kelly Farquhar discussed the collaborative effort between the Dept. of History & Archives, Old Fort Johnson National Historic Landmark and a 7th Social Studies teacher at Fonda-Fultonville school to provide an outreach kit that will be available to teachers for use in their classrooms. The kit will include copies of historic documents from each collection, booklets and historical information from the colonial period. With the schools cutting back on field trips to historic sites, this is a great way to bring local history to the students. The teachers can sign out the kit for a period of time, create lessons and utilize the kit's items at their discretion. This is a pilot project and if successful, we will be seeking funding to compile future kits.

A local photography club is working on a project to document "Main Streets" and historic buildings across Montgomery County. The project will likely take a few years and members of the club may be contacting local historians to find out any other significant structures that should be documented through photography.

It was also suggested to add a "book review" feature in the quarterly historians' newsletters. The first book suggested was Phil Otterness' Becoming German about the 1709-10 immigration of Palatines.

Next meeting scheduled for Friday, Sept. 17th 2010 at Fort Klock, Route 5, St. Johnsville - 1pm. Bob Arnold, public historian and retired from the New York State Archives, will be presenting his talk "First Do No Harm" discussing the various relationships involved as a public historian. If you've never been to an historians' meeting before, we would love to see you there! Please RSVP to (518) 853-8186 or email kfarquhar@co.montgomery.ny.us.

The database for the inventory of the archival collection at the Montgomery County Department of History & Archives is finally available for searching online. While the records

themselves will not be available, you are now able to do a 'keyword' search to see what is in our collection. There are still improvements to be made and that is a work in progress. Visit our website at www.co.montgomery.ny.us/historian and click on the "search archives" box.

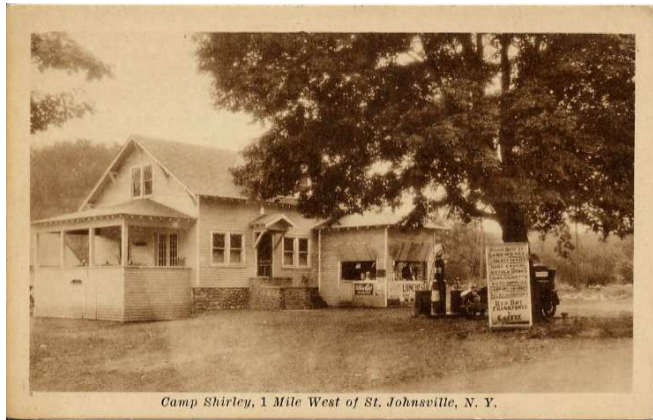
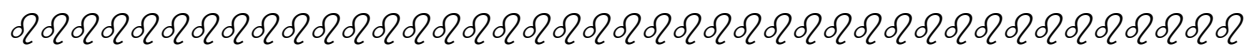


Figure 1 & 2 -- Camp Shirley, St. Johnsville and West Shore Depot, Fort Plain. These postcards were offered for sale on ebay.

Upcoming Events

September 11th & 12th 2010 – 10am-5pm (Sat.) & 10am-4pm (Sun.) – Fort Klock Historic Restoration, Route 5, St. Johnsville – *Two Day Craft Fair*. Over 100 talented crafters and artisans will offer their creations. This is one of the best craft fairs in the Northeast and features crafters from several states. Friends of Fort Klock will prepare homemade food on Saturday. A food wagon with fries, hot dogs, hamburgers, and refreshments will be available on both days. Please phone (518) 568-7779 for information. Free admission to the craft fair, trade room gift shop and free parking. A small fee is charged for guided tours of the fortified farmhouse.

October 16th 2010 – 7-9pm – Old Fort Johnson National Historic Landmark, Corner of Routes 5 & 67, Fort Johnson, NY -- *Voices of the Past - Readings from Past Centuries*. Evening, candlelight event celebrates New York State Archives Month and featuring readings from 18th and 19th century letters and journals. Visitors will be lead through select rooms in the Old Fort where they will stop and listen to chosen excerpts. This year's selections include, but are not limited to: "Hints for Officers" written by William Johnson in 1755; the poems of 19th century literary sensation Lucretia M. Davidson; an 1833 excerpt from the journal of Jonathan Pearson describing his trip on the Erie Canal; and the 19th century letters of Caroline Frey Giddings, wife of a US Army officer stationed in New Orleans during the Civil War. \$5.00 for adults, kids 12 and under free. Call 518-843-0300 or www.oldfortjohnson.org for details.



Dave Manclow, historian for the Towns of Minden and Palatine, reported that the Casper Getman farm in Stone Arabia has been nominated to the State and National Registers of Historic Places and is up for review.

Bill Maring, historian for the Town of Root, reported that the Root Historical Society is trying to acquire the old town hall in Flat Creek. He has also been cleaning out the Jacob Dievendorf cemetery off Darrow Road.

Anita Smith, Town / Village of St. Johnsville historian, has been putting the slides that she took of the Dutch Barns back in the late 1970s and early 1980s onto CD. She also reported that the Margaret Reaney Library has been nominated and is up for review to be placed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Anita contacted the American Legion and D.A.R. for lists of where they place veterans' markers in cemeteries and she is working with the Boy Scouts to create maps.

Rob von Hasseln, historian for the City of Amsterdam, has been instrumental in the organization of an Amsterdam historical society, known as the Historic Amsterdam League. One of the first items of business is to track down information regarding the murals, a panorama of the natural environment starting in Fort Johnson, found on the 3rd floor of the building at 46 East Main Street. The City will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of its charter (1885). The first and last pages of the charter have been framed and are on display at City Hall. The television show "Ghost Hunters" will be investigating paranormal events at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame (formerly Tenzer's Furniture) on Main Street with an episode to air in the fall.

Lorraine Whiting, historian for the Town of Charleston, has been busy working on the restoration of the schoolhouse at the junction of Corbin Hill Road and NYS Route 162. The bell from the Auriesville school is now in the District No. 2 (formerly No. 11) schoolhouse. With the discovery of the Staley Cemetery off East Corbin Hill Road, which is being cleaned up as part of an Eagle Scout project, Lorraine has begun researching the Staley family. Two members of the family were soldiers in the Civil War and are buried in this cemetery.

Ryan Weitz, Fultonville Village Historian, has been continuing his work with others in the cleanup of the Hoff-Shelp cemetery in the Mill Point area on the line of the towns of Glen and Florida. Additionally, he procured a gravestone plaque through the Veterans' Administration for the grave of Civil War veteran Thomas Horton in the Old Fultonville cemetery. Ryan will continue his work as Fultonville historian while pursuing his degree in Civil Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Please send me information about the work that you are doing as a public historian in Montgomery County and I'll include it in upcoming newsletters. We love to share with each other the progress and success of our projects, as well as any difficulties. You can either send me a little note in the mail or by email to kfarquhar@co.montgomery.ny.us.



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