

(518) 374-0263 <http://www.schist.org>

Editor email: slbvs@aol.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It has been a busy and beautiful fall here at SCHS. Our November Colonial Dinner was a fun time with an unusual, varied fare. Bill Massoth and his team did an outstanding job and were able to accommodate more guests than expected. Bill's running commentary was both humorous and informative.

The Christmas monthly meeting was enhanced by the Culinary Arts class from Schenectady High School who prepared and served substantial refreshments. As usual Mrs. Mordecai had outdone herself in decorating our facilities with help from the Hugh Plat Garden Club. The efforts are part of a state-wide contest of Christmas decorations by various garden groups. The stairway seemed particularly well done.

In the Vrooman Room which was decorated as "The Old Curiosity Shop" Professor William Murphy spoke about Jeanne Robert Foster, a Schenectady resident for 45 years, who had been a friend of many notable literary and art figures, and much talented in her own right. I recall meeting her in her later years, mainly due to her interest in civil rights issues, and finding her to be charming and beautiful.

As I write this piece, it is a sunny late fall day and I am impressed with the magnificent colors of the bottles set on the high window shelf on the south side of the library. Elsie Maddaus our archivist has collected these bottles and may extend the collection to the north side although there is less sun there. That last group of bottles was donated by Wayne and Carol Harvey.

We have completed repairs on the library and foyer heating system which will keep us at proper temperatures and with proper humidity. This will not only be nice for us humans, but also will help preserve our books, documents, paintings and other artifacts.

At the Mabee Farm the foundation for our Dutch barn has been completed partly due to the good weather this fall. Part of the barn is also there, with erection to take place as soon as damaged beams are repaired or replaced— maybe even this winter. A "necessary" item has also been moved to the premises: an outhouse donated by the Cobblestone Church. It is described as a substantial four-holer, and Scott is about to put on a new roof and have it ready for business (as a tool shed).

Hopefully before the end of the year, thus allowing tax inclusion in 1998, we will send out brochures and forms for contributions for our fund raising drive for the Mabee Farm. This will be our biggest effort for funds since we built the library some years ago. Part of the Mission Statement for SCHS when it was formed in 1905 was "to acquire by purchase, gifts, devise or otherwise the title to or the custody and control of historic sites and structures." Our efforts with the Mabee Farm are thus very much in line with our purpose, and it is imperative that we back this effort with our full capacity. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

We look forward to an active winter program. Try to join us in our monthly meetings. Rosemary Harrigan, our program chair, provides interesting and varied programs. There is even a rumor that the gas lights in the front of our building may be fixed after all these years. I continue to be impressed with the dedication of our volunteers and staff. What a great group we are! People continue to "come through" in so many ways. Thank you.

- Bob Sager -

JANUARY PROGRAM

On January 9, 1999, Join Anneke Bull for "Fun and Games," a program about children's games. A similar program was presented in the past, but this time there will be opportunity for audience participation. Instead of just listening you might like to try your hand at some of the games.

And Anneke is bringing her *sjoelbak*! Join us on the 9th and find out what a *sjoelbak* is.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

On February 13, 1999, Frank Griggs will provide a show from his extensive slide collection of bridges. This is an opportunity to firm up our ability to classify bridges, to find out once and for all why some bridges are built like the Golden Gate bridge, and some are built like the Brooklyn Bridge.

COLONIAL DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS

Thirty-six people feasted in great satisfaction during the November Colonial feast put on by Bill Massoth and a cadre of colonials: Rosemary Harrigan, Jean Massoth, Sally van Schaick, Bill Dimpelfeld, Irma Mastriani and Stephanie Albers. Stasia Berdy kept things rolling in the kitchen while the rest ran in and out with pitchers of cider, sarsaparilla and beer. We stuffed ourselves with ham, baked beans, johnny cake, salmagundi and George Washington pumpkin pie. Those colonials sure knew how to eat!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FULL HOUSE

Sixty members and friends joined us for a festival of good food and fascinating talk. Professor William Murphy told us the tale of Jeanne Foster, a long time resident of Schenectady, who had, prior to her Schenectady sojourn, been a model for the likes of Charles Dana Gibson, a poet in her own right, a friend of such notables as Ezra Pound and James Joyce, and the long time friend of John Butler Yeats, the father of the poet William Butler Yeats. Professor Murphy is a world renowned Yeats scholar, and the author of *Prodigal Father*, the biography of John Butler Yeats.

Suzanne Bernadt, Culinary Arts teacher from Schenectady High School, and her daughter Betsy Bernadt who has become addicted to our Christmas parties, along with students Adetoro Masenodunmi and James Redmond, supplied us with an incredibly delicious, sophisticated table of what Rudyard Kipling used to call "superior comestibles." Nice pastries, that is. Thank you!

MUSEUM NEWS

Jo Mordecai, Coordinator of exhibits

As Jo Mordecai prepared her nostalgic exhibit "The Old Curiosity Shop" in the Vrooman room, she reflected on Christmas of the past. Here with her thoughts.

Preparations for Christmas are happy times, keeping family traditions, possibly bringing out the cherished recipes that had been introduced many years ago by Grandmother. Each treasure put away so carefully each year is lovingly unpacked, polished and put on the Christmas tree, with happy memories relayed with each decoration. Unfortunately Christmas is upon us before you can say "Jack Frost" and that very special day comes to an end much too soon.

It's hard to realize that Christmas and any such form of celebration were once banned in our country. For many years there was no Christmas in New England. The Puritans bitterly opposed any kind of gaiety or a feeling of special happiness for the Christmas season. In fact they made a point of working longer hours on Christmas, just to show everyone their contempt for

what they thought was a pagan ritual.

During Colonial times in Massachusetts a law was passed forbidding anyone to celebrate Christmas, and many a young man who was brash enough to call out "Merry Christmas" to anyone was arrested and punished either with a stiff fine or jail.

In 1630 when the Puritans formed their colony, they settled in Boston. They believed that Jesus had been sent to Earth to save mankind as a fallen race; they considered it extremely wicked to celebrate this most serious occasion, as they thought we were doomed, doomed, doomed!

Besides, all this jollity and good fellowship often led to serious results-- were not all the prisons of Old England full to capacity the day after Christmas -- did not people get drunk and lose their senses -- eat too much and feel too lazy to work? So it was far more sensible not to have Christmas at all. This law remained in effect for nearly 22 years; all that time it was unlawful to have a "Merry Christmas."

Little by little Christmas gained favor as a holiday -- but up until 1856 (less than ten years before the Civil War), Governor Nathaniel Banks deemed December 25th a legal holiday in Massachusetts. During all those years the use of evergreens, spruce or mistletoe and holly as decoration was not allowed as that would be to desecrate any church or meeting house.

Today we have Christmas all over the U. S. A. One thing I wish we had is Boxing Day, the day after Christmas. That is when your family either gives a party or goes to one. It's a lovely way to end the Christmas season. In my homeland Boxing Day is a beloved day off from work and a day to relax.

I hope you all will have a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year, and may you find many surprises in the Society with interesting speakers and enjoyable exhibits and lots of Genealogy.

FROM YOUR HOUSE TO OUR HOUSE

Donor -- Mr. Wayne Harvey, Schenectady -- 35 Christmas Cards, late Victorian

(Part of our Christmas Exhibit)

Donor -- Mrs. Dorothy White, Schenectady -- A white cotton wedding ensemble; also long petticoat. All have the open lace work of embroidered panels of the late 19th Century. Excellent condition

Donor -- Mr. Peter Van Voast -- Memorial Plaque, Holland, 1947

Donor -- Patricia E. Rufo, Schenectady -- A wooden threshing hay rack; an earthenware jug -- Pliny Thayer, Lansingburgh

Donor -- Ms Betty Lou Phillips, Schenectady -- A brick from the old Schenectady High School torn down in 1972

Donor -- Mrs. Rose Dixon, Schenectady -- One cherry pitter, circa late 1890's; belonged to Clara Childs Dixon, Rose's husband's grandmother.

MABEE FARM EVENTS

Work on the foundations for the Nilson barn, designed by Keith Cramer, Dutch Barn Society architect, went well, with Louise Basa and Ron Kingsley on hand to observe and preserve objects of archaeological interest. John Ruscio of J and B Contractors made sure nothing was overlooked, but not much turned up.

We visited Steve Swift's Restoration Supply operation outside Middleburg on December 10 and saw the antique timbers being cut for the "new" sill needed. Those on which the Nilson barn had sat for some 250 years weren't worth moving.

The work already contracted will use up the barn fund with 12" siding, 24" roof shingles and a modern lightning-rod system

to be paid for. To do that, and to provide a visitor center and other requirements to put the Farm on display, we're about to embark on a fund-raising venture.

The Schenectady Foundation has offered two \$50,000 challenges that will take \$300,000 of other funds to match. Several major donors will help immensely, but others of us who care will have to do our share. Maybe (perhaps) that's the motto for the Mabee Farm Site Development Fund Drive: "Those of us who care, Have to do our share!"

MANDALAY DELORES GREMS

This issue we feature an account of the life of Mandy Grems by her niece Frances Gotcsik.

For more than 50 years, Mandalay Grems was Aunt Mandy to me. I feel very fortunate to have had such an inspirational female role model, long before it was recognized how important for young girls that can be.

She was always someone extraordinary -- even down to her name. When I was growing up, everyone thought it strange to have an aunt with that name; I felt it made her even more special. It's interesting that nowadays Mandy has become a popular name for girls, but I don't think they're Mandalay, I don't believe they were named because their fathers liked Kipling's poem "On the Road to Mandalay."

I think of the many ways Aunt Mandy led by example and encouraged my brother and me as children to expand our horizons. The postcards we received, the dolls and other small presents she brought back, and the accounts of life she shared with us from countries throughout the globe, gave us a greater understanding of the world beyond upstate New York. When we visited her in New York City or Seattle, she introduced us to a wide variety of new experiences of big city life and national parks that I still vividly remember.

To me she was always larger than life. I was awed by her sense of adventure -- her winter camping, her hiking trips, her climb up Mt. Hood, her sailboat, her Chevy convertible, the bright colors she wore, and how she always brought her sleeping bag when she came to visit. I admired her unflappable spirit as she set out to discover yet another new place, never as the consummate tourist, but always as someone hungry to know the people and their culture. In seventh grade we were discussing the meaning of the word "cosmopolitan." I remember raising my hand and explaining how I thought my aunt was a perfect illustration.

She took a keen interest in our education, supported my parents' firm belief in its importance, and generously assisted my brother and me with college costs. She had done well academically, and when I was very young I decided I wanted to be like that. Early in our growing up, she encouraged us to start thinking about career and college choices. She didn't dictate her views, but would point out various people, mention that we might want to consider what they were doing as a career choice, and talk with us about what would be the requirements.

By action rather than feminist rhetoric, Aunt Mandy taught me that women are just as good as men at math and science. The fact that she became an engineer at a time when so few women did anything like that was very empowering to me and allowed me to pursue math and science, unfettered by any feelings that it would be too difficult. Using her example, I was stimulated by the challenge to prove that gender does not make a difference. She continued that same interest in and support of education for my two daughters, and has served as an important role model for them also.

I have always been in awe of her intellect and the way in which she pursued everything she was interested in to the fullest. She was a consummate researcher. The breadth and depth of her genealogical research is testimony to that. Only recently have I begun to understand the pioneering role she played in the development of computer technology. I remember, when we were visiting Mount Rainier in 1957, as I climbed back into the front seat of her Chevy convertible, I asked her what she did. She told me that she was working on something that some day would allow all the information in books in a library to be able to fit into a file cabinet. She was working then on what we all enjoy now. I never forgot what she said; I couldn't imagine how it could be done.

What I respect most, however, is that Mandy never let her personal success interfere with her commitment to doing for others first. I believe she was always thinking, "how can I help someone else?" She asked very little for herself, choosing instead to share what she had with others. She gave generously to the Schenectady County Historical Society in terms of financial and material rescues and, most importantly, in terms of her time. Her work at the Schenectady Library and the State Library represent a long-standing and consistent commitment to her community. Even around her own apartment building, it was Mandy who helped others with their needs and planted the gardens, not only for herself, but also with an interest in giving everyone something pretty to look at. In the end she was happiest at the Marjorie Doyle Rockwell Center when she had a job to do or she could be of assistance to others for whom physical movement did not come as easily as it always had for Mandy.

I am immensely proud to be a niece of Mandy Grems. She was a remarkably successful and selfless woman who lived her faith, and taught us all so much through what she did.

We'll have more reminiscences about Mandy in the next issue.

WHAT DID THE COLONISTS EAT IN THE WINTER? by Bill Massoth

Sometimes I think about how life must have been in Colonial times, particularly about preserving food for the winter time. Canning and frozen food had not been invented, and drying and salting were the colonists' only tools to preserve food for the winter.

Fortunately grains such as wheat, rye, oats and barley and, yes, corn would keep all winter -- and flax seed too. I almost forgot about flax or linseed. Flax gave the settler linen thread from the stems of the flax, and food and oil from its seed. Linseed gave him oil for cooking or paint. It was also a grain to be used in breads, muffins, etc.

The Indians taught the settlers to dry fruits, berries, pumpkin and squash, as well as meats -- pemmican and jerkie. The Indians also taught the settler to use nuts: American chestnut as well as hickory nuts, butternuts, black walnuts and beeches, the small nuts from the beech tree, and acorns. Yes, they treated acorns with lye water made from leaching water through wood ashes.

Meats were preserved by curing with salt: bacon, ham, corned beef and jerkie are examples. Sausage that was to be kept for winter was also heavily salted, spiced, cooked and put in a firkin. The early firkins were made from white oak. The later ones were crockery. The procedure was thus: a layer of lard was put in the bottom of the firkin, a layer of sausage next, making sure that the edge of the sausage patty didn't touch the edge of the firkin, and another layer of lard, and so on until the firkin was nearly full. About two inches of lard was put on top. The top two inches or so would become rancid and be skimmed off and saved for soap making. Lard and butter were also preserved the same way in firkins.

Vegetables too were preserved with salt or were pickled. Sauerkraut and salt pickles are two examples that are still with us today. String beans or snap beans were similarly preserved.

The settlers would put apples and root crops in their smokehouses until after bears hibernated. Early smokehouses were made of stone or brick with heavy oak doors to protect from bears. Later the apple and root crops were placed in root cellars, at least four feet deep in the earth to prevent freezing.

Cabbage was stored in underground barrels, covered with a couple of feet of leaves on top as insulation so that the cabbage would freeze, but not freeze and thaw. Frozen cabbage could not be used raw as for cole slaw. However, frozen cabbage along with a ham hock or corned beef made a wonderful meal.

Bon appetit!

LIBRARY POTPOURRI Elsie Maddaus - Archivist - Librarian

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Donor: Dennis Deford

Old Ledger pages; Dutch-English Dictionary

Donor: Frank Karwowski

Photo - Freihofer driver and wagon

Donor: Janet A. Hawkes

Eleven Schenectady School yearbooks and photo books of California

Donor: Ruth E. Hand

Many military, Bible, church records, etc.

Donor: Norma W. Flora

New York in the Revolution by Roberts

Donor: Lorraine Whiting

Bible Records compiled by Old Helleburgh Chapter, NSDAR

Donor: Donald A. Keefer

The Van Epps Papers

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE TRIP

The Library and Archives Committee plan a trip to the New York State Historical Association Library in Cooperstown, NY in the latter part of April, 1999.

Many of the materials located there are also available at the New York State Library in Albany. However, anyone doing Genealogy in that part of New York State may find information there not available elsewhere.

There's room for eleven people. The cost of library admission is \$3. Lunch will be on one's own at the hotel in Cooperstown.

Anyone interested please contact Elsie Maddaus at 374-0263.

HISTORY OF THE FORMER Genealogy SOCIETY OF SCHENECTADY

by Elsie Maddaus

Several times I have been asked to the address of a genealogical society in Schenectady. There isn't any, to my knowledge. A former "Schenectady Genealogical Society" was in existence from 1940-1947.

Sometime in 1938, Howard McConville and Charles Huntley, both General Electric Company employees, discovered that they were both interested in researching family history. They decided to explore the possibility of forming an association. They wrote an article and had it printed in the *Gazette*. The first meeting was held at the headquarters of the Schenectady County Historical Society. Attendance was 35, half of whom were Mormons. Later McConville was elected president; Huntley, vice president; Ira Terry, secretary and Walter Reagles, treasurer.

Several meetings were held in the Children's Room at the public library. Presidents from 1940 to 1947 included McConville,

Terry, Henry Ritchie, J. Warren Joyce, Mrs. Walter Drew and Huntley. A variety of programs on various aspects of Genealogy were presented at the meetings which later were held in SCHS rooms.

On October 7, 1947, the terms for merger of this genealogical society with Schenectady County Historical Society were presented to the membership. By the terms of the merger, a new Genealogical Committee was formed to have charge of this activity; the balance of the treasury of the genealogical society was turned over to the treasurer of SCHS; a genealogical session would be held once a month at SCHS; the archives of the genealogical society were to be merged with the archives of SCHS.

According to McConville: "Unfortunately most of the members lost interest, so the Genealogical Committee was never carried out and Genealogy was not carried as a part of the historical society programs."

On the shelf of the Gremis-Doolittle Library there is a binder containing many materials of this former group. Included are copies of speeches, directions for doing basic Genealogy, location of regional resources, lists of members, minutes of meetings, constitution and bylaws and other articles of interest. Anyone researching Genealogy today will find many of these very timely.

AROUND THE COUNTY by Elsie M. Maddaus

DELANSON:

The Delanson Post Office was established in 1893 in Rector's Hall across from the fire hall. The present building on Main Street was formerly Floyd Barton's garage and automobile agency. Then in the 1950's it was a school bus garage. It was finally purchased by Charles Wilber and became the Post Office. It will celebrate 15 years in this building in the spring of 1999.

DUANESBURG:

Duanesburg was established by patent March 13, 1765, but was first recognized as a town March 22, 1788. It at first consisted of only 20,000 acres; the greater part of the remaining acreage was acquired by 1786. Actual settlement of the town was in 1765 when Judge Duane contracted with about 20 families from Pennsylvania to begin a settlement. Of these, 16 families came and located permanently.

GLENVILLE:

Percy Van Epps was appointed the first historian of Glenville in 1926. Other historians have included Donald Keefer, Henrietta VanderVeer and, presently, Joan Szablewski. Look for Joan's new book titled *The Van Epps Papers* to be available soon.

NISKAYUNA:

The Mohawk River is an important physical feature in Niskayuna. The flooding of the river has helped make this valley fertile. The river has also been an important means of transportation. Niska Isle and Shaker Island are located in the river and are part of the town. The most important tributary of the Mohawk River in Niskayuna is the Lisha Kill.

PRINCETOWN:

In 1886 Princetown was composed of four centers of population. Princetown Hamlet was a small borough consisting of a post office, store, blacksmith shop, First Presbyterian Church and cemetery and a few houses. Kelly's Station was a small hamlet consisting of a railway station, store, post office, blacksmith shop, two or three houses and a cheese factory. Gifford consisted of a hotel, store, blacksmith shop, Reformed Church and parsonage and a few houses. Rynex Corners contained a store, post office, hotel, cheese factory, blacksmith shop and eight houses.

ROTTERDAM:

Descriptions and histories of the Town of Rotterdam have appeared in print since 1820 when the town was formed. They describe the industries, schools, churches, populations, etc. In an account printed in 1824, it was noted that there were more sheep in Rotterdam than people, that only about half the children went to school, and that some of the town's citizens still kept slaves. Times have changed!

SCHENECTADY:

Schenectady has been the inspiration of a number of composers and musicians. For example, there is "Schenectady, Schenectady," written to the tune of "O Tannenbaum"; "The Town We Love," sung to the air "My Maryland"; "I can't spell Schenectady," written for the Kermis celebration in 1948; "She lives near Old Mohawk," by G. W. Moore; "Schenectady, a Civic Anthem," by William H. Carroll; "The Ballad of Schenectady," by Walter Wylie; "Our Schenectady," words and music by John W. Van Laak. There's even a hymn tune called Schenectady, written by Nehemiah Shumway in 1801; the words by Isaac Watts. These are from our library pamphlet file.

SCOTIA:

There was once on Mohawk Avenue a building called The Bee Hive. It was so-named because it held so many families in tenement fashion. Since Scotia was more or less a village of single homes, it was most unusual to find six or eight families under one roof.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The education committee is about to launch its Early American kit. We are grateful to our sister city Nijkerk, some of whose citizens brought us a supply of wooden shoes to augment the items in the kits. How did they do this? Well, each traveler packed a pair of "klomppen" in his or her luggage when they came to Schenectady this fall. Anneke Bull made the presentation of the shoes to the Education Committee at the Christmas party. It is fitting that we receive these shoes from the citizens of the city where our founder, Arendt Van Curler, was born.

AMONG OURSELVES

We extend our congratulations to Derek Sayers upon his receiving the 1998 Rozendaal Award. This award is given each year in memory of Hans Rozendaal who was one of the founders of Hospice in this region. Derek has worked with more than a hundred families over the past eleven years. A report from *The Voice of Hospice* says: "His gentle caring presence has made the final road less lonely."

We are proud of Derek, our vice-president, whose book *Early Memories and a Diary from World War II* is available in our office.



Bill Massoth who always needs something to do is making prints from old glass plate negatives -- some of the old covered bridge. We saw a few at the most recent Board meeting and hope to reproduce some in future issues of the Newsletter.



Welcome back, Don Keefer! We missed you and it's great to see you around.

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTING DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1998

Without you we would be nothing!

FOUNDATIONS:

The Walter S. Quinlan Foundation Carlilian Foundation

BUSINESS SPONSOR:

MVP Health Plan Trustco BankCorp Pattersonville TelephoneCompany

BUSINESS: SUPPORTING:

Bell Atlantic of New York

[life]

Mrs. Terry S Hinkle

Mr. George W Juno

Mr. Henry R Kelly

Fred and Catherine Kindl

Mrs. T S Kosinski

Ms Betty La Grange

Mr. & Mrs. Albert W Lawrence

Mr. Arthur J Levy

Mrs. Harold F. Lewis

Mrs. Veronica Lynch

Mrs. Alice W McChesney

Mrs. Ernest J Milano

Mr. Charles I Millington

Dr. James W Nelson

Mrs. Donald Nitchman

Mr. John P Papp

Mr. Donald F Putnam

Mr. Ronald K Ratchford

Mrs. H M Rozendaal

Mr. Norman J Rynex

Mr. James D J Schmitt

Mr. Frederick Sistarenik

Mr. Donald H Sutphen

Mrs. M Shirley Sutphen

Mr. John van Schaick

Mrs. Sally van Schaick

Mr. Charles S Van Wormer

Dr. & Mrs. William W Wells

Miss A Virginia Winne

Mr. Jay B Wright

Ms. Frieda H Wyman

SPONSOR:

Ms Linda S Flynt

Mr. & Mrs. Norman W. Fox;

Mr. Malcolm D Horton

Ms Gioia Ottaviano

DONOR:

Ms Doris L Clark

Mr. & Mrs. Robert E Fenton

Mr. & Mrs. Russell A Horth Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W Poupard

Mr. & Mrs. Robert L Stafford

Ms Virginia L Stark

Mr. & Mrs. Maynard J Toll Jr

Mr. Francis X Wallace

FAMILY:

Eli I Taub & Nancy Bell

Mr. & Mrs. Earl H Brinkman

Dr. & Mrs. Carlos A de La Rocha

Mr. & Mrs. Neff T Dietrich

Mr. & Mrs. John C Fitts

Mr. & Mrs. J Douglass Klein

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Lutton

Brian & Joan Maybee

Mr. & Mrs. Donald J Moore

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Pearson

Mr. & Mrs. James W Pontius

Mr. & Mrs. Charels F Richelieu

Dr. & Mrs. Charles F Stamm

John & Jean L Zegger

INDIVIDUAL:

Mr. Robert F. Bovee

Mrs. Ann L Bowerman

Mrs. Barbara Brockway

Mrs. Joan Marzítelli Brooks

Mr. Tom Carroll

Mrs. Norman O Chadbourne

Mrs. Kathryn M Clifford

Mrs. Lois S Crauer

Mrs. Earl DiCrosta

Mrs. Creta Mabie Ensley

Mrs. Frances C Fazio

Miss Margaret M Foley

Mr. Alfred J Fritz Jr.

Mrs Michael L Gelfand

Mr. Charles P Gould

Mrs. Jean Daley Gwynne

Dr. Franklyn C Hayford

Mr. Jack D Hickey

Mrs. Susan N Kangas

Mr. F John Neverman

Mr. Russell Patience

Mrs. E J Prior

Mr. C Malcolm Rhoades

Ms. Patricia E Rufo

Mr. Charles W Rupsis

Mr. Robert W Sager

Mr. Donald R Smith Jr.

Mrs. Ellen W Steele

Mr. Fred S Stevens

Mrs. Diana I Strnisa

Mrs. Abbie S Verner

Mrs. Mary E Wemple

Mrs. Ivajean B Wheeler

Mr. Richard J Williams

Mrs. Johanna M Woldring

Mr. Edward H Worthen

Mrs. Barbara L. Wylie

Mr. James Zayicek

Schenectada Chapter NSDAR

AUXILIARY

Mrs. Anna May Conroy

Mrs. Florence Federice

Mrs. Margaret S Francois

Miss Helen L Halloran

Mrs. Tecla Heuer

Mrs. Irma Mastrean

Mrs. Rocco Repice

Miss Marion M White

LIFE MEMBERS

Once a year we list our honored LIFE members. Many thanks to all of you.

Mr. Ira W. Blake

Mrs. Philip W. Bradway

Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Brown

Mr. Charles W. Carl, Jr.

Mr. Dudley E Chambers

Mrs. Elsa K Church

Mr. James E Cushing

Mrs. Muriel J deSorbo

Mr. William E Fasake

Mr. Werner L Feibes

Mr. & Mrs. Roland Fitzroy

Mr. Frederick C Fox, Jr.

Mr. George E Franchere

Mr. Robert F Fullam

Fr. George C Gagnon

The Family of R L George

Mr. Robert George

Miss Dorothea F Godfrey

Mrs. Sally B Goerg

Mr. Leon J Goldberg

Mr. & Mrs. Walter E Graubart

Miss Barbara Ann Grever

Mrs John E Hancock

Mr. Larry Hart

Mr & Mrs. Wayne Harvey

MANDY GREMS MEMORIAL

At this point we want to give a special thank you to the people who have contributed to the Mandy Grems Memorial through November 18.

Mrs. Margaret Berwaldt

Mr. & Mrs Fred W Billmeyer, Jr

Ms Doris L Clark

Miss Ruth Anne Evans

Mrs. Rose Fetter

Mrs. Frances S GotsikMr. Edward G Grems, III

Mrs. Mary Jo Lewis

Mr. & Mrs Ingo Maddaus

Ms R Roginska

Mrs. Ann H Ross

Auxiliary of the Schenectady County Historical Society

Mr. and Mrs. Donald H Sutphen

Mr. & Mrs. Francis R Taormina

John and Sally van Schaick

Ms Lucille Noyes

HANDICAPPED ACCESS

There is an elevator between the entrance vestibule at the back entrance, and the main floor. If you are on wheels, walker, or cane, enter through the parking space entrance and our staff will be happy to help you with the elevator.

Mission Statement:

Grems-Doolittle Library

The Grems-Doolittle library is a historical, biographical, and genealogical reference library whose purpose is "To gather, preserve, display and make available for study, books, manuscripts, papers, photographs and other records and materials relating to the early and current history of Schenectady County and of the surrounding area." The collection includes many histories and genealogies. Because it is a reference library, none of the material is permitted to leave the building so that it will be accessible to researchers at all times.

In Celebration of
The Village of Voorheesville's 100th Birthday
(1899-1999)



The Village Centennial Committee
Presents

A Lecture Series

At the
Voorheesville Public Library



Thursday, January 21, 7:30 PM

Jack McEneny

*"Why They Came, Whence They Came:
Ethnic Migration into Albany County"*

One of our region's finest raconteurs, NYS Assemblyman Jack McEneny will provide fact and anecdote galore about the settlement of Albany County's towns and villages during the 19th century. Not to be missed!



Wednesday, February 10 - 7:30 PM

Lucy McCaffrey

"Songs of History Are Worth a Thousand Pictures"

Renowned harpist and storyteller extraordinaire, Lucy McCaffrey will offer a splendid farrago of songs that reveal the hopes and dreams, disappointments and struggles of our ancestors. A must hear!



Tuesday, March 2 - 7:30 PM

Charles Gehring

*"Getting the Facts Straight: Ten Misconceptions
About our Colonial Dutch Ancestors"*

Was Manhattan really sold to the Indians for \$24? Did Stuyvesant have a peg leg? In a fun-filled, participatory lecture, the Director of the New Netherland Project will demystify many of the stories we learned as children about our Dutch ancestors. A *sine qua non!*



All presentations are free and open to everyone.

Please call the library (765 - 2791) to sign up.

Refreshments will be served.

Access for the disabled