

Schenectady County Historical Society Newsletter
Volume 40 - Number 1-2 January - February 2003
32 Washington Avenue
Schenectady, New York 12305

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CALENDAR

Saturday, January 11, 2003

1:30 Refreshments:

Program: Grand tour of the newly refurbished Dora Jackson House

Leader: Jo Mordecai, Director of exhibits

Wednesday, January 15, 2003

Board of Trustees

11:30 AM

February 6-9

Colonial Festival

(See enclosed feature)

Saturday, February 8, 2003

1:30 Refreshments

2:00 Program: Little known Facts about the American Revolution

Presenter: Bill Massoth

Wednesday, February 19, 2003

11:30 AM

Board of Trustees

Society Hours

Monday-Friday 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM to 12 Noon

Group tours by appointment

Phone (518) 374-0263

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

We were impressed. Before moving to Schenectady from the Syracuse area (Manlius) 38 years ago, we received a long-distance phone to sign up for home delivery of milk. I must confess I've forgotten how we responded. At that time home delivery of milk was the norm. Does anyone provide this service anymore?

Our eggman quit us about 20 years ago. He ran a one-man operation and he retired. Once a week he had delivered fresh-killed chickens to local restaurants from his farm near Schoharie. I think in his list of priorities the chickens came before the eggs.

The house-call vendors seem to be a dying breed. It's been decades since a knife-sharpening tinker did a job on our ham slicer. I'm reminded of him when I see the scratches he left in its chrome finish.

then there was one rainy fall evening when a young fellow showed up at our door claiming to be a Jewel Tea Company rep. I heard his spiel in complete disbelief.. Jewel Tea Company! Why they were a relic of my youth. I still remember their line of earthenware dishes -- cream color with orange and brown dime size dots. Are they still in business?

Some 60 years ago we had an insurance man who stopped in weekly to collect a quarter. I still have their paid-up policy. There was the ice man who was told when to stop, and how much ice to deliver, by a simple square card which was displayed in the front window of the house. One of four different weights of ice could be read depending on which edge was up.

My mother and I looked forward to the weekly butter delivery -- right off someone's farm. We snatched a sample before putting it in the ice box, which some time along the way was replaced with a Frigidaire. The money for our first fridge came from a source called "the ponies." A pastime of my father.

A sound which I can still hear in my memory is the "ag -- ee" call of the ragman. His call could be heard a block away as he alerted potential sellers of his approach. His horse-drawn wagon was full of people's discarded appliances, and sacks of broken glass. A friend used to collect glass bottles in a gunny sack. He then broke the while still in the sack by hitting them with a hammer. Broken glass took up less space than unbroken bottles. (Kirk Douglas' father was a ragman in Amsterdam, NY. Jack Nicholson worked as a ragman's assistant in the movie "Ironweed." Some of this movie was filmed locally and Schenectadian Lois Stillely can be seen hailing the ragman to come out back.)

The call of the ragman has been replaced by the ding-a-ling tune of the good humor man, and instead of the Jewel Tea man there are some "fine food" trucks roaming the streets of Scotia and Schenectady. I'll have to find out what they're peddling.

PS. I'm no longer impressed by long-distance phone calls soliciting my business.

- Bill Dimpelfeld

BLACK HISTORY MONTH -- ERNEST L. CLAIBORNE

February is Black History Month, and, thanks to Ann Ross, we have a memoir of a significant Black Schenectadian to publish in honor of the people whose local history has run parallel to the history of the earliest settlers of Schenectady. We asked James Stamper, a well-known leader in the Black community, if he remembered Ernest Claiborne. He did, indeed, and spoke of him with great respect.

Earnest Claiborne in his own words:

The name Claiborne came from West Morning County, England. The slave owner William D. Claiborne was born in West Morning in 1589. He came to America at the age of 32 in 1621 and settled on the shores of Virginia. The king of England made William Claiborne secretary of the Virginia colony. . . . Claiborne settled down. . . . He had two sons, one who was the governor of Louisiana in 1804, and the other governor of Mississippi in 1812.

My parents took their name from these masters. My father's people came from King and Queen County and settled in King William County, Virginia. My mother and father were both of slave parents, and from what I have learned, both my parents were slaves.

I was born in 1883 in a log cabin in the old King William County. I had to walk five miles a day to school. At the age of eight, I worked from sunrise to sunset thinning corn on the Broadneck farm for 25 cents a day. Later in 1917, I bought 87 acres of the Broadneck farm to take care of my wife when I went to war. After the Armistice was signed, the farm, a fifteen minute ride from Richmond, belonged to me. My oldest brother remained on the farm without charge for 32 years.

I [left] King William County in 1895 and worked [in Richmond]. The late Mrs. Cole took a liking to me because I was a close friend of her son, the late Frank Cole. She guided me along the road to success. She took me to T. C. Curd who ran a drug store . . . to take the job held by her son before he died. The job was delivering prescriptions to customers. Mr. Curd also liked and helped me. He gave me a room over the drug store. Each day the clerk would teach me, and I learned rapidly. Mr. Curd urged me to go to the Richmond Business College at night under the direction of George W. Blackwell. After attending school for several years, Mr. Curd insisted that I go to Virginia Union University.

While in school I married Miss Alberta Burruss. A year and a half later, Ernest L., Jr. was born. If I had not married, my tuition in college would have been paid by white friends. Although my wife was willing and able to support herself while I finished school, my mother was sick and needed support. Therefore it was necessary for me to discontinue my schooling.

My wife and I first came to Schenectady in 1907 to visit the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rhinehart who were then residing at 69 Edison Avenue. At that time Battling Nelson and Joe Gans were fighting at the Old Opera House on S. Center Street, now known as Broadway. One night I was sent for to work at the Hotel Mohawk. After one night's work, the manager sent for me and requested that I take over the Service Department, including supervising bellboys, porters, elevator operators, and waiters. I explained to Mr. John H. Meehan, the manager, that I was going back to school and that I had a job in Richmond. . . . Mr. Meehan insisted that I send and get some young man to take over the job. He stated that my service was perfect. I sent South and hired several boys. . .

Emmett Coleman, now head of Insurance Company in Baltimore,. . . Robert Harris, now a Doctor. . . Madison Jones, now a Doctor. Each year from 1908 to 1950 I have brought boys from Richmond, to work at the Hotel Mohawk and Hotel Van Curler. I have been instrumental in aiding many lawyers, doctors, dentists and business men in obtaining work to save money to complete their education. The last boys I have aided to success were Richard Williams, now at Fisk University taking a pre-dental course; and Arthur Allen at Kentucky State who was made captain of the Kentucky State football team. (Ed. note: Arthur Allen went on to become a social

studies teacher and president of the Schenectady Federation of Teachers. His brother, Joe Allen is a member of the Schenectady City Council.)

Attorney Lynwood Smith for several years worked for me to get money to finish law school. Attorney Smith is but one of many professional and business men successful today whom I aided during my 43 years in hotel work. . . .

On June 22, 1922, my wife and I were among 600 present at a banquet in Union College. At that time I subscribed a considerable sum of money for stock to build the Van Curler Hotel. After the hotel was built, the American Hotel Company sent for me to take a job at the new hotel. I was unable to give a definite answer until the next day since I had been promised a raise at the Hotel Mohawk where I was then working. However, the raise was not granted until I had accepted the other job. I gave the Hotel Mohawk 40 days notice. At the time of leaving the Hotel Mohawk, I had completed a service period of 18 years and 3 months. I left the Hotel Mohawk on April 5, 1925.

I went to the Hotel Van Curler in 1925 as head porter. Later I was made superintendent of service, taking over supervision of all hotel service, bellboys, porters, elevators, washrooms, barbershop, freight elevator, transportation department, American Airway Ticket Agency, night watchman.

(At this point in the narrative, there is a long list of Mr. Claiborne's various accomplishments, over the years. We have made a selection of these to include in this issue. For people who wish to pursue the whole story in detail, the manuscript will be accessible in the Grems-Doolittle library under "Claiborne.")

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From 1918 to 1925 I was a member of the Schenectady Chamber of Commerce.

I was instrumental in organizing the Carver Welfare League in 1937.

In 1912 I bought a considerable [number] of lots, and in 1917 I sold this land to the government for a warehouse which is now the Army Depot in South Schenectady.

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In 1917 I opened a restaurant at 225-227-229 Broadway. This was a three-story building with rooms for rent on third floor, dancing and a private dining room on the second floor, and dining room, kitchen, bar, barbershop, and poolroom on the first floor. I had a contract with the late Mr. Collins of the General Electric Co. in Schenectady to room and board the colored men brought in from the South to work at the company. This solved the company's labor problem in World War One. I sold the business in 1923.

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In 1913 a very interesting incident occurred. I dreamed that there was a flood in Schenectady. I saw the city under water in my dream. I went down to the Yates Boat House and rented a boat, placing it on dry ground. The flood actually came and I was the only one with an available boat. I helped to rescue the people. The next day I loaned my boat to the police to continue to rescue the people.

During my years at the Hotel Van Curler, I have met and served many famous people. Some of the noted people I have the privilege of knowing include Admiral Thomas C. Kincaid, Theodore Roosevelt, Wm. H. Taft, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Alfred E. Smith, former Governor of New York State Herbert H. Lehman, E. R. Stettinius, president of the General Electric Company Charles E. Wilson, Gerard Swope and Owen D. Young, to mention a few; also people from foreign countries including Japan, South Africa, and others. I also have a collection of letters from all corners of the globe sent to me by people whom I have served at one time or another during my hotel work. In all my years I have served over a million and a half people.

Our thanks to Ann Ross who located this account for the Newsletter. We are filing the manuscript in the Grems-Doolittle library under "Claiborne". We assume from evidence in the account that it was probably written

around 1950. We do not know the name of the reporter who gathered this story from Mr. Claiborne, but we applaud him for an exemplary tale.

COLONIAL FESTIVAL

The annual Colonial festival will take place in February on the 6th through the 9th. It starts off with the Colonial Dinner at the Glen Sanders Mansion on February 6. For details, phone 382-5147.

On Friday, February 7 there is an activity of particular interest to SCHS members: the Maritime Academy/Capital Region BOCES Open House. See Maritime Academy students in the process of building a Colonial bateau modeled after those built in Schenectady during the Revolutionary War. Upon completion, the bateau will be part of the Mabee Farm exhibits. Refreshments provided by the Mabee Farm Committee. For information call 399-1940. Location: 901 Maritime Dr. Alplaus, NY 12008. 9am – 2 pm. FREE

Saturday, February 8, 2003 will feature a number of activities: A Tour of the Glen Sanders Mansion at 1 p.m.; a broom-making demonstration at the Schenectady Museum from 12-4 p.m.; Colonial crafts for children at the Museum from 12-2 p.m.; an open house at the Flint House; and, in the spirit of Black History month the Hamilton Hill Arts Center at 409 Schenectady (346-1262) will feature a panel discussion and refreshments with visuals of Blacks in the Revolution. The Schenectady County Historical Society features a guided tour focused on Revolutionary War uniforms and firearms. Our prized "Liberty Flag" has been restored and will be on view.

On Sunday, February 9, 2003, Frank Taormina will speak on "People and Events in Schenectady During the Revolutionary War" at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady at 11 am in the Assembly Hall. The State Street Presbyterian Church will be open from 10-2 pm for viewing the Presbyterian Hall of Murals. A panel discussion, "The Archeology of Colonial America," will be presented at the McChesney Room of the Public Library 1-4 pm.

GRANT RECEIVED....

Bill Dimpelfeld received a letter from the Lower Hudson Conference, a re-granting agency of the Museum Program of the New York State Council on the Arts. We quote the significant part: "Grant funding has been approved in full for \$3,835 for conservation of a c. 1774 silk 'Liberty' flag with mount and protective cover; treatment to be done by textile conservator Gwen Spicer. . . Enclosed is a check for \$ 3,835. . . We are truly grateful to the Lower Hudson conference of Historical Agencies & Museums. Our newly refurbished Liberty Flag will be displayed on the third floor of the Dora Jackson House at 32 Washington Avenue in time for the Colonial Festival.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Princetown Tidbits -Irma Mastrean -- Town Historian

Daniel Tulloch served with General Sherman during the Civil War, was wounded in action several times, captured and imprisoned by the Confederate Army. General Sherman was instrumental in gaining his release. Upon he return from the war, he attended a Sunday service at the Princetown Presbyterian Church. When he walked into the church, the minister stopped his sermon and everyone greeted him. His military record and medals are in the possession of the McClaine family of Princetown. They also have a portrait of Daniel painted by Ezra Ames. Ames painted portraits of many prominent people, including Dr. Eliphalet Nott, long-time president of Union College.

Bellevue -Bob Sager

The Moores led the social life in Bellevue. My parents remembered many parties at that home, and my mom said she never minded attending funerals there since she remembered all the good times she had in that home. In 1932 Mrs. More was living out of state, probably with her daughter, but came to Schenectady to sign the deed of her home over to Mr. Bond, the undertaker. We entertained her in our back yard with a picnic supper, which is when the snapshot was taken of Auntie More and Mom. She was a sweet, gentle woman beloved in the community. A women's class at the Bellevue Church was named the Helen Moore Class in her honor. Shortly after buying the More home, Mr. R. R. Bond decided he didn't want his family living in part of the funeral home and bought the Van D. Sager home on the other side of Broadway which Granddad built in 1908. After 30 years he sold my grandparents' home to the Mastrianni family who own the bakery on Front Street and who presently rent the property after living there many years.

Scotia-Glenville -Elsie Maddaus (with thanks to Don Keefer)

The following is excerpted from Annals of the Van Rensselaers by Rev. Maunsell Van Rensselaer (1888): "Scotia was the home of my great uncle, Judge John Sanders, who maintained the reputation for unbounded hospitality which it enjoyed ever since its settlement by his maternal great-great-grandfather, Alexander Lenderse Glen in 1661.

"One annual celebration was New Year's Day, the great festival of the Dutch, rivaling the feast of the patron Saint, St. Nicholas. On New Year's, cakes, ollekoeks and crulletjes with plenty of cordials upon the sideboard for his neighbors, who on their part, were expected to call with greetings for 'A Happy New Year' and partake liberally of the good cheer provided for them. The 'Dominie' was always specially remembered with a large 'Koekie' stamped with a scene from the Bible, as indeed all New Year's caked were. It was a breach of courtesy and friendly neighborhood to pass over anyone in these calls, or to treat the refreshments with neglect, which could not easily be atoned for."

Rotterdam -Richard W. Lewis, Jr.

VERY, VERY, VERY FUN. A field trip to the Mabee Farm Historic Site earned no fewer than three "verys" from one of Beth Chittenden's Maple Hill Middle School's fourth graders, the last school group to visit this fall. Beth used the experience to help teach a little writing as well as history, so we received a packet of letters from her kids. "It was very clear to me that they learned a great deal that day as well as giving them a chance to see things they had never experienced," she wrote. All of the stations were cited by at least several students as their "favorite," but the butter making station with Kim Mabee and Fern Lee got the most mentions. "I can't believe we made our own butter," one student wrote, and another, "I might even be able to make butter on my own." John Ackner impressed a number of the fourth graders with his work at the forge, as did Dave Ogsbury and Connie Carter with the wampum bracelets the kids got to take home with them, along with lots of knowledge about the Iroquois. "I love my bracelet!" one wrote. The militiamen and their muskets were popular, too, as were Scott Haefner's house tour, the archeology lesson, the "nice lady" (Sally van Schaick) who told the students about the work women and children did on a colonial farm, and the "hands-on" grain flailing with Everett Rau. Louise Basa will be pleased to learn that one student thought the archeology station was "cool," the highest of accolades among middle schoolers. All of the presenter, re-enactors, guides and staffers were seen as "nice" and "friendly" and "helpful...." There were numerous comments along the lines of "... "All the people were nice... because they wanted us to learn," and "You were some of the nicest people I ever met." (We all thought the kids were great, too.) Our mission of helping history come to life seems to have been accomplished with a number of students. "I've never had so much fun learning history," one wrote. "It was like being in school but more fun." A number of students want to come back, the next time with their parents. "Your farm was so good, I am going to go again with my mom and dad," wrote one and "I hope I can come back with

my family some day!" wrote another. (We hope so too!) Of course, we have some room to improve. One student thought we "...should give [groups] a little more time to learn...[and] be open longer." But all in all, the students' letters certainly helped those of us involved in this educational enterprise feel pretty good about our efforts. "Visiting the farm makes you appreciate things," one young learner wrote. Thank you. We appreciate it.

MUSEUM NEWS -Jo Mordecai, Coordinator of Exhibits

Good-bye Christmas -- Hello New Year

During the Christmas season the house museum welcomed 200 school children to see our decorations and antique dolls, toys, etc. The house looked charming this year, showing Christmas from Colonial times to the early 20th century. The four trees on the first floor looked particularly lovely. In the Vrooman room Christmas was presented with pine cones, holly, broom corn, oranges and nuts. The toys were carved wooden miniatures, pieces of eight, sticks and stones, chalk and slates -- not very interesting by today's standards. The Hugh Platt Garden Club decorated the front Parlor, stairs and dining room in Victorian style. The trees were trimmed with candles, dried hydrangea, baby breath and white tulle. Really charming. We are fortunate having the Garden Club using their skills every Christmas and each Walkabout. With their efforts our old house always glows. In the Dining room the mantelpiece was decorated with fir, holly and dried artichokes; the table center piece used greenery, nuts, holly and white candles. Scott Haefner generously gave me a lot of holly from the Mabee Farm so I was able to put seasonal touches throughout the second floor. I understand that Dora Jackson loved to entertain in her new house at 32 Washington Avenue, and that Christmas was especially dear to her. This year I hope we made her proud.

May you all have a happy, healthy and-- let us hope -- a Peaceful New Year.

Recent Events in the Dora Jackson House

We entertained 51 women of the University Women's Club on December 7. On December 17 we had a reception for the Masons of St. George's Lodge. The following schools came for our Christmas tour:

- Glen Cliff school -- two fifth grade classes
 - St. John the Evangelist -- two second grade classes
 - The Brown school -- two fourth grade classes
 - The Tecla School (Amsterdam) -- two fourth grade classes
-

LIBRARY DOINGS

New and available for sale:

The Cemeteries of Duanesburg and Princetown - \$18 (plus \$2 if you need it mailed).

The 2003 Calendar - see our web page for a view of this informative and attractive calendar. Available for \$10 (plus \$2 for mailing). For \$1 more, we will include the 2002 calendar with 15 black & white photos of Old Schenectady.

Stephen's World by Vaughn Lainhart Nevin

This is based on the Diaries of Stephen H. Lainhart, 1859-1923. Just published, this book by one of our members is available at the Grems-Doolittle Library.

Research at Grems-Doolittle Library is rewarding. We have a large variety of sources to use (see list below for a sampling) and our librarian, Virginia Bolen, is available to guide your efforts and help you make the best use of the time you spend here. Often other researchers and Society members who happen to be present at the time of your visit will offer you assistance and suggestions to move your research along. A list of some of the materials you may find useful in your search:

Family surname files

Family histories (published and unpublished)

Census records (1800-1930 for Schenectady-including State censuses

All New York State Federal census for 1850 and 1900 (excluding NYC)

1930 census for Schenectady, Albany, Rensselaer, Columbia, Saratoga, Schoharie and Montgomery counties

Naturalization records for Schenectady County

Poorhouse records for Schenectady

Church and cemetery records for Schenectady and other counties

City directories

Maps

Early tax lists

Newspaper transcriptions of deaths and marriages for the 1800s

Obituaries

Schenectady City School District scrapbooks- 1930-1985

Mabee Farm documents

Schenectady County histories

Whether you're a longtime researcher or just contemplating starting your family research there is something here for you. Come and check us out. Members are always free and visitors can spend the day for a modest fee of \$5.00

WHAT IS A NEIGHBORHOOD?

We recently received this letter from a new member, Elaine Willi:

Being a resident of the Bradley Street neighborhood for eight years, I became ecstatic when I heard this neighborhood has the potential to be designated historical. When I first moved to Schenectady, I was attracted by its quaint antiqueness and historical architecture. I am thrilled to hopefully become part of this. My neighborhood and I are very saddened by the destruction of five perfectly sound architecturally significant houses next door to me for a St. Clare's parking lot. It has significantly altered the structure of our Bradley Street neighborhood, along with the surrounding environment. Please support the historic designation of Bradley Street in your own words or with a sample letter with which I can provide you. thank you so much! -- Elaine Willi

(Persons interested in helping the Bradley Street neighborhood in their appeal to the Planning Commission for Historic status should contact Ms. Willi at 374-8799)

THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE . . .

How did the street you live on get its name? The Yet-to be-Named Committee of the Historical Society has embarked on an effort to compile a history of street names for our City and our Towns. Often these names are given to streets by the individuals who developed them. Frequently the developer names the streets after members of his or her family. Wright Avenue and Morris Avenue are examples of this practice. These streets were named by Schenectady's foremost real estate developer, Henry Schermerhorn De Forest. Both were

named after his daughters, Beulah De Forest Wright and Pearl De Forest Morris. Do you know how your street or other streets in the city or town where you live got its name? Please include yourself in this project. Share your knowledge with us -- you'll be given credit for your contribution, and all of us will be richer for what you have told us.

Contact Virginia Bolen at the Historical Society, 374-0263 or Frank Taormina at 374-9655.

WE GET LETTERS . . .

Friends:

I am a native Schenectadian, born at 998 Eastern Ave in 1918. My sister, Jean Heaphy Holland, send me a copy of your new 2003 calendar which I have enjoyed perusing. One bit of additional information related to Mrs. Carl and her family: The residence depicted was built in the early 1930's. Prior to that time the Carls were our neighbors in what I believe was their original home in Schenectady, at the corner of Morris Ave and Eastern Ave. When they moved to Rosendale Rd., the Morris Ave residence was purchased by the Allison family. Mr. Allison was plant manager for the American Locomotive Co. I have read about the architectural significance of the homes on Morris Ave, and the Carl residence was one of them, but certainly not as imposing as the Rosendale Rd. home. I came to Kentucky as a GE transfer in 1953 but have made at least one visit back home each year since. My address in 4605 Blenheim Rd., Louisville, KY 40207.

**Sincerely,
Hayden F. Heaphy**

Are there any Schermerhorns out there? - Ona Curran

Two exceptionally fine but badly-in-need-of-attention Sexton paintings are in our possession.

1) Portrait of Myndert Schermerhorn by Samuel Sexton 1852 34" x 27" Oil on canvas, preprimed, no frame. The portrait has been cut down on top, right side and at the bottom, and 1/4" on the left side. There are no evidences of previous treatment. The canvas shows neglect and mishandling with resulting dents, small puncture, scratches, drips and general rim abuse. There is a thick film of dirt, very little varnish. The stretcher is in poor shape. Treatment for preservation will involve lining, cleaning, a new stretcher, repair of minor flaws, compensation and varnishing. Is there a frame? Appropriate security within a frame matters to me.

2) Portrait of Mrs. Schermerhorn by Samuel Sexton 34" x 27" Oil on canvas, preprimed, no frame. This portrait has been trimmed only along the top edge, It also has no evidence of previous treatment, but it has been stored at some point (upside down) in dampness and has a serious development of mold, especially in its upper portion. The canvas shows neglect and edge abuse but has not experienced as many planar disruptions as its mate. With both portraits the varnish appears to have been slight and the dirt is embedded in paint. This stretcher needs to be replaced too. Preservation treatment involves cleaning, lining, new stretcher, minor compensation, varnishing . . . resecuring within frame?

MABEE FARM

We have just closed for our second season of scheduled operation. Here are some facts for this season. Visitors: House tours--406; special events and activities--1974; school students on class visits --571; total visitors--2951. Income raised from all events at the farm, total \$7,581. These events were: 5 special events, 1 personal enrichment class, 4 reunions, 1 shower, 1 wedding, 2 outside sponsored events, 1 corporate picnic, 4 club meetings, 1 foreign tour, 1 tour by Schenectady Tourist Bureau, 5 school trips. 18 states and 6 countries

were represented. We are already working on next year's events and calendar. It is filling in rapidly.

Scott Haefner's leaving will bring many changes to the farm. It is impractical to expect anyone to live in the house as a residence with the increase in expected activities. The present thinking is to use the upstairs for an office, artifact storage, space for the beginning of a library and a bedroom for a possible intern or overnight sleeping space during two-day events when we have a 24 hour presence.

We will be installing a new security system as soon as the bids are in. The House, Brick House, Inn, and Dutch Barn will be fully equipped with both fire and intrusion systems.

A search committee has been formed and we have started the process of looking for a site director for the farm. [See our ad further on.] If you know of anyone willing to work who has some administrative experience and a background in history, education, or museum management, encourage him or her to apply. It can be season or year around. It is our goal to have someone in place by April at the latest.

A bateau is being built for the Farm by BOCES at the Maritime center in Alplaus. It is based on the one General Schuyler used in 1792 while surveying for the Inland Lock and Navigational Canal. His first night's stop after leaving Schenectady was apparently at our Mabee Farm. The bateau should be finished in time to be used on the river this summer. Thanks to Maureen Gebert of the Schenectady Heritage Center from bringing us together.

There will be an open house at the Maritime Center February 7th from 9am to 2pm where you can watch the building of the bateau and talk to the builders. Please attend.

Looking ahead . . .

February 7th, 9am - 2pm Open House at the Maritime Academy/Capital Region BOCES. View the students building a colonial bateau of the type built in Schenectady in the 18th century. Upon completion the bateau will become part of the Mabee Farm Exhibits. This open house is part of the Colonial Festival sponsored by Maureen Gebert of the Schenectady Heritage Area. FREE

April and May Mabee Farm open for tours by appt. ph. 518-887-5073

School Program at designated times or by appointment.

A Calendar of Events for April - November has been posted on our website and will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

DUES TO RISE

Starting January 1, 2003, Society dues at the family level will be \$40 rather than \$35. All other levels are unchanged.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS IS LOOKING FOR YOU. . .

Get to know your neighbor! There are, as you have undoubtedly noticed, many immigrants from other countries living in our community. Idiomatic expressions can be very confusing. "Give us a ring!" Volunteer to help someone learn to speak and understand English. Call Literacy Volunteers at 372-9819.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Wanted!

Someone to do filing in the library. Our librarian can never catch up.
Great opening for volunteer with unsatisfied clerical lust! Call librarian at 374-0263

Wanted!

Someone to do data entry on one of our wonderful computers. You do not have to be a computer geek; you just need enthusiasm for the work of the society plus the ability to follow directions. Call librarian at 374-0263

Wanted!

A real extrovert to organize boat and bus trips. There are wonderful places to go around here, but all the board members are maxed out and we need fresh blood, verve, muscle and know-how to plan trips. Call office at 374-0263

Wanted!

A grant writer. We know the grants are out there; we just need that certain person with the time to ferret out where the grants are hidden so we can continue to enhance the work of the Society. Call President or office manager at 374-0263

Wanted!

Docents. A docent is a tour guide. We're running out of docents and we want fresh troops. Come now: you know that you've always secretly wanted to show people around the Museum. Follow Jo or Sally or Ann a time or two and you'll get the hang of it. Call Jo Mordecai at 374-926 for further information.

CONTRIBUTORS DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2002 WITHOUT YOU WE ARE NOTHING!

FOUNDATIONS

R.& R. Evans Foundation
W. G. Broughton Charitable Foundation
Rotary Club of Schenectady Foundation
Schenectady Foundation
Walter S. Quinlan Foundation
Wright Family Foundation, Inc.

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Director Wanted Mabee Farm Historic Site

Rapidly expanding historic site seeks person to manage and coordinate daily activities, tours, educational programs, and special events. Will be responsible for organizing and directing docents and volunteers, artifact accessions, and exhibits designs. Will work directly with the site committee on fund raising, grant writing, public outreach, and publicity. Full time or seasonal employment option available. On site living arrangements possible. Salary dependent on experience and hours. New graduates and semi-retired persons will be considered. For more information see website www.timesunion.com/communities/mabeefarm.

Send resume; no calls please.

Schenectady County Historical Society
Mabee Farm Search Committee
32 Washington Ave.
Schenectady, N Y 12305

