

Schenectady County Historical Society
Newsletter Volume 35 - Number 7-8 March - April 1999
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I get a big lift each time I approach our headquarters to observe the two beautiful gas lamps that are once again shining brightly after many dark years. They add a pleasant sight to the whole area, day and night. I appreciate them all the more after the lengthy efforts I went through to have them repaired. With great pleasure I thank Bill Dimpelfeld, a member of our board of trustees who arranged to have David Bradt of Scotia repair them. So often solutions to our problems are right under our noses. I now wish that we could have equal success repairing the copper frieze of an American Indian in a canoe in our backyard. That was formerly atop the Mohawk National Bank on State Street.

On New Year's Day we lost a valued member of our society who had done much service for our community. Mr. John Zegger. My friendship with Jack dates back to when both of our families swam at Gilbert Harlow's University Club pool. Jack was a very giving person and a joy to know. Recently he had been president of the Stockade Association and a successful one. I felt a special affinity as my surname is listed as "Zeger" in the early records of New York. Jack died playing tennis. Our sympathy to Jean and the family. A fund for fostering preservation in the Stockade area is being raised in Jack's memory.

I'm happy to report that many have contributed to our Mabee Farm fund drive, and I understand we now are able to pay for erecting the Dutch barn which will go up this spring. However we still have a long way to go to complete the much needed Visitors' Center, so be as generous as possible. This past week volunteers were at the farm stacking lumber for the barn's siding. There is much to be done.

Our library continues to be active, and fresh exhibits appear in our museum; a "lovely" one on Valentines is there at the moment. Our monthly meetings suffered one bad-weather break in January. Avail yourself of our varied offerings and take a special look at those lights out front.

Let's hope that the groundhog was right!

- Bob Sager

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 13, 1999

1:30 Refreshments 2:00 Program: *Ulysses S. Grant Cottage* Presenter: Ellen deLalla

March 16, 1999

Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 PM

March 24, 1999

1:15 PM Auxiliary Program

"Early Days of WRGB" Presenter: Charles King

April 10, 1999

1:30 Refreshments 2:00 Program: *Railroads* Presenter: Bill Massoth

April 20, 1999

April 28, 1999

1:15 PM Auxiliary Program

"Down with the Rent" Presenter: Bill Massoth

MARCH PROGRAM

Ulysses S Grant Cottage State Historic Site.

Grant, tired, ill, and out of money retreated to a cottage in the Adirondacks where, in order to leave an inheritance to his family, he completed his personal memoirs. Ellen deLalla will present a slide show on Grant's visit, Mt. McGregor and other aspects of the cottage and the historic site.

APRIL PROGRAM

Railroads and Schenectady

Bill Massoth has turned his attention to railroads and has uncovered heaps of RR lore that originated right here in "the City that Lights and Hauls the World." Did you know that the subway was invented here? Do you want to know the story behind the cowcatcher? Did you know that Westinghouse, GE's *bete noir*, was a prime mover in early railroad history? Come on April 10 to another one of Bill's inimitable slide presentations.

THE PAST RECAPTURED [Several pictures] by Bill Massoth

The old adage goes: a picture is worth a thousand words. I believe it, and Schenectady County Historical Society has pictures. Hundreds of old glass plate negatives that were in the Schenectady County Historical Society archives were transferred to the New York State Museum where they are being printed. Imagine seeing original photos taken as much as 125 years ago!

There are pictures of many local places and things, and people too. Photos of places like Cotton Factory Hollow or Pleasant Valley or I 890 as it is called today. Pictures of lower State Street, and the George Westinghouse, Sr., home which was located where the entrance of the Western Gateway Bridge now is. Speaking of bridges, there are photos of the old Schenectady-Scotia covered bridge which was located at the end of Washington Avenue, Schenectady, and Washington Street, Scotia.

It was a hodgepodge old bridge to look at, but after the covering was removed, it indeed was a thing of beauty. It was a suspension bridge with wooden "cables". The "cables" were sold to a match factory after it was taken down.

Another photo shows a Schenectady Railway horse-drawn streetcar on State Street crossing the railroad tracks at grade with the new Edison hotel in the background. Another photo, taken at Rexford, shows the enlarged Erie Canal, the original Erie Canal, and the Mohawk River together. I had seen this photo many items from the Al Gayer collection, but there I was, holding the original picture.

Some of these negatives were "wet plate" negatives, something I had never seen before, much less printed them. They were pieces of glass, coated by the photographer in his portable laboratory, loaded into the camera, still wet, exposed and taken back to the lab for development. Surprisingly enough, they were great images. Some of the negatives were side-by-side double pictures, used for making prints for stereopticon viewers.

Another treasure trove of pictures is the Laura Mae Brown collection of slides, consisting of hundreds of slides of local and other places as well. Many are copies of old pictures, updated to go with the originals. Mrs. Brown had the ability to photograph things that would be of importance in the future. Need a picture of Freihoffer's delivery wagon, horse-drawn? It is in the Brown collection.

When I was asked to review this collection, my comment was wow! What a gold mine! This fine collection is being cataloged

and indexed at the present time.

(What a gold mine, indeed! With the current emphasis on primary source material which the State Education Department is promoting, the collection is invaluable. We include a sampling of the collection, but these are greatly reduced in size and do not provide the full effect of the originals. So come on down and spend an afternoon with our wonderful wet-plate photograph collection.)

MUSEUM NEWS Jo Mordecai, Coordinator of exhibits

Salute to Valentine's Day

By the time you read this, the most romantic day of the year, Valentine's Day, will be over. In the Vrooman Room, the current exhibit covers old and new traditions for celebrating that special day for lovers.

In the 17th century during Samuel Pepys' time the Valentine lottery was a popular practice among the English gentry. It became obligatory for the gentleman to remain the devoted attendant to the lady named on his lottery card. As this necessity of devotion and gift giving all year round could become tiresome, the gentleman would bestow a very expensive gift of jewelry to cover the whole year.

Samuel Pepys mentions a Miss Stuart, a leading beauty of her day, whose lottery card was drawn by the Duke of York. He gave her a handsome jewel valued at eight hundred pounds --in those days a small fortune. Later this lady became the Duchess of Richmond and by that time must have substantially increased her collection of Valentine gifts.

These gifts were also given to the married ladies whose names were entered in the lottery. Mrs. Pepys, according to her husband, was given a Turkey stone surrounded by diamonds as her lottery gift one year, and Samuel Pepys was most impressed. I don't think my husband would be. How times change! The Victorians were a Romantic generation: it was the age of sentiment, of charm, of wonderful manners -- but maybe stilted emotions.

For the Victorian young lady of means, attending the Valentine Ball was a great honor, and much preparations was made: a magnificent gown, lots of sleep for a pure looking complexion, because she had to look her loveliest. At the ball, the gentlemen would present Valentine tokens of a posy -- a rose or violets -- always tied with ribbon and carrying their name card to the young ladies of their choice. Quite often a lucky girl would have more than one, making her a success and a sought-after belle.

Today I think Valentine's Day has lost a lot of its appeal. There is a Valentine for practically everyone, all your relatives, the teacher, the mailman -- even your dog and cat. Some are comical, and not quite so beautifully made as the stand up paper lace creations of the late 1880's. Today's boxes of chocolates nearly always look alike; red or pink hearts with an artificial rose; and now red silk roses are becoming popular because they do not die.

Years go the Valentine was often not signed, sending the young lady into hours of imagining who her admirer might be; not so today. Although we may have lost a lot of the sentiment, it is still nice to get a little something from someone who loves us -- and that counts.

FROM YOUR HOUSE TO OUR HOUSE

Donor: Wayne Harvey - Scotia

Collection of Valentine Greeting Postcards Circa 1900-1912

Donor: Mrs. F Van D Ladd - Schenectady

One comb back or arrowback chair; known sometimes as a rocker.

Once owned by Mrs. Nathaniel Worthen - Bridgeport, CT. Circa 1880

Donor: Donald Keefer - Amsterdam

Four Victorian open work paper lace Valentine cards. All stand up.

MABEE FARM EVENTS

First of all, many thanks to Sheridan Biggs of Quaker Street who had presented a General Electric "Monitor Top" refrigerator to the Mabee Farm project. This is ideal as the Mabee Farm is not frozen in time at any one period, but represents in its interior the various household experiences of three hundred years of continual residence. There certainly was a time when the new refrigerator, replacing the old icebox, would most likely have been a GE monitor top. Thanks again, Sheridan Biggs!

Next, Bill Dimpelfeld reports that he has reviewed the guest book at the Mabee Farm for 1998 entries. According to these figures there were 303 visitors, 34 of which were our-of-staters including 10 from the Netherlands. If a 4th grade class from Jefferson School is counted, along with two administrators of the NYState grant, Bill estimates that there were over 330 visitors. This compares with 311 visitors in 1997. And these all occurred on 36 days!

Significant events at the farm for this past year include:

Rededication of the DAR Tablet (as oldest house in Mohawk River Valley)

Forefather Day Celebration (with four performers from the Netherlands)

The Colonial Troops Encampment

The "unscheduled" Open House

The Barn

If you drive by the Mabee Farm these days, you will see that the foundations for the Nilson barn have been planted. A group of volunteers are stacking the fresh-cut 12 inch boards to be used for the siding. Thank you, volunteers! This project would take us the next fifty years without the continual help we have received from all kinds of volunteers: architects, archaeologists, gardeners, painters, stackers, and sidewalk superintendents.

MANDALAY DELORES GREMS

This is the last of our series of recollections of Mandy Grems. We have tried for variety, to give best a rounded picture of this marvelous, complex woman. In this we see Mandy as a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a role which she shares with many of our members.

Mandalay Delores Grems
A Remembrance by DAR Daughter Dallas S. Boyle

I became a member of the Schenectady Chapter of the NSDAR in 1980. Mandalay became a member in 1984. Mandalay was serving as registrar for the chapter when our lives touched. Petite, beautifully groomed, with bright red hair, she was a source of boundless energy. She was a volunteer at the State Genealogical Library in Albany, she served the Schenectady Historical Society, was a member of the Mayflower Society, and her interest in Genealogy was unflagging.

She felt the need to index the DAR collection of records at the genealogical library in Albany. That was set up to be my Regent's Project. Then a group of us began to help in the restoration of records that were deteriorating because they were not typed on acid-free paper. That year we spent at least one day a week learning how to prepare these papers for photographing. Even now a member goes to Albany every week and photographs these documents before they crumble away. All that from seeds planted by Mandalay!

Mandalay took part in our Chapter's first efforts to join a patriotic parade. We had two six foot banners tied to the sides of our parade car that bright, sunny, windy day. Somehow along the route the banners became unattached at the bottom. The wind lifted them so that they were at right angles to the car like great white wings. Mandalay thought it was hilarious as we all did; we were heaven-bound!

Mandy was a woman of substance. She had a mind that worked like the computers she worked with. She gave unselfishly of her self and had a fine sense of humor. Not many of us will leave this world with the number of accomplishments she piled up. She dared to go where many of us would be too timid.

In May we will have a special memorial service for this Schenectady sister who has left us. It was one of God's blessings that our lives were privileged to touch the life of Mandalay Delores Grems. It has enriched all of us.

Ever since Arendt Van Corlaer declared in 1642 "that a half day's journey from the Colonie, Town of Albany, on the Mohawk River, there lies the most beautiful land that the eye of man ever beheld", a host of Americans and foreigners alike have passed through Schenectady and commented upon it according to their tastes.

In 1785, for example, Italian botanist Luigi Castiglioni had a very favorable impression of Schenectady, which he noted was "laid out in various handsome, wide streets." Prince Maximilian of Weid, arriving in Schenectady in 1834 after an extended hunting expedition out West, was struck by the city, calling it "a considerable place" bustling with industry and commerce. And Yale president Timothy Dwight made mention of the fact that "the merchandise which passes into the western country is usually embarked here on the Mohawk" and that "the numerous boatmen employed in transporting it make this their place of rendezvous. . ."

As sometimes happens today, a few people had trouble pronouncing the city's name. "Schenectady seems not to be a word fitted to common organs of speech," remarked Timothy Bigelow in 1805. "We heard it pronounced Snacketady, Snackedy, Kanackidy, Kanactady, ScllSnackendy, and Snackady, which last is much the most common."

At least two well-known historians made it a point to stop in Schenectady. Benson J. Lossing, whose detailed histories of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 are still standard reading today, came to Schenectady to interview veterans of "Mr. Madison's War". including Major Mordecai Myers, twice mayor of the city. Francis Parkman, later author of the multi-volume classic *France and England in North America*, stopped in 1842 to collect data for his history. While here he made friends with the Rev. John Williams of St. George's Church and struck up a correspondence with Giles F. Yates, whom he called "the best of American Antiquarians." Parkman must have taken something of value back to Boston, for his *Count Frontenac and New France Under Louis XIV* has what is likely the most vivid description of the Schenectady Massacre ever committed to paper.

Ralph Waldo Emerson also added Schenectady to his itinerary of lecture stops. The city's Young Men's Association, which brought Henry James, Horace Greeley and others to Schenectady, invited the "Sage of Concord" to speak and he agreed. In a letter to his son William, dated November 22, 1852, Emerson wrote that he planned to lecture at Troy and "thence to Schenectady. . . " This item appeared in *The Schenectady Reflector* that December 3rd:

"The inclement weather prevented a large, but could not prevent a select audience, at the lecture of MR. EMERSON, on Friday night, last. His subject was Wealth, and was treated with all that happiness of thought and style for which he is so distinguished. Those who went to hear Transcendentalism, came away astonished to find that they had understood, admired, and most heartily approved of everything said by the lecturer."

So as we approach the 21st century, let's consider that the charm and attraction of any city, especially our own, rests in the eye of its beholders -- whether they be English, Italian, German, New England Yankee, or native Schenectadian.

LIBRARY POTPOURRI Elsie Maddaus - Archivist - Librarian

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Donor: Marion Miller

Book: *The Woodmans of Rhode Island*

Donor: Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society

Postcards of Schenectady and Historic Brochure

Donor: Allison Bennet

Many items re. Glen Sanders Mansion, Mabee Farm, etc.

Donor: Carl Mix

Genealogical Helper 1996 & 1997, Nexus 1996

Donor: Carver County Historical Society, Waconia MN

Postcard - St. John the Evangelist Church

Donor: Wayne Harvey

Seven photos of NY county historical societies

Donor: Phyllis Hill

Framed photos of Beukendaal Battle re-enactment

Donor: Anastasia Berdy

Schenectady Memorabilia from an estate sale (1930-1960)

Donor: Ruth E. Hand

Cemetery, Bible records, etc.

Donor: Richard C Mahoney

Two photostat maps of Crescent Park

Donor: David R. Wemple

Book: *Wemple Family Genealogy*, 1998 ed.

Donor: Christopher Hunter

Sports Programs - Union College v. Ithaca; Albany Senators v. Schenectady Blue Jays

Donor: Charles C Stoodley

Genealogical information: Turnbull, Swarthout, Wan Patten

Donor: William S Bergen

Book: Swayer, *Matthews Families of Central New York*

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.

AROUND THE COUNTY by Elsie M. Maddaus

DELANSON: The Duane Junior Historians, Chapter of the State Association, organized at Delanson September (1946 or 47) was named for the founder of the Town of Duanesburg. It was organized in the seventh grade as they studied community life. It was one of sixty-one chapters and had a membership of 24 seventh graders and 16 eighth graders of Delanson School.

DUANESBURG: Fire destroyed many of the barns in the town, namely: the Ted Ross barns in 1940; Tuck Ladd's barns in 1941; the Gilbert Filkin's house and barn in 1943; the Evans barns in 1957; Ernest Ross' barns in 1959 and 1960

GLENVILLE: The early settler of Glenville had firewood in superabundance so essential for his comfort. In the clearing of his fields for tillage, this abundance of wood was a nuisance that had to be gotten rid of. This was accomplished by burning it in large piles. Then when the Utica and Schenectady Railroad was completed and in operation there was a demand for wood for the locomotives. Many hundreds of cords were cut and drawn to the wood yard at Hoffmans. After 30 years coal came into use as fuel.

NISKAYUNA: This town was formed from Watervliet, Albany County, March 7, 1809. Its population in 1809 was 681 and it contained 10,471 acres. A part of Schenectady was annexed in 1853. By 1858 the population was 1,120. The farms and byways grew extensively in the mid 1800's to form hamlets called Craig, Van Antwerp, and Aqueduct .

PRINCETOWN: It was formed from Schenectady March 26, 1798. The town had been deeded to George Ingolsby and Aaron Bradt in 1737. William Corry afterward became owner and formed a settlement which was long known as "Corrybush. When the town was formed in 1798, it was named in honor of John Prince, a member of the Assembly from Albany County and a merchant at Front Street in Schenectady.

ROTTERDAM: On April 14, the final day of the New York State legislature's 1820 session, a bill was passed which created the town of Rotterdam. This was the start of Rotterdam as a recognized governmental unit, but the community had been developing as a part of the city for more than 150 years before. The town was first settled by Dutch pioneers about the year 1661 and was named for the City of Rotterdam in Holland.

SCHENECTADY: The city was ravaged by several big fires; the ones in 1819 and 1861 are notable because they changed the plan of Schenectady. Before 1819, nice homes were built along the river, and after the fire the business places were rebuilt further uptown. The fire of 1861 was so extensive that they had to telegraph Troy and Albany for help. No lives were lost but it took a long time to rebuild the great number of buildings destroyed.

SCOTIA: The sighting of a monster in Collins Lake caused great excitement in 1957. It was seen by laborers in a broom corn field and later by fishermen. Descriptions varied as to its size and form. It was apparently captured and was dead, having received a blow by a harpoon. "It is not exactly a serpent but has the appearance of a mermaid with slight variations", according to the local newspaper of the time.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE [picture]

On December 12, 1998, at the annual Christmas program, Anneke Bull presented Sally van Schaick of the Education Committee with six pair of wooden shoes donated by the Schenectady-Nijkerk delegation during their October visit. These will become part of the educational baskets of teaching materials circulated by the Society to fourth and seventh grade classes. Wooden shoes are viewed in America as a symbol of Dutch life, and children will easily identify with other aspects of Dutch culture. While clomping around in the shoes they can imagine briefly how settlers of hundreds of years ago stepped out into muddy fields, and they will be encouraged to investigate further. Marshall McLuhan (remember him!) said: "Children want roles, not goals" Thanks to the kind citizens of Nijkerk, we can foster these roles.

A WORD FROM PRINCETOWN

Irma Mastrean, Town Historian of Princetown, has sent us some nostalgic fare, related to the delivery of medical services in the old days. This month we publish The Country Doctor which should carry us back to the 1800's and early 1900's.

The Country Doctor
by
Irma Mastrean

Going to the doctor in the 1800's and early 1900's was a last resort. Most people relied on home cures. The country doctor was an overworked individual who tried to spread his limited services over too great an area. He traveled the snow-blocked back roads by horse-drawn sleigh, skis or snowshoes to get to a snowbound family.

Dr. Howard from Minaville, who tended many Princetown families, had a Model T with caterpillar tracks on the back. With it he would go through fields and wherever he couldn't get with his horse and buggy.

"Doc" McDougall's practice extended from Braman's Corners to Princetown, south to Gifford's and Settles's Hill Road, southwest to Knox and north to Esperance. One late winter afternoon as he was returning home from Princetown, going across fields, the horse suddenly dropped nearly from sight. They had fallen into an old abandoned cellar filled with snow. Somehow they got out and he went on his way.

One local doctor was kept busy traveling back and forth on a blustery winder day when two babies were due at the same time. The story goes that when Mrs. Andrew Quick of Putnam Road wasn't quite ready to deliver, the doctor left to visit Mrs. Edward Kane of Mariaville Road. Not being able to help out there, he returned to the Quick home where Byron had

already arrived. Returning to the Kane's he found that they too had an addition to their family . . . Gladys Kane. Laura Quick said to the doctor that he had left Quick to raise Kane! (Jan 31, 1920.)

Dr. Alexander Ennis practiced in Pattersonville and vicinity. In 1902 he was one of the oldest practitioners in the area and the State. The annual meeting of the Medical Society was usually held at his home in Pattersonville. All the doctors and their families would gather in Schenectady with their horses and carriages and ride, parade fashion, over River Road to Dr. Ennis' home.

The doctor used a prioritization system when deciding whom to visit: children first, then women, followed by old men and finally adult males. To protect himself from disease, the doctor often gargled with kerosene or had a few drinks before entering the sick room. He bought cough syrup by the gallon: a mixture of iron, quinine, and strychnine! Many of his patents recovered . . . not because of the good doctor, but in spite of him!

WE GET LETTERS . . .

Dear Ms van Schaick,

Enclosed is a flyer about my latest book, dealing with Canestota and Chittenango. Arcadia was to send you a review copy -- or perhaps to Elsie Maddaus' attention. As you probably know, we are former residents of Schenectady and have long been Historical Society members...

(Dr.) Lionel D. Wyld NUNC Emeritus

(Elsie Maddaus informs me that we do have a copy of Dr. Wyld's book in the library.)

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTING DURING DECEMBER 1998 AND JANUARY 1999

! Without you we would be nothing!

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The Walter S. Quinlan Foundation Carlilian Foundation

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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: Gremis-Doolittle Library

The Gremis-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

⌘

⌘

⌘

Tuesday, March 2 - 7:30 PM

Charles Gehring

"Getting the Facts Straight: Ten Misconceptions

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

[advert]

**MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS
OF LOCAL HISTORY
BROUGHT TO LIFE IN OVER
TWO HUNDRED DELIGHTFUL PHOTOGRAPHS**

Canastota and Chittenango: Two Historic Canal Towns by Lionel D. Wyld

Rare images of canal days, accompanied by a detailed introduction and informative, often anecdotal captions, allow us to see just how much (and how little) has changed in these communities over the years.

Please contact Sara E. Long at Arcadia (Charleston, SC) (888)313-BOOK or arcadia@charleston.net if you wish to:

- *obtain further information about both book and author
- *use old photographs from the book for a feature article
- *interview local author Lionel D. Wyld about the book
- *use the book as a promotional giveaway to your listening or viewing audience

[end advert]

[To be put in a box]

Dutch House Rules

1. If you turn it on, turn it off.
 2. If you open it, close it
 3. If you move it, put it back
 4. If you borrow it, return it.
 5. If you break it, repair it.
 6. If you make a mess, clean it up.
 7. If it is none of your business, keep it that way.
-

JOHN ZEGGER MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of John Zegger who died recently and who demonstrated his love for the Stockade community by many years of effort in its preservation, The Schenectady Heritage Foundation has established the JOHN ZEGGER MEMORIAL FUND with the purpose of fostering preservation in the Historic Stockade.

Donations may be made to:

**Schenectady Heritage Foundation Inc.
John Zegger Memorial Fund
P. O. Box 1173
Schenectady, New York 12301-1173**

Questions may be addressed to

J. D. Schmitt, Chair

Schenectady Heritage Foundation, Inc.

tel. 518 372-3344

Grems-Doolittle Library is compiling a list of Ethnic Organizations in Schenectady County. We need to know the name of such an organization, the name of a contact person such as the chairman or president, and the telephone number.

Call Elsie Maddaus at 374-0263

THE MIRROSCOPE by Elsie M. Maddaus

Several months ago Pearl L Deck of Scotia gave the library a postcard viewer called a Mirroscope. It was manufactured by the Metal Stamping and Manufacturing Company of Cleveland, Ohio. We have no idea when it was made as there is no date on either the machine or the instruction book. It is old but it is in perfect condition as though it hadn't been used.

The instruction book gives suggestions for entertainment: travelogues, illustrated readings, guessing shows, and comedy (?). It also encourages the user to invent games too.

This machine could conceivably be used for a program at the society. It would have to be an evening event as the machine requires complete darkness. Since we have a copious postcard collection in the library, we could definitely spend an evening on such a program. For those not acquainted with this collection, it includes: historic houses, churches, GE, ALCO, theaters, hotels, floods, fires, schools, public buildings, Union College, the Mohawk River, Erie Canal and others. These are arranged in binders by subject.

