



Schenectady County  
Historical  
Society

# Newsletter

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## Hon. Alexander M. Vedder, M.D.

by Jim Strosberg, M.D.

**“Yesterday was one of the darkest New Years for many households ever known in this city.....it was a day of mourning.....and those not immediately touched, felt the shadow of death which came over this city. The day was marked by the funeral of the late Alexander M. Vedder, which took place at the First Reformed Church.”**

—Front Page of the *Schenectady Daily Union*, January 2, 1878

Continued on pages 4-5

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**HOURS**  
**MUSEUM & LIBRARY**  
Monday-Friday 9-5  
Saturday 10-2  
and Thursday 5-8  
September-JUNE only

**MABEE FARM**  
Monday-SATURDAY  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## Letter from the President

As the newly elected Society President, I welcome new Trustees Ellen Fladger and John Halstead to the Board of Trustees. John also assumes the position of Treasurer, succeeding Mary Treanor who will continue to serve us as Assistant Treasurer. Ed Reilly, who served as President for six years, continues as a Trustee and remains involved with our website, computer network, and the Newsletter.

Mary and Ed have served the Society well and are deserving of accolades for their efforts on behalf of the Society. As President, Ed spent hundreds of hours planning, overseeing, and directing the construction of the George Franchere Education Center at the Mabee Farm. During his tenure we were successful in obtaining land to build the facility on, purchasing a parcel of land on the north bank of the Mohawk River to protect the view shed for the Farm, and preparing a funding package that allowed construction to proceed. With Ed's direction and the efforts of many volunteers, we now have a wonderful environmentally "Green" building that enables programs at the Mabee Farm to operate year round. Luckily, both Mary and Ed will be with us as we proceed further into 2012.

To all of our wonderful volunteers: those dedicated Library helpers, the collections crew, Mabee Farm and new Franchere Center helpers, and newsletter editors Ruth Bergeron and Ann Aronson, we appreciate your time and efforts. Thank you so much.

The month of May is *National Historic Preservation Month*. Take a walk through the Stockade, GE Plot, or other historic area of the city. Visit a museum. The Society's Librarian, Curator, Mabee Farm Site Manager, and Office Manager are all working to create and develop wonderful programs and events. Plan to enjoy one or more of our many programs or workshops. And best of all, come out to volunteer your time and talent.

*—Merritt*

*A biographical profile of our new president appears on page 9. What follows are profiles of the two newly elected Society trustees. See also, page 12.*

**John Halstead** was born and raised in Schenectady County. He is a graduate of Mohonasen High School and Siena College. He is currently the managing partner at Zalucki and Halstead, LLP CPA's of Schenectady. Since graduation, he has lived in Albany, Halfmoon, and now Niskayuna where he resides with his wife, Lucy Gottung Halstead, and Lucy's daughter Sara, a student at SCCC. John has long been active with Rotary at the Schenectady East Club and will serve as president during the 2012-2013 year. He is currently treasurer of 440 State St Inc., (dba as the ElectriCity Arts and Entertainment District) and a past treasurer of Mohawk Pathways Girl Scout Council. He has also served as a board member at the Chamber of Schenectady County and in various capacities at St. Helen's Church. He looks forward to his new position as treasurer of the Schenectady County Historical Society.

**Ellen Fladger** is a native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Mount Holyoke College. She moved to New York in 1971 to work at the Bettmann Archive in New York City and later attended the Cooperstown Graduate Program, part of the SUNY system, where she earned a Master's degree in American Folk Culture. In 1979, she began work at the Schaffer Library at Union College where she is now head of the Special Collections and Archives department. She also serves on the Board of the New York Folklore Society. At Union, her mentor was Head Librarian Ruth Anne Evans, who was also a long-time member of the Society and its president from 1990 to 1992. Ellen is particularly interested in the use of historical photographs to document and enhance the study of local history. She looks forward to further exploring the Society's collection of photographs. Among her avocations are reading and folk music.

*Exhibits and Programs: at 32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady (HQ), or at the George E. Franchere Education Center (FEC) on the Mabee Farm Historic Site in Rotterdam Junction.*

**EXHIBITS** – all exhibits are free to members, \$5 for non-members

**Now on view @ HQ: *Highlights of the Mynderse Collection***

SCHS recently acquired a massive collection of objects that were once owned by Helen Livingston Mynderse, the last of a line of a mostly Dutch family that traced its roots back to some of the earliest settlers in New Netherland. Exhibit highlights include ceramic objects, textiles, and dolls.

**Opening Thursday, May 24 @ 6:00 PM**

***Smoke Eaters: Firefighting in the City of Schenectady***

This exhibit shows the evolution of firefighting in the City of Schenectady from the early 1700s to the present, and highlights the more spectacular fires in the city's history.

**Now on view @ the FEC: *Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic: School Days of yore in Schenectady County***

The evolution of educational teaching from the founding of Schenectady until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This exhibit touches on subjects taught in one-room school houses to the role of religion in early schooling.

**PROGRAMS @ HQ:** all Programs are free to members, \$5 for non-members

**Saturday, May 12, 2012 at 2:00 PM**

***Schenectady Bateau Builders and Lake George's Sunken Fleet of 1758* - Presented by Joseph Zarzynski**, underwater archaeologist from the group *Bateaux Below*. In the autumn of 1758, British and provincial troops at Lake George deliberately sank 260 bateaux and other military watercraft to protect them over the winter from the French and Native American allies. Many warships of "The Sunken Fleet of 1758" were recovered by British forces in 1759, but 48 of the bateaux were not. Schenectady had a role in building the British army's Lake George bateau fleet.

**Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 6:00 PM**

**Book Talk: *"The Confederate Coal Torpedo: Thomas Courtenay's Infernal Sabotage Weapon."* Presented by Joseph Thatcher.** The story of the Confederate coal torpedo, an insidious weapon of desperation and

opportunity. When hidden in coal piles used by the Navy, it would be shoveled into the firebox, explode, and set fire to the ship.

**Saturday, June 2 at 2:00 PM**

***Civil War Medicine – Myth v. Reality* - Presented by Dr. Matt Farina**, President of the Capital District Civil War Round Table. Anesthesia to amputation, the myths and reality surrounding medicine in the Civil War era.

**Saturday, June 16 at 2:00 PM**

***Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) – Reunion of Alumni, Family and Friends* - Free admission.** Marty Podskoch, author of *Adirondack Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: Their History, Memories and Legacy* will give a presentation about the New Deal works program and the CCC and will invite CCC alumni to share memories.

**Saturday, June 30 at 2:00 PM**

***The Schenectady Blue Jays, 1946-1957* - free for SCHS members; \$5 for non members - Presented by Frank Keetz**, local baseball historian and author, about the professional baseball team, the Schenectady Blue Jays.

**PROGRAMS @ the FEC**

**Saturday, May 5 at 2:00 PM**

***Dutch Houses and Furnishings* - Presented by Roderic Blackburn**, author of *Remembrance of Patria, Dutch Arts and Culture in Colonial America, 1609-1776*, and *Dutch Colonial Homes in America*, who brings his expertise to the Mabee Farm to discuss Dutch furnishings.

**Saturday, May 19 at 10:00 AM**

***Black History* (one of a series) Presented by the Schenectady Silhouettes.** Guest collaborator will be **Cliff Oliver Mealey**, who will portray various historical black people like Jack, the Mabee Farm slave, Old Tom of Knickerbocker Mansion, and other local historical figures.

**Saturday, May 19, at 2:00 PM**

***Great Graves of Upstate New York* - Presented by author, Chuck D'Imperio.** This book is an exciting travelogue, a comprehensive reference work, and a fact-filled trivia book focusing on 70 great American legends of upstate NY such as Kate Smith, Susan B. Anthony, John Brown, Lucille Ball, Frederick Douglas, B.F. Goodrich, Wells & Fargo, plus mafia leaders and murder victims.

Who was this person, so loved and respected by his fellow citizens of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Schenectady, as to deserve such obituaries, newspaper editorials, and Common Council resolutions? By the time of his death in 1878, he had practiced medicine for almost 40 years and served his community in many ways, including a term as Mayor in 1858. This unique individual, Alexander M. Vedder, was a direct descendent of the Harmanus Vedder who emigrated from Holland in 1630. His paternal grandfather, also Alexander, was a prominent businessman who, in 1795, pledged a donation to help establish Union College. His father, Nicholas Vedder, emphasized the importance of education. Three of his sons would become physicians.

Alexander, born in 1814, was close to a genius. He evidently had a classic secondary education because his handwriting sample on file at the Union College Archives is in Latin. He entered Union in 1829 at age 15, and in 1833 he graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Salutatorian of his Class. At his Commencement, he gave the Salutatory in Latin. He was elected to the Delphic Honorary Society, an honor bestowed on a small group of students in recognition of their service to the College and to their fellow students. This would be an omen of the future. Alexander later returned to his Alma Mater in 1840 as Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, a post he held for twenty years. Due to his large medical practice, this must have been a part time position. In his diary, Professor Jonathan Pearson reported that Alexander lectured to the senior class during the summer term.

After graduation, Alexander moved to Hudson, NY, where he taught and later became Principal of the Hudson Academy for about a year. During the summer of 1834, before he entered medical school, Schenectady, along with the rest of New York, was hit by a severe cholera epidemic that took the lives of over 200 residents. An obituary from a New York City newspaper reported that during the epidemic Alexander displayed great heroism in the discharge of his duties, and instituted many sanitary measures. He then moved to Philadelphia to study medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating at age 29. (One obituary states that he received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia.)

Dr. Vedder became a member of the Pathological Society of Philadelphia. He stayed on in Philadelphia as an intern and resident in surgery, so when he started his practice in Schenectady around 1839, he

was undoubtedly the most highly trained physician in town. He returned to Philadelphia 37 years later as a delegate to the International Medical Congress, held to mark the Centennial of the United States. The highlight of the meeting was the 2-hour lecture and demonstration of antiseptic surgery by Dr. Joseph Lister, the Englishman who was the first to recognize that bacteria caused surgical infections and who developed a successful method to greatly decrease operative morbidity and mortality.

His first Schenectady office was on the corner of Liberty and Ferry Streets, very close to his home at 67 Front Street, but soon he moved to State Street at the site of the former *Schenectady Gazette* building, close to the railroad tracks. In those years, before George Westinghouse, Jr. invented the air-brake, railroad brakemen suffered thousands of injuries and many found their way to Dr. Vedder's office. Once during a Fourth of July Celebration at Crescent Park, just a few blocks up from his State Street office, a muzzle loaded cannon exploded and two men suffered severe almost identical injuries to an arm, above the elbow. Hearing the noise of the explosion, Dr. Vedder ran up the street with his medical bag and performed an amputation on one of the men. Another surgeon amputated the second man's arm. Dr. Vedder's patient recovered very nicely without complications, and since there was a very large crowd in the Park, his reputation as a surgeon was enhanced. Unfortunately, the other surgeon and his patient did not fare as well.



*Crescent Park in Schenectady was laid out in 1864, 12 years before Dr. Vedder died, but the bandstand shown in the postcard was not added until 1914.*

Dr. Vedder was a tall man, calm and dignified in manner, genial and friendly, always available to help anyone in need. He was respected by his colleagues, loved by his many patients, and admired by his students who flocked to him from Albany Medical College, where he served as a Curator. Dr. Vedder was a kind human being, one of the highest integrity and trusted by all. At the June 1874 meeting of the

Medical Society, he was selected as a Committee of One to investigate the circumstances of a doctor who had fallen on hard times. If the unfortunate man was found to be *"truly indigent and a licensed physician,"* he was authorized to award him \$15 from the Society treasury. And so it was judged.

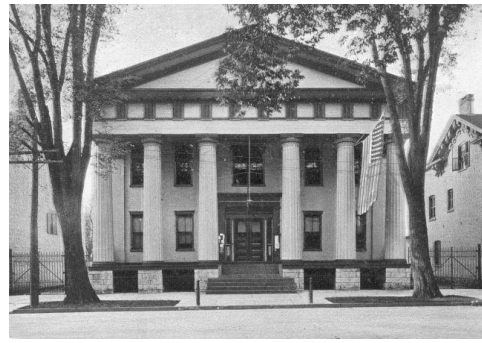
Alexander could also be described as an early Civil Rights advocate. His Death Resolution from the Medical Society described him as *"against all quackery and bigotry."* He supported the Union during the Civil War and in 1864 served as physician for the 18th Congressional District.

The Schenectady County Medical Society, founded in 1810 at the request of the New York State Legislature for the purpose of licensing physicians, stopped meeting around 1843 and the licensing function passed to the local Supreme Court. This caused great dissension amongst local doctors and loss of collegiality. However, in 1869, when the State passed the licensing function back to local medical societies, Dr. Vedder placed ads in Schenectady newspapers calling a meeting of the local doctors. Not surprisingly, he himself was elected the first President of the reinvigorated Society.

Dr. Vedder practiced surgery before Ellis Hospital was founded in 1885. He was a pioneer in draining abscesses of the appendix, and was often called to consult on difficult obstetrical and surgical cases. At the 1875 meeting of the New York State Medical Society, he presented two scientific papers, *"Diphtheria, Tracheostomy, and Recovery,"* and *"Embolism of the Central Retinal Artery."* His prior interest in pathology while at Philadelphia provided Alexander with the medical background to become an expert in appendiceal abscesses. But the author, a 21<sup>st</sup> century physician, can only wonder how a 19<sup>th</sup> century physician could know about a blood clot that could travel to a tiny artery leading to the retina. The modern ophthalmoscope had not yet been developed. For the same physician to become an expert in both the appendix and the retina was astonishing!

In addition to playing a major role in medical affairs, Dr. Vedder was a leader in civic society. He served a term on the County Board of Supervisors, and in 1858 was elected Mayor of Schenectady. A review of the City Council minutes during his term shows that extensive efforts were made to clean up all filth and health hazards in the City. On the lighter side, a sum of \$100 was appropriated to purchase a musical instrument for Young's Cornet Band.

Dr. Vedder was also a Mason, a Director of the Schenectady Bank, a member of the First Reformed Church, and an avid gardener.



*This is a century-old photo of the building at 108 Union Street that was Schenectady City Hall in 1858 while Dr. Vedder served as mayor. It is in sad shape today and despite its location in the Stockade Historic District and its listing on the State and National Register of Historic Places, it is greatly in need of façade renovation.*

During the last months of his life, the good doctor's health started to fail, and he traveled to New York City to the home of his younger brother, Dr. Maus R. Vedder, where he died on Dec. 29, 1878. The entire medical society was notified by telegram of his death, and the doctors donned black mourning badges and went *en masse* to the railroad depot and escorted his body to his home. The funeral was held at the First Reformed Church and the burial was in Vail Cemetery. The Union College Faculty, the County Board of Supervisors, and officials of the City of Schenectady and the Medical Society attended along with many friends and patients.

Dr. Vedder was twice married; his first wife died after 21 years of marriage, and his second wife survived him. He had no children, and I suspect that this was a disappointment to him. He came from a very large family, and he stayed in close contact with his siblings. When his health failed, he went to New York to die at the home of his younger brother. He liked young people. He taught for 20 years at Union. He attracted many medical students who made the trip from Albany to Schenectady to be with him. He nurtured them like the flowers in his garden.

What made Alexander M. Vedder tick was Nature, Nurture, and Circumstances. He obviously was born with superior intellect, having entered Union College at age 15 and graduated with high honors. His family must have been a big influence, since two brothers also became physicians. He went to the best medical school in the United States and stayed on for extra training which was most unusual at the time. There may have been other individuals who have excelled either in their profession, in civic affairs, or in their human relationships. Alexander M. Vedder, M.D., excelled in all three

# Schenectady County Historical Society

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Phyllis Budka  
Bill Buell  
Dr. Joan Wemple Burns  
Robert A. Butsch  
Miriam W. Butzel  
Sandra Mabie Caldeira  
Lynn E. Calvin  
Rachel Cameron  
Kathy Carney  
Linda Carpenter  
Diana O. Carter  
Gayle Caufield  
Donald Cerniglia  
James F. Cerniglia  
Katherine Chansky  
Kenneth Chase  
Rodgers Cheeks  
Clara Clack-van Beek  
Shirley H. Clark  
Marion S. Clas  
Hilda M. Clohesy  
Robert J. Coan  
Willem A. Coetzee  
Richard Cohen  
Pamela Cole

**Individual** (continued)

William R. Collins  
Christine Connell  
Justine M. Connelly  
Vivian F. Consalvo  
Donald E. Coons  
Al Cooper  
Wilma Corcoran  
Lt. Col. Irving E. Costanzo  
Paulyn M. Cox  
Jocelyn F. Creech  
Josephine Cristy  
Deborah Crosby  
Peter Cross  
Heather Cunningham  
Nelson Curtis  
Dr. Lee L. Davenport  
Allan Deitz  
Charleen DeLorenzo  
Gail Denisoff  
Michele Denny  
Jacqueline DeSanti  
Marjorie Deubel  
Richard DiCristofaro  
John R. Diesso  
Neff Dietrich  
Mary Jane Dike  
Paul L. Dimon  
Debbie Dingman  
Rose E. Dixon  
Linda Dolph  
Germaine Doremus  
Frances Rowe Dowling  
Kate Dudding  
Patricia Dudley  
Susan P. Duncan  
Shirley W. Dunn  
Kelly Durocher  
Patricia Dwyer  
Stephen Dyson  
Elizabeth Early  
Theresa Early  
Elizabeth M. Ehrcke  
Lydia D. Eis  
James J. Elbrecht  
Carolyn H. Ellenberger  
Mona M. Evenden  
Joy P. Favretti  
Hazel A. Feiker  
Susan Felthousen  
Pamela Felton  
Darryl Ferguson  
Karen Ferri  
Arnold S. Fisher  
Ellen H. Fladger  
Brian Flahive

Martha S. Foland  
Margaret M. Foley  
Barbara J. Foti  
Arlene Frederick  
J. Stuart Freeman, Jr.  
T. Cartter Frierson, Sr.  
John Gallagher  
Ralph E. Gasner  
Don Gavin  
John Gearing  
Charles Gelarden  
Dr. Carl J. George  
Matthew. F. George, Jr.  
Jeannette K. Gerlaugh  
Rebecca Gibson  
Donald Gleason  
Beryl Grant  
Hershel Graubart  
Lee Ann Griffin  
Marion M. Grimes  
Matt Grumo  
Elaine Bradshaw Guidice  
Jean Gwynn  
Catherine Haag  
Shelle Hamil  
Ruth E. Hand  
Dr. Audra J. Hanley  
Jayne Hanson  
Diane B. Harper  
Gretchel Hathaway  
Naomi Haughey  
Janet Hawkes  
Clifford W. Hayes  
Agnes Hedden  
Gerald Helgeson  
Karen Hess  
Jack D. Hickey  
Paul F. Hooker  
Jodi Horton  
Sylvia E. Hosegood  
Sarah Howes  
Glenn Hunger  
Jenny Irwin  
JoAnne Ivory  
Bernice Izzo  
Mary Jefferson  
Barbara J. Jeffries  
Hugh Jenkins  
Emily Ann Jensvold  
Joyce Jewitt  
Heather Johnson  
Kathryn F. Johnson  
Timothy L. Johnson  
Robert J. Jones  
Dr. Stephen D. Jones  
Sharon A. Jordan  
Marianne B. Josefiak

Gerald Kammerman  
Asa Kaplan  
Ann L. Karl  
Randall G. Karl  
Francis I. Karwowski  
Jean B. Katz  
Deborah Kellis  
Dottie Kennison  
Kevin Kesby  
Elizabeth Khasiev  
Wayne J. Kimball  
Sharlene M. King  
Dr. Ronald F. Kingsley  
Millie Kling  
Marilyn M. Kohls  
Mary Korkosz  
Bonnie Kotary  
Janet M. Kristel  
Donna Lagone  
Ted LaMontagne  
Rita Lancefield  
Ruth Larson  
Gloria Lasher  
Pat Lawson  
Edward Le Viness  
Allison Lee  
Stan Lee  
Jerry L. Leonardo  
Sally Sutliff Lester  
Carol V. Lewis  
Jean Lindsay  
Thomas Locke  
Edward Kruesi Lorraine  
O. Chadwick Loveland  
Katharine L. Lowe  
Catharine Mabie  
George W. Mabie  
Robert J. Mabie  
Patricia Mackinnon  
Elsie Maddaus  
John Maddaus  
Linda Malgieri  
Gertrude A. Mallan  
Ann Mancuso  
Barbara Markey  
Richard T. Martin  
Joan Marzitelli-Brooks  
Linda Masotti  
Irma Mastroianni  
Brian G. Maybee  
Mary Maybee  
Patricia A. McAllister  
Robert B. McCalley, Jr.  
Carole McCarthy  
Bill McColl  
Nancy G. McNabb  
Reba Mehan

Jo Ann Menzer  
Ellen Messick  
Roger Michael  
Marion E. Miller  
Peter Modley  
Leonard Monte  
Pauline M. Moran  
Barbara Hayes Muhlfelder  
Keith Munro  
Harriet D. Murphy  
Malinda Myers  
Perry Ann Myslivy  
Althea Nelson  
Janet L. Nelson  
Christie Noble  
Jane Meader Nye  
Ida Nystrom  
Patrick O'Brian  
Patricia O'Claire  
Francis E. O'Connor  
David Ogsbury  
Tracy Olsen  
Elaine Orsini  
Constnce J. Ostrowski  
Gerald Ouder Kirk  
Jenny Overeynder  
Dorothy Packard  
Barbara J. Palmer  
Christine Pangburn  
Edward Pangburn  
Nancy Papish  
Peter Pasternak  
Jonathan Peace  
Dave Peck  
David Pecoraro  
Mary Pedone  
Linda Perregaux  
Ann M. Perry  
Sean W. Peterson  
Robert A. Petito, Jr.  
Betty Pieper  
Del & Rosemarie Pierce  
Barbara Piper  
Teresa V. Pistolessi  
Henry W. Polgreen  
Josephine Quinn  
Janet I. Rainey  
Robin Ramos  
Carol A. Raphael  
Everett Rau  
Rebecca Rector  
Jacqueline Reed  
Sharon Reed  
Deborah Ann Reid  
Nancy Rheingold  
James Richmond  
Steven Rider



**Individual** (continued)

Susanna K. Sherwood  
Earl James Shirkey  
Patricia A. Shoemaker  
Janet R. Shook  
Chandra Singh  
Peter Sisario  
Charles Slavin  
Henrietta A. Slosek  
Louvina Slurff  
Donald R. Smith, Jr.  
Patricia Smith  
Wayne Somers  
Patricia Somerscales  
Elaine M. Springsted  
Dave St. Louis  
Ellen W. Steele  
John Steele  
Paul Stephens  
Katherine Stevens  
Richard Stewart  
Amanda Stewart  
Robyn Stewart  
Dr. Denise Stringer  
Robert G. Sullivan  
Sally J. Swantz  
Elizabeth Taft  
Edward C. Tanner, Jr.  
Raffele A. Tedeschi  
Peter Ten Eyck  
Alice Buff Tepper  
Dr. Clifford Tepper  
Evelyn Thode  
Doug Thorpe  
Paul H. Tocker  
Robert Seth Tomlinson  
Tulloch Townsend

Robert J. Woods  
Fred Woodward  
Col. William T. Yates  
Neil B. Yetwin  
Howard Young  
Bill Yunick  
James Zayicek  
Jean B. Zegger

**Merritt Glennon**, elected Society president at the Annual Membership Meeting of April 14, is a native of Schenectady County and a graduate of SUNY New Paltz with a degree in Education and History. He retired in 2001 after 33 years of service with the New York State Office of Mental Hygiene and the Office of Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities in Albany. His primary areas of responsibility were in revenue development, program development, documentation, and training. He has been a Trustee and President of the Altamont Free Library; a member of the New York State Council on the Arts with service on its Arts Decentralization Grants Committee; President of the Guilderland Soccer Club; and a Parent Teacher Association unit president. He has been volunteering at the Mabee Farm since 2002, became Chair of the Mabee Farm Committee in 2006, and chaired the George E. Franchere Center Planning Committee. He and his wife Patricia, who have three daughters, live in the Town of Guilderland.

## *New Materials in the Library*

### **HISTORIC DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS**

Records of the Dialogue Coffee House of Schenectady, gift of **Terry Hewitt**

Microfilm record of appointment of postmasters, 1832-1971 for (alphabetically) from Ontario through Schoharie County (includes Schenectady County) and misc. deeds and mortgages related to Schenectady County property, gifts of **Clifford W. Hayes**

Scrapbook of Marjorie Neuland of Schenectady; documents and ephemera related to Improved Order of Red Men of Schenectady; photograph and high school diploma of Charles Ferris Woodruff of Schenectady, gift of **Mary Ann Ruscitto**

Pictorial Map of Schenectady (1931), gift of **Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands**

School memorabilia and newspapers; photographs of Inez Cavert, Frances Dales, Winifred Fisher, and Maud Melchinger of Schenectady, gifts of **Shirley Thomas**

Receipt from John H. Dakin, brass founder and machinist, Schenectady (1894), gift of **Monica Tryon**

### **DONALD KEEFER COLLECTION**

*All materials gifts of Donald A. Keefer*

Amsterdam Marriages; Herrington Family; Mohawk Valley Baptisms; Pearson's *First Settlers of Schenectady* Additions and Errata; Private Family Burial Grounds of Scotia; Records of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Albany; Schuyler Genealogy; Scotia-Glenville Schools; Walter Swart Farm.

### **YEARBOOKS**

Mont Pleasant High School yearbooks, 1968-1970, 1976-1981, 1983-1985, gift of **Mildred Pratt**

Nott Terrace High School yearbook, 1934, gift of **Mary Ann Ruscitto**

Nott Terrace High School yearbooks, 1936, 1937-1938; Schenectady High School yearbook, 1911; Central Park School yearbooks, 1933-1935, gift of **Shirley Thomas**

Scotia High School yearbook, 1954, gift of **Julia Blackwelder**

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School yearbooks, 1956, 1957, gift of **Lori Liebert**

### **BOOKS**

*Water-Powered Grist Mills of Schoharie County* by Marian S. Lynes and *Sea of Glory: The Magnificent Story of the Four Chaplains* by Francis Beauchesne Thornton, gifts of **Nancy Wasmund**

*New York State Freedom Train*, gift of **Mary Ann Ruscitto**

*Autobiography of Clair Elbert Jennings* and *Memoirs of Charles E. Thomas*, gifts of **Shirley Thomas**

*The Red Nurse* by Michael Cooley, gift of the **Little Falls Historical Society**

### **PERIODICALS**

*Bottoming Out* (Canal Society of New York State), 1998-2011; *Canal Society of New York State Newsletter*, 2004-2005, gift of **Carol Lewis**

**FINDING AIDS** for the following collections have been added to [www.schenectadyhistory.net/library/collections](http://www.schenectadyhistory.net/library/collections): Historic manuscripts collection - Bonds, Commissions, Politics; Schenectady Church Records; Schenectady *Townsend Club* records; *Woman's Club of Schenectady* records.

### *We're Still Seeking Yearbooks!*

The opening of our recent exhibit "Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic: School Days of Yore in Schenectady County" at the George E. Franchere Education Center has prompted many donations of school yearbooks. We're always looking for more from Schenectady County schools, elementary school through college. Please call Librarian Melissa Tacke at 518-374-0263 or by email at [librarian@schist.org](mailto:librarian@schist.org) if you have some to donate.

### *Fridays with Frank Lecture Series, all at 10 AM*

Presented by Frank Taormina-\$2 for non-members

*May 11<sup>h</sup> at 10 AM: The History of Schenectady*

*May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM: The Civil War*

*June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM: James Duane*

*June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 AM: Vale Cemetery*

### **CLASSES at Mabee Farm Historic Site**

**Saturday, May 12, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM**

**Wool Drying Basket Class - Instructor: Beverly Cornelius** - Basket is made with twill weaving and will hold large knitting projects or magazines. This footed basket is woven of reed with bushel basket type handles. Finished size: approximately 11" x 11" x 12" without the feet and handles. **Tuition: \$85 plus \$45 for materials.**

**Saturday, June 9, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

***How to use a Shaving Horse to make Handles***

**Instructor: Win Bigelow** – In this one-day class you will learn to use the shaving horse to make wooden handles for hatchets, axes, etc. Bring your tools with broken handles. **Tuition \$75 – includes materials**

**Saturday, June 23, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon**

***Make a Child's Gustoweh: a Native American***

**Headdress - Instructor: Dave Cornelius** This article is a 'real hat' worn by the men of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. **Tuition: \$30 plus \$10 for materials.**

## *Around the Society*



*Reading, 'Riting,  
'Rithmetic Exhibit at  
the George E. Franchere  
Education Center.*



*Titanic Passage - Sue McLane*



*Drying & Preserving Rotterdam Junction history.*



*Ed - Many Thanks!*

# *Schenectady County Historical Society*



**Schenectady County Historical Society – Officers and new Trustees: L-R  
John Halstead, Cindy Seacord, Jim Eignor, Ellen Fladger, Merritt Glennon**



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