

Schenectady County Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 34 - Number 5-6 - January-February 1998

32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12305, (518) 374-0263

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK - Bob Sager

The holiday season is in full swing here at the Society, with nine Christmas trees in the house, each decorated by one of the children's groups that have been visiting this season. The Christmas display will be up until January 12, 1998, so don't miss it.

We look forward to our big Christmas bash with food provided by the Schenectady High School culinary arts classes, the singing of Dutch carols, and generally fun for all.

Partly due to our Web Site our library is receiving more inquiries by letter concerning the files that we possess on many families. We are keeping up with the demand so far, but we foresee the need for MORE VOLUNTEERS. It's a lot of fun!

Our House Committee is investigating more storage space for the many artifacts that are the basis for our changing displays.

I hit a big milestone on November 8. So far the 70 years are not weighing too heavily -- I still get around! My two kids gave me a surprise party at the Gideon Putnam, coming from Bangor and Boston to bring it off with the help of my "young," 76-year-old sister. So far old age is great.

This is a good time to thank our staff, our volunteers, and all of you for your efforts on behalf of the society for the past year. There's always room for improvement, but we are in good shape. The new year should bring some further strides in our work on the Mabee Farm. You will undoubtedly be called upon to help with funds to match our present grant for the erection of our two Dutch barns, and for other improvements to the buildings and the surrounding property. We look forward to the Mabee Farm becoming a landmark historical monument for the future in our valley.

A Most Happy New Year!

Bob Sager

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 10

1:30 Refreshments

2:00 Program

Speaker: Bob Curtiss, "Longevity"

Tuesday, January 20

7:30 PM

Board of Trustees Meeting

January 28, 1998,

1:15 PM

Auxiliary Program: Antiques

Presenter: Jo Mordecai

February 14

1:30 PM Refreshments

2:00 Program

Presenter: Anneke Bull, "Courtship"

February 17

7:30 PM

Board of Trustees Meeting

February 25

1:15 PM

Auxiliary Program: Colonial and Victorian Women Compared

Presenter: Wayne Harvey

Society Hours - Monday-Friday 1:00 to 5:00 PM, Second Saturday each month 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Tours by appointment

Phone (518) 374-0263

The Newsletter is published six times a year. Deadlines are the second Monday of June, August, October, December, February, and April. Please submit material as early as possible.

PROGRAM

January 10

Bob Curtiss will be our speaker on January 10, and he comes highly recommended. His talk, "Secrets of Longevity from Famous Centenarians" should have us all alert and attentive. His talk promises to be entertaining, interactive and educational. And he has exhibits and a door prize!

February 14

Anneke Bull will enlighten us on Valentine's Day about courtship and marriage customs. What could be more appropriate for February 14?

April 11

Rosemary Harrigan is sending out an SOS for World War II reminiscences. Did you fight in the war? Were you a nurse? Were you holding the fort on the home front? Were you an airplane spotter? For the April 11, 1998 monthly meeting we want to get a number of people together to share anecdotes of their experiences. Please let Rosemary know that you'd love to participate.

MUSEUM NEWS

Jo Mordecai, Coordinator of Exhibits

32 Washington Avenue looked truly festive this Christmas season. The mantels and the stairway of table adornments were beautifully enhanced by the ladies of the Hugh Plat Garden Club. This year their theme was late Victorian, mingling dried hydrangea, pine, fern and cones in artistic arrangements, bring our 1895 house into its own - we hope to Dora Jackson's approval.

Our appreciation to Mrs. Jean Mastrianni, Mrs. Edna Scheper, Mrs. Helen Murray, Mrs. Pat Campbell, Mrs. Gladys Whittingham, Mrs. Dorothy Davison and Mrs. Wilma Corcoran.

This year, part of our Christmas exhibit took the form of numerous small Christmas trees decorated by the students of the nursery schools and other schools who visit us throughout the Yuletide season. The trees were resplendent with decorations the children had made themselves.

Schools represented were The Special Place for Children who adorned two trees, one by the three-year-olds and one by the four-year-olds; The Magic Kingdom whose three-and-four-year-olds had made objects of beads, cutouts and buttons; The Toddlers' Trail whose three-year-olds had decorated with angels and whose four-year-olds had made large stockings; St. John the Evangelist's second grade did handmade angels; The Brown School's fourth grade covered its tree with hand painted glass balls, plasticine canes and wreaths and cinnamon sticks; The Care-a-Lot Nursery School's tree wore decorations made of little light bulbs, cut out Teddies, and wreaths and canes made of beads; The Glencliff School's fifth grade did nutritious decorations of bagels, pretzels, apricots, prunes, cranberries, popcorn and nuts. Thank you, students, you made our Christmas merry. [picture]

All of these students came to visit this year for our Christmas House Tour. Over 220 students were booked for our Holiday Special for children: they saw our house looking its loveliest, and they learned the difference between Christmas Past and Christmas Present.

A thank you to Sally van Schaick, Carol and Wayne Harvey and Anne Ross for helping out as docents.

Other wonderful additions to the Christmas Exhibit this season were the dolls of Mrs. Dorothy White, an ardent doll collector. Last year we featured some of her dollhouses. Over 50 dolls - most antique - were displayed throughout the main floor, much to the appreciation of the children - and adults.

Thank you so much, Dorothy!

In the Vrooman Room we also had two showcases of trains for the boys, courtesy of my grandson, Adam Rackis, and a display of antique cars made by the Franklin Mint: beautiful cars, made to scale. These delighted the fathers!

Courtesy of Max Mordecai who also did the lighting.

Thank you Paul Gonsowski for helping put up the trees that the little visiting children decorated.

A Very Happy New Year to You All!

WE NEED DOCENTS!

It really isn't that hard, folks! We know, you're sure you'd never be able to "memorize all that stuff," but that isn't the point. Sure it's nice if you can explain whose family the old grandfather clock came from, but what is mostly needed is a friendly smile and an outgoing nature. Your editor doubles as a docent once in a while, and she has found that if she can talk about one or two items in a room and just let people look to their hearts' content, people are very happy. Follow Jo or Wayne around once or twice for the full treatment, or follow Sally for the once-over-lightly approach.

But we NEED you!

THE MABEE FARM [picture]

John van Schaick

The Mabee Farm had a difficult fall of 1997, yet we did accomplish some long range goals. President Sager

signed a contract with Waite Associates for an historic structure report on the property (essential to some potential funders) by the fall of 1998 for \$15,000. Rob Petito and Derek Sayer will contribute the volunteer effort that makes the price possible. The contribution by the Preservation League of \$10,000 in State Arts Council monies for the report is reported elsewhere. A Lift grant by Schenectady County of \$1,000 leaves the Committee only \$4,000 short in funding the report.

The Committee in November also accepted specifications for an archeological survey of the farmstead prepared by archeologists Ron Kingsley and Louise Basa, members of the committee. The specifications will guide Hartgen Associates in surveying the barnyard in the spring.

Other fall activities were handicapped by the weather. Clearing of the barnyard area of trees and brush, work done in the main by Scott Haefner, Ron and Louise, got done despite the rains, but trash removal scheduled for just before Thanksgiving fell victim to the early long-lasting snow. As a result the Hartgen survey and the placing of the Nilson barn foundations had to be put off until spring. Like Jan Mabee, the farmer's, our results too are weather dependent.

That leaves us the winter for fundraising. The Friends of the Mabee Farm have already managed to raise half the cash needed to match the State's \$50,000 preservation grant. For raising the other \$25,000, one donor offers a challenge of \$5,000 to be matched dollar for dollar with the first \$5,000 donated or pledged before January 20th. That means that every dollar donated now gets three more. Date your checks in 1997 for a this year's gift. If your employer matches gifts be sure to make proper notification.

Kathy Johnson, who led the Committee and succeeded in securing the grants mentioned above, found it necessary in October to resign due to employment pressures. It is not easy to follow in her footsteps, but the Mabee Farm is an historical gem worthy of all of our efforts.

The Committee usually meets the third Monday of each month (the day before the Board of Trustees' meeting) at 7:30 in the Library. Interested persons are welcome.

New (Old) Clock

A new item at the Mabee Farm is the recently restored clock with reverse painted picture on its glass front. Milton Barber, Jr. repaired it, reporting that he found it "full of fishhooks." He restored the movement and the case.

COME HOME AT LAST

David E. Gilcreest of Sierra Vista, Arizona, has made a gift of two large oil portraits he inherited recently. As Stasia Berdy wrote to Mr. Gilcreest, "we are pleased to be the recipients of the portraits of Martin Deforest Yates and Elizabeth Margaret Schermerhorn." Yates and Schermerhorn were great-grandparents of Jessica Baylis Bousfield. The portraits are in oval frames, 35x40 inches. They appear to have been painted around the middle of the 1800s. A great addition to our gallery of Schenectadians.

THANK YOU!

Once more we express our thanks to the Walter S. Quinlan Foundation and to Fred and Katy Kindl whose interest in the Society has secured us a grant of \$1,500 which will be used to preserve the paintings in our collection.

LIBRARY POTPOURRI [picture]

by Elsie M. Maddaus, Archivist and Librarian

Recently, Wayne Harvey gave our library several booklets on architecture -- a welcome addition to the books and materials already in our files because these booklets deal with New York State buildings.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if someone were to write a book on the varieties of architecture in the Stockade -- something on the order of the Realty Plot book entitled *An Enclave of Elegance* by Bruce Maston. Anyone interested?

The Documentary Heritage Program is encouraging New York State archives to increase holdings on the 20th Century before they're all gone! Of particular interest to this library are genealogies of families who came to Schenectady County any time in the 1900s. Donations of these family histories would be so welcome.

GIFTS TO THE GREMS-DOOLITTLE LIBRARY

Photos and certificate of the Paige-Walton Family, given by Mildred Mangan

Dalton Family Records, given by Marcia Dalton Smith

1853 Map of Montgomery County, given by Carmen W. Rowe

Booklets on Schenectady, given by Margaret Nicholas

Information on five families, given by W. Larry House

"Genealogical Helpers" 1995, and "Nexus" 1992, given by Carl Mix

Imprints on the Sand of Time, 5th Ed., Pt.1, Lampman, given by Henry R. Kelly

LeRoy and Laraway Families and Bettys/Bettis Research, given by Donald A. Keefer

Several items on Architecture and Nijkerk, given by Wayne Harvey

PRESERVATION LEAGUE OF NEW YORK STATE (NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS GRANT PROGRAM)

"The Preservation League of New York State is a statewide, not-for-profit, membership organization dedicated to preserving and protecting our state's incomparable architectural heritage." An adjunct of the League is the New York State Council on the Arts Grant Program which was begun in 1993 "as a collaborative effort between the Preservation League and the state's arts funding agency."

This is the group that presented the Schenectady County Historical Society with a check for \$10,000 on November 8, finding among other things that "The resource itself, the Mabee Farm, is of outstanding architectural and historic significance and contributes to our understanding of Dutch settlement, farming and family life in the Mohawk Valley between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries." They further observe that "the project makes excellent use of the skills, talents and resources of the historical society, the Friends of the Mabee Farm, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the selected consultant, the architectural firm John G. Waite Associates."

Several members of the Society belong to the Preservation League. They say that it is a worthy and interesting organization to be affiliated with. It is a 501 (c) (3) organization and welcomes new members.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AMONG OURSELVES

A speedy recovery to Mrs. Rose Dixon who is doing very well after a hip replacement. Rose has always had a great interest in the Society, and through the years has donated many interesting articles to the Museum. She is a staunch supporter of the Ladies' Auxiliary. Get well soon, Rose, we miss you.

NOTABLE SCHENECTADIANS

(We continue the The Journal of Allen Heyer Jackson, 2G grandfather of notable Schenectadians Kitty Gibson and William H. Milton, III. In this episode, our young wayfarer leaves Ireland to return to England and head for home. The sophisticated reader may discern that our hero, like many a youth, left a lot of his father's business till the last minute, and thus was unable to transact it. However, he takes it all in stride. Our sources do not reveal his father's reaction.)

WATERFORD HOTELL, Dublin Wednesday Sept. 16th, 1818.

A showery Day-- I am astonished with the beauty of Dublin . . . the streets are from 20 to 175 feet wide and . . . well paved and lighted it contains at present about 25000 Inhabitants. visited the docks . . .there is about 200 vessels in the Port . . . River Anna Liffey runs through the Centre of the City. . . the Custom house is an astonishing building it is 400 feet long and 200 feet broad . . . thence over the river to the bank formerly the Parliament house of Ireland. . .it is the finest building in Ireland. . . in front of the bank stands the College very extensive we visited the Anatomical Museum where I saw the bones of the Irish Giant which measures 8½ feet high . . .

WATERFORD HOTELL, Dublin Thursday Sept. 17th, 1818.

Dublin is built of brick the houses are from 2 to 4 stories high and covered with slate excepting the Public houses which are built of stone and exceed all others for beauty and size . . . all the public buildings of this place is of the Roman architecture, from thence we went to the Dublin Society house. . . here we saw the egaer Casts consisting of a great number of figures besides representations of those found at the ruins of Palmira, the principal rooms were not open until Saturday. . . The ladies here are real dandies with there fur caps without rims and there dashy dresses. the Gentlemen were moderate then in London or Edenburgh.

WATERFORD HOTELL, Dublin, Friday Sept. 18th, 1818.

. The Irish are verry pleasing People and hospitable. there conversation is entertaining being comprised of there National Wit . . . I frequently hear witty observations from the lower class. the Irish are not as formal in there manners or affected with that haughty pride that the English or Scotch. Don't mistake me I mean those that are real Gentlemen and not the would be Gentlemen for they are as much the reverse.

WATERFORD HOTELL, Dublin, Saturday Sept. 19th, 1818.

I returned home ½ past 11 AM to wait for Mr. Holmes. . . he called at the hour. he gave me a letter to Mr. Emmet. We then went to the bank his influence got us admission into the Printing office which is shut to strangers, here they print the notes the Press goes by steam they take 2 impressions at a time every press has a teller so that it is impossible for the workmen too cheat the bank, next the numbering office is . . .curious every impression has a different number the type changes itself. . . .

WATERFORD HOTELL. Dublin Sunday Sept. 20th, 1818.

I saw several young lads of 18 enter the church dressed in costly equipage mounting an Epaulet on each shoulder which spoke aloud "I am a Major" or in louder words "I am a General" Dambred insignificant Puppies to call themselves dogs before they can bark while you would see old experienced Men with there cheek furrowed with

hardships & fatigued Mounting but one Epaulet and is obliged to touch his hat to the pale faced white livered Puppy. It mat do for them but it would not do for me, here you see the influence of title and Property. they buy a Commission when an infant and when they are 18 the Commission has become a Major by rotation and the young Dandy steps under a couple of heavy Epaulets which he is scarcely able to support, and here he stands a Major without ever seeing a camp or knowing the use of a Musket. Dambnable Law it would not answer in America there Commissions are neither to be bought or sold but are to be had only by bravery, Talent and rotation.

On Bord Packet Earl of Linster (Capt. Clements) Irish Channel

Tuesday, Sept. 22nd, 1818.

I found a Packet for Liverpool to sail 4 PM I engaged a Passage and to mess with the Capt. to save myself the trouble of laying in sea stores . . . it is sometimes done in 24 hours and sometimes it takes a week. I called upon Mr. Barry to bid him farewell, . . . I made ready for a start bid my traveling companion Mr. Mathews farewell I parted with him with reluctance. . . however we parted 3 PM he is agoing to London and I thank God am homeward bound- Left the Pidgeon house for Liverpool in the Packet Earl of Linster (Capt. Clements) 4 PM . . . We have on bord 18 Passengers in the cabin and 53 in the hold who are stored together like flour barrels 8 PM they began to heave and set Lost sight of land 7 PM sea rough on account of yesterdays gale . . . the Passengers in the hold make a d-d noise with there Cascading.

COMMERCIAL INN (I Norris) Liverpool Thursday Sept. 24th, 1818

A stormy day the Gale still rages from the E N E while we are beating against it without making any headway. We are still in great danger beating and thrashing the waves in a hurricane while the Passengers are crying to God for Protection, . . . I am quite ill for the want of rest and food as I have had nothing to eat since I left Ireland but dry biscut. . .

(this put me in mind of the Parties in Ireland when you attend a Party there, after the cloth is removed and wine glasses set they give you a case knife with which you knock off the foot of your glass all the company do the same, then your right hand neighbor fills your glass. You must drink it out or spill it on the Cloth as the glass will not stand (Some have glasses made on purpose without bottoms) this is sitting down with a determination and compulsion to get drunk. . . . thank God we landed safe at the dock in Liverpool; 4 PM after a . . . Passage of 48 hours making a Passage of 120 Miles which ought to be done in 12 hours. I left my trunk . . . and went to the Commercial Inn cleaned myself. got something to eat and went to bed safe once more.

WHITE SWAN (Baines) Manchester Friday Sept. 25th, 1818

I got my trunk from the Custom house, delivered a Packet from my Traveling Companion to Messrs. Sam'l & Thos. Sherlock with a letter of introduction then delivered my letter of credit to Messrs. John S. Carter & Co., and drew 30 pounds Sterling on the credit of Messrs. Beliven & Co. of Albany with the hopes of receiving 50 of Mr. Aston money due my father when I will return it to I S Carter & Co., 1 PM called upon Capt. Williams of the Ship Pacific and engaged a Passage for New York to sail next Thursday. left Liverpool on the coach-Doctor- 5 PM for Manchester where I shall stay a few days. The Traveling here by land is verry expeditious they run frequently from this to Liverpool in 3 hours making twelve miles per hour it is surprising with what rapidity they drive you feel in continual danger while on the coach, but by water it is the reverse either with steam or wind they make slow and awkward work of it.

WHITE SWAN Manchester Saturday Sept. 26th, 1818.

A fine day after breakfast I called upon my friend Mr. Aston he was glad to see me he gave me two letters from my Father which pleased me verry much as it is the first I have heard from home since I left but I was sorry my

Father had not received my letter I wrote him concerning the Belhouse business last June as I am now at a loss what to do concerning said business, however I shall do all I can concerning the land. he likewise ordered me to call up Sam. L Jackson a cousin living with Messrs J. Bennit & Co. I went to there warehouse they knew nothing of him. I gave an order for garden seed &c to take home according to my fathers orders. I then called upon Mr. Barret. . . .dined with Mr. Aston- after dinner I called at the store of Sam'l Jackson who left word at Mr. Astons. . . . I was introduced to his son who told me his Father was sick at home but wished me to go up to his house, which I did He was so unwell I could not see him, but he wished me to call again on Monday which I promised to do. I was introduced to his wife and daughters who are fine young ladies. I took a glass of wine with them and returned home 10 PM.

WHITE SWAN Manchester Sunday Sept. 27th, 1818.

A pleasant day. Attended service with Mr. Aston in the Morning . . . after service I dined with Mr. Aston and then with young Mr. Aston I visited Acquiduct five miles from Manchester where the Grand Canal is carried over the river Sewell a beautiful grand and astonishing sight I walked under it and was surprised with the idea of standing under and over a navigable stream at the same time, likewise the view was beautiful to see a boat of 60 tons sailing in the air as it were with all sail set, you see one above you with astonishment, while you look upon another below you with contempt - this canal is carried over the river with three Grand Arches of brick which appear to defy even the ravages of time. I have often heard of Castles in tha air but never saw one before. There appears to be nothing impossible in this Cuntr.even the word is deemed a redicilous assertion, they think nothing of carrying there Canalls under Ground over rivers &c . . .

WHITE SWAN Manchester Monday Sept. 28th, 1818.

. . . . I wrote a letter to Mr. Thom.Crompton of Bolton concerning business of the Widow Flitcroft of Florida, as I had not time to go myself I directed him to answer my letter. . . .Called Bently concerning the Robertson business but could not . . . find any papers belonging to my Father the oldest son was out of town, I found that Mr. Belhouse had been enquiring for the same Papers sometime ago, . . . but I am certain there has been some fraud in the business. I then called upon Belhouse he was not at home nor was not expected for several days, consequently I could do no business with him. I . . . could get no proper information concerning the contents and chief rent of either the Lotts he formerly owned has been sold several times and the present Landlords live out of town. I then called upon Jacksons the Attornies after convincing them who and what I was they promised to give me the Proper information in writing of the contents and rent of all the Lotts for which he charged me half a Guinea and afterwards told me that Belhouse had got four Judgements against my Father in America upon which information I thought it unnecessay toattempt to do anything consequently was obliged to quit it reluctantly. sorry that I could not settle so important a business to the satisfaction of my Father. I purchased several things for America and made ready for a start tomorrow. I concluded to take no sheep to America according to me Fathers request, as my friends advised to the contrary and the Passage being verry high. According to engagement (after dining with M. Aston) I went to Mr. Jacksons he was quite ill so that I could not see him but Mrs. Jackson made enquiries concerning the Family of his diseased Brother Allen Jackson formerly of New York. I gave all the information in my power concerning his wifes Marriage and there Nephew Allen &c.

COMMERCIAL INN (Morris) Liverpool Tuesday Sept. 29th, 1818.

A fine day verry warm and Pleasant took my baggage &c down to Mr. Astons and Prepared for a departure. Mrs. & Miss & Mr. Aston are going to the cuntry 12 or 14 miles towards Liverpool I concluded to go to Warrington in the Canall boat so as to bear them company. While they were getting ready I went into to Unitarian Church Yard and took the following copy from the tombstone of my ancestors "Here Lyeth the Body of Thomas Jackson who departed this life Nov. 30th 1755. Alice Jackson died Aug. 2nd 1793 aged 79. Mary daughter of Thomas Jackson who died May 17th 1740, Mary July 13th, 1744 Ann Dec. 27th 1750" After bidding

all my friends farewell I left Manchester in company with Mrs. Miss & Mr. Aston Jr. for Warrington in the canal boat 9 AM. Last night while I was at Mr. Jacksons two mwn called at Mr. Astons & enquired for one said he was my cousin & his name was Jackson. I expect he was the one I was looking for he promised to call at 5 AM this morning. the other said he was my cousin his name was Parker he was well dressed. Jackson quite indiferent. they did not call this morning I waited but was obliged to leave them. I begin to find my relations just as I am leaving the cuntry. I am afraid I shall see none of them. I left & bid Mrs. Miss & Mr. Aston Jr. farewell.

COMMERCIAL INN, Liverpool Wednesday Sept. 30th, 1818

A fine day. Commenced getting ready for a start tomorrow. I purchased several small articles for America and went on bord the ship the Capt, informed me that he would sail at 10AM tomorrow if the weather would permit. I met Mr. Talant at the Commercial dinner table. he was one of the passengers on bord the ship Ann when I came over he is to sail for New York tomorrow. . . he goes in the Martha. I entered the custom house 2 PM with little trouble as I had the assistance of the Captain. I called upon J. S. Carter & Co. and informed him I should let the order of 30 pounds stand against H. W. Delevan & Co. as Mr. Aston did not pay the money I expected, but he wrote upon the subject to my father. Mr. Carter was perfectly willing and polite upon the subject. I then went to the office of Cropper, Benson & Co. and drew an Order upon T & I Swords of New York for 47.5 pounds to pay for my Passage. to Cropper, Benson & Co it was an extravagant price but I was obliged to pay it or wait a month longer which I could not consent too. I got through my business and all ready 9 PM bid my friends in Liverpool all farewell. I feel verry much rejoiced at the idea of seeing N.Y. shortly.

. Jackson quite indiferent. they did not call this morning I waited but was obliged to leave them. I begin to find my relations just as I am leaving the cuntry. I am afraid I shall see none of them. Now I am done traveling in England for the present. Verry much pleased with my tour.

(The next issue of the Newsletter will contain the last portion of the Diary of Allen Heyer Jackson. It is an account of his journey home across the Atlantic, during which he underwent every oceanic challenge that wind and wave can bring. Look forward to a harrowing account of the perils of ocean travel in the early 19th Century!)

PLAQUES

Every once in a while it behooves us to let new people in the Stockade know that if you would like an historic plaque on your house, you may apply to the Historical Society for an application for same. Ask our office manager, Mrs. Woldring, for the application form. Don Smith is the contact person at the Society at 374-4205.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS

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

Mission Statement: Grems-Doolittle Library

The Grems-Doolittle library is a 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.

OFFICERS

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Assistant Treasurer - Ruth Ann Evans

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Sally van Schaick

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