

# Schenectady County Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 33 - Number 7-8 -- March-April 1997

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

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK - Bob Sager**

Thank you to Program Chairperson Rosemary Harrigan for a series of excellent and well-attended membership meetings. And thanks to the efforts of Stasia Berdy and Ann Karl who have taken over the responsibility of providing praiseworthy refreshments now that the Auxiliary is no longer able to do so. I think that Ann and Stasia could use some help from other members of the Society with both the food and the serving thereof. Hopefully there will be other volunteers.

Beginning in this issue there will be a boyhood composition written by my Dad, Clint Sager, which my daughter typed up from the ancient hand-written story My father was a poor speller and did not do well with grammar. In fact, for this reason he failed at least twice at the Bellevue Grammar School. Meanwhile at the same school, my mother Cora Cullings did well in these areas and skipped at least two grades. Pop's strong point was math, and later he completed a calculus course at Union College in a quarter of the time allotted. However, he was always a great story teller and enthralled us kids with his tales. I hope you agree. If he had had a creative writing teach in high school he might have been a little star in English class. It must have been devastating to fail grades and end up with younger students.

The farm where Dad was born was just beyond the Cobblestone Church on Princetown Road in Rotterdam. It was owned by his maternal grandfather, Joseph Putman and his wife Martha Schufelt Putman. Dad's father, Cornelius Van Dyke Sager, started building houses in the city (500 over forty years) so when Dad was 13 his parents moved into town, but Pop always remained a country boy at heart.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, March 8**

**1:30: Refreshments**

**2:00: Program: Wayne Harvey, "Edison: Boy and Man"**

**Tuesday, March 18**

**7:30 PM: Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 26**

**1:15 PM: Auxiliary Meeting**

**Nancy O'Donnell, "Perennial Graphics: Planning Your Garden"**

**Saturday, April 12**

**1:30 PM: Refreshments**

**2:00: Program: Bill Massoth, "Do you Remember Schenectady?"**

**Tuesday, April 15**

**7:30 PM: Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 23**

**1:15 PM: The Auxiliary**

**"What's the Scoop?"**

**Scotia-Glenville Traveling Museum**

**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.**

### **MARCH PROGRAM**

**It's been too long since we've seen Wayne Harvey in one of his inimitable metamorphoses. We're happy to announce that he is returning to us on March 8, this time as Thomas Edison. Be sure to come and bring a friend. Wayne promises to focus on Edison the person, which ought to make the program an enjoyable one for a general audience. This would be a good program to which to bring a serious middle school or high school student. Idea? As usual we need hosts (m and f) and refreshments.**

### **APRIL PROGRAM**

**Those of us who attended the January meeting and learned about the "Tin Horn and Calico" war in the early 19th Century from Bill Massoth can look forward to another great Massoth production as Bill takes us on a memory trip through Old Schenectady. Volunteer hosts would be welcome.**

### **OUR OWN AUTHORS**

**Those of you who subscribe to the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* or who keep up with it in the SCHS library may have already noted in the October issue our own Donald Keefer's article: "The Lost Baptisms of the Rev. John Calvin Toll of Canajoharie, Montgomery County, New York". Don compiled the information from documents "recently discovered in the archives of the Schenectady County Historical Society." Now the rest of his compilation has just been released in the latest issue of the *Record*. Hurry down to the Society library to read up on these records--fill in that gap in your Montgomery County charts!**

### **LIBRARY POTPOURRI**

**by Elsie M. Maddaus, Archivist and Librarian**

#### **Library Notes**

**The east wall of the library has a new look. Recently, the likenesses of eight illustrious men of Schenectady have been hung there. They include Joseph Christopher Yates, Leland Stanford, John Howard Payne, George William Featherstonehaugh, John Ellis, William Clyde Fitch, William Henry Seward, and Eliphalet Nott.**

**The framed pictures were "discovered" in the Society's attic. They have matching frames. According to Don Keefer, they hung in a room of the Society's former location on Union Street. Why these particular men, no one knows.**

**Now we are looking for notable ladies' pictures of about the same size for the south wall. We thought the ladies should have equal space.**

#### **Acquisitions**

**The phone rang one day and a voice said, "I have a number of books on local history and biography which I need**

to dispose of. Would you like them for the library?" The answer was, "Yes."

This happens every so often and we never know when we will find a treasure in the boxful. In the last three months of 1996, we received books, maps, periodicals and a television set.

Especially welcome were a number of books on canals given by Malcom D. Horton. Many were guide books of the New York State Canal Society and were just the source we needed for a recent researcher. She wanted maps of the old Erie Canal, the area from Waterford to Niskayuna.

Wayne Harvey gave us five books on the subject of Colonial Women. There's material on women in the Revolution, as well as women of all classes and economic levels.

Wall maps include the 1776 Bleecker Map of Rensselaerwyck Manor given by Virginia W. Wooley, and the 1856 map of Schenectady given by John Papp.

Other items came to us from the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, from Arthur F. Newkirk, and from author Roy M. Topka.

Each gift helps us to answer the variety of questions which comes to us daily.

Library exhibits: in February, the Mabee Farm; in March, Famous Visitors to Schenectady.

## THANK YOU

If we walked into French class late, Mademoiselle would intone, "Mieux tarde que jamais."

Well, better late than never on acknowledging the gift to the library from the Charitable Private Foundation, which provided us with \$50,000 for the library in April, 1996. This is known as "The Broughton Fund" and was granted at the request of William Gundry Broughton, to be paid after his death which occurred in 1994. Mr. Broughton, who was 92 at the time of his death, had been a sales manager for broadcast transmitting equipment at General Electric. Retired at 65, he spent the rest of his life in philanthropic pursuits, giving one substantial gift to some entity in the community every year. We are all familiar, for example, with the Broughton Gallery at the Schenectady Museum.

Society member James Pontius is also the president of a non-profit foundation set up by Broughton in 1990. He presented the check to the Society at its annual meeting. Pontius said of Broughton: "He always liked libraries and he liked historical societies." Archivist and librarian Elsie Maddaus said the money may be used to computerize historical and genealogical records, purchase books and equipment and possibly hire people to enable the library to remain open more than its present 20 hours a week.

So belated thanks to Mr. Broughton and his foundation. We are certainly enjoying the fruits of his providence, and hope we are making wise use of them.

## MUSEUM NEWS

Jo Mordecai, Coordinator of Exhibits

Recently the Society received a beautifully catalogued American Indian Collection, put together over many years of diligent searching and attending digs in parts of Scotia. Many of the artifacts of Iroquois origin date back to 2,000 BC. The late Mr. Theodore Baim was an ardent collector of Mohawk and Iroquois tools, stones, spear heads, scrapers, arrowheads, and many varieties of small stones.

He was also a talented illustrator who, when attending a dig, drew and labeled each finding.

Another of Mr. Baim's interests was botany, especially herbs and plants used by the Indians.

During the months of February and March, an exhibit of some of his collection will be on display in the Vrooman Room - a wonderful addition to our Society collection, and of great interest to students.

From your House to Our House

Donor: Mrs. Elsie Maddaus - Schenectady. Four small linen tablecloths

Donor: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Keefer - Amsterdam.

One set of dominos, circa 1873

One wooden cookie mold, handcarved by Col. Christopher Yates, 1737-1785

One iron toy cat - one of the playthings of Donald Keefer during his childhood, circa 1930

Donor: Fleet Bank - Schenectady. Seven portraits, four painted by H. M. Mott Smith; two by Carol A Johnson; one unknown

Portraits of Joseph Yates, Hermann Mynderse, David Boyd, Giles Yates van der Bogert, Platt Potter, Lewis Farquharson, and James Duane.

Donor: Mr. Wayne Harvey - Scotia. Seven pieces of Schenectady memorabilia - local business souvenirs.

Donor: Mrs. Carol Harvey - Scotia. One black derby hat, worn by her late father, Rev. LeRoy Brandt. Circa 1930.

Thank you all for your generosity.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 5th was the date of our second annual Celebration of Education. Twenty-one teachers from the various schools in Schenectady County attended, in spite of the mixed precipitation, and were introduced to the Iroquois Kit which the Education Committee has been working on all year. Barbara Wylie presided over the Mabee Farm exhibit which we hope to develop into another traveling kit. Frank Taormina, Howard Bliss, Bill Massoth and Rosemary Harrigan took turns showing the teachers the various exhibits, and Elsie Maddaus gave generous tours in the library.

Many thanks to Stasia Berdy and Ann Karl who made sure we were fed properly with a savory collation.. The food was not only delicious, but it was beautifully displayed in the dining room. Our guests lingered, toured, admired and asked questions. We hope this will lead to increased involvement with the schools.

## SAGER SAGA

(In this piece we have another account of life in these parts in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Our president, Bob Sager, acquired a memoir, written by his own father Clinton Sager I, which provides us with a picture of that earlier day. Makes you want to dig out a copy of Booth Tarkington's "Penrod". Remember?)

When I Was a Little Boy

Whether it is advisable to inquire into the circumstances surrounding one's infancy is a question, for often I have been reminded of how I cried or did something that annoyed everyone. The records show that very late in the 19th C., on a bright Wednesday afternoon in June, I was born. My birthplace was in the country, near a railroad, not far from Schenectady. My grandmother feared that I would be a railroad man because the first noise I heard was a train of cars going by the house.

My grandmother was very much pleased to become acquainted with me and she took full charge of me. I had not been in the world over six hours when I created a commotion. The doctor had just gone home and my grandmother had placed me in a chair near the stove that she might finish washing the supper dishes. She had not worked long at the dishes when I rolled off the chair and under the stove. She said her heart was in her throat not knowing how badly I was injured. After a close examination she decided I was all right, but she kept a close watch on me after that. The next day my grandmother told the doctor about my fall, and he said I was paid back for what I did to him. It seemed the senior class of our high school had their dance that night and he had promised to take his best girl to the ball. When he was called to come out and see me, he had to get his brother to take his girl to the dance.

Along with the rest of the worries concerning my arrival, my mother and the rest of the family had been thinking about what they would name me. Three or four days had passed and no decision was reached, except that my father wanted me to be named after my grandfather. My mother objected to that, and the following day mention was made of the prohibition candidate, who had run the previous fall for president. The name suited her taste, and for a wonder everyone else thought it ideal. Therefore I was named after the prohibition candidate but not because my family were prohibitionists.

My grandmother soon found that she had more than she could attend to doing the housework and taking care of me. Just about that time a young lady just out of school and her mother wished to come out in the country and spend their vacation. It was soon arranged for them to come and I was left in charge of the young lady. Everything went along charmingly with my nurse and me, until one afternoon when she was out in the barn hunting eggs. She left me by the barn door and while she was gone one of the calves came around to inspect me. When she returned with the eggs she found the calf licking my face; for some reason I had not awakened. My nurse never told the incident until long after, fearing they would not trust her with me if she did.

After a few months my mother decided it was time for me to be baptized. It was the regular time of the year for that ceremony and several more children were going to be baptized. My mother held me when I was christened because she thought my father might drop me. When the minister was baptizing me, my mother said I let out an awful yell because some of the water ran down my neck. Ever after that my father laughed because my mother was sure something would happen if he held me.

Months rolled on and soon I got about quite readily by myself. The black shepherd dog and I soon made friends, for he was allowed in the kitchen. One day we had company from the city and the lady brought her little poodle dog with her. Of course I entertained the dog as she had no children. The poodle and I were having a high old time in the kitchen when our Shep appeared on the scene. Not knowing the ways of dogs I let Shep in the kitchen too. The poodle spied Shep and made a dive for the dining room with Shep after him. In the mixup that followed, the plant stand and many other things were dislocated, and, after the dogs were separated by the company and my mother, a hot discussion followed. I thought all that commotion interesting until my mother took me across her knee and gave me a good spanking. Years afterwards she told me she hated to spank me that day, but she said if she hadn't, the owners of the poodle would never have come to see her again.

One of the brightest days of my life was my fourth birthday. My uncle lived with us for several years and he and I were the greatest of friends. One day he made a bargain with me; if I kept it he would bring me something on my birthday. With the greatest of my ability I did his bidding. That birthday was the longest day I can remember

because I thought the night would never come and bring my uncle with that present. When he did come I felt as if I were walking on air, because he brought me a bicycle, the one thing I had been longing for.

(Can't you just see the look on the face of that grandmother when the baby rolls under the stove! Next issue will have the further youthful adventures of Clinton Sager I.)

**THE MABEE FARM - by Barbara Wylie**

**\$50,000 Challenge and Opportunity for the Mabee Farm**

New York State, through its Environmental Protection Fund, has awarded a \$50,000 matching grant to the Schenectady County Historical Society for work at the Mabee Farm. What an extraordinary opportunity we now have to move ahead with our vision of a vibrant farm museum, with its unique buildings returned to their original strength and beauty.

This opportunity, however, comes with a tremendous challenge. In order to receive the entire \$50,000 from the state, the Society must raise a matching amount. The Friends of the Mabee Farm membership drive has given us a firm foundation of funds to build on, but a foundation is just that, a beginning. We need to raise many more dollars to match this grant.

This funding opportunity comes at a critical time. We must accomplish certain basic tasks in order for the Mabee Farm project to move forward. The three existing buildings desperately need stabilization and repair. To continue eligibility for additional grant funding, we must publish an Historic Structure Report. In addition, we must complete an archaeological survey before the ground is disturbed by any construction work. The cost of these crucial steps is estimated to exceed \$100,000.

The challenge is great. Our ability to meet the challenge of this \$50,000 matching grant will determine whether the Mabee Farm project moves forward in a timely manner or languishes, risking further deterioration of these extraordinary buildings. Surely this challenge is worthy of our best efforts.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

**Mrs. Bertha A. Berman**

**Clinton Sager**

**Mrs. Jean Gwynn**

**Mrs. Roberta Hambleton**

**Mr. Ken LeGere**

**Cynthia Miles-Lewis**

**Carol V. Lewis**

**Mrs. Marsha Mortimore**

**Mr. Roy O. Stratton**

**Mr. and Mrs. Wallace C. Van Houten**

**Rogers B. Finch**

**David Orcutt**

**Jennifer Draffen**

**Kathryn E. Mohr**

**Steve F. Scholz**

#### **NOTABLE SCHENECTADIANS**

(We continue the The Journal of Allen Heyer Jackson. As you may recall Jackson is the 2G grandfather of notable Schenectadians Kitty Gibson and William H. Milton, III. The Journal is long and we propose to publish excerpts of it over the next few issues. Mr. Jackson is of the informal school of punctuation not to mention spelling. Enjoy!)

### **Journal of Allen Heyer Jackson**

**Legs of Man Burslem Wednesday July 1st, 1818.**

...a cloudy day rain ... overslept myself ... Mr. Riley called before I was up ...he called again I went with him and visited his Warehouse he had some of the ...handsomest Patterns I ever saw and the largest quantity...the men were not at work he said they would be to work tomorrow or next day then he would show me the process of making ware, the Clay is fetched from Cornwall ...the Potteries [are] here [because there is] plenty of coal in this neighborhood.... This afternoon saw two bull baits in which one man was tossed to a great height ...they dragged him out and went on-I am surprised [at]the fierceness of the bull dogs when they let him loose he flies at the bull with the fierceness of a lion the bull catches him on his horns and tosses him in the air to a great height ... I never was treated so kindly in my life 10 or 12 gentlemen appear as if they knew me a long time and do all they can to please ...me without any reason or cause but my being a stranger which the English verry much respect.

**Legs of Man Burslem Thursday July 2nd, 1818.**

A beautiful day after breakfast I started to Stoke an other Pottery town ....stopped at a coal Pit, there is two entrances or wells one they draw water from and the other coal. they are drawed up by steam engine....the Wells are ...handsomely stoned.I got a suit of flannel ...and with two Gentlemen got into the box and went down, "believe me true" 240 yards (actual measurement) down this narrow well before we came to the Pit. when I saw lights... and 7 or 8 men to work digging ... it was cut out like a room 9 feet high. Glad to get out safe of Hell ...I had rather get my fuel out of the woods- 11 A.M. delivered my letter to Mr. Minton who showed me the process of making earthen ware ...he had about 200 men wimin and children to work in making one cup or causer there is that many separate trades belonging to it .... I then ...returned to Thanleys where I dined at the Swan Inn a fine manufacturing town of which there is about 20 in this neighborhood Arrived at Burslem 4 PM where I saw a man and 3 Men Baits in less than 16 minutes.

**Kings Head,Ride,Lichfield Friday July 3rd 1818.**

...went to the Grand trunk Canall ...the Canall goes under the hill which is 200 feet above the canall the distance under ground is 1 miles in which there is several subteranious passages to coal mines I went under verry dark and bad air we had a light saw several lights the men lie upon their backs and push the boat along with their feet.... visited Mr. Kemps factory of earthen ware the steam engine was applied to more than I ever saw it. the factorey the largest and finest ware in the Patteries, ... Concluded to go to Litchfield ...started ½ past 5 PM on the coach "Prince Saxe Cebourg" Passed ...(manufactoring places before Mentioned) River Trent, rode ...on the Grand Trunk Canall .... Great Traveling start after tea and ride 30 Miles before bed time. tomorrow afternoon I shall go to Birmingham. the stages in England travel all night. they have a man on top (called Guard) armed with Blunderbuss Pistols &c in fear of Robers.

**Cross Guns Inn, S.Smith, Birmingham Saturday 4 July.**

A fine day visited the Cathedrial the most gothic Building in England it has three verry tall spires it is 420 feet in length it is the only curiosity on Litchfield ...- Started for Birmingham in a return shase... Put up at the Cross Guns Inn S.Smith. I took a walk of about 200 yards but ...meeting six beggars I turned about and made my way to the Inn where I shall stay until tomorrow. My Friends although I am in a foreign Country ...I have not forgot but hold dear in remembrance ...the Anniversary of American Independence although alone in my rejoicing it is

pleasing to contemplate on the happiness of my rejoicing ...friends and the freedom of my country which was gained this day 42 years, I think I see my companions rejoicing ... Huzza for Independence.

**Cross Guns Birmingham Sunday July 5th 1818.**

... attended Service in St.Pauls Chappel....they had a fine Organ 18 different instruments and 25 best singers, they sang accompanied with the musick...in the forenoon I think they need something of the kind for Birmingham... contains the... most impertinent beggars I ever met .... in front of the church there is a fine monument... in remembrance of Lord Nelson ...large as life and of cast Iron representing the bows of his Ship, himself and 4 or 5 weeping figures....visited a little of the best laid out city I have met... Duddestone Gardens... said to be laid out in the London Vaux Hall Plan - it is now 10 o'clock PM and I am writing without a candle it is the same again at 2 o'clock A.M. so we are deprived of Light 4 hours out of 24 .... the Streets are filled with Servants, footmen &c it is impossible to tell them from there Masters by outward appearance, but still I think I observe something in there appearance, there walk, there gestures &c which tells me they have Masters.

**Cross Guns Birmingham Monday July 6th, 1818.**

... Visited the Theatre,... St.Phillips & St.Martin, Churches... the Market was a busy Place where everything... was for sale even... birds half grown in the nest, linen night caps and old bones, in the afternoon viewed the manufactories all hardware, cutlery & Jewelrey which we have poor specimens of in America. I have seen all before excepting making files & ropes,.... I saw several sedan chairs constructed similar the body of a coach, only large enough to hold one proud, affected Lady .... poles are placed underneath and carried by two servants who are smiling at these Mistresses Simplicity.

**Fleece Inn Cheltenham, Turner, Tuesday July 7th,1818.**

... Started from Birmingham 7 AM on the coach (Royal Defiance) for Gloucester,...Passed Droitwich ...where we ran over a ...Woman not much hurt, ... Worcester large City, arrived at Gloucester 60 M. from Birmingham 3 PM at the City arms, Spencer where I dined ....it is altogether delightful. between Worcester and Tewksbury we met a Pheasant and 9 young in the road--the first game I have seen here, concluded to go to Cheltenham left my trunk at Spencer and got in a chaise ... here I am where many a Duke, Lord & King has been visited. there Church which is the form of a cross....there is a rail way from Gloucester to this Place kept in repair by a Company by that name for Coal Store &c.

**City Arms, Spencer, Gloster, Wednesday July 8th 1818.**

...early this morning went to the spring  $\frac{1}{2}$  Mile out of town ...drank some water no disagreeable taste there were two fine bands playing continually in the walk. I saw the Duke of Gloucester...[saw] all the Nobility, Widowers, Batchelders, Fortune hunters, Widows, Maids and Gamblers in the Kingdom. I took breakfast with a man who has come 100 Miles he was dangerously ill, had no apitite...he... bragged of drinking 4 bottles of wine yesterday with a friend ...I never saw such a Glutton in my life, .... saw them making a new road (Pounded stone 2 feet then dirt) started 10 A.M. on Royal Mail stage arrived at this Place  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 A.M. then visited the inside of the church founded in the 6th Century toom stones of the 14th. ... Room for writing before the art of printing.... Busts of Dukes &c. then visited a Pin factory the only kind in this place. Wimin head and paper them they head them  $6\frac{1}{4}$  ft for 1 paper 24 yd for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents. there is about 12 diferent branches to that trade.

**White Heart,Porter Bristol Thursday July 9th 1818**

...left Glocester 9 A.M. on the Coach Phoenix. . . there were on the coach a party going to London ...I joined this happy Company which consisted of Miss Leech Mr. Leech Mr.Taylor and Mr.Elliot, from rochdale all single they were diverting accommodating and apparently happy that I joined them. Mr. Taylor acts the clown ... he

cares for nobody but jokes with everybody, the first he said to me was "You are from America Sir" "Yes sir" "from the State of N.York" "Yes Sir" "I perceive by the shape of your mouth that you raise the same kind of beans in America as we do in England" &c &c ... Millbury heath a fine heath on top of a hill of a mile square not cultivated or inhabited excepting by Rabbits which beat all I ever saw the ground was covered with Old and young hundreds of them laying in the sun side of the road.... rode in sight of the Severn several miles ... at White Hart inn, Porter, Bristol ...M. 34 M from Gloucester after dinner we walked the City it stands on the side of a hill ... it is lighted with Gas.

**Christopher Inn, Blake, Bath Friday July 10th 1818.**

... visited the docks and shipping ... Cathedral verry antient but nothing extraordinary. a fine square in the centre of the town in the center of which stand the Monument of King William on horse back .... the hotwells only mile out of town the walk is fine upon the bank of the river Avan which ...joins the Severn a few miles below which is navigable for large ships up to the city. made so by Man. Bedminster a fine village across the river opposite Bristol. Bristol is the finest City I have yet seen.... left Bristol for Bath ½ past 5 PM on the Bristol Horse coach ...arrived at Bath ½ past 7 PM at Christopher Inn, .... Bath is surrounded by high Hills from the top of which I had a fine view of the City which is called the finest city in the Kingdom. it is not large bur beautiful, no company of any Consequence here all gone to Cheltenham &c.

**Red Lion, Bukinsale, Salsbury Saturday July 11th, 1818.**

[Bath]....the City is built of White free stone entirely not a house but what is built of the same stone which gives the City a beautiful appearance. ... - the waters of the spring are quite warm More than blood warm taste of iron. I never saw a City appear as formal as Bath, the Houses all of one color and one stone gives the City a formal appearance. left Bath on an Extra Royal Coach... We had a heavy shower of rain in which I got wet ...arrived at the Red Lion Inn, Bukinsale Salsbury ½ past 11 PM and wet enough, however I was not alone for I had my Rochdale Companions and several others with me. I think I shall leave them here and go a different rout to London, Salsbury Planes which commence one mile from this Place are the largest and finest Planes in England there is 18 Miles square as smooth and level as a floor and not a hedge tree or shrub up on it they are not enclosed being poor land.

**Whit Hart Inn, Johnson, Whitchurch Sunday July 12th.**

... after breakfast I with my companion visited the interior of the Cathedral which was the most superb building I have yet seen. Great many of the statutes were destroyed or defaced by O Cromwells war, the spire is 400 feet high length of building 480 feet, width 232 feet high inside 84 feet-Number of windows 365, number of fine marble Pillars inside 8760 and 12 doors. the East Window is beautifully painted representing the elevation of the brazen Serpent and the resurrection, the Chapter room is a large round room (in which these figures representing translations from Creation to the overthrow of the Egipctions in the red sea) in the center stands the table they used to pay the workmen off of when building. It was founded in 1200 finished in 1234 - .... started in the London Royal for Whitchurch...and the seat of Lord Portsmouth, he has a Park for 7 miles in circumference containing several hundred deer... arrived at White Hart inn, Johnson, Whitchurch 10 PM 20 Miles I made a sad mistake I have got Mr. Eliots coat and left mine I wrote back to him immediately at Salsbury informing him of the Mistake and that I would carry it to London I wished him to bring mine.

**Angle Inn, Carey, Oxford Monday July 13th 1818**

A fine day Mr. Elliot knowing I had taken his coat by leaving my own not receiving my letter and knowing I would be at Whitchurch until 11 A.M...brought my coat we exchanged and I satisfied him for coming out of his way. After breakfast we got lines and Poles and went a fishing on a fine trout stream which runs through the villiage. I cought three trout ... he coght one...Arrived at Angle Inn where we had a band of music all evening ....Oxford 45

Miles from White Church ½ past 6 P.M. then visited the colleges Painting room in which was a brass statute of the earl of Pembroke weighing 1600 lb 6 feet high New Chapple paintings on the east windows representing creation... the gardens belonging to the Col. are very fine... in one there is two trees grafted together,.... the walk called Addisons Water walk is a retired spot surrounded by water. Where most of his works are dated. a fish pond in one of the yards with a brass statute in the centre.the University itself is as large as Schenectady nearly.

**White Horse Inn,Lovell fetter Lane London Tuesday July 14th.**

... Arrived at the White Horse Inn Lovell Zetterlane Charing Cross London 5 P.M. after the most beautiful ride I ever had 60 miles are of the finest country in the word and half the way in a city as it were but London astonishes me we rode by Hide and St.James parks, the carriages and nobility were enough to frighten a person out of his wits. Hide Park is verry large where they ride for pleasure. St.James the same. In Charing Cross there is a fine statute representing King Charles on horse back. I saw the smoke of London 15 miles before I saw the city, ...I shall stay here for a few days and rest myself it will require some time to visit all Parts of the City, tomorrow I shall get a Guide and make a beginning.

**White Horse Inn Lovell Fetter Lane Wednesday July 15th.**

. ...Walked up Piccadily to Hyde Park disgusted with the vanity of the nobility... delivered a Packet from Miss Swords N.York to Mr.Naylor, Great New Port Street Leicester Square, Long Acre, engaged to dine with him on the 29th Inst..... visited the exterior of St.Pauls Church. My God what a Massy Pile of stone.... Crossed London Bridge ... the bridges are as solid and firm as a Public Street here they are well paved and fine flag walks-you may see 50 carriages and carts on the bridge at once, visited the British Painting Gallery the finest collection of paintings I ever saw,... I saw an advertisement against the door of a Coffee Hose "fine American Spruce beer " I called for some abominable stuff I paid for it and left it.

(More next issue!)

**THANK YOU, FRIEND**

We are beginning to get refreshments supplied by wonderful people. At the January 11th membership meeting Annette Billmeyer, Katie Kindl, and Miriam Lewis made the goodies. Anastasia Berdy, Ann Karl and Sally van Schaick did the honors at the February 8th meeting.

Because of our printing schedule we didn't get a chance in our last issue to thank Mrs. Suzanne Berandt of Schenectady High School who supervised the preparation of the delectable Christmas party menu. Her five basic food classes prepared the foods, and the following five students gave up their Saturday to be in our kitchen, set out the dining room table and be responsible for the service: Michele Pannone, Hollie Woods, Daniel and Amanda Wiegert and Betsy Berandt.

We feel fortunate in having one more opportunity to work with young people and have them interacting with our older membership.

**QUERY COLUMN - We get letters . . .**

**Sheldon Family Association**

The Sheldon Family Association will hold its 58th Annual Meeting October 12-14, 1997, at the Fort Wayne Hilton, Fort Wayne, IN. Our Meeting this year will feature recently found information on Sheldon descendants and personal research at the near-by Allen County Public Library which is known for its extensive genealogical holdings. For further details please contact A. J. Hogan, 1221 Concord Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026; phone (610)

Elsie Maddaus calls it to our attention that SCHS has a SHELDON file.

## **WHAT CAN YOU LEARN ABOUT HISTORY AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

by Francis Taormina

(We conclude Frank Taormina's essay, a work particularly useful for those of us who want to extend interest in history to as many people, young and old, as possible.)

### **Civic Affairs**

From its first citizen - Arendt Van Curler - a person whose shining example as a civic leader was perhaps best exemplified by the fact that for many years after Van Curler's untimely death in 1667 the Iroquois called the Governor of the Province of New York "Corlaer" as a mark of their respect and affection for Van Curler as a leader, to the civic disaster it suffered in 1690 because of the inability of its citizens to work together as a community, to the challenge it faced in coping with the growth in numbers at the beginning of the nineteenth century and the decline in numbers at the end of the nineteenth century, there is much to study which can be instructive about how communities succeed and how communities fail here in Schenectady. Once again, the story cannot be told here in this space, but the resources are here in the Society to examine many fascinating aspects of the civic history of Schenectady.

### **Genealogy**

Out of the writings of Joseph Campbell I emerge with the idea that one of the principle tasks that confronts all of us is to find the "source of our being". Campbell may not have had in mind what the genealogist has in mind as he or she undertakes his or her search, but certainly in some ways Genealogy, especially if it is rigorously truthful, is a search for the source of one's "being". The collection of materials we have here at the Historical Society is especially designed to help people with this task.

### **In Sum**

History is the story of individuals and it's the story of communities looked at and examined in all the variety of ways that reflect all we are, all we do, all we can be. The intention of the Historical Society is to preserve the things and the records that will help us in our search for enjoyment, for satisfaction and for understanding.

### **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.

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**Historical material and comments, including letters to the editor, are welcome and may be submitted to the editor, care of the society**

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