



ALCO exhibit in SCHS Museum.
Photo: Ann Aronson



Cindy Seacord,
Katherine Chansky,
Pat Barrot at a
recent Colonial
Festival event.
Photo: Kim Mabee



Cliff Oliver Mealy portraying Jack
the Mabee slave.
Photo: Ruth Bergeron



Schenectady County
Historical
Society

Newsletter

Volume 51 Number 3-4

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32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12305

(518) 374-0263

Web site: <http://www.schist.org> • Editor email: rbergero@nycap.rr.com

FAX: (518) 688-2825

Librarian email: librarian@schist.org • Curator email: curator@schist.org



The U.S.S. Schenectady (LST-1185) *June 13, 1970 - November 23, 2004*

If there ever was a photo of the *U.S.S. Schenectady* that portrayed her as a pinnacle of naval power, this is it. Some may view the Newport class of LSTs (Landing Ship, for Tanks) as a collection of ugly ducklings. Far from it. The ship shown here was known affectionately by her crew as the “Skinny-T.” It was the best possible design for the tasks she was designed to handle. There were probably thousands of LSTs constructed during World War II that were little more than barges compared to the *U.S.S. Schenectady*. The *U.S.S. Schenectady* was able to load and deliver her cargo of tanks, LVTs (Landing Vessels, Tracked), general cargo and personnel to any point on the globe. These vessels were the Navy’s moving vans. She performed her assigned duties and

exceeded all expectations. Her crew, during her brief lifetime, became an integral part of this amphibious giant that served the Pacific Fleet during the Vietnam War.

Parts of this 522-foot ship were built by two Schenectady based companies, General Electric and the American Locomotive Company. In 1968, Navy Secretary Paul R. Ignatius received a letter from Kimberly Duto, a fourth grade student from Franklin School, asking that a ship be named for her hometown, Schenectady. Her wish was granted and the ship was commissioned on June 13, 1970. The *U.S.S. Schenectady* earned four battle stars during Vietnam, and since 1993 had been located at the Naval Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility in Pearl Harbor.

On November 23, 2004, the *U.S.S. Schenectady* met an ignominious end, off Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. US Air Force B-52s dropped guided bombs on the decommissioned LST, one of which completely destroyed the ship. The seventh ship in the Newport class of Tank Landing Ships, the *U.S.S. Schenectady* served as a target for a recently developed air-to-surface/ moving target guided bomb. News footage showed a single hit completely destroying the ship. The final resting place of this vessel will prove to be a productive artificial reef where none existed before. The *U.S.S. Schenectady* was a great lady in her time. Hopefully, much was learned during her final service as a target. Shipmates probably feel she deserved a kinder fate but her service was honorable.

REUNION Notice and story continued on Page 8



Historical Society Newsletter
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Schenectady, New York 12305

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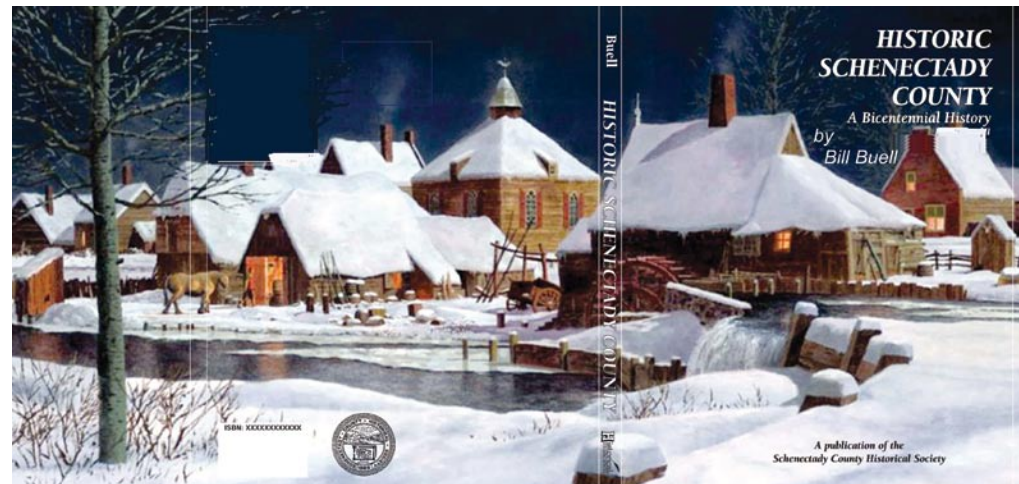
MUSEUM & LIBRARY

MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-5
SATURDAY 10-2

MABEE FARM

OPEN MAY 1ST
FOR THE SEASON

Letter from the President



It is now one year and counting to 2009, the Quadricentennial marking the 400th anniversary of Hudson and Champlain's voyages along the River and Lake that bear their names; the Bicentennial of the 200th anniversary of Fulton's successful steamboat voyage on the Hudson River; and, of more specific relevance to our area, the Bicentennial marking the 200th anniversary of the creation of Schenectady County. Only 200 years, you say? But didn't Arendt van Curler found the city of Schenectady in 1661? And wasn't the city part of Schenectady County then?

Well, no, and it still wasn't in 1667 when van Curler drowned in Sam Champlain's lake. Before March 7, 1809, Schenectady was part of Albany County, and it was on that date that our county was carved out of it to embrace the city and the five towns we know today. From its inception as one of our State's twelve original counties in 1683, Albany County kept gaining and losing portions of its original lands until 1808. Rensselaer and Saratoga counties were formed from two of its excisions in 1791, 18 years before we were.

So, how shall we celebrate this Bicentennial of ours next year? One way that our Historical Society will do so is to commission the publication of a beautiful coffee-table book called Historic Schenectady County. Shown above is a mock-up of its wrap-around cover featuring, by his kind permission, Len Tentillo's painting of the Stockade as he imagined it to look on February 8, 1690, just before the snowmen guarding the north gate had a meltdown and fell asleep. Images of other Tentillo paintings will grace the interior of the book.

The narrative, which starts in 1661 not 1809, is being written by Gazette feature writer Bill Buell, a member and active volunteer at SCHS. On my part, I get to be the volunteer local editor of the business profiles that will appear in the back of the book. The ongoing businesses that are proud of their history are commissioning these business profiles at their expense, most one page in length, some being two or three. That's how the money is raised to pay for publication of the book. But I would like to see our historic businesses that are no longer operating be represented too. ALCO? The Carl Company? Barney's? Wallace Armor? Surely they are candidates, and others must be too. But who will fund such profiles? Angelic historians, please call.

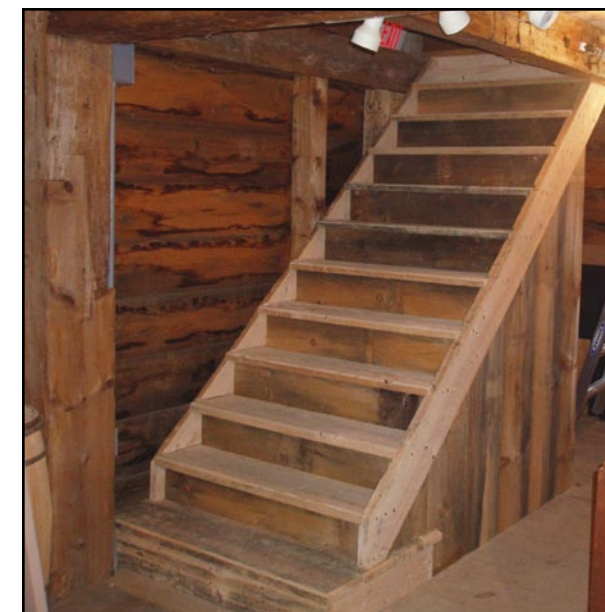
Another way members can help is to tell the president@schist.org about county CEOs they know who could be called, told about the project, and encouraged to participate. And as to the book itself, click on "Books and Gifts" on our main page, www.schist.org, to read about member and pre-publication discounts that can be applied to your purchase. Only the first 400 to order can be accommodated, so hurry, reserve your copy now.

Ed

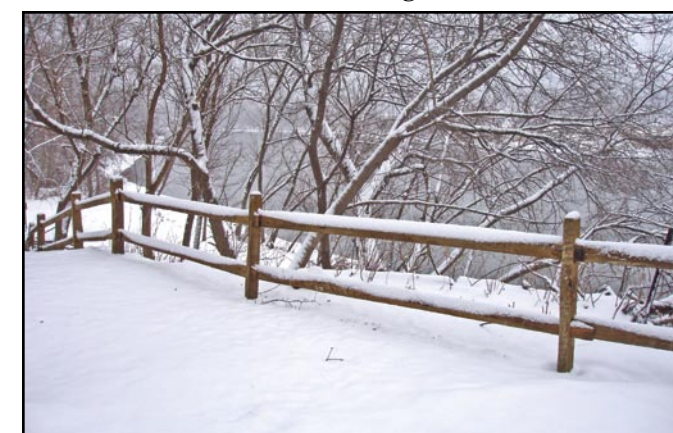
Recent Mabee Farm activities...



l-r Charlotte Pearson, Sturt Manning, and Peter Brewer of Cornell University Dendrochronology Lab.



Above: new barn stairs



Below: new railing to docks



Sturt Manning drills one of the beams.



Core sample of a beam

Photos: Pat Barrot; Merritt Glennon

Below: new bulkhead for slave quarters



IF MABEE FARM TREES COULD TALK ...

The American Arbor Day Foundation on its website states, “Imagine if these trees could talk. What incredible stories they would have to tell about the settling of our nation.” What can the trees that were felled to build the Mabee House tell us?

How old are the houses at the Mabee Farm? Was the Stone House the first to be built, or was it the Brick House? Who built these houses? When was the Inn built? These are questions often asked by visitors to the Farm such as historians, historic preservationists, museum specialists, architects, craftsmen, and history enthusiasts. The Mabee Farm community is constantly searching for clues to substantiate the age of its historic houses and the history of the Mabee Farm.

On November 1, 2007, at the suggestion of Ron Kingsley, Ph.D., member of the Mabee Farm Committee and Archaeologist with the Schenectady County Community College Community Archaeology Program, a team of Dendrochronologists, from the Cornell University Tree Ring Laboratory, visited the Mabee Farm to obtain wood core samples from beams in the Stone House, the Brick House,

and the Inn that could be used to date the buildings. The group consisted of Sturt Manning, Director of the Tree Ring Lab, Carol Griggs, Director of the New York State and Northeast North American Dendrochronology Project, Peter Brewer, Charlotte Pearson, and Jen Watkins.

The Cornell Tree Ring Laboratory website describes dendrochronology as “a scientific technique for tree ring dating. Trees in temperate zones grow one visible ring per calendar year. For the entire period of a tree’s life a year-by-year record or ring pattern is formed that in some way reflects the climatic and environmental conditions in which the tree grew. These patterns can be compared and matched ring for ring with trees growing in the same geographical zone and under similar climatic conditions.”

The researchers spent considerable time taking sample borings from the beams in the three structures. The samples were taken back to the Laboratory in Ithaca for analysis.

Pat Barrot, site manager of the Farm, has begun to receive some initial feedback from the Laboratory. About 50% of the samples reviewed so far have been identified as oak. While the first sample reviewed from the Stone house shows and outer ring date of 1705, this may be the felling and building date. The results of additional analysis should be available by early Spring 2008.



An Evening of “Unexpected Pleasures”
Saturday – April 26 – to benefit Vale Cemetery

Enjoy a dining experience at a historic house to benefit historic preservation. Please join us for a memorable evening while helping Vale Cemetery’s efforts to raise funds toward its renovation and beautification goals. The evening will kick off at the Parker Inn in downtown Schenectady for appetizers and beverages. There, guests will learn who will be their mystery host and where they will be served their entrée. After dinner, all guests will reassemble for delicious desserts at the home of Jack and Sally Quinn in the GE Plot. Truly, this will be an evening of “Unexpected Pleasures.” Tickets are \$75 per person, \$50 of which is tax deductible. **Deadline to participate is April 16.** Please call Barbara at Vale Cemetery (346-0423) to make reservations, or to receive an invitation. Tickets are also available at Experience and Creative Design on Union Street. Make checks payable to Vale Cemetery Association, Inc. and mail to 907 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12307.

SCHS – lectures, exhibits, and activities

The Yates Dollhouse – with Marilyn Sassi
Saturday – March 8
1:30p.m. Refreshments 2:00p.m. Program

Marilyn Sassi is a former SCHS historian, curator, and an avid collector of antiques as well as being a specialist on the subject of dollhouses. She will discuss the origins and long history of dollhouses. They were originally for wealthy adults who fancied the expensive, miniature versions of furnishings that make up dollhouse contents. Over time they also became simpler and were cherished by children. Ms. Sassi was responsible for the 1980s conservation of the Yates Dollhouse; she will explain its history and its exciting restoration. SCHS opens at 10:00 AM so plan to come early and view our display of locally owned dollhouses and room boxes before the program begins. If you are interested in displaying and talking about the history of your own dollhouse, please contact curator Kathryn Weller at 518-374-0263.

Exhibit – Hauling the World: ALCO in Schenectady
This is a continuing exhibit through April 30th. The exhibit is funded in part by the New York Council for the Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and will focus on ALCO’s history from its beginning to its demise.

This exhibit was designed and mounted through the combined efforts of Kate Weller, SCHS curator, and her husband Matt Zembo, Assistant Professor of History at Hudson Valley Community College
NOTE: any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the New York Council for the Humanities or National Endowment for the Humanities

A Victorian Tea: master the preparations and then be the guest! with Sue Mc Lane
Wednesday – April 23
6:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.
Reservations recommended 374-0263
\$41.00 Total (Materials fee \$25.00 per person plus museum class fee of \$16 per person)

This will be an instructive program to gain hands-on experience with Sue McLane, *The Victorian Lady*. Learn the history of tea drinking, how to conduct a tea party and demonstrate polite tea manners. There will be instruction on how to create invitations, prepare a menu, manage the proper table setting, prepare authentic tea foods, and learn the proper way to brew fabulous tea. After an in-depth tutorial enjoy the fruits of your labor with an authentically prepared and detail oriented Victorian Tea!

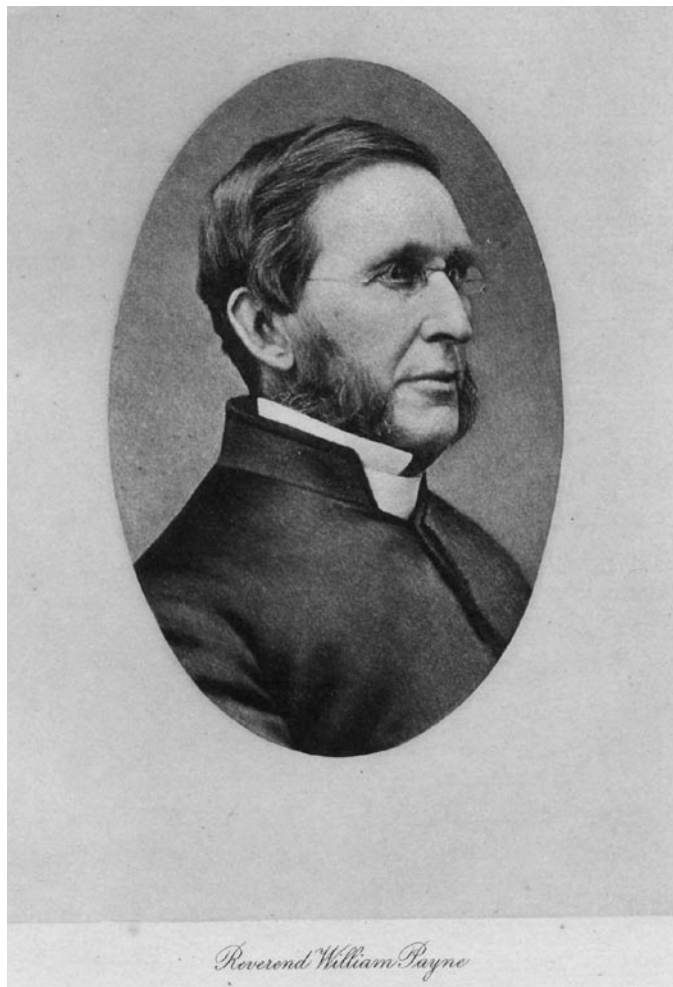
“History of the Central Park Rose Garden” - with Dave Gade
Saturday – April 12
1:30p.m. Refreshments 2:00p.m. Program

Schenectady Rose Society member Dave Gade will discuss the history of Schenectady’s Central Park Rose Garden. Here is a program that will help you to think Spring as you view the beautifully illustrated slide show. Program includes pictures of the original construction of the garden, the people involved, special events that have occurred in the Rose Garden and, of course, the beauty of the roses in all their varieties. The Rose Garden Restoration Committee took over the care of the garden in 1995. Slowly and steadily the Rose Garden has been returned to the glories of its early years.

Library News

by Katherine Chansky, Librarian

A GIFT: The first of the year was marked by an exciting donation to the library from Augustus Bradhurst Field of Camden, South Carolina. Mr. Field was in possession of six volumes of handwritten diaries penned by his relative, Dr. William Payne, the same Dr. Payne who was rector of St. George's Church in the Stockade District of Schenectady from 1848 to 1884. Mr. Field contacted a relative who lives in Saratoga Springs, Field Horne, who in turn contacted our library. On Mr. Horne's advisement, Augustus Field decided to give the diaries to the place where his ancestor had written the diaries and to a library that would take good care of books now well over 100 years old. The Grems-Doolittle Library was the logical choice and the books are now carefully stored in the library archival storage waiting to be explored.



Dr. William Payne was born May 13, 1816. He graduated from Washington College, now Trinity College, in Hartford, Connecticut in 1834 as class valedictorian. He went on to study theology at General Seminary in New York City, and from 1838 to 1846 was rector of St. Michael's Church in Litchfield Connecticut. He became rector of St. George's in Schenectady on September 3, 1848 and served the church for 36 years, resigning in 1884. On March 19, 1891 he died in Rome, Italy, Rector of the English Chapel.

Dr. Payne's diaries offer the reader a unique, first-hand account of life in Schenectady. The library is fortunate to add these volumes to the collection of 19th century Schenectady diaries, among those of Harriet Paige and Jonathan Pearson—all contemporaries of Payne.

While Dr. Payne was rector, Edward Tuckerman Potter, New York City architect and son of Dr. Alonzo Potter, was engaged by St. George's to remodel the church. It re-opened in 1859. Payne was acquainted with prominent Schenectady families and witness to many changes in Schenectady. SCHS Trustee Frank Taormina has begun to examine the portion of the diaries that treat the Civil War period in the city.

The diaries will be more accessible to researchers once they have been transcribed and the task of transcribing them is challenging. The books are legible, but only just so, and the faint handwriting is harder to read in the later volumes. Volunteers who would like to read and transcribe a volume are most welcome to inquire at the library about starting this project.

Recent donations to the library:

- ❖ ALCO glass plate negatives and memorabilia, Wayne Tucker
- ❖ Schenectady books and memorabilia, Janet B. Gardner
- ❖ *Scotia United Methodist Church Then and Now*, Elsie Maddaus
- ❖ Starzenski family history on CD, Bruce Starzenski
- ❖ Van derVolgen Family history, Mary Van derVolgen Chatfield

News from the Mabee Farm

THANKS FOR THE WONDERFUL GARDENS

We are grateful to the Harlow Garden Club for generating a beautiful flower garden in 2007. There were flowers in bloom throughout the season. But it was not just flowers. Bill Dimplefeld generated a wonderful vegetable garden. Gary and Kim Mabee planted and cared for Indian corn and pickling cucumbers. Charlie Long planted and cared for flax and broomcorn. We had a real farm!

2007 - INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Farm events rose to 17,000 visitors between April and October by comparison to the 10,700 we had in 2006. We are so grateful for the support of our members and volunteers.

Albany, June 1, 1798. 1202EP

30 Dollars Reward.

RAN away on the night of the 28th of May last, a Negro Man named CATO, about 25 years of age, about 5 feet 4 inches high, remarkably stout built, very black, large flat nose, very thick lips, he has a curious way of showing the white of his eyes, especially when things do not suit him, speaks English and Low-Dutch: on examination it will appear that he is acquainted only in Albany, Schenectady and some parts of the Mohawk-river; had on when he ran away a cotton check shirt, cotton vest nearly white, jean overalls, blue cloth short coat, black cap or hat, took with him a white shirt, nankeen trousers and vest. The above reward and reasonable charges will be paid to whoever will return said Negro, if taken above 100 miles from Albany, or 30 dollars if taken within that distance, or 15 dollars to whoever will give information to either of the subscribers, so that his master gets him again.

PETER MABEE,
6 miles above Schenectady.
SIMON MABEE,
at Charlestown, Montgomery County.
N. B. He was seen in Albany on the 30th ult. June 6th, 1798. 1204EP10.

ABOUT THAT \$30 REWARD... Thanks to Mary Liz Stewart, Underground Railroad Association of the Capital District, for sending us a copy of the reward posting.

The advertisement was placed by K. K. Rensselaer in the Albany Gazette, June 1, 1798.

Apparently Cato was caught because the Mabee Farm has an original Bill of Sale whereby Jacob Mabee of Rotterdam Junction purchases "Cato" on January 27, 1800 from Peter and Simon Mabee.

NEWLY UNCOVERED INFORMATION ABOUT SLAVERY AT THE MABEE FARM

After translating two Mabee Farm documents recently from Dutch to English, we now know that ownership of slaves began earlier than we thought at the Mabee Farm. Jacob Mabee with his sister Eegfe Mabee Slingerlant purchased a slave named Sam in February of 1727, two years after patriarch Jan Mabee died. We have also learned that the Mabee Farm was involved in the Crown Point Expedition in service to the British King, and a slave named Jack went to Fort Herkemanns (Ft. Herkimer) in 1755 to deliver supplies by bateaux.

A BUSY WINTER FOR THE MABEE FARM

Our maintenance man Mike Kowalski, with help from volunteers Gary Mabee, Win Bigelow, and Charlie Long, generated some big improvements over the winter. The 1760 Dutch barn has new flooring on the upper level; there are new stairs on each side to access this level (where we have our chair collection); a peg board was put up on which to hang some of the items in our tool collection; there is a new handrail along the path to the river's edge (and the path was widened); and the Slave Quarters building (or brick house) has a new set of bulkhead doors and new stairs to its basement.

WORK DAY and LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS in 2008

Work Day at the Mabee Farm is scheduled for **Saturday, April 12 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.** We will be doing cleaning and prepping for the 2008 season. Bring a dish to share for lunch. We are also looking for volunteers to be docents or tour guides during the 2008 season to explain the history of the Mabee family's 300-year ownership of the farm. Please call (518)887-5073 for more information.

REUNION: *A reunion has been planned for those surviving U.S.S. Schenectady crew members who are able to attend. The organizer is Tom Totoris (tomtot0502@hotmail.com) and he served on the U.S.S. Schenectady LST-1185 from 1972-1975. He has written to SCHS to ask for our assistance in getting the word out about a proposed ship’s reunion. He is trying to reach former crew members who can be reached by e-mail, ship web site, newspapers, and such. The reunion is proposed for April 13, 2008 in Myrtle Beach, SC.*

Please contact the following: POC Stan Civick, cacs1@msn.com or by telephone: 804-994-3938

Those who are interested can also contact the website www.usschenectadylst1185.org/index.htm

There is an interesting postscript to this story: Back in 2004 at the time the U.S.S. Schenectady was sunk, New York Senator Charles Schumer sent out the following Press Release on November 23, 2004:

SCHUMER: ARTIFACTS FROM THE U.S.S. SCHENECTADY HAVE BEEN SECURED

Schumer [NY Senator Charles Schumer] announces that artifacts from the U.S.S. Schenectady (LST-1185) have been secured by the Navy prior to the ‘smart bomb’ demonstration which is scheduled to sink the decommissioned ship today. Schumer says pending Navy review, the U.S.S. Schenectady artifacts will be on loan to the Schenectady County Historical Society.

”US Senator Charles E. Schumer today announced that after working with the Navy, several artifacts have been secured from the U.S.S. Schenectady. The ship, which was decommissioned in 1993 after 23 years of service, is scheduled to be sunk today as part of a ‘smart bomb’ demonstration. Schumer called on the Navy to preserve these artifacts as a legacy of the ship, when he heard that it was due to be sunk. The Navy, upon review of a display and maintenance plan, is willing to loan these artifacts to the Schenectady County Historical Society. “It is one of the highest honors for a community to have a Naval ship named after their city,” said Schumer. “The U.S.S. Schenectady served this country with distinction. And though this means its demise, I am glad these artifacts have been saved so that the community can always take pride in the ship’s service.”

Conveyance of these artifacts to the Schenectady County Historical Society is still in process.

Material for this article came from the above cited website for the U.S.S. Schenectady and from the letter sent to the SCHS asking for assistance in publicizing the reunion. RUTH E. BERGERON, editor

MEMBERSHIP FORM I want to become a member of the Schenectady County Historical Society. Enclosed is a check for my dues. Please complete this Form and mail it to: Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305.

_____ \$1,000 – Life Membership	_____ \$ 75 – Donor
_____ 500 – Patron	_____ 50 – Family Membership
_____ 250 – Benefactor	_____ 25 - Individual Membership
_____ 100 – Sponsor	
_____ Additional contribution for:	
Unrestricted use _____ Museum _____ Library _____ Mabee Farm _____	

TOTAL enclosed: _____

NAME(s) _____

STREET _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ E-Mail address _____

_____ I am eligible for a GE Match and have called the gift center at 1-800-305-0669 or reported my contribution to the GE Foundation website.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, April 12, in the Vrooman Room at 32 Washington Avenue—refreshments as usual at 1:30 p.m., followed by business at 2 and the program described on page 3 at 2:15. Business will include distribution of the Annual Report, Privilege of the Floor, the President’s report, election of officers and new Trustees, and then discussion, possible amendment, and adoption of a new Constitution and By-Laws.

The current Constitution, little changed from our founding in 1905, and current By-Laws, last revised a decade or more ago, are posted on our website, www.schist.org. Newly posted are the revised versions proposed for your consideration at the meeting. Those who wish to receive hard-copy versions may request them by calling the office, (518) 374.0263.

The principal change to the Constitution relates to a change in the quorum required for our Annual Meeting. That has been “30 voting members” for years, but this must now be changed to bring the requirement into accord with a recent change in State Education law, one that will, beginning with our Annual Meeting of 2009, be such that we will need, through members either present or represented by proxy, the lesser of 100 or ten percent of membership. Since we have far more than 1,000 members, the quorum for next year will be 100.

The proposed changes to the By-Laws (and to the Constitution for reconciliation) are more extensive. The quorum for meetings of the Board of Trustees will be raised from 9 to12; the names and responsibilities of standing committees are moved to the By-Laws, as is the dues classification schedule; the rules for establishment and operation of the nominating committee are clarified; and though authority to amend the Constitution must, by law, remain solely with the membership, it is proposed that the By-Laws be amendable by either the membership or the Board of Trustees.

Please do come and enjoy all three phases of our Annual Meeting.

**Dr. Janet Murray - Schenectady's
First Female Physician**

by Neil B. Yetwin



DR. JANET MURRAY

Well into the second half of the 19th century, Schenectady had no more than 23 physicians of varied background and training. Most were graduates of the Albany Medical College or the New York Homeopathic College; at least one doubled as a dentist. There was also a common denominator - they were all men.

As Schenectady's population rose from 14,000 to 20,000 between 1880 and 1890, so did the makeup of the city's traditionally all-male medical community. In 1893, the same year that Charles Steinmetz arrived, Dr. Janet Murray began her medical practice here, making her Schenectady's first and only female physician for the next 11 years.

Medical practice in Schenectady began with Dr. Pieter Van der Linde's arrival from Holland in 1640. He was followed by Dr. Rynier Schaats, a "chirurgian," in 1681, Dr. William Mead (d. 1829), who served as a surgeon in the American Revolution, and a Dr. Onger, who appears in local records as "the hessen (Hessian) doctor."

Medicine in post-Revolutionary America was a low-status, poorly-paid profession whose practitioners usually had to double as farmers, preachers, or blacksmiths. No one understood what diseases were or what caused them. Pathology and bacteriology were still decades away. It was common for apprentices to learn from their local doctors how to mix drugs; prepare bandages; and cup, leech, sweat or bleed their patients. Opium, wine, brandy, and even noise were used to dull pain in the pre-anesthetic age. Turpentine and mercury were carelessly administered for a variety of illnesses, often with fatal results. Common diseases like colic, consumption, diphtheria and scarlet fever were treated with hypnosis, poultices, or magnetism. And for those who could afford it, there was the Saratoga "water cure."

Despite the establishment of the Schenectady County Medical Society in 1810 "for the purposes of regulating the practice of physic and surgery," the general public continued to hold physicians at arm's length. Union College Professor Jonathan Pearson was visiting the home of Union's President Eliphalet Nott on the evening of April 30, 1845 when he was treated to Nott's assessment of doctors: "It is my candid opinion that on the whole doctors do more hurt than good," Nott asserted, and "that they kill more folks than they cure by bleeding and drugging."

The medical profession at this time was not anxious to welcome women into its ranks, as it was believed that women lacked both the physical stamina and intellectual capacity to practice. Harvard Medical School Professor Edward Clark warned in 1873, for example, that the end result of a medical education for women would be "monstrous brains and puny bodies." While some medical schools gradually accepted women, most early female physicians apprenticed themselves to local doctors or attended

homeopathic or osteopathic schools. By 1900 more than 7,000 women were practicing medicine in the U.S. and another 1200 were attending medical schools. Yet even after qualifying as physicians, women were often excluded from employment or completely ignored by the medical establishment.

Dr. Murray was the exception, though the Schenectady *Gazette* reported that when she began her practice here, "the sober city fathers looked askance for a time." Born in the small rural town of Peebles, Scotland in 1856, Murray attended school in England before her family migrated to the interior of Ontario, Canada in 1866. Upon graduation from the Medical College of Queen's University in 1891, she worked in the offices of a Dr. Irwin in Kingston and Dr. Embury of Belleville, Ontario. She was on her way to interview for a position at a Boston hospital when the train stopped in Schenectady. "There was something I liked about it at first sight," she told the *Gazette* in 1937. "The Boston job didn't materialize, so I came right back here." Murray opened her practice in buildings located on Jay Street and designated then as 242 and 230 ½ State Street. Eventually she moved to 14 Mynderse Street, where she lived and practiced for the next 40 years. She became an active member of the local, state and national medical societies, the Women's Medical Society of New York State, the Schenectady Business and Professional Women's Club, and was elected Vice-President of the Queen's University Alumnae Association. But she always made time in her busy schedule to administer free care to many of Schenectady's less fortunate citizens.

When Schenectady's population dramatically increased to 30,000 in 1904, the number of its physicians rose from 36 to 83. Six of these were women: Drs. Eleanor D. Mann, Cynthia Steers, Kate C. Fiske, Emma Wing-Thomson, Elizabeth Gillette, and Anna Ladoff. Except for Gillette, little is known of any of them except Wing-Thomson, who advertised in the City Directories as an "Osteopathist - Diseases of Women and Children a Specialty." Osteopaths based their treatments on the theory that diseases were caused by a misalignment of the musculoskeletal system, an idea that enjoyed great popularity at that time. (Mark Twain himself

declared that "the educated physician will himself be an osteopath.") Yet by 1919, Mann, Steers, Fiske, Wing-Thomson, and Ladoff had disappeared from the local medical scene. The likely cause: the 1910 publication of the so-called "Flexner Report."

Medical schools had included courses in chiropractic, homeopathic, and osteopathic treatment for decades. But the powerful American Medical Association, anxious to reform medical education and restrict its ranks, recruited educator Abraham Flexner to analyze the quality of all 155 medical schools in North America. Eighteen months later the book-length Flexner Report called on American medical schools to enact higher standards for admission and graduation. These findings caused nearly half of the existing medical schools to close or merge. The Flexner Report cast severe doubt on most chiropractic, homeopathic, and osteopathic practitioners, many of whom were women and minorities. By 1914 only 4% of American medical students were women, and many who were already well-established were forced to give up practicing altogether.

Over the next 20 years only two female physicians besides Dr. Murray managed to maintain practices in Schenectady. City native Deborah Clute Hornby (1867-1960) studied at the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children under Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman in the U.S. to earn a medical degree. Dr. Hornby was also appointed the physician for the Schenectady City School System in 1912.

The other was the well-known Elizabeth Gillette (1874-1965), who graduated from the University of the State of New York Medical College and Hospital and opened her practice here on June 1, 1900. While not Schenectady's first female doctor, Dr. Gillette was the first woman surgeon in Schenectady County and went on to serve in the State Assembly.

Dr. Murray retired to the Old Ladies' Home (now Heritage Home for Women) in March, 1937 and passed away there on February 20, 1940 at age 83. But the year of her death marked a significant resurgence of women practitioners in Schenectady's long-established medical community.