



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 2018

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US FOR A JOINT POTLUCK SUPPER AND PERFORMANCE BY JOE BRUCHAC AND SON ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018 AT 5:30 PM AT HARMONY COMMUNITY CENTER, 1401 PEACEABLE ST.

Bring a dish to share for the Potluck supper at 5:30 and then enjoy the concert itself at 6:30. Guests are welcome. (Feel free to join us for the concert at 6:30.)

We are so fortunate to be able to bring Joe Bruchac and his son Jesse to perform for us.



Joe Bruchac with Son

Of Abenaki heritage, Joseph Bruchac has dedicated his life to bringing us stories with historically accurate not stereotypical depictions of Native Americans.

Joe Bruchac has written fine works of historical fiction: *The Winter People*, *Arrow Over the Door*, and *Code Talker*—to name three. His books give readers another side of American history from a Native American perspective—a perspective that is not usually taught in school.

Joe is dedicated to conserving Native American oral legends and myths. His books include wonderful retelling of these tales like *How Chipmunk Got His Stripes* and *Raccoon's Last Race*—the last two of which he co-wrote with his older son James. He's the author of more than one hundred books written for all ages. He has also published books in a variety of literary genre—poetry, nonfiction, biographies, contemporary realistic fiction, and fantasy.

Note: Harmony Hall has recently reopened after a disaster swamped it with bills for the mold remediation and rebuilding of the rear of the hall.

- Suggested donation \$10.

**HISTORY OF BUTTONS
HOW TO FIND VALUABLE BUTTONS**

Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Maple Ave Schoolhouse, Charlton

Program: A presenter from the National Button Society will speak on the history of buttons as well as how you can find valuable buttons in your Mom or Grandma's button box. Bring your button box for evaluation. There will also be the annual election of Officers and Trustees.

Holiday Party

Date: Monday, December 3, 2018

Time: 6:00

Place: Charlton Tavern



The Charlton Historical Society would like to thank the 2018 Sponsors of our 5K Race and ask that our members patronize their businesses.

**Adirondack Beverage
Advanced Aesthetics Dentistry
Albany Med EmUrgentCare
Scott K. Beatty State Farm Agency, Inc.
Bird Realty
BHBL Teachers Association
Burnt Hills Chiropractic & Rehabilitation
Burnt Hills Optical, Inc.
Burnt Hills Veterinary Hospital
Capital Care of Charlton
Capital District Stairs, Inc.
Carubba Collision
Charlton Septic Services
The Charlton Tavern
C. T. Male Associates
Culligan - water for the race**

**Edward Jones Investments - Burnt Hills office
Ellm's Family Farm, LLC
Emerich Sales and Services, Inc
Fridholm Painting
FPI Mechanical, Inc.
Gil's Garage, Inc.
Golub Corporation and the Price Chopper
Alan Grattidge - Charlton Town Supervisor
Bill and Elizabeth Herkenham
RF Herkenham Co.
Hoskinson Orthodontics
Morris Ford - Mercury, Inc.
Odorless Sanitary Cleaners
R. M. Pena, Inc.
Physical Therapy Associates of Schenectady, P.C.
Schrader and Company, Inc.
Stewart's Shops Corporation**

We also wish to thank the race committee for doing a wonderful job organizing and executing this year's financially successful 5K race.

Your Money at Work!



The proceeds from the Founders' Day 5 K Race and individual donations have made it possible for CHS to repair/maintain/update its aged Maple Avenue buildings (museum and schoolhouse) and property. Work done in the past few years includes:

Museum:

- > Replaced front porch with steps including a railing for senior safety
- > Replaced sagging and severely warped door
- > Painted the building
- > Repaired the rotted weather vane mounting
- > Repaired the damaged weather vane

> One Room School:

- > Replaced the aging roof
- > Repaired broken drain
- > Repaired water pipe freeze leak
- > Painted the building
- > Replaced the leaking septic holding tank
- > Cleared brush from the west and north boundaries
- > Removed dead and dangerous trees
- > Installed new restroom flooring

- > Added a parking area to eliminate muddy ruts and add capacity along with digital timed lighting
- > Purchased a sound system and TV to support programs
- > Replaced the old defective telephone
- > Replaced the aging and sticking windows
- > Installed new window shades
- > Replaced the damaged south privacy fence
- > Installed a dehumidifier to prevent mildew
- > Replaced dim light bulbs with brighter LEDs
- > Replaced two old and damaged tents with larger ones for Founders weekend activities
- > Replaced non-functional power outage emergency light
- > next year we plan to repair and enlarge the attached storage shed

The Charlton Historical Society has had to spend a great deal of money in the most recent few years to repair/maintain/update its aged Maple Avenue buildings (museum and schoolhouse) and property. These popular Charlton treasures are owned and maintained by the CHS and, due mainly to their age, require constant care and repair. Further, due to their location in the Charlton Historic District, most external work on the buildings must meet Historic District requirements (in many cases must be "historically correct", which generally adds to the cost. The

bottom line is that the CHS could use your help in replacing the large amount of funds expended by supporting our fund raising activities and by volunteering to help on the fund raising committee. We always appreciate a monetary donation and participation in the GE Match and Amazon Smile programs.

To carry out the mission of the Charlton Historical Society, we need community involvement. This includes your support by attending our programs as well as volunteering to preserve the 1804 and 1859 buildings and the museum collections. By giving just an hour or more, you will be strengthening the preservation of Charlton history as well as providing activities for Charlton residence. If you can help us, call Sue York at 399-3797 or at yorkm474@aol.com

We Bid Farewell

Since our March newsletter, we now bid farewell to two fine ladies who have passed away. We send our condolences to the family and friends of Carolyn Setzer and Theresa Jachym.

Carolyn Setzer, who passed away on June 17, 2018, was a long time member of the Charlton Historical Society. Carolyn held many positions on the Board of our Society, including as President. Carolyn was a dear friend to all of us and was always pleasant, cheerful, and willing to help whenever needed. She enjoyed working on her beautiful home in Charlton, the former District #3 one-room schoolhouse, built in about 1867. Carolyn was also a passionate antique collector. We thank Carolyn's daughter Heidi and son Eric for naming the Charlton Historical Society as a charity to which family and friends could donate in Carolyn's memory.

Theresa Jachym passed away on May 20, 2018. Those of us in the Charlton Historical Society did not have the pleasure of knowing Theresa, but wish that we did. We thank her loving family, Patricia (Philip) Holder of the Charlton Road Orchard, Stephen (Cheryl) Jachym, and Nora (Jurgis) Brakas for naming the Charlton Historical Society's One-Room Schoolhouse as a charity to which family and friends could donate in Theresa's name. We have learned that Theresa used her business degree to become secretary for the guidance office at BH-BL Central Schools. Her daughter Pat went to school at our one-room district #8 schoolhouse. We are stunned by the generosity of Theresa's family and friends, and have put their donations to work on our schoolhouse projects.

CHUCK LATHAM'S CHARLTON HISTORY—FACTS and LEGEND

THE FARM COMMUNITY AND FARMING IN CHARLTON, SARATOGA CO., NY CIRCA 1900

(Continued from March 2018)

Written by William Lane Cavert, 1958 for his grandchildren

Provided to us by Helen Alexander and Linda Forbess

The Schools: One of the features of the community was the Charlton Academy. This had been started by Presbyterian pastor about the time of the Civil War and was designed to give some education beyond that of that offered by the Country school. My mother, Elizabeth Brann and her brother Samuel McCrea Brann had both attended the academy in their youth. In my youth, one Mary E. Callaghan was the teacher at the Academy. She was then a woman of past middle age. The Academy was the only country school attended by the four Cavert children. Brother Samuel McCrea and I went to the Senior class in the Schenectady High School from there. So we went to Union College with only one year in High School. The Academy was run by her essentially as a private school. The tuition, according to the recollection of brother Dudley was \$22.50 per year for the older children and \$15.00 per year for the younger ones. Pupils of all ages were accepted. As the school was 1 ¼ miles from our home I did not start until I was nine years of age. However, I had been taught to read at home. The school had an attendance of 20 to 30 and had classes in the usual elementary subjects plus such traditional high school subjects as first, second, third, and fourth year Latin, first, second, third and fourth year English; Ancient, English and American History, Algebra and Plane Geometry. Not all of these subjects were given every year but each subject was given from time to time as students were available for it.

One of the students went to Cornell University after a year in the Schenectady High School and won a Phi Beta Kappa key there. Her name was Elizabeth Vandenberg. For many years, she was Registrar of State Teachers College at Albany, NY. Walther Dudley Cavert did not attend any preparatory school except Charlton Academy. Samuel McCrea and Walter Dudley Cavert both won Phi Beta Kappa keys at Union College. Samuel McCrea was Valedictorian of his class. Miss Callaghan was a talented woman and a good disciplinarian. Her family lived across the road from the school. Of course, a public school was maintained in Charlton and my impression is that it was superior to most of the rural schools of the area.

Nominating Committee

Our nominating committee is putting together a slate of officers and trustees for next year. You can join as a member at large; help with programs, publicity, membership, or newsletter. We need a recording Secretary. If you would like to be more involved in the Society, contact Alice Crotty at 399-4153 or Sue York at 399-3797.

Summer in the Museum

Summer open hours in the museum are now over, but I am always willing to open the museum by appointment, which I have done when asked. Thank you to the hosts and hostesses that helped out by taking a turn or two this past summer. In keeping with our Founders' Day theme, we had a few special guests visit our museum.



Barbara "Bunny" Gaffney and husband James visited when Don Davis was host (thank you Don). Bunny is descended from Abram Kipp Underhill, MD and his wife Mary Cavert Underhill, who lived in our historic hamlet in the 1800s and are buried in the Sweetman Cemetery. Dr. Underhill once had a vineyard there according to the plaque in the Gideon Hawley Park. The Gaffneys spend their summer in the Adirondacks and are from Bozeman, Montana. Bunny has donated a large amount of Dr. Underhill's correspondence, including quite a stack of postcards and some other items. Thank you Bunny and Jim for your donations and visit.



Carol Ann Shea, from the Boston area, also paid us a visit. Carol Ann is descended from Eli Northrup (b 1718 d 1802) and his wife Abigail. Per our Riedinger Collection, Eli Northrup was a veteran of the Revolution, and in 1785, settled on a 100 acre tract of land on the west side of Maple Avenue that extended from the Main Street to Packer Road. Part of that land was later the location of the “Maple Avenue Dairy”. Here is Carol Ann next to our diorama that shows where the south side of Eli’s parcel was located. Carol Ann also looked up Eli’s grave in the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Sue York

Amazon Smile

Remember that the CHS is eligible to receive funds from the **AMAZON SMILE FOUNDATION**. If you would like to support the Charlton Historical Society with your Amazon shopping, you can log onto [Smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select the CHS to receive .5% of your purchase price, then proceed to shop.

HARNESSING NATURE: BUILDING THE GREAT SACANDAGA

The CHS had 5 DVDs of this wonderful program for sale at \$20 each and they are all sold out. We hope to purchase more from Jason Kemper so that they are available for you to purchase. You might want to see the documentary again or share it as a gift.

Charlton Historical Society
2009 Maple Avenue
Charlton, NY 12019

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President	Alice Crotty		518 399-4153
Vice-President	John Hussey	Founders Day/Building&Grounds	518 557-2417
Secretary	Open		
Cor. Secretary	Stacey Fenton		518 882-6009
Treasurer	Susan York		518 399-3797
Curator	Bill Wehrle	Curator	518 399-7695
Trustee	Mari Fettke		518 882-9502
Trustee	Ken Crotty	Web Site /Buildings & Grounds	518 399-4153
Trustee	Chuck Latham	Genealogy Buff	518 384-0130
Trustee	Pat Parker		518 882-9099
Trustee	Marv Schorr	Trust Fund	518 399-4161

Please call any member of the Board of Directors with questions and comments.

Charlton Historical Society Mission Statement

“The mission of the Charlton Historical Society is to promote and encourage original historical research, disseminate educational material on local history, cooperate with educational institutions to gather, preserve, display, and make available for study materials and records relating to early and current Charlton History”