



# CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

January 2018

**Volume 27 Number 1**

**<http://www.charltonnyhs.org>**

Put these dates on your calendar and join us for the Charlton Historical Society's 2018 spring events and activities. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

## **"HARNESSING NATURE: BUILDING THE GREAT SACANDAGA"**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018

**Place:** One Room Schoolhouse, 2009 Maple Avenue

**Time:** Refreshments 6:30, Program 7:00

**Presenter:** Filmmakers Jason Kemper, Director of Planning for Saratoga County and Treasurer of the Great Sacandaga Lake Advisory Council and Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian.

**Program:** The newly released documentary "Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga" will be shown. After the film, the filmmakers will lead a discussion on the history of the creation of the Great Sacandaga Lake focusing on the cultural and social history.

## **"ARCHEOLOGICAL DIGS: PAST MEETS THE PRESENT"**

**Date:** March 7, 2018

**Place:** One Room Schoolhouse, 2009 Maple Avenue

**Time:** Refreshments 7:00, Program 7:30

**Presenters:** **Rick Reynolds, Town of Ballston Historian**

**Program:** Remember In the last couple of years, two archeological digs have happened in the area. One produced lots of results; the other, you'll just have to wait and hear the sad story. Come hear Ballston Town Historian discuss the digs, explain the process of archeology, and see some of the actual artifacts from the digs, too.

## **MOVEABLE FEAST**

**Saturday, April 14, 2018.** Volunteers are needed to host the dinner portion of the event. Remember, the hosts do not pay, but provide a salad and bread to compliment the dinner. Call Alice Crotty at 399-4153 or Mari Fettke at 882-9502 to volunteer.

## **HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF MILTON**

**Date:** **May 2, 2018**

**Place:** One Room Schoolhouse, 2009 Maple Avenue

**Time:** Refreshments 7:00, Program 7:30

**Presenters:** Authors Jim Richmond and Kim McCartney, Town of Milton Historian

**Program:** Jim (author of **WAR ON THE MIDDLELINE**) and Kim have a recently released a book on the History of the Town of Milton and will tell stories about the history of the Town of Milton.

Monday, May 28- **Memorial Day Ceremony**

June 2, 2018 – **Charlton Heritage 5K Run and Walk** (CHS Fundraiser)

June 2 and 3 - **Founders Day Weekend**

### **HOLIDAY PARTY**

The Charlton Historical Society would like to thank everyone who came to the Holiday Party, and we hope that everyone enjoyed their meals, visiting with friends, and having a good time. So many of you were very generous with your contributions to the raffle, for which we thank you. Many people were lucky to win great prizes. We want to thank the Crottys, George Eggleston, the Ellms, the Gentiles, Supervisor Grattidge, the Lathams, the Martins, Gina Schuhl, Scott's Hallmark in Hannaford Plaza, the Walkers, the Wehrles, the Wilsons, the Woods, the Fentons, the Schermerhorns, and the Yorks for your raffle donations. We encourage you to patronize these businesses that donated to the raffle:

George Eggleston - maple products – 399-5277  
Chip and Sally Ellms – Christmas trees and Corn Maze – 884-8168  
Annette Gentile - Annette's Signature Jewelry – 399-1748  
Bob and Linda Martin - Looney Bin Woodwork & Crafts 882-9792  
Maria Walker – Early Americana items – 882-7125  
Scott's Hallmark in Hannaford Plaza

We thank the Maloney's and staff at the Tavern for the special effort that they made to provide a great party, Marty Wilson for the entertainment, and everyone who helped.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

The Charlton Historical Society would like to welcome our latest new members. We welcome Mimi Boyack, Cheryl Hussey's Mom, who now lives with Cheryl in one of Charlton's historic homes in the Hamlet. According to the House Letters, Michael Cavert resided at this home in 1825, and in 1865, Mary Cavert bought out the heirs of her father. She married Dr. Abram Kipp Underhill and they resided in this home until 1875. The Historic Marker in the Hamlet lists that A. K. Underhill, MD also ran a vineyard and wine business. You might recall that our visitors from Kansas and Wisconsin, Helen Alexander and Linda Forbess, are descended from Charlton's Cavert family. We understand that Mimi is interested in history and we look forward to seeing Mimi at our historic programs. We were glad to meet Mimi at our Holiday Party.

The Charlton Historical Society would also like to welcome Patti Foley Hess, her husband Joe, and sons Alden and Ben. They recently moved to Charlton and live in the Historic Hamlet of Little Troy. We were glad to have Patti join us at the Holiday Party and hope to see her and her family at our historic programs.

## **DESCENDANTS OF CHARLTON'S FOUNDERS**

It has been amazing that so many people from other states have reached out to us who are descendants of Charlton's Founders. Just recently we received some very interesting donations at the schoolhouse mailbox. Barbara (Bunny) Underhill Gaffney of Bozeman, Montana, who is descended from A. K. Underhill (Cheryl's house) sent us some old documents. Among these old documents are letters to A. K. Underhill, dated in the 1830's. These fragile letters were penned, probably with a quill, folded, sealed with sealing wax, and addressed to AK Underhill, Charlton NY, directly on the letters without using envelopes. Paper was very precious in those days. We hope to meet Bunny and her husband James this coming summer. Bunny hopes to visit us, probably in late August. She was raised in Schenectady and they have a camp near Tupper Lake.

## **YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!**

Our Spring activities are in the works...Now! We need your help to make these events successful and fun for all of our members. Our Annual Moveable Feast is coming up on April 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a lovely opportunity for our members to meet each other in a relaxed, social setting. The food is always good, and it is so nice to get to know people over dinner in a home setting. Wouldn't you be able to set the table for 6 to 8, make a salad, and open a bottle of wine? That's all you have to do to host. (Well, maybe clean a little. ☺)

We are in need of a Recording Secretary to take and type up minutes of our meetings. The Board meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at 1 pm, and the general meetings are on the first Wednesday at 7 pm at the Schoolhouse. Can you help?

Our 21<sup>st</sup> annual race and major fundraiser, the Charlton Heritage 5K Run and Walk, is in the first stages of preparation. We are in search of a race coordinator, preferably a runner, but definitely a good manager, who will be assisted by prior committee members. Is that you? Do you know someone who would be good at this job? Please come forward to volunteer or suggest someone. In the meantime we are forming a Race Committee to assist the Coordinator with the various jobs and details in preparation for the event, and on race day June 2nd. Want to learn more? Plan to attend our next Race Committee Meeting on Thursday, February 15 at 7 pm. Please call Alice Crotty at 399-4153, Pat Parker at 882-9099, or Sue York at 399-3797 for more information or to sign up to help. **Why not volunteer today?**

## **CHUCK LATHAM'S CHARLTON HISTORY FACTS and LEGEND**

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

Written by William Lane Cavert, 1958 for his grandchildren  
**Provided to us by Helen Alexander and Linda Forbess**

*Thinking that it might be of interest to future generations of Caverts to know something about the environment in which their forefathers and foremothers lived, I have herein set down recollections of the community of Charlton its agriculture and its people as it was in my early youth.*

*The Community: The Cavert family lived on the Cavert homestead about one mile due East of Charlton. Charlton was a community of perhaps 20 families located about 9 miles North of Schenectady and about 9 miles Southwest of Ballston Spa, the county seat of Saratoga County. The nearest railroad was Ballston Lake, 5 miles Southeast of the farm.*

*The business establishments in Charlton were the following: two general stores, a hotel, a blacksmith shop, a carriage shop and a shoe cobbling shop.*

*The carriage shop was run by one Thompson Heaton, whose reputation for an excellent product survived him by many years. I recall that about 15 years after his death, at a farm auction, a wagon of his make would bring a premium over a similar wagon of other makes. Each of these establishments except the two stores was a one-man institution. Each of the stores ordinarily had one clerk to assist the proprietor.*

*The Freehold Presbyterian Church of Charlton was the center of community activities for, perhaps, three-fourths of the population. The pastor was perhaps, the most influential man in the community. He was paid \$800 per year plus parsonage. In addition to the Presbyterian Church, there was an Episcopalian Church that had a small group of faithful followers. Also, in my early years, there was a Methodist Church but this ceased to function about 1903 and most members joined the Presbyterian Church. About 6 miles to the Northwest of Charlton was the West Charlton United Presbyterian Church, 5 miles East of Charlton was the Ballston Center Presbyterian Church and about 5 miles West was the Glenville Community with its Dutch Reformed Church. (The Dutch Reformed Church was the Holland version of Calvinism.) Thus, the rural community of our acquaintance was dominantly Presbyterian in outlook and background.*

*In general, the Presbyterians frowned upon dancing, card playing and alcoholic beverages. For social purposes, the community was divided into two groups, those who accepted the Presbyterian viewpoint as to dancing and card playing and those who didn't. A minority of back sliding Presbyterians consorted more or less with the dancing and card playing group.*

*Church was at 10:30 o'clock each Sunday morning, followed by an hour Sunday school. Sunday school was attended by a major portion of both adults and children. Doubtless, this grew out of the fact that there was no convenient way for the children to attend unless they either walked home or the parents waited until they were ready.*

*For many years, the Superintendent of the Charlton Presbyterian Sunday School was one Dr. James T. Sweetman, a devout Presbyterian and the wealthiest man of the neighborhood. (He was reputed to be worth several hundred thousand dollars.) It was customary for the Sunday school in each opening exercise to recite in unison the answer to one question from the Presbyterian Shorter Catechism. As there are 107 questions in the Shorter Catechism, it must have taken over two years to go through the Catechism.*

*In addition to the Church and Sunday School Service, there was a Christian Endeavor Service on Monday evening. However, only a few of the faithful attended. (To be continued)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS**

- **MOVEABLE FEAST HOSTS ARE NEEDED** to host 6-8 members for dinner at their homes. Please call Alice Crotty at 399-4153 or Mari Fettke at 882-9502 to volunteer.
- **5K RACE SPONSORS NEEDED** -- Our fundraiser this year will be our 21<sup>st</sup> Charlton Heritage 5K Race. We are looking for sponsors as well as runners and volunteers. If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact Jim Poirier at 399-2750.
- We are placing roadside signs out to remind residents about our monthly programs. If you would be willing to put a sign on your lawn, please contact Pat Parker at 882-9099.
- We thank our donors who are eligible for the GE Gift Match program, and we thank those who have already called in their donation. If you have made a donation that is eligible for the GE match, and you have not yet called it in, ***please call it in at your earliest convenience.*** The phone number is 1-800-305-0669. The GE More Gifts More Givers program will not record any donation called in by someone other than the donor.
- **MUSEUM:** Curator Bill Wehrle reminds all that we welcome the donation or loan of items for museum display. Bill will be readying the museum for the summer with new displays so if you have items that can be used, please call Bill at 399-7695.
- 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 and select the CHS to receive .5% of your purchase price, then proceed to shop.

**Charlton Historical Society**  
**2009 Maple Avenue**  
**Charlton, NY 12019**

**OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

|                |                |                                   |          |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| President      | Alice Crotty   |                                   | 399-4153 |
| Vice-President | John Hussey    | Founders Day/Building and Grounds | 557-2417 |
| Secretary      | Open           |                                   |          |
| Cor. Secretary | Stacey Fenton  |                                   | 882-6009 |
| Treasurer      | Susan York     |                                   | 399-3797 |
| Curator        | Bill Wehrle    |                                   | 399-7695 |
| Trustee        | Ken Crotty     | Web Site /Buildings and Grounds   | 399-4153 |
| Trustee        | Chuck Latham   | Genealogy Buff                    | 384-0130 |
| Trustee        | Pat Parker     |                                   | 882-9099 |
| Trustee        | Carolyn Setzer | Advisor                           | 882-9740 |
| Trustee        | Marv Schorr    | Trust Fund                        | 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."