



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SPRING 2020

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Due to the impact of the Wuhan China virus, especially on New York State, and at the urging of our Town Supervisor, all events that had been planned from now until summer have been cancelled. This meant that the Movable Feast was cancelled and we send a Thank you to TJ and Tracey Lyons, Ricky and Maria Walker, and Mari Fettke for volunteering to open their homes for this event. The May program, Memorial Day Ceremony, Town Party in the Park, and Founders' Day events are also cancelled. The 5K race has been rescheduled to September 19th. When the weather gets warmer, some of us will clean and work on the museum so that we can open it for summer hours in July and August.

The Springer Pump Restoration



We thank Chuck Latham for restoring the Springer Pump. With the help of Ken Crotty, Chuck installed it back on the Schoolhouse lawn. We thank Mari Fettke for donating the pump replacement.

Chuck found this clip in Frank Lafforthun's "Charlton Heritage" (201 pages of Charlton History).

On September 19, 1969, the society unfurled its new flag. The 3 by 5-foot flag was designed by Steve Jordan and hand-sewn by Helen Kaszubski. Against a bright blue background, it displays a picture of the Henry Springer pump. This type of pump, adopted as the society's emblem, was in use as early as 1847. Mr. Springer purchased this pump factory from John N. Young's heirs in 1932. John Young manufactured these pumps as early as 1898. There is no known record from where the pump on the east end of the village, that stood there in 1847, was manufactured, or by whom.

Foreword: For the past 200 years there has been only three short histories written about the heritage of the town of Charlton. The first such known history was written by Prof. Levi Packard, principal of the Charlton Academy, in 1869. From this brief history, of noteworthy interest, became the basis for the history of Charlton included in the "History of Saratoga County" by N. Sylvester. The greater share of information in "Stories & Pictures of Charlton" by W. Bronson Taylor, published in 1959, also conformed to Packard's history. This book "Charlton Heritage" also depends on Prof. Packard, for facts on the early history of Charlton, but goes one step before, and one step beyond that period thus making up a comprehensive collation of facts from 1774 to 1974. Fictional books continue to be written through the imaginations of authors, and bear no facts, but a history recording is acquired by vigilant search of the town records, and from these records this writer has tried to record here information about the town of Charlton, that could be lost forever if the town records were destroyed by fire.

Frank J. Lafforthun, Historian
Main Street, Charlton
October 1, 1978

Cynthia J. Lafforthun, Typist
Mechanic Street, Galway

2020-2021 Founders' Day Theme



Parker Vanamee – Honoree of 2020-2021

The Charlton Historical Society has chosen a fascinating man, Parker Vanamee, to be honored as part of Founder's Day 2020-21. Born in Orange County New York, he was sequentially a newspaperman, an Episcopal Minister and a soldier in the British Army during world war I. Whatever he did – sailing on the Hudson River or shipping out of Gloucester - interviewing celebrities for the New York World – or studying theology at the General Seminary – or conducting his ministry in rural Burnt Hills and the Hamlet of Charlton (St. Paul's) – or fighting in France as part of the British forces and their second division – it made no difference in how he lead his life. He was always bringing the same enthusiasm, the same vigorous energy and youthful idealism to his life. With his friends there was no difference in him - he had a "genius" for friendship with men of all classes – whether they be Bishops, or journalists; workmen or dignitaries; tramps or soldiers; sailors or professors of Theology. He made a difference in the lives of so many.

Parker joined the British Army early in World War I and could have joined as a Chaplain. Instead he joined as a soldier. Although he died as a result of injuries suffered in France, his beloved wife wrote his biography. This would be enjoyable just for the story of his life, but underneath there is a flow of deep and tender feeling that makes the story of an idealist a fine record of American life.

Stacey Fenton

2020-2021 Parade Grand Marshall

Wayne Davis has agreed to be our 2020-2021 Parade Grand Marshall representing Parker Vanamee. You can learn more about Rev. Vanamee's life by visiting the Museum this summer.

MUSEUM

Curator Bill Wehrle

Curator Bill Wehrle emphasizes 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 donated or loaned, please call Bill at 518 399-7695.



Hi all,

The photos are of a model that represents Hudson river travel of the mid 1800s up to about 1950 - happy memories going to Kingston on the Alexander Hamilton and home on the Peter Schuyler. The inspiration for folk art came from all the contributions Frank Lafforthun gave to our museum. With covid-19 keeping us home, Frank's many models inspired me to build this. I'm sure Frank used pieces of wood, pipe cleaners, and items he had laying around. That's part of the art of folk art - use what you have. You are not limited to following kit instructions so you can make it your own, warts and all! The materials for this boat cost nothing as it is composed of scrap wood, hardboard, pvc trim, carter pins, empty shotgun shells, rivets, grommets, copper wire, old neck chain, beads, and various bits of hardware I had in the workshop. Well I did buy some glue. I have a book about the Hudson River Dayline and took features from the boats, Mary Powell, Daniel Drew and Chauncey Depew. I named this for Joan.

I would like to loan it to the museum to display for as long as there is interest, with a write-up to inspire other Charltonians to explore their creative natures and search drawers, closets and pantries for items that might be used to create their own folk-art project.

Stay safe everyone.
Bill

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 (con't)

The Cavert's Agriculture Business Continued: The following is my (William Calvert) rough estimate of the annual receipts and expenses of the Cavert farm as of about 1900.

Receipts

Butter and cheese from 8 cows (Butter was perhaps 20 to 25¢ per lb. and cheese 10 to 12¢per lb.)	\$250
Hay 10 tons @ \$12	120
Rye, 90 Bu. @ 80¢	72
Eggs and chickens	30
Hogs – 7 pigs av. 130# dressed weight	73
Apples – 75 bbls. @ \$1.00	75
Pears	10
Veals – 5 @ 7	35
One cow	<u>35</u>
Total	\$700

Expenses:

Labor	\$100
Board for labor 5 mos. @ \$8	40
Threshing	10
Taxes	40
Fire Insurance on buildings	10
Machinery & repairs	50
Horseshoeing	30
Building repairs	40
Fence repairs	8
Feed bought	<u>22</u>
Total expenses	\$350

Receipts above Expenses (Pay for family labor and investment) \$350

The foregoing estimates are probably representative of the period from 1880 to 1905.

The farm probably had a market value of about \$3,500 and the cattle, horses and equipment had a value of perhaps \$1,000 or a bit less. So, the total investment was perhaps \$4,500. If one allowed interest on investment at 5% or \$225, the cash pay for the labor of family was \$350 less \$225 or only \$125. In addition, they had a house to live in, some firewood, milk, butter, eggs for a family of eight and the meat and lard from perhaps two hogs. If there had been any debts, payments of interest and principle would have come from the \$350. In the case of the Cavertfarm, there fortunately was no debt and in addition, Father had some income from outside

work and in some years a fairly substantial income according to local standards of dealing in apples.

His outside work consisted of such jobs as township supervisor and treasurer of the County Fair Association. These, perhaps, brought in \$200 per year, but expenses connected with these jobs ate up part of the income.

He early got started as a small-scale apple dealer. I do not know how he happened to get into the apple business, but he was in it from my earliest recollection until several years after I permanently left home in 1912. The volume of business was very erratic as the apple crop in any one year varied from a near failure to one in which every tree was loaded.

The total volume handled in a good many year was probably in the neighborhood of 2,000 barrels. In two of three years, it was perhaps up to several times 2,000 barrels. Perhaps in the majority of years, it added \$1,000 to his income and that was a substantial addition to the very modest farm income.

Dad's usual practice was to minimize the speculation by selling some apples every week during the season, beginning in the Fall. The apples were stored in farm cellars. As there was no heat in the basements, the cellars in farmhouses provided fairly good storage and later varieties could be kept in good condition until about the first of March. During the Fall season, he frequently had a crew of 4 to 8 men who were packing apples. Some farmers instead of selling in the Fall, would store their apples in bins in the basements of their houses. So, a crew of two men was frequently kept busy during a part of the winter. Now it would be difficult to induce self-respecting citizens to sort apples in a cellar by the light of a kerosene lantern, but at the time there was no objection to the job. The usual pay for packing apples was about \$1.75 plus dinner for a nine-hour day.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As our Town opens up from the Coronavirus restrictions, we will need many volunteers to keep up the Museum and the yards. The guidelines will be followed for your safety. Please plan to sign up to give a few hours to the society events. Please call Sue York at 518 399-3797 for more information about our volunteer needs.

THE END OF THE GE GIFT MATCHING PROGRAM

For decades, GE employees and retirees were eligible to have their donations that they made to registered non-profits, such as the Charlton Historical Society, matched by the GE More Gifts More Givers program. GE retirees were recently informed that, effective April 15, 2020, they will no longer have their donations matched by the program. As a non-profit that was registered in the program, the Charlton Historical Society was required to have at least \$1,000 donated by at least 10 people, per year, to remain in the GE Gift Match program. The number of us that were eligible to have our donations matched by GE has been dwindling over the years and we would like to thank all of the generous members who have donated to the Charlton Historical Society, took the added effort to report their donations with the GE program, and helped us to remain eligible for the GE Gift Match program. In making a quick check of the annual GE Match payouts from 2012 to 2019, that happen to be stored on this PC, the program has paid us a total of \$14,245. Upon receiving notification of the end of the GE Gift Match program, a number of our members, who already made generous donations to us last fall, made very generous donations this spring to take one, final advantage of the GE Gift Match program.

For this we thank Don Davis, Seena and Joe Drapala, Bob and Stacey Fenton, Karen and Richard Malaczynski, Dave and Jean Stafford, and Sue and Maury York. Not to overlook Janet Moffatt, Janet made a very generous donation last fall that GE will match.

Sue York

STARS AND STRIPES RETIRED

Flags are retired according to Federal law. “‘The Flag’ when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.” Tattered American Flags can be taken to the Charlton Town Hall for proper retirement.
Saratoga Battlefield newsletter THE BATTLEMENTS

CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

[http: www.charltonnyhs.org](http://www.charltonnyhs.org)

Check out the information found on our website. If you are doing genealogical research there is help here. Other information includes recent newsletters, scheduled programs, events, cancellations, membership information, and forms for such activities as the farmers market, art show, 5K Race.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Board of Trustees has been considering having Christmas cards printed with pictures of the schoolhouse, museum, and/or Charlton’s historical buildings. If you would be interesting in purchasing these cards, please contact Alice Crotty at crottyao@aol.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

- Remember that CHS is eligible to receive funds from the AMAZON SMILE FOUNDATION. If you would like to support the Charlton Historical Society and are shopping on Amazon, you can log onto Smile.amazon.com and select Charlton Historical Society to receive .5% of your purchase price and proceed to shop.
- If you are working on your family tree, check out the Charlton Historical Society website.

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President	Alice Crotty		518 399-4153
Vice-President	Pat Parker		518 882-9099
Secretary	Nancy Bellamy		518 399-8508
Cor. Secretary	Stacey Fenton		518 882-6009
Treasurer	Susan York		518 399-3797
Curator	Bill Wehrle		518 399-7695
Trustee	Ken Crotty	Buildings/Gr/Web Site	518 399-4153
Trustee	Don Davis		518 399-1293
Trustee	Mari Fettke		518 882-9502
Trustee	Chuck Latham	Genealogy Buff	518 384-0130
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