



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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NEW TO OUR COLLECTION



Samuel McCrea Cavert
1888-1976

Sam Cavert grew up at the Cavert homestead on Sweetman Road in Charlton, attended Union College in Schenectady (class of 1910), earned graduate degrees at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary, and became a Presbyterian clergyman and one of the most internationally prominent figures in the Protestant ecumenical movement of the mid-20th century. He was a founder of the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches and became the N.C.C.'s first general secretary in 1950. He was the author of "On the Road to Christian Unity" in 1961, among other works, and was the subject of the 1978 biography "Architect of Unity" by William J. Schmidt.

We received an Email from Harlan Cavert, a grandson of William L. Cavert (1887-1977) and great nephew of Samuel McCrea Cavert, requesting that we accept a donation of this portrait of Samuel McCrea Cavert. The Board of Directors unanimously accepted this donation.

Harlen's Email went on to say: *The Cavert family is in possession of a handsome painted portrait of Sam Cavert that we wish to donate to the Charlton Historical Society, if you are interested in receiving it. I am attaching a photo of this portrait. It measures about 30 by 38 inches in a formal frame, and I believe it was painted in the 1950s or 1960s. The portrait hung*

for many years in the National Council of Churches headquarters in the Interchurch Center on Riverside Drive in New York City, adjacent to Riverside Church and the Columbia University campus. In about 2014, the N.C.C. closed its New York office, consolidated its operations into its Washington D.C. location and determined that it no longer was able to display the Sam Cavert portrait. As it happened, my niece, Elspeth Cavert, was employed by the N.C.C. at that time and offered to give the portrait a new home by sending it to her elderly grandparents (my parents), H. Mead and June S. Cavert of St. Paul, Minnesota. With the N.C.C.'s approval, my parents received the portrait of our eminent forebear and were proud to display it in their home during the last years of their lives. Now that my parents are deceased, my family wants to donate the portrait to an institution that can serve as a fitting steward of this treasure. The other members of our extended family, including Sam Cavert's surviving direct descendants, are in accord with this plan.

I should note that technical ownership of the portrait still rests with the National Council of Churches and that we have it on indefinite loan, so I will need to obtain the N.C.C.'s consent before sending it to you. However, I fully expect that the N.C.C. will be more than willing to authorize its transfer to you and that they share our desire to place the portrait with an appropriate custodian. Please let me know whether the Charlton Historical Society is able to accept this donation, and I will be delighted to ship it to you.

The consent was given and the portrait was delivered to CHS a few weeks ago.

A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM BY MAUD'S COUSINS



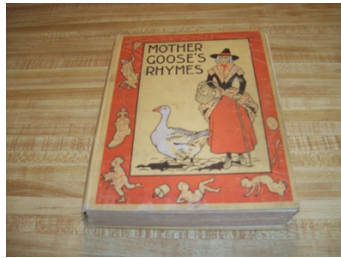
Visiting Cousins



Maud Alexandra Farrington

February 19, 1905-June 8, 1968

This year the Charlton Historical Society received a very special donation. Bonnie Rowe of Bridgeport, CT donated a beautiful baby cradle that was used here in Charlton by Maud A. Farrington, who was born in 1905 to Mary and Ernest Farrington. We told you about this special donation in the Fall Newsletter. Well, much has happened since! Linda Martin read the article and contacted us to say that Bonnie Rowe and Bonnie's sister Dorine Solberg were her cousins. Furthermore, Linda had been given Maud's book of Mother Goose's Rhymes that Linda has donated to us. Then, Bonnie's son told his Mom, why don't we go to Charlton to see the museum. The visit turned into a special event on Saturday, October 17th, a beautiful sunny day.



Maud's book



Maud's Parents



Maud's Teether



Mom with Brother

Bonnie and her family, sister Dorine, cousin Linda and Bob, and another cousin Sherry Smith and Bill all came to our museum for a wonderful visit. Bonnie has donated Maud's ivory teether and Maud's mother's Christmas Club bank book. Dorine, who runs an Art Studio, brought and donated two beautiful portraits. One is a photograph of Maud's parents Ernest Dexter Farrington and Mary (Mae) Brandon Farrington when they were a young couple. The other is a colorized photo of Mary (Mae) Brandon Farrington as a child with her younger brother. All of this originated a century ago when Mary and Ernest had only one child, Maud, who had health issues and never married. Maud led a simple life, graduating from Galway High School and teaching in a number of schools. Maud passed away before her Mom. After Mary died, the Farrington estate was distributed to other family members and now some very generous relatives have given the Charlton Historical Society these wonderful donations. Maud, who we never knew about before, now has a special place in Charlton history.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS



In October, Jim Crawford removed rocks and graded the Museum back yard to allow for mowing, all at no charge. This will help keep insects away from the building. Grass seeding will be done in the spring.

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

(Note, this is Harlan's grandfather.)

Provided to us by Helen Alexander and Linda Forbess (cont.)

Charlton General Stores:*The Sweetman Family, along with the Caverts, and others, were among the early settlers when Charlton Township was settled soon after the revolution. The Sweetman fortune was said to have had its start through the general store that Dr. Sweetman's father had kept in Charlton for many years.*

Melanction (Spelling) Callaghan: One of the unique characters in the Charlton of my early childhood was Melanction Callaghan, the proprietor of one of the general stores in Charlton. When Cleveland was President, Mr. Callaghan was the Charlton postmaster, but when the Republicans had the presidency, Mr. Alfred Slover, a Civil War veteran, the other storekeeper, was the postmaster. The mail was carried to and from Schenectady on each week-day by a two-horse stage that served the communities of West Charlton and Charlton. So, the stage made a round trip of about 32 miles per day. The stage also carried passengers and goods. The stage had seats for about 9 passengers as I recall it. Mr. Melanction Callaghan (the father of Mary E. Callaghan previously mentioned), was noted for his salty sayings and in general for his wisdom and common sense. One of his minor failings was that he was always late to church. He usually went to the family pew well toward the front of the church just before the sermon began. It is my impression that he never joined the church. Probably, he had some reservations about accepting Presbyterian Doctrine in toto.

The Callaghan store was not greatly different from the one now on display at the Cooperstown Restoration, Cooperstown, New York. About everything came in barrels and boxes. Flour, sugar and salt were all taken from the appropriate barrel by the merchant and put in paper sacks to order. One's kerosene can was filled from the metal barrel in which the merchant kept it. One of the features of this and of country stores in general was a shelf of patent medicines, from which one could select a bottle that would cure almost any ailment of man or beast. On the shelf, one ordinarily found such remedies as the following: Kendall's Spavin Cure, Lydia Pinkham's Pink Pills for Pale People, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription (for ills peculiar to the human female), Peruna (for kidney ills), Swamp Root, Piso's Consumption Cure, Smith Brothers Cough drops, and many other that I cannot recall. In addition to groceries, the Callaghan store like other country stores carried a line of such items as cheap grades of cloth, underclothing, thread, buttons, wagon grease, harness repair items such as hame straps, sweat pads, coarse footwear, and lubrication oil (chiefly for the mowing machine). The country store also provided a market for eggs and farm made butter. When the rural delivery of mail became general in the early 1900's, the end of the old-time country store was in sight. However, a good many of the country stores survived in diminished glory until automobiles became fairly common in rural areas; this was about the close of World War I.

Prior to 1900, it frequently happened that the rural storekeeper was one of the financial pillars of the community. Mr. Callaghan had a moderate degree of prosperity, but reports were that he would have been much more prosperous if he had been less willing to "charge it". Among the local characters, who made the store a hang-out was Mr. Hastings, who was a veteran of the Mexican War. I always regretted that I did not get him started on his early experiences.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDER

- We will be resuming our **monthly meetings** as soon as it is safe to meet as a group in the Schoolhouse.
- 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
- As part of our history, we would like to keep a journal documenting how Charlton residents lived through the COVID19 virus. Email your thoughts to Alice at crottyao@aol.com, Sue at yorkmm474@aol.com or Nancy at cebneb07@gmail.com
- We will miss Bill Welrle who has resigned as a CHS Board Trustee. We thank Bill for the work he accomplished as our curator. Bill vows to continue taking part and supporting CHS activities.

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
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Trustee	Mari Fettke	Publicity	518 882-9502
Trustee	Chuck Latham	Genealogy Buff	518 384-0130
Trustee	Marv Schorr	Trust Fund/Publicity	518 399-4161

Please call any member of the Board of Directors with questions and concern

Charlton Historical Society
2021 Dues

Due to the Covid-19 virus, complications and head count issues prevented our Holiday Party from being scheduled at the Charlton Tavern.

Please complete this version of the dues form and send it in with your dues or donation. Those who donated generously this past spring, to obtain one more match by the GE program, are considered paid up for 2021. Dues are not expected from our 5K Race Sponsors. We thank you for your support.

Name(s)

Address, Phone number, Email address, only if changed:

Address

Phone #

Email

Individual dues (\$15) _____

Family dues (\$20) _____

Donation _____

Make your check payable to the Charlton Historical Society.

Mail your check and this form to: Susan York
18 Cortland Drive,
Charlton, NY 12019-2644