



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS SPRING 2021

Volume 30 Number 2

<http://www.charltonnyhs.org>

THE CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE FOR 2021 SPRING AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES

COME ONE COME ALL to the Charlton Historical Society. We have two outside activities planned for May and June. The required health guidelines will be observed.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY MAY 31



Honoring Charlton (and all) Veterans on Memorial Day

Sponsored by The Charlton Historical Society

**Memorial Day Commemorative Service
Monday, May 31, 2021 at 2 PM
Please join us.**

**Located at the Gazebo on Main Street in the Village
of Charlton**

**Presentation honoring Parker Vanamee
Pastor killed in WWI in France**

**Bring your own chair
Refreshments**

Artwork By Don Davis – Local Artist

FARMERS' MARKET AND ARTISAN FAIR SUNDAY, June 6 from 11:00am-3:00 pm at the Charlton Historical Society, 2009 Maple Avenue, Charlton

Come to the Historical Society to enjoy live music by "Running the River" as well as to find fresh vegetables, craft items, and plants. If you wish to book a booth at the Farmers Market go to our website **charltonnyhs.org** for instructions or contact Teresa Hart at 518 399-3436 or **emailteresahart3993436@gmail.com**.

The Museum will be opened at the Farmers' Market. The portrait of Samuel McCrea Cavert 1888-1976 will be on display at the museum before it is hung at the Charlton Town Hall. The portrait was donated to the Charlton Historical Society by the National Council of Churches in Washington DC and the arrangements were made possible by descendants of the Cavert and Sweetman family Founders. Samuel McCrea Cavert is the great great grandson of John Cavert and Catherine Sweetman who were among Charlton's Founders. He 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.

CHARLTON HERITAGE 5K RACE Saturday, September 25.

Please put this date on your calendar and plan to participate as a runner or a volunteer. If you would like to join the Race Committee or volunteer, call Alice Crotty, Sue York, or Pat Parker. (See contact information at the end of the newsletter.)

MUSEUM: The Museum will open on schedule for the 2021 Summer on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, July 17th through August 29th from 2 to 4 PM. Also, the Museum will be opened during the Farmers Market on June 6 and on the September 25th Race Day and by appointment though out the fall.

VOLUNTEERS: This spring volunteers are needed to help with Museum cleaning and setting up new displays. If you have a collection or item to loan for display, wish to volunteer to help, or need an appointment to visit the museum off hours, please contact Sue York at 518 399-3797.

DONATIONS

Nancy Bellamy is always thinking about our collection and stays on the lookout for interesting antiques that she purchases for the Charlton Historical Society to add variety and interest to our museum. We thank Nancy for her generosity and support.



The Ideal washer

was patented in 1899 and functions as a manual agitator and plunger for washing laundry. One can imagine a lady standing over a bucket of wash carrying out the function of a washing machine with this tool.



**Child's sailor uniform
Cracker Jack ~ 1950s?**

The little sailor uniform with cap is framed for display. Nancy is going to try to find out more about where it came from. Ebay had one that was very much like this one that was labeled Cracker Jack circa 1950s.



Steel Ice Skates

The steel ice skates would clamp on to shoes and they used to have leather straps at the heels. These are marked PC Kentrant Newark NJ #36.

There is a lending library located in the Schoolhouse. Bill Wehrle started the book sign-out sheet so please sign the sheet if you borrow a book. Chuck Latham has generously donated the book “Vanamee” which is an original copy written by Parker’s wife. It is the biography of Parker Vanamee, the man that we are honoring as part of our 2020 – 2021 Founders’ Day. Connie Wood has generously donated the book “Architect of Unity – A Biography of Samuel McCrea Cavert” by William J. Schmidt, copyright 1978. It details the remarkable life of this famous, extraordinary man, portrayed in our recently donated portrait.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

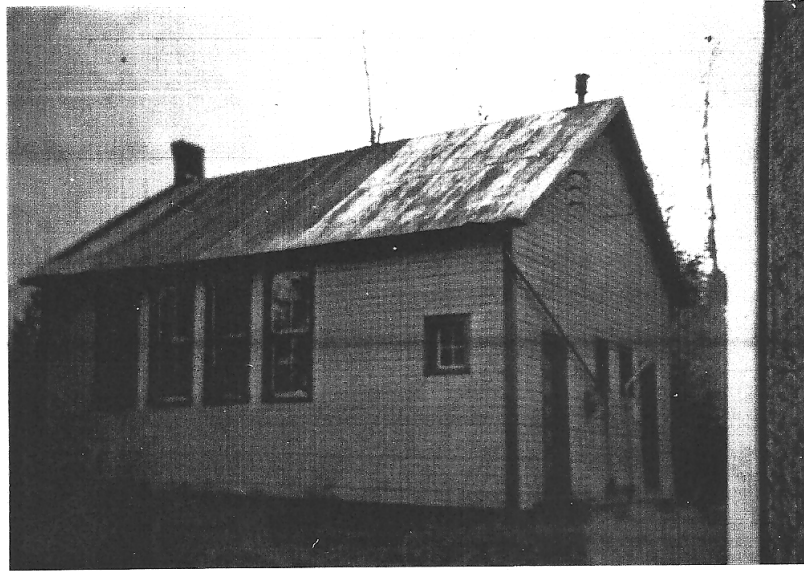
The museum will be painted in June. A bid was accepted from Rick Valeri. The seeding of the lawn will take place after the painting is complete. We thank the Charlton Garden Club for taking care of the Society’s gardens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

- **A team of 30 BHBL Middle School Middle School students , 15 parents, and Charlton Town Historian, Marv Livingston replaced the American flags on the Veterans graves in our Charlton Cemeteries on May 1, 2021. Marv does a short introduction about what a veteran is, then a presentation on a profiled veteran from each cemetery along with some statistics about the war in which that veteran served.**
- 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.
- We will be resuming our **monthly meetings** in October 2021 with a new program about An Adirondack Woman.
- 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 Nancy at cebneb07@gmail.com.
- The 2020-21 Founders’ Day button will be available at the Memorial Day Ceremony and at the Farmers Market. The new note cards and other items will be available at the Museum on June 6th.
- The portrait of Samuel Cavert will be on display in the museum at the Farmers Market on June 6.

BAALAMS # 5

by Estella M. Van Derzee



Baalams #5 was a wooden structure painted grey, trimmed with brown with a metal roof. It was located on Eastern Avenue at the end of Cook Road.

We entered from the north side which had two doors, one for the girls, one the boys with the cloak rooms just inside each door. The wood shed was attached on the south side. The front yard contained a circular driveway, the north and east side had huge evergreen trees. The south and west side was a wood lot with a wooden board fence separating the woods from the school yard.

The inside was finished with wainscoting on the walls with windows on the east and west. Next

to the boys cloak room was a cabinet with double doors which was our library which contained everything from kindergarten books to the world atlas. A stand with two pails of water stood next to the girls cloak room. A blackboard on the wall with maps which rolled up and down like window shades. The rows of desks extended from front to back with one row for the little ones starting school. The teachers desk was in the back left, a large stove which resembled a furnace on the right and a door to the woodshed in the center. Another blackboard on the wall behind the teachers desk, a large world's globe on one side and the American flag on the other side.

The only recreation supplied was a swing called

'giants' which was a large pole set into concrete on top was a round disk that spun, to that chains were attached with wooden handles on the bottom of the chains. The purpose was to hold on the wooden handles, get a running start to see how high and fast we would swing around in a circle. Many scrapes and bruises were acquired, luckily no broken bones.

The well was contaminated so each morning two of us were chosen to get our supply of drinking and wash water from neighbors across the road, Waldron and Marie Evans. This was quite a chore on an ice-covered road.

The first day of school was always an exciting day, getting with our old classmates, meeting new ones and wondering what kind of teacher we would have. One year got off to a very exciting start thanks to the boys. The prior two teachers were petite but this particular one was a bit larger and we were soon to learn had no sense of humor. We all arrived early to find the teachers desk had been moved from back to front, by the library. The boys checked the woodshed for a creature and returned with a mouse nest with tiny, pink mice which they placed in the teacher's desk drawer then covered the entire 'treasure' with writing paper. As she arrived everyone was seated, quietly chatting about our summer vacation. With introductions started she decided to make a list of everyone's name and grade. Upon opening the drawer to obtain a piece of paper she saw the nest and became so upset that she threw the entire drawer across the room, emptying all contents. Everyone burst out laughing but our new teacher was now on top of the desk screaming "who is responsible for this"?! When she

calmed down the boys were instructed to remove the 'treasure' and check for others. Not a good start for a school term.

Christmas is always an exciting time for young and old. One of the boys always brought us a small tree for trimming. We made 'chains' from colored paper and each of us brought in popped corn and sewing thread to make ropes for decorating the tree and the school room. We then started to put together a program to entertain our parents and celebrate the holidays. One year our teacher decided to write a program featuring EDGAR BERGEN and CHARLIE MC CARTHY. I provided CHARLIE, Frank was chosen for EDGAR while another boy sat in back of Frank and provided the voice for CHARLIE. They practiced for hours to accomplish the routine. Everyone was finally ready for the big night when an epidemic hit the school and the program was canceled.

My mother always supplied the music with our piano which was moved to the school for the 'big night'. One year Thelma B. Arnold offered a portable organ owned by the West Charlton church. It resembled a large suitcase when not in use, then unfolded for playing. My mother was extremely nervous never having played anything like it before so she practiced for hours with no problems; however, well into the show with everyone singing Christmas carols, the organ decided to retire for the night and merely folded up as she was playing. My father went to her rescue and propped it up so she could continue with the show. The following year the organ was offered but quickly refused. Our piano was again moved.

Usual problems occurred from time to time but we encountered one that took sometime to resolve. The girls room was off the cloak room, as the boys room was off their cloak room with two solid walls of wainscoting between them. One morning Dorothy asked and received permission to use the girls room, then one of the boys also received permission, a short time passed when we heard a scream from the girls room. Everyone was concerned as the teacher went to investigate. It seems 'someone' had drilled a hole from the boys room to the girls room for the purpose of peeking at the girls. The teacher plugged the hole with a wad of paper and things quieted down; however, later in the day as I made the 'trip' the paper had been pushed through from the boys side and the same boy had also asked permission. When I returned almost immediately the teacher asked why then went to investigate. She resolved the problem for the day by denying the boy his request until the girls had returned to the class room. Of course, we got a little fed up of hearing his cry "but teacher, I have to go"! That evening the custodian repaired both walls, two days later another hole was drilled. The entire episode started again. That afternoon the teacher grabbed the boy by the back of his shirt collar and marched him home to his parents. Problem resolved!

Recess was always a welcome time. Winter, at times, kept us inside playing various games but whenever possible we dressed for the cold weather to build a snow fort or perhaps have a snowball fight. The warmer weather gave us the opportunity to explore a nearby creek or woods and of course, swing on the 'giants' until our hands hurt from holding on so tight. One

day we all walked down to the creek on Eastern Avenue. The girls stayed on the road as the boys searched the creek then brought a large snapping turtle to the road to show us. It was the largest one I had ever seen, so I reached down to touch its nose. Bud pulled my hand back and explained it would have taken my finger off. To prove his point, he found a stick, put it in front of the turtle and we all watched as it snapped the stick in two pieces. Thank you, Bud!

One big accomplishment of spring was to 'talk' our teacher in holding classes outside. Once she gave in to our teasing, we all pitched in to carry tables, chairs and books to the front yard where classes were to resume as usual. I must admit it was difficult to settle down.

Once a year teachers were alerted that the school nurse and our truant officer would be coming in a few days. Sure enough, one day a knock on the door, they had arrived. After looking around and asking if anyone had a problem the boys were asked to step outside. The girls, one by one, were examined by the nurse then sent outside and the boys returned inside for their examination. When the nurse had completed the exams it was then time for the yearly hearing test. Don't recall anyone failing any of the tests.

With the end of our school term, we had one more great time, our school picnic. One year we went to the Wright farm on the Charlton road. All had a great time, swimming, playing games and, of course, having a picnic lunch which our mothers prepared for us.

*I am most grateful for the experience of
attending a one room school with special
thanks to the teachers and custodians
during my seven years*

Teachers:

Cecilia Gray Barrett
Mary Marco Gabriel
Margaret Ostapaw
Ruth Price
Iva Spencer

Custodians:

Fred Martine
Steve Barnes

~

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
Trustee	Ken Crotty	Buildings/Grounds/Web Site 518 399-4153
Trustee	Don Davis	518 399-1293
Trustee	Mari Fettke	Publicity 518 882-9502
Trustee	Chuck Latham	Genealogy Buff 518 384-0130
Trustee	Tracey Lyons	518 357-8981
Trustee	Marv Schorr	Trust Fund/Publicity 518 399-4161

We welcome Tracey Lyons to the Board of the Charlton Historical Society. Tracey and her husband TJ are relatively new to Charlton and live in a historic home on Old Stage Road, circa 1837, which is featured on page 137 of the “House Letters”. Tracey is the author of many novels, and both Tracey and TJ help with our 5K race.