



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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THE CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE FOR 2021 SPRING AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES

FOUNDERS DAY: The Town has cancelled Founders' Day again this year.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY: Since this is held outdoors in the Gideon Hawley Park, we can safely hold the event. People are to bring their own chairs and socially distance.

CHARLTON HERITAGE 5K RACE will be 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 at (518) 399-4153.

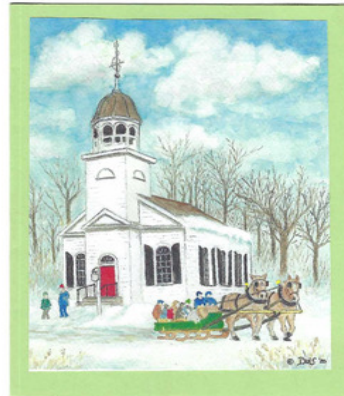
MONTHLY MEETINGS: The monthly meetings/activities will resume in October.

MUSEUM: The Museum will open on schedule for the 2021 Summer on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, July 10th through August 29th from 2 to 4 PM. Also, the Museum will be open on the September 25th Race Day and by appointment.

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 see the museum, please contact Sue York at 518 399-3797.

NEW ITEM FOR SALE

We have added note cards to our inventory for sale at the museum. The card is a beautiful, watercolor picture of the Charlton Historical Society Museum painted by our very talented Trustee Don Davis.
Cost: 5 for \$10.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The museum yard has been cleared of brush up to the property line. Jim Crawford volunteered to remove the large stones and then spread topsoil. This spring the area will be seeded. This will reduce lawn care charges. Thank you, Jim for donating this work.

We are presently seeking bids for painting the museum and tentatively will start in June.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Charlton Historical Society would like to welcome our new members and let you know a little about them. **Sisters Bonnie Rowe of Bridgeport CT and Dorine Solberg of Fort Plain NY, along with Dorine's husband Dick, have recently joined.** Bonnie and Dorine have cousins in Charlton, member Linda Martin and Sherry Smith. If you refer to your Fall 2020 newsletter, you can read all about the beautiful cradle, used by Maud Farrington, that Bonnie generously donated. In the December 2020 newsletter, we told you about the special visit to our museum by Maud's cousins, and about the wonderful Farrington family items donated to us by Bonnie, Dorine, and Linda.

We also welcome **Linda and Russ Forbess** of Schofield, WI. Linda is descended from Charlton's famous Cavert family. She and Russ, along with Linda's sister Helen Alexander and husband Dave of Lawrence, KS, paid us a special visit to the museum and schoolhouse in September 2017. See your October, 2017 newsletter to read all about this special visit and see their picture. Fast forward to our December 2020 newsletter and feature article about the donation of the Samuel McCrea Cavert portrait to the Charlton Historical Society. The donation is from the National Council of Churches in Washington DC, but it would not have happened if not for the approval of Cavert family members Linda and Helen, and arrangements by Harlan Cavert and Elspeth Cavert.

The Charlton Historical Society welcomes **Ann Reinhart** of Tacoma, WA, who used to live locally but moved out west to care for her elderly Aunt. Ann is descended from Charlton founding families including the Maxwell, Haynes, Sweetman, and Cook families. Ann has recently donated a beautiful, fancy dress once worn by Mabel Haynes Bond, in 1900, when Mabel was about 5 years old. The dress was lovingly sewn by Mabel's Aunt Molly Haynes Hitchcock, Mabel's mother's younger sister. Ann's brother, Jim Reinhart of Madison CT, owns Wall Street Gallery and has generously offered to frame Mabel's dress to preserve it. It is currently at his gallery and can be seen here.



David Waite of Jolly Road has recently joined us and has become a fantastic resource for researching and gathering historical and genealogy information about Charlton. His focus has been on Blue Corners, a once thriving hamlet in northwest Charlton that is essentially abandoned. We have one artifact in our collection from Blue Corners. It is the “I Putman Store” wooden sign donated in 1974 by the A. Brice family. Dave and Chuck Latham have been researching Isaac Putman, who we believe owned the store, and David has prepared a terrific biography on Isaac Putman. David has written two other great articles about Blue Corners and the people who once lived there. When the drafts are final, I hope to share them with our members.

We also welcome **Andrew and Kim Purdy**. Andrew’s Mom is Jean Purdy of Charlton Road, Scotia. Jean and her late husband William have been long time members of the Charlton Historical Society. Purdy Realty was a generous sponsor of our Charlton Heritage 5K race.

CHUCK LATHAM’S CHARLTON HISTORY—FACTS and LEGEND A Charlton Founding Family

John Cavert 1734 - 1822

John Cavert, and his wife Catherine Sweetman Cavert, were early Founders of Charlton who came here from Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ. The following are excerpts from the document “THE CAVERT FAMILY HISTORY 1734 TO 1970 JOHN CAVERT AND DESCENDANTS” compiled by Clyde F. Cavert and edited by William L. Cavert, a brother of Rev. Samuel McCrea Cavert, of whom we have his portrait.

“The early years of John Cavert are obscure. To date no record has been found of his parents or other members of the family with the exception of one brother. This brother accompanied him to America, but no mention is made of his given name.”

“The following is an excerpt from a manuscript entitled “Historical Sketches of the Town of Charlton, Saratoga County, New York” written by one Levi S. Packard, a teacher in Charlton Academy in 1869. Miss Mary E. Callaghan, who had possession of the manuscript, furnished the following excerpt to Walter I. Cavert, father of William L. Cavert.”

“John Cavert was born in North Ireland in the year 1734 (?). Probably about the year 1760 he crossed the ocean to New Jersey, more on a speculative trip, apparently, than a design to immediate settlement, for, finding that flaxseed was much lower in price in this country than at home, he purchased a shipload and recrossed the ocean. He did not realize all his dreams of large profit on his adventure and did not make a second trial at speculation. He, however, returned to New Jersey and settled in Freehold, Monmouth County. He there was married to Catherine, the sister of Thomas Sweetman, our first settler. Two sons, William and Michael, were born to him before leaving Freehold, also one daughter [Mary]. He came to Charlton and bought from the Kayaderosseras Patent seven hundred acres lying north of that bought by David Maxwell. I have not been able to learn the price, probably about three dollars per acre. After making his purchase, he returned to Freehold and brought his family to Charlton at the same time that Joseph LaRue brought his. Having no clearing and, of course, no house, he was obliged to take his family north and east to the settlement east of the present farm of John E. McKnight, that they might find shelter until he could rear his log cabin on the spot where now stands the

residence of David Cavert. John Cavert died in the year 1822 [3-31-1822], at the age of eighty-eight years. His wife died in the year 1789 [12-16-1789], at the age of forty-seven years.

THE GOLDEN DOOR
BY MARILYN DAWN DAVIS 1987

(Trustee Don Davis has shared this essay written in 1987 by his late wife, Dawn.)

Facing Schenectady Community College in Liberty Park is a replica of the Statue of Liberty. Much smaller than her majestic sister in the New York harbor, she is scarcely noticed by passers-by or students hurrying to and from classes. She stands silently, holding her torch on high and gazing serenely at the College across the way. She is a particularly apt symbol, I believe, not only of the freedoms usually associated with the Statue of Liberty, but of another freedom: the freedom of educational opportunity. This one freedom leads to most of the others each of us holds so dear.

Education is the foundation we need in order to achieve our greatest dreams and to reach our potential. It is a rock to build our castles on. It is the golden door to the future. Each one of us holds the key to the golden door; from the first day of school, through elementary school, high school and college, we are preparing ourselves for the future by setting goals and visualizing the kind of person we want to become. It is only through our own efforts that we will achieve our goals; by working for them and letting nothing sway us from the path to achieving them; by always searching for the right way. Sometimes the way seems hilly and uneven, with twists and turns and dead ends, but we must keep on in spite of disappointment and setbacks. Along the way we will find our greatest values. We will find ourselves. We will discover who we are and what we are capable of accomplishing. The only limits to our dreams and ambitions are self-imposed ones; the limits we place on desire, perseverance, and hard work. We who have the privilege and opportunity must take advantage of it so that the bright future we could have had will not slip away into what "might have been".

Since the year just past has been the occasion for a memorable and emotional one-hundredth birthday celebration for the Statue of Liberty, this is a fitting time to consider the freedoms that education can bring to each of us. These freedoms include freedom of ignorance, fear, and poverty; and freedom to grow into personal independence, confidence, self-esteem, accomplishment and self-fulfillment.

To me, the torch of the Statue of Liberty represents the light of knowledge dispelling the darkness of ignorance and despair, and the last line of the poem written by Emma Lazarus for the Statue of Liberty seems to me an especially significant one for all students:

"I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Marilyn D. Davis 1987

Don has pointed out that these small Statues of Liberty were placed in cities throughout the US. The Schenectady Statue of Liberty was removed when the park was renovated a few years ago and has not been replaced. Efforts are being made to have it returned to the park where it is overlooking Schenectady County Community College.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

- 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.
- 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 Bellamy at cebneb07@gmail.com.
- Tracey Lyons has been appointed to the CHS Board of Trustees.
- The 2020-21 Founders' Day button, honoring Parker Vanamee, will be available at the Memorial Day Celebration.
- The portrait of Samuel Cavert will be hung in the Town Hall.

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