



# CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

## April 2022

Volume 31 Number 2

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

### SPRING 2022 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



#### **Moveable Feast**

**Saturday, April 23, 2022**

Make Reservations by April 18.

Cost: \$20.00/Person

We will gather at Mari Fettke's home, 1244 Eastern Ave. for Hors d'oeuvres, wine, and soft drinks. We then proceed to your assigned home for dinner. The menu for dinner is Baked Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf, Salad, Bread, Beverage. We then all gather at a TJ and Tracey Lyons home for coffee and dessert. Mary and John MacDonald will be coming from Connecticut. Mary is making the desserts. Volunteers are needed to host the dinner. Remember, the hosts do not pay, but provide a salad and bread to compliment the dinner. Call Alice Crotty at 518 399-4153 or Sue York at 399-3797 to make reservations or to volunteer to host.

#### **A Visit to a Charlton Barn**

**May 13**

**Postponed until Fall**



# **Memorial Day Ceremony**

**Monday, May 30 at 2:00 in Gideon Hawley Park**



This year's theme will be the recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Unknown Soldier and honoring Charlton veterans. **Remember: Charlton Veterans are eligible to be added to the Board if they have been resident in Charlton for at least 8 years and have received an honorable discharge. Please send request to the Veterans Board Committee at the Charlton Town Hall, 758 Charlton Road, Charlton, NY 12019, or fax to (518) 384-0385. BY MAY 1.**

## **Founders' Day Weekend**

**Saturday June 4 and Sunday June 5**

**We will be honoring the 100-year Anniversary of  
The Charlton Fire Department #1**

**Saturday at 10:00 - 5K Charlton Heritage 5K Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run at 10:00 a.m.** Join us for the Charlton Heritage 5K Run/Walk followed by the Kids' Fun Run. This is our fundraiser. We have business and individual sponsors. If you wish to be a sponsor call Sue York at 518 399-3797.

**Saturday, 5 p.m. to 9:30--Party in the Park Elmer Smith Park, Crawford Dr.**

**Sunday, Farmers' Market at the Schoolhouse – 11:00 -- 4:00**

**Sunday, 2:00 Parade followed by the Proclamation and Dairy Princess Ice Cream Social at the Museum**

**Sunday after the parade – Open house at the new Charlton FD#1, Charlton Rd.**

**Saturday and Sunday – the Museum will be opened Sat. 10:00 to 1:00 Sun 10:00 to 4:00.**

**Sunday after the Parade – Open house at the new District #1 fire house.**

**June 3,4,5 - Art Exhibition and Pop-Up Market –Grand Opening of the Main Street Studio, 786 Charlton Rd. (The former Charlton Fire District #1 firehouse)**



## Charlton Fire Department #1 100 Years 1922 to 2022

The Charlton Historical Society would like to congratulate the Charlton Fire Department #1 for their 100-year anniversary, and we are glad to honor this historic milestone as our 2022 Founders' Day theme. Among our schoolhouse records are two beautiful photographs of the department's Graham truck, purchased in 1927, when it was displayed in a shopping mall many years ago. The photos were probably taken by Estella VanDerzee. Using a scan of one of the photos, Howie Eskin artistically Photo-shopped the background away to create our 2022 Founders' Day button. Thank you, Howie.

In 1997, Charlton FD#1 celebrated their 75-year anniversary and prepared a booklet to commemorate "Seventy-Five Years of Volunteer Fire Protection and Service". The following history is copied, word for word, from two pages of the booklet.

The spark that created the need for the fire protection came from the fire that destroyed Mr. Daby's house (now Vernon Fobian). The violent wind carried burning embers through the village endangering the house of Henry Springer (now R. LeGere), and Mr. Henry Conde (now Ted Farrell). The wind was due east and did not endanger the houses south of the hamlet. The K. of P. Hall was not in danger as it had a slate roof.

From the town records we learn that 116 landowners petitioned the Town Board to purchase two chemical fire engines in the year 1922. One to be housed in W. Charlton in Hecker's barn and one to be housed at Henry Conde's garage in the Charlton Village.

Mr. Harold Fobian as Master of the Charlton grange in 1922, circulated the petition to buy the fire engines. They were to be paid for by town taxes. At the same time Dr. A. M. Burt was circulating a similar petition that required a monetary donation.

When the doctor realized the feasibility of Mr. Fobian's petition, he returned the money given to him by the signers of his petition.

Each fire engine consisted of a 40-gallon water tank mounted on an axle and two wagon wheels. Baking soda was added to the water when filling the tank. Beside the tank was a lead container which contained sulfuric acid. This container was equipped with a loose-fitting cover and when it was inverted by a lever, the acid and soda produced a chemical action which built up pressure within the tank and forced the water out of the tank hose under pressure.

When the chemical fire engines arrived Henry Conde donated the piece of ground that was situated to the rear of the present fire house. At the time he thought that it was in poor taste to have a garage close to the road. At the location he built a one car garage to house the fire engine.

Fire calls were answered as far away as West Glenville. Mr. Fobian had a one-ton cattle truck to transport the fire engine for calls outside the village.

Mr. Conde acted as Supervising Fire Chief until the company reorganized in 1927 and elected officers. After five years of protection by the chemical fire engine, the petitioners realized that it was inconvenient to transport.

In 1927 a Graham truck was purchased. Mr. Springer mounted two chemical tanks on the truck. The operation took more than a year to complete. As the years passed additional equipment was stored on the truck until it became overloaded. The older residents recall that they could walk faster than the over loaded truck when it started out in first gear. I recall that the truck clutch had its moments. If it was let out too quickly the front end would come off the ground.

The company records from 1930 to 1943 do not list the elected officers. As our knowledge has advanced over the years so too has the ability of the record keeping secretaries of the company.

Today we can be classed as a first-class rural fire department with competent officers and men. Our success over the years can be contributed to the foresight of our capable fire commissioners.

## **2022 FOUNDERS' DAY AND THE MUSEUM**

The Charlton Historical Society would like your help to provide displays for our museum that provide content about Charlton's Fire Department #1; including, written history, stories, a display board, items on loan for display case #2, photographs, or whatever you have. If you can help provide something, please contact Sue York at [YorkMM474@aol.com](mailto:YorkMM474@aol.com) or 518 399-3797.

## **STORYTELLING PROGRAM**

On Sunday, March 13 members and guests gathered at Academy Hall for our monthly program. All were delighted to hear Eileen Egan Mack tell the story "Voice of the Mountains: Jeanne Robert Foster, an Adirondack Legacy."



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

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, please contact Sue York at 518-399-3797.

Many volunteers are needed for Founders' Day Weekend. Call Sammi Atkins to help out with the Charlton Heritage 5K Run and Walk at 518-322-5598. Other venues, call Sue York at 518-399-3797.

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

The Schoolhouse will have exterior repairs and painting done this Spring.



## We Bid Farewell



Stacey Fenton passed away on March 31, 2022. Stacey's family was her first priority. She and her husband Bob have lived in Charlton for 50 years and raised six children at their Cook Road home. She held a BS degree in Public Health Nursing and worked as a public health nurse as well as a school nurse and private duty nursing. Stacey was a dedicated community volunteer and served as president of Charlton Heights PTA, the Charlton Garden Club and was a Trustee and active member of the Charlton Historical Society. She also served as president of Community Human Services and as a board member for many years. She was an active force in launching the highly successful "Monopoly Madness fundraiser" at BHBL O'Rourke Middle School. She worked tirelessly to help those in need, including neighbors, church members, friends and even strangers she met. She was an avid gardener and loved to travel and made many friends in many lands. We will greatly miss Stacey at the Historical Society. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that contributions be made to Charlton Historical Society, St. Joseph's Church or to the charity of your choice.

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

### How did Charlton get its name?

An excerpt from the  
BALLSTON JOURNAL

June 27, 1957

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LOG CABINS

By W. Bronson Taylor

*"The earliest house in Charlton was probably the stone Jug. This was a squatter's cabin built of stone. It stood just west of the old brick store. John Charlton lived there when the Sweetmans moved into town. Charlton claimed that he carried the board for the door from Schenectady on his back." So, one can conclude that one of the first settlers to Charlton was John Charlton.*

Chuck shared another possibility in the last newsletter

*"Charlton" is clouded with an air of mystery. One historian stated that it was so named after a famous doctor but searching old records one cannot find a Dr. Charlton listed as a resident of Charlton. Another historian states that the name was derived from an itinerant. It is difficult to conceive that the new Freeholders would change the name to honor an itinerant. While researching we found mention of Dr. Charlton who preached in the community in those early days.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

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- Thank you to Don and Wayne Davis for the hours spent converting videos to DVDs that allows us to share the Charlton Historical Society's late 1980's and early 1990's activities, events, and programs. Included in the DVD is the Town of Charlton's Bicentennial Celebration much of that celebration was planned by Charlton Historical members. Also, we thank Torben Aabo for the hours he spent readying the Charlton Tavern TV to loop the DVD during the Charlton Historical Society's Holiday party held there in December. Recently, this DVD was shared at a Senior Citizens' meeting.
- 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](https://smile.amazon.com) and select the CHS to receive .5% of your purchase price, then proceed to shop.

## OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President	Alice Crotty	518 399-4153
Vice-President	Pat Parker	518 882-9099
Secretary	Nancy Bellamy	518 399-8508
Cor. Secretary	Tracey Lyons	518-357-8981
Treasurer	Susan York	518 399-3797
Trustee	Ken Crotty Buildings/Grounds/Web Site	518 399-4153
Trustee	Don Davis	518 399-1293
Trustee	Chuck Latham Genealogy Buff	518 384-0130
Trustee	Erin Miller Social Media/Communications	518-222-4590
Marv Schorr	Trust Fund/Publicity	518 399-4161

Please call any Board Trustee with questions and comments.