



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

January 2019

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Put these dates on your calendar and join us for the Charlton Historical Society's winter/spring events and activities. Bring your friends and neighbors to join us.

The History of the Erie Canal



1825 watercolor painting of the Erie Canal
by Episcopalian minister John Henry Hopkins

Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Place: One Room Schoolhouse, 2009 Maple Avenue

Time: Refreshments 7:00, Program 7:30

Presenter: Our neighbor, Howie Eskin, will present the story of Charlton's neighbor once known as Governor Dewitt "Clinton's Ditch."

Program: We have just passed an important milestone in the history of New York State and the Country. In 1817 we broke ground for the building of the Erie Canal. The project was key to the growth and cohesion of our Country.

This talk was previously presented at Union College and to the Charlton Seniors; members of Charlton's Historical Society should find it most interesting.

The Life of Charlton Pastor Vanamee

Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Place: One Room Schoolhouse, 2009 Maple Avenue

Time: Refreshments 7:00, Program 7:30

Presenter: Wayne Davis, son of Don Davis

Program: Wayne will present the life story of Rev. Vanamee, Pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in the early 1900's based on a bibliography written by Vanamee's wife.

Moveable Feast, Saturday, April 13, 2019. Volunteers are needed to host the dinner and dessert portions of the event. Remember, the hosts do not pay, but provide a salad and bread to compliment the dinner. Call Alice Crotty at 399-4153 or Mari Fettke at 882-9502 to volunteer.

“Stories and Artifacts of History”

Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Place: One Room Schoolhouse, 2009 Maple Avenue

Time: Refreshments 7:00, Program 7:30

Presenter: Rick Reynolds, Town of Ballston Historian

Program: Rick will showcase actual historical items from this area and tells some stories of places and events, many of which will be familiar to local residents. Sprinkled into the presentation are stories from the history of our country as well, stories of people, places, and events that, too, are familiar to many Americans

Monday, May 27- **Memorial Day Ceremony**

June 1 and 2 - **Founders Day Weekend**

Post-Holiday Party

The Charlton Historical Society would like to thank everyone who came to the Holiday Party, and we hope that everyone enjoyed their meals, visiting with friends, and having a good time. So many of you were very generous with your contributions to the raffle, for which we thank you. Many people were lucky to win great prizes. We want to thank the Crottys, Don Davis, George Eggleston, the Ellms, the Fentons, Mari Fettke, Annette Gentile, Supervisor Grattidge, the Lathams, Liz and Dave Lis, the Lyons, the Martins, the Olikers, Sarah Schermerhorn, Gina Schuhl, Scott’s Hallmark in Hannaford Plaza, the Walkers, the Wehrles, the Woods, and the Yorks for your raffle donations. We encourage you to patronize these businesses that donated to the raffle:

George Eggleston - maple products – 399-5277

Chip and Sally Ellms – Christmas trees and Corn Maze – 884-8168

Annette Gentile - Annette’s Signature Jewelry – 399-1748

Bob and Linda Martin - Looney Bin Woodwork & Crafts – 882-9792

Maria Walker – early Americana items – 882-7125

Scott’s Hallmark in Hannaford Plaza

We thank the Maloney’s and staff at the Tavern for the special effort that they made to provide a great party, and we thank everyone who helped.

Welcome New Members

The Charlton Historical Society would like to welcome our newest members, the Dave Robbins family, and Tracey and TJ Lyons. We were glad to meet our newest members at our Holiday Party. Dave is a Charlton Town Board member and has taught high school English and coached high school sports. Tracey is a best-selling historical fiction romance author and she generously donated some of her novels to our Holiday Party raffle. Go to www.traceylyons.com to learn more about Tracey's work.

Volunteers Needed

As our spring activities approach, we will need many volunteers to make these events successful. Please plan sign up to give a few hours to the society events. In the near future we need help to make the Moveable Feast a success.

Museum

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 used, please call Bill at 399-7695.

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 Agriculture: *The agriculture of the Charlton Community centered around dairy cows, hay and apples. In my early youth, the customary way of handling the dairy was to take the milk to the cheese factory about 2½ miles distant from the Cavert farm when it operated (from about May 1 to November 1). The rest of the year butter was made at home. The cream was secured either by raising the cream in shallow pans or by mixing it with an equal portion of cold water. In the latter case it was put in a round tin can that had a spigot at the bottom for drawing of the milk and water mixture, after the cream had risen to the top. There was a small glass perhaps 1" x 3" in the lower part of the can so one could see only when cream was left in the can. The dairy herds were small. Eight cows were the standard number on the Cavert farm. Perhaps the biggest herd among the patrons of the cheese factory was 15 cows.*

Herds of 6 to 10 cows were most common. Sufficient calves were raised for replacement.

Perhaps, it was about 1905 when our neighbors and we had an opportunity to sell milk in the Schenectady fluid milk market. As I recall it, the price was 80 cents per 10-gallon can above hauling. This would be two cents per quart or about 93 cwt. The milk was sold without adjustment for butterfat content. By present standards, the milk was unfit for human consumption. There was either none or only a perfunctory inspection by the City health authorities. Barn sanitation left much to be desired. The milk was cooled by setting the cans in a tub of cold well water. In warm weather cooling was hastened by stirring with a dipper. Testing of cattle for tuberculosis and brucellosis had not been heard of in that community. The cattle were mostly of Jersey, Guernsey, and Holstein breeding but after a fluid milk market developed, Holsteins rapidly took the lead. On the Cavert farm, cattle were watered by pumping water by hand with a chain pump from a well perhaps 20 feet deep and about five feet in diameter that was walled with stone. In Summer, the cattle had water in the pasture.

Announcements and Reminders

- You are invited to the Charlton Seniors meeting on Wednesday, March 13th at the Community Center which will open at 9:30 for refreshments and at 10:00 for Lynn Van Derzee presentation. She will speak about the “Heritage of the Van Derzee Farm” established in 1773 in Ravena.
- Remember that 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 and proceed to shop.
- We are placing roadside signs out to remind residents about our monthly programs

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	Ken Crotty	Buildings/Gr/Web Site	518 399-4153
Trustee	Chuck Latham	Genealogy Buff	518 384-0130
Trustee	Marv Schorr	Trust Fund	518 399-4161

Please call any member of the Board of Directors with questions and comments.