



A RANSOM NOTE

Clarence Historical Society Newsletter

SPRING 2019

Board of Trustees

Douglas Larkin, President
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David Hormell
Kate Jenkins
Jon Rothenmeyer
Robert A. Geiger,
Clarence Town Board Liaison
Mark Woodward, Town Historian

Board Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month.

Meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Clarence History Museum.

From the President

The museum is back open, research days are under way for the Clarence Middle School Homespun projects, and things are almost back to normal! We do have two new exhibits: Prehistory of Clarence – which is a Native American exhibit that includes many Indian artifacts that were found from archaeological digs in the Town of Clarence. This exhibit is courtesy of Joe McGreevy and Doug Perelli.

Also, we have an exhibit - History in the Present - by Teresa Bianco, a Clarence Girl Scout working on her Gold Award. This exhibit encourages families to showcase their family history through video and pictures. Theresa interviewed Charlie Butler and documented his family history.

We also have a small display in the Clarence Library for 2019 which will be changed quarterly. Our other exhibits are set back up and on display.

We have programs scheduled to start in May, so please watch our website, www.clarencehistory.org and the Clarence Bee, for more information.

We hope you can take time this year to stop and visit the museum and learn a little more on the history of Clarence!

Thank you
Doug Larkin

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In This Issue

- 1 From the President
- 2 Judy's Gems
- 3 2019 Programs
- 4 Pat's Files
- 5 Pat Geiger's Collection
- 6 Elaine's Favorite
- 7 Membership Form
- 8 Museum Hours

Judy's Gems

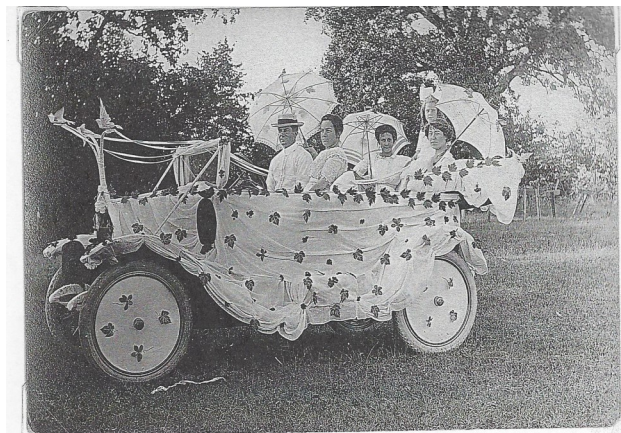
May Pole

A large pole was erected with long ribbons attached and school girls would dance around, holding and braiding or weaving the ribbons as they circled the pole on the first day of May. It was to celebrate spring. Winter was over at last. Who remembers a May Pole Dance???

The **Flower Festival** was sponsored by *the* Mutual Improvement Association, was designed to help raise funds for village improvements in 1912. Much of its success was due to Rev. R. W Copeland.

The 3-day event began with a parade in the afternoon of the first day with decorated cars, horses and floats. There was an exhibit of flowers and vegetables in the IOOF Hall. Supper was served each evening and included entertainment and music. Prizes and ribbons were given to the various classes. An auction of fruit, vegetables and donated items was held the last evening. The event was such a huge success that it was repeated in September of 1913 and became an annual happening. Eventually the Association gave way to the Clarence Community Council which promoted community progress in other ways.

Some the money raised went to plant trees in the school park, care of paths in the winter and streetlights. Later they sponsored band concerts, the building of a band stand in the school park, numbering, garbage collection, cleanup day and provided care to the needy in depression years, boy and Girl Scout troops and summer recreation programs.



**2019 Programs – all programs FREE
and open to the Public**

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

7pm – Town Park Clubhouse

“The TITANIC”

Presented by Greg Kinal

Greg is a Popular Speaker and

History Teacher in the

Pembroke School System

Tuesday, Sept 10, 2019

7pm – Town Park Clubhouse

“New York to Buffalo, On the Water Level Route”

Presented by John Dahl

John is a member of the Niagara Frontier Chapter,

National Railway Historical Society

Tuesday, Oct 8, 2019

7pm – Town Park Clubhouse

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

(Suffragette)

Portrayed by Denise Reichard

Denise has been portraying Women of History

for many years. This is her final year

portraying Women of History as

she will be concentrating on her

Teaching & other endeavors

Tuesday, Nov 12, 2019

7pm – Town Park Clubhouse

“WW I”

Greg Kinal, Popular Speaker

and teacher returns again this year

to speak on WWI – our WWI exhibit

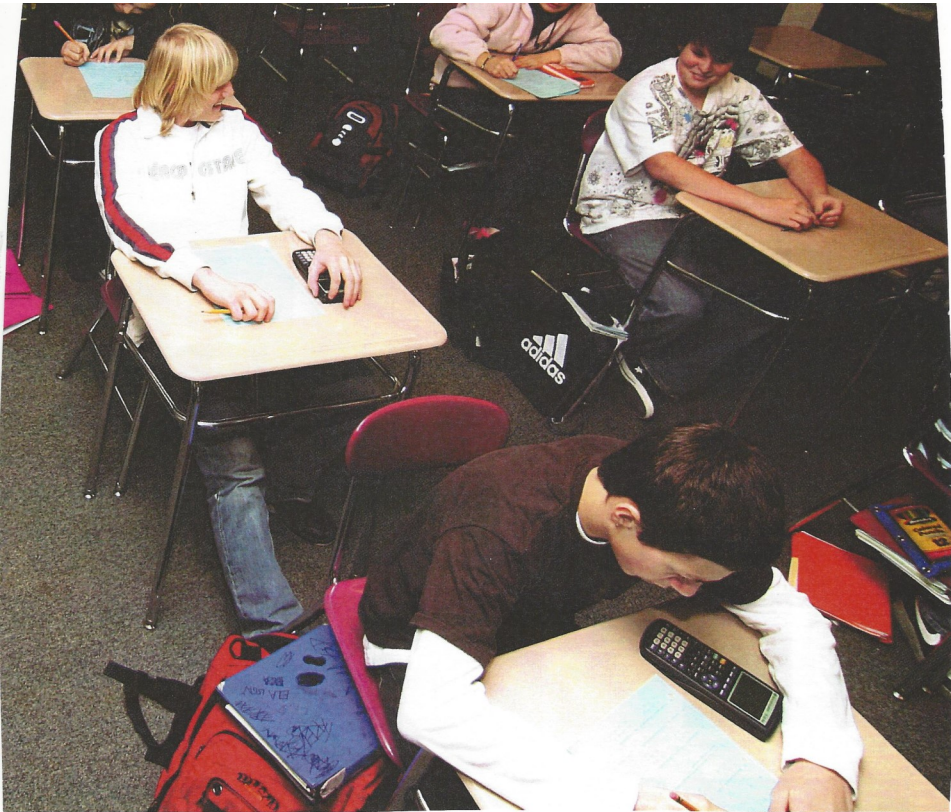
is on display at the Museum

Programs are held at
Town Park Clubhouse
10405 Main Street * Clarence
Doors Open at 6:30 PM
Refreshments Served
Family Friendly

Pat's Files



Here is a look comparing school dress styles from 1916 and 2015! Today's school photos will show scientific calculators while 1916 school classes used paper, ink wells and slate boards. Pencils seem to be ageless.



Pat Geiger's Collection

My Collection:

I inherited a collection of 167 antique post cards from my maternal grandmother, Anna Schultz. Most of the cards were sent to her and her sisters: Mary Schorr and Theresa Schorr. (Mary, who was a traveling nurse (worked for Dr. Lapp in Swormville) and Theresa was sickly and died in her early 30's. My grandparents were farmers who lived in Armor (Orchard Park-Hamburg, NY area) with 5 small children.

These post cards are so beautiful and celebrate holidays other than Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter: such as St. Patrick's Day, New Year, Halloween and Thanksgiving. There is also a birth announcement. Most of the messages were simple—Thinking of you or Merry Christmas, however the one I treasure most is from my Great Aunt Mary Schorr, the nurse, sent from Dr. Lapp's home to my Grandmother's sister, saying I'll be out after church on Sunday for a bushel of beans." I remember her small black model A Ford coupe with a rumble seat that she drove in the 1940's.

Most of these post cards are 1906-1912. Postage was 1 cent. (it is now .35 cents) One post card reads "It's summertime down here all year long." Another interesting fact—one of the post cards was addressed to: Name, Street, "City", meaning Buffalo and no zip code of course. I will be happy to bring my book of post cards to a meeting to share with those who are interested in looking at them.



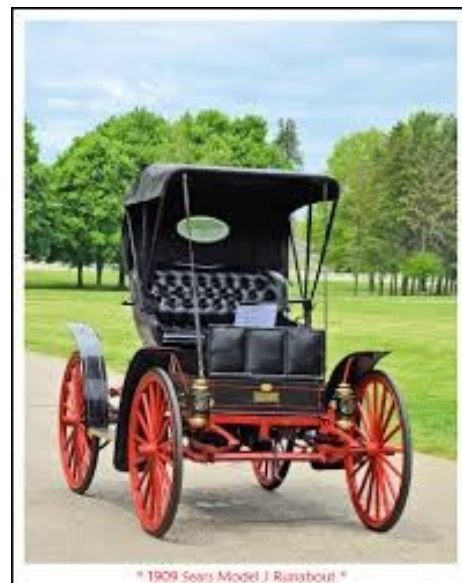
Elaine's Favorites

Old Pollution Problem

Around 1900 there was a pollution problem. Every decade has a cure for its ills. How could we cure the manure problem in the streets! There were three million horses inhabiting urban America, with the healthier ones contributed from 20-25 pounds of manure a day. On every street their presence was evident as swarms of flies circulated and pungent odors permeated the air. Four-legged pollution was not alleviated by a change in the weather. When it rained, the streets turned into a muddy manure mush. During dry spells heavy carriages and foot traffic beat the dung into a fine dust which as one contemporary said "it blew from the pavement to cover our clothes, ruin our furniture and blow up into our nostrils."

New York alone was home to some 150,000 horses, or pessimistically to 10 million pounds of manure a year. The offerings of the 15,000 horses in Rochester, NY alone would have covered an acre of soil with a heap 175' high. Many Americans feared that their cities would soon disappear under the dung. A "God send" for the turn-of-the-century pollution was becoming available. At last, Americans rejoiced, the curtain was closing on equine air. Cities would soon be cleaner, quieter, healthier places to live and work. The age of the *automobile* had arrived!

The Sears catalog of 1909 carried an advertisement for a horseless buggy that was "*guaranteed to go 100 miles in 24 hours if good care is taken of it.*"





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete and return the application to:
The Historical Society of the Town of Clarence, Inc.
10465 Main Street
PO Box 86
Clarence, NY 14031
www.clarencehistory.org
museum@clarencehistory.org

Membership Options

- \$15.00 Individual \$25.00 Couple \$30.00 Family
 \$150.00 Individual Life Member \$50.00 Business

Note: Under Internal Revenue guidelines, the estimated value of benefits received in exchange for your membership payment is not substantial. Therefore, the full amount of your payment is a deductible contribution.

Please make Check Payable: Historical Society of the Town of Clarence

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

BEST CONTACT PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____

Would you like to receive notifications by email? Yes _____ No _____

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Staff Museum When Open/Assist with Tours
 Work on Exhibits and Artifacts/Catalog
 Office Help

PLEASE LIST ANY HOBBIES AND INTERESTS THAT MAY BENEFIT TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Office Remarks: date rec'd _____ payment _____ check# _____

Membership Year: _____ Posted Date _____ by _____



**HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE TOWN OF CLARENCE**
Founded in 1954

10465 Main Street
P.O. Box 86
Clarence, New York 14031-0086

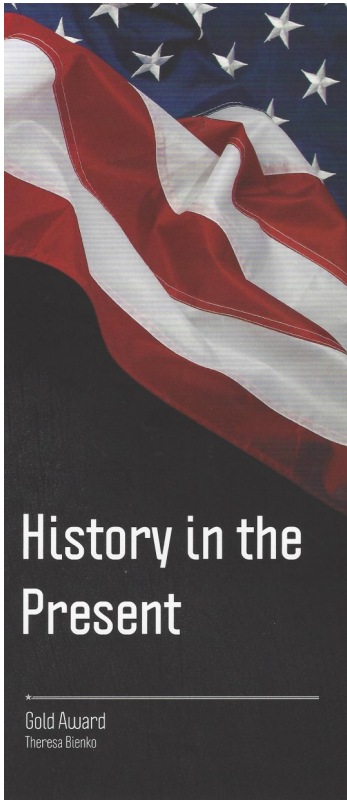
Phone: (716) 759-8575

www.clarencehistory.org

Facebook Page: Historical Society of the
Town of Clarence

Email: museum@clarencehistory.org

“To Preserve and share the History and Heritage of the Town of Clarence, respecting our past and striving into the future.”



What's New at the Museum !

Museum Open Hours

Wednesday Afternoons

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

&

2nd & 4th Sunday Afternoons


1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**PREHISTORY OF CLARENCE
EXHIBIT**
Archaeological Timelines

Telling Time with Material Culture

Chronology of Cultures and Time
Periods in Western New York
Archaeology According to Ritchie

- Contact/Historic: A.D. 1550-1800
- Pre-Contact Late Woodland: A.D. 1300-1550
- Woodland
 - Late: A.D. 900-1550
 - Middle: A.D. 1-900
 - Early: 1000 B.C. - A.D. 1
- Archaic
 - Late: 4000-1000 B.C.
 - Middle: 1000-4000 B.C.
 - Early: 8000-6000 B.C.
- Paleoindian 9000-8000 B.C.


University at Buffalo
The State University of New York
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Department of Anthropology
380 MFAC, Ellicott Complex
Amherst, New York, 14261-0026

Phone: 716 - 645 - 0400, 0401 or 2297
Fax: 716 - 645 - 6371
<http://archaeologicalsurvey.buffalo.edu/>