

A RANSOM NOTE

Clarence Historical Society Newsletter

WINTER 2019

Board of Trustees

Douglas Larkin, President
Joan Woodward, Secretary
Sandra Larkin, Treasurer
Daniel Gamin
Yvonne Buyers Hicks
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.

Notes from the President

First of all, we would like to welcome Yvonne Buyers Hicks to the Board of Trustees. We look forward to Yvonne's help and input as the Trustees move the society and museum forward this coming year.

The Restoration Project has taken longer than anticipated due to the change in the weather. It has held up the roof portion of the project. As of this writing, the roof shingles were being installed! The new windows are in and are being trimmed out. We would like to thank everyone for your patience while this project moves on!

The Board of Trustees is looking at a March 2019 opening for the Clarence History Museum. The Clarence Military Exhibit is being changed from the Civil War to World War I and a new Native American Exhibit is in the works. We are going to try adjusting our Open Hours from the 1st and 3rd Sundays to the 2nd and 4th Sundays, still from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Newstead Historical Society and the Alden Historical Society open their museums on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, so the Trustees decided to change the Clarence History Museum. We hope this change allows more visitors to all our area museums.

New blinds have been installed on the south side of the walkway into the Greatbatch Industrial Wing.

February 10, 2019 will be the 10 year anniversary of the crash of Flight 3407. We extend our thoughts and prayers to the families and 1st responders.

Thank you for your continued support!

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Judy's Gems

The First World War I, or the Great War from 1914-1918, began in Austria when the Archduke, Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife was assassinated in June 1914 by Serbian terrorist group called the Black Hand. That incident triggered a chain of events that led to war between several European countries which blossomed in Russia, Belgium, Russia, Britain and other countries including the United States.

WWI was fought mostly by soldiers in trenches. Millions of men died in combat and thousands of civilians lost lives as well. The Spanish influenza epidemic brought death to thousands more on the heels of the war as well.

Clarence men who went to war were *Dr. Daniel Fisher, Fay Graves, Sam Freeman, Elmer Ross, A.B. Price, Steven Tee, Sr., Frank Nichols, John W. Fisher and Floyd York, Arnold Baehre, Herbert Bald, John Betzold, Frank Bilskey, Joseph J. Bilskey, Emory Bluman, John Bolt, Oswald W. Bridge, Jay Brunck, Edward Bugenhagen, Charles Burns, Elton Carmer, Morrell Croop, Millard Croop, Ralph Cummings, Peter Curry, Karl Dietz, Raymond Dietz, Harold Dittman, Philip Donner, Walter Donner, Arthur Fidinger, Edgar Fogelsonger, Frank Garlock, Ralph Havens, Aaron Hebler, David Hebler, John Hebler, Edward Koch, Alfred Krehbiel, Herman Landel, Richard, Larkin, Leo Laurisch, Howard Lehman, Clarence Leib, August Leising, Frank Leising, Lawrence Leising, Val Leising, Augustus Loeffler, Domenico Marchen, Howard Martin, William Marzolf, Albert Measer, Louis Mengel, Donald Metz, Chadwick Morehead, Albert Moulin, Edward Nichert, Leon Ottney, Alvin Paschke, Albert H. F. Peronne, Henry H. Peronne, Edward Ribbeck, Charles Roneker, Peter Roneker, Andrew Roskopf, John J. Roskopf, Frank Schneider, Howard Schurr, Albert Seibold, John Seibold, Joseph Seibold, John Shisler, Albert Solton, Frank Saurianello, William Thering, Harold Trude, Avrey Turk, Ralph Wagner, John Wall, Emory Wall, George Wendling, Charles Weatherbee, Leo Witnauer, Clayton Woods and Ansley Zurbrick.* **Casualties were Pvt. LaVerne W. Drudge who died of disease in Toul, France; Pvt. Justus W. Graves died of disease; Pvt. William Laurish died of disease at Camp Dix, NJ.**

Stop in and check out an exhibit of WWI artifacts and pictures in our Museum.

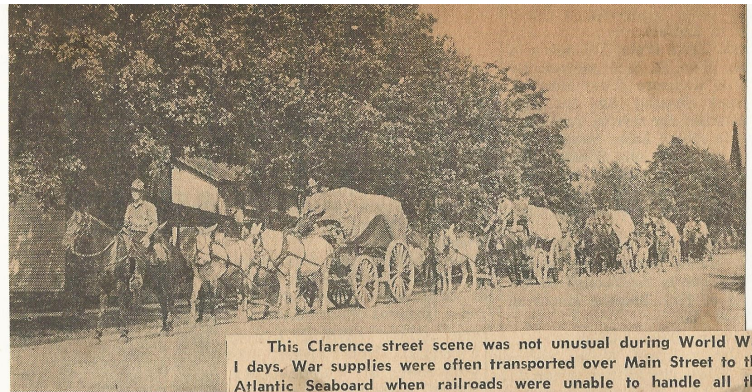
World War I
and
Clarence Residents



left - Fay Graves, Corp.
Headq'rs. Co. 78th F. A.
right - Arthur W. Fidinger
1st. Sgt. U. S. S. "N-3"



In training with the 309th Infantry at Camp Dix, N.J., in 1917 were, from left: Fay Graves, Jay Brunk, Louis and Earl Duttweiler. The photo is from Earl W. Duttweiler, South Byron.



This Clarence street scene was not unusual during World War I days. War supplies were often transported over Main Street to the Atlantic Seaboard when railroads were unable to handle all the business. This is the U. S. Army's 29th Regt. from Fort Porter in Buffalo. As in most early Clarence street scenes, the spire of the old Presbyterian Church is quite obvious. The lead horse stands about in front of the present Clarence Press driveway.



Some of Clarence's World War veterans at Memorial Day Services. They are (L. to R.) C. Eldred Burns, Edgar Fogelsonger, Millard F. Croop, William Marzolf, Samuel Freeman, John Fisher, Jay Brunk.

Autograph Books

An Autograph Book is a collection of personal messages, drawings, or poems from friends. They were popular from the 15th Century until the mid-19th Century. Their popularity began to wane and they were replaced by yearbooks.

*I thought, I thought, I thought in vain
At last I thought I'd write my name.*



*Forget me not, forget me never
Till yonder sun shall set forever.*



*I only ask this little spot
In which to write Forget me not.*

Valentine Food for Thought

Submitted by Pat Geiger

Cabbage always has a heart
Green beans string along
You're such a cute tomato
Will you peas to me belong?

You've been the apple of my eye,
You know how much I care;
So lettuce get together,
We'd make a perfect pear.

Now, something's sure to turnip
To prove you can't be beet,
So, if you carrot all for me
Let's our tulips meet.

Don't squash my hopes and dreams now
Bee my honey dear;
Or tears will fill potato's eyes
While sweet corn lends an ear.

I'll cauliflower shop and say
Your dreams are parsley mine;
I'll work and share my celery
So be my Valentine!



March 2019 Program

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 – 7pm

The First Program of 2019 will be Announced Shortly

Members will receive a Post Card

Please watch the Clarence Bee and our website at

www.clarencehistory.org For information

Refreshments Served

Town Park Clubhouse 10405 Main Street

Doors Open at 6:30 pm

Free and Open to the Public

Elaine's Favorites



January

Do you believe that people actually made resolutions and stuck to them? In Scotland the New Year is actually a bigger deal than Christmas. New Year's Eve or Hagamany lasts for days and incorporates age-old acts such as "First Footing". It's good luck to have a tall dark man enter the home after midnight, bearing gifts of course, such as (coal, salt, shortbread and whiskey) are common.

Germany has a lead pouring custom called "Bleigiessen."

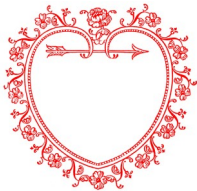
The Irish beat bread against the wall to beat off bad luck.

A Latin American custom is to coordinate their undies for a good new year, (red for love, yellow for happiness, etc.)

You can start calling your Christmas tree a New Year's tree as they do in Russia, or dive into icy water as they do in Canada In a "polar bear plunge."

Many different foods are traditionally eaten in other countries at midnight, i.e.: In Chili it lentils, in Spain 12 grapes are eaten at midnight. Many countries believe in eating ring shaped food, representing coming full circle. Our own southern area spread is black eyed peas and collard greens (wealth and green folding money), Ham or pork (prosperity) and cornbread (gold).

However you celebrate we wish you all the best in the New Year!



February brings Valentine's Day and Presidents Day

Some interesting facts about former presidents

Will Rodgers the famous humorist, once asked Calvin Coolidge how he kept fit in a job that had broken the health of Woodrow Wilson? "By avoiding the big problems" he answered in all seriousness. The President further eased the burden of the office by confining himself to four hours of work a day and by taking a nap every afternoon.

To give businessmen in 1939 a longer Christmas season FDR ordered that Thanksgiving be celebrated a week earlier than usual.

While running for president in 1940, Wendel Willkie used the slogan: "Roosevelt for ex-President."





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

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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.”

2019 Annual Membership Drive

The 2019 Annual Membership Drive will begin in January. All current annual members will be receiving their membership renewals in the mail. Please take a moment and renew your membership! Also think about your interests in the society and the museum. We have opportunities for everyone who wants to get involved.

Membership levels begin with Individual for \$15; Couples for \$25; Family for \$30; Business for \$50; and Life Membership for \$150. Membership benefits include the society Newsletter, A Ransom Note – published 4 times per year as well as postcard notification of all scheduled programs and mailed invitations for all special scheduled events.

Membership may also be completed on our website at www.clarencehistory.org.