

Board of Trustees

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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.

2018 New York to Paris Celebrating the 110th Anniversary

The historical society received the following information from Mr. Jeff Mahl, Great Grandson of George Schuster:

February 12, 2018 marks an important anniversary in automotive history. It was 110 years ago a race began which changed the perception of the "horseless carriage" from a novelty for the rich, to a viable means of transportation for everyone. The 1908 New York to Paris Race was considered so impossible, Henry Ford and Ransom Olds declined to enter. However, when President Teddy Roosevelt heard French, Italian and German Teams were going to race from Times Square to the Eiffel Tower there would be an American Team! Just days before the February 1908 start the Buffalo built "Thomas Flyer" was entered. The race was an epic challenge of men and machines with three of the six entries actually making it to Paris. More importantly, everyone survived the competition in spite of blizzards, bandits, bad food and no roads along the 22,000 mile route. 169 days after the start, the American Thomas Flyer entered Paris and its driver George Schuster won the race with records that still stand today. George has since been inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame, and the Thomas Flyer has been entered into the National Historic Vehicle Register.

In celebration of the victory, a group of intrepid vintage car enthusiast will be making the 2018 New York to Paris run along the original route. The first will be the US beginning June 19, 2018 in New York heading west to Oakland/San Francisco arriving July 5.

There will be special planned stops along the way, including Buffalo, NY with a start at the Pierce Arrow Museum and then we head west for San Francisco.



We are trying to help Jeff identify a location in Clarence where the Thomas Flyer was in the lead. The cars will be passing through Clarence on Wednesday June 20, 2018 on the Main Street Route—from east to west.

A RANSOM NOTE

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Judy's Gems

Changes are on going....some good, some not so well accepted but once the practice is put into motion there is no going back. This technology age is mind boggling for older folks but has become a way of life for youngsters. In the 1800's the Industrial Revolution began in Britain and it involved the rural and lower working class people. The advance from *agrarian* and *handcrafting* to *industrial and machine manufacturing* soon spread to Europe before hitting America. The end of the slave trade, the War of 1812 and the Civil War were factors that brought about a whole different mindset in our country.



Button button who's got the button...so goes the refrain. The earliest known button was found in the Indus Valley (now Pakistan). It was made of a curved shell about 5,000 years ago and was used as a decoration on clothing. Others were in use in Egypt as well. Reinforced button holes were not invented until the mid13th century. Buttons became more prominent among wealthy about the middle of the 11th century. Button closures allowed clothing to become more form fitting as well as adjustable. The fasteners were so prized there were laws that restricted their use and the first button maker's guild was formed in France in 1250.

Most buttons were mounted on a shank and you would run a thread thru the shank hole to attach it to fabric. Men, usually right handed, theirs were sewn on the right side for ease in dressing. Women on the other hand had maids to dress them and their buttons were sewn on the left side to aid the maid. Old valuable buttons were hollow and held dried flowers, hair cuttings and jewels.

Queen Victoria wore mourning buttons of black jet upon the death of her husband, Albert. George Washington's inauguration initiated the first political buttons. Motifs of ones political party were often shown on their buttons.

Poor folks crafted their own buttons by hand and some families even made a business of producing them. They worked together molding, polishing and designing them from various materials such as metal, glass, wood, horn, and shell.

Our museum has a large collection of buttons donated by Thelma Bratt.

A few activities and chores that
were important during
our first 70 years as a town

1808—1878



CUTTING WOOD AT KRAUS AND GREINER - ON KRAUS FARM



SHEARING SHEEP - CROOP FARM, CLARENCE CENTER



WOMEN WASHING MRS. KATE CHAFFEE - MRS. LEONDER REIGLE

May 2018 PROGRAM

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 – 7pm

“A Rage to Live: Surviving the Holocaust So Hitler Would Not Win”

Presented by Joe Krygier

Joe has interviewed a survivor of the death camps, has video pictures of this
time and has written a book

Plan to join us for this informative program

Town Park Clubhouse

Doors Open at 6:30 pm

Pat's School Files



1907 Parker High School Baseball Team

Top row: 1-r Prof. Weeks;? ; J.Loeman
2nd row: 1-r Karl Krehbiel; Al Fidinge; N. Karnitz; Wm.Loeffler; Homer Lily
Bottom row: 1-r Benton Garlock; Alfred Krehbiel; Lee Wittlinger; Chas. Burns

UNDEFEATED!



1968 Saga

Coach Terry Ransbury
with
Clarence Varsity Football
Team

Coach Ransbury died Jan.15,
2018

From the Board of Trustees

Board Member Changes

At a special board meeting on February 10, 2018, the Board of Trustees received and accepted a letter of resignation from President Tom Steffan. Tom has served on the board for many years and served as President from 2011 - 2017. At this time, Tom is focusing on family and work commitments. We thank Tom for his service and wish him all the best.

At the same meeting, the board appointed Trustee Doug Larkin as President of the board. Doug looks forward to working with all the Trustees and members in the future of the society and museum.

2018 Museum Hours

The 2018 season has begun for the Clarence History Museum. We are currently open on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, from 1:00 pm—3:00 pm, and tours booking by appointments.

Wednesday Open Hours are suspended until further notice. Our museum building is going to receive restoration work this year. Our Town officials and several town departments are coordinating the details before the work begins. The museum doesn't need to be shut down, exhibits do not need to be stored, but the work does need to be scheduled during the normal work week.

Please watch for updates in our newsletter, Facebook page and website! And, of course, we will have a celebration of the restoration, when it's completed.

Note: From the Town Historian's Desk

Will return in the next issue!

Special Exhibit to Coincide with the Clarence Middle School History Project

It's time for the annual Clarence Middle School 7th grade History project! The students have received their project guidelines and the research has begun. In conjunction with the research project, the Clarence History Museum has set up a special exhibit throughout the museum. All previous student projects from past years have been brought out of storage. With the help of Community Service students and volunteers, over 40 projects have been freshened up. This exhibit will be on display through the end of May!

**“A politician thinks of the next election;
A Statesman, of the next generation.”**

James Freeman Clarke

Elaine's Favorite

Celebrated on May 1st, May Day is an ancient northern hemisphere spring festival. It dates back to the Romans and involved many pagan rituals and ancient customs. It marks the half way point between spring and the summer solstice. Many rituals and dances relating to agriculture and fertility were practiced by Germanic and European countries. With the advent of Christianity it became a religious holiday. Roman Catholics celebrate May as Mary's month.

A popular cause also was to protest for workers' rights such as an eight hour work day and fair labor practices. To quote: Martin Luther King "All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

In France they give sweet smelling flowers to friends and loved ones. It became the custom in 1561 after King Charles IX received a Lily of the Valley as a good luck charm.

May Day may have more holidays than any other day of the year. It's a celebration of spring and political protests. It's a pagan festival, a saint's day and a day for organized labor. In many countries it's a national holiday.

How will you celebrate?



"A little madness in the spring, is wholesome even for the King"
Emily Dickinson 1830-1886



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
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Phone: (716) 759-8575

www.clarencehistory.org

Facebook Page: Historical Society of the
Town of Clarence

Email: museum@clarencehistory.org

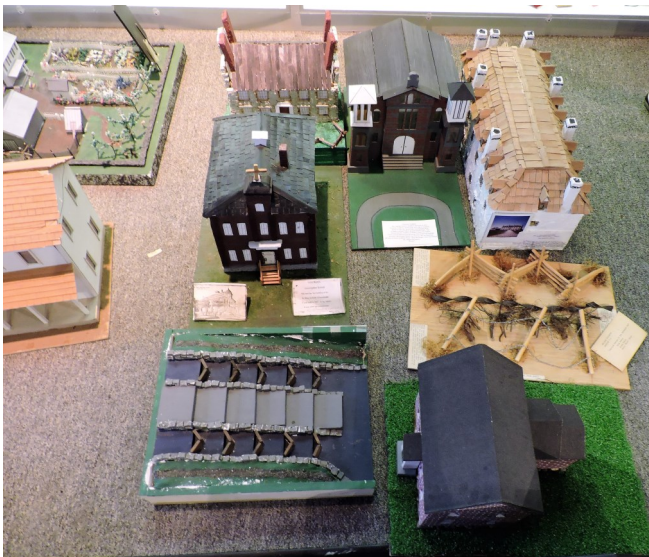
Town of Clarence

~ 1808—2018 ~

Marking 210 Years of Change and Growth

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

Community Service Students working on the Student Project Exhibit. Over 40 projects were worked on with students help on Saturday February 17, 2018.



A few of the projects that were cleaned and repaired.