
DUANESBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 2013

Message From The Directors

The DHS Board of Directors would like to thank Shirley Clark for her many, many years of service to the Board as a Trustee and her continuing interest in our local history. Shirley has stepped down so that she can further enjoy retirement with husband William. Thanks Shirley!!!!

We would also like to welcome new Board member Cindy McKeon from the Mariaville area. Cindy is a long time active member of DHS and we look forward to her participation on the Board.

The DHS archives are being organized and preserved through the use of purchased archival materials and computer and copying equipment received from the GE ELFUN computer rehab program. Pat Van Buren is heading up this ongoing project.

We are enjoying a great turn out for our monthly meetings thanks to our members and supporters. We look forward to your continuing support.

President: Leonard Van Buren Treasurer: Howard Ohlhous
Vice President: Shirley Martin Secretary: John Peters
Trustees: John Brown, Mary Hughes, Cindy McKeon,
Pat Van Buren and Carl Wiedemann

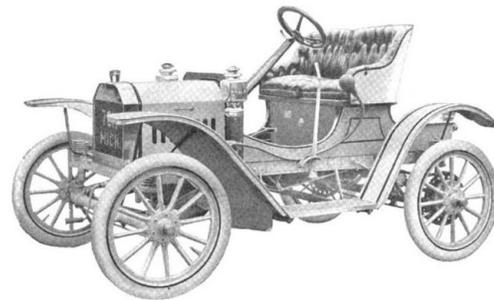
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Directors Message & A Horseless Carriage Visit
- 2 The Grove Cemetery
- 3 2013 Program Schedule & Case's Tavern
- 4 Case's Tavern continued
- 5 History Books Available from DHS

A Horseless Carriage visits Eaton Corners

by Winslow S. Dougall

One Sunday morning (in 1909) while at the barn doing chores, I heard a very unusual noise near the schoolhouse. On going down to investigate, there (in the ever present mud hole) sat a small Horseless Carriage. I cannot name it now, but I believe it was a Bush or Brush or had a similar name. Dr. John Beard, the chauffeur, and a friend had hoped to drive the contraption to Amsterdam.



A 1909 Brush

Dr. Beard said; "If we could only get to that dry spot ahead there, I think we could make it." I said, "That will be easy. I'll get a horse." So I hitched old Nell to the thing and drew it to the dry spot about 30 feet ahead.

After a thorough inspection and several tries, Dr. Beard said, "No, we cannot make it. The clutch is spoiled. If you will tow us up the hills, we can coast down to Esperance and have someone from Cobleskill come after us." Again I hitched Nell to the front and towed him up to the Waddell farm and there turned him loose. About this time I had come to the conclusion that he would not be able to coast to Esperance, so I followed on Nell, and down by Charles Avery's turn there they sat.

Again I towed them to Frank Blythe's farm and gave them a push by hand to start them rolling I followed right along and caught up with them near the Skiff farm. I then hitched Nell to it for the last time. She plodded right along while I stood on the running board and rode to the Chapman Hotel, where they bought me my dinner, paid me \$1.50, and I left them.

Before I arrived home I wished often for a saddle or even a blanket.

Editor's Note: This story was originally published in 1950.

Grove Cemetery

As Halloween approaches, visions of ghosts, spirits, goblins and even zombies escaping from cemeteries enter the thoughts of many people. We can thank Michael Jackson for some of that but it goes back much further than him.



The truth is that trapped in our cemeteries and trying to get out are links to our history and ancestry. Resting there with our loved ones are many facts that can help tell the story of the surrounding areas as well as preserve the memory of those at rest there.

Most rural towns are peppered with cemeteries and the Town of Duaneburg is no different. There are many small or private cemeteries and a few larger more centrally located cemeteries that typically became the norm over time and as laws changed.

One such cemetery is the Grove Cemetery located on Route 395 just a few hundred yards down the hill from the Hamlet of Quaker Street.

Grove Cemetery is a well maintained jewel in our community that is the resting place for many families that are familiar to the historians among us and to those in neighboring communities. Much of that history had been stored on paper records over the years, with some lost to fire years ago and others just fading away. The grave markers themselves are part of the records.

Enter Delanson resident Bruce A. Barton to preserve and help unlock much of the history that has been trying to get out. His story is amazing and the complete story, in his words, can be read on our website www.duanesburghistorical.com but here is some of the story.

Bruce comments: *"It was March of 2008 and I just lost my good friend Muriel Chatterton. I was reflecting on the fun times and wonderful conversations I had with Muriel when I decided to take inventory of the friends and relatives that passed. Much to my dismay, I discovered I had lost 28 friends and 33 relatives through the years and there were many memories I cherished and didn't want to lose. I wanted to somehow preserve their memory not just for myself but for anyone who knew them."*

Bruce got involved as a volunteer photographer for the website Find-A-Grave (www.findagrave.com) which as Bruce describes is *"a giant database of over 400,000 cemeteries with more than 114 million grave records"*. (If you haven't visited it and you are searching for relatives, it is a gold mine and after creating a "logon" it is free.)

Soon Mr. Barton was photographing headstones at Grove Cemetery just up the road from his home. But not all graves have headstones! That is where the "paper" records

become very important.

After finding Len Van Buren (VP of the Grove Cemetery Association and DHS President) hiding from him behind a tree one day, Bruce asked about the records and *"he told me about the fire in the early 30's that destroyed the burial records for Grove and as a result those people buried without headstones could not be located."* Furthermore, Len indicated that the records that did exist needed to be backed up to prevent that from happening again.

Turns out that Mr. Barton is a Database Developer and after reviewing the records and further conversations with Len and Bob Flower (Superintendent of the Grove Cemetery Association), he photographed the records, filled in some blanks and *"developed a searchable spreadsheet using MS Excel and listed all the photos I had taken in Grove and began verifying them with each record in the Grove Cemetery ledgers."*

Problem solved but Bruce decided to take another step: *"After the spreadsheet and verification process was complete, I wanted to have a way in which the public could easily access the Grove burial records to find their loved ones as well as spread the word about how wonderful Grove Cemetery is."* After consulting with his son Bryan, Bruce built a web site for all to access and it is wonderful. The web site is www.grovecemetery.net.

As Bruce states: *"But the work is not over by a long shot. There are about 150 graves without burial records and death dates on their stones in Grove, so we don't really know if the name of the person etched on the stone is actually buried in Grove!"* He continues: *"By finding obituaries and reading old newspaper articles while studying the records that are available, I've been able to find and locate burial locations for about 40-50 people who were buried in Grove without headstones. So there is still a long way to go and this is just one small cemetery."*

The significance of Mr. Barton's five year effort is immense and the community owes a huge debt of gratitude to him for that effort and for his efforts going forward. Thank him if you see him!

Please read his entire story about this project on our website. There will be a tab titled "Grove Cemetery" and this Halloween think about all the good things that are trying to get out of the cemetery..... by Jack Brown with excerpts from "The Grove Cemetery Project" by Bruce A. Barton.

Grove Cemetery is owned and operated by a "not for profit" group known as the Grove Cemetery Association. To help preserve this wonderful cemetery, you may send tax deductible donations to:

The Grove Cemetery Association
PO Box 114
Delanson, NY 12053

2013 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Programs are held at the Bishop Scully Hall -Our Lady of Fatima Church- Delanson at 7:00PM the 3rd Monday of the month. No meetings are held in January or February.

Monday, September 16, 2013 Pat Payst-Family Quilt

Monday, October, 21, 2013 Maxine Christman-
The History and Collecting of Handkerchiefs.

Monday, November 18, 2013 Bart MacDougall Volunteering
in Duaneburg

Monday, December 16, 2013 Annual Christmas Party - Toys
from the Past

Case's Tavern in Duaneburg

by R.H. Schrade

The writer, Roemyn Schrade, worked for nearly three years in the general store during his boyhood and heard the older residents of the community tell and retell their recollections of past events.



Case's Tavern in the early days

During the Civil War anxious parents and relatives of servicemen gathered at the tavern and patiently waited for the reading aloud of the war news, by Squire Van Arnam, the local Justice of the Peace. The Squire took the place of the present day news commentator heard daily on the radio.

It was the Squire's duty to so analyze the news so that a setback would appear to be a military advantage in order to uphold the morale of the community. This practice is not unknown today.

The Squire's devotion to this service required his presence at the tavern for more frequent and greater periods of time until it became necessary for his wife to come to the tavern to summon him home. But one day, tiring of this practice, his good wife entered the common room, hung her cloak and hood on the coat rack, moved an arm chair up to the wood burning stove, put her feet on the circular rail and settled down. The Squire fumed and blustered but the Mrs. held her seat and the Squire after cooling off left the tavern. What effect this incident had on the Squire's habits is unrecorded.



Many, living today, recall the large stock yard located west of Wilber's Garage on land now occupied by the Diner, Bowkers and Humphreys. The Case Tavern was a favorite overnight stopping place for drovers of cattle and turkeys, sheds and barns being located on the lands west of Wilber's Garage. A two bent shed from this Case Tavern yard was moved by Joseph Schnetzler to the Harmon Schrade farm and now stands west of the Schrade barn. This shed was moved in 1894 and the writer recalls the moving and setting up of the shed. The original timbers and siding were used, the roof, only, being replaced.

The Case Tavern, so the old timers said, was famous as an eating place and from the line-up of parked cars around the place today we must conclude that its fame has steadily increased.

The Town Library was located on the Case property, east of the Tavern on what was known then as the plank road but now at the Depot Road. This building in good condition is now on the John McMillan property.

A horse shed was just as important in the days past as a parking lot today. Attached to the Case Tavern was a horse shed and public hall, some 72 feet long. This building stood east of the Case Tavern. The second story or public hall of the building was converted into two frame dwellings now located east of the Hub Hotel.

For many years the U.S. Post Office was located in the Case Tavern and the entrance was from the main center hall of the Tavern. John I. Turnbull was Town Clerk of the Town of Duanesburg for many years. The Town Board met at the Case Tavern Hall as far back in the days when town officers were elected at annual town meetings, the town meetings were held in this same hall. On these occasions hucksters, peddlers, etc. had a big day.

Four in Hands, Tally Hos, and other fancy drawn vehicles arriving from New York on the boat to Albany, stopped at this tavern. A single bed was 35 cents. A meal was from 15 to 25 cents.



Located on cross roads and having a large public hall, this tavern was used by medicine shows, and other public activities. The writer recalls a travelling wagon show set up on the Tavern lot under canvas and, while a very small boy, recalls the publicity men parading a dingy black bear around the village.



The Kickapoo Indian Medicine Show visited the Village about 50 years ago and played a two week's stand. The first night was free to the public and the writer had no trouble getting permission to attend the show. Permission for other nights was a little more difficult. The show promised a cure-all called "Sagwa" which was recommended for everything from head to foot. The medicine was made right on the premises. Interest in the show was promoted by a bean bottle guessing contest. Everyone bought "Sagwa", to get the bottle, filled it with beans, counted the beans and guessed accordingly. With each admission, there was a coupon for the popular lady contest. It built up to a terrific climax on the last night. Someone present here tonight may have won the popular lady contest or the gold watch on the bean guessing.



Editor's note: The building once known as the Case Tavern is located in the center of the hamlet of Duanesburg. In more recent times it housed the Hub Restaurant. Today it is the "Remember When" antique shop. The story of the Case Tavern was written by R.H. Schrade for the Historical Meeting which was held at the Hub Restaurant on October 29, 1951.

The heart of the DHS is our members and their support and interest in the history of the Town of Duaneburg

MEMBERSHIP

Choose the membership that is right for you and enjoy the benefits of supporting your Historical Society. If you are not a current member we hope you will consider joining.

Membership Fees: \$5.00 Adults \$1.00 Students

Name(s) _____

Telephone # _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____
(optional – not shared)

Membership level _____ Adults
_____ Students

New Membership _____ Renewed Membership _____

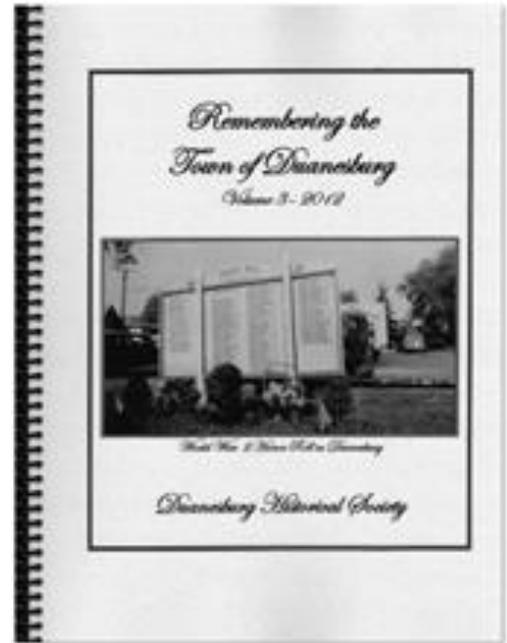
Make Checks payable to: Duaneburg Historical Society
PO Box 421
Duaneburg, NY 12056
Attn: Membership

Visit us at www.duaneburghistorical.com and join us on Facebook, search Duaneburg Historical

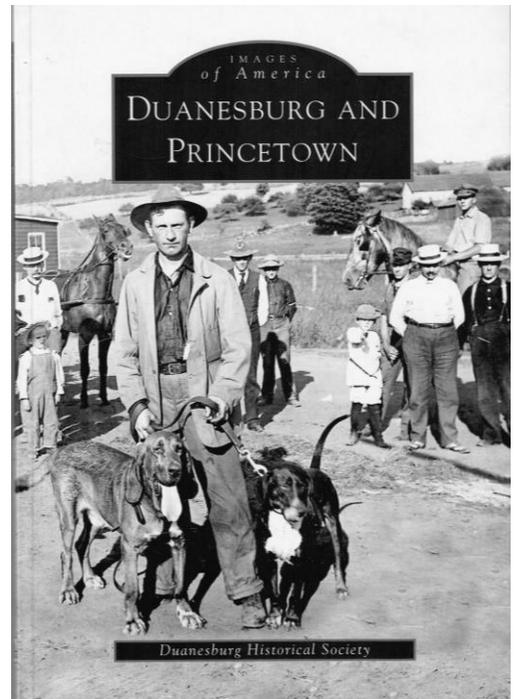
Membership runs from June to June. Please use the above form to renew your membership.

If you are not sure if you have renewed or have questions as to your current status, call Betty Vunk at 895-2118.

Local History Books



There are three volumes in this series which preserve the oral and written history of our community. Volume 1 is out of print, but volumes 2 & 3 may be purchased through the DHS website, at DHS meetings, and at the town hall.



Published in 2005 as part of the Images of America series, this collection of photographs is available through the DHS website, at our meetings, and at the town hall.

