
DUANESBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2014

Message From The Directors

The Duanesburg Historical Society was founded in 1944. For our 70th anniversary we hope to have some unique remembrances of the first 70 years during the course of this year's programs. With the future in mind, we are challenging our board, our members and our friends to help us add 70 new members during 2014. An ambitious goal, but please help us build the foundation for the next 70 years.

The board would also like to thank Mary Hughes for her many, many years of service to the DHS board as she settles into retirement. Both Mary and her late husband David have served as officers of DHS and their dedication will not be forgotten.

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

Duanesburg Day

The eleventh annual Duanesburg Day will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The theme this year is "Pieces of a Strong Community". This is a community celebration including events appealing to all age groups and interests. It takes place at the Duanesburg Middle/High School located on Route 395 in the heart of Delanson. The snow date is March 30th from 12:00-5:00 p.m.

The Historical Society will have a display table where you can purchase local history books and a membership for friends and relatives. Help support our 70 for the 70th membership campaign. There is no greater bargain at just \$5.00 for the entire year!

Dr. Joseph Braman

by Clarence Foote - Historical Bulletin, October 1948

Dr. Joseph Braman was born at Ellington, Connecticut in 1792. He came with his parents to Esperance in 1811 and in 1814 to a farm at what was known as Parlor Street in the town of Duanesburgh. His father, Joseph was in the Revolutionary War and drilled a company for the War of 1812.

Dr. Braman joined the Free Masons in 1813 when he became 21. He taught school and read medicine and by 1817 was appointed surgeon in the Duanesburgh battalion of infantry in the New York Militia.

Besides having an extensive medical practice over a wide area for many years he was active in business and community affairs. In 1840, he opened and operated, for 15 years, a general store and probably from then (time of opening) the place was called Bramans Corners. An active Universalist in religious belief, he with 15 others organized at his home in 1875 the "Church of the Redeemer". For many years he served in various town offices including Inspector of Common Schools, Commissioner of Common Schools, Inspector of Election and Overseer of Poor.

In 1816 he married Rachel Shute who died in 1833. Their children were Katherine, Elizabeth, Emma, Mariett, Dr. Delos and Harriet. About three years after his first wife died he married Katherine Stewart. Dr. Joseph Braman died in 1885 aged 96.

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Memories of School District #12 – Eaton Corners

Excerpted from Duaneburg Historical Bulletin March 1950

Copy of Teacher's Certificate in 1849

I hereby certify that I have examined Miss Naomi Eaton and believe that she is well qualified in moral character, learning and ability to teach a common school in this town, for one year from the date hereof. March 17th 1849. C.A. Frisbee, Sup. Of Common Schools for Duaneburgh.



Eatons Corners School #12 - May 1916

Marion (McDuffee) Steadwell remembers: “the long box stove would roast you out if you sat too close, but if you sat near the back of the room you would freeze about as quick. Also the brown paper water pail and small hand dipper. Noon hours during winter we all looked forward to, so we could ride, slide or skate on the long stretch of ice which was usually down in the fields on the John Wright farm. More than once we missed our afternoon recess because we were late. I recall the Christmas play we all took part in during Miss Judson's term, also the picnic on Mr. Ludlam's lawn at the close of that year.”

Another remembers when Arthur Quick used to build fires on Monday morning in the long box stove. Then paper was scarce and one tablet would go for a whole year, and most of the written work was done on a double slate. So, without paper or kerosene, Arthur would split a piece of soft dry wood about half an inch square, then whittle shavings left attached all around it for about four inches long. He would put this on a good bed of ashes to protect the stove from overheating, then put other pieces of dry wood split rather finely on top in a criss-cross cobhouse fashion, with coarser sticks above and some large sticks on top. At night, except Friday night, he would put perhaps three large sticks on the fire and cover with ashes. In the morning there were enough coals left to start up the fire.

Arthur and the other big boys including George Cramer and Samuel Ragan would toast our bread by holding it over

the fire on a pointed stick. The only time we used a pen was when we wrote in our copy-books or when some of the older ones studied bookkeeping. These copy books had the copy printed at the top of the page, the sentence usually being a wise saying, a portion of Scripture, or perhaps some important fact.

We used to go barefooted to school, boys and girls alike, during the warm days of fall and spring. I remember one boy who came that way one cold morning in October. His feet were so cold the he cried; so we lent him our clean slate cloths to help him get more comfortable that day.

In 1915, the late Abram Lincoln Cline, a well named poet, artist and humorist who was born on the Cline place, started the Old Home Picnics for the Eaton's Corners and Burtonsville school districts. These pleasant gatherings continued for 25 years until halted by gas rationing of World War II. These picnics were held in Foote's hickory grove, the site of many other union school or Sunday school picnics in earlier years when owned by Edward Frisbee, great grandfather of the present owner. (Clarence Foote)

J. Danforth Cheney of Esperance, a former teacher in District No. 12, relates that he first taught school here in 1891 for \$1.50 a day and had 18 pupils, a nice group with only two small children. The next year he taught at Braman's Corners for \$2.00 a day, but the work was so much harder with 40 or more registered that he came back to Eaton's Corners the following year of 1892-1893.

Mrs. Annie Cramer Leslie recalls being paid \$1.50 a day and her room and board was \$2.50 a week (@ 1900). She remembers getting up at 3 and 4 o'clock, studying for two or three hours, and after an early breakfast, walking down to Burtonville for the mail and then up to school. “I certainly enjoyed every day, even when it was 14 below zero – there were days when teacher and pupils just couldn't make it”.

Mrs. Agnes Rockwell Fuller remembers of 1899-1900 receiving \$27.00 a month with 32 weeks in a school year. They had a few weeks of vacation during bad weather.

Miss Grace Wilber taught in District # 12 for two year beginning in September 1931 for a salary of \$25 a week.

Eatons Corners School #12 - May 1916



2014 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.

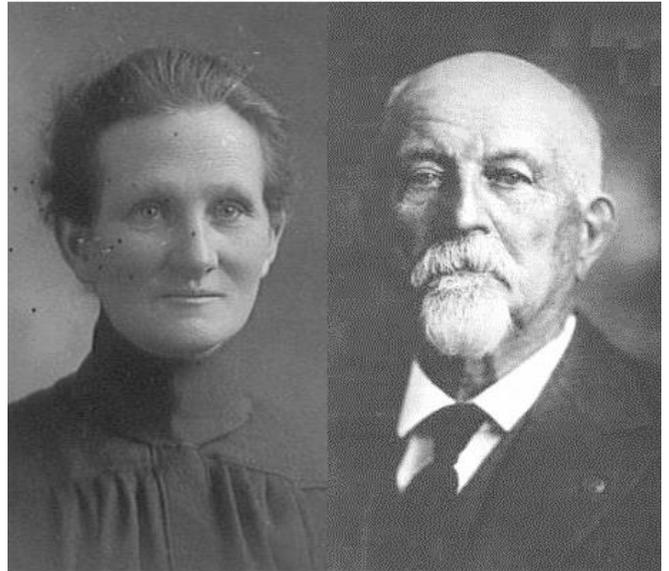
March 17	Travels in India Don Martin
April 21	Hill Towns John Elberfeld
May 19	The Issac Gaige Farm John Barr
June 16	Rulison Honey Farm Lorie Rulison
July 21	Annual Picnic at Shafer Park
August 18	Quaker Meeting House John Peters
September 15	Mark Twain/Samuel Clemens Don Coons
October 20	DHS Minutes & Memories Carole DeForest
November 17	Canal Street Station Joe Merli
December 15	Annual Christmas Party Shopping in Duanesburg Barton MacDougall

Silas Van Patten

Excerpted from www.vanpattencestry.com

Silas (Cornelius) Van Patten was born on October 15, 1840 in Rotterdam and died on July 17, 1932 in Duanesburg. He is buried in Vale Cemetery, Schenectady.

Van Patten Road in Duanesburg, NY is named after him and his mill.



Nancy (Robison Liddle) & Silas Van Patten

Silas was a mill owner, farmer and carpenter. During the Civil War he was a soldier in Co. A, 134th New York Volunteer Infantry where he was reported to have deserted briefly when his mother took ill. He returned to duty without severe penalty.

He built his mill in the hamlet of Duanesburg, NY on the Normanskill, replacing one owned by his wife Nancy's great-uncle Thomas Liddle. Farmers brought rye, buckwheat, oats and wheat to be ground into flour; teams of oxen hauled logs to be cut into lumber. The mill pond was a favorite picnic spot of the area.



Old Van Patten Mill in Duanesburg

St. Peters Chapel

The story of St. Peters Chapel begins in 1924 when it was under construction in Delanson. The church was built in Delanson for convenience of local parishioners who would otherwise have had to travel several additional miles to Christ Episcopal Church on route 20. The first baptism (Alice Mary Lynes) took place on April 12, 1925 and the first marriage on April 4, 1926 – Felix Perreault and Emma Cummings. The first rector was David Patterson who was also the rector of Christ Church. The reputed founders included William Lynes, Galen White, Wendell Wilber, and Reverend David Patterson.



St. Peters Chapel when it was new.

Mr. Barton MacDougall remembers attending 8:00 a.m. services in the summer at the chapel in the 1950's. He also recalls that the building was heated with a Duo-Therm kerosene stove.

The chapel is located in front of the school on route 395 in Delanson and has had many uses over the years. Aside from normal church services and weddings, the chapel has been used as offices, class rooms, summer bible school (see 1957 photo below with some familiar faces) and even a Laundromat at one point. The Duanesburg Historical Society would like to encourage the preservation of the building. DHS would also like to ask for any information or photos our members and readers might have of the building or events at the building. They can be sent to our PO Box listed elsewhere in this newsletter or emailed to jbrownjr@earthlink.net. Thanks in advance.



St. Peters Bible School Class in 1957

Help Us Recruit 70 New Members for Our 70th!

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 _____

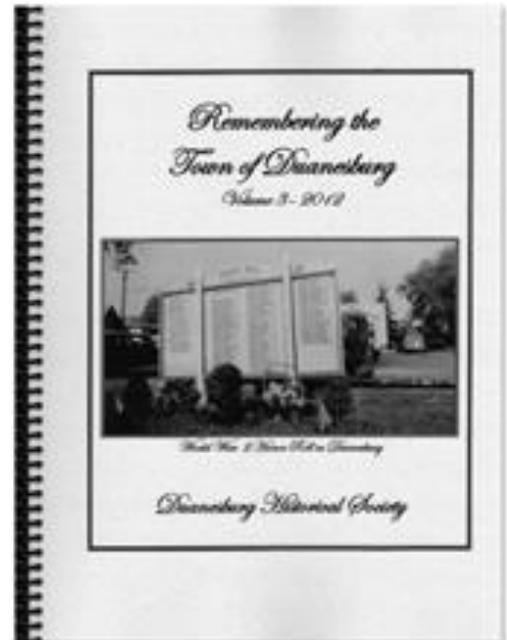
Make Checks payable to: Duaneburg Historical Society
PO Box 421
Duaneburg, NY 12056
Attn: Membership

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

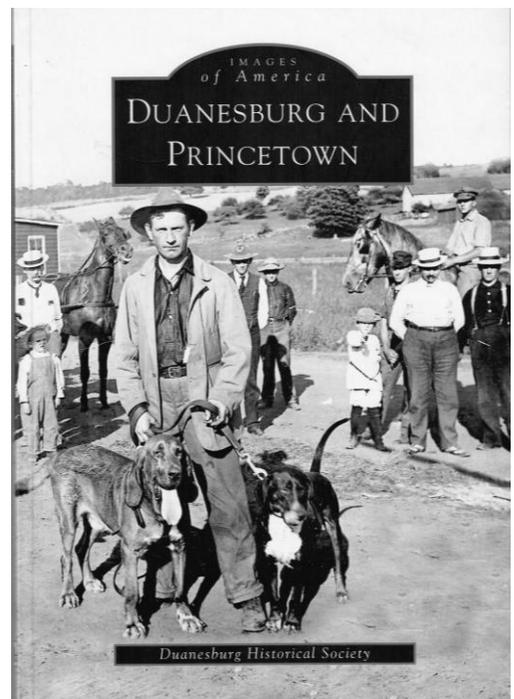
Membership runs from June to June. Please use the above form to renew your membership.

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.

