
DUANESBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

April 2017

Directors' Message

2017 Promises to be an interesting, busy year for the Duanesburg Historical Society!

Our Program Chairman has lined up a year of interesting evenings for us, as evidenced at our March meeting when Anna Marie Collins gave a great presentation on Women's Suffrage.

As announced last year, we are in the process of building our Research and Archive Center on Quaker Lake in Quaker Street. We had purchased the property several years ago, have been studying many options for the Center, and have kept in mind a very conservative budget. We contracted with a local builder (competitively) and approved the plans. A well was drilled in the Fall of 2016 and we have a good water supply. We plan to break ground this Spring.

The Board has been actively pursuing personal and corporate donations already, and will be mounting a general fund drive soon. At our April meeting, we will inform our membership of funds available from our savings, additional funds from donors, and the amount we hope to raise from our membership, friends, and neighbors.

Len Van Buren, President; Shirley Martin, Vice-President; Howard Ohlhous, Treasurer; Directors: Marsha Brown, Cindy McKeone, Eamon Murphy, David Vincent, Pat Van Buren and Carl Wiedemann

QSC Club Donation

Formed in 1941 and incorporated in 1946, the Quaker Street Cooperative Club's mission was to enhance the cultural life of the Duanesburg community. In 1950, their dedicated mission became providing library services for the Town of Duanesburg by entering into an agreement with Schenectady County to establish its first station in the hamlet of Quaker Street on Gallupville Road (now Quaker Lane). In 1979, the QSC Club was the force behind obtaining enlarged library facilities when the county built the Quaker Street Branch Library on land donated to the county by Francis and Margaret Crowe. Margaret was a founding member of the QSC Club.

In consideration of the QSC Club's original mission, the Duanesburg Historical is very grateful and honored to have received a gift of \$17,967.85 from the QSC Club for the society's Research and Archive Center Building Fund.

To read more about the history of the Quaker Street Cooperative Club and its community activism refer to Remembering the Town of Duanesburg, Volume 1 pages 78-85 in articles by Mary Heisig and Blanche Larson.

"Looking to the Future to Preserve Our Past"



Future Duanesburg Historical Society
Research & Archive Center in Quaker Street

2017 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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

March 20	100 th Anniversary NYS Suffrage Anna Marie Collins
April 17	Stand Tall Against the Odds Everett Rau
May 15	Duanesburg Schools Rebecca Watrous
June 19	Mariaville Telephone Company Clyde Cullins
July 17	Annual Picnic Shafer Park
August 14	WW II Mine Sweeper Memories Don Holmes
September 18	Mariaville – Part 2 Lorrie Runnels
October 16	Joe Merli & His Legacy Pat Payst
November 20	Palatine Migration – Part 2 Don Martin
December 18	What's in Your Attic? Artifacts &/or Memories From your family history Christmas Party

Roadside Marker Commemorates First Settler

The Historical Society has received a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation for the purchase of a Folklore and Legends roadside marker for Michael Righter, our first permanent settler of Duanesburg. Righter was born in Germany on May 18, 1718. He settled in Duanesburg as early as 1757 and purchased land from James Duane payable in four years. Michael was able to pay his debt 27 years later. Duane reported in his journal of 1765: "Lodged this night at Righter's who lives in the Cave of a large rock; which is of no small Curiosity." Righter later built a cabin on his land. He died May 18, 1804 at age 86 and 1 day. Similar in appearance to the familiar blue and yellow historical marker this Folklore and Legends marker will be ruby red with ivory lettering. It will be erected and dedicated at a ceremony this spring (date and time yet to be determined) in the Duanesburg Village Cemetery where Michael Righter is buried.

For those interested in learning more about James Duane and Duanesburg's early settlers refer to *A Revolutionary Conservative, James Duane of New York*, Edward P. Alexander 1938 available through the Schenectady County Library.



Duanesburg Historical Society Research & Archive Center

“Looking to the Future to Preserve Our Past”

The Duanesburg Historical Society was formed in 1944 for the purpose of discovery, preservation and dissemination of our local history. We possess historically valuable records that include information on the development of the town, its institutions, and its families. Family photographs, genealogies, correspondence, personal interviews, anecdotal accounts of life in the town, and memorabilia and records from local businesses and community organizations are all an important part of documenting our heritage specific to the Town of Duanesburg.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce our plans for the Duanesburg Historical Society’s Research and Archive Center. Our building will house our archives in a safe, secure space with public access. The building fits within a strict, conservative budget that will allow us to build this facility and sustain it. The Board has developed a fiscally sound and realistic plan to go forward. The building will be 38’ x 25’8” in size, and will be built on the south (Quaker Lane) end of the property which the Society already owns. The Greek Revival style building will reflect the architecture familiar to the history of our town.

Please consider giving your financial support to this important project so that the evidence of our heritage will remain here in our town for future generations.

(Please clip here and return with your donation to DHS, P. O. Box 421, Duanesburg, NY 12056)

Yes, I would like to join my neighbors in this effort to preserve the history of Duanesburg!

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of \$ _____

-Or-

I would like to be recognized on a Benefactors’ Plaque by contributing at the following level:

Platinum: \$5,000+ \$ _____
Gold: \$2,500 + \$ _____
Silver: \$1,000+ \$ _____
Bronze: \$500+ \$ _____

And I wish to make this donation in memory/honor of: _____

Please make checks payable to: Duanesburg Historical Society – Building Fund Or go to the Donate Page at
Duanesburghistorical.com to contribute via PayPal

This is a 501(C)(3) tax deductible donation under Internal Revenue Codes. Donations are eligible for GE Matching Gifts.

Duanesburg Historical Society
Po Box 421 Duanesburg, NY 12056
Research and Archive Center

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