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# DUANESBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

September 2017

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### Directors' Message

This is an exciting time for the Duanesburg Historical Society. Our new Archive and Research Center is progressing nicely. We hope that you have driven by to see the Greek Revival building taking shape.

There is no wasted space in our 26'x 38' building. It has a basement with usable storage space, a main floor for an archival storage room, research library, office, handicap accessible bathroom and a break room. The attic will be used for additional storage and work space. Our building will provide storage of documents, family histories, photographs, and memorabilia etc. related to town history and will be accessible to town residents and the public. This is a major step forward in our mission to foster discovery, preservation, and dissemination of local and regional history.

At our April 17th meeting we announced that of our \$320,000 project, the Historical Society was putting in \$152,000 and that the first phase of fundraising generated \$128,000. That left \$40,000 to be raised by our members and the community at large. Since then we have raised \$28,000. With \$12,000 yet to go, we are very grateful to all of those who have contributed so far and are confident that our financial goal will be reached very soon. Please consider giving your support to this important project so that the evidence of our heritage will remain in Duanesburg!

Please remember how essential it is for you and your family to share your stories, photos (they can be scanned and returned to you) and genealogies.

### The Archive & Research Center Takes Shape



Photo courtesy of Howard Ohlhaus

# From the Archives

by Pat Van Buren

Working in the archives is like solving a giant jigsaw puzzle. Every piece that we receive helps add to the story of Duanesburg. It all needs to be put in the right place to make the whole story make sense. So there are lots of “Aha” moments as additional materials are unearthed.

Becky Watrous and I have been working steadily this season to process, organize and safely store materials that come to us. Charis McHeard also joined in during the summer before going off to graduate school this fall.

Some of you have already expressed a willingness to help with this ongoing project as we move into our new building. The archives is a very rewarding place to volunteer if you enjoy the challenge of sorting, organizing and being part of the bigger picture of preserving the history of Duanesburg.



District #5 School in Duanesburg

# History of Town Schools Sought

By Becky Watrous

DHS has developed a survey to gather more information about the schools in the town of Duanesburg from the late 1930s through the early 1960s. If you have personal school experiences or family stories to share from this period, please consider completing this survey for our archives. You can obtain a copy of the survey at the DHS monthly meetings this fall or a digital copy by emailing Becky Watrous, at [rjw601@gmail.com](mailto:rjw601@gmail.com).

Our thanks to John Rack for providing his recollections; we look forward to receiving other surveys which will also help provide a fuller understanding of the town's history.

# Membership Application

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

## 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: Duanesburg Historical Society  
PO Box 421  
Duanesburg, NY 12056  
Attn: Membership

Visit us at [www.duanesburghistorical.com](http://www.duanesburghistorical.com) and join us on Facebook, search Duanesburg Historical

## 2017 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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

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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

## Hannaford Fundraiser

Our local Hannaford Supermarket at 11140 Western Turnpike, Esperance has selected the Duanesburg Historical Society as the October recipient of the Hannaford Cause Bag featuring “Helps” bag. For every “Helps” reusable bag sold during the month of October at this location Duanesburg Historical Society will receive a \$1.00 donation. So tell your friends and neighbors – this an easy way to promote the use of reusable bags that help cut down on the one time use plastic bags and bring some donations for and awareness of the Historical Society.

## Remembering the Town of Duanesburg - Volume 4

The long awaited Volume 4 is in the works. Our previous 3 volumes celebrated the history of Duanesburg through telling stories of people, families, community organizations, businesses and changing lifestyles, both in the form of research and anecdotal history. With a scheduled release date of early October 2018, a submission deadline of May 1, 2018 is in place. Please start gathering your memories or research to contribute to our collection. If you have a question or need help putting your story together contact Pat Van Buren at 518-895-2632 or [Lvanbur1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Lvanbur1@nycap.rr.com)

## Duanesburg Village District # 5 School

Excerpts from Duanesburg Historical Bulletin – Vol. VI  
November 1949

There have been four different buildings in this district. The first was located somewhat in the section where Mary McDuffee's house is now located. (currently in 2017, the third house west of the Duanesburg Diner on Route 20) Around 1839 voters decided on a new site and a new building, the old building having been sold at auction to Truman Case for \$10.

The new site was next to what is now Walt Dryer's place (currently in 2017, directly east of on Route 7 next to Mike Hebert's Electrical business) and the second building was a red school house. This building was repaired in 1867 and the sum spent was not to exceed four hundred dollars. In 1890 the voters agreed to put new windows in this building.

In 1900 a decision was made to build a new school house (currently in 2017 the site has been determined to be on the same site as the second school) and sell the old one to the highest bidder. It was moved down the Depot road and served as a residence next to John DeLuke's place until rather recently it was torn down. The Building Committee for the third building was: W.E. Osterhout, J.E. Quade, Dr. R.A. McDougall, and Jacob Schrade. This building is at present being used for a newly organized Kindergarten.

Demands for more space in grounds and class rooms caused a fourth building to be erected in 1927. This is the brick building located on Route 20. This site was purchased from the farm of the late Dr. R.A. McDougall. The trustees who started the project and finished the work were Russell Mott and Earl W. Liddle.



The Hub Restaurant in Duanesburg

# *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)

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**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](http://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.

# Building Progress in Quaker Street

May



June



July



August

