
DUANESBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 2

October 2020

Directors' Message

Dear Members,

The Board of Directors met on Monday, July 20th on the front lawn of the Research and Archive Center – with social distancing. We would like to share some of that meeting with you.

Eamon Murphy stepped down as a director at the end of his three-year term. We are very grateful to Eamon for all of his help in facilitating the completion of the Society's building project. Carol Plue was elected to a three-year term to replace Eamon.

Election of Officers:

- Len Van Buren – President
- Shirley Martin – Vice President
- Marsha Brown – Secretary
- Howard Ohlhous – Treasurer



Research & Archive Center – Quaker Street

General Meetings – It was determined that our remaining program year will be cancelled. Restrictions on group meetings, cleaning protocols and the safety of our membership were all determining factors. We will be ready in the spring to reevaluate the COVID19 situation and are prepared to start a new program year, if advisable.

Archives - Although our building is presently closed to the public, the job of archiving and organizing our collection continues. E-mail requests for research are accommodated and of course book sales are always welcome by e-mail through our website: www.duanesburghistorical.com

This quiet time of solitude has still been a productive one, but we are looking forward to getting back together to enjoy valued programs on our history, to share personal memories, and to unite as a group with a common purpose – to celebrate and preserve our communities' history.

Leonard M. Van Buren - President

Shirley Martin - Vice- President

Howard Ohlhous - Treasurer

Marsha Brown - Secretary

Directors: Cindy McKeon, Carol Plue, Pat Van Buren, Carl Wiedemann, David Vincent

Remembering the Town of Duanesburg – Volume 5

I hope everyone has been well during this uncertain pandemic year! The publication date for Volume 5 of our book series Remembering the Town of Duanesburg has been changed to the spring of 2022. I will be collecting stories for the book through the end of 2021. I look forward to reading your memoirs about life in Duanesburg. Now we have a new topic to write about - what it's like living through a pandemic! Please feel free to contact me with questions about the book. Let's write!

Best Wishes,

Patricia Wepler

Contact: patricia.wepler@gmail.com Ph-518.560.0511



Activities Report

This is a summary of the activities of the Historical Society over the past fiscal year running from July 1st through June 30th. The current pandemic meant cancellation of monthly programs during 2020, however there were still many accomplishments.

Thanks to Howard Ohlhaus for photos.



July 15, 2019 – Annual picnic was held at Shafer Park



August 19, 2019 – “The Death Trap” by Carl Wiedemann at Bishop Scully Hall, Lady of Fatima Church in Delanson.



September 16, 2019 – “A Childs Guide to the Normanskill” - Bob Sutton Jr. at Bishop Scully Hall, Lady of Fatima Church in Delanson.

October newsletter mailed



October 21, 2019 – “The Town of Duanesburg – Remember When?” by Leonard Van Buren at Bishop Scully Hall, Lady of Fatima Church in Delanson



November 18, 2019 – “Collecting Cultural Heritage Information: A Youth Project for the Duanesburg & Mohawk Region” by Ellen McHale at Bishop Scully Hall, Lady of Fatima Church in Delanson



December 16, 2019 – Christmas Party & Sharing Christmas Memories - at Bishop Scully Hall, Lady of Fatima Church in Delanson

February newsletter mailed.

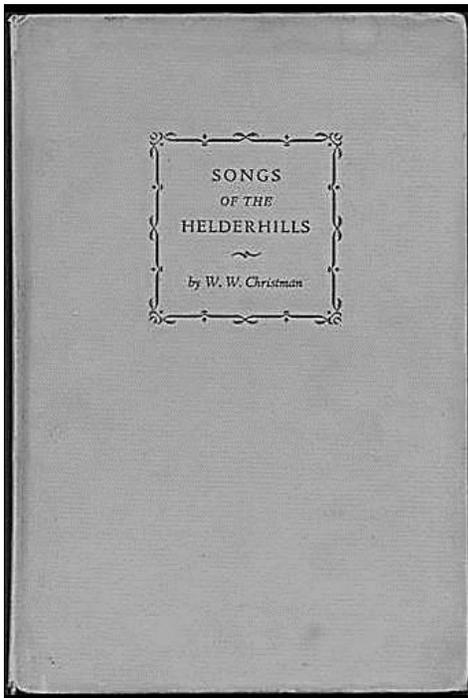
From The Archives

by Pat Van Buren

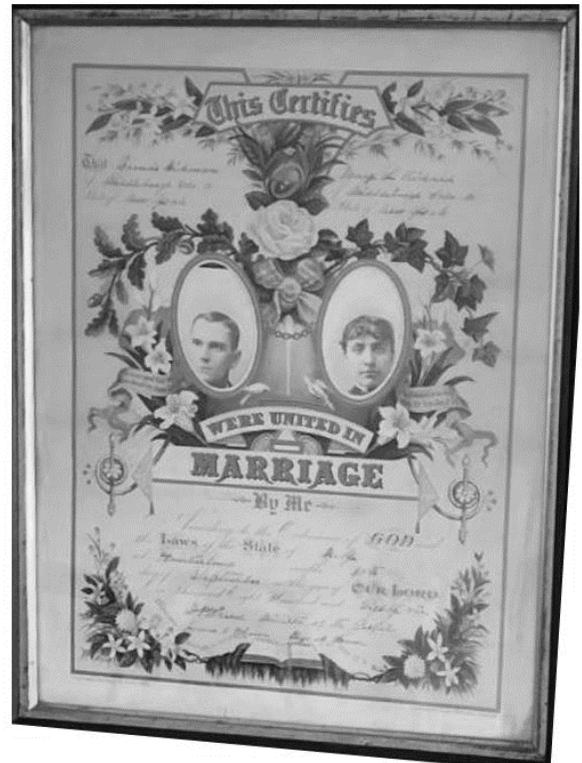
Although our programs have been put on hold and our building is not open to the public yet because of the Covid19 pandemic, it has been very busy in the archives. Many families have been sorting through family photos, documents, diaries, autograph books, original documentation of events in Duaneburg and other memorabilia and have decided that now is the time to put them safely where family histories will be stored and shared in years to come.

We have received photos of W.W. Christman and his wife Catherine and a collection of Christman books by W.W. Christman, Henry Christman, and Lansing Christman from a great granddaughter of W.W. Christman. We have also taken in memorabilia from the Hopper/Monini family including original enlistment papers for George W. Hopper in 1897. Our largest collection to be presented to us recently is from the Coons/Dickinson/Kilmartin families of Knight Road, Mudge Road and Route 20. Additionally we have received new material from the Crowe family highlighting the history of David Crowe, founder of the Quaker Street Review and other area newspapers. And from the Quaker Street Co-op, which is credited with ensuring that the town has had continuous library service since 1941, their records of community involvement.

We look forward to the time when our building will be open to welcome community members and visitors to share the items in our collection. In the meantime, check out your attic and the backs of your closets – where the past tends to accumulate and see what treasures you encounter.



Songs of the Helderhills
by W.W.Christman



Marriage Certificate, September 30, 1886 for Laura Dickinson Coons' grandparents Francis and Mary L. Rickard. The Dickinsons settled on a farm in the late 1800s on what is now called Mudge Road. They raised two boys Clayton and Clarence. Clarence married Edna Killmartin in 1919 and continued to tend to the Dickinson family farm where Laura lived from her birth in 1924 until she married Arthur F. Coons in 1947.

Goals For This Year

At our July 20th Directors' meeting it was determined that there were three major areas of focus to accomplish for the coming year.

- Design exhibit space on our lower level. In searching to add to our display capability, Bill Hargis who has a consignment booth at the Black Sheep Antique Shop on Route 20, donated 2 large display cases to the Historical Society. With some cleaning and TLC they are the perfect elements to be added to our lower level display area.
- Enlarge our library capacity on the main level. Our volunteer craftsman, Paul Finnegan along with donor Dave Vincent, have planned shelving for the main level to accommodate both valuable research books and to display artifacts in the research room. This construction will be a winter project for Paul.
- Write all policies required for the New York State Education Department for application for a Permanent Charter. We currently hold a Provisional Charter. This goal is also being worked on as the board attends to business via email to move this process of attaining a Permanent Charter along.

Each item has an energetic start. Time and patience will see these three projects evolve and ready to be checked off as done. Stay tuned.



Refreshments are always served following membership meetings. Audrey Rossi and Cindy McKeon provided snacks in November

Membership Dues

Most of our members step up at our meetings and hand Cindy McKeon their dues of \$10 for the year*. This year please mail your dues to Duanesburg Historical Society, PO Box 421, Duanesburg, NY 12056. Despite not being able to gather this year as a group, our work as a Historical Society goes on and your dues support this work. Also, this may be a time for you to consider a Lifetime Membership of \$150.

Membership Application

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 that you will consider joining.

Dues \$10.00 Adults \$1.00 students

From July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Lifetime Membership - \$150.00

Name(s) _____

Telephone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

(optional – not shared)

Make checks payable to : Duanesburg Historical Society
PO Box 421
Duanesburg, New York
12056

*Note – Dues are collected for the annual fiscal year – not the calendar year. The fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30th.

Duanesburg News From 1920

Trapping Muskrats

Philip and Duane Christman of Delanson, by trapping muskrats this spring before and after school hours and during the Easter vacation, earned \$182.50. Their catch was 51 muskrats, all except two of which were taken in April. Prime large skins brought \$3.75 each on April 20, the last day of the open season. A week earlier prices reached four dollars.

Cohoes American – April 26, 1920

Town Over Budget

The town of Duanesburgh has been obligated to borrow money to pay the cost of snow removal last winter. It cost about \$6,900. This is believed to be the largest bill ever contracted for this purpose. Duanesburgh has one hundred and forty-five miles to care for, and it was no small job in a winter like the one just passed.

Altamont Enterprise – June 18, 1920

The Death Trap

Miss Edna Cramer, aged 34, of Central Bridge, was killed and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Cramer, were seriously injured Sunday morning about 9 o'clock when their Ford automobile crashed through the railing of the four-cornered Duane bridge between Delanson and Duanesburg, and toppled upon the D&H tracks, a drop of about 20 feet, crumpling the machine and pinning the occupants underneath. Two years ago, Saturday night, three men were killed at the same spot. Efforts to abolish the death trap have failed.

Canajoharie Courier – July 19, 1920

Mariaville Motorcycle Run

All motorcycle riders are urged to be in readiness for the sociability run and picnic at Mariaville Lake Sunday. Many have signed up for the run, which is being held by the Indian Motorcycle Club

Mariaville Lake is about ten miles south of Amsterdam, all macadam roads. It is reported that there is good fishing, boating, and also a large field to hold sports. The club desires making this run as successful as previous ones and therefore invites all who can, to participate as a good time is assured all.

The Morning Herald – August 14, 1920

Mariaville Memorial

Residents of Mariaville have placed a two-ton boulder in the village square as a memorial to the men of the village who fought in the World War.

The Saratogian – August 21, 1920



Memorial to Raymond Boone and other Mariaville men who served in WWI – photo credit Howard Ohlhaus

Duanesburgh Quarantined

The town of Duanesburgh has been listed as a quarantined area because of the infection of European corn borer according to a recent notice issued by the national department of agriculture.

The quarantine of Duanesburgh places the entire county of Schenectady under the ban and such crops as celery, corn stalks, corn on cob or corn cobs, oat straw, rye straw, cannot be shipped outside Schenectady County or the infested area without proper credentials.

Altamont Enterprise – October 29, 1920

Grange Dinner Dance

Empire Grange of Duanesburgh celebrated its 27th birthday Friday evening, December 3rd by giving a roast pig supper and dance. About seven o'clock seventy-five members and as many guests sat down to a beautiful supper of roast port, dressing, mashed potatoes, salads, jello, pickles, cheese, cake, pies of various kinds and fruits. After the supper, Tupper's orchestra of Schenectady furnished music until 1 o'clock.

Much credit is to be given the committee for the enjoyable evening spent by all present.

Altamont Enterprise – December 10, 1920

Delanson Incorporated

Delanson was incorporated as a village as a result of the hearing in the town clerk's office Wednesday afternoon before Supervisor Frank McMillan. No protest was made.

Albany Evening Journal – December 17, 1920

