

SMITHVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS:

At the Society's annual dinner meeting, the following officers and trustees were elected for 2012:

President, Christine Buck; Vice President, Alison Owens; Treasurer, Joan Barker; Secretary, Heather McCloud-Huff; Corresponding Secretary, Pat Heisler

Trustees: Howard Barker, Sam Borruso, John Buck, Beverly Eaton, Fred Heisler, Sr.

Thank you to outgoing officers Diane Merrill and Edele Thompson and Trustee Jeanette Lamb for their years of dedicated service. Sam Borruso, a long-standing trustee, passed away late in November. We will miss his contributions and his deep love of history.

CURRENT NEWS:

A membership planning meeting will be held at the Community Center on Saturday, March 24, at 9:30 am. At this meeting, we will plan our programs and activities for 2012. All members are invited to share their thoughts and ideas.

We'll kick off this year's programs with Peg Ross, Greene Town Historian, speaking about the history of the KKK, particularly as it relates to Chenango and Broome Counties. Was the KKK active in Smithville? Absolutely! Join us at the Community Center on Friday, March 30, at 7:00 pm. Those who have heard Peg's presentations know we're in for an entertaining and informative program.

This year's quilt fundraiser is something different from the usual. As in the past, SHS members will tie the quilt, and we'll sell chances for one lucky person to win it. What's new is that rather than a donated vintage top, the quilt will be newly pieced by two expert quilters, Joan Barker and Christine Richter. Tying in with the Chenango County Civil War Commemoration project, the quilt will be made of reproduction fabrics from the Civil War era. It will be a beauty.

This will be our third year of sponsoring Doug's Fish Fry sales at Gregg's Market in Whitney Point. This is another fundraiser for us, initiated by Sally Crow. This year's dates are May 12 and August 25. Again, something new for us: Jacob Owens has volunteered his time and skills to manage the marketing for both events. You'll remember Jacob's successful Eagle Scout project that culminated

in the stone monument outside the Community Center noting Smithville's bicentennial anniversary. We're thrilled that Jacob has stepped forward to help us with this project.

We'll participate in Smithville Day in June with two activities. First, our annual plant sale. Second, an indoor exhibit. Joan Barker has suggested displaying photos and materials from the first Smithville Day(s) event of 1976. Were you there? Are you willing to tell us some of your memories? Can you help put together some posters? We have materials to work with.

From November 1-16, the Smithville Post Office will host a display that's traveling to every post office in Chenango County. Organized by the Oxford Town Historian, it's a visual display of the post office's important role in the Civil War. A pictorial postmark stamp cancellation event will take place in Smithville on November 14.

Sorting and organizing our collection at SHS Headquarters (aka the Gas Station) was put on hold over the winter. We'll soon get started again.

DUES ARE DUE:

Dues for the calendar year 2012 are due. They are \$10 per person, payable to SHS. Joan Barker will gladly receive them at a meeting, or you may mail a check to SHS at PO Box 176, Smithville Flats, NY 13841. Can't remember if you paid at the annual meeting in November? Joan Barker can tell you, or you may respond to me at the above email address.

We welcome new members, as well as those renewing. Do you know someone who's interested in history? Invite them to a program, or ask them to join.

We look forward to seeing you at meetings and events. This year, we plan to handle the society's routine business at Executive Committee meetings. Any member is welcome to attend. Your thoughts and ideas will be valued, either in person or by email or telephone. We're only as strong as our membership. Please say yes if you're asked to help with a task or serve on a committee.

Finally, some history from the past is included below. I hope you enjoy reading about what was happening in Smithville 140 years ago.

NEWS NOTES FROM THE PAST: Some Smithville news as reported in the *Chenango American* in January and February, 1872.

It is estimated that fifty thousand feet of lumber was drawn from Smithville to Greene Friday and Saturday of last week.

The scholars of the Intermediate and Primary Departments of the school are preparing for an exhibition to be given Friday evening, January 27. Those who have attended the entertainments previously given by the little folks will be sure to go. [2012 note: This school, destroyed by fire, was replaced and is now the home of Doug and Judy Garnar.]

Charles Collier has sold his place west of the Flats, known as the Agard place, to Alexander Miller, who returns from the West to his native town. [2012 note: This is the home of David and Alison Owens and their family.]

The children of the M. E. Sunday School were taken out sleigh riding last Saturday afternoon. On their return a nice supper was prepared for them, and the evening was spent in playing games and all seemed to enjoy themselves. [2012 note: The Methodists met for some years in the Baptist Church, which stood on the west side of Genegantslet Road, about where Route 41 joins it.]

A number of young people of Greene attended a dance at Smithville Flats on Thursday evening of last week. The weather was moist, but they had a good time just the same.

The Genegantslet Fire Company, of Smithville Flats, will hold their 19th annual Festival on Wednesday evening, February 22. A general invitation is extended. Music by Sibley's Orchestra. Reception committee: the Genegantslet Boys. Floor Managers, F. R. Read, H. L. Payne, J. Fred Read. There will be a door prize of a lady's Seal Ring valued at \$10.00. Tickets in the drawing of the ring, 10 cents each. All Firemen will please appear in uniform. Full bill \$1.25. Dancing tickets 75 cents; supper tickets 25 cents each.

Christine E. Buck
President