

Charter Granted 1968

Q1/2024

SKANEATELES
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MUSEUM
AT THE CREAMERY

FROM THE DIRECTOR

While many museums close for the early part of the winter to catch their breath after the business of the holiday season, we are instead expanding our office hours, to better serve our members and the community. **Someone will be on site (weather depending) Tuesday through Saturday 12-4.**

With our growing amazing corps of volunteers, we are able to provide additional research assistance, open the gift shop for private shopping, accept potential collections donations, or give directions to the nearest ice cream shop. That's an inside joke amongst the volunteers, as almost every week someone stops by to see if we sell ice cream. We don't of course, but we strive to be the community's finest and most definitive collection of Skaneateles artifacts, records, and examples of local industry, as well as to provide valuable research assistance. We also strongly believe in the Creamery Museum being a community asset. It is our goal to continue to extend that reach as far as possible. So expanding our office hours is one step towards that. Call or stop in. The Past Is Here is our motto, and we are proud and honored to share it.

Warm Regards,

GERALYN HUBA

Museum Director

Direct (315) 685-1360

SHSMuseumDirector@gmail.com

skaneateleshistoricalsociety.org

HELP US GROW!

Show your support and donate today!

Our 2023-24 Annual Fund Drive is close to its goal! The SHS fiscal year is July 1 - June 30th.

Once again this year two generous anonymous donors offered to match up to \$5000 towards our 2023-24 Annual Fund Drive.

If you haven't already made a contribution to our appeal, we hope you will consider doing so now. All contributions allow us to continue to be a viable and important part of this community for the near future, and beyond. Thank you for considering our request to make a donation to the SHS this year.



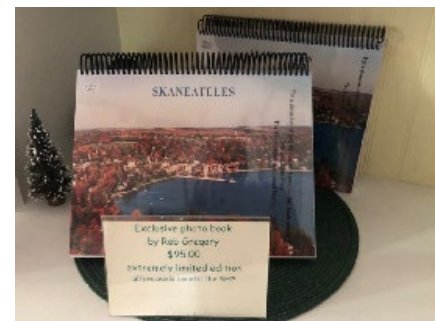
PLAN A VISIT TO OUR SHOP FOR ALL YOUR SPECIAL GIFT NEEDS!

Featuring new, unique, and exclusive to the SHS items, the gift shop has wonderful goods and sundries for all ages and interests.

Including work from local artists *Joan Marcoccia Coates, Peggy Manning, Eleanor Rhinehart* and *Rob Gregory*.

Also, Skaneateles-themed baseball caps and baby bibs, and twotone d handmade steel meditation bells handcrafted for us by the Fingerlakes Bell Co.

Stop in during open hours or call to arrange a persona shopping appointment!



SHOWCASING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an integral part of our daily operations, and our success. Their roles can be serving as a docent giving guided tours to visitors, manning our gift shop, working in the archives to update and organize current materials and new additions, researching and documenting the collections, answering outside research requests, assisting with the never ending repairs and enhancements to our 125 year old buildings, or helping with general office work. Our merry band of amazing volunteers continues to grow, and we are extremely grateful to each and everyone of them for their time and talents, enthusiasm and energy. But there's always room for a few more! Please contact the office if you are interested in joining them, and being a part of this tremendous community asset.



~ Research Assistance ~

The SHS archives have extensive records which continue to grow, and we are happy to assist with research projects. On-site in person research is by appointment only, or our experienced volunteers can also do research for people. Please send an email with the details of what you are looking for to: skaneateleshistoricalsociety@verizon.net.



*I promise this is NOT
how we treat our
volunteers 😊*

from the SHS collection:

c. 1930's olive green silk dress worn by Retha Wellington Lewis. She taught in the local schools as a favorite teacher for many years, and passed away in 1975 at the age of 81. Gift to the SHS from the Wellington family



- My view from the Kelley Street Bridge that day

A MESSAGE FROM SHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT, JULIE DIBAGIO:

I have always been interested in paranormal activity of ghosts, UFO's, crop circles etc. I had an interesting experience one day in early Spring of 2019. I had gone to the museum to work on the bank in back of the building.

When I arrived the creek was running high, the water clear, and as I stood up to stretch, turned to look at the creek - which was now a brilliant Nile green. For a fleeting moment I expected to see an other worldly being rise from the depths. I grabbed my phone, took pictures and went up to street level to see if there were any other witnesses. There weren't. In a few minutes, a truck stopped. The driver was laughing, probably the look on my face. He explained that dye was being flushed into the lake. I have thought more than once what a way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and our Irish immigrants which brings me to the point.

In 1863 early settlers from Ireland settled on the east shore of the lake in what is now known as Bear Swamp. Farms and a community were established but the soil was poor and supported very little. By 1920 the settlers were gone to settle and flourish elsewhere.

Bear Swamp is today a designated state forest and an important part of the lake watershed. All that remains are stone foundations and hedgerows of those early farms and maybe a ghost or two.

For more information about Bear Swamp, I encourage you to contact the museum to make an appointment to visit our archives.

Julie DiBagio Board of Trustees President, Skaneateles Historical Society

HOURS: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 1:00^{PM}-4:00^{PM} | ADMISSION \$5.⁰⁰ STUDENTS FREE



A History Lesson



1934

1934 saw the turning point in the Great Depression in America with unemployment decreasing to 22%. But in other parts of the world some of the political changes occurring would cause the next world war. In Germany, Adolf Hitler declared himself the fuhrer and “absolute leader of the country”. In Russia, Stalin began his massacres with “the Great Purge”.

And in China, Mao Tse-Tung spread the communist doctrine. In the United States drought problems in the Midwest continued and some 35 million acres of farmland were utterly destroyed with a further 225 million acres in danger. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt set up public works around the US through the WPA program, including building bridges, roads and flood control dams in an attempt to put America back on its feet. The FBI had considerable success that year ending the careers of John Dillinger , Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, Pretty Boy Floyd and Baby Face Nelson. And the Loch Ness Monster was spotted for the first time!

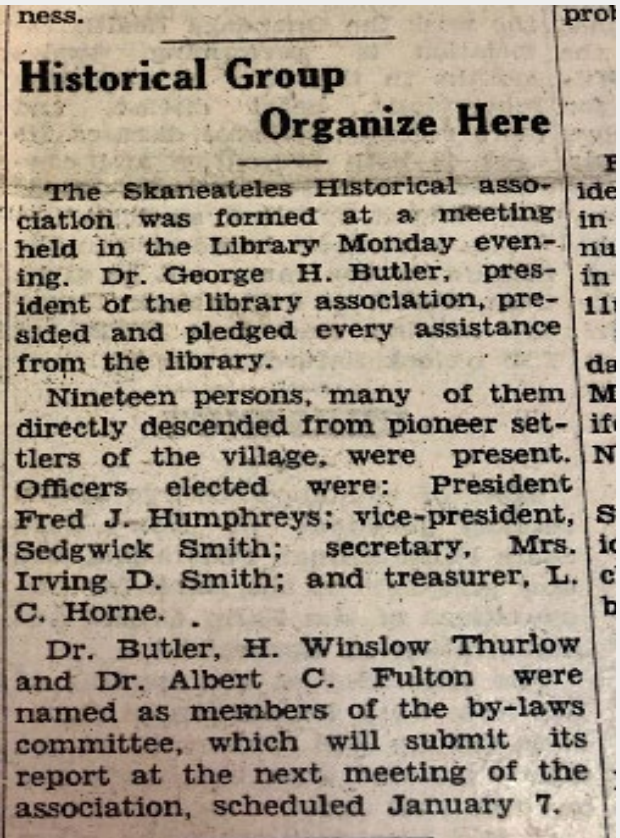
Closer to home here in Skaneateles, as noted in the weekly articles in The Skaneateles Press, the village acquired land from the Shotwell family at the corner of West Genesee Street and West Lake Street to create Shotwell Park. The lake froze over in February for the first time since 1922!

Work was progressing nicely on the sea wall in the area now known as Thayer Park. The Village issued their annual financial report, noting that the available resources were \$98,288.10, without having had to levy additional taxes for two years. The Cherry Valley Turnpike Road was finally completed where it intersected with Route 20, and a

community event to celebrate was held with “throng of residents attending” the ribbon cutting ceremony. Articles every week featured lengthy and informative stories about local clubs and civic organizations, and programs at the Library and schools. The paper also highlighted residents’ births, deaths, marriages, and anniversaries each week. And most importantly for our organization, in 1934

a group of 19 Skaneateles citizens formed the first Skaneateles Historical Society. We wonder if those citizens envisioned their successors collecting artifacts and archival materials related to Skaneateles history for the next nine decades; we believe approximately 20,000 items as of this writing. If any of our readers are celebrating a 90th birthday this year, their extended family has lived in the same home for 90 years, and/or a business has been in operation for 90 years, please reach out and let us know! We’d love to document these important milestones, as we celebrate our own special anniversary. Readers can visit our website, email us, or call 315-685-1360 for more information about the SHS and our current mission.

Here’s to this very special year to come...



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR HISTORY AT www.skaneateleshistoricalsociety.org

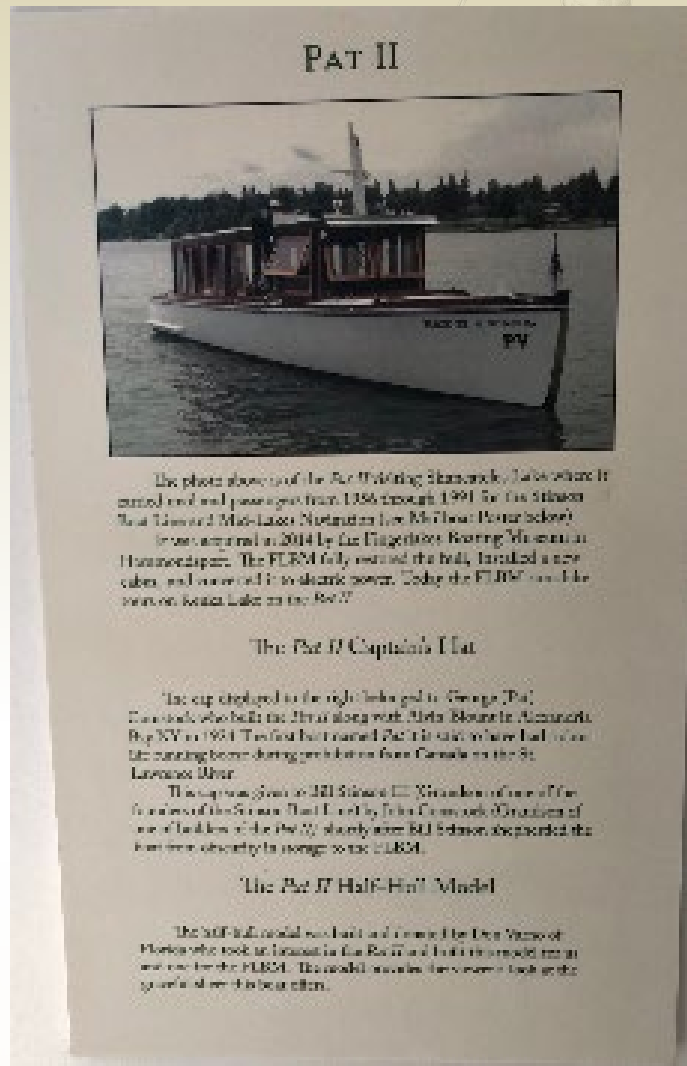
Archives & Collections Corner

Celebrating 90 years of collecting and preserving Skaneateles history for the community, our members, and for the future

NEW DONATIONS TO OUR COLLECTION ON DISPLAY

Dave Miller, with assistance from Peter Oster, created this new display in the upper story of the boat wing. Featuring a captain's cap from the Pat II donated by Bill Stinson, and a half-hull model of the Pat II built and donated by John Varno. It reminds us that summer - and boating on the lake - is just around the corner.

Many thanks to Dave and Peter!



The photo above is of the Pat II (wing Skaneateles) built and it carried mail and passengers from 1886 through 1991 for the Skaneateles Boat Line and Skaneateles Boat Line (later Skaneateles Boat Line). It was acquired in 2014 by the Skaneateles Boat Museum in Hammondsport. The FLESM fully restored the hull, installed a new cabin, and converted it to electric power. Today the FLESM can take you on a scenic lake cruise on the Pat II.

The Pat II Captain's Hat

The cap displayed to the right belonged to George (Pat) Campbell who built the boat along with Peter Bourne in Hammondsport, NY in 1884. The boat had named Pat II in honor of his father who was the running boat during the years from Canada on the St. Lawrence River.

The cap was given to Bill Stinson, III, Chairman of one of the founders of the Skaneateles Boat Museum, Skaneateles, NY in 2014. One of the founders of the Skaneateles Boat Museum, Skaneateles, NY in 2014. One of the founders of the Skaneateles Boat Museum, Skaneateles, NY in 2014. One of the founders of the Skaneateles Boat Museum, Skaneateles, NY in 2014.

The Pat II Half-Hull Model

The half-hull model was built and donated by John Varno of Skaneateles who took it to the Skaneateles Boat Museum, Skaneateles, NY in 2014. The model is made of wood and is a half-hull model of the boat.

WE ACCEPT ALL FORMS OF GENEROSITY

Any denomination helps keep The Skaneateles Historical Society up and running.
. We are a NON FOR PROFIT 501-C3.

Ask about Fundraising initiatives and events!

All donations are tax exempt.
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Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who are helping to fill in the void left with Ted Prindle's passing:

Judy Bragg, Julie DiBagio,
Dave Miller, Kihm and
Laurie Winship

Museum Director • GERALYN HUBA

THE SKANEATELES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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