

The Preservationist

The Schroon - North Hudson Historical Society Newsletter
third quarter edition July, 2023

THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

I hope this newsletter finds our members doing well and look forward to a wonderful summer. While the snow faded away during our beautiful spring, board members and volunteers dedicate their time to developing some new and amazing exhibits for the Summer 2023 season.

Last year we attempted to hold a roaring 20's gala, unfortunately due to too many lingering cases of COVID the interest was very minimal and in the financial interest of the museum we made the difficult decision to cancel. However, we did open a small exhibit last summer that shined light on the history of the Roaring 20's and Gilded age here in Schroon Lake. This year the staff has chosen to expand on that exhibit, and in addition, Stephanie Holmquist has been busy working on an additional exhibit that will focus on bootlegging in our region during this same period of time.

In addition to working on the roaring 20's exhibit, Laura Dewey, museum volunteer extraordinaire, has dedicated hours to bringing a very important piece of Schroon Lake history to life in a new

2023 exhibit that focuses on Wilhelm Pickhardt (1834 -1895). who once owned all the land on Schroon's east shore from the head of the lake down to Starbuckville. He planned to combine Schroon and Paradox Lakes to create a super lake that would give tourists a thrilling trip from Lake George to Lake Champlain. This is one exhibit you WILL NOT want to miss and includes some amazing history of our region and even some juicy "spy novel material" that will surprise you all!

During this last winter, at the request of the new owners, a group of museum volunteers worked strategically to locate historic images of Schroon Lake and the former Brown Swan Club that could be used to decorate the new *Lodge at Schroon Lake*. In addition, the volunteers connected with Tom Lynch of the Warren County Historic Society. Tom is the grandson of Warren Shippey, the widely renowned architect that designed the famous Brown Swan Club, Adirondack Inn, Timberwolf Pub, and many of the buildings at Camp Nawita right here in the Schroon Lake region.

Tom graciously assisted in providing amazing photos of the Brown Swan Club from his grandfather's collection, which have now been printed and hang proudly throughout the Lodge. From this project, the birth of two ideas came to fruition. The first was to have a Brown Swan Club exhibit at the museum to coincide with the reopening of the Lodge on Schroon Lake Resort. Brenda Borquist has been working hard to gather all the photos, history, and memorabilia of the former Brown Swan Club to design a new 2023 Exhibit for your pleasure. I worked with Tom Lynch and the *Lodge at Schroon Lake* to plan a lecture that will be given by Tom on July 14th, 2023, at 7pm in the Overlook Room at the Lodge. This lecture will include the history of the designing of the Brown Swan Club by his grandfather Ward Shippey and much more.

It would be remiss of us to just focus on just the gilded age, and not look at other important history of our region, so it was my pleasure to meet with Kate Walton last fall and plan not one, but two amazing lectures. Kate has been a long-time summer resident of Paradox

Lake, and she recently published a book titled "Paradox Lake of Memory" where she shares her memories growing up on Paradox, first at Dobbs, then at Clausen's and finally her family purchased "Camp Wanita". On June 16th, 2023, she joined us at the Schroon Lake Boathouse Theatre where we had close to forty people attend. She shared the history of Camp Nawita and how it became a part of their family. It was an amazing presentation complete with show and tell photos, brochures, physical items and so much more.

One guest had seen the program advertised clear down in Philadelphia and recognized the camp's name and realized he had an old pennant from the camp. He was kind enough to have it framed and drove all the way to Schroon Lake to attend the lecture, bringing the pennant as a gift for Kate. Such a kind gift.

Kate will be returning to do a second lecture on Thursday, August 24th, 2023, at 7pm in the Schroon Lake Boathouse Theatre. Her second lecture will focus on the geological research that her father did in the Paradox region while working at Yale University. This will be one program you will not want to miss.

Programming and exhibits have been our focus for the last few months, but in addition we have been strategizing how to grow the SNHHS museum's membership, and volunteer base. Wayne Dewey has been working hard to update our membership records. Mikki McSherry has graciously taken over the role of Membership Coordinator for the museum and she is doing a fine job. We have a few new volunteers that have stepped up and offered to join our amazing organization. Other board members are working hard to reach out to folks that may be interested in joining our organization. If you are interested or know someone that may be interested in joining our team as a volunteer, please feel free to email Mikki at mikki_mcsherry@yahoo.com and she will be happy to meet with you to see where your skill set will fit in to our team.

Finally, some final exciting news. The board members have unanimously voted to have our museum join the Museum Association of New York. I am very excited about this partnership because this organization offers so many amazing programs that will help with so many of our needs at the museum. Stay tuned for a fun filled summer in 2024.

In closing, I hope that you take the opportunity to join us

at the museum this summer and/or attend one of our amazing programs. I look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes for an amazing summer...

Tammy Whitty-Brown
President

WE SALUTE YOU!

Editorial

There exists a plethora of volunteers that have served our museum over the years! There are those that I have known in these last ten years and so many that have gone before that I never met but are revered in stories past down by others.

Perhaps we should shine a spotlight on each one of them in this newsletter, or maybe think better of that scenario.

One member that stands out to me, as I move deeper into the various 'jobs' or tasks that need to be done, is David Moffat. Dave was scaling down his work in the museum as I was picking up more and more assignments. This has given me an opportunity to see the magnitude of his work behind the scenes. Scores of CDs burned with interviews from past and current individual Schroon Lakers, meticulous membership records and financial contributions ledgers that rival that of the IRS.

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When Dave stepped down from his major roles in the museum, I decided to take on his body of work and its support of the museum.

There was, however, one transferred task that stood out above all else. I had the honor of being trusted to learn how to correctly handle the display and care of the American Flag on the pole in front of the museum.

Dave served his county in a military action, for which I was not called up. I had a college deferment but *still* came close to being picked in the Lottery Draft during my sophomore year. Several of my friends did get "drafted" and two of them as well as my foster brother, made the ultimate sacrifice.

During the process of raising the flag with him one day, I took to heart just how fundamentally important that process was to this David! He took the time to define each step and how to execute them with respect and meaning. It was a moment and a man I will always regard in with deep respect.



A DAY LATE AND A REASON SHORT?

The Adirondack Regiment, 118th
New York Volunteers Infantry
From Bill Tribou

In December of 1863 Major John L. Cunningham of the Adirondack Regiment was detailed to sit on a general court martial. He participated in several trials including that of a Private Henry Fuller, also from the Adirondack Regiment. Private Fuller had enlisted in Keene in August, 1862, and served in Company C. Private Fuller was charged with desertion because "He had overstayed his furlough on a visit home, with evidence that he did not intend to return. He was arrested and brought back. He was guilty and so found." The court martial only decided guilt as the punishment was decided by General Butler, the Departmental Commander. Army regulations prescribed **death** as the punishment for desertion, but it had been customary for this sort of desertion (overstaying one's furlough) to be punished instead with imprisonment. Major Cunningham was therefore quite dismayed when the general ordered the soldier **to be shot within forty-eight hours**.

Major Cunningham and Colonel Oliver Keese, the regimental chaplain, personally

appealed to General Butler to commute the sentence to imprisonment as all such prior incidents had resulted in imprisonment instead of death. The general, however, rejected their plea saying that he was determined to make an example in this case in order to discourage further desertions which had become a real problem. He further denied the chaplain's request for an extension of the execution date.

The officers returned to their regiment and telegraphed their congressman, Orlando Kellogg, a lawyer from Elizabethtown whose son, Rowland, served in the regiment, asking him to intervene in the matter. Kellogg received the telegraph late that night but went immediately to the White House as the execution was scheduled for the next day. He was informed that President Lincoln was not feeling well and had retired to bed early. Kellogg, however, insisted on seeing the President as it was a matter of life and death. He met with an "only partly dressed" Lincoln and asked him to postpone the execution pending a full investigation of the facts. Lincoln countered that he was asking a lot as General Butler's decision might well be a case of necessary military discipline, and he inquired as to why Kellogg was trying to interfere. The Congressman replied that
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the man might deserve death, "But this man belongs to what I call my regiment, wholly raised in my congressional district, consisting of my constituents, and I do not propose that any man in it shall die if I can prevent it." He added that Lincoln might feel the same were they to trade places. Lincoln agreed and said that he would try to carry out Kellogg's wish.

The morning of the execution Kellogg received President Lincoln's card with a hand written message noting that the matter had been attended to. The War Department then telegraphed General Butler to suspend the execution and send all papers to Washington. Fortunately, General Butler's countermanding order arrived just as all arrangements to carry out the execution were completed. Fuller's death sentence was commuted to three years in prison, but he was released earlier than that with the end of the war.

Major Cunningham wrote the following in his regimental history. "This is but another of the multitude of incidents manifesting the sympathy, kindness and gentle spirit which enlarged Lincoln's greatness and another instance of Mr. Kellogg's 'fatherly' interest in our regiment."

Some time ago I purchased from an antique books dealer in Baltimore a volume written by Major John L. Cunningham which was published in 1920. It is part autobiographical memoir and part regimental history entitled "Three Years with the Adirondack Regiment, 118th New York Volunteers Infantry." What follows are excerpts and summarized content from the book which I hope will be of interest, especially to those from the eastern Adirondacks:

In the summer of 1862 with Northern hopes of a quick victory dispelled by Confederate successes in the field, President Lincoln called for 300,000 more troops to serve for three years. New York raised volunteer regiments by state senatorial districts, and so a regiment was recruited in the 16th District comprising Clinton, Essex and Warren counties. Clinton contributed four companies with Warren and Essex providing three each. Thirty-four men were recruited in the town of Schroon with eight recruited in North Hudson. All forty-two were enlisted in Company E. Some familiar family names can be found in the regiment's individual service roster such as Burzee, Knox, Noxon (my wife's great, great grandfather), Potter, Richardson and Whitney. Eight of the recruits would die during their service:

one of battle wounds, two as prisoners of war, four from disease and one from unknown causes. Fifteen would be mustered out with Company E in Virginia on June 13, 1865, at the end of the war. Nine were discharged for disability with an additional seven discharged or transferred for unknown reasons. Two, sadly, deserted.



By Loris Clark

This is tale about beauty and grace that is *"treasured long after the show."*



In 2014, I was attending the annual North Hudson Fire Department's Car Show with my 1941 Chevy Special Deluxe coupe. My wife and I had retired in Schroon Lake, built a new home, and were busily

climbing every mountain in the Park. (I guess I should point out that I am *not* Loris Clark, but one of her devoted disciples at the Schroon-North Hudson Historical Museum.) Anyway, at that car show, a wonderful couple (**Leo & Loris Clark**) came up to my parking spot and began to rave about my car. They could hardly walk away from it, being absolutely amazed that I had done all the restoration work by myself, outside of the motor rebuild.



The car was actually built from parts out of two cars, and fully restored to original condition in my equipment barn, back in the Southern Tier of New York. They invited me to stop by the Museum since I loved historical things so much. **Then there came a time** that I needed a tractor sitting in my garage, more that this car, so I made the adult decision to “do the right thing” while the kid in me was throwing a screaming tantrum. Every time I snowblow my 100+ foot driveway, I know I made the right decision... although. I still love that car **and my friends** with all my heart, even though time and common sense have encouraged us to part!

KNOW YOUR TOWN!

By Brenda Borquist

Are you able to answer these answer these Schroon Lake trivia questions? Who can go 32 for 32? Go for it and see!



1. In what year was the town of Schroon Lake founded ?
2. Name the first family to settle in Schroon Lake.
3. In 1900, how many one room schoolhouses populated our town?
4. Name five hotels in town in the year 1900.
5. How old is the Boathouse?
6. Who was commissioned to build the Shrool Lake Central School?
7. Who owned the SL Department Store in 1935?
8. What other in-town buildings did this person own?
9. Who owned our beach before the town took possession?
10. In what year did the I-87 Northway open for traffic?
11. Which building is identified as the oldest one on Main Street?
12. What role in Schroon Lake did Philip Rice play?
13. Where was the original Town Beach?
14. What Hollywood movie was made at Scaroon Mannor?
15. Why is a local lake named “Pardox”?
16. Who estalished a Christmas ornament business in Schroon?

17. What was the main commercial product of the area in the late 1800's?
18. What is at the center of a query involving an Indian Princess and a French Madame?
19. Name the origin of the school's mascot, “The Wildcats”?
20. The Sugar Bowl Coffee Shop was the original business in what current buiding?
21. What year was the original Community Church building erected?
22. What to churces merged to become The Community Church?
23. Who established the Maypine Marina?
24. What year was the Town Hall built?
25. What building first occupied the site of the Town Hall?
26. Where was the high school building locted before its current spot?
27. Who established the rise of string quartets in Schroon?
28. Where was the Music Colony based in the 800's?
29. The Alpine Pizza shop was originally what kind of business?
30. Who documented the graves of the Baker Street Cemetery in the year 2000?
31. What did the tow church bells connected to the Leland House?
32. Name the teenage after school hangout in the 50's with the best French Fries.

THE SCHROON-NORTH HUDSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Our Historical Society and Museum are supported by Memberships, Memorials, Special Contributions and the Towns of Schroon and North Hudson. We warmly welcome you to be a part of our important mission:

“To Preserve the Past for the Children of Tomorrow”

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Municipality _____

Optional Contact Information:

E-mail address _____ Telephone _____

(Feel free to contact an HS member for more information or a tour of the museum!)