

# The Preservationist

The Schroon - North Hudson Historical Society Newsletter  
fourth quarter edition December, 2022

## THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

As fall fades into winter, I hope that this newsletter finds all our members well. The last two years have been challenging for everyone, and for our organization. The summer of 2020 we did not open to protect our volunteers and the community. In 2021, we did reopen, however with very limited hours and no programs. We prayed that 2022 we would see things turn around.

Happily, in 2022, we reopened, with a highly successful opening day. Under the leadership of Jen Pitkin, our new Event Coordinator, we had an amazing Ice Cream Social along with a basket raffle and the grand opening of our new exhibits. We were able to raise well over \$500 that day and everyone had a blast! In addition, we had a successful summer lecture given by our Vice President, Bill Tribou on Duck Carvings. Bill was kind enough to share some of his amazing duck decoy collection with our members and talk about the history of duck carving. Unfortunately, due to an uptick in Covid cases, we saw very few ticket sales for ➔

our planned Roaring 20s Gala and we were forced to cancel the event. We will be looking at new and exciting ways to fundraise for this coming summer. In the meantime, we have been working the last few weeks on doing housekeeping and planning some amazing and fun exhibits and lectures for Summer 2023 (Stay tuned for more information)!

Our website has been updated [www.schroonnorthhudsonhs.org](http://www.schroonnorthhudsonhs.org) and if you LIKE our Schroon North Hudson Facebook you will see new weekly posts. In addition, Wayne Dewey, our Membership Chair, has been working hard to update all our membership records. With Covid, we saw many people move or change residence, which saw us have a record number of letters returned. If you have an address change, please let us know ASAP. Also, to help save on the cost of postage, paper and printing (which has gotten expensive) if you share your email, we can email the newsletter to you in PDF format. This will guarantee that you get the news quickly, to let you know all ➔

about our new and exciting summer lectures and programs coming Summer 2023 as soon as we have them planned.

Speaking of summer events and programs, if you are interested in helping on a committee, and we have several, email us at [schroonnorthhudsonhs@yahoo.com](mailto:schroonnorthhudsonhs@yahoo.com) We will have our Volunteer Coordinator, Mikki McSherry, contact you ASAP to talk about how you can contribute to our exciting organization. We know that so many of you have some amazing talents that we could use at our museum.

In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you for your financial and moral support over the last two years. Your generosity has allowed us to keep the museum operating through one of the most monumental global emergencies any of us has ever seen. In addition, I hope that you have a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you all in the spring!

**Tammy Whitty-Brown**  
**President**

## ONE OF OUR OWN

I dare say that anyone from anywhere who has ever visited Schroon Lake would have noticed one of the bellwether structures of the town, which is the Bogle Boathouse! It is as iconic as the Isola Bella Island itself. The following historical article was submitted by *Brenda Borquist*. Another member of our SNHHS family is *Barbara Brancone Connor*, a descendant of the building's original owner...



### Augustus Bogle Founder of the Boathouse

Augustus Bogle, who had boats for hire in Schroon Lake in 1874, typically represented the self-made man in this part of the country at that time. Through his own industry, economy and good management, he made an excellent living for himself and his family. He was born December 4, 1826 in Wardsboro, Vermont. He attended the district school there until the age of fourteen. He then lived with his sister, Mrs. Thomas Edwards, until the age of twenty-one and was employed in a leather tannery ➔

where he earned \$150 a year, plus board and clothing.

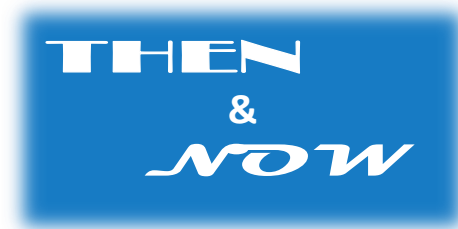
In 1854, Augustus Bogle moved to Chester, New York where he and Mr. Bracket ran a very successful tannery business for twenty years. In 1874, he and Mr. Bracket took their business to the shores of Schroon Lake. It was then that Augustus Bogle established himself in the "boat letting business". The first year he bought six rowboats, ten more the next year and continued until he had 53 rowboats and a sailing craft owned jointly by himself and his son, Charles H. Bogle, who also owned a steam launch.

It was through this partnership of father and son that the Boathouse we know today was established! Steamboats that navigated the lake carrying passengers to their destinations made their last stop at the Boathouse in Schroon Lake. The boats were looked over, repaired if necessary, refueled and sent off to repeat the pattern of delivering passengers and cargo.

Charles H. Bogle and his son Charles A. Bogle, grandson to Augustus, ran the boathouse business after the death of Augustus in 1902 and continued until the time when, in the early 1900s, automobiles became the main means of transportation and the steamboats were retired. At that time the Boathouse was converted into an automobile ➔

garage and serviced the automobiles of visitors in Schroon Lake. At the same time that the Boathouse was a thriving business, the Bogle family owned and operated the Bogle Hotel. It sat on the hill behind the Boathouse and the (current) square dance area was once the tennis courts for the hotel. It accommodated 75 guests, who enjoyed a large pavilion which extended toward the lake and the Bogle Beach. The hotel was dismantled in the 1970s and the Boathouse was bought by the Town of Schroon from a Mr. Ritter, who brought classical music to the town in what he called The Boathouse Theater.

The Boathouse Theater today is the hub of the town. It anchors the town to its heritage. It is a landmark of the Adirondack Park and New York State.



### A feature by Loris Clark

I came across an old Post-Star newspaper article from February 20, 1983 by Sally Holladay that seemed to fly in the face of common sense by today's standards! It seems that the Schroon Lake Board of Education had to wrestle with hiring more janitorial staff or ➔

buying more computers for the kids. Mr. Kevin Lavarnway's class was rapidly gaining in popularity but with only one computer it meant a number of students had to share one machine! Superintendent Daniel McGregor said that Schroon Lake Central School had been denied a recent grant request to purchase additional computers but that "finding funds" was an on-going effort.



After a loooong time sitting in a computer's hard drive, 75 thank you notes have been sent out to patrons who have made donations or paid their memberships! Once again, the pandemic is to blame for this pause in routine! To be sure that our patrons and members were aware of the *cause* of this mail delivery delay, the Membership Chairman sent a full page letter on HS letterhead that not only served as a receipt, but a complete explanation of the Covid-19 delay. We hope it served as the 'antidote' to any confusion caused by the delay! We want to keep all of our supporters "in the loop!"

## TOWN OF SCHROON LIONS CLUB 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Town of Schroon Lions Club celebrated the issuance of its **official charter** at a recent monthly meeting. Present for this meeting at the Schroon Lake Senior Citizens Club for all to see, was the **actual framed original charter document**, on loan for the evening from the Schroon-North Hudson Historical Society Museum!

In attendance was IPDG and Zone Chair Lion Michele O'Hare and Lion Diane Lange who was our guest speaker. She addressed the club on the Lions Childhood Cancer Program which is one of Lions International's major projects that our local Lions Club supports. It is heartwarming to hear how our local work as Lions is helping so many kids with this terrible affliction!

Also at this meeting, Lion Scott Ireland presented the Lions "S.W.O.T." Program and conducted an exercise for the club members present. Lion Jan Tveraas spoke on the "**Your Club, Your Way**" program which includes an email survey of each club member soliciting input on improving our club's general operations.



## DIGGING FOR DETAILS

By Wayne Dewey

Brenda Borquist gave me an iPhone snapshot of an open magazine page. It was the kind of photo that you might take to record an ad for a sale on tires. It turned into so much more with a little "digging!"

This image was of a New York State Teachers Retirement magazine article about **Estella (Cole) Oliver** who was one of the longest serving teachers in Schroon Lake and New York State Teachers Retirement System's history. She was an original member of the New York State Teachers Retirement System, having begun her career in the one-room school house in Loch Muller.

Born June 20, 1893 she died at age 110 in 2004, just shy of reaching 111 years old. She married Archie Oliver in 1918 but he sadly died four years later in 1922. She never remarried, keeping his name until her death.

A small entry in the *Events Around Town* column of the local newspaper read:

*"Miss Estella Cole closed her schoolhouse in Loch Muller Tuesday until after the holidays and went home to her home in South Schroon."*

An angel on Earth and in heaven!

## “THERE’S YER SIGN!”

After 40 long years of standing tall in the same geographic location, some degree of degradation of one’s image is bound to occur! Such was the fate of the railroad crossing signal that found a home in the southwest corner of our SNHHS Museum’s lawn.



The crossbuck signal was donated to the Museum in 1982 by the Delaware & Hudson Railroad.

Last year, Leo Clark, with help from Wayne Dewey, attacked this project which involved disassembly of the signal lights and crossbars, sandblasting, painting, rewiring and reassembly. New electrical works were also installed and reconnected to a timer control that turns on the warning lights during the museum’s hours of operation. You would not believe how heavy those RR crossbars are and how hard we had to work up on step ladders to re-fasten them to the pole! Our beloved signal sign should now be good for another couple of decades as an icon of our historical Museum!



## DIGGING FOR DETAILS

By Wayne Dewey

Because some folks may not be aware of major upgrades to the functionality of our museum, I thought it would be good to update our members on some of the improvements that have been made to our functionality and features.

Over the last few years, an effort to have an inventory and track museum artifacts was initiated! A form for inventory registration was created for the Annex building and the artifact archives housed in the upstairs rooms.

With the help of several members of the organization, new shelving was installed in the upstairs rooms and new storage boxes were purchased for the shelves. Once the rooms were readied, the process of identifying every single item and artifact in the museum ➔

began! This information’s data was recorded on custom Inventory Record forms. A team of individuals then put sticker labels on each box. As this process played to its conclusion, the data was typed into a computer spreadsheet.

The result of this massive body of work by our volunteers is that we can now search the archives by simply typing in a key word or date on our computers. The resulting screen will list any and all archives in our inventory associated with that word or date, as well as the exact location of those artifacts in the museum! This has been a HUGE help to our docents as they endeavor to help patrons with their inquiries.

## FLOWER POWER IN BLOOM

So many people pass by the museum, either strolling the sidewalk or cruising by in their vehicles, who get to enjoy the blessings of beauty that our gardens bestow on others! A BIG “thank you” to our great Green Thumb Squad!



THANK YOU ❤️ TO MY PROOFREADER!

## **THANK YOU DONORS, SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS**

**We could not exist without your continued and valued support!**

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