



Allegany Area Historical Association

October 2006

Issue XXV Vol. 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I can't believe that we are into fall already - Memorial Day was just last week, or so it seems. Heritage Days this year was very successful, but we seemed to have a smaller attendance than previous years, though all who came certainly enjoyed themselves. The chicken barbeque on Friday sold out, as did the Country Cupboard on Saturday. Our 50/50 drawing on Friday was won by Rosemary Ryan, to the tune of \$71. It is certainly much easier for us to have everything together on Second Street. The support we get from the village personnel is outstanding, and one of the reasons things go so smoothly each year - a big "thank you" to them. Our main exhibit this year was "Education in Allegany", and was well received. Don't forget, the Heritage Center is open on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. until the end of October, so if you missed the exhibit, we would be delighted to have you drop in to see it before we close for the season.

In May of 2000, we had videos made of the **history of Allegany** and sell them for \$10, plus \$5 for shipping. We have now had some **DVD's** made from the video, which we are selling for \$18, plus postage (which we haven't determined yet). It's not too early to think of Christmas gifts, and this would be great for your Allegany friends who live out of the area. We also have **Tales of War and Confinement** - \$6.00, plus \$3.00 shipping; **Our Allegany Heritage: 1831-1981** - \$7.50, plus \$2.50 shipping; **Allegany Christmas Cards** - 30 cents each or 12 for \$2.50, plus shipping.

I spoke this summer to residents of the Waters Nursing Home here in Allegany, about our local history, since many of the residents are from this area. As usual, I took some artifacts from our collection for a "Can you guess what this is" session, like I do for the school children. But in this case, they knew what everything was because they were items they had used all their lives! So we had a grand discussion about how they had used these things, and many more that I didn't bring, such as curtain stretchers and rug beaters. I can still feel the pricks in *my* fingers from the curtain stretchers we used each spring and fall! I am speaking to members of the D.A.R. this fall, and I am sure that my presentation will follow in a similar vein.

We lost another valuable member this summer when Paul Martiny died. His parents were Henry and Frances Martiny, and he had nine brothers and sisters. I think most of the people in town are related in one way or another to the Martinys. Paul was a great photographer, and gave us, among other things, many pictures he had taken of the construction of the Southern Tier Expressway and the Veterans Memorial Bridge. This is a valuable historical record to have, and will be used by future generations.

A request - please send us your correct address, if you leave town for the winter months. We had some problems last winter with some of our newsletters not being delivered as we did not have the proper winter address. We have to pay for each newsletter returned to us, and you miss our always interesting publication. Even if you have given us the address before, we would appreciate receiving it again to make sure our records are correct. Thanks for your help.

Another request - we are always looking for stories or articles or memories from our older members about growing up in Allegany. You don't have to go very far back to have thoughts about those times that would be of great interest to everyone. I graduated from high school in 1953, and that's now historical! Times have changed so much since then. Don't be shy - we'll take care of editing and spelling and such, so please take a few minutes to jot down some things and send them along to us. You can even be anonymous if you wish. We'd love to hear from **you**.

Congratulations to St. John's Lutheran Church on their 150th anniversary!! We honored them several years ago with a plaque denoting them as one of the earliest religious groups in Allegany.

Francie Potter, President

As I have mentioned in the past, we have many items of great interest in our files. Following are two letters we have, written by Colleen "Connie" Carey Diggs, who lived in Colorado. She died in July of 2005. There is no date on the first letter. The second one was written in 2005, after she had received a copy of our video on Allegany's history. We hope you enjoy them.

I have been so excited to get the newsletters from Allegany. I read every word. [I enjoyed] the one on improvements on [the] Catholic Church of my time when Father Bonaventure and also Fr. Donald were priests there, and the letter on Mildred Karl, [a] school teacher up [the] 4 Mile, my very favorite teacher. That was a 2 room school. [A] little room [with] small grades taught by Dorothy Stanbaugh and [a] big room, up to 7th grade, [taught] by Mildred Karl. I think [it] was called "Rock View School". My mother, Cameron Babinger, also taught in [a] country school up [the] 9 Mile. My father, "Pete" Carey and his father, William Henry Carey [were] well known in the oil fields at the time. Carey Hollow, off [the] 4 Mile [was] named for our family. It was an old goat farm owned by my great-grandmother, Gram Carey. She had wished it to always stay in the Carey family and be passed down one generation to the next but along came the Depression times when bad times hit most. My grandfather, W. H. Carey, lost land, etc. in [the] Allegany area, Eldred, Pa., and my pride, Cottage 65 at Cuba Lake. One after another went. Too much land, too many taxes. Thank you for your wonderful work and so many hours of searching.

Yes, you may use whatever I say on "Rock View School" or "Carey Hollow". My folks told me about Carey Hollow. The video was wonderful, to me. My family watched it for Thanksgiving to see my old grade school teacher. I couldn't believe she was still with us. Am sending this picture at Rock View taken in my days. Doesn't Maxine Karl resemble our teacher!! I visited Marion Karl, Maxine's sister in [the] late 1970's in Olean, N.Y. She was in my class. If you can use this picture for anything, do so. Our music teacher was Yolanda Questa. At that time, [my] teacher, Miss Karl mentioned [that] the music teacher was coming in. Yolanda was so beautiful with a crown of [the] most beautiful black braids all around her head. Like a princess to me. It was great to see how the Allegany River was used way back when. I remember how wonderful[ly] clear and clean it was. You could see every stone and minnow, to the bottom.

A look at an old map will show that most of the hollows around here - Morgan, McClure, Slocum, Bucher, Wing - to name a few, are all named after early pioneers who settled in that particular hollow. Some of the families may be gone, but their memory is still here in the names of the hollows.

DUES ARE DUE——DUES ARE DUE——DUES ARE DUE

October is the month to **pay** your **dues**. A single membership is \$10, family \$15 and patron is \$20 or more. Make your check to AAHA and mail to PO Box 162, Allegany, New York 14706. Don't forget - **do it today!** If your membership isn't renewed, we will take you off the mailing list, and where else will you be able to find out the always interesting Allegany news, past and present.

Member Marion Elling sent us this poem about school days in a one room schoolhouse, which should be familiar to some of our older members who taught in them or who attended school in them.

ONE ROOM SCHOOL

Raylene Boggs - 2002

There's an old school house still standing
That holds sweet memories
A one room that's weather beaten now
But in my mind I can see

At recess we played ball and base
Shot marbles when it was cold
It would take a hundred books
To write the memories I hold

A pot bellied stove in the center
Produced very little heat
If you sit real close you burned up
All except your freezing feet

There were two to four in each class
Grades from one to eight
You were marked as tardy
If you were one minute late

My lunch was cornbread and milk
In Granny's canning jar
I always tried to hover near
And eat by the fire

I walked two miles to get there
But I learned my three "R" well
Were good teachers in those days
They cared and you could tell

If you disobeyed or talked back
Did one thing out of the way
The old paddle seemed to appear
And the devil was to pay

Kids didn't carry guns back then
We had a great old time
We knew to mind our teachers
And our parents all the time

We had two outside privies
For the ladies and the gents
It was a cold trip in the winter
Sometimes you wished you hadn't went

An old hand pump outside the door
You had to pump the water out
With our paper drinking cups
We'd hold them under the spout

Good old days they were back then
We were as poor as we could be
But I didn't know the difference
The rest was poor as me



A friend asked me a while back about a monument in the Allegany Cemetery that had a noose on it. I didn't know anything about it, but said I would check into it. This spring, while tending the family graves in the cemetery, I saw the monument with a noose on it, a tall slender monument, almost a obelisk, that stands on the right hand side of the far western driveway, before the Civil War monument, as you are leaving the cemetery. Margaret Parker told me to check Sandpumpings, a defunct publication done by Olean High School. Sure enough, there is a story in Vol. 1, No. 1, April 1976. All the information in this article is taken from Sandpumpings.

The monument is on the William Grimes grave site. William Grimes was born in New Hampshire, February 2, 1804. In the fall of 1840 or 1841, he settled on the Nine Mile on the Allegheny River at what is now the Village of Vandalia. In 1845 he purchased 900 acres of timberland and added to them from time to time until he had a tract of 2,000 acres. He cut and rafted square pine lumber and shingles down river until the close of his life, January 26, 1877.

At one time, the monument had a marble cat on top of it. Howard Schultz (deceased) served as caretaker in the cemetery and told the staff of Sandpumpings the story of the marble cat. "Course you youngsters wouldn't remember the days when threshing crews moved from farm to farm threshing the grain and mowing for the farmers. Why," began Mr. Schultz, "I remember when us kids visited my grandfather's grave over there, my father used to take us to the William Grimes' monument to see THE CAT!"

"My father told us the story about his father who was a part of a threshing crew for Mr. Grimes. The threshers gathered in the Grimes' kitchen to get warm around the kitchen stove. A cat, named Gibs, was laying in a chair near the stove and my grandfather tipped the cat off. Just as he did that, Old Man Grimes walked into the room and saw his favorite cat on the floor. He called my grandfather down for it! 'Don't you ever do that in this house again! That chair belongs to Gibs!', said Mr. Grimes.

"My grandfather thought it kinda funny, but he never again bothered the cat. Yes, sir, that cat had a monument that set right on the Grimes' grave for seventy-five years - until someone stole it! What do you suppose anyone would want of a marble cat? People are funny today, aren't they?," commented Mr. Schultz.

But that still didn't solve the question of a noose on the monument. Mr. Schultz noted that Mr. Grimes was one of the most respectable citizens "that ever lived in these parts." So the staff visited Ms. Frances Grimes in Olean. This tall, dignified lady, indeed of pioneer stock, proud of her heritage, great-granddaughter of William Grimes welcomed us graciously into her modest home. One senses immediately the sturdiness and honesty of the people that settled this region of Cattaraugus County after talking to Ms. Grimes. From Vermont, her great-grandparents ventured, cut, timbered, harvested, cleared lands, and rafted rivers in the Carrollton-Vandalia area.

"The noose-like rope?," we asked. "Purely decorative on the beautiful marker of my ancestor's grave," retorted Ms. Grimes. "What about the cat, Gibs?," we questioned. "A family pet. I do hope that whoever stole the small marble marker of this pet from a pioneer's grave will search his conscience and return it."

So there we are - mystery solved. The marble statue of Gibs was never returned.



Memorials



For: Margaret Karl
From: Kathleen Karl
Francis Hirt

For: Ruth Conhiser
From: Bob and Francie Potter
Kathleen Karl
Francis Hirt

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Strief

For: Tom Gleason
From: Joyce Jonak, Ann Hardiman,
Eileen Shabala, Gail Crisafulli,
Diane Boser

For: William Howard
From: Mrs. Betty Smith

For: Steve Lippert
From: Raymond and Joyce Jonak

For: Elsie Murrin
From: Harold and Marge Geise
Paul and Doris Kelly

For: Karen Nye and Arnold Rickey
From: Mrs. Betty Smith

For: Paul Martiny
From: Bob and Francie Potter

For: Glen E. Hitchcock
From: Dick and Shirley Russell
Gary and Marianne Russell
Michele Russell
Larry and Marilyn Russell
Merle and Mary Ann Kyser

For: Charles Wing
From: Jim and Pat Schreckengost and
family

For: Sandi Petrovick
From: Jim and Pat Schreckengost and
family

OCTOBER MEETING

Our meeting will be on Sunday, October 15th at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Center, 25 North Second Street. **BonaResponds** is a group from St. Bonaventure University started by Jim Mahar, a finance professor there, that made two trips to the Gulf Coast to help in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Since then, they have expanded into local service projects. They have done work at Archbishop Walsh, on the Allegany River Trail, at St. Elizabeth Motherhouse, in Allegany State Park and at Olean General Hospital, to name a few places. They are planning on future trips to the Gulf Coast as that recovery effort will go on for many years.

Josh Koszuta, a senior/grad student at the university is the leader of **BonaResponds** and will talk to us about how the group got started, their trips to Biloxi, Mississippi, and their efforts in the local area. Some of the other members of the group will also be there.

I hope we have a good turnout, to show the students how much their efforts are appreciated. **See you on Sunday, October 15th.**

**Allegany Area Historical Association
P.O. BOX 162
Allegany, NY 14706**

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INSIDE SPECIAL ISSUE:

Presidents Report

One Room School

Gibs, the Cat
