



Allegany Area Historical Association

November 2014

www.allegany.org

Issue XXXIII Vol. 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have a beautiful new front door which is a memorial to Charlie and Joan Phearsdorf. It is solid White Oak, and was custom made by Mel Duggan's door maker. It is the perfect finishing touch to our front side makeover, and we have received many, many comments about how good it looks. Drive by and see for yourself.

Just a gentle reminder that if you haven't paid your yearly dues, it's not too late to do so. A single membership is \$10, family is \$15 and a patron membership is \$20 or more. Make your check to AAHA and mail it to PO Box 162, Allegany, NY 14706.

If you are looking for a good place to make a charitable donation for the year end, think of making a donation to AAHA by way of our fund at the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation. It's easy to do: go to the Foundation web site at www.cattfoundation.org., click on the Donate button and fill in the online form. On the "review donation screen" type in Allegany Area Historical Association Fund in the Fund Name Box.

Noted Civil War historian, Mark Dunkleman, will host the 30th annual reunion of descendants of the 154th New York on Saturday, August 1, 2015 at St. Bonaventure University. This reunion will mark the establishment at the University of the Dunkleman and Winey Collection on the 154th. We are in contact with Mark to have him give a presentation to our group at that time about his new book on General Patrick Henry Jones of the 154th. We will have much more information as the date gets closer.

October is the month of our annual meeting where we elect officers and trustees. Elected to two year terms are: President, Francie Potter; Vice-President, Kathy Premo; Secretary, Marilyn Frisina; Corres. Secretary, Marion Elling; Treasurer, Alice Altenburg. Elected as Trustees for a two year term are: Mel Duggan and Jim Hitchcock. Elected as Trustees for a three year term are: Marjorie Geise and Shirley Russell. Thanks to everyone for serving and for helping AAHA to grow.

We, along with other area organizations, have a problem getting our meeting notices published in the Times Herald. So I'm asking you to let your friends and neighbors know about our meetings by word of mouth. Show them the information in our newsletter and invite them to join you in attending. Spread the word about our meetings any way you can. Thanks for the help.

FRANCIE POTTER, PRESIDENT

This appeared in the January 2, 1903 issue of the Allegany Citizen; a brief report on the state of the village and town.

The past year in the town and village of Allegany has been a fairly prosperous one. While unfavorable weather conditions have caused a shortage in some of the crops on our farms, our dairying interests, owing to the high price of cheese and butter, in a measure help to lighten the loss.

The advance in the price of oil has increased operations to a large extent during the year, causing hundreds of new wells to be drilled within the township and adding thousands of barrels to the already large production of the golden fluid.

The ready market and good price of lumber also contributed to a considerable degree to our prosperity. Our canning factory, which was somewhat retarded by crop conditions, nevertheless did a large and profitable business, and expects to double the output in 1904. Our cutlery factory has been on the jump day and night to fill orders and 20 hands are now employed.

Our churches and educational institutions have had a prosperous year. Our tannery under the able supervision of our popular young superintendent, Wm. Flynn, has run on full time, and the benefits of its large payroll have been felt through the year. Our merchants have all enjoyed a good trade, and aside from going into liquidation of Dye Bros. Bank, not a business failure is on the docket for the township. The establishment of the First National Bank of Allegany upon a substantial financial basis is one of the most notable events of the year.

The proposed extension into Allegany of the Pennsylvania R.R. yards, causing a large sale to that excellent company at a good price for cash, of farm lands during the year is also the beginning of a new era in Allegany's history, the benefits of which cannot help being felt in the near future. The inauguration by Uncle Sam of rural postal delivery through a portion of our suburban territory and the building of a new bridge over the river are among the important improvements of the year.

Generally speaking, no great casualties or calamities have befallen us except perhaps a few rather destructive fires, more notable among which was that occurring February 5, when in the absence of any fire protection, five business buildings on Main Street were left to the mercy of the flames.

The angel of death reaped an unusual harvest during 1902; thirty five of our residents fell before the keen blade of the inevitable destroyer, and while for the most these were people of old age, many valuable citizens were numbered among the lamented.



SPOOLS

By Gertrude Schnell

Our elders saved everything. My grandmother, Delia Rehler Schnell, was a dressmaker both before and after she was married. She sewed on a treadle Singer sewing machine she probably bought from her brother-in-law, Fred Forness, Sr.

At that time sewing thread came on wooden spools. She saved them and may have received some from her sisters who also sewed.

When she had a sufficient number, 129 to be exact, her husband threaded them on metal rods to make the corners of a bookcase. He then used four pieces of one inch solid oak for shelves. The shelves were varnished and the spools were painted gold.

Some of the spools are fat, some narrow, some short and some long. However, they are sturdy and the book shelf holds many books at my house.

What a treasure to have! Thanks for another interesting story, Gertrude.

WE GET MAIL



Bill Van Sickle from RPJ Ready Print sent a brief note to say, "Even though I am not a long time resident of Allegany, I still enjoy your newsletter very much, It's an important part of Allegany's culture and everyone should read it." Thanks, Bill, for the kind words. We certainly agree with you – everyone should read our newsletter!

Joe Stayer of Olean sent in a picture of him and his four sisters. The girls are all deceased. Joe, now 84, noted that he lived next to St. John's Lutheran Church when he was growing up.



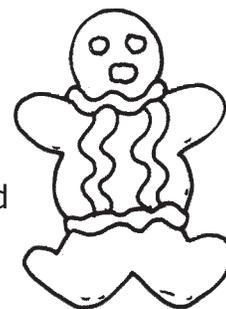
Our 31st annual

Christmas Cookie Sale

will be held on Saturday, December 6th

at Nature's Remedy, 120 West Main Street, from 9:30 to 2 p.m.

This is our biggest fund-raiser of the year. If you don't get a call asking you to bake some cookies, just call us to volunteer your services. The effort of all our members and friends is what makes this sale so very successful year after year.



On Sunday, December 7th at 2 p.m.

at the Heritage Center, 25 North Second Street,
we will hold our 32nd annual

Community Christmas Service

which is always a nice way to start the holiday season. Fr. James Vacco, O.F.M., pastor of St. Bonaventure Parish, will conduct the service. At the service, we will once again take up a collection of money, canned goods and paper products to benefit Genesis House, the homeless shelter in Olean. Anything we can gather for them is needed, and very much appreciated by them.



**Thank you in advance for your support
of these two events.**

The following is an article by Patty Vedder that was in our August 1984 newsletter. We still do this kind of research today for our members and friends.

AAHA'S ANCHORAGE CONNECTION

This story started unfolding with a message to call William Soule who was at the Allegany Public Library looking for information about his Allegany ancestors. "Soule", I thought, "Gee, that's almost family!" After talking with Bill Soule, I immediately called cousin Alice Altenburg asking her to meet us at the Heritage Center. Alice is certainly Allegany's authority on Soules...after all, four Soules married four Altenburgs four generations back.

At the Heritage Center, Bill introduced his wife and two small children. We learned that they'd arrived in Allegany via Utah and Albany from Anchorage, Alaska. A recent law school graduate, Bill had decided to visit his parents in Albany before settling down to work in Anchorage. His wife had completed a "nice thick family history" and he'd been "been working at" his about eight years. Bill had been old he descended from George Soule, who came to this country on the Mayflower, but he couldn't trace his Soule line past his great grandfather. After talking with his father he'd decided to stop in Allegany.

Bill's great grandfather was H. A. Soule...Henry Altenburg Soule. Why, we even had a picture of his grandfather's drugstore! It was at the east end of the Harms Block where Ray's Carpet-ette is now. (See page 125-6 of Our Allegany Heritage 1831-1981). Alice could supply Bill with all the names and dates he needed and a tour of the South Nine Mile "Soule land". She could show him his great-great grandfather David Soule's house, which was moved across the road when Lawrence Forness purchased it. He saw he old schoolhouse that Burton Altenburg had told me David Soule built. The District #10 minutes book states that indeed David Soule contracted to build the schoolhouse for \$660 and to have it completed by September 1885.

The last time I saw Bill Soule he was photographing all of the Soule gravestones in the Allegany Cemetery. When he finds time to sift through and organize the information he'd gathered, he intends to contact AAHA for anything he may have missed. We'll certainly be glad to hear from him as there won't be too many people who we can help trace their roots way back to the Mayflower. Hopefully, Bill will return to Allegany when his children are old enough to be interested in their heritage.

The Leaves of Late November

By David McGranaghan, Allegany

It is the need of fresh air
That brings me here,
To a bench in Lincoln Park
on a cold November day.

In front of me is a maple tree,
its branches almost bare.
But going back in time,
About six weeks or so,
full was the foliage that covered this tree.
and bright were the colors of scarlet and gold.

The foliage, though, did reach its peak
and then did scatter everywhere,
driven by the wind.

A few leaves, though, they did remain,
stubbornly clinging to the tree.
They are survivors,
they are the leaves of late November.

Like these left over leaves,
I, too, am wrinkled and gray.
I, too, am a survivor.
And to me "each day it is a gift,"
a gift from God who reigns supreme
in his kingdom far away – up there among the
stars.



TREASURER'S REPORT

October 1, 2013 – October 1, 2014

This report is presented to give you an understanding of our sources of income and our expenses.

AAHA RECEIVES ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FROM VILLAGE, TOWN OR STATE.

INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 2,575.00
Memorials	4,985.00
Donations	1,527.00
Christmas Cookie Sale	1,089.00
Heritage Days	808.00
Sales – Misc. items	199.00
Cousins Bros. Payment	420.00
Copier Usage	16.00
M. E. Smith Estate	9,500.00
	\$21,119.00

EXPENSES

National Grid	\$ 901.00
NYSEG	2,363.00
Insurance	791.00
Mailing Permit #32	220.00
P. O. Box Rental	64.00
Acme Service Policy	199.00
Newsletters	
Printing	400.00
Mailing	125.00
Programs	235.00
Donations, Dues	150.00
Supplies	305.00
Collections	255.00
Street Sheet Expense	627.00
Maintenance	1,509.00
Austin Security System	4,691.00
	\$12,835.00

Money from the Smith Estate allowed us to install this.

\$12,835.00

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

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INSIDE SPECIAL ISSUE:

Presidents Report

Keen Blade of the Inevitable Destroyer

“Soule”land

NEXT MEETING

We will meet on Sunday, November 16 at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Center. We will be doing some armchair traveling with Dave and Marge Vitale, who recently returned from a river cruise trip on the Douro River in northern Portugal.

The Vitales are long-time residents of Allegany and Dave is a former mayor of the village. He is also an excellent photographer, and will take us along to see the sights of Portugal, as they also made many shore excursions on their trip.

Please join us as we experience the wonders and sights of Portugal.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16-----2 PM-----HERITAGE CENTER