

Allegany Area Historical Association

November 2015

www.allegany.org

Issue XXXIV Vol. 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

One of our long-time members, Kathleen Karl, celebrated her 100th birthday on September 15th! She was born and raised in Allegany, and in 2001 and 2002 we published her memoirs in the newsletter. In her honor, we are re-publishing some excerpts of those memoirs elsewhere in this newsletter.

For the last two years Kathleen has resided at Absolut Care of Allegany. I know she would love to hear from old friends. Her address is: Absolut Care of Allegany, 2128 N. Fifth Street, Allegany, NY 14706.

A reminder to our "snow bird" members – please make sure we have your correct "southern" address and the approximate dates for your departure and return. Each newsletter that we mail that is returned to us costs us twice the postage.

For our members in general and our out of town members in particular, an easy way to donate to our group is to make a gift to the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation. Designate that the money is to go to the Allegany Area Historical Association Fund, and mail your check to the Foundation at 120 North Union Street, Olean, N.Y. 14760. If you want to increase your giving by the end of the year, for tax purposes, please think of us. We can always use the help and are always most grateful for your support.

Our annual meeting is held at our October meeting. We needed to fill a one year term for Trustee to complete the term of Shirley Russell. Tom Stetz was elected to fill this vacancy. Thanks, Tom, for agreeing to serve.

In our October newsletter I told you about the Guide by Cell program that the county now has which will give you a "guided tour" of area historical groups. There is an addition – the Leon Historical Society can be heard at 716-244-1999. They have filled all their numbers; 121 – 140. We are still working on the rest of our numbers and probably won't put anything new on until spring.

If you didn't pay your annual dues yet – due in October – you still have time to get them in. Send your check made out to AAHA to: PO Box 162, Allegany, N.Y. 14706

Another of our members is nearing 100 years old – Rita Keim will be 100 next year in April. She was born in Olean and married an Allegany native. Keim Hollow, off of the Buffalo Road, is named for the Keim family. Must be something in the Allegany water with so many of our members living such long lives!

FRANCIE POTTER, PRESIDENT

Here are some excerpts from "Down Memory Lane" by Kathleen Hirt Karl.

On my mother's side of the family, my Great-grandfather, Joseph Warters, and his wife came to America from France in 1849 and settled in the Buffalo area. They later moved to Lippert Hollow in Allegany where Joseph and his brothers drilled for oil. They had nine children, which explains why I am related to the Warters, Reitz, Yehl, Carls, Wholeban, Geringer and Hyde families. My grandfather, John Warters, Sr. married Rose Beitler, and had eight children, which explains why I am related to the Fornesses, Hatzells, Stayers, etc. My mother married my father, Henry Hirt, in 1914 and lived on the South Nine Mile Road.

On my father's side of the family, my great-grandfather Andrew Hirt was born in Baden, Germany and came to America at the age of 20 in 1830. He settled in Lancaster, New York where he married my great-grandmother, Mary Schniter, and they moved to Allegany on the South Nine Mile Road. They had six children which explains why I am related to the Carls, Gabler, Geringer, Martiny, Krott and Riehle families. My grandfather Henry Hirt married Agatha Zister, and had six children with the married names of Klice, Carls, Geringer, etc. They rented a farm on Birch Run Road where he worked for his father. He bought the homestead in 1881 and divided the house for two families. My father Frank Hirt married my mother, Kathryn Warters and they lived in the east half of the farmhouse. My parents bought the farm in 1919. They had four children.

I went to District #10 school on the South Nine Mile Road. Violetta Schnell was my teacher for second grade, then Irene Schnell taught me in 3rd and 4th grades. When I went to high school from 7th grade through graduation, Irene taught me English and Latin. I remember one incident very well. I had a few lines to say in the Senior Play that Irene directed. She stood in the back of the gym, with the stage up front, and when I said "often", she loudly corrected me with these words, "**never pronounce the "t" in often**". Now-a-days, it is pronounced either way.

My father passed away in 1927, leaving a great void in our lives. My mother kept the farm and did the best she could with "hired help", my two brothers and myself. Neighbors and relatives pitched in too. She sold the farm in 1946 because my older brother had married and left home and Francis, my younger brother, got polio and she could no longer keep the farm going. She and my brother moved to Main Street in Allegany where she lived the remaining years of her life.

In Part Two of her memoirs, Kathleen talked about life on the farm up to 1933 and described in some detail what was required to make hay, raise oats, corn, potatoes, fruit and garden produce. She also talked about the various animals on the farm. In Part Three, she talks of her childhood home and her college and teaching years, which is where we rejoin her memoirs.

The cellar, with its dirt floor and cool temperature, was a great storage place. Big potato bins were on one side, along with barrels of apples. Shelves were filled with canned goods. Large crocks held sauerkraut, pickles in brine, and cabbages. A big bin for "chestnut coal" was on the west side of the cellar. Hall's would bring a load and, using a chute, would fill the bin for winter use.

The attic was not only a good storage place but also a great playhouse in winter or rainy days. It had clotheslines for hanging wet clothes to dry, especially useful in the winter.

We were wired for electricity in the early thirties. Before that I have memories of the "carbide" lights in the house and the kerosene lanterns in the barn. When I was small there was no bathroom except for the "outhouse" in the back yard. It was a small building that had a bench with two large holes, and a lower bench with a small hole. Underneath was a drawer with its contents covered with lime to keep down the odor. This drawer was emptied several times a year, probably into the manure spreader.

We had a "pitcher pump" by the kitchen sink with a pail of water that was always kept full. A "reservoir" on the inside of our wood stove heated the water stored in it. In later years we had an element inside the "firebox" of the stove that heated the water as it flowed through to a hot water tank beside the stove. The hot water was then piped to the kitchen sink and the bathroom. One of my chores was to keep the large wood box, built by Grandpa Hirt, filled every day.

One of the "spring housecleaning" chores involved cleaning the 9 x 12 rugs. They were removed from the floor, carried to the back yard, and thrown over the clothesline. We then used a "carpet beater" to beat out the dust. Curtains were washed and stretched to dry on a frame of wood that had little nails sticking up. Mattresses were carried out and placed on chairs to "air" in the sun. Oh, for the good ole days!

Clementine Carls was our teacher in 1922, my first year of school. There were ten of us: Iva Hotchkiss, Esther Hotchkiss; my cousins Beatrice and Anita Forness, Donald and Dail Forness; Clarke Russell; Bernard Karl; Clarice Reitz (Sue), and myself. During the noon recess we played games. The boys outhouse was separated from the girls outhouse by a tall board fence but we knocked some boards off so we could run around the schoolhouse. When I went to high school, I often rode on the milk truck. I remember it had rotted floorboards. The milkman picked up cans of milk from farms along The Nine Mile and delivered them to a business in Olean. After school, I walked 3 ½ miles home. Usually there were several others who walked too. We had fun raiding the dumps along the riverbank and exploring an old abandoned house that was full of birds, mice, etc. Of course there were no school buses to transport us.

When I think of my years at Fredonia Normal School (1933-1936), I recall the struggle, the studying, and working for the New York Assistance Program. It paid \$12.50 per month. I worked for several elementary teachers, correcting papers, mounting pictures, and other odd jobs. I also worked on a state survey in Dunkirk with four other Fredonia Normal School students. We did our own cooking in the house where we roomed, each of us having brought food from home. I recall that the four of us girls would each put \$2.00 in the "Kitty" for food and supplies. I graduated in 1936 with a Life Certificate to teach in the elementary grades.

My first year of teaching in 1936 was in the District #10 school on the South Nine Mile and I was there until 1939. Because Ray Karl and I were married in February, the Trustee wouldn't hire me for the following year as she said I had a husband to support me and didn't need the job. But Al Gallets was Trustee of the Burdick School on Klice Crossroads and he hired me to teach all eight grades. I remained there for two years. We held square dances several times a year to raise money for supplies, books, etc. My eighth grade students sometimes took the first graders and helped them with reading and other lessons.

I quit teaching in 1942 to raise our four children, born in 1942, 1943, 1944, and 1946. Allegany was in the process of centralization in 1948 so I was hired to teach the upper grades at District #11, (Rockview School) on the upper Four Mile Road. I taught grades 3,4,5, and 6. In 1950 the rural schools on the Allegany district were closed. I taught 5th grade in the basement of St. John's Lutheran Church part of the year. Then we were moved into the garage of the school's main building. Eventually we moved into a room on the second floor of the new school addition. In 1954, I quit teaching at Allegany for the birth of our 5th child. In 1957, when the kind lady next door agreed to baby-sit, I began teaching 5th grade at Hinsdale Central School, where I remained for 18 years. I retired after 28 years in the teaching profession and became a full-time mother and housewife.

This ends Kathleen's trip down Memory Lane. I hope you have enjoyed reading these excerpts. She enjoyed writing them.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 1, 2014 – October 1, 2015

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

AAHA RECEIVES NO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FROM VILLAGE, TOWN OR STATE.**INCOME**

Membership Dues	\$ 3,660.00
Memorials	3,900.00
Donations	316.00
Sales – Misc. Items	173.00
Christmas Cookie Sale	1,163.00
Copier Usage	27.00
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	\$ 9,239.00

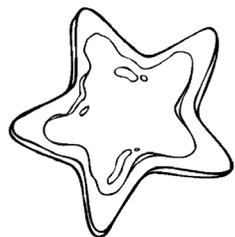
EXPENSES

NYSEG	\$ 2,455.00
National Grid	916.00
Insurance	805.00
Austin Security	419.00
Acme Service Policy	199.00
Mailing Permit	220.00
P.O. Box Rental	68.00
Newsletters	
Printing	300.00
Mailing	175.00
Programs	50.00
Donations, Dues	275.00
Equipment, Supplies	260.00
Collections	116.00
Street Sheet Expense	443.00
Lawn Maintenance	300.00
Map Preservation and Framing	1,185.00
Front Door Replacement	2,621.00
Film Scanning	1,275.00
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	\$12,082.00

Note: The Map Preservation and the Door Replacement were paid for from Memorials.

The Film Scanning was our share, with the Allegany Public Library, of scanning microfilm of the Allegany Citizen to make it available online.

Our 32nd annual



Christmas Cookie Sale



will be held on Saturday, December 5th

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

This is our only fundraiser 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 6th at 2 p.m.

at the Heritage Center, 25 North Second Street,
we will hold our 33rd annual

Community Christmas Service

which is always a nice way to start the holiday season. Pastor Dan Buringrud from St. John's Lutheran Church 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.**

Memorials



*For: John and Liz Hesse
From: Hesse Family*

*For: Ted Potter
From: Milton and Christine Bailey*

*For: Marion Weis Horey
From: John and Jillian Walsh*

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

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INSIDE SPECIAL ISSUE:

Presidents Report

Wired for Electricity

Get Your Cookies While They're Hot!

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Center, 25 North Second Street, Allegany. Paul Spaeth, Library Director at St. Bonaventure University, will do a presentation on Film History – How Historical Events Are Depicted in Film.

He will be using film clips of historical events, including Abraham Lincoln, Wyatt Earp and the Grapes of Wrath, among other clips. We have all seen movies of historical events – now we can find out if they have been accurately portrayed.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 – 2 P.M. – HERITAGE CENTER