

# Allegany Area Historical Association

May 2021

[www.allegany.org](http://www.allegany.org)

Issue XXXV Vol. 2

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There seems to be a faint light at the end of the tunnel with more people being able to get vaccinated. Perhaps by the fall, we might even be able to have a regular meeting. Until then, we are closed. If you have questions for us, message us on Facebook or email us at [Alleganyheritagecenter@gmail.com](mailto:Alleganyheritagecenter@gmail.com).

In February, we started a Facebook page called Allegany Memories. It took off like wildfire! Everyone has been posting pictures of graduation classes, favorite buildings around town, friends, and lots of candid shots. To join, please go to Allegany Area Historical Association and click on the link you will find there. I know the page has been bringing back many, many great memories for everyone.

Member Ruby Skroback passed away at the age of 94. It was always enjoyable to see Ruby when her daughter could bring her to our meetings. She was a 1944 graduate of Allegany High School. We will miss her.

The Ink Well store on Main Street in Allegany recently closed. The Citizen Printing House of Allegany bought the framing supplies that the Ink Well used to carry, and is now able to do custom framing of all your art work, posters, certificates, or whatever you want framed. It's great to have a framing shop right in town – check them out.

Mrs. Carol Hakes died. She was the music teacher at Allegany Central and Allegany-Limestone schools for many years. She was a concert pianist and had performed at Carnegie Hall. I know many of our members had her as a teacher since she taught for a long time. She always wore her hair the same way, and was always recognized because of that.

The Cattaraugus County Museum, in conjunction with the Cattaraugus County Veterans' Service Agency, have started a new project, "Our Veterans, Their Stories", which aims to preserve the oral histories of county veterans. The interviews are very moving, and excellently done. Check it out at [www.cattco.org](http://www.cattco.org).

Gail Boser Crisafulli died March 27<sup>th</sup>. She grew up in Allegany, and through her marriage to Michael Crisafulli, united two Allegany families. She was a long-time member of the choir at St. Bonaventure Church, and loved singing there.

The Allegany Central School Reunion will be on Saturday, August 7. Because of that, our Heritage Center will be open that day from 10 to 2. We will have our usual display of class pictures and yearbooks from the honor year classes. Hope to see you there.

**Francie Potter, President**

*This is a reprint of an article by Charlotte Tyer that was in our newsletter in January of 1996. I hope you enjoy it.*

## **SIGNS, HILLS, AND PIONEERS**

Many times a year I travel over roads in Humphrey and Allegany townships. Strange as it may seem, Allegany named the hollows between the hills, but Humphrey named the hills. For the most part, each hollow and hill bears the name of the earliest pioneer in his locality.

For example: traveling north from Allegany on the Five Mile Road, the signs read: Wing Hollow, Smith Hollow, McClure Hollow, Morgan Hollow, Slocum Hollow and Pumpkin Hollow. In Humphrey Township, we see signs directing us to Chapel Hill, Cooper Hill, Bozard Hill, Drake Hill, Golden Hill and Howe Hill.

The pioneers who settled the hollows and hills brought their families here with strong visions of a prosperous future. They were honest stout hearted, educated men. Some spent their last dollar to arrive at their wilderness locations, while others only brought an axe for hire. Most families lived in lean-to shelters and survived on scanty provisions until clearings could be made for a log cabin. Bears, wolves, and other wild animals prowled the forest, stalking their shelters and cabins at night, killing the sheep and carrying away their pigs.

When the earliest pioneers came to this territory, the entire townships of Allegany and Humphrey formed a part of Great Valley. In the 1820 census, the names of the first settlers in both Allegany and Humphrey appear under Great Valley. The town of Burton was formed from Great Valley on April 18, 1831. Five years later, on May 12, 1836, Humphrey was taken from Burton. Burton changed its name to Allegany on March 28, 1851.

I have been thinking about some of the earliest pioneer families whose names appear on the road signs in the hilly parts of Humphrey and have decided to write about some of those families. Russel Chapel was the first permanent settler in Humphrey. He came from Schenectady County in 1815 and built a log cabin in the wilderness on the bank of Sugartown Creek. Mr. Chapel was an ambitious, intelligent man, always looking for ways to better himself and the locality in which he lived.

One day, when resting his horses at a place in the road where it turns east to go over a high hill, he met two men who were carrying all their worldly goods in bundles on their backs. The two men were brothers, Steven and Benjamin Cole. These men were settling on a piece of land about two miles to the north of the resting place. Peter Sampson and Reuben Hurlbert also stopped at this turn to rest their horses and passengers before starting the long haul with the stage wagons over the hill to the Five Mile Run. The road was narrow, steep and rough. On rainy days, in places, it was axle deep with mud. Passengers usually walked behind the stage over this section of the highway, sometimes pushing to help ease the strain on the horses.

Seeing the need for a place where men and horses could rest and be refreshed with food and provisions, Mr. Chapel sold his log cabin on Sugartown Creek and built a tavern at the designated turn in the road, which, afterward became known as Chapelsburg. In 1823, their first Christmas at the Hotel, the Chapels hosted the first general Christmas gathering in the town. The hardy pioneers got together, scraped turnips, baked potatoes and jonneycakes and enjoyed a full day of eating and games. Their favorite sports were wrestling and jumping. One of the difficult feats was to jump over a yoke of oxen. William Baxter, a small man, was skilled at this feat. Seth Cole was the champion arm wrestler. Benjamin Cole weighed over 200 pounds and was the champion chopper. In the evening they sat around the fireplace and swapped stories of their pioneer experiences. When returning from their celebration, the Salisbury family had a narrow escape from a pack of wolves.

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History describes Russel Chapel as a man of "robust constitution". He sometimes went down the Allegheny River to Pittsburgh with a flat bottom boat for provisions for himself and his neighbors. He made the return trip up the river by means of setting poles and pushing on the poles, walking the boat's length to the stern, repeating this tedious work until the voyage of 300 miles was completed. Mr. Chapel served his community as Postmaster and Town Clerk for many years. The first town meeting was held at his Hotel in the spring of 1837, about a year after Humphrey became a town.

In those days, a good wife was essential to the success of a man. Mr. Chapel's wife, Phoebe, was a woman of strength, a hard worker and possessed the managing skills of a genius. She was an expert at making travelers comfortable, always serving them with a generous attitude. Phoebe was also talented in passing on the news without being gossipy or prejudiced.

History records Chapel's Hotel as the most important place in town and the scene of many a high carnival in the days of long ago. It was a place of constant activity, often filled to capacity with teamsters and travelers. The mail stage, then running between Buffalo and Olean, arrived and departed daily. The road over the hill was first known as the "Mail Road." By the year 1841, it was known as "Chapel's Hill Road." Down through the years it has been called the "Old Stage Coach Road" and the "Olean Road." The hill itself became known as Chapel Hill and the road is now widely known as Chapel Hill Road.

Russel was 82 when he died in 1857. Phoebe died in 1863 at the age of 83. The Hotel has long ago faded into history, with only a few pictures remaining. The name of Chapel is inscribed on road signs and maps and lives on as a memorial to the first pioneer settler of Humphrey, New York.

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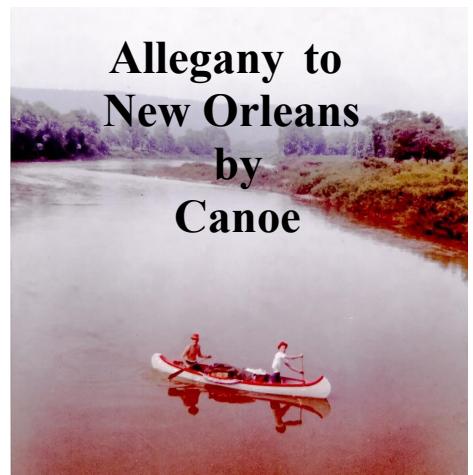
## ADVENTURE STORY - - - FOR SALE

We have a new adventure booklet for sale. And what a story it is! In 1960, Allegany natives Bob Steiger and Mike Rehler decided they needed some adventure in their lives at the end of their sophomore year at St. Bonaventure. It had to be then because Mike had ROTC summer camp at the end of his Junior year, and there would be no chance after graduation in 1962. So they deliberated over several plans, hitchhiking cross-country, or something, just to have an adventure. Because Mike had some experience traveling by canoe on the Allegheny River when he was an Explorer Scout, that idea kept popping up. Finally they decided to go from Allegany to New Orleans – by canoe! They acquired an old, used canoe, fixed it up and on June 13, 1960, they were on their way! They both kept logs of their 54 day trip, and about 12 years ago, set to work combining the logs into one cohesive story. They have very generously donated the finished product to AAHA for us to sell for our benefit. It's a great story and I know you'll enjoy it.

The booklet will cost \$13.00 locally, plus \$3.50 postage for our out-of-town members and friends. It can be purchased at the Citizen Printing House on Main Street in Allegany (cash or check - **NO CREDIT CARDS**) or send a check for cost and postage to AAHA, PO Box 162, Allegany, NY 14706 and we will mail a copy to you.

### 1960 River Travel Log

By Bob Steiger and Mike Rehler



*This is a copy of a sample teacher's contract from 1923, which appeared in our November 1999 issue.*

This is an agreement between Miss\_\_\_\_\_, teacher, and the Board of Education of the \_\_\_\_\_ School, whereby Miss \_\_\_\_\_, agrees to teach for a period of eight months, beginning Sept. 1, 1923. The Board of Education agrees to pay Miss\_\_\_\_\_ the sum of (\$75) per month. Miss\_\_\_\_\_agrees:

1. Not to get married. This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher marries.
2. Not to keep company with men.
3. To be home between the hours of 8:00 pm and 6:00 am unless in attendance at a school function.
4. Not to loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
5. Not to leave town at any time without the permission of the chairman of the Board or Trustees.
6. Not to smoke cigarettes. This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher is found smoking.
7. Not to drink beer, wine or whiskey. This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher is found drinking beer, wine or whiskey.
8. Not to ride in a carriage or automobile with any man other than her brother or father.
9. Not to dress in bright colors.
10. Not to dye her hair.
11. To wear at least two petticoats.
12. Not to wear dresses more than two inches above the ankles.
13. To keep the classroom clean: To sweep the classroom floor at least once daily; to scrub the classroom floor at least once weekly with hot water and soap; to clean the blackboard at least once daily; to start the fire at 7:00 so the room will be warm at 8:00 when the children arrive.
14. Not to use face powder, mascara, or paint the lips.



# Memorials



*For: Peter Wintermantel*

*From: Joseph & Jillian Pleakis*

*The Hastings Family: Linda Hastings*

*Conway, Karen Hastings Butler,*

*James Hastings, David Hastings,*

*Tracy Hastings Scott*

*Leslie Ward & Randall Zoller*

*John & Maria Tierney*

*Cecelia Ladd*

*Mike & Rosanne Capra*

*Mary Marks*

*Laura & Peter Vetter*

*Mike & Martha Nenno*

*For: Fran Wurtz*

*From: Francie Potter*

*For: Carolyn McCoy*

*From: Francie Potter*

*For: Ruby Skroback*

*From: Francie Potter*

*Alice Altenburg*

*For: Jerry Chadderdon*

*From: Alice Altenburg*

*For: Robert Norton*

*From: Kay Norton Edwards and Sue Edwards*

*For: Rosemary Ryan*

*From: Kathy & Pat Premo*

*Mike & Martha Nenno*

*For: All victims of the Covid-19 pandemic*

*From: Anonymous*

## **From the 1899 Allegany Citizen –**

At this time, Allegany has a solid banking house, two railroads, two express offices, an electric street railway, nine mails daily, telephone long distance connections, St. Elizabeth's Female Academy, St. Bonaventure College and Seminary, Allegany Union and High Schools, eleven civic societies, five churches, a canning factory, one sole leather tannery, one creamery butter factory, one sash and band factory, one feed and grist mill, five cheese factories, five saw mills, one shingle mill, two brick yards, three blacksmith and wagon shops, one coopers shop, one harness shop, one wholesale grocery house, four exclusive grocery stores, four large dry goods and general stores, two drug stores, two hardware stores, one gents furnishing store, five hotels, two furniture stores, three cigar factories, one bakery, two barber shops, three meat markets, five saloons, one tailor shop, five shoe shops, two livery stables, one jewelry store, two marble works, one opera house, one greenhouse, four doctors, one attorney-at-law, and an excellent half-mile track.

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

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ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 32  
OLEAN, NY 14760**

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**INSIDE SPECIAL ISSUE:**

Presidents Report  
Hills & Valleys  
Loitering in Downtown Ice Cream Stores

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**WE WILL NOT BE OPEN FOR ANY PROGRAMS OR VISITORS  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

Message us on Facebook or email us at  
[Alleganyheritagecenter@gmail.com](mailto:Alleganyheritagecenter@gmail.com) with your questions.

Take care, stay safe, and wear your mask when in public.

**CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE  
HERITAGE CENTER  
25 N. 2ND STREET, ALLEGANY**