Editor’s Note: The 2014 Tour of Barns will be held on Saturday October 4th. It will celebrate the agricultural heritage and architecture of the town of Hopewell. Here is a brief history of this beautiful town.

Historians have long agreed that there is nothing startling about the town of Hopewell’s past. Even before its humble beginnings when it was created from the town of Gorham in 1822, Hopewell has attracted people who were “quiet, industrious and progressive.” Its pioneer settlers transformed its fertile lands into a progressive agricultural area in the county. The outlet from Canandaigua Lake provided water power to the settlers and its level topography attracted rail and trolley lines.

The Seneca Indians formed an early settlement, Onnaghee, at a location in the western area of the township now located on Smith Road. As early as 1726, missionaries traveling through the region recorded a large Native American village calling it a “Seneca Indian Spot”. Major General John Sullivan also passed through lands that would become Hopewell destroying crops during his military expedition against the Six Nations of Indians in 1779.

In 1798, General Israel Chapin, the local agent for the Six Nation Indians and a man of much authority and prominence in the region accompanied Oliver Phelps, one of the county’s founders on a three-mile trip northeast of Canandaigua on the Canandaigua Outlet. At a perfect place on the outlet they established a small settlement and named it Chapinville. A successful grist mill was built there that monopolized processing of wheat for years until another mill was built in Phelps. The settlement of Chapinville grew. In the early 1800s a post office and a station stop on the Auburn and Rochester Railroad were established there. The combination of the rail line and water power attracted the establishment of the Chapinville Wheel Company in 1891. It manufactured wagon wheels and parts for carriages built in Canandaigua. The little hamlet still stands today on New York State Route 21 and is known as Chapin.

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Two miles north of Chapin on the east side of NYS Rt. 21, near the Manchester town line, is a spot known as Littleville. Today, one can still find remnants of a very early grist mill built in 1791. The Phelps Mill dam and stone raceway are a testament to one of the county’s earliest successes in producing power from the swift flowing waters of the Canandaigua Outlet.

In 1825, after the township was divided away from Gorham, the Ontario County Board of Supervisors purchased a 100-acre farm and established the county Poor House. This investment in public property offered the poor asylum. Several large brick structures were erected in the early 1920s to house and care for the destitute. The main building became known as the County Home and housed the elderly for many years. In the 1990s the county chose to locate a new, modern county government complex on the land and eventually the familiar red brick structures were demolished.

Over the course of history, Hopewell has kept an even step with other communities developing in the county. There is evidence that an early school was built by Calvin Bacon in 1702. After the organization of Ontario County, 12 new school districts were established within the township to serve and educate its residents. Its education legacy lives on, today the town hosts the principal campus of the Finger Lakes Community College.

In its earliest days the town’s large productive agricultural community found a location for a trading post at a crossroads in the center of the town. It was named, Hopewell Center. Although away from water resources and railroad lines it became the place for goods to be exchanged. Today the hamlet is the location of the historic Hopewell Town Hall, the Hopewell Grange, a community park and the community’s historical museum, the Salisbury House.

Despite having rail lines cross the town, the development of the railroad industry in Ontario County had little if any impact of the settlement of Hopewell. The Northern Central Railroad crossed the township on its way to west Canandaigua creating small and convenient stations stops at Lewis (Aloquin) and Ennerdale (Beulah).

Trolleys from the Rochester and Eastern Rapid Transit Company also traversed Hopewell on its way from Geneva to Canandaigua. Ironically, the town does boast of being the birthplace of an early railroad pioneer. William Morrison Flagler, the millionaire industrialist was born in Hopewell in 1830. He worked with John D. Rockefeller in forming the Standard Oil Company. With his wealth he financed and built the Florida East Coast Railway that had a significant influence on the development of the Sunshine State; today his famous name is everywhere in Florida.
An Approach

In the March issue of The Chronicles, I presented a problem faced by the Historical Society. We lack sufficient space for our collections storage and education programming for future needs. I could have entitled this article, “Spaced Out at the Museum”, but it could be interpreted the wrong way by some readers who experienced the mind-expanding 1960s; so I chose another title.

In fact, we are out of space. Our 1914 building, designed by famed architect Claude Bragdon, is filled to the rafters, literary, with things that tell the story of our past entrusted to the Historical Society for posterity. Once the reality of our situation settled in, the board and staff decided that rather than focusing on the problem of space we would look at solving it.

At a conference I attended in March, entitled “Building Museums”, I learned that we are not the only museum to have space issues. There were dozens of museums represented and each had its own unique space issues and concerns. There were lectures and workshops on all aspects of museum space solutions.

Some organizations found themselves with budgets that had seven zeroes attached to a decade long project; others were smaller, took far less time to correct and needed only a few hundred of thousand dollars to resolve. I learned about mega museums like the $30,000,000 Frost Museum of Science currently being built on the Miami waterfront. A fascinating projects to hear about that required a county bond issue to resolve.

I kept relating these projects back to our county historical museum in Canandaigua and what it would take to solve our space problem. When I decided to ignore the numbers and focus on the process each used, the common thread emerged. It was the process of developing public awareness and finding relevancy of the museum to its community that developed the local support of successful projects.

To build awareness and of the museum and our programs, we contracted with an event planner to help us create, plan and hold several special events for our community this year. It created new energy and focused the board, volunteers and staff like on new programming and special events.

It has been a busy spring for the Historical Society. “Clash of Empires”, “Love Your History Day”, “National History Day”, “Family Day”, “Mother’s Day”, “Town of Canandaigua Day” were all major successes. Every Wednesday evening in May, we hosted a speaker on history subjects. We will even hold a 5K run June 1st. All these events and programs brought history lovers and community members into the museum, some for the first time. All were impressed with the beautiful building and some commented on the general lack of space.

Could it be that our efforts to get the message out that we are this community’s local history museum, we are a great place to connect with the past AND that we are pretty much in need of more space for what we do? Likely. Could it be that the effort has moved the Ontario County Historical Society further along the rocky road to a new level of community relevancy? The jury is still out on that; there is much more work to do. Later in the year the staff and board will plan public forums to discuss the Historical Society’s role in this the community. The dialogue will help us understand our diversity and hear our community’s ideas on what they want their community history museum to be.

The space issue will still be with us but the solution will start to come into focus.
The Educator’s Post

by Ray Shedrick, Museum Educator

It certainly has been a busy first half of the year here at the Museum. With lots of programming, special events, exhibit openings, and school visits there’s been something for everybody. In March we hosted the annual Finger Lakes Regional History Day Competition with the winner advancing to the State Competition in Cooperstown. We even had one of our students advance to the National Competition!

In April, we hosted our “Clash of Empires” forum with five renowned historians from Cornell, SUNY Oswego, Buffalo State, and Nazareth College coming to the Museum to explain historic events and individuals relevant to our exhibit “Desires, Opportunities, Change: The Shaping of Western New York, 1650-1797.”

Over the past few weeks, Nancy Parsons has been helping kindergartners from the Canandaigua Primary School to learn more about life within colonial towns and farms during their field trips to our Open Hearth Kitchen.

We have also had guest speakers come to the Museum where they discussed a wide variety of topics such as the Vietnam War experience, the Lehigh Valley’s famous “Black Diamond Express” locomotive, Canandaigua’s connection to the first murder-for-hire in New York’s history, and the 1779 Sullivan-Clinton Campaign against the Iroquois just to name a few.

Looking forward, I have been working on some new ideas for school programs with the challenge of making those programs appeal to teachers. The first hurdle that we must overcome in order for us to make our way back into classrooms is making the activities associated with our programs fit in with the current Common Core English and Language Arts (ELA) requirements. As part of that, we also need to ensure that program topics fit in with the individual district curriculums and are “scaffolded” to be grade-level appropriate.

Secondly, we need to reduce the district’s cost of incorporating our programs in with their current classroom activities by eliminating transportation costs. This means that I will likely need to go to them rather than having them come to us. This, of course, puts the burden of travel expenses on the Museum without the ability to raise the advertised price because they would yet again become unappealing due to the cost. This might not be a problem for classrooms in Canandaigua, but we would like to extend the Museum’s reach beyond a single district. By going to them rather than them coming to us, we also eliminate another hurdle - time. With increased pressures placed on teachers as a result of the ongoing implementation of Common Core as well as the new teacher evaluations implemented by the State (which focus on core area test scores), teachers are finding that they have less and less time to devote to Social Studies, which tends to fall outside of the target subjects of Math and Science. Elementary School teachers that I have spoken with say that they are currently devoting about half the amount of class time to Social Studies as they were before Common Core. This raises the final hurdle to our programming making its way back into Ontario County classrooms - Common Core standards and State Teacher Evaluations focused on Math and Science.

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In order to make our programming appeal to teachers, we ultimately need to make the emphasis of our programs Math and Science oriented. This isn’t as difficult as it seems, however, since it merely means that we will use history as a vehicle to teach Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. For example, the pioneers might tell stories of how barns were raised, how food was preserved, how lands were surveyed and sold, or how mills worked, all of which help to explain where Math and Science fit in with everyday life whether in 1814 or 2014. Our new programs will also have the secondary benefit of teaching perspective as well as the importance of civic awareness and involvement.

I am confident that we are up to the task, the only thing that we lack is the funds needed to purchase new costuming and items that will help to make the programs a fun, hands-on, and educational experience for our students. This is why I have created a donation link that I occasionally put up on our Facebook page. We need your continued support to make history in the classroom relevant and fun again.

Ed:
Thank you so much for taking the time from your schedule to share your personal career story and experiences. In a post event survey, several students mentioned your presentation specifically as being very interesting. Thank you again for enriching our student's education.

Lynne Gochenaur,
Marcus Whitman High School

Mr. Varno:
I am the editor of Yates Past, the bi-monthly publication of the Yates County History Center. I was wondering how you would feel about running a blurb in your newsletter for this book that is coming out in May? I have been doing original research and writing articles for Yates Past since 2004. Twenty-two of the articles that have received the most buzz are included in Yates County Chronicles: Stories From Penn Yan, Keuka Lake and the Heart of the Finger Lakes. It is being published by The History Press. The book will be for sale at Stomping Grounds in Geneva; Browser's in Hammondsport; the Yates County History Center and Long's Bookstore in Penn Yan. For those who live outside the area, it will be available on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble. It will be available in both Kindle and Nook editions. It is available on those websites for pre-order now although the book isn't officially available until April 28th.

Rich MacAlpine
Penn Yan, NY

Dear Ed:
I attended the Robert Speigleman talk at FLCC last night. The talk and graphics were simply wonderful. He tied some things together in new ways — he was audacious (in a good way). He gave of himself generously to questions after his two-hour talk. Great idea to have this program. It was almost a full house and it was videotaped, probably by the College. There were some real eye-openers during his presentation.

Leigh Jones

Hi Ed:
As usual it was a great review (and scary too). Thank you for being part of our 2014 Books Sandwiched in program series at the Wood Library. Hope you enjoyed our beautiful new room.

Carol Cimino
What’s in the Collection?
by Wilma Townsend, Curator

Recently, we received an interesting piece of mid-20th century technology – a wire recorder. According to donor Marc Perry, this Webster-Chicago Wire Recorder Model 8-1 was the first such recorder sold in Canandaigua by Rice’s TV and Appliance on Bristol Street in about 1948.

So what is a wire recorder and how does it work? This machine magnetically records, stores and plays analog audio on a thin steel or stainless steel wire wound on a reel. The wire is pulled rapidly across a recording head which magnetizes the wire with an electrical audio signal thereby creating an audio recording. To play the recording, the wire is drawn across the head without an electric signal and the magnetic recording on the wire recreates the original signal at a reduced level.

The history of the wire recorder goes back to 1899 when Danish inventor, Valdemar Poulsen, patented the “Telegraphone”, the first device capable of recording sound magnetically on wire. Although the Telegraphone was not a commercial success, it led the way in the 1920s to the application of wire recording for office dictation and telephone recording, especially when used with vacuum tube electronic amplifiers.

At about the same time, another technology was being developed that would eventually lead to the wire recorder’s obsolescence. Two German companies, AEG and I.G. Farben, teamed up to design an audio recorder that used plastic tape coated with an iron oxide powder. Called the “Magnetophon” or what we would know as a tape recorder, it was, after many improvements, used extensively by the Germans in World War II.

During the 1940s, wire recorders in the US tended to be used primarily for military purposes. During WWII, the Armour Research Foundation developed a portable wire recorder for the US Navy – only a few thousand were made and were used most notably by field journalists.

Following the end of WWII, the wire recorder and the tape recorder were in commercial competition. With the rise of high quality studio recording especially in the entertainment industry, the tape recorder took the lead over the wire recorder. Although the wire recorder had the potential for high fidelity, the tape recorder took hold more quickly with improvements and sales made by the manufacturer Magnecord.

The peak of the wire recorder’s short commercial life came between 1948 and 1949. The novelty of the technology and the ability to record sound at home spurred a great deal of interest. The Webster-Chicago Corp. did find an important market niche with a line of wire recorder dictation machines – similar to the Dictaphone but less expensive. However, the mass market use of wire recorders declined in the early 1950s particularly with the rise of other popular electronic devices such as televisions and stereos that played LP records.

If you would like to see our Webster-Chicago Wire Recorder in use, please watch our Facebook page and The Chronicles for upcoming events when our own “Mr. Technology” will demonstrate how it works along with other historic technological devices.
As many of you know, we recently installed a new exhibit entitled: “Tying the Knot: 200 Years of Wedding Traditions”. While there are twenty-three wedding gowns celebrating the bride, there are many items related to the attire and role of the groom. These include wedding suits, coats, hats, ties as well as historic photographs and marriage certificates.

While menswear in 19th century Ontario County may not have been on the cutting edge of fashion, most grooms would have worn their best suit and accessories for the occasion. Those in higher socio-economic levels of society would have had new attire made or purchased in the finest materials available.

In the early 1800s, finer attire for men included a cutaway coat (cuts back at the waist) with tails, pants replaced breeches, shirts had attached collars worn with a cravat or stock (narrow fabric band wrapped around the collar), and vests were squared at the bottom and had wide lapels. Wools were often used for the coat and pants, linen for shirts, and linen or satin for vests. Fabrics could be quite colorful – royal blues, dark reds, creams, and plaid. By the mid-1800s, groom often wore a black suit with cream accessories and lace handkerchief; accessories came to include silk top hats, white silk vests, gloves and canes.

By the late 1800s, men’s wedding fashion had become less colorful. During the 1880s, a morning coat (sides curve away to the back) or cutaway coat of dark blue or black might be worn with gray trousers and tie and a white vest. The black frock coat with its full skirt became popular again in the 1890s. The morning coat was considered proper formal attire for a morning wedding, while the frock coat was appropriate for the afternoon.

In the early 1900s, a proper gentleman's wedding attire consisted of a frock coat, striped trousers, and a light colored vest. The morning coat regained popularity by 1910, and was in widespread use after WWI. Working men wore a dark suit, which eventually gave way in the 1930s to a formal suit, or tuxedo, often rented for the occasion. For much of the rest of the 20th century, with the exception of wartime weddings with the groom wearing his uniform, the tuxedo or a formal suit was the preferred attire.

Noted in Vanity Fair, May 1926: The turnout of the correctly dressed man at a wedding is identical with that worn on any other occasion when formal day dress is required: namely, the top hat, cutaway coat, striped trousers and black calf or patent leather shoes . . . his cutaway must be cut along smart lines and fit perfectly and his accessories must be correct in every detail. . .
The Chronicles  
June 2014

News and Announcements

• Many volunteers help us out in the museum’s library, but we would like to send a shout out and thank you to long time OCHS member, Roger Strelow, for extracting birth, death and marriage records from years of issues of the Ontario County Times. His contribution has embellished the Historical Society’s genealogical record data base with a great source of information. Thank you Roger.

• On April 30, we were privileged to host Andrea Reithmayr, the Special Collections Librarian for the University of Rochester Bragdon Collection. She presented an informative and riveting story of Claude Bragdon, the architect of the Ontario County Historical Museum. Our museum home is a Georgian revival structure that was completed and occupied in 1914. Another significant Bragdon design you might be familiar with was the New York Central Railroad Station in Rochester.

• We proudly announce the opening of our latest exhibition, “Tying the Knot: 200 Years of Wedding Traditions in Ontario County”. Curated by Wilma Townsend, the exhibit explores the changing designs of wedding garb from 1790 to 1990. It is a must see and is getting rave reviews. The exhibit is open through April 2015.

• Long time members of the Historical Society might remember Michael Aikey. Michael was a member of the Board of Trustees in the 1970s and has stayed in touch over the years. He was involved when the museum was renovated after the Wood Library left our building and took up residence at its current location. Michael graduated from FLCC in 1970 in Humanities. In 1996, sometime after his Historical Society experience, he was appointed by the Governor's office to head the brand new New York State Military Museum in Saratoga where he served until 2013. At the recently held FLCC Graduation, Michael received the Outstanding Humanities Alumni Achievement Award. Congratulations Michael!

• Sales of the City of Canandaigua Centennial 1913 – 2013, a book of Daily Messenger articles written by city historian, Lynn Paulson, has been selling well. We are planning another book signing just in time for Father’s Day. Stop into the museum on Saturday, June 7, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, meet Lynn, and pick up a personalized copy for Dad. He will love the gift.

• We would like to call the reader’s attention to the Town of Gorham Historical Society New Age Newsletter. It is well written and full of interesting history on the town of Gorham. To find out more visit www.gorhamhistoricalsociety.org.

• Our Benefactor’s Reception held each year to thank those who do a bit more to support the Historical Society was held on May 10th. The invitations resembled wedding invitations and the guests were treated to mini-wedding cakes, cucumber delights and finger sandwiches. Beverages were poured by Board Member, J.R. Miller, and the host committee was Board of Trustee Members, Louise Radak and Nancy Hayden. Photography was compliments of Marc Sulkes. The reception offered our special guests an advance look at the new “Exhibit, Tying the Knot: 200 Years of Wedding Traditions in Ontario County”.

• Work continues on the redevelopment of our internet site, www.ochs.org. It will see a total redesign. The feature of the new site will a cloud-based data base that will permit site visitors to search their ancestors and request genealogical research with payment through PayPal online banking services.
Featured Business

Editor’s Note: In each issue of The Chronicles we interview a business member of the Historical Society and introduce their business to our membership.

Business: CIG Insurance Agency – Canandaigua, NY
Chris Hubler, Owner

Home: Canandaigua, NY – was born and raised in Fairport, NY
My family and I have lived here since 2008

Profession: Partner and Principle of CIG Insurance Agency
Insurance agent selling auto, home, commercial, life insurance
Managing the day to day operation of CIG

Hobbies: Much of my time spent away from the office is spending time with my family and being involved in sports, skiing, and volunteering my time to the Canandaigua community

Last book read: The Killer Angels — the story of the four days of the Battle of Gettysburg in the American Civil War

Quote: “Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is.” Bob Feller…

Greatest Accomplishments: There are a few – personally, it’s my children and my wonderful wife, Lisa. Professionally, being able to survive, grow and thrive in the same business for over 23 years.

Other: Besides my career of owning an insurance agency and the daily responsibilities of handling client insurance needs I am involved in many other community activities. I currently serve on the board for the following organizations:

- Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce
- Ontario County Historical Society
- Clark Manor House
- Merrill Hose Volunteer Fire Department

I am also heavily involved with The Canandaigua Rotary Club serving as chairperson for several committees including the RPO Christmas Concert. I also coach basketball at St. Mary’s School in the winter months and coach baseball for 14 and 15 year olds during the summer. I have been married 19 years this June to my lovely wife, Lisa and we have 3 children, Ryan 14, Maren 12 and Eily 7.
The OCHS Organization

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Betty McMahon  Research Coordinator*
Gene Rogers  Building Support*
Linda Alexander  Librarian*
Darlyss Boates  The Chronicles Editor*
*Volunteer

We wish to extend a special thanks to all of the volunteers who donate so many countless hours in support of the Historical Society.

Address correspondence to:
Ontario County Historical Society
55 North Main Street
Canandaigua, New York  14424

We are open Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m; Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Closed on major holidays.

Trustees
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Webpage: www.ochs.org
Email: museum@ochs.org
Please “Like” us on Facebook! Just go to www.facebook.com and search for the Ontario County Historical Museum.

Business Members

We wish to thank the business members listed below for their continued support. Please consider them when purchasing goods and services. In addition to these business members, we also appreciate the small donations we receive from dozens of local businesses in Ontario County each year.

1840 Inn On The Main  JSJ Decorating
Aberle Eye Care  Mitchell Pierson Jr. Inc.
B. & E. Electric  Northside Apartments
CIG Insurance Agency  Patty’s Place
Canandaigua Carpets Inc.  Phelps Sungas Inc.
Canandaigua Federal Credit Union  Randall Farnsworth Auto Group
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The Granger Homestead Society Inc.  Star Cleaners
Dennis Hogan — Genealogist  Velmex Inc.
Johnson-Kennedy Funeral Home Inc.  Wegmans Markets

We Welcome These New Members

Donna Mirsky Bennett
Amy Charlton
Bill and Lynne Keiper
Ellen Lux
Karon Morgan
Philip and Katherine Nevin
Judith Wellman
Now that summer is here it’s time to relax and enjoy a good book. What better way than to read some of the classics that bring back so many memories of spending time on lake and summers gone by. The OCHS bookstore has several titles that will stir up those fun summer days.

Roseland: Playground of the Finger Lakes. Small Wonder - The Story of Squaw Island. Canandaigua-Canandaigua Lake Postcards. A popular favorite; Around Canandaigua, A Pictorial History. The Natural Science Camp at Tichnor Point by town historian, Ray Henry, and his most recent book, Memories of The Heart II, an oral history about the lives of farming families on the west side of the lake. If reading is not your thing, we also have a DVD; West Lake Legacy- the Road to Onanda, a wonderful historic journey down the lake to Camp Onanda. Our most recent publication, City of Canandaigua Centennial 1913-2013 is also available and we will be having a book signing by the author, city historian, Lynn Paulson, on Saturday, June 7th from 12pm -2 pm at the Museum. The perfect Father’s Day gift.

Local history books are great gifts for graduations, birthdays and welcoming new homeowners to the area. Most of these publications can be purchased for under $25. Stop in the Museum today or visit our website bookstore at www.ochs.org.
The Chronicles

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 1: A Run for the Past – First Annual Ontario County Historical Society 5 K Run Fundraiser
June 6-7: Path Thru History Weekend I – celebrate by visiting the museum, free walking tours
June 14-15: Path Thru History Weekend II – celebrate by visiting the museum, free walking tours
June 18: Museum Talk – 7pm at the museum – Ray Henry “The Steamboats of Canandaigua Lake”
July 12: Museum Birthday Party – 2pm to 5pm – come to the museum – ragtime music, food, games and family fun – celebrate the 100th birthday of the Ontario County Museum
July 26-27: Waterfront Arts Festival – Kershaw Park Canandaigua Lake – museum booth sells books, tee shirts, memberships and miscellany – 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday – stop in and say, “Hi”
August 9-10: Rotary Pier Fest Museum Social Booth – free – located on the Canandaigua City Pier, fun, games and history – 10am to 8pm – Saturday and Sunday – stop by and talk history
August 16: Travel Log – 7pm at the museum – Rob and Carole Lillis will share their 2013 summer adventure, a drive in a 1972 MGB the entire length of Highway US 20
Sept. 12-13: Walk into the Past 2014 – meet the personalities in Canandaigua’s West Avenue Cemetery – a cemetery walk for the entire family
October 4: Save the Date – It is the 2014 Tour of Barns – this year we celebrate the agricultural history of the town of Hopewell – barn expert, Ray Henry, is the Event Chairman – Saturday 10am to 5pm

NOTICE: If your address changes seasonally, please let us know the alternative address and the effective dates.

Or Current Resident

Canandaigua, New York 14424
35 North Main Street