Stitches in Time

by Nancy Hayden, Member Board of Trustees

Did you have a relative living in the Canandaigua area around 1905? If so, you may very well find their signature embroidered on a quilt created by The Elizabeth Hamlin Class at the Congregational Church! The red and white cotton signature quilt was spotted hanging in the Finger Lakes Gallery and Frame in 2016 and was purchased by the museum for its collection. Once the quilt was acquired, an index of the signatures was compiled that provides addresses, occupations, bits of personal information and in some cases, photos of the signers and various signer’s homes. This makes searching for a name more efficient, informative and fun! The quilt will be displayed at the museum so you can examine this artifact in person. If you find a name that is near and dear to you, the museum will gladly offer you a paper copy of the appropriate quilt square. We would love to meet relatives of the signers! Lovers of quilts and local history will experience an emotional connection with this lovely piece of our history – with or without a family connection.

Why was the quilt created? The Hamlin Class chose to raise funds for the local orphan asylum by sewing a signature/album quilt. The orphan asylum, a large brick institution, was located approximately where the Office Restaurant resides today on North Road. Individuals paid to sign the quilt and seventeen paid to sign multiple times! Once completed, the church raffled off the quilt. According to the book Signature Quilts by Judi Stewart and Joan Hall, “Church sponsored quilts were usually not raffled because of the stricture against gambling”. In a booklet found in the museum’s ephemera collection summarizing the history of the class, it was mentioned that the class members feared that… “the raffle might be questioned but was not”. A notice appeared in the Ontario County Times on March 10, 1905 that confirms the raffle took place.

continued on page 5
From the Director’s Desk

by Edward Varno

What a Summer
By any standard, all records of visitor attendance at the Historical Society have been broken this summer. Amazing numbers of people have been coming to the museum to see our two current exhibits, “Votes for Women” and “1964, Gone But Not Forgotten”.

The subject matter for these two popular exhibits came from two totally different eras and historic sources, but from an audience perspective, they both pinpointed and caught the attention of our target demographic. Those in the cohort of the mid-50s to 80s age group, took the time to respond to our marketing message and came to take in the exhibitions. They also brought their children and grandchildren to learn about early 1960s community history and to learn about the social movement that earned women the right to vote.

In the “1964” gallery, an added nostalgic benefit the visitors enjoy is the 1964 culture-ama. This multi-media, 3-dimensional presentation offers visitors a real look into the social culture of the time. Whether it’s toys, television show premieres, music, cigarette and automobile advertisements, the video kiosks are always running, entertaining visitors, young and old alike. This might be attributed to the current popularity of Me-TV and similar nostalgic format stations. Nearly every day you can switch on your flat screen monitor and watch episodes of the Munsters or the Beverly Hillbillies.

The artifacts assembled include electric football games, board games, like Jeopardy, beer cans, personal items, and souvenirs from the 1964 World’s Fair. Visitors linger here and reminisce. It is fun to chat with them.

In contrast, the suffrage exhibit, “Votes for Women”, is a serious look at a significant social movement. Parents and grandparents bring their daughters in to show them the work and time that it took for women to gain suffrage rights. In addition, a great number of the suffrage exhibit visitors come alone and take the time to read and understand the timeline. This exhibit has fewer 3-dimensional artifacts than its 1964 neighbor, but the message of the presentation is just as strong.

In the spirit of transparency, we went over budget on both exhibits. But what we can do with proper funding is amazing. We have very talented people involved with our Historical Society. Special thanks to Wilma Townsend, our long-time curator and the dozen or so historians who contributed research for the suffrage exhibit. Likewise, Dave Hayden and Greg Russell contributed much of their own time and money to make 1964 the over-the-top exhibit it is.

It has been an interesting summer in a number of ways here at the Historical Society. Our visitation is up and so is the new clear glass donation box.
What’s in the Collection?

by Wilma Townsend, Curator

Recently, OCHS received a collection of items that once belonged to Senator John Raines of Canandaigua. Born in 1840, John Raines was the son of Rev. John Raines II and Mary Remington Raines. He attended Canandaigua Academy, later entered Albany Law School in 1860 and set up a law practice in Geneva. During the Civil War, he served in the 85th New York Infantry. In 1866 he returned to Canandaigua and purchased the octagon house at the corner of Gorham and Wood streets where he and his wife, Catherine Wheeler Raines, raised their family of six children. Mr. Raines was very involved in public affairs at the local, state and national level. He was active in the development and improvement of Canandaigua schools. From 1880 to 1890, he served in the New York State Assembly and Senate. From 1890 to 1894, he served in the U.S. Congress. He introduced many modern ideas and progressive laws that demonstrated his devotion to the people and to society.

Senator Raines’ daughter, Kate, who married John Kessler, spent much of her adult life in Philadelphia; she and her husband are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. Kate and her family kept many family heirlooms that were passed down through several generations to the donor who has generously given these items to the Historical Society. Some of these include: family photos, letters, personal items such as a pocket knife and a bracelet, silverware and household textiles. The Raines family and their descendants have been longtime donors to the Historical Society dating back to 1908 when Senator Raines donated the Lincoln life mask to the collection!

The Oliver Phelps Fund

Thank you to the following donors:

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Women in the “Great War for Civilization”
On April 6, 2017, the centennial of American participation in World War I began. It will continue until November 11, 2018 when we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day; what we have called Veteran’s Day since 1954.

In truth, American women had been participating in wartime activities since the war broke out in the summer of 1914. Several local teachers, for example, were on vacation in Europe and found themselves near the front lines. What was, perhaps, most frustrating for them and their friends back home was that there was no clear enemy that first year of the war. In 1915 and 1916, the preparedness controversy heated up in this country as more and more Americans reluctantly began to side with Britain, France, and their allies. Many advocates for preparedness were women. Many of them participated in local preparedness parades in 1916. Women, as well as men, served as census enumerators for the 1917 Military Census and Inventory. The Democrat and Chronicle (June 12, 1917) reported on a “corps of young women” census volunteers from Phelps. Preparing for total war, Gov. Whitman directed that 5.4 million New Yorkers be interviewed and their skills noted. Half of them were women between the ages of 18 and 45. The Military Census resulted in the men being registered in the state militia and subject to the draft. Hidden somewhere in an old family trunk or scrapbook may be the 1917 census card for your great-grandmother! Local chapters of the American Red Cross began organizing in 1914 across Ontario County. Before the war was over, nearly every village had its own chapter. Many members of the Red Cross were women. The national Red Cross was designated as the official recruiting agency for army nurses. Local chapters rolled bandages, trained for local emergencies, and sent “care packages” to the troops. Overseas Red Cross volunteers, including women, provided relief and recreation service to the troops.

Toward the end of the conflict, women, as well as men, fell victim to typhoid and other diseases that plagued the sprawling army camps, in particular. That was the reason that several army nurses from Canandaigua and Clifton Springs hospitals were kept on duty at the start of the occupation of Coblenz, Germany. They included Ida Hibbard, Margaret Bradley, Minnie Kane, and Myra Ellsworth. The worst of those diseases was the influenza epidemic of 1918. Army nurse, Katherine R. Connelly of Canandaigua was one of several local women who lost their lives to disease while serving in the military. Marsha D. McKechnie, a Red Cross volunteer (but not an army nurse) from Canandaigua, died in New York City on her way to France.

During the war, more than four million Americans served in one of the military services. Of that number, two million served overseas. Most of them were men, to be sure, but more than 25,000 were young women. About half that number were women serving in (rather than with) the military forces for the first time — Army and Navy nurses; Navy “Yeomanettes” (officially Yeomen (F)); members of the new Marine Corps Reserve (F); and “Hello Girls,” the female telephone operators recruited to serve in the Signal Corps at the headquarters of the American Expeditionary Force. How many more women served in non-military social activities?
service agencies like the Salvation Army, the YMCA and YWCA, can only be estimated. No real count was possible, in part because many of them served as part-time volunteers on the home front, and because reliable counts were never made. Countless more young women, including high school girls like Margaret (Baier) Finn, a native of Warsaw and long-time resident of Canandaigua, sold war bonds.

The vote on woman suffrage in New York took place on November 8, 1917. The participation of women in the war effort was an effective point made by suffragists advocating for the right of women to vote. That is an important point for us to consider as we transition from a focus on suffrage to the World War I Centennial this year. I will be exploring this story in much more detail in a program at the museum on September 13th. I hope to see you there!

“The disposal of the album quilt, District Attorney R. F. Thompson acting auctioneer, afforded amusement. Mr. Thompson secured the quilt for the sum of $16.” The total funds realized from the sale of signatures and the raffle was $112.33. In 2016 that would equal $3043.12!

Interesting facts about the quilt:

- There were 334 signatures written in pencil on the 16 fabric squares and embroidered by 6 women.
- The index reveals that Bristol St., Gibson St., West Ave., S. Main St., N. Main St. and W. Gibson St. had the highest number of signers. In total 39 city streets were represented. Additional signatures belonged to those living in Bristol, Canadice, Richmond, Naples, East Bloomfield and the Town of Canandaigua.
- The signers were clerks, students, business owners, retirees, teachers, farmers, lawyers, Lisk employees, laborers, bankers and many homemakers.
- Some signatures were limited to a first name only, a nickname or just initials. This made researching their addresses and occupations challenging!

This quilt square shown on page 1 was signed by employees and patrons of the Geo. B. Anderson Dry Goods Store. In addition to complete names, you can spot a first name only signature, a name with their occupation noted, a nickname, and signature using initials. Some signatures on other blocks were made with great style and flourish. Each block is a fascinating study! A bonus discovery was that the quilt was part of the New York Quilt Project 1988 – 1991. This project was organized by the American Folk Art Museum with the goal of documenting quilts made in New York State before 1940. This signature quilt was one of six thousand quilts documented. Below is the exhibit label attached to the quilt.

**How was information gathered about the 334 persons?** The museum’s exhaustive collection of city directories, newspapers, ephemera and photographs was essential in uncovering facts about the lives of our signers. In several cases, online resources such as Ancestry.com helped to fill in information gaps, or construct or clarify family relationships. Information on some signers has not been found but is still being pursued! With the wealth of information and assistance available at the museum this was fun research project.

Please set aside some time to visit the museum and see the quilt. We also have two new exhibits to see while you are there: “Votes for Women” and “1964, Gone But Not Forgotten”. Plus, if you have a yen to research something of personal interest, we can help you. Just ask! That’s why we’re here and what we love to do!
Your Historical Society

DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) roof repair check presentation

Roof top of museum after repair

Main gallery of the “1964” exhibit

Plein air artist painting in front of the Historical Society

Senator Pam Helming stopped into the museum to see this summer’s exhibits
Viral Leanings
by Maureen O’Connell Baker, Social Media Coordinator

Note: The article below was posted on our Facebook page in June of 2014, and it generated a viral response. Apparently the lady mentioned below who recently passed, touched many, many lives, and it’s my wish to share this historic post with you.

Helen Volpe, an Elegant Woman
It’s been a long week at OCHS, but late Friday afternoon my entire reason for loving this place really came into focus. We had a visit from our favorite centenarian, Helen Volpe. Helen was born and raised in Canandaigua and is 102 years young! She walked in needing nothing more than the gentle grasp on her boyfriend’s arm. While Helen and Tom were enjoying our wedding gown exhibit, I pulled up this image from our collection on my computer. It’s a circus parade down Main St., Canandaigua c.1910. My reason for this is that Helen’s grandfather was a merchant on the east side of Main St. and his store is pictured here — A.W. Gilbert Jewelers.

I showed this to Helen, just as you see it here. She knew it was Main St. and I witnessed her face and eyes light up as I slowly enlarged to really capture the details. She quickly pointed out the jewelry store and was beaming. This is the very place of her first job, when she was 8 years old. She told the story how it was her responsibility to dust all the items in the cases. It was a job she took quite seriously, and truly enjoyed. Helen also recalled the other merchants pictured here, as well as their names and what they sold. Her eyes would light up when she spoke of her grandfather taking her and a friend to Arvanites for ice cream sundaes. She mentioned riding Dinky — the trolley car, as she headed to the lake for ice skating. Her memory was as clear as if this happened yesterday, and she never stopped smiling.

The couple left shortly thereafter, as it was the night to grab a quick dinner then off to the casino for dancing. Yep, Helen went dancing every few weeks. As I watched them leave, I thought about what just happened… then a huge smile came to my face. Helen had been connected to her past… we did our job.

Helen passed in 2016, but for a brief moment in her life, I was able to sneak in and relive the past with her. I will never forget that day, nor will I ever forget that look in her eyes and her gracious smile.

A.W. Gilbert Jewelers lives on at OCHS. A mantle clock from the store, generously donated by Helen, proudly holds vigil on the fireplace in our reading room.
News and Announcements

- We are happy to announce our two new fundraising projects for this fall:
  - The first is a bicycle rally on August 27th, named in honor of John North Willys. Willys was an industrialist from Canandaigua who started out in the late 1800s as a bicycle maker in town and eventually became a renowned motorman who took the Overlander automobile company to a respected spot in the automotive industry. At its peak, his company was second only to Henry Ford’s. Go to www.ochs.org for more information on this event.
  - The second event is a speak easy theme evening full of fun, events and excitement. Shhh! Don’t tell anybody, but it will be at a secret location known only to those who purchase tickets. The date will be October 7th. Visit www.ochs.org to become a VIP or to purchase tickets.

- Elliott Ness, leader of the Untouchables, recently contacted the Historical Society seeking the location of the October 7th “Speak Easy”. We refused to comply with the request to protect the safety and identity of those who will be in attendance. If you are contacted by him or any of his Untouchables, please do not be a stool pigeon and spill the beans. Join us at the event!

- We are basking in the public praises of our current summer exhibits, “Votes for Women” and the multi-media, “1964, Gone But Not Forgotten”. Visitation has been unusually high and the new 15” high, clear glass donation jar has been emptied twice and deposited in our operations account. If you haven’t seen either of these exhibitions, stop in. You will not regret it. Our curator and the historians from across the county are responsible for the suffrage exhibit and Dave Hayden and Greg Russell concocted the retro tribute the year, 1964.

- Our History Book Club resumes this fall. Three books on the suffrage movement will be on the agenda. Museum educator, Preston Pierce, will lead the discussions. If you are interested in joining this season or want additional information, Preston can be reached at preston.pierce@flcc.edu.

- Next year’s education theme here at the Historical Society will be a tribute to the “War to End all Wars” more traditionally known as WWI. In addition to a museum exhibit on our local involvement in the war, a series of educational programs are planned. A fourteen part, 1988 CBS documentary series narrated by Robert Ryan will be featured here at the museum. A bi-weekly showing of the series episodes with discussion led by Preston Pierce, will occupy 7 months of our educational programming in 2018. We will also look into the 1918 influenza epidemic and its impact on our county’s health.

- Remember the WWI movie, Sergeant York, staring Gary Cooper? We plan to have a community showing of that classic as well. Watch your mail and e-mail for more information and dates.

- We want to mention the passing of a long-time member of the Historical Society and past Mayor of Canandaigua, Earl Coleates. Earl loved Canandaigua and the history of this great county. We were proud to host the community reception after his memorial service. Many donations were made to the Historical Society in his honor. (See the Oliver Phelps Fund.)
Next year, the museum will focus on and present an exhibit on World War I and its impact on Ontario County. The US entered the war on April 6, 1917 and an allied victory was achieved on November 11, 1918. Not only will we look at the local men and women who served but also the ways in which local communities contributed to and were affected by the war effort – including the Red Cross, Victory gardens, and propaganda used to encourage patriotism and national service.

To enhance our upcoming exhibit on World War I, we are seeking information and artifacts on local service members, family and community activities that supported the war effort as well as diaries, letters, and photos. If you have any items and/or information that you would like to share with us, please contact me at curator@ochs.org or 585-394-4975. We look forward to presenting this exhibit!

**Mail Box**

Dear Maureen,

We thoroughly enjoyed our preview of the “1964” exhibit. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and enthusiasm in arranging the exhibit tour. It was an added delight to meet Dave Hayden that morning.

Sincerely,

Linda Ingraham and Herb Venson

Dear Friends,

Enclosed is our membership donation. We especially enjoyed the events honoring woman’s suffrage and we are happy to support your many worthwhile endeavors.

Sincerely,

Mike and Kathleen Hoar

Dear Ed and Wilma,

We so appreciated being contributors to OCHS’s wonderful woman’s suffrage exhibit. The amount of materials and its presentation was most impressive. We were honored to be part of such a noble endeavor. We wish you two could be cloned and shared with other organizations.

Best regards,

Pat and Phil Parr

Thank you Nancy,

We are thrilled you were pleased with our contribution. We very much enjoyed the “1964” exhibit and the opening party!

Thank you so much for partnering with NYWCC and giving us a very nice presence front and center at your welcome desk.

We very much value our partnership and look forward to promote traffic to and through your “1964” exhibit to all our guests.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Berndt
General Manager
New York Wine and Culinary Center
Canandaigua

**We Welcome These New Members**

Barney S. Goldstein
Elizabeth Walker
Donald Kent
Mike and Kathleen Hoar
The OCHS Organization

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Wilma Townsend  Curator
Ernie Maiorani  Accountant
Maureen Baker  Receptionist
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Barb Hill  Part-time Receptionist
Karen Strapp  Webmaster*
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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.,
Wednesdays until 9:00 p.m.; Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Closed on major holidays.

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
Aberle Eye Care
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Canandaigua National Bank
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Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion
Star Cleaners
Sutter’s Marina
Town of Manchester
VelMex Inc.
Wegmans Markets Inc.
Willow Bend Farms
Wood Library
Mr. Jerald Zimmerman
The popular Nolan's Restaurant had a catastrophic fire on July 19, 2017. They have pledged to rebuild and plan to open in February 2018.

Photo by Barb Hill.

Tarquini's Drive-in occupied the space in past years.

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**Membership Benefits in the Ontario County Historical Society**

- Receive Regular Museum Mailings — Keep Up-to Date on all Society Activities
- Reduced Admission to Society Events and Fund Raisers, including Tour of Homes (admission to the museum is always free)
- Free assistance in the Museum's Rare Documents/Genealogy Library

**Membership in Time Travelers, a National Museum Benefit Program**

10% savings on Museum Books Shop purchases

Subscription to our quarterly newsletter, CHRONICLES

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**Ontario County Historical Society Membership Application Form**

Name(s) ___________________________ Email ___________________________ Phone ___________________________

Exactly as it will appear on the Membership Card

Address ___________________________ ZIP ___________________________

Optional Alternate Winter Address from ___/___ to ___/___ ___________________________ ZIP ___________________________

**General Membership Support:**

- Sr. Citizen $30; Individual $35; Family $50; Friend $75

**Centennial Club Level**

- Centennial $100; Benefactor $150; Heritage Circle $250; Director $500+

Please accept my additional gift of $ ______

I am interested in making an endowment gift; please contact me.

Total Membership: $ ______ + Additional gift: $ ______ = Total $ ______

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- Cash __________ Check __________
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Exp Date ___/___; VC Code ______

Signature: ___________________________

Return to:

OCHS; 55 No. Main St.
Canandaigua, NY 14424
The Chronicles

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 27: 9:00 a.m. — “John North Willys Bike Rally”; Outhouse Park Canandaigua

September 13: 7:00 p.m. at Historical Society, Historian’s Talk — “Military Women of WWI”, Preston Pierce, Museum Educator and Ontario County Historian

September 20: 7:00 p.m. at Historical Society, Historians Talk — “The History of Brigham Hall”, Lynn Paulson, Canandaigua City Historian

October 7: 6:00 p.m. — “Speak Easy Party”; location is a secret; event ends when the cops arrive

October 10: “Annual Meeting” notice and ballot mailed to the membership

October 31: Last day to return Annual Meeting reservations and ballots

November 4: 6:30 p.m. — “Social Hour”; 7:00 p.m. “Annual Dinner and Meeting of the Society”; FLCC Stage 16