

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Old Cedar Hill School House, Selkirk, New York 12158



President's Message *W I N T E R* *2 1 0 4*

As our new year begins, it is a busy time for everyone. Special thanks to all who served as officers, committee chairs and volunteers to assist this Association in any way. What a great year 2012-13 was.

Now as we begin the 2013-14 season, planning has been ongoing. Many new offerings are in the works and everyone is looking forward to a great year.

We regret the loss of Charter Members, Mrs. Donald (Marion) Camp and Mrs. Donald (Joan) Stahlman. They will be missed by all. Mrs. Stahlman in her generosity donated her iron collection. We are grateful for this new addition to our collections. We also acknowledge the donation of clothing which made our summer exhibit, a Walk in the Park, a success.

Our ice cream social was held and all enjoyed the delicious ice cream donated by Stewart's.

Our first meeting of the season presented our very own Member and Bethlehem Town Historian, Susan Leath, who presented Bethlehem Basics, a program well received and attended.

Thanks to our own, Charles Fuller, Buildings and Grounds, we have improved lighting in our museum to highlight the wonderful displays done by our Museum Display committee.



October 17, 2013 meeting regarding the new book, Five Rivers, The History of a Special Place, co-authored by Rose Ann Fogarty, the speaker

All Members should have received their new blue 2013-14 Membership book with our upcoming programs listing. If by some chance you did not, please request one when you attend our next meeting.

We received an invitation to attend an Albany County Historical Association proposal to promote Exploring Collaborating/Partnering Initiatives and See King's Place, 29 North Swan Street, Albany, NY on Thursday, December 17, 2013 from 11:30 am to 1:30 p.m. Meeting was cancelled to be rescheduled at a later date. Information will be distributed when received. Questions may be directed to Wendy Burch, ACHA Executive Director at 436-09826 or by email wendy@tenbroeckmansion.org.

I hope to see everyone at our programs so we can have a banner year of attendance. As always if there are any questions, feel free to contact me.

Kathy

Museum OPEN on Sundays in February

Sunday Afternoons from 2 to 4

February 2, 9, 16 & 23

Featuring Farming in Bethlehem.

Our program for February 20th at 2 PM will be "Working with Farm Animals" by Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Lyman. Free and open to the public.

JANUARY PROGRAM

Our January 16th Program will not be held at the Historical Association. We are having a tour of Schuyler Mansion. We will meet at the Mansion at 2 PM for the tour.

The mansion is located at 32 Catherine Street in Albany. Please phone President, Kathy Newkirk, at 767-2980 by January 13th if you plan to attend.

MEMORIES OF THE FOUR CORNERS

By Robert Mulligan

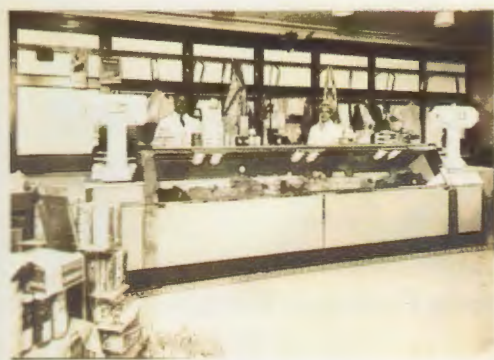
My family moved from Albany to Delmar in 1949 when I was ten years old. We were part of the great migration of families to the suburbs which would transform America's geography and culture -for better and ill. When I look back upon that vast change, I am struck by how later immigrants to Delmar tend to accept what they see as having always been there. They see bricks and mortar. That stuff is pretty permanent. But let me mention some of the changes I remember.

Let's begin at Swifty's, a fine place to start. I knew it as Brockley's Tavern, a place remarkably little changed over the past half century. However, you can no longer see the candy and sundries store next to it, long torn down, that space now the tented outdoor dining area during the summer. Just think, alfresco dining, with music, in staid, small town Delmar.

Across from Swifty's, on the point where Delaware and Kenwood meet, stood a Mobil station. This is now also long gone, to be replaced by the parking lot for McCarroll's grocery, and a delightful little park, with greenery and the town clock.

A Tydol gas station stood on the opposite point of the Four Corners. Here there was a small island in the pavement. I remember a large evergreen tree, but maybe one was brought there for the Holidays and decorated with lights. (I suppose I had better call it "a Holiday tree," and not a Christmas tree. There is another change in the last 60 years!)

Now the island is a different shape and holds some relic yellow bricks from Normansville. The gas station is now long gone, replaced by the Key Bank, which took Schnur and Wood's feed and hardware store next to it on Delaware Avenue. Imagine - a feed store at the Four Corners, itself a relic of Bethlehem's rural past.



The old tiny butcher shop with its hexagon white tile floor is now Great Wall Chinese take-out. As a ten year old I remember the giant longhorns displayed on the wall above the cooler room door.

The butchers were Italian Americans. Next door was the Leonardo shoe store and repair shop, with its fine odor of new leather. Then came a barber shop with Italian American barbers. I guess that corner was Delmar's "Little Italy".

Let's walk along Delaware Avenue towards the city. On the left, the Depression era WPA post office stood, and across the street, St. Thomas Church. This simple, white stucco building faced Delaware Avenue. When the new and much larger church was built it was turned to face Adams Street. And, incidentally, to face the new St. Thomas school.

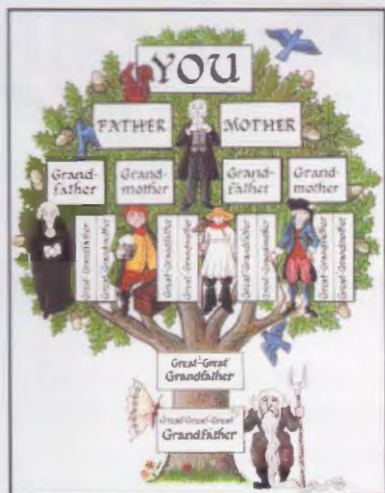
Walking farther, we see on our left the A&P supermarket. This seemed a pretty big building to me, but I guess you could fit three of them in one of our megaboxes of today. Parking was in the lot between the bank and what is today the Spotlight office. As a high school junior and senior I worked at A&P as a bag packer, shelf stocker and cashier. This was good training. My wife says I am still excellent at fitting things into bags, and car trunks. Do you "pack" plastic bags, or just throw stuff into them?

So I carried a paper bag filled with groceries, on each hip, up to the parking lot. We had wheeled wire grocery carts, but only for the inside of the store. Nobody thought much about the labor involved in toting those bags to the car, and I did not think ill of the person if I did not get a tip. Tips were nice, but carrying the bag was part of the job. Now the A&P store is "Daydreams".

Continuing along Delaware, we come to "the Dump". A Friday night movie there was the best way to have fun in town. I remember waiting outside to buy a ticket, with a lot of girls from BCHS. All wore lightweight "golf windbreakers",

Continued on the back panel

By Art Young There are always new things that come out from many different fields of genealogy research and I thought that the following might be of some interest in helping with your research if you, in fact, either come from a large family of brothers and sisters or have found that your grandparents or great grandparents come from a large family.



When doing genealogy, do you often find your desk buried in Post-its? Do your notebooks and folders stack up like leaning towers, or is your computer desktop scattered with Microsoft Word files of family research? If note organization is an issue for you, then the free online program Evernote is the answer. Not only can it assist in basic organization of your research, but you can also search for information by keyword. And no need to worry about losing important information – each note is synced to the Cloud, and can then be re-opened on any device! This hour-long On Demand webinar will teach you all the tricks and tips for turbo-charging your note-taking.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER Lisa Louise Cooke is the owner of Genealogy Gems, a genealogy and family history multi-media company. She is Producer and Host of the Genealogy Gems Podcast, the popular online genealogy audio show as well as the Family History: Genealogy Made Easy podcast, both available at www.GenealogyGems.com in iTunes and through the Genealogy Gems app. and free toolbar. In addition to Genealogy Gems, Lisa works closely with Family Tree Magazine as producer and host of the Family Tree Magazine Podcast, a regular article author for the magazine, and curriculum developer and instructor for Family Tree University. Her most recent book is titled: "Turn Your iPad into a Genealogy production."

ART YOUNG is a valuable Member of our Association, as our Genealogy Chairman, both at our meetings and in our newsletter. He has given us very good information on tracing our Family History. He is a Past President, is one of our Trustees and has always given us good advice on our finances. This is about one of the activities he does in his personal life.

As a young parent he and his wife, Anne, used to take their children to swimming meets in the school – sitting there watching the swimmers going back and forth – back and forth – back and forth. Watching some people running along the pool, Art asked them what they were doing? They were there to watch and judge the swimmers. Art asked if he could do that too? The answer was "yes".

Art then took training and became a swim official. He did join them, and has enjoyed doing it so much that recently, when he became a Great Grandfather of a baby boy, on many days he can still be seen leaving his home late in the day to go and judge swimming matches. This article has a Surprise Ending – Art Young Cannot Swim!

COLLECTIONS

Unfortunately Marion Camp and Joan Stahlman, both charter members of the Bethlehem Historical Association, recently passed away.

Joan Stahlman has donated her iron collection to our museum. We have 21 to 27 antique irons which Joan gave to the collections. The irons range in size from a couple inches to larger ones that have a spout on the back for water to be added. We are thankful for this donation to our collections.

SNOW BIRDS

If you arrange to have your mail temporarily forwarded to a different address, please know that the post office does not forward our mail due to our bulk mailing status.

In addition, we are charged fifty cents each time a piece of mail is returned to us as undeliverable.

In order to receive your mail without interruption, and also save BHA unnecessary expense, we ask that you please notify us, in advance, of your temporary address and the dates that you will be using it.

Please contact the corresponding secretary, Karen Beck, at 439 9260 with this information. Note that if we have forwarded your mail in the past, and there are no changes this year, we will automatically take care of it so there is no need to call. Thank you!

MEMORIES OF THE FOUR CORNERS

By Robert Mulligan
Cont'd

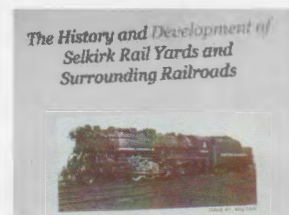
each class having a different color: red, blue, green and yellow. As you can imagine, filled with junior and senior high school kids, the place was pretty noisy. But we were there to see the movie, and would quiet down for the good parts.

I am still embarrassed when I think of one night, rowdier than usual. I had just finished my cardboard box of "Milk Duds" and for some reason put the open end

in my mouth and blew. This produced a loud and distinctive squeak. I just wasn't thinking, for I could see the usher near me, slowly coming up the aisle. He got me out into the lobby and dressed me down. I deserved it, and didn't try to weasel out of it. He let me go back into the movie, and I hope I have been a little more forgiving of kid's transgression after this lesson to me. Maybe I am, maybe not. Today the Dump is 333 Café and other businesses and offices. Now we pass Goochee's Garage, Stewart's and arrive at the Veteran's Memorial Park. This was about the limit of my world, although sometimes I would ride my bike down to the American Legion Post on West Poplar just to see the two cannons there on the lawn.

One cannon was a World War II 37mm anti tank gun, with rubber tires. More interesting was the Spanish-American War Hotchkiss one pounder, with steel protective shield and wooden spoke wheels. No doubt these have long since rotted away and the gun discarded. I saw the 37mm being towed past last Memorial Day and was glad to see it. But the missing Hotchkiss was the rare and historic gun. Alas.....

If you have returned from vacationing in other areas, please notify Karen Beck so she can change your address to the local one.



Pictures from our meeting held November 21 at the Museum, presented by Randy Bushart and David Hamilton.

Newsletter - Lois Dillon & Kathy Newkirk

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BETHLEHEM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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