
Town Of Bethlehem Historical Association

NEWSLETTER

Old Cedar Hill School House

Selkirk, New York 12158

March 1998

President's Letter

REFLECTIONS

This past year we have added some pleasant memories of our activities of the BHA. We have updated and published a current **Membership Roster** and a new **Year Book**. September was memorable when we had the **LaMed Bus Trip** to the north country to visit (and shop) at the Adirondack Museum. Our lunch at the Adirondack Inn on Long Lake was highlighted by a birthday party for Jean Lyon in absentia. The **Card Party** in October brought together members and friends which produced a needed revenue.

How about that **Annual Silver Tea** where BHA joined with the Bethlehem Garden Club who professionally decorated the school house in the beautiful holiday traditions.

Our **Regular Meetings** were conducted with well planned subjects and interesting speakers who were experts in their field.

For those who did not participate in all or any of these events, they missed out on the fellowship and development of our Association.

PROJECTIONS

In looking forward, we want to better get acquainted to know one another, profit by their talents, present interesting monthly programs, summer events, informational services, bus trips, revenue producing events, membership renewals with a 100% renewal and building improvements.

You, as a member, are the important key by expressing your recommendations and desires to your President and/or appropriate officers. The professional development and community value cannot move forward without member support and participation.

*Howard R. Gmelch, President
Bethlehem Historical Association*

Our thanks to Rick Spaulding who stepped forward and volunteered
to publish this issue of the NEWSLETTER

CEDAR HILL SCHOOL BUILDING
Listing on National and State Register as an Historic Place

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register is one outcome of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. It is administered by the National Park Service under the Secretary of the Interior.

Nominations to the National Register are normally made through the state offices of historic preservation. In our state, the program is administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. To be nominated, a property must be documented and evaluated according to uniform standards and criteria. If approved for listing in the State Register, the nomination is forwarded for national recognition.

Listing results in the following:

- Recognition that a property is of significance to the Nation, the State or the community.
- Consideration in the planning for Federal or federally assisted projects.
- Qualification for Federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.

The Cedar Hill Schoolhouse has been proposed for nomination. As members of the Bethlehem Historical Association, we recognize the historical significance of the schoolhouse in our community. If the nomination is approved, our community can be proud of the fact that efforts by members of the Association to preserve the schoolhouse is also worthy of national recognition.

Notification has been received from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation that nomination of the Cedar Hill School for listing, will be considered at the next meeting of the State Review Board, scheduled for March 20, 1998.

Joseph A. Allgaier

PERSONAL NOTES

New members include Mr. Charles Gunner of Glenmont, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moreen of Glenmont, Mr. Paul F. Palen of Feura Bush, Anthony DeLuca, M.D. of Selkirk and Eugene Hoffert, M.D. of Selkirk. We regret to report the recent deaths of members: Thelma Comstock, Marjorie Terrell, and Marguerite Tomlinson.

MARJORIE TERRELL LEGACY

Marjorie Terrell, who served as President of the Bethlehem Historical Association from 1982-84, has bequeathed \$1,000 to the Association to be used "in the acquisition of articles in keeping with the purpose and spirit of the society and appropriate for display." The money will be received later in 1998.

DISPLAY OF BETHLEHEM ARTIFACTS

Two display cabinets at the Cedar Hill School contain artifacts presented by Floyd Brewer. One display cabinet contains items from the Pre-historic Era found on the Goes/VanDerzee farm. The other cabinet contains artifacts from the Nicolls-Sill Estate from the period after European settlers came. One coin, dated 1757, indicates the general timeline of these artifacts.

BUS TRIP TO CARAMOOR AND JOHN JAY HOMESTEAD WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1998

Bill LaMed reports that there will be a bus trip to Caramoor, a Spanish style mansion in Katonah, NY. The bus will leave the Cedar Hill School at 8 A.M. and arrive at Caramoor about 11 A.M. There will be a music recital and then a tour of the mansion. Following lunch, the bus will stop at the John Jay Homestead in Bedford, NY. More details will follow!

RECORDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM BOOK AVAILABLE

The Bethlehem Historical Association has published a book with 15,000 name entries, representing over 1,400 families from church, government, and private records covering 1698 - 1880. Genealogists will find elusive branches of their Albany area families here. In this single volume an individual can be traced from baptism through marriage and a variety of public activities to his or her death. Descendants can find the location of his home and grave site. The cost is \$25.00 + \$3.00 for handling and postage = \$28.00. Mailing address is shown at the heading of this newsletter.

BETHLEHEM HERITAGE SERIES AVAILABLE

The seven part video tape Bethlehem Heritage Series produced by Lois Dillon and the Bethlehem Channel is available for loan at both the Historical Association and at the Bethlehem Public Library, Media Center (Ann McGinty can help). If you wish to borrow a tape at the Historical Association check with the President. The series includes:

- Part 1 - Steamboat Castle
- 2 - Schoolhouse (Cedar Hill) History
- 3 - Ice Harvesting/Palace of Ice
- 4 - Turnpikes, Plank Roads, and Toll Gates
- 5 - The Delmar Bootery
- 6 - The Apple: Man's Favorite Fruit (Indian Ladder Farm)
- 7 - 17th Century Immigration to Bethlehem

FEESTELIJK

On Saturday, May 2, 1998 the Bethlehem community is again producing the exciting town-wide celebration Feestelijk Bethlehem. It will showcase the musical, artistic and dramatic talent of our community. Various events will be scheduled between 7:00 P.M. and 11:00 P.M. in locations such as the Bethlehem Library, the schools and various churches.