

NEWSLETTER

Old Cedar Hill School House, Selkirk, New York 12158

Greetings from the President

This is your cordial invitation to attend the Annual Christmas Tea to be held on Sunday afternoon, December eleventh from three o'clock until five o'clock at your beautifully decorated Museum in the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse.

This is a time for all of us to reflect on our past year's successes, Tailgate sale in the spring and the fall Card Party to which you and your friends so generously responded.

With the coming new year it will be time to plan for improving storage and work areas as well decorative details.

Bring a potential member to our informative meetings and enjoyable social times.

My hearty thanks to all and best wishes for the holidays.

Marjorie Terrell

CHRISTMAS
WISHES TO ALL

THE GARRETT NIVER MYSTERY, REVISITED

by Peter Christoph

In an earlier Newsletter we had considered the monument to Garrett Houghtaling Niver in Elmwood Cemetery. The monument states that Garrett had been killed in the Custer Massacre, but since he had enlisted under the name of Garrett Houghtaling, and is so listed in the U. S. Army records, we wondered how the family had learned of his death.

The mystery has been solved for us by Mrs. Louise Messinger of Delmar. While looking through old copies of the Coeymans Herald, she found the following item in the November 1, 1876, issue, and remembering our Newsletter article, passed this along to us.

"A VICTIM OF THE CUSTER MASSACRE"

"Mr. David M. Niver, of Becker's Corners, Albany County, has been advised that his son, Garrett, a bright young man, was one of the victims of the Custer Massacre in the late Indian fight on the plains. A party of United States soldiers found a number of bodies, scalped, on the spot near where Custer was ambushed, and on searching whatever little clothing remained on them, a letter was found on one of the bodies from Mrs. Niver to her son. This has just been returned to her by the military authorities at Washington, whence it is sent with the sad tidings related above."

In Memory

Betty Van Oostenbrugge donated six Pinxter Bushes to beautify our Association's property in memory of her mother Marie J. Lynn.

Jean Murray Lyon also donated a Sunburst Locust Tree in the memory of her mother, Agnes Murray.



WAYS and MEANS

Our Annual Card Party was successful this year both in fellowship and in fund raising. Through the efforts of co-chairmen Charles and Marjorie Crangle and their committee, the Association received \$1,087.83 from the event. Helen Denny again this year got together all those good apple pies! Many thanks to all.



BUILDING and GROUNDS

Jim Wiedemann is again offering his special services to improve our Association's building. Last winter water came into our cellar damaging some of our possessions. The Board of Trustees has voted the money for Jim to build some shelves that will prevent water damage occurring again.



PROGRAM

Our January Meeting will be Thursday evening, January 19, 1984 at 8 P.M. Ms. Tammis Groft, Curator, Albany Institute of History and Art will present a slide talk, "Cast with Style, Nineteenth Century Cast Iron Stoves from the Albany Area".

Mary Anne Twardowsky would like to hear from any members who would like to bring something to add to our delicious refreshments at our Christmas Tea, December 11th. Call her at 767-3063

Does anyone have a fairly recent abridged dictionary - 1965 or later- to donate to the Association?

Marie Wiedemann, our Museum Registrar, would appreciate hearing from any member who could help do some typing. (465-4367)



HISTORIC RESOURCES and T. V.

Cable Television users will soon receive a Public Access Channel of Adams Russell Cablevision Company in the Town of Bethlehem. It will be named "The Bethlehem Channel" and will be located in the Town Library. Our Association, through several of our members who have been meeting with Carol King in charge of Programing, to cooperate in the planning of a series of programs on Local History. It is an opportunity for our Historic Resources Committee to share with a wider audience the work it has been doing of gathering information about our old houses, their history and families. Lois Dillon is acting as Production Manager. Taping will start after the first of the year.

The first program will be a visit to our Association Headquarters and a tour of the building with our President Marjorie Terrell. Also in the planning are visits to the homes of William Tinney, Edward Eilers, Jean Balint - and more to come. We will keep you informed.

OUR BOOK

RECORDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, ALBANY COUNTY, N.Y.
1698 -- 1880

We have received excellent book reviews from several organizations such as the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, The New England Historic Genealogical Society and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record. The Library of Congress sent us a letter stating that they need a copy. We have sold copies to the Newberry Library in Chicago, The New York Historical Society, the Morman Library in Salt Lake City, Utah and to individuals in 22 other states and in Canada. The New York Genealogical and Biographical Records summarized its review by stating, "Publication of such a combination of records is unusual - probably unique. This is truly 'Records of the People of Bethlehem'".

If you haven't purchased your copy, why not order one now or have one sent as a Christmas gift. The Price is \$25.00 if picked up, \$26.50 if mailed.

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GENEALOGY GROUP

On Sunday, November 13, 1983 the Genealogy Group invited Mr. James E. Morgan, the new Town of Bethlehem Historian to be their guest speaker. He spoke about the research he has done on the Haswell and Becker families to whom he is related on his mother's side. We had some Haswell Family visitors bringing their research also. It was an enjoyable meeting.

The group is starting a project of up-dating cemetery records in the Town of Bethlehem. There are about 40 cemeteries so we need plenty of help. We feel that this project would be of real service to many people both within and outside of our community. If you would be interested in volunteering, please phone or write to: Mrs. Evelyn Alford, Chairman, Genealogy Group, 439-4526, 491 Haskell Place, Delmar, New York 12054.

Congratulations to Florence Christoph on becoming a licensed Genealogist!

**HOLIDAY
GREETINGS**

Marjorie Terrell, President

Newsletter - Lois Dillon

