

Rensselaer Falls Historical Society
PO BOX 124
Rensselaer Falls, NY 13680



August 31, 2006

To friend of the Rensselaer Falls Historical Society:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our past accomplishments and our future, as well as to request your help in raising money to support our organization.

The Rensselaer Falls Historical Society was founded in 1985. The unfortunate closing of the Congregational Church was our gain. We now have a permanent meeting place and the beginning of a museum. Under the leadership of Mimi Barr, Historian, and Bob Poor, Assistant Historian, Rensselaer Falls' past is beginning to show through donations of photos, post cards and articles. These are on display at the museum. It is our ambition to be able to open the museum on a regular basis a few hours a week. At the present time it is only open by appointment. If you have something that is relative to the Falls' community or the inhabitants, the museum would be glad to accept it.

The Society applied for and was granted the status of being registered on the New York Registry of Historical Buildings. We are now applying for registration on the National Registry of Historical Buildings. Through the New York State Registry we have applied for a \$10,000 grant to repair and restore the steeple and replace the furnace. Also, application for financial aid will be made to the Sweet Water Foundation.

An open house is planned for September 24, 2006, from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Members will be present to answer questions about the museum exhibits and the Historical Society. There will be refreshments and music by John and Bonnie Danis. We hope to see you there!

Like all organizations, it takes manpower and funding to accomplish our goals. Your help by way of a contribution to the society is essential to the mission of our organization and represents your confidence in that future.

As an incentive to increase our membership, we are offering a free one-year associate membership. Associate society membership allows you to provide input and give ideas, but it does not give you voting rights. Our regular membership (grants you voting rights) dues are \$5.00 per person annually, or \$50.00 per person for a lifetime membership. We hope you will join us. Please see the enclosed membership/contribution form if you would like to participate, or make a contribution to the society, in some way.

We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,
The Rensselaer Falls Historical Society

*A Brief History of
The Rensselaer Falls Historical Society*

- 1985 Historical Society founded*
- 1989 Sesquicentennial Celebration, June 23rd – July 2nd*
150 years since the founding of the village
Time capsule buried in front of Rensselaer Falls Library, to be
opened in the year 2039 (fifty years)
Published 1st booklet “The Falls” - 77 pages
Compiled a file of military veterans from the Rensselaer Falls
Post Office District (included local individuals)
- 1991 1st school reunion – 132 people attended*
- 1995 2nd school reunion – 129 people attended*
Raised funds to erect the Veterans Memorial (total raised: \$3,165,
plus volunteered help)
Published 2nd booklet “The Falls Revisited” – 52 pages
Sponsored annual village wide yard sales (Saturday of Memorial Day
Weekend) – Society still sponsors these yard sales to date
- 2004 – 2005 Purchased the former Congregational Church for the home of*
the Historical Society
- 2005 Began setting up the museum*
1st open house at the Historical Society
Conducted various 50/50 raffles and bake sales

The Rensselaer Falls Historical Society
~ Membership Form ~

Name: _____

Address and Phone: _____

Please designate preference:

- Free one-year associate membership**
- after the first year you may choose an annual membership or a lifetime membership
- Annual Membership - \$5.00** (includes full voting rights)
- Lifetime Membership - \$50.00** (includes full voting rights)

Make all checks payable to: Rensselaer Falls Historical Society
We would greatly appreciate hearing from you by *Wednesday, November 1st*.

Thank you,
The Rensselaer Falls Historical Society

The Rensselaer Falls Historical Society
~ Contribution Form ~

(all contributions are tax deductible – the Society will send you a receipt for your files)

Name: _____

Address and Phone: _____

- I would like to make a monthly / annual (please circle) contribution in the amount of**
\$ _____ (please specify)
- I would like to make a one-time contribution in the amount of**
\$ _____ (please specify)
- I would like to make an honorary/memorial contribution in the amount of**
\$ _____ (please specify)
In honor of/memory of (please circle) _____
- I would like to make bequest (gift by will) contribution in the amount of**
\$ _____ (please specify)

Thank you,
The Rensselaer Falls Historical Society