

Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring /Summer 2008

Special points of interest:

- Historical Society goes tech
- Steeple Fund is nearing its goal
- Thank you for donations
- Museum will be open for public viewing soon

History teaches everything, including the future.
- Lamartine

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History Spotlight: Not All History is Good

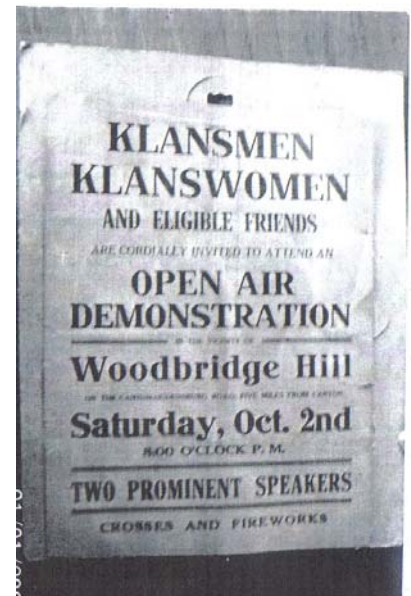


In 1915 the United States saw a resurgence of the Klu Klux Klan. Originally organized in the 1860's in the Southern States, the group was fighting a racial war on the grounds of Nativist values. Their belief that the white race was superior and that all people born in the United States were better than foreign born immigrants.

With the second wave of the Klan however, their hatred was not solely directed at the African Americans but against Jews, Catholics, immigrants and others who they believed represented un-American values.

By 1924 there were more than 4 million members of the Klan and they were spread throughout the United States. They made their presence known by continuing the tradition of lynching, cross burning, and burning property.

As you can see in the photo, the North Country was also influenced by the Klan. A copy of this poster is now part of our archives at the society.



Historical Society On-line



The Historical Society is now online. You can visit our website at:
www.rfallshistory.org

Any suggestions that you may have about what you would like to see on the website would be greatly appreciated. Just use the webmaster link to contact me with any suggestions. Be sure that you

include Historical Society in the subject line of your request or it will not be answered. You can find all the current information about the society online.

We would also like to thank Andy McAdoo and Jonathan Towne for all of their help in getting the website up and running.

Society has contract with the State for Steeple Repairs

The Historical Society has been working tirelessly for the last 3 years to get a contract secured to help with preservation work on the steeple. It was announced at the last meeting that the contract was in Albany waiting for the final signature. As soon as the contract arrives we can begin the painstaking process of fixing the steeple.

The Society had originally applied for a grant from the Parks and Recreation Department through the state for Ten Thousand Dollars. Once the application process was complete and all conditions were met the society was

awarded the money to complete the project. It was a matter of waiting for appropriate signatures and approvals from the state to finish the contract. It has been a long and arduous task that has been well worth the wait.

In the coming months you can expect to see the work to repair the steeple on the church.

Bids have been placed and accepted to do the work. Once the contract comes back from Albany we will begin making the necessary repairs to the steeple.

It is a momentous occasion

to see one of the villages icons preserved for generations to come.



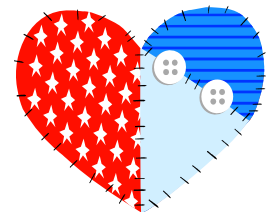
Preservation work on 100 year old quilt unveiled at last meeting in 2007

A quilt made by Nettie Wainwright, believed to be at least 100 years old was donated to the Historical Society in 2007. The quilt lists the names of many families from the Falls and was in need of some preservation work. The members of the society received that work from Connie Palmer. She took the time to fix the quilt by using liquid embroidery which

made the names stand out so they could be clearly seen. She has done a wonderful job and the society would like to extend our appreciation to her for the work that she has done. The quilt can be viewed at the museum or it can be viewed online at the Historical Society's website by going to:

www.rfallshistory.org

It is a beautiful quilt and once you have seen it you can see the effort and love that went into its creation.



Historical Society Scholarship Fund

Last year the Historical Society established the scholarship fund for a graduating senior who lives in the Falls. It is just one way that the society has decided to recognize and give back to the community.

Last years recipient was Makenna McAdoo. She is currently attending Plattsburgh State.

This year the society is using a 50/50 raffle to raise money to increase the scholarship fund. The new recipient will be announced in the coming weeks. Please support the children of our village by purchasing some raffle tickets. It is a great way to help a college bound student from the village, with the ever increasing costs of attending school.



Dedication Ceremony and Open House to be held August 9, 2008

This year the open house will coincide with the dedication ceremony of the two new plaques in Pioneer Veterans Park in the center of the village. It will be a rededication ceremony for the Veteran's Monument. This year the Historical Society will be having a pot-luck meal with entertainment outside in the side yard of the church (Historical Society building). As well the Museum will be open to the public. We ask that you bring your own place setting, a dish to share, and a folding chair. Here we include the schedule of events.

10-12 PM

12-1 PM

MC:

Opening Prayer:

Misc Comments:

Reminiscing:

Main Speaker:

Thanks for the Millstone:

Honor Guard (VFW):

End of Ceremony

1-2PM

2-3PM

Museum Open

Dedication

S. Alverson

John Saucier

S. Alverson

Don Hammond

Randy Burke

Claude Palmer

Salute

Pot-luck meal with entertainment outside

Museum Open

Come join in the festivities. We will need help for the event. If interested please contact Don Hammond or James Blackburn.



Historical Society sponsored town wide yard sale slated for May 24th, 2008

As everyone expected, our town wide yard sales will be taking place on May 24th in the village. This event is sponsored by the Historical Society. Please be sure to stop by and purchase some wonderful treats at the bake sale and check out the wagon in front of Hammonds for some hot dogs, hamburgers, and fries. All proceeds benefit the historical society. We

would like to thank the firemen for the use of their wagon and for the ladies who take the time to run the bake sale. It is a great opportunity to see people and get to know more about the village. As well, this year the Historical Society will be holding a 50/50 raffle to support the scholarship fund for a local graduating senior. Please see Don Hammond or James Blackburn to

purchase some tickets. It is a great opportunity to help a local student on their way to college. Again thanks for all of your support.



A message from our President, Claude Palmer

Greetings,

On behalf of the officers and members, of the Rensselaer Falls Historical Society, it is a pleasure to communicate with you, as your president. We hope that the newsletter helps to meet that need. We are all looking forward to spring after this long winter.

Our upcoming town wide sales will be held on Memorial

Weekend on Saturday the 24th of May. Later this summer we will have a dedication of a veterans plaques at the Pioneer Veterans Park in the center of the village. We are also planning, if all goes well, to have an open house and hopefully the recognition of our renovated steeple project.

The society extends an open invitation to each and everyone to

attend our meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month from March to December. Please feel free to send any comments or feedback to us. We look forward to hearing from you, or better yet, seeing you at a meeting.

Your President: Claude Palmer



THE RENSSELAER FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Donation Information

Anyone wishing to make material or financial donations to the Historical Society may do so via the U.S. Postal service or in person. For assistance in the matter you may also see or call the following people

Claude Palmer President
Mimi Barr Historian
Bob Poor Assistant Historian

Membership Information

Anyone wishing to become a member of the society may contact any of the Board members for further information.
Currently membership dues are \$5.00 per year.
Lifetime membership is \$50.00.

Board of Directors

Claude Palmer President
Marion Barr Vice President
Bob Poor Assistant Historian
Shelly Sanderson Secretary
Margaret Hance Treasurer

Mission Statement : The purpose of this society is to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Rensselaer Falls. The organization’s major function will be to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area to include its exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and war; its progress in population, wealth, education, agriculture, manufacture and trade. The society will provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility to all that wish to examine or study it.

Historian’s Notes: Mimi Barr and Bob Poor

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have donated items to the Historical Society's Museum. Gathering items of days gone by can be a very difficult task. As many people have moved out of the area and personal belongings have been sold or forgotten, it is greatly appreciated when someone donates to help preserve the past of this great community.

Anyone wishing to see all of the wonderful items in

the Museum’s collection are encouraged to make a visit to the church to see everything on display. As well, anyone wishing to donate items can contact us using the information above.

The following is a list of people who have so graciously donated items to the society. Again thank you.

Robert Roca, Ruth Poor, Jeff Hammond, Lydia Wainwright, Kyle Hartman, Esther Gushea, Nina Molnar, Frederick Lavigne, Albert Palmer, Charles and

Pat Palmer, Lyn and Connie Palmer, S. Alverson, Donna Parow, Herb Wainwright and Family, Don Hammond, Jim Boprey, Jessie Wainwright, Nell Mordock, Dorothy Pike Osterhoot, and Tom and Helen Dunstone.

Thank you to all and to those who may have been left off the list.