The House of History
Museum | Tours Available

FRANKLIN COUNTY
HISTORICAL & MUSEUM SOCIETY

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The Schryer Center
Historical & Genealogical Research

December 2018

Designated Franklin County Historian by the Franklin County Legislature
Designated Town & Village Historian for Malone, NY

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Fall For History





SAVE THE DATE!
Planning for next year has already begun! Fall For History will be October 5, 2019



UPCOMING EVENTS



12.01.18

12pm - 4pm

VOTE For Your Favorite Tree!

Formal Tea & Cookies

Festive Music & Decorations

Bake Sale

Raffle (See Insert to Participate!)





We have been making great progress on our revitalization efforts to our beautiful museum staircase!

☑ Remove old carpet from the hallway and stairs.

☑ Sand and re-finish downstairs hallway.

WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

Now, we need to clean and stain the 18 front stairs. Refinishing must be done by hand – an expensive and time-consuming process.

Here is where you have the opportunity to help and to honor a loved one at the same time. For a donation of $150.00, you can STEP UP! to sponsor a stair.

Each stair will have a small plaque beside it. It could say, Donated by _____, or Donated by _____ in honor/memory of _____, or something similar. Perhaps it could be a holiday gift for "the person who has everything."

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MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

2019 is just around the corner!

Don't forget to renew your membership!

To renew online, go to:

www.franklinhistory.org/membership

From the Presidents...

What a busy fall we have had! Our third annual **Fall for History** was bigger and better than ever. The apple pie contest had many enthusiastic participants, as usual, and the bluegrass music kept our toes tapping. Thank you to all of our volunteers and sponsors and kudos to **Lisa Ruvola** for organizing this wonderful event.

A few days later fourth graders started arriving for their annual visits. It is worth noting that, although this program has been around for 50+ years, the task for tour guides has changed. Today's students come with almost no background knowledge of a wood stove, or a meat grinder, or a dry sink, for instance. *Everything* is new to them; remember, their grandparents are only about fifty years old!

Attendees at the annual dinner meeting enjoyed author Francoise Goodrow's presentation about her mother's courageous work in the Resistance movement in France. Many purchased signed copies of Fran's book.

John Bessette recently returned to Malone for a **Company K** talk in the Schryer Center. His father, Louis Bessette, was one of the Co. K "doughboys" of the New York National Guard who fought the German enemy in three major battles in 1918. John discussed Malone's National Guard presence in this area for over one hundred years, including in World War II and beyond.

Two new officers will begin their duties on Jan. 1st. **Kip Cassavaw** will be co-president with Cheryl, and new board member **Carla Cahill** will take over the secretary duties. Sincere thanks to Martha Gardner for her years as co-president and to Brian Stewart for his time as secretary. Thankfully, they will continue as board members.

Excitement is building for the **Christmas Tea** on December 1st. It is always an elegant beginning to the holiday season. We hope you will stop by to purchase some raffle tickets and enjoy some goodies at the tea table and the bake sale. You may want to purchase some books as holiday gifts, too.

Be sure to check out our **STEP UP!** project in this newsletter. And remember: It is time to renew your membership for 2019. We count on your support.

Cheryl & Martha

FOR ♥ OF FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORY

From Our Collection

We are proud to have in our collection many personal letters of Lydia Martin Smith, wife of hotelier, Paul Smith.

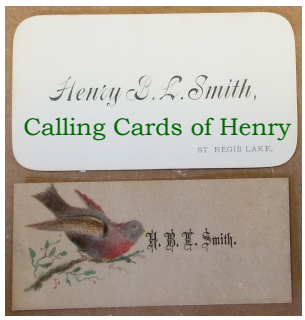
This letter imparts the pain of a mother who mourns her departed son Henry, and a father's pride in his sons.

UNDATED

My dear boys,

Good morning to you, it is bright and sunny this morning, and I sit down as usual to drop a line to my boys at home, trusting you are well. Mr. Avery a young man from Whitneys in Albany, gave your father an Argus with the meeting of the Adirondack Hotelmen in it. Your father was pleased with it and thinks it will be a good thing for the Hotels. Mr and Mrs Inslie have invited me to visit a school this morning, and I am going with them—had a letter from Charlie in Maine, said it was settled that he should have the Mirror Lake Hotel. I hope he will do well. Is there anything boys I could bring you that you would like? I wish I might, wouldn't you like a _____ bottle of nice perfumery? Just tell me the kind and I will bring it. I should be so glad to bring some little thing to you, after being gone so long—see by the papers that Mr Gurley of Malone has pneumonia I hope it will not result fatally. I shall always have such a dread of the disease., since our dear boy had it. Poor Henry, he is never out of my mind. Good bye dear boys. Write me as often as you can, for mother you know is very lonely with lots of love to all the family and much to your own dear selves. And a kiss—from your-Affectionate Father & Mother.

P.S. You would be surprised if you knew how much confidence your father has in you two boys. And he often says if Henry could lived, he knows now, that he would done so well. He feels sure of it—but it is too late too late to think about what might have been.



From The Archives

I'm writing this article just before Election Day 2018. I thought it would be interesting to see what was happening at election time 100 years ago. A quick look on nyshistoricnewspapers.org provided this article from *The Adirondack news (St. Regis Falls)* November 9, 1918.

Waverly's Election

Election day in St. Regis Falls was a quiet one, although the weather was good, the vote was a light one, the total vote being but 268 in the two districts out of a total registration in the town of 936.

In the 1st district the vote was 174 and in the second district, 194.

Various reasons are advanced for the light vote, among them being the unusually large number who are sick: the war overshadowing everything else, little interest could be stirred up in politics and but little effort was made to get the voters out.

In the 1st district Whitman received 134 votes and Smith 32. In the second district Whitman's vote was 161 and Smith's 28. Fifteen of Whitman's votes were cast by Prohibitionists, five in the 1st and ten in the second district.

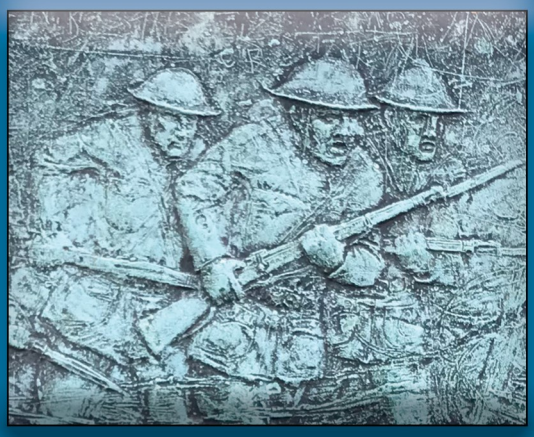
The various other candidates on the ticket received a slightly smaller vote on both the Republican and Democratic tickets.

The local vote on the amendments to the constitution and the constitution was very small, a large number of the ballots being blank, a majority of those voting were in favor of the questions.

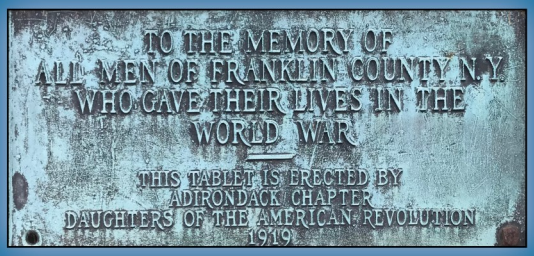
A word of explanation: Alfred Smith, Democrat, and Charles S. Whitman, Republican and Prohibition Party were gubernatorial candidates. Mr. Smith was elected.

I also discovered that in 1917 the New York State Constitution granted women suffrage. It was the first Eastern State to fully enfranchise women. So women would have been able to vote in this election. I will be doing more research on this!

Martha Gardner



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Volume 53



COMING IN DECEMBER
TO YOUR MAILBOX!

Malone's Company K in the First World War

The Malone area of Franklin County contributed a large group of men to the US Army effort in World War One. Although many young men answered the call to arms through both the draft and as volunteers, the largest single group consisted of the 150 Guardsmen of Company K, First New York Infantry Regiment, of the New York National Guard. Mobilized into US service in summer 1917, this contingent became Company K, 107th Infantry Regiment of the 27th Division. After advanced training in South Carolina, the 27th Division arrived in France in late May 1918. Unlike almost all other US Army divisions, the 27th came under the command of the British Army rather than in the American sector under the direct command of US General John J. Pershing. In just eight weeks in the fall of 1918, the 27th Division, including Malone's young men, fought three major battles and were about to fight the fourth when the German military collapsed and the Armistice was declared on November 11th, 1918, just over 100 years ago.

John Bessette

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