## The

# Chronicles

of the Ontario County Historical Society **Museum and Research Center** 

established 1902



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Connecting our Community with its Past

December 2019

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Hobby House Ad 1956

## A Line a Day: The Diaries of George M. Hayes

by Nancy Hayden

The Chronicles Article No. 3 — The Christmas Season

George took this photograph in 1928 "using only the electric lights" for illumination.

By 1928, George had married Isabella Davidson, aka "Tibbie". They had four children: Betty, George, Sandy and Catherine (Kitty).

Here are some Christmas Day and New Year's entries from various vears between 1928 and 1969.

#### **December 24, 1928**

Busy getting last minute presents. Set up electric train in the evening after the kiddies had helped decorate the Christmas tree and gone to bed. They are all excited.

#### December 25, 1929

This has been such a happy Christmas day. The kiddies were



The Hayes Home at 99 Hubbell Street, Canandaigua

all thrilled with the lovely tree in the living room. Sleds, dolls, books, new shoes, ties and everything. Catherine liked her "new" bike which I had painted blue for her, George his football and shoes, Sandy his tractor and ties and Betty her books and the clock and Lincoln Logs. My sweet wifie gave me a tripod for my camera and lots of nice socks etc. Father and Mother and Tib's mother gave us all money!! Everybody went to bed happy.

#### **December 25, 1946**

A lovely Christmas Day. All at home for the first time in 5 years. No end of presents for everybody.

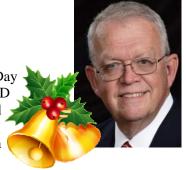
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### The Educator's Post

by Preston E. Pierce, Museum Educator

### **Breaking Barriers: Time to Think About National History Day!**

The Theme Books, and updated contest rules for the annual National History Day contest have arrived! The Ontario County Historical Society sponsors the NHD competition for students in the Finger Lakes Region. Our contest, really a semi-final for the state-level contest, will take place on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. It is always an exciting competition. It is also amazing to see the level of research middle and high school students can carry out.



The theme for National History Day changes each year. This year's theme for the competition is new, "Breaking Barriers in History." There are about a dozen themes that the national organization cycles through, year by year. Students can interpret the theme in a variety of ways, using their research to show how a particular subject fits into the theme. A barrier, for instance, could be the ridge at Lockport that required five locks to complete the Erie Canal. Claudius Victor Boughton, namesake of the Town of Victor, was one of the contractors on those locks. What a great project that would make! How about Carrie Chapman Catt's 1915 and 1917 suffrage campaigns across Upstate New York (she came to Canandaigua). Catt and Susan B. Anthony both wanted to break the barrier to women voting. Local subjects always make great NHD contest entries and the Museum can help. Students can present the results of their research in one of five project formats: a "table-top" exhibit; an original website; a student-produced documentary; an original one-act play (called a "performance"); and a traditional research paper. Projects can be completed by individual students, or groups of up to five. The research paper, however, must be completed by an individual only.

The yearly NHD theme can be interpreted in many ways that allow students to pursue personal interests while thinking about how threads of our history fits together into a whole fabric. They can use on-line research; oral history; personal interviews; photography or digital imaging; and their own creativity in how they present their findings.

This year, students entering the competition might research the controversies between the Wright Brothers and Glenn Curtiss over how to control an airplane in flight. They might investigate the 1937 court case brought by the Granger family trying to stop construction of Kershaw Park and establish who owned the bottom of Canandaigua Lake. A good project might be made from research into how and why Finger Lakes Community College was created; or why we have an Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva.



Certainly, the work of Dr. Konstantin Frank in bringing about the "vinifera revolution" in wine production would be a good subject — there are plenty of people to interview. Then, there could be projects on subjects as wide as the creation of central schools (Gorham was first in this county); the development of BOCES; and the invention of the school bus. And don't forget about the Underground Railroad; the building of Mt. Morris Dam or the Thruway and xerography (think Xerox Corp.). The possibilities are endless!

"National History Day" participation is open to students in grades 6 through 12, or the equivalent. There are two divisions, Junior (grades 6-8) and Senior (grades 9-12). The only difference is that the students compete against students in their own age group. While most student entries come from area schools, students can be mentored or sponsored by other organizations like historical societies, or civic groups.

continued on page 11

### From the Director's Desk

by Edward Varno

By now, most of our members have heard that I plan to retire from my position in July next year. The date will mark 25 years in the job.

The search for a replacement is now underway and is being handled by a succession committee of the Board of Trustees appointed by our Board President, Christopher Hubler. It will be led by John Zappia, the Chairman of the Personnel Committee. The Committee also includes, Geoff

Astles, retired Ontario County Administrator; Linda Farchione Hawks, retired President of Thompson Health and Tricia Carey, past Director of the Granger Homestead. Our current President, Chris Hubler will also be on the committee. Staff will also have input on the decision. It is a blue-ribbon panel to be sure. They will face a decision that will be critical to the future of the Society. We expect the interview process will begin in February or early March.

This change is important, and the Board and I are fully engaged in planning the transition. I let the Board know about my decision about 18 months ago. Together we developed a process and a timeline that we are following as a team. Early on we reviewed and revised the job description. The retirement announcement was discussed with each staff member to get their input. After notifying the membership in our annual appeal letter and announcing the

decision at our annual meeting, we are moving ahead. The job posting was sent out just before Thanksgiving and is using the services of the Museum Association of New York, the Cooperstown Graduate School of Museum Studies and will be posted in Muse-Weekly an online publication of the University of Delaware. Of course, our local newspaper ran the story and we encourage local non-profit managers to apply too. This all matters very much to me and I am pleased to see a professional, rational approach to this change.

There are still two more issues of this newsletter before I walk off stage. This Director's column will continue into the next administration too. I believe that it is important for the Executive Director to report to the membership on a regular basis. It has been a way to let our supporters know what is new and a way for the membership to get to know the Director. Likewise, the staff will also continue to bring information to the membership each quarter. That will not change.

Finally, it is the end of the year and I want to report that our Society is socially strong. Our volunteers are happy, dedicated and hard-working. Our history programs and research projects are respected and well supported by government and foundation grants; however, as in most other not-for-profits we will continue to need help with operational support, the money that is used to pay the museum's bills, staff salaries and building maintenance. We recently sent our annual operations appeal out to our benefactors and our members. If you did not receive a donation card and the accompanying letter, just let me know and I will make sure one is sent to you in time for your end-of-year giving decisions. To those who have already sent a donation, we say thank you!

Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones. We promise a great 2020 at the Historical Society.



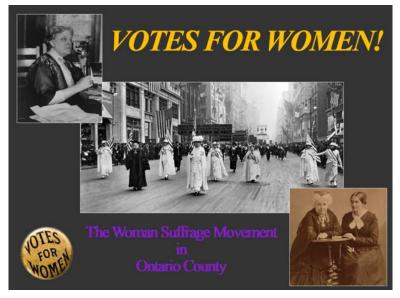
Crown Jewelers Ad 1972

### **Curator's Loft**

by Wilma Townsend

As we enter the year 2020, we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the "Susan B. Anthony" 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed August 18, 1920: *The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.* 

To recognize this momentous occasion, we will re-install portions of our 2017 exhibit "VOTES FOR WOMEN! The Woman Suffrage Movement in Ontario County, New York." It will be on display in the North Gallery from January 18<sup>th</sup> to April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. In addition, the accompanying book, which was sold out, will be reprinted and available for sale.



This exhibit traces the woman suffrage movement in Ontario County from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century reform movements to the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920. Using a framework of national suffrage events, a strong emphasis is placed on regional and particularly local developments. Based on the extensive body of research compiled for this project, new insight is revealed about local suffrage activities and the often previously unknown local leaders of the movement. Relevant documents, photos of individuals, groups, locations and activities, and images of artifacts serve to enhance the story. The section "Ontario County's Suffragists of Distinction" features the many women (and men) who dedicated their time and efforts to the suffrage movement.

Our thanks again to our Ontario County municipal historians, local historical societies, and our volunteer researchers for spending hours compiling thousands of pages of research materials for this project. We also would like to thank Humanities New York with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the Action Grant which provided funding for exhibition and the book.



We Welcome These New Members

Ronald F. Fazar

Mandy Hagadorn

Mr. David J. Plante



Thank you to the following donors:

Donor:

David and Suzanne Winslow

**Donor:** Ray M. Teeter

In Memory Of:

Sally Dwyer

**In Honor Of:** David Keefe

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## **Genealogical Records Committee (GRC)**

by Betty McMahon

In an effort to update the cemetery records held at the Ontario County Historical Society, a committee was formed of volunteers from both the DAR and the Ontario County Genealogical Society. Their goal: to walk the cemeteries in the county and record the information on the

gravestones. The results of this survey are stored at the Ontario County Historical Society and shared with three DAR libraries (Washington DC, New York City, Albany) and with the relevant town clerks, cemetery associations and churches.

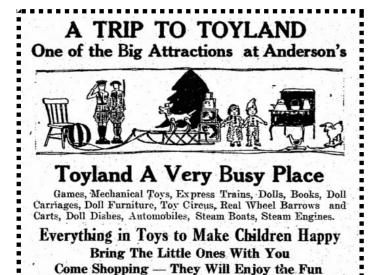
The committee began its work in 2006 working two mornings a week in the summer and early fall. The transcribed records were converted to a word document and proofread in the winter and published the following summer. To date, we have completed walking all of the cemeteries in five towns: Manchester, Hopewell, Canandaigua, Seneca, Farmington and two in the city of Canandaigua. We have added hundreds of burial records to our database – some as a result of recent burials, but also a significant number of them as a result of our ability to read older stones that were formerly illegible. We also added four Catholic cemeteries; we had no previous records of them. Our "magic paper" has enabled us to correct errors in earlier transcriptions of old stones as well.



Canandaigua DAR speaks at Hunn Cemetery

Town of Manchester — 395 pages submitted — 13 cemeteries Town of Hopewell — 132 pages submitted — 8 cemeteries Town of Canandaigua — 153 pages submitted — 8 cemeteries City of Canandaigua — 419 pages submitted — 2 cemeteries Town of Seneca — 311 pages submitted — 14 cemeteries Town of Farmington — 222 pages submitted — 7 cemeteries

Total — 1,632 pages submitted — 52 cemeteries; over 34,000 burials recorded



Anderson's Toyland Ad 1922

This past summer the committee walked two of the four cemeteries in the Town of West Bloomfield: Ionia-Miller's Corners and Pioneer. We plan to finish this town next summer.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of this project has been finding unrecorded burials of Revolutionary War soldiers. In one instance, we discovered a broken and discarded gravestone of one such soldier. Our Chapter led the effort to obtain and install a new gravestone commemorating his service.

The makeup of our group has changed over the years, but remains 10-12 strong; three are original members. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Betty McMahon at bmcmahon@windstream.net.

## **Your Historical Society**



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 2019



First Congregational Church Bell Tower Restoration is Finalized



Fall - Small Treasurers Auction



Speak Easy Event with the Acme Mystery Company



GG Bashir Speaks on Local Refugee Placement at the Annual Meeting



Treaty Day 2019



Crowd at Treaty Day 2019

### Letters to Santa 1922

Note: These letters to Santa from 1922 were found by Maureen O'Connell Baker.

Dear Santa Claus. Some times ! I think that there aint no real Claus, but Mother say's

My age is mime year's and for Set. a Fcot ball, a couple of games and a large size Lightning guider home for Christmas. sled, and an over coat and if I get all these nice thing's I will be very thankful to St. Nicolas.

Your loving friend, John Monahan, 46 Gibson St.

Dear Santa: I am a little girl nine years old, and my name is Mary VanGelder I would like a good story book for Christmas and a book, please. a nice big doli. I like to read very well so please Dear Santa bring me a book this year.

Yours truly Mary Van Gelder, R. F. D. No. 3, Canandaigua.

Dear Santa Claus

I am eight vears olu. Last vear you brought me a doll and in some there is so I must believe Mother. way got in a smashup and now she is in the Hospital. So if you will Christmas I would like a Radio kindiy bring me a new head, two arms and two legs I can have her

> Your loving friend Louise Dawson 146 Gibson St.

Dear Santa Ciaus

All I want for Christmas is a set of boxing mits so I can box my brother Billy and I can box.

I have a gal who don't like me but I like her would you bring her

> Your Friend. Francis Scott Keyes 62 Ontario St.

7 years oid. I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Mail Box



Dear Ontario County Historical Society:

I wanted to thank you for the amazing amount of research you have done on my ancestors that lived in Canandaigua. It is very clear you went above and beyond your research for me. Thank you also for adding a copy of the book on the Lisk Manufacturing history. That was a wonderful surprise and very much appreciated. I have enclosed \$10 for the copying costs and extra for the book. I will definitely stop in the next time I am in Canandaigua.

Again, many thanks for all that you have done. :~)

Lisa Mulcahey

## What's in the Collection

by Wilma Townsend

Recently, Philip and Patricia Parr graciously donated their extensive research collection of the Jones-Peck family of Seneca Castle. This includes family history materials for the Peck, Jones and Gray families, photocopies and transcriptions of letters written by family members and some close friends on a wide variety of topics, with particular emphasis on life and writings of Mary Gray Peck (1867-1957) who was active in woman's suffrage movement and was personal secretary and biographer of suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt. Also included are booklets with biographical information on many of the family members, a photo album with nearly 200 photos of the Peck and Jones family members and their farms, and an oil portrait of Mary Gray Peck by Philip Parr from an early photograph.



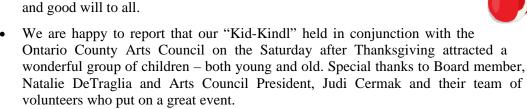
Oil Portrait of Mary Gray Peck, by Philip Parr from a photo

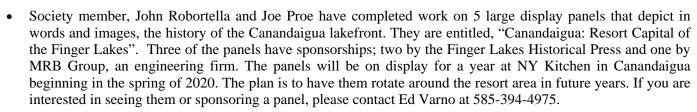
Mary Gray Peck (1867-1957) was born into a well-educated farming family in Seneca Castle, NY. Like her father and brothers, she received a college education, graduating from Elmira College. She began her career as a professor at the University of Minnesota but soon dedicated her life to the woman's suffrage movement, women's labor issues, the peace movement, and journalism. She became the personal secretary for well-known suffrage leader, Carrie Chapman Catt, and later wrote Catt's biography.

We are so appreciative of the Parrs for their years of dedication compiling and organizing historic records that document this notable family of Ontario County and their impact on the rest of the country. Thank you!

### **News and Announcements**

 The Board, staff and volunteers want to wish all the members of the Historical Society a very joyous holiday season. This is the time of year we remember those close to us who are both with us and away. Peace and good will to all.





- Our annual "Volunteer Appreciation" event was held on November 20<sup>th</sup> in the Museum's lower level. Twenty-five of the volunteers that assist with our day-to-day museum work were in attendance.
- Our holiday model train display, "The Polar Express", is up and running in the books store area of the Museum.
   Museum Educator, Preston Pierce assembles this display each year that includes a small village scene, three separate trains that can operate simultaneously and educational exhibits on model railroading and the history of coal. The display will be up at least through the end of February. Call the Museum to find out our holiday hours.
- If you have been north of Canandaigua on NYS Route 332 into Farmington, you will notice that Hathaway Corners (Route 332 and County Road 40) is under development. We want to commend Jeff Friend and the leadership at the Lyons National Bank for their sensitivity to the historic character of the location. The Hathaway Homestead will be preserved, renovated and made into a history room and community center as part of their new branch office development.
- The Historical Society has just about secured the necessary funding to undertake the next step in resolving our space shortage issue. BERO Architects will begin our facility master plan in early 2020. If you would like to hear more about the project or make a contribution to our capital fund in support of the study's cost, please contact Ed Varno at the Museum.
- In January we will be commemorating the centennial of the passage of the XIX Amendment that assured women the right to vote. An exhibit will be set up in the North Gallery and a reception is planned. Funding was secured for the program from the New York Woman's Suffrage Commission.
- We are happy to report that the Historical Society and the Ontario County Arts Council will continue its partnership into 2020. Three themed art exhibits and several related educational programs are planned here at the Museum. This friendship has been fruitful. The partnership has diversified our audiences and increased attendance at the Museum.
- We are celebrating the life of Clifton Springs Historian extraordinaire, Frederic L. Gifford. Fred died on September 26, 2019 in Clifton Springs. He was a friend of our Historical Society and lived to the great age of 94. He will be missed.
- Finally, we bid farewell to our long-time *Chronicles* Editor, Darlyss Boates. This will be her last issue. Darlyss and her husband will be retiring in 2020 and moving from the area. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her dedication. If you are interested in being our newsletter editor, please give Ed Varno a call.

continued from page 1— The Diaries of George M. Hayes

#### **December 25, 1962**

Got Maxine Ogg at 8:30 a.m. and brought her in for breakfast. Opened presents – lovely ones as usual. Betty called from Hollywood, Florida and said it was 80 and sunny. Awfully good to talk with her. 54 and rain here. No snow. Mary (daughter – in – law) and the boys (Hayes's grandsons) came about 1 p.m. and then we had a wonderful dinner prepared by Tibbie finished off with maple mousse and Tibbie's plum pudding. Kitty gave me a pedometer so I can tell how far I walk on my hikes. Betty gave me a sweater (red) and a book on How to Deal with Neurotic Dogs. A "squeaky" Santa Claus for Pixie (the dog). A wonderful Christmas but we missed Betty, George and Sandy.



#### **December 25, 1965**

Rained all night and all morning. Lovely presents. Betty phoned from Florida. Called George in California. We had a wonderful talk with him. Lucky to get him for the lines were all jammed with Christmas calls. Kitty wrote 12 thank you notes.

#### December 31, 1967

Helped Sandy get his TR4 started by pushing it with my SAAB. Beautiful duck dinner. Here's the end of another year! I've enjoyed it. It has been good to all of us for which we should be grateful. I am.

#### **December 25, 1968**

The Apollo 8 astronauts are fortunate. Their engines fired to get them out of the moon's orbit at 1:10 a.m. and now they are on their way back to earth and will land Friday a.m. Maxine came for breakfast. Sandy came about 9. Then we all opened our presents. Tibbie put on a beautiful Christmas dinner. Kitty, Max, Janet, David and Chris here. Quiet evening and to bed early.

#### **December 31, 1968**

Tibbie and I sat in T.V. room watching S.M.U. beat Oklahoma 28 to 27. We had a scotch and soda each. Wished each other a Happy New Year & then to bed. Crate of lovely oranges & grapefruit from Betty.

#### December 25, 1969

One of the nicest Christmases we have had. David, Janet and the baby and Chris came about 2 p.m. and we all had one of Tibbie's beautiful turkey dinners. The baby, Mary Helen, (the Hayes' great- granddaughter) was very good. Betty took pictures with her new Polaroid. They turned out well. She is sending them to George in California so he can see his family and his granddaughter. It has been a beautiful Christmas and Tibbie is responsible for such a happy time. More snow.



December 1966 Flaming Snowballs - Seneca Dairy Ad

## The OCHS Organization

#### Staff

**Edward Varno Executive Director** 

Wilma Townsend Curator Maureen Baker Receptionist **Preston Pierce** Educator

Barb Hill Part-time Receptionist Webmaster TLC for Coaches Betty McMahon Research Coordinator Gene Rogers **Building Support\*** 

Linda Alexander Librarian\*

**Darlyss Boates** The Chronicles Editor\*

\*Volunteer



We wish to extend a special thanks to all of the volunteers who donate so many countless hours in support of the Historical Society.

Address correspondence to: Ontario County Historical Society 55 North Main Street Canandaigua, New York 14424

We are open Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

#### **Board of Trustees**

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Email: newsfromochs@gmail.com Please "Like" us on Facebook! Just go to www.facebook.com and search for the Ontario County Historical Museum.

## **Business Members**



We wish to thank the business members listed below for their continued support. Please consider them when purchasing goods and services. In addition to these business members, we also appreciate the small donations we receive from dozens of local businesses in Ontario County each year.

1840 Inn On The Main Aberle Eye Care

Allen County Public Library

B & E Electric

Bella Rose Bed & Breakfast **Bristol Mountain Winter Resort** 

CIG Inc.

CJ Meder Library - Periodical Dept. Canandaigua Carpets Inc. Canandaigua National Bank

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Stargazer Property Group Town of Farmington Uncle Sam's Antiques

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Veterans HVAC, LLC dba Potter

Heating and Cooling

Village of Clifton Springs Historian

VR Food Equipment Inc.

West Bloomfield Town Historian

Willow Bend Farms

continued from page 2 — Educator's Post

Home-schooled students are welcome and encouraged to participate. A one-act solo "performance" project by a Victor student several years ago went all the way to national competition in Washington, DC. State competition takes place in Cooperstown with national competition following a month later.

Copies of the NHD rule book, as well as the theme book, can be picked up at the museum. They are also available for download from the National History Day website at: https://www.nhd.org/. There is also a New York History Day website at: https://www.nyshistoryday.org/. That site has information about the New York competition. Museum Educator, Preston Pierce, is available for individual consultation or for group orientations.

The Ontario County Historical Society building cannot accommodate large group meetings. For the past twenty years, one of the two neighboring churches have provided space for the Finger Lakes Regional competition. Will we see you there on March 13?



Egg Nog Ad 1950

### Membership Benefits in the Ontario County Historical Society

Receive Regular Museum Mailings — Keep Up-to Date on all Society Activities

Reduced Admission to Society Events and Fund Raisers, including Tour of Homes

(admission to the museum is always free)

Free assistance in the Museum's Rare Documents/Genealogy Library

Membership in Time Travelers, a National Museum Benefit Program



10% savings on Museum Books Shop purchases

Subscription to our quarterly newsletter, CHRONICLES



Ontario County Historical Society	Members	Membership Application Form	
Name(s)	_Email	Phone	
Exactly as it will appear on the Membership Card			
Address	ZIP	Method of Payment	
Optional Alternate Winter Address from/ to/	ZIP	Cash Check Credit Card VISA/MC	
General Membership Support: Sr. Citizen \$30; Individual \$35; Family \$50; Friend \$7	75	Card Number	
Centennial Club Level		Exp Date/_; VC Code	
Centennial \$100; Benefactor \$150; Heritage Circle \$25 Please accept my additional gift of \$	60; Director \$500+	Signature:	
I am interested in making an endowment gift; please contact me.		Return to:	
Total Membership: \$ + Additional gift: \$	= Total \$	OCHS; 55 No. Main St. Canandaigua, NY 14424	

## The Chronicles

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**December 21:** "Captivating Light" art exhibit closes — 3:00 p.m.

**Dec. 24 - Jan. 1:** Museum closed for the holidays

**January 2:** Museum re-opens —10:00 a.m.

**January 10:** Deadline for Director position applications

**January 18:** Opening of "Suffrage Exhibit" in North Gallery

**January 30:** "Suffrage Reception" in North Gallery — 6:00 p.m.

**February 28:** Deadline for "History Day" registration

March 13: "National History Day" Competition — 8:00 a.m.

NOTICE: If your address changes seasonally, please let us know the alternative address and the effective dates.

#### Or Current Resident



55 North Main Street Canandaigua, New York 14424



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