

CLARKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Letter from the president

Dear CHS members and friends,

Spring is well underway and despite the cool weather the flowers and trees around town have been putting on quite the show.

We have had great attendance at the lecture series that we have shared with the Morgan Manning House, the Brockport Community Museum and the Triangle Tract Historical Society.

I am trying to include a bit of information about various homes around town. If anyone would like to include their historic home please reach out to me via email, clarksonhistorical@gmail.com

Thank you for your support,

Anita OBrien President CHS

LECTURE SERIES

May 22, at 7pm at Clarkson Historical Society

Our next guest speaker will be Karen Lankeshofer a long-time Henrietta NY resident. She is an avid bike rider and advocates for safe cycling infrastructure. She enjoys studying history, especially if it pertains to Upstate NY. Her presentation is a tribute to a pioneering female professional athlete, Elsa Von Blumen. A Rochesterian who in the 1880's raced high-wheeled bikes against horses, skaters and male cyclists. She overcame challenges in a sport dominated by men. She helped inspire other women to find the courage to break social taboos. Her first professional bike race was against a horse in

Rochester's Driving Park. From Rochester, she went on to race throughout the Eastern United States for a decade. She was a force to be reckoned with in the cycling world.

MAPPING THE FOUNDATION OF THE ORIGINAL ACADEMY

The first Clarkson Academy officially registered as a school in 1835. Students came from as far away as Michigan to study at the Academy. In 1852 the Clarkson Academy wooden building burned down and a new school was built in 1853. This is the restored building we use today.

Currently the historical society is looking to find where the original Academy was on the property. This week we met with Dr. Alex Smith who is head of the Archaeology department at SUNY Brockport to discuss our "foundation location project." Dr. Smith is interested in this project and we are hopeful that he may take this on as a project with some of his students. There will be more information on this in future newsletters.

THE SCHOOL BELL

Perhaps some of you heard the sound of the school bell ring in town this last week, in the past it brought students to school so long ago and now fills the air again. It will be fun to see the students pull that rope again.

A CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Local history plays a role in maintaining our sense of community and educating future generations about the history of the Clarkson Academy in our town. We currently have two vacancies for board members. If you are interested please send a letter of interest or nominations to the CHS email, clarksonhistorical@gmail.com. Letters of interest and any nominations will be reviewed by June 16th.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AROUND CLARKSON



The Clarkson Church which stands next to the Academy was built in 1825 by the Clarkson Congregational Society. The church was built in the traditional New England style. These churches are characterized by its simple, often white wooden structure with a high pulpit and a steeply pitched roof. These churches were built by Congregationalists and were used for both religious services and town meetings. This church is believed to be one of the oldest churches built between the Genesee River and Niagara Falls. In the early days it was used as a landmark by the old “ Ridge Trail Stage Line.”

