

CLARKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2025

SPRING GREETINGS

Our board members and volunteers are busy planning our 2025 Spring, Summer and Fall programs. Our lecture series, which we are sharing with The Morgan Manning House and the Triangle Tract are currently underway. Our first guest speaker was a presentation by Bill Lattin who spoke about the dozens of buildings destroyed by the wrecking ball over the decades, the presentation was well attended. Some of the events we are working on include: Clarkson Good Neighbor Days, summer camp for cursive writing and in September the 200th year celebration of the Erie Canal. In 1825 Dewitt Clinton traveled on the boat "The Seneca Chief" from Buffalo to NYC to open the canal. A replica of this ship is scheduled to be coming thru the Brockport Canal on September 26, 2025. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with any of these events we always need people to work as greeters for our open house, to help with snacks at our summer camp, r please send us an email via our website the Clarksonhistoricalsociety.org. if you would like to help us out.

Pomeroy Marker

If you drive by the Clarkson Academy you may have noticed the blue and gold historical marker in front of the building, there are a few locally and many markers in NYS. These national historic markers were created by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. The Foundation believes that historic markers help people celebrate their community's history. In late February this year we received a call from a student at SUNY Brockport who wanted to shoot a video of the Academy. This was a class project, and his professor had been in contact with the Pomeroy foundation and they wanted to use some of the videos the students took for the Pomeroy website. Leanna Hale our local historian met with the students and they took a video of our historic building, Leanna explained about the building and shared some of the history with them. The students expressed their appreciation for the information and education about the building. We hope that the Pomeroy Foundation will use this video on their website. The students explained that the video may be available to us so we can share it on our website in the future.

History of the School Bell

Over the past several years, the CHS has raised funds to fix the school bell. I believe that this spring we may get it working again. Here is a bit of story about School Bells I would like to share. Horace Mann who started the common school movement (1840-1880) did not just

promote the idea of reading, writing and arithmetic but he also believed in being punctual and obedient. Mann recommended that communities invest in a school bell, to encourage his beliefs. The school bells were a way to announce the start of the school day, but they may have been especially important as clocks in some areas of a village time could vary thirty minutes or more, making the children late to class. The bell also served as an announcement or alarm if there was a fire. Our school bell will be working this year again after being silent for so many years. Thank you to all who have donated to help preserve our historic school house.

Lecture Series

Sunday May 4, 3pm Clarkson Academy

Jim Friday will speak on the history of Medina Sandstone. He will explore the genealogy of how and when the stone was formed, the rise and fall of the regional quarry industry, and what remains today.

Anita OBrien President CHS