

CLARKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September 2025

Letter from the President

Dear CHS members and friends,

Welcome Fall! Sad to see summer go but we had a busy summer here at the CHS. We have been busy “Preserving the past, getting ready for the future and finding treasures along the way.”

Anita OBrien President of the CHS



Summer Activities

CHS had a booth at Good Neighbor Days in August. Our thanks to our town Historian Leanna Hale and Jill Acuyz who were busy at our booth teaching children and some adults how to write their name in cursive.

Clarkson Academy held our cursive camp the second week in August. We had a great group of students and some teen helpers. Many thanks to our team for the programs and opportunities they provided for the children. We want to express our thanks to Ruth Rath, Leslie Bull, Nancy Stone, Carole Linenfelser, Sandy Marafino, Maureen Viel, Lisa Rice, Sue Baker, Debbie and Dave Preston, Leanna Hale and Pat Galinski. We don't want to forget our young helpers, Maggie and Olivia Thrall, Bridget Camman, Madelyn Geil and Gabe Turbeville. Great Job!

In Memoriam Mary Edwards

We lost a dear friend and life long supporter of the Clarkson Historical Society (CHS) August 25, 2025.

Mary was a founding member of the CHS, she was a driving force in the preservation of the Academy building and served as board president for many years. She was instrumental in starting the cursive program and the cursive writing contest the Academy holds every year. Mary was kind and generous with her time and always available for questions and advice if we needed it. She will be missed. Our condolence to her husband Charles and her family. Please see her tribute page at www.fowlerfuneralhome.com.

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A note from Bonnie Howlett about our acquisitions

Our collection of textbook grows

We have received 80 textbooks from the Shirley Cox Husted collection. Mrs. Husted was the historian in Monroe County from 1973-1988 and the Parma historian from 1967 till her death in 2009. The books were in possession of the Parma-Hilton Historical Society but their museum has only a small corner to chronicle early education in the Parma-Hilton area. It was decided that a good home for these books would be the Academy in Clarkson. We already have a good collection of books that would have been used in the common schools (grades 1-6 or 8) but this addition greatly expands the collection. Many of the books were used by students in the Academy or later at the high school level. The books have been kept separate and labeled "The Shirley Cox Husted Collection." If you are interested in seeing the collection contact Bonnie Howlett at (585)755-1807 (leave a message) or by email: bonniehowlett@gmail.com We appreciate this addition and hope that the books can be used to better understand the classes taught before 1956 and materials used.



Fall Lecture Series

Our Fall lecture series starts Monday Oct 6, 2025 at 7PM. Amy Machamer owner of Hurds Orchards will speak on the historic apples and how they fit into our Western NY geography and Apple industry. You are all invited, bring a friend this will be a great lecture.

Grant Information

In the Spring of this year the Academy was awarded a grant from the Genesee County Antique Dealers Association (GCADA). This money will be put aside to help maintain our bell tower as well as funding for our Cursive writing classes. We want to thank the GCADA for their generous gift and let our members who may be interested that the CHS will have a booth at the upcoming Fall Antique Show at the

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Dome Arena (Minett Hall) Saturday October 18, 2025 from 10 am till 4pm. Come and visit us and check out the antiques.

Foundation Location Project

The Academy has reached out to Dr. Alex Smith PHD from SUNY Brockport's Archaeology department. Dr. Smith along with a few of his students will bring ground penetrating radar (GPR) technology to roll across our yard with hopes that we might identify the original Academy building. The team will also bring their site mapping technology to identify at a very detailed level the individual significant metal-detecting "hits" and provide an accurate map of foundation against a drone photo of the property. We also will be having a representative from our local metal detecting organization "Rochester NY Metal Detecting Artifacts & Recovery" who will focus on pinpointing the subsurface location of ferrous (iron) materials likely still in the ground as part of the debris from the burned remains of the original Academy. This is a very exciting project and we are looking forward to seeing what historical information we can find. Thanks to our board member Christopher Graham for coordinating this foundation project.



One last note...

If anyone has an interest in history, learning about the history of this town, helping with our team to pull together programs such as the foundation location project, helping out with our summer cursive camp or cursive contest. Or you have any ideas for future programs or events please contact Anita OBrien (585)739-8140 leave me a message or email me at marf.obrien@gmail.com

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