

Clarkson Historical Society March 2025 Newsletter

Dear CHS members and friends,

Despite the cold weather the Academy has seen quite a bit of activity this winter. Bonnie Howlett who is our collections manager has spent a lot of time going through our collections and putting them in their proper place. We have boxes of books, photos and many more items she has been going thru. Bonnie has also been busy helping with our membership drive along with getting this newsletter out. Our thanks to Bonnie for all the work she does to help keep the Academy going.

Part of the mission of the Academy, along with promoting a greater knowledge of history in the town of Clarkson is to promote lost arts such as cursive writing. Every year we sponsor a cursive writing contest for the children in our area, along with a summer camp where we teach cursive. We have just finished the Cursive Writing Contest for this year and our winners will be announced soon. Keep a look out in the local news, and on our website, Clarksonhistoricalsociety.org for our winners.

We will be collaborating this year with members of the Morgan Manning House Museum and sharing our speaker series with them. The speaker series will be hosted at the Academy but as a result some of the dates are a bit different, however we have worked together and I believe we have an interesting series this year. Please see list below.

April 1, Evening at 7 PM

Bill Lattin, former Cobblestone Society director and Orleans County historian, and Cobblestone director Doug Farley will look back at dozens of architectural treasures in Orleans County which succumbed to the wrecking ball over the decades. Lattin recently republished his book on the subject, adding several additional structures which were destroyed during the last few decades. Lattin will also sign copies of his book "Architecture Destroyed." which will be available for purchase.

May 4. Sunday Afternoon 3 PM

Jim Friday will talk about the history of Medina Sandstone.

He explores the genealogy of how, and when the stone was formed. The rise and fall of the regional quarry industry, and what remains today.

May 22, Thursday Evening 7 PM

Karen Lankeshofer will give a multi-media lecture about Elsa Von Blume, a pioneer female high-wheel cyclist in the 1880s. She spent much of her childhood in Oswego, but moved to Rochester when she was about 17. She presented several performances of her bicycle skills in Brockport in the middle of the 1880s.

October 6, Monday Evening 7 PM

Amy Machamer owner of Hurds Orchards will speak on the historic apples and how they fit into our Western NY geography and Apple industry.

November 4, Tuesday Evening 7 PM

Laura Hargrove from NYS office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation will speak on “Building a Park: The History of Hamlin Beach State Park.” Join us in a journey through time as we discuss the forces that shaped people who constructed our beloved local state park, primarily focusing on the civilian conservation corps, and the prisoner of war camp.

December 2, Tuesday Evening 7 PM

Sarah Hart owner of Hart Gallery will give the lecture on “Helen Hastings and NC Wyeth, Classmates.”

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Anita O’Brien President