Welcome to the Clarkson Historical Society



The Clarkson Historical Society was formed in 1997 when the former School #2 was in serious need of repair. The Community Church gave the new organization a 99-year lease, and work began.

Since it had been School #2, one goal was to put students back in the school.

It took 10 years with countless volunteer hours and generous contractors to make this become a reality.

There are now opportunities for students to learn in the school.



Music class at 2023 summer camp.





Classes from BCS visited.

The original Academy was wooden and stood behind the Clarkson Community Church. It burned in December of 1852. The Academy was rebuilt within a year – the current 2-story brick building.

In 1853, the New York State Legislature passed a law allowing for public funding of high schools. The Academy then became a high school.

When a proper central high school was built, our building became a grade school. That is the reason for our focus.

We have a wonderful collection of textbooks:

- elementary books from 1831 until 1953 (when School #2 closed)
- high school books
- even some suitable for the Academy (education beyond the 8th grade)

Come on in and look around!



This building has only one entrance. That was our first clue that it was not a typical schoolhouse.

The entry now has an office, a restroom, and two display cases.





The first floor classroom is used for presentations.

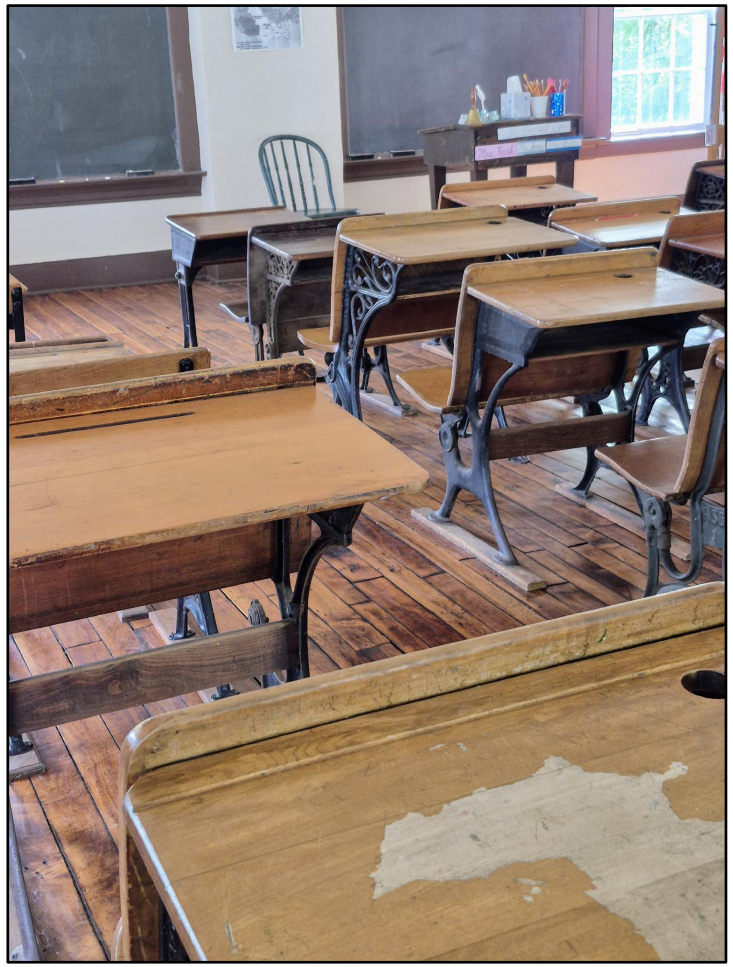


Our students love the opportunity to sit in the old desks for class.

Each desk is different:

- Small to large
- Different ironwork decoration
- Some are adjustable.

The second floor is our classroom.





On the west wall upstairs, we even have an original blackboard – a board painted with a black paint and rescued from the original plastered wall. Obviously, it's condition is poor, but it is a real blackboard. The remaining chalkboards are slate, as you can see in the pictures of our students.

We've been given a great many books, most of which pertain to education.

This is a wonderful resource for anyone wanting to study the history of education.





We have had a huge concentration for teaching cursive writing since that has been taken out of the public school curriculum.

It isn't on the state test. Therefore, time must be spent in the areas that are tested and results published.

We continue to promote cursive writing. For one thing, those who cannot read cursive cannot read historic documents – or sometimes even cards from Grandma.

We continue having a cursive writing contest – held annually around the time of John Hancock's birthday.





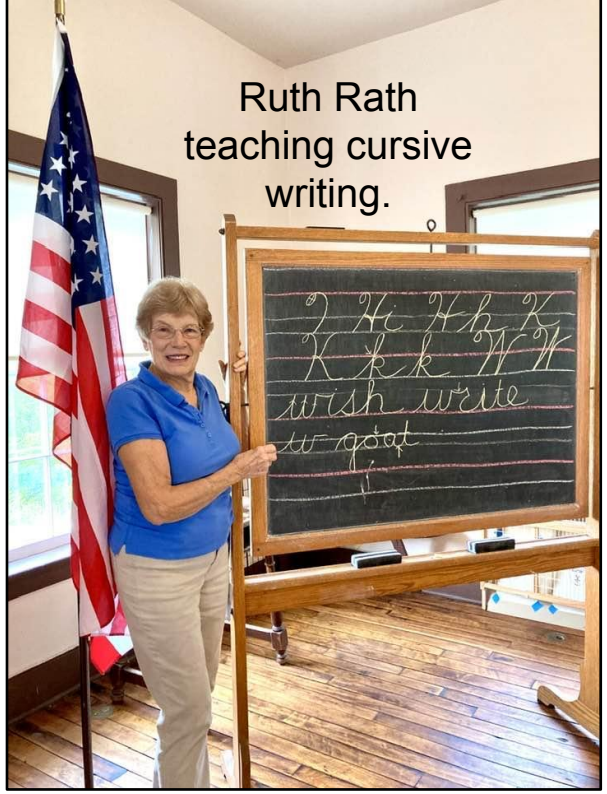
Contest winners

2024





At the suggestion of some of our winners, we now have an adult cursive contest. The judges are the young people who have participated in their contest. They found out how difficult it is to judge the entries.



For several years, we have had a summer camp. Cursive writing is one part of this camp, but there were classes in history, art, science, music, and, of course, recess.







2023 summer camp with. Tadge O’Brien.

We continue to offer educational programs from September through May, this year hosting additional meetings sponsored by the Morgan Manning Museum and the Triangle Tract Historical Society.



In addition to our focus on cursive writing, we continue exploring the Town of Clarkson and its history.



It started out as a search for the original Academy foundation. Collaborating with Dr. Alex Smith and others from SUNY Brockport we are now exploring more sites that are important to our history, including an 1880's blacksmith shop that was at the corner of Ridge Road and Redman Road, the original St. Mary's burial ground, and the Ridge Road brick kilns.

Our focus has long been on the school and our programs. However, this is the Clarkson Historical Society, and we are responsible for the entire town. To that end, we are currently expanding our efforts.

Our programs are general in nature, rarely having to do with schools.



We have been given several items that are a part of our Clarkson history, but at present we have no place to display them.

A hand-stitched signature quilt – All signatures are “Mr. and Mrs.”



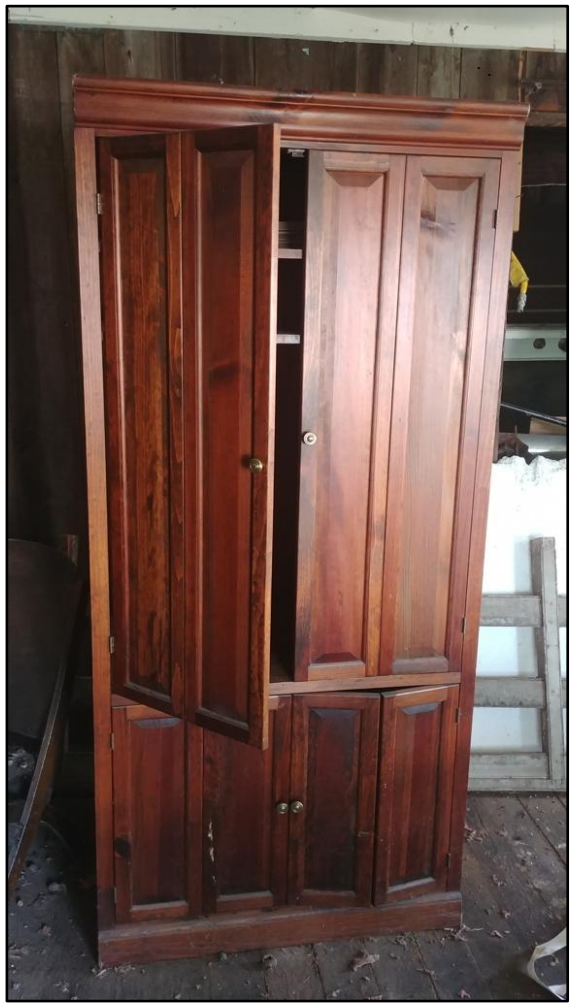


A rope bed from the 1800's



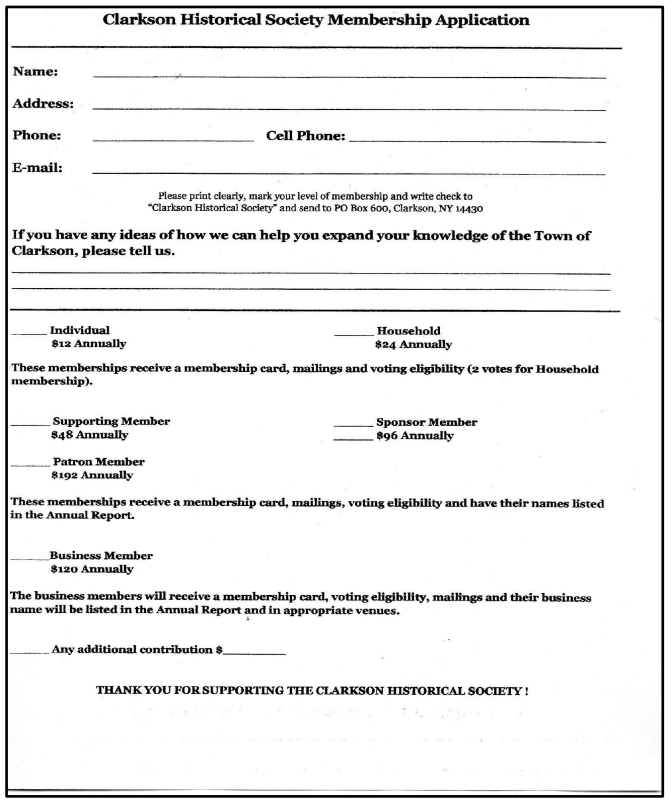
A "deacon's bench" from 1840-60s

We also have the post office boxes from an earlier Clarkson Post Office building, prior to the one we just lost.



A floor to ceiling cabinet

Thank you for your interest in the Clarkson Historical Society, We appreciate your participation. Our success replends on people like you supporting programs of interest to the entire community.



Clarkson Historical Society Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

E-mail: _____

Please print clearly, mark your level of membership and write check to "Clarkson Historical Society" and send to PO Box 600, Clarkson, NY 14430

If you have any ideas of how we can help you expand your knowledge of the Town of Clarkson, please tell us.

_____

_____

_____

_____ **Individual** $12 Annually

_____ **Household** $24 Annually

These memberships receive a membership card, mailings and voting eligibility (2 votes for Household membership).

_____ **Supporting Member** $48 Annually

_____ **Sponsor Member** $96 Annually

_____ **Patron Member** $192 Annually

These memberships receive a membership card, mailings, voting eligibility and have their names listed in the Annual Report.

_____ **Business Member** $120 Annually

The business members will receive a membership card, voting eligibility, mailings and their business name will be listed in the Annual Report and in appropriate venues.

_____ **Any additional contribution $**_____

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CLARKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY !

The best way to support your Clarkson Historical Society is by becoming a Member, with levels staring at just $12 a year. You'll receive a monthly newsletter to keep you informed of upcoming programs and opportunities to get involved in future community projects.