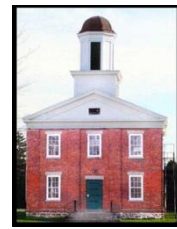


CLARKSON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



Dear CHS Members and Friends,

Making community connections is part of our commitment to history and our community. We are working to bring together children and adults who want to learn about history. But we need your help. If you are interested in volunteering in fundraising, membership, summer camp or other CHS activities please email us.

Additionally, if you would like to serve as a Board member, we currently have positions open.

Clarkson Historical Society (CHS) members, as of April 1, are invited to submit a letter of interest in serving on the Board or to nominate a current CHS member. These can be emailed to us at clarksonhistorical@gmail.com

Thank, you. Anita OBrien CHS President

Our Cursive Writing Contest, by Board Member Patricia Galinski

Our 12th Annual Cursive Handwriting Contest received many excellent entries from Albion, Brockport, Clarkson, Hamlin, Hilton, Holley, Pittsford, Spencerport, and even as far as Naples. The entries were all well written and it was a challenging job for the judges: Carole Linenfelser, Pam Mercer, and Leanna Hale.

Congratulations to the winners!

4th and 5th Grade: First Place Charlotte Kopaczewski, Second Place Evelyn Consagra, and Third Place Scarlett Sietmann.

Middle School: First Place: Olivia Thrall, Second Place: Clara Cotturone, and Third Place: Faith Rosenbaum.

High School Category: First Place: Anna Sietmann, Second Place: Hudson Russo, and Third Place: Aryn Hodges



CHS Newsletter for March 2026: Special Projects update

By Board member Christopher Graham

We are pleased to announce that our archaeological report, showcasing artifacts unearthed and data collected from this past Fall's "Original Academy Foundation Location Project", will be presented by our SUNY Brockport team from the Anthropology, Archaeology and Geology programs on Tuesday, April 7th at 7PM at our Academy Building. Have you ever seen the tools that modern archaeologists employ in their work? Join us and see the results from our Ground-Penetrating Radar work, historical aerial photography comparisons, drone-based Normalized Difference Vegetation Index scanning, metal detecting and other cutting-edge technologies. The college faculty and students, along with our own expert metal detectorist Matt Bacchetta, will reveal their findings of our search for the long-lost foundation of the 1836 wooden structure that first housed the original Clarkson Academy. Tragically, it burned to the ground in December of 1852, and was replaced the following year with the brick structure that still stands. Over time, the exact location and footprint of the original building was lost. Did we find it? Can we identify the cause of the fire that destroyed it? Join us and be the judge as you examine the remains of the coal-fired stove -- and nearly a hundred other artifacts -- that were excavated! This is the first in a series of collaborative "community archaeology" projects that we'll be sponsoring with SUNY Brockport in 2026 -- there's much more to come!

We are now in the planning phase of our next project in this series, slated for later this Spring: "The Old St. Mary's Cemetery—Anyone Left Behind?", as mentioned in last month's Newsletter. We'll keep you updated on our plans for this remote scanning effort to confirm if any burials still remain in this original consecrated burial ground for Clarkson after its relocation over to the Mt. Olivet cemetery when that was established. We hope to answer the question that has endured since then: were there any graves overlooked and left behind?

Do you have hidden history beneath your feet in your own yard? Ask us to come find out! We're lining up several new requests – but would love to hear from you to help explore YOUR property together. Please contact me at cgraham14420@gmail.com if interested.



LECTURE SERIES AT THE CLARKSON ACADEMY

Original Academy
foundation location
project Tuesday April 7,
7pm (see article by Chris
Graham)

Tuesday May 5, at 7pm
Finley Redmond SUNY
Brockport student will
present, “ Making your
Future with the Past.”
What this SUNY
Brockport Student
learned and
accomplished after
stepping into the world of
a museum during the
post fire reconstruction
era.

Many thanks to Steve
Locke who started this
year’s lecture series with
his lecture on the Bergen
Swamp.

Thank you to our sponsor
Sarah’s Garden Center
spring is here and Sarah’s
has all your garden
needs!

HISTORICAL HOMES IN CLARKSON

Gustavus Clark House. It is said this house was built between 1816-1820, it was owned by Gustavus Clark. He was a merchant and the home was referred to by early residents as the “ Manor House.” It was the scene of many parties and social events, it even had a guest house on a site next door.

