

February Letter from Clarkson Historical Society President

Dear CHS members and friends,

I want to begin this letter by saying how sad we were to hear about the fire at the Historical Morgan Manning House in Brockport. I understand that reconstruction is underway and will take time. The CHS is happy to support the Morgan Manning in any way we can.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Fran Murphy and would like to send our condolences his family. Fran was a respected educator in our community, he volunteered for many years as a teacher of English and history in our cursive program, and the children enjoyed his class.

I am busy finishing up our schedule of guest speakers for this year, we have had some great suggestions and I am hoping to find some speakers on those topics. That is always a challenge.

The bell tower is all set, I am currently working with the Verdin Company from Ohio and they will be contacting me once weather improves so we can safely use the bell. Next on improvements will be the entablature and the roof. This will be a much larger project, The Landmark Society of Western NY has given me some information on who to contact. If anyone has any information or expertise in this area please contact me.

I thought it may be nice to include something about our town history in our newsletter, we have a few beautiful old buildings at Clarkson corners, so I will start with our town hall. The Clarkson Town Hall at 3710 Lake Rd was built in 1899 it was on the site of the present post office. In 1936 the building was in need of repair and moved several feet north to its present location. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) worked on the repair and the addition of the Portico, upper windows and pillars made it a significant expression of neoclassical influence. I will be featuring other homes in the area in future newsletters.

This spring the Erie Canal opened in 1825 and will be 200 years old this year. There are many events scheduled for this anniversary up so check your local news. The Buffalo Marine Center has built a full size replica of the Erie Canal Boat Seneca Chief which will be in Brockport canal 9/26/2025.

Thank you for your support

Anita OBrien President

