



# Clarkson Historical Society

8343 West Ridge Road in Clarkson

May 2024

[Clarksonhistoricalsociety.org](http://Clarksonhistoricalsociety.org)



## May membership meeting

Christine Hunt's talk, *Garden of Forgotten Plants* at the May meeting informed the audience about the culinary and medicinal uses of the following plants: Comfrey, Horehound, Rue, Salad Burnett, Lovage, Lemon Balm, Sweet Cicely, and Sweet Woodruff. Christine served a light, fragrant, herbal-infused Sweet Woodruff May Punch. Christine shared how she steeped ½ cup of green dried sweet woodruff (woodruff can be dried in an oven at 250 for 20 minutes) in a small amount of apple juice. The steeping can be done overnight or for several hours. This was then strained and added to apple juice (large bottle) and Ginger Ale. Lemon slices mixed with ½ cup of sugar and sliced strawberries were added to the punch.



## June membership meeting

On Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM the Clarkson Historical Society will host Valerie Ciciotti and Kevin McCarthy who will share their experiences restoring the 1851 Porter Hotel in the Village of Brockport and turning it into the Park Avenue Bed and Breakfast. Their talk will include details about the history of the building, structural repairs and interior restoration.

This talk will be at the Clarkson Academy, 8343 West Ridge Rd. This talk is free and open to the public.

## Night at the Museums

On Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Academy participated in Night at the Museums. This was well attended. Our visitors had several reasons for visiting, and interesting discussions were shared.

At the Academy, Leanna Hale, Clarkson historian, gave some history of the building, assisted by Jill Akyuz.

### May

27 – 6 pm Board meeting  
Note date change.

### June

4 – 7 pm Membership meeting  
at the Academy – Valerie Ciciotti and Kevin McCarthy will tell about rehabing the old hotel and making it into the Park Avenue Bed and Breakfast.

17 – 6 pm Board meeting

### July

There will not be membership meetings during the summer.

### August

19-22 9-noon Summer Camp

Attendees were most interested in the renovations and what was original to the building. Many were first-time visitors.

On the first floor, there was a display on Lewis Swift. He was born in Clarkson in 1820. Due to an farm accident, he was not able to do the farm work as was expected of young boys. Because of this, he was able to attend the original Clarkson Academy (which his father had helped found). One evening as he was headed to a singing lesson, he saw Halley's comet. This excited him, and he went on to study the heavens in great depth.

In all, he is credited in discovering six comets. Moving to Rochester, his work inspired others, and Rochester was known for a while as The Astronomical City, Eventually the cloudy skies and the financial misfortune of his benefactor H.H.Warner, he left Rochester for the clearer skies of California.

Also downstairs, adults had an opportunity to test their cursive writing skills. This idea, which originated with the young people who participated in the February cursive writing contest, is currently be judged by some young people. The winner's name will be in the next newsletter. We think they will discover that judging these entries is not an easy task. The downstairs classroom was hosted by Pat Galinski and Bonnie Howlett.

### **A mystery, and we need your help**

This portrait was passed on to the Clarkson Historical Society by the people at the Morgan-Manning House. It is believed to be a Clarkson resident.

If you have any information or suggestions, please forward them to our email address at the bottom of this newsletter.



### **Plans are underway for the 2024 Summer Camp.**

Camp will take place at the Academy August 19-22, 9 a.m. to noon. Applications will be available in June on our website (at the top of the newsletter).

*Join us on June 4<sup>th</sup> to discover how the 1851 Porter Hotel  
became the Park Ave. Bed and Breakfast.*

Newsletter compiled by Bonnie Howlett. Information from CHS Board members,  
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