

Artifacts

Published by the Brunswick Historical Society • Autumn 2021

Christmas Tree Lighting and Open House

Friday, December 3, 2021

Open House starts at 6:30pm – Tree Lighting at 7:00pm

Join us for our annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Open House. Bring the kids to meet Santa Claus and celebrate the season with light refreshments.

And don't forget, books, bags, cards and ornaments featuring our area's history make great gifts!

Due to possible changes in public safety recommendations for COVID-19, the Open House may be changed or cancelled; please watch for announcements. In compliance with COVID recommendations, we will require masks for those who have not been vaccinated.



605 Brunswick Rd (Eagle Mills) Troy



**Brunswick
Historical Society**

The Garfield School
605 Brunswick Road
(Corner of Moonlawn and Rte. 2)
Troy, NY 12180
<https://www.bhs-ny.org>
518-279-4024

Visitors Welcome:

Wednesdays 1pm – 3pm
Saturday 10am – 3pm

Board of Trustees

Tracy Broderick
President

Bill Prout
Vice President

Julie Urkevich
Secretary

Cindy Pinsonnault
Treasurer

Deb Baldwin

Wilma Bradley

Elaine Mammen

Artifacts is published quarterly by
The Brunswick Historical Society.

Send comments, questions and
suggestions to: Newsletter Editor,
c/o The Brunswick Historical Society
or email: cindyp@lemondogpro.com

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Tracy Broderick

The holiday season is here and we are happy to announce that the Society will once again be celebrating with our Holiday Open House this year, after taking last year off due to COVID. Things are getting back to normal for the most part and we are all looking forward to seeing everyone again. As always, Santa will be stopping by to see the children, which has become a nice tradition with some of our member’s families.

Our Annual Tag and Bake sale was once again very successful. We had a steady flow of people all day long. We had 15 vendors, which is the most we have ever had, they had many different things to offer and I believe they all made out well. It was a beautiful day and it was great to see so many people out and about. ●

THANK YOU

Tracy Broderick

I would like to express my gratitude to a few of the volunteers who help the Brunswick Historical Society to thrive.

Sherry Perpetua was the editor of our newsletter for a number of years. She decided to step down a few months ago. She helped me tremendously with getting the newsletter out on time.

I also want to thank Gary Urkevich who is the husband of Julie, one of our board members. Gary graciously volunteered to make a new wooden encasement for our organ. He did a fantastic job; we can now use this to hang other items for display.

And, finally, thank you to outgoing treasurer Jessica Charette for her hard work on the Society’s board for many years. ●



MILITARY BANNERS

Military banners honoring Town of Brunswick residents who served in any branch of the military at any time in the Town's history are still available with over 90 hung up so far. You can call 518-279-4204 for an application or visit our website at bhs-ny.org to download one.

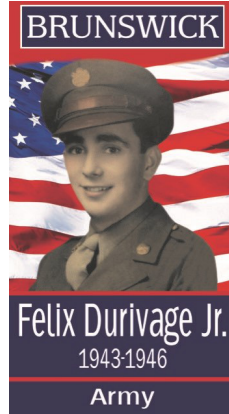


PHOTO HUNT

The Society's collection has many photos from "back in the day" but not from the mid-20th century through 1980. Of particular interest are photos you might have and share with us of places and things that may not be around anymore, or may look very different. For example, Hoosick Road, farms in the area, businesses and storefronts, and any interesting photos of homes from that time period. Also of interest are any photos of past weather events in Brunswick. You can email photos to president@bhs-ny.org or call 518-279-2024. ●

FOREST PARK CEMETERY WALK-THROUGH IN THE NEWS!

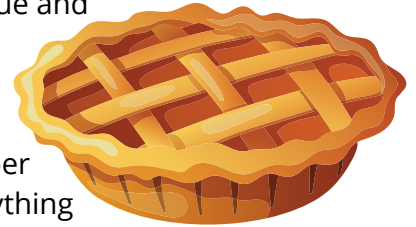
Approximately 80 people, including two from Channel 10 TV News and two elected Town of Brunswick officials, joined historian Sharon Zankel on our tour of Forest Park Cemetery in October. The weather and the turnout were great and Channel 10 News filmed parts of the tour, as well as interviews with Sharon and BHS President, Tracy Broderick.

Thanks to the hard work of our member volunteers, the Walk-Through raised approximately \$350 to help with future restoration efforts at the cemetery. ●

TAG & BAKE SALE

In September, the Society brought back the hugely popular Tag and Bake Sale after taking last year off due to COVID. As always, the fabulous and yummy treats at the bake sale were a record-setting hit with people coming from far and wide just to snag their favorites!

We fired up the barbecue and chili pot, too, for a little nosh while shopping the tag sale. This year brought a record number of vendors selling everything from attic treasures to zesty pickles.



The numbers are still coming in, but it looks like the raffle was another record. This year's raffle winners are: Third prize - Jean Brennan; Second prize - Julie Irick; and First prize - Elizabeth Kelly.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's tag sale a very special event: the bakers and barbecuers, the volunteers who sold raffle tickets or helped at the sale tables, and to all of you who joined us at the sale.

We hope to see you all again next year. ●

Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow

AREA MEMORIES

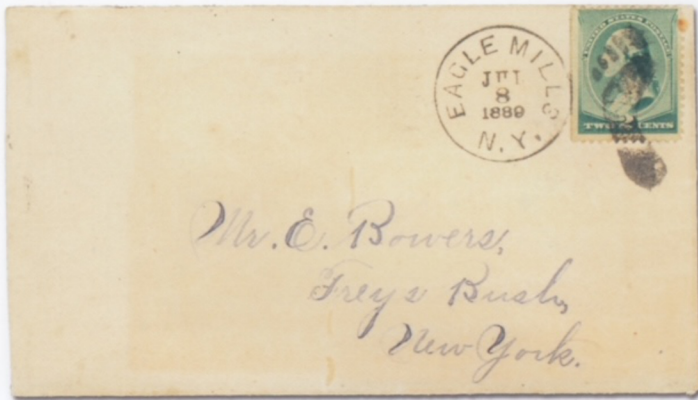
The Society has a few copies of of **Capital Region Memories** remaining for sale. The book features Albany-area history from the mid-1800s through 1939 and includes images surrounding Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties.

If you wish to purchase a copy, please call the Society at 518-279-4024 or you can email president@bhs-ny.org. The cost is \$45.

UNUSUAL NINETEENTH-CENTURY POSTAL CANCELLATIONS FROM EAGLE MILLS

By Sharon Zankel, Town Historian

The kinds of informational questions that come my way never cease to amaze me, and recently I received one that is not just unusual but challenging. I hope a BHS member may recall an ancestor mentioning correspondence bearing a postal cancellation similar to that on the mailing envelope pictured below.



This image was forwarded to me by a postal cancellation historian and the envelope is owned by an out-of-town collector of cancellations. (Yes—there are postal cancellation collectors as well as postage stamp collectors!) Look closely, and you will see the familiar postal cancellation bearing the location of the post office from which mailed, in this case Eagle Mills, New York, and the date of mailing (July 8, 1889) but the postage stamp has been marked with the image of a left foot, and the question posed by the postal cancellation historian is why the image of a foot was chosen to cancel the stamp. The collector has a second envelope post-marked at Eagle Mills in 1895 bearing two stamps, one stamp marked with the image of a right foot and the other with (you guessed it) the image of a left foot.

Back in the nineteenth-century most rural communities did not have post offices owned and operated by the Postal Service, but instead appointed a local person who had a store or other business or home that was accessible to the public and allowed for the installation of a post office

counter and window and, sometimes, a rack of mailboxes. Such was the case in Eagle Mills. The first “post office” in Eagle Mills is believed to have been located in the general store operated by Silas McChesney east of the bridge over the Poesten Kill. It’s been suggested by another researcher the store was acquired by Peter Van Zandt before it burned in 1887. Van Zandt had the store rebuilt in 1888, and a newspaper account of the new store’s layout mentions space was included to provide for the operation of a postal service. Van Zandt engaged Andrew Mullin to operate the store. McChesney and Mullin both served as post masters, and considering the cancellation dates on the envelopes now in the hands of the collector, it would seem Mr. Mullin employed the use of the foot images when cancelling the stamps.

A brief study of postal cancellations reveals it was not unusual for a local postmaster to apply an inked image to a stamp to preclude the recipient of the correspondence from removing and re-gluing the stamp for reuse. Postmasters, of course, wished to discourage the reuse of stamps simply because maintaining a contract with the postal service depended on the sale of stamps. The image the postmaster chose to apply to the stamp was apparently a matter of personal choice, but frequently had some sort of local significance, relating perhaps to a product produced in the municipality, a major business, or a prominent family name. The image of the foot is thought to be very unusual by both the collector and the postal cancellation historian. It was initially suggested the image of the foot might have been used to portray Eagle Mills as having a major shoe manufactory, but Eagle Mills did not.

Peter Van Zandt, however, was one of two shoemakers in Eagle Mills during the late 1800s, making primarily shoes and doing shoe repairs. The other shoemaker was James Mambert who specialized in boot making. Both lived on or near Pinewoods

Avenue, and there is no indication in historical records that either shoemaker set up shop at the local general store. Might Mullin have utilized the foot images to recognize Van Zandt's profession as a shoemaker? If so, why didn't he use the image of a shoe? Did he apply the image to stamps on all outgoing mail? Let's face it—once outgoing mail is left at the post office, how does a sender know what cancellation might be applied by the postmaster? Lots of questions, no real answers. I do know that Andrew Mullin served as Brunswick town clerk during much of the same period he operated (and eventually bought) the store, and he recorded town meeting minutes in a calligraphy style handwriting, sometimes adding an artful flourish, so have no doubt that he possessed the skill to carve the stamps he applied to outgoing mail. It's also been suggested, as foot travel was a primary means of transportation locally at the time, Mullin used the foot images to suggest the mail was on its way to its destination. What is amazing, though, is that Mullin's use of the foot images in cancelling mail did not survive as a tale to be told among local folks, passed from one generation to another, for there had to be more than one occasion when the mail was "returned to sender." Perhaps people were just so accustomed to seeing some sort of image stamped across stamps by postmasters in other places on their incoming mail that such markings were not thought unusual. Having a collection of correspondence received by my great-grandfather from all over the United States during the late 1800s I do not find a single stamp bearing an inked image.

If anyone has any thoughts on this, please share! You are welcome to call me at 518-279-9714. ●

Looking for a gift for your favorite history buff? ❄️

NEW Book!
from Pediment Publishing

Capital Region Memories II: The 1940s – 1960s

Stop by the Society and get your copy — available now!

While you're there, check our selection of other books, bags, and more featuring the history of Brunswick and surrounding areas.

A few of our other books:

- Capital Region Memories I*\$45
- Images of America—Brunswick*\$20
- Images of America—Poestenkill*\$20
- Tote Bags\$10

School Ornaments on SALE:

- Dist #3 Horace Mann School—1873\$2
- Dist #4 Pleasant Valley School—1889\$2
- Dist #5 McKinley School—1872\$2

Prices include tax. ❄️

PLEASE HELP BHS RESET TIPPED STONES AT FOREST PARK CEMETERY

Your contributions by personal check may be dropped off at the Society at 605 Brunswick Road, Eagle Mills during visiting hours or mailed to: Brunswick Historical Society, PO Box 1776, Cropseyville, NY 12052. Please write "Forest Park" on check memo line. Your cancelled check will be your receipt — if you require a paper receipt, just let us know.



FOREST PARK CEMETERY UPDATE

Tracy Broderick

UPHAM / PHELPS FAMILY

Moses Upham (1863-1948) was born in New York. He married Clara Phelps (1874-1949) on September 18, 1894. They resided in the City of Troy on Elmgrove Avenue for the majority of their lives. Moses worked as a shipping clerk, then foreman, at one of the collar factories in Troy. He and Clara are buried together along with her parents Frank (D: 1908) and Sarah Phelps (D: 1923).



Moses A. Upham, Jr.
Born: 1863; Died: Nov 10, 1948 – age 84



Clara E. Phelps Upham
Born: 1874; Died: Dec 17, 1949 – age 74



Moses and Clara Upham



Clara Phelps Upham and Moses Allen Upham with their three daughters: Fannie (top), Clara (lower left), and Laura (lower right). Photo taken circa 1899.

ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

Mark your calendar for The Brunswick Historical Society's Annual Meeting and program.
Saturday, March 19, 2022 at the Brunswick Community Center on Keyes Lane.
Watch for more information.



Clara Phelps (standing at left) with her mother Sarah Franklin Phelps and father Frank Phelps (seated on right). Man on left is unidentified. This tintype photo was taken around 1889.

Thank you to the many volunteers who help to repair and reset tipped stones at Forest Park Cemetery.

—Moses A. Upham died this morning at his residence, No. 194 First street. Mr. Upham was born in Troy in 1820 and always lived in the Eighth ward. He was for many years a building contractor. Mr. Upham was a member of Athenaeum Lodge, I. O. O. F.; Mount Zion Lodge, F. and A. M.; Apollo Chapter, No. 48; Bloss Council; Delta Lodge of Perfection and Apollo Commandery. During the later years of the regiment he was Captain of Company I, Twenty-fourth, N. Y. S. N. G. He leaves a wife and four daughters and three sons. Mr. Upham was a good citizen, a kind neighbor and a devoted husband and father. He was widely known among the older citizens. All his acquaintances will mourn the departure of an exemplary man, and will tender sympathy to the bereaved household. Feb 24 1890

UPHAM—In this city, Feb. 24, 1890, Moses A. Upham, in the 70th year of his age. Funeral notice hereafter.

— Moses A. Upham died this morning at his residence, No. 194 First Street. Mr. Upham was born in Troy in 1820 and always lived in the Eighth ward. He was for many years a building contractor. Mr. Upham was a member of the Athenaeum Lodge, I.O.O.F.; Mount Zion Lodge, F. and A.M.; Apollo Chapter, No. 48; Bloss Council; Delta Lodge of Perfection and Apollo Commandery. During the later years of the regiment he was Captain of Company I, Twenty-fourth, N.Y.S.N.G. He leaves a wife and four daughters and three sons. Mr. Upham was a good citizen, a kind neighbor and a devoted husband and father. He was widely known among the older citizens. All his acquaintances will mourn the departure of an exemplary man, and will tender sympathy to the bereaved household.

Moses Upham, Prominent Mason, Dies

Moses A. Upham, prominent Mason and charter member of Iron Grotto, M.O.V.P.E.R., died yesterday afternoon at his residence, 13 Elmgrove Avenue, after a short illness.

Mr. Upham, in addition to membership in a number of Troy Masonic bodies, was treasurer of Iron Grotto, the only member serving in that capacity since the founding of the organization.

He was a member of King Solomon's Primitive Lodge, F. and A.M.; Apollo Chapter, R. and S.M.; Apollo Commandery, K.T. and the Delta Bodies of Troy.

Mr. Upham was a member, for many years, of the Second Presbyterian Church and was employed as a shipper at old George P. Ide & Co.

He is survived by his wife, the former Clara E. Phelps; three daughters, Miss Fannie Upham of Troy, Mrs. Howard K. Dunbar, of North Hollywood, Cal., and Mrs. H.W. Flandreau of Allendale, N.J., and one son, Frank A. Upham of Troy. Six grandchildren also survive.

The funeral will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. Saturday from the residence. Burial will be in Forest Park Cemetery.



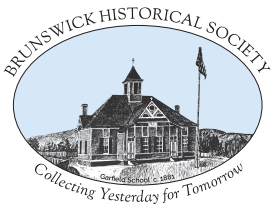
MOSES A. UPHAM
Moses Upham, Prominent Mason, Dies
 Moses A. Upham, prominent Mason and charter member of Iron Grotto, M.O.V.P.E.R., died yesterday afternoon at his residence, 13 Elmgrove Avenue, after a short illness.
 Mr. Upham, in addition to membership in a number of Troy Masonic bodies, was treasurer of Iron Grotto, the only member serving in that capacity since the founding of the organization.
 He was a member of King Solomon's Primitive Lodge, F. and A.M.; Apollo Chapter, R. and S.M.; Apollo Commandery, K.T. and the Delta Bodies of Troy.
 Mr. Upham was a member, for many years, of the Second Presbyterian Church and was employed as a shipper at old George P. Ide & Co.
 He is survived by his wife, the former Clara E. Phelps; three daughters, Miss Fannie Upham of Troy, Mrs. Howard K. Dunbar, of North Hollywood, Cal., and Mrs. H. W. Flandreau of Allendale, N.J., and one son, Frank A. Upham, of Troy. Six grandchildren also survive.
 The funeral will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. Saturday from the residence. Burial will be in Forest Park Cemetery.

Left: Frank A. Phelps, Died: Oct 5, 1908 – age 57.

Right: Sarah Phelps, Died: May 23, 1923 – age 67



Right: tipped and damaged Upham headstone. Above: stone being righted and repaired.



Brunswick Historical Society
PO Box #1776
Cropseyville, NY 12052

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany NY
Permit No. 917

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**Brunswick Historical Society
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

New Members Only

If you are a current member, a renewal notice has already been sent to you.

Fill out the form below and return it to:
Brunswick Historical Society
PO BOX 1776
Cropseyville, NY 12052

- | | | | |
|---|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$ 30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | \$ 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (age 65+) | \$ 10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$ 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$ 10.00 | | |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



MEMBERSHIP MAKES A GREAT GIFT!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Brunswick Historical Society shall bring together those persons interested in the discovery, collection and preservation of historical materials as they relate to the Town of Brunswick and Rensselaer County, N.Y. The Society shall encourage and promote the preservation of historical buildings, cemeteries, monuments, and markers of local importance.

The Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization, chartered by the New York State Board of Regents since 1981. In accord with the Society's Absolute Charter, the Society continually meets the requirements of the Board of Regents, including research, collections management and providing programs and interpretive activities for the education benefit of the public.