



*Collecting Yesterday For Tomorrow*

# Artifacts

SPRING

Published by the Brunswick Historical Society

2015

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2015

**March 21** - Annual Meeting and Luncheon starting at noon at the Brunswick Community Center. Our speaker will be Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters

**May** - New Exhibit Opening

**April 11th** - Silent Auction and Dinner at 6:00pm at the Brunswick Elks

**June**-program TBA

**June, July August**- Town Concerts at Keyes Lane

**September 5** - Tag and Bake Sale, Quilt Raffle at Society's Headquarters



The Brunswick Historical Society will sponsor a Silent Auction and Dinner on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the Brunswick Elks Lodge, Rt. 2 in Eagle Mills. The event will kick off at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar and dinner served at 7:00 p.m. There will be many exciting items to bid on. Bidding will begin at 6:00 p.m. and continue throughout the evening.

Tickets are \$30.00 per person. You may call 283-5915 for reservations and further information. Reservations close on April 2nd. Please consider joining us for an evening of fun and entertainment.

## UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING

The annual membership meeting of the Brunswick Historical Society will be held on March 21, 2015 at Keyes Lane Community Center in Center Brunswick. A hot and cold buffet luncheon will be served at 12:00 noon. Cost of the luncheon is \$10.00. A reservation form will be sent to our membership. Membership dues must be paid before the annual meeting.

Our membership is encouraged to attend in order to find out what has been accomplished during the preceeding year and what our plans are for the coming year.

Our speaker will be Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters who was the contractor involved in the restoration of the Morrision Cemetery. Joe has donated pictures which show the before and after condition of the grave stones. This restoration was a major undertaking and funded by the Irene B. Miller Foundation, Brunswick Historical Society and Stewart's Shops.

## BHS IS EXPANDING!!

Over the years the Society has grown by leaps and bounds. In 2010 we were excited to be able to open the sliding doors at our headquarters located at the historic 1881 Garfield School, which once housed a two room school, and to expand into the area that the Brunswick Community Library previously occupied. We knew at that time storage for our collection would be a problem. Plans are under way to expand the storage collection area at the Society. Our existing collection room will now double in size. We are happy to have local contractor Phibbs General Contracting on board to complete this project.

## Brunswick Historical Society

The Garfield School  
605 Brunswick Rd.  
(Corner of Moonlawn and Rt 2)  
Troy, NY 12180

<http://www.bhs-ny.org>  
(518) 279-4024

Wednesday 1pm - 3pm  
Saturday 10am - 3pm

### Board of Trustees

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Artifacts is published quarterly by the  
Brunswick Historical Society

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tracy Broderick

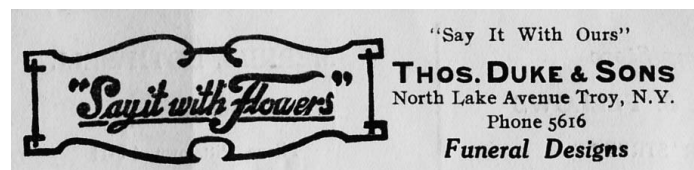
I would like to thank all of our outgoing board members for the dedication and commitment to the Society, Dan Casale, Anne Poletto, Michelle Mavigliano, and Ann Clemente.

We had a wonderful turn out for our October and November programs. We had approximately 40-50 people for each event. John Delano gave a very interesting presentation about research he has done on his property with a GPS mapping program. Our Veteran's Day Program was a discussion on firsthand accounts of experiences our panel of Veterans had in the Vietnam War.

It's great to see that more people than ever have been attending our programs. That says that we are going in the right direction.

## "SELLING BRUNSWICK"

A new exhibit at BHS will feature paper and three-dimensional advertising items created and used by Brunswick businesses from the 1800s through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most businesses depended on print advertisement during this time period. The exhibit will depict a small record of our town's economic and commercial history during earlier times.



## Drop Me a Line—I'm Not on Facebook! Reminisce with Me!

By Sharon Zankel, Brunswick Town Historian

An out-of-town friend stopped by last year with her ten-year-old daughter who asked me to show her pictures of how I dressed when I was her age. "Girls didn't usually wear slacks or jeans to school or church during the 1950s," I commented as I pulled out a box of class photographs and other mementos of my elementary school years. Once my young visitor got past the idea that black/white photographs were "not just used in newspapers," she explored the box's other contents, finding a letter sent to me by my fourth-grade teacher during the holiday recess. The teacher had written:

"I'm just dropping a line to thank you for the gift of lovely stationery. I write many letters and will enjoy using it. Have fun during your holiday vacation, and I'll see you in class soon."

I didn't realize a few sentences could prompt so many questions from a child! What line was being dropped? What's stationery? Why did the teacher have so many letters to write? I guess I did a decent job of answering the girl's questions because we've since become occasional correspondents, and to see her letter-writing skills develop has been a joy.

My mother and grandmother were prolific letter writers—composing a few letters to mail to friends and relatives every week was considered as routine as doing the laundry or grocery shopping or, maybe, checking one's e-mail or facebook page! Letters were received almost daily. As a young girl, I always begged for the chance to examine the sender's handwriting and (the best part) the stationery. I can't remember a Christmas or birthday when Mom didn't receive two or three boxes of decorated stationery, and was thrilled the first time I received the gifts of an address book, prettily boxed notepapers, and a fountain pen. I grew up in a rural area, and keeping in touch with friends between school terms meant writing letters. (Telephone calls to those residing in the village entailed a twenty-five cent toll charge but a stamp cost just a nickel!) Today I have a stash of stationery I'd have cut off an arm for when I was in high school but, with most friends and relatives communicating by telephone or e-mail these days, I rarely write a personal letter.

I've never seen a letter penned by one great-grandfather but have a book he owned titled *Hill's Manual of Social and Business Forms – A Guide to Correct Writing* by Prof. Thos. E. Hill (Chicago, Hill Standard Book Co., 1882) wherein it is advised one "write letters to friends and relatives very often" and "the longer you make them the better." It's also suggested, "After you have written up matters of general moment, come down to little personal gossip that is of particular interest." Prof. Hill must have had the interests of historians and genealogists in mind when developing these guidelines as letters, especially collections of letters, whether received by an individual from other family members or outsiders, generally offer the opportunity to learn about moments in time—perceptions of current events, values, activities, or may impart family history information such as births, deaths, marriages, occupations, relocations, personalities.

If you, like me, have a boxes of stationery going stale, why not set aside a hour or so during these long, cold days of winter to pen a letter? If you don't know someone eager to hear from you, write to me! I invite all readers to share a reminiscence of a special day, a treasured memory, a concern, or, even, a bit of gossip! Let me know what aspects of our local history are of interest. All letters will be answered and no letters will be published unless you offer permission upon request.

Sharon Zankel, Historian, Town of Brunswick,  
336 Town Office Road  
Troy, NY 12180



This letter writing guide, published 1867, by Dick & Fitzgerald, New York, offered a "complete collection of 300 original letters and notes upon every imaginable subject of everyday life."

## BHS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



From left to right Councilman Jim Sullivan, Councilman Mark Balistreri, Supervisor Phil Herrington, Santa, Councilman Gordy Christian, and Councilman Dan Casale.

## Veteran Program- November

The Brunswick Historical Society hosted a panel discussion about the experiences of Vietnam War. Our panel consisted of: from left to right: Rens. Co Legislator Tom Walsh Sr., US Army 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Patrick Abrams, USMC Sergeant David T. Fox, Army Sergeant David Barnum, Air Force major Marvin Zepf, and US Army Colonel Charlie Johnson.



Army Sergeant David Barnum



USMC Sergeant David T. Fox and John Mullen, Service Officer, DAV Chapter 38

## Committee Reports

### Membership Committee Report

Submitted by Anne Poletto



Current members should have gotten their annual membership renewal cards. If have already renewed – thank you! If you became a member after August 1<sup>st</sup>, you won't have to pay for another year. It is because of your generosity that we are able to accomplish what we do!

In 2014, we did our first outreach to businesses in town. As a result, we have three new benefactors, three new corporate sponsors, and one new family membership. It's great to know that the local businesses support us, so please remember to support them – Brunswick Harley Davidson Inc.; Brunswick Physical Therapy; Brunswick Sportsman's Club; Capital Agway; DelSignore Blacktop Paving, Inc; Fagan Associates, Inc.; Fowler, Doyle, Spain, Speiss, & Florsch; Herrington Farms; Lori Schindler Realty; Rifenburg Construction, Inc.; Schmidt Agency, Inc.; Stewart's Shops; Tipperary at Tara Ltd; Trzcinski Farms; and Warren W. Fane, Inc. Let them know how important their membership is to us.

We hope that all our members will get a chance to attend one of our upcoming programs or visit our exhibits.

We are grateful for the patronage of our Sustaining and Benefactor members: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Barrett; Mr. H. Reid Bissell, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Clemente, Mr. & Mrs. John Delano, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Eddy, Mr. Peter Kehoe, Mr. & Mrs. W. Bryan Satterlee, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Schafer, Mr. James Sullivan, Mr. & Mrs. James Toomajian, and Mr. Paul Zollo. Plus we appreciate all the contributions of our life members: Ms. Janet Derby, Mrs. Eleanor Hill, Mr. Warren Rymiller, and Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Zankel.

### In Memorarium

The Society offers its condolences to the families of our long time members - Doris Mooradian, Raymond J. Trzcinski, Sr; and Donald Patton.

The Society is always looking to recruit new volunteers to help with various committees. As you know, BHS is a non-profit, all volunteer organization and depend on our members for support. We are in need of members to sit at the Society on Wednesday and Saturday when we are open. If you are interested please call Betsy Durivage at 283-5915 and sign up. Instructions on procedures will be given.

Thank You



Check out our Facebook page. There are always interesting articles and items from our collection. Don't forget to like us.

### Please Support our Corporate Members

Brunswick Harley Davidson, Inc.  
 Brunswick Physical Therapy  
 Brunswick Sportsman's Club  
 Capital Agway  
 DelSignore Blacktop Paving Inc.  
 Fagan Associates, Inc.  
 Fowler, Doyle, Spain, Speiss and Florsch  
 Herrington Farms  
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 Rifenburg Construction, Inc.  
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 Stewart's Shops  
 Tipperary at Tara, Ltd.  
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**Brunswick Historical Society**  
PO Box #1776  
Cropseyville, NY 12052



NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Albany, NY.

Permit No. 917

## GEORGE WASHINGTON'S COCOA

Submitted By: Dorothy McChesney

In 1976 the Society published a cookbook titled “**Brunswick Cooking Heritage**” to commemorate the celebration of the Bicentennial. Many recipes were submitted by long-time members who are no longer with us. To honor our first President we thought you might enjoy the following beverage!

Mix 4 tbsp. cocoa with a little water  
Add: 2 cups water  
2/3 cups sugar  
1 pint hot milk

Bring to a boil and stir in 2 tbsp. corn starch dissolved in cold milk. Boil 3 minutes and set in warm place. Beat 1 egg with 1/2 cup hot water until it is light and foamy. Pour half in pitcher and add 1/2 tsp. vanilla. Pour in hot chocolate slowly and add remaining egg foam.

Serves 6



### 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.