



Artifacts

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's Annual Meeting was held March 19th at the Brunswick Community Center and was well attended with 35 people present. As usual, the meeting was followed by a speaker presentation. This year the speaker was Rensselaer County Historian, Kathy Sheehan, who presented a slideshow about the history of entertainment in Rensselaer County. Kathy's presentation was, as always, interesting, entertaining, and informative.

Thanks to Long-time Board Members

I would like to thank the outgoing members of our board, **Bill Prout** and **Wilma Bradley**. Bill served as Vice President of the Society for the past six years. He was our go-to guy for repairs and upgrades.

Wilma Bradley was Membership Chair for the past six years. Additionally, she was a willing helper for exhibits or whatever was needed. We thank them both for being such an important part of the Society.



Welcome New Board Members & Officers

Julie Urkevich is now Vice President and Secretary. **Cindy Pinsonnault** continues as treasurer and newsletter editor, and **Deb Baldwin** is our new Membership Chair.

Elaine Mammen was sworn in this year. She has been serving on the board for the past two years,

but is finally official after no annual meetings for two years due to COVID.

Two brand new members to the Society joined the board this spring. I can't tell you how exciting it is to welcome **Brian Stephenson** and **Kevin Hynes**. Brian has agreed to be our webmaster; stay tuned for improvements. Kevin took on a project to weed the entire memorial garden, taking two loads of weeds to the Town for disposal.

I am thrilled to have such a great group of people to work with. For those who don't know, I'm going on my 12th year as President. Time flies when you're having fun. — *Tracy Broderick* ●



Tag & Bake Sale

Save the Date
September 10, 2022

To reserve a FREE table
call 518-279-4024

or email: president@bhs-ny.org.

Or drop off gently used items at the Society
to donate them to the BHS table.

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

Julie Urkevich
Vice President & Secretary

Cindy Pinsonnault
Treasurer

Deb Baldwin

Kevin Hynes

Elaine Mammen

Brian Stephenson

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

It's been a few years since we started the Forest Park Cemetery Project, and it has become an ongoing project for the Society. In that time, we have uprighted many stones and I have done a lot of research, and I continue to learn many new things about the cemetery and the people who are buried there. As most of you are aware Sharon Zankel, the Brunswick Town Historian, researched this cemetery for years.

There are still many unanswered questions. For instance, some people buried at the cemetery were not recorded in the Register of Interments, or sometimes the reference numbers differ from the assigned numbers.

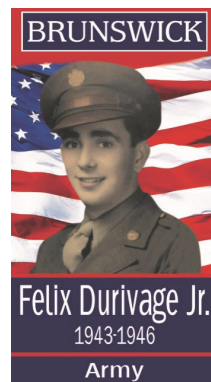
The descriptions of where some of these people were laid to rest is difficult to find, especially when they don't have stones and the people surrounding them don't have them either. I have been trying to map them out, but it hasn't been easy.

An example is Potter's Field, which is located in the Clinton section of the cemetery, where approximately 84 people are buried. I haven't been able to find the exact location yet.

Another reference I've come across is of a "Soldiers Circle" in a few of the descriptions of other lots. I haven't been able to find anything that mentions this in the maps of the cemetery.

This has become a very interesting project. The things that I have mentioned here will keep me busy for the foreseeable future—I will continue research into the history and people of Forest Park. ●

Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow



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 109 hung up so far. You can call 518-279-4204 for an application or visit our website at [bhs-ny.org](https://www.bhs-ny.org) to download one.

GENEALOGY SCRAPBOOKS

The Society now has scrapbooks available for visitors to look through. The originals have been scanned and the copies are out and available for everyone to enjoy.

- Funerals director’s book from *Millers Funeral Home in Eagle Mills* contains burial information that includes 1892-1909.
- Scrapbook for the *Gutbrodt, Keyes, and Johnston* families has the story of these families along with pictures and newspaper clippings.
- *Dusenberry* scrapbook and photo albums contain family pictures and newspaper articles.
- Scrapbooks from World War II, circa 1942, compiled by *Mable Keyes*, contain newspaper clippings along with letters written by soldiers serving overseas.
- Scrapbooks that contain newspaper articles from 1940-1958 of Brunswick and surrounding towns, compiled by *Jessie Wager*.

For family researchers or history buffs, these scrapbooks contain a wealth of information regarding the people living in the Town of Brunswick, as well as providing a look at what was going on in the greater community at the time.

There are more to be scanned, so stay tuned. ●

For sale now —

Capital Region Memories II: The 1940s – 1960s

Capital Region Memories I and ***Capital Region Memories II*** are for sale at the Society. The first book in this set features Albany-area history from the mid-1800s through 1939. The cost for each book is \$45.

A few of our other items for sale:

- Images of America—Brunswick* \$20
- Images of America—Poestenkill* \$20
- Tote Bags \$10

School Ornaments on SALE for \$2:

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

Visit the Society to view these items and more. *Prices include tax.*

THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS AND SPONSORS ...

Sustaining Members

- Sharon Butler
- Tom & Kathleen Decker
- Duncan’s Fine Dining
- Douglas & Manette Eddy
- David & Sonie Hunn
- Dennis & Sherry Perpetua
- Elissa Prout
- Robert & Sherri Ryan
- Francis & Lois Schafer
- Paul Zollo

Corporate Members

- Capital Agway
- Warren W. Fane, Inc.
- Fowler, Doyle, Spain, Spiess & Florsch

Benefactors

- Brunswick Physical Therapy
- George & Kimberly Jensen
- Peter Kehow
- John McCarthy, MD and Jane Falkenstein, MD
- W. Bryan and Patricia Satterlee
- Tom & Catherine Shippey
- Stewart’s Shops
- James Sullivan
- Trzcinski Farms

Lifetime Members

- Janet Derby
- Sharon Zankel

Honorary Members

- Phillip & Cathy Herrington
- Claire Steiner
- Mary Ann Willetts

BEGINNING A NEW CHAPTER!

By Sharon Zankel

As I write this, I am just a few days away from cleaning out my desk at the Brunswick Town Office Building and compiling a final monthly report for the July town board meeting—yes, folks, I decided to resign the office of Brunswick Town Historian!

Leaving a position I've been proud to hold for the last 28-plus years and the work I've greatly enjoyed was not an easy decision, but, I've been wondering a lot lately what happened to that spirited fresh-out-of-college gal who almost made it to the Woodstock Festival. A long career with state government

coupled with my work as Historian puts my time as a public servant past the half-century mark, and my proverbial bucket list continues to lengthen while I watch many of my contemporaries down-size their living arrangements or, worse, cope with the various health conditions the aging process is likely to generate. I'd long been anxious to see my name in the 1950 federal census, but when the data was released earlier this year, I realized only a handful of us from my hometown neighborhood in Orange County, New York are still living, and I guess that's when the ticking of the clock grew louder. I need to spend less time sitting at the computer, and maybe use the yards of fabric I've accumulated to make curtains, if I can find my sewing machine and remember how to use it!

THE SOCIETY

The Brunswick Historical Society has been a big part of my life for over 35 years—and certainly my work with the organization resulted in my being named Town Historian in 1994. I moved to Eagle Mills in 1970, and eventually found my way to the home of Florence Lee, then Town Historian, with the hope of finding a publication about the area's

history. Florence offered me the chance to read several pages she had hand copied from "a very old history book" (later I recognized the information was from Sylvester's 1880 *A History of Rensselaer County*) and told me efforts were underway to form

a local historical society because the Bicentennial of the American Revolution was approaching. While not quite grasping how the creation of a historical society depended on the upcoming 1976

Bicentennial, I asked where the new historical society might be located and Florence, a life-long resident of Eagle Mills, replied "I'd like to see it here, but I think the committee is trying to obtain the old manse by the White Church." Many years later, I learned the Bicentennial of the American Revolution did spur the formation of historical societies across America.

Suffice it to say, the Society was formed, the plan to obtain the church manse failed, and, while attending a 1976 Bicentennial event, I met Patricia Marshall, who was chairlady of the town's Bicentennial Planning Committee, and urged me to take a membership in the Society. I was young and preoccupied with my career and let my membership lapse. I crossed paths with Mrs. Marshall again in the 1980s, we became good friends, and she again encouraged my involvement with BHS. I was asked to serve as a BHS trustee in 1988, the year the Society established its headquarters at the Garfield School. Having a space of its own was a real milestone for BHS—the Garfield School, despite its being shared with the then newly formed library, offered a meeting place,

Congratulation to Sharon Zankel for 28 years of dedicated service as the Brunswick Town Historian.

We will always be grateful for the wealth of knowledge about our town that she has shared over the years.

storage for the collection of artifacts that had survived several relocations around various members' homes, and, best of all, made historical resources about Brunswick accessible to the public. The number of members who rose to the challenge of managing the Society's new home, under the leadership of Claire Steiner, was impressive—a few bumps here and there maybe, but lots of teamwork. I'd lived in Brunswick almost 20 years, was involved with various community groups or projects, and thought I knew a lot of people, but my association with BHS put me in touch with so many folks with stories, many handed down through several generations, about our community's past that I found myself carrying a note pad to every BHS meeting to create a record of informational sources. As it turned out, I did come to rely on that information many times during my work as Town Historian. I've attended many training sessions and conferences and can't recall one instance where historians in attendance failed to emphasize how important it is to have the support of a local historical association, a few community groups, and local government—I have enjoyed that support and I thank all for it.

I took my turn serving as vice president and president of BHS, but it was always the opportunity to recognize and tap our members' knowledge and talents that led me to conclude I could best serve the Society by developing projects and programs that would permit our organization's engagement with the local community. The Historic Building Marker Program, video documentaries, songwriting workshops for youth, walking tours, archeological digs, celebrations emphasizing the importance of archival records and military history, and a wide variety of school programs were just some of the activities BHS permitted me to lead or initiate, and all were successful due to outstanding member participation.

PRESERVING THE PAST

I don't know if my interest in local history was sparked by memories of my own grandparents' sharing tales of a bygone era with me in my younger days, or the fact that I may have overdosed on sociology, anthropology, and history in college, but I can't put this interest on a shelf and walk away from it. As a newcomer to a community where I had no real ties, my association with BHS and my consequent greater participation in the local community grounded my sense of place. I have strong ties yet to my hometown in the lower Hudson Valley as well as a vacation community in the Adirondacks, but Brunswick has been my home for 52 years and where I intend to remain. I hold a lifetime membership in BHS and look forward to continued participation.

By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, you may have heard Tracy Broderick has been named my successor by Town Supervisor Phil Herrington. We all know Tracy to be an energetic worker and eager learner, and I'm sure she'll have the attentive support of her Aunt Betsy Durivage who has been always a wonderful source of knowledge for me. I will be guiding Tracy for however long she wishes, and I am confident the BHS membership will join me in extending Tracy our good wishes and support as she begins her journey as Brunswick Town Historian. ●

PHOTOS WANTED _____

The Society is still on the lookout for photos of the Brunswick area from the 1940s–1980s. We're interested in places and things, but also past weather events in Brunswick. You can email photos to president@bhs-ny.org or call 518-279-2024. ●

FOREST PARK CEMETERY UPDATE

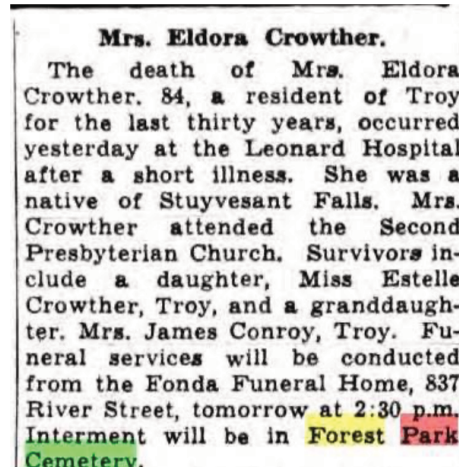
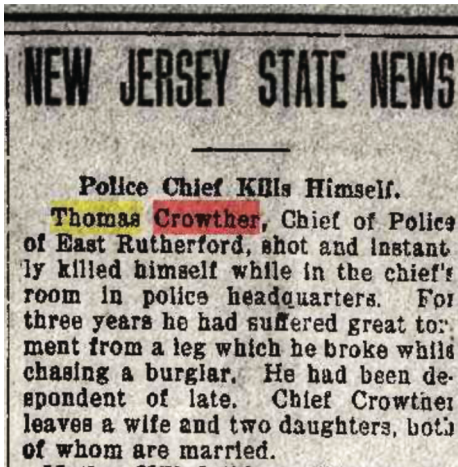
Tracy Broderick

THOMAS CROWTHER

Thomas Crowther was born in England in 1855 and came to the United States in 1870 with his family. He married Eldora Allen and had two children. The family resided in East Rutherford, New Jersey where Thomas was Police Chief. While on duty and chasing a burglar, he broke his leg. Doctors reset his leg several times to no avail. For three years after the injury, he lived in great pain. On January 29, 1908, at the police station, Mr. Crowther took his own life, at the age of 53.

His wife Eldora lived in Troy in her later years. She was 84 years old when she died.

Thomas and his wife Eldora are buried with the Allen-Fagg family in the Kings Plot. These stones were repaired in 2018



Before



After restoration

HENRY BEIRMEISTER

Henry Beirmeister (1880-1941) was born in Germany in June of 1880. In 1887, at the age of seven Henry came to the United States with his family. He married his wife Carolyn in June of 1908 in Troy. For a short time, he and his family lived in Brunswick. In the 1900's he worked alongside his father and his brother in the collar factory. Henry died in Sept of 1941 in Albany, he is the only one buried in Forest Park Cemetery in the Essex Lot and there is no stone.



John H. Beirmeister with daughter Marjorie

JULY MEMBER PICNIC

On July 17, the Historical Society held the first of what we plan will become an Annual Member Picnic.

Society members were invited to join the fun at the event held at the Brunswick Elks. We also invited interested guests to come learn more about the Society, our projects and programs, and membership.

It was a hot July day, but we had a good gathering of members, old and new, and guests who kept cool with a breeze through the shaded facility at the Elks. And, of course, the food was terrific.

Hope to see all our members next year! ●



Left: Sherry Perpetua, right: Phyllis Harrison



L to R: Thomas McGuirk, Brian Stephenson, Kevin Hynes



Left: Wilma Bradley; right: Claire Steiner



Back L to R: Brian Stephenson, Elaine Mammen, Kevin Hynes, Cindy Pinsonnault
From L to R: Tracy Broderick, Deb Baldwin, Julie Urkevich



Left: Shirley Madsen;
Right: Phyllis Harrison

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.





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: _____

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. ■