

JAMESVILLE COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Post Office Box 76

Jamesville, New York 13078-0076

Phone: 492-4890

jamesvillecommunitymuseum.com



Museum Hours

- May through December
Sundays 1-4 p.m.

- March through April
Sundays 2-4 p.m.

The museum is open anytime by appointment.

Please call Greg Titus at 469-6681.

We would like to reduce mailing expenses by making greater use of our website and email. Please supply us with your email address when renewing your membership.

Membership Application 2018

Jamesville Community Museum

P. O. Box 76

Jamesville, New York 13078-0076

Supporting \$50

Family \$25

Individual/Senior/Student \$15

*Sustaining \$75

*Benefactor \$150

*Suitable for Corporate Members

Membership runs
from January 1st,
2018 through
December 31st,
2018

Please make your check payable to: Jamesville Community Museum. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Check here if Membership cards are desired.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

(As you would like it to appear on museum list)

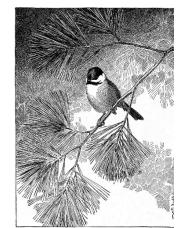
Address: _____

Email address: _____

I am interested in:

- helping with Memorial Day parade activities landscaping and gardening
 planning exhibits for coming year helping with refreshments
 planning children's activities (field trips from the elementary school and/or kids' corner)
 carpentry, exhibit setup, etc.
 helping with cataloguing and record keeping
 serving as host/greeter on Saturday and Sunday afternoons telephoning
 planning a special program for next year publicity

Your response will help the museum plan for the future exhibits and programs. Thank you!



Museum News

Jamesville Community Museum February 2018

From the President:

Dear Friends,

As we enter the new calendar year of 2018, I am pleased to report that the year 2017 was a successful one for your museum. As many museums and historical societies struggle, the Jamesville Community Museum remains active and fiscally sound due to your loyalty and continued support.

We have completed two of the three capital projects identified by the Museum Board of Trustees. This includes replacing the roof and installing a bathroom facility. Expenses were kept to a minimum through the donated talents of Marv Bodley, Greg Titus and Fred Harle. A special thank you to local plumbing company, Cross Brothers Plumbing, for their talent, flexible scheduling and cost effective installation. Our third and final capital project, making our entrance handicapped accessible, will be addressed in the upcoming year.

The museum closed out the year with a very successful Holiday gathering as part of the Chamber of Commerce event, "Light Up Jamesville". Congratulations to Louise Heisler, of Jamesville, on winning our beautiful quilt. For an event of this size, to be successful, there are many volunteers to thank: Christmas Tree (Jerry and Marybeth Aloi), Decorations (Gordon and Cindy Hyatt), Refreshments (Roger Baker), Candy Canes (Connie Barker), Children's Corner Activities (Muriel Bodley) and Set Up (Marv Bodley and Greg Titus). A special thanks to Mrs. Santa Claus (Luann Impellizzeri).

The Jamesville Museum Board (officers and trustees) meets at 7:30 PM on the third Monday of each month. As in past years, the museum is closed during the extreme winter months of January, February, and March. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2018. All members are invited to attend.

Robert T. Catney
Museum President

BUTTERNUT BEAVERS

By Roger Baker



Welcome back to the beavers who have chosen to inhabit Butternut Creek between the dam and Seneca Turnpike. The photo below was taken by my neighbor, Bruce Melick, who resides a few doors north of me on South Street. I first noticed evidence of the beavers this past spring, when I observed several trees down near the creek, the result of beaver activity. It would appear that the beavers are bank beavers and reside in the banks along the creek. About 20 years ago, we had a beaver colony down at the creek and they had built a house in the creek overflow area. My two dogs thought it great sport to jump in the pond and chase the beavers back and forth. The beavers did not appreciate the attention and one afternoon, our yellow lab Lady was bitten by a beaver while chasing them in the pond. Her wound required stitches and ended the fun for the dogs. It seems the beavers will defend their homes, and are excellent swimmers, so my advice is keep your dogs out of the water if you know the beavers are present. Other than that, they are good neighbors and other than a few chewed trees, cause no problems.

This Old House

-by Roger Baker

The Conklin House

This Old House is a series about the homes in Jamesville that were built by our Pioneers and are still standing. It is about some of the homes that were constructed in the 1800s in our village of Jamesville. They still stand as eloquently as they did when they were first established. The families that owned them have restored, repaired, and lovingly kept them alive and well over the years. They survive in their entire splendor gracing the streets of our town. So it is fitting to go back in time and take a look at them as they were in the past and as they are now.

Two homes in Jamesville that best exemplify the nature of our village are the Conklin house at 6471 East Seneca Turnpike and the Avery house, just west of the Conklin house, at 6465 East Seneca Turnpike. Patrick and Mary Brown own and have lived in the Conklin house since 1998. They have two daughters, Jane and Kate. Since 2011, the Avery house has been owned by Alex and Mary Ewing with their three children; James, Andrew and Lauren. These two homes are nestled in the heart of Jamesville and somehow managed to survive the fire that destroyed much of the downtown village in 1877 (more on the fire in our upcoming newsletters).

One of the first homes built on East Seneca Turnpike, or West Street as it was called many years ago, is the house located at 6471 East Seneca Turnpike. Luther Badger built this Greek revival house circa 1820. It was then owned by Charles & Rebecca Richardson, who then sold it to Thomas & Betsy Sherwood in 1852. Upon their death, the house was left with their daughter, Lillie O. Sherwood. She lived in the house until 1904. Matthew & Adrianna Conklin resided in the house until it was inherited by their son, Robert. Robert and his wife, Eveline, resided in the house until 1994 after Robert's death. It was then purchased by Robert Vinciguerra, who worked on restoring the house. He had planned on living in the house, but eventually put it up for sale. Since 1998, the house has been owned and occupied by Patrick & Mary Brown.



A view of the entry way as it is today

As one drives through the center of town going up over the railroad tracks heading west, this house sits just below the crest of the hill. One cannot help but notice the house with the white picket fence that surrounds the yard. Robert Conklin, a lawyer in our town, had some of the younger boys in the village whitewash his fence each year, much like Mark Twain had Tom Sawyer do in his book, "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer". It was a ritual that went on almost every summer for a white picket fence always needs painting. The fence survives today as it did many years ago. Different boards, of course, but still standing in the very same place.

In the early 1900's, Dr. James Paul occupied the Conklin house. He had come here to Jamesville to practice medicine and rented the house from the Conklin Family. His original roots go back to Scotland where his family had a farm. Little did he know that his son, Neil, would also become a doctor in our town.

Dr. Paul soon realized that he needed a larger place for his family and his growing practice; therefore, he bought the house next door that was built by Chapman Avery. The house, located at 6465 East Seneca Turnpike, stands on the west side of the Conklin house. He soon renovated the much bigger house with his office on the east side of his home. More on Dr. Paul and the Avery house in our next newsletter...

Back to the Robert Conklin house. Bob's roots to the village of Jamesville go back to the late 1700s when his great-grandparents, Elisha C. and Orpha Brockway Conklin, moved to Jamesville to farm the land near Bamerick Road. Their son Matthew Conklin and his wife Adrianna Kinney Conklin in turn owned and operated the farm until 1904. They retired from farming at that time and moved into the village to the home on East Seneca Turnpike.

Bob's family history actually goes back much further than 1858, to the earliest white settlers in Onondaga County. In about 1778 Lucy Danks, who was four, arrived in the Onondaga Valley with her father Capt. Isaac Danks, her mother Lucy Earl Danks, and several siblings. Lucy Danks married Harry Conklin on DEC. 29, 1807. She named one of her many children Matthew Conklin. Lucy Danks was to be the great-great grandmother of Robert Conklin. Her older sister Hanna married Ephraim Webster who had come to Onondaga Valley in 1788. He was the first white settler to make his home in the Valley.



Robert & Eveline Conklin

Bob Conklin's life in Jamesville was one of the simple pleasures of childhood in a small village. He and Dr. Neil Paul, son of Dr. James Paul, became lifelong friends playing baseball, skiing and skating in the icy roads on East Seneca Turnpike in the wintertime and swimming in the summertime.

In 1925 Bob graduated from Jamesville High School and followed his sister, Janet, Neil Paul, Baldwin Crosby, Newton Hine, and Robert Broad to Syracuse University. This was the entire class of 1924 at Jamesville High School! Bob graduated from law school in the year, 1931.

Bob married Eveline Fowler in November 1950. They had no children. Bob and Eveline were known to be hard working, kind-hearted, and loyal to the Jamesville Community. Bob's work as a local attorney for 1/2 century not only showed his dedication, but also a personal and professional approach to his practice. They were well loved and respected by Jamesville residents. The Conklin's were also instrumental in the restoration of the stained glass windows at the Jamesville Community Museum.



Luther Badger

Since 1994, the Conklin house has undergone extensive renovations by both Robert Vinciguerra and Pat and Mary Brown. These renovations have stayed true inside and outside to the Greek Revival style that Luther Badger built over a century ago.

NOTE: As you read this article and you see an error about dates, or any other facts, please contact us. We would welcome anything that will help us keep the history of our town as factual as possible. "Water Wheels and Stone: Heritage of the Little Village by the Creek, Jamesville, NY" is also available to purchase at the museum. Contact us at: jamesvillecommunitymuseum@gmail.com