of the Ontario County Historical Society

Established 1902

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To nurture and add value to a county-wide community by preserving and presenting our historic collections in a way that provides accessible educational opportunities and encourages dialogue.

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Director's Desk By Cody Grabhorn

The annual meeting is over, our Gears and Beers fundraiser took place, and A Christmas Carol performed by Kim Tenreiro is in the books. So, now what?

Now we prepare for 2023! The winter months are a time for planning, and that is what we are doing at OCHS. We are working on our three big fundraisers for 2023, which are the car show, garden tour, and Gears and Beers bike ride. However, while we look forward to



Cody Grabhorn

these tried-and-true events, we will be trying a few new things too!

A new and fun relationship that is growing, and we hope will blossom in 2023, is with New York Kitchen. Since we are in the middle of the holiday season, it might be easy for us to appreciate the nostalgia and comfort that food can provide. I for one know that this nostalgia and sense of comfort has been discussed quite a bit during our lunches at the museum. Stories of family traditions via food keep coming up and reminding us that there are different ways to share history. So, why not harness the power of history and food to get people recollecting while having a little fun. While our project with New York Kitchen is in its beginning stages, we encourage you to stay tuned for a unique opportunity to experience history in a hands-on way!

Likewise, while we continue with the tradition of having an annual exhibit, we will add more programming that directly relates to it. We are planning four evening events that we hope will attract current and future members. Since our theme for 2023 is going to be the history of recreation, we have plenty of material to help us structure events that will encourage people to have fun first and foremost.

As we wrap up this year and look towards a new one, I hope that you enjoyed everything we did in 2022 and look forward to what we have in store for 2023!

If you have not received the Chronicles or monthly emails lately, make sure to check in about your membership. We have had some lapses and we want to make sure everyone who wants to know what is happening at OCHS can continue to do so.

December 2022

Education Update Developing Virtual Programming

By Ben Falter

If you missed the OCHS Member Dinner, I gave a speech that night entitled **OCHS Re-envisioned and Re-vitalized**. The main thrust of the speech was that the way to move forward and improve museum education is to take educational programming that has worked in the past and update it for the modern day. One major thrust of this idea is to incorporate more virtual programming options where applicable. The best place to start with virtual programming is the book talk or lecture.

Book talks and lectures have long been a staple of museum educational programming at both OCHS and other history museums and organizations.

However, interest and attendance in these sorts of programs have been in decline for several years. This started before the Covid-19 pandemic broke out, but it certainly exacerbated the issue. With the pandemic forcing many institutions to find different ways to approach programming, virtual options became an obvious solution. Many organizations began offering virtual programming options, including the American Association of State and Local History, the Strong Museum, the Smithsonian, and so many more. And data from the American Association of Museums (AAM) indicates that people are looking for more virtual options. A survey the AAM conducted of hundreds of museums across the country found that in person visitation is down, but virtual attendance and engagement is up. This makes sense. Attending a virtual program allows the attendee to still gain the enjoyment and education from an in -person event, but they can do so from the comfort of their own home and gaining all the benefits from being in their own space. So if virtual programming is where people are moving, it makes sense for us to meet them there, and the lecture or book talk is the perfect program to do so.

Over the past year we've begun experimenting with the idea of the virtual lecture/book talk. We've held four lectures/book talks over the course of the past year. Two of them were virtual only. The other two were a hybrid, with a virtual attendance option as well as an in-person attendance option. What we found was that virtual attendance was better than in-person attendance for these types of programs. And so, with that in mind, for the winter months we're doing our first (hopefully annual) Virtual Winter Speaker Series. All of the speakers in the series are going to be giving talks centered on the theme of fabrics and textiles, mirroring our current exhibit, "Fibers of Our Lives." By doing the lectures and talks as a series rather than one-off events, it lends the program cohesion, giving people something to come back to in subsequent months. Having the talks centered on the theme of the current exhibit reinforces what's going on in our physical building as well. There are four talks in the series, with virtual tickets to join live available at \$5.00 a piece. A series pass to attend all four talks is \$17.00. The first talk is on December 15th at 7 PM and will be presented by Matthew Wedd and Amelia Craven from the Conococheague Institute in Pennsylvania. Then on January 5th at 4 PM, Michael Galban from Ganondagan State Historic Site will be presenting a talk. February 15th at 7 PM will feature Brandon Brooks from the Genesee Country Village. And wrapping up the speaker series will be Hallie Bond from the Town of Long Lake, NY, on March 16th at 7 PM. The easiest way to purchase tickets is to go to our website, ochs.org, and click on one of the talks you want to attend right on the home page. I hope one or more of these speakers excites and interests you, and that you'll join us (virtually!) for one or more of these talks over the winter months.

And don't worry, there will still be in-person educational offerings in the future, with in-person tours returning in the spring and more exciting in-person programming to come in 2023!



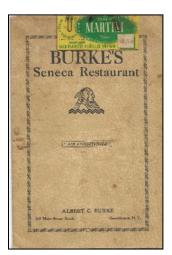
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What's in the Collection? By Wilma Townsend

Looking back over the past year, the Historical Society has received an astonishing number of gifts to the historical collection. Seventy-three generous donors from across the country have given nearly 700 artifacts, photos, archival items, and books related to our local history! Every donation is assigned an accession number and information about each item is entered into our collections database. While it would be impossible to list every gift in our newsletter, here are some interesting examples that have been donated this year. OCHS is appreciative of every contribution made to our historical collection!







(Left) This dress for a little girl is made of fine wool fabric in a brown and beige plaid with blue piping, c. 1870-1875. The dress has been mended numerous times and clearly was well-loved. From the Ruth

Marquis Bowerman family, Victor-Farmington, the dress may have been worn by Ruth's mother, Carrie Phillips Marquis (1868-1940). (Acc. # 2022.38.1)

(**Right**) The brightly painted, plaster of Paris **statue** of "The Lone Ranger," was a prize won at Roseland Park, Canandaigua, for the game of Skeeball. It was won by a member of the Welch family in 1963. (Acc. # 2022.111.2)

(Left) Made of red wool with gray trim, this jacket features a sports letter "C", a "Canandaigua Football" patch, "Steve" embroidered in gray; "Canandaigua Football" on the back, and "78" "G" "NYS V PHSAA" on the sleeves. It was owned and worn by Steve Peglow, Canandaigua Academy Class of 1989. (Acc. # 2022.105.1)

(**Right**) In this stunning **photo**, Eileen Malone (1906-1999) of Victor posed with her classical harp. She received performance degrees for harp from Eastman School of Music, the Paris Conservatoire and Julliard School. In 1930 she joined the faculty at Eastman where she taught for 59 years and later became principal harpist for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra for 43 years. She traveled nationally and internationally for performances, workshops, and worked to promote music education for children. (Acc. # 2022.25.6)

(Left) This menu for "Burke's Seneca Restaurant, Air Conditioned, Albert C. Burke, 169 Main Street South, Canandaigua, N.Y." includes dinner choices with prices, and specials. The donor noted: *My Mom & Dad would meet*

there for dinner while they were dating (1940?). My mom would take a bus from Seneca Castle to meet him. 82 years later, 6 children, 13 grandchildren and 11 g. grand kids and the list continues! My parents have both passed but they often mentioned good times at Burkes." (Acc. # 2022.5)



Wilma Townsend





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Research Team By Doreen Conoscenti

BRIGHAM HALL:

THE FINAL YEARS

In 1876, after the unexpected and tragic death of Brigham Hall's founder, Doctor George Cook, his family, colleagues, and all who knew him were heartbroken. Nearly a year after his death, his widow, Carolyn, wrote the following from their summer home, Elm Lodge. "It was so very sad to miss the living loved one who, for



so many years, shared with us the peaceful life which this place affords. The beloved soul whose thoughtful care had devised and arranged these pleasant surroundings seem always more near to us while we linger in this place so dear to him while he was on earth."

The Hall required leadership and, although Dr. Cook's longtime friend Dr. Chapin would have been an appropriate candidate, he was not interested in leaving his position as superintendent of the Willard Hall Asylum of the Chronic Insane. He did, however, lead the search and, many months later, identified Doctor Dwight Burrell. Born in 1843 in Sheffield, Ohio, Dwight attended Oberlin College and completed his medical coursework at Michigan University in Ann Arbor. He received the offer to come to Canandaigua while working as the assistant physician of the Bloomingdale Asylum in New York City. Coincidentally, Doctor Burrell accepted the position in the asylum which had been named after his uncle, Amariah Brigham, who had been the distinguished superintendent of the State Hospital at Utica, and dear friend and mentor of George Cook.

In January 1877, Doctor Burrell began his tenure as superintendent. He remained a bachelor until 1890 when, at the age of 47, married Clara Kent. For the next 32 years, he continued to lead the Hall until 1908, two years before his death in 1910.

October 1880 marked the 25th anniversary of Brigham Hall. As people were still mourning the loss of George Cook, a small dinner was held which included all patients, staff, immediate family, and close friends. A eulogy was performed by Dr. Cook's brother-in-law, Dr. Elmendorf. Also, in attendance was George and Caroline's 16-year-old son, Robert. More about Robert later in our story.

Doctor Burrell proved to be very adept in managing his medical responsibilities as well as becoming a welcome addition to the Canandaigua community. He was active politically and his efforts to preserve and improve the beauty of our city were well-appreciated. He may be best known as "the father of Canandaigua's paved streets."

In the 1880s, the Hall was performing well financially and plans were initiated to expand the North Wing along with performing some much-needed repairs. The decade saw the addition of a new bowling alley, two pianos purchased for use by the patients, a barn was built and, in 1889, the Hall installed their first telephone! In the 1890s, fire escapes were added and one change still visible today was the erection of the Hall's stone entrance-gateways.

In 1905, Brigham Hall celebrated 50 years of operation. Since its doors opened in 1855, 2,097 patients had been admitted with well over 50 percent designated as recovered or improved. At that time, the Hall was contributing \$40,000 per year to Canandaigua's economy and was probably the second largest employer.

Cont. on p. 5

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In 1908, Doctor Burrell suffered a severe stroke which resulted in his death two years later. George's son, Dr. Robert Cook, at 44 years of age, took over the helm of Brigham Hall. Born in 1864, Robert attended Harvard University, graduating in 1886, then going on to the medical school of Columbia University. He married Mary Belle in 1892 and, after holding a number of positions at hospitals both in New York City and Rochester, opened his own general practice in Rochester, specializing in nervous disorders. From the years 1895 through 1898, Mary gave birth to three sons: Robert, Alan, and George. In 1908, Robert and Mary took of up residence in Brigham Hall and, after a 32-year interval, the torch had been passed from father to son.

Robert had quite varied interests but one, his love of speed, was evidenced when driving his La Salle automobile or his 30-foot boat, which was aptly named Meteor. In 1921, Robert, Mary and family moved out of the Hall, allowing for Doctor Henry C. Burgess to reside there with the title of resident physician. By the mid-1920s Robert's health was becoming an issue and, in 1928, he resigned making Doctor Burgess Physician in Charge.

1930 marked the Hall's 75th anniversary. Through 1930 there had only been three Physicians in Charge. In the final 32 years in which the Hall operated, that role was filled by at least six different doctors. The Hall's 100th anniversary was celebrated in 1955.

In the 1950s Brigham Hall saw a steady decline in admissions along with abbreviated hospital stays. One reason was due to medical advances allowing for mentally ill patients to be treated with drugs while remaining in their homes. This was further exacerbated by the growing costs of private hospital stays.

In September 1960, one hospital wing was given the new name of Grove Home and converted into what was essentially a nursing home. In August 1961, the Trustees announced that, effective December 31st, the 106-year-old asylum would be sold to Howard J. Samuels. He paid \$250,000 for the hospital buildings, 100 acres of land, furniture, and other assets. Who was Howard Samuels and what were his plans for his new purchase? Look for that answer in the next and last installment of Brigham Hall, With Compassion and Empathy For All.

Arts Corner

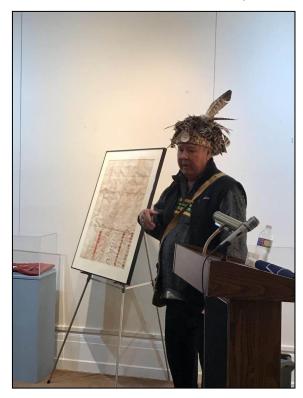
By Judi Cermak

When I opened the November-December edition of the *Smithsonian Magazine*, I was surprised to see a variety of articles related to what the Arts Council and Historical Society have done and are working on now for the coming year. The *Smithsonian* gave a detailed account of its history and the growth of indigo in South Carolina. This year the Arts Council sponsored three workshops on indigo dyeing with Mary Ann Poria, a certified expert in the making and use of indigo dye from the natural plant. Fiber artists like us are developing the use of dyes derived from plants, keeping the history relevant and useful today.

On December 6, 2022, the Smithsonian Museum of American History opens a new exhibit "Entertainment Nation" which relates directly to OCHS's upcoming exhibit for 2023 on Recreation." I expect these exhibits will inspire conversation.

What excites me about the articles in the *Smithsonian Magazine* is that the programs, workshops, and exhibits that the Arts Council and Historical Society do are timely. We can say "we're working on that", "we did that." Maybe one of the next issues of the *Smithsonian* will have an article about Mystery Trunks in the Classroom.

Your Historical Society





Top Left: Peter Jemison speaking at OCHS during Canandaigua Treaty Day.



Top Right: The start line during our first Gears and Beers Ride.

Bottom Left: Director of Education, Ben Falter speaking during the 120th annual meeting

Bottom Right: A view of one of two demonstrations during our Fun with Flax program.



Historical Society Corner—Naples Historical Society

By Ken Poole

When John Sutton (b 1783) from Connecticut relocated his large family to Naples, NY, no one could have foreseen the ramifications of what that move would mean to Naples, NY, Western New York, and New York itself. He also carried with him the "chops" of a bugler; a musical skill that traced its way through the family, ending in 1960 with the death of his grandson William Sutton The marriage of John and Judith Hawes Sutton produced outstanding musician Myron Sutton and daughter Mary 'Polly' Sutton. Myron went on to produce many noted musicians, his sister Mary married successful Naples farmer Myron Holley Clark (b 1806) who in 1855 was elected the Whig Governor of New York State. Mary married Frederick Thompson, the son of a prominent New York banker and together they transformed 150 acres in Canandaigua NY, into what is now known as Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion. If that wasn't enough, from his second marriage after the death of Judith Hawes, to neighbor Mary Louisa Clement, came George Washington Sutton.

But it was Myron Clark Sutton (b 1825) whose marriage to Mary Louisa Clement really got the musical ball rolling. Not only was he an accomplished brass musician but also excelled on the violin. He organized and instructed the 148th regiment NY Military Band. By 1850 he had organized the famous Sutton Cornet Band that concertized and paraded all over Western New York bringing home accolades and an ever



increasing following. They played for almost 30 years on summer's Saturday night in the village band stand located in the park at the corner of Mill and Main Street. They were the rock stars of their day.

Myron's wife died and he married Olive Case of Kanona, NY, their son George Washington Sutton (b 1846) in the Naples' homestead moved first to Bath, where he eventually became the band master of the Soldiers and Sailors Band. After ten years they moved to Wallace NY where he was appointed the musical director of the Shattuck Opera House and band director of the 47th Separate Companies Band

playing out of the new Hornellsville Armory. His bands paraded and concertized throughout western New York to great acclaim. He was affectingly known as Professor.

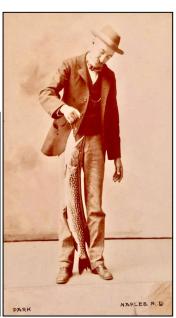
Myron's marriage to Mary Clement continued to produce musicians. Scott Roselle Sutton (b 1849), was a cornet

player for the Sutton Cornet Band whose jewelry skills led to the development of the famous Sutton Spoon used by fishermen all over the world. When you walk through the Sutton Company Store in Naples NY you are walking in the footsteps of Cornetist Scott Sutton.

Owen Eugene Sutton (b 1854) also a cornet player, violinist, and composer who wrote music and method books used extensively in the music instruction profession. At the age of 25 he was in

Rochester conducting and playing in well regarded bands.





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News and Announcements

Holiday Closure - The museum will be closed from December 23—January 2. Regular operating hours will resume January 3.

Virtual Speaker Series - Join the Ontario County Historical Society virtually for a series of four educational and entertaining talks about fibers and textiles in celebration of our current exhibit, "Fibers of Our Lives." Each of our speakers brings their experience to approach the topic from their field of expertise. Links for each talk can be purchased individually for \$5.00 each or as a package for \$17.00. More info and tickets can be accessed on the homepage of our website OCHS.org.

NYSCA Grants - We are overjoyed to announce that we received three NYSCA grants for the 2023 fiscal year. Each grant is specifically designed to help develop virtual programming, increase our membership and better communicate with members, and of course to cover some of our operations budget.

Seeking teachers to test new History Mystery Trunks - As our history mystery trunks are being created by Ben, we would like to start creating a list of teachers who could test them out and give feedback. Please email Benjamin@ochs.org if you or anyone you know is interested.

Seeking Education Volunteers - As we plan more educational programs, we will need more volunteers to help execute them. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, please email Benjamin@ochs.org.

Our 2022 exhibit "Fibers of Our Lives: From Practical Craft to Decorative Art" is open until April. This exhibit is held in conjunction with the Ontario County Arts Council's exhibits, programs, and workshops on art created with a variety of fibers including wool, silk, cotton, flax, and other natural fibers.

Did you know you can use your IRA via Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) as a way to help OCHS?

Investors age 70 ½ and older can use distributions from their traditional IRAs (not employer sponsored plans) to make donations directly to qualified charities, such as the Ontario County Historical Society, even though the new RMD age has been increased to 72. Such distributions are not taxable. If you are in RMD territory, you can reduce your adjusted gross income (and taxable income) dollar-for-dollar by the total of QCDs in any one year up to \$100,000 per tax payer. This is particularly advantageous if you do not itemize deductions.

We Welcome These New Members

David Sauter Colleen Combs Bradley Eisenhart Monica Phillips-Regan Penny and Berry Cherney Todd Beverly Michael Welch Kendra Marasco Tim Dunlap Kathy Finnerty Bethany Markovich Onno Kluyt Ellen Boettrich Michael Baxter Chrissie Irish Amy Lidestri Mark Sheppard Stephanie Landry Bob Taylor Scott Ferguson Michael Bodine Sarah Whitcomb

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Historical Society Corner Continued from page 7

His son Harry Owen Sutton (b 1882) grew up in Naples playing his aunt's piano and spent his short professional life in New York City as a noted Broadway musican and composer known even today for his song 'I Don't Care' performed by Eva Tanguay. Upon his early death in 1911 he left behind an extensive body of musical work.

William R. Sutton (b 1869) in Wallace NY, carried on his father George's tradition. Initially playing percussion in and then directing the Soldiers and Sailors home in Bath, NY. In 1914 he moved his family to Rochester, NY where he played in hotel bands and played string bass for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. He taught music in the Rochester Public School System and to almost his dying day was involved in community based music activities. With his death in 1960 came an end to the band master tradition of this family.



What you have read here is just a sampling of the information available in the tome "Naples Community Bands" written by Kenton Poole and published by the Naples Historical Society. The book goes on to investigate the musical lives and bands of Albert 'Pete' Dunton Naples band master until 1930, the development of Naples Fife and Drum Corp in of 1976 and ending with the 15 year run of the Naples Community Band.

The book can be ordered through the Naples Historical Society web site (naplesnyhistorical society.org) for \$20.00 plus shipping and handling. All proceeds go to curating the musical history of Naples.



In the Bookstore

This holiday season, find the perfect gift at OCHS. Whether you choose our holiday package of 3 books, 2 prints, and 1 DVD for only \$25 or you choose to buy this bag made with reproduced material from our collections, the recipient will thank you!



The OCHS Organization

Staff

Cody Grabhorn Wilma Townsend **Benjamin** Falter Barb Hill Judi Cermak Kathy Cooper Betty McMahon Linda Alexander *Volunteer

Executive Director Curator Director of Education Part-time Receptionist Part-time Receptionist* Part-time Receptionist* Research Coordinator* Librarian*

We wish to extend a special thanks to all of the volunteers who donate so many countless hours in support of the **Historical Society.**

Address correspondence to: Ontario County Historical Society 55 North Main Street Canandaigua, New York 14424

We are open Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

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585-394-4975 Phone: Webpage: www.ochs.org Email: Cody@ochs.org

Please "Like" us on Facebook! Just go to www.facebook.com and search for the Ontario County Historical Society.

Business Members

We wish to thank the business members listed below for their continued support. Please consider them when purchasing goods and services. In addition to these business members, we also appreciate the small donations we receive from dozens of local businesses in Ontario County each year.

B & E Electric Bella Rose Bed & Breakfast Canandaigua Botanical Society Canandaigua Insurance Agency Canandaigua National Bank Canandaigua Federal Credit Union Canandaigua Fire Department Canandaigua Record Exchange Canandaigua Travelers Club Charlotte Julienne Dancause & Sons Inc. Edelweiss Properties Realtors LLC Pieceful Seams Quilt Shoppe Granger Homestead Society Farmington Historical Society

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ONTARIO COUNT	Membership and Benefits	
HISTORICAL	The Ontario County Historical Society 55 North Main Street	
OCIET :	Canandaigua, NY 14424	
Name(s)	Email	
Phone A	Iternate Phone	
Address		
Business Address		
General Membership:Sr Ci	tizen \$30Individual \$35Family \$50Friend \$75	
Centennial Club:Centennial\$100Benefactor \$150Heritage \$250Director\$500+		
Business:Small \$100]	Business \$250Corporate \$550President/CEO \$1000+	
Additional tax-deductible donation o	f \$	
Method of Payment:Cash ExpVC	Check # Credit Card M/C or Visa No	
Signature		
 Member Ben Subscription to our quarterly n Free access to our research root 	ewsletter	

- 10% off in museum gift shop •
- Discounts on certain events and programming •



Calendar of Events - Call or visit our website for more details

- December 15 Virtual Winter Speaker Series 7 PM •
- December 23- January 2 Museum Closed •
- January 5 Virtual Winter Speaker Series 4 PM •
- January 14 OCAC "Seeing Red" exhibit opening reception •
- January 14, 28 OCAC Drop in and Draw 11:30-2:30 .
- February 11, 25 OCAC Drop in and Draw 11:30-2:30 •
- February 15 Virtual Winter Speaker Series 7 PM •
- March 11, 25 OCAC Drop In and Draw 11:30-2:30
- March 16 Virtual Winter Speaker Series 7 PM

NOTICE: If your address changes seasonally, please let us know the alternative address and the effective dates.

Or Current Resident



Canandaigua, New York 14424 55 North Main Street



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