

BULLETIN

Cortland County Historical Society

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2008

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Special points of interest:

- August 30, Richard Schieffelin to speak on Henry Randall, 1 PM.
- Mum Sale, September 4, 9:30 am to 5 pm for pickup (see order form for more information)
- Bicentennial Parade, September 13, 10 am, watch for our float.
- Pale Pachyderm Sale is September 26 and 27. Donations needed. For more details see inside
- Pumpkinfest, October 5 and 6 Courthouse Park

Bernard Potter

“Bernard Potter embodied the three things we all love about agriculture: family, friends, and farming. He was part of what many people consider to be New York State’s greatest generation of farmers and left a tremendous legacy for all those who farm today”, stated Patrick Hooker, New York State’s Commissioner of Agriculture, following the May 25 death of the Cornell trustee emeritus.

Named Alpha Gamma Rho’s Brother of the century for raising \$1,500,000 to renovate its Cornell fraternity house, we at CCHS knew Bernie best, first, as Margaret’s husband. And then, for raising pumpkins!

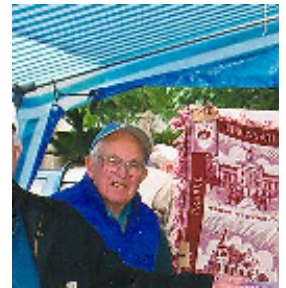
While chronicling four volumes of family life, he turned his yard in the village of Truxton into a pumpkin patch. Not just any pumpkins, but huge ones to compete among Chet Smith’s annual weigh-ins, to then move on to the big time at Cooperstown. With seeds imported from the mid-West, including Atlantic Giant, he experimented and studied the culture of these gourds—the pollination, the avoidance of vine and stem stress, the daily attention to their growth. Progress reports were periodically made to the Historical Society, which Bernie had determined would be the beneficiary of a guess-the-weight-of-the-giant-pumpkin game at Cortland’s Great Pumpkin fest each October.

Shape and color were important elements as well. Bernie was disappointed in 2007’s “albino”, but not the public which annually took a chance on the poundage hoping to be one of the three rewarded for their accuracy.

The Society had suspected that the end of a great run was nearing, but the retired dairy farmer was not quite finished and announced shortly before his death that there would be another pumpkin this season Bernie had not lost the desire for another challenge! Should a giant pumpkin materialize to continue the contest for the Society, it will be the center for a Bernard Potter Memorial.

Submitted by: Mary Ann Kane

Cortland County Historical Society expresses its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of this great man. In his honor we have renamed the annual pumpkin weight contest: The Bernard Potter Memorial Pumpkin Weight Contest.



Bernard Potter at Pumpkinfest



Business Size envelopes decorated with the Bicentennial logo are on sale at CCHS. During this special year of celebration why not use them for your letters and help CCHS at the same time!

20 for \$5.00

50 for \$7.50

100 for \$10.00



No known cure, but disease is fatal only to family budget.

Danger—New Disease Threatens!

In the spirit of our “genealogy pox” warning, here is a new disease we have discovered: ANTIQUE POX: symptoms: continues to complain as to needing fresh air and relaxation when Antique Shows open. Patient has blank expression, is deaf to family. Reads nothing but antique catalogues. Hangs out in barns and flea markets. Makes secret night calls. Mumbles to self.

No known cure, but disease is fatal only to family budget. Victim should be allowed to attend auctions and visit antique shops to avoid withdrawal symptoms and hysteria. (Thanks to the Red Barn in Canandaigua). (Taken from: News Notes from Suggett House. No. 74, November 1983).

The perfect cure for Antique Pox? The 2008 Pale Pachyderm Sale. September 26 and 27, 2008 at the Cortland County Historical Society.
 25 Homer Avenue, Cortland, NY
 26 - 10 am—4 pm; 27—10 am-12 pm; 1pm—4pm
 Rain or Shine

-        
-  **Board of Trustees** 
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-  *Mindy Leisenring—Director* 
-  *Anita Wright—Collections Manager* 
-        

Are you interested in writing for the Bulletin?



Civil War presentation by Ron Matteson

In the past, the Cortland County Historical Society Bulletin has accepted and included writings from local historians and others about their remembrances of Cortland County. If you have a piece you would like to see published, or an idea for a piece that you would like us to include, please contact us either by e-mail: cortlandcountyhistoricalsociety@centralny.twcbc.com, by phone: 607-756-6071, or by mail at: 25 Homer Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045.

Mindy's Musings

Noon is my favorite time of the day here in Cortland. Not because it is my lunchtime, but because the beautiful sounds of chimes fill the air. Now if you are lucky enough to be in Cortland you know that it actually chimes every hour, but that at noon it is truly something to hear.

The historical society is lucky enough to fall in the region that hears not only one set of chimes, but two.

The first set of chimes comes from Saint Mary's Church. Saint Mary's was built in 1909 on 46 North Main Street, it took seven years to complete the building. Some-time between 1978 and 1981 Msgr. John Zeder encouraged the installation of a carillon into a bell-less steeple. The sounds have filled the air ever since.

The second set of chimes comes from just across the street at the Methodist Church on Homer Avenue. For almost thirty five years the church was silenced, but in March of 2007, the chimes began again.

It is such a beautiful sound, and I hope that everyone takes a chance to stop and listen to the beautiful music that Cortland is blessed to have fill the air each day, not only from these two churches but the other local churches that offer residents and visitors this beautiful gift of music each day.



Living History Day at Homer High School. Teaching students about classic toys.



Bicentennial Plate

The Cortland County Historical Society is pleased to offer for sale our limited edition Bicentennial Plate. The cost is \$40.00 to Non-members and \$35 to Members. There are only 300 total plates, so get yours now.

Method of Payment

Check

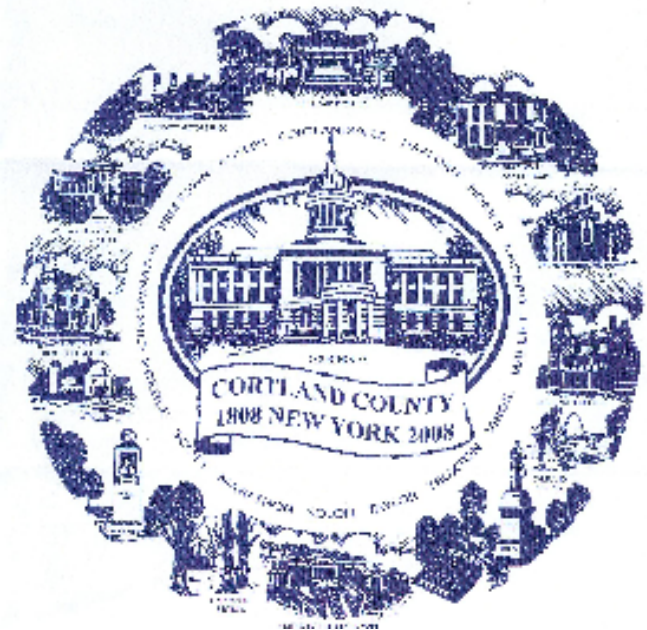
Shipping is \$7.00 per plate. For an additional \$1.65 you can add \$50 in insurance.

Quantity _____
Price _____
Shipping: _____
Total: _____

Name

Address

Phone



Purchase now, for the perfect Christmas present.

CORTLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

25 Homer Avenue
Cortland, NY 13045

Phone: (607)756-6071
E-mail:
cortlandcountyhistoricalsociety@centralny.twcbc.com

Membership Renewals April–June 2008

Thank you to our new and renewing members.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Ackroyd

Liza Adamitz

Harley and Teresa Albro

Charlotte H. Angell

Patricia Arnold

Roger and Shirley Batchelder

Pierre Beaudry

Mary Alice and Harry Bellardini

Ruth Bennett

Mary Bickford

Gordon Bowker

Dr. Joseph Brownell

John and Christine Buck

Gail Bundy

Seth and Carolyn Burgess

Ward and Louise Calaway

Lawrence and Eleanor Caldwell

Joanne Canale

Joan Cannella

Dixie Lee Christenson

John Churchill

James and Patricia Clark

Kathleen Cole

Cheryl Comer

Mary Louise Congdon

Joseph Cortese

Marci D'Angelo

Gary and Sandra Decker

R. Daniel DeLorme

M.W. and Shirley Dickinson

Mary Donovan

Anne Doyle

William and Susan Eligh

C. Ashley and Beverly Ellefson

Daniel and Charlotte Farris

Robert Fouts

Roland and Margaret Fragnoli

Robert and Jean Fryer

Douglas and Josephine Garrison

Louis Gebhard

Barbara Gebhardt

Jeff and Gondha Gebhardt

Stephen and Deborah Geibel

Leslie Gifford

Mary Gilbert-Hall

Gayle Gleason

Irving Goodrich

Chuck Goodwin

Warren Greenwood

Nancy Hansen

Jack Hanson

R. Paul and Elima Higgins

Marian Higgins

K. Mason and Jayne Howard

Kathleen Howe-Handiboe

Betty Hudson

Dorothy Hunt

Gladys Jacobs

Margarette Kabanuk

Thomas and Beth Kanalley

Laura Gathagan and Kevin Sheets

Thomas and Suzanne Knapp

Lawrence and Tina Knickerbocker

Donald and Beatrice Lammers

Stephen and Helen Leet

Kathleen Lord

Joseph and Elizabeth Ludewig

Erling Maine

Raymond and Patricia Malbone

Richard Vandonsel and Mary Leonard

Shirley McMahon

John Montville

Ann Marie Mooney

Judith Niederhofer

Daniel and Constance Norte

Colleen North

Marilyn Partis

Robert Pearson

Patricia Perkins

Mary Gail Phillips

Marsha Powell

David Quinlan

Robert and Norma Rhodes

James and Ellen Robinson

Dorothy Sarvay

Merton Sarvay

Rose Seals

Esther Slater

Laura Smith

Donald and Catherine Smith

Charlotte Snyder

Laura Spencer

Robert Spitzer

F. Michael and Kathy Stapleton

Donald and Connie Steger

Rita Stiith

Randi Storch

Leland and Rosemary Taylor

David and Margaret Taylor

Delores Taylor

Margaret Terrell

Ron and Wilma Van Dee

Sally Wall

Betsy Walters

Jean Warholic

Janice Warner

Ben Wells

Kenneth and Janice Wheeler

Jennifer White

John and Louise Whittleton

Newell and Ardis Willcox

Steven and Amy Winters

Nadine Wood

Donald and Margo Yager Jr.

Paul and Elizabeth Yesawich

Geraldine Young

Janice Young

Fall 2008 Pale Pachyderm Sale

Our annual fall fund raising event will be held in the basement at the Suggett House on Friday and Saturday, Sept 26 and 27th from 10am to 4pm.

Please bring your treasures to the Society by September 9th (at the latest) so your wonderful and unusual offerings can be listed in the advertising that we must get out by the 10th. If we can list the choice offerings, we can insure a larger and eager buying public.

Broken, chipped or incomplete items will not move and those things only test the time and patience of our great volunteers. Your books should go to the Cortland Library Book Sale. Christmas decorations will not move at this time.

Good condition antiques, decorative items, and tchotchkes are always welcome and sell well. As the goal is to generate income, please look for value with your donations. If every member would bring several choice items, we could upgrade the quality of our offerings and end up with empty tables at the sale's end!!!. Please pack up a boxful in August and then deliver it to ready-and-waiting Betty at the Society.

A very large thank you to all of you from the Pale Sale volunteers, Society staff, and board.



Little York Playground

Stories of Cortland County

This Fall, the Historical Society will publish a new illustrated edition of Bertha Blodgett's classic work, *Stories of Cortland County*. This is the fourth edition of the book, and the first since 1975. Long a favorite collection of stories about Cortland, the Society is proud to present this new, illustrated version of Mrs. Blodgett's work

Bertha Evelyth Jones came to Cortland in 1890 to teach at the Normal School where she met her husband, Edward Blodgett. Through long conversations with her father-in-law Alonzo Blodgett, her interest in Cortland's history grew. During the 1920s she wrote a series of short pieces that were published in the *Cortland Standard*. Widespread interest in these stories persuaded her to collect the stories in a volume entitled *Stories of Cortland County*, published in 1932.

Mrs. Blodgett's book was so popular that the Historical Society issued a new edition in 1952. Eleanor Blodgett, Bertha's daughter, edited another edition in 1975, including a brief account of her mother's life.

The 2008 edition will contain all of the original text with notes explaining many of the changes since Mrs. Blodgett's time and many more illustrations.

Pumpkinfest

October 4 & 5 2008 will be the 13th annual Great Cortland Pumpkinfest. It will be held as usual on Court House Park. Come support the historical society, by purchasing publications, as well as participating in the Bernard Potter Memorial Pumpkin Weight Contest.

Be sure to stop by our booth to learn about the new and exciting changes coming to the Historical Society, as well as to meet the director.

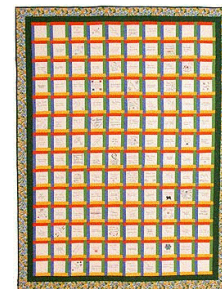
For more information visit the Great Cortland Pumpkin Fest website at: <http://www.cortlandpumpkinfest.org/>.

Recent Acquisition

The Cortland County Historical Society was pleased to recently acquire a signature quilt. The quilt was donated in honor of Betty Houlihan and Ann Houlihan. The quilt is circa 1929. There was little information provided to us other than the names on the quilt. If you have any further information about this quilt, we would be glad to hear from you.

Some of the names include: John Adams, Hannah Perry, Ralph Seager, Mrs. Flora Wood, Eugene H. Coon, M.D, Mr. Harry Cole, Mrs. Inez Foster, Ruby Merlin, Frederick Price, Emma Van Buskirk, Marjorie Seager, Mary Burgess, Margaret McMahon, Bertha Brower, A.A.B. and Myra Craig.

To help memorialize Cortland County's Bicentennial, the Historical Society is making it's own signature quilt. Ours will look a bit different than that of the past, but we invite you to purchase a square, for Five Dollars and sign your name into the history of Cortland County. Be on the lookout for your opportunity to purchase a square at upcoming events or stop by the Historical Society.



Pattern for our Bicentennial Signature Quilt.



We invite you to purchase a square and sign your name into the history of Cortland County.



Signature Quilt donated to the Cortland County Historical Society.

CORTLAND COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

25 Homer Avenue
Cortland, NY 13045



*Your primary source for Cortland
County History*

Phone: (607)756-6071

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Join The Cortland County Historical Society

Membership Form

Senior (optional 65 years & older)	\$18.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	For "Family" Category please list names of family living at this address.
Individual	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Family	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Supporting	\$60.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Sustaining	\$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Sponsor	\$300.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Patron	\$600.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Benefactor	\$1,200.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	



**Suggestt House
Home of the Cortland
County Historical Society**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____