



THE BULLETIN

Cortland County Historical Society



Volume 6, Issue 4

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- *We are working on exciting programs for 2014. If you have an idea for a program, or would be interested in planning (or presenting) please contact Mindy at 607-756-6071*
- *Do you have an idea for an exhibit? Would you like to write for the newsletter? Do you like to do genealogy research? These and many more volunteer opportunities are available at CCHS! Contact Tabitha at 607-756-6071*
- *Glimmerglass Opera is presenting an American Tragedy, be on the lookout for more details about a bus trip to Cooperstown to enjoy the beautiful sites, as well as the opera!*

Mindy's Musings

According to the American Association of Museums, volunteers across the country donate more than one million hours a week. In 2012, Cortland County Historical Society volunteers donated more than 3,100 hours of service to our mission. This year, I have been grateful that when I have called out for help many of you have answered the call.

In March, we unexpectedly found the historical society in a time of employment transition; I put out the call for volunteers, and within ten minutes I had my first response. Ben Wells, a long time member of the historical society, excitedly agreed to tackle the task of putting together a new exhibit. Ben gave of his time and talents to produce an outstanding exhibit that we opened over Memorial Day Weekend (he even brought his choir, the Dynamic Paws, to volunteer their talents and entertain our visitors). Not only did he produce the exhibit for display, he took the reins on our exhibition at the Business Showcase, and we were honored to win the 2013 Business Showcase Award for the best Non-Profit exhibit. As a reward for his hard work, Ben was elected a trustee of Cortland County Historical Society and has been helping in many different ways since then.

Soon after, I received a response from Jean Edwards (a new trustee in January 2013). She had Wednesday afternoons free and offered to help staff the door and phone and pitch in with other tasks. Once we hired Tabitha, Jean transitioned from working at the front desk (and poking around in our collections) to gardening. Those who have visited CCHS this spring and summer have seen the fruit of her dedication and talent. Jean also successfully recruited the Cortland Gardening Club to take over the garden, however you will still see her out there pulling weeds and planting from time to time.

Another response came from Nancy Garvey. Nancy comes downtown for exercise classes at the YMCA and sprints to the History Society afterwards to spend a few hours helping with front desk reception and other tasks. Since beginning to volunteer, Nancy has penned two articles for our newsletter and is working on ideas for sale items for CCHS using her photography skills and creative talents.

These are just three examples of the dedicated supporters of the Cortland County Historical Society who have put their shoulder to the wheel to help make the tasks lighter for everyone. Without volunteers, the Cortland County Historical Society would not be able to provide its high level of service. In May we hosted a volunteer recognition event to publicly thank those who expect no words of praise, and it is my privilege as CCHS Director to again thank each and every volunteer and supporter who makes it possible for me to do my job, and all the more pleasant by their presence.



CCHS Garden that Jean Edwards has been working hard to keep weed free and blooming!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ed Hart, President
Board of Trustees

“A Volunteer Home”

It goes without saying that most non-profit organizations depend heavily on volunteers to be successful. In the case of the Cortland County Historical Society it is highly likely that it simply would not exist without our volunteers and members. It's how we got started in 1925 and it has been the case ever since. Due to the Society's work and responsibility to gather and maintain the historical/archival records of Cortland County, the Society has enjoyed county legislature support since its inception. And, while this support is extremely important, it is the year round efforts of volunteers and members that raise the greater portion of the revenues that keep our doors open and the lights on.

This revenue comes from the many fund raising events held throughout the year as well as memberships and contributions, sales of our publications and other gift shop items, non-member archival research requests and local grant requests.

It is amazing how much work is done by volunteers. They plan and “man” the fund raising events; author, assemble and publish books relating to the history of Cortland County and its residents; collect and file today's and ‘yesterday's’ newspaper articles and other donated literature; review for historical importance and catalog ‘accepted’ items donated to the Suggett House Museum; ‘man’ the phones; audit financials and prepare monthly statements; keep the business files organized; maintain the building and grounds and much more.

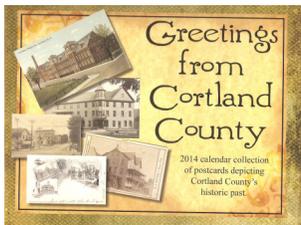
Our volunteers have come from many backgrounds of Cortland County life. They include those retired and those still working. Homemakers, professors, bankers, teachers, accountants, veterinarians, plumbers, doctors, electricians, salesmen and women, pharmacists, contractors, investment advisers, secretaries, store owners, lawyers and more have served the ranks. Over the years there are few positions representing Cortland County's population that have NOT been represented as a CCHS volunteer.....and we appreciate and salute all of them.

No matter what your background, if you love history you will learn more about Cortland County's history, find new and old friends and a welcoming volunteer ‘home’ at the Cortland County Historical Society. We hope you'll join us.



**A Doll House Holiday Returns!
Saturdays and Sundays 1 to 4
pm November 30—January 5
\$5 adult admission
\$3 child admission under 12
3 and under free**

**Interested in volunteering to
help?
Contact Tabitha at CCHS to
sign up (607)756-6071**



2014 will be here before we know it. Purchase your 2014 Greetings from Cortland County Calendar from CCHS!

\$15.00 each (plus postage)

Contact CCHS at 607-756-6071 or by e-mail at cortlandhistory@centralny.twcbc.com to place your order

RSVP by Tabitha Scoville, Assistant Director

RSVP stands for Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Cortland County started its own chapter in 1972. Since its beginnings here, it has been a truly important asset to both retirees and non-profit organizations. The number of retirees who volunteer through RSVP has steadily grown over the years and in 2012, 657 volunteers contributed 64,555 hours of time to 65 non-profit organizations, schools, and hospitals. That amounts to nearly half a million dollars' worth of labor if calculated at minimum wage. However, if calculated at \$22.14 per hour, the figure used by Independent Sector to calculate the value of volunteer hours, the total is \$1,429,247.70. These figures are really irrelevant since the hours given by retired volunteers are priceless because they are given so generously. Seniors are not looking to plump up a resume or for a networking opportunity. They give of their time because they have time to give and they can spend that time making a difference. Fortunately, volunteering is beneficial for seniors since they may develop new friendships, find new interests, or just get out of the house. No matter what drives seniors to volunteer, both the community and the senior volunteers benefit enormously.

Cortland County Historical Society relies heavily on volunteers, many of whom are RSVP members. We have 17 active RSVP volunteers and we had a total of 1,786 hours of time given by those volunteers in 2012. If we figure that CCHS is open 260 days a year (5 days per week times 52 weeks), our RSVP members average almost 7 hours every day we are open. That does not even include other volunteer hours! What a tremendous asset to CCHS! RSVP volunteers assist in countless ways. Some are our cutters and pasters, a dedicated group of ladies who meet weekly to preserve vital statistics and articles of interest from the daily newspaper and countless donated newspaper clippings and scrapbooks. Some of our RSVP volunteers transcribe or index old volumes to make them more accessible, help write and edit our publications, help with fundraising events, and so much more. Can you really imagine CCHS without the activity of our volunteers? What a quiet and lonely place it would be! We need our senior volunteers to bring history to life for those who visit us, and who better to share history than those with a vast wealth of memories that span decades of historical events. We have volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life, and each of them is an important part of who we are. Someday our youngest volunteers might be RSVP members, and what a fantastic example set forth by the current members. Thank you to all of our volunteers, young or old, and to everyone in between!

Sources

Office of the Aging, phone interview with Cindy Stout

http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time



*Coming Up in McGraw
Thurs., Nov. 14 - 7 pm -
"Celebrating Veterans
Month".*

*Guest speaker will be Shirley
Ellsworth who served 22
years in the US Army, is
now retired and lives in
Cortland. Shirley works as a
computer technician at the
Dryden schools. During our
program, we will be
recognizing women veterans
who have served in the
military at any time and
invite them to bring photos
and military memorabilia
which will be put on
display. We are hoping that
memories will be shared
about women veterans who
are no longer here to tell
their stories.*

*We want to stress that this
isn't a "women's only"
program, that men are
invited to come and hear
stories of how Cortland
County women have served
their country.*

*Our programs are held at the
Community Center, Clinton
St., and are free and open to
the public.*



Thank you to Gerald Young for growing our Giant Pumpkin for the Bernard and Margaret Potter Guess the Weight Contest. This beauty weighed in at 285 pounds.

Winners were:

1st Prize: Jolene Dembrosky

2nd Prize: Tom Cain

3rd Prize: Dan Fox

Thank you to everyone who participated!

2012–2013 CCHS Volunteers

Thank you to each of these people.

Diane Ames*
 Donald (Bud) Ames
 Michelle Ball
 Ina Bean
 Betsy Beardsley
 Kathy Beadsley*
 Mary Alice Bellardini
 Charlie Bernheim*
 Mary Bickford
 Betty Bonawitz
 Mary Lou Bordwell
 Valerie Brown
 Christine Buck
 Elaine Case
 Joseph Compagni*
 Elaine Contento
 Mark Curran*
 Sandy Decker
 K. Ann Dexter
 Mary Dexter
 Maria Dillingham-Purcell
 Marti Dumas
 Tom Dumas
 Jean Edwards*
 Bob Ferris
 Margaret Fiske
 Madeleine Fortin

Toni Gallagher
 Mary Ann Gambitta
 Nancy Garvey
 Sue Guido
 Edmund Hart*
 Helen Hart
 Jaffrey Harris
 Nadyne Harris
 Johanne Holcomb
 Roger Horak
 Sally Horak
 Betty Hudson
 Mary Ann Kane
 Karen Kennedy
 Carl Kimberly
 Mary Kimberly*
 Lynne Lash*
 Paul Lorenzo*
 Karen McEvoy
 Jim Miller*
 Krista Natale
 Barbara Nichols
 Jane O'Shea
 Debbie Ossit
 Pat Patriarco
 Kaaren Pierce
 Berniece Potter-Masler
 Pam Poulin

Marsha Powell
 Len Ralston**
 Ed Raus
 Carol Reed
 Bev Ryan
 Maria San Jule
 Jake Schühle
 Cathy Seager
 Kevin Sheets*
 Charlie Sheridan
 Lorraine Sherry
 Joan Siedenburgh**
 F. Michael Stapleton*
 Judy Swartwout
 Martin Sweeney
 Bernadette Travis
 Mark Travis
 Ron Van Dee
 Ben Wells*
 Jennifer White*
 Anita Wright
 Gerald Young
 Sharon Zeches

 Carbon Copies
 Cortland Garden Club
 Good News Computing
 * = Trustee
 ** = Trustee Emeritus

Membership Renewals July–September

Thank you to our new and renewing members!

Katherine Baker
 Roger Batchelder
 Grace Bentley
 Mary Bickford
 Joanne B. Canale
 James and Patricia Clark
 Anna Marie Cole
 Brianna Darling
 Eva De Line
 Gary and Sandra Decker
 Charlotte Farris

Jeff and Gonda Gebhardt
 Stephen and Deborah Geibel
 Alice Hannon-Taylor
 Jack Hanson
 Lada E. Hardwick
 Edmund and Maryanne Hart
 Beatrice Lammers
 Diana Leisenring
 Betty MacNeill
 Lois Meyer
 John Morton
 Valerie Natoli
 Judith Niederhofer

Pat Patriarco
 Patricia Perkins
 Gregory Reed
 Robert and Patricia Riehlman
 Nancy Rivera
 James and Ellen Robinson
 Joan Robinson
 Tim Rodabaugh
 Walter Samson
 Robert Spitzer
 Donald and Connie Steger
 Susan Sutton
 Delores Taylor

Gail Tondettar
 Jeff Wheatley and Family
 Merlene Whisenand
 Dale and Barbara Wightman
 Dean L. Williams



Pin Setter—Paul Spottek

We, the Spotteks, lived at 43 ½ North Main Street in 1944, which was 'bout a stone's throw from St. Mary's church, diagonally across the street and about 3 stone's throws from St. Mary's school from whence all four of the Spottek kids graduated in the 40's and 50's.

Sometime after the start of World War II, a local paper did a half-page story on my dad, also named Paul, highlighting the fact that he'd served under the Kaiser in World War I, was captured by the French, earned the Iron Cross, and was sent to East Prussia, after the war ended. Shortly after the news article came out, as he walked to work at Cobakco, he was taunted by kids calling him a German spy and saying he carried a bomb in his lunch bucket. This was mild compared to what he'd been through in the Old Country, so he'd just laugh and say, "Hello kits"!

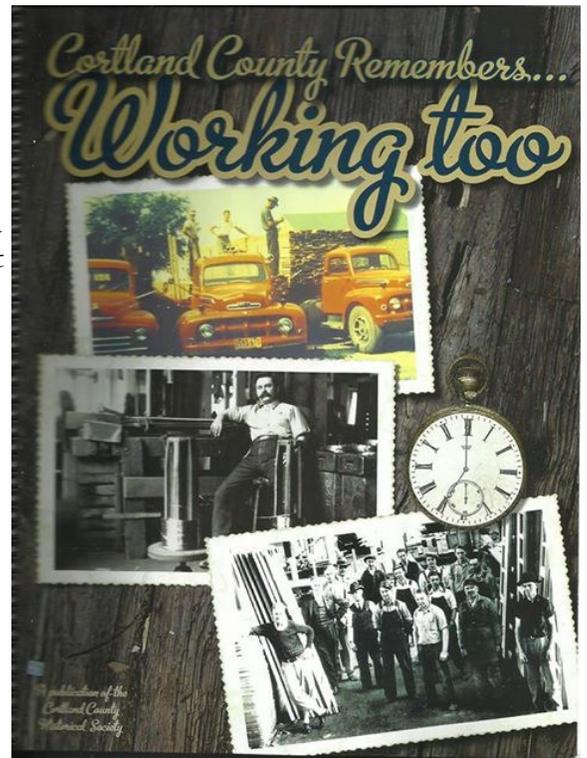
When I was 12, me and a couple of buddies would spend time at the bowling alley, just checking things out. The 10-alley facility on Main Street was owned by Bill Gould and managed by his brother, Maggie. I don't know if Maggie was on his birth certificate but that's what everybody called him. One Saturday, Maggie approached me and asked if I'd like to set the pins on alley nine. My eyes bugged out and I shook my head YES! He took me to alley 10, showed me how things worked and what the pin boy had to do. Then he went up front and bowled three frames with me setting the pins. Each pin had a hole in the center of the bottom, to accommodate the steel shaft that would pop up when the pin boy stepped on a lever to raise the metal pegs. These pegs showed where each pin had to be set, and would be retracted when the pins were set and the alley was ready for the bowler.

"Good," he said. Now listen. When an inspector shows up, I'll press a button in my office and it will beep 3 times. When you hear that disappear between the ball return tracks and hide behind the mat. (The mat was a huge pillow-shaped, stuffed canvas that hung in the back of the pit and absorbed the shock of flying pins and the bowling ball.), until I sound the all clear. Then go back to work. Let's try it." We did and it worked and I had a job that paid me seven cents a game and free bowling when business was slow. You might be wondering why I hid, well, I hid because I had no working papers and wasn't old enough to work nights. There were at least a half dozen married guys working there nights to augment whatever they were making at a regular, daytime job and 2 or 3 like me.

That mat proved to be great protection especially when Leon Howser was there. When he was bowling, his ball barely touched down before it smashed into the pins, sending them flying in all directions...sometimes in pieces. We nicknamed him Leon Howitzer.

Years later, when I returned from the Korean war, (I'd made staff sergeant and was a gunner on a 60 mm mortar in combat), I hitchhiked home from Ft. Drum, needed a haircut, found a barber shop and there was "Maggie", cutting hair...and there was I, in uniform. I shook his hand and re-introduced myself. His jaw dropped and he gave me a trim...saying not a word.

This and other great stories about working in Cortland County are available in *Working, Too!* Contact us today to order a copy \$20.00 plus shipping. (607-756-6071 or cortlandhistory@centralny.twcbc.com)



CORTLAND COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

25 Homer Avenue
Cortland, NY 13045



*Your primary source for Cortland
County History*

Phone: (607)756-6071
Email: info@cortlandhistory.com

WWW.CORTLANDHISTORY.COM

HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/

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Cortland, N.Y.

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Membership Form for New Members

Senior (optional 65 years & older)	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	For "Family" Category please list
Individual	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	names of family living at this
Family	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	address.
Supporting	\$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Sustaining (Cody Higgins Club)	\$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Sponsor (Charles Jones Club)	\$300.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Curator (Mary Ann Kane Club)	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Benefactor (Joan Siedenbug Club)	\$1,200.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Life Member	\$10,000.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Check your mailing label
has your membership
expired? Use this
convenient form to renew
if necessary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Return to: Cortland County Historical Society; 25 Homer Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045



**Suggitt House, Home
of Cortland County
Historical Society**