



THE BULLETIN

Cortland County Historical Society

Solon Pond and the Mills, by Lee G. Kibbe



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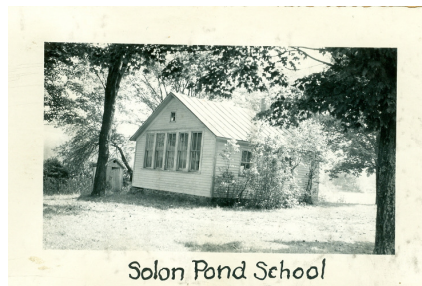
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Special points of interest:

- April 19, 11:30, 90th Anniversary Kick-off Luncheon, Sherman House, Contact Mindy for reservations (607)756-6071
- April 16-June 26, Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War Travelling exhibit, be on the lookout for more details.

Solon Pond and vicinity was being settled about 1830. Timothy McElwain built a saw-mill in 1833 a little below the big pond on a lease from G. Delay. My grandfather, Charles Foster, and his father, Daniel Foster chopped the road through the woods a mile and a half from the north and drew the first log sawed there.



Solon Pond School

About this time Aden Durgee, or Durkee built a grist mill up the gulf creek that empties into the pond above the dam. This lasted about 20 years.

On April 1, 1852, Timothy McElwain gave \$600 for a deed to 49 acres 2 quarters and 29 rods of land which included the pond and saw-mill. This plot had 24 corners or angles surveyed. On March 23, 1853, Timothy McElwain deeded the entire property to Potter Joslin for \$150, reason for decrease in price not known. Joslin then built a dam and saw-mill a little below the old mill and another dam and grist-mill a little above the old mill, so that water from the pond drove both.

Ambrose Allen had these mills in 1869 when a strange fatality occurred. His daughter Hannah descended below the floor to adjust the bag receiving flour when her dress was blown into the gears and she was drawn in to her death. Thereafter only the saw-mill was in operation.

In 1883 Isaac A. Smith bought the entire property, repaired the saw-mill, took the stone from the grist-mill and put in the saw mill where it was operated till 1887. In that year the mill burned, but only the saw-mill was rebuilt, the old stones lying nearby to this day.

In 1903, with the property in a run-down condition I bought it, put it in good repair and built an addition for both the grist-mill and for residence purposes. Since that date I have been adding other machines and equipment, so that today I have saw-mill, old-fashioned stone grist-mill, planers, rip saws and shop machines. I make my own electricity and have three sizes of water wheels.

On April 23, 1836 a school was established at Solon Pond as District No. 22, own of Solon. In 1850 it had 60 scholars, my mother being one of them. In 1841-42 the Solon Pond Methodist Episcopal Class paid \$20 to the circuit preacher, while South Otselic paid only \$10 on the same circuit. Times have changed.

In 1849 the town of Taylor was created out of part of the town of Solon which made Solon Pond almost the center of the township. This account for the other name sometimes given, Taylor Center.

From The Bulletin, September 1953

President's Corner

Edmund A. Hart

“A Past Well Led”

The underlying purpose of any endeavor is to satisfy a need. On May 13, 1925 a group of Cortland County residents completed a most significant step in what they saw as a need to preserve and present the history of the County. On that day, 90 years ago this year, the Cortland County Historical Society became a reality.

After three years as President of the Board of Trustees this will be my final “President’s Corner” article. At our January meeting Dr. Kevin Sheets assumed that position and it could not be in better hands. Kevin and I follow a list of remarkable Cortland County residents. After pondering my last “President’s Corner” column, and at the risk of it appearing to be the product of a slothful author, I’ve decided to use it simply to keep true to the need to present our history and to offer recognition.

The following is a list of those who have presided as President of the Cortland County Historical Society over the past 90 years of gathering and propagating our community’s rich history.

Board Of Trustee Presidents 1925-2015

1925 – 1936	Jeanette Benton Sherwood
1937	Katherine Worden Crutts
1938 – 1950	Eleanor A. Blanchard
1951 – 1952	Dr. Ralph A. Brown
1953 – 1954	Mr. Daniel Cory
1955 – 1956	Mr. Porter Bennett
1957 – 1960	Mrs. Clara Higgins
1961 – 1964	Dr. Roger Heppell
1965 – 1968	Rev. James H. Russell
1969 – 1970	Mrs. Carolyn Ibbotson
1971 – 1972	Mrs. Joan Siedenburger
1973 – 1974	Dr. Seymour B. Dunn and Warren S. Eddy
1975	Edward R. Brewer
1976 – 1978	Charles A. Jones
1979 – 1983	Joan Siedenburger
1984 – 1989	Mary Ann Kane
1990 – 1992	Keith Bundy
1993 – 1998	James Sarvay
1999 – 2006	Robert Ferris

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2007 – 2011	Diane Ames
2012 – 2014	Edmund A. Hart
2015 -	Dr. Kevin B. Sheets

Because of their past leadership CCHS is as viable an organization today as was hoped for in 1925. We have now moved 'full bore' into the digital age. See our new web site that, in addition to general information and presentations of the archives, offers on-line shopping for our gifts and publications. Our recent web presence also allowed us to reach you, our members, about the recent Cortland Community Foundation's local philanthropy contest. Your willingness to give to CCHS resulted in us winning the "Most Donors" category.

Finally, with 2015 marking our 90th Anniversary, we are already planning celebration activities. CCHS is proud to be a co-sponsor, working through the National Endowment for the Humanities, of the "**Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War**" traveling exhibit to be on display at the CNY Living History Center from May 15 to June 26, 2015.

You will be hearing more about our planned activities soon. Because your support is essential to any continued success we hope that you will be able to join your fellow members and volunteers for many years and events to come.

Adorn-A-Door Donors

November 29, 2014, CCHS had 25 beautiful wreaths for silent auction as a fundraiser. Thank you to the following businesses and people for providing us with wreaths.

Antiques on James Street

Arnold's Florist

Bailey Place Insurance

Baskets & Boxes - Diann Potter, Owner

Bev & Company

Crawl Space

CRMC Cardiac Rehab

Crossroads Veterinary

First Niagara Bank

Gretchen Abbott Designs

Grumman Boats

Heritage Realty of Central NY

Homer Garden Club - Karen Seibert

Homer Garden Club - Nancy Dunbar

Indulge

Kaleidoscope of Quilts

Kinney Drugs #36

Past Peddlers Antiques

Shaw & Boehler Florist

Simple Pleasures Bakery/Café

The Boland Family (Cathy, Chris, Deedi, Caitlin & Jimmy)

The Hart Family (Aaron, Andrea, Isabelle & Caleb)

The Kline Family (Debbie, Steve & Andrew)

Town and Country Garden Club

Ultimate Image



Wreath donated by CRMC Cardiac Rehab

All wreaths were grown and made locally by David and Marcia Hicks of Natural Creations, McGraw, NY

Mindy's Musings

Songs have been written about waiting for the postman to deliver that letter you are looking for. In reading someone's letters you get more of a sense of who they are and their relationship to the recipient than in any other way of communication. You learn more about who they were, how they thought, than any biography can ever completely tell. A perfect example of this are the letter of Amelia Stone Quinton; that I have recently been working on indexing.

Amelia Stone Quinton was born on July 31, 1833 to Jacob Thompson Stone and Mary Bennett Stone. While still a young girl her family moved to Homer. She attended school on the Homer Green, before enrolling in the Cortland Academy in Homer. Her family was deeply religious. In the 1850s Amelia became a teacher at an academy near Syracuse, and then moved to Madison, Georgia, where she married Franklin Swanson in 1854. When Swanson died in 1869, Quinton returned North. She became quite involved with charities at this time, and married Richard Linton Quinton in 1878 in London. In the fall of 1878 she met Mary Lucinda Bonney, and they formed the Women's National Indian Association (WNIA). Amelia devoted much of her time and talent to that organization, serving as secretary, president for 17 years, and chair of the missionary department from the beginning. She worked tirelessly to promote the welfare and education of Native Americans, especially those in California. She however maintained a home in Homer, which she often visited. Her brother Seymour Stone lived in Onondaga, and the 1920 census shows her living with him. She passed away on June 23, 1926 of a cerebral hemorrhage, and is buried at Glenwood Cemetery in Homer next to her husband Richard L. Quinton, who died on November 8, 1887. (For more information, see CCHS's Quinton file and read Dr. Valerie Sherer Mathis's article which ran in the *Cortland Standard* on September 30, 1939. I used these sources in preparing the above biographical sketch).

In an April 23, 1906 letter to John D. Rockefeller, Amelia hope to impose upon him to donate some money. Her last paragraph shows her love of the cause and her need for rest.

"I long for rest, greatly need and could take a period of it with a clear conscience if I could see \$1000.00 which I might use to make safe for some time several interests of the association. I know you love to give of your bounty for that which you know to be good, needful, and successful work for the help of mankind and so I bring this statement to you with a prayer, and a hope, after my twenty-seven years of work which God has greatly blessed for staring in civilization and christian living many of our native tribes, and I am with renewed thanks for all your past kindness respectfully, gratefully, and Sincerely Yours Amelia S. Quinton."

A letter from her brother Seymour dated July 14, 1906 shows the worry that the family has for her and her health.

"Dear Sis: Yours from Rochester relieved me from the - almost expectancy - of receiving notice from some hospital that you had quarters with them and would like to have me report there at once; but as you did the reporting yourself I breathed easier. The next one, from Ashtabula satisfies me that you must quite shuttling about alone. That particular brand of electricity may help a cold without hurting its owner, but I should think you would be a little shy of the whole family of 'em."

Letters are a great way to learn about the past, and Cortland County Historical Society has a wonderful collection of letters. We invite you to come spend a few hours getting to know your (past) neighbors!

Dollhouse Holiday and Toy Extravaganza

Thank you to those who made it possible to hold our 2014 Dollhouse and Toy Extravaganza by loaning toys or dollhouses.

Dollhouses loaned by:

Michelle Ball

Kathy Beardsley (for raffle)

Sandy Fillingham

Harriet Glover

Donna Jewett

Autumn Pfister

Elizabeth Stevens Snyder

Toys loaned by:

Ann Dexter

Jaffrey Harris

Mindy Leisenring

Greg Reed

Tabitha Scoville

Jennifer Latetia White



Membership Renewal October-December 2014

Ted and Helen Ackroyd

Patricia Arnold

Charles and Denise Banner-Haley

Cathy Barber

Roger Batchelder

Barbara Bergeron

Karl Blixt

Betty Bonawitz

Mary Lou Bordwell

Rosemary Bracciale

Muriel Brooks

Joan Cannella

Anne Caratelli

Carolee Chrisman

James and Patricia Clark

Joseph and Katherine Compagni

Beverly Cree

Eva De Line

Dr. Suzanne Etherington

Harley Finkelstein

Louis Fiorentini

Roland Fragnoli

James French

Mary Ann Gambitta

Barbara Gebhardt

Jeff and Gonda Gebhardt

Sue Guido

John A. Gustafson

Florie Hage

Eileen Haggerty and John B. Wells

John and Kathleen Howe Handiboe

Jack Hanson

Edward and Patricia Harrison

Peter and Doris Hoffmann

Sally J. Holcombe

Ruth Jordan

Elisabeth Kalilec

Thomas and Beth Kanalley

James and Lucille Kinsella

Bess Koval

Paul Lorenzo

Joseph and Elizabeth Ludewig

Joan Mack

Mason and Jane Morenus

Dr. James Miller and Catherine Seager

Judith Niederhofer

Richard and Jane O'Shea

Stella Partis

Roger Phillips

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CORTLAND COUNTY
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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"/>	

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