



Binghamton Township Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Serving Past and Present Residents of the Town of
Binghamton, N.Y. and its Neighboring Towns

Logo by Doug Webb

Vol. 9 No 4

OCT – NOV – DEC 2012

The Binghamton Township Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation of the history of the region and its inhabitants. It meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 1:30 PM. from April through October in the Museum-Fellowship Hall in the rear entrance behind the old Hawleyton Methodist Church located at the junction of Hawleyton Road (an extension of Pennsylvania Avenue) and Saddlemire Rd. just after the Park Ave./Hawleyton Rd. Junction. Visitors are welcome. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individuals \$15.00 for families (due by September – start of our fiscal year) and includes the Newsletter. Non members may receive a subscription to newsletter for \$5.00 a year. Newsletter in color may be viewed free on www.townofbinghamton.com.



OFFICERS:

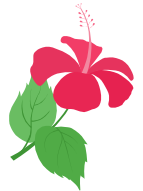
President:Esther Freelove Pettengill
669-4151.....Pet10gill@gmail.com
Vice-Pres:Phyllis Robinson.Hawley
669-4186.....genseek@aol.com
Secretary:Frances Maxian Hibbard
669-4279.....hibbardfran@frontier.com
Treasurer:.....Phyllis Sternberg Merriam
724-1721..... pmerriam001@stny.rr.com

STAFF

Editor:.....Esther McNeil Griffin
55 ½ Main St....Binghamton, NY 13905
725-9280.....Eltiemblo@aol.com
Reporters...
Eleanor Maxian Haines.....
724-4535.....erhaines9@aolcom
Joan Kenesky Moseng..... 724-8070
Margaret Banick Hadsell.....
669-4572.....hadsell@frontier.com
Judy Shapley Zurenda..772-0357 Ext 17
TownClerk@townofbinghamton.com
Janice Brooks Headley cuznjan@juno.com

IN MEMORIAM\

Editor: Esther Griffin



Kasmarcik, Lawrence--his parents use to live on Brown Rd. and some of the children went to SV.

Cannon, Gary--lived here until he joined the Navy, his mother, grandparents, aunts, uncles & cousin also lived here in TOB. He was Phyllis Hawley's cousin.

Howe, Beverly J. passed away in July of this year; The widow of Alfred Howe, she was the daughter of Harold and Gladys Gage. Our sympathies to her aunts, Phyllis and Patricia Tarbox and Wanda Swan, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Kocak, Annie (Mandak, Neduchal) died Aug. 30th at age 94. Her siblings were Elizabeth and Paul and her daughter, Jeanie Mancini. She leaves a host of grandchildren, great and great-greats.!

In addition to losing Tony Galinski's mother, Nasu Gawlinsky on May 23, his wife, Connie, lost her mother, Marice Barber of Brackney, PA. in Sept. She worked at the Brackney Inn. Our sincerest sympathies to all.

As more and more deaths of present and former residents of our town pour in, this Editor sadly adds the death of two of her favorite people, just a week apart in September.

And a couple notes from your Editor, Esther Griffin



John "Jack" Flynn who with wife, Ceasie Stephenson Flynn and their four children, David, Sandy, Debbie and Kathy was one of the original residents of the Reynolds Tract in our Town. Living next door to us Griffins, we became closer than just friends with Ceasie's attack of paralyzing Polio in 1955. Jack was transferred to the Philadelphia area from the Sears tire dept which he headed. Ceasie died years ago and Jack remarried. His death in late September left a huge hole in our hearts.

Now, just a week later, another John "Jack" (Williams) has left us. Jack was a neighbor who lived just across the highway from us on Gillespie Rd. Jack was a true friend and a community source for many years. His sense of humor and kindness matched the other Jack's. Our deepest sympathy to his girls, Joan, Cynthia, Phyllis and Dawn and son, Mike and all the family and his special friend, Norma Jackson.



Will these tragedies never end this quarter? Now we read of the tragic accidental auto death of 22 year old Staff Sgt. Jordan Vincent Godbout in NC. A graduate of SV High School in 2008, he served bravely in the US Air Force 43rd Med Squadron as a Combat Medic to Afghanistan. Our sincere condolences to parents, Vincent and Catherine Ackerson Godbout, sisters Allyson and Elizabeth Godbout and grandparents Fred Ackerson and Bette and Leo Godbout.



Corrections on previous notes:

Cadden: Joseph died in World War I, (not WW2) [Oct-16-1918 in the Argonne Forrest, France.]

DeBellis: Nick & Margie's daughter's name is Carmen not Bonnie as incorrectly reported.

**On a lighter note.
From Margaret Hadsell's
trivia questions**

1. One early land measure was called a "rod". What is the equivalent length in feet?
2. In what year was the City of Binghamton chartered?
3. The City of Binghamton was formed from what Town?
4. Who was the first supervisor of the original Town of Binghamton?
5. Who taught in the first Binghamton school?

Answers on Pg. 6

The Hemlocks

By Robert Smales

Called the Hemlocks, years now gone,
Name changed to honor a man of
generosity.

Few vestiges remain of hemlock glory
—
Forced to ash; structure; road and tannery.
Walls of stone soon marked the boundaries
Of family farms that filled the wilderness.



Blacksmith, store, creamery,
church and mill

Lined rutted roads of
former forest trails

Of Red Men who knew the hemlocks well.
Progress, so called, caused farms to fail;
Modern homes now line forest byways.
Scrubby brush and younger trees
Replace grace of hemlock's majesty.

Notes by Author

If anyone wonders about Line 4 trees were burned for ash for fertilizer before phosphate deposits were discovered in Germany. Logs were put in mud holes in roads, (there was a plank road between the bridges in Hawleyton.) Hemlock bark was used in tanning. There was a tannery on Maxian Road. It used to be called Tannery Road before it was changed to Maxian Road.



The hills were bereft of trees. Arland Gaige had a picture of our hill where one could see stone walls, no trees. Noyes Road had a farm on it at one time. It now has trees and brush on both sides. Many former farms are now covered with brush and trees.

And More on Timber by Arthur Moses

In his 1988 oral history* Arthur Moses, aged 93, shared memories of his uncle Thomas Moses Jr. who came to Brackney, Silver Lake Township, PA in 1849 at age 11 with siblings and parents, Thomas and Jane.

In a letter Thomas Moses later (1916) wrote** to his niece Ida Moses when he was 78, he told her “there was no money in the timber.” He said the “land was poor, stony, covered with very heavy timber...pine, hemlock, beech, birch and hard maple.”

“As they were clearing the land for farming, the timber had to be piled up and burned. Some years later the tanneries came. Then we could sell the hemlock bark for tanning purposes. But the fine saw logs had to be burned. The saw mills would saw logs for \$1 per thousand or on halves, and you could buy hemlock lumber for \$2 per thousand.

The highest wages before the Civil War was \$13 per month in a saw mill.”

On wages before the Civil War: “hoeing corn was 50 cents per day, harvesting and haying \$1 per day.” At age 16 he was paid for “a man’s work” \$8 per month.

*can be viewed in BTHS Museum

**ref. *Genealogy of the Family of Thomas & Jane Moses* (Moses’ family genealogy)

October 6th, 2012
150 years for Ingraham Hill
Cemetery

By Bill Webb, Secretary/Treasurer
Ingraham Hill Cemetery Association

On October the 6th 1862 land on top of Ingraham Hill in the then Town of Vestal, currently in the Town of Binghamton was purchased for thirty dollars by local residents to make the previously used burial ground an official cemetery. The deed states that Willis and Henry DeLong transferred the property to "John K Pierson, Charles Ingraham, Eugene Sternberg and others who had contributed to the purchase of The Ingraham Cemetery". Descendants of these three men, as well as many others maintain this cemetery to this day. At this time in our nations history other cemeteries were also being established as well because of the ongoing Civil War in the south.

On Saturday, October the 6th of this year the Cemetery Association held a dinner and a time of remembrance at our home. Twenty people were present and all contributed to the dinner and the conversation. Most of the conversation centered around the cemetery as well as neighboring farms from earlier days. Two of my cousins and cemetery supporters from Colorado, Jim Ingraham, who is a Cemetery Trustee and Ray Ingraham, sent letters of their early memories that provided some insight as well as entertainment for the listeners.

Also on this occasion Cemetery Association President Tom Haines presented Margaret

Hadsell with a certificate of appreciation for her very extensive research and documentation of the Ingraham Hill Cemetery burials.



The evening was a great time for all those who attended and the dinner was great as well! Those in attendance were: President and Trustee Tom Haines, 6th generation of the Wright / Eldred family and his mother Eleanor Haines who has 14 relatives buried in this cemetery. My good neighbor, Harold (Ben) Hogan a Trustee, Phyllis Sternberg Merriam, a Trustee, her husband John Merriam and brother Gary Sternberg. Phyllis and Gary are 5th generation Sternberg descendants. Debbie DeGroat, a Trustee and her father, Ed Puglisi, Deb's mother, brother and father-in-law are buried in the cemetery. Also in attendance were: neighbors, Harry and Goldie Maurer. Neighbors, Ron and Margaret Hadsell. Margaret is a reporter for the Binghamton Township Historical Society Newsletter and is the Town of Vestal Historian. David Howard and sister Claudia Saunders, 4th generation Howards that grew up on Ingraham Hill, now living near Washington DC, came. Their parents and great grandparents are buried in this old cemetery. In addition were also my wife Norma, son Ben, daughter and son-in-law Kristen and Nathan Luce, and 16 month old granddaughter Sophia Luce, an Ingraham Hill resident, an 8th generation Ingraham and a 9th generation Pierson. And lastly, I am also a trustee, with over fifty relatives buried in this cemetery. There are three generations of Piersons and Webbs buried in the Hawleyton Cemetery that my family is directly descended from and I serve as a trustee in that cemetery association as well.



**Bill Webb and granddaughter,
Sophia Luce**

.....



Musings

By Phyllis Merriam

Walking---It seems like today doctors, physical fitness gurus, and friends are always urging us to walk ---primarily to improve our health, lose weight, even to improve our pet's health by taking them on daily walks.

When I was growing up we didn't have to be urged – it was a necessity. If you wanted to get from one place to another, you walked. Mom and Dad didn't have a second car to run us to town or school or to a friend's house. However, some of my fondest memories of growing up on Pierce Creek Road are of walking on a lazy, summer's day to my best friend's (Judy Krebes' house. Sometimes we did this two or three times a day. After all, we only lived about a half mile apart.

Some days, BIG excursion, we would walk to the bus line in Binghamton, only about 2 ½ miles,so we could take a bus to Court St, go shopping at the stores, Kresge's, Woolworth's and Grant's, or maybe go to the movies on Chenango St. What fun!

Then it was back to Burr Ave. and walk back home, another 2 ½ miles.

No, I didn't have to walk to school most of the time. I was one of the lucky ones. The teacher drove right by my house, so she would pick me up and bring me home each day. Most of the other students walked. So when you hear of "trudging through a foot of snow for a mile or two just to get to school," it's true!

So many memories! Walking to Mrs. Stone's house on Stone Rd. (now called Murphy Rd.) to play with a new litter of kittens they always seemed to have, or sample a few cookies. They were so good and I still use her recipe for Chocolate Chip Cookies.

Walking to my friend, Valerie Russell's house and coming home after dark, sometimes so dark, you could hardly see the road!

Walking to a neighbor's house (I was only about 5 at the time) and deciding to cross the road to visit another neighbor – without getting permission. Big Trouble for me!!!

Judy and I, climbing the hill behind our house to gather wildflowers in the summer, nuts in the fall, or for a picnic of egg salad sandwiches. Judy always said my mother made the best sandwiches



Do I sound like those were the "good old days and nothing can compare? Not so. I like the freedom of jumping in the car and going 20 or 30 miles without a second thought, but I'm glad I also had the freedom to grow up at a time when exercising by walking was not the end. It was the means to an end.

President's Corner
THANKS from Esther Pettengill

As we wrap up our museum season for the year, we take this opportunity to extend thanks to **Phyllis Merriam** for graciously accepting the nomination and subsequent vote as our new treasurer. Membership and other checks should now be mailed directly to her: Phyllis Merriam, Treasurer, 3940 Roberts Road, Binghamton, NY 13903.

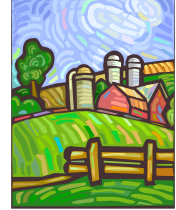
Our thanks to all who already renewed memberships for the coming year. \$5.00 of each membership covers the newsletter costs, with the remainder earmarked for operating expenses. Our budget is small and membership revenue usually covers the electric bills, lease, supplies, and the insurance we are required to carry on the building. However, there is little money left over and we depend upon other donations (including materials) to meet unforeseen expenses. We were able to pay for removing the raccoons and resulting toxic debris, but we will be holding future fundraisers to replace the upstairs electric service and ceiling.

We are happy to announce that our website is up and running, many thanks to Brent Pennington and Mandy Boyle, who donated many hours to make this possible for us. Please visit the site at <http://binghamtonhistorical.org/> and tell us how you like it! There is more complete information there than what is in this article.



REMEMBERING WHEN Our annual BTBS meeting and covered dish luncheon was held Saturday, September 15. There were about 24 people in attendance – a smaller group than

past years, but we all had a good time. Attendees brought us closer to completing two large **MAPS** of **BUSINESSES** and **WORKING FARMS** are or have been located in our township. The information placed on working maps by reunion attendees will be transferred to the large maps which will be on display next spring when we reopen.



FUNDRAISERS

Sometime next spring (2013) we will again try to schedule a concert fundraiser. We've already named it "Raccoon Rumble" and it will most likely be held at the Family Life Center of the Hawleyton United Methodist Church. Look for more information in future Newsletters.

COOKBOOK SALE!

We still have about 60 copies of the Cookbook we published last year. We sold nearly 300 copies, and we would like to sell the rest. Frankly, we need the money for the necessary electrical and ceiling replacement. **We have marked these last copies down from \$15 to \$12.50, two for \$24.** They make wonderful gifts for holiday giving, weddings, birthdays, thank you gifts, etc. Contact Phyllis Hawley, Esther Pettengill, or Phyllis Merriam if you wish to purchase them. Judy Zurenda also has a few available at Town Hall, and until Lone Maple Farm closes for the season they are available there.

(Trivia answers)

1. A rod equals 16.5 feet.
2. 1867
3. Town of Binghamton
4. John S. Wells
5. Col. Rose

Authors Among Us

We previously mentioned the donation of Rev. James Cline's genealogy Descendants of Antonius Klein by Reverend Cline to our museum. The Klein/Cline Genealogy also includes many families of Hawleyton and Town residents who were inter-related. This masterful tome is available for purchase from Jim.

We have received another gift of two books by Maurice "Morey" Hitt: A History of the Binghamton Glass Co. and Genealogical Gleanings of Broome County. Morey's History book is for sale at \$15 plus \$3 S&H (To BTHS members, the cost is \$10 plus \$3) and his Genealogy book is \$45 post paid (to our society members, the cost is only \$20 post paid.)

Testimonials by your editor: As a professional genealogist years ago, I often used Morey's great notebook collection of news articles about local residents and urged him to get it published. I also recommend Rev. Cline's wonderful collection.

One of our professional newsletter reporters, Margaret Hadsell of Webb Rd. also authored a book, Images of America – Vestal in 2008.



A daughter of our President, Esther and Ed Pettengill, Jessica Messenger, has written a children's picture book Stinky Feet illustrated by her husband, Todd Messenger. And, OK, this editor has also written a children's picture book about a Ross Park Zoo animal, Alex, the Lonely Black-footed Penguin Both books are or will be available from Amazon and other book sellers such as RiverRead book store on Court St next to the bridge near Boscov's..

Town of Binghamton Logo by Agnes Hogan Gabriel Reprint from 1st Quarter NL 2006



In 1975, the Town Board officially adopted a logo to be used by the Town. The drawing was done by Marsha VanVorce Fenner. Mrs. Fenner provided this legend to go with it.

The **oval shape** represents an egg, which symbolizes the birth and life of this community. The **eagle** represents patriotism. The **hands** represent friendship. The **three interlocking circles** represent the permanent relationship which the people of this Town render to heritage, present growth and future anticipation. The **sprig of wheat** represents the peaceful attitude of this area's people and its governmental bodies. It also symbolizes the rurality which still prevails in many areas of this Town. The **hemlock branch** was chosen as a symbol of this Town because of many wooded areas which still give this community its rural atmosphere and because it was the historical namesake given to this area.

Hawleyton was once the only hamlet or trading center in this town. Where the hamlet is now, was then a seemingly endless forest of hemlock evergreen trees. To the residents of the city, this territory was known only as "The Hemlocks." A footpath was all that led from the city to the interior of this great forest.

Source: Town of Binghamton, Broome County, NY 1976 by Arthur VanVorce, Sr. Historian.

Phyllis Merriam, Treasurer
Binghamton Twnshp Historical Soc.
3940 Roberts Rd.
Binghamto, NY 13903

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Not all people have this privilege



TOWN OF BINGHAMTON VOTING PLACES

After the Village of Binghamton became a
city.

By Eleanor Haines

On April 9, 1867 when the Village of Binghamton was incorporated as a city, the Town of Binghamton was divided by the city borders on the north and on the south. The first supervisor elected on May 28, 1867 in the Northern section of the township (today's Town of Dickenson) was John W. Cutler, an ice dealer and farmer. His property near Cutler's Pond was Lot #30 in Bingham's Patent, across the Chenango River from the Village of Port Dickenson. People living north of the city voted at the Fair Grounds of the Broome County Agricultural Society.

At the next Town of Binghamton election on Nov 5, 1867, the polls for the town residents

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**POSTMASTER: If undeliverable as
addressed, please return to sender.**

south of the Susquehanna River were in District #1 at Lyceum Hall in Hawleyton. Some 30 years later, following the creation of the Town of Dickinson from the northern section on December 13, 1890, the first annual Town of Binghamton meeting was held at Lyceum Hall on February 10, 1891.

An Apology

If your address label in error indicates that your subscription has expired, please let our treasurer know so we can correct our records. .

(This editor just found a check she neglected to send for her family's subscription. How embarrassing is THAT?)

