



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. 8 No. 1

JAN – FEB – MAR 2011

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 Fellowship Hall 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 the Town of Binghamton web page.

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We wish to welcome Judy Shapley Zurenda back as Town Historian and we are pleased she has agreed to join our Newsletter Committee!



President's Corner

By Esther Pettengill

As some of you may have heard, the Hawleyton Methodist Church has offered the Town of Binghamton the historic old Hawleyton Church property which houses our museum and is the only structure in our Town listed on the state and national Historic Registry. There is grant money available for historic preservation, but generally the applicant must own the property. We do not. Our Society currently leases the Museum and Fellowship Hall from the Methodist Church. Grants commonly require matching funds and effort from recipients. Our finances are slim and our workforce is mostly a handful of senior citizens.

We have been communicating and cooperating with Tim Whitesell and the Board, and they are currently studying the possibility of ownership. We hope they will accept.

(More from Our President)

On a lighter note, we began a "roof fund" in December which already shows promise.



Contributors before

our appeal went out:

- John Cadden
- John P. Donnelly
- Esther Griffin
- Phyllis Hawley
- Dan & Marie Hibbard Pennington
- Jeff and Mary Whiting Puckett
- Frank & Sallie Shapley Pullano
- Rev. Sidney J. & Marjorie Rowland
- Stephen and Kathy Whiting Stenger

Attached on page 4 is the **latest list of donors** for the roof fund (up to our newsletter going to print.) The other contributors for a general or newsletter fund will appear in the next issue along with a membership list.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BINGHAMTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Eleanor Maxian Haines

The following is taken from our first BTHS Newsletter issued in Spring 2004.

The first meeting of the (BTHS) Society was held at the fire station in Hawleyton February 21, 1980 to discuss formation of a historical society. Eighteen people* attended. Esther Meeker introduced Margaret Hobbie of the Regional Conference of Historical Societies who spoke of applying to New York State for a charter and products to purchase.

At the second meeting on March 6, 1980 it was voted to be called Binghamton Township Historical Society. The purpose would be to gather, study and record items

of historical interest about the Town of Binghamton.

Officers elected were President Donald Rakow, Vice President Robert Smales, Secretary Phyllis Merriam and Treasurer Lynn Meeker. By-laws committee was Donald Rakow, Dave Darling, Robert Smales and Phyllis Merriam.

\$50.00 was borrowed from the Garden Club to pay for the charter. We have Doug Webb to thank for the logo and some other signs. Spaghetti suppers, Christmas cookie sales, flea markets, ice cream socials and bake sales were to be the fund raisers.

A Provisional Charter was granted by the State on June 26, 1981 which was valid until December 14, 1984. The organization qualified and was granted the Absolute Permanent Charter April 22, 1988. The framed copy hangs on the wall near the front door of the Museum.

The above information—gathered by Janice Reynolds—is from our BTHS secretaries’ records December 21, 1980 to December 12, 1989.

**Those attending: Marian & Bert Cline; Marcia & Paul Eldred; Carl Larsen; Betty Lindsley; Esther & Lynn Meeker; Don Rakow; Janice Reynolds; Karen & Robert Smales; Marion Shupp; Jean & Art VanVorce; Lorena & Robert VanVorce; and Theresa Washco.*

HOW BTHS BECAME INVOLVED WITH THE OLD HAWLEYTON CHURCH



including excerpts from the Spring 2005 BTHS Newsletter and the application for NYS

Historic Site grant.

By Eleanor Haines

Following the organization of the Binghamton Township Historical Society, regular meetings were held, usually at the Hawleyton Fire Station. In 1985 the first of

several lease agreements between the Hawleyton Methodist Church and the Society gave BTHS the use of the Old Church and Fellowship Hall. In exchange, BTHS agreed to provide general upkeep, share costs for utilities and work at preserving the Old Church. Restoration and collection of historic items was begun by the Society. BTHS began holding its monthly meetings in Fellowship Hall, while Church parishioners continued using the hall for Sunday School and other church activities. By 2000, the Old Church sanctuary housed an exhibit of solicited artifacts and ephemera, either donated or on loan by BTHS, Town of Binghamton residents, and other interested parties.

Improvements to the Binghamton Township Museum

(From information provided by Virgil Washco who was instrumental in providing many of these renovations)



Between 1985 and 1991, many changes, repairs and improvements were made to the old Church to set the stage for an attractive and functional museum. The stained glass windows were repaired, such a very sensitive task that Virgil remembers Paul Eldred being nervous to touch the job for fear of breaking them, but the repairs were made and storm windows installed. In a joint venture with the Hawleyton United Methodist Church, a new deck was built on the East side of the Fellowship Hall. New gutters were installed. Plywood was torn off revealing wainscoting which was removed. Mostly the women worked to strip this surface, stain and refinish it so it could be replaced. Damaged plaster had to be repaired. Walls of the sanctuary were painted and floors were buffed. The steeple needed painting, no place for volunteers, so Peranich and

Shelp stepped in and painted it at no charge, with the Society furnishing the paint and brushes. Electricity was a problem and a 200-amp service had to be installed along with the necessary wiring and outlets. The ceiling lights were lowered.

Finally the museum and Fellowship Hall were painted, another joint venture between the Historical Society and the Hawleyton United Methodist Church. After much labor and endless volunteer hours, days and weeks, about six years of work, the museum was ready. The display cases were old ones, familiar to many who leaned on them at Vosburgh's country store and gas station. They were purchased from Vosburgh's auction.

Other members worked tirelessly on this early renovation, especially Bob Smales, Janice Reynolds, Betty Lindsley, Theresa Washco, Bill Haskell, Bill Russin, Maurice Hitt and 2 sons, Bill Hattala, Carl Larson, Eric Tong, Marsha Eldred, Bob Huebner & Doug Webb. Our apologies to others we've missed.

More recently, former BTHS President, Fran Hibbard, with other officers, Agnes Gabriel and Phyllis Hawley and others worked diligently to hoe out the basement and better display the artifacts in the museum. Current President, Esther Pettengill and husband, Ed, have also expended much sweat equity into hauling out old wet, heavy carpeting and making other repairs. As noted in a previous newsletter, residents, men and women from the Broome County Jail atoned for their mistakes by volunteering to work tirelessly on and around the old building.



**We sincerely thank these donors who responded to our new roof for the museum fund plea.
The names of any others who contribute later will appear in our next newsletter.**

DONORS

IN MEMORY OF

David & Naomi Bloom	
Paul Boyd	
Eleanor Shimer Brooks	
Frank, Marie & Monica Buckley	
James L. Cline	
William Cline	Burt & Marian Cline
Gail Domin	
Arlene Eldred	
Sharon DePuy.....	Scott P. Finch - Father
Margaret Taylor Finch.....	Scott P. Finch – Husband
Marilyn Ferro.....	Paul & Marcia Eldred -Aunt &Uncle
Richard Francis	
Thomas & Monika Furch	
Eleanor Gaige.....	Arland & Iris Gaige
Mary Ann Houlihan Giblin.....	Walter W. Giblin
Robert Guley	
Ronald & Margaret Hadsell	
Eleanor Haines	
Patricia Haines	
Roger & Sandra Haines	
Thomas Haines Rental	
Walter & Francis Hibbard	
Robert Huebner... ..	Thank You card to Robert Smales
Raymond & Susan Ingraham.....	Lowell & Lillian Ingraham- married at Hawleyton Church 7-21-40
Norma Ribble Jackson.....	Parents & Lew – Husband
Miriam Milks Kobuskie.....	Harley & Kathryn Milks
Joyce Milks.....	Harley G. Milks
Curtis & Bernice Stevens Nickerson	
Edward & Esther Pettengill	
Charlotte Hadley Quick.....	Hadley Family
Raymond & Doreen Rolston	
Ann Dubrava Samson	
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Edward Shapley.....	Nellie Shapley
Daniel Shaw	
Stephen & Carol Haskell Stankevich	
Patricia Stillings.....	Maryon & Gottfried Herzog
Thomas & Genevieve Giblin Sullivan	
Bruce & Susan Whiting VanDusen.....	Claudine Whiting
Arthur & Carolyn VanVorce.....	Art & Jean VanVorce & Woody & Bea Snyder
Ellwyn & Marie VanVorce	
Lorena Gaige VanVorce.....	Robert VanVorce
Leon & Marion Reynolds VanVorce.....	Numerous Relatives
Virgil & Theresa Washco	
Brian & Mari Webb	
James Arthur Whalen	
John & Debbie Whiting.....	Roy & Claudine Whiting
Judy Zurenda	



Social Networking By Margaret Hadsell

Social networking isn't new but the delivery medium is. Today, Facebook and Twitter make personal and social information instantly available to the world by connecting to the Internet through a computer or mobile device. One hundred years ago, you waited for the weekly newspaper to read about what was happening in the lives of your friends and neighbors.

“Reporters” or “Correspondents” in each area, hamlet, or neighborhood talked to their neighbors to learn the “news” about who was sick or had visited them, where they had been, and what they were doing. Unlike today’s sharing of the most personal information and photos, the old fashioned “Neighborhood News” provided only a tantalizing glimpse into the lives of local residents. These columns are a veritable gold mine for genealogical researchers. They provide clues about family relationships as well as tips on where to look for lost relatives, job records, and participation in community activities.

Even the full page School District News reports which contained information about school attendance, student grades, and the semester’s teaching assignments included social news for each 3rd District school.

The following selection of columns appeared in the Union News-Dispatch and Broome Republican newspapers. Are any of your ancestors mentioned?
From the News-Dispatch 3 April 1919

INGRAHAM HILL

Mrs. Henry Howard and Mrs. O. Parker spent Sunday with Mrs. Parker's parents on Bunn Hill.

Fred Ingraham has gone into the sap business—has forty trees tapped and expects to make a goodly quantity of syrup.

Miss Florence Snedaker who has been ill of grip is much better.

Mrs. Ingraham entertained Mrs. Abe Schupp Tuesday.

Miss Maisie Miner and Miss Margaret Miner spent the week-end with Mrs. Claude Howard.

Mrs. John Snedaker called on Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Ingraham and Mrs. Elias Snedaker Wednesday afternoon.

Michael Hogan and his son Michael, who have been on the sick list, are able to be out again.

Mrs. Tim Eldred has her hands full taking care of her twin babies, both of whom have been threatened with pneumonia. The little girl is better, but the boy is still seriously ill.

Frank Micalizzi has completed the foundation for his new barn.

William Eldred of Binghamton visited at Steve Eldred's Sunday. He also called on his mother.

Note: These articles have been reproduced, as published, to improve readability.

Union News-Dispatch 27 March 1919 Turkey Lane

Mrs. Beatrice Green of Binghamton and Miss Katie McGraw of Choconut were visitors at their sister, Mrs. Frank Monahan recently.

Guy Meeker and family of Elmira are visiting his parents Mr. and Mrs. Myron Meeker

Henry Vosburg has purchased four of Patrick Morrison's best cows.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Shimer and daughter of Binghamton, spent the week-end with Mr. Shimer's parents, Mr. and Mr. Ed. Meaker.

Mrs. Lewis H. Smith is in New Milford, called there by the serious illness of her mother, Mrs. Jane Chapin.

Union News-Dispatch 10 April 1919
The Grove

The following pupils were absent the last week on account of sickness; Viola Moses, Gertrude Pierson, Marion Coon and Harold Coon.

The following pupils had perfect attendance last week; Irene Maxian, Ethel Webb, Theresa Brusil, Stephia Dubrava, Steven Kumpan, Robert and Samuel Shurtleff, Steven Brusil and Steven Dubrava.

Mrs. Clarence Shurtleff attended the Ladies' Aid Society in Hawleyton Wednesday afternoon.

Supt. K. E. Beilby and Mr. Alley visited this school last Monday afternoon.

An arithmetic test was given the fifth grade Tuesday. Theresa Brusil received 89 per cent, Irene Maxian 91 percent, and Samuel Shurtleff 93 per cent.

Leo Maxian began school in Binghamton Central High School this week after several days' illness.

Union News-Dispatch 20 March 1919
Woodvale

The following pupils have a weekly average of 95 per cent in the health club: Harriet Lee, Fred Donahue, Edna

Carman, May Haskell, Marion Holmes, Maylow Carman, and Martha Holmes.

During the last few weeks the nature study class has seen the following birds: Robin, meadow lark and downy woodpecker.

J. W. Miller who was rendered unconscious by a fall last Friday evening is slowly recovering.

The following pupils were neither absent nor tardy during the past week: Harriet Lee, Fred Donahue, Edna Carman, May Haskell, Howard Clugstone, Merle Cobb, Marion Holmes, John Clugstone, Joe Ruso, and Jay Tripp.

Broome Republican 22 January 1891
Hawleyton

Mrs. Elsa Meeker had the misfortune to slip and fall on the ice recently; injuring one of hips so badly that she is confined to her bed...Rev. G.M. Sanders was scalped in the Red Men's wigwam Saturday night. What our order needs is more Christians in the work...Peter Vosburg and wife are visiting their daughter, Mrs. Mathenson, at Sunshine, Wayne County, Pa...There were no services at the M.E. church last Sunday on account of the severe snow storm which lasted nearly all day...A surprise party and candy pull were enjoyed at the home of James Tripps Friday night last by the young people...Oliver Bell and Charles Pierson have returned from Hancock where they were engaged in cutting wood for Finch & Rose's acid works...A few days ago as Albert Mosher was hauling stone from this place to Binghamton he severely injured his back in lifting a stone...Mr. R.

Finney, the collector for the town of Binghamton, was through here Tuesday. He stopped with L.D. Meeker...Miss Hattie Meeker has returned from Sunshine, Wayne County, Pa., where she has been engaged in working for her sister, Sarah Cannon...Isaac Finch, whose death was announced in the items from this place, wishes to state that he has not yet passed to the great beyond, but is enjoying the best of health. Alphens N. Finch died at the home of his mother, at Conklin Forks, Jan 8th. aged 27 years. The deceased was an exemplary young man and was soon to have been married.

Editor's Note: Another example of Social Networking. *Before the telephone and computers, with many newspapers coming out just weekly, it was important to be able to notify a community when there was a death occurrence. This was done in some areas by tolling the church bells. I remember visiting my grandmother in Pennsylvania and hearing the eerie, mournful sound of the church bells tolling slowly, one ring every 5 to 10 seconds.. Then I would hear, "Oh, dear, I bet that's old Mrs. Johnson. She's been ailing for a spell." The present long term bell ringer of the Hawleyton church, Doug Webb, does not recall this custom being used locally as the bell was only to be rung for a church service.*

We are collecting family recipes for a cookbook to sell. Email: Pet10gill.com preferably 12 point Times New Roman type or mail to Esther Pettengill




3639 Saddlemire Rd.
Binghamton, NY 13903

LIGHTNING STRIKE AT GOLAN's OLD FARM - 1933

Eleanor Maxian Haines

During an electric storm one warm evening in the early 1930's, two 8-yr-old neighbor boys in Hawleyton saw a large ball of lightning hit the barn of the old Golan farm at the intersection of Park Ave. and Stevens Road. At an Ingraham Hill farmhouse several miles away, Mary Eldred and her family, including her 8-yr-old granddaughter, watched the resulting inferno that lit up the night sky. No hose and ladder fire companies existed in the Town of Binghamton until more than 20 years later, so the structure burned to the ground.

The Hawleyton boys were Leland Moses and his overnight pal, Leon  Van Vorce, watching from the Moses' Park Ave. homestead a distance south of the Golan farm. I was the 8-yr-old girl on Ingraham Hill. Thanks to a memory prod by Leland, I remember watching that awesome fire so far away. Both the Moses and Golan properties were at elevations of over 1600 feet, while our Eldred viewpoint was even higher, over 1700 feet. The young boys down Park Ave. from the Golan home and our Eldred family far away on Ingraham Hill were able to watch from afar because, unlike today, people in those days kept their property clear of brush and trees for pasture and farming.

We can assume the barn animals most likely would not have been inside the barn but instead "put out to pasture," and so not injured in the fire. The farmhouse across the road, unaffected, still stands today.

Binghamton Twnshp Hist. Soc.
c/o Agnes Gabriel
Conklin Rd.
Conklin, NY 13748



**Postmaster: If undeliverable as
addressed, please return to sender**

Happy Valentine's Day!

**EARLY SILVER LAKE AREA
Pennsylvania**

Town of Binghamton Border

compiled by Eleanor Haines from 1988
research of Janice Smales Reynolds

On June 10, 1809, the following people arrived in Binghamton from Duaneburg, New York: Alpheus Sylvester Finch, Jacob Hoag, Isaac Higgins, Charles Wooster, Peter Soule, and Philip Griffith. Their only way of travel to Silver Lake from Binghamton was by following marked trees. Their goal was to reach Silver Lake and the land that cleared by Dr. Robert Rose. As they traveled, they passed only one clearing on the way. When they brought their families the next year, it took two days travel to get from Binghamton to Silver Lake. Alpheus Finch settled on the east side of Quaker Lake and Philip Griffith on the south side of that lake. Their homes were the first two houses built in that area other than the beautiful home of Dr. Rose.

In those days, travel to Montrose, Pennsylvania from Silver Lake was possible. Before the organization of Susquehanna County in 1810, one road had been cut out within the present Silver Lake Township. Two rods wide, that State road ran from the 29th milestone to what is now Montrose. Later it connected to Tunkhannock and followed the Susquehanna River about 120 miles to Wilkesbarre and on to Northumberland. The 90 miles from Tunkhannock to Montrose to Silver Lake was in good condition, but Northumberland to Wilkesbarre was not. In early 1800's advertisements by Dr. Rose for land in his settlement, road improvements were promised. Land adjacent to the road sold for \$6.00 an acre while that land away from the road cost \$5.00 per acre. Dr. Robert Rose owned 100,000 acres in the Silver Lake Township. (*Centennial History of Susquehanna – R.M. Stocker 1887*)