



Historical Happenings

Dansville Area Historical Society
“Caretakers of Our Area History”



Volume 20, No. 4

Fall 2012

President's Report

Dear Members and Friends,

Sales of our Dansville Area Historical Society collectibles during the New York State Festival of Balloons at our booth and at the Museum totaled almost \$500! Thanks to Dick Mark and everyone who helped staff and set up our booth and to David Gilbert who minded the Museum on that incredibly hot Saturday (remember?).

As we do every year, our Museum will be open each Saturday from November 22 through December 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for browsing and buying of gifts. We have coverlets in green and burgundy, Rushbottom Cookery cookbooks (a steal at \$10 for a two-volume set), our newest collectible, the Dansville & Mt. Morris Railroad Station, as well as other collectibles including the library, the stone mill, the welcome sign, Star Theater, the fire department, Ra-Pid-Gro, Maxwell Block, Citizens Bank, Clara Barton home, Hyland House, Dansville General Hospital, post office, Dogwood Grove, City Hall, F.A. Owen Publishing Co., American Legion, Dansville Museum, and Brae Burn Golf Club.

DAHS has one more major event for 2012. On Sunday, December 2 at 2 p.m., at the Dansville Presbyterian Church, we will host our annual Christmas Concert. This year we will feature the 78 RPM Big Band.

Enclosed with this issue you will find a DAHS membership renewal envelope for the 2013 year. Membership in the DAHS has decreased over the last few years. It is very important that we have at least 200 members or more. As we all know, the expense for utilities and maintaining our Museum increases every year. Our membership year is based on the calendar year, and we look forward to receiving your renewal.

At the end of the year, we will be losing two board members. Al Hawk, our Acquisition Chair and past President, and Jack Jacobs, our Treasurer and Membership Chair. Richard Whitenack and Bettie Whitenack stepped down as well after many years of service as our Building and Grounds Chair and Programs Chair, respectively. We have five new board members who have joined us: Corky Chapman, Ken Holbrook, Jen Howard, Pam Socia, and Gerri Waight. Welcome aboard.

This past year we began a website which has brought us in contact with people throughout the U.S. Chad Schuster is webmaster; our website is dansvilleareahistoricalociety.wordpress.com or type 'dahs Dansville' into your search engine. We also continue with long range planning and will be applying for grants in 2013.

The Pioneer Park Project continues to raise funds for a memorial to Dansville's first cemetery – the area which was called Instructor Park for many years. A committee of DAHS board members and community members are working to complete this project. Please send what you can to DAHS, P.O. Box 481 and mark your tax-deductible check “Pioneer Park.” Every amount helps to establish a lasting memorial to our history.

Have a Happy Holiday Season!

Jim

Jim Snyder, President of the Board, Dansville Area Historical Society

Acquisitions: August 1 – November 1, 2012

Al Hawk, Acquisitions

- Three area postcards
- 1903/1904 Dansville High School catalog
- 1926 Dansville High School Danua

Linda Miottkke, New Bern, S.C.

- Large group photograph of Bernarr McFadden and his staff, taken in front of the Physical Culture Hotel, 1947

Sue Littlehale, Boise, Idaho

- Framed pencil sketch by Elnathan Babcock
- Photo of Greenmount Cemetery caretaker's home, taken in 1989 upon Elnathan Babcock's retirement as caretaker.

Faye Howe Frederick, Rochester, and Betty Howe

- Maloney Bros. Nursery price list from Spring, 1937

Linda Welden, Little Falls, NY

- Four framed photos (old) of Dansville area:
 - Canaseraga Creek near Burns
 - Canaseraga Creek at The Rocks
 - Poags Hole at the Narrows
 - Stony Brook Park near Shawmut Bridge

Mary Harris, Dansville

- U.S. Veteran Grave Marker, bronze, from Kiehle Cemetery in West Sparta, possibly Civil

Daniel Goho Post, Dansville

- Eight boxes, historical data and records, and slides, related to Dick's career as a Dansville High School history teacher and as a Dansville history collector

Dick Eades, Earlville, NY

- Two boxes, miscellaneous antique kitchen gadgets and tools from estate of Ted and Sylvia Sutfin. They owned and ran Mile's Diner in Dansville for many years.

Terry Sutfin, Vancouver, WA

Tamara Sutfin, Essex, CT

We are grateful for donations of Dansville artifacts and archives. Please call the editor, 335-5743, if any acquisition information is in error or if you need a record of your donation.



This postcard was produced by the Sandford Card Co. in Dansville for the Board of Trade's 1911 Old Home Week. The feature event of the week was an airplane exhibition by a pilot named Walter Johnson, flying a Thomas Headless Biplane. These were the first airplane flights in Livingston County history; takeoffs and landings occurred from a field owned by Stark Brothers Nursery; near the future site of Ellis B. Hyde Elementary School. A young Lynn Pickard was among the spectators; he would go on to found Dansville's own airport.



It's Time!
Dansville Area Historical Society's

Annual Winter Concert



Join Us

Sunday, December 2 at 2 p.m.

Dansville Presbyterian Church

for sounds of

78 RPM Big Band

Performing Christmas Selections

And

Band Favorites

Reception with refreshments will follow
the concert



How the Dansville Welcome Sign Came to Be

The “Welcome to Dansville” sign is one of DAHS’s most popular wooden collectibles. It reminds many of us of the days when, from whatever direction we drove into Dansville, we would be assured that yes, we were approaching a good place to live, work, and play. Below is an article that ran in the Thursday, January 23, 1947, edition of The Dansville Breeze:

“Board of Trade Starts Drive for Welcome Signs; Committee Seeks \$2100 to Erect Entrance Boards

Robert Gray and his committee of Board of Tradesmen yesterday began a campaign to raise \$2100 for erection of five ‘Welcome to Dansville’ signs at the five main approaches to the village, following approval of the plan by the Board of Trade Monday night.

The signs, to be painted and raised by a Rochester firm, will be placed at the Wayland road entrance, Hornell road entrance, DL & W entrance, and on roads from Mt. Morris and Geneseo.

William D. Conklin, Edward E. Brogan and Mayor F. Jay Smith were appointed to draw up proper wording for the signs.

A drawing of a sign proposed by the Rochester firm was shown by Mr. Gray, but final decision as to wording and colors will be made later.

Funds will be raised from local industries, the nurseries, businessmen and service clubs, according to John Kelly, Board of Trade President.

The proposed sign is 16 and one-half feet long, 10 and one-half feet high, of all metal construction with wooden trim. Tentative wording is: Welcome to DANSVILLE / A



Thriving Community / The Birthplace of the American Red Cross. On a removable shield-shaped panel in the left corner will be a painting of Clara Barton, with the legend: “Clara Barton Chapter No. 1.”

Listings of Dansville’s industries will be on a similar removable panel on the right. Mr. Kelly pointed out that these panels can be removed and dates of important coming community events listed on them. Impregnated with a reflecting material, the signs will be visible at night. Cost of repainting the signs every three to five years will be \$100, Mr. Kelly announced. Funds raised in the coming campaign will be put in escrow until signs are erected.”

The DAHS Hometowne Collectibles are available for sale at the Museum for \$15 each.

The Dansville Hall of Fame

The Citizens Honor Roll, second of two articles

By David Gilbert, DAHS Curator

[Our previous issue of "Historical Happenings" listed the Citizens' Honor Roll from "A" through "L." Here we conclude our listing of those 75 Dansvillians who were nominated to the Dansville Hall of Fame.]

In the May 2012 newsletter, we completed our roll call of the twenty men and women who were inducted into the Dansville Hall of Fame in 1989 and 1995. But many other noteworthy Dansvillians were also nominated for recognition. Perhaps when names are someday added to the Hall of Fame, they will be from among these people, listed here in alphabetical order.

Frank J. Lemen (1880-1947) – President of Citizens Bank, 1940-47; president of the Rotary Club; Board of Trade member.

William Slough Lemen (1760-1845) – Revolutionary War soldier, early local settler (first in Ossian, then Sandy Hill).

Thomas MacKlem (c. 1778-1822) – Dansville's first schoolteacher (James Faulkner was among his first students).

Albert E. Maloney (1884-1953) – with brother William, founded Maloney Brothers Nursery Company. Active in Knights of Columbus, Exchange Club, Board of Trade.

Bessie Green Maloney (c. 1890 – 1984) – Wife of Albert Maloney. Local civic leader, served on Hospital Board, as secretary for the Red Cross, and was on the Library Board for 50 years.

Thomas Maloney (1846-1955) -- With brother Albert, founded Maloney Brothers Nursery Company. Board of Trade president; director of Dansville General Hospital.

Olney B. Maxwell (d. 1875) – Local businessman, postmaster. One of Dansville's pioneer nurserymen. Built Maxwell Block on Main Street (1874).

Jonathan B. Morey, Sr. (1836-1905) – Important local businessman; established J.B. Morey & Son Nursery, one of Dansville's largest. Served as State Assemblyman, Village President.

Warren S. Morey (1871-1944) – Local journalist, Democratic leader. Served as Police Justice and Justice of the Peace.

Elizabeth F. Noon (1914-1993) – Editor of *Instructor* magazine; also served on Dansville Board of Education.

Emma Hartman Noyes (1857-1949) – Wife of Frederick W. Noyes; charter member of Dansville Red Cross (her home on Elizabeth St. is now the Red Cross house).

Frederick W. Noyes (1852-1914) -- Local attorney, Livingston County District Attorney, Justice of the Peace, Village President.

Marian F. Owen (1909-1993) – Editor of *Instructor* magazine; first president of Dansville Area Historical Society.

Vincent L. Owen (1903-1982) – Employee of F.A. Owen Publishing Co. Charter member of Dansville Area Historical Society and caretaker of the village museum.

Dr. Francis Marion Perine (1831-1903) – Local physician and farmer, County coroner for 21 years. Village president; co-founder and president, Livingston County Historical Society. Pioneered local graph-growing industry.

Helen Pratt (1906-2000) – One of Dansville's first women lawyers, served as Village Attorney, president of the Livingston County Bar Association, and President of Livingston County Women's Democratic Organization. Elected to the U.S. Electoral College in 1976.

Joseph J. Quinlan (1907-1981) – Employee of Blum Shoe Mfg. Co.; locally known collector of, and expert on, Indian relics and lore.

Erhard Rau (1788-1885) – One of Livingston County largest landowners (1500 acres in Sparta area). Owned and operated a tavern in Dansville.

Benjamin F. Readshaw (1813-1883) – Involved with several local flour mills for over 40 years. Made flour for James Caleb Jackson's cereal Granula.

Frances Reilly (1898-1987) – Wife of Ra-Pid-Gro inventor Thomas P. Reilly. President of Ra-Pid-Gro corporation. Donated \$1 million for the Thomas P. Reilly Medical Arts Building.

Ruth Sandford (1879-1972) – Daughter of Frank and Mary Sandford. Helped operate Sandford Greeting Card Co. Established Dansville Junior Red Cross in 1931. Director, vice president, Dansville General Hospital.

The Citizens Honor Roll (cont.)

Charles Shepard (1818-1899) – son of Joshua Shepard. First president of local railroad company; started Dansville's first insurance agency; helped organize Dansville Seminary.

Joshua Shepard (c. 1780-1829) – Prominent local merchant and landowner, built the Shepard residence on Main Street, now the Dansville Public Library.

F. Jay Smith (1882-1961) – Schoolteacher, World War I veteran; Dansville Mayor, 1943-1949 and 1951-1959. Active in American Legion and Board of Trade.

Joseph Stiegler (1866-1949) – Owner of local shoe business. Served as Town auditor for 15 years; Dansville Mayor 1916-1923, 1937-1940. Treasurer for more than 20 local organizations.

Rufus Stone (d. 1842) – Early settler of Stone's Falls (after whom it was named); operated a sawmill and an oil mill there.

Elizabeth Swartz (1855-1960) – worked as dietitian for the Jackson Health resort; later worked in same capacity for various Dansville hospitals.

George Sweet (1818-1894) – Inventor of agricultural implements; established George Sweet Manufacturing company in Comminsville (precursor to Foster Wheeler). Served as railroad director.

George A. Sweet (1844-1912) – Founder/owner of George A. Sweet Nurseries. First president of Union Hose Company. First president. Red Cross Chapter

No. 1 (1881). First president Citizens Bank (1887). Village President, 1876-77.

Moses Van Campen (1757-1849) – revolutionary War hero, famous for his daring exploits. Lived in Dansville for several years, did surveying work. Van Campen Street named in his honor.

Harry K. Welch (c. 1873-1955) – Popular Dansville policeman, crossing guard, for 40 years. Also served as Livingston county deputy sheriff.

Adolph J. Werdein (1869-1944) – Local building contractor. Built St. Mary's Church, F. A. Owen factory, Blum shoe factory, high school, and Dansville Dodge, among others.

Reuben Whiteman (1817-1888) – Owner of local lumberyard and canal warehouse; receiver for the bankrupt Bank of Dansville. Residence on Elizabeth Street later became a Catholic school.

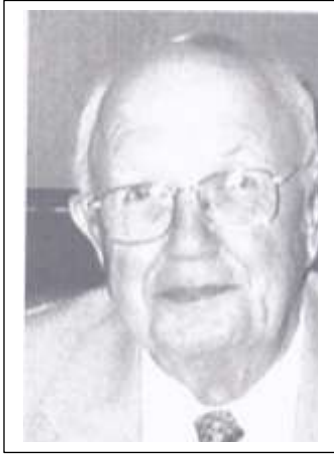
John C. Williams (1820-1897) – Prominent local miller and nurseryman; first Town of North Dansville Assessor. Williams Park named in his honor (by his son-in-law, Pell W. Foster).

Oscar Woodruff (1839-1973) – Editor and publisher of the Dansville Express, 1877-1924; charter member, Dansville Red Cross; Town supervisor; Village President. Last surviving member of local G.A.R. post.



This postcard of the Citizens Bank and Trust Co. on Main Street (now the GVTA Federal Credit Union) was sent to a Mrs. Hood in Phelps in 1938. The message reads, "Hello Sweetheart, I'm a long ways from home & roads are slippery." Come visit the DAHS Museum and relax a while viewing our postcard collection and our newspaper clippings showing earlier (perhaps less hectic!) days in Dansville. (From Postcard Collection in Memory of Robert Haney and Olive and Harry Haney.)

J. Edward “Ted” Jackson



The Dansville Area Historical Society has lost a friend and a great benefactor. J. Edward, “Ted,” Jackson passed away September 13, 2012, at age 87. Mr. Jackson wrote *The Castles on the Hill* as a gift to DAHS. It was published in 2010.

The great, great-grandson of James Caleb Jackson, Ted held a doctorate degree, was a retiree of Eastman Kodak, and a veteran of World War II (the 104th Infantry Division). He was interested in and talented in many areas: he was a Fellow of both the American Statistical Association and the American Society for Quality Control. He played in numerous musical organizations in the Rochester area and wrote a number of books including, “The Erie Railroad in Conesus, NY, 1852-1956,” “Railroad Passenger Service in Southwest Florida,” and “James C. Jackson, Abolitionist.” He is survived by his wife Suzanne who resides in Greece, NY, and many family members.

The Castles on the Hill tells the story of the health care facilities that “reigned” on East Hill from 1854 until 1971. From James Caleb Jackson’s invention of Granula breakfast cereal to Bernarr MacFadden’s health faddist heydays, Ted’s book ensures that those stories, and the even more intriguing history behind them, live on.

Membership Form for Dansville Area Historical Society, 2013 Calendar Year

Please renew your membership by using the envelope that came in this newsletter or by using this form. You can pass your envelope on to a friend, so they may join. Increasing our membership helps support efforts to preserve our history. Thank you!

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Email _____

I have enclosed: _____ \$15 Individual/Family _____ \$25 Business/Organization

_____ \$15 Gift Membership _____ \$150 Life Membership (your name will
be listed on a permanent plaque at the museum.)

I would like to volunteer. Please call me. _____

Send to: DAHS, P.O. Box 481, Dansville, NY 14437

Dansville Area Historical Society

Box 481
Dansville, NY 14437
Phone: 585-335-8090

Return Service Requested

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Ken Holbrook
Jen Howard
Pam Socia

DAHS Museum

14 Church St., Dansville
Open 10 to 2 p.m.
1st & 3rd Saturdays

Website:
[dansvilleareahistoricalsociety.
wordpress.com](http://dansvilleareahistoricalsociety.wordpress.com)

Join Us This Holiday Season

The DAHS Museum will be open each Saturday
from Thanksgiving through December 22
10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

*Shop in our "gift corner" for Dansville throws, books
about the Castle on the Hill, wooden Hometown
Collectibles, cookbooks, and notecards.*

Sunday, December 2, at 2 p.m.

DAHS Christmas Concert

Presbyterian Church

78 RPM playing Christmas Favorites