

Historical Happenings



Dansville Area Historical Society

Box 481 • Dansville, NY 14437 • 585-335-8090

Website: dansvilleareahistoricalsociety.wordpress.com

Email: dahs@stny.rr.com



VOLUME 23, No. 4

"Caretakers of Our Area History"

YEAR END 2015

President's Report

Dear Members and Friends,

The holiday season arrives so quickly. It is hard to believe another year has flown by. The DAHS Board members and I hope you enjoyed a joyous holiday season.

As I reflect on the past year, I am pleased to note the many accomplishments of our Society. Our community outreach this year has been busy; we presented three programs, hosted the 4th grade class on museum tours, participated in several festival booths, held our Annual Dinner program, and opened the new Foster Wheeler Exhibit. 2015 saw the completion of Pioneer Park. We can look out the windows of the Museum and see the community enjoying the new walks and benches. Several 2015 class reunions enjoyed reminiscing those happy youthful days looking through yearbooks at the Museum.

January will start our membership drive. Included with this newsletter you will find your membership renewal form and envelope. On the mailing label it will list your current level membership. We look forward to your continuing support. Membership ensures you continue to receive the newsletter with interesting articles and updates on the Museum. Feel free to share a copy of the membership form

with friends or give a gift membership to a friend or family member. Life members might like to make a sustaining donation to continue your generous support of DAHS.

2016 brings the opportunity to continue our community outreach with new programs. The group is working on new PowerPoint presentations on Dansville historic topics. With the upgrading of our computer equipment and software, we can automate our archives to make research much easier. Increasing the membership is high on our "to do" list for 2016. More members will support more programs and interest in the Museum.

The Museum is open the first and third Saturdays each month from 10 am to 2 pm. Stop in and take a tour. I am sure you will find items to bring back pleasant memories of years gone by. If you have some time to share, we always can use help at the Museum. It will also give you time to browse the Museum and learn interesting aspects of our local history.

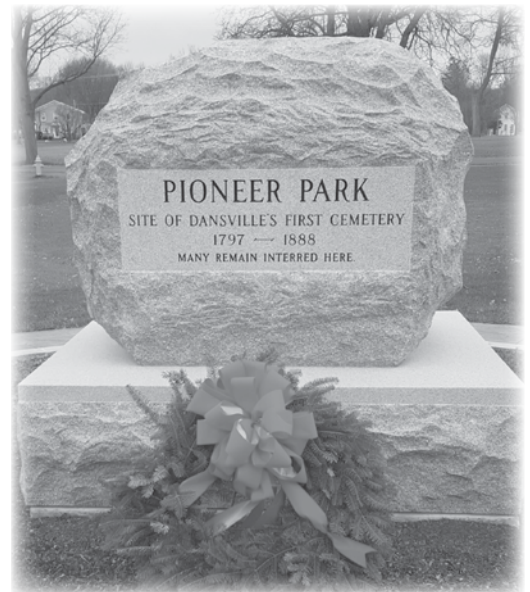
I hope the New Year brings much happiness to you and your family.

Gerri Waight, President



Left: NYS Festival of Balloons officer Mary Ann Holden presents a check for \$1,000 to DAHS President Gerri Waight. The Festival of Balloons' gift will be used to help fund repairs needed for the Museum roof.

Right: Pioneer Park decorated for the holidays. The wreath was donated by Rodney Johnson at Dogwood Floral Company and placed by Jane Schryver.





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Box 481
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585-335-8090

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335-2568 • *Curator*

DAHS Museum
14 Church St.
Dansville, NY
Open 10am to 2pm
1st & 3rd Saturdays

A Few Words From the Curator

I would like to throw out a few words of thanks to all those who helped make 2015 a very successful and memorable year for DAHS. Thanks especially to those who contributed to the Foster Wheeler display in the museum, which has garnered numerous compliments. FW was such a monumental part of our village's history and deserves this recognition. And speaking of monuments, the completion of the Pioneer Park memorial will surely be remembered as one of the signature events in our village for the year 2015. Looking across the street from the Museum...especially at night, when the light shines down upon it...everyone who worked so hard toward the completion of that project should be proud of their efforts.

On a personal note, it's been almost 30 years since I joined the Dansville Area Historical Society, originally working with the late Bob Hamsher in updating the Museum accessioning. (A project that never ends!) Since then, I've helped in setting up displays for the museum, I penned the "Dansville Turns 200" articles that appeared in the *Genesee Country Express* newspaper in the years leading up to the village bicentennial in 1995, established the Dansville Hall of Fame, and written and narrated our slide presentation on the Castle. Currently, I'm working on my "Object Lessons" project, telling the history of Dansville, "show-and-tell" style,

using 100 museum artifacts (you've seen several examples in recent issues of the newsletter). Through it all, I've benefitted from the support and encouragement of my friends and fellow Board members, past and present, and I am grateful to them all. I am especially grateful to Jane Schryver, who's been a constant source of help and inspiration over the years, and I continue to pray for her improved health. Many thanks, Jane!

David Gilbert, Curator



In November, David Gilbert, Nancy Helfrich, and Paul Hoffman presented "The Jackson Sanatorium – the First 50 Years" sponsored by the Lima Historical Society to a standing room only crowd. Narration was written by David, with slides digitized by Paul and Jane Schryver from original glass slides in the DAHS Museum Collection.

Website Happenings

Since creating the **website** (dansvilleareahistoricalociety.wordpress.com) in 2012, we have made a total 74 posts. Some of the posts on the website in 2015 include:

- Dansville Seminary was incorporated by the New York State Regents
- The debut of "Dansville Turns 200" appears in *Genesee Country Express*
- American Legion holds 1st Bingo game (repost)
- Kings Daughters Home opened (repost)
- Foster Wheeler Exhibit at the Museum – Grand Opening
- Acceptance of a Gift of \$\$ from NYSFOB.
- Posts were also made for the programs and annual dinner meeting in 2015

In 2015 we have averaged 28 views per day which is up from last year and every previous year. January happened to have the highest daily views, averaging 44 views per day (1,368 views for the month). Posts were viewed 6,108 times on the website between 12/08/2014 and 12/08/2015. For 2015, the total website views were 9,451 by 4,701 visitors.

Likes on our **Facebook page (Dansville Area Historical Society)** have gone from 397 in 2014 to 560 total page likes in Dec 2015. As you would expect, the largest number of page likes are by people from Dansville (141), followed by Rochester (65), Geneseo (39), Wayland (28) and New York City and Hornell with 11 page likes each. The furthest page likes (2) come all the way from San Francisco, CA.

The Facebook page still gets offers to donate items, people looking for pictures of family members, requests for information on history of various people, places and things, and sharing of historical and community events.

We are looking forward to posting new and returning Business members in 2016 on the website. If you are a business member, please send us some information about your business to post on our website. We particularly like historical fact about your business.

Chad Schuster, DAHS Webmaster

***The Dansville Area Historical Society
is pleased to share with you our
recent accomplishments and our
goals for the coming year:***

2015 Accomplishments

- Hosted Dansville Central School fourth grade classes for a tour of the Museum.
- Presented programs on early wooden tools, early metal tools, and holiday music.
- Participated at Dogwood Festival, Clara Barton Day, and New York State Festival of Balloons with the DAHS booth.
- Hosted several groups at the Museum as well as open hours twice monthly and on holiday weekends.
- Produced a series of informative postings and pages on the DAHS website as well as a quality newsletter publication.
- Grand Opening of the Foster Wheeler Exhibit.
- Upgrade of computer equipment and software.
- Improved humidity control in the Museum basement.

2016 Goals

- Secure light-blocking window coverings in the Museum.
- Continue to provide quality programming and publications.
- Continue to work with the Dansville Central School and local groups to bring local history to the community.
- Increase volunteer participation to catalog online the Museum's collection.
- Improve Museum exhibits with secure displays and descriptive captioning.
- The building maintenance department has indicated that a new roof will be needed this year. That is a major investment and a priority to protect the contents of the Museum.

Mission Statement

The Dansville Area Historical Society is an educational institution whose purpose is to research, collect, exhibit, promote, and protect artifacts and archives that represent the Dansville area and its role in local, state, national and international history.



Dick Mark updates our signboard on the porch of the Museum each month. He also is the "go-to" person for the DAHS tent and exhibit materials, and he makes sure we have everything we need for festivals we exhibit at. Dick and Paul Constantine chair the House and Grounds Committee and keep the Museum ship-shape.

**Dansville Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481
Dansville, New York 14437**

Membership Matters

*Your membership and contributions keep
Dansville's Museum operational. We deeply
appreciate any donation you are able to give.*

Membership Levels for 2016

☐ General \$15.00

☐ Business \$25.00

☐ Silver \$25.00

☐ Gold \$50.00

☐ Platinum \$100.00

☐ Life Membership \$150.00

☐ Life Membership
Continuing Support
\$ _____

☐ Donation of \$ _____
in honor / memory of:

☐ Any Additional Donation:
\$ _____

**Our membership year
runs from January 1st
to December 31st.** Your
current membership
expiration date and level
can be found on your
address label. If the date
is less than 12/31/16,
please renew today. Life
Members will find "Life"
on their address label.

Checks may be made out
to DAHS. You may use
the enclosed envelope or
mail to address at top of
this page. **Thank you
for your tax-deductible
donation!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Add a Gift Membership: \$ _____

Recipient: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Gift From: _____

*Please contact us about establishing a designated gift,
memorial or legacy gift to DAHS.*

**We have many opportunities to volunteer at
DAHS. If you can help in any of the following
areas, it would be greatly appreciated.**

☐ Data Entry

☐ Giving Tours at Museum

☐ Clean-Up Days

☐ Staffing Booth at Events

☐ Assisting on a committee: acquisitions, programs,
fundraising, website, newsletter, events

**DANSVILLE AREA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Box 481
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Non-Profit Org.
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Permit #298
Rochester, NY

Membership Matters - Your 2016 Membership Form is Enclosed



The Hornell High School Select Choirs entertained at DAHS's December program held at the Presbyterian Church. Donations received went towards the choir's upcoming trip to Chicago this coming spring.



The Foster Wheeler exhibit opened on October 18, 2015. Among FW retirees visiting that day are: (from left) Barbara Mark, Anne Amidon Nye, Sheila VanAuken and Dave Wicks. Sheila was invaluable in gathering and putting together the items on display. The exhibit continues at the Museum into 2016.



David Palmer presented two programs for DAHS in 2015 - one on early wooden tools and one on early metal tools. In the spring program, local Cub Scouts line up as David demonstrates a tool from his collection.

