

Serving the Town of Manlius

Manlius Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 47 / Number 2 • Fall 2019

Spring, summer and fall have been very busy and exciting at Manlius Historical. Many visitors have enjoyed the exhibits at the Museum on Saturdays which was open from 11 am to 3 pm. Our year began with “Turn of the Century Clothing”, followed by our on-going display of the 200 year old “Seraph”, originally on top of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Manlius and the Manlius Municipal Building, before being donated to Manlius Historical, and currently “Signs of our Times”. This has been possible with the hard work and dedication of Linda Bailey and our much appreciated volunteers.

We continue to answer history and genealogical questions at the Cheney House, as many as 3 to 5 inquiries per week, many by email. Our resources continue to prove helpful to members of our community and throughout the Country. We are fortunate to have the Town Historian and Manlius Historical Board member, Barbara Rivette and genealogist, Nancy Schiffhauer to assist with those requests.

This past summer through the help of volunteers we continued to have off-site displays at the Manlius Library, Manlius Village office, Town of Manlius office and when available, the Village of Minoa office. With the beginning of the school year we work to provide educational opportunities at the Fayetteville-Manlius and East Syracuse-Minoa School Districts, along with private day schools. We were invited to speak at several Senior Living Communities in our area.

We are very excited about the activity and happenings at Manlius Historical and hope you have enjoyed some or all of them. We look forward to 2020 with renewed and expanded membership and participation in Manlius Historical Society. Please encourage others to join us in preserving our rich history. Please read all about our upcoming Fine Arts & Craft Show and Miniature Tree events. I hope to see you there!

- Mike Small, President of the Board of Trustees

The 45th Annual Fine Arts & Crafts Show

on November 2nd & 3rd was a wonderful success. Thanks to all of the local artisans and participants who make this annual show a shopping tradition and tremendous fundraiser for the Historical Society. Thank you to all of the volunteers who make this event possible. Shop local!

Annual Festival of Miniature Trees

See beautiful holiday trees on display and make a bid to take one home in time for Christmas! Feeling generous and crafty? Return the form found in this newsletter to donate your own festive creation.

December 5th through 13th
at the Resort Lifestyle Communities

Board of Trustees

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Cheney House Research Hours

Wednesday through Friday
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
or by appointment

Manlius Museum Hours

Saturdays
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Like us on Facebook!

You can find us as
Manlius Historical Society,
Museum, and The Manlius
Town Shop

Contributors to this issue:

Marge Edwards,
Linda Limpert,
Claire Lovell,
Barbara Rivette,
Mike Small

Exhibits Around Town

Have you seen our exhibits and display windows around Manlius? That's thanks to the hard work of MHS volunteers Barbara Brown, Jane Dall, and Marie Margosian.

Marie and Barbara work together on the large display window located between the Manlius Senior Centre and the Manlius Library's rear entrance. The current exhibit was inspired by the saying "A man can work from sun to sun, but a woman's work is never done," and features items from the collection showing a woman's broad range of domestic responsibilities.



Jane creates attractive window displays near the Manlius Village Clerk's office, often helping to promote upcoming events and programs for MHS.

The three also work together to do displays in the Minoa municipal building, including a recent exhibit about fishing and an upcoming exhibit about railroads.

Thank you to these volunteers for their dedicated work. Be sure to stop by these municipal buildings to take a look!

Holiday at the Museum

December 1 from 12 pm to 4 pm
at the Manlius Historical Society
101 Scoville Ave in Manlius

Stop by for Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and more before attending the Manlius Village Tree Lighting ceremony.

Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

Dr. Michael Roets, director of the Lorenzo House Historic Site in Cazenovia since 2017, presented the keynote lecture at the Manlius Historical Society's Annual Meeting on June 19, 2019.

Previously, Dr. Roet worked as an archaeologist at Peebles Island State Park in Waterford, N.Y., and for two years as the historic site manager for Crown Point State Historic Site in Moriah.

Dr. Roet's passion for archaeology was evident and infectious during his talk as he described his work at digs in Belize with Mayan Ruins. He also discussed local discoveries, such as at Fort Hunter of the Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, the first part of the old Erie Canal to be designated a National Historic Landmark.

The artifacts from archaeological projects are used for exhibits all over the state and help bring history alive to historic site visitors.

During the business portion of the meeting, new board members Sue Collin and Tracy Hucul were approved. Current board members Claire Lovell, Karen Green, Dave Hale and Barbara Rivette were approved for another term. Executive board members are Mike Small, Jeannine Masucci, and Linda Limpert.



Once Upon a Time in Manlius

The area that runs roughly between the north entrance to Green Lakes Park and the intersection of Route 290 and Route 5 at Mycenae was long ago known as Satan's Kingdom. According to a 1938 article by H.C. Durston this area was "distinguished for the belligerent, litigious and pugnacious character of its inhabitants".

The story goes that one particular resident was continually fighting with his neighbors, and after a series of legal squabbles, that man bragged that he would be king of the neighborhood. Another told him he was no more fit to be king there than Satan himself.

The other residents then declared the first to be King Satan and the community was known as Satan's Kingdom for a good number of years. However in 1814 the inhabitants called a meeting and decided to change the name of the settlement to Pleasant Valley.

Accordingly a man named Smith Burton wrote a poem that was then published in the *Manlius Times* to proclaim this change to the world:

"Since the King no longer sits on his throne
We, his name no longer will own,
But around the standard we will rally,
Of peace, and call the place Pleasant Valley".

Volunteer of the Year

We took the time at our 2019 Annual Meeting to give thanks to a hard-working volunteer, Mike Small, who has served as our President for four years and filled in as our Treasurer for several of those years.

Mike is a lifelong resident of Fayetteville and has served on the village of Fayetteville Board of Trustees since 2001. He has served and volunteered for numerous local nonprofits, including the Fayetteville Senior Center.

Despite his incredibly busy and unpredictable schedule, we can always count on Mike to be generous with his time and resources in support of the historical society. Thank you, Mike!



From Gigantic Waterfall To A Very Active Park

By Barbara S. Rivette
Manlius Town Historian

Special events such as “Wicked Woods” for Hallowe’en, “Frosty Forest” in winter and fish stocking in the spring plus 140 camp sites, some with hot showers and flush toilets available. Those were all far from the minds of local residents as they spent 10 years putting together a proposal to create a state park around two lakes just a few miles east of the Village of Fayetteville.

Believed to be “bottomless” by the Native Americans and early settlers, the need to protect Green Lake and Round Lake as we now call them was carefully outlined in the appeal to New York State. Watercolor views and maps were prepared by a Fayetteville resident, Professor Harry Francis, of the Forest Recreation unit of the state’s Forestry College at Syracuse. The location was described as “an exquisite setting” with “alluring charm.”

All that was true, but local residents were also intent on eliminating what they regarded as a “rowdy class” of customers for a hot dog stand (and perhaps beer) as well as the rumored nudist camp on one hillside.

In 1928, Green Lakes became one of the first units in a state park system then under the direction of Robert Moses.

The original purchase of 650 acres of land was made in 1928 for \$75,000. Today’s park of more than 2,500 acres more than doubles the original 1,000 acre proposal.

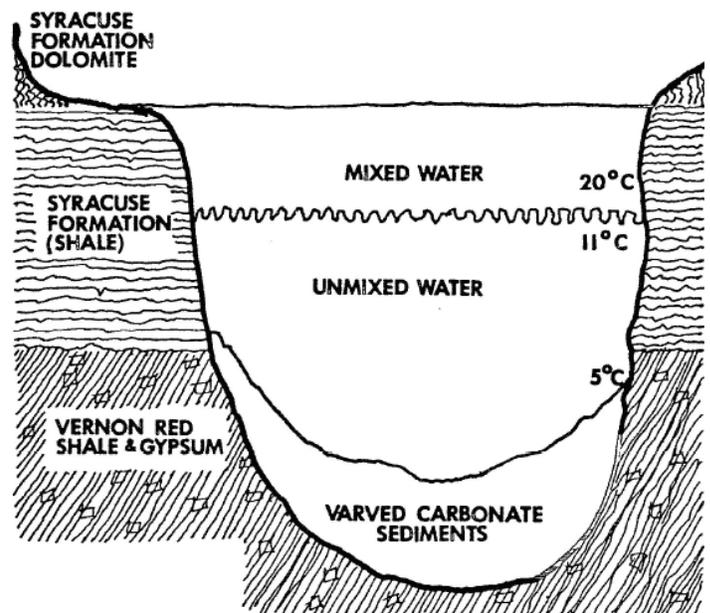
The lakes - Green Lake and Round Lake - are two of the world’s 13 meromictic lakes, meaning that the water remains in layers and does not have seasonal turn-over because of the depth and coldness of the water and the shelter provided by the steep wooded sides. The lakes themselves are the plunge basins of huge waterfalls, larger than Niagara, created by the melting glaciers thousands of years ago.

Round Lake is 180 feet deep with a surface elevation of 421 feet above sea level. Green Lake is 195 feet deep at a surface elevation of 418 feet, and is drained to the north through Lake Brook, also known as Armstrong’s Brook. The rocky high point of the park at the golf house is the northern edge of the Allegheny Plateau.

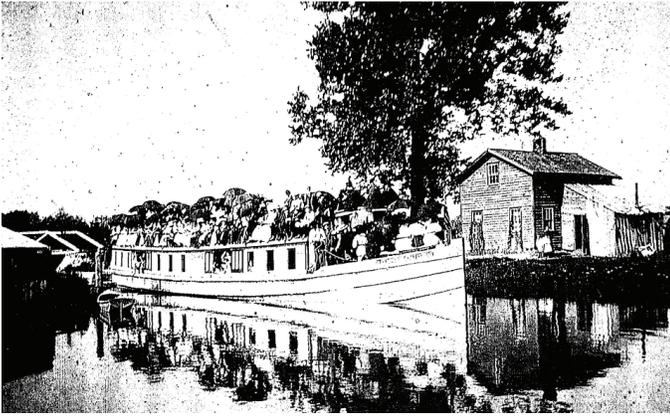
Park construction was started by New York State’s Temporary Emergency Relief Agency (TERA), created by Franklin D. Roosevelt while he was governor. In 1929, TERA crews built a stone administration building that was restored in 2006. TERA provided employment for a rotating crew of 40 men from the Town of Manlius and East Syracuse.

In 1932, the home making class at Fayetteville High School supplied hot noon meals five days a week for at least two weeks in a program arranged by the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. East Syracuse High School provided hot meals for the next two weeks and the pupils were asked to bring in potatoes and vegetables for soup.

After it was formed in 1933, the federal Civilian Conservation Corps with men from all over the United States replaced local men and provided the manpower for construction of more buildings, entrances, bathing beach and golf course. Two camps, housing 330 men, were set up. Little remains of the camp for 193 men on the southwest rim of Round Lake. The second camp for about 140 men was in a relatively flat space south of Round Lake, a location now used for golf course maintenance.



A schematic drawing of the layers of water in the meromictic lakes in Green Lake State Park. Scientists say the water at the bottom is pink.



A Sunday School group leaving for a picnic at Green Lakes from the dock in the Fayetteville Feeder.

The CCC men were housed during the first winter in Army tents with equipment from the World War One stores. Army officers were in charge.

By 1937, there were five barracks buildings for CCC men, a mess hall, bath house, power plant, officer quarters, and an education building with a library, classrooms and offices. A reservoir for water was built at the park's highest point.

The golf course was designed by Robert Trent Jones, then the country's leading golfer, and opened May 6, 1936 with a golf house on the edge of the southern ledge. CCC workers built the bathhouse, pavilions, entrances on Route 290 and Route 5 (1939), the beach, roads and trails. Picnic tables and other accessories were also built.

The rock-lined entrance road from Route 5 remains.

All the work was done by manpower using picks, shovels, wheelbarrows and horses. In the final years a motorized truck was obtained. The CCC crews dug sand for the beach from the east end of Oneida Lake and trucked it here. Limestone was hauled from nearby local quarries. Trees came from the state's nursery at Altmar, on the north shore of Oneida Lake.

While at Green Lakes, CCC men were called in emergencies such as fighting local wildfires or helping with flood control. One wildfire between Burdick Street and Cedar Bay Road lasted more than four weeks. World War Two ended the CCC.

In 1944, the former CCC camp was used to house migrant farm workers first from Newfoundland and later from Jamaica and Bahamas. About 100 Newfoundlanders arrived in May and were assigned to local dairy farmers. The Jamaicans and Bahamians

arrived in time to help harvest crops.

In 1945, the former CCC camp was used to house about 200 prisoners of war, mostly young Germans, some of whom worked on local farms. To reach the farms, the men stood in an open truck bed, carried brown bag lunches and were guarded by a single officer with a rifle. Farmers found the prisoners to be "good workers" sometimes 14 or 15 years old and frequently shared extra milk and cookies with the prisoners, although told not to.

Not all the land around Green Lake immediately became part of the park. Until late in the 1980s, six private owners still maintained life use of their cabins close to the north shore. As they relinquished these one by one, the cabins were torn down.

Round Lake and its surrounding mesophytic forest (a virgin forest with a perfectly balanced moisture system) were placed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks in 1975.

Recent expansion of the park has included purchase of about 200 acres that controls the drainage into the two lakes and was originally planned to be part of the Signal Hill condominium project (1970). Also purchased were 278 acres of the hilltop Holden farm (December 1995) and 126 acres along Route 290 from the Teske family (January 1976).

Gifts of more than 100 acres (1980 and 1993) were received from Betsy Knapp, a descendant of David Collin, the 1816 landowner, whose descendants had promoted the park idea.

The park also acquired several worked-out gravel beds on the Minoa Road and in 2018, the park bought about 270 acres of adjoining property on the eastern edge. The eastern hillside was known for its deer population and the lower Pool's Brook land near Route 5 contains the usual swamp wildlife and, occasionally, beavers.

In the last few years, maintenance of the well-used Erie Canal tow path eastward from Cedar Bay in DeWitt to Rome has been the responsibility of a work crew from Green Lakes. The canal water is regulated by the state's division of canals. A footbridge across the canal gives easy access to the main entrance of Green Lakes Park, a prospect undreamed of when local residents began to make sure the area remained available to all.

Manlius Historical Society
Festival of Miniature Trees
December 5 - December 13, 2019
Preview Party at Resort Lifestyle Communities: Thursday, December 5th (5:30-8 pm)

Festival of Miniature Trees Participation Form

Important Information for Participants

- ✓ Trees must be between 2 and 4 feet in height.
- ✓ Trees and wreaths must be artificial (no live trees please).
- ✓ Trees must be decorated on all sides.
- ✓ Trees and wreaths with edible ornaments must be coated with a fire retardant substance and a sealer.
- ✓ Trees are to be dropped off at the **Resort Lifestyle Communities at Towne Center**, 3900 Medical Center Dr., Fayetteville, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm on Wednesday, December 4th. Participants are welcome to donate more than one tree/wreath. *Please complete a separate form for each tree.*
- ✓ Participants will be asked to provide an estimated value of each donated tree when delivered to MHS.

Thank you for your support!

For questions or additional information please contact *committee co-chair, Karen Green*, at greenkm@twcny/315-559-0581, or the MHS office at manliushistory@gmail.com /315-682-6660 or co-chair Marjorie Edwards at ed8845@gmail.com/315-247-0027.

Please complete this section. Detach and return by November 9, 2019 to:

Manlius Historical Society • 109 Pleasant Street, PO Box 28 • Manlius, NY 13104

Yes, I want to donate a decorated miniature tree for MHS's *Festival of Miniature Trees* fundraising event!

Name of Individual, Group or Business _____

Name of Contact Person (for group or business) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Description of Tree (include theme, materials used, height, etc.) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

In Memoriam



Betty Hopkinson

Longtime friend and member of Manlius Historical Society, Betty Hopkinson, died April 19.

Betty was born and raised in rural Maine in potato country, but spent most of her adult life in Manlius.

Betty was active in various village affairs, most recently as the person who spearheaded the building of the new gazebo at the intersection of Academy and Seneca Streets. She was an integral part of the Spade and Trowel Club, which takes care of the plantings in the gazebo park. Betty was also a longtime member of the Manlius Monday Evening Club, a women's study group.

Betty's husband, Harold ("Hop"), was a village of Manlius trustee for 57 years and served on the Board of Trustees of the Manlius Historical Society for many years as well. Betty was always there to support him.

We will miss Betty's thoughtful quilted projects, her dry sense of humor, and her practicality.

Will your estate leave local history behind? Recent generous donations by the Warren Petty and Dawn Cottrell estates to the Manlius Historical Society serve as a reminder to everyone to consider personal legacies. If you have Manlius, Fayetteville or Minoa photos or memorabilia that your family members may not want, please keep the Manlius Historical Society in mind and help us preserve Manlius history!



Warren Petty

The Manlius Historical Society continues to benefit from Warren Petty, who died on March 3, 2017.

The family of Warren Petty, one of the founders of Manlius Historical Society, has been extremely generous in making sure his collections went to appropriate museums.

Mr. Petty was very active during the first fifteen years of Manlius Historical Society when he was the chairman of the collections committee and did a series of exhibits, sometimes three or four per year. He was assisted by the artistic ability of his wife, Beatrice.

The Petty collections of local memorabilia and reference material will be of permanent benefit to the society and to the community. Mr. Petty also had the foresight to take color slides of local scenes, now of historic interest. He did a separate series of the 43 houses placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the first National Register District in Onondaga County.

His daughters Beatrice Hailes of Chester, New Jersey, and Susan Horn of Pomfret Center, Connecticut, directed contributions in his memory to the Manlius Historical Society.

Thank You, SU Brass

The Syracuse University Brass Ensemble played at the United Methodist Church in Fayetteville in May and donated the proceeds to MHS to be used for educational programs. Thank you to the players and to the organizers for this wonderful fundraiser!

Manlius Historical Society
109 Pleasant Street
PO Box 28
Manlius, NY 13104

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Digital Collections

Have you been to NYHeritage.org? We're on our third grant to grow our digital library found on that statewide site, freely available to everyone online.

Our first two years of digitization resulted in the Village of Manlius Collection, full of historic street scenes and other views of the village.

This year, we're using the grant money, available through our partnership with Manlius Library, to collaborate with the Fayetteville-Manlius High School and digitize decades of *Voices* magazine, the literary magazine of the high school.

If you're interested in local history, check out our materials on nyheritage.org, and please drop us a line if you have more information on any of the items you find there!



Moving Liberty Square, former home of Arley's Hotel on July 15, 1977.

The three-story hotel building, built in 1870, was scheduled to be torn down for a restaurant parking lot before William Dunn and Arkie Albanese got together to organize its move across Seneca Street. It was renovated to include restaurant and office space after the move, an event that drew huge crowds. See this and many more photographs of the day at nyheritage.org.