

Lansingburgh Historical Society

Spring 1991

WELCOME

THANK YOU

VERY BIG THANK YOU'S

To the JACK DANIEL'S

----- for their interest and very generous donation which enabled us to repair and paint the porch on the museum. If you haven't seen it yet, stop by. It looks lovely....

To the wonderful young college students from Rensselaer (the former RPI). They helped us clean the grounds, the cellars,
.....A lovely effort was made to feed our ambitious crew.....
donations from -----
----- made the lunch that much more enjoyable.....

GRATEFUL ADDITIONS

The Society acquired a few significant items for their collection in 1990. Two stoneware jugs made in Lansingburgh by Pliny Thayer and James Reiley were donated by Warren Broderick. David Treharne donated 6 manuscript items from the 19th century, while Ferris Scoville gave the Society additional items from the Clarkson Estate, including 42 letters written to Alida Lansing. Frances Broderick donated a set of 16 framed drawings of Lansingburgh homes, and the Society purchased a decorated tin tea caddy produced at the Filley tin shop. Photographs of the Scott and

Gage families dated as early as the 1840's were returned following professional conservation. A survey of the Society's manuscript collection (a Guide to that collection has been computerized) was completed and submitted to the Capital District Library Council, in conjunction with the Documentary Heritage Program.

REMEMBER ---

Our museum is open the first and third Sunday of every Month. Come visit and see our new facade!

WALKS THROUGH HISTORY

Teaching about Lansingburgh history is fun for Trustee, Kathleen Tivnan. Each year she spends time with children in the public and parochial schools, sharing stories about the founding of the community in 1770, and the progress of the village since then.

But wait! Even adults love history. And to accommodate them, Kay has lead garden clubs, museum tours, geneology trackers, Elderhostel groups, as well as children on walking tours through historic Lansingburgh.

For the past 3 years, Russell Sage has held Elderhostel courses on Herman Melville. What better place to learn about Melville than to visit the house in which he lived and wrote his first books! They are shown the Academy too, where he studied. And they can walk the streets he walked...see the river he saw and sailed on to begin his South Sea travels. These courses, held 3 times a year, are taught by Sage Professor Emeritus, Dr. Arthur Young. These Elderhostel

groups have brought people from across the country to Lansingburgh.

Found:

Herman's mother, Maria Melville, wrote the following to her daughter, Augusta, from Lansingburgh in May of 1847...

. . . Herman just left the room & sends his love to you. We have been particularly busy to day in assisting him in embellishing the small front room as a library and study. The walls have been coloured (the bird stand removed), a new carpet and curtains, the library has been removed and placed before the door leading to the next room, a great box & two trunks have been unpacked fill'd with books and handsomely displayed together with the ship and miniature anchor on his desk top together with three ancient mahogany chairs from the attic, he looks and his study looks ready to begin a new work, on the "South Seas" of course

FROM ...
the collection of the
New York Public Library

STONEWARE RESEARCH CONTINUES

Society Vice-President Warren F. Broderick is actively involved in continuing research on Lansingburgh and other north-eastern New York potters and their work. He is in the process of compiling information for a booklet on Lansingburgh potters, and also assisting William Ketcham Jr. in revision of the latter's *Early Potters and Potteries of New York State* (1970).

The following potters are known to have worked in Lansingburgh:

John Haggerty (worked 1796-1825); his pottery was located on Second Avenue just south of 111th Street. No pieces of his work have been located to date.

George Lent (worked 1825-1843); his pottery was located on the west side of Second Ave. just north of 112th St. We are particularly interested in locating pieces and fragments of stoneware unearthed during construction of a service station here during the 1960's.

Eleazer Orcutt (worked 1843-1847). This widely travelled potter worked in Lansingburgh; we believe he used Lent's pottery but need substantive evidence. Some of his work is merely marked "Lansingburgh."

Pliny Thayer (worked 1841-1855); his pottery was located on Second Avenue just north of 111th St. Information is needed to document Thayer's career before he arrived here and after leaving Lansingburgh.

James Reiley (worked 1855-1858); bought Pliny Thayer's pottery. We wonder if any stoneware was made here after Reiley returned to Troy.

Barney Reiley (James Reiley's father); worked at the Reiley pottery.

Stephen Pepson (worked at Thayer's pottery before moving to West Troy and Albany.)

William Lent (worked with his father, George Lent, until the mid 1830's.)

Francis DeLair (worked 1861-1883) lived at 462 4th Avenue. We need to learn if De Lair worked in Troy or West Troy or whether he made pottery in Lansingburgh.

Joseph Hughes (worked 1887) listed in the City Directory as manufacturing "terra-cotta ware" at that lower Lansingburgh address. The extent of his business is not known as yet.

Warren is also interested in obtaining information on potteries in Troy, West Troy (Watervliet), Galesville (Middle Falls), Mechanicville, Stillwater, Fortsville, Galway and other northeastern New York communities.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG PLANNED at the Thayer-Reiley pottery this summer. Interested volunteers contact Warren Broderick at 235-4041.

LANSINGBURGH STONE WARE POTTERY.



PLINY THAYER,

103 STATE-STREET,
LANSINGBURGH, N. Y.

Manufacturer of STONE WARE, of the various kinds in use, and of first rate Quality, offers the following for sale:
POTS and JUGS, BUTTER POTS with covers, PITCHERS, BEER or CIDER BOTTLES, CHURNS, SWEETMEAT JARS with covers, FLOWER POTS, SPITTOONS, large and small CHAMBERS, STOVE TUBES, &c. In addition to the above, the proprietor manufactures also FIRE BRICK, CIRCULAR or CUPOLA BRICK for Furnaces, &c. All of the above including all their varieties and sizes he offers to Merchants and all others in want, on the most favorable terms. Orders either for large or small quantities respectfully solicited and promptly executed.



COLLECTIONS

A number of important items were added to the Society's collections during the past year. Major purchases included a Bolton's Brewery tray, 5 coin silver spoons made by the Smith family, a sampler wrought in 1833 by a Lansingburgh girl, a decorated tin document box made at the Filley shop, 3 stoneware DeFreest bottles and records of the Village Fire Department, 1844-1861.

Significant donations included 17 post-card views of the flood of 1913, from Mrs. Francis Rifenberg, Poughkeepsie; miscellaneous Town records, from the Treharne family; 13 manuscript items relating to early merchant Jonathan Burr, from an anonymous donor; 3 scrimshaw items, from Dr. Byron Evans, Saratoga Springs; an 1835 token from Walsh's general store, from Edward Davis, Charlestown, N.H. and an 1873 Charter of the Village, from Mrs. Edward Moylan, Coral Gables, Fla. Other donors included Frances Broderick, Donald Murray, Jack Sticklemeyer, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Deguirre, James Hoffman, Allan Dixon, Edward Blechner and Elmo Mollnow.

The Society is interested in acquiring artifacts and manuscripts to better document Lansingburgh's tinware, rope and cordage, brewing, oil cloth, stoneware, scale manufacturing and gun making industries. We also need works of art by Martin Ferrill, Charles Beaugard and David S. Pierce to round out our art collection. While the Society gratefully receives items donated, our collections fund allows for the prompt and businesslike purchase of items of "primary historical significance."

The Society has assisted research conducted by Alan Lane of Honeoye, N.Y., into early Lansingburgh plane makers. "S.E. Jones" was identified as Samuel E. Jones, who worked in the period 1787-1790. His advertisement in the *Northern Centinel & Lansingborough Advertiser* is shown at the right. The "sign of the jointer" advertised his shop. Another plane maker, "C. Allen," was identified as Caleb Allen (1777-1854), whose occupation as "Tool Cutter" was documented by an 1814 Lansingburgh Jury List owned by the Society. Caleb apparently worked for some time, as the 1850 Census lists his occupation as "carpenter." Mr. Lane believe that Allen learned his trade as an apprentice to Samuel Jones.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE FIRST WARD SOCIAL CLUB.

Organized January 8th, 1865.

Constitution.

ARTICLE I § 1.—The name and style of this Association shall be the "First Ward Social Club," of the village of Lansingburgh.

ARTICLE 2 § 1.—The officers of this Club shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Five Trustees, a Librarian and one Janitor, all of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting, by ballot, except Janitor, who shall be appointed by the President at the first regular meeting of each month.

§ 2. The President, Vice President, Secretaries, Treasurer and Trustees, shall, when elected, constitute a Managing Committee, and have the control and management of all the affairs of the Club, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and in case any vacancy shall occur in such committee by death, resignation, or neglect of any member to serve, the same shall be filled by the majority of the members present at any regular meeting at which a lawful quorum is present.

§ 3. In case the officers herein provided, shall, from any cause fail to be elected at the annual meeting, an election may be held at any subsequent meeting of which the members shall have received due notice.

§ 4. The members of the Club, for the time being, shall at their becoming members of the Club, be considered the owners of the property of the Club, upon the condition that on the termination of membership, from any cause, his right, title and interest to the property of the Club, as well as his interest in the funds and affairs of the club shall cease upon the termination of such membership, and shall also operate as a release to the remaining members of the club of all such right, title and interest.

§ 4. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a full and complete record of all the proceedings and transactions of the Club and of the Managing Committee, to send notices of special meetings, and to notify any member of his appointment to office.

§ 5. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary, by the advice and direction of the Managing Committee, to receive and answer all communications addressed to the Club, to record everything transpiring within the jurisdiction of the Club, with day and date thereof, except such as is the duty of the Recording Secretary to record, as prescribed in Section 4th of this Article.

ARTICLE II § 1.—The presiding officer shall preserve order and decorum, and shall decide questions of order without debate.

§ 2. Every member, in speaking, shall arise in his seat and address the Chair. And no member shall, at any rising, occupy the floor for a longer period than ten minutes.

§ 3. One third of the active members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except that relating to the property of the Club.

ARTICLE III § 1. Any member of the Club who shall refuse or neglect to pay any assessment, levied by the members of the Club, shall, after the expiration of six days from date of such levy, be notified by the Secretary, either verbally or in writing, and if after the expiration of eight days from the date of such notification, such member shall still refuse to, or neglect to pay his assessment, he shall be immediately expelled, unless he shall show sufficient cause for non-payment of such assessment.

§ 2. Any member guilty of immorality, whereby the good name of this Club may be affected, shall be notified by the Secretary to appear before the Managing Committee, and show just cause why he should not be expelled or



SAMUEL E. JONES,
Joiner & Tool-Maker,
TAKES this method to inform the public, that he carries on his business at the corner of Queen-Street, opposite Mr. Thomson's tavern, where gentlemen may supply themselves with JOINERS TOOLS of all sorts, of the best kinds, as cheap as those imported from Europe. Cash or Country Produce will be received in payment.
Lansingburgh, June 30.