**NEWSLETTER**

*LANSINGBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

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[**www.facebook.com/LansingburghHistorical**](http://www.facebook.com/LansingburghHistorical)

**February 2014**

**ACTING PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Here we are in 2014. Not much has transpired since December. We had an engineer evaluate the problems with the east wall of Melville House. His report has been circulated to three contractors who are providing bids for the work. We need to get bids in writing for a corollary project to change the roof gutters and direct the water away from the building. We expect those to come soon. Feel free to contact us if you know local people who might like to bid. Any bid must be in writing. Use the address above.

LHS hosted a neighborhood meeting January 22nd to discuss the proposed expansion of the Stewart Shop at 112th St and Second Avenue. District 1 Councilman Jim Gordon, an LHS trustee, opened the discussion with a diagram of the proposed changes. Michael Barrett another LHS trustee who has worked with the Troy Planning Board explained some of the process of getting proposals and changes approved. Eight residents of the 112th St neighborhood were present and participated in the discussion giving their views and concerns about what has been proposed. The City Engineer had been expected to participate but did not attend. LHS is concerned about any changes in the Lansingburgh community which would damage its historic character or thwart preservation of any of its historically significant buildings.

A preliminary events and programs list for 2014 is included with this edition. The E & P Committee has done an outstanding job of bringing us some great ideas. This year the We Were Burghers group will again sponsor a fund raiser clam steam and steak roast to benefit the Lansingburgh Historical Society. It will take place at the Veterans of Lansingburgh outdoor pavilion. This was a very successful event last year. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time and almost demanded a repeat this year. This is a great way for anyone in Lansingburgh or anyone who lived in the Burgh at one time and may have friends, family and classmates here, to come and renew old acquaintances. Someone that you all know will be honored as a guest at the event! Liz VanBuren and John Ward represent LHS in planning the event. Marcia Chalifoux is in charge and will accept your $45/person reservations. Send them to Marcia at 1108 O Street, Lansingburgh, NY 12182. You must state a preference for steak or chicken for each reservation and only paid reservations are accepted. This will be a big event and tickets may sell out early.

Our membership rates have not changed since the 1960s. We are considering raising them to bring them more in line with other local historical societies in our region. Use the renewal on this edition of the newsletter to insure that you will renew at the present rate. Tell your friends too.

**EVENTS AND PROGRAMS FOR 2014**

**Thursday, March 6th** Jeanne Winston Adler will speak about her book The Affair of the Veiled Murderess re-investigating a Hudson River scandal of the 1850’s. She will also speak on a new project she’s been working on. **7pm** at Melville House.

**Saturday, April 5** Bake Sale **9am-2pm** Melville House

**Thursday, April 17th** Scott Christianson will speak about his book “Freeing Charles: The Struggle to free a slave on the eve of the Civil War **7pm** at Melville House

**Thursday, May 15th** Warren Broderick to speak on John Brown (Abolitionist) **7pm** Melville House

**Saturday, May 31st** Porch Sale **9am-2pm** Melville House

**Saturday, August** 2ndHerman Melville Birthday Party **9am-2pm** Melville House

**Saturday, August 16**  The 2nd annual clamsteam and steak and chicken roast **1pm** at the Lansingburgh Vets Club Pavillion

**Saturday, September 20th**  Possible Champlain Canal Boat Ride. More on this coming in future newsletters.

**Thursday, September 25th** Steve Muller to speak on his book “USS Monitor” **7pm** Melville House

**Thursday, October 2nd** Don Rittner, local historian and writer to speak about Famous inventors of the Capital District **7pm** Melville House

**Thursday, October 16th** our annual GALA (still under construction)

**Friday, October 31st** LHS Halloween Party **6pm** Melville House

**Thursday, November 13th** LHS Holiday Party **6pm** at Melville House

**Thursday, November 20th** Gary Robusto of Tri-city NY Paranormal Society to speak on Paranormal Research **7pm** Melville House

The following article by Warren Broderick is a continuation from our previous newsletter. Warren portrayed Charles Hasbrouck as he roved about and greeted guests at our GALA in October 2013.

**The Tragic Life and Death of Charles W. Hasbrouck** (continued)

Warren F. Broderick

Lansingburgh, N.Y.

February 2012

‘By the little brown chapel, O ere I go hence,

How I still love to linger and lean on the fence,

And call back the tears I so gushingly shed

O’er the half-hidden graves with the branches o’erspread;

O, keeper of jewels, O love undefiled

When I turned broken-hearted from mother and child.

The child was so fair, was an Eden to me

To toss it high up in its innocent glee;

It seemed like a cherub so lovingly lent,

And it was! And I knew when the message was sent

O’ I hated to give up this jewel of mine,

For I know not my God, ‘twas a plaything of Thine.

Seven long years I have stood alone,

And heard the red robin o the burial stone;

Seven long years by the half-opened gate,

Have I turned back and looked for my beautiful mate;

And my home! Oh, I have none, but the door is ajar,

And I listed and think she’s not gone far.

My sun is declining, my years nearly told,

The air is so bleak, and my hands are so cold

I can scarcely untie this white little box,

With the marriage ring hid in the dark raven locks;

And this far-away letter I hold on my knee,

“T’was sealed with pure kisses and written to me;

O’ sometimes I’m childish, and then again wild,

Since the mother went out to look for her child!

Come when thy gay heart is bounding the lightest,

Secure the high prize, the dearest, the brightest;

Ere the flowers thy hands are exultingly holding,

Shall fade with the years that thy life is unfolding

And pleasure had taken her flight, and a spell

Shall have broken the vase at Marah’s deep well.

O’ God of my youth, I am fast growing old;

The day is dreary; I am lonely and cold;

In humility’s garb, in this beautiful spot,

With all my sins forgiven, my follies forgot,

When darkness and trouble are thick overhead,

I would hide away softly with Trinity’s dead.

‘Tis Twilight! Night’s shadows are stealing along,

Faintly the elm bows echo my burial song;

By the two little headstones, O, cover my rest

Though so humble and lowly, and so wintry drest;

They will change their white garments when spring comes around,

And the dear little violets will start from the ground.’

Charles Hasbrouck was interred next to his wife and child along the north boundary of the churchyard but his grave was never marked until now. While Charles and Lucinda Hasbrouck were clearly devastated by the loss of their little daughter, the extent of their grief appears striking given they lived in an era when doctoring and medicine were still rather unsophisticated and unscientific and many persons suffered premature death from cholera, consumption, and other diseases. Likewise deaths of children rarely merited press coverage beyond simple obituaries. Death certificates were not required by law until 1881 and causes of death were not investigated unless foul play seemed blatantly evident.

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***IT’S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!***

Our membership year begins in April. People who join in January, February, March, extend their membership through the next membership year. Consider upgrading your regular membership to a sustaining membership or either of those to a life membership. Encourage your friends to join.

Regular Membership is $5.00/ year

Sustaining Membership is 25.00/year

Life Membership is $100

Donations are welcome at any time!

Mail to: Lansingburgh Historical Society

PO Box 219

Lansingburgh, NY 12182-0219

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\_\_Regular ($5) \_\_Sustaining ($25) \_\_Life ($100) \_\_Donation$