

PONDERING THE PAST

September 2001

Upcoming Parish Town Historical Society

Sept. 12 – no meeting

Sept. 19- work session at
Parish Public Library 6:30 PM

Oct. 19 — Potluck dinner
Calendar Sponsor Appreciation

Oct. 7– 13 Archives Week
Oct. 20 Archives Day
at Parish Public Library

Nov. 14– Parish Writer's
Group Presentation, followed
by a regular business meeting

**Parish Town
Historical Society
is
Looking
for ALL YRS.
APW
Yearbooks
Sept. 15 & 16
Parish Methodist Church
100 Year Celebration**



2002 Parish Town Historical Society Calendars

The sponsors for the “2002 Parish Town Historical Society Calendars” are Cheese Factory Antiques, The Gristmill Restaurant, and Oswego County Mutual Insurance Co.

There is 150 copies of this keepsake calendar containing pictures of Parish’s past, which will be available to the public at the “Archives Day Open House” held at the Parish Public Library on Saturday, October 20 from 12-5 PM.

A dinner of appreciation to these three local enterprises will take place on Friday, Oct. 19, beginning at 6:30 PM at the Mills and Petrie Memorial Gymnasium. The public is welcome. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. The society will be providing a meat tray, rolls

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Gloria White visited with former Parish resident, Marjorie Spoor Hubbard, at the Oswego County Fair. Gloria was manning the Parish Town Historical booth in the Heritage Building.

PTHS Summer Highlights

Linda McNamara

The summer of 2001 was an active and productive time for the Parish Town Historical Society.

During the annual Parish Art Festival several members of the society manned the booth. It was a fun and active day.

Our video showing Parish as it was in 1956, and the same tour taken during 1987, was shown throughout the day. Many festival-goers stopped to view the video for a few moments and to

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The Story Tellers...

We are the chosen. My feelings are in each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors.

To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before.

We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called as it were by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: Tell our story. So, we do. In finding them, we somehow find ourselves.

How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost

count. How many times have I told the ancestors you have a wonderful family you would be proud of us?

How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why do I do the things I do? It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen.

The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giv-

ing up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.

It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us.

That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do. With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are them and they are us. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take their place in the long line of family storytellers.

That, is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones.

Searching...

I learned of my last name in 1967 by the headstone on Bernard Britton's head stone in 1967. I am now aware of my mother's name Erma Leota Sparrowk, born in Parish NY. I was told that I was born October 4th, 1940, not in 1941 as a school entrance paper states.

I have a photo of a headstone for Reuben Sparrowk no dates. I would like to know which Reuben this is. I would like information on this Sparrowk/ Sparhawk family, Jane and George Brittion (Lena Sparrowk) lived on Sparhawk.

Also I was left someplace, from birth to the age of two. Hilda Fry of Minetto NY had me in her care at around age two. I was in the foster system.

I have no problem getting information back in 1629, however I have nothing from (Sparrowk's) it ended with the 1920 Census.

I would appreciate anything you can do.

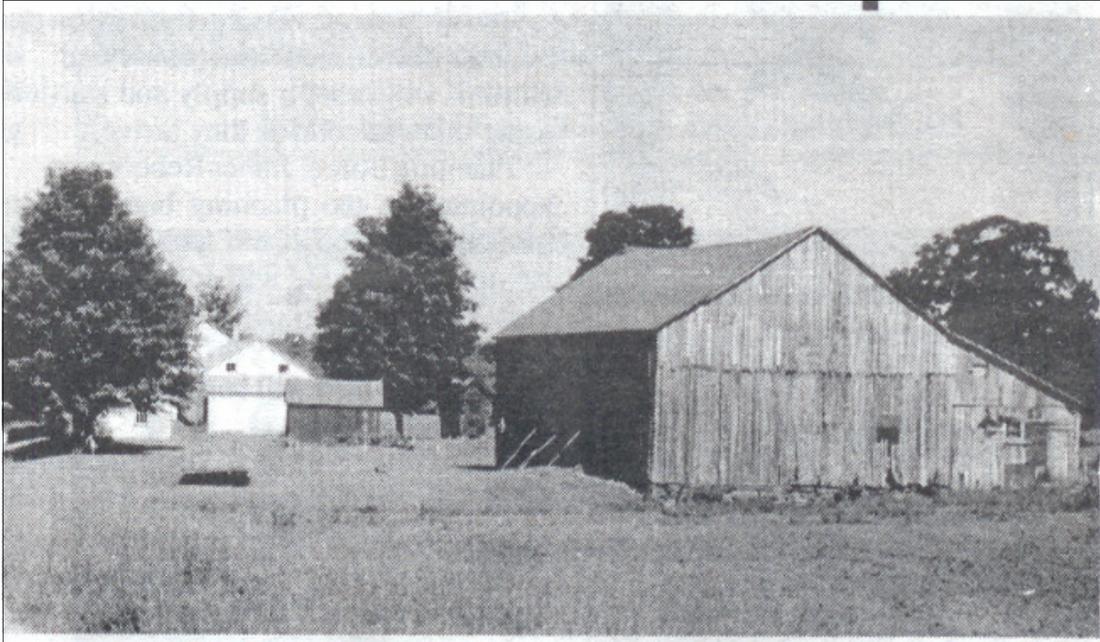
Ruth Ann Sparrow
951 79th Ave. No.
St. Pete., Fl 33702-1121
1-727-577-6171

Would you have a gravestone or other record for a Dennison Tisdale who died in the Town of Parish sometime in the 1800s? Any help would be be appreciated. Regards, Virgil Huntley

I live in PA and do not know where I might have access to the full census. My interest is for 1865 in Parish. :
Niles, David, p. 423.
Niles, Erastus, p. 423
Niles, Oliver, p. 456
Wesley, Henry, p. 459.

I am also interested in further information for Niles and Westly in the 1855 Parish census.

Peggy Lyte Tyrrell



Stelmashuck Barn- state restoration plan

A 152-year-old barn in the town of Parish was one of 113 chosen out of 4,800 applications that were received from across 48 counties in NY for the New York State Barn Restoration and Preservation Program.

This barn is situated east of the

village of Parish on State Route 69, and owned by the Stelmashuck family. Steve (former president of the Parish Town Historical Society) living on the north side of Route 69, while his sister Evelyn and her family live across the road. It has been in the family and a working farm since

1916, before that the Tinsdale family owned it.

Stelmashucks will receive \$25,000 to refurbish the English-style barn. It will need a new roof, along with structural work to the foundation, interior and siding for stabilization.

The Parish Town Historical Society 2002 Calendar

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and beverages.

The Parish Cheese Factory Antiques is located on 2891 East Main Street and is owned and operated by Fred and M. Bridget Swartz. They purchased this historical building in 1972. It is full of antiques and open to the public on Thurs. and Fri. 12:30-4:30 and Sat 12:30-4 from May through October. This building has housed a cheese factory, and a car dealership while many different families have had living quarters in the upstairs.

The Grist Mill Restaurant was built in 1962 and located just off the Route 81 North exit on County Route 26. The present owner is Dave Chapman and managed by Matt Lutz and

Chuck Johnson. They have been providing food and drink to the community, transit workers and travelers since 1981. It has seen growth in business and more than one addition in the past years to accommodate the increase in travel down the Route 81 corridor.

The Oswego County Mutual Insurance Company was founded in 1878 to write fire insurance. Today they offer homeowners, farm owners, mobile homeowners, inland marine endorsement and business insurance. Charles Hinman presently owns it and you can find it on the corner of Main and South Railroad Street.

**Mills and Petrie
Memorial Service
held at the
Pleasant Lawn
Cemetery
Sun., Sept. 9
7 PM**

Pleasant Lawn Census Venture

Members of the Parish Town Historical Society continue to gather data from the markers at the Pleasant Lawn Cemetery.

When this project is completed there will be cemetery censuses for all cemeteries in the town of Parish.

Parish Methodist Church Celebrates 100 Years



In 1841 a church edifice was built in Parish on land donated by John Becker.

On Sunday, Dec. 17, 1899, a fire broke out and the original building burned.

The new church was built at a cost of \$6340 and it was dedicated on January 31, 1901. Rev. George Ernst was pastor.

On Sat. Sept 15 and Sun. Sept. 16 there will be a celebration for the anniversary of the Methodist church building, with the present pastor, Rev. Joseph Auslander.

Saturday events starting at noon:

- ✦ Hotdogs and Hamburgers
- ✦ Ice cream social
- ✦ Period costume parade
- ✦ Hay ride
- ✦ Games
- ✦ Box lunch auction
- ✦ Block dance 8-11PM (*The C Cruisers Band*)

Sunday events:

- ✦ Special 11AM worship service (*Oswego County Children's Chorus*) followed by cov-

Cemeteries of Parish

Bidwell Cemetery- is located on the east side of Bidwell Road, between County Route 26 and Kipp Road. It has an active cemetery association.

Dutch Hill Cemetery- is situated on the east side of Dutch Hill Road between Voorhees Road and State Route 69. It was established about 1850.

Getman Cemetery- is found on the north side of County Route 26 between Happy Valley Road and Stone Hill Road.

Established about 1870.

Merritt Corners Cemetery- is located on the north side of Voorhees Road between Shetler and Chapman Roads. It was established about 1830, most of the headstones are field stones fixed in ground with no writing.

Mitchell Cemetery- is located on the west side of County Route 26 between the Amboy town line and Dutch Hill Road. Established about 1850, it is several hundred feet off what today is County Route 26.

Parish Center Cemetery- is located on the east side of County Route 22 between State Route 69 and County Route 26. It was founded about 1850 and is the smallest.

Pleasant Lawn Cemetery- is the largest of the cemeteries of Parish. It is located on the west side of South Railroad Street in the village of Parish between Woodview Drive and the Village limit. It was established in 1806 and has an active cemetery association.

RESOURCES FROM THE PARISH HISTORIAN

- Scrapbook- Clara Van Doran- pictures of school musical activities
- scrapbooks made by Alena B. Wood
- Scrapbook donated by Carolyn Gray regarding Willard Gray
- Photos donated by Owen LaForce many taken by Burton House, local photographer
- Family Histories of the Brockway, Husted-McCollum and Edick Families- in notebook format for library use only
- collection of postcards assembled over sixteen years- in notebook
- all of the town scrapbooks kept by town historian
- cemetery census for each of the Parish cemeteries- partial list of Pleasant Lawn
- Dugway Cemetery census
- assorted maps of Parish
- federal censuses 1855, 1865, 1875, 1892 partial
- local histories of several Oswego county towns

Books reference only

- Landmarks of Oswego County- Churchill-1895
- Oswego County History- Johnson-1877

PTHS Summer Highlights

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chat with members of the society.

Visitors stopped to look at the picture boards, scrapbooks, and Parish memorabilia.

We also sold note-cards with photographs of the Parish Public Library and Mills and Petrie Veterans Memorial Park. We have since added two additional scenes, the barn at Tisdale farm and the village gym.

Several members participated in the event: Gloria White, Evelyn Stelmashuck, Fred Swartz, Dale Chapman, Linda McNamara, Jean Wood, Venita Ackley, Trix Koch, Bridget Swartz, and Steve Stelmashuck. Mary Lou Guindon was helping at another booth, but did stop to help us set up the canopy.

In July several members were present at the Oswego County Fair in Sandy Creek. This year the PTHS made a more extensive display in the Heritage Building. There were new poster boards with scenes from Parish, along with a military display of military Medals on loan from Trix Koch, the old sign from the Parish Red and White, an ashtray courtesy of Bill McNamara, and a deck of playing cards courtesy of Royce Cottet, both from the Parish Oil



Members Ruth Phillips Whitelaw and Paul Phillips visit with their brother, Dale, during the luncheon cruise on the Erie Canal. Dale was visiting from his home in Texas5

Company. Venita Ackley also donated a spoon depicting the parish Town Clock that was also part of the display.

After viewing all the wonderful displays from other towns in the county we thought for our first time with an extensive display, we did a fine job. We received positive feedback from fairgoers who viewed the exhibit.

Thanks to the following members for their assistance: Velma Caswell, Gloria White, Bill McNamara, Fred Swartz, Steve Stelmashuck, Bridget Swartz, Mary Lou Guindon, Linda McNamara, and Trix Koch.

We hope in 2002 to continue to improve our contribution to the Heritage Building at the Oswego County Fair, so it is not to early to search your photo books, scrap books and attics for pictures or

items from Parish's past.

Later in July, the group had some rest and relaxation. Several members ventured to Baldwinsville to have lunch on the "The City of Syracuse", a tour boat that took us for a trip down the Erie Canal. About 20 members and friends enjoyed the relaxing 2 hour ride. We traveled through the lock at Baldwinsville and back, while our tour guide pointed out wildlife and points of historical interest. The entire group had a great time.

A summer or fall outing has become a tradition with the group. We have traveled to Ogdensburg to the Frederic Remington Museum, to Constable Hall, and to the Adirondack Museum.

November 1922

In November 1922, the State Bank of Parish burned to the ground. When it burned the vault fell into the basement. For several days it was still too hot to retrieve the contents

of the vault. Several men from the town, including my father, Stephen Lesler, stood guard all night at the bank until it was safe to go into the basement.

Note: Until the bank was rebuilt, banking business continued at the Parish Public Library.

Ada LaRock

Parish Town Historical Society
Newsletter

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Parish Town Historical Society
2001– 2002 Officers

President/ Vice President
Linda McNamara ~ Jean wood

Secretary
Lillian Harter

Treasurer
Gloria White

Trustees
Clara Ellison
Dale Chapman
Stephen Stelmashuck

**Pleasant Lawn
Census Venture**

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Parish was and is the Place!

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Parish, New York 13131