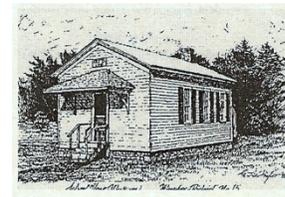


Honeoye Falls - Town of Mendon Historical Society

One Harry Allen Park - P.O. Box 26

Honeoye Falls, NY 14472-0026



January 3, 2021

New Year Greetings to Members & Friends!

What a year we have just finished! For better or for worse, it is one for the history books. As I reflect here at the beginning of our new year, I am thankful for some of the things that I think we have regained in recent months. Do you recall the quiet during our lockdown in April? As awful as it was to be apart from those whom we loved, there was something special about the lack of cars and trucks on the road that enabled me to reflect just a little bit more deeply than usual on how things felt to live here in Mendon a long time ago.

We learned so much this past year about how our current situation mirrored that of the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. Wasn't it remarkable to see the ways in which things have *not* changed? We remain small and vulnerable creatures in the sphere of our vast universe. My own parents, who were born in 1924, cautioned our family against taking what we had for granted. While it's clear that 2020 wasn't as awful as what they went through in the 1930s and 1940s, there are lessons from the past that are healthy (*no pun intended*) for us all to reflect on.

I hope that your recent holidays helped you find ways to reconnect with your loved ones. If you lost a loved one in 2020, I am deeply sorry.

For the Historical Society, 2020 was also a bit of a challenge. Many of our programs had to be cancelled, and our Museum was closed for several months. One thing that stung in particular was the cancellation of our annual holiday social, an opportunity for us to share some wassail and cheerful performances from local children and adults alike. This is something that we hope to host *with vigor* in December 2021!

The good news? All programs that were cancelled in 2020 are on our 2021 agenda, and as long as the pandemic is in our lives, we will host these programs on Zoom so that you can enjoy them from the comfort and safety of your own home. Our program committee has done another bang-up job for 2021, as you will see in the enclosed brochure. There is something for everyone.

Our 2021 goals are largely a restatement of 2020's: our focus remains on developing a new generation of leadership for the Historical Society. **In particular, we need:**

- 1) More volunteers to help with the Social for 2021, including music teachers who are willing to bring students to perform a recital. Please contact me if you or someone you know is willing to do this.**
- 2) Volunteers to step forward to share in our rotation schedule to offer docent services for our 2-hour Sunday afternoon museum hours.**

I am proud to share that our Society is a particularly smooth-running organization. Because of this, if you choose to get involved, I suspect you will find great enjoyment in helping us out, and we will provide you with the support that you need. Please see me at a meeting or call me at 624-5148 to discuss your potential involvement, or the involvement of someone who you recommend we reach out to.

Here are some highlights from 2020:

- Our Facebook presence ([facebook.com/hftmhs/](https://www.facebook.com/hftmhs/)) has really taken off! We post frequently, asking the community to help us unidentified people and places in photos in our collection. Please visit and help us solve these mysteries!
- On the Museum front, we have the following to report:

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions and concern for our staff and docents, the museum was closed to visitors from March until September. Weekly office hours were suspended in March and have not yet resumed.
- Work continues inside the museum, albeit on a reduced scale. Bill Lane and Charles Woolever have attacked the contents of the large oak bookcase. Most of the material has been indexed and integrated into our archival and photograph collections. Material that relates to local communities has been shared with their historical societies. Material that has no local relevancy has been sold on eBay.
- We received a major donation in June from the estate of Jack Leckie. Included were photos, political memorabilia and Town of Mendon material from his days as Town Supervisor. Additional donations came from Gary Albright, Bill Lane, Drew Saur, Charles Woolever and Kevin Yost
- The Society purchased a new sign for the front of the museum replacing a sign that was deteriorating. The sign was purchased with funds generously donated by the **Maletta Foundation**. Many thanks to the Village of Honeoye Falls for installing the new sign.
- Gary Albright worked to resubmit a grant application that we were finally awarded: A 2020 NYSCA/GHHN Conservation Treatment Grant to help us restore the Adam Cole portrait! Many thanks to Gary for helping us achieve that after we were rejected in 2019. Visit <https://bit.ly/3oew3Mz> to see our organization proudly listed alongside many others.
- The HF-L School District celebrated its 50th Anniversary following the merger of the Honeoye Falls and Lima School Districts. A special display was created at the high school using items from our museum collection augmented by cheerleading items provided by Muffy Meisenzahl.
- Approved the Society's 2021 Budget; there is no change to our membership dues for 2021.

Goals for 2021:

- Continue work with the Village of Honeoye Falls to determine how to stabilize temperature and humidity on the *second* floor of the museum.
- Continue evolving our online presence, whether our web site or Facebook.
- Continue indexing our archival materials and donations of artifacts to the Museum.
- As stated in my introduction, we have a wonderful set of programs planned for 2021, as detailed in the accompanying program guide. Please mark these on your calendars. I hope that you, like I, consider these part of your evening nourishment on the first Thursday of each month.

— If this sentence is highlighted, you did not remit your 2020 dues. —

Please fill out the enclosed **membership renewal form** and return it with your dues payment. Remember to **include your e-mail address** to receive timely and detailed notices of Historical Society program meetings and other events of interest. Any questions, please call me at 624-5148 or e-mail me at president@hfmhistorical.org.

Finally, if you haven't already, please visit our website at hfmhistorical.org. **As with 2020**, the website contains a link to a handy, **single** iCalendar file that will populate your e-calendars (Outlook, Gmail, mobile phone, tablet, etc.) with **all ten** 2021 programs at once! Of course, you will be able to see these events on our Facebook page as well, at www.facebook.com/hftmhs/.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. We hope to see you on the first Thursday of each month to enjoy our programs. May your 2021 bring health, safety, joy, and a return to life as you love living it!

Sincerely,



Drew D, Saur, President
president@hfmhistorical.org • 585-624-5148

Enclosures: 2021 Program Brochure & Membership Renewal Form