

# The Genesee Beacon

News from the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse



Carol Logan - 1986

**LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM • 70 Lighthouse Street • Rochester, New York 14612**  
(585) 621-6179

Open Mid-May thru Mid-October  
**Saturday and Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm**  
Special tours by appointment

## Marine History

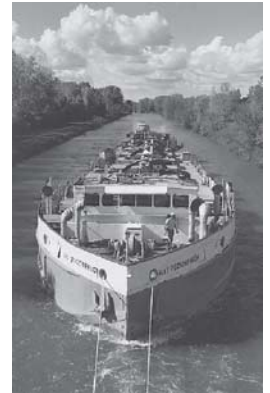
*by Tom Brewer*

### M.V. Day Peckinpaugh

At the November 2005 meeting of Marine History, we shared pictures and stories about the M.V. Day Peckinpaugh which had passed through Rochester on the Erie Canal in October on her way from Erie, PA to Waterford, N.Y. There she will be restored and made into a museum to teach school children and the public about the history of the Erie Canal. Several members of Marine History went to see the Day Peckinpaugh when she was in the Rochester area.

Many in the group remember the ship coming into the Port of Rochester. From about 1962 to 1984 she brought bulk cement from the Lake Ontario Cement Co. in Picton, Ontario to the Rochester Portland Cement Company on Boxart Street. She only came here occasionally when the regular ships the Glenelg and later the Metis were busy elsewhere.

The Day Peckinpaugh was built in 1921 at Duluth, MN for service on the then new NY Barge Canal and the Great Lakes. At 254 ft. long, she was one of the largest to operate on the Barge Canal.



She was originally called the ILI 101 and later named the Richard J. Barnes. In World War II she carried coal along the east coast. In 1958 the Erie Navigation Company purchased her and converted her to a self-unloading cement carrier to

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### OFFICERS

President – Fred Amato  
Vice President – Chris Franco  
Secretary – Carol Riesenberger  
Treasurer – Linda Taylor

### TRUSTEES

Richard Coddling	Doug Moran
Betty Fetter	Sue Mosgrober
Evelyn Franco	Marie Poinan
Joe Genova	Celia Rankin
Jack Kemp	Joe Riesenberger
Mike May	Liz Rush
Carol McCauley	John Schmitt

### BOARD MEMBERS

Beacon Editor – Marie Poinan  
Lighthouse Curator – Mike May  
Curator Marine History- Fr. Jack Lee  
Education-Carol Riesenberger  
Garden – Carol Riesenberger  
Gift Shop – Liz Rush & Evelyn Franco  
Buildings and Grounds– Joe Riesenberger  
Marine History – Tom Brewer  
Membership-Dorothy McKee  
OBPPC Rep.- Carol Riesenberger  
Public Relations – Celia Rankin  
Village History – John Kemp  
Volunteers –Richard Coddling

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OPENING WEEKEND

1pm to 5pm  
Saturday, May 13 • Sunday, May 14

**GIFT SHOP 20% off**  
**“MEMBERS ONLY” SALE**  
Sunday, May 7, 1pm to 5pm

### VOLUNTEER IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Saturday, April 29, 10 am - noon  
Coast Guard Auxiliary Base  
520 River Street

**MARINE HISTORY** meets the  
2nd Saturday of each month at 10am.  
Next meetings are:  
April 8 • May 13 • June 10

**VILLAGE HISTORY** meets the  
3rd Saturday of each month at 10am.  
Next meetings are:  
April 15 • May 20 • June 17

## Village History

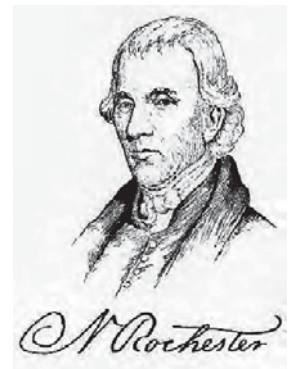
*By Jack Kemp*

### Building our Lighthouse

Revolutionary war veteran William Hincer died on June 21, 1817. William had 7 daughters and one son. During his lifetime, William had already deeded over a 150-acre farm to his only son. In his will, he left 50-acre parcels of land to each of his daughters except the eldest, to whom he left \$5.00! (Wouldn't you like to know the story behind that bequest?) The lighthouse property was left to his wife.

Four years later on November 17, 1821, widow Mehitable Hincer deeded 4 acres of Village Lot #28 to the U.S. Government for the “enormous sum” of \$400.00. She signed the deed in

Livingston County and Deputy Clerk Nathaniel Rochester recorded the deed in the Monroe County Clerk's Office. The “new” County of Monroe was created out of parts of Genesee and Ontario Counties on February 3, 1821, and the clerk's



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*Hear interesting facts about local history by attending one of our Saturday morning Marine or Village History meetings. You'll be surprised at what you can learn about life in good ol' Charlotte and the Port of the Genesee. Everyone is welcome!*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Fred Amato*



Hi Everyone!

On Sunday, February 12, 2006, I was elected to a two year term as President of The Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society. I thank everyone for your support. Several months ago I was asked to run for President of the Society. I was surprised and flattered. I had recently left the Monroe County Legislature after serving 21 years because of term limits, and two years ago I retired from the Eastman Kodak Company. I was in a position to get more involved in areas of the community that previously took a back seat. Now I am able to devote more time to the community in a different way and one way is by serving as President of the Society. I am committed to preserving the history, and educating the community as to why we should all take pride in our lighthouse. We can only do this by working as a team.

I want to thank Linda Taylor for the great work she has done as our past President and I am happy that she has been elected to serve as our Treasurer.

I am filled with enthusiasm about my work for the Society. Several people have informed me that they have joined the Society over the past few months in anticipation of sharing their talents with us. I am looking forward to increasing our membership by bringing back past members and recruiting new members.

Some community residents and Society members have already made suggestions as to what we can do over the next two years. I am looking forward to meeting more society members and finding out what your thoughts are to make a good organization - even better. We have already set up a brainstorming session with the Board Members and will be looking into short and long-range plans for our Society and the Lighthouse. If you have any ideas, please call me at

621-5605 or e-mail me at fredamato@frontiernet.net. I can assure you all your ideas will be thoroughly considered no matter how expensive or outrageous they might sound. The motto for the next two years will be WE CAN DO IT! We have great resources on our Board and in our Society and I plan on using them to the fullest.

I see a common interest in the Charlotte community and commit to working with the Charlotte Community Association, The Ontario Beach Park Program Committee, Harbor Merchants Association and the Towns of Greece and Irondequoit. Together we can only make this a better community. We have so many nearby assets to promote, such as the Carousel, the Bill Davis Overlook, the new O'Rorke Bridge, Ontario Beach Park, the development of new trails through Turning Point Park, and our historic cemeteries around Charlotte.

We have already implemented changes to the membership fees. For instance; if you donate a minimum of \$50.00, you will receive a special lighthouse t-shirt for 2006. If you donate over \$100.00 you will receive a lighthouse sweatshirt and for the \$500 level you will receive a mounted photo of the lighthouse and tower, which has been taken, by one of our own members. At the \$1,000 level and up, you will receive all 3 gifts. Businesses who give over \$50 will be recognized in our newsletter for one full year. After our brainstorming session I will report to you on what our priorities will be for the next few years. We will be doing things that will rely on your generosity to the society to bring more enjoyment to our visitors.

As spring is here and summer is just around the corner, you will be seeing a lot of activity taking place at the lighthouse. We will also be participating in the HarborFest at Ontario Beach Park with a booth on Saturday, June 24th and Sunday, June 25th. The lighthouse and tower will be open. Please stop by and say hello. Exciting things will be happening this year so why not take part in these events. Give us a call, volunteer, or make a donation. I hope to meet you at the Lighthouse this season. Until then, good-bye for now.

- Fred

## NEWS FROM YESTERYEAR Excerpts from April 11, 1920- Rochester Herald newspaper

### ONTARIO BEACH PARK GOING! GOING! GONE!!

Last September its gates were locked, never to be opened again to throngs of happy pleasure seekers. Its myriad lights have cast their picturesque nocturnal reflection in nearby waters for the last time. Children have found their fairyland of never-ending delight in its atmosphere of mystery and romance that will soon be torn asunder amid the sounds of creaking, crashing timbers. The spell is broken. Ontario Beach Park, with its crowds, its noises, its enchanting glamour, its excitement and thrills, is a charming memory, never to be forgotten. Many a heart will sincerely mourn its passing.

Soon a strip of municipal bathing beach will be all that marks the spot where countless thousands, young and old have whiled away some of the happiest hours of their lives, amid a galaxy of amusement and recreation devices that for years formed a summertime mecca for picnic and outing parties from near and far. Music and laughter and gayety and life will still be there, but the old familiar scenes--the blare of the ballyhoo and the old picnic tables and benches rubbed smooth and glossy by more than one generation will have passed into oblivion.

The New York Central Railroad bought the property in 1881 and still holds the title at the present day (1920). Ontario Beach Park had its beginning in 1882, leased out as the "Lake Ontario Beach Improvement Company, of Charlotte." In 1906 when Ontario Beach Park was approaching the peak of its glory a mortgage on the property was foreclosed and the lease was assigned to the "Ontario Beach Hotel and Amusement Company."

The park was rebuilt from March to July of 1907. The cost of the reconstruction was approximately \$500,000. The place reached the zenith of its fame from 1909 to 1912. Ontario Beach Park closed in September of 1919. Like every other form of amusement, it has had its day and is gone.

It was a house built on the sand, and the winds of progress came and blew it away.

## Marine History

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take cement from Picton, Ontario across Lake Ontario to Oswego where she entered the Barge Canal. She went on the Barge Canal to a terminal at Rome, NY, and would occasionally come to Rochester. Erie Navigation changed her name to Day Peckinpaugh- after the man who was involved in Great Lakes shipping and brother of Roger Peckinpaugh, one-time

interim manager of the New York Yankees.

In 1983 the Stephen B. Roman became the principle cement ship for Lake Ontario Cement. She would meet the Peckinpaugh at Oswego and transfer part of her cargo. From 1983 on we rarely saw the Peckinpaugh in Rochester. She was retired in 1994 and laid up at Erie, PA until 2005 when she was purchased by the NYS Museum with assistance from the Canal Society of New York.

## Village History

(continued from page 1)

office was only 9 months at the time the property exchanged hands. Mr. Rochester had moved from Dansville to Bloomfield in 1815 and in April of 1818, he moved once again to the village that bore his name.

The N.Y. State Legislature had passed the bill allowing Governor DeWitt Clinton the right to acquire the property "at the mouth of the Gennysee (sic) River." Given that the wheels of governmental bureaucracy normally turn slowly, the contract to build the Genesee lighthouse was fairly quick to come about- it only took about 4 months. On April 2, 1822, John Canfield, the Collector of Customs at Sacket's Harbor entered into

an agreement with Ashbel Symonds of Jefferson County to erect a 40-foot tall tower, build a two-room keeper's house and dig a well on the property. The work had to be completed by September 1 of that same year! Symonds then had all of October to outfit the lantern's lamps and reflectors according to the detailed specifications of Winslow Lewis. He would be paid half upon execution of the contract, and the remaining half after the work had been completed and approved. How much did it cost to build the lighthouse? The government paid Symonds \$3301.00.

Giles Holden, who had come to Greece from Middlebury Vermont in 1817, was the first keeper to inhabit the house. One must imagine that Giles, his wife and 11 children were quite cramped in those two rooms.

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

*By Rich Coddling*

This year's Volunteer training session will be held on Saturday, April 29th, from 10am until 12Noon.

To accommodate a larger group, this year's in-service will be held at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Base at 520 River Street

We will present the new volunteers, introduce our board members and explain updated responsibilities and duties of our volunteers. New tour policies and cashier duties will also be discussed at this meeting.

Our season will start on Mother's Day weekend- May 13th and 14.

We hope all the volunteers will be able to attend. We will have early sign-up lists and refreshments will be served, too!

We welcome anyone who is interested in volunteering a few hours to help us staff the lighthouse, whether it is for our weekend hours or to help out for an hour or two on weekdays for our group tours.

Come and check out the fun...Hope to see you on the 29th!

## Annual Meeting ~ Officers and Committee Chairs



Row 1 (seated) Mike May and Liz Franco  
 Row 2 Evelyn Franco, Betty Fetter, Celia Rankin, Dorothy McKee  
 Row 3 Chris Franco, Rich Coddling, Doug Moran, Carol Riesenberger, Sue Mosgrober, Fred Amato  
 Row 4 Jack Kemp, Joe Riesenberger, Linda Taylor

(absent from Photo- Tom Brewer, Joe Genova, Fr. Jack Lee, Carol McCauley, Marie Poinan and John Schmitt)



### Seaway Trail Lighthouses

**Wednesday,  
 April 26  
 7:00 pm**

### Charlotte Branch Library

Come and hear Arthur Abel tell about the lighthouses on the south shore of Lake Ontario.

A presentation of the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society.

**Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse**  
70 Lighthouse Street  
Rochester, New York 14612

NON-PROFIT Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT # 777  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

DATED MATERIAL: PLEASE DELIVERY BY APRIL 14

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE EXPIRATION DATE THAT APPEARS AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR MAILING LABEL\*\***  
**IF THE DATE IS HIGHLIGHTED, YOUR ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE**

We do appreciate your membership. Your paid dues will keep you on our mailing list, and you won't miss out on the next issue of THE GENESEE BEACON. Please take a moment to look at the mailing label.

**WHEN YOU ARE DONE ENJOYING THIS ISSUE,  
PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND, SO THAT SOMEONE ELSE CAN ALSO ENJOY THIS COPY**

## Membership

The Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society invites you to join its membership. Your application will be received with sincere appreciation.

New member     Renewal

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

- |   |           |   |             |
|---|-----------|---|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen/Student | \$ 8.00   | <input type="checkbox"/> Curator                                  | \$500-999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual             | \$15.00   | Receive a FREE framed LH photo                                    |             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family                 | \$25.00   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighthouse Keeper                        | \$1000 & up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing           | \$30-49   | Receive a FREE framed LH t-shirt, sweatshirt, and framed photo    |             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting             | \$50-99   | <input type="checkbox"/> Business                                 | \$25-49     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron                 | \$100-499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business                                 | \$50 & up   |
| Receive a FREE LH t-shirt                       |           | Receive written recognition in the Beacon for one year (4 issues) |             |
| Receive a FREE LH sweatshirt                    |           |   |             |

Please feel free to send in this form to volunteer, even if your dues are not payable.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are constantly looking for new volunteers to staff the museum, maintain our buildings and grounds and join our Village History and Marine History Research groups. If you would like to be called to participate in any volunteer activities, please check any of the boxes below. This will give our volunteer coordinators an idea of what Your interests are and/or what you might be interested in doing.

- Museum Guide / Tower Guide
- Gift Shop
- Building Maintenance
- Grounds upkeep
- Finance Committee
- Historical research
- School Groups / Tours
- Computer / Audio-Visual
- Public relations
- General Office
- Programs
- Publications

**The Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Museum is located off Lake Avenue, directly behind Holy Cross Catholic Church.  
For more info call: (585) 621-6179.**