

The Genesee Beacon

News from the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse



LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM • 70 Lighthouse Street • Rochester, New York 14612
(585) 621-6179 • www.geneseelighthouse.org • Email: info@geneseelighthouse.org

Open May 10 - October 26, 2008
Saturday and Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm
* Special tours by appointment

OFFICERS

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

TRUSTEES

Patricia Amato	Jack Kemp
Bill Briggs	Sandi Marino
Neil Budd	Dee Mastro
Tom Clayton	Mike May
Jude Codding	Doug Moran
Richard Codding	Sue Mosgrober
Betty Fetter	Marie Poinan
Joe Genova	Liz Rush

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Lighthouse Curator – Mike May
Curator Marine History- Fr. Jack Lee
Gift Shop – Liz Rush & Evelyn Franco
Buildings and Grounds– Chris Franco
Marine History – Tom Brewer
Membership–Chris Franco
OBPPC Rep.- Carol Riesenberger
Village History – John Kemp
Volunteers –Richard Codding
Beacon Editor–Marie Poinan

NEW DISPLAY FOR 2008

“THE LOCKUPS OF THE VILLAGE OF CHARLOTTE”

The Lighthouse will feature a new display this year entitled THE LOCKUPS OF THE VILLAGE OF CHARLOTTE. There will be information about the village's three jails:

1. the Rankin grain elevator that was converted into a Village “lockup” in early 1869 just after the Village of Charlotte was incorporated.

2. the 1872 jail built on Lighthouse Street. The land originally was owned by the Upton and Barrons Company and is now owned by the Tapecon Company. Trustee Joe Genova (shown in the picture) has built a model of the 1872 Charlotte Lockup.” That will be on display in the Keeper's House. In 1995 the original jail site was excavated. Joe Genova discovered six cells located in the basement which were around 5 ft by 6 ft. History books suggest that the building was a two story frame building with a stone basement. “The project was a work of love for Charlotte history,” states Joe Genova who came up with the idea to build a model.

3. In 1914 the State of New York



condemned the Lighthouse Street Jail. In 1915, the 3rd Jail in Charlotte was built on Stutson Street, shortly before Charlotte village was annexed to the City of Rochester.

The display will feature photos showing the location of the jails and photos from the 1995 excavation work done on Lighthouse St.

This display will be open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays between 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. from May 10th till Sunday, October, 26th when the Museum closes for the season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Training

Sat. May 3rd
10am-noon
Coast Guard Auxiliary

Opening Day

Sat., May 10th

Irondequoit Concert Band

Tuesday, June 10th
7pm

Garage Sale

June 13-15

Village History - meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10am. The next meetings are:
May 17
June 21

Marine History- meets the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10am. The next meetings are:
May 10
June 14

VOLUNTEER/ DOCENT TRAINING

Saturday, May 3, 2008 10:00 a.m. – NOON
Coast Guard Auxiliary, 520 River St.

Past docents and those who might be interested in volunteering in 2008 are invited to an informational meeting and brief training session that will include volunteer responsibilities, visitor safety and sign-ups for this season. Fred Amato, Rich Codding and Liz Rush will speak. There will also be a short presentation on lighthouse history and accessioning. Refreshments will be served. Please come and hear about our volunteer opportunities.

The Lighthouse is always looking for volunteers to staff the museum, tower and gift shop. Commitment is four hours on a Saturday or Sunday, three or four times between May and October. We provide you with training, a volunteer handbook and schedule you with a “seasoned volunteer”.

To RSVP and reserve your spot- please call RICH CODDING at 266-7310

President's Message

by Fred Amato



Another season is upon us. We will be open weekends from Saturday, May 10 thru Sunday, October 26th between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. There are several events planned throughout this season. This year we will be featuring a display on CHARLOTTE LOCKUPS. Please visit us to see what our members have put together for this year's visitors, especially the model constructed by our very talented Joe Genova. We have add-

ed a calendar of events to our WEB site www.geneseeighthouse.org to keep everyone abreast of what is happening this year.

Each year our docents attend a training session and we also offer on the job training opportunities. This gives our volunteers the knowledge to inform our visitors about the history of our Lighthouse and area. The docents also receive training on the safety precautions that should be followed especially when climbing the lighthouse tower.

My thanks go to the volunteers who helped give tours to youth and scout groups and out-of-town visitors during the winter months. We were fortunate that good weather allowed them to climb the tower as the weather was pretty good except for the cold.

I was involved in taking a month-long workshop on-line called "The Basics of Archives." This was a course offered to members by the AASLH (American Association for State and Local History.) Visit their WEB site at www.aaslh.org to see all the information they have. The workshop gives a very good intro-

duction to the core aspects of managing and protecting historical records using appropriate principles and best practices. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to compare what we are currently doing and what changes we might implement to better preserve our collection. We already follow several of the recommended procedures. The training recommends that you never store collections in attics and basements. Well, at the Lighthouse we are limited to where we can store items. We have installed a de-humidifier to help control humidity. Last year we divided the heating system into two sections. Our temperature has been set at 69° Fahrenheit most of the winter months; the maximum they recommend for archival materials is 70°. We feel better about using the basement with this improvement. We have plans to use our grant funds from Assemblyman Joe Morelle to purchase equipment to monitor both temperature and humidity to help us ensure that our archival material is stored under the proper conditions. We hope to implement several other changes to our operating procedures based on the workshop, working with our members to refine the recommended procedures to meet our needs.

I hope you all get an opportunity to visit the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse this year to see the many things that our hard working volunteers have been doing. If you have any suggestions to help us better preserve our collection or serve our visitors please feel free to contact me at info@geneseeighthouse.org. Remember if you have visitors from out of town and they can't get to the Lighthouse, give us a call and we might be able to arrange a special tour during the off hours. I want to give everyone an opportunity to see the wonderful collections we have.

-Fred

Village History

by Jack Kemp

Rochester's First Baseball Game

The first recorded baseball game in Rochester happened 150 years ago on June 18, 1858. The game was played between the University and the Flour City teams. The Flour City team won 25 to 8. Scoring was a little different than it is today. In those days, they recorded only 'runs' scored and the number of "hands lost" [times a man was put out.] In the early days, teams practiced indoors when the weather was inclement. Teams used the Rochester Savings Bank building because of its large second story.

The connection to Charlotte history is that baseball games were not allowed to be played in the city on Sunday, so the Village of Charlotte built a ball field and stadium. Located just north of the blast furnace, they played games here until 1909 (when it was banned) and then resumed at a later date. In 1878, the "Charlottes" played the "Plow-boys" from Mount Read. Another Charlotte team was called "The Lakesiders." Thousands would flock to the lake to see this "newfangled" game. We don't know when the stadium was demolished.



Marine History

By Tom Brewer

Genesee Feldspar

When people walk along the new Riverway Trail at Turning Point Park, one of first things they see at the end of Boxart Street are the ruins of an old mill on the right, overgrown with weeds. That mill is the remains of Genesee Feldspar, an industry that depended on ships for a supply of raw materials.

Early in the 1900's the Pennsylvania Feldspar Co. built a mill on the site which was on land leased from the BR&P railroad. The principal use of the ground feldspar was in the production of ceramics. There were companies in Leroy and Victor that made porcelain insulators for power lines that needed this ground feldspar.

The feldspar rock came from Canadian quarries and was loaded onto sailing ships for the trip to Charlotte. At the piers, a tug met the ship to tow it upriver to a dock below the mill. A large crane was built on the riverbank and its bucket would be lowered down into the ship. The feldspar was loaded by hand and raised up to the mill. Then the ship would go to the coal dock to be loaded with coal for a trip back to Canada. Later the feldspar would arrive on the car ferries, Ontario No. 1 and No. 2. The car ferries would take railroad hopper cars loaded with coal to Canada and bringing back the cars empty so by loading some of the otherwise empty cars with feldspar rock made a little extra money for the railroad.

Over the years the mill was modernized and steam power was replaced with electricity and the it became Genesee Feldspar. When the car ferry service ended in 1950, so did the supply of feldspar rock and the mill was shut down. It sat unused for several years. In the late 1950's, a Canadian company started the operation up again but all too soon closed it down. The railroad (now the B&O) still owned the land and by default the mill. The B&O saw no future for the mill so they had a scrap company from Pennsylvania tear it down.

If you walk around the site you can still see the cement foundations for the crane and milling machines and find pieces of feldspar rock.

Buildings and Grounds

By Chris Franco

Lighthouse volunteers were busy this winter. They added more computer and work stations in the basement and increased the storage areas. Wiring was modified and files and cabinetry have been added.

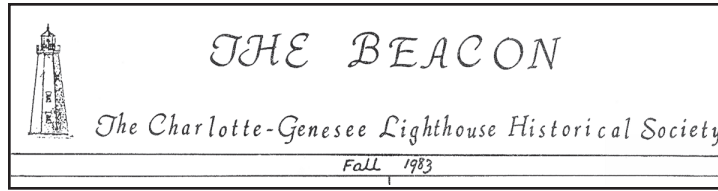
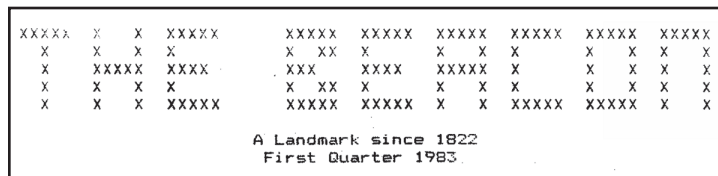
We extend our very special thanks to Lori and Vince Giglio owners of Turn Key Operations for again donating all of the office equipment and cabinetry needed to make our renovation projects both professional and efficient.

From the Crow's Nest

by Marie Poinan

Happy Birthday Beacon!

This marks the 25th year of the Beacon newsletter. A big thank you goes to Jack Kemp who compiled and scanned all of the issues so that we have a permanent record of this wonderful chronicling of our site's history. Considering it was done in the days before computers and fancy graphics became the norm, it is a remarkable achievement. But I do get a chuckle out of seeing the xxx's that spell out the word Beacon in that very first issue. You will notice that we did have a logo by the second issue back in 1983!



At the Annual meeting, President Fred Amato presented gifts to outgoing board members EVELYN FRANCO (left) and CAROL RIESENBERGER (below)

Photos courtesy Pat Amato

Request for Vendors

We are looking for artists and crafters for our 2nd annual ARTS and CRAFTS show to be held on October 11th and 12th from 1pm-5pm. This is a juried show and vendors must have a NYS tax ID.

Applications are available at the lighthouse and on our website.

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 28

****Please check the expiration date on this mailing label to see if your annual dues are payable.****

We appreciate your membership. Your paid dues will keep you on our mailing list so that you won't miss out on the next issue of the Beacon. When you are done reading this issue, please pass it along to a friend to enjoy

<p><i>Freshwater Models</i> Scale Models - Craftsman Kits Spincast Parts in Resin, Britannia, and ZA www.freshwatermodels.net (585)581-2983</p>	<p><i>Lighthouse Sponsors</i> Barbara Kelley and Tom Riley</p>	<p><i>The following businesses support the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society, Inc.</i></p>	<p>Shumway Marine Herrema's Food Market, Inc. Turn Key Operations</p>
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Membership

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

Please complete and return to:

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

New member Renewal

NAME: _____
 STREET: _____
 CITY: _____
 HOME PHONE: _____
 WORK PHONE: _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen/Student \$ 8.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$30-49 <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50-99
Receive a FREE LH t-shirt <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100-499
Receive a FREE LH sweatshirt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Curator \$500-999
Receive a FREE framed LH photo <input type="checkbox"/> Lighthouse Keeper \$1000 & up
Receive a FREE framed LH t-shirt,
sweatshirt, and framed photo <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$25-49 <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50 & up
Receive written recognition in
the Beacon for one year (4 issues) | |
|---|--|--|

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.**