

The Genesee Beacon

News from the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse



Carol Logan - 1986

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

Open May 9 - November 1, 2009
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

Bill Briggs Dee Mastro
Neil Budd Mike May
Tom Clayton Doug Moran
June Codding Sue Mosgrober
Richard Codding Liz Rush
Joe Genova Kirk Simpson
Sandi Marino

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

River Romance Weekend Events

3rd Annual Arts & Crafts Show and Sale

Saturday, October 10 9am-6pm

Sunday, October 11 1pm-5pm

Food available and gift shop open.

Tower and house tours

Quilt raffle

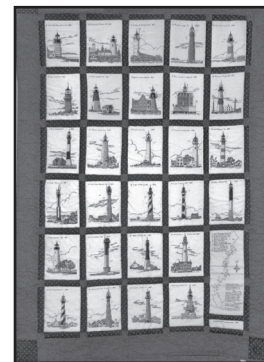
Don't forget to purchase your raffle ticket for a LIGHTHOUSE QUILT hand-crafted by Mary Lou Miller. The quilt depicts 28 lighthouses from Maine to Florida.

Tickets \$5.00

Drawing at 3pm on October 11th

Winner need not be present

All proceeds benefit the maintenance of the lighthouse and grounds



Additional events on Sunday October 11

Charlotte Village Cemetery Tour at 1 pm

Ontario Beach Park Autumn at the Lake 11am-4pm Hayrides, pumpkins, displays, entertainment

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ghost Stories

Friday, October 30
6:30-8:30pm

Marine History- meets the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10am.

The next meetings are:

October 10

Nov 14

Dec 12

January 9

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

October 17

Nov 21

Dec 19

January 16

Lighthouse Closes for the season on Sunday, Nov. 1
Group tours available by appointment

Is there really a ghost in Charlotte? Come and find out!

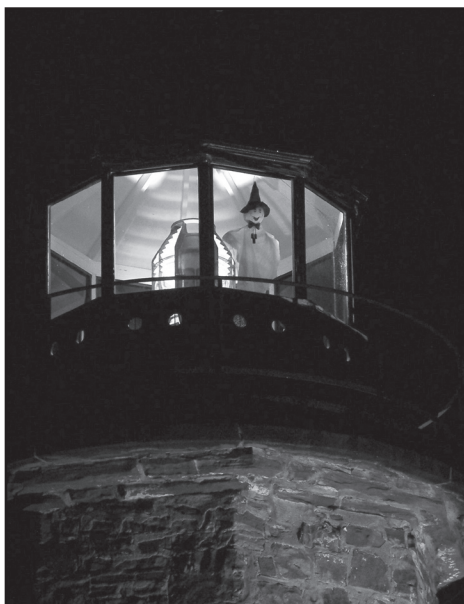


Photo courtesy Fred Amato

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30th
6:30 pm

The event is FREE to the Public

Refreshments!

Gift Shop will be open
Purchase a copy of Sally Valentine's book
Ghost of the Charlotte Lighthouse

For further information call 621-6179
or visit our website:
www.geneseeighthouse.org



President's Message

by President Fred Amato



Our 2009 season is almost over and we are having a wonderful year. Our volunteers have contributed many hours of their time in helping keep the buildings and grounds looking great. The gardens have had an extensive amount of work this year and if you have not seen them, please stop by. The ongoing care of the gardens this year have been helped by our tenant, Mike Swartz and Board member Neal Budd who has been directing the Irondequoit Girl Scout Troup.

Many hours have been accumulated by our volunteers in giving the Saturday and Sunday tours. We have had many requests for special tours since last winter, which included four bus tours, nursing homes, scouts and others. We have had over 2,000 visitors as I write this report. Remember that we offer special tours throughout the year. Please call a few weeks in advance to make arrangements.

Please remember to bring your friends to visit the lighthouse. You can

even bring a box lunch and dine on one of our picnic tables and enjoy one of the beautiful views of the Genesee River with its many boats passing by. You might even be lucky to see the Steven B. Roman ship pass by on its way to deliver cement to the Turning Point area where it unloads its cargo for use by many of the building and construction companies in the Rochester area.

We will continue giving our Photo Presentations throughout the year. Please contact me if your group might be interested in having one for your group. We have done over ten this year to date and have more scheduled into July of 2010.

Hopefully you will receive this newsletter before Oct 10th and 11th so that you can attend our Arts & Crafts Show & Sale. It is always an exciting time at the lighthouse and you might find that perfect Christmas gift for a loved one.

Dorothy McKee

By Fred Amato



Dorothy McKee, Courtesy Doug Moran

Once again we are saddened by another death of one of long standing volunteers. On September 14th Dorothy McKee passed away. I remember when I first met Dorothy. It was at the 2006 Annual Meeting where Dorothy received the 2006 Lois and Norm Dunn "Volunteer of the Year" award. I was fortunate to present the award as one of my first duties as the new President of the Society. Dorothy was involved in the Society for more than 15 years as a museum docent, membership chair and as an assistant to the volunteer coordinator. She has also been the "keeper of the lighthouse key" to help volunteers who forget their key when they showed up for weekend duty at the Lighthouse. Dorothy lived very close to the Lighthouse and it was a perfect spot for an extra key. She became inactive in 2006 but will always be remembered by her Lighthouse friends as an outstanding, hardworking member and dedicated to the preservation of the Lighthouse. She will be missed by many of her friends at the lighthouse.

Volunteer of the Year 2009

At the Semi-Annual meeting held at Holy Cross' Beacon Place on August 13th, **Linda Taylor** was named the 2009 recipient of the "Dunn Volunteer of the Year," an award voted on by the members of the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society. Linda was honored for her years of commitment to the society in her capacity of President, Treasurer and for her many years of service on special event committees.



NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Please check your address label and take note of your membership EXPIRATION DATE.

If that date is 1 year old or older, please send us your renewal check in order to keep your membership current. You only need to send in the membership amount for 1 year; you need not make up for overdue dues at this time.

Thank you,
Chris Franco
Membership Committee Chairman

Pioneer Health Plans

by Jack Kemp

As I grow older I find myself spending more and more time in doctor's offices or in line at the pharmacy. This caused me to wonder what did the pioneers in this area do to survive? In an article in the Democrat & Chronicle by Nellie Doty Butts I found some answers.

There were no physicians or pharmacists west of Albany when the pioneers cut their way through forests of spruce, fir, oak and maple. They camped where the air was pungent with mold and decaying vegetation, surrounded by stagnant pools and low fetid marshes teeming with all forms of insect life, with barrel cisterns and undrained cesspools. Still these pioneers of the Genesee lived, thrived, multiplied and many lived long, long lives. How did they do it?

They made their own medicines! Simple homemade remedies sufficed for every ill. Sarsaparilla abundant in moist woods, ginseng roots, and burdock root were prepared with great care and stored for future use. Tasty, strongly aromatic with a bitter taste, teasel rightfully named "ague weed" and "feverwort," mustard, rhubarb, hoarhound, Indian turnip, catnip and sage were in common use in concocting homemade remedies to alleviate pain or banish disease. All afflictions yielded to their magic power.

Barks of trees (elms, hemlock, oak, pine and wild cherry) were gathered in the spring before the sap began to flow. The course outer layer was shaved off and rejected before the inner bark was removed from the tree. This was carefully cured and hoarded. Leaves and herbs collected after the blossoming period had passed were submitted to a thorough cleansing and then dried. Flowers chosen in the blossoming season for their vivid colors received the same treatment. Fruit and seeds preserved in summer were vigilantly guarded to be used in the manufacture of home remedies.

The following formula for the "Cure of cholera morbus" from *Grandmothers Ways* cookbook (Jan. 1, 1810): "Roast some corn very brown, pour on it barley water, let them drink it." A prescription from the same source for a bruised and inflamed place: "Take sassafras root boiled in water and thickened with wheat bran, put in a small piece of lard, when

cool enough, apply it to the bruise."

Fine-cut tobacco that had received a liberal coating of brown sugar moistened with camphor or wormwood steeped in vinegar and applied hot to inflamed parts of the body proved no less efficient in reducing a sprain.

In an emergency or if no medication were available an Indian runner could be hired to run to the nearest pharmacist and return with some concoction, this however would cost hard cash which was in little supply.

In September of 1810 when Mr. Wadsworth was trying to sell and settle the tract he had obtained which included Parma and Greece, he cautioned Mr. Troup: "I have just been down to Braddock's Bay township. Almost every man, woman, and child was sick with fever. I am afraid the settlement will be abandoned".

One pioneer refused to consult a physician. His faith in "karsene" was absolute. One teaspoon three times a day was a positive remedy for internal dis-

orders from gout to ague while external application took care of bumps, bruises, toothache and stiff joints.

Finally Dr. Hosmer settled in the area. Not exactly close by, however- he lived in Avon. One might imagine how many hours it took to ride out and summon him for a house call at the mouth of the Genesee. At any given time, he might have been called equally as far to the east, west or south.

The first doctor to practice in Charlotte was Amos Emerson. He came in 1830 and set up practice on the east side of Broadway (now Lake Avenue) opposite Upton Place. About Dr. Emerson, Emma Pollard Greer writes: "he thoughtlessly ignored a slight scratch on his hand which he had gotten on a jagged brick in the fireplace. Blood poisoning set in... he died the following day at the early age of 36."

How I marvel at the strength, courage and ingenuity of our ancestors!

Celebrating Bill and Lois

On Sunday, July 26th, almost 100 people attended **Bill and Lois Davis Day** at the Lighthouse. Local dignitaries and family members gathered to honor the "first family of Charlotte" for their 40+ years of service to the lighthouse and to the Charlotte community. A photo tribute was set up in the annex showing many of their activities over the years.



State Senator Joe Robach, Charlotte Community Association President Brian Labigan, Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Charlotte Community Development Corporation Chairman Glenn Gardner and Monroe County Legislator Rick Antelli



Senator Joe Robach, Lois Davis, U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter



Rick Antelli, Lois Davis, President Fred Amato
Photos by Marie Poinan, Mike Amato



Thank you to the following for their membership at the \$50+ level.

Lighthouse Sponsors

Barbara Kelley and Tom Riley	Kevin Duderchik
Louis Bohn	James Gibson Family
Brandi Butters	Dr. & Mrs. Richard Strauss
William Denise, Jr.	Lemlem Woldeab

The following businesses support the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society, Inc.

Shumway Marine	Green Acres Farm Nursery – Millie Edmond
Herrema's Market Place	Irondequoit Lawn and Landscape – Jeffrey Riesenberger
Turn Key Operations	Airborn Fire Safety Co.- Georgia Engles
Michael Copek – Landscape Designer	New Venture Title Agency, LLC- John Ciccolone

****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

Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse

70 Lighthouse Street
Rochester, New York 14612

NON-PROFIT Organization
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DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-------------|
| <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 photo, t-shirt, and sweatshirt | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$50-99 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$25-49 |
| Receive a FREE LH t-shirt | | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$50 & up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100-499 | 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.**