

The General's Gazette

President:

Barbara Mielcarski

Vice-President

Dain Faville

Treasurer:

John Mielcarski

Recording Secretary:

Barbara Voelkle

? ? ?

Site Manager:

Thomas Kernan

? ? ?

Board of Trustees—

Mary Feeney

Jim Fisher

Phyllis Fisher

Joan E. Lein

Robert Maxwell

Diane Lockwood

Friends of Herkimer Home Hold Annual Meeting

On Sunday, May 16th, the Friends of Herkimer Home held their annual meeting in the visitor center A/V room. President Barb Mielcarski presided over the meeting and a slate of officers and trustees was presented for election. Officers elected to two year terms were Barb Mielcarski – President, Dain Faville – Vice President, Lynn Cuda – Secretary, John Mielcarski – Treasurer. Trustees elected to three year terms were Mary Feeney and Bob Maxwell. At the meeting, Friends activities over the past year were discussed such as the success of the afternoon teas, the Christmas open house and tea, the annual colonial dinner and the Friends participation in area

activities. Also, President Mielcarski explained an upcoming bus trip to the Culinary Institute of America and the Eleanor Roosevelt house in Hyde Park. Site Manager Tom Kernan discussed the site's closing effective May 17th due to the lack of state funds but assured those in attendance that the state will maintain a physical presence at the site and conduct limited maintenance during this closure period. (The site reopened to the public on May 28th)



- ? Individual \$15
- ? Family (2 adults & children under 18) \$25
- ? Seniors (Age 60+) \$10
- ? Sustaining \$50
- ? Contributing \$100
- ? Patron/Business \$250
- ? Lifetime \$500

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Hundreds Enjoy Herkimer Home's Spring Event

On Sunday, May 16th, Herkimer Home celebrated the arrival of spring at its annual event, *An 18th Century Spring and Garden Fair at Herkimer Home*. The crowd was steady throughout the afternoon as visitors enjoyed a variety of spring activities typical on an 18th century farm. Included were volunteers dressed in 18th century

clothes planting both the formal and field gardens. Also included were sheep shearing demonstrations; rail splitting; clothes washing; spinning; weaving and wool dying. For those with gardens or are thinking of starting one, garden vendors provided a variety of plants, flowers, herbs and other gar-

den products for sale. Also a strolling violinist entertained the crowd and the Friends of Herkimer Home sold a variety of desserts and beverages throughout the afternoon.

Friends of Herkimer Home Hosts Afternoon Teas

The Friends of Herkimer Home hosted their first afternoon tea of the season on the Herkimer Home grounds on June 16th to the delight of the participants. Along with hot tea and iced tea, attendees were treated to a four course lunch consisting of scones, mixed fresh fruit, savory sandwiches, and dessert. The food was

served by the Friends dressed in their period clothing to add a unique touch to the afternoon. The Friends are also planning two additional afternoon teas to be held on July 14th and August 18th, from 1 pm – 3 pm and a holiday tea on December 1st. The cost to attend a tea is \$10 per person.

For reservations please call Barbara at 315-866-0481 To confirm your reservation please make checks payable to Friends of Herkimer Home and mail to 200 State Route 169, Little Falls, NY 13365. Garden or Colonial attire is optional.



Come appreciate the past while enjoying one of the Mohawk Valley's historic treasures!

Independence Day Service Held at Fort Herkimer Church

**"My country,
may she always
be right, but
right or wrong
my country"**

...excerpt from the 2006
address of Herb Bowers

In celebration of the United States' 234th birthday, Herkimer Home held its annual *Fort Herkimer Church Independence Day Service* on Sunday July 4th. Over 60 people attended the service and participated in patriotic readings, songs and music. Assemblyman Marc Butler delivered the service's mes-

sage and presented Barb Mielcarski, President of the Friends of Herkimer Home, with a new flag for the site's flag pole. After the service, an Independence Day pot luck picnic was held at Herkimer Home State Historic Site where all in attendance enjoyed a variety of homemade dishes and deserts.



Herkimer Home Closes/Reopens

Due to a lack of state funds, Herkimer Home was one of 55 state parks and historic sites that either closed or had service reductions. Fortunately the closure was short lived as Herkimer Home was only closed to the public from May 17 – May 27, reopening its gates on May 28 in time for the Memorial Day weekend. Herkimer Home is com-

pletely up and running for the remainder of the season and is offering the same services as in past seasons. Please see our schedule of upcoming special events in this newsletter for a full list of remaining programs.

Corresponding Secretary Needed:

The Friends are looking for someone who is interested in the Corresponding Secretary position. The Corresponding Secretary shall carry out all organizational correspondence as delegated to him/her by the President and shall send out notices of meetings. Meetings are held quarterly on the second Thursday of the month at 6 PM and an annual meeting in May. If interested please call President Barbara Mielcarski – 315-866-0481

Welcome to the Following New Members

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kathy Aloiseo (Individual) | Cindy Grau (Individual) | Lucille Smith (Senior) |
| Beverly Alwine (Individual) | Courtney Herringshaw (Individual) | Pamela Smith (Individual) |
| Thomas Bartlett (Individual) | Ramona J. Kane (Individual) | Barbara M. Voelkle (Individual) |
| Patricia S. Bauer (Individual) | Cynthia Majka (Individual) | Mary M. Vrooman (Senior) |
| James & Mary Bergeron (Family) | Sandra L. Marusic (Senior) | |
| Marion Bochner (Sustaining) | Lauren Mitchell (Senior) | |
| Len & Sally Byerly (Individual) | Gayle Nelson (Senior) | |
| Barbara Cinquanta (Individual) | Katherine Nichols (Individual) | |
| Helen Daly (Individual) | Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Piana (Senior) | |
| Liz Davis (Individual) | Darlene Pollak (Individual) | |
| Patricia Feeney (Individual) | Sally Ready (Individual) | |



Thank You for Renewing Your Membership to the Friends

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| George F. Aney (Sustaining) | Jan Gagnon (Senior) | Jeff, Beth, Philip, Abigail Mosher (Family) |
| Bernard Armata (Individual) | Nancy Hanna (Sustaining) | Darleen Paul (Senior) |
| Carol J. Baum (Senior) | Norma Harter (Senior) | Mary Ann Pratt (Senior) |
| Grover & Carole Bennett (Senior) | Stephen & Sue Havas (Senior) Brian, Melissa, Killian Heffron (Family) | George & Mary Rieman (Senior) |
| Marcia Bowers (Senior) | Marilyn Hughes (Senior) | J.F. & Susan Roche (Family) |
| Sharon C. Bryan (Individual) | Dr. & Mrs. David Jalowiec (Family) | Tom Ruzga (Individual) |
| James Bullard (Individual) | Frances Jasewicz (Senior) | James Schuyler (Senior) |
| Doris Burney (Individual) | Major Ed & Mary Helen Jones (Senior) | Leo Schwenzfeier (Senior) |
| Louise Carney (Senior) | Joan Kane (Individual) | Mr. & Mrs. William Smith (Senior) |
| DeWitt Casler (Senior) | Howard La Fave (Senior) | Helen Staskus (Senior) |
| Nancy Cioch (Senior) | Paul & Diane Lange (Senior) | Sally Taylor (Senior) |
| Thelma Crim (Senior) | Lee & Judy Lawrence (Senior) | Theresa Tippin (Senior) |
| Tony & Lynn Cuda (Senior) | Stuart & Ruth Lehman (Family) | Jeanne & David Ucasz (Senior) |
| Nancy & Walter Dingman (Family) | Joan Lein (Contributing) | Alan & Linda Vincent (Sustaining) |
| Teresa & Eli Doxtater (Family) | Diane Lockwood (Family) | George Vreeland (Senior) |
| Allan & Mary Edmunds (Senior) | John Mielcarski (Individual) | Stephen & Roberta Walsh (Family) |
| Linda, Ed, Jackie, Karlton Fake (Family) | Laurel & Eric Mielcarski (Family) | Bill Watkins (Senior) |
| Dain Faville (Senior) | Paul & Barbara Mielcarski (Sustaining) | Dick & Sue Williams (Senior) |
| Mary Feeney (Senior) | Donald & Shirley Miller (Senior) | |
| Harvey & Connie Frasier (Family) | Carolyn Moreau (Family) | |



Upcoming Special Events

July 14, 1 -3p.m. *Afternoon Tea.* Hosted by the Friends of Herkimer Home, enjoy a leisurely afternoon of tea and lunch on the picturesque grounds of Herkimer Home State Historic Site.

August 15, 1 – 4p.m. *Liberty's Hero: Commemorating the Life and Death of General Nicholas Herkimer.* In honor of the General's death 233 years ago, an 18th century military officer's funeral and wreath laying ceremony will be held in the site's cemetery. Other activities include wheat harvesting and threshing; 18th century trade and transportation; fur trader's display; and colonial currency display. Also, an 18th century physician will discuss medical practices of the time. Special features of the event include traditional 18th century Palatine food, displays of Palatine artifacts and period music.

August 18, 1 – 3p.m. *Afternoon Tea.* Hosted by the Friends of Herkimer Home, enjoy a leisurely afternoon of tea and lunch on the picturesque grounds of Herkimer Home State Historic Site.

September 17, 6 p.m. *3rd Annual Colonial Dinner.* Hosted by the Friends of Herkimer Home, enjoy a traditional colonial dinner under the tent on the grounds of Herkimer Home State Historic Site.

September 24 - Bus trip, lunch and tour of the Culinary Institute of America Hosted by the Friends of Herkimer Home. Enjoy a delicious lunch at Caterina de' Medici Restaurant. *Reservations required.*

October 3, 12 – 5 p.m. *Herkimer Homestead Day: An 18th Century Autumn Celebration.* Featured are 18th century autumn activities such as cider pressing; apple butter making; candle making; soap making; meat smoking. In addition will be craft demonstrations including pewter casting; blacksmithing; wood-working, and corn husk doll making. Enjoy a horse drawn wagon ride around the site and treat yourself to a hearty bowl of beef stew and pea soup cooked over an open fire. Follow up with a helping of Kitty's fritters with maple syrup. While they last, children can pick a free pumpkin from the site's pumpkin patch.

November 27, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. *Christmas Open House.* Come and enjoy the Nicholas Herkimer historic mansion decorated for the season by the light of flickering candles. Cookies and punch will be served as holiday music fills the rooms and hallways. Donation requested. Hosted by the Friends of Herkimer Home.

December 1, 1 – 3 p.m. *Christmas Tea.* Enjoy a leisurely afternoon tea and lunch in Nicholas Herkimer's mansion on the picturesque grounds of Herkimer Home State Historic Site. Reservations required. Hosted by the Friends of Herkimer Home.

Inventions from the 18th Century

By the beginning of the 18th century, the American colonies were beginning to mature and people's lives were becoming more prosperous. With the taming of the wilderness and the establishment of urban centers, the 18th century saw many inventions that were designed to improve life. Below is a sampling of inventions led by the century's most famous inventor Benjamin Franklin.

1717 – Swim Fins: Invented by Benjamin Franklin. The first fins were made of wood and were worn

on the hands. Shaped like lily pads, these fins were 10 inches long and six inches wide.

1742 – Franklin Stove: Invented by Benjamin Franklin. An iron furnace stove that provided twice the heat, used a quarter of the wood and produced less smoke than the traditional fireplace, allowing Americans to live more comfortably during long winters.

1764 – Bifocals: Invented by Benjamin Franklin. Tired of constantly having to take his glasses off and

put them on, Franklin cut two pairs of spectacles in half and put half of each lens in a single frame.

1776 – Submarine: Invented by David Bushnell. Named the "Turtle" it submerged by taking water into its tanks and emerged by releasing it. This one man submarine was propelled by a hand crank propeller. The Turtle was used in an attempt to attach a mine to Gen. Howe's flagship "Eagle" but the attempt failed.

Independence Day

Although America celebrates its independence from Britain each year on July 4th, an argument can be made that July 2nd is our actual Independence Day. That is because July 2, 1776, was the day that the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence, legally separating the 13 colonies from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence, approved two days later by members of the Continental Congress, is actually an explanation of why Congress made their decision two days earlier. On July 3, 1776, John Adams writes to his wife Abigail:

“The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to be-

lieve that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”

However, beginning in 1777, Independence Day was celebrated on July 4th, the date the Declaration of Independence was approved, making Adams’ prediction off by two days. However, his prediction of how we celebrate it was correct. Today, we continue to celebrate

America’s independence with picnics, parades, parties, sporting events, fireworks, etc., making July 4th and not July 2nd as Adams wrote, *“...the most memorable epoch in the history of America.”* Ironically, on July 4th, 1776, not realizing that a new nation was born that was destined to become a world leader, King George III wrote in his diary, *“Nothing of importance happened today.”*

More Colonial Sayings of Today

Old Goat

Wigs in the 18th century were often made of goat hair which did not need to be powdered to get the fashionable white color. The older the goat the whiter the hair, so by wearing a very white goat hair wig, one could be called an “old goat.”

Know the Ropes

A nautical term denoting a person who was extremely familiar with the vast array of different ropes and lines attached to the sails and rigging of a sailing vessel. Such a person literally “knew the ropes.”

A Big Shot

This phrase comes from the English custom to shoot off big guns and cannons whenever a VIP came to town.

Turn the Tables

Tables only had one finished side. When the family was alone they ate on the rougher non-finished side to keep the good side nice for company. When company came over, the top was lifted up and turned to its good side.

Axe to Grind

Ben Franklin published many stories, one in which he was the main character. A stranger stopped to admire Franklin’s grindstone and asked Franklin to show him how it worked by offering Franklin his ax. Once his ax was sharp the stranger walked off laughing. Today “having an ax to grind” means someone has a hidden motive behind their actions.

Inventions from the 18th Century continued:

1794 - Cotton Gin: Invented by Eli Whitney. This machine separates cotton fibers from the seeds revolutionizing the cotton industry and making cotton the major cash crop in the South.

1797 – Interchangeable Parts: Invented by Eli Whitney. After receiving a contract to manufacture 10,000 muskets for the U.S. Army, Whitney divides the manufacturing into several steps with standardized parts to make them interchangeable. Prior to this, an entire musket was made by a single person without standardized measurements.

Herkimer Home State Historic Site

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This news letter is a joint publication of Herkimer Home State Historic Site and the Friends of Herkimer Home.

Herkimer Home is one of 18 parks and 6 historic sites in the Central Region, administered by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. For more information on the site please call or visit our website at www.nysparks.com

Season/Hours:

Mid-May through October

Wed.-Sat. 10 AM to 5 PM

Sun; and Mon. Holidays - 1 PM to 5 PM

Friends of Herkimer Home

Mission Statement

Support the improvement and development of Herkimer Home State Historic Site.

Conduct educational programs, services and activities in keeping with the nature of the site and beyond the normal scope of site activities, for its members and the public at large.

Assist in fund raising activities, the purchase of objects, equipment and supplies for the benefit of the site.

Otherwise promote, conserve, develop and interpret Herkimer Home State Historic Site for the benefit of the public and posterity.

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