



Spindle City Historic Society

Volume 9 Issue 3

Fall 2006

HISTORIAN'S NOTEBOOK

DID YOU KNOW

History of the Cohoes Hiker Monument

The original unveiling of the Hiker monument, presently located in Canal Square, took place on Saturday, October 20, 1923 in what was McKinley Square (named after President William McKinley) at the head of Oneida Street. The ceremonies surrounding this event were described at the time as "the largest and most impressive ever to have occurred in the City." It was estimated that over 2,000 individuals participated. To mark its beginning, a parade was held with marchers from every fraternal, military, social and religious organization in the city.

The formal dedication began with an invocation by Msgr. Thomas S. Keveny, followed by a rendition of "America" by one of the military marching bands. Introductory remarks were given by Mayor Daniel Cosgro. The unveiling of the statue was performed by 8 year old Rita Hilton, daughter of one of the members of Camp # 74, DJ Johnston, United Spanish War Veterans of Cohoes. Mayor Cosgro then formally presented the monument to Camp Johnston. Beginning in 1916 Camp Johnston raised funds for a monument but could not raise a sufficient amount, so the city came to the rescue and purchased the statue. At the conclusion of the event, receptions were held in the quarters of the Grand Army of the Republic, Federation Hall and the Woman's Republican Club rooms.

The Hiker statue is one of about 50 identical bronze castings of a work by the sculptor Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson (1871-1932). Kitson, a prolific artist, specialized in creating works used in war memorials. She was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, and studied with and later married the sculptor Henry Hudson Kitson. Her studio was in Boston, where the Hiker piece was first conceived and executed. The first Hiker was cast by the Gorham Foundry in Providence, Rhode Island and proved so popular it was reproduced for Spanish American War memorials around the nation, most notably in Arlington National Cemetery. This rendering by Kitson depicts an ideal infantryman of the day, poised for action. The Hiker with its base is 8'9" and the entire monument 15' high. The name "Hiker" is a nickname created by the soldiers themselves, who spent arduous hours slogging through tropical jungle terrain.

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....that the Spindle City Historic Society has a new web address? We can now be found on the internet at www.spindlecity.net. Many thanks to Pat McDonough for her efforts in setting up the site.

....that Matthew J. Sweeney Park, named for a native Cohoesier, was dedicated in South Boston, Massachusetts in 1921? Sweeney, who lost his life fighting in World War I, spent his early years in Cohoes, attending St. Bernard's Church and St. Bernard's Academy. He later lived in Boston.

....that the Gothic revival house that stood at 15-17 Garner St. was pictured in a booklet used to recruit workers for the Harmony Mills? The house was on page 20 of the booklet, with the caption "Operatives' Houses - Garner Street." It was demolished in August.

....that Cohoes Police Captain Michael Afinowicz was a protégé of Mike Mazurki, and wrestled professionally under the name of Mike Affen? Afinowicz also played semi-professional basketball in the area. In 1958, after his career in sports, he became Director of the Juvenile Bureau in the Cohoes Police Department, and was responsible for the creation of the Honorary Junior Juvenile Bureau. He once received a letter of praise for his work in the justice system from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. Upon his retirement from the Cohoes Police Department, Afinowicz served as an investigator for the Albany Family Court.

....that Albany Rural Cemetery, dedicated in 1844, was the third rural cemetery established in the country, preceded only by Mount Auburn in Cambridge, Massachusetts (1831), and Greenwood Cemetery in New York City (1840)? The cemetery is the final resting place of many Cohoesiers of note. See page 4 of this issue for some of their names and accomplishments, and page 8 for news of an upcoming tour.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Spindle City Historic Society welcomes new members *Walter Adams, Suzanne Borst, Roger Charbonneau, Mary DePietro, Diamond Ridge, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, Frank Fleury, Frank LaBarre, Larry Labriola, George McNulty, and Joseph & Agatha Pyskadlo.*

Gramma Ran a Boarding House

excerpts from a memoir by Suzanne Marden Borst

Part 1: The Houses

In Cohoes at 85 and 87 Mohawk St. are two brownstone houses---four stories high---still standing there, not quite looking like they used to in the 1920s and 1930s. I'm sure if we entered and listened, we could still hear the Hewitts, the Brouillettes, the Hildreths, the Phillips and the Reeds. The houses always looked lovely with their postage-stamp front yards and the beautiful brownstone flight of stairs ascending to the second floor. You see, the houses were twins---mirror twins --- and sometime in the early decades of the 20th century, the Hewitts and the Phillips bought the houses. The ladies were Brouillettes and sisters, Adelaide (or Adeline) and Aline. Addie Hewitt was the oldest and she and Art and their family of five girls lived at #85. I can only remember Mim (Great Gramma Brouillette) and Aunt Jo living at 87, but Aline and the Phillips family lived there too until sometime in the 1930s when they moved to New Rochelle, New York. I think that Lucille (always pronounced La-sill) had already married when the purchases were made and she and George had moved to Canvass St.

The houses were interesting and I would imagine that at one time some wealthy families lived in them. You can fantasize that some doting father built them for his two lovely daughters. The ground floor, or the basement, housed the dining room, kitchen, front hall and furnace room and, after Addie and Art added on, a laundry room and the "cooler." From the front, the basement was entered in an unusual way. As a little child, I always thought of it as a secret entrance. You had to go under the large flight of stairs leading to the second floor. I could hide there for a little while, but since this was the family front entrance, I never stayed hidden very long.

The houses lent themselves to being rooming and boarding houses. They were always referred to as the "Boarding House." The downstairs front hall held a coat rack for the boarders who didn't live there. When I was small some lived at Addie's, some lived at Mim's and some lived at other Rooming Houses. My Grandma Addie and Mim too, I think, would never have had a sign in the window saying "Rooms." Maybe this was because the rooms were always fully rented, although I do remember times when some of the rooms were empty. They were never empty for very long, though. Even today, if I mention the "Boarding House" to someone from Cohoes old enough to remember, you can be sure they'll say, "Oh yes, Miss Stewart lived there", or "Sam, the grocer lived there."

Most of my descriptions will be of 85 Mohawk. That was my Gramma and Grampa's house, and I spent more time there. The "basement" held the inner workings of the houses. In the front was the dining room. I remember in Gramma Addie's a large sideboard (with buffet and hutch). There was also Addie's lovely china closet with the curved glass front. This poor china closet suffered really major damage one day when my aunt Wady and her cousin Hewitt Fuller were chasing each other. Wady threw a chair in his way and he threw it back --- BUT it hit the curved glass front of the china closet. It must have cost a fortune to replace. The dining room floor was covered with linoleum. In the middle of the room was the table, which of course sat 12 or more. For you antique buffs (that includes me) it was a beautiful oak pedestal table with oak chairs. When the move to Latham was made, Addie couldn't wait to get rid of it. We can all cry now. I can't remember what else was in the dining room. There may have been a gas fireplace. I remember some kind of shelf at Mim's with a radio with a HUGE speaker - like a big horn.

To go back to the kitchen, you went through a small room or hall with cupboards on either side. I thought it held the dishes for the boarders, but my Aunt Wady told me it held Gramma Addie's good china and the boarders' dishes (beautiful Blue Willow ware divided plates and matching pieces) were in the kitchen. This place, hall or room, had a very appropriate name -- "Between the two rooms." What else would you call a room that was between the two rooms??? Maybe a "Butler's Pantry"? The kitchen had a table and large benches for the family called the breakfast nook. Almost all of the family meals were there. The stove was in there of course, and it was just a regular family-type gas stove, typical of any 1930s household. According to Wady, before the gas stove there was a wood burning stove. Wow, have you ever tried to get a meal for a large group on a family stove? Even our large ovens today would be strained and we have to remember that these women were cooking for large families and a house full of boarders.

They had a lot of tricks. In Addie's kitchen, there was an enamel-top table for working and one of those highly collectable kitchen cabinets, called Hoosier Cabinets, with the large flour bin. These were very practical as they held at least ten to twenty pounds of flour and as you turned the handle to get the flour, it sifted it as it came out. The enamel top pulled out to give you more working room. On the right side of the room was a kitchen cabinet with glass doors. All the everyday dishes were stored in there and one of the things I remember being done on the countertop was coloring the margarine yellow. In its original state it looked like Crisco. It came with a packet of yellow food coloring. New York State was (and is) a dairy farming state and had a law that said you could not sell yellow margarine. That lasted until well

after I was married, probably into the 1950s. I hated margarine then because it never seemed to be without streaks. I know we used it on the table during WWII because butter was rationed. I think in the 1930s it was used for cooking.

Back to the kitchen layout!! Over in the opposite corner was a bouncy chair. There was a radio—I can't remember if it was a table or console radio. Near the chair was another small room. This was the sewing room and my Baba Art (our name for Grampa) had a roll-top desk in there. Over by the door to the laundry room was a telephone - one of the two-piece types you see in the old, old movies. Did you notice that I never mentioned a sink?? That's because the sinks in both houses weren't in the main kitchen. They were in a separate room off the kitchen. You could get into it from the kitchen and the hall from the basement front door. This room also had another small room inside of it that had a toilet. I thought my grandparents were really well off because they had three bathrooms in the house. I'm afraid I don't remember if Mim had one in the sink room or not. Grampa had also put a blackboard in the sink room. It was black slate. --- no green chalkboards in those days. It had Shirley's name on it and we kids used it a lot. We were always playing Hangman on it. Later on he made one for Jack and Jane and one for me with our names on them.

Those sisters and Mim must have carried a lot of water to the stove for cooking, but otherwise I guess it must have worked out. By the time I came along, there was a water heater along with central heat and the oil tank was off the laundry room. They must have lifted and carried a lot of hot water off that old wood stove! There were mountains of dishes. I don't honestly know if they fed the boarders 7 days a week. I have one thing that sticks in my mind whenever I think of this sink. Remember, they had no such thing as Joy or Dawn or Ivory Liquid. The soapy water was made with a soap saver - a little basket with a long handle on it that you put all the slivers of soap that were left over. I guess it would have held a whole bar, but these ladies were frugal. To make the soapy water, you swished it in the hot water until you had suds. Imagine if the water was hard! Off the kitchen were the laundry room and the cooler. The cooler was all built of stone and all of Addie's home canned goods were kept in there with the root vegetables. It really was cool. These rooms were in an addition put on by Arthur.

The back yard held two garages, one for each house. Art's was large because it also housed his well-stocked workshop. Most of the back yard had no grass, but back by Mim's and Aunt Jo's garage were a lot of hollyhocks. There was a fire escape that serviced both houses. Addie's was next door to the PNA (Polish National Alliance). It sure was a lively place at times. Between the two places was the alley—actually, Addie and Art's driveway shared with the PNA. It led to the "empty lot" and the back yards. We played baseball there, or at least I tried to play, and Wady learned to drive there, going around in circles with we younger kids hanging on the side while standing on the running board. I wonder, did our mothers know??

The second floor had a lovely entry hall with double doors and a hall that led to the back parlor and a door in front that led to the "parlor." The stairs led up to the first floor of bedrooms for the roomers. On the second floor were the family living quarters, a LONG way from the kitchen. That is probably why most of the family fun was in the basement, down in the kitchen. On the second floor also was the parlor, the really formal room. The only time I remember being in there to sit down was when Wady had a boyfriend in there. I bet they loved having me there. We were also in there at Christmas time - the tree was in there. The Christmas tree was always in the front room just dripping in icicles—the old fashioned kind - the kind that you could use to give someone an electric shock with when you rubbed your shoes on the wool rug. The room had a white marble fireplace that had artificial logs in it. The gas had been shut off when the house was electrified. Both houses had this and other fireplaces. My favorite thing in the room was a model of Columbus' ship, "Santa Maria." I would stare at that ship and dream of a trip on it. However, I never touched it -- that was under threat of death!! I was very jealous of my own children. They were the first ones allowed to get it down and touch it.

Next came the back parlor or living room. Grampa had his smoking stand in there with a humidior of pipe tobacco and his ashtray with the Goodyear tire around it. Now that I think of Addie's furniture in that room, it was beautiful and unusual. It was a set of two chairs and a sofa with caned back and sides. There was a Morris chair. There was also an upright piano. When Vi or Aline or Lucille were around we used to sing around it. I don't remember the details of Mim's rooms except I think of them as darker. Both Mim's and Addie's had colonnades between the two parlors. We used to play Monopoly in the back parlor. The front parlor had large windows with beautiful lace curtains.

There were two original family bedrooms on this floor. One was my grandparents' room and seemed very large. The other was the Blue Room. I guess it must have been blue. Shirley was born in that room and I understand her mother Addie was downstairs supervising dinner that night. You could get into the blue room from the hall, but that door was always locked. You could also get into it from Grampa and Gramma's room. There was another bedroom off the main bedroom that was over the laundry and off that was a bathroom that had a window into the Blue Room---it was in the addition and yes, they had a good curtain at that window—and no peeking allowed. The bathroom had a very special feature - another door that led to a covered passageway that led into Mim's room and Aunt Jo's room in the next house.

(continued on p.7)



Off the Top...

Another summer is behind us and with the cool weather fall must be quickly approaching. For me that means two things. The last week in August we had our last summer Spindle City Historic Society meeting. We had a guest speaker at the meeting and I had a chance to study the group gathered for the meeting. I do not usually get a chance to do this, as I am running the meeting. What I saw pleased me. A large part of the group was our devoted volunteers - those who are there for everything and would do anything (and do). Another part of the group was made of those who try to get there as often as possible and really have a lot of information to share. Then there were a few new faces, which we are always glad to see and hope they become more of the devoted members; new ideas are actively encouraged.

This week I also sat and observed another group. This time it was a new group of seventh graders (I teach science by day). A new group is always exciting. They do not know what to expect, nor do I. I have the same content to cover each year, but with a new group it is always different. Each new group has different expectations and backgrounds, so each new group presents new challenges. I am forced into rethinking my expectations and end up doing the same topics new ways.

Then I started thinking. What would happen if we ended up with more new faces at our monthly meetings? How would we start rethinking things? How would we take what we already do and do it even better? What else could be added to polish the achievements we have already attained? I don't know. So I have a request - challenge - dare - hope - whatever you want to call it....

The Spindle City Historic Society could not function without our devoted volunteers, but what if for each of our regular members we had one new face. If you are reading this newsletter, but haven't had time to attend the meeting, make it a point to attend this month's meeting. If you regularly attend, pull in some favors, and drag a new face in with you. If you are a member who has not attended in a long while, we'll consider you a new face and welcome you back with opened arms. (We've missed you!) This could be the way to help us grow even more.

Our next meeting is on September 27th at 7 pm in the Cohoes Visitors Center at 58 Remsen Street.

Looking forward to seeing you or meeting you soon!

Paul D. Dunleavy
President

Albany Rural Cemetery Tour



The tour group at the grave of Chester A. Arthur.

On Saturday Jul 15, SCHS members gathered for a tour of Albany Rural Cemetery. The tour highlighted the burial sites of notable Cohoesers and those with Cohoes connections. It included the monument to 21st President Chester Arthur, who was a schoolteacher in Cohoes and had relatives in the city, including his nephew, historian and author Arthur Masten. Tour participants also visited Truman Giles Younglove, a Harmony Mills official supervising construction of the addition of Mill #3 when the Cohoes Mastodont was discovered; Josiah Goodrich Root, manager of the Tivoli Woolen Mills, founder of J.G. Root & Sons knitting mills in Cohoes and founder of the National Bank of Cohoes; Cohoes Company founders Stephen Van Rensselaer and Charles Edward Dudley; and



Egbert Egberts, pioneer in developing the principle of operating knitting mills with waterpower, owner and founder of Ontario Mills in Cohoes, President of the Bank of Cohoes and founder of the Egberts Institute. A wreath was laid at the grave of Cohoes industrialist and philanthropist Horace

B. Silliman, in honor of the legacy he left to the city and his connection to the origin of SCHS.

Visits were also made to gravesites of other notables, including the Corning and Schuyler families, industrialist Henry Burden, sculptor Erastus Dow

Palmer and bell manufacturer Andrew Meneely. The tour route incorporated views of some of the fine statuary, beautiful monuments and mausoleums, and stately trees in the 467-acre cemetery. The tour was a success, and another is scheduled for October 14. Please check the calendar on the last page of this newsletter for further details.

Art Show Opening – The Paintings of Joseph Viola



Artist Joseph Viola talks with art show attendees.

The evening of August 12 was the opening reception for an exhibit of paintings by local artist Joseph Viola. The paintings on display included landscapes of Cohoes and the surrounding area, portraits and figure studies. Artist Joseph Viola, a resident of Watervliet, has been studying drawing and painting for over 30 years. He has studied at the New York School of Visual Arts and the Art Students League in New York City, and on the west coast at the San Francisco Art Institute and the College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. His work has been exhibited at galleries in the Capital District and in San Francisco Bay area, and has been selected for exhibit at art shows throughout the northeast. Mr. Viola is an active member in the Troy Art League, the Riverfront Artists Group, and the Colonie Art League. He has taught art in adult education programs and in summer programs for junior high school students.

The exhibit will up in the Cohoes Visitors Center through late September.

Charter Day Ceremony for Camp No. 168 of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

On August 27, the Joseph Melvin Leonard Camp No. 168 of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

received its official charter. The organization is named after Cohoesier Joseph Melvin Leonard, who served in the Spanish-American War and received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Charter Day ceremony included the laying of a wreath at the Hiker monument located in Canal Square, which commemorates those who served in the Spanish-American War and other conflicts of the period. You can read more about the history of the Hiker monument in the Historian's Notebook on page 1 in this issue of the newsletter.

The organization, dedicated to preserving the history and protecting monuments related to the Spanish-American War, is open to direct male descendants of Spanish-American War veterans; associate membership is also available for others interested in the history of the period and the mission of the organization. For more information, contact Camp No. 168 President Raymond LeMay at rlemay1407@earthlink.net.



Charter members of Camp No. 168 of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans in front of the Hiker monument in Canal Square. Fifth from right (with ribbon) is Camp President Raymond LeMay. To his right, directly behind the wreath, is Jonathan Schau, National Secretary of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans.

In Memoriam

Pauline M. Lavigne, a trustee of the Spindle City Historic Society since 2001, passed away in August 2006. She was an employee at the NYS Office of Tax and Finance until her retirement. Along with her interest in Cohoes and its history, Pauline was a skilled quilter, and enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and choral singing. She was also an avid fisherwoman and enthusiastic traveler. The Spindle City Historic Society extends sincere condolences to Pauline's family and friends.

Memories of Lavigne's Grill

by Barbara (Bisnett) De Mase

Lavigne's Grill was owned by my Grandfather, George Lavigne (Poutre dit Lavigne). George was the fifth of eight children. His parents, Pierre Poutre dit Lavigne and Esther Vachereault came to Cohoes in the late 1800s from La Colle, Quebec. The grill that most people know as Lavigne's was located at 10 Devlin St. in the Orchard Section of Cohoes. George Lavigne had a saloon at 39 Cataract St. from 1903 until 1914. In 1915, he became the owner of the Lavigne's Grill at 10 Devlin St. He operated the grill until 1938 when he died. His sons continued on with the grill – at first John and then Bill. Occasionally, Edmond helped out.

Lavigne's was the local "watering hole" in the Orchard. Friday after work was one of their busiest times. That was when all the men finished work for the week and met at the grill for a few drinks and to visit with the neighbors. Lavigne's offered darts and pool for entertainment. They also served some food, including soup and sandwiches. I remember as I was growing up that my Aunt Alice Lavigne, George's oldest daughter, was always making soup or cooking a turkey to make sandwiches to be sold at lunch time.

I don't remember my Grandfather much, as I was 5 years old when he died, but two of my uncles, Bill and Edmond, lived upstairs over my family at 3 Church Street (the Lavigne home) around the corner from the grill. My personal recollection of the grill as I was growing up was when I was about 9 or 10 years old and was able to sit at the bar and have an "Orange Crush" drink. This was when the bar was closed in the morning, and my Uncle Bill was there to check the bar. When I was in high school, my uncle would tell me to come to the side door and he would give me a turkey club sandwich as a treat. My sister Susie and her cousin Madeline would go to the side door for their treat - Uncle Bill would give them a dime to go to the candy store. It was common in those days to have children come to the grill with a covered pail to bring home beer.

The grill was a mainstay in the neighborhood until 1963 when my Aunt Alice Lavigne died and the grill was left to my Uncle Bill and his wife Bertha. It did not continue for much longer after that. The building still stands and memories remain.



Barbara's Uncle Alex Lavigne, George's oldest son, behind the bar at Lavigne's Tavern.

Boarding House (continued from p. 3)

This door enabled them not to have to go upstairs to use the roomers' bathroom. Privacy was hardly their priority since every bedroom and the bathroom was reached through Addie and Art's room. My grandparents' room also had a telephone in it - quite an oddity in those days. This one was a "French Cradle Phone." Very new!!!!

The third and fourth floors contained the roomers' quarters. The only bathroom for them was on the third floor. It was large and I think it was originally a bedroom. I figured there must have been quite a line-up, but Shirley says, "No, they didn't take baths that often." Those were the times of the Saturday night baths, and I guess the roomers had that worked out. The third and fourth floor had two large bedrooms with dressing rooms. At least I think that is what I remember. There was a small room in the front. The fourth floor was the same except there was a small bedroom over the bathroom.

The care and cleaning of these houses must have been monumental. I know Aunt Jo did the cleaning at Mim's during the time that I remember. Imagine the laundry from a family of five girls and at least seven roomers. Mim and Addie didn't do the roomers' personal laundry, but the sheets and the towels alone were a lot. Some times the large rooms held two people or families. Addie had a washing machine and a mangle. No wash and wear sheets in those days. It really used to amaze me to see her do Grampa's shirts on that mangle. For those of you who don't know what a mangle is, it didn't mangle, it ironed. It was electric and had a large padded roller with a large curved plate that was the iron. This came down with a lever against the roller that went around and the ironed sheets came out the other end, always in accordion folds. Gramma Addie would set this up in the middle of the kitchen and as the sheets came off the line, she would iron them. I was always there when this went on because Marge took two buses from Western Ave. in Albany every Saturday to go to Cohoes to help her mother by cleaning. Gramma had a wringer washer too. That was quite a thing in those days. I mentioned that she did Baba's shirts on the mangle, but I also remember that he sent the really good ones to the Chinese laundry. Shirley used to have to go get them and as usual, I was sent along, much to Shirley's dismay. I wonder if that poor Chinese laundry man ever knew how scared I was of him. I got over it, I guess. Eight or ten years later as a Cohoes High School Practical Nursing student at Cohoes Hospital, I had to take my uniform collar and cuffs to him to have them starched. He got even with me. They had so much starch, as per hospital instructions, that my arms and neck were rubbed raw.

Those houses stick in my memory, and what a shock it is to see them today. Tears came to my eyes the first time I saw them in many years. They are still rooming houses - but I don't like to think of what goes on there. They are so shabby -- no more postage stamp lawns and hedges - no more double doors. And no more Silliman Presbyterian Church down across from the City Hall - the church I went to Sunday School in, was confirmed in, went to services in, sang in the choir in, taught in, was married in, my children baptized in - all gone under the wrecking ball.

Additional excerpts from Sue Marden Borst's memoir will appear in upcoming issues of the newsletter.



Spindle City Historic Society Membership Application

www.timesunion.com/communities/spindlecity

www.spindlecity.net

President - Paul Dunleavy

First Vice President - Daniele Cherniak Second Vice President - Tor Shekerjian

Secretary - Linda C. Christopher Treasurer - June Cherniak

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional Membership	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen Membership	\$ 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Membership	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership	\$ 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	\$15.00		

We have great things planned in our home in the Cohoes Visitor's Center!

Please help if you can with an additional donation to support our upcoming programs:

\$5.00 \$10.00 other

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-mail _____

Mail completed form with membership fee, payable to Spindle City Historic Society, to:
June Cherniak, Treasurer, 415 Vliet Boulevard, Cohoes, NY 12047

Historian's Notebook (continued from p.1)

On the face of the granite pedestal is a bronze tablet 24" x 42" high inscribed: "To the men of Cohoes who served their country in the war with Spain, the Philippine Campaign and the China Relief Expedition 1898-1902." The names of 203 Cohoes soldiers, sailors and marines appear on the tablet. The core of names is derived from Cohoes Company B, 105th infantry. The most interesting name is that of John C. Hanrahan, a Cohoes sailor who was on board the U.S.S. Battleship Maine when it exploded in Havana Harbor, on February 15, 1898. This disaster preceded the declaration of war by the United States; Hanrahan's body was never recovered. The declaration of war was on April 25, 1898 and Company B was called into service to Florida on May 20, 1898. Company B never saw action and returned home in August of that year.

It is not known at this writing when Camp # 74 DJ Johnston United Spanish War Veterans dissolved, therefore abdicating their symbolic custody of the Cohoes Hiker monument.

Walter Lipka

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 27 - Spindle City Historic Society meeting. 7 p.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center.

Saturday, October 14 - Tour of Albany Rural Cemetery, 10 a.m. The tour will feature stops at the gravesites of noted Cohoesiers and others with Cohoes connections, along with the cemetery's magnificent statuary and monuments to numerous notables from around the region. Meet at the cemetery office. Bring a lunch for a picnic to follow the tour. Rain date Sunday October 15.

Thursday, October 19 - Gateway Gala. 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., the Lofts at Harmony Mills, North Mohawk St., Cohoes. This year's honorees are organizations and individuals involved in the revitalization of North Mohawk St. and the Harmony Mills, among them the Spindle City Historic Society. Sponsored by the Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway.

Wednesday, October 25 - Spindle City Historic Society meeting. 7 p.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center.

Wednesday, November 29 - Spindle City Historic Society meeting. 7 p.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center.

Photo credits this issue: Walter Cherniak, Tom Donnelly, Paul Dunleavy, Tor Shekerjian

~ SCHS Newsletter Staff ~

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