

Spindle City Historic Society

Volume 12 Issue 1

Spring 2009

HISTORIAN'S NOTEBOOK

A Pilgrimage to St. Anne de Beaupre

When my mother was living, in the summer she would go on a pilgrimage on a chartered bus with the Ladies of St. Anne, a French parish group. These ladies visited the three major shrines in Quebec Province, Canada: St. Anne de Beaupre, Our Lady of the Cape, just outside Trois Rivieres, (Three Rivers), and St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. It was a whirlwind trip that lasted about five days.

In the early twentieth century, many members of local French parishes went on pilgrimage to St. Anne's on the train. It is the oldest shrine in Quebec, dating back to 1658.

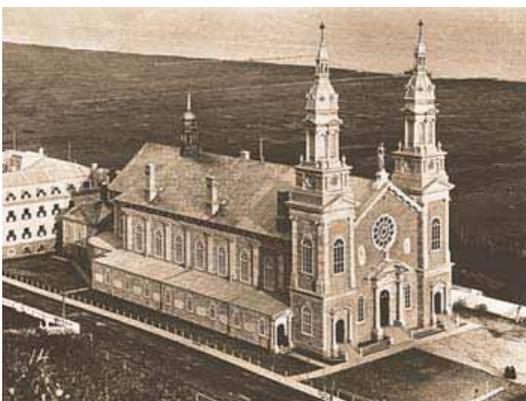
In 1900, five hundred Cohoes pilgrims left the Delaware & Hudson depot. (Today, it's the OTB office.) Father Lavigne, pastor of St. Joseph's, was among the pilgrims.

In 1901, a round-trip ticket for the Grand Annual Pilgrimage could be purchased for \$10.00 at either St. Joseph's in Cohoes, St. Anne's in Northside (Waterford) or Sacred Heart on Van Schaick Island. The price included a berth for trains leaving at night. One hundred fifty pilgrims went that year. That same year, a young man and woman were caught up in the crowd of well-wishers who had boarded the train to say, "Bon Voyage" to friends. That couple did not detrain in a timely fashion so they stayed on the train until its first stop, Saratoga Springs, then had to wait for a southbound train in the wee hours.

Not everyone had a wonderful pilgrimage. Some people became sick and ended up in the hospital. Mrs. Judith Thibodeau, originally from Canada, but by 1912 a long-time Cohoes resident, became seriously ill upon arriving in Montreal and died!

The basilica at which our ancestors worshiped (shown here) was not the one that you see today. That first basilica, which replaced smaller structures on the site, lasted from 1876 to 1922 when it was destroyed by fire.

Anne Marie Nadeau



The basilica (1876-1922) www.ssadb.qc.ca

DID YOU KNOW

....that on May 16, 1936 there was a triple wedding at St. Joseph's Church? On that day, Paul Nadeau married Madeline Plasse, Alfred Nadeau married Ida St. Hilaire, and Georgette Nadeau married Lorenzo Fafard.

....that the Green family operated a music store at 82 Oneida St. from the 1880s through the early 1900s? Ernest L. Green, Sr. was the original proprietor. He played the bass violin and traveled extensively with the Buffalo Bill Cody Circus as a member of their band. He was also a member of the RK Proctor Theatre Orchestra in Troy and leader of Green's Band. Ernest L. Green jr. took on leadership of the band after his father's death in 1907. Other members of the family included Alice Adey, Mrs. Walter Brown, Ellen Davey, James B. Green (father of Fire Chief E. Harry Green) and Nelson F. Green, a well-known song and dance performer.

....that the Forget-Me-Not Flower Shop opened in Cohoes in 1965? The shop, operated by the Bagley family, remained in Cohoes for more than 15 years before moving to Troy in the early 1970s. Ron Bagley ran the business from the time he was 22 until his retirement in January 2009.

.... that in December of 1908 local promoters were attempting to take over a franchise of the National Roller Polo League and bring it to the capital district to join the Empire State Polo League? The sport, resembling hockey but with competitors on roller skates, was played for a time in Albany, Cohoes and Amsterdam but for unknown reasons never became widely popular.

....that Juliettes of Cohoes was opened in 1940 by Juliette and Walter Eisner? Juliette was president and treasurer of Juliettes and vice president of the Mr. Jules Shop, which opened in 1958; Walter was president and treasurer of Mr. Jules, and vice president of Juliettes. Juliettes and Mr. Jules were known for fine women's and men's clothing. Mrs. Eisner was regarded as one of the most astute businesswomen in the area, and designed most of the advertising for her shop. The Remsen Street store was destroyed by fire in 1967 and did not reopen; Juliette Eisner passed away in April of the next year.

....that Mary C. Rudebush, who was born in Cohoes on July 7, 1910, swam across Lake George in 1927? She was also a member of the U.S. Swim Team. Mary was a descendant of Vincent Carter, who arrived in Plymouth Plantation in 1623, sailing from England on the ship *Goodspeed*.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Spindle City Historic Society welcomes new members *Raymond Evans, Earl Liberty, Philip Sweeney, Alice Turcotte, and Bill Turcotte.*

Chester A. Arthur and His Cohoes Connections



Chester Arthur
(from www.nationmaster.com)

With the recent historic presidential inauguration in mind, we take a look back at our 21st president, Chester Alan Arthur, and his ties to Cohoes.

Chester A. Arthur was born on October 5, 1829 in Fairfield, Vermont; a replica of the house stands today near VT State Rt. 108 just outside Fairfield Station. Chester's father William Arthur was an ardent abolitionist, and with his friend Gerrit Smith participated in a meeting in October 1835 in Utica to establish the New York Anti-Slavery Society. William was an itinerant preacher, serving 11 congregations over his 36-year career. His longest stint was in Union Village (now the village of Greenwich) in Washington County in eastern New York. Chester spent several years of his youth there and was educated at the local academy. The family later moved to Schenectady, where Chester attended the Lyceum in 1844-45 in preparation for his entry into Union College. To help pay for tuition at Union (which was at the time \$28, plus \$125 annually for room and board), he taught school in Schaghticoke. Chester joined the Psi Upsilon Society at Union, and was one of only six of his classmates to earn election to Phi Beta Kappa. He would graduate near the top of his class.

While at Union, Chester also developed a taste for fine clothing, which he maintained throughout his career in law and politics; during his term in the White House his nickname was the "dude president." He graduated from Union in 1848 and joined his family in Hoosick, where his father was serving as minister at the First Baptist Church.

Chester took a teaching job in North Pownal, Vermont, and by 1851 became principal at the school, a small academy housed in the basement of the Congregational Church. He also continued his education,

studying law part-time in Ballston Spa. In 1852, he came to Cohoes and taught in the village for a year before being named principal of the Cohoes Academy, located at Canvass and Oneida Streets. During this period, William Arthur moved to Lansingburgh, then on to a congregation in Newtonville. The First Baptist church where he was minister is now the Newtonville Post Office on Loudon Road (Rt. 9), just north of Siena College.

Chester moved to New York City in 1853, where he served as a clerk and continued his study of law at Erastus D. Culver's office. Culver, a U.S. Congressman and staunch abolitionist, had been a family acquaintance from Union Village. Arthur was admitted to the bar in May 1854 and was made a partner in the law firm Culver, Parker & Arthur, located at 289 Broadway.

It was while at this law firm that Arthur became involved in landmark legal cases for the abolitionist cause. His first case took place only a few months after he was admitted to the bar. He was called on to represent Elizabeth Jennings, a public school teacher and organist at the First Colored American Congregation Church. She and a friend were late for church services on a July Sunday in 1854, so they flagged down a horse-drawn streetcar and got on. The car's driver ordered them off as the car was reserved for whites only, but they refused to exit. The streetcar conductor forcibly removed them, but they climbed back in the car. The streetcar conductor then summoned the police, who removed the women from the vehicle. Twenty-four year old Chester Arthur was asked by prominent black citizens to take the case, and he brought suit against the trolley company. Arthur won the case, and Elizabeth Jennings, the Rosa Parks of her day, received \$225 in damages. While segregation of public transportation did not end immediately throughout New York City following the ruling, this decision marked the beginning of its demise.

Another case involved eight slaves on their way from Virginia to Texas, who were staying overnight in New York City after they had sailed from Norfolk and were awaiting a ship to Texas. A free black man helped them escape before the ship departed for Texas. The slaves were deemed free by the court in 1857 because bondage was illegal in New York State, but the slave owners sought to take them back. Arthur worked on fighting the slaveowners' appeal of this decision, seeking support from New York's governor and legislature. The decision was upheld in 1860, meaning that any slave in New York State, regardless of whether they were considered slaves elsewhere, was legally free.

While in New York City, Arthur became active in politics, joining the Whig Party. In 1855 when the Whigs split over the issue of slavery, he joined the newly-formed Republican Party. He was appointed a delegate to the 1856 Republican

state convention held in Saratoga. He was also active in the New York State Militia, helping develop the Militia's plans for reorganization and serving as a judge advocate.

The Civil War began the next year, and Arthur was appointed by New York State Governor Morgan to serve as quartermaster general for New York. In this position, Arthur was responsible for writing contracts and negotiating for supplies for the Union army, which included everything from food, clothing and materials for shelter, to munitions, to hospital supplies for the wounded and coffins for the dead. He was well-regarded for his integrity in the position, his requirements for accountability and refusal to be bribed. He also served as engineer in chief for the New York Militia and oversaw defenses for New York Harbor.

Upon returning to private legal practice, Arthur found that connections and experience developed in government service opened up new opportunities. Among his connections were some of the most prominent (and in some cases infamous) political figures of the day, including Ulysses Grant, Thurlow Weed, Roscoe Conkling, and William Marcy Tweed. In 1871, Arthur was appointed Collector of the Customs House for the Port of New York, the largest federal office in the country. In 1879, Arthur was elected chairman of the State Republican Committee. At the 1880 Republican Convention, Arthur was chosen as Vice-Presidential candidate for James Garfield's run for the Presidency to bolster support for the ticket from the New York City political machine. Garfield was elected, and took office in March 1881. In early July, only a few months into his term, Garfield was shot by Charles Guiteau, a disgruntled office-seeker. At the time Arthur was in Cohoes attending the wedding of his nephew Arthur Masten and Miss Catherine MacMartin of Remsen Street; he was called back to Washington because of concerns about Garfield's condition. Garfield lingered for two months before dying of complications from his injury. Arthur became president on September 19, 1881.

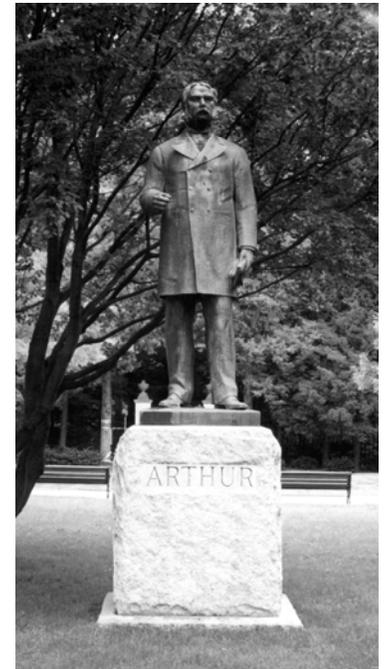
In part to distance himself from the "spoils system" and other corrupt aspects of the New York political machine, Arthur sought to distinguish himself as a reformer in his position as president. He backed civil service reform, and was responsible for the Pendleton Act regarding solicitation of campaign contributions from federal employees and for establishing a bipartisan Civil Service Commission to develop qualifications for federal jobs. He advocated reciprocal trade agreements with Canada and South and Central America. He strongly supported modernization of the Navy, proposing funding for the first steel navy ships, and would be considered the "Father of the American Navy" for these efforts.

A notable event in Arthur's presidency was the opening of the new suspension bridge spanning the East River between Brooklyn and Manhattan. He presided, with Mayor Franklin Edson, at the ceremony dedicating this engineering wonder of the day designed by RPI graduate Washington Roebling. He also dedicated the Washington Monument, and was the first President to visit Yellowstone National Park, where he expressed support for preservation of forests on public land. During his time in the White House, Arthur was known not only for his stylish attire but also for his taste in interior decoration; he commissioned Louis Comfort Tiffany to make renovations in the White House, the first that a professional decorator had been so employed.

On a visit to Florida in 1883, Arthur contracted malaria, and had earlier been diagnosed with Bright's disease, a kidney ailment. He did not run for election to another term. He left office in March 1885 and died in November 1886. On the day of his death, the bells of St. Bernard's Church in Cohoes tolled from 2:45 to 3:00 p.m. He and his wife Ellen Lewis Herndon, who had died in 1880, are buried in Albany Rural Cemetery. His monument, marked by a bronze "Angel of Sorrow", was designed by Ephraim Keyser and was paid for by "Friends of President Arthur", who raised funds from many sources, including donations of pennies by schoolchildren.

Union College has a permanent collection of Chester Arthur memorabilia, which includes letters, photographs, political cartoons, a walnut desk used by Arthur (which features hidden side compartments large enough to stow away a few cases of wine), and a section of wooden windowsill from room 25 of the North College dormitory, which carries the initials "CA", carved by one of the more notable members of the class of 1848. There is also a statue of Arthur on the college grounds.

Although he is not well-known today, Chester Arthur's efforts as a reformer and his legal work for civil rights should not be forgotten. Chester Arthur's presidency was perhaps best summed by Alexander McClure in noting that "No man ever entered the presidency so profoundly and widely distrusted as Chester Arthur and returned more generally respected."



Statue of Chester Arthur on the Union College campus.

Sources for information for this article: *Our Country's Presidents* by Frank Freidel; "President with 80 Pairs of Pants" by Paul Grondahl, *Albany Times-Union*, Sept. 21, 2006; *People of Albany – During Albany's Second 200 Years (1800s and 1900s)* Albany Rural Cemetery by Peter Hess.



Off the Top...

Each member reading this newsletter has something in common, a love of history. If you are reading this newsletter, part of that love is for the history of Cohoes. For most SCHS members I have met, it goes beyond that. It could be as broad as a love of all history, or as specific as a history of oneself, meaning a family history; nevertheless, a love of history. My message in this newsletter is never give up that love and passion, especially if you are interested in a specific topic. There is something new for you out there; just keep looking.

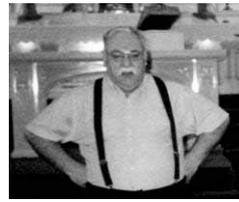
If you know me, my passion for history is the house at 16 Imperial Avenue and one of the first occupants, La Petite Adelaide. I thought I had exhausted the history available to me. By chance, I recently did a simple internet search on Adelaide and Hughes, as I had done many times. Last Tuesday, I hit a new match, one I had not seen before: *Stages of Life in Theatre, Film, and Television* by Norman Lloyd and Francine Parker, an autobiography of Norman Lloyd. Excerpts from the first chapter indicated he had studied dance with Adelaide and JJ Hughes in the early 1920's through a program called the Stage Children's Fund.

I wanted to know more, but found no other leads. I decided to search for an address for Norman Lloyd himself. I found one at a generic website for writing fan mail. Norman Lloyd was in "St. Elsewhere" as Dr. Daniel Auschlander, he acted in and produced episodes of "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" and has numerous other credits. The following day I wrote a letter and put it in the mail. Two days later the phone rang. It was Norman Lloyd calling from California. He was thrilled to hear about the connection to Adelaide and Hughes. We talked and shared information. It is unbelievable to me that I spoke with someone who not only saw Adelaide and JJ Hughes perform, but also studied with them and spoke with them personally. This has stepped up my drive for more information.

History may appear unattainable, especially when doing the research. A lot of time can be spent without coming up with much to show for it. Then you find that link, that fact, that additional piece, or missing piece of information making it all worth while. Keep searching, and if it is about Cohoes, share with us, we would love to hear from you. It can be anything from that family history to some product made in Cohoes years ago. Go out looking, or use us as a means to share; you might hold that wonderful and important piece of information for someone else and not even realize it. In so many ways we are all making history right now, and who knows, ninety years from now people might be looking at what we were doing.

Paul D. Dunleavy
President

Profile of a Member of SCHS – Bernie Ouimet



The profile in this issue features educator and musician Bernie Ouimet. Although formally retired from teaching, Bernie continues to educate people, sharing his enthusiasm for Cohoes history and understanding of the influence of French-Canadians and

other immigrant groups on the city's cultural and social history. Bernie is a dedicated volunteer for SCHS, serving as a trustee, assisting in coordinating the Cohoes church tours, and giving presentations for SCHS, local schools and tour groups.

What is your occupation and background?

I taught American History at the Cohoes Middle School for 27 years and at the Cohoes High School for 2 years. I have also been a church musician – organist and choir director – for 47 years. I received my degree in social studies from SUNY Albany and my music history degree from SUNY New Paltz.

How did you learn about and become involved in SCHS?

I'm not sure how I first found out about the Society. I know that Walt Lipka and I had discussed it on a few occasions. Finally, Walt paid for my first year membership and I've been a member ever since.

What are your hobbies and other interests?

I love to read – non-fiction, especially social history. I enjoy cooking and gardening, listening to music and attending concerts, doing research on local history and doing photography. I know just enough about photography to get what I need for my research. I have learned to use the computer in conjunction with my photography and research. There is still much that I need to learn to be really computer literate but I'm getting by. I've learned to use a music program to write music for the choir. That's a great help.

What aspects of Cohoes history most interest you?

It has to be the history of the French community. About 1/3 of the Cohoes population has its roots in Quebec. I've done research on the History of St. Joseph as well as the History of St. Anne in Northside. Both were published as part of their 140th and 100th anniversaries, respectively.

What SCHS activities and events do you enjoy the most?

It's really hard to pick one. I enjoyed the church tours that we have had. I also enjoyed the summer program that we had a few years ago. Finally, I simply enjoy speaking about Cohoes history to anyone willing to listen.

Please include any other information about yourself you would like to share.

My wish is that Cohoesiers will become ever more conscious of their history. So much happened in this area. Cohoes was a part of the American Revolution and it played a big part in the Industrial Revolution. We always hear about how the Industrial Revolution began in the New England States - Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island – but New York State was a big part of it and so was Cohoes. The first all steam operated mill was built in Cohoes, the development of hydraulic cement, making the building of the Erie Canal possible, was the work of Canvass White, and the development of water power in Cohoes was second to none. Hopefully, the Historic Society can be a catalyst for a renewed pride in and understanding of Cohoes history.

History of the Christmas Tree

To get everyone in the spirit of the holiday season, SCHS and the Victorian Cultural League co-sponsored a presentation on December 13 about one of the best-known Christmas decorations, the Christmas tree. Tom Allison told of the history of the Christmas tree, explaining its origin and how the tree became a widespread holiday tradition. He also showed examples of the changes in Christmas tree decoration over time, describing the craft of making glass ornaments and the evolution of Christmas tree lighting from candles to electrified bulbs.

Slater Collection

In the last issue of our newsletter, we featured an article about members of the Slater family, accomplished musicians with Cohoes connections. SCHS has recently received a donation of photographs and memorabilia of the Slater family to add to its collection. The collection includes numerous photographs, correspondence (including cards from President Jimmy Carter and Vice-President Walter Mondale honoring George Holt Slater's 90th birthday), concert programs, and scrapbooks with newspaper clippings. Many thanks to Evelyn Slater for this generous donation. We plan to mount an exhibit of items from this collection in the near future.



SCHS Raffle

The winner of the 2008 SCHS annual raffle prize, a photo montage of the Cohoes Falls, was Joyce Nocella. Thanks to all who participated in the raffle. Many thanks as well to photographer and SCHS member David Koschnick, who donated the raffle prize, and to SCHS raffle coordinator Lorraine Okeson. Look for news of this year's raffle prize, which will commemorate the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial.

Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial

The year 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of the exploratory journeys of Henry Hudson and Samuel De Champlain, and the 200th anniversary (plus two

years) of Robert Fulton's steam-powered sail on the Hudson River. SCHS is partnering with the Peter Gansevoort chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (based at the Van Schaick Mansion) to plan a series of events throughout 2009 to celebrate these anniversaries. Cohoes was a major participant in the 300th anniversary celebration in 1909, and we hope to bring this excitement to the 400th.

A series of events are planned for the weekends of June 6-7, August 8-9, and September 18-20. On both days on the weekend of June 6 and 7, a Native American family will be encamped on the grounds of the Van Schaick Mansion, where they will reenact everyday activities and demonstrate traditional crafts. On Saturday June 6, we will have two speakers. At 1 p.m. storyteller Kay Olan will relate the legend of the Peacemaker and connections to the Cohoes Falls. At 3 p.m. Denis Foley will discuss the work of muralist David Cunningham Lithgow, which includes the murals in the former Cohoes Savings Bank building; a visit to the bank building to view the murals will follow the presentation. The events on the weekend of August 8-9 will highlight the industrial and canal history of Cohoes; these will include a walking tour on Saturday, August 8 at 1 p.m. The events on the weekend of September 18-20 will focus on the Dutch influence in the region. We will be having presentations on the building of the replica Dutch ship *Onrust*, the historical discoveries of the New Netherlands Project, and a retrospective on the 1909 Hudson-Fulton Celebration by John McEneny. Events at the mansion will include a harvest of heirloom vegetables and a sampling of Dutch foods. See the calendar on page 8 of this issue, and look for more details soon.

A Poem for January 2009

With our new President I see
Our hope for true liberty
We have to buckle our belts as in the past
But hopefully for this time the last!
Put the USA back up to the first in line
of the best darn country
and all mine!

- Carolyn Dunleavy

The SCHS newsletter staff welcomes articles on Cohoes history, short items and other contributions for the newsletter. Please contact us at P.O. Box 375, Cohoes, NY, 12047 or cherniak@nycap.rr.com

History of the Cohoes Senior Citizens Center

A senior citizens program in Cohoes was established on September 22, 1967, instituted with a \$6000 check from the Albany Catholic Diocese. Rev. Gregory Weider, assistant pastor of St. Agnes Church in Cohoes, was active in creating the Cohoes Neighborhood Center and the Cohoes Community Center. He co-founded the Neighborhood Center with Rev. George F. O'Brien of Troy Catholic Charities, and he was a member of the Cohoes Opportunity for Economic Development (COED), which coordinated various anti-poverty agencies in the city. He was secretary of the Economic Opportunity Commission and chairman of the Housing Environmental Research and Development Center (HERD), a program created to provide senior citizens with information, referral and counseling services, and encouragement for them to become involved in community programs offering recreational, social, educational and cultural activities.

A library was opened to provide access to the more than 2000 books that were donated to the Senior Citizens Center. The Center was housed at the Cohoes Neighborhood Center, located in the Silliman Memorial Presbyterian Church. Twenty-two young women, members of Keveny Academy's senior class, volunteered to assist with the senior citizens programs, spending several hours per week serving as receptionists, coordinating entertainment and activities for seniors, telephoning and visiting those unable to visit the center, and writing and editing the newsletter the *Senior Gazette*. Activities offered for seniors included day trips to the Catskills and Vermont, holiday parties, bowling leagues, talent shows, and a choral group that would later be known as the Silvertops. The Cohoes Senior Citizens Orchestra was formed in 1975. The original players were: Leonard Ouimet - drums, Ed Potvin - violin, Jake Kowalski - mandolin, Nelson Willsey - washtub. John Bouchard, the orchestra director, played the accordion.

In 1969, ground was broken for the Jay McDonald Towers; the high-rise apartment building for senior citizens would be completed in the summer of 1972. By November of that year, membership in the Cohoes Senior Center exceeded 2000. The center received support from the City of Cohoes, Cohoes Model Cities Program, New York State Office for the Aging, Albany County, and United Way of the Mohawk-Hudson Area. In December 1974, home delivery of meals to seniors (which would be called the "Meals on Wheels" program) was started. The Senior Center moved in July 1974 from 96 Mohawk Street to 15 Seneca Street, the location of the former St. Bernard's Convent (shown here).



Architectural plans for a new Senior Center building, created by architects Einhorn and Yaffee, were reviewed in 1975, and the next year ground was broken on a site adjacent to McDonald Towers, just north of the intersection of Remsen and Cayuga Streets. More than five hundred fifty people donated to the fund drive for the building. Cayuga Plaza, where the new senior center was located, was formally dedicated by Mayor Ronald Canestrari in November 1977. The center itself officially opened in September 1978, with Michael Cooley as executive director. Cooley retired as director in 2007 and Keith Hornbrook was appointed the new executive director.

The Senior Center, now called the Cohoes Multi-Service Senior Citizen Center, continues to be a vital organization in the community, providing meals, activities, and various services for the city's older residents. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 60; those between 50 and 60 can participate in center activities that do not have state or federal age requirements. Among the center's activities are bingo, AARP driving classes, Tai Chi, swimming, exercise classes, bowling, ceramics and bridge. Services include transportation, caregiver support, hearing and blood pressure clinics, and assistance with social services including Legal Aid, Medicaid, and food stamps. The center also encourages senior citizens to be active members in their community and participate in outreach programs at nursing homes. With all of these endeavors, the center clearly seeks to fulfill its mission "To promote the dignity of older adults living in the community and to provide programs and services needed to support their living healthy and productive lives."

For more information about the Cohoes Multi-Service Senior Citizen Center, visit them on the web at www.cohoesseniorcenter.org, or call 518-235-2420.

Thanks to Myrtle Stott for providing information used in this article.

History of Council #192 – Cohoes Knights of Columbus

by John A. Rosbozom, Sr., Grand Knight, Council #192



The Knights of Columbus was founded in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882 by an Irish Catholic priest, Rev. Michael McGivney. The primary purpose of the Knights of Columbus was to be a mutual benefit society. Fr. McGivney had seen what happened to families when the breadwinner died and wanted to provide insurance for the widows and orphans left behind.

The Cohoes Knights of Columbus was started through the motivation of a group of Cohoes men known as the Bachelors Club. The Cohoes Council was formally organized with the assistance of Troy Council #176, receiving its charter on October 24, 1896. There were 117 charter members, and P.H. Spillane was the first Grand Knight. The first inauguration of officers was held in the rooms of the Cohoes Masonic Temple. The Council's Fourth Degree Assembly #734 was established on December 26, 1921, and the Columbiettes were organized in 1953.

After using rented space for many years at various locations in downtown Cohoes, the Council purchased the Jacob Brooks residence in 1913. The house, a three-story Victorian at 255 Remsen St., served as the Council's home until 1970, when it was torn down and replaced by the present structure during the tenure of Grand Knight William Hofmann. During the period of construction, a neighbor filed a complaint and a public hearing had to be held so that a zoning variance could be granted. Shortly after work was completed, a fire struck the building and it had to be refurbished. During this period, the Cohoes Masons again came to our aid and offered the Council the use of their facilities for meetings and events.

Throughout its history, the Council has been very active in the community. During World War I the organization collected sweaters, socks and other gifts and necessities for our troops. During World War II the Council was involved in War Bond drives. The Council has always participated in the activities of the city's Catholic parishes and schools, as well as those of other community groups. The group participated in the U.S. Bicentennial festivities held in Cohoes in 1976, and marches in the annual Memorial Day parade. We have sponsored Little League and Intermediate League baseball teams, as well as Red Cross blood drives. For the past several years, our members have donated funds for the purchase of school supplies and distributed these supplies to Cohoes schools so that no student need start the school year without the proper tools for learning.

Today there are more than 14,000 K of C Councils worldwide. For more information on the Knights of Columbus and the activities of Council #192, contact us at 518-237-4151 or 518-237-7814.

Spindle City Historic Society Membership Application

www.spindlecitynet.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

gift membership

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Saturday, April 18 - Cohoes Canal cleanup, 10 a.m. Cleanup of trash and brush along the towpath and around enlarged Erie Canal Lock 15. Meet at Vliet St. near the intersection of Harmony and Summit Sts.

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

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

Saturday, June 6 - Sunday, June 7 - A series of events to commemorate the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial. These will include an encampment of a Native American family on the grounds of the Van Schaick Mansion from Saturday morning through Sunday, a presentation on the Cohoes Falls and the legend of the Peacemaker by storyteller Kay Olan at 1 p.m. on Saturday, and a presentation at 3 p.m. on Saturday by Denis Foley about the Cohoes Savings Bank murals created by David Lithgow, along with a visit to the bank building to view the murals. Co-sponsored with the Peter Gansevoort Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Wednesday, June 24 - Spindle City Historic Society meeting. 7 p.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center.

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

Saturday, August 8 - Sunday, August 9 - A series of events to commemorate the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, highlighting the industrial and canal history of Cohoes. Events will include a walking tour of Cohoes canal and industrial sites at 1 p.m. Saturday, with others TBA.

Wednesday, August 26 - Spindle City Historic Society meeting. 7 p.m., Cohoes Visitor's Center.

Friday, September 18 - Sunday, September 20 - A series of events to commemorate the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, focusing on the influence of the Dutch in the Capital Region. Times of events TBA.

✧ SCHS Newsletter Staff ✧

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Spindle City Historic Society

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