

FALL 2023

# THE ARCHIVE

*Preserving Esperance's history for future generations*



## HISTORY OF CHANGE: MEMORIES OF DAIRY FARMING IN ESPERANCE

The Historical Society hosted a screening of a new documentary on Sunday, July 30th, at the Esperance Presbyterian Church. The documentary, "The Decline of Dairy Farming in the Town of Esperance," explored the changes in dairy farming over the years leading to its decline.

Narrated by Willard Martin, the documentary featured interviews with five local farmers, including Taylor Bogardus, Robert Lang, Hart Rockwell, Duncan Bellinger, and the late John Van Derwerken. Each shared stories of their challenges as dairy farmers, including rising costs, changing regulations, and declining milk prices.

*continued on page 2*



## CALENDAR

**October 14, 2023**

3rd Annual Soup and a Stroll: guided walking tour of the Esperance Cemetery. After the tour, enjoy delicious homemade soups at the Methodist Church. Follow our Facebook page for more announcements about this event.

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**December 9, 2023**

Christmas in Esperance: Decorated trees, homemade cookies, hot cocoa, crafts, raffles, carols in the Esperance Presbyterian Church, and much more! Follow our Facebook page for more announcements about this event.

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**May 27, 2024**

Memorial Day: Museum opens for the season.



*The Archive is the official newsletter of the Esperance Historical Society and Museum.*



## HISTORY OF CHANGE

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The screening was well-attended by more than 60 community members interested in learning more about the history of dairy farming in Esperance.



Afterward, attendees were treated to homemade chocolate jumbles and white and chocolate milk donated by Locust-Spring Farm and vanilla and chocolate ice cream donated by Stewart's Shops.



We would like to thank everyone who attended this event and made it a success. A special thank you to Willard Martin for creating the documentary, Ken Jones for conducting the interviews, Linda Feuz for making the church's room darkening shades, and the volunteers who helped set up and serve refreshments.



## NATIONAL HISTORIC MARKER DAY

Did you know April 28th is National Historic Marker Day? It's an opportunity to beautify your community by cleaning historic markers while learning about local history! Newly elected board member, Victoria O'Milne, and her dad, John, spruced up a handful of local historical markers to celebrate. Thank you for preserving history for future generations!



## RAISE THE ROOF: MUSEUM GETS AN UPGRADE

Thanks to a grant from the Nick Juried Family Foundation, we have a new roof on the museum! Even though it was a scorching hot day, the contractor did a great job installing and cleaning up after the job. Ken Jones was kind enough to share some of the extra ice cream we had left from the documentary premiere with the crew.







## BARGAIN HUNTER'S DREAM

On Saturday, May 20th, the Historical Society held a yard sale in conjunction with the village-wide garage sale. The sale was a huge success, with people shopping for treasures all day.

We collected a massive amount of items to sell, including books, frames, artwork, Christmas decor, and plenty of housewares. There were even some antiques, including duplicates from our collection, such as newspapers, magazines, and prints.

In addition to the sale, hot dogs were served on the gazebo to fuel the shopping spree.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and shoppers who made this year's sale a fantastic success!



## OUT AND ABOUT

The Esperance Historical Society continued its outreach efforts in bringing the museum to the public through various events in 2023.

The first was the Central Bridge Community Day, where we shared our new video on the Threshing machine industry in Central Bridge featuring George Westinghouse Sr. and Jr., Spencer Moore, and S. K. Campbell. Thanks to Ashley Slater for technical assistance in looping the clip.

Next was a special "What is it?" tent at the Lily Park Festival presented by the Schoharie Promotional Association. It featured a display of international artifacts that participants needed to match with a country of origin.



Next, with the assistance of Victoria O'Milne, one of our new Directors, was a traditional "What is it?" at the Charlotteville Community Day in Summit. Participants tried to identify artifacts using a clue sheet, which was very popular, with many playing after most tents left for the day.

We were invited again by the Altamont Fair to display our "What is it?" in their farmhouse museum. The curator said the antique voting machine used in Esperance gets a lot of attention!

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 PATRONS

Dave Burnham Citroen  
Don's Automotive Service  
Duanesburg Diner  
Esperance Auto Electric  
Esperance Elks

Esperance Health & Wellness  
Heritage Memorials  
Home Magic  
Langan Funeral Home

Livingston Fuels  
Perillo Insurance Agency  
Pick-a-Pumpkin Pumpkin Patch  
Pine Ridge Dental  
Young Home Heating Fuels



## LOCAL ANTIQUE EXPERT SHARES KNOWLEDGE OF BOTTLES AND CROCKERY

The Museum hosted a special event on Saturday, August 26th, with local antique expert Jeff Ullman. Jeff has been collecting old bottles since he was 12 and has extensive knowledge about local Schoharie County bottles and crockery.

Jeff's presentation was informative and engaging, sharing stories about the different types of bottles and crockery, their use, and techniques used to identify them. Visitors were encouraged to bring an old bottle or crock of their own, and Jeff was happy to give them an appraisal of its age and purpose.

Thank you to all who attended this event and to Jeff for his willingness to share his knowledge with us.

# THANK YOU!

Thank you to our new and returning docents who volunteered for 3-hour weekend shifts this past season, making it possible for us to be open to the public.

Your dedication to our mission is inspiring. You are the face of the historical society and play a vital role in educating and engaging our visitors. We are so lucky to have you as part of our team.

Thank you again for everything you do. We are truly grateful for your support!



## 1ST ANNUAL CLUCK & CLATTER A SUCCESS

On Saturday, September 9th, the Esperance Fire Department and Esperance Historical Society presented the 1st Annual Cluck & Clatter, featuring a chicken barbecue and antique gas engine show.

Nearly half a dozen hit-and-miss engines used in the early days of farming were on display. The machines clattered and chugged all day, providing the soundtrack for the event.

A bake sale, prepared by volunteers of the historical society, provided all sorts of delicious homemade treats, from sweet breads and pies to cookies and brownies.

The Esperance Fire Department and Esperance Historical Society would like to thank all volunteers and everyone who attended this first-ever event. Your support is greatly appreciated, and we hope to see you next year for the 2nd Annual Cluck & Clatter!

