

OCTOBER 2022

THE ARCHIVE

Preserving Esperance's history for future generations



HISTORY GOES UNDERGROUND

This year's annual meeting of the Esperance Historical Society was held on Sunday, April 3rd, and hosted at the Two Saps Sap House on the property of Patriot's Retreat Heritage Farm in Central Bridge, NY.

Despite the snow and chilly temperatures, members gathered to discuss the society's activities and enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausage, and of course, real maple syrup!

The highlight of the afternoon was a presentation by Dana Cudmore, author of *Underground Empires*. Members were captivated by the stories about Schoharie County's underground caves and Esperance's Attorney James L. Gage's acquisition of them.



CALENDAR

October 15, 2022

2nd Annual Soup and Stroll: Enjoy delicious homemade soups following a walking tour of the village. New route for 2022!

December 2022

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

March/April 2023

Annual Meeting: Follow our Facebook page for more announcements about this event.

May 29, 2023

Museum opens for the season.



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



MEMORIAL TREE HONORS SOCIETY'S FOUNDERS

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th, friends and family of the Esperance Historical Society gathered at Esperance's Village Commons to dedicate a Memorial Tree. The Sugar Maple was planted to honor the memory of those who founded the Society more than 50 years ago.

Mrs. Helen Rockwell Montanye retired from teaching in 1968, and as a result, the Village School announced it would be closing. The idea to convert the schoolhouse into a museum and establish a historical society was first suggested by Town Justice and Historian Archie C. Montanye. He approached the Village Mayor and Trustees with the proposal, and they agreed to the idea.

Special guests who attended the dedication ceremony included Larry Rockwell, Linda F. Young, and Marion Jones. Larry, a former Esperance Mayor, cut the ribbon when the museum opened its doors to the public in 1970. Linda was the Society's original Secretary and served in that role for more than a decade. Marion served as Vice President when the first permanent officers were elected in 1969.



WHAT IS IT?

The Society was invited to bring its "What is It?" display to three events this year, including the Fifth Annual Lily Festival at Schoharie's Lily Park, the Fulton Vendor Market at the West Fulton Fire Department, and the Altamont Fair.

The "What is It?" display is always a big hit and features a variety of items from the Society's and president Ken Jones' collections. Visitors are invited to guess what each item is used for and may reveal the correct answers by lifting the door on the answer key.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 PATRONS

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

Esperance LP Gas
Heritage Memorials
Home Magic
Langan Funeral Home

Livingston Fuels
Mountain Eagle
Perillo Insurance Agency
Pine Ridge Dental
Young Home Heating Fuels



The classic recipe for Jumbles calls for sugar, flour, eggs, and butter. Historically, people would bring the dense cookie with them on their travels because of its ability to last for months without going stale. The Schoharie County version builds on the classic recipe by adding cocoa, coffee, molasses, and spices.

HUNGRY FOR HISTORY

On Saturday, June 11th, The Society celebrated a favorite regional cookie, the Chocolate Jumble, with the dedication of a Hungry for History Marker granted by the W. G. Pomeroy Foundation, which is helping tell America's popular food stories one bite at a time.

This unique cookie has a rich history and even boasts a connection to the first President of the United States.

While a regional variety of the cookie has long been popular in Schoharie County, similar recipes date back hundreds of years. In the 18th century, first lady Martha Washington published a version of the recipe called "Jumbals," which is said to have been President George Washington's favorite holiday cookie.



Thank you to Grapevine Farms, The Carrot Barn, and a handful of other Schoharie County Historical Societies for baking Jumbles for this event. And special thanks to Assemblyman Chris Tague for acknowledging our efforts in promoting local history.



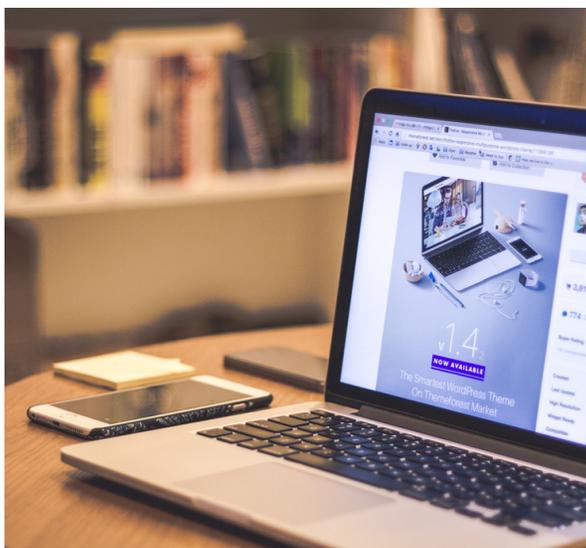


GIVE US A LIKE

Are you following us on Facebook? Please stop by our page and give us a like! We think you'll enjoy the historical photos of Esperance, and you'll never miss an announcement about upcoming programs and events.

And we encourage you to share and comment on the photos. We love reading your memories about Esperance!

facebook.com/EsperanceHistoricalMuseum



NEW TECH

The Society recently upgraded the computer in the Chapel Library. We are also working with a web designer to create our first-ever website.

The new site will be used for the digitization of our collection. This exciting development will allow us to share more of our collection with the public online.



COME FOR THE COOKIES, STAY FOR THE CAMARADERIE

Do you like history? Do you like cookies? Are you free on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month? If so, you should come to one of our gatherings of volunteers!

Our fantastic group of volunteers, better known as the "Book Buddies," gathers on the second and fourth Thursdays, March through November. The gatherings are an excellent opportunity to learn about local history, meet some friendly locals, and of course, there are always delicious baked goods!

The gatherings start around 9ish in the museum. We hope to see you there!



SUPPORT WHEN YOU SHOP

Did you know you can support the Historical Society when you shop at Amazon?

All you have to do is go to smile.amazon.com and select Esperance Historical Society as your charity.

Amazon makes a donation to the museum every time you shop, and it doesn't cost you anything extra.

Thank you so much for your support!