



*Collecting Yesterday For Tomorrow*

# Artifacts

SUMMER

Published by the Brunswick Historical Society

2015

## Some Have a Grave Addiction and They're Preserving Our History!

By Sharon Zankel, Brunswick Town Historian

Those who missed the Society's annual meeting and Joe Ferrannini's presentation describing his restoration of the Morrison Cemetery can view photographs of each of the 58 restored tombstones at [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com), a free-of-charge online database offering, as of March 31, 2015, "121 million grave records" from around the world. The web site is easy to navigate-go to [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com), and click on "find a cemetery," to bring up a screen where you enter the name of the cemetery (Morrison Cemetery), and select country (USA), state (New York), and county (Rensselaer), click on "search," and you will arrive at the Morrison Cemetery in Cropseyville. To view the tombstones, click on "view interments," and the next screen will present a list of burials by name; click on a name to see the tombstone. In most cases you will be able to view images of the tombstone before as well as after restoration. The Society's decision to fund restoration of this historic burial ground was a wise one, and one of which we may all be proud.

The [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) web site has been around since 1995, was founded by Jim Tipton who had a yen for visiting the graves of the famous, and, somewhere along the way, the idea of posting the graves of all blossomed to make the site one of the most popular family history research venues on the web. [Findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)'s success and popularity caught the attention of [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) which didn't lose any time in acquiring the site as a subsidiary. Unlike [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), which charges for its services, [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) requires no fees (but will accept donations). One may search the site anonymously but must register to post a photograph, burial information or comments, or to leave a virtual flower, etc. The success of the web site is attributable to its unpaid contributors—volunteers who visit cemeteries, photograph tombstones or otherwise obtain burial information for cemeteries that may no longer exist or in cases where no tombstone can be found.

After exploring the Morrison Cemetery online, search for other local cemeteries or go back to the search page and enter the name of an ancestor or acquaintance whose place of burial you may not know. You may have immediate success, and, if not, periodically check back with [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) as new

information is continuously posted. If you find the grave you seek, you might wish to register and upload a photograph or biographical information or link ancestors 'graves--be sure to read all instructions and terms of service! If you find yourself becoming a fan of [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com), you might want to watch the free-of-charge online video tutorials offered by [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com); go to <http://youtube.com> and search for "Barefoot Genealogist-findagrave tutorials."

Almost all cemeteries in Brunswick, including many obscure family burial grounds on private properties, have been posted to [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) by volunteer contributors at this time. About a year ago two experienced volunteers, Alysia Hamilton of Troy and Ed Dodge of Sand Lake, noticed several Brunswick cemeteries had been only partially photographed or not at all, and resolved to photograph any and all tombstones they might find. Mr. Dodge studied the cemetery maps and burial listings at the Society, and occasionally turned to Society docents, Town Clerk Bill Lewis, Assessor Steve Rooney, and me for assistance. Undaunted by encounters with poison ivy, ticks, and snakes, Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Dodge, armed with pruning shears and cameras, began snapping photographs of the tombstones of those who came before us. Permission to tread private properties was often sought and most town residents found cooperative. A third [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) contributor, Chris Philipppo—a skillful, thorough researcher—recently joined his comrades in exploring Brunswick cemetery history, and has discovered some interesting material such as the fact that the Eagle Mills Cemetery was mentioned in several turn-of-the-twentieth-century obituaries by the name Sunnyside Cemetery in Eagle Mills.

All volunteer contributors to [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) deserve recognition. I don't know the names of the dozens I note earlier posted Brunswick cemetery and tombstone photos to [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com), but understand some may have desired simply to memorialize the tombstones of ancestors while others may have had just enough time to capture a few images. The energy and enthusiasm Alysia Hamilton and Ed Dodge have demonstrated for this project is extraordinary! Ms. Hamilton has submitted over 110,000 photographs of cemeteries and tombstones in Brunswick, Troy, and beyond to [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) in recent years, and has organized groups of volunteers for clean-ups and gravestone repairs, relying greatly on guidance

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## Brunswick Historical Society

The Garfield School  
605 Brunswick Rd.  
(Corner of Moonlawn and Rt 2)  
Troy, NY 12180

<http://www.bhs-ny.org>  
(518) 279-4024

Wednesday 1pm - 3pm  
Saturday 10am - 3pm

### Board of Trustees

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Brunswick Historical Society

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tracy Broderick

I would like to thank the outgoing members of the Board, Michelle Mavigliano, Ann Clemente, Anne Poletto and Dan Casale for their dedication and commitment to the Society over the years.

Karen Zagursky unfortunately had to resign her position as Trustee. According to our bylaws, the society must have a board consisting of twelve members, and we are seeking a replacement. Should you be interested in participation, please call Tracy Broderick at 279-3020, or email her at [president@bhy-ny.org](mailto:president@bhy-ny.org). The board meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. Except July and August.

This year will be looking for some new ideas for our fundraising and how to get the word out about our organization. It would be nice to see some young faces come through the door. The Society is looking for volunteers for data entry. We're still chugg'n away with getting our collection digitized.

We also have a few projects that we need to get done. One is to clean out downstairs. There is shelving that needs to be removed and have new storage for our exhibit displays.

We made a few office upgrades in 2014 such as a new laptop computer and printer, we were able to purchase additional software from an online program for non for profits called Tech Soup.

Our Annual Tag Sale will be on September 12th. If you would like to rent a space, please contact us. This year we are looking for people who can demonstrate some of their talents such as basket weaving, quilling, and quilting. If you have a talent that the Society may be interested in, please call our headquarters at 279-4024.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2015

**May 19 - *Not Just Another Diner*** - Have you eaten at Duncan's today? Yesterday? Last week? How about anytime during the last 75-plus years? Chances are you have and have been part of the community that has made this diner an essential part of Brunswick's historical fabric for over three generations and continues to be an important social hub today. This winter, the exhibit committee went to find out what makes this place so special and it's a story you'll want to know about. Join the Society's exhibition opening, where the evolution from dairy barn to community meeting place will be examined.

**June, July August-** Town Concerts at Community Center on Keyes Lane. Concerts are held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Don't forget to stop by our table. Also watch for the nights we will be selling 50/50 tickets to benefit the Society.

**September 12** - Tag and Bake Sale, and Quilt Raffle will be held at the Society's Headquarters, Garfield School Route 2 in Eagle Mills.

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## Some Have a Grave Addiction and They're Preserving Our History!

from Joe Ferrannini, at several Troy cemeteries including New Mt. Ida Cemetery. It was Ms. Hamilton who photographed and posted images of the restored tombstones at the Morrison Cemetery, and, as soon as the snow began to melt this spring, encouraged Ed Dodge to continue their search for the several old Brunswick burial grounds that could not be found last year. Ms. Hamilton says her interest in preserving cemeteries and their history stems from her early acquaintance with a small burial ground on her grandfather's farm and the life stories of those buried there. Ed Dodge, who has submitted over 10,000 photos to findagrave.com, plans to continue committing a few more of his golden years to this work "as long as there are cemeteries to photograph," and attributes his dedication to the findagrave project to locating the grave of a nephew killed in Vietnam through the web site. He recalls, "About 2011 a man in Florida posted the photograph of the grave I'd looked for since 1966, and that made me realize I could help people with a similar quest."

Much of the information Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Dodge used to locate cemeteries and verify faded tombstone inscriptions or posted to findagrave.com when no tombstone could be found was compiled over many years by various local DAR chapters, professional genealogists such as the late Francis Broderick and Doris Sheridan, and Don and Claire Radz, Church of Latter Day Saints missionaries who quickly became known as Rensselaer County's "Cemetery Sleuths." Their extensive compilation of Rensselaer County burials has long been available at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/bruncem.htm> and is now being cross referenced with like postings as they appear on findagrave.com. Check it out, take a walk through a cemetery, and—if we see you with a camera—we'll know you've become addicted, too!

## Committee Annual Reports

### ANNUAL REPORT COLLECTION COMMITTEE

Betsy Durivage, Chairperson

Committee Members: Eleanor Hill and our two most welcome new members Diane McGuirk and Karen Zagursky, Warren Rymiller and Betsy Durivage who also clipped newspaper articles - 104 at last count.

The Collection Committee puts in many volunteer hours accessioning items donated to the Society. In the past year alone they put in 105 hours accessioning 91 items. The following are the people who have generously donated

items: Flora Lee Ashdown, Daniel Casale, Sandra Moody Chukta, Maria Clemente, Allen Dickinson, Edmund Dodge, Eileen Mittlested Dunham, Betsy Durivage, Douglas Eddy, Linda Grattan, Ron Hayner, Eleanor Hill, John Krieger, Nancy Patrick, Lynda Pater, Elsie Shudt, Eyre Sneck.

Items accessioned include:

- Books: First Tin Horn & Calico  
History of Our Country  
The Hudson River  
Autograph Book  
Game book  
Halloween  
Gulliver Travels  
Tamarac Yearbook; 2002, '04,'06 thru'13  
Lansingburgh High School Yearbooks;  
1920,'22 thru '24  
Lansingburgh Commencement Programs;  
1925,'26,'27
- Photos: Brunswick Little League 1965, (9)  
Forest Park Cemetery (7)  
Cemetery, Brunswick Hills (2)  
Grade 1, 1956, Dist. #5  
School play 1956 Dist. #5  
George Washington School (2)
- Maps: Troy & Vicinity with St. Index  
Rensselaer County Highway
- Print: Clums Corner Potato Barn and Citations:  
County farmer honorarium (4)
- Flat Irons: 1 miniature (toy)  
Variety (6)  
Trivets (2)
- Ladies Apparel:  
Duster, dress, petticoat, faux fur cape.  
Lined batiste handkerchief bag with 6  
hankies  
Parasol  
Brunswick ballot box  
Teacher's pointer  
Tin horn  
1 quart milk bottle  
Baby bottle funnel  
Wooden alphabetized blocks (toy)  
Tin toys; Fire eater, Popeye  
Wooden pull toy (rabbit)  
Dolls clothes basket + clothespins  
Troy scrub board  
Baby's stocking stretcher  
Baby's sweater stretcher  
Bird cage game  
Ornaments (3)  
45 Star American Flag

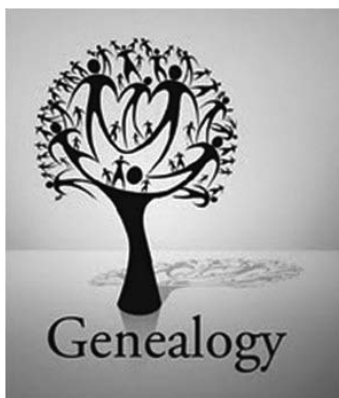
## ANNUAL REPORT FOR GENEALOGY

Tracy Broderick, Chairperson

This past year was a busy one. I received several requests for family research. (45 hours spent researching). Continuing inventory of all books, pamphlets, and binders. (22 hours).

Please help us continue to grow our collection. We are looking for any old pictures of Brunswick, including family, homes, agriculture and schools. We have a scanner at the Society so you don't have to worry about your pictures being lost. We can scan them while you wait.

We are always looking for any information pertaining to the past generation that you would like to share with us. Please contact me at [president@bhs-ny.org](mailto:president@bhs-ny.org) or call our headquarters at 279-4024.



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Claire Steiner, Chairperson

The committee members are: Dan Casale, Bill Prout, Ann Clemente, Mary Ann Willetts, Tracy Broderick and Claire Steiner.

A new American flag was installed and the Town flag was repaired on the flag pole out front. Area on back of building where fuel tanks were located was repaired and painted. Grass seed spread for new lawn. New steps installed on the front porches of the Garfield School. Front porches and handicap ramp painted. Cleanup of the grounds was done in the Spring and Fall and seasonal flowers planted. Cleaning of the building was done throughout the year. Work done by the committee.

Security lights and roof were checked and repaired by the Town.

Have requested that the Town have someone remove the bees. Also requested that the cupola be painted and finial on front peak of building be repaired and painted.

Thank you to the Town of Brunswick for their support during the year.

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR EXHIBIT COMMITTEE

Michelle Mavigliano, Chairperson

Members: Ann Clemente, Marie Stasiak, Michelle Mavigliano

Associate Members: Program Chair Phyllis Harrison  
Volunteer Hours total: 150 (entire committee)

*(My) Secret Brunswick*  
June – November 2014

In 2014, the Exhibit Committee developed and installed an art exhibit, *(My) Secret Brunswick*, which showcased the work of local artists. Beginning in March, the committee invited local (county-wide) artists to submit up to three works that interpreted the theme of a “secret” or personal Brunswick. The goal was to have the artist draw inspiration from the physical or mental landscapes, people, life, nature, etc. of the Town of Brunswick and relay that through two or three dimensional work. Sales of the art were at the artist's discretion and the committee asked each artist if they would be willing to donate a percentage of the purchase price to the Society, to support our educational and historical mission.

A total of 17 artists participated, and their work ran the gamut – from carved wood bowls made from trees in Brunswick, to paintings done decades ago by local family artists, portraying buildings no longer extant in the community.

An opening reception was held June 5, 2014. Program Chair Phyllis Harrison arranged for June Leary, Curator of Education at the Hyde Collection, to join us. To supplement our exhibit theme, Ms. Leary presented *Upstate Treasures: Landscapes and Collections*, which focused on landscape painting in upstate New York.

A total of 53 people attended the opening and subsequently 3 pieces were sold by the end of the exhibit.

## SILENT AUCTION

Our Silent Auction was held at the Brunswick Elks on April 11th. The event was very successful. We had 56 guests in attendance. The silent auction consisted of 95 items and were donated by the business community, friends and members. The Society would like to thank everyone who made this possible especially our committee members; Betsy Durivage, Darlene Casale, Shirley Madsen (absent), Elaine Mammen and Claire Steiner who are pictured below.



Society members Warren Rymiller and Bob Cipperly

## In Memoriam

Our condolences go out to the family of Kathleen McGrath who passed away on Easter Sunday, April 5th. Kathleen was a Charter and long-time member of the Brunswick Historical Society.

## VOLUNTEERS

In 2014 we had just over 330 visitors that came through our doors. Our sincere thanks to those members who donated their time to staff the Society during visiting hours. Remember additional volunteers are always welcome! The job is not difficult or hard to learn. You will be paired up with a volunteer that will help you to familiarize yourself with the Society.

We are open on Wednesdays from 1-3 and Saturday's 10-3.



Check out our Facebook page. There are always interesting articles and items from our collection. Don't forget to like us.

## Please Support our Corporate Members

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**Brunswick Historical Society**  
PO Box #1776  
Cropseyville, NY 12052



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Permit No. 917

**Brunswick Historical Society**  
**Annual Membership**

**NEW MEMBERS ONLY**

**If you are a current member a renewal notice has already been sent to you.**

*Fill out the form below and return it to:*

**Brunswick Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 1776  
Cropseyville, NY 12052

- |   |         |                                     |         |
|---|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual       | \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family           | \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate  | \$65.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (age 64+) | \$8.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$100   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student          | \$8.00  |                                     |         |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mission Statement**

The Brunswick Historical Society shall bring together those persons interested in the discovery, collection and preservation of historical materials as they relate to the Town of Brunswick and Rensselaer County, N.Y. The Society shall encourage and promote the preservation of historical buildings, cemeteries, monuments and markers of local importance.

The Society is a non-profit 501(c) (3) educational organization, chartered by the New York State Board of Regents since 1981. In accord with the Society's Absolute Charter the Society continually meets the requirements of the Board of Regents, including research, collections management and providing programs and interpretive activities for the education benefit of the public.