



## CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### TEN YEARS OF CHANGE

The past ten years has been one of change, restoration, and a new determination to follow our mission as bestowed upon us by our founders in 1921. At time we have a tendency to forget that the buildings we care for are considered artifacts as well and we are bound to care for them as any other artifact they may contain. Below I've listed some of the accomplishments of the past ten years which your membership made possible. We look forward to another decade of new and innovative ways to bring Clinton County's history to the forefront.



#### Castanea Railroad Station:



- We had the Castanea Railroad Station painted back to its 1884 colors of green and gray. We repaired rotted wood and replaced wood we could not save.

- Both the Heisey and the Castanea Railroad Station received new roofs, preventing further damage to the buildings. We built a new kiosk at the Castanea Railroad Station which will serve as the welcome station for the rail to trail extension when it is complete. We partnered with the Keystone Central Vo-Tech students, who put 5,040 hours into the build. The kiosk is

being built and interpreted by the Keystone Central School Students through a grant from the Lumber Heritage Region, Jersey Shore State Bank, Degenstein Foundation, Clinton County Foundation, and private donations.

#### Heisey Museum:

- We upgraded the Heisey's electrical wiring and breaker box, and changed to more efficient lighting fixtures where possible.
- Our ADT system was out of date and was completely changed offering more protection to the Heisey and her contents.
- Our financial reporting system and payroll were computerized and we upgraded our computer systems. We are presently in the mist of upgrading once again. We launched our new web-site and soon hope to place a web cam inside the Heisey to encourage visitors to our site.



- We placed a new storage building in the back yard to alleviate storage problems and to have a place to put our tools making the ice house a true display area.

- After the roof was put on the Heisey we went to work fixing the water damage to the walls in the east parlor, re-plastering and re-wallpapering both the parlor and the landing on the main staircase, and replaced the window sill on the back window. Today you would never know the wall in the parlor was about to fall down. There are still repairs needed to be completed to the parlor ceilings and the dining room ceiling.

- The upstairs maid's room, which is now the Executive Director's office, was completely stripped down. The plaster was falling off the walls, there was water damage from a leaking chimney, there was old wallpaper on the walls ripping as the plaster cracked, old linoleum on the floor and the molding was showing its age. The old brick was exposed on the outside wall, the chimney was repaired and no longer leaks, the room was re-plastered and painted to period colors, a shelf was constructed to display our crock collection, the old flooring was sanded down, re-stained and sealed, and the molding was stripped and rubbed with antique oil to preserve it.
- We repaired the furnace, and lined the east chimney that services the furnace with a grant from the Clinton County Foundation. Also with the help of the Foundation, as of March of this year the chimney was completely rebuilt and is a perfect match to the chimney on the west side of the house.
- We knocked down the wall in the modern kitchen 'pantry' and restored back room to the summer kitchen which it once was. We exposed the brick fireplace and found a hole in it with Jumping Jack Wine bottles perfectly preserved in the flood mud. They are now on display.
- We cleaned the cellar and removed piled up soil from floods, and cleared out unusable wood, windows, and other items stored there. We took signs and other displayable items, cleaned them up and they are currently on display in our gardens. We excavated the well in the cellar under the dining room.
- We continually fix our fencing and put wood preservative on it.
- Upon conducting a Children's History Camp Archeological Dig Program, we stumbled upon a foundation in the backyard of the Heisey, which we believe to possibly be part of Ft. Reed. We used this 'dig' to teach the public proper archeological procedures, and allowed students and volunteers to complete it. It is now on permanent display with a pavilion over it and fencing. With a grant from the PHMC we placed a kiosk to interpret the dig and foundation. We also restored the Ice House with these funds to display the artifacts retrieved from the dig. The Ice House was completely stripped and restored. The outside walls were painted and the inside walls were sealed and preservative painted on them allowing the original wood to show.
- The gazebo was leaning and we put a new foundation underneath it and straightened it out, and gave it a new coat of paint.
- Our research records including pictures, documents and books were inventoried, and categorized. We purchased acid free storage boxes and placed these precious records on the shelves that once housed the crock collection. We reorganized our cemetery records, our postcard collection, inventoried our old books, updated and organized our genealogical files and eliminated duplicate files making more room for other packed away records. Every day we receive new artifacts and records which open a doorway to our county's history.
- We installed new oil tanks after the old ones sprang a leak.
- New point-of-use hot water heaters were installed in both bathrooms, saving us the cost of electrically heating water.
- New toilets were installed.
- We had two trees removed with would have caused structural damage is they fell on the buildings.
- The period kitchen is presently under restoration and should be completed by early spring.
- The ceiling in the attic collapsed, and we will need to repair it after we clean out and inventory the attic.
- We geo-cached our properties bringing in more visitors.
- Our gardens change from year to year, and we want to send a special thank you to the Herb Guild who faithfully takes care of our herb garden on the back side of the Heisey.
- 2010 we hope to get enough donations to complete painting the Heisey herself.





### Barton Street School House:

- At the Barton Street School we replaced windows, and had to fix the roof.
- In 2010 we plan to completely clean the building and rearrange the artifacts to make it more user friendly.

### The Farrandsville Furnace:

- The Farrandsville Furnace had the foliage removed; fencing placed around it and was highlighted by Preservation Pennsylvania as a case study of one of the most endangered historic properties in Pennsylvania in their magazine. It still needs to have foliage removed and will be a costly restoration project.
- In 2010 we plan on doing an archeological dig around the furnace and seeking grants and donations to help remove the foliage from its exterior.

