

Preserving and Promoting our History

Dates to Remember:

June 23 – Annual Meeting

July 28 – Natural History Program

September 1 – Houses in Hague

All at 7pm at the Community Center

Watch *The Hague Chronicle* for details!

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Dear Historical Society Members and Friends,

At the end of an organization's year, it's a good idea to reflect on what we've accomplished, where we are, and where we hope to go. Since June 2008, we've been keeping busy:

- July – a Native Plants Program by Nancy Scarzello
- July, September, and April – Working in the Hague Heritage Cemetery
- September – Share your Memorabilia Program
- January – Participated in the Warren County Historical Society's Barns Program
- March – Show and Share Program

With the addition of our PC and printer/scanner, we have spent many hours working on scanning and saving the "Flora Sexton Photo Album". This work is the basis for the new showcase exhibit in the Community Center lobby and our program for the annual meeting on June 23. The Sexton album is considered one of the treasures of our collection and it was important to preserve it while still making the photos available for viewing.

We continued an oral history project and now have a camcorder that will make it possible to expand this work. It is very important to capture the living history that is available to us from our Town residents. This is an area where we can use help from the community. Speak to any Board member if you'd like to record your memories.

Archiving un-inventoried items in the collection, as well as additions thereto, is an area where we are hoping to do more this year. We have a very small corps of volunteers and are in need of more hands to accomplish our goals.

I can't say enough about the support, enthusiasm and dedication of our Board. They are the greatest! We also owe thanks to Jim Henderson and Christine Ianson for their help during the past year. I hope that our members and friends will sign up for committees at our annual meeting – with your help there is so much we can accomplish – preserving and promoting the history of Hague.

Pat McDonough

Access to the Collection and Collections Records

The following is excerpted from the Hague Historical Society's Collection Management Policy:

Collection objects and archival materials not on exhibit may be made available for scholarly research upon request. Hague Historical Museum collections are not open for general browsing, although some basic collection information may be accessed via computer network.

Access to the collections is by appointment only. Appointments to study collection objects and/or archival materials must be made in advance. Generally, the Hague Historical Museum is open during normal Community Center hours.

Collection records regarding objects or archival materials may be made available to the public upon request. Certain records or portions of records may be deemed private and not open to the general public, e.g. donors' names and addresses, monetary value of objects, storage location.

Copies of archival materials or other items may be provided at the discretion the Collections Chair or the President of the HHS for a fee for same established by the Hague Historical Society Board of Trustees.

Photograph Use Policy



Original photographs are sometimes loaned to the Hague Historical Society with permission for the HHS to copy and own the image. The original is then returned to the donor. Copies and/or original photos given to HHS are then entered into the collection records. Original images are rarely used in public exhibitions and only if a copy cannot be made.

The HHS policy for photo copy requests, for personal use, publications, commercial use, research, etc. is consistent with conditions and fees required by museums and other historical societies.

One of these conditions requires a credit line when used such as "Courtesy of (name)" or "photo by (name)" if known and "from the Hague Historical Society Collection". Another condition is our permission to publish the requested photo for one time use only and only by the individual, company or institution to whom it is specifically issued. Any subsequent use must be requested in writing and will be subject to current fees.

Fees incurred for photographic reproduction use are: \$20 per photograph for personal use; \$30 per photograph for commercial or publication use. These fees are subject to a "member discount" and may be adjusted for more than one image. These charges are to cover the cost and time in maintaining and reproducing the images.

Show and Share Program

Feedback after our March program was very complimentary. This was the second time this year that we did a "show and tell" kind of evening and it's always fun. Walt Wells and Art Tricka (shown at right) shared Art's hand-made bird houses as well as numerous funny stories. Inza Jordon brought in some lace tatting from the former owners of Ruah, one of the Watrous houses. Ray Snyder shared an interesting bottle collection dug up on his property. Art Belden brought a hay knife that had been in his family for generations. And the reminiscences and story-telling continued after the presentations! It was an evening to remember.



Photo by Christine Ianson

Growing up on Graphite

By Edna Frasier

What was life like growing up on Graphite you ask? One thing was for sure; we learned to entertain ourselves - no TV, Nintendo, Game Boys, no dance classes, Girl Scouts, etc. Do you know how many times we walked around the old Mill Road? We'd go to the spring for the cold mountain water, check out the old foundations and the ice mines. We worried not about kidnappers, but about bears. It was always hard to imagine that Graphite had once been a thriving mining town. All that remained were the old foundations along with pictures and stories about Graphite.

In the summer you could see a few of the Graphite kids climbing up Round Mt. with pails to pick blueberries. Not exactly what you would find kids doing today.

Coming from a large family (there were nine of us) with only one parent working, a garden was a necessity. Our summers were spent pulling weeds, watering the plants, feeding chickens, pigs and cows. To this day I can still see the rows of canned vegetables and venison on shelves in the cellar that my mother had spent hours preparing.

My brothers, of course, got involved in sports at Hague Central. They walked the four miles down the mountain to play and at 10 o'clock at night they, along with the Belden boys, would be walking back up the mountain. There was no parent drop-off and pick-up or school bus. It surely made hardy souls out of them as many nights it was bitter cold as they trekked home.

Even as kids we would walk the four miles down the mountain to go to the beach. No, there wasn't a thought about strangers, but many were the time we would jump in the ditch and lay down when we heard a car coming. All of the kids on Graphite had no fear of walking any place. We felt safe. It certainly was a different time.

Sundays were definitely a family day. During the summer months after church we would head over to Trout Brook Road for a picnic type lunch along the brook. What fun we had wading in the brook! Whenever I happen to drive that way today, it brings back those memories.

To this day I have a memory which is more vivid than most. My kid sister had an encounter with a bull. It had gotten out of a fenced in area and attacked her -- goring her and tossing her in the air several times. My mother ran out of the house with a broom and was frantically trying to get it away from my sister. Yes, she succeeded, but my sister has scars to this day to prove the encounter.

How many of you know that at one time there was a little gas station at the top of Graphite? Fred Spreeman had one gas pump and a little store. What a treat! We'd walk down with our few cents to buy a candy bar or some penny candy. However, Lance tells me now that we always seemed to get there at their dinner time.

Remember how I told you we learned to entertain ourselves. We had a big field next to our house where many, many softball games were played. Ask Art or Dan Belden how many hours were spent playing. It involved all the kids on Graphite. It was lots of fun, no cost and we had a feeling of community.

I was the second oldest, went off to college and then taught in the Albany area, so the stories of my younger brothers and sisters might be quite different although they did participate in many of the activities I have described.

As I look back, I don't think "What a life! I missed out on this or that." We were not handed everything. We knew what it was to work. We learned to share. We treated our neighbors the way we wanted to be treated. Life was simple, but we learned some important lessons that have served all nine of us well. We all strived to be productive members of society and make our parents proud.

Sometimes I wonder if the simple life offered more. Did it make individuals who developed greater values, good work ethics and a sense of well being? Whatever, growing up in Graphite helped shape the person I am today. It is amazing how as you take pen to hand, the memories that start to flood your mind that seemed to have been forgotten. But as I look back, Graphite wasn't such a bad place to grow up.

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On the Web!

See the link on the Town
of Hague Home Page

New Rack Card

With the assistance of Jim Henderson, we have developed a new rack card that has been distributed to tourist information centers in Warren and Essex Counties. We hope it will introduce visitors to Hague and to our Museum as a worthwhile place to visit.



Visitors, Sign In!

Be sure to sign the Visitors Book on the school desk in the Museum. We enjoy getting your feedback. Here are a few quotes from the last year:

“Very good.”

“Lincoln Exhibit – super!”

“First time to stop and visit Hague” – Crown Point resident

“Came to visit in the winter . . . Nice to see its history”

“What a great amount of info in the notebooks. Must get back here again soon! Great Lincoln exhibit, too!”

“What memories! Great addition to the town.”



2009 Dues
are due – only \$5!

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