

Preserving and Promoting our History

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, June 22
Annual Meeting and
"Heyday of Hague's
Hotels, Part I"

Wednesday, July 28
"An Evening with
Bruce De Larm,
Genealogy Guru"

Tuesday, August 24
"Heyday of Hague's
Hotels, Part II"

All programs are at
7pm at the Hague
Community Center

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Dear Historical Society Members and Friends,

If you read *The Hague Chronicle*, it should be no surprise to you that we've had a busy six months researching Hague's hotels. We assembled a great team who brought their enthusiasm and skills to bear on the subject matter. You'll find them on page 6. The results of their work will be shared with all of you at our Annual Meeting on June 22 – it should be a great evening. The amount of material prescribes that we break the program into two parts and you can catch Part II on Tuesday, August 24.

We are excited that we have been invited to do two programs at the Silver Bay YMCA this summer as well as to participate in a program on Graphite for the Warren County Historical Society. It's fun to share Hague's rich history with people in the broader community.

Through the support of the Town of Hague we now have the equipment for a computer kiosk in the Museum. We hope to have it up and running this summer for visitors and families to enjoy earlier programs presented by HHS.

We are working on other projects as well and are always looking for volunteers to help out – even a few hours here and there can make a difference in our efforts. On page 5 you will find a membership form where you can indicate your interests. Once we decide on a topic for 2011, perhaps you'd like to join next year's research team!

We thank you for your continued support and interest and look forward to seeing you at our public programs this summer.

Pat McDonough

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Trout House Village Resort – A Continuing Tradition of Hague Hospitality

Sometimes misfortune creates a change in your life that brings you good fortune. Such may have been the case when Bob Patchett suffered a heart attack as a young man. He and Lynn were offered a place to stay in Bolton Landing for his recovery. Already lake-lovers (Bob and Lynn had spent much time on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire), they soon fell in love with Lake George. They decided to buy a place on the Lake and when they advised their broker of their budget, about \$10,000, the broker said “you better head over the mountain!” They took his advice and bought a small home on Pine Cove and summered there with their family for a few years.

That wasn't the end of it, though, for soon they got the itch for a stronger connection to the Lake and made some inquiries about places on the Lake that might be for sale. Lo and behold, their realtor showed them a little motel strip and tiny house in Hague! That small parcel – with 95 feet of waterfront purchased in 1971 -- was the beginning of what is today the Trout House Village, Hague's major resort. They had a dream of a simpler life and Bob thought maybe he and Lynn would run the motel in the summer and he could drive a school bus in the winter. They still owned their lovely old farm house in Bergen County, New Jersey, and there were times when Lynn wondered what in the world she was doing living in this tiny house in Hague. In the early years income from other sources helped them make ends meet while they built the business.

In the years before the Patchetts bought, R.J. Bolton's property had been divided up and sold to various owners. Bob and Lynn reminisce about sitting out on the Lake in their row boat, looking back at their motel, and musing that “it would be nice to own it all”. That dream became a reality. The Patchetts sold their home in New Jersey and gradually bought the other parcels – including Bolton Lodge and the old hotel (The New Trout House) bringing their total lake frontage to 400 feet. The hotel itself was in poor repair and about four years after they purchased it, it was decided to raze it. As Jack Henry once wrote, “The old landmark came down very neatly without

wrecking balls or any of the noise, confusion and waste of urban renewal.” Indeed, with the help of Steve Bevins' bulldozer, Bob and son Scott carefully dismantled all that they could and ultimately did a controlled burn of what remained of the 57 bedroom hotel. The only thing that remains of the old hotel is the terrazzo floor and fireplace that were part of the lobby. The story goes that Dick Bolton proposed to his wife Penny with one knee down on that floor!



Many recall the line of recyclable toilets and other bathroom fixtures which

sat out at the roadside for anyone to take. Lynn tells a story of a group of friends who one evening donned their shower caps and bathrobes and went out to the roadside commodes as a jest. They were such a sight that at least one passing vehicle nearly ran off the road!

It wasn't easy getting the business going. Lynn recalls that Bob would sit at night and address direct mail pieces to drum up new guests. He always "had the light on" in hopes of drawing in a passing vehicle. If someone slowed and pulled in, they'd gleefully say "here comes a hot one!" Lynn took on the housekeeping of the guest units and the redecorating that was needed. The photo (see p. 2) is of Lynn and Bob perhaps 25 years ago when they ran snowmobile weekends to keep guests coming through the winter months. They would dress up in costumes, cook up a roast beef buffet dinner and serve their guests with the help of Bertha Dunsmore. It was hard work, but lots of fun as well.

One thing is for sure, Bob and Lynn Patchett never suffered the empty nest syndrome. Their son and two daughters were grown when they began the hotel business and there was never a dull moment as the Trout House Village expanded. Bob recalls that in the insurance business, his work was filled with people's negative experiences – fire, floods, and losses – but their work at the Trout House has been in an upbeat, happier environment. Today they are surrounded by their family and still feel blessed to be living on the shores of Lake George. In 1986 they were joined by Scott, his wife Alice, and their family and they have continued the tradition of providing a comfortable family resort for their guests. They are in their 39th year of operation and with a 95% return rate, they see second generations of families returning to the Trout House. The Trout House has been part of the Hague scene for 147 years!



Collections Program was a Hit!



On January 31st we enjoyed an interesting afternoon of “Collections”. Top left is the sailing ship built and displayed by Bill Cobb; at the right, are many of the wonderful nesting Russian dolls exhibited by Edna Frasier. Below left are Jon Hanna’s Indian relics and to the right are some of the Engler’s spoon collection. Susan Darrin shared her pyrography collection; Pat McDonough, her Willow china pieces; Jerry Crammond, some wonderful old books; Ray Snyder, old photographs; Graham Bailey, stamp collection; and Bill Dolbeck, some of his collectibles. Everyone who came that afternoon was glad that they had!



Hague Historical Society

P. O. Box 794, Hague, NY 12836-0794

Preserving and Promoting the History of Hague

Membership/Renewal Form

Membership dues remain at \$5/person and your check can be made out to “Hague Historical Society” and mailed with this form to the address above.

We also welcome contributions. While the Town supports us through the purchase of major items, we cover all other expenses with your dues and contributions. Our expenses include mailings and postage, office supplies, workshops, printing costs, memberships, and other miscellaneous expenditures related to our projects and the management of the Museum.

Name _____

Permanent Address

Seasonal Address (if applicable)

Phone _____

Phone _____

Email _____

email _____

May your email be used in lieu of notifications by postal mail? _____

**Thank you for your
generosity.**

\$ _____ Dues @ \$5/person

\$ _____ Contribution

\$ _____ Total

Please circle an area of interest:

Research

Computer Expertise

Administrative

Publicity

Hospitality

**HAGUE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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On the Web!
See the link on the Town
of Hague Home Page

What a team!



The Hotels Research Team: Seated, Judy Stock, Gale Halm, and Nancy Scarzello; Standing, Sally Rypkema, Judy Schultz, Christine Ianson, Ray Snyder, Pam Bresett, Pam Peterson, Jerry Crammond and Dorothy Brauner. Absent at the time of the photo were Anne Johns and Enid Engler.

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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