



# Town of Horicon Historical Society



horiconhistory.com | Box 51, Brant Lake, NY 12815 | 518-494-7286

Town of Horicon Historical Society  
Newsletter is published for the dissemination to Members, Supporters and County Historical Societies.

## Officers & Directors

Thomas Johansen  
*President*

Sylvia Smith  
*Vice President*

Barbara LaFond  
*Secretary*

Paul Holmes  
*Treasurer*

*Trustees*  
Barbara Blum  
Robert Smith  
MaryAnn Hill

*Town Historian*  
Colleen Murtagh

*Editors:*  
Sylvia Smith  
Mather Media

If you want to know more about the Historical Society or play a more active role in it, please come to any Society meeting which is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the Town Center. Everyone is welcome at these meetings. Your ideas, suggestions and input are needed to keep our museum relevant to the community.

## The year 2017 is going by all too quickly...

...and we've had a busy year. In addition to sponsoring numerous events, this past year has been active for the Museum itself. Blackout shades are being hung in the main house. The foundation under the bathroom has been rebuilt. New exhibit lighting was installed in the carriage house

We've reached out to the community with a full slate of programs! Each program was educational and enjoyed by everyone who attended... The Loon Presentation, Casual Coffees, The Adk Shindig and our popular Winter Pot Luck Dinner.

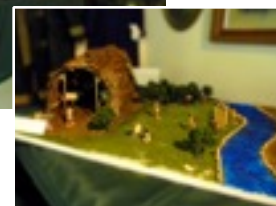
The Society's By-Laws were reviewed and re-approved at our Annual Meeting held in June.



During the same meeting Society Officers were elected.

Mr. Thomas Johansen - President  
Mrs. Sylvia Smith - Vice President  
Mr. Paul Holmes - Treasurer  
Mrs. Barbara LaFond - Secretary

Temporary exhibit of Joseph Brant in Museum Carriage House. Indian Village made by North Warren 4th grader Theigen Plumley



# POTLUCK DINNER

Saturday January 28th, 2016



This midwinter event featured a great assortment of dishes and desserts. Over 60 people attended and enjoyed the meal which was followed by entertainment with local singer, Colleen Cleveland. We learned about local history through folk songs and stories. The best part of our dinner was the enjoyment of seeing old friends and families and sharing stories. This event was a good example of a small town in the Adirondacks keeping its identity and reassuring our small-town ways.



## COFFEE'S ON US!

**There's nothing like gathering with friends** and soon to be friends for coffee. It's a great way for Members and others interested in local history to meet and talk informally. The first coffee was held on May 23rd at the Lazy Moose with about 12 people in attendance. The discussion started by sharing unique items from the museum collection - like an antique tooth puller. As the hour progressed, it became a session of memory telling and a genuine spirit of good will. The coffee participants also discussed the significant holdings of the museum agricultural equipment that is in need of refurbishing so that it can be properly displayed.



Mowing Machine



Sharpening Stone



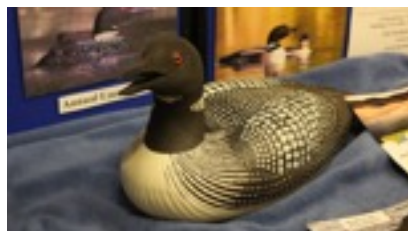
Hand Made Snow Plow

## Loons in the Adirondacks



**The life and death of Kevin**, the lonesome loon on Mill Pond last summer, created a lot of interest in our Adirondack loon population. Tuesday, July 11th, at the Horicon Community Center, the Historical Society presented Dr. Nina Schoch, Executive Director of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. Dr. Schoch spoke to over 70 people in attendance about loon natural history, threats, research and management in the Adirondacks. One of the highlights was when she played recordings of the various loon calls we sometimes hear when we are near the lake. Each call is distinctly different and has a different meaning for the loons.

For more information and video of the presentation visit our website [horiconhistory.com](http://horiconhistory.com)





## Heintzelman Library



Masonry work completed

This year the process was completed to name the Heintzelman Library to the National Register of Historic Places. As many of you may have noticed, the porch on the Historian’s Office at the Heintzelman Library has been repaired! The work has been done by Adirondack Masonry and Darian Granger, replacing the stone work with the original stone and capping off the top. The floor of the porch has also been replaced, eliminating all but one small step, and the cedar trees that were growing into the building’s foundation have been removed.

A \$1,000 grant from ‘The Community Fund for the Gore Mountain Region’ was awarded to replace the furnace with an energy efficient gas burner.

The town is looking at another grant to complete a site evaluation to assess the needs of this historic building.

Once the site evaluation is made, a plan will be put in place to do necessary repairs and renovations.

Fundraising will be needed to complete these projects, so please keep this beautiful, historic building in your giving plans!

If you are interested in visiting the historian’s office, have questions about town history, or genealogy, please contact Colleen Murtagh at 518-494-4359 or [crmurtagh@yahoo.com](mailto:crmurtagh@yahoo.com).



Repairs still need to be completed



# OUR 2ND COFFEE

Tuesday July 11th  
Horicon Historical Society Museum



## Hunting for the Missing Grave Site of Former Slave William Spencer

**There is a mystery and a story of racism in our area.** Our second informal coffee, held at the Museum, talked about this mystery from the early 1920's & 1930's. Nancy Tennyson and Donna Lagoy, from the Town of Chester Historical Society, shared information about former slave and Warrensburg/Chester resident, William Spencer. Upon his death, Spencer was refused burial in the Chester Cemetery because of his color. Eventually a family in Brant Lake said they had room in their family plot and that he could be buried there.

Unfortunately the location of this grave is unknown. Finding records of this nature has been difficult, so the Horicon and Chester Historical societies are joining forces to find William Spencer's grave and to provide it with an appropriate marker if it doesn't have one. If you would like to join the search for his grave, this is the only clue we have: An elderly resident, who as a child, was taken to the grave site said we should look for a large, headstone with the family name "Stephens" on it. Additionally, there should be two smaller markers with the names Percy and Gertrude on them. Nearby should be another stone that is allegedly the marker for William Spencer. Society members and friends looked through Elbow Cemetery and came up empty handed.

For more information about William Spencer and video of the Presentation, visit our website [horiconhistory.com](http://horiconhistory.com)



Searching Elbow Cemetery



Donna Lagoy & Nancy Tennyson



No Luck Yet

# 2017 Adirondack Shindig

To Benefit the Restoration of the 1881 Church in Adirondack  
Sponsored by the 1881 Museum Committee and Town of Horicon Occupancy Tax Funds.



This year the weather cooperated and August 12th turned out to be a great day for the 2017 Adirondack Shindig. The day kicked off at the Town Garage Sale where raffle & 50/50 tickets were pre-sold. The afternoon and evening brought good music by After-FX, great food, fine raffle prizes, door prizes & 50/50 raffle; and give aways for kids with joyful faces! Church Street was closed to traffic so **kids and chalk made a great combination!**

It was a fine, small town Americana event for folks to mingle, dance and share with one another - all while helping the 1881 Museum Project;

## 1881 Museum Annex Update



In late May, the Town received the \$100,000 Grant Disbursement Agreement from NY State thanks to the efforts of Town Supervisor Matt Simpson, Warren Co. EDC President Ed Bartholomew and State Senator Betty Little. Thanks to the dedication and support of over 350 individuals and businesses, almost \$50,000 has been raised plus \$thousands in building materials donations. Combined with the \$100,000 NYS Grant, these funds enable us to proceed with final Phase 2 construction... including new roofing and making the building code compliant with plumbing, electrical and handicap access.