



# 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, Friends and County Historical Societies.

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If you want to know more about the Historical Society or play a more active role, please come to a Society meeting, held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, 7:00pm at the Town Center (No January 2019 meeting). Everyone is welcome. Your ideas, suggestions and input are needed to keep our museum relevant to the community. **Thank You to those who've already paid this years membership dues!**



It has been a truly remarkable year of discovery, challenges and progress for the projects and programs of the Town of Horicon Historical Society!

This Newsletter briefly highlights efforts to preserve, protect and display our extensive, irreplaceable collection of rare historical artifacts that captures the history of Horicon and our Adirondack region. Extensive repair on the wall on the north side of the Brant Lake Museum was completed in October. Spring plans are to repair the entire back wall. Painting of all the buildings is scheduled for spring.

We hope you enjoy the Newsletter and offer best wishes to each of you for the coming holiday season. - *Tom Johansen, President*

### 2019

- Jan 26 Free Potluck Dinner & Entertainment  
5pm - Town of Horicon Community Center  
RSVP - MayrAnn Hill 518-494-2056
- Feb 11 Town of Horicon Historical Society Annual Business Meeting  
All are welcome to attend.  
6pm - Town of Horicon Town Hall
- July 16 Forest Ranger's Presentation  
Other event to be announced!



## Annual Membership

Membership	Additional Gifts
Individual.....\$15	Horicon Museum \$ _____
Family.....\$25	Church Project \$ _____
Corporate/Business.....\$50	Military Monument \$ _____
Life Member.....\$250	Additional Gift \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Town of Horicon Historical Society  
PO Box 51 - Brant Lake, NY 12815

A Message from the Town of Horicon Supervisor



Matt Simpson  
Supervisor, Town of Horicon

As we reflect on the past year in The Town of Horicon, we have many reasons to be thankful. The 1881 Union Church renovations are currently underway and soon will be utilized by our residents and visitors as an annex to the Town of Horicon Museum in Brant Lake. This year we were awarded a \$5,200 grant from The Preservation League of NYS to undertake a building condition and engineering survey of the historic Heintzleman Library. What an important step to preserve the rich history of the Town of Horicon for future generations!



Sylvia Smith  
accepting the grant award

Thank you to our Historical Society for all they do and for partnering with us on this project. Best wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



1881 Church-Museum Update

In our spring Newsletter, we reported on construction underway to save the historic former church in Adirondack - built in 1881 - for reuse as an Annex to the Historical Museum in Brant Lake. A new \$66,000 concrete foundation was installed replacing the failed original stone foundation and the Architect's final construction plans to make the building code-compliant including plumbing, electrical and handicap access were being prepared for competitive public bidding.



The Horicon Town Board awarded the \$65,000 construction contract at its October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Construction is already underway inside the church. All new roofing materials are on-site for the new roof installation, weather permitting, is now being installed. All remaining work including separately bid new drilled water well is to be completed by spring. The Museum Annex opening, joining our long-existing Museum in Brant Lake, is expected this coming warm weather season.



Old roof



New roof

Your contributions to the 1881 Museum Annex Project are still really important as we prepare for final Museum Annex interior furnishings. You are making it happen! Thank you.

# 2018 Happenings

Bats in the Adirondacks July 10

With over 30 people attending, DEC Wildlife Biologist, Care Herzog told us all about bats in NYS and what's being done to protect them.

Adirondack Fire Towers August 7

There was standing room only when Marty Podskoch & Laurie Rankin took us through the history and lore of our Adirondack Fire Towers

4th Annual Adirondack Shindig August 11

The streets in Adirondack were full of music, dancing, fun, games and raffles - all to benefit the preservation of the 1881 Church.



Community Fund Grant Awards Committee

The Community Fund for the Gore Mountain Region August 28

presented the Town of Horicon Historical Society with a Grant Award for helping to underwrite the cost of this newsletter.

Thank You for your Generosity!

The Museum Welcomes the YMCA Adirondack Center Sept 25



Kathy Hill, Sarah Hayes & Tom Johansen

Trunk-or-Treat October 31

Held each year at the Horicon Town Hall, it provides a fun, safe environment for area youths and a chance for Historical Society members to "get their Halloween on"!



## Remembering Andrew F. Jones (1883-1958) A Key Figure in the Town of Horicon

Andrew F. Jones, a local businessman, was a major source of employment in the Town of Horicon from the early 1900's through the mid 1950's.

From a small home at the foot of Brant Lake, he built Stonehurst on Elbow Corner. He and his wife Bertha "Belle" Bruce Jones rented rooms and served three meals daily to vacationers; especially those interested in fishing Brant Lake. Their youngest son, Lloyd "Bud" served as a guide when he was only 8 years old.

Many of the couples who stayed at Stonehurst fell in love with the area and had summer homes built by Andrew and his crews. Two employees that came down from West Chazy, New York met the loves of their lives while working for Jones. They married a "local" and settled in the Town of Horicon. You may recognize these names:

Leon & Lena Mae (Hayes) Randlett (*married 1938*) and William & Evelyn (Naar) Bennett (*married 1934*). Andrew sold Stonehurst in the mid 40's to George Culver. The property has been through a few owners since. An entire article could be written on the tales at Stonehurst (now called Stoneleigh).



Andrew F Jones



Early Elbow Corner

Mr. Jones owned a major contracting and masonry business. He and his men built numerous camps, homes, and buildings around Brant Lake ie; The Wesleyan Church on Route 8, the original Horicon Firehouse dedicated in 1953, and the old stone horse barn at the north end of the lake. He did stonework on The Heintzelman Library and the original fountain in the Mill Pond. He also built the first bridge at the foot of Brant Lake.



Stoneleigh today



Bert, Rube, Herb, Tim, Lou, Jim



Part of the work crew



Old Stone Horse Barn



Horicon Firehouse



Heintzelman Library



After sawmill accident

His sawmill and shop was located near the old Elbow School on Route 8. That was where a substantial amount of the material used for building was produced. In 1938, Andy actually cut off his thumb and index finger while prepping a job's lumber in that sawmill.



Old Elbow School circa early 1900's

Andrew logged the timberlands, had his own sand and gravel banks and bought farm property stone walls for his masonry business. He turned the Elbow School into rental apartments. One of his first tenants was Bill and Evie Bennett.

Andy enjoyed the farming business with dairy deliveries plus his maple sugar bush and selling various maple products. In the 50's, his gardens were flourishing and the grandchildren loved to sneak into the strawberry fields for afternoon snacks. That was supposed to be off limits but my guess is that he knew.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones raised their own three children; daughter Beatrice, sons Leon (Tim) and Lloyd (Bud). They also added two young boys to the mix; Bill Bennett and nephew Bill Bruce Sr. They had nine granddaughters and one grandson. That was a challenge in itself. On their birthdays, he would take each one with him to Cronin's Store (Brunette's & last known as Daby's). Gramp would buy them new shoes and 25 cents worth of penny candy. Those were special Grandfather times.



Andrew and Bertha "Belle" Bruce Jones

There are other stories to share about Jones and his relationships with townspeople past and present. We have heard many and would like to put them all in writing someday. Andrew F. Jones was a key figure in the Town of Horicon and supported the community throughout his life.



### Brant Lake Nativity



Built in the late 1960's by Coolidge Brailey's shop class in Horicon Central School and displayed in front of the Firehouse

L-R Mrs. Gunn, B. Mitchell, B. Johnson, D. Hill, P. Chyr, D. Lewys, Mr. Brailey, B. Monroe, J. Smith, R. Bentley & B. Farmer





# YMCA Adirondack Center

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

History seeps into the Town of Horicon and surrounding area as we experience the happenings at the YMCA's Adirondack Center, located on the corner of Route 8 and Tannery Road.

The building has been closed for four months due to an electrical fire which caused more extensive damage than originally expected. The goal is that the facility will be open again on January 6, 2019.

We are proud to work with this organization as we continue to make history and are thankful for their financial partnership.

## The YMCA Adirondack Center Signature Programs



No More Learning Gap is a summer reading program that runs six weeks for students entering 1st-3rd grade which is sponsored by the Adirondack Foundation. The goal is to build better readers and prevent the loss of skills that can take place each summer. The hope is to also develop positive self-esteem in a safe, supervised, and interactive learning environment.

In the summer of 2018 there were 21 students enrolled in this program, 86% of them improved their reading and 100% of them knew more site words by the end of summer!

The Y Achievers program is offered to students in grades 6th-10th after school and provides a safe environment for tweens and teens to be with friends while participating in a variety of activities. Activities offered are recreation, STEAM, homework time including tutoring and more. This program currently includes North Warren, Minerva and Warrensburg schools.

We believe no one should be denied program participation solely because of the inability to pay fees. Financial assistance applications are available at the center and is granted based on available resources.



**There are many more programs that the Y has to offer!**  
**Additional program information can be found on our webpage**  
**[www.glensfallsymca.org/adcprograms](http://www.glensfallsymca.org/adcprograms)**

**Our Mission: Strengthen community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.**

**Interested in donating to unlock the endless opportunities the YMCA Adirondack Center can provide to the community? Please visit: [www.glensfallsymca.org/adcdonate](http://www.glensfallsymca.org/adcdonate)**

### YMCA Adirondack Center

148 Tannery Road, Brant Lake, NY 12815 518.494.4422 [www.glensfallsymca.org/adccenter](http://www.glensfallsymca.org/adccenter)  
**The Y is a cause-driven, nonprofit organization.**