

THE DAVID EVANS GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Town of Evans Historical Society

Published Quarterly.....January, 2014

The purpose of the society shall be to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of the Town of Evans. The society's major function will be to discover and collect any material which may help establish or illustrate the history of the area. The society will provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility...

Program Notes

Programs which are scheduled for the following months:

Monday, January 27, Annual dinner and installation of officers, at the First Church of Evans Community House, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, February 27, Evans resident Ted Malinowski, author of American Corn, True Stories, and books will be available for purchase.

All programs are held at the School House Museum beginning at 7:00 pm

Officers Elected for 2014

At the December meeting society members elected the officers for 2014. All of the current officers were re-elected with the exception of Dick Fox. After serving as a Director for the past three years, Mr. Fox decided not to seek re-election. His contributions were quite notable including his assistance with the annual dinner and installation of officers. Replacing Mr. Fox will be Mrs. Kathy Allen. Mrs. Allen has a long history with the society, including holding previous offices with the group. She more recently helped organized the files at the museum and is the daughter of Jack Ehmke who was very instrumental in organizing the Evans Historical Society.

Welcome New Members

Wilbert Voelz
Bud Bartle

Mary E. Jennings
Bruce Clark

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner will be held at the First Church of Evans Community House on Monday, January 27. Hors d'oeuvres will be available at 5:30 and dinner at 6:30. This year a "sit down" dinner will be catered by Cala's Restaurant. Music will be provided by Danny on the Keys. Following the installation of officers a 'spirited' Evans Trivia competition will be held. Cost for the evening is \$19 per person. Please call Mary Jayne Ginnitti (549-0764) or Carole Pisarski (549-0981) for reservations by January 21.

Recent Acquisitions at the Museum

J.L.Hawks diary, dated 1877, of Evans. Donated by Dan Guest from Cheryl Delano's collection.

Editor's Note: According to a 1866 map of Evans Center a J.L. Hawks resided on Erie Rd. directly across from the Historical Society Museum. Many references are made to the Baptist Church in Evans Center as well as travels to Angola. He also mentioned many familiar names such as Horace Bundy, Hi Backus, and Mr. Southwick. Included in the diary is a daily weather report.

Dear David

Q: Recently, a friend mentioned that Evans was once known as "Wright's Mills". We had not heard of this designation before. Is this true or is it a legend? (J.E. Evans)

A: In the earliest days of our town's existence the area around Evans Center was known as "Wright's Mills". The area was named after William Wright who built the saw mill and grist mill along Big Sister Creek. Mr. Wright's home became the first Town Hall and hosted many 'town' meetings as well as serving as the town's voting place. After the railroad arrived in Evans, much of the town's business was relocated to Angola. William Wright's home was moved to the village and became known as the Angola Hotel.

Questions for "Dear David" may be submitted to: Editor, Evans Historical Society, c/o Evans Town Hall, 8787 Erie Rd., Angola, NY 14006

News from the Past

Editor's Note: In the last newsletter we asked if anyone knew where 'Henry Road' was located before it was closed by the construction of the Thruway? Several answers were received and today we refer to it as Inwood Avenue.

Evans Town Board accepted the former School District #6 land on 18 Mile Creek Road. The property is to be used for recreational purposes and would be acquired for nominal or no consideration.

(Source: Evans Journal, 11/23/1961)

There will be a meeting at the Village Hall on January 5 to consider the propriety of organizing a stock company for the purpose of starting a basket factory in the village. Let everybody turn out for the meeting.

(Source: Angola Record, 1/3/1889)

Steel framework moved into place this week for the new A&P store on the site of the former New York Central RR Depot.

(Source: Evans Journal, 2/23/1961)

The Office of Bundy Bros., at the mill, was ransacked by burglars on Monday night. Money is what they were after, but Messrs. Bundy never kept money there.

(Source: Angola Record, 9/20/1888)

Trivia

During the 1500's in old England, when a family member died, the body was laid out on the kitchen table. Then for a couple of days the family would gather around to eat, drink, and wait to see if the deceased would wake up. Hence, the custom of holding a wake.

Evans Personalities

Harriet W. Adams

The Town of Evans has always had many talented artists. Today many of our local artists belong to the Evans Art Guild and display their talents at the annual art show and also with the yearly calendar. One of the earliest artist was Harriet W. Adams from North Evans. Her most notable accomplishment was painting a portrait of Grover Cleveland for which she was paid \$100. In 1932 Harriett died at the age of 83.

