

Town of Middletown, Delaware County

NO. 6 February 2008

## Something's "Fishy" at Fairview March 15

"*Fins and Flies: A History of Fishing in the Catskills*" will launch the HSM program season on Saturday, March 15, just two weeks before the first cast of fishing season.

The program begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Room of Fairview Public Library, Walnut St., Margaretville.

HSM members get in free; admission for all others is \$2.

The illustrated talk by Ed Van Put, author of *Trout Fishing in the Catskills* (Skyhorse Publishing, 2007) and *The Beaverkill*, and Judy Van Put, fishing guide and columnist, will explain why our region is known as the cradle of American fly fishing. Be sure to bring your own favorite fish tales! Books will be available for purchase and signing.

A fly tying and/or casting demonstration and workshop by Lenny Millen of Margaretville will follow the presentation. Lenny has been a licensed NYS fishing guide for 19 years and a staff instructor with the Wulff School of Flyfishing for seven years.

Ed Van Put's latest book begins with a history of native brook trout and their demise from over-fishing; the growth of streamside industries; and the introduction of competitive species. He records the attempts to restore the depleted fishery by restocking streams with hatchery-bred trout, and then the introduction of rainbow trout from California and brown trout from Europe. This is a history of people and methods as well as rivers, and there are profiles of Theodore Gordon, Art Flick, Harry and Elsie Darbee, Sparse Grey Hackle, and others.

Ed has been an avid fly fisherman for more than 50 years, and has worked as a fisheries professional with the state of New York since 1969. His articles have appeared in magazines like "The Conservationist," "Trout," "Fly Fisherman,"



"Fly Rod and Reel," and elsewhere. He and his wife Judy, a fellow fly-fishing enthusiast, writer and educator, live in Livingston Manor, near the storied Beaverkill and Willowemoc Creeks in Sullivan County.

This idyllic setting — a waterfall on Millbrook stream at the Tuscarora Club — is every fisherman's dream. Photo courtesy Ed & Judy VanPut.

### Thanks, Ed and Kaye!

Our community is richer for having known Kaye and Ed Scheider, generous benefactors of Kids in the Kaatskills, the Belleayre Conservatory, Margaretville Hospital and our own Historical Society of Middletown, among others. The Kathleen and Edward Scheider Foundation continues assisting the area they loved now that they have passed on.

HSM, in collaboration with Fairview Public Library, recently received a grant from the foundation to purchase a laptop computer, projector, screen and a secure storage cabinet-podium. Once the equipment is set up in early April by Salvin Sound of Kingston, it can be used for slide shows, movies, workshops and other programs hosted by HSM, Fairview and other community groups.

HSM and Fairview hope this will be the first of many collaborations to serve Middletown residents and visitors. For more information about the Community Room and its new equipment, call Ellie Verni, Library Director, at 845-586-3790.

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Town of Middletown  
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DESIGNER: Trish Adams

# NEW KINGSTON MAKES HISTORY!

WE always knew New Kingston was special. Now, so will everyone else.

The hamlet of New Kingston has been listed on the State Register of Historic Places, recognizing its uniquely preserved architectural heritage. It is expected to be placed on the National Register in March.

The designation was largely based on "The New Kingston Valley Comprehensive Historical Resources Survey," which documented in maps, photos and narrative the histories of 75 buildings that are 50 years old or older. The 2005 study was conducted by historical consultant Jessie Ravage. The study and the application for Register listing were supported by the O'Connor Foundation and local contributors.

You can see for yourself why New Kingston was selected for the Register when local guides lead a Walking Tour of the hamlet Saturday, July 5. Watch the *Catskill Mountain News* for details.

"I'm gratified that our beautiful community, which has so much visible history, has been recognized in this way," said former New Kingston Postmaster Fran Faulkner, who actively supported the effort to catalogue and designate valley properties. "I hope this will help future generations to love and appreciate this great place," added Fran, a long time hamlet resident and HSM board member.

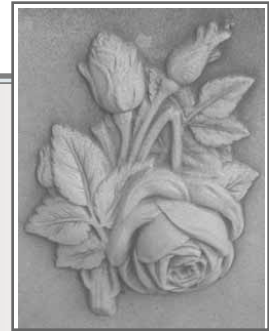
There are no restrictions placed on private owners of registered properties. Private property owners may sell, alter or dispose of their property as they wish. But the hamlet's listing allows property owners a 20% federal income tax credit for the costs of substantial rehabilitation, and municipal and not-for-profit owners of listed historic properties may apply for matching state historic preservation grants.

In addition, being on the Registers provides a measure of protection from the effects of federal and/or state agency-sponsored, licensed or assisted projects through a notice, review, and consultation process.

## Do You Know These Pleasant Valley Schoolmates?



On the back of this photo was written "A Happy Birthday to Harold (Faulkner), from sister Mary, November 19, 1916. My first year at school. Pleasant Valley #13". Pictured in front of the school, also known as Johnny Cake Lane School in New Kingston, are (from right) teacher Mary Morse, Gladys Ruff, Mary Faulkner, Mabel Butler, Roy Sanford, Ina Sanford, Lula Butler, ?, Harry DeSilva, ?, Chauncey DeSilva. From the collection of Middletown Town Historian Shirley Davis, who assembled an exhibit of school photos, books, and memorabilia on view through the end of March at the Middletown Town Hall.



### Cemetery Friends meet Apr 2

#### The Friends of Middletown Cemeteries

will meet Wednesday, April 2 at 6 p.m. at the Fairview Public Library Community Room to discuss 2008 projects. Anyone interested is welcome. Call Chairperson Tina Greene at 586-2029 (tgreene @nysutmail.org) if you want to join but can't attend this meeting.

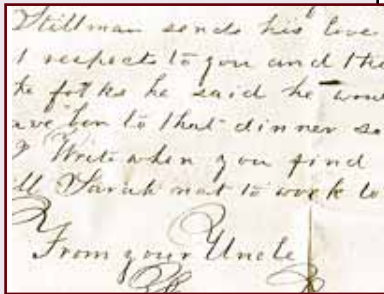
The group has inventoried markers in New Kingston, Arkville, Kelly Corners and Margaretville graveyards, and has assisted caretaker Joan Merwin in inventorying Clovesville. Repair projects, installation of information boards at certain cemeteries, development of a cemetery driving tour brochure, and further inventory projects are some of the projects being considered.

# WE NEED YOU!

The Historical Society needs your help with the following projects:

**Guided Walking Tours of Margaretville.** Tour guides are needed, training is provided. We've already done the research! The first tour is June 21, and others may be scheduled depending on demand.

**Transcriptions:** Our collection includes several diaries, store journals, letters etc. If you have some time to sit down at a table in the Town Clerk's office to transcribe one of them, you will be doing a great service to history and to the genealogists and researchers who depend on such first-person accounts!



*Tillman sends his love  
I respects to you and the  
he felt he said he would  
ave her to that dinner so  
? Write when you find  
ll Thank you to work to  
From your Uncle  
JH*

**Collections Committee:** We expect to establish a committee in 2008 to be trained to organize, catalogue and preserve our nascent collection of photos, paper materials and small objects. Please join us as we work to preserve our heritage!

**Historic marker project:** We'd like to begin erecting roadside markers denoting historic sites in Middletown, but we need a coordinator to come up with a plan for siting, writing the text, ordering the markers and finding the money to pay for them. Anyone interested in taking this on?



## That Dog Could Hunt

Bragg Hollow buddies George Rowe, Ed Allen, George Townsend and Ray Roberts show the results of a night of coon hunting with their trusty hound in this undated photo, provided by Bernice Townsend Spielman.

### HSM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Diane Galusha ♦ PRESIDENT

Carolyn Konheim ♦ VICE PRESIDENT

Marilyn Pitetti ♦ TREASURER

Andrew VanBenschoten ♦ SECRETARY

TRUSTEES

Philip O'Beirne ♦ Fran Faulkner ♦ Lori Rosa

## A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO TILL

Artist Ellen Wong will celebrate the determination, optimism and enduring love of the land exhibited by area farm families in a 2008 project combining history and art.

HSM sponsored Ellen's successful grant application to the Roxbury Arts Group for her project, "The Face of Farming." The proposal was approved for funding through the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program administered in Delaware County by RAG.

Ellen intends to interview members of five dairy farm families as she paints their portraits for exhibition this fall at the Margaretville Cauliflower Festival. The interviews will be recorded on professional audio equipment provided by StoryCorps, the national oral history initiative. Video footage of farm operations will also be part of the multi-media exhibit to be unveiled at the festival on September 27.

The HSM Board of Directors sponsored the grant application because the project dovetails nicely with our ongoing effort to document Middletown farm history. In 2007, we mapped

the locations of 188 family farms in Middletown circa 1950. Only three remain in operation, and they will be among the subjects of Ellen Wong's project.

HSM and the artist will accept the grant award March 16 at a 2 p.m. reception honoring 2008 Community Arts Funding recipients at the Roxbury Arts Group. The public is warmly invited. *Below: The Gray and Elliott farms, two of only three operating dairy farms in the Town of Middletown, nestle in Winter Hollow, New Kingston.*



# HSM News Roundup

**AND THE WINNER IS . . .** Barbara Ege of Freeport, NY was the winner of the collectible poster raffled by HSM. The grand daughter of the late Mary Marsico of Margaretville bought the lucky ticket at the Margaretville Street Fair last August. The poster, signed by artist Milton Glaser, advertised a 2000 World Trade Center event featuring Catskill food products prepared by noted chefs from New York City and the Hudson Valley. It was donated to HSM by the Catskill Center for Conservation & Development and professionally framed courtesy of HSM board member Fran Faulkner. The raffle netted more than \$600 for HSM. Thanks to all our ticket buyers! This year we'll raffle an original watercolor by Halcottsville artist Alix Travis.

**ACID (FACTORY) MEMORIES, ANYONE? . . .** We're looking for photos and information on the wood acid factory that existed in Arkville from 1900 to 1921. The Treyz, and later Luzerne Chemical Companies, ran a factory on what is now Pavilion Road that produced ascetic acid for explosives and dyes, along with wood acid and charcoal. This plant, like many that once operated along Catskill rivers and streams, contributed to deforestation of the surrounding mountain-sides. Learn more about this industry at a program co-sponsored by HSM and the Andes Society for History and Culture on July 19. Meanwhile, contact Diane Galusha, 845-586-4973; cybercat@catskill.net if you have info to share.

In 2008, as Hillary Rodham Clinton battles to become the country's first female President, it's interesting to look at a time when women couldn't vote, let alone be candidates.

The opening line of M. (Mary) Leone Archibald's essay in the May, 1909 *Orange and Blue*, a Margaretville High School newsletter, left no doubt about where she stood on this issue: "Women suffrage should not be granted in this country."

In Leone's essay, written as a class exercise, the 16-year-old sophomore argued that a woman should be informed enough on the matters of the day to be able to discuss them with her family, but shouldn't be allowed to vote because "Active political work is outside of a mother's or wife's line of work, therefore domestic duties must be neglected. Second, modesty becomes a woman, therefore she should not be brought into rough contact with the world."

By asserting her rights, a woman would likely experience a decline "in the protections and courtesies due her," Leone wrote. And further, "she is represented at present in the financial world and therefore is not taxed without representation."

Leone was the daughter of Sinclair and Rosa Archibald, who in 1910 had a farm on Academy Street



'Tis the season for sapping and the time-honored tradition of maple syrup making. In the days before plastic pipe replaced buckets, this fine team and its unidentified driver brought in sap by the barrel.

**LOCAL NEWS GOES GLOBAL . . .** Century-old Catskills denizens will soon be travellers in cyberspace, thanks to the Catskill Mountain News. The News expects to launch its website in March. In addition to current articles and ads, you'll also be able to stroll through the "News" from 1902-37. Free access to these local history troves is available because HSM had the original newspapers microfilmed and digitized. The News offered to be the host of its own early issues as part of its new web site. Fairview Public Library visitors will also be able to search the News from a dedicated computer, a gift of HSM. Stay tuned for details!

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## THE 41¢ POST

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"THE 41¢ POST" is a feature exclusively for members who receive *The Bridge* via e-mail. Because your newsletter requires no postage or label, you get an extra feature!

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in the Village of Margaretville. She was considered studious, kind, solitary and destined for "single blessedness," according to a directory in the 1909 *Orange and Blue*.

Indeed it appears that Leone did not marry. Census records show she was a teacher at the Pennsylvania Institute for the

Deaf and Dumb in Philadelphia in 1920, the year the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, granting women the right to vote, was ratified.

In 1930 she was living with her parents in the Village of Franklin and working in a coffee shop there. She died in 1974 and is buried in Margaretville Cemetery.

We wonder whether she ever cast a ballot...

Agitprop such as "The Suffragette," published in 1913, obviously held little sway with the teen-aged Ms. Archibald.

### The Suffragette

