



Volume 32, Issue 3

# THE TIMES *of Old Austerlitz*

the quarterly newsletter of the Austerlitz Historical Society

**Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer  
Those days of soda and pretzels and beer  
Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer  
You'll wish that summer could always be here.**

By Nat King Cole

Those last days of Summer are here- Almost time to close one chapter and open another.

For many of us the lyrics in Nat King Coles song , **“Those Hazy, Lazy, Crazy, Days of Summer.”** capture the essence of summer. Though there may still be much to do, we tend to relax more, enjoying barbeques, swimming and vacations.



Historical but not Austerlitz.

Not so for the average family living in Austerlitz in the 19th century. The days might have been hazy and sometimes crazy, but never lazy. The work was hard and thoughts were always on the coming of the winter season.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michelle Lagonia

As I was searching for a quote that would capture both the beauty of the land and simplicity of life here in Austerlitz, a friend suggested one from Edna St. Vincent Millay. In her prayer to Persephone she writes, "My dear, my dear, it is not so dreadful here." While it didn't end up on the back of the Bicentennial t-shirts (I was strongly out voted) it's surely one that still rings true. Austerlitz is a beautiful place to call home and the events from our weekends this Summer have truly proven that. The Bicentennial Celebration was a wonderful opportunity to spend time as a community and appreciate what Austerlitz has to offer. The Academy's Garden Market brought yet another chance to visit with friends and showcase the town and our community spirit.

And about those Bicentennial t-shirts..... if you were unable to attend the event or didn't have a chance to pick one up, they will be available at our Autumn in Austerlitz event. Please be sure to mark your calendars for October 7th. You will also be able to purchase Tom Moreland's book *The Old Houses of Austerlitz*. And while you're there, please be sure to check out our new and improved Gift Shop. You will not be disappointed. As always, we welcome volunteers in any capacity. Please call Anne at (518.392.0662) I'm sure she can find just the right place for you.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 23rd @ 3:00pm at the Spencertown Academy-** Tom Moreland will be discussing his recently released book- *The Old Houses of Austerlitz*. Book signing and reception to follow.

**The 22nd Autumn In Austerlitz Festival-** Sunday, October 7th 11:00am-4:00pm- at the site of the Austerlitz Historical Society-rain or shine.

**Change in Membership Meetings-**At the July 14th Board of Trustee's Meeting it was decided to separate the Membership Meetings and presentations. Being locked into a specific date too often caused problems in scheduling events. Our goal is to become more active in both our presentations and workshops. A tentative list of future events include Treasure Hunting in Your Backyard, Native Americans in This Area, Pasta Making 101, Fly Tying , Vinegar Making and another fermentation workshop using assorted vegetables. An e-mail will be sent out as soon as the dates are set.



Austerlitz Historical Society

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Facebook: Austerlitz Historical Society

### OFFICERS & TRUSEES

Michelle Lagonia	<i>President</i>
Tony Cashen	<i>Vice President</i>
Margaret Hover	<i>Secretary</i>
Kristin Davis	<i>Treasurer</i>
Royson Carney	Tom Moreland
Denise Dunne	Lynne O'Connell
Rupert Fennell	Phil Palladino
Robert Herron	Donna Peterson
Nancy Kern	Michael Rebic
Jane Magee	Jere Wrightsman
Connie Mondel	
<i>Robert Herron</i>	<i>Special Advisor</i>
<i>Anne Cipkowski</i>	<i>Director&amp; Editor</i>

### AUSTERLITZ HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to preserve, protect and interpret the history of Austerlitz. Our efforts will be devoted to safeguarding our heritage, fostering civic pride, and promoting the Town's historic resources.



# HISTORIC MARKERS UNVEILED

Tom Moreland, Town Historian



During the bicentennial weekend, five new historic markers for the Town were unveiled. Selected by the Town bicentennial committee, the Society's Research Committee and the Town Historian. They are:

**Pratt house.** Now the Van Alstyne residence, bordering on the Punsit Creek at the north end of Spencertown, this Georgian style house was constructed in 1777 for Col. David Pratt. Pratt was a Revolutionary War veteran and an important civic leader, including as a moving force behind state legislation in 1793 that cleared local land titles in this former "land of contention."

**Old Corner Store.** Today the offices of Johnnie Walker Insurance, this building at the corner of Route 203 and Elm Street was a general store from around 1800 until 1951, and then the site of Ed Mesick's community auctions to 1975.

**Early Tavern.** On Route 22 in Austerlitz, now the Walter residence, this c. 1800 building was the hamlet's hotel/tavern from the early 1800s to the 1950s, most notably as the Harvey Hotel (1870-c. 1915) and the Columbia Inn (1921-51).

**Peter Wheeler site.** This marker on Dugway Road honors Peter Wheeler, an escaped slave who settled in Spencertown in 1825 and whose important 1839 autobiography, "Chains and Freedom," was recently reissued.

**Mary Clark House.** On Route 9, now the Littrell/Tehrani residence, this was the home of Dr. Mary Clark (1845-1937), pioneering female physician and strong supporter of the Methodist Church. The site was owned in the 1700s by Nehemiah Spencer, one of the 1756 Spencers Town proprietors.

The assistance of Richard Madonia in facilitating these markers is acknowledged with thanks.

These markers are funded by the William Pomeroy Foundation, which in essence has replaced the State of New York as the funding source for local historic markers. Anyone with a suggestion for future historic markers is invited to contact Town Historian Tom Moreland: [Tmoreland@Kramerlevin.com](mailto:Tmoreland@Kramerlevin.com); 518-392-7207.



## WHAT A SEASON THIS HAS BEEN !

**The Bicentennial Celebration** was a fun filled weekend event- from the starting parade to the antique car show, a good time was had by all. The Historical Society opened their doors with spinning and blacksmith demonstrations.



## A GIFT SHOP OPENS THE SHOP AT OLD AUSTERLITZ



Early this Spring Jeff Harris , neighbor and member of the historical society proposed the creation of a permanent gift shop to be located in the Harvey House. Jeff a designer, offered to undertake the entire project. All revenue would go back to the historical society. From inception to it's finished state, Jeff has filled the shop with a creative mix of the new and the old, including the work of local artist and crafters. A store to delight the young and not so young.

THANK YOU -JEFF HARRIS.

**Gift Shop Hours: Thursday-Saturday 11-5pm**

OH WHAT A SEASON THIS HAS BEEN !  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

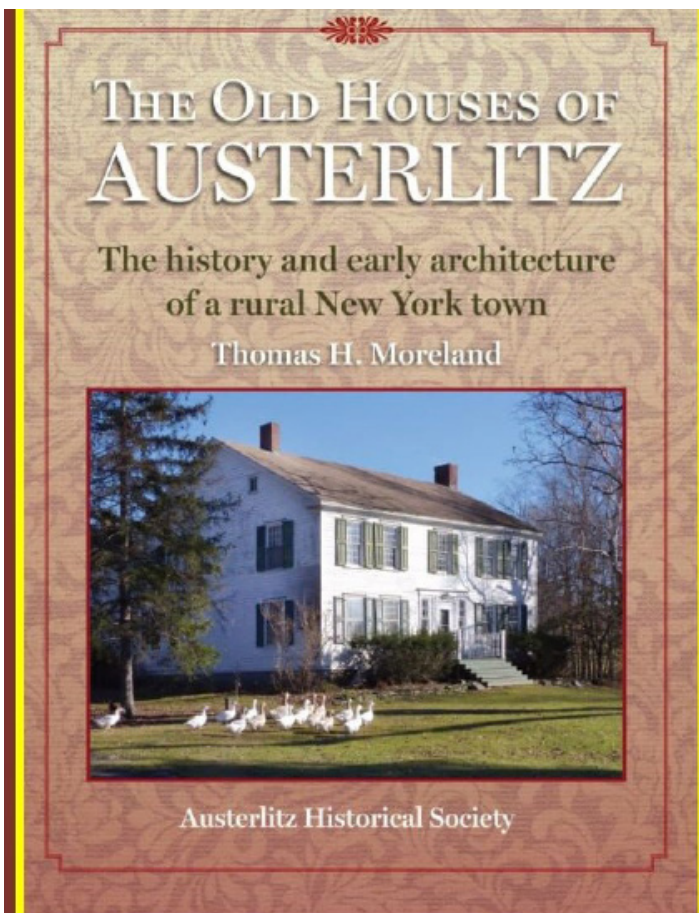
## THE 19th ANNUAL BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

Over 2,000 came out to enjoy the festivities on what turned out to be one of the nicest days of the summer.



### On August 5th the Austerlitz Historical Society held a workshop: **INTRODUCTION TO FERMENTATION.**

Taught by Mark Phillips of Berkshire Ferments and Hosta Hill, the attendees learned how to safely ferment vegetables at home using sauerkraut as an example. We chopped our cabbage on the porch, in the old kitchen and in the new kitchen, chatted with those next to us and took home a quart mason jar of salty cabbage waiting for the process to commence. We can begin taste testing around the 1st of September.



Tom Morland's book was first sold at our Bicentennial Celebration. Books have been selling quickly and reviews have been wonderful.

*"...a sublime journey, through valleys, over hills, across time."*

*Ruth Piwonka, co-author of  
A Visible Heritage*

You may order your copy through our website [www.oldausterlitz.org](http://www.oldausterlitz.org) or by sending a check to the Austerlitz Historical Society- PO box 144, Austerlitz, NY 12017.

**Members \$25.00 & 6.50 S&H**

**Non-Members & \$35.00 & \$6.50 S&H**

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

<b>Contributing/Business</b>	George & Agnes Tebolt
Deborah Bowen/Inn at Green River	Eva Telesnick & Sal Ledda
Scott & Meredith Bowman	George H Vollmuth
Thalia Cassuto	Sandra Williams & Jack Arnold
Naomi Gauntlett	
Carl & Lauri Quinn	<b>Individual</b>
<b>Family/Household</b>	Frances Culley
William Cooke	Jerry DeBona
Kristin Davis & Family	Ruth Herron Horak
Gordon Forbes & Daniel Handley	Nancy Wilson
Sharon Koomler & Jerry Grant	<b>Supporting</b>
Robert & Carolyn Leather	Steve & Kathy Bluestone
Erlyn & Richard Madonia	Phyllis Howard
Gerard & Theresa Michney	Ellen & Kord Lagemann
Amy & Brian Muncaster	Rob & Michelle Lagonia
Bob Newman	Barbara Saltzman
Ernest Rubenstein & Tova Usdan	Tracy & Samuel Tassinari
Robert Schmitt & Alise Ten-Voorde	Lee & Diane Tilden
	Edward Wachsberger
	Jere Wrightsman
	<b>Sustaining</b>
	Paul Bernstein & Jane Magee
	Anthony & Gail Cashen



## JOIN AHS NOW!

New ☐ or Renewal ☐

### MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

Individual	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family/Household	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing/Business	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Donation	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please check the level you prefer, and mail this form, along with check or money order payable to:

Austerlitz Historical Society  
P.O. Box 144, Austerlitz, NY 12017

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Can we email your newsletters -Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

The Austerlitz Historical Society is a  
501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization.

The above list are the new members and those that renewed from  
3/31/18-7/2/18

To be kept informed of everything that's going on at the Society, PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS. **Notify Anne Cipkowski at admin@oldausterlitz.org or call her at (518) 392-0062. Activities come up between newsletter issues and we want to be sure you know about them. Watch your e-mail and visit our website [www.oldausterlitz.org](http://www.oldausterlitz.org) for more information about AHS events.**

*Low-fee and no-fee educational workshops and presentations are subsidized by the Phyllis O'Shea Palladino Fund for Educational Programs*

Donations made to the Society in honor of Phyllis Palladino will be directed to the Fund, enabling the Austerlitz Historical Society to provide creative, educational workshops and presentations for our community at little or no cost. The Society welcomes any financial gift, but most especially those that help further its goal of engaging children and families in the history and culture of Austerlitz. Checks may be mailed