



Volume 33, Issue 4

THE TIMES

of Old Austerlitz

the quarterly newsletter of the Austerlitz Historical Society



Photo Courtesy of Gale Stockman

November For Beginners **Rita Dove**

Snow would be the easy way out—that softening sky like a sigh of relief at finally being allowed to yield. No dice.

We stack twigs for burning in glistening patches but the rain won't give.

One of the wettest Austerlitz autumns I can remember.
Out side projects don't get done.
Garlic can't go in the ground.
Piles of leaves are too wet to jump in.

Anne Cipkowski

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For those of you receiving your newsletter via USPS you will notice this newsletter is in black and white. This is the result of printer issues which will be resolved before the next newsletter is published. We apologize.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michelle Lagonia

November brings a little quiet after the festival season and an opportunity to properly thank the many volunteers that graciously give their time. As an additional measure of gratitude we are planning a wreath making session to our annual Holiday Celebration. Please consider joining us on December 1st at the Morey Devereaux House for refreshments and perhaps venture into the Barn for some creative fun.

Our director, Anne, is busy organizing programs. Be sure to check the AHS website and Facebook for updates on upcoming presenters and programs. We would like to keep the AHS campus alive year round with visitors and activity. If you have a program you'd like to see us offer please let us know.

At AHS we are always seeking to provide our members and the community with the best experience we can offer. As we are a volunteer organization this requires a commitment from our Board, Membership and beyond. We are always seeking those that may be interested in contributing to our Society. If you have time, talent, or just interest, we'd love to have you join us.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Open House: On December 1st from 1-4 PM the Austerlitz Historical Society will open its doors and celebrate the season. The Morey Devereaux House will be decorated for the holidays with fires lit and refreshments served. As a **THANK YOU** to all volunteers, we will have a wreath decorating activity. Come decorate a wreath in the Morey Devereaux House. Reservations are needed for this activity. Wreaths will be provided. Please call or e-mail the historical society at 518-392-0062 or admin@oldausterlitz.org.

All are welcome to stop by for a visit and stroll through our unique gift shop which is offering a 10% discount to all members and volunteers who shop on December 1st.



Austerlitz Historical Society

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Austerlitz, NY 12017

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Twitter: @aushistorical
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 & 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.





SHEEP FARMING IN AUSTERLITZ

NANCY JANE KERN

The rocks, rills, and hills of the Town of Austerlitz were well suited for raising sheep, and some would say not much else. The soil of cleared fields was mostly clay with abundant stones and shards of shale. One of the constant chores of young farmers, me included, was to remove these crop blocking, annoying materials by piling them up in the corners of fields. This readily available material in early times was useful for building walls which established property boundaries and contained sheep and other farm animals. While roaming the Harvey Mountain area in the 1960's with my mother and sister, we discovered nicely laid up stone sheep pens, and were amazed at how well preserved these structures were. On our farm we had fences with a stone wall base and chestnut rails crossed over the top. My father, Donald Kern, said this was common practice on early farms and the split rails were made of chestnut wood that lasted for many years. I remember going to the Albany Felt Company where my father sold the last bundles of fleece from our sheep. I don't remember the sheep except the skull of a large curled horn ram that was left below our barn. My father said he never turned his back on him or you got butted flat on your face. He was proud to say the ram was a Merino breed which produced excellent wool. As I got older I heard stories about sheep from my grandfather Frank Wambach. There was a natural rock basin in a stream on School House Road that everyone called the sheep's hole. The woolly sheep could host a lot of creatures like lice and ticks, so sheep were run through water containing a solution called "sheep dip" that would kill the vermin. This was done in warm weather after the sheep were shorn and the stream level was lower, but I always wondered what happened to the dip, and the consequences to fish, wildlife, and humans downstream. Since the chemicals were contained in this hole, maybe it just seeped down into the gravel. Researching these sheep dips revealed the use of such things as arsenic, zinc, carbolic acid and potash, and later DDT. Frightened, timid sheep probably got these solutions on the farmers too. Neighbors around the area drove their sheep to this hole and worked together to do a communal dip. Cute little lambs aren't immune from these parasites either. After a new farm hand held a few lambs he went to bed but couldn't sleep. He woke my grandmother Kern and accused her of having bed bugs in the house. She straightened him out quickly. He had several biting ticks from those adorable little lambs, and my father always laughed when he told the story. He said a good part of raising sheep when he was a kid, was taking the flock to graze on a high hill on the farm where there was a small pond, a few trees and a breeze that helped keep him and his two sisters cool on the blazing hot days of summer.

GIVING THANKS

THANK YOU BRUCE AND GALE STOCKMAN

Since its inception the Austerlitz Historical Society has been blessed with the involvement of many hard working volunteers. We would like to highlight some of the people who continue to put in many hours assisting us in keeping our doors open and festivals occurring.

Bruce and Gale Stockman are active volunteers who volunteer their time 12 months a year. Below is a piece written by Gale.

Austerlitz has always been a family affair, carried down in our hearts, from generation to generation. Bruce's history with Austerlitz started the day he was born on Long Island. His grandparents, Charles & Hattie Stockman, starting in the late 1920's, owned the property on Harvey Mountain Road where we live today, as their vacation property. Bruce first came to visit Austerlitz when he was two weeks old with his parents, Walter & Eida Stockman, and he spent his summers in Austerlitz with his brothers, Gary & David, until he was 11. Charles Stockman donated the corner parcel of Route 22 and West Hill Road to the Austerlitz Fire Company. In 1960, after his grandparents passed away, the property on Harvey Mountain Rd was left to his Aunt and was sold twice before we were able to buy it back. During this time, Bruce continued to visit the Austerlitz area whenever possible. I met Bruce in 1991 and our first trip together was to Columbia County where he showed me his grandfather's property in Austerlitz. We continued going every year, camping at Woodland Hills with his daughters, Amy & Jenny. At Autumn in Austerlitz in 1996, we were lucky to hear from Bob Herron that Bruce's grandparent's property was going to be put up for sale and we were able to purchase it before it went on the market, closing on it in May of 1997. We came up weekends for 10 years, always going to the Austerlitz Historical Society's festivals & volunteering when we were able. We joined the Austerlitz Historical Society in 2001 and became Life Members in 2003. When the Morey Devereaux house was being constructed, we helped make new pegs for the beams on the antique equipment and Bruce helped with whatever construction he could. I painted the blacksmith shop after its addition to Old Austerlitz. Bruce retired in July 2007 and we moved to Austerlitz full time. Bruce joined the Buildings and Grounds Committee and I joined the Membership Committee and we continued to volunteer at the festivals. Every year since 1997, Amy & Jenny, along with my nephew, Robb Kovach, continued to visit us from Long Island or came by themselves with their friends and also fell in love with Austerlitz. Robb (currently from NJ) loved the area so much he was thrilled to be able to purchase a vacation home in nearby Hillsdale 3 years ago. They are all members of the Austerlitz Historical Society and come to the festivals when they are able. My sister, Kathleen, moved to Great Barrington in 2015 & promptly joined the Austerlitz Historical Society and has been volunteering at the festivals ever since along with joining the Membership Committee to do our bulk mailings. In 2014, Amy & her husband, Brian Muncaster, were married in the Old Church next to the Schoolhouse & had their reception on the grounds of Old Austerlitz. This past September, Robb & his husband, Steven Casillas, were married on the grounds of Old Austerlitz & had their wedding reception there as well. Now Amy & Jenny's children, Thomas & Olivia, the 5th generation, are visiting and loving Austerlitz just as much as the rest of us. Austerlitz will always be in our hearts and a part of our families. We are thankful we are able to volunteer for the Austerlitz Historical Society to help preserve its history and maintain its buildings and grounds for all of the future generations yet to come.

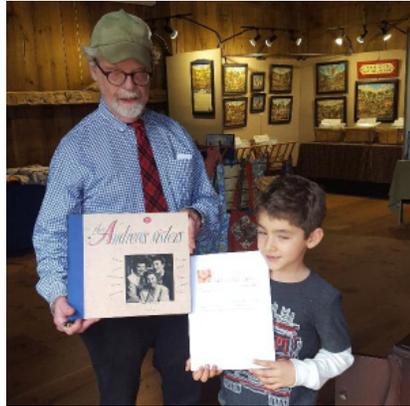
Gale Stockman

OH WHAT A SEASON THIS HAS BEEN!

AUTUMN IN AUSTERLITZ



It wouldn't be Autumn in Austerlitz without the Cashen family making cider.



This young man is holding the winning bid for the antique record player at the Silent Auction.



Keeping the soup hot !



Sally Laing is the winner of this year's quilt raffle.

Every year Margy Quinn, long time resident of Austerlitz and dedicated volunteer, designs and donates one of her quilts for our quilt raffle.

Thank You Margy Quin.



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

Hudson Valley Fiber Arts

HISTORY BENEATH OUR FEET

A PRESENTATION

ON OCTOBER 21st-

Max Cane, detectorist, gave a presentation on his search for lost artifacts in Austerlitz and other locations in Columbia County. Speaking to over 50 people, Max told of his use of both metal detectors and aerial photography which helped him in his discoveries. Brought for display were coins dating back to the 1700s, shoe buckles and numerous hand forged tools.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Contributing/Business

Austerlitz Fire Co.
 Scott & Meredith Bowman
 Leslie & Jeffrey Braley Sr.
 Joan Gampert
 David & Carolyn Gauntlett
 Margaret Hover
 Erika & Scott Pintoff
 Steve Bluestone
 Barbara Smith
 S.Stollman & M. Miller
 Barbara & Burt Tauber
 Patrick & Catherine Town
 Ian Woo
 Michele & David Yokell

Family/Household

Rose Barer & Jon Lach
 Philip Boulet-Gercourt
 Robert Brenner
 Anthony & Cheryl Breu
 Richard & Janet DesChamps
 A. Cipkowski & T. Hoyt
 Elizabeth Diggs
 Emily McCully
 Peter Epstein & P. Davis
 Henry & Carol Essert
 Jess Fardella
 Karl & Leslie Gabosh
 Sam & Kathryn Gallucci
 Gerhardt Family
 Stanley Getlin
 Steven & Lisa Goldglit
 Janet Heettner
 Elizabeth & Hugh Howard
 The Johnson Family
 D. Johnson & G. Keffer
 John Frank
 Kenny & Linda Kaplan
 Lanchantin Family
 Robert & Carolyn Leather
 Roger Leese
 Frederick Miller & A Tiley
 Joseph & Margaret Miller
 C. Monblatt & S.Pravda
 Thomas & Marlene Murdock
 Rosalie & Mac Nickles
 Stephen & Lola Oberon
 Peter C. O'Dea
 Sandra & Arnold Okonski
 Fred Pajerski
 M. Papas & R. Turley
 David & Emmy Patterson
 Jerry & Janice Peterson
 Janet & John Piwowski
 Martin & Keven Preston
 James & Louise Quinn
 Erik & Christine Rasmussen

Thomas & Carole Reamer
 V. Reece & M. Neufeld
 Gunnel & Howard Reznikoff
 D. Rich & B. Podolsky
 R. Salerno & M. Skaggs
 D. Sangalli & Tara Wallace
 Leonard Seligman
 Grace & Howard Silvernale
 Dr. Martin T & Ellen Stern
 D. Strandquest & M. Fisher
 Patti & Larry Unger
 Ronald & Rita Van Alstyne
 Nancy Van Deren
 Mary Jane Whiteman Collier Walsh
 Mary & Louis F. Wambach
 Joy Weiner
 Palmer Westover

Individual

Bridget Arnold
 Jane M. Barnard
 Beach & Bartolo, Realtors
 Phylis Bernard
 Betsy Braley
 Anthony Buono
 John B. Carroll
 William Case
 Constance Culley
 Vivian & Gary Cunningham
 Stella Fairall
 Barbara Gerard
 Susan Haag
 Vicki Harkness
 David Hassel
 Tim Hawley
 Dorothy Hover
 Jim Hoon
 Emma Jensen
 E. Marion Johanson
 Phillip Kesinger
 Alice Leason
 Richard Ludington
 Dorothy Marchetto
 Larry Massimo
 Vicky McDonald
 Marie(Beth) Meehan
 Heather Neale
 Bill Newcomb
 Moira O'Grady
 Patricia O'Shea
 Ann Pinto
 John & Sue Porritt
 Margy Quinn
 Kyle Reed
 Peter Rose
 Carole Roseman
 Donna Ross
 Diane & Don Shadic

JOIN AHS NOW!

New or Renewal

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

- Individual** \$15
- Family/Household** \$25
- Contributing/Business** \$50
- Supporting** \$100
- Sustaining** \$250
- Additional Donation** _____

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 _____

Member Update Continued

Suzanne Soltess	Rob & Michelle Lagonia
Gail Steen	Sally Laing
Ansi Vallens	Carol Marchegiani
Thomas J. Watton	John Mesevage
<u>Supporting</u>	Joanne & Tom Murphy
Charles & Deborah Aldelman	G. Vogler & D. Highfill
Janice & David Bartku	Dodie Wheeler
Richard Bourdon	John & Christine Wilder
Margaret Avenia	<u>Sustaining</u>
J Croghan & L. Hedgecock	S Bakunas & L. Lavin
Kristen & Kevin Cunningham	JoAnne & Richard Bilotti
Rupert & Charlotte Fen-nell	Ben & Suzanne Cutler
Estelle Hawkins	Richard & Shirar Mugler III
Lauree & Gregory Hickok	K. Mugler & M. Esson
Edward & Lisa Hoe	M. Rebic & J. Harris
Mary Krugman	Charles & Kristen Tauber
	Robert Tirschwell/Family
	Thomas & Olga Moreland