

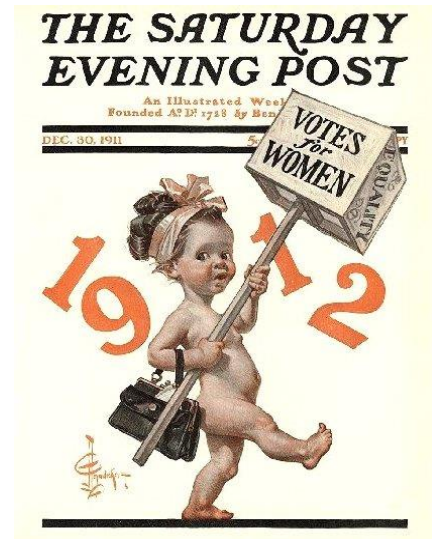
The  
*Courier*

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

of the

Lansingburgh Historical Society

January, 2016



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**From the Acting Presidents Desk**

**Members of Lansingburgh Historical Society –** 2015, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society, has been a wonderful year. We have reaped the benefits of having a great team of trustees, officers and members brainstorming for ideas and then putting in the effort into turning ideas into reality.

Numerous groups toured the Melville House and delighted in the fact, just as we do, that Herman actually lived there. LHS hosted some fabulous speakers including Michael Barrett. He spoke eloquently and with great humor at the 41 Restaurant about “Troy during the Civil War.” In the spring, Leslie Tash was able to secure a small grant which enabled us to refurbish the landscaping in the front of Melville House. What a lovely garden it is! Beautiful and bloomed well into fall.

In May we cleaned up the cemeteries at 107<sup>th</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and at our Gala in June we enjoyed the talents of Robert Mulligan portraying Troy native, Civil War soldier Rice Bull along with a great meal and auction at the Burgh Vets Club.

For the second September in a row we enjoyed a cruise on the Champlain Canal aboard the Caldwell Belle. September also saw the rededication on the Lansingburgh Village Burying Ground at 107<sup>th</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Veterans and very early settlers

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of Lansingburgh were honored. Forty-six, 130 lb. granite stones were put in the ground for veterans of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War. Members of the color guard of the Lansingburgh Veterans Club participated. The program was accomplished through the Herculean effort and dedication of David Marsh. Dave also contributes numerous articles to the Courier.

In the fall we cleared much of the dense and overgrown plantings in the back garden areas of the Melville house in hopes of refurbishing the area this spring. Our wine and cheese holiday party and auction in November was an enjoyable success and is being talked about again for next November.

It was Sue Busta’s brainstorming idea to have a holiday ornament designed for us featuring featuring a picture of the Melville house on it. We have been raising funds through its sales along with sales of calanders featuring Kay DeRosa’s wonderful photography.

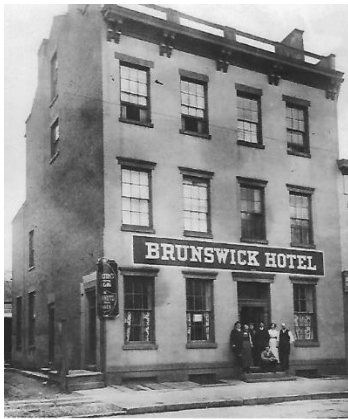
Where does the money go from these sales? Melville House was built in 1786 and requires constant attention. This year witnessed painting of the front hall, brightening of the entranceway, repairs to the gutters due to ice damage, gutters being cleaned, lawns being mowed, snow and leaves being cleared. Countless recurring expenses

also arise. No, unlike in similar organizations, officer, trustee or member receives a stipend for their efforts. All of us either grew up or now reside in the Burgh and we love it. We are trying to take admittedly small steps to improve the Burgh and with the help of many we will do it.

Please consider an end of year, tax deductible, donation. May the holidays bring health, happiness, peace and love to each of you.

*John Ward*

## Lansingburgh Boys & Girls Club



Original Boys Club building at 583 Second Avenue

*I have read that the Lansingburgh Boys and Girls club, is and was, since its inception, very important to many Burghers and to many who grew up in the Burgh. Because its history is so intertwined with that of my family, I wish to provide a little insight.*

*In 1934, a young teen was shot and killed by police officers during the commission of a robbery. It was later determined his crime was the result of the tough times in which he lived and though he was well liked by his peers, the act and the consequences were probably unavoidable.*

*Having 3 sons of her own, my grandmother, M. Elizabeth Dormandy, set out to find a safe place for boys to go after school and while on vacations. It would be a place with a myriad of activities where they could "hang out." There was nothing available meeting her criteria so she decided to go to her neighbors and collect what she could in an effort to purchase a building.*

*It took her three long years of knocking on doors and pleading for funds but eventually enough money was collected to rent the former Lansing Hotel on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue between 115<sup>th</sup> and 116<sup>th</sup> Streets. It was across the street and a little north of where Verdile's is today. For the next 27 years Burgh boys had a building to go to and be safe. This era is looked back at fondly by many of the community's more seasoned residents.*

*The building on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. was old and not sufficient to the changing needs of Lansingburgh youth. With a \$12,000 behest from the Lansingburgh Rotary Club and the raising of another \$215,000, a new club open to boys and girls was opened in 1964 at 113<sup>th</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. It had all the amenities, even a pool. My grandmother, her 3 sons and 2 daughters, along with a number of her grandchildren and great grandchildren were on hand for the ribbon cutting.*

*There have been very few directors of the club since its founding, with the recently deceased Joe Manupella, being the longest serving. Mike Manupella, Joe's son, was recently named the club's director. Most of the board are former members or the children and grandchildren of original board members. The ties to the Burgh make for a wonderful organization.*

*I am sure "Gramma" would be so proud of what she started, how it has grown and what the club has meant to so many boys and girls in Lansingburgh. I know I am!*

*Marilyn Trombley*



Opening of drive for \$4,000 to establish a boys' club in the Lansingburgh section of the city at a dinner meeting at Emmanuel Danish Lutheran Church last night. Left to right, are shown members of the committee in charge of the drive as follows: Front row—Herbert W. Lorenz, Mrs. Charles G. Dormandy, Mrs. Douglas C. May and Henry W. Kumpf; rear row, Douglas C. May, Charles H. Wood, Eugene R. Wiseman and Julia W. Williams.

Mrs. Dormandy and other early Club supporters

Record Photo

# 2015 – Year in Review

## Open Houses & Bake Sales



## Cemetery Clean-up



# Trustees



# House Tour



# The Gala



# Replant Garden



# Albany Rural Cemetery



# Clamsteam



# Caldwell Belle

# Cemetery Rededication



# Weeding

# Wine & Cheese Party



Our membership year begins on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Those joining in January, February or March extend their membership through the next membership year. Consider upgrading your Regular Membership to a Sustaining Membership or either of those to a Life Membership. Encourage friends to join. Regular Membership \$15/year, Sustaining Membership \$40/year, Life Membership \$150. Student/Senior Membership \$5/year. Corporate/Professional Membership \$200/year.

Donations are always welcome! . **Rates currently in effect since 1 July 2014.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ City & State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \_\_\_\_\_ Life \_\_\_\_\_ Student/Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Prof./Corporate \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

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