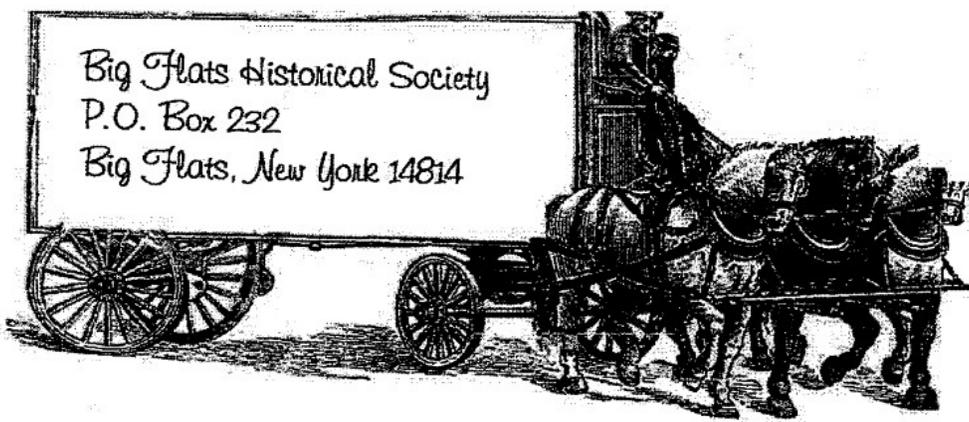


Big Flats Historical Society  
P.O. Box 232  
Big Flats, New York 14814

Newsletter  
September/October 2015  
Editor - Sylvia Radford



MUSEUM: 258 Hibbard Road 607-562-7460 Open Tuesdays 9AM to Noon



**NEXT DINNER MEETING - SEPTEMBER 24, 2015, 6:00 PM**

Big Flats Community Center, Maple Street, Big Flats

Bring a friend and join us. Please bring table service and a dish to pass. We provide the meat.

Summer is drawing to a close and it sure went by fast. Join us to began a new season of our Historical Society's potluck dinners. The society's cooks are the best.



**DINNER MEETING - OCTOBER 22, 2015, 6:00 PM**

Big Flats Community Center, Maple Street, Big Flats

"ARE YOU IN THE KNOW". Every October we invite our town officials to share dinner and lots of information about our town. We appreciate their time and effort to make us all more aware of what is happening? Everyone has an opportunity to ask questions they have been wondering about. This a yearly event you won't want to miss! Remember, we will also draw for this years beautiful Quilt at the end of the program. Invite a neighbor, bring a friend and join us.

Please bring table service and a dish to pass. We provide the meat.

**THE BIG FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL QUILT RAFFLE**

This year's quilt was commissioned to be made by Chuck Edmister and he presented it to the Historical Society as one of our money raising projects for this year. The name of the quilt is "Sentimental Journey". It is in a sampler pattern which means each square is of a different design. The main colors are cream, beige and maroon. The quilt was pieced and put together by Laurie Spencer and long-armed quilted by Laurie Derr. Many thanks to Chuck for your generosity.

Included with this newsletter are 15 raffle tickets, which we hope you will sell or buy to help raise money for the Historical Society. The tickets are \$1.00 each or 15 for \$10.00. Also enclosed, for your convenience, is a self-addressed envelope to "Gary Nelson, 39 Groff Road, Horseheads NY 14845 to remit your money. Make your check out to: Big Flats Historical Society. Your annual participation in this raffle has helped us for many years. The quilt drawing will be held at our October 22<sup>nd</sup> dinner meeting. Don't delay sending in your tickets for this wonderful quilt and please include your telephone number. Thanks again to all of you who are supporting the Historical Society with your purchase of tickets.

**THE 2016 CALENDAR IS NOW ON SALE.**

\$6.00 each, if you wish it to be sent to you, the cost is an additional \$2.50 for each calendar.

Many thanks to our faithful sponsors who help make the printing possible. Willow Creek Golf Course, Shear Knowledge, Kent R. Wolson, Attorney, B/C Plumbing, Heating, Electric, American Legion Post 1612, Ann Burt Hayes, Pamela Farr, Tom, Barb, Katie, Elizabeth Rhodes, Bright Ideas by Martinec, Chemung Canal Trust Co., Antique Revival, Minier Bros. Inc., Robert & Thirza Gibbs, Wren's Auto Center, Donna & Gary Nelson, Big Flats Lions Club.

**NEW BOOK IS BEING PRINTED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

"The Making of a Town, Big Flats, NY" researched and written by Sylvia Mattoon Radford. It will soon be for sale at our dinners, at Miniars and at the museum and will make a great Christmas gift. It has over 200 pages of the history of the town of Big Flats. It consists of many pictures and articles covering people, places, along the Chemung River, along the railroad tracks, maps, development of Harris Hill and the airport, the Chemung and Feeder Canal, fires and disasters and a section featuring early fashions which are described by Pamela M. Farr. At the end of the book are writings describing the people and places of Big Flats in the 1800s done by the 1800 historian John L. Sexton who was brought up in Big Flats.

The book took me several years to research and format and I'm grateful for the Historical Society Directors for making it possible to be printed. Thanks also go Ann Burt Hayes and Thirza Gibbs for being my proof readers. Thanks to Pamela Farr for describing the fashions.

Sylvia Radford



# SUMMER 2015 AT THE MUSEUM

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

At our June 2015 dinner meeting held at the Big Flats Community Center we honored this year's volunteer of the year for the Historical Society. This member has shared her time and talent over several years with us. Whenever she has been asked to help, she has been there. We know her in many different roles. She may be best know by all of you as the "Sausage Lady" from our pancake breakfast mornings. The Historical Society honored "Alice McKay" as the 2015 Volunteer of the Year. We say thank you for all she has done and will continue to do to make our society stronger. Sally Wright last year's (2014) volunteer of the year passed the "bird" as it is known around her house to the 2015 Volunteer of the Year - Alice McKay.



We wish to say thank you to all the people who attended our monthly pancake breakfast at the Big Flats Historical Society Pavilion. We appreciate your participation and support at every breakfast. This year the weather cooperated for each Saturday breakfast and made all the folks glad to be there, see and greet their friends. Many sat and talked for a good length of time which made us all happy to see you were enjoying yourselves. It is a great time to share comradely with old friends and a great way to make new friends. It makes us happy to make all of you happy. Thanks again for your support. I must say thank you to all the folks who helped get chairs and tables set up and take them down after, get garbage cans out and then emptied after, etc. for each breakfast. It made our day so much easier to make your day so much enjoyed.

*Linda Patrick*

## BIG FLATS SCHOOL REUNION REPORT

The 21st Annual Big Flats Schools was held at the Historical Society Museum on Saturday, August 15, 2015. About 60 people attended. Everyone said they were enjoying catching up with old friends and reminiscing about earlier days in Big Flats. Linda Patrick was ably assisted by Sally Wright and Jane Henkel Coulter, who dished out the chicken, potatoes, and other goodies. Joan Bottcher Roy, Margot York Magnusen, and Ann Farr Potter signed people in and took care of the door prizes and raffle tickets. Joan announced the prize winners. Pete Lederer was the MC again this year. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped set up and put away the tables and chairs.



Chuck Edmister, who started the Reunion with his brother in 1995 at the Big Flats Community Park, and his wife Linda Patrick have retired from their cooking and other duties at the Reunion. We owe them a special debt of gratitude for all their work and dedication over so many years.

*Pete Lederer*

## SUMMER QUILT EXHIBIT

The Big Flats Historical Society displayed a collection of 30 quilts and wall hangings in our museum for the summer months. These lovely quilts were loaned to us by friends and members of the society, to be enjoyed by our community as a special exhibit. The collection was visited by our museum visitors, as well as the pancake breakfast crowds, and the Big Flats School Reunion group in August.



My thanks goes to Robin Fitzgerald and Pam Farr who helped set up the quilt display in June. Special thanks go to our members who loaned the beautiful quilts to be enjoyed by our visitors. Thank you, Jane Coulter, Alice Mc Kay, Joan Roy, Robin Fitzgerald, Marjorie Ashley, Eldora Gould, Linda Grimes, Faye Gardner, Barb Rhodes, Sally Wright, Neal Gummo, and Pat Silvernail for loaning us family quilts.

In addition, Thirza Gibbs loaned us a "Quilt of Valor" quilt as an example of a quilt to be presented to servicemen who have defended our nation both now and in the past. Thank you, Thirza for loaning us the patriotic quilt. We appreciated the favorable comments from the community about the quilt display. Thanks for visiting the museum!

*Ann Bart Hayes*