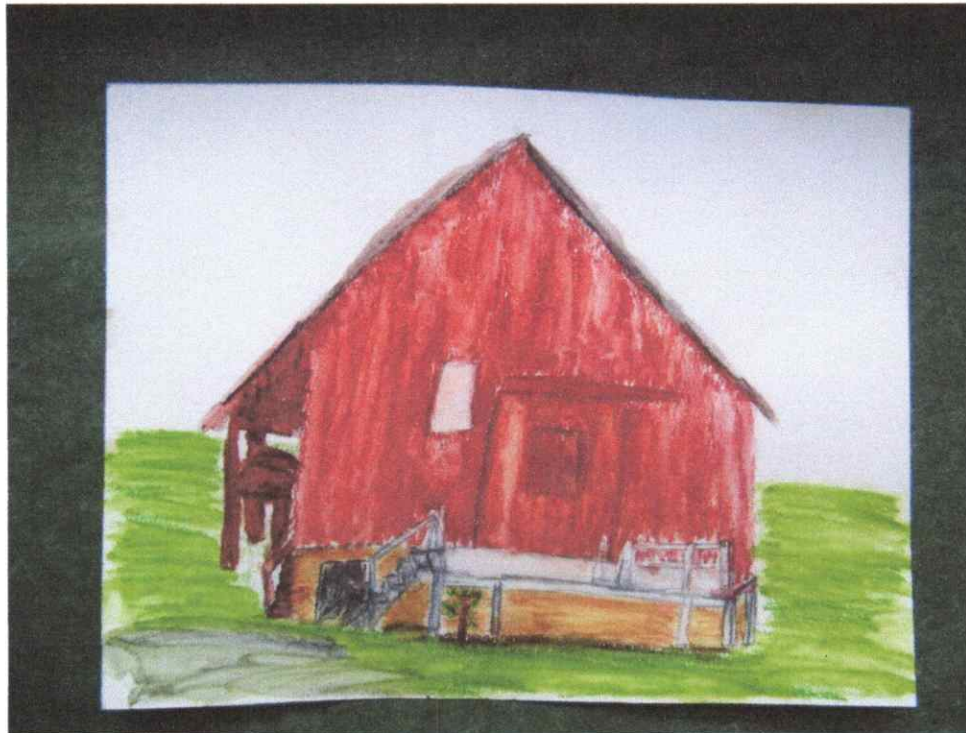


Afton Historical Society Autumn 2023 Newsletter



The lovely picture above is of our new Museum Annex done by AHS member, Rebecca Mulwane.

We are very excited to have purchased this property for the Museum. Part of what was the Brigg's Lumber Company, the building, when completely renovated, will fill a longstanding need we have had for storage space, exhibit space, parking space and program space.

As we reported in our Spring Newsletter, we would apply for a grant to fund the many needed repairs to this building. Unfortunately, because of the great number of applications for the limited funds, we did not receive the grant. We will apply again next spring. In the meantime, because of some generous donations, we were able to begin the renovations. We had all the trash and junk removed from inside and outside the building, we had the overhanging trees cut down, we had the building exterminated for insects, and we will be hiring a carpenter to remove and rebuild the front entry steps and platform so that access to the building will be made easy and safe. We then hope to raise enough money through grants and donations to fund the needed electrical work in the building,

to repair the back entry steps and platform, and have interior repairs made to the ceilings and walls. We will be going one step at a time to complete the needed repairs and renovations.

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We have had some interesting items donated to the Museum over the past several months:

1. A two-handle corn planter, and a hay fork and trolley that moves loose hay around the barn.
2. A 1931 photograph of the Afton Girls Basketball Team.
3. A seven-inch porcelain doll with movable arms, legs and head and eyes that open and close. We will be doing research to determine the date of this doll.
4. An 8 ½ inch plastic Mr. Peanut bank that was a marketing advertisement.
5. A pamphlet: Polish Bantams published by Bantam World, Franklinville, N,Y. 1937.

And in looking through some older boxes of stored items we rediscovered some treasures including:

1. A 1917 Draft List for Chenango County and an 11 ½ x 13 ½ inch photograph of the Broome County WWI enlistees.
2. A 3" x 4 ¼" newspaper printing block from 1908 of four of Charles Seely's White Crested Black Polish Bantams.



Porcelain Doll – Date unknown

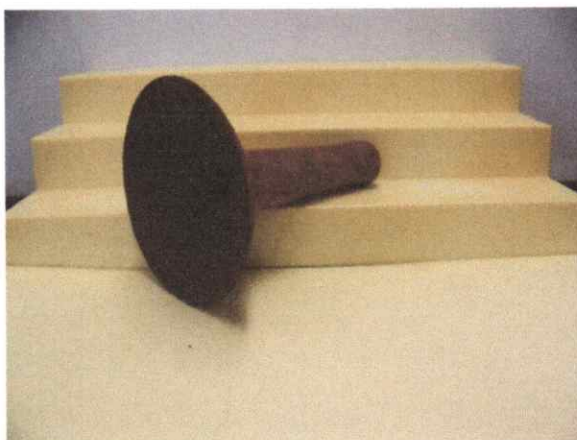


Circa 1950's. Planter's Mr. Peanut Bank

These items will be valuable additions to our farm equipment collection in the barn, to the AHS sports photograph Collection, to our large children's doll collection, to our collection of Charles Seely White Crested Black Polish Bantam items, and to the collections in the Military Heritage Room. We hope that you will visit soon and explore these and the other collections in the museum.

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Currently we have a display of "What is this" items. We exhibit old tools for visitors to guess what they are. Come in and see if you can identify some of them.



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We had two very interesting and well received programs this year. Storyteller and President of the Old Onaquaga Historical Society, Eileen Ruggieri held us spellbound with early New York Native American tales and anecdotes of Native American history in the Susquehanna River area. Then we had a program where Afton Alumnae Bryce Lockwood described his harrowing military experiences aboard the USS Liberty in the Six Day War in June 1967. We are always looking for ideas for programs, so let us know if you have any ideas for topics or suggestions for presenters.

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One very exciting thing that we were able to do this summer was to have two high school students work as interns in the museum. They were funded by a very generous donor who lives too far away to volunteer herself, but who wants to help support us in getting volunteers. At her suggestion we asked for recommendations from the High School Principal, Dr. Mukhlis, for interns. He recommended Alexandria Brett and Dominic Westbrook and they added enthusiasm, ideas, physical strength, and hours of work to help complete many

projects over the summer. We hope to be able to be able to continue this in the future.

We opened the museum on Saturday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:00 beginning on Memorial Day Weekend and closed for the season on Labor Day weekend. And, of course, we were and are open year-round by appointment (607 693-1408). We had many visitors throughout the year– several who are new residents of Afton and several were former residents who shared stories of their life in Afton with us. We love giving tours of the museum and enjoy learning about the history of the town from older residents.

Our 2024 AHS Calendar is out. It highlights many of the items that are displayed in the Museum. Copies of the calendar are available for \$6.00 at the Afton Free Library or by mail for \$7.00 (request by email to: “wendycaldiero @tds.net” or by letter to “Afton Historical Society, PO Box 142, Afton, NY 13730.”). We know that you will enjoy this photo tour of items on display at the museum.

Attached is the Membership Form for renewal/ new membership for 2024. We hope that you will return it before December 30th and that you will share a copy with friends and relatives and encourage them to join.

AHS Board,
Dennis Jeffers, Nick & Wendy Caldiero, Barbara Johnson, Daryl & Sheila Mulwane.