

LANSINGBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY - - - NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER, 1975

KATHLEEN TIVNAN, *President* - CATHARINE NIAL, WARREN F. BRODERICK and BILL BROWNE, *Publicity Committee*

"THE GOAL OF THE BICENTENNIAL FOR LANSINGBURGH IS PRESERVATION---OF WHAT REMAINS OF ITS HISTORIC HOMES, PARKS, LANDMARKS, ARTIFACTS, CEMETERIES AND OTHER HISTORICAL SITES, AND THE SHORE OF THE BEAUTIFUL HUDSON RIVER, WHERE ABRAHAM JACOB LANSING CHOSE TO ESTABLISH A VILLAGE IN 1771, BEFORE AMERICA BECAME A NATION."

**MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED:** THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY HAVE ESTABLISHED THE WARREN J. BRODERICK MEMORIAL FUND, IN MEMORY OF THEIR DECEASED PRESIDENT. THE MONEY IN THIS FUND WILL BE HELD UNTIL SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE WHEN AN APPROPRIATE USE IS DETERMINED BY THE TRUSTEES.

**BICENTENNIAL CHRISTMAS AUCTION:** ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH AT 8 P.M. AT THE SOCIETY'S HEADQUARTERS AT 2 114TH STREET IN LANSINGBURGH, THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE HELD. THIS WILL FEATURE THE TRADITIONAL AUCTION. SOME FINE ITEMS (ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, CHINA, GLASSWARE, LINENS, HOUSEWARES, ETC.) HAVE ALREADY BEEN DONATED, BUT MORE ARE NEEDED. ANYONE CAN BRING ITEMS TO THE AUCTION OR CONTACT KAY NIAL OR WARREN BRODERICK BEFOREHAND TO HAVE THEM PICKED UP. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE AUCTION, AND WE WELCOME ALL MEMBERS, GUESTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN THE AREA TO COME AND SPEND AN ENJOYABLE EVENING AND DO SOME UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

**BICENTENNIAL PROGRAMS:** THE BICENTENNIAL SLIDE PRESENTATION ON THE HISTORY OF LANSINGBURGH HAS ALREADY BEEN SHOWN AT A NUMBER OF MEETINGS IN THE AREA. THIS IS AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE FOR MEETINGS OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND OTHER INTERESTED GROUPS.

WORK IS PROGRESSING ON THE RESTORATION OF THE LANSINGBURGH VILLAGE CEMETERY AT 3RD AVENUE AND 107TH STREET. THIS CEMETERY DATES BACK TO 1771, AND OVER 24 REVOLUTIONARY VETERANS ARE BURIED HERE. WORK HAS BEEN DONE BY SOCIETY MEMBERS, ASSISTED BY JOHN FOX, AND MEN FROM THE TROY UNIT OF THE NAVAL RESERVE. A MEMORIAL STONE WAS OBTAINED BY CLAYTON HULSHIZER AND MAURICE CORBIN AND PLACED NEAR THE FLAGPOLE, AND A PLAQUE HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY BY THE D.A.R. A REDEDICATION CEREMONY IS PLANNED FOR JUNE 5, 1976.

THE SOCIETY IS WORKING WITH WILLIAM RICH AND OTHER PLEASANTDALE RESIDENTS IN THE RESTORATION OF THE LANSING'S FERRY SITE. THE FERRY WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE EARLY 1700'S JUST NORTH OF LANSINGBURGH, AND HENRY KNOX CROSSED HERE ON CHRISTMAS DAY, 1775 AND SOME OF HIS CANNON CROSSED ON JANUARY 3RD AND 4TH, 1776 ON THEIR WAY THROUGH LANSINGBURGH. A PARK IS ENVISIONED FOR THE SITE, AND COVERAGE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN THE MEDIA IS ANTICIPATED.

THE SOCIETY IS COLLECTING COPIES OF THE SHEET MUSIC OF GEORGE R. POULTON, COLORFUL LANSINGBURGH COMPOSER OF THE 1800'S, KNOWN FOR HIS BEAUTIFUL SONG AURA LEA. A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HIS MUSIC WILL BE COMPILED, AND COPIES DISTRIBUTED TO MAJOR LIBRARIES WITH LARGE SHEET MUSIC COLLECTIONS. IN THE SPRING OF 1976 A BICENTENNIAL MUSIC PROGRAM IS PLANNED, FEATURING GEORGE POULTON'S BEST SONGS, AS PERFORMED BY REV. JAMES BORDEN OF LATHAM, A NOTED MUSICIAN.

BICENTENNIAL SOUVENIRS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE SOCIETY. THESE INCLUDE COOKBOOKS, & HISTORICAL BOOKLETS REMAINING FROM 1971, AND THE LIMITED EDITION OF 100 BRUSHBACKS WITH BICENTENNIAL MEDALLIONS MOUNTED IN THEM. THESE ROSEWOOD AND MACASSAR EBONY BRUSHBACKS ARE 100 YEARS OLD, AND CAME FROM A LANSINGBURGH BRUSH FACTORY; THEY MAKE FINE PAPERWEIGHTS WITH HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, COSTING \$3.00 EACH. THE SOCIETY IS ALSO SELLING COPIES OF YE COHORN CARAVAN BY WILLIAM BOWNE, AN INTERESTING BOOK ON THE KNOX TRAIL, FOR \$4.00, AND COPIES OF A. J. WEISS' HISTORY OF THE 17 TOWNS OF RENSSELAER COUNTY, REPRINTED BY THE RENSSELAER COUNTY AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, FOR \$5.00.

**OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF LANSINGBURGH NEEDED:** THESE ARE URGENTLY NEEDED FOR A FORTHCOMING BOOK ON OLD LANSINGBURGH IN PICTURES. ANYONE KNOWING OF THE LOCATION OF ANY IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS SHOULD CONTACT WARREN BRODERICK. THE ORIGINALS WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR OWNERS WITH NO DAMAGE OR DELAY.

**LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY ESTABLISHED:** THE SOCIETY HAS ESTABLISHED A COLLECTION OF BOOKS ON LOCAL HISTORY, AFTER A NUMBER WERE RECEIVED FROM THE ESTATE OF RUTH C. BENNETT OF GRAFTON, NOTED AUTHOR AND SOCIETY MEMBER. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS COLLECTION ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

ATTIC MUSEUM ESTABLISHED: THE ATTIC OF THE SOCIETY'S HEADQUARTERS NOW HOUSES A MUSEUM OF TOOLS AND INDUSTRIAL ARTIFACTS OF LANSINGBURGH. WORK IS NEARING COMPLETION, AND THE UNIQUE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 1786 BUILDING IS VISIBLE TO VISITORS AS WELL AS THE COLLECTION.

ACQUISITIONS: DURING RECENT MONTHS THE SOCIETY HAS ACQUIRED SOME FINE ITEMS. MANY CAME FROM THE ESTATE OF RUTH C. BENNETT, THROUGH THE KINDNESS OF HER COUSIN, FRANCELIA PICKERING OF LATHAM. OTHER ITEMS WORTH PARTICULAR MENTION INCLUDE---SOME BURLEIGH LITHOGRAPHS, FROM MR. AND MRS. WM. B. BURLEIGH OF SPEIGLETON; 2 SILVER SPOONS MADE IN LANSINGBURGH BY DAVID SMITH IN THE 1790'S, FROM MR. AND MRS. FRANK DEPAUL OF JACKSON, N.Y.; AND A BOOK OWNED BY MARIA MELVILLE, FROM MRS. PAUL BARDEN OF RIPLEY, N.Y. OTHER DONORS INCLUDE HARRIET FINNEDAN, JAMES PINE, MAURICE CORBIN, MRS. AND MRS. JOSEPH NIAL, CATHAL KENNEDY, DONNA JONES, AGNES HOFFMAN, JAMES HOFFMAN, DON MILLER, FRANCES BRODERICK, BRAD AVERY, ANNE HOUGHMASTER, GEORGE REYNOLDS, MARGUERITE MANUPELLA AND LOIS NORTON.

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ACTIVE: THE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE OF THE LANSINGBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF PROJECTS. THEY ARE WORKING WITH THE LANSINGBURGH CITIZENS COUNCIL AND THE TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE LANSINGBURGH ACADEMY AT 114TH STREET AND 4TH AVENUE. THE PRESENT BUILDING, BUILT IN 1820, HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER, AND HAS BEEN IN USE CONTINUOUSLY FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES LONGER THAN ANY OTHER BUILDING IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK. IT WILL BE USED FOR EXPANDED LIBRARY FACILITIES AND AN EDUCATIONALLY ORIENTED COMMUNITY CENTER.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE LAW COMMITTEE OF THE TROY CITY COUNCIL IN THE DRAFTING OF THE HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND REVIEW COMMISSION LEGISLATION, WHICH WAS RECENTLY PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL.

KAY NIAL, CHAIRPERSON OF THE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE, HELPED ORGANIZE THE RECENTLY FORMED RENSSELAER COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL. BYRON MOAK WILL REPRESENT THE SOCIETY AT FUTURE MEETINGS OF THIS COUNCIL.

TO DATE THE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO SAVE A NUMBER OF ENDANGERED BUILDINGS IN LANSINGBURGH. AS THERE REMAIN SO MANY STRUCTURES OF CONSIDERABLE ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND HISTORICAL VALUE, WE ARE NOW PLANNING A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION.

THE LANSINGBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETS THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER TO JUNE AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS, LOCATED AT 2 114TH STREET IN LANSINGBURGH, IN THE BUILDING BUILT IN 1786 BY STEPHEN GORHAM, RENSSELAER COUNTY'S FIRST POSTMASTER. WE WELCOME ANYONE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING OUR MEETINGS TO COME AT ANY MEETING TIME AND TO BRING THEIR FRIENDS AS WELL. MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL---DUES ARE \$5.00 PER YEAR.

