



NEWSLETTER

Lansingburgh Historical Society

P.O. Box 219, Troy, New York 12182-0219

www.lansingburghhistoricalsociety.org

lhssecretary@gmail.com

August 2012

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

September 13th, Thursday, 7:30 PM Melville House, general meeting. Robert Mayo, Director of the Folsom Library at RPI will speak on "Granville Hicks: The Man, His Books, and the Controversy." Hicks was a professor at RPI who was terminated in 1935 because of his unpopular socialist views. Granville Hicks later achieved fame both for his many literary reviews and also for his 1946 book, *Small Town*, written about the Town of Grafton he called home for many years. The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

September 15th, Saturday, 11:00 AM meet at the Melville House. In conjunction with the 2012 Hudson River Valley Ramble, LHS Trustee Russell Ziemba will lead a hiking and driving tour of six urban and rural locations where one can view the Hudson River, from south of Lansingburgh to the clay banks on the east side of Champlain Lock I in Schaghticoke. Program should be concluded by 1:30 PM. The tour is open to the public and beverages will be available.

October 11th, Thursday, 7:30 PM Melville House general meeting. Ernie Mann, will speak about the Railroads of Rensselaer. His book on this subject was issued by Arcadia Publishing in 2009. Rensselaer was once a classic American railroad town, and like most cities and of its type, it was part of an important junction of several destinations. From the 1840s to today, trains have rolled to the four principal compass points from downtown. Ernie Mann has had a lifelong interest in rail history and worked his way through college in locomotive service. He had a long career as a teacher and many years as a city fire chief. The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

October 18, Thursday, 5:30 PM Veterans of Lansingburgh Hall, 771 First Ave.- our annual GALA FUND RAISER DINER AND SILENT AUCTION. This is the biggest fund raising event of the year for our historical society. Even better, it's an evening of great food., an auction with something for everyone, and an ideal time to reacquaint with friends and meet folks you haven't seen recently. The speaker will present a report on the LHS cemeteries rehabilitation project. Let us know now about donations of items you'd like to place in the auction. Find details about this event on the reservation form in this newsletter. Make your reservation by October 9, 2012.

October 31st Halloween, Wednesday, 6:30 PM, meet at Melville House LHS will present their inaugural lectures and tour of haunted Lansingburgh. The program will begin with brief presentations, along with some Q & A time, on the science of "ghost hunting" from Gary Robusto of the Tri-City NY Paranormal Society, and how to conduct historical research on how to document your neighborhood ghosts, by LHS Archivist, Warren F. Broderick. Then we will tour 5 haunted sites in central Lansingburgh by foot, involving about one mile of walking. At each site possible explanations of the spirit presences will be given, and we will conclude by attending a Halloween party at a lovely historical home that is truly haunted. There will be a \$20 per person participation fee, with proceeds being used to restore a gravesite in historic Trinity churchyard. No persons under 12 years of age may attend. Reservations are required as the tour attendees will be limited to no more than 30 persons.

November 15th, Thursday, 7:00 PM, Melville House our annual holiday party and auction will be held. We will auction a number of items that are suitable for holiday gift giving: small antiques, collectibles, Christmas books and holiday ornaments. The party is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

For further information on any of the above activities call the Society at 235-4041 or 235-3501 (recorded message), or consult the Society's web site at <http://www.lansingburghhistoricalsociety.org/>

Emilie C. Adams (1853-1935)

Emilie C. Adams was born in Troy in 1853; her parents were Warren L. Adams, a prominent merchant, and Pamela Hamblin. She was a graduate of Troy High School and her parents' income, in spite of her father's death when she was young, afforded her art training in Brooklyn and New York City and later in Paris, France and Dresden Germany. She also perfected the art of china painting at France's famous Sevres factory.

Back home in Lansingburgh she established her own studio at 745 Third Avenue in 1894. Two years later she co-founded the Emma Willard School of Art in the Plumb Memorial building on Second Street. The school was open to the public of both genders, not merely students of the Troy Female Seminary. She engaged both talented local women and accomplished artists as her instructors. The school's staff always included one prominent artist who served as "critic" and who visited Troy at regular intervals to meet with students and critique their work. Noted American Impressionist painter, John Henry Twachtman, served as critic from 1896 until his death in 1901.

Emilie Adams was known to be outspoken and highly opinionated, likely leading to her parting ways suddenly with Troy Female Seminary leadership in 1907. The Emma Willard art school lasted only two additional years, and along with some of her instructors, Emilie then founded her Troy School of Arts and Crafts in the Green building at 405 Broadway in Troy. Various fine and decorative arts popular during that era were taught at both schools under her direction, including "mineral painting" (on china, porcelain and metal), anatomical drawing, glass decorating, ornamental cut leather work, tapestry weaving and painting, "pyrography" (decorative wood burning) and ornamental metallurgy.

Emilie Adams exhibited infrequently and primarily water colors: "Sketch of an Old Cavalier" at the Brooklyn Art Association in 1882 and in 1904 a series of similar works ("Alpine Hunter," "Dutch Housewife," etc.) at the Rensselaer Hotel in Troy. The Lansingburgh Historical Society owns a portrait of an old man with a pipe and three beautifully executed floral water color still lifes, as well an oil of the White Mountains very reminiscent of the work of William R. Tyler, one of her favorite colleagues. She also excelled at finely detailed painting on china.

She maintained her own studio in Lansingburgh after her school closed in 1918 until her death on April 4, 1935 in Pleasantdale. As most of her work was unsigned it is likely to assume that other works of hers may be found in the collections of Troy and Lansingburgh families. She is interred in Section B, lot 48 in Oakwood Cemetery.

LANSINGBURGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY GALA

We are excited to announce that the Lansingburgh Historical Society (LHS) is hosting its annual fundraiser. This year we are going to honor two very special people. We will be honoring Mr. Gordon Brown and Mr. Richard Zeller. Both have served in the Lansingburgh Central School System and have been very active members of The Lansingburgh Historical Society. Please be part of the celebration. It will be held at the **Veterans of Lansingburgh**, located at 777 1st Avenue, Lansingburgh, N.Y. on **Thursday, October 18th 2012**. Last year's event was a huge success and we look forward to sharing another festive evening with you! Fundraisers such as this, make it possible for the LHS to continue restoration on the Herman Melville house, educational workshops, tours and other community events.

This engaging evening will consist of:

Cocktail hour: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

- Allows people to socialize before dinner and browse/place bids on silent auction items
- Includes hors d'oeuvres, coffee/tea. Alcohol drinks are available for purchase
- Musical entertainment

Dinner:

- Menu options: Beef, chicken or fish (Please indicate your preference below)

Silent auction: 5:30 PM – the auction will conclude following dinner

- Items will include original art, prints, gift certificates, books quality collectibles and 'Burgh memorabilia

Speaker: will give a brief presentation about the history of Lansingburgh

If you are unable to attend the dinner, but would like to help the Lansingburgh Historical Society, you may send us a tax deductible donation. Seating is limited; please reserve your tickets early. Please mail your reservation to:

Lansingburgh Historical Society
P.O. Box 219
Lansingburgh Station
Troy, New York 12182

Please return by Tuesday October 9,2012

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Name: _____ Phone: _____

email _____

Number of attendees: _____ @ \$35.00

Roast beef _____ Baked Haddock _____ Stuffed chicken _____

I am unable to attend the dinner, but enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

LHS NEEDS YOUR HELP!



The Lansingburgh Historical Society is in need people to write articles. If you are interested in having your historical story published in the LHS Newsletter, please email your piece to lhssecretary@gmail.com.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP ?

We welcome your membership in the Lansingburgh Historical Society. The cost is still just \$5.00/year. Consider joining at the sustaining or life level. Use the form below. You can also give this form to a friend who would like to join. Please be sure to include an email address if you have one. It saves LHS money.

Encourage your friends to join.
Regular Membership is \$5.00/ year
Sustaining Membership is \$25.00/year
Life Membership is \$100
Donations are welcome at any time!

**Mail to: Lansingburgh Historical Society
P.O. Box 219
Troy, NY 12180-0219**

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NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

____ Regular(\$5) ____ Sustaining(\$25) ____ Life (\$100)

Donation\$ _____

Donations are tax deductible and welcome! You may include it with your membership.