

# Spafford Area Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, No. M11 (Issue 150)

November 2006

## A TIME IN HISTORY

By Elizabeth Rogalia

Two early prominent pioneer physicians of our town were Dr. John Collins of the southern part of town, Spafford Corners and Dr. Benjamin Trumbull in the northern end of town at Borodino. Both men played important roles in the history and growth of Spafford.

Dr. John Collins came to the Town of Spafford about 1830. He was educated at Hamilton Academy (now Colgate University) and his medical training was at a Medical College in Castleton, Vermont. He was a prominent member of the Onondaga Medical Society.

He married Mary Ann Roundy, daughter of Captain Asahel Roundy. They had eight children. One of his sons Captain George Knapp Collins served with distinction in the Civil War and wrote the "History of Spafford in 1902. Without his book we would know very little about our towns early history.

Dr. Collins held several important town offices such as School Commissioner and Postmaster and supported the temperance cause.

He was one of the founding members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Spafford. He supported many causes which would advance the moral and material welfare of his townspeople.

Dr. Collins died August 15, 1853 and was buried at Spafford Cemetery.

Dr. Benjamin Trumbull came to the town of Spafford in 1816. He was admitted to Onondaga Medical Society in 1822 and was its President in 1832-1833.

It is claimed that the Hamlet of Borodino is indebted to Dr. Trumbull for its Russian name. Borodino, Russia is a village 70 miles southwest of Moscow where a battle was fought on September 7, 1812 to stop Napoleon Bonaparte Armies advancing into Moscow.

Dr. Trumbull built a Federal style house in the early 1830's about where the Gazebo in Borodino Church Park is located. He was married and had an adopted daughter.

Dr. Trumbull was one of the first trustees of the First Religious Society of Borodino which was incorporated in 1829. The Church (Borodino Hall) and his home across the street were very similar in the Federal architectural style.

He died in 1835 of heart disease at the age of 46 and is buried in Borodino Cemetery.



Dr. Trumbull was very much interested in the development of churches, schools and Christian morality of our town.

While Spafford was growing and attracting farmers, business and professional men, what was happening in the world around them;

1824/25 - On November 1825, US presidential election, none of the four candidates gain a majority. John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay and W. H. Crawford. The US House of Representatives chooses John Quincy Adams as the sixth president in February 1825.

1825 - Erie Canal completed, a huge success, begins era of canal building. John Stevens builds first American steam locomotive.

1826 - Death of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4th, exactly 50 years after the Declaration of Independence.

1827 - John James Audubon published first engravings of "The Birds of America"

1828 - Andrew Jackson wins US presidential election for the "new" Democratic Party. Noah Webster publishes An American Dictionary of English Language"

1830 - The first wagons of settlers cross through the Rocky Mountains to settle on the West Coast.

The Historical Snapshot above is from the SAHS Archives and is postmarked Nov. 1911.

Happy holidays. See you soon! Elizabeth Rogalia

# PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

By Joyce Barnett



Our First Annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival held last month, was a wonderful success, financially and as a festive community event. An assortment of local artisans decorated our fine historic meeting hall with colorful arts and crafts. Borodino Hall was filled with laughter, good conversation and delicious scents.



The Hall was certainly a busy gathering place and heart of our community, just as it was intended to be when it was built more than 160 years ago! A constant flow of visitors and neighbors stopped by to visit, mingle and shop for the upcoming holidays. There were bright, one-of-a-kind textiles, hand blown glass, hand-crafted gemstone jewelry, master paintings and prints, dried wreaths and arrangements and even delectable culinary items – all created by local artisans.



A silent auction supplemented the proceeds to continue the important restoration work on Borodino Hall. Lauri Clark, Sandra Weigel and an ambitious army of volunteers

coordinated all of this, as well as an incredible pulled pork take-out dinner. Master Chef Sandra stood by in a brisk cold autumn wind, as the Health Department routinely and dutifully reviewed the food set-up. They rewarded her precise and hard work with a perfect score – and then they bought several lunches – sometime they do not do lightly! It was just one fun moment for the committee. Thank you to the dozens of people who contributed time and talent to make this event so successful. We can hardly wait to get together and do it next year!



Local garden clubs will collaborate with our historical society on December 9, 2006, 4:30 – 9:30 pm to introduce another new community event, Spafford's first Holiday House Tour. Several historical homes and two very notable contemporary homes will be decorated and opened to the public to help support the programs and restoration work of Spafford Area Historical Society. As the sun sets over the lakes, fireplaces glow and holiday lights glitter, the public will be invited into these welcoming homes to share in the architectural charm, decorating pizzazz and hospitality. In addition, Borodino Hall will again be open, decorated in holiday finery, filled with music and offered as a festive meeting place for the community.

While there is a charge for the Holiday House Tour, the Borodino Hall portion of the tour is free and open to all. Live music featuring a local hammer dulcimer artist will fill the air. A sale of wreaths, decorations and specialty holiday cookies will be offered -- and proceeds of those items will support restoration and historical programs. Order \$15 advance sale tickets by sending a check payable to SAHS to: Holiday House Tour, PO Box 250, Marietta, NY 13110. On the day of the tour, purchase \$20 tickets beginning at 4:00 pm at Borodino Hall, corner of Rt. 41 and 174. A ticket discount will be offered to volunteers on a first-come, first-serve basis. For additional information call Sandra Weigel at 315-636-9511. Volunteers are needed to assist with decorations and as hosts/hostesses.

The SAGE Garden Club, for one, has already featured a holiday design presentation for members and friends in preparation for a creative flurry of traditional and creative holiday designs to accent the Holiday House Tour. A demonstration featuring Williamsburg style swags, wreaths, floral arrangements, topiaries and other traditionally inspired designs was offered on November 2. Workshops to create designs are open to all and will be held over the next several weeks. For additional information, contact SAGE President, Elizabeth Rogalia, 315-685-7122.

See you at the upcoming events and programs!

Joyce Barnett

## NEXT MEETING

November 8, 2006 - 7:30 PM

At the Borodino Hall, NYS Route 174 & 41

### Dr. Thomas Carroll, DDS Amateur Diver & History Buff

He discovered a Stage Coach in Oneida Lake and will present a Slide Program about his adventures in diving

### Next Month - Program December 13, 2006 6:30 P.M.

#### Dinner Meeting at Clark's House 1387 Willowdale Road

-----

Pot Luck! Bring a dish to pass.  
Call Lauri to coordinate choices 636-8300  
Members Only

## 2007 OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Prepared by the 2007 Nominating Committee  
for presentation at the **November 8, 2006** meeting.

OFFICE	NAME	EXPIRES (12/31)
President	Joyce Barnett (2nd term)	1 yr term 2007
Recording Secretary	Sandra Weigel	3 yr term 2009
Corresponding Sec.	Mary Bean	2 yr term 2008
3-year Trustee	Anne McElroy	3 yr term 2009
1-year Trustees	Frank Moran (2nd term)	1 yr term 2007
	(Position Open)	1 yr term 2007

## Borodino Hall Restoration Project

We have great news, two more steps forward. We have received the completed plans and specifications from our Architect and have forwarded them on to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Preservation for their review and approval.

We will be ready to begin the bidding process on the various phases of work as soon as approval is received. The excitement is growing as each step brings us closer to the restoration of the Borodino (Grange) Hall and Community Center.

*Vic Sayko*

### SPAFFORD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joyce Barnett, President  
315-673-9161

Elizabeth Rogalia, Chairman  
Past President, Archive Chair  
315-685-7122

Ted Lavery, Vice President  
315-673-4735

Phil Clark, Treasurer  
315-636-8300

Marge Myers, Recording Secretary  
315-673-1286

Sandra Weigel, Corresponding Secretary  
315-636-9511

Victor Sayko, Restoration Chair  
315-673-4636 (work)

Johanna Frittelli, Membership Chair  
315-673-4996

Lauri Clark, Special Events Chair  
315-636-8300

Mary Lou Osborne  
Grange Representative  
315-673-3816

Anne McElroy, Nominating Chair  
315-673-2558

Frank Moran, Trustee  
315-673-3916

### MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Spafford Area Historical Society

Mark: DUES

P. O. Box 250

Marietta, NY 13110

.....Individual.....\$ 10.00

.....Senior (60 or more)..6.00

.....Youth (18 or less)...6.00

.....Family .....20.00

.....Patron .....50.00

.....Sustaining ..... 100.00

.....or more.....\$\_\_\_\_\_ (Please Write In)

- School Program
- Building Restoration
- Archival Records
- Summer Cultural
- General Fund

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name .....

Address .....

City.....

State/Zip.....

Telephone .....

Please indicate if you prefer your donation be used to support a specific program.

**Reminder: To vote, dues must be paid before Nov. 2006**

**Includes Town of Spafford Newsletter**

MARIETTA, NY  
PERMIT NO. 9  
PAID  
U.S. POSTAGE  
BULK RATE

Spafford Area Historical Society  
P. O. Box 250  
Marietta, NY 13110

## HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

### TO BENEFIT SPAFFORD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Notable and historic homes in Spafford will be decorated for the holidays and open to the public for one day only, on **Saturday, December 9, from 4:30 PM – 9:30 PM**. Homes are selected for their charm and decorated by local Garden Clubs and the Historical Society. A gourmet cookie sale, refreshments, musical performances and sale of holiday decorations and wreaths adds to the festivities to benefit the Spafford Area Historical Society.

As the winter sun sets over the lakes, fireplaces glow, holiday lights glitter and the public is welcomed inside to view interiors of some of the town's most notable homes, artfully decorated for the holiday season. The tour includes two restored historic homes, a newly introduced contemporary bed & breakfast with panoramic views of Skaneateles Lake and a rustic log home in a beautiful wooded setting. Spafford encompasses 10 miles of Skaneateles Lake's eastern shore, all of the western shore of Otisco Lake and the scenic bluffs and vistas between the lakes.

Order \$15 advance sale tickets by sending a check, postmarked by Dec 2nd, payable to **SAHS**, and addressed to: **Holiday House Tour, PO Box 250, Marietta, NY 13110**

On the day of the tour, pick up your tickets or purchase \$20 tickets beginning at 4:00 pm at **Borodino Hall**, Corner of NY State Route. 41 and 174. For additional information call **Sandra Weigel at 315-636-9511**.