

Smithfield Community Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 42, Peterboro, New York 13134

Annual Report

July 1996

To all members of the Smithfield Community Association,

Thank to all the volunteers who joined us and made the for the Civil War Weekend a success. People are starting to know about Peterboro's wonderful history.

Well, we have had another eventful year!

On September 16th, 1995 Congressman Boehlert had a Town Hall Meeting at the Community Center. Congressman Boehlert had an open floor for the people of the area. We also had the pleasure of having Barbara Tagger, a historian from the National Park Service, we gave her the grand tour of Peterboro and she spoke on the Underground Railroad route and also that the Land office is also on the list for a National Landmark site. Just recently we have heard that all the materials have been presented to Congress. Judge Hugh Humphrey's also spoke, he shared information about an abolitionist meeting that was held in Peterboro. The Town Hall meeting was very informative.

On November 3rd, the Smithfield Community Association had a reception to honor all the people who were involved in getting the Community Center on the National Historic Register. Our thanks went out to Nell Zeigler, Richard Carlson and Michael Tomlan. Please take a look, the National Historic Register plaque is now on the building. Bill Magee read Peterboro's Bicentennial Resolution which was written by our town historian Donna Burdick, and passed in the State Assembly. Copies of the resolution were made on parchment paper and are on sale.

Donna Burdick has also written a great "Walking Tour of Peterboro," copies are available in the Peterboro Museum. Also if you have any questions in regard to Peterboro's history, please feel free to call Donna at (607) 775-3103 or write her at 110 Crescent Drive, Kirkwood, NY 13795.

We had a work weekend in November, our work crew moved lots of things to a new storage area in the back. We painted more windows and doors. In the fall David Goff repaired some broken windows for us. Thanks David!! The Town of Smithfield put a new foundation and all new siding on the back of the building. The town also cleared the site where the Smith mansion stood and fixed the old wrought iron fence. It really looks great.

Our next project is electrical work on the back portion of the building and then on to the completion of the handicap bathroom.

On June 8th, 1995 we had a guest come to Peterboro, a man by the name of Tony Cohen. He came from Maryland and was walking the Underground Railroad route. He had been on the road for 7 weeks so far and was on route to Canada. Alice Corpin and Back Street Mary were kind enough to drive all the way to Seneca Falls, so Tony could visit

Peterboro. We gave him, his camera man and his father the tour , he also had a chance to be at the Peterboro Museum to talk about his trip and hear the stories of Peterboro. He spent the night in Dot Willsey and Norm Dann's barn . We really enjoyed having him, he said he would love to come back and couldn't believe all the history that is here.

The Smithfield Community Association's summer and fall schedule is:

July 21st- Hometown Day- 10-4pm, the Smithfield Community Association will be set up in Jim Stokes (General Store) Thanks Jim for the use of your building!! We will be selling our Peterboro items and baked goods.

July 25th,1996- Annual Potluck Meeting- 6:00-7:00pm, please bring a dish to pass and a place setting , beverage and dessert will be provided, meeting starts at 7:00pm all members are welcome. Hope to see you there!!

September 21st -12-5pm. our group will have a table at the Madison County Historical Society's Hop Festival at Cottage Lawn. Dot Willsey has organized this event to recognize our counties past importance in the production of hops. There will be historical societies with their displays and alot of local breweries.

October 18th,1996-Friday night- 5:30-preview - starts at 6:30pm. We will be putting on an auction at the Smithfield Community Center. Bill Magee will donate his services as our auctioneer. Please search your attics, garages and barns for items you would like to donate to the Association!!!- Also any items you make or services. Thursday night 6:00-8:00,October 17th-drop off items or call Beth Spokowsky at 684-9022 for pick-up of big items.

Enclosed is a list of the people on the Memorial Plaque, located in the Smithfield Community Center. We will be starting another plaque, which we already have a few names, if you are interested it is (\$25.00 per name to be engraved). Please call or write to Beth Spokowsky for a form.

Peterboro items available:

Peterboro Note Cards- 4 cards- Land Office, Community Center, Hill House, and the Little Homestead. \$2.00- single cards .50.

Snippets- Pieces of Peterboro's history done by Donna Burdick, she has done one every year for 3 years so far. They are wonderful glimpses into Peterboro. \$1.00 each.

Smith Family Booklet on members of the family- \$1.00.

Peterboro's Bicentennial Resolution on parchment - \$1.50.

Please include .50 for mailing.