

Smithfield Community Association

Highlights from 2002

- Welcome

Greetings from Peterboro. It's been a busy week in Lake Wobegon... I mean in Peterboro. This letter is getting out a little later than normal this year, due mainly to my laziness, and our annual election meeting has also been delayed to accommodate some vacations. But WOW, what a year we've had!!

- 10th anniversary

The SCA passed a very special milestone this past spring. We are now TEN years old. Our first meeting was held on April 27, 1992. It is amazing to look back on the past ten years and see how much has been accomplished. We are all incredibly proud to be a part of the very special Peterboro community. And so, we're now into our 11th year, with still so much to be done.

- National Landmark Ceremony

After receiving National Historic Landmark Status for the Gerrit Smith Estate last year, we had planned a recognition ceremony to thank the many people involved. Our original ceremony date was September 15th. The sad events of September 11th of course took precedence as we turned our thoughts and prayers to the heroes of today. With the many schedules to fit, we were finally able to give proper recognition to our NHL workhorses on May 4th, 2002.

We had quite the gathering of dignitaries in town. In a ceremony at the Community Center, speeches were given by Congressman Sherwood Boehlert, State Senator Nancy Lorraine Hoffman, Assemblyman Bill Magee, Tara Morrison of the National Park Service and Delores Walters of the ALANA Cultural Center, Colgate University. The plaque was presented by Dr. Vivian Rose and Nancy E. Watts of the Women's Rights National Historical Park. The plaque was accepted by Town Historian Donna Burdick and Town of Smithfield Supervisor Rick Bargabos. Special recognition was given to Mark Peckham of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Hadley Aaron -Kruzcek and Lou Ann Wurst for their extensive archaeological research to support the nomination.

- Building Updates

The Key Bank came to the community Center for their volunteer day and put a second coat of paint on the kitchen. We also had done some painting at the outside entrance of the Clerk's office. Also at the Community Center, we had a sign made for the Town Hall and the Clerk's Office, which is now located in the back of the Community Center. We also purchased a new toilet for the ladies bathroom. The S.C.A. donated \$7,600 to the Peterboro Area Museum for much needed repairs, a new porch, handicap ramp, handicap bathroom and new flooring in the storage area. Stop in if you haven't already seen it. Volunteers will paint the porch and the handicap ramp. With the mild winter, we were able to have Fenton Groves make new moldings for the exterior of the Land Office. Inside he finished all the window moldings and restored the cabinet doors and drawers that the S.C.A. will paint. The cost was \$5,320.00. Stop by and check it out. We have estimates for the final project, which is for the plaster work, and also estimates for a permanent exhibit in the Land Office. In front of the Land Office, on a boulder, there is now a plaque about Gerrit Smith and it also has his picture on it.

- Community Activity

The S.C.A. participated in the Madison County Fall History weekend. We had the Land Office and the Peterboro Area Museum open and Syracuse University had their archaeological dig at the Gerrit Smith Estate on one of the days. We also had a booth at the Madison County Historical Society's Hops Fair. In the Spring, the S.C.A. co-sponsored with the Peterboro Area Museum and the Town of Smithfield a traveling exhibit from the Adirondack Museum called "Dreaming of Timbuctoo", which was Gerrit

Smith's gift of 120,00 acres of Adirondack land to 3,00 African-Americans. We would like to thank all the volunteers that sat at the exhibit.

The Gerrit Smith Estate is now on the National Network to Freedom Underground Railroad Trail.

Thanks to Hadley Aaron-Kruzcek from Syracuse University for filling out the application.

The Madison County Freedom Trail Commission was passed on September 11th. Donna Burdick and Beth Spokowsky have been going to the meetings which will be to research sites of the Underground Railroad in Madison County.

- CWW

The 10th annual Civil War Weekend was a great success! The weather was great! Our Thanks goes to our honorary chair Nancy Duffy from Channel 9 news. They gave us great news coverage. Nancy was even made an outfit for the occasion. We want to thank all the committees members and all the volunteers who made this year's C.W.W. a wonderful community effort for a good cause.

We also had a special honor to be one of the official U.S. Postal service sites to offer the 2001 stamp honoring the heroes of 911 along with our annual commemorative cancellation of our event.

- Items for Sale

Snippets, pieces of Peterboro area history written by Donna Dorrance Burdick, our town historian. Vol.

#1-8 are available. The *Snippets* are available for \$1 each, plus 50 cents for shipping. Also available are t-shirts with the Land Office and our new t-shirt, Where is Peterboro? only black L and XL are left. We also have Land Office mugs and Mansion mugs. The mugs and t-shirts are available by calling Beth Spokowsky at 684-9022.

- Upcoming Events

August 8th- 7:00PM Annual meeting S.C.A. - Community Center

August 10th- booth at the MCHS Hops Fair 12-5

September 28th -10-4, September 29th 12-4 Madison County Fall History Weekend

- Donations

Help cover the cost of the period glass for the Land Office, \$22 per pane.

There are spaces available on our second memorial plaque to remember a loved one with a donation of \$25. The plaques are located in the foyer of the Community Center.

For additional information on anything in the letter, call Beth Spokowsky 684-9022 or Linda and Steve Joeckel 684-9428 or e-mail us at sca-peterboro@geocities.com.

To help us continue our restoration work, in the nationally recognized hamlet of Peterboro, please remember to send in your membership contribution. All donations are tax-deductible. On behalf of the Smithfield Community Association; Thank You, and enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

Steve Joeckel
President, Smithfield Community Association