



## CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

MAY 2017

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mark your calendar and join us for the Charlton Historical Society's May and June events and activities. Invite friends and neighbors to join us.**

### MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

**On MONDAY, MAY 29, 2017**, we will hold our 50<sup>th</sup> annual Memorial Day Observance in **Gideon Hawley Park at 2 PM**. Please join us rain or shine to honor all our veterans and to thank them for their service.

Veteran Committee Chairman Chuck Latham with the help of committee members George Eggleston and Peter Parker are planning this program.

### CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S FOUNDERS DAY WEEKEND EVENTS

**SATURDAY, June 3 & SUNDAY, June 4**

This year's Charlton Historical Society theme is celebrating and honoring Frank Lafforthun a founding father and first president of the Charlton Historical Society 51 years ago.

The 2017 Founder's Day button was designed by Howie Eskin and will be on sale during the weekend activities and in the museum for \$1.00. If you are missing a year in your button collection, we may have your missing button(s).

The Parade Grand Marshalls will be Frank Lafforthun's stepsons, Walter Hayner and George Krutz.



**2017 Founder's Day Button**

Shopping Bags, Farmers Market T-shirts, Charlton Shirts, and other items will be on sale during the weekend in the museum.

## **WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**June 3 and June 4**

**5K Walk and Run – Saturday**

**Art Show – Both Days**

**Museum Open – Both days**

**Parade – Sunday at 2:00 PM**

**Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Saratoga County**

**Dairy Princess Committee—Sunday after the Parade and Ceremony**

**ON SATURDAY MORNING**, the Founders' Day events start off with the **5K Race and Walk, and a Kids' Run**. This is the Charlton Historical Society's largest event to raise much-needed funds. You can take part in the Race by signing up at the registration link on **[www.charlton5k.org](http://www.charlton5k.org)** or register at the registration table the day of the race. We need help at the registration table, the refreshment table, and race monitors. If you can help out and have not yet signed up, **contact Marty Wilson at 399-0167 or at [martinpwilson@aol.com](mailto:martinpwilson@aol.com)**

**ON SATURDAY EVENING**, enjoy planned activities including fireworks at the **Party in the Park** in the Elmer Smith Park. We need help selling buttons.

**ON BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY**, venues to check out are the **Art Show** located in the Schoolhouse and new exhibits in the museum. To enter your artwork in the Art Show, contact **Liz Lis at 842-0720 or [emlfrosty@aol.com](mailto:emlfrosty@aol.com)**. To volunteer to work in the museum, or to sell buttons, call **Sue York at 399-3797 or at [Yorkmm474@aol.com](mailto:Yorkmm474@aol.com)**

**At 2:00 on Sunday**, line up along Charlton Road to view the **parade**. If you can help with the parade on Sunday, June 4, **contact John Hussey at 557-2410 or at [jkhussey@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jkhussey@nycap.rr.com)**.

**AFTER THE PARADE**, there will be a ceremony at the Museum and then enjoy an **Ice Cream Social** under the Schoolhouse tent sponsored by the Saratoga County Dairy Princess Committee.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Charlton Historical Society would like to welcome our latest new members. First, we welcome back Lynda and Richard Battenhausen who now live on Florence Ave. Lynda is the granddaughter of Frank Lafforthun and she has generously donated numerous miniatures handmade by Frank. Lynda and our Curator, Bill Wehrle, have been working numerous hours in the museum to restore the miniatures and set up a display of this folk art in one of the cabinets, plus restore the display that Frank made depicting how the Hamlet's Main Street may have looked in the 1860's. Both displays will be wonderful additions to the museum and we thank them both for all the effort that they have put into this restoration project. We welcome Lynette and Bill Metz who are the new neighbors of the Walkers on Sacandaga Road. Many of us had the pleasure of meeting them at the Moveable Feast in April. Lynette entertained us with the interesting story about her miniature horse. We welcome our 4<sup>th</sup> member from California, Fran Coughlin of Atascadero, who just joined with a generous donation. Fran is descended from many famous founding families of Charlton. Her ancestors are Rev. William Clark and John Holmes. John Holmes was elected as an Elder of the Freehold Presbyterian Church in their first election of Elders in 1787. He also built a sawmill in 1774, located where Crane Street crosses the Alplaus, and brought his family to Charlton in 1775. Fran says that she is also descended from the Conde and Kirby families. Fran and Bonnie Cook, also from California, have separate plans to visit us in late June. Bonnie's husband, Alan Lincoln Cook, is descended from Charlton's Cook family.

## MUSEUM DISPLAYS

Curator Bill Wehrle has been busy readying the museum for the season opener on Founders Day Weekend. He has been working on the exhibition of Frank Lafforthun's works of art. Following is Bill's description of the exhibit.

*Frank Lafforthan created this display as a representation of how our Main Street may have looked in the 1860's. It was donated to the museum in 1977. It had deteriorated over the years and suffered damage during storage on top of the schoolhouse cabinets. Our sincere gratitude goes out to Frank's Granddaughter, Lynda Battenhausen, for her supervision and artistic restoration talents as well as the donation of Frank's folk art in the cabinet on the north side. Some damage is still evident, but we felt it is more important to preserve rather than restore when we can.*

*We may have a better appreciation of this work, not only from the selfless hours of construction, but for how it was done. Frank lived from 1909 to 1986, a generation that still had more than a hint of the pioneering spirit where you used what was available to create something, rather than take a trip to the hobby shop. The houses were made from cardboard, maybe from the cardboard that came in laundered shirts and other packaging. Frank made the trees from soda straws and cotton. There is no plastic anywhere in this creation. Much of the substrate had risen and cracked and rather than replacing it, Lynda meticulously glued the many cracks back in place and contributed the artificial grass, paint and time to retain as much of the originality of Frank's creation. We believe the key was hand lettered by Steve Jordon, which was also suffering the effects of time so we mounted it under clear plastic to give it a few more years.*

*In addition Frank's craftsmanship is an example of his attention to detail as far as the scale of the distances and sizes of the buildings. One must wonder if Frank actually went through town with a tape measure. I'm sure he would have been welcomed. Far to the right is a small building just labeled "saw mill". If Frank indicated a stream it was lost in the deterioration so we took some license to indicate the stream in blue as indicated on maps. Part of Frank's legacy leads us to realize that Charlton was not the residential district it is today. There were businesses, trades, and professions that met all of the needs of the townsfolk and neighboring crossroads. You could live right here and have all your basic needs met. Notice the blacksmiths, leather and tanning, tavern, store, and farms that also sold produce. See the sheds by the Churches. Since there were no cars back then, you protected your horse and buggy in the shed while attending the long services. This was especially favored in inclement weather. Trace some steps around town and experience a different world of the smells of animals, fresh mown hay, coal and wood stoves, tanning and leather pungency. There were sounds of hammers on anvils, horses hooves, creaking wagons and town chatter in the general store, church bells on Sunday. See roads not paved and muddy in rain. Roads not plowed, but rolled flat for sleighs in winter. Thank you Frank Lafforthun.*

## **BE A CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEER**

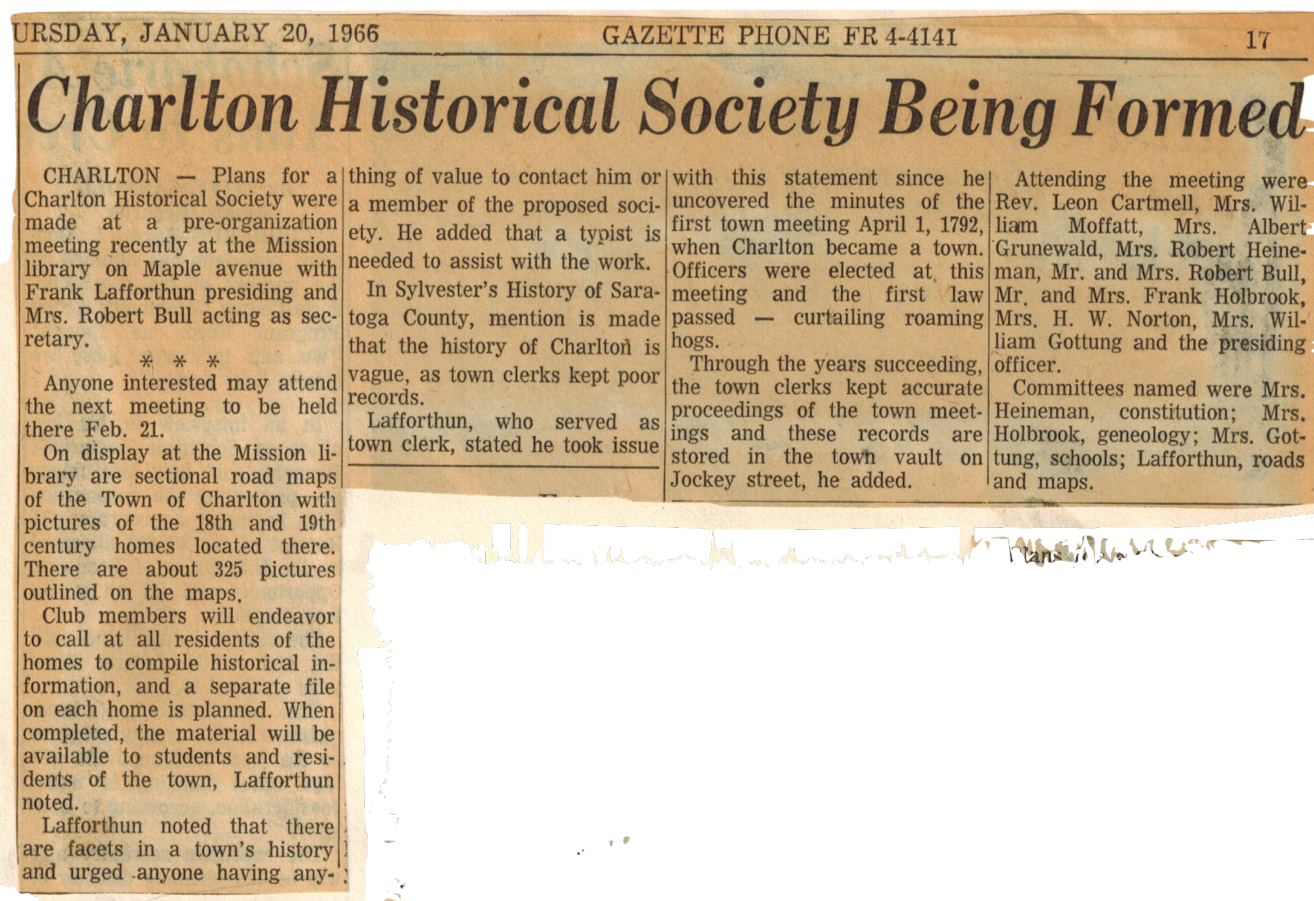
The Charlton Historical Society Volunteer of the Year is Frank Lafforthun, honored for his part in founding the Charlton Historical Society 51 years ago. The Society has lived on for all these 51 years because of many community volunteers like Frank.



How about adding your name to the many who have helped the Historical Society by volunteering. Currently we need volunteers to monitor the Museum on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 PM in July and August. You can sign up in the museum during the Founders' Day festivities or call Sue York at 399-3797 or at Yorkmm474@aol.com. To help out with the 5K Race, contact Marty Wilson at 399-0167 or at martinpwilson@aol.com

## CHUCK LATHAM'S CHARLTON HISTORY—FACTS and LEGEND

In 1966, this article appeared in the Gazette announcing the formation of the Charlton Historical Society. The Society's goals are the same today as they were in 1966, documenting our history and sharing our findings with Charlton citizens.



We are still collecting artifacts, records, stories, oral history, etc. that shed light on Charlton's history. Town Historian Marv Livingston is leading a committee to write a book about Charlton through the ages. If you wish to contribute to this effort, call Marv at 384-0152 x212 or museum curator, Bill Wehrle. The book committee members are Terri Gay, Chuck Latham, Mary Kadlecek, Marv Schorr, and Alice Crotty.

**Charlton Historical Society**

**2009 Maple Avenue  
Charlton, NY 12019**

## **OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

President	Alice Crotty		399-4153
Vice-President	John Hussey	Founders Day/Building and Grounds	557-2417
Secretary	Nancy Bellamy		399-8508
Cor. Secretary	Stacey Fenton		882-6009
Treasurer	Susan York		399-3797
Curator	Bill Wehrle		399-7695
Trustee	Ken Crotty	Web Site /Buildings and Grounds	399-4153
Trustee	Chuck Latham	Genealogy Buff	384-0130
Trustee	Pat Parker		882-9099
Trustee	Carolyn Setzer		882-9740
Trustee	Marv Schorr	Trust Fund	399-4161

Please call any member of the Board of Directors with questions and comments.