



Robert Hawkins House
 P.O. Box 111
 Yaphank, NY 11980-0111
www.yaphankhistorical.org

631-924-4803 -Swezey-Avey House
 Main Office

Meetings: Third Thursday of the
 Month; 7:30pm, Swezey-Avey House.

Newsletter Editor: Peggy Judd

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Board of Directors

- President - Robert Kessler
- Vice President - Olive Archer
- Treasurer - Audrey Kessler
- Recording Secretary -
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- Corresponding Secretary -
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- Historian Emeritus -
Karen Mouzakes
- Curator - Helen Kalbach
- Honorary Lifetime Board Member -
Kathy Schmidt
- 3-Yr. Trustee - Jim Vavrina
- 2-Yr. Trustee - Kitty Daniels &
Suzanne Johnson
- 1-Yr. Trustee - Tom Skapinski &
Gary Scherpich

YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Historic Yaphank - Where the Past Greet's the Present

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER, 2018

Save the Dates:

Saturday and Sunday, December 8th and 9th

The Yaphank Historical Society
 In conjunction with *Curtain Up Entertainment*
 Presents

An 1855 Christmas at the Hawkins House



Visit the Hawkins House on Saturday or Sunday, December 8th or 9th and celebrate an 1855 Christmas with the Hawkins Family. The house will be decorated for the holiday, and the family will be busy with holiday tasks, having tea with friends, wrapping gifts and enjoying the season.

Tours will run from 12 noon to 5:00pm each day.

Reserved Ticket Prices - - Adults: \$15; Children 4-12: \$8.00

Reservations are essential. Timed Tickets must be picked up at the Swezey-Avey House the day of your tour, prior to arriving at the Hawkins House. Complimentary refreshments will be served at the Swezey-Avey House.

Ticket details coming soon on our website www.yaphankhistorical.org, and in the November-December Newsletter.



Fall Community Yard Sale at the Hawkins House

Saturday, September 22nd, 9:00am—4:00pm
 (rain date, Sunday, September 23rd)
 Please join us—Donation: \$10 per vendor.

Letter from the President

Once again, I wish to thank you all for electing me Society President for another term. I will continue to work for the good of the Society so that we continue to grow and prosper.

Our main focus this year has been the restoration of the Homan House. We worked with several contractors, as well as the County, and with Society volunteers. HB Millwork of Yaphank was our stair contractor and they have done a great job of replicating the part of the original staircase that remained in the house. Their work is now complete.

The plaster contractor, Mitrani Plasterers of Shirley have also completed their work. The plaster walls and ceilings look great and are ready for paint.

Our restoration contractor, Jeremiah McGiff of Brookhaven, is currently finishing a few small items and then he will be done. Jeremiah has done a beautiful job of restoring the house. He has restored all of the windows except for a few that were missing and for those, he constructed them. He has replicated most of the shutters on the house (there were only a few of the original ones remaining). And he has also made some of the interior doors that were missing. The floors have all been sanded and finished and they look great.

We had to rebuild the entire chimney base in the basement and rebuild the fireplace and Bee-Hive oven. That work has been finished. We also had to demolish part of the chimney in the attic and rebuild that portion. In the meantime, we have extended the main chimney up above the roof. We are now waiting on the flashing to be completed by others before we finish the chimney and cap off the top. Work is under way on this remaining construction project. (See pictures below.)

Final work on this major restoration project will include grading and landscaping, as well as painting the interior and exterior of the house. Our special thanks to the inmates work program members for their efforts on exterior painting, as well as all of their hard work on our other projects.

Special thanks also goes out to the Robert Lion Gardiner Foundation for their generous support of this project without whose help this project would never have been possible. Thank you also to the Gerry Foundation for their generous help in restoring the windows.

Robert Kessler



Welcome New Members

- Margaret Malloy, Middle Island, NY
- Gary Scherpich, East Moriches, NY

**Funds for this newsletter were provided by
the Suffolk County Legislature,
3rd Legislative District. Thank You !**

Election Night Results

Voting for Board Members took place at the August General Meeting on Thursday, August 16th at the Swezey-Avey House. The complete 2018-2019 Board of Directors appears on page 1. We want to welcome new Board Members, Kitty Daniels who was elected to serve as a 2-year Trustee and Gary Scherpich and Tom Skapinski, both who were elected to serve as 1-year Trustees. We look forward to working with our new Board Members this coming year. We also want to thank departing Board Member, Liz Horan, for her service and look forward to working with her as an active member. At this same meeting, special recognition was given to Kathy Schmidt and she was awarded an *Honorary Lifetime Board Membership*. We take this opportunity to thank all of our continuing Board Members for their service and support this past year. The Society looks forward to making the coming year one that will be filled with interesting events and programs for our members and continued restoration efforts and improvements to the Yaphank Historic District.

Special Recognition for Kathy Schmidt

At our August General Meeting, the Board of Directors of the Yaphank Historical Society recognized the many years of dedicated service by Kathy Schmidt and awarded her an *Honorary Lifetime Board Membership*. Kathy is a founding member of the Yaphank Historical Society and over the years she has held many Board positions, including serving as President. 2018 marks her 44th year with the Society. Kathy is currently the manager of the Bank of River Gift Shop located at the Hawkins House and she can be found there most every Thursday afternoon. Under Kathy's care our Gift Shop continues to thrive. Looking back over that 44-year tenure, Kathy has been involved in all of our major historic preservation projects, not the least of which was the effort to save and preserve the circa-1850 Robert Hewlett Hawkins House. Without her work, and that of the other founding members, the Hawkins House would have been lost instead of now being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We sincerely thank Kathy for her many years of service and support, and for all that she has done to make the Society the success story it is today.



A surprised and happy Kathy Schmidt receives Honorary Lifetime Board Membership from President Bob Kessler

A Successful House Tour Season

Thank you to all of our docents who made time to welcome and guide our visitors.

All three of our historic houses (the Hawkins House, the Booth House Museum, and the Swezey-Avey House) were open for tours Sunday afternoons in July and August. Several exhibits were on display in each of the houses. Docents were on hand to conduct tours and answer questions. We had a busy season, with guided tours numbering just over 150. Some visitors stopped by at all three houses and others only visited one house. It continues to be encouraging to see so much interest in our historic homes and in the history of the Yaphank area. The Society is dedicated to preserving this history and will continue its preservation work throughout the Yaphank Historic District.

Victorian Harvest Tea - - - Sold Out

Saturday, October 20th, 2:00—4:00pm

Hawkins House

We are sorry if you were unable to make a reservation for this Tea.

The Society will host a Spring Victorian Tea and details for that Tea will be in the January/February Newsletter and on our website at that time.

New Additions to the Weeks Family Archives

At our recent Weeks Family Legacy Tea (held on June 24th, 2018) the Society very happily accepted a number of donations for our Weeks Family archives. Our Weeks archive continues to grow and we have two Swezey-Avey House exhibit rooms dedicated to the story of this early prominent Yaphank family. These new recently donated items are on special display at the Swezey-Avey House. **The Society sincerely thanks the Weeks family descendants for their continued generosity and support.**

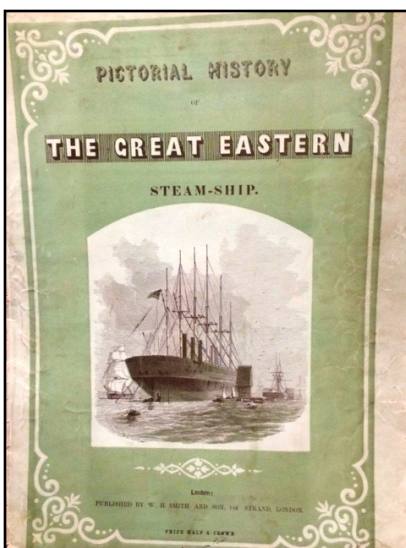
Pictured below are just a few of these most recent donations:



Bandana handkerchiefs belonging to James H. Weeks, our earliest Weeks family resident. (Donated by the Charles Fewell family. Christine Fewell is a direct descendant of the Weeks family.)



Stencil box owned by William Weeks (son of James H. Weeks and Yaphank's own Renaissance man), containing stencil patterns and tools used for stenciling. (Gift of the Fewell family.)



Pictorial History of the Great Eastern Steam Ship, a book containing full technical detail about the ship and many colored and black and white lithographs. Owned and inscribed by William Weeks "July 4, 1860, Purchased on board the Great Eastern Steam Ship, Wm. Weeks" (Gift of the Fewell family.)



An impressive collection of surveying tools and storage box, Purchased by Wm. Weeks, in 1845. (Donated by Robert Dickieson.)



The Disambiguous Magic Box of James E. Weeks (son of Wm. Weeks, one of 12 children).The box contains a variety of magic "tools" and tricks. (Gift of the Fewell family.)

YAPHANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

September General Meeting

Thursday, **September 20th**, 7:30pm, Swezey-Avey House
(Program and Speaker to be Announced)

Fall Community Yard Sale

Saturday, **September 22nd**, 9:00am—4:00pm
(rain date Sunday, September 23rd)

Donation: \$10 per vendor

Set up on the Hawkins House lawns.

No reservations necessary.

Call 631-924-4803 with questions.

October General Meeting

Thursday, **October 18th**, 7:30pm, Swezey-Avey House

Guest Speaker will be **J.K. Hodge**,

Film historian and composer.

Program: “The Life and Times of Buster Keaton”

Refreshments will follow the program.

Victorian Harvest Tea

Event is SOLD OUT

Saturday, **October 20th**, 2:00—4:00pm, Hawkins House

November General Meeting

Thursday, **November 15th**, 7:30pm, Swezey-Avey House

Guest Speaker will be **Karen Mouzakes**,

Society Historian Emeritus

Program: “The Swezey-Avey Family and Home”

Refreshments will follow the program.

Fall Cleaning and Dusting

Volunteers Needed!

Saturday, **November 17th**, 10:00am—4:00pm

Help get our historic houses ready for the holidays.

Spend a few hours during the day cleaning and share a wonderful pasta supper.

Supper served at **5:00pm** at the Swezey-Avey House.

Save the Dates

An 1855 Christmas at the Hawkins House

Saturday, December 8th, noon to 5:00pm,

Sunday, December 9th, noon to 5:00pm,

Details and Ticket information in the next Newsletter.

Bank of the River Gift Shop at the Hawkins House

Hours: Thursday Afternoons,

noon—4:00pm (weather permitting)

Phone: 631-924-3401

Keep current with all our events and projects. Visit our website—www.yaphankhistorical.org

Yaphank Historical Society
P.O. Box 111
Yaphank, New York 11980-0111

Please enroll me as:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| () Active Member | \$20.00/person - \$17.50/Senior Citizen (62+) |
| | \$25.00/couple - \$22.50/Senior Couple (62+) |
| () Contributing Member | \$50.00 |
| () Life Member | \$100.00/person - \$75.00/Senior (62+) |
| () Patron Member | \$300.00 |
| () Benefactor Member | \$500.00 |

Name _____ Telephone # _____

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Thank You To Our Supporters

If you are interested in having your business card printed in the Yaphank Historical Society newsletter, you may do so for a \$50 donation per year. Please leave a phone number message at the Swezey-Avey House, 631-924-4803.
Our members support our local businesses.

YAPHANK CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 1

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For grave sales and questions, please call
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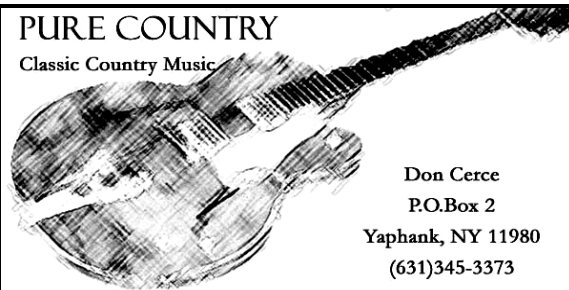
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

244 E. Main Street
Yaphank, NY 11980
631-924-5083

Sunday Services: 8:30 & 10 A.M.
Sunday School at 10 A.M. Service

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