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PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Calendar

February 1

GPS Meeting

7:00-7:30 Social Half Hour

7:30-8:00 Business Meeting

8:00 Program

Table of Contents

Page 1

February GPS Update

Page 2

Cottrell Paper
By Don R. Johnston

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February GPS Update

By Bonnie Donnan

Snowfall has been merciful to our area so far this winter. Maybe all that rain last summer is now being averaged out, and deducted from our quota. We've passed the halfway point of winter. Think Spring!

January's meeting was "How the Erie Canal impacted the Civil War" by Tricia Shaw of Schoharie Crossing. We heard how the canal opened up areas to the west for settlement and provided transportation and shipment of goods by water through the Great Lakes and river systems, all the way to the Mississippi.

We enjoyed refreshments furnished by Arlene Rhodes, Carol Schweizer, Phyllis Sleeper and Virginia Sawicki.

Our February 1st meeting program will be an account of the voyage of the *Onrust* by our own

members, Jon Prasek and Tom Palmatier. It should be an interesting account of taking a boat, modeled after one constructed in the 1600's, to 21st century New York City.

Check out our website at <http://galwaypubliclibrary.org/gps/>. It has a calendar of our meeting, board meetings, newsletter deadlines for those who have material to submit, and will carry a message if weather casts doubt on whether we will have a meeting. Links connect our site to other interesting and useful information; history, genealogy, and local museums and organizations like ours. This is the work of our secretary Evelyn Hanna.

Take time to appreciate the exhibit in the Town Hall display cases. The beautiful bird carvings by Jim and Chris Reedy are works of art.

Cottrell Paper

By Don R. Johnston

The work of David F. Nestle concerning the Kaydeross railroad had inspired me to wonder whether the power of that river is being used today. Accordingly, I visited the Cottrell Paper Company which is the beautiful old stone structure that sits along-side the falls at Rock City Falls. I was greeted by Jack Cottrell who had a very interesting story.

The original mill was founded in 1865 as the Kilmer Mill. They used the power of the River to run a water turbine (as opposed to a water wheel). The turbine drove a mechanical shaft which went the length of the mill. Power was taken from the shaft at various work stations throughout the mill. The Kilmer Mill made paper bags out of straw.

In 1926, Jack's Grandfather bought the mill and converted the power from a mechanical drive shaft to that of turbine driven electric generators. Today there are two such genera-

tors which produce 225 KW each. Since a large "home" generator produces 16 KW you can see that this amount of power is equivalent to 28 "home generators". The electric power of these generators is then used in electric motors throughout the mill. For back up power, the company has a huge Worthington diesel-electric generator about the size of an ordinary mobile home.

The Cottrell Paper Company produces high-grade electrical insulating papers. They produce "rag paper" from denim scraps and cotton clippings since 1926. These insulating papers are used in low voltage motors and transformers. Your Editor had a copy of the company's catalog which had examples of the various products which the Cottrell Paper Company produces.

The most expensive part of the paper making process is the cost of power to dry the paper. For Cottrell, this electric power is provided by the Kaydeross Creek. On Route 29, north of Greenwich, N.Y. There is another small paper mill (Hollingsworth and Vose). I was told by Jack Cottrell that they use the Battenkill to generate electricity to power their operation. It is very pleasing to know that the power of these small streams is still being used today.

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