



# GATES HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## FIRST NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES MARKER IN GATES

The Town of Gates installed a National Register of Historic Places roadside commemorative marker in front of the Hinckley Homestead at 634 Hinckley Road on Monday, July 20, 2020.

The Hinckley Homestead, owned by the Town of Gates and managed by the Gates Historical Society, is the only site in the town which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The sign was funded by a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation. The grant was written by Cindy Hinckley, a member of the Gates Historical Society Board of Directors and the wife of Wolcott Hinckley, a family descendent.

“The residents of Gates are so fortunate to have the Hinckley Homestead as a standing example of our rich historical heritage,” said Gates Supervisor Cosmo A. Giunta. “Since its acquisition from the Hinckley family by the Gates Historical Society in 2002, and its transfer to the people of the Town of Gates by the Society in 2004, the Hinckley Homestead stands as more than a simply a symbol of history. It is a tangible place of historic value that serves as our glimpse into the lives and work of the citizens of our Town who have gone before us and who established Gates as the wonderful community in which we live and enjoy today.”

The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, an agency of the Department of the Interior. Since 1966, it has been the official list of the nation's historic places that are worthy of preservation. The National Register contains over 90,000 listings of historic districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture.

“From the meticulous care of the homestead since the late 1800s by the Hinckley family, to its operation as a historic site by the Gates Historical Society, and now with recognition of its place on the National Register with the installation of this commemorative marker, we have all experienced what we can accomplish when we work together,” said Gates Town Historian William A. Gillette.



*L to R Cosmo Giunta, Gates Town Supervisor, Cindy Hinckley, Society board member, Susan Swanton, Society President, Bill Gillette, Town historian & liaison to the Society from the Town, and Virginia Paddock Society board member. Mrs. Hinckley wrote the grant that enabled the Society to obtain the road side sign and the Town of Gates Highway Department put it up.*

For inclusion on the National Register, a property must be more than 50 years old and generally look much the same way as it did in the past. It must be historically significant or associated with important people, events, activities and developments from the past. Architectural, engineering, archeological and landscape significance are also considered.

The Hinckley Homestead was accepted into the National Register in 1983, having been nominated by then—owner Harmon Hinckley, the last member of the Hinckley family to reside here.

The homestead was accepted into the registry because of the minimal changes made to this elegant farmhouse since its construction in the 1870s and for the importance of both the site—home of the first clapboard house in the Town of Gates—and of Franklin Hinckley, who was a land and tax agent for the New York

*Continued on page 5*

### NEWS FLASH!

July 29, 2020 The Gates Historical Society was awarded a 3rd Pomeroy Foundation grant. To earn \$3000 in matching Pomeroy grant funds, the Society must raise \$6000 between August 1st and September 30.

Details on page 3

### GATES HISTORICAL SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT

The Gates Historical Society leads in providing information on Gates history and in preserving and showcasing the Hinckley Homestead as a model historic site. This is achieved by programs, events, exhibits, tours and related services to Society members and the general public.

## 2020-21 Annual Goals For Gates Historical Society

*Approved GHS Board meeting  
7/7/20*

*The Board is in its 2nd year of goals designed to ensure the Society earns its Absolute Charter by the time its present provisional charter expires January 2024*

### TOP PRIORITIES:

1. **ADAPT GHS TO POST-COVID 19 REALITIES**
2. **IMPLEMENT FUNDRAISING PLAN** [Absolute Charter requirements for adequate funding to achieve mission]
3. **ORIENT & INVOLVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

### MIDDLE PRIORITIES

1. **IMPLEMENT 1st POMEROY GRANT** [Absolute Charter requirement for 51% collection accessioned]
2. **DEFINE FORMAL FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PLACE ACCOUNTING PRACTICES IN PLACE** [Absolute Charter requirement]
3. **EXPAND GHS PRESENCE IN GATES** [increased publicity, membership, events and expanded GHS committees]

### STRETCH PRIORITIES

1. **DEVELOP YOUTH ACTIVITIES/ SERVICES/ INVOLVEMENT**
2. **DEVELOP BOARD APPROVED CODE OF ETHICS** [Absolute Charter requirement]
3. **DEVELOP WRITTEN PLAN FOR DISSOLVING GHS** [Absolute Charter requirement]

## From the President Summer 2020

Dear members and supporters,

Since our last 2020 newsletter:

- By the time you receive this newsletter, the Hinchey Homestead fence will be repaired.
- The National Register of Historic Places roadside sign for the Franklin Hinchey Home will be up.
- The Board agreed to 'borrow' the remaining \$9000 needed for the fence repair from our savings account and will strive to repay that amount through fundraising for the rest of 2020.
- As you saw in our last issue's front page News Flash, we did win a \$2000 grant from the Pomeroy Foundation for a much needed laptop and accessioning software. We will be seeking volunteers to help with the accessioning [think cataloging] process over the next five years.
- Our new 2020-21 goals are part of our Long Range Plan to earn our Absolute Charter from NYS Education Department by the time our present provisional charter expires in January 2024.
- Our reopening schedule with the changes needed for our tours and events at the Hinchey Homestead are featured elsewhere in this newsletter. Much change is needed for us to thrive and we will adapt!
- Kudos to our Nominating Committee, headed by former Board member, Lee Krist, with members Bill Gillette and Adrienne Perrin. They have counted the ballots and all proposed new and returning board members were elected June 17. Over half our membership mailed in their ballots on time!
- Our board committees welcome additional volunteers:
  1. Archives, accessioning, exhibits & museum: Paula Blackburn, Garth Brokaw, Marlene Sutliff and Susan Swanton
  2. Buildings & grounds: Cindy Hinchey and Susan Swanton

*"What lies behind us  
and what lies before  
us are tiny matters  
compared to what lies  
within us"*

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON

3. Fundraising & grants: Raymond Coons, Cindy Hinchey, Christine Kimmerly and Susan Swanton
  4. Membership and office: Virginia Paddock and Sue Swingle
  5. Programs [also Holly Days]: Paula Blackburn and Sue Swingle
  6. Tours: Garth Brokaw and Virginia Paddock
  7. Volunteer Coordinator: Chris Maurice
- All new board members have received their board manuals and orientation.
  - While we didn't win a Greater Hudson Heritage grant for collections assessment funding, we did secure funding for the assessment from Ray and Ginny Coons. So by the end of the year, we will have both our 2019 site assessment and a 2020 collections assessment completed!!
  - My talented daughter, Kathryn, based in Nashville, has volunteered to temporarily manage our website and Facebook pages for us.
  - Now the frosting on the cake is the news that Bill Gillette and John Robortella are donating the profits from their new book on Gates to the Historical Society! Truly wonderful news!

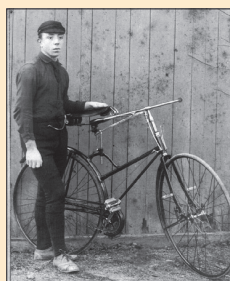
Most gratefully,  
Susan Swanton, President

Contact me [GatesHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:GatesHistoricalSociety@gmail.com)

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### *Driving Through Historic*

## **GATES**



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Gates Town Historian  
William A. Gillette  
and  
John M. Robortella

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and

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Introduction by

*Gates Supervisor Cosmo A. Giunta*

Your tour begins at the Gates Town Hall  
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**TOTAL**

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**John Robortella d/b/a Finger Lakes Historical Press**



## 2020 FALL PROGRAMS:

Beginning in August, Society programs will resume in the Gates Town Hall Annex. Masks are required and all attendees need to social distance. No open refreshments will be served but look for takeaway treats.

Programs are free but donations welcomed for either fence fund or to help offset costs of COVID-19 supplies for the Hinchey Homestead

### SEPTEMBER 21

**Gary Newman, freelance historian and re-enactor**, on the history of the French and Indian War in New York State, local battles and outcome of this war.

### OCTOBER 19

**Edward Maruggi, Author of "The Italians of Greater Rochester: Contributions to the Community and the Nation"**. He will tell about how more than 4 million Italians came to America between 1880-1920. Copies of this book may be for sale at the program.

### NOVEMBER 16

**Don Newcomb, Collector – "Tools of the Past – Basic to Beams"**. A presentation of early American tools and how they were used in the building of the first homes of the colonies.

*Programs are held in the Gates Town Hall Annex, 1605 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of the month. This facility is handicapped accessible.*

Check our website [www.gateshistory.org](http://www.gateshistory.org) or email us [GatesHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:GatesHistoricalSociety@gmail.com)

## HOLLY DAYS

- Saturday and Sunday December 5th & 6th; December 12th & 13th; December 19th & 20th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Enjoy an old fashioned Christmas at the only Gates site on the National Register of Historic Places
- Preregistration online required
- Children under 12 free but must be registered

## WISH LIST

- Garden tools, wheelbarrow
- Desk lamps, floor lamps or track lighting
- Fans of any kind
- Archive and office supplies
- Storage totes with lids
- Paper goods such as paper towels, toilet paper
- Large bottles of hand sanitizer
- New 3 in 1 printer
- Volunteers of all ages

## REOPENING THE HINCHEY HOMESTEAD

At this point in time, our plans are to reopen the Hinchey Homestead to members and their guests in September and the public in October. Note this may change any time state guidelines change.

Like other historic sites and museums, the Governor is limiting us to 25% of approved capacity so we can enable safe social distancing. That means no more than 4 to 5 visitors with 2 Society volunteers or board members. Masks will be required for admission.

We need to purchase and install about \$1000 of equipment and supplies in August as well as train our tour docents and new board members to serve as guides. Plexiglas shields for the gift shop in the kitchen plus Plexiglas installed over the front hallway wallpaper so we can safely sanitize this surface.

We will have sanitizing stations on each floor and a schedule for disinfecting commonly touched areas in the house.

No open refreshments are permitted but we hope to offer takeaway treats or memorabilia for visitors to remember their Hinchey Homestead visit.

To cover the cost of supplies, we have increased our tour and event fees to \$10 for members and their guests and \$15 for the public.

Registration in advance is required and we will soon be able to offer pre-payment via our website and PayPal.

Smaller spaces will be viewed from the doorway with more fresh air brought into the house via additional opened doors and windows.

We will use a touch less thermometer for all volunteers and visitors and all visitors will sign a form for contact tracing and exposure to COVID-19.

Our goal is to keep our volunteers, our members and the public safe during this difficult time. Your safety is our paramount concern. Thank you for helping us implement these changes. We are all in this together but still want to enjoy seeing the only historic site in the Town of Gates on the National Register of Historic Places.

### FEES — For all Hinchey Homestead events and tours

- \$10 for Society members
- \$15 for non-members; join online
- No more than five visitors can be in Hinchey Homestead at a time
- Masks and socially distancing required.
- Advance registration is required, and prepayment encouraged via PayPal.
- Members enjoy 10% discount in gift shop, except for consignment books

## 3rd POMEROY GRANT FOR GATES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Pomeroy Foundation has been very good to the Gates Historical Society. First Cindy Hinchey wrote the grant that won the Society the National Register of Historic Places roadside sign [see our first page story] for \$1100.

We are in the process of implementing our 2nd Pomeroy grant. Susan Swanton wrote this grant for \$2000 to cover lost income from cancelled Spring tours that would have helped pay for a much needed laptop and museum software, PastPerfect.

Now we have won our 3rd grant, a 50% matching grant up to \$3000. This Pomeroy grant is to cover the additional cost of COVID-19 supplies needed to open the Hinchey Homestead and for Hinchey Homestead maintenance. The Board will earmark all monies raised for this grant to offset the cost of rebuilding the fence as well as supplies for coping with the pandemic.

The 3rd grant will match up to \$3000 one dollar for every two the Society raises between August 1 and September 30. So if a person donates \$100 to the Society during these two months, their donation will win an additional \$50 from the Pomeroy Foundation.

Gifts in kind are not eligible for the match and although gifts can be publically

anonymous, the Pomeroy Foundation requires the donor's name, city, zip code, amount of donation and the date of the donation for grant verification.

The Society is striving to raise \$6000 in August and September and already has received a \$1000 donation from a Board member towards this grant. If the Society raises an additional \$5000 in the next two months, we will receive the Pomeroy Foundation maximum match of \$3000 for a total of \$9000.

The cost of COVID-19 supplies is estimated at \$1000 for the Hinchey Homestead to reopen and the balance due on the fence is about \$10,000, so this grant plus the donations that enable us to win this matching grant, will cover most of the costs of rebuilding the fence.

Susan Swanton, President, wrote this grant and thanks help from board members Christine Maurice and Virginia Paddock for supplying the documentation needed for this grant.

**Please help us meet our goal of raising an additional \$5000 before the end of September. Mail your donation made payable to the Gates Historical Society, 634 Hinchey Road, Rochester, NY 14624.**

### ANOTHER WAY TO HELP US RAISE MATCHING MONEY FOR THE 3RD POMEROY GRANT

Our annual lawn sale of donated items will be held on Friday and Saturday, August 28th and 29th. Please donate your already priced items on Thursday, August 27th lawn sale set up day to Sue and Jim Swingle's home at 1340 Spencerport Road, Rochester NY 14606. All receipts from this lawn sale will go towards the matching money for this grant. Call Susan Swanton at 455-4450 or Sue Swingle at 254-0521.

### National Register of Historic Places *(continued from pg.1)*

Central Railroad, as well as an important resident of the town. Mr. Hinchey was an active leader in the Town of Gates, having served as Town Justice of the Peace. The house, built in the Italian Villa style, was designed by two ship's carpenters.

"This house bypassed the 20th century," said Susan I. Swanton, President of the Gates Historical Society Board of Directors and past Director of the Gates Public Library. "Just to walk into the kitchen and see the old sink with the pump to raise water from the cellar cistern up to the attic vat takes you back in time to how our great grandparents lived. Although built with indoor plumbing—just to be safe—the house was also built with a two-seater outhouse attached to the kitchen, all still intact.

"The Town of Gates is so fortunate to have this living legacy of its past and even furnished with Hinchey family heirlooms that now belong to the Society," said Ms. Swanton. "This is truly a historical gem to be treasured by future generations."

She noted that vacationers often consciously include visits to National Register places to enhance their travel plans.

"Hopefully, the installation of this sign will attract more visitors to the Town of Gates as well as add to local residents' sense of pride in their hometown of Gates," said Ms. Swanton.

The new marker was funded by the Pomeroy Foundation, a private, grant-making foundation based in Syracuse, N.Y., which helps people celebrate their community's history through a variety of roadside marker grant programs. The Foundation's grant covers the cost of a marker, pole and shipping. The Foundation has funded more than 300 markers and plaques.

A ceremony is planned by the Town of Gates and the Gates Historical Society later this summer upon completion of the restoration that is now in progress of the iconic Hinchey Homestead fence along the Hinchey Road frontage of the property.

## GHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Swanton, *President*

Raymond Coons, *Treasurer*

Marjorie Bouwens, *Secretary*

Paula Blackburn

Garth Brokaw

Cindy Hinchey

Christine Kimmerly

Christine Maurice

Virginia Paddock

Marlene Sutliff

Sue Swingle

Bill Gillette, Town Historian and GHS Board liaison

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Thanks to all of you who indicated on your membership renewal form an interest in volunteering. I, or another board member, will be contacting you, and all of our already active volunteers, to discuss your areas of interest. We have some opportunities coming up, some activities of a continuing nature, and some are short term or onetime events.

- The Hinchey House Historic Site will be opening to the public again in October (earlier for members), with safety protocols. The tour group size will be smaller, and so we anticipate a need for more tour docents.
- Fall garden and yard clean up at the Hinchey House is coming up soon.
- Volunteers needed to help bring down the Christmas trees from the Hinchey House attic (and take them back up after the season)
- We have a great website and Facebook manager, but anticipate the need for someone new coming up. Do you have the skills, or know someone willing to donate their time?
- We have a really big project coming up: cataloging all of the items in our Hinchey House Historic Site. Calling all those with clerical skills.

If you are interested in any of these interests or events, please contact me, Chris Maurice, Volunteer Coordinator, via [GatesHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:GatesHistoricalSociety@gmail.com)

## Gates History Stories Wanted

We have a rich history in the Town of Gates, waiting to be shared. Is there an area of town of special interest to you, or perhaps a family with a long history in Gates you'd like to write about? We are seeking articles written by Gates Historical Society members that add to our historical knowledge of the Town. Our goal is to include one story in each newsletter.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR IDEA to Chris Maurice, via [GatesHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:GatesHistoricalSociety@gmail.com), for Board approval. We can then help you write the article if you like, and help you edit it so it fits on one page of the newsletter. After publication (with your byline!) in the newsletter, the story will be added to our web site. Note: this is a "volunteer" activity, there is no remuneration, and your published article becomes the property of The Gates Historical Society.

### Gates Historical Society MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please fill out the application below.

Mail to and make checks payable to:

**Gates Historical Society**

634 Hinchey Road • Rochester, New York 14624

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Senior (55+) .....\$15.00    ☐ Business .....\$50.00

☐ Student.....\$15.00    ☐ Patron .....\$50.00

☐ Individual.....\$20.00    ☐ Sustaining\* .....\$100.00

☐ Family (2+).....\$35.00    ☐ Lifetime\* .....\$500.00

\*1/2 of these memberships are added to our Endowment Fund.

Membership dues are tax deductible contributions. 501(c) (3)

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

May we contact you to volunteer?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No

## NEWS FROM THE GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

- 'History of Seneca Park Zoo' by Maureen Whalen on Tuesday, September 8th at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Please register beginning August 31 on the Greece Public Library's calendar page
- 'Eight Brave Civil War Soldiers' Tuesday, October 13 via Zoom. Please preregister.