

THE ASHLAND HISTORIAN



AHA Breakfast Fundraiser February 22, 2008

Our first breakfast was a sell out. The



team served about 100 people and hardly had any food left over. Serving breakfast is relatively an easy and inexpensive way to raise money with very little prep time or waste.

The Annual History Day and Chinese Auction was very profitable as well. The Chinese Auction always is a big hit. Additionally, this year we had a raffle for a 42" LCD HD Television which was won by Ellen Mudge. Second prize was a Echo lawn trimmer won by Reginald Cross and the third prize, a propane grill won by Joyce Tompkins. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Edition 9
August 22, 2008

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The President's Corner by Samerna Rion

As you well know, the back bone to any organization is support and membership. For this upcoming membership drive the Association is offering an annual membership in addition to a lifetime membership.


On October 25th, we will hold our 2nd Annual Harvest Dance with a 50's theme. Well known DJ, Patrick DelRosario will be here to spin the tunes. The Association will be holding another breakfast soon with the date TBA. Look for more info soon.

May 24th brought another successful Annual History Day and Chinese Auction. Many were in attendance with a slide show presentation of Ashland by Larry Tompkins con't on pg. 2

Coming Events

Sept - Annual Membership Drive
Breakfast: Date TBA
Sat, Oct 25: Harvest Dance

 Costume Contest

 Refreshments

 Raffle

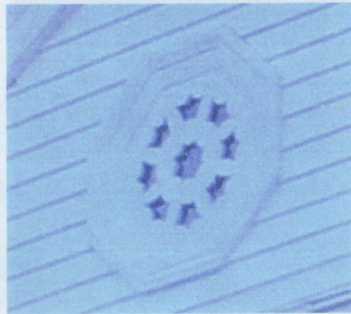
More info TBA

West Settlement ME Church.....update

Located on County Route 10, Ashland, NY



This is what your donations have accomplished to date.....pretty stunning changes, wouldn't you say?



The exterior restoration will be finished this summer with the replacement of the roof. It is our hope that we will be successful with a grant that has recently been submitted to NYS Parks and Historic Preservation so that we may begin the interior. Your donated dollars have helped us tremendously in that we have been able to complete the project this far in just a few short years.

Below are photos of the interior of the building as it is now. The interior project will be substantial in construction and cost, therefore we thank you for your quick and generous response to our mailing for this grant application. We were able to request all the funds that are needed for the restoration! It will cost approximately \$46,000 and we were able to match \$23,000 because of YOU.

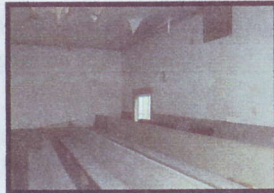
Walls



Ceiling



Balcony



President's Corner continued.....

from the Mt. Top Historical Society. The theme for the 2009 event will be farming and farm equipment in the Town of Ashland. This should prove to be an interesting topic. Anyone who has pictures, stories or ideas should contact me @ 734-4170. More info on this event in the February letter.

Having been president for nearly a year now, I wish to extend my thanks to all my supporting officers and board members for their hard work and dedication to our working projects.

A History of Ashland Farming:

By Michelle Fancher

Early 17th and 18th century farmers endured very rough pioneer life while adapting to the new environment of the Catskills. Many began their farms alone, clearing land and building their homes by themselves, sending for their families once established. Harnessing oxen and horses for power, they used crude wooden plows to carve out fields for crops, however, much of the land was so rocky that many raised sheep. Many early crops consisted of wheat, corn, oats, and barley.

These crops were all sowed by hand, cultivated with a hoe, hand-cut with a sickle and threshed using a flail. Not until the late 18th century were many machines such as the cradle and scythe, cotton gin, and cast iron plow invented to make the farmer's lives easier.

Ashland Historical Association meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. All members are welcome to attend any meeting. To ensure our future growth and success we are seeking new volunteers for various committees to continue to achieve our goals.

For more info please contact Samerna Rion @ 518-734-4170 or Diane Cross @ 518-734-3636

Check our website for additional info.
www.ashlandny.com