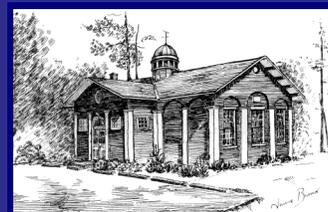


BETHLEHEM HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION

Bethlehem Historical Association



# Newsletter

OCTOBER 2014

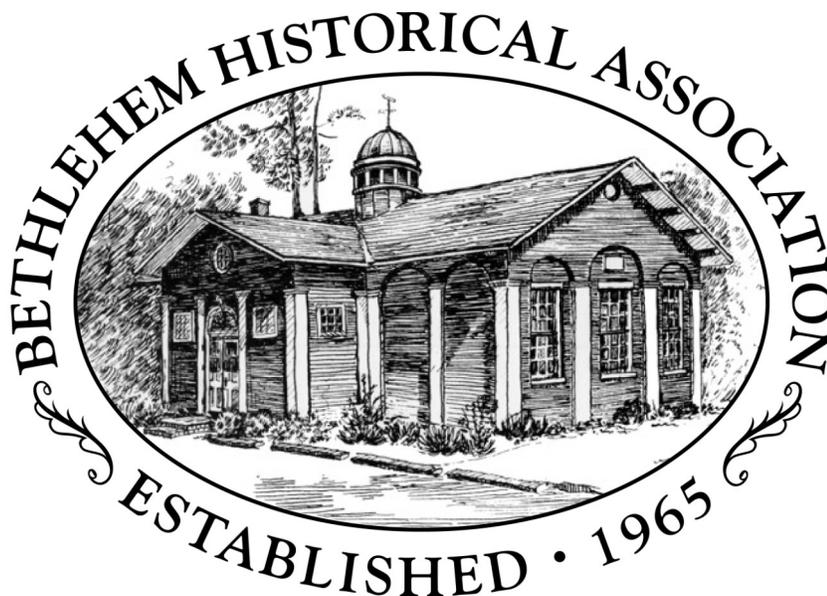
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Live for Today

Dream for  
Tomorrow

Learn from  
Yesterday



## We Have A New Logo

It is with great pleasure that the Association reveals our new logo. We are grateful to graphic artist Jessica Loy for her creative energy in designing the logo which incorporates Jeanne Stanley Brown's original sketch. Since being chartered in 1965, the Bethlehem Historical Association has strived to fulfill its purpose :

- \* To stimulate an appreciation of the historical heritage of the Town of Bethlehem.
- \* To discover, collect and preserve any material which may help to illustrate the history.
- \* To cooperate with the town government and with private enterprise in achieving the preservation of historic buildings.
- \* To disseminate historical information concerning the community and its residents.

# News from the President

Dear Members and Friends:

The 2014 annual meeting of the Town of Bethlehem Historical Association was held on May 15, 2014 with a dinner at the Mansion at Cedar Hill. Election of Officers and Trustees resulted in the following for the 2014-15 Season: President, Kathleen A. Newkirk; Vice President, Ann VanDervort; Recording Secretary, Christine Ford; Corresponding Secretary, Wendy Brandow; Treasurer, Anne Young. New Trustees are Lois Dillon and Sheila Giordano to serve until 2017. An enthusiastic group of members and guests attended.



BHA President  
Kathy Newkirk

Our summer exhibit opening, "Farming in Bethlehem", was held on Sunday, June 15, 2014 from 1:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with an ice-cream social courtesy of Stewart's Shops. The exhibit featured farm implements and displays of local farms that were in Bethlehem through the years. There was also a case dedicated to the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bethlehem Grange.

Programs have been arranged for the new year and have been successfully started. September was a presentation by Denis Foley on Jack "Legs" Diamond. A large crowd was on hand to listen to an interesting program including mention of the Prior family and the former home of Governor Martin Glynn.

We will be celebrating 50 years in 2015 with a dinner at the Mansion at Cedar Hill in May. If you are interested in helping plan our celebration, please contact Vice President Ann VanDervort or me.

I would like to invite everyone to come, visit and enjoy all our Museum and Association have to offer. Hard work has been done to bring interesting programs each month for the enjoyment of everyone. I look forward to seeing you at the Museum.

*Kathy*

*"Displays were  
often done with  
natural materials."*

*A Williamsburg  
Christmas*

## A Williamsburg Christmas

Our holiday exhibit this year will be a "Williamsburg Christmas". A few years ago we had a display on Christmas in Williamsburg and it was very popular. So, we decided to show you another one. In early Williamsburg, Christmas displays were often done with natural materials including berries, pine cones, dried flowers and, of course, lots of candles and fruit. Enjoy the exhibit and wonderful refreshments during our annual Silver Tea Sunday, December 7 and Monday, December 8 from 1 to 4 in the afternoon. All are welcome to come and enjoy. The display is being done under the leadership of Vice President, Ann VanDervort and her committee.

# Recalling the 1954 Albany Plan of Union Medals

By Dr. Galen Ritchie

This is a year of anniversaries. We are four-fifths through the Civil War Sesquicentennial. This summer, the centennial of World War I (which we only entered in 1917) will be commemorated. Perhaps, unremembered, is that this is the 260<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Albany Plan of Union, the bicentennial of which was celebrated by the Capital District in 1954.



The Franklin Plan of Union is metallically recollected through a set of three commemorative medals produced in bronze, silver and gold, authorized in 1954 by the American Congress. The front features an image of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Albany City Hall with the words “200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Albany congress of 1754; 1754 Albany Cradle of the Union 1954.” The reverse pictures Benjamin Franklin’s 1754 segmented snake motif with the warning, “Join or Die.” These features were explained with the statements: “Here was adopted Franklin’s Plan of Union and Forerunner of the U.S. Constitution.”

The medals are of a uniform 3.7 mm diameter; weights differed due to the metal content. There were 4,800 bronze medals reportedly issued and offered for sale at Albany City Hall. 1,250 silver medals were produced but publicly available. Fifty gold medals were struck, but not advertised. The bronze and silver medals occasionally appear at local auctions and/or antique shows. However, the gold medals are rare. I know of only three specimens to have entered the secondary market. Although Albany was the focus of this event, the bronze medals were publicly available and anyone could, with purchase, take part in it.



*The Albany Plan of Union was a plan to place the British North American colonies under a more centralized government. The plan was adopted on July 10, 1754, by representatives from seven of the British North American colonies. Although never carried out, it was the first important plan to conceive of the colonies as a collective whole united under one government. Read more at <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1750-1775/albany-plan>.*

## New Initiatives Effort

As we approach our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and reminisce about the past, we are also focusing on the future. It seems a good time to dust things off, update procedures and consider new ideas. With that in mind, we have put a new initiatives task force in place. You are encouraged to be a part of this effort by sharing your thoughts and ideas pertaining to our communication, programming and events, community involvement, exhibits, etc. If you have suggestions, we want to hear them. Won't you please consider being actively involved in this process? It is invigorating to imagine all that we can do if we work together. Please reach out to Karen Beck at 439-9260 or email [BethHist1965@gmail.com](mailto:BethHist1965@gmail.com)

## Bethlehem Historical Association

Cedar Hill School House  
P.O. Box 263  
Selkirk, NY 12158

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### E-MAIL

We recently started the practice of using e-mail and are sending brief, occasional messages to all those who have given us their address. If you are not receiving these messages but would like to be included, please let us know. Our address is [bethhist1965@gmail.com](mailto:bethhist1965@gmail.com).

### SNOW BIRDS

If you arrange to have your mail temporarily forwarded to a different address, please know that the post office does not forward our mail due to our bulk mailing status. In addition, we are charged a fee each time a piece of mail is returned to us as undeliverable.

In order to receive your mail without interruption, and also save BHA unnecessary expense, we ask that you please notify us in advance of your temporary address and the dates that you will be using it.

Please contact the corresponding secretary, Wendy Brandow, at 767-0716 with this information. If we have forwarded your mail in the past, and there are no changes this year, we will automatically forward the mail so there is no need to call. Thank you!

## Coming Events

At the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse unless noted differently.

Thursday, October 16, 2014 7:00 PM  
*The Mohicans* Emerson Martin, Jr.

Thursday, November 20, 2014 7:00PM  
*"Albany and Bethlehem's Changing Boundary Lines"*  
Anthony Opalka & Susan Leath

Sunday, Dec. 7 and Monday Dec. 8, 2014, 1-4 PM  
*Annual Holiday Silver Tea*

Thursday, January 15, 2015 2:00 PM  
*"Governor Martin H. Glynn of Albany & Bethlehem"*  
NOTE: To be held at Glynn's former summer home,  
1016 River Road, Selkirk.  
Bill Brandow, John G. Waite Associates, Architects

Thursday, February 19, 2015 2:00 PM  
*"How the People of the Tri-City Area Helped Keep  
America Free, 1939-1945"* Jack Ryan

Saturday March 21, 2015 10 AM—2 PM  
*Antique Appraisal Day*  
NOTE: To be held at Bethlehem Town Hall.