



‘TWAS A VERY GOOD YEAR - 2024

Hague Historical Society Board members kicked off the summer season by marching in Hague's annual Memorial Day Parade, carrying replicas of the eight historic markers we have placed around town over the past 15 years. We unveiled the newest marker in the Town Park after the parade. [Read more about these markers on page 2].

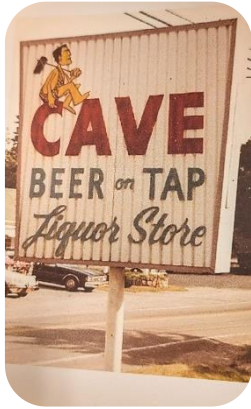


Our exhibit in the Hague Historical Museum of photos, videos, trophies, race programs, and more from the Hague outboard marathons (held from 1954-64) was a big draw, with visitors stopping by from near and far. We even had a visit from a large group of members of the Mohawk-Hudson Chapter of the Antique Outboard Motor Club in October.

In July, we held our annual meeting, during which our members approved our slate of officers and board members (see p.8). Ginger Henry Kuenzel, the newly elected president, thanked Mary Behr, who had held the position since 2016, for her service. Ginger then delivered a presentation about speedboat racing in Hague 1901-1964 and the restoration of *Gingerly*, one of the Henry family's stock utility outboards that raced in Hague's outboard marathons. In August, we hosted an evening of show and tell, during which members brought photos and objects to share. It was unclear at first what some of the objects were used for. But attendees weighed in, and by the end of the evening, everything was identified.

Our archivists (Kathi Ramant and Shelly Gautreau) have been busy working in the collections to bring our inventory lists up to date and ensure better organization of our documents and artifacts. We have a wealth of interesting and valuable items that we want to be able to share with the community and other interested parties.

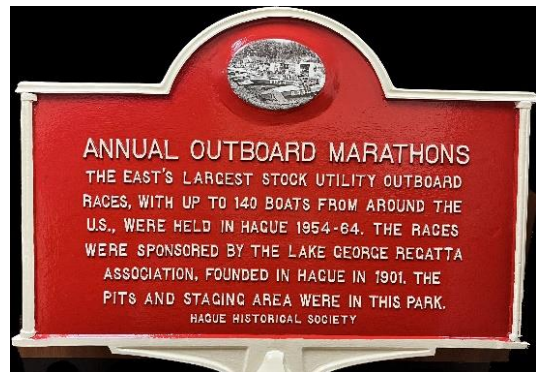
SETTING THE 'BAR' HIGH FOR 2025



Just as 2024 was the year of Hague's historic boat races, 2025 will be the year of Hague's iconic bar of yesteryear: The Cave. When we posted a message on our Facebook page in September asking people to share their memories, well over 100 weighed in within the first day with comments and photos. The Cave may be long gone, but it is certainly not forgotten. In 2025, our museum exhibit will focus on the history of the property, with photos, memorabilia, stories, and perhaps a few surprises. Be sure to check out Hague Historical Society's Facebook page to share your memories of the Cave. Or drop us a line at haguehistorical@gmail.com. Our presentation at our annual meeting in late June will also focus on this illustrious property. Who knows which former bartenders and patrons might just show up to share their spicy memories!

MARKING HISTORY

Every two years, the Hague Historical Society selects a site that we feel is of historical significance. We then research the site's history and decide which facts to include. This is the most difficult part of the project since there is far more to say about each site than will fit on these signs. We



We are grateful to the town for providing financial support for these markers. See how many of the markers you can find next time you drive through town. In the future, we plan to add QR codes to the sign, which will take you to our website to learn more about the history of that particular site. In 2024, we installed a marker in the Town Park to commemorate the site of the pits for the annual 90-mile Hague marathon held 1954-64. Can you find the other seven markers in Hague? Hint: visit our website at www.haguehistorical.com for a map of the markers and their locations.

MEET OUR TOWN HISTORIAN: SALLY DE LARM RYPKEMA

Did you know that under state law, every municipality in New York State is required to appoint an historian? Hague's historian is Sally De Larm Rypkema, who works closely with the Hague Historical Society (HHS) and is a member of our HHS Board. But her role goes far beyond that. Local historians must submit annual reports to the Town, County, and State. They are subject matter experts who promote all aspects of the



history of their town. They are expected to have a passion and enthusiasm for history that inspires others to think about and appreciate the past. As the descendant of a family that has been in Hague since the early 1800s and with her love of historical research, Sally fits the bill. Here are just a few examples of what she does, in her own words:

Ralph Harvey, a geology professor at Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio, emailed me to say he was planning to bring his students on a field trip to explore the mineralogy and rocks of the Adirondacks. After seeing the Hague Historian web page, he reached out to me to ask where he could take his students. I sent him a lot of information on both the Graphite Mines as well as the Lakeshore Mines. I printed off the history and a map of both sites for each student and gave them each a number 2 Ticonderoga pencil. They were very appreciative and had a good time

Amy Dacycyn from Maine contacted me to ask for help correcting “**Find A Grave**” mistakes. She has made it her life's work to ensure the information on that site (which is used a lot) is accurate. It is far less accurate than I would have guessed: what cemeteries people are buried in, mixed-up families, photos that are not the person listed. It makes things difficult, to say the least. She sends me the misinformation for Hague and I get back to her with corrections. She then contacts Find A Grave, and they make the changes on the site. I give

her a lot of credit. It is a thankless job, but an important one for families frustrated by this issue.

Warren County's Historian Challenge is an outdoor treasure hunt throughout the county. Also called Letterboxing, it got its start in 1854 in England. As the historian, I needed to find a spot in town that would be fairly easy to find, safe to park and walk, and of historical interest. Then I needed to come up with a riddle for the passport that would lead the people to the spot. I chose "Millbrook Falls," (today's Hague Falls). Each person gets a "passport" with the riddles from each town. When you find the hidden letterbox, you open it, stamp your passport with the stamp in the box, write a note about what you found, and leave it in the box. You then go on to the next one. There are 14 boxes in the county, with a clue in each to help find Jeanne Oliver -- a very accomplished woman born in 1879. I also needed to write about the place I chose and why it was important in Hague's history. This meant researching very early industries that depended on hydropower, of which there were many on and around the falls. I then wrote about each business and the person who started it, and I provided photos. Learn more at: <https://historians-challenge-warrencountyny.hub.arcgis.com/>.

I receive and write hundreds of emails for people wanting information on families, crimes, artists, historic buildings, schools, early businesses, documentation for D.A.R, old hotels, Graphite Mines, Lakeshore Mines, steamboats, churches, markets, soldiers, early settlers, and many other topics. Each one of these inquiries can take hours and often days to research and as many as eight or ten emails back and forth. With that said, I love all of it!! The fact that I grew up in Hague and have ancestors dating back to the early 1800s, many of whom kept diaries of day-to-day life, is definitely an advantage.

REMEMBERING WHEN

By Ginger Henry Kuenzel

When a houseguest announced soon after arriving that she wanted to drive into town to check things out, maybe get her nails done and gas up her car, I told her she wouldn't have



much luck. But she insisted and asked if I needed anything. “You could pick up some milk at the supermarket,” I said.

It wasn’t long before she was back. “You were right. No gas, no nail salon, and I didn’t see a supermarket,” she said. “But I did get some milk at the general store.” I smiled. I still refer to the Hague Market as

the Supermarket, which is what it was called when I was growing up. I remember going in with a fist full of pennies and picking out pieces of penny candy from the bins behind the counter: fireballs, Turkish taffy, Mary Janes, Tootsie Roll pops, Double Bubblegum, and more. Owners Ada or Bob (Hoyt) would put them in a little brown paper bag, and off I went with my treasures. We didn’t buy milk there back then since De Larm’s Dairy, located next to the market, delivered it to our home.



Cobb’s Store 1954

Bywater Coffee Shop was on the corner where Peggy’s Point is now. We knew it as Grimes’, and we loved the rootbeer milkshakes. Across the street was Cobb’s, with its magazines and newspapers, candy, soda pop, and more. You could also get gas there and catch the Adirondack Trailways bus.

As young teens, my friends and I embarked on a special adventure each summer. We would head to the steamer dock and hop aboard the Mohican, which stopped there on its daily roundtrip from Baldwin to Lake George Village. Arriving in the Village in late morning, we were bound and determined to pack as many activities as possible into the day. Lake George Village was a happening place, just 30 miles from home but an entire world away. We’d hit the penny arcade, with its pinball machines and photo booth. How I wish I still had just one

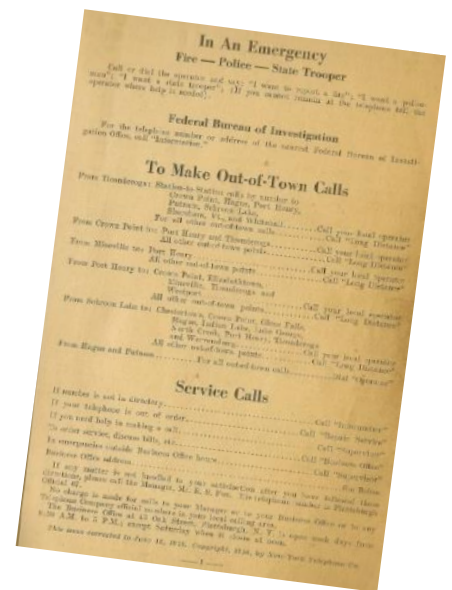
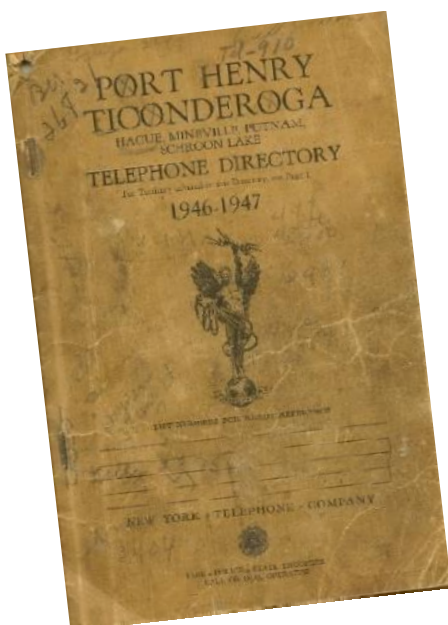
of those blurry black and white photos of all of us crammed into the tiny space, making silly faces. There was also a voice-o-graph recording booth. After dropping our coins into the slot, a light came on, and we had three minutes to sing off-key, make dumb remarks, and giggle at our own foolishness. A few minutes later, out popped a 45 rpm record. Then we'd head off to play minigolf, watch the melodrama at Gaslight Village, eat junk food, and buy tacky souvenirs. In the late afternoon, we'd board the Trailways bus and head home. The driver stopped at each of our driveways to let us off. We felt so independent!

Hague certainly has changed from the days of my childhood. But fortunately, the Hague Historical Society has a wealth of photos, artifacts and documents to remind us of what our town was like not only in the 50s and 60s but all the way back to its founding. We hope you'll stop by our Hague Historical Museum to see some of our history.

RECALLING LIFE BEFORE CELL PHONES

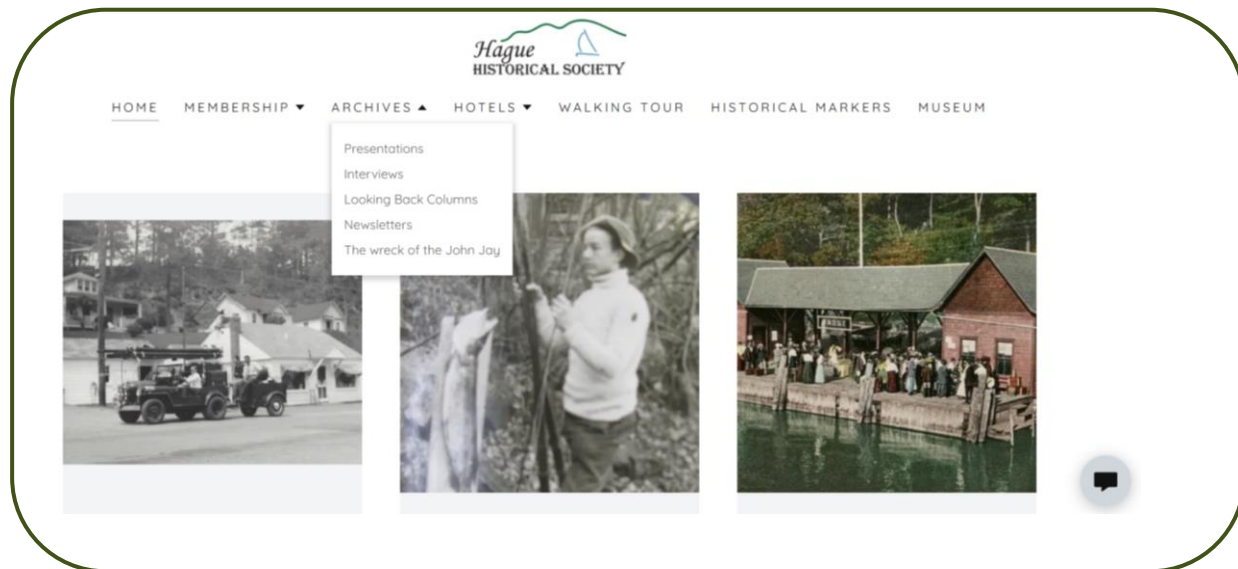
Remember the 'good old days' when we had printed telephone books, and calls from Hague to any town beyond Ticonderoga was a long-distance call? We also had party lines. Anyone who

was sneaky enough could quietly lift the receiver and listen to other people's calls. So much for data privacy. Before 'modern' technology made it possible for us to dial phone numbers for ourselves, an operator connected us. I was sure that the operator lived and worked in the little telephone building on Overbrook (or as we knew it back then, Fitzgerald Hill). Originally, Hague phone numbers had just four digits. Later, Klmball3 was added as a prefix, which then became 543. Ticonderoga was JUno5, which became 585.



EXPLORE HAGUE'S HISTORY ON OUR NEW WEBSITE

And here's another way to explore Hague's history – from the comfort of your living room, your dock, your winter home, or wherever you like to hang out while learning more about our town's past. We're pleased to announce the launch of our new website at haguehistorical.com. It's a work in progress, but you can already watch several narrated PowerPoint presentations from past programs as well as interviews with several of Hague's iconic residents. You'll also find a walking tour that will take you past some of Hague's historic downtown buildings as well as features on hotels of yesteryear, information about our historic markers, and much more. Check it out -- and check back often as we will continuously be adding more content.



NEW!!! JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

We rely on support from our members like you so we can deliver the exhibits and programs that help us all learn about Hague's history. As a new feature, you can now renew your membership or make an additional donation on the Membership page

of our website. There you'll also find information on how to use the traditional method of mailing a check through the U.S. Postal Service.

NEW FORMAT FOR HHS NEWSLETTER

We have so much interesting historical information to share with you that we hope to publish our newsletter more frequently than in the past. Our current plan is to publish it quarterly in electronic format. We will also have printed copies at the Community Center. We'd love to hear your feedback on the topics in this issue, and we also welcome your suggestions for future topics.

Drop us a line at haguehistorical@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Do you have graphic design skills you could use to help give our newsletter and/or website a bit more pizzazz? Or would you like to get more involved with the Hague Historical Society in another area, such as writing, research, technology, museum exhibits, being a docent, etc.)? We'd love to have you join us! Send us an email at: haguehistorical@gmail.com. You can also check out our Facebook page and join in the conversations.

SAVE THE DATE: March 19, 2025 – Show & Tell event at the Community Center

Hague Historical Society Board

Ginger Henry Kuenzel—President

Kathi Ramant—Vice President

Nancy Young—Secretary

Kim Bryant—Treasurer

Sally De Larm Rypkema—Town Historian

At-large board members: Susan Darrin, Mary Lou Doulin,
Shelly Gautreau, Tina Barth King, Janet Lawrence