



The Scribe

Newsletter of the Scriba Historical Society

July, 2026

Purpose: *"To preserve the cultural and historical records of the early Scriba pioneers and future pioneers including, but not limited to , early schooling, early industries, cemeteries, burial records, school districting and craftsman". Chartered 1978*

*Board of Trustees: Pres. Mary Himes; VP John Darling; Sec. Kathy Nemier; Tres. Pat Parkhurst
Trustees: Nancy Hopkins; Judy LaMay; Robert LaMay; Brian Kocher; Gary Darling; Tom Battles
Kelly Miller*

A Word from the President

Hello and welcome to our newsletter. Please enjoy reading about our activities!

First I would like to inform you that we have now become a 501c3 non profit organization. The process was a bit daunting and took some time, but we now have all of our ducks in a row! Here are a few things that having this status provides for us:

- Tax-Deductible Giving: Donors can deduct contributions of cash, historical artifacts, or real estate on their taxes.
 - Grant Eligibility: The status allows the society to qualify for private foundation grants and government funding (like the National Endowment for the Humanities).
 - Property Tax Relief: Many states exempt these societies from local property taxes on their historic buildings.
 - Sales Tax Exemptions: The society usually does not pay sales tax on items bought to run the museum or archive.
- As you know, we do not have a building or museum to house artifacts at this time. We do hope to acquire one in the future and any help you can provide us in this endeavor will be greatly appreciated

Are You Interested in Volunteering With Us?

There are many ways you can lend a helping hand to the Scriba Historical Society, and we would love to have you join us! You don't need to be a history expert—just a willingness to help and an interest in preserving our community's story.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Scanning original documents, letters, diaries, photographs and other archival materials
- Researching inquiries we receive from residents, families and others interested in Scriba's history
- Helping set up and clean up for our programs and special events
- Finding and preserving stories, photographs and information about Scriba's past
- Helping organize and catalog historical materials
- Assisting with displays, exhibits and special projects
- Sharing your own memories, family stories and knowledge of our community

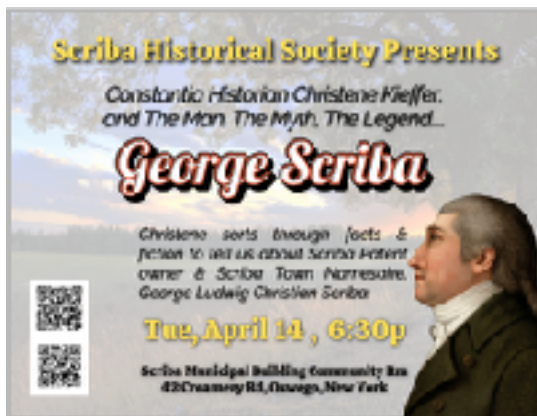
It will also be helpful to have volunteers on board who have knowledge of grant writing, bookkeeping, networking and event planning. We can use your expertise!

Whether you have a few hours to spare or would like to become more involved, there is a place for you at the Scriba Historical Society. Every volunteer helps us preserve the people, places and stories that make Scriba's history special. Come be a part of preserving our past for future generations.

Mary Himes

Holy cow, three months shot by and it is time to let everyone know why this edition is a tad late. Things have been popping with information, questions and ideas rolling in. So hope we can update you with how excited we are.

April 14



Constantia Town Historian Christene Keiffer brought us the story of our namesake George Scriba, 1752 - 1836) and his famous land patent.

After the Revolutionary War concluded George, along with other investors, purchased a large tract of land. From the Roosevelt family to establish a trade route to Canada via Lake Ontario.

He had a road built from Constantia to Vera Cruz (Rotterdam to Mexico point) but it did not turn out to be the best way to get to Lake Ontario after the British finally left Fort Ontario

George is buried in Constantia.

April 24 Roundtable Discussion



Our Roundtable was a tasty meeting seeing examples of family recipes and secret ingredients.

How our foremothers fed our forefathers should not be lost to our generations to come.



Those recipe containers are a wonderful place to look on how they did it.



Not all recipes were only in a box, books were being printed and available from churches, VFW, schools and other organizations.

Zoom was tried and Jim Enos of Kansas and Sue Goverlee of Texas joined us. This is a new adventure for us and we hope to be able to expand our live coverage to out of area members.



May 12



Food seems to be a theme this year. Herb and Sandy's children came in and shared the story of SCRIBA MEATS.

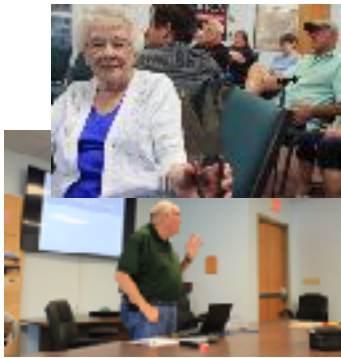


Lenny Davis and Becky (Davis) Swenszkowski are the current top "dogs" of Scriba Meats and they led us through the life of growing a grocery empire serving specialized cuts and meats to the area. Getting into exotic meats is its own story.

For over 30 years this duo has been expanding the business , one addition at a time, in their attempt to be able to serve the community.

We learned how various products were introduced and how more space was needed.





May 29 Roundtable Discussion



Bob Coant, Volney Town Historian, dropped into our Roundtable Discussion and led us into the wonderful world of rich black dirt that abounds in Oswego County.

At one time there were 120 active muck farms in Oswego County and over time that has dropped to about 6 today.

Iceberg lettuce and onions are probably the most known produce but there were actually many different vegetables grown in this rich dark soil.

Tools changed over the years as farmers strove to become more efficient where today the need for manual labor is greatly reduced. An example is how onions are topped, a process that removes the green tops from the onion body.

Topping shears were used to "top" for many years until a machine was made that could do the deed. The man powered example quickly got replaced by a machine powered one. Harvesting onions became quicker and ready for market. This was a great discussion and many memories were related.



June 9



Deb Allen, Oswego County Historian, came to relate the number of Revolutionary War veterans that are buried in the County. Sometimes we forget that our area was being populated by militia and explorers during that time.

Currently Deb has identified 460 veterans buried in Oswego County and has about another possible 100 names to research before a book can be published.

One of the problems in researching names is the spelling. An example was Jerrett. She tried Jerett, Jerret, Jerritt all to no avail. A fellow historian suggested she change the J to a G and see what pops out. Sure enough. The veteran stood up, saluted and said "here I am".

Brian Kocher brought in some period clothing examples that illustrated the construction of pants, shirts and bad weather gear. No zippers, suspenders or belts were used at that time to keep a person covered.



June 20



Ah, fresh strawberries, whipped cream, ice cream and homemade biscuits. Can it be any better? Our 2nd annual Strawberry Social was held inside so that we could control the weather. We had a good number of shortcake connoisseurs come in, sit down and enjoy a good taste and chat with friends.

As we were picking up plans were being discussed on ideas for next year.

Thanks to those that provided the time to make this an enjoyable moment.



June 26. Roundtable Discussion

Where did your grandmother or great grandmother buy those items that were not made at home? Of course, at the local neighborhood store.

There were remembrances of some of the stores such as Perkins, Flowers, Coes and Woodys along with a few other locations even though the names could not be recalled for the moment.

We are sure that there are many more and would like to find them to enlarge the knowledge of our community. As such, a Part II session is scheduled for July 31. Looking for stories, pictures and even just clues.



Perkins Store



Current Projects underway or waiting

We have been blessed with family histories and ideas that we just do not say no to. The Eli Parson memorial dedication will soon be available on our web site. Eli was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

We have document and pictures of the "Log Cabin Lady". This is an exciting project that some of us can remember.

A soldier that was part of the famous "NUTS" response to the Germans that wanted our soldiers to surrender.

We have more information arriving about the Coe family and the store over at Lyscoming.

A previous Town Supervisors family is gathering notes and history of the family here in Scriba.

We have the honor of viewing about 40 years of daily farm diaries. The history of running a farm and its daily needs are here and will make a wonderful record.

We have another farm family with its arrival and how they prospered through the years.

And of course we do have the business end projects in motion, such as planning a picnic, getting ready for a craft show, car show and the many presentations for the year.

Hope I didn't leave out anything.

Looking ahead.

August 8. Make a Wish car show Scriba Fire Department, 11AM to 3 PM

August 11 Presentation about the FFA and how it helps to keep young people down on the farm (and provide good food). Annual business meeting

August 28, Roundtable Discussion

September 8, Presentation on the history of the church at Lansing Corners (early name Hamilton Corners)

And in conclusion, a plea from the VP.

As you may have noticed we have undertaken a number of projects that are important to the history of Scriba. These projects may require research, transcriptions, interviews and assembly of donated documents with the hope of constructing a useable file for future generations.

As we gather historical information, and remember we are part of the future historical world, our goal is to give a view of how our community was built and how it thrived.

I am currently frustrated that I am not progressing on all of the projects at a reasonable pace. Everyone that donates history deserves to see action being taken on putting the information together for others to enjoy.

So, I am asking for help. Maybe you have a relative that is in the list or might add one, maybe you like to research materials and put them in some kind of order, make indexes of what we have, create booklets of family lives, talk to the folks in the cemeteries, find business that existed in 1888 or just willing to do something to keep the flow of information going.

Maybe you like doing web site work or photography or metal detecting, all things that can tell a story.

How about information on the toll gate bridge in Scriba, the stagecoach station out on 104, the various mills on our streams, the blacksmith shops, the farriers, wagon shops, etc.

I hope I struck an interest in preserving these areas and if so please step forward and make the offer.

Of course we are looking for individuals to serve as Board Members, to help guide the activities of the organization.

Thank you for reading this and remember to follow us on Facebook and on our web site.

Support the Society by returning your redeemable cans and bottles to the Scriba Redemption Center, across from Scriba Meats and Town Tavern. Have them credit us with your returns.