

SOCIETY DOINGS:

1. Our archaeological dig: What did we find? Pieces of fine china whiteware, creamware, pearlware, blue and white; pottery shards; bits of glass in various colors; nails, parts of a horseshoe and other small metal items; a clay pipe bowl adorned with a bunch of grapes; bones, buttons, shells, snails, etc. Most of it was what we expected and wanted to find: evidence that the Nellises were a well-to-do family. Most interesting item was bits of Owasco pottery. The Owascoes were the Indian group who resided here before the Iroquois. Most unusual find was an upper dental plate, definitely 20th century. Wonder if someone lost it or was it discarded for some reason??

2. Special events: Nostalgia Day this year featured who described the farm life of his early years as a farmer in Stone Arabia---fascinating. Our Concert on the Lawn focused on songs of Appalachia, sung by folk singer Russell Ehle and was most enjoyable. The annual quilt show was the best ever, both in number of displays and in attendance.

3. Progress: The peaks of the cheese house that had to be removed to get it under the Thruway bridge were restored and the roof is in the process of restoration with half of it already done. Our new flag, donated by the St. Johnsville DAR, was flown at all Tavern openings. We have applied for a Montgomery County grant to repair the north cellar wall.

4. Projects: We are selling hometown Christmas ornaments again This year features the Margaret Reaney Memorial Library. Cost, \$5.00. In observance of the town of St. Johnsville sesquicentennial we are also selling placemats showing historic spots in the Mid Mohawk Valley, Palatine Church, Fort Klock, Nellis Tavern, Indian Castle Church and Beardslee Mansion. Mats are \$2.00 each, or two for \$3.50, or four for \$6.50. To order any of these call 518-568-7831 or write Elizabeth Bilobrowka, 10 W. Main St., St. Johnsville, NY 13452. We also had an informational booth at the Senior Citizen Fall Festival in Canajoharie.

5. Pure Pleasure: July and August: picnic meetings at Nellis Tavern. Memorial Day our first float in sesquicentennial parade in St. Johnsville. (It depicted a tavern scene of the early 1800's and featured a very old table-bar loaned us by the Fort Klock Historic Association.) Bill Watkins, curator at Herkimer Homestead, spoke to us about slavery in New York State. He's a good speaker.

6. Coming up: our annual Valentine Dance will be held on February 4 at DeCarlo-Staffo post in Little Falls with John Ferrara's band. Public invited.

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We wish you all a happy Thanksgiving, a merry Christmas
And a prosperous New Year.