

**Friends of Historic
Grooms Tavern**

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GROOMS TAVERN GAZETTE

Spring 2011

Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern

P.O. Box 116 Clifton Park, NY 12065

www.grooms-tavern.org

TOUR OF THREE TAVERNS Sunday, June 12

The Nellis Tavern on Route 5 in the Mohawk Valley near St. Johnsville was opened for business in 1747. The first tavern keeper was Christian Nellis. This historic building stayed in the Nellis family until the 1960s when the State condemned the building for the widening of Route 5. The building, now even closer to the highway, was abandoned and about ready to fall down. The Palatine Settlement Society was formed in 1978 to rescue this early tavern of bygone days. This group of some seventy people worked hard over the years to first stabilize and then to restore the building.

The Nellis Tavern has several similarities to the Grooms Tavern, many of which were highlighted several years ago when Ronald Burch presented a power point presentation on taverns of the Mohawk Valley. Just last year the Palatine Settlement Society completely restored the tape room from period photographs. This group is much like the Friends of Grooms Tavern in their efforts to restore and maintain a historic tavern.



*THE NELLIS TAVERN AFTER RESTORATION
THE TAVERN IS NOW OPEN ON WEEKENDS FOR
VISITORS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.*

On June 12 we will have the opportunity to compare the Grooms Tavern with the Nellis Tavern and afterwards have dinner in another early tavern. Friends of Grooms Tavern will meet at noon at the Grooms Tavern for a brief tour, before carpooling and motoring west to St. Johnsville to tour the Nellis Tavern.

(Continued on Page 2)

*THE NELLIS TAVERN JUST PRIOR TO THE START OF ITS
RESTORATION. IT WAS ADDED TO THE NATIONAL
REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN 1990*





There will be a \$3.00 admission fee per person. After our tour and light refreshments we will go to Saltsman's Restaurant in Ephratah in the heart of Amish Country. Saltsman's was built in 1813 as Apollo Hall, remodeled in the Victorian period, and is still serving food and spirits, family style.

If tavern hopping is your forte, you will love this trip! Please e-mail Friendsof-historisgroomtavern@Yahoo.com with your intent to join us and how many in your party.



SALTSMAN HOTEL EPHRATAH, NY. BUILT IN 1813 AT THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTES 67 AND 10 IS ONE OF THE OLDEST RESTAURANTS IN NYS

Childhood Memories of Ed's Store, Funny Books, Candy, and Gum

A few miles past my childhood home and into my old stomping grounds stands a general store in Grooms Corners. This was once our haven for purchasing candy with money we kids earned from empty soda bottles and by begging our father's pockets of small change. We four would surround him after work hoping for more than a penny or nickel for our banks. While funny books were a dime...Superman, Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, The Lone Ranger, Gene Autry, Batman, Woody Woodpecker, Archie & Jughead, Sad Sack, Brenda Starr...saving up five or ten cents went far buying candy as some were even two for a penny.

Ed's bell, over the heavy wooden door announced our family's arrival and then the fun began. The grocer did a slow burn behind his lowered spectacles while we four kids surveyed each and every row behind the glass case, our smiling eyes coveting the black licorice sticks...powered sugar-filled caramels...Necco Wafers candy dots...and chocolate-filled lolly pops, Mary Janes, Sugar Daddys (those last three could help loosen a tooth even further, there being a whole dime in that venture)...Black Jack, Juicy Fruit and Teaberry gum were five cents a pack as was Cracker Jack with a prize in the bottom among the peanuts...and might we even see a new candy today?! I would keep the cute tiny brown paper bag which held our choices, given one per family.

My favorite, although a whole five cents, was a Three Musketeers Bar. Ma made us share it between us, for gasoline was twenty five cents a gallon, so buying four would have been a luxury. When getting to eat a whole one, I'd lounge in the car's back seat reading funny

books on a warm day, legs propped up on the front seat, bare feet out the window. I'd nibble off the chocolate coating, savoring the whipped nougat till last, while getting lost with Plastic Man and Little Lulu. Then before I knew it, I'd hear, "Mary...Supper!"

Fleer's Double Bubble Bubble Gum was our family favorite with its special taste. Premiums could be had by mailing in the funnies found inside the folded wax paper wrappers. Later a small fee was added which disappointingly ended our collecting prizes like a personalized metal I.D. bracelet, weather forecaster, or folding metal yard stick. Each piece was a penny but still Ma discouraged us from chewing two or three at a time which we found made larger bubbles. And with much practice we really did blow double bubbles, sometimes three, often ending with that familiar pink "pop!" onto our chins and noses even after we got the hang of it.

We loved our gum. Each chewed piece would be saved at meals on the floral blue oil cloth next to our plates. Nights in our beds would find us intently finishing our new funny books, for the second or third time around, while chewing and popping away. Ma frowned upon gum at bed time, maybe having to snip off a gummy curl or two from a sleeping child. This was so much easier than removing a cemented hunk with rubbing alcohol or baby oil from the locks of a crying child.

When four or five, I found what I thought was a perfect parking place for my gum - in my belly button. A kid hasn't felt pain till her ma has used the rubbing alcohol to get every stray bit from such a tender spot. It was no more gum for a while, adding to my anguish.

- by Mary Barker Schmeelke



Members, Please Update Your Email Addresses!

The Friends would like to go GREEN by conserving paper, but would also like to keep you notified and reminded of events that we are sponsoring. Our email address is: Friendsofhistoricgroomstavern@yahoo.com. Watch for informational emails from us at this address!

Volunteering Ideas that Can Fit Into Your Busy Lifestyle

The more people volunteer, the stronger becomes the community. Not only that, but studies show that participants benefit mentally and physically as well as being happier due to stronger social ties. The Grooms Tavern has many opportunities for volunteering including preparing refreshments for after-program presentations; collating, stapling, labeling, or stamping newsletters; gardening; House Tour, or grant writing. Plus, we're always looking for new board members. Meetings are held once a month on the fourth Monday. If you would like to volunteer for even the smallest of tasks, please contact me at 518-371-2174, or contact any other board member. We'll look forward to hearing from you! Isabel Prescott

Be a Volunteer for House Tour 2012

Last year's very successful House Tour was held May 2010 during the celebration of Historic Preservation Week under the direction of Deanna Rubinger, a member of the Historic Preservation Commission. She has again agreed to chair this fundraising event and plans are under way for the next House Tour to be held in May 2012. The first organizational meeting for this event will take place next month at a time and place to be announced. An additional meeting or two may be held during the summer with more frequent meetings as we approach the actual date of the House Tour. We are asking for your help and support.

We invite all members to participate in this worthwhile and enjoyable venture, sponsored jointly by the Historic Preservation Commission and the Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern. Committees to be formed will consider properties to be featured on the tour, will contact property owners, as well as arrange all other aspects of the event, ensuring a successful tour. Volunteers will be sought for various tasks including hostesses and hosts at the featured homes that day

2011 Calendar of Events



- May 15th 1:00 PM **An Afternoon of Gardening**
See Article Page 4
- June 12th **A Tour of 3 Taverns**
Meet at Grooms Tavern at Noon
- Sept 17-18 10 AM—5 PM **19th Annual Town of Clifton Park Farm Fest**
- Oct 7th 7 PM **FOHGT Annual Meeting Program "Ghost Hunting"**
- Dec 11th **"Holiday Open House"**
Festive Decorations, Music & Food,
- Monthly Meetings - **Fourth Monday of Each Month All Meetings Held At The Grooms Road Tavern**

FOHGT 2011 OPERATING BUDGET

Income		
Dues	\$	1,800
Matching Gifts	\$	200
Total Income		\$ 2,000
Expenses		
Insurance	\$	475
Box Rental	\$	56
Postage (3 Mailings @ 150) and extra	\$	250
Honorariums (4 @ \$50.00)	\$	200
Food @ Events (4@\$50)	\$	200
Newsletter (2 4-Page)	\$	300
Posters (4 events 50 Each)	\$	200
Garden	\$	99
Holiday Decorations	\$	100
Internet	\$	120
Total Expenses		\$ 2,000



Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern

Hosts

Gardening with Perennials
A hands on workshop

Presented by

Country Garden Club
Sunday, May 15th
1:00 p.m.

*Learn about developing a compost,
identifying and dividing perennials.*

***Grooms Tavern, corner of Grooms and
Sugar Hill Rds, Rexford, NY***

Public is invited – Refreshments served.

The Friends of Grooms Tavern are offering an "Afternoon of Gardening" on Sunday, May 15th 2011, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Country Garden Club of Clifton Park. A few of the Master Gardeners from the Garden Club will teach us how to establish compost and will also help with identification and dividing of perennials. This will be a hands-on session in our small Tavern garden, if you chose it to be, so bring your gardening gloves and have fun learning about perennial gardens. The program will be held rain or shine and light refreshments will be served. Pat Haffner & Kathleen Fleming

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