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# GROOMS TAVERN GAZETTE

Spring/Summer 2015

**Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern**

P.O. Box 1166 Clifton Park, NY 12065

[www.grooms-tavern.com](http://www.grooms-tavern.com)

## Save the Blacksmith and Carriage Shop

**P**art of the cultural heritage of Clifton Park is our way of life, including signs of what has changed and will continue to change with time. We are fortunate to have one of the original Blacksmith shops from the 1800s in Clifton Park. The Blacksmith and Carriage shop are a part of our heritage that must be preserved. By preserving the shop we can keep a tangible connection to our past and the life we left behind in the dust of modern technology.

Samuel Grooms was a wagon maker and blacksmith. He had a shop standing upon land owned by Francis N. Vischer. Francis N. Vischer owned the farm on the northwest corner of Grooms Road and Miller Road. By 1851, Samuel moved the wagon and blacksmith shop to its present location just south of the Grooms Tavern and joined the two businesses together.

Chalk inscriptions, still on the walls of the wagon shop, list local marriages occurring between 1852 and 1885. Other inscriptions, both stenciled and penciled, list past patrons and storekeepers. It would appear that the building was quite a gathering place in the mid-nineteenth century. The 1871 Business Directory for Saratoga County lists Samuel Groom as proprietor of the Grooms Corners Hotel, wagon and carriage manufacturer, and blacksmith. Ed Klingbeil later converted the large space above the former wagon shop and blacksmith shop into a three bedroom rental apartment. The space below was used for garage and storage.



Did you ever wonder how our great great grandparents got around? It wasn't with the automobile or as they would later call it the horseless carriage. It was with the family horse or mule and saddles or carriage. How long would it take you to get the horse out of the barn and rigged up to the carriage to go into town for groceries and dry goods? What now takes a matter of minutes with our automobiles, then may have taken hours or a good part of the day. That harness that hangs in my barn is as mysterious to me as the internet. I wonder how often it was strapped to that other member of the family that lived in the barn. It was just a hundred years ago that we depended upon our horses to get us around. Instead of a garage mechanic to change our tires and keep our cars running, you would have needed a blacksmith or wheelwright to keep your horse and carriage in fine shape. How things have changed!

### What's Inside

Clifton Park Celebrating National Preservation Month

May is National Historic Preservation Month!

Thank You to All Who Joined at our 2014 Annual Open House

Open Space Day  
Calendar of Events

Volunteers Needed

**FOHGT Monthly Board Meetings are on the Fourth Monday of each month and held at the Grooms Tavern from 7 pm to 9 pm. Meetings are open to the public.**



The Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern ask your help in preserving and restoring the Blacksmith shop. A strong community interest will ensure that our history and culture remain fresh in the minds of all. By preserving the shop we can create a venue for educational activities and cultural events.

Many members of our community wish to donate artifacts from the past and they could be displayed in the shop. Local Blacksmiths and Wheelwrights would be able to demonstrate and teach their craft. You can help preserve the shop and a part of our heritage. by contributing toward this project. The



Friends welcome you to become partners in this adventure, to volunteer and/or to donate to save the Blacksmith shop.

### **Celebrating National Historic Preservation Day May 30th!**

**M**ay is nationally Historic Preservation month. The Historic Preservation Commission will hold a special event on Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Historic Grooms Road Tavern. The event is open to the public and people of all ages will find the program not only interesting but informative. Admission is free .

The program throughout the day includes tours of the Tavern, demonstrations by a wood worker on making moldings, a tin-smith, who specializes in restoration and reproduction of lighting and also builds folk art pieces out of very old tinsplate and informational photos of the Blacksmith Shop (*not on the tours*) with drawings of what the town of Clifton Park is planning for its future. In addition, John Scherer, Clifton Park Town Historian, will present a lecture as John Grooms, 1790-1877, who was an innkeeper and operated a tavern on the site of Grooms Tavern, where the Town of Clifton Park was officially founded at a meeting on April 1, 1828. The lecture, "This Old House: 'How to Determine a Structure's Age and History'

will investigate construction techniques, architectural styles and research sources for compiling the history of buildings including discovering information about past owners and cultural and social implications

Mark your calendars to attend this special program, Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 11:00 A.M to 3:00 P.M. at The Historic Grooms Tavern.

### **May is National Historic Preservation Month!**

**M**ay has been Preservation Month since 1973, a tradition started only seven years after the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was enacted.

As in years past, the National Trust for Historic Preservation encourages preservation and Main Street organizations to use this month-long opportunity to showcase how they are celebrating and saving historic places year-round. It's a great opportunity to excite your current supporters and introduce new audiences to the work you're doing to enrich and preserve the places that make your community special.



## Thank You to All Who Joined us at our 2014 Annual Open House

The Annual Christmas Open House was held at the Tavern on Sunday, December 7, 2014. The Friends of Historic



Grooms Tavern adorned the rooms with traditional decorations including a tree bedecked with vintage cookie cutters as well as festive garlands on

the fireplace mantels and winding staircase. An old wooden kitchen table, originally belonging to Dr. Elizabeth Peck, was set for holiday baking with a wooden bowl and rolling pin ready for use. Traditional music, sponsored by the Town of Clifton Park's Arts and Culture Committee, was provided by The Sweet Briar Players and added to the peacefulness of the occasion. Homemade goodies and hot apple cider provided by the Friends topped off the free event that was open to the public.



## 2015 Event Calendar

<b>May 16</b> Saturday	<b><i>Celebrate Open Space Day</i></b> Sponsored by Town of Clifton Park/refreshments by FOHGT
<b>May 30</b> Saturday 11 am –3 pm	<b><i>Celebrating National Historic Preservation Day</i></b>
<b>Sept 11</b> Friday	<b><i>Civil War Presentation</i></b>
<b>Sept 19—20</b>	<b><i>Farm Fest</i></b>
<b>October 18</b> Sunday	<b><i>Annual Meeting</i></b>
<b>December 6</b> Sunday	<b><i>Christmas Open House</i></b>

**Please join us on Saturday May 16 for Open House Day . Support the FOHGT as they will be selling refreshments.**

**Celebrate Open Space Day!**  
Town of Clifton Park—2015

**Saturday**  
**May 16**

**10 AM**

- One (1) Hour
- Family-Friendly

**NATURE WALKS: 10 to 11**

1. Ushers State Forest, Ushers Rd
2. North Woods Nature Preserve, between 35 & 40 Shadow Wood Way
3. Woodcock Preserve, Tanner Rd
4. Owaas Kill Nature Preserve, Pierce Rd
5. Veterans Memorial Park & Hoomey Carree Forest, Elm Trail at Madeline Rd
6. Garsney Park, NYS Rt 146, near Nutt Rd
7. Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, Riverview Rd at Van Vranken Rd

**CELEBRATION at:**  
**HISTORIC GROOMS TAVERN, Grooms Rd**

**11AM—1:30PM**  
Displays & Refreshments

**11:45am—KIDS' INTRO to BIRDING** (by Audubon)

**12:30 PM: Open Space Presentation** by Town Officials

**2 PM. WILDFLOWER HIKE AT CLUTES DRY DOCK, RIVERVIEW ROAD (Location 8)**

[www.cliftonpark.org](http://www.cliftonpark.org)

### Volunteers Needed!

We need your help in hosting at one of our events or providing refreshments. Volunteers are needed to help weed the garden and/or decorate for the holidays. Stories about local like in the 'old'



[www.groomstavern.com](http://www.groomstavern.com)

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