

**Friends of Historic
Grooms Tavern**

**Board of
Directors**

**Isabel
Prescott
President**

**Alex
Verrigni
Vice-President**

**Brian
McGlinchey
Treasurer**

**Pauline Boehm
Secretary**

**Anna Fisher
Kathleen Fleming
Ernie Haffner
Pat Haffner
Charlotte Mack
Larry Syzdek**



GROOMS TAVERN GAZETTE

Fall 2011

Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern

P.O. Box 116 Clifton Park, NY 12065

www.grooms-tavern.org

**Annual Meeting—October 7, 2011 7:00 PM
Grooms Tavern
at the Corners of Grooms & Sugar Hill Roads**

Come One, Come All to the 'Friends' Annual Meeting

Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern Annual Meeting on October 7 at 7:00 PM will feature a special Halloween Program with Ghost Hunter Jeff House of Clifton Park. Jeff has worked with

several groups that investigate local haunted houses. He will discuss the various types of hauntings he has investigated and demonstrate the sophisticated equipment used in proving whether there is actually a ghostly presence. Jeff will also relate some of his more interesting experiences in his quest for spirit activity. Who knows, just maybe he will conjure up the ghost of old Ed Klingbiel! This special event is co-sponsored with the Town of Clifton Park as a First Friday event.

Upcoming Events at the Tavern

The Clifton Park Arts and Culture Commission are sponsoring a music series this fall. Several of the Programs are to be held at the Historic Grooms Tavern. The first in the series will be held at the Tavern on Friday evening, October 14 at 7:00 PM and will feature HeartsEase a traditional music group in 18th century dress who will play popular music of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. This type of music would have been heard during the heyday of the Grooms Tavern. On Sunday afternoon, December 11, Sweetbrier, a Renaissance Recorder Consort will play Christmas music from the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque and Colonial periods to complement a Christmas Open House at the Tavern.

Ghost Hunter with Jeff House

*Historic Grooms Tavern
Clifton Park First Friday
October 7 @ 7 p.m.*

Jeff House will talk of his experiences in going after area ghosts and will check out Grooms Tavern for any spirit activity.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern and the Town of Clifton Park. There will be a short Friends Annual Meeting just prior to the program. This will undoubtedly be a popular event and there will be limited seating. First come, first seated. Doors open at 6:45pm.

Cider and donuts will be served compliments of Riverview Orchards.

Historic Grooms Tavern is located at the corner of Grooms and Sugarhill roads in Clifton Park. Parking is off of Grooms Road to the rear. Please enter the building from the rear entrance.
Co-Sponsored by the Town of Clifton Park and Friends of Grooms Tavern.
For more information, please call the Office of Parks, Recreation and Community Affairs at 371-6667
For a full schedule of events please visit <http://www.cliftonpark.org/townhall/groomstavern.asp>



The Friends of Grooms Road Tavern now has their own E-mail address for all its members and anyone from the community to use to talk to us . The address is:

friendsofhistoricgroomstavern@yahoo.com

We look forward to hearing from you!



Memories of Grange Dances in Grooms Corners

By Isabel Barrett Prescott

Grange was such an important part of my childhood, that I cannot recall my growing up years without thinking of it. As a farm family in predominantly rural Clifton Park, the grange hall was the one place, outside of church, where our whole family could get involved.

Saturday nights in the fall were special for all ages in the grange community. Round and square dances were held in the Mohawk Valley Grange in Grooms Corners, the music provided by the Jeske family band with a live caller, and a diversion for all. Both romantic and exciting, an occasion to laugh and enjoy life, a few moments to forget the responsibilities and problems at home, dances were just the escape that farm families needed. The floor would vibrate from the lively dancing, our skirts would twirl with crinolines underneath as we were swung off our feet. Our lips would be silent as we listened carefully for the next call, "Duck for the oysters, duck, duck, duck, dive for the clams," the caller would announce as we reacted almost automatically to the familiar phrases, performing the patterned dance routines in concert with the seven other people in our square. As the Saturday evening came to a close before midnight because we were not allowed to dance on Sundays, we returned home to our beds, tired and happy and still swaying to the music while humming it under our breaths. We were already envisioning ourselves swinging our partners at the upcoming dance the next month.

Yes, these times in the Grange united us, made us a community, provided us with the fellowship of a neighborhood, and most of all, gave us wonderful memories of which we can be so proud. Unquestionably, the grange helped to give us that irreplaceable quality of life in rural Clifton Park on which our heritage has been built, and which should never be forgotten.

Plan On Attending The 2012 House Tour

Deanna Rubinger will again chair the biennial House Tour in Clifton Park to be held next May. This event will be cosponsored by The Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern and the Town of Clifton Park's Historic Preservation Commission. It will feature various outstanding homes in our community and will provide us with a very enjoyable event, the proceeds of which will benefit the Tavern. If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter at one of the homes on the tour, please let us know via email or call Isabel at Riverview Orchards on 518-371-2174. Look for a specific date forthcoming.

Please Join Us

Find greater fulfillment in life by volunteering to be on The Friends of Grooms Tavern board, or involved in any other aspect of the organization. Our board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month and tend to run from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Lend your time and talents for even an hour a month! We often have small projects for which you can volunteer. Albert Schweitzer once said: 'The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.'

Do You Remember When.....

I am hoping that "Do You Remember When" will become a series of stories in our future newsletters contributed by members reminiscing about days gone by in Clifton Park. In our last newsletter, Mary Ann Barker Schmeelke started us off by recalling her family's trips to Ed Klingbeil's Store (The Tavern). Having grown up myself on our farm on Riverview Road in Clifton Park and living here still, I have many memories surrounding life in the community and especially in Grooms Corners. I am sharing here a recollection about the grange hall located just down the road from the Tavern. The hall, as part of our local heritage and currently on the National Register of Historic Places, is now owned and will be preserved by the Town of Clifton Park. As many of you have already noted, a new roof was constructed on it a few years ago, saving it from future devastation.

Please start to document your memories and submit them to be included in our newsletter for all to share. Email or contact any board member including me at Riverview Orchards. Thanks and hope that as you read this, you enjoy a moment traveling down memory lane. *Isabel Barrett Prescott*

Attend an *Old-Fashioned Christmas Open House* in December

The Friends of Grooms Tavern invite you to an *Old-Fashioned Christmas Open House* on December 11, 2011. This event will be cosponsored by the *Country Garden Club* of Clifton Park who, along with the Friends, will be decorating the Tavern and furnishing refreshments. Live music will be provided by Sweet Briar Recorder Group, a Renaissance Recorder Consort, they will play Christmas music from the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque and Colonial periods. The members of Sweet Briar are all local community musicians. It should prove to be a very festive way to celebrate the holidays with family, friends, and neighbors. Christmas trees and "The Jolly Old Elf" became popular in the 1850's in America and were undoubtedly well known in small rural towns such as Grooms Corners, New York. Let us revisit those nostalgic days and come help us to

Do You Know The Country Garden Club?

Who better to help decorate the Tavern for Christmas than the women in the local Clifton Park *Country Garden Club*? This organization has shown its strength over the years having been around since 1952, when a small group of women got together to share and learn more about flower gardening. It is a not-for-profit organization and a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York and the National Garden Clubs, Inc., the largest gardening society in the world. Some of their noteworthy objectives include beautification and preservation of scenic and historic locations, civic plantings, education for the community, and the fostering of the art of gardening, horticulture, and landscape design. The Country Garden Club has helped to encourage public interest in environmental concerns and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of our entire New York State.

A few of their many contributions locally have involved educational programs on noteworthy subjects such as invasive and native plant species, maintaining public gardens including ones at the Tavern, the post office, Collins Park, Clifton Park Adult Community Center, and others.

We owe a big thank you to the *Country Garden Club* for their invaluable contributions to the community during the last 60 years!

2011 Calendar of Events



October
7th
Grooms
Tavern

FOHGT Annual Meeting
Followed by

The Ghost Hunter
By Jeff House

Co-sponsored with The Town of Clifton Park

Dec 11th

**Old Fashioned Christmas
Open House**

**Sweet Briar Recorder
Experience the Holidays Celebra-
tions of years gone by**

Monthly
Meetings
-

**Fourth Monday of Each Month
All Meetings Held At
The Grooms Road Tavern
7PM-8:30PM
All Are Welcome**



NEW GARDENS AT THE WEST END OF THE TAVERN



www.grooms-tavern.org

Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern

P.O. Box 1166

Clifton Park, NY 12065

