



GROOMS TAVERN GAZETTE

Spring 2018

Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern

P.O. Box 1166 Clifton Park, NY 12065

www.groomstavern.com

Town of Clifton Park Honors Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern

At the Town Hall meeting, on May 7th, 2018, Larry Syzdek accepted the award on behalf of the Friends. Here are his comments:

“I am honored to receive this award on behalf of the Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern, its board, and its membership. Much work has been accomplished by the Friends over the eighteen years since they were established.

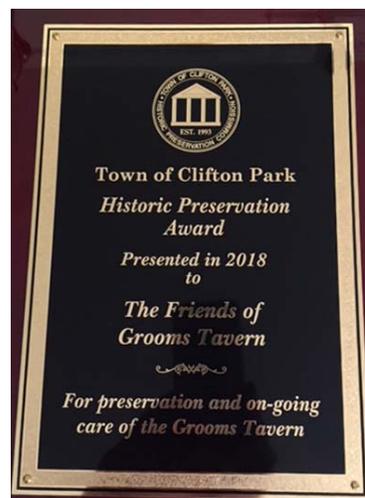


Recently the Friends, with the help from the town, have made it possible to restore the Community Room on the second floor. This is now available for historic exhibits. Presently, the Friends are working to restore the remainder of the second floor to complete the tavern's restoration. This work on developing Grooms Tavern has resulted in making the tavern a favorite place for public events and meetings.

The Friends are also continuing to raise money to restore the Blacksmith Shop next door to the Tavern. This historic building requires restoration as soon as it can be done. The restoration of the Blacksmith Shop will make it possible to host larger groups for educational exhibits and activities.

Clifton Park has grown into a city-size community since the 1950s: From a small community of farms, to a bedroom community to the Capital Region, to its present large population. As it grows larger, it must remember its heritage and its rich history. How better to do that than by preserving its historic buildings.

On behalf of the Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern I wish to thank the Historic Preservation Commission for this award, and for their continued work on preserving our historic heritage.”



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See us on Facebook



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Due to Memorial Day the next FOHGT Monthly Board Meeting will be Tuesday, May 29th held at the Grooms Tavern from 7 pm to 9 pm. Meetings are open to the public.



Check Out Clues From the Past at the Tavern

Someone just told me a story about a 94 year-old man who recently cut down a tree on his property, milled it into boards, shaped it into molding strips by hand, and secured them inside his old house. This brought to mind that it was not all that long ago that homeowners did their own hard work of building by hand instead of running over to Lowe's for pre-made supplies. This started me thinking about the importance of preserving examples of building and architectural styles that were created by skilled artisans whose techniques are part of our heritage. There are prime examples of this kind of handiwork inside The Historic Grooms Tavern designed by those who constructed the original building as well as by those who repaired or renovated it during the subsequent years.

In about 1810, not long before the Tavern was built, a wonderful new machine was invented that helped to automate the fashioning of square nails. Prior to this, each nail was individually hand-wrought by blacksmiths with use of a hot fire, anvil, and glancing blows by a hammer. The next time you are in the Tavern take a very close look to see if you can discover where sturdy square nails might still be in use today.

When you're walking around the old store, be sure to notice the wide board floors that squeak when you walk on them. Think what amount of labor was involved in the harvesting of old-growth trees whose dense grain has given these boards such longevity. Go upstairs to peer outside the windows and think how much effort it must have taken to produce that very wavy glass. How innovative and skilled these people were to have produced what they did without the luxury of today's technology.

The other day one of the Girl Scouts in my troop asked me what a blacksmith is and I told her it is a person who makes tools and other objects out of iron and steel by use of a fire, anvil, and hammer. Even that explanation went pretty much over her head, and I was wishing I could show her exactly what I meant. I realized right then how important it is that we are refurbishing the blacksmith shop next door to the Tavern. We can pass down to the next generation some of the skills and techniques that were used in the past 100 years. Maybe some people don't think it's important to retain this heritage, but wasn't it the poet Robert Penn Warren who said, "History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future." What a great piece of advice. So, the next time you visit the Tavern, be sure to view all the details that are clues to the skilled handiwork of the artisans.

Article by Isabel Prescott

Friends Cookbook

Available NOW the newly printed Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern Cook Book, with recipes from members and friends in memory of Martha Scherer. Martha loved new recipes, cooking and sharing sweet treats at community events.

The cook book is \$5.00 and available for purchase at the following locations: Riverview Orchards, Vischer Ferry General Store and the Town of Clifton Park, Parks and Recreation office.



Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to further restorations projects at the Tavern.



Please remember to pay your dues if you have not already done so.
The address is **P.O. Box 1166 Clifton Park, NY 12065.**



Open House at the Tavern

Docents Needed

The Friends of the Historic Grooms Tavern will be hosting an Open House on each Saturday in June from noon to 3 pm. The events will be hosted by docents (tour guides) and we need your help. For all those interested and to learn more, email Isabel Prescott at farmer.isabel@me.com.

Docent Training will be conducted at the next meeting for the Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern on Tuesday, May 29th, at the Tavern at 7 pm. Training will be conducted by John Scherer, Town of Clifton Park Historian.



The Tavern Gardens

Special thanks to Pat Haffner, Jackie DiVirgilio and her team who maintain the gardens at the Tavern. The gardens are funded by a bequest of estate of Estelle Coulter .

If you would like to join Pat's Team send an e-mail to our e-mail address as noted below.

Check the Friends Website at www.groomstavern.com
You can reach by email at friendsofhistoricgroomstavern@yahoo.com
You can also check us out on Facebook

The Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern

OPEN HOUSE

Saturdays June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

Noon to 3PM



Take a tour with one of our Docents (tour guide) and learn about the history, the present and the future of Grooms Tavern and its role in the community of Clifton Park.

All are welcome, no reservations required!



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