

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

PATHWAYS

VOL 15 NO 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENDON FOUNDATION

WINTER 2008

A Member of the National Land Trust Alliance

www.MendonFoundationInc.org

Good Times, Great Fun at the Mendon Station Festival!

more photos on pages 6 & 7



Inside:

MENDON STATION FESTIVAL • EARLY LIFE IN MENDON • TWO LIBERTY ELMS
FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM AT HF-L • STUDENTS' FLOWER GARDEN AT HF-L
2ND ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE • TRAIL NEWS AND VIEWS

Two Liberty Elms



The Village of Honeoye Falls, and the Town of Mendon, each recently received a new elm tree. Donation of these trees was arranged by the Mendon Foundation. Each American Liberty Elm tree has about a 3 inch diameter trunk and is about 18 feet tall.

The Elm Tree Institute has been working for decades to develop a Native American Elm resistant to the Dutch elm disease. Now, after 24 years of field tests, losses are continuing to be less than 1%, based on cases reported by the Institute's growers. American Liberty Elms are fast growing, long lived trees. They should survive to 200-275 years. In 100 years they should have a three foot diameter trunk with a crown "spread" of as much as 100 feet. (Think of the shade!)

Boy Scout Troop 10 will have installed the Honeoye Falls Liberty Elm in Rotary Park by the time this

newsletter is delivered. The site chosen should provide lots of shade for soccer spectators, and others.

The Mendon Liberty Elm will be a stately presence in the Mendon-Honeoye Falls Youth Baseball Complex. It is sited to provide shade for viewers of two baseball diamonds. Boy Scout Troop 105 will have installed the Mendon Liberty Elm.

The Mendon Foundation worked with the Elm Tree Institute and the Town and Village to arrange for these tree donations. The institute donation program honors the scouts for their work in the installation of the trees. There will be separate ceremonies honoring each troop at dates to be announced.

Anyone interested in obtaining an elm tree, please contact Carl Foss at carl-foss27@yahoo.com. The American elms are available from 3 feet to +/- 17 feet.

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Mendon Meadows Market Place

Early Life in Mendon

*By Diane Ham,
Mendon Town Historian*



When our pioneers settled in Mendon, they built log cabins to shelter their families. The log cabin was a Scandinavian invention and was introduced by Swedish immigrants who settled along the Delaware River after 1638. Many pioneers moving west in the late 1700's and early 1800's adopted it. These men and women decided they would rather live in crude cabins built in small clearings than remain as indentured servants along the eastern seaboard. Some succeeded in their venture; some turned back; others became sick and died.

About 100 years after the Senecas were chased out of Mendon, early settlers began to arrive. That was soon after the townships were laid out and named (about 1790). These pioneers traveled along the Mohawk Trail and the Great Genesee Road to Mendon in search of land and opportunity. The men who served in the Revolutionary War were given 1.5 million acres of land for their services in the Finger Lakes area. When these people heard that this area contained rich soil and good hunting, they became very excited.

Most of the people who came to settle in Mendon were families, but occasionally a single man or a widow and her children set out to make the trip as well. Once they made the decision to move west, all their belongings had to be either packed into their covered wagon or left behind.

When the wagon was ready for traveling, the family's horses or oxen were harnessed to the front of the wagon. A wooden board attached to the front of the wagon served as the driver's and passengers' seats. Usually the

father drove the wagon. Children stayed inside the wagon or walked alongside during the journey. Travelers only covered about 15 to 25 miles a day.

At the end of their journey to Mendon, settlers reached the land that would be their new home. They had to start from scratch to build a new life. Each family established its own homestead. Most of the settlers chose land on which there were trees.

First, they cleared the land and planted corn and wheat, which they brought from the eastern states and England. They had plenty of wood for building homes and for fuel. It took many years to get rid of the stumps. The settlers also had to clear the rocks that were left by the glaciers. They made rock walls and stone fences. The size of an average farm was 114 acres and the value of land was 50 cents per acre vs. \$30-\$50 per acre in Massachusetts. By 1795, the price had gone up to \$1.20 per acre; and in 1800 the price was \$5.30-\$6.00 per acre.

Most of the early cabins had one large room with a loft above where the children could sleep. The parents slept in a bed fashioned in one corner of the room. Spaces in one wall were left for a door and a window to let light in. Glass was very seldom available. They usually used paper soaked in oil or bear grease to cover the window opening. With no electricity, people woke up at sunrise and went to bed at sunset.

The doorway was cut through one of the walls if a saw was available; otherwise, using shorter logs in the one wall of the building made the doorway. The door, itself, was made of heavy wood planks fastened with wooden pegs before nails were available. The door swung on wooden hinges, strips of animal skin or leather, or wrought iron hinges and had a wooden latch and crossbar. Attached to the latch, and threaded through a hole whittled in the door, was a string of buckskin, which hung outside the door. When the string was pulled from the outside, the latch was lifted from its bracket on the inside and the door could be opened.

continued on next page

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continued from previous page

For security at night, the latchstring was drawn in through the hole, and the door securely barred. But for friends and neighbors, the "latchstring was always out" as a welcome – a symbol of pioneer hospitality.

The interior of most early log cabins was somewhat dark and primitive. The walls were plain, unadorned and sometimes whitewashed. Trim was lacking. The interior furnishings of the early log cabin were simple and practical. The open loft which was built in the cabin as sleeping quarters was also a "larder" where dried fruits and vegetables could be stored. The cabin usually had a fireplace at one end built outside the wall. Mud and tree limbs or small logs were used. Later, stone or brick was used to prevent chimney fires.

The early log cabin was not intended as a permanent house. It was originally considered only as a temporary shelter where the family could live in safety and reasonable comfort until someone nearby dug a saw pit or erected a sawmill. Lumber could then be cut to build a larger residence with wooden walls, wide pine floors and glazed windows.

In addition to the log cabin, the settlers usually built an outhouse and a barn for the animals. They relied on their animals for food and farm work. They had to be self-sufficient. The farmer had to depend on himself, the land and the weather. Farming was a job the whole family took part in every day. If a family arrived at their new home in the fall, it was very important to plant the crops right away so that in the spring, food could be harvested.

At first the settlers lived in the wilderness with no neighbors in sight. Homes were usually at least a mile or more apart. Other pioneers came to the area who could provide services in exchange for food. One of the most important tasks to be done each day was to prepare the food to keep the family strong and healthy in order to perform all the chores they had to do. Every member of the family helped with the work.

Even though the pioneers worked hard, they were not against a little relaxation. Saturday afternoon was a holiday in which no man was expected to work. A load of produce might be taken to town for sale, but no more serious labor could be tolerated. When the town was reached, fun began. If two neighbors had business to transact, here it was done. Horses were swapped. Difficulties were settled and even free fights occurred. Whiskey was almost as free as water – 12 cents would buy a quart and 34 to 40 cents – a gallon. At such prices, enormous quantities were consumed. Among the more common forms of social activities in the community were: the Quilting Bee, Corn Huskings, Apple Paring, Log Rolling, and House or Barn Raisings as well as church meetings and activities.

The pioneers who stayed in Mendon and who were willing to endure the hardships were very hardy, indeed. They were heroes in their own right, and their hardships were problems that they were determined to overcome. It is to these pioneers that we owe our gratitude for the great improvements they made. Their development started the growth from a wilderness to the Mendon that we enjoy today.

MENDON STATION FESTIVAL

Special Thanks

Arlene Cluff and Warren Wallace, Chairmen of the Mendon Station Festival wish to thank the following volunteers for an outstanding job in making this year's festival a huge success

Carl, Joan & Todd Foss, Liz, Catherine & Allie Sciortino, John Schmidt, Mary Ellen Cook, Michelle & Pete Kavanaugh, Eileen Dobroski, Susan & Paul Worboys, Diane Turner, Sherri Stoller, Maureen & Josh Cleveland, Eileen Flanagan, Amelia & Kate Flanagan-Cochrane, Dianne Dooley, Charlie Hastings, Mendon Enterprises, Al Karnes, Tim Schiefen, Vicki Allen, Roy Cluff, Dr. Barry & Pat Brown, Frank Farina, Larry Eilinger & BS Troop 105, Carol Van Bork, Lucretia Galbraith, Emma & Lisa Sykes, Al Celeci, Jen Lilly, Mendon Pony Club, Kate & David Ackerman, Shane Ogden, Hannah Berger, Chuck Winterberger, Raj Bhaskaran, Steve & Andrea Barber, Stephanie Sher, Clay Zuber, Steve Wehs, Anthony DeFranco, Steve Robson, Steve, Zach & Cheryl Miller, AJ Tate, Bruce Downer, Jol Weldon, Chris McCourt, Jim O'Malley, Shanley, Wyatt, Michaela, Steve & Elaine Richards, Chelsea Fair, Town of Mendon Highway Department & Bud Smith, the "Bob Squad", Mendon Youth Baseball League, Suzy & John Farrell, Kathy Palmer, Custom Brewcrafters, Mike Alcorn, John Schaefer, Lisa Moosbrugger & the HF-L art students, Flowers & Foundations, the Young School of Dancers & the Mendon Youth Baseball League.



Festival volunteers come in all shapes, sizes and interests. Above members of the "BOB SQUAD" volunteer their time and talent to help raise funds for the Leigh Valley Trail.

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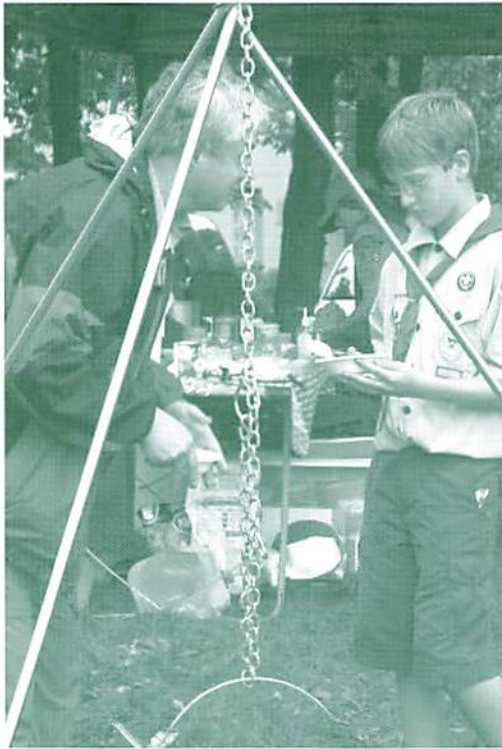
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20 Mendon State

Cloudy skies and occasional rain shower visitors away from this year's festival. A events were the hit of the festival. Childr pony rides. Families enjoyed the wagon r Trail. Artist and craft vendors sold a varie the festive music while eating their favor Mendon Station Festival Committee and time and services. We look forward to ha We welcome your comments and ideas. P call 624-3182, Arlene Cluff Festival Chair



08 ion Festival

s did not keep the thousands of
l of the equestrian exhibitions and
en enjoyed the return of the train and
ide along the scenic Lehigh Valley
ety of gift items. Visitors enjoyed all
ite food. Special thanks to the
all the volunteers who donated their
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2nd Annual Native Plant Sale

The Mendon Foundation raised close to \$300 with the annual native plant sale. Jim Engel of White Oaks Nursery, Ellen Folts of Amanda's Garden and Margie Norwood of Mendon Village Garden store generously donated a percentage of their sales. We will continue to expand the sale each year to meet the needs of native plant buyers.



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Student's Flower Garden at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School

Students from Mrs. Stephanie Kuhn's class planned, developed and planted a flower garden in the courtyard area of the high school. Arlene Cluff, Director assisted Mrs. Kuhn with the project. On October 4, 2008, Mrs. Kuhn, Arlene Cluff and all the students in the class received the Monroe County Outstanding Asset-BUILDER Award. This award is given in recognition for outstanding efforts to build assets for healthy communities and youth.



HF-L and Mendon Foundation team up to sponsor FIRST Robotics team 2228.



The Mendon Foundation has recently teamed with Honeoye Falls-Lima School District to sponsor the FIRST robotics high school team 2228. For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) was created to teach students skills in business and engineering. FIRST robotics is an interactive after school activity, where the team designs and builds a robot that is used in competition. Organization is the key to the success of FIRST teams. Students also market their team to local businesses to gain sponsorships. Cougar Tech team 2228 from Honeoye Falls-Lima was established in 2006. Team 2228 stormed onto the FIRST scene in 2007 and was rookie all stars that year at the Finger Lakes Regional

Competition. Team 2228 currently has over 30 students and 15 mentors.

Cougar Tech is active outside of competition. Team 2228 helps mentor the FIRST LEGO league teams at the HF-L middle school. LEGO league is where teams of 6-8th grade students build a robot completely out of LEGOs to compete. Team 2228 uses top-notch technology to make a robot that works efficiently and complete the tasks needed.

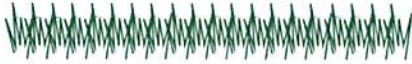
Cougar Tech owes everything they have to their sponsors, who graciously donate enough money for the team to build a robot and participate in two competitions per year. The Mendon Foundation is Team 2228's newest sponsor. The Foundation has agreed

to manage the team's finances. The rapid purchases required during build season and the state's audit restrictions have made it difficult for the Honeoye Falls-Lima school district to support the financial needs of Team 2228. This new alliance between Cougar Tech and the Mendon Foundation is sure to benefit both sides. Team 2228 benefits from the alliance because sponsors can still donate money to a charitable (501(c) 3) organization. The Mendon Foundation benefits because the organization fulfill one of its missions, which is to support education and schools in the community. The FIRST program at the high school is educational because math, science, business, and leadership skills are needed for a successful robotics team.

FIRST is more than just math and science; students learn how to work on a team. Skills you learn in Robotics can be used throughout someone's whole life. "We have honor students operating table saws and handling tools, just as we have athletes and BOCES students developing key software design programs for the robot." Says teacher/advisor Darin Ledwith. This shows that the FIRST program applies to everyone, not only a certain group of people. "It's awesome to witness the students' thirst to learn, and do things they never conceived possible to do before. The FIRST program opens the doors to guys and girls alike." explains teacher/advisor Dave Ghidiu. If you're interested in learning more about the FIRST program visit www.usfirst.org or www.hflrobotics.com

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Trail News

Two Eagle Scout projects near completion.

Jonathan Rice, of Troop 10 - Honeoye Falls, is nearing the finish of the Rush Station Kiosk, which he is constructing as his Eagle project. When completed, this will be the third Information Kiosk on the trail and the twelfth Trail related Eagle Project that Troop 10 Scouts have completed. Many thanks to Jonathan and all the scouts that have made these great projects possible.



Dave Schmitthener of Troop 334 - Rush, is building a picnic area at the intersection of the Lehigh Valley Trail and the Genesee Greenway for his Eagle Project. This consists of digging out a 16' by 26' area, pouring concrete table anchors, installing 4" to 6" of crushed stone, building and installing 2 - 8' picnic tables, and building and installing two bird houses. It is the first trail project for a scout from Troop 334, which is located at the American Legion Post on Pinnacle Road.

Cloverwood Senior Living Residents Enjoy Lehigh Valley Trail Walk

On a beautiful day in June, seven Cloverwood residents walked the northern spur of the Trail from the Brighton-Henrietta Town line to Rochester Junction in Mendon. Wildlife and budding flowers and trail side vegetation provided a memorable walk.



(L-R) Jane Lee, Bob Sproull, Mary Sproull, Pauline Parks, Bob Lee and Marcia Neely

The Trail surface and terrain make it a perfect choice for people of all ages to enjoy the outdoors and to participate in much needed physical activity. Access to the Trail can be gained at all road intersections, making it easy for hikers to be dropped off and picked up at any choice of distance.

This is the third year that the group has enjoyed their Trail experience. Other Cloverwood residents often use various sections of the Trail on their own.

& Views

Equestrians to Improve Horse Trail



Several local equestrians have volunteered, in the coming year, to lay down a wood chip surface on horse trail between Chamberlain Rd. and Quaker Meeting House Rd. This 1.6 mile stretch of trail is particularly rough. Large areas of sharp-edged ballast stone on the surface and several washed out areas causes damage the horses hooves and makes this section the trail unusable. Some of the funds raised by this year's Mendon Station Festival have been dedicated to this project.

Anyone wishing to help improve the horse trail should contact Steve Barber at 624-4468

Groveland Inmates Help

In early October a 5 man crew from Groveland Correctional Facility spent most of a week at Rochester Junction clearing weeds, brush and a few trees from the area. We are very fortunate to have this great resource available to us. This is the fourth week that inmates have come to Mendon this year. In total they have spent in excess of 600 man-hours working on the trail.

PATHWAYS

is the newsletter of the Mendon Foundation, a completely volunteer organization which exists with the generous support of its members, volunteers, and contributors. This newsletter is published three times a year and paid for through the generous support of our advertisers.

The Mendon Foundation

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