



THE FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Box 87, Fly Creek, NY 13337
Headquartered at The Grange in Fly Creek

WHAT DOES THE SOCIETY DO?

The primary purpose is to encourage and promote original historical research, especially of New York state and the Fly Creek area in particular, and to make this information available to others. The Society's mission is also to research, record, retain, preserve and make available for study artifacts, relics, books, manuscripts, papers, photographs, and other records from the late 18c to the present. The Society also encourages the suitable marking of places of historic interest.

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

We need a broad base of membership to make this Society truly a community treasure! Please join us today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

☐ Renewal ☐ New

☐ Individual membership \$10

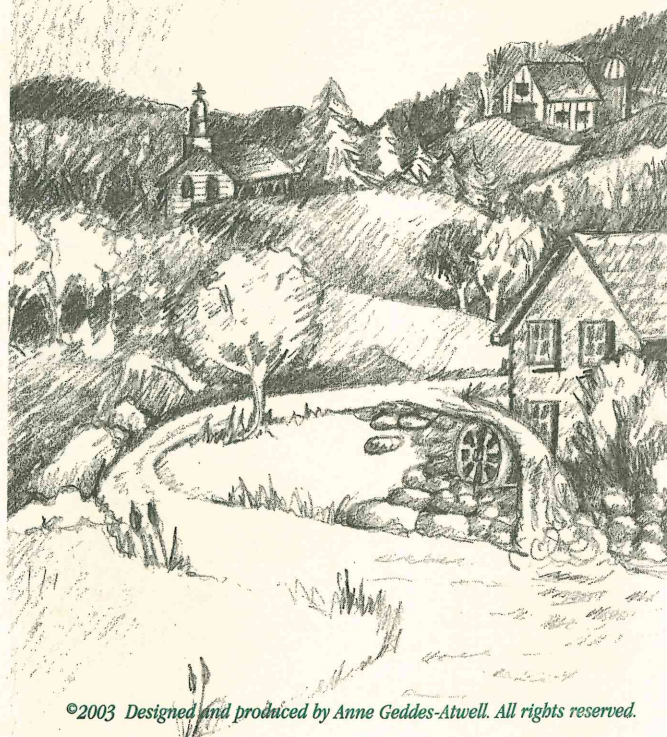
☐ Family membership \$15

☐ Tax-deductible donation \$ _____ (minimum \$20)

In memory of _____

Please enclose a check made out to FCAHS and mail to:
FCAHS
Box 87
Fly Creek, NY 13337

COME SEE FLY CREEK!



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WELCOME TO THE FLY CREEK AREA!

You're in beautiful Central New York, you've enjoyed the sights of Cooperstown. Now, step away from crowds, drive three miles, and visit relaxed Fly Creek. Tour a famous quilt shop, a schoolhouse turned furniture store, and a working cider mill; have lunch at our real country store. Walk through shady cemeteries and admire two centuries of history in stone. Stop in studios and chat with artists. Hunt bargains in a great antique shop. Have dinner, and then settle in for a night in a country bed-and-breakfast. Above all, enjoy the scenery!

HOW WE GOT TO BE

Let's get a question out of the way. Why Fly Creek? If we're not plagued by insects, (and we're not), why that name? The best answer relates to this area's earliest explorers. Dutch traders passed through our valley as early as 1714, trekking south to Otsego Lake. The Dutch word for "marsh" is vlie, and our hamlet's creek rises in a marsh to its north. So it's likely that those Dutchmen named the creek and, indirectly, the later village.

Fly Creek's real history begins just after the Revolution, when thousands headed for new lives on the frontier—which ran, back then, right through Central New York. Among the pioneers were some speculators who bought up thousands of acres surrounding Oaks and Fly Creeks.

The speculators saw profit in those fast-moving creeks. New settlers would need mills—for grinding grain, sawing logs, carding wool, making machinery. By the early 19th century, eight mills flourished along Fly Creek, and four on Oaks Creek. And that commerce gave birth to our hamlet, with Oaks Creek flowing at its west and Fly Creek coursing through it. In short order, Fly Creek, and nearby Oaksville and Toddsville, became busy little villages.

FLY CREEK THRIVES!

By 1872 Fly Creek itself had 325 residents in 67 dwellings. Besides mills, it boasted a general store, a machine shop, three blacksmiths, a foundry, two wagon-wrights, a cobbler, a creamery, two hat shops, and a

hotel. On Sunday mornings, bells of three churches echoed through the lovely valley.

Nearby Oaksville was home to two hundred residents and a three-story brick cotton mill, plus shops and stores.



Surrounding the hamlets, small farms divided the valley bottoms and climbed into the surrounding hills. Dairy farming dominated; though, until a 1910 blight, a major farm crop was hops (an essential ingredient in brewing).

AND NOWADAYS...

Fly Creek today is almost unchanged in size. Victorian houses predominate in the hamlet, though a few dwellings predate the Constitution. One church remains, both spiritual and social heart to the community (and now on the National Register of historic sites). And, besides a general store, a restaurant, a working cider mill, B&Bs, and interesting retail shops, the area's craft tradition continues alive and well: Skilled local artisans work at pottery, jewelry, custom baseball bats, calligraphy, quilting, cabinet making, leatherwork, sculpture, weaving, graphic design, photography, and antique restoration and sales. You'll also find attorneys; contractors; auto and motorcycle sales, detailing, and repair; an insurance agency; and a range of other useful services.

Fly Creek takes special pride in its Grange Hall, now home to its Historical Society's museum and archives. When restoration is complete, the Hall's dining room and upstairs auditorium will once again give the hamlet a social and cultural hub. Please visit the Grange Hall, and perhaps consider joining the Historical Society.

Take your time in exploring the Fly Creek area. We feel very happy, very lucky, to be living here. And we're glad to share it with you!

—Jim Atwell ©2003