



The Advocate

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Cazenovia Heritage
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Summertime . . . and the Livin’ is . . . Busy

There are some real treats coming up in the educational programs, with August offering the *Architecture of Historic Barns* and a self-guided tour; and an October program on *Equestrian Comforts*, including a live demonstration by a real blacksmith. Watch for details in email alerts and at cazheritage.org. Less visible is our work on advocacy efforts where we continue to work with the Village and Town Boards on matters of preservation concern. Highlights can be found in this issue.

Additionally, it is heartwarming that this issue can be filled with so many expressions of thanks for all who help to further Cazenovia Heritage’s mission, strength, and growth. Thanks to volunteers, new and current supporters, Board Members, and local government boards.



Extend a Welcome, and Some Applause!

Mark Smith and **Jeanne Whitney Smith** (and not related!) have joined the Board of Directors of Cazenovia Heritage. A central New York native by birth, **Mark Smith** became familiar with Cazenovia while studying for his M.A. in International Studies at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University in the 1980s. He previously had received his B.A. in Politics & Government from the University of Hartford in Connecticut. After working in university administration, Mark joined law firm Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, where he works in knowledge management and currently is a senior analyst and non-legal researcher. Mark purchased a 19th century Cazenovia house around 2012 and began its restoration. After being here part-time, Mark returned to the region in 2020 and took up residence in Cazenovia full-time.

Jeanne Whitney Smith is a lifelong summer resident of Cazenovia who became a permanent resident last year with her husband, Scott Ferguson. She began her career as a community organizer at various levels of government; then spent several years in the U.S. Peace Corps and Peace Links; and then became the Executive Director of the National Peace Foundation. She holds a B.A. from Allegheny College in political science and an MBA from Brenau College. Her interest in historical preservation was furthered while working as a board member and officer of the Lincoln (Virginia) Preservation Foundation. She is proud to be a part of a five-generation Cazenovia family.

We look forward to Mark and Jeanne’s contributions in the years ahead. They fill the seats of **Dale Bowers** and **Bob Ridler**, who have completed their terms. Dale and Bob were valued **Charter Board Directors**, contributing their ideas,

counsel, time, and energy. **Thanks are due** from all of us in the Village and Town. Not unexpectedly, Dale and Bob are already busy with Caz Heritage volunteer work!

We also want to extend **Special Thanks** to **Jenny Coughlin** who has served as memberships and donations volunteer for Cazenovia Heritage since its inception. Jenny participated in the evaluation and selection of the membership management system, led its installation when it went live in 2021, and has served as the liaison to members and donors for the past 3+ years. Her baton is being passed into the capable hands of **Barbabra Maziuk**, whose name you will see on future receipts. Should you have any questions going forward, Barbara can be contacted at barbara@cazheritage.org from the website Contact page.



Know Your Caz

In 1944, the Town Historian Jabez Abel and Professor Robert F. Brand published an article in *The Republican* newspaper on the origin of the Village Street names. Linda Roberts of *The Republican* staff provided additions to this list in 1967. Later, Historian Peggy Ladd published a consolidated list in 1992, extracts of which are below. Unless noted otherwise, all below are Streets. [Trivia Note: Only the Village uses “Street”, while only the Town uses “Road.” “Lane” also was confined first to the Village, but in recent years, suburban development has seen both “Lane” and “Court” appear outside traditional villages]. Streets A-F are in this issue; G-Z and the origins of Town Road names will be in upcoming newsletters. 2024 notes are noted in brackets []. Readers are encouraged to send corrections or new info that have become known since 1992!

Albany: Due to being part of route to Albany on Cherry Valley Turnpike (Rte 20)

Allen: for Rinaldo Allen, who owned property there; was previously Lunky Lane

Brewery Lane: from a Brewery operated by Solem Twist; in 1992 near the then Highway building, today behind Gene Gisson’s Studio. [Does any reader know more specifically where this Lane is?]

Burr: for William M. and James Burr, early 19th c. merchants and property owners

Burton: Unknown, likely an early resident [Numerous Burtons in Caz throughout 1800s; Street name appears on 1852 Map; research possible]

Carpenter: for J. Fairfield Carpenter [1852-1901, The “famous inventor” and manufacturer of the air brake, used by railroad trains. [His daughter married Henry TenEyck whose home was “Lakeland,” demolished in 1930s, site of today’s Lakeland Park. Legacy also is Carpenter’s Barn, home of CazArts.]

Center: Name proposed by Thomas Jones, the grandfather of Jabez Abell, because it was practically the center of town.

Chenango: Part of the road leading to the Chenango Valley and formerly Chenango Road. Chenango is a Native American word. [Recall that Cazenovia was originally part of Chenango County until 1806 when Madison County was formed.]

Clark: Probably for Benjamin T. Clark, formerly Santee Lane. [Merchant, b. 1797. Street name on 1852 map]

Corwin: named for James Corwin, landowner in that area; previously Factory Street

Deane Lane: for John Deane, son of William Deane. John built a house off Fenner Street, then made a road from his house to Fenner Street. [Named post 1875 map]

Emory Avenue: formerly North Green Street. Named for Thomas Emory and Estate built ca. 1885, subsequently demolished for Middle School

Evergreen Lane: Named by Robert Riedl when lots were sold, likely due to proximity to Evergreen Cemetery

Farnham: For Elisha Farnham, owner of tannery along Chittenango Creek in early 1800s

Fenner: Directional to Town of Fenner, named for Governor of Rhode Island [Gov. Arthur Fenner, b. 1745 - d. 1805 or Gov James Fenner, b. 1771- d. 1846]

Forman: Originally named Pleasant Street. Probably named for Major Samuel B. Foreman (note the “e”) who came with Lincklaen and remained in Cazenovia as a merchant for several years before moving to Syracuse. [Street name is on 1859 map and with an “e”].



Advocacy Updates

Demolitions

At its April 2024 meeting, the Town Board approved a measure that requires photographs to be taken of the exterior elevations of homes and buildings approved to be demolished. While not providing protection of historic homes, it ensures that a photographic record of the home will be maintained for future generations of Cazenovians and family historians. Copies of the photos will also be sent to the Cazenovia Library Archives for retention.

99-101 Albany

The Board of Cazenovia Heritage voiced its support of the final designs submitted May 13th for the development of 99-101 Albany Street. The latest plans reflect changes requested by Cazenovia Heritage, the Village Historic Preservation Commission, Village Planning Board, and community members. The loss of a historic home on Center Street is regrettable, however, the final plans do incorporate various best practices in designing rural architecture in keeping with the character of the business district. The community can be applauded for pushing back on the initial design; likewise, applause for the collaboration of the developer, Village officials, and community to produce a better outcome in the final design. The Village Planning Board will continue its final reviews and approval process requirements this summer.

Village Code Change

This past February, likely in anticipation of the initial 2023 plans for 99-101 Albany Street, the Village Board approved a code change to allow first floor residential use and access to the first floor of commercial buildings on streets intersecting with Albany Street, such as Center Street. The final design of 99-101 Albany no longer calls for such residential use nor does it require or allow access from Center Street. Cazenovia Heritage requested in June that the Village Board consider rescinding this code change to prevent unforeseen and/or negative consequences down the road to the architectural integrity of other historic buildings at such intersections. At the July Village Board meeting, Caz Heritage asked the status of the request; the Village Board declined to rescind the change.

Update to Town Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Cazenovia has published a draft of an update to the Comprehensive Plan published in 2008, with the intent of providing strategies through 2030. It is available on the Town website at <https://www.caztownplan2030.org/> and public comment can be made online. The Board of Cazenovia Heritage submitted its comments in June. All are encouraged to comment.

Neighborhood Studies

Cornell University had no graduate students available for Cazenovia neighborhood studies this year, so preparatory data is being gathered internally with plans to submit a grant request in 2025.



Coming Soon: Hitched Up! This fall, Cazenovia Heritage is looking to recruit high school students with driver's licenses interested in mapping the 100+ hitching posts in the Village and Town. The project is currently being developed and details will be posted on the website, online high school flyers, and in the next newsletter. In the meantime, spread the word with any students you may know!

LEGO®novia ❤️ Sponsors!

As you've likely heard, LEGO®novia 2024 was a great community event – for Cazenovians of all ages! We want to thank all involved, and particularly its sponsors:

Americu Credit Union, Chuck Amos, Tom Anderson & Marc Schappell, Susan Anthony, Leigh Baldwin & Co., Ted & Barb Bartlett, Dianne & Stephen Burrell, Caz Pizza, Cazenovia Jewelry, Kevin Clark & Michael Haynie, Community Bank, N.A., Bob & Bobbi Constable, Crawford & Stearns PLLC, DNR Associates, Carla Zimmerman-Edison, Anne Ferguson, Scott Ferguson & Jeanne Whitney Smith, First Presbyterian Church, McKinnon Liquors, Red Apple, Kate & Michael Sinsbaugh, Carl & Susan Stearns, Larry & Glenda Wetzel, Nancy Whiting



Planning for LEGO®novia 2025 is already underway for next May – Plan to be a part!



Reader's Corner



Looking for some summer reading? The Preservation League of New York highlighted three books recently that may be of interest to Cazenovia Heritage followers:

Vanishing New York by John Lazzaro explores over 40 of the most evocative abandoned sites in New York State and puts their individual stories in the larger context of New York's historical legacy.

Cheap Old Houses: An Unconventional Guide to Loving and Restoring a Forgotten Home by Elizabeth and Ethan Finkelstein (founders of "Cheap Old Houses" HGTV show and Instagram feed). The book provides inspiring ideas to restore and convert a collection of affordable homes, churches, schoolhouses, and more, into residences.

Louise Blanchard Bethune: Every Woman Her Own Architect by Kelly H. McAlonie. This work documents the trail-blazing story of the life and career of America's first professional woman architect.

Preservation Primer Part IV: Preservation Protection in the Town

The Winter and Spring issues of *The Advocate* described what preservation is and isn't in the 21st century; the evolution of the National Register and Village Historic districts from 1978-2014; and the responsibility of the Historic Preservation Commission to protect and maintain historic architecture and community character within the Village Historic District.

This issue highlights the legislation the Town has passed to protect historic architecture in the Town:

Much of our local economic security rests on our historic and architectural assets that shape our community character and attracts tourists. Despite having 31 National Register listed properties, there is no protection of these and other buildings in the Town to remain part of Cazenovia's historical legacy. Cazenovia Heritage continues to encourage the Town Board to identify ANY measures it would consider supporting, and to work with the public toward their adoption.



A Better Paint to Protect Historic Homes?

By Mark Smith

In the last issue, fellow Cazenovia Heritage Board member Mark Smith described his selection of a Swedish linseed oil paint as a potentially longer lasting exterior house paint, and the prep work he undertook. This is Part II of a two-part article.

After completing the prep-work, I coated the areas of siding that had been scraped down to the wood surface with a penetrating primer made up of 30% undiluted Ottosson linseed oil paint and 70% percent Viking purified linseed oil. A natural, bristle brush (bought from earthandflax.com.) allows a better application of a thin coat of paint on the house. It is not recommended to use a roller to roll linseed oil paint on the siding unless accompanied by a brush to pull the paint into a thin coat. Be sure to really brush out the bottom edges of the clapboard. It is also not recommended to apply linseed oil paint with a sprayer because it applies twice the amount of paint on the house as otherwise with a brush.

After I let the primer dry thoroughly, I then applied two coats of undiluted linseed oil paint on the primer coat – again, letting the paint dry thoroughly (2-3 days) between coats. The areas of the house that still had old paint on them did not get the primer, just two coats of undiluted paint.

When done for the day, your paintbrush can be placed in plastic wrap and stored in the freezer; or you can punch a hole through the lid of a jar and suspend the paint brush in pure linseed oil. When finished for the season, rub the excess paint out of the brush so as to avoid putting oil down the drain, and then clean the brushes with either linseed oil or with linseed oil soap and warm water. Rags and paper towels soaked in linseed oil are highly flammable and should be soaked in cold water before disposing as hazardous waste.

Final Thoughts

Does a centuries-old material provide better protection for my historic home? So far, and at three months, yes. Rainwater beads-up and runs off the clapboards on the completed areas. And I was heartened that George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, recently chose Ottosson natural linseed oil paint for the mansion and its outbuildings after a multi-year test of linseed, latex, and alkyd paints.

The cost of using pure linseed oil paint when doing a gallon-to-gallon comparison is higher than latex paint. However, on a square footage basis, natural linseed oil paint covers more surface area than latex paint. Cost also doesn't reflect the labor required to scrape the modern acrylic paints as they fail, the frequency at which a house has to be repainted, or the cost involved in replacing rotted siding.

Beyond cost and effectiveness, linseed oil paint is much less toxic for the painter and is an environmentally sustainable choice.

The remaining sides of my house will be completed this summer, and I can update you as to how the traditional linseed oil paint holds up over the next five to eight years. Consider this a community experiment in historic home preservation that may help better preserve your own home in the future.



A Good Sign

Caz Heritage volunteers Dale Bowers, Roger Cook, Jerry Munger, and Bob Ridler have taken on the task of refreshing the historic markers around the Town. Each sign received a cleaning, rust removal, and new paint. Some "before, during, and after" pics are below. Those at the Village fountain will be completed this summer.

