



ECHOES OF FISH HOUSE



JULY 2015

Summer Breakfast Dates
Aug. 9th & Sept. 6th.

www.FHCC.weebly.com

Bottle Drive 2015



This year's bottle drive started off slowly due to all the rain we had in June. But after the July 4th weekend, there were LOTS of bags of bottles and cans left in our new bottle area. Thank you!

Little Free Library



This is the third year for the Little Free Library. It seems that more people have discovered it as there is a good turn over for the books. It is always interesting to see what other people are reading. Stop in and borrow a book!

Fish House T Shirts & Sweatshirts for Sale!



We still have sweatshirts for sale, but they are going fast! We also have nice scoop neck gray T-shirts for women (limited quantities of those.) Be sure to check them out during this breakfast, there is no guarantee that we will have your size for the August breakfast.

RUMMAGE SALE 2015

Every year we worry that we might not have enough donations. This year, with all the rain, there was a real concern. But, as always, the people of Fish House came through after the 4th of July. We had more than enough donations.

Friday morning, people lined up at the end of the driveway, waiting to claim the many "treasures."

We had so many people come on Friday that we were able to offer our "bag sale" at 9 AM on Saturday. Thank you to all who came and bought!

Thank you also to Jim Groff, the Town Supervisor, for bringing us road cones and a pedestrian sign.

We also met a wonderful volunteer who took all the leftover donations and brought them to needy organizations. Thank you, Jeff.

FHCC Mission Statement

One of the tasks we have set for ourselves this year is to decided on an official mission statement for the FHCC. We have several goals,,,offering community events, supporting our neighbors whenever possible, and also maintaining and improving the Community Center.

All the money we raise goes to these goals. Last year we had the center painted, the windows glazed, a huge tree taken down that was threatening the Center, an emergency door with deck put on the back of the Center, the sill in the front replaced, and a bottle center set up.

In past years we have upgraded our kitchen by buying a commercial refrigerator, a stove, two griddles and a commercial vent as well as a kitchen fan.

We are always looking for new volunteers.

FHCC is on Facebook!

If you want to keep up to date on when our events are held, you can "like" us on Facebook...Fish House Community Center.

We also have a website: FHCC.weebly.com

Early Fish House Laws*

1808:

- Henry Ferguson was fined \$3.37 for swearing six times.
- George Abraham was fined \$3.34 for violating the Sabbath.

1810:

- Truman Johlin was fined \$25 for having sold one quart of cider to Jacob Van Husen without the benefit of a permit.

* Excerpt from John J. Bennis' book:
Northampton. A Town Nearly Drowned

More Fish House History on the back!!!

Historian's Note:

As the historian of Fish House, I find it fascinating learning about the old houses and the people who lived in them. In 1927, when HRBRRD set the elevation lines, it became clear that Fish House would never be the same. Twelve houses were moved to higher ground and 6 were burned or razed.

Trying to research houses that have been moved is difficult because the deeds deal with the land and not the structures on the land. I am still trying to solve some mysteries of missing houses.

But there are also many old and historical houses in Fish House still standing. One such house stands to the left of the brick church near the corner of 109 & 110. Sadly the house probably will never be brought back to a livable condition. I set out to research this house. On a map of 1860, it stated that an A. Westcot lived there. I surmised that it had to be Alexander St. John Wescot, the grandson of one of the earliest settlers of Fish House, Alexander St. John. History says that Alexander St John had built a house for his grand daughter, Patricia Parnell, so why not for his grandson? My theory was shattered, however, upon learning that Alexander Wescot was born in 1826 and the house was built in 1800. But in doing research on this house I did discover other facts:

- * The house was built in 1800
- * In the 1855 census, Alexander lived in the house and also had boarders, two were from Ireland.
- * It appears that Alexander lived there until his death in 1873.
- * Before Wescot, Maria Tanner owned the house, then Lewis & Malinda Swart.
- * The longest residents were the Vandenberg's. Arthur & Hazel Vandenberg lived there from around the 1930's to 1953. They, too, had boarders in the very large house. They passed ownership not to their son, Robert, and his wife Freda.

* 1993 - Freda Vandenberg sold it to the Monroe's of Saratoga Springs, who are the present owners

I have not yet found out who built the house and who lived in it from 1800 - 1855.

The Age of Fish House

In doing research on the Wescot House, I noted that we still have very many old houses. I thought it would be interesting to see the age of the houses. I have also included the names of the present owners.

Many of the construction dates were taken from the Fulton County website...but it is not always accurate. If you live in one of the houses shown below and have any interesting information about your house, please contact me.

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Fish House Today

Only a small portion of the town of Northampton is on this side of the Sacandaga Lake, and only a portion of that is what was the hamlet of Fish House. In the old maps, there was no definite town line for the hamlet, so using an 1860 map, I determined what could have been the boundaries.

- * **East** - along 110 - is at the line of Northampton & Providence.
- * **South** - along 109 - is at the line of Northampton & Broadalbin.
- * **North** - is the lake
- * **West** - here the town of Northampton extends to Diamond Point on 110. But on the 1860 map, the hamlet boundary was to the old Stark farmhouse circa 1874. It burned down in 1978 and there is now a log home on that site, owned by the Clemens. It is across from Sunset Road, which appears to be the western boundary, more research is being done to establish the western edge.

Map Not Drawn to Scale

