

2003 Bicentennial Committee

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PARISH BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1803 - 2003



A Community Celebration

MAY 23 - 26, 2003

A Brief History of Parish

The first residents of our community were the Rev. Gamaliel Barnes and his son-in-law, Stephen D. Morse. They settled at the present location of Pleasant Lawn Cemetery in 1803, where they built the first log house and barn, and later a frame house.

Born in 1757 in Connecticut, Barnes was a Revolutionary War veteran. He was a tanner and shoemaker before he became a Baptist preacher. He ministered throughout much of central and eastern Oswego County for 50 years. He died at age 96.

Originally part of the Town of Mexico, the Town of Parish was incorporated in 1828. Parish was named for David Parish, who owned the largest share of the town's land.

The community has always supported a number of churches. The Methodists established a congregation in 1869, the Presbyterians in 1893, the current St. Anne's Catholic Church in 1952, and the Faith Church of the Nazarene in 1980. Schools have also been important. The first frame school was built in 1814. In the early 1950s, the communities of Altmar, Parish and Williamstown consolidated their schools to form the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District.

The area is blessed with abundant natural resources. Recreational facilities include the William E. Merrill Community Park, Happy Valley Wildlife Management Area, East Coast Resorts, and Harmony Riders Association Campground.

Parish is the home of a number of family businesses that span several generations. They include the Harter family's Harter Funeral Homes, formed in 1836; the Miller family's F.E. Miller & Sons Lumber, established in 1897; and the Fuller family, which founded State Bank of Parish in 1919, Parish Oil Company, 1926, and the current Ascent Technological Group. The Oswego County Mutual Insurance Company has been in business in Parish since 1878.

Among our famous citizens are Nathan Petrie and Samuel Mills, who donated to the community the Veterans Memorial Park, the chapel at Pleasant Lawn Cemetery, the public library, the town clock, and the gymnasium. Other prominent residents were Edward C. Quinn, who served as President of the Chrysler Corp., and Hadwen C. Fuller Sr., who served as a member of Congress.

The people of Parish today are very thankful for the men and women who have so faithfully over the years kept our town prosperous, successful, and active. Those who built and maintained our roads and streets. Those that cleared and farmed our land. Those that built our homes and established our businesses. Those who organized and served in local government, taught in our schools, preached in our community, fought our fires, volunteered in civic organizations, and who courageously and faithfully served our nation in times of war and peace. We thank them all.

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 23

4:30 p.m. - until sold out.

Roast Pork Dinner

Parish Fire Station. Sponsored by Parish United Methodist Church.

Other food vendors in the village will be serving hot dogs, soda, etc.

6 p.m.

Opening Ceremony

Main Street. Unveiling of the new Town Seal. Introductions and remarks by local officials and guests. *Thanks to David Shaw, Parish Elementary art teacher, and Town Historian Bridget Swartz, for coordinating this art/history project for the 4th and 5th graders.*

7 - 9 p.m.

Outdoor Concert Featuring

10th Mountain Division Band from Fort Drum

Main Street, between the four corners and Parish Hardware Store. Bring a chair. If bad weather, the concert will be moved to the Parish Elementary School.

Saturday, May 24

7 - 10 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast Extravaganza

Enjoy a hearty breakfast prepared by the Parish Historical Society's "Pancake Flippers." Parish Fire Station.

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Flea Market

Parish Village/Town Gym on Main Street. Vendors may contact Fred Swartz, phone 625-7833, for information.

10 - 11 a.m.

All-Star Softball Game

Village vs. Town in Softball at the Parish Elementary School ballfield. Bring a blanket or chair. *(Parish Rescue on stand-by. Cheerleaders needed.)*

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Children's games

Enjoy games and activities at the Parish Fire Department Field. Air Bouncing Tiger will be there until 10 p.m.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Antique Appraisals

Town Gym Meeting Room. *See the special display on the history of Parish. Food vendors throughout the village.*

Saturday, May 24 (continued)

4 p.m. - until sold out.

Chicken BBQ

Eat-in or take-out, Parish Fire Station.

6 p.m.

Bicentennial Parade

A variety of music, floats and marching units at their best. Join the citizens of Parish as we express our pride in our community and our nation. *Parade route: South Railroad to Main Street; Main Street east to Rider Street; Rider Street to Union Street, ending at the Parish Fire Station.*

7 - 11 p.m.

Karaoke/DJ

Bring your chair and enjoy singing and dancing. Provided by Dawn Redden at the Parish Fire Station.

Sunday, May 25

1 p.m.

Ecumenical Church Service

Join the congregations of our local churches at the Parish Fire Station.

2 p.m.

Covered Dish Dinner

Bring your own place settings and a dish to pass. Beverages will be supplied. Location: Parish Fire Station. Enjoy a slice of the Bicentennial Birthday Cake, created by Verna Henderson.

Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social

Following covered dish dinner at the fire station. Sponsored by Parish and Dugway United Methodist Churches. Entertainment by the Parish Majorettes and the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown High School Choir.

Monday, May 26

10 a.m.

Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony

Sponsored by American Legion Russell Horning Post 601. Parade begins on Main Street and ends at Pleasant Lawn Cemetery, South Railroad Street. Following parade, Memorial Day Remembrance Service at Pleasant Lawn Cemetery. The Cemetery Chapel will be open for tours. Open House to follow at the Parish American Legion. Hot dogs and soda for the kids. Enjoy music by Ernie McDonald and Old Tyme Fiddlers.

**Many Thanks to the Sponsors of the
Parish Community Bicentennial Celebration!**

Major Sponsors

Ascent Technological Group

Gristmill Restaurant

Oswego County Mutual Insurance Company

Oswego County Legislature's Tourism Development Initiative Fund

Sponsors

American Legion Russell Horning Post 601

Carl T. Rock Sales and Service

Convenience Express Store, Inc. (Parish Mobil)

Harter Funeral Home Inc.

JR Mariotte Construction

Key Bank

Metro Fence

Miller Lumber

Oneida Lake Petroleum

Ostrander's Village Market

Oswego Hospital

Parish Hardware

Precision Plumbing and Heating

Richard E. Jenkins Agency, Inc.

Wright's Service Station

Stanley Karboski

In-Kind Donations

Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District

Dunkin Donuts

Frederick Well Drilling & Consulting Inc.

Oswego County Promotion & Tourism Department

Parish Volunteer Fire Department

Town of Parish

Village of Parish

Town Supervisors

1828-1832	Paul Allen
1833-1840	Alfred Phelps
1841-1843	Ephraim E. Ford
1844	Luny Thayer
1845	John Clapsaddle
1846	Harvey Palmer
1847 -1850	Luny Thayer
1851-1853	Joseph Osburn
1854	Paul W. Allen
1855	Harvey Palmer
1856	John C. Warn
1857	Dr. Austin White
1858 -1859	Andrew Ashton
1860-1861	John Becker
1862	Jonathan Irish
1863 -1864	James David
1865-1866	Jonathan Irish
1867-1869	Frank H. Argersinger
1870	Jonathan Irish
1871	Romayne C. Robertson
1872	Jerry Foley
1873	Daniel Edick
1874 -1875	Jerry Foley
1876	Romayne C. Robertson
1877	Dr. Judson J. Taylor
1878 -1879	John W. Northrop
1880	Cornelius Edick
1881	C. F. Trowbridge
1882	Dr. Tobias I. J. Green
1883 -1885	Lewis David
1886-1888	Fowler H. Berry
1889	James David
1890 -1891	Fowler H. Berry
1892	Melvin Alseaver
1893	Fowler H. Berry
1894 -1901	Willard C. Richards
1902-1907	W. C. David
1908-1909	James Gray
1910-1913	Thomas D. Niles
1914-1923	W. B. Harter
1924-1927	James Gray
1928-1933	R. A. Weldon
1934-1938	S. S. Hicks
1939-1947	Wells Harter
1948-1956	Andy Lewis
1957	Raymond Baker
1958 -1965	Frank Karboski
1966-1971	Raymond Jacobsen
1972-1975	William Brouse
1976-1979	Frank Karboski
1980-1983	William W. Scriber
1984-1985	Clyde Canfield
1986-1999	Frank House
2000-present	Stephen Stelmashuck

VILLAGE MAYORS

1883	C. D. Barney
1885	C. S. Talcott
1887	John Todd
1889	Chaney D. Barney
1891	Grover G. Houghton
1893	Liston D. Pickens
1895	H. A. Mosher
1899	J. R. Richards
1901	Hamilton A. Mosher
1903	H. A. Mosher
1905	John R. Richards
1907	H. A. Mosher
1908	L. B. Carley
1909-1936 records missing	
1937	R. C. Mosher
1939-1949	Raymond Baker
1949-1951	Thomas Spedding
1953-1955	Joseph Dobiac
1957-1965	Willard Gray
1965-1987	Lewis DeGarmo
1987-1997	Frederick Campbell
1997-2001	Lillian Harter
2001-present	Leon Heagle