

A Commitment To Education

by Lynne Belluscio

I'd like to commend the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society, for making a commitment to the future of the organization.

At the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, it was unanimously voted to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Historical Society with the establishment of a new endowment dedicated strictly to education programs. It is hoped that this endowment will grow in the next few years and will enable the Historical Society to hire a museum educator.

The Historical Society's life members were asked to make contributions to the endowment and it is a wonderful example of their generosity, that over \$3,000 has been contributed by our life members. In addition, it was announced at Saturday's Dinner Auction that the profit of

the evening would be added to the Life Member's contributions with the hope that the total will reach \$10,000 and it looks like it will be close to the target amount.

Once \$10,000 has been raised, we have a commitment from a friend of the Historical Society to match that amount, and this will be a good start for the new endowment. Of course the endowment will have to be much larger to generate the necessary income to fund programs, but it is a beginning.

I also want to thank the Board for recognizing my determined efforts to continue the educational programs midst all the other duties that I am called upon to perform. The new endowment will be known as Lynne's Fun -d. Donations at any time can be designated to Lynne's Fund and can only be used for educational programming.

School programming is an integral part of the Historical Society's mission and vision. We hope that the experiences that the students have at LeRoy House will remain with them as a positive legacy of this community. Many of them will move away. But we hope that a little bit of LeRoy's history will go with them. Maybe they will remember eating their baked biscuits with hand churned butter. Or using the apple



Ange Bell with barn raising.



Group of kids on the front porch.



Leslie Delooze with kids in the buttery.



Playing games in the front yard.

peeler. Some will remember using a scrub board on the back porch or planting marigolds in Jacob LeRoy's garden. And there might be a couple of kids who remember that they won the spelling bee.

And they better remember the tragic story of Frozen Charlotte and never ever go out the door on a cold day without their winter coats and warm mittens - - and always listen to their mother!!! Maybe they will remember meeting Mrs. LeRoy and the maid. Or singing in the back parlor as the doors open to reveal the candle lit Christmas tree.

It's hard to evaluate the impact of our education programs. For many years, we have had kids tell us that their parents remember coming to LeRoy House when they were in school. I consider that a positive thing. We enjoy having the kids come to the tent

during the Oatka Festival to show their friends and family how to play the old games.

Through the years a lot of volunteers have shared their time and energy to make these programs available - -Joanne Graham, Barb Elliott, Ruth Harvie, Ange Bell, Martha Tabone, Cheryl Fernaays, Shelia Furr, Martha Davis, Brenda Beal, Sylvia Fraser and many others. To insure that these programs will continue, the Historical Society is investing in the future and there is no better time than now.

Thank you to all the people who opened their wallets and bought something at the auction. Thank you to all the folks who donated items or gift certificates for the auction. Thank you to the D&R Depot for putting together a wonderful 1940 meal. And thank you to our life members for believing in what we do.