

PENDRAGON

The Newsletter of the Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum PO Box 751, New Berlin NY * Fall 2009

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

UNADILLA VALLEY RAILWAY SOCIETY AND MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETINGS

Time: 7 PM at the following-
May thru September Meetings
Railroad Museum-Railroad Ave
New Berlin, NY

October thru April-held at the
New Berlin Library, Main Street
New Berlin, NY

December Meeting Agenda

Place: New Berlin Library

Time: 7 PM

Guest Speaker: Ron Jenkins

Former employee of the
UV Railroad, Grandson of Geo.
Jenkins, Superintendent.

Short Business meeting

Refreshments

Officers

President.....Samuel Senn

Vice President.....Ralph Scopo

Recording Secretary... Liz. Ryan

Treasurer ...Bonnie-Jean Bauer

Corresponding-Secretary

Rev. Ernie Clemens

Member At Large ...Bill Fliedner

Executive Advisor

....George Wolfangle

Director.....Pat Gifford

Dear Members of the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum, It has been a busy summer and fall at the Museum.

**A nice article was published in the New York Archives Magazine about the history of short line railroads featuring the Unadilla

Valley Railway among others. The article was written by our member, William Beardslee. The magazine is available for \$4.95 or you can find the NEW YORK ARCHIVES in most public libraries. This appeared in the Volume 8 - Number 4 issue Spring 2009.

**Several pictures and articles have been in the New Berlin Gazette with credit to Bonnie Jean Bauer, our Treasurer. See some of the articles in this newsletter.

**July and August found several members under the direction of Alan Fairbrother constructing a float. Alan designed and built a FIRST PRIZE WINNING FLOAT. This float was entered in the New Berlin Youth Days Parade. We have a nice FIRST PLACE TROPHY at the Museum to enjoy for a long time.

** At our August meeting members and guests were treated to a special program presented by Alan Fairbrother who is one of the newer members of the Society.

Alan, who hails from the Sherwood Forest area of England, provided a word sketch of what it was like at the very beginning of Railroading. He spoke of coal being moved by one ton to one horse in 1820 and a locomotive called the Blucher (the name of a general in the Prussian Army, who had just helped Britain to defeat Napoleon) with steel wheels that did not ride on a track but on the paths of the day that could move 500 tons in one trip. It was then decided that rails would be

installed for a horse drawn wagon to pull the coal ore easily with the idea that "someday" the rails might be used for a locomotive. He talked about the first train making its way from Liverpool to Manchester carrying goods in one hour that would have taken one day by a carriage and eventually becoming also the first passenger train in the world.

By 1826 there was overwhelming support among the merchants of Liverpool for a railway from Liverpool to Manchester. There was determined opposition too, but by 1828 Parliament had approved the project and loaned the Railway Company money to get work underway. The bosses of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway company may have felt that their troubles were over. However, the land between Liverpool and Manchester would have something to say about that especially the great bog at Chat Moss. It was fun to hear how tracks were "floated" on bogs over which today can still be felt the vibration during passage over them. Alan explained a competition sponsored by the British Government in which five trains participated and only two were not disqualified. Wonderful stories for anyone interested in history. At the end of his talk several people asked if he'd considered writing a book about the facts he'd shared.

TOURING THE MUSEUM

In August, we see George Wolfangle giving a tour to many. This picture includes, from left to right; Helen Schall, from Earlville, NY and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gibson from Cairo, NY. In the background you can see a few of the hundreds of artifacts housed in this part of the museum. Don Gibson joined the members of the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum in June of 1996 and has renewed his membership every year since. It is nice to see that faithfulness. He is member # 14. Our current mailing list is 141 but not all are up to date on their dues and in January the mailing list will be cut to just paid members. If you are currently receiving this news letter and have not paid, please take time to send your dues and take time to attend any of our monthly meetings to hear speakers and see films all related to the "Rail" transportation, most of which from days long gone. By paying your dues you will remain on our mailing list, as well as to help keep the history of railways alive for our future generations.



WORKMAN'S SHANTY

This building is located between our main Museum and Railroad Ave. at the far east side of our parking lot. It was originally located between the main stations about halfway so men walking the tracks or a disabled train or a bad storm., the workmen could get in. Sometimes they stored tools to repair the tracks, some had stoves in, as ours does. The walls of this shanty have carvings on them dated back in the 1800's. We were blessed to have the shanty donated to us some years ago and proudly display it at our museum. Sometimes when George gives the free tours on Saturday afternoons during the summer months, he unlocks it for all to see.

****August clean-up outside was reported by George as follows: Sam burned papers, cleared garbage, cut burdock, etc. and Pat mowed the grass. Bill Fliedner did inventory on the Lionel layout and George gave tours.**

****Ruth Gregory said we made \$35.12 on the sale of our items at the Quilt Weekend. She passed around pictures from the Quilt show and furnished refreshments.**

****William Young was our September speaker. He sold and signed his new book "U V THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A SMALL RAILROAD" while he spoke about the book. Several guest from the Utica area were present. Refreshments were made by Liz Ryan.**

****Mr. Young's books are available by calling 607-847-9484. The book has 120 pages and many pictures and it is a definitive account of the Unadilla Valley Railway. Price is \$20.**

****In October George, Alan and Pat visited Ronald Jennings in Worcester, NY. Ron has many interesting memories while working on the UV. He has graciously given many artifacts of his that include two display cases of Keys taken out of his grandfather's desk at the UV. His grandfather was Harry Brome, his name is in the book many times and on page 84 is one place that tells of the connection of the Bromes and the Jenkins. It says "George Jenkins, superintendent had a son Clarence Jenkins (Ron's father) who married Elsie Brome Ron worked three summers on the UV and now has a pension from the railroad. Our November meeting will feature Ron and some of his many donations.**

****While reading William Young's new book "U V THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A SMALL RAILROAD" Pat called Charles Sage to tell him about seeing his father's name in the book. A nice long "chat" enlightened Pat about many interesting times Charles had on the UV as well as the O&W. Charles has been a member of the Museum since September 1996.**

****Liz, our Secretary, had the privilege of meeting Charles Sage at his home in Oneonta when she delivered his book**

recently. She said he is sure an interesting man and would like to visit with him again.

****Our January meeting will start the New Year out very special with our guest speaker John Taibi speaking. His program will be one of his Power Point presentations about the New Berlin Branch of the NYO&W Railway that became part of the UVRR. Please mark this date January 4th at 6:30 P M so you will not miss this very special meeting It will be at 6:30 pm at the New Berlin Library downstairs, in New Berlin on main street. Note the earlier time as we usually hold meetings at 7 pm.**

****Alan and George went to an auction recently and were the highest bidders on a stove from the O & W caboose. It is a nice piece to add to our growing museum.**

****The Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter of the NRHS Inc. meet the second Friday of each month at the Zion Lutheran Church Hall, French & Burrstone Roads in New Harford.**

****On December 5th 9 members of the UVRS&M will join others from New Berlin making a total of 32 all going to see the Christmas lights on a special train ride. The Train will leave at 6 PM from the Milford Depot in Milford NY and travel on the tracks toward Cooperstown.**

****Many excited people have purchased William Young's new book to include Mary Hoxie's daughter, Jean Warner. Jean lives in Virginia Beach, VA and was visiting her Mom, Mary Hoxie here in New Berlin over the Thanksgiving Holidays. When Jean opened the book and showed her Grandpa, Bruce Harshbarger, Engineer's picture on the inside of the cover, both front and back cover. The excitement from her was fun to hear and see. She saw that his picture was in other places as well and the Personal-Name Index had him listed in about a dozen pages. If she is like any of the other purchasers of his book, she will not be able to put it down until She has read the entire book.**

****The October 5th meeting Laurie H won the big prize, a hand crochet dress on doll in a roll of "T" paper. All guest went home with gifts after each won at Halloween "B I N G O. Refreshments were provided by Liz Ryan**

****Doctor Don Elliott has purchased 5 of Wm. Young's' books. He said they will make great Christmas presents. Don and his wife Violet left recently for Titusville FL for the winter months.**

****UVRS Sent Bonnie Jean Bauer, Treasurer and Pat Gifford to a Grant writing seminar at Courtland, NY recently. They reported that a lot of knowledge was learned.**

****If you receive this Pendragon and have not paid your dues, Please send dues now as all renewals are due by January 1, 2010. See membership form on back.**

****Taken from the Summer 2004 issue of the Pendragon "Maybe we have something we should be proud of? Certainly we have something to shout about. Last year we were funded for a roadside historical marker which we have installed. This year, with your help and that of a couple anonymous donors, we have paid off a burdensome land contract and gained a clear title to the New Berlin O & W depot where we house the Museum. We have good reason to shout" Signed by Your Conductor, George W.**

****Since our Spring 2009 issue we have had several guest speakers. In May, Chris Lord, Chief Mechanical Officer of the Cooperstown and Charlotte Valley Railroad presented a wonderful evening of great knowledge about the history of the Cooperstown and Charlotte Valley railway organized in 1865. Some more of the highlights were: The Round House in Cooperstown was destroyed by fire in 1885. In 1900 there were 10 to 14 trains a day including three passenger trains. The loads were 43% coal, followed by textiles and hops. Passenger service was cancelled in 1936 because of the autos. By 1947 there were only 3 freight trains a week in and out of Cooperstown. Chris answered many questions from the audience after and all enjoyed refreshments furnished by Ruth Gregory.**

From

UNADILLA VALLEY RAILWAY
SOCIETY AND MUSEUM
RAILROAD AVENUE
PO BOX 751
NEW BERLIN, NY 13411

January 4th Meeting changed to the Public Library in New Berlin at 6:30. Guest Speaker is John Taibi.

His program will be one of his Power Point Presentations about the New Berlin Branch of the NYO & W Railway that became part of the Unadilla Valley Railway. Please Note change of place and time!

TO: _____

free. Send payment to Bonnie Jean Bauer, Treasurer of UVR&M PO Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411

The UVR&M is a 501 3 tax exempt organization chartered by the N/AS board of Regents and is tax

with the Pendragon Publication will be sent to you.

All joining now or renewing will cover you until 1-1-11. A membership card along

Rates Single Member.....\$15.00
Family Membership...25.00
Life Membership.....250.00

Donations are always welcome
Please help keep our Railway
Museum open for future generations

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Join the 141 people who are or
have been members and receive
our newsletters and enjoy our
many events each year. Family,
children and all are welcome to
join.

Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum
Membership Form

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