CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

During our Annual Historical Society Christmas Party we shared with each other traditions we remember from our childhood and new ones we have made.

Seventeen members attended the party at the Cramer’s. A variety of food was brought to share, plus the traditional egg nog was enjoyed.

While folks were enjoying the refreshments, there was much visiting and fellowship going on.

The theme of the party was “Christmas Traditions”. Everyone shared at least one and some shared several, and also memories of past Christmas’s they hold dear.

Some traditions that were shared

* Tinsel shining on the Christmas tree
* Waking up to the tree that mysteriously had been decorated overnight.
* A pigs tail given as a joke
* Attending church, holding a lighted candle and singing ”Silent Night”
* Cutting our own Christmas tree
* Having to wait until after dinner to open the presents.
* Placing the tinsel one piece at a time and perfectly straight..then after Christmas removing each one very carefully to save for the next year.
* Receiving one gift and oranges, apples, nuts and a candy bar.
* Christmas excitement at school.
* Reading the Christmas story from the Bible before opening gifts.

Barbara Warner shared the tradition her family had in making these Santa Claus apples each year. It was a real treat because they didn’t get a lot of gifts/toys. Someone asked her how long they’d keep them and she said, “Oh we ate them as soon as we got one”. She made enough for some of us to take home.

Each memory that was shared, reminded us of many more of our family traditions that maybe we’d forgotten or hadn’t thought of for years.
Celebrating Christmas in 2013
around our beautiful village of Northville

Our Fire station

Welcome to Northville

Star over the dime store
The oldest Christmas card created for general distribution probably was created by William Egley Jr.; a 16 year-old British youth. His 3 1/2-inch- by 5 1/2-inch, 1842 printed impression, preserved in the British Museum, depicts four holiday scenes and a “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year” greeting with blanks after the word “To” on the top and “From” at the bottom. The father of American Christmas cards was award-winning Boston lithographer/inventor Louis Prang, who, in 1873, reproduced a holiday card autographed by Christmas Carol author, Charles Dickens.

Highly collectible Prang cards usually can be identified by tiny lettering “L Prang and Co., Boston” on the bottom margin. Occasionally, Prang left only a rose symbol (a veiled sign of affection for his wife, Rose) or disguised his mark under a tiny shoe or on a leaf.

Perhaps the greatest of Prang’s many innovations was the development of a multi-color printing process that incorporated as many as 20 colors on one print or card. Hues and detailing were so vivid that artists were sometimes not able to distinguish their own works from reproduced chromos.

In 1910, J.C. Hall began selling postcards out of a shoebox at a YMCA in Kansas City, Mo. His one-man enterprise turned into what we know today as Hallmark Cards Inc. Xmas card collecting (by the way, “X” is not a tacky abbreviation, it has religious significance in that X is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ)
In the late 1940’s and early ‘50’s, Northville had a resident State Trooper named Francis “Zeke” Foster. He lived and worked out of the rented room in a private residence on Bridge Street. While Police Chief Clarence Davison was primarily responsible for policing the village, “Zeke”’s patrol area included parts of Fulton, Hamilton and Saratoga Counties.

At the time, even troopers driving police cruisers still wore what is now referred to as the “old horse uniforms”, consisting of riding breeches, black leather puttees and spurs, along with the present day Stetson hat.

Resident troopers were not assigned to towns where their families lived. Zeke and his wife Alice had 10 children, 6 sons and 4 daughters, but he had only two nights a week and four consecutive days a month off, to go home to his family.

After his assignment in Northville, Zeke was transferred to South Glens Falls, where he served as a Zone Sergeant. After a 25 year career with the State Police, from 1940 to 1965, retired and became Dresden Town Supervisor. Zeke died in 1984 at the age of 69. He’s buried in Mountain Grove Cemetery in Dresden, Washington County, New York.

Zeke was a friend of mine and a positive influence in my life, when I was a young man living in Northville.