



"Days to Remember"

*You are Invited to
become a member of
the Town of Lexington
Historical Society*

Located on Church Street off New York State Rte. 42 in Lexington, New York.
P.O. Box 247 • Lexington, NY 12452 • Phone: 518-989-9570

A Brief History of the Town of Lexington Historical Building...

In the late 1800's, with the great influx of tourists and the new residents coming in to the Town of Lexington, the need was seen for the building of a Catholic Church in the area. A parcel of land was purchased on the 14th day of March, 1896, by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany N.Y. from James M. and Mary A. Van Valkenburgh. Shortly after the St. Francis de Sales

Catholic Church was built, services were held until a few years ago when the Diocese decided to close the church. Due to the forethought of some local people and the formation of the Town of Lexington Historical Society, it occurred that this would be a perfect home for the Society. This came into being with funding help from the Town Board through funds from the CWC

Good Neighbor Fund.

The Historical Society building has officially been accepted on both the state and national historical registries. The building will be used to house Lexington historical collections, exhibits and displays, and may also be used for special events and celebrations.

"The Magic of Lexington Welcomes You - Est. 1813"

Whether entering the town on Rte. 42, 23A or other roads, you will be greeted by one of these beautiful signs which were designed and created by local artists. In the 1790's the large range of mountains, waterpower, timber, furs and the unusual topography drew settlers to the area. Over the years a tannery, gristmill,



sawmill, distillery, potash manufacturing plant, woolen mill, forge, creamery, stores and post offices were built. As one industry would close, another would open. There were many small farms. Today there is little industry such as described above but several small, privately owned businesses are growing.

The natural beauty of the area and the relatively healthy climate encouraged people from the cities to spend the summer months at one of the many fine hotels, boarding houses or the Lexington House, which also had cottages and a camp for children. Most of these places are no longer in existence but people are still attracted to the natural beauty and serenity of the mountain

ranges, valleys and streams. The close proximity to metropolitan areas and improve highways and transportation systems enables people to purchase relatively inexpensive property and build beautiful homes "on the back roads" away from the main highways.

There is new interest in the heritage of the town and preservation of its history. In addition to the purchase of the Catholic Church by the Historical Society, property has

been purchased by a not-for-profit organization and plans are underway to revive the summer theatre and have classes in drama and the arts, etc. History books show that a Lexington Drama Society was organized in 1883, chiefly for local culture and improvement, showing this has long been a local interest. For many years square dances were held on Saturday nights bringing people from neighboring towns for and evening of fun. The hamlet of

Westkill has a newly renovated hall that once again is available for dinners, private parties, dances, entertainment, etc.

This is a brief summary, but the residents of the Town of Lexington whether "new" or "old" are excited about the enthusiasm created by the interest in preserving the past and planning for the future.

You are most welcome to join us!

The Town of Lexington Historical Society Belongs to Every Member



Echo Notch House, Westkill, N.Y.

The Town of Lexington Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization supported and operated mostly through the volunteer efforts of its members. The governing body of the society consists of the Town Historian and a Board of Trustees. The annual meeting is held during the month of May at which time there will be an election of trustees and officers. We are appealing to people to serve on different commit-

tees and help us with our goal of presenting the history of Lexington to the public. If you have photos, artifacts, historical information or documents that you would be willing to share with us, please let us know.

The Society belongs to each and everyone of its members. We encourage your membership—be a part of the preservation of our town.

Purpose of the Society

- The marking and preservation of historic places, the discovery, collection, preservation and publication of the history, historical records, genealogies, biographies and topographical information relating to the town of Lexington, in Greene County, in the State of New York.
- To acquire by purchase, gift or legacy, historical buildings, properties, and any other items with acceptable antique or historical value.
- To preserve all the above in as near original form as feasible and to make available said properties and items for the benefit and education of the general public.
- To impress upon the members and the town residents the importance of keeping Lexington's heritage alive as a source of interest and information.