

ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FUTURE PLANS FOR ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Howe-Prescott Pioneer House

This museum is one of two buildings that our organization owns. It is approximately two centuries old and is beginning to show its age. This house is one of the oldest standing buildings in Cattaraugus County and played an important part in history. Merlin Mead was one of its early owners and this staunch Abolitionist acted as a Conductor on the Underground Railroad. He later sold it and built a larger home nearby, continuing his activities in assisting escaping slaves by hiding them in his basement.



Recently, Al Fish repaired the chimney and found a roofer who volunteered to redo the roof of the house if the Society provided the materials. This work is crucial to preserving this historic building.

We also have an estimate from the Amish to do extensive work on the barn on our property connected to this house. I'm sure that all of us realize that these necessary repairs are costly. We do need donations to our Building Fund to accomplish our goals. In the attic of the barn we discovered a carpenter's chest filled with copies of The Chronicle Journal. They will be removed and hopefully supply us with information on our history. We also need volunteers to assist us with projects at this site.

The Miner's Cabin

Aside from genealogical requests, the most common question is: **Can we go up to the third floor and view the ballroom?** At present the public is not permitted in this area. Al Fish has gathered important information that could possibly lead to our opening the ballroom to our visitors.



Simeon Robbins became well-known for the elaborate balls that he and his wife hosted there. You can still see the location for the bandstand. Until 1937, the high school held its proms there. Merle Bull remembered that the ballroom was once draped in muslin and twinkling lights. We would love to renovate the third floor, provide access to the public, and possibly use it for future events.