

# *ISCHUA VALLEY*

## *HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

### **INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE FRANKLINVILLE FAIR**

The first Franklinville Fair took place in 1882. The Ischua Valley Historical Society has several ledgers and premium books from these fairs which were held until 1912 when they were suspended. Recently we received a program book from the first fair that was discovered in the Litchfield Collection.

Exhibitors came from all the surrounding areas including Mt. Morris, Ashville, Wellsville and the Conewango Valley. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the Legion Field was the site of the fair. Admission to the fair by the Agricultural and Driving Park Association varied during the years. The general admission in 1903 was \$.25 and in 1907 it was \$.35. It was an exciting time for Franklinville and the end of the summer that included horse races and exhibits of agricultural and home-made products.

Secretary McNall reported that 1894 was a "Banner Year" with 3,000 entries submitted for the two days allowed for presenting exhibits. That year lunch counters, hucksters, side shows, fruit and popcorn stands, a dance platform and a merry-go-round were featured.

The fair and races in 1895 had many local ads in the Premium Book. B. L. Stowell was the Tonsorial Artist (term for a barber and his work). F. O. Waterman sold sleighs and wagons. Chandler Brothers, THE CHRONICLE, J. C. Clements, and the Farmer's National Bank also purchased ads. One man advertised that he had the best sets of teeth ranging from \$8 to \$10. This Fair took place September 10<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup>.

Winners of exhibits were awarded money. In 1907 Mrs. E. H. Farrington received \$11.15 for 19 entries. In 1908, Mrs. Burt Wallace won \$.60 for 6 sugar cookies. William Blowers made \$.50 for showing 6 onions. R. L. Curtis was the Secretary that year and M. E. Grove was the Director. The featured entertainment was the balloon ascension of Miss Dorothy De Vonda. Earlier, in 1894, Beatrice Van Dressen had ascended in a balloon, slipped and fell to her death at the fair.

In 1909 the fair was held on August 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. Floyd Klock advertised his Cadiz store and Salisbury and Son were selling hardware, tinware and stoves. R. L. Farnham was the Secretary who recorded entries and the premiums paid.

~ Information found in a ledger of the Franklinville Fair.