

The US Postal Service has announced a special stamp cancellation honoring the Town of Hunter's 200th birthday.

Stamp cancellaton, special flags mark Hunter's bicentennial

A special Bicentennial flag will be raised in January and fly throughout the year at the Hunter Town House on Route 23A in Tannersville as the town of Hunter, first known as Greenland, begins its 2013 Bicentennial birthday bash. Students and volunteers will host art exhibitions, a stamp cancellation and, of course, a parade on Labor Day weekend in Tannersville to mark its founding year.

The flag, designed by Hunter resident and artist, Carol Slutzky-Tennerowicz, incorporates the town's original 1813 Official Seal.

It was on Jan. 27, 1813, that the town of Hunter was formed, and the public is invited to bring their stamped letters and cards, or any item that includes a postage stamp to the town house from 2- 4 p.m. on Sunday Jan. 27 for a special stamp cancellation commemorating the day. Hunter's Postmaster will be on hand. Light refreshments are planned, courtesy of the Hunter Town Council. Bicentennial stamp cancellations will also be made at the Hunter Post Office on Jan. 26, 2013, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon.

The stamp cancellation, also designed by Slutzky-

Tennerowicz, includes all of the hamlets and villages within the town limits: Lanesville, Hunter, Tannersville, Elka Park, Platte Clove, Edgewood and Haines Falls. (Please see the detailed drawing of the cancellation design attached.) Carol completed her contribution to the year by proofing the design of the red and white pole banners that will be suspended in all town sections through the year. Banners are sponsored per side and are available for sponsorship by calling Town of Hunter Historian, Dede Thorpe, at 518-589-6151 extension 313. (Leave a message and phone number, someone will return your call.)

Celebrations of the Hunter Bicentennial are incomplete without the help of the town's young people. Students at the Hunter Tannersville Central School, guided by art teacher Rita Mary Vining, are designing posters that acknowledge and celebrate Hunter's attractions and industry over time. Recreation, hotels, boarding houses, and the natural beauty of Hunter's mountains and waterfalls will be rendered on posters that will hang in the windows of local businesses for

residents and visitors to enjoy.

An archival art display is scheduled for Saturdays in August in the barn on the grounds of the Mountain Top Historical Society in Haines Falls. The dedicated volunteers who comprise the Society's board are pleased that former Hunter resident Rick Brooks will take one August Saturday to show his own collection of historic artifacts related to the Fenwick Lumber Company that operated here from 1903 until 1917. Rick's passion for this history is evident in his collection and we are excited to welcome him to celebrate our founding year. Local Author John Ham will also be on hand for a book signing, both of these dates will be announced at a later time. We will also have Marty Podskoch, author of "Firetowers Of The Catskills" doing a presentation and book signing on Aug. 24 at 1 p.m.

Finally, Hunter will host a Bicentennial Parade on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, Aug. 31, 2013. The parade will include many local businesses, fire companies and local youth groups. The time and exact parade route will be announced.

By Jim Planck

Hudson-Catskill Newspapers

HUNTER — The year-long observance of the Bicentennial of the Town of Hunter was kicked off Sunday afternoon, Jan. 27, at the Hunter Town Hall, exactly 200 years to the day that the municipality became its own entity.

Although originally called the Town of Greenland for the first year of its existence, it was none-the-less on Jan. 27, 1813, that the State of New York officially approved creation of Hunter from the Town of Windham, the latter once covering the entire Mountaintop.

Sunday's "birthday party" for the town had a strong attendance of residents, business owners, and officials, with about 75 folks on hand, including U.S. Representative Chris Gibson, who comment-

ed afterward of his appreciation for the scenic beauty, rural character, and people of the town.

At the outset, Town Historian DeDe Thorpe, the afternoon's "emcee," explained to those present that one of the people who was most deserving of attending, but was unable to, was recently retired Town Historian and former Mountain Top Historical Society President Justine Hommel, whose work in preserving local history and protecting Kaaterskill Clove has spanned the decades and is well recognized.

The official part of the afternoon got underway with the ceremonial raising of the town's Bicentennial Flag by Thorpe and the board's newest Councilman, Anthony Coiro, of Haines Falls, who, with assistance from Town

Highway Superintendent John Farrell and fellow Councilman Dolph Semenza successfully got an unruly lanyard and windswept federal and state flags to cooperate in the cold, so that the bright red of the town's flag now flies proudly in the breeze, and will do so throughout the year.

The flag's pattern is based upon that of the town's official seal, and was designed by Hunter artist Carol Slutzky-Tenerowicz, who also designed the imprint of a special postal cancellation which drew a long and steady line of customers all afternoon.

That postal service was courtesy Hunter Postmaster James Hull, who volunteered his Sunday and set up shop in the town hall so that cancellations with the Bicentennial postmark could be obtained exactly on Jan. 27.

For those who missed it, and would still like to obtain one, Hull said they can do so by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope -- containing the letter or envelope they wish to receive the imprint -- and that it will be postmarked and sent back to them in the stamped and self-addressed outer envelope, at no charge -- just remember to put the necessary postage on the outer envelope.

Enlarged pictures of historic Hunter scenes from the town's hamlets were displayed on the walls and easels, and good fellowship was enjoyed by all as they snacked on baked treats, discussed the content-laden pictures -- including items like the Catskill Mountain House,

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shown in both its 19th century glory and its sad state of disrepair just prior to being demolished in a controlled burn in the 1960s -- and reminisced about tales told them by earlier generations.

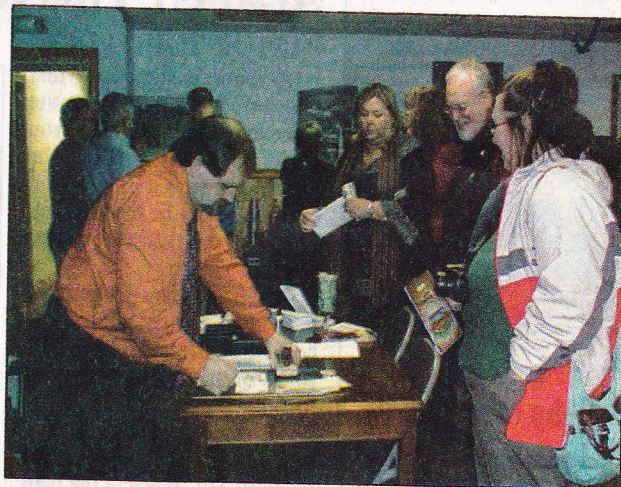
On a side note, it was in fact, as clarified by Thorpe, exactly fifty years ago this year, on Jan. 25, 1963, that the then-NYS Conservation Department directed the burning of the Catskill Mountain House to the ground, an occasion remembered by a number of those present.

Mountain Top Historical Society President Cyndi LaPierre said Tuesday the day was an excellent gathering.

"The weather was cold," said LaPierre, "but the atmosphere in the town house was warm."

"People from the various villages and hamlets in the town shared stories with people from Lexington, Jewett, and the Greene County Historical Society," she said.

"In her new post as Town Historian," said LaPierre,



Jim Planck/Hudson-Catskill Newspapers

Hunter Postmaster James Hull, left, inks up the special Town of Hunter Bicentennial cancellation imprint in order to postmark another of the many envelopes requested by folks at Sunday's gathering.

"DeDe Thorpe has done a wonderful job of bringing people together to celebrate this special anniversary."

"And," she added, "I would like to warmly thank DeDe, and everyone, who made special contributions to the Mountain Top Historical Society."

"A cooperative spirit was evident in the room," said LaPierre, "a spirit that will continue through the year 2013."

Also, for those wishing to take an active and visual role in the ongoing celebration and its events throughout the year, Thorpe said the town has large red pole banners, bearing the Bicentennial content, available for purchase by businesses and residents, to be mounted on street-side poles.

For pricing and information, call DeDe Thorpe at (518) 589-7049 or (518) 589-6151, ext. 313.