

SHERMAN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Wall of Fame

GENEVIEVE E. MATTESON LARSON

Inducted 2013



Miss Matteson received her teaching diploma from the University of New York State – Normal School at Fredonia in 1931, her Bachelors degree also from Fredonia in 1948 and a Masters degree in Education in 1957. She began her tenure at Sherman Central School in 1932. She taught middle grade students social studies and English throughout her 29 year, 8 month career until 1962. After leaving SCS, she taught English at Southwestern Middle School until her retirement in 1965.

Miss Matteson, along with being an outstanding teacher, was the founder of the French Creek Yorkers, a junior branch of the New York State Historical Association in the 1946-47 school year. Five students exhibiting an interest in local history and early colonial memorabilia initiated the club, and Ms. Matteson was their sponsor. The club grew at an amazing pace and realized over 250 members in the mid 1950s. The collection of artifacts continued to grow through community donations, and a new location to house them was needed. The Yorkers decided to establish a Village Museum, and, in 1951, the foundation was laid, and the first building was set. In total, seven buildings and a gazebo now stand in the Village Commons at the Corner of Park and Church Streets in Sherman.

In 1959 Miss Matteson married Mr. Ray Larson, Sr. who fondly became know as “Mr. Yorker.”

In order to document the many accomplishments of the Yorkers, including local, state and national awards, Mrs. Larson published “History of French Creek Yorkers; Two Decades of Joy (1968), and “French Creek Yorker’s Museum, Sherman, NY” (1971).

Mrs. Larson received an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1979 from the Ben Franklin Academy of Washington D.C. for her accomplishments in the field of history which focused especially on making youngsters aware of their heritage.

New York State disbanded the Yorker organization in 1998, and Mrs. Larson’s wish was for the museum to be deeded to the Village of Sherman. In March 2011, the Sherman Historical Society for the Preservation of the French Creek Yorkers was formed, and they now remain the caretakers of the Yorker Museum.