

## **HISTORIC SILSBY STEAM FIRE ENGINE TO DEMONSTRATE IN LOCKPORT, NY**

The Hydraulic Race Co., in cooperation with the Friendship No. 2 Fire Company, Friendship, NY are pleased to announce

The Miss. Daisy a Silsby Steam Fire Engine constructed in 1873 will come to Lockport and give fire pumping demonstrations:

### Day/Date/Time

August 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 starting at 11:00 A. M.

### Location

5 Gooding St., Lockport, NY, home office of Lockport  
Cave & Underground Boat Ride.

Demonstrations will begin at approximately 11:00 am and continue throughout the day until 3:30 pm.

The demonstrations are free and open to the public. For additional information go to the Lockport Cave & Underground Boat Ride Facebook page.

Seneca Falls was known for many years as the “fire engine capital” of the Western hemisphere and perhaps the entire world. The Silsby Manufacturing Co. was a key player in this, becoming the largest maker of steam fire engines in the world.

The Silsby Manufacturing Co. was founded in 1848 by Horace C. Silsby, along with Washburn Race and Birdsill Holly. The trio built a plant in Seneca Falls that became known as the Island Works.

Silsby conceived that the principle of Birdsill Holly’s rotary pump could be applied to the steam fire engine.

The different chambers created a stream of water that was always uniform and steady, unlike the pulsing stream of water created by a piston engine.

A Silsby No. 2 threw a horizontal stream of water 325 feet and 6 inches. On Sept. 23, 1881, at Reading, Pa., a Silsby No. 2 threw a 1.25-inch stream of water a distance of 364 feet.

More than 1,000 steam fire engines were built by the Silsby Co. At least 40 of these “modern” (1873 or later) Silsby engines are known to still exist today. The Miss Daisy is one of the very few operable steam fire engines in the world.

The relationship between Silsby and Holly continued even as Holly opened his own Holly Manufacturing Company in Lockport, NY in 1858 to manufacture the more than 150 patents issued to Birdsill Holly, including the rotary pump.

This is truly a family event, the public is invited historic information, books, post cards t- shirts will be available. The Lockport Cave & Boat Ride will be given daily historic tours on the ½ hour during this event. For more information go to [www.lockportcave.com](http://www.lockportcave.com). Or phone 7164380174. This is a rain or shine event.