

# Virginia Snoodly Parrott, Fort Ann Historian

## (February 15, 1936 - August 24, 2018)



*WCHS Trustee Emerita Virginia Parrott (center) is pictured here with her husband and daughter at the 2016 WCHS annual membership meeting.*

Virginia Parrott was a valued member of the Washington County Historical Society from the 1970's until the present. She served the Society in many capacities: Historic Sites and Markers and Genealogy Committees, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Trustee, Second Vice President, and Trustee Emerita. Virginia tackled the herculean task of compiling indexes for three books on Washington County history: the reprint of the *Washington County History of 1878* and Fred Stiles two books *From Then Till Now* and *Old Days-Old Ways*. In honor of her service, she was given the James R. Cronkhite Award for Historic Preservation in 2005. She was awarded the status of WCHS Trustee Emerita, and is pictured here with her certificate awarded at our 2016 WCHS annual membership meeting.

In the 1970's, Virginia volunteered to work on the Historic Resources Survey of Washington County, NY, for the Town of Fort Ann. She wrote the Fort Ann history chapter for the county's publication, *An Introduction to Historic Resources in Washington County, N.Y.*

Virginia was appointed to the Washington County Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to represent Fort Ann and served for 17 years.

Virginia was appointed Town Historian of Fort Ann in 1972 and served 46 years until the present. In 1983 she became Registrar of Vital Statistics and served 35 years and was Tax Collector serving 21 years. She was an excellent historian and strong advocate for all aspects of Fort Ann's history. She brought dignity and respect to cemeteries that had been neglected or violated.

She taught people the importance of the Revolutionary Battle of Fort Anne on July 8, 1777 and wanted the battlefield to be protected and interpreted. Virginia lived to see the plans now being implemented on Battle Hill for the Fort Anne Battlefield Trail, which will feature interpretive signs. We can thank Virginia for 50 years of advocating the importance of the Battle of Fort Anne and encouraging other Fort Ann residents and state and national organizations to be involved. A special thanks to Christine Milligan, Virginia's grand-niece, for being a special help to her aunt in this and other Fort Ann causes. Christine was recently appointed Fort Ann Town Historian to continue Virginia's legacy.

Virginia wanted it known that the journal kept by the British Lieutenant William Digby described the official U.S. flags that were probably flown first in battle at Fort Anne.

Virginia was born in Fort Ann and lived there all but five years of her life. Her family roots can be traced back to the early 1800's. She graduated from Fort Ann Central School in 1953. She married Richard J. Parrott on February 20, 1955 and they were devoted to each other for 63 years. They had three children, Patricia Smith (Ted), Rebecca Parrott Cotone (Frank), and Richard K. Parrott. Her early employment included an insurance company, Fort Ann Central School, Sheridan Catheter and a lumber company.

Over the years, she was involved in many Fort Ann organizations. She enjoyed doing genealogy, reading, crossword puzzles, crocheting and traveling with Richard.

In the summer of 2018, Virginia was the recipient of the Shining Star Award given by the Post-Star and Conkling Center.

The Society extends their deepest sympathy to Virginia's family and thanks them for sharing her with us. We will miss her as our friend and we will miss her enormous body of knowledge about Fort Ann.