



Summer-Fall 2020 Newsletter

Volume XXX #2 & #3

A Note To Our Members:

We usually publish four *WCHS Newsletters* each year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this timeline was changed this year to due necessity. We did send the spring *Newsletter* electronically to our members, as the pandemic outbreak then prevented us from following our normal printing process.

The summer was unpredictable adjusting to new pandemic guidelines, and our summer edition was not able to be completed. We are, however, including content now to make up for the last issue, with this combined summer-fall 2020 *Newsletter*.

WCHS wishes our members a safe and healthy fall, and hope we all can return to more normal activities soon. We appreciate your ongoing support for our organization, and thank you for your membership.

WCHS Annual Membership Meeting Update

In order to conduct the necessary business we typically do each fall, we are informing members that (as of this printing), we are planning to hold an annual WCHS Membership meeting **on Saturday, October 24 at 10 a.m. at the Strand Theater in Hudson Falls**. Our meeting will look different than past years, with no luncheon or program. **Pre-registration is required** (no walk-ins allowed), so we can provide safely distanced seating. Masks will be required. You can register by calling WCHS at (518) 747-9108 with your name and how many will attend. You can also send an email with reservation or questions to wchs.ny@gmail.com or email WCHS President at nhuntington64@gmail.com.

Important Changes To Our 2020 Program Calendar

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone the remainder of our programs this year. New dates will be announced as soon as they become available for the following:

The “Through Susan’s Eyes” bus tour, which would have been held on May 31, 2020 to visit sites related to Susan B. Anthony and her family will be rescheduled for 2021 as soon as it is safe to hold the event. (There are still a few seats available. If you are already registered, you are all set. If you are unable to attend on the new date, when it is announced, you will receive a full refund.) While you are waiting for the bus tour to take place next year, you can keep up with the exciting progress of the restoration of the Anthony house on Route 29 in Battenville! This *Newsletter* includes some photos and information about this historic property (see page 4).

Our program at Museums at Penope Farms in Jackson was to be held June 2020 will be rescheduled to 2021 — date to be announced.

The “Forward into Light” concert which was to be presented on Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at Hubbard Hall in Cambridge will be rescheduled. This concert was made possible with a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts and LARAC (Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council). LARAC will give WCHS until the end of June 2021 to hold the concert; date to be announced.

To keep up with the latest on our programs in the future, watch your inbox for email messages from WCHS. (Please be sure we have your current email address on file so we can communicate with you.) We will also post updates on our website (www.wchs-ny.org), our Facebook page and local papers, when possible. Please call WCHS on Wednesdays or Fridays, from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. if you have any questions about any of our programs.

**Washington County
Historical Society
Mission Statement**

*The Washington County
Historical Society is an
educational organization
dedicated to engaging diverse
audiences in the study and
application of the collective
heritage of Washington County,
New York, and its environs.*

- Rev. October 2005

WCHS has a constantly growing collection of information, original documents, and other items of interest about Washington County and its inhabitants, past and present. We encourage you to stop by and take a look!

If you would like to find out more about volunteering to help with the Heritage Research Library, please contact the Historical Society and let us know.



**Heritage
Research
Library Hours:**

All email inquiries:
wchs.ny@gmail.com

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Newsletter Editor:
Kelly Mead

How To Contact Us:



Phone: (518) 747-9108
Fax: (518) 746-1655



Address: 167 Broadway,
Fort Edward, NY 12828

Web: www.wchs-ny.org



E-mail:
wchsbookshop@yahoo.com
wchs.ny@gmail.com

Greetings From Your President

Dear WCHS Members,

I hope this *Newsletter* finds everyone in good health and spirits. During these times I feel that it's a good time to reflect on our history not only to learn from it but also to help us realize what our ancestors and those who came before us went through. Now is not the time to ignore our past but it's a time understand it. That is why it is especially important for Historical Societies like ours to stay open and relevant. I understand that when times get busy its easy to not be thinking of the Historical Society, but the Society needs people now more than ever.

Our membership numbers are down so far this year. I understand that these are difficult times for many of us, but if you have not renewed your membership and can afford to, it would be a great help in enabling the Society to continue functioning. Maybe you know of someone who might like to become a member, if so, you might want to suggest to them how to join or even give them a membership as a gift. It is only through you that the Society can continue through these trying times.

Unfortunately, as noted on the cover page of this edition, we had to cancel all our programs for 2020. However, we will be holding the annual membership meeting on October 24 at 10 a.m. It will be at the Strand Theater in Hudson Falls. Since we will have to have limited seating to provide proper social distancing, we are asking that you let us know if you plan to attend. Please call the Wing-Northup house at 518-747-9108, email us at wchs.ny@gmail.com or email me at nhuntington64@gmail.com.

The bookshop is open for online and in person purchases. The Washington County Fair was where the Bookshop sold many books. With the Fair not taking place this year, we missed the sales that it provided. Steve has many interesting books that can be enjoyed while staying home or are great for gifts. Please take a look at them at our website www.wchs-ny.org or stop in at the Wing-Northup House Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Speaking of the Wing-Northup house, there have been some changes that have happened lately. Tom Litwin has been working on the front entrance. He has replaced the front steps and risers. He did a great job and he will be working on repairing a few windowsills that are rotted. I also want to let everyone know that as of July 8 our longtime librarian, Barbara Anderson, is no longer employed by the Washington County Historical Society. For the time being, I have been filling in to answer inquiries and working on rearranging the Library. I would like to thank Dale and Coral Grinnell for their time in helping with this and thank the two new volunteers who have been coming in on Wednesdays to help file, answer questions and organize. They are Connie Harris Farrington and Jeanne LaPoint Wood. If anyone has any interest in volunteering at the Research Library, please let me know by e-mailing me or by just showing up on a Wednesday or Friday anytime from 9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Any amount of time that you could give would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Huntington
WCHS President

Proposed 2021 WCHS Operating Budget

Below is the proposed 2021 WCHS operating budget, which will be reviewed at our annual business meeting on October 24, 2020. We will be requesting a vote of approval from members in attendance at the meeting.

<u>Income:</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Annual Appeal	8500	9500	9500
County Support	1856	1856	1856
Morgan Stanley:Dividends/Int	1100	900	700
Fundraisers/Events	6474	6000	6000
General Donations	2500	2384	1294
Gift Shop Sales	6000	6000	6000
Hill Trust Return	5400	5975	5000
Interest Income	45	20	20
Membership Dues	5000	6000	7000
Merrill Lynch Transfers	20,000	20,000	20,000
Restricted Income			
Library	600	600	330
Other	7000	7000	7000
Total Income	64,475	66,235	64,700
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Administrative Expense			
IRS/Financial Report	2000	2200	2600
Board/Staff Development	200	600	600
Insurance: Bldg & Board	2425	2425	2800
Office Supplies & Expense	2000	2500	2500
Payroll Expenses:Taxes:Insurance	1500	1200	1200
Postage	1000	700	700
President	150	150	150
Professional Dues	300	500	500
Property Tax Expense	450	600	800
Technology/Website	500	1000	1300
Telephone/Internet	1000	1000	1000
Administrative Subtotal	11,525	12,875	14,150
Building			
Cumulative	-0-	-0-	-0-
Custodial	2800	2900	2900
Electric	1000	700	600
Heat	1500	1500	1300
Improvements:Repairs	5400	5760	5000
Security	300	450	300
Building Subtotal	11,000	11,310	10,100
Program Expense			
Fair	650	650	350
Fundraisers/ Events	4000	4000	3000
Library Operations	2500	2500	2500
Newsletter	1100	1100	1100
Education Committee	200	200	200
Outreach: speakers, programs	800	900	900
Preservation Committee	1000	1000	1000
Promotion	1000	1000	1000
Publications	2000	2000	2000
Restricted			
Library Donation transfer	600	600	300
Other	-0-	-0-	-0-
Roadside Markers	100	100	100
Shop Expense	1500	1500	1500
Prog Subtotal	15,450	15,550	13,950
Payroll	26,500	26,500	26,500
Total Expenses	64,475	66,235	64,700

Proposed 2021 WCHS Slate of Nominations

Below is the proposed 2021 WCHS slate of nominations, which will be reviewed at our annual business meeting on October 24, 2020. Our current incoming slate consists of trustee terms; our officers remain in place for the next year.

Rob Hemsing, Queensbury, NY—3 year term
 Gretta Hochsprung, Queensbury, NY—3 year term
 Pat Niles, Cambridge, NY—3 year term
 James Arndt, Cambridge, NY—3 year term

100th Anniversary Event Held Celebrating the 19th Amendment

August 26, 1920 was the date of the ratification of the 19th amendment giving white women the right to vote (Sadly, it was many years before black (1965) and Native American women were granted that right). On Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 11 a.m. the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) hosted a ceremony honoring this event at the Susan B. Anthony Childhood Home on NYS Route 29 in Battenville (Town of Greenwich). Speakers included OPRHP Regional Director Alane Ball-Chinian, retiring Senator Betty Little and Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner. The event included about 30 socially-distanced invited guests, including Washington County Supervisors Don Ward (Greenwich), Sue Clary (Salem), Jay Skelly (Jackson), and Sam Hall (Fort Ann). Little and Woerner both set aside funding for the restoration project in their budgets for 2020. Others invited included WCHS board members Debi Craig and Kay Tomasi. Also in attendance were staff members from the OPRHP. It was held on the side lawn of the Stoops Hotel, a historic building to the right of the Anthony home which will be acquired by NYS to provide additional parking. There are four acres of land with the hotel that was recently put on the market by its previous owners. The hotel was built in 1805. The announcement of this acquisition was made at the ratification celebration.



Alane Ball-Chinian, Regional Director of the OPRHP



Carrie Woerner



Kay Tomasi



Washington County Supervisors and OPRHP Staff

The OPRHP is currently working to resolve drainage issues as well as on the restoration of the house. Construction is currently underway to return the house to the way it would have been when the Anthony's built it in 1832. This part of the project is expected to be completed in September 2020.



New York City Central Park Suffragist Statue Unveiled



Until now there has never been a statue of an actual woman in Central Park in New York City. It has taken 167 years to make it happen, but on August 26, 2020 a statue immortalizing Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton as women's suffragists was placed in the park. The sculptor is Meredith Bermann, who is also a woman. The organization Monumental Women "broke the bronze mold" by a seven year effort of raising \$1.5 million dollars in private funding to place the statue in the park. Kudos to that organization!

Cyclist Rides for Youth Cycling and to Honor Women's Suffrage



Nick Crossed is the son of Carol Crossed, the director the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum in Adams, MA. He decided to raise money for the Birthplace Museum and also for Cycling for Urban Youth with a 334 mile bicycle ride from the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace in Adams, MA, stopping in Cambridge and Battenville, NY and ending at her graveside in Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester NY. He wanted to share his passion for bicycling to Rochester youth with a fundraising goal of \$6,000 to equip new riders in the Rochester Youth Cycling Club. Nick is a volunteer assistant coach for the RYCC team, which is sponsored by Dream Bikes. Crossed planned to donate 90% of money raised to RYCC and 10% to SBABM. Nick Crossed, 46, is an accomplished, expert level mountain bike racer, competing and placing in numerous races at the Category 1 class.

Nick and his friends at Dream Bikes, a non-profit community bike shop, would like to see the team expand and provide opportunities for more urban youth, particularly underrepresented populations. "Mountain biking has always been a sport dominated by white males. I would like to see more women and girls; more people of color on the trails", said Crossed.

Rochester native and avid cyclist, Nick Crossed, arrived in Battenville on the first leg of his journey from the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum in Adams, MA on August 21. His route took him to Hubbard Hall in Cambridge, then on to the Susan B. Anthony Childhood Home in Battenville. He was met by WCHS past President Debi Craig, who took photos of Nick's arrival and time in Battenville; first at the house which is currently under construction (photo above left) and also at the recently acquired Stoops Hotel next door (photo below).

Crossed originally had planned a trip from Colorado, where he first experienced the joy of riding mountain style biking and racing, to Rochester, his hometown. "COVID blew that plan apart. I had to rethink my trip," he said. He decided that a shorter trip focusing on the northeast would be safer and as effective — hopefully — in raising the funds necessary to equip six new riders. With August 26 being the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing women the right to vote, Crossed decided to tie together these two seemingly disparate goals: to bring new youth into the sport and to honor the Suffrage movement.



Crossed thinks Susan B. Anthony would love the idea of raising funds for youth cycling. "She was a huge proponent of women owning and riding bicycles as a means of exerting independence," said Crossed. About bicycling, Anthony said, "It has done more to emancipate women than any one thing in the world". (www.theguardian.com/environment/bike)

Crossed's itinerary started at the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum, traveling through Cambridge, stopping at Hubbard Hall where Susan held a rally, continuing to the family homes in Battenville and Rochester, with other stops at Canajoharie where she taught school, Utica (home of Lucy Carlile Watson), Fayetteville (home of Matilda Joslyn Gage), and Seneca Falls which was the site of many women's suffrage events (and home of the Women's Rights Convention and Elizabeth Cady Stanton).

The trek ended August 26, the date honoring the passage of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment to the United States Constitution, in Rochester with police escorted visits to the Susan B. Anthony Museum in Rochester and the Mount Hope Cemetery, which is the final resting place of Susan and many of her family members (several family members including her sister Eliza and her grandparents are buried in Battenville).

- Articles and photos page 4 and 5 Submitted by Debi Craig

New Publication Announced



Cheese factory, Blind Buck Road, Salem courtesy Salem Archives

The Washington County Historical Society is pleased to announce a new publication that investigates the storied past of Washington County through photographs of what life was like from the 1840s until post World War II. The title of the book is *Historic Washington County: A Photographic Portrait*.

Although early settlers migrated to the north country before the Revolutionary War, farming and industry didn't thrive until the 1840's when rivers like the Battenkill, Mettawee, and Champlain canal became vital to trade, transportation, farming and industry. The people who came to Washington County were diverse in numerous ways: lifestyles, ethnicity, religion and capabilities. Men often worked in the fields planting crops in the spring and harvesting their bounty in the fall, but as many women worked in the factories all year round; they were seamstresses making shirts, collars and gloves. Most who lived in the small communities who grew up along the waterways, were either small dairy or potato farmers or they were mill workers.

By the early 1800s Washington County boasted a population of over 45,000, the largest in New York State at that time. In 1861, when young men were conscripted into the Union army, the county was the most prosperous area in the entire county. The decades following the Civil war and through much of the 20th century were a time of invention, achievement and prosperity for many where people were able to achieve a better way of life for themselves and their children.

Historic Washington County: A Photographic Portrait is a beautiful collection of photographs. It shows "a day in the life" of how our ancestors dressed, what they did and how they lived. It is a tale of the people and by the people depicted through photos from private collections and archives. There are also short stories and reminiscences acquired from letters and diaries which help bring the images to life.

Historic Washington County: A Photographic Portrait will be available in the spring of 2021, but it will be possible to pre-order in advance of the publication date by visiting the Washington County Historical Society on-line bookstore: wchsbookshop@yahoo.com.

Watch your email inbox and local newspapers for more information about upcoming pre-order events taking place in December.

Memories of WCHS

Martha Tomasi, a charter member of WCHS, shared some memories and thoughts about the organization in 1980. Mrs. Tomasi served as a Trustee during these forty years. We share this with our readers now to show how many familiar names helped shape WCHS today. Submitted by Kay Tomasi, who is a current Board of Trustee member and chair of the Finance Committee.

It has been a pleasant and rewarding experience to have been a member of the Washington County Historical Society for the past forty years....

In the early days Gordon Dillon of Salem was very interested in this organization, and as I recall he invited Mrs. Claxton, Mrs. Blanchfield and I to accompany him to the meetings (always on the 4th Saturday of the month).

Some of the early members were Sue Wade, who was then County Historian, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cronkhite, parents of our Jim Cronkhite, and Mr. and Mrs. John McMorris of South Argyle. There were also Mrs. Robert McClellan of Cambridge, Ernest Tilford and his mother of Argyle or Hartford, Byron Herrington of Cambridge, I.V.H. Gill and Mrs. E.J. Skiff of Greenwich, Emma Briggs, Town Historian of Easton, and a little later Dr. Jane Welling and Jacob and Allen Pratt of Easton.

Of recent years, our organization has been greatly helped by Dr. Norman Enhorning, Doris Morton, Carol Greenough and Paul McCarty. Of course, we all know the long service of Hazel Hill has rendered in the collection of our dues and Jim Cronkhite without whom we couldn't get along. He has the best and fullest account of meetings I've ever heard anyone give. Many others members have helped, too.

We have accomplished much in the field of publishing. At present we can be proud of reprinting Crisfield Johnson's *History of Washington County*. That I'm sure will pay off. The printing of the Gibson Papers was also a great thing to do. We have many good publications of various towns and families such as the Greenwich community histories by I.V. H. Gill, the three volumes of *They Were Here Too* by Jane Welling and the *Argyle Then- Now- and Forever* compiled by Molly McMorris. Then there are the genealogies of the late Byron M. Herrington on the Herrington, Kenyon, Brownell and Meader families. Another author whom you may not know is Grace Croft of Provo, Utah who a few years ago wrote a complete *Genealogy of the Benson Family* which includes at least five generations of the Easton branch. Mrs. Brayton of Hartford, I believe, wrote something of her family and Hartford. This past year Mr. Stiles of Fort Ann wrote *From Then Till Now*.

It would seem that we have been strong in the publications area and that is good.

One thing I'd like to see done in the county is the restoration of the Galesville Cemetery. This, the people of Greenwich area are struggling with.

Best of all, I think, are the fine new people like the Pattens, the Gambees, Mr. Harwood and Sally Brillon who have come into our organization. It is really the people who count. May the next 40 years be as good to us as the last.

Washington County Senior of the Year 2020

Congratulations to William "Al" Cormier, Deputy Historian for the Town of Salem, who is a recipient of the Washington County Senior of the Year Recognition for 2020.

Al married his wife Sara Jane in 1957 and moved to Salem in 1965. They have three children and one grandchild.

He was high school principal at Salem Washington Academy for 27 years and was the Salem historian from 1983-2019 when he stepped back to become Deputy Historian.

He has authored books about railroading and WW II in Salem, of vintage photos about the Batten Kill, and the slate industry in Washington County. He has also written numerous articles for the Washington County Historical Society's "The Annual Journal". In 2004, Al was the recipient of the James Cronkhite award.

Al has been a member of the Association of Public Historians in New York State since 1984, he has been a certified New York State Town Historian since 2003. He has served as the Chair of the Salem Historic Preservation Committee since 1976. Al has also written numerous grants for historic preservation and records management. In 1995, Al developed a records management system and historic archives for the Town and Village of Salem. In 2019, he updated the storage system and facilities.

In 1975, Al developed the National Historic District in the Village of Salem. He placed the Revolutionary War Cemetery on the National Registry of Historic Places in 2005.

According to "The Eagle" newspaper, when Al was asked what advice he had about volunteering for other New Yorkers he stated, "We should live a life of "Service Above Self".

When the current Salem historian was asked to comment on Al's involvement in preserving Salem's history, Judy Flagg said, "I am honored to have Al ask me to be Salem's historian upon his retirement. His dedication and attention to detail are evident in the meticulous records and catalogued archives I now oversee. He has a genuine interest and affection for Salem's history, its people and their stories. He has given unselfishly of his time, talent and knowledge for more than 30 years as Salem's historian. Flagg also commented, "Al's mark upon this community will last long into the future, we are so fortunate that he chose Salem as his family's home!"

Wing-Northup House Building News

Update on Wing-Northup House Projects:

The Society applied for a Leo Cox Beach Philanthropic Foundation grant in March 2020 to make several major window repairs to the Wing- Northup House. We will be informed in June if our application has been funded.

Tom Litwin was able to rebuild our front steps this summer. This is a project we are pleased to see completed. It was funded in our 2019 Leo Cox Beach Philanthropic Foundation grant. The carpenter's time constraints and poor weather delayed the project.

We are grateful to the Leo Cox Beach Philanthropic Foundation for their continuing support of the preservation of the Wing-Northup House. Over the last nineteen years, the Society has received \$38,575.00 from the Foundation.

- Submitted by Sally Brillon, Building and Grounds Chairman

History In Your Own Backyard



Two new kiosks have been put in place by the Lakes to Locks Passage. They are in a rest area on State Route 22 about two miles south of the village of Salem near the Salem/Jackson town lines (on the right heading south). The first has photos and information featuring the Northern Turnpike Company. Formed by a group of local businessmen and politicians, a road was built that started in Buskirk and then traveled through southern Washington County. That road is now State Route 22. It runs from NYC to the Canadian border.



The second kiosk has to do with area covered bridges in Shushan, Rexleigh, and Buskirk. Deputy Salem historian Al Cormier says the Buskirk Bridge was built by the Northern Turnpike Company as well as another known as the Red Bridge which is now gone.

The rest area has a nice picnic area right next to the kiosks. If you are looking for history right in our own backyard, consider taking a drive to Salem, have a picnic and learn about southern Washington County history at the new kiosks.



One afternoon this spring as I was driving on Black Creek Road in the Town of Salem, I noticed a new sign had been placed near the home of Salem historian, Judy Flagg. I stopped and looked more closely at the sign and after reading the information on it, wanted to know more.

I contacted Judy Flagg as I suspected she and her husband Ken had a hand in the appearance of the sign. There are lots of little projects around Salem that Judy and Ken have undertaken in their retirement! This is what Judy told me:

“In the mid-1800’s, Dr. Asa Fitch, Jr., described “The Point” where Black Creek enters Battenkill as a place where “gigantic oaks, elms, beeches, and maples, at a great distance apart, rose from the fertile soil, while the knolls and sometimes the plains were shaded by lofty, dark and fragrant pine”. The Point boasted a thriving settlement with a sawmill, grist mill, a few taverns and inns, a schoolhouse and several impressive homes.

The first bridge over Black Creek was built in 1772 and joined New Perth (Salem) with the bustling hamlet of East Greenwich. Others followed as each was swept away by flood waters. An impressive town lattice covered bridge was constructed in 1845 probably by Caleb Orcutt, who built several such bridges in the area. In 1888 it was replaced by an iron truss bridge, perhaps the oldest in Washington County. Abandoned by the State in 1933, it now takes on a natural beauty bedecked in leafy grapevines throughout the summer months.

My husband, Ken, built a sign explaining the site depicting the two early bridges at Fitch’s Point as they once looked. Many curious travelers have stopped along Black Creek Road to read this bit of shared history.”

If you happen to be on Black Creek Road this fall, you will find the sign on the right, not far from where NY Route 29 intersects with Black Creek Road (just east of East Greenwich. Take the time to stop and learn about history in your own backyard. Thank you, Judy and Ken, for helping to preserve our amazing local history.

- Photos and article submitted by Debi Craig

"Youngest Vet"

This was found in old records from Adelaide Cooper — Dresden Town Historian until the 1940's.

"Youngest Vet" Writes of Civil War Hero of Dresden Times Correspondent Will Celebrate 83rd Birthday Latter Part of Month

Dear Times Folks: Another year has gone by and it makes me one year older. On the 29th of this month I will be 83 years old if I am not called to answer the last roll call before that time. I was born March 29, 1849, the year that gold was discovered in California.

I was named after the famous General Francis Marion, Indian fighter. So you see, I sort of consider myself a 49er and also something of an Indian fighter myself as I have had considerable experience among the dusky cutthroats. I never want the same experience again and I don't like to think of what Uncle Sam's soldiers had to go through to subdue them. The Civil War was a picnic compared with it. It seems a miracle how any of us came out of it with whole hides.

Last week I wrote a little sketch about Rev. D.A. Fandrux of Co A, 87th NY Regt. There were others in this outfit who were, perhaps just as good soldiers and just as much entitled to be mentioned as he was.

David G. Beckwith went out with this company and regiment commissioned a second lieutenant. He was a noble young man and his home was in Whitehall, but he went out in the Dresden company. He was also wounded in the battle of Fair Oaks and came home and was finally discharged. After recovering from his injuries, he re-enlisted in the 6th NY cavalry and a few weeks afterwards his company was put under General Phil Sheridan. The company was engaged in a raid and while riding through Smithfield, VA, a sharpshooter shot him from a window. My brother was riding in the same file alongside of him. His father went to Virginia and brought the remains home. He is buried in the Beckwith lot out in East Whitehall. His comrades have told me that there was never a braver soldier or a finer young man than David O. Beckwith.

We saw in the *Post-Star* an account of the death of our esteemed friend, Alexis Belden of Pulpit Point. He was one of our best citizens. We are very sorry to hear the bad news. He had many friends, was a man who minded his own business. He used to boat on the lake and canal years ago but in late years he and his son Roscoe manufactured motor boats at Pulpit Point. It is said they made some of the finest crafts on Lake Champlain. We send our heartfelt sympathy to the wife and son.

Soon our old friends will all be gone. Only a few are left. We are wondering who will be the next.

Faith fully,
The Y.V. — March 17, 1932
A

- Article submitted by Kathy Huntington

History News From Around the County

Cambridge: The Cambridge Historical Society Board of Directors and Museum has a new curator for the museum, Amarise Orlemann Lynip. Amarise graduated from Cambridge Central School and holds an MA in Public History from Appalachian State University. She studied archives and record management, historic preservation, architecture, and cultural resources. Amarise, her husband Keith, and their two daughters returned to Cambridge about eight years ago. According to an article in "The Free Press", Lynip is excited for the opportunity to serve as curator at the Cambridge Historical Society and Museum and to delve more deeply into this area's history alongside the many devoted members of the historical society's team.

Hartford: The New York Landmarks Conservancy has awarded a \$2,000 Sacred Sites matching grant to the First Baptist Church of Hartford for the purpose of funding an updated conditions assessment. The building was designed by Philadelphia architect Benjamin D. Price. The church was built between 1890-91. It is an example of Late Gothic Revival constructed from locally made brick. It also has a patterned roof formed from Vermont slate. There is a burial ground on the property dating from 1792.

WCHS Board of Directors Meeting News

Our WCHS Board of Trustees activities were also on pause during the spring. Our last Board meeting was held in February, pausing our meetings until we were recently able to meet outdoors, social distanced, in July and August. This edition also includes important member information that will come up for voting approval — our 2021 operating budget and nominations for the Board of Trustees at our annual business meeting on Saturday, October 24. As noted, there will be no luncheon or program as part of the programming for this meeting.

Zeto Family Collection Added to Library

Our Society has received a gift from Paula A. Sautter of Corinth, Saratoga County. “A Genealogy and Scrapbook Collection of the Zeto Family”, self-published in 2020, is a story that begins with Joseph Zeto who was born in Italy in 1834 and died in 1896 in Hudson Falls. In addition to the tree chart, there are numerous pages of legal documents, photos and newspaper clippings, many from the Washington and Warren County areas.

Mrs. Sautter has given this copy to us to “make it easier for other generations when searching for family information.” We appreciate her generosity.

Group Enjoys Historic Underground Railroad Tour

On Thursday, August 13th, WCHS Past President Debi Craig led a socially-distanced Underground Railroad walking tour of Greenwich utilizing both the QR code signs put in place as part of Eagle Scout Michael Casey’s “Greenwich Walking Tour” from his 2017 project and her knowledge of local history. Participants were members of a Glens Falls area book club. Several of them had participated in a “Through Susan’s Eyes” mini tour in 2019 and wanted to learn more about Washington County history.

The group was able to view the exterior of the homes of abolitionists Edwin Andrews, John T. Masters, William and Angelina Mowry, In addition, the group was able to tour the Rough and Ready Engine Company on East Main Street in Greenwich thanks to Rough’s member Gary St. Mary.

Everyone who attended the tour was amazed at the number of Underground Railroad sites that are still in existence. Many towns and cities have torn down at least some of the historic buildings. In Greenwich, all of the buildings are still standing except two.

The following observation was made by retired Hudson Falls Social Studies teacher Cindy Whitman of Glens Falls who helped coordinate the tour: “Everyone excitedly chatted about what a time they had in Greenwich with your tour. The lunch was a good touching base among folks plus I heard so many snippets of conversation about Greenwich history and how thrilling it was to be able to delve a little deeper into how today’s peaceful, little towns echo — or scream — significant history.” (You may have read about Cindy’s marvelous historical dioramas in our last *Newsletter* or in a recent issue of the *Post-Star*. They were supposed to be part of our Through Susan’s Eyes bus tour at Burton Hall in Easton. They will be on display when we are finally able to have the bus tour.)

2020 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President	Nathaniel Huntington
Vice President	Kathy Huntington
Treasurer	Dale Grinnell
Secretary	Kelly Mead

TRUSTEES—2022

Debi Craig
Gary Hart
John Mead

TRUSTEES—2021

Nancy Jo Davidsen
Eric Huntington
D. Keith Truesdale

TRUSTEES — 2020

Rob Hemsing
Pat Niles

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Building—Sally Brillon
Finance—Kay Tomasi
Nominations—John Mead

TRUSTEES EMERITA

Joan Handy

WCHS HISTORIAN

John A. Mead



167 Broadway Fort Edward NY 12828-1709

Telephone (518) 747-9108

WCHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Renewal

Summer-Fall 2020 Newsletter

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Telephone () _____ E-mail _____

Do you have an off-season address? (e.g. start: January; end: March)
 Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Away Date: _____ Return Date: _____

Membership Category	Price
Senior Couple/Senior Individual/ Student	\$25
Family/Individual	\$35
Patron	\$50
Contributing	\$75
Sustaining	\$150
Benefactor	\$500

- I would like to include an additional gift of \$ _____ for: _____ Library Operations _____ General Fund
 Please contact me about becoming a WCHS volunteer. Please send me a list of WCHS Publications.

Please note that the WCHS membership year is January 1 thru December 31. New memberships received after November 1 will be honored for the following year. Annual memberships and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.