

# Spring/Summer 2022 Newsletter

Volume XXXII #1 & #2

# **Programming Updates**

We are excited that our spring and summer programming has returned, and we have been able to offer a robust programming schedule! We have been busy coordinating events that we postponed last year, as well as adding several more, and they are highlighted in this *Newsletter* edition.

Several events happened over the spring and early summer: we finally were able to run the Susan B. Anthony bus tour and worked with NYS and other groups to host a ceremony and new historic marker unveiling at the Susan B. Anthony house in Greenwich. We ran programs to celebrate historic preservation, including a hands-on program with techniques for cleaning headstones and recognized and celebrated historic preservation in Washington County. We also planned several other popular programs about stories of Washington County.

We are looking ahead to a few remaining events this year. A special pop-up event is planned with an opportunity to visit an open house at The Museums at Penope Farm on Sunday afternoon, August 14, 2022 from 1–4 p.m. in the Town of Jackson. This is a program that wasn't on our original schedule (see page 6 for more details on this event).

Our remaining schedule for this year is noted below for you to add to your calendar.

## WCHS 2022 Calendar of Events (as of July 2022)

July 23. 2022

Arrive 5:30-6:15 p.m. to visit school house; program at 6:30 p.m.

Thinking about Teaching: A Rural Social Studies Teacher's Path to Strive for Relevance —The Washington County Historical Society and the Hebron Preservation Society will co-host a talk by Dr. Casey Jakubowski, who will speak about the role rural schools in New York State played in the education of rural America, particularly in Washington County and the importance of the educators in our county's rural schools of the past.

Attendees can arrive early (5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m.) to visit the District #16 Hebron one-room schoolhouse museum and then go to the Hebron United Presbyterian Church for the program starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Hebron United Presbyterian Church (East), 6559 NYS State Rte. 22 in East Hebron Salem, N.Y. (7 miles north of Salem and 10 miles south of Granville). The schoolhouse is located directly across from the church.

August 14, 2022 I - 4 p.m. <u>The Museums at Penope Farm</u> — Open house to visit the Penope Farm Museum, hosted by owner Dick McGuire for WCHS. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch and chairs of your own, and visit the various buildings and enjoy a trip down memory lane. **Location:** Penope Farms, 56 Scotch Hill Road in the Town of Jackson.

Sept. 24, 2022 12 - 4 p.m. Rough and Ready Engine Company — Visit the Museum of Greenwich Fire Department History. Building constructed in 1904 and currently maintained by its members. The original Rough and Ready Engine Company formed in 1854. Tours will be given at 12:30 and 2:00 p.m. Location: Rough and Ready Engine Company, 29 Main Street, Greenwich, NY

October History Day Cancelled

Unfortunately, our planned **WCHS** History **Day** (originally scheduled for early October 2022) will not be happening this year, as we did not receive the grant for which we applied to enable us to host this event.

Save the Date! October 29, 2022 2022 WCHS Annual Membership Meeting — Our 82<sup>nd</sup> annual membership meeting will include our normal business meeting agenda, and will feature a program by David Pitlyk, site supervisor for Bennington Battlefield about the life and times of Philip Skene.

More details will follow in the fall edition of our newsletter. Location & Specific Time: TBA

## 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.

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**

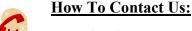


## Jennifer LaRock

The library is open for visitors! Inquires can also be emailed to library@wchs-ny.org or by phone noted below.

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

> Newsletter Editor: Kelly Mead



**Phone:** (518) 747-9108



**Address**: 167 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828



Visit us on Facebook and Instagram

## **Greetings from the WCHS President**

Hello everyone,

It has been a busy spring for the Washington County Historical Society. You can read about all the programs that were done so far this year in this *Newsletter*. They were all well-attended and it has been really great to see folks in person again. Thank you to Debi Craig and Pat Niles for setting these up and to everyone that helped them. Thank you also to all the members that attended these programs. It is through your support that we can continue to offer these programs.

This edition of the WCHS Newsletter is a combined issue for the spring and summer. We expect to send our normal fall edition with all the information needed for our members about our upcoming 82nd annual membership meeting and other interesting articles.

There have also been some changes around the Wing-Northup House. Our long-time Treasurer, Dale Grinnell, stepped down from his position. He and his wife Coral were at the Wing-Northup house every Wednesday and Friday. They both did a lot of behind the scenes work for the Society that they never expected recognition for. Jeanie Mullen is the new Treasurer and has been doing a great job. She also volunteers every Wednesday and Friday in the Library.

The other familiar face that is missing at the Wing-Northup house is that of Steve Lapham, our long-time Administrator. After 16 years of serving as Administrator, Steve retired this spring. Steve has been a very dedicated and trusted employee for the Historical Society and was always there to help with anything that was asked of him or was one of the first to volunteer for something when volunteers were called for. Thank you!

Jen LaRock has taken Steve's position and has been very busy settling into this new role. She has been implementing many new changes. One such change is our new webpage! When you have a moment, please visit and click through the links, the new format looks great.

I would like to personally thank Dale Grinnell and Steve Lapham for their dedication to the Historical Society, and wish them all the best. I would also like to thank Jeanie and Jen for stepping up and doing a great job in these positions that have been done for so long by Dale and Steve.

The Washington County Fair is just around the corner starting August 22 and running to August 28. This year, we have decided to make a change at the Fair — we will only be in the Caboose and not in the Community Living Building. So please stop in the Caboose and say hello!

We hope to continue to be open and in person for events as the fall arrives based on local guidelines. Any updates to programs or activities will be posted on our website and on social media. Enjoy the remaining summer weather!

Nat Huntington WCHS President

# **WWII Aircraft Warning Service (AWS) in Hebron**



Speaker Ralph Kruger

We were finally able to host an in-person event at our headquarters in the Wing-Northup House on March 24, 2022, with over 20 people in attendance. Mr. Ralph Kruger presented a program about the civilian volunteers who were recruited to operate an aircraft observation outpost in 1944 in Hebron, NY. The purpose of these outposts were to notify the US Army from their hilltop observation post if any activity was spotted. All observers received extensive training in aircraft recognition. When aircraft were spotted, the volunteers would record their observations on forms or in log books and then quickly place a phone call to report in. Mr. Kruger shared a slide show and original items on display to accompany information he has brought together. Interestingly, several individuals in attendance shared their recollections while they worked as spotters for this military program.

At the end of the program, Bruce Squiers of Cambridge announced he had brought his aunt's original observer armband and lapel pin with him. He showed the items to attendees, and then announced he was donating the items to WCHS. He said he wanted to pass them along to the Historical Society, since we offered the program, and he knew they would be of local interest to add to our collection. WCHS is grateful for this donation and his generosity. These items, and some of Mr. Kruger's collection, are pictured below:



Bruce Squiers



The original armband and pin donated to WCHS.



Ralph Kruger's many items relating to AWS.

# "Education in Rural America" Program Announced



Dr. Casey Jakubowski

The Washington County Historical Society and the Hebron Preservation Society will co-host a program "Thinking about Teaching: A Rural Social Studies Teacher's Path to Strive for Relevance", a talk by Dr. Casey Jakubowski on July 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hebron United Presbyterian Church East, located at 6559 NYS State Rte. 22 in East Hebron Salem, N.Y. (7 miles north of Salem and 10 miles south of Granville). The District #16 Hebron one-room schoolhouse museum directly across from the church will be open from 5:30 p.m.—6:15 p.m. for visitors.

Dr. Jakubowski will speak about the role rural schools in New York State played in the education of rural America, particularly in Washington County and the importance of the educators in our County's rural schools of the past. His book on the subject will be available for purchase (\$20) after the program.

The talk is free and will be aimed at the general public. It is not meant to be a talk just for educators. Come and learn how Washington County was on the cutting edge educationally in many ways in the past 150 years!

If you would like more information or have any questions, please call Programming Chairperson Debi Craig at (518) 854-3102.

We hope to see you there to learn about history in our own backyards!

# **WCHS Celebrates National Preservation Month in May**

May was National Preservation Month, and the Washington County Historical Society presented our Cronkhite Lecture Series to promote history and preservation in our area every Thursday evening in May. The first program was held at the Kingsbury Cemetery, and the other two programs were held at the Canal Street Marketplace in Fort Edward. Traditionally, we present a series of lectures dedicated to the memory of James Cronkhite, a long-time member and contributor to the Washington County Historical Society. This year's lecture series focused on cemetery preservation in Washington County, examining cemetery restoration techniques as well as projects and organizations in the North Country.





Brian Raymond and participants reviewing stone cleaning techniques.

The first program on May 5th included a demonstration of stone cleaning at the Kingsbury Cemetery on Route 4, north of Hudson Falls and south of Fort Ann. It was led by Brian Raymond, a former professional cemetery restorer, who explained the "do's and don'ts" of stone cleaning. Mr. Raymond instructed over forty participants attending the hands-on cleaning session. He showed proper techniques of cleaning different types of stone. The first rule is to clean the stones with soap and water, a soft bristled brush and plenty of elbow grease.

He discussed chemical cleaning products such as "D2" and "Wet and Forget" and the best ways to use them. The session was very preliminary in stone cleaning, as there were several different types of stone and different degrees of deterioration; each case needed to be handled differently.

The May 12th program was conducted by Joseph Ferrannini, a well-known gravestone and cemetery restorer. He started his company Grave Stone Matters in 2008, after going to his family cemetery in rural Rensselaer County and finding nothing but rubble. It became his life's passion to properly restore gravestones, give lectures on the proper techniques to preserve gravestones, and volunteer his time to preserve gravestones and cemeteries. In his presentation he stated, "do no harm," or "preserve the past", and leave the gravestones preserved, upright and intact for the next generation. Mr. Ferrannini spoke about his work as well as conducting workshops and seminars on how to preserve gravestones. He shared stories about his work primarily on the Salem Revolutionary Cemetery and the history of the people whose stones he restored.



Jamey Greenough's program on May 19.

Our final program in our series was held on May 19th with Jamey Greenough, the founder and Executive Director of the New York State Old Cemetery Conservancy, a nonprofit organization. Mr. Greenough has documented and restored several family cemeteries in both New York State and Vermont in the past five years. He presented his past work on cemetery restorations in Vermont and discussed his efforts to develop a New York State Old Cemetery Conservancy. Mr. Greenough spoke about the reasons he got involved in gravestone restorations. He described the issues and techniques used to bring in supplies to remote family cemeteries. Mr. Greenough ended his talk by describing his cemetery restoration organization and gave the audience an opportunity to work

on a project in Whitehall, NY. Several members of the audience, as well as Joe Ferrannini (who offered his expertise), took Mr. Greenough up on working on the Whitehall project.

The Cronkhite Lecture Series was very successful, as we averaged over forty participants in each program. The continued theme throughout the series brought back some of the same people week after week. WCHS will look forward to continuing these types of programs to keep the same model of themed preservation lectures in upcoming years.

## **WCHS Historic Preservation Award Recipients Announced**

We wrapped up National Preservation Month with our Washington County Preservation Awards ceremony. Each year the Washington County Historical Society's Preservation Committee recognizes community members who protect the county's history either by structural and land preservation or the creation of programs that encourage responsible stewardship and increase awareness of Washington County's historic roots. Visit our webpage (https://wchs-ny.org/preservation-awards/) for details about the guidelines and how to enter a project for consideration for future awards and recognition.

The WCHS Preservation Program was reestablished in 2017. The Preservation Committee revamped the Preservation guidelines and the first awards ceremony was conducted in 2018. The second awards ceremony was conducted in 2019 to honor the Bottskill Baptist Church and their contractors. The awards' ceremony took a hiatus in 2020 with the pandemic. In October 2021, the awards ceremony returned and honored Steve Butz for his work on the Shay Settlement, Dr. David Starbuck for his archaeological work in Washington County specifically on Rogers Island, and the Tomasi Family for their work in restoring Jacko's in Salem and the Strand Theater in Hudson Falls.

For 2022, the Washington County Historical Society held our fourth annual preservation awards on Thursday, May 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Canal Street Marketplace in Fort Edward, NY. The annual event honored four preservation projects from across Washington County. The photo at left includes the award recipients with their certificates: Al Cormier, Bill Nikas and Ken Gottry (with other guests at the event).

This year's award projects included two complete building renovations, cemetery restorations and historic bridge restorations.



The public was invited to attend, and they learned about the steps taken to preserve each of these historic projects. Each of the project winners spoke with pride about their projects but also the impact of their work, and pride in their communities.

Sandy Hill Arts Center owner Bill Nikas talked about the restoration of the Hudson Falls building. Mr. Nikas spoke about the reasons he bought the building and what the preservation project brought to Hudson Falls.

Former Salem Town and Village Historian, Al Cormier spoke about the history of the Salem Revolutionary War Cemetery and the restoration work over the last thirty years. He gave credit to the local organizations such as the Salem Rotary, volunteers, and politicians such as Ron Stafford, for contributing to the project.

Ken Gottry, local historian, spoke about the community coming together to restore the century old Cambridge Footbridge, and the people, businesses and organizations that contributed to the project. Mr. Gottry went on to talk about the pride it brought to Cambridge and that the project had a uniting effect on the community.

Fort Edward village historian, Paul McCarty spoke about the history of the Canal Street Marketplace, and gave a brief tour of the building explaining the renovations that took place to restore it to the current condition.

Samuel Hall, Fort Ann Supervisor and Chairman of the Washington County Board of Supervisors attended as well as Sue Clary, Salem Town Supervisor. Each of the communities represented had several members from their area and the people who were involved in the projects. The awards are one way WCHS can acknowledge the efforts and dedication of those who preserve pieces of history in the county. It was said, one of the assets Washington County has is its undeveloped land and its historic structures which sit within the borders of the county. The Washington County Historical Society is looking forward to reviewing next year's projects and seeing the pride those projects bring to Washington County.

# "Pop Up" Program—Tour the Museums at Penope Farm



The Washington County Historical Society will host our third open house at The Museums at Penope Farm on Sunday, August 14, 2022 from 1–4 p.m. (located at 56 Scotch Hill Road in the Town of Jackson). This is a pop-up program that wasn't on our original schedule. There was a lot of interest after last year's event at the farm, we decided to do it again partnering with owner Dick McGuire. The museums will be open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and a chair, staying to enjoy the amazing view of the Route 22 valley below.

The museums have expanded over the years and there are now 12 theme museums. They include: a library and music museum, Post Office, antique tools, large and small (2 museums), household utensils, a collection of artwork by the older sister of McGuire's father, Jennie Mae McGuire Bennett (an early 1900s artist), a dairy museum, a chainsaw museum, and a museum of Dick's personal mementos.

Dick enjoys having visitors at his museums and recently shared the history of how the museums came to be. In the 1970s, his father and three other retired farmers began to collect old farm equipment so that future generations would see tools from when horses were still used to plow the fields of Washington County. These men started the Washington County Farm Museum at the fairgrounds in Easton.

Dick himself merged four small farms to create Penope Farm. Stored in the barns were plenty of antique tools and equipment, so he decided to start his own museum right on his farm. It started with four rooms in two barns about 1978. Over the years, individuals have given him items, some were purchased at auctions and sales — greatly expanding his collection. He added new buildings, the most recent in 2019, which houses his personal mementos.

The main farm containing three museums was built in 1790. Your visit will allow you to meander leisurely back into yesteryear. The museums feature hundreds of items from 1800 to the early tractors of the 1930s and 1940s. There is something of interest for all ages from equipment for working the land with horses to classic automobiles of the 1920s and 1930s.

This event is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted. The event will be held rain or shine. If you have never been there, come and bring the kids or grandkids. It is a great way to spend an afternoon. Please join us!

If you have any questions about the museums or the event, please email Programming Chairperson, Debi Craig at dcraig547312@gmail.com or call at 518-854-3102.



## **History In Washington County ... Did You Know?**

Fun history fact: The 21st United States President Chester A. Arthur lived in Greenwich for part of his childhood while his father was pastor at the Bottskill Baptist Church. He served as Commander in Chief from 1881-1885.

The flag in the photo at left can be seen in Greenwich honoring him.

## **SBA Historic Marker Dedication**



Assemblyperson Carrie Woerner and Debi Craig with the new Pomeroy Foundation marker. (Photo courtesy of Pat Vaughn)

Debi Craig, WCHS Programming Chairperson, received notification in early fall of 2019 that the William G. Pomeroy foundation was planning to award historic markers honoring sites directly related to Women's Suffrage in the coming year. Craig, who had wanted to see a historic marker at the Susan B. Anthony Childhood Home in Battenville since she was a child, promptly contacted Alane Ball-Chinian, Regional Director of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation for permission to apply for the marker. With Ball-Chinian's approval, Craig wrote the proposal with Claudia Blackler, former librarian at the Greenwich Free Library. The proposal was submitted in October 2019 and then in early 2020, Covid struck. Everything was put on hold and they didn't hear any more about the marker.

However, due to the efforts of Assemblyperson Carrie Woerner and former NYS Senator Betty Little, monies were appropriated for work on the house to correct a drainage problem, perform much needed repairs on the exterior of

the house, and remove the black mold inside the house. The crew worked through the summer of 2020 and completed the exterior work in December of that year. Near the end of 2021, word was received that the Washington County Historical Society and the OPRHP would be receiving a marker for the Battenville house.

On June 4, the "Through Susan's Eyes" bus tour, originally scheduled to happen in May 2020, finally took place and participants of the bus tour were the first to see the marker. On June 18, 2022, a dedication ceremony took place at the house. Speakers included Debi Craig (who told about her interest in the house since her childhood), Assemblyperson Carrie Woerner, (staunch supporter of the Anthony house project), Coline Jenkins, great great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Alane Ball-Chinian. Barbara Skiff portrayed the young Susan B. Anthony and Linda McKenney portrayed the adult Susan B. Anthony.



David and Susan Read with Susan B. Anthony bust. Susan is named after her cousin, Susan B. Anthony — they are first cousins 4x removed. (Photo courtesy of David Read)

There were eight descendants of the Read and Anthony families present. Siblings David and Susan Read, who shared fourth great grandfather Daniel Read with Susan B. Anthony (and related to Lucy Read Anthony's family), and Carmen Bogle, mayor of Cambridge, who is descended from Hannah Lapham Anthony. Also in attendance were Claudia Blackler, who helped write the proposal; Sandy McReynolds, Gill Room and Town of Greenwich historian; Sue Clary, Salem Supervisor; and Helise Flickstein, who was involved early in the project.

There were about 45 guests in attendance for the ceremony. The marker was unveiled by David and Susan Read and Carmen Bogle (related to the Anthony family). The new marker is not the traditional blue and gold historic marker, but it has a white background with purple lettering and gold highlights, the colors of the Women's Suffrage movement. The Anthony house was open for attendees to look inside. The Stoops Hotel next door was open so that those attending could walk through the downstairs section.

The Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation provided souvenir cookies frosted like the women's suffrage flag for the attendees. They also provided the shuttle buses from the Greenwich Jr.-Sr. High School and Saratoga State Park Police to help with traffic control.

The event was jointly hosted by the OPRHP and the Washington County Historical Society. Please stop by to see the new marker if you are ever driving into Greenwich on State Route 29 West. The marker is easily visible from the road.

# "Through Susan's Eyes" Bus Tour

On Saturday, June 4, the "Through Susan's Eyes" bus tour, which was originally scheduled for May 31, 2020 (postponed due to Covid), finally took place! Attendees gathered at the Bottskill Baptist Church in Greenwich for a noon departure. The bus was completely sold out with people on a waiting list. We hope to run the bus tour again in the future depending on interest — if you would like to have your name added to the contact list, please call Jen LaRock at WCHS (518-747-9108) on Wednesday or Friday from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. We do not have a definite date scheduled at this time.

The first stop was at the site of the former inn on State Route 29 in Center Falls (formerly Hardscrabble) where the Anthonys moved when they lost their home in Battenville. Re-enactor Barbara Skiff portrayed the young Susan. (Barbara sewed her own costume from a reproduction period pattern and reproduction fabric.) The bus then paused to hear the story of Susan's teaching experience in the settlement.

Participants traveled on to the next stop at the Susan B. Anthony Childhood Home in Battenville (now the property of the NYS OPRHP). Bus tour guests were among the first members of the public to view the William G. Pomeroy historic marker honoring Women's Suffrage which was formally dedicated on June 18, 2022 (see separate story on page 7).

Tour attendees also had the opportunity to walk through the Stoops Hotel, next door to the Anthony house, which was an operating hotel/tavern at the time the Anthony's moved to Battenville. The hotel is now the property of the NYS OPRHP.



The Susan B. Anthony Childhood Home in Battenville

From the Anthony property, the bus crossed the Battenkill and traveled to the Battenville Cemetery where Susan's grandparents, Susannah and Daniel Read, her sister Eliza Tefft Anthony, and her nephew Anthony McLean are buried. Across the road, participants had the chance to walk through the one-room schoolhouse (privately owned by Dana and Jon Finney and home of Schoolhouse Maple) where Susan was told that girls do not need to know how to do long division.

The next stop was Cambridge, where tour participants were greeted by David Snider, Director of Hubbard Hall, who spoke about the history of the Hall and Susan's involvement with Mary Hubbard, widow of its founder.

The tour then stopped at the South Easton Quaker Meeting House on Schoolhouse Road in Easton where Susan was turned out into the cold one winter night because she was not a member of the meeting house.

The last stop was at Burton Hall in Easton where the tour participants enjoyed local cheeses from the Argyle Cheese Farmer as well as local wines from Victory View Winery in Easton. There were suffrage exhibits to view by the Fort Edward Historical Association, the Easton Political Equality Club (Helen Brownell and MaryJane Connor) and the amazing Women's Suffrage diorama creations of Cindy Whitman, constructed from repurposed Playmobile characters and other "found" items.







Miniatures of the 19th Amendment rally and Burton Hall, and Easton Political Equality Club's table. (Photos courtesy of Pat Vaughn)

The tour circled back to Greenwich while hearing a story about the Anthonys ordeal during a blizzard, when they stayed at the home of Job and Esther Wilbur. They also heard about a schoolhouse in the village where Susan taught. This is now a private home that was created by adding onto the original schoolhouse. This home/schoolhouse was at one time the home of Kim and Norma Gannon. Kim was the lyricist who penned the lyrics to "I'll Be Home for Christmas". The Gannon's spent many years in Greenwich. Both are buried in the Greenwich Cemetery. The tour ended back at the Bottskill Baptist Church.

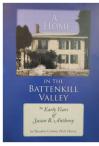
Participants on the trip received a special booklet with each of the stops listed and information about each location. We thank our sponsors and local businesses who placed ads or helped with costs associated with this WCHS fundraising event.

The weather was perfect and everyone was happy finally to have been able to make the trip!

## WCHS Bookshop Offerings About Susan B. Anthony... and Other Goods

We carry a few items related to Susan B. Anthony in the WCHS Bookshop, along with many other historic titles on various topics and other items for sale.

Visit online at wchs-ny.org and click on "Shop" or visit the Wing-Northup House during our open hours to see our selections in person — for yourself, or great gifts for others!



"A Home in the Battenkill Valley, The Early Years of Susan B. Anthony" by Theodore Corbett (\$12.60) This book is about Susan B. Anthony, the renowned crusader for women's rights. In her formative years, from 1826 to 1845, she lived in the Battenkill Valley at Battenville, Center Falls and Greenwich.



Small façade (\$15) or ornament (\$8) of the Susan B. Anthony house in Battenville, NY, made by Birchstone Designs, Pawlet, VT.

# Become A WCHS Member Today!

Members have the satisfaction of knowing they are participating in the preservation of the important historical heritage of Washington County, New York. Visit **www.wchs-ny.org** to join as a member online, see a list of books we have for purchase, and more! Keep up with our latest programming events on our website, Facebook and Instagram.

## **Member Benefits Include:**

- Quarterly Newsletter
- A copy of the Annual Journal of the Washington County Historical Society
- A 10% discount on all purchases made at the Wing-Northup House Bookstore

WCHS membership runs January 1 to December 31. New memberships received after October 1 will be honored for the following year. Annual memberships and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Membership forms are available online on our website, or the back page of this *Newsletter* provides a form you can return to the Historical Society.

## **Riverside School Bell Awards Announced**

The Fort Edward Historical Association held this year's Riverside School Bell Awards on Thursday, June 9, at the Old Fort House Museum in Fort Edward, NY.

The awards are given every year in June and honor local retired teachers who have made a significant different in their students' lives and the school community as a whole. The 2022 honorees were Sally Brillon, Debi Craig and Peter Williams.

Sally Brillon, who was recognized for her years of teaching at Abraham Wing School, was a long-time WCHS board member and WCHS past president.



Riverside School Bell Award recipients 2022 Left to right: Sally Brillon, Peter Williams, Debi Craig

Debi Craig is currently WCHS Programming Chairperson and has served as WCHS president. Debi was honored for her teaching career in the Saratoga Springs City School District.

Peter Williams, the third recipient, was an educator at the Fort Edward Union Free School District.

Elizabeth O'Leary, Fort Edward Historical Association president, welcomed attendees and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Fort Edward historian Paul McCarty made the award presentations. A number of past recipients were in attendance. The late James Durller, a former WCHS board member, was awarded the honor posthumously in 2019. Former WCHS board member and president Paul McCarty was honored in 2016.

A reception was held following the ceremony.

# "Unsolved Murders in Washington County"



Dr Hollis Palmer addresses the audience at Greenwich Free Library program, co-hosted by WCHS and the Greenwich-Easton Historical Association.

Author and historian, Dr. Hollis Palmer, gave a program at the Greenwich Free Library on Tuesday, June 7. The event was co-sponsored by the Washington County Historical Society and the Greenwich-Easton Historical Association.

It was well-attended with standing room only! There were more than 70 people in attendance. Dr. Palmer based his talk on his book <u>Maggie's Revenge</u>, which focused on the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century murder of a young Irish servant girl in Middle Falls.

Maggie was a young woman who did not come home one night and whose body was discovered in a local, shallow pond the next day. The murder was never solved.

Dr. Palmer held the audience's attention for an hour with theories about what might have happened to Maggie. His talk was very well-received. Dr. Palmer has expressed an interest to return to Washington County to speak on one of his other local murder mysteries set in and around Washington County.

## **Visiting Granville, New York**

Granville, NY is located in the Mettowee River Valley, and makes a great "day trip" in Washington County. Beautiful architecture can be found as you drive through town, and interesting museums like the Pember Library and Museum, and the Slate Valley Museum are destinations in the area. Enjoy food and drink at local restaurants and visit a brewery! Here are a few photos of some of the architecture in this charming village in Washington County.









## **WCHS 2022 Board of Directors**

#### **OFFICERS**

President Nathaniel Huntington
Vice President Patrick Niles
Treasurer Jeanie Mullen

Secretary Kelly Mead

#### **TRUSTEES** — **2024**

Susan Arena Nancy Jo Davidsen Eric Huntington Kathy Huntington

## TRUSTEES—2023

James Arndt Gretta Hochsprung Jeanne Lapoint Wood

#### TRUSTEES—2022

Debi Craig Gary Hart John Mead

## STANDING COMMITTEES:

Building — Eric Huntington
Finance — Kay Tomasi
Nominations — D. Keith Truesdale

## TRUSTEES EMERITA

Joan Handy

## **WCHS HISTORIAN**

John A. Mead

## **Latest WCHS Updates**

WCHS hopes this *Newsletter* finds our members and their families well. Due to unforeseen delays, this edition of our *Newsletter* is combined for spring and summer 2022. We are slowly getting back to a "new normal" at the Historical Society and working out logistics with normal activities.

We also have experienced unexpected delays with the WCHS Journal, but expect our members will soon have their copies. We are looking forward to future editions of the popular Journal to continue.

The Wing-Northup house is currently OPEN for visitors in the Heritage Research Library for in-person research during our scheduled hours. Volunteers are also available to answer inquiries by email or phone.

We are monitoring Covid updates regularly, and we will post necessary information on our website (www.wchs-ny.org), and on our social media pages if changes are needed.



167 Broadway Fort Edward NY 12828-1709 Telephone (518) 747-9108

WCHS M	EMBERSHIP APPLICATION	New Renew	Spring/Summer 2022 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
П	Please contact me about becoming a WCHS volunteer.	☐ I would like my	Newsletter:   E-ma	iled OR ☐ Mailed