



Fall 2022 Newsletter

Volume XXXII #3

WCHS Annual Membership Meeting Announced

The 82nd Annual Membership meeting of the Washington County Historical Society will take place **Saturday, October 29, 2022** at Skene Manor at 8 Potter Terrace in Whitehall, NY. The day's agenda:

- 10:00 a.m. - Coffee hour will begin.
- 10:30 a.m. - The business meeting will be conducted, including award presentations.
- 11:45 a.m. - Our speaker, David Pitlyk, will present the program, "Philip Skene and the Battle of Bennington". Mr. Pitlyk is the Interpretive Programs Assistant at Bennington Battlefield and has seven years of service with NYS Parks. He previously held the position of Interpretations Coordinator at the museum ship USS SLATER. He has a B.A. in history and M.S. in secondary education from the State University of New York at Albany.

Philip Skene was on a course to become one of the most prominent citizens of the province of New York. Returning from Great Britain as the newly appointed "Lieutenant Governor of the Fort of Ticonderoga and Crown Point" in 1775, he already claimed a vast acreage around present-day Whitehall, NY. The events of the American Revolution would forever alter his fortunes. When Lieutenant Colonel Baum was ordered by General Burgoyne to march to Bennington in 1777, Skene would accompany him as a follower of the British army. Such was his reputation that many patriots assumed that Skene was in command of Crown Forces there. Mr. Pitlyk's presentation investigates Skene with special emphasis on one of the defining moments of his life, the Battle of Bennington. Join us to learn more about this influential man, his role in the battle and his ultimate downfall.

Skene Manor is a Victorian Gothic-style mansion in Whitehall. The property where the mansion sits was formerly owned by Philip Skene, founder of Whitehall (formerly Skenesborough). It was purchased in 1867 by New York State Supreme Court Judge Joseph H. Potter (1821-1902). Potter built the mansion on the property over two years at a cost of \$25,000 and named it Mountain Terrace. The building is constructed of gray sandstone quarried from Skene Mountain by stone cutters from Italy.

The house has an interesting history and became a restaurant in 1946 when it was renamed Skene Manor. In the 1980s, the building continued to change hands several times with unsuccessful attempts to keep it open as a restaurant and the mansion fell into disrepair. In the mid-1990s, Skene Manor Preservation, Inc. was formed and the volunteer organization took on the task of restoring and maintaining Skene Manor.

Anyone who wishes may attend the luncheon following the program. We will be ordering from the menu. The Manor offers a wide variety of sandwiches ranging in price from \$5.50 – \$12.00, at least two homemade soups, salads, and a selection of desserts and beverages. If you have any questions, please call the Washington County Historical Society on Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. at (518) 747-9108.

The program is open to the public at no charge. Donations will gladly be accepted. It is not necessary to pre-register for this event.

**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

How To Contact Us:



Phone: (518) 747-9108



Address: 167 Broadway,
Fort Edward, NY 12828

Web: www.wchs-ny.org



E-mail address:
info@wchs-ny.org

Visit us on Facebook
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Greetings from the WCHS President

Hello everyone,

How fast another summer has gone by, and I hope everyone was able to enjoy it. It was hot and dry here in Washington County.

If you went to the Washington County Fair, I hope you stopped by the Caboose this year. We were pleased to have had over 7,500 people come through the Caboose during the week. We are currently looking at a few different ideas for the Fair next year. If you would like to help with planning for next year's Fair, please get a hold of me. It can be anything from serving on the Committee to sharing an idea or volunteering to work a shift.

The open house we had at Penope Farm Museums went very well and was well attended. Over 200 people went through the Museums in the four hours they were open. I would like to thank Mr. McGuire for opening his noteworthy museum displays for us again this year.

Please read the article on page one of this *Newsletter* covering our upcoming Annual Meeting. It should be very interesting, and I hope you can attend. Besides the Annual Meeting, this fall we also have another event on October 8. It's part of the Revolutionary Soldier Project. We will be commemorating the Revolutionary Soldiers buried in the Kingsbury Cemetery and a description of our program can be found on pages 4-5 in this *Newsletter* as well. As always, we look forward to you attending. We are in the planning stages to see if we might be able to offer this program annually throughout the different cemeteries around Washington County.

Always remember if you have a desire and ability to help the Society and serve on any committee, please reach out and let us know.

Thank you to everyone that donated to the 2021 Annual Appeal. (A list of our appeal contributors appears on page six of this *Newsletter*.) Your generosity allows the Washington County Historical Society to continue offering programs to the public and maintain the Wing-Northup House as our headquarters and research library.

*Nat Huntington
WCHS President*

**WCHS Proposed 2023 Slate to Be Announced
at WCHS Annual Meeting**

The WCHS Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following proposed slate of trustees to be approved at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 29, 2022. The following are the nominees for election this fall: Trustees 2025: Debi Craig, Gary Hart, John Mead.

- Submitted by the Nominating Committee Chair, D. Keith Truesdale

Proposed 2023 WCHS Operating Budget

Below is the proposed 2023 WCHS operating budget, which will be reviewed at our annual business meeting on October 29, 2022. We will be requesting a vote of approval from members in attendance at the meeting.

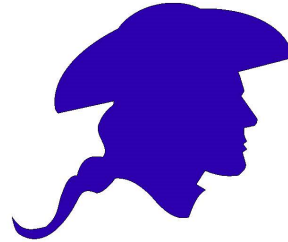
PROPOSED 2023 WCHS OPERATING BUDGET

<u>Income</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Annual Appeal	9500	11,000	12,500
Dividends/MS	700	800	700
Fundraisers	3000	3000	3000
Events	3000	3000	1000
Donations	1624	3856	4000
Gift Shop Sales	6000	7500	6000
Interest Income	20	20	10
Membership Dues	7000	7000	7000
Merrill Lynch	20,000	30,000	30,000
Restricted Income			
County Support	1856	1856	1856
Hill Trust	5000	6000	5500
Library Donations			300
Other	7000		7,585
Total Income	64,700	74,032	79,451
<u>Expenses</u>			
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>			
IRS/Financial Report	2600	2600	2800
Board/Staff Development	600	300	200
Insurance	2800	3500	4000*
Office Supplies/Expenses	2500	3500	4000
Payback-loan from Contingency			1000
Payroll Expense	1200	1000	1000
Postage (All postage)	700	1000	1000
President	150	150	150
Professional Dues	500	400	400
Property Taxes (Fire)	800	576	325
Telephone/WiFi	1000	1000	960
Website	1600	1600	600
Administrative Subtotal	14,450	15,626	16,435
<u>Building</u>			
Custodial	2900	2000	2000
Electric	600	800	800
Heat	1300	1500	1600
Improvements/Repairs		funded by Hill Trust	
Other Utilities (Water & Sewer)			210
Security	300	500	500
Building Subtotal	5100	4800	5110
<u>Program Expense</u>			
Education Committee	200	100	0
Events	1500	1000	1000
Fair	350	250	250
Fundraisers	1500	1000	700
Library Operations	2500	2500	2000
Newsletter	1100	800	500
Outreach/speakers/programs	900	500	0
Preservation Committee	1000	1000	1200
Promotion	1000	200	1000
Publications	2000	1800	2000
Roadside Markers	100	100	100
Shop Expense	1500	1500	2000
Program Subtotal	13,650	10,750	10,750
<u>Payroll</u>	26,500	35,000	40,000
<u>Restricted</u>			
County Support		1856	1856
Hill Trust/Bldg	5000	6000	5000
Library Donations			300
Total Restricted	5000	7856	7156
Total Expenses	64,700	74,032	79,451

Cemetery Commemoration Announced

As part of our program to identify and honor the Revolutionary War veterans buried in Washington County, the Washington County Historical Society has planned a special program to be held at Kingsbury Cemetery (Route 4 and Kingsbury Road) at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 8.

In the event of rain, the program will be held the following day (Sunday) at 2:00 p.m. Also participating in the program will be re-enactors with fife and drum and a cannon.



Revolutionary Soldiers' Commemoration

Come Celebrate Washington County History!



Saturday, October 8th, 10AM



Kingsbury Cemetery, corner of Route 4
and Kingsbury Road, Kingsbury, NY

Activities: Commemoration of Kingsbury Cemetery
Revolutionary War Soldiers, Cannon Firing, Colonial Music

Presented By the Washington County Historical Society

Rain Date: October 9th, 2PM

Each of the fourteen veterans buried at Kingsbury Cemetery will be honored with the reading of a short biography followed by a salute. A printed program with the biographies will be available at the event.

The following veterans will be honored:

Asa Barney, 1756-1844

Joseph Caldwell, 1724-1811

David Elliot, 1752-1793

Daniel Elliot, 1760-1836

Micajah (pronounced “mi-KAI-yah”) Elliot, 1753-1840

Phineas Freeman, 1752-97

Ichabod Kneeland, 1751-1819

Captain Peter Porter, 1736-99

Matthew Scott, 1745-1813

Nehemiah Seeley, 1743-180

Several sources indicate that the following persons buried in Kingsbury Cemetery may also have been Revolutionary War veterans, but the record is unclear:

Stephen Allen, 1751-1831

Lieutenant Samuel Caldwell, 1772(?) – 1806

Laban (also spelled “Leaban”) Elliot, 1757-1830 (Note that sources indicate that Laban Elliot died in Kingsbury and may be buried in Kingsbury Cemetery, but there is no record or headstone.)

Joseph Fellows, 1732-1819

Captain John Hitchcock, 1716-1796

Israel Mead (also spelled “Meed”), 1731-1806

Captain John Morrison, 1728-1811 (father of Captain Hugh Morrison and Captain John Morrison, below)

Captain Hugh Morrison, 1757-1813

Captain John Morrison, 1767-1807

Henry Stewart, 1752-1835

The Washington County Historical Society would welcome any information from any source that would shed additional light on the lives of these men or would correct or add to any of the biography information for this project.

We hope many of you can join us there.

Thank You

We sincerely thank supporters of our 2021 Annual Appeal. Gifts support the Historical Society in many ways and it is truly appreciated. We acknowledge their generosity with the list below.

Jeanne Winston Adler	Gerhardt Koch
Jane Alessandrini	Robert and Dorothy Kuba
Greenwich Hardware Antiques	Phantom Laboratory
Susan Arena	Elizabeth Lane
Becky Bartlett	Joan Lapham
Peabody and Bates	Tupper C. Limbert
Battenkill Books	Peter Martin
Argyle Brewing	Don Brooks and Mary Anne Brown
Sally Brillon	Cecilcia Maskell
Lorraine Brooks	(In Memorium: Gloria Maskell White)
Grace Campbell	Andrea & Stephen Matte
Joan Campbell	R. Paul McCarty
(In Memorium: Mary Louise Gilgallon)	Sandy McReynolds
Robert Chagnon	Helen Meehan
The Chronicle	(In Memorium: George Bennett)
Sara and Philip Clarkson	Jo Ann Menzer
Irving Consumer Products	Emilia Mizerak
Al Cormier	Jeanie Mullen
Debi Craig	Patricia Nestle
Ideal Dairy	Patrick Niles
Nancy Jo and George Davidsen	Patricia & Joseph Peck
Sharon Dunn	(In Memorium: Rick & Jacob Martin)
Mary Jane Ellis	Philippa Peters
Mary Enhorning	Charles P. Reiss
(In Memorium: Norman Enhorning)	Matthew Rozell
Carol Fairbanks	Judith & Michael Russert
Cierra M. Colvin, Glens Falls National	Wayne Senecal
Price Chopper's Golub Foundation	David and Janet Sheridan Foundation
Harriette Greaser	Stewart's Shops Corp
William Green	Don Skellie
Dale and Coral Grinnell	Morgan Snyder
Martha Hall	Stephen and Susan Snyder
Gary Hart	John and Chris Strough
(In Memorium: Carol Senecal and Jim Shinner)	Katharine Tomasi
Caroline Hoag	Steve and Joyce Toney
Thomas and Mary Fraser Hodson	Whitehall Town Historian
Eric Huntington	Helene Tripp
Nathaniel Huntington	Keith Truesdale
Barbara Simoney and Joe Caron	Richard and Sharon Valente
Joan & John Jones	Whitehall Village Historian
Tim and Sandi Kavanaugh	Shirley Vivion
Reginald Kilmer II	Patricia Wells
Al Klein	Charles and Linda Willis
Judith Klingebiel	Jeanne Wood
James and Stephanie Kloiber	Bernard and Deborah LaLone

Visiting the Museums at Penope Farm



Dick McGuire at Penope Farm.

We had a great turnout of attendees at The Museums at Penope Farm on Sunday, August 14, 2022 for the WCHS's open house. Penope Farm is located at 56 Scotch Hill Road in the Town of Jackson. Special thanks to the WCHS volunteers who helped during the event (pictured below).

The museums have expanded over the years with 12 theme museums. They include: a library and music

museum, Post Office, antique tools, large and small (two museums), household utensils, a collection of artwork by the older sister of Dick 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.



WCHS volunteers were ready to assist visitors.

The Society was pleased to showcase one of the great gems of Washington County. It was a good day to gather and enjoy the wonderful collections Dick McGuire has shared with many other visitors over the years.

- Photos courtesy Debi Craig

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



Enjoying the exhibits on a beautiful day.



Antique tractors in one of the buildings.



167 Broadway Fort Edward NY 12828-1709

Telephone (518) 747-9108

WCHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Renewal

Fall 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
 Please contact me about becoming a WCHS volunteer. I would like my Newsletter: E-mailed OR Mailed

Please note that the WCHS membership year is January 1 thru 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.