



WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXIII #1

WCHS 2023 Calendar of Events (as of March 2023)

**Saturday,
May 6, 2023
8 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Washington County Antique Fair and Flea Market *Fundraising Event!*

WCHS will have a booth in Building 20 for you visit and take home a treasure! This popular event offers a wide variety of antiques, collectibles, and other interesting items. The spring sale will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, May 7 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Proceeds from our booth will benefit the WCHS.

Location: Washington County Fairgrounds, Route 29 in Greenwich, NY *(Note: Admission is charged at the gate for this event for entry. Visit <http://www.fairgroundshows.com/> for details and more information).*

**Sunday,
May 7, 2023
9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Thursday,
May 11, 2023
5:30 p.m.**

Cronkhite Lecture Series #1—Anatomy of Buildings: Architectural Vocabulary and Identifying 19th Century Styles

Presenter Susan Arena will offer a brief overview of common language used to describe buildings and an introduction to architectural styles found in Washington County (see page 4 of this newsletter for more details).

Location: Washington County Historical Society, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY

**Thursday,
May 18, 2023
5:30 p.m.**

Cronkhite Lecture Series #2—What You Should Know About Historic Designation and Funding Sources

Presenter Janna Rudler is the Grants and Technical Services Manager at the Preservation League of New York State. Attendees will learn more about the League's grant and technical services programs (see page 4 of this newsletter for more details.)

Location: Historic Salem Courthouse, 58 East Broadway, Salem, NY

**Tuesday,
June 6, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

Washington County's 123rd Regiment and the Experiences of Sergeant William J. McCollum During the Civil War

Join author Charles Vavrina as he discusses Washington County's 123rd regiment during the Civil War. Dr. Vavrina is the author of "*When This Cruel War is Over: The Civil War Letters and Diary of William J. McCollum, Company F, 123rd New York Volunteer Infantry*". The nearby Civil War Enlistment Center will be open 5:00 p.m. to visit before the program (see page 3 of this newsletter for more details).

Location: Hartford Baptist Church, 56 Main Street (Co. Rte. 23), Hartford, NY

**September,
2023 - To Be
Announced**

Cronkhite Lecture Series #3—Discussion of Historic Structures in Washington County

Our final Cronkhite lecture will be given by Bill Krattinger with New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation office about various historic structures in Washington County. Date, time, and location to be announced on WCHS website, the WCHS *Newsletter* and local papers as it becomes available.

***Save the Date!* 2023 WCHS Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Ceremony**

**Saturday,
Oct. 28, 2023
10 a.m.—2 p.m.**

The WCHS 83rd Annual Membership meeting will be held this October. More details to be announced WCHS website, the WCHS *Newsletter* and local papers; the event will include our normal business meeting agenda, the Historic Preservation award ceremony and other award presentations and program.

Location: Sandy Hill Arts Center, 214 Main Street, Hudson Falls, NY

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 or other opportunities, please contact the Historical Society and let us know what interests you!

Heritage Research Library



Jennifer LaRock

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

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

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Fort Edward, NY 12828

Web: www.wchs-ny.org



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

Visit us on Facebook
and Instagram!

Greetings From Your President

To WCHS Members,

Hopefully by the time you're reading this, spring weather has reached Washington County! This winter has not been a hard winter here by past standards, but has seemed long with a lot of cloudy days.

The Society has a lot of things going on this spring, I hope you can make one or all the many different events this year.

We are offering a raffle for a signed Will Moses print taking place until May 12, which you can read about in this newsletter (see page 5). We will also have a booth at the Washington County Antique Fair at the Washington County Fairgrounds for our first time on May 6 and 7.

Programming this year will include the James R. Cronkhite Lecture series. This long-standing series is a celebration of preservation within Washington County and is organized by the Washington County Historical Society Preservation Committee. Two of the Cronkhite lectures will be held in May (May 11 and May 18). The third lecture in the series is still being confirmed for September and we will announce details soon.

We look forward to welcoming author Charles Vavrina on June 6 to talk about his book *"When This Cruel War is Over: The Civil War Letters and Diary of William J. McCollum, Company F, 123rd New York Volunteer Infantry"* in Hartford (see page 2).

In staffing news, we have welcomed Jen LaRock as the new Executive Director for the Washington County Historical Society. You may already know her and recognize her as our current Librarian, and she has been the Administrator since June.

We also have welcomed two new volunteers—Jane Murphy and Hannah Stevens. Hannah Stevens has also taken on the role of Library Chairperson. We thank them both for volunteering their time.

Did you happen to notice the Washington County Historical Society has a new logo? The logo is not a picture of any one specific building but is a representation of architecture throughout the county. We will start to use this new artwork to develop a new recognizable brand for WCHS.

Happy spring!

Nat Huntington
WCHS President

Visit WCHS at the Antique Show and Flea Market

The Washington County Historical Society will have a booth at the Washington County Antique Show and Flea Market on May 6 and 7 at the Washington County Fairgrounds. This local event is very popular and held in May and August. The event hosts more than 225 vendors and offers a wide variety of antiques, collectibles, and other interesting items. It is held rain or shine. Admission fees apply at the gate for entry to the grounds, visit <http://www.fairgroundshows.com/> for more information.

WCHS is seeking donations of items to be sold. Item drop off may be made Monday, May 1 through Thursday, May 4 at Arena Cabinets, 68 Salem Street, Greenwich, NY. Drop off time is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, but other times can be arranged directly with Susan Arena, 617-448-2653.

Donation Information:

- Items should be antique, vintage, collectible, or newer, desirable housewares
- No clothing or electronics
- Items should be clean and in good condition
- Donors are encouraged to pre-price items
- Items will not be returned unless requested in writing

Please stop by our booth in building 20 to say hello, and peruse the show's offerings!

Civil War Author To Speak on 123rd Infantry

The Washington County Historical Society will host "*When the Cruel War is Over: The Civil War Letters and Diary of William J. McCollum, Company F, 123rd New York Volunteer Infantry*", a program by Charles Vavrina, PhD on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Vavrina has recently released a book about the 123rd Infantry (which was the regiment specifically from Washington County, NY). The event will be held at the Hartford Baptist Church, 56 Main Street (Co. Rte. 23) in Hartford, NY. The 123rd Enlistment Center is part of the Hartford Museum and is directly across from the church in Hartford. We are thrilled the Enlistment Center will be open 5:00 p.m. before the program for anyone who would like to walk where the brave men of the 123rd signed up to fight in the Civil War. We are fortunate that the Hartford Museum houses such a fine collection of the memorabilia of the 123rd Regiment.

"*When this Cruel War is Over*" contains 94 letters spanning the years 1862–1865 and the 1865 diary of Sergeant McCollum. The letters speak not only to camp life and marching orders, but to concerns for his family back home on the farm bringing in crops and paying the bills. He mentions the fate of countless friends and acquaintances both at war and on the home front in Washington and surrounding New York counties. The text is also enriched with period photographs and prints and 13 battle maps created specifically to address the position of the 123rd NY during the various conflicts. (McCollum returned home after the war. He enlisted in Argyle and later lived in Salem outside of Shushan.)

Charles S. Vavrina, PhD, is a Professor Emeritus of Horticulture at the University of Florida. His passion for the Civil War began twenty years ago when reading "*Killer Angels*" by Michael Shaara and has grown steadily since. He came by this collection of letters when his friend and colleague, John McCollum Stevely, shared with him his great-grandfather's correspondence home during the war. Charlie's research background, years of study, and countless trips to explore Civil War battlefields aided him in compiling this book. He lives in southwest Florida with his wife Anne and their Australian Shepard.

The book will be available for sale at the program on June 6. It is also currently sold at the Washington County Historical Society Book Shop at 167 Broadway in Fort Edward and is also available on the WCHS's website at www.wchs-ny.org. This WCHS program is free and open to the public (donations are gladly accepted). Please call the Society for more information.

May is Preservation Month!

Preservation Month was established in 1973 and is co-sponsored by local preservation groups, state historical societies and business and civic organizations across the country. During the month of May, events are planned to promote historic places for the purpose of instilling national and community pride, promoting heritage tourism, and showing the social and economic benefits of historic preservation.

WCHS is celebrating historic preservation in Washington County by offering two presentations this May:

May 11, 5:30 p.m. at WCHS, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY

Anatomy of Buildings: Architectural Vocabulary and Identifying 19th Century Styles

Presented by Susan Arena



This one hour program will offer a brief overview of common language used to describe buildings and an introduction to architectural styles found in Washington County. Familiarity with stylistic elements and influences helps provide historic context to the built environment and a better understanding of your community.

Susan Arena is an Architectural Historian with experience completing historic resources surveys, National Register nominations, preservation planning, and educational programming. She has worked in non-profit, private, and public sectors, collaborating with State Historic Preservation Offices in New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut as well as many regional organizations. Susan holds a BA in Architectural Studies from Hobart & William Smith Colleges and an MS in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont.

May 18, 5:30pm at the Historic Salem Courthouse, 58 East Broadway, Salem, NY

What You Should Know About Historic Designation and Funding Sources

Presented by Janna Rudler

The Preservation League of NYS will present information about the League's grant and technical services programs, an overview of the State and National Registers of Historic Places, historic districts, and financial incentives for historic preservation available to historic property owners. (Guest speaker from SHPO, TBD.)

Janna Rudler is the Grants and Technical Services Manager at the Preservation League of New York State. The Preservation League is the statewide non-profit dedicated to historic preservation advocacy, education, and grants since 1974. Janna advises non-profits and municipalities in achieving their preservation goals, offers technical support and referrals to all who seek assistance in their preservation efforts, and oversees the League's grant programs.

Her career has taken her from archaeological digs across New York state and directing an archaeology lab to managing a historic house museum. Janna holds a BA in Anthropology from Binghamton University and a Master of Arts in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program.

These events are free and open to the public.

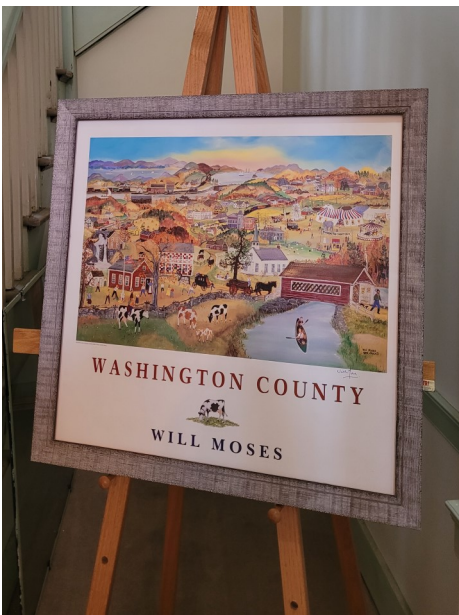
WCHS Preservation Committee Seeks Applications

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 with our award program.

Awards are considered each year for projects that rehabilitate, restore, or continuously maintain buildings of significance in Washington County, or that adapt such buildings for contemporary use. Individuals and groups can also receive awards for outstanding efforts to encourage historic preservation, including preservation of buildings, sites, records, etc.

This year's deadline for preservation applications is July 31, 2023. New applications forms are now available online on the WCHS website (<https://wchs-ny.org/preservation-awards/>). We will announce this year's winners at the WCHS Annual Membership meeting this October 2023.

Support WCHS In New Fundraising Effort



The Washington County Historical Society is offering a drawing for a chance to win a beautiful custom framed and signed print by Will Moses!

Supporting this initiative will help raise funds to directly support the mission of the Washington County Historical Society. The Society was established in 1940, and is a 501 c3 non-profit organization which seeks to educate and enrich Washington County residents by sponsoring programs and publications that illuminate important aspects of the county's history and culture.

This signed poster print highlights many of our county's landmarks from past and present and will be a wonderful addition to your home.

Tickets are available online through our website www.wchs-ny.org, purchased by check through mail, and also by visiting the Society's headquarters located at the Wing-Northup House, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828.

Tickets: 1 for \$5 / 5 for \$20 / 10 for \$30

Drawing will take place May 12, 2023. Winner will be contacted by telephone or email.

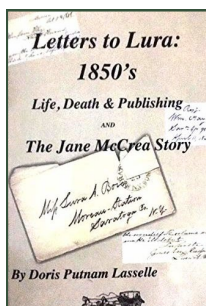
Winner can pick up at the WCHS headquarters in Fort Edward, NY. Winner is responsible for all packaging costs and freight fees if they prefer the prize to be shipped.

If you have any questions, please call 518-747-9108 or email us at info@wchs-ny.org.



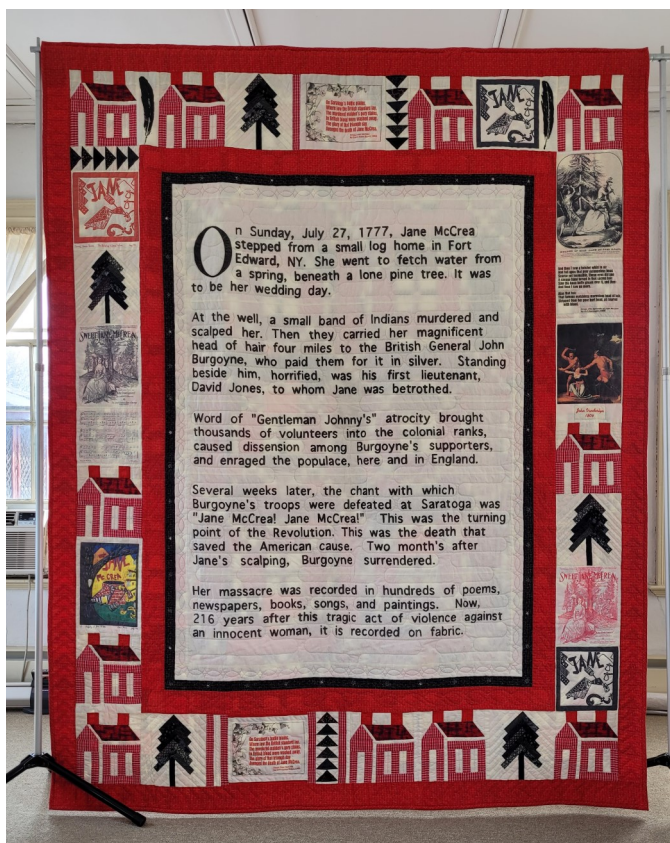
WCHS History Book Club

The Washington County Historical Society's local history book club has been a popular addition to our programming. New members are welcome! Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at the historical society headquarters, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward. Historical Society membership is not required.



The March 2023 meeting of the book club discussed the impact of the scalping of Jane McCrea on the Battle of Saratoga. Attendees were encouraged to read *Letters to Lura: 1850's Life, Death & Publishing and The Jane McCrea Story* by Doris Putnam Lasselle (available for sale at the WCHS Book Shop—cover pictured at left).

In addition to the reading discussion, the session began with a short presentation by Connie Farrington about her two-sided quilt on the Scalping of Jane McCrea. The reverse side of the quilt is an old traditional pattern called Burgoyne Surrounded. Photos of Connie and her stunning quilt appear below.



Future sessions of the club will include books about the larger Adirondack area as well as some works by local authors. The proposed list of topics includes Ulysses Grant's final days at Mount McGregor; Benedict Arnold's building of the first Navy in Whitehall; the temperance movement in this area; and the slate industry in Washington County. For additional information, email Connie Harris Farrington at connieandlee@roadrunner.com.

An Old-Timey Recipe

Submitted by Jaime Taylor of Northampton, Massachusetts

This pound cake recipe is from my grandmother, Mike Taylor (née Kathryn J. Dering, born November 1, 1929, in Chicago), who got it from one of her older relatives. It made frequent appearances at family parties. While she was a handy cook and threw a great dinner party, she didn't really have signature dishes. This is one of the few she was known for among her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and the only recipe I have from her.

Grandma Mike and my grandfather, Frank, bought a house on Butcher Road in Shushan in 1973. It was originally their vacation home, and they, my father and his siblings, and other relatives and friends came up from Long Island frequently. Frank died in 1992, and Grandma Mike moved up to Shushan full-time around 2000. She lived there until her death in January 2016. We sold the house on Butcher Road a year and a half later.

A teacher and librarian by profession, she was a long-time volunteer at the Washington County Historical Society.

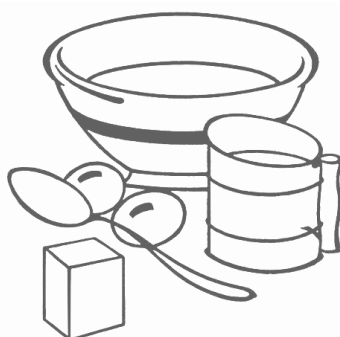
Grandma Mike's Pound Cake

Ingredients:

- 1/2 lb. butter (2 sticks)
- 1 2/3 cups sugar
- 5 eggs
- 2 cups flour

Method:

- Cream butter and sugar.
- Beat in eggs, one at a time.
- Mix in the flour.
- Butter an extra-long loaf pan.
- Bake at 300F for 75 minutes.
- Turn out when cool.



NOTE from Jaime:

This recipe calls for an extra-long loaf pan. If you do not have an extra-long loaf pan, you could use a tube pan or two regular loaf pans.

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**WASHINGTON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY** EST. 1940

167 Broadway, Fort Edward NY 12828-1709

Telephone (518) 747-9108

Spring 2023 Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Full Name (please print)

NEW MEMBER

RENEWAL

Address

City/State

Zip

E-Mail

Phone No.

Please note WCHS membership year runs January 1st thru December 31. New memberships received after October 1st will be honored for the following year. Annual memberships and donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Membership Categories:

- Benefactor \$500
- Sustaining \$150
- Contributing \$75

- Patron \$50
- Individual/Family \$35
- Senior/Senior Couple/Student \$25

Sign Up Online



I would like to include an additional gift of \$ _____

Check Enclosed (Payable to: Washington County Historical Society)

OR

Name on Credit Card

Card Number

Exp. Date

CSV Code

Questions (please answer) :

1. I would like to receive my newsletter by email Yes No
2. I would like to be contacted about volunteering Yes No

mail completed form to: Washington County Historical Society, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828 Question? info@wehs-ny.org or 518-747-9108