



# Winter 2021 Newsletter

Volume XXXI #4

## Historic Marker Dedication Held in Fort Ann

The Washington County Historical Society held a marker dedication in the Pocket Park in Fort Ann on October 11, 2021. The ceremony was in honor of the placement of an historic marker honoring the 241st Anniversary of the 1780 Carleton Raid. The raid is also known as the “Great Burning”, as it is believed by historians that Carleton’s Raiders burned many of the structures from Fort Anne to Schuylerville, on October 10 and 11, 1780. The raid’s purpose was to destroy the military installations that might be used to conduct raids into Canada. The raid was also in response to the Clinton-Sullivan Campaign against the Iroquois Confederacy. The Carleton Raid was considered by the British to be a diversion from the larger raid led by John Johnson across the Mohawk Valley. The Mohawk Valley Raid’s purpose was to destroy the crops of the Mohawk Valley which was considered the “bread basket of the American Army.”

The Fort Ann marker was provided by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation through one of its historical marker programs, awarded to the Washington County Historical Society. The Society thought it was important to recognize the Carleton Raid as it destroyed the communities of Fort Anne, Lake George, Kingsbury, Queensbury, Sandy Hill, Fort Edward, and Gansevoort. Sam Hall, Fort Ann Town Supervisor, with Paul Winchell, Fort Ann Highway Superintendent, were both instrumental in setting the marker. Mr. Hall also worked with Fort Ann Town Historian, Christine Milligan, to help coordinate community groups who participated in the ceremony.

The ceremony was called to attention by the Second Continental Artillery Crew who fired a salute to get the crowd’s attention. Fort Ann Town Supervisor, Sam Hall, welcomed the audience and participants to Fort Ann and thanked the Washington County Historical Society for their part in acquiring the marker. Dale Grinnell, Treasurer of the WCHS and Fort Ann resident, led the Pledge of Allegiance in front of the Fort Ann American Legion flag bearers. Patrick Niles, WCHS trustee, gave an overview of the October Carleton Raid. Niles pointed out that the 1780 Carleton Raid was one of a series of raids that came through Charlotte County (Warren/Washington Counties). The previous Carleton Raid happened in 1778, when Carleton raided into Vermont and ended the raid with the burning of Skeneborough (Whitehall). The effects of the raid were six saw mills, one grist mill, 38 homes and 33 barns burned. There were 1,500 tons of hay and a great quantity of wheat and Indian corn destroyed. A large amount of all kinds of cattle were also destroyed.

Fort Ann Town Historian, Christine Milligan, gave a brief talk on the specifics of the attack, surrender and burning of Fort Ann. Milligan explained that that was the fifth time Fort Ann had been burned, twice in the American Revolution and three times during the previous French and Indian Wars. Milligan went on to talk about the taking of a Fort Ann soldier, who was made a prisoner and taken to Canada. The soldier eventually escaped and returned to Fort Ann. The Second Continental Artillery fired a second salute, in honor of the soldiers taken at Fort Ann.

The President of the Washington County Historical Society, Nat Huntington, and Fort Ann Supervisor, Sam Hall, unveiled the historic marker. The cannon crew fired their last salute to celebrate the unveiling and the American Legion Honor Guard marched off to officially end the dedication ceremony.

- Submitted by Patrick Niles

## **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**



#### **Librarian: Jennifer LaRock**

##### COVID Updates:

The library is open for visitors.  
Masks required.

Inquires can also be emailed to  
[library@wchs-ny.org](mailto:library@wchs-ny.org)  
or by phone.

Normal hours:

Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Friday - 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](http://www.wchs-ny.org)



**E-mail addresses:**

wchs.ny@gmail.com  
bookshop@wchs-ny.org



Visit our Facebook page

## **Greetings From Your President**

I hope this newsletter finds everyone having a happy and healthy holiday and New Year. This fall was busy with the Judy Potacar lecture which was well-attended. We also had our Preservation Award ceremony that was held in Whitehall at the Skenesborough Park pavilion. The Canal and Skene Mountain made a beautiful backdrop for this distinguished event. A special thank you to Louie Pratt and Keith Pratt for their last-minute electrical work so we could have lighting in the pavilion. We also had a historic marker ceremony in Fort Ann at the park just north of the Village back in October. Special thanks to Mike and Mary Skellie and the Second Continental Artillery for bringing their cannon to the event. We held our Annual Membership meeting on October 23 at the Canal Street Market place in Fort Edward. If you ever get the chance, stop in during a farmers' market — it's a great building and they did an amazing job of preserving it. Congratulations to Debi Craig for receiving the 2021 Cronkite Award. She so very much deserves this recognition for all that she does preserving and promoting the history of Washington County.

The newly formed book club is going well, and I would like to thank everyone who has been attending it. A reminder: the club meets at noon the second Friday of every month if you'd like to join us.

I would like to welcome Pat Wells as a new volunteer in our Library. She will be working with Connie Farrington on the Revolutionary War Soldier Project. Look on our web page at [www.wchs-ny.org](http://www.wchs-ny.org) for more information. Also, I want to welcome our two new board members: Jeanne Lapoint Wood, appointed as a trustee for a two-year term and Jeanie Mullen, elected as Treasurer. I would like to thank our long-time Treasurer, Dale Grinnell, for all that he has done for many years for the Society as Treasurer. I look forward to continue working with Dale on other projects in the future.

In your next membership renewal, please look for a selection box on whether you would like a hard copy or an email of the *WCHS Newsletter*. We are trying to get feedback from our members on the best way we can provide you with high quality information in a convenient, efficient and cost effective manner.

Nat Huntington  
WCHS President

### **Design A New Logo for WCHS!**

The Washington County Historical Society is conducting a Logo Contest, challenging Washington County students to create a new logo for the Society that may be used for official use in various ways, including social media and printed materials. The competition is open to all Washington County students in grades 7-12. Information about the Logo Contest was emailed to all local art teachers. The deadline for emailed entries is midnight on March 1, 2022. Mailed entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2022.

One winner will receive \$100 and a book from the Washington County Historical Society. Entries can be emailed to [Library@wchs-ny.org](mailto:Library@wchs-ny.org) or mail unfolded entries to: WCHS, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward, New York 12828.

## **WCHS Annual Membership Meeting Held**

The Washington County Historical Society held our 81st Annual Membership meeting on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 10 a.m., at the Canal Street Marketplace in Fort Edward. Our normal full day event was limited due to pandemic restrictions, holding just our business meeting and presentation of this year's Cronkhite Award and the WCHS President Awards. Unfortunately, no luncheon or program was held. We did enjoy limited refreshments (with safety standards) with thanks to Stewart's Shops providing coffee and donuts.

Meeting attendees approved our 2022 budget as presented. There was a change in the slate for Treasurer; Dale Grinnell announced he was stepping down from the role. New trustee, Jeanie Mullen, was nominated for the position and the 2022 nominations slate was approved as updated.

The WCHS President's Awards were presented to:

- Jen LaRock:** In recognition for her work in getting the Library organized and moving in the right direction, and for going above and beyond her position of Librarian. She has been the person everyone turns to when they need help with something even if it does not involve the Library.
- Pat Niles:** In recognition of all that Pat does for the Washington County Historical Society in his position as Trustee. He is always dependable when something needs to be done, and he is always willing to share help and advice with the WCHS President.



*Paul McCarty, Debi Craig (with her Cronkhite Award plaque) and Pat Niles.*

**This year's James R. Cronkhite award** was presented to Debi Craig, Hebron historian. Introduced by the committee chairperson, R. Paul McCarty at the meeting, he noted Debi has a long list of achievements — she has been a Trustee on the WCHS Executive Board since 2005, and has served as both President and Vice-President twice. She is the Programming Committee Chairperson for WCHS and she initiated the Washington County History Fair in 2009, a day of celebrating Washington County history with speakers, exhibits, and demonstrations. With fellow Cronkhite Award recipient Claudia Blackler, Debi has written numerous grants administered locally by the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council and the New York Council for the Arts which enabled them to bring special musical performances to our area. She is President of the NorthStar Historical Project which promotes the history of the Underground Railroad in our area. She has worked tirelessly to preserve the history of Susan B. Anthony and her family in our area. Debi is a member of the Hebron Preservation Society

(Vice-President), Greenwich-Easton Historical Association and the Rupert Historical Society (VT). She is Chaplain of Willard's Mountain Chapter, NSDAR, and recently spearheaded a fundraiser to place a plaque honoring Susan B. Anthony's brother, Daniel Read Anthony, at the Battenville Cemetery on County Route 61 in Jackson (see page 6-7 in this *Newsletter* for more on the plaque dedication).

Debi also directs two community handbell choirs, The Batten Kill Bell Ringers and The Union Village Ringers in Greenwich, she serves on the Hebron Planning Board, and the Session of the Hebron United Presbyterian Church. She designs and creates Pistachio Puppets, educational glove puppets of children's songs, folk and fairy tales, and Bible stories. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, recently attending the American Orff-Schulwerk Association Conference (fostering creative, child-centered music education) in Charleston, S.C. with her sister Dorothea Casey to learn more about using music with senior citizens.

The public is encouraged to make nominations for future recipients of the James R. Cronkhite award for outstanding dedication in promoting and preserving the historical heritage of Washington County, N.Y. If you know someone who should be considered for this award, please contact WCHS at 518/747-9108 on Wednesdays or Fridays from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. for more information and guidelines for submitting a written letter of nomination.

## **WCHS Historic Preservation Awards Announced**

The Washington County Historical Society announced the 3rd annual Historic Preservation Award recipients at an award ceremony on October 7, 2021 at the pavilion in historic Whitehall, along the Champlain Canal. The award program was brought back after a year hiatus due to the COVID virus, and it was very inspiring to listen to the testimonials of the people who described the programs and projects. The WCHS Preservation Committee began work on revising our program guidelines in February 2021, to better fit the needs of Washington County, New York. Once the committee completed its revision with the guidelines, it turned to selecting and reviewing applications for awards and selected four award winners in the areas of archaeology, education, preservation of historic site, and rehabilitation of a historic community structure this year. Next year, the Washington County Historical Preservation Committee is accepting 2022 applications until February 1, 2022. Here's more about this year's award winners:

**Dr. David Starbuck** was nominated by Dr. Lynda Holmann, past President of the Lake George Battlefield Alliance. She introduced Dr. Starbuck's award as she had worked with him on digs in the Lake George Battlefield Park. Dr. Holmann's says "Not only has Dr. David Starbuck done historical preservation work worthy of this award, he has ensured that scores of students and local volunteers will be trained and ready to carry on this work in the future. This is the highest calling of a preservationist – to guarantee the future." Accepting the award for Dr. Starbuck was Ed Carpenter, Chairman of the Roger's Island Visitor Center, who told the story of Starbuck working on Roger's Island up to a month before his death, demonstrating his devotion and commitment to the archaeology of the site, as well as illustrating commitment to his profession.

**Steven Butz** was nominated for the excavation of Daniel Shay's settlement on Egg Mountain outside of Salem. His work, numerous lectures, and his book all provided new knowledge of Shay's Settlement to American History. Ken Facin, former Superintendent of Hoosick Falls Central School, nominated Steven Butz for the award as his daughters participated in the field schools. Facin stated Butz had over one hundred students participate in the archaeological field schools, learning such skills as surveying, mapmaking and digital imaging by taking part in the scientific study. Butz, on accepting the award, stated that his next project will be researching what is considered the oldest house in Washington County.

**The Strand Theater** was given an award for its renovation of the Hudson Falls Town Offices back into a movie theater and a theater for the performing arts. The theater has been brought back to the original motifs of the 1920s when Strand Theaters were prevalent throughout the United States. The Hudson Falls Strand was taken over by the Town of Kingsbury in the mid-1960s and remained as the offices until the early 2000s. The Strand Theater was purchased by the Hudson River Music Hall Productions Inc., in 2016. The non-profit corporation, through volunteer labor, grant writing, community generosity, fund-raising and money raised by live performances the theater, is being brought back to its 1920s condition. Steven Smith, Washington County Code Enforcement, introduced the award explaining the many stages of development and renovation of the Strand Theater back to its current condition. Accepting the award for the Strand Theater was Jonathan Newell, the CEO for the Hudson River Music Hall Productions. He credited the community volunteerism and community support for the successful renovation of the Strand Theater.

**The Tomasi family** of Salem, NY was given an award for their renovation work with their family business, **Jacko's Corner**. Keith Truesdale, WCHS Board member and Preservation Committee member, gave a chronological background on the Tomasi building and how it had been used over its one hundred year old life. He further went into the need for repairs in the early 2010s, with a decision to made to sell the building, fix it cheaply, or renovate it back to its high point and to a community center in Salem. The Tomasi family decided to meticulously bring it back to the 1920s–1940s circa motif and the renovation work went into great detail, right down to the Wurlitzer Jukebox. Jacko's is now being used for community activities and will be in the near future used as a wine bar.

Each of these four stories had people make a decision to preserve and accentuate history rather than to tear down it or ignore it. The two archaeologists preserved the artifacts and explained the history of the sites and areas they reside. Both buildings could have been destroyed or used for something other than their original purposes, but the people involved decided to preserve instead.

- Submitted by Patrick Niles

## **What's In the Wing-Northup House?**



The historic Wing-Northup House located in Fort Edward is open for visitors two days a week on Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is the headquarters for the Washington County Historical Society — we are an educational organization dedicated to engaging diverse audiences in the study and appreciation of the collective heritage of Washington County, New York, and its environs. Its primary purpose is to promote public interest and participation in the preservation of the rich cultural heritage of Washington County, NY. At our headquarters, you will find the **Heritage Research Library**, a repository for regional books, written documents, genealogical information, and memorabilia, and the publication of regional books and annual journals, including those published by the historical society, highlight preservation efforts.

The **WCHS Bookshop** is also open for business when the building is open to visitors! Online ordering is available at our website ([www.wchs-ny.org](http://www.wchs-ny.org)), but if you find yourself in Fort Edward, stop by to review our selection in person. Our inventory includes titles the Society has published, as well as books by local authors and titles of regional interest. Here are a just a few samples of new books available for sale:

### ***Historic Washington County: a Photographic Portrait*** - by Judith Irwin Flagg and Elizabeth Barber Cockey

An exploration into the storied past of Washington County through photographs of what life was like from the 1840s until after World War II. Hardcover, illustrated. Cost: \$24.95, shipping \$4.95

### ***Events Around Easton New York 1877-1947*** - Ed by Jeannie Mullen and Marilyn Manzella

The Journal of Mary Baker Wilbur who recorded many contemporaneous events. Includes many deaths and marriages. Hardcover, 219 pages. Cost: \$26.95, shipping \$5.00

### ***The Northern Inland Passage: an Interpretive Guide to the Champlain Canal Region*** - by Lakes to Locks Passage

The Champlain Canal follows the route used by Indians for travel and trade, and by European explorers and soldiers to lay claim to the country. When the Champlain Canal created a shipping route to distant markets it became a "corridor of commerce," that is now a popular destination for recreation and nature enthusiasts. Softcover, illustrated, 87 pages. Cost: \$10.00, shipping \$4.00.

### ***"We Were Marched Hither and Thither..." The 123rd NY in the Gettysburg Campaign*** - by Michael Russert

A new book on the 123rd with previously unused primary sources. The majority of this study is an examination of the battle for the lower crest of Culp's Hill. The text is accompanied by ten maps created by Brian Gottfried. The use of the XII Corps by commander of the Potomac, as a mobile reserve unit that marched hither and thither, is an important aspect of the narrative. Softcover, illustrated; 144 pages. Cost: \$32.00, shipping \$10.00

### **Latest WCHS COVID Updates for WCHS**

WCHS hopes this *Newsletter* finds our members and their families well. The Wing-Northup house is OPEN for visitors in the Heritage Research Library for in-person research during our scheduled hours — **masks are required in the building**. Volunteers are also available to answer inquiries by email or phone.

We will alert members to any significant changes required due to COVID-19 protocols via email (please be sure we have your current email address on file), and post information on our website ([www.wchs-ny.org](http://www.wchs-ny.org)), and on our Facebook page.

## Anthony Plaque Dedication



*Left to right: David Read (4 times great grandson of Daniel Read, Susan B. Anthony's grandfather); Coline Jenkins (great great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton); Jay Skellie, (Jackson Supervisor); Debi Craig (Willard's Mt. DAR Chaplain)*

including Bennington, Ticonderoga and Saratoga. He ordered the monument and unfortunately passed away before it arrived. Susan and D.R.'s son returned to Battenville in 1905 to place the monument where it stands today. After their visit, Susan was filled with memories of her time in the little hamlet and she decided to contact a childhood friend, the Rev. J.D. Walsh. In the letter written by Susan to Rev. Walsh, she stated that if she lived until the next spring, she wanted to honor her brother D.R. with an engraving on the back of the monument. Sadly, Susan herself passed away before she carried out her wish. No one, including Susan, realized that when she and her nephew placed the monument in the little cemetery that it would be her last visit to the little settlement on the Batten Kill where she grew up. The letter remained in the possession of Rev. Walsh's family until the winter of 2021 when it was sold by the Raab Collection (which deals in the sale of historic documents).

A transcription of the letter was posted on the Raab website where Willard's Mountain Chaplain Debi Craig discovered it. Debi, who is very familiar with the Battenville Cemetery, knew that the engraving had never been done. She thought, "We can do this!" and approached the members of the Willard's Mountain Chapter who quickly agreed. (Susan had joined the Irondequoit Chapter of the DAR when she moved to Rochester.) The money was raised for the project by August 2021 and the order was placed. A free-standing plaque to place next to the memorial was required as there wasn't enough room to engrave Susan's words on the back of the existing memorial, for at some point the names of the Anthony children's paternal grandparents and their own parents' names had been added to the back of the stone. This left a very small strip across the bottom of the stone which wasn't high enough to add any more text.

The day of the ceremony arrived. Special guests included Coline Jenkins, great great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan's longtime colleague in the women's suffrage movement. Also attending was David Read, who is a direct descendant of Daniel Read for whom the monument was placed. David unveiled the plaque at the ceremony to reveal the free-standing brass plaque next to the monument.

But who was D.R. Anthony? He was Susan's younger brother, but what path did his life take after he left Battenville? Daniel Read Anthony left school and became a clerk in his father's cotton mill. When he was 23, he left to teach in Rochester for several years. The New England Emigrant Aid Society sent him in the first group of people who traveled to Kansas in 1854.

On Sunday, October 24, 2021, the Willard's Mountain Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a plaque in the Battenville Cemetery (site of old Dutch Reformed Church) on County Rte. 61 in the Town of Jackson to Daniel Read Anthony, Susan B. Anthony's younger brother, more than 117 years after his death in November 1904.

Most local residents know that Susan's family moved to Battenville in 1826 and lived in the area until 1845 when they moved to Rochester. What many people don't know is that Susan and her siblings frequently returned to the area long after they moved away. Susan participated in women's suffrage rallies all over Washington County.

D.R. (as Susan called her brother) wished to place a monument to their mother's father, Daniel Read, who had fought in many battles of the American Revolution

In 1857, he relocated to Leavenworth, Kansas where he lived for the remainder of his life. He was involved in the Underground Railroad harboring freedom seekers. It was also rumored that D.R. hid John Brown of Harper's Ferry fame before the bloody Kansas events related to the struggle for the abolition of slavery. In 1861, he was a lieutenant colonel in the 7<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry. When he was commander of the brigade, he stopped slave owners from coming inside Union lines to search for freedom seekers in spite of the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act which granted them permission to search for their property. He refused to take orders from the general and was relieved of his command.

In 1864, he married Annie Osborn of Massachusetts, was elected mayor of Leavenworth in 1872, served as postmaster twice — the second time appointed by Ulysses S. Grant. He was also a life member of the Kansas State Historical Society serving as president from 1885-96.

He became involved in journalism purchasing an existing newspaper, but his outspoken writings frequently got him into trouble. Anthony was shot by a former employee on the steps of the Leavenworth Opera House severing an artery which should have killed him, but didn't. His recovery is considered nothing short of a miracle!

A short time before his death in November 1904, he proposed the following for his epitaph: "He helped to make Kansas a Free-State. He fought to save the Union. He published the Daily Times for nearly 40 years in the interest of Leavenworth. He was no hypocrite."

After his death, Susan wished to honor him. She loved her brother and wanted his generosity and love for their grandfather to be recognized. These are the words she penned to be engraved on the back of the Read monument. "Erected by D.R. Anthony, born in Adams, Mass. August 22, 1824 – Died in Leavenworth, Kansas Nov. 12, 1904".

The plaque has been put in place 116 years after Susan had planned to make it happen. We think Susan would be pleased!

*- Article submitted by Debi Craig.*

*- Photos provided by Cliff Oliver and Sandy McReyno*



## **History Events Coming in 2022**

Author Casey Jakubowski has written a New York Humanities Vision grant, in cooperation with WCHS, to hold two special events in 2022 (in addition to our calendar on page 11 and sent previously this fall). He has been working with Programming Committee chairperson, Debi Craig on these initiatives.

The first program will be a special talk on July 23 (time TBA) at the former East Hebron Presbyterian Church, 6559 State Route 22, East Hebron, NY. The Hebron District #16 Schoolhouse Museum (run by the Hebron Preservation Society) will be open prior to the program. Casey will be giving a talk on Rural Education and Women Leaders based on his recently published book *Thinking About Teaching* (Educmatch 2020) which is about teaching in rural New York. He will be examining different curriculum ties to local history and how rural is reality in this place-based book. He says that rural children and teachers make up 24% of school districts (urban 29% and suburban 34%) in this country.

The second program will take the place of the Washington County History Fair which has been held every two years since 2009. It could not be held during the fall of 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Not knowing what will be happening with COVID during the fall of 2022, the grant will enable us to hold an outdoor Living History Day. It will tentatively be held at Boy Scout Camp Wakpominee in Fort Ann as part of the fall Camporee, but it will also be open to the public, Girl Scout troops, 4-H groups, home schoolers and student and history buffs of all ages!

There will be learning stations set up throughout the campground with activities for all ages related to history. Some of the tentative topics to be included are open hearth cooking, black powder rifle, flint knapping (making arrowheads), Civil War tents, backpacks (haversacks), archeological dig, blacksmithing, pottery, rope making, edible plants, and wilderness first aid. October 1 is the date currently being considered for this event. Time TBA. Please watch our website [www.wchs-ny.org](http://www.wchs-ny.org) and Facebook page for updates.

## **Cambridge Welcomes Footbridge Back Home**

In December, Cambridge held a Holiday Windows project with residents lighting a decorated window. On December 5, the renovated Little Green Footbridge was lit as “a window into our past” with a crowd gathering to recall old memories and to build new ones. Florans Hoxie built the bridge for J. B. Rice in 1890. Its original purpose was to keep the workers out of the unpaved muddy street to get to work at the historic J.B. Rice Seed Company,

Over the past four years, volunteers have been restoring the bridge. Grant monies, donated time and equipment made it possible for the bridge to be returned. Think about all that bridge has seen in its 131 years! A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to mark the return of the bridge.

Thanks to the Lions, Dr. Gerald Mattison, and many others, the recently restored little green footbridge is back.

*- Article by Debi Craig, Ken Gottry. Photos: Ken Gottry*



## **James Turner Allen Diary**

White Creek historian Ted Rice just published the 1916 Diary of James Turner Allen of White Creek, New York in PDF format. It is available through [whitecreekhistorian.wordpress.com](http://whitecreekhistorian.wordpress.com) at no charge. James was the son of Samuel W. Allen and Marie Turner. His 1936 obituary is inserted below. He was born in 1875, died in 1936 in the same room of the same house in which he was born, and is buried in Rosewood Cemetery in White Creek. He lived in the Allen homestead, built by original settler John Allen in 1770 and now owned by the Mackins. James never married and left no descendants.

### **Obituary of James Turner Allen — Copied from Find-A-Grave**

**Published in the Washington County Post, Cambridge, New York January 23, 1936**

Son of Samuel W. & Marie (Turner) Allen

James Turner Allen Passed On Thursday.

Beloved White Creek Resident Was Descendant of Quaker Pioneers.

James Turner Allen passed away at the Allen Homestead in White Creek last Thursday after an invalid\*\* of many years. He was the son of the late Samuel Allen and Maria Turner.

Mr. Allen was a descendant of James Turner, one of the first settlers of Salem, New York, and of John Allen, Quaker, whose 200th Anniversary was celebrated at Jermain Hall, White Creek, August 28th, 1934. Quaker John came to White Creek from Dartmouth, Mass. in 1761 and he, with his wife, Mary, lived for several years in a log cabin until in 1770, he built the Allen Homestead, which has ever since remained in the family.

Five generations of the Allen family have lived in this home which is now owned and occupied by a great-great-granddaughter of John, Harriet S. Allen. It was here that James Turner Allen lived most of his life and where, in the same room in which he was born, he died on January 16th, 1936.

At the funeral held on Sunday, January 19th, the Rev. J. Robert Davidson paid the following tribute to his parishioner and close friend:

“James Turner Allen was a man of noble character, wide culture, eminent ability, a successful teacher, kind, discreet, courageous. Above all, he was a devoted follower of the Great Teacher, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Hence a true example of a life of learning and character. This is the reason that his death is regarded as a personal bereavement.

With bodily infirmity growing daily, he found an outlet for the demand for his mental activity in the study of genealogy of the Allen-Stewart family. Here his painstaking ability as a student found work which helped pass the time wherein he rose above his bodily infirmity.

Mr. Allen was a man interested in the welfare of the church of which he was long a member and to which he gave his time, his musical ability and financial support. On the alphabetical list of stewards for the church; Mr. Allen's name was first. We will miss him.

As a teacher, he served the local school, the Fuller District, Center White Creek School, the Montgomery School and the Wallomsac School. Failing health required his resignation from his chosen vocation and the physical activities of life.

This did not end his interest in the things which promote the best interests of the community. He loved our village of White Creek. He was desirous of the welfare and good fortune of the younger members of the community. His life as a teacher brought to him this affection for the school children and those who had graduated into their life work.

Mr. Allen was a unique character, a modest man, whom to know is ever to love. Our community suffers through his loss. Again we truly say: We mourn our loss.”

---

Ted Rice is the Town of White Creek, NY historian and archivist, serving from 2016 to the present. His family moved to White Creek from Rochester NY in 1950, when he was two and he has lived there for most of his life since. He attended Hudson Valley Community College and SUNY Oswego, graduating in 1970 with a BSc in Industrial Arts Education. He married Kathleen Foster of Hoosick Falls, NY in 1969. He taught High School mechanical drawing in Yarmouth NS, Canada in 1970/71 and worked on a ranch and grain farm in Saskatchewan in 1971-1973, after which he and his wife returned to White Creek. They have three daughters, one granddaughter, four grandsons, and one great-grand-daughter. In 1978 they moved to Waukesha, Wisconsin to attend Bible School, returning to White Creek two years later after graduation, where they have resided since.

## **Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors' Center in Schuylerville**



Many of you have noticed the new building going up in Schuylerville for the past few years that progresses for a time then it comes to a halt, then again progresses, but still isn't finished. It was started in 2017. The building is a new regional visitors' center servicing communities in Saratoga, Rensselaer and Washington counties along the Hudson and Hoosic Rivers. The *Journal and Press* newspaper stated in early December "that government and non-profit members of an organization called the Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership announced that Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner helped secure state funding to complete the Canal Region Gateway Visitors' Center in Schuylerville, NY. The acquisition of these funds will allow the visitors' center to begin full operations."

The goal of the visitors' center is to service all three counties highlighting the area's amazing history, promoting agri-tourism, highlighting cultural attractions and outdoor activities. The center opened unofficially in May 2021 with few services because there was no electricity or plumbing. Some exhibits were installed and volunteers from the three counties welcomed tourists wanting to learn more about our area of New York State. A number of volunteers came from the Washington County Historical Society Executive Board.



Woerner was quoted in the *Journal and Press*, "The Partnership is a unique organization bringing together dozens of municipalities in the common interest of preserving, understanding, and explaining the history of this area. She said, "The benefits of the new Visitors' Center were obvious to me this summer when I volunteered there. It truly is a "gateway" to accessing and learning about the lessons of our shared rivers and allowing visitors and residents alike to experience the context of significant historic events, or just learn about the many activities available to enjoy the rivers and associated communities." She continued, "I was delighted to assist the Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership to obtain funding for the

Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors' Center in Schuylerville!" Assemblywoman Woerner continued. "The Partnership is a successful example of collaboration between the municipal entities and not for profit organizations with the common goal of developing tourist opportunities in the context of protecting the natural and cultural heritage. I look forward to supporting their future endeavors."

The announcement was made at the annual meeting of the organization which is run by a 12 member board. Members are from the Assembly, the NYS Senate, the Office of the Governor, local supervisors, town mayors and non-profit organizations from the region. Thank you Assemblywoman Woerner for supporting this organization and the Regional Visitors' Center!

- Submitted by Debi Craig

## **Building Committee Report for 2021**

The Wing-Northup house has seen a lot of activity this year. Thanks to our librarian, volunteers and trustees, we have reorganized our offices and meeting rooms, added a fresh coat of paint to the backroom meeting space, and they put in many hours of hands-on work to improve the appearance and efficiency of the inside of the building. The rooms and offices of the Wing-Northup house were professionally cleaned, including the carpets over the summer and fall. The big project for 2021 has been the mold remediation of the archives room earlier this spring. This project required a great deal of the WCHS resources to get completed. With remediation work completed, we purchased a dehumidifier and fans in order to keep the humidity levels in check and to prevent any future mold incursions.

Outside, our flag pole lights were replaced and a new timer was installed. The flag is now fully illuminated from dusk to dawn. We will have sill work done in the spring.

Projects for the future include:

- Replacing a deteriorating basement window and the tucking and pointing of the foundation. Monies have been applied for through Trust fund grants. If the grant is received, this project will be completed in 2022.
- There are several trees on the property creating problems with the property and will need to be removed.
- Plumbing contractors have been contacted to provide estimates to install a new hot water heater and a drain line for the dehumidifier.

As with any historical building there is a continuing list of repairs that keep cropping up. We at WCHS are proud of our building and we continue to work at maintaining and improving the building. In these times, resources are always limited and we try to dissipate costs through grants and contributions but at times, as in the recent mold remediation, funds can be exhausted quickly. Thank you for generous donations to our annual appeal and other fundraising initiatives to help us maintain the Wing-Northup house.

*- Submitted by Eric Huntington, WCHS Building Chairperson*

## **WCHS 2022 Calendar of Events**

<b>March 24, 2022</b> <b>7 p.m.</b>	<b><u>WWII Aircraft Warning Service in Hebron</u></b> — Ralph Kruger will present a program about the civilian volunteers who were recruited to operate an aircraft observation outpost in 1944. Their purpose was to notify the US Army from their hilltop observation post in Hebron. <b>Location:</b> Wing-Northup House, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY
<b>Rescheduled Fundraising Event</b> <b>June 4, 2022</b> <b>Noon — 5 p.m.</b>	<b><u>Through Susan's Eyes (a WCHS Fundraising Bus Tour)</u></b> — COVID-19 postponed our original date, but we have rescheduled our event to June 4, 2022, from noon-5 p.m. It will celebrate the now 102 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19 <sup>th</sup> amendment. Barbara Skiff will portray the young Susan B. Anthony, telling her story at each stop in Greenwich, Easton, Jackson and Cambridge. Attendees will ride a chartered bus; cost TBA and will include a wine and cheese reception at Burton Hall. Exhibits from the Easton and Fort Edward Political Equality Clubs will be on display. There are limited seats available as some folks have held reservations from the original tour. All seats must be filled for the tour to happen. <b>Starting location:</b> The bus will depart from the Bottskill Baptist Church, 26 Church Street, Greenwich, NY
<b>June 7, 2022</b> <b>7 p.m.</b>	<b><u>Unsolved Murders in Washington County</u></b> — Dr. Hollis Palmer will discuss true crimes that happened in Washington County in the Towns of Greenwich, Cambridge, and Hudson Falls <b>Location:</b> Greenwich Free Library, 148 Main Street, Greenwich, NY
<b>Sept. 24, 2022</b> <b>Noon - 4 p.m.</b>	<b><u>Rough and Ready Engine Company</u></b> — 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. <b>Location:</b> Rough and Ready Engine Company, 29 Main Street, Greenwich, NY
<b>October 29, 2022</b> <b>10 a.m. meeting;</b> <b>1 p.m. program</b>	<b><u>2022 WCHS Annual Membership Meeting</u></b> — Our 82 <sup>nd</sup> annual membership meeting will feature the program "Grave Stone Matters", presented by cemetery restoration expert Joe Ferrannini, who will speak on the restoration of abandoned cemeteries and ways to safely clean and repair broken and damaged gravestones. <b>Location:</b> TBA

## **WCHS 2022 Board of Directors**

### **OFFICERS**

President	Nathaniel Huntington
Vice-President	Pat Niles
Treasurer	Jeanie Mullen
Secretary	Kelly Mead

### **TRUSTEES — 2024**

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 — Keith Truesdale

### **TRUSTEES EMERITA**

Joan Handy
------------

### **WCHS HISTORIAN**

John A. Mead
--------------



167 Broadway Fort Edward NY 12828-1709

Telephone (518) 747-9108

Winter 2021 Newsletter

### WCHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New       Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State\_Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (       )

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Quarterly Newsletter Delivery Preference:  Electronic (PDF) email delivery  Hard copy mailed

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.*