



# WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EST.  
1940

## FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXIII #3

The Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) announces our 83rd Annual Membership Meeting and Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at the Sandy Hill Arts Center, 214 Main Street, Hudson Falls, New York. We hope you can join us. Deadline for lunch reservations is October 14. Any questions, please contact WCHS.



## ANNUAL MEETING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

**OCTOBER 28, 2023**

**Sandy Hill Arts Center  
214 Main St.  
Hudson Falls, New York**

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**COFFEE HOUR:** REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY STEWART'S 10AM – 10:30AM

**BUSINESS MEETING:** 10:30AM – 11:30AM

**PRESENTATION:** BILL NIKAS ON *THE RESTORATION OF THE HUDSON FALLS  
ARTS CENTER:* 11:30AM – 12:00PM

**LUNCHEON:** CATERED BY GINNY RAE'S 12PM – 12:45PM

**AWARDS:** 1:00PM – 2:00PM

CRONKHITE AWARD TBA

COMMUNITY SERVICE

SALLY BRILLON, PAUL McCARTY

RESTORATION AWARD

JEFF AND MARCIA PODOLEC – AGWAY BUILDING

**\$30 LUNCH TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED ON  
OR BEFORE OCTOBER 14, 2023**

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ON OUR WEBSITE [WWW.WCHS-NY.ORG](http://WWW.WCHS-NY.ORG) OR  
MAILING PAYMENT TO WCHS, 167 BROADWAY, FORT EDWARD 12828

## 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!  
Inquiries can also be emailed to  
[library@wchs-ny.org](mailto: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

### 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:**  
[info@wchs-ny.org](mailto:info@wchs-ny.org)

Visit us on Facebook  
and Instagram!

## Greetings From Your President

To WCHS Members,

Our long and wet summer is quickly drawing to a close. I hope everyone found time for a little fun between the record level of raindrops that fell here in Washington County. It was nice to see those of you who got to the Washington County Fair and dropped by the Caboose. We had over 7,000 people come through this year. Anyone interested in volunteering at the fair next year, please let us know. I invite you to join us and enjoy all the Society has to offer this fall as described in this newsletter.

A special thank you to everyone who donated to the 2022 Annual Appeal — a list of our generous supporters can be found on page 7 of this newsletter. Your generosity helps ensure the Washington County Historical Society can continue offering programs to the general public and allows us to maintain the Wing-Northup House as our headquarters and research library. Our 2023 annual letters will be arriving soon.

I draw your attention to the article on the front page of this newsletter about our upcoming annual meeting. We've planned a busy and interesting agenda and meeting, and will host a delicious luncheon catered by Ginny Rae's in Hudson Falls (costs and reservation details are in the article). The Annual Meeting is the time that you — as a member — have the opportunity to add your voice and vote on the budget, slate of officers, trustees and the many duties and things that keep the Society running smoothly. A special Historic Preservation Awards ceremony will also be held immediately following the October 28 business meeting. I hope many of you can attend the meeting as well as our other events this year. Best wishes for an enjoyable fall!

Nat Huntington  
WCHS President

### We Value Our Members!

We are always welcoming new members to the Historical Society! With your membership support, you have the satisfaction of knowing you are participating in the preservation of the important historical heritage of Washington County, New York.

Member Benefits Include:

- ✓ Mail or online access to our quarterly Newsletter
- ✓ A copy of our latest WCHS Annual Journal
- ✓ A 10% discount on purchases at the Wing-Northup House Bookstore

WCHS membership runs **January 1-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. Visit online: <http://wchs-ny.org/membership.php> or you can complete the form from the mailing page of this newsletter and return to the Historical Society.

## **WCHS Proposed Slate 2024**

The WCHS Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following proposed slate of trustees to be approved at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 28, 2023. The following are the nominees for election this fall:

**Trustee 2024:** Peter Prindle. **Trustees 2026:** Sarah Hall, Jane Hartnett, Matt Rozell.

**Officers:** President, Pat Niles; Vice President, Susan Arena; Treasurer, Jeanne LaPoint Wood; Secretary, Kelly Mead.

We also will have a change in our Treasurer. Jeanie Mullen will be stepping down from this role as of December 2023. WCHS thanks Jeanie for her time and dedication in the Treasurer's role, and recognizes her many contributions to our organization. Starting January 1, 2024, Jean LaPoint Wood will take over the Treasurer's duties and step down as a WCHS trustee.

At the August 14, 2023 WCHS Board meeting, an updated interim Treasurer's job description/responsibilities was reviewed. This interim description will be voted on and approved at the Annual Membership meeting in October. With approval, this description will be updated as an amendment to our by-laws.

### **Interim Description of Treasurer's Duties — July 17, 2023**

- The Treasurer has the ability to sign checks.
- The Treasurer is responsible for obtaining the monthly and annual financial report from the Quickbooks files with assistance from the Executive Director.
- The Treasurer shall submit the necessary financial information for audit annually as determined by the Board of Trustees.
- The Treasurer ensures that financial records are maintained by the Executive Director in a permanent file.

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

Read more about our incoming trustees:

#### **Peter W. Prindle (Trustee, 2024)**

Hello! My name is Peter W. Prindle and I am a life-long resident of Washington County. I was raised in Whitehall (Go Navy!) and lived there until 2003. Today, my wife, Lori, and our two daughters (Nora, 16 and Grace, 11) reside in Kingsbury. Since 1997, I have had the pleasure to be a faculty member at Fort Edward High School as a social studies teacher.

#### **Sarah Hall (Trustee, 2026)**

I was born in the Berkshires and raised in the Boston area. My parents retired to Granville. Years later I moved here myself. I am now retired and living in their house in Granville.

I was surrounded by history growing up, from Plymouth Rock and Plymouth Plantation to The Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere, and Bunker Hill. It was an easy transition to the history of this area. I've read all the local books. I love to go to the forts, museums, and reenactments. I am particularly interested in The French and Indian War. I also volunteer on the Revolutionary War Soldier Project at the WCHS. I am so happy to be surrounded by such a rich heritage here in Washington County.

#### **Jane Hartnett (Trustee, 2026):**

I have lived in Washington County since 1987, when my husband John and I purchased a Greek Revival house in Easton. The house was built in 1854, and we spent the next 14 years restoring it and furnishing it with antiques. In 2001, we moved to Greenwich.

In 2020, I retired after working for more than 40 years as a legal assistant/paralegal and office administrator for lawyers in New York City, Poughkeepsie and Albany. I graduated from SUNY Oneonta with a major in Spanish and minor in French. I spent my junior year studying in Madrid, Spain, and was able to travel to several other European countries.

I have had a lifelong interest in history, architecture and antiques. My husband and I have become especially interested in genealogy research and have been able to trace John's ancestry to colonial America, including family who arrived on the Mayflower and participants in the Salem witch trials.

## **Proposed 2024 WCHS Operating Budget**

Below is the proposed 2024 WCHS operating budget, which will be reviewed at our annual business meeting on October 28, 2023. We will be requesting a vote of approval from members in attendance at that meeting.

<u>Income</u>	2022	2023	2024
Annual Appeal	11,000	12,500	15,000
Dividends/MS	800	700	1,000
Fundraisers	3000	3000	3,000
Events	3000	1000	1,000
Donations	3856	4000	2,500
Gift Shop Sales	7500	6000	6,000
Interest Income	20	10	20
Membership Dues	7000	7000	7000
Merrill Lynch	30,000	30,000	30,000
Restricted Income			
County Support	1856	1856	1,856
Hill Trust	6000	5500	6,000
Lib Donations		300	300
Other		7585	6,980
<u>Total Income</u>	74,032	79,451	80,656
<u>Expenses</u>			
<u>Administrative Expense</u>			
IRS/Financial Report	2600	2800	2,800
Board/Staff Development	300	200	200
Insurance	3500	4000*	4,000
Office Supplies/Expenses	3500	4000	3,000
Payback Contingency Loan		1000	1,000
Payroll Expense	1000	1000	3,500
Postage (All Postage)	1000	1000	1,000
President	150	150	150
Professional Dues	400	400	200
Property Tax	576	325	500
Telephone/WiFi	1000	960	1,000
Technology/Website	1600	600	300
<u>Administrative Total</u>	15,626	16,435	17,650
<u>Building</u>			
Custodial	2000	2000	2,000
Electric	800	800	850
Heat	1500	1600	1,600
Improvement/Repairs	funded by the Hill Trust		
Other Utilities		210	250
Security	500	500	500
<u>Building Subtotal</u>	4800	5110	5,200
<u>Program Expense</u>			
Education Committee	100	0	0
Events	1000	1000	1,500
Fair	250	250	250
Fundraisers	1000	700	700
Library Operations	2500	2000	1,500
Newsletter	800	500	400
Outreach/speakers/programs	500	0	0
Preservation Committee	1000	1200	1200
Promotion	200	1000	800
Publications	1800	2000	1800
Roadside Markers	100	100	500
Shop Expense	1500	2000	2000
<u>Program Subtotal</u>	10,750	10,750	10,650
<u>Payroll</u>	35,000	40,000	40,000
<u>Restricted</u>			
County Support	1856	1856	1,856
Hill Trust/Bldg	6000	5000	5000
Library Donations		300	300
<u>Total Restricted</u>	7856	7156	7156
<u>Total Expenses</u>	74,032	79,451	80,656

\*Board Bonding Insurance paid every 3 years – 2023 (estimate of \$500) and next payment 2026

## **Pop-Up Event Announced—Join Us at Penope Farms—October 15, 2023**



The Washington County Historical Society is pleased to be hosting our third open house at The Museums at Penope Farms 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 so much interest after last year's event at the farm, we decided to do it again! Owner Dick McGuire would like to invite everyone to tour his museums on the hill. We have never opened the museum when the fall colors are at their peak, so

this year the museums will be open to the public on **Sunday afternoon, October 15, 2023 from 1 – 4 p.m.** Bring a picnic lunch and a chair and sit back 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 (two 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 Farms. 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, which greatly expanded 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. Meander leisurely back into yesteryear. The museums feature hundreds of items from 1800 to the early tractors of the 1930s and 40s. There is something of interest for all ages from equipment for working the land with horses to classic automobiles of the 1920s and 30s.

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 call WCHS Wednesday or Friday between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



## **Songs of the Erie Canal**

The Washington County Historical Society recently hosted a wonderful concert led by the singing duo Cosby Gibson and Tom Staudle, who performed “Songs of the Erie Canal” in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Opening of the Erie and Champlain Canals. The concert was held at the Fort Edward Canal Street Marketplace, 63 Canal Street in the Village of Fort Edward on Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 2 p.m.

The Erie and Champlain Canals were the most important advancement for transporting goods in New York State. Running from Buffalo to Albany and connected to the Hudson River, then the Champlain Canal ran north to Lake Champlain. It allowed New York City to become the largest trade port in the nation. It was born from an idea developed by a merchant who was in debtor’s prison because he couldn’t receive his goods fast enough to pay the bills.

Cosby Gibson and Tom Staudle are award-winning songwriters and singers. They live near the Adirondacks in Upstate New York. They have been performing together for fourteen years touring both regionally and nationally. Together they play original pieces and old favorites with a variety of instruments such as guitar, fiddle, banjo, and harmonica.

Cosby is Grammy balloted and writes unique acoustic and folk-style songs. Her awards include Best Folk Album in the Capital District, Original Music Awards for 2017 and 2018; Dorn Space Award for Music Outreach in 2019, Best Folk Album 2021, Outstanding Folk Artist 2023, and is a nominee for the Thomas Edison Music Award 2023.

Tom Staudle writes and performs in acoustic, Americana, and Blues-style with awards in Best Folk Lyrics for the Capital District Original Music Awards in 2018 and Dorn Space Arts Breakthrough Artist of the Year in 2021, Outstanding Americana Artist in 2023 and is also a nominee for the Thomas Edison Music Awards 2023.

Both have songs in rotation on WEXT-FM radio. Their special programs include: Historic Songs of the Erie Canal, Adirondack Lumber Camp Songs, Poetry Songs, and History Songs, Songwriters in the Round, Songwriting Workshops and new Labor Union songs.

Visit their website: [www.cosbygibson.com](http://www.cosbygibson.com)



*Tom Staudle and Cosby Gibson during their performance.*



*Attendees joined us to listen to songs inspired by the Canals.*

*- Article submitted by Debi Craig. Photos courtesy of Pat Niles.*



We sincerely thank our 2022 Annual Appeal donors. Gifts support the Historical Society in many ways and are truly appreciated. We recognize their generosity with the list below:

Susan Arena  
Larry Arnold  
Vance & Shawn Bateman  
Raymond & Peabody Bates  
Claudia Blackler  
Sally & Joe Brillon  
Kevin & Mary Buchholz  
Grace Campbell  
Robert Chagnon  
Sara H. Clarkson  
William A. Cormier  
Deborah Craig  
Nancy Jo Davidsen  
Maryanne Brown & Don Brooks  
Darlene Dumas  
Sharon Dunn  
Mary Enhorning  
Mary L. Gravlin  
Harriette Greaser  
Gary Hart  
Lynda Karig Hohmann  
Eric Huntington  
Nat Huntington  
Ruth A. Ihne  
Tom Johnson  
John A. & Joan L. Jones  
Reginald Killmer II  
Alfred Klein

Judith Klingebiel  
James & Stephanie Kloiber  
Robert Lefebvre  
Tupper C. Limbert  
Dorothy Malossi  
Helen Meehan  
Millie Mizerak  
Jeanie Mullen  
Jane Murphy  
Pat Niles  
Debra Pauquette  
Joseph & Patricia Peck  
Kenneth A. Perry  
Janice Pollat  
Marcia & Charles Reiss  
Matthew Rozell  
Sheafe Satterthwaite  
Stephen & Susan Snyder  
Lois Squire  
Hannah Stevens  
John & Chris Strough  
Kay Tomasi  
Steve & Joyce Toney  
D. Keith Truesdale  
Patricia Well  
Charles & Linda Willis  
Jeanne Wood

*In Memoriam:*

Jamie Taylor (in memory of Tim Taylor)  
Robin Compbell (in memory of Paul Schneider)  
Cecila Maskell (in memory of Gloria Maskell White)  
Dawn Sharts (in memory of George Davidson)  
Gary Hart (in memory of Jim Aiken, Jim Shinner,  
and Wayne Senecal)

*Businesses and Organizations:*

Battenkill Books  
The David & Janet Sheridan Foundation  
Gary Hart (Whitehall Town Historian)  
The Price Chopper Golub Foundation  
Irving Tissue Products  
Ideal Dairy  
Telescope Furniture

**WCHS 2023 Board of Directors**

**OFFICERS**

President	Nathaniel Huntington
Vice President	Patrick Niles
Treasurer	Jeanie Mullen
Secretary	Kelly Mead

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Jennifer LaRock

**TRUSTEES—2025**

Debi Craig  
Gary Hart  
John Mead

**TRUSTEES — 2024**

Susan Arena  
Nancy Jo Davidsen  
Eric Huntington  
Kathy Huntington

**TRUSTEES—2023**

James Arndt  
Gretta Hochsprung  
Jeanne Lapoint Wood  
Matt Rozell

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

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

**TRUSTEES EMERITA**

Joan Handy

**WCHS HISTORIAN**

John A. Mead



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY EST. 1940

167 Broadway, Fort Edward NY 12828-1709

Telephone (518) 747-9108

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Fall 2023 Newsletter

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  
at [www.wchs-ny.org](http://www.wchs-ny.org)*

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@wchs-ny.org](mailto:info@wchs-ny.org) or 518-747-9108