



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

PRESERVATION: 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 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 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

E-mail addresses:
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>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
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
Total Income	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
Administrative Total	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
Building Subtotal	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
Program Subtotal	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
Total Restricted	7856	7156	7156
 Total Expenses	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

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



Tom Staudle and Cosby Gibson during their performance.



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



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 Campbell (in memory of Paul Schneider)
Cecilia 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

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