



# WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXIII #2

### **WCHS Supports Historic Preservation**

The Washington County Historical Society's Preservation Committee is seeking nominations for our 2023 awards program. The program 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. 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 nominations is July 31, 2023.** New applications forms are now available online on the WCHS website: <https://wchs-ny.org/preservation-awards/> We will announce our 2023 winners at the WCHS Annual Membership meeting this October 2023.

With the month of May recognized as Historic Preservation month, we hosted two public talks on preservation topics recently as part of our efforts to educate the public about historic preservation in Washington County.



On May 11 at the WCHS headquarters in Fort Edward, architectural historian and WCHS trustee, Susan Arena, led a program titled "Anatomy of Buildings: Architectural Vocabulary and Identifying 19th Century Styles". She offered a brief overview of common language used to describe buildings and an introduction to 19th century architectural styles found in Washington County. Attendees learned about the evolution of influences on residential buildings and how to identify stylistic elements, and were tested with a pop quiz at the end of the program. 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.



On May 18 at the Historic Salem Courthouse, WCHS hosted the program "What You Should Know About Historic Designations and Funding Sources". This educational program was led by Janna Rudler from the Preservation League of NYS. We also welcomed Frances Stern and William Floyd of the NYS Historic Preservation Office as additional presenters for the event. Janna provided 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. Janna Rudler is the Grants and Technical Services Manager at the Preservation League, which is the

statewide non-profit dedicated to historic preservation advocacy, education, and grants since 1974. They advise 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.

>>>> *Would you like to know more about the National Register of Historic Places? See page 3.*

## 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

### 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,

Summer is here and I hope everyone is doing well. Spring was busy with the Historical Society giving two preservation lectures and a program on the 123rd regiment. Feature articles about these programs can be found in this newsletter.

We also participated in our first Antique Fair at the Washington County Fairgrounds in May. It went well, and we are planning on doing it again next year. I would like to thank those who donated items to sell or those who volunteered their time to the Society's benefit at the Fair. Keep an eye out next spring for our notice as we will be asking for donated items again for this event. The Historical Society will again be at the Washington County Fair manning the Caboose this August and we hope you can stop in to see our display and visit with our volunteers.

Requests and visits to the Wing-Northup house have picked up in the last month after slower winter traffic. If you have not been in recently, please do so and introduce yourself to our new Executive Director, Jen LaRock. Remember to join us also on September 10 when we will be holding a concert with Songs of the Canal at the Canal Street Marketplace in Fort Edward.

Mark your calendars — October 28th is the Washington County Historical Society's Annual Membership meeting. The meeting is open to all members. This is your chance as a member to vote on the budget and the slate of incoming trustees and officers. Further information can be found in this newsletter and will be in the fall newsletter.

The volunteers at the Library have been busy with the Revolutionary War Soldier project. If you would like to volunteer at the Library or any event, please contact us at info@wchs-ny.org.

Additionally, I would also like to let everyone know that there is a Washington County 250th committee that has been started to help celebrate 250 years of history in Washington County. If you have any interest in being on this committee or helping out in any way with events, please contact Pat Niles at pdniles@gmail.com, Paul McCarty at oldfort@albany.twcbc.com or myself at nhuntington64@gmail.com.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Nat Huntington  
WCHS President

## **What is the National Register of Historic Places?**

The National Register of Historic Places was established in 1966 as part of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Register is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) who works in conjunction with state historic preservation offices (SHPO) to review and approve nominations. The purpose of the Register is to recognize buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects of historical significance and worthy of preservation. As of the end of 2020 the Register included more than 96,000 entries representing more than 1.8 million resources through individual listing and districts.

Does listing on the Register prevent a property owner from making alterations to their building? No, as long as no public funding is being used. However, a benefit of inclusion on the Register is access to many grant and tax credit opportunities, which promote retention and preservation of the country's historic environment. Use of grant or tax credit funding generally requires adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, ensuring historical integrity is maintained. Funding opportunities vary in terms of what expenses they cover and the frequency with which they are awarded. Grants are generally restricted to non-profits and municipalities and are awarded on an annual or semi-annual basis, while tax credits are available for privately held properties and are continuously accessible.

In New York there are three options for tax credits: Commercial, Homeownership, and Barn. The commercial credit, also referred to as the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit, applies to income-producing properties listed on or eligible for the Register, and is reviewed by NPS and SHPO. Projects may receive a 40% (20% state and 20% federal) return on qualifying expenses. The homeownership credit, offered by NYS, applies to primary residences listed on or eligible for the Register. The program provides a 20-25% return for a wide variety of improvements. Lastly, the Barn program offers a 25% credit for rehabilitation of barns intended for agricultural use and built prior to 1946. With all programs, specific restrictions apply and proposed changes must be approved prior to start of work. For additional information on tax credits and grants, please see list of resources below.

### **New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation:**

NYS Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Programs - [parks.ny.gov/shpo/tax-credit-programs/](https://parks.ny.gov/shpo/tax-credit-programs/)  
(includes information on Homeownership, Commercial, and Barn credits)

### **Preservation League of New York State:**

Preserve New York and Technical Assistance Grants - [preservenys.org/grants](https://preservenys.org/grants)

### **Adirondack Architectural Heritage:**

Adirondack Rural Rehabilitation Program grant - [aarch.org/funding/adirondack-rural-revitalization-program/](https://aarch.org/funding/adirondack-rural-revitalization-program/)

### **National Parks Service:**

Save America's Treasures grant - [nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/save-americas-treasures-grants.htm](https://nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/save-americas-treasures-grants.htm)

***Did You Know...***the Wing-Northup House in Fort Edward (the home of the Washington County Historical Society) was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008?

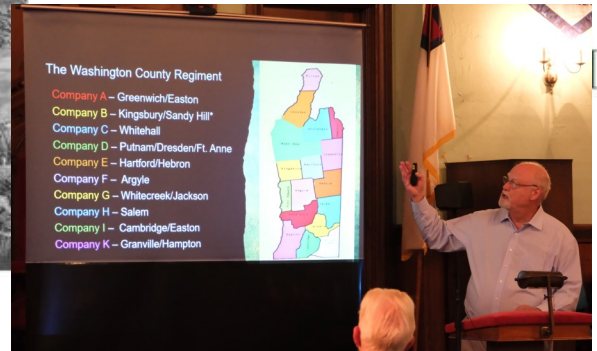
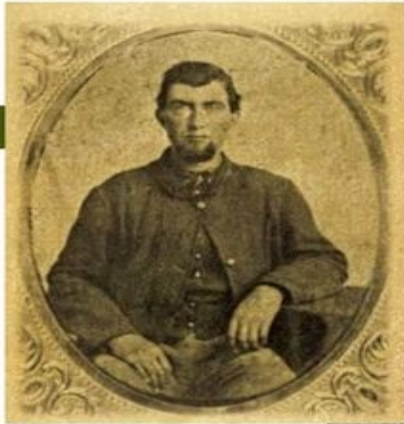
The house was built c. 1815 by entrepreneur Daniel Wood Wing as a two-story, five-bay, center entrance brick building, with a two-story brick ell. A one-story brick side wing was added about 1880. The property was acquired in 1884 by James M. Northup, and in 1982 by the Washington County Historical Society.





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

WITH CHARLES VAVRINA



On June 6, WCHS hosted a presentation with author Charles Vavrina about his book *“When this Cruel War is Over: The Civil War Letters and Diary of William J. McCollum, Company F, 123<sup>rd</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry”*. The book contains 94 letters spanning the years 1862–1865 and details from the 1865 diary of Sergeant McCollum. Charles S. Vavrina, PhD, is a Professor Emeritus of Horticulture at the University of Florida. 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.

The event was well attended. The author had copies of the book for purchase, and he signed copies for attendees. The Washington County Historical Society also sells this title at the Book Shop located in the Wing-Northup house in Fort Edward or it can be purchased online through WCHS at [www.wchs-ny.org](http://www.wchs-ny.org).

The event was held at the Hartford Baptist Church in Hartford, NY. Attendees were able to visit the 123<sup>rd</sup> Enlistment Center across the street from the church prior to the program. (Photo far left below is the exterior of the Enlistment Center. The other two photos highlight just some of the displays in the building, which include many interesting original documents and artifacts.)



**17 Towns of Washington County**

**WORD SEARCH FOR FUN!**

T F E I A F J I P F X W D D Y  
J W F J P Y A R X P K O T Q N  
E K H O F Y F B N Z M C K B G  
W O I I R G R A N V I L L E T  
K H Z N T T C A M B R I D G E  
T S I Y G E A J V L C C A F F  
H Y Y T H S C N S T M Z R G O  
H A J J E A B R N W U S G D R  
P E R A E H M U E A I A Y R T  
U Z B T C A A P R E Q L L E E  
T X Z R F K S L T Y K E E S D  
N H Z R O O S T L O U M C D W  
A B T Y R N R O O R N G N E A  
M E V W S D M D N N C N Z N R  
F N K G V G R E E N W I C H D

ARGYLE  
CAMBRIDGE  
DRESDEN  
EASTON  
FORTANN  
FORT EDWARD

GRANVILLE  
GREENWICH  
HAMPTON  
HARTFORD  
HEBRON  
JACKSON

KINGSBURY  
PUTNAM  
SALEM  
WHITECREEK  
WHITEHALL

## **Fond Memories Of A Special Family Tradition**

When I was growing up, there were certain cookies my mother Rita Huntington made every holiday. They were bon-bon cookies, filled cookies and molasses cookies. Bon-Bons were small round balls with a candied cherry or walnut in the center with icing drizzled over the top. Filled cookies were a large two layer sugar cookie with a date mixture in the center. The molasses cookie was a large thick cookie with a cake like texture. She would make the filled and molasses cookies other times of the year, but she always made them at Christmas. It is the molasses cookie recipe and story that I will share with you.

My mother was born in 1932 and grew up on Davis Street in Whitehall, NY until she was 16 when her parents, Albert and Marjorie Briggs, moved to the hamlet of Clemons in Dresden, NY. Next door to her growing up lived an elderly couple, Kaye and Jessie Salmons. In the 1940 census he is 80 years old, and Jessie is 73. Kaye was from England and Jessie was from Holland. My mother remembers Kaye as a perfect English Gentleman. In the summer he would wear a white suit and Panama hat and have a cane and would walk around the block. Almost every week Jessie would bake a batch of molasses cookies and before my mother was born, she would call my grandmother over to the side yard and give her seven cookies — one for each day for my uncle Stan. When my mother came along, Mrs. Salmons continued that but gave my grandmother two cookies for every day — one for each child. She would never give my grandmother the recipe. A few days before my grandparents were to move, Mrs. Salmons called my grandmother over and gave her the recipe for the molasses cookies.

My grandmother continued to make the molasses cookies and when my mother was married and having a family, she gave my mother the recipe. My mother also shares a story about the cookies and how she would make them every year for the Church Bazaar and John Moore would have his wife Myrtle buy all the molasses cookies before anyone else could buy them!

My mother is now 90, and supervises and gives advice when I make them. It's one of those old recipes that has things like "add flour until it feels right". So, it does take some getting used to. I am also happy to know that my mother's grandchildren have the recipe so it can continue for another generation.

1 cup sugar  
1 cup shortening  
1 cup molasses (my mother always preferred Brer Rabbit green label)  
1 egg  
1 cup cold water  
2 teaspoons baking soda dissolved in 2-3 tablespoons warm water  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
Dash of salt  
About 5 cups flour

Mix the first 3 ingredients then add the rest. Add flour until it feels right. Just beyond being sticky to the fingers. Take portions of dough and roll or pat out to just under ½" thick. My mother always patted her dough out and did not roll it. Use enough dough at a time to cut out 4-5 cookies. Use a 2 ½" -3" biscuit or cookie cutter.

Place on cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes or until you gently touch the top and it does not indent.

*- Submitted by Nat Huntington*

## **Happenings At The Washington County Fairgrounds**

WCHS will be back in the Caboose on the fairgrounds for this summer's Washington County Fair in Greenwich, NY! The event is an amazing local tradition, and WCHS is proud to be part of it. The D&H Caboose is located near the County Bounty building.

This year's event will be held August 21-27, 2023—mark your calendars and stop by to see us and learn about history in beautiful Washington County! If you would like to help us, we always can use a hand filling our volunteer slots. Please call the Historical Society to volunteer or for more information. See you at the Fair!

## **The Washington County Spring Antique Fair**



This spring, the WCHS was also at the fairgrounds, as a first-time vendor at the popular Antique Fair event held on May 5-7, 2023.

This was a new fundraising endeavor this year, and it was a great success! The WCHS saw \$746 in sales and donations. We look forward to returning again next May

at which time we'll be seeking donations, so start setting aside your antiques and collectibles! Look for details in the Spring 2024 *WCHS Newsletter*. We'd like to thank everyone who donated items to be sold at the WCHS booth, our volunteers working at the event, and to everyone who stopped by!

## **Will Moses Print Raffle Drawing Winner Announced**

Many thanks to all who participated in our raffle drawing for custom framed, signed print by Will Moses. On May 12, we drew the winner's name, Eric H. of Hudson Falls. Eric announced he would donate the print back to the WCHS.

## **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

## **WCHS 2023 Calendar of Events** (as of June 2023)

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

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



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY EST. 1940

167 Broadway, Fort Edward NY 12828-1709

Telephone (518) 747-9108

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Summer 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*



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