



WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXIV #3

October 26, 2024 / 1:00 p.m. / WCHS Annual Meeting

The Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) will hold our 84th Annual Membership Meeting and Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony on **October 26, 2024 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Canal Street Marketplace (63 Canal Street, Fort Edward, NY)**. The agenda will include our business meeting held from 1 to 2 p.m., followed by our awards ceremony from 2 to 3 p.m. The presentation of Society awards will include: WCHS President's Awards (for outstanding service to the Society), Cronkhite Award (service to the Washington County history community) and our Historic Preservation Awards (presented to a person or organization for outstanding efforts for preservation of a building or buildings in Washington County). Light refreshments will be provided by Stewart's Shops at the conclusion of the awards ceremonies. We encourage WCHS members to attend, and the public is welcome (no reservations are required).

October 8, 2024 / 5:30 p.m. / Patriots of Washington County

This program is co-sponsored by the Washington County Historical Society and the Washington County 250th Committee as the first in a series of planned lectures. Join us on **Thursday, October 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the South Granville Congregational Church, 7179 State Route 149, Granville, NY 12832**. Come learn about the lives of several famous patriots in Washington County. There are many Revolutionary War Soldiers buried in our towns and this talk will include not only where they are from and their service record, but also snippets we've learned about their lives.

The program will be presented by Sarah Hall, who is a WCHS trustee and volunteer. She has researched this topic as part of our Revolutionary War Soldier Project.

October 9, 2024 / 6:30 p.m. / Thaddeus Kosciuszko Lecture

The Greenwich Easton Historical Association and Cambridge Historical Society has announced they will host a presentation by Dr. Paul K. Walker, retired Chief Historian, US Army Corps of Engineers, entitled "From Ticonderoga and Saratoga to West Point: Army Engineer Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the American Revolution." **The event will take place 6:30 p.m., October 9, 2024 in the Community Room of the Greenwich Free Library** located at the corner of Main and Academy Streets in Greenwich.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko arrived in Philadelphia in August 1776, and Congress commissioned him as an Engineer colonel in October. He gained recognition for his work on Delaware River fortifications and soon after was assigned to the Northern Army on the staff of General Horatio Gates.

This presentation will focus on Kosciuszko's role at Ticonderoga, Saratoga, and West Point between 1777 and 1780. In each case, he displayed great skill at integrating defensive plans with the natural surroundings. For this reason in particular, Gates would credit Kosciuszko with a major role in the victory at Saratoga.

Dr. Paul Walker is a part-time resident of Cambridge. He received a Ph.D. in American History from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. After teaching at several Baltimore-area colleges, he joined the staff of the Office of History, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He served as the Corps' Chief Historian for twenty years before retiring in 2008. His publications include Engineers of Independence: A Documentary History of the Army Engineers in the American Revolution, 1775-1783.

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

Library and Bookshop Hours:
Currently by appointment only,
please contact us.

E-mail inquiries and appointment requests to library@wchs-ny.org
or contact WCHS by phone.

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
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WCHS President's Letter

Dear Members,

The Washington County Historical Society has had several excellent programs throughout the year. The Society has been busy with lectures, tours, fundraising events, by-laws revisions and grant writing to increase our outreach to the Washington County history community. In this day it is hard for small organizations such as the Washington County Historical Society to provide programs, volunteer for historical activities, and be active in the local communities but WCHS is doing all that due to the support of very active board of trustees and a very supportive membership. I would encourage you to continue your support and encourage history minded people to join the Society.

The Society will be holding the Annual Membership meeting on October 26, 2024. The meeting will be held at the Fort Edward Canal Street Marketplace in Fort Edward, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a business meeting, award presentations and light refreshments provided at the end of the meeting. Please come and join us.

The Society has joined activities with the Washington County 250th (WC 250th) as a fiduciary sponsor. We currently have several of our board members participating in the WC 250th Committee as co-chair, secretary, treasurer and trustees. We have coupled with the 250th in certain programs such as the Greenwich Cemetery Tour in Greenwich, led by Sandy McReynolds (Society member and historian in Greenwich). Sarah Hall heads our Washington County American Revolution Soldiers project, as well as serving as a board trustee and she volunteers regularly in our Library and at various events.

As always, membership is key to the continued existence and advancement of the WCHS. The Heritage Research Library provides free public access and our volunteers will answer many historical and genealogical questions by phone, email and by mail. The programs we run, the services we provide and the library itself all take support from you, our membership. We encourage everyone to join WCHS so we are able to continue our current programs and start new programs to keep Washington County history alive.

Thank you once again for your support of the Washington County Historical Society, and we hope to see you at the annual meeting.

Sincerely,

Patrick Niles
Washington County Historical Society President

WCHS Proposed Slate 2024

The WCHS Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following proposed slate of officers and trustees to be approved at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 26, 2024. The following are the nominees for election this fall:

Officers: Vice President, Cheryl Putorti; Treasurer, Jeanne LaPoint Wood

Trustee 2026: Alec McMorris

- Submitted by the Nominating Committee Chair, John Mead

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.

Paid membership benefits include:

- ✓ Mail or online access to our quarterly WCHS 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 members are also encouraged to volunteer to assist at events, serving on our various working committees or consider a term as a trustee on our Board.

Other ways volunteers can help:

- Assist with mailings, digitizing photographs, social media and web content.
- Volunteer time in our Heritage Research Library, working with unique and interesting documents at the Wing-Northup House.
- Helping with genealogical research.
- Gardening and lawn care.
- Consider your special talents to share as a volunteer!

There are so many ways you can help us in our endeavors ... please call or e-mail us with your interests!

Change of Hours and a Search for a New WCHS Director

The Wing Northup House, headquarters for the Washington County Historical Society, as well as the Heritage Research Library, will be open by appointment only until further notice due to the resignation of Jennifer LaRock, former Executive Director/Librarian of WCHS. After several years of outstanding service, LaRock has decided to seek new challenges. The Society will be opening a search for a new director in the next few months.

Proposed 2025 WCHS Operating Budget

Below is the proposed 2025 WCHS operating budget, which will be reviewed at our annual business meeting on October 26, 2024. We will be requesting a vote of approval from members in attendance at that meeting.

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

Category	2023	2024	2025
Income			
Annual Appeal	12,500	15,000	15,000
Dividends/MS	700	1000	1000
Fundraisers	3000	3000	3000
Events	1000	1000	1000
Donations	4000	2500	3000
Gift Shop Sales	6000	6000	5500
Interest Income	10	20	20
Membership Dues	7000	7000	7000
Merrill Lynch	30,000	30,000	20,000
Restricted Income			
County Support	1856	1856	1856
Hill Trust	5500	6000	7000
Library Donations	300	300	-----
Other	7258	6980	8099
Total Income	79,451	80,656	72,475
Expenses			
Administrative Expenses			
IRS/Financial Report	2800	2800	2725
Board/Staff Development	200	200	200
Insurance	4000	4000	4500
Office Supplies/Expenses	4000	3000	1500
Payback Contingency Loan	1000	1000	1000
Payroll Expense	1000	3500	3500
Postage	1000	1000	1000
President	150	150	150
Professional Dues	400	200	200
Property Tax	325	500	550
Telephone/WIFI	960	1000	1500
Technology/Website	600	300	300
Administrative Total	16,435	17,650	17,125
Building			
Custodial	2000	2000	1000
Electric	800	850	850
Heat	1600	1600	3000
Improvement/Repairs	Hill Trust	Hill Trust	Hill Trust
Other Utilities	500	500	500
Security	500	500	600
Building Subtotal	5110	5200	5950
Program Expense			
Educational Committee	0	0	0
Events	1000	1500	500
Fair	250	250	0
Fundraisers	700	700	500
Library Operations	2000	1500	1500
Newsletter	500	400	300
Outreach/speakers/programs	0	0	500
Preservation Committee	1200	1200	1200
Promotion	1000	800	800
Publications	2000	1800	1800
Roadside Markers	100	500	500
Shop Expense	2000	2000	1800
Program Subtotal	10,750	10,650	9400
Payroll	40,000	40,000	40,000
Total Expenses	79,451	80,656	72,475

Lecture: "The British Army in Washington County"

The Hebron Preservation Society will be hosting a presentation entitled "The British Army in Washington County, 1777," on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. The Washington County 250th and the Hebron Preservation Society will be sponsoring the event. The program will be presented at the East Hebron United Presbyterian Church, 6559 State Rte. 22 in East Hebron.

The talk will be delivered by Patrick Niles, who will discuss the American Revolution in Washington County; specifically, the Burgoyne Campaign and its effect on Charlotte County (Washington County). The British invasion, led by Burgoyne coming from Canada, intensified the anger and hostility among citizens as well as causing several atrocities. Charlotte County was under siege by these British forces from July until September 1777.

After the taking of Fort Ticonderoga, on July 6, the British Navy quickly defeated the American ships in the Skenesborough Harbor. The British 9th Regiment chased part of the American Army to Fort Anne and there fought two different battles. Patriot forces evacuated Fort Anne, retreating to Fort Edward where they united with Northern Department Commander Philip Schuyler and the remnants of the American Army from Fort Ticonderoga. Then the Patriot Army retreated from Fort Edward to Moses Creek five miles south. Finally, General Schuyler crossed the Hudson River at Saratoga (Schuylerville) leaving Charlotte County.

As the Patriot Army was retreating, Burgoyne's Army quickly captured and occupied Skenesborough (Whitehall), Fort Anne and in the New Hampshire Grants' (Vermont) Hubbardton and Castleton. They marched through Charlotte County forcing citizens from their lands, livestock, crops, and worldly goods. Brunswick Commander, Lt. Colonel Frederick Baum marched through the towns of Fort Miller, Easton, Greenwich and Cambridge, on his way to defeat at Bennington. Washington County saw battles, occupation, deaths, and desolation. Mr. Niles will discuss all those topics and a few more.

Pat Niles is currently the President of the Washington County Historical Society, Co-Chair of the Washington County 250th Committee, head of the Washington County Historical Society Preservation Committee, and Trustee for the Lake George Battlefield Alliance. He has spoken at many Capital District organizations. Mr. Niles is currently a licensed guide at the Saratoga Battlefield. He is also the President of Adirondack-Hudson Military Expeditions LLC, a tour company in the Lake Champlain-Hudson Region. Niles has researched and conducted several American Revolution tours throughout the Capital District.

The program is free and open to the public. Donations are gladly accepted. For more information call 518/573-3758. We hope you will join us for this interesting and informative program.

Presentation in Hebron Focuses on Ticks and Our Changing Landscapes

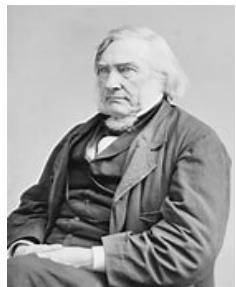
On Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. the Hebron Preservation Society will host a program entitled: **Our Changing Northern Hardwood Forests and Tick-borne Diseases: What Can Be Done?**, a program by William Landesman, an associate professor of biology at Vermont State University. Landesman will present some of his research on these questions. His area of study is ecology, specializing in microbial diversity in natural ecosystems, including soils and ticks.

The talk will focus on how the landscape of Hebron has changed greatly over the last several hundred years as land use has shifted. This has affected the ecology of wild animals including the mouse and deer populations which serve as vectors for tick-borne diseases such as Lyme. How have these human induced changes affected our exposure to disease and how might they shift in the future? There will be an opportunity for question-and-answer following the presentation. This event will focus on history being made currently with the issue of ticks affecting the lives of so many people.

There is no charge to attend the program. Donations are welcome. The program will be given at Hebron United Presbyterian Church (East) at 6559 State Rte. 22 in East Hebron, (Salem) approximately 7 miles north of Salem and 10 miles south of Granville. For more information call 518/573-3758.

Historic Marker Re-Dedication Ceremony Announced

On Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m., the Town of Hebron and the Hebron Preservation Society will hold a special re-dedication ceremony at the Town Barn on the corner of Bogtown and Chamberlin Mills Roads.



Samuel Nelson

Hebron historian Debi Craig has been working with Washington County Historical Society board member Sarah Hall to restore the Samuel Nelson historic marker which was placed in the 1990s. Samuel Nelson was born in Hebron on November 10, 1792. Nelson, who grew up in Hebron, served 27 years on the Supreme Court of the United States. You can tour his former law office at the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown. The marker has been exposed to all kinds of weather and has lost much of its blue and gold paint over the years. Sarah Hall has taken on the project of preparing and restoring historic markers around the county over the past year. She has restored six markers so far. She prepared the surface and painted the blue background, then she and Craig both repainted the gold letters. Instructions for restoring historic markers in Washington will be available at the re-dedication event and from WCHS and the Hebron Preservation Society (see some tips on preservation from Sarah Hall below).

After the marker was completed, Craig looked at the Hebron Veterans' Memorial which stands next to the Nelson marker. It was completely covered with black mold. She enlisted the assistance of Hebron resident Nancy Crosier who has been volunteering over the past few years to clean up the Old Hebron Cemetery. She has located many veterans going back to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War. Each veteran's grave has been marked with a flag and solar light. The pair tackled cleaning the memorial with an environmentally friendly cleaner called "D2". Within two hours, most of the black mold was gone.

To celebrate the restoration, the two markers will be re-dedicated. November 10th also happens to be Samuel Nelson's birthday. Come and celebrate the lives of those Hebron residents who served our country in all wars. Learn about Hebron resident Samuel Nelson and the roles he played in our state and nation's government as well as serving on the Supreme Court of the United States.



In honor of this event, the Town of Hebron will also be dedicating a new flagpole, solar lighting and new plantings by the Veteran's Memorial, which have been provided by the town of Hebron and installed by the Town Highway Department. Parking is available along the road or in the Town Barn parking lot.

After the re-dedication, attendees are invited to visit the Old Hebron Cemetery. The cemetery is located approximately 1/2 mile east of the Town Barn on the left side of Chamberlin Mills Road. Parking can be along the road or in the New Hebron Cemetery directly across the road. The event is open to the public. The program will be held rain or shine. If there is inclement weather, the ceremony will take place at the Hebron United Presbyterian Church, East at 6559 State Rte. 22 in East Hebron. For more information call 518/573-3758.

Instructions for restoring historic markers in Washington will be available at the re-dedication from WCHS and the Hebron Preservation Society. Here are a few tips from Sarah about restoring historic markers:

She suggests anyone who would like to help restore the many historic markers around Washington County that need to be painted do the following. First scrape away the original paint. All the paint she used was Rustoleum. The colors were spray "Royal Gloss Blue" which could be readily ordered online at Lowes. For the lettering, quarts of "Sunburst Yellow" are available on the shelf at Home Depot, Lowes and Walmart. She has found that spray painting the base color is the easiest way to go. Both the base color and the letters require two coats. The letters were painted with a 1" foam brush and the blue is touched up with a tiny brush. Both can be purchased at the dollar store. All the markers Sarah has painted look brand new!

Thank You

We sincerely thank our 2024 Annual Appeal donors. Gifts support the Historical Society in many ways and are truly appreciated. We recognize their generosity with the list below:

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John A. Mead

The Washington County Historical Society would like to thank Casella Waste Systems, Inc. for their generous donation of service for the Wing-Northup House. Thank you!





WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EST. 1940

167 Broadway, Fort Edward NY 12828-1709

Telephone (518) 747-9108

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Fall 2024 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