



WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Volume XXXV #1

President's Letter Spring 2025



In 2025 the Washington County Historical Society will observe the 85th anniversary of its founding. The Society was established in 1940. Since then we have provided historical research assistance, preserved written materials, and sought to educate our Washington County citizens young and old. Just a few examples include: we have published *The Annual Journal of the Washington County Historical Society* since 2004, as well as books on Washington County history; we have provided our members with a quarterly Society newsletter; we have conducted the American Revolutionary

Soldiers project; and have in the past few years created the WCHS Historic Preservation Committee to show appreciation for local historical renovators and to educate the public to our historic preservation.

The Society's mission:

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. (From WCHS 2005 bylaws.)



To accomplish these goals, we have mainly relied on the talents of our volunteers. The Society runs for the most part on our volunteers as researchers, clerical workers, committee members, committee chairs, trustees and officers. It has become tougher to find volunteers, although we currently have several new volunteers working in the library. If you are able to volunteer at the Washington County Historical Society, we welcome you. Let us know your interests or special talents, and I'm sure we'll find a good fit! For those who are currently volunteering, thank you for all your efforts. For those who have given your talents in the past, thank you. It is a time that could be disheartening with all the

struggles small non-profits face, but the Society perseveres. We will need to bring in new members, volunteers, board members and officers to continue the Society's mission.

Other ways to help WCHS would be to continue your membership, attend our programming, and continue to donate when possible. With costs going up, we watch them closely and deliberate over every expense. We seek grants to help improve our programming, for upkeep of the Wing-Northup House, and now we seek grants for outreach to our membership. We have finally decided to charge non-members research fees and copy costs.

Washington County Historical Society has a great history of working to preserve the county's historical resources and educating Washington County citizens to that history. Past members, volunteers, committee members, trustees, committee chairs, and officers have sacrificed to push Washington County Historical Society forward. Please help continue our mission—renew your membership, support our fundraising activities, attend our programs, volunteer in the library or on one of our many committees, and become active in the administration of the Society. We can't do this without you. Thank you for your past and future support!

Pat Niles
WCHS President

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:

Now open Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Visits may be scheduled by appointment
(contact us)

Inquiries and appointment requests
can be emailed to library@wchs-ny.org
or made 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 address:
info@wchs-ny.org



Visit us on Facebook!

Board Member Updates

We welcome this year's newest board members Alec McMorris, Paul Lundberg, and Michele Bromley. They have strong backgrounds in history.



Alec is a retired army officer with a love of history. He is currently researching the French and Indian War. He will be presenting a program on Salem's military heritage from the French and Indian War to the Civil War at the Salem Courthouse as part of the Salem Courthouse 2025 speakers' series.



Paul Lundberg has many interests and serves on many different boards. He has come to the WCHS due to his love of Washington County history. He currently serves on the Washington County Fair Museum Committee and he devotes many hours to curating, researching, and providing tours in the fair's Farm Museum throughout the year. He is now researching Washington County agricultural history to be used in both the Farm Museum and WCHS, and is constantly improving the exhibits and interpretation of the Washington County Farm Museum. He is very proud of Washington County's agricultural heritage.



Michele Bromley has taken a one-year term as trustee on the WCHS Board. She is currently an Argyle history teacher after serving several years in Granville as a history teacher. Michele is the Argyle Town Historian and is in the middle of setting up an Argyle Town Museum. She is researching the part played by indigenous people in the American Revolution. Michele is also a school activities advisor at Argyle. She loves history and shows it by her taking the trustee's position when being so active in school, her community and her son's activities.

We also have some returning board members who have taken on new roles. Jeanne LaPoint Wood has come back to serve another three-year board term. Jeanne volunteers in the Heritage Research Library, takes on clerical responsibilities, and ran the Trash and Treasure sale last year.

John Mead has agreed to serve for one year as treasurer. John and his wife Kelly have been on the board for over 25 years. John has served on many committees and served three and a half terms as President. John currently serves as Nominating Committee Chair, is on the Historic Preservation Committee, is WCHS Historian, and now has taken on the WCHS Treasurer position.

We are very grateful to all our new and returning board members!

2025 WCHS Events

Our programs are free and open to the public (donations accepted). Questions? Please contact the Historical Society at 518-747-9108 during our open hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



SPECIAL EVENT! WCHS Trash and Treasure Yard Sale

Join us on **Saturday, July 19 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** for a yard sale at the Historical Society's headquarters, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY. All proceeds from the sale will benefit WCHS.

As a fundraiser for the Society, there will be items of historical interest and other items for sale on the front lawn of the Wing-Northup House. We encourage donations of items for the sale from our members. Good condition collectibles or household items will be gratefully accepted (no appliances or large furniture). If you have questions about the event or items you'd like to donate for the sale, please contact the Society.

August 18-24 / Washington County Fair Week!

Location: Washington County Fair Farm Museum at the Fairgrounds, Greenwich, NY

Volunteers are needed to represent WCHS at the Fair. We have partnered with the Fair Farm Museum to help greet visitors in the museum and share WCHS information to take with them. We have a list of time slots available—if you are interested, please contact us to sign up. Thank you!

September 2025 (Specific Date and Time TBD) / Fort Edward Parade

We will host open hours at the Wing-Northup House during the time the parade will be marching down Broadway. Watch for more information in our *WCHS Newsletter*, local news outlets and social media with specific dates and times for this fun family event.

October 25, 2025 (Time/Location TBD) / WCHS Annual Membership Meeting

Watch for more information in our *WCHS Newsletter*, local news outlets and social media for more details about this annual event including our board meeting, Cronkhite Award and Historic Preservation Awards will be presented.

October 9, 2025 6:30 p.m. / Lecture: "The Patriots of Washington County"

Presented by Sarah Hall / Location: Hebron Preservation Society, 6560 State Route 22, Salem, NY

Sarah Hall will present stories and information about Revolutionary Soldiers in Washington County: Lemuel Haynes, Israel Harris, Joseph McCracken, Tobias Van Veghten, and Samuel Standish.

November 13, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. / Lecture: Henry Knox Heavy Metal Tour

Presented by Pat Niles / Location: Hebron Preservation Society, 6560 State Route 22, Salem, NY

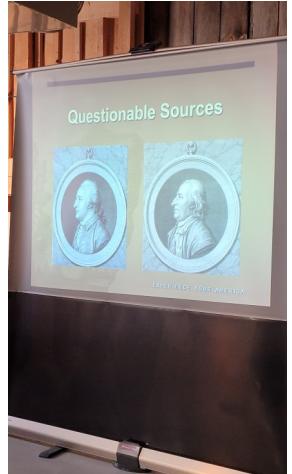
Patrick Niles will speak about Henry Knox and his artillery train which took artillery from St. Johns, Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga. Henry Knox's mission helped drive the British out of Boston in 1776.

November 29, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. / Special Event! Meet Santa Claus at WCHS

Location: Wing-Northup House, Fort Edward, NY

Bring the kids to meet Santa and visit the Wing-Northup House at a special open house celebration! Horse drawn wagon rides will be available for a small cost and other holiday treats available.

Benedict Arnold Presentation



As part of the 250th celebration in Washington County, the Washington County Historical Society hosted a very well-attended presentation at Scotlander Brewing Company in Argyle on April 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. We welcomed historian Garrett Cloer, head of interpretation at Saratoga Battlefield. Mr. Cloer spoke about Benedict Arnold but also focused on James Wilkinson, considered to be one of the great scoundrels in American history.

WCHS extends our thanks to Scotlander Brewing Company for providing a new and unique venue for the talk. The brewery opened their doors in 2019 when the town of Argyle overturned their dry town law. It is a small brewery located in an idyllic setting at 453 County Route 47. The owners, Matt and Sarah Puhl, pride themselves on brewing quality beer and are constantly changing up the menu.

Falcons Brewhouse

The Washington County Historical Society is grateful to Falcons Brewhouse Bistro Tavern in Hudson Falls, NY for their recent fundraising night held on April 24. Falcons contributed a portion of sales that evening to our organization.

The Brewhouse is located in a historic building in the center of the village of Hudson Falls and offers an inviting, relaxed atmosphere. We had many folks turn out for an enjoyable evening—board members, volunteers, members and supporters of the Washington County Historical Society...thank you!



"Fort Miller's Vanished Mansion: The House of William Duer"
(Excerpted from Washington County Historical Society Journal-2013, pages 4-19)
Written by William Krattinger

The William Duer House of Fort Miller, torn down over two centuries ago and extant for but a few brief decades, was the preeminent example of high-style domestic architecture in Washington County before 1800. It was located east of present-day Route 4, uphill from the river and south of the road that at an early day led to Argyle. The house site is denoted by a New York State historic marker erected in 1927.

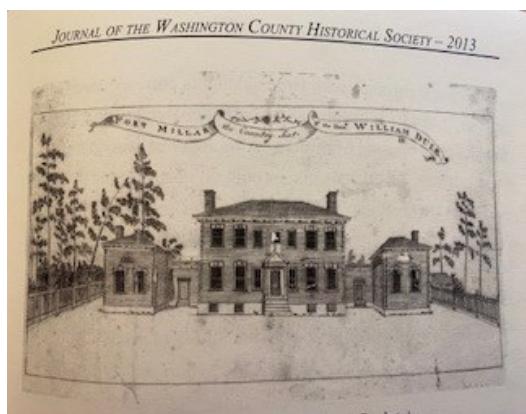


The Duer House was, by all indications, the foremost of the County's first-class houses of that era (among them, those of General John Williams in the Village of Salem and of Colonel Philip Skene in the present-day Village of Whitehall). Duer's mansion was inspired by the elite Georgian architecture of mid-18th-century England and Italian Renaissance principles and stood in strong contrast to the dwellings lived in by the vast majority of the region's citizens at the dawn of the Revolution. Built over several years beginning in the early 1770s, the house was used as a British field headquarters by General Simon Fraser as well as by General John Burgoyne in the weeks immediately preceding the September and October engagements at Bemis Heights that culminated in the British capitulation.



William Duer (1747-1799) appears to have last occupied the house around 1783. During the war he took up residency in Albany and later relocated to Fishkill and afterward in New York City. His fortunes essentially collapsed in 1792 as a result of speculative enterprises. He spent most of the rest of his life in debtors' prison. The mansion did not long survive him—after abuses from the British during their occupation (a later resident reported that it seemed “they cut their meat on the hall floor, for it was all hacked up, like a meat bench . . .”) and vandalism in the years following the war, the derelict building was taken down for salvage by 1810. Timbers from the building were reused nearby and may well survive in extant structures in Fort Miller.

The Unsigned Drawing



A single-point perspective drawing of the house entitled, "Fort Millar, the Country Seat of the Hon. William Duer," of unknown date and authorship, survives in the collection of the New York Historical Society. The image offers additional information, particularly in regards to the house's exterior architectural ornamentation and overall disposition. The elevation depicted is the principal one, facing west towards the Hudson River (given the absence of the two-tier piazza fronting the east elevation). In form, the house was of a type uncommon in New York in the 18th century, a five-part composition with a central block and two outlying dependencies, or wings, which were linked to the main section by hyphens, or connectors. This house type, espoused by 18th-century English architects for large country estates, was

inspired by Palladio's Italian villa designs.

This entire article appears in the *Annual Journal of the Washington County Historical Society - 2013*, which can be purchased on the WCHS-NY.org website or by calling the WCHS office 518-747-9108. Thank you to our volunteer, Arlyne Henley, for finding and submitting this excerpt for our readers.

Through Susan's Eyes: A Presentation at the Greenwich Free Library

On Tuesday, March 18, the Community Room at the Greenwich Free Library was filled with a captivated audience as Debi Craig and Sandy McReynolds took the stage to share the remarkable story of Susan B. Anthony, one of the most iconic figures in the fight for women's suffrage. Through rich storytelling, historic photos and deep historical knowledge, the duo painted a vivid picture of Susan's early years in the region, her family history, and her pioneering contributions to gender equality.



Debi began the presentation by offering fascinating details about Susan's formative years in the Greenwich area. She described how Susan's family roots run deep in the region and how their frequent travels—often from Battenville to surrounding areas—shaped much of Susan's worldview. One particularly intriguing anecdote highlighted her father's beliefs about the education of girls. Daniel Anthony, Susan's father, was deeply in favor of teaching girls subjects like long division, so he took matters into his own hands. He built an addition to their home that served as a school, providing an education aligned with his vision for his daughters' futures.

As Debi continued, she revealed that Susan began her teaching career in the Greenwich area at several one-room schoolhouses, some of which still stand today. Though remodeled, these buildings echo with the history of the past. One of them has been transformed into a business that retains the blackboards Susan once used. Another has been converted into an Airbnb, where the presence of Miss Anthony's voice—teaching, disciplining, and inspiring—might still linger in the air.

The presentation also highlighted the incredible work done by Debi, Sandy, and the entire "Susan" team, who helped put Susan B. Anthony's childhood home, the nearby McLean House, and the Stoops Hotel in Battenville on the map as New York State Parks and Recreation historical sites. Their dedication and tireless efforts have not only preserved Susan's legacy but have ensured that future generations will be able to visit this historical site and learn about the woman who was truly ahead of her time. Earlier efforts resulted in the restoration of gravestones, a thorough cleaning of the area, and a sign marking the Battenville Cemetery.



Among the more recent discoveries Debi shared with the audience (shown in the photo at left) was an emotional one: a letter from Susan B. Anthony, written years ago, in which she expressed her commitment to fulfilling her brother Daniel Read Anthony's wish—to engrave the monument he had purchased to honor their grandfather, Daniel Read, a veteran of the American Revolutionary War, by marking his grave in the Battenville Cemetery.

Although Susan passed away without seeing this wish fulfilled, Debi, in partnership with the late beloved Claudia Blackler, made sure to see it through, and on October 24, 2021, the stone and a plaque were dedicated at last to Susan's grandfather.

In a heartwarming conclusion to their presentation, Debi and Sandy shared the exciting news that the New York State Department of Parks and Recreation had officially purchased the property, designating it as "Susan B. Anthony Park." The efforts to preserve the site are far from over, but thanks to the determination of these women and the support of others who share their vision, much progress has been made.

The audience left the event inspired by the passion, perseverance, and foresight of Susan B. Anthony, Claudia Blackler, Debi Craig, Sandy McReynolds, and many others who continue to push the boundaries of what is possible. Susan's work, both in her lifetime and through the tireless dedication of those who follow in her footsteps, continues to serve as a beacon of hope and change.

Written by Mary Anne Brown / Reprinted with permission from Darren Johnson, The Journal & Press.

Warren – Washington – Saratoga – Albany Counties
Knox Commemoration Weekend December 12-14, 2025

Friday December 12 - Warren County

3:00 p.m. Knox lands in a bateau at the head of Lake George. Replica cannons are removed from the bateau and placed on sleds with reenactors and pulled by horses up Fort George Road to Lake George Battlefield Park (about 2/10 miles), which includes the ruins of Fort George where Knox stayed in 1775.

4:30 p.m. Reception featuring historian Rick Atkinson at Holiday Inn Resort Lake George.

7:00 p.m. Program featuring historian Rick Atkinson and the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra at Lake George High School.

Saturday December 13 – Washington & Saratoga Counties

9 a.m. Parade begins at Fort Edward High School, proceeds to Old Fort House (wreath laying).

10:30 a.m. Parade through Fort Miller and wreath laying at second Knox Marker.

1:00 p.m. Washington County hands off to Saratoga County in the center of Dix Bridge (over the Hudson). Procession from Dix Bridge (Hudson Crossing Park) to Fort Hardy Park (Field of Grounded Arms) along the Old Champlain Canal Tow Path.

1:00-4:00 p.m. Knox Festival at Fort Hardy Park (Living Historians, draft animal wagon rides, Visitor Center open, food, artillery demos, etc.)

7:00 p.m. Program at Stillwater High School (TBD).

Sunday December 14 – Saratoga and Albany Counties

10:00 a.m. Saratoga County hands off linstock to Albany County at Peebles Island State Park near the remaining breastworks from the continental army presence in 1777.

Afternoon - Knox Event at Schuyler Mansion in Albany.

Any updates or additional information on these events will be posted on social media, local newspapers and our *WCHS Newsletter* and other media outlets. Please mark your calendars to join us at the various locations.

WCHS 2025 Board of Trustees

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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

Spring 2025 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