



Winter 2018 Newsletter

Volume XXVIII #4

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Become a new member, or renew your membership with WCHS—see form on back page.	

2018 Cronkhite Award Recipient Announced

The Washington County Historical Society annual membership meeting was held on Saturday, October 17 in Proudfit Hall in Salem.

At that meeting Fort Edward Historian Paul McCarty presented this year's award to Ken Gottry of Cambridge.



Ken Gottry of Cambridge receives the James R. Cronkhite Award.

Ken grew up in Cambridge in the 1950s and 60s. He moved away after college and then returned to his family home in 2000. Since then, he has been a local history raconteur, author, and lecturer.

Ken's interest in local history comes naturally, as his father was the local historian for 25 years and his mother was a descendant of one of Cambridge's original settling families. Upon moving back to Cambridge, Ken discovered boxes of family and local history in his attic and has continued to add to this collection.

He has written **The Northern Turnpike, Around Cambridge, White Creek, and Jackson and Cambridge Village Turns 150**. He also has published numerous booklets on Eagle Bridge, local Norman Rockwell models, Mary McClellan Hospital, the Fire Department and more.

Fourth graders at Cambridge Central School are treated to a Walking Tour of Cambridge every year by Ken, which includes photos of landmarks no longer standing. Much of his material is available on his website at kgottrysun.gottry.com/.

The Cronkhite Award is named after the late Jim Cronkhite, who served many years on the WCHS Executive Board. He also held a number of offices. WCHS traditionally gives an individual who works hard to promote the history of Washington County with the James R. Cronkhite Award at our annual membership meeting. The Cronkhite lecture series held each year is also named for Jim.

More coverage and photos from our annual membership meeting can be found on pages 4-5 inside.

**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. We encourage you to stop by and take a look!

If you would like to find out more about volunteering to help with the Heritage Research Library, please contact the Historical Society and let us know.



**Heritage
Research
Library Hours:**

Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All email inquiries:

librarian@wchs-ny.org

Newsletter Editor:
Kelly Mead

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Fort Edward, NY 12828

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wchsbookshop@yahoo.com

Greetings From Your President

Hello!

The first snow fell (and stayed!) before Thanksgiving. I don't mind snow, but I like it to be white so I am glad we have gotten fresh snow several times. As winter settles in, I'm sure there will be more coming.

My sister and I traveled to Cincinnati in early November and had the opportunity to visit the National Freedom Center (see article in this issue). If you are in Cincinnati, I highly recommend spending a few hours visiting.

I am happy to tell you we had very good attendance at all of our programs in 2018 in spite of questionable weather for two of them. I am even happier to announce we are including a program schedule for 2019 with this *Newsletter*. Please put it in a prominent place on your refrigerator and plan to attend our many varied programs for the coming year! I am also excited about the groundwork that is already in place for our 2019 History Fair. Invitations will be going out to historians, historical societies/associations and organizations such as the DAR early in the new year. We already have a number of exciting speakers in place. We hope you will join us for this educational day with programs and activities for all ages.

If there is a group or someone you feel should be included for the History Fair, please let me know and I will gladly send them an invitation to consider participating. If you would be interested in making a donation to help insure that the History Fair will continue for many years to come, please send your contribution to WCHS with a note specifying it is to support the History Fair. No contribution is too small!

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to our Annual Appeal. Every donation is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the WCHS Executive Board, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy holiday season.

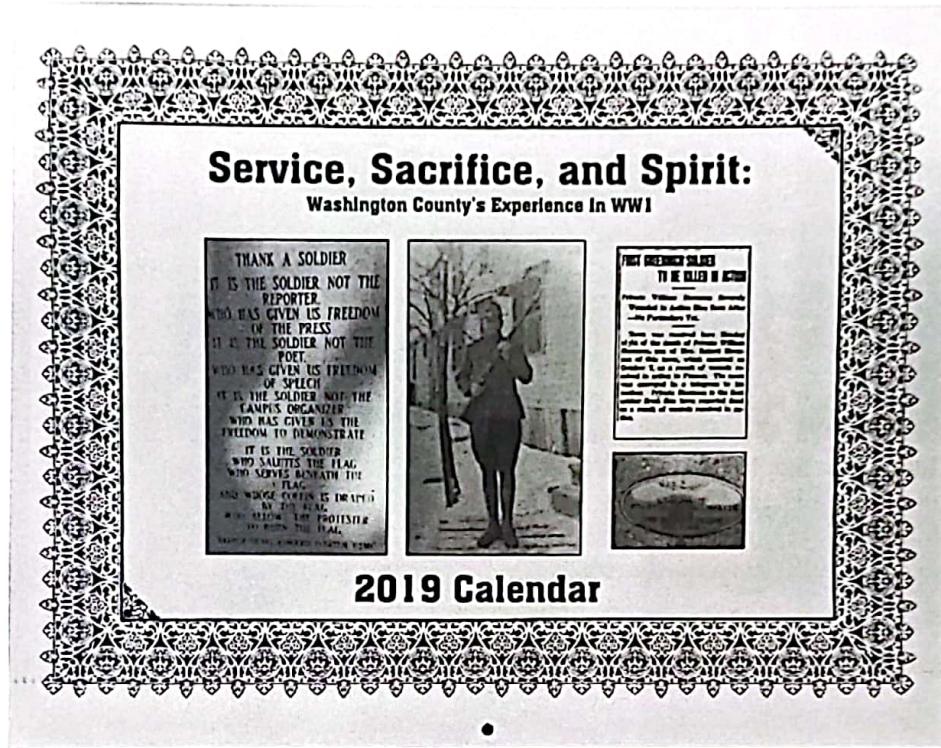
Best regards,

Debi Craig, President



2019 WCHS Historical Calendar

The Washington County Historical Society has put together a 2019 historical calendar. This year's theme is Washington County's participation in World War I. The calendar has photos from several of the Washington County communities and their World War I activities (parades, rallies, etc.), war production, Washington County recruiting posters, and Washington County news articles. The calendar also has a narrative which explains the photographs.



The photos, documents, and posters were gathered from the archives of county historical societies, community archives, the Washington County Historian's office, and Washington County residents. The photos illustrate World War I in Washington County from its beginning until its end. The war changed how America functioned and how Americans related to its national government. Although World War II is well known and well documented in Washington County, World War I has limited photos and documents. The calendar chronicles Washington County's experience during World War I with little-known documents and photographs.

The calendar's cost is \$10.00 and can be purchased at the Washington County Historical Society (Fort Edward), Battenkill Books (Cambridge), and the Old Fort House Museum (Fort Edward).

For further information you can also contact the Washington County Historical Society:

Phone: (518) 747-9108

Address: 167 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828

Web: www.wchs-ny.org

Email: wchs@wchs-ny.org

WCHS Annual Meeting Recap

The annual meeting of the Washington County Historical Society was held Saturday, October 17, at Proudfit Hall in Salem. The day began with a coffee hour with refreshments sponsored by Stewarts Shops. A business meeting followed, which included the presentation and election of the 2019 slate, which was comprised of trustees D. Keith Truesdale of Salem and Kathy Huntington of Dresden.

After the acceptance of the 2019 budget and other committee reports, President Debi Craig presented three President's Awards. The 2018 recipients were Steve Lapham, Mary Lou Gravlin, and Sally Brillon. The President's awards are given to persons who go above and beyond for the Historical Society.

Steve Lapham, our Administrator, quietly carries out many jobs, mostly behind the scenes. He manages the Bookshop, including ordering books, as well as selecting books to be sold at the Washington County Fair, and maintaining the inventory, sends out newsletters, annual appeal and membership letters, prints and binds copies of cemetery records for sale in the Bookshop, and, most importantly, is friendly and professional and always willing to assist patrons and members (not to mention that he also pays all the bills). Steve is invaluable to the WCHS!

Mary Lou Gravlin has been working with Dale Grinnell for the past few years to line up volunteers to work in the Caboose and County Bounty buildings at the Fair. Mary Lou makes numerous phone calls and juggles everyone's schedule to make it all work. She organizes everything to make sure those two areas run like a well-oiled machine. Mary Lou is also very active in the Willard's Mountain Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She does all sorts of research to help perspective members and serves on the DAR National Committee as Genealogical Records Lineage Officer. Mary Lou has presented a number of programs for the DAR and other organizations. She loves local and American history.



The 2018 award recipients pictured with WCHS president Debi Craig—Steve Lapham, Mary Lou Gravlin, and Sally Brillon.

Sally Brillon has served on the board for many years. She has held many of the offices of the organization and has played a very active role in the preservation of the Wing-Northup house, including repair of the chimneys, repair of the slate roof, repair of rotting window sills, and the replacement of deteriorating brick. She oversaw installation of a handicapped restroom and ramp at the rear of the building, made sure the house was painted inside and out, electrical work done, sill and floor replacement and installation of a new furnace. Things run smoothly because of Sally's efforts.



Attendees at Brooklyn Marie's.

We would especially like to thank, Steve, Mary Lou, Sally, and Ken Gottry for their love of local history! President Debi Craig would also like to thank the members of the board for all their hard work. It has been another successful year for the Washington County Historical Society.

After the awards ceremony, a delicious lunch was served catered by Brooklyn Marie's Restaurant. The Cronkhite Award was presented by Fort Edward Historian, Paul McCarty during dessert.

Following the award presentations, our program for the afternoon was forced inside Proudfit Hall due to inclement weather. We welcomed the 2nd Continental Artillery regiment to join our group to speak about the history of their regiment and share some information about the accoutrements associated with a Revolutionary War artillery unit. They demonstrated the drill used to fire a cannon in the field. They answered questions from those attending. After their presentation, Al Cormier gave a brief history about the Revolutionary War cemetery in Salem. We had planned a walking tour, but the poor weather kept us inside, but he provided a very interesting talk.



The 2nd Continental Artillery regiment.



Attendees at the annual meeting.

Al Cormier.



Board members in attendance



Executive Committee Board members

Notes from the Heritage Research Library

Jane "Betsy" Welling wrote three volumes of *They Were Here Too*. She had planned a fourth volume but did not get the chance to write it. However, she had gathered the materials to write that volume. The Welling Collection (the materials for *They Were Here Too*) are in the archives of the Washington County Historical Society. Because many researchers need access to the materials for volume IV, I have decided to publish the contents bit-by-bit in the *WCHS Newsletter*. Below is the first installment. Errors are mine. Anything in square brackets is mine. Dr. Welling had "interesting" handwriting, so you will see that letters I could not interpret are indicated by underbars. I have edited the materials to privilege the genealogical material and minimize exposition that is not historical/genealogical.

These pages were gathered together with a clip with a slip of paper saying "Becker" They are to Jane from Blanche N'

1 daughter

Waldo and Dorothy Becker

Next to Post Office in Johnsville

5 David and Guty

6 Pet__ Arnstye

4 Henry US and Cinderella Kenyon

3 Nathaniel

2 Henry VS

1 Waldo

Henry VS 1805 other children

Sodera _____ Herbert Greene

William Ira T _____ en
have Graov_ ieh

Greenwich Cemeteries

Get epitaph from Tallan De Rs grave stone

The check mark means that the data has been "lifted" and included in the new text.

Bernice - Their only daughter

born 1905 died 1945

- ✓ Henry Becker
Born June 31, 1861
- ✓ John R. Becker
Born 1862 died 1947

These dates are from stones in Cemetery at Cambridge

J. V. S. Becker

died Jan 24, 1888 – 91 years old

- ✓ Sarah E. Sewall
died Jan 28 1893 – 75 years old
- ✓ James Edward
born 1851 died 1935
- ✓ Married Hannah Brownell
She was Born 1852 Died 1940
- ✓ Lester
born 1880 died 1947
- ✓ Alice Sharp his wife
born 1878 died 1940

The following letter from Welling is from two sheets of large ruled paper:

Bertha and Blanche [addressees]

This is all I have to date – fill in blanks as you can and add whatever else well describe you and yours? JBW
I Frederick Marshall Becker born June 12, 1858 at Easton d _____ at Manchester, N. H. buried Cambridge, NY
married first Anne Rice born October 30, 1859 died December 29, 1893 daughter of Betsy Ann and Roswell
Niles Rice of [yowbridge]

Where does Uncle Fred work? Interests, etc

He was in China and crockery all his life.

First his own business in Troy, NY, and these [will] Boston Neso and James McDuffie Stratton for over thirty years.

John Welling saw them in New Hampshire during the war when John was at an airfield there)

Children: 2 daughters 1 son

1/Bertha b March 1880 married Walter J. Galbraith of Cambridge son of
Jane _____ Galbraith on July 18, 1924?
children 1 son

Walter _____ and

1) Roswell Niles born August 1913 married May 14, 1939

Helen Strictland - Syracuse NY

other comments? 3 children - Alex A_[Anne/Abell]October
15, 1940

Lackland Nov 31, 1941

Jeremy December 18, 1948

(He was a baby when I was in
college and used to see you a_ Tony

Ds at Bayside)

2/ Niles Rice born June 9, 1882 married _ an Josephine Brennen on November 1914

Lives in New York City, business Real Estate

Other comments: now retired

(I saw the Niles Beckers last years ago when Aunt Annie came east with ___ a B/Gaby _ she took me with her to _ Y City!)

3/ Blanche Louise born September 5, 1889 (All of your birthdays are in September!) married Ralph Nelson Doble on June 12, 1920

Lives at Brewster, MA

Other comments: 1 stepson - Frank Doble - Hingham, MA -
2 daughters 1 son

Children: 5 daughters

1. Nancy Doble Berbrick - Armonk, NY
1 son 1 daughter
2. Betsy Doble Ward - Wallingford, PA
1 daughter
1 son
3. Jane Doble Ker - Darien CT
1 daughter
4. Blanche Louise Doble Weston - Hingham, MA
3 sons 1 daughter
5. Sylvia Doble Stringer - Lake Bluff, IL
1 daughter

More of the Welling transcript will appear in future *WCCHS Newsletters*. For additional information about these papers, contact me at the Historical Society.

- Submitted by Barbara D. Anderson, BA, MA, MLS, Librarian, Heritage Research Library

New Historic Marker Dedicated in Fort Edward

On Saturday, October 13 at 1:00 p.m. the Glens Falls National Bank and Trust dedicated a new historic marker in the Fort Edward Yacht Basin. The marker details the significance of banking and the Wing family of Fort Edward. Paul McCarty gave a presentation at the event, and a brief reception followed the dedication. History literally in the WCHS backyard!



New Titles Available in our Bookshop

Have those last minute gifts to get? Someone who is hard to shop for? We have the answer...historical books make great gifts! Come visit the WCHS Bookshop, or visit our website to shop online (http://www.wchs-ny.org/buy_books.php). Here's a few new titles available:

NEW One Woman Farm (Jenna Woginrich)

"Jenna's lovingly written, candidly poignant memoir of a year in the life of her farm is full of honesty, triumphs, travails, and seasoned advice. I didn't want to put it down." Ashley English. 2013, hardcover, photos, 208 pgs. **\$16.95**

NEW Early Families of Washington County, NY: The Spencers of Granville, NY (Margaret Jenks)

Beginning page: Abner Spencer, Jeremia Sr. & Hannah (?) Spencer, Capt. Phineas & Elcy (Farnsworth) Spencer, Alexander & Deborah (Farnsworth) Spencer, Jeremiah 2nd & Thankful (Hinckley) Spencer, Alpheus & Hannah (?) Spencer of Westfields-Fort Ann, Eli & Chloe (Thompson) Dibble. Illus., hardcover 2014, 247 pgs. **\$40.00**

NEW Portraits of Poverty (Loretta Bates)

History and abstracts of the intimate Registration Certificates from the Washington County, NY Poorhouse 1875-1900. Over 1,600 people were admitted to the County Poor House from 1875 to 1900. Includes names, ages, when admitted and discharged, occupation, where born and comments. 2015, softcover. **\$25.00**

National Freedom Center in Cincinnati

WCHS president Debi Craig and her sister Dorothea Casey recently visited Cincinnati, Ohio to attend the 50th anniversary of the American Orff Schulwerk Association (promoting creative, child-centered music education). Debi served on the National Executive Board during her teaching career.

Since the National Freedom Center opened in 2004, Debi has wanted to visit the museum. She is the president and co-founder of the NorthStar Historical Project based in Greenwich, which promoted Underground Railroad history in Washington County. The conference hotel was only a ten-minute walk from the museum; with a 6:00 AM flight, there was plenty of time to visit the museum before the conference began. The museum has three floors. The top floor had a display about the slave trade now focusing mainly on the Far East and Africa. It was an eye-opening exhibit. The second floor had a more traditional exhibit on the history of slavery in America. Portions of the display focused on our region of New York State. Some of the important figures featured in the exhibit were Solomon Northup who lived in many places in Washington County including Fort Edward and Hebron. He was best known for writing his own story: *Twelve Years a Slave*. Also included was Susan B. Anthony who spent her childhood in Battenville in the Town of Greenwich. Other prominent historical figures in the exhibit who spent time in Washington County including William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth.



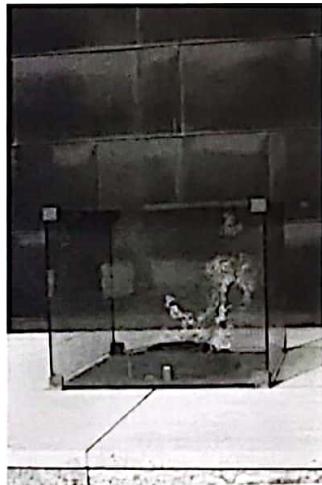
Slave Pen.



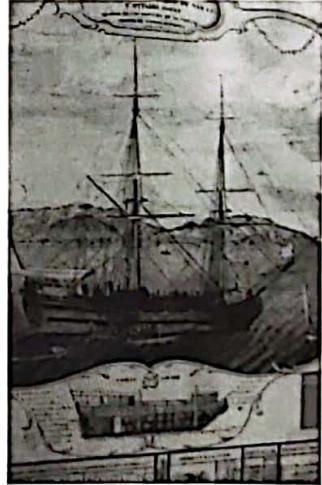
An example of the interesting exhibits on display at the museum.



Statues of Dutch traders.



Eternal flame in memory of the freedom seekers.



Slave ships.

It was an afternoon well spent. My only disappointment was that the gift shop/bookstore really didn't have any books about the Underground Railroad. I was hoping to find a book or two for my library. There is also a marvelous little restaurant called "A Taste of Belgium" directly across the street. Delicious crepes!

If you are ever in Cincinnati, I highly recommend spending a few hours learning about this time period in our history.

New “Landslide® 2018: Grounds for Democracy” Report Features Significant Threatened Landscapes Associated with Civil & Human Rights

The Cultural Landscape Foundation's annual Landslide® report includes sites associated with desegregation, women's suffrage, the labor movement, and others

Washington, D.C. (November 12, 2018) – The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) today released *Landslide 2018: Grounds for Democracy*, the foundation's fifteenth annual thematic report of threatened and at-risk landscapes and landscape features. The complete report is available on the dedicated *Landslide 2018: Grounds for Democracy* website. It features sites associated with civil and human rights, women's suffrage, the labor movement, and others. The threats to the sites include outright loss, inappropriate development, and lack of resources. TCLF's *Landslide* report, issued annually since 2003, is part of the foundation's *Landslide* program, which focuses national attention on significant cultural landscapes that are threatened and at-risk. The goal of *Landslide* is to draw immediate and lasting attention to these threatened and unique sites by making them visible, revealing their value, and promoting public engagement in the form of advocacy and stewardship.

Landslide 2018: Grounds for Democracy comes on the 50th anniversary of the tumultuous events of 1968, when the struggle over civil and human rights, the catharsis of the Vietnam War, and assassinations exposed deep fault lines in the American democracy. In 2018, fundamental questions about the nation's identity are again being debated, and *Landslide 2018: Grounds for Democracy* provides historic context for that conversation. TCLF is working with local individuals, groups, and organizations to increase each site's visibility and promote its long-term stewardship.

Here are the *Landslide 2018: Grounds for Democracy* followed by a statement by Charles A. Birnbaum, TCLF's President & CEO:

Susan B. Anthony Childhood Home, Battenville, New York. On a small and unassuming plot of land sits a house on the verge of collapse, a two-lane highway passing uncomfortably close to its front door. An easy-to-miss placard suspended from a post in the yard is the only indication that this derelict property is the **Susan B. Anthony Childhood Home**, where, between 1832 and 1839, the future champion of women's rights would first form her rebellious ideas about gender and racial equality. This significant piece of our nation's history is also the lynchpin of a potential historic district integral to Susan B. Anthony's story. Sadly, this site may soon be erased by long-term and continuing neglect. “Our shared and fragile landscape legacy has a powerful role to play in helping us understand where we come from, especially in the current debates, conversations, and analyses of our national identity,” said Charles A. Birnbaum, TCLF's President & CEO.

Landscape Architecture Magazine is the media partner for *Landslide 2018: Grounds for Democracy*.

About *Landscape Architecture Magazine*

Founded in 1910, *Landscape Architecture Magazine* (LAM) is the monthly magazine of the American Society of Landscape Architects. It is the magazine of record for the landscape architecture profession in North America, reaching more than 60,000 readers who plan and design projects valued at more than \$140 billion each year. LAM is available in both print and digital formats by subscription and may also be found each month in more than 700 bookstores across the United States and Canada.

About The Cultural Landscape Foundation

The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in 1998 to connect people to places. TCLF educates and engages the public to make our shared landscape heritage more visible, identify its value, and empower its stewards. Through its website, publishing, lectures and other events, TCLF broadens support and understanding for cultural landscapes.

- Excerpted from The Cultural Landscape Foundation thematic report of threatened and at-risk landscapes and landscape features.

WCHS Board of Directors Meeting News

The Board of Directors, representing the Washington County Historical Society, want to keep our members fully informed. To that end, we will include highlights and summaries from recent meetings in our newsletter.

Highlights from Monday, September 17, 2018 Meeting:

- Millie Mizerak gave her report on the attendance at the Caboose during the fair. Total attendance was 6,067.
- Debi reported that Judy Flagg and her husband recently traveled to Gettysburg to see the repairs done on Clio's nose (Clio is the statue featured on the 123rd NYS regiment monument there). She provided photos of the repairs for the fall WCHS *Newsletter*. Debi noted there will be a re-dedication of the monument planned in Gettysburg on September 4, 2019.
- A motion was made to approve the costs for the work done at the back of the house for the exterior lighting.

Highlights from Monday, October 15, 2018 Meeting:

- Steve Lapham reported a new American flag is now installed out front, and Hour Electric helped with new lighting for the flag pole.
- Barbara Anderson noted memorial books were added to the Research Library in memory of Daniel Boone and Virginia Parrott.
- Dale Grinnell mentioned there has been discussion about a future bench or something similar dedicated to Virginia Parrott at the new parking area and/or trail planned near Battle Hill.
- The Historic Preservation Committee will be accepting submissions for 2019 awards beginning this fall.

2018 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President	Debi Craig
Vice President	Vance Bateman
Treasurer	Dale Grinnell
Secretary	Kelly Mead

TRUSTEES — 2018

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D. Keith Truesdale

TRUSTEES — 2019

Nancy Jo Davidsen
Patrick Niles
James Parillo
Krista Rupe

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Justin Culligan
Nat Huntington
Millie Mizerak

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Building—Sally Brillon
Finance—Kay Tomasi
Nominations—John Mead

TRUSTEES EMERITI

Joan Handy

WCHS HISTORIAN

John A. Mead

Highlights from Monday, November 19, 2018 Meeting:

- It was reported the annual membership meeting was successful; despite the poor weather which forced our programs inside, there was a good turnout and it was a good day.
- We are grateful for the support for this year's Annual Appeal and we are making good progress.
- Sally Brillon reported the temporary fix for the front steps is done for the winter, and in the spring we will review options to make permanent repairs.
- Debi Craig reported she will be sending letters to participants for the 2019 History Fair in January.