

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society Newsletter

February 2016

Volume 6, Issue 1



Mashers

Possibly the very first way to mash a vegetable was with a rock. Some sources believe that the potato masher is the oldest kitchen utensil that people still use today. It is thought that wooden mashers date back to the Pharaohs. Over time, they were not only used to mash vegetables and crush seeds but also to stuff finely chopped meat into cloth bags, like sausage into a casing.

The wooden masher was perfect for mashing potatoes. Potatoes have been around for a long time and helped save people from famine. When the potato plant was introduced to the New World, people were suspicious. It grew underground. Was it some kind of aphrodisiac? Could it cause disease? People eventually realized that potatoes could help keep them in good health. An excellent way to eat them was to mash them.

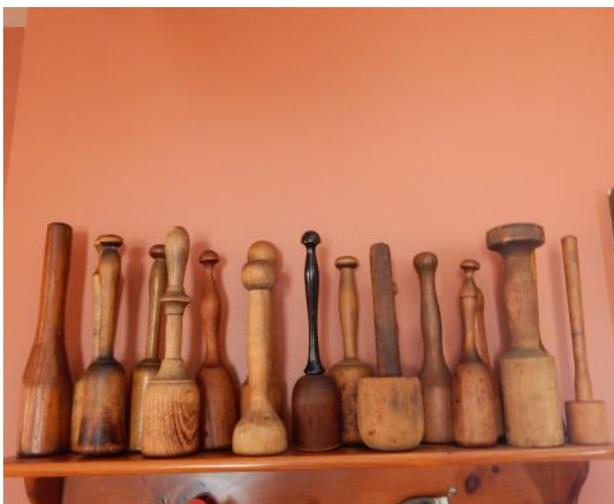


It is relatively easy to find an old wooden masher — some machine turned, some handmade. Old mashers are made from various woods. Their worn look, with cracks and rough spots, make them that much more interesting. Their patinas are beautiful. Some are wobbly from years of use, some have painted handles — no two are quite the same.

The mashers with the S-wound wire on the bottom have been in existence from the mid to late 1800s. These are very good for mashing. Today, some mashers have a flat metal plate with holes. While some people use electric mixers, this can over mash the potatoes. Sometimes the old way is best.

If you visit an antique shop or go to a show, look around and you'll probably see a masher or two.

Sandra Zeman



Upcoming Programs and Events

February

February 3, 6:30 p.m.

Annual Dutch Dinner

Pultneyville Reformed Church

March

March 2

Underground Railroad Quilts

Mari Tertinek

Gates Hall

April

April 6

History of American Legion in Williamson

Peter Evans

Post 394 Lake Ave, Williamson

May

May 4

Civil War Letters

Bruce Farrington

Gates Hall

May 12

Day of Caring

June

June 1

Mural Mania

Gene Bavis

TBD in Williamson



February Program



The Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society begins its year of programs with the annual Dutch Dinner on February 3, at the Pultneyville Reformed Church, Hamilton St., Pultneyville. Bring a dish to pass (Dutch or otherwise) and your table-service. Beverages will be provided for the dinner which begins at 6:30 PM. Following the dinner, there will be an interactive activity (you'll get a chance to use your cross-word puzzle skills) to learn about the area's Dutch history. As always, the public is invited to attend the dinner and free program.

Dottie Howland
Program Chair

W-PHS Board Meetings

The Board meets at the W-PHS House on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Date	Leader
February 22	Julie Sorrells

February was inserted into the Roman calendar in 713 BC. The length of the month changed over time. When Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar, the month was assigned 28 days during normal years and 29 days during leap years, which are every four years—like this year—2016.

Stu Hotchkiss

The Society expresses its condolences to Mrs. Anne Hotchkiss and the family of former PHS President Stu Hotchkiss, who recently passed away at the age of 86. While Stu served as President of the Society in 1971, his efforts on behalf of the Society extend far and wide.

In the Pultneyville Homecoming booklet of 2014 was an article excerpted from the writings of Alice Gallup entitled "The Beginning of the Pultneyville Historical Society." It talked about how in the spring of 1964 the formal organization was begun, stating, "In March (1964) we had a more formal meeting and started work on a constitution. Charles Dittmar was of great help in drawing this up, as well as later assisting in the revisions necessary to obtain our first State Charter, under the great efforts of Stuart Hotchkiss."

One major highlight of Stu's term as President was the presentation of the program "Fashions of Yesteryear," coordinated by Anne Hotchkiss and her committee. The show took place May 20, the Thursday of Apple Blossom week, in historic Gates Hall. This family affair found many in costume and this intergenerational event was talked about by many for years after.

Along with John Westerberg, Stu was co-author of *A History of the Union Church and Gates Hall-1826-1967*. A man of many talents, we thank and remember Stuart Hotchkiss for his many contributions to the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society.

Perry Howland

Donations—Thank You!

Thank you to:

Bette Jenkins for her generous donation to W-PHS.

Perry & Dottie Howland for their donation earmarked to assist with the cost of the project which will compile 1970 newspaper articles written by Chet Peters, published in *The Williamson Sun*, into a book.

Winter on the Grounds



As I write this article, we're having the first winter-like day of the new year. Single digit temperature, gray skies and a dusting of snow makes for a wintry scene. The seed catalog companies are in full swing, however, and new books of flower and vegetable selections are arriving daily. Now's the time to dream and plan about what new plants to try in the spring.

If you are someone who enjoys starting your own plants from seed or are looking forward to dividing some of your favorites this spring, keep the W-PHS properties in mind. We'll be meeting beginning in April on Monday mornings from 9-10 a.m.+, weather permitting. If you have some plants to share — ground covers, annuals, perennials or what have you, bring them down to the house, and we'll find a place to tuck them in to beautify the grounds.

If you're looking for a New Year's resolution or a volunteer opportunity, please consider joining the gardening group on Monday mornings. It's a "show up when you can" kind of a group and includes a different cast of characters each week. We bring our own favorite tools and stay for an hour or so. We never work when the weather is wet or miserable and spend the time chatting as we work—the time goes by quickly and the results are wonderful! We'll welcome you with open arms—make 2016 the year you join us!

If you are looking for a day to spend with an assortment of possibilities — painting, cleaning, sprucing up the W-PHS properties for the spring/summer/fall, mark your calendars for the Day of Caring on May 12. Come for an hour or for the day. We know it's a good time because it brings the same people back year after year.

Lynda Parmelee
Groundsmaster

Grants

W-PHS received grants for two projects that are planned for 2016.

The **Hoffman Foundation** awarded a grant for a project that will preserve a series of newspaper articles written by former Williamson Town Historian Chester Peters in the 1970s which were published in *The Williamson Sun*. The articles will be compiled into one comprehensive document, covering topics such as religion/churches, education/schools and architecture in Williamson. The document will be published in book format.

The **Wayne County Antique Dealers Association (WCADA)** presented W-PHS with a grant that will assist in assembling individual Homecoming booklet articles into a softcover book. There have been articles covering a variety of topics since the first booklet in 1957. An abundance of historical information has been recorded and having it available in one text will be advantageous to the community.

W-PHS is very appreciative to the Hoffman Foundation and the WCADA for these grants.

Assistance Needed for Grant Projects

A variety of skills and experiences are needed to assist with the two book projects that have been awarded grant money. No knowledge of local history is necessary.

Here is what is needed.....

- ⇒ Organizing and layout of material
- ⇒ Computer and keyboarding skills
- ⇒ Content review and editorial oversight
- ⇒ Cover design talent

Would you like to

- ⇒ Learn more about Williamson and Pultneyville
- ⇒ Be involved in a short term project
- ⇒ Gain experience in the world of publishing
- ⇒ Work on a project for a class or for community service
- ⇒ Do something different and meet new people

If you just want to find out more about the projects and are not ready to make a final

commitment, let us know. The time span for the project is to complete both books within the calendar year, so there's no long term commitment.

Thank You!

Sandy Zeman, Grants

If you are interested in working on a project, please email: szeman001@rochester.rr.com

Membership

So far, many members have renewed their 2016 dues for W-PHS. We have also received some upgrades to the level of membership. A BIG THANK YOU to all.

If you have not renewed your membership, we are urging you to do so soon. The criteria for renewing membership, i.e., due date and deadline has been updated. If your membership is not renewed by March 1, you will no longer receive the newsletter or any other benefits you may be entitled to depending on your level of membership.

One reminder via e-mail will go out in January and a final reminder in February. After March 1, once your dues have been renewed, your benefits will be reinstated.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. It is obvious how important it is to renew your membership to continue to maintain the level of care for the three properties W-PHS maintains and also to continue our events and programs.

Thank you again.

Carol Fritz, Membership Chairperson

New W-PHS Chairs

Welcome to **Dottie Howland** who is the new **Program Chair**. Dottie has already been busy scheduling speakers and planning topics for 2016. Thank you to Gay Grinnell for her work as Program Chair over the past years.

Welcome to the new **Cemetery Chair - Kathy Fedick**, who has agreed to take charge of the Cemetery Tour this coming October. Thank you to Irene Bierer for her many years as Cemetery Tour Chair.

BUSINESS Membership Form

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society

January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016

Please complete this 2016 BUSINESS Membership form and return it with your payment to our address below.

Date _____

Name _____

Phone (_____) _____

email _____

(Required to receive newsletters)

Mailing Address _____

City/Town _____

State _____ Zip _____

Business Membership Categories:

- Business Friend \$75.00/yr.
- Business Benefactor \$250.00/yr.

Additional Donation \$_____ for _____

Enclosed is my money order or check for \$_____ *(Dues and donations are tax deductible.)*

Please sign here:

_____ Date _____

Your Signature

Business Benefits of Membership

- **All Business categories:** 11 Newsletters per year, free programs and exhibits.
- **Business Friends:** Business card listing in 11 Newsletters per year.
- **Benefactors:** Business card listing in 11 Newsletters per year and one free use of Gates Hall per year as approved by W-PHS.

Mail this form and your payment to:

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society
 ATTN: Membership Chairperson
 PO Box 92
 Pultneyville, NY 14538

BASIC Membership Form

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society

January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016

Please complete this 2016 BASIC Membership form and return it with your payment to our address below.

Date _____

Name _____

Phone (_____) _____

email _____

(Required to receive newsletters)

email for additional household member:

Mailing Address _____

City/Town _____

State _____ Zip _____

Member Benefits

- 11 Newsletters per year
- Free programs and exhibits

Sustainer/ Benefactor Membership Additional Benefits

Sustainer—Two free Gatesinger performance tickets.

Benefactor—One free use of Gates Hall per year as approved by W-PHS.

New Membership Renewal

Number of people in your household: _____

Basic Membership Categories:

- Friend \$25.00/yr. Patron \$50.00/yr.
- Sustainer \$100.00/yr. Benefactor \$250.00/yr.

Enclosed is my money order or check for \$_____ *(Dues and donations are tax deductible.)*

Please sign here:

_____ Date _____

Your Signature

Mail this form and your payment to:

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society
 ATTN: Membership Chairperson
 PO Box 92
 Pultneyville, NY 14538

Please check areas of interest.

___ Homecoming / Garage Sale Other _____

___ Cemetery Tour _____

___ Museum / Archives Activities _____

___ Publicity / Fundraising Activities _____

___ Buildings / Grounds Upkeep _____

___ Program Planning / Museum Guide _____

___ Gift Shop _____

___ Membership _____

___ Officer / Committee Chair _____

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WILLIAMSON-PULTNEYVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 phone: 315.589.9892
 address: 4130 Mill Street, PO Box 92
 Pultneyville, NY 14538

W-PHS Officers, Committee Chairs and Key Personnel

Officers

President- TBD

Vice President-TBD

Treasurer

Julie Sorrells wsorrells@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Lynda Parmelee susser1@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary

Linda Perkins perkinsl@rochester.rr.com

Nominating Chair—TBD

Committee Chairs and Key Personnel

Membership Chairs—Carol & Gary Fritz

cafritz01@gmail.com, garfritz@rochester.rr.com

Program Chair

Dottie Howland peridot@rakedsouthgarden.com

Publicity Chair

Lorraine Lewis lv13163@aol.com

Finance/Audit Chair

Julie Sorrells wsorrells@yahoo.com

Property Chair

Sue-Jane Evans sjkevans@mail.com

• **Grounds**

Lynda Parmelee susser1@yahoo.com

• **Buildings**

David Higgs dhiggs3@rochester.rr.com

Town Historian

Perry Howland peridot@rakedsouthgarden.com

Collections Chair

Jackie Walker jw4cats@aol.com

Archives Project Leader

Jackie Walker jw4cats@aol.com

Office

Jackie Walker jw4cats@aol.com

Web Site Coordinator

Jackie Walker jw4cats@aol.com

Gift Shop Coordinator

TBD

Hospitality Chairs

Judie Verplank mburke28@gmail.com

Betty Morley bettymorley1@gmail.com

The mission of the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society is to nurture and share the history of the township of Williamson through preserving and protecting select historic structures, landmarks, objects and written materials that reflect the unique heritage of this community.

Formed in 1964 and chartered in 1971, the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society has as its mission to nurture and share the history of the Township of Williamson through preserving and protecting select historic structures, landmarks, objects and written materials that reflect the unique heritage of this community.



The Society is located in a landmark dwelling known as the *Auchampaugh* home at 4130 Mill St. This house was built for Harvey Auchampaugh about 1858 by Russell Cole, a local blacksmith and builder. Auchampaugh was a prominent businessman in the hamlet, a harness maker, drugstore proprietor and Postmaster for several years.

Rooms in the home contain exhibits, archived information, a gift shop and business office. The Society House is regularly open the third weekend in June through the second weekend in September, Friday through Sunday, 1-4 p.m., by appointment and throughout Homecoming weekend and during the Annual Community Garage Sale.

Committee Chairs and Key Personnel

Town Liaison

Perry Howland peridot@rakedsouthgarden.com

Vendor Coordinator—Homecoming/Garage Sale

Linda Perkins perkinsl@rochester.rr.com

Oral History Project Leader

Laraine Frohlich dfrohlic@rochester.rr.com

Newsletter Editor

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Newsletter Distribution

Carol Fritz cafritz@rochester.rr.com

House Supplies

David & Laraine Frohlich dfrohlic@rochester.rr.com

Grants

Sandra Zeman szeman001@rochester.rr.com

Cemetery Tour Chair

Kathy Fedick kathyfedick@gmail.com

TBD- Special Committees, Fundraising Chair, Homecoming Chair, Garage Sale Chair