# Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society Newsletter

March/April 2018

Volume 8, Issue 2





### Message from the President

As I write this message, I thought spring was on its way until I looked out the window and saw it snowing—<u>again</u>!! But we have good news to share. Sandy Zeman (our grant writer extraordinaire) has successfully had two grants approved, and she will tell you more about them in this newsletter.

But I wanted to talk about one of them, which is to create a kiosk to support the St. Peter exhibit. As most of you know, the Society cares for the artifacts retrieved from the St. Peter between 1971 and 1974, the ship having sunk in 1898 in 110 feet of water about a mile off Fairbanks Point near Hughes Marina.

A room at the Society is devoted to displaying select artifacts. The divers had made a VHS tape of their dives. We are having the VHS tape converted to a digital file to play on a computer. Now visitors will be able to not only view the artifacts, but in the same display room, view the ship as it rests in Lake Ontario.



Visitors will use a touch screen computer, which will be mounted on a display stand. We are in the process of setting this up and want to thank Jamie Sonneville (ItClix) for helping with the set up and files needed for a user-friendly display. This kiosk will provide visitors with an underwater experience as

they stand next to the retrieved artifacts.



Our February program *The Heart of the Bennetts*, a play to be performed in Gates Hall, is now rescheduled for May 2. We apologize for this inconvenience, but Old Man Winter did not cooperate on the original date. Below is the policy stating that when schools close because of weather, any program we have scheduled on that day will be cancelled automatically and rescheduled. Safety comes first in these circumstances.

Don't forget as you plan your schedules to include your volunteer work to support our festivals and events. It is appreciated!!

Contact me at jw4cats@aol or 315-576-5773 with your interest in volunteering for a specific event.

Best, Jackie

### W-PHS Policy for Event Cancellation

A program, event or meeting will be cancelled and rescheduled, if possible, when schools and/or after school activities (Williamson/Wayne County) are closed due to the weather.

Communication: The program/event will be cancelled by the Program Chair. The Program Chair will notify the President/Vice President and Advertising Chair. The Advertising Chair will disseminate the information on the website and social media. The Program Chair will notify presenters of the cancellation. The Program Chair will reschedule the program, if possible, and the Advertising Chair will disseminate the rescheduled time and date when it is available.

### **Upcoming Programs and Events**

#### March

March 7, 6:30 p.m., Pultneyville Reformed Church W-PHS Dutch Dinner

### April

April 4, 7:00 p.m., Former Williamson Grange, Main St. History of the Grange movement & Women's Suffrage movement.

#### April

April 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. April 8 and 15 at 3 p.m.

Gates Hall—The Gatesinger Company, Ltd. presents *Pippin*. Details on page 6.

### May

May 10—Day of Caring—Details in next newsletter.

### W-PHS March Program

The first of the 2018 W-PHS programs begins with the Society paying tribute to the area's Dutch heritage. The annual Dutch Dinner will be held March 7, 6:30 p.m., at the Pultneyville Reformed Church. Bring a dish to pass (Dutch or otherwise) and your own table service. Beverages will be provided. After enjoying delicious food and "sparkling" conversation, there will be a fun time of Dutch charades. All W-PHS programs are free and open to the public.

### W-PHS April Program

In April, we will move to Williamson. The April 4 program will take place at the former Williamson Grange, just east of the Candy Kitchen at 7 p.m. Those in attendance will hear a brief history of the Williamson Grange prior to Carol Bailey, Lyons Town Historian and NYS Grange Historian, giving a presentation on the relationship of the Grange movement and the Women's Suffrage movement. Following that, there will be a tour of the building and refreshments. All W-PHS programs are free and open to the public.

### **2018 W-PHS Programs**

March 7 6:30 p.m. at the Pultneyville Reformed Church

Dutch Dinner. Bring a dish to pass (Dutch or other) and table service.

Dutch activity to follow.

April 4 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall, West Main St. (next to Candy Kitchen)

Brief history of Williamson Grange and the Grange Movement and Women's Suffrage,

presented by Carol Bailey.

May 2 7 p.m. at Gates Hall, Pultneyville

The Heart of the Bennetts—an original drama of the Bennett family.

June 6 7 p.m. at the Williamson Hardware, Main Street, Williamson

History of the Williamson Hardware, presented by Jim Hartsen.

August 1 6:30 p.m. at the Pultneyville Reformed Church pavilion

Annual picnic—bring a dish to pass and table service.

November 7 6:30 p.m. at the Pultneyville Reformed Church

Harvest Dinner and Annual Meeting. Bring a dish to pass and table service.

December 5 7 p.m. at Gates Hall, Pultneyville

Christmas Potpourri II. An evening of community members presenting stories, musical

selections and memories. Gifts collected for the Come-Unity Center.

All programs are free and open to the public. Dottie Howland, Program Chair

#### PULTNEYVILLE HOMECOMING NOTES

by Nan Hance, Chair 2018 Homecoming

It's Homecoming time of year again! Planning is well underway for our community's 61st annual Homecoming, which will be July 20, 21 and 22.

While still a work in progress, in addition to traditional Homecoming activities, please note several major changes and highlights for 2018:

- 1. This year the Captains and Sailors 5K will kickoff Homecoming events on **Friday**, **July 20th in the early evening** from B. Forman Park. The race will be immediately followed by a Community "Bond" Fire hosted by the Pultneyville Mariner's Club on the beach, which will be free and open to all racers and the community residents. All are invited and encouraged to attend this fun event which is meant to provide a memorable community bonding experience. Proceeds from the 5K will benefit the Gates Hall Handicap Access Project.
- 2. The time of the annual Homecoming Parade on Saturday, July 21st will be moved from the morning to 2 p.m.
- 3. While the annual antique show will remain in Centennial Park, this area will become an open air marketplace, which will also include vendors with handcrafted goods, jewelry and regionally produced items, including food and beverage purveyors . . . and more, offering visitors a unique shopping experience.
- 4. A Homecoming Quilt Show will be added to the lineup of attractions on Homecoming Saturday. This event will take place in the Pultneyville Reformed Church.
- 5. New to this year's lineup of events will be an educational and entertaining historical "Scavenger Hunt," which is designed to be a family oriented activity that will start and finish at the W-PHS house.
- 6. Musical performances and open mic opportunities will be offered throughout the day for the listening and entertainment pleasure of visitors. Individuals and groups wishing to perform can sign-up in advance at the Pultneyville Deli.

While this is only March, these are some of the highlights for Homecoming 2018.

As always, volunteers are welcome and needed to help with this community event. To volunteer, please call W-PHS at 315.589.9892, and leave your name and number so that we can contact you.

Please check <u>www.w-phs.org</u> for details, including a full schedule of events which will be listed as they become confirmed.

While sponsored by W-PHS, Homecoming is community event, and we look forward to your participation. Individuals, neighborhood groups, businesses and organizations are encouraged to enter units and floats in the parade. Organizations are also encouraged to participate and sponsor activities throughout the weekend. To do so, please call 315.589.9892 to coordinate and ensure that approved activities are included in the Homecoming program.

All are welcome to attend the March Homecoming meeting on **Saturday**, **March 3rd at 9:30 a.m.**, at the Up-Pub, which is located on the upper level of the Pultneyville Deli.

As Vice President and Chair of Homecoming, I applaud the contagious enthusiasm and interest that these changes are generating and look forward to a memorable event.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Welcome to our new members Anita Henry and Houseworx, LLC.

Coming to your inbox soon – information on our 2018 "Over 60" Membership Drive. We will be sending membership brochures to you to hand out to one person you know. Our goal is to sign up over 60 new members! It can only be done with your help. Please help us achieve this goal!

Jim & Kathy McCaig Membership Co-Chairs



## **Gardeners Catch Up**

A caffeine powered gab fest ensued at the Pultneyville Deli on Monday, February 12. We covered everything from soup to nuts and even found time to address some gardening topics! We will keep our current gardening time of Monday mornings from 9-10 a.m., as this time has become a habit and therefore easy to remember. As always, we never work in bad weather (defined as anything falling from the sky except sunbeams and temperatures 40+) and welcome anyone who shows up, be it one time, sometimes or every time.

We will be sticking with the low mounding zinnias that performed so well last summer and adding in some shade tolerant color, probably impatiens. Our first meeting on the grounds will be either April 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> depending on the weather. Those dates will be devoted to picking up sticks/branches and walnuts or other litter that will be in the way when mowing starts.

As always, we'll be trying to keep the grounds of the three properties: the W-PHS house, Gates Hall and Centennial Park, looking nice for visitors to the hamlet and also for those who enjoy the properties every day.

If you'd like to help, join us any Monday for all or part of the hour, and we'll find something for you to do that will keep our corner of Pultneyville looking great. Everyone is welcome!!

Lynda Parmelee, Chief Chestnut Chucker

### Grants

W-PHS has been fortunate to be awarded two grants for 2018.

The **Hoffman Foundation** awarded a \$700 grant that will enable the Society to provide the public with a digital presentation of the underwater dives where the St. Peter shipwreck rests. The new format will be user-friendly and available to W-PHS House visitors.

A \$750 grant to restore the formal portrait of Samuel Cuyler (1808-1872) was awarded by the **Wayne County Antique Dealers Association** (WCADA). Mr. Cuyler, a historically significant resident of Pultneyville, was involved with the Underground Railroad and had an active and public role with abolition. He was elected to the New York State Senate in 1855 and also served as a US Customs Inspector in Pultneyville. Once repaired, Mr. Cuyler's portrait will be on display in the front room of the W-PHS house.

The Society is most appreciative for the support provided by the Hoffman Foundation and the Wayne County Antique Dealers Association.

Sandy Zeman Grants

# **Spring Cleaning**

In the 1800s, spring cleaning was necessary to clean up the grimy mess left after a long winter of kerosene lamps, as well as wood and coal heat, which left a trail of soot. In the spring, the windows could be left open to air out the house.

The chores were many and difficult in days gone by. Rugs were taken out to be "beaten" and heavy draperies changed to lighter material. Wallpaper was washed. Heavy winter clothing could finally be washed and hung out to dry.

In the sunlight of spring, the dirt is evident, and one may feel more energized to brighten up surroundings. So, while spring cleaning may not be quite the same today, the ritual continues.

# From the Archives

# Growing up in Williamson - Reminiscences of Ralph Decker Bennett (1900-1994) "The Trolley"

The Rochester and Sodus Bay trolley and I arrived the same summer – 1900. They pastured old Molly out on the best grass they could find in the hope of being able to keep me alive, since I was born with a poor digestion, which fortunately I soon outgrew. And at the same time the street past our house was dug up with a trench for the ballast under the car tracks. Both the trolley and I grew rapidly and lustily. This turned out to be the beginning of a short but golden age for electric railways. The trolley was torn up in 1930, having been completely outmoded by the personal automobile in three decades.

The R & SB was a forty-mile long single track affair with frequent sidings and passings. Initially, there was no signal system, and though they ran a car each way every hour from six in the morning till ten-thirty or so in the evening, there was never a head-on collision. Rochester – "the city" – was our shopping metropolis at one end of the line, and Sodus Bay – a summer resort – at the other. During the winter, few cars went all the way to the Point though there was always some service.

One of the incidents which I remember with relish was when Mother missed the car. She had four boys to care for, she helped bottle the milk, and had numerous other chores to take care of, so "going to the city" was a considerable undertaking. This morning she wasn't quite on time and the car went by just as she was starting for the car stop. Dad had the buggy hitched up ready to go on an errand, so he told Mother to climb in, which she did, and they took off at full gallop after the car. The car stopped at the station in the center of town, and the commotion caused by the "horse race" attracted enough attention so they waited for her, and she "made" the car.

The cars looked pretty big to a small boy – at least in comparison with a horse and buggy which was the other means of transport to the city or the Point (Sodus Point, on Sodus Bay). They had enclosed vestibules for the motorman in front and for the conductor behind, and these were interchangeable, and the seats were reversible. I expect they seated about 30 people, with one third of the car partitioned off for the smoker. This had imitation leather upholstery, while the seats in the rest of the car were provided with fabric upholstery. The lights were in series of five for use with the 550 volts supplied from the trolley. There were air brakes as well as hand brakes for an emergency. They'd go along at a good clip, but since there was a stop every half mile or so it took an hour and forty minutes to do the twenty-five miles to Rochester.

The back platform where the conductor stood was open on the right side except in cold weather. This was where I usually rode with Father or Mother holding my head over the edge of the platform, for I was invariably car sick. The road bed was none too good and there was a great deal of starting and stopping. Trolleys have a peculiarly nauseating smell too, from the hot breaks in stopping, or burning grease or carbon from the commutators on starting – or both, and this with the motion always got me.

The R & SB carried freight too, there being one car devoted to this business. It would leave the city around noon and get to the Point by the end of the day, and go back the next morning. It was strictly a way freight (giving way to the other cars?) and leisurely in its progress. Once in a while, it would have a box car in tow, and this unusual sight always caused much running to the windows to watch.

Along about 1915, the growing safety consciousness led to the installation of block signals on the trolley line. These must have cost a great deal of money and no doubt hastened the demise of the trolley. The system also must have been complicated to deal with cars in two directions on a single track plus numerous sidings. We soon discovered that the signal could be worked in a number of ways, but were too timid to stretch a piece of wire between the rails and leave it – thus halting all traffic.

Submitted by Kathy McCaig



# Gatesingers Present *Pippin* on the Historic Gates Hall Stage

The popular Broadway musical, now touring with added circus elements including flying trapeze and tumbling, is the spring offering by the Gatesinger Company, Ltd. Although there will be no flying, the Troupe of Mysterious Players, under the tutelage of Leading Player (Tina Crandall-Gommel), will present performances filled with magic, merriment and holy war.

The cast and crew includes six members of the original 1980 cast, which was directed by David E. Cooper -- director Karen Skerrett Nail, choreographer Nan Hanna-Paquin (formerly Berthe), Mike Mulberry (formerly Charlemagne), Sue Mulberry (formerly Catherine), Dan Montondo, and lead guitarist Paul Henry. "It has been a pleasure to take the magical memories of my first experience with this wonderful show and make new magic nearly forty years later," said Karen.

The choreography is a combination of Nan's original, with some added movement from the new version of the Broadway show. "Those dance moves are so incredible, that I wanted to incorporate them as an homage to Bob Fosse," said Nan. "The cast members – young and less young – have risen to the occasion with great skill and dedication."

Pippin will be presented at Gates Hall, 4107 Lake Road, Pultneyville, NY, on April 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. and on April 8 and 15 at 3 p.m.

Tickets (\$14.00 adults and \$12.00 for students and senior citizens) can be purchased online at www.gateshall.com or reserved by calling 315-589-3326.

### Mark your calendars...

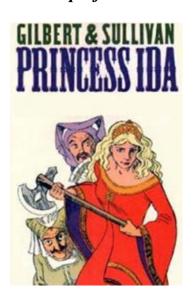


The Heart of the Bennetts

May 2, 7 p.m. Gates Hall

An original play—written and performed by members of W-PHS

Coming this summer.....
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will perform...



Gilbert & Sullivan's Princess Ida, or Castle Adamant

**Gates Hall** 

July 20 and 21, 2018, at 8 pm July 22, 2018, at 3 pm

# WILLIAMSON-PULTNEYVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

on the web: www.w-phs.org

phone: 315.589.9892

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

### W-PHS Officers, Committee Chairs and Key Personnel

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The mission of the Williamson-Pulmeyville 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.

Rormed 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.

### W-PHS Board Meetings

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

#### **Committee Chairs and Key Personnel**

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Kathy Fedick kathyfedick@gmail.com

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Nan Hance nhance@artisansloft.net

### Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society

Nurturing, sharing, preserving and protecting the history of the Township of Williamson

### **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

Please complete this membership form and return it with your dues to the address listed below.

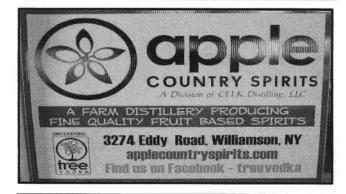
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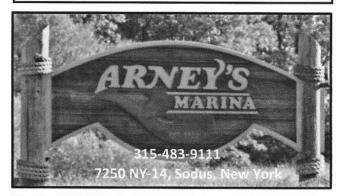
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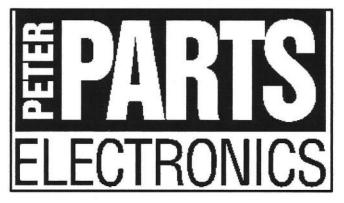


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