

Good Morning Members and Friends ... on behalf of W-PHS, I hope this email finds you well and making the best of our new normal.

In accordance with Governor Cuomo's unprecedented "State on Pause" Guidelines for all New Yorkers, together, we continue efforts to slow and stop the spread of COVID-19. To that end, please note the following W-PHS cancellations to date:

- 1.) March 30th W-PHS Board Meeting
- 2.) April 1st W-PHS Program
- 3.) April 14th Homecoming Committee Meeting
- 4.) May 29th 5th Grade Lakeview Cemetery Tour
- 5.) June 11th 4th Grade Pultneyville Walking Tour

Our biggest disappointment to date is having to cancel the 4th and 5th grade tours planned for this school year! However, in consultation with the school district and given the uncertainty which surrounds the remainder of the school year, it was decided to postpone these plans until the 2020-2021 school year. Thank You to our volunteers for your leadership and commitment to this event. We look forward to your participation next year when we can resume these student-centered learning experiences.

As we look for comfort and inspiration in these unsettling times, we are constantly reminded about how people are coming together to help each other. We are also reminded that our shared history offers opportunities for reflection about earlier times when it was necessary for people to unite in turbulent times.

The Spanish Flu of 1918 was one of those tough times. The inspiration we draw from that story is that, yes, 102 years later, we are again coming together to do what's best to ensure the well-being of others, our community and country.

Today, as community volunteers throughout the area sew much-needed masks to protect our healthcare workers, I recall documented stories of Civil War days when the women of Pultneyville gathered at Union Church (now known as Historic Gates Hall), to fill boxes and barrels for our brave soldiers. Filled with everything they thought soldiers needed, such as white cotton shirts, drawers, stockings, carpet slippers, soft linen and cotton cloth, rolls and rolls of bandages, dried fruit, honey and many other things. This too was an effort to address turbulent times. When money or food for Thanksgiving dinner was needed, this too was gathered and sent on by the women of Pultneyville. So, it seems that while this crisis may be different and more confining, our rich history tells us that it is not our first crisis.

While often daunting, this period of isolation is affording us an opportunity to catch up on things we may not have taken time to do in a long time. At a time when other connections are so limited, it is also giving us time to use technology to explore history and historic places, as many organizations such as www.savingplaces.org are providing digital experiences to visit historic places which are now temporarily closed to the public until further notice due to COVID-19.

If you are looking for both diversion and inspiration, make a virtual visit to [Villa Lewaro](#), the estate of Madam C.J. Walker overlooking the Hudson River in Irvington, New York, and listen to this story of dreams. You may even be inspired to visit some of these historic places when this current health and economic crisis abates.

In these times of challenge, please stay connected and engaged.

Stay Home ... Save Lives ... Quaranteam.

With Warmest Regards,
Nan
Nanette P. Hance, President
Williamson-Pultneyville
Historical Society

