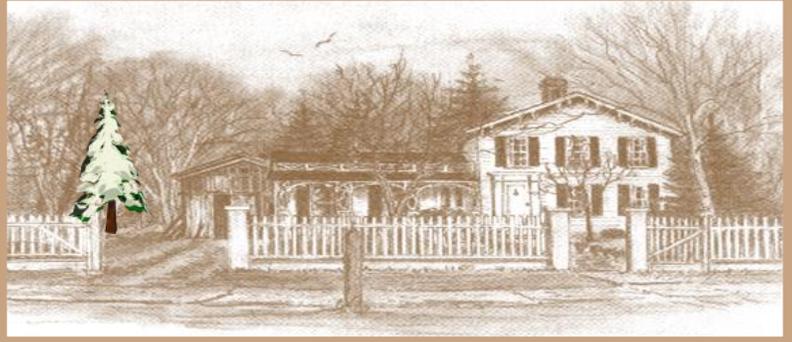


Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society Newsletter

November/December 2020 Volume 10, Issue 6



From Your President

As we celebrate the Season of Thanksgiving, I hope this newsletter finds you and yours well and immersed in the splendor of autumnal colors. The vibrant trees and amber waves of grain, which surround us this time of the year, remind us that in spite of our challenges, we have much to be thankful for and many blessings to count.



This calendar year seems to have been very long, yet it seems impossible that this newsletter is our final one for 2020! The year itself has been filled with challenges, and historic losses. We never dreamed of one day finding ourselves in a worldwide pandemic which would quickly point out that we would need to alter our ways and do things differently. We never before had thought about how we would hold meetings, programs, annual events or fundraising activities in the absence of being able to gather together in a common place, or the need to develop a Reopening Safety Plan that would protect the health and well being of our members, visitors, volunteers and community at large.

Sadly, these things quickly became realities amidst COVID-19. To the credit of our Board and volunteers, we were able to navigate these uncharted waters in a somewhat realistic way - not perfect, but reasonably so. Together, we found solutions which enabled us to keep W-PHS moving forward amidst an endless pause, and to safely remain connected to the degree possible.

W-PHS engaged in Zoom meetings and con calls to conduct business. We reopened the W-PHS house to visitors at the beginning of August and safely welcomed new visitors every single weekend through Columbus Day with their utmost

cooperation and respect for our safety requirements. We stayed connected with our members and the public through newsletters, e-blasts, our website and social media. We grew our number of Facebook followers from 350 to 988, as people had more time to become engaged this year in local history which continues to confirm that social media plays a critical role in our outreach.

All of us missed not having Homecoming, our annual Community Garage and Pie Sale, the 4th Grade Walking Tour, the Home Tour, our regular monthly programs and our annual Harvest Dinner ... all events that bring people together in support of our mission. We were, however, very fortunate to safely present the Moonlight Cemetery Tour in smaller groups this year. Despite being a cold, rainy night, it was a sold out event and attendees were grateful for the opportunity to attend a "socially distanced" outdoor event.

The pandemic unearthed some shortcomings of W-PHS that are being addressed to ensure that we are better prepared to conduct business in non-traditional ways when faced with circumstances that prevent personal contact. Change is difficult, but we recognize that our future success will depend on our ability to be flexible and to do things digitally. As an example, under the leadership of Florence Doyle, W-PHS Vice President and Interim Chair of Collections Management, we have used this pause to benchmark other societies and organizations, and we continue to explore ways to better manage and share W-PHS collections and archives and how we might make better use of technology to deliver programs and exhibits virtually.

The Gatesingers, our artists in residence at Gates Hall, also recognize the need to do things differently. As performing artists, they are even

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more constrained by COVID guidelines than W-PHS. To that end, they are also exploring and implementing new ways to present performances. Please visit their website at gateshall.com for opportunities to be entertained by them and to support their organization.

Please know that while our fundraising activities may have been paused this year, our need for resources continues to be paramount as we must continue to maintain W-PHS properties. It is our hope as 2020 comes to a close, that many will thoughtfully consider W-PHS in year-end plans for giving. As an all volunteer not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, we rely on income generated by memberships, fundraising, and the generosity of those who believe in the importance of preserving local history and landmarks for future generations.

Lastly, we will hold our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 4th at 7p.m. in Gates Hall for the purpose of electing officers. Please note that to protect community and public health, masks are required and social distancing will be observed. Every effort will be made for the meeting to be as short as possible. Regrettably, the Harvest Dinner will not be part of this meeting this year and there will not be a program during the meeting as usually enjoyed.

While our ability to operate as usual in the immediate future remains uncertain given ever-changing guidelines, we know that together we can meet the challenges that come our way. On behalf of W-PHS, we *Thank You* for your support and send warm thoughts from our home to yours, wishing everyone all the Blessings of a Bountiful Thanksgiving and Joyous Holiday Season filled with hope, good health and love.

In grateful appreciation . . .

Nan

*Nanette Peters Hance, President
Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society*



Slate of Officers for W-PHS Board 2020

The election of W-PHS Board members for the following two-year terms will be held at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 7 p.m., Gates Hall, Pultneyville: Vice President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary.

The Nominating Chair slate includes:

Vice President - Florence Doyle

Treasurer - Debra Parts

Recording Secretary - Terry Sutherland

The Slate of Candidates for election to the W-PHS Board includes:

Florence Doyle - for re-election as Vice-President. Florence has served a busy one-year term, during which she has assumed responsibility for Gates Hall Fundraising (temporarily on hold due to COVID) and Review and Revision of Collections Management. Florence has brought her management skills to this process and moved it forward. She is now nominated for a Two-year Term.

Debra Parts - for re-election as Treasurer. Deb heads up the Finance Committee of W-PHS where she demonstrates significant skill managing finances for the organization, which includes anticipating and planning for future needs. She is nominated for a Two-year Term.

Terry Sutherland - for election as Recording Secretary. Terry will be a new member of the W-PHS Board. She brings professional skills as a managerial assistant and has expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to become involved in the Board functions of the Historical Society.

*Submitted by Cheryl Kline
Nominating Chairperson*

Upcoming Programs and Events

STAY CURRENT!

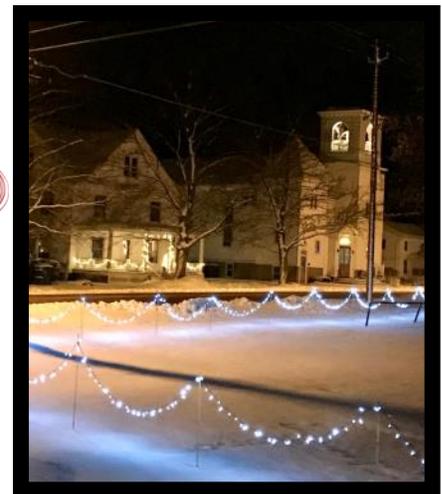
For updates throughout these continuing uncertain times regarding W-PHS, please access the **Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society Facebook page** and our **website** at www.w-phs.org.



W-PHS Programs

The W-PHS December program, Christmas Potpourri IV, will be canceled due to the pandemic. Please support the Illumination Event, an outdoor program, to be held on December 6 at 4 p.m. in the pavilion of the Pultneyville Reformed Church.

Dottie Howland, Program Chair



Pultneyville Illumination 2020

Dear Pultneyville Illumination Family and Friends,

We are looking forward to our 11th annual holiday tradition on Sunday, December 6, 2020. **Save the date!!**

However, due to COVID-19, we will be forced to create a socially distanced and safe event for all. Terry Sutherland and Anne Ressler are the new coordinators, and they would welcome additional team members, volunteers and ideas to keep this event alive, even under these unusual circumstances. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact us at: Tsutherl@rochester.rr.com or Apressler1@gmail.com by **Sunday, November 8.**

Thank you all in advance for your volunteerism. This event traditionally takes a hamlet to coordinate, and this year is even more challenging. The one thing we know for certain is that we really want to illuminate the hamlet and the surrounding areas like never before. We all need this! We are considering decorating contests for both your cars and homes. Look for additional details on the Illumination Facebook Page.

We will have our next update by Sunday, November 22, 2020.
Thank you!

Williamson's Role in Advancing Woman Suffrage in this Centennial Year

While our nation celebrates the centennial anniversary of the signing into law of the 19th amendment to the US Constitution in 1920, which allowed most women in the United States the right to vote, women in New York had a jump-start on voting. That's because of the woman suffrage referendum that was approved and adopted by voters in New York on November 6, 1917, granting women full suffrage, after having been rejected in 1913 and 1915. By doing so, New York became just the 14th state to grant women the right to vote since 1869. After 69 years of suffrage activity, New York women won full suffrage.

Williamson's role in advancing suffrage was absent, based on an anonymous survey taken probably before 1902 where the respondent stated, Williamson "was not active at the present time," to a question regarding a "club in your town devoted solely to suffrage work?" Other responses, to questions regarding groups in town endorsing woman suffrage, printing suffrage news and suffrage activities, were positive, but "lack of leaders" was noted as a condition "unfavorable to suffrage." Another favorable condition listed was, "a great deal of sentiment in favor of suffrage," but to the question, "how much money will your town raise for the campaign work about to begin?," the answer was "problematical."

In 1902, the Williamson Political Equality Club was founded, as were clubs in Lyons (1902), Sodus (1902), Newark (1902) and Clyde (?). The Wayne County Political Equality Club, based in Lyons, also came into being in 1902. The year 1902 was a banner year for the founding of these groups, with nearby Pittsford just one of many to come into fruition. State, national and international groups and organizations were also active in advocating for full suffrage for women, with all groups forming a diverse social and political movement. It is the opinion of authors Susan Goodier and Karen Pastorello in their book, *Women Will Vote*, that "if women failed to gain the vote in New York, there is good reason to believe that the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment would have been delayed."

About the Williamson Political Equality Club (PEC), almost nothing is known. Authors Goodier and Pastorello make note of its formation, but nothing else. Unlike Geneva, the largest political equality club in New York, of which much is known, to the best of this writer's knowledge, no written formal or informal records exist. It was listed as an active club in the program of the Ninth Annual Convention of the Wayne County Woman's Suffrage Association held in Alton in 1910 and the Tenth Annual Convention of the same group when it met in the Williamson Methodist Episcopal Church in 1911. In fact, Mrs. Edward A. DeZutter of Williamson was President of both the local and county group when it met in Williamson, while Mrs. D. W. Gieble of Williamson served as Corresponding Secretary.

Following passage and adoption of the 1917 woman suffrage referendum, Wayne County held a Special Enrollment of Women for the Primary Election on September 3, 1918. Thanks to Wayne County Historian Peter Evans, all municipal historians in the County have access to the names of women who were enrolled in their municipality. Williamson had three districts, No. 1(123), No. 2 (50) and No. 3 (99), with a total of 272 women enrolled. Two names had 'void' for political party, 4 were enrolled Democrats, 16 listed Prohibition for their party, while the remaining 250 were Republicans. Surely some of these women were involved in the local PEC, but while listed as 'Mrs.' in the two County Suffrage Convention programs, they are listed by the given name in the special enrollment booklet. Several DeZutter and Gieble's are listed, but are they in fact the two County officers?

Here's an appeal to readers of this piece - do you know of, or about, any local women in your family or extended family that were involved in suffrage groups and activities in Williamson in the 19th and 20th century? I would love to hear from you.

Thank you. Perry Howland, Williamson Town Historian - townhistorian@towilliamson.com

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society “Meet the Spirits” Pultneyville Lakeview Cemetery Tours - Friday October 2, 2020

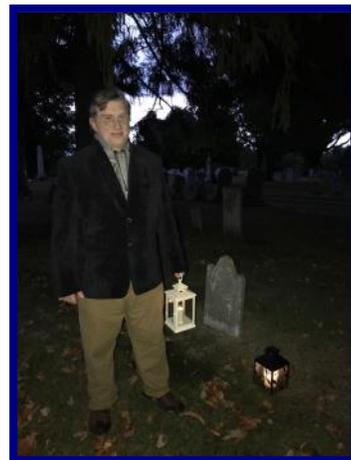
There is nothing more enjoyable than a beautiful Fall Cemetery walk through our Lakeview Cemetery with the background view of Lake Ontario and the surrounding farmlands. This year’s tours were well attended on Friday night with some interesting weather.



Our Spirit guide Sue-Jane Evans escorted us to each gravesite while giving each tour the Pultneyville history of the area. Our first stop was at the gravesite of Samuel Ledyard. **Samuel Ledyard 1782-1866 presented by John Irwin-** Samuel Ledyard was one of the first original settlers of the Hamlet of Pultneyville and a leading citizen. He had association with the Lodge. He was an officer on the first Union Church Board of Trustees (now Gates Hall). To summarize him best by his presenter - Great friend and citizen, beloved husband, and father, horrible businessman and land speculator. Next, our Spirit guide found her way over to the Whipple plot where we found Mr. Russell Whipple finding shelter under a large pine tree from the torrential rain.

Russel Whipple presented by Jeremy Cummings - Russell Whipple moved to Pultneyville in 1809 along with Samuel Ledyard, Andrew and Ansel Cornwall. In 1810, he built a larger tavern that was part of the Pultneyville

Hotel that burned in 1887 when owned by Russell Smith. During 1821-1822, he was the Williamson Town Supervisor, then again from 1824-1834, when Marion split away from Williamson. In 1823, he became the first Wayne County Coroner. He outlived his wife and daughters and moved to Michigan. His wife Laura is buried next to their daughters at the Lakeview burial plot. He owned the schooner named “The Laura” after his wife. This was sailed by Captain Throop. From the Whipple plot we ran into the spirit of Mr. Matthew Martin.



Matthew Martin presented by Peter Evans - In 1806, at the age of 52, Matthew started his journey from Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, with his wife Margaret and two daughters, Elizabeth and Sally, to the shores of Lake Ontario. They were moved by the stories of Captain Williamson; they were going to buy their land from him. With their three cows and six sheep behind his wagon of seed corn and wheat, the Martins arrived on his 100-acre tract on the shore of Lake Ontario. Mrs. Martin did not like their new house and wanted to return to Canandaigua where her sister had settled.



During his second-year, neighbors helped him build his stylish log house. Matthew Martin found the two sons of Mary Bennett Cornwell - Andrew and William - at Captain Throop’s tavern, a half mile from the Martin farm. They were both stricken with fever, which might have been typhoid or a settler’s fever. Because they were fellow-countryman and brother pioneers, and no one to help them, Matthew took them home with him. His wife and his two daughters took care of the two brothers. The younger brother William grew worse and they could not save his life.

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(Cemetery Tour—Continued from page 5)

He died far away from his mother and his Connecticut home. There was no cemetery in the settlement. So, Matthew Martin gave a half acre of woodland on a little hill overlooking the lake for a cemetery. This is now Lakeview Cemetery, which is right behind the Martin plot facing west. His older brother, Andrew, had fallen in love with Matthew's daughter Elizabeth. A month after William died, Andrew and Elizabeth were married, November 18, 1810.

Andrew built a home for his bride Elizabeth in the little village. Andrew had no plans to be a farmer, like most of the pioneers, instead he wanted to be a cabinetmaker. Unfortunately, there soon was the threat of war. The lake coast was an unprotected frontier. Niagara, Irondequoit, Oswego, Sodus and Pultneyville were government stores which the British would like to seize. As measures of preparedness, the citizens of Pultneyville removed from the warehouse of Samuel Ledyard 300 barrels of good flour belonging to the government and hid it in the woods. One hundred barrels of moldy flour was left in the warehouse.

Matthew Martin was now 60 years old, but he enlisted with the rest, determined to face the enemy. At Andrew's urgent call, "The British are here!" Run to the woods!" Andrew with his two neighbors, Russell Whipple and Samuel Ledyard, stood on the beach to receive the officers in the boat and waved a handkerchief in acknowledgement of the white flag.

Matthew Martin had bought his 100-acre tract from Land Agent Hallett on a contract. As early as 1811, Martin was forced to borrow money, giving as security the contract for his 100-acre tract. He could not keep up the payments on his farm, nor could he make enough money for current expenses. His son-in-law, Andrew, came to his aid. From Matthew Martin's gravesite, we found our way to the back left of the cemetery overlooking the lake to find Carlton and Julia Moore for a visit.



Siblings - Carlton, 1889-1986, and Julia Moore, 1891-1987, presented by Perry and Dottie Howland - As the group of visitors approached the brother and sister sitting in their rocking chairs reading, Julia asked, "Do you remember in 1918 when people wore masks?" Julia then asked Carlton, "Do you think we need to put one on?" He quickly responded, "I think it's too late for us!"

The Moores were born in the Tuff house on Washington Street. Julia was named after her great aunt Julia Moore Hackley. Then they moved across the street to the Gloyd House, also known as the Mann House, where they lived for 10 years. Then they moved to a house on

Jay Street that was bought by their grandfather Jason Moore.

The Moore family lived in the hamlet for nearly 100 years. Carlton and Julia helped their family on the farm taking care of 23 acres of apple orchards. Their parents had done some major updates to the house. They took out the back to back fireplace in the dining and living room, put in hardwood floors and steam heat. After their parents died, they continued to take care of the farm, house and gardens. They sold off some of the acres and had 10 acres to care for. The Moores were the only ones for a long time who had a privy, or outhouse, in Pultneyville.

Carlton was a member of the fire company. They both read and enjoyed music. They loved music because of their father Shalon and Uncle Clayton, who were members of the Russ Smith Band that practiced in the building that is now the Pultneyville Deli. Julia would sing while playing the piano. Carlton loved the lake and would spend hours by the water. There is a bench dedicated to him by the Sailor's Monument. From the Moore gravesite we walked down the road to the Civil War Monument.

**Civil War Monument presented by Larry Neal
Taps was performed by Jonah and Kevin Sharp**

Lakeview Cemetery Pultneyville New York – Civil War Monument

This is the site of the first Civil War monument erected in New York State. Erected in 1865 and believed by many to be the first in the United States, this historic monument memorializes the fourteen soldiers from Williamson who lost their lives fighting in the Civil War. While not all are buried here in Lakeview Cemetery, their spirits live on, some in lonely graveyards . . . far away from their homes and families near the battlegrounds.

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It is our honor to recognize the spirits and sacrifices of our Williamson Civil War heroes.

Simeon Koets—June 1863, 18 years old
Enoch Mount—October 1862, 21 years old
John Dunning—July 1863, 19 years old
William Pierce—November 1862, 19 years old
Daniel Grandin—1864, 34 years old
Myron Van Winkle—July 1863, 22 years
Myron Fish—September 1861, 19 years old
David S Benton—December 1861, 17 years old
Robert F Parkell —November 1861, 30 years old
Gilbert Fries —October 1862, 22 years old
William H Wake— March 1862, 22 years old
Cornelius Cuvelier—February 1865, 24 years old
John Granger— August 1863, 50 years old
Alasco Higgins— July 1861, 22 years old



When Larry Neal finished reading the list of names, in the distance Jonah Sharp and his dad Kevin played *Taps* from two locations, creating an echo effect that could be heard throughout the cemetery. From the Civil War monument our spirit guide led us to visit Professor Henry Lawrence, dressed in his white lab coat holding an x-ray of a hand for us all to see.



Professor Henry Lawrence presented by Dan Montondo- Born 1864 in Sodus, he lived in Pultneyville as a youth. His family moved to Marion, but often spent summers with his grandparents in Pultneyville. Professor Lawrence signed on as a cook on HN Throop's three-masted schooner *Rival* at 14, under his Uncle Captain Andrew Holling. The ship survived the Gale of 1880 due to the shipbuilding skill of Captain Horatio Throop and sailing skill of Captain Andrew Holling, and he was rated an "Able Bodied Seaman" at 18.

Professor Lawrence graduated from the Marion Collegiate Institute in Marion and graduated from the U of R in 1889. He worked as a schoolteacher in Philadelphia for two years, and studied at Cornell, 1892-1894. He married Adelaide Seeley in 1892, and they had two daughters, Helen Ashberry and Janet Taft, who both graduated from the U of R.

The Professor was an instructor of Physics at U of R in 1894. He took the first human X-ray in the Americas in 1896 after reading an article by Wilhelm Rontgen. He was head of the department in 1903 and revamped the way college physics was taught.

Previously it had been a book/lecture course. He introduced laboratories so that students learned physics by doing experiments that demonstrated the scientific principles and laws.

Lawrence purchased the Washington Throop house at some point and spent summers there. He retired in 1934 and was emeritus professor after retirement. Henry Lawrence lived in Pultneyville full time after retirement. He served as Treasurer of the Union Hall Association, which was the governing body of Gates Hall, and on the early Homecoming committees. After visiting with Professor Lawrence, the visitors made their way over to visit with Fred H. Teats.

Fred H. Teats presented by Paul Naliwajek- Frederick Hamilton Teats. John H. Teats, the father of Fred Teats, was born in Dutchess county, April 18, 1832,. John's parents were Henry J. and Eliza M. (Fellows) Teats. Both were descended from German parentage. John Teats and his wife had four children: Fred, Sylvester, J. Percival, and W. Raymond.

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Fred married Mary Berry of Chicago on March 15, 1889, and lived in Rochester until 1896 when he bought the large brick mansion along with 100 acres just south of Pultneyville on Lake Avenue. They had no children.

Early in his life, Fred was a traveling salesman for a Philadelphia cigar house, traveling all over the country. In his travels, he met fruit growers of principle markets all over the country; and being somewhat of an entrepreneur, he became more deeply interested in fruit growing. He resigned his position as a cigar salesman and helped his father and two youngest brothers build the family business - J.H. Teats & Sons. He purchased several more farms in the Williamson area with his two youngest brothers. They grew fruit, mostly peaches, on a large scale following modern methods. Although he remained in contact with his brother, Sylvester, he

shared no initial interest in farming and continued to live in Rochester.

Within a very short time, the family name of J.H. Teats & Sons became widely known, due to Fred's connections across the country. His brother Sylvester soon became part of the family business. In the spring of 1903, he had postcards and a business pamphlet describing their vast array of peaches, fruits and other nurseries growths. Their combined family farms became quite extensive stretching from the outskirts of Pultneyville to almost Route 104. The land that the rifle club now stands on Pound Road was once part of his land. Many have said he had the largest fruit farm nursery in the state for a few years.

His father who started the Teats farm passed in early 1907. He and his brothers continued the farming business. In one year, they shipped 62 train car loads of Alberta Peaches, that being 375 to about 400 crates per car, having about 60 men picking the peaches one at a time and 50 women packing the fruit baskets. He was a "Gentleman Farmer," having his land farmed by others. He spent his winters in a suite of rooms at the Powers Hotel in Rochester. In the spring, summer and fall, he directed the work on the many acres of land in which he held an interest.

Within a few short years, he became wealthy and incorporated many changes and additions to his property in Williamson. As his wealth grew in the first years, he built a caretaker's house next to his brick house; and in 1899, he removed living quarters of a domestic maid and 2 farmhands, which the previous owner housed. His garage was built with a metal roof in 1900, contained a car pit and a car wash, it still stands today. Gas lighting, which ran to every medallion in the house was converted to electric. His house was possibly the first to have running water in this area, having a large cistern above what was the servants' quarters collecting water from the gutters of the higher roof. Adding central coal heating made it possible to remove a second-floor fireplace as well as allowing many more architectural changes. He knew many prominent businessmen through his travels and through memberships. One of his prominent guests who participated in card games at his house was George Eastman.

While on vacation in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Fred passed away on February 9, 1913, an untimely death at the age of 53.

I appreciate all the help I was given by everyone to make this a successful event. Thank you to Nan Hance and Irene Bierer for the spirit information; and to Sue-Jane Evans for guiding the tours, along with the extra setup of lighting that she and Peter did for the entrance to the cemetery. Thank you to the Lakeview Cemetery Association for allowing us to do this event every year; and to Jay Peters for opening the building so we have a dry protected area to check in the tours.

We had interesting weather that night, with great turnout for each of the 3 tours. Thank you to all our presenters. Thank you to everyone who helped greet our visitors - Alice and Cliff Dodge, Carolyn Cooney, Debra and Paul Arndt, and to Pat Naliwajek for greeting and collecting the money on Friday night. Thank you to my husband Larry Fedick and Rich Seyfried for parking the cars that evening. Anyone wanting to get involved with the planning of the event or presenting a family member/ neighbor/ or someone you are interested in, please let me know.

Please contact: Kathy Fedick W-PHS Cemetery Chair 585-261-3883 or kathyfedick@gmail.com

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

Fostering the preservation, accessibility and utility of our collections and associated data

Submitted By: Florence Doyle, Vice President / Interim Chair Collections Management

In July 2020, Collections Management began efforts to develop a plan to provide a foundation for where we envision the future to foster the preservation, accessibility and utility of our collections and associated data. While managing in a Covid-19 environment, Collections Management initiated the following key elements of the plan:

Assessment and Benchmarking -

Contacted the Program Chair at DHPSNY regarding an Assessment of W-PHS Collections Management. Completed benchmarking with seven organizations (i.e., regional and non-regional) which enabled us to learn from others, understand what we do well, understand where we have opportunity to improve, and to gauge where others see the future.

Inventory Data Base / Software -

The current excel data base was revised to include approximately 42 data elements with “defined lists” for 15 of the data elements to promote consistency. A Beta test of the revised data base is underway. Efforts have started to explore a cloud based software solution. Grant options will be explored.

Important to note that information in the excel data base will be able to be uploaded into any cloud based software we may select. We will not lose any of the effort that has been done to date or that we begin entering into the revised data base.

Review/Revise Policy -

In the process of reviewing to insure continuous improvement in our procedures. For references we are utilizing the “Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York” (current through March 15, 2020) for chartering and registration of museums and historical societies with collections; the guidelines of Museum Registration Methods, which is a standard published by the American Association of Museums; and policies provided by organizations we benchmarked with.

Accession/Scanning Focus -

Objective is to focus on accession, scanning and detailed inventory data base information for items in our Collection. The target is to complete by year end all Gates Hall items and recently acquired items.

Special recognition and thanks to KENDALL BALLER, IRENE BIERER, CHERIE KLINE and DAN MONTONDO for their enthusiasm, commitment, knowledge and passion.

W-PHS Members Who Live The **Historic District Triangle in Pultneyville**

We have a plaque for a home in the Historic District circa 1830. If your residence within the District is of this time period, we would like to gift it to you.

Please let us know if you are interested.

Charlotte and Gary Buehler
Gary Buehler: gjbuehler@icloud.com



Visitors from the Past at the Captain Throop House

By Kendall Baller

One Sunday afternoon in mid-August, a lovely gentleman approached the house. He told us that he had spent summers here with his aunts, the Graeper sisters. We had heard a little bit about the Graepers, and we were delighted to meet someone with a connection to the house. He seemed so genuinely happy that the house was being restored and told us that he had stood across the street a few years ago, weeping, at its state of disrepair. We invited him back for a tour once we felt that we could take proper safety precautions, and this is how Pete Rupert came to walk through the halls of the Captain Throop house once again.



Eric Baller and Jim Doty

Nan Hance coordinated the visit for Pete and his nephew, Jim Doty, on the morning of September 26, 2020. As they walked through the front door, Jim presented a planer to my dad, which was presumed to have been used to create the curved bannister on the main staircase. It was so wonderful to have an object potentially used in the construction of the house back with us again, and it is now on display in the living room. This was the start of a visit full of sharing memories and stories from the time Pete and Jim had spent in the house.

As we toured each room of the house, Pete and Jim shared their memories. Pete told us that he used to take naps in the front room after enjoying a large Easter meal, which was when the “aunties” opened the house for the season. Pete also used to shovel coal into the furnace in the basement; we still use the coal chute today to store firewood. We learned that the kitchen wall was moved when the Dotys were living in the house; and as a result, the back rooms of the house were much larger than they are today. This is where the Woodshed (Emily Graeper’s tearoom) was located. In the far

back of the house is a small room that looks like an attached outhouse – because it is! This was a very nice addition at the time, and we learned that a section of the foundation that looks out of place was actually an opening to scoop out of, which was later covered up.

We then went upstairs to Captain Throop’s workshop. Jim pointed out the tool racks where we presume Throop stored the equipment he used for his inventions, and we talked about Throop’s models that were at one time stored up in the rafters. As we walked down the upstairs hallway, Pete pointed out which rooms the four sisters slept in. He showed us where he slept when he came to visit. Apparently, he enjoyed sleeping in the hallway so that he could watch the goings-on at the Fire Hall next door. Further down the hall is where Jim said he heard footsteps when no one else was home (we haven’t heard anything).

There was more to share about the outside of the house, as you can see in the pictures on the following page. Pete told us that he used to sleep out on the porch on warm summer nights, with the smell of wisteria in the air. And we learned that the porch was originally added to the front of the house during the Victorian era renovation. Years later the porch was moved to the side of the house where it stands today. We also learned that the barn was the site of theatrical performances put on by the children of Pultneyville.

It was a gift for us to hear Pete and Jim’s stories, and we were happy to share with them all the work that we’ve done on the house. As the current stewards of the house, we understand the importance of preserving history. Their remembrances enrich our understanding of our home and the people who lived here. We were so happy that Pete knocked on our door that day in August.

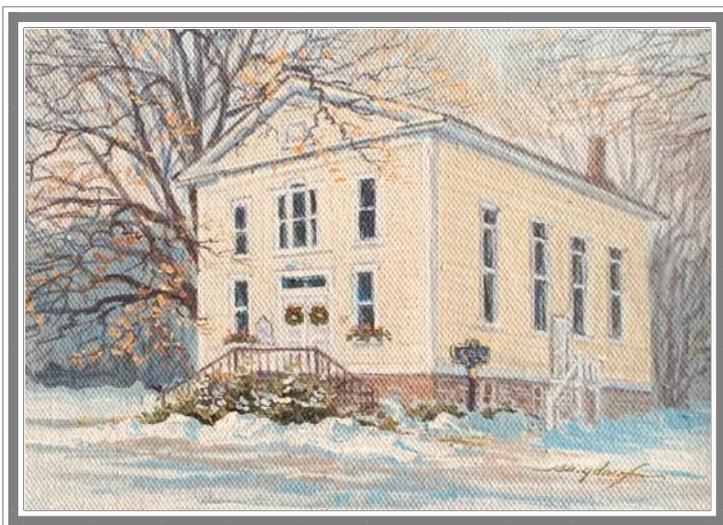
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Visitors from the Past at the Captain Throop House

We thank Nan Hance for arranging the meeting, and we thank Pete and Jim for making the trip back to Pultneyville to share their memories with us.

Photo credit to Nan Hance



GATES HALL PROJECT UPDATE

While many W-PHS plans and activities were paused this year, Dave Frohlich, Chair of Property Committee, continues efforts to finalize plans and bids for the long overdue Gates Hall structural ceiling remediation and roof replacement project. Given the myriad of consequences resulting from COVID-19, the original plan, which also included other updates to the Hall, has been modified to include only the most necessary work at this time given the life of the current roof.

and the roof that must be dealt with simultaneously. Due to COVID-19 this continues to be a longer than expected process, given contractor response and availability, but one that W-PHS hopes to finalize and share in the very near future.

Please note, however, that this project entails much more than just a new roof; it also addresses structural issues between the ceiling

Thank you in advance for supporting this project to preserve our historic building for another century, just as the community has joined together to do since 1825 when it was built.

The Almayza

The Almayza, restored by Keith Herman, set sail with the McCaig family on a beautiful September afternoon. The boat was in the Cornwall family and named for Fred Cornwall, Sr's niece, Alice Waters, and his two sisters, May and Eliza Cornwall - thus Almayza.

Sailing along with Keith are Adam McCaig, Erin Bryant and Dave Brant; and children, Sophia McCaig, Ethan Bryant and Ben Bryant.



In Reverie



Crescent Beach

Those summer days at the beach have slipped away for now with the onset of fall foliage colors and frosty mornings. Gone are the tourists, boaters, swimmers, and beach combers. Ah, but we can bring it all back – and more. Oral history interviews from the past have been tucked away in the Archives of W-PHS, and we just need to tap into them to review some special memories.

John Mosher used to live over the hardware store on the north side of the road in Pultneyville, and he spoke of having to only go down the steps in back of the building to be at the water's edge. Sometimes, though, the water was filthy when it was “turning over,” and he'd have to wade through all the seaweed to dip into the cooling lake. Then he'd hurry back inside to take a needed shower!

Eleanor French's experience was more pleasant, and she preferred Crescent Beach to Holland's Cove. Her mother would sit there with her knitting, though her father's cousin, **Ralph Bennett**, wouldn't consider going into the water and thought it was terrible. He was a very scientific type.

Orlo Plyter said Crescent Beach was the little Coney Island of the East with bathhouses, a pavilion, even slides ending in the water. He remembered Fire Company carnivals being held there, and the greased pole, in particular. It would cost \$10 to get out on the pole without falling into the water. Teams would try to sink each other with fire hoses, and the hot dog stands were as popular as the dance hall nearby.

It was little **Janet Pillsbury**, however, who may have

made her most lasting memory one summer in the sands of Crescent Beach. She smiled broadly while revealing the foreshadowing of the future as a preschooler having summer fun in Pultneyville's lake shore. Janet said she lost her little ring in the sand when she was only four years old. She and others searched for it, knowing it would take a miracle to find it in the shifting sand. Well, maybe it was miraculous for her when another little child, a boy named **Dallas Collier**, found it and put it into her hand. *He gave her another one years later when they married!!!*

What a blessing to have these (and many more) stories captured in oral history interviews in the past. If asked to join in such an interview about *your* past Williamson experiences, I hope you'll say, “Yes, I will.”

Irene Bierer
Archivist

Membership News

W-PHS membership is currently at 153 memberships (115 individual memberships and 38 business memberships).

Shortly, you will be receiving an e-mail requesting your renewals for 2021. Although it seems early to be asking for renewals, we all know how quickly time flies as we approach the end of the year. 2020 will be a year we will never forget, and not in a good way. Many people and business have suffered this year including W-PHS. Membership dues are very important to keeping W-PHS operating especially after monthly programs and annual fundraisers were cancelled this year due to the Pandemic.

When you receive your communication from W-PHS Membership, please consider sending in your renewal as soon as possible. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you very much.
Kathy McCaig
315-904-4220 or 585-771-0592
kmccaig@gmail.com

Winding Down on The Grounds

Fall on the grounds has begun with just a few chores to complete before our winter recess. Thanks to a generous donation from Charlotte Buehler, we will have 50 new tulips to enjoy by the front gate come next spring. We are expecting a shipment of daffodils and hyacinths that will also be planted before snow flies.

The chestnut tree has been unfazed by our dry summer and as always, produced a bumper crop of spiny nuts. We will rake as many as possible this fall and save the rest for early spring clean up.

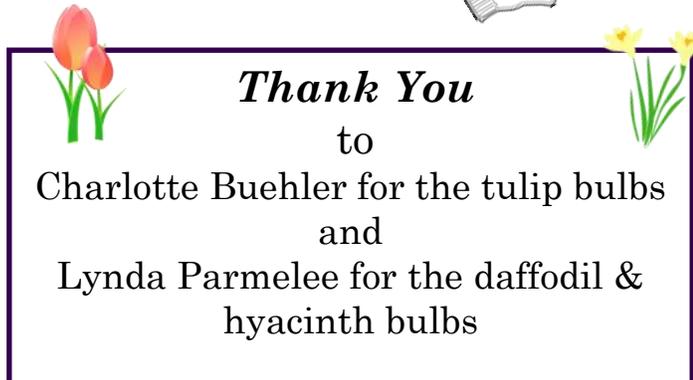
We've deadheaded and cut back any plant material that has passed it's prime and emptied our pot of yellow/purple/white flowers in memory of the Suffrage movement.

We are always planning and adding or subtracting plantings to enhance the looks of the W-PHS properties. Many, many thanks to the many hands who have shown up on Tuesday mornings to share stories, laughs and chores. Many hands do truly make light work, but the companionship has been especially welcome in this new climate of separation.

Any Tuesday morning at 9a.m. if the garage door is open at the W-PHS house, we are somewhere on the grounds keeping things tidy. New recruits are always welcome!

Happy Fall and Winter—Hope you enjoy the surprises in the spring!

Lynda Parmelee, Bulb Wrangler



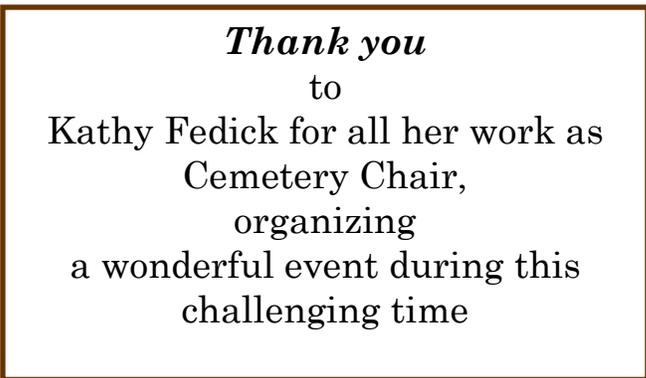
W-PHS Opened the Doors and Visitors Came

It certainly has been an unusual year for all of us and all our activities, but W-PHS volunteers did open our House and exhibits for eleven Sunday afternoons during the summer and early fall.

With President Nan Hance's leadership, we were able to establish procedures which met all the relevant pandemic requirements while still encouraging visitors to explore the history of Williamson and Pultneyville. It was an abbreviated season, but we did have the opportunity to share our exhibits with interested visitors on every one of the days we were open. New residents of the community, students exploring the area, and travelers enjoying Lake Ontario were among those who donned their masks to enjoy and to learn.

Thank you to the volunteers who made this possible:

Deborah and Paul Arndt
 Toni and Kendall Baller
 Irene Bierer
 Florence Doyle
 Sue-Jane and Peter Evans
 Kim and John Garlock
 Carol and Bob Hopkins
 Dottie and Perry Howland
 Amy and Colin McConville



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 first weekend in October, Friday through Sunday, 1-4 p.m., by appointment and throughout Homecoming weekend and during the Annual Community Garage Sale.

W-PHS Board Meetings Information and Program/Event Cancellation Policy

W-PHS Board meetings are generally scheduled to be held at the W-PHS House at 4130 Mill Street, Pultneyville at 7 p.m. the last Monday of the month as per published schedule. However, due to COVID-19, and to ensure social distancing, the time and location may change, or may be held electronically.

Any W-PHS member in good standing may attend on a non-voting basis and can request to be placed on the agenda for a specific purpose related to the Society. For the meeting schedule, please refer to the society's website at www.w-phs.org. The 2021 meeting schedule will be posted at the beginning of January.

The W-PHS Board meetings/program/event cancellation policy: From time to time there may be a need to cancel a program, event or meeting because of weather.

Cancellation Criteria: Schools are closed and/or after school events are cancelled due to weather (Williamson/Wayne County). W-PHS Programs/Events will be cancelled by the Program Chair.

Communication: The Program Chair will notify the President/Vice President and Communications Chair. The Communications Chair will disseminate the information to the website and social media coordinators. The Program Chair will notify the presenters of the event. The Program Chair will reschedule the program (if possible) and the Communications Chair will disseminate the rescheduled time and date when it is available. The President/Vice President will ensure the procedure is followed.

W-PHS Board Meetings 2020

January 27	July 27
February 24	August 31
March 30	September 28
April 27	October 26
May 18	November 23
June 22	

WILLIAMSON-PULTNEYVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On the web: www.w-phs.org
 phone: 315.589.9892
 Williamson Pultneyville Historical Society
 4130 Mill Street, PO Box 92, Pultneyville, NY 14538

W-PHS Officers

Officers

President	Nanette Hance	president@w-phs.org
Vice President	Florence Doyle	fdoyle0407@gmail.com
Treasurer	Debra Parts	debrap@peterparts.com
Recording Secretary	Jackie Walker	jw4cats@aol.com
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Perkins	perkinsl@rochester.rr.com

Standing Committee Chairs & Key Personnel

Nominating Chair	Cheryl Kline	cherylnp@aol.com
Membership Chair	Kathy McCaig	kmccaig@gmail.com
Program Chair	Dottie Howland	peridot@rakedsouthgarden.com
Communications Chair	Sandra Zeman	szeman001@rochester.rr.com
Newsletter Editor	Sandra Zeman	szeman001@rochester.rr.com
Press Releases	Ann Anthony	amanthony67@gmail.com
Publicity	Kelly Klaritch	kklaritch@gmail.com
Social Media	Charlotte Buehler	ckbuehler@icloud.com
Website Coordinator	Amy VanPatten Begy	amy@itclix.net
Audit Chair	TBD	
Finance Chair	Debra Parts	debrap@peterparts.com
Property Chair	David Frohlich	dfrohlic@rochester.rr.com
Exhibits Chair	Sue-Jane Evans	sjkevans@mail.com
Grounds	Lynda Parmelee	susser1@yahoo.com
Town Historian/W-PHS Liaison	Perry Howland	peridot@rakedsouthgarden.com
Education Liaison	Kim Garlock	kgarlock@aol.com
Collections Mgmt. Interim Chair	Florence Doyle	fdoyle0407@gmail.com
Archive Project Leaders	Irene Bierer	ibierer@rochester.rr.com
	Cheryl Kline	cherylnp@aol.com
	Dan Montondo	dan.montondo@rochester.rr.com
Office	Jackie Walker	jw4cats@aol.com
Hospitality	Betty Morley	bettymorley1@gmail.com
Homecoming Open Air Market		
Vendors	Kelly Klaritch	kklaritch@gmail.com
Oral History Project Leader	Laraine Frohlich	dfrohlic@rochester.rr.com
House Supplies	David & Laraine Frohlich	dfrohlic@rochester.rr.com
Grants	Sandra Zeman	szeman001@rochester.rr.com
4th Grade Walking Tour Chairs	TBD	
Education Liaison	TBD	
Cemetery Tour Chair	Kathy Fedick	kathyfedick@gmail.com
Gift Shop	Toni Baller	tballer@rochester.rr.com
Garage Sale Chair	TBD	
Garage Sale Coordinator	Linda Perkins	perkinsl@rochester.rr.com
Gates Hall Fundraising Chair	Florence Doyle	fdoyle0407@gmail.com
Home Tour Chair	Debbie Parts	debrap@peterparts.com

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Mail completed form to: Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society, ATTN: Membership, P.O. Box 92, Pultneyville, NY 14538

Name: _____ Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____ E-mail: _____

(E-mail is required to receive newsletters)

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Residential Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ A list of members will appear on the W-PHS website. If you **do not want your name to appear on this list**, please initial on the line.

Benefits

- Basic Categories:**
- Friend \$25.00/yr.
 - Patron \$50.00/yr.
 - Sustainer \$100.00/yr.
 - Benefactors \$250.00/yr.

All Basic Categories: 6 newsletters per year, free programs and exhibits.
Sustainers - plus 2 Gatesinger Play tickets.
Benefactors - plus one complimentary use of Gates Hall per year approved by Society.

Benefits

- Business Categories:**
- Business Friend \$75.00/yr.
 - Business Benefactor \$250.00/yr.

All Business Categories: 6 newsletters per year, free programs and exhibits.
Friends - plus business card listing in all newsletters, list on W-PHS web site and business member window cling.
Benefactor - plus business card listing in all newsletters, list on W-PHS web site, business member window cling and one complimentary use of Gates Hall per year approved by Society.

Membership dues cover the period from January 1st to December 31st each year. For new members signing up after September 30th dues are applied for the remainder of the current year and the following year.

Additional Donation: \$ _____ for _____

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ _____ for the membership dues and/or donation as shown above.
(Dues/donations are tax deductible.)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE

TRIBUTE GIFTS...*A meaningful way to pay tribute to others or to commemorate a special occasion or milestone.*

- **Give a Gift of Honor** to recognize someone special or a special time in life.
- **Give a Memorial Gift** to celebrate the life of a loved one, friend, colleague or someone who touched your life in a special way.

PLANNED GIVING...*Gifts that may fit into individual financial, tax or estate planning goals.*

UNRESTRICTED GIFTS...*Gifts to be used as W-PHS deems best to support its mission.*

ENDOWMENT GIFTS...*Income generating gifts that help to sustain W-PHS beyond a single fiscal year.*

Please contact W-PHS treasurer@w-phs.org or by calling 315-589-9892 with any questions about ways to give which extend beyond membership. THANK YOU for your consideration.

Please Check Areas of Interest

_____ Homecoming/Garage Sale

_____ Cemetery Tour

_____ Museum/Archives Activities

_____ Publicity/Fundraising Activities

_____ Building/Grounds Upkeep

_____ Program Planning/Museum Guide

_____ Gift Shop

_____ Membership

_____ Officer, Director, Committee Chair

Other: _____

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society

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

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

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

Contact Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Contact Phone #: _____ Business Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____ (*E-mail is required to receive newsletters*)

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

- Basic Categories:**
- Friend \$25.00/yr.
 - Patron \$50.00/yr.
 - Sustainer \$100.00/yr.
 - Benefactors \$250.00/yr.

Benefits

All Basic Categories: 6 newsletters per year, free programs and exhibits.
Sustainers - plus 2 Gatesinger Play tickets.
Benefactors - plus one complimentary use of Gates Hall per year approved by Society.

- Business Categories:**
- Business Friend \$75.00/yr.
 - Business Benefactor \$250.00/yr.

Benefits

All Business Categories: 6 newsletters per year, free programs and exhibits.
Friends - plus business card listing in all newsletters, list on W-PHS web site and business member window cling.
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Membership dues cover the period from January 1st to December 31st each year. For new members signing up after September 30th dues are applied for the remainder of the current year and the following year.

Additional Donation: \$ _____ for _____

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ _____ for the membership dues and/or donation as shown above.
(Dues/donations are tax deductible.)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Are there areas your business would like to support with volunteers and/or donations? _____

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE

TRIBUTE GIFTS...*A meaningful way to pay tribute to others or to commemorate a special occasion or milestone.*

- **Give a Gift of Honor** to recognize someone special or a special time in life.
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Mail completed form to: Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society, ATTN: Membership, P.O. Box 92, Pultneyville, NY 14538

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