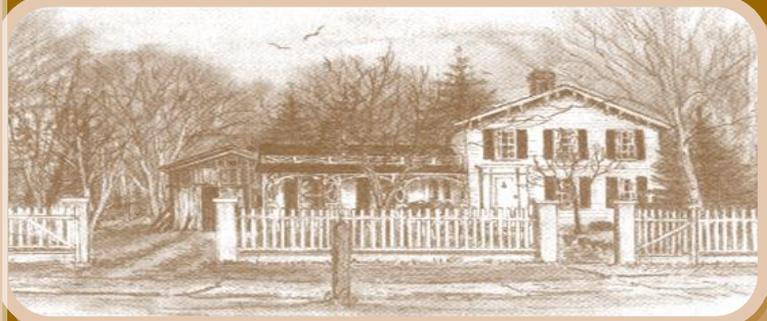


Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society Newsletter

September-October 2021 Volume 11, Issue 5



From Your President

W-PHS continues to be active as we move towards the last quarter of the year. In this newsletter you will find information about the work we have been doing and upcoming events, which include our annual Garage & Antique Sale on **September 18**, along with an opportunity to Build Your Own Case of NYS Craft Beer; our October Program on **October 6** at the Pultneyville Hall; and the Moonlight Cemetery Tour, on **October 23**. All of these events require volunteers! Many hands make light work and all are invited to volunteer by calling 315.589.9892 and leaving a message.



As the world around us changes, not-for-profit member driven organizations that rely on volunteers and donations are also changing. With concern for the long-term future of W-PHS, it was in the best interest of the society to examine every aspect of the organization and create a multi-year Strategic Plan to guide its work and future decisions. While W-PHS has By-Laws, Policies, and Volunteer Job Descriptions in place, there is also a need for a long range plan that addresses resources and responsibilities, efforts to nurture greater community engagement and increase membership necessary to support and carry an organization forward which also addresses how to provide greater access to our collection, and at the same time, maintain, preserve and improve the historic properties entrusted to our care.

To that end, Laura Hatch, accepted the challenge to organize and chair a Strategic Plan Committee. Not unlike many volunteer organizations that address issues in a reactive manner as they present themselves, the time has come for us, as good stewards of costly historic properties to maintain, to

be more proactive in our approach to planning and practice for ongoing outreach and inclusion. resource development - both human and fiscal, general on-going maintenance and preservation.

In the life of every organization there comes a time to examine current practices and explore new opportunities as times change. It is critical to identify new ways to do business in order to continually improve and build upon the foundation that has been established over the years to both operate as a fiscally prudent business, and at the same time, continue to place emphasis on, and share local history.

Beginning with a SWOT Analysis that examined our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, under Laura's guidance, the Strategic Plan Committee thoroughly examined every aspect of W-PHS and made recommendations to the Board of Trustees for consideration which will be shared at our Annual W-PHS Meeting November 3. As with all strategic plans, ours will be a work-in-progress and reviewed at regular intervals by Board Officers and edited to meet ever-evolving needs as the society moves forward.

On behalf of W-PHS, it is my pleasure to extend sincere thanks to Laura for sharing her professional expertise and not-for-profit experience with W-PHS and for her leadership and guidance throughout the process. We also acknowledge the participation of committee members Florence Doyle, Debbie Parts, Darlene Martino, Betty Jenkins, Kevin Taft, Lou Martino and Tom Hatch for their involvement at various times throughout the process. This committee is to be applauded for its thorough evaluation of where we have been, where we are today, and for its insights on where we might go and how to get there.



(Continued on page 2)

(From Your President continued)

W-PHS has had a productive year to date and celebrates the successful completion of Phase II of the Gates Hall project under the leadership of David Frohlich, Property Chair. We thank Dave for his diligence and perseverance to see this project completed during some very challenging times. We also acknowledge the assistance of community volunteer and local construction manager, Todd LaBarr, owner of Watchdog Building Partners, for his participation and guidance. W-PHS gratefully acknowledges our many donors for their generosity which made this project possible. Together, we can stand proud that we have now cared for our historic landmark from the ground-up and the top-down, stabilizing the building for generations to come.

The work to maintain and preserve historic buildings is never done. They require constant care and resources to improve them so they can be used and enjoyed by the community. We extend sincere thanks to the Gatesinger Company, Ltd., our artists in residence at Gates Hall, for their patience and understanding during the interruption of service for the last 8 months and to the Pultneyville Reformed Church for providing meeting and rehearsal space on our behalf.

We have a busy few months ahead and look forward to your continued support and involvement. Take care, be safe . . . and stay well.

Regards,

Nan

Nanette Peters Hance, President

Rochester Area Community Foundation

W-PHS is very appreciative for the generous grant awarded by the Rochester Area Community Foundation for the Gates Hall Roof Project. This grant made it possible for W-PHS to continue the preservation of this historic building.

Gates Hall- A Work in Progress **David Frohlich, Property Chair**

Seven years ago, the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society embarked on a visionary journey. Many members of the community, but especially in the Historical Society, recognized that there was a need to preserve "Heritage Assets" that served as cultural centerpieces, anchoring Williamson and Pultneyville's connection to its past.

On the National Register of Historic Places, Gates Hall, the oldest continually operating community theater in the United States, has been the centerpiece of the community's preservation efforts. The guiding principal of the society's undertakings was, to the greatest extent possible, to preserve the original character and structural characteristics, consistent with public safety.

The process started even earlier. The archives contain architectural and engineering reviews evaluating Gates Hall's needs starting in 2009.

Like so many consequential undertakings, the process of studying often struggles to easily yield a clearly defined actionable plan. The other issue, perhaps even more formidable, was the question of funding. The Historical Society, under the leadership of Joan Carey in 2014, decided to embark on a fund raising campaign with the intent of remediating the building's most serious needs. The resident theater company, Gatesinger Company, Ltd., joined in the effort, with a focus on improving theater lighting. Collectively, the campaign raised slightly in excess of \$100,000.

After considerable deliberation, the Historical Society decided that the structure supporting the Hall's assembly area floor needed the most immediate attention. The work was completed by a local contractor, Cornelius Construction. The results were outstanding. The existing structure's character and appearance were maintained while being augmented with reinforcing that complemented the historical characteristics of the building's construction.

(Continued on page 3)

(Gates Hall- A Work in Progress continued)

There was a three year hiatus while the society studied the Hall's remaining needs and evaluated various projects and their attendant cost. Unanimously, the Society agreed that the Hall's roofing had reached the end of its lifespan. The more vexing problem was how to remedy the recognized deficiencies of the roof's support structure. The building consists of two components: the stage and the assembly hall. The assembly hall is the original structure. The stage was added on in the late 1800s and required no improvements. The original structure, the Hall, is constructed, as were many old buildings, using the "post and beam" technique. After two hundred years, the building was showing its age.

Before we could undertake the project, the constant dilemma of financing needed to be resolved. Fortunately, two very capable board members, President Nan Hance and Vice President Florence Doyle, took up the challenge of fund raising. The Society launched a fundraising campaign. Rochester Area Community Foundation (RACF) awarded a generous \$15,000 grant. RACF has been a strong supporter of preserving the region's rich historical assets. The Society designated \$25,000 from its treasury. Due to concerns by the structural engineer, a more costly design was necessary, resulting in a fund raising goal of \$75,000.

The society spent a considerable amount of time deliberating the scope and cost to fix the age related problems of the aging ceiling, weakened roofing timbers and the sagging ridge line. It was agreed that we would replace not only the roofing but also repair the vital components that supported it. Proposals and estimates were assembled. With the assistance of local construction manager and community volunteer, Todd Labarr, owner of Watchdog Building Partners, the firm Macaron Contractors was selected.

Our first challenge occurred when the initial design plans for a less elaborate and less costly remedial truss structure were changed. The structural engineer noted the extent to which all the clear span ceiling beams had deflected, substantially in excess of allowable engineering standards.

The first phase of the project was removing the sag in the four main 8 X 8 square, 22 foot long timbers that spanned and supported the ceiling. Several sagged as

much as 9+ inches in their middle. Reversing 200 years of age related movement required a slow and deliberate effort to avoid damaging the timbers. Stabilizing the old beams in their new position called for elaborately engineered new supporting truss structures to be individually assembled and attached in the attic space. This methodology was driven by our desire to preserve as much of the original structure's characteristics as possible.

As we neared completion of the roof's structural remediation, we were able to commence the actual reroofing, with premium 30 year+ architectural grade shingles. In the process of removing the old asphalt roofing, it was determined that repairs to the roof decking undertaken during the previous reroofing were spotty and failing in many places. This required completely redecking the entire roof.

Despite the unanticipated, but not unreasonable, cost increases encountered during the project, the results speak for themselves. Gates Hall, a building of singular historical significance to Williamson and the greater Wayne County community, has been preserved as a Heritage Asset. This accomplishment is a testimony to the membership of the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society, its leadership, our professional advisors, our contractor partners, and the commitment of the local community to preserving a vital part of their heritage.

The Society thanks
David Frohlich
for volunteering his time
and talent to the Gates
Hall preservation
project.

Fund Raising Goal:

As of August 18, the campaign has raised 61% of the \$75,000 goal.

BE A PART OF HISTORY . . . INVEST IN HISTORIC GATES HALL

Critical Work to Be Addressed in Phase II:

- **Structural Support Remediation between Ceiling and Roof**
 - **Roof Tear-Off and Replacement**
 - **Improved Interior Lighting and Fans**

Please Choose How You Would Like To Make Your Charitable Donation . . .

- 1.) Complete the form below and mail with check payable to:
Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society (W-PHS)
Attn: Gates Hall Phase II Fund
P. O. Box #92 | Pultneyville, NY 14538
- 2.) Donate online at www.w-phs.org which allows donor to use Pay Pal or Credit Card. Select "DONATE GATES HALL FUND" to enter donation level and information, or hover over the below QR CODE with cell phone camera, which will take donor directly to the donation screen. If donation is "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" someone, please indicate so in the *Add A Note* area. For Levels of Giving, please refer to below Donor Levels or online Donor Form.



- 3.) Transfer of Charitable Gift of Securities, contact W-PHS Treasurer at 585.329.8442

MATCHING FUNDS - Check with employer to take advantage of this and maximize giving.

Yes! I would like to donate to the Gates Hall Legacy Fund at the below donor level . . .

Friend \$100-499*
 Advocate \$500-999*
 Leader \$1,000-4,999**
 Heritage \$5,000-9,999**
 Historian \$10,000-14,999**
 Legacy \$15,000-25,000***

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*W-PHS Newsletter and Website
 **W-PHS Gates Hall Group Plaque, W-PHS Newsletter and Website
 ***W-PHS Individual/Personal Gates Hall Plaque, W-PHS Newsletter and Website

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name(s) as donor would like it to appear in recognition or please indicate Anonymous, if preferred

Contact Person (for corporate donations)

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Email _____ **Phone** _____

Donation In Memory Of OR In Honor Of - Please Specify along with Name

Should this campaign exceed its goal for contributions, W-PHS will utilize the residual for continuing improvement of Gates Hall. The Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society is a 501(c)(3). Thank You for your charitable gift which is tax deductible to the extent that the law may allow.

Upcoming Programs & Events

Access Facebook at [facebook.com/WilliamsonPultneyvilleHistoricalSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/WilliamsonPultneyvilleHistoricalSociety/) and/or website at www.w-phs.org for updates and COVID any restrictions regarding W-PHS programs and events.
 September 18 - W-PHS - Community Garage Sale, 9AM-4PM, Centennial Park, Pultneyville
 October 6, - History of Pultneyville Fire Company, 7 PM, Pultneyville Fire Hall
 October 11 - Cider Making at the W-PHS House (see page 6 for information)
 October 23 - Cemetery Tour (see page 7 for information)
 November 3 - Annual Meeting/Election of Officers
 November 6 - Wreath/swags sale (see page 7), Gates Hall, more information to come
 December 5 - Pultneyville Illumination

W-PHS - Community Garage/Antique Sale - September 18 Pultneyville and Surrounding Area Look for pink Garage Sale Signs

9:00 a.m.-4:00p.m.



Antiques



Flea Market

Craft Beer
Sale

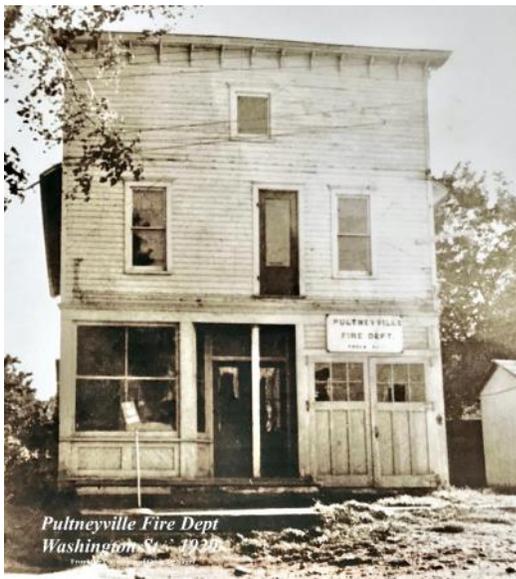
Antiques

See page 6 for information on the Craft Beer Sale.

Hold a sale at your home - \$25 for W-PHS Home Sale Site. You will receive a pink W-PHS garage sale sign to attract customers to your sale and to show that yours is an official W-PHS Home Sale Site.

Sell in Centennial Park - Rent a space in Centennial Park or adjacent to Gates Hall for only \$35. Spaces are available on first come, first served basis (approximately 10x20).

Contact Linda Perkins with any questions or if interested in a space for the garage sale, 315-589-3421 or e-mail perkinsl@rochester.rr.com



W-PHS October Program

The Williamson Pultneyville Historical Society program will be held upstairs at the Pultneyville Fire Hall on Wednesday, **October 6, 2021, at 7 PM.**

The address is: 4049 Lake Rd, Use the back door and go up stairs.

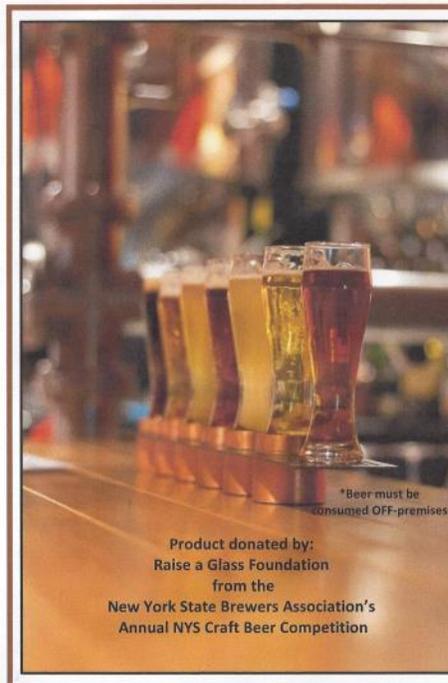
Craig DeNagel will present the History of the Pultneyville Fire Company from 1925 to present with articles and photos.

Pultneyville Fire Department
 Photo submitted by Craig DeNagel

Garage/Antique and NYS Craft Beer Sale

In July, nine W-PHS members worked at The Great American Wine Competition for the Raise A Glass Foundation to “earn” the beer (and wine) donation for the sale. The wine will be sold at a November 6th event at Gates Hall.

The Raise A Glass Foundation is a registered NY 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to help save and improve the lives of adults and children around the world. The Foundation accomplishes this mission by collecting and donating to deserving charities a valuable asset – thousands of award-winning bottles of wine, beer and spirits – which the charities can use in their fundraising galas, dinners, auctions and other events.




NYS CRAFT BEER*
BUILD-A-PACK, 6 or 12

Proceeds Benefit Historic Gates Hall

9:30 am - until sold out!
 east side of Gates Hall, under the tent

at the 31st Annual
 Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society

**COMMUNITY
 GARAGE SALE**

Saturday, September 18, 2021
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Centennial Park and area homes
 Pultneyville, NY

*Beer must be consumed OFF-premises

It would be very difficult, if not impossible, for a single charity to solicit such a collection of award-winning bottles from producers around the world. Raise A Glass Foundation holds international competitions – with entries and professional judges from over 25 countries. At the end of the competitions, all of the unopened bottles (thousands!) are categorized and donated to deserving charities for their fundraising events.

*Thank you to Raise A Glass Foundation
 for donating wine and craft beer to W-PHS!*



W-PHS Cider Pressing



A hands-on cider making event will be held on **Monday, October 11, from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM**. Participants will get to see how early pioneers and settlers took their apples and processed them into a safe drink - apple cider.

There is no registration requirement, all ages are welcome, and current COVID requirements will be in place for this outside event. W-PHS will be participating in this NYS Path Through History Event, along with other state-wide programs taking place on that day.



“Meet the Spirits” Cemetery Tour

Saturday, October 23

Lakeview Cemetery, 3967 Lake Road, Pultneyville

Tours at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Stroll through Pultneyville’s Lakeview Cemetery and meet friendly spirits from the area’s historic past under a beautiful October sky. Learn about this cast of characters, who were instrumental in carving out the town’s early history, from their final resting place in this historic Pultneyville cemetery.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by October 20. Please call 315.589.9892 and leave your name, number, preferred tour time and number in party. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis until tours are filled. Your call will be returned to confirm reservation.

Tickets are to be paid for at time of check-in at Lakeview Cemetery. Ticket prices: 18 years old and over \$12.00; 6-17 years old \$8.00; children 5 and under accompanied by an adult are free.

Please bring a flashlight and umbrella, if needed, and follow parking directions.

Please note that we will be following any CDC coronavirus recommendations implemented at the time of this event such as MASKS and SOCIAL DISTANCING, CONTACT TRACING that would require all attendees to complete and sign a form at time of check-in. Please reference the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society website – <https://w-phs.org> and our Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society Facebook for any event updates.

Be the creator of a wreath or swag!

A Call For Creativity



Utilize your craft and artistic skills in support of
Gates Hall

W-PHS will be having a FIRST of its kind fund raising event at
Gates Hall on November 6th - exciting details to follow!

Would you be willing to create a wreath or swag to donate? These decorations can be seasonal or timeless. Make a real and/or artificial wreath or swag. Think fall or holiday motif. Enjoy crafting it with friends or family. For those of you who are shoppers versus crafters, consider procuring that spectacular wreath/swag and donating it!

Your creation/donation will be for sale as part of this event and you’ll be recognized as the designer/donor.



A Call For Talent

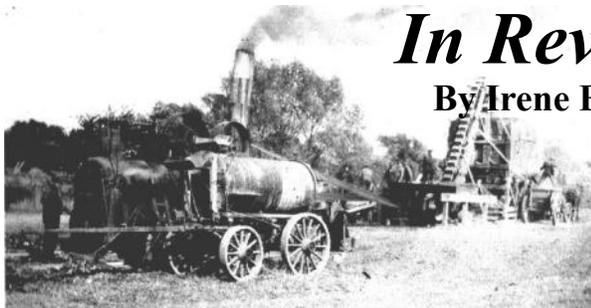
A Call For Generosity

All wreaths/swags are needed by October 31st.

To let us know you are donating or for questions, please contact Florence Doyle at fdoyle0407@gmail.com or 585.329.7691 or Deb Parts at debrap@peterparts.com or 585.329.8442.



Collection Management Fostering Preservation, Accessibility and Utility



In Reverie

By Irene Bierer

Photo of Williamson from Stu Hotchkiss collection - not dated.

Born and raised in the Town of Williamson, many of those adults who shared their life's stories in oral history interviews chose to develop their careers right here where they were well known. You will read below how two of Williamson's children grew to enhance their hometown with their personal choice of vocations.

Esther VanAcker Plyter is one of those special people. She sprouted up and took root on the family farm on Redman Road. That meant walking around two country road corners to the Benton School on the Townline Road for 1st and 2nd Grade. It closed when she was in 2nd Grade, but she found herself ahead of some others in the academics of 3rd Grade in the Williamson Central School. Mrs. Valore had done a good job as the teacher in that one-room schoolhouse.

Esther knew she hated picking tomatoes, didn't like picking cherries, and told herself she'd *never be, nor marry, a farmer*. What she did love was secretarial work. After attending Rochester Business Institute, she rose with her skills all the way up to the position of Williamson Town Clerk for many years.

As for marrying a farmer, well, she didn't! She married Darrell Plyter, who was raised in the village and worked in business. They created a family of three children, Michael, Mark, and Marnie, always living happily in the town where they grew up.

James Michalke, unlike Esther, *did* want to become a farmer. Jim was born just off West Main Street, and his father had an orchard. Jim wanted to be a fruit farmer.

As it turned out, being an orchardist wasn't too profitable when he graduated from high school. Instead, he worked with his father, also as a barber in the village. There were three barbershops here at the time. Then, as time passed, he felt the opening of Route #104 ruined the Main Street economy.

Jim remembers many nostalgic times, like when the Broekhuizen was a place where older men would sit on the rocking porch, Rotary would meet there, and wedding receptions took place within it. He recalls how Gallo's was very prosperous when Sam Gallo was there, and it kept shopping more local – again, until Route #104 opened up, and people drove away for shopping elsewhere.

He showed great patience as the community barber in the village he loved; listened to what customers had to say; tried to greet everybody by name; and make it a point to know them. There being neither retirement nor health insurance, however, Jim didn't encourage his three sons to become a barber. In fact, "If I had it to do all over again, *I'd be a farmer.*"

Side Note: *Contrary to James Michalke's 2007 advice in that interview, his son, Matt, has indeed taken over the barber shop since Jim retired! I'm thinking this third-generation barber is making both father and grandfather pretty proud.*



Collection Management Fostering Preservation, Accessibility and Utility



Ed Leahy!

It's him – the first President of the historical society!

A whole lot of life took place before this picture was taken at a wedding in 2004; and it began in Ridgewood, New Jersey, in 1926, where Ed was born and raised. He graduated from Colgate University with a degree in Geology, made good friends there, and joined a few of the guys for a good time at the Sodus Point beach one summer. Unbeknownst to him, a young lady from Palmyra had rented a cottage there for the same reason with her friends. A wedding and three children later, they found themselves very much at home in the former residence of Dr. Arthur Fisher on Jay Street.

After a stint in the Army Air Corps, Ed became a salesman for 3M office supplies, travelling far and wide. His affable and outgoing personality brought him much success in business. Long before the popular "Take Your Child to Work Day," this father enjoyed a very delightful day every year with each of his three children individually as they were able to join him for his business appointments (such as Scrantom's in Rochester), lunch together, and a whole day of being off with their dad.

Somehow, Ed managed to have time to encourage development of the historical society, as well as his family life and a little catch-and-release fly fishing. In an oral history interview with Paula Carey in 1994, he spoke about the monthly newsletters being printed on a mimeograph machine, which someone purchased for \$15. His wife Kathleen remembered, "You'd crank this thing in the kitchen, and we were laying these things all over the house to dry before we mailed them out." Compare that with receiving it via e-mail 57 years later - no drying, no postage, instant delivery.

The meetings were rather informal at first, and they'd meet at someone's home or the Fire Hall. The men were even known to leave to fight a field fire, fight it with brooms, and go back to the Fire Hall to finish up the meeting. Lucille Lockley would often phone, Ed said, and invite everyone over for a drink after the meeting.

Not a member of the Fire Department, Ed recalled hearing the fire alarm go off, and no one came by where he was standing on the lake front wall. In a little while, Roy Angelo came hurrying by while still putting his jacket on and said, "Hey, Ed, c'mon." Ed was not a member of the Fire Company, but finally, with no one else around, Roy recruited him and needed help getting the fire engine going. *It would only go in first gear!* The two of them drove slowly down the street as everyone came out to watch the engine going by. "We were waving to everybody as we went by. June Mascle was out at the Post Office, and there was Miss Young, where Chet lives now." The fire was already out by the time they got there!

Ed's memories are terrific, so lighthearted. He recalled *using a fly swatter as the gavel at meetings* and how a member who came to a meeting telling how one of her children needed something notarized, and she found an old machine of former owners, left for many years in the attic, so she just stamped the paper with that.

(Continued on page 10.)



Collection Management Fostering Preservation, Accessibility and Utility



Ed Leahy (Continued)

Well, times continued to change after that first meeting was called to order with a fly swatter at the Pultneyville Fire Hall on the 15th of February 1964. Their first newsletter was cranked out, dried, and mailed in April, and there were 34 memberships on the books by December of that very first year. Success was his, but he credited all the group's members. Adding to his endeavors, Ed Leahy looked after stray animals, built bluebird houses, and continued to address issues of community benefit.

His legacy? He left us a lasting model of community spirit by using personal energies in many quiet ways to foster care for people who needed an extra hand of help, and he used his Irish smile and good nature for the benefit of all who engaged him in any manner.

EDWARD B. LEAHY, JR.
(1926 – 2010)

By Irene Bierer
Collection Management Committee

Gifts for September/October 2021

Les Buell has donated bound volumes 1967 and 1986 of the *Williamson Sun & Record* newspapers. This totals 35 such books in all from his collection. All have been assigned an accession number, and at least one person has availed herself of the advantage of re-reading parts of the tomes.

Dan Montondo shared some of his personal collection of Gates Hall memorabilia. We have now accessioned:

- A window card poster autographed by the cast for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, presented by Gatesinger Company Ltd, YouTheatre at Gates Hall in 2019,
- A window card poster autographed by the cast for *Kiss Me Kate*, presented by Gatesinger Company, Ltd., YouTheatre at Gates Hall in 2005,
- Two programs of Gilbert and Sullivan music from past shows, by members of Gatesinger Company, Ltd., presented in July 2021 in the Pultneyville Methodist Church (great acoustics!), backed with advertising for *Godspell* by Gatesinger Company, Ltd., and
- A group photo of cast members of YouTheatre presentation of *Kiss Me Kate* from the 2005 presentation.

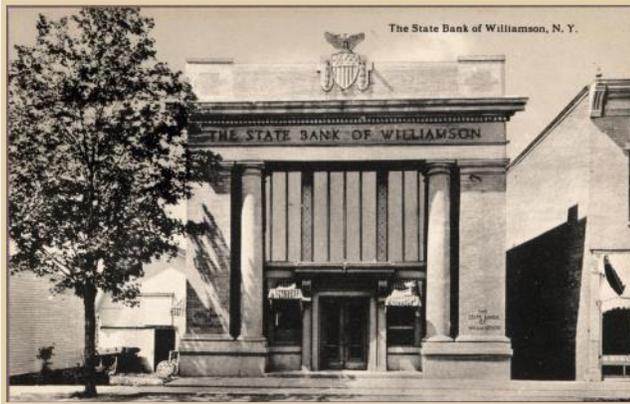
*Thank
you*



Collection Management Fostering Preservation, Accessibility and Utility



PHOTOS FROM YESTERYEAR By Dan Montondo



The eagle and shield were not original to the building. This photo, dated August 1928, shows them being added as part of a remodel. The back of the photo states that the two men at the top are John and Myron Orbaker. The sign on the scaffolding states "Cement work on this job made with "PORTLAND CEMENT being constructed by John M. Orbaker Williamson, N.Y."

The recent closing of **Key Bank** in Williamson had me searching the W-PHS Collection for photographs of the bank building.

The State Bank of Williamson was built in the classic temple style as can be seen from this early photograph.



The interior was also very different from the bank of today as can be seen in this photo from circa 1920. The individuals are (left to right) George Stebbins, Mable Mahieu, Mamie Sprague, Leeland Fuller, and Ray Fuller, with an unknown male at the table.



At some point, the State Bank of Williamson was purchased by the Central Trust Company, when Bankers Trust merged with Central Trust they gave Williamson's banking temple a face lift. Does anyone think this look (from 1982) was an improvement?



Collection Management Fostering Preservation, Accessibility and Utility



OBJECTS FROM YESTERYEAR By Cherie Kline

Lighting Up Gates Hall



These objects, according to Dan Montondo, have been in a storage area of Gates Hall, as long as he can remember. They appear to be early electrical fixtures; just the wall portion, no lights or globes. They may be the oldest light fixtures associated with the Hall, likely meant for a hallway or small area.

This find, recently added to our Collection, prompted me to scan our old records for Gates Hall and the Theatrical Organizations that have used it, for references to lighting needs and uses.

The Pultneyville Lyceum in 1867 (pre the Gates Hall renovations) used an improvised stage. Kerosene lamps are mentioned as being used for “spotlights.”

In 1893, as the Hall was being modified with the addition of the stage and basement; there was no money left for additional lighting. Evi D. Stoddard was eager to see that happen. He loaned the Gates Hall Association the money and went to Rochester and obtained four kerosene lamps that hung from the ceiling on chains to light the main hall.

Electrical service to the average home was not generally widely available until the 1930s. I was unable to find just when electric power was added to Gates Hall, but in the 1940s, monthly meeting minutes routinely note expenses for “coal, light and water.”

Records of the Pultneyville Players, and the Gatesingers repeatedly note “additions to the lighting equipment” and “improved lights.” Wikipedia makes note of an aspect of theatrical lighting I had not considered, but which logically makes sense. Dim light made it difficult to hold the attention of the audience! Performers found they could wear less extreme make-up, and did not have to “exaggerate their motions.” Actors received more “respect” when their audience could see them well!

By the 1950s there are references to “Permanent lighting and Set lighting,” each production requiring lighting specific to each Production; in the 1960s “new wiring to replace fuses and bulbs”; rheostats (dimmers) are mentioned. A significant issue mentioned was “control of the curtain so it did not hit the stage lights”!

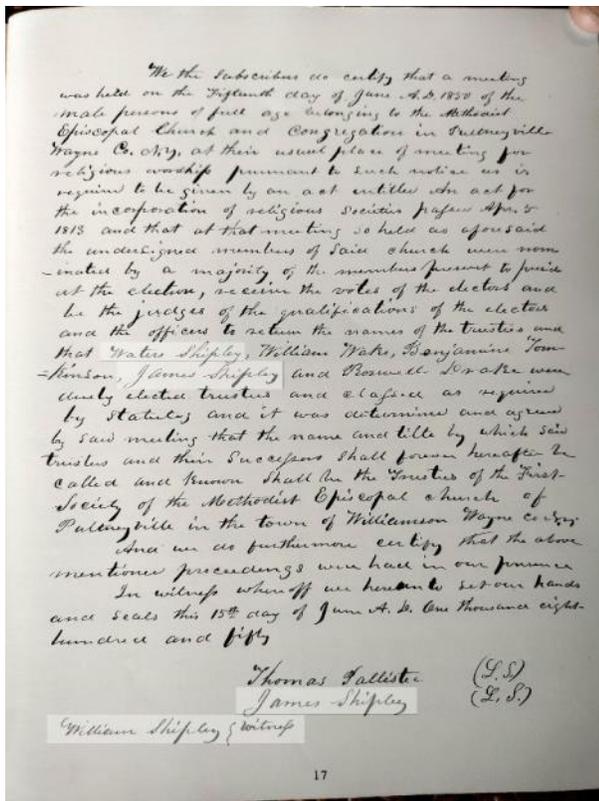
Lighting continues to evolve to meet modern expectations for safety and sophisticated productions. Our little light fixtures are a reminder of how far we have come.

The William E. Shipley Family Ties to the “New” Brick Pultneyville United Methodist Church

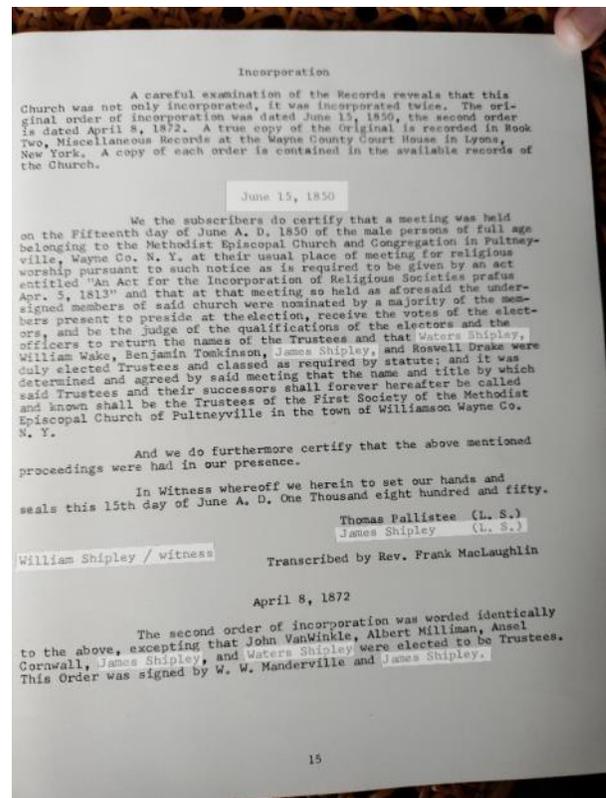
By Paul Naliwajek

William E. Shipley, his wife and 5 children, arrived here from Yorkshire, England, in 1817. They were members of the Methodist Church in England. On June 15, 1850, the Methodist Episcopal church in Pultneyville, NY was incorporated. Five Trustees of the church were named, two of them being Waters Shipley, 40, and James Shipley, 42. James Shipley's signature, also on the document, followed by L.S. (*Locus Sigilli*, Latin for the place of the seal) was an official notary of the document. Their father, William E Shipley, 67, (signature as witness to the document) having died in 1859, did not have the opportunity to see the “New” brick church built. Isaac, their youngest brother, the last of 4 more children born here was 24 years of age.

Copy of the original 1850 document of incorporation



Transcript of Incorporation



On April 8, 1872, a second incorporation of the Church was documented, Waters Shipley, now 62 and James Shipley, 64, remaining as Trustees, the other 3 trustees replaced by other members of the congregation.

On July 4, 1874, the cornerstone was laid for the new brick church, put in place by the Rev. F.G. Hibbard, the presiding elder. The cornerstone contains a copy of the New Testament, the Northern Church Advocate, the Christian Advocate of New York, the *New York Tribune* and various denominations of English and American coins. Dedication services were held in the completed church on March 27, 1875.

(Continued on page 14)

(Shipley's Ties to "New" Brick Church continued)

Subscriptions (collections) for the church were dated March 13, 1872, and March 27, 1875. Earlier in that year, on January 17, 1875, a subscription was made for the church bell. Subscriptions for the parsonage were August 13 and December 2, 1878.

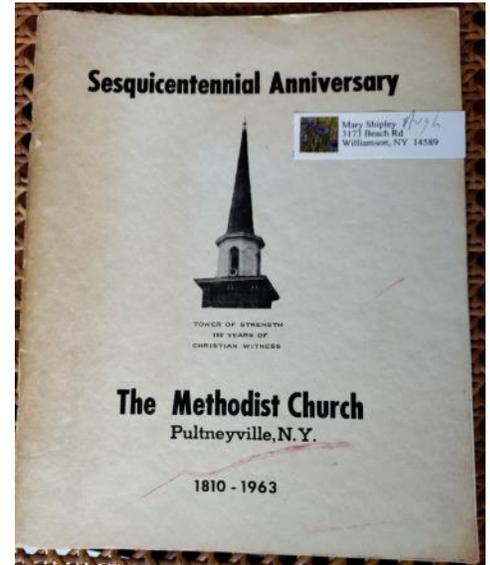
New Brick Church



Parsonage's 1st resident was
Rev. William Armstrong,
December 18, 1878



Pamphlet



Overall, the Shipley family contributed almost 15% to the overall cost of the church and its necessities. Isaac himself having donated about 20% of that family donation. Beside Thomas Shipley's donation, he was also the delivery agent of the bell to the church. In 1955, a Baldwin Organ was placed into the church. Walter Shipley was one of the many contributors.

Many other local residents were both contributors financially and proactive in the process of the "New" brick church being built. For those interested, a more complete story in pamphlet form published in the 1960s was used in the creation of this article. Notes taken in conversation with the last living male descendant of William E Shipley were also used.



**HAPPY
FALL**

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we extend sincere condolences to two former deeply-rooted Williamson families as they celebrate the lives of W-PHS friends with longtime ties to the community.

Eleanor Brassier French, daughter of the late New York State Supreme Court Justice, Charles Bennett Brassier and Marian Getty Brassier, was a Williamson resident almost all her life. Born on August 21, 1920, Eleanor passed away in Lyons, NY on July 8, 2021. She will be fondly remembered for her love of Williamson and her many quiet and behind-the-scenes contributions to make our community a better place. She leaves behind many noted recollections of her life from birth through her adulthood, which we will share in the future. She recalls her father always saying that the year she was born was a great year for her family - they now had a daughter, and her mother was able to vote. Her dad was a member of the Bennett family which W-PHS has featured in an exhibit. Her mother, Mrs. Brassier, descended from the Clinton family. George Clinton, the first Governor of New York State and Vice-President with Jefferson, was her mother's ancestor.

Eleanor loved her hometown, the school she started in as a five year old and graduated from, its people and small town way of life, and their family friends. Her final resting place is Lakeview Cemetery in Pultneyville.

Suzanne Lockley Glad, daughter of the late Lucille Alberta Watson and Alfred Allen Lockley, passed away in Eugene, Oregon, on July 5, 2021, from natural causes. Born October 2, 1929, in Rochester, New York, she grew up as an only child on Lake View Fruit Farm, the family farm on Salmon Creek Road in the hamlet of Pultneyville, on the shores of Lake Ontario.

An accomplished equestrian, she often spent her afternoons riding through orchards after attending classes in a single building that housed grades one through twelve. Suzanne embarked on a career in cancer research and then quickly became involved in politics working for the late Edward ("Ned") Glad, then Chairman of the Young Republican campaign in New York State, who she later married. Election night at the Commodore Hotel with President-elect

Eisenhower coincided with her first date with her future husband, making it one of Sue's most memorable life events.

Throughout her life, Suzanne often returned to Pultneyville to visit. Since her death, Suzanne's family has donated many items to W-PHS that they felt belonged back from whence they came, which you will hear about in the future, including a book by Suzanne, *Remembered Time*, a brief biography of her interesting life and a twenty-five page genealogy. It has been a pleasure working with daughters, Amy Glad and Lissy Lantz, to facilitate the donation of items that will help the society to better tell our story. Mrs. Glad was married in the Pultneyville Methodist Church in 1953.

Having lived most of her adult life in New York City, California and Oregon, Mrs. Glad will be laid to rest in the Lakeview Cemetery in Pultneyville.

It is with grateful appreciation that W-PHS acknowledges both families for designating gifts in memory of their loved ones to the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society.

*Submitted by
Nanette P. Hance
President*

Thank you to those who have donated in memory of Suzanne Lockley Glad.

Linda Krivec
Amy Glad
Eileen Reynolds
Lisanne Glad Lantz



Helen
Bowles



Helen Bowles, Thank you!

Helen Bowles, long time resident of Pultneyville, has carefully tended the beautiful and well designed gardens surrounding her home on Hamilton Street for a number of years. Recently, Helen decided to move and generously donated flowers from her lush gardens to Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society. Members of the garden crew harvested a variety of plants and transplanted them to the flower beds surrounding the W-PHS House. Helen visited the newly planted gardens, shared a lovely smile of approval and gave welcomed advice about where two more plants she has graciously donated may fit in.

We look forward to future visits with Helen where she will see how the newly planted flowers have flourished and settled in their new home. Stop by to enjoy the gardens when you have a few moments to spare. It is a lovely space to relax and enjoy nature.

Helen is still living in the Hamlet of Pultneyville, so when you see her be sure to thank her for generously sharing her lovely plants with our community.

Thank you, Helen! It was lovely spending time with you and learning more about you and your family's rich history in Wayne County.

Article and photos by Charlotte Buehler



Painting the Open Land

Saturday, September 25, 2021

7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Cornwall Preserve - 3975 Lake Rd., Williamson

PLEIN AIR PAINTOUT AND ART SALE

The Genesee Land Trust is excited to announce *Painting the Open Land*, our first plein air art event on Saturday, September 25, at Cornwall Preserve in Williamson. This is an opportunity for local artists to paint the varied views and landscapes including Lake Ontario, meadows and orchards, woods, and winding trails of the 77-acre preserve.

September 25 is National Public Lands Day, a day to celebrate the land and its inspiration for art, education, recreation, and enjoyment. From dawn to dusk, you are welcome to stop by the property to take a walk, enjoy the early fall breeze off the lake, and admire the work of the artists who will be painting at various locations throughout the day.

Paintings will be available for sale online through December 18. Please visit geneseeandtrust.org for online art sale details.



Photos by Peter Parts

Annual W-PHS Picnic Features History of Pultneyville Mariners

A breezy Wednesday night found nearly 40 members and friends of the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society gathered in the new Pultneyville Mariners Pavilion for the society's annual summer picnic. Attendees admired the new food preparation building and connected pavilion, built partly because of the 2017 and 2019 high water levels that flooded their old clubhouse.

W-PHS President, Nan Peters Hance, standing in for Program Chair Dottie Howland, greeted those assembled, before offering a prayer of thanksgiving. A pot-luck meal was then enjoyed, after which Commodore Eric Baller welcomed those in attendance. He reflected on the recent activities of the club, which resulted in the new construction on the elevated foundation to mitigate high water should it return.

Nan then introduced Roland "Chip" Stevens, who provided the evening's program. Using photos and sailing trophies, Chip took the group back to the glacial period that produced the sand on the beach, before presenting the story of human interaction in and on the current property. The 1800s saw early settlers utilizing the harbor and creeks for trading commercially, mostly by lake schooner. Moving into the 20th Century, he detailed how his grandfather Fred Cornwall, Sr., and wife Florence, purchased land on both sides of Salmon Creek in 1920. The years that followed were tabbed "The Recreation Years," as a dance hall, sand and water slides, among other attractions, were built by Kid Goulette, who rented Crescent Beach from the Cornwalls. In 1944, the Pultneyville Yacht Club came into being on the west side of Salmon Creek. The Mariners were incorporated in 1968 on the east side of the Creek. Sailing, social activities and beach fun dominated the area, and continues to do so right up to the present time.

Full of information and delicious food, members and friends who attended the August 4th annual summer picnic of the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society have a new understanding of what happens down at the Pultneyville Mariners facility on the shores of Lake Ontario.

Dottie Howland, Program Chair

Save the Date

The Second Annual W-PHS Golf Tournament will be on **June 6, 2022.**



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 2021

January 25	
February 22	Meetings will be at 4 p.m.
April 26	
May 24	
June 28	The location TBD, with
August 23	respect to COVID
September 27	restrictions at the time of
October 25	the meeting.
November 22	

WLLIAMSON-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

To become a member, go to www.w-phs.org and click on the Membership tab.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS

President	Nanette P. Hance	president@w-phs.org
Vice President	Florence Doyle	fdoyle0407@gmail.com
Treasurer	Amanda Fox Hanlon	aahanlon88@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Terry Sutherland	tsutherl@rochester.rr.com
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Perkins	perkinsl@rochester.rr.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Collection Management	Florence Doyle, Interim	fdoyle0407@gmail.com
Project Leaders	Irene Bierer	ikbierer@gmail.com
	Cheryl Kline	ckline63@gmail.com
	Dan Montondo	dan.montondo@rochester.rr.com
	Oral Histories TBD	
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Exhibits	Sue-Jane Evans	sjkevans@mail.com
Ex Officio Trustee	Perry Howland, Town Historian	peridot@rakedsouthgarden.com
Finance	Amanda Fox Hanlon	aahanlon88@gmail.com
Membership	Holli Dowling	holli.casanzio@gmail.com
Nominating	Barbara Crawford	blctobe123@hotmail.com
Programs	Dottie Howland	peridot@rakedsouthgarden.com
Property	David Frohlich	dfrohlic@rochester.rr.com

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Audit	TBD	
Education Liaison	TBD	
4th Grade Walking Tour	TBD	
Event Fundraising		
Cemetery Tour	Kathy Fedick	kathyfedick@gmail.com
Garage & Pie Sale	TBD	
Coordinator	Linda Perkins	perkinsl@rochester.rr.com
Gates Hall Fundraising	Florence Doyle	fdoyle0407@gmail.com
Golf Tournament	Terry Sutherland	tsutherl@rochester.rr.com
Homecoming	TBD	
Home Tour	Debra Parts	debrap@peterparts.com

OPERATIONS

Gift Shop	Toni Baller	tballer@rochester.rr.com
Grants	Sandra Zeman	szeman001@rochester.rr.com
Grounds	Lynda Parmelee	susser1@yahoo.com
Hospitality	Betty Morley	bettymorley1@gmail.com
House Supplies	Laraine Frohlich	dfrohlic@rochester.rr.com
IT Administrator	Dan Montondo	dan.montondo@rochester.rr.com
Office Manager	Terry Sutherland	tsutherl@rochester.rr.com

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT SHOP LOCALLY

For full business card information, go to www.w-phs.org

Alard Equipment Corp.
6483 Lake Ave, Williamson
315-589-4511

Apple Country Spirits
3274 Eddy Road, Williamson
applecountryspirits.com

Artisans' Loft
4135 Mill Street, Pultneyville
315-589-5000
nhance@artisansloft.net

Burnap's Farm Market/Cafe
7277 Maple Ave., Sodus
315-483-4050
burnapsfarm@aol.com

Chance Farms, LLC
7560 Lake Ave., Williamson
315-589-4212

Cavallaro-Neubauer Chevrolet
3740 Route 104, Williamson
800-491-8625

Carol Verbridge - Howard Hanna
1450 Route 104, Ontario
585-752-9436 (cell)
315-524-2331 (office)
carolverbridge@gmail.com

Cole Income Tax Service
4098 E. Main St., Williamson
315-589-8441

Copper Ale House
4095 Ridge Rd., Williamson
315-904-4508

Cornerstone Associates Realty
Locations in Williamson,
Pultneyville, Ontario, Newark &
Webster

Paula Priest - Cornerstone Realty
585-370-1725 (cell)
315-524-7320 (office)
paulapriest@cornerstonerealty.com

Doug Carwash
4062 Ridgeway Street, Williamson
315-589-8938

Ely & Leene Agency
Mead-Maloy Agency, Inc.
212 N. Main St., Newark
315-331-1432

Embark Craft/Lagoner Farms
6895 Lake Ave., Williamson
Embark - 315-904-4212
info@embarkcraftciderworks.com
Lagoner Farms - 315-904-4109
info@lagonerfarms.com

Fox Fruit Farms LLC
3635 Lake Rd., Williamson
315-589-5113

Herbert Dentistry
6127 Maple Ave., Williamson
315-589-2813

Houseworx
3275 Lake Rd., Williamson
504-352-4279

Hughes Marina & Campgrounds
315-589-2752

itClix
4137 Mill St., Pultneyville
585-747-9532
info@itclix.net

K.M.Davies
6509 Lake Ave., Williamson
315-589-4811
www.kmdavies.com

Knataitis
Williamson
315-589-2332

Lettering Lounge
6160 Route 21, Williamson
315-589-4145

Orbaker's Drive-in
4793 Route 104, Williamson
315-589-9701

Orbaker's Farm Market
Lake Road, Williamson
315-589-2036
roman.rachel@gmail.com

PACE Electronics Products
34 Foley Dr., Sodus
315-483-9122
www.paceelectronics.com

Photo Graphic Services
7255 E. Townline Rd., Williamson
315-589-8665

Pultneyville Deli Company - Up Pub
4120 Lake Road, Williamson
315-589-0061

Pultneyville Yacht Club
www.pultneyvilleyachtclub.org

Reaper Customs
3229 Shepherd Rd., Williamson
585-880-6806

Reliant Credit Union
10 Benton Place, Sodus
Holli Dowling
800-724-9282, x 3422
hdowling@reliantcu.com

Reliant Credit Union
10 Benton Place, Sodus
Emily Chambers
echambers@reliantcu.com

Raked South Garden Bed & Breakfast
7826 Jay Street, Pultneyville
315-589-8012
www.rakedsouthgarden.com

Roland E. Stevens III
Plein-Air Watercolor Artist
www.rolandestevens.com

Seaway Trail Honey
Pat Bono
585-820-6619
SeawayTrailHoney@gmail.com

Storemore Self Storage
4149 Ridge Road, Williamson
315-589-7180

The Gatesinger Company, Ltd.
315-589-3326
www.gateshall.com

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SHOP LOCALLY**

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315-589-8861

Wilbert's U-Pull It
315-589-222
WUPI.com

Williamson Hardware
4101 Main St. and Rt. 21
Williamson
315-589-4011