

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society Newsletter

January-February 2022 Volume 12, Issue 1



From Your President

Welcome to 2022! May you find peace, joy and good health in the coming months as we continue to adapt to ongoing challenges. With the advent of a new year, as you revisit opportunities to “give back” to our community and renew your volunteer commitments, may W-PHS be among your priorities.



While it doesn't seem possible that another year has passed, as we look back on 2021, we have much to celebrate. It is our many collective W-PHS accomplishments, which are listed separately in this newsletter, that will inspire us, as an organization, to continue our work together.

In 2022, efforts will be focused on key goals aligned with our Strategic Plan designed to drive and guide decisions intended to ensure the long term health and vitality of our historical society. This however, will require involvement from our members and friends of W-PHS whether it be in the role of a Committee Chair, event chair, docent, or in a shorter term commitment, we have a need, and place, for all volunteers. Keeping in mind that some prefer a one time short term commitment, there are opportunities for everyone to give as little, or as much time, as your schedule allows. Every volunteer hour counts and is important ... especially when applying for grants and it is necessary to document member and community support.

As you will note in our new 2022 soon-to-follow membership materials, there are some changes. W-PHS is now a rolling membership structure with membership beginning the first of the month in which dues are received. A reciprocal value-added benefit is now a membership option which will bring you and your family a cost savings

opportunity when visiting other attractions, both near and far away. To better serve our members, W-PHS joined NARM ... the North America Reciprocal Museum Association ... so that we could extend this opportunity to our membership. NARM is an extensive network of over 1,100 historical museums and societies, art museums, galleries, botanical gardens, children's museums, zoos . . . and more. Joining W-PHS at the \$150 sustainer level will afford you cost-savings opportunities within this network of venues.

Please join me in extending congratulations to W-PHS 2021 Volunteer of the Year, David Frohlich, W-PHS Property Chair. Dave has successfully guided our historical society through two major preservation projects to stabilize Gates Hall from the ground-up, and the roof-down. Most recently, Dave led us, with the assistance of community volunteer, Todd LaBarr, President of Watchdog Building Partners, through an extensive capital improvement project to preserve the structural integrity of the building, which included a full roof replacement and structural remediation work between the ceiling and roof. Working as a team with engineers and contractors, this project, while with its many challenges, was successfully completed during COVID in 2021 while Gates Hall had to be closed for public performances.

As we look to the future, W-PHS invites and encourages your involvement. Participation is welcome at any level so that we might continue to preserve and protect our heritage assets whether documents, photos, family histories, oral histories, structures, or artifacts, which help us to better tell our community's story.

On behalf of W-PHS, I wish you a Happy New Year and thank you for your continued and generosity which enables our work. Together, we can make 2022 a year of positivity and possibility.

(Continued on page 2)

(From Your President continued)

As one year ends and another begins, let us toast yesterday's accomplishments of W-PHS and tomorrow's possibilities as we continue to plant seeds and cultivate interest, curiosity and a deeper appreciation for local history.

Regards,

Nan

*Nanette Peters Hance
President*



WPHS 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Nanette P. Hance, President

Like all not-for-profit volunteer organizations, W-PHS continues to deal with the consequences of the pandemic and the changes it has brought about. While we accomplished much in 2021, it was disappointing to again have to cancel planned programs and events which included our:

- 4th Grade Walking Tour
- Homecoming and the 5K Run
- The planned opening of Gates Hall to the public for tours
- September Tour of Homes
- Annual Holiday Program
- Fundraising concert series for Gates Hall
- Annual Day of Caring

However, the “good news” is that in spite of our disappointments, we still have an impressive long list of accomplishments to celebrate of the things we were able to do that include, but certainly were not limited to the following:

- ~**1st Annual Golf Tournament** to support and sustain historic Gates Hall, which in its first year netted over \$16,000.
- ~The **digitization of W-PHS records**, information and photos by Collections Management using Past Perfect.
- ~The completion of a **Strategic Plan**, which is a fluid document that has been accepted by the Board to guide future decisions and direction of W-PHS.

~The successful completion of the **Gates Hall Phase II Structural Remediation and Roof Replacement Project**, which in these challenging times was a major accomplishment despite COVID among the workforce and the delayed delivery of materials.

~W-PHS was able to present both **planned and unplanned programs**, which included its first-ever Women's Suffrage Zoom Program with Carol Cross; our long awaited East Williamson Walking Tour led by Les Buell and Pat and Gary Dick; our annual W-PHS picnic and program, which was hosted at the Pultneyville Mariners Club with a program by Chip Stevens on its history; and our program about the history of the Pultneyville Fire Company presented by Craig DeNagel, which concluded our series of programs about the fire companies in the Town of Williamson.

~While not the 4th Grade Walking Tour, W-PHS was able to continue its **Education Partnership** with the Williamson Central School District at the Elementary School level by contributing photos and information for an exhibit in the school library about our Town Parks.

~W-PHS received a generous **grant** from the Genesee Country Antique Dealers Association for the conservation of Sam Ledyard's 1837 Map of early Pultneyville, which was a gift from a descendent of the Ledyard family that once resided in Pultneyville.

~W-PHS again opened its doors to the public for the **2021 season from mid-June to mid-October** with two new exhibits and a host of volunteers. While attendance was down like all similar venues, we had many engaged visitors who enjoyed what we offer in a COVID friendly and safe environment.

~W-PHS was again able to offer its annual Community Garage Sale, along with the sale of a premium selection of craft beers which added significantly to the income of this event.
(Continued on page 3)

(Highlights continued)

~W-PHS held its popular **Cider Pressing** activity in conjunction with the 2021 NY Pathways to History event, which this year, drew a crowd of over **80 kids** and young-at-heart adults who were excited for the outdoor learning experience on a beautiful fall day.

~W-PHS was pleased to present its annual **Moonlight Cemetery Tour** to over **85 attendees** with volunteers portraying the characters of 10 spirits. This not only is one of our most popular fundraising events, but one which doubled in income over prior years due to a price increase which now aligns with what other area tours are charging.

~W-PHS continues to take pride in, and celebrate its beautiful and meticulously **well-cared for grounds** of the W-PHS House, Gates Hall and Centennial Park for which we thank our gardening group volunteers.

~Our final **“Get Your Holiday Jingle On”** fundraising event of the year on November 6th at Gates Hall featuring the sale of award-winning wines, homemade pies, handmade holiday wreaths and raffle tickets for two amazing gift baskets ended our fundraising efforts for 2021 on a high note, exceeding all expectations.

With heartfelt appreciation, W-PHS thanks its many volunteers and donors who contributed to the success of our collective accomplishments.



The W-PHS Annual Meeting November 3, 2021

The W-PHS Annual meeting was held in Gates Hall on November 3. The meeting included election of officers; the revision of the By-Laws presented for membership approval; acknowledgement of the Society's accomplishments over the last year; a presentation by Dan Montondo of the Collection Management; and presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Nanette P. Hance was elected as President for a two year term, and the revision of By-Laws was approved by the membership.

David Frohlich was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award. As Property Chair, Dave oversaw the Gates Hall Roof Project to a successful completion.



President Nan Hance presents David Frohlich with the Volunteer of the Year Award



Dan Montondo presents Collection Management project information

Treasurer Amanda Hanlon gives the financial report

W-PHS Receives Grant for Conservation of Orbaker Painting

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society (W-PHS) is pleased to announce it has received a \$5,594 grant to conserve the oil on canvas of "Unknown, Still Life with Apples" by Kenneth Orbaker.

The conservation of this work has been made possible by the NYSCA/GHHN Conservation Treatment Grant Program administered by Greater Hudson Heritage Network with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. The Conservation Treatment Grant provides support for treatment procedures by professional conservators to aid in stabilizing and preserving objects in collections of museums, historical, and cultural organizations in New York State.

The goal of the W-PHS project is to conserve the 1916 still life. West Lake Conservators, Ltd. was chosen for the preservation.

Orbaker was a local resident who attended art school before becoming a soldier in the US Army. He died in France in 1918 during WWI. The painting was gifted to W-PHS by Fred Compertore.

W-PHS is grateful for the funding that will allow our Society to preserve this artifact. This painting pays tribute to the generations who came before us in our small farming community. Once conserved, the framed still life will be displayed at the W-PHS House.

GCADA Grant For Samuel Ledyard Map

W-PHS received a canvas backed map, originally owned by Samuel Ledyard, which documents the hamlet streets and landowners in 1837. It was donated by Robert P. Halley, the nephew of Mrs. Fred (Jennie) Ledyard.

The map was conserved through a \$700 grant from the Genesee Country Antique Dealers Association (GCADA) earlier this year. It was restored by Conservator Gary Albright.

Thank you to GCADA for awarding this grant, making it possible for the public to capture the moment in time when this hand drawn map of Pultneyville was created.



Ledyard map -
conserved and framed.

Hoffman Foundation Grant Awarded

In December, the Hoffman Foundation awarded W-PHS a \$700 grant for PastPerfect Web Edition Full Package software. This package will upgrade the existing software, enabling multiple users to optimize the system for data entry, research and utilization of other modules (i.e., tracking memberships, managing campaigns for fundraising, sending bulk emails).

Thank you to the Hoffman Foundation for this grant which will greatly assist the work being performed by Collection Management.

The Kenneth Orbaker Painting By Fred Compertore

I moved to my house on Ontario Drive, Ontario, New York, in 1995. The structure had a large addition that was done by the previous homeowner which included a storage closet that went into the garage. On the top of the storage room was a flat roof that was accessible only from the garage. After a year or so, I got around to cleaning the garage; and when I got to the top of the storage closet area, I saw what looked like a rolled up painting canvas, among other things. When I unrolled the canvas I saw an oil on canvas painting. I saw watermarks and cracks in the painting, but I also could see the quality of a whole still life. The back of the painting was signed 'Kenneth Orbaker, Dec 4 16.' At that time, I wrapped the painting in a large plastic bag and rescued it from the roof of the storage closet. I thought that, as a history teacher, I would like to look into the painting and artist who had signed the painting.

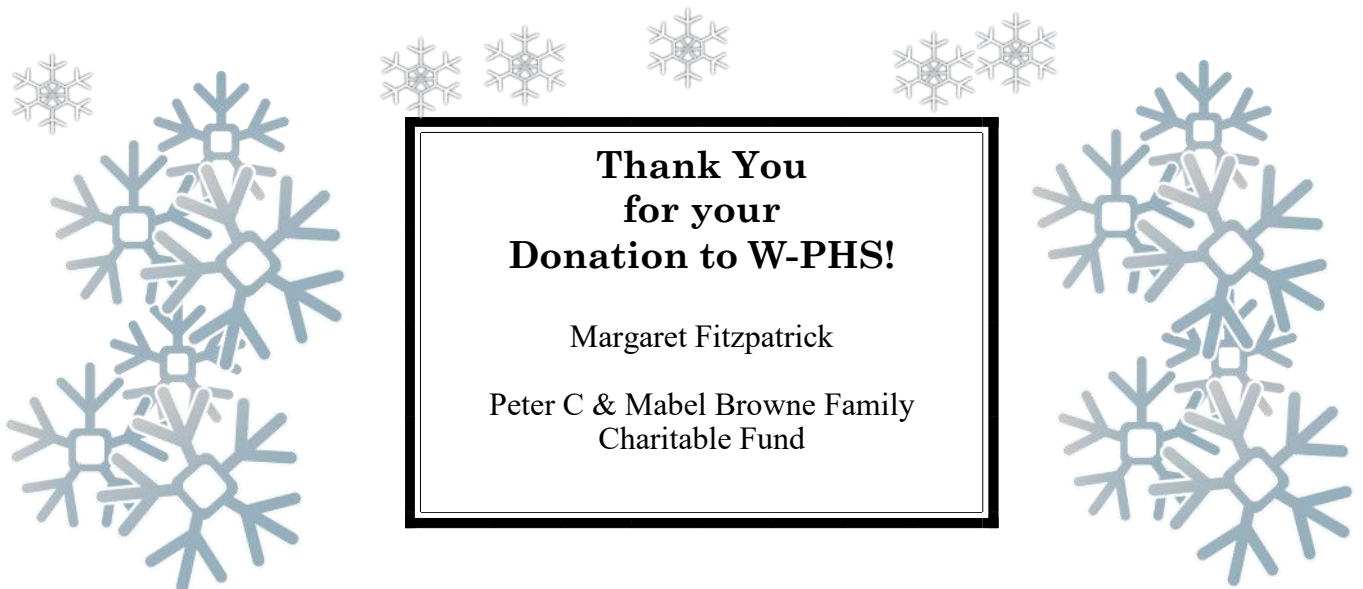
Several years, after I retired, I finally decided to do some searching on the painting's background. I decided to stop in at the Pultneyville Historical Society house that I drove by every year to pick apples. That is when I met Chet Peters, the Town Historian. I showed him the painting, and he gave me the following information that he had found in an 1918 newspaper obituary:

*Kenneth Kenyon Orbaker. Jan 4th 1894—Oct 19, 1918 age 24 yrs.
Died Grand Pre Meuse Argonne. Buried Ridge Chapel Cem. Williamson*

There were several times when I thought that I didn't have time to follow-up on the painting, and I probably should just dispose of it. But, when I heard that artist was a young man who died fighting for our country, I couldn't bring myself to just dispose of his painting. I knew I had to do more.

Later, a friend who I had told about the Orbaker painting, was taking a painting to the West Lake Conservators in Skaneateles, NY. for some restoration and cleaning. She asked me if I wanted to ride along. When my friend was talking to one of the conservators I engaged another conservator and told her about finding the Orbaker painting and it's condition. She was interested and asked me if I would like to bring the painting to them to have a look. Which I did. Finally, I decided to contact the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society, and that is when I talked to Nan Hance, and I am sure you know the rest of the story.

Thank you to Fred Compertore for the donation of the Kenneth Orbaker painting.





“Support for the GATES HALL Legacy Is Needed” 67% of Goal Achieved To Date*

Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society (W-PHS) is grateful for your generosity. Because of you and your ongoing support, we are able to preserve this landmark that has stood the test of time for nearly 200 years. Together all things are possible, and we can take pride in knowing that we shared the responsibility for preserving Gates Hall.

W-PHS is the entrusted sole steward of Gates Hall, which is the oldest small community theatre in continuous operation in the United States and resides on the National Register of Historic Places. While our initial intentions were to launch a \$300,000 all inclusive fundraising campaign for the overall revitalization of Gates Hall in early 2020, which was to have included a community appeal and series of planned fundraising events, all plans were paused or cancelled due to COVID-19.

As a result, we opted to launch a fundraising campaign in the amount of \$115,000, and we invite you to be part of this initiative to preserve the structural and architectural integrity of the Hall for future generations. We received a generous \$15,000 grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation and W-PHS designated funds of \$25,000 from its treasury, leaving a goal of \$75,000 to be raised through private and corporate contributions.

Please consider making a contribution at this time, details and a donor form are included in this newsletter and may also be found at www.w-phs.org where online donations can be made. Thank you for your interest and consideration.

*As of 12.31.2021

(Donor Form on the following page)



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.

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

Garden Dreams



Here's an idea to mull over as we hibernate till spring...

Anyone who has spring/summer bulbs in their gardens that need dividing or anyone who orders bulbs for next fall, set aside a few for the Historical Society, and we will plant a mixed border to celebrate the Wayne County Bicentennial. We started this idea last fall when we planted 250 new bulbs to add to the spring display around the W-PHS house. Adding lots more bulbs will make the idea pop!

No need to label, any bulbs are welcome in any color. The fun will be seeing what grows in the spring/summer of 2023. If we're lucky, we'll have color for a couple of months and a wide variety of blooms.

Looking forward to another great gardening season in 2022, and with your help, an even brighter 2023!

*Sweet Winter Dreams,
Lynda Parmelee
Grounds*



Bicentennial Bytes and Updates

ACTIVITY BOOK FOR KIDS

The Wayne County Activity Book for Kids has been sent to the printer. Caryn Devlin, Marion Historian, has compiled a creative and fun book for kids of all ages with puzzles, coloring pages, word searches, and pages of local history about each town in Wayne County. The books will be distributed to fourth grade students in schools throughout the county, as well as to libraries, historical societies, and local farmers markets. A PDF version will be available online so that it can be downloaded, giving people a chance to print the pages they want.

PHOTO QUILT/POSTER PROJECT

A meeting was held recently to select 40 photos to represent Wayne County today. There will be 2 from each town and 10 more that represent a wider area. After the layout phase, the photos will be printed on cloth and sent to the Reverse Curves Quilt Club to be made into a quilt. An image of the quilt will be made into a poster that we will begin to offer for sale next summer.

For the full Nov-Dec Bicentennial Bytes newsletter, go to:

<https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/DocumentCenter/View/3422/Bicentennial-Bytes-Nov-Dec-2021-PDF>



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In Reverie

By Irene Bierer



Who can forget the variety of what was learned with flash cards such as these thin and old samples from our collection? Add the two numerals of the cards, put answers in numerical order, then multiply them, then put those answers in numerical order. Do the cards remain in the same order for both addition and multiplication answers? On and on it went.

As varied as these flash card activities were, so were other memories of the one-room schoolhouse experiences of oral history narrators. Here are a few of their dissimilar thoughts on the subject!

At the age of 7 years, **Eleanor Fairbanks** started school with a half-mile walk from her house at the corner of Church and Tuckahoe Road to District #5 school that stood where Salmon Creek Road and Tuckahoe Road came together. That building was no longer there when she was interviewed in 2000, not even a remnant. It had burned down. Young Eleanor attended the school without seemingly having any significant occurrences in her memory of 91 years. Outstanding in her mind was the fact that because of that half-mile walk her parents didn't enroll her at a younger age. Perhaps there was no minimum entry age requirement.

Roland Orbaker took every advantage he could muster to absent himself from the classroom situation. This young man had a lot of fun in District #1 in Pultneyville. "I can remember a lot of the young fellas, me included, we would put our name on the board to go to the bathroom, and the minute we got out of the door, someone else would hustle up, go up, and erase your name and put their name down, and we would sneak out the back door and get on our bicycles and drive around Jay Street (laughs) before the teacher caught up with us." He closed that subject by saying, "I was never really an angel, either."

By contrast, Roland's sister, **Ruth DeWitte**, recalled living a very quiet life with school activities. She said, "We were very busy at school, not busy like we are today, but we (family?) all played musical instruments." Ruth remembered that the school picnic would always be at Crescent Beach where there was a little merry-go-round and a water slide.

Ruth's teacher, **Lucille Lockley**, who attended District #1 school as both student and teacher, said Myrtle Edmonds was her teacher. She spoke of walking to school when the sun was shining, and a hired man drove her there in bad weather. There was one house on her way to school which she always *ran past* as a child, because she had been told a "crazy lady" lived there! Her future students, Pearl Orbaker (Peters) and her sister, Ruth Orbaker (DeWitte), said *they always ran past it, too!*

No one mentioned fun with flash cards!



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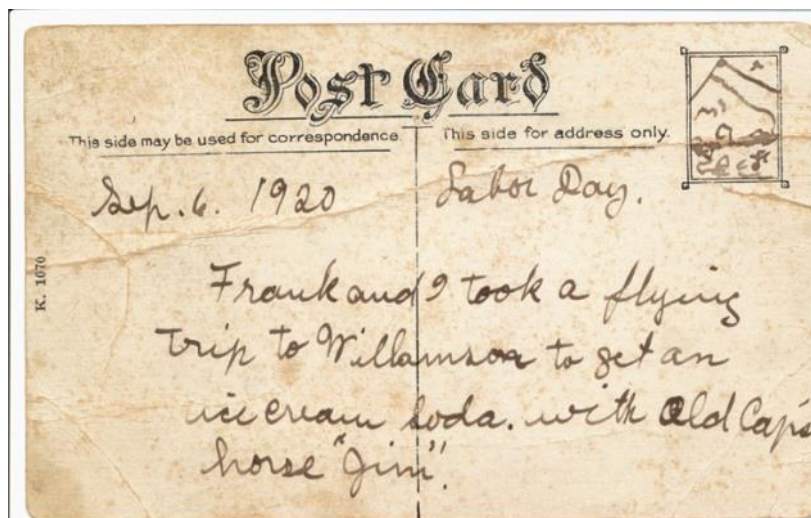
PHOTOS FROM YESTERYEAR

By Dan Montondo

The gift of photos and postcards from Eileen and Richard (Dick) Parker include several images that have a special meaning to me personally. First a little background, Eileen and Dick live in my grand parents former house where my father grew up. The first postcard showing the Tassell and DeZutter Blocks, the north west side of Main Street.



It is the back of the card which Eileen said they found in the attic of their house that makes it special to me.



“Sep. 6, 1920 Labor Day. Frank and I took a flying trip to Williamson to get an ice cream soda with Old Cap’s horse ‘Jim.’”

This note would have been written by my grandmother (Frank is my grandfather) when they were courting. Loraine Dawes has identified Old Cap as Captain Merwin Palister, one of the last of the lake captains of Pultneyville and the owner of the mansion on the corner of Mill Street and Pig Lane.

(Continued on page 11)



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PHOTOS FROM YESTERYEAR

By Dan Montondo

The next is a photograph of the Pultneyville School House.

The photo includes my great uncles Ray Montondo and Ernie Montondo.



"PULTNEYVILLE VILLAGE SCHOOL" ("ca. 1912")

Lucille Watson, Ida Kurzrock, teacher (in doorway), Mary Babcock, Luella Clogg, Olive Tufts, Hazel Towne, Edith Watson, Cornelia Scharies, Mattie Mann, Bertha Cottrel, Mable Wisse, Ray Montondo, Asa Corteville, Leon Robine, Trayto Eaton, Robert Rogers, Leslie Vanderbough, Harold Colby, Archie Hagaman, Ernie Montondo, Claude Wisse, Wilbur Colby, Vida Wemefelder, Alice Fisher, Kitty Burke (3 small girls in front).



This photo of Craggs Mill (c. 1920), which was located on the corner of Hamilton Street and Salmon Creek Road. There are several images of the mill in the W-PHS archives taken from Hamilton Street looking west, but this one appears to be taken from Salmon Creek Road looking east showing the back of the mill. I grew up in the house (now owned by Randy and Kay Peck) that was built on the foundation of the old mill. The mill dam is still there and can be seen from the bridge across Salmon Creek.



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Alice Effa MacDonald Montondo!

By Irene Bierer

Yes, she is the very pretty hostess seated in the center at the tea time on a Camp Forman tent platform above. To her right are Frank and Charles, her oldest children, with her brother, Waldo, and his wife, Marian, as important guests.

Alice was born in 1897 in Warsaw, New York, before circumstances took her to several other locations and, finally, Williamson. Her father died in 1911, so she left

school at the age of 13 to help her poor distraught mother with younger children. It was still too difficult to maintain the family together, and her two youngest siblings were admitted into an orphanage for a few years, until the moment came when it was once again possible for them to all be together.

With this stark beginning, however, young Alice had acquired skills which provided her with the ability to work for other families in dire need. While living at 333 Oxford Street in Rochester, she had a mastoid operation, appendicitis, and yet she still became an integral governess to the Platt family in 1917 during WWI. These personal challenges served to strengthen her resolve to be productive, and that led to accepting a position with the Howe family, where she provided the assistance they needed for a blind daughter, did housework, and became invaluable within their family unit. Her loving kindness earned the reward of summering in the Howes' lakeside cottage on East Lake Road. They came by trolley to Williamson from Rochester. That trip alone must have been quite an undertaking. Alice was heaped with talent for the special needs of the family as a whole, and with the little girl in particular.

Another reward was meeting the man she would love for a lifetime – Frank Montondo. They courted, and, as Dan mentioned in his article, we have in our collection a post card written to someone with whom she wanted to share her romantic adventures, such as going into Williamson for ice cream with Frankie, using a borrowed transport from “ole Cap” (Pallister). Alice even designed and drew her own postage stamp! Her heart was all aquiver, and she was in love!

First came love, next came marriage, and then came Alice with a busy baby carriage. They became parents of five children. Charles “Chick,” Frank, Lorraine, Dick, and Jon Reginald “Reg,” brought joy to the family and community at large as they attended the District #1 Cobblestone Schoolhouse, and energetically engaged in jobs around the hamlet.

By the time little baby Lorraine was three months old, Frank was hired by Mr. Forman as a groundskeeper for Camp Forman (now Forman Park) on the former Samuel Cuyler property at the lake. Frank ran the orchards of apples and peaches, maintained the tent environment, did landscaping, and even constructed stone bird baths and grills.

Needing, in addition, a cook and housekeeper for the two-floor main house, Alice was hired, and the summer camp flourished under her unprecedented capabilities. This is where her renown for molasses cookies came to the fore. In her cookbook they were labeled Easy Ginger Cookies and were originally from Addie Lawrence, whose husband was a descendant of H. N. Throop's mother. *(Continued on page 13)*



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(Alice Effa MacDonald Montondo continued)

As local and out-of-town people came to recognize her for her proficiency in the kitchen, she was asked to cater receptions in homes and other places. These were clambakes, wedding receptions, dinners, etc.

Not known to leave a leaf unturned, the family had a cow which summered with them at Camp Forman and wintered in Kitty Creighton's barn, which was across the street from their house next to the corner store in Pultneyville. Alice handily made cottage cheese with the extra milk, until the time came one summer when the cow was ailing and the boys buried her at the Camp. *That gravesite remains a mystery at Forman Park!*

The very first Homecoming in 1957 found Alice on that committee and making huge pans of baked beans and facilitating the coffee urns as the men did the chicken.

It seems that Alice never really did vegetate on a couch. She made crazy quilts embellished with the feather stitches. Along with her husband, she was a janitor for the District #1 school where Frank was a Trustee (as well as for Centennial Park). Hoboes could count on a meal at their house – always outside though. She sang in the Methodist Church choir, taught Sunday School, cooked suppers there, was in the Women's Society, as well as continuing to do housekeeping and laundry for Phillips, Hawley, Lawrence, Latimore, Marcellus, and Umphrey families, to name a few.

So many people were affected by Alice's accomplishments that I wish her an eternity of chocolate, her greatest delight.

Alice Effa MacDonald Montondo

(1897-1965)

Credits: Lorraine Montondo Dawes, daughter, and Dan Montondo, grandson

Gifts

Eileen and Richard Parker – These, our closest neighbors to the W-PHS house, have offered us (and we accepted!) 10 photographs from area scenes, picture postcards of the Tassell and DeZutter Blocks, Crescent Beach, and the Captains Monument, as well as a map of the Town of Williamson, and two clippings from the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. These newspaper articles really grab attention: "They're on Opposite Sides in Fence Controversy" and "Help Gets Hot Dinners at West Pultneyville Fruit Farm."

Tyler Hagenbuch – This active gentleman has given us a metal emblem for the "New York State Automobile Association Williamson 1921." It has worked out just great for us that Tyler tried out a metal detector on his property!

Anne L'Hommedieu – Always searching for history of one sort or another, Anne located a "Williamson NY Good-For-Token, Myron E. Orbaker" piece and donated it to us. When you bought your milk in a reusable bottle exchange at his store, you would receive a token for another bottle, sort of like paying a deposit on a pop can now and receiving the money back again when you turn in the can at the store.

Diane Hall – We are thankful to Diane for loaning us 49 historic postcards of Pultneyville and "A Contemporary View of 1874 Pultneyville" by Richard M. Cott. These have been scanned for our collection. You may well see them used in articles of this newsletter in the future!

*Thank
you*

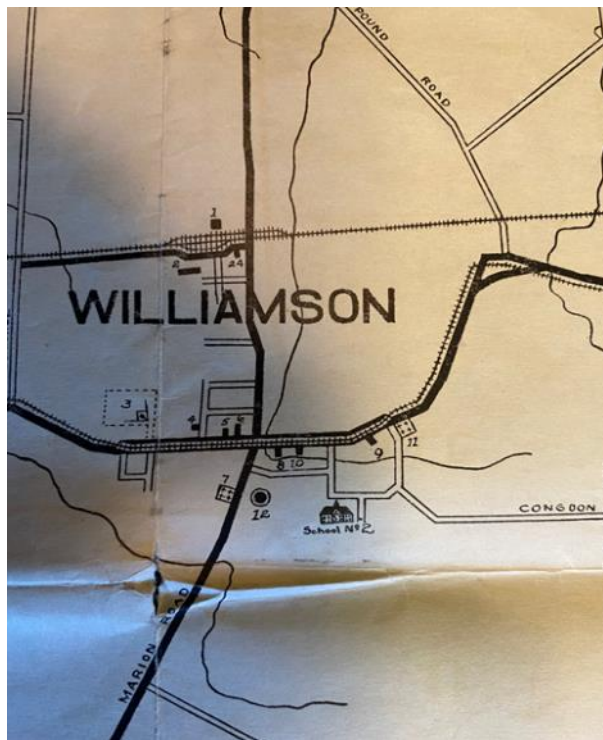


Collection Management Fostering Preservation, Accessibility and Utility



OBJECTS FROM YESTERYEAR By Cherie Kline

A recent gift from Eileen and Dick Parker prompted the theme from Collection Management for this edition of the newsletter. The gift included this undated map of the town of Williamson, with each of the 13 one-room schools noted.



Williamson schools evolved much like those in any rural areas of the state. As people settled one of their first tasks as a community included provision of a school. The spacing of these schools was often determined by how far the children could walk! Early on, teaching emphasized the basics, with older students often assisting the younger students with their lessons. By 1876, District no. 2 enlarged and a two-story building was added on Miller Street.

(See map detail). By 1931, the District had grown and consolidated, opening a new school to serve 600 students. Growth after WWII eventually led to the addition of the Primary and then the High School. (The Williamson Central Schools website has a Historic Timeline with many more interesting details.)

Irene Bierer chose to draw upon a few reminiscences from folks who had attended one of the towns first schools for this newsletter. We anticipate there are more pictures and stories related to these schools to be shared in future newsletters.

Please feel free to share photos and stories with the Collections Management group.

Cemetery Tour 2021

This year's Cemetery Tour took place on Saturday, October 23, 2021, with tours at 6:30pm, 7:30pm and 8:30pm. It was a beautiful evening with no rain and a beautiful moon. All tours were well attended. Total reservations were 86. Special thanks to our Tour Guide - Sue-Jane Evans for leading the tours; Parking - Larry Fedick and Lou Martino; Reservations - Nan Hance; Spirit Information - Dan Montondo, Nan Hance, Irene Bierer and Craig and Susan DeNagel; and Tour Check-in - Deb and Paul Arndt and Pat Naliwajek.

Thank you to our presenter's this year:

Chad Comstock and son Trey who presented Chauncey and Myron Fish. Chauncey Fish, born January 22, 1823, (some records say 1828) in Williamson N.Y. He was the son of Thomas and Sarah Gallup Fish. Married Phoebe Jane Cottrell and they had 9 children, His two eldest sons served in the Union Army, where Myron M was killed at the age of 19. After the end of the Civil War, Chauncey returned to Williamson and farmed. He died in 1900 at the age of 77.

Chip Stevens presented Asahel Todd MD - born in 1787 in Middleton, CT, and became a doctor around 1812. Asahel was married with one child. His wife died in 1814 and he remarried in 1814 to Phileima Long. They had 8 children and moved to Otesco, NY, to practice medicine. He was the District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic Officers and Knight of Templar Masons. He presided over the Pultneyville Lodge #201 from 1812 until it became Lodge #159 (1871). He died in 1871. Asahel and his brother Bethel purchased land for farming at the SE & SW corners of Bear Swamp and Lake Road to build houses. In 1830, they purchased more land on both sides of Washington and Jay Street and built two warehouses for shipping wheat and apples. Asahel and Bethel owned a schooner named "The Three Brothers." It sank off Oswego in a storm in 1833 and was found in 2014 by Pultneyville Mason and resident Chip Stevens the great-great grandson of Wm Andrew Cornwall.

Paul Naliwajek and Darlene Martino presented William and Elizabeth Shipley
This is the beginning of the skit presented on the Shipleys.

(William) Pardon me... my manners...it's been so long.... I seem to have forgotten proper manners. Let me introduce the two of us. This is my beautiful wife Elizabeth and I am William Shipley. We'd like to share our story and a good place to start hence be a far distant shore from here, I'll let Elizabeth be first.

(Elizabeth) My story begins in Gilberdyke, Yorkshire, England. My parents, Daniel Waters and Isabella Miles started their life together round about the same time that your ancestors were dumping tea into the Boston Harbor and laying the foundation to build a new country. My oldest brother, William Waters, was born in 1779. Next came a sister. I was born in 1785, followed by 4 younger siblings.

Our Methodist religion was important to our family, and we held dear our family prayer book. This book dates back to the 1700s and was passed down to me when I was 19. Like many others, we recorded important family events in the pages of this book. This page is about my brother William who was 6 years older than me. Allow me to read the note that is so important to our story, and to the story of all ye who make your homes in Pultneyville today.

"William Waters. Going to Amackrey. June 6th, 1804" My brother did set out for America that year. His journey was long, and he spent some time living not far from hither in Geneva, NY, before winding his way through the unbroken forest to the shores of Lake Ontario. He arrived in Pultneyville in 1806. Some say he was the first settler hither.

(Continued on page 16)

(Cemetery Tour continued)

(William) Now, before Elizabeth continues her story, let me share some of mine from far back across the sea. Both my parents came from long family lines and possibly some of our wealth goes back to the 1500s. My mother's name was Jane Taylor, my father William, and if it were not for also being born in Gilberdyke, Yorkshire, England, just 2 years before Elizabeth, I may have never met her. My parents had 4 children, I was their second born in 1783, being their first male child, I was given the honor of my father's first name. I married Elizabeth in the fall of 1807 in a section of Yorkshire, England called South Cave. Twas the year after her brother William left on his adventure.

William and Elizabeth's story goes on to credit Elizabeth's brother William for their settling in Pultneyville. Their youngest son, Issac, built one of the first brick homes in the area in 1850.

John Garlock read the names of the soldiers from the Civil War monument.

Jim and Karen Williams presented Abram and Ada Orbaker - Abram born 10/26/1887 son of Adrian and Mary Orbaker. Abram, known as Brom, developed his love of agriculture working with his dad. He grew up on Lake Road and married Ada Contant on March 9, 1910. She was 21 and he was 22. Their first two children, Lois and Roland, were born on the Tuckahoe Road farm. They went on to have three more children.

In 1917 Brom purchased 63-acre farm on Lake Rd that had cows, pigs and chickens with his brother-in-law Herman Young who was married to his sister Sarah. Then another 21 acres of apples and 2 acres of sour cherries.

Brom and Ada were lifelong members of the Pultneyville Reformed Church. They helped write the history of the church's 100-year Anniversary (1851-1951). Ada died on May 20, 1967, at the age of 79. Brom and Ada were married for 57 years. Brom married widow Estella Peck at the age of 80 the same year ADA died. Brom died March 17, 1974, at the age of 86. Five generations increased the farm acreage to 500 acres. Original homes and farms are still operated by the family.

The Orbaker Fruit Farm established in 1889 won the Century Farm Award for 100 or more years of continuous ownership and operation. The Orbaker Fruit Farm stand is currently being run by Adam and Rachel Peters, a 5th generation farming family.

Keith Herman presented Fred Cornwall Sr. with the restored Almayza sailboat.

When Fred Cornwall's father died, and he and his two sisters inherited 100 acres. He bought out his sisters and added additional property, 100-acre farm to the west and 70-acre farm to the east. He eventually planted orchards on his property: cherries, peaches and apples. He took advantage of modern farming techniques and prospered.

Cornwall could see the blue waters of Lake Ontario. He had ownership of some lakefront property. He rented this out to the Yacht Club and Mariners in his later years. He build the sailboat Almayza in a barn, and it was named for Fred Cornwall, Sr's niece, Alice Waters, and his two sisters, **May** and **Eliza** Cornwall. The Almayza may be the oldest actively sailed boat on Lake Ontario.

Jeremy Cummings presented Harvey Auchampaugh

Harvey Auchampaugh was a leading citizen of the bustling Pultneyville hamlet. Born in 1824 in Carlisle, NY, he came to Pultneyville when he was 22. In 1848, he married Susan Ann Cornwall, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Martin Cornwall. Clarence, the Auchampaugh's only son was born in 1850.

(Continued on page 17)

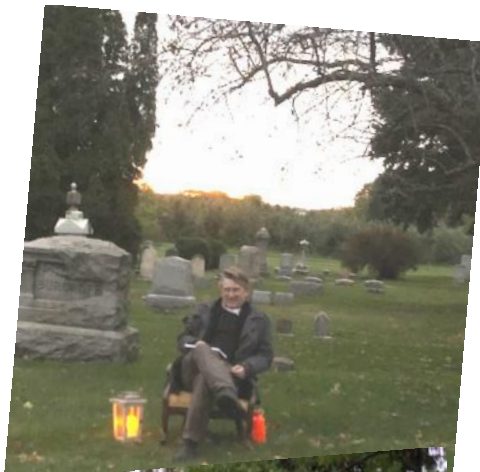
(Cemetery Tour continued)
Harvey Auchampaugh

In 1858, Harvey purchased land and hired local builder Russel Cole to construct his family home - presently where the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society is located. Mr. Auchampaugh was a druggist (pharmacist) and harness maker. By the 1890s, his harness shop was listed as a drugstore on Washington Street. Unfortunately, the drugstore was destroyed by fire. In 1860, Harvey served as the Postmaster. Harvey Auchampaugh died in 1905 and Susan in 1907.

Thank you to the Lakeview Cemetery Association for allowing W-PHS use the cemetery for this historical event and to Jay Peters for opening the building so that we had a place to be in out of the elements.

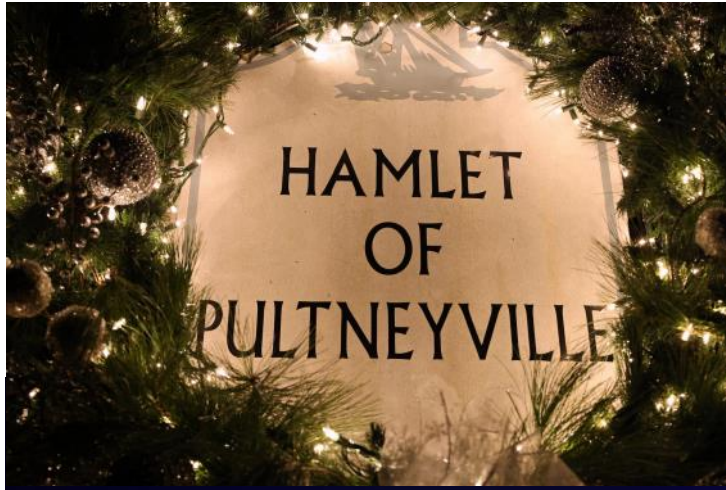
Anyone who has an interest in being involved with the planning of or taking over the Cemetery Tour or would like to present the life of a spirit in the tour, please contact me.

Kathy Fedick
Cemetery Tour Chair
Email: kathyfedick@gmail.com or phone: 585-261-3883



Pultneyville Illumination 2021

Photos by Peter Parts



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 preserve, protect and share local history by creating curiosity, inspiring involvement, and providing an exceptional experience by making history come alive.

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 2022

January 31
 February 28
 April 25
 May 23
 June 27
 August 29
 September 26
 October 24
 November 28

All Board Meetings will be held in Gates Hall at 4:00 pm unless noted otherwise on www.w-phs.org

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
Development Officer/Director	TBD	
Treasurer	Amanda Fox Hanlon	aahanlon88@gmail.com
Secretary	Terry Sutherland	tsutherl@rochester.rr.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Collection Management Chair	Florence Doyle, Interim	fdoyle0407@gmail.com
Communications Chair	Rebecca Fisher	rebeccafolkfarm@gmail.com
Garage & Pie Sale Chair	Linda Perkins	perkinsl@rochester.rr.com
Grant Chair	Sandra Zeman	szeman001@rochester.rr.com
Exhibits Chair	Sue-Jane Evans	sjkevans@mail.com
Finance Chair	Amanda Fox Hanlon	aahanlon88@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair	TBD	
Membership Chair	Holli Dowling	holli.casanzio@gmail.com
Nominating Chair	Barbara Crawford	blctobe123@hotmail.com
Program Chair	TBD	
Property Chair	David Frohlich	dfrohlic@rochester.rr.com
Ex Officio Trustee	Perry Howland, Town Historian	peridot@rakedsouthgarden.com

AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit	TBD	
Education Liaison	TBD	
4th Grade Walking Tour	TBD	
Event Fundraising		
Cemetery Tour	Kathy Fedick	kathyfedick@gmail.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
Grounds	Lynda Parmelee	susser1@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Sandra Zeman, Interim	szeman001@rochester.rr.com
Hospitality	Betty Morley	bettymorley1@gmail.com
House Supplies	Laraine Frohlich	dfrohlic@rochester.rr.com
IT Administrator	Dan Montondo	dan.montondo@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

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
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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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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