# Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society Newsletter

March/April 2019

Volume 9, Issue 2

### From Your President

It seems that 2019 is flying by! With the advent of spring just around the corner, W-PHS finds itself immersed in many efforts which further support our mission. The Board of Trustees and other



volunteers are engaged in a variety of activities that promise to build awareness, generate additional interest and engage others in the work of the society.

Our membership campaign is well underway. We extend a warm welcome to our new members who have recently joined and gratefully acknowledge those who have renewed their memberships. We encourage all who may not have had an opportunity to renew to please do so at your earliest convenience. The society is member driven, and we rely on memberships to fund the work we do, whether preserving photos, documents, artifacts, and oral histories; or producing exhibits, programs, and printed materials; or holding annual events such as Homecoming, Garage Sale or the Moonlight Cemetery Tour and other special events. In addition, memberships and other contributions help to maintain and improve the properties owned by the society which include the W-PHS home, Gates Hall and Centennial Park.

Plans for our 62nd Annual Homecoming Celebration are well underway for July 19, 20 and 21. Last year, we made several meaningful changes that were well received, and we are continuing on with the same format this year. Letters and applications have gone out to vendors and antique dealers for the Open Air Marketplace, and the solicitation of quilts has begun for our 2nd Annual Quilt Show.



Standing Committees are hard at work to ensure effectiveness of our exhibits, programs, collections, grants, communications and fundraising efforts, as well as, property maintenance and improvements. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, later in the year we will be launching fundraising efforts to support remediation at Gates Hall in order to preserve it for future generations. In addition, volunteers are working on special projects and on a collaboration with the Williamson Central School District, which supports our education and outreach initiatives.

On behalf of the society, I acknowledge Pultneyville resident and neighbor Bette Jenkins for her efforts to research and communicate a NYS Historic Homeowners Tax Credit Program available to those owning properties in the Pultneyville Historic District whose homes are on the National Register of Historic Places. Bette brought this information to the attention of the W-PHS Board and personally shared her research about the process with owners of the 23 remaining Pultneyville properties, which at one time numbered 36, in our historic district. Bette was also a guest speaker on this topic at a recent meeting of the Wayne Historian's Organization, comprised of representatives from every town in the county. Her willingness to share and guide others through this process offers encouragement to those eligible for this program, which supports efforts to remain good stewards of historic properties. To be eligible for the current program, which expires in 2024, the residence must be on a historic registry and be in a census tract which is at, or below, the NYS family median income level, which is true of Pultneyville. Renovations must total at least \$5,000, and at least 5% of those allowed expenses must be on the exterior. I share this information in hopes that it

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#### (President's column continued)

may benefit our members living in Pultneyville or in a historic district in other parts of NYS; and lastly, because perhaps it's time to consider expanding our current historic district that was established in 1985 through the efforts of W-PHS. If you have interest in serving on such a committee, if and when formed, please call 315.589.9892 and leave a message.

Please remember that all are invited and encouraged to attend our programs and special events throughout the year. Our programs are free and open to the public, so invite family, friends and neighbors to attend. A complete program listing can be found on our website at **www.w-phs.org.** 

As you read through this newsletter, you will see that 2019 promises to be an exciting year in the life of our historical society. Stay tuned ... enjoy and join in our efforts to preserve our unique heritage; while at the same time, we plan for the future and continue to make the history that one day others will preserve.

Regards, Nan Nanette P. Hance, President

## <u>W-PHS Procedure</u> on Program/Event Cancellation

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 Goes Social - Check Us Out! By Nanette P. Hance

For the pleasure of the community, and those beyond, W-PHS is utilizing social media, to a greater degree, to share historic photos and information from its archives collection. Photos and information can now be found on the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society Facebook page. The intent is not only to share photos and information as part of its education and outreach efforts, but also to offer a forum where others can comment and add photos, along with their comments, to our posts. To date, since using social media to support communication efforts for this purpose, our Facebook page has increased by 200 "likes" since February 1.

While W-PHS strives to continue strengthening ties within the community, it encourages others to also share their knowledge of the past so that together, we can continue to learn about, preserve and protect the historical assets of the greater community, which includes the town of Williamson and the hamlets of East Williamson and Pultneyville.



Facebook Class attended by thirteen W-PHS volunteers at itClix presented by Jamie Sonneville.

### **W-PHS Board Meetings**

In accordance with the W-PHS cancellation policy, the **February 25th Board meeting was cancelled** due to adverse weather conditions.

The meeting is rescheduled for **Monday**, **March 4**, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the W-PHS House.

W-PHS Board meetings are scheduled to be held at the W-PHS House at 4130 Mill Street, Pultneyville at 7 p.m. 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.

The next W-PHS Board meeting (after the March 4 meeting) is April 22.

## **Upcoming Programs and Events**

MarchMarch 13 at 7:00 p.m.—W-PHS Program7825 Jay Street/Dawes Home, Pultneyville.Kim Iracie presents—Golden Books Illustrator -Eloise Wilkin—The Pultneyville ConnectionAprilApril 3 at 7:00 p.m.—W-PHS Program6329 E. Townline Rd., Williamson.Gary Dick-EWFD presents—History of theEast Williamson Fire DepartmentMayMay 1 at 7:00 p.m.—W-PHS ProgramGates Hall, Pultneyville.Liz Albright presents—The Albright Family –EarlyPultneyville Settlers	July W-PHS Homecoming—July 19-21 August August 7 at 6:30 p.m.—W-PHS Annual Picnic Foreman Park—Annual Picnic/Brief History of B. Forman Park September W-PHS Community Garage Sale—September 21 October W-PHS Cemetery Tour—October 11 & 12 November November November November 6 at 6:30 p.m.—W-PHS Annual Meeting and Harvest Dinner Pultneyville Reformed Church
June June 5 at 7:00 p.m.—W-PHS Program	<b>December</b>
Gates Hall, Pultneyville	December 1—Community Illumination
Teddy Garlock, et al, presents—Shipwrecks and	December 4 at 7:00 p.m.—W-PHS Program
Treasures, Captain HN Throop, the St. Peter and Beach	Gates Hall, Pultneyville
Finds	Christmas Potpourri III/Visit from Sinterklaas

### **March Program**

March 13 (*note the date change*) a two part program on Eloise Wilkin, Golden Book illustrator, will be presented at the home of Lorraine and Tom Dawes, 7825 Jay Street, Pultneyville. The Dawes have graciously opened their home, where Eloise Wilkin spent time during the late 1960's.

Kim Iraci, Williamson Free Public Library director, will talk about Eloise in general and display some of her books.

The second segment will feature "The Pultneyville Connection" where the audience will hear about and hear from some of the models who posed for Eloise. This part of the program will take place in the room where Eloise did her work.

As always, the public is invited to the 7 p.m. program and encouraged to bring any Golden Books illustrated by Ms. Wilkin. Refreshments will be served.

### **April Program**

On April 3, we will travel to East Williamson to learn about the nearly 100 year old East Williamson Fire Company. Housed in what was once a Williamson District school house, Firefighter/Historian Gary Dick will trace the history of the organization and the history of the school. Additional features will be a few words from former students of the school and an explanation of the EWFD's "Serviceman's Board."

Firefighters Ron Buerman, Don Holcomb and Chuck Brust will also take part in the program, which is open to all. Attendees are encouraged to bring any school or fire department memorabilia they might have to the 7 p.m. event.

Dottie Howland Program Chair Programs from Wayne County Historical Societies

March 4, 6:30 p.m., Marion Historic Association, Marion Public Library, 4036 Maple Ave., Marion Program: "SuffraGents" with speaker Rosa Fox, Huron Historian.

March 16, 2:00 p.m., Newark-Arcadia Historical Society, 120 High Street, Newark Program on Wells Barns Presenters: Katie Andres, Barb Chapman and Dick Thomas of the Wells Barn Legacy Project Presentation about the over 200 Wells barns built in Western NY by John T. Wells. Wells was born in in Scottsville in 1843, a builder, self-trained architect and inventor. His patented truss system was used in the barns he built, some more than 100 years ago. Many remain standing.

March 18, 7:30 p.m., Walworth Historical Society, 2257 Academy Street, Walworth Program: A Virtual Walking Tour of Walworth

For these and more programs presented by historical societies in Wayne County, visit: https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/office-of-the-county-historian/calendar-of-events/

## **Recap of February Dutch Dinner and Program**

The icy weather of Wednesday, February 5, kept the number of attendees down, but it wasn't able to put a "freeze" on the delicious Dutch (and other) dishes. After the meal, Bill Walvoord was "warmly" greeted as he brought to life his grandfather, Rev. William Walvoord, pastor of the the Pultneyville Reformed Church from 1925-46.

Opening his talk with a few words in Dutch and snatches of one of Rev. Walvoord's sermons, Bill entertained the group with excerpts from "The Gospel Truth" - a memoir written by Christian Walvoord, a son of Rev. William Walvoord. Bill's talk was enhanced by a display put together by Sue and Craig DeNagel, featuring a model of the Pultneyville Reformed Church made by Rev. Walvoord.

## Coming this summer......



## MEMBERSHIP

Our historical society membership continues to grow! We are currently at 116 individual memberships and 36 business memberships. We would like to welcome our newest members:

## Welcome New Members

Liz & John Albright Cathy Nye John & Carol Polak Knataitis Construction Lagoner Farms & Embark Craft Ciderworks The Lettering Lounge Brian & Barb Cuvelier Carol Heitmann Hughes Marina, Inc. Howard Hanna Real Estate Services/Carol Verbridge

The only way we can keep the momentum going is with your help. Please continue talking to people about membership. If you want us to do a follow up contact with anyone, please send us their name and address. We would be happy to send an informational letter about the Society with an application. Keep up the great work everybody!

Jim & Kathy McCaig Membership Co-chairs 315-904-4220 kmccaig@gmail.com or james.mccaig@gmail.com

### From a 1960 newspaper column titled: "Williamson ...Approximately 80 Years Ago"

The following is from a letter written by Adelaide S. Lawrence in January of 1960 to Leslie L. Blake. Mr. Blake had written a letter to *The Williamson Sun* recalling memories of the preceding forty years. After reading the recollections, Mrs. Lawrence of Pultneyville wrote to Mr. Blake with what she remembered. Her letter, as written, follows:

Dear Mr. Blake:

I was much interested in your article in the Williamson Sun of January 21, 1960, as it recalled many memories of the preceeding (sic) forty years.

My childhood was spent in a house located on the site of the Central Trust Company. Richard Cheetham bought the house, built and operated a private bank for many years. The building next west, now cement covered, was a field of stone occupied by John Stark as a residence and shoe shop. On the second floor was a hall where various entertainments were held.

The Presbyterian Church was what is now the Sunday School rooms. Next was the cobblestone home of Myron Bennett, now a gas station. There were no houses beyond until the farm home of Erastus Seely, next but one to the green house.

On the opposite side where Mrs. Pearsall resides, was the farm home of James Harden and a saw mill owned by Frank Rogers was near the residence of Judge Brasser. No houses then until the Decker home, then owned by a Mr. Patrick. Next the home and office of Dr. L.S. Sprague. Lawyer John Tinklepaugh lived in the Charles Brower house. Eugene Parkhill lived in about where the Valore Insurance Agency stands, and in the basement was a meat market where one could purchase delicious tenderloin steaks for twelve and a half cents per pound. Then came the general store of C. I. DeZutter, next a small novelty one, run by his brother Leonard, who made fine willow ware. Next was Ouderkirk's Hotel, the grandfather of John Olmstead.

The house on South Avenue owned by Dr. Herbert, was the farm of Seely Poppino and Prospect Street, first called Poppino, was a part of his farm. A grist mill owned by Thomas Seely and William Eaton was on the site of the International Harvester Building, and back of it was a sulphur well and people came from miles around to carry some of the wonderful, health giving, vile smelling liquid, which was fortunately not intoxicating. Mr. Easton lived next door and beyond him, E. R. Cooper, photographer. The small building north of Leenhouts' store was the Post Office, and Mames and Sweeting was the general store where Leenhouts' now operates. On the site of Williamson Hardware was a cobblestone building known as Pound's store. The American Legion Home was the office and residence of Dr. A. G. Austin, who in addition to looking after the health and welfare of the community, also kept fine horses and peacocks. There were no houses beyond this until R.R.

Just west of the M.E. Church lived Lewis French and next was his blacksmith shop, an interesting place for children, even little girls, to watch the sparks fly.

Beyond the eastern limit of the village, now the house of Attorney Barrett was the farm home of Noah Elton, and Elton's Pond was the skating rink.

At the corner of East Main and Locust Street across from the cemetery stood the "old school," a one story, one room frame building. About 1875, Maple Avenue was opened and at the far end the "new school" was built. It was a square two-story, red brick building. On the first floor were two rooms where the primary and intermediate grades were taught. The "high school" at least it was reached by a flight of winding steps, was one large room with a stage at one side, on the second floor.

On the outside front was a white marble inset bearing in large black figures, the date, 1876.

The building has long since been replaced by the present splendid building where the children are taught many things undreamed of in those early days. May the next two forty-year periods bring to Williamson as much improvement as the past ones.

Sincerely, Adelaide S. Lawrence X

Article provided by Susan DeNagel

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### Winter Wonderland

The snow drifting down in Pultneyville didn't stop some of the intrepid Gardening Group from venturing out to plot and plan for the coming gardening season on the W-PHS grounds. Items discussed included what annuals to try this year, where some new plantings are needed and some ideas to save for Day of Caring in May.

Since we never got our raking chores done in the fall because of almost constant precipitation, one of the first orders of business in spring will be raking up the soggy leaves and prickly chestnuts that made it through winter. Then the tidying will continue for a week or two as we cut back anything that needs it and uncover our spring bulbs.

Another idea we tossed around is having fresh flowers in the W-PHS house when the house is open on weekends. We have some vases at the house and we will be sure that some clippers are set out. We are hoping that whoever is hosting on Friday would roam the grounds and cut whatever looks good and that whoever hosts on Sunday will toss the contents of the vase before they leave. Fresh flowers will perk up the house and add a homey touch. Hope that the hosts agree!

Spring will be here before we know it and if the weather cooperates, the gardeners may be on the grounds in 5-6 weeks. Come and join us and Monday from 9-10 a.m. – new hands are always welcome!

### Lynda Parmelee Grounds



Gardening Group: Lynda Parmelee, Julie Sorrells, Sue-Jane Evans and Sandy Zeman (taking photo) at the Deli, thinking about spring.

### The Walking Tour Tradition Continues!

W-PHS is excited to announce that the traditional 4th Grade Walking Tours throughout the historic hamlet of Pultneyville will be happening once again!

Scheduled to take place in early June 2019, the walking tours are part of an important collaboration forged between the school district and the historical society. According to Nanette P. Hance, W-PHS President, the WCS & W-PHS collaboration is an outcome of the society's education and outreach efforts, and the school district's interest to include local history experiences for students.

This year's 4th Grade Walking Tours, presented by the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society, will be chaired by longtime W-PHS members, Craig and Susan DeNagel, and supported by community volunteers.

Many thanks to the Williamson Central School District and its team of Social Studies Teachers for their interest, support and enthusiasm to reinstate the tours for 4th graders, which has been tradition for many years, and also for their interest in working together to expand local history experiences for middle and high school students as this collaboration moves forward.

W-PHS is also most appreciative for the enthusiastic group of volunteers who are already hard at work to ensure the success of this tradition enjoyed by hundreds of students over the years. If interested in volunteering for this event, please call 315.589.9892.



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#### WILLIAMSON-PULTNEYVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

on the web: www.w-phs.org phone: 315.589.9892 address: 4130 Mill Street, PO Box 92 Pultneyville, NY 14538

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

<u>Officers</u>	
President-	
Nanette Hance	nhance@artisansloft.net
Vice President	
Cheryl Kline	cherylnp@aol.com
Treasurer	
Debra Parts	DebraP@peterparts.com
Recording Secretary	
Jackie Walker	jw4cats@aol.com
Corresponding Secretary	
Linda Perkins	perkinsl@rochester.rr.com

### <u>Standing Committee Chairs</u> <u>& Key Personnel</u>

Nominating Chair	
Cheryl Kline	cherylnp@aol.com
Membership Chairs	
Jim & Kathy McCaig	kmccaig@gmail.com
Program Chair	
-	lot@rakedsouthgarden.com
Publicity Coordinator	
Kelly Klaritch	kklaritch@gmail.com
Press Releases	
Ann Anthony	amanthony67@gmail.com
Finance/Audit Chair	
Debra Parts	DebraP@peterparts.com
Property Chair	
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Jackie Walker	jw4cats@aol.com
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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.

<b>Standing Committee Chairs / Key Personnel</b>			
Hospitality			
Betty Morley	bettymorley1@gmail.com		
Town Liaison			
Perry Howland	peridot@rakedsouthgarden.com		
Vendor Coordinator-Hom			
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Cemetery Tour Chair			
Kathy Fedick	kathyfedick@gmail.com		
Homecoming Chair			
Nan Hance	nhance@artisansloft.net		
Garage Sale	TBD		

## Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society

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

### **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

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

Name(s):				
Mailing Address: _				
City/Town:			State:	Zip:
Residential Address	5:			
City/Town:			State:	Zip:
Home Phone: (	)		Mobile: ( )	
Email:			(email address	s is required to receive the newsletter.)
				Benefits
Basic Categories:	<ul> <li>Friend</li> <li>Patron</li> <li>Sustainer</li> <li>Benefactors</li> </ul>	\$25.00/yr. \$50.00/yr. \$100.00/yr. \$250.00/yr.	Sustainers - plus 2 Gates	ewsletters per year, free programs and exhibits. inger Play tickets. omplimentary use of Gates Hall per year approved
	Number in	n Household		<b>D</b>
Business Categorie	s: 🛛 Business	Friend \$75.00	/=	Benefits
Dusiness Calegorie		Benefactor \$250.00	yr. Friends - plus business categories. and business member wi Benefactor - plus busines	ess card listing in all newsletters, list on W-PHS web indow cling and one complimentary use of Gates

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

Additional Donation: \$	for		
Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ (Dues/donations are tax deductible.)	for the memb	ership dues and/or donation as shown above.	
Signature:	Date:		
Please Check Areas of Interest			
Homecoming/Garage Sale	Cemetery Tour	Museum/Archives Activities	
Publicity/Fundraising Activities	Building/Grounds Upkeep	Program Planning/Museum Guide	
Gift Shop	Membership	Officer, Director, Committee Chair	
Other:			

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





