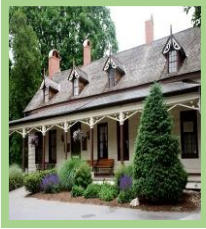


THE HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE

VOL.2 NO.3

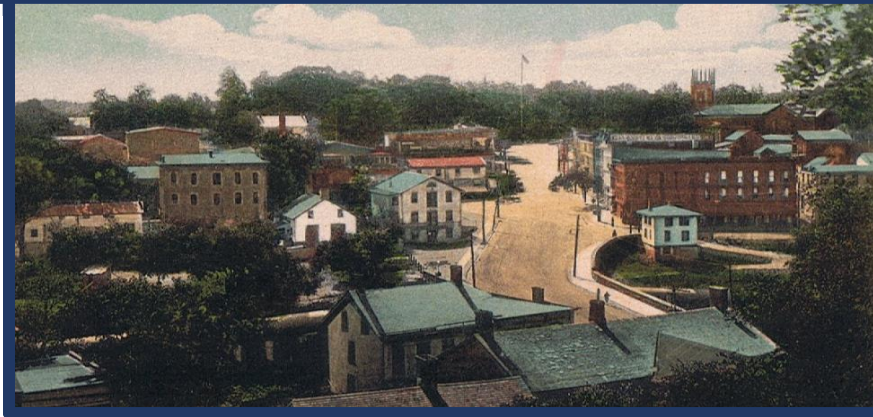
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY 2016



The Mesier Homestead

Please donate to the Homestead Preservation Fund. Make checks payable to the Wappingers Historical Society



P.O. Box 174
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www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org

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President's Message

Thank you for your generous support of our first of several "Spirit of Mesier" fundraisers! If you did not have an opportunity to donate & would like to help restore the oldest section of the homestead you can send a check payable to the Wappingers Historical Society. Please memo: Spirit of Mesier on your check. If you would like to get more involved in fundraising, please email me at: wappingershistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Hope to see you July 15th at our Members' Potluck Picnic!
Beth Devine, President

Our April issue featured streets of the village and the fallen heroes for whom they were named. We continue this theme in the following article with some information regarding the origins of our village streets and neighborhoods. Part One will focus on the streets that were opened before the incorporation of the village. In our October issue we will offer Part Two, which will continue with streets opened after 1871. As is the case in many municipalities, streets are often named for the terrain, the locale, or some landmark. Some streets were named after a family that lived in the vicinity or to honor a civic leader or hero. This is the case with our village. As you will note from the following article, there are a few names that defy explanation and our research has yet to divulge a source. Many of the older streets (prior to incorporation) can be viewed here, on Beers's 1867 map, *Channingville*:

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~272988~90046813:Channingville,-Dutchess-Co--N-Y,-W>

Village Street Names and Local Monikers (Part One)

The 18th Century

In the 18th century, this locality, owned predominately by the Brewers and later the Mesiers, was known as Wappingers Creek. The main road running through what is now the Village of Wappingers Falls was the Albany Post Road. There was a wooden plank bridge connecting the Kings Highway/Albany Post Road to both sides of the creek. A road in front of the Mesier Homestead leading south to Hughsonville was named Stonykill Road.¹ It was also known as Mesier Lane. For a time it was called Broadway and finally named South Avenue. East Main Street had a slightly different course at one time. Commencing at the bridge, it ran through the current Wheel and Heel property, across the street, and up through what was the former Sweet-Orr property, alongside the Mesier Homestead and out by the Methodist church.² The route was altered to its present path in 1825 at the request of Matthew Mesier. This rerouting was not without some opposition. "This change made a very dangerous and steep hill for the old stage coaches which with their ponderous weight, drawn by four horses, came down this hill at a fearful rate of speed."³ In 1806 the Highland Turnpike which ran from NY to Albany was opened. In 1867 the road on the east side of the bridge (East Main St.) was still called Highland Turnpike, while the west side was labeled NY & Albany Post Road.

Two Hamlets

In 1819 John Givan and Benjamin DeLaVergne purchased property from Matthew Mesier. They divided the property; Givan took the west side of the bridge and DeLaVergne the east side. The property on the east side included sixty-six acres. DeLaVergne's grandson, Edward, purchased this acreage in 1826. Givan's property amounted to forty-six acres and extended up the hill. Givan named his property Ednam(ville) after his native town, Ednam in Roxburghshire, Scotland. Later, the area extending further beyond Ednamville was called Channingville after Walter Channing who owned surrounding farmland. In 1827 Benjamin Clapp arrived on the scene and purchased property on the east side of the bridge establishing first the Clintondale Mill and then the Franklindale Mill. This area on the east side became known as Franklindale. Ruth Clapp, wife of Benjamin, is said to have chosen the name Franklindale for this small hamlet. Research has not uncovered the source of Mrs. Clapp's inspiration for this name. However, Benjamin's father, Eleazer Clapp, took an active role in the Revolutionary War and was a

1. Popper, Edgar, *Birth & Growth of a Small Village, Wappingers Falls, NY 1701-1977* (WHS. 1991), 4.

2. Curran, Harold, "History of Wappingers Falls," *The Wappingers Chronicle*, (1937) (WHS photocopies)

3. Clapp, Clinton, "History of Wappingers Falls," *Wappingers Chronicle* (1898)

member of the First Provincial Congress of Massachusetts. He was certainly a contemporary of Benjamin Franklin and perhaps a strong admirer. According to Clinton Clapp, Franklynville was considered, but discarded once another village in the state was found to have the same name. Subsequently, the Franklindale Mill, Franklindale Seminary, Franklindale Baptist Church, Franklindale Fire Dept., and Franklindale Avenue were so named because of Mrs. Clapp's suggestion for this tiny hamlet. Early usage of the name Wappingers Falls can be found as far back as 1848. The Postmaster General thought Wappingers Creek too ambiguous as the creek extended well beyond this area. In 1871, the two hamlets were merged and the Village of Wappingers Falls was officially incorporated.

Streets before incorporation: East side of Bridge up to 1867

Market and Franklin Streets- Market Street was the main center of the village. Up until the mid 19th century, there were no buildings on East Main Street except for the Old Yellow House, once located on the corner of East Main and Market. Mr. Clapp built the first school and first store, both on Market Street. Research has not revealed the source of Franklin Street's name. (Mrs. Clapp again? It is recorded that Clinton Clapp named his eldest son, Benjamin Franklin Clapp.) Franklin Street was also called **Cruse's Hill** since the Cruse family lived there at one time.

Mill Street: Nicholas Brewer's Mill was originally located on the site of the Clintondale Mill, on the east side and north of the bridge. Cornelius Van Sickle purchase the property from Brewer. In 1795 Van Sickle sold the mill to Peter Mesier. Matthew Mesier inherited the mill which passed on to his wife, Joanna, upon his death. Benjamin Clapp purchased the property in 1846. It is believed prior to 1845, Mill Street was located

behind Wheel and Heel, just east of the Knights of Columbus building. There is also some indication this road may have been called Fishkill Road or Fishkill Avenue when Franklindale was part of Fishkill Township.⁴ When Mr. Clapp built the Clintondale Mill he also constructed housing for his workers. Many of these houses are still standing on present day Mill Street and serve as private residences for our villagers.

Fulton Street: It has been suggested that Fulton Street was named in honor of Robert Fulton, inventor of the first successful commercial steamboat. Given how important the shipping of goods was to 19th century industrialists, this is certainly a possibility. Beers's 1867 map, *Channingville*, shows Fulton St. did not extend beyond Prospect at that time. Some people might remember the Kennedy Transport Company located on Fulton St. at the bottom of West Academy. Long before Fulton was extended this far, there was a carriage path that ran from this area down through the rocks to Market Street, coming out next to the old Garner Firehouse. This area was called **The Quarry**⁵, reportedly the site of Benjamin Clapp's quarry and the source of stone for the Zion Episcopal Church. By 1876 Fulton Street had been fully extended north to Lower Henry Street. The street extending from Lower Henry down to Dutchess Avenue at one time



Taken in the early 1860s, this is the oldest known photo of Wappingers Falls, also known as Franklindale at that time. The Franklindale mill can be seen in the lower right corner. Notice the configuration of the bridge wall and how it curves behind the building on the corner (now occupied by D'Vine, the new wine bar). The building across Market Street, with the enclosed staircase, was constructed by Nicholas Brewer. Known as the Old Yellow House, it served as a residence, hotel, and later the first Grinnell Library.

4. Ibid

5. McCloskey, Hank, "Looking Back," *Wappingers & Southern Dutchess News*, (Dec.1968) Continued on next page

was nicknamed **Burma Road** as it was unpaved and quite bumpy.

Prospect Street, no doubt derives its name from the view from the top of the hill. At one time this street was home to many village merchants and prominent citizens. Clapp, Mesier, Sweet, Goring, and Brown all owned lots on Prospect Street. The part of Prospect between South Avenue and Clapp was once called **Sweet's Hill** named after the Sweet family who lived in a stone house that sat on the crest of the hill.

Andrews Square comprised what is now known as Andrews Place and Satterlee Place. Andrews Square was named in honor of Rev. Dr. George B. Andrews, first rector of the Zion Episcopal Church. Rev. Andrews served as pastor for forty-two years. In the 1930s the street along the west side of Zion Park was renamed Satterlee Place in honor of Right Reverend Henry Y. Satterlee who succeeded Rev. Andrews. The street along the south side of the park was renamed Andrews Place.⁶ Rev. Satterlee would later become the first Bishop of Washington, D.C.

High Street: Anyone who has climbed the hill between Mill and Spring Street going up High Street will agree this street was suitably dubbed. The terrain continues to rise until it reaches its highest point where it intersects with North Remsen. This hill between Mill and Spring was also called **Christian Hill**.

Dutchess Avenue and Dutchess Terrace were named after the Dutchess Bleachery. The houses on both streets were originally built for factory workers and owned by the Bleachery.

Streets Established on the West Side of the Bridge by 1867:

“Several smaller homes were built previous to 1867 in the several side streets branching off to the west of the then named Albany Post Road in the hamlet named at that time as Channingville. These side streets were named Church St., West Street, Boundary St., Clinton St., Center Street, North Street, and Cross Road. School Street was the only street on the east side of the Albany Post Road.”⁷ In 1867 Abram and Henry Mesier owned most of the property on the east side of the Albany Post Road (West Main), north of School Street.

Givans Avenue was named in honor of John Givan, mentioned earlier. According to a column written by Hank McCloskey, a road once connected Givans Avenue with Nelson Avenue. Some of the houses now on Dutchess Avenue were originally built at the end of Givans. “They were built in the 1800 era and were in back of the old bleachery buildings. When a road was continued to Nelson Avenue and then to new Hamburg, the structures were moved to Dutchess Ave. This was because Garner Print Works manufactured its own acid which discouraged growth of vegetation due to escaping fumes. The sharp bank west of Hillside Ave. was always washing down during heavy rainstorms because no trees were able to exist.”⁸

Church Street: Many people wonder why Church Street is so named when there is no church here. In 1845 John Givan donated land in what was then called Ednam to the Methodist congregation for the construction of a church. The church is thought to have been located on the corner of present day Church Street and West Main Street. It was called the Methodist Episcopal Church of Ednam Village.⁹

School Street is located a little further north on the other side of West Main Street (or what was known as the Albany & NY Post Road). School Street derives its name from the Union Free School District #1, later known as Drake's School, and now the VFW.

West Street: On Beers's 1867 map, *Channingville*, West Street was originally laid out on the west side of the Albany Post Road. By 1876, the street had been extended to the east side of the Albany Post Road and this extension was also called West Street.

6. Popper, *Birth & Growth of a Small Village*, 76.

7. Ibid, p89

8. McCloskey, Hank “Looking Back,” (June 13, 1968)

9. Smith, James H., *History of Dutchess County NY*. (D.Mason & Co., Syracuse, NY 1882), 500.

<https://archive.org/details/cu31924100747272>{<https://archive.org/details/cu31924100747272>

Boundary Street was named because it served as the southern property boundary of St. Mary's parish. "Boundary Street was never used as a street with homes and was later acquired by St. Mary's Church".¹⁰ You can view the location of Boundary Street on Beers's 1867 map, *Channingville*. Harold Curran, reporter for the Chronicle, claims this land, running from West Main Street to behind St. Mary's and down to the woods, was eventually fenced to keep cattle from straying and was known as **Cow Lane**.¹¹ The fencing appears to be evident on Burleigh's 1889 *Bird's Eye View of Wappingers Falls*:
<https://www.loc.gov/item/75694863>

South Street: According to Beers's map, South Street was a short street located between Clinton and Boundary. It appears to be where Convent Avenue is located today (named for the Convent erected there for the Sisters of Charity). The Sisters' convent was originally located on Nelson Avenue. A fire in 1894 destroyed this structure. The nuns lodged with the Downey family until a new residence for the sisters was erected.

Clinton Street: It is assumed Clinton Street was named in honor of Governor George Clinton who was the first governor of New York State and Vice President of the United States. Clinton owned an estate not far from the village at Clinton Point.

Centre Street: One wonders where Centre Street got its name. It is flanked by Clinton Street to the south and North Street to the north. Centre (Center) Street was renamed McCafferty Street in honor of the McCaffertys who owned property there. Mayor James McCafferty served two terms and died in office in September 1946. James's wife, Mayor Helen McCafferty, completed her husband's term of office.

North South Street: Directional street names were found to cause some confusion, especially when the fire department was called. To alleviate this problem North South Street was changed to Downey Avenue in honor of Peter Downey. Mr. Downey was one of the first lay trustees of St. Mary's and owned a large amount of land on the west side of this street.

Cross Road: We surmise that Cross Road acquired its name in the 19th century because it connected Sheafe Road (and the Hudson River estates) with the Albany Post Road. Today it is known as **Delavergne Avenue**, named in honor of Benjamin DeLaVergne and the DeLaVergne family. At one time it was also called Donaldson Road (1882) as Mr. J. Donaldson owned an estate on land now occupied by the Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center.

Pells Place: Ferris Pell was a good friend of Walter Channing and owner of property in Channingville. He at one time ran the North American Hotel.¹² There is a report in the Poughkeepsie Eagle that presumably refers to Pells Place as Luney Lane.¹³

Hillside Avenue: We are not sure when Hillside Avenue earned its present moniker. This street is noted as North Street on Beers's 1867 map, *Channingville*. As mentioned previously, directional names were discarded in favor of less confusing street names. The name Hillside is indicative of the terrain in this area with this street certainly being the highest point in the village. Hillside was also called **Roy's Hill** as James Roy owned a great deal of property in the area. This street was a favored sledding run for village youth. Later it was known as **Kelly's Hill**. At that time the Kelly family (owners of Kelly's Meat Market) resided at the top with a marvelous view of the village.

Nelson Avenue was named in honor of Reuben W. Nelson who was a member of the first Board of Trustees. Beers's map of Channingville, 1867 shows Nelson as owning property at the corner of Clinton and present day Nelson Avenue.

10. Popper, 89.

11. Curran, "History of Wappingers Falls,"

12. Ibid

13. "Wappingers Falls," (Poughkeepsie Eagle News, July 4, 1890), 6.

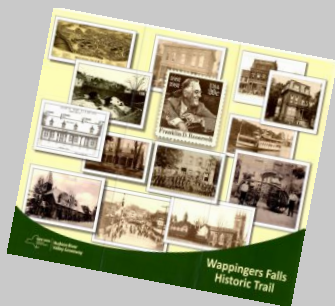




IN MEMORY OF NORM TARDIFF

It was with great sadness we learned of the death of one of this community's oldest and respected members. Mr. Norman Tardiff passed away at the age of 101 on April 27, 2016. Mr. Tardiff was an early member of the Wappingers Historical Society. Possessing a mutual love for history and sailing, Mr. Tardiff authored *A Boatman's History of the Hudson River* and served as historian for the Chelsea Yacht Club. For many residents and WHS members, the name, Norm Tardiff, elicits memories of sailing on Norm's boat and picnics at the yacht club. He was very generous in sharing his love of the Hudson and its history. Town residents might know Norm Tardiff, neighbor and farmer. Others might recall Tardiff's Jewelry Store, a fixture for many years on East Main Street. At our last meeting some of our members fondly reminisced about purchasing wedding rings and special gifts, getting ears pierced, or having a wristwatch repaired at Tardiff's. When Mr. Tardiff first established his store in the village, he volunteered to fix the tower clock on the Zion Episcopal Church for free, which was a great savings to the congregation. This is just one example of how he endeared himself to the community. Throughout his long life, Norm wore many hats, but his kind-heartedness was always at the center of his endeavors. Whatever your memories are of Norman Tardiff, we are all privileged to have had such a wonderful human being in our midst.

The Wappingers Historical Society would like to thank Tim Holls for his generous donation in memory of Norman Tardiff.



The Historic Signage Unveiling! Pick up a free pamphlet of the Historic Trail at the Mesier Homestead, Grinnell Library or the Village Hall.



**WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER**

JULY 10: TOURS AT THE HOMESTEAD 1PM-4PM

JULY 15: WHS ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC ON THE MESIER HOMESTEAD PORCH. 5:30PM. **NO MEETING ON JULY 14TH.**

AUGUST 11: WHS TRUSTEE MEETING, 6PM
WHS MONTHLY MEETING, 7PM AT THE MESIER HOMESTEAD

AUGUST 14: TOURS AT THE HOMESTEAD 1PM-4PM

SEPTEMBER 8: WHS TRUSTEE MEETING, 6PM
WHS MONTHLY MEETING, 7PM AT THE MESIER HOMESTEAD. **BARBARA & WES GOTLUCK WILL PRESENT "LOST AMUSEMENT PARKS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY"**

SEPTEMBER 11: TOURS AT THE HOMESTEAD 1PM-4PM

SEPTEMBER 24: ANNUAL HUDSON VALLEY RAMBLE. VISIT THE HOMESTEAD.

OCTOBER 8 & 9: TASTE OF HISTORY! COLONIAL TOURS AT THE HOMESTEAD, FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS ON THE FRONT PORCH. 1PM-4PM

OCTOBER 13: WHS TRUSTEE MEETING, 6PM
WHS MONTHLY MEETING, 7PM AT THE MESIER HOMESTEAD



**DID YOU RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP?**

The Wappingers Historical Society could not function without the involvement and support of our membership. We appreciate your generosity and service and hope you will continue your support by renewing your membership. Annual dues were due in June. If you would like to renew your membership, please print out the last page of this newsletter and mail it in along with your membership check. Thank you!

The Mesier Homestead Gift Shop offers an interesting selection of books on local history. Great gifts for the history buff! All proceeds go to the support of the WHS.

VILLAGE EVENTS

JULY 5TH: SUMMER CAMP BEGINS

JULY 8TH & 22ND: CONCERT, MESIER PARK, 7PM

JULY 15TH & 29TH: MOVIE, VETERANS PARK, 8PM

AUG. 5TH & 19TH: CONCERT, MESIER PARK, 7PM

AUG. 12TH & 26TH: MOVIE, VETERANS PARK, 8PM

AUG. 13TH: PET EXPO, MESIER PARK, 11-4

SEPT. 3RD: FAMILY FUN DAY, VETERANS PK. 3PM

SEPT. 11TH: 9-11, FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY, MESIER PARK, 6PM

SEPT. 16TH: MIA CANDLELIGHT VIGIL, MIA/POW PARK, 6PM

SEPT. 24TH: HUDSON VALLEY RAMBLE, STARTS AT GRINNELL LIBRARY, 1:30PM, HISTORY TALK AND WALK TOUR OF THE VILLAGE.

OCT. 15TH: HALLOWEEN PARADE AND FESTIVAL, 11-4PM, STARTING AT ELM ST. TO MESIER PARK.

For more Village information visit the village

website: www.wappingersfallny.gov or <https://www.facebook.com/WappingersFallsEvents/>

Questions regarding recreational events call 297-8773 ex. 7 or email:

dcalabrese@wappingersfallny.gov

For Town of Wappinger Recreation Events:

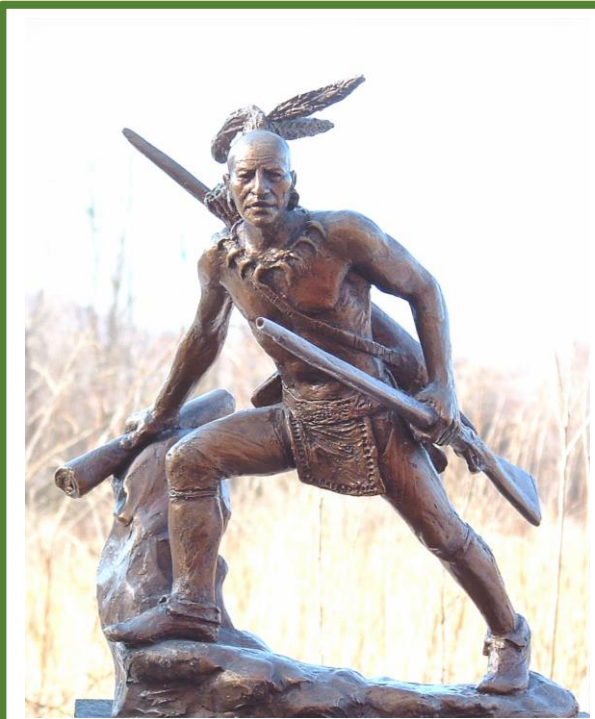
<http://www.townofwappinger.us/recpages/recreation.html>

For events and programs at Grinnell Library:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/Grinnell>

CORRECTION: The following names were misspelled in our last issue: Arthur Poillucci and Francis (Blondie) Poillucci

HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE, V.2, #3: J. Hammond, editor; S. Vacchio, copy editor; M. Hammond, copy editor, B. Devine, contributor



Sachem Daniel Nimham
by Michael Keropian

<http://www.keropiansculpture.com>

The purchase of the Daniel Nimham statue by Hudson Valley sculptor, Michael Keropian was made possible through the generosity of the following donors:

Richard Masterson	Mary Westermann
Beth Bishop	Kathleen Masterson
John DiDomizio	Michelle Baez
Kathy Beale	Sandy Brady,
Joey Cavaccini	Trish Holohan-Costello
Cassandra Goodwin	Peggie McDonald
Eileen Sassmann	Zinglewicz Family
Mr.&Mrs. Richard DiDomizio	Jackie Hammond
Megan Hammond	George Hemroth
Beth Devine	Vacchio Family

Funding for a clear display case was provided through the kindness of Eileen and Will Gannon in memory of Donald Gannon & Brent O'Hare.

Thank you to our donors. The Daniel Nimham Statue is now on display alongside our Native American artifacts at the Mesier Homestead.



Many thanks to Sandy Brady for serving two terms as WHS Treasurer. Her financial acumen, sage advice and attention to detail were invaluable to this organization. WHS is currently seeking a qualified member to fill this position. Please contact Beth Devine if you can help in this capacity: wappingershistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Welcome to our new members: Paul DiMarco, Karen George, Meg Hammond, Nancy Lucas, Danielle Masterson, Richard Masterson family, Peggie McDonald, Kristin Planck-Kuney, Eileen Sassmann, John Shekitka, and Michael & Sallyann Trabucco



JOIN THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

If you've enjoyed reading our newsletter, please forward it on to friends and family! If you are not yet a member, please consider joining the Wappingers Historical Society. Your support & involvement help preserve our local heritage and the historic Mesier Homestead. See the last page for more information regarding membership.

WHS MEMBER POTLUCK PICNIC !

Friday, July 15th 5:30pm



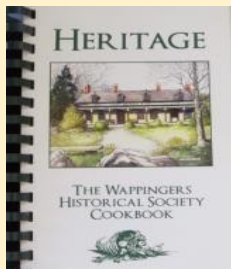
Bring a dish. Bring a friend!



Thank you to Bernie and Celeste Rudberg for the fascinating presentation at our May meeting entitled, "Railroads of the Southern Dutchess Area". Please visit <http://hopewelldepot.org/> for more information about the Hopewell Depot.



Congratulations to WHS Trustee Mary Schmalz, who was given special recognition for her dedicated service to the village. Mary was the recipient of a plaque, presented by the Village Board and Recreation Department, in appreciation for over fifty years of volunteerism and community service. Mary has been a regular and active participant in village public meetings and events. In addition to the Village Recreation Department and the Wappingers Historical Society, Mary has been involved in numerous community organizations and service programs including Meals on Wheels, the Greenway Trail, and the Hudson Valley Ramble.



HERITAGE RECIPE

FEATURED RECIPE:

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE TIRAMISU

(p.402) contributed by Marge Barton

The WHS Heritage Cookbook makes a great gift! Now available from the WHS Gift Shop for \$20.00.

Ingredients:

2C. ricotta cheese

1lb. fresh strawberries

1½ C. cream cheese

½ C. Grand Marnier

1½ C. sugar

1 tsp. vanilla

36 hard ladyfingers

Directions:

Combine ricotta cheese, softened cream cheese, 1C. sugar and vanilla in an electric mixer. Beat until smooth.

In a blender or food processor, combine ½ of the strawberries, ⅓ C. sugar and Grand Marnier. Slice the remaining strawberries into thin pieces. Arrange ⅓ of the ladyfingers in a layer of an 11 X 17 dish. Drizzle ⅓ of the strawberry mixture over the ladyfingers.

Spread ⅓ of the ricotta cheese mixture next & repeat process to create 3 layers.

Refrigerate overnight before serving.



Wappingers Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join us in preserving the history of Wappingers Falls. Become a member of the Wappingers Historical Society.

Please complete this form and mail it and your check to:

Wappingers Historical Society
P.O. Box 174
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

INTERESTS: _____

(Docent, historical research, genealogy, archiving, fund raising, etc.)

ANNUAL DUES: _____ INDIVIDUAL MEMBER~ \$20.00

 _____ FAMILY ~ \$35.00 _____ BUSINESS/CORPORATION~ \$75.00

OR: _____ LIFETIME MEMBER ~ \$500.00 _____ BENEFACTOR ~ \$1,000.00

You will receive a confirmation membership card upon processing of your application.
We are a non-profit (501c) organization. Donations are tax deductible.

www.WappingersHistoricalSociety.org