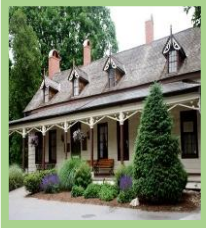


THE HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE

VOL.1 NO.3

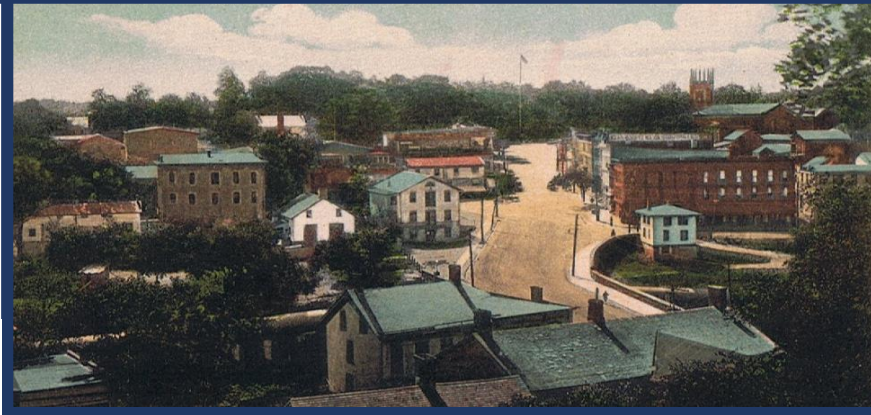
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2015



The Mesier Homestead

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



P.O. Box 174
Wappingers Falls, NY
12590
845-632-1281

www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org

info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

From the President
Upcoming Events
Collections Comm. News
Gifts from the Homestead
Heritage Recipe
Research Corner
Archives Month

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President's Message

Hello Friends,

I hope your summer was fun and filled with great experiences. Members and friends of the Historical Society enjoyed a lovely potluck picnic on the front porch of Mesier Homestead on July 9th. Our members are some of the best cooks and bakers I know and I'm so thankful that they choose to be part of our volunteer organization. We were happy to welcome Town Councilman Bill Beale, Village Deputy Mayor Scott Davis, Village Grant Writer Scott Williams and Library Director Laura Stein to our potluck and thank them for supporting all that we do.

With summer quickly coming to an end, we are entering our busiest time of year. We have some great fall activities planned! We will kick start our events with "A Taste of History". In conjunction with Mid-Hudson Historic Destinations, historic sites throughout Mid-Hudson Valley will be offering programs, activities and food or coupons from local eateries Columbus holiday weekend. The WHS will open Mesier Homestead to the public on Saturday, October 10th and Sunday, October 11th from 1:00-to 4:00PM. Enjoy a tour followed by tea, scones and cake on the front porch. Check out the following website for participating historic sites:

<http://midhudsonhistoricdestinations.com/>

Continued on next page

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT.

Saturday, October 17th brings the 2nd Annual Halloween Parade. The Society will open the Homestead for special tours, you will be entertained as we present new stories of "Mischief and Misfortune" along with a little bit of local history!

October is also American Archives Month. The national theme this year is "The Power of Collaboration". From Oct.26th-Nov. 7th the display case in the lobby of Grinnell Library will feature the collaborative efforts of the Wappingers Historical Society, Grinnell Public Library District and the Town of Wappinger Office of the Historian. I hope you will have an opportunity to stop in and view this small selection of archives and memorabilia depicting the history of schooling in Wappingers Falls.

On November 14th the historical society will hold our 4th Annual Craft Fair at the Mesier Homestead! We have invited some fabulous artisans to showcase their amazing handmade crafts. There will be scrumptious homemade baked goods on offer. Once again our café menu will offer quiche by the slice, a selection of yummy desserts and delicious homemade soups, including everyone's favorite, Roasted Corn Chowder with Crabmeat.

We are so excited to welcome The Treble Choristers of the St. Thomas Choir of Men & Boys from New York City to Zion Episcopal Church on November 20th. The St. Thomas Choir of Men & Boys is considered to be the premiere choral ensemble of the Anglican music tradition in the United States. Don't miss what will surely be a memorable evening. Tickets are available at <https://sites.google.com/site/zionwf/>

On December 13th we invite you to visit the Homestead for our Holiday Open House. This is the loveliest time to see the home expertly decorated for the holidays and just enjoy some time to sit and take a rest from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We will have homemade cookies and punch for all to enjoy. This will be followed by our Members' Holiday Party. I hope you will consider joining us at the open house and coming to the party!

During the Holiday Season more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible and in this spirit we say, simply but sincerely...
Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Sandra Vacchio, President

REQUEST FOR PRESENTATIONS

ONE OF THE GOALS OF THE WHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS TO PROVIDE INTERESTING PRESENTATIONS AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A SPEAKER OR HAVE PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT BETH DEVINE: fox230@aol.com

DOCENTS & GREETERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to serve as docents and greeters. If you can help in this capacity on Sunday afternoons, please contact Patty: dem3tompkins@aol.com



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Collections Committee News

The Collections Committee of the WHS works throughout the year to purchase ephemera related to the village and its surrounding communities. The budgeted amount of \$1500 is spent very carefully on items that come up for auction on Ebay and at local tag sales. In the first half of the year, the committee was able to obtain 15 items of interest to the society. Among these were a photo of the interior of Grinnell Library, a souvenir spoon of the stone bridge, an 1858 map of the village, an eyeglass box sent to the Bowdoin family as well as suspenders and pantaloons made by the Sweet-Orr Company.

Current committee members include Beth Devine, Jackie Hammond, Eileen Stickle and David Turner. John DiDomizio is Chairman of the committee and communicates with the other members regarding bid or no bid decisions as well as bidding price. Sandra Vacchio is an ex-officio member of the committee and offers her help in finding items of interest.

In addition to auction items, the committee also looks through internet archives of long-forgotten literature pertaining to the village. Items found in the last year include an old Wappinger Indian folktale, *The Cascade of Melsingah*, written by William Cullen Bryant in 1827 and magazine articles related to the fiftieth anniversary of the Sweet-Orr Company from 1921.

Antonio Laudadio Blob Beer Bottle c.late 1800s

This clear blob beer bottle was blown in a mold in the late 19th century. It is 9.5 inches in height. The original bail and stopper are rusted, but intact. It is embossed in a front circle saying **ANTONIO LAUDADIO / WAPPINGERS FALLS, N.Y.** with an interlocking/overlapping logo mid bottle. Below the circle it says **REGISTERED / THIS BOTTLE NOT TO BE SOLD.** The bottle holds special significance to some of our members who are related to Antonio and were able to tell us Antonio Laudadio ran a hotel/restaurant/speakeasy near Delavergne Avenue and W. Main Street next to the Contelmo property. His establishment was very likely the main watering hole for the men of Stoneco.

RECENT AQUISITIONS



Louis Berinato Blob Bottle c1890

Originally clear glass, the presence of manganese gives this beautiful bottle its purple color. Exposure to sunlight over the years has turned this bottle amethyst. The bottle was hand blown in a mold, finished with a hand tooled blob top. It measures 9" in height. Berinato's Hotel was located on the corner of Prospect St. & Clapp Ave. The bar was located on the ground floor facing Clapp. The building still stands at this location. A story passed down by a relative of Mr. Berinato says the innkeeper was inclined to leave the front door to the bar unlocked many a night to allow the workers from the Aniline dye factory to enjoy a drink after their shift. The workers would hike up from the Bleachery site, have a beer or two, leave their money in the till, lock up and return to their boarding house on McKinley St.

OCTOBER is
**American Archives
Month**

WHS: 845-632-1281
GRINNELL: 845-297-3428
TOWN: 845-297-4158

American Archives Month: The Power of Collaboration

The Wappingers Historical Society collaborates with the Grinnell Public Library District & Town of Wappinger Historian in offering access to their archives and special collections materials. Call to make an appointment to view historical information concerning the village, town, county and state.

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

OCT. 8: WHS MONTHLY MEETING, 7PM AT THE MESIER HOMESTEAD

OCT. 10: "TASTE OF HISTORY" AT THE MESIER HOMESTEAD: TEA, SCONES AND TOURS, 1PM-4PM (FREE EVENT)

OCT. 11: "TASTE OF HISTORY" AT THE MESIER HOMESTEAD: TEA, SCONES AND TOURS, 1PM-4PM (FREE EVENT)

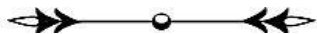
OCT. 17: HALLOWEEN PARADE & FESTIVAL, 11am-4pm, STORIES OF MISCHIEF & MISFORTUNE AND GUIDED TOURS AT MESIER HOMESTEAD.

NOV.12: WHS MONTHLY MEETING, 7PM AT THE MESIER HOMESTEAD

NOV. 14: WHS CRAFT FAIR AT THE MESIER HOMESTEAD, 9-4PM

NOV. 15: TOURS OF THE HOMESTEAD 1-4PM

DEC. 13: TOURS OF THE HOMESTEAD 1-4PM; MEMBERS POTLUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY, 5PM.



VILLAGE EVENTS

Oct. 2: Movie Night at Veteran's Park: "Hotel Transylvania"; Kids Halloween Party, 7pm.

Oct. 17: Second Annual Halloween Parade and Festival

Nov. 14: Local Craft Fairs at St. Mary's, Mt. Alvernia and Mesier Homestead

Nov. 20: The Treble Choristers of the St. Thomas Choir of Men & Boys Concert at Zion Episcopal Church, 6pm.

Nov. 28: 6th Annual Holiday Light Parade, 6:30pm

For more Village information visit the village website:
www.wappingersfallny.gov.

For information 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>

**GIFTS FROM THE HOMESTEAD
The Mesier Homestead Gift Shop**



The WHS Gift Shop is a great place to shop for all your holiday gifts!

Our inventory includes a collection of local history books, postcards, shadow boxes, Christmas ornaments, and Victorian style giftware including handmade tea mats, wall hangings and table runners crafted from vintage patterned textiles. Come and browse before or after our monthly meetings or on the second Sunday of each month. All proceeds go to the support of the Wappingers Historical Society.

**WAPPINGERS JR. HIGH SCHOOL
75TH ANNIVERSARY**

"THESE DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO LEARN."

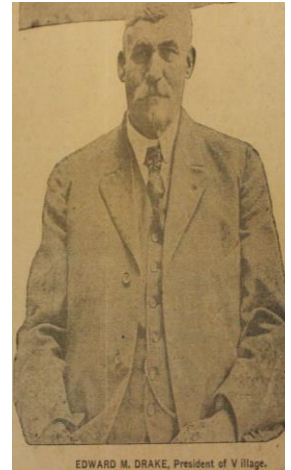


HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE, V.1, #2: J. Hammond, editor; P. Tompkins, copy editor; B. Devine, contributor; S. Vacchio, contributor; E. Stickle, contributor, J. DiDomizio, contributor



“Finding Your Roots”, a genealogical-based television series, will begin its new season on PBS in the fall. Political commentator, author and former history teacher Bill O’Reilly will trace his “roots”, some of whom came from the Village of Wappingers Falls. He will be one of the guests featured on the show, airing date sometime in January 2016.

A staffer from the series contacted the Wappingers Historical Society asking if we had any information regarding Edward Drake. Indeed we did! One of the gems found in our research library was The Wappingers Chronicle which featured Village President Drake in a brief biography. We also found primary election results for the years that he was elected. The Historical Society has a large collection of photographs, two of which were pertinent to the research and are shown alongside this article. Additional “field trips” were made to the Town Halls of Wappinger and Hyde Park, to gather death certificates. Newspaper articles from the Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle were also sourced to tell a more complete story about the great-grandfather of Bill O’Reilly.



Edward M. Drake was born December 4, 1858 in County Down, Ireland to parents John and Mary McKatnig Drake. They immigrated to the United States in the late 1870’s and settled in Wayne County, Pennsylvania. Edward was schooled in Waymart Academy and the Normal School (teacher academy) in Sterling, PA. He taught briefly in Hawley, PA before coming to Poughkeepsie in 1885 to teach in Arlington for two years.

It was here in Poughkeepsie that he met his future bride, Ella Angevine of Hyde Park. Ella was born September 25, 1861 in Hyde Park to parents Virgil and Elizabeth Rowland. Edward and Ella married in 1885.

Edward and family moved to the Village of Wappingers Falls in 1889 and Edward filled the position of professor, teaching at the District No. 1 School, later known as the Drake Academy, for thirty-nine years. The building is located on School Street, in what is now the VFW Hall. Edward C. Drake was born around 1886, the only one of four to survive childhood. The Drake family were communicants of St. Mary’s Church. They lived in a house on the corner of Convent Street and West Main Street.

Edward was very active in fraternal and civic organizations. He was a founding member and first President of the Knights of Columbus, which met at the Temperance Hall on School Street. He also served as treasurer. He was also a member of the Johnson Fire Company, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Chamber of Commerce, Oak Grove Grange, and the Foresters of America. He was secretary for the Village Board of Health, and a trustee of the Wappingers Savings Bank. Mr. Drake ran successfully on the Democratic ticket and was endorsed by the Citizen’s Party for the position of President of the Village Board (now called Mayor) in 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917. He served as Village Justice in the 1920s.

Continued on next page.

Some of the issues faced by President Drake were reported in the Poughkeepsie Eagle-News, such as:

- Sewer and water pipes being laid on East and West Main Street. There was “not enough money in the treasury” to pay the contractor and a special election was needed in November to raise the \$15,000 needed to complete the project. (Sept 1915)
- Headline “President Drake in Favor of Taking Immediate Action to Force Extension of the Trolley to New Hamburg”. According to President Drake “The company had not lived up to its agreement...morally bound to fulfill” and “the finger of scorn was pointed at Wappingers Falls for having the worst roads from Albany to New York largely due to the Trolley Company not attending to their share of the street”. (Aug 1915)
- The Village Board convened several times along with the Board of Health to deal with “epidemics” of diphtheria, scarlet fever and infantile paralysis (polio). Discussions were held about closing the schools. In 1916, the paper reported that “infantile paralysis had killed 2 children” in the Village. “President Drake was of the opinion that such measures should not be taken as to cause the community to be avoided by the Public”. At the same time, the City of Poughkeepsie had 8 deaths from polio. It was advised by the doctors on the Board of Health to close the street the children lived on until the crisis passed. (1915 and 1916)

Edward and Ella Drake were highly regarded members of the community. As quoted in the Wappingers Chronicle, “They both take a very active part in the affairs of the village and the door of their home is always open to their friends-be-speaking the characteristic of the true Irish gentleman-hospitality.”

Edward Drake died of a heart attack on September 12, 1928 at the age of 69.

In addition to caring for her family, Ella Drake was a member of the League of the Sacred Heart, a charter member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Ancient Order of the Hibernians, and the Catholic Daughters of America, Court Irenita. The Po’keepsie Daily Eagle wrote that “she was in poor health since the death of her husband and quietly passed” on March 29, 1929 at age 67.

Edward and Ella Drake are buried in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Edward C. Drake was married in Richmond, Virginia to Catherine Lynch in October of 1915. They had one daughter, Eleanor, born about 1917. Edward and his daughter Eleanor lived in the Village in 1920 with his parents. It is assumed his wife had died and the Drakes were caring for their granddaughter. Edward was an agent for the Canadian Railroad. In 1922, Edward married Winifred Kennedy of Yonkers, New York. They had one daughter, Winifred, born in 1923 in Teaneck, New Jersey. Winifred is Bill O’Reilly’s mother. Edward C. Drake died in 1961 in Teaneck, New Jersey.

The Wappingers Historical Society hopes to gather interested folks together to view the PBS broadcast in January 2016. Date and time to be announced!

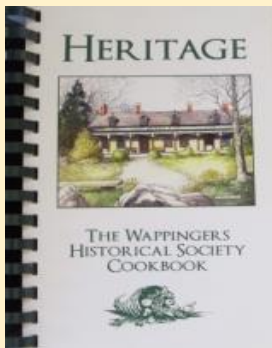
Photos on next page.



We believe the photo on the left to be of an election celebration for Village President, Edward Drake. Drake is in the first row, third from left with his wife, Ella on his right. The gentleman fifth from left might possibly be Edward C. What do you think? Does he look like Bill O'Reilly's grandpa? If you recognize anyone in this photo please contact the WHS.



Drake Academy, now the VFW
 Photo courtesy of David Turner, author of Wappinger, a Postcard History Series book.
 Available at the WHS Gift Shop.



HERITAGE RECIPE

FEATURED RECIPE:

BISQUE OF BUTTERNUT SQUASH WITH APPLE CIDER

(p.86) contributed by Liz Pavelka

The WHS Heritage Cookbook makes a great gift! Now available from the WHS Gift Shop for \$20.00. Call 845-632-1281

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 T. butter | 3 Granny Smith apples, cored, diced |
| 1 large butternut squash, peeled and chopped | 1 carrot, peeled and chopped |
| 1 stalk celery, chopped | 1 onion, chopped |
| 3 cans chicken broth (15 oz. each) | 1 C. apple cider |
| 1 ½ T. light brown sugar | 1/2 tsp. each: ground nutmeg, cinnamon |
| 1 tsp. salt dash ground pepper | sour cream, apples slices – optional |

Melt butter in Dutch oven, add the apples, squash, carrot, onion and celery. Cook, stirring until softened, about 20 minutes. Add broth, cook until squash is soft, about 30 minutes. Stir in the cider, sugar, nutmeg, and cinnamon. Cool for one hour. Puree soup in batches in a food processor. Pour soup back into Dutch oven, season with salt and pepper to taste. If needed, thin soup with more cider. Pour into bowls and garnish with sour cream and apples slices.

Join us for
A TASTE OF HISTORY

Saturday, October 10th &
Sunday, October 11th
1-4pm



FREE EVENT!

Tea & tours at the Mesier Homestead!

The WHS will be offering tours of the homestead followed by tea, scones and Dutch apple cake served on the porch. The first fifty guests will be given a coupon book offering discounts or treats from local eateries.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH 11AM-4PM

The 2nd [Wappingers Falls Annual Halloween Parade and Festival](#)



The WHS will present:
Tales of MISCHIEF & MISFORTUNE
at the Mesier Homestead
Special tours for Halloween fun and entertainment.
TICKETS \$10.00



Handmade Crafts

4th Annual
WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Baked Goods

Raffle Baskets

CRAFT FAIR
at the **MESIER HOMESTEAD**

Café Fare

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015 9AM-4PM



Save the Date!

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2015

Mesier Homestead Holiday Open House, 1-4pm

WHS Members' Holiday Potluck, 5pm



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