

# THE HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE

VOL.4 NO.1 A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 2018



The Mesier Homestead

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[www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org)

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Established 1967

P.O. Box 174  
Wappingers Falls, NY  
12590

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## President's Message

On behalf of the Wappingers Historical Society Board of Trustees we wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2018.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time in 2017. We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with exciting programs and events. None of this would be possible without your efforts. Our June event, "Spirit of Mesier" raised over \$6000. Those funds were allocated to the restoration of the original back portion of Mesier Homestead. Our varied programs brought in many new faces. The Holiday Pot Luck Supper was another huge success.

We have moved our meetings around the corner to the American Legion Hall on Spring Street to accommodate increased attendance.

This year we have planned more exciting programs and hope you will continue to support the WHS.

On a sad note, we said goodbye to Jackie Hammond, as she moved to Delaware. Jackie was a long time Board member, our Corresponding Secretary and editor of our newsletter The Homestead Chronicle, and will be greatly missed. On a happy note, we are grateful to Eileen and Bill Stickle who have agreed to take on the newsletter.

We are looking for individuals interested in joining our Board of Directors to help us achieve our goals. If you are interested, please contact Bill Stickle ([billstickle@gmail.com](mailto:billstickle@gmail.com)).

~ *Beth Devine*

## HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE

E. Stickle, Editor

B. Stickle, Layout

B. Devine, Copy Editor

# Memories

*This is an excerpt from the memoirs of Alice Mason Bogle Hunt (1895-1986), She was the granddaughter and daughter of William and John Bogle, respectively, former Supervisors of the Garner Print Works. The family lived in the "Manager's House" aka "The Maples" which was located at the foot of Bunker Hill and lower Market Street in the Village of Wappingers Falls. She gives a detailed description of the inside of the home, then goes on to describe the outside buildings. In the spirit of the season, here are a few stories related to winter in the Village.*

The back porch of this house was where the family lived and entertained when weather permitted. It was spacious, splendent (sic) with all types of plants and flowers grown in the lovely greenhouse.

It was in this green house where my father had hot toddy for the men who used to plow us out after a snowstorm. They would stop in here to warm up-"in and out". I can remember the men, their beards or moustaches as well as the faces of the horses being coated with ice (caused by one's breath freezing). Those men , I remember a Mr. Tim Leary especially (sic) were hard working, dedicated men. I can remember their legs wrapped in burlap to keep them warm and hopefully dry. Those were the days of 20-30+ degrees below zero.....One walked a short distance up the hill and came upon an ice house, so called. This was a good size building filled with squares of ice cut and stored there for the family's use all year - over each layer of ice straw was spread. I guess to keep one layer from freezing to the other. This ice was cut and brought down from the lake.

*The complete memoirs are archived in the Wappingers Historical Society's library at the Mesier Homestead.*



Sledding in Wappingers



## Village Fires by Bill Stickle

In the summer of 2017, tragedy struck on East Main Street in the Village of Wappingers Falls with a devastating fire that caused major damage to several historical buildings. Since the fire, many elected officials, as well as many community members have stepped forward to advocate for the restoration of these structures that have long been a major defining character of the architecture of the Village. Unfortunately, fire is not a stranger to the South side of East Main. Below is account of a major fire as reported on February 16, 1959 in the Poughkeepsie New Yorker.



**“Damage Exceeds \$100,000 in 3-Building Falls Fire”** was the headline of the February 16, 1959. According to the New Yorker, five families living in the apartments at 2-8 Market Street and 1 and 3 East Main Street awoke to thick smoke around 3am the morning of February 16. All escaped without injuries. One firefighter, Peter Sanfilippo Sr., was taken to Vassar Brothers Hospital having been overcome by smoke. The temperature that evening registered a low of 13 degrees. Noted in the article was “frozen water on the streets made treacherous

footing for firefighters”. Stores on the first floors of the fire-damaged buildings were The Village Gift Shop, Rudolph DiGregorio’s Barber Shop, Hyer’s Hardware and Tardiff’s Jewelry Store. It was later determined that the fire began in the back of the jewelry store near a heating unit.

Mrs. Harvey C. Ferris, owner of one of the buildings, was the daughter of George B. Smith, who along with his brother John Smith, constructed the Market Street building from 1895-1898. The building was known as the Smith Building. As stated in the newspaper “Her father and his brother operated a bakery and confectionery store at the site until 1910, when her uncle died. Mrs. Ferris’ father continued the business alone until 1922.” Other past occupants of the building were an A & P and Stripple’s Meat Market.

Mrs. John Smith was the owner of 1 East Main Street, in which Tardiff’s Jewelry Store operated.

Antonio S. Carabillo was the owner of 3 East Main Street, and formerly owned and operated a drug store in the building. Robert Hyer’s Hardware Store occupied the first floor. It was formerly used by Roosa Furniture Company.



Photo courtesy of Brenda VonBerg (Man in Photo foreground is Norman R. Stickle—my Grandfather)

## Holiday Pot Luck

The Wappingers Historical Society held its annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner on December 10. A wonderful time was had by all. We wish everyone a Happy 2018!



## The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage

If you have not been to the Mesier Homestead lately, please stop by to see our exhibit located in the Museum Room. Members Jackie Hammond and Trish Costello have created a memorable display showing the hardships, ingenuity and triumphs women endured in their fight for equal voting rights. The exhibit begins in the 1840's in New York State and ends with the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution, giving American women the legal right to vote.



### For Village information

Visit the village website

[www.wappingersfallny.gov](http://www.wappingersfallny.gov) or

<https://www.facebook.com/WappingersFallsEvents/>

Questions regarding Village recreational events:

Call 297-8773 ex. 7 or email:

[dcalabrese@wappingersfallny.gov](mailto:dcalabrese@wappingersfallny.gov)

### For Town of Wappinger Recreation Events:

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



## WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER

(All Member meetings listed below will be held at the  
American Legion Hall, 7 Spring Street)

#### February 8:

- ◆ Trustee meeting

#### March 3:

- ◆ Annual Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade - Village of Wappingers Falls

#### March 8:

- ◆ Trustee Meeting 6PM
- ◆ Member Meeting 7PM. Election of Board and trustees this evening.
- ◆ Sandra Vacchio will present our recently purchased and donated acquisitions to the Society.

#### April 8:

- ◆ Mesier Homestead & Museum re-opens for Tours 1PM-4PM

#### April 12:

- ◆ Trustee Meeting 6PM
- ◆ Member Meeting 7PM Installation of Board and Trustees
- ◆ Program to be announced



Commemorative Post Card from 1909

(Courtesy of Bill Stickle)

**We celebrate President's Day**

**February 19, 2018**

### *Wappingers Historical Society Officer and Trustee Elections*

**Elections will be held at our March 8 meeting. We are always looking for energetic and forward thinking people willing to give a little of their time to the Historical Society. Trustee meetings are held once a month, before our member meetings, and we encourage each officer and trustee to take on a project or committee during their term. Please consider volunteering- WE NEED YOU!**

#### **Bylaws for Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees shall have up to eleven (11), consisting of five (5) Officers and up to six (6) Trustees, who shall be elected at the March Meeting of the members of the Society. The Officers will serve a two year term, and the Trustees, a one year term.

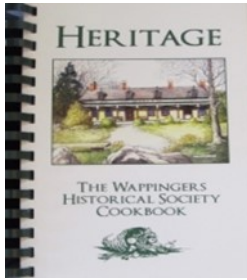
The Board of Trustees shall have general charge and direction of the affairs and business of the Society, the care and management of the Society's invested funds and other personal property, with the power to invest, reinvest and transfer the same at their discretion.

Each Board member shall serve on at least one (1) Committee as the Chair and/or member.

Any Board member, upon at least ten (10) days written notice, may be removed at a Board of Trustee's meeting by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Board for illness, neglect, lack of interest, or other cause. Any Board member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings in a year, without prior notification to the President, will be considered to have vacated the position and shall be replaced as herein provided by these Bylaws.

All Board of Trustee vacancies shall be filled by qualified and interested parties.. The term "vacancy", as used herein, shall include a vacancy caused by resignation, removal or death.

Officers can serve up to 2 consecutive terms in the same position, unless the majority of the Board of Trustees makes an exception. All such Officers shall be members of the Society that are in good standing.



# HERITAGE RECIPE

FEATURED RECIPE:  
**Chinese Meatballs**  
 (p.16) contributed by Beth Devine

**Ingredients:**

- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>2 lbs. ground lean pork</b>        | <b>½ tsp. salt</b>             |
| <b>½ C. mushrooms, finely chopped</b> | <b>2 tsp. sugar</b>            |
| <b>2 C. water Chestnuts, minced</b>   | <b>2 cloves garlic, minced</b> |
| <b>2 eggs</b>                         | <b>pinch ground ginger</b>     |
| <b>4 T. soy sauce</b>                 | <b>4 T. cornstarch</b>         |
| <b>2 tsp. sherry</b>                  |                                |

**Directions:**

Mix meat, mushrooms, water chestnuts and eggs. In a separate bowl, combine soy sauce, sherry and all the spices. Add to the meat mixture. Sprinkle the mixture with the cornstarch. Roll balls about 1" in diameter. Deep fry until golden brown – approximately 8 minutes. Serve with toothpicks.

Chinese New Year is coming February 16th, so enjoy this recipe from our cookbook for your "Year of the Dog" celebration! The Heritage cookbook is for sale at the Gift Shop in **Mesier Homestead**—get your own copy today!!



## John DiDomizio recognized for contributions to Wappingers Historical Society

The Board of Trustees of the Wappingers Historical Society recent voted unanimously in favor of awarding John DiDomizio a Lifetime Membership for his highly valued long term service to the Society. John has expressed his appreciation and he fondly recalls the projects he has worked on. John's extensive research on Stoneco provides an informative glimpse of what life was like working and living at the quarry. He was also a primary driving force in the design and development of the "Big Postcard" project that was exhibited in our museum room at the Homestead throughout 2016 and into 2017. John's article on Stoneco can be seen on the Resource Page on our website at <http://www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org/gallery.shtml>. Thanks to John for his great friendship, comradery and his assistance to the efforts of the WHS.

**JOIN  
 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.



All photos are from the Wappingers Historical Society Collection unless otherwise noted.



# *Wappingers Historical Society*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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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](http://www.WappingersHistoricalSociety.org)