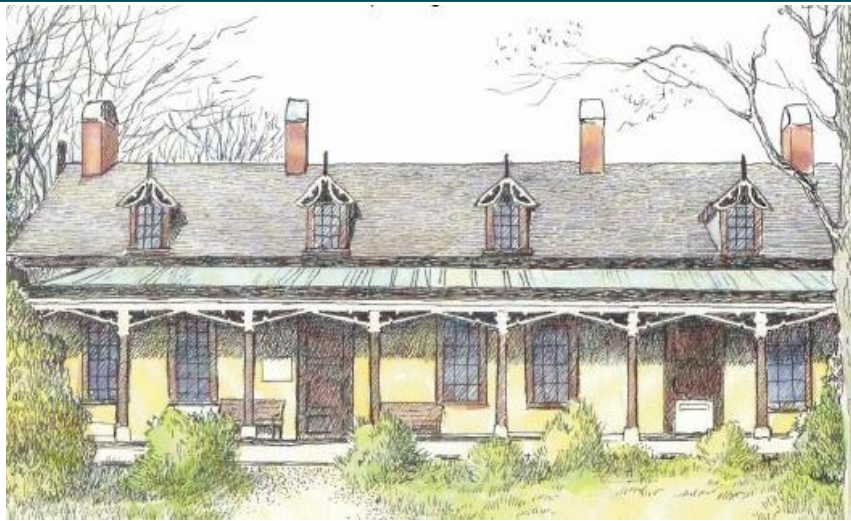


The Homestead Chronicle

VOL. 9 NO. 3 A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2023



Established 1967

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



President's Message

Dear Friends,

“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.” and I would add... when your annual member picnic takes place in between rain showers. A wonderful old fashioned potluck picnic brought delicious food and saw much camaraderie between new members and our long-time faithful members.

Our Speaker Series has been hugely successful this year. The series will resume in September as we learn about those historic WPA paintings by Henry Billings that are inside the old Post Office building on South Avenue.

And just in time for spooky season, we are showcasing a fabulous new event called Stones and Bones Living History at the Wappingers Rural Cemetery. It will take place on October 14th where costumed “apparitions” will entertain you with stories about those “resting” in the cemetery. Stay tuned. Tickets will go on sale soon.

The restoration of the East Room in the 1742 section of the Homestead continues to be exciting as we see more transformations each month. The fireplace and Dutch oven have been rebuilt and the walls have been plastered and lime washed. But we still have much to do, ergo-more fund raising. But thanks to the support of so many in the community, we are slowly getting there. What a celebration we will have when it is all finished!

Please enjoy the rest of the summer – with sun shining, breezes blowing and fun with family and friends. ONWARD!!

Beth

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Coming Events!

Ice Cream Social (Member Only Event)

Tuesday, August 15th, 5:30pm in Mesier Park

Who doesn't love cold ice cream on a warm summer evening? It's time for our annual WHS member Ice Cream Social, and we have more than one treat in store for you! Not only will you enjoy an ice cream from Chilly Willy's ice cream truck, but team trivia is back this year with new questions and a new trivia category. Will last year's winners retain their crowns?? We hope you'll join in the fun!



Pathway Through History Costumed Character Program at Mesier Homestead

Sunday, September 10 starting at 1pm



Meet some the men and women who contributed to the history and growth of the village of Wappingers Falls. While visiting the rooms of the Mesier Homestead, discover the Revolutionary War patriotism of Nicholas Brower, the influence of the Mesier family and the contributions of the Clapp family. Learn about Irving Grinnell, founder of the Grinnell Library, and hear stories from Rush Hotel owner George Rush.

Speaker Series: The Artwork of Henry Billings in the Former Wappingers Falls Post Office

Thursday, September 21st at 7pm, River Valley Arts Center



Sean McCarthy, WHS member, artist and Associate Professor of Art at Lehman College of the City University of New York will discuss the Henry Billings murals which are in the former Wappingers Falls Post Office. Learn about these scenes of village history from an artist's perspective; including subject, form, technique, and (art) historical context.

Coming Events, continued

Stones & Bones Living History Tour

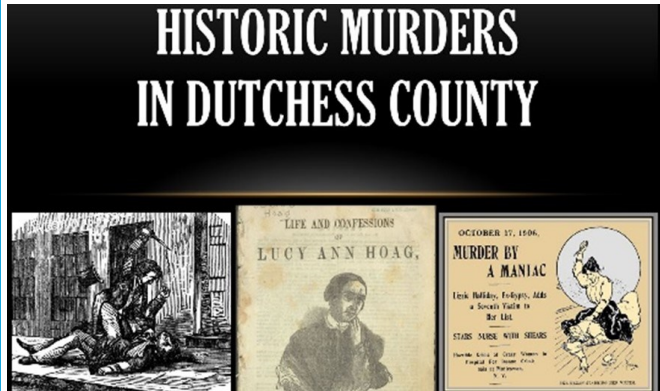
Saturday, October 14 (rain date Sunday, October 15)

Save the date for a new interactive program at the Wappingers Rural Cemetery. Just in time for spooky season, you'll be guided through the cemetery to meet some notable persons buried there. Costumed apparitions include Clinton Clapp; Rev. Dr. George B. Andrews; James Orr and Clayton Emmett Sweet of Sweet-Orr fame; Reginald W. Rives; and Thirza Winter Bate, among others. Tickets will be available via our website in August.



Speaker Series: Historic Murders in Dutchess County with Shannon Butler

Date and Place TBD



Just in time for a spooky Halloween, Historian Shannon Butler joins us to discuss some of Dutchess County's most gruesome murders from the 18th to the early 20th centuries. Using court records, early newspaper articles, and pamphlets, we'll examine several killers including one of the first female serial killers, the horrible murder of a Poughkeepsie businessman in his own home, and several bloodier acts.

Special Veteran's Day Tour Day

Sunday, November 12th at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm at Mesier Homestead

In honor of Veteran's Day, hear about Muriel Engelman's experiences as an Army nurse in WW2 and learn a little about her life here in Wappingers Falls. Mrs. Engelman, wife of beloved village dentist Dr. Melvin Engelman, will be portrayed by our very own Trish Costello. After our Veteran's Day tribute, the tour continues through the Mesier Homestead.



New Members

We welcome our newest members who joined the Wappingers Historical Society since our last edition of the Homestead Chronicle!

Individual & Family membership

Kathryn Fuller

Helen Gorlach

Mark Liebermann

Anne Pantaline & Family

Honorary Lifetime members

Jack Fedigan

Kathleen & David Cullen

Volunteer Spotlight – Greeters and Docents



Michele Baez— Docent

Our greeters and docents welcome visitors to the beautiful Mesier Homestead and share our rich history with the community. We have lots of fun meeting people, telling them about the Historical Society and our upcoming events, and *occasionally* dressing up in costume to share local history. Some visitors even educate *us* on local history, having grown up or worked here in times gone by!

The Mesier Homestead and gift shop were open for two big events which took place in Mesier Park in recent months: *Festival of the Arts* in May and *Festival at the Falls* in June. Over 150 people visited the Homestead during those two days, and we couldn't

have done it without our dedicated greeters, gift shop staff and docents! Special thanks to greeters Mary Westermann and Rosemary Evaul; docents Trish Costello, Michele Baez, and George Hemroth; and gift shop staff Nancy Piscitello and Marie Needham.

We would love to have new docents and greeters join our team – no experience necessary! Docents can get familiar with the tour by just starting with a room or two until they are comfortable taking on more. Greeters can also team up with a friend to welcome visitors to our larger events. If you are interested in doing this type of work for the Society, please let us know! We have an online volunteer registration form on our website at <https://www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org/volunteer-application> -or- call us at 845-632-1281.



George Hemroth—Docent
Rosemary Evaul—Greeter

A “Road Trip” in the Town of Wappinger (Part 1)

(or, How Some Wappinger Roads Got Their Names)

Roads in Hughsonville

Hughsonville was named for William Hughson; born in England; he settled in this area prior to the American Revolution- he served in Brinkerhoff’s Regiment during the War.

Dean Avenue- Willis Dean was a butcher and farmer in Hughsonville.

Marlorville Road-James Marlor owned a coal dock along Wappinger Creek near his named road.



Everett Wheeler

Hamilton Road- The Thomas and William Hamilton families lived on this road; they emigrated from Scotland in the 1870’s.

Wheeler Hill Road- named for famed Manhattan lawyer Everett P. Wheeler who owned an estate along this road in the latter part of the 19th century.



Mary, William, Gennie, Emily, Thomas, Katherine Hamilton

Along Route 9D

Ketchamtown Road- Titus Ketcham served in Colonel Brinckerhoff’s 2nd Regiment during the Revolutionary War. In 1777, Nicholas Brower referred to “Ketchanes(sic) Town between Wappens and Fishkill” as a place where Tory sympathizers rendezvoused.

Stonykill Road- In 1683, Guilian Verplanck and partners purchased 85,000 acres of land from the Wappinger. Guilian’s portion of this property was named Stony Kill.

Baxtertown Road- named for Bartholomew Baxter, who settled in the area in the early 1800’s.

Chelsea

Once named Low Point and then Carthage Landing, the name Chelsea was given to the hamlet and railroad station stop. Its origin stems from a short-lived enterprise, the Chelsea Paper Mill.

Continued on page 6

A “Road Trip” in the Town of Wappinger (Part 1), continued (or, How Some Wappinger Roads Got Their Names)

Along Route 9

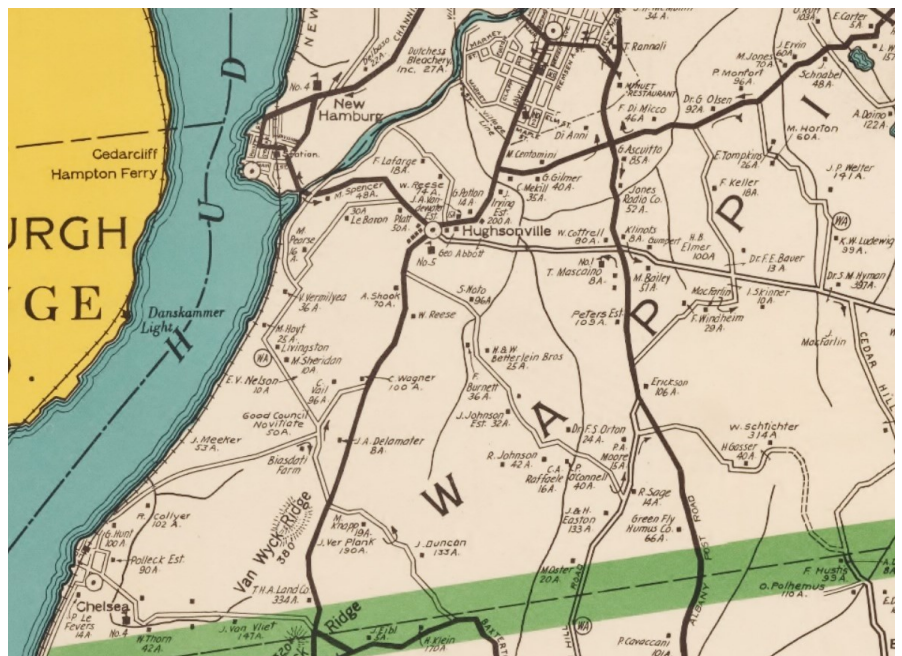
Fowlerhouse Road- Phrenologist Orson Fowler built an octagonal house in this location in the 1850’s.



Smithtown Road- Abram D. Smith was a farmer in this area in the mid 1800’s. His home was called Sunnyside.

Osborne Hill Road- Named for Revolutionary War Field Surgeon Dr. Cornelius Osborn, appointed in 1776 by Colonel Jacobus Swartwout. He served in Brinckerhoff’s 2nd militia.

MacFarlane Road- The name “J. MacFarlin” is on a 1932 Dolph Stewart map of this area. His property is shown to extend from Cedar Hill Road west and is most likely the namesake for the road. (It was common to see misspellings of names on old maps.)



To be continued in the Fall 2023 Newsletter

Restoration Update

The mantel for the east room fireplace has been created from period appropriate floorboards. The first phase of plastering has been completed in the east room, a period appropriate exterior door has been created, and the bottom steps are being recreated for the stairwell which goes up to the 2nd floor. Fundraising continues in order to complete the east room and begin restoration of the west room.



The crane in our newly restored fireplace was donated by Christina Ungar.
Thank you, Christina!

IN MEMORIUM



We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of long-time member Mary Schmalz. Mary was devoted to her community and worked tirelessly with many local organizations and historical societies. Please click on the link below to read a *Homestead Chronicle* article about Mary (page 8) from April 2017.

https://www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org/_files/ugd/82c746_a00cea8c00f641249cd4fa349cf06ecf.pdf

Gift Cards Galore! Raffle

Would you like a chance to win hundreds of dollars in gift cards? Announcing our new *Gift Cards Galore* raffle, with a grand prize of \$850 in gift cards! Plus—that everyone entering has 2 chances to win—there is also a 2nd prize of \$200 in gift cards!

The attached flier lists all the gift cards and their value you could win a \$100 County Fare gift certificate, a \$50 Nature's Pantry card, gifts cards to Norma's, Oda, Boho Beauty, Stewarts Shops, Hannaford, Shop Rite, Heritage, Target, Amazon, Walgreens, Home Depot, and many more! We are so grateful to all our donors who have made this fundraising raffle possible.



SO



Raffle tickets are \$5 each – or – 5 for \$20, available at all our upcoming events. You can also give us a call at 845-632-1281 for tickets. **The drawing will be October 26th, just in time for holiday gift giving.** Cash only (we will also accept checks from WHS members). All proceeds support the mission of the Wappingers Historical Society.

Visit us at:

www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org

Contact us at:

info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org

Like & Follow us on:

Facebook—@WappingersHistoricalSociety

Twitter—#WappingersHist

Instagram—wappingershistoricalsociety



Wappingers Historical Society
Gift Cards Galore! Raffle
Over \$1,000 in gift cards!

Grand Prize is \$850 in gift cards!

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| \$100 County Fare Bar & Grill Wappingers Falls | (2) \$50 Amazon |
| \$25 Stewart's Shop (can be used on gas!) | (2) \$25 Lowes |
| \$25 Barnes & Noble | (2) \$25 Starbucks |
| \$25 Home Depot | \$50 Boho Beauty |
| \$25 Shop Rite | \$25 Target |
| \$25 Hannaford | \$25 Panera |
| \$25 Norma's Bakery & Cafe, Wappingers Falls | \$20 Walgreens |
| \$50 Visa gift card | \$10 Jersey Mike's |
| \$50 Nature's Pantry | \$15 Dairy Queen |
| \$50 Oda Restaurant, Fishkill | \$15 Red Robin |
| \$25 Heritage Restaurant, Wappingers Falls | \$25 Dunkin Donuts |
| \$25 Texas Roadhouse | \$15 Walgreens |

2nd Prize \$200 in gift cards!

- \$100 County Fare Bar & Grill Wappingers Falls
- \$25 Barnes & Noble
- \$25 Stewart's Shop (can be used on gas!)
- \$25 Home Depot
- \$25 Panera

Tickets
1 for \$5
5 for \$20

All proceeds support our mission to preserve and promote our local history, maintain our archives and present new programs to the public.



Drawing October 26, 2023

Questions? Call 845-632-1281

Speaker Series Recap

APRIL-Antique Bottle Talk with Alex Prizgintas, Dani Masterson and Paul DiMarco



A big thank you to Dani, Paul and Alex who shared their bottle expertise with us.

MAY-Stoneco Talk with John Di Domizio



In addition to hearing a fascinating talk on the history of Stoneco as it related to his family, John presented and donated to the Historical Society many items related to the rock quarry and surrounding area. Thanks to John, we now have a very comprehensive collection of Stoneco research in our archives.

JULY-John Cox/Quercus Cooperage at Obercreek Brewing Company



Jon Cox's experience and expertise in his craft made his presentation very interesting and informative. Great Beer, Great Presentation, Great Friends!!

Member Picnic July 18

Despite the torrential rain and thunderstorms earlier in the day, our annual member picnic went on as planned. A hot, humid evening couldn't dampen the spirits of all who attended. Hamburgers and hot dogs were expertly grilled by George Hemroth (this editor got her's well-done as requested :-)) and many yummy side dishes and desserts were brought by all who attended. Thank you to Jack Fedigan, who donated the tent which cooled us from the sun. A big thank you to all who helped with the set-up and clean-up, a big job on a hot evening!

