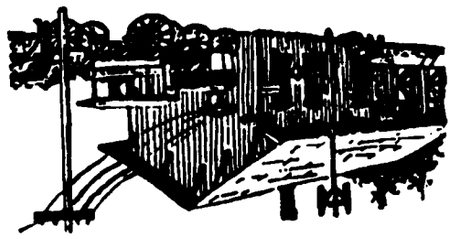
January 1999 through December 1999

WILSON HISTORY

Obsolete Profession (Water Dowsing) 1-99
Cream of the Crop (Class of 1933-Wilson High) 2-99
Harbor and Ships 4-98
Evolution of Western New York 5-99
Putting Wilson on the Map (Pat Brady) 6-99
Roads First-Settlers Second 7-99
Niagara County Towns Established 9-99
Reminiscing (Museum Progress-Dr. Argue) 10-99
Apple Hall of Fame (Singer Family) 11-99
Historic Cabin to be Moved (Tugwell) 12-99
"Working" Schoolhouse 12-99

IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Linnabery 2-99
Althea Eastman 2-99Jean Argue 399
Ada Belle Nickerson 4-98
Mary E. Cornell 4-99
Eloise Culverwell 4-99
Beatrice Rignell 4-99
Elwood Schultz 5-99
Doris Fraser 5-99
Mildred Lonsbery 7-99
LaMont Ridley 9-99
Mari lyn Cuddeback Rollinger 9-99
Blanche Wilson 10-99
Jeanette Warner 10-99
Laura Eick 11-99
Waldo F. Beutel 11-99
Mabel B. Burrows 12-99
Geeorge "Duke" Lederhouse 12-99
Marilyn DeNeau Conti 12-99
Donn E. Wagner 12-99

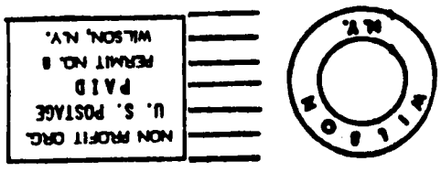


January 1999 Vol. 28 No. 1
(Coleman Printing)

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

Wilson Historical Society
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763



Jan. 1999

OBSOLETE PROFESSION:

With the advent of the installation of water lines throughout the town of Wilson, most of the wells that provided water for both people and livestock were no longer needed, in fact some were condemned by the Health Department as being unfit for human consumption.

In earlier times, the hand-dug well was very essential, and some wells even had windmills attached to them to pump water for livestock. Most wells were dug by hand, but in later times drilled wells also became popular.

The Divining Rod or Dowsing Rod were once used to help locate the best place to dig for water, but not everyone had the ability to make a dowsing rod work.

In his later years,Ed Johnson made a business of digging wells around Wilson, and he generally used a Dowser Rod to help him locate the best place to dig. The Dowser was generally a forked branch which would always twist down whenever the branch passed over a good source of underground water.

Ed felt that hand-dug wells were better than drilled ones, and the ones he dug were usually 4 foot wide and 12 foot deep. Although many of the early wells were lined with rocks, Ed preferred to use 4 foot tile to line his wells. He said he would dig down until water began to seep into the hole, but would stop digging when the flow of water became too great.

Ed grew up on Lake Street near the railroad depot, and used to play around the John Miller Cooperage. That may have influenced him to learn the Cooper trade, but in his later years he became well known for his hand-dug wells..

He recalled that wh en he was young there were no paved roads in Wilson, and the roads that were there were "pretty Messy"--especially during the rainy seasons.

He received his education in the old brick Union School, and on Sundays he always attended the beautiful old frame 1st Baptist Church. He remembered when the church burned down and was later replaced by the present edifice.

He was about 14 years old when the Sutherland Hotel at the corner of Young and Lake Streets burned down, also the Tower House Hotel which stood where St. Paul's Lutheran Church is today.

He said the "Bucket Brigades" were no match for the large number of fires that plagued Wilson in the early 1900's, He also believed that an arsonist was to blame for most of the fires. He recalled that many residents in the village, to be on the safe side, would place buckets of water around their homes before they retired

Ed said that things weren't all bad, however, and he had happy memories of the Pioneer Picnics and Farmers' Picnics that were held at Lake Island Park. He also enjoyed the baseball games that were held in the Park

The Albright Opera House in the village, which stood just south of the Luther Wilson House was also a great source of entertainment, and he recalled that Magician Shows and Glass=blowing demonstrations were his favorites.

Ed was 85 when we talked to him, and he had a clear vision of what Wilson in the old days was like. He admitted, however, there'd been a lot of changes in the village since he grew up on Lake Street many years ago.

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TREES PLANTED ALONG NORTH BORDER:

On Saturday, Nov.14th, 20 Blue Spruce were planted along the north border of the museum grounds. Tom Rohring dug the holes with his backhoe, and Gary Fitch, Ollie Clark, Bruce MUck, and Elton Kropp along with 6 men from the County Work Release Program, helped with the planting. Bruce Muck used his equipment to dig the trees and Ollie Clark used his truck to move them.

Bagging and planting the 5 to 8 foot trees was hard work, and in order to plant and water the remaining five trees, another crew worked on Sunday to complete the job. They included Elton Kropp, DaRRELL Smith, Sally Smith, Mary Ziehm, Don Burrows, and Bill Rose.
Fifteen of the trees were donated by Lou and and Barb Michele in memory of Roy Tripi, and the remaining five were purchased by the Society for $5 each. Bruce Muck also helped with watering the trees after they were planted.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR:

The Board of Directors wish all members and friends of the Wilson Hist. Soc., a Happy and prosperous New Year-1999.

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SOUNDINGS:

You can't turn back the clock, but you can wind it up again.

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IN MEMORIAM:

Myron Webster, 86, a retired foreman from Harrison Radiator Div. of GMC, died suddenly at Lockport Memorial Hospital, Nov. 11, 1998 after being stricken at home.

He was a Life Member of the Wilson Hist. Soc, also a member of Local 686, UAW, wherehe once served as Secretary; the UAW Retirees of which he was former Treasuer; and Lockport Seniors.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth; a son, David (Karen) Webster of Medina, NY; a sister, Arlene (George Flechsenhaar of Olcott, NY; 2 brothers, Edward (Betty) Webster of Olcott, NY; and Raymond (Marilyn) Webster of Lockport, NY; a sister in law, Edith Webster of San Diego, Ca.

Funeral Services were conducted at the Prudden & Kandt Funeral Home in Lockport, and burial was in North Ridge Cemetery, Cambria.

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Peter V. Moot, 74, a local fruit grower, died at Inter Community Hospital, Newfane, on November 30, 1998, after a brief illness.

He served on a PT boat during World War II , and later became a fruit-grower. He also retired as the Chief Grounds Keeper for the State Power Authority in 1981. He was a a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; American Legion; Order of the Moose; and Life Member of St. Johns Episcopal Church in Wilson.

He is survived by his wife, Betty (Wilcox) Moot; 5 sons, Charles R. Moot of Brownwood, TX; Harold R. Farnham of Burrel, CA; Peter (Zada) Moot of Holland Patent, NY; Gerald (Darlene) Farnham of Wilson, NY; and Bruce A. Farnham of Cheektowaga, NY; also 3 daughters, Pricilla Moot of Columbus, OH; Cheryl L. Hauser of Lancaster, NY; and Lucy (Tim) Kraatz of Lockport, NY; 3 sisters, Suzanne Strothers of Dobbs Ferry, NY; Sally Holliday of West Boothbay, MaINE: AND Polly M. Hart of Rochester, NY

Survices were conducted at St. John's Episcopal Church in Wilson by Rev. Alison Martin.

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MUSEUM EXHIBIT:

Dorothy Maxfield, curator, arranged an attractive miniature display in Patterson Room Case, also the "pretty" manequin received a change of dress--a 1930's Evening Gown.

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DONATION:

Donations for the Building Fund were received from the following members:

$50 or less: James and Marian Schotz of Wilson; also Bill and Peg Fritton of Wilson.

$25 or less: Phyllis and Vincent Loomis of Ocala, FL; Chester & Charlotte McArthur of Winter Haven, FL; Thomas Sharpe of Sanborn, NY; and Dorothea Mark of Wilson. (Note: The name of the late Richard Loomis was mistakenly put in place of Phyllis in last Newsletter. We apologize for the error.)

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NEW LIFE MEMBER:

Margaret (Peggy) Frittonwas given a Life Membership in the Wilson Hist. Socby her husband, Bill Fritton--just in time for Christmas.

Margaret is a graduate of the Nardin Academy and Buffalo State College. She became a Specialist in Adult Basic Education for St. Bonaventure where she assisted in setting up State wide programs in this Field. "Peg" was also very active in the fund drive and renovation project for the Wilson Free Library.

Margaret and Bill are the parents of 5 children.

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NEW MEMBERS:

Please welcome the following new members of the Wilson Hist. Society: Rev. Kenneth Babcock, Pastor of the Exley United Methodist Church in Wilson. Rev. Babcock currently resides in Warrens Corners where his wife, Rev. Nioma Babcock pastors the Warrens Corners U. Methodist Church.

Robert and Elizabeth Schearer of Wilson. Robert is well-known as a wood carver, and, he has donated many of his carvings to the society for prizes at the Memorial Day Fair.

Linda Ann Snyder of N. Tonawanda, NY, courtesy of her mother, Carilyn DeNeau Warblow. Linda has fond memories of "Sunset Island" where she spent many weekends as a girl. Her grandfather was Capt. Roy DeNeau,(Ret), and her great aunt was Bessie Crawford, life resident of island.

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POSTAL SERVICE UPDATE:

Postal Service booklet #6 published in 1978 lists all confirmed postmasters to that date. If you have a booklet and would like to bring it up to date, postmasters serving in Wilson since 1978 were, Donald A. Ramsdell, March 20, 1982; Nancy Berryman, April 7, 1990; and Alfred T. Bax, November 26, 1994. Our current Postmistress is Carla M. Muffoletto, Octpber 24, 1998.

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NOVEMBER MEETING:

Jean Neff from the Amherst Museum gave a very interesting talkabout the 7 major steps in making Linen from the Flax seed. Flax, which was quite common in Colonial America, gave way to Cotton which was easier to process. Mrs. Neff said that the much treasured Irish Linen is made from flax grown in Belgium. It was also interesting to learn how linseed oil is extracted from the flax seed.

Refreshments were furnished and served by Sara Berry and Sally Smith.

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JANUARY CALENDAR:

January 9, 1999: WORK DAY at the Museum. Able-bodied men needed. Please report at 8Am.

January 13, 1999: Board of Director Meeting, 7:30 PM at Museum.

January 25, 1999: Regular Monthly meeting. Program Pending-Mrs. Linnabery had bad stroke.

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QUIPS:

Time, like a snowflake, disappears while we are trying to decide what to do with it.

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BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS:

Nov. 11th: Gary Fitch, Pres., Pam Groff, Sec'y., Elton Kropp, Micky Hunter, Don Croop, Celeste Crawford, Eleanor Myers, Don Burrows, Ollie Clark, Miles Linnabery, Bruce Muck, Marilyn Allgeier, Judy King, Treas., Dorothy Maxfield, and Lois Barnum.

Judy King reported that Lee Bickford donated $500 for the Building Fund, and $100 was received from the Wilson Vol. Fire Co. for the Society having the oldest running car in the Fieldday parade. Motion made by Lois Barnum to accept report and pay bills, seconded by Miles Linnabery. Motion approved.

Miles Linnabery reported that he and Anne Marie had attended Grant-writing courses and will submit application for caboose.

Eleanor Myers, Nom. Chrm., reported most officers and trustees will remain the same. She has volunteered to accept nomination for Tours Chrm, also Pam Groff has been nominated for Secretary to replace Richard Schmidle who lives most of the year in Florida.

Celeste Crawford requested use of the Patterson Room on Dec. 7th for a teacher's meeting. Motion made by Don Burrows, seconded by Don Croop, to permit request. Motion approved.

It was reported by Pres. Fitch that he and Miles Linnabery replaced faulty fluorescent lights in the museum.

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Dec. 8th: Vice President Darrell Smith called meeting to order with 14 members present: Don Croop, Dorothy Maxfield, Micky Hunter, Ollie Clark, Celeste Crawford, Sally Smith, Pam Groff, Judy King, Dan King, Don Burrows, Lois Barnum, Wanda Burrows and Bill Rose.

Judy King made treasurer's report, and Wanda Burrows made motion, seconded by Micky Hunter, to accept report and pay current bills. Motion approved. After discussion of insurance coverage, Don Burrows made motion, seconded by Don Croop, to pay it. Motion approved.

Discussion was held on condition of the milk stop station and cost of moving and repairing the building which was offered to the Society by George Waters. Don Croop suggested we have better projects already in need of repair and painting, and made a motion, seconded by Dorothy Maxfield, that we decline the offer. Motion approved.

A marker was passed around that would stand up better to "weed wackers" and mowing machines, and the metal shaft with plastic sign attached will be purchased from Memorial Fund donations, from Lil Villani Trophy and Awards, Niag. Falls, @ $12 each. Engraving is included in price. Don Burrows made a motion, seconded by Bill Rose to purchase 30 of these markers since many of the original markers have been destroyed. Motion approved.

After some discussion, it was decided to set January 9th as a work day at the Museum. The purpose is to try and clear out materials in the Fritton Barn and other miscellaneous jobs. Here's a good chance to help your organization. All able bodied men, please show up at 8 AM.

Sally Smith, Ways & Means, reported that only 35 Afghans in Teal and Rose are still left.

The museum was decorated nicely for the Holidays and the Board wishes to thank Sue and George Cruickshank for setting-up the Christmas tree, and Sara Berry, Sally Smith, and Kathy Frerichs for putting on the lights and ornaments. Darrell Smith and Adrian Frericks took care of the outside decorations which include the Lanterns and beautiful large wreath between them. Don Burrows set a timer on the lights for 4:30 pm through Midnight.

Don Croop made a motion seconded by Dorothy Maxfield to purchase a smaller tree from the "Garden Gate" after the Holidays which will be easier to use next Fall. Motion approved.

Concern was expressed for the fast deterioration of the Caboose, Plastic will be placed over windows for the winter, and it is hoped to be able and start major repairs in the Spring.

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SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS:

The schoolhouse committee has announced that a grant for $1,000 was received from the Niag. Co. Council of the Arts decentralization program.

The funds will be used to provide resource materials for teachers to use to prepare their students for a visit to the schoolhouse.

Resource packages will include a copy of the schoolhouse video, pamphlets, suggested activities, books on life in a one-room schoolhouse, and materials available for use at the school/

Request for the grant was written up by Jean Figura, who originally chaired the Community Schoolhouse committee that started the project to move the Randall Rd. school to the Museum.

The last major improvement was completed recently when Doug Hastings did a fine job putting up a chimney. All material used such as brick, mortar, and flu, were donated by Ed Hastings.

Future plans, according to Wanda Burrows, Chrm., include a Chinese Auction at the Wilson House Restaurant on March 19, 1999. Theme baskets will be available, and anyone wishing to donate a basket may do so. If you would prefer to just donate the contents for a Basket, the committee will be glad to assemble it.

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

Dorothy Lort has donated her schoolhouse bell that she used in District School #6 in 1933. She also donated a Chrystal Paper Weight that was presented to her by her fifth grade students when she retired in June, 1971.

Ruth Hillman of Lockport, NY: Marriage Certificate, and a Yardstick with Stockwell and Blacklock, East Wilson, lettered on it.

Jane Wilson, Webster, NY: Castle Dairy Milk Box; 1923 Water Regulating Book; Two boxes of Fishing Net Floats; Scythe; Icetones;, and a Hook Sign, "Merle Wilson Fish Market", 1932.

Estate of Lucille Upton: Indian Basket; Written Report om "Ice Cream Parlors"; Newsletters from the Wilson Hist. Soc. and Old Fort Niagara; also 2 Wilson Fieldday Programs.

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ADDRESS CHANGE:

If you wish to send information for the Newsletter Editor, please address it to Don Croop, 19 Harbor Park, Wilson, NY 14172. Thank you.

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BON MOT: Character is like a fence-- it can't be strengthened by a white wash.

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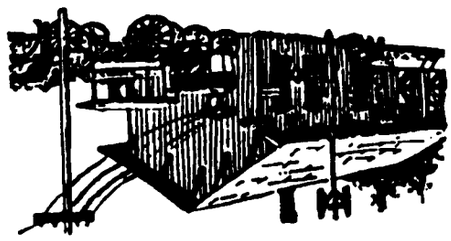

February 1999 Vol.28 No.2
Coleman Printing)

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

Wilson Historical Society
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763

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WILSON, N.Y.

N.Y.

Feb. 1999

"CREAM OF THE CROP":

On June, 1933, the Wilson "Star" headlines proclaimed that Wilson High School had its largest graduation Class to date--twenty-nine students. However, large as it may have seemed at that time, it could not compare to the 100+ graduating classes of the 1990's.

The 1933 Graduation Class did, however, have some very interesting members, and its officers were: William Fritton, President; Harold Stevens, Vice-President; Dorothy Canfield,Secretary; and Evelyn Blemaster, Treasurer.

Other members of the Class included Fannie Bigalow; Janet Benedict; Franklin Bickford; James Canfield; Mary Cornell; Ernestine Dietrick; Francis Farley; Lynford Griffon; Vinal Israel; Sophia Krietz; Grace Litchard; Leona Lort; Franklin Oldenburg; Clinton Perry; Ernestine Reese; Lucille Stanton; Harold Stevens; Herbert Swick; Ruth Toenisson; Frances Upton; Lawrence Upton; Frances VanWagoner; Effa Wolfe; Renselear Ward; Winona Ward; and Carl Wilson.

The Baccalaureate Sermon was preached in the 1st Baptist Church by Rev. Fay Chapman, pastor of the Wilson Methodist Church, who emphasized the importance of proper training in the home, school, and church in the "Making of a man."

Class Day exersizes were held at the High School on Monday evening, and opened with several selections played by the High School Orchestra. Janet Benedict then read the Class History, and said that "history has a peculiar way of repeating itself. The Class Poem was given by Lynford Griffon, and Lawrence Upton, dressed in the garb of a Seer, gave the Class Phrophecy.

The Class Will was read by Harold Stevens in which he gave the Juniors everything from the back seats in the study hall to the wastepaper baskets to deposit their chewing gum. The Class Song, composed by Winona Ward, was then sung, after which Francis Farley presented gifts to the girls, and Dorothy Canfield presented gifts to the boys.Evelyn Blemaster, playing the part of "The Class Grumbler", criticized everyone from the Freshmen to the Faculty.

William Fritton, Pres., gave the charge to the Juniors and said that "the Seniors had grieved much over their inferior traits/" He advised them to "go to the ant and study her ways."

Robert Horton, Pres. of the Junior Class, accepted the charge while noting,"though you refer to us along with ants, we assure you we are no insects by any means."

Awards for outstanding achievement were highlighted by the presentation of a large key to Francis Farley for scholarship, loyalty, and achievement.

Ora J. Pettit, Pres. of the Alumni Association,, presented $25 to Miss Ernestine Dietrick for having the highest average during her four-year course. Mrs. Arthur Loomis, Pres. of the Delphic Circle, presented $5 gold pieces to Lucille Stanton and Lawrence Upton for their high averages, and Mrs. William U.S. Parsons, on behalf of the Home Bureau, presented Miss Evelyn Blemaster with $5 for her high average in Home Economics.

The Valedectory was given by Miss Dietrick, honor student, who's talk was based on the theme, "Just as the twig is bent, so the tree is inclined." She said that the quotation seemed fitting as the Class of '33 was about to branch out into the world to grow for itself.

Commencement exersizes were held in the school auditorium on Tuesday evening, and the processional march was played by Miss Helen Stevens. Following the Invocation by Rev. C. W. Vandenburg, Miss Lucille Stanton gave the Salutatory saying in part,"We the graduating Class of 1933 greet you...we're pleased you are interested in us...and we want to prove worthy of your interest." This was followed by the Girls Chorus, directed by Mrs. Marjorie Hurlburt.

Diplomas were presented to the Class by Mr. A.M. McIlroy, Pres. of the Board of Education, who suggested, "You must do your own thinking and solve your own problems,and I think you are well prepared to do so."

Bill Fritton, who today resides on East Lake Road, Wilson, sadly notes that many of his former classmates have passed on, or are unaccountable for, but some who are still with us are: Leah Bigalow of Lockport, NY; Ernestine (Dietrick) Walpole of Richmond, Va; Winona (Ward) Hamblin of Niagara Falls, NY; Lawrence Upton of Rochester, NY; Janet (Benedict) Welch of Santa Cruz, CA; and Dorothy (Canfield) Baker of Ransomville, NY.

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PROGRAM MEETINGS: Mitzie Collins presented A delightful program of Christmas Carols and folk songs that blended well with the Christmas Season. Mitzie is the former Mrs.Bruce Lederhouse. Refreshments were furnished by Sally Smith and served by Sara Berry & Marie Linnabery.

On Feb. 22nd, Susan Beophun of the NY State Parks Service, will discuss "Shipwrecks on Lake Ontario". Marie Linnabery, Refreshment Chrm., will arrange for refreshments following meeting. We urge you to cooperate with her if or when she calls you.

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BON MOT: Warm thoughts, like sunshine, brighten the day and lighten the heart.

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TOUGH GENERATION:

One of the most remarkable things about Wilson, perhaps, is the number of people who reach the age of ninety or one hundred. You probably remember Ida Erion who in recent years reached the age of 110 before passing away. Then there was Bessie Crawford, the grand old lady of "sunset Island", who died in 1991 at the age of one hundred two.

When we delve into the lives of some of these centenarians, it appears that hard work and rugged living was the common denominator for most of them. A good example could be Phoebe Bradley Campbell, who grew up on her father's Daniel Road farm in the early 1800's.

Her mother was Sophronia Potter and her father was Levi Bradley, and her girlhood years were spent in a double log house. It was said that Phoebe used to milk six or seven cows each day before she was big enough to carry a pail of milk.

She went to school in a log house at the corner of the Daniel and Brayley Roads at the time when there was still plenty of wolves and wild bears about, and the schoolhouse, like others in the town, did double duty as a school and Meeting House. Phoebe always wore a sun-bonnet, but she also went to school barefoot.

Most youngpeople in the early 1800's stayed at home and worked hard--both inside and out of the house, but it wasn't all hard work, they often were able to share good times together. These often took the form of picnics at the school, and sometimes they would gather at some-one's house to hold a dance. Party favorites such as ice cream were yet unheard of and candy was very scarce. In fact, one was considered lucky if they got a stick of molasses at Christmas.

Lipstick, powder, and rouge as well as curling irons were unknown, yet people liked to "doll-up" so sometimes a little rice flour might be used on the face.Homespun materials were used to make dresses which were colored with either white oak bark or blue dye pot.

She recalled that the nicest dress she ever owned was purchased in Lockport--a black cashmere worn with a velvet basque. She made her first coat when she was 25 years old--up to that time she always wore a shawl.

Since travel was mostly by foot, they seldom walked long distances, and Phoebe often said that she never saw Niagara Falls until she was eighteen years old. Her earliest recollections of the village of Wilson was that it had a Tavern, Shoe-maker shop, Postoffice, and small grocery store.

She was 19 when she met and wed Nicholas Campbell in Ransomville, NY. They had three sons by this marriage, Daniel E., James C., and William H. Campbell.

When the Civil War started, Nicholas volunteered to serve with Battery M, 1st Light Artillery, the Unit that was known for its captured Confederate War horse, "Billy Sherman.". Nicholas also served with the Mounted Rifles, but unfortunately he returned from the War-disabled.. Because of this, the following years were very hard on Phoebe and her 3 sons. Rough as it was, however, she survived and, like her grandfather before her, lived to be over 100 years old before she died.

Many of Phoebe's 12 grandchildren became well-known through out the Wilson area. William had Delbert Campbell, Archie Campbell, and Mrs. Mildred C.Brecht. James had Mrs. Tina C. Truesdale, Frank Campbell, and twins, Howard and Harry Campbell. Daniel had the most children, Faye Campbell, Milford Campbell, Mrs. Esther C. Albright, Mrs. Dora C. Wakeman, and Mrs. Lucille C. Kirchoff.

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SENIORS ENJOY BREAKFAST:

Many grateful Senior Citizens from the Wilson area attended the delicious Senior Breakfast prepared recently by students of the Thomas Marks and Stephenson Elementary schools.

Mrs. Palacios, Pres. of the Wilson Teachers Association, was in charge of the breakfast which also included entertainment by choirs from the grade schools.

The breakfast, which has become a tradition at the school, was originally started 17 yrs. ago by the late John Rodgers, and the annual event enables grandparents to see their youngsters perform. Senior citizens of Wilson thank everyone who helped Mrs. Palacios and Principal Johnson make this past year's event an enjoyable occasion for all.

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IN MEMORIAM:

Dorothy Linnabery, 89, who worked as a reporter for the Lockport Union Sun & Journal, died Dec. 26, 1998 in Inter Community Hospital, Newfane, after a short illness. She also was a member of the Greenwood Cemetery Comm of Wilson, and the Wilson Hist. Society.
She was born April 29, 1909 at Oswego, NY, the daughter OF Walter and Olive (Shelhammer) Abbey. She formerly lived in Euless, Texas, where she was a founding member of the Sonata Society of Hurst, TX; and served on the Board of Directors of the Fort Worth,TX Symphony Orchestra; the Fort Worth Opera Co; the Fort Worth Civic Ballet Co; snd the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra.

Dorothy was actively involved with the Wilson Hist. Soc. since 1978 when she accepted the position of Publicity Chairman. In 1980 she took on the added responsibility of Program Chrm., and held both positions until 1984.She comtinued as Publicity Chrm. for 3 more years to the end of 1987 when she resigned as Program Chrm. She continued as Publicity Chrm. through 1997.

She is survived by her son, Miles (Marie) Linnabery of Wilson.

Services were held at the Hamilton & Clark Funeral Chapel, Wilson, and interment was at the Greenwood Cemetery, Wilson, with Rev. Philip Johnson officiating.

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Althea Eastman: We have just learned of the death of Althea Eastman, wife of Robert Eastman, who passed away in January, 1998, at Northridge, California. On behalf of the Wilson Historical Society, we extend sincere condolences to Robert and other members of his family.

Robert Eastman is descended from John Eastman who accompanied Reuben Wilson to these shores in 1810.

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BON MOT:

God doesn't always remove the darkness, but He accompanies us through it.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The slate of nominees presented at the November meeting by Eleanor Myers, Nominations Chrm., was brought before the December meeting and, with no objections, the Secretary was asked to cast one vote and approve the following officers for 1999.

Gary Fitch, President; Darrell Smith, Vice-President; Gordon Strablow, 2nd Vice-President; Pam Groff, Recording Secretary; Wanda Burrows, Corresponding Secretary; and Judy King, Treas.

Trustees to December, 2001, were re-elected to a nine year term, Ollie Clark, Floyd Clark, and Wally Goodman.

Chairpersons selected by the Nominating Comm. were elected as follows: Celeste Crawford, Acquisitions/ Genealogy/ and Library; Virginia Strablow, Sunday Hostesses; Lois Jennings, Memorials; Anne Marie Linnabery, Refreshments; Carole Schnoor, Publicity; Don Croop, Publications/Newsletter; Eleanor Myers, Tours; Janet Sporleder, Historical Sites; Kara and Sandy Holden, Memberships; Miles Linnabery, Programs; Judy King, By-laws; and Sally Smith, Ways and Means.

The 1999 Memorial Day Fair Committee will be composed of Lois Barnum, Chrm., Nettie Stimson, Darrell Smith, Ron Zauner, and Beth Waldron.

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NEW LOOK:

Sandy Holden and your Editor have changed the design of the society's membership cards so thaat a single card may be used for all classifications, Life, Honorary, Regular, or Junior. All cards will be black & white, and colored cards for Life, Honorary, and Junior will ne longer be necessary. The lettering will also no longer be super-imposed over a sketch of the 1912 depot. This will result in a considerable printing costs savings. Membership File Cards will still be color-coded for easier classification.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

As of January 1, 1999 the Board of Directors was composed of the following members: Gary Fitch, Pres; Darrell Smith, 1st Vice-Pres; Gordon Strablow, 2nd Vice-Pres; Pam Groff, Rec. Sec'y; Wanda Burrows, Cor. Sec'y; and Judy King, Treas.

Trustees to Dec.1999, Miles Linnabery, Art Schnoor, and Bill Rose: Trustees to Dec. 2000, Lois Barnum, Bruce Muck, and Pam Groff: Trustees to Dec. 2001, Ollie Clark, Floyd Clark and Wally Goodman: Honorary Trustees, Marilyn Allgeier, Town Supervisor; Eleanor Myers, Town Historian; Don Croop, Past Pres., and Don Burrows, Past Pres.

Curator, Dorothy Maxfield.

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AREA CHAIRPERSONS:

As of January 1, 1999 the following members were serving in positions as appointees of the Board of Directors: Curator, Dorothy Maxfield; Barnum Building, Lois Barnum; Construction, Gary Fitch; Planning Board, Art Schnoor; Caboose, Darrell Smith; Breezeway/Shelter, Micky Hunter; Storage Barn, Dan King; Schoolhouse, Wanda Burrows; Finance Chrm., Dan King; Fittro Shop, Ed Allgeier; R.R. Depot, Dorothy Maxfield; Argue Car Building, Wally GoodmAN Bill Rose; Nominating Comm. Chrm., Eleanor Myers; Museum Grounds, Elton Kropp; and Niag. Co. Federation of Historical Society's, Representative, Norman MacAskill.

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BOARD ACTION & REPORTS:

The January 13th meeting was called to order by Gary Fitch, Pres., and a few rugged individuals attended including, Pam Groff, Sec'y; Wanda Burrows, Don Burrows, Dan King, and Judy King, Treas. The small turn-out was attributed to the frigid cold and snow brought on by the severe January storm.

Judy King, Treas., reported that from Dec. 9th to Jan. 13th, the society's income was $1,503.46 and expenses were $3,206.33.Don Burrows made motion, seconded by Wanda Burrows, that treasurer's report be accepted and current bills be payed. Carried.

Gary Fitch described what the problems were with the heating units which didn't work properly at the last regular meeting, and reported that necessary repairs were made. He also announced that the Work Day scheduled for January 9th had to be cancelled because of the bad weather, and it wasdecided to postpone the clean-up of the Fittro barn until Spring when weather permits.

When the meeting was adjourned, a video tape of the 75th Anniversary of the Wilson Volunteer Fire Company was shown.

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HISTORIC HOME:

School Board President, Jean Figura, announced recently that the former medical office of doctor V.J. Singh has been donated by him to the Wilson Central School District.

The historic old home was once the residence of Richard Patterson, who was station agent at the Wilson Depot for many years. When Dr. John F. Argue aquired the home, he used it as a medical office for nearly fifty years. When Dr. Argue passed away, Dr. Singh continued his praactise there until he retired.

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NEW MEMBERSHIPS:

It is a pleasure to welcome Arthur & Patricia Keller of Williamsville, NY, who recently joined the Wilson Hist. Soc. as Life Members. Also, we are pleased to welcome Gail Kadryna of WIlson, NY.

Building Fund Donations: $250 from Gary Pettit of Wilson who requests that his gift be used to help purchase window shades for the Schoolhouse windows.

$50.00 from Marie Keller of Williamsville, NY; also $50 from Robert L. EaSTMAN OF Northride, CA.

$25.00 or less: Atty. Richard Southard of Lockport, NY; Harry & Bernice Brown of Buffalo; Tom and Gail Jeacock of Fort Erie, Canada; and Tom & Gail Walder of Wilson, NY.

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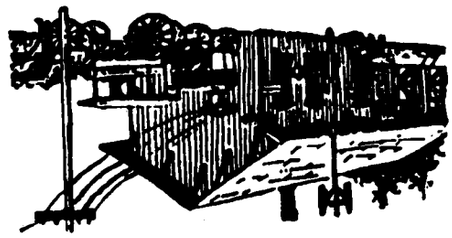
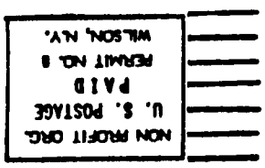
QUIPS: "Praise loudly--blame softly."



March 1999 Vol.28 No.3
(Coleman Printing

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor
NEWSLETTER

Wilson Historical Society
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763



March 1999

FAIR EXPANSION PLANNED:

The 1999 Memorial Day Fair is only a couple months away, and preliminary discussions have already been made at the home of Lois Barnum, Gen. Chrm. At the meetings in Jan. & Feb. it was decided to expand the area where the fair is held, and much of the acreage donated by the late Dr. George Badger of Lockport will be used. Tile drainage and seeding of the grounds over the past three years has made this possible, and a great deal is owed to Gary Fitch, Don Burrows, Darrell Smith, Elton Kropp and Gordon Strablow for preparing the grounds.

Nettie Stimson, Vendor Chrm., proposed that larger spaces for dealers may now be had, so vendors will have more room in which to park their vehicles and display their wares. It is also planned to permit dealers to reserve spots ahead where they'd like to set-up.

Shirley Hunter and Shirley Linnenbank are completing arrangements for the Chicken Bar-B-Que, while Sally Smith is lining up helpers for the Funnel Cake concession. Pam Groff will be accepting baked goods from all who care to donate, and she hopes enough pies will be turned in to meet the demand.

Althea Montgomery will be responsible for the Beef-on-Weck, and we can always count on Dale and Debbie Schlyer to do a "bang-up: job on the Hot Dogs. Melinda Hutchison will keep the children happy with her Cotton Candy, while Pepsi, Coffee, and other drinks will be dispensed by Dick & Sue Schultz, Sara Berry, and Judy Zauner.

You will find included with this Newsletter, a book of quilt tickets. We hope that all members and friends of the society will take advantage of this chance to support it by making a modest donation, You will then be eligible for five attractive prizes.

First prize will be the beautiful "Sampler" quilt quilted by Betty Stimson , and pieced together by , Margerie Williams, Emily McAvoy, Shirley Evans, Ane Rohring, Winnie Terry, Lois Barnum. Norma Ward, Mary Clark, Julie Godfrey, and Barbara Mosher. Also, adding to the individuality of the quilttheir names will be sewn on the back.. Other prizes to be distributed will be a beautiful Afghan, a special Woodcarving made by Bob Schearer, a choice of Sketchbook I or Sketchbook II, and a Historical Society Cookbook.

Sandy Holden will be in charge of quilt tickets this year so we ask that you please send all ticket stubs and your donations to her at Box 319, Wilson, NY 14172

Other chairmen who will strive to make this year's fair a success are: Don Burrows, Dan King, and Darrell Smith, trouble shooters; Gary Fitch, tickets; Wally Goodman and Bill Rose, antique cars; Ed Allgeier, Fittro Shop; Wanda Burrows, Schoolhouse; Dorothy Maxfield and Eleanor Myers, Exhibits; Doug and Julie Smith, Balloons; Judy King and Beth Waldron, Finances, and Kyle Andrews, Cannisters. Everyone may help with set-up and cleanup.

Lois Barnum will also take on the job of providing entertainment, and it is possible that a War of 1812 enactment group will be setting up for the weekend.

There will likely be more information for the April Newsletter, so "Stay Tuned"--looks like we may have another great Fair in 1999.

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NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

Arthur P. Keller, Jr. of Williamsville, NY,was born in Buffalo on March 8, 1926, the son of Arthur and Felecia Keller. He graduated from Kensington High School, and attended the University of Buffalo. He and his wife, Patricia, had 3 children, Michael A., Peter J. and KaTHIE Ann Keller.

They are members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Williamsville, and Arthur is a member of the Board of Trustees at Keuka College, also the Buffalo General Hospital Fund, also Town of Tonawanda Dir. Pd. C.C. of Buffalo.

Arthur served in the active U.S.N.R. from 1943-46, and the U.S.M.C.R's from 1950-53.

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Patricia Towart Keller was also born in Buffalo and graduated from Kensington High School. She completed her schooling at Daemen's College

She belongs to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and is treasurer of the Amherst-Clarence Tennis Club. She is also a member of the Womens' Board of the Buffalo Zoo.

The Kellers consider Wilson to be one of their favorite places and enjoy having dinner at the Wilson Boathouse and the Wilson House Inn. Their family ties go back to the 1920s when her parents built a small cottage on Lake Road. They remember when Rt. 425 was just a gravel road, also all the excitement caused by rum runners on East Lake Rd.in prohibition.

The Kellers look forward to meeting other members of the historical society, and we believe the members will look forward to meeting them.

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QUIPS: People who live beyond their means must be given a lot of credit.

IN MEMORIAM:

Jean K. Argue, a Charter-Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society, died at h er home Jan. 28, 1999, after a long illness. She was born Oct. 4, 1912, at Niagara Falls, NY, the daughter of Dr. Charles and Dr. Clara Huston Kaiser.

She was a member of Exley United Methodist Church of Wilson; a 50 yr. member of the Delphic Circle of Wilson; the Connecticut Society of Genealogists; and the Auxiliary of Inter-Community Memorial Hospital at Newfane.

She was the wife of the late Dr. John F. Argue of Wilson who predeceased her Sept. 29, '86. She is survived by a son, John (Carol) Argue of Albuquerque, NM; two daughters, Susan (Ronald) Schearer of Wilson; and Anne (Williiam) Faery of Chandler, AZ; a sister, Elizabeth (Charlton) Bulmer of Wilson; also 5 grandchildren, 7 step children, and 3 g-grandchildren.

Private funeral servives were held by the family, and interment was in Glenwood Cem. Lkpt.

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THUMBNAIL SKETCH:

A "Bundle of energy" might best describe Maxwell "Micky" Hunter who started out as a student custodian for the Wilson Schools in 1939. When the Thomas Marks School opened in 1967, he was named head custodian--the position which he held until his retirement in 1986.

When "Mick" was student custodian, there were only 3 men responsible for the buildings, and when he retired there were 17 full time custodians--a pretty good indication of how the school system has grown.

In March, 1986, "Micky" was honored with a PTA Honorary Life Membership--an award made to pers ns who have shown special ability to work with children. At the same time, he also was the recipient for the 1st PTA Maxwell Hunter Grant which was established to recognize persons most dedicated to their jobs.

In all his years as a custodian, the only time he was away from his job was when he served two years in the U.S. Army during World War II.

"Micky" and Shirley, his wife, have 2 sons, Randy and Kevin, and though the Hunters spend their winters in Florida, they enjoy their months in Wilson with their grandchildren.

He divides the rest of his time with the Exley United Methodist Church where he serves as a trustee; the Newfane Golden Age Club where he seldom misses a trip; the Retiree Bowling League at Townline Bowl where he bowls above average; and the Wilson Historical Society where he is chairmen of the Shelter & Breezeway--and what would a chicken Bar-B-Que be without Micky.

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES:

A number of memberships in the Wilson Hist. Soc., expired on FeB 1, 1999, in spite of announcements in the Newsletter since last October. The membership comm. trys to abide by the By-laws which read as follows:

Article Two, Sec. 4: Officers and Chairmen must be society members in good standing.

Article Three, Sec. 4: Annual dues shall be payable on Jan. 1st, and any member in arrears on Feb. 1st, shall no longer be considered an active member.

We are unable to mail Newsletters to inactive members.

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Lester Clark of Escondito, CA, recently donated $250 to the building fund to help recondition the old Caboose.

Bruce and Bonnie Muck also made a contribution for the building fund.

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The society extends its congratulations to Dennis and Cheryl Fulton-Sears of Wilson who were married recently.

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It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members: Joe and Bena Murawski of Niagara Falls; also Christopher and Linda D'Anna of N. Tonawanda---courtesy of Sally Smith. Also, Kyle Andrews of Wilson. Kyle needs no introduction--he has been one of our best workers at the annual Memorial Day Fairs.

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Suzanne Scott of Dayton, Ohio, writes to correct some data she sent for a previous newsletter, According to her, Luther and Sarah Stephens were the parents of George W. Wilson who married Mary Dyer. Their son, Luther W. Wilson and Addie Leas had a daughter, Alice Wilson Scott, the mother of Richard Wilson Scott who married Suzanne.

Suzanne also sent a photo of Sarah Stephens Wilson who was born in Whitby, Ont., Nov. 4,1799. She was married to Luther Wilson by J. Williams, on Jan 4, 1821. This is said to be the 1st marriage performed in the new settlement of Wilson.

She also notes that her grandmother, Alice Wilson Scott, was a member of the DAR through the line of Moses Campbell.

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RECENT ACUISITIONS:

Ada Belle Nickerson, Newfane, NY, who graduated with the Wilson High School Class of 1919, has donated a bathing suit from the 1920's; fur collar; Curling Comb; Pre-1920 Kodak Camera; Pleated Black Skirt, and Black Gym Bloomers.

Estate of Lucille Upton: Four Dresses; Two Slips; Crocheted Collar; Doll; Baby Clothes; and a Book.

Wilson Free Library via Connie Moss: Obituary of Elizabeth Cady Stanton which was found in an old book by Hollie Batt.

Gary Sankes, Grand Island, NY: 1985 Porsche for Argue Bldg.

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MEETING DATES:

March 11, 1999: Board of Director Meeting, Museum, 7:30 PM

March 22, 1999: Regular Monthly Meeting. Museum, 7:30 PM

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BON MOT: Happiness is belonging--not belongings.

SCHOOLHOUSE PROGRAM:

The Wilson Hist. Soc. will hold a luncheon and Chinese Auction of "Theme" baskets at the Wilson House Inn & Restaurant on Sat., March 20, 1999, to benefit the schoolhouse project.

The multitude of baskets, guaranteed to peak every interest, will be available for viewing beginning at 10:30 AM, and a Chicken and Biscuit Luncheon will be served at 12:00 Noon.

A brief program will be presented by Dana Figura and children from Thomas Marks School.

Tickets are available at a cost of $12 at the Wilson Town Hall, 751-6704, or by calling Janet Sporleder at 751-9924.

A special feature of the March event will be a chance to win a baseball from the National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum at Cooperstown, NY., which is personally autographed by George T. Seaver who was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1992. Tickets are being sold for $1 a chance, and the ball was generously donated by Chase Bank.

George T. Seaver was the Franchise Power Pitcher who transformed the "Mets" from lovable losers into formidable foes, won 311 games over 20 seasons and set N.L. Career record for strikeouts, and in 1967 was named N.L. Rookie of the Year.

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BOARD ACTION & REPORTS:

Gary Fitch called meeting to order, Feb. 10, 1999, with 14 members present: Ollie Clark, Judy King, Marilyn Allgeier, Elton Kropp, Miles Linnabery, Gordon Strablow, Bill Rose, Don Croop, Celeste Crawford, Lois Barnum, Don Burrows, Bruce Muck, Gary Fitch, and Pam Groff, Sec.

Lee's Lawn Care submitted bid to mow lawns during 1999 @ $150 per cutting--does not include new 5 acre plot. Gordon Strablow made motion, seconded by Miles Linnabery, to accept bid. OK'd.

In response to letter from Dan Johnson, Principal, regarding Class Night, a motion was made by Don Burrows to award $100 to each male and female Senior from Class of '99.who best meets requirements of a grade point average over 85, and who participated in Community activities. Seconded by Miles Linnabery, motion was passed. Pres. Fitch appointed Wally Goodman to head up Selection Committee.

Pres. Fitch read list of appointees by Board of Directors (Listed in Feb. Newsletter) All appointees will serve with exception of Lois Barnum who declined Barnum Building Chairmanship. Don Burrows was appointed to take her place.

Gary noted that all historical societies chartered by the NYS Board of Regents must have a Collections Management Policy available. He said he would clarify our policy with Dorothy Maxfield, curator. He also stated that he will give a report at the next meeting on the status of the Jeep as well as our newly acquired Porsche.

Judy King stated that she will bechecking on filing the society's Tax Forms and it was also noted that Newsletters will not be sent to delinquent members after this March issue.

An expression of thanks was extended to the Town of Wilson for keeping the grounds plowed during the January snows. In an emergency, fire trucks should have access to Town Buildings.

Bill Rose requested permission for a Damon College student to be able to access information for a thesis from the museum library. He will be responsible. Permission granted.

Don Burrows brought the directors up to date on the "Saga" of the broken water pipes and furnace repairs. He will also work out a cost estimate for erecting speakers on the Pole Barn. With the Fair going in that direction, the fair Comm. feels that more communication will be needed.....and finally, Judy Schultz donated a stainless steel and glass display case to the museum valued at $1,000, and Don Burrows and Bruce Muck volunteered to pick it up on Feb. 11th.

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PUPPETEERS:

Thirty-five years have passed since the late Dorothy Thilk had the idea of having the Wilson Branchmake puppets for the young patients confined in the Inter-Community Hospital at Newfane. Since then, nearly 10,000 of the puppets have been sewn and given to the hospital to use to calm the fears of children using the pediatrics, X-ray, or emergency rooms.

When Mrs. Thilk died in 1981, Mrs. Lois Jennings took charge of the project, and meetings were held to make puppets at her home every Monday morning.

Now, during the winter months, some of the ladies leave Wilson, and Doris MacBeth has been trying hard to keep the hospital supplied. Over forty women have worked on puppets over the years , --some have passed on, but all deserve credit for their worthwhile, volunteer efforts.

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SKETCHBOOK II

Perhaps the main reason Sketchbook II is reported to be selling well is because it is conveniently available at either the Town Hall or the "Garden Gate" opposite the Fire Hall Since the museum is closed to visitors during the winter months, we thank Wanda Burrows and Shelly Andrews for their cooperation.

They receive no compensation, and all sales are strictly for the benefit of the Wilson Hist. Society. The price for Sketchbook I or Sketchbook II is $15 per copy, and they may also be sent by priority mail for $18.20 each. Sally Smith, Ways & Means, reports that orders for books have been filled about every week. Sales at the Garden Gate have also been good.

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MARCH MEETING:

Due to the early make-up of the Newsletter, it is not always possible for Miles to have confirmed information on every future program.

Fortunately, our Publicity Chrm.,Carole Schnoor, has done a great job of getting meeting notices in the Lockport Journal the week prior to the meeting.

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VERNAL EQUINOX:

The groundhog thinks Spring will soon be here. Let's hope he's right. In any event, the Memorial Day Fair will be observed on May 31, 1999, and that's a fact.

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SOUNDINGS: The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without it.

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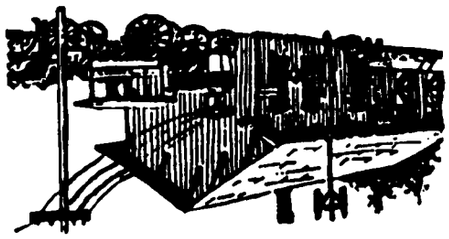
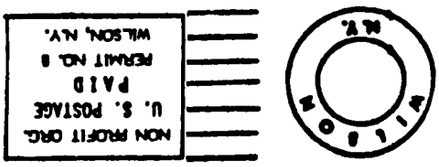


April 1999 Vol. 28 No.4
(Coleman Printing)

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

Wilson Historical Society
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763



April 1999

HARBOR AND SHIPS:

We read an account awhile ago that told about a ship named the "Ontario"which was said to be the first steam boat to ever visit the Wilson Harbor. That was in April, 1817, and the vessel was built the previous year at Sackett's Harbor. It was 110 feet long, had a 24foot beam, and drew about 8½ feet of water. It was reported to have plied Lake Ontario waters as late as the early 1930's.

Another ship, perhaps better known to Wilson residents, was the "Milly Cook" which sailed under Captain Morgan Johnson. One day, the ship caught fire in the Lake, but the Captain managed to steer it into the harbor and into a small Cove just east of the Wilson Yacht Club.

They were unable to put the fire out, so the ship burned to the water's edge, and the Cove where it came to rest became known as the "Milly Cook Cove". It was said that for many years the remains of the ship could be seen beneath the water.

Another familiar schooner was the "Franklin Pierce" but, because of it's name, her owner, William Doyle of Youngstown, considered the ship unlucky. He may have been right because on an early voyage, the ship became grounded at Braddock's Point, Ontario, Canada.

In the Spring the ship was freed, and its crew set out again with a load of pig iron--only to become grounded again at Port Credit, Ontario.

Still later, with Captain Luke Dunphy at the wheel, the "Franklin Pierce" dropped anchor off the Wilson Townline Pier to unload a cargo of lumber. Suddenly a storm came up, and Captain Dunphy ordered his crew to pull up anchor and sail out into the lake to try and ride out the storm. In their rush to comply, the anchor broke loose and settled to the bottom of the lake.

There it remained undetected for 57 years until one day two fishermen, Lawson Ackerman and his son, Jesse, found it and managed to drag it to shore. They then sold the anchor for a cent a pound to Edmund Stevens, who lived just south of the village . . in the former Aaron Arnold farm. Mr. Stevens placed the anchor in the yard of his old cobblestone house where it remains to the present time. Over the years, because of the anchor, many people have called the place the "Anchor Farm".

The "Fleetwing" is another schooner that has a tragic story associated to it. It was built in 1863 by John Pease, and Orrin Quick was her first Captain. During an early voyage, the "Fleetwing" capsized off the Wilson Harbor, and Captain Quick lost his wife and son--also the ship's cook. Headstones for the Quick family may be seen in Wilson's Greenwood Cemetery.

At the January, 1999, meeting of the Wilson Hist. Soc., Susan Diachum, interpreter for the N.Y.S. Park's Department, presented a very interesting program on shipwrecks in Lake Ontario. Dressed in the clothing of a survivor of the shipwreck she described, she gave "first hand" accounts of several lake schooners including the "Ontario" that was wrecked in a storm somewhere between Wilson and Olcott. (We do not think this was the "Ontario" described above). Other shipwrecks mentioned were the "Mary", the "Scourge", the "Hamilton", and the "St. Peters".

Her description of Lake Storms that sometimes spawn waves 22 feet high leaves little doubt but that extreme caution should be exersized by all fishermen and pleasure craft operators when sailing on the Lake, because sudden and severe storms can churn up lake waters quickly.

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SAMPLER QUILT'S A BEAUT:

Just a note to confirm that the Sampler Quilt is a beauty. Don't forget to send your stubs back to Sandy Holden, Box 319, Wilson, NY 14172.

Judy Rose has volunteered to take charge of the quilt at this year's Fair, and she plans to try and exhibit it at the Wilson Town Hall, the Public Library, and the "Garden Gate" Florist Shop. Tickets will be available where the quilt is displayed.

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MEETING DATES:

April 14th: Board of Directors, 7:30 PM at the Museum.
April 26, 1999: Regular Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM at the Museum.
April 4th: EASTER SUNDAY: Daylight Saving time begins=set clocks ahead 1 hour.

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NEW MEMBERS:

Please welcome our new members: Mrs. Luella Noone, Wilson, NY; Mrs. Kathryn Stone of Sarasota, Florida;

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BON MOT: Good humor is one of the best articles of dress a person can wear.

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CANADIAN REBELLION:

History tells us that in 1781 the Constitutional Act was passed dividing Canada into two Provinces--Upper, or British Canada, and Lower, or French Canada. The arrangement did not work out, however, and by 1837 a rebellion broke out in both Provinces.

Benjamin Waite, a Wilson resident, decided to join up with the Rebels, but he was soon captured and sentenced to hang on the gallows. Personal appeals by his wife to the Earl of Dunham resulted in his having the sentence reduced, and he was exiled and sent to prison in Van Dieman's Land, Australia.

This is all revealed in a rare book, "Waite's Narrative" which was published in Buffalo in 1843. Some of Mrs. Waite's letters written in her husband's behalf, were done while residing with friends in Lockport,NY.

After 4 years of imprisonment, Waite escaped and managed to return to the Niagara Frontier where he was believed to have again taken up residence in WIlson.

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IN MEMORIAM:

Ada Belle Nickerson, 97, an Honorary member of the Wilson Hist. Soc., was born in Wilson, in 1901, the daughter of William and Mary Hurtgam Schultz. She died at the Newfane Health Care Center on Feb. 17, 1999 after a long illness.

She attended Cortland State Normal School and Buffalo State where she graduated in 1926. She started her career as a teacher in a one-room school in Wilson, but after graduating from College she taught in the Niagara Falls School system from which she retired in 1966.

She was the oldest member of the 1st Baptist Church of Niagara Falls, and was active in the Ethel Nicholas Circle. She was also a member of the Eastern Star, Chapter 355; the N.Y.S. Retired Teachers Association and the Niagara Falls Teaching Association.

She is survived by 2 daughters, Jan M. (Durwood) Phillips of Niag. Falls; and Donna T. (William) West of Wilson; also a brother, LeRoy H. Schultz; 6 grandchildren, and 9 G. Grandchildren. Burial was in St. Peters Lutheran Church Cemetery, Cambria, with Rev. James Ogden of the 1st Baptist Church, Niag. Falls, officiating.

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Mary E, Cornell, an Honorary member of the Wilson Hist. Soc., died at home, Feb. 10, 1999 after a long illness. She graduated from St. Patrick's Academy in Lockport in 1931, and later became a member of Our Lady of the Rosary, R.C. Church in Wilson.She also served on the Bishop's Committee, and was a volunteer at Inter-Community Hospital at Newfane.

Her husband, James C. "Dutch" Cornell,Sr., predeceased her in 1997, and she is survived by 2 sons, James (Carole) Cornell,Jr., of Boston, Mass; Kevin Cornell of Wilson; 2 daughters, Barbara McMahon of Long Meadow, Mass., and Kathleen Evans of East Rochester; also 7 gran.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of the Rosary R.C. Church, Wilson, with the Rev. John Leising officiating. Burial was in North Ridge Cemetery, Cambria, NY.

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Eloise (Smith) Culverwell, 84, a native of Wilson, died Feb. 25, 1999 at Inter Community Hospital at Newfane. The daughter of Lewis and Grace (Smith) Smith she graduated from Wilson High with the Class of 1932. She attended Brockport Normal School, and received her B.S. in Education at Buffalo State College in 1942.

She taught at Wilson Central School from 1937 to 1946, and later worked for Dr. John F. Argue as a medical secretary from 1951 to 1962. She also was a member of the Gnostic Guild Maple Rebecca Lodge #397; the Lockport Senior Citizens, Newfane Golden Agers, and Ransomville Rural Retirees; and was a Charter-Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society.

She is survived by her husband, Edgar W. Culverwell of Wilson; 3 cousins, Donald (Dee) Flagler of Texas; Helen Ward of Middleport; and Russell Urtel of Lockport.

In 1983, she researched the material for the Society's 11th Publication, "The Wilson Free Library" by Eloise Culverwell.

Funeral Services were held at the Rutland-Corwin Funeral Home in Newfane, and burial was in North Ridge Cemetery at Cambria, NY.

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Beatrice Rignel , who joined society 1983, has passed away at Arcadia, Fl. We have no further information on her, but we wish to extend the society's condolences to her family.

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BUILDING FUND CONTRIBUTORS:

The Society gratefully acknowledges the following members for their generous contributions to the Building Fund: Dianne Albright of Hammonsport, NY; John and Kathryn Stone of Sarasota, FL; also Howard and Dorothy Parker; Charles Seaman, Johnand Luella Noone, Atty. Walter Moxham;, from Wilson.

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"KEY PLAYERS" ADMINISTER FAIR:

Ron Zauner, a member of the society's Fair Comm., is "Layout Chrm." for the 1999 Memorial Day Fair, and this entails getting the grounds ready and marked out for the approximately 300 Vendors who are expected at this year's fair. This might give you a little idea what Ron and other "key players" in the society will be doing the days before, during, and after this year's 1999 Memorial Day Fair.

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IT'S VISITOR TIME AGAIN:

Virginia Strablow has submitted a list of volunteers who will make it possible to open the museum to the public starting on April 11th. We will not be open Easter Sunday,April 4th.

April 11th: Berne and Nancy Kent and Lois Barnum. Open Museum, Lois Barnum.
April 18th: John & Jane Demmin; Bob and Anne Botzer. Open Museum, Don Burrows.
April 25th: Larry & Liza Bulmer; Gordon & Virginia Strablow. Open Museum, Gordon Strablow.
May 2nd: Art Schnoor, Carole Schnoor, & Cheryl Brown. Open Museum, Art Schnoor.

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SOUNDIN: It's the person that does nothing that never makes a mistake.

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PAVILLION RESEARCHED:

The old Pavillion at Wilson's former Lake Island Park was first opened as the "Garden Opera House", and was one of the first buildings erected in the Park. Managed by W. N. Harris, the facility was a main attraction for dining out, dancing, or listening to Band Concerts.

In 1922, the Tuscarora Club was built around the Pavillion, but in 1979, in a controlled fire, this establishment known as the T-Club was burned down.

The original Pavillion was designed by Harrison Albright of Philadelphia, a well known architect, and we recently received a letter from Julia Teuchler of Brookville, IN, who is doing research on Albright's works.

According to her, Mr. Albright was responsible for many buildings in the Philadelphia area. In 1891 he moved to Charleston, WV, where he impacted many communities of the State-especially in the field of fire proof hotels.

In 1905 he moved to Los Angeles where his exclusive use of re-inforced concrete not only made him famous, but his buildings long lasting. "He may not have been a Frank Lloyd Wright, but his work was pleasing to the eye."

Although Albright's Wilson Pavilion is just a memory, it is quite interesting,(if you stop to think about it) how many well-known and important people have had a hand in shaping the history of the Town of Wilson.

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

Marilyn Allgeier has donated an 1858-1958 Wilson Centennial Program, "Faith of Our Fathers" Americanism Program which was presented on the Wilson Central School Athletic Field on 8/24/'58.

Jane Meyers: German Lutheran Bible (1871)--originally owned by Mrs. Peter Vosbisch.

Marge Arnold, N. Tonawanda, NY: Cotton Nightgown and Advertising Booklets.

Jeffrey Treichler: Glass Medicine Bottle with O.S. McChesney, druggist, printed on it.

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FROM THE MAILBAG:

In response to the February Newsletter article about the Wilson High School Graduation Class of 1933, Jim Cornell, of Boston, MA., writes that his aunt, Mary Cornell, of Lancaster, CA., is still alive and well. That's the kind of good news we like to print.

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QUILT UPDATE:

Judy Rose, Quilt Chrm., is giving everyone a chance to see the beautiful "Sampler" quilt that will be raffled off at the Memorial Day Fair on May 31st.

The quilt was displayed at the "Garden Gate" Florist Shop from March 4 to 24, and it will be at the Wilson Free Library from March 24 to April 14. From April 14 until May 5th you may see it at Wilson's new Community Pharmacy opposite the 1st Baptist Church, and from May 5 until May 26, it will be at the Wilson Town Hall.

On Fair Day it will be exhibited at the Ways and Means Booth at the east end of the Depot. You may continue to return your ticket stubs and donations to Sandy Holden, Box 319, Wilson,NY but should you forget, you will still be able to purchase tickets at the Ways and Means Booth which will be managed by Judy Rose. Thanks for helping out and Good Luck!

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"LIVING HISTORY":

The Western NY Living History & Reinacting Society has confirmed that they will be setting up a Camp on Fair Day at the Museum grounds. The Military Camp will consist of 1812 officers and soldiers from the Canadian Volunteers (American side) and possibly a Camp of British Norfolk Militia from the Town of Simcoe. Re-enactment personell will be in period attire, and will cook all their meals on the site. Live firing displays may be provided.Visitors will be invited to stop by Camp and ask questions or sample some goods if they so wish.

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BOARD ACTION & REPORTS: 3/19/'99:

Present: Gary Fitch; Pam Groff; Judy King; Elton Kropp; Gordon Strablow; Bill Rose; Miles Linnabery; Don Burrows; Don Croop; Celeste Crawford; Lois Barnum; Ron Zauner, Nettie Stimson, and Wallace Goodman. Also, guest, Jill Phillips.

Jill Phillips requested use of museum grounds for Easter Egg hunt on Sat., 4/3,'99 to be sponsored by "Watch Wilson Grow", Lions Club, and Thomas Mark's PTA. Motion made by Don Croop, seconded by Judy King, to grant request. Motion approved. Bill Rose will open museum at 9:30AM.

Request from Exley U.M.Church to hold flea market on museum grounds, Labor Day. Bill Rose made motion to accept, seconded by Gordon Strablow.Motion approved.

Judy King, Treas., reported income from 2/11 to 3/10th @ $352.47. Bills for same period, $599.61. Checking account Bal., $1,487.63. Motion made by Miles Linnabery to approve report, seconded by Wally Goodman. Motion approved.

Letter read from John Cowan announcing death of wife, Barbara Gale Cowan in Sept. 1998.

Letter read from Wilson Lions Club announcing card party and Games on May 20th at Wilson House from 11:30AM to 4:ooPM. Admission $20.00. Tickets Info: 751-9704; 751-6120.

All members who have adopted cars in Argue Bldg., are requested to come Sat. or Sun. before Fair Day to dust & clean their cars.

Eleanor Myers has resigned as Tours Chrm. because of health problems. Position open!

The Wilson Community Pharmacy has requested, and now has, a variety of historical society postcards for sale. Scenes include Wilson Harbor, depot, caboose, and Metz Car.

Discussion on renting access road from Roger Mawhiney tabled until April meeting.Cost would be $6,500 for 10 years. Don Burrows suggested using hard road on former Basil property, and Gordon Strablow said road could be extended north to new property for access. Don also said the approximate cost of extending wiring for sound system to Pole Barn would be about $800 to $1,000 dollars. Cost of building a second hand-washing unit would be 3 to 400 dollars.

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QUIPS: If you're on top of the world, just remember it turns over every 24 hours.

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Wilson Historical Society
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

May 1999 Vol.28 No.5
(Coleman Printing)

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May 1999

EVOLUTION OF WESTERN NEW YORK:

The "battle"to acquire Western New York began in 1628 when King James I of England, by Royal Decree, granted the Plymouth Colony title to all the land between the 42nd and 48th paralel extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Later, in 1691, a new charter was granted by William & Mary which provided that Mass. should have claim to all land between the 42nd and 44th paralel, which included all of Western New York.

Not only did Mass. claim possession of this area, but New York also claimed ownership because of a Royal Decree made by King Charles II in 1664 that gave his brother, the Duke of York, theDutch Possession of New York. Since the Duke of York was aquiring lands already claimed by Mass., the overlapping claims were resolved in two steps.

In 1780, New York gave the United States claim to all land west of New York State, and in 1785, Mass. did the same.However, both States hotly contested ownership of Western New York.

In 1772, Tyron County was established, and the western part was designated as German Flats, or Six Nation Indian Country. The following year , the territory was renamed Kingsland and included most of Tyron County.

The name Tyron was changed to Montgomery County in 1784 and finally, in 1786, representatives of New York and Mass. met at Hartford, Conn., where Mass. was given the right to purchase all Indian Lands in New York except for a mile wide strip along the Niagara River. In return, Mass. recognized that New York should have political sovereignty over the area.

After the Hartford agreement, Mass. sold all its lands east and west of the Genesee River to two land speculators, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham. However, since clear title could not be negotiated for the Indian lands, the area west of the Genesee was returned to Mass., and the lands east of the river became known as the Phelps-Gorham Purchase.

In 1778, Montgomery County was divided into Towns, and the one that included Western New York was named Whitestown. It was about this time Robert Morris, sometimes called the financier of the American Revolution, began buying up the lands in Western New York that Phelps-Gorham had given back to Massachusetts.

Ontario County was organized out of Montgomery County in 1789, and the western part was called West Genesee. Also, about this time, a Mr. Casenove, who represented Six Dutch Banking Firms, negotiated with Robert Morris to purchase all the lands Morris had bought from Massachusetts.

The six banking firms then organized as the Holland Land Company, and gained control of all lands in Western New York, except for the Mile Strip along the Niagara River.

In 1797, the treaty of "Big Tree",(Now Geneseo) was signed with the Indians who sold 4 million acres for $100,000 dollars. The Indians kept, however, 200,000 acres from which the Tuscarora, Tonawanda, Buffalo Creek, Cattaraugus, and Allegheny Indian Reservations were comprised.

Now that the land was acquired, the Holland Land Co. made plans to survey the huge tract so that it might be available to new settlers who wished to live in Western New York.

* * * * * * * * * * * (to be continued)

REGULAR MARCH MEETING:

The regular meeting on March 22nd was called to order by Gary Fitch, Pres., with a salute to the American Flag.

Wanda Burrows explained about the new N.Y. State Raffles Law which requires non-profit organizations to apply for a WageringLicense if they wish to conduct raffles.

At the last Board Meeting, Wanda offered a resolution, seconded by Don Croop, "for the society to conduct games of chance and raffles to provide funds to operate the society and maintain the museum and grounds." The resolution was unanimously approved.

Funds from wagering must be kept in a separate account, and if $30,000 is raised in one year, the license must be paid for plus 3% of the proceeds. $900 was raised at the recent luncheon and Chinese Auction at the Wilson House Inn.

Jim Muscoreil of Wilson was the guest speaker, and he had a number of his rare oil lamps on display.Some of the more unusual lamps from his collection include a Night Lamp; a Timed Light; Nutmeg, Spencer, Lincoln cross tank, Ideal #1; Miller Siphon lamp, and a Double Mammoth.

Along with his amusing stories about how he acquired his lamps and parts to complete them, he also demonstrated how to clean the brass and nickel, and how to acquire authentic parts.

Refreshments after the program were provided by Virginia Strablow and June Kropp.

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SOUNDINGS:

Pioneers had one advantage over air line travelers. When they rode in covered wagons, at least they knew where their baggage was.

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MEMORIAL DAY FAIR:

The Wilson Historical Society's 27th Memorial Day Fair will be held on the museum grounds, Rt. 425, Monday, May 31st, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Up to 250 Flea Market Vendors are expected, and will set-up on our newly acquired acreage--with plenty of room for all.There will be lots to see, so Wilson is the place to be on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st.

Other special events will include a huge antique and classis car show, and a quilt raffle drawing for a beautiful "Baltimore Bouquet" quilt made by local ladies and quilted by Betty Stimson.Entertainment will be provided by Nori Bucci; the Wilson High School Band; the Niagara Experience Players; Derek Budde and his Magic Show; Lucille Mary Schurnkus, Country and Western Singer; the WNY Living History and Enactment Society; and Jim Waldron at the piano. The entertainment schedule will be as follows:

11;00 AM: Nori Bucci on guitar with guest, Chris Fietta.
12:00 Noon: Wilson High School Band and Flag Ceremony by American Legion Post of Wilson.
1:00 PM: First Performance by Niagara Experience Players.
1:30 PM: Derek Budde Magic Show for all ages.
2:00 PM: Lucille Mary Schurkus, Country and Western Singer.
3:00 PM: 2nd Performance by Niagara Experience Players.

The War of 1812 Re-enactment group will appear in Period attire Meals will be cooked on the grounds, and live firing demonstrations may be given. The public is invited to stop at their camp for conversation and sampling of goods.

In addition to the large display of Antique & Classis cars, the Society's Car Museum will also be open.

The famous Chiavette Chicken Bar-B-Que will be served in the Breezeway between the Barnum Building and the Dr. John Argue Car Building from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and "Honky Tonk Jim" will entertain you on the piano while guests wait for their dinners. Cost for the Bar-B-Que will be $6 per serving, but should you prefer, Beef on Weck will be available for $3 each.

"Snackers" may enjoy Dale & Debbie's delicious Hot Dogs along with plenty of Coffee and Pepsi--and that's not all, Sally'special.. "Dutch Country" Funnel Cales will also be featured along with "mouth-watering" Homemade Pies, Cakes, Popcorn, Cotton Candy, and Sno Cones.

Children may enjoy Free Balloons; ride the Ponies; or enjoy the Petting Zoo and, as always, the museum facilities will be open to visitors so they may enjoy the exhibits and displays in the Depot, Fittro Shop, Caboose, and beautifully restored 1861 One Room Schoolhouse. All Wilsonians should be proud of their supportive efforts to preserve this historic educational relic out of Wilson's past.

Parking may be found in the Village, and we suggest you use the Society's Free Shuttle Bus Service to more easily reach the museum grounds.

The Wilson Historical Society is a Non-Profit Volunteer Organization, and many of its members devote long hours of time and service to help preserve and enhance the quality of life in the Wilson Community

The Annual Memorial Day Fair helps to provide the funds necessary to keep the Museum in operation, and that is why we wish to thank the public for its generous support. We hope you will again be our quests on Monday, May 31st.

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FAIR "BITS AND PIECES":

If you adopted an automobile in the Dr. John Argue Car Building, please try to clean and polish it before Fair Day. Bill Rose, co-chrm. of the antique car exhibit says that cleaners and other materials are available in the car building for your use.

The Fair has done well because so many members and friends have been willing to help out. However, the Fair cannot be a success without you so your willing cooperation is gratefully appreciated. We don't think we've mentioned it before that Gail Walder of S. Wilson has been the "recruitment chairman" for the fair for several years. Gail calls members to see if they can help when Fair Chrm. are in need of persons to work. It's not the easiest job in the world, but Gail provides a great service, and a successful one.

It's good news that Betty Stimson, who is living in a warmer "clime", continues to be of great service to the Hist. Soc. She has been quilting most of the spreads raffled off each year, and because of her special talent, the society's quilts rate with the best. And, believe it or not, even though the '99 quilt has not yet been raffled off, Betty is already working on next year's "Millennium Quilt.

It's rather bad news that another of our talented members, Bob Schearer, has decided to move to Texas to be close to family. Bob is the woodcarving craftman who has provided such unique wood carvings for the annual raffle. However, it's not all bad, Bob promises not to forget us, and will provide more Carvings for future Fairs.. Thanks, Bob, your special ability and generosity is appreciated.

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MAY CALENDAR:

May 12th:	Board of Director Meeting at Museum--7:30 PM.
May 13th:	Will all Fair Chrm. please attend final meeting in Barnum Bldg.--7:00 PM.
May 24th:	No regular monthly meeting planned because of proximity to the annual Fair.
May 29th:	Set-up Day for the Fair. Arrange exhibits and concessions. Please attend.
May 30th:	Pam Groff, Chrm., will accept pies & baked goods Sunday PM at Barnum Building.
May 31st:	MEMORIAL DAY FAIR, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Special Request: Will all fair chrm. please be responsible for cleaning up your own areas before leaving grounds.

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LOOKING AHEAD:

It has been decided that the annual meeting on June 28th, 6:00 PM, will be an "Old Fashion Picnic". Please bring a dish to pass. Hamburgs, hot dogs, and drinks will be furnished by the society. Just come and enjoy yourself--you deserve it.

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BON MOT: The things one can give and still keep are, your word, a smile, and a grateful heart.

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BOARD ACTION & REPORTS:

The Bd. of Director meeting was called to order by Gary Fitch, Pres., on April 14, 1999. Judy King, treas. reported that for the period March 11th through April 14th, income was $6,884.50, and bills totaled $685.22. Bill Rose made motion, seconded by Miles Linnabery, that treasuuer's report be accepted and bills be paid. Motion approved.

Walter Moxham,Jr., Atty. at Law, presented the society with the opportunity of having a rent free space in Pat Brady's Boathouse to display harbor-oriented pictures and artifacts. Miles Linnabery volunteered to sit down with Mr. Moxham and get more information.

Guest, Marilyn Andrews from HANCI spoke and requested that anyone over 55 that is interested in gardening might consider being a volunteer in RSVP at Thomas Marks School to help children with their gardening project.

Guest Marion Love requested use of the Barnum Bldg. on Sep't 25, 1999, for the 1955 High School Class reunion, with permission to tour the depot and schoolhouse. Request granted.

Dan King asked permission for the ATHS Truck Club Board of Directors to meet at the museum on MaY 6, 1999 to tour car building. Request approved.

Marlene Schotz of Wilson volunteered to take over the duties of Tours Chrm. Judy King made a motion, seconded by Gordon Strablow to accept her offer. Motion approved.

Gary Fitch, Pres., announced that our policy on acquisitions and deacessions is adequately outlined in the Rules Section of the Society's By-Laws. Copy will be sent to Albany.

It was decided to contact Doug Hastings and Jerry O'Connor on cost of replacing unsightly curbing at east end of Depot. Gary Fitch will oblige.

The tabled Mawhiney Access Rd. proposal was discussed and Judy King made a motion , seconded by Bill Rose, to deny a request by the fair comm. for a new access road. Motion was approved. Gary said that all other road-building ideas will be referred to the Planning Board.

Lois Barnum reported that all sites marked off for Vendors in the new section have been reserved. Nettie Stimson, Chrm., said that overflow requests for space will be in old section.

Wanda Burrows, Schoolhouse Chrm., announced that new green window shades have been ordered for the schoolhouse, and should be installed by Fair Day. She surther said that Elaine Moon, Principal of Thomas Marks School, will take an inventory of books in schoolhouse this summer

Bill Rose reported on the recent Easter Egg hunt sponsored by "Watch Wilson Grow", also on a number of items from the estate of the late Jean Argue.

Two pending projects, moving the items stored in the Fritton Barn, and restoration of the 1903 Caboose, will be started this summer after the Fair is over.

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GREAT OCCASION:

Don't forget to remember Emma D. Schrader on her 97th Birthday. Emma is an Honorary-Life Member of the Wilson Hist. Soc., and will be honored at a luncheon in the Exley United Methodist Church, on Sunday, May16th, following church service.

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MUSEUM GREETERS FOR MAY:

Virginia Strablow, Chrm., has submitted the following Volunteer list to greet visitors:

May 2nd: Art Schnoor, Carole Schnoor & Cheryl Brown. Open Museum, Art Schnoor.
May 9th: Joe & Elizabeth Scherer & Helen Stevens. Open Museum, Hoyt Desso.
May 16th: Harold & Neva Benedict & Dave & Gus Bradley. Open Museum, Bill Rose.
May 23rd: Howard & Leona Hunter & Tim Cramb. Open Museum, Dorothy Maxfield.
May 30th: Donna Fritton & Jack &.Melinda Hutchison. Open Museum, Dorothy Maxfield.
Jun e 6th:Gordon and Virginia Strablow & Jessie Michel. Open Museum, Gordon Strablow.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Please welcome David Stewart of Wilson who recently became a member of the society.

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Generous donations to the building fund were received last month from Ross & Michele Singer of Vienna, Va.: Donald & Elvita Hammond of Zellwood, Fl.: and Paul Harold of Chatham, Va. We also wish to thank Judy Harold of Philadelphia,Pa., for a $10 donation towards the Quilt Raffle.

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It is interesting to note that the following members are the first to renew their memberships into the Millenneum Year: Tim Schmidle of Ithaca,NY; Charles Gerstung of Port St. Lucie, Fl;, Frances C. Gnage (2001) of Winter Haven, Fl,; and Paul & Katherine Harold of Chatham, Va.

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MEMORIAL TREE MARKERS:

Mowing, weed-wacking and the weather have taken their toll on some of the Memorial Tree markers, so the Board approved replacing the ones damaged or missing. New markers consist of a gold sign with black letters mounted on a 12" steel shaft.--which should resist weed-wackers.

Elton Kropp, grounds chrm., will replace markers and determine the new ones to be made. Five markers have been purchased from the Memorial Fund for: Winifred Stacy; Rex Stacy, Millie Croop, also Kenneth & Dorotha Welker "in Memory of Loved Ones", and Thomas Sharpe, "Father and Husband."

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MORE NEW MEMBERS:

Steven and Marjorie Clarkof Wilson just joined the Historical Society in time for us to "squeeze" them into the May Newsletter. The best part is, however, thattheir sons, Peter (12) and Will (9) were signed up also as new Junior Members,

We also greet and welcome Jim and Lurraine Yaeger of Amherst, NY. Jim and Lurraine have purchased the property where the old Randall Road Schoolhouse once stood. Their Amherst address is, we understand, temporary until they become bonafide residents of Wilson.

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SOUNDINGS:

No time is ever wasted that makes two people better friends.

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SUMMER CONCERT SERIES:

You'll be seeing some great, free entertainment in July and August if you attend the Series of Concerts scheduled at Clark's Park near the Boathouse.

It is suggested that you bring a lawn chair, then sit back and relax and enjoy the music in the beautiful setting of the park overlooking Lake Ontario.

Sponsored by CYRK, the 1999 Wilson Harbor Concert Series,Inc., is being backed by the following group of dedicated organizations and personalities:

The Wilson Boathouse; the Town of Wilson; the Village of Wilson; "Watch Wilson Grow"; Wellington Builders; Walter E. Moxham,Jr., Atty. at Law; Singer Farms; M.H. White Siding and Roofing; Wilson Lakesie IGA; James E. Hohensee, M.D.; Kathleen Neville; Dr. Jeffrey Latham; Thomas Marks PTA; Janet Sporleder; Hamilton & Clark; Marks Nursery; Hy Tech Concrete; Wilson Community Pharmacy, William Cummings,Jr., Atty at Law; Wilson Optimist Club; Icc/Schlyer Machinery; Bob's Lakeshore Cycle Parts; Jerry and Sharon Dean; Ontario Orchards; Jerry and Gail Kadryna; and Potempa & Dick, D.D.S.

The 1999 Concert Schedule for July and August is listed below:

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Thurs, July 8th, 6:00 PM:	Colleen Williams, "Standards and Big Bands".
Sat. July 17th, 1:00 PM:	Nan Hoffman & Joe Tumino, "Childrens' Songs & Stories."
Thurs, July 22nd, 6:00 PM:	Big Wheelie, "Vintage Rock and Roll".
Sat. July 24th, 1:00 PM:	Regi Carpenter, "Childrens' Story teller.
Sat. July 31st: 1:00 PM:	Glenn Colton, "A Family Concert".
Thurs, Aug. 5th, 6:00 PM:	Ramblin Lou Family Band, "Country and Western".
Sat., Aug. 7th, 1:00 PM:	IN Jest, "Comedy Juggling Show".
Sat. Aug. 14th: 6:00 PM:	Sugar 7 Jazz, WNY"All Star High School Band."
Thurs. Aug. 19th, 6:00 PM:	Ann Kenedy & Friends, "Cole Porter and Show Tunes."
Sun., Aug. 22nd, 2:00 PM:	American Legion Band of the Tonawandas, "80 piece Big Band Sound.

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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

It would seem to us that supporting Wilson businesses would benefit everyone--especially home owners. Now granting that ads in out-of-town periodicals sometimes look enticing, we wonder if they're all that great if you add on the cost of driving long distances.

We have noticed that in Lakeside IGA, for instance, they have done some up-grading in their services, and the quality of their produce plus the convenience of shopping is making them very competitive to other markets.

We note also that other new businesses are trying hard to get your support, namely the Wilson Community Pharmacy on Pettit Street; The Garden GaTE Florist and Gift Shop on Young Street, as well as the Tranquil Blend Coffee Shop--also on Young Street.

It doesn't take a C.P.A. to figure out what happens to your tax rolls when Businesses have to "pull up stakes" and leave Wilson, so perhaps we should all make an educated effort to support the businesses that we have.

"Watch Wilson Grow" is a great slogan, providing people do something besides "watch". The Wilson Central School, the Wilson Free Public Library, and the old 1861 rural schoolhouse on the museum grounds are good examples of what can happen when Wilson people "go into action".

Some of that same type of action may be seen right now in the development that has been taking place in the Wilson Harbor area.

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IN MEMORIAM:

Elwood Schultz, 94, of Ransomville, NY, died at the Newfane Health Facility, March 28, 1999. He was proprietor of Dorwood Park Mobile Homes, and previously operated a vegetable and fruit farm. He also served as an Elder of St. Peter's Lutheran Church at North Ridge, and in 1996 was listed in "Whos Who" among the outstanding Business Executives. He was an Honorary member of the Wilson Hist. Soc., also a member of the Golden Age Club at Newfane, NY.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and two daughters: Marlene (Kenneth Taylor) of Sanborn, NY; and "Micky" Schultz of Youngstown, NY; Brother of the late Gertrude Seefeldt; Grandfather of the late Robert Taylor; also 4 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Services were conducted at St. Peters Lutheran Church by Rev. David Musall and Rev. Wayne Jagow, and burial was in St. Peters Lutheran Cemetery at Cambria.

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We recently received notice that Doris H. Fraser, 85, of Rochester, NY, passed away on her birthday, December 20, 1997. She was married to A. Maxwell Hunter. Doris was also an Honorary member of the Society.

She was later married to Earl Fraser, and is survived by 2 children, Shirley Lundquist and Randall Hunter.

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DO YOU REMEMBER.....

the 1972 Firemen Parade when our new society members turned out in dress of the late 1800's? Harold & Esther Albright led our group in Dr. Argue's 1907 Metz, and the following members, Edgar & Eloise Culverwell, Mildred Middleton, Becky Hill, Ella Mae Baker, Zilpha Petty, Helen Borngraeber, Dorothy & Sue Thilk, Dorothy Tracey, and Millie Croop, were passengers in a 1948 Packard driven by Willard Rose; a 1940 Deluxe Ford driven by Ken Tracey; a 1935 Rolls Royce driven by Dr. John Argue; a 1956 Armstrong_Siddley driven by John Argue,Jr.; and a 1961 Lincoln driven by Carol Argue. Karl Wright drove a 1962 Alpha-Romero, and he was accompanied by the 1972 Dairy Princess, Miss Janet Schultz.

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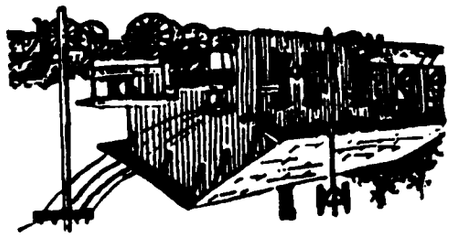
Quips; Ideas that are not put into practise are merely dreams.



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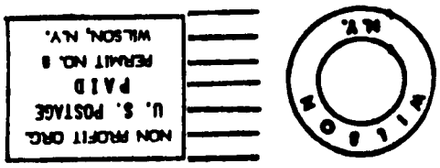
DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

Wilson Historical Society
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763



June 1999

OPENING UP THE PURCHASE:

Joeseph Ellicott was the Chief Surveyor for the Holland Land Company, and during the early 1800's was one of the most influential men in Western New York. To him was given the great responsibility of surveying the new Holland "Purchase".

In the Spring of 1798, he and a group of 130 men entered into the wilderness, and one of their first jobs was to arrange with the Indians where the exact boundaries of each Reservation would be. Their other task was to establish the east boundary of the Purchase, and that was done by clearing a path 4 rods wide from the Pennsylvania border north to Lake Ontario. When the "East Transit" boundary was completed, the surveying of Townships and Ranges began.

Permanent stone markers were used in the survey, and one may still be seen in Olcott that was dedicated as a historical site by the Newfane Historical Society. All the Townships were about six miles square, and it took until late October, 1800, to complete the survey.

The first sale of lands to individuals started a little after that same year, and Ellicott was named the Resident Agent. The lands were still virtually unoccupied, so travelers had to use Indian trails to come into the area.

Ellicott would have liked tohad Buffalo called New Amsterdam, but the name nevercaught on--the settlers liked the name "Buffalo Creek" much better. This was later shortened to Buffalo, but in the year 1800, the future "Queen City" had not yet been surveyed, no streets layed out, and with only four or five houses built and standing. In fact, in the 1800 Census the Town of Northhampton in Ontario County only had 152 residents listed.

Ellicott moved into the home of Asa Ransom at Clarence Hollow while waiting for his own place to be built. Asa Ransom was one of the first settlers to accept a Holland Land Co. offer to sell tracts of land 10 miles apart to anyone who would settle permanently on Buffalo Road.

Ellicott remained there for two years, then moved to the village of Batavia. Land sales moved very slowly during the first year, possibly for two reasons--some of the early settlers came down with "Genesee Fever" which gave Western New York a bad name and discouraged migration. Also, the average $2.30 an acre charged by the Holland Company was high compared to the 12 cents an acrecharged in Upper Canada.

However, the main detriment to early land sales were the lack of roads, and the long distance one had to travel to record deedsa nd mortgages at the County Seat which was then at Canandaigua, New York.

This is born out in old letters that describe Buffalo Road as being a rather "Obscure" path through the woods. Ellicott himself once wrote, "The main road from Buffalo to Batavia is so bad, and so deep in mud and mire, that it is almost impassable." While another pioneer lady, Mrs. David Mather, wrote that the road was so bad, "We were 3 days moving from Batavia to Williamsville with a yoke of oxen and wagon."

Land also sold slowly because most settlers had very little money, and a 10% down payment was required, also titles to the land were not given until paid for in full.

It is a matter of record that in 1801, Ellicott sold $26,000 worth of land, but only received $625 in cash. In spite of this, Ellicott thought it was better to sell to individuals because the hard-working settlers would clear the land and help push back the forests.

* * * * * * * * * * * (to be continued)

MUSEUM GREETERS FOR JUNE:

Virginia Strablow, Chrm., has announced that the following volunteers will serve as hosts and hostesses at the museum on Sunday afternoons from 2-4PM:

June 6th: Gordon & Virginia Strablow; Charles & Jessie Michel. Open Museum, Gordon.
June 13th: Dennis and Cheryl Fulton-Sears; Lois Jennings. Open Museum, Gary Fitch.
June 20th: Ruth Weaver; Rena Isreal; Jean Hayes. Open Museum, Elton Kropp
June 27th: Marion Campbell; Milton & Helen Clark; Dora Wakeman. Open up,"Ollie" Clark.
July 4th: Gordon & Virginia Strablow. Open, Gordon.

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THE PROGRAM at the regular meeting on April 24th was interesting. Gary Fitch showed a Fire Co. Video that showed the formation and growth of the Co. and Auxiliary since 1924 to the present. The video was put together by the Fire Company in celebration of their 75th Anniversary.

Miles Linnabery then exhibited wood carvings and talked about the various pieces as they related to folk art, woodcarving, and whittling.

Refreshments were provided by Carole Schnoor and Celeste Crawford.

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BON MOT: People who are busy rowing seldom rock the boat.

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AT WILSON HARBOR, "EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN"

Wilson Harbor is in the midst of a major revitalization as lifelong summer resident of this community, Patrick D. Brady, follows his dream to return Wilson Harbor to the prominence it once held in the early 1900's.

Brady, President of Harbor Properties, Inc., purchased the Wilson Boat House Restaurant from Floyd "Red" Clark and is in the process of renovating and restoring the property. Changes include raising the roof height and adding large picture windows creating spectacular views of scenic Wilson Harbor. Other improvements include adding a covered outdoor bar and a 2200 square foot deck for outdoor dining and the addition of shops adjacent to and underneath the restaurant building. The newly renovated restaurant is scheduled to open to the public on June 1st.

Brady announced that the Wilson Boat House Restaurant will continue the fine tradition of the Wilson family, which ran the restaurant from the early 1900's until 1973, and Jim Oliphant, who has operated the restaurant for the past twenty-five years. The kitchen, which is under new management, will feature a menu in keeping with the great tradition of the property, focusing on serving fresh seafood and steaks.

The renovations will bring out the beauty of the area said Brady. "The newly renovated dining room and outdoor deck offer a spectacular view of Wilson Harbor, the area's many yacht clubs, picturesque Sunset Island and the famous Wilson sunsets that have delighted residents and visitors for generations". In keeping with the setting the restaurant area will be "boater friendly" with numerous slips available for boaters and gas and a boating cleaning service available.

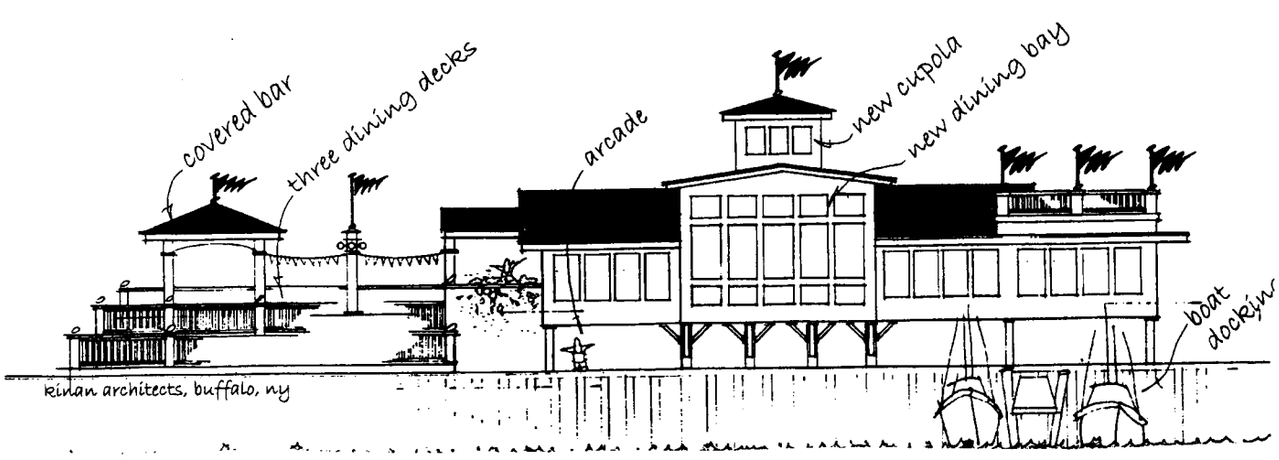
The shops, which include Bye's Popcorn, Chris' Cones, Jayne & Company, The Harbor Health Company, The CYRK Shop, Garden Gate Gifts and Flowers and Tim's Bike Rentals, will offer diners an opportunity to stroll along the Harbor's newly constructed boardwalk to shop, browse and enjoy the scenery. A gallery space will be created under the restaurant which will feature photographs outlining the rich history of the Wilson community and, in particular, the Harbor. Plans are underway for an antique shop and art consignment store to open in early July.

The purchase also includes the covered bandstand adjacent to the restaurant where the Wilson community holds its Summer Harbor Concert Series. This year's series of ten concerts will delight music lovers of all ages and tastes with big band standards, country music, vintage rock and roll and four concerts for children of all ages. The series comes to an end on August 22, 1999 with a return visit from the American Legion Band of the Tonawandas.

Future plans for the Harbor project include continued shop development, improved dockage, a community swimming pool, and a Victorian Bed & Breakfast which will recall the many hotels that once dotted the Harbor Area and Sunset Island. In further tribute to the area's great history, a Harbor tour boat, reminiscent of the late 1800's steam driven paddleboat, "'Dusquene", "O-So-Eze" and "Docksetter" that ferried hundreds of people around the harbor from the turn of the century to the late fifties, is also in the works.

The Wilson Boat House Restaurant will be open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 2 a.m., with family brunch served on Sundays.

THE WILSON BOATHOUSE RESTAURANT



HOW THE NEW BOATHOUSE WILL LOOK FROM THE HARBOR SIDE.

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SOUNDINGS: A mirror can only reflect what you put into it.

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BOARD MEETING & REPORTS:

The May 12th meeting of the board was called to order by Gary Fitch, Pres., with the following members attending: Pam Groff, Judy King, Lois Barnum, Marilyn Allgeir, Gordon Strablow, Miles Linnabery, Bill Rose, Wanda & Don Burrows, Celeste Crawford, Don Croop, Art Schnoor, Micky Hunter, and Elton Kropp.

Judy King, Treas., reported a checking balance of $10,120.87 with bills outstanding totaling $1,749,23. Don Croop made motion, seconded by Bill Rose, to give Judy permission to pay current bills and all other bills related to Fair between now and Fair Day. Approved. Gordon Strablow made motion seconded by Marilyn Allgeir to permit payment of bill for schoolhouse shades in the amount of $405.00. Approved.

Meeting adjourned outside to examine badly damaged curbing and walk in front of Depot.Ed Hastings said that it would be necessary to remove two rows of bricks; take off curb above ground; put in pins and use forms to pour new curb. Relay brick, making it flush with curb. Estimated cost would be $3,300 to $3500 dollars.Motion made be Miles Linnabery, seconded by Lois Barnum, to contract work out to Mr. Hastings. Carried. If not completed by Fair Day, a barrier will be put up.

Gary announced that he talked with Niagara Mowak & Merritt Thilk about putting electrical power to Pole Barn. He recommended that we wait on what would be a difficult and expensive and difficult project. Gary also announced that the Porsche is now in the Pole Barn and is valued at $15,000 dollars. Also, an insurance certificate is needed for Lee Smith who was contracted for mowing the grounds. Gary met Assessors-- who told him the total acreage of the Society's museum grounds is 12.6 acres.

Members who hold keys for the society's postoffice box are Gary Fitch, Judy King, and Sandy Holden. Wanda Burrows announced she sent a letter of thanks to Tim Horanburg for use of heavy rollers to roll grounds, and this was done by Gary Fitch. A letter of appreciation was also read from Jim & Lorraine Yeager who bought the Randall Rd. Schoolhouse property. They also said they havean outhouse to give for the schoolhouse display.

Don Burrows said that he checked on prices for the caboose. Roof will need $150 for materials; Siding will cost about $1800; windows, $210; and he is still looking for amplifier to use with speakers for the Fair. Minutes respectfully submitted by E-mail by Pam Groff, Sec

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

Pease, James: 2 Boxes of "American Agriculturist, 1889,-1878, 1902-1903 (fragile)

Janet Sporleder: 28 American Homes, Col Homes Magazines; Wilson Central Bulletin, 1954; Programs, etc. from Wilson Central School.

Dorothy Rawlings: U.S. Map, 1893, purchased by Mrs. Rawlings, Niagara County Historian.

Mrs. Ward Tookey, Newfane: Three Wilson Crests: 1995; 1996; and 1950.

Fenezian, Daniel: Elma, NY: 2 screen doors for caboose (no screens). Fenezian knows about cabooses--he re-built them for Railroad in 1940's & 50's.

Dickinson, David & Beth: Newfane, Framed, enlarged Photograph of Randall Road Schoolhouse taken about 1918. Donated in memory of Beatrice Schrader Harrod who also taught in the Dist. #5 Schoolhouse on Brayley Road. (1931 and other years)

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NEW MEMBER:

It is a pleasure to welcome Flora Joiner of Hollywood, Fl., a recent new member of the Wilson Hist. Society. Flora grew up in Wilson, and she was given a 1½ year membership in the society, courtesy of her cousin, Nancy Wilson Lanson.

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FAIR BITS & PIECES:

In past years we were always glad to have "Good Neighbor Dave" of Lockport make announcements during the Memorial Day Fair. This year, Dave couldn't accept but we are fortunate to have Bruce Muck take his place. Bruce, a well-known auctioneer, farmer, and Town Councilman, is a capable public speaker with an engageing sense of humor.

We believe this is the first time since the fair started that all Vendor spots were reserved prior to Fair Day. It was a lucky day in May when Nettie Stimson took over the responsibility of "dealing with Dealors." We might add that's no small job to make out hundreds of Contracts; mail them out; mark out spaces; and try to keep the Vendors happy on Fair Day. Incidentally, Nettie is one of our youngest Charter/Life Members, and has been promoting the historical society ever since it started in 1972.

Lois Barnumm Fair Chrm., and Nettie make a good team--what one doesn't think of the other does. Lois and both Nettie do a lot of pre-fair planning and work behind the scenes--a winning combination if ever there was one that ensures the annual Fair will be a SUCCESS. Fortunately there are others also who play a big part in the Fairs operation--gals like Shirley Hunter, Sally Smith, Pam Groff, Sue Schultz, Debbie Schlyer, and many others--if we tried to name them all, we're sure we'd leave some of them out. The best way to see them all in action is to "Come to the Fair on May 31st--you'll be glad you did.".

There are a couple other items we almost overlooked. Use the free Shuttle Busses. We have permission to use parking lots in village where you can park free and ride the shuttle free. The Beebe Rd. Parachute Club will drop in on the grounds about 11AM to Noon so don't be late--they're worth a "Gape". And fear not--Wilson's finest will be on hand as usual with their fire ambulance,case your little boy stubs a toe. Also, many thanks for the "Boost" when you brought your bucket down to help "Chuck"Messersmith check out his baby--the old Windmill. Also, when you want to clean up before eating you may be using one of our two new washstands--they were put together by our "old reliable" welding genius, Don Burrows.

Have a Happy Fair Day. * * * * * * * * *

QUIPS: Stay young at heart even if you're slightly older in other places.

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HARBOR LIGHTS WILL SHINE:

Walter Moxham, Jr., a long-time Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society announces that a lot of "fun events" are planned for the Harbor Area this summer.

The first big event will be the grand opening of the new Boat House Restaurant which will open in early June and will continue a rich Wilson tradition.

On June 12th, the 5K Salmon Run will be held with the start and finish at the front of the Boat House. The Fun Run/Walk will start at 4:30 PM, and is scheduled to go around the Mobile Park twice before finishing in front of the restaurant by the wooden statue of the Sea Captain.

Concerts and entertainment for children and adults will be held during July and August and our readers will recall that the schedule was printed in the May "Newsletter".

Events are free to all, and everyone is invited to attend every event and enjoy.

Another special event planned is the dedication of a Vietnam Veteran's Memorial adjacent to the Gazebo across from the Boat House Restaurant. The Memorial, which is being constructed by the Village of Wilson, will honor Lieut. Michael Whitcop of Wilson, who died during the Vietnam War in 1968.

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PUTTING WILSON ON THE MAP:

Pat Brady's decision to renovate the old Wilson Boat House may be one of the most productive projects ever planned for the improvement of the Wilson Harbor area.

Reconstruction of the old Boat House reminds us that the first one was built by "Jake" Miller, a prominent developer of Sunset Island. "Jake" realized that if he were to entice the many tourists who crowded village streets to come over to the Island, he'd have to provide some kind of ferry service for them.

So he decided to erect a small boathouse and dock on the site of the present one where he docked his first large boat, the "Duquesne" (pronounced Du Cane)

The Duquesne was a steam operated vessel that got its power from a upright boiler that was fired by either wood or coal. It is interesting to note that "Jake" brought his boat to Wilson by train from Pittsburg, Pa.

Hundreds of people rode around the harbor and lake on his paddle-wheel boat, but as time went by, he decided to replace the Duquesne with an In-Board gasoline motor launch which was called the"O-So-Eze".

According to the late Bessie Crawford, who passed the century mark before she died, "Jake Miller sold his Boat House to Timothy Wilson in 1919--one year before "jake" died. Timothy continued to operate a ferry service, and also rented out an ample supply of row boats.

In 1921, Timothy built a new dock by the boat house to accomodate a new boat called the "Red Boat"

Timothy was the brother of William Wilson who was born in Canada. William WIlson married Wealthy Phillips and they had two sons, Fred and Merle. Merle operated a boat dock and fishing business just north of the present Boat House. His boat which he used to take nets out onto Lake Ontario was called the Nancy Jane after his daughter, Nancy W. Lansin, and his wife, Jane (Stoddard).

Timothy's son, Walter, may be remembered for the large number of driftwood wood carvings which were turned over to the Wilson Museum after his demise. Walter's sons operated the Boat House, and in a few years Floyd, Dwight, and Emerson decided to build a new boat. It was put together in Wheeler's Shed, and when they finished and tried to take it out, it was too big to go through the door. In order to put it on the water they had to tear off one side of the Shed. Floyd's wife, Margaret, once told me that she spent many hours sitting on the dock with tourists waiting to catch the ferry to the Island. The boat was named the "Docksetter" because of this.

Pat Brady has accumulated a number of photographs of Wilson in her "Glory days" of the late 1900's. Charles Horton has been enlarging early postcards to display in a photo gallery which will be one of the attractions in the new Boat House. The Wilson Hist. Soc. is not only cooperating with Mr. Brady in this project, but will also supply other artifacts on loan to enhance great displays planned for the Boat House.

We appreciate what is being done, because many people who don't realize there is a museum in the village , may see some of Wilson's fine heritage displayed at the Boat House.

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FORE-AND AFTERS BUILT IN WILSON

It is hard for some people to believe that Wilson was once an active ship-building Port, from 1846 to 1875. Most all the ships built were two masted schooners, often referred to by sailors as "Fore and Afters". The first ship built at the Harbor was the Reuben F. Wilson, a two masted schooner that Luther Wilson named for his son.

Other ships, in the order they were built, were the "Niagara" built and owned by Luther Wilson in 1847; the "Emblem" owned by C.D. Havens and Norman Sackrider; the "Forest" built in 1848 for Ira and Roswell Sweet; the "Enterprise" built in 1850 for Luther Wilson; the "Geraldine" built for Luther Wilson in 1851; the "St Joseph" and the "Mary" built in 1852; the Josephine, a 3-masted schooner built for Reuben F. Wilson in 1854; the "Belle Adkins" built in 1856 for D.C. Abbey; the "Active" built in 1862 for Ira and Roswell Sweet; Wilson Merchants: the "Meteor" built in 1863 for Orrin Quick; the "Eureka" built in 1863 for Savllon Littles; the "Fleetwing" built in 1863 by John V. Pease; the "Pilot" built in 1866; and the "Trader" and "Union" built for William Ackerman in 1875. the "Trader" and the "Union" were the last two-masted schooners built at the Wilson Harbor.

(Note: a complete and detailed listing of all ships, their Captains, Owners, and capacities may be found in Wilson Sketchbook I starting on page 31.)

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QUIPS:

The dog is loved by young and old--he wags his tail and not his tongue.

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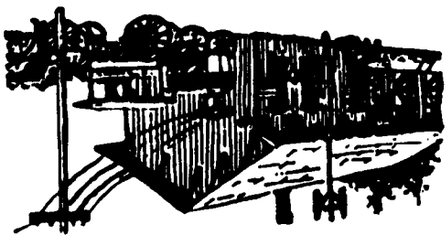
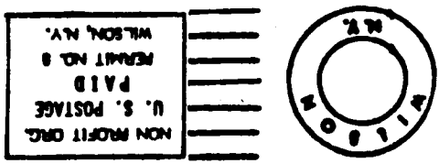


Wilson Historical Society
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

July-Aug. Vol.28 No. 6
(Coleman Printing)



July/Aug '99

ROADS FIRST—SETTLERS SECOND:

Joseph Ellicott, Chief Surveyor for the Holland Land Company, realized that roads had to be built in order to entice settlers into the Western New York area. Most were farmers who needed good roads to get their produce to market. However, building roads through the forests cost a lot of money, and neither the Co. Supervisors or the State Legislators thought that building roads was one of their functions.

Ellicott tried several schemes to get roads built, but none of them seemed to work. One proposition offered settlers an opportunity to build a road in exchange for one third of their labor in cash, and the remaining two thirds in land. Many contracts were signed, but none completed.

In 1801, the U. S.Army asked Ellicott to survey a route for a Military Route connecting Fort Niagara with Buffalo Creek. Ellicott was glad to do so because he realized that if the Army built a road, the settlers would also be able to use it.

Another problem plaguing the early settlers was the great distance they had to travel in order to record deeds,etc., at the County Seat which was then in Canandaigua, NY. In order to overcome this obstacle, Ellicott decided to try and organize a new County West of the Genesee. To accomplish this, he had to get involved in politics, so he went to Albany to lobby for a new County.

On March 30, 1802, his bill to create a new Genes ee County was passed by the Legislature, and Batavia was named as the new County Seat. The new Town of Bataviatook in all of the Western New York area.

In 1804, the Town of Batavia was divided into four new Towns, three of which ran north and south between Pennsylvania and Lake Ontario. They were Batavia, Willink , and Erie. The fourth town took in the area along Lake Erie and was named Chautauqua.

Forming the four new towns was a clever maneuver by Ellicott because there would now be four supervisors out of seven bringing political pressure in support of the Holland Land Co.

In 1804, however, Ellicott still had road problems to cope with, so he got permission from the Holland Co. to build two new major roads into Western New York. He decided to build one road connecting "Big Tree" (Genesee)to a point on Lake Erie just south of Buffalo Creek.called the Middle Road. The other route extended from Batavia to Buffalo Creek and was named the Buffalo Road. Neither route was completed until 1810.

In 1806, in his annual report to the Willink Town Board, Ellicott stated that most applications forland were made in the months of May, June, September, and October. Those who purchased at Ransome's Grove ,(Clarence) that year were: Edward Carney, Edmund Thompson, Henry Doney, Jonathon Barrett, John Tyler, Justice Webber, and George Croop.

In most cases, Holland Company Lands were not sold to individuals prior to 1800, and later on, most of the lands were sold under Land Contracts for $2 or $3 an acre. Title to the land was not given until paid for in full. Since life was rough on the Frontier, payments were difficult, and as a result, many settlers never paid for thir land, but moved west for better prospects.

As far as Niagara County records are concerned, all deeds issued for lands,(including ones issued from 1802 to 1808 while part of Genesee County) are in the Grantor and Grantee indices.

About 1835, the Holland Land Company sold all their holdings including unsold and reverted lands. (to be concluded)

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IN MEMORIAM:

Mildred N. Lonsbery, 84, died at the Newfane Health Facility May 13, 1999, after a long illness. Mildred, a native of Wilson, was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and the Wilson Historical Society since 1972. In 1974 and 1975, she served the society as Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee.

She retired from the Wilson Central School in 1977 where she was head cook for many years. She is survived by three grandchildren, Brian (Ga il) Lonsbery of Wilson; Michael Lonsbery of Fulton, NY; and Karen (Larry) Jones of O'Fallon, Illinois; also a g-grandson, Brian Lonsbery, Jr. of Wilson; and a dear friend, Judy King of Newfane, NY.

A Memorial Service and reception were held at St. Paul's Church, and Rev. Ronald Haefer officiated. Private burial services were held at Greenwood Cemetery in Wilson.

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Never take for granted
The blessings of each day,
Earthly sorrows are part of life
But all will pass away.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FAIR:

The Society's 27th annual fair on Memorial Day was a rousing success, and we wish to compliment our Fair Chairmen who, with the help of many area chairmen and dedicated workers, brought the event to a successful conclusion. Planning and directing the fair were, Lois Barnum, Nettie Stimson, Darrell Smith, Ron Zauner, Beth Waldron, and Gary Fitch, Pres.

Pre-fair activities included the wiring and installation of speakers on the Storage Barn, (thanks to Don Burrows and Darrell Smith) with some essential consulting with Ora Pettit on all matters pertaining to the audio equipment.

Marking out grounds for vendors and other exhibits was handled by Don Wiltse and Ron Zauner, along with a great crew of helpers. We also wish to acknowledge the help received from Roger Mawhiney, who leveled off and brought in fill for a Pepsi stand located by the Storage Barn. Also, many thanks to Randy Ward,Jr., for picking up trash during and after the fair. Not only did he collect trash for the dumpster, but also took time to sort out and bundle the cardboard.

Incidentally, we received fine cooperation from Modern Disposal. It was necessary to have the dumpster moved from the place where they had been told to put it. They were called om Sat. before the fair, and they immediately sent someone to move it. The society is especially grateful to Modern Disposal for their generosity and cooperation.

And did you notice the Pepsi Stand by the Storage Barn. It was manned almost 100% all day by young people. Actually, the society had tremendous support from young people this year who not only handed out free balloons, but were indispensable in setting-up for the fair and helping to clean-up afterwards. Because of those young people the toughest jobs were made easier--and we've got to mention Kyle Andrews who dispensed the Pepsi Cannisters on a very hot day.

If you noticed the beautiful display of Flowers by the Historical sign near the entrance, it was donated and put in place by Beutel's Nursery on Chestnut Road, South Wilson. Don Beutel has been maintaining this display for several years now.

One of the outstanding exhibits this year was the Classic Car Display organized by Bill Cyphert, who had 130 cars brought onto the fairgrounds.

The Fair Committee asked Bill to charge each car an entrance fee, and this was used for a Split Club. Jim and Mable McKee were the happy winners of 400 dollars, and the remaining funds were given to the Historical Society as a donation. In addition, the society provided each car-owner a plaque for their vehicle. Each plaque was valued at $1.50 each.

Bill Cyphert did a fine job organizing the event, and the society appreciates the time he spent making arrangements on Saturday as well as Monday, the day of the Fair.

In retrospect, the Memorial Day Fair has become a Community project supported by many Wilson residents and Business Organizations. Pfeiffers Foods, for instance, has allowed the Society to have free use of their parking lot since the Fair was started in 1973. And at earlier Fairs, Pfeiffers donated cases of salad dressing and fruit juices for the society's use.

Home and Garden Supply and Ontario Orchards have also been good neighbors and provided free parking near the Museum. This year, Ontario Orchards not only provided a turn-around for the shuttle basses, but also parking for the handicapped.

As the Society's Fair drew more and more visitors, it was decided to start up a free shuttle bus service, Thanks to the fine cooperation from Village Churches;the Town Hall; Fire Co., and Wilson Central Schools, their parking lots were opened free to fair-goers who were then able to hop a free shuttle bus ride to the Museum Grounds.

Because of the great cooperation received from the entire community, your museum, which belongs to the Town and Village of Wilson, is able to exist. The Society's Board of Directors thanks everyone who helped make this year's fair a success

As the Museum grounds and buildings have expanded, so have the society's expenses. In case you're interested how some of the money you helped raise is spent there are some major outlays planned which includes renovating the old 1903 Caboose. Skirting around the Depot should also be replaced, as well as repairing of the brick walk and wall next to the Depot. A big project of having the Depot repainted also faces us, and is long past overdue. Other routine expenditures such as paying utility bills, fire and liability insurance plus insurance for antique carsand the tremendus job of keeping 12 acres of lands mowed and presentable are things the historical society will probably be able to do thanks to your support and a thrifty treasurer.

If Vendors comments are any indication, next year's Fair should also be a winner. One vendor summed it up as "the best Fair I ever attended--well-organized, and I did real well."

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QUILT RAFFLE:

The handmade Baltimore Bouteque Quilt was raffled off on Fair Day at 4:30 Pm, and Betty Stimson, who quilted it, was asked to draw the winner ticket from the barrel. The name on the first ticket drawn was Colleen Rotella and she won the quilt.

The wood carving made by Bob Schearer was won by Betty Clark of Hayward, California.

The Wilson Centennial Afghan was won by Kimberly Joy of N. Tonawanda, and the choice of a Sketchbook I or II was awarded to Lois Jennings of Wilson. The name on the last ticket drawn was Carol Groff of Lockport, NY who received a Wilson Historical Society Recip e Book.

The Wilson Hist. Soc. wishes to thank everyone who participated in the drawing, and we wish to announce that the Millennium Quilt for the year 2,000 is already completed. So.....if you weren't lucky this year, it doesn't mean you can't win next year.

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NEW MEMBERS:

Please welcome Jenna Andrews,14, our new Junior Member; also David Branch of Wilson; Barbara J. Gammiero of Rochester, NY; Edith Goodnight of Wilson; and Amy Greenwald of Barker, NY. Also, renewing their membership, Rev. Ron Haefer and Susan Winniewski, both from Wilson.

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QUIPS:

Life was a lot simpler when what we honored were Mother and Father rather than all credit cards.

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SCHOOLHOUSE ACTIVITY PROGRESSING:

Wanda Burrows, Chairman of the Society's Schoolhouse Committee, isn't one to allow much dust to settle on the old Randall Road Schoolhouse.

In fact, on Monday, May 21st, there wasn't any dust because it rained. That didn't stop Jean Figura, Jane Figura, and Debbie Keresztes and daughters, Amy and Julie Keresztes, who worked in the rain to weed the flower beds.

Also, Elton Kropp and Gordon Strablow spent a lot of time seeding the backyard, mowing the lawn, and trimming around the school. Needless to say, the premises looked great on Fair Day.

Winners of a schoolhouse raffle were Mike Flanagan of Lewiston who won an Ice Chest filled with picnic supplies. Maressa Cycon of Hamburg, NY, won a Sabres Hocky Puck autographed by Wayne Primeau; and Bruce Muck of Wilson won a Sabre Hocky Puck autographed by Miraslav Satan.

A cute sidelight occured later on the day of the Memorial Day Fair when Kevin, Leah, and Savannah King got into the spirit of the occasion and dressed up in Period Costumes while in the Schoolhouse.

The Schoolhouse Committee would also like to thank Mrs. Kathleen Voelkle of Michigan for her generous donation to the Schoolhouse Fund.

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FIRE COMPANY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT:

For many of us who have had the need, the Wilson Volunteer Fire Company's Ambulance Service is perhaps the best bargain in the Town of Wilson.

Service was started in 1943 with the purchase of a used 1934 Buick which was converted as an ambulance and used for the first time on November 14, 1943.

The present ambulance has been an essential part of the Fire Co. for the past ten years, and from 1989 until 1998 has made 3,331 calls for Life Support, Accidents, and Mutual Aid. Moreover, this valuable community aid was provided at no cost to the patients.

Funding for the Ambulance Service was obtained from donations by persons using the service as well as donations in memory of loved ones; also monies from Fish Frys and the Annual Field-days.

Equipment, unfortunately, will not last for ever and there is a legitimate need at this time to purchase a new ambulance to replace the present one.

Training of certified Fire Co. EMTs and ALSs is time consuming and requires a volunteer to undergo intense training of up to 75 hours a week over a 9 month period. It is very difficult to find enough volunteers who can meet those requirments. Volunteers give up hundreds of hours to protect and serve the residents of a community so it is suggested that a small donation of $30 or more will enable the Fire Co. to maintain a well-equipped and modern Ambulance Service. The next move is up to you---"Let your conscience be your guide."

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NEW BLOOD:

Marlene Schotz of South Wilson has assumed her appointed duties as Tour Chairman for the Wilson Historical Society. All arrangements for special tours of the museum facilities should be made through her.(751-9883) Marlene may call on you to serve as a hostess if a tour is arranged, since it has been customary to have a couple people in the Depot, Car building and Schoolhouse. Fifty people usually come by bus so Marlene will be looking for people who enjoy meeting others and making our guests feel welcome when they visit Wilson.

Anne Marie Linnabery, our new Refreshment Chairman, will probably be contacting some of you to help furnish and serve light refreshments on regular meeting nights.(4th Monday each month.)

Having refreshments after program meetings has been a policy of the Society ever since our first meetings were held in the Wilson Town Hall. If all our members were willing to take a turn, it is doubtful if you'd be asked to furnish more than once every couple years.

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SUNDAY AFTERNOON HOSTS & HOSTESSES:

Since this is the July/August Newsletter, Virginia Strablow got right on the ball and got volunteer hostesses for both months. Thanks, Virginia, you make life much easier for this sometimes confused Newsletter Editor:

July 4th:	Howard & Leona Hunter; Gordon & Virginia Strablow.	Open Museum, Gordon.
July 11th:	Robert & Bobbie Hull; Dan & Mary Lenehan	Open: Robert Hull.
July 18th:	Elton & June Kropp; Walter Ganshaw	Open; Elton Kropp
July 25th:	Norman & Martha MacAskill; Dorothea Mark	Open: Dan King.

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Aug. 1st:	Gary & Pat Fitch; Norma Ward.	Open, Gary Fitch.
Aug. 8th:	Floyd & Mary Clark;Greg & Dena Mandeville.	Open, Floyd Clark
Aug. 15th:	Celeste Crawford; Don & Mary Basil.	Open, Celeste Crawford.
Aug. 22nd:	Maxwell and Shirley Hunter; Mildred Neville	Open, Gordon Strablow.
Aug. 29th	Joseph & Julia Dulkiewicz; Ron & Judy Zauner	Open, Don Croop
Sept. 5th:	James & Marlene Schotz; Edna Robison	Open, Marlene Schotz.

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SURPRISE VISIT:

It was a pleasure to meet one of our Life Members, Kathleen Armstrong Voelkle of Clarkston, Mich., who paid Wilson a visit on the Memorial Day weekend.

She visited the museum on both Sunday and Monday and was very pleased to see some of her late father's Civil War artifacts displayed in the museum. Her father, Corliss Armstrong ,who grew up in Wilson, had donated a Civil War blanket to the museum, and Kathleen was very pleased to tell us that she had once used it as a Girl Scout on a camping trip.

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JUNE 28th ANNUAL MEETING: Old Fashioned Picnic: Hot Dogs,Hamburgs, and Beverage furnished--Please bring a dish to pass. Time, Ca. 6:00 PM. We hope you get this Newsletter in time.

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QUIPS: It's easy to communicate with a fish---all you need do is drop him a line.

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THE NANCY JANE II:

In 1901, William Wilson took his son, Merle, out of school to help him with his fishing business. That was when both Merle and his brother, Fred, began to learn the sometimes dangerous occupation of commercial fishing.

The boat that William and his sons used for many years was found to be unsafe and inadequate after William died in 1942, so Merle commissioned the Mang Boat Company to build a new boat for him. He named it the "Nancy Jane II" after his wife and daughter

Merle spent 63 years of his life as a commercial fisherman, and it was about 1910 when he erected his boathouse and fishing docks just north of the present Boathouse. Fishing was very good up through the 1940's, and Merle set nets in the Lake from early Spring until late Fall.

During the summer when the Lake warmed up, fishing wasn't too good, but in general it became a popular sport--especially after the new piers were built in the late 1940's.

In the mid 1950's, Merle decided to build a cover over the front part of his boat. The cabin provided not only protection from the sun, but also a place to be safe from hard rains and windstorms.

In the 1960's fishing began to deteriorate because of water pollution and parasites that killed many of the fish. Corrective action taken by Conservation Department and local sportsmen Clubs who restocked the waters with thousands of Salmon, trout, and Bass, has once more made Wilson a fisherman's paradise, and anglers from all over the Country come here to try their luck.

(Please note: in the last Newsletter we inadvertently said that Walter Wilson and sons operated the Boathouse. It should have read, Timothy Wilson and his sons...etc.)

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WELCOME GUEST:

Lester Clark of Hayward,CA, a Life Member of the Wilson Society, made his annual trek across Country to be in Wilson during the Memorial Day Fair.Les grew up in Wilson, and has been one of our most supportive Out-of-State members. He also has good judgement, because he believes the Wilson Museum, for its size, is one of the best he's ever seen. From time to time he has sent useful stories that we've been able to put in the Newsletter. Following are some "fish stories" that he jotted down on a Membership application about 20 years ago:

"I once wrestled a sturgeon on Walt Wilson's dock and lost. No match at all...much to my surprise. We also used to go spear fishing at Coombs Bridge where we could fill a burlap bag full suckers in one evening. My brother, Wes Clark, cleaned fish for Walter and Emerson Wilson for quite a while, and I think he fillet a hundred pounds or so a day."

"I remember going out on the Lake with Walt, and pulling in nets that were at least 500 feet long and four feet wide. Lots of fish in those days, and I believe they were mostly Blue Pike and White Fish."

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LAURA:

Laura Alvers Eick was born in Wilson on July 18, 1901, and graduated from Wilson High School and the Teachers Training Class. She taught 6 years in Wilson, and two years at Orchard Park, NY. She married Dr. Norman Eick and they had 3 children, Donald, Charles, and David. She was a member of Exley Methodist Church, the Delphic Circle, Eastern Star, and Golden Age Clubs of Wilson, Newfane, and Ransomville. She also was a Charter/Life Member of the Wilson Hist. Soc. and was the organizations first Recording Secretary.

Laura's historical background is impressive. Her father, Edwin A. Alvers, worked in the old lumber yard at the Wilson Harbor where lumber was shipped by schooner to Toronto. The Yard was located by the site of the former Merle Wilson dock and fishing Shop.

Her grandfather came to America from France to help fight the British in the War of 1812.. He was a Seaman and fought under Captain Perry in the Battle of Lake Erie. Another ancestor, Gideon Salisbury fought in the American Revolution during Burgoyn's great offensive to capture New York State and split the Colonies in two.

Another ancestor, William H.H.Salisbury, fought in the Civil War and was a good friend of Ira Pettit about whom the "Diary of a Deadman" was written by Jean P. Ray. William and Ira enlisted about the same time in Lockport, NY.

If we have our dates correct, Laura should be 99 in July. But right or wrong, all her former friends and aquaintances want to wish her a Happy Birthday, and good health and happiness as she enters the New Millennium year of 2,000 next July.

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BOARD REPORTS:

The June 9th meeting of the Board was called to order by Gordon Strablow, 2nd Vice-Pres., with 16 persons in attendance.Ollie Clark; Don Burrows; Don Croop; Bill Rose; Judy King; Celeste Crawford; Art Schnoor; Elton Kropp; Eleanor Myers; Sandy Holden; Karen Holden; Lois B Barnum; Wanda Burrows,; and Micky Hunter. Pam Groff, Recording Secretary.

Judy King, treas., reported that the annual fair was financially successful, but no figures will be available until all bills are accounted for.

The Health Inspector-that all food stands are required to have a stem thermometer to monitor temperatures of hot and cold foods--also, all workers must wear hats and plastic gloves.

Elton Kropp reported that grass under b-b-q- pits were buried up, and said rather than reseed area, suggested crushed stone be used instead.

Dan King was thanked for mowing new acreage before fair with his own tractor and six foot mower. It took 2½ hours to complete the mowing.

Don Burrows suggested the society could reduce mowing expenses if we bought a used tractor and mower and have Society Volunteers do the mowing.

Bill Rose suggested that members think about possibly raffling off the Porsche Car in 2001.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Groff, Recording Secretary.

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QUIPS: When you get something for nothing, you just haven't been billed yet.

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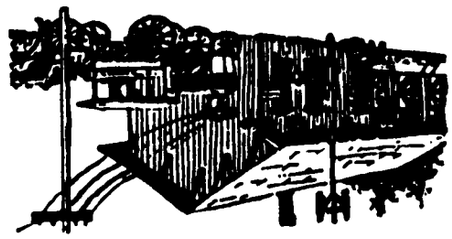

Wilson Historical Society
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

September Vol.28 No.
(Coleman Printing)

September 1994

NIAGARA COUNTY TOWNS ESTABLISHED:

When Greater Niagara County was started in 1808, it consisted of three new towns. In the north was Cambria which took in all of the present Niagara County. South of Cambria was the town of Clarence which included lands between Tonawanda Creek and Buffalo Creek. The third town, Willink extended south of Buffalo Creek to Cattaraugus Creek.

Joseph Ellicott now set about trying to get the new towns and County to begin the difficult task of building roads and bridges, and before long the population began to expand. By the time the War of 1812 broke out, there were 26,000 people living on the acreage that made up Western New York.

When the Holland Land Co. lands were originally surveyed, they were divided into Ranges and Townships. The Townships ran east to west and were also numbered. The most careful line laid out by the Company, however, was the Transit Meridian between Ranges 6 and seven, but shouldn't be confused with the East Transit which marked the eastern border of the Holland Purchase.

The first division of the Town of Cambria came in 1812 when Hartland took all the area East of the Transit Meridian.On the West side of the Transit the area was divided into three new Towns, Porter on the North; Cambria in the center; and Schlosser on the South. Four years later, Schlosser was renamed the Town of Niagara.

In 1817, Hartland was divided in two and the southern portion was named the Town of Royalton. In 1818, the towns of Wilson and Lewiston were added, with Wilson taking over the eastern portion of the Town of Porter. At this time, Wilson's border extended on the East to the Transit at Olcott, NY. Cambria was also divided in two and the Western part was made into the Town of Lewiston.

In 1821, Niagara County, (which up to this time included all of the present Erie County) was reorganized to only include the lands north of Tonawanda Creek.

When the present Niagara County was reorganized it consisted of seven towns: Porter, Lewiston; Niagara; Wilson; Cambria; Hartland; and Royalton. When the new Niagara County was formed on April 2, 1821, the County Seat was moved from Buffalo to Lockport.

In 1823, a new town, Somerset, was organized out of Hartland with Somerset being made up from the northern part of Hartland along Lake Ontario.

In 1824, Newfane and Lockport were added as towns of Niagara County with Newfane being formed from from the western portions of Somerset and Hartland as well as the eastern portion of the Town of Wilson. The Town of Lockportwas formed from parts of the town of Cambria and Royalton

Pendleton was the 11th town added to Niagara County and it was formed out of the eastern third of the Town of Niagara.

The last town added to Niagara County in 1836 was the Town of Wheatfield which was also organized from the eastern part of the Town of Niagara. No new towns have been added since that date.

(Please note: Information used in this item was derived from the Niag. Co. Hist. Soc. Publication, "Niagara County and its Towns by L.L. Pechuman.")

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FROM THE MAILBAG:

We received an interesting letter recently from Richard E. Schmidle of Rochester, NY. Rick, as you all probably know, attended Wilson High School where, in 1966, he interviewed Merle Wilson to complete an English assignment.

Rick captured his interview on a cassette, and some of the tales told to him by Merle have been used in past Newsletters. A copy of that tape is in the Museum, but Rick made its contents more easily accessible by mailing the society a printed copy of the tape's contents.

Rick recalled those happy days when he and his Dad used to rent one of Merle's flat-bottom, gray rowboats, and then row along the harbor past the Island and come to rest among the lily pads in the reed-lined Creek.

We used to do the same thing, Rick, and many a bull head was pulled into our boat in the wee morning hours with only a kerosene lantern to guide us through the dark waters.

That, of course, was in the good old days before cruisers and sailboats filled most of the Bay.

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SOUNDINGS:

The world is such a busy place, there's so much hurry in it. Isn't it nice, sometimes, to pause for just a minute.

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ANNUAL MEETING:

Approximately 50 members of the society turned out for the annual meeting on June 28th which featured a picnic-type luncheon with delicious casserole dishes provided by those who attended. Meats and beverages were furnished by the society.

Everyone seemed to agree that it's hard to beat the home-made delicacies made by our members, and Bob Rose and Miles Linnabery made sure everyone had plenty of hot dogs and hamburgers.

Work was kept at a minimum, and even Jan Sporleder was overheard to remark that this was the first time she was able to sit down and enjoy the meal. Although Jan and her special group of helpers have provided many memorable dinners at past annual meetings, we think having a "picnic" was a fine way of giving those ladies a well-deserved rest.

Good reports were given by the various society chairmen including one by Tom Singer, Chrm. of the committee appointed by Pres. Fitch to prepare a Mission Statement for the society.

The Mission Statement, which was read and approved by the general membership states:

The Society is dedicated to preserve for posterity the historical records and memorabilia of the Town and Village of Wilson.

The society accomplishes this mission through a variety of activities and services in such areas as:

Displaying historical records and memorabilia related to the history of Wilson.

Publishing the society's Newsletter, the mainstay of our regular communication with members, and a stimulant to the growing interest in the history of Wilson.

Providing a program of appropriate speakers, lectures, and seminars.

Funding the Society through our annual Memorial Day Fair and other activities.

Maintaining and improving buildings and grounds for view and inspection as historical preservation and heritage of our past.

Taking an active role in the Community, including a close relationship with Wilson schools, Village, and Town to educate and inform people of all ages converning the history of our community.

Other members of the committee appointed to prepare the Mission Statement were: Wanda Burrows; Wally Goodman; Dave Mahar; Dave McLaughlin; Bruce Muck; and Darrell Smith.

Don Burrows reported on the progress of the caboose, and said that work will be started right away to renovate the 1903 railroad car. Materials have been ordered and Don,(who gives up a lot of time and labor for the society) said that if you can help, now is the time to step forward.

In conjunction with this project, Pres. Fitch read a letter from Wendy (Jennings) Hayes of Park Ridge, Illinois, who has offered to match any funds raised for the Caboose Project--- dollar for dollar up to $1,000.

Here is a good oportunity for some of our members who are unable to work on the caboose, to make some cash donations to see if we can meet Wendy's challenge. Wendy made the offer in memory of her late father, Burt Jennings, who did so much to help restore the caboose some twelve or fourteen years ago.

All reports were well-presented this year, and we believe the Society is very fortunate to have so many interested persons who are willing to contribute their time and labor to make the Wilson Historical Society an on-going success.

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HONOR STUDENT:

Andrew E. Muck, son of Bruce and Bonnie Muck of Wilson, received a B.S. degree from Colgate University recently where he graduated Summa Cum Laude with honors in molecular biology. He was also a member at Colgate Christian Fellowship and a volunteer at Colgate Friends of the elderly program. Andrew graduated from Wilson Central School, and was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society and the Phi Beta Sigma Academic Honor Society.

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IN MEMORIAM:

LaMont Ridley, 70, died June 2, 1999, at Lakeside Memorial Hospital, Brockport, NY. He was the son of the late Earl and Clara (Hunter) Ridley, and graduated from Wilson Central School. He was Ass't. Scoutmaster of Troop 41, East Wilson, and later served with the U.S. Army in Germany. He was a member of Strickland Post, VFW, at Albion, NY, and became a member of the Wilson Hist. Soc. in 1988.

He is survived by his wife, Tullia D'Agustineo Ridley; 3 children, Christine (John) Moriss, Holley, NY; Mary Ellen (Todd Novak) Stymus, of Clarendon,N Y; and Michael (Joyce) Ridley of Holley, NY; also two sisters; Alice (Preston) Thomas; and Barbara (Phares) Miller.

Funeral services were held at the Christopher Mitchell Funeral Home,

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We recently learned that Marilyn (Cuddeback) Rollinger of Midlothian, VA, passed away recently. Marilyn, formerly of Lockport, was a member of the Wilson Hist. Soc. since 1989. The society extends its sincere condolences to the surviving members of her family.

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FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK:

It has been brought to my attention that some of our members do not get their Newsletters when they head south for the winter. Since the Newsletters are not forwarded, the simplest solution would be to send me your winter address with the dates you expect to be at that address. Please help me to keep your file card up to date. My address is P.O.Box 319, Wilson, New York, 14172. Thank you.....Sandy Holden, Membership Chairman.

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NEW MEMBERS:

Please welcome our latest new members: Theresa and Peter Reagan, Bebbe Road, Newfane,NY 14108.

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QUIPS: Doctors make you wait forever in their waiting rooms on purpose--time heals all wounds.

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BOARD REPORTS:

The July meeting of the Board was called to order by Gordon Strablow, 2nd Vice-Pres., with the following present: Pam Groff; Judy King; Dorothy Maxfield; Don Burrows; Don Croop; and Elton Kropp.

It was announced that all siding has been removed from caboose. Work party consisted of a crew5 men from the jail with Gordon Strablow overseeing work.

A letter was submitted from Bob Hull with bill of $360.65 for Jeep repairs. Additional expense of $150 was donated to Society. A letter from Mr. MacFarlane was read stating that heating repairs will be completed in July. It was decided to request an itemized bill prior to payment. A large water bill was caused by leak in line to windmill. Water has been turned off until repairs can be made.

A thank you note was read from Brooke Voltz who received a $100 scholarship award from the society.

Many items have been received from "Okie's" and Dorothy Maxfield moved them to the museum with heLp from Jim Stapf, and Sandy Holden.

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DOWN MEMORY LANE:

We visited Ken and Dorotha Welker a few weeks ago, and found them comfortably situated in their Mobile Home at Wright's Corners. We first became acquainted with Ken when we used to shop at the old Welker & Brown store at the corner of Young & Lake Streets.

He recalled an amusing story when his customers used to send written notes with youngsters to get supplies. One time a boy handed him a note and said his mother needed it right away. The item was so garbled up, he couldn't make it out, but he finally contacted the mother who explained that she wanted a box of Kotex.

Ken was an active member of the Wilson Volunteer Fire Co., and later completed his many years of community service when he was elected Mayor of the village of Wilson.

There was one thing he failed to mention as he took us down Memory Lane---the time they "robbed" the Wilson Branch of Marine Trust. It was back in the year 1960, and a local talent show, "Dudes & Dolls"was being staged in the old Wilson High School auditorium.

The play had a western theme, and one of the popular acts was the "Cowgirl Chorus" line featuring Mary Margaret Welker; Peggy Lou Schrader; Kathy Bulmer; and Vicky Marshman.

In order to help publicise the play, a mock "holdup" was staged at the Wilson Bank. Dressed up like western hold-up men were Mayor Robert Horton, Stanley Borngraeber, and Ken Welker, who, at gun point, made Bank Manager, Jerry McAvoy, turn over the keys to the vault.

Cynthia Wilson also held a gun on Dianne Wheeler, and made sure she kept her hands high above her head.

Needless to say, the well-publicized "hold-up" helped attract many persons to see the play at Wilson Central School.

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PERSONAL NOTE:

Pat Eick writes that Laura broke her hip last September, and is confined to a wheelchair, however she spends a lot of time thinking about happy days spent in Wilson. Included with the letter was Laura's Commencement Exersizes Announcement for the Class of 1920, Wilson High School. Laura is a charter/Life Member of the Society and the first recording secretary.

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CHRISTMAS IS COMING:

Copies of Sketchbook II are still available, and we might add, they would make a fine, reasonable gift for the History Buff in your family. The book sells for $15, and may be sent anywhere in the U.S. for $3.20 Priority Mail.

Books may be purchased Sunday afternoons at the Wilson Museum or at the Wilson Town Hall or the Garden Gate Florist Shop when open. They are also available at the Niagara County Historical Society Museum in Lockport.

If you would like to get some excellent color postcards of the Wilson Harbor, you may purchase them either at the Museum or the Wilson Community Pharmacy on Pettit Street.

There are also just a few of the Wilson Centennial Afghans left. The Navy Blue afghan is sold out.

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TRAINING CLASS TEACHERS:

When members of the 1929 Teachers Training Class held their 50th reunion in Sep't., 1979, six of the 12 who graduated were able to attend including Thelma Ward Patterson; Beatrice Schrader Harrod; Dorothy McEvers Kolbow; Veronica Connor; Mabel Whitt Clark; and Christine Curtis Parker. Miss Amy Mayo was their teacher, and all graduates followed teaching careers, with most starting in rural one-room schools.

Some members of the Class furthered their education and Helen Borngraeber, for instance, taught several years in Wilson High School. Betty Jacqees also held class room positions in Wilson, and Veronica Connor became the Principal of the Grand Island High School.

Members who did not attend the 50th reunion were: Margaret Ozard Beals; Betty Jacquees; Grace Waterman Thompson; and Helen Borngraeber. Beatrice Demmin Hudson passed away, and Gertrude Robe could not be located.

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DO YOU QUALIFY?:

Do you remember things that happened 50 years ago, but can't remember what you had for dinner...Do you pretend to hear when you can't...Does it iritate you when your family says "take it easy"...Do you lie about how old you are...do you forget what day it is...do you think about all the bad things that might happen to your grandchildren...or get upset when you get a busy signal on the telephone...if so, it's a pretty good sign you're getting old.

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QUIPS: Wear a smile and have friends...Wear a frown and have wrinkles.

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HALLOWEEN PARTY:

The Hobgoblins will be on the prowl again at the Wilson Museum on Saturday, October 24th, from 2 to 5 PM. Everyone, including adults, are invited to dress for the occasion and join in the fun. This is the third Holloween Party sponsored by the Wilson Historical Society, and it is planned to have refreshments, costume judging, and prizes in all categories from toddler to adult.

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CABOOSE WORK PROGRESSING:

Things are moving along well , and after the old siding was removed, materials were ordered to complete the restoration. Gordon Strablow took a giant step forward when he fitted and nailed on the strips the new siding will be fastened to.

On Monday evening, August 2nd, Don Burrows, Darrell and Sally Smith began the job of nailing the new siding on. (Sally kept them supplied with boards.) At least a third of the caboose was covered the first night, and the rest will be put on as weather permits. New windows are to be installed, and other repairs will be made to the roof, and cupola.

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MUSEUM HOSTS & HOSTESSES:

Virginia Strablow, Chrm., submits the following list of volunteers to watch the museum on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM:

Sept. 5th:	James and Marlene Schotz & Edna Robinson:	Open up, Marlene Schotz.
Sept. 12th:	Jack & Winnie Terry & Rachael Flagler:	Open up, Lois Barnum
Sept. 19th:	Richard & Janice Zipp & Ruth Lampman	Open up, Carole Schnoor.
Sept. 26th:	Wallace and Chris Goodman & Ruth Thomas.	Open up, Wallace Goodman
Oct. 3rd:	Robert & Bobbie Hull & Terrence Upton.	Open up, Robert Hull.

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PUBLISHING THE NEWSLETTER:

We are not mind-readers,(although we try) so this is just a suggestion: If you wanted something to appear in the October Newsletter, for instance, we must have the information by the 15th of September--the preceeding month.

It takes about two weeks to publish, address, and mail out the Newsletter. We especially wish to thank Sandy and Kara Holden who do their best to get the Newsletter to you by the 1st of each month. Thanks for your cooperation. Your Newsletter Editor.

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BOARD ACTION & REPORTS:

Seventeen persons attended the August 11th meeting of the Board of Directors including Gary Fitch, Pres., Pam Groff, Wanda & Don Burrows. Gordon Strablow, Elton Kropp, Miles Linnabry, "Ollie" Clark, Don Croop, "Micky" Hunter, Dorothy Maxfield, Bill Rose, Wally Goodman, Arthur Schnoor, Floyd "Red" Clark, and Darrell & Sally Smith.

In the absence of Judy King, Treas., Don Burrows read her report which listed $4,222.36 in bills, and a checking balance of $3,637.88. Motion was made by Miles Linnabery, seconded by Gordon Strablow, to pay all bills except the water bill which is being questioned.

Motion was made by Bill Rose, seconded by Ollie Clark, to accept Meat Scale offered by Jerry Kadryna. "Red" Clark volunteered to move it from store to society's barn. Motion was approved.

"Red" Clark offered to donate the Rex Tugwell Log Cabin to the society, and will also donate the time and equipment to move it to the society's grounds. Motion made by Don Burrows to accept Cabin, seconded by Miles Linnabery. Motion approved. The Planning Board will determine where Cabin will be located. "Red" also announced that a Pullman Car is available in good condition. Darrell Smith was appointed to check the car out and report back to the Board.

Don Burrows suggested that the society build an extension on south end of Barnum Building for permanent rest rooms. These would be essential when teachers start holding classes in old Schoolhouse. Other repairs suggested would be to improve ramp in Breezeway; Replace Barnum Bldg. roof, and raise it to same height of Argue Building. Dan King, Chrm. of the Storage Barn, has also said that shelving is needed in the Barn to help reduce "Clutter" and improve organization of the materials that are stored there.

Wally Goodman and Bill Rose would like to complete restoration of the Cadillac, and wish to raffle off the Porsche to pay for it. Motion was made by Don Burrows, seconded by Darrell Smith, to permit the Car Chairmen to start up a raffle immediately. Motion approved.

Grounds Chairman, Elton Kropp, reported that the Depot must be painted soon and the skirting replaced. Also, all the area west of the Barnum Bldg. be released for Memorial Tree use. Motion made by Dorothy Maxfield, seconded by Miles Linnabery, to approve report. Motion passed.

Gary Fitch, Pres., said that Ed Hastings hopes to complete curbing and walk repairs in September or October; A letter of thanks has been sent to Wendy Jennings Hayes accepting her generous offer for a Burt Jennings Memorial challenge to raise funds for caboose repairs.; Judy King, By-Laws Chrm., has been asked to establish a quorum ruling for attendance at Board of Director meetings, so that the society will be in compliance.

Motion was made by Bill Rose, seconded by Wally Goodman, for the society to sponsor its 3rd annual Holloween Party in the Barnum Building, Oct. 24th from 2-5 PM. motion carried.

Motion made by Darrell Smith, seconded by Ollie Clark, to permit the Exley United Methodist Church to park cars on the new grounds, weather permitting, for the Labor Day Flea Market and Chicken Bar-B-Que. Motion approved.

Board meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM, and the next meeting will be held, September 8, 1999, at 7:30 PM in Depot.

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HISTORIC SEPTEMBER, 1922:

That was the year Radio made its debut; The Lincoln Memorial on the Potomac was dedicated; Red Sox pitcher, Babe Ruth, was sold to the N.Y. Yankees and began playing in the outfield; Lt. Jimmy Doolittle set the record for a one day transcontinental flight in just over 21 hrs.; Hot movie stars were Mary Pickford, Doug Fairbanks, Buck Jones, and Lon Chaney.

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Wilson Historical Society
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

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PERMIT NO. 8
WILSON, N.Y.

October 1999

REMINISCING:

Twenty-eight years ago, Dr. Argue's son, John, told his father that he thought the old Wilson Depot would make a nice museum for the town. Acting on his suggestion, the late doctor decided to turn his railroad property over to the Wilson Historical Society.

A short time later, Dr. George Badger of Lockport, a former resident of Wilson, donated 4½ acres of land to the Society. Because of this, the Histor ical Society was able to add several buildings including the Barnum Bldg., The Dr. Argue Memorial Car Bldg,. the 1861 Randall Road Schoolhouse, the 1903 N.Y. Central Railroad Caboose, the Light Tower from the old Wilson Pier, the late 1800 Windmill, as well as dozens of Memorial Trees.

In 1973, the society began to hold its meetings in the 1912 Depot, however, half the building was unavailable for exhibits since Dr. Argue still used the freight room for old trucks and spare parts.

This changed when Dr. Argue realized the society could use the entire depot for a museum. He then had his old cars removed from the freight room making it possible to renovate the west end of the building.

The first remodeling of the depot was done by Ollie Clark and Joe Higgins who carefully removed a long hall that connected the waiting room to the Express room. This permitted room for a new library and rest rooms to be added, but that was just the beginning.

Many of the women pitched in to scrub wood work and floors, and some of those early workers consisted of Jean Argue, Helen Borngraeber, Ella Mae Baker, Becky Hill, Dorothy Thilk, Mildred Middleton, Betty Duscher, Verna Caufield, Anna Mae Nevins, Sarah Berry, and Millie Croop. Perhaps some of our members may still recall when Burt Jennings, Millie Croop, and Peggy Ward painted the ticket office and Express Room ceilings while standing on 10ft.scafolding.

The outside of the depot was also badly in need of paint so 20 or 30 familys turned out to scrape and brush th exterior, so its first coat of red paint and white trim could be applied. Most of the painting was done by John Rodgers, a teacher at the Wilson Central School.

Then there was that first cold winter of 1973-74 when dozens of men and women turned out on Saturday mornings-(all winter long) to remodel the freight room for a meeting place. The men, spearheaded by Art Schnoor, installed siding, insulation, and Barn Boards, and. when completed it was named the Patterson Room, for the longest serving ticket agents.

Some of the ladies always had a coffee pot on, and who could ever forget those hard-working gals who stipuledthe entire ceiling of the Patterson Room; Dianne Albright, Nettie Stimson, Peggy Ward, and Lois Barnum.

That was just the beginning of many other improvements which continue at the museum to the present day. For instance, a room west of the Patterson room was built in under the leadership of Art Schnoor and named the Schnoor Room in recognition of all his work. Other improvements included the "Kitchenette", Storage Dock, and Tool Shed.

When Dr. Argue donated a number of antique and classic cars to the Society, it was decided to build a cement block bldg. to house them in.(Now known as the Barnum Building). Most of the labor for this project was donated by Ed Hastings, leader of the construction project. John Myers did the electrical work, and Chuck Messersmith and Art Schnoor did the plumbing. Ollie Clark, with help from the Carpenter's Union, donated time and labor to erect the roof.

An additional donation of 5 acres of land from the late Dr. George Badger, allowed room for construction of a large pole barn which was badly needed for storage of the many supplys and equipment accumulated by the Society.

Today, the museum facility encompasses about 12 acres of land, and upkeep of the buildings and grounds has been made possible by successful Memorial Day Fairs, dues from our membership, and annual grants from the Town of Wilson.

The annual Fair has been successful each year because of an active Fair Committee; the dedication of many area fair chairmen; the generous response of the entire Wilson Community; including businesses, schools, and churches. You know who they are--they are not only the backbone of the Historical Society but the Community as well.

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SUCCESS STORY:

Seems like only yesterday that Susan Stimson graduated from Wilson Central School, and made a career of Stage Manager for many popular Broadway Shows. Some of these included "Cats"; "Damn Yankees"; "Sunset Boulevard"; and "Lost In Yonkers". Susan was also Stage Manager for the recent Frank Sinatra production, "My Way", which was performed at Artpark at the Park in Lewiston, May 12-July 11, 1999. She is the daughter of Nettie Stimson, and grandaughter of Betty and Glenn Stimson.

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BOARD ACTION & REPORTS:

Twenty-one members attended the Board meeting on Sept. 8, 1999, including Gary Fitch, Pres., Darrell Smith, Gordon Strablow, Pam Groff, Judy King, Miles Linnabery, Bill Rose, Lois Barnum, Bruce Muck, Ollie Clark, Floyd Clark, Marilyn Allgeier, Eleanor Myers, Don Croop, Don Burrows, Dorothy Maxfield, Celeste Crawford, Marlene Schotz, Micky Hunter, Elton Kropp, and and Norm MacAskill. Judy King, Treas., reported an income of $474.40 from Aug. 12 through Sept. 8th. Don Burrows made a motion, seconded by Bruce Muck, to pay bills totaling $2,616.06-motion carried. Checking account balance $1,156.10.

Motion made by Ollie Clark, seconded by Miles Linnabery, that in order to legally conduct business, a quorum of 7 voting members be present at all meetings. A final vote on the motion will be taken at the October meeting.

A discussion on contents of Fritton Barn was held, and it was decided that racks should be installed in Storage Barn before more materials are put in the building.

Darrell Smith described condition of Pullman Car which the Board had been interest4d in. The concensus of the groupwas that the society should not become involved. Red Clark said that he would notify the owner that the Society is not interested.

Dorothy Maxfield, curator, clarified the policy of accepting appraisals on large gifts to the Museum. She stated that all appraisals must be made, if needed, by an independent appraisor.

Red Clark stated that he notified Jerry Kadryna that the Society would accept the meat scale he offered, and he also said that he must know where the footer will be built on the museum grounds so that he can place the Tugwell Cabin,(which he donated) on it.

Bill Rose reported on plans he and Wally Goodman are making to raffle off the Porsche.

Micky Hunter thanked the Society, on behalf of the Exley United Methodist Church, for the use of the grounds on Labor Day.. Elton Kropp thanked the Flea Market personell for the good job they did cleaning up the grounds afterward.

Work on the Caboose is progressing. Miles Linnabery will cut the boards needed at each end on his Bandsaw. Gordon Strablow has offered to take care of the painting.

Darrell Smith reported that over $300 was realized from the Funnel Cake Concession on Labor Day. He also requested funds for the Oct. 24th Holloween Party, and a motion was made by Bill Rose, seconded by Norm MacAskill that $300 be alloted for refreshments and decorations.Carried.

Norm MacAskill reported a successful Historical Society exhibit at the annual Farm and Home days in Lockport. 400 signed the register book, and Gordie & Virginia Strablow helped man booth.

Lois Barnum suggested establishing a permanent road on society grounds to facilitate getting to new grounds on Memorial Day. She said that Darrell Smith has devised a good plan and he will get an estimate on the probable cost.

The sign on the windmill which identifys the people who were involved in the project, is in need of replacement. Don Croop will take care of it.

Celeste Crawford requested use of the museum on Dec. 6, 1999. Motion made by Don Burrows, seconded by Bill Rose to grant request. Motion approved.

Gary Fitch reported that MacFarlane finished work on heating system, but he will have to tell Mr. MacFarlane that we still have a problem with the west furnace.

There is a new policy in the Sheriff Dept. to charge a fee for false alarms. $25 will be charged for the 1st offense which will increase with each subsequent false alarm.All members who have keys to access the Depot should exert extreme caution when deactivating or activating the museum's alarm system. Don't throw away the society's money because of carelessness.

The next meeting of the Bd. of Directors will be Oct. 13th at 7:30 PM--at depot.

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ENDANGERED SPECIES?:

Since 1965, a small group of ladies known as the "Puppeteers" have made thousands of Puppets which were given to help ease the anxiety of little patients confined in Inter Community Hospital at Newfane. Today, the group directed by Lois Jennings and Doris MacBeth, is still trying to fill the Hospital's needs.

We find, despite the "high tech" society we live in, there are still many worthwhile things being accomplished by volunteers who quietly give up many hours of their time to make things happen. Should you have any doubts, consider for a moment the people who devote much of their time to the Wilson Volunteer Fire Companies, the Churches, "Puppeteers" Boy & Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Library, Schools, and yes, even the Wilson Historical Society.

We believe Wilson is a much better place because of these volunteers who place service and accomplishment above personal gain.

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VISITORS ENJOY TOUR:

Marlene Schotz, Tours Chrm., reported that a Senior Citizen Travel Group from Grand Island were guests at the Museum on Thurs. Aug. 19th, from 11 to 1PM. She was assisted by George Cruickshank and Wally Goodman also Helen Stevens who served as "teacher-hostess" in the School. Marlene also gave the group a little background information on the area's history. The group showed their appreciation by donating $100 to the Museum.

A little background research on Marlene reveals that she designed the Town of Wilson Seal which was adopted by the Town Board in 1980.

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IN MEMORIAM:

Blanche M. Wilson,92, died Aug. 18, 1999. a lifelong resident of Wilson, she was a schoolteacher;member of the North Ridge U.M. Church; and joined the Wilson Hist. Soc. in 1977. She became an Honorary Member in 1995. She also enjoyed Bowling, reading and crocheting, and was a member of the Golden Age Club at Newfane.

She is survived by a sister, Juliet, also several nieces and nephews.

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Mrs. Jeanette Warner, 90, passed away at Clearwater, FL several months ago. She joined the Wilson Hist. Soc. in 1972 and became an Honorary member in May, 1991.

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YOUTH IS a gift of Nature. Age is a work of Art.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

An excellent photograph of members of Wilson's "Class of 1916 taken with Chaperones on their Trip to Washington D.C., April 22, 1916, was donated to the Museum by Mrs. Gene Bradley of Ransomville, NY; also a Senior Class Badge (1916); Commencement Announcement; and a March 25, 1927 Edition of the Wilson "Star". The 15 students who graduated in 1916 were: Mabel Wilson; Mary Berlin; Gertrude Patterson; Mary Brennon; Clare Stoddard; Marion Thompson; Ursula Wolfe; Doris Weaver; Homer Johnson; Vesta Schweigert; Norman Eick; George Norton; Glen Bickford; and Harold Dyer.

Arthur Schnoor: Newspapers containing items on 1965 Wilson Fires; Blizzard of '77; and Centennial Historical Society Fair. Newspapers in good condition.

Don Croop: Photos of 1998 Wilson Volunteer Fireman Fieldday Parade.

Mr. & Mrs. David Dickinson, Newfane: Photo of N. Randall Road Schoolhouse(interior), also write-ups of the 1920 Wilson Training Class 50th Reunion, and marriage of Beatrice Schrader and Wilbur Harod.

Durwood Bendt: 8x10 Photo of South Wilson area men taken in Fire Hall,ca. 1952. Names of 14 men listed on back.

Ella Mae Peters, Leesburg,FL; One of the pens used by Dr. Argue to sign Depot over to the Historical Society (Town) in 1972.

Kathleen Voelkle (Armstrong): Booklet,"History of Waterford,MI. Historical Society., also two examples of Calendars put out by the Waterfors Hist. Soc. Also 18 excellent photos taken of the 1999 Wilson Historical Society Fair.

Richard E. Schmidle, Rochester,NY: 1998 transcript of his 1966 interview with Merle Wilson.

Pat Eick, Lakeland,FL; 1920 Commencement Announcement for Laura Alvers Eick.

Lucille Upton Estate: Corn Planter; Part of Cream Separator; also Hand-made Slip, Skirt, Note Cards, and Newspapers.

Emily McAvoy: Very Old Black Skirt; and Antique White Blouse.

Susan Hustleby, Rochester, NY: "Centurama Program-(1946)

Nettie Stimson, Lewiston, NY: 2 Photos of Maitland Smith's Wilson Clothing Store; One picture of B&S Dry Cleaners, Wilson; Fork-MD U.S.A; Pen cap from Hamilton& Clark's; One Old Chalkboard (Slate)' 3 old Ink Pens for Schoolhouse; One old Sterling School Crayon Box & Chalk; Picture of Civil War marching at the intersection of Lake St. and West Cambria Rd.; Two old framed Photos of Battery M Veterans in front of old Southerland Hotel (Good framed phots purchased by Nettie.

Robert Walker, Olcott, NY: Scrapbook of American Legend Activities, donated by Julia Dulkiewicz.

Floyd (Red) Clark: Five photos of construction of Pole Barn; also two pictures of Tugwell Cabin being moved from the Island.

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"A MAN CALLED INTREPID":

A recent inquiry about the book, "The Man Called Intrepid", reminds us that during World War II, a very secretive intelligent operationwas.being conducted along the Canadian Shore near the Toronto-Kingston Highway. The place was called "Camp X". and it was here that Agents were trained in Guerilla Warfare and the use of secret devices. Dummy Bldgs. were constructed to look like important Nazi hideouts which would later be invaded by British Commandos.

Wilson residents were probably completely unaware that those training exersizes were being held within forty miles of the peaceful wartime village of Wilson

Roosevelt Beach, just west of the village, was the embarkation point from which a privileged few,(on special missions) crossed the dark lake at night where they might catch a glimpse of the blackened faces of Britsh Commandos. Army recruits and equipment were easily moved across the Border without attracting attention, but Camp X was, never-the-less, very hard to reach.

It was these highly trained Commandos from Camp X who raided enemy outposts so quietly along the European coastline, few of the enemy were ever aware of their presence until after they were attacked.

Should one wish to read more about those intelligent operations that were conducted so close to Wilson's shores, you may do so by reading the non-fiction best seller, "A Man Called Intrepid", written by William Stevenson.

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MUSEUM GREETERS:

Virginia Strablow has selected the following members to be hosts & hostesses on Sunday afternoon from 2-4PM.:

Oct. 3rd: Robert & Bobbie Hull and Terrence Upton. Open Museum, Robert Hull
Oct. 10th: Miles & Anne Marie Linnabery and Mildred Neville. Open Museum- Miles.
Oct. 17th: Maxwell & Shirley Hunter and Richard Schmidle. Open Museum, Richard Schmidle.
Oct. 24th: Edward & Mary Webster and Eleanor Myers. Open Museum, Darrell Smith.
Oct. 31st: Howard & Dorothy Parker and Alice Thomas. Open Museum, Milton (Ollie) Clark.
Nov. 7th: Tom and Gail Walder and Gerry Swann. Open Museum, Bill Rose.

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FEDERATION EXHIBITS"

Norm MacAskill reports that the Niagara Co. Federation of Historical Societies had more space this year in the 4-H Training Center Building, and the theme for the exhibits were,"Life on The Farm". The Federation is made up from 16 Niagara Co.Societies, and each was able to display some items from their collections. There was considerable interest in Wilson's exhibit which included a framed photo of the "open air bus" that used to run from Wilson to Olcott; also a small cherry pitter; and a collapsable wire egg basket. Gordon and Virginia Strablow helped Norm and Martha watch the exhibits, as well as representatives of other societies.

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SOUNDINGS:

Never discourage anyone who continually makes progress--no matter how slow.

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Wilson Historical Society
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

Nov. 1999 Vol.28 No.10

(Coleman Printing)

Nov. 1999

APPLE HALL OF FAME:

SINGER FARMS OF Appleton, NY, has been inducted into the Niagara Region Hall of Fame.

George Moore, Managing Editor of the Lockport Union Sun and Journal, presented the "Hall of Fame Plaque" to the Singer family at the annual Apple County Festival held at the Niagara County Fair grounds on October 9, 1999.

Accepting the honor for the Singer Farms were Thomas and Jacqueline Singer and their son, Mark; also Tom's mother, Grace Singer and Singer Farm partners, Jim and Marge Bittner.

Niagara County is the second largest producer of apples in New York State, and Singer Farms contributes substantially by growing apples on over 250 acres of lands lying between Barker to West of Beebe Road, Wilson.

Roland Singer of Wilson, who started the Singer Farm in 1915, was involved in other business enterprises as well, and in 1914 he was elected Supervisor of the town of Wilson. When he passed away in 1922, his 400 acre farm was left to his sons, Harold and Delbert Singer.

Delbert sold off his portion of the land, but Harold continued to operate his half of the farm until1975, when his son, Thomas, took over the farm. Pete Betzler had leased the Singer Farm from 1959 until 1990 when he retired.

Tom was an executive with Kaiser Aluminum at that time so he considered it fortunate when he was able to retain Jim Bittner to manage the Farms.

Jim and Marge Bittner are both graduates of Cornell University, and since their arrival on the scene have introduced modern management practises to the nearly 85 year old farm, such as growing organic apples; using integrated pest control; implementing erosion control; and land conservation.

Singer Farms produces a wide variety of apples including such favorites as MacIntosh, Empire, Red Delicious, and Ida Red, also fruits such as peaches, sweet cherries, tart cherries, and marachino cherries. The farms have been expanded from 200 to over 500 acres since 1975.

The Singer family have been interested in the Wilson Historical Society since Grace Singer became a Charter Member of the Society in 1972. Grace, 95, is now an Honorary Charter member, and Tom, his wife, Jacqueline, and son Mark are all Life Members of the Wilson Historical Society.

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THE LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND:

Have you ever considered becoming a Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society? If you did, you not only would generate more income for your Society, but would also derive some additional benefits for yourself. For instance, once you become a Life Member you're never required to pay annual dues again. Also, your name will be engraved on one of the Life Membership Plaques hanging in the Museum.

The money donated by Life Members goes into a special fund from which only the interest may be drawn., however, should an emergency arise, the fund might be used as collateral for a loan.

Over 150 members have become Life Members since the program was started, and even though some have passed away, the income from the money they donated continues to support the Society in perpituity.

The cost for a single Life Membership is $150, but a couple may join for $250. Prospective members should be careful to spell out how they want their names engraved on plaque.

(Note: This announcement is for the benefit of new members who may not be aware how the Life Membership Program works.)

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SPECIAL FIRE COMPANY NOTICE:

Some members of the Wilson Vol. Fire Co. #1 have been doing some fine research on the history of their organization. At present they are trying to collect photos of all the men who served as Fire Chiefs since the Company was organized in 1923.

They are now looking for photos of Charles (Lou) Crawford who was the 1st Fire Chief in 1923-24; also Seymour Erion, who was Fire Chief in 1947-48. If anyone reading this has a picture or portrait of either these men, would you please lend them to the Fire Co. so a copy can be made. Please call Lynn Sherrie, (751-6383)--and thank you.

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BON MOT: If you listen to the neverdoes, it's never done.

CEMETERY WREATHS AVAILABLE:

Time has passed by so quickly this year we forgot to put a notice in the October Newsletter that the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Committee is again offering freshly made Douglas Fir Christmas wreaths to be placed in the cemetery in early December, then removed in the Spring.

All wreaths are approximately two feet in size, and our set-off with large red bows and placed on sturdy stands.

The entire cost of purchasing, placing, and removing the wreaths is $25, and all orders and payments must be made no later than Wednesday, December 1st.

Please make your checks payable to the Town of Wilson, and mail orders should be addressed to 375 Lake Street, P.O. Box 537, Wilson, NY 14172.

For more information you may call the Town Clerk's Office at 751-6704--Merry Christmas!

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SUCCESSFUL PROJECT:

The annual Labor Day Flea Market was started at the home of Arthur and the late Gertrude Schnoor in conjunction with the Fellowship Class of Exley United Methodist Church. The yearly event grew so large, however, it was necessary to move it to Kruger Park where it continued to expand.

Finally, in view of conjested parking, the Church decided to move the event to the Wilson Historical Society grounds.

The first Labor Day Flea Market was held in 1998, but it almost was a disaster due to an unexpected windstorm plus a power outage past mid-day. The 1999 flea market, however, turned out well with beautiful weather and a large turn-out.

Shirley Hunter, who coordinated the event, wishes to thank all volunteers who worked on the chicken Bar-B-Que; the Pie, Cake, Coffee and Pepsi concessions in the Barnum Building, and the Hot Dog stand in the Shelter. She also wishes to thank all who helped who were not members of Exley U. M. Church.

Also a special word of thanks to all those hearty souls who helped with Set-Up; Clean-up; and marking off the grounds for the flea market vendors.

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BY-LAWS UPDATE:

At a meeting of the by-laws comm. in September, it was suggested that it shouldn't be necessary to notify members three months in advance that their annual dues should be paid by January 1st. Members who fail to pay by Jan. 1st, however, will be kept on the membership roll for 3 months, Jan., Feb., and March. Those who are still in arrears on April 1st will be removed from the membership roll, and Newsletters will no longer be sent.

Judy King, By-Laws Chrm., appointed the following members to assist her: Don Croop, Don Burrows, Dan King, Art Schnoor, Gordon Strablow, Gary Fitch, and Darrell & Sally Smith.

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SEPTEMBER REGULAR MEETING:

If you missed the regular meeting on Sept, 27th, you missed a very good program about the Seven Sutherland Sisters and their family. It was presented by John Krahling, former curator of the Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport, NY. His interesting and humerous talk covered the "Rags to Riches to Rags" story about how Fletcher Sutherland, the girls father, used his daughters first as a singing group--then as an attraction, because of their long hair, for promoting a "hair-growing" concoction.

The Sutherland family lived on the "Million Dollar Highway" (RT.104) west of Warrens Corners on the south side of the road. Their once "showplace" mansion burned to the ground in 1938.

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NEW BLINDS TO BE PURCHASED:

At the Sept. meeting, Dorothy Maxfield, Curator, reported that two bids were submitted by McCorneys and Carters to replace and install new window blinds in the Croop room and Ticket Office at the Museum. A motion was made by Miles Linnabery, seconded by Kara Holden, to permit Dorothy to decide which color and bid should be accepted. Motion approved.

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CABOOSE DONATIONS NEEDED TO MEET CHALLENGE:

Gary Fitch, Pres., announced that a little over $500 has been turned in for caboose repairs. He wishes to remind everyone that Wendy Jennings Hayes of Park Ridge, Il, will match all funds donated up to $1,000 through the "Burt W. Jennings Memorial Challenge."-dollar for dollar. In other words, if you donate $25 for the caboose it will be worth $50 to the society.

With only $500 still needed, it would seem that the amount could be easily reached by our membership of 500 persons. Thats less than a "tip" at your favorite restaurant.

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IN MEMORIAM:

Laura Eick, 98, died Sept. 26,1999, at Tandem Health Care Center in Lakeland, Florida. A native of Wilson, she was born July 18, 1901, the daughter of Edwin and Myrtle (Salisbury) Alvers. She was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Wilson; the Inter-Community Hospital Auxiliary; the Wilson, Newfane, and Ransomville Denior Citizen Clubs; the Order of the Eastern Star; and a Honorary Charter-Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society.

She married Dr. Norman Eick in 1928, and he predeceased her in 1979. She moved to Florida in 1990, and is survived by three sons, Donald Eick of Lakeland,FL; Charles Eick of Rochester NY: and David Eick of Kansas City, MO; also 9 grandchildren and 10 g-grandchildren.

Services were conducted at the Hamilton & Clark Funeral Parlor in Wilson with Rev. Albert Sam officiating. Burial was in North Ridge Cemetery, Cambria, NY.

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The Society also extends its condolences to the family of William Moore who died recently in Dayton, NY. Mr. Moore was the father of Judy King, Treas. of the Wilson Hist. Soc.

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QUIPS: Children are a great comfort in old age, and some of them will get you there faster.

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STORY ABOUT SHEEP:

For many years, two well-known farmers in the South Wilson Community, Oscar and Ernie Munch, operated the farm on Chestnut Road that their father, Henry, had started in the early 1900's. In 1917, when Oscar and Ernie were small boys, Henry gave them a ewe lamb to raise.

The boys apparently had a nack for raising sheep because the following year they had three lambs, and each year after that the flock continued to grow until there were a total of thirty.

When the boys grew up and had families of their own, they still continued to keep the flock at thirty, and the money earned from shearing wool and selling lambs was set aside in a fund to send the children to college.

When Oscar and Ernie turned the flock over to their children, Oscar's son, Jimmy, was only 3 yrs. old and at that young age probably had no interest in sheep, lambs, or college. Cousin Billy, however, was a little older, showed a little more interest--especially when the small lambs scampered to get away.

All of the sheep were descendents of the 1st lamb given to his boys by Henry--a policy that the Munch Brothers not only observed in raising sheep, but in other livestock as well.

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RECENT MUSEUM TOURS:

Marlene Schotz, Tours Chrm., announced that members of the Wilson High School Class of '44, celebrated their 55th reunion and the following members took a tour of the Museum on 9/25/99: Barbara Estony Mosher; Jean Schultz; Alice Ridley Thomas; Marion Smith Love; Margery Carter Williams; Robert R. Weed; Jane Walter Gastilo; Jean Langdon Walter;Adrian Banks; Lester and Betty Clark; Frances Gnage; Calvin C. Schultz; Jean P. Schultz; Joyce M. Stacey; J. Carmen Castiber; Neil and Pat Arnold; and Alan and Beth Lafler.

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"Buzz" Geartz and a small group from Honeoye Falls,NY, visited the museum on Sept. 28th. Their main interest was in the schoolhouse where "Buzz" had attended as a boy.

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MEMBER IN THE NEWS:

Marilyn Allgeier, town Supervisor, was winner of the Republican Primary race for supervisor on Sept. 14, 1999. She will be opposed in the Nov. 2nd election by Mayor Jerry Dean, who is running on the Democratic line.

Marilyn joined the Wilson Hist. Soc. in 1973, and she and her husband have been Life Members since 1987.

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MUSEUM HOSTS & HOSTESSES:

Speaking of volunteers, perhaps Virginia Strablow's name should top the list. She, of course, is the one who calls all you members so you can have a pleasant Sunday afternoon greeting our guests at the museum. Needless to say, you're all doing a great job, and without your fine cooperation the museum couldn't be open to the public.

Nov. 7th:	Tom and Gail Walder and Gerry Swan	Open: William Rose
Nov. 14th:	Terrence Upton & Bill and Maxine Jones.	Open: Darrell Smith
Nov. 21st:	Julie Smith & William and Margaret Fritton	Open: Gordon Strablow
Nov. 28th:	Charles and Ann Horton & Dan & Judy King	Open: Dan King
Dec. 5th:	Don and Wanda Burrows, Ed & Marilyn Allgeier	Open: Don Burrows

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"BACK TO THE FUTURE":

The Wilson Boathouse Restaurant, which opened this summer after extensive alterations, has become another favorite attraction for many Niagara County Residents and Canadian visitors. The newly remodeled building is located at the East end of the attractive Wilson Harbor, and is an excellent place from which to view the beautiful sun sets over "Sunset Island."

A variety of Specialty Shops have been opened along the dock where Merle Wilson's Boat-house once stood, and you'll be served by the best when you patronize the Garden Gate; CYRK Shop; Bye's Popcorn; Chris' Cones, or Tim's Bike Rental.

Pat Brady's well-conceived revitalization of the Wilson Boathouse Restaurant will also include a boardwalk and other attractive Shops below the Boathouse. He has also announced that a Community Swimming Pool and Resort Hotel,(reminiscent of Wilson's 1890 hotels) may also be in the works for next Season.

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BOARD ACTION & REPORTS:

Gary Fitch,Pres., called Board meeting together,Oct. 13,'99 with following present: Darrell Smith, Pam Groff, Miles Linnabery, Art Schnoor, Bill Rose, Bruce Muck, Marilyn Allgeier, Eleanor Myers, Don Croop, Don Burrows, Dorothy Maxfield, Celeste Crawford, and Sally Smith.

Dorothy Maxfield reported that she will accept bid from McCorneys for $880 to purchase and install window shades in Croop and Myers Rooms.

Don Croop made motion seconded by Dorothy Maxfield to accept changes in By-Laws as corrected and presented by By Laws Comm. Final vote to be taken at next regular meeting.

The caboose has received its first coat of red paint--thanks to Gordon Strablow.

The back room has been cleaned out by Dorothy Maxfield and Sandy Holden, and is now open.

Ninth grade students at Wilson Central School are required to do 2 hrs. of Community Service. Miles & Ann Marie Linnabery welcomed a boy on Sunday who helped them windex all the display cases in the depot.

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MEMBER IN THE NEWS:

Celeste Crawford was elected Secretary for (1999-2000) of the Eastern Niagara County Retired Teachers Association at a meeting held recently at the Pendleton on Transit Road.

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SOUNDINGS: A good teacher is better than a barrel of books.

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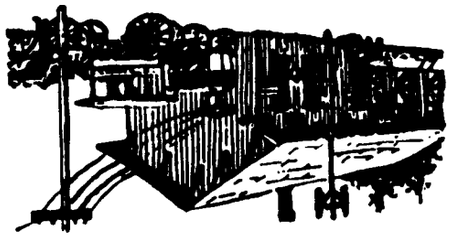

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DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

Wilson Historical Society
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HISTORIC CABIN TO BE MOVED:

"Red" Clark's decision to donate the former "Rex Tugwell" cabin to the Wilson Historical Society, will bring another historic building to the Museum grounds where it can be preserved for posterity.

Rex was born in Sinclairville, NY, however, he grew up in Wilson when his father, Charles Tugwell, established the Fredonia Canning Co in the Lakeside village. Rex received part of his education in the old Wilson Academy, and later graduated from the University of Pennsylvania where he earned his Master's and PhD degrees in Economics.

As a youngster, those who knew him, said he was a quiet boy who liked to spend his summers at the family cottage in Wilson Harbor where he enjoyed swimming and fishing.

During his college years, he built the cabin behind his folks cottage where he meditated and didmost of his writing. Perhaps his first interest in writing was when he served as Wilson correspondent for the Niagara Falls Gazette.

He was a Professor at Columbia University whenPres. Franklin D. Roosevelt selected him to be Ass't Secretary of Agriculture. Rex gained prominence in the Roosevelt Administration where he helped shape the "New Deal" and worked to improve the lot of farmers and farm laborers.

As a member of the President's "Brain Trust", he was very active during the President's first and second terms of shaping economic and industrial legislation, and was one of the Administration's strongest advisors. It was in the 1940's that Rex became Governor of Puerto Rico.

Wilson has had many famous sons and daughters during its long history, but Rex may have been one of the more outstanding. Although frequently labeled as a "radical" by his opponents, he did, never-the-less, accomplish much for the underprivileged and was, perhaps, the only person in Wilson's history to gain National prominence.

"Red" Clark plans to move the cabin to the museum grounds as soon as the Planning Board recommends to the Board of Directors where it should be placed.

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REGULAR MEETING- OCT.25th:

A written request from the Senior Class at Wilson Central School to use the Museum on October 29th for a "Haunted House" was discussed. Motion made by Don Croop, seconded by Miles Linnabery, to permit Seniors to use Barnum Building. Motion approved. Pres. Fitch said he would notify the Senior Class and Supt. Dan Connor. Miles agreed to open up.

By-Laws Chrm., Judy King presented revisions of the by-laws as approved by her committee. To be voted on at November meeting.

Miles Linnabery, Program Chrm., introduced Charles Horton of Wilson who showed old pictures of Wilson on an overhead projector. Photos from his extensive collection included scenes from "Wilson Station" as well as former stores on Young St. and Wilson Harbor. Mr. Horton not only has one of the best collections of photographs of early Wilson, but is also able to eloquently tell interesting facts and stories about the buildings and people of that era.

Refreshments were furnished by Miles and Ann Marie Linnabery, and Sara Berry helped.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS-1999:

This year, on Dec.25th, we'll all be celebrating the last Xmas of the 20th Century. Christmas brings back many memories, and we recall a poem that Ida Erion recited to us on her 105th Birthday-from memory. It went like this:

"I saved my cake for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve at tea--
Riding makes one hungry--how hungry must he be,
I put it on the chimney shelf where he was sure to see,
When everyone was sound asleep, I tip-toed down to see;
And dear me, it made my heart ache---
There sat a miserable mouse eating Santa's cake.

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WISHING YOU ALL THE JOYS OF THE OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON. your Newsletter Staff-Don, Sandy, & Kara.

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QUIPS: An emotionally healthy person is one who has learned when to say "Yes"; when to say "No"; and when to say "Whoopee".

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REMEMBER WHEN.....

The old party line wooden phone boxes hung on the wall, and you could call anyone on your line providing you knew their rings? One neighbor's ring might be three shorts and a long, while another's might be two longs and a short--and you could make it all happen by turning the little handle mounted on the side of the phone box.

Back in the twenties, not every home had running water--especially if one lived in the country. Some families depended on the old chain pump or iron hand pump that drew water from a well in the yard. Usually a pail of water stood on a shelf in the kitchen with a tin dipper or cup nearby. Another source for storing water was the reservoir in the old iron range. Homes without water also had no bathroom facilities, and one had to rely on the little house out back. Old Timers probably still remember the familiar "three-holer", which often was furnished with a Sears Roebuck catalog,for comfort and information.

Some homes were still without electricity, so evening hours were short and often spent in reading or sewing by oil lamps or candle light.When radio made its debut, homes without electricity obtained power for the radio by use of storage batteries, and long wires were strung up outside to bring the signal into the house.

Henry Ford's new "Tin Lizzie" was beginning to take over the country, but horse and buggies were still quite common. Cars were perhaps more of a luxury than a necessity, and some owners would jack them up on blocks for the winter--and letting "Old Dobbin" take over until Spring.

The 20's were the start of many new inventions such as Radio, and we recall when bakeries first started delivering bread. About ten years later the Nation would be introduced to the marvels of Television, and since then Science has developed thousands of new inventions that weren't even dreamed of in the 20's.

Today, it's not only the "Magical World of Disney",but also the "Magical World of Computers".

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IN MEMORIAM:

Waldo F. Beutel, 89, died Oct. 20, 1999 while under the care of Hospice. He graduated from Wilson High School in 1928, and was married to Leona Schnoor in 1951.

He was a metal fabricator for Emil Von Dugan, Inc., at Lockport for twenty-five years, and retired in 1978. In his spare time he loved to bowl and do woodworking. He was a member of Exley United Methodist Church in Wilson, also a member of the Wilson Hist. Soc. which he joined in 1975. His wife, Leona, predeceased him, and he is survived by two daughters, Suzanne Glenn Jr.,Zahno; and Janice (Randall) Zahno, both from Ransomville; also two sisters, Velma Foster of Crown Point, IN; and Naomi Thompkins of Vero Beach, FL; also 4 grandchildren and two g-great grandchildren

Burial servies were held in the Free Methodist Church of Ransomville with Rev. Ronald Logan officiating. Interment was in the North Ridge Cemetery at Cambria.

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FROM THE MAILBAG:

Pat Stacy Harrington, formerly of Wilson, has moved from Houston to Corpus Christi, following the retirement of her husband, Larry.

Pat recalled some of her earlier days in Wilson when her family lived across the street from the Stacy Grain and Feed Mill, Rt. 425. She said she used to walk over to the Depot when the last Agent, Mr. Fisk, lived in the east end of the building. He had arranged his furniture in various room settings since there were no partitions. His quarters were heated with a large Pot Belly Stove. Pat also enjoyed watching the trains move cars on and off of the various sidings. Pat observed that "Life was much different then!" We agree.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS:

Janice Zipp and Emma Lou Reppentine were members of the "Watch Wilson Grow" committee who recently presented the Wilson Volunteer Fire Co. #1 $1200 dollars for the Ambulance Fund.

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Denise Barlow was recently awarded her Child Development Credentials for outstanding work with young people. She is the Director of the Youth & Family Services Child Care Program in Rapid City, SD. The award was made in Washington, DC. (Denise is Don Croop's granddaughter.)

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Congratulations to Wanda Burrows who will serve another term as Wilson Town Clerk. Congratulations are also in order to Don Luff and Nancy Schaal Simmonds who will serve on the Town Board for another term.

Marilyn Allgeier, in a close race for town Supervisor, was defeated by Mayor Jerry Dean.

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NEW MEMBERS:

Please welcome "Buzz" and Mrs. Geartz of Honeyoye,NY, who recently became members of the Wilson Hist. Soc. through the courtesy of Mary Clark

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BICENTENNIAL CHRISTMAS:

Back in the 1970's, it seems members of the historical soc. took more interest in celebrating special occasions like Christmas. We recall, for instance, the Bicentennial Christmas when members made hand-decorated Christmas ornaments to donate to the Society.

One of our late Charter members, Flossie Lortz, donated many attractive antique ornaments, and Bicentennial ornaments were made by Eva Zortman, Lois Barnum, Leona Hunter, Joe Higgins, George, Dorothy, and Miles Linnabery, Mary Clark, Jan Sporleder, Dr. John Argue, Dorothy Lort, Frances Goldthorpe, Marietta Goodman, Dorothy Thilk, Millie Croop, and Peggy Ward. Non-members also donated ornaments including Manya Kelley, Maryalice Ward, Francine Waters, Lee Anne Sarkees, and Eleanor Harrington.

Ernestine Walpole printed the names and date on tags which were attached to each ornament so they could be preserved for future use.

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QUIPS: The colder the X-Ray table, the more of your body is required on it.

HOLLOWEEN BASH:

Holloween party held in the Barnum Building on October 24th saw over 40 young people in attendance along with their parents. The room was prettily decorated under the direction of Darrell and Sally Smith and their committee, and plenty of candy, apples, donuts, orange drink, and apple cider were available for everyone.

Helping to set up and decorate and assisting with the party as well as cleaning up afterward were:Don and Wanda Burrows, Stephanie Fracassi, Marianne Evans, Michele Evans, Laurie Evans, Andy Evans, Jerry Winquist, Derek Masters, Steven Fowler, Devon Fowler, Joshua Smith, Mary Jane Ziehm, and Bill Ziehm.

Children were lined up in various age groups, and because of theoriginality of the costumes, the judges had to make some tough decisions.Wanda Burrows, Mary Jane Ziehm, and Bill Ziehm did the judging They finally decided to award prizws to the following:

0-2 years:	Marissa Seider	Anthonena Delisi (tied for first place)
3-4 yrs:	1st place:	Christina Boyd.
	2nd place	Daniel Rohring
	3rd place:	Jason Delisi
5-6 yrs:	1st place	Troy Chippone
	2nd place	Julie Rohring
	3rd place	Tim Condes
7-8 yr.s	1st place	Chris Andrasik
	2nd place	Joel Masters
	3rd place (tie)	Amber Layman
		Heather Layman
9-10 yrs.	1st place	Emmalee Pearce
	2nd place	Kate Cornell
	3rd place	Michael Moyer
13-16 yrs.	1st place	Steven Fowler
	2nd place (tie)	Erin Kalahan
		Laura Evans
Adults	1st place	"Weary Willie"
	2nd place	Darrell Smith.

A special THANK YOU to Don and Wanda Burrows who donated the apples given out at the Party.

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Honorable mention goes to Judy Rose who stole the show with her little "wiener" hound made up to look like a real live Hot Dog.

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In other contests, Joe Condes guessed the closest number of pieces of candy in a jar and was only off 3 pieces. Joe displayed some ingenuity by using Math to make his selection.

Daniel Rohring guessed the correct number of small candies in a jar, and hit it right on the nose--eactly 80 pieces.

Door prizes were also awarded to the following:

Mary Jane Ziehm	Holloween Pin
Mary Alice Carr	Decorations
Margie Lehman	Holloween Pin.
Marissa Seider	Holloween Pin
Tim Condes	Stuffed Pumpkin
Rhett Chiappone	Stuffed Pumpkin
Tim Seider	Scarecrow

The Holloween Party was sponsored by the Wilson Historical Society.

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MEMBERSHIP NOTICE:

Attached below is a dues application sheet for the year 2000. Your membership dues help pay the monthly expenses of the Society such as Utilities, Newsletter, and General Upkeep of the museum and grounds. Please take a minute, fill it out and return as soon as possible to Sandy Holden, Box 319, Wilson, NY 14172.

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SOUNDINGS: There's no harm in staying youthful as long as you know how old you are.

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.....MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.....

NEW..... RENEWAL.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS..... PHONE # ( )____-_____

BOX #..... CITY..... STATE..... ZIP CODE.....

☐ PLEASE CHECK BOX IF ADDRESS/NAME HAS RECENTLY CHANGED

PLEASE INDICATE PREVIOUS LAST NAME, IF APPLICABLE_____

JUNIOR (UNDER 18) $1.00 EACH

NAME_____AGE_____

NAME_____AGE_____

NAME_____AGE_____

COUPLE $8.00_____

SINGLE $5.00_____

LIFE $150.00_____

LIFE (Couple) $250.00_____

HONORARY MEMBER (85+) FREE

BUILDING FUND DONATION $_____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED_____

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APPLICATIONS AND MONIES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 1ST.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND RETURN TO:

SANDY HOLDEN PO BOX 319 WILSON, NY 14172

"WORKING" SCHOOLHOUSE:

Randall Road Schoolhouse has finally begun to function for the purpose it was renovated. On November 12, 1999, about 22 youngsters from Miss Andritz 4th grade Class at Thomas Mark's School, convened in the old 1861 schoolhouse where they received instruction from 9:20 AM to 3:00 PM. Trying to "live" the part, some students dressed in costume, and all brought a lunch.

Here, for the first time, children got a first -hand look at what it used to be like to attend school in a one-room schoolhouse. Wanda Burrows is Chrm. of the Schoolhouse Comm., and reports that 4 or 5 more Classroom visits are scheduled for next Spring.

Darrell Smith recorded the first historic visit to the schoolhouse on video tape.

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BOARD ACTION & REPORTS:

The Board of Directors met on Nov. 10th with the following officers present: Gary Fitch,Pres., Darrell Smith, 1st Vice-Pres., Gordon Strablow, 2nd Vice-Pres., Pam Groff, Rec. Sec., Judy King, Treas., Trustees: Miles Linnabery, Ollie Clark, and Bruce Muck; Hon. Trustees, Don Burrows & Don Croop; Chairpersons: Dorothy Maxfield, Curator, Sally Smith, Ways & Means; Sandy Holden, Membership; and Elton Kropp, Grounds.

Judy King reported that $500 in matching caboose funds have been received from Wendy Jennin gs Hayes toward the Burt Jennings Challenge Fund. She reported a total of $775 dollars has been contributed by members to date.

The Senior Class Holloween Party was not held at the museum because the request was not authorized by School Officials.

Dorothy Maxfield reported that the new vynal shades ordered for the Croop Room and Myers Room will be installed about December 1st.

Wanda Burrows is resigning as Corresponding Secretary. Anyone interested in becoming an officer of the Society, please contact Gary Fitch, Pres.

In recognition of Mayor Jerry Dean's elction to Town Supervisor, he will be given an Ex-officio membership in the Wilson Hist. Soc. (Note: This policy originated years ago to assure that the Town of Wilson, who owns the museum grounds, will always be represented .)

It was reported that car repairs are being done on the museum grounds behind the Fittro Barn. Ollie Clark reported that the Building Inspector is investigating. Action tabled.

Elton Kropp reported that one tree has died--also that the overhead door on the depot is hard to operate.

In order to better publicize museum activities, discussion was held on having an electrified sign put up near the road.

Don Burrows reported that a new gas furnace is needed for the Barnum Building. He will look into costs and report at the next meeting.

Dorothy Maxfield reported that she will retain the present museum Cleaning Service next year.

Above report compiled from Minutes submitted by Pam Groff, Rec. Sec.

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WILSON LANDING

Reuben Wilson, a native of Mass., moved to Otsego, NY then made his way to Canada. In 1810 he brought his family back to the land of his birth. He and John Eastman joined forces, and put their belongings in two open batteaux, then poled and rowed them eastward along the Lake Ontario shoreline with Gilbert Purdy as their boatman. They landed about 1½ miles East of the present village of Wilson where they pulled the boats onto the shore and leaned them against poles for temporary shelter.

The War of 1812 brought hard times. The American troops had needlessly burned Newark, (Niag. on-the-Lake) and the British were infuriated. They crossed the river at 5 Mile Meadows, then marched north to capture Fort Niagara. From there they launched raids , burning cabins and destroying crops. Reuben's cabin was spared because,(according to early accounts) his wife treated the British officers hospitably.

The Society placed a marker , noth side of Rt.18 just east of Maple Road.

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December meetings; Board of Directors, Dec. 8, at 7:30 pm. Reg. Meeting, Dec. 27th, 7:30 PM.

Please watch Union Sun & Journal for Program information.

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