

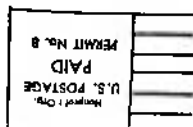
DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

Wilson Historical Society

Jan 1976



LUTHER WILSON-BUILDER

Luther Wilson, considered the business genius of the family, was more prominently identified with early enterprises in town than was his father. He was untiring in his energy and public spirit, and there were few public improvements that were't a monument to his perseverance.

He started the village of Wilson by having part of his land surveyed into streets and lots in 1827. He was a leading merchant and produce dealer for many years, and built the harbor at the mouth of 12 mile creek. Many ships were built in his boatyard, and in 1846 he erected a storehouse at the harbor which greatly benefitted the farming community. He bought grain and fruit, and by 1868, twelve to thirteen thousand barrels of apples were being shipped from the harbor.

Luther enlarged his grist mill on West Young Street in 1837, but because of water shortages, converted it to steam operation. Years later the mill became a distillery operated by Thomas T. Martin but burned down in 1888.

In 1844, Luther built a large cobblestone hotel at the corner of Lake and Young which was named the Ontario House. In that same year he was elected to a term in the Assembly of the State Legislature.

He was one of the largest contributors of funds to build the Wilson Collegiate Institute, and also donated eight acres of land to the Greenwood Cemetery Association. He was a member of the State Militia and served as a Captain of an artillery unit in the 66th Regiment organized under the State Militia Act of 1830. Luther was in his seventies when he identified himself with the Christian work of the Methodist Church in Wilson.

RECOLLECTIONS: (The following are excerpts from a letter written by Lloyd S. Smith of Ransomville, December 1, 1975.)

"I always lived in the Town of Cambria except from 1902 to 1906 when we owned a farm in Wilson. I attended Wilson High School and there were 10 of us who graduated with the Class of 1906. Of these, six are still living including W. Bronson Taylor, a native of Barker and author of the book, "When Being A Boy Was Fun".

I "basket-boarded" with Eliza Jane Myers for \$1.00 per week. The Faery's, father and sons, drove a bus between the village and the depot carrying passengers for 10¢ one way. I rode on it when the weather was bad, but the rest of the time I walked, carrying my basket of food on my arm.

In the wintertime the train would be late due to drifting snow at the eastern end of Lake Ontario. We kids sometimes waited to nearly midnight while Mr. Patterson, the station agent, (who was very tolerant of us), kept the fire burning in the big round oak stove.

A bachelor by the name of Jim Smith drove the stage between Ransomville and Lockport. He carried the mail and also did errands for business men and residents along the way. North Ridge or "Sligo", as it was called in the early days, had a cornet band and the members rehearsed in a building across from Laffler's store."

\* \* \* \* \*

HEALTH FRUIT: An old saying goes, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." If true, Niagara County should be one of the healthiest places around. Long known as the home of the tastiest apples grown anywhere, they are in abundant supply this year. Comparatively low in calories, they are a rich source of natural fruit sugar. Acting on a suggestion from Karl Wright, apples have been placed in the museum for Sunday visitors on a "help yourself" basis. They are attractively displayed in an old apple barrel furnished by Peggy Ward. Two bushel have already been donated by courtesy of Fitch Ontario Farms.

JANUARY MEETING: Board of Trustees-Jan. 14th-museum at 8 PM. Regular meeting, Jan 19th in museum at 7:30 PM. Program will feature presentation by Lewiston Bicentennial Chorus with Robert Kern of Sanborn conducting. Hostesses will be Nettie Stinson, Chrm., Chris Goodman, Kay Ness, and Helen Stevens.

IN MEMORIAM: The Society expresses its condolences to the family of the late Mr. Harold Singer. Mr. Singer, who once maintained the electrical lines in Wilson, was also a well known farmer for many years.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEW MEMBERS: The Society extends a cordial welcome to Mr. and Mrs. George Linnabery of Wilson and son Miles of New Mexico. Also Mr. Walter Wilson of Wilson; Mrs. Gordon Gushee of Youngstown; Dr. Richard Loomis of Fallbrook, California, and Mrs. Hazel Hamilton of Dunedin, Florida.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHRISTMAS PARTY: There was a large turnout for the annual Christmas party that featured a variety of entertainment for both young and old. A Christmas Carol "Sing-a-long", with Mrs. Jean Weaver at the piano, was enjoyed by all. Norm MacAskill treated the youngsters to several appropriate poems including the old and a new version of "The Night Before Christmas". His wife joined him in a special humorous recitation that had everyone "cracking up". Santa Claus suddenly appeared and saw to it that everyone received a gift. We understand that Joe Higgins used his influence to get St. Nick to drop by.

\* \* \* \* \*

QUILTERS: Florence Schultz and Beryl Tovell expect to have the Bicentennial quilt ready to work on by the middle of this month. It will be especially attractive with 50 squares featuring the State Flower with patches placed in order of each State's entrance into the Union. The quilt is to be set up and worked on at the home of Mrs. Schultz which is at 2419 West Lake Rd., 1/2 mile west of Ransomville Road.

\* \* \* \* \*

IN THE NEWS: Walter Moxham, Jr. has been appointed an Assistant Niagara Co. Attorney....Dr. John Argue has been elected President of the Gross Medical Society for the year 1976.

\* \* \* \* \*

MUSEUM AQUISITIONS: Woolen socks and heavy mitt used by Herman Schnoor in early 1900's, from Mildred Schnoor; Inside Caboose Lamp and 1882 Graduation Program for Wilson Union School, from Mr. Jack Schramek; 1875 Black Velvet Hat with Sequins worn by Caroline Hahn Ganshaw, from Mrs. Florence Jacobs and the Herman Ganshaw family; also a 1902 handmade corduroy baby coat and white hand embroidered under pants worn by Rose Koeppen Ganshaw on her wedding day, Jan. 29, 1902; also a wedding invitation to Miss Flora Smith for the marriage of Grace Sutherland and John Diez, June 12, 1895; and one to Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Pettit for the marriage of Grace Lois Boyd and Dr. John Oliver Moore, June 17, 1897, donated by Eloise Culverwell.

\* \* \* \* \*

SOCIETY WORKERS: Recent Bake Sales gave the treasury a boost thanks to the efforts of Lois Barnum, Chris Goodman, Sara Berry, Bessie Cole, and Mildred Lonsbery (plus all who furnished)....Fred Berry placed the ropes along the driveway to protect the east lawn from autos....Meeting room ceiling has been stuccoed and painted by Dianne Albright, Lois Barnum, Peggy Ward, Carol Schnoor, and Sue Cruickshank. After a step ladder collapsed with Peggy Ward, the job was made easier with a scaffold provided by Jim Fleckenstein.

\* \* \* \* \*

SPECIAL DISPLAY: The two small Hudson type steam locomotives built by Norm Grunhoeffler were on display and attracted much attention at the "Big E" railroad display held in the Exhibition Center, Main Place, Buffalo, during the month of December. Wilson's Bicentennial Brochure was "blown up" and prominently displayed above engines

\* \* \* \* \*

BY LAW #1: Museum and facilities may be used by other adult organized groups by applying to the museum committee. Upon recommendation to Board of Trustees permission may be granted.

\* \* \* \* \*

MONTHLY EXHIBIT: The museum exhibit for January will feature items donated to the Wilson Historical Society. Hostesses for each Sunday afternoon in January will be as follows: Jan. 4th, Janet Sporleder and Doris Tarr; Jan. 11th, Barbara and Adorno Johnson; Jan. 18th, Jerry and Earle Swann; Jan. 25th, Dorothy and Edward Lort.

\* \* \* \* \*

THUMBNAIL SKETCH: Lydia Berlin Southard was born in Wilson in 1903. She obtained her early education at the Daniel's Rd. School, Wilson High School, Buffalo Normal School, and State Teacher's College at Buffalo. She retired as Principal of the Ransomville School. Mrs. Southard belongs to the Episcopal Church, Eastern Star (268), Ladies Auxiliary Guild, Hospital Auxiliary, Ransomville P.T.A., and Retired Teacher's Association. Lydia's father, Victor C. Berlin, was a Wilson Supervisor and served as Chairman of the Niagara County Board of Supervisors for five years. Mrs. Southard's grandfather, on her mother's side (Edith Hamblin), served in the Civil War, and her great grandfather, John Hamblin, is the only Revolutionary War soldier buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

\* \* \* \* \*

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: "The best way to stop financial "joy riding" is to arrest the chauffeur, not the automobile." (Woodrow Wilson)

NEWSLETTER

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

Wilson Historical Society

9261976



PERMIT NO. B  
PAID  
U.S. POSTAGE  
Nonprofit Org.



TOPOGRAPHY-TOWN OF WILSON

The land development and progress that have been made in Niagara County and the Town of Wilson may more fully be appreciated when one considers that in 1821, the year that the Erie Canal was started through the County, almost all the area was an unbroken wilderness. In fact, the Ridge Road was the only passable highway for immigration into the area.

The advantages of the Ridge Road (now route 104) attracted the early settlers because it presented a natural path through the primeval forests high above the swamps on either side. From Warrens Corners to Dickersonville the highway was always passable, but to the north, except in dry months or winter, the lands were almost impenetrable. As a result, some early settlements were made at places like Wilson, but most were along the Ridge or Niagara River.

Fortunately, the gradual descent of 155 feet from the Ridge to Lake Ontario made it possible in coming years to drain and open the fertile lands for agriculture. The town of Wilson lands were suitably rich for a variety of fruits and vegetables-with apples, pears, and grapes becoming the principal fruits grown. The soils in the northwest were mostly clay and good for raising wheat, while the middle and eastern sections had a great diversity of soil ranging from gravelly to sandy and muck. Southwest areas of the town contained arable gravel and sand, especially good for raising peaches.

The east branch of Twelve Mile Creek crossed through the center of town, while the west branch drained the northwest corner. Hopkins Creek ran in a northeasterly direction from the central part of town.

\* \* \* \* \*

WELCOME: Miss Mildred M. Hammond of Winnipeg, Canada is the latest addition to our membership rolls. One might say we are now an "International" Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

IN MEMORIAM: The Society's deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Mr. Harold Hoople who passed away recently. Mr. Hoople, who liked being referred to as a "Rockhound", presented an interesting talk and display of his collection at a meeting during the past year.

\* \* \* \* \*

TRUST FUND: The Board of Trustees has approved a recommendation of the Membership Committee to make a \$100 Life Membership class available to the membership. It is believed that such a policy is a sound one and might well be the start of a trust fund in which Memorials or Bequests might also be added. Money accumulated in such a fund would be protected by State Law with interest providing an ever increasing annual income. It is an intriguing thought if you consider that by purchasing a "Life Membership", your investment will be working for the cultural improvement of your community long after you have passed away. Think about it!

\* \* \* \* \*

PATTERSON ROOM: A recommendation from the Wilson Bicentennial Committee was approved at the January meeting to name the new meeting room the "Richard Patterson Room". Mr. Patterson was the depot station agent for 33 years.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEW FAIR CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Eleanor Myers has been appointed by Doctor Argue to head up the Annual Fair which will be held on Monday, May 31st. The Fair will represent the Society's Bicentennial effort this year, and we urge everyone to give Eleanor the fine co-operation and support that was given to Millie Croop over the past three years. The Society commends Millie for a job well done.

\* \* \* \* \*

BON MOT: If a man can see both sides of a problem, you know none of his money is tied up in it. (Verda Ross)

\* \* \* \* \*

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS: Pictures of Wilson people and scenes, from Anna Mae Nevins; Very old baby dress worn by Bira Marion Howard, from Beulah Einstein; "Log Cabin" quilt stitched in 1928 by Edna Croop, Part of Black Cashmere Shawl (1840) worn by Sarah Johnson Carner, 6 linen towels, dresser scarf with tating, 1906 almanac, 1900 pearl handle knife, misc. collection of collar studs and cuff links, and Clarence Sesqui-Centennial Plate, from Stella Croop Stinehoff; Picture of train # 1572 taken in 1909-10 at Wilson with Silas Hamilton in the cab, from Mrs. Hazel Hamilton; Picture of Silas Hamilton and Merle Clark taken in Winter Garden, Fla., in 1908, from Mrs. Hazel Hamilton; Wedding certificate of John W. Ames and Elizabeth Thornton- both of Wilson- on November 17, 1859, from great great granddaughter Dorothy Thilk; Niagara Falls Gazette edition "The New Niagara Development links Power with Beauty" 2/6/1961, Niagara Gazette edition "The Niagara Trail" 8/24/1975, from Mr. Charles Messersmith; 2 leather bound books, "David Copperfield"-1906-and "Works of Washington Irving"-1858, from Mr. Henry Perry; and Double 2 drawer steel file, 1/4 horse electric motor, and enlarged photo of "Van Horne's Mill" at Burt, from Millie and Don Croop.

\* \* \* \* \*

LIBRARY: The Library Committee would like to acquire two books for the Library. Perhaps you know some one with the following editions available; 'Cyclopedia of Biographies and Portraits of Niagara County,' edited by Samuel T. Wiley and W. Scott Garner (1892) and "Landmarks of Niagara County" by William Pool (1897)

MONTHLY EXHIBIT: Articles of clothing worn in the Bicentennial Fashion Show sponsored by the Elbertas Mother Club, Lake Shore Mothers Club, Delphic Circle, and Gnostic Guild, are being exhibited this month at the museum. Museum attendants for the month on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 will be; Feb. 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dinse; Feb. 8th, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sharpe; Feb. 15th Mr. and Mrs. Merrit Cake; Feb. 22nd, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Feigenbaum; and Feb. 29th Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gamble

\* \* \* \* \*

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: A small placque has been acquired to place on the caboose (1909) donated by J. Robert Stephanski, Jr....the committee is also attempting to establish the site of the largest tree in the town of Wilson. Anyone who can assist by suggesting the location of likely specimens, please contact Dorothy Thilk....Tickets are now available at 25¢ each on the Bicentennial Afghan which the Wilson Bicentennial Comm. acquired. Proceeds will go to the Historical Society building fund. It will be presented to the lucky winner at the March meeting when the Town and Village will receive recognition as an official Bicentennial Community.

CORRESPONDENCE: A recent letter from Wilfred H. Moody of Hamden, Conn, had enclosed two fine poems written by him in memory of his wife, Ilna Force Moody, and son, Brigadier General Alfred Judson Force Moody. Space prohibits printing them here, but members may see them by contacting Millie Middleton.

DOG POWER: The Feutel family of Chestnut Road once had an eight foot long treadmill which was operated by dog power. "Rover" was trained to churn butter by awarding him cookies for his efforts. The Elmer Donner family got it and took it home for their children to play on in the 1940's.

\* \* \* \* \*

FEBRUARY MEETINGS: February 11th- Trustees will meet at 8 PM at Museum. February 16th- Regular meeting at 7:30 PM. Program will be about valentines. Charles Boyer, Curator of the Niagara County Historical Museum, will be guest speaker and display his collection. Hostesses will be Ella Mae Peters, Gwenn Wright, and Zilpha Petty. Bicentennial- Dorothy Thilks, 10AM Feb. 9th.

\* \* \* \* \*

QUILTERS ALERT: An exceptionally beautiful Bicentennial quilt has been stitched together by women of the Society, and quilters may now work on it Mondays through Thursdays from 9 to 3 PM, at the home of Mrs. Florence Schultz, 2419 West Lake Road. Bring a sandwich if you like--Mrs. Schultz will provide coffee.

\* \* \* \* \*

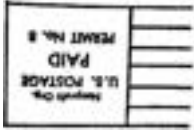
BICENTENNIAL BALL: The Wilson Lions Club are sponsoring a Bicentennial Ball at the Lockport Elks Club, February 21, 1976, with dancing from 9:00 to 1:00. Don Kellers Band will play and admission will be limited to 150 couples at \$5.00 per couple. A program and bus service from Wilson is in the planning stage. Tickets are available from any Lion's Club member.

\* \* \* \* \*

LEWISTON CHORUS: A fine presentation of patriotic songs by the Lewiston Bicentennial Chorus was well received by an appreciative audience at the January meeting. The group was attractively dressed for the occasion with the ladies wearing long dark blue skirts topped with white blouses, and the men sharply attired in red jackets. Some of the selections sung were "This is My Country", "God Bless America", "Battle Hymn of the Republic", "Chester", "Old 100"-with everyone joining in "The Star Spangled Banner". The choral group, directed by Bob Kerns of Sanborn, is a credit to the Town of Lewiston.

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1100 NORTH WILSON ROAD  
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

Mar. 1976



MORE WILSON PIONEERS-(1808-1818)

Henry Lockwood came from Canada in 1808 and settled at the northeast corner of town on lot #77. He returned to Canada when war broke out and the property was acquired by John S. Cudeback in 1813.

Robert Waterhouse, from Conn., also settled here in 1808 on lot #1 in the southern portion of the township.

John Eastman and family, along with Gilbert Purdy, came to Wilson in 1810 with the Reuben Wilson family. Eastman remained on his lands until 1818 when he exchanged property with James Cole of Hartland. Purdy helped Eastman and Wilson build their cabins, then in the fall of 1810, acquired 100 acres of lot #26 where he built a home and moved his family from Coburg, Canada.

Erastus Barnard came from Royalton in 1810 and lived for a time with his father-in-law, Stephen Sheldon. He then settled on lot #16 where he made some improvements--then moved to the present Town of Porter.

Also, in 1810, three Germans and their families from the Mohawk Valley, Vosberg, Wood, and Gray, settled on quarter sections of lots #24 and #25. Their farms were later purchased by Stephen, John and David Tower in 1818. The Tower Brothers came from Mass. and became prominent citizens in the Wilson Community.

The Goodman family also settled in Wilson in 1810 in an area now encompassed by the Village.

Two other families arriving here in 1810 were the Dexter Spragues and the Robert Edwards's. They settled on lot #63 but when war broke out, moved to the Ridge in Hartland. The Edwards lands were acquired by David Porter in 1813.

Elijah Mallory came from Coburg, Canada in 1811 and settled on lot #82. He owned a team of horses so was required to help build a log causeway from Wrights Corners to Warrens Corners. His family lived in Wilson for many years.

Richard and William Knowles, drafted by the British, managed to escape and came to Wilson in 1814. Richard located on the west part of lot #8, and William located on the north part of lot #7.

Henry Barber and Nathan Pratt left Canada to escape the draft and settled here in 1815. Barber lived on lot #89 while Pratt settled on lot #8.

John Carter and Adam Stevens also settled here in 1815. Carter made his home in the southwest portion of town on lot #72, and Stevens settled on Lot #63 previously owned by Dexter Sprague.

Abram Hutchins, a soldier in the war of 1812, came from Livingston County, and settled on all of lot #88 in the year 1816.

\* \* \* \* \*

"LAND OF COBBLESTONES": is the latest booklet about Wilson available from the Society. It was prepared and published by the Wilson Bicentennial Comm., for use in conjunction with the "Cobblestone Trail" which starts at Nettle Stimson's "Country Barn Shop" on Lake Street. The booklet contains a trail map and brief descriptions of each stone house along the trail. It is being sold for \$1.00 per copy with proceeds to be used to help complete new meeting room. Mail orders will be accepted for \$1.00 plus 25¢ for mailing.

\* \* \* \* \*

"THUMBNAIL SKETCH": Donald George Southard was born in Lockport in 1898. He attended grades and high school at Lockport, and later became an employee of the U. S. Government Corps. of Engineers. He is a member of Grace Episcopal Church, Ismalia Shrine Temple of Buffalo, Masonic Order Ontario 376, and 32nd degree Buffalo Consistory. His father, George, was Supt. of Corson Printing and Manufacturing, Lockport. Both Mr. Southard's grandfathers served in the Civil War and one, Sgt. Major Henry Clay Willard, was held prisoner 200 days in the Confederate prison at Andersonville.

\* \* \* \* \*

**FAMOUS SON:** Richard Morrison Patterson was born in Lachute, Quebec, Can., August 4, 1864. His father took him out of school to work in a grocery store when only ten years old, but he became self-educated, especially in history. He was one of the pioneer telegraphers of the Canadian-Pacific railroad where he started at a new station in a wilderness area with no name. Here the Indians taught him how to hunt and fish and supplied him with food and furs for blankets.

The story is told that before Richard was married, his bride-to-be worked as a telegrapher on the same line, and their courting was done during slack evening hours by telegraph key. He later moved to Wilson where he was the station agent for 33 years. Mr. Patterson once lived in the house on Lake Street now owned by Doctor Argue. He was known as a very kind person, and taught the adult Bible Class at Exley Methodist Church for many years. He retired in 1934 and died 12 years later on August 10, 1946.

(Note: At this month's regular meeting, the new room will be dedicated as "The Richard M. Patterson" room.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** A motion was made, seconded, and approved at the February meeting to adopt a recommendation by the Membership Committee to have a Life Membership Class for \$100 per person. Mrs. Norman (Dorothy) Thilk, Mrs. Frank (Mildred Moody) Eakin, and Mrs. Donald (Mildred) Croop, have the distinction of being the first Life Members in the Society.

The Society is happy to also welcome two new annual members; Mr. Louis Schorb of Clearwater, Fla., and Mr. and Mrs. Myron Moyer of Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

**IN MEMORIAM:** The Society sorrowfully acknowledges the demise of Mrs. Margaret Bieda of Key Biscayne, Fla, and extends its condolences to her loved ones. The Biedas were well-known in the Community, and once owned the "Wilson Star" and the local drugstore.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS:** From Robert Pluff-Caboose Stove; From Mr. Charles A. Horton- An 88 yr. old framed print of Washington and his family; From Harold Horton of Newfane- A brown leather medical bag that belonged to Dr. Schoemaker; From Dorothy Thilk- Silver slipper, gold trim glass souvenir mug of Wilson, N.Y., and framed picture of George Washington; From James Hescox- Wilson Womens' "WCTU" Book----Club organized April 9, 1880. Book contains minutes to 1918; From Mrs. Alonzo Swick- Mae Ferguson- Picture of Miller and Brown store, General Merchandise; From Hazel Hamilton- Picture of husband, Silas, taken in 1962, and newspaper clipping of old 999.

**FAIR CHAIRMEN:** Eleanor Myers, Chrm. for the Bicentennial Fair to be held by the Society on Memorial Day, has announced her Comm. Chrm. as follows: Dealers-Anna Mae Nevins, Verna Caulfield, and Joe Higgins; Ceramics, booklets, etc.-Milford Campbell; Food-Lois Barnum; Candy-Pessie Cole and Sarah Berry; Balloons-Tom Sharpe III; Coffee and Donuts-Millie Middleton; Coffee and pie-Betty Stimson; Fish Pond-Sue and Rodney Toenniessen; Flea Market-Jim and Sharon Monroe; Membership-Marion Campbell; Museum-Millie Croop and Peggy Ward; Movies-Douglas Smith; Antique Cars- Doctor Argue and Ken Tracey; Publicity-Norm MacAskill and Don Croop; Parking-Tom Sharpe, Jr, Hot Dogs, the Arthur Schnoors.

**BICENTENNIAL NOTES:** The Town of Wilson will receive recognition at this month's meeting as an official Bicentennial Community.....the Bicentennial Afghan will be presented to the lucky winner also.....The month of February saw the completion of two more successful Bicentennial events- The Lion's Club Bicentennial Ball at the Elk's Club in Lockport, and the South Wilson Fire Co. "Folk Dance" held at the Fire Hall.....Brownie Troop 44 of Wilson recently presented the Museum with two bars of "Old Fashioned Soap" made by them as a Bicentennial project. Brownies were instructed in the old method of mixing lard and lye, and the bars were fashioned in a 100 yr. old cast iron mold.

**AROUND THE MUSEUM:** A word of thanks to Art Schnoor for the time and effort expended to thaw out the frozen sewer lines.....we also note that Willard (Bob) Rose weather-stripped the front door. This will undoubtedly help on our fuel costs..... Ora Pettit is also to be commended for placing a new rubber seal on the old refrigerator.....and last, but not least, the Fashion Exhibit for February was prepared by Ernestine Walpole and Eleanor Myers.

**MEETINGS:** March 10th-Board of Trustees at Museum at 8PM. March 15th-Regular Meeting-Museum at 7:30 PM. Program will be on "Antique Lighting" with Mr. Lyle Kurtz of Newfane as guest speaker. Hostesses will be Bessie Cole, Marion Pettit, and Donna Pettit.

The monthly museum exhibit will follow the theme of "Advertising". Frances Cake will be in charge. Call her if you can be of help. Hostesses will be: March 7th, Joan and Bob Hartz; March 14th, Ed and Ella Mae Peters; March 21st, Whit and Lois Barnum; March 28th, Jerry and Barbara Hathaway.

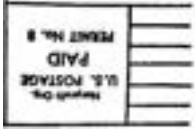
**VISITORS:** 19 Guests from the "Foothills Trail Club" were impressed with museum and work accomplished by membership.

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1110 W. WASHINGTON ROAD  
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

CAMERA REPRODUCTIONS  
LOCKPORT, N. Y.  
DONALD W. CROOP, Editor  
1976 Vol. 5 No. 4  
NEWSLETTER  
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

Wilson Historical Society

April 1976



THE WAR OF 1812

The War of 1812 caused much desolation, panic, and alarm on the Niagara Frontier. Marauding parties of British and Indians spread through the area until there was little left to destroy. One act, more than any other, may have been the cause for the attacks on American pioneers. Col. McClure, an American Commander, was garrisoned at Fort George with only 60 men to defend it. When the British marched to recapture the Fort in 1813, McClure retreated across the Niagara to the American shore. Before leaving, however, he ordered his men to "put the torch" to the British village of Newark.

Incensed, the British landed a large force at "Five-Mile-Meadows", and moved on Fort Niagara. Pickets were captured before they could give an alarm and the gates of the fort were found open. The garrison of 450 men were easily captured and many slaughtered by the enemy. McClure, who had gone to Buffalo prior to the attack, retreated with his regulars to Batavia thus leaving the villages of the Niagara Frontier unprotected.

British General Drummond ordered the torch applied to all dwellings on the frontier. The few houses at Youngstown were destroyed, and soon after, Lewiston was plundered and burned. A courageous stand by Tuscarora Braves east of Lewiston delayed the British and their allies, the Mohawk Indians, long enough so that hundreds of fugitives were able to escape along the Ridge.

The first alarm at Dickersonville was given by Tuscarora women who had fled the Reservation in search of safety. The British pressed their attack beyond Dickersonville, but at Howell's Creek, the retreating settlers and Braves managed to turn back their main forces. One small band of the enemy continued their pursuit to Molyneaux where they found the old log tavern evacuated. There, in a drunken stupor, they were surprised and captured by a Company of State Militia from Gains.

The pioneer settlers along the Lake Ontario shoreline were not left out in the ruthless attacks launched from Fort Niagara. On December 23, 1813, the British soldiers were ordered to burn out all the settlers homes as far east as Kempville (Olcott). At the time of the British attack, George Ash had been visiting at the home of Reuben Wilson. Returning to his own place, he met a party of the enemy and immediately "back-tracked" to warn the other settlers--an act which saved many lives and property. It was said that Luther Wilson, 15 at the time, was able to save 25 head of cattle by stuffing leaves in the cow bells around their necks, and driving them undetected to a point east of Van Horn's Mill. After the British destroyed the mill and started back to Fort Niagara, Luther drove the cattle safely home.

Captain Scott, of the British Raiders, felt sorry for the settlers as he realized destroying their homes would leave them helpless in mid-winter without food or shelter. He sent an Orderly, accompanied by George Ash, back to Fort Niagara to see if his orders could be changed. Ash, however, was made a prisoner of war, and Scott was ordered to proceed. His men then applied the torch to most of the dwellings around Wilson. It was reported that the Reuben Wilson cabin was spared because Mrs. Wilson had treated the British officers hospitably.

Except for the destruction on the Frontier, the war accomplished little. Crops and homes were destroyed and the whole countryside was poor. The scars of combat had left their mark on Wilson, but her hardy pioneers made great progress during the next quarter century in starting the development of the town we know today as Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

"DUES ARE DUE": April is that very important time of year when loyal members of the Society should remember that membership dues are renewable. An insert is attached to this "Newsletter" for your convenience. "Life Memberships" are also available to those benefactors who would like to help insure the Society's future in the town of Wilson. Please renew promptly.

\* \* \* \* \*

"BON MOT": Retirement takes all the fun out of Saturdays.

"BICENTENNIAL QUILT": Occasionally someone expresses surprise that Joe Higgins participates in the annual "quilting bees". Not only does Joe "sew a fine seam", but less we forget, last year's coverlet was made by him and presented to the Society for quilting.

The lucky winner of this year's Bicentennial Quilt will acquire a beautiful coverlet of special historic significance. Society ladies have pieced together squares on which the 50 state flowers were embroidered. These were placed on the 98x89 inch coverlet in the order the States entered the Union.

The quilting was brought to a successful conclusion through the dedication and perseverance of Mrs. Florence Schultz, Chrm., and Mrs. Beryl Tovell Co-Chrm. A one dollar donation will make anyone eligible to receive the 1976 Bicentennial Quilt. Out of town members may participate by sending a request for tickets to Mrs. Nettie Stimson, Wilson, N.Y.

\* \* \* \* \*

"CASSANDRA SOUTHWICK": John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), a Quaker farm boy, had a passionate love of freedom, and became famous for his fiery verses against slavery, ballads of early American adventure, and poems of simple country life. Some of his more familiar works include "Snow Bound", "Barbara Frietchie", "School Days", and "The Barefoot Boy".

One of his better known Narrative and Legendary poems is called "Cassandra Southwick". We mention it to "Newsletter" readers because the subject of the poem, Cassandra, was an ancestor of one of our own historical society members, Mrs. Bessie Cole.

In 1658, Cassandra and her brother were fined in Salem, Mass., for not attending church. They were unable to pay the fine, so the "General Court" issued an order that they be sold to any person in Barbados or the English Colony of Virginia. An attempt was made to carry out the Court's order, but no Shipmaster could be found who was willing to comply. In the poetic words of Whittier:

"By the living God who made me!-- I would sooner in your Bay  
Sink crew and ship and cargo, than bear this child away!"

\* \* \* \* \*

"DATES TO REMEMBER": April 14th, Trustee meeting at Museum-8PM; April 19th, Regular meeting at museum-7:30PM. Program will consist of sound movies in celebration of our Nation's 200th birthday: 1-"Our Nation's Heritage"; 2-"And Take me by The Hand"; 3- a children's film called "Colonial Children". Hostesses will be Marion Goodrich, Chrm., Cloe Reed, and Jean Hayes.

The Monthly Exhibit will feature a display on Spring and Easter under the supervision of Sue Cruickshank. Sunday Hostesses will be as follows: April 4th, Diane and Gary Keefer; April 11th, Sara and Fred Berry; April 18th, Marion and John Goodrich; April 25th, Elsie and Dudley Fitch.

\* \* \* \* \*

PUBLICATIONS: Though the work of the Publications Committee is seldom done through formal meetings, all members are most responsive and co-operative. We especially wish to thank Helen Borngraeber for the many attractive posters she has made and placed in the museum and library; and to John Parker whose willingness to always "do a little more" for the Society has allowed us to publish the monthly "Newsletter" and several special booklets; Also Carol Smith for lettering and painting several large signs including the one for the "Cobblestone Trail" Information Center. The excellent newspaper coverage of Society activities has been provided through the perseverance and initiative of Norm MacAskill--and this has been no small accomplishment. Mr. Karl Wright has always been as close as the nearest phone for his sage advice or diplomatic counsel, and Millie Croop's help has been most valuable in promotion and projecting the Society's image in the community. Thank you!

\* \* \* \* \*

WELCOME: The Society extends the hand of fellowship to our latest new members: Rev. and Mrs. Carl W. Oldach of Beabe Road, Newfane.

\* \* \* \* \*

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS: Tintype of sailing vessel from Christine Hutchison; W.H.S. Chronicle, Vol 1 #1(1911) from Anna Mae Nevins; Picture of Carrie Martin in cart drawn by dogs at Skagway, Alaska-1928, from Dorothy Thilk; Historic collection of Wilson scenes from Jennie Bigalow--too numerous to list.

\* \* \* \* \*

"SAVE THE FLEAS": Now is the time to get your "fleas" together for the May Fair. Call Sharon Monroe for information or help in transporting them.

\* \* \* \* \*

NOW IT'S OFFICIAL: Niagara County Legislator, Russell Parker, presented the National Bicentennial Flag and Certificate to the town of Wilson at the March meeting in recognition of Wilson having been officially designated a Bicentennial Community. Mr. Whitney Barnum, Supervisor, accepted for the town.

The new meeting room was also dedicated as the Richard M. Patterson Room following a short ceremony and brief resume' of Mr. Patterson's life. An iron bracket with his name on it graces the front entrance, and framed picture of him was hung on the front wall.

The Bicentennial Afghan winner was Miss Susan Thilk.

ADOLESCENCE is a period of rapid changes. Between the ages of 12 and 18, for example, a parent ages as much as 20 years.

\* \* \* \* \*

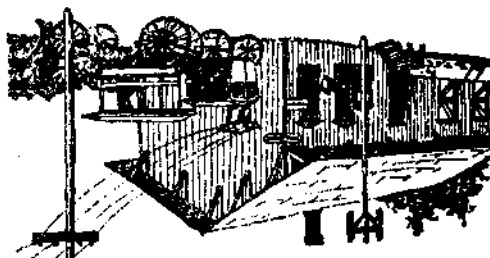
MAY 1976 VOL. 5 NO. 5

DONALD W. CROOK, Editor

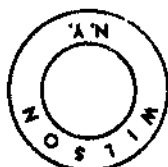
## NEWSLETTER

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

Wilson Historical Society



PERMIT NO. 8  
PAID  
U.S. POSTAGE  
New York City



**"COME TO THE FAIR":** Monday, May 31st will soon be here, and with it, the Society's 4th annual "Old Fashioned Fair". Eleanor Myers, General Chairman, has announced that this year's gala event will start with a band concert by the Wilson School Band. Other activities scheduled thruout the day will include square dance demonstrations, free movies for the young people, Antique car show, Art Show, and drawing for the Bicentennial Quilt. The Wilson Volunteer Fire Company will have its ambulance and first aid crew on hand to cope with any emergencies.

Food will be dispensed cafeteria style, and food chairman, Lois Barnum, wishes to emphasize a special need for beans and salads (preferably potato). Cup cakes and breads are also in good demand. Pie Chairman, Betty Stimson, says we can't have too many pies, so if through some oversight you are not asked to furnish, bring a pie to the Fair with. Anna Mae Nevins reports a fine response from Dealers, so this year's Fair might well turn out to be our biggest. Dorothy Thilk would like the loan of paintings or pictures of local interest for display in this year's Art Show. Contact her directly if you can help her out. Bessie Cole, Candy Chairman, needs donations of nuts or cash for making home-made candies--always in big demand.

The Society is counting on YOU to back our many hard-working chairmen so that this year's Bicentennial "Old Fashioned Fair" will be a financial hit.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Dr. John Argue, Pres., has appointed the following members to serve on the nominating committee: Whitney Barnum, Chrm., Chris Kellman, and Norm MacAskill. Three Trustees and Officers will be selected and presented at the May Meeting. They will be voted on in June.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS:** (correction) The Picture of Carrie Martin, taken in Alaska and presented by Dorothy Thilk, was owned by Mildred Hammond.

From Rev. Carl W. Oldach; 14 miscellaneous old pens and a picture of Co. B semaphoring; From Morton McClellan; pictures taken in Florida of Wilson boys down there to pick fruit; From Robert Rohring; large safety car wrench, fish plate and spikes--all used on R.R.; From Henry Perry; 14 boxes of slides taken all over world, Army coat and overseas cap, pull-out camera, white kid gloves, glasses with chain, 6 medals, studs, shoe buckles, silver comb, 2 tin type cases, and bracelet with gold locket; From Oscar Munch; Justice Criminal docket from 1904, Record Book of meetings of Chestnut St. Methodist Church from 1881, and other Church Records (Not to be removed from Museum). From Delbert Pfohl; Baggage Cart from Suspension Bridge Depot.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW MEMBERS:** Five new Life Members have been added to the membership rolls including Mrs. Susan Argue Schearer, Miss Anne Argue, Mr. John C. Argue, Mr. W. H. Moody, and Miss Susan Thilk.

The following new annual members have also joined the Society: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Douglas, Mrs. Walter Wilson, Mrs. Florence Swick, Teresa Toenniessen, and Miss Amy Schearer of Wilson; Mr. and Mrs. Marty Harmless of Newfane; Daniel McCartan of West Seneca; Mr. Raymond Pease of Lockport; and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Baker of Ransomville.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FLOAT ENTRY:** Niagara County will enter an 8x32 foot long float in the Miss U.S.A. parade at Niagara Falls, Saturday, May 8th. The float will feature entrees from each of the towns illustrating a theme for which each town is noted. "Pinky" Robertson will appear for Wilson as a fisherman, portraying Wilson's great potential as a fisherman's paradise. Also a sketch of one of Wilson's cobblestone houses drawn by Peggy Ward will call attention to Wilson's "Cobblestone Trail" and the beautiful old stone houses that may be seen along it.

\*\*\*\*\*

A "FAIR" THOUGHT: Light is the task when many share the toil. (Homer)

\*\*\*\*\*

**MUSEUM ACTIVITY:** Some of the "clutter" was eliminated last month at the museum with a clean-up session sparked by Nettie Stimson, Peggy Ward, Millie Croop, and John Myers. Electrical equipment and other miscellaneous items were removed to the back storage area, and woodworking tools and bench placed at the east end of the Patterson Room. Which all goes to prove that "Things happen when people make them happen".

\*\*\*\*\*

**SCHOOL MARKER SET:** A special dedication ceremony commemorating the old Collegiate Institute will be held Friday afternoon, May 7th, at the Town Hall at 1:30 PM. School officials will participate as well as the Wilson School Chorus and representatives of the Student Council. The Wilson Bicentennial Committee has provided a marker which will be unveiled by Chrm. Dorothy Thilk during the ceremonies. Graduates of the old High School are invited.

\*\*\*\*\*

**APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL:** Mrs. Jean Voepel, Pres. of the Newfane Historical Society, has invited everyone to attend their "Apple Blossom Festival" to be held at the Wrights Corners Firehall, Sunday, May 16th, from Noon to 7.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HISTORIC HOME:** The late Clarence O. Lewis once described the old Reuben Wilson home at the west end of Young Street as one of Niagara County's landmarks. It is now the home of Howard Glenn, who gave the Wilson Bicentennial Comm. permission to erect a marker at the site. The original log house was completed in 1818, and by 1825 a two story frame house was built around it incorporating the log walls of the original structure. The same year, Reuben Wilson became the first Postmaster and opened an office and store in the house. In 1829 a Tavern was added. It is said that a stone marker is buried in the yard from which all the first surveys in Wilson were made.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FLOWERING SHRUB:** It has not been too well publicized so few people know that in June, 1975, the village and town boards took action to designate the Forsythia bush as the official flowering shrub for the Town of Wilson. The Wilson Bicentennial Committee, in keeping with this policy, purchased 100 bushes which have been planted in appropriate places around town. Some of these included the the Town Hall, Little League grounds, Wilson Museum, Water District Building, and Cemetery. Some were made available to the six churches in town. The triangle at the west approach to the village has been planted by Senior Girl Scout Troop #1 under the leadership of Vivian Schantz.

"Chuck" Campbell headed up a planting committee consisting of Norman Thilk, John Weiler, Joe Higgins, Burt Jennings, Karl Wright, Jess Willard, and village and town maintenance departments. Thank you for a job well done.

Since the Forsythia is the official town flower, Mark's Nursery will make the shrubs available to Town residents at a special low price.

\*\*\*\*\*

**"MERRY MERRY MONTH OF MAY":** May 12th: Trustees meet Wed. 8PM at museum. May 17th: Regular meeting will be held Monday evening, 7:30, at museum. Guest speaker will be Mr. Francis J. Petrie, Historian for Niagara Falls, Ontario. He will show slides taken of the Wilson area from 1900 to 1925. Hostesses will be Janet Sporleder, Ruth Gale, and Winnie Stacy. May 22nd & 29th: From 9 AM and on--clean-up days for the Fair. Bus tour visitors on the Niagara Trail are also expected on these days, so all who can give a little time are asked to try and be present--not only to make the museum presentable for the public, but to act as friendly hostesses for Niagara Trail visitors.

The monthly museum exhibit will be a display of items that have been presented to the museum. Attendants for May 2nd will be Dora and Wirt Wakeman; May 9th, Mildred Middleton and Sue Thilk; May 16th, Chris and Wally Goodman; May 23rd, Esther and Harold Albright; and May 30th, Ruth and Bob Thomas.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW YORK HONORED:** Dorothy and Norman Thilk attended the recent Bicentennial Observance in Washington D.C. to honor New York State. Dignitaries including Lieut. Gov. Mary Anne Krupsak, and Senators Jacob Javits and James L. Buckley attended the ceremonies. The Lewiston Bicentennial Chorus, who performed for the Society at the January meeting, had a prominent part in the program. Dorothy got some good pictures from the speaker's platform.

\*\*\*\*\*

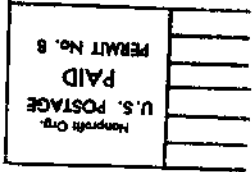
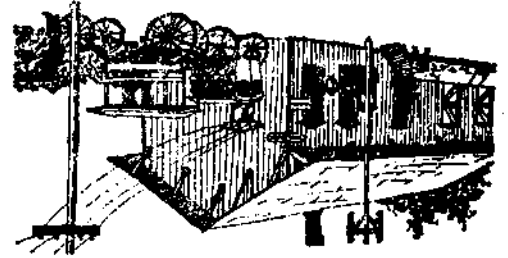
**"THUMBNAIL SKETCH":** Grace M. Kirk was born at Syracuse, N.Y., and is an office clerk for the Lockport Felt Div., Carborundum Co. She has two sons by her marriage to William C. Kirk--William and James. She also boasts a grandson. She graduated from Niagara Falls High School, and is a member of the 1st Baptist Church of Niagara Falls and Wilson Historical Society.

\*\*\*\*\*

**VISITORS:** More young people groups are showing an interest in the museum. Latest visitors have been Brownie Troop #44, Junior Girl Scout Troop #116, and Junior Girl Scout Troop #286.

\*\*\*\*\*

**"BON MOT"** Everyone is too old for something, but no one is too old for everything. (Anonymous)



### THE G. A. MIDDLETON DRUGSTORE

The old skating rink behind the G. A. Middleton drugstore used to be the focal point of social activity in Wilson. Built in 1909, music was furnished by a Wurlitzer gas-fired organ. The first night it opened there was a Masonic dance. The following night, roller skating took over with Fred Haner passing out the skates. From then on, dances, basketball, village fairs, and all sorts of entertainment was offered there.

In the drugstore itself a person could buy an 8oz coke for five cents, and sundaes cost a dime. It was the spot where everybody gathered. Hanging glass globes filled with colored water hung in the windows--the sign of a pharmacy in those days. (One of those globes is now on display in the museum)

Middleton's was first located in the Masonic Building in 1905. In 1908 Mr. Middleton, along with Roland Singer, bought a store owned by Bigalow and Salisbury. Part of the building contained a grocery store where a fire started in August and the building was destroyed.

The drugstore then opened in the Johnson Block with Clarence Johnson and Mr. Middleton as co-owners. Mr. Middleton was the pharmacist. In 1915 Mr. Middleton bought out Mr. Johnson and continued in business until 1936 when he sold out and moved across the street. Later the building was purchased by Charles Haner and Edna Haner was the druggist.

The old skating rink suffered a casualty on March 17, 1936 when the roof caved in. (Information used in the above item was supplied by Mrs. Marguerite Langdon.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**PROMINENT SON:** Ashley Hardy Gale was born December 28, 1888 in Lewis Co. New York, the son of Burton Lewis Gale and Inez Ormsby. He graduated from Lafayette High School in Buffalo and attended Dartmouth where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta and Dragon.

Mr. Gale was a dealer in wood products for thirty years and also a Wilson fruit farmer. After his first year out of college he reported raising 90 tons of tomatoes and 50 tons of cabbage as well as 30 acres of fruit and berries on his Lake Ontario farm. In 1956 he was in the real estate business and turned his farm into a development.

Mr. Gale served on the Village Board for five years and was mayor for one year. He was a trustee of the Wilson Free Library for 12 years and president for three. He was also a trustee of the Nioga Library system. He was treasurer of the Lion's Club, fire commissioner, chairman of the local Red Cross, District Counselor of Boy Scouts, member of the University Club of Buffalo, and warden of St. John's Episcopal Church.

He married Ruth Mary Peuchen of North Tonawanda on June 18, 1921. They had four children, Barbara, Catherine, Ashley Jr., and Judith. Ashley H. Gale died January 17, 1962 at the Inter Community Hospital at Newfane.

\* \* \* \* \*

**HISTORY AWARD:** Berne Kent has announced that the annual Historical Soc. award for American History will be presented on Class Night to the student who obtained the highest mark on the regents examination.

\* \* \* \* \*

**JUNE EVENTS:** Trustees will meet June 16th in the museum at 8PM.  
Regular meetings: June 21st, at the museum at 7:30 PM. Election of Officers. Mr. Don Whitney, member of the Pioneer Club of the New York Telephone Co., will present a film program on the American Flag. Hostesses will be Gerry Swann, Beryl Tovell, and Grace Singer.

The special monthly exhibit will pertain to agriculture, supervised by Joe Higgins. Hostesses June 6th, Marilyn and Ed Allgeier; June 13th, Sharon and Jim Monroe; June 20th, Carol Schnoor and Celeste Crawford; June 27th, Bernice and Harry Brown. (July 4th, Ruth Gale and Grace Singer.)

\* \* \* \* \*

"Old Fashioned Fair" summary will be included in the July issue of the "Newsletter".

\* \* \* \* \*

WELCOME: Mrs. Virginia Clark Klaiber, who has been a member of the Society since 1973, has taken out a Life Membership, which makes a total of nine in this class.

The latest annual members to join are Mr. Jack Cindrick of Niagara Falls; Deena and Darla Sherman of Machias; Mr. and Mrs. William Kirk, and Darryl, Susan, and Jay Johnson of Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

MUSEUM COMMITTEE: An effort has been made recently to assemble and identify all acquisitions to the museum. Between renovation of the Patterson Room and unexpected flooding of the basement, the committee has been hard pressed keeping track of items. Most have now been restored and identified, and the museum committee would like to keep them on permanent display. It is planned to put display cases in the old east waiting room for special monthly exhibits so that museum acquisitions need not be moved. Millie Croop and Peggy Ward, co-chairman of the museum committee, have been helped by Betty Stimson, Dorothy Thilk, Mildred Middleton, Lois Barnum, Gerry Swann, Anna Mae Nevins, Ed Culverwell, Fred Berry, Rex Stacy, Ed Peters, and Joe Higgins.

\* \* \* \* \*

VISITORS: Several bus loads of persons touring the Niagara Trail stopped at the museum during the past month including the Niagara County Legislators, Sanborn "Golden Agers", and the "Newfane Home Arts". Acting as special hostesses, and on some occasions providing coffee and cookies, were Dorothy Thilk, Millie Croop, Esther and Harold Albright, Dora and Wirt Wakeman, Miss Flossie Lortz, and Mildred Middleton. In addition to the bus tours, Junior Scout troop #208 under the leadership of Mrs. Marge Ganshaw, also attended.

\* \* \* \* \*

QUILT PRESENTATION: A beautiful quilt was presented to the Wilson Society at the regular May meeting by the Girl Scouts of Wilson. Dr. John F. Argue, Pres., accepted the gift from Barbara Farwell, leader of Junior troop #286, who was in charge of the project. The quilt was made by the Scouts as their contribution to the Bicentennial celebration. Three Brownie troops collected the cloth used, and the five Junior, Cadette, and Senior troops appliqued four blocks each showing historic landmarks in the town.

\* \* \* \* \*

AROUND THE MUSEUM: Delbert Pfohl and Bill Smith have cleaned out the caboose, removed the broken oak beam, and leveled it on the track. The extent of repairs needed makes restoration very slow.....Don't be surprised if you see a light on in the museum some evenings; chances are it will be Art Schnoor making repairs and improvements. Art has completed the east wall of the Patterson Room; installed a display case in the south wall; and placed hooks and chains on the north and south windows so that they may be opened for ventilation.....It is nice to have helpers like the Linnaberys in the Society. After a recent clean-up session, they offered to truck six or seven barrels of scrap to the East Wilson dump.....We might also mention that the grounds around the museum look nice because some volunteer to keep the lawn mowed, while others such as Betty Stimson, sees to it that trash is placed out each week for collection.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMORIAL BOOK: A beautiful Memorial Book has been given to the museum by the Richard Adams family in memory of Ellen Adams. Mr. Berne Kent has offered his unique artistic talent for lettering Memorials in it.

\* \* \* \* \*

NOMINATIONS: The Nominating Committee composed of Whitney Barnum, Norm MacAskill, and Christine Kellman, presented the following slate of officers and trustees at the May meeting to be voted upon at the June meeting. Dr. John F. Argue, President; Joseph Higgins, Vice-Pres., Recording Sec'y. Martha MacAskill; Corresponding Sec'y., Gerry Swann; and Treasurer, Millie Croop. Three trustees for a three year term will be chosen from the following; Helen Borngraeber, Berne Kent, Elwin Upton, and Karl Wright.

\* \* \* \* \*

LIBRARY COMMITTEE: A commendable job has been done by the ladies over the past year. Meeting weekly, all museum acquisitions have been identified and recorded, and in co-operation with the museum committee, are being put on permanent display as fast as space is available. Many hours of time has been given by the committee which is made up of Mildred Middleton, Marie Reynolds, Kay Ness, Eloise Culverwell, Dora Wakeman, Nancy Kent, and Dianne Albright.

\* \* \* \* \*

BICENTENNIAL NOTE: Mrs. Marvin Meyers, leader of the Wilson Lakemen 4H Club, is supervising a project suggested by the Bicentennial Committee to locate the largest tree in the town. Tree circumference will be measured three feet above ground level and all trees considered will be visible from the highway.

\* \* \* \* \*

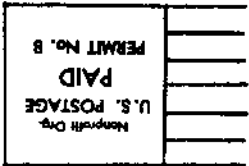
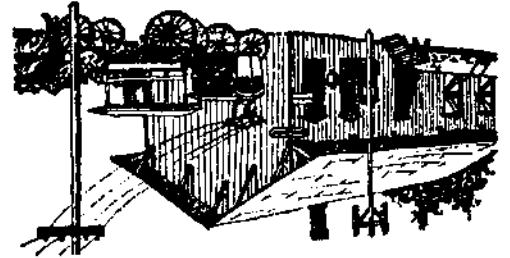
BON MOT: When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; When health is lost, something is lost; When character is lost, all is lost!

\* \* \* \* \*

# NEWSLETTER

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

Wilson Historical Society



## THE PROMINENT MOODY FAMILY

Mr. A. J. Moody and his wife Mary Pettit Moody will be remembered as having once lived on the East Youngstown Road, now known as the Wilson-Burt Road. He made willow baskets and furniture which were sold throughout Niagara County. Even their five children used to help peel the willows as well as weave the baskets. All of the youngsters received their early education in the old Wilson High School.

Arthur Enoch Moody, the eldest son, went to Syracuse and became a Methodist Minister. He was also a Boy Scout Executive for over 50 years, and wrote articles for the "American Agriculturist" magazine under the byline, "The Country Pastor". Winfred Pettit Moody became a Presbyterian Minister and served as a Chaplain during World War I. He died in 1970 at age 87. Chester Alfred Moody was an Educational Administrator and died in 1968 at 83.

Mildred Eakin Moody is living in Lakeland, Florida, and was married to Dr. Frank Eakin of Pittsburg. She once taught school in the Pease District, and graduated from Syracuse University. She went to Chicago where she was associated with a Methodist magazine and edited the Sunday quarterly. Mrs. Moody is a Life Member in the Wilson Historical Society.

Wilfred Hamilton Moody became a School Superintendent and now lives in Hamden, Conn. He had a son and a daughter by his marriage to Ilna Force of New Haven, Conn. The son, Alfred Judson-Force Moody, was top Cadet at West Point for four years, and rose to the rank of Brigadier General before being killed in Vietnam. Wilfred Moody is also a Life Member of the Wilson Society, and has, in addition to giving a cash Memorial in Memory of his father, presented the Society with two electric clocks for the museum and a Musicians sword worn by his maternal grandfather, Enoch Pettit.

Enoch Pettit married Juliette Pratt in 1847. Following her death in 1860, Enoch enlisted as a musician and cared for wounded in Co. F, 151st Reg. of the New York Volunteers. He served to the end of the war and marched with Sherman to the Sea.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NEW MEMBERS:** The Society welcomes Mrs. Frank (Grace) Kronenberg, wife of Justice Kronenberg, who has become the 10th Life Member in the organization. Judge and Mrs. Kronenberg joined the Society in 1975.

Twenty-nine new annual members have also joined during the past month including, Mr. and Mrs. Toby Collins of Lewiston; Mrs. Evelyn Jacobs of Sanborn; Francis Danielewicz of Lockport; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Holzle of Niagara Falls; Mrs. Jeanne Voepel and Janet Volk of Newfane; also, Mrs. Edward Winger, Mrs. Alfred Harvey, Mrs. Clifford Shoultz, Mrs. Julius Stapf, Mr. Arthur Canfield, Mrs. Harold Harcks, Mrs. James Pisello, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Reinboldt; Mr. and Mrs. Louis McLaughlin; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Brawn, Rev. and Mrs. Michael Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hausmann, Thomas Goodnight, and Mary Okonieski of Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

**IN MEMORIAM:** The unexpected and sudden death of Joyce Branch Perry, 41, came as a shock to all who knew and loved her. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to her husband, Jack, and all members of the family.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MUSEUM HELPERS:** In order to keep the grounds looking neat from May thru September, the Museum Committee has enlisted the aid of the following members who have/or will take a turn at mowing the lawns. May-Peggy Ward and Don Croop; June-Fred Berry, Ted Lonsbery, Ed Peters, and Edgar Culverwell; July-Chuck Campbell, Ralph Dinse, Whit Barnum, Art Ness, and Archie Petty; August-Burt Jennings, Elton Kropp, Elwin Upton, and Sidney Pettit; and September-Rex Stacy, Jim Monroe, Wally Beutel, and Tom Sharp Jr.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BICENTENNIAL THOUGHT:** On July 4, 1776, King George III of England wrote in his diary, "Nothing happened today". On July 4, 1976 Patriotic Americans will ring bells at 2 PM to commemorate that day "When Freedom rang throughout the Land."

BICENTENNIAL FAIR: A gentleman from Niagara Falls summed it all up when he said, "I never saw so many happy people. I just can't believe it. Everywhere you look everyone's smiling, talking, and singing; you'd never know it had been raining most of the day." What he should know by now is that the Wilson Historical Society Fair, in every sense of the word, is a co-operative venture in which all local members share. Eleanor Myers, General Chrm., did a commendable job, and she wishes to extend her sincere thanks to all Committee Chrm., and everyone who helped out. The Fair has unquestionably been successful each year because of the ever increasing number of Dealers who attend and for this the Society is indebted to Anna Mae Nevins, Verna Caulfield, and Joe Higgins.

Highlights this year included the toe-tapping piano rythmns of Berne Kent and Frances Goldthorp, and their catchy old tunes attracted a spontaneous group of singers led by Doc, Berne, Frances and Tom Sharp III. The ever popular sound movies provided through the courtesy of Marie Reynolds and the Wilson library were also a hit with young and old. Doug Smith started show-movies two hours earlier than planned because of the bad weather and it was estimated over 800 watched throughout the day. The special art exhibit displayed by Dorothy Thilk again proved to be a popular attraction, and Doc's antique car show drew an interested crowd in spite of the rain. A new innovation this year was a public address system hooked up by John Myers which was helpful in announcing various activities and locating persons quickly.

The food concessions did well and, except for Art Schnoor's delicious hot dogs, were all sold out when the Fair ended. The Society extends a sincere "thank you" to Lois Barnum, Betty Stimson, Mildred Middleton, Bessie Cole, Sarah Berry, Sue Cruickshank, and all their helpers for a tremendous job done under difficult conditions.

An exceptionally good number of "fleas" were contributed by the members, and Sharon Monroe and her knowledgeable assistants, Lois Jennings and Jean Swanson, did an excellent job of sorting, marking and displaying them. The weather was ideal for fishing and Sue Toenniessen reported a good number of fish caught while Ed Peters and his Junior helpers had the balloon concession well in hand. It was comforting to see the Wilson Volunteer First Aid Crew standing by--fortunately their services were not needed-- but it is rumored that two of our "livelier" members could have used their help.

If bouquets had been handed out for old costumes, one surely would have gone to Ray and Myra Pease of Lockport who presented a nostalgic picture in their distinctive "Gay 90's" outfits.

A fine job of "setting-up" was accomplished by Lynn Sherrie and his hard working crew. A special word of thanks should go to Jack Perry who loaned and erected the food tent and to Mike Vince who put up the Flea Market tent. Jack also let the Society use his popcorn machine, and tables and chairs were loaned to the Society by the Wilson Volunteer Fire Co., and Methodist Church. The big job of parking was well handled by Tom Sharpe, Jr. and his crew, eliminating many of the problems encountered in previous years. We must also acknowledge the work done by Junior members who jumped in to help at every opportunity. Rex Stacy and his clean-up gang had the place looking "spick and span" shortly after the last Dealer had left, and Karl Wright not only used his truck for transporting tables and chairs, but picked up and returned the balloon gas cylinder loaned by Straight Welding of Lockport.

It would be impossible to thank everyone individually for their co-operation and willingness to help, but it may be concluded that because of you, the Society's 1976 Fair was a resounding success.

\* \* \* \* \*

BICENTENNIAL QUILT: The Society's quilt was presented this year to Mrs. Angeline Rice Wood, 38 Summit Street, Lockport, New York. Mrs. Wood, a former home economics teacher at Wilson High School, is a sister of Mrs. Esther Perry of Lake Street, Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: Fifty-six Business Establishments in the town of Wilson contributed funds this year to advertise the Fair. We are reminded that what is good for local business is good for the town.

\* \* \* \* \*

SPECIAL EXHIBIT: The special museum exhibit for July will be "Commemorative Plates" supervised by Lois Barnum. Hostesses who have consented to greet visitors during the month on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 are: July 4th, Ruth Gale and Grace Singer; July 11th, Betty Belschner and Helen Stevens; July 18th, Eleanor and Daniel Douglas; July 25th, Chris Kellman and Helen Borngraeber; August 1st, Millie and Don Croop.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEETING NOTICE: There will be no regular meetings of the Society in July and August. In July, a special auto tour of Fort Niagara will leave the Wilson Museum on Sunday, July 18th. Dinner will follow

Dorothy Thilk and Lois Barnum are in charge of arrangements. The Bicentennial Comm. will join with the program committee in making arrangements for the annual basket picnic to be held Monday, August 16th at the museum at 6PM with elderly citizens as special guests.

Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees will convene as usual on Wed. Evening, July 14th, and Wed. evening, August 11th; 8PM at Museum.

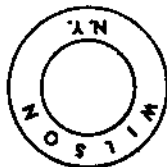
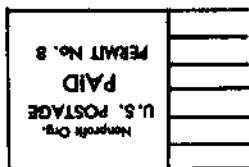
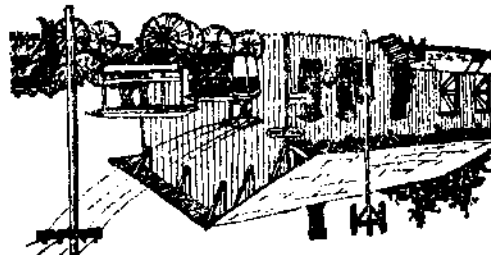
CAMERIA REPRODUCTIONS  
10000001, N.Y.  
AUGUST 1976 VOL. 5 NO. 8

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

## NEWSLETTER

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

**Wilson Historical Society**



### A PAGE FROM HISTORY

Wilson residents, intent on pursuing their daily tasks or "winning the war" about thirty five years ago, might have been astounded had they known they were living within forty miles of one of the most aggressive intelligence operations of World War II. Camp X, as it was called, was located on the Canadian shore near the Toronto-Kingston highway. It was there that agents were trained, guerilla devices tested, and dummy buildings constructed "in imitation of important Nazi hide-outs that were to be invaded by parachutists."

Roosevelt Beach, just west of Wilson, was the embarkation point from which a privileged few on special missions crossed the dark lake waters at night where they might catch brief glimpses of the blackened faces of British Commandoes. However, though recruits and equipment could easily cross the border without attracting attention, Camp X was hard for unauthorized visitors to reach. Here trained the men who were so adept in the use of lethal and silent weapons, few inhabitants were ever aware of their presence when they raided enemy coasts in Europe.

Anyone interested in a more detailed account of this stirring intelligence operation may refer to the recent non-fiction best seller, "A Man called Intrepid", by William Stevenson. (Our thanks to Dr. Argue for revealing this intriguing bit of history out of Wilson's past.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**POSTSCRIPT:** We erred in the last "Newsletter" when we referred to Mrs. Mildred Moody Eakin as "Mrs. Moody", but we did receive a phone call from Louis Swick who told us that the Moody article "brought back some very happy memories for him". He said that he knew them well and that they were a fine Christian family. He also related how the Moodys used to cut the willows that grew along the creek on the Swick property. They were just right for the baskets woven by the Moodys in the early 1890's. Louis's recollections also reveals a good reason why the short highway between Irish Road and Route 425 is called the "Willow Road".

\* \* \* \* \*

**"TWINKLING THIMBLERS":** Our attention has been drawn this month to a small group of ladies known as the "Puppeteers". They are associated with the Wilson Branch of Inter-Community Hospital, and have been meeting regularly for the past ten years. Through their dedicated efforts, hundreds of puppets have been made and given to little patients at the Newfane Hospital. This group of conscientious ladies have translated hours of work into smiles of joy and happiness for many youngsters. Congratulations!!

\* \* \* \* \*

**MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS:** A beautiful old brass lighting fixture similar to those originally used in the depot was purchased through Mr. Norman Luff. The fixture is electrified and the globes and ceiling hardware were donated by Mr. Luff; An interesting letter written and signed by General Grant from Army Headquarters during the Civil War was donated by Mr. Whitney Barnum; An 1898 Edison Standard Phonograph with cabinet, horn, and 36 record rolls was donated by Dorothy and Edgar Lort; Lucy Monroe donated an old portable Singer Sewing Machine; The Pfeiffer Co. donated an old dump wagon used to build the Townline and Ide Roads; "Bud" Ward donated a large 3 shelf glass display case. The Society is also grateful to the following members who donated numerous small items- pictures, books, etc.: Ken and Dorothy Tracey, Mrs. Joan Burns and Ruth Luff, the Olive Wilson family; Mrs. Alice Carter, Phyllis Hurst, Mary Kidder, Dr. and Mrs. John Argue, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Moore, Francis Petrie, Daniel Tato, and Miss Mable Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

**A GENTLE REMINDER:** A few members have neglected to pay their membership dues which were due May 1, 1976. A "Red Star" next to the address label on this "Newsletter" indicates we can no longer mail a copy to you. We hope you renew promptly-the Society can exist only through your interest and support.

\* \* \* \* \*

ELECTION RESULTS: Officers elected from June 1976-June 1977 are: Pres., Dr. John F. Argue; Vice-Pres., Joseph Higgins; Treas., Mildred Croop; Rec. Sec'y., Martha MacAskill, and Cor. Sec'y., Nettie Stimson.

Trustees elected for three years are Helen Borngraeber, Berne Kent, and Karl S. Wright.

Committee Heads are "By-Laws", Karl Wright; "Caboose", Delbert Pfohl; "Planning", Whitney Barnum; "Historical Sites & Tours", Dorothy Thilk; "Sunday Hostesses", Helen Borngraeber; "Library", Mildred Middleton; "Membership", Millie Croop; "Museum", Peggy Ward; "Publications", Don Croop; "Program", Norm MacAskill; "Refreshments", Winnie Fischer; and "Ways and Means", Nettie Stimson.

The "Memorial Committee" is composed of the Treasurer, Chrm., Head of the Planning Committee and Head of the Museum Committee. More may be appointed.

\* \* \* \* \*

STUDENT AWARDS: Dee Klees, graduate of Wilson Central School, received the Wilson Historical Society award for "Outstanding student in History". Douglas Smith, graduate of Niagara-Wheatfield, was awarded a certificate and medalion for "Outstanding Achievement for small engine and recreational vehicle repair."

\* \* \* \* \*

IN MEMORIAM: The Society's condolences are extended to the family of Mrs. Betty Belschner in the recent loss of her husband, Lester, age 42.

\* \* \* \* \*

RECENT VISITORS: A busload of 7th graders from North Park school, Lockport, with Millie Croop, hostess. Another busload from Niagara Falls called "The Happy Time Grandmothers" were hosted by Dorothy Thilk and Flossie Lortz. Also the 4H Lakemen, accompanied by Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Davis, visited the museum on a Monday morning with Don and Millie Croop in attendance.

\* \* \* \* \*

YOU CAN HELP: It has been suggested that if an unexpected committment prevents Sunday hostesses to attend on day agreed upon, that Hostess Chairman, Helen Borngraeber, please be notified so that a substitute may be found. If you are unable to reach Helen, please notify Peggy Ward, Museum Chairman.

Since we advertise that the museum will be open every Sunday from 2 to 4, it would be unfortunate to have people pay us a visit only to find it closed.

\* \* \* \* \*

MONTHLY EXHIBIT: (?) Sunday Hostesses, Aug. 1st, Millie and Don Croop; August 8th, Winnie and Rex Stacy; August 15th, Norm and Martha MacAskill; August 22nd, Eleanor and Art Canfield; August 29th, Edith Deitz and Mabel Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

THUMBNAIL SKETCH: Ruth Bartlett Kerr was born in 1894 at Pekin, Pa. She married Harold Kerr in 1919 and made her home at Niagara Falls, N.Y. She had one daughter, Mrs. Grace Kirk, and two grandsons, William and James. Mrs Kerr's grandfather, Ebenezer Bartlett, founded Pekin, Pa. in 1845 where he built a saw mill and chair factory. Both grandchildren served in the U.S. Navy.

\* \* \* \* \*

CENTENNIAL NEWS: "Talk of recession; Political scandal in Washington; Women in men's clothing; Women insisting on their right to do men's work; The rising cost of going to college; Weird clothing; Disrespectful young people; Inefficiency of the Postoffice; The high cost of funerals; and Long-haired young men." Sound familiar? It may read like 1976, but actually it was front page news in 1876.

\* \* \* \* \*

AROUND THE MUSEUM: A thank you to Don Sinclair who welded the braces that were jacked in place by the caboose committee....also to "Bud" Ward for re-mounting a tire on the mower used by the men to keep the grounds mowed. And Art Schnoor has offered to donate the black walnut which will be used to support the marble top from the old Middleton Drugstore counter.

\* \* \* \* \*

AUGUST MEETINGS: Trustees, August 11th, 8PM at museum; Annual Picnic, August 16th at 6 PM at museum. Bring a dish to pass, own table service and card table. Elderly Wilsonites will be guests of honor.

\* \* \* \* \*

GLASS NEEDED: The continuing effort by Betty Stimson to keep the glass recycling operation running smoothly is noteworthy. Not only have signs been posted at the Jones's home on Lake Street, but slingers circulated to area homes by youngsters of Thomas Mark school and the Wilson Girl Scouts. Not only is the project beneficial ecology-wise, but it also has been a good source of income for the Historical Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GROSS MEDICAL SOCIETY, composed of prominent Western New York Doctors and their wives, visited the Wilson Museum in July as guests of Dr. and Mrs. John F. Argue. Membership in the society is by invitation only.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEW MEMBER: The Society extends its welcome to our latest new member, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Getman, of Wilson.

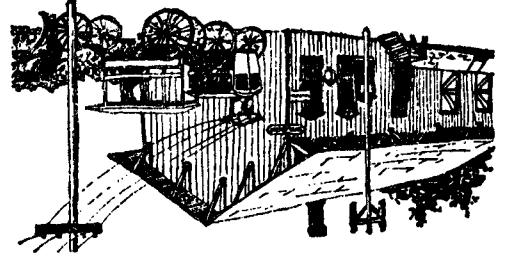
\* \* \* \* \*

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

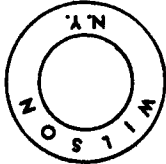
# NEWSLETTER

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

Wilson Historical Society



PERMIT No. 8	_____
PAID	_____
U.S. POSTAGE	_____
Nonprofit Org.	_____



## BATTERY M STILL LIVES

We have had some interesting correspondence over the years with one of our out-of-state members, Mr. Charles Peacock of Chickamauga, Ga. As a historian he has shown considerable interest in the Society's "Billy Sherman" booklet, and purchased several. One is in the archives of the Chattanooga Area Historical Association; another was given to a life-long friend, Mr. Lee Anderson, who has won many Freedom Foundation and American Legion awards for his editorials. It was through Mr. Anderson that a two column spread about "Billy Sherman" appeared in the Chattanooga News-Free Press, March 3, 1974. The Wilson Society was prominently mentioned for honoring the former Confederate Civil War horse.

Although Mr. Peacock lives in Georgia, his family originally lived in New York. According to him his paternal grandfather organized a Co. in one of the NYS volunteer units, was commissioned, served throughout the war, and was discharged at Nashville, Tenn. He chose to remain in the south.

On a hurried trip through Chattanooga recently we were unable to tour all the battle scenes because of a flu attack, however we did visit the impressive New York Monument on Lookout Mountain. It was placed there to commemorate the services of New York soldiers who participated in the battles of "Lookout Mt.", "Chattanooga", and "Missionary Ridge". It was built at a cost of \$114,635.00 and 414 G.A.R. soldiers from New York attended the dedication in 1910--amongst them, some Wilson veterans from Battery M. A tablet on the monument bears the following inscription: "Twelfth Army Corps, Maj. Gen. Henry W. Slocum, Commanding. 1st N.Y. Light Battery M-- Reynolds Arty. Brigade-- Mustered in October 14, 1861, Mustered out June 23, 1865. Present for duty on November 22, 1863, 3 officers and 106 enlisted men."

\* \* \* \* \*

**THUMBNAIL SKETCH:** Edward Lonsbery was born in Niagara Falls and is a retired employee of the Carborundum Company. He settled in Wilson in 1939 and for many years ran a large farm on the Daniels Rd. His father was a silver-buffer and polisher. Ed and his wife Mildred are familiar figures in the Wilson community and now live in the Harbor Traylor Park. They attend St. Paul's Lutheran Church, bowl with the retired couple's league, and spend their winters in Florida. Ed and Mildred have always been willing helpers when their work to be done at the museum.

\* \* \* \* \*

**LESS WE FORGET:** The Wilson Society, fully aware of the time and effort expended in the Society's interest by these former Officers and Committee Heads, extends its sincere appreciation to Karl S. Wright, Vice-Pres; Susan Cruickshank, Rec. Sec'y; Ella Mae Peters, Cor. Sec'y; John Rodgers, Trustee; "Chuck" Campbell, Ways and Means; Marion Campbell, Membership; Eloise Culverwell, Refreshments; and Millie Croop, Co-Chrm., Museum.

\* \* \* \* \*

**REMINISCING:** Marguerite Langdon writes that 58 years ago, a huge Tabernacle tent was erected just north of the Catholic Church. A few years later a similar tent was erected behind the Methodist Church. Many local citizens were "saved" at these meetings. She also claims that about this same time, medicine shows were put on in the theater. Besides buying the fabulous cure "Elixer", one could also buy boxes of taffy and win a prize.

Marguerite asks the question, "Does anyone remember the Chautauqua tent which was behind the school?" Each year lectures were interspersed with stage plays and tenors. Lucky children found free passes hunting for tickets on the school grounds. (Editor's note: Anyone over 60 should remember the Red Path Chautauqua days. I saw many performances as a boy in the early 20's. We school children once competed for parts as "animals" for a matinee performance. My first debut as an "actor" had me hopping around the stage dressed to look like a bunny rabbit.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**BON MOT:** We must always have old memories and young hopes.

NEW MEMBERS: The Society welcomes Mildred and Elizabeth Hammond of Win-  
nipeg, Manitoba, Canada, who have taken out Life Memberships. Their Uncle,  
Richard Patterson, was the station agent at the depot after whom the new  
meeting room was recently named and dedicated. On a visit to Wilson two years  
ago they visited the museum as guests of Esther Albright and Dorothy Thilk.

The Society is also happy to welcome the following new annual members,  
Mrs. Frances Crossman Miller of California, Mrs. June Clark Wince of West  
Virginia, Kenneth Gaskill of Ohio, Jack Plesur of Virginia, Mrs. Donna Giles  
Burke of Rensselaer, N.Y., and Willis Strickland of Lockport.

\* \* \* \* \*

IN MEMORIAM: The Society extends its condolences to the family of Hazel M.  
Hamilton who died July 22nd at Dunedin, Florida. She was a native of Wilson  
and moved to Florida in 1967.

\* \* \* \* \*

REUNION: Nine graduates of Wilson High School, class of 1926, celebrated  
their 50th reunion on August 7th at the Sheraton Inn, Lockport. Of the 19  
original graduates, seven sent their regrets and three are deceased: Viola  
Fowler, Loren Wright, and Charles Allgeier. Those attending the festivities  
were, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Miller of Palm Springs, California; Mr. and Mrs.  
Edmund Burke of Rensselaer, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gaskill of Cleveland,  
Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Bowersox of Barker, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Maitland  
Smith of Olcott, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Tabor; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence  
Pease; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Albright; and hosts Mr. and Mrs. Norman Thilk,  
all from Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS: A refrigerator from Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sharpe; A  
refrigerated juice dispenser from Frank Hayes; A Bible from Carrie Bidleman;  
Framed picture of Arthur Blemaster, Wilson High Principal (1929-1945), Wool  
sleigh robe and large paisley cover that belonged to Mrs. Chas. Israel, from  
her granddaughter, Mrs. Stuart (Ernie) Walpole; Picture of military group  
including Art Schnoor's Uncle from Art Schnoor; Three Indian arrow heads  
found on the W. E. Buchner farm from Charles Buchner; Republican Centennial  
Plaque (1854-1954) from Mary Kidder; 1920 white crepe wedding dress from  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kenneth; Books and 75 yr. old hearth grille from Willis  
Strickland; Cabbage cutter from Donald Dietrick; and 32 old postcards of  
Wilson owned by Cora Bush and Mrs. Nettie Johnson, donated by Grace Singer  
and Mrs. Esther Pope.

\* \* \* \* \*

BICENTENNIAL NEWS: The Bicentennial Committee has provided identification  
signs for three large trees in the town of Wilson. A Poplar on the Robert  
Waite property, McChesney St., is the largest measuring 17'6"; a Box Elder  
on the Robert Smith farm, Maple and Nelson roads, measures 14'7"; and the  
largest Maple in town is at the Herman Thilk home, Chestnut Rd., South Wilson,  
and measures 13' 4". The trees were measured and selected by members of the  
Wilson 4H Lakemen Club as their contribution to the Bicentennial celebration.

The Village of Wilson is also making plans to replace the lights and wiring  
on the old "Tabor" bridge, Lake St., as a commemorative Bicentennial project.  
An effort will also be made to clear the creek of weeds and debris to help  
beautify the area. Doctor Tabor served the Wilson community over forty years  
and the house north of the creek and west of the bridge was built by him.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMORIALS: The Society recently received a check from Mrs. Mildred Moody  
Eakin of Lakeland, Florida, to provide a Memorial in memory of her mother,  
Mary E. Pettit Moody.

\* \* \* \* \*

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES: The Trustee meeting will be Wednesday evening, 7 PM,  
Sep't. 15th at the Thilk Cottage. They would like all committee chairmen to  
attend all meetings to make reports. A written report should be submitted if  
chairmen are unable to attend.

The monthly museum exhibit will be "Old Medical Equipment" under the  
supervision of Mrs. Ella Mae Peters. Hostesses are Sep't. 5th, Mrs. Doris  
Tarr; Sep't. 12th, Jean and John Argue; Sep't. 19th, Ella Mae and Ed Peters;  
Sep't. 26th, (pending)

The Regular meeting will convene at the museum at 7:30 PM, Monday evening,  
Sep't 20th. Mr. Herman Stiegler will demonstrate square dance technics, and  
members may either just watch or join in the fun. The refreshment committee  
will be Jean Swanson, Chrm., Marilyn Allgeier, and Leona Beutel.

A Niagara Trail tour is planned for Sunday, Sep't. 26th. Bus will leave  
from museum at 1:00 PM. Bring along box or picnic lunch. Call Lois Barnum  
or Dorothy Thilk for information and reservations.

\* \* \* \* \*

YEARBOOKS NEEDED: The library committee would like to get High School  
programs and yearbooks for as many years as possible. Maybe you can help.

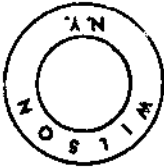
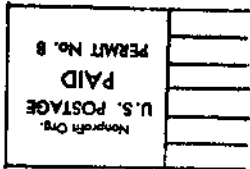
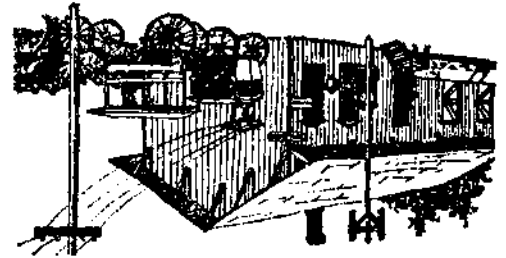
\* \* \* \* \*

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Alexander Hamilton once said, "Not only the wealth  
but the Independence and Security of a country appear to be materially  
connected with the Prosperity of manufacturers."

\* \* \* \* \*

POSTSCRIPT: Its better to be 70 years young than 40 years old.

\* \* \* \* \*



## WILSON CEMETERIES

It is believed that the first Wilson pioneer to die in the settlement was Stephen Sheldon. He built a house at the mouth of twelve mile creek where he died in the fall of 1812. It is known that internments were made at the east end of "Sunset Island", and that is where he is believed to have been buried. Another burial ground was located at the west end of Young Street on the hill just south and east of the creek, and a number of Wilson's early residents were buried there also.

In 1846 a two acre plot was set aside as a cemetery on the southwest corner of the Nathaniel Davis farm, lot 90, township 15, range 7. This was located on the east side of the Wilson-Cambria road opposite from where the railroad depot (museum) now stands.

On October 25, 1850, Nathaniel Davis and Alfred Ransom presided over a meeting at which an offer was made by Luther Wilson to donate eight and one quarter acres of land near the harbor for a more suitable burial ground. The offer was accepted and proper steps were taken under the rural cemetery laws to incorporate, and the Greenwood Cemetery Association was organized. Luther Wilson, Curtis Pettit, Morgan Johnson, John Onderdonk, Robert McChesney, Simon Sheldon, Nathaniel Davis, Hiram Tabor, and Enoch Pease were elected Trustees. Five years later on December 27, 1855, the land was actually deeded over to the Association by Luther and Sarah Wilson. Trustees at this time were Robert McChesney, Simon Sheldon, Eldert Dox, Luren Wilson, Harvey Johnson, Calvin Pratt, Hiram Tabor, Abraham Bosburg, and Curtis Pettit. Additional land was later purchased to allow for a larger burial ground, walkway, and driveway to Harbor street.

Before grading work for the Rome, Watertown, and Ogdensburg railroad was started through the town in 1872, Eldert Dox, David Barnum, and Harvey Johnson were appointed Commissioners of Removal at the Nathaniel Davis farm cemetery since the tracks for the new road were surveyed to pass through the cemetery. All persons interred there were removed to Greenwood Cemetery and records kept in compliance with State Law so those removed could be located by their families.

Greenwood Cemetery is now the only one in town, but there have been others that disappeared over the years through neglect. One was believed to have been located on the Daniel's Road between New and German Roads. Another was on the grounds of the old St. Peter's German Evangelical Lutheran Church that was once located on the north side of Nelson Road between Route 425 and Maple Road. The church burned and never was re-built, but some headstones are still visible. Though grown over with brush and neglected, graves can still be identified for Johann Bobzien, M. Bobzien, and a 20 yr. old son of Mary and Fritz Smith who died in 1890.

In early days it was sometimes customary to bury persons on private plots. One of these may be seen back of the Ness property on West Lake Road where three or four markers for a Williams family have nearly disappeared through the ravages of time and vandalism.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PUBLICATIONS:** In response to a continuing demand, 100 additional copies of "Tall Tales and Legends" has been printed. A new booklet, "The Valiant Men of Battery M" is expected to be ready for distribution this fall after Thanksgiving. In it will be a revised "Story of Billy Sherman", "Dedication Service", and much more.

The Society will be pleased to note that Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church, Beebe Road, published a Commemorative Program to celebrate their 100th anniversary August 22, 1976. In it was a copy of the church history printed in the Society's publication, "The Churches of Wilson". Exley United Methodist Church has also used a condensed version of its history published in the same booklet to use in their 150th Anniversary Church Directory. Exley will hold a Commemorative Service October 24, 1976.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BON MOT:** In the faces of men and women I see God. (Walt Whitman)

**FAMILY PORTRAIT:** Doris Knapp Tarr traces her paternal ancestry to Nicholas Knapp (1600), who came from England to Watertown, Mass., in 1632; also Elias Cady who moved to Dryden Township, N.Y. in 1816. The Cadys were prominent in Dryden and both Elias and a grandson, John Cady served in the New York State Legislature. Mrs. Tarr's maternal ancestry dates back to Alexander Jameson of Scotland (1702), and Israel Wood, 1st Earl of Warwick Castle, England (1600). History buffs will recall that Wood joined with the Duke of York in 1640 and sailed to America to drive the Dutch from New York. The Colony was claimed for England and Israel Wood purchased part of the lands that are now known as Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Doris Tarr, daughter of Dr. Albert Cady Knapp and Lillian Jameson, was born in the small town of Locke, Cayuga County. She graduated from Cortland High School in 1919 and received her A.B. at Syracuse University. She smilingly recalls that when her family moved to Cortland, the days of the "country doctor" were over--no longer would operations be performed on her mother's kitchen table. Doctors today might be startled to know that office calls were 50¢ and \$1.00 or \$2.00 if her father had to be both doctor and nursemaid for two or three days.

When Doris graduated from Syracuse she obtained a position as history teacher in Wellsboro, Pa. It was there that she met L. Ernest Tarr, also a teacher, and they were married in 1930. During the Great Depression they moved to Cortland where Mr. Tarr was a Commercial teacher in the high school. They also opened a flower shop where Doris perfected her artistic talent making floral pieces for weddings and funerals. While living at Cortland their only son, John, was born.

Mrs. Tarr showed considerable business enterprise at an early age when, as a little girl at Dryden, she clipped off her beautiful curls and sold them to admirers for 5 to 25 cents each. Some thirty years later, when her husband became Principal at Dryden in 1938, many people remembered Doris and told her they still kept those curls in their Bibles or in the back of watches. In recalling the spanking she received from her mother, Doris would probably be the first to acknowledge that "business enterprises" sometimes have unexpected drawbacks.

The Tarrs left Dryden in 1946 when Mr. Tarr was appointed Principal of the Wilson Central School. He retired in 1964 and passed away in 1969. Their son John married Evelyn Menzel and they have three children, Gary, James, and Sherry. Doris remains in Wilson, lives in retirement on East Lake Road, and is still very active in community affairs and Exley United Methodist Church where she is an Honorary Life Member of the Administrative Board.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS:** The Board of Trustees has adopted a new policy for accepting donations to the museum. An Acquisitions Committee will be formed, and if approved by the membership, will be included in the By-Laws of the Society. The Committee will consist of the Chairman of the Museum, Chairman of the Library, and one appointed member of the Board. If you or any of your friends have articles to donate to the museum, do not leave them at the museum before talking with one of the following persons: Peggy Ward (6792); Mildred Middleton (6626) or Joseph Higgins, 263 Ontario Street, Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

**OCTOBER AT THE MUSEUM:** The theme for October (quoting James Whitcomb Riley) "sets my heart a clickin' like the tickin' of a clock, When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock". Yes, October will be an exciting month with an exhibit supervised by Peggy Ward and Nettie Stimson. It will feature rush or wicker items, stuffed ducks, Hallowe'en and other items related to the fall season. Of course all members are invited to participate, and any item will be accepted for display through the first week in October--just phone Peggy or Nettie.

On Saturday, October 9th, a busload of members from the Historical Society of the Tonawandas will visit the museum where they plan to have a basket lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided for our guests with Dorothy Thilk and Mildred Middleton serving as hostesses. Willard B. Dittmar, well known historian and Curator of the Tonawanda Society will accompany the group.

Regular Sunday Hosts and Hostesses in October will be as follows: Oct. 3rd, Karl and Gwenn Wright; Oct. 10th, Wally and Peggy Ward; Oct. 17th, Ed and Dorothy Lort; Oct. 24th, Doctor and Jean Argue; Oct. 31st, Fred and Sara Berry.

Trustees will meet Oct. 13th, 7:30 PM at museum. Regular meeting will be conducted Oct. 18th at museum. Surprise Program, Refreshment Committee will be Josephine Connors, Chrm; Eleanor Canfield, and Shelby Cowies.

\* \* \* \* \*

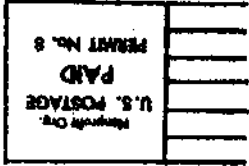
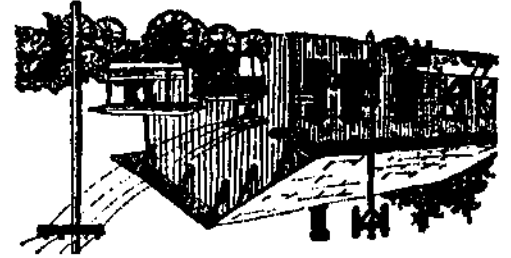
**WELCOME:** Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hayes of Wilson--our latest new annual members.

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE BICENTENNIAL PICNIC** was a great success. Good food and good entertainment thanks to "Pinky" Robinson of Major Bowes fame, our enthusiastic pianist, Frances Goldthorpe, and a beautiful solo by special guest, Myra Wakeman.

**THUMBNAIL SKETCH:** Emily Faye Smith Pisello was born in Birmingham, Ala. She and her husband moved to Wilson in 1968. They have 4 children, Twins John and James, Gina and Gloria. Her father ran a grocery store in Evergreen, Ala.

\* \* \* \* \*



### EARLY ROADS

The first road, according to Reuben Wilson, was opened up in 1811 from Fort Niagara to Somerset and was known as the Lake road.

The Youngstown road to Van Horne's Mill (Burt), was laid out in 1816 by road commissioners Abner Crossman and George Sheldon. It was surveyed by Joseph Aiken who did most of the roads up to June, 1820.

The Town Line road from Lake Ontario south was laid out on a line between ranges #7 and #8 of the Holland Land Co. survey. It is interesting to note that it originally ran south two miles, then southwest to the corner of town. It was straightened out in November, 1819, and continued south to the Cambria settlement and the old road abandoned. Today it is State road Rt. 425.

The ~~Slash~~ road started at Lake Ontario between lots # 72 and #82, and was laid out due south in November, 1818. It joined with the Marsh Settlement road (Chestnut road). The Slash road (now Maple road) got its original name from the fact that Daniel Holmes had the job of clearing the timber and slashing preparatory to burning it for a right of way.

As other roads were cut through the wilderness and swamps, they generally were named for the early settlers who lived on them. For instance, the Marsh Settlement road was named after Joseph Marsh who settled on lot #65 in 1824 at what is now the corner of Beebe and Chestnut roads. The Marsh road was later called Chestnut St., and around 1934 the highway had signs posted on it indicating it as the Warrens Corners-South Wilson Rd. Today, since there is a Chestnut St. in the village of Wilson, the highway is called Chestnut Rd.

Other early settlers who had roads named for them were "Daniels", "Fitch", "Beebe", "Jonas" (now German), "Palmer", "Ide", "Randall", "Brayley", "Nelson", "Harris", "Farley", and "Hurlburt". Village streets carrying the names of early residents are "Dox", "Wilcox", "McChesney", "Young", "Warren", "Pettit" "Haner". In the late 1800's farmers donated labor each year to help keep the roads in repair. This sometimes meant using teams and wagons to draw stone or other needed materials. As time went on, some found it easier to hire some one to "work out" their obligation to the town. This eventually led to the formation of local highway departments and taxing everyone to cover costs.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BICENTENNIAL NOTE:** It seems rather amusing today that prior to the Revolution, such terms as "Yankee", "Doodle", or "Dandy", were often used insultingly by the British to poke fun at someone they considered fools or simpletons. The song, "Yankee Doodle", was written during the French and Indian Wars by a British surgeon, Dr. Schuckburg, while stationed at Fort Craile, now Rensselaer, N.Y. The Doctor had just watched a company of ragged, unkempt, American Provincials straggle into the Fort while constantly arguing with their officers. As a joke, the doctor wrote the lyrics to "Yankee Doodle", and presented it to the Americans as THE tune to drill by. They did, and the British soldiers watched and laughed.

Though "Yankee Doodle" was written to poke fun at the American Provincials, the catchy tune caught on and soon became a camp favorite. Later during the Revolution, it was proudly sung by the Minutemen after routing the British at Concord and Lexington; it was played when Burgoyne surrendered to Gates at Saratoga in 1777; and it was played when Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown in 1781. America's "country bumpkins", as Militiamen and soldiers of the Continental Army, fought to the strains of one of the best marching tunes ever written, and triumphed over the best professionals Britain could muster.

\* \* \* \* \*

**IN MEMORIAM:** The Society sadly notes the recent demise of Mr. Walter Goodman, husband of Marietta McClellan Goodman and father of Wallace Goodman. The Society extends its sympathy to all members of the family.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BON MOT:** To err is human; to blame it on the other party is politics.

\* \* \* \* \*

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS: From Edward Hurtgam, Barn boards for meeting room; G.S. Collins, Picture postcards and book, "Beauties of Friendship"; Louis Schorb, Framed pictures of Olcott Beach, Lockport Locks, Dionne Quintuplets, World War I Mess Kit, Steel Helmet, and Wild Boar tusk from France; Crystal radio set with earphones, hand auto horn, spot light, grub hoe, and carpenter tools and planes that belonged to the Tugwell family; Bessie Crawford, Misc. collection of Invitations, Receipts, and other items pertaining to Wilson; John Argue, two postcards of historical interest; Willis Strickland, Book, "Regimental losses during Civil War"; Wilson Bi-Committee, Framed message from Pres. Ford congratulating Town of Wilson for meeting requirements to be recognized as a "Bicentennial Community"; Juanita and Larry Hirshaw, Recipe book, "Crumbs of Comfort" (1899); Doris Tarr, Family Genealogy; Donors unknown, 4 calendar plates, 3 bicentennial coasters, Lilly's drugstore letter opener, 1876 autograph book, 1885 story book, old pictures of Methodist church, Civil Defense armband (1961); 2 nation book holders, pupils of Dist. #5 (1910-1911), presented by teacher, Edith Freeman, to her pupils as Christmas card.

\* \* \* \* \*

"BUGS BUNNY"?: Burt Jennings says that his great Uncle, Chris Jennings, shot the last Jackrabbit around town in 1845. Jackrabbits are common today in the mid and southwest and the flop-eared hares are known to cover the ground in 20' leaps. Burt added that it might not have been a true jackrabbit but it was the last of its kind seen around Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

NOVEMBER will be known as "Railroad Month" at the museum. Members might be interested to know that the first passenger train passed through Wilson on June 12, 1876--just one hundred years ago. We understand that Louis McLaughlin, Gary Jacobs, and Jack Cindrick will co-operate in putting on the exhibit. We are reminded that the largest Sunday attendance ever experienced at the museum was during the railroad exhibit of the year. Hostesses will include, Nov. 7th, Joe Higgins, and Anna Mae Nelson; Nov. 14th, Helen Borngraeber and Hannah Goodnight; Nov. 21st, Marilyn and Ed Allgeier; and November 28th, Nancy and Berne Kent. TRUSTEES WILL meet November 10th, 8:00PM at Museum. REGULAR MEETING will be Monday evening, Nov. 15th, 7:30 in Patterson Room. HOSTESSES will be Marlene Dinse, Helen Dinse, and Edith Diez. PROGRAM will be a slide presentation by Mr. Fred Ingram of Lockport who will show pictures of steam railroads dating back to the "Tom Thumb", "Pekin" Strap Railroad, Wilson's Rome Watertown and Ogdensburg line, up to the present day.

\* \* \* \* \*

VISITORS: The Society was honored to play host to the Historical Societies of the Tonawandas recently when a busload of their members spent two hours at the museum. They had a picnic lunch in the Patterson Room with tea, coffee and donuts served by hostesses Lois Jennings, Ruth Gale, and Millie Croop. The visitors were impressed with progress made to date under Art Schnoor's supervision, and were amazed at the number of acquisitions on display. The special monthly exhibit received many favorable comments, and credit for the fine fall-season display goes to Peggy Ward and Nettie Stimson.

\* \* \* \* \*

WELCOME: The Society wishes to extend a cordial welcome to our latest new annual member, Mrs. Margaret Wilson of Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

SCHOOL VOTE: The education of your children and your grandchildren will depend on on your vote at the high school, December 8th, from 12:00 noon on. Superintendent Richard Zipp outlined a presentation of the schools needs as recommended by a 30 member citizen's committee at the last regular meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BICENTENNIAL and HISTORICAL SITES committees are in the process of locating and making a register of all homes in the village and town of Wilson, 100 or more years of age. It may be possible that some will be overlooked, so if any member is positive of the age of any home over 100 years old, please contact Dorothy Thilk prior to November 10th to make sure they are included.

\* \* \* \* \*

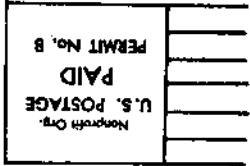
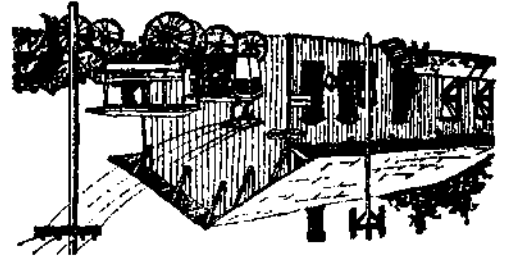
THUMBNAIL SKETCH: Marguerite Stockwell Langdon was born at Carthage, N.Y. She is a real estate broker and available for genealogical research. She received her education at Wilson High School, Millard Fillmore School of Nursing, and Business School. She is affiliated with the Episcopal Church, Old Fort Niagara Association, C.A.C Mental Health Center, and Early American Society.

The Stockwell family came to Wilson in 1824. Marguerite's father, Clayton, was a Wilson Merchant. Her g.great grandfather, Edwin Stockwell died at Point Lookout, Md., during the Civil War. Three members of the Stockwell family served in the Revolution. Ralph Stockwell served on the school Board, was Justice of the Peace, and Wilson Town Supervisor. Burt Stockwell became a Niagara County District Attorney. James Stockwell, who attended Lewiston Academy, became a doctor. Frank Stockwell was a Lockport City Judge, and Henry Stockwell once served as Mayor of Wilson.

\* \* \* \* \*

POSTSCRIPT: Peace comes not from the absence of conflict in life but from the ability to cope with it.

\* \* \* \* \*



### RURAL EDUCATION IN WILSON

The earliest school in the town of Wilson was established for adults in 1817 at a log house about one mile south of the village. It was believed to have been located on the A. B. Arnold farm, and evening classes were taught there by Luther Wilson during the winter months of January and February.

The first log school house built in the town was in 1819 about one mile and a half east of the village on Lake Road. An average of about 12 students a year were taught by Dr. John Warner of Newfane, who later became the first Vice-Pres. of the Niagara County Medical Association.

The first school in the village was also built of logs in 1820 at the southeast corner of Young and Lake streets. Luther Wilson later built his cobblestone house on this site in 1845. The first teacher there was Almira Welch and she was succeeded by Mr. David Murray.

On May 1, 1821, the town of Wilson was divided into five school districts. Education of the younger children gradually increased until 1852 when it became necessary to build a cobblestone schoolhouse on Pettit Street, just west of the present Baptist Church. This two-story structure was the main village school for many years and when it became overcrowded, the Dox Block and old cobblestone office south of Luther Wilson's home were used as annexes. School districts in the town increased to 17 by 1859 as the necessity of providing more schools in the township increased.

Property taxes were levied to help support the schools and were computed by multiplying the number of acres a person owned by the value of one acre times the tax rate. About 1844, for example, a person owning 100 acres of land worth \$7.00 an acre would have paid a total tax of about \$8.00 per year.

The rural school districts and Union Free School District #1 played a big roll in educating the children in the town and village prior to centralization in 1941. All districts operated independently within their own areas and each district had its own trustees who were responsible for hiring teachers and disbursing funds.

Early records kept by trustees of District #7 in East Wilson reveal some interesting information which probably co-incided with the operations of other rural schools in town. The District #7 property was originally given for a school by Mr. Herman Halsey in 1843. In keeping with early tradition, when first painted, it was red.

The first teacher is said to have been Mr. William W. Wollaber. Years later, two of Mr. Halsey's granddaughters as well as his great granddaughter, Mrs. Alice Bull Carter, taught there as well.

When one considers the great number of industrial and political leaders in the nation today who received some of their early education in small rural schools like District #7, one can't help but admire the skill and dedication those early teachers must have given to their profession. Apparently, since they were poorly paid, good education must have depended more on dedication to their students rather than high salaries. For instance, in 1906, the teacher of District #7 was paid \$340 a year, (and she had to furnish most of her own supplies). The janitor received \$11.90 to clean the building and light fires in the old pot-belly stove. In that same year, \$2.40 was spent for furniture, and \$2.10 for school supplies. When the district's taxpayers voted to close the school May 14, 1942, the teacher's salary had only increased to \$912 a year.

Trustees of District #7 from 1904 to 1942 were, Mr. Burt Stone, Mr. Edward Woodcock, Mr. Henry Munch, Mr. Edgar Bull, Mr. Jacob Sherman, Mr. M.B. Dennis, Mr. Mack Poole, Mr. Luther A. Wilson, Mr. L.C. Huguenor, Mr. John Richards, Mr. Willard Woodcock, and Mr. Oscar Munch.

District #7 began busing their children to the new Wilson Central Rural School in September, 1942.

\* \* \* \* \*

BON MOT: The older a man gets, the farther he had to walk to school as a boy.

\* \* \* \* \*

THERE'S LIFE IN THE OLD GIRL YET": In case you're wondering what that is supposed to mean, we simply wish to assure you we are referring to the Wilson Historical Society. Yes, some of us may be a little older and a little bit slower since the Society was founded in 1972, but the spark is still there. That was amply demonstrated Thursday afternoon, Oct. 28th, when Marion Goodrich called to say their old barn was to be burned down Saturday, and if more wood was needed for the "Patterson Room", there was plenty available.

Our treasurer immediately got on the "hot line" with calls to Peggy Ward and Whit Barnum who assured her the wood was well worth acquiring. Whit got the contractor to hold off until Monday, and soon telephones were ringing in every member's home where help might be expected. Considering sickness and prior commitments, the response was a little more than remarkable.

Friday and Saturday from 9 AM on, Edgar Culverwell, Fenton Cole, John Goodrich, "Tex" Tucker, Ralph Dinse, Joe Higgins, Rex Stacy, Elwin Upton, Tom Sharpe, Wally Beutel, and Don Croop showed up with pinch bars, hammers, and a lot of determination. Not to be outdone were Peggy Ward, Lois Barnum, Marion Goodrich, Millie Croop, and Helen Dinse, who made it plain "Womens Lib" is more than just a word to them. Some especially good pieces of cherry and other boards were removed from a granary, stables, and overhead flooring enabling Peggy to take three large loads of wood to the museum. The boards will have to be cleaned up some before installing, so don't be surprised if you're invited to a "brushing bee" in the near future.

\* \* \* \* \*

BAKE SALE: Nettie Stimson and Lois Barnum report that the election day sale was a great success. Since Wilson ladies have long been known as culinary experts, all "goodies" at the Water Dist. Bldg. and Town Hall were quickly sold out. Nettie and Lois wish to thank all who baked and made cash donations, and especially for those "paper pies" from Florida and California.

\* \* \* \* \*

GOOD SHOWING: Helen Borngraeber has been providing a valuable service to the Society by getting volunteer hostesses for Sunday afternoons when the museum is open from two to four. The co-operation from the members has been fine, and the Society commends all who have given of their time and services. Gwenn Wright has volunteered to call "scheduled hostesses" each week as a gentle reminder so there will be no "slip ups".

\* \* \* \* \*

MORE THANK YOU acknowledgements to Karl Wright and Rex Stacy who picked up the beautiful display case donated to the Society by the Niagara Co. Hist. Soc.... and to Betty Stimson for "straightening out" a small matter associated with recycling glass.....and to Rex Stacy who built a 4' sign which will be painted and lettered by Carol C. Smith and installed near the road by Art Schnoor..... and to Dorothy Linnabery for her initiative in starting a Christmas tree ornament-making program.....and to Eleanor Myers for accepting responsibility for the 1977 "Country Fair".....and to Dora Wakeman and Nancy Kent for 'filling in for Millie Middleton.....and to Gary Jacobs, Delbert Pfohl, Louis MacLaughlin, and Jack Cindrick for setting up and advertising the November railroad exhibit which drew over 100 visitors on each of the first two Sundays.

\* \* \* \* \*

SPEAKING OF RAILROADS: When the "Hojack" first crossed Lkpt.-Clcott Rd. the stop was named "Newfane". In 1900, when the trolley line was built under the steam line at that point, the intersection was named "Furt", and the trolley stop at Charlotteville was given the name "Newfane". The two lines could never seem to make good connections for passengers, and as pioneer William Clmstead smilingly put it, "This had a permanent effect on the growth of the hamlet called "Furt". People found it easier to settle there than try to wait for a trolley or train."

\* \* \* \* \*

BICENTENNIAL NOTES: Projects still to be completed include, Marking and Dedicating the "Tabor Bridge"; Erecting marker at the 1823 log cabin in East Wilson; Making up register of all 100 year old homes in town of Wilson; and compiling list of 3, 4, or more generation families who have lived on the homestead. Call Dorothy Thilk if you know families who qualify..

\* \* \* \* \*

DECEMBER: Trustees will meet Dec 15th, 8 PM at museum. Families who would like to help decorate Christmas tree are invited. REGULAR MEETING will be on Dec. 20th, 7:30 PM at museum. PROGRAM, "Christmas Past Revisited". Will include old fashioned corn-popping; cracking nuts on flatiron, taffee pull, decorating Xmas cookies; making ornaments, paper chains, stringing corn and cranberries, and a sing-a-long with Frances Goldthorpe. HOSTESSES will be Leona Hunter, June Kropp, and Mildred Lonsbery. MONTHLY EXHIBIT will feature old toys and dolls under supervision of Peggy Ward. MONTHLY HOSTESSES on Sundays will be, Dec. 5th, Sue Cruickshank & family; Dec. 12th, Marion and Chuck Campbell; Dec. 19th, Esther and Harold Albright; Dec. 26th, Helen Borngraeber and Hannah and Tom Goodnight.

\* \* \* \* \*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR: May the Holiday Season bring you these treasured gifts of Happiness, Joy, Cheer, and enduring Friendships. (From the members of the Publications Committee)

\* \* \* \* \*