

Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

JAN. 1979 Vol.8 No.1
(Coleman Press)

WILSON CENTRAL SCHOOL: Prior to 1927, baseball and basketball had no official school backing. All ball games were played at Clcott, and basketball was played in the old hall behind Middleton's Drugstore. The first high school team was organized in 1919, and since there was no school support, George Middleton provided financial backing for uniforms and equipment. Mike Sweeney volunteered as coach of that first team which included Kenneth Tower, Russell Hurlburt, Glenn Bull, Harold Mayer, Paul Middleton, and Harold Middleton.

A small girls' glee club was organized in 1930 by Mrs. Marjorie Hurlburt, and the first school band was organized in 1935 under Mr. Anthony Barone. A boys' choir was started in 1938 and a mixed chorus was organized in 1946. A Junior High Choir was started the same year by Miss Snyder. Other student groups that met in the school during the 1940's were the Junior Red Cross with Miss Brunette, Advisor. They received a citation from the U.S. Army for their services at Fort Niagara during World War II. The Future Farmers of America, the "Wilson Gleaners", with Albert Waite, Advisor, was the 16th chapter chartered in New York State. The Library Council was organized in 1942 by Mrs. Donald Gray, and the Art Club was new in 1946 with Miss Minerva Immershein, Advisor. The Wilson Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, sponsored by the Wilson Lion's Club, also met in the school. Wesley Churchill was Scoutmaster of troop #21, and Rev. Lyle Owens was Ass't. Scoutmaster. Intermediate Girl Scout troop #1 was led by Mildred Croop, assisted by Mrs. Redder and Miss Brunetti of the grade faculty. Brownie troop #35 was also led by Mildred with Mrs. Harry Sylvies and Mrs. Gwen Wright assisting.

During Mr. L. Ernest Tarr's first year as Principal, the Senior Class of '46 published a Centennial Anniversary issue of the school's yearbook, "The Crest". It was a historical masterpiece containing many rare old photographs. One showed pupils in front of the Pettit St. School in 1887 with their teacher, Grace LaVan; another showed a reunion of the "Philadelphian Club" by the old Collegiate Institute in 1873; and others pictured faculty and grade groups up to 1946. The "Crest" also featured an excellent history of education in Wilson by Mary Lou Hurlburt and Miss Dorothy H. Dehn, Senior Class Advisor.

Sports began to play a greater roll in the school program when Walter Hutchison arrived in 1946. In addition to baseball and basketball, a six man football team was started, and under "Hutch's" skillful coaching, had a record of 35 victories against 6 defeats while winning 5 Niagara-Orleans championships. Track was included in the sports program in 1948, and Wilson won the Niagara-Orleans track titles for 10 consecutive years. Cross Country was added in 1949 with Wilson winning 5 championships in their first 6 years of competition. Coach Hutchison's teams also won 4 Class "A" championships in baseball. Eleven man football was started in 1953, and tennis, the last major sport added to the program, was started in the late 1950's.

The population of Wilson Central School more than tripled under the Administration of Mr. Tarr, and numerous building programs were instituted. Four rooms were added to the main building in 1946, and in 1948 voters approved an addition of 6 more rooms including 2 lavatories, faculty rooms, and high school guidance office. Improvements to the main building were again approved in 1952 consisting of 9 rooms, 2 more lavatories, double gymnasium, locker rooms, athletic equipment room, physical training room, 2 offices, faculty room, and lavatory and commercial suite. The old gymnasium was converted into an auditorium and additional office space provided. (to be concluded)

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SUGGESTION BOX: A box is being placed near the hostess reception table for ideas and suggestions. Your input is needed to make the Society responsive to the desires of its members. The trustees will give careful consideration to any ideas pertaining to "Policies", "Operational Procedures", "Exhibits", "Country Fair", "Building Renovation", etc. As had been said many times, we are a voluntary organization and our success or failure depends on your ideas and participation. Many of our original members are still active and may be justly proud of their contributions to date.

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BON MOT: For travel to be rewarding, one must have a good place to leave and a good place to return to.

NEW MEMBERS: The Society is pleased to welcome two new members into the Society, Mrs. Dorothea Marks of Wilson, and Mrs. Lillian Ulrich of Florida.

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ACQUISITIONS: Featured in the Holiday Exhibit at the museum is a beautiful ceramic Nativity Scene which was made and donated by Miss Mary Kidder, resident of the Beachwood Home, Gettsville. The 12 pc. set will become a part of the annual Christmas display.

The attractive wreath on the outside of the museum is the handiwork of Joe Higgins. We've all come to look forward to this annual contribution by Joe.

Charles Poyer: Two old local autograph albums via Joe Higgins; also, in behalf of Miss Lucille Wilson of Buffalo, the Glenn Wilson Family Bible, and a blue and white blanket woven by her grandmother, Esther; also a very old photo of the Cobblestone Wilson House.

Mildred Schnoor: Two handmade building nails, windshield de-icer, 1928 Farm Journal, 1947 Rural New Yorker, and 1927 Needlecraft Magazine.

Dr. John Argue: Medicine bag found under seat of Metz once owned by Dr. Murray Mudge of Hartland.

Dorothy Thilk: 1908 New Century Atlas of Niag. Co., and two photos of red brick farmhouse home of John Diez, also Olcott Photo of Judson Swift .

Helen Borngraeber: Lace collar(1930) and Brown Party Dress.

Judy Streams: Old penny postcard found in wall of her home. Message, which was addressed to C. Krakoski, Esq., Main St., Niag. Falls. reads as follows: "We have small owl, live one. Commonly called screech owl. What is it worth?" Card is signed Vosburg and Moule and dated January 16, 1884.

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RESEARCH PAYS OFF: Genealogy is a fascinating subject because it enables people to make new friends and discover interesting facts about one's ancestry. For instance, Priscilla Berry(Smiley), daughter of Fred and Sara Berry, and Rebecca Baker (Hill), daughter of Charles and Ella Mae Baker(Peters), had an interesting experience while the Smileys were stationed with the U.S. Air Force at Alconburg, England.

Becky and her husband paid her cousin a visit and while there had an opportunity to visit their family's ancestral home, the Richmond Manor House at Ash-to-Keynes, Willschere. The present owner of the Manor House, Major Hartland, was very hospitable and made Becky and Priscilla feel right at home. He was delighted to learn more about former residents of the Manor and has invited Becky and John to pay him a return visit.

Becky and Priscilla trace their Richmond line back 12 generations to John Richmond who was born in England in 1627. John's son, Lt. Joseph Richmond, emigrated to the Colonies in the 1600's and settled in the Taunton area of Mass.

Sixth generation ancestor, John Holmes, born at Wellington, Conn. in 1790, married Nancy Richmond of Guilford Center, Chenango Co., N.Y. Their daughter, Lucy Holmes, married Asa H. Cory after whom Coryville, Pa., is named.(Coryville is a small village south of Bradford.) Becky and Priscilla are great grand daughters of Francis S. Holmes and Ella Cory, daughter of Asa Cory and Lucy.

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JANUARY PROGRAM: The regular meeting will be held Monday evening, January 15th at 7:30 PM in the museum. Douglas McIntyre of Lockport, a member of the Buffalo Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, will present a 55 minute tape-slide program on "Western New York Railroads, Past and Present".

Committee in charge of refreshments will be: Marianne Sharpe, Chairman, Clara Marcks, and Tom Sharpe III.

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MUSEUM EXHIBITS: The "Holiday Season" exhibit will be continued through the month of January and dismantled Monday afternoon, January 29th, at 1PM. This is also the time to bring items for the February-March exhibit which will be "Patriotic". All members who can loan things of a military nature are asked to bring them on Monday, January 29th, so the museum committee can arrange it.

HOSTESSES for January will be Jan. 7th, Clara and Harold Marcks; Jan. 14th, Eleanor and John Myers; Jan. 21st, Leona and Howard Hunter; and Jan. 28th, Marilyn and Ed Allgier.

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THANK YOU: Francis Tate has spent considerable time cleaning and repairing the square grand piano in the Patterson Room. He claims it's an old one and was surprised at its good condition. The Society is grateful for his assistance.

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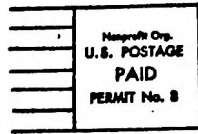
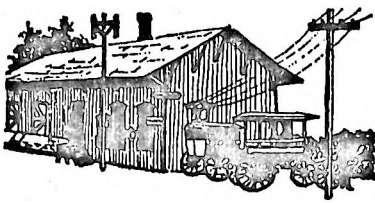
QUILTERS ALERT! Florence Schultz, Quilt Chrm., has announced that work will start on a new "Dresden Plate" or "Tree of Life" quilt on Tuesday, January 9th. Quilting sessions will be held at her home at 2419 Lake Road each Tuesday and Thursday until the quilt is finished. Florence says that everyone is welcome and suggests you bring a sandwich--she'll furnish coffee--quilting sessions will last from 9AM to 3PM. Betty Stimson is having donation tickets printed.

The quilt raffle has become one of the Fair's most profitable projects. Our hat is off to this small group of dedicated persons who have contributed so generously of their time and skills for the benefit of the Society.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of our 358 active members, may they be at home, away, or traveling.

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Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MRS. HELEN FRENCH, LIBRARIAN
508 LAKE STREET
WILSON, N.Y. 14172

FEB. 1979 Vol. 8 No.2
(Coleman Press)

THE "ERNIE TARR" YEARS: Prior to 1955, the old Union School was used for Industrial Art, Agriculture, and several academic classes, but in the fall of 1955, two rooms in the basement were closed by officials of the State Education Department. In 1956, voters approved a building program to remodel the Union School, construct a 16 room elementary grade school one quarter mile east of the high school, and add two rooms to the Ransomville School.

The old Union School was remodeled as planned but classes were never held in it. Tragedy struck August 2, 1957, when a spark from a nearby fire ignited the shingle roof and burned out the interior of the building. (A new town hall was constructed there and 19 years later on May 7, 1976, the Wilson Hist. Soc. placed a marker at the site to commemorate the famous old Collegiate Institute and Union School). A vocational building was built northeast of the high school to replace the burned-out Academy and included 3 industrial art shops, classroom, lavatory, and garage. The Ransomville addition was completed in 1957 as was the new elementary school which was named Thomas Marks in honor of the man who did so much for education in Wilson. In 1960, a proposal was voted on and approved to add a new gymnasium to the Ransomville School and 12 new class rooms and cafeteria to the Thomas Marks School.

Mr. Marks served 23 years on the School Board, 21 as President, and was instrumental (along with Principal Tarr) of promoting 5 major building programs. Other prominent community leaders who served many years with Mr. Marks were, Mr. Russell Hurlburt, Mr. Wirt Wakeman, Mr. Oscar Munch, Mr. James Cornell, clerk, and Mr. Earl Brydges.

Education kept pace with the building program with Adult Education being introduced in 1948, Driver Training in 1951, and classes for the mentally retarded in 1957. By 1960, 80% of the students who enrolled in the 7th grade remained to graduate. Fifty four percent of all graduates enrolled in colleges, nurses training, or technical schools, showing a high level of academic achievement. In 1961, ten distinct programs were being offered to high school students in addition to three college preparatory programs and three vocational business programs. There were also programs in vocational homemaking, arts, industrial arts, and music. An exceptionally fine music department functioned for many years with Mrs. Marjorie Hurlburt directing the chorus, and Mr. Jack Maxfield directing the band and orchestra.

It may be said that during the administration of Mr. L. Ernest Tarr, the Wilson Schools matured into one of the better educational systems in Niagara County. Mr. Tarr became Supervising Principal in 1960 and retired in 1965. Mr. Peter Saggese was the first Principal of Thomas Marks school, and Mr. Richard Schmidle became high school principal in 1961. Another well known administrator, Mr. Archie Petty, served the school as Guidance Counselor for twenty years. Mrs. Lydia Southard, of the Wilson faculty, was appointed part time teacher and Principal of the Ransomville school in 1955. She stopped teaching in 1957 to become Director of Early Secondary Education as well as Principal. In 1961 she was appointed full time Principal and retired in 1970.

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"THUMBNAIL SKETCH": Florence Webster (Swick), daughter of Eugene Webster and Ella Marie Raymond, was born March 4, 1885, on the Daniel's road, town of Wilson. She attended the Daniel's road district school. Wilson High school. and Teacher's Training class. She is a long time member of the 1st Baptist Church of Wilson.

Florence married Alonzo W. Swick, March 31, 1908, and they had three children. Ronald W; Frances L.(Diez); and Lucille E.(Upton). She is the proud grandmother of 14 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

Mrs. Swick's paternal grandfather, John G. Webster, was born in Ogden, Monroe County, June 12, 1815. He cut trees and cleared the land now occupied by the Dorwood Trailer Park. He resided there for 66 years.

Florence's maternal grandfather, Dr. William Raymond, was born in 1822. He practiced his profession at Molyneaux Corners and was one of the few doctors in the area at the time.

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BON MOT: A BUDGET is what you stay within if you go without.

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NEW MEMBER: We welcome Mr. J. Earl McCormick of Oceanside, Cal., as our most recent new member. His wife, Alice, wrote that they have been enjoying California's wonderful climate for the past 14 years. Earl still likes to get news from Wilson, however, so she felt he would enjoy receiving the Newsletter.

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ACQUISITIONS: "Chuck" Messersmith has donated a cradle that was once used by Lee Hamblin. Lee was born March 14, 1891, and died in August, 1968.

Thomas Fare: Two framed aerial photos of the Wilson Harbor, and the Wilson Museum showing Pfeiffers, Inc., in the background.

Betty Stimson: A 50 year old majolica teapot with acorn design.

Lynn Sherrie (in behalf of the Wilson Fire Co.); A framed photo of Wilson Volunteers standing in front of "Old Betsey" in 1927.

Elder and Sister Boyd: A copy of the "Book of Mormon".

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CHARTER RECEIVED: In the July-August Newsletter we announced that the application for a permanent charter had been approved by the N. Y. State Board of Regents. The reality of this accomplishment was brought home at the December meeting when Mr. Richard Southard, Attorney for the Town of Wilson, presented the absolute charter to Dr. John F. Argue, President.

The charter is beautifully mounted in an old oak frame which Dick "dug up" in the cellar of his parent's home, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Southard, of Wilson. He credited Fenton Cole and Audrey Orr with a big assist in the framing. The charter is now tastefully hung above the simulated fireplace.

Mr. Southard recently received wide recognition in Western New York when Gov. Carey appointed him as a member of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority effective to June, 1985.

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MUSEUM PROGRESS: The room at the west end of the museum is now being renovated as a storage and display area. A second floor will serve as storage, and the ground floor will house the new heating plant and exhibits. A stairway over the boxed-in furnace will give access to the 2nd floor. The large overhead door has been eliminated and the space sided over to recapture the original look of the depot. John Myers is putting the final touches on the furnace installation so all members may attend future meetings knowing they will be warm and comfortable.

Things are shaping up, thanks to Art Schnoor, Joe Higgins, Burt Jennings, Elwin Upton, Edgar Culverwell, Ralph Dinse, and Doug Smith, but Art, (prime mover in renovating the museum) hopes that all able bodied men will call him and schedule a date to help out. The museum committee is hard pressed for more storage and display space. Your co-operation now will insure that they have it soon.

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MEMBERSHIP ROLL: Every family has been mailed a copy of the Society's latest membership roll. Phone numbers of persons residing in the local area have been included. It is suggested that everyone keep their registers for future reference. Corrections: Dorothea Mark's ph. no. is 751-9446. Edith Diez is at Westgate Nursing Home, 525 Beahan Rd., Rochester 14624.

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FEBRUARY MEETING: So! You didn't attend the genealogical classes held in December, but you're still interested and would like to learn more about the subject. Well, here's your chance! Our local "Mystery Guest" will put it all together Monday evening, February 19th, and who knows, your spark of interest could grow into a roaring flame of research into your family roots. Following the program, refreshments will be served by Marilyn Allgeier, Chrm., Jean Swanson, and Jane Sinclair.

An important meeting of the museum committee is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 29th at 1PM in the museum. Meetings for February will be decided then, also, persons having items for the "Patriotic" exhibit may bring them on the 29th.

A meeting of the Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairmen is always held on the Wednesday evening prior to regular meetings which are held on the 3rd Monday of each month. All meetings at museum unless notified otherwise.

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GOOD TIMING: Ed Hastings must have had Barry Lillis on his side, because the footing for the new transportation building was successfully poured before the winter of '79 set in. Now it will be possible to start early construction when Spring arrives. Nice Goin', Ed!

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BOOST WILSON: Extra copies of the Newsletter are placed in the brochure rack near the east entrance to the museum each month. Help yourself and send to former residents, friends, or relatives. A 15¢ stamp is needed to mail singly.

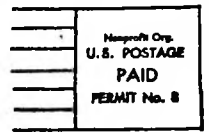
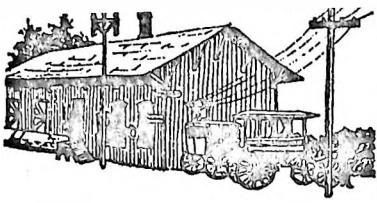
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ORNAMENTS: Hand-made Christmas ornaments were all winners this year with special recognition to Garnette Upton and Marie Getman. Other original entrees were received from Susan Thilk, Maryanne Sharpe, Millie Croop, and George and Dorothy Linnabery.

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FEBRUARY HOSTESSES: Sunday afternoons from 2-4PM, Feb. 4th, Whit and Lois Barnum; Feb. 11th, Ed and Dorothy Lort; Feb. 18th, Eleanor Canfield and Dorothea Marks; and Feb. 25th, Helen Horton and Cheryl Brown.

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Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

MARCH 1979 Vol. 8 No.3

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MRS. HELEN FRENCH, LIBRARIAN
500 LAKE STREET
WILSON, N.Y. 14172

THE 151st REGIMENT: During the Civil War, the 151st Infantry Regiment was organized at Lockport and mustered into service October 22, 1862. It was later engaged in some of the major battles of the war, and in November, 1863, came under its first baptism of fire at Mine Run, Va. Sixty one men were lost on the field of battle, and though badly "shot-up" in subsequent actions, managed to rally under General Sheridan to defeat the Confederate Army under General Jubal Early in the Shenandoah Campaign of 1864. The 151st also participated in the final collapse and breakthrough at Richmond and Petersburg, and were present for the final surrender of General Lee at Appomattox Court House.

Thirteen men enlisted in the 151st from Wilson including Enoch Pettit, who first enlisted as a musician in Co. F. His sword was donated to the Wilson Museum by the late Wilfred H. Moody, grandson of the Civil War veteran and Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society.

Other brave members of the 151st included Sgt. Loren Warren who was killed at Monocacy, Md; Pvt. John Wilkins who was killed at Cold Harbor; Pvt. Edwin Stockwell who died in the Regiment Hospital at Point Lookout, Md; Pvt. George Shouten and Pvt. James Harris who were wounded in the "Battle of the Wilderness"; and Pvt. Christian Deckow who was wounded at Petersburg.

Capt. Luren D. Wilson of Co. K received a disability discharge, and 2nd Lt. Lemuel J. Foote, Chaplain of Co. H, was a member of the Wilson Methodist- Episcopal Church. Other Wilson men in the regiment were Pvt. Henry Ballow, Pvt. George Sturgess, Pvt. Lambert Sturgess; and Pvt. Henry Hutching, an uncle of the late Carrie Martin.

One of the exhibits in the current "Patriotic" display is a framed collection of G.A.R. Encampment and Convention Badges accumulated by Russell Austin Ferris. Sgt. Ferris enlisted in the 151st from Newfane and was the grandfather of the Town of Wilson Historian, Mrs. Dorothy Thilk. His name is on the monument that was once located at the intersection of old Rt. 18 and Lkpt.-Olcott Rd.

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IN MEMORIAM: Verna Caufield, 68, an active Charter Member of the Wilson Historical Society, passed away February 8, 1979, at Newfane Inter-Community Hospital. Verna was a former officer of the 1st Baptist Church, Past President of the Wilsonian BPW Club, and Correspondent for the Niagara Gazette. Verna's demise will leave a void in the lives of those who knew and worked with her. The Society extends its condolences to her sons, Donald of Batavia, David of California, and sister Mrs. Leah Schulz of Florida.

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NEW MEMBERS: The Society extends a hearty welcome to its latest new members, Mr. Willis Strickland, Lockport; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mudge, Wilson; and Mrs. Lillian Garlock of Wilson. It is understandable that many of our 365 paid members are unable to attend meetings, but a cordial invitation is extended to those who can. The Society meets on the 3rd Monday evening of each month at 7:30 PM. The programs are entertaining, the fellowship heartwarming, and the delicacies served by the refreshment committees are second to none.

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NORMAN ROOD PETTIT was born at Lockport City Hospital, May 30, 1921. He attended Newfane Dist. School #1, Lockport High School, and Penn State University. Norman and Irene Pettit were married at Olcott in August, 1964, and have a son, Roy E. Pettit II, also a grandson, Roy E. Pettit III.

Norman is a Millwright at Harrison Radiator Div. of GMC. He also belongs to Newfane Lodge #947 F & AM; Navy Club of Lockport (Past Commander); Marine Div. of the Niag. Co. Sherriff's Dept; and Lockport Elks #41. He joined the U.S. Navy, June 11, 1942, and received his wings as a Navy Pilot, June 30, 1943. He was honorably discharged, November 3, 1945.

Mr. Pettit is a direct descendent of George Saxton who fought in the American Revolution. He can trace his Pettit line back six generations to Joseph Pettit who was born and lived on the sea as a ship Captain in the early 1700's. Norman's father, Roy E. Pettit, was an East Wilson dairy farmer and his mother, Celia Rood, was the daughter of Franklin Rood of Ridgewood.

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BON MOT: Strangers are friends you have yet to meet. (Roberta Lieberman)

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ACQUISITIONS: A large beautifully framed picture of Wilson G.A.R. Civil War Veterans has been donated to the Society by Mr. Harold Mudge. Two of His grand-parents, Mr. Delbert Mudge and Mr. John Litchard, are in the picture. Delbert enlisted in the Union Army at Coldwater, Michigan, and was with Sherman in his famous "March to the Sea". John Litchard enlisted from near Rushford, N.Y., and was a member of the 1st Dragoons (New York). According to Mr. Mudge, even though the Dragoons were a Cavalry outfit, they would always have their horses led to the rear for safety before engaging the enemy in battle.

A "Clacker", donated by Mr. Willis C. Strickland of Lockport, is estimated to be 150 years old and rates as one of the more unusual gifts received recently. It came from St. John's Parish School in Lockport, and was used by Sister Justina to get her pupils' attention.

An old Steelyard Scale has been donated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hernberger of Newfane, and this type weighing device has always been considered reliable and accurate. The idea for such a scale originated in Italy 200 years B.C., and modern versions of the Roman Steelyard are still used by some butchers.

Harold Horton: Old New York Central broad axe and boxed set of "reamers".

Dorothy Thilk: 91 old Christmas postcards and 40 old Easter postcards.

Lewis Schrader: Copy of 1902 Ordinances for the Village of Wilson.

Correction: The Lee Hamblin Cradle was loaned to the museum by Mr and Mrs. "Chuck" Messersmith, not donated as reported in the last Newsletter.

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MUSEUM EXHIBIT: The "Patriotic" display will be continued until Monday, March 26th at 10 AM when it will be replaced by the April-May exhibit which will be "Musical Instruments and Sheet Music". Lois Jennings, Chrm., would like to again emphasize that all displays can only be as successful as contributors are generous. She suggests you bring your lunch as it takes time to dismantle and arrange a new exhibit.

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HOSTESSES FOR MARCH: Edna Rose, Chrm., reports that the following persons have agreed to serve as Sunday afternoon hostesses from two to four: March 4th, Dorothy and George Linnabery; March 11th, Helen and Ralph Dinse; March 18th, Nancy and Berne Kent; and March 25th, Donna and Sidney Pettit.

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NEW FACES: Members not previously mentioned who have shown up at the museum on Saturday mornings include Roger Goodman, Joe Geiser, Wally Beutel, and Ed Allgeier. Work is progressing smoothly and the Society is grateful for the affirmative response from those who have been asked to help.

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"TWINKLING THIMBLERS": They've done it again! Another spanking-new "Tree of Life" quilt has been completed for the Country Fair next May by the Society's expert quilters, Florence Schultz, Beryl Tovell, Betty Stimson, Anna Mae Nevins, and Joe Higgins. Tickets have been made up again this year by courtesy of Tom Fare, and some are already distributed. Betty Stimson will be in charge of distribution and sales. The quilt will be put on display at Hamilton & Clarks, and once you've seen it you'll want to be the proud owner. There will also be a second prize--a doll house built by none other than Art Schnoor.

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MARCH MEETINGS: It will be a privilege to welcome Mr. Charles Boyer as guest speaker at the regular meeting on Monday evening, March 19th. Mr. Boyer, former Curator of the Niagara County Historical Society, will share some of his knowledge on the subject of "Wallpaper" with friends and members of the Wilson Soc.

The refreshment committee will be composed of Sue Cruickshank, Chrm., Shelby Cowles, and Marie Reynolds.

The Trustees will meet Wednesday evening, March 14th, at 8 PM: Two important meetings of the Museum Comm. are scheduled for Feb. 26th at 1 PM, and March 26th at 10 AM. Join the museum comm. and take part where the action is.

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ROOM NAMED: The new display room, which is presently being remodeled, has been designated as the "Arthur Schnoor Room" in honor of the man who has contributed so much of his time and expertise to renovate the museum. Dr. John Argue, Pres., thanked Mr. Schnoor on behalf of the Society, and presented him with a plaque which will be placed on the door. The recognition was authorized at a meeting of the Executive Comm., and Trustees.

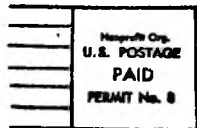
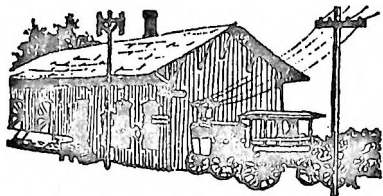
ATTENTION PLEASE! Everyone should be aware that the new lock on the east entrance to the museum must be locked with a key. The door has been found unlocked several times recently, and on one occasion, the door was found wide open in 15 degree weather. When it is your responsibility to close the museum, turn key hard to the right in lock, and try door before you leave. Thank you.

NO MYSTERY: Miss Celeste Crawford, Genealogy Chrm., was revealed as the guest speaker at the February meeting. She presented a slide program outlining important procedures to follow in tracing one's ancestors. Celeste, Librarian at the Thomas Marks School, is very knowledgeable on the subject, and no doubt would be willing to advise any members who'd like to start a family tree.

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IT'S A FACT: Just when you think you've graduated from the school of experience, someone thinks up a new course. (Mary Waldrip)

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Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

APRIL 1979 Vol.8 No.4

EARLY WILSON BANDS: In keeping with the current musical exhibit at the museum, it is interesting to note that the "Lake Island Park Band" was probably the oldest organized musical group in Wilson. The band performed in the 1890's at functions such as the "Farmers Picnics", baseball games, parades, etc. In 1895 its personnel included Harrison Wright, Drum Major; Charles Johnson, Bass Drum; Frank Johnson and Daniel Sweet, Trumpets; Ora Johnson, Trombone; and Lee Johnson, Snare Drummer. Two of Bessie Crawford's uncles were also in the band, Charles Van Buren, who played French Horn, and William Van Buren, who played Alto Sax. Fred Burnette and Will Johnson also played Alto Sax, and Ernest Vosburgh played Bass.

The "Ontario Band" was organized ca. 1910, and was a popular musical group around Wilson until 1925 when they disbanded. They were managed by L. W. Smith, and the first Director was Harry Kline. According to Mr. Glenn Hillman, 90 yrs. young, the first concert was held in the Albright Opera House to raise money for uniforms, and the first selection played was "Oh, You Beautiful Doll." Mr. Hillman, the last surviving member of the original band, said that rehearsals were held in back of the Horton Hardware store, and that Will Scott later succeeded Kline as Director.

Other members of the band were Alex McClellan, Drum Major; Stanley Giles, Trumpet; Clare Coe, Trumpet; Ora Johnson, Clarinet; Caspar ----(an Indian), Clarinet; Bill Johnson, Alto Sax; Jack Coombs, Alto Sax; Henry Coombs, Trombone; Lou Smith, Trombone; Glenn Hillman, Trombone; Henry Giles, Baritone; Harry Holden, Bass; Roy DeNeau, Snare Drummer; "Putty" Johnson, Snare Drummer; and Dan Carter, Basedrum.

Wilson "Oldtimers" may recall the street dances held Thursday evenings during the summer when music was provided by the band who "set up" on the veranda of the old Luther Wilson home. In addition, they performed at various events such as ballgames, Memorial Day parades, etc. On one occasion they played at an Odd Fellows Convention at Ontario Beach, Charlotte, and also paraded several times with the Odd Fellows at Buffalo. The band took the train several years from Wilson to Barker to play at the Fieldays, and would often play on the train for the entertainment of the passengers. Glenn recalled, with some amusement, that on a trip to Lyndonville they played "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," over and over, until they arrived at their destination.

Mr. Louis Swick also has fond memories of the old "Ontario Band" since they serenaded Louis and his new bride, Florence, when they were married at the family home on Willow Rd. in 1911. According to him, the yard and house were packed with people, and the band played most of the day for the happy occasion.

* * * * *

HARRIET LANDY NOLAN, daughter of Roy Landy and Frances Marks, was born at Lockport City Hospital, April 9, 1923. She graduated from Wilson High School, Brockport State Teachers College, and took additional courses at Miami University of Ohio, SUNY at Buffalo, and University of New York at Buffalo.

Mrs. Nolan is a teacher employed by the Board of Education at North Tonawanda, N.Y. She is a member of St. Marks, Lioness Club of Tonawanda, the Council of Arts, NEA, and NYEA.

Her father, Roy Landy was a fruit farmer and served as a Village Trustee and member of the Wilson School Board. Her mother, Frances Marks, was also a teacher, artist, and retired employee of General Motors. Her grandfather, Thomas Marks, was well known in the community as a nurseryman and President of the Wilson School Board for over 20 years.

Mrs. Nolan recently compiled and published a beautifully bound edition of the history and genealogy of the William Somerville family starting from the days of "Norman the Conqueror". The fascinating 252 page book traces descendants of the Somervilles from Scotland, to Canada, to Wilson. A copy of the book has been presented to the Wilson Historical Society by Mrs. Nolan, and will become a part of the Society's growing collection of family genealogies.

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SPECIAL NOTICE: The Society has decided to hold all "Country Fairs" on the last Saturday in May. This year's Fair will be on May 26th. Because of the conflicting dates for Memorial Day, which will be celebrated on Monday and Wednesday, it is felt that the last Saturday of the month will be better.

COUNTRY FAIR: Eleanor Myers, Chrm. of the Annual Country Fair, is busily getting things in order for this year's event. A meeting of the Fair Committee will be held Tuesday morning, April 24th, at 10:00 AM in the museum. Everyone is urged to get their "fleas" together right away, and to also be thinking about the pies, cookies, and salads you can furnish. Remember, this year's Fair will be held on Saturday, May 26th, from eleven to five o'clock.

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IN MEMORIAM: We are saddened by the death of Mr. Charles Peacock, 82, of Chickamauga, Ga. He took an active interest in the Society since the "Billy Sherman" marker dedication in 1973. We will miss his friendly letters and extend the Society's condolences to his sister, Miss Margaret Peacock. Their paternal grandfather came from this area and enlisted during the Civil War as a Captain in the Union Army. He remained in the south after the war.

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NEW MEMBERS: It is a real pleasure to welcome four new members in the Society: Thelma Patterson of Ransomville, Ralph Stockwell of Lockport, and Bill and Mary Budde of Wilson.

* * * * *

DUES ARE DUE: Renewing your membership is one of the most important ways you can help to keep the Wilson Society active and financially healthy. There has been no increase in dues since we were founded in 1972, and with the continued support of all members we can keep it that way. A renewal form is enclosed for your convenience. Won't you please return it promptly?

* * * * *

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Not including building or trust fund)	
Balance on hand 12/1/78	\$5,538.70
Expenditures	<u>2,091.31</u>
	3,447.39
Receipts	<u>177.69</u>
Balance on hand 2/28/79	3,625.08

* * * * *

NEW COOKBOOK: About a year ago, Carol C. Smith and Nettie Stimson proposed that the Ways & Means Comm. publish a cookbook to help raise funds for the Society. Since then Lois Barnum, Chrm., Carole Schnoor, Christine Goodman, and Nettie Stimson have been collecting favorite recipes from members, both near and far. The response has been good and the recipes cover a wide variety of special dishes, and except for a few duplications, have been typed up by Chris Goodman. Art work has been furnished by Kirsten Nevins, Rebecca Stevens, and Berne Kent. It is hoped that a limited edition will be published in time for the Fair, and it might be wise if you reserved the copies you want before.

* * * * *

THANK YOU: Norm and Marie Luff have been working many long hours with Lois Jennings and Millie Croop in an effort to get the acquisition records up to date. The Society is grateful that they are willing to devote their time to this worthy project as these records are vital for insurance purposes.

* * * * *

ARTHUR SCHNOOR ROOM: Those "Saturday Morning Wonders" must be the reason Art has been smiling so broadly of late. They are doing a great job and we'd like to mention some who have helped since the last Newsletter: Rev. Rae Brothers, Harry Rohring, Howard Hunter, "Bud" Monroe, Norm MacAskill, Elton Kropp, Bob Lewis, and Bob Thomas.

You don't know what you've missed until you've seen Elwin Upton nailing up sheetrock over his head while standing on a 12' stepladder; or watched Wally Beutel and Ed Allgeir doing a balancing act on a wobbly scaffold; or seen Doug Smith put insulation over the ceiling without once putting his foot through it; or seen the look on Rog Goodman's face when he almost put a staple in his finger instead of the studding; or listened to "Bud" Monroe (who's a pretty fair ventriloquist) make believe someone had been nailed behind the wallboard. But all the work and fun lead to one common goal--making the Wilson Museum an attraction the Community may be proud of.

* * * * *

MUSEUM HOSTESSES: The April Newsletter is late this month because the editor was in Hawaii but hostesses are scheduled as follows: April 1st, Rev. and Mrs. Rae Brothers; April 8th, Bob and Edna Rose; April 15th, Merritt and Frannie Cake; April 22nd, Norm, Dorothy, and Susan Thilk; and April 29th, Winnie Fischer and Hazel Thilk. The museum comm. has put together a fine musical exhibit for April and May and it would be worth your while to see it.

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MEETINGS: The trustees will meet Wednesday evening, April 11th, at 8PM in the museum.

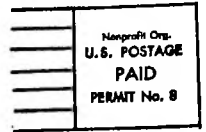
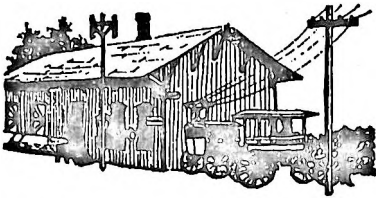
The regular monthly meeting will be held Monday evening, April 16th, at 7:30 in the museum. There will be a musical program with some "show and tell" thrown in for good measure. Refreshment hostesses will be Gwen Heidenfeldt, Chrm., Mabel Wilson, and Edna Martin.

The Fair Committee will hold a very important meeting in the museum at 10AM Tuesday, April 24th. The Fair will only be 4 weeks away at that time.

There will be a meeting of the Museum Committee, April 30th, at 1:30 PM.

* * * * *

BON MOT: Hawaii is the only place I know where they put flowers on you while you are still alive. (Will Rogers)



Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

MAY 1979 Vol.8 No. 5

(Coleman Press)

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MRS. HELEN FRENCH, LIBRARIAN
503 LAKE STREET
WILSON, N.Y. 14172

COME TO THE FAIR: April showers may bring May flowers, but it's also the time when the Society's annual "Country Fair" blossoms out. Everyone must know by now that this great effort is the principle fund raising event of the year. That is why we like to get the support and co-operation of every member. Eleanor Myers, Gen. Chrm., hasn't been letting any moss grow under her feet, and if her list of chairpersons is any indication, this year's Fair will be bigger and better than ever.

Antique Cars, under Dr. Argue's loving care, have become an attraction that creates more interest each year. Who knows, with the growing energy crisis, it is not unlikely that someday some father may say to his son, "Hey, Johnny, I remember when they used to use gasoline to run those old cars."

Balloons and clowns will circulate among the crowd under the direction of Dick and Noreen DeNatalie, and Elwin Upton will have charge of the Beverage Booth. Lucy Monroe will be in charge of the home-made candy tent, and Mildred Lonsbery will be chairperson for the coffee and donut table.

Dealers and Contracts are still in the capable hands of Anna Mae Nevins and Joe Higgins, while Millie Croop will answer any calls for contract information, (751-9827). "Chuck" Campbell, with his winning smile, will continue to keep the dealers happy by placing them in spots they desire.

Dianne Albright will see to it that all the big fish are in the childrens' Fish Pond, and Doug Smith will show movies for the children in the Arthur Schnoor Room. Jeanette Schlyer will 'blossom out' at the Plant Stand, and Lois Jennings will supervise the Society's "Flea Market Tent." Everyones help is needed to keep the tent well stocked, so do your housecleaning early and leave your contributions in the Patterson Room or call Lois for further information.

The Food Concession has been a 'winner' at every Fair, and Lois Barnum will again be chairperson. She suggests you furnish salads, pies, flat cakes and beans. Incidentally, salads sold out quickly last year. Janet Sporleder will furnish more of her delicious Chili, while Edna Rose will be in charge of desserts. Art and Gert Schnoor will dispense more of those top grade hot dogs that have been such a hit at the Fair, and Winnie Fischer will organize the pie contest. Though every pie can't be a blue ribbon winner, we think you'll agree you won't find any better than those made by our young people. The ever popular lemonade and popcorn stand will be under the chairmanship of Sue Schultz, and Betty Stimson will arrange for Food Concession Cashiers.

Chris Kelman will have a table set up in the museum for signing up old and new members, and Dorothy Thilk will be in charge of the Historian's Exhibit. Joe Geiser will oversee the very important job of parking cars, and Newspaper and Radio publicity will be handled by Dorothy Linnabery. Millie Croop will contact local businessmen for help in financing ads in local papers. It is hoped that when the Fair is over, everyone will pitch in and help clean up.

The theme for this year's Fair is "Education in Wilson". Lois Jennings and her committee will arrange an exhibit based on that theme on Tuesday, May 22nd, at 10 AM. Let's not disappoint the hundreds of visitors that will be in Wilson on Fair Day. Dig out any memorabilia you have that would be suitable and if you have any question, please call Lois Jennings.

The beautiful quilts made each year by Florence Schultz and her talented group have been one of the Fair's most successful projects. Betty Stimson has books of tickets available and we urge you to do your part and get them into the hands of neighbors and friends. Even though you live out of town, you can help by sending a donation to Betty. Tickets are \$1.00 each.

Join your friends at the "Country Fair", Saturday, May 26th. Make it the biggest day of your life--not only for yourself, but also for your Wilson Historical Society.

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HELEN BORNGRAEBER has been appointed Chairperson of the Nominating Comm. A slate of officers will be presented at the May meeting and voted on at the Annual Business Meeting, June 18, 1979.

BON MOT: Family antiques handed down from generation to generation prove that the children of your ancestors were better behaved than your own.

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NEW MEMBERS: The Society extends a cordial welcome to our latest new members, Mrs. Rena Coe of Middleport, also Mr. and Mrs. Henry Donner of Ohio.

OLD TIMER: John Earl McCormick, son of John McCormick and Hester Bradley, was born Sept. 9, 1896 in the town of Porter. He graduated from Wilson High, Teachers Training Class, and Oberlin College, Ohio. He was a member of Exley Methodist Church where he played the organ from 1913 to 1917. His first teaching job was in 1915 at Dist. School #11, West Lake Rd., and he later taught at Oberlin, Brenau, and Whitman Colleges.

He was a talented musician and accompanied movies shown in the old skating rink behind Middleton's Drugstore. The square piano on which he played, and everything else, was moved to the Gem Theater in 1915 which was owned and operated by Seymour Erion and Henry Giles. He again played the organ at Exley from 1930 to 1941, and was Director of the American Legion Band from 1930 to 1946. Earl also served in the U.S. Navy during World War I, and is presently retired and living with his wife in California.

J. Earl McCormick's paternal grandfather was born in Porter in 1830, and his grandmother, Angeline Bailey, was born in the town of Lockport in 1840. His maternal grandparents, Smith Bradley (1840), and Hester Simmonds (1844), were also born in Porter, and all are buried in the Fillmore (Halstead) Cemetery north of Ransomville.

NEWFANE FESTIVAL: The annual Apple Blossom Festival of the Newfane Hist. Soc. will be held at the Creek Rd. museum grounds, Sun., May 20th, from 12 to 5 PM. In past years the occasion has been historically interesting and colorful.

MAY PROGRAM: Mr. Paul Pollard of Grant-Pollard Ins., Medina, will be our guest speaker Monday evening, May 21st, at the museum. His topic will be on "Fire Mark" insignias which were first originated by Benjamin Franklin.

Miss Flossie Lortz will be chairperson for the Refreshment Comm., assisted by Marie Getman and Millie Croop.

REMEMBER THESE DATES: May 16th, Trustee Meeting; May 21st, Regular Meeting; May 22nd, Museum Comm. Meeting (10AM-bring lunch); May 26th, COUNTRY FAIR.

MAY HOSTESSES: Museum Hostesses for Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 are as follows: May 6th, Laura Clark and Gerry Swann; May 13th, Betty Stimson; May 20th Margaret Wilson and Mabel Wilson; and May 27th, Millie and Don Croop.

We wish to mention the fine job Edna Rose has done this past year. This is just another example where the individual effort of one person can mean so much to the Society's success. Without hostesses we would be unable to open the museum to the public, and without opening the museum to the public there'd be little use of having a museum. So thank you, Edna, and thank everyone of you 100 persons who made her job easier by saying "yes" the first time she called.

PROGRESS REPORT: It won't be long before the Arthur Schnoor Room is completed, and if you want to see something real nice, stop in and take a look. Dianne Albright and Nettie Stimson stippled the ceiling with joint cement and the Society should be glad it has a couple gals with their ability. Ed Hastings and Bob Dinse also worked with Art on the room during April.

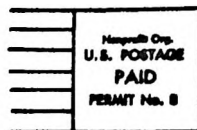
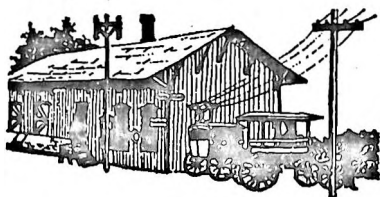
GOOD NEWS: The Society's new cookbook is now available at \$3.50 per copy. The beautiful 5½x8½ 200 page book has a light brown cover with a black plastic binder which will allow the book to open flat when in use. It is titled "Recipes from the Wilson Historical Society" with a picture of the Wilson Museum on the cover. There are recipes for Breads, Cakes, Cookies, Desserts, Main Dishes, Pies, Salads, Vegetables, and Miscellaneous. All recipes are from Society members--some out-of-State--and bear the name and address of the sender. Helpful hints and household measures are included, also sketches of some of Wilson's historic old buildings. Copies will be available at the museum Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4; At Nettie Stimson's Barn Shop; at the "Apple Blossom Festival" in Newfane on May 20th; and at our own "Country Fair, May 26th.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (excluding building and Life Member Fund)

Balance on hand 2/28/79	\$3,625.08
Expenditures	1,658.73
	1,966.35
Receipts	518.76
Balance on hand 4/15/79	2,485.11

WHAT NEXT? Nettie Stimson recently received an order from the British Architects Library, London, for the Society's 1975 publication, "Churches of Wilson". It would be interesting to find out how they became interested in Wilson. The requested material was sent to them. Speaking of booklets-- Jeff Kay, radio announcer, after visiting Wilson, commented on the strange architecture of some of the houses here---some of which appeared to be "covered with stones". At the suggestion of Marietta Goodman we mailed him a copy of the Society's Bicentennial Booklet, "Land of Cobblestones".

THE LAST WORD: Free will is God's gift of a do-it-yourself kit. (Eisenberg)



Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

JUNE 1979 Vol. 18 No. 6

(Coleman Press)

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MRS. HELEN FRENCH, LIBRARIAN
508 LAKE STREET
WILSON, N.Y. 14172

LIFE MEMBERS: When renewing your membership in the Society, have you considered the opportunity of becoming a Life Member? By doing so you will join with others in setting up a "Living Memorial" which could help to keep the Society financially sound long after you are gone.

Life Membership dues are placed in a long term account from which only the interest may be drawn. At 8%, for instance, each Life Member would actually contribute \$8.00 per year instead of \$3.00. And furthermore, when a Life Member passes on, their yearly contribution will continue year after year as long as the Society exists. In addition, the names of all individual Life Members are inscribed on a brass plate which is attached to a beautiful wood plaque hanging in the museum.

Life memberships are not recommended for anyone who would find it burdensome to pay the \$100 dollar fee, however, for the individual who has a little of the philanthropist in his or her nature, or a desire to do a little something extra for the Society---this is truly a golden opportunity.

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CIVIL WAR DESCENDENT: Miss Mildred Mudge attended the old Elementary School and High School in Wilson, also Bryant and Stratton Business Institute at Buffalo. She was a Postal Clerk in the Wilson Postoffice and retired after 37 years service. She also was an active member of Exley United Methodist Church, but is presently living in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Mildred was the daughter of Burt A. Mudge and Cora Belle Litchard. Her grandfather, Adelbert, resided in Michigan, Newfane, and Wilson, and married Amy Fellows. Mildred's maternal grandfather was John B. Litchard of Rushford, Lockport, and Wilson, and he married Sarah A. Ferry. Miss Mudge's g.g. grandfather, William Mudge, was the first white child born at Plymouth, Vt. in 1778. He moved to Newfane in 1826 and died there in 1856. Her great grandfather, William Harrison Mudge, fought in the Union Army during the Civil War but no other details are known.

Mildred's grandfather, Adelbert Mudge, enlisted at age 17 in Coldwater, Mich. He served 3 years as a Pvt. in Co. C, 1st Regiment, Michigan Light Artillery. The regiment was attached to Veatch's Division of the 16th Corps, and participated in several battles including the taking of Savannah and Sherman's March to the Sea. During the Savannah Campaign, cannon were placed so close together and fired so rapidly, Adelbert's eardrums were damaged. In later years he was a familiar figure in the front pew of the Methodist Church because of his hearing disability.

Miss Mudge's maternal grandfather, John B. Litchard, also served in the Civil War. He enlisted at age 18 on August 17, 1863. The new recruit joined the veteran New York Dragoons, Co. D, 2nd Div. Cavalry Corps under Gen. Wesley Merritt. John fought in 12 battles and was wounded twice, once at Newton, Ga. August 11, 1864, and again at Cedar Creek, Va., October 17, 1865. His horse was killed in a skirmish at Lynchburg and rolled over him bruising him badly.

Mildred and her brother Harold Mudge, who still lives in Wilson, also had twin great Uncles in the war. They were Alexander and Almanzo Litchard who enlisted together in Co. D, 86th Reg., N.Y. Volunteer Infantry. Almanzo was elected to the New York State Legislature in 1898.

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NOMINATIONS: Helen Borngraeber, Chrm. of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers at the regular May meeting to be voted on at the annual business meeting, June 18, 1979.

President, Dr. John Argue; Vice-Pres., Don Croop; Secretary, Mary Budde; Corresponding Secretary, Flossie Lortz; and Treasurer, Millie Croop.

Trustees to June, 1982: Helen Borngraeber, Karl Wright, and Elwin Upton.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Anger is not only inevitable, it is necessary. Its absence means indifference, the most disastrous of all human failings.

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GET YOUR NEW COOKBOOK? We may live without friends; we may live without books; but civilized man cannot live without cooks.

* * * * *

ACQUISITIONS: An interesting gift from Herbert Kahler is a heavy brass roller used at one time for making butter commercially. The handle is partly missing because it was used for awhile as an anchor. Herb has also donated 1pr. of tan chenille curtains; 1 black laprobe; cheese box containing military hats and belts; 1 fish net; and a Ukelin made ca. 1925.

Norman Luff has donated two photographs. One is of James Duffy, a famous former boxer from Lockport; and the other shows Jennie Bigalow, as Police Matron at the Niag. Co. jail with group of law enforcing personnel.

Jennie Bigalow: Two autograph books that belonged to Lillian Richmond Perry, (1883) and Kittie C. Richmond, (1883).

Lucy Leonard: Bound volume of National Geographics (1931) given in memory of the Elizabeth Fraser family of Lockport.

M. McNight of Newfane: History of the Dox Family reprinted from town history.

Anna Mae Nevins: Two glass bottles found by Walter Okoniewski under Frank Radigan's cottage, Ontario St., Wilson.

Mrs. Edith Wegener of Newfane: Three ledgers belonging to Lydia Gibson and one Bible given to James Gibson in 1853. The Gibsons lived on Maple Road.

Frederick (Sam) Lort: Baseball uniform with Wilson on front and Stockwell's Garage lettered on the back.

Mr. and Mrs. William Munch: A black and white striped railroad cap with "Hojack" R.R. 1876-1976 lettered on it. Given in memory of the late Herb Munch.

Millie Croop: (In behalf of the former BPW Club) Minutes and scrapbooks of the Womens Business and Professional Club of Wilson (1954-1975).

Frank Nugent: A tongue and groove plane used in restoring the Niag. Co. Hist. Soc. Museum in Lockport. Also two wooden samples made with the tool.

Douglas Benedict: Two antique car calendars.

Dr. and Mrs. Argue: Metz photos for Metz file.

Esther Myers: Three Wilson Central School 'Crests' from '43 to '46; also one framed diploma (1910) from State University; and one framed certificate(1875).

Robert Smith, Lewiston: Framed water color of Wilson's famous 'Iron Fireman' painted especially for the Wilson Museum by the late Mary Keating Smith.

Francis Tate: A special tuning head that will be needed to keep the square grand piano in good playing condition.

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TOURISM SEMINAR: Dorothy Thilk, Helen Borngraeber, and Millie and Don Croop attended the Niagara County Tourism Seminar held May 9th at Kenan Auditorium, Niagara University. The educational program was held to bring together persons coming in contact with tourists throughout the county. Since more and more bus tours are scheduling stops at the Wilson Museum while traversing the Historic Niagara Trail, it was considered expedient to have representatives from the Wilson Society in attendance. The Seminar was followed up with a bus tour around the county on May 15th.

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CAMBRIA NEIGHBORS: We note that the Cambria Hist. Soc. is now mailing out Newsletters to its members to "spark interest and build up their membership".

The April issue was very interesting and reveals that the town of Cambria once encompassed all the area that now includes the 12 towns of Niag. Co. After Reuben Wilson settled along the lake shore in 1810 he became Justice of the Peace when Wilson was a part of Cambria. The first Cambria town meeting was held 171 years ago on April 5, 1808. Joseph Hewitt was the first Supervisor and the annual meeting was held in the cabin built by the town's first settler, Philip Beach. The cabin was built in 1801 near Howell's Creek and later acquired by Hewitt. The old Town Hall built in 1879 is now the meeting place for the Cambria Historical Society.

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HAVE YOU NOTICED how well the walks in the village are cleaned after snow-falls, or the prompt manner in which the village and town trucks respond when old man winter hands us an unexpected wallop? And for those of you who attend meetings in the museum or act as hostesses on Sunday afternoons--the parking lot doesn't clean itself--we can thank the town for that. We often mention the work done by our Society's volunteers, but we have much to thank the village and town for. Sometimes a simple "thank you" is all it takes.

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A PLAY ON WORDS: According to a Knights of Columbus Newsletter there are four kinds of 'bones' in every organization. The 'Wishbones' who wish someone else would do the work; The 'Jawbones' who do all the talking and little else; The 'Knucklebones' who knock everything anyone tries to do; and the 'Backbones' who get under the load and do the work. We suggest that the Wilson Hist. Soc. must be the exception to the rule because if the progress that has been made to date is any indication, this organization is top heavy with 'Backbones'.

Speaking of 'Backbones', we overlooked a very special one in the last Newsletter. We refer to Lois Barnum who helped apply the beautiful ceiling in the "Arthur Schnoor Room". Fred Berry, Fenton Cole, Sid Pettit, and Harold Mudge also worked with Art since the last Newsletter. (Many of the men mentioned before have been back several times to work, but we only try to print their names once.)

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BON MOT: The Foolish person seeks happiness in the distance; The Wise person grows it under his feet. (James Oppenheim)

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HISTORIC TOUR PLANNED: Martha MacAskill, Chrm., has announced plans to visit the cobblestone museum at Childs on Sunday, July 22nd. Members and friends of the Society may meet at the Wilson museum at 1:00PM to form car pools, and it is expected that the group could be at Childs by 2:00PM.

Admission will be \$1.00 per person, and six buildings will be included in the tour. Dinner may be had at the Village Inn there, and one will be able to order from the menu with separate checks. Please call Martha for reservations so that some idea of the number going may be obtained. (297-6330) or (751-6090)

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HONORED: Rev. Rae L. Brothers, Pastor of Exley United Methodist Church, has been honored by being named Grand Chaplain of Grand Chapter, N.Y.S. F & AM. His appointment focuses attention on Ontario Lodge No. 376, F. & A.M. of Wilson which was organized and chartered July 8, 1855.

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PICNIC SET: Gwenn Heidenfeldt has agreed to be chairman of the annual family picnic for Historical Society members. The picnic will be held on the museum grounds Sunday, August 5th, at 1:00 PM. As has been the custom in past years, elderly residents of the community will be invited as guests. Each family is asked to bring their own service and Gwenn suggests that members whose last names begin with A-H bring hot dishes; if your names begin with I-P, please bring salads; and those from R-Z, bring desserts. "If it's up to four, bring more." Meat, rolls, and beverages will be provided by the Society.

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ACQUISITIONS: The Society has acquired an 8X10 photograph of Dr. Harvey C. Slocum, Professor of Anesthesiology, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas. The photo was taken for his 70th birthday at which time he expected to retire from medical school to "Professor Emeritus" status. The photo, sent to Dr. Argue, has been framed and will be hung in the museum beside the "shingle" Dr. Slocum used when he practised medicine in Wilson from 1933 to 1937.

Karl Wright: A turpentine can from D. B. Crockett, small oil can, 9½x17 gold frame, 19x15 O.G. frame, 12½x 13½ early Victorian frame, and 10x12 carved frame. Zelma Schrader; Framed Needlepoint, "God Bless Our Home."

Norman Thilk: Lunch bucket from John Shaw; and 5x10 American Flag.

Lucy & James Leonard of Arcade: Bound volumes of National Geographic (1927 through 1935) and (1951 through 1968).

Herbert Kahler, Newfane: Rough hewn slab table; 20 gl. wash tub, folding wood rack for tub, blue glass insulator, and large hay fork.

Beatrice Hedley, Olcott: Family Bible.

Helen Borngraeber: Glass Servinal

Walter Wilson: Wooden bird carved by him.

Mr. and Mrs. George Harold Caldwell: Very fine crochet hook used in making lace.

Ruth Stedman Mudge: Two books, "Applied Physiology" (1897) and "Leading Facts of American History" (1910)

Mrs. William (Lillian) Garlock: Coffee Mill with coffee beans.

Hary E. Rohring: Photo of Wm.F.Rohring & Son, Edward in 1916 Bessamer Truck.

Ora Pettit: Two World War II Blackout Lights; Teletype Machine; and a 1926 Atwater-Kent Radio once owned by the late Alma Farrell, of Wilson.

Dorothy Thilk: One gold-apricot taffeta party dress from year 1928.

Fred Fahs of Burt: Three National Service Auto Data books dated 1916-1955; 1957-1959; and 1960-1963.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Reid: An 1860 map of Niagara-Orleans Counties, and one glass cheese preserver.

Susan M. Thilk: 1948 green satin banner with political badges, pins, and scouting badges.

John Argue: Old Singer Sewing Machine with attachments.

Mellissa Mallosky: Certificate and Commemorative Civil War Badge belonging to Corporal John F. Webster.

These acquisitions were left at the museum and there is no trace of the donor. If anyone reading this Newsletter can identify the items or the person giving them, please notify Acquisitions Chairman, Lois Jennings.

Commercial type umbrella with "Taggart and Stevens" imprinted on it; Mortar and Pestle; 2 gallon long-spout oil can; wooden mold for blocking hats; wooden shoe lasts; Luman Case Indenture Papers-1829; 1 paper copy of "Tale of Peter Rabbit", Samuel Lowe Co., 1941; and one package of sheet music.

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IN THE NEWS: Howard Hunter, Jr., a Junior member of the Society, is being sent to the American Legion Boys' State at Morrisville by Martin F. Jennings Post 836 of Wilson. The Legion sponsored "educational" is held from June 24-30th. Miss Gail Rodgers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rodgers, will be the only Society member graduating from Wilson Central School, Sunday, June 24th.

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BUDGET: Budget estimates for operating the museum next year are as follows: Caboose, \$150; Historic Sites, \$250; Library, \$150; Museum Upkeep, \$2500; Museum Committee, \$250; Office Supplies, \$60; Program Committee, \$75; Publications, \$400; Renovation, \$300; and Ways & Means, \$150. Committees may not exceed these amounts without special authorization from the Trustees.

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BON MOT: Democracy is a small hard core of common agreement, surrounded by a rich variety of individual differences. -James B. Conant

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EASY TO FORGET: Dues were renewable on May 1st, but some of our members have forgotten. It is probably an oversight, but in order to continue receiving the Newsletter it will be necessary to renew your membership before the August letter is sent out. At a regular meeting, July 20, 1975, it was decided that no Newsletters should be mailed to any member three months in arrears. If you have not paid your dues, you will find a renewal form with this letter. Won't you please fill it out and return to Treasurer promptly.

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SUNDAY HOSTESSES: Hostesses at the museum in July will be as follows: July 1st, "Chuck" and Marion Campbell; July 8th, Archie and Zilpha Petty and Marietta Goodman; July 15th, Ed and Ella Mae Peters; July 22nd, Art & Kay Ness; and July 29th, William and Maxine Jones and son, Peter.

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JULY CALENDAR: July 8th, Society Members "Flea Market", 11:00-4:00 PM on museum grounds; July 11th, Trustee Meeting, 8:00 PM at museum; July 22nd, Historic Tour to Childs, N.Y. Car pools at museum-1:00 PM; July 30th, Museum Committee meeting at museum, 1:00 PM. There are no regular Monday night meetings of the Society during the months of July and August.

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FLEA MARKET: The annual "flea market" for Society members will be held on the museum grounds Sunday, July 8th from 11:00 to 4:00 PM. Betty Stimson and Norm MacAskill will be in charge, and Society members may "set up" a table where they please. A \$1.00 fee will be charged to pay for advertising.

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STUDENTS VISIT MUSEUM: Forty eight pupils from the 4th grades at Thomas Marks School visited the museum from 9 to 11:30 AM on Friday, June 15th. They were accompanied by their teachers, Mrs. Karen Welch and John M. Mayer. The students were well behaved, asked questions, and listened attentively to "tour guides", Lois Jennings, Millie and Don Croop.

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JUNE ELECTION: Officers elected to serve until June, 1980 are as follows: President, Dr. John F. Argue; Vice-Pres., Donald Croop; Recording Secretary, Mary Budde; Corresponding Secretary, Flossie Lortz, and Treasurer, Millie Croop

Twenty two 'Work Area Chairpersons' have been appointed by President Argue to direct these important functions of the Society: Acquisitions, Lois Jennings; By-Law, Karl S. Wright; Caboose, Bob Rose; Country Fair, Eleanor Myers; Genealogical, Celeste Crawford; Grounds, Elwin Upton; Historic Sites, Jan Sporleder; Housekeeping, Betty Stimson; Library, Gertrude & Carole Schnoor; Membership, Christine Kelman; Memorial, Millie Croop; Museum, Lois Jennings; Nominating Committee, Helen Borngraeber; Planning, Whit Barnum; Program, Dorothy Linnabery; Publications, Don Croop; Publicity, Dorothy Linnabery; Quilting, Florence Schultz; Refreshments, Marietta Goodman; Sunday Afternoon Hostesses, Edna Rose; Historic Tours, Dorothy Thilk; and Ways and Means, Lois Barnum.

Three Trustees have been elected to serve three year terms until June, 1982. They are Helen Borngraeber, Karl S. Wright, and Elwin Upton. Milford "Chuck" Campbell has been elected to fill out the term of Ed Peters to June, 1980.

Any member having an interest or desire to help in one or more of the 'Work Areas' listed above may do so by contacting any of the above chairpersons.

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THELMA WARD PATTERSON, daughter of the late Bert E. Ward and Nellie Powers, was born November 29, 1910 in Wilson. She attended District #3 schoolhouse, Wilson High School, and Teachers Training Class. She is presently a member of the United Methodist Women of the North Ridge Church. Thelma taught in a "little red schoolhouse" from 1929-1932, and at the end of her third year married Stanley Patterson. They had one son, Neil Stanley Patterson, and he has four children, Diana, Cynthia, Wayne, and Laura.

In December, 1934, when Neil was 11 months old, he was sitting on his grandmother's lap in a car that was struck by a "Hojack" train at Elberta crossing. When the car flipped over, Neil was thrown between the rails and the train passed over him. His grandmother died, but Neil was found a little later playing in the snow beside the tracks.

Thelma enjoyed performing before people and making them laugh. During the '50s she appeared in "hick type" rolls and was usually dressed as a girl or male type 'country bumpkin'. Some who are reading this newsletter may remember seeing her perform at meetings of the Masons, Odd Fellows, Eastern Star, Grange, and other organizations.

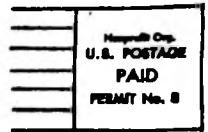
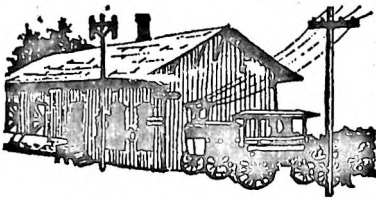
Thelma's father, Bert Ward, was directly descended from General Artemus Ward, George Washington's first commander in the Revolutionary War. It is also of interest to note that Ira Pettit, about whom the "Dairy of a Deadman" was written, was also an ancestor of Thelma's.

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MUSEUM EXHIBIT: The museum educational exhibit will be dismantled when the museum committee meets Monday afternoon, July 30th at 1 PM. This is the time to pick up any items you have loaned.

The theme for the August-September display will be "Vaction Time in Wilson". Anything that members can loan along the lines of water sports, boating, fishing, swimming or other vacation activities will be welcome. Call Lois Jennings for suggestions or questions.

ELEANOR MYERS wishes to thank every chairman and helper who made this year's Country Fair a success.



Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

JULY 1979 Vol 8 No.7

(Coleman Press)

MRS. GERTRUDE SCHOOR, LIBRARIAN
WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WILSON, N.Y. 14172

FAIR HIGHLIGHTS: Talk about miracles! By all predictions this year's Fair should have been a 'wash-out'. There was 'no way' anyone could expect a break in the weather--the storm extended from Chicago to New England. However, the Fair Comm. met Friday afternoon and (with adamant Faith) decided to go ahead as scheduled. Saturday started out overcast but by mid morning the sun broke through, and the weather remained good the rest of the day.

Financially, the Fair was the most profitable to date..for this we can thank the many chairpersons and their helpers who were involved with Furnishing, Planning, Purchasing, Advertising, Publicizing, Dealers, Foods, Beverages, Home made candies, Hot Dogs, Funnel Cakes, Fish Pond, Balloons, Movies, Plants, Cashiers, Parking, Costuming, Entertainment, and Education Exhibit. (Over 300 former students signed the school register.) Joe Geiser, who did a 'bang-up' job on parking wishes to especially thank all who helped him. Echoing Joe's sentiments, we are sure the other chairmen would like to do the same. At a Fair Committee supper held in the museum on June 6th, Eleanor Myers, Gen. Grm., was given a standing ovation for "putting it all together".

The quilt raffle, one of the Fair's most successful projects, was started last winter by Florence Schultz and her "pricked finger brigade". The 'Tree of Life' design was appliqued by Joe Higgins, and everyone took part in the quilting including Florence, Joe, Anna.Mae Nevins, Beryl Tovell, and Betty Stimson. Nettie Stimson arranged to have the donation tickets printed by Tom Fare, and though many society members sold some, we can credit Whitney Barnum and Dr. Argue with selling the greatest number. Their sales totaled more than 3/5ths of all tickets sold and this great effort by them on behalf of the Society should be recognized.

The quilt was won by Katherine Hope, Rt. 425, Wilson; and the doll house was won by Dora Wakeman, Daniels Rd., Ransomville.

The pie contest produced a male winner in the Senior Division--none other than Jeff Sporleder, 15, whose entry was made from rhubarb. Renee' Streams, 16, took second place with a strawberry-rhubarb pie. Apple pies scored in the Junior Division with Debbie Hamm, 12, taking first place, and Stephen Schutz, 14, taking second. All contestants received Wilson Hist. Soc. pens, and winners were awarded copies of the new cookbook and ceramic mugs. Judges were Shirley Fischer Novak and Anne Goldthorpe--both former Queens of the Niagara Co. Junior Fair. The contest was directed by Winnie Fischer, Chrm., and Marion Campbell, Asst

White T shirts were given to youthful members who helped with this year's Fair. The "Berne Kent" sketch of the present depot and "Wilson Historical Society" were transferred on the shirts by courtesy of Tom Fare.

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A LITTLE EXTRA: Special thanks to Jack Perry who loaned a tent for food and had it delivered, set up, and taken down. He also gave the Society the use of his popcorn machine. Mike Vince provided a tent for the 'flea market' and also erected it and took it down. Johnnie Myers arranged for various electrical hookups including the sound system for announcements. John also was on call all day as "trouble shooter". The Wilson Volunteer Fire Co. provided First Aid facilities and gave a "Snorkel Demonstration"--they also provided tables and chairs to accomodate the crowd. The Wilson Free Library, with a special effort by Marie Reynolds when some wires got crossed, provided projector and films to entertain the children. Doug Smith especially appreciated the help given him by Tommy Goodnight while showing the films.

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MEMORIAL WEEK: This year's celebration of Memorial Day reminds us that three Wilson men were killed in action during the unpopular Vietnam War: Richard E. Bourne, Dec. 23, 1967; Orville N. Jones, March 14, 1967; and Michael E. Witkop, October 25, 1968.

"Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die." (Tennyson)

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Bon Mot: A coincidence is a small miracle where God chose to remain anonymous.

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BLESSED EVENT: Congratulations to Dale and Jeanette Schlyer on the birth of their new daughter, Corrinne Marguerite. Although the baby arrived just a couple days before the Fair, Jeanette had everything so well planned there were no problems that couldn't be coped with. Chris Kelman and Harry Rohring scurried about and picked up plants, and even Fred Berry got into the act and drove to Sanborn to get one. A special word of thanks to Bernice and Harry Brown who took over for Jeanette on Fair Day and helped to make the stand profitable.

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LIFE MEMBER: It is a pleasure to welcome Mr. Herbert Kahler of Newfane as the 22nd Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society. Herb has shown a great deal of interest during the past year and donated several historic items including the handsome square grand piano.

The Society is equally proud to greet the following New Members: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. John Demmin, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wapen, Mrs. Joseph (Paye) Schotz, Mr. Glenn Hillman, Mr. Roger Hillman, Miss Gail Rodgers, Connie George, Jaimi Cowles, Scott Dinse, Jeffrey Dinse, and Christopher Demmin, all from Wilson. Also, Mrs. Wendy (Jennings) Starkweather of Illinois.

It is also nice to welcome back several families who allowed their memberships to expire last year: Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Culverwell of California; Francis Danielweicz; Mary Schultz and Jack Deeringer of Lockport; also Wally and Peggy Ward of Wilson.

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THE END'S IN SIGHT: The caboose is painted! If you attended the Fair you may have noticed. Bob Rose and Art Schnoor worked most of a week getting it patched up, and on Saturday, May 19th, a group of determined individuals showed up with but one thought in mind---that the caboose would not set through another Fair unpainted. So, "paint and scrape" did Fenton Cole, Fred Berry, Carole Schnoor, Helen Dinse, Edgar Culverwell, Ed Hastings, Millie and Don Croop, Darrell Smith, Art Schnoor and Bob Rose. Darrell, youngest member of the crew, had the job of climbing on top and painting the cupola.

We especially appreciate the lettering job done by Harold Fitzsimmons of Cambria. He was unable to complete the work before the Fair because of rain, but has since finished it beautifully. Bob Rose, Chrm. of the caboose project, feels that work should now be directed toward replacing the broken platform, railings, and steps at the west end--also renovating the interior. That sounds like another "paint and scrape" session coming up. (How about it, girls, you're the only ones left in the Society without sore backs.)

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IT'S A FACT: Mable Thielke had a Beauty Parlor in Wilson for 45 years. She started her business in 1932 back of Nevy's Barbershop in the building now occupied by The Pizza Shoppe. When Mable retired in 1977 her Parlor was located next to the present Postoffice.

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"ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE": The Wilson Museum has received a lot of good publicity, thanks to Dorothy Linnabery, and we admire her writing skill and ability to "Accentuate the Positive". The importance of good publicity has been demonstrated over and over resulting in good attendance at annual Fairs, meetings, and museum visitations. We must constantly be aware, however, that it is the positive action by the Society's membership that provides the ammunition necessary to publicize the museum.

A recent article in the Buffalo Evening News by Janice Okun affected the sales of the new Recipe Book dramatically. Lois Barnum reported that over 65 orders were received for the book shortly after the article appeared. They were sent in from 30 Communities throughout Western New York and Pennsylvania. (We wonder if those rhubarb recipes by Mabel Wilson had anything to do with it?)

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TELEGRAPHER AT FAIR: It was a pleasure talking to Mrs. Florence McElwaine Clark, 89 years young, of Tonawanda, N.Y. Mrs. Clark once worked with Mr. Patterson as a telegrapher and ticket salesman in the Wilson station. She lived a few doors from the depot in the house now owned by Donald Streams. She attended school in Rochester and came to Wilson in 1916. She later worked at Burt and also Adams in the Adirondack section of the old R.W.& C.

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"WHIRLYGIG FINISHED": The old "whirlygig" cabinet donated by Edna Wilson Goodrich, has been completely sanded by Nettie Stimson and is now displayed in the Patterson Room next to the old tool exhibit. The cabinet was originally used to store carriage and tire bolts. A brass plate on the base indicates that it was donated by Mrs. Goodrich in memory of her late husband, Franklin Tice Goodrich, of Attica, N.Y.

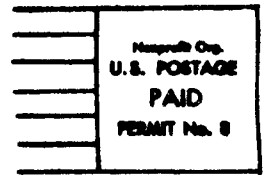
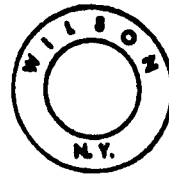
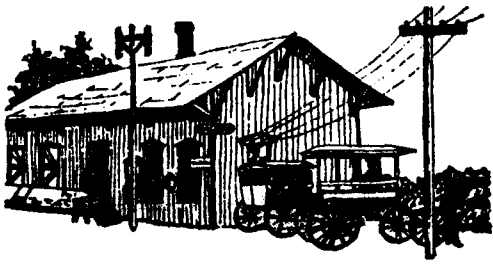
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BRIGHT SPOT: Miss Flossie Lortz and Millie Croop planted the geraniums that brighten up the bed around the flagpole. The geraniums were donated by Donald Buetel, operator of Beutel Greenhouses in East Wilson. Don had a booth at the Fair and said that it was a pleasure to sell plants in such a friendly atmosphere. We thank Don for the flowers and the compliment.

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RIGHT ON: In these days of inflation, if you go shopping and don't see what you want, be grateful.

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Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor
AUGUST 1979 Vol 8 No.8
(Coleman Press)

IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS, "When men were men and women were glad of it", there was a leisurely existence little resembling the pace of today's jet age society. Activities at the first Annual Field Day held by the Wilson Volunteers on August 30, 1924, may well stress this point and also rekindle some dormant happy memories in the minds of our older members.

The Field Day started at 10 AM with free for all Running Horse Races and Pony Races with up to \$20 cash prizes for winners. Bicycle Races for cash prizes were also held for boys under twelve.

A big parade began at 1 PM with six fire companies, six bands, and a large number of civic and church floats. The line of march started at the north end of Lake Street, proceeded to the R.R. Depot, counter marched to Young Street, then headed west to the Youngstown Road.

It was planned to hold a tug-o-war between the 'bobbed hair' and the 'long hair' ladies, but there weren't enough long hair ladies in town so a balloon race was held instead. Three legged races were scheduled for ladies and gents and boxes of candy were awarded all winners. There were also tug-o-wars between fire companies with boxes of cigars awarded the strongest teams, and free for all running races were held for ladies and boys under twelve. "Honeymoon" races were staged for young couples, and a nail-driving contest was set up for the ladies. (Firemen condescendingly urged ladies not to be afraid of hitting their finger nails--the committee having provided large amounts of iodine and bandages for the occasion.) A pie eating contest was timed for speed, not endurance, as firemen didn't think they could find enough pies in Niagara County.

Other events in this truly old fashioned field day picnic included a penny scramble for kiddies, peanut races for women, quoit pitching for ladies and men, sack races, and a greased pig scramble with the pig as the prize.

The ladies of all Wilson churches worked together to provide food at a church food stand, and afternoon and evening concerts were played by the Ontario Band. An out door dance from seven to twelve midnight rounded out the big event. That first Field Day had little resemblance to ones held today, but it illustrates a different life style that is perhaps best left in the pages of Wilson's history.

On Saturday, August 25th, the modern Wilson Volunteer Fire Company will celebrate its 55th annual Field Day in the village. They deserve the support of all individuals and organizations within the community they serve.

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CUB SCOUT HEROES: On February 17, 1954, four young Cub Scouts of Wilson Pack #21 were playing along the icy waters of 12 Mile Creek when suddenly one of them, Robert Pease, fell in and was swept downstream. His friends sprang into action immediately. Michael Witkop picked up a fallen branch and extended it to Pease but was pulled into deep water himself. Not, however, before James Hurst, with Thomas Bateman holding onto him, grabbed the stick and pulled Pease from the water. Witkop, who started the rescue, was a good swimmer and was able to make it to shore by himself. Their brave act earned them Certificates for Heroism from the National Council, B.S.A., which were awarded at a dinner at the Wilson House held in their honor.

We were curious what happened to those four youngsters who played a part in that dramatic rescue 25 years ago. Michael Witkop was killed during the Vietnam War when the canopy from his fighter plane broke loose causing him to crash; James Hurst is now in the restaurant business in Houston, Texas; Thomas Bateman lives in Wilson and works at the Harrison Radiator Plant in Lockport; and Robert Pease is a member of the Police Department in San Diego, California.

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NEW MEMBERS: The Society welcomes two new members: Mrs. Jack (Esther Johnson) Pope of Oakfield, N.Y., and John Thilk, son of Mr. & Mrs. Merritt Thilk, Wilson.

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MAILBAG: When MR. & Mrs. Robert (Mildred Gaskill) Treacy of Ohio renewed their memberships they wrote they enjoyed reading about Wilson although they've been away over 50 years. They try to visit relatives here each year which goes to show there's something about the "Wilson Connection" former residents find it hard to shake loose from.

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BON MOT: Youths are like wheelbarrows--useful when pushed, but easily upset.

IN MEMORIAM: The Society regrettably acknowledges the death of the following members and extends condolences to their loved ones, family and friends.

Harold F. Straight, Mapleton Road, Lockport, retired Superintendent of the Eastern Forwarding Company. He served for many years on the Starpoint and BOCES School Boards of education, and belonged to the Society since 1973.

Miss Dorothy McCabe, Clarence, also a member of the Society since 1973. Miss McCabe died June 2, 1979.

Mrs. Beatrice Singer, 84, died July 11th at Houston, Texas. Wife of the late Delbert Singer and former resident of Wilson, she was interred at North Ridge Cemetery. She was a member of Exley United Methodist Church, Delphic Circle, Wilson Free Library Board, and Wilson Historical Society since 1978.

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MEMORIAL BOOK: Betty Stimson recently acquired an attractive stand suitable for displaying the Society's Memorial Book. The Book was given in memory of the late Ellen Adams by her husband, Richard and family. Ernestine Walpole, of the Memorial Comm., is keeping it up to date and we think you'll agree she is doing a fine job. This is just another example of how a member of the Society uses her talent to benefit the organization.

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STUDENT REACTION: Fourth grade pupils from Mrs. Karen Welch's class at Thomas Marks School sent letters of appreciation to Lois Jennings following their recent visit to the museum. Each youngster drew pictures and mentioned things that impressed them most. The letters are on the bulletin board, and it would be worth your time to look them over. You may shudder at the spelling but you will gain a sense of pride in the perceptive ability of these 4th grade students.

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STOUT HEARTED MEN: It was necessary to get a group together to level off the ground inside the new building which was no easy task since the men had to use long handled shovels. The Society is grateful to Art Schnoor, Ralph Dinse, Norm MacAskill, Howard Hunter, Karl Wright and grandson, Stanley Zeh, who completed the difficult task.

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FOUND: A pair of horn rim prescription glasses on museum parking lot during Flea Market for members on July 8th. You may claim by calling 751-9827.

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INTRODUCTION: Mary Catherine Senders Budde, our new Recording Secretary, was born at West Point, N.Y., and is a 3rd grade teacher at Thomas Marks School. She and her husband, William, were married at Niagara Falls, Nov. 26, 1977, and settled in Wilson December 6, 1978.

Mary attended Immaculate Conception and Eden Central High School, and was a 1969 graduate of S.U.N.Y. at Brockport where she received her B.A. in Art Education. She also took a one year course in the Study of Education at Empire State College, London, England. She is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church at Niagara Falls, and Wilson P.T.A.

Her father, John Senders, is a retired Army Major, and later retired from Bethlehem Steel as a metallurgist clerk. Both her father and mother, the former Sara Sue Hiers, live in Varysburg, N.Y.

There is some interesting history in Mary's family tree: One of her maternal ancestors, John Jacob Heyer, came to the Colonies from Germany in 1751. Her great grandfather, Jephthah Calhoun (A Methodist Minister) was a direct descendent of John C. Calhoun, President of the Confederacy. Another ancestor William Pierce, died from wounds received in the Civil War at the Battle of Richmond. Major Senders was decorated while serving in World War II and twice during the Korean conflict.

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MUSEUM PUBLICIZED: Recent articles in three area publications indicate the Wilson Museum is becoming well known as a tourist attraction.

The National Railroad Historical Society publication ran a two page article in the July issue about the museum with a detailed description of building and contents.

Niagara County's "Rainbow Country" states the refurbished railroad station attracts hundreds of people, and that its presentation could become most important should the "Hojack" resume operations. It further relates that the museum is restoring the history of the beautiful lake shore village and is becoming a most valuable asset to tourism in Niagara County.

The AAA magazine, "The Motorist", in an effort to emphasize "One Day Budget Tours" to conserve gasoline, is encouraging area members to visit local attractions. The Wilson Museum is prominently mentioned and the Society's booklet, "Land of Cobblestones", is cited as a good guide for those who might wish to visit cobblestone houses in the vicinity.

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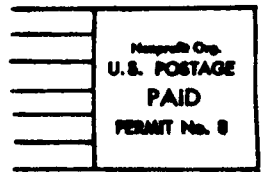
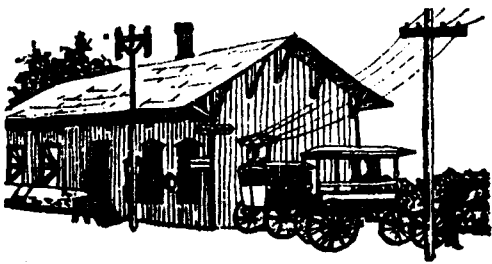
MEETINGS: The Wilson Historical Society Family Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 5th, at 1:00 PM at the museum grounds. Instructions were in the July Newsletter, but you may call Gwen Heidenfeldt, Chrm., if you have any questions.

The trustee meeting will be held at Dorothy Thilks Cottage, Wednesday eve, August 15th, at 7:30 PM.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: He that wrestles with us strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper. (Edmund Burke)

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Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

SEPTEMBER 1979 Vol.8 No.9

(Coleman Press)

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

THE IRON FIREMAN: A well known symbol of Wilson's Volunteer Fire Co. #1 is the 960 lb. "Iron Fireman" that stands proudly before the firehall. It has an interesting history starting with its birth in Lockport 93 years ago (1886).

The statue was made for the Lockport Active Hose Co. of which 19 year old George E. Singer was a member. He served as a model for the statue which was made by iron molders, John and Jobez Bramley. George was "buried alive" in clay with his parade uniform on. After the clay hardened it was broken away so he could get out, then put together again. Plaster of Paris was then poured into the neck opening which resulted in a plaster likeness of young Singer. This was used to build a mold in sand into which molten iron was poured. Separate impressions were made of his head and helmet and welded to the iron body later.

In 1913 the Lockport Volunteer Fire Companies were disbanded and replaced by paid departments. The iron fireman was then moved from the Active Hose building to the Exempt Fireman Home on Elm St. where it stood for many years.

Mr. Singer was well acquainted in Wilson and his two sons, Louis and Edward, were barbers and members of the Wilson Volunteers. He decided to present the statue to the Wilson Co. in 1937. Here "George", as the piece was known, stood at its post until 1963 when suddenly it mysteriously disappeared. A phone call from the Ransomville Co. alerted Wilson Firemen to the fact that "someone" had removed "George" and placed him in front of the Ransomville Fire Hall. How this was accomplished was not too well understood since it required six men and a tow truck to return "George" to Young Street. He has remained at his post ever since, but we might add that Wilson's Iron Fireman is one of a kind, to say the least.

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SUCCESSFUL TOUR: About 32 members of the Society formed car pools to visit the Cobblestone Museum at Childs, N.Y. A guided tour of the 1834 Cobblestone Church, 1840 Ward House, 1849 School, 1922 Blacksmith Shop, 1970 Print Shop, and 1853 Farmer's Hall was historically interesting and enjoyed by all. The Village Inn, built in 1824 as a resting place for early travelers on the Ridge, was the site for a delicious dinner. A word of thanks to Norm and Martha Mac-Askill who made all the arrangements.

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MAIL BAG: Marion S. Winger reports that her sister, Beatrice Stockwell Hicks, has been accepted into the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and is Secretary and Lineage chairman of the La Puerta de Oro chapter, San Francisco.

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PLANNING COMM: Finishing up the Arthur Schnoor Room was discussed at a recent meeting of the Planning Comm., and it was suggested the Museum Comm. proceed with their plans to have the floors covered with a hard linoleum. It was proposed that ceiling vents should be installed, and Johnny Myers and Art Schnoor will work out a suitable solution. Pros and cons for a security alarm system were discussed and referred back to Karl Wright for a specific proposal. Weeds around building have been mowed by the town and construction, according to Ed Hastings, will proceed as time permits. It is planned to erect the windmill as a working "showpiece" south of the new building's west line. Members attending the meeting were Whit Barnum, Chrm., Ollie Clark, Dr. Argue, Burt Jennings, John Myers, Ed Hastings, Art Schnoor, Elwin Upton, Lois Jennings, and Don Croop.

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ROOTS: More interesting history joining Wilsonites with the past is revealed from notes on the Dietrick family, maternal ancestors of Gwen Heidenfeldt. Early members of the Clan date back to 1525 A.D. One member, Priest Dietrick, hid Martin Luther from his enemies in a castle outside Dresden, Germany. It is said that had he not done so the Reformation might not have been successful. The Dietricks came to America in the mid 1700's and the first family reunion was held in 1901 at Berk's Co., Pa.

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NEW MEMBERS: On behalf of the Society we welcome our two latest new members: Mrs. Susan Kropp Holls of Punxutawney, Pa., and Mrs. Genevieve Wilson Kerrs, Harbor St., Wilson.

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CLASS REUNION: The Wilson High School Class of '34 celebrated its 45th reunion at Rosalind's Restaurant, Newfane; with 10 of its 22 graduates present. Attending were Verna Oldenburg Barnum, Sylvia Flatt Doll, Rita Lutz Welker, Charlotte O'Connor Pease, Robert Horton (Pres.), John Myers, Frances Swick Diez (Treasurer), Lawrence Bluhm, Wilbur Reese (Salutatorian), and William Ganshaw. Husbands and wives were guests as were former teachers, Grace Singer, Mae Schnyder Wilson, and Marion Sherman Campbell.

Four members of the class are deceased including Julia Stevens (Valedictorian), Henry A. Treichler, Karl Wilson, and Lawrence Schnoor. Those unable to attend were Ronald Hamblin, Ruth Lort House, Leona Schnoor Beutel, Freda Stanton Lederhouse, Cecil Upton, Frederick Beutel, and Fanny Reese Pickrell.

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FROM THE PAST: It has been established that the 1st "Hojack" passenger train arrived in Wilson June 12, 1876, and that the first mail train stopped August 10, 1876. This was the year the R.W. & O. extended its new tracks from Kendall to Niagara Junction. An item supplied by Jean Argue indicates an earlier inaugural train may have visited Wilson in late March or early April.

An old account written by Elmer G. Porter of County Line describes the time the first passenger train and engine crossed County Line (later known as Millers) on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1876. At that time, the rails were laid as far as West Somerset and the train could go no further than Barker's Crossing. Porter and two young friends, Grant Tripp and Byron Townsend, skated in an ice-covered ditch beside the tracks as the first train chugged by and were easily able to keep pace with it. Grant Tripp was the father of Rena Coe, former Wilsonian and wife of the late Clare Coe.

Another "Hojack" tale has been revealed by Elton Kropp who used to enjoy watching the trains at the Wilson Depot when he was a boy. One evening he was looking over a stopped freight train with his flashlight when suddenly a brakeman appeared out of the night and asked him what he thought he was doing. "Don't you know", said the trainman, "that if the engineer sees your light flashing back here he's liable to think it's a signal to take off---then we'll all be in trouble." Needless to say, Elton didn't do it again.

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ACQUISITIONS: Mrs. Hazel Thilk: One small beaded change purse with note inside given to her by Ann Woodcock Reynolds of East Wilson. The purse is 155 years old or older.

Betty Stimson: A doll tea set made around 1900; also a steelyard.

Herbert Kahler: A framed picture of President Garfield; 6 gal. crock, and two one gal. jugs. (Family possessions for over 50 years.)

John Stevens: A metal snow wing sled; wooden snowsled, and TV table.

Helen Griffiths: Set of small, medium, and large shoe lasts that belonged to her mother-in-law. Given in memory of her husband.

Mrs. Kenneth Hedley: Dr. Chase's Medical Book, by A.W. Chase, M.D. (1889); also The Art Literature Reader's-Book V by Frances Chutter (1911-12)

Mrs. Hoyt Desso of Sanborn: One wooden hay rake.

Dorothy Thilk: Pin cushion that belonged to her great grandfather; small record, "Sounds of the Space Age"; and Civil Defense Certificate that belonged to the late Mildred Middleton.

Ethel Strassburg of Ransomville: Ransomville Review Newspapers (1915); also 1917 copy of Niagara Falls Journal. Papers were found in family home behind some pictures.

Ruth Gale: Snapshots of Wilson Parade; Copy of Wilson Star (July-1923); Black Lace Vest, Black Lace Square, and biege lace scarf.

Jean Argue: Two snapshots.

Mrs. Fred Bigalow: Folder of old family photos, and others.

Anonymous: Package of sheet music.

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APOLOGY: Mr. Lee Simonson, Niag. Co. Legislator, was recently quoted in the Gazette as making an unfavorable remark about the Wilson Society's quilt. In a letter to our President, Dr. Argue, he stated that he was quoted out of context--so much so, the Editor felt it necessary to apologize to him. We did not mention the incident in the last Newsletter because we had heard that his ill-advised remark was made in jest, and not for publication.

Mr. Simonson suggested that his letter might be read at a meeting of the membership so in order that everyone is informed we are bringing the "jist" of it to you. He stated that he was shocked when the item was published and was truly sorry as he knew many people would be offended. He also said he was aware of the many hours devoted to making the quilt and seriously had no intention of maligning the Historical Society or passing judgement on the quality of workmanship. (Dr. Argue will read the entire letter at the September meeting if those attending so desire.)

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NEW PUBLICATION: "Wilson's Vanishing Heritage" will soon be available as the 8th publication of the Wilson Historical Society. The 20 page booklet will sell for 75¢ per copy, and will feature the artistic talents of Frances Landy, Ann Rohring, Joe Higgins, Berne Kent, Norma Ward, Becky Stevens, and Carol C. Smith. The idea for this nostalgic look at the past originated with Dorothy Thilk, Jean Argue, and the late Mildred Middleton. Within its pages we muse (in verse and sketch) at a once essential part of Wilson's former days.

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CIVIC LEADER: The late Thomas Marks, son of Thomas A. Marks and Mary Gomer-ville, was born in Stamford Township, Canada, December 21, 1869. As a boy he was interested in doing nurserywork and odd jobs and saved enough money to graduate from the Hamilton Business College with honors.

He met Harriet Francis, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Abraham Francis, while in Toronto, and they were later married at St. Marks, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Tom and Harriet moved to Rochester where he worked for the Ellwanger and Barry Nursery until 1905. During the next 5 years he improved his position with the William Smith Nursery at Geneva, N.Y., and it was while there their two children, Frances and Edward started school.

In 1910, Thomas bought property from Arthur Pease, and proceeded to establish his own nursery in Wilson. A large house and barn were built on the land, and the family moved into their new home in February, 1914.

In addition to conducting a successful nursery business, Mr. Marks became involved as a civic leader in every sense of the word. He served as President of the Wilson Mens' Club; President of the Wilsonian Club; Master of Ontario Masonic Lodge; Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of New York; and President of the Wilson School Board for 21 years. He was active in many Agricultural Associations including the Farmers' Committee which began the Niagara Frontier Farmers Co-Op Market in Buffalo (Clinton and Bailey Market). He was also awarded the Master Farmer's Gold Medal by Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt of New York. He also served as President of the Wilson Free Library and Treasurer of St. John's Episcopal Church and continued active in community affairs until his death in 1957 at age eighty seven.

Perhaps the most significant monument to his memory and civic involvement is the Thomas Marks Elementary School which was named in his honor.

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CANADIAN CELEBRATION: Canada is now celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Welland Canal (1829-1979). The idea for a canal originated in 1818 when William Hamilton Merritt suggested that by digging one from lake to lake there would be an ample water supply for everyone. The government was cool to the idea, however, as it was felt locating the canal so close to the American border would present a security problem.

By 1823, enough citizens were found who were willing to invest in the venture, and the Welland Canal Co. was organized. Construction started in 1824, and the timing couldn't have been better. The Erie Canal across New York was nearing completion so it wasn't hard to recruit experienced engineers and workmen. When completed, the canal was operated as a private venture until 1836 when the provincial government converted its loans into stock and gained controlling interest.

Celebrations that might be of interest to members include the Welland Canal Anniversary Bazaar at St. John's Anglican Church, Thorold, on October 13th; The Can-Am Water Ski Championships at Welland, September 1 & 2nd; and the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival Grande Parade, September 29th, St. Catherines.

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ANNUAL PICNIC: Beautiful weather greeted members and guests who attended the annual family picnic in August. A delicious smorgasbord type lunch was served under the direction of Gwen Heidenfeldt with meat and beverages furnished by the Society. Norm MacAskill welcomed the 18 elderly guests and ceramic cups were presented to the oldest lady and gentleman attending, Jennie Bigalow, 93, and Fred Schultz, ninety one. Guests toured the museum and visited with their friends, and by all indications, had a good time.

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IMPORTANT DATES: September 12th: The Trustee meeting will be held at the Thilk cottage at 7:30 PM.

September 17th: Regular monthly meetings will resume at the museum starting at 7:30 PM. Dr. Edward Eschner will be guest speaker and talk on the "History of Steam Power". He will have running models of steam engines to show.

October 1st: "Vacation Time" museum display will be dismantled. The new exhibit for October and November will be assembled at this time. "Old Linens and Laces" will be featured, and anyone who has items to loan for the exhibit, are asked to please bring them then. Any questions? Please call Lois Jennings.

November 3rd: Wilson Hist. Soc. dance to be sponsored by the Ways & Means Committee. More details in next Newsletter.

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APPRECIATED: From time to time we receive helpful hints and information suitable for the Newsletter. We will be glad to print any item submitted that has human interest or historic value in relation to Wilson.

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GOOF UP: We omitted the name of one of our "stout hearted men" who helped grade the inside of the new building, none other than "Chuck" Campbell. At least, we found out several people read the Newsletter. Sorry "Chuck".

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REFRESHMENT HOSTESSES at the September 17th regular meeting will be Beryl Tovell, Chairman, Helen Horton, and Sara Berry.

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2nd PRINTING: The Wilson Historical Society Recipe Book was so successful the Ways & Means Comm., according to Lois Barnum, Chrm., has decided to have 500 more copies printed up. An increase in the cost of paper and printing will make it necessary to charge \$4.50 per copy.

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PROGRAMS FOR 1979-80: In a historic "first" for the Wilson Historical Soc., Dorothy Linnabery, Program Chrm., has laid out programs to cover the entire year ahead. It might be well to save this page for future reference.

September 17th: A HISTORY OF STEAM POWER by Dr. Edward Eschner of Buffalo. Illustrated with running models of steam engines.

October 15th: "IT TAKES A YEAR TO MAKE A BROOM" with Peggy Ward and Audrey Orr. The story of finding and planting broom corn seed to growing, harvesting the corn, preparing the corn and finally making the broom.

November 19th: "THE APPLE COMES TO STAY IN WILSON" with Mr. Paul Lehman, Niagara County Extension Service. How the apple came to Wilson and why it staid here.

December 17th: "THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS AT TOAD HOLLOW SCHOOL", directed by Betty Stimson. Christmas "exercises" featuring recitations, ridiculousities, and refreshments at a one room school.

January 21st: "NATIVE AMERICAN COOKING" Cooking as the Tuscaroras do it.

February 18th: "A SCHOOL DAY IN A ONE ROOM SCHOOL" with Hazel Salisbury who taught in one. Wilson Yorkers will be invited as guests.

March 17th: "FLOWERS IN MANY FORMS DECORATED OUR HOMES IN THE PAST" With Lois Jennings and Eleanor Myers. Flower arrangements, dried flower pictures, pot-pourris, flowers used in household design, etc. The speakers have the floor and their imaginations.

April 21st: "WHAT'S IN A NAME" Dorothy Thilk and Helen Borngraeber will talk about the stories and people behind the names of Wilson roads and streets.

May 19th: "BARBERSHOPS AND BARBERING IN THE PAST" with Dr. John Argue. Special guests will be the Sunshine Boys of the Amherst Chapter, Society for the encouragement of Barber Shop singing in America. (Ron Moss, Leader)

June 16th: ANNUAL MEETING & REPORTS, also a "GATHERIN-IN SUPPER" Officer and Committee reports and a country supper of foods popular in the past.

July: TRIP TOUR to be announced. Arrangements by Dorothy Thilk.

August: SOCIETY FAMILY PICNIC WITH BIRTHDAY PARTY HONORING WILSON'S OLDER CITIZENS: A supper, as usual, with birthday cake, candles, and special music and entertainment.

Marietta Goodman is Chairman of the refreshment committees provided at all regular monthly meetings.

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ON PARADE: Three of Dr. Argue's antique cars were featured as entrees for the Wilson Hist. Soc. in the Farm and Home Center parade held at Lockport recently. The doctor led the procession in his Rolls Royce and was accompanied by his son, John and wife Carol from Nebraska. Mrs. Lois Jennings was also a passenger in the Rolls. Don and Millie Croop were in the 2nd car, a 1934 Pierce Arrow, while Ken and Dorothy Tracey followed in a Crysler. The cars attracted a good deal of attention--probably because they are fast becoming a rare species in the automotive world.

On the way back to Wilson with the Pierce, one of Whit Barnum's heifers gave us a few anxious moments when it ran across the road in front of us. We realize the price of meat is nearly as high as antique cars, but we don't think Doc would have appreciated having a cow on the hood of the Pierce.

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WORTHY PROJECT: The Town of Niagara Historical Society is undertaking the job of restoring the Niagara Wheatfield District #2 Schoolhouse. They are looking for a total of 25 desks so if you know of any that are available, please call Terry Lasher (297-0468) or Barbara Hathaway (297-1347).

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FUN.....WOW!: The Ways and Means Committee will sponsor a Round and Square dance at the Thomas Mark's School, Saturday evening, November 3rd, from eight to twelve o'clock. Music will be provided by the "Rhythm Aires", and the event will be open to the public. Refreshments will be sold by the committee. Put the date on your calendar before you make other arrangements, and read the October Newsletter for more information.

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A REMINDER: The trustees wish to emphasize again that all committee chairmen are eligible and welcome to attend meetings of the Board. The trustees recognize that our progress is dependent on the activity of the various committees so chairmen are encouraged to attend in order to make reports and keep up to date on all matters relevant to the Society.

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SEPTEMBER HOSTESSES: The following members have agreed to be hostesses at the museum Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4: Sept. 2nd, Garnet and Elwin Upton; Sept. 9th, Helen French and Grace Singer; Sept 16th, Lois and Bert Jennings; Sept. 23rd, Edna and Bob Rose; and Sept. 30th, Eloise and Edgar Culverwell.

Because of a slip up, we neglected to name the August Hostesses in the last Newsletter. They were as follows: Celeste Crawford, Marguerite and Joe Geiser; Martha and Norm MacAskill, and Jane Demmin and son, Chris.

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JUNIOR MEMBER, Jeff Wiepert, returned home recently from a successful two week camping experience at Philmont Boy Scout Camp, Cimmaron, New Mexico.

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BON MOT: Look out the window from the breakfast table, and you see the bird after the worm, the cat after the bird and the dog after the cat. It gives you a little better understanding of the morning's news. (Bill Vaughan)

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CHECK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Oct: 28th: Newfane Marker Dedication. 2:00 PM. Transit & rt. 18.
- Oct. 29th: Museum Comm. meeting. 1:00PM at museum.
- Nov. 3rd: Society Round & Square Dance. Thomas Marks. 8:00 to 12:00 PM.
- Nov. 6th: Annual Bake Sale. Wilson Town Hall. 10:00 AM on--(Election Day)
- Nov. 14th: Trustee Meeting: 8:00 PM, at Dr. Argue's Office on Lake St.
- Nov. 19th: Regular Meeting. 7:30 PM at museum. Guest, Paul Lehman.
- Nov. 26th: Museum Comm. meeting. 1:00 PM--Change Exhibit--bring toys, etc.

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TREASURER'S REPORT (6mo.)	CREDITS	DEBITS	BALANCE
Bal. General Fund 4/15			2,485.11
Dues	503.00		
Ways & Means	1,518.79	1,795.16	
Annual Fair	6,781.59	1,606.71	
Town of Wilson	500.00		
Interest	276.96		
Miscellaneous		50.00	
Maintenance & Repairs		757.05	
Insurance		556.00	
National Fuel Gas		238.36	
Niagara Mohawk Electric		192.16	
New York Telephone		107.16	
Newsletters & Mailing		155.13	
Office Supplies, stamps		64.95	
Historical Marker		116.73	
TOTALS	<u>9,580.34</u>	<u>5,639.41</u>	<u>3,940.93</u>
Bal. on hand 10/14			
General Fund			6,426.04
Building Fund			2,796.28
Life Membership Fund (frozen)			2,228.86

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ACQUISITIONS: Helen Borngraeber has presented four Cookbooks to the museum: The Philathea Cookbook; Mrs. Beeton's Family Cookery (1905); Palatable Dishes (1891); and the New Delineator (1929).

Millie Croop: Late 1800 Photo Album and Stand that once belonged to her grandmother, Anna Rasmussen.

Ruth Gale: Tortoise Comb, Black Beaded Purse, and 1905 edition of Silas Marner by George Eliot.

Joe Higgins: Hand operated corn sheller--in good condition.

Rex Stacy: Twenty six star American Flag, Wooden potato masher, and Antique Corn Planter.

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BY-LAWS AMENDED: By unanimous vote, the membership has amended the Bylaws to permit the Town of Wilson Historian to be a permanent member of the Wilson Historical Society Board of Trustees, Dorothy Thilk is the current Historian.

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"TOO MANY IRONS": Don Croop has resigned as a member of the Planning Comm., and Dr. Argue, Pres., has appointed Norman MacAskill to replace him. The Comm. is responsible for planning & recommending the future course of the Society.

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THUMBNAIL SKETCH: Ronald Frank Zauner was born in Buffalo, April 11, 1943. He attended Greece Olympia High School and received his B.S. at the University of Missouri. He married Judith Ann Case at Elmira, N.Y., and they have two children, Jonathon Paul and Robert Scott. The family moved to Wilson in April, 1979. Mr. Zauner is a Construction Engineer Supervisor at Hooker Chemical and Plastics. He sings in the choir of Exley United Methodist Church and is affiliated with the Koinonia Movement. He was awarded a Bronz Star during the Vietnam War.

The Zauners live on the former Ossman farm, Wilson-Burt Rd., former home of Lorenzo Pratt in the mid 1800's. It was here that Pratt's famous Civil War horse, "Billy Sherman" was buried with military honors by members of Peter A. Porter Post, G.A.R. A historical marker by the highway calls attention to the actual gravesite of "Old Billy", about 100' north of the road.

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WEDDING BELLS: Doug Smith, son of Bill and Carol Smith, and Gail Rodgers, daughter of Tom and Helen Rodgers, plan to be married by Rev. Rae Brothers at Exley United Methodist Church, Saturday, November 24th, 6PM. Gail & Doug will be the first young members of the Society to join hands in matrimony. They will make their home at the Dorwood Trailer Park. The Society extends its congratulations to the future bride and groom.

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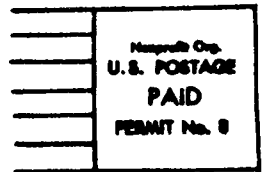
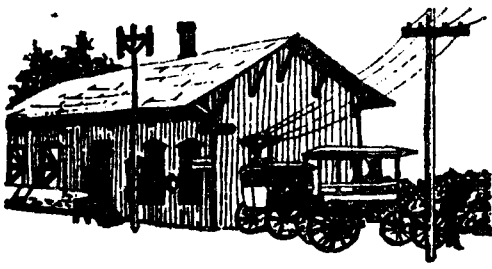
NOVEMBER MEETING: The program scheduled for the November 19th meeting will feature Mr. Paul Lehman of the Niagara County Extension Service. Mr. Lehman, long associated with the fruit industry, will discuss how the apple came to Wilson and why it stayed.

Following the meeting, refreshments will be served by Lucy Monroe, Chrm., Hildred Brothers, and Marge Goodman.

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LAST WORD: You 've got to love what's loveable and hate what's hateable. It takes brains to see the difference. (Robert Frost)

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Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor
OCTOBER 1979 Vol.8 No.10
(Coleman Press)

HISTORIC MARKER: It is unusual to have a farm homestead owned and operated by four successive generations, but such has been the case with the Wright Homestead on Daniel's Rd. The present house was built in 1851 on land purchased in 1843 from the Holland Land Co. by George Wright. George was a very enterprising person and not content to just pursue the daily chores associated with general farming. He grew flax from which linen was made and raised sheep from which wool yarn was spun; so it was only natural that he would attempt to raise silkworms in an effort to produce silk.

In the late 1800's, Belden Wright, showing some of his father's ingenuity, raised tobacco and the plants were cured in a 40x24 foot barn built in 1885. There were no windows in the building so the "hands" of tobacco could cure slowly and be more suitable for cigar wrappers. Boxes of the "Wright" cigars were sold as far west as Michigan.

The historic sites committee decided to erect a sign on the homestead which is now the residence of Karl and Gwen Wright. The cast iron marker is similar to those placed at the Tabor Bridge and Wilson Landing. According to Jan Spordleder, Chrm., a short dedication ceremony will be held at the marker at 7 PM prior to the regular meeting at the museum on October 15th.

It is conceivable that the farm could house more descendents of George Wright, but none would bear the Wright name. Mrs. Walter (Gretchen Wright) Zeh, daughter of the Wrights, currently resides with her family near Saratoga Springs, N.Y. They have three children, Karl K., Arthur, and Stanley.

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ACTIVE CLUB: The Delphic Circle, one of Wilson's oldest clubs, was organized in 1892 as a literary and cultural group. In the beginning its membership was comprised mostly of married couples, but in order to become affiliated with the Federation of Womens' Clubs, the men had to resign. Arthur Pease had the honor of being the last male member. It was through the support of the Delphic Circle that the Wilson Free Library became a reality in 1911, and is still one of its main concerns. The club is starting its 87th consecutive year and has a membership of about 35 ladies.

Current officers are Mrs. Cheryl Brown, Pres., Mrs. Chris Kelman, 1st Vice Pres., Mrs. Ellen Seeley, 2nd Vice Pres., Mrs. Mildred High, Rec. Secy., Miss Flossie Lortz, Cor. Secy., and Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, Treasurer.

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IN MEMORIAM: It has always been a policy of the Newsletter to memorialize the passing of deceased members, but with nearly 400 persons on the roll, there is always a chance some may be missed. While checking the mailing list we realized we had overlooked the demise of Mr. Walter Moxham, husband of Justice Jane Moxham of Wilson. Mr. Moxham was in Florida for his health when he passed away last February. The Society belatedly extends its condolences to his wife, Jane, and other members of the family.

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NEW MEMBERS: It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members into the Wilson Hist. Society: Kenneth J. Radig of Depew; Lee Heidenfeldt of Florida; and Frank Langdon of Lockport. We also welcome Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Zauner and sons, Jonathan and Robert; and Mr. and Mrs. Tower Wilson, all from Wilson.

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MUSEUM EXHIBIT: The Oct-Nov. museum exhibit will feature "Linens and Laces", and the Museum Comm. will meet Monday, Oct. 1st at 1 PM to arrange the display. Please bring your "loan" items at this time--also, those who have articles in the "Vacation Time in Wilson" display, may pick them up then. Lois Jennings wishes to thank all who volunteer their time and treasures for all exhibits.

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ACQUISITIONS: Alice Carter has donated a dark blue and white homespun coverlet with Esther M. Carter-1840- woven in the corner of it.

Miss Mabel Wilson: Two pictures of Slash (Maple) Rd. residents and Methodist Church with identifying list of names.

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BON MOT: A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong gives it a superficial appearance of being right. (Thomas Paine)

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HALLOWEEN DANCE: The Wilson Hist. Soc. will sponsor a Round & Square Dance at the Thomas Marks School, Saturday, November 3rd, from 8 PM to 12 Midnight. Music will be provided by the "Rhythm Aires" and costumes will be optional. Tickets may be purchased at the "Country Barn Shop" or by calling Lois Barnum (751-6665) or Carole Schnoor (751-6373). A special advance ticket sale at \$2.50 per person will be in effect until October 21st. After that date all tickets will sell for \$3.00 per person. Coffee, tea, sweet cider and donuts will be provided by the Ways and Means Comm. at reasonable prices. Proceeds from the dance will benefit a community project. Invite your friends and come and "Swing yor podners".

CLASS REUNION: The Wilson High School Class of 1939 recently held their 40th reunion at the Parkway Ramada Inn with 18 of 47 graduates attending. Eight of their number are deceased. Guest speaker was Class Advisor, Dr. Robert Luckey, Pres. of Marion College, Ind., and former math teacher at Wilson. The reunion was organized by Beatrice Hahn Lockwood, Loretta Connor Joseph, Lawrence Grimm, and Neva Latta Benedict.
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SUCCESSFUL VENTURES: The active Ways and Means Comm. arranged to have booths at the recent "Old Fashion Sidewalk Sale", the "Wilson Vol. Fire Co. Field Day" and the "Schnoor's Corners Flea Market". Items sold included ceramics, note paper, pencils, patches, booklets, Recipe Book, and the newly published "Wilson Vanishing Heritage". Thanks to the following members the booths were a great success: Lois and Melanie Barnum, Flossie Lortz, Ruth Stedman, Sara Berry, Marietta Goodman, Ted and Mildred Lonsbery, Ralph and Helen Dinse, Edna Rose, and Carole Schnoor.
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THUMBNAIL SKETCH: William Paul Budde was born in Niagara Falls and attended the Lewiston-Porter Central School and the College of Steubenville. He was confirmed in the Messiah Lutheran Church of Lewiston and is affiliated with the Ananitical Soc. of W.N.Y.; Himilayan Institute; and the Humanistic Physiology Assoc. He is also a Counselor for the Niag. Co. Drug Abuse Program. His father, William Frank Budde, is a cable splicer for Niagara Mohawk, and his mother, Ada Erstein Davis (Budde), is a registered nurse at Memorial Hospital. His grandfather, Frank Budde, worked at the Schoellkopf Generating Plant, and his G. Grandfather Buckley died while serving in the Civil War.
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SOLD OUT: The Wilson Hist. Soc. Recipe Book took W.N.Y. by storm and the first 500 copies sold out in three months. The 2nd printing is now available but due to rising costs will sell for \$4.50 each. Compared to other cookbooks of similar size and quality, this is still a remarkable bargain. All mail orders should include an extra 50¢ to cover part of the postage. Need we remind our members that the cookbook would make wonderful Christmas gifts?
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SHRINERS: An exciting group in the recent Wilson Fire Co. Parade was the Ismailia Tricycle Unit of Niagara Falls. Our attention was drawn to this active charitable organization because of Jim Coleman who was riding with them. Jim, owner of the Coleman Press, publishes the Society's monthly Newsletter, occasional booklets, and the popular Recipe Book.
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WANTED: There is an urgent need for additional shelving in the museum. If any member or friend has a bookcase or sectional shelving they could spare, please contact Lois Jennings.
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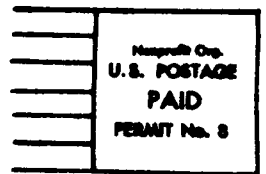
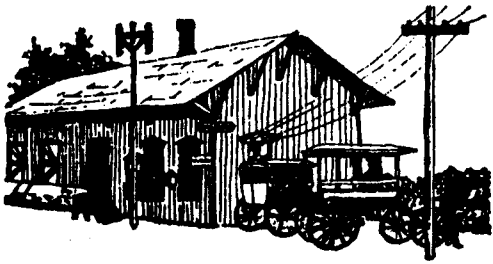
ACTIVITIES PLANNED: The Cambria Hist. Soc. will celebrate their Pioneer Day Open House from Noon to 7:00 PM, Sunday, Oct. 21st, at the Community Hall on Rt. 425. Refreshments! Country Store! History! Crafts! Antiques!
 The Newfane Hist. Soc. will hold their annual "Harvest Days" at Hrvol House Museum, Sunday, Oct. 7th, from Noon to 5:00 PM. Fleas! Refreshments! Crafts!
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SUNDAY HOSTESSES: October hostesses from 2-4PM Sundays will be: Oct 7th, Dora and Wirt Wakeman; Oct. 14th, Sara and Fred Berry; Oct. 21st, Bessie and Fenton Cole; and Oct. 28th, Esther and Harold Albright.
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OCTOBER MEETING: An interesting program is planned for the evening of Oct. 15th when Peggy Ward and Audrey Orr will present, "It takes a year to make a broom" The demonstration will span the period when broom corn seed is planted to the actual making of a broom. Refreshments will be served by Sharon Monroe, Chr., Sue Toenniessen, and Ernestine Walpole.
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- Oct. 1st: Museum Committee meeting, 1:00 PM, Monday, at museum.
- Oct. 10th: Trustee meeting, 8:00 PM, Wednesday, at museum.
- Oct. 15th: Marker Dedication, 7:00 PM, Monday, Wright home on Daniel's Rd. Regular meeting, 7:45PM, at museum, following Dedication.
- Oct. 17th: Newfane Golden Agers, 1:30 PM, Wednesday, at museum.
- Nov. 3rd: Society Dance, 8:00 PM, Saturday, at Thomas Marks School.

GRANDPA SAYS: All weddings are happy; it's the living together afterward that causes all the trouble.
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Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NOV. 1979 Vol.8 No.11

(Coleman Press)

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

MILLER & BROWN: Miller and Brown was a thriving business in Wilson at the turn of the century. They were dealers in general merchandise and their store was located on the corner where Scheffler's Restaurant now stands. The store was later known as Welker & Brown's, but the building was destroyed by fire in 1968.

On September 16, 1912, William Bell and James Powers, members of the Wilson I.O.O.F., ok'd a bill in account with Miller & Brown for the following purchases: 1 lb. coffee, 32¢; 2 doz. cookies, 20¢; 5 loaves bread, 25¢; One yd. cheese cloth, 6¢; 3 lbs. cheese, 60¢; and 1 jar mustard, 5¢ for a \$1.48 total. We thought some of you thrifty homemakers would like to compare those prices with what you pay at the Super market today.

Sam Brown, of Miller & Brown, used to live in the Campbell home on Lake St., and his delivery horse, Bonnie, was kept in a barn behind the house. Bob Rose and his Dad borrowed the horse one day to visit Bob's grandparents on the old Rose Farm east of Larry Pease's place. The horse and buggy were placed in a barn until the time arrived to return to the village, but when Bob's Dad opened the door to get them out, the horse bolted and took off with the buggy by himself.

Sam Brown was no doubt surprised when Mr. Rose telephoned him and said, "Bonnie's on the way home." Bob recalls that the phone call was made on one of the first phones in the area, but he is unable to remember how he and his Dad got back to their Pettit St. home in the village.

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QUILTING TIME: Florence Schultz, Chrm. of the annual quilting bee, has announced that work is starting on a new cross stitch quilt and that it will be quilted on Tuesdays and Sundays at the museum. Florence would appreciate seeing some new faces at the quilting sessions which are held Tuesday at 9AM and Sundays at 1 PM. Anyone interested in learning how to "sewa fine seam" will never find better instructors than those who work on the Society's quilt.

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BAKE SALE: "All systems are go" for the annual Bake Sale which will be held on Election Day, November 6th, in the Wilson Town Hall. Home made baked goods will go on sale at 10:00 AM, and members are urged to furnish pies along with their other specialties. Those living outside the village who are unable to get to the Hall, may drop off their items at either Millie Croop's or Lois Barnum's. Politics notwithstanding, the Bake Sale is the winner.

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SUNDAY HOSTESSES: Families who have agreed to serve as hostesses at the museum Sunday afternoons from two to four are: Nov. 4th, Gwen and Karl Wright; Nov. 11th, Lucy and Bud Monroe; Nov. 18th, Gertrude and Art Schnoor; Nov. 25th, Millie and Ted Lonsbery.

An exhibit featuring fine linens and laces will continue through November-- a "must" for those who can appreciate the handiwork of early residents. The regular monthly meeting of the museum comm. will be Mon., Oct. 29, at 1:00 PM.

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50th ANNIVERSARY: The Wilson High School Class of 1929 recently held its 50th Class reunion at the Town and Country Restaurant in Middleport. Present were Dorothy Lort Allgeier (Pres.); Burt Jennings (Vice-Pres.); Laura King Atkinson (Secy. & Valedictorian); Miss Vivian Kells; Thelma Wolf Hind; Miss Mae Stacy; and Marguerite Stockwell Langdon. Miss Mabel Wilson, Class Advisor, attended as a special guest and was presented with a corsage.

Class members unable to attend were Waldo Beutel; Elmer Donner, Arthur Harbison (Salutatorian); and Genevieve Duxbury Harbison. Deceased members of the class are Ruth Truesdale (Treas.); Marjorie Lederhouse Johnston; Violet Plumb Giddings; Clarence Johnson, Jr.; and Loyal Kepner. Arrangements for the happy occasion were made by Laura Atkinson, Dorothy Lort, and Marguerite Langdon.

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BON MOT: Perhaps the best way to live happily ever after, is not to be after too much.

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HALLOWEEN DANCE: Attention all Hobgoblins, Witches, and Ghosts! Meet at the Thomas Marks School, Saturday evening, Nov. 3rd, from 8:00 PM to 12:00 Midnight. Round & Square dance sponsored by Hist. Soc.....music by the Rythym Aires. Tickets available at the door. Refreshments! Costumes optional.

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A BETTER IDEA: Terrence Upton, Charter & Life Member, has a suggestion others might like to emulate. Terry believes that 'Memberships' in the Wilson Hist. Soc. would make excellent Christmas or Birthday gifts for friends or relatives who have moved away---a sort of "We still remember gift". Terry backs up his idea by presenting memberships to his four brothers and sister: Thomas Upton, U.S. Navy, Norfolk, Va.; Robert Upton, Harrisburg, Pa; Dennis Upton, Kenmore, N.Y.; Roger Upton, St. Bonaventure, N.Y.; and Cynthia Upton, Lynchburg, Va. On behalf of the Society we welcome all of you.

Some years ago a cute sign, "The Seven Ups", stood before the Upton home on Route 425. We recall when Cynthia arrived and the sign had to come down.

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VISITOR STATISTICS: From Oct. 1st, 1978 to Oct., 1979, eight special groups visited the museum by reservation. Also, during this period, 1418 persons signed the guest register. Sixty eight persons from States other than New York signed the register, and 15 persons visited from Canada, New Zeland, England, Wales, Finland, and India. Our volunteer hostesses made it possible.

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FROM THE PAST: The Wilson Men's Club was organized January 1, 1909 with the stated purpose to "increase good fellowship amongst its members, advance the business and social interests of the town, and increase efficiency in good citizenship." Any man of good moral character, 16 years of age or more, could become a member if recommended by the membership committee and by signing the Club's Constitution. Membership fee was 50¢ and dues \$1.00 per year. Over 100 men belonged to the Club which held supper meetings in the old Presbyterian Church on the first Friday evening of each month. Ladies night Banquets were held in the Odd Fellows Hall.

A few old timers still living in the area who once belonged to the Club are Fay Campbell, Louis Swick, Lloyd Duxbury, Ed Marks, and Harold Mudge. (The Club should not be confused with the Wilsonian Club, a separate group)

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NEWFANE MARKER: The Newfane Hist. Soc. will dedicate a plaque commemorating the Holland Land Co. survey marker at Lake Ontario and Transit Road, Sunday October 28th, at 2:00 PM. Charles Boyer, Curator, will be the principal speaker and refreshments will be served at the Newfane Museum at 4:00 PM.

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TEACHERS REUNITE: A dinner at Harding's Restaurant was the setting for a 50 year reunion of the Teacher's Training Class of 1929. The 12 graduates all taught school and only one, Beatrice Demmin Hudson, is deceased. Attending were Beatrice Schrader Harrod, Dorothy McEvers Kolbow, Veronica Connor, Mabel Whitt Clark, Christine Curtis Parker, and Thelma Ward Patterson. Absent were Margaret Ozard Beals, Betty Jacques, Grace Waterman Thompson, Gertrude Robe, and Helen Borngraeber.

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NEW MUSEUM EXHIBIT: The Holiday exhibit for the months of December and January will be "Bygone Christmas's" and will feature doll houses, children's toys, and other mementos of the past. If you have anything you would be willing to display, please bring it to the museum Monday afternoon, Nov. 26th, or call Lois Jennings. It goes without saying, the displays can only be as good as you, the members, are willing to make them. So far, they've been great!

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FUEL SAVER: Dr. Argue, Pres., has graciously offered to keep his waiting room open Wednesday evenings for trustee meetings each month. Since his office is already heated, Doc feels this will save fuel at the museum. In view of sharply rising fuel costs, Doc's offer couldn't have been timed better.

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MAIL BAG: One of the nicest "fringe benefits" in putting out the "Newsletter" is the correspondence we receive from former residents. One sample is a letter from Mrs. Marion B. Horton of Gulfport, Fla., who writes "I enjoy the "Newsletter" so much, always interesting items of my "Home Town" which will always be home to me!" Incidentally, Mrs. Horton ordered two Cookbooks.

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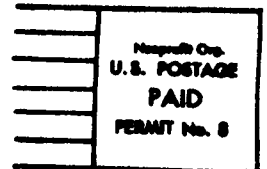
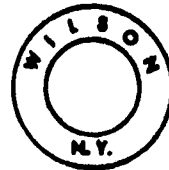
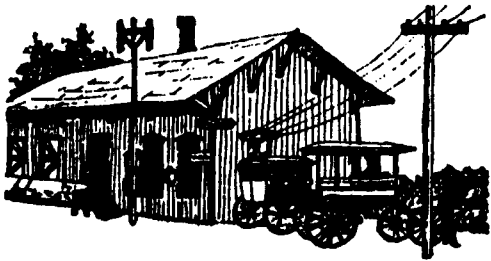
BOTH OLD AND YOUNG: The Buffalo Riverfront Senior Travel Club was greeted by Lois Jennings, Helen Borngraeber, and Marion Campbell when they bussed to Wilson recently. Other visitors included the Willow Rd. "Handy Hands" 4H Club, and Mrs. Mary Budde's 3rd grade class from Thomas Marks School. Mrs. Budde's pupils were attentive and well behaved as the more interesting exhibits were pointed out to them. The museum committee extends an invitation to all grades to visit as it is felt that once the students realize the museum is an expression of their heritage in the community, they will take pride in it and want to see it preserved.

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ANTIQUES SPREAD: A Battenburg Lace Bedspread is on display in the window of Hamilton & Clarks, and is drawing attention to the Oct-Nov. "Linen and Lace" exhibit in the museum. The cherished old spread belongs to Eleanor Myers.

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A FACT: "Progress is not created by contented people" (Forbes)



Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

DEC. 1979 Vol.8 No.12
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WILSON'S MONEY TREE: The apple is one of Wilson's most prolific fruits and so common it is almost taken for granted. In past years it has been immortalized in song and verse and just about everyone knows that, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away", or "Apple pie without cheese is like a kiss without a squeeze." And who could ever forget those pretty old songs like, "I'll be with you in apple blossom time", "Neath the shade of the old apple tree", or "Ida, as sweet as apple cider." Even today an auto company jingle couples American tradition with its "Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and chevrolet," and New Yorkers call their city "The Big Apple"---hardly surprising since they've looked on outsiders as "Apple Knockers."

The world harvest of apples fluctuates sharply because of the weather, but Niagara County, with its mild lake controlled temperatures, remains one of the most consistent producers. The Red Delicious is a favorite eating apple as it is juicier and sweeter, and the Cortlands are considered best for salads because they stay whiter longer when sliced or diced. The Empire, a cross between the Delicious and McIntosh, is good for lunch boxes or after school snacking, and the Ida Red is a good "keeper" and very tasty in pies or applesauce.

Today, local farm plantings have given way to centralized, commercial orchards. Some of the larger growers in the Wilson area are Niagara Orchards, Fitch's Ontario Orchards, Alex Henschel, Walter Evans, Larry Pease, and the Goodman and Bowman Farms. Important commercial varieties grown in the State include the Winesap, Jonathan, McIntosh, and Rome Beauty.

More than four fifths of the U.S. crop is normally used as fresh fruit, and since one large apple contains about 100 calories, it is considered a low-cal food. Long recognized as "Good for good health", the apple contributes to better dental hygiene, provides necessary vitamins and minerals and roughage for the diet. Apple cider is useful as a diuretic and helpful in the relief of edema and gout. When stored, apples should be kept as cool as possible, but always above the freezing mark.

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GOOD TIME: The Halloween Dance at Thomas Marks School was an enjoyable success as a lively group danced to the melodious sound of the Rhythm Aires. Whit Barnum, Art Schnoor, Johnny Myers, Burt Jennings, "Chuck" Campbell, Harold Albright, and "Chuck" Messersmith (to mention a few), showed they could still "swing their partners" with ease and grace. Carole Schnoor, Lois Barnum, and Chris Goodman were responsible for arranging the pleasant evening, while Sara Berry and Millie Lonsbery dispensed the coffee, sweet cider and donuts.

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WILSON'S VANISHING HERITAGE: The Society's latest publication, "Wilson's Vanishing Heritage", was featured at the museum on Nov. 11th, when visitors were given an opportunity to purchase copies autographed by the authors and local artists. The idea for the booklet originated with Dorothy Thilk who took snapshots from which the sketches were drawn. She and Jean Argue helped compose the verses for the sketches that were drawn by Berne Kent, Anne Rohring, Carol Smith, Frances Landy, Norma Ward, Becky Stevens, and Joe Higgins. The 20 page booklet was edited by Don Croop and sells for 75¢ per copy. (Mail orders, \$1.00)

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TREES PLANTED: The Town of Wilson has supplied 10 ornamental and shade trees in a continuing effort to beautify the grounds around the museum. The trees are Crimson Maples, Buttonwoods, Silver Maples, and Mountain Ash, and they were set and staked in place by Ron Schearer, owner of Schearer's Nursery, Wilson-Burt Rd. The town's water district used their backhoe to dig the holes, and all trees but one were placed west of the depot by the new building.

The first tree plantings were made in 1974 when the Society, with help from the Village, purchased 6 "Little Leaf Lindens" from Schearer's Nursery, and Ron placed them along the walk east of the museum. In 1976, the Wilson Conservation Club donated a large Maple and planted it north of the caboose as a "Liberty Tree" in commemoration of the Nation's Bicentennial.

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MAILBAG: Ronald Roberts of California has sent a picture taken in 1885 of the North Ridge brick schoolhouse, Dist. #9, showing Mary Woods and her pupils in front. Check these names--perhaps one of your grandparents was in the picture. Almer Belnap, Addie Beach, Gertie Quade, Frank Loomis, Lottie Alton, Will Sawyer, Jennie Pettie, Nellie Barker, Anna Quigly, Jennie Touhil, Joe Luff, Roy Pitty, Carrie Bailey, Mary Loomis, Walter Luff, Edna Touhil, Kemp Hardison, Gertie O'Hara, Frank Luff, Addie Loomis, Glen Townson, Wain Catlyn, Mattie Barker, Glen Robinson, Curt Loomis, Cora Catlyn, Glenn Pitty, Merl Robinson, Nettie Staples, Lillian Barker, and Resty Scoby.

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BON MOT: To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides.

IN MEMORIAM: Dr. Norman Eick, 82, died Nov. 12th at the Fairchild Nursing Home following a prolonged illness. He was a member of the Society since 1975, and practised medicine in the Falls area for 33 years. Deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, Laura (Alvers), his sons Donald, Charles, and David, and their families.

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GREAT FOR CHRISTMAS: The Society's Recipe Book has surpassed all expectations, so, if you're looking for a quality gift at reasonable cost, why not pick up a copy for a relative or friend in time for Christmas. Most shoppers may agree a good gift is hard to find for \$4.50. (Mail orders are \$5.00)

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ACQUISITIONS: Clarence and Lucy Monroe have donated a 100 year old sewing table that belonged to Jennie Monroe, grandmother of Clarence.

Lydia Lort: Hairpin Lace Cap, Hooks, and Shears. Cap was made by her mother, Barbara Morgeller, and all items were brought here from Germany.

Eloise Culverwell: Can of Johnson's Wax that was once used on the floor of the old Middleton Hall before dances were held there.

Herbert Kahler, Newfane: Sixty year old desk clock.

Clifford LeValley, Kenmore: Post card with identification on back.

John Charles Argue, Nebraska: Four Postcards.

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IDEA BEARS FRUIT: Terry Upton's idea of giving Society Memberships as Christmas or Birthday gifts to relatives or friends who have moved away, seems to be working.

Walter Moxham, Jr., atty. at Lockport, wrote to request memberships for his brother and sisters: George Moxham, Rochester; Janie Moxham, Lockport; Patricia Moxham Fisher, California; and Susan Moxham Hunt of Texas. The Moxhams are the children of the late Walter Moxham and Justice Jane Moxham of Wilson. Walter concluded his letter by writing, "Needless to say, I took the initiative from Terry Upton to find this to be a very nice gift."

Other recent new members are William and Margaret Fritton of Wilson; Halsey and Lois Joyce Buell of Niagara Falls; and Mabel Burrows of Burt. On behalf of the Society, it is a pleasure to welcome all of you. There are now 423 members in the Wilson Historical Society.

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HISTORY NOW: The volunteer effort by a committee of local residents has resulted in the installation of lighting for the Walter J. Hutchison Football Field. All funding, materials, and labor was provided by the group at no cost to the school district. Sport enthusiasts should be pleased with the result.

This project is a reminder that most the great institutions around us today were started, and are being perpetuated, by the volunteer efforts of many community minded people. Outstanding examples are the local Churches, Boy and Girl Scouts, 4H Clubs, Eastern United Way, Wilson and South Wilson Fire Companies, Conservation Club, Inter-Community Hospital Auxiliary, Wilson Free Library, and even the Wilson Historical Society. Can you picture a Wilson where all the volunteers quit?

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MUSEUM EXHIBIT: The theme for the Holidays will be "Bygone Christmas's" with the exhibit built around doll houses, furniture, toys, and other mementos. The display will be arranged Monday, November 26th, starting at 10:00 AM. All members are invited to come--bring a bag lunch, and your displayable items. Join in the fun and help trim the Christmas tree.

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SUNDAY AFTERNOON HOSTESSES: Sunday hostesses in December from 2:00 to 4:00 PM will be: Dec 2nd, Jerry and Earl Swann; Dec. 9th, Marjorie and Charles McManus; Dec. 16th, Clara and Harold Marcks; Dec 23rd, Maryanne and Tom Sharpe, Jr.; and Dec. 30th, Millie and Don Croop.

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DECEMBER PROGRAM: An impromptu, colossal, super spectacle, "The Night Before Christmas at Toad Hollow School", will unravel at the Dec. 17th meeting under the talented misdirection of Mme. Betee Stimsone'. Don't miss it--you may never see anything like it again.

Refreshments will be served by Santa's helpers, Jean Hayes, Chrm., Sue Cruickshank, and Sue Schultz.

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TASTING PARTY: There will be a special holiday treat for guests at the museum, Sunday, Dec. 2nd, when recipes from the Society's Cookbook will be prepared and made available for "tasting". It is hoped that after sampling some of the delicacies, visitors will be encouraged to acquire cookbooks for themselves and friends. Recipes, for the most part, will be prepared by the persons who submitted them, and it is expected that guests will be able to sample Chris Kelman's "Woodchucks", Marietta Goodman's "Cabbage and Cheese Casserole", Ella Mae Peter's Hamloaf and "Ambrosia" by Frances Landy (both to be prepared by Dorothy Linnabery), also Janet Sporleder's "Sea Food Imperial", Lois Barnum's "Scallop Chicken and Macaroni", Mrs. Ashley Gale's "Strawberry Soup", Millie Croop's "Copper Pennies", Mrs. Harold Marcks "Unbaked Cookies", Martha MacAskill's "Impossible Pie", Carol Smith's "Moist Apple Nut Cake", Jean Swanson's "Cherry Squares", and Joe Higgin's "Fudge".

Mrs. Dorothy Linnabery will "set up" the tasting tables, and members of the Ways and Means Comm. will assist including Lois Barnum, Chris Goodman, Carole Schnoor, and Nettie Stimson.

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CALENDAR REMINDER: Nov. 26th, 10:00 AM at museum; Tree trimming, Set up Dec.-Jan. exhibit. Dec. 2nd, 2:00 PM at museum; "Tasting Party".

Dec. 12th, 7:30 PM at Dr. Argue's Office, Trustee Meeting.

Dec. 17th, 7:30 PM at museum, Regular meeting.

Dec. 25th, "Merry Christmas" and thanks to God for all His Blessings.

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GRANDPA SAYS, "A wedding is an event, but marriage is an achievement."

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