

Wilson Historical Society
Newsletter
645 Lake Street
P.O. Box 830
Wilson, New York 14172

NON PROFIT ORG
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PERMIT NO. 8
WILSON, NEW YORK

January 2005
Vol. 34 No. 1
Edited by A. Diane Muscoreil

Town Of Wilson Historian
[REDACTED]
Wilson, NY 14172



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Town Supervisor

Jerry Dean

Town Historian

Charles Horton

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, January 1 st	Happy New Year!	
Monday, January 10 th	Town Workshop Meeting	7:30pm
Wednesday, January 12 th	WHS Board Meeting	7:30pm
Monday, January 17 th	Town Board Meeting Martin Luther King Day	7:30pm

From the Editors Desk – Hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday season! The reality of winter is sinking in now that the parties are over – I hope you all have some good books to read! I highly recommend "The Diary of a Dead Man", available through the Society.

The Society would like to thank the following people for their generous contributions: James Harold for the Cupola Project and Eleanor Canfield.

Remember that your old Christmas tree makes an ideal bird feeder and haven! String it with popcorn and other bird-friendly goodies, and put it in a sheltered place.

According to Scottish custom, the first Monday of the new year (January 3rd this year) was the time to give children and servants a small gift (called a handsel). The gift itself was less important than the good luck it betokened. The handsel was popular as a New Year's gift from the 14th to the 19th century. It continues today in the tradition of presenting a housewarming gift to bring good luck into the new home.

From the Past - Do you know this farm? "The Orchard by the Lake" - This farm is located in Lots 62 and 63, Township 15, Range 7, on the Lake road, three miles northeast of Wilson, and the same distance west of Olcott. Both are convenient shipping points. It is owned by William Wallace Anderson, and contains one hundred and twenty-two and half acres. Corn, wheat, cabbage etc. are the principal soil products. About sixty tons of hay per annum are harvested. The noted feature of this farm, however, is its peach orchard of forty acres, including Albertas, Crawfords, etc. Nine thousand baskets of peaches were harvested in 1907 and sold at \$1.00 per basket. There is an abundant water supply furnished by wells and two fine springs, and a timber lot containing twenty acres of medium growth. The building improvements include a residence, general barn, 30x52; pigsty, 16 x 18; and poultry house, 10 x 18. These buildings are in excellent repair and adequate to the farm's needs. Mr. Anderson has been in possession of the farm since 1905, have purchased the same of Wm. Veacey. He is a native of the town of Wilson.

Quote of the Day: "Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people."

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Sally Smith with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Sally and Darrell Smith, Judy King, Wanda Burrows, Diane Muscoreil, Mickey Hunter, Don Burrows, Bruce Muck, Chuck Horton, Celeste Crawford, Kyle Andrews, Pam Groff, Miles Linnabery, Wally Goodman. (14)

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Bruce, seconded by Judy, to accept the minutes of the Oct. 13 Board meeting as mailed, carried.

MEMBERSHIP:

Gail K. Watson of W. Lake Road is a new life member.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Donations were received in memory of Virginia Clark Klaiber and Howard Klaiber from Jean and Allen McFarren, and in memory of Virginia Clark Klaiber from Yvonne D. Smithson.

Motion was made by Don, seconded by Bruce, to pay the bills as presented and to accept the Treasurer's report as read, carried.

REQUEST TO USE DEPOT:

Celeste asked for use of the Depot on Dec. 9. Motion was made by Don, seconded by Darrell, that Delta Cappa Gamma be allowed to hold their meeting at the Depot on Dec. 9, 2004, carried.

GROUNDS:

Chuck will take the mower to Niagara Implement for winter overhaul.

Sat. December 4 will be a workday at the Museum. Everyone interested please meet at 9 am. All Society members and friends are invited, please come and help our hard-working and dedicated Board members.

FAIR:

Motion was made by Don, seconded by Chuck, to lower the selling price to \$4 per case of water and pop left over from the Fair, carried.

Last year's Fair Chairman, Kyle Andrews, has scheduled a meeting of last year's Fair Committee for Monday, Nov. 15 at 7 pm. in the Depot. Reorganization of the Fair will be discussed.

PLANNING BOARD:

Chairman Darrell Smith asked for volunteers to be on the Planning Board Committee. The By-Laws state that the Planning Board shall consist of six members including the Curator, Dorothy Maxfield.

TOURS:

Sat. Nov. 6 five Girl Scouts and their leader visited the schoolhouse. The girls are working on their Belva Lockwood Badge.

Nov. 22 at the General Meeting, Marlene Schotz will present a program on Rex Tugwell, "Profit Without Honor". The meeting starts at 7:30, refreshments served after the program. Everyone is invited.

ARGUE BUILDING:

Wally reported that the Detroit Athletic Club Magazine ran an article on early pioneers of automobiles, the Covert was included. He also noted that bodywork needs to be done on the Cadillac.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff
Recording Secretary

FULL MOON LORE FOR JANUARY: The Full Wolf Moon will appear on January 25th, 2005. It is also known as the Old Moon. To some Native American Tribes, it was the Snow Moon but most applied this latter name to the February full moon.

In Memoriam

Earle L. Swann, age 87, of Wilson Died on November 9th, 2004 in Newfane. He was born in Somerset, NY, the son of the late Harry and Bessie Kahler Swann.

He was a longtime Wilson resident and worked at the former Tuscarora Golf Club in Wilson for many years and was an avid golfer at the Niagara County Golf Course. He retired from Carborundum in 1979 after 38 ½ years of employment. He married Genevieve Lort in Lockport in February 23rd, 1941. One son, Charles P. Swann, predeceased him. He is survived by his wife, Genevieve and three sons, Terry Swann and Gregory (Barbara) Swann of Wilson and David Swann of Columbia, South Carolina, one sister, Betty Rasch of North Tonawanda, NY, seven grandchildren' eleven great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Burial will be in North Ridge Cemetery.

Life Member John C. Argue, 61, died on November 10, 2004. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Carol Argue of Albuquerque, New Mexico, daughter Hannah Argue of Pine, Arizona, sisters Susan (Ronald) Schearer of Wilson and Anne (William) Faery of Chandler AZ. Many nieces, nephews, and friends also survive John.

John enjoyed the outdoors, hiking and camping. He served his country in the U.S. Navy. John was an employee of the TriCore Reference Laboratories and the University of New Mexico Hospital.

Margaret Fritton, 88, a retired teacher who was active in civic affairs. Born Margaret O'Brian in Buffalo, she graduated from Nardin Academy and earned a teaching degree in 1937 from Buffalo State Teachers College. Mrs. Fritton began her career teaching eighth grade English in Brighton. After raising five children, she taught in Olean public and parochial school and founded and taught in the local Head Start program. While in Olean, she served as chairwoman of the Cattaraugus County Easter Seal Society and, for a number of years, as co-chairwoman of the Ball of Roses, the annual fund-raising event for Olean's hospitals.

After moving to Wilson in 1979, Mrs. Fritton oversaw the expansion of the Wilson Free Library and served as chairwoman on its board of Trustees. She also taught English as a second language and high school equivalency course. Her husband of 61 years, William J. II, died in February.

Three sons survive her, William III of Reston, Virginia, Kevin of West Newbury, Massachusetts and Karl of Ardmore, Pennsylvania and two daughters, Suzanne Hillmon of Penfield and Margaret of Cortland.

From Marlene Schotz -

What a coincidence! Just days after I gave a talk about Rexford Tugwell at our monthly society general meeting, the Buffalo News carried an article titled "Photographs Capture Depression Hardships". The article begins "In the grim years of the Great Depression, the federal government dispatched photographers across America to document the hard lives of the common people."

About 200 of these pictures are on display through July 17th in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, NY. Although Tugwell's name is not mentioned, the article says they were distributed "beginning in 1935 by the Resettlement Administration." Those who attended the historical society meeting found out that the RA was Tugwell's idea. The idea for the "green towns", mentioned in a previous newsletter article, was Tugwell's. The man chosen to be in charge of the photographic unit was Roy Stryker. He was a friend of Tugwell's and was the illustrator of the economics textbook that Tugwell wrote while a professor at Columbia. That textbook is on display in the Tugwell Cabin here on the Society grounds.

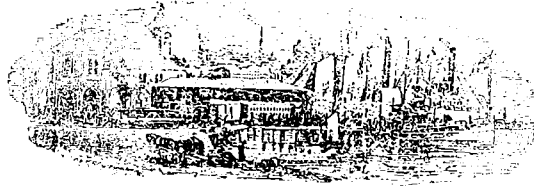
Dorothy Lange, Arthur Rothstein, Carl Mydans, Gordon Parks and Walker Evans are photographers from the RA project who went on to later fame. One can only wonder what their futures would have been without the boost from Tugwell's Resettlement Administration.

Q.....What do you call a deer with no eyes?

A.....No eye deer...llll

The photo you see is an early printed process that the Wilson Star newspaper used at that time. The scanned copy of the header of the Wilson Star is about ten years earlier. I have only three issues of the Star newspaper prior to 1890 as a fire destroyed the paper's records. These three issues had been given to prior historians and are in the files at my office at the town hall. The Wilson Free Library has many of the early Star papers on microfilm and compact disk that can be read at the library. The photo is of the Presbyterian Church which stood on the site of the Catholic Church occupies today. The wooden steps that seem out of place in the photo are across the street on the property of the Methodist Church. These steps were for the church members to get in and out of their carriages. After the Presbyterian Church fire a new church was built and it is the Catholic Church that stands today on this spot.
 Charles F. Horton—Town of Wilson Historian

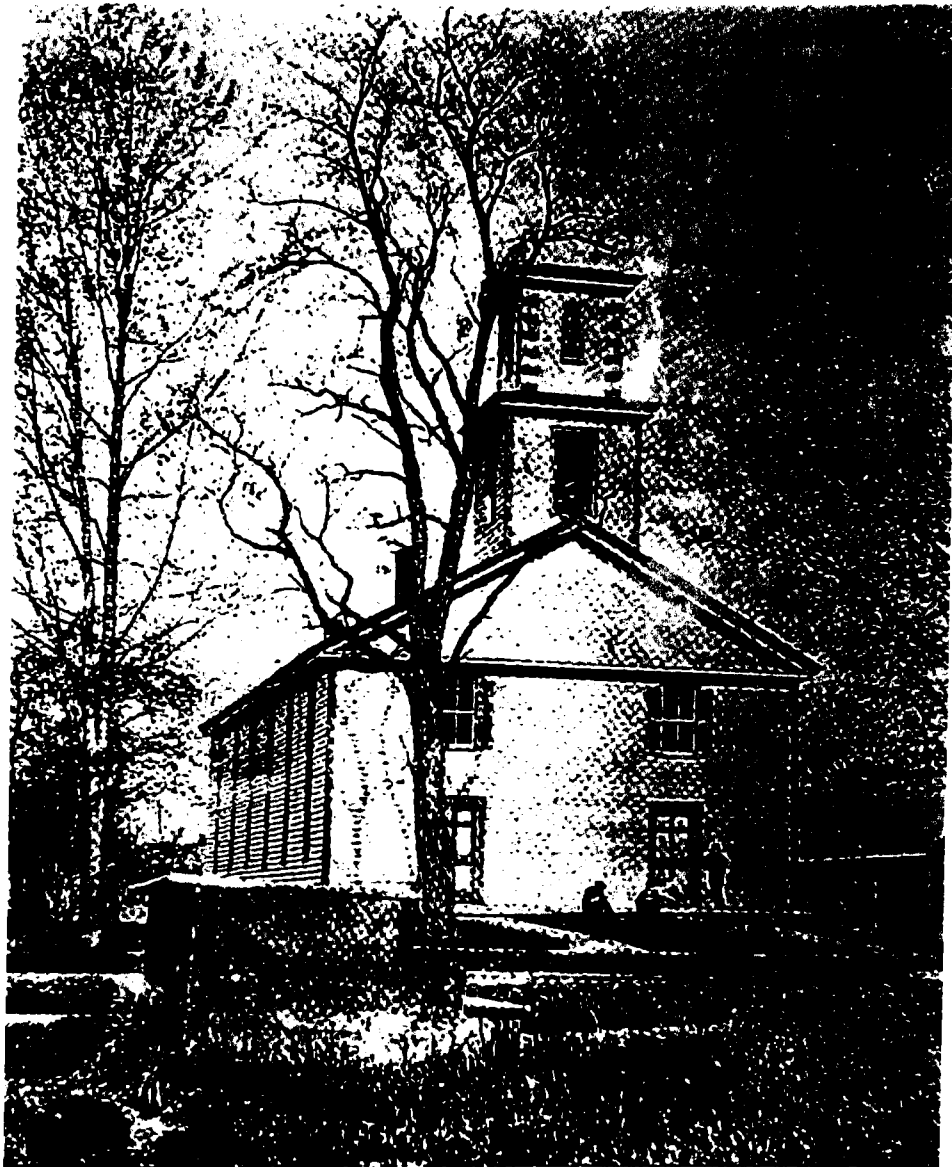
The



Star.

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

WILSON, NIAGARA COUNTY, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1883.



← PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BURNED JULY 10, 1894. →

Farmers Calendar – January 1880

Now we are to take a new start in life, and we ought to have some plan to go by. If a man lays out to build a house, he first makes a plan. I like to start square the first of the year. And then to see how long I can keep so. Make up a list of all your goods on New Year's Day. It is the best job you can do. Take care now, and not cheat yourself. Don't mark too high. Get it at the market price. But there are the chores to look after. Have you an icehouse? It is handy to have plenty of ice in the house in the hot days of summer. We can't do without ice. It is worth its weight in the fruits of the tropics any hot day.

When oak trees bend with great snow in January, good crops may be expected.

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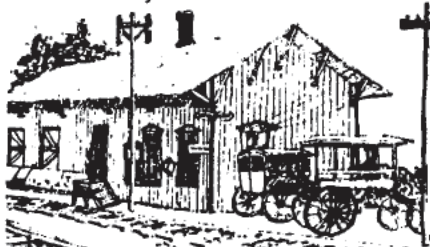
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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, February 7 th	Town Meeting	7:30pm
Wednesday, February 9 th	WHS Board Meeting	7:30pm
Monday, February 14 th	Valentines Day	
Monday, February 21 st	Presidents Day	
Tuesday, February 22 nd	Town Board Meeting	7:30pm
Monday, February 28 th	WHS General Meeting	7:30pm

From the Editors Desk.....to more months till spring, so hang in there! We had a lovely reprieve on January 10th where the temperature actually hit 67 degrees!

The Society would like to thank the following people for their generous contributions: Veronica Ranson for the Cupola Project and Ray & Ruth Tordoff for the restoration of the Fleetwing painting.

Shrove Tuesday (February 8th this year) is the last day before Lent begins. Many activities associated with this day are food-related. On Shrove Tuesday, the English eat pancakes, baked to us up the cooking fats that are forbidden during Lent. Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday") is the culmination of the carnival season of revelry and feasting. Among the Pennsylvania Dutch, this Tuesday is Fastnacht ("fastnight") and everyone enjoys fasnacht kuchen, traditionally a rectangular doughnut made with a slit in the middle.

From the Past - Do you know this farm? Armstrong - "Lakewood" - This farm is located on the Lake Road, two miles west of Wilson. Its principal shipping point was Wilson Station. It was owned by Byron H. Armstrong, and contained one hundred and one tenth acres. Fruit culture, dairying and general soil products comprised the farm's principal resources. Its fruit department contained thirteen acres of apples and two acres of pears. Fifteen acres of the farm was usually in meadow. Its stock department included dairy cows and horses. Never-failing wells and Twelve Mile Creek furnished an abundant water supply for fields stock and buildings. A modern residence; basement barn, 40 x 50; stock barn, 34 x 56; and a poultry house, 12 x 50 complete its building improvements. Mr. Armstrong was in possession of the farm since 1898, receiving the title from his father, D. L. Armstrong. His grandfather, E. Armstrong, owned it in 1837.

Quote of the Day:" Reprove thy friend privately; commend him publicly."

**WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Sally Smith with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Sally Smith, Bruce Muck, Pam Groff, Judy King, Don Burrows, Charles Horton, Celeste Crawford, Dorothy Maxfield, Dan King. (9)

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Bruce, seconded by Judy, to accept the minutes of the Nov. 10 meeting as mailed, carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Judy King reported that a donation was received towards the cupola fund, and another received in memory of John C. Argue. Motion was made by Chuck and seconded by Dorothy to accept the Treasurer's report as read, carried.

DEPOT:

Celeste and Sue Cruickshank decorated the Depot for Christmas. Johanna Andritz was here getting acquainted with the buildings.

BARNUM PROJECT:

Chuck met with Pete Rohring on Mon. the 6th to discuss a few details about the project. The inside of the building needs to be lit so work can continue.

GROUNDS:

Niagara Implement picked up the mower for winter overhaul.

The workday planned for Sat. Dec. 4 brought out one dedicated Board member, Bruce Muck.

CABOOSE:

Bruce suggested putting a write up regarding the Caboose roof in the newsletter and request donations, the Town will provide matching funds. Total cost of the roof is \$15,700.

It was also suggested that cars in the Pole Barn be sold or perhaps auctioned at the fair, including the 1973 Buick Riviera, 1952 Jeep, and the Vauxhall.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

The Finance Committee reported estimated costs of wiring, heating, and security for the Barnum Building. Question was raised as to the possibility of the BOCES class doing the Caboose roof. The cost of running the Society Buildings and Grounds is \$18,000 to \$20,000 per year.

FAIR:

The Fair meeting of Nov. 15 was discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff, Recording Secretary

The Reuben Wilson Home

One of Niagara County's oldest landmarks, the Reuben Wilson home, stands on the north side of Young St. near Twelve Mile Creek. The principle structure was a log house started in 1818, and the original logs are still intact under the clapboards. Additional construction was completed in 1825 when Luther Wilson and his wife Sara Stephens moved in with his father.

The old house boasts several first. Foremost is the fact that it was the first dwelling, other than log cabins, built within the Village. It was also the site of the first Post Office when Reuben was appointed Postmaster in 1824. About that same time a store was added and in 1829, a tavern. Reuben's last three children were probably born in the house that was started the same year the Town of Wilson was set apart from Porter by the act of the State legislature. Many parties and several weddings were held there while the Wilson family owned the house, and it was the center of much of the business and social activity of early Wilson. Today there is no indication that a gristmill, sawmill and distillery were once located on Twelve Mile Creek near the house.

The property was purchased from the Wilson estate by Benjamin Dearborn, and his daughter and her husband, A. H. Ackerman, lived there for many years. Mrs. Ackerman recalled as a child she remembered seeing store shelving still in place around their front living room. She loved to tell stories she had learned about the place, and could point out a spot in the yard where a monument is buried beneath the sod from which all the first surveys in Wilson were taken.

In 1938 it was suggested that a historic marker should be erected by the house to commemorate the initiative and industry shown by Wilson's most prominent pioneers, Reuben and Luther Wilson. However, it wasn't until April 1976, that the Wilson Bicentennial committee elected to place a marker by the house.

FULL MOON LORE FOR FEBRUARY: The Full Snow Moon will appear on February 23rd, 2005. Usually, the heaviest snows of the year fall during this month. Hunting at this time of year became difficult for many Native American Tribes, so they also called this the Hunger Moon!

In Memoriam

Betty I. Moot (nee Wilcox Farnham), age 79, of Wilson entered into rest on January 1st, 2005. She was born in Napoli, NY on October 28th, 1925, the daughter of the later Arthur and Lillian Groves Wilcox.

Betty started working in 1956 with NY Telephone as a local operator, working her way up to teller, order-writer and clerical supervisor in Olean, NY. She transferred to Buffalo, then to Niagara Falls, retiring in 1981 after 25 years. She was a life member of the WNY Telephone Pioneers Association, the Daughters of the American Revolution – Niagara Falls Chapter, and St. John's Episcopal Church in Wilson, NY.

Betty is survived by 8 children, Charles Moot of Texan, Harold (Cindy) Farnham of California, Priscilla Moot of Ohio, Cheryl (Daniel) Kamman of Buffalo, Peter (Zada) Moot of New York, Lucy (Tim) Kraatz of Kentucky, Gerald (Darlene) Farnham of Ransomville, and Bruce Farnham of Cheektowaga. Both husbands predeceased her.

Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery, Wilson.

Josephine M. Connor of Wilson died on Saturday, January 1st, 2005. A lady of great faith, she dedicated her life to serving the sick, elderly and those in need. Mother of Maureen(Michael)Scalzo of Wilson, Sheila (Glenn) Remmert of Texan, Karen Connor of Massachusetts and an "adopted" son, Charles J. Choppolla of Wilson. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her!

Burial will be in North Ridge Cemetery, Cambria NY.

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

About 85 years ago, former Wilson resident, L.N. Wilson of Ness City, Kansas, wrote a letter to Burton Gale, President of the Wilsonian Club, and enclosed a document "yellowed by three quarters of a century" which listed the names of persons and events that led to the building of the Wilson Collegiate Institute. It stated that Luther Wilson proposed to his neighbor, Simon Sheldon, "You furnish the land and I'll furnish some money, others will contribute and we'll have an academy of our own for the benefit of our children and up building of the town."

Although Mr. Sheldon was an old bachelor, "he drew up a subscription and subscribed liberally besides donating one half acre of land. The paper was speedily filled by interested citizens and an amount raised which was adequate to build a two story cobblestone school." (On site of the present Town Hall). Mr. Wilson further stated in his letter to Mr. Gale, "The document is a valued keepsake and I hope you esteem it worthy of being preserved by the club as an interesting record of Wilson's early history."

The Wilsonian Club, like many clubs before and after it, is no longer a part of the Wilson scene - a grim reminder that no organization, no matter how worthy, can long flourish without the loyal support of its membership.

Great Expectations

On the first day of school, a teacher was glancing over the roll when she noticed a number after each student's name, such as 154, 136 or 142. "Wow! Look at those IQs," she said to herself. "What a terrific class." The teacher promptly determined to work harder with this class than with any other she ever had.

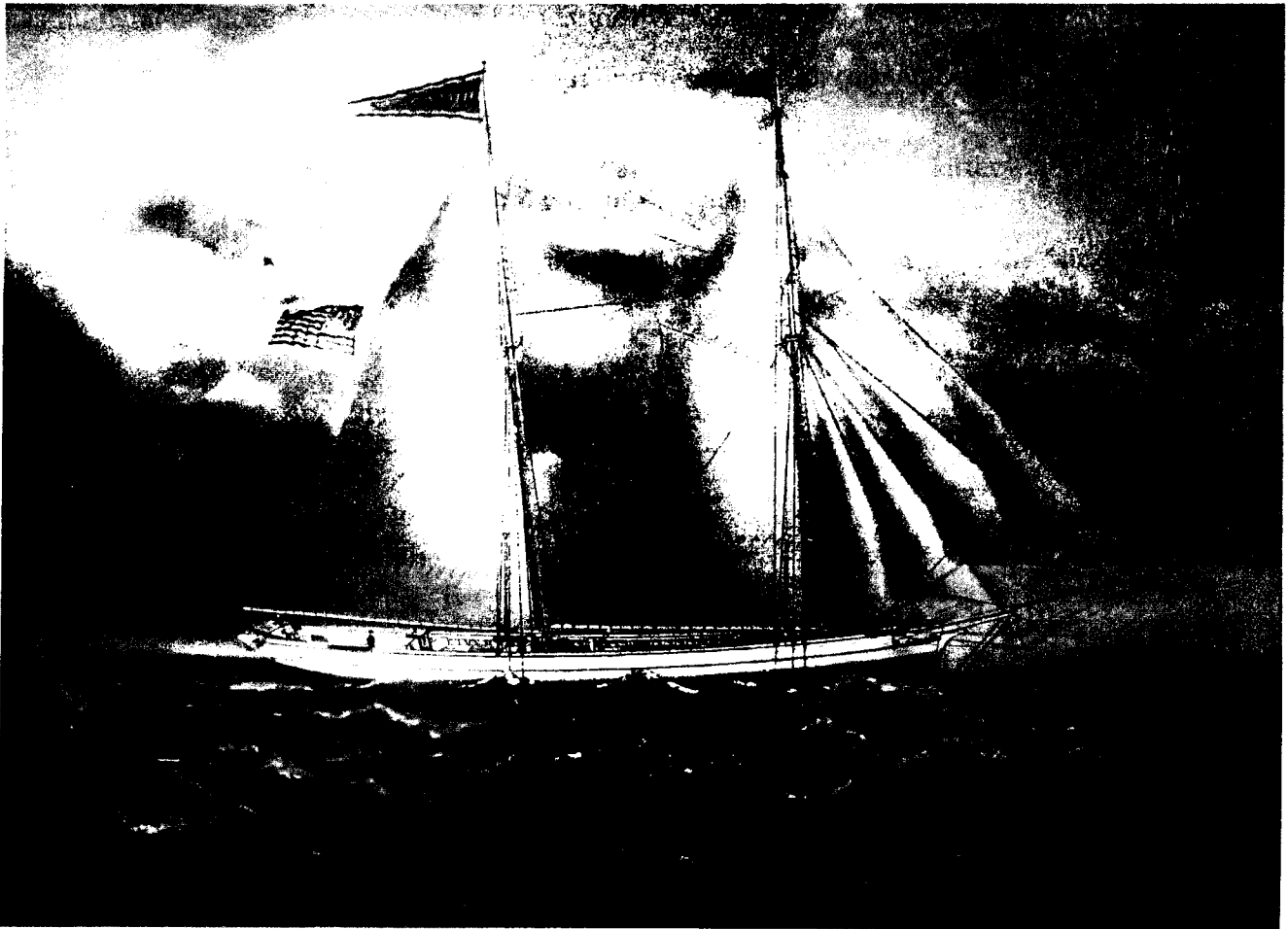
Throughout the year, she came up with innovative lessons that she thought would challenge the students, because she didn't want them to get bored with work that was too easy.

Her plan worked! The class outperformed all the other classes that she taught in the usual way.

Then, during the last quarter of the year, she discovered what those numbers after the students' names really were: their locker numbers!!

This photo is of the schooner "Fleetwing" which I took with my digital camera is a framed painting, which was donated to the museum many years ago. The Fleetwing was one of several lake schooners that were built in the Wilson Harbor during the mid to late 1800's. D. McNett built the Fleetwing in 1863 for John Pease, Benjamin Dearborn and Orrin Quick. The schooner weighted 127 tons and in 1866 was enlarged to 180 tons. Orrin Quick was the first captain of the Fleetwing and on an early voyage a sudden gale came up and flipped the schooner over. The captain's wife, Marietta Quick, their son, Henry Quick, three years old, and the ships cook all drowned. The date of death on the Quick gravestone reads 8/22/1863. The rest of the crew clung to the hull of the schooner and were rescued. The Fleetwing was salvaged and sailed the Great Lakes until 1906.

This painting has been professionally restored and is back at the museum. A generous contribution by Ray and Ruth Tordoff paid for the majority of this restoration. To date this is the only known photo or painting of any of the schooners that were built at Wilson Harbor. When the museum opens this spring be sure to stop in and view this wonderful painting. ~ Charles Horton, Town Historian



Farmers Calendar – February 1880

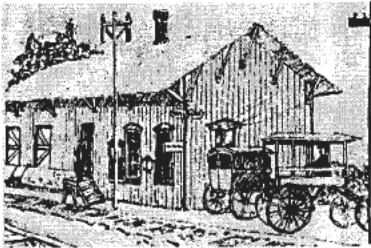
The chores at the barn and the care of stock will fill up a part of this cold month, and there will still be left some time to read and to think. A few books, well read, are better than many, and hence the choice ought to be the best that can be made. A good free library is a great boon to any town. It makes every farm worth more, and puts it in the power of every citizen to grow better and more intelligent. But it is of no use to have it, unless you're going to use it, and now is just the time. The evenings are long, and outdoor work does not press as it does at other times. The best books are those that excite the mind to thought and reflection.

Thunder in February frightens the maple syrup back into the ground!

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Dates to Remember

Wednesday, March 9	WHS Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, March 14	Town Workshop	7:30 pm
Sunday, March 20	Spring Begins!	
Monday, March 21	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Saturday, March 26	Easter Egg Hunt	
Sunday, March 27	Easter Sunday	7:30 pm
Monday, March 28	General Meeting	7:30 pm

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from the Editors Desk

I always look forward to March as it portends for me things to come (and hopefully they come soon) like warmer weather, the first robin of the year, and maybe, if I'm lucky, a snowdrop or daffodil will peak its head out of the snow banks! The Wilson Lions club will once again be doing their Easter Egg Hunt on the Society Grounds on the Saturday before Easter, which this year falls on the 26th—a very early Easter this year! I also like to force branches of forsythia now, along with hyacinth and narcissus bulbs—ah, the sweet fragrance that fills the house! Hope you all have a joyous spring—keep your eyes open for the first signs!

From the Past – Do you know this farm?

Beutel—Pleasant Corners

This farm is located in Lots 86 and 87, Township 15, Range 7 on the Town Line road, two miles south of Wilson Station, which is its principal shipping point. It contains one hundred and thirty acres, owned by Fred Beutel of Wilson, NY. Its soil products are oats, corn, potatoes and cabbage, and there are twenty five acres in meadow. It supports a dairy of fifteen graded cows and five horses are required for farm work. A feature is its fine apple

orchard of ten acres, the varieties of fruit being Baldwins and Kings. In addition to apple culture, considerable attention is given to small fruits, including the growing of pears, plums, etc. Two never-failing wells and two cisterns furnish an abundant water supply for buildings and stock. The principal improvements include a residence and tenant house, general barn, 36 x 80, with gambrel roof, horse barn, 30 x 40, and a stock barn with a basement 20 x 25. The farm's surface is generally level.

Quote of the Day: "Age is a very high price to pay for maturity."

Wilson Historical Society

Board of Directors Meeting

January 12th, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by President Sally Smith with the Pledge of Allegiance. Attending were: Sally Smith, Bruce Muck, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Judy King, Miles Linnabery, Don Burrows, Charles Horton, Celeste Crawford, Dan King. (10)

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Diane, seconded by Chuck, to accept the minutes of the December 8 Board meeting as mailed, carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Judy King listed expenses for the period 12/9/04 - 1/12/05. The expenses included commercial and liability insurance and also the cost of restoring the painting of the Fleetwing. This was generously reimbursed by the Tordoff family. Motion was made by Don, seconded by Diane to pay the bills as presented, carried.

Chuck explained the restoration process of the painting and said it was advised that the painting be hung on an interior wall.

GROUNDS:

The mower was serviced for the winter by Niagara Implement at a cost of \$273.72. This mower is three years old. A new mower with a tilt deck and roll bar would cost \$4,770 including trade-in.

CABOOSE:

Bruce has been in touch with BOCES about building the roof over the caboose. BOCES no longer has an adult course in carpentry and the students can not do this type of project because of liability concerns.

ARGUE BUILDING:

Don reported that there is heat and power in the car museum.

FAIR:

Sally will contact Nettie Stimson about vender information.

PROGRAMS:

There was discussion about not having a December program in the future as it is such a busy month for everyone.

The December 27 program was to be given by Sally's father, Joe Murawski, speaking of his experiences as a Pearl Harbor survivor. Unfortunately he fell earlier in the month and broke some ribs and was unable to be the speaker. Linda D'Anna, Sally's niece, shared her memories of Joe's stories about Pearl Harbor with those who attended. (12)

Scheduled for January 24 is John Leible - Beekeeping and its History.

Future General Meeting Programs may include a representative from The Reporter - a weekly Niagara Falls paper, and a speaker on the Neuter Indians.

If anyone has suggestions for future programs, or would like to become Program Chairman, please call Sally at 751-0102. The Board of Directors would greatly appreciate your help.

General meetings are the FOURTH Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M., refreshments are provided. Everyone is welcome!

The meeting was adjourned at 8 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Groff

Recording Secretary

The painting of the Fleetwing was recently restored thanks to a generous donation from the Tordoff family.

FULL MOON LORE FOR MARCH: The Full Worm Moon occurs on March 25th, 2005. The ground begins to soften and earthworm casts reappear, inviting the return of robins. This is also known as the Sap Moon, as it marks the time when maple sap begins to flow and the annual tapping of maple trees begins.

Wilson Barbers

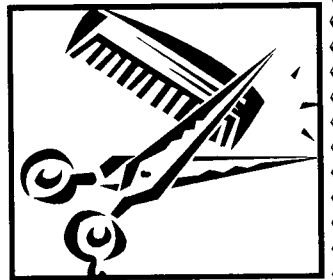
As far as we can determine, the first barber shop in Wilson was run by Frank Slocum, and the shop was located next to the Perrigo Hardware store on Young Street. Frank had an apartment in the home of Charles Haner at the corner of Young and Catherine and through his shop burned in the big fire of 1901, the Haner home was saved. After the block was re-built, a new barbershop opened in front of Timothy Wilson's bowling alley and was run by William Slocum. "Hub" Ferrin came from Springville and settled on a farm near Plumb's Bridge, East Lake Road. He later moved to the village, bought the Emerson property on Young Street and enlarged it into the Hub Hotel. He was a barber by trade and had a shop there for many years.

Arthur Bundy came to Wilson from Jeddo around 1914 and Ray Nevins worked with him for a while before opening his own barber shop. Tom and John Costello also barbered in Wilson from 1914 to 1925.

Al Toenniessen began working for Bill Slocum in 1925 and also worked for Ray Nevins and Hub Ferrin. Ed and Louis Singer or Lockport also opened a shop in Wilson for a few years.

A barber who became well known in the community was Max Ransom, formerly of Ottawa, Canada. He worked with Hub for a while then opened his own shop. Lakeside Market now stands on the site where Max's Barbershop and Poolroom was located.

One of Wilson's best know barbers was Jack Perry. Jack originally lived on the Coomer Road. He worked for Powers in Newfane, Carls in Lockport, the Statler in Buffalo, the Park Hotel in Lockport and Max's in Wilson. Not only was Jack barbering in Wilson, he also became one of the best auctioneers in the area.



Jim's Barbershop on Young Street belonged to James Stephenson of Youngstown. He also operated a watch and repair shop in the back of his barbershop.

A prominent member of the medical profession, our own Dr. John F. Argue, started his career working in the barbering trade. When only 13 he used to work as a "lather boy" in his father's barber shop in Lockport. He had to stand on a box to lather a customer's face, and after the man was shaved, he'd remove all traces of soap, apply shave lotion and dry the face. In 1929, after graduating from Lockport High School, Doc got a job as a barber in Olcott. It was there that he was able to earn enough money to pay his tuition at the University of Buffalo where he had been accepted. During his first two years in college he paid his room and board by working weekends as a barber in a shop on East Delevan Avenue. A barber chair located at the museum is one that he used at his father's barbershop many years ago. Considering the number of patients he administered to, we think everyone would agree we were glad he stuck to medicine instead of barbering!

~ Donald Croop

The Borrowed Days

The last three days of March have a reputation for being stormy. Scottish folklore proposes that these three days were borrowed from April so that the month of March might extend its power. In fact, no one of a superstitious nature would consider borrowing at this time, because asking for the loan of an object or money was considered proof that the borrower intended to use the item in witchcraft against the lender!



IN MEMORIUM - JOHN DEMMIN

John Demmin of Wilson, son of the later Chester Demmin and Mary Duxbury Demmin., entered into rest August 31st, 2004. John was a graduate of Wilson High School and served in the US Army from 1950-1956. He was a military policeman in Korea.

He last worked for Wolcott Construction of Lockport. John was a member of Exley United Methodist Church, served as Commander of Martin F. Jennings American Legion Post #836 for over 40 years, and was a member of related American Legion organizations and programs. He was a longtime member of the Wilson Historical Society and assisted Boy Scout troop #66.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, the former Elizabeth Jane Dold, two sons, Terry of North Carolina and Christopher of Arcade, a brother, Roger, of Wilson and two adopted grandchildren.

Groaner of the Day: What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fsh

The scene you see here is Lake Street about halfway between the Village and the railroad station. This postcard was sent to a friend in Florida in 1912 showing the twelve foot high snow drift in Wilson. There are many captions written all over the front of this photo. The captions are: "Our old friend Noble is fine, Good sleighing here, This bank is 12 foot high, Jim Bradley's dog and mail box, This is Ed Dauner in the rig." The horse drawn sleigh is shown coming through the snow drift on its way to the Village. The card was sent to Mr. H. E. Stevens, 607 Madison St., Tampa FL and it was signed A. S. J. Part of the sender's message on the back of the card says "Tell Kate she had better order a boat or when she comes home she will have to swim."
 ~Charles F. Horton—Town of Wilson Historian



Farmers Calendar—March 1880

There is no time like this to fix up and get ready for spring work. There are more or less tools to mend: ploughs, carts, hoes and rakes, and the fences to be put up. The more of these odd jobs you can do now, the less loss of time by-and-by. We Don't want to leave off work in the field to run after the cows and sheep. Bad fences make breachy cattle. The canker-worm will be running up the apple-trees soon after the middle of the month, and we ought to tar the trees, or take some steps to stop it. The cows will need great care, now that they are to come in to calve. Give them a warm pen, good feed, and a clean bed. Don't forget to fork over the manure in the barn cellar.



~~~~~  
 Robins will perch on the topmost branches of trees and whistle when a storm is approaching.  
 ~~~~~

Wilson Historical Society
NEWSLETTER
645 Lake Street
P.O. Box 830
Wilson, NY 14172

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April 2005
Vol. 34 No. 4

Town Of Wilson Historian
██████████
Wilson, NY 14172



Dates to Remember

Monday, April 11th	Town Workshop	7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 13th	WHS Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, April 18th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Thursday, April 21st	Village Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, April 25th	General Meeting	7:30 pm

Board of Directors

President
Sally Smith

1st Vice President
Darrel Smith

2nd Vice President
Bruce Muck

Recording Secretary
Pam Groff

Corr. Secretary
Diane Muscoreil

Treasurer
Judy King

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Two-Year Term
Floyd Clark
Wally Goodman
Miles Linnabery

One-Year Term
Kyle Andrews
Harold Benedict
Ollie Clark

Three-Year Term
Lois Barnum
Mickey Hunter
Doug Smith

Honorary Trustees:

Past Presidents
Donald Burrows
Gary Fitch

Ex-Officio

Town Supervisor
Jerry Dean
Town Historian
Charles Horton

From the Editors Desk

Some changes are working for the Historical Society. At the last Board Meeting it was decided to hold our General meetings only five months a year—the fourth Monday of April, June, September, and October and the first week in December we will have a General Meeting/Christmas Party. Hopefully we can come up with some interesting speakers for these monthly meetings and draw a good crowd! The Nominating Committee is also meeting this month to finalize the list of nominations for Officers for the 2005-2006. Don't forget that your membership now runs from June 1st to May 31st each year!! If you would be interested in any of the positions, let one of the current officers know as soon as possible. One important position we need to fill is the Program Chairman who will be responsible for setting up four programs a year for the society. Would YOU be interested in this job??

Our membership form is in this month's newsletter for you. Also, remember to send back your quilt tickets! ~ D

Memorial Day Fair May 30th, 2005

Volunteers are always needed for our Memorial Day Fair, coming up soon! If you can spare some time for us, please contact Gail Walder at 751-9679. Gail does a wonderful job of getting all our volunteer spots filled up for us and I am sure she would love to hear from YOU!

Whether it's marking vendor spots on the grass, helping with the Chicken Bar-B-Que dinners or selling tickets at our booths, there is a job just waiting for you. Please consider being a volunteer this year—I promise you will have a good time—and that you will feel good afterward!

Quote of the Day: "Before seeking revenge, first dig two graves"

THE WILSON STAR

Much of Wilson's early history has been preserved because of a weekly newspaper called the "Wilson Star" It was started in October, 1878, by Tower and Betts but one month later, Charles Honeywell, a Toronto journalist, purchased the business and began to publish the eight page "Star" as a politically independent local and general newspaper.

It was printed on the 2nd floor of the present Masonic building and completely set by hand—a very tiring and time consuming process! After an edition was published, all type had to be placed back in their respective compartments, letter by letter. In a few years linotype machine was purchased which permitted type to be set from a keyboard—similar to ones on a typewriter. Much of this work was done by Dora Honeywell, an accomplished operator, and it was during her 45 years of service with the paper that much of Wilson's history was recorded. After her husband's death in October of 1932, Dora took over publication of the of the Star, and when she died in 1936, it was willed to her nephew, Milburn E. Campbell.

"Chuck" Campbell published the paper for 7 more years during which time Harold Albright became his business associate. A decision was made to purchase a new press, and when it was delivered, it was found to be too wide for the door. So the press sat on the 2nd floor of the Masonic Building, blocking stairway and entrance to the print shop, until Chuck was able to get in touch with the company. Fortunately, the contract had not specified the width of the door, and he was able to persuade them to tear down the wall, move the press in and repair the damage.

During the period that Chuck was Editor/Publisher of the Star, he recalled that Mrs. Julian Lutz became the first woman chosen to serve as a juror from Wilson at the Niagara County Courthouse in Lockport—the year was 1939!A correspondent reported that Roy Church had died, so his obituary was written—but luckily, before publication, Chuck happened to look out the window and saw Mr. Church riding a bicycle down Young Street!). . . . A wedding ceremony was held in the cemetery at the grave of the bride's mother because she had given consent for her daughter to be marriedCorrespondents always reported if anyone shingled a privy roof because "that was news". . . . Many State banks closed their doors during the Great Depression of the 30's and after liquidating, many depositors received small percentages of their saving back. . . .The Wilson Star received a check from the Ransomville State Bank for two cents, and a three cent stamp was used to mail it!

*Correspondents always reported
if anyone shingled a privy roof
because "That Was News"!*

On May 22nd, 1943, Chuck Campbell was called to serve in the armed forces during World War II, and he sold his interest in the Star to John Bieda, owner of the Wilson Pharmacy. Up to that time, the Star had been published for 65 years without missing a week, and also had the distinction of becoming a member of the "One-Half Century Club" of the American Press Association.

John Bieda published the paper until November 1st, 1943, and then sold it to Fred McLennan, acting manager of the Buffalo Courier Express. Unfortunately, Mr. McLennan died shortly after the purchase and publication was suspended December 9th, 1943. Mr. Bieda felt that the loss of the week paper was a blow to the community so he sold the drugstore and re-purchased the Star equipment. Publication was resumed on August 31st, 1944, and continued until April 3rd, 1945, when he was also called to join the armed forces. Mr. Bieda retained ownership, however, and arranged for Robert Wark to act as managing editor. The Star was published a little while longer in Wilson, but was later moved to Newfane under new management and a new name.

Thus ended sixty seven years of the Wilson oriented Star.

Early copies of the Wilson Star have been preserved through the efforts of our Historian Chuck Horton and many others, and you can now go to the Wilson Free Library and look up old history!

FULL MOON LORE FOR APRIL: The Full Pink Moon occurs on April 24th, 2005. This moon is named after the grass pink or wild ground phlox which is one of the earliest widespread flowers of the spring. Other names are the Full Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon, and the Full Fish Moon for the shad that came upstream to spawn.

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**2005-2006**

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

BOX# _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER () _____ - _____

 PLEASE CHECK HERE IF ADDRESS/NAME HAS RECENTLY CHANGED

INDICATE PREVIOUS LAST NAME IF APPLICABLE _____

JUNIOR (UNDER 18)	JUNIOR	\$ 1.00	_____
NAME _____ AGE _____	COUPLE	\$ 10.00	_____
NAME _____ AGE _____	FAMILY	\$ 10.00	_____
NAME _____ AGE _____	SINGLE	\$ 10.00	_____
NAME _____ AGE _____	LIFE (Single)	\$150.00	_____
NAME _____ AGE _____	LIFE (Couple)	\$250.00	_____
	HONORARY MEMBER (85 YEARS +)	FREE	_____
	TOTAL		_____

APPLICATIONS AND MONIES ARE DUE BY JUNE 1ST. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RETURN TO SANDY HOLDEN, P.O. BOX 319, WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

ALL MONIES MUST BE IN U.S. FUNDS

All Fools' Days

The term "All Fools" was probably meant as a joke, a counterpoint to All Saints' and All Souls'. Many folklorists believe that the tradition of playing pranks may go back to 16th century France. At that time, New Year's Day was March 25th, with a full week of partying until April 1st. In 1583, the Gregorian calendar reform moved New Year's Day to January 1st. Those who forgot the new calendar were often ridiculed!

**IN MEMORIAM - ALBERT C. WAITE**

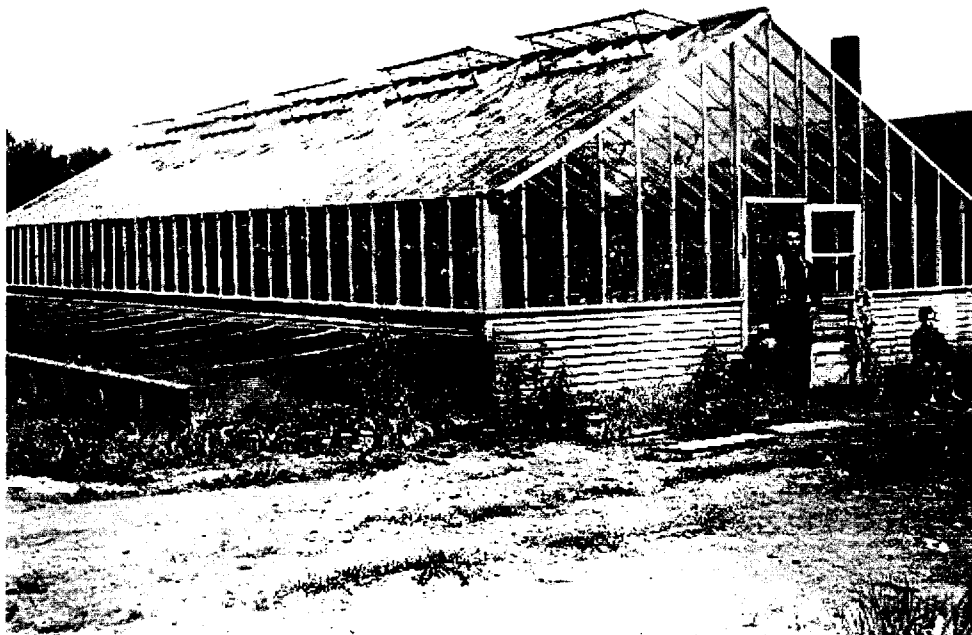
Albert C. Waite, age 86 of Wilson, died Friday, February 18th, 2005. He was born in Warsaw, NY on October 4th, 1918, the son of the late Clarence and Blanche Fargo Waite. He was a 1940 graduate of Cornell University and taught vocational agriculture at Wilson Central School from 1941-1950. From 1951-1973 he was general manager for the Niagara County Milk Producers Coop. While there, he facilitated the purchase of Wendt's Dairy in Niagara Falls for the coop. He managed the Ontario Orchards Cold Storage from 1969-1973 and from 1974-1983 he was maintenance supervisor at SUNY Buffalo Amherst Campus. He was a member of the Niagara Club, the 3-1 Club, the Wilson Lions Club and Our Lady of the Rosary R.C. Church in Wilson. He married Margaret Foley on April 24th, 1943, and was married for 61 years. He was a member of the Wilson Historical Society for over 20 years.

Albert is survived by nine children, Albert (Diane) Jr., John (Martha), Richard (Marjorie), Thomas (Brenda) Robert (Karen Sue), Mary Ellen, Susan (William) Paul (Molly) and Michael (Judy).

Burial will be in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Lewiston, NY>

AVOIDABLE: What a bullfighter tried to do

The Photo you see here is one of many green houses that R. S. Church ran in the Village of Wilson in the early part of the 1900's. These greenhouses were located on Franklin Street where Wood Street ends. When the Fredonia Preserving Co. built a water system from the Townline Pier to their cannery next to the Wilson Depot, they also ran trunk lines off of this main line to serve parts of Wilson Village. One of these lines ran west on Wood Street to Franklin Street where these greenhouses were located. Later on, Holger Jensen owned and operated these greenhouses into the 1960's. The water which we all take for granted was not so in the early days of Wilson. The Village of Wilson built its own system in the early 1920's and the Town of Wilson followed in the 1960's. Franklin Street is called McChesney Street today. The name was changed in the 1950's to lessen confusion due to the fact the same street had three names: Franklin from Dox to Pettit, McChesney from Pettit to Young and Center from Young to Wilcox. Charles F. Horton—Town of Wilson Historian



Farmers Calendar—April 1880

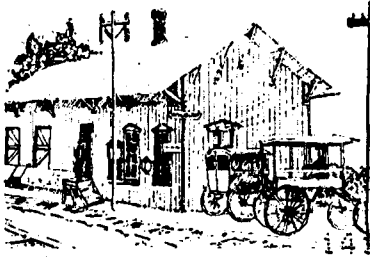
The work now begins to press. The plough will run through the mellow soil and turn it up to dry in the sun. Sow clover seed on lands laid down last fall. Early peas, potatoes, onions and some other garden seeds ought to go into the ground now. A good garden is the gem of the farm. We must give it more time and care, for it pays better than any other part of the farm. Why not make all our farming more like the garden? We spread our work and our time over too much land, and get small crops where we might just as well get large ones. We ought to get sixty bushels of corn where we now get forty; and we can do it, if we will take a little more pains.



~~~~~  
 April snow stays no longer than water on a trout's back.  
 ~~~~~

Wilson Historical Society
 NEWSLETTER
 645 Lake Street
 P.O. Box 830
 Wilson, NY 14172
 May 2005
 Vol. 34 No. 5
 Edited by A. Diane Muscoreil

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 Wilson, NY 14172



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Dates to Remember

Monday, May 2nd	Town Workshop	7:30 pm
Wednesday, May 11th	WHS Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, May 16th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Thursday, May 19th	Village Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, May 30th	Memorial Day/Fair	All Day!

- Board of Directors**
- President**
 Sally Smith
- 1st Vice President**
 Darrel Smith
- 2nd Vice President**
 Bruce Muck
- Recording Secretary**
 Pam Groff
- Corr. Secretary**
 Diane Muscoreil
- Treasurer**
 Judy King
- Trustees:**
- Two-Year Term**
 Floyd Clark
 Wally Goodman
 Miles Linnabery
- One-Year Term**
 Kyle Andrews
 Harold Benedict
 Ollie Clark
- Three-Year Term**
 Lois Barnum
 Mickey Hunter
 Doug Smith
- Honorary Trustees:**
- Past Presidents**
 Donald Burrows
 Gary Fitch
- Ex-Officio**
- Town Supervisor**
 Jerry Dean
- Town Historian**
 Charles Horton

From the Editors Desk

Special thanks go out this month to Jamie O'Donnell and his crew who went up to the Society and filled in the deep ruts in front of the Fittro Building left when someone pulled a trailer out during a muddy spell! Thanks Jamie.

Our membership Chairman Sandy Holder has asked me to remind every one that this is the month for your membership dues to be mailed in. I have put the form in this month again in case you have misplaced it. Also, the tickets for the Quilt have to be returned as soon as possible if you want a chance at this beautiful cover! These tickets can be returned to Sandy at PO Box 319, Wilson, NY 14172.

The Fair Committee reports that everything is moving along well but volunteers are still needed, as always. You can contact Gail Walder at 751-9679 or email me at adm@wilsonnewyork.com if you are interested in donating a couple of hours of your time. It will be much appreciated!

I would like to ask all the local readers of this newsletter to call or email me if you know of any new residents in the Village or Town of Wilson so we can send them a free introductory membership to the Society! My number is 751-9213.

Nominations for 2005-2006

- President:** Donald Burrows
- 1st Vice President:** Bruce Muck
- 2nd Vice President:** Daniel King
- Recording Secretary:** Pam Groff
- Corresponding Secretary:** A. Diane Muscoreil
- Treasurer:** Judith King
- Trustees—Three Year Term:** Kyle Andrew, Wanda Burrows & Ollie Clark

Quote of the Day: "It is easier to get forgiveness than permission"

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 9, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by 2nd Vice President Bruce Muck with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Town Hall. Attending were: Bruce Muck, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Judy King, Lois Barnum, Wally Goodman, Don Burrows, Sally Smith. A quorum was declared present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: There were no minutes from the February 9 meeting as a quorum was not present to conduct any business.. A motion was made by Wally, seconded by Lois to accept the minutes of the January 12 meeting as mailed, carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion was made by Diane, seconded by Wally to pay the bills as presented, carried. With the payment Parco will be paid in full for work done to date. Due to a water break, 44,000 gallons of water have been charged to our account. Diane suggested sending a letter to the water department. Judy volunteered to go to the water department and explain the problem.

EASTER EGG HUNT: The annual Lions Easter Egg Hunt has been canceled for this year. There is no heat or electricity in the Barnum Building. Also the Episcopal Church is having an Easter Egg Hunt on the same day, March 26.

BARNUM BUILDING: Bruce will ask Thilks about getting the Barnum Building electricity back in use before the Fair.

MEETINGS: It was decided to hold Board meetings at the Town Hall during the winter months to save on our utility bills. Also discussed was reducing the number of General meetings. Due to the lack of a Program Chairman there has been difficulty and confusion regarding scheduling speakers. Also attendance is very low, with fewer meetings to go to perhaps more people will attend. Bruce suggested that each Board member call 10 members and/or friends to remind them of General Meetings. A split club at the General Meetings was also suggested to raise money and generate interest in attending. Pam suggested giving a complimentary membership of one year to new residents, possibly gaining new members. Motion was made by Don, seconded by Judy to have five General Meetings - held in April, June, September, October and December, carried. Motion was made by Bruce, seconded by Wally to give a one year membership to any new family who moves into the village or town

General Meetings will now be held on the last Monday in April, June, September and October and on the first week of December

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Nominating Committee will meet March 30. The committee members are: Diane Muscoreil - Chairman, Lois Barnum, Mickey Hunter, Doug Smith, Floyd Clark, Wally Goodman, Miles Linnabery, Don Burrows, Gary Fitch.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee will meet on April 2 at 10 AM at Judy's shop. Members are Bruce Muck - Chairman, Darrell Smith, Judy King, and two other members appointed by the Chairman if desired.

GENERAL MEETING: On March 28, at 7:30 PM there will be a program on the Neuter Indians given by Ken Sprenger. Refreshments will be provided, everyone is welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff, Recording Secretary

FULL MOON LORE FOR MAY: The Full Flower Moon occurs on May 23rd, 2005. This moon is named after the abundant flowers that seem to be everywhere at this time of the year. Other names are the Full Corn Planting Moon or the Milk Moon..

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2005—2006

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

BOX# _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER () _____ - _____

 PLEASE CHECK HERE IF ADDRESS/NAME HAS RECENTLY CHANGED

INDICATE PREVIOUS LAST NAME IF APPLICABLE _____

JUNIOR (UNDER 18)		JUNIOR	\$ 1.00	_____
NAME _____	AGE _____	COUPLE	\$ 10.00	_____
NAME _____	AGE _____	FAMILY	\$ 10.00	_____
NAME _____	AGE _____	SINGLE	\$ 10.00	_____
NAME _____	AGE _____	LIFE (Single)	\$150.00	_____
NAME _____	AGE _____	LIFE (Couple)	\$250.00	_____
		HONORARY MEMBER (85 YEARS +)	FREE	_____
		TOTAL		_____

APPLICATIONS AND MONIES ARE DUE BY JUNE 1ST. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

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ALL MONIES MUST BE IN U.S. FUNDS

Three Chilly Saints

May 11th, 12th and 13th are the feast days of Saints Mamertus, Pancras and Gervais. These days are known as the Three Chilly Saints because these days are traditionally the coldest of the month. English and French folklore (and later American) held that these days would always bring a late frost. In Germany, they were called the Ice-manner, or Icemen, and people believed that it was never safe to plant until the Icemen were gone!

**The Wilson Harbor**

Steady improvements at the Wilson Harbor tend to remind residents that, at one time, it was one of the busiest ports on Lake Ontario. The first steamboat to visit Wilson was the Ontario in April 1817. It was built the year before at Sackett's Harbor and was 110 ft. long with 24' beam drawing 8 1/2 feet of water. The Ontario plied the lake waters until the 1930's. In 1817, butt staves and timber were shipped from Wilson to Cape Vincent and other harbors on the St. Lawrence where they were floated to Montreal and Quebec. Much of the heavy wood was shipped to England for use in building frigates of war. This industry flourished in Wilson until all the great oak forests between the Ridge and Lake Ontario became depleted. One of the last remaining relics of that era is the old anchor which stands in the yard of a home on route 425. It was lost from the Franklin Pierce during a storm off the Townline Pier in 1840. The schooner was owned by John Kelly of Youngstown. The anchor was found in 1897 by Lawson Ackerman, who recovered it and sold it to E. E. Stevens. Mr. Stevens, who owned the home at the time, put it in the yard where it still stands to this day.

BERNADETTE: The act of torching a mortgage

Miller & Brown Store

Most of you that are old enough remember this old store which was called Welker and Brown when it closed in the early part of the 1960's and later was heavily damaged by fire in the late 1960's and was torn down. This building stood right on the corner of Lake Street and Young Street where there is a parking lot today. The name on the top of this building says Vosburg which was the owner of this building when it was built around 1900. Note the set of stairs on the right side leading to the second floor of the building. Charles F. Horton—Town of Wilson Historian



Farmers Calendar—May 1880

It is but once a year that the spring comes, and we must make the most of it. Now is just the time to put in a field-crop of beets. They start slow and want time to get under way. I like to sow them by the 10th, on clean land, free from weeds, in straight rows, two feet and a half apart, so as to be able to run the horse-hoe through now and then. Keep an eye on the fruit trees. Now is the time when the worms are on the lookout for a breakfast. Corn can go in at the end of the month on warm land. Let us make more of the corn crop. It is the pride of the country, and we ought to learn to grow it so as to make it pay!



* When the mulberry tree grows green, The last of winter's frosts you've seen! *

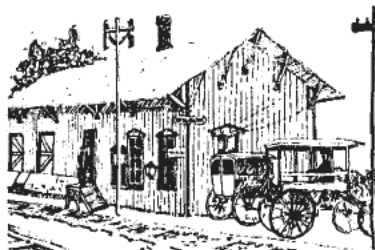
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June 2005
 Vol. 34 No. 6

Town Of Wilson Historian

Wilson, NY 14172



Dates to Remember

Monday, June 6th	Town Workshop	7:30 pm
Wednesday, June 8th	WHS Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Sunday June 19th	Fathers Day	
Monday, June 20th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Tuesday, June 22nd	Summer Begins!!	
Monday, June 27th	General Meeting Election of Officers	7:30 pm

Board of Directors

President
 Sally Smith

1st Vice President
 Darrel Smith

2nd Vice President
 Bruce Muck

Recording Secretary
 Pam Groff

Corr. Secretary
 Diane Muscoreil

Treasurer
 Judy King

Trustees:

Two-Year Term
 Floyd Clark
 Wally Goodman
 Miles Linnabery

One-Year Term
 Kyle Andrews
 Harold Benedict
 Ollie Clark

Three-Year Term
 Lois Barnum
 Mickey Hunter
 Doug Smith

Honorary Trustees:

Past Presidents
 Donald Burrows
 Gary Fitch

Ex-Officio

Town Supervisor
 Jerry Dean
Town Historian
 Charles Horton

From the Editors Desk

- We would like to welcome new members Richard & Jean Hull, Tom, Anita and Aryn Plunkett and Kira Karsten Woodruff this month. I look forward to some interesting articles from Kira on the history of East Wilson, where she was born and raised!
- The Barnum building looks wonderful and we need to thank all of those who went out and got this big job done. There was quite a lot of cleanup needed to get the building ready for this year's Memorial Day Fair!! The new lights look great and really light up the place.
- Looking forward to the first strawberries of the season— local ones can't be beat for flavor! Enjoy the season!

Hosts/Hostesses June 2005

Date	Name	Opener
June 5th	Don and Wanda Burrows	Don Burrows
June 12th	Julia Dulkiewicz Kathy Frerichs	Bruce Muck
June 19th	Pauline Kurtz Bill and Maxine Jones	
June 26th	Max and Shirley Hunter	Shirley Hunter

If for any reason you are unable to host, please call Gail at
 751-9679

BORROW MONEY FROM PESSIMISTS - THEY DON'T EXPECT IT BACK.

Wilson Historical Society

Board of Directors Meeting

April 13th, 2005

Second Vice President Bruce Muck called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Town Hall. Attending were Bruce Muck, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Judy King, Lois Barnum, Wally Goodman, Miles Linnabery, Don Burrows, Sandy Holden, and Mickey Hunter (10). A quorum was declared present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion was made by Diane, seconded by Judy to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2005 Board meeting as mailed, carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion was made by Miles, seconded by Wally to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairman Diane Muscoreil will present a slate of officers and directors at the General Meeting on April 25, 2005.

PROGRAMS: Miles announced the program for April 25 will be Ice Bridges of Niagara Falls.

It was decided to continue contacting members to inform them of general meetings and the topics to be presented.

WAYS AND MEANS: Sandy reported that sales of quilt tickets are lagging, but membership renewals are doing ok.

ARGUE BUILDING: Wally has not yet received the registration for the Cadillac.

FAIR: There will be a Fair meeting on April 26 at the Barnum Building. The busses have been ordered for the Fair. Don Burrows talked with Mr. Thilk about wiring in the Barnum building. A roof is needed over the Post Office and General Store displays

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES:

1. A work day has been set for Saturday, April 16th.
2. The Finance Committee meeting will be rescheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Groff, Secretary

*Don't forget to send in
your membership
dues!!*

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay them.
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down. (keep this in mind if you are one of those grouches;)
3. Keep learning: Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain get idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop. "And the devil's name is Alzheimer's!
4. Enjoy the simple things.
5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. And if you have a friend who makes you laugh, spend lots and Lots of time with HIM/HER
6. The tears happen: Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is yourself. LIVE while you are alive.
7. Surround yourself with what you love: Whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.
8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county, to a foreign country, but NOT to where the guilt is
10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity

FULL MOON LORE FOR JUNE: The Full Strawberry Moon occurs on June 22nd, 2005. This is a time to gather the ripening fruit. It is also know as the Rose Moon and the Hot Moon.

An Old Landmark Gone -

Wilson Star, Thursday, July 12th, 1894

At two o'clock yesterday morning, the dread cry of fire and the pealing out of the Presbyterian church bell awakened our residents. It was found that the barns in the rear of the Ontario House were in flames, and the fire was fast spreading to the hotel in front and the long carriage sheds attached to the Presbyterian church in the rear.

The guests at the hotel hurriedly dressed and gathered up their things for flight, and none too soon for in a short time the flames were licking their way along the woodwork of the building. Willing hands helped to convey such articles as could be removed to a place of safety and a bucket brigade made strenuous (sic) efforts to save the Presbyterian church, but it was doomed. Attention was then turned to the sheds running back of the parsonage itself. But cutting and pulling down as much of the sheds as possible the devouring flames were stayed in that direction and by constant application of water, the parsonage was saved.

Nothing now remains of the Ontario House but the old coble (sic) stone walls. This ancient hostelry (sic) was built in 1845 and was well known as a well kept comfortable hotel. The present proprietor, James Bradley, feels his loss keenly. The Presbyterian church (sic) was built in 1834 and was, we think, the oldest building in the village. It has recently been repainted, papered and new and modern seats put in. The edifice was insured. The Ontario loss is estimated at \$12,000; insured for \$8,000.

It was only by hard and constant work of the willing men of the village that saved our Main street from being gutted, and had the night been a windy one, even their feeble efforts with buckets of water would be of no avail. What we want, and we hope are all by this time convinced of this, is some apparatus to fight the flames with.

One has only to look on the unsightly ruins that now make the spot where only a day or two ago all was life and activity, to realize how little we know when we retire at night whether we will have a roof over our heads when night comes again. Had we had hose and other necessary apparatus, there is no doubt but that the Presbyterian church at least, and perhaps the main body of the hotel, could have been saved. The fire started in the barns and it is rumored that two suspicious individuals who had been making the night hideous by their drunken uproar were heard to threaten Mr. Bradley with dire vengeance. They may have carried out their work; or the fire may have been from one of the unknown causes so frequently met with.

Fortunately no one was injured seriously. James Bradley is nursing badly burned hands, sustained in getting the horses out of the barn, and many others blistered their hands and faces in their endeavors to save property.

The seats of the Presbyterian church were all saved and will be stored away until steps can be taken for a new church.

Rev. G. W. Adams with brotherly solicitude has extended the use of the M.E. church to the Presbyterians.

The Ontario House and Stables, The Presbyterian Church and Carriage Sheds in Smoking Ruins

Midsummer Day

To the farmer, Midsummer Day is the midpoint of the growing season. It is also the feast day of St. John the Baptist, but it is the remnants of pagan festivals that lend a carnival atmosphere to midsummer celebrations. It's a night of magic and soothsaying as well, for as Washington Irving said, this is the time when "all kinds of ghosts, goblins, and fairies become visible and walk abroad."



IN MEMORIUM

Eleanor Winslow Harrington passed away Friday, May 6th, 2005. Born February 24th, 1916 in Westfield NJ, Eleanor was the daughter of the late George Winslow and Mary Durfee Chace. She was predeceased by her husband of 49 years, Warren Harrington.

She was an active member of the both the DAR and St. John's Episcopal Church in Wilson. A 60 year resident of Wilson, she enjoyed flower gardening, stamp collecting, bird watching and needle crafts.

She was the loving mother of two daughters, Ida Mae (George) Waters and Marcia (Leroy) Sabey, both of Wilson, and two sons, Warren (Carol) of Sunnyvale, CA and Richard (Joyce) of Ukiah, CA. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Two peanuts walked into a bar, and one was a salted.

This photo was most likely taken around the early 1900's and the owner at this time was Peter Haner. Most of you that had Dr. Argue for your physician might think this looks like his old home and office on Lake Street and you would be right. Doc added an addition to the south side that ran to the east for his office. You used to enter on the old porch to go to the waiting room. After Dr. Argue retired, Dr. Sing ran this house and office until he donated this building to the Wilson Central School. The school tore the building down a few years ago and now there is only a empty lot!

Charles F. Horton—Town of Wilson Historian



Farmers Calendar—June 1880

Old hay or straw makes a first rate mulch for all shrubs and trees. They make the land rich and keep off a drought. Put in corn now, and squashes and melons. It is a good plan to have a lot of sweet corn, and if you plant some once a week, you can have it on the table for a long time, and it's one of the best things you can have. Some fields of grass are fit to cut now and it isn't best to wait too long. Two fair crops of sweet, fresh grass are worth more than one great crop of woody hay. The fight with weeds must go on to the end of time. They edge themselves in if you give them a chance, and it is best to nip them in the bud!



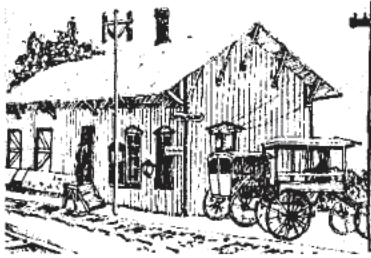
A Dripping June Brings All Things In Tune



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July 2005
 Vol. 34 No. 7



Town Of Wilson Historian
 [Redacted]
 Wilson, NY 14172



14172#0886

Dates to Remember

Monday, July 4th	Independence Day	
Wednesday, July 13th	WHS Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, July 18th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Thursday, July 21st	Village Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, June 27th	General Meeting Election of Officers	7:30 pm

Board of Directors

President
 Don Burrows

1st Vice President
 Bruce Muck

2nd Vice President
 Daniel King

Recording Secretary
 Pam Groff

Corr. Secretary
 Diane Muscoreil

Treasurer
 Judy King

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One Year Term
 Floyd Clark
 Wally Goodman
 Miles Linnabery

Three-Year Term
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 Gary Fitch
 Sally Smith

Ex-Officio

Town Supervisor
 Jerry Dean
Town Historian
 Charles Horton

From the Membership Desk

- We would like to welcome new members Richard Johnson, Fred & Shirley Schroeder Johnson, Ann Marie Hacker, and John & Nora Clark this month.
- GREAT weather for our Memorial Day Fair –couldn't be beat! Lots of people, good food and many things to do makes for a successful Fair. Thanks go out to ALL the many volunteers who made this years' event a hit!! ~ Sandy Holder

Hosts/Hostesses July 2005

Date	Name	Opener
3rd	George & Sue Cruickshank	Marlene Schotz
10th	Rena Israel Ruth Weaver Metzler Jean Hayes	Bob Hull
17th	Wally & Chris Goodman	Wally Goodman
25th	Tom & Amelia Bach	Marlene Schotz
31st	Jim & Norma Akers	Dorothy Maxfield

If for any reason you are unable to host, please call Gail at
 751-9679

99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

Wilson Historical Society

Board of Directors Meeting

May 11, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 P.M. by President Sally Smith with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in the Depot with a quorum present. Attending were: Sally and Darrell Smith, Bruce Muck, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Judy King, Mickey Hunter, Wally Goodman, Charles Horton, Celeste Crawford, Sandy Holden, Dorothy Maxfield, Kathy Pearce and Emmalee Pearce (14)

Kathy presented the Board with two deeds pertaining to the Society property: the first from Gertrude Fittro to Doris A Fittro Clark dated April 10, 1944, the second from Doris A Fittro Clark to John F. Argue dated May 21, 1966.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the April 13 Board meeting were approved as mailed on a motion made by Bruce, seconded by Sandy.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion was made by Darrell, seconded by Chuck to pay the bills as presented, carried. A phone call was received regarding the water leak of 44,000 gallons. This person was willing to pay \$40 per month for awhile towards the bill.

WAYS AND MEANS: Sandy gave an update on quilt ticket sales, the quilt is now being displayed at the Town Hall.

CURATOR: Steve Kennedy is coming May 24 to clean the Depot and the windows.

Bruce questioned the preservation of storing the quilts folded in the cupboard. Should they be hung or displayed differently? The consensus was that the quilts are protected from the sun and from handling if they are kept in the cupboard. It is washing them that causes the most deterioration.

BARNUM BUILDING: Chuck reported for Don Burrows that the wiring was done by the Thilks. The roof over the Post Office and Store displays is almost done. These displays need to be cleaned and set up. The red exit light should be left on all the time, it is very inexpensive. The ceiling lights take a few minutes to warm up. Pete Rohring will wrap the posts. The new south doors are illegal, they should swing out with crash bars on the inside.

GROUNDS: Chuck trimmed the trees and bought a new battery for the small tractor.

FAIR: Chuck is buying magnetic plaques for participating antique/classic cars.

Wally will clean the Argue building before the Fair.

MEMORIALS: Darrell asked what kind of tree should be planted for Gordon Strablow. It was decided that Oak would be appropriate. Trees also will be planted for Don Croop and William Smith.

SUNDAY OPEN MUSEUM: Celeste had a visitor volunteer to repair the record players.

WHS AWARD: Joanne Carpenter will have the results Friday May 13 of who will win the award. The awards ceremony is June 9.

SCHOOLHOUSE: Johanna Andritz is bringing a 10th grade class in on May 16. On June 1, 2, and 3 classes will be visiting 1/2 days from Wilson and Newfane.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff
Recording Secretary

*Don't forget to send in
your membership
dues!!*

FULL MOON LORE FOR JULY: The Full Buck Moon occurs on July 21st, 2005. The new antlers of the buck deer push out from their foreheads in coatings of velvety fur. It is also called the Full Thunder Moon for all the frequent thunderstorms, or the Full Hay Moon.

Take Me Out To the Ball Game - Lester S. Clark

I remember the Town baseball team in the late thirties. The baseball diamond was located East of Wilson Central School, about five hundred feet. The team members were Whit Barnum as Catcher; Ken, "Smokey Joe" as Pitcher; Willie Weaver, First Base; Bill Singer, Second Base; Chet Zeitz, Short Stop; Pedley, Third Base; Doc Badger, Left Field; Cliff Upton, Center Field and Bill Beutel, Right Field. There were always two or three substitutes. Buzz Middleton was referee.

They used about four baseballs, and some bats called the Louisville Slugger, a cork handled bat, a loaded bat (illegal) and a wagon tongue.

They played on Sunday afternoons in front of grandstands filled with about fifty people. A seventh inning stretch was held and a hat was passed around. Coins were collected which amounted to about five dollars.

The water boy had a tin pail with a tin cup, which all players used.

The water boy had a tin pail, with a tin cup, which all the players used.

Smokey Joe could pitch a fast ball, curves, and a knuckle ball that took two minutes to get across home plate because it wobbled in its arc through the strike zone. Willie Weaver was a good long hitter. He could hit the ball 400 feet in the air, but could never run past first base. He was a heavy weight, about 250 pounds. The team needed a substitute runner. Doc Badger could "hit" any pitcher. Bill Singer was a "double play" master. He could jump, turn in the air and complete the play.

Winners of Quilt Raffle

5th	Wilson Hist. Society Cookbook	Lois Bateman
4th	Sketchbook II or I	Joan Hoover
3rd	Cross-Stitched Linen	Betty Clark
2nd	Wood Carving	Joan Hoover
1st	Quilt	Margaret Walker

Margaret had only ONE ticket in the bin!!

Thanks to all of you who supported our Quilt Raffle. We sold over 1200 tickets!

Dog Days Begin

The traditional timing of Dog Days, the 40 days beginning July 3rd and ending August 11, coincides with the morning rise of the Dog Star Sirius. The rising of Sirius does not actually affect the weather, but for the ancient Egyptians, Sirius appeared just before the Nile's flood season. They used Sirius as a "watchdog" for that event, and since it also coincided with a time of extreme heat, the connection with hot, sultry weather was made for all time.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2005-2006

A cardboard belt would be a waist of paper.

The men posing for this photo are members of the G. A. R. (Grand Army of the Republic). These veterans of the Civil War used this old cobblestone building as their meeting hall. This building was originally built as Luther Wilson's law office and later became a school house. After the G. A. R., the Wilson Fire Co. used this building as their first hall until they moved over to Main Street. This old building was located just north of The Exley Methodist Church which today is a parking lot. One of our members, Lester Clark, said in a recent letter to me he remembered the old Fire Hall so I thought he would like to see an early photo of this building.

Charles F. Horton—Town of Wilson Historian



Farmers Calendar—July 1880

That field of grass ought to have been cut a week or two ago. If it had been cut then, we might not have got quite so much, but it would be worth more to feed to cows and young stock. The best hay is dried grass. If we let it grow till it gets nearly ripe, it is more like dried wood. Don't you think the cows know what is best for them? If you have any doubt as to which they like best, just try them with some hay cut and dried in June, and some cut and baked in the sun in July. You will not be left long in doubt. It is best to keep the scythe in trim. To mow well with the old scythe will soon be a lost art if we don't mind!



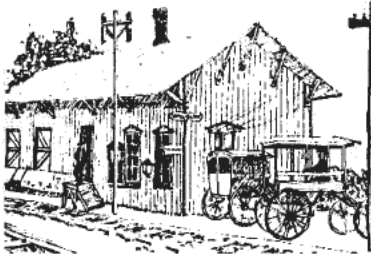
When eager bites the thirsty flea, Clouds and rain you're sure to see.

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August 2005
 Vol. 34 No. 8

Town Of Wilson Historian
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 Wilson, NY 14172



Dates to Remember

Wednesday, August 10th	WHS Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, August 15th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Thursday, August 18th	Village Board Meeting	7:30 pm
August 25th-27th	Wilson #1 Field Days	

Board of Directors

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 Bruce Muck

2nd Vice President
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 Gary Fitch
 Sally Smith

Ex-Officio

Town Supervisor
 Jerry Dean
Town Historian
 Charles Horton

From the Editor

It has been a very busy summer so far—and a HOT one! The Super Cruise put on by [Redacted] Wilson Grow was a big hit on a beautiful summery night, the [Redacted] at the park have been terrific, kids are having a ball at Summer Recreation, the town wide Garage Sale was well attended and hundreds of kids with their families attended the Soccer Tournaments held here two weekends in July. Add to that strawberries, blueberries and corn—couldn't ask for a nicer summer so far—reminds me of how summer use to be! Hope you are all enjoying it. ~ D

HOSTING FOR AUGUST

DATE	NAME OF HOST	OPENER
7th	Lois Barnum Lillian Rosati	Lois Barnum
14th	John & Debbie Leible	Wally Goodman
21st	Ron & Judy Zauner	Chuck Horton
28th	Marlene & Jim Schotz	Marlene Schotz

If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.

Wilson Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting June 8th, 2005

President Sally Smith called the meeting to order at 7:45pm. The meeting was held in the Barnum Building, with 10 attending: Sally Smith, Pam Groff, Judy King, Mickey Hunter, Floyd Clark, Wally Goodman, Charles Horton, Marlene Schotz, Dorothy Maxfield, and Gail Walder (10). A quorum was declared present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A correction was made regarding the WHS award. The Society has a committee that decides on the winning student. This year's winner is Stephen Doe, the award is \$500. Motion was made by Judy, seconded by Dorothy to accept the minutes as corrected, carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Wally, seconded by Mickey to pay the bills as read, carried. Fair financial report from Jan. 1 to June 8 was given. Suggestions made during this report regarding the Fair:

- 1. check on liability insurance for food vendors and climbing wall.
- 2. have information sheet and map for ticket sellers.
- 3. place ticket booths back to back in center of gravel area.

SUNDAY HOSTESS:

Gail needs Board members to open on Sundays for all of Oct. and Nov. Sally will provide a list for Gail and Pam of members who signed for the 25 keys. Gail suggested that a follow-up letter be sent to members who don't renew. She will not be calling for Fair workers next year. Most chairmen provide their own workers.

*Don't forget to send in
your membership
dues!!*

TOURS:

Marlene would like to have copies of the Veteran interviews for the Society. Sally will ask Johanna Andritz about these.

HISTORIAN:

Chuck explained how a title search contains a great amount of history on a property. Judy will look in the safe deposit box for the Society's search and make a copy.

TRUSTEE RED CLARK:

Red suggested arranging for a photographer to take pictures of Society members and possibly have a booklet made up showing Officers, Trustees, and members, similar to what is done at local churches.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff
Recording Secretary

Grandma's Cures

- Sore throat? Just mix 1/4 cup of vinegar with 1/4 cup of honey and take 1 tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills the bacteria.
- Burns? Use Colgate toothpaste as a salve for burns.
- Rust? Just saturate an abrasive sponge with Coca-Cola and scrub the rust stain.
- Bug Killer? If menacing bees, wasps, hornets or yellow jackets get in your home, try a spray of Formula 409. Insects drop to the ground instantly!

FULL MOON LORE FOR AUGUST: The Full Buck Sturgeon Moon occurs on August 19th, 2005. The sturgeon of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain were most readily caught at this time. This Moon is also known as the Green Corn Moon and the Grain Moon.

The Iron Fireman

The Iron Fireman, a well known symbol of the Wilson Volunteer Fire Co. #1, has an interesting history starting with its birth in Lockport back in 1886. In 1885, Mr. George E. Singer had just joined the Lockport Active Hose Fire company. All of Lockport in those days was served by volunteer firemen, and those firemen of a century ago were the same fun-loving fire-fighting men they are today! It was after a firemen's parade in 1885 that members of the Active Hose company came home with a trophy—a sheet-iron fireman which they had spirited away from a firehouse in a nearby town. The statue was only a crude affair, but it was highly prized and it changed hands often. Sometimes it was stolen, other times it was won in fair contests and still other times it was carried away by sheer force!

After about a year of this, the Active Hose company was fed up with such a movable, easily stolen trophy. John and Jobez Bramley, iron molders, came to the rescue. They agreed to make the hose company a statue out of solid iron. Mr. Singer, then a lad of 19 and the Adonis of his company, was selected to be the model. He submitted to being buried alive in clay which was patted firmly about him and his parade uniform. When this had hardened, it was broken off to enable him to get out and then put back together and plaster of Paris poured in the neck opening. The result was a plaster likeness of the youthful Mr. Singer, and this was used for the building of the mold with molders sand into which the molten iron was poured. A separate impression was taken of Mr. Singers head, helmet and all, and this unit later was welded onto the statue. The completed form weighed 960 pounds and, needless to say, no one stole this trophy from Lockport Active Hose company!



In 1913 all Lockport Volunteer Fire Companies were disbanded and replaced by paid departments. The iron fireman was moved to the Exempt Fireman Home on Elm St where it stood for many years. Mr. Singer was well acquainted with Wilson, as his two sons, Louis and Edward, were barbers and members of the Wilson Volunteers. He decided to present the statue to the Wilson Fire 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 Fire Co. alerted Wilson Firemen to the fact that "someone" had removed "George" and placed him in front of the Ransomville Co. How this was accomplished is a mystery, since it required six men and two truck to return George to his Young Street home. He has remained at his post since that date.

The story by Lester Clark in last month's newsletter, "Take Me Out To The Ball Game", has prompted a question—What was the last name of the pitcher, Ken "Smokey Joe"? Everyone else had their last name listed. Do you know? We're waiting to hear from Lester on this question!

Cat Nights Begin

The term "Cat Nights" harks back to a rather obscure old Irish legend concerning witches and the belief that a witch could turn herself into a cat eight times, but on the ninth time (August 17th) she couldn't regain her human form. This bit of folklore also gives us the saying "A cat has nine lives". Because August is a yowly time for cats, this may have prompted the speculation about witches on the prowl in the first place!

In Memoriam

Dorothy A. Lort, age 93, of Wilson died Monday, March 21st at the Elderwood Health Care Center at Crestwood, Wheatfield, NY. Dorothy was born in Buffalo, NY on May 8th, 1911, the daughter of the late Sherman and Mary Monnen Allgeier.

She was a life member of the Wilson Historical Society, the Easter Star #268, the Delta Kappa Gamma, the NYS Retired Teachers Assn and the Exley United Methodist Church. She taught elementary school in the Wilson Central School district for many years. She married Edward C. Lort on July 1st, 1950. He predeceased her on December 26th, 1981.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews. Burial will be at Elmlawn Cemetery in Tonawanda, NY>

Flies are the price we pay for summer

This house is located at 488 Lake Street and is a terrific example of a bungalow style home. There were not many of this type of home built in the town of Wilson. This style started in California and was popular in the 1920's and 1930's. Today this home has stood the test of time and is well maintained and another one of Wilson's treasures. The large arched porch and brickwork set this house apart from the other bungalow style homes in our area. To the left of the house appears to be a rose garden but I am not sure. Mr. and Mrs. Welker (Kenny Welker's parents) lived here in the 1950's and they possibly could have built this house. Charles F. Horton—Town of Wilson Historian



Farmers Calendar—August 1880

The days grow short now, and we can get more chance to rest. But work on the farm must go on, hot or cold. There are the chores to do, the cows to milk, the pigs to geed and whatnot. The world moves on, and we are to keep up with it! Work doesn't hurt folks so much as they think. Now is the time to sow the round turnip as a second crop, and to sow grass seed, if the land is not too dry. Sown now, it has time to get a good root by the time the ground closes, and that will help it stand the winter. It is just the time to bud fruit trees, and to sleek up along the walls. Cut out the bushes and do not let the weeds go to seed.

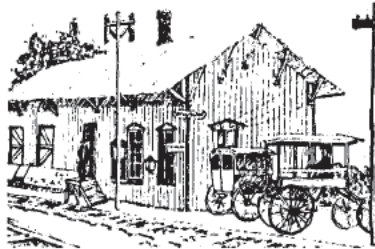


* When it rains in August it rains honey and wine. *

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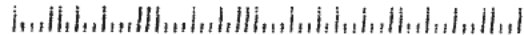
September 2005
 Vol. 34 No. 9



Town Of Wilson Historian
 [Redacted]
 Wilson, NY 14172



14172#08886



Dates to Remember

Monday, September 5th	Labor Day	
Tuesday, September 13th	Primary Election	12 Noon–9:00 pm
Wednesday, September 14th	WHS Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, September 19th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Tuesday, September 22nd	Fall Begins!!	
Monday, September 26th	General Meeting "One-Room Schoolhouse"	7:30 pm

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Bruce Muck

2nd Vice President

Dan King

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Town Historian

Charles Horton

From the Editors Desk

- Please check in on the Wilson website—www.wilsonnewyork.com —for some great photos of the Summer Recreation Group and Cruise Night too—look in the Photo Gallery. Also, if you go to News and Notes you'll see a link to Edward Goodnight's website which has wonderful photographs of our area!
- Remember we will be having our General Meeting this month

HOSTING FOR SEPTEMBER

DATE	NAME OF HOST	PERSON
4th	Cheryl Brown Lewis Bell	Dorothy Maxfield
11th	Bob & Ann Botzer	Dan King
18th	Johanna Andritz May Lenihan	Johanna Andritz
25th	Bob & Bobbie Hull	Bob Hull

MIX WORK WITH LEISURE AND YOU WILL NEVER GO MAD!

The History of Labor Day

"Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country," said Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor. "All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation." Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers. Some records show that Peter J. McGuire was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold." But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday.

Labor Day is a national legal holiday that is over 100 years old.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

Today, Labor Day is observed not only in the U.S. but also in Canada, and in other industrialized nations. While it is a general holiday in the United States, its roots in the working class remain clearer in European countries. It has come to be recognized in the U.S. not only as a celebration of the working class, but even more so as the unofficial end of the summer season. In the northern half of the U.S. at least, the summer vacation season begins with Memorial Day and ends with Labor Day.

Many colleges and some secondary and elementary schools begin classes immediately after Labor Day. State parks, swimming pools, and campgrounds are all quite busy on Labor Day, as vacationers take one last advantage of the waning hot season. September is the month that marks the beginning of autumn. And, because of that, the average daytime maximum temperatures take a plunge during the month in most of the U.S.

FULL MOON LORE FOR SEPTEMBER: The Full Harvest Moon occurs on September 17th, 2005. The Harvest Moon is always the full Moon nearest the autumnal equinox, delivering more light in the early evening to aid in the harvest. Usually the full moon rises an average of 50 minutes later each night, but for the few nights around the Harvest Moon, the moon seems to rise at nearly the same time each night.

I attended the Annual Congress of the Federation of Historical Societies in April where "The Three R's in One Room" was the theme. One of the guest speakers was Dr. Gretchen Duling who obtained her PhD by researching one-room schools. Dr. Duling has graciously agreed to be the speaker at our September 26th General Meeting. Since one of the highlights of our museum is the Randall Road one-room school, this should be a meeting we won't want to miss! To go along with the topic, I would like to hear from those of you who have one-room school memories; either your own or your parents'. Please send memories and copies of any pictures you might want to share to me at 4318 Willow Road, Wilson, NY 14172.

To start off the memories:

My husband, Jim, attended District #6 on Cambria Wilson Road at Willow. It eventually was converted to a house which later burned. The district began at the Wilson-Cambria boundary and extended north to the farm where Bruce Muck lives today. The western extent was a out two-thirds of the way down German Road and the eastern boundaries were Willow Road and Chestnut Road to just past the creek. Dorothy Allgeier (Lort) taught at this school in the 1930'a and Merritt and Ray Thilk were two of the students.

This District #6 picture was probably the 1944-45 school year. It was part of a Mother's Day Card discovered a few years ago among Jim's mothers keepsakes.

District #6
School Class
of
1944-1945.

Front Row: Carl Schultz, Karen Madsen, Martin Madsen, Shirley Schultz

Second Row: Anna Madsen, Patricia Pepenhagen, Norma Rohring, Marylou Rohring

Back Row: Vivian Rohring, Chester Schultz, Jim Schotz, Albert Mulligan, Donalyn Rohring
(The Schultz and Rohring students came from several households)

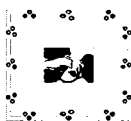
Chuck Horton compiled a wonderful notebook for the Federation's theme display at the Niagara County Fair. It will be on display at our September 26th meeting. ~ Marlene Schotz



Harvest Home

IN MEMORIUM

In both Europe and Britain, the conclusion of the harvest each autumn was once marked by great festivals of fun, feasting, and thanksgiving known as "Harvest Home". It was also a time to hold elections, pay workers, and collect rents. These festivals usually took place around the time of the autumnal equinox. North American settlers, particularly the Pennsylvania Dutch, continued the tradition.



Kathleen Batt Ness of Wilson died Wednesday, July 13th, 2005. Born in North Tonawanda, she was the daughter of the late Raymond and May Batt and has been a resident of Wilson for more than 60 years. She received her masters degree from D'Youville College in Buffalo and worked as an English teacher and librarian at Wilson High School before retiring in 1974.

Kay was actively involved with the Friends of the Library, the Wilson Historical Society, and Our Lady of the Rosary Church, all of Wilson. She was the wife of the late Arthur Ness, who died in 1994.

Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes

This photo circa 1910 is of the bridge spanning the West Branch of the Twelve Mile Creek at Roosevelt Beach. This was an iron framed one lane bridge which has an interesting sign at the top of the bridge on both ends. It reads \$10 FINE FOR DRIVING FASTER THAN A WALK ACROSS THIS BRIDGE. The floor of the bridge would have been wooden planks and the width was one lane wide. I don't know when this bridge was built and I assume that there was most likely an earlier span of all wood construction prior to the building of this bridge shown in the photo. The bridge that is in use today was built in the 1930's when the state paved the road with concrete. I suppose some day there will be a modern high bridge similar to the one at Olcott Beach.

Charles F. Horton—Town of Wilson Historian



Farmers Calendar—September 1880

We ought to take a hand at the swamps and low-lands this dry time. To ditch and to drain, to let off the water, and ato bring such lands to grass, is one of the best ways to spend time. It is a good time to plough. A sod turned over now will be partly rotted by next spring, and do better than if the work is put off till late in the fall. If it can have a good topdress-ing, it will start and grow so as to get a strong root by the time the ground closes. It is not a good plan to turn the cows into the fall feed on the mowing lots. It may not hurt the fields to feed lightly, but it kills the grass to gnaw it to the roots!



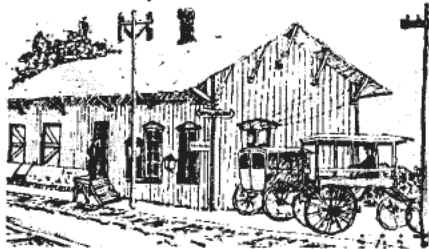
* **When squirrels are scarce in autumn, it indicates a cold winter.** *

Wilson Historical Society
Newsletter
 645 Lake Street
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 Wilson, New York 14172

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October 2005
 Vol. 34 No. 10
 Edited by A. Diane Muscoreil

Town Of Wilson Historian
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 Wilson, NY 14172



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Lois Barnum
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Donald Burrows
 Gary Fitch
 Sally Smith

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Town Supervisor

Jerry Dean

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Charles Horton

+++++

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, October 3 rd	Town Workshop Meeting	7:30 pm
Wednesday, October 12 th	WHS Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, October 17 th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Sunday, October 23 rd	Halloween Party at WHS	2-5:00pm
Monday, October 24 th	General Meeting - WHS	7:30 pm
Thursday, October 31st	Happy Halloween!	

From the Editor's Desk – I have the perfect Christmas gift for those of you who like to shop early – the new Avis Townsend book Images of America/Wilson. It has spectacular photographs of the area from the early days up to today. The cost is \$20.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping – and you'll be helping out the Historical Society at the same time! Contact Sandy Holden at PO Box 830, Wilson, NY.

The annual Halloween Party is scheduled for the 23rd of October – this is always a big hit with everyone in the area and your kids will not want to miss it! 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Hosting October 2005

DATE	NAME OF HOST	PERSON TO OPEN
2nd	Brad & Judy Clark	
9th	Dick & Sue Schultz	Lois Barnum
16th	Howard & Dot Parker	
23rd	Robert & Judee Cramer	Ollie Clark
30th	Tom & Jackie Singer	

Quote of the Day: After a certain number of years, our faces become our biographies.

**WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AUGUST 10th , 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 pm by President Don Burrows with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Judy King, Mickey Hunter, Bruce Muck, Chuck Horton, Wally Goodman, Don Burrows, Marlene Schotz, Dorothy Maxfield, Sandy Holden and Dan King . (10)

SECRETARY'S REPORT: No minutes were available from the previous meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion was made by Bruce, seconded by Wally to pay the bills as presented. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS: The sign out front has been changed.

A request by the Methodist Church to use the grounds for their picnic was approved on a motion by Judy King, seconded by Wally Goodman.

There was an inquiry about having Parco cover the columns - Don Burrows will check.

Marlene reported about the 4H Group that visited the museum and made a donation.

A discussion was held on the alarm system and it was decided to contact Amherst Alarm to complete the Barnum Building update.

NEW BUSINESS: An offer was made on the Vauxhall car - tabled until next meeting.

A discussion was held on insurance coverage, limits and duplication by the Town. Our policy will be reviewed.

Chuck Horton proposed we purchase 25 Historical Publications for sale by the museum seconded by Dan King, carried.

A discussion about heat in the Barnum Building was held. We may get a temporary hookup if possible.

Don will appoint a committee to plan the Barnum Building completion.

Chuck reported about property damage caused by vehicles in the parking lot and in the back areas of the grounds. There were several actions but no decisions on what to do.

Don asked Chuck if would follow up on a letter for a grant from the state if Sally is unable to do so.

Motion to adjourn was made a 9:00 pm by Chuck Horton.

Respectfully submitted
Dan King, 2nd Vice President

From the Mailbag:

Who was "Smokey Joe", the pitcher for the Wilson Town Team?? He was a dedicated pitcher who developed a store of pitches. Smokey Joe had all the usual baseball throws. But he also developed the sweat ball by rubbing the ball against his sweating brow, he ruffed the ball with a special ring which gave the ball an unusual path to the strike zone. Finally he would use psychology - he had sight problems, which all of the players knew, but no one was certain of what the problem was. So he would use that to his advantage by washing a glass eye in front of the opposing team in the line up - he struck out LOTS of players!

His name was Kenneth Welker, who worked at the Welker & Brown Grocery Store. He was my idol. I kept the secret for 58 years! ~ Regards, Lester Clark

FULL MOON LORE FOR OCTOBER: The Full Hunter Moon will appear on October 21st , 2005. The leaves are falling and the game is fattened - now is the time for hunting and laying in a store of provisions for the long winter ahead! This moon is also known as the Travel Moon and the Dying Grass Moon.

In Memoriam:

Carol C. Smith, age 69, of Sanborn, NY, died Wednesday, August 17th, 2005 at home surrounded by her family while under the care of Niagara Hospice. Carol was born on December 25th, 1935 in Lockport, NY the daughter of Donald and Mildred Croop. She attended schools in Wilson, NY and was a graduate of Wilson High School Class of 1953. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Buffalo State Teachers College in 1958 and her Masters Degree in Art Education in 1970. Mrs. Smith was an art teacher in the Stevenson Elementary School in Ransomville for ten years before retiring in 1970. She was a member of the DAR and enjoyed studying family genealogy. She was also a Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society and a member of the Sanborn Area Historical Society.

She was predeceased by her husband, William G. Smith, who died on October 1st, 2003. They enjoyed traveling and visiting historical landmarks and area flea markets.

Surviving are two sons, Douglas W. Smith of Ransomville and Darrell (Sally) Smith of Wilson, and five grandson. Burial was at Mount View Cemetery.

Paul A. Karsten, age 65 of Wilson, entered into rest on Sunday, September 4th 2005 at Newfane Inter Community Memorial Hospital. Born June 8th, 1940, in Buffalo, NY he was the son of H. Arnold and Bessie (Lampe) Karsten.

Paul married the late Arlene Wilson on June 20th, 1964. Arlene died on October 1st, 2000. Paul and his wife owned and operated Karsten's General Store in Ransomville and Wilson until 2000. He had worked for the Town of Wilson since 1970. Paul was elected Superintendent of Highways in 1978 and held that office until he retired on October 31st, 2002. He also owned Karsten Implement at Stockwell Corners during the 1960's.

Paul was a member of the Concordia Lutheran Church and an exempt member of South Wilson Volunteer Fire Company, serving as President fro 1972-1974 and again in 1977. He was a member of the Niagara County Highway Assn, being a past president and treasurer, and was a ember of the NRA. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating and skeet shooting. He was also an avid bowler, receiving a ring for bowling a score of 801 on September 27th, 1993. Paul lived in Wilson his whole life.

Paul is survived by two sons, David Karsten of Fort Lauderdale, FL, and Matthew (Linda) Karsten of Macedon, NY; loving grandfather of Elizabeth and the late Samantha; brother of Kira Woodruff of Rush, NY and dear friend of Cynthia Taylor of Burt, NY.

Interment was in St. Peters Lutheran Cemetery, Cambria.

Halloween

The ancient Celts celebrated the new year on November 1st. They believed that on October 31st (Halloween), the lines between the living and the dead became blurred, and the souls of the dead returned to Earth. The Celts put out plates of food to welcome their ancestors' souls and to appease any mischievous spirits wandering about.

In later years, the Irish used large, hollowed-out, candlelit turnips, carved with a demon's face to frighten away spirits. When Irish immigrants in the 1840s found few turnips in the United States, they used pumpkins

instead!!

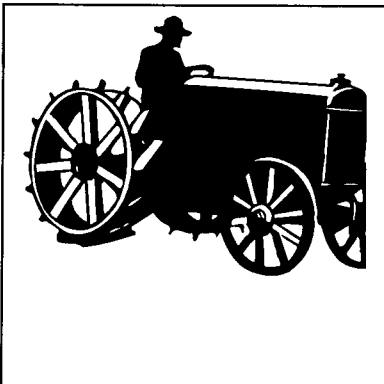


Nothing in the world is friendlier than a wet dog.

The photo you see here was taken in the early 1900's. When the railroad was first built in the 1870's, businesses sprung up at the various crossroads due to the fact that the railroad was built to serve the fruit belt along the Lake Ontario Plain. The sign on the front of this storage says the building can hold 10,000 barrels of fruit. Note the three vents on the top of the building and the shutters on the windows. Years later a large stone two-story building was built and still stands there today. The building in the background was an evaporator for the drying of fruit. The two railroad boxcars are of wood construction, as is the old caboose on display at the Wilson Historical Society across the street from the location of this photo. Gary Fitch runs the storage today. Charles F. Horton—Town of Wilson Historian



Farmers Calendar – October 1880



Those of us who made the most of the time in the spring can now see the fruits of our work, and it ought to make our hearts glad. In May, we plant and sow in faith in hope. We are not sure that we shall get much of a crop to pay for the time and the sweat of the brow. It is like payday now. But let us bear in mind that to plant, to hoe, and to get in the crop in the fall, is not the chief end of man. The evenings grow long, and we must fill up the time as best we can. Lay out some course of reading that will give us food for thought. We must feed the mind as well as the body.

If October brings heavy frosts and winds, then will January and February be mild.

Wilson Historical Society

Newsletter

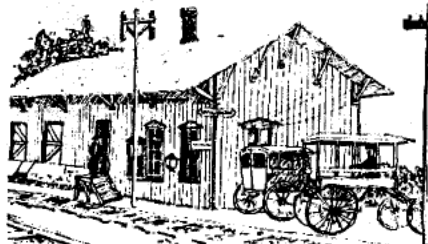
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November 2005

Vol. 34 No. 11

Edited by A. Diane Muscoreil



Town Of Wilson Historian

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Wilson, NY 14172



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Dorothy Maxfield

Honorary Trustees:

Past Presidents

Donald Burrows

Gary Fitch

Sally Smith

Ex-Officio

Town Supervisor

Jerry Dean

Town Historian

Charles Horton

+++++

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, November 7 th	Town Workshop Meeting	7:30 pm
Tuesday, November 8 th	General Election	6:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Wednesday, November 9 th	WHS Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, November 21 st	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Thursday, November 24 th	Thanksgiving Day	

From the Editor's Desk – Once again, I will repeat that the perfect Christmas gift for those of you who like to shop early is the new Avis Townsend book "Images of America/Wilson". It has spectacular photographs of the area from the early days up to today. The cost is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping – and you'll be helping out the Historical Society at the same time! Contact Sandy Holden at PO Box 830, Wilson, NY.

Members in the News: Election time is coming up November 8th, and many of this year's candidates are Historical Society members, including Bruce Muck and Joe Jastrzemski for Supervisor, Jim Muscoreil and Brad Clark for Council and Kyle Andrews for County Legislator! Don't forget to vote!

Hosting November 2005

DATE	NAME OF HOST	PERSON TO OPEN
6th	Jane Demmin And her sister Sandy	Marlene Schotz
13th	Ed & Marilyn Allgeier	Sally Smith
20th	Richard & Jean Hull	Wally Goodman
27th	Tom & Gail Walder	Gail Walder

Quote of the Day: Every reform was once a private opinion.

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

President Don Burrows called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in the Depot with 13 attending: Don Burrows, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Mickey Hunter, Wanda Burrows, Ollie Clark, Wally Goodman, Sally Smith, Charles Horton, Celeste Crawford, Marlene Schotz, Dorothy Maxfield, and Darrell Smith.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The secretary read the minutes of the August 10 Board meeting as written by Dan King. Motion was made by Chuck, seconded by Diane to accept the minutes as read, carried. The president noted that future meetings lacking a quorum would have notes taken on discussion during such meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Don gave the treasurer's report

CHAIRPERSONS SELECTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Curator: Dorothy Maxfield

Barnum Building: Sally Smith

Planning Board: Darrell Smith

Caboose and Windmill: Richard Johnson

Breezeway: Mickey Hunter

Storage Barn: Charles Horton

Schoolhouse/Education Coordinator: Johanna Andritz

Finance: Bruce Muck

Fittro Shop: Doug Smith

Railroad Depot: Dorothy Maxfield

Argue Building: Wally Goodman and Dan King

Nominations: Diane Muscoreil

Grounds: Brad Clark

Federation Rep: Charles Horton

Tugwell Cabin: Marlene Schotz

Motion was made by Wanda, seconded by Sally to appoint these people as Chair people, carried.

The Methodist Church Flea Market/Labor Day Sale went well, except for a bee problem.

BARNUM BUILDING: Don will keep trying to reach PARCO regarding covering the columns on the entry. The Committee to Plan Completion of the Barnum Building includes Dan King, Chuck Horton, Bob Cramer, and Don Burrows.

ARGUE BUILDING: There was discussion on the sale of the Vauxhall, it was suggested that the donor be notified as a courtesy regarding the sale. Funds received will go to the Car Museum Fund. A \$600 offer has been received. A motion to approve the deaccession was made by Chuck, seconded by Wally, carried.

INSURANCE: Don is still trying to find out about insurance.

GRANT: Sally will follow up on the grant from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

SIGN: The key for the sign is labeled. Sally will continue to do the sign.

WNYAHA: Motion was made by Dorothy, seconded by Diane to pay the \$40 membership fee to the Western New York Association of Historical Agencies, carried.

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS:

CHUCK - the new sills and weather stripping are done for Tugwell Cabin and the Schoolhouse. Chuck, Paul Holden, Mary Ann Evans, Darrell and Sally did trimming and cleaning up of bushes and flowerbeds.

SALLY - will get mulch for the Schoolhouse flower gardens.

DARRELL - MaryAnn Evans was not paid for bill she submitted for flowers for Memorial Day. Contact Gary Townsend regarding Green Thumb organization. Turned in three donation checks in memory of his mother.

CELESTE - The State Education Department was asking for demanding requirements to hold our charter such as being open 1,000 hours a year and having a paid, qualified experienced staff, then canceled these requirements.

MARLENE - Sat. Sept. 14th the Hudson Club is coming at 1:30. She would like help in the Car Museum. She also suggested that a write-up of the cars would be beneficial to visitors. She cleaned the schoolhouse for the Sept. 26th General Meeting. While doing so there was a problem with the signal for the fire alarm to Amherst Alarm. Chuck came and worked with Amherst Alarm to straighten it out.

HISTORICAL MARKERS: Marilyn Allgeier is painting the markers.

HALLOWEEN PARTY: The annual Halloween Party has been reinstated and will be held in the Barnum Building.

Motion was made by Sally, seconded by Wally at 8:45 PM to adjourn the meeting, carried.

The meeting was adjourned to the Barnum Building where Chuck presented three Coca Cola advertising posters he had framed under plexiglas.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Groff Recording Secretary

FULL MOON LORE FOR NOVEMBER: The Full Beaver Moon will appear on November 15th, 2005. It is a sign of freezing weather to come. For Algonquin tribes, this Moon was a time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze to ensure a supply of warm winter furs!

In Memoriam

Marjorie C. Hurlburt, born in Niagara Falls, NY August 5th, 1905, dies on August 24th, 2005 in Rye, NY. Daughter of Winifred Teague and Stanley Crossman of Wilson, Mrs. Hurlburt graduated from Wilson High School and trained in art and music at the Eastman School of Music, Albright Art School and Fredonia State College. She taught art and music at Wilson High School from 1927-1942 and vocal music and dramatics from 1949 until her retirement in 1972.

Mrs. Hurlburt was one of the first two women elected to the Executive Committee of the New York State School Music Association, served as a Zone Representative for the N&YSSMA and was among the five educators who organized the Niagara County branch of the NYSSMA, serving two terms as its president. A specialist in high school choral music, the Wilson Central High School Chorus, under her direction, won the NYSSMA state level competition the first year choral work was added to its competitive program. The chorus went on to place second at the National Eastern Regional competition that year. WCHS entered and placed in the competitions consistently thereafter.

Mrs. Hurlburt was a charter member of Beta Lambda, a chapter of the International Delta Kappa Gamma Greek Honor Society for outstanding women in education. She is named in the 1970 edition of Outstanding Educators in America.

Mrs. Hurlburt moved to Westchester County in 1973 where she became active in the Bronxville Women's Club and Chair of music, bridge and literature activities. She served on its Board of Directors for six years, three years as First Vice President and as its President from 1987-1990.

Mrs. Hurlburt was predeceased by her husband, J. Russell Hurlburt. Surviving are her daughters, Mary Lou Patterson Young of Rye, NY, Carroll Teague Hurlburt of New York City and Hannah Jane Hurlburt of Greenwich, CT, two granddaughters and one great granddaughter.

Memorials may be made to the Wilson Historical Society, Wilson, NY where she was a Life Member.

Indian Summer

If All Saints Day (November 1st) brings out winter, St. Martin's Day (November 11th) brings out Indian Summer.

Indian Summer is a period of warm weather following a cold spell or hard frost, but only if it occurs between November 11th and 20th. Some say the term comes from early Native Americans who believed that the condition was caused by a warm wind sent from the court of the southwestern god, Cautantowwit.



GREENWOOD CEMETERY WREATHS

Freshly made Douglas Fir Christmas wreaths will again be offered by the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Committee this year. The committee, with help from the Wilson Lions Club, will place the wreaths early in December and remove them in the spring. The cost of this service is \$25.00. Orders must be placed and payments received **no later than Friday, November 25th**. For more information, please call the Town Clerk's Office at 716-751-6704 Ext. 0.

I would like to order _____ wreaths @ \$25.00 each to be placed in Greenwood Cemetery.

Name of person or family where wreath is to be placed:

Please make checks payable to the Town of Wilson. Mail orders should be addressed to P.O. Box 537, Wilson, New York, 14172-0537. NO ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER NOVEMBER 25TH.

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____

Spiders spinning their webs in the grass during Indian Summer are a sign of rain.



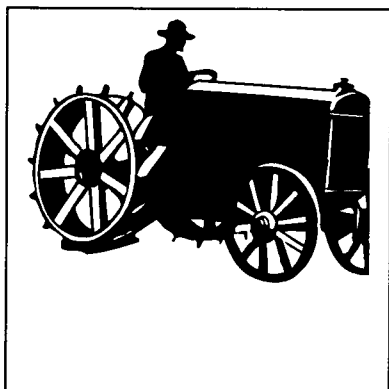
District 13

Front Row: Left to right Alfred Keyes, Tommy Keyes, Ronald Jeffords, Phyllis Jeffords, Ethel Brauer, Norman Jeffords, Elvina Reed, Herb Allgeier

Back Row: Left to right Edward Hall, Allen Rohring, Francis Perry, Mrs. Plum, Donna Reed, Evelyn Jeffords, Donald Perry

The topic for the last general meeting at the Wilson Historical Society was "One Room Schools" and this recently acquired photo via Marline Schotz was given to the Museum. I thought it would be a good photo for this month's newsletter. The new book on Wilson has some school photos in it also. Unfortunately, this new book has some mistakes and some of the people that have purchased it have brought this to my attention, so if there are any mistakes in the names listed above please let us know. The society photos used for this new book along with others and the descriptions of these photos came from different sources, but don't let a few errors stop you from purchasing this book. If you buy the book at the town hall or have one sent to you by the museum the profit goes to the museum. Charles F. Horton—Town of Wilson Historian

Farmers Calendar – November 1880



It is time the boys were off to school. A smart boy will get more good at school than his work is worth on the farm, handy as he is to have 'round. There is a host of little odds and ends to look after now. It is 'most time to bank up the house. A lot of hay, straw, or tan (bark) should go first, so as not to let the earth cover the sills. It is worthwhile to save the stores in the cellar and not let them freeze. It is time to trim grapevines and fruit trees. We can see just how to shape them now that they are stripped of the leaves, and there is no better time to do it. Get out the compost and top-dress the mowing-lots.

Don't forget Thanksgiving!

**Wilson Historical Society
Newsletter**

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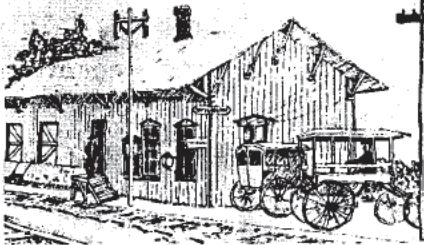
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Vol. 34 No. 12

Edited by A. Diane Muscoreil



Town Of Wilson Historian

Wilson, NY 14172



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Daniel King

Recording Secretary

Pam Groff

Corr. Secretary

Diane Muscoreil

Treasurer

Judy King

Trustees:

One Year Term

Floyd Clark

Wally Goodman

Miles Linnabery

Three Year Term

Kyle Andrews

Wanda Burrows

Ollie Clark

Two Year Term

Lois Barnum

Mickey Hunter

Doug Smith

Curator

Dorothy Maxfield

Honorary Trustees:

Past Presidents

Donald Burrows

Gary Fitch

Sally Smith

Ex-Officio

Town Supervisor

Jerry Dean

Town Historian

Charles Horton

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, December 5 th	Town Workshop Meeting	7:30 pm
Wednesday, December 14 th	WHS Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, December 19 th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Sunday, December 25 nd	HAPPY HOLIDAYS!	



A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL WHO ATTENDED THE WHS HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Quote of the Day: It is never too late to be what you might have been.

From the Suspension Bridge Journal**March, 1887, Wilson:**

- John Pinkinton, a fisherman of this place, rowed out on the lake about six miles in a light boat Saturday afternoon and took up a gill net. Soon after a fearful blizzard swept over the lake and the fisherman was driven out four miles into and down the lake. After eight hours struggle he reached Olcott harbor nearer dead than alive.
- The tax suit brought by the R.W. & O. railroad has been decided by the court of appeals in favor of the town
- The drama entitled "Forced to the War," was produced by members of the Grand Army post on Wednesday and Thursday night to good houses.
- Farmers in this vicinity are annoyed by sneak thieves who steal their fowls, oats, pork and other belongings
- The Young People's Association of the Baptist Church held a social last Thursday evening at the residence of Mr. Coe Haynes, Wilson. About fifty persons were present, and a pleasant time was held.
- Last week Frank Bush was caught by a belt at the flouring mill and so badly injured that he died on Saturday.
- Joe Hess, the reformed pugilist, will speak here April 2nd and 3rd.
- A large number of commercial men have visited this town lately.
- Captain Orrin Quick is getting his vessel in trim so as to get to work as soon as possible.
- Abram Hutchings, highway commissioner, has purchased a new iron bridge to go over the stream on the Fitch road.
- The Woman's Relief Corps will give a Camp Fire Social in the Opera House Thursday evening, March 31st.

April, 1887

- One of our enterprising citizens is having ten fine row and sail boats built for the use of pleasure-seekers next summer.
- The report is current that a furniture store will be opened here in the near future.
- A large quantity of fish is being caught in the creek, which has its outlet at Wilson Harbor.

May, 1887

- Mr. J.W. Barger of this village is around buying eggs. He intends to pickle 12,000 dozen for a firm in Albany. This makes the egg market rather good in Wilson.
- The schooner of the season was in this port Thursday loaded with cedar posts for A. N. Dwight, who keeps one of the best lumber yards in New York state.
- Prudden's photograph car has reached Wilson at last, and is now ready for business.
- The game of baseball which was played Saturday afternoon between the Union school baseball club and a business men's nine resulted in a victory for the school.
- Mr. Fred Haner has built a new boathouse at the harbor and has several new boats.
- The Town Board of Health have been quite busy for the past two weeks looking up the dead horses, cows, etc. which are lying promiscuously upon the farms in this town and causing them to be buried.
- Mr. Thomas Parsons has opened a new hotel in this village, to be known as the Temperance Home, which is to be run on strictly temperance principals.

FULL MOON LORE FOR DECEMBER: The Full Cold Moon will appear on December 15th, 2005. Also called the Long Nights Moon by some Native American tribes, this is when the winter cold fastens its grip and the nights become long and dark.

Greenwood Cemetery, organized October 25th, 1850, is now 155 years old. Trustees of the new association were elected by ballot and consisted by Luther Wilson, Robert McChesney, Simon Sheldon, Morgan Johnson, Curtis Pettit, John Onderdonk, Nathaniel Davis, Hiram Tabor and Enoch Pettit. Five years later on December 27th, 1855, the land was actually deeded over to the Association by Luther and Sarah Wilson.

In the early days of Wilson, a number of people were buried in private plots, and one of these was behind the Ness property on West Lake Road where markers for a Williams family have practically disappeared through the ravages of time and vandalism.

At the sight of the former German Lutheran Church on Nelson Road, several other headstones were found for members of the Bobzein family and a son of Mary and Fritz Smith.

The first mention of a regular burial site in Wilson is noted in the "Illustrated History of Niagara County" which states, "The 1st depository for the dead near the village was made in 1822 at the east end of the peninsula northeast of the Village."

Later, some burials were made at the location known as "Battery Hill" on West Young Street just south east of 12 mile creek. This burial site was abandoned in 1846 when Nathaniel Davis set aside a two acre plot of land for a cemetery on his farm just across the road from the present Wilson Historical Society Museum.

Since 1872, when grading work for the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad was started through Wilson, the tracks were surveyed to go through the old cemetery started by Nathaniel Davis in 1846.

Since it was necessary to move those buried there, a removal committee was appointed, consisting of Eldert Dox, David Barnum, and Harvey Johnson. Records were kept according to the state law of all those removed to Greenwood Cemetery, so families would be able to find where their loved ones were buried.

Trustees of the old Greenwood Cemetery Association were able to keep firm control of the cemetery up to the 1920's when conditions began to deteriorate. In 1923, an article in the Wilson Star stated "Attempting to make more workable organization, some residents, having no knowledge of the forgotten incorporation of 1850, applied for and received a new certificate of incorporation on July 2nd, 1923."

The newly reorganized cemetery appeared to do well for a time, but a \$7000.00 trust fund in a Lockport Bank was unable to generate enough interest to provide the funds necessary to maintain the graves.

By the 1950's, care of the cemetery had become very difficult, so at a general election in 1957, residents voted to place Greenwood Cemetery under the care of the Town of Wilson.

Upkeep and the general appearance of the cemetery has greatly improved since then, and continues to function quite well under the supervision of the Cemetery Advisory Committee and the Wilson Town Board.

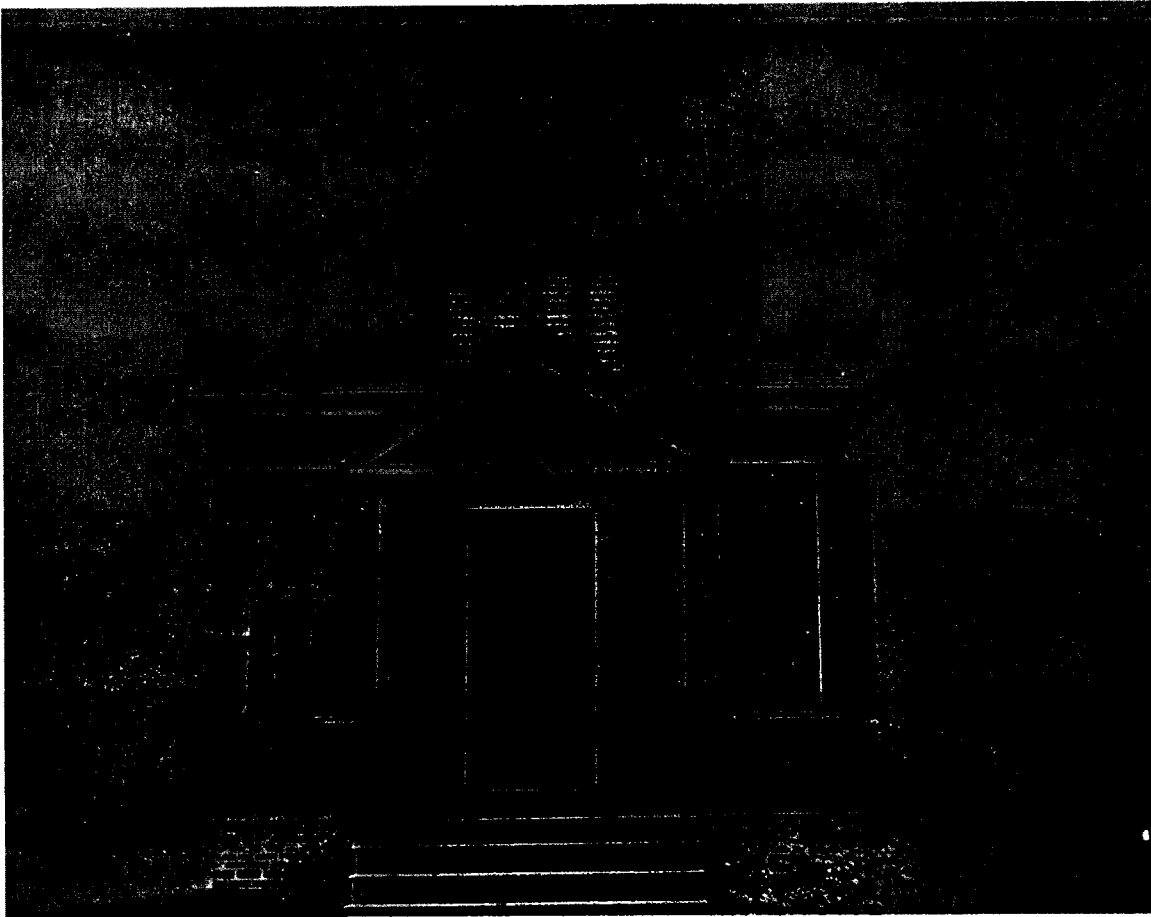
Halcyon Days

The legend of Halcyon Days began in ancient times with a grieving wife, Halcyon, who threw herself into the sea when she discovered the drowned body of her husband, Ceyx. The gods took pity on the couple and transformed them into halcyons, giving them the power to still the stormy seas for 14 days around the winter solstice (December 21st this year) while they hatched their young. December's Halcyon Days honor the birds that were said to calm the seas and the grieving wife who gave them her name.

He doubles his gift who gives in time.

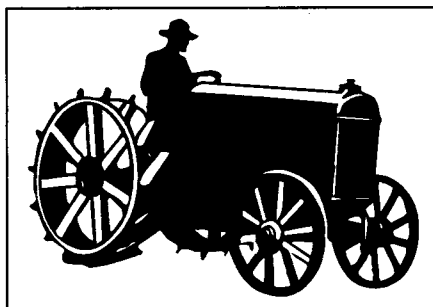
The photo shown here is, I believe, the old one room schoolhouse that stood on the east side of the Townline Road (Rt. 425) just south of the Ide Road. If anyone out there can shed any additional information on this photo I will be forever grateful! On an old map of the Town of Wilson there is shown a one-acre site at this location as a schoolhouse. This one-acre lot might have been part of the Bigalow Farm at one time. In 1867 several one-room schoolhouses and the village school merged to become the Wilson Union School. This schoolhouse would have been part of this new union. Later on the Union District absorbed more of the one-room schoolhouses to become Wilson Central School as it is called today.

Charles F. Horton—Town of Wilson Historian



Farmers Calendar – December 1880

They say that a foot of boards is equal to a pound of beef, which means that a warm barn is the best place to keep stock. It doesn't do any good to keep them out in the cold, and I don't think it is any way to make them tough. Does it toughen a man or a boy to let him stand out in a cold draught? Not much. There is life in warmth, and a cold chill does more hurt than good. There is no better time than this to lay in a good stock of wood for next year. Wood that is dried fast, as it ought to be, is worth more than it is to lie long full of sap. Dry wood is worth more than green.



If the old year goes out like a lion, the new year will come in like a lamb.