

**Wilson Historical Society
Newsletter**

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

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WILSON, NEW YORK

January 2003 Vol. 32 No. 1



FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK:

Well, here it is January 2003, and Western New York is blanketed in snow and ice - some things just never change!

Our general meeting for December was a small but warm gathering at the Depot. It seemed that not many people wanted to venture out so close to Christmas! The meeting was very nice, with everyone adding to the conversation something they remembered about a Christmas past and traditions that are celebrated to this day. Miles Linnabery read "Twas the Night Before Christmas". Everyone brought a treat to share and we had quite the smorgasbord of food! It was truly a lovely time.

The Fair Committee will be having their first meeting sometime this month, as we all look forward to another Memorial Day Fair. Lets pray for good weather again this year. Remember we never turn down volunteers, so if you, or anyone you know, is interested in volunteering some time with us planning, setting up or working on the actual day of the fair, please let us know! We would be happy to sign you up!

Don't forget to button up your coat, grab your scarf, hat, gloves and boots!! Stay WARM! ~ Sally

NEWS FROM THE PAST
The Town and Village Lockup:

Have you ever wondered how Wilson may have looked in the early 1900's? One old timer who was raised in the village said, "If you ever watched "Gunsmoke" on TV, you could see exactly how the Village looked in those days. Wilson's counterpart to Sheriff Matt Dillon was Constable Ben Stone, and his jail was located between the old Navy Store and Harvey Sanford's Tile Yard, which extended from the jail to the Masonic Building.

The lockup was built when the cobblestone Collegiate Institute was being torn down in 1900 to make way for the new brick Union School. Back of the Institute was a large outdoor toilet and the village fathers decided to have it moved next to Sanford's Tile Yard for use as a jail. A partition through the center of the building was torn out and Jesse Biggins, who ran a Blacksmith Shop on Catherine Street, built two barred cells into it.

The lockup was used for a number of years, but in the early twenties was moved next to the old water tower on High Street by Flagler's Welding Shop. The late Earl Armstrong, a former Niagara County Deputy Sheriff, once told a story about stopping at the jail after school, and when he walked into a cell to look it over, someone slammed the door shut and locked him in. The Constable had driven into the country with his horse and buggy so Earl went without supper. To make matters worse, he had a date with a girl on the Island, and when he didn't show up at 7:30 pm, she got mad as hops! Earl didn't get out of the "cooler" until 9:00 pm, when the Constable returned, but Earl's girl wouldn't have anything to do with him until some of his friends told her the truth about what happened!

An inspection report dated August 27, 1932 read as follows: "This lockup occupies a small one-story building on the outskirts of the village. It contains one latticed steel cell and one wooden cell with latticed steel door. Cells are equipped with bunks, mattresses, blankets and comfortables. There are no sanitary facilities whatsoever, but there is an electric light and stove for heat. Since the last inspection, the lockup has been painted throughout with white enamel paint and is in good condition. Constable William Lort has stated that detentions are seldom made here, and the lockup is frequently used for lodgers." The recommendation was made that "When this lockup is used for detention purposes, it should be kept under constant and competent supervision as fire risk is extreme by reason of the type of construction and its location and exposure".

Quote of the Day: Love is much nicer to be in than an automobile accident, a tight girdle, a higher tax bracket or a holding pattern over Philadelphia.

Excerpts from Board of Directors Meeting December 14, 2002

The meeting was opened at 7:35 by President Sally Smith with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a quorum present. Those attending were: Sally Smith, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Judy King, Miles Linnabery, Art Schnoor, Lois Barnum, Bruce Muck, Bill Rose, Don Burrows, Gary Fitch, Charles Horton, Marlene Schotz, Dorothy Maxfield, and Ed Hastings.

Motion was made by Ollie Clark, seconded by Miles Linnabery to approve the minutes of the Nov. 13 Board meeting as mailed, carried.

Treasurer Judy King gave her report for Nov. 14 through Dec. 11, 2002: Lois Barnum made a motion to pay the bills as presented, Dorothy Maxfield seconded, carried.

A Christmas card from Sara Berry was read.

Barnum Building renovations:

Ed Hastings presented his estimate of roof repair to be \$22,849. This amount could be lower with the use of the jail work program. How the project is paid for will be considered by the Finance Committee and their recommendation brought to the Board. Don Burrows made a motion to accept Ed's presentation for the Barnum Building roof repair and renovation, Bill Rose seconded, carried.

Selective Insurance Company survey of the Historical Society Buildings: A copy of the letter from Foote-Mandeville Agency, Inc. regarding the Selective Insurance recommendations was sent to every Board member. After discussion it was decided that the four problems listed would be dealt with as follows:

#1 - The open electrical junction box directly over the exit sign in the portion of the rear storage building where the antique automobiles are displayed should be provided with a cover suited for that purpose. ***Argue Building Co-chairman Bill Rose will correct this.

#2 - The use of the extension cord that runs from the area where the antique automobiles are displayed to the exhaust fan in the attic above should be discontinued. If necessary, an additional outlet should be provided for the area where the fan is located in accordance with the requirements of the National Electrical Code. ***This will be discontinued - Don Burrows and Darrell Smith.

#3 - All 30 amp fuses in the Fittro Building should be replaced with appropriate sized fuses, depending on wire size. The extension cords for the overhead lighting fixtures in the workshop area in the left side of the building should be eliminated. Consideration should be given to the replacement of the old style fuse box with a modern circuit breaker panel box to improve on fire safety within the building. ***Fittro Shop Chairman Harold Benedict will change the fuses.

#4 - The entrance/exit stairs and platform on one side of the caboose that have not been repaired/upgraded are noticeably deteriorated and should be repaired or replaced before allowing persons to enter/exit the caboose using that entrance/exit. ***Caboose Chairman Don Burrows will put up caution tape.

Scholarship Committee:

Sally Smith will call Wally Goodman to remind him to schedule a meeting of committee members to decide on the scholarship requirements.

Tugwell Cabin:

Chairman Marlene Schotz requested help tonight bringing items from the Tugwell Cabin to her car

Security System:

Don Burrows will get a quote from the security people for the alarm system in the depot and the Barnum Building.

Member news:

Edna Rose is now residing at Heritage Manor in Lockport.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Groff, Recording Secretary

FULL MOON LORE FOR JANUARY: The "Full Wolf Moon" also known as the "Old Moon" will appear on January 18th. Amid the cold and deep snows of midwinter, the wolf packs howl hungrily outside!

Newsletter Items

We try to put a little piece of Wilson history in each newsletter. Articles are compiled from old newspapers, past newsletters and other records, but we would prefer stories from elderly Wilsonites who can tell it like it was! Perhaps you have a story you would like to see in the Newsletter. Please send it to us at PO Box 830 and, if you prefer, we won't use your name!

THE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAYS DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2003. GAIL WALDER WILL BE PUTTING UP A CALENDAR IN THE DEPOT (HOPEFULLY A WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR!) SO YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR NEXT YEARS' HOSTING DUTIES IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE TIME!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, February 12 th	Wilson Historical Society Board of Directors	7:30 pm
Monday, February 17 th	President's Day	
Tuesday, February 18 th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, February 24 th	Wilson Historical Society General Mtg. "History of South Wilson Fire Company"	7:30 pm

Tugwell Report:

While we were readying exhibits for the Tugwell Cabin last spring, historical society member Bill Rose searched online. He came up with an item, which is a true highlight of our exhibit – the June 25th, 1934 issue of "Time" magazine, which featured a picture of Tugwell on the cover.

The corresponding article makes interesting reading and its clear politics haven't changed in seventy years. The occasion of the article was a hearing concerning an upgrade of his position in the Roosevelt administration from Asst. Secretary of Agriculture to Undersecretary of Agriculture. South Carolina's Senator Smith said, "He is a handsome, splendidly equipped and manicured gentleman . . . but throw him into the cotton fields and he would starve to death". Alabama's Senator Black countered with, "This man has brains . . . He has dared to raise his voice in favor of old-age pensions."

The remainder of this month's Tugwell report will be more direct quotes from the "Time" article because it gives an outside view from that era.

"In his office after the confirmation, he beamingly received congratulations and that night one of his friends, novelist Sinclair Lewis, gave a party to celebrate the victory."

"At 42 he is a handsome figure of a man. Besides being a connoisseur of dress, he is also an amateur of wines."

"Not his personal characteristics but his social ideas were what made Dr. Tugwell an issue with the Senate. All his life he has been a voluble liberal."

The article quoted from a poem Tugwell wrote at age 24 which ended with this sentence, "I shall roll up my sleeves – make America over!" The article then went on: "In the next twenty years Dr. Tugwell became a professor of economics and settled down to teach at Columbia, but he still saw the world through the same spectacles. To him the trouble with the U.S. economic system was that profits were not spread widely enough."

In 1932, Raymond Moley was selected to find specialists to formulate some good answers to national questions during Governor Roosevelt's presidential campaign. "To Governor Roosevelt, Dr. Tugwell stated his prime belief that private greed under the profits system had caused the Depression. At once Mr. Roosevelt and the professor were on speaking terms."

"President Roosevelt holds Dr. Tugwell dear, consults him perhaps once a week on agricultural questions, hears him whenever a new scheme springs up in the fertile Tugwell mind."

Remember that when you have occasion to stand in the Tugwell Cabin. ~ Marlene Schotz

Puzzle of the Day: What is that which was tomorrow and will be yesterday?
Answer to last month's puzzle: Red Riding Hood

A winter sport from the early 1900's is shown in this old photo. This is a homemade sail which you can see is made from some long slender saplings and lashed together with rope and probably a piece of lightweight canvas. The man in the photo is Walter Keebler, and the homemade device is called a Skate Sail. The Keebler's had a cottage on Sunset Island during this time. This photo is from the Wilson Historical Society collection and was donated by George Collins. ~ Charles F. Horton, Town of Wilson Historian



The Baker's Helper

It has been sixty years since I was a baker's helper in Frank Swan's bakery in Wilson, I helped in nearly all the facets of preparing dough products in a small bakery. I learned to make two kinds of doughnuts, cake and regular.

Here is the equipment used and how the doughnuts were made:

1. *Doughnut fryer about two feet in diameter and eight inches deep.*
2. *Electric heaters to raise the temperature of the vegetable oil to the correct temperature that would turn the doughnuts a light brown.*
3. *A hand cranked doughnut machine that deposited raw dough into the vegetable oil in the shape of a doughnut.*
4. *There were two types of doughnut dough made; one kind was made from regular bread flour and the second type was made from yellow cake flour.*

After the dough was deposited in the hot vegetable oil it would float on the surface, half submerged, and turn brown in a few minutes. When I determined that the color was the proper brown, I flipped the doughnut with a stick to the uncooked side until it was also the right color. The batch was removed from the oil on a sieve that was in the oil from the beginning of the process.

A taste test was used to determine if the doughnuts were good enough to eat! Lots of doughnuts disappeared in the process. Then the toppings were applied - chocolate, marzipan, etc.

The next doughnuts were made of white flour without the holes. The same cooking process was used. These would become jelly and cream filled doughnuts. Of course, these also needed to be taste sampled by me. The equipment used was a tube that was inserted into the doughnut and a pump which injected the filling into the doughnut.

*This job was an after school job which paid little, except for the doughnuts that I ate! ~ Lester S. Clark
More to Come!*

Membership: Please remember that membership fees will be \$10.00 for the whole family or for individuals beginning in June of 2003. Membership to the Wilson Historical Society would make a great gift at any time of the year - birthdays, Christmas, thank you. Current memberships will end on May 31, 2003. Also, we still have Historical Society calendars available for 2003! Only \$8.00 (plus \$1.00 for shipping and handling) and filled with wonderful old photographs of Wilson. ~ Sandy Holden, PO Box 319, Wilson, NY 14172

Weather Poem: *Sing a Song of Winter, The world stops dead. Under snowy coverlet,
Flowers lie abed. ~ Cosmo Monkhouse*

Wilson Historical Society

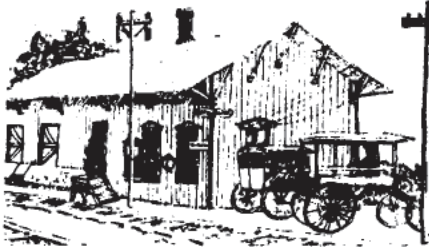
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FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK:

Fair Committee

Our first 2003 Memorial Day Fair meeting took place on January 30th at Lois Barnum's house with Kyle Andrews at the helm. The Fair Committee had much to talk about and did establish some important ground rules for safety. We are asking that people please leave their animals, dogs, cats, snakes, and all other household pets at home. It is in the interest of all concerned, as it is our thought that any animal, no matter how well trained or behaved, can bite or scratch when subjected to the amount of people that come to our fair. Last year we had a few incidents with animals that could have gone awry if not for a couple of quick minded people who interceded. So simply stated: NO ANIMALS ALLOWED.

Monthly Meeting

January 27 was the monthly society meeting. Jean Neff from the Amherst Museum was our speaker. Her topic was parlor games from long ago. The audience was a small one but we enjoyed the meeting, as we were invited to take part in the games, and act out certain parts depending on what word was assigned to us from a story. Jean also showed us how to do a short play utilizing shadow puppets.

Veteran Sign

I have been contacted by Arnie Wolse from American Tactile in Medina courtesy of Mr. Sheffler and Mr. Horton. Mr. Wolse has some ideas about our Veteran Sign and is willing to come up with a price that will fit in to our budget.

Volunteers

I have spoken before of the need for volunteers for our Memorial Day Fair. This is our yearly fundraiser, and we are in dire need of volunteers for just about all our food concessions, as well as garbage pick up, and parking. If any one has an hour or two on Memorial Day please sign up as a volunteer.

Keep warm, and pray for nice weather soon. ~ Sally

NEWS FROM THE PAST Wilson Cemeteries

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

In 1846 a two acre plot was set aside as a cemetery on the southwest corner of the Nathaniel Davis farm, located on the east side of Wilson Cambria road opposite from where the railroad depot now stands.

In 1850, a offer was made by Luther Wilson to donate eight and one-quarter acres of land near the harbor for a more suitable burial ground. The offer was accepted and proper steps were taken under the rural cemetery laws to incorporate, and the Greenwood Cemetery Association was organized. Five years later, on December 27th, 1855, the land was actually deeded over to the Association by Luther and Sarah Wilson. Additional land was later purchased to allow for a larger burial ground, walkway and driveway to Harbor Street. All persons interred on the Davis Farm were moved there in 1872 in compliance with State laws.

There have been other cemeteries over the years that have disappeared through neglect. One was believed to have been located on Daniels Road between New and German. Another was on the grounds of the old St. Peters German Evangelical Lutheran Church that was once located on the north side of Nelson Road. The church burned and was never rebuilt.

Quote of the Day: "To me, old age is always 15 years older than I am." - Bernard Baruch

Excerpts from Board of Directors Meeting January 8th, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Sally Smith with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a quorum present. Attending the meeting were: Sally Smith, Gordon Strablow, Pam Groff, Judy King, Miles Linnabery, Art Schnoor, Lois Barnum, Bruce Muck, Kyle Andrews, Harold Benedict, Charles Horton, Celeste Crawford, Sandy Holden.

Secretary's Report:

Regarding the minutes of the December 11 Board meeting, there were no additions or corrections. The motion was made by Chuck Horton, seconded by Miles Linnabery to approve the minutes as mailed, carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Judy King, Treasurer, announced the figures for the period from Dec. 12, 2002 through Jan. 8, 2003. Motion was made by Lois Barnum, seconded by Art Schnoor to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the bills as presented, carried.

Two letters were read from Lester S. Clark of Hayward, Ca., commenting about the newsletter and offering some suggestions for future newsletters.

Scholarship Committee: Wally Goodman will schedule a meeting of the Scholarship Committee by the end of January.

Memorial Day Fair:

Judy Rose has stepped down as Fair Chairman but will continue to do the quilt raffle and will be publicity chairman. Kyle Andrews has accepted the position as Fair Chairman. He announced that meetings will be held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 pm at Lois Barnum's home. The committee members to date are: Kyle Andrews, Don Burrows, Pam Groff, Lois Barnum, Sally and Darrell Smith, Nettie Stimson, and Sandy Holden.

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 22 at 7 pm. They have made the recommendation to pay for the Barnum Building roof repair and renovation using funds from Society money market accounts or certificates of deposit.

Memberships:

Sandy Holden reminded us that 2002 memberships will run until June 2003. Single and family memberships now are \$10.

Programs:

Miles Linnabery, Program Chairman, announced that at the General Meeting on Monday, January 27, Jean Neff will be the speaker. Jean is the Education Director at the Amherst Museum and the President of Western New York Association of Historical Agencies (WNYAHA).

Acquisitions:

Acquisitions Chairman, Celeste Crawford, has received a donation of an oil portrait of an unknown gentleman given by the Tordoff family.

Veterans Sign:

Another price quote will be considered from Roger Vanderwalker of Medina.

Fittro Shop:

Fittro Shop Chairman Harold Benedict and Gordon Strablow will do the electrical work recommended by the Selective Insurance Company when the weather permits.

Christmas Traditions:

Bruce Muck shared a family Christmas tradition with the Board members tonight as he was unable to attend the December general meeting. Twenty-five family members sang carols around the Muck Christmas tree, which was lit by real candles. House lights were turned off and singing continued until the candlelight was gone.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff, Recording Secretary

FULL MOON LORE FOR FEBRUARY: The "Full Snow Moon" also known as the "Hunger Moon" will appear on February 16th. Since the heaviest snow usually falls during this month, hunting was very difficult, thus the second name!

THE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAYS DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2003. GAIL WALDER HAS PUT UP A CALENDAR IN THE DEPOT (INDEED, IT IS A WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR!) SO YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR NEXT YEARS' HOSTING DUTIES IF YOU HAVE A PREFERRED TIME!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, March 1 st	Town Meeting with Kyle Andrews at Town Hall	9:00 am
Wednesday, March 11 th	Wilson Historical Society Board of Directors	7:30 pm
Monday, March 16 th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, March 23 rd	Wilson Historical Society General Mtg. Bill Raffle on Celtic Music	7:30 pm

Tugwell Report:

This will be the last Tugwell Report because it will have covered Tugwell's youth in Western New York through his years of national prominence.

Last month I quoted from a "Time" magazine article from 1934 in which the writer called Tugwell's mind fertile. This surely was an appropriate description when one considers that Bernard Sternsher wrote a thick book titled "Rexford Tugwell and the New Deal," based solely on the part that Tugwell's ideas influenced Roosevelt's New Deal. Too often the media attacked him. Eventually his progressive ideas became more than Roosevelt would accept. Tugwell's ideas were collectivist. The atomists won out. Tugwell's own words as quoted by Sternsher were: "He (Roosevelt) must have understood this was a misinterpretation; but he was a politician. He could support only so much disapproval of an intimate; when the tolerance was exceeded, friendship must not be put before expediency."

Tugwell had a part in developing the letter programs, such as the NRA, the RA, the AAA, the CCC and the WPA, which were such a big part of New Deal policy. The legacy of those programs is still visible today. From two recent newspaper articles I discovered how vast those projects must have been. An article about an unknown inscription on the Lockport Public Library stated that 116,000 such buildings were constructed by the WPA. Another article told about a new book, which is compiled by Michael Lesy and contains photographs taken by Roosevelt's Farm Security Administration. The photographs were originally intended as New Deal propaganda, meant to make a record of why the resettlements of people and farms by the FSA were needed. Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange and Gordon Parks were three who became famous from the FSA beginning.

I have previously written about Tugwell's legacy in the "green" towns of the RA and the stonewall of the CCC along the Niagara River. Tugwell may not have been well appreciated nationally or even in his hometown, but the projects of the depression era are often part of our lives today. ~ Marlene Schotz



This year's Quilt Committee is excited to announce that the 2003 Memorial Day Fair Quilt Raffle will feature a hand appliquéd quilt in shades of coral and green in a beautiful "Bed of Roses" pattern. Second Prize is an outstanding hand carved wood figure sent bob Bob Schearer in Texas; Third Prize is a unique, hand crafted cross stitched tablecloth with matching napkins made by Elma McGrath; Fourth Prize is a copy of the Wilson Historical Society's local history, "Sketchbook II" written by Donald Croop, and Fifth Prize will be a Wilson Historical Society Cookbook featuring some of our local residents' finest recipes. Tickets are still a bargain at **ONLY \$1.00 per chance!** Ten tickets are included in this newsletter. As an added incentive to increase ticket sales, we will present an "Apple Quilt Wall Hanging" to the individual *selling* and *turning in* the most tickets by **May 1st, 2003.**

If you require additional tickets, please contact either Sandy Holden at 751-6596 or Judy Rose at 751-3771. Please return your completed tickets with \$1.00 per ticket, as well as any *unused* tickets on the purchase sheet so that the committee can sell them on Fair Day.

Puzzle of the Day: There is a thing that nothing is, and yet it has a name; 'tis sometimes tall and sometimes short; It joins our walks, it joins our sport; and plays at every game.
Answer to last months puzzle: Today

This month's photo shows the old steel bridge spanning the west branch of the Twelve Mile Creek. This bridge was called Plumb's Bridge, which I believe gets its name from a farmer named Sam Plumb. The Plumb farm is shown on an early map as being east of the bridge, about halfway between the Village of Wilson and Roosevelt Beach. Today this is part of the Wilson Tuscarora State Park. Nancy Wilson Lanson recently ask me how Roosevelt Beach got its name. The new steel bridge that spans the creek today was built about 1930 and the smaller bridge that is south of the cemetery was also built at this time. The Lake Road Route 18 was paved in cement around this time. The small bridge by the cemetery did not exist until this time nor did the big sweeping curve near the Wilson Boat House. These road and bridge improvements were made during the Roosevelt Administration, and some parts of Route 18 are still called Roosevelt Highway. The Plumb Bridge had an interesting sign hanging from the top which said "\$10.00 FINE FOR DRIVING FASTER THAN A WALKACROSS THIS BRIDGE". The small bridge is to be replaced this summer with a new span, so be prepared for detours! ~ Charles F. Horton Town of Wilson Historian



The Bread Wrapper

Fresh bread daily was the motto of Swan's Bakery in Wilson, which had several delivery trucks covering a route every other day. There were separate routes, so that a customer could get fresh baked goods three times a week. You could order what you wanted or receive a standard order every two days.

Wrapping bread started at 5:00 am. White bread, whole wheat, cracked wheat and salt rising breads were wrapped and sliced on a machine that gave me fits and starts because it was so primitive and many of its functions had to be adjusted each time it started.

Electric motors started, slicers cleaned and adjusted, conveyor belt running at the right speed and the wax hot sealing plates at the correct temperature. The proper wrapper was placed in the machine. It was only right that white bread was wrapped in the white paper wrapper. The bread was placed in an inclined trough and then gravity fed into the saw blades. The sliced bread traveled a conveyor to the bread wrapping sealing area. The hot plates pressed the sheet of wax paper around the bread, melted the wax, sealed the bread and pushed it out on a trough. The bread was then picked up and placed on a bread rack.

If all the moving items in this train of events were not coordinated, absolute chaos prevailed. If everything operated smoothly, the job took two hours - if something went wrong, four hours!

I really enjoyed wrapping bread and had some fun when I gave the job to a grown man. He fought the machine and the machine fought him back - of course, the machine won!

Mr. And Mrs. Swan treated me very well by paying me and giving me wine drop cookies and other bakery delights. The cookies were at least four inches in diameter and weighed four ounces. In winter, the bakery was warm and smelled of all the fine pastries - not much can be better than that! ~ Lester Clark

Weather Proverbs : Married in February's sleety weather, Life you'll tread in tune together.

◆
A winter's fog will freeze a dog.

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Town Of WilsonHistorian

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FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK:

Board of Director Meeting:

The February Board of Director meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather, but I think everyone was happy to stay in the warmth of their own homes, rather than trek out into the cold.

Fair Meeting:

The second fair meeting for 2003 was held on February 28th at the home of Lois Barnum. Kyle Andrews directed the meeting, and all seems to be well organized. However we are still in need of volunteers for our booths.

Spring is around the corner, and we all know the tell-tale signs. The Wilson Fire Dept has begun their Friday Fish Fry through Lent, and the South Wilson Fire Dept has begun serving Sunday Brunch through Lent. The spring social calendar goes on to include the Lions Club Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Egg Hunt is sponsored by the Lions Club, and will be held on the Wilson Historical grounds. Mark your calendars for April 19th. Plan to arrive early as the actual hunt begins at 12 noon.

Keep warm, and pray for nice weather soon. ~ Sally

NEWS FROM THE PAST
Wilson Yacht Club - June 1989

The first regular meeting of the Wilson Yacht Club was held on Sunday, August 7th, 1938. Mr. Waldren Hayes was the first Commodore, and some of the other members were Howard Murphy, Ernest Babbach, James Hinchcliffe, Jack Baldau, William Crandall, Clifford Beers, Robert Cone, Charles Hawkes and William Stein. On August 21st, 1938, the club was granted a Charter by the State of New York and a decision had to be made regarding the location for the club. Two sites were considered, (1), "Dog Island", the present site, and (2) the portion of the east end of Wintergreen Island owned by the Tugwells. "Dog Island, or Treasure Island as it was then know, was selected. It was purchased from Mrs. Fanny Sornberger and payments of \$50.00 a year were made to her.

On January 13th, 1939, a decision was made to make an addition to the original building and \$300.00 was appropriated. Originally, motorboats were allowed but now the club is limited to sailboats. Annual Regattas with the Olcott Yacht Club began in August 1940. At that same time, dredging of the harbor was discussed and talks were held with Arthur Ness about building a bridge to the island. Up to the present day, club members have been active in harbor improvements, preservation of the island and beautification of it.

Quote of the Day: "If necessity is the mother of invention, what was papa doing?" ~ Ruth Weekley

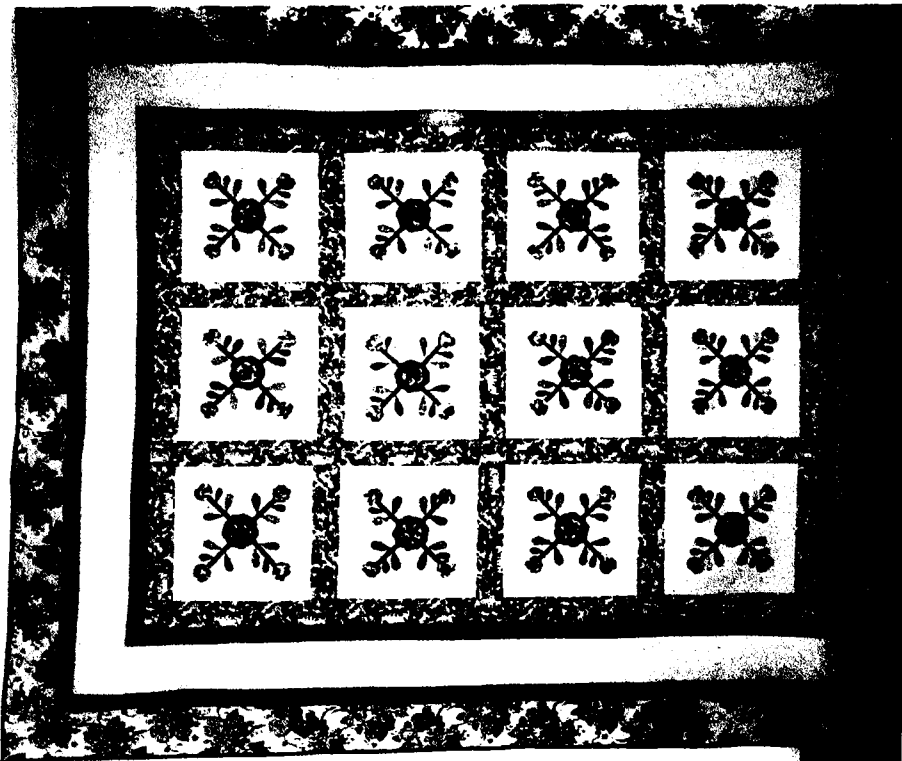
The Board of Directors meeting scheduled for February 12th, 2003, was canceled due to bad weather.

The 2003 Wilson Historical Society Quilt, "Bed of Roses", will be on display at the following locations, where you will also be able to purchase tickets:

⊕	Garden Gate	March 3 rd - March 24 th
⊕	Wilson Free Library	March 25 th - April 14 th
⊕	Wilson Comm. Pharmacy	April 15 th - May 5 th
⊕	Wilson Town Hall	May 6 th - May 21 st

Many thanks go to the ladies who appliquéd squares for the quilt: Pauline Alvers, Lois Barnum, Mary Clark, Shirley Evans, Julie Godfrey, Barb Mosher, Anne Rohring, Judy Rose, Winnie Terry, Norma Ward and Marge Williams. Also, a very special "THANK YOU" to Julie Godfrey, who assembled block kits for everyone and also assembled the completed blocks into the quilt top. Thank you to Lois Barnum as she put the binding on the quilt. She claims it was a good way to keep warm on a cold winter night!!

REMEMBER: *The person who sells and turns in the most tickets by May 1st will receive an apple quilt wall hanging!* If you require additional tickets, please contact either Sandy Holden at 751-6596 or Judy Rose at 751-3771. Please return your completed tickets with \$1.00 per ticket, as well as any *unused* tickets on the purchase sheet so that the committee can sell them on Fair Day.



FULL MOON LORE FOR MARCH: The "Full Worm Moon" will appear on March 18th. As the temperature begins to warm and the ground begins to thaw, earthworm's casts appear, heralding the return of the robins. This moon was also known as the Full Lenten Moon, considered to be the last full moon of winter, and the Full Sap Moon, marking the time of tapping maple trees.

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, April 6 th	Daylight Savings Time Begins	2:00 am
Wednesday, April 9 th	Wilson Historical Society Board of Directors	7:30 pm
Sunday, April 19 th	Easter Egg Hunt at Historical Society	TBA
Monday, April 21 st	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, April 28 th	WHS General Meeting	7:30 pm
	Mike Cejka - Channel 4 Weatherman	

Membership. Please remember that membership fees will be \$10.00 for the whole family or for individuals beginning in June of 2003. Membership to the Wilson Historical Society would make a great gift at any time of the year - birthdays, Christmas, thank you. Current memberships will end on May 31, 2003. Also, we still have Historical Society calendars available for 2003! Only \$8.00 (plus \$1.00 for shipping and handling) and filled with wonderful old photographs of Wilson. ~ Sandy Holden, PO Box 319, Wilson, NY 14172

There's A Tavern in the Town

The old song "There is a tavern in the town" and its lonely lament, 'Fare thee well for I must leave thee, do not let the parting grieve thee" could have well related to those early days on the Niagara Frontier when the stagecoach tavern was a welcome oasis for the weary traveler.

Many taverns were built along Niagara County's historic Ridge Road. It was until 1814 that the Ridge became a fairly good wagon road throughout its entire length, and dozens of taverns sprang up along it as stagecoach stops.

The Frontier House in Lewiston was perhaps one of the most famous. It was opened in 1826 by the Bartons, and entertained many celebrities such as Jenny Lind, Henry Clay and Washington Irving. Today it is maintained by McDonalds as a fast food restaurant. Another famous inn at Lewiston was the Four Corners Tavern, operated by Thomas and Betsy Hustler, and it is said that James Fennimore Cooper met the Hustlers while visiting in Lewiston and later used them in his book, "The Spy", as Sgt. Hollister and Betsy Flannigan. Betsy is credited with having originated the cocktail drink by mixing rum and lemon juice and serving it with the tail feathers of a cock pheasant for decoration.

On the south side of the Ridge at Warrens Corners sits the house that was once the site of a tavern owned in 1812 by John Forsythe. He died soon after, but his widow kept the tavern open and later married Ezra Warren ~ changing the name to Warren's Tavern. Across from the tavern was a log building used as a church, town hall and schoolhouse. One time an evangelist preached there on the sins of drinking, and Warren was converted overnight. The following morning, he dumped all the liquor in the cellar into the yard where his pigs immediately began to imbibe. They soon became too drunk to walk, and Warren had to drive around his farm with a stone boat to collect his "tipsy" pigs and return them home!

Most communities had their local taverns, and according to "Landmarks of Niagara County", the 1st tavern in Wilson was opened by T. T. Upton in 1818, a short distance west of the village. The 1st tavern in the hamlet was opened by Luther Wilson in 1829, but perhaps the most interesting one was the 'Tree Tavern" located midway between Wilson and Cambria. In the early 1800's, it was considered to be a long trip between Wilson and Cambria, so some enterprising individuals made an arrangement to place a jug of whiskey in a tree about midway between the two communities. Each member could help himself when passing by, and when the jug was empty, each took turns refilling it. The unique "rest stop" soon became know as the Tree Tavern!

Puzzle of the Day: What is this object, used by many? Make two parts of a cross and a circle complete; Let two semicircles on a perpendicular meet; then add a triangle that stands on two feet; two semicircles and a circle complete.

Answer to last months puzzle: Your shadow!

In the spring of 1972 my wife Ann and myself gathered up some antiques and other home furnishings, which did not fit into our new home and went to the first country fair that the Historical Society held. This photo, circa 1915, shows a large gathering at Wilson Station and with the Annual Country Fair coming up in May I thought this photo would be a good reminder of the 30th year of this event. The Station was enlarged and remodeled in 1913 to what you see today. In about 1976, the inside of the station, which was the freight room, was remodeled into the display and meeting room as we know it today. ~ Charles F. Horton Town of Wilson Historian

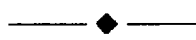


Hosting Duties for April, 2003

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>TO OPEN</u>
4/6	Richard & Verna Adams, Lois Barnum, Mary DeLapa	Lois Barnum
4/13	Celeste Crawford, Ellen Ellis, Donna Fritton, Jean Hayes	Celeste Crawford
4/20	CLOSED FOR EASTER	
4/27	Harold/Neva Benedict, Bob & Lorraine Baxter	Ollie Clark

Please remember to call Gail Walder at 751-9679 if you are unable to Host.

Weather Proverb: Stick to your winter flannels until your flannels stick to you.



Wilson Historical Society Newsletter

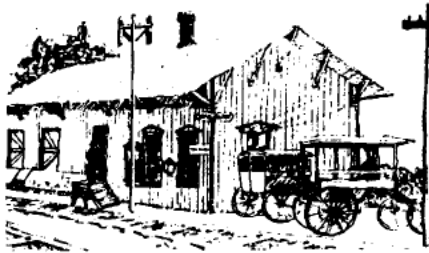
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April 2003 Vol. 32 No. 4

Town Of WilsonHistorian

Wilson, NY 14172



FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK:

The March general meeting was well worth the time. Hobson's Choice, a Traditional Celtic instrumental group, performed for us. What a treat they were to listen to! Miles Linnaberry did a fine job lining up that group. If anyone ever has the chance to see them in concert I highly recommend them. Thanks to Mrs. Strablow and Mrs. Kropp for providing the homemade refreshments for the meeting. Fair Progress: Each year, I know we sound like broken records in our requests for help at the Memorial Day Fair. If you receive a call from Gail Walder asking for your assistance in one of our booths, please respond with a YES I WILL HELP! If Gail does not call you, please call her at 751-9679 and volunteer your services in one of our booths at the fair. The Memorial Day Fair is basically our yearly fundraiser to help maintain the costs of keeping the Wilson Historical Society doors open. Our food booths include Chicken BBQ, Funnel Cakes, Corn on the Cob, Hot Dogs, Roast Beef, Pies, Coffee and Donuts, Cotton Candy, Sno Cones, Pizza, and Soda and Water. We also need Food Ticket Sellers, Ways and Means assistance and Quilt Ticket Sellers. Assistance is needed before the fair, for set up and after for clean up. If you would like to volunteer please call Gail Walder at 751-9679, or call me at 751-0102. HOORAY SPRING IS ON ITS WAY!!!!!!

Sally Smith

We Went Haying

One bright late summer morning, I was looking for something to do. A short distance away, I spotted a farmer harnessing a team of horses and hitching them to a farm wagon. I checked the wagon and it looked like a hay wagon, and it looked like this farmer, a friend who liked kids, was going to get a wagonload of hay.

A hay wagon is different than most wagons. A hay wagon has a wagon box with a rectangular board on each side about three feet wide and the length of the wagon box. Those boards were tilted slightly up on the outside. The other distinguishing part added to the box of the wagon was ladder like uprights attached both in the front and the back. Each was about six feet high. Some vehicle to carry hay!

Hay was a loose, free growing grass about two to three feet high and was used as winter food for horses and other livestock (cows). Farmers looked for fields that were mostly weed free. Once the hay field was found, the haying was started with horse drawn equipment, a mower and a rake. After the hay was mowed and dried, it was raked into rows. After a few days under the sun, the hay was dry and could be collected and hauled to the barn.

Today was the day to do the hauling. I asked the farmer if I could go with him and hold the reins of the horses during the loading. He said, "Ask your mother and then you can help me". He drove the horses to the field and aligned the horses and wagon along the windrows of hay. He began to lift the hay with a hayfork and place the hay in a special way so that the forkfuls of hay interlaced and formed a stable load and would not fall when the wagon was moved. The farmer loaded the wagon first from one side, then the other. He placed one fork full in the box and one fork full on each side of it. That was his plan to weave the hay and allow for more hay to be tossed on top of each layer. When he piled the hay about four feet high on the wagon, it was time to go to the barn.

I rode the wagonload of hay with the farmer to his barn. The horses knew the way and pulled the wagon to the correct position in the barn and whinnied for their reward, a pail of water and some mixed grains. The farmer unhitched the horses, took off the harnesses and let them walk to their stalls for their refreshments. I went home, pleased with the day! ~ Lester Clark

Quote of the Day: Spring is God's way of saying "One More Time" - Robert Orben

EXCERPTS FROM THE WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MARCH 12, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Sally Smith with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a quorum present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 8 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion was made by Ollie Clark, seconded by Gordon Strablow to pay the bills as presented, carried. The annual dues for the Niagara County Federation of Historical Societies is \$20.00. Chuck Horton moved to pay the annual dues, Diane Muscoreil seconded, carried. Money received from Chuck this evening for calendar sales totaled \$104. A letter was received from National Fuel Resources, Inc. indicating our agreement with them expires on March 31. We must respond by March 28 if we want to change, otherwise the agreement will extend until June 2004. The vote to stay with National Fuel Resources, Inc. was 6 yes and 5 no. Judy requests that Fair expenses which are paid by check on Fair day be approved ahead of time. No checks will be written on Fair Day without prior approval.

REQUEST FOR USE: Jill Rohring, representing the Wilson Lions Club, asked for permission to use the grounds on April 19 at 12 noon for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Motion was made by Judy King, seconded by Don Burrows to grant the request, carried.

VETERANS SIGN: Another business that will be contacted for prices, ideas, etc., is American Tactile in Medina. The contact is Arnie Wolse. A web site is available: www.americantactile.com. Bill Rose will do research on the internet and talk to American Tactile.

TOWN FUNDS: Bruce Muck suggested the Society choose a specific project that the money from the Town will be used for, notify the Town explaining the project and thank them for the extra money.

2004 CALENDAR: Chuck Horton and Diane Muscoreil are hard at work on the 2004 calendar. The layout was displayed for the Board members to see after the meeting.

PAINTING: Chuck brought in a catalog put out by Sam Cottone, antique dealer, with the suggestion that if we wish to sell the donated painting of an unknown gentleman, this would be a very good way to get it on the market.

POSTCARD BLITZ: Chuck also brought postcards for everyone to sign to help obtain grant money to restore the Hamilton House in Lockport as an interpretive museum which would be canal related. These postcards will be sent to Tom Reynolds.

GROUND: Gordon Strablow announced that more shingles have blown off the pole barn roof.

FITTRO SHOP: Harold Benedict has complied with the insurance company regarding the electrical work to be done in the Fittro Shop Gordon did the work and Harold inspected it.

FAIR COMMITTEE: There is no chairman for the roast beef this year. Anyone wanting to volunteer or having a suggestion please contact any Fair Committee member.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The nominating Committee for 2003 consists of Lois Barnum, Bruce Muck, Kyle Andrews, Diane Muscoreil, Bill Rose, Ollie Clark, Harold Benedict, and Don Burrows

INSURANCE REQUEST: Wanda Burrows asks that a written report of the problems corrected be sent to the insurance company.

ALARM SYSTEM: Don Burrows would like to deal with another alarm company.

BARNUM BUILDING REPAIRS: Don has heard from Ed Hastings regarding his estimate. Ed said the price would be higher than the \$22,849 estimate, possibly \$2,000 more. A motion was made by Darrell Smith, seconded by Chuck Horton to allow 10% of the estimated price to be added, which is \$2,284, totaling \$25,133. If more funds are needed, Ed must come before the Board. Motion carried.

PORSCHE: Bill Rose requests when the title to the Porsche arrives in the mail that it be forwarded to Mike Horn.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee met on January 22, 2003 with four members present. The committee conducted the annual internal audit of the books and accounts of the Society. No irregularities were noted. They then reviewed income and expenses for the years 2001 and 2002 and established a budget for 2003. They established budget amounts for the fixed expenses and for projects, noting that the Board of Directors must approve all of the actual expenditures and allocations. A copy of the proposed budget was included with the Committee's report and both were distributed to those in attendance. The report concluded with praise for the Treasurer for Her efforts and the details that she provided to the Finance Committee for this audit and to the Board of Directors at their monthly meetings. The Committee recommends that the Society continue with the policy of having an internal audit of the books on an annual basis and that the Treasurer continue to file the annual report with the IRS, as has been the practice in the past. Report submitted by Daniel King, chairman.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Groff Recording Secretary

FULL MOON LORE FOR APRIL: The "Full Pink Moon" will appear on April 16th. This name came from the herb moss pink, or wild ground phlox, which is one of the earliest widespread flowers of the spring. Other names include the Sprouting Grass Moon, Egg Moon and Fish Moon because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, May 14 th	Wilson Historical Society Board of Directors	7:30 pm
Monday, May 19 th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, May 26 th	Memorial Day Fair	9 am - 4pm

Membership: Please remember that membership fees will be \$10.00 for the whole family or for individuals beginning in June of 2003. Membership to the Wilson Historical Society would make a great gift at any time of the year - birthdays, Christmas, thank you. Current memberships will end on May 31, 2003. Also, we have Historical Society calendars available for 2003 ON SALE! Only \$3.00 (plus \$1.00 for shipping and handling) and filled with wonderful old photographs of Wilson. ~ Sandy Holden, PO Box 319, Wilson, NY 14172 email: opieholden@aol.com

NOTE: Any money sent for memberships, calendars or tickets must be in US Funds!!

When Life's Toils End

It has been said that a well-kept cemetery is a reflection of the type of people who live in a town, and Dr. Ralph Loew, a former Courier Express writer, once noted "Civilization always leaves some evidence of a way of life in its cemeteries. Tombstones can tell stories, and archeologists have poured over the remains of ancient burial grounds to gradually piece together the story of mankind's progress. Epitaphs also reveal sentiments of shattered loves and dreams, or disclose a glimpse of history that might otherwise be overlooked. Here are a few from the collection of the late Clara Kaiser to illustrate the point.

From Ransomville: Remember me as you pass by, As you are now, so once was I
To follow you I am not content, unless I know which way you went.

From New England: Beneath these stones do lie, back to back, my wife and I
When the last trumpet the air shall fill, If she gets up, I'll just lie still.

From New York: Here lies the body of Susan Lowder, who burst while drinking Sedlitz powder
Called from this world to her heavenly rest, she should have waited till it effervesced.

A touch of humor: Here lies the father of twenty nine, He would have had more but he didn't have time.

Here lies the body of Solomon Pease, under the daisies and under the trees
Pease is not here, only the pod - Pease shelled out and went home to God.

Here lies the body of Johanna Proctor, taken sick but wouldn't Doctor.
She can't come back - she had to go. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Finally this beautiful sentiment from a Wilson gravestone:

Safe with the glorified, Safe at the Saviors side;
Through endless days, Basking in Jesus love,
Rests now our weary dove; Sweet Myrtle May.

From the Mailbag

I enjoyed reading the piece about the Swann bakery. I worked nights at the Falls during the war and rode the bus to and from. Mr. Armstrong was the driver and he would leave us off in front of the baker around one o'clock in the morning. It would be bitter cold, but the smell from the bakery was wonderful! You could almost feel the warmth. My Mom always liked the Salt Rising Bread, and after moving to Florida had a hard time finding it. On Thursday they made a delicious chocolate donut by order only. Gosh they were good! Sure brings back some good memories! ~ Joyce Bohnstadt

Betty really liked the choices for the drawing at the Fair - especially the hand appliquéd quilt! We enjoyed the quote about quilting being "a good way to keep warm on cold nights". We are in the best of health and we are comfortable. Great newsletter! ~ Lester & Betty Clark

Puzzle of the Day: When will there be but 24 letters in the alphabet?

Answer to last months puzzle: Tobacco!

Greenwood Cemetery is one of the Town of Wilson's historical treasures. The cemetery has existed for over 150 years and during those years it has suffered many ups and downs. The Town of Wilson maintains the grounds, but over the years there have been several acts of vandalism to the stones and monuments. Recently the cemetery suffered damage to about 40 different sites. One of the sites damaged was that of Reuben Wilson's family plot. The damage at this site and some of the others was severe. The Town of Wilson has been setting aside money to aid in a general restoration of the cemetery. Since the recent damage is so large, the Town of Wilson is setting up a cemetery fund for the restoration of these stones and others that have been damaged over the years. If you would like to donate to this fund, send your contribution to the Town of Wilson Cemetery Fund, PO Box 537, Wilson, NY 14172. The photo below is of the old wooden gates at the entrance of Greenwood Cemetery. Charles F. Horton Town of Wilson Historian



IN GREENWOOD CEMETERY.

Hosting Duties for May, 2003

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>TO OPEN</u>
4th	Johanna Andritz Ted & Melva Bull Jean Richards	Robert Hull
11th	John & Jane Demmin Jack & Dorothy Maxfield	Jack Maxfield
18th	Wally & Chris Goodman Eleanor Myers Mildred Neville	Wally Goodman
25th	NOT OPEN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - REMEMBER THE FAIR!	

Please remember to call Gail Walder at 751-9679 if you are unable to Host.

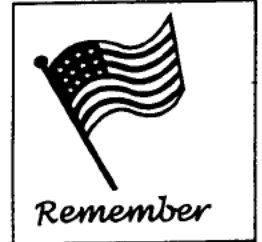
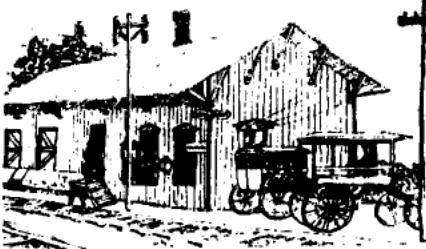
Weather Proverb: After the rain cometh the fair weather.

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

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May 2003 Vol. 32 No. 5

Town Of Wilson Historian
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Wilson, NY 14172



FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK:

Our annual Memorial Day Fair is only a few weeks away, on Monday May 26th. So far all the pieces are falling in to place. As always, we are looking for volunteers. Please call if you are interested in assisting at one of our booths. Gail Walder is setting up work schedules and she can be reached at 751-9679. We will be on the grounds Saturday and Sunday before the fair to get things set up. Sunday is the busiest set up day. Again, all are welcome to come and assist, and we NEVER turn down workers!

Art Schnoor is one of our long standing Directors at the society. Art has decided not to run for re-election as a Wilson Historical Society Board Member. Art has always been there to assist in any way at the society. He is a Charter member of the society, and attended the very first society meeting on June 28, 1972. He was appointed as a Board Member June 17, 1974 by then President Dr. Argue. Art has served on the society board since that time. My first memory of Mr. Schnoor is that he seemed to be able to do anything. No job was too big or too small. We appreciate all the time he has spent working at the society. Art used to run the Hotdog Stand at the Memorial Day Fair, and they were the best hotdogs I ever tasted! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Schnoor for all the time and work he has invested in the Wilson Historical Society. I, personally, was able to learn much from Mr. Schnoor in the years that I have known him. He has a wealth of knowledge. Hats off to you, Mr. Schnoor, and thanks for all your volunteer work. I am sure we will continue to see Mr. Schnoor around town or at the monthly general meetings of the society.

Sally

Memorial Day Fair

On Monday, May 26th, 2003, from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, the Wilson Historical Society will sponsor its Annual Memorial Day Fair at the Museum grounds on Route 425 in the Town of Wilson. The Fair, first organized in 1973, was designed as a way of meeting operating costs, and, thanks to the fine attendance and support from area residents and those outside our immediate area, has done so successfully each year since.

This year's fair committee expects over 250 flea market vendors to fill the field out back with all sorts of antiques, collectibles and oddities. The antique/classic car show will also take place, with plaques being given to all participants. Special attention is being given to the beautiful "Bed of Roses" quilt to be raffled off on Fair Day. The quilt is currently on display at the Town Hall.

Food is another big draw on fair day, and this year will be no different! We will have funnel cakes, hot dogs, Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ, beef-on-weck, homemade pies, kettle corn, snow cones, coffee and doughnuts, pizza and fresh roasted corn on the cob!

Entertainment takes place throughout the day, and a special Memorial Day Tribute to our veterans by the Wilson American Legion Post will begin at 12:00 noon around the Veterans Monument and Flag. We also will have activities for the children, including games, balloons, a petting zoo, pony rides and the climbing wall.

Free parking is available in the village and a free bus shuttle service will bring you right to the grounds. We invite everyone, young or old, to come share the fun at this year's Memorial Day Fair and help kick off the summer season! Hope to see YOU there!

Quote of the Day: "When you want to test the depths of a stream, don't use both feet."

EXCERPTS FROM THE WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING April 9th, 2003

President Sally Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with the Pledge to the flag. There was a quorum present. In attendance were: Judy King, Gordon Strablow, Gary Fitch, Harold Benedict, Charles Horton, Miles Linnabery, Celeste Crawford, Diane Muscoreil, Sally Smith, Darrel Smith, Bruce Muck and Bill Rose.

The minutes of the March 12th meeting were approved as mailed on a motion by Miles Linnabery, seconded by Judy King and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Judy King gave the following report: Bills paid totaled \$912.93. A motion was made by Charles Horton, seconded by Miles Linnabery and carried that the bills be paid as read.

Programs: Miles Linnabery reported that Mike Cejka of Channel 4 Weather would be here to speak at the April 28th meeting. Miles has found a band to present "Mood Indigo" in the spring of 2004. The group is "Sugar & Spice" out of North Tonawanda. Their 76-year old conductor remembers playing in the 1930's and is willing to work out a fee with Miles that could include pizza and wings during intermission for the band members! Miles will be applying for a grant from the Niagara Council of the Arts. He is hoping to have members wear tuxedos as the original group did. We are hoping to get the school auditorium for free to hold the 1930's style dance, with punch and cookies served during intermission. Miles also announced that he has lined up Mr. Hanks to speak during the September meeting on the New York Central Railroad System.

Grounds: Harold reported that no official activities have taken place on the grounds due to the weather. They plan to roll the grounds as soon as possible.

Town Historian: Charles reported on the vandalism at Greenwood Cemetery and reported that a letter will be placed in our Newsletter regarding a fund that has been set up to raise money for the restoration of damaged stones. Over 40 stones were damaged, including the Obelisk of the Wilson family.

Calendar: Charles reported that we are around \$400.00 short of breaking even on last years' calendar sales. Bill rose made a motion, seconded by Miles Linnabery, that the calendar project be continued for another year. Carried. Calendars will be ready for the fair and this year's calendar will also be sold at a reduced price of \$3.00. It was suggested that one of this years calendars be given to anyone purchasing a new membership in the society this year.

Buildings: Darrel reported that he needs two new keys for the buildings. A motion was made by Judy King, seconded by Bruce Muck that the money be made available, carried.

Veterans Plaque: Bill Rose reported that he had a meeting regarding the memorial plaque, and is planning a second meeting. We need to come up with our plan to give to the designer. Bill will bring some additional information to the next meeting.

The Lions Club would like to store their Lion at the Society if possible. Jim Muscoreil will contact Dan King to see if something can be set up.

The Lions Easter Egg Hunt will be held on the grounds at 11:30 am on Saturday, April 19th.

It was reported that Ollie Clark would like to make three flower boxes for the west end of the depot out of scrap plywood. Don Beutel would plant them for us. A motion was made by Judy King, seconded by Charles Horton, to let Ollie use the plywood, carried.

The slate of officers for the year 2003-2004 was presented to Sally Smith to be read at the General Meeting on April 28th, 2003.

A motion was made by Bill Rose, seconded by Bruce Muck and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
A. Diane Muscoreil, Corresponding Secretary

FULL MOON LORE FOR MAY: The "Full Flower Moon" will appear on May 15th at 10:36 pm. In most areas, flowers are abundant everywhere during this time. Thus, the name of this moon!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, June 11 th	Wilson Historical Society Board of Directors	7:30 pm
Sunday, June 15 th	Father's Day	
Monday, June 16 th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm

Membership: Please remember that membership fees will be \$10.00 for the whole family or for individuals beginning in June of 2003. Membership to the Wilson Historical Society would make a great gift at any time of the year - birthdays, Christmas, thank you. Current memberships will end on May 31, 2003. Also, we have Historical Society calendars available for 2003 ON SALE! Only \$3.00 (plus \$1.00 for shipping and handling) and filled with wonderful old photographs of Wilson. ~ Sandy Holden, PO Box 319, Wilson, NY 14172 email: opieholden@aol.com

NOTE: Any money sent for memberships, calendars or tickets must be in US Funds!!

News from the Past**Trophy Fish Finding Home in Wilson Dateline:1984**

It seems only a few years ago that polluted waters and the lamprey eel began to pay havoc with the game fish in Lake Ontario and its tributaries. The once abundant fishing industry of the Wilson Brothers slowly dried up as pike, bass, trout and other popular species disappeared.

Those who longed to "wet a line" and experience the thrill of hooking into a "big one" had to be content to fish for the lowly bullhead or sucker as other varieties became scarce. These were often caught in the early morning or late evening hours, and it wasn't uncommon to see the banks of 12 Mile Creek lined with fishermen - lights from their lanterns reflecting over the smooth waters. Many would build small fires to provide warmth, and then patiently wait for their lines to draw taut - a sure sign that a bullhead was sucking in the bait.

Game fish were destined to make a comeback, however, as Conservation and Environmental groups looked for a solution and began to make things happen. It was discovered that the lamprey eel could be controlled by attacking its spawning beds in small streams, and as the lamprey began to disappear, great fish-stocking programs were started.

(Note: May 8th, 2003, we had our own fish stocking at the pier on the end of route 425 - photos taken by Brad Clark are up on our website - quite an interesting project to watch, as the two retrievers shown in the photos will show! Some local contests coming up are as follows: June 7th - 9th is the Lake Ontario Pro Am Salmon Team Tournament, June 21st is the Kids Fishing Derby, June 28th - 29th are free fishing days in New York State and July 26th thru August 3rd the Fish Odyssey runs in local water! Why not throw in a line??)

From the Mailbag

Interesting fact - My 1st grandchild, Joshua, (son of Darrel and Sally Smith) will be graduating from WCS exactly 50 years after my own graduation! ~Carol Smith

Easter Egg Hunt at Historical Society

Lions 1st Vice President James Muscoreil reports that the Easter Egg Hunt held on April 20th on the Historical Society Grounds was a great success! It is estimated that over 600 people attended the event, with approximately 300 of those being enthusiastic kids! The large chocolate bunnies, a new addition to this year's hunt, were a **BIG** hit with the kids! All the kids promised to back next year to try again for that chocolate!! Jim extends his thanks to all that helped to make this year's event one of the best ever, especially Jill Rohring and all the Lions, from both Wilson and Ransomville! This was the first time the Ransomville Lions helped out, and what a terrific group they are! Photos are up on the Wilson website, www.wilsonnewyork.com.

Puzzle of the Day: My first, if you do, you won't hit it, my next, if you do, you won't leave it, my whole, if you do, you won't guess it.

Answer to last month's puzzle: When "U" and "I" are one.

This month we have a photo taken around the 1920's. The garden is at the home of Will Mudge (Lois Barnum's Grandfather). The home is on Pettit St. and, as you can see, there is an elaborate arbor along with a high fence to support many flowers. To the right of the people is a small fountain spraying water. Gardening was a popular pastime of this era and in the last twenty or so yeears has become very popular again. Last year my wife Ann and I put in a small pond to complement our garden so I can safely say that history repeats itself! The annual Memorial Day Fair has several local growers setting up that will be offering many different plants for your garden. I hope you enjoy the photo!

Charles F. Horton Town of Wilson Historian



Hosting Duties for June 2003

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>TO OPEN</u>
1 st	Ellsworth McKelvey, Art & Carol Schnoor, Beverly Woolson	Art Schnoor
8 th	Lorraine DeRize, Ray & Pam Groff, Mary Lenihan	Pam Groff
15 th	Robert & Bobbie Hull, Jack & Melinda Hutchinson	Robert Hull
22 nd	Kara Holden, Jim Lepsch, Doug & Sandy Walch	Kara Holden
29 th	Ollie & Helen Clark, Bruce & Bonnie Muck	Ollie Clark

Please remember to call Gail Walder at 751-9679 if you are unable to Host.

*New flowery scents strewed everywhere,
New sunshine poured in largesse fair,
"We shall be happy now," we say.
A voice just trembles through the air,
And whispers, "May."*

Sarah C. Woolsey, American Writer (1835-1905)

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

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WILSON, NEW YORK

June 2003 Vol. 32 No. 6



Town Of Wilson Historian
[REDACTED]
Wilson, NY 14172



FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK:

I would like to offer praise and thanks to the many volunteers who made our Memorial Day Fair a success this year. I know it sounds like a broken record, but the Memorial Day Fair could not exist without all the people who give freely of their time, talents, and energy. THANKS BUNCHES!!

June is here, but summer has not accompanied it. With June also comes the Annual Wilson High School Senior Class awards. The Wilson Historical Society sponsors a scholarship as a memorial to Don Croop. The Don Croop Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to senior Jacqueline Sievert. Best Wishes to Jackie in all her future endeavors. I would also like to extend best wishes, and congratulations, to the entire graduating class of 2003, and their parents. Fly! Be free, and make your mark on the world, we can only hope it will be a positive one.

Speaking of June, the Annual Pot Luck Meeting will be held June 23rd @ 6pm in the Barnum Building. The Society will provide Hotdogs, and everyone who attends is asked to bring a dish to pass. See you there!!
Sally

Mer Day Fair

We want to thank all of the members _____ non-members who bought & sold over 2,000 tickets for this year's quilt and other prizes! It was, by far, the best numbers we have had since the fair began 30 years ago.

The winners are:

5 th prize	Wilson Historical Society Cookbook	Mary Wilkinson
4 th prize	Wilson Historical Society Cookbook	Julie Beilein
3 rd prize	Cross-stitched linens	Connie Moore
2 nd prize	Wood carving by Bob Schearer of Moses	Celeste Farky
1 st prize	Bed of Roses Quilt - made by Julie Godfrey, Judy Rose, Emily McAvoy, Shirley Evans, Winifred Terry, Norma Ward, Pauline Alvers, Anne Rohring, Lois Barnum and Barb Mosher	

And the winner is Shirley Linnebank!

Do You Know This Farm??

The 1908 atlas from which the maps in the Tugwell building were copied also contained descriptions of some of the farms. Though changed, this farm still exists.

"Orchard Grove is located on the Town Line Road three miles south of Wilson Station. It contains 160 acres. General soil products include wheat, oats, corn and the raising of sweet corn, beans, peas and tomatoes for canning purpose. There are 40 acres in meadows and 12 in timber. This farm is principally noted for its fruit, which, together with its dairy of thoroughbreds, furnish the farm's chief resources. Its fruit department contains 25 acres of apples, 2 of pears, 1 of plums and 1/2 of grapes. The apple varieties are most Greenings, Baldwins, Russets and Spies. Three fine wells supply water to stock and buildings. Two thousand barrels of apples were harvested in 1907, the product being sold a \$3.00 per barrel. This is another of the fine farms in Wilson. Its building improvements are of a high class and include a fine 20 room brick residence, a basement barn, carriage house, tool house, corn house and a two story pig sty."

Do you know who owns this farm today? Look for the answer in our next newsletter!
-Marlene Schotz

Quote of the Day: "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him float."

**EXCERPTS FROM THE WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:
May 14th, 2003**

President Sally Smith called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present. Attending were the following: Sally Smith, Darrell Smith, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Judy King, Miles Linnabery, Art Schnoor, Wally Goodman, Lois Barnum, Bill Rose, Kyle Andrews, Harold Benedict, Ollie Clark, Don Burrows, Gary Fitch, Charles Horton, Celeste Crawford, and Dorothy Maxfield.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the April 9th Board meeting were approved as mailed on a motion by Judy King, seconded by Ollie Clark and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Judy King gave her report: A motion was made by Lois Barnum, seconded by Miles Linnabery, to pay the bills as read, carried.

Donations: Donations were received in memory of Mike Harvey and Alan Rutherford from Mrs. Gerry Rutherford, in memory of Michael Harvey from Jean Bolyard, and in memory of John Clark.

Curator: Dorothy Maxfield told of a buyer interested in a piece of furniture, which was not accessioned. Motion was made by Dorothy Maxfield, seconded by Bill Rose, to sell the piece to Nettie Stimson for \$100.

Alarm System: Bill Rose has contacted two companies who advised that new systems be put in at an estimate of \$5,000.

HarborFest: The HarborFest committee would like information on the Fleetwing, the ship captained by Captain Quick whose wife and son and also the ship's cook were drowned. It was suggested that the Society might be able to do a display.

Grounds: Harold Benedict and Ollie Clark constructed four flower boxes. They are requesting volunteers to plant them and suggested that the Sunday hostesses could water them.

Gordon would like to open a gasoline account on the reservation to save approximately \$.25 per gallon. Motion was made by Darrell Smith, seconded by Diane Muscoreil to open an account at Smokin Joe's, carried. Judy King will fill out the application.

Fair:

Argue Building: Bill Rose and Wally Goodman would appreciate volunteers to help clean the cars

Tugwell Cabin: The cabin needs to be cleaned from the recent repairs so items can be displayed inside.

Ways and Means: The new calendar costs are less than last year's calendar and will be ready for sale on Fair day. Also 2003 calendars will be sold.

Antique Cars: Chuck Horton has again purchased plaques to give to those who bring antique cars for display on Fair day.

Fair Chairman Kyle Andrews reported that the mounted police and civil defense have been contacted, and there now is a roast beef chairman. The prisoner work release program will have men here Friday the 23rd to stripe the dealer area, and on Tuesday the 27th for clean up. Four will also be here on Wednesday the 21st to wax cars if we can provide supervision. Also the apple grader needs to be moved from the breezeway to the Fittro barn.

A special presentation by President Sally Smith was made to Art Schnoor on behalf of the Board of Directors for his many years of service to the Society. Art was presented with a clock and thermometer in a wooden frame. A charter member of the Wilson Historical Society, Art is currently a Trustee. His term ends June 2003. A special cake was served after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff
Recording Secretary

FULL MOON LORE FOR JUNE: The "Full Strawberry Moon" will appear on June 14th at 6:15 am. This moon is named after the fruit crop that is NORMALLY available at this time of year! ☺

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, July 4 th	Independence Day	
Wednesday, July 9 th	Historical Society Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, July 21 st	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, July 28 th	Historical Society General Meeting	7:30 pm

From the Membership Desk:

Many of our members have remembered the change of date for renewal to June 1st, 2003, to run until May 31st, 2004, and the change to \$10.00 for either one and/or more persons. For those of you who forgot, we are including a membership form in this month's newsletter for your convenience. Those who have not renewed will have a yellow highlighter line under the date of the newsletter on the address page. After July, non-renewals will be removed from our mailing list! We hope you don't miss a single issue. We would also like to welcome the following new members: Susan Kirkendall, Mary Lynn DeSalvo and Ann Schearer (all daughters of Bob and Elizabeth Schearer), Norm & Jane Eaton and Suzanne Pilon. Also, welcome back Priscilla & Tom Smiley! We mourn the loss of our following members: Virginia Mahoney, Marion Campbell (Life Member), Ken Welker (Life Member), Charles Horton (Life Member and Uncle to our Town Historian), Vernon Croop (Honorary Member) and Edna Rose (Life Member).

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 US FUNDS

Puzzle of the Day: What small animal is turned into a large one by taking away part of its name?

Answer to last months puzzle: Miss-take!

The Town of Wilson has many historical treasures, but the best treasure of all is Greenwood Cemetery. Greenwood Cemetery is far more than just a place of burial for our family, friends and neighbors. It is an archive of local history that is carved in the stones for all of us to see, it is the body and soul of our town, which has made us what we are today, it is an architectural collection of many different stones and monuments made up of many different materials. On top of all this, it is located on a high mound with the 12-mile creek winding past it on the south, west and north sides. The grounds are well maintained by the Town of Wilson and when you visit our cemetery you will at once realize why it is called Greenwood. Huge pine trees that were planted many years ago, along with other trees, like an oak that measures over 21 feet in circumference, shade and protect the grounds. The location is a nature lovers' paradise as you can walk to the rear of the grounds and, by descending a slight grade, enter into the wilds of the state park. The photo you see is of the large oak tree I mentioned. This photograph was taken about a month ago while I was at Greenwood enjoying a sunny afternoon!

Charles F Horton Town of Wilson Historian



Hosting Duties for July 2003

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>TO OPEN</u>
6 th	Norma Ward George & Sue Cruickshank	Marlene Schlotz
13 th	Sarah Humphrey Joyce Banagis Miles & Anna Linnaberry	Miles Linnabery
20 th	Gordon & Virginia Strablow June Kropp Kara Holden	Gordon Strablow
27 th	Tom & Jackie Singer Gary Gath Judy Gerlach	Dan King

Please remember to call Gail Walder at 751-9679 if you are unable to Host.

If there be many falling stars during a clear evening in summer, expect thunder. If there are none, expect fine weather!

Wilson Historical Society

Newsletter

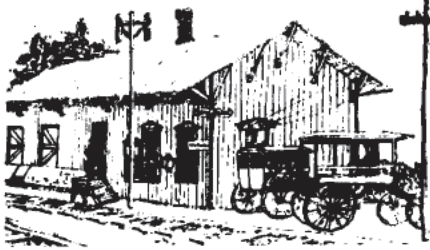
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July 2003 Vol. 32 No. 7

Town Of Wilson Historian

██████████
Wilson, NY 14172



FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK:

Thank You: A very big THANK YOU goes out to Marianne Evans and Junior Member Michelle Evans for helping me weed and plant flowers around the Wilson Historical Society sign. Also, thanks to Mr. Ollie Clark, Mr. Harold Benedict and Mr. Gordon Strablow for completing the flower boxes and mounting them on the windows of the Depot. They look terrific!

Dumpster Foundation: The foundation for the dumpsters that we utilize on Fair day and for the Methodist Labor Day Flea Market has been started, and should be completed soon.

Depot Skirting: The Depot needs to have some of the skirting replaced, as it has deteriorated due to the weather and allows much cold air under the depot during the winter, which in turn increases the heating bills. We are in need of some volunteers to assist in replacing these plywood boards.

Plumbers Needed: The Barnum Building has a leak under the kitchen sink and in the small storage room next to the men's bathroom. Volunteers are needed to complete this task. If you can help call Darrell Smith @ 751-0102

Exley Methodist Flea Market and Chicken BBQ : The Methodist church will be sponsoring their annual flea market again this year on Labor Day. It will be held on the Wilson Historical Society grounds again this year so remember to come out on Labor Day. See you at the Funnel Cake Stand! We will be there!

P.S. Judy, we hope you are up and around, and feeling better soon. You are in our prayers.

~ Sally

Do You Know This Farm?? (Answer)

Although the name "Orchard Grove" is no longer appropriate, the farm today belongs to historical society member and Town councilman Bruce Muck and his wife Bonnie! The changes at "Orchard Grove" were typical of other farms in the town. One hundred years ago, all farms grew various kinds of fruit and most had dairy animals.

Did you notice in the description that the distance given was from Wilson Station? The stops on the railroad, which opened in 1879, were called stations. In the beginning, the purpose was to transport agricultural production, a large percentage of which was apples. The train also hauled milk in cans, which farmers brought to the nearest stations.

Mr. Muck currently raises heifers and boards cows rather than milking them himself. In 1950 there were about fifty small dairy farms in the Town of Wilson. Now, there are four; one of them milks over 1500 cows! The transition began in the '50s, with the advent of bulk milk tanks. The government encouraged farmers to "get bigger or get out" in the '60s, and over the years, that is exactly what has happened!

Wilson also had two canning factories, which closed around forty years ago, taking away the market for locally grown canned vegetables. The fruit industry has also dwindled, just like dairy and vegetables. Unfortunately, local agriculture has suffered through hard financial times for many years now. ~ Marlene Schotz

Quote of the Day: "A proverb is a short sentence based on long experience."

EXCERPTS FROM THE WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

June 11th, 2003

President Sally Smith called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present. Attending were the following: Sally Smith, Darrell Smith, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Wally Goodman, Bill Rose, Harold Benedict, Ollie Clark, Don Burrows, Gary Fitch, Charles Horton, Dorothy Maxfield, Gordon Strablow, Bruce Muck and Paul Holden.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the May 14th Board meeting were approved as mailed on a motion by Ollie Clark, seconded by Diane Muscoreil and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Don Burrows gave the treasurer's report in the absence of Judy King. A motion was made by Bruce Muck, seconded by Dorothy Maxfield, to pay the bills as read, carried.

Federation: Chuck Horton attended a recent Federation meeting and reported that the theme for the County Fair Historical Display will again be Barns.

Grounds: Darrel looked into prices on rental equipment to do repairs on the lawn. It would cost \$325 for 8 hours and \$21 per hour beyond the first 8 hours. This cost included delivery, full tank of gas and pickup. Bruce Muck offered the use of his bobcat after 8:00 am, but transportation would have to be worked out. John Leible has offered to bring his bobcat and fill the ruts, working for approximately 2 hrs.

A suggestion was made that a ground maintenance fund be established in next years' budget.

Harold feels that the restoration of the grounds should be a Fair expense, with Bruce suggesting that dealers who have to be towed out pay a donation to the Society.

Gordon suggested a stone base be laid for the dumpsters, eliminating ruts in that area.

A grounds roller, one of three borrowed from the County, has been repaired by Mr. Daigler. Motion was made by Chuck Horton, seconded by Bill Rose, to pay Mr. Daigler his fee of \$100 for the repair, carried.

Memorials: Judy Rose's family has donated a weeping cherry tree in memory of Edna Rose. The Schoolhouse and Grounds committees have been notified, and Bill will plant the tree when he has directions as to placement.

Argue Building: A Mr. Johnson is writing an article on the Covert and has talked to Bill Rose, Bill has asked for a copy of the article when published.

The Porsche title has been turned over to the raffle winner of the car.

The Car Committee will meet and make decisions on possible disposal of old cars; one in question is the 1973 black Buick Riviera.

Accessions: Bruce muck has requested that the Deaccession committee meet to deaccess the portrait of an unknown gentleman given by the Tordoff family, so that it can be sold in an appropriate manner to generate revenue for the Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff
Recording Secretary

Do you have an interesting story or memory of Wilson you would like to share with our readers? If so, please send it to: Editor, Historical Society Newsletter, PO Box 830, Wilson, New York, 14172, or e-mail it to adm@wilsonnewyork.com and I'll try to put it in an upcoming edition of the newsletter!

FULL MOON LORE FOR JULY: The Full Buck Moon will appear on July 13th, 2003. It is called the Buck Moon because this is the time when bucks begin growing their antlers. It is also known as the Thunder Moon because July brings intense summer heat and much thunderstorm activity.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, August 13 th	Historical Society Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, August 18 th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm

From the Membership Desk:

We would like to welcome these new members: Dan & Vickie Fritton of Middleport, Cliff and Mary Hessel of Rochester and Debbie & John Leible of Wilson (Debbie co-chaired the Roast Beef Booth on Fair Day, and John worked with the Lions in the Hot Dog Tent). We also welcome back Joyce Roszmann. Two of our members have recently reached a VERY special birthday this year - Happy Birthday to Zilpha Petty and Frances Diez!

Memorial

We have lost another member, Jane Wilson, formerly of Wilson. Jane Stoddard Wilson was born on the Randall Road in 1904, the youngest of 11 children. She attended the Randall Road School and then for high school she traveled by train to the Wilson Depot and walked to the high school, where the Town Hall currently stands. Her father, Peter, was a blacksmith, and her mother, Hannah, was a stay at home mom who did everything from scratch! Jane received a teaching certificate and taught school in the Ransomville area. She married Merle Wilson in 1933 and moved to McChesney Street in the Village of Wilson. They had one daughter, Nancy (Lanson). Merle owned and operated a fish market and boathouse at the harbor until 1967. Jane worked in the High School cafeteria until her retirement in 1982. In 1998 Jane moved to Webster, NY, to live with her daughter Nancy, her husband Bob, and their family. Jane was predeceased by her parents and siblings; her husband Merle and a granddaughter, Patricia Jane. She will be remembered fondly by her many friends in the Wilson area. ~ Sandy Holder

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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	_____

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WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

ALL MONIES MUST BE IN US FUNDS

Puzzle of the Day: What is the difference between a professor and a mosquito?
Answer to last months puzzle: Fox

This is a photo of a survey marker that was put in place by the Holland Land Company. The Holland Land Company purchased all of Western New York from the U. S. Government after the Revolutionary War. Joseph Elliot and a team of over 100 men spent three years surveying all of Western New York. Western New York was divided into grids of land, the largest being a Township, followed by ranges, then lots. For example, the Town of Wilson is in township 15. The Town of Wilson is then subdivided into Range 7 and Range 8; the Townline Road is the line of separation. Each range is then divided into lots, so if you look on your deed it will tell which range and lot your property is located in. In the early 1800's, a forest covered Western New York, so in order to sell land, the Holland Land Company needed to place these stone markers. Then, once you purchased land from them you could go out and find a stone marker and measure off this to locate your purchase. The marker you see below is in the northwest corner of Lot #70 in the Town of Wilson. To see one of these old markers is a real treat, because there are very few of these left after 200 years. If anyone knows of more of these stone markers in the Town of Wilson, I would certainly like to see and photograph them!

~ Charles F Horton Town of Wilson Historian



Hosting Duties for August 2003

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>PERSON TO OPEN</u>
3 rd	Howard & Dot Parker Bill & Mary Ann Rolland	Charlie Horton
10 th	Don & Wanda Burrows Don & Yvonne Smithson	Don Burrows
17 th	Dan & Judy King Ron & Susan Haefer	Dan King
24 th	Pat Rice Doug & Sandy Walch	Marlene Schotz
31 st	Linda Airgood Greg & Dena Mandaville	

Please remember to call Gail Walder at 751-9679 if you are unable to Host.

If the Sun goes pale to bed,
'Twill rain tomorrow, it is said.

Wilson Historical Society

Newsletter

645 Lake Street
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August 2003 Vol. 32 No. 8

Town Of WilsonHistorian
Wilson, NY 14172



FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK:

The Tugwell Cabin suffered some damage to a couple of the display frames after the fair. Marlene Schotz did a fine job of replacing the broken items, and sprucing up the cabin again. Remember when you come to visit the museum, the Tugwell cabin has a fine display case with information about Rex Tugwell, thanks to Marlene Schotz.

Plumbers Unite - Dan King and Darrell Smith did a terrific job of fixing the water leak in the Barnum Building and in the women's bathroom!

Grounds Keeping- Harold Benedict and Gordon Strablow continue to make the society grounds park-like, toiling tirelessly. Keep up the good work!

Exley Methodist Flea Market and Chicken BBQ - The Wilson Historical Society will once again host the Exley Methodist flea market and chicken BBQ on the Society grounds. This event is as greatly anticipated in September as the Memorial Day fair is in May. See ya at the Funnel Cake Stand! ~ Sally

Will Rogers, who died in a plane crash with Wylie Post in 1935, was probably the greatest political sage this country has ever known. Enjoy the following quotes---

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
2. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
3. There are 2 theories to arguing with a woman...neither works.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.
6. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
7. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
8. There are three kinds of men The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence.
9. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
10. If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
11. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.
12. AND FINALLY: After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him...The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut!

AND, ABOUT GROWING OLDER.....

First, Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second, The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third, Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Fourth, When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

Fifth, You know you are getting old when every thing either dries up or leaks.

Sixth, I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

Seventh, One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Eighth, One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Ninth, Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Tenth, Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

Quote of the Day: "When you want to test the depths of a stream, don't use both feet.

- Chinese Proverb

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 9, 2003

President Sally Smith called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was declared present. Those attending were: Sally Smith, Darrell Smith, Gordon Strablow, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Miles Linnabery, Bill Rose, Sandy Holden.

TREASURER: No Treasurer's Report was available.

SECRETARY: The minutes of the June 11 Board meeting were approved as mailed by a motion made by Miles Linnabery, seconded by Gordon Strablow.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD: A thank you was received from Jackie Sievert, recipient of the Don Croop Memorial Scholarship Award.

GROUNDS: Gordon and Harold have had trouble with the battery in the mower, received a replacement from Niagara Implement.

MEMORIALS: A contribution was received from Carl and Judy Jennejahn in memory of Jane Wilson.

ACQUISITIONS: Dwight Jensen has donated a book he wrote entitled: A Rough Country and a Rugged People - a history of Oxford, Idaho, dedicated to his mother - Lola Ethel Nutting Jensen 1913-1994.

PROGRAMS: The September 22 General Meeting will host speaker Mr. H. Adams, from the Medina Railroad Museum.

MEMBERSHIPS: Sandy Holden reports that membership renewals are going well.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS: Strate Welding has inspected the fire extinguishers and recommends we have three more: a 5 lb. in the Pole Barn, a 10 lb. in the Fittro Shop, and another 5 lb. in the Schoolhouse.

APPOINTMENTS: Motion was made by Bill Rose to continue all appointed positions as per Article 6, Section 1:

Dorothy Maxfield	- Museum Curator
Lois Barnum	- Planning Board Chairman
Dan King	- Finance Committee Chairman
Dorothy Maxfield	- Depot Chairman
Kyle Andrews	- Barnum Building Chairman
Wally Goodman & Bill Rose	- Argue Car Building Chairman
Harold Benedict	- Fittro Shop Chairman
Don Burrows	- Caboose Chairman
Harold Benedict	- Grounds Chairman
Mickey Hunter	- Breezeway/Shelter Chairman
Diane Muscoreil	- Nominating Committee Chairman
Kyle Andrews	- Memorial Day Fair Chairman
Wanda Burrows	- Schoolhouse Chairman
Chuck Horton	- Federation Representative
Dan King	- Storage Barn Chairman

ANTIQUÉ CARS: Bill Rose is checking the value of the 1973 Black Buick Riviera on the internet.

VETERANS MEMORIAL: There is an organization in Maryland that may be a possible source of funds for our Memorial. They help local communities to recognize veterans. Bill Rose will contact the organization and get more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff, Recording Secretary

Do you have an interesting story or memory of Wilson you would like to share with our readers? If so, please send it to: Editor, Historical Society Newsletter, PO Box 830, Wilson, New York, 14172, or e-mail it to adm@wilsonnewyork.com and I'll try to put it in an upcoming edition of the newsletter!

FULL MOON LORE FOR SEPTEMBER: The Full Harvest Moon will appear on September 10th, 2003. The Harvest Moon is always the full moon nearest the autumnal equinox, delivering more light in the early evening to aid the farmers in their harvest.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, September 1 st	Labor Day Flea Market at Historical Society	
Tuesday, September 9 th	Primary Election	12 - 9 pm
Wednesday, September 10 th	Historical Society Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, September 15 th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, September 22 nd	General meeting	7:30 pm
Tuesday, September 23 rd	Fall Equinox	

From the Membership Desk:**Memorials**

Dora A. Wakeman was born in Wilson, NY on October 2, 1903 to the late Daniel and Etta Hatch Campbell. Dora was a lifetime teacher for the Wilson Central Schools and a member of North Ridge United Methodist Church. She was also a member of the Wilson Historical Society, the Lockport Senior Citizens, a former member of the Wilson Free Library Board of Directors and a 50 year member of the Wilson Eastern Star Post 268. Dora was also an avid bridge player. Dora was predeceased by her husband, Wirt Wakeman. She is survived by her son, Ross (Jean) of Cary, NC, one daughter Marcia (James) of Gowanda and five grandchildren, six great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Fenton C. Cole was born in Perrysburg, New York on March 26th, 1911, the son of the late Clarence and Mabel Hubbard Cole. He worked at Union Carbide as a welder for 30 years. His hobby was woodworking. He was a member of the Wilson Historical Society. He was predeceased by his wife, Elizabeth "Bessie" Cole, and is survived by one son, Robert (Gail) Cole of Macedon, NY and one daughter, Audrey (Wayne) Orr of Ransomville, NY, two granddaughters, Lisa and Anita, and two great grandchildren, Dan and Emily, and several nieces and nephews.

We have **two new life members** this month - **Judith and William Rose.**

Judith Lynn (Wilson) Rose was born in Lockport, NY, on January 13th, 1953. Her father is Tower William Wilson Sr., and her mother is Irma Ruth Westcott Wilson. Judy attended Thomas Marks School, St. Peters Lutheran School and Wilson Central. She is married to William Robert Rose, and they have two daughters, Heather Lynn Berwaldt and Jennifer Lynn Barr. Judy belongs to Exley United Methodist Church and is very busy with many organizations and clubs, including the Wilson Garden Club, Hospital Auxiliary, United Methodist Women and, of course, the Wilson Historical Society!

William Robert Rose was born in Niagara Falls, NY, on May 24th, 1949. His father was R. Willard Rose and his mother was Edna H. Gratz Rose. He attended Wilson Central and General Motors Institute. He also belongs to many clubs and organizations and is a 20-year retired army master sergeant. He was in White House Communications.

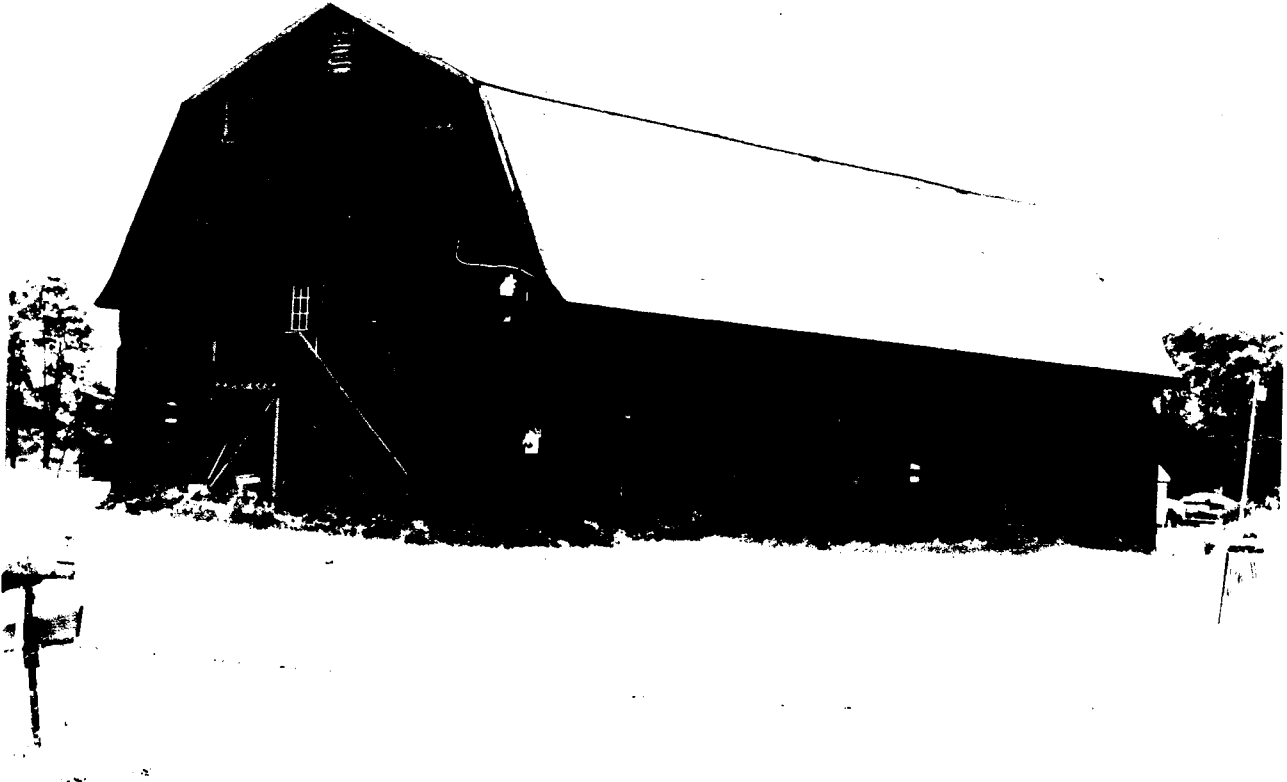
*Summer declines and roses have grown rare,
But cottage crofts are gay with hollyhocks,
And in old garden walks you breathe an air
Fragrant of pinks and August-smelling stocks.
-- John Todhunter (1839-1916)*

Puzzle of the Day: What word of six letters contains six words, besides itself, without transposing?

Answer to last months puzzle: One is a mentor, the other a torment!

BARN\$ OF THE TOWN OF WILSON is a ongoing project of the Niagara County Historical Society with the goal of photographing all of the barns of Niagara County. Each local historical society is trying to do their own town. As the representative from the Wilson Historical Society, I have been taking photos of the barns of Wilson. I have taken most of them from the road, except when invited on the property by the owner. I still have a long way to go in completing this task. If you were at the Niagara County Farm and Home Days and saw the barn photo display, you have an idea of what is going on. If you have not had your barn photographed and would like to be included, you can contact myself, the town hall or the historical society. This photo is a sample of one that was on display. ~

Charles F Horton Town of Wilson Historian



Hosting Duties for September 2003

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>PERSON TO OPEN</u>
7th	Julia Dulkiewicz Pauline Kurtz George & Pauline Alvers	Celeste Crawford
14th	Bob & Ann Botzer Brad & Judy Clark	Miles Linnaberry
21st	Howard & Leona Hunter Helen Sherrie Edna Robinson	Carol Schnoor
28th	Alice Thomas Kathy Pease Richard & Jan Zipp	Lois Barnum

Please remember to call Gail Walder at 751-9679 if you are unable to Host.

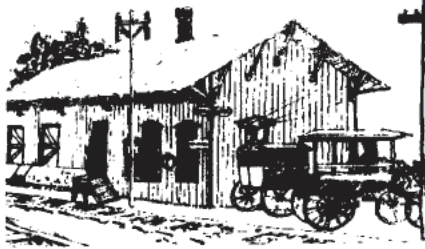
The sunflower raising its head indicates rain.

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

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WILSON, NEW YORK

September 2003 Vol. 32 No. 9

Town Of Wilson Historian
[REDACTED]
Wilson, NY 14172



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From the Presidents Desk:

September is almost over, and October is right around the corner. October 19th the Historical Society will be hosting the annual Halloween Party, so start working on your costumes! The Party will be from 2pm - 5pm and the line up for costume judging will begin at 3pm. Everyone is welcome to come whether you are dressed in costume or not. This Halloween Party has become more and more popular each year, and we hope to have another successful turnout with many costumed participants.

Well wishes go out to Virginia Strablow. We are hoping you will be up and around soon, and our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Birthday wishes go out to Sara Berry who celebrated a birthday this month.

Remember that Wilson is a beautiful place to visit. Why don't you come and visit our museum this fall? The museum is opened every Sunday from 2pm-4pm until December. Group tours can be arranged by calling Marlene Schotz at 751-9883.

We will be welcoming a tour from the Leroy Historical Society on October 4th at 11 am.

Sally

Some Interesting Dates in Wilson History

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1901 | Fire wipes out Masonic Block – all Village records destroyed |
| 1904 | Electric power comes to town – along with telephones |
| 1908 | Water and sewer lines run from Lake to Fredonia Preserving Co. |
| 1910 | Speed limit of ten miles per hour set for autos in Village |
| 1912 | First Constable, Albert Swick, appointed |
| 1915 | \$3000 bond issue voted for cement highway on Young St. 16 ft. wide |
| 1916 | Speed limit raised to fifteen miles per hour |
| 1918 | No parking on Young St. Tuesday evenings – Home Guard drilling |
| 1922 | Water and sewer lines voted for village – 158 ayes to 10 nays
Bids came in at \$21,171 for water and \$49,688.99 for sewers! |
| 1923 | Wilson Vol. Fire Co. No. 1 organized |
| 1924 | First Volunteer Fire Co. Field Days held |
| 1927 | \$500 appropriated for Fire Co. to purchase a used truck. |

Quote of the Day: "I don't like to commit myself about heaven and hell, you see, I have friends in both places." Mark Twain

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 2003**

President Sally Smith called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was declared present. Those attending were: Sally Smith, Pam Groff, Judy King, Miles Linnabery, Red Clark, Harold Benedict, Ollie Clark, Gordon Strablow, Mickey Hunter, Chuck Horton, Diane Muscoreil, Marlene Schotz.

SECRETARY: The minutes of the July 9 Board meeting were approved as mailed on a motion by Diane Muscoreil, seconded by Miles Linnabery.

TREASURER: Treasurer Judy King gave the Treasurer's report for June 12 through August 13, 2003. Motion was made by Chuck Horton, seconded by Miles Linnabery to pay the bills as presented, carried. Life memberships were received from Bill and Judy Rose and Stephen Horton of Tampa.

REQUEST: A letter from Exley United Methodist Church was read requesting the use of the Society grounds on Sept. 1, 2003 for their annual flea market. Motion was made by Miles Linnabery, seconded by Diane Muscoreil to allow the Church the use of the grounds as requested, carried. Chuck Horton suggested hostesses be available at the event so people could tour our buildings and exhibits.

FEDERATION: Chuck reported on the barn exhibit at the Niagara County Fair. Local people showed interest and several agreed to allow photos to be taken of their barns for next year's exhibit.

TUGWELL: Marlene Schotz is concerned about the bees at the cabin. Gordon Strablow volunteered to try to exterminate them. Marlene also said that a group from LeRoy will tour in October. The brochure available to visitors is out of date. An updated version could be placed at the Kenan Center and the Niagara County Historical Gift Shop. She also suggested that the Society could charge a small amount for the Cobblestone brochure. Diane Muscoreil volunteered to work on an updated brochure of all the buildings and exhibits. Marlene also asked about the Cobblestone display created by the 4-H South Wilson Pioneers. This could be updated and put on display in the Tugwell Cabin.

PROGRAM: Chairman Miles Linnabery announced the speaker for the September 22 General meeting will be Hank Adams, speaking on the Medina Railroad Museum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff, Recording Secretary

Do you have an interesting story or memory of Wilson you would like to share with our readers? If so, please send it to: Editor, Historical Society Newsletter, PO Box 830, Wilson, New York, 14172, or e-mail it to adm@wilsonnewyork.com and I'll try to put it in an upcoming edition of the newsletter!

FULL MOON LORE FOR OCTOBER: The Full Hunters Moon will appear on October 10th, 2003, at 2:27 am. The Hunters Moon is defined as the full moon following the Harvest Moon. With the leaves falling and the deer fattened, it is time to hunt. Since the fields have been reaped, the hunters can easily see fox and the animals which have come out to glean!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, October 8th	Historical Society Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Sunday, October 19 th	Historical Society Halloween Party	2 - 5pm
Monday, October 20th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, October 25 th	General meeting	7:30 pm
Friday, October 31 st	Wilson Lions Halloween Party	7:00 pm

From the Membership Desk:**Memorials**

Ruth D. Phillips was born in Wilson, NY on December 9, 1919 to the late Charles and Clara Fredericks Martin. She married Rollin Henry Phillips on May 4th, 1940. Ruth was a lifetime Wilson resident and graduated from Wilson High School in 1936, where she was active in sports. She was a lifelong member of Exley United Methodist Church, was also a life member of the Wilson Historical Society, past district deputy of the Rebekah's, past matron of Wilson Eastern Star #268, a member of Ransomville Eastern Star #374, a 50 year member of the Gnostic Guild, a member of Universal Craftsmen Council of Engineers, DeMolay mother and an active member of the Golden Agers, where she enjoyed many trips throughout the United States. She was an avid bridge and pinochle player, belonging to two bridge clubs. She is survived by four children, Rollin (Kathy)Phillips, Stanley (Sue) Phillips, Karen (Brian) Madera and Kathleen (Dave) Stewart; nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister, Betty Goater and a brother Pete Martin. She was predeceased by one brother, Stanley Martin.

We have a new life member this month - Steve Horton

Steve Horton, who joined the Society in July of last year, has become a life member. Steve was born to Charles A. and Norris J. Horton on August 6th, 1949 at Millard Fillmore Hospital in Buffalo. He attended Lockport High School and the University of Georgia. Steve and his wife Diane attend Aldergate United Methodist Church in Largo, Florida.

His grandparents are Earnest and Marion Horton of Hortons Hardware, his uncle is Robert Horton, and he is cousin to Chuck, Kathy and Tom Horton, all of Wilson. Welcome Steve!

*There are flowers enough in the summertime,
More flowers than I can remember --
But none with the purple, gold, and red
That dyes the flowers of September!
-- Mary Howitt*

Horoscope for Librans - September 23rd - October 22

The children of Libra are attractive, delicate and eager to please. They strive for balance and will act much like a pendulum. If they work too hard one day, you can be sure that they will get extra rest the next. These are also incredibly sensitive to their environment and are uncomfortable in dirty surroundings. They possess an incredible sense of color and design. Librans are great debaters and lawyers because they intuitively understand both sides of an issue. Every issue needs to be debated in their minds. These children will grow up into pleasant and social adults. Sound like anyone you know??

**Puzzle of the Day: If you transpose a term for low, what horses have will plainly show. Transpose these letters yet once more, what's said in churches you'll explore
Answer to last months puzzle: Herein**

The Town of Wilson was one of the leaders in higher education with the building of the WILSON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE in 1845. The picture you see here is an artists engraving of the Institute. This was used as a front piece for the 1854 booklet describing the offerings of the Institute. This school once stood where the Town Hall is today. When you look across the street and see the huge sprawling complex that makes up the school of higher education today, it is an unbelievable change in the 150 years that have gone by. Students that came from a long distance away also attended this Institute. The students would board at nearby homes and had to abide by a strict set of rules set forth by the Institute. One of the courses of study would enable the student to receive a state certification to teach school, so many of the teachers that taught in a one room schoolhouse were educated at the Wilson Collegiate Institute. ~ Charles Horton



WILSON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

Hosting Duties for October 2003

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>PERSON TO OPEN</u>
5th	Tom & Jackie Singer David Branch Charles Horton	Charles Horton
12th	Bill & Judy Rose Tom & Amelia Bach	Bill Rose
19th	Jerry Dean Don & Yvonne Smithson	Dorothy Maxfield
26th	Robert & Judee Cramer Charles & Jessie Michel Rachel Flagler	Charles Horton

Please remember to call Gail Walder at 751-9679 if you are unable to Host.

Swallows fly high, clear blue sky, Swallows fly low, rain we shall know.

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October 2003 Vol. 32 No. 10

Town Of Wilson Historian

Wilson, NY 14172



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Bill Rose

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Jerry Dean
Town Historian
Charles Horton

From the Presidents Desk:

GROUNDKEEPING: ON SEPT 13TH, WE HAD A SMALL WORK CREW THAT WAS DIRECTED BY GORDON STRABLOW, AND INCLUDED CHUCK HORTON, PAUL HOLDEN, JOHN AND DEBBIE LIEBLE, DARRELL SMITH AND MYSELF. THE TASK AT HAND WAS TO FILL THE TIRE RUTS MADE DURING THE MEMORIAL DAY FAIR IN THE FLEA MARKET FIELD. MEMORIAL DAY WAS DEFINATELY A MUDDY MESS WITH ALL THE RAIN. ALL IN ALL, FAIR DAY TURNED OUT QUITE WELL, BUT THE RUTS THAT WERE LEFT BEHIND NEEDED TO BE FILLED IN. DARRELL BROUGHT HIS TRACTOR WITH A SCOOP AND JOHN BROUGHT HIS BOBCAT LOADER. THE JOB WENT QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY AND GORDON WAS ABLE TO PLANT GRASS SEED. THIS IS A TESTMONY TO "MANY HANDS MAKING A JOB GO QUICKLY" THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME, EQUIPMENT, AND ENERGY!

MEMBER IN THE LIME LIGHT: TRUSTWORTHY- LOYAL- HELPFUL- FRIENDLY- COURTEOUS- KIND- OBEDIENT- CHEERFUL- THRIFTY- BRAVE- CLEAN AND REVERENT. TROOP 40 WILL BE HOLDING AN EAGLE COURT OF HONOR TO HONOR ONE OF OUR SOCIETY MEMBERS, JONATHAN ANDREW (ANDY) EVANS. ANDY WILL BE RECEIVING THE HIGHEST BOY SCOUT HONOR OF BECOMING AN EAGLE SCOUT. ANDY IS THE SON OF MARIANNE EVANS, BROTHER TO LAURA AND MICHELLE EVANS AND C... OF JEAN SWANSON. HE IS A 2003 WILSON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUA... WISHES TO YOU ANDY, THIS IS QUITE AN HONOR!

FALL FOLIAGE THE WILSON AREA CONTINUES TO BE A BEAUTIFUL AREA TO BEHOLD, AND THE COLORS OF THE CHANGING LEAVES DO NOT DISAPPOINT. REMEMBER OUR MUSEUM IS OPENED EVERY SUNDAY FROM 2-4PM UNTIL DECEMBER. GROUP TOURS CAN BE ARRANGED BY CONTACTING MARLENE SCHOTZ @ 751-9883.

SALLY

NEWS FROM THE PAST

Niagara Democrat, Wilson, Saturday, April 8th, 1848

Most of the citizens of our village and vicinity assembled at the Ship Yard this morning to witness the launch of the beautiful Schooner Emblem, just completed. She is a staunch and noble vessel of about 200 tons burthen, owned by Messrs. M & J.F. Johnson & Ass. The clear sky and bland breeze were invigorating, and the hundreds around her appeared sociable and happy. All promised well - though the time of her launch was set at 10 am, owing to some unforeseen circumstances, she did not start till a few minutes before 12, and then, very unexpectedly while several men were under her bottom knocking out her blocking to let her won on her "ways", she rushed to the water rapidly and before one of the workmen, Mr. Harrington, could escape. She knocked him down and run over him, instantly crushing him to the earth and leaving his body a mangled corpse before the spectators. He was a large man, but the space between the keel and the stones on which lay could not have exceeded 2 or 3 inches. He was 48 years old and has left a sickly wife and 6 young children. This dreadful accident threw a gloom over all the spectators, many of whom went away sad and tearful at beholding the agony of grief manifested by his aged mother who rushed to the spot and wailed aloud over his body. Verily in the midst of life, we are in death. B.W. Jr. (Submitted by Charles Horton, Historian)

Quote of the Day: "The hardest thing in life to learn is which bridge to cross and which to burn." - David Russell

**WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2003**

President Sally Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was declared present. Those attending were Sally Smith, Darrell Smith, Gordon Strablow, Pam Groff, Judy King, Miles Linnabery, Wally Goodman, Lois Barnum, Bruce Muck, Don Burrows, Charles Horton, Celeste Crawford, Marilyn Allgeier, Sandy Holden, Dorothy Maxfield, Marlene Schotz.

SECRETARY: The minutes of the Aug. 13 Board meeting were approved as mailed on a motion made by Darrell Smith, seconded by Chuck Horton.

TREASURER: Treasurer Judy King gave her report for the period August 14, through Sept. 10, 2003. Motion was made by Bruce Muck, seconded by Dorothy Maxfield to authorize Judy to pay the bills as presented, carried.

PROGRAM: Miles announced the September 22 general meeting would host a speaker representing the Medina Railroad. He asked for volunteers to provide refreshments. Reminder postcards will be sent.

ACQUISITIONS, LIBRARY, GENEALOGY: Celeste read annual reports for these three committees.

HALLOWEEN PARTY: Darrell requested the use of the Barnum Building and \$300 in funds for the annual Halloween party on October 19. It was so moved by Judy King, seconded by Miles Linnabery, carried.

HISTORICAL MARKERS: The company that manufactures markers has changed hands. The cost of an aluminum post and sign is now about \$750. Miles suggested that an Eagle Scout project could be to compile a booklet of Wilson's signs telling of the location and history, and perhaps repaint old signs. Marilyn Allgeier, Chairman of Historical Sites/Markers, reports that she has refurbished and painted six signs. The Anchor Farm sign needs a new post. There should be a sign at the former site of the schoolhouse, also the Daniels Family Cemetery on Daniels Road has no marker. Miles suggested doing one sign a year. A list of potential sites of where signs should be placed is needed.

TOURS: There will be a group from LeRoy coming to tour the Society grounds and buildings on Oct. 4 at 11 am. Marlene Schotz, Tour Chairman, needs more people to hostess for their visit.

ALARM SYSTEM: Bill Rose was not in attendance to report on his progress of obtaining an alarm company. The motion was made by Darrell Smith, seconded by Bruce Muck for Sally to call Bill Rose regarding the alarm system and tell him the Board's preference is ADT, carried.

BARNUM ROOF: Don Burrows requested other Board members speak to Ed Hastings if they see him regarding when Ed will be starting the roof project.

FAIR: Lois Barnum requested that the ice chest given to us by Jerry Kadryna be moved inside after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff, Recording Secretary

Do you have an interesting story or memory of Wilson you would like to share with our readers? If so, please send it to: Editor, Historical Society Newsletter, PO Box 830, Wilson, New York, 14172, or e-mail it to adm@wilsonnewyork.com and I'll try to put it in an upcoming edition of the newsletter!

FULL MOON LORE FOR NOVEMBER: The Full Beaver Moon will appear on November 8th, 2003, at 8:13 pm. This is the time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. This is also the time when the beaver are actively preparing for winter. His moon is sometimes also referred to as the Frosty Moon.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday, November 4 th	Election Day	6 am - 9 pm
Wednesday, November 5 th	Historical Society Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, November 17 th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, November 24 th	Historical Society General meeting	7:30 pm

From the Membership Desk:**Memorials**

William G. Smith, 68, of Pekin, NY, died on Wednesday, October 1st, after a brief illness. He was born in Warsaw, NY, the son of Grant and Virginia Smith. He moved to Wilson, NY as a child where he attended local schools and was a graduate of Wilson Central High School. He served with the United States Army from 1955 to 1957.

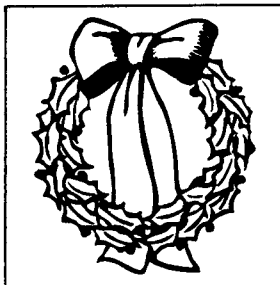
Mr. Smith was employed by the New York State Dept. of Transportation for forty years, prior to retiring as general foreman in 1993. He had served for many years as a Town of Lewiston Democratic Committeeman. He was an exempt member of the Pekin Fire Co. and a member of both the Sanborn and Wilson Historical Societies. He enjoyed traveling and going to flea markets and antique shows.

Surviving him is his wife, the former Carol Croop, two sons, Douglas, of Seven Valleys, PA and Darrell (Sally) of Wilson, a brother Jack (Jane) of Newfane, a sister Patricia, (Vernon) Barber of Bliss, NY, and grandsons Darrell, Joshua, Donald, Tyler and Zachary Smith. Burial will be in the Mount View Cemetery, Cambria, NY.

Niagara Falls Gazette - February 4, 1899 "Aged Couple Get Married"

Few men have had greater experiences in the legitimate matrimonial sphere than Timothy Pettit of Wilson. If marriage is a failure, he does not seem to be in the least daunted by past experiences and last night he took unto himself for better or worse a wife, his fifth, but whether his last no one can say. Timothy is close onto 70 years old but he is still capable of loving and appreciates a reciprocation of his feelings. Mrs. Pettit, who is 66 years old, has been a widow no less than two different times. The ceremony, which bound together this interesting pair, was performed in Niagara Falls. It was a rather quiet affair, invitations being extended to a few relatives and close acquaintances of the family. After the wedding a supper was served, and a short time later the happy couple, aged in years but young in spirit and filled with exuberant joy, journeyed to Wilson where they will make their future home on Mr. Pettit's farm. The brides name before her marriage last night was Mary Ann Bennett. She has a comfortable little fortune and her new husband also is quite wealthy. (Timothy H. Pettit was born on October 17th, 1829. He was a farmer in the Wilson area, and his farm was located on Wilson Burt road. Enoch Pettit owned the farm originally. Timothy deeded a half-acre of land for the District No. 3 Schoolhouse. Timothy had five wives, four of which four pre-deceased him. - Nancy Starr, Matilda Reed, Harriet Reed and Lorie Morgan. He was a member of the Wilson Baptist Church and died on July 15th, 1911.) Submitted by Gary Pettit.

*October's face, benign and mellow
Turns nuts to brown and leaves to yellow
But (like the Scorpion, sting in tail)
He ends with frost and scourging hail.
-Jan Struther, Novelist (1901-1953)*



The Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Committee will again offer wreaths with large red bows and sturdy stands to be placed at headstones in Greenwood Cemetery. Wreaths will be placed in early December and removed in early spring. The entire cost for the wreaths and the service will be \$25.00. Orders must be placed and payment received **NO LATER** than Monday, November 24th, 2003. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Wilson and sent to the Town Clerk at PO Box 537, Wilson, NY 14172. State the number of wreaths wanted and the names of the family members where the wreaths should be placed. If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerks Office at 716-751-6704.

Puzzle of the Day: How much dirt is there in a hole five feet deep, six feet long, and three feet wide?

Answer to last months puzzle: Mean, mane, amen

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the Fall Season will be well under way. This is the final harvest of locally grown crops, which reminds me of the three canning factories that were in operation when I was a young boy in the 1950's. In the village, the Hurlburt Bros. Canning Factory was located north of Pettit Street and was noted for peaches and Gold Crisp Pickles. North of the railroad tracks on the east side of Lake Street was the Wilson Canning Company, which processed cherries, tomatoes and apples. This cannery also had a machine which removed the peas from the vine and pods. The photo you see is of the old Fredonia Preserving Company, which is the present Pfeiffer Food Plant that makes salad dressings. In the early days, this plant or cannery processed peas, tomatoes and many other locally grown crops. Besides these canneries there were two apple storage buildings, one north of where the caboose sits today and the other still in business across the street and run by Gary Fitch, one of our past presidents. The open area in front of the Fitch cold storage was once a large vinegar plant and if you look at the south side of the storage at the open area you will notice another vinegar works. As you can see, the railroad caused large food storage and processing industry to be developed here. A great many Wilson people found employment at these places of business during the harvest season. When the trucking industry started to grow, the railroads that served small rural areas like Wilson started to decline. Today when you see these old railroad crossings and the old buildings that still stand, think of what it must have been like years ago. ~ Charles F. Horton, Town of Wilson Historian



Hosting Duties for November 2003

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>PERSON TO OPEN</u>
2nd	Ed & Marilyn Allgeier, Walter & Jamey Moxham	Ollie Clark
9th	Joe & Eliz Scherer, Rosanne & Bonnie Seaman	
16th	Lewis Bell, Jim & Diane Muscoreil, Gary Pettit	Diane Muscoreil
23rd	Tom & Gail Walder, Dick & Sue Schultz	Gail Walder
30 th	Ron & Susan Haefer, Susan Schearer	Dan King

When Spiders' webs in air do fly, the spell will soon be very dry

Wilson Historical Society

Newsletter

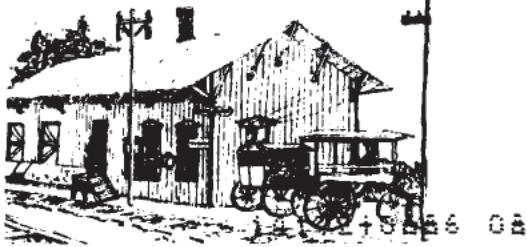
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November 2003 Vol. 32 No. 11

Town Of Wilson Historian

Wilson, NY 14172



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Miles Linnabery

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Harold Benedict
Ollie Clark

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Bruce Muck
Bill Rose

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Gary Fitch

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Jerry Dean
Town Historian
Charles Horton

From the Presidents Desk:

October 19th the Wilson Historical Society hosted their annual Halloween Party from 2pm-5pm. The party was, by all accounts, a huge success. Approximately 100 people attended, 61 costumed. We had 31 winners in age groups ranging from 0-adult. Many participated in the Halloween Word Scramble, Simon Sez and the Musical Paper Plate Game. Everyone attempted to guess how many candies were in the pumpkin. (Ninety sour candy corns were actually stuffed in there!)

David Anstead volunteered as the Dee Jay, and he did a very good job. Julie Smith was the fortuneteller, Debbie Leible was in charge of keeping the games running smoothly, and Marianne Evans kept the snacks and drinks replenished.

Ann and David Anstead, Marianne, Laura and Michelle Evans and myself decorated for the party on Saturday. Ann Anstead and Joan Hoover baked and decorated cupcakes, which were served throughout the party. Everyone had a great time! All the costumed partygoers paraded in front of the judges, Sue Sobiegray, Stephanie Fracassi and Albina Murawski. Again this year, the judges had to make difficult decisions to pick 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes in each age group.

Thanks to Julie, Chelsea, and Katie Smith, Michelle, Laura and Marianne Evans, David and Ann Anstead, Don and Wanda Burrows, Stephanie Fracassi, Debbie Leible and Darrell Smith, all who helped with clean up after the party.

Two families signed up to become historical society members at the Halloween party, the Liliethal and Frerichs families. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members! - Sally

FROM THE MAILBAG: *From Helen Covey, Deming, NM*

I don't know anything about the Fleetwing, but I do know that Captain Quick built the house at 112 Harbor Street for his wife and son. They never lived in it, however, because of the lake tragedy.

My grandparents, Joseph and Margaret Lockwood, bought the property and moved there when my mother, Beatrice, was about four years old, around 1898. Mother grew up there, graduated from high school and teacher's training class and went on to be a teacher for many years. I have memories of many happy times spent with Grandma and Grandpa during my growing up years. After they died, we moved there, about 1933, and it was like coming home.

At my high school graduation party in the back yard in 1935, we used the brand new fireplace, completed only that day. As a result, the big stone in the center of the chimney cracked!! Despite that, it was always a wonderful fireplace and we enjoyed many picnics, cookouts and family gatherings there.

My daddy, Emmet Salisbury, could fix anything, and old timers will remember that he had a shop in the old Power House where he built and repaired farm machinery and anything else that came along. After Daddy's passing, Mother continued to live in the "home she grew up in" until her death.

Quote of the Day: "Two men look out a window. One sees mud, the other sees the stars."

-- Oscar Wilde

**WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 8TH, 2003**

Vice President Darrell Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was declared present. Those attending were Darrell Smith, Gordon Strablow, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Miles Linnabery, Bruce Muck, Kyle Andrews, Gary Fitch, Chuck Horton, Celeste Crawford, Marlene Schotz, Dorothy Maxfield, Sally Smith.

SECRETARY: The minutes of the Sept. 10 meeting were approved as mailed on a motion made by Chuck Horton, seconded by Dorothy Maxfield.

TREASURER: Diane Muscoreil gave the treasurer's report. Motion was made by Miles Linnabery, seconded by Chuck Horton to pay the bills as presented, carried.

REQUESTS: Pam Groff's request to use the Depot on Dec. 9th for a Delphic Circle Christmas meeting was approved on a motion made by Kyle Andrews, seconded by Bruce Muck. Celeste Crawford requested the use of the Depot for a Delta Kappa Gamma Christmas meeting on Dec. 1st. Motion was made by Kyle Andrews, seconded by Chuck Horton to approve this request, carried.

BARNUM BUILDING: There is a strong gas odor coming from the electrical room at the Barnum Building. Dorothy Maxfield made a motion to hire a plumber to fix the problem, Bruce Muck seconded, carried. Chuck Horton will call Dave Schendel.

GROUNDS: Gordon Strablow thanked the men who helped with moving the dirt.

FAIR: There are cases of pop in the pole barn. Kyle will check to see if they can be returned to Lakeside, if not they could be sold to members for \$3.00 per case.

TOURS: Marlene had 20 visitors from LeRoy on Oct. 4. She couldn't find the car museum key.

GENERAL MEETING: It was decided to put a summary of the speaker's presentation in the monthly newsletter, to try to interest more people in attending.

CABOOSE: The caboose is 100 years old. The suggestion was made to put an article featuring the caboose in the newsletter.

ACQUISITIONS: A double school desk was received from Hoyt Desso's Estate. Diane Muscoreil volunteered to make up a deaccession form for the Society to use.

SECURITY: Sally had information from ADT regarding the installation and maintenance of a new security system from ADT for three buildings; the Depot, the Barnum building, and the Argue building. This company's charges seemed very expensive. Gary Fitch talked with Jim Wilson who said the depot system is in working order. Don Burrows is meeting a representative from Amherst Alarm Thurs., 10/9 and will get a quote from him. Kyle suggested we make a decision at the Nov. meeting as we will then have three prices to consider.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Groff
Recording Secretary

From the Membership Desk: Welcome back to Kathy & Dave Stewart and Anne Rohringll

FULL MOON LORE FOR DECEMBER: The Full Cold Moon will appear on December 8th, 2003, at 3:36 pm. Winter will soon be fastening it's cold grip upon us all. and nights are the longest and the darkest. It is also called the Long Nights Moon because the nights are the longest and darkest of the year.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, December 10 th	Historical Society Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, December 15 th	Town Board Meeting	7:30 pm
Monday, December 22 nd	Historical Society General meeting	7:30 pm
Thursday, December 25 th	Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!	

Memorials

We lost Life Member Joseph Geiser on October 14th, 2003. Joseph was born February 23rd, 1918, in Germania PA. He married Marguerite Richmond in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and they had three children: Stepson Arthur Turcotte Douglas Geiser and Raymond Geiser.

Joe was inducted into the service during World War II and served over 3 years in the South Pacific in the Medical Corps. He was shipped to Australia, then New Guinea, and finally to the Philippines where he served until the end of the war. He was happy to spend two months in Germania before returning to his job at International Paper, Niagara Falls. In 1951, he began a new job at Hooker Chemical, from where he retired with a disability after 24 years.

Joe enjoyed bowling, was a member of Our Lady of the Rosary R.C. Church, Wilson Chapter of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and an exempt member of Wilson Volunteer Fire Co. #1. Joseph was buried in Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Happy Birthday to The Historic 1903 Wooden Caboose

The old wooden caboose that sets just north of the former depot on the Society Grounds is 100 years old! It was acquired from Robert Stephanski, Jr. of Lockport through the persistence of the late Dr. Argue of Wilson, our first President. After considerable research, a set of blueprints for it were acquired, and it was determined that it had been built in 1903 at the New York Central Carbarns in Rochester, NY. It is classed as a work caboose and for many years it was used to service the rail line between Rochester and Niagara Falls, NY. Actually, it was a home on wheels for the work crews who ate and slept in it. How the caboose came to be placed on the museum grounds is a story in itself. Some of our members discovered a covered-over switching spur once used by the original Rome, Watertown and Odgensburg line. They cleared off the spur and prepared the site for the newly acquired caboose. Whit Barnum, Ollie Clark, Earl Swann and Bob Rohring placed new rails and ties over the original roadbed and Don Kerwin, Lloyd Albright, Fred Berry and Thomas Sharpe III drove the iron spike into the ties to hold the rails in position.

When everything was finally ready, "Red" Clark donated his time and equipment to transport the caboose from Lockport where it was disassembled, then brought it to Wilson on a flatbed, with the two heavy wheel sections loaded on a truck. It was a memorable day in December, 1974, when a caravan of cars and trucks, escorted by the Niagara County Sheriff's Department, pulled into the Wilson Museum with lights flashing and sirens blowing! A short time later, the crane operator lowered the wheel trucks onto the rails, and the caboose was then carefully lowered into position over the wheels.

Gary Jacobs, Bill Smith, Delbert Pfohl and Bob Rose, who removed the plywood siding and covered the roof, did preliminary work on the caboose. On May 19th, 1979, the first coat of red paint was applied with the following persons doing the work: Fenton Cole, Fred Berry, Carole Schnoor, Helen Dinse, Edgar Culverwell, Ed Hastings, Darrell Smith, Art Schnoor, Bob Rose and Don and Millie Croop. The N.Y. Central lettering on the sides were later applied by Harold Fitzsimmons of Cambria

Burt Jennings began the caboose renovation program in the 1980's, along with assistance from Don Burrows and Ollie Clark, and they are principally responsible for attaching new steps, repairing the platforms, painting the entire structure inside and out, installing new windows and sealing and waterproofing the roof. It was considered Burt's "baby".

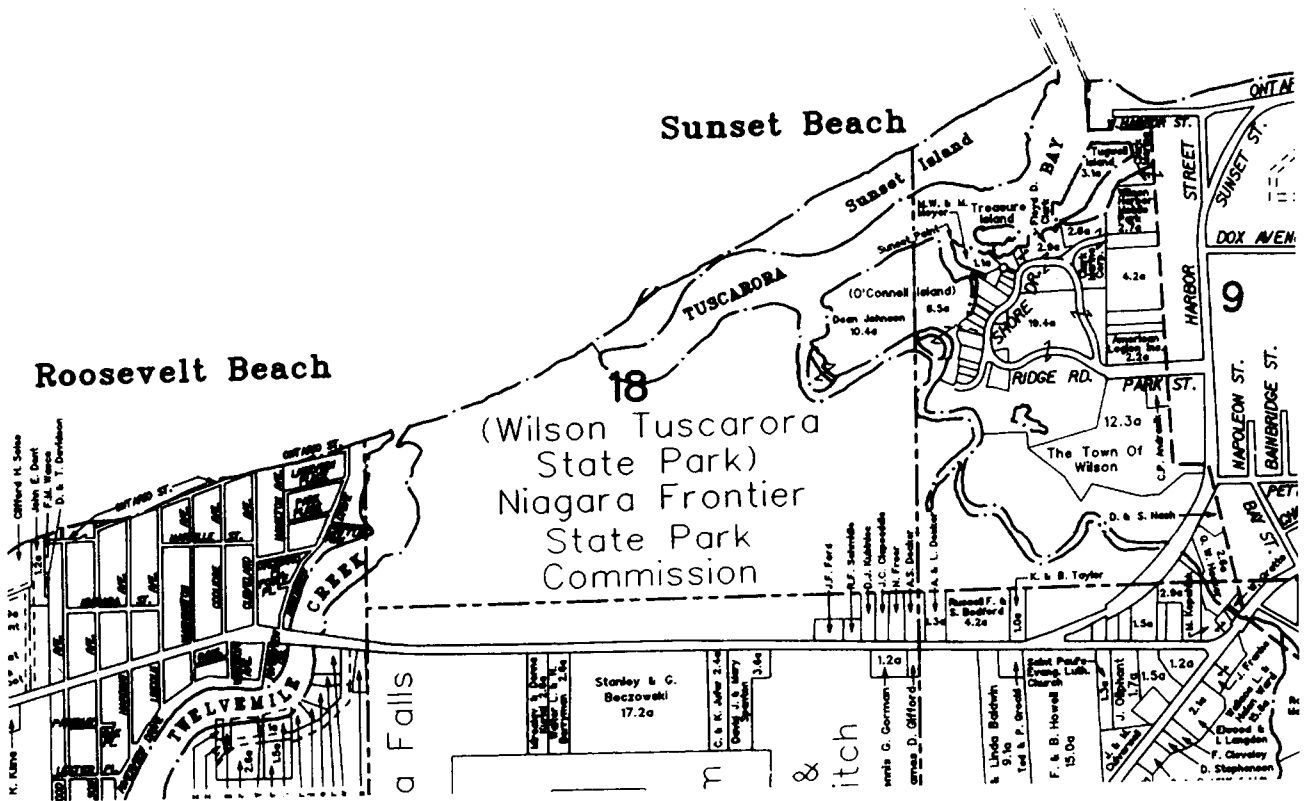
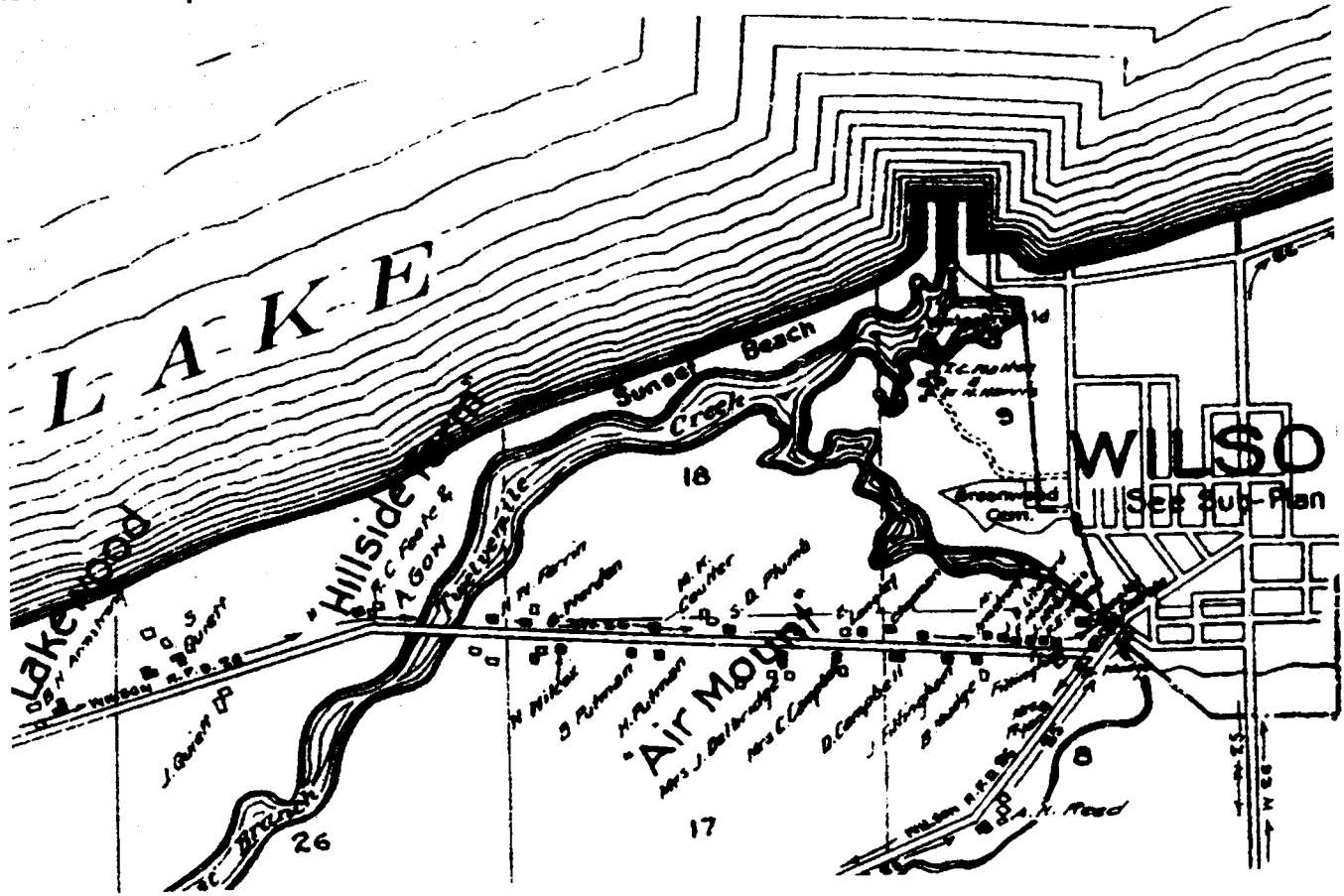
More recently, Don Burrows, Darrel Smith, Gordon Strablow, Bruce Muck and Dan King have kept up the caboose by adding a new roof, putting new windows in and repainting. Local Boy Scout troops have helped keep the interior clean. The caboose is still one of the Society's biggest attractions, with thousands of people filing through it at the Memorial Day Fair each year.

Members in the News: Congratulations go out to three of our members recently re-elected : Kyle Andrews, Niagara County Legislature, Jerry Dean, Wilson Town Supervisor, and Wanda Burrows, Wilson Town Clerk!

REMINDER: 2004 WHS Calendars are now available for \$4.00, plus \$1.00 shipping.

Puzzle of the Day: Name a bird whose name contains the name of another bird!
Answer to last month's puzzle: None! It's a hole!

You are looking at two maps of the Twelve Mile Creek as it flows into the lake at Wilson. Twelve Mile Creek gets its name from the fact that it is twelve miles from the mouth of the Niagara River. It is sometimes referred to as Tuscarora Creek or River. In the early 1900's the lake eroded the shoreline, causing the west branch of this creek to flow into the lake. When this happened the spring flow was not strong enough to keep the mouth of this new opening clear of silt and, along with the wave action of the lake, the mouth of this creek sometimes was closed off completely. In recent times the Town of Wilson has dredged the mouth of this creek to try to keep the silt level down to produce a sufficient flow into the lake. By studying these maps you can see what has happened over the last 100 years and better understand the problem of keeping the mouth of the West Branch of the Twelve Creek open. A few weeks ago it was discovered that the water had turned a black color and the fish were dying. This is in part due to the fact that this creek lacks enough flow to cleanse itself. What really has happened is that because the lake has eroded into the creek, the creek has changed from a creek to a large pond with the mouth becoming the over flow into the lake. Also this change has created an even greater delicate ecological balance which when disrupted has caused an unfortunate disaster. Charles F. Horton ---Town of Wilson Historian



Many thanks go out to all of you who have served as hosts and hostesses over the past year! And many thanks also go to Gail Walder, who does such a terrific job of getting the rosters filled and sending out her reminders to us all! What would we ever do without her?? Great job well done Gail! If any of you have a particular weekend you would like to fill next year, it's not too early to give Gail a call and set it up now!!

"Ice in November brings mud in December."